

BIBAFX

No. 109
Nov/Dec
2010

Magazine of the British Isles Backgammon Association

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Dedicated To Backgammon



Phil Tutchings
Ranking Champion

Peter Bennet
Grand Prix Champion

2010 Biba Championships

Renewal Fees: Page 9. Biba Online Raffle: Page 9 & 26

Biba Backgammon Tour 2011

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Bright 'n' Breezy. Scottish Open. Manchester One-Day. Liverpool Open.
English Open. Barceló Cup. Coventry Open. Wicklow Open. Irish Open.

Some of the organisers of the above events are not directly involved with the UK Tour, but if they want to assist they are welcome to do so. All that is required of them is to make available the names of the Last 8/16 players in the Main and Consolation. This is purely a Biba project and any funding is via Biba and the event sponsor, PlayWSOB - entrants pay nothing towards it, it is a totally free-entry element of each event.

Main	Pos	Cons
19.95	1st	13.93
16.94	2nd	11.92
13.93	3rd & 4th	9.97
8.92	5th to 8th	5.98
4.91	9th to 16th	2.97

For the Last 8/16 of the Main and Consolation in each of the tour events, points are awarded as shown to the left.

A running points total and leader board will be published on the Biba web site following each event, and in the Bibafax upon publication. After the final event, currently the Irish Open, the top 8 scorers will become the qualifiers. These 8 qualifiers will be invited to take part in the Grand Final

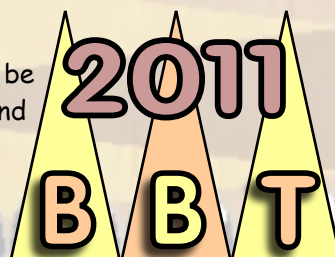
to be held on the Saturday evening at the 2012 Bright & Breezy tournament, in January. The Finals will be an 11-point Knockout with a winner-takes-all prize of at least £250 plus extras from our sponsors, PlayWSOB.

Qualifiers must confirm their attendance for the Final by 7 November, 2012. If any of the qualifiers cannot attend the Final then the 9th scorer will be invited, and thereafter, 10th, 11th etc. until such time as we have an 8 draw. Any vacant places that occur on the day of the Final will be decided in the same way.

Remember. There are no fees to pay to enter the BBT - the only fees you incur are those to enter each event. The BBT is not an official part of the above events (excepting those organised and run by Biba) but it is hoped that its involvement will result in more entrants for each event.

7-9 January: Bright 'n' Breezy (Biba event)
18-20 February: Scottish Open - (Biba event)
17 April: Manchester One-Day - www.lighton.btinternet.co.uk/backg.htm
3-5 June: English Open - (Biba event)
tba July: Liverpool Open
2-4 September: The Barceló Cup (Biba event)
24 September: Wicklow Open
tba October: Coventry Open - <http://covbackgammon.co.uk>
tba October: Irish Open - eperry@iol.ie

If your club is staging a local tournament that is open to all and you would like to be part of the BBT, please email and let us know. It is also very likely that Biba Grand Prix Points can also be applied to your event.



To see the leader board and latest updates go to www.backgammon-biba.co.uk/bbt2010

Questions & Answers and Information about the Biba Backgammon Tour

Q: I regularly enter Biba tournaments, especially the Swiss events, my target being to do well in the Grand Prix and Ranking Championships, and hopefully win some money at the end of the year. The more BBT events with Grand Prix status there are the more likely it is that a non-member can get to the top of the listings. How do you intend to handle this should it occur?

A: Good question! First of all you have forgotten that a good few of those entering local events aren't Biba members. Each championship pays out to the Top 10 players and it is my intention that only current, active members can be listed in the Top 10. However, I think that the Top 10 will consist of such members, many of whom will also be taking part in the Tour as they chase those extra Grand Prix points.

Q: Why have you included the Wicklow tournament in the tour? Isn't it supposed to be a British backgammon tour? Surely you should be including tournaments only in England, Scotland and Wales?

A: You don't appear to have read the title of this page or understood what the letters, BBT, stand for. It is the Biba Backgammon Tour. Biba, via the BBT is supporting local backgammon and giving those that do well in the Tour a chance to win a few quid without having to pay to do so. I am hoping to include some more 'home-based' events next year. If you have a local club and want to hold a tournament with BBT status, please get in touch.

Final Leader Board after the Irish Open

Uldis Lapikens is elbowed out of the Grand Finals by the new Irish Champion, Marc Turner. Everyone else remains in the Top 8, albeit in a slightly different order to last month. If any of the Top 8 cannot make Brighton then Uldis and those below him will be asked to join.

Well, we've finished our first year and I think it's safe to say it's been a success. A total of 141 players entered the various events and soon, one of them will taking home a very nice New Year's bonus! I'd like to thank all the entrants and the event organisers for their input and I hope to see at least two more new events added next year.

And finally, a big Thank You to Andy Bell and PlayWSOB for sponsoring the event for 2010 and 2011.

46	Mark Calderbank	14	Paul Barwick	5	Kevin Jones
37	Brian Lever	14	Irving Czechowicz	5	Paul Plumptre
37	Adrian Jones	12	Ian Hesketh	5	Simon K Jones
34	Peter Chan	12	Jon Barnes	5	David Phillips
34	Marc Turner	12	Andreas Sophocleous	5	Dorothy Lee
30	Lawrence Powell	12	Neil Smith	5	Jim Moore
29	Nicky Check	12	Paul Harper	5	Mick Harris
26	Tony Fawcett	12	Paul Lamford	5	Vicki Pemberton
23	Uldis Lapikens	12	Peter Christmas	5	Danny Cohen
23	Myke Wignall	12	Simon Morecroft	5	David Startin
20	Mardi Ohannessian	10	Phil Tutchings	5	Diane Ward
20	Stewart Pemberton	10	David Motley	5	Fak Laight
19	Arthur Wright	10	Jeff Ellis	5	Ian Shimwell
19	Marcus Wrinch	10	Richard Biddle	5	Joe Dooley
19	Martin Barkwill	9	Paul Gilbertson	5	Liz Perry
18	Carl Dell	9	Alison Jess	5	Marius
17	Neil Everitt	9	Ash Dalvi	5	Martin Birkhahn
16	Peter Bennet	9	John Tutchings	5	Noel Byrne
16	Andy Bell	9	Kevin Stebbing	5	Paul Davitt
16	Matthew Fisher	9	Paul Gillam	5	Paul Learmount
16	Vaidas Novicenko	9	Phillip Reddin	5	Robert Perry
16	Gary Brooker	9	Yousef Yousef	5	Rosey Bensley
16	Raj Jansari	5	Jeff Barber	5	Stewart Wilson
15	Chris Ternel	5	John Wright	5	Susan Bourne
14	Rachel Rhodes	5	George Hall		
		5	Julian Fetterlein		



Ring a bell? Check it out!

By Michael Crane

During the final of the Barceló Cup, Andy Bell and Nicky Check made numerous errors, 37 between them, including 11 blunders according to eXtremeGammon. This article takes a look to see where and what mistakes were made.



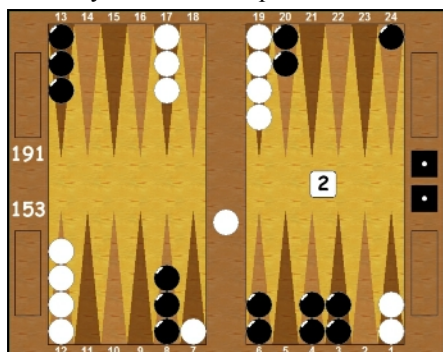
During their match quite a few mistakes were made, some of them quite big ones, by each player. In the positions shown, Andy is playing as white and Nicky as black. The match is to 11 points.

Game 1

Andy (w):0

Nicky (b): 0

Game 1 was played out without either player putting a foot wrong and it was ended by a cube in this position:



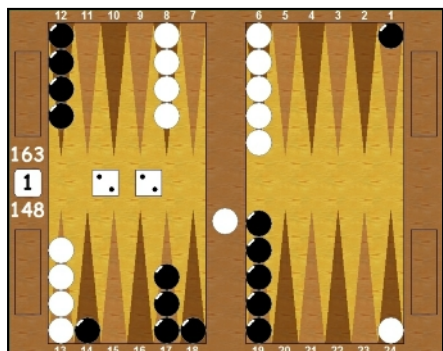
With one checker already on the bar Andy finds this an easy drop. Nicky has a half decent board and is favourite to hit the white blot on his bar-point. The correct sequence is double/drop, mainly due to the second white blot.

Game 2

Andy (w): 0

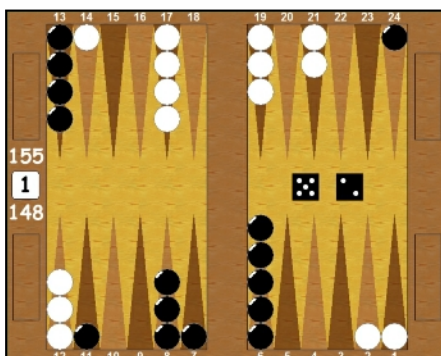
Nicky (b): 1

After a couple of opening 65s, Nicky is on roll and it's here that we start a mini-series of mistakes.

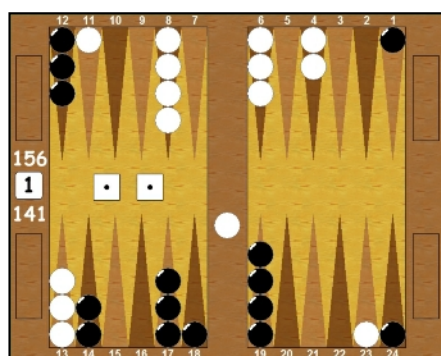


According to XG the only part of this move that Andy got correct was 25/23! He then went on to play 13/11, 6/4(2). He doesn't seem to be looking at Nicky's potential; he's on track to make a good

point next roll and perhaps severely restrict Andy's runners, therefore, hitting with 25/23, 24/18* is a much better move.

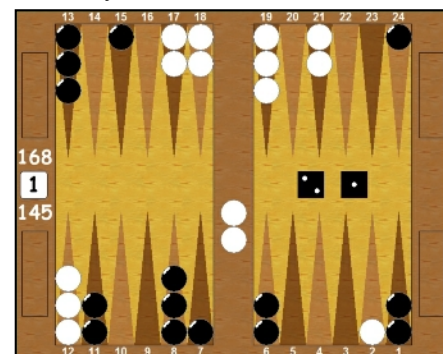


Nicky's reply is not as bad but it is still wrong. Having missed out on making another point he correctly goes for a timing play with 13/11, 6/1*. The problem here is that by playing 6/1* he has fewer covering rolls next time and he should have gone with 7/2* instead.



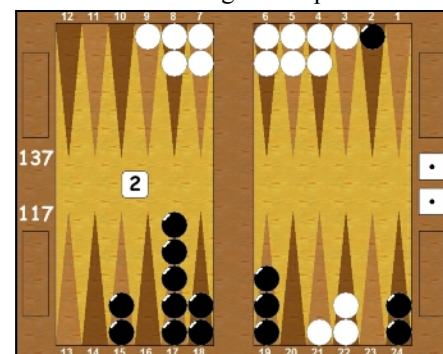
As it turned out it didn't matter either way, because Nicky was going to end up on the bar despite anything he could do! Andy makes a smallish error here when playing 25/24*, 11/10, 8/7(2); it is the 11/10 bit that XG doesn't like, preferring 23/22, moving up and hopefully being able to make an advanced anchor whilst having single-roll escaping chances.

Nicky comes in with 55: 25/15*, 6/1*(2) and Andy dances with 61.



It might be the smallest roll possible but this one is huge in what it can do - and Nicky squanders its potential and plays 11/10, 11/9 leaving three blots on near to the bar. It would have been better to have played 24/22, 8/7, making sure the lone runner can soon escape and the blocking bar-point, 8/7. Andy reenters with 32: 25/23, 25/22.

We then move along to this position:



This is double/take, advises XG, despite that fact white has a 5-prime with a black checker behind it. To be of most effect white needs a 6 before black rolls a 1, but Nicky drops and lets Andy have the point even though he wins around 30%. ▶



Merry Christmas
Everyone
Chiva K Tafazzoli

Game 3

Andy (w): 1

Nicky (b): 1

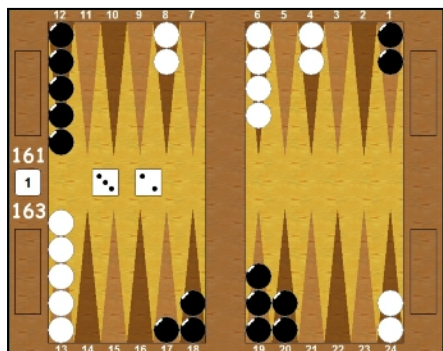
In this Game we only have one checker-play mistake, from Andy.

After opening ...

42: 8/4 6/4

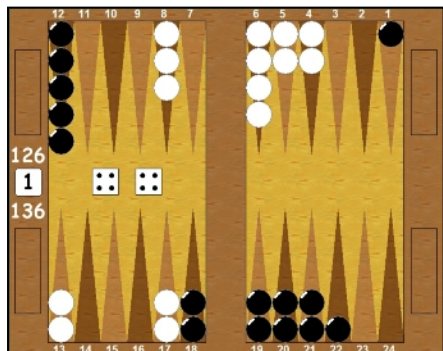
11: 8/7(2) 6/5(2)

... Andy makes a blunder



If left alone, Nicky is going to make his 8-point if possible and reinforce his blocking prime, so, Andy needs to be moving up with at least one checker, 24/22, threatening to hit the blot if a 5 isn't rolled or make an advanced anchor. Andy's play of 13/11, 13/10 doesn't bother Nicky very much.

The game is terminated when Andy ships across a 2-cube, but, XG tells us he did it one roll too late. This is where he had a double/take position:



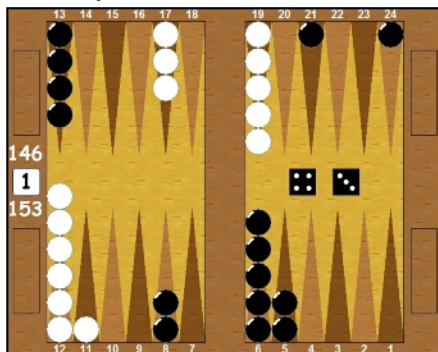
There's still some contact in this game (6s don't play so well for white) and the black blot on white's 1-point can be a pain in the arse as well as a prisoner. Prior to rolling this 44: 17/9(2), Andy should have cubed and it was likely Nicky would have taken, however the market-loser, 44, meant that after Nicky rolled 63: 13/4, he was cubed out in a double/drop position.

Game 4

Andy (w): 2

Nicky (b): 1

It's Nicky's third move:

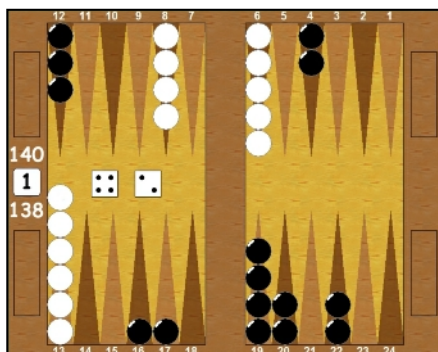


Now is the time to move a checker off each of the laden 13- and 5-points with 13/9, 6/3; with the plan of making home-board points so that if or when he gets a blot on the bar, he can make it more difficult to keep it on there. Nicky moves 13/9, 24/21 instead, banking on the possibility of a hit next roll as he covers most of Andy's outer board.

51: 14/8

53: 8/3 6/3

Andy makes an error, now:

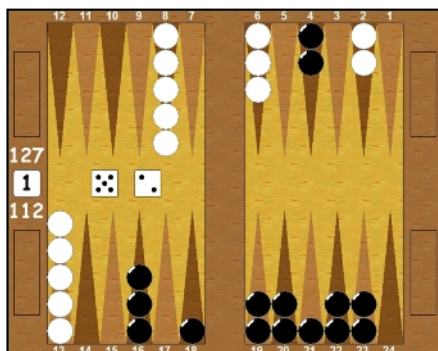


XG thinks that there's no need to risk a flyshot here with Andy's play of 13/11, 6/2, and opts for the safer 8/2. Nicky has a better home board and it's just waiting for a white visitor.

64: 13/7 8/4

43: 6/2 11/8

44: 13/9(2) 6/2(2)



Again, Andy flirts needlessly with danger with his play of 13/11, 13/8. Now that Nicky's home board is even stronger it is prudent to play as safe as possible with 8/6, 8/3 and lessen the heavy 8-point.

55: 13/3 11/6 8/3

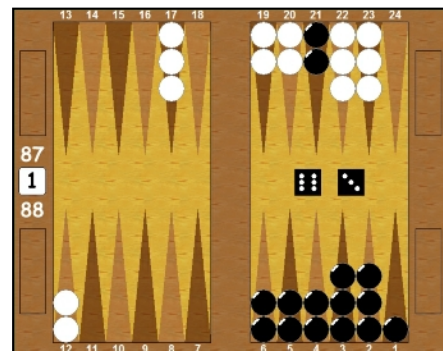
54: 8/3 6/2

31: 8/5 6/5

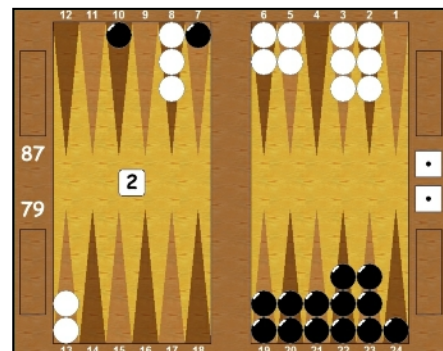
53: 9/4 7/4

63: 9/3 4/1

43: 9/2



Not wanting to crunch his home-prime just yet, Nicky makes the mistake of running both checkers out: 21/18, 21/15. XG much prefers the crunchy 21/15, 4/1. But, in the end it didn't matter because he was cubed out next roll - which in itself was a blunder on Nicky's part according to XG's analysis.



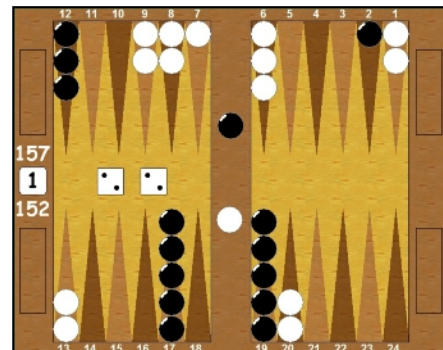
It isn't too gammonish for Nicky at the moment and with the odds around 70/30 in Andy's favour, Nicky should have taken this cube. All it would take is one shot at a white blot and he could perhaps cash-in the 2 win.

Game 5

Andy (w): 3

Nicky (b): 1

Just a single blunder in this game:



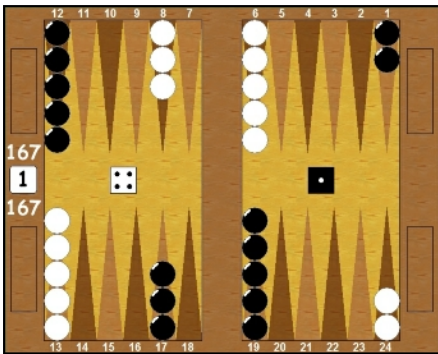
Playing 25/23, 13/7 certainly looks very good, but according to XG, looks are deceiving! XG prefers - by a long chalk - 25/23, 9/5, 7/5 and making the valuable 5-point before Nicky rolls a Joker 53 off the bar! Eventually Nicky is correctly cubed out.



Game 6

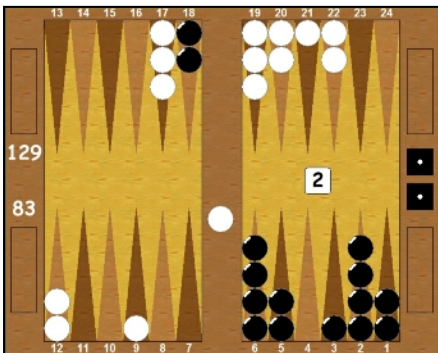
Andy (w): 4

Nicky (b): 1



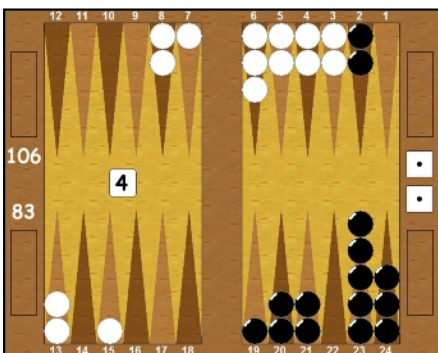
It's Andy's opening roll and XG just doesn't like the aggression of his 13/9, 6/5, preferring the conventional, 24/23, 13/9. Mind you, there's not a lot in it, and Nicky's next roll, 66: 24/18(2), 13/7(2) ignores it anyway!

A bit later on we have a cubing error:



Perhaps it's the 3-point blot that clouds Andy's judgment, but he takes this cube as XG tells us it's double/drop. He's got 20 reentry rolls, just over half of which hits the blot, but before that Nicky has a few that cover: 3s and 55. But, it all comes good in the end ... too good!

Takes
41: 25/21 16/15*
54: 21/16 8/4
54: 16/7*
62: 18/10
55: Dances
22: 25/23 6/4(2) 3/1
42: 25/23 6/2

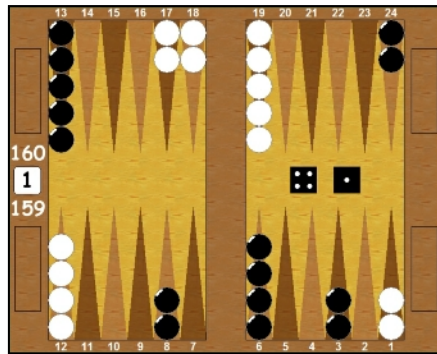


I am not sure why Andy recubes here. Nicky is facing almost 20% gammons in this position and it makes sense to hold back a while to see what transpires. Nicky sighs gratefully and drops as XG screams out to Andy: Too good to double/drop!

Game 7

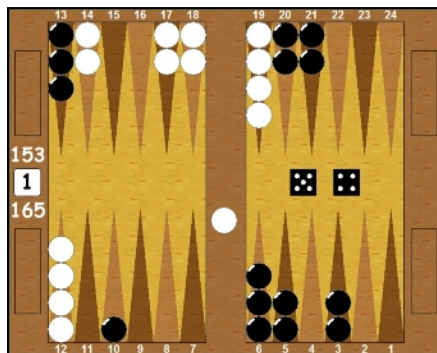
Andy (w): 6

Nicky (b): 1



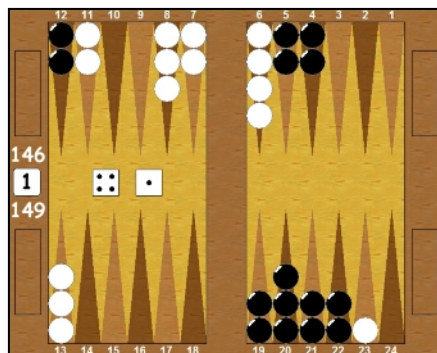
Nicky's play of 13/9, 6/5 is just too aggressive here and is unnecessary (again!). Certainly the 13/9 is correct but slotting the 5-point is not. With Andy having a three-prime straddling his bar the better 1 would have been 24/23. He is hit with 62: 24/16*.

A bit later on we get to this error:



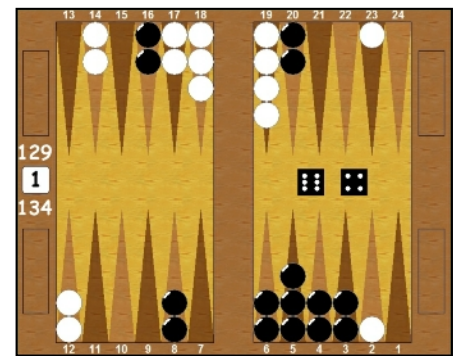
Slotting with 13/4 is almost a blunder. It would have been better to have played 21/16, 13/9. This duplicates 4s (and 2s) nicely and gives good cover for making the 4-point next roll if possible. He gets away with it as Andy rolls 52: 25/23, 13/8; and Nicky then rolls 61: 10/4, 6/5.

It is here that Andy makes a blunder:

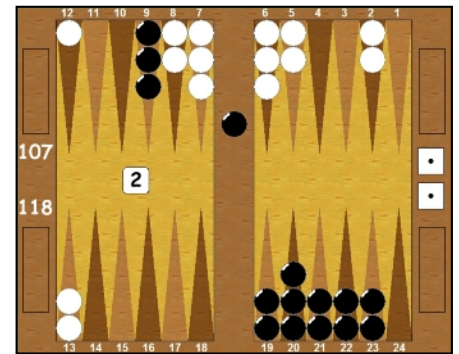


Nicky hasn't any spare checkers outside of his home board and a 6 will mean he'll have to break off one of his points. With this in mind the better play here is 13/8, keeping all the white checkers in front of all the black ones and not leaving a blot inside; instead Andy plays 8/7, 6/2. Mind you, Nicky's reply of 55: 21/16(2), 13/8(2) was a cracker! Andy responded

with 61: 13/6 to arrive here:

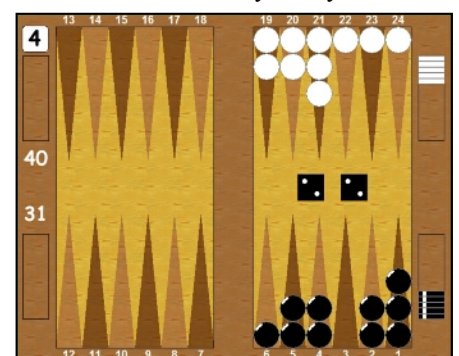


Nicky plays 20/16, 8/2*, and XG doesn't like it. Andy's runner can only escape with 5s and by playing 20/10 as XG prefers, white could well end up with two checkers back if he can't safety his 2-point blot. A little later Nicky is hit with 66 and then dances with a roll of 52, after which Andy pushes over a 2-cube.



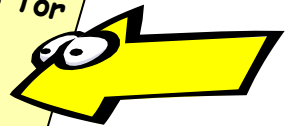
It is the cube that proves to be Andy's undoing, even if it is the correct play!

A little later, after a redouble/take, we arrive at this blunder by Nicky:



Nicky only takes two checkers off: 4/0(2) whereas XG takes off three: 4/0, 2/0(2). It might not look much but as far as game winning chances go it is: two-off: 77%, three-off: 84.6%.

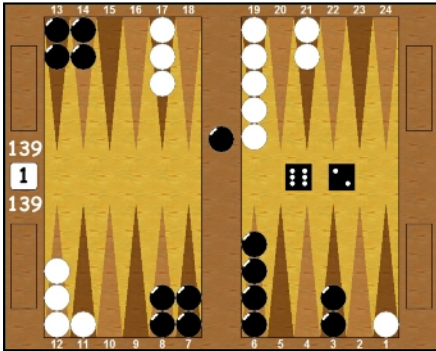
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subscription for
just a fiver!
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Game 8

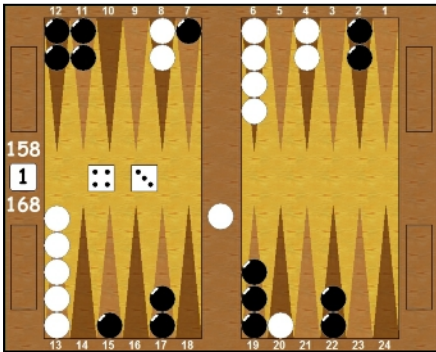
Andy (w): 6

Nicky (b): 5



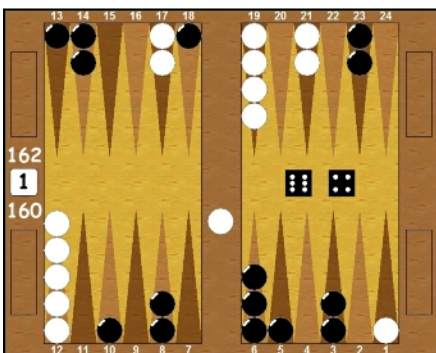
Perhaps Nicky has his eyes on the blot on his 11-point; this would account for his play: 25/23, 7/1*! XG prefers 25/23, 13/7, even though it leaves a double-shot. It is better to keep the bar-point and 3-prime straddling it than to give it up for a simple hit. Either way he was going to be hit as Andy rolled 41.

Sometime later, Andy steps in with an error:



Playing 25/18 is wrong according to XG, it prefers 25/21 with a provocative, 13/10! It ships a checker off the laden mid-point, and, if hit, might well help in making a good advanced anchor - and it (slightly) duplicates 3s.

43: 25/18
61: 25/24



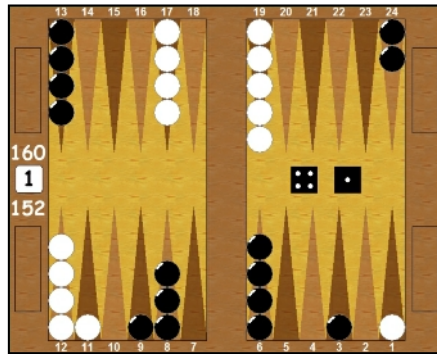
Big error here with 10/4, 8/4. It leaves four blots on and all it needs to get started is a 5 (or 44, or 42) off the bar. It's better to cut down the hitting numbers to a 1 with 13/7, 5/1*. As it turned out, Andy rolled 65, a hitting roll that lead to a correct, double/drop in his favour.

Game 9

Andy (w): 7

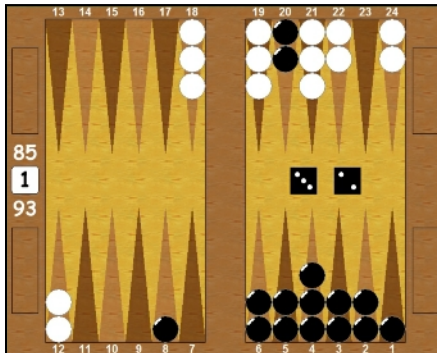
Nicky (b): 5

52: 13/8 24/22
65: 25/14



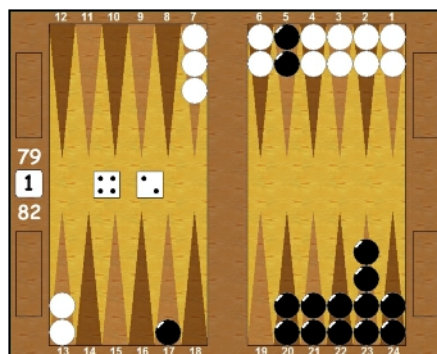
Even though it leaves a direct shot on with a 2, XG's move of 9/5, 6/5 is better than Nicky's 8/3. It's too early to worry about being hit back - certainly the 5-point is more valuable than the 3-point.

Several rolls later we get to this position where Nicky has an advanced anchor and will soon, failing a good double, have to crunch.



Here it is more powerful to go for a 6-prime: 8/6, 4/1 as opposed to semi-crunching with 6/1. Andy would be far more afraid of a 6-prime than a 5-prime with the 6-point open.

42: 6/2 4/2

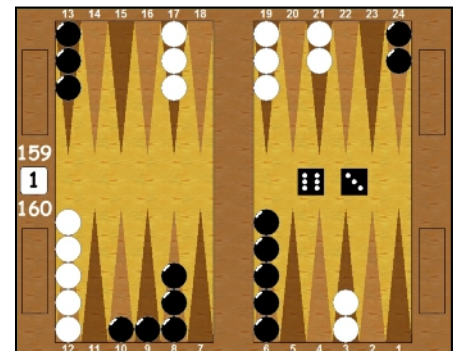


A third 42 in a row isn't handled so well this time by Andy as he leaves a flyshot by playing 13/7. XG prefers to keep it safe with 7/1. Nicky rolls 54: 20/11, a move that XG agrees with but then falls victim to yet another 42: 7/5*, 5/1, pick&pass! He dances and is correctly cubed out.

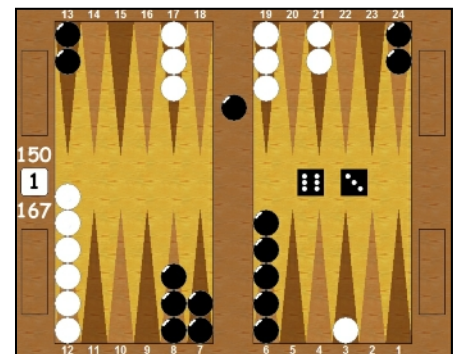
Game 10

Andy (w): 8

Nicky (b): 5



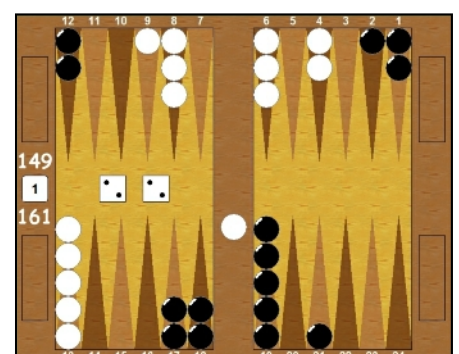
Nicky's second roll of the game is a big-gish error: 13/7, 10/7. The bar-point isn't so good now that Andy has made a semi-advanced anchor. XG prefers to duplicate 6s: 24/18, 13/10. Andy does roll a 6, 63: 22/16*, 16/13. Then a third 63 pops out:



Slight error here with 25/16, better to have gone with 25/22, 24/18 and yet again duplicate 6s in the hope of keeping the lone white runner back. Nicky is hit again ... and he hits back

41: 13/9* 22/21

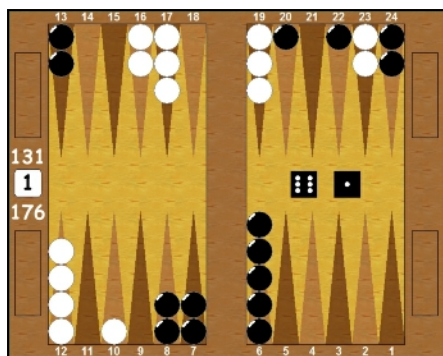
42: 25/23 8/4*



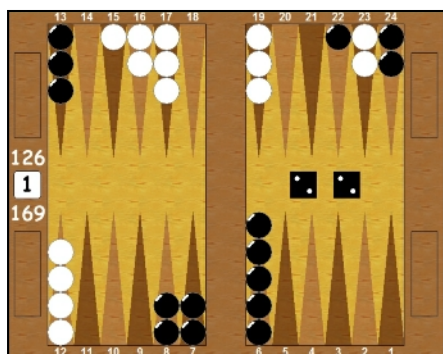
What looks like a good play, the double-hitting: 25/21*, 4/2*(2) is in fact a blunder! Nicky shouldn't have much trouble getting in with two open points - one checker @ 88.88%, both checkers @ 44.44%, so double-hitting has a very limited benefit, and holding the 2-point is not as good as holding the 4-point. Better here to play 25/21*, 13/11(2) and look for making it difficult for white to poke his nose out into the outer board.

Nicky rolls 53: 25/20, 25/22, Andy replies 64: 21/15, 13/9





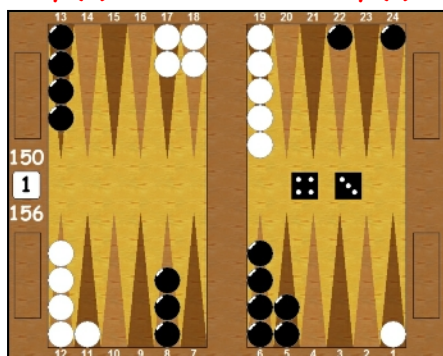
Playing 20/13 misses an opportunity to slot the 5-point at the same time as getting the 20-point blot away from being pointed on. XG does this with 20/14, 6/5. Andy then rolls 32: 15/10 and then it's a blunder from Nicky:



Normally, making the 20-point is correct, but Nicky plays 24/20, 22/20, 6/4 and it's a blunder. This time the 20-point is too far out - it's easier now for white to jump over and begin making home board points on which to come in on. XG goes for 24/22, 13/11, 6/4(2) - making the 22-point keeps the pressure on white, the mid-point slot is an aid for the 5-point, and the 4-point is neatly made. A few rolls later and a correct double/drop gives Andy another point.

Game 11

Andy (w): 9 Nicky (b): 5



Nicky doesn't really achieve a lot with his play of 8/1*, an error. It is better to play 24/20, 13/10, trying to establish an advanced anchor and making another point on black's side of the board.

Three rolls later, following a Joker 44, Nicky correctly cubes Andy out.

Game 12

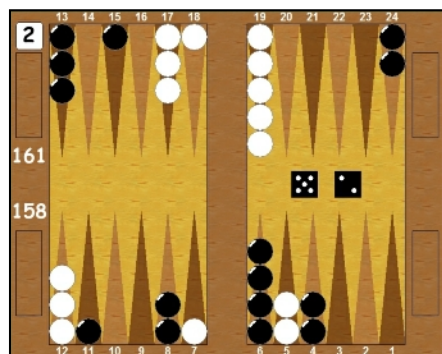
Andy (w): 9 Nicky (b): 6

After just five rolls Nicky ships across an early cube, which Andy correctly takes. During this game there was one error, albeit a small one from Nicky, but, aided by 33 and 66 in the bearoff, he goes onto win.

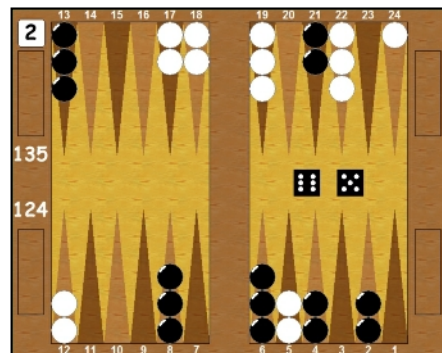
Game 13

Andy (w): 9 Nicky (b): 8

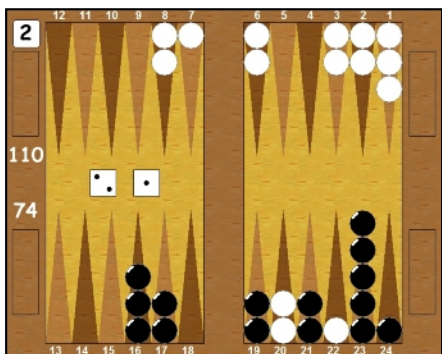
Once again, Nicky ships across an early cube and once again, Andy takes, each player being correct. Not long after we get this position:



Nicky plays everything safely: 15/13, 11/6, which isn't very dynamic and very unproductive. 15/10, 13/11, however, makes a good blocking point and teases Andy to hit off his 20-point anchor should he roll a 5. A bit later:



Not the best of rolls, but played 13/2 it is even worse. Duplicating 2s with 13/7, 8/3 is XG's choice. Black won't be too bothered about being hit for his checkers are rather flat and he could perhaps do with the timing.



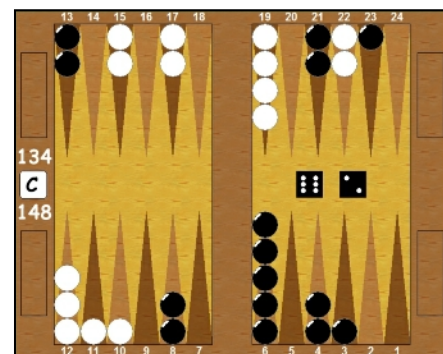
Unless white gets a hit he isn't going to win the race being 36 pips behind at the

moment, therefore picking up his 22-point blot and moving onto his 6-point with 22/20, 7/6 is of no use at all. He needs to provoke some sort of contact and this is better done with 8/5 giving a few small rolls to make another home board point in readiness for the hit. Unfortunately he never does get the hit and later resigns the two points.

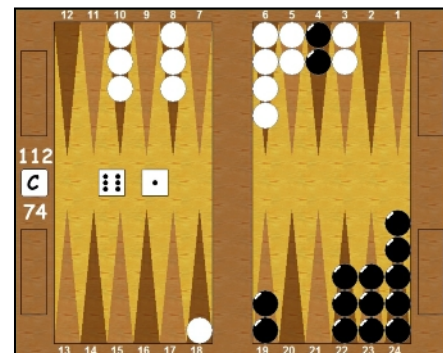
Game 14

Andy (w): 9 Nicky (b): 10

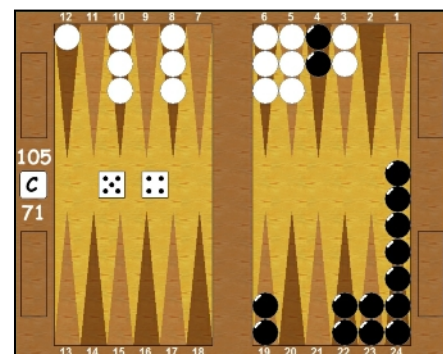
It's Crawford now and all Nicky has to do is win a single point, so why does Nicky make the gammon play...



... 13/7, 13/11* in this position? He doesn't need to take such risks and would have been better off with 23/21, 8/2, keeping everything tidy. The game progresses for several moves until we reach this blunder from Andy:

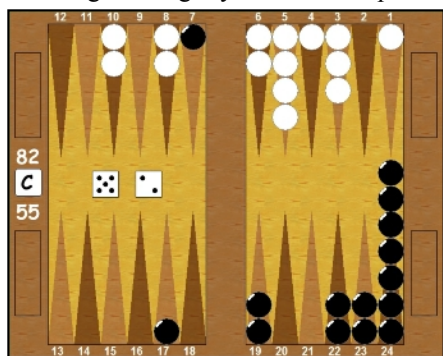


Andy doesn't need to play his runner so far, 18/12, and it would be better where it is, lying in wait for black to come around; however, 6/5 is correct. The 6 is better played 8/2 - at the moment unless black rolls 65 he's not going to offer a multiple shot in Andy's home board.



It's Andy's next roll and he runs

12/3. XG prefers 10/1, leaving the 12-point checker *in situ*. He is still behind in the race and needs to make sure black doesn't get off lightly if a blot is exposed.



Andy attempts to stop Nicky by keeping his two outer board points intact and goes with 6/4, 6/1. This is unlikely to work and he should have played 8/6, 8/3 and prepared for the bearoff.

It goes to the wire quite literally when Andy rolls a very timely 66 to clear his last four checkers after Nicky's previous roll left Andy just over 13% to win!

Game 15

Andy (w): 10

Nicky (b) : 10

By now both players are down to seconds on the clock each. Throughout the entire

game just one small error is made (by Andy), which is remarkable considering that almost every move played was moved within 12 seconds! However, of the two, Nicky managed his time better and Andy runs out of time to lose the match! He began this game with just 12 seconds on his clock, and Nicky had 25, when it ended Nicky still had 15 seconds left.

This match (and others in this Bibafax, are available in several formats. Ask for details at info@backgammon-biba.co.uk.

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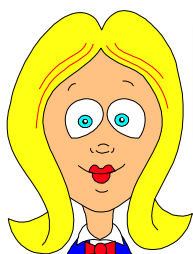
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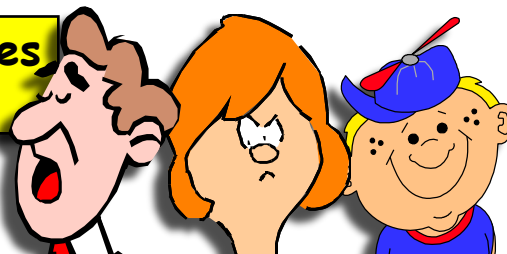
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Goldiblots and the Three Bores

By R Umplestiltskin

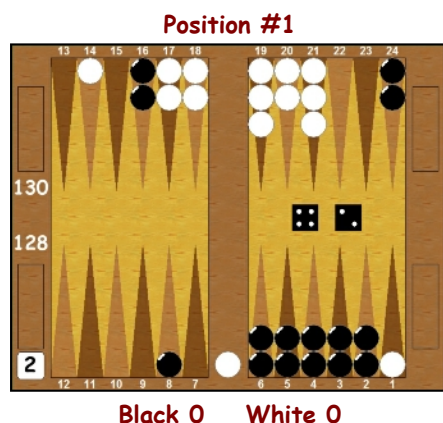


Once upon a time there were three bores, Daddy Bore, Mummy Bore and Baby Bore. All day long they'd play backgammon on the webernet for peanuts, they liked peanuts - a lot.

Each week, after a hard week's tap tap tapping away on their loptaps they would have a lovely bowl of soup and then settle down for the arrival of Goldiblots, their friendly next-door neighbour who would pose them three problems and she would award the winner with a nice massage and a rub down with the Sporting Times.

Today was the day the three Bores had been to the doctors for their annual check-ups. Having all been given a clean bill of health they were in a jolly mood and were cracking Doctor, Doctor jokes. Goldiblots was getting a bit worn down by them, but the Bores were on form and they were putting them out, fast and furious.

Goldiblots gave them the first position and asked Daddy Bore to take it. Like all the positions, it was to 11 points.



He began with a joke, "Doctor, Doctor, can I have a second opinion? Of course, come back tomorrow!" He laughed, his family laughed, Goldiblots cringed. He went on, "This is just too easy, and seeing that I get to go first, I get to win the first one. Result!" He punched the air, triumphantly.

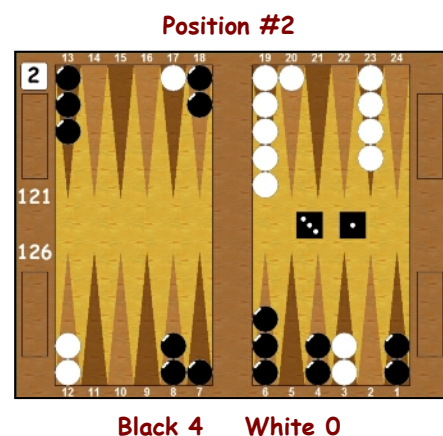
"With the cube my side and one white checker on the bar and one on my 1-point I need to go for a gammon so it's 16/14* and then carry on 14/10 so that I get great chances to make my bar-point thus giving me time to get my back checkers out." He was about to sit down, but before doing so he came out with a cracker. "Doctor, Doctor, I feel all dry, like a biscuit. Oh, you must be crackers!" Chortling, he sat down as Mummy Bore got up.

Like Daddy Bore, she started with a joke, "Doctor, Doctor I've just swallowed a

pen. Well sit down and write your name!" Baby Bore liked that one and he giggled like a girl. Mummy continued, "I have to agree with Daddy Bore in that 16/14* is OK, but, if you're going for the gammon you need to stop white anchoring on the 1-point, and this is achieved with 8/4 giving 3s next roll to hit the 1-point blot." Before sitting down she threw another joke at them, "Doctor, Doctor I'm having trouble with my breathing. I'll give you something that will soon put a stop to that!" She sat down. Daddy Bore almost stop breathing as he guffawed away. Baby Bore got up.

Not to be outdone he too started joking, "Doctor, Doctor I think I'm an adder. Great, can you help me with my accounts then please!" He giggled again. "And something doesn't add up with the two moves from Mater and Pater," he said. "What happens if you don't roll another 2 for ages? You'll crunch, that's what. The best move here is to ignore white and play 24/22, 16/12. This way you can get out with a 6 or make the 22-point with a 2 next time. And, before I go . . . Doctor, Doctor I snore so loud I keep myself awake at night. Sleep in another room then!" Girly giggles surrounded him as he sat down.

Goldiblots, tired of the awful puns thought she might as well get in on the action. "Doctor, Doctor I feel like a dog. Sit!" No one laughed. To break the embarrassing silence she quickly got Daddy Bore back up.



"Doctor, Doctor I keep getting pains in the eye when I drink coffee. Have you tried taking the spoon out?" The family laughed - Goldiblots groaned. "I always say, never look a daft horse in the mouth, and if you don't hit 18/17* with this roll, you're as daft as a horse. Now that white is on the bar you can move 18/15 and duplicate 5s and 3s. And I will leave you with this: Doctor, Doctor I feel like a pack of cards. I'll deal with you later!" He sat down thinking to himself, "I'm a card." Goldiblots was thinking something else! She called Baby up.

Predictably he began with a joke. "Doctor, Doctor I think I need glasses. You certainly do, Sir, this is a fish and chip shop!" Girly giggles convulsed him. Slowly he recovered his composure and went on, "Well, I am joking for I don't need glasses to see that the correct play is the usual 31 play, make the 5-point with 8/5, 6/5. It is without doubt, the best point on the board and once made will remain intact until the bearoff, added to that is the bonus that to hit me, white will have to give up his anchor and he has a very poor home board and is unlikely to keep me dancing. And, now, before I leave: Doctor, Doctor I'm boiling up. Just simmer down!" He sat down, convulsed yet again by the giggles.

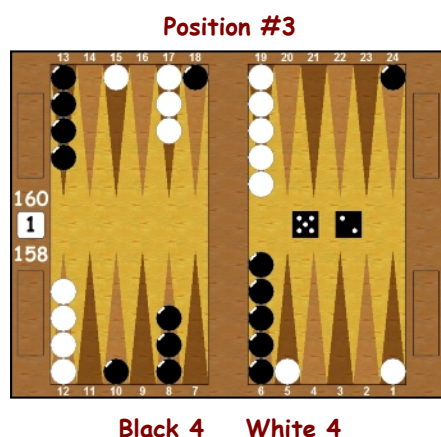
Goldiblots took the bull by the horn and tried again: "Doctor, Doctor I tend to flush a lot. Don't worry it's just a chain reaction!" Sagebrush blew across the room, as silence so thick you could touch it with a stick surrounded them. "Er, Mummy Bore, your turn, she mumbled," breaking the palpable silence as a tear ran down her cheek.

Mummy Bore went straight in with, "Doctor, Doctor my baby is the image of his father. Never mind just so long as he's healthy!" Everyone except Daddy Bore laughed - he just rose above it and ignored her. She went on, "Well so far all we've had are plays that leave too



many blots. Now is the time to keep it simple and reduce the blots to a minimum yet at the same time do something worthwhile. I am referring to 8/5, 8/7. I make a good strong point, my bar-point, and I have 1s and 8s next roll that can cover the blot on my 5-point." Before sitting down she directed at Daddy Bore, "Doctor, Doctor my husband needs something to keep his falling hair in. What about a matchbox?" Again Daddy Bore ignored her.

Twice bitten was too much for Goldiblots and she launched Mummy Bore back onto her feet for the final position.



"Doctor, Doctor I keep seeing double. Which of us are you talking to? And I am seeing double with this roll. I don't want white to anchor on my 5-point so it is clear that 10/5* is the first half of the move, then it's just a matter of seeing 'double' and carrying on 5/3 duplicating double-three!" She was very pleased with

this tie-in to her joke. On a roll (joke-wise, at least) she finished with another dig at Daddy Bore, "Doctor, Doctor what did the x-ray of my husband's head show? Absolutely nothing!" She laughed - he didn't. It was his turn next.

He began his counter-attack on Mummy Bore, "Doctor, Doctor my wife is so ugly, what can I do about it? Hire her out for Halloween parties!" He laughed, she most definitely didn't. "Down to business," he said. "Well, I'll say one thing for you," he looked at Mummy Bore, "you're half right with 10/5* but you need the 5-point more than you do the 3-point so it's much better to leave the blot where you want it, and then move 13/11 to give 6s, 3s and 1s to cover if not hit back on white's next roll." He finished with a flourish with another dig at Mummy Bore, "Doctor, Doctor my wife's on a diet and it's making her irritable. Yesterday she bit my nose off. Oh dear, that's a lot of calories!" As expected, she didn't laugh.

It was the final call, and Goldiblots called up Baby Bore. He started with what his family thought was a funny joke - little did they know how near the truth he went. "Doctor, Doctor I dream there are monsters under my bed, what can I do? Saw

the legs off of your bed!" They all laughed, but Baby Bore laughed nervously. He continued, "Why on earth do you two always want to hit? It's as clear as the nose that was bitten off Daddy Bore's face that the safe, simple play of 18/13, 10/8 is the best move. No blots for white to have a go at and everything safe and sound." He then gave them his best joke, "Doctor, Doctor I feel like a pair of curtains. Well pull yourself together then!" Only he laughed at this old chestnut. He sat down, quietly.

Goldiblots rose and thought she'd have one last go. "Doctor, Doctor I feel like a needle. I see your point!" Nothing! She hurried on, "Well, what an outcome, one of you got two right, one of you got none right, and the other one came second twice. I shall now reveal who got what. The person with two right is . . ."

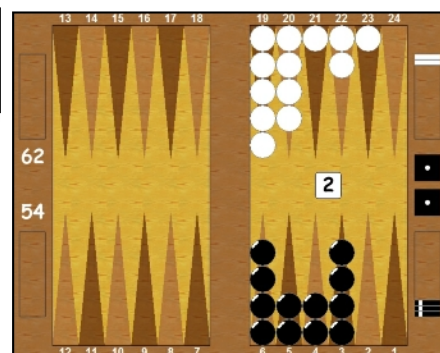
Well, dear reader, have you figured it out yet? Was it Daddy Bore who told the Doctor he'd broken his arm in two places and was told not to go back there again? Or was it Baby Bore who told his Doctor he was boiling and was told to simmer down. Or perhaps it was Mummy Bore who asked her doctor for a second opinion and was told to come back tomorrow?

Turn to page 14 to find out.

The Sandy Osborne Report by Michael Crane

Main (22): I might have said this before, but despite having a relatively low entry, we more than made up for it with quality! Just so you know I'm not clutching at straws we had: Uldis Lapikens, winner of 14 Biba trophies; Brian Lever, winner of 13; Jeff Barber, winner of 12; Nicky Check, winner of 11; Mardi Ohannessian, winner of 10 . . . I can go on, but won't!

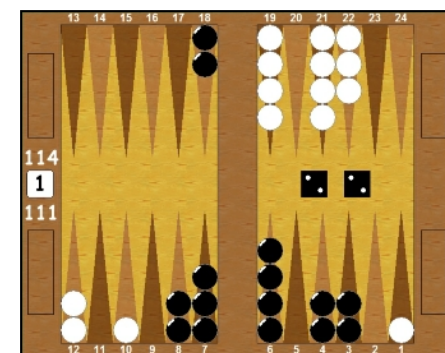
Two of our 'giants' sat down in the final Sunday afternoon, Mardi Ohannessian (winner of 7 Main titles) and Brian Lever (winner of 5 Main titles including British & English Opens). We were in for a humdinger of a final. Mardi (black) got off to an early lead as he played at his normal whip-lash pace, as Brian played at his normal, laid-back pace. The scene was set for a great match.



Black 3 White 0

Already leading 3-0, Mardi now ships across a 2-cube in this position. It takes Brian 1m 38s to see that Mardi has a much better distribution and that he (Brian) is very top heavy and in great danger of having a few points without any checkers on them very soon. In accordance with XG's analysis Brian correctly drops.

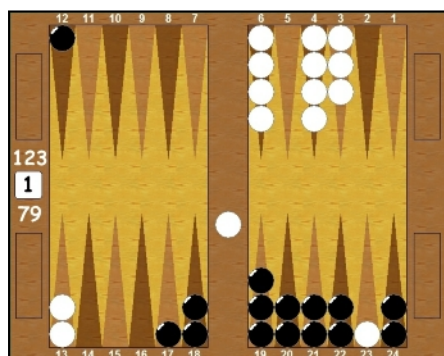
Black 7 White 0



At the beginning of this game, when Nicky Check remarked about him trailing 7-0, Brian said, "The way Mardi's been playing I'm lucky to have the nil!"

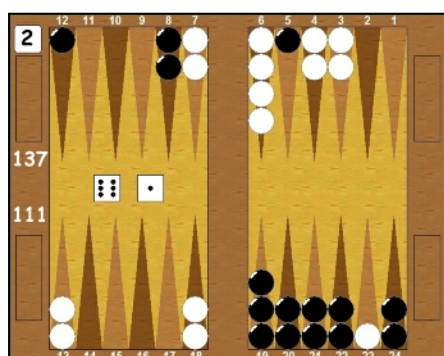
Here, Mardi has got Brian where he wants him - on his 1-point and needing a combination roll of 4 with 4, 5 or 6 to escape. So, why does he play 18/16(2), 3/1*(2)? This allows Brian to roll more escaping numbers. XG much pre- ➤

fers 18/14(2), getting the runners nearer to safety. But, what happens next? Brian dances with 61 then Mardi rolls 63: 16/13, 16/10*. A few rolls later and it's looking dire for Brian.



Brian is in real danger now of being gammoned and he needs a cockshot to get back into the game. He rolls it, 62:25/17*! Mardi dances with 44 and Brian cubes him out to win his first point. However, it wasn't a cube and Mardi should have taken.

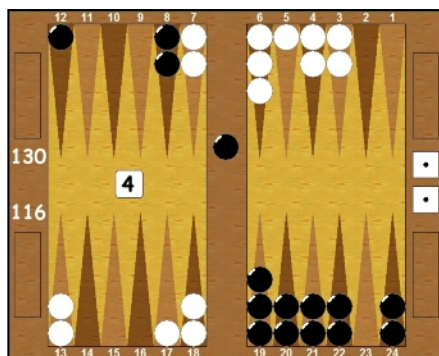
In the next game Brian makes two very bad decisions. The first is a big blunder.



Brian takes a long time over this (4m 48s) as he tries out a few combinations, 13/7, 13/12*; 18/17, 18/12*; 23/17, 13/12*; but is always worried about return shots. Eventually he settles for 23/17, 6/5*, which is wrong. It leaves all direct 5s plus 32 and 41, a total of 15 rolls, but it would have been far better to have double-hit

Consolation (18): In the semi-finals, George Hall beat Uldis Lapikens, and Lawrence Powell (progressive entrant) beat Tony Fawcett. Despite George's best efforts, it was Lawrence who took home the winner's trophy.

Last Chance (16): The two finalists, Arthur Wright and Rosey Bensley both had tough draws, Arthur faced Paul Gilbertson, Andy Darby and Nicky Check, Rosey faced Mark Calderbank, Peter Bennet and Adrian Jones. In the final,



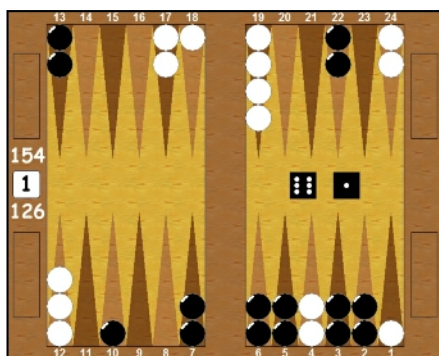
Too good to double

with 18/12*, 6/5*. Four fewer direct rolls that hit (no 32 or 41) and two on the bar.

However, 22 and 11 also hit from the bar, yet the double-hit is still better. As it turned out, Mardi rolled 63: Dances, and then Brian re-cubed him out - another bad decision!

The position at the top of the next column is too good to double and Mardi, recognising a good thing when he sees it, drops. Brian, soon realises his haste in re-cubing and is heard to say, "I took long enough over the 61, and then I rush the cube decision. Perhaps I should have looked at it a bit longer." Yes - you should have, Brian!

Mardi is famous for being an aggressive player, and normally he shows no mercy. If he see a jugular, he goes for it, so it was uncharacteristic of him to play safe in this position:



Mardi didn't even look at playing 7/6,

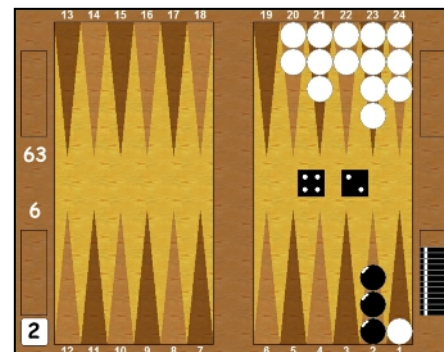
Arthur made it a 'double' when he beat Rosey (nee Gilbertson!) in the final.

The Sandy (8): Not many players left to make this a bigger entry, but this suited Andy Darby as he beat Tony Fawcett in the final.

Of course, these elements were just the 'main attraction'. Also over the weekend we had the **Friday 500 (11)** in which Paul Gilbertson beat Jeff Barber in the final. The '500' listing is getting hotter. With a

7/1*, placing Brian on the bar and threatening the white blot on Brian's bar-point. Instead he went straight in with 10/3. Not the Mardi we all know and love! Mind you, he goes on to win two points.

The match progresses with Mardi eventually avoiding being hit by a 1 here



Post-Crawford

... as he plays 2/0(2). Brian rolls 44 and it's Mardi that takes home the winner's trophy. I might add here that in Game 10, with the score 9-4 to Mardi, Brian remarks to Mardi, on the clocks, "I see you have 21 minutes left and I have just 10." By the end of the match Brian had fewer than 8 minutes left and Mardi still had 21! Throughout the entire match Mardi used less than 1 minute of his reserve time, moving almost every time within his 12 second delay. Fast or what?

This match is available in Jelly, Snowie or XG formats (bots required). XG html (requires image download if you do not have XG). Plain text - opens with Note-pad or similar.

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score of 125 points, Andy Darby will take home the £100 for being #1. Nicky Check can get 128 points, but Andy will automatically get 4 points for entering next time! It's been a close race between these two all year and an exciting one to watch. Mind you, the bottom 1/4 of the table can be beaten and there are still some positions that could alter in November.

Poker (9): George Hall came out on top as he left Andy Darby and Mark Calderbank in 2nd and 3rd place.



The Poker Grand Prix didn't change much. None of the Top Five moved, and remarkably, Vicki Pemberton is still (joint) #2! With two more Poker Grand Prix events remaining (Nov & Dec), will she be there at the finish? We'll have a better idea after November's event. The entrant with the greatest potential is Simon Jones, with an 8 to replace he's got the best chance of a good improvement . . . if he enters next month or in December

and does well.

And now we get to the **Team (4)**: History was made in this element, of the four entrants, Peter Christmas and Deana Fawcett sat down to fight it out in the final, a final from which Deana emerged victorious!

Finally. Over the weekend we had a collection for **Help Lewis Walk**, an appeal

that Biba (through Sharen and I) is supporting. I won't go into who Lewis is here (see pages 16 & 17 for details) but suffice to say we raised £54.10. Help Lewis Walk will be a feature of future Biba events in one form or another and I hope that members will support him and the appeal.

Match analysis in page 30.



"... Daddy Bore!"

She thought she'd chance her arm with one last Doctor joke. "Actually, Daddy Bore went to the Doctor's recently. 'Doctor, doctor,' he told him, 'I keep thinking I'm Cliff Richard.' The Doctor replied, 'You're a shadow of your former self.' She laughed - no one else did.

Position 1

24/22, 16/12	Baby Bore
16/14*, 14/10	Daddy Bore
16/14*, 8/4	Mummy Bore

Position 2

18/15, 18/17*
8/5, 6/5
8/5, 8/7

Position 3

18/13, 10/8
13/11, 10/5*
10/5*, 5/3

Daddy Bore
Baby Bore
Mummy Bore

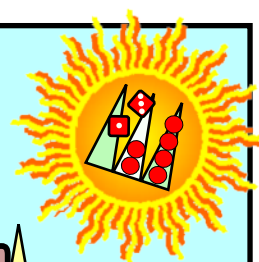
Daddy Bore
Baby Bore
Mummy Bore

After telling them about who won what, Goldiblots got their attention for one last time. "It appears," she started, "that although Baby Bore's answer to Position 02 was the best one in Bibafax 108, it wasn't *the best one*!" She flung out *the best one*, emphasising the *as thee*. They all gasped!

She went on, "Apparently someone called Bris Cray phoned in to say that *the best one* was 23/18, 22/16, and he knows this is so because he used a robot-thingy called Ex-Team to find out. Well, Bris, it's no skin off my nose what you say, I am the boss of this lot and you're not. If you're so fine and dandy I suggest you try writing about backgammon, then you'll find just how hard it can be, but I can't see that happening!"

And with that she sat down, the evening over.

Bright 'n' Breezy 2011 7, 8, 9 January



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The first tournament of the 2011 season, and without a doubt, the favourite of many backgammon players from around the world. The usual four elements are there for your enjoyment throughout the weekend.



To launch the 2011 season this event not only stages the Finals of the 2010 Biba Backgammon Tour, but is also the first BBT event of the year, and Biba is pleased to have the Tour sponsored for another year by its partner, PlayWSOB!

Raffle! Raffle! Raffle! Bring along your unwanted Christmas gifts (or any other donations) for a Grand Raffle to be held over the weekend. Please be generous and bring what you can to help raise money for the Help Lewis Walk fund and change a young boy's life.

This is a Biba Grand Prix, UK Finals and Biba Backgammon Tour 2011 Event



To avoid disappointment all players are advised to book their accommodation now because Biba has a limited number of rooms available at our special rate



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This is Lewis Brierley, he is an 11-year old boy from Eccles, Manchester, with Cerebral Palsy. Lewis was diagnosed at a very young age with spastic diplegia cerebral palsy. He is a happy little boy who would love to live a normal life and do things like playing football with his friends. Lewis has to rely on a wheelchair to get around.

Spastic Cerebral Palsy is a form of cerebral palsy that causes tightness in the muscles. Because of this tightness, spastic cerebral palsy patients have a difficult time controlling their movement. Their motions may be abrupt and jerky.

Lewis was born in April 1999 and is now eleven and has just started high school and attends five days a week. He has been offered the chance of an operation in America that will remove the spasticity in his legs allowing him to walk unaided and for the first time feel comfort at a level that we all take for granted.

Cerebral Palsy is treated in the UK with a combination of Botox, Physio and eventually muscle/tendon lengthening surgery. However in other countries *Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy* (SDR) is the first procedure of choice, therefore ridding the child of spasticity at an early age and allowing normal muscle/bone growth. Such an operation is available in the USA.

He has already been accepted by the Children's Hospital, St. Louis, to have the operation needed to change his life forever, and Biba is supporting Lewis's appeal to raise £45,000 for the operation and the aftercare needed for it to be successful.

At future Biba tournaments there will be fundraising events in support of Lewis and it is hoped that members will take part and help to get Lewis the surgery he needs to lead a normal active life.



Biba has already launched an online raffle (www.backgammon-biba.co.uk/LewisRaffle.htm) of donated prizes and at the forthcoming **Christmas UK Finals** in December there will be a raffle of Christmas presents.

Also, in January, at the **Bright 'n' Breezy** it is hoped to hold a further raffle of unwanted Christmas presents; for this to be a success please, bring/send whatever gifts you can to make the raffle worthwhile.



Your commitment is minimal - donate a prize, purchase tickets, possibly win a prize, and walk off a happy winner; remembering that Lewis can't walk off so easily without your help.

Help Lewis Walk

With your help we can do it!

Aren't legs wonderful? They dangle down from our bodies at a nice distance so we can admire our shoes and they give our knees somewhere sensible to live. They are very handy for going to the shops and getting up the stairs at night to go to bed. They make us tall or short and they are ready for action the minute we wake up in the morning. They are always there, supported by our feet. Aren't legs wonderful?



What man can ever forget these famous legs? Admired by men and envied by women the world over. In a pose we all know well, these are the legs of Marilyn Monroe.

Now, here's a treat for the ladies. These are without doubt, manly legs. Legs that have seen action. Legs that have led England to football glory and countless women the world have gazed at longingly. These are the legs of David Beckham.



Mind you, not all famous legs are so glamorous. What a contrast these famous legs are. These legs aren't attractive like Marilyn's, and women didn't swoon over them, like Beckham's, and they weren't admired as legs, but their owner was, worldwide. These legs changed the world. These are the legs of Mahatma Gandhi.



Not all legs are wonderful. These famous legs don't look all that wonderful. Confined to a wheelchair, they became world famous thanks to television. These are the legs of 'Ironside' Perry Mason, a defence attorney who is confined to a wheelchair. To be honest, these are in fact the legs of an actor, who, at the end of a day's filming, walked off into the sunset. These are the legs of Raymond Burr.



And, here we have another pair of legs, which, like Perry Mason's are reliant on a wheelchair for mobility. They are the legs of an 11 year old boy from Manchester, England. Unfortunately he isn't a child actor playing a part on television, and at the end of his day, he cannot walk off into the sunset. Since birth this young boy has had spastic diplegia cerebral palsy. These legs belong to Lewis Brierley.



The sad thing is, Lewis doesn't have to rely on a wheelchair for the rest of his life, he can have an operation in the States that will enable him to walk just like you. Unaided. Free.



Can you imagine being an 11 year old sitting in a wheelchair and knowing that the only thing preventing you getting up and running around with your friends is an operation?

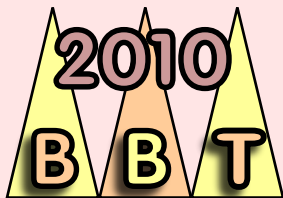
It is all a matter of money. Lewis needs to raise £45,000 to go to the States for an operation that will change his life. His new legs won't be attractive like Marilyn Monroe's, nor swooned over like David Beckham's. They won't (perhaps) change the world like Gandhi's, but they will be like Raymond Burr's, able at the end of the day to finally allow him to walk off into the sunset, or walk, or run, or play, or hop, skip and jump like the boy he can become.

Please, help Lewis walk by making a donation at www.helplewiswalk.com and change a young boy's life.

Reference Web Sites

www.helplewiswalk.com

www.stlouischildrens.org/content/medservices/sdr



The Coventry Open Backgammon Tournament Report by Phil Tutchings



Thanks to all who attended the Coventry Open and congratulations to the worthy winner Mark Calderbank. Mark came through a field of 42 entrants to take over from Peter Chan as Coventry Open Champion following his final win against Gary Brooker. Mark took home the winners trophy, prize pool and a tournament board donated by WSOB.

On his way to the final Mark had a bye into round two where he defeated Dan Tutchings. He went on to win against Diane Ward, Nicky Check and Andreas Sophocleous before defeating Gary in the final. Gary's semi final opponent Neil Smith also gave a good account of himself playing in his first UK Tournament.

David Pritchard (who started playing at the Birmingham club this year) won the consolation event in his first ever tourna-

ment. He achieved six wins in that event including his final win against Nicky Check (coming from 6-2 down to win 7-6).

David's only defeat of the tournament was in his first round match in the main event where he lost to Julian Fetterlein before claiming an impressive list of scalps on his way to the consolation win - (Irving Czechowicz, Neil Everitt, Mike Main, Michael Damianou, John Wright and Nicky in the final.

Rachel Rhodes won against Robert Perry in the final of the 5pt Last Chance event to continue her impressive Coventry tournament form.

We held an additional one point KO event (16 entrants) to meet the demand for more backgammon once the Last Chance event was

full. The winner was John Tutchings who beat Annette Sutherland in the final.

All games were played in good spirit. I never had to consult my copy of Biba Rules as there were no disputes during the whole tournament - thanks to everyone attending for making it an enjoyable day and to Coventry & NW CC for providing an excellent venue and much appreciated catering.

**Below: Main
Gary Brooker & Mark Calderbank**



Biba Brits Rule in Antwerp

Report by Arthur Wright

On Friday 10th September a motley band of Biba Brits met in the Champagne Bar at St Pancras International station. Their mission to storm Antwerp and capture trophies in the 6th Antwerp Open,

General Wignall accompanied by his faithful lieutenant Barwick, travelled as is his custom, 1st Class on Eurostar via Brussels. Foot soldiers Fawcett, Gilbertson, Powell, Rhodes and Wright travelled baggage class accompanied by their delightful wives Deana, Tracey and Valerie.

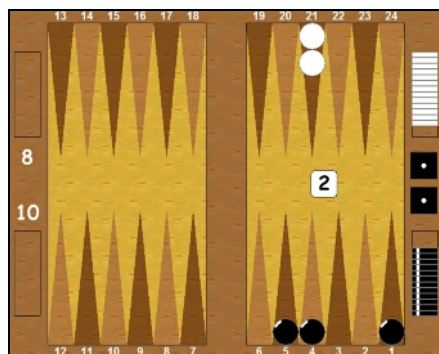
Two more mercenaries Heard & Check brought up the rear choosing to travel by car rather than letting the train take the strain.

The action takes place above a famous café right in the centre of Antwerp a short walk from our hotel past bustling open air bars and restaurants. Overlooking the main square with fountains flanked by a flag decked medieval town hall, and a Cathedral with its regular chiming of bells, it has to be one of the most attractive locations on the European tour.

Attendance was down on previous years which meant that the Brits accounted for a third of the field of 28 so a goodly chance of capturing one or more trophies.

Mike Heard and Lawrence Powell both lost in the quarter finals of the main and out of the money. However since it was a progressive Consolation they both automatically went into the quarter finals. Lawrence won his match and met Paul Gilbertson in the semi final. Paul had had an interesting tussle in his previous match against Paul Barwick with a 16 cube in a 7 point match.

An interesting situation for the mathematicians arose in the 7 point semi final. Paul G is leading Lawrence Powell 5-4.



Lawrence (black) has just 3 checkers to bear off, drawing a deep breath he doubles. Paul takes then rolls 54 to win the match and progress to the final. Lawrence was 67% favourite to win in a money game and Snowie says it was a double take in the early stages of the match. However at the match score of 5-4 it was no double and therefore a correct take by Paul.

Mike Heard had quietly progressed to take the other seat in the final eventually beating Paul 11-8 to capture two trophies for the Brits.

The final of the main took place in the evening between Nicky & Rene with a magnificent view of the floodlight square as a backdrop. It had been a long day and Nicky was caught asleep on camera between matches. The 40 winks obviously worked as Nicky triumphed to win the Antwerp Open and yet another trophy for the Brits.

General Myke took his troops out on the town celebrating successful achievement of the Trophy objectives. But were there more to come?

Sunday dawned with bright sunshine albeit a touch on the chilly side. Another pleasant walk from the Hotel to the venue where Paul Bayerns, the tireless Belgian organiser was setting up a Super Jackpot. By now readers might wonder how many Pauls took part over the weekend. In fact there were no less than five Pauls competing in the last 8 of the Super Jackpot. Not surprisingly then a Paul won and our very own Mr Gilbertson at that, thus making it a clean sweep of winners for the Biba Brits.

Bookings are being taken for next September's event so put the date in your diaries. A super location, great atmosphere, friendly people an International tournament worth attending



Above: Nicky, resting. The Venue.
Left, coming down: Nicky. Mike. Paul



Venue, daytime - Arthur & Tracey eat mussels - Venue, nighttime
 Paul Van D & Paul B - Myke, beer, Lawrence, milk! - Rachel & Ed
 Main Final, Nicky & Rene - Con Final, Paul G & Mike - Jackpot Final, Paul G on the right



The Christmas UK Finals - 3, 4, 5 December 2010

@ Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel

(optional black tie & posh frocks for Saturday night dinner)



This is one of the most popular events in the Biba calendar;
 and this year, sponsored by Peter & Paul Christmas,
Christmas is coming early!

The UK Finals will be the usual format of Saturday: Main qualifier double knockout

Main Qualifier: Entrants will play 2 x 7 point matches of Swiss Format

All players that win 0/2 will go into the 3 point Snowball

All players that win 1/2 will go into a 5 point Knockout to playoff for 4 players

All players that win 2/2 will go into a 7 point Knockout to playoff for 4 players

Sunday: Main: 7 point 16 player Knockout.

Progressive Consolation: 5 point Knockout with entry from Main 1st Round

Last Chance : 3 point open draw Knockout

Plus several extras including Rosey's Rollout, Secret Santa and Design a Christmas card!



The Christmas UK Finals 3,4,5 December



Sponsored by Peter & Paul Christmas

This event is so much more than the UK Finals. In addition to the Saturday Qualifier, Snowball, the Sunday Main, Consolation and Last Chance we also have some extras to keep away the boredom!

Optional: Black-tie
and posh frocks for
Saturday night!

Rosey's Rollout



Win a
bottle of
champagne!

Secret Santa



Bring a present for Santa's sack (value £5 to £10) and get a present in return. £1 raffle tickets on sale to win many extra surprise presents!

Design a Christmas Card

Win £25 plus a year's free Biba membership if your card is voted the best.



Help Lewis Walk

Throughout the weekend various other activities will centre around Biba's support to help raise £45,000 to send Lewis to the States for an operation that will alter his life and enable him to walk unaided.

Eire Invasion

Report by our man in Dublin, Arthur Wright

On a wet cold October Friday, Dublin awoke to find it had been invaded by English, Italian, Maltese and Welsh backgammon players, all eager to be crowned 2010 Irish Open Champion.

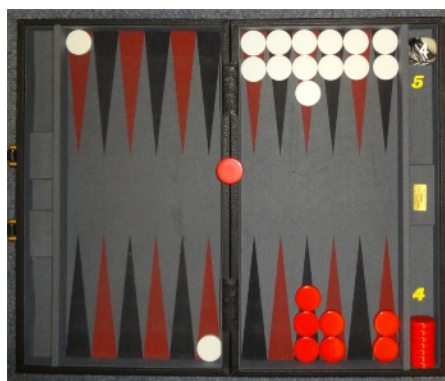
The Friday night warm-up consisted of a €200 Jackpot with Sean Casey beating Peter Bennet in one semi-final and Brian Lever victorious over John Broomfield in the other. With a late night finish Sean and Brian decided to share the €2,800 pot and a profitable evening. To determine an actual winner Sean tossed a coin and Brian called "Heads". Now for the 1st Irish joke - it was a Euro Coin which does not have a head. After much head scratching, excuse the pun, Sean declared Brian the winner.

Saturday morning dawned crisp and sunny with a shine only surpassed by our Irish host's welcome. Noel Byrne firmly shook Peter Chan's hands and smiling said "Have you brought your camera?"



What a silly question to ask Peter because, quick as a flash (again excuse the pun), out came the camera to snap Noel and friends so notching up his 100th photo since arrival in Dublin.

Of the field of 52 there were no less than 23 English & Welsh with 9 of these luckily getting a first round bye. Not so lucky was Brian Lever in his first round match against Joe Dooley. Brian is black (red)



In the 13 point match Joe leads 5-4, holds a 4 cube, a closed board and has put one of Brian's last 8 checkers on the bar. He redoubles to 8, Snowie squeals "No Redouble - Take", so Brian correctly takes and then facing a match winning score of 13-4 duly redoubles to 16. I hesitate to say "Luck of the Irish" but with the dice in his favour, Joe triumphs.

By Saturday evening the last 8 were known of which 5 were English including yours truly. Then it was a short walk to the Temple Bar area with its multitude of excellent restaurants, bars and Irish music.



The night was enhanced by Halloween with many revellers in costumes and masks.

At 2:00 am on Sunday morning the clocks went back 1 hour but, cue for 2nd Irish joke, no one told Sean Casey. At noon i.e. 1 o'clock old time Sean closed the Last Chance entries at 32 but was then later faced by other players wanting to enter before the 1 o'clock, correct time, deadline.

Brendan Burgess, Sunday's TD, then had to reopen the field to accommodate new entries thus making a Last Chance field of 64. Cue for 3rd Irish joke - in his haste Brendan allowed buy-backs to produce a field of 66 not 64. Fortunately as is the nature of Backgammon players the extra two accepted the oversight gracefully.

In the first Consolation semi-final Tony Fawcett beat Kevin Jones while John Wright beat Nicky Check in the other. Leading 5-0, in the 7 pointer final, Tony makes the classic mistake of doubling too soon. John, whilst on the bar, is only facing a two-point board, he accepts and then naturally throws the cube back.

He wins the game and suddenly Tony now only leads 5-4. Tony, accepting his

error of judgement, refocuses and wins the Consolation Final 7-4.



Meanwhile beaten semi finalist Kevin Jones progresses to the Last Chance final only to lose to Nigel Hamill.



Attention now turns to the 13 point final of the Main tournament where Peter Bennet, victorious over Mark Calderbank, plays Marc Turner, victorious over Jon Barnes.



After seven games Peter leads 8-2 and the audience begin to think about collecting their belongings to set off home. Hold it folks - six games later; after Marc consistently doubles and Peter consistently drops, the score is 8-8. The match is ►



Peter, Brendan and Marc



Brendan and Marc



The Trophy

on a clock currently displaying Marc with 23mins left and Peter 11mins.

There is shuffling in the audience as a book is opened on "how much time" will be left on Peter's clock when the match ends. In the next game Marc relentlessly doubles again and at last Peter takes then wishes he hadn't as he is forced to emulate an Irish jig on the bar and Marc goes into the lead 10-8. Another drop and Marc having won eight games on the trot increases his lead to 2-away, 5-away at 11-8.

A shell shocked Peter regroupes and begins a tremendous fight back. He puts three of Marc's checkers on the bar and

begins to feel his confidence returning. Marc's luck has not deserted him he rolls double-4s to bring all three checkers in then immediately rolls double-4s again for all three checkers to leap out of the inner board and the race is on. The clock quietly continues running down as Peter assesses the odds, rechecks the situation and boldly doubles. It is now Marc's turn to contemplate the odds and accepts the cube and Peter, in winning the race, reduces the arrears to 10-11.

Peter doubles in the next two games and Marc drops for Peter to retake the lead 12-11, Crawford. The tension mounts as Marc wins the Crawford game to make it DMP. Then a nail-biting finale for this

gripping match which Marc, with some 16 minutes left on the clock, wins to be crowned Irish Open Champion. For the bookies Peter, having ensured the audience, witnessed a great match had 1min 42sec left on the clock.

A well run tournament in a great location and a really great friendly atmosphere. Many thanks Brendan and Sean and I hope this article persuades more people to come and take part in the 2011 Irish Open.

Images by Peter Chan and Arthur Wright

Knockout Grand Prix Points				
Lose in round	11 Pts	7 Pts	5 Pts	3 Pts
9		40.45	35.25	25.25
8	62.00	38.61	30.24	21.25
7	50.50	34.55	25.23	17.23
6	40.45	28.51	20.21	13.22
5	31.54	22.48	15.25	9.26
4	23.52	17.55	10.24	7.28
3	16.51	10.47	7.25	6.84
2	10.50	8.50	6.50	6.00
1	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50

Starting in January, 2011 The Grand Prix points are to be 'improved'. Knockouts are now based upon what round you lose in and how many points the match is played to. This now means that no matter what, everyone will get at least 5.50 points.

Also, players going into the Progressive Consolation should gain extra points by improving their finishing position if they win at least two Consolation rounds.

7	62.00	Swiss Grand Prix Points				50.50	6
Wins	1st loss in round . . .						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
5	35.30	36.33	37.36	38.39	39.42	40.45	
4	27.42	28.45	29.48	30.51	31.54	work v	
3	20.43	21.46	22.49	23.52	entrants into t		
2	14.45	15.48	16.51				
1	9.47	10.50					
0	5.50						

Please note that GP po
throughout will be the highest c

Apart from the amount of points awarded, the Swiss Format still reflects consecutive wins from Round 1.

I admit that perhaps this new points system isn't perfect, but it does appear to work well during tests, and it does give the Main entrants into the Consolation something to aim for.

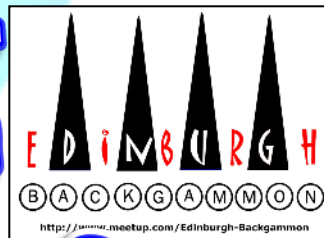
Please note that GP points are not accrued - your total GP points throughout will be the highest attained in whatever element you did best in.

The British Isles Backgammon Association



Presents In partnership with

Edinburgh Backgammon



The XII Scottish Open

18, 19, 20, February 2011

Barceló Highland Hotel, Stirling

Situated on Spittal Street, 800 metres from the train station, next to Stirling Castle

Biba rates for dinner, bed & breakfast:

Saturday night: Single @ £84.50, Double/Twin @ £128

Friday & Saturday night: Single @ £159, Double/Twin @ £236

Call Reservations on 01786 272 727 option #2 and quote 'backgammon'

(9am to 9pm Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm @ weekends)

Registration Fee: £25 Entry Fee £15

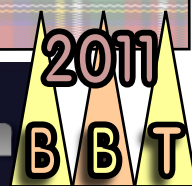
Guaranteed 1st Prize: £350 minimum

Biba is proud present the 2011, XII Scottish Open. A Biba Backgammon Tour event it comprises of Main Knockout & Progressive Consolation, Last Chance and 3-pointer that is open to all players (see * below). In addition there will be a free entry Beginner's Knockout of 3-point matches, no cube, the winner of which will receive £50. It all starts 1300 on the Saturday (registration 1030 to 1230), and for those attending the Friday night knockout there will be £50 added prize money - this is open to non-Biba members, however, Biba entry conditions apply, see www.backgammon-biba.co.uk for full details.

This event is seeking a sponsor. Minimum requirement - supply of trophies - cost in the region of £100 to £200 depending upon type. Contact info@backgammon-biba.co.uk or tel 07900 916 468 for details,



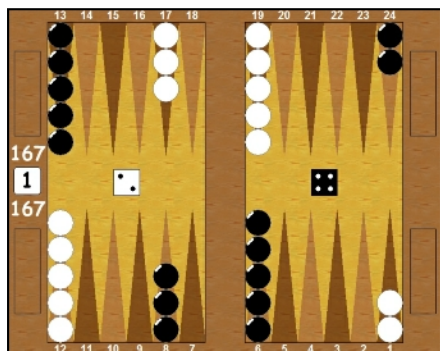
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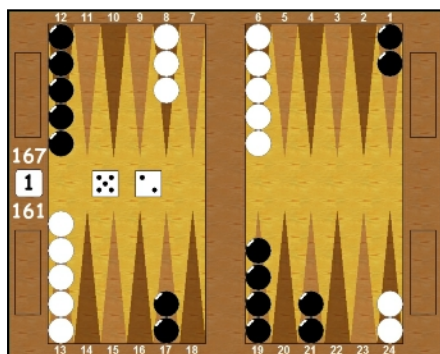
* All entrants for the Main Scottish Open must be subscribers to Bibafax and members of Biba. You can join on the day

By Sunday afternoon we had just one player out of the **Main 32** starters on 5-5, Neil Everitt. His next opponent, a 4-5 would come from the match between Bob Bruce and Chris Ternel, and although he didn't say so, I reckon Neil would prefer to play against Bob than Chris! For a good time it looked as if Bob was going to make it, but, not for the first time this weekend, Chris came from behind to clinch his place on the recording table and a shot at Neil.

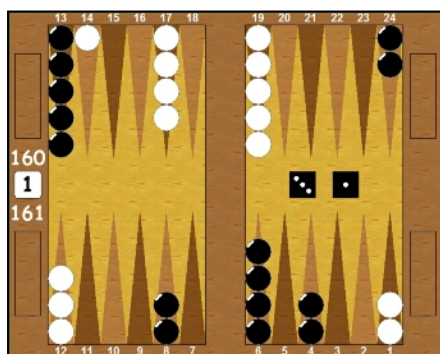
On paper, and with reference to the rankings, Chris was favourite. Neil got off to a good start, 2-0, and he led all the way with Chris occasionally catching up: 2-1, 2-2, 4-2, 4-3, 6-3, 7-3, 7-5, 7-6, 8-6, 8-8; and it was at this match score where we learn a lesson. Beginners are (nearly) always advised to make their 5-point or bar-point whenever possible, but Chris Ternel is not a beginner! Here he is as white failing to make either point!



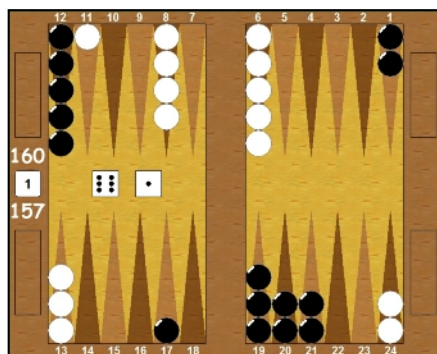
Neil starts off with a good 42: 8/4, 6/4.



Chris replies with 52: 13/8, 13/11

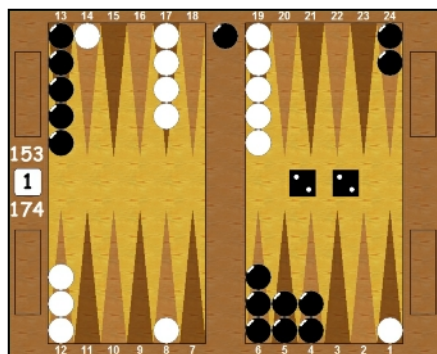


Neil compliments his previous play by rolling a great 31: 8/5, 6/5, the textbook play!

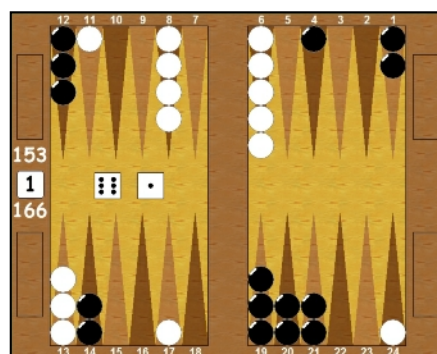


Chris rolls the perfect numbers to make his 5- or bar-point but doesn't. Instead he plays 24/17*.

This is the correct play, according to XG, to make his 5-point would be an error and to make his bar-point a blunder.



Neil comes in with 22: 25/21, 13/11(2).



Chris rolls another 5- or bar-point maker, and instead of making one of them plays the same move as last time: 61: 24/17. The other two plays are blunders.

So, what have we learnt from this? We've learnt that in backgammon what you should do isn't what you always do!

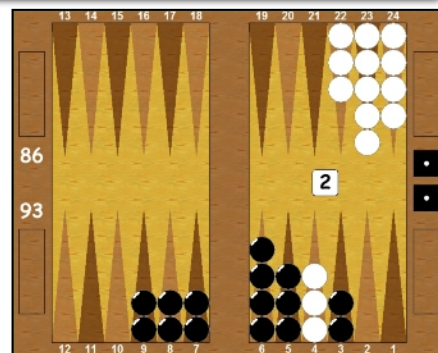
Circumstances dictate what moves are best even when it comes to deciding whether or not to make a very good point.

The match progressed and despite playing the correct opening rolls of this game, it was Neil that won the point: 9-8.

In the next game, with Neil 2-away, 3-away and whilst trailing by 7 pips, and bearing in against a 4-point anchor with a spare checker, Neil cubes!

Townharbour Trophy

Report by Michael Crane



Chris thinks for some time over this and he can be seen on the video calculating his chances. At Neil 2-away, 3-away, Chris has a 40% chance of winning the game - or if he takes, then after the inevitable recube, he'll be 40% to win the match. If he drops, at 1-away, 3-away Chris drops to 25%. After some consideration he correctly takes. He gets a shot a few rolls later but misses, and then a little after that he tries to race when the pip-count places him just 2 pips behind; however, it was just a tad too late and after Neil rolls a 44 it's all over for Chris.



Neil Everitt

This was a happy outcome for me for it gave me an outright winner on 6-6 and two on 5-6, Andy Darby and Uldis Lapikens. The initial tie-breaker of head-to-head failed to position them, as did shared opponents (they both beat Gerry Enslin), so it was left to the average ranking score of the opponents, and Uldis came out as Runner-up.

In the **Consolation** element, Brian Lever (eventually) got the better of Lawrence Powell in the 5th Round, and Mardi Ohannessian got the better of Peter Finnimore. The same tie-breaker was applied;

they never met, they both beat George Hall and the average ranking favoured Brian and it was he that took home the winner's trophy.



Brian & Mardi

In the **Poker (11)**, Paul Gilbertson finished 1st, with Tony Fawcett 2nd and new-member, Ary Nogueira 3rd. Unfortunately for Paul and Tony, none of this made any difference to the listings. With just one more event to go, The Christmas

UK Finals in December, Andy Darby remains at #1. Simon K Jones and Vicki Pemberton share 3rd place and Rosey Bensley and Mark Calderbank remain unchanged at #4 and #5. Simon and Rosey have the best chance to move upward, they both have a low score of 8 to replace, and it is possible that in the final event of the year, Andy could lose his #1 slot.

The **Team (11)** saw Uldis Lapikens going it alone in the final against Phil Tutchings and Brian Metcalf, an encounter from which he emerged victorious.

The **Friday 500 (16)** saw Paul Gilbertson win his third consecutive 500 following his victory over Peter Christmas. This was a shame for Peter for victory would have placed him in the Last 16 and a shot at the £500! After leading for most of the year (with Nicky Check close on his heels), Andy Darby remained #1 over the weekend and took home a £100 bonus.

Of those in danger of being knocked out of the Top 16 Qualifiers, all survived. Andreas Sophocleous clung on to #16 with just one point ahead of Peter Christmas! However, should any of the 16 qualifiers not attend the UK Finals in December, Peter Christmas downwards will take their places.

This weekend saw the end of the **Biba Championships**. Full details can be found in the results in the back pages.

Finally

It was a good weekend and a 32 draw made it an easy-to-run event. It all went smoothly and now we all look forward to the Christmas UK Finals.

Neil wasn't in the **Winner-Takes-All** so we have a rollover for Brighton of £270! Altogether now, "Thank you, Neil."

BIBA ONLINE RAFFLE

Please support the Biba Online Raffle by purchasing tickets and/or making a donation. For full details check out the web site: www.backgammon-biba.co.uk/LewisRaffle.htm or ask for details The current value of prizes to date, 10/11/10 is £709 and it is set to be even higher. Ticket prices are:

Single tickets @ £5 each. Five tickets for £20. Ten tickets for £35

Biba members can pay via cheque payable to BIBA. Winners will be drawn in Brighton in January.

Barceló Hotels - Hinckley	Two nights bed & breakfast stay at the Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel	£120
GammonVillage	Lifetime Subscriptions to GammonVillage (1 of 2)	£80
GammonVillage	Lifetime Subscriptions to GammonVillage (2 of 2)	£80
Biba	One year full colour Bibafax magazine subscription and Biba membership	£60
Biba	One year b&w postal Bibafax magazine subscription and Biba membership	£45
Biba	Registration and Entry Fee for the 2011 Scottish Open Backgammon Championship	£40
Biba	Registration and Entry Fee for the 2011 English Open Backgammon Championship	£40
Biba	Registration and Entry Fee for the 2011 British Open Backgammon Championship	£40
Biba	Registration and Entry Fee for the 2011 Biba World Backgammon Championship	£40
Biba	One year email Bibafax magazine subscription and Biba membership	£35
Liverpool Backgammon Club	Entry into the 2011 Liverpool Open	£35
Chris Ternel (BG Shop)	Set of four precision dice of the winner's choice	£25
Svilen Todorov	Leather dice cups	£25
Chris Bray	One of Chris's 'Wind' backgammon books (1 of 2)	£22
Chris Bray	One of Chris's 'Wind' backgammon books (2 of 2)	£22





2010 & 2011 Details, Deals and Dates

Registration: Saturday 1030 to 1230

Play Starts (prompt): Friday 2100, Saturday 1300, Sunday 1030

Auctions: Group, Saturday 1245. Individual, Sunday 1015

Pools: Private, members only, prize pools available at £tba

All tournaments feature a free entry Friday 500 **

Formats: Knockouts - 11, 7, 5, & 3 point matches, Swiss - 6 x 11 point matches

Saturday night backgammon, Poker Grand Prix and Jackpots subject to demand

Registration Fees. Members only: £20 (**£25 for 2011**) - you can join on the day.
Entrants not residing at the hotel on the Biba rate, £15 extra to cover facilities
(all fees and surcharges to be paid on the day - prepayment not required)

FRIDAY

2100: Friday 500 **
+ Jackpots (on demand)

SATURDAY

Registration 1030 / 1230
Play starts 1300 prompt

SUNDAY

Registration 1030
(penalty points apply @ 1035)

** Friday 500 entrants who are not on the Biba rate or are not staying in the hotel will have to pay a £20 entry fee, this fee will go towards the £500 prize money for December's Finals.

Dinner, bed and breakfast @ Barceló Hotels for 2010

The Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel for the Christmas UK Finals

Reservations: 0800 652 8413 and quote 'backgammon'

Single room: One night £66, two nights £115.50

Double or twin room: One night £108.00, two nights £203

New number

Dinner, bed and breakfast @ Barceló Hotels for 2011

The Old Ship - Brighton

Reservations: 01273 329 001 and quote 'backgammon'

Single room: 1 night £72, two nights £133, three nights £189

Double or twin room: 1 night £119, two nights £222, three nights £297

Barceló Stirling Highland Hotel

Reservations: 01786 272 727 and quote 'backgammon'

Saturday night: Single @ £84.50, Double/Twin @ £128

Friday & Saturday night: Single @ £159, Double/Twin @ £236

New number

The Barceló Hinckley Island or Barceló Daventry Hotels

Reservations: 0800 652 8413 and quote 'backgammon'

1 person x 1 night @ £68.50. 1 person x 2 nights @ £120.50

2 persons x 1 night @ £113. 2 persons x 2 nights @ £213

It should be noted that the hotels have blocked off just 30 rooms at the special Biba rate and they will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. More will be added subject to availability; however, it is not guaranteed that more will be allocated so to be certain of a room and to avoid disappointment and the £15 surcharge book as soon as you can.

What does sponsoring an event entail?

At the very least you are required to supply the trophies for the event - the costs vary, but are usually in the region of £100 to £150. If you wish to attract a good turnout then extras should be considered to boost attendance. You can rename some of the above events to suit your sponsorship - details upon request. Once sponsorship has been agreed you are obliged to supply/fund the trophies in order to exclusively reserve your event.

If you would like to sponsor a tournament, those marked X are unavailable.

2010 Backgammon Calendar

X Dec 3,4,5	The UK Finals Christmas Party	-	-	-	Hinckley	Double KO
* <u>Sponsored by Peter & Paul Christmas</u> *						

2011 Backgammon Calendar

X Jan 7,8,9	Bright 'n' Breezy (<u>Sponsored by PlayWSOB</u>)	GP	UK	BBT	Brighton	Knockout
X Feb 4,5,6	The Jarvis Trophy (<u>Sponsored by Arthur Wright</u>)	GP	UK	-	Hinckley	Swiss
Feb 18,19,20	The Scottish Open	GP	-	BBT	Stirling	Knockout
Mar 4,5,6	Biba International Championship	GP	-	-	tba	Knockout
Apr 8,9,10	British Open	GP	UK	-	Hinckley	Knockout
Apr-17	Manchester 1-Day (non-Biba event)	GP	-	BBT	Manchester	Combination
May 6,7,8	County Cups Trophy	GP	UK	-	Hinckley	Swiss
Jun 3,4,5	The English Open	GP	-	BBT	Hinckley	Knockout
Jul 1,2,3	Biba World Championship	GP	UK	-	Hinckley	Knockout
Jul ??	16th Liverpool Open (non-Biba event)	GP	-	BBT	Liverpool	Combination
Aug 5,6,7	SAC Trophy	GP	UK	-	Hinckley	Swiss
Aug ??	15th Mind Sports Olympiad (non-Biba event)	-	-	-	tba	Swiss
X Sep 2,3,4	The Barcelo Cup	GP	-	BBT	Hinckley	Knockout
Sep 24	The Wicklow Open (non-Biba event)	GP	-	BBT	Wicklow, Eire	Knockout
Oct 7,8,9	Sandy Osborne Memorial	GP	-	-	Hinckley	Knockout
Oct ??	The Coventry Open (non-Biba event)	GP	-	BBT	Coventry	Knockout
Oct ??	19th Irish Open (non-Biba event)	GP	UK	BBT	Dublin	Knockout
Nov 4,5,6	Townharbour Trophy	GP	UK	-	Hinckley	Swiss
Dec 2,3,4	UK Finals	-	-	-	Hinckley	Double KO

For full details of the Biba Backgammon Tour events, go to www.backgammon-biba.co.uk

4, 5, 6 February, 2011. The Jarvis Trophy @ Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel Sponsored by Arthur Wright in celebration of his wife, Val's birthday.

The first of the year's four Swiss Format events. Not only do entrants get to play 6 x 11 point matches, but the winner qualifies for the Christmas UK Finals in December with entry into the Last 16 plus two night's accommodation for the price of one.

Also, in addition to the Main & Consolation there will also be a One Point Knockout and other elements taking place between rounds for those that fancy something extra! Not forgetting the Poker Grand Prix and backgammon Saturday night.

This is a UK Finals and Grand Prix Event

Y	A	M	O	L	U	N	E	P
E	O	L	N	A	P	Y	U	M
N	P	U	M	Y	E	L	O	A
O	U	E	Y	N	M	P	A	L
P	L	Y	E	U	A	M	N	O
A	M	N	L	P	O	E	Y	U
L	E	P	A	O	Y	U	M	N
M	N	O	U	E	L	A	P	Y
U	Y	A	P	M	N	O	L	E

BIBA WORDOKU #2 Solution

John Hedge was the winner of this Wordoku, but, seeing as he now lives in Australia he's had to forfeit his prize.

The famous player was Paul Money.

Bumper Christmas Wordsearch

d	h	l	t	a	c	l	s	e	a	n	l	c	r	l	n	m	b	a	s	h
n	i	c	k	y	c	h	e	c	k	t	h	o	i	i	s	a	r	e	r	e
a	a	e	b	c	n	n	r	e	l	k	n	n	b	b	i	n	d	n	p	p
h	n	o	o	m	s	e	a	j	e	m	s	i	r	t	n	o	i	r	a	m
t	e	o	r	r	e	u	r	e	a	k	r	i	e	t	h	a	l	u	t	d
a	e	r	t	k	h	c	n	i	r	w	s	u	c	r	a	m	l	j	e	l
n	i	e	l	r	e	t	t	e	f	n	a	i	l	u	j	g	d	o	n	l
d	t	v	l	l	e	r	i	d	a	l	b	e	t	l	i	e	r	h	n	r
i	e	e	v	y	i	b	t	m	i	c	h	a	e	l	c	r	a	n	e	l
v	h	l	m	i	n	w	m	a	t	c	t	y	b	e	a	r	j	h	b	l
a	u	n	c	e	c	o	k	e	a	h	e	e	e	w	i	a	j	u	r	b
d	p	a	e	a	h	a	t	r	p	s	r	c	u	o	b	i	a	r	e	n
i	n	i	y	d	r	n	i	b	a	t	e	n	r	p	u	s	n	s	t	c
c	j	r	n	t	i	e	s	c	s	b	r	h	e	e	s	t	s	t	e	a
n	l	b	s	t	s	i	n	o	i	h	n	a	h	c	i	k	a	a	p	k
r	r	t	t	a	t	a	n	e	i	m	e	i	w	n	d	e	r	e	n	r
e	n	r	l	o	e	n	k	e	v	i	n	s	t	e	b	b	i	n	g	h
u	u	e	b	s	r	d	a	v	i	d	s	t	a	r	t	i	n	c	r	w
l	r	l	a	n	n	a	m	t	r	a	u	t	s	w	a	s	c	l	r	l
w	h	h	i	s	e	n	o	j	n	a	i	r	d	a	a	m	i	a	m	g
i	i	y	e	n	l	r	n	t	p	e	c	s	c	l	o	i	r	p	n	i

The following Biba members were all invited to a party, but there was also a gate-crasher! Can you find all those below and identify the gate-crasher?

Adrian Jones
 Brian Lever
 Chris Ternel
 David Nathan
 David Startin
 John Hurst
 Julian Fetterlein
 Kevin Stebbing
 Lawrence Powell
 Marcus Wrinch
 Martin Barkwill
 Michael Crane
 Nicky Check
 Paul Gilbertson
 Peter Bennet
 Rachel Rhodes
 Raj Jansari
 Sean Casey
 Stewart Pemberton
 Stuart Mann

The first correct entry opened on 1 January wins a Biba Lifetime Email Membership

The Sandy Osborne, 1,2,3 October, 2010

Main (22)		Last Chance (16)		Poker (9)		6.19	Lawrence Powell	9
1	Mardi Ohannessian	1	Arthur Wright	1	George Hall	6.19	Tony Fawcett	9
2	Brian Lever	2	Rosey Bensley	2	Andy Darby	6.18	George Hall	5
3&4	Neil Everitt	3&4	Nicky Check	3	Mark Calderbank	6.17	Arthur Wright	5
3&4	Peter Christmas	3&4	Adrian Jones	4	Mick Harris	4.13	Myke Wignall	9
5to8	Lawrence Powell			5	Rosey Bensley	4.13	Uldis Lapikens	9
5to8	Myke Wignall	Friday 500 (11)		6	Myke Wignall	4.13	Chris Ternel	5
5to8	Tony Fawcett	1	Paul Gilbertson	7	Paul Gilbertson	4.13	Mick Harris	5
5to8	Uldis Lapikens	2	Jeff Barber	8	Lawrence Powell	4.12	Adrian Jones	5
Consolation (18)		3&4	Nicky Check	Team (4)		4.12	Jeff Barber	5
1	Lawrence Powell	3&4	George Hall	1	Deana Fawcett	4.12	Phil Tutchings	
2	George Hall	5to8	Andy Darby	2	Peter Christmas	4.11	Rosey Bensley	5
3&4	Tony Fawcett	5to8	Myke Wignall			2.58	Paul Barwick	5
3&4	Uldis Lapikens	5to8	Mardi Ohannessian	GP & BBT @ Barceló		2.58	Nicky Check	
5to8	Phil Tutchings	5to8	Jeff Bale	13.42	M Ohannessian	20	Paul Gilbertson	
5to8	Jeff Barber	Sandy (8)		9.29	Brian Lever	16	Andrew Darby	
5to8	Adrian Jones	1	Andy Darby	6.19	Neil Everitt	12	Peter Bennet	
5to8	Myke Wignall	2	Tony Fawcett	6.19	Peter Christmas	12		

Ranking Changes @ Sandy

1954	1955	Adrian Jones
1950	1983	Peter Bennet
1935	1922	Brian Lever
1900	1918	Chris Ternel
1889	1913	Paul Gilbertson
1875	1849	Lawrence Powell
1790	1804	Nicky Check
1779	1724	Mardi Ohannessian
1775	1770	Peter Christmas
1670	1671	Uldis Lapikens
1644	1653	Phil Tutchings
1630	1607	Tony Fawcett
1601	1627	Mark Calderbank
1595	1619	Andrew Darby
1526	1529	Jeff Barber
1520	1540	Paul Barwick
1513	1485	George Hall
1470	1440	Neil Everitt
1457	1469	Myke Wignall
1430	1439	Rosey Bensley
1400	1406	Mick Harris
1394	1397	Arthur Wright

eXtreme Gammon Analysis for Sandy Osborne		
Ohannessian	Category	Lever
Advanced (-0.0176)	Total Error	Expert (-0.0113)
World Class (-0.0100)	Checker Play	World Class (-0.0076)
Beginner (-0.0546)	Cube Play	Intermediate (-0.0270)
19 (6) -1.823(-10.38%)	Move Errors Equity lost (cost)	14 (4) -1.246(-8.99%)
10 (6) -1.076(-4.97%)	Double Error Equity lost (cost)	5 (3) -1.055(-6.34%)
1 (1) -0.999(-3.52%)	Take Error Equity lost (cost)	0 +0.000
30(13) -3.901(-18.88%)	Total Error Equity lost (cost)	19(7) -2.300(-15.32%)
32 +8.313(+55.06%)	Jokers Luck	23 -8.313(-55.06%)
Advanced 1936	Level of play Elo Estimate	Expert 2054

The Coventry Open, 17 October 2010

Main		Last Chance		9.27	Rachel Rhodes	3.35	Diane Ward	5	
1	Mark Calderbank	1	Rachel Rhodes	7.73	Brian Lever	9	3.35	Dorothy Lee	5
2	Gary Brooker	2	Robert Perry	7.73	Nicky Check	9	3.35	Jeff Ellis	5
3&4	Andreas Sophocleous	3&4	Tim Higgs	6.18	John Wright		3.35	Richard Biddle	5
3&4	Neil Smith	3&4	Tony Fawcett	6.18	Marcus Wrinch	5	3.35	Linda Taylor	
5to8	Brian Lever			6.18	Michael Damianou		2.58	Dan Tutchings	
5to8	John Tutchings	1 Pointer		6.18	Paul Plumptre		2.58	Eric Westbrook	
5to8	Nicky Check	1	John Tutchings	6.17	Robert Perry	5	2.58	Irving Czechowicz	
5to8	Peter Chan	2	Annette Sutherland	5.15	John Tutchings	9	2.58	Mick Vacarey	
		3&4	Corrina Tutchings	5.15	Peter Chan	9	2.58	Mike Main	
		3&4	Irving Czechowicz	5.15	Chris Ternel	5	2.58	Neil Everitt	
Consolation				4.12	Marc Turner	5	2.58	Rob Tutchings	
1	David Pritchard	<u>GP & BBT @ Coventry</u>		4.12	Julian Fetterlein		2.58	Vic Hull	
2	Nicky Check	18.57	David Pritchard	4.12	Mike Barrett		2.57	Matthew Fisher	
3&4	Marcus Wrinch	15.99	Mark Calderbank	20	Tim Higgs		2.57	Michelle Ford	
3&4	John Wright	11.35	Gary Brooker	16	Tony Fawcett		2.06	Jim Moore	
		11.35	Andreas Sophocleous	12	Annette Sutherland		2.06	Uldis Lapikens	
		11.35	Neil Smith	12	Corrina Tutchings				

The Irish Open, 29-31 October, 2010

Main		Last Chance		7.23	Yousef Yousef	9	4.11	David McNamara
1	Marc Turner	1	Nigel Hamill	7.23	Jeff Ellis	5	2.58	JohnMcAleenan
2	Peter Bennett	2	Kevin Jones	7.23	Jim Moore	5	2.58	Justin Daly
3&4	Mark Calderbank	3&4	Brian Lever	7.23	Joe Dooley	5	2.58	Michael Farruga
3&4	Jon Barnes	3&4	Youssef Youssef	7.23	Liz Perry	5	2.58	Mick Vickery
5to8	Alison Jess	5to8	Cracker	7.23	Paul Davitt	5	2.58	Rob Tutchins
5to8	Arthur Wright	5to8	James DeGabrielle	6.18	James DeGabrielle		2.58	Roger Keys
5to8	Phillip Reddin	5to8	Noel Byrne	6.18	Martin Barkwill	5	2.57	Dave Sheehy
5to8	Youssef Youssef	5to8	Phil Tutchins	6.17	Brian Lever		2.57	Eugene Mallon
Consolation		GP & BBT @ Irish		4.90	Ariadne		2.57	Phil Tutchins
1	Tony Fawcett	21.16	Marc Turner	20	4.90	Brendan Burgess	2.06	Mal Jones
2	John Wright	21.16	Peter Bennett	16	4.90	Dama Cunningham	2.06	Paul Rooney
3&4	Kevin Jones	18.57	Tony Fawcett		4.90	Felix Vink	2.06	Viadas Novichenko
3&4	Nick Check	15.49	Mark Calderbank	12	4.90	Kerrin Buck		
5to8	James DeGabrielle	13.4	Nigel Hamill		4.90	Mike Waid		
5to8	Martin Barkwill	10.84	Jon Barnes	12	4.90	Shay Mulhall		
5to8	Nigel Hamill	10.84	Alison Jess	9	4.90	Marius	5	
5to8	Dave Hickey	10.84	Arthur Wright	9	4.90	Noel Byrne	5	
Friday Jackpot		10.84	Phillip Reddin	9	4.12	Dave Hickey		
1	Brian Lever	9.28	John Wright		4.12	Eamon Reay		
2	Sean Casey	9.28	Nicky Check		4.12	Peter Chan		
		9.27	Kevin Jones		4.12	Rachel Rhodes		
					4.12	Uldis Lapikens		



The Townharbour Trophy 5, 6, 7 November 2010

Main (16)		wins GP	Consolation (16)		con/wins GP	Friday 500 (16)	
1	Neil Everitt	6 24.77	1	Brian Lever	3 / 4 9.29	1	Paul Gilbertson
2	Uldis Lapikens	5 17.55	2	Mardi Ohannessian	3 / 3 6.19	2	Peter Christmas
3	Andrew Darby	5 13.42	3	Lawrence Powell	2 / 3 7.74	3&4	Simon K Jones
4	Gerry Enslin	4 12.39	4	Kevin Jones	2 / 3 7.74	3&4	Phil Tutchings
5	Simon K Jones	4 10.84	5	Peter Finnimore	2 / 3 6.19	5to8	Andy Darby
6	Peter Christmas	4 10.84	6	Phil Tutchings	2 / 3 6.19	5to8	Tony Fawcett
7	Chris Ternel	4 11.35	7	Rachel Rhodes	2 / 3 6.19	5to8	Mick Harris
8	Tony Fawcett	4 9.29	8	Paul Gilbertson	2 / 3 7.74	5to8	Mark Calderbank
9	Peter Bennet	4 12.39	9	George Hall	1 / 1 2.58	Poker (11)	
10	Ary Nogueira	3 7.74	10	Bob Young	1 / 1 2.58	1	Paul Gilbertson
11	Bob Bruce	3 8.25	11	Nicky Check	1 / 1 2.58	2	Tony Fawcett
12	Paul Plumptre	3 6.19	12	Arthur Wright	1 / 2 4.13	3	Ary Nogueira
13	Myke Wignall	3 6.19	13	Linda Taylor	0 / 1 4.13	4	Mick Harris
14	Jeff Barber	3 7.74	14	Brian Metcalf	0 / 1 2.58	5	Rosey Bensley
15	Paul Barwick	3 8.25	15	Deana Fawcett	0 / 1 2.58	6	Mark Calderbank
16	Mark Calderbank	2 6.19	16	Rosey Bensley	0 / 0	7	Lawrence Powell
						8	George Hall

Ranking changes @ TT (new/old)

1655	1595	Andrew Darby	1531	1526	Jeff Barber
1394	1394	Arthur Wright	1445	1424	Kevin Jones
1597	1580	Ary Nogueira	1856	1875	Lawrence Powell
1320	1279	Bob Bruce	1200	1200	Linda Taylor
1564	1608	Bob Young	1766	1779	Mardi Ohannessian
1938	1935	Brian Lever	1573	1601	Mark Calderbank
1417	1462	Brian Metcalf	1466	1457	Myke Wignall
1901	1900	Chris Ternel	1576	1470	Neil Everitt
1511	1550	Deana Fawcett	1719	1790	Nicky Check
1476	1513	George Hall	1522	1520	Paul Barwick
1688	1662	Gerry Enslin	1852	1889	Paul Gilbertson
			1673	1668	Paul Plumptre
			1936	1950	Peter Bennet

Team (11)

1 Uldis Lapikens		
1788	1775	Peter Christmas
1538	1527	Peter Finnimore
1640	1644	Phil Tutchings
1814	1839	Rachel Rhodes
1395	1430	Rosey Bensley
1759	1742	Simon K Jones
1647	1630	Tony Fawcett
1722	1670	Uldis Lapikens

UK FINALS LAST 16 QUALIFIERS

All of the players below have qualified for the Last 16, except Gerry Enslin who has qualified for the Last 8. This means that the 1st and 2nd in the Snowball will also make it into the Last 16. This is always a popular event, if you need accommodation, please book it now to avoid disappointment!

Nicky Check. Andy Darby. Paul Gilbertson. Gerry Enslin. Marc Turner. Neil Everitt. George Hall.

Poker Grand Prix Nov. 2010			Pts	Player	Entries	Pts	Player	Entries
Pts	Player	Entries	9	Mick Vacarey	4	17	Raj Jansari	1
118	Andy Darby	Q	58	Dan Tutchings	3	16	Paul Learmount	1
109	Simon K Jones	Q	39	Martin Barkwill	3	12	Paul Gillam	1
109	Vicki Pemberton	Q	37	John Wright	3	11	Cecilia Sparke	1
108	Rosey Bensley	Q	32	Carl Dell	3	10	Chris Evans	1
107	Mark Calderbank	Q	18	Billy Sharp	2	10	Eddie Barker	1
101	Lawrence Powell	Q	15	John Batty	2	9	Danny Cohen	1
87	Tony Fawcett	Q	13	John Hedge	2	8	Julian Fetterlein	1
77	Phil Tutchings	Q	12	John Frame	2	7	Angie Dell	1
65	Mick Harris	Q	5	Kevin Stebbing	2	6	Stewart Pemberton	1
61	George Hall	Q	26	Al Hogg	1	5	Tony Lee	1
59	Paul Gilbertson	Q	25	Dave McNamara	1	3	Carol	1
57	Myke Wignall	Q	23	Paul Lamford	1	3	Roy Hollands	1
54	Marcus Wrinch	Q	23	Vaidas Novicenko	1	2	Alexis Hogg	1
51	Rob Tutchings	4	20	Jonathan Frame	1	1	Andy Bell 1	
25	Ann Pocknell	4	18	Marc Turner	1			
			17	Ary Nogueira	1			

With just one more event to go, The Christmas UK Finals in December, Andy Darby remains at #1. Simon K Jones and Vicki Pemberton share 3rd place and Rosey Bensley and Mark Calderbank remain unchanged at #4 and #5. Simon and Rosey have the best chance to move upward, they both have a low score of 8 to replace, and it is possible that in the final event of the year, Andy could lose his #1 slot.

Friday 500 November 2010			Pts	Player	Entries	Pts	Player	Entries
134	Andy Darby		16	Billy Sharp		9	Vicki Pemberton	
115	Nicky Check		16	John Wright		7	Adrian Jones	
110	Myke Wignall		16	Marcus Wrinch		7	Carl Dell	
86	Jeff Barber		16	Martin Birkhahn		7	Chris Ternel	
72	Mardi Ohannessian		15	Martin Barkwill		7	Danny Cohen	
71	Paul Gilbertson		14	Ed Turner		7	Dave McNamara	
64	Simon K Jones		14	Julian Fetterlein		7	Eddie Barker	
63	Tony Fawcett		13	Paul Barwick		7	Gareth Timms	
53	Mick Harris		13	Vaidas Movicenko		7	Ian Tarr	
49	Phil Tutchings		12	Ann Pocknell		7	Jon Barnes	
48	Mark Calderbank		12	Bob Brinig		7	Paul Lamford	
48	Rachel Rhodes		12	David Nathan		7	Stef Rohan	
44	Peter Bennet		12	John Hedge		7	Stewart Wilson	
43	Rosey Bensley		12	Paul Learmount		7	Stuart Pemberton	
42	Brian Lever		12	Robin Swaffield		7	Warwick Thompson	
37	Andreas Sophocleous		11	Anne Ryder		4	Ary Nogueira	
<u>Qualifiers above this line</u>			11	Arthur Wright		4	Angie Dell	
36	Peter Christmas		11	John Frame		4	Chas Perry	
35	George Hall		9	Cecilia Sparke		4	Dave Ablett	
31	Irving Czechowicz		9	Jeff Bale		4	Dorothy Lee	
25	Mick Vacarey		9	Jonathan Frame		4	Ian Hesketh	
23	Richard Biddle		9	Lawrence Powell		4	Malcolm Robertson	
20	Gerry Enslin		9	Michael Crane		4	Paul Gillam	
20	Kevin Stebbing		9	Ray Kershaw		4	Peter Chan	
18	Kevin Jones		9	Rob Tutchings		4	Roy Hollands	
16	Brian Metcalf		9	Sean Casey		4	Simon Morecroft	
			9	Tony Walters		4	Steve Taylor	

After leading for most of the year (with Nicky Check close on his heels), Andy Darby remained #1 over the weekend and took home a £100 bonus. Of those in danger of being knocked out of the Top 16 Qualifiers, all survived. Andreas Sophocleous clung on to #16 with just one point ahead of Peter Christmas! However, should any of the 16 qualifiers not attend the UK Finals in December, Peter Christmas downwards will take their places.

Grand Prix Championship 2010 (142 Entrants)

After leading the field for several months it looked as if Nicky Check was going to end up at the top, however, at the final event of the year, the Townharbour Trophy he was under threat from two players: Mark Calderbank and Peter Bennet. Nicky failed to better his position, as did Mark, but Peter faired better than both of them and nipped in at the last minute to pinch it off Nicky by the slim margin of 1.03 points! Mark had to settle for 3rd place.



90.31	Peter Bennet	27.82	Mick Vacarey	10.32	Tony Lee	4.90	Mike Waid
89.28	Nicky Check	25.78	Ann Pocknell	10.30	Stuart Mann	4.23	Robin Swaffield
83.08	Mark Calderbank	24.78	Mick Harris	10.28	Michael Horne	4.13	Cliff Connick
75.83	Adrian Jones	24.77	John Hurst	9.81	David Motley	4.13	Alan Beckerson
66.06	Stewart Pemberton	24.77	Sean Casey	9.29	Jim Moore	4.13	Ian Tarr
64.50	Phil Tutchings	24.76	Vaidas Novicenko	9.29	Paul Lamford	4.13	Chris Evans
64.49	Neil Everitt	24.24	Dan Tutchings	9.29	Wayne Felton	4.13	Stewart Wilson
62.43	Andy Darby	24.23	Carl Dell	9.29	Sean Williams	4.13	John Batty
62.42	Chris Ternel	24.21	Peter Finnimore	9.28	Monica Beckerson	4.13	Jean Lewicki
61.37	George Hall	22.71	Raj Jansari	9.27	Peter Snape	4.13	Paul Learmount
60.37	Gerry Enslin	21.12	Eric Westbrook	9.27	Lee Wood	4.13	Richard Holness
60.33	Rachel Rhodes	19.60	Danny Cohen	8.76	Steve Fowles	4.13	Martin Birkhahn
59.85	Tony Fawcett	19.10	Steve Rimmer	8.26	Steve Taylor	4.13	Warwick Thompson
55.72	Marcus Wrinch	18.56	Rosey Bensley	8.26	John Hedge	4.12	Roy Hollands
53.13	Paul Plumptre	18.30	Richard Biddle	8.25	Kevin Stebbing	4.12	Chris Bray
52.62	Brian Lever	18.27	Dorothy Lee	7.74	John Frame	4.12	Malcolm Robertson
48.48	Mardi Ohannessian	17.55	Julian Minwalla	7.74	Ary Nogueira	4.12	Mike Barrett
47.99	Lawrence Powell	15.99	Rob Tutchings	7.23	Joe Dooley	2.58	William Speirs
47.97	Paul Barwick	15.94	Brian Metcalf	6.71	Ed Turner	2.58	John Broomfield
47.48	Paul Gilbertson	14.44	Angie Dell	6.71	Jean Wade	2.58	Al Hogg
47.46	Uldis Lapikens	14.44	Bob Bruce	6.69	Billy Sharpe	2.58	David Nathan
46.97	Simon K Jones	14.43	David Phillips	6.19	Mike Heard	2.58	Mike Main
45.91	Jeff Barber	14.19	Linda Taylor	6.19	David Startin	2.58	Dave Ablett
44.88	Vicki Pemberton	14.19	Brendan Burgess	6.19	Ash Dalvi	2.58	Jonathan Frame
43.32	Peter Christmas	13.93	Ian Hesketh	6.19	Cecelia Sparke	2.57	David Wallbank
41.28	Myke Wignall	13.42	Andy Bell	6.19	Paul Gillam	2.57	Matthew Fisher
40.75	Peter Chan	13.41	Gheorghe Filipas	6.18	Michael Damianou	2.57	Dave Sheehy
40.68	John Wright	13.41	Neil Webb	6.18	George Miltiadou	2.57	Mike Williams
39.19	Julian Fetterlein	13.40	Nigel Hamill	6.17	Dave McNamara	2.56	Ralph Eskinazi
37.64	Irving Czechowicz	13.40	Simon Morecroft	6.17	Vicky Chandler	2.06	Eddie Barker
36.62	Kevin Jones	11.87	Ray Kershaw	6.16	Rodney Lighton	2.06	Zoe Cunningham
35.59	Arthur Wright	11.36	Liz Perry	5.68	Alan Greenwood	2.06	Simon Heath
34.53	Jon Barnes	11.08	Shea Mulhall	5.68	Fak Laight	2.06	Gareth Timms
31.47	Marc Turner	10.84	Bob Young	5.68	Ian Shimwell	1.55	Maurice Ekpenyong
30.41	Martin Barkwill	10.84	Alison Jess	5.15	Michelle Ford		
29.92	Andreas Sophocleous	10.58	Jeff Ellis	4.90	Felix Vink		

Ranking Championship 2010 (122 Entrants. 35 Qualifiers)

Like Nicky Check in the Grand Prix Championship, Phil Tutchings looked good for the title for some time. Nicky was pushing him, but his poor performance in the TT failed to put on any pressure and Phil remained at the top. Nicky was unable to make it a double-second (like Marcus Wrinch in 2009) and it was Lawrence Powell who took second place.



Q	Phil Tutchings	Q	Mardi Ohannessian	Q	Arthur Wright	10	Martin Barkwill
Q	Lawrence Powell	Q	Uldis Lapikens	Q	Julian Fetterlein	10	Ann Pocknell
Q	Paul Barwick	Q	Tony Fawcett	Q	Mick Harris	10	Carl Dell
Q	Jeff Barber	Q	George Hall	Q	Irving Czechowicz	10	Andreas Sophocleous
Q	Chris Ternel	Q	Peter Bennet	Q	Kevin Jones	9	Mick Vacarey
Q	Rachel Rhodes	Q	Stewart Pemberton	Q	Peter Finnimore	8	Julian Minwalla
Q	Gerry Enslin	Q	Simon K Jones	Q	Rosey Bensley	8	Ray Kershaw
Q	Andy Darby	Q	Peter Christmas	Q	Brian Metcalf	8	Eric Westbrook
Q	Neil Everitt	Q	Paul Gilbertson	Q	Linda Taylor	8	Rob Tutchings
Q	Nicky Check	Q	Vicky Pemberton	13	Dan Tutchings	8	Ed Turner
Q	Myke Wignall	Q	Brian Lever	13	Bob Bruce	8	Gheorghe Filipas
Q	Mark Calderbank	Q	Paul Plumptre	12	Bob Young	7	Steve Rimmer
Q	Marcus Wrinch	Q	Adrian Jones	12	Michelle Ford	7	Andy Bell
				11	Peter Chan	7	John Frame
				10	Raj Jansari	7	Billy Sharp
				10	Sean Williams	7	Anne Ryder

6	John Hurst	4	Brendan Burgess	2	Alan Beckerson	1	Tim Mooring
6	Sean Casey	4	Ian Hesketh	2	Chris Evans	1	Simon Heath
6	Vaidas Novicenko	4	Kevin Stebbing	2	Stewart Wilson	1	Dave Ablett
6	Ary Nogueira	4	John Hedge	2	Paul Learmount	1	Mike Williams
6	Wayne Felton	4	Dorothy Lee	2	Ian Tarr	1	Gareth Timms
6	John Wright	3	David Phillips	2	Liz Perry	1	Monica Beckerson
6	Richard Holness	3	Mike Heard	2	Cliff Connick	1	Chris Purchase
6	Warwick Thompson	3	Marc Turner	2	Martin Birkhahn	1	Vicky Chandler
6	Jean Wade	3	David Startin	2	Steve Taylor	1	Jonathan Frame
6	Jon Barnes	3	Ash Dalvi	1	David Nathan	1	Tony Walters
5	Danny Cohen	3	Paul Gillam	1	Malcolm Robertson	1	William Speirs
5	Tony Lee	3	Cecilia Sparke	1	George Miltiadou	1	Roy Hollands
5	Simon Morecroft	3	John Batty	1	Chas Perry	1	Stuart Murdoch
5	Richard Biddle	3	Stuart Mann	1	Chris Bray	1	Dave McNamara
4	Angie Dell	2	Robin Swaffield	1	Neil Webb	1	Eddie Barker
4	Paul Lamford	2	David Motley	1	Zoe Cunningham	1	Al Hogg

Annual Championships Prize Fund £2155 Payout 2010

Grand Prix	Payout	Ranking
Phil Tutchings	£301.70	Peter Bennet
Lawrence Powell	£215.50	Nicky Check
Paul Barwick	£172.40	Mark Calderbank
Jeff Barber	£129.30	Adrian Jones
Chris Ternel	£86.20	Stewart Pemberton
Rachel Rhodes	£64.65	Phil Tutchings
Gerry Enslin	£43.10	Neil Everitt
Andy Darby	£21.55	Andy Darby
Neil Everitt	£21.55	Chris Ternel
Nicky Check	£21.55	George Hall

Well, that's another year of Championship events out of the way and a quick glance at the table shows there are a few players getting a double-bonus in Brighton in January - a good start to anyone's year!

Good luck to everyone entering next year.

Finally: Another good year of Championship performances, especially from Phil who has played very well this year. I have always said that to do well in either Championship, players need to enter at least two Swiss tournaments each year, and one of them has to be the Townharbour in November! This year the TT saw some major changes and alterations to the listings, and once again, it proved a pivotal event. Congratulations to our two new champions, Peter and Phil, and well done (but hard luck) to the Runners-up, Nicky and Lawrence. Also, thanks to all this year's participants, and good luck to you all for 2011 when it all kicks off again in Brighton and it all restarts from scratch.



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I would like thank all members for their support throughout 2010 and to the persons below who have supported Biba year after year. I will not be sending out Christmas cards this year, instead I am making a donation to the Help Lewis Walk fund. This is my Christmas card.



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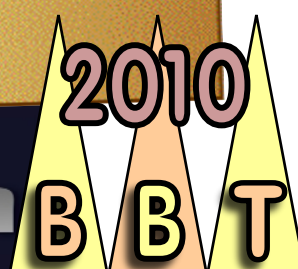
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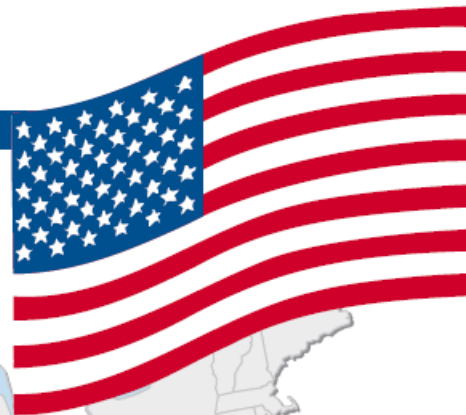
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