

BIBAFX

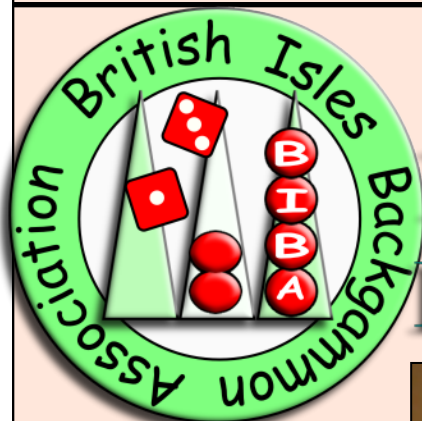
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Dedicated To Backgammon



Julian Fetterlein
Grand Prix Champion and Ranking Champion 2011



Julian Minwalla
Grand Prix Runner/up 2011



Paul Plumptre
Ranking Runner/up 2011

Biba Backgammon Tour 2012

sponsored by

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(see page 14 for details of new partnership)

Bright 'n' Breezy. Scottish Open. Manchester One-Day.

Liverpool Open. Coventry 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. Event entrants gaining more than one award will only be awarded the higher score, they are not accrued.

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 2013 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, bwin.com/wsob.

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.

13-15 January: Bright 'n' Breezy (Biba event)

16-18 March: Scottish Open - (Biba event)

22 April: Manchester One-Day - www.lighton.btinternet.co.uk/backg.htm

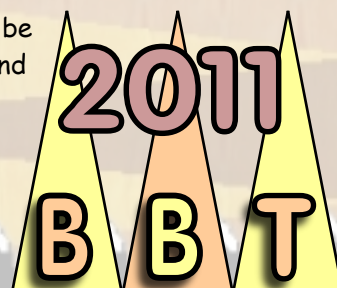
30-31 July: Liverpool Open

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

See the next page for the full details of qualifiers for the 2011
Grand Final in Brighton for January.



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

Points awarded at Wicklow

19.95	Paul O'Kelly
16.94	Mike Waid
13.93	Joe Dooley
13.93	Michael Farrugia
13.93	Paul Davitt
11.92	Dave McNamara
9.97	Kerrin Buck
8.92	Felix Vink
8.92	Phil Tutchings
8.92	Shay Mulhall
5.98	James Degabrielle
4.91	Brendan Burgess
4.91	Noel Byrne

Points awarded at Coventry

19.95	Myke Wignall	5.98	Paul Gilbertson
16.94	Paul Plumptre	4.91	Brian Lever
13.93	Julian Fetterlein	4.91	Harry Fletcher
13.93	Paul Barwick	4.91	Kevin Jones
13.93	Steve Malins	4.91	Marc Turner
11.92	Neil Everitt	4.91	Maurice Ekpenyong
9.97	George Hall	4.91	Mike Wood
9.97	Rob Tutchings	2.97	Michael Damianou
8.92	A Sutherland	2.97	Rachel Rhodes
8.92	John Wright	2.97	Robert Perry
8.92	Neil Smith		
5.98	Carl Dell		
5.98	David Motley		

Points awarded at the Irish Open 2011

19.95	Viadas Novichenko	9.97	John Broomfield	5.98	Rachel Rhodes	4.91	Peter Bennett
16.94	Shay Mulhall	8.92	Alastair Woods	5.98	Roger Keys	2.97	Felix Vink
13.93	James Degabrielle	8.92	Kerrin Buck	4.91	Brendan Burgess	2.97	Liz Perry
13.93	Jonathan O'Grady	8.92	Rune Farevaag	4.91	Dave McNamara	2.97	Marc Turner
13.93	Robin Swaffield	8.92	Sean Casey	4.91	John Wright	2.97	Uldis Lapikens
11.92	Jeff Ellis	5.98	Brendan Gasparro	4.91	Mal Jones	2.97	Volkan
9.97	Bob Tutchins	5.98	Mick Vacarey	4.91	Mike Waid	2.97	Youssef

Well, the season has come to an end and all the results are in and we have our 8 entrants for the Grand Finalé. Both Wicklow and Dublin results only affected two players, Paul Plumptre and Kevin Jones, both of whom didn't attend and both of whom dropped out of the Top 8. They were replaced by Alastair Woods who jumped in at 7th and Phil Tutchings who got in by the skin of his teeth in 8th place. Not all the Top 8 will be taking up their place in the Grand Finalé at the Bright 'n' Breezy, sponsored by bwin.com/wsob in January, where they will compete for the £250 prize money. Anyone not taking up their entry will be replaced by 9th, 10th etc until we have 8 confirmed entrants. Those that have confirmed their attendance are marked * below, those not attending are ~~struck through~~, and those marked # will have a play-off.

50.82	Julian Fetterlein #	18.84	Lawrence Powell	9.97	John Frame	4.91	Ginge Fullen
44.81	Myke Wignall *	18.84	Mike Wood	9.97	Tim Mooring	4.91	Noel Byrne
40.82	Dan Tutchings *	17.90	Richard Biddle	9.97	William Spiers	4.91	Billy Sharp
38.79	Brian Lever *	17.90	Ian Hesketh	9.82	Tony Fawcett	4.91	Dama Cunningham
36.74	Neil Everitt *	17.90	Mike Heard	9.82	Brendan Burgess	4.91	Marcus Wrinch
32.82	Martin Barkwill #	16.94	Dave Ablett	8.95	Angie Dell	4.91	Gareth Timms
32.72	Alastair Woods *	16.94	Neil Oswald	8.92	Fak Laight	4.91	Harry Fletcher
31.70	Phil Tutchings *	16.90	Rodney Lighton	8.92	Al Hogg	4.91	Jonathon Edelstein
30.77	Paul Plumptre #	16.83	Dave McNamara	8.92	Vicky Chandler	4.91	Julian Minwalla
30.77	Kevin Jones #	15.80	Roger Keys	8.92	Annette Sutherland	4.91	Mahmoud Jahanbani
30.76	Arthur Wright	14.90	Michael Horne	8.92	George Miltiadou	4.91	Mal Jones
30.73	John Wright	14.88	John Broomfield	8.92	Gheorghe Filipas	4.91	Paul Garlick
29.73	Marc Turner	14.88	Kevin Stebbing	8.92	Jonathan Frame	4.91	Rich Ward
27.82	Rob Tutchings	13.93	Joe Dooley	8.92	Mick Butterfield	4.91	Sean Williams
26.84	Mark Calderbank	13.93	Ann Pocknell	8.92	Neil Smith	4.91	Stuart Mann
26.76	Mike Waid	13.93	Gerry Enslin	8.92	Rune Farevaag	4.91	Warwick Thompson
25.86	Shea Mulhall	13.93	John Hurst	8.92	Sean Casey	2.97	Andy Darby
25.85	Paul Barwick	13.93	Paul Davitt	7.88	Adrian Jones	2.97	David Pritchard
24.86	Neil Webb	13.93	John Batty	5.98	Carl Dell	2.97	Fanika Petkovska
23.90	George Hall	13.93	Jonathan O'Grady	5.98	Andreas Sophocleous	2.97	Rob Perry
23.75	Peter Chan	13.93	Michael Farrugia	5.98	David Motley	2.97	Andrew Smith
22.85	Chris Ternel	13.93	Robin Swaffield	5.98	Peter Christmas	2.97	Gary Brooker
22.85	Simon K Jones	13.93	Steve Malins	5.98	Brendan Gasparro	2.97	Tony Walters
21.85	Dorothy Lee	13.83	Peter Bennet	5.98	Carel	2.97	Bob Slater
21.81	Tim Line	11.92	Jeff Ellis	5.98	Dod Davies	2.97	Crispin Duke
19.95	Bob Young	11.92	Tim Brown	5.98	Jason Pack	2.97	Ian Shimwell
19.95	Paul O'Kelly	11.89	Felix Vink	5.98	Matthew Fisher	2.97	Jon Williams
19.95	Viadas Novichenko	11.89	Jerry Limb	5.98	Mick Harris	2.97	Liz Perry
19.91	Jamie de Gabriele	10.89	Mick Vacarey	5.98	Paul Gilbertson	2.97	Michael Damianou
18.92	Uldis Lapikens	10.89	Maurice Ekpenyong	5.98	Peter Finnimore	2.97	Neil Davidson
18.92	Rachel Rhodes	9.97	Chris Purchase	5.94	David Wallbank	2.97	Stewart Wilson
18.89	Kerrin Buck	9.97	Mardi Ohannessian	5.94	Susan Bourne	2.97	Volkan
18.84	Irving Czechowicz	9.97	Ian Turner	4.91	Michelle Ford	2.97	Youssef



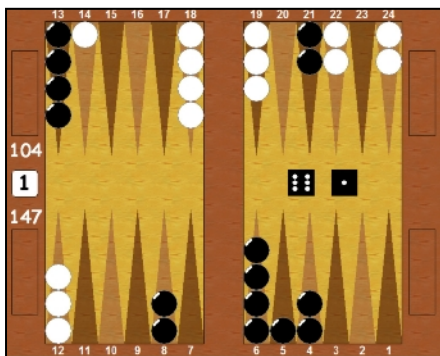
I think, therefore I am a backgammon player By Michael Crane



One of the benefits of recording matches via a video camera is that you get to see the match in real time when transcribing it into a bot for analysis, and when clocks are

being used, you see where players take their time over deciding which play to make. In their Biba World Championship final, Peter Bennet (L) and Chris Ternel (R) made several, long-time, decisions, some good, some bad. This article takes a look at what plays they prevaricated over and the outcome of their decisions. In all positions the match is to 11 points and Peter is playing as black.

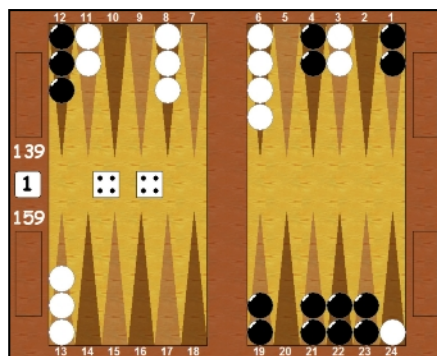
Game 1



White 0

Black 0

Game 2



White 2

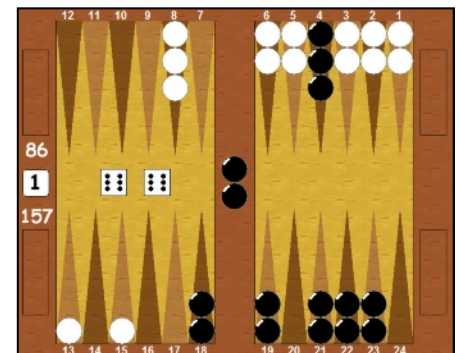
Black 0

When I saw this move on the playback I thought Peter would immediately go for the hit, 21/14*, but he didn't. He went back and forth between the hit and 13/7, 6/5. After almost a minute (over his 12 seconds per move allocation) he went for 13/7, 6/5. This was a blunder, and a big one at that: -0.271! He's not going to win this game unless he gets around and bears off first (he's 43 pips behind at the moment) but this is unlikely, so he needs to get a white checker back, and he can't afford to wait until one comes along later.

It's Chris's turn to think about it, and, like Peter, his thinking time leads to a blunder! He looked at two plays: 24/20, 13/9(3) and 11/7(2), 6/2(2) and he finally went with the latter; which XG rated a blunder @ -0.146. The bot much prefers to move the back checker forward with moving off the mid-point, this not only increases escaping rolls but now a 6n is more likely to get the checker safe. Peter rolled 32: 24/21, 13/11, and the reply of 61 would have made the runner safe with 20/13. The game continues:

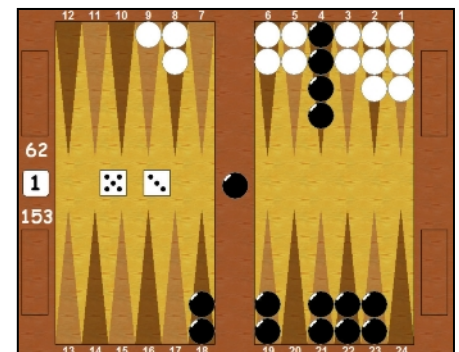
Chris, no doubt boosted by not being on the bar, doubled, and Peter took. XG2 tells us it's a *No double/Take*. Chris then goes on to roll 42: 13/9, 11/9. The game progresses throughout which white is never hit and he goes on to win the 2 points as Peter just manages to save the gammon.

44: 11/7(2), 6/2(2)	32: 24/21, 13/11
61: 13/6	32: 24/21, 11/9
21: 6/3	61: 21/15, 9/8
22: 8/6, 7/5(2), 3/1	21: 15/13, 8/7
32: 6/1	64: 13/7, 13/9
54: 24/15	21: 13/10*
54: 25/16*	33: Dances
51: 13/8, 16/15*	31: Dances



Doubles often cause players to use some of the reserve time, and this one cost Chris quite a bit. He looked at three candidate moves: 15/9, 13/1, 8/2; 15/3, 13/7, 8/2; 15/9, 8/2(3)

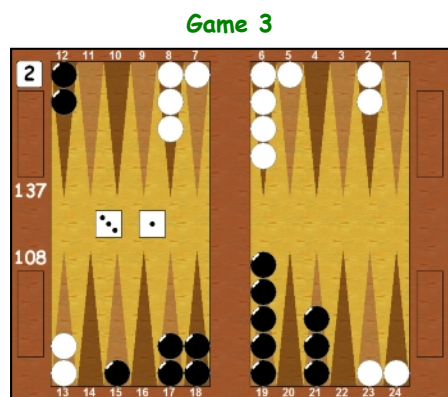
The first one was his final choice and in doing so he got an 'outplay' (he chose a play better than XG's play). XG went with the second choice. There's not a lot to choose between the two, XG being just -0.016. I slightly prefer XG's play as it gives me another 3 to play should black remain on the bar during the bearoff. Peter's reply was 64: 25/21 and then Chris starts thinking again.



For some time Chris looked at 9/1 but talked himself out of it, which was a bonus for it would have been a mistake to play it. He then looked at 8/5, 8/3, leaving a return 54 off the bar; and 9/6, 8/3, leaving just 44 to spoil it for him. He went with the latter which XG rated



as -0.14. However, Peter rolls 63 and dances and Chris rolls 42: 8/2. Although Peter comes in on his next roll, 41: 25/21, 7/6 he doesn't get a hit and he resigns the gammon.

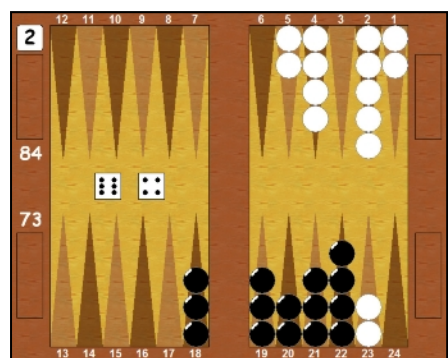


White 4

Black 0

Black has escaped white's home board and so for the time being white needs to make some home board points to help contain any future black checkers that will hopefully get hit later. Chris knows this and looks closely at 23/20, 6/5, but soon decides that the 23/20 part is a little too risky. He then goes for 24/23, 8/5 and sticks with it - which is totally correct. His toying with 23/20, 6/5 was another large blunder. Had he played the blunder move he'd have been in *big* trouble as Peter rolled Snake-eyes: 10/9, 6/5(3).

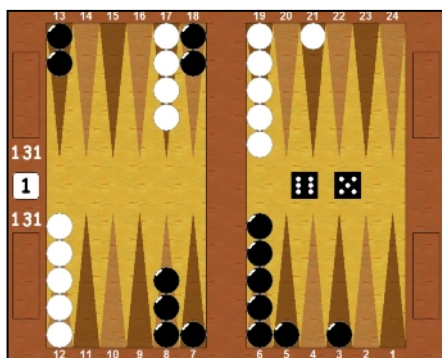
Chris's 23-point anchor held for a good long time until he was forced to play out with a roll of 64, leaving a lone and vulnerable blot behind.



White has to run: 23/13

Peter then rolls and well within his time per move allowance of 12 seconds he plays 7/1, 6/2*, the correct play. Chris dances for a couple of rolls then reluctantly comes in behind Peter's checkers with 65: 25/14. With Peter having already started bearing off, and with Chris with two checkers, one each on his 13- and 14-points, there was some chance of it going Chris's way (albeit it a small one), but it didn't and he eventually resigned the point.

Game 5



White 4

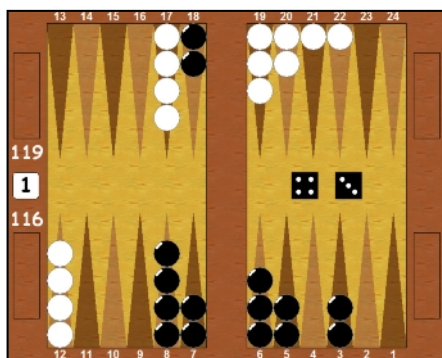
Black 3

White has the upper hand and he's got plenty of spare checkers to wait and see if he can get a shot when black has to break one of his outer board anchors. Peter looks at a few plays and liked the look of a couple; 8/3, 7/1 and 13/8, 13/7. In the end he went with playing off the mid-point. XG preferred to move 8/3, 7/1. There's not much between them so far as equities go, but the edge went to keeping the mid-point intact, I think solely based on the gwc (game winning chances): 54.13% as opposed to 54.02%.

53: 13/5

31: 6/3, 6/5

31: 6/3, 6/5

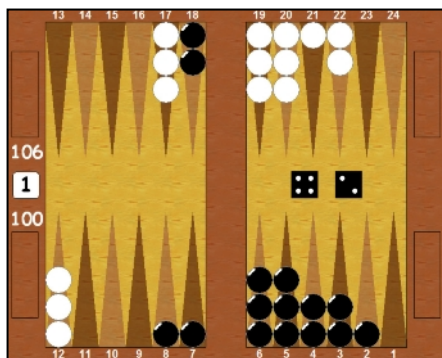


Although Peter played 8/4, 7/4 almost immediately, he still took some time to decide to keep it or not. He also liked 8/5, 8/4 (which XG chose); but after almost a minute he went back to his initial play, tying exactly with XG's play. The game went on:

51: 8/3, 6/5

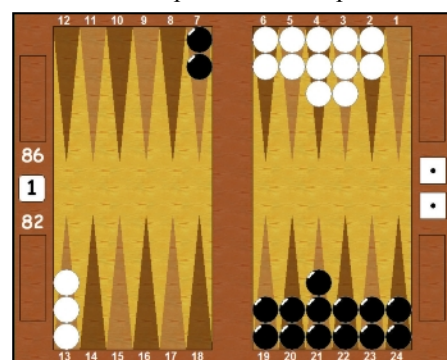
63: 8/2, 8/5

52: 13/6

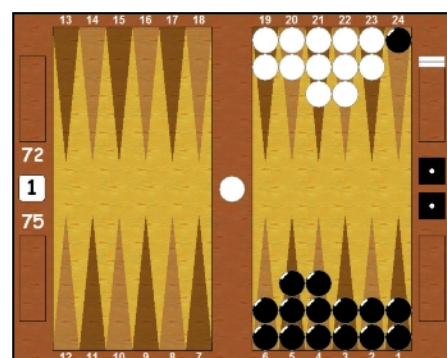


This roll caused Peter some consternation, to move off his 7- and/or 8-point or not? He tried several combinations of moves, some being played off one of these to inner board points and some within his home board. One he seemed to like was 6/2, 3/1 but he eventually settled on 7/1. XG went with keeping 6s: 6/4, 5/1; mind you both plays are very, very close. However, was it wise of Peter to lose a 6? Chris still has a couple of spare 6s and at a punch he could move off his 8-point if needed.

Not long later this next position came up after Peter had to move a 6, a roll which he used to complete his home prime.

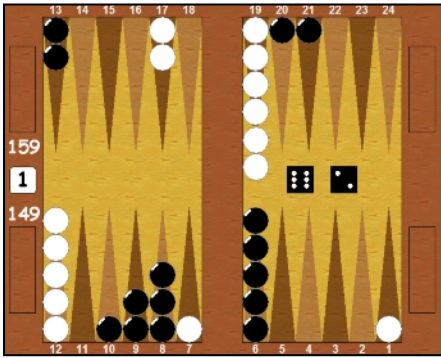


Chris has a spare 6 and in this position he uses it as he rolls 43: 13/6. It now comes down to whomever rolls a 6 first - and it was Peter on his next roll; 64: 18/8. The cracking reply is 61: 13/7*, 7/6, and Peter dances! But, Chris's joy is short-lived when he rolls 66: 13/1, 6/0(2) and leaves a blot on; and his joy is gone forever when Peter's next roll is 31: 25/24*, 8/5 and Chris is closed out. We're now here:



Peter doesn't roll immediately, instead he lets his clock tick on as he thinks about cubing. After some time he decides to wait one more roll . . . and he rolls 62: 24/16, a market loser, and Chris is then doubled out. ▶

Game 6

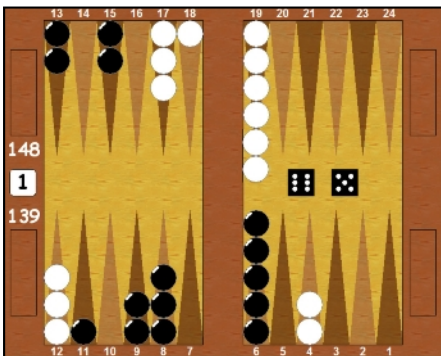


White 4

Black 4

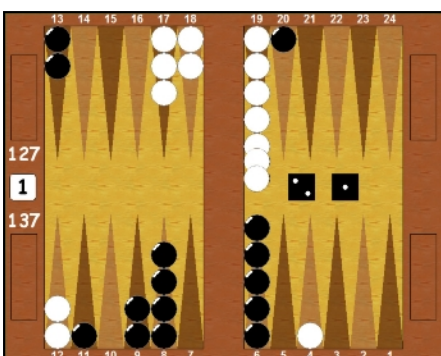
In this game there was a lot of 'thinking' going on, nearly all of it by Peter. Quite often the old maxim, "Two on the bar is better by far" is correct, and, after looking at a couple of other plays (one being making the 4-point: 10/4, 6/4) Peter went with the double-hit; which was a shame because XG rated it a blunder @ -0.180, it preferring the 4-point play. Chris's reply was a great roll; 21: 25/23, 25/24*. Here's how it went for a while.

21: 25/23, 25/24* 51: 25/20, 10/9
32: 24/21, 23/21 55: 21/11, 20/15(2)
65: 13/7, 13/8



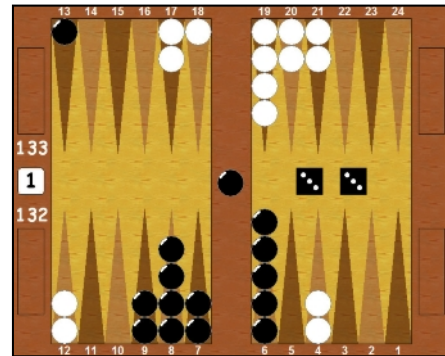
This is not a good roll but it can be played safely: 11/6, 8/2, and this was one of the plays Peter looked at, along with 8/2, 6/1. Both safe . . . and both wrong! Instead, after much counting, Peter went with the provocative XG choice: 15/10, 15/9 leaving direct 6s plus 43 and 33. If he doesn't get hit he'll be well ahead - he is hit!

64: 21/15*, 15/11 51: 25/20, 9/8
65: 13/7, 11/6

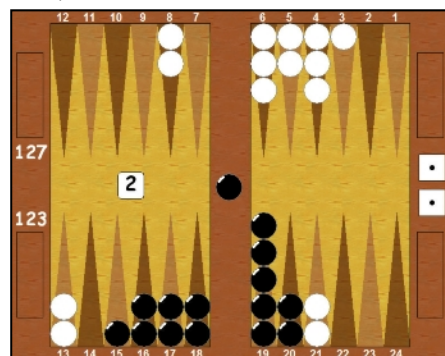


It's not going Peter's way at the moment and this 21 isn't good for him. He looks closely at a couple of plays; the safe 11/8, and the riskier 11/10, 6/4*. He liked the hit but wasn't too keen on being hit back and losing a load of points in the race; so he opted to stack his 8-point - a blunder @ -0.322! He's got to hit here, if he doesn't Chris will certainly be hitting the blot on his own 5-point if he doesn't. Hitting now is a tempo play and might just give him time to move his runner to safety. As it turned out Chris's 21 was played without risk: 7/5*, 6/5. It continued...

21: 7/5*, 6/5 52: 25/18*
42: 25/21, 6/4 61: 13/7, 8/7
21: 6/4, 8/7*

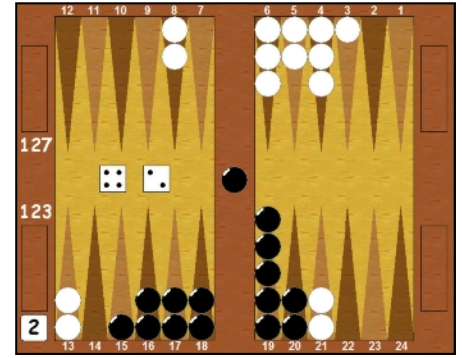


It's looking better for Peter now and this 33 looks easy enough to play: 25/22, 13/10, 8/2(2). It forms a great prime and duplicates 6s; however, Peter toyed with 25/22, 8/5(2), 6/3 first before going back to the 'easy enough' play. XG preferred the play Peter discarded, but only by 0.005, a margin not worth thinking about. If not hit on white's next roll (unlikely) Peter's play could complete the 6-prime next roll if he rolls 44 (hits on the way around but leaves a 2 off the bar). Chris rolls 42: 7/3*, 6/4; a move that XG agrees with, and then Peter dances with 54.



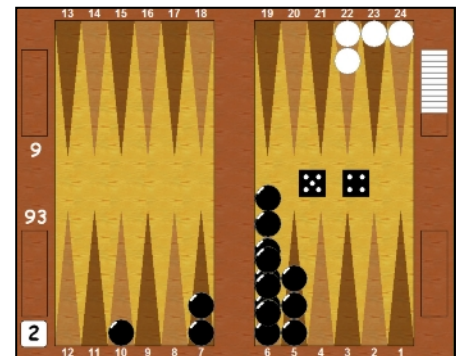
Almost as soon as his clock starts Chris ships across a 2-cube. Peter spends a lot of time counting and working out the various plays before deciding to take. This pleased XG as he was calling, *Double/Take*. If black can't get his last checker out his prime will crumble and white would take the initiative. On the

next roll it's Chris's time to think.



What bad luck, he's got direct 6s to hit and 1s, 3s and 5s to cover and he rolls 42! Chris thinks for ages over this one between two plays; 2-point: 6/2, 4/2 and 13/11, 13/9. Making the 2-point looks good and it's another home board point, but now all the builders have gone except 5s and 64, and 64 would be better used hitting the end-of-prime blot on Peter's side of the board.

Chris makes a blunder here, -0.086, as he uses his builders to make his 2-point. The reply of 22: 25/23, 10/8, 9/7(2) is soon negated by white's 66: 21/15, 9/3, 8/2*(2). A big swing in white's favour. Black dances for nine rolls and eventually comes in behind white's checkers and then he races around trying to save the gammon.



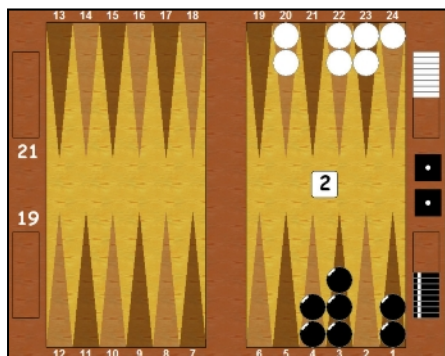
Just two plays get Peter's attention; 10/6, 7/2 and 10/5, 7/3. They look pretty close but with the actual play of 10/5, 7/3, a total of seven rolls won't save the gammon: 44, 42, 41, and 21; whereas two fewer rolls fail with XG's play: 44, 41 and 31.

Peter then regretted his play when he rolled an XG gammon-saver 42 and had to play 7/3, 6/4 and still face a gammon-loss. Chris had just two checkers left, 3- and 2-point; and he rolled 61 and Peter saved the gammon via the backdoor!

After the excitement of many 'thinking' moves in Game 6, the match goes into neutral almost as both players only 'think' about one decision in Game 7.



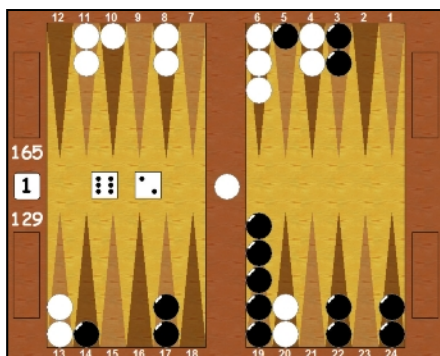
Game 7



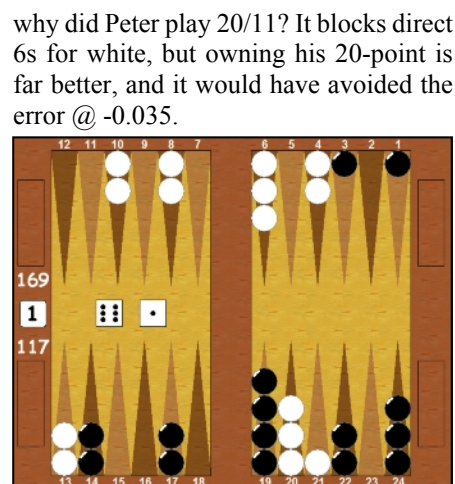
White 6

Black 4

The only 'thinking' done during this game was over the cube. Peter thought a long time about shipping it across - and Chris took even longer over taking it. According to XG, Peter was correct and Chris wrong, *Double/Pass*. Peter rolled a crackling 44: taking four checkers off leaving Chris wanting two doubles (one of which had to be a big one), he rolled 41 and lost.



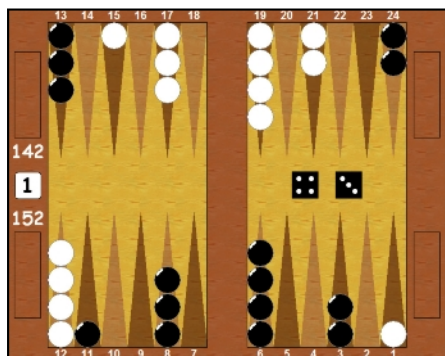
The 2 is easy: 25/23 and then we're left with a couple of decent 6s; 20/14* or 11/5*. Of the two, Chris went for the latter and XG for the former, making the actual play an error @ -0.027. The indirect hits off the bar edge it XG's way, giving a direct 5 is just a bit too generous. The reply of 21: 25/24, 22/20* soon got rid of white's threat to make his 5-point. Chris then rolled 41: 25/21, 11/10, tidying up his outer board blots, after which we arrive here ...



To give him his due, Chris took some time to decide this play. For a long time it looked as if the risky 21/15, 13/12 was going to prevail, but, after looking at it he opted for the safer 21/20, 10/4; and in doing so got another blunder @ -0.194. Although XG's play leaves indirect shots and direct 1s (21 in total) it rewards the risk with 54.87% gwc; whereas with the actual play, though comparatively safe, the gwc are reduced to 49.67%.

Because white has an advanced anchor he can take these risks and still keep in the game it they don't pay off. But, Chris had the last laugh when Peter rolled 66, a roll that would have seen two more white checkers on the bar! Instead he couldn't hit as he played 24/18, 22/4.

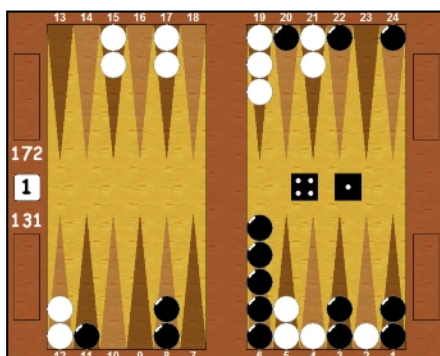
Game 8



White 6

Black 6

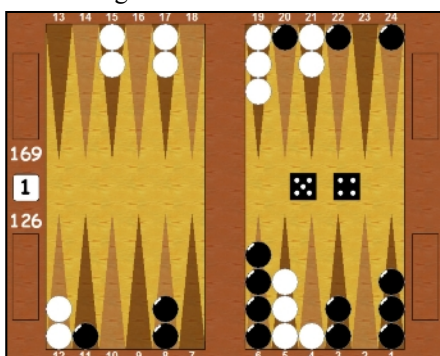
Not a very constructive roll and XG comes out with two plays better than that chosen by Peter, albeit by a narrow margin. He looked at two: 8/1* and 24/20, 11/8, before going with 24/20, 13/10. Seeing that the three are just 0.010 apart, it didn't make much difference, equity-wise, whatever Peter chose for none of the plays would have escaped being hit by white's 21 next roll. We then had a good old, blot-hitting contest for a bit.



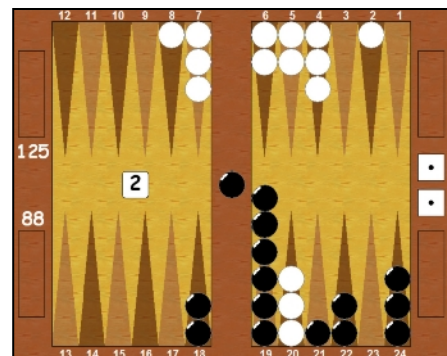
Peter took a long time to decide between two rolls, one of which was a big blunder @ -0.232. They were; 24/20, 11/10 and the pick-&-pass, 6/2*, 2/1. Peter chose the blundering, pick-&-pass; and Chris came straight in with 32: 25/20.

Even though it left a triple shot it was by far the best move, but that was soon erased as Chris rolled 63: 13/7*, 10/7, and then later he shipped across the cube here ...

21: 13/11, 6/5* 43: 25/22, 24/20*
53: 25/20, 8/5* 53: 25/20, 8/5*
53: 25/20* 43: 25/22, 10/6
52: 25/20, 13/11 66: 13/1*(2)



It looks cut and dried: 24/20, 11/6 - a good solid anchor and a checker safe, so



Although Chris cubed without thinking, Peter took a full minute to drop - and all whilst XG called, *Double/Take*. ▶

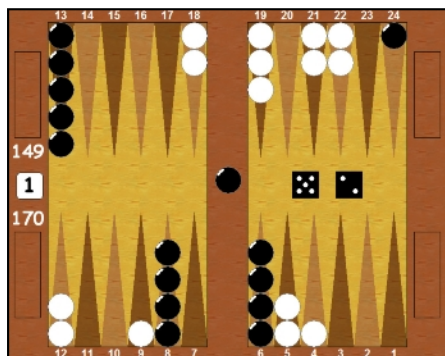
Michael & Sharen

Deana & Mark

Wish you all a
Merry Christmas

Peter is 37 pips ahead in the race (which equates to about 4.5 rolls) and his gammon losses are lower than Chris's. Having the cube on his side isn't too big a risk and it could well be in his favour if he gets a chance to recube.

Game 11

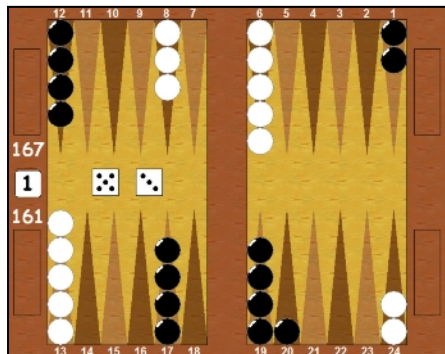


White 8

Black 7

Peter looked at three plays: 25/20, 6/4*; 25/20, 8/6 and 25/23, 13/8. After a bit of toing and froing he went for the best play: 25/20, 6/4*. He'd like to make his 4-point, hence the hit, but he's not too fussed about being hit back for it could help to establish his opponent's 5-point if he is. Mind you, that dream was shattered with the reply, 51: 25/20, 6/5*. However, he managed to make it with a 54 off the bar: 25/20, 24/20. He held it for the rest of the game but it did him no good as Chris bore in and bore off ignoring him.

Game 12

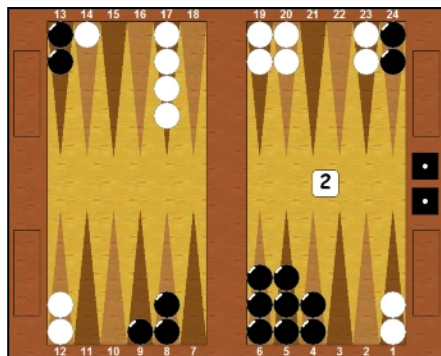


White 9

Black 7

Three choices here for Chris: 24/21, 13/8; 8/3, 6/3; or 13/10, 13/8. He liked the 3-point play and for the longest time left it on. Then he tried moving both off the mid-point, then finally 24/21, 13/8. He lost interest in the point-maker and decided eventually to go for 13/10, 13/8 to see if he could make a decent point next roll. He should have gone with 24/21, 13/8, for his was a small blunder @ -0.084.

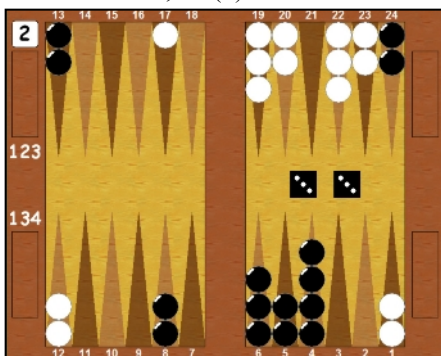
Peter managed to make his 5-point next roll; 41: 13/9, 6/5. From hereon it progressed steadily until ...



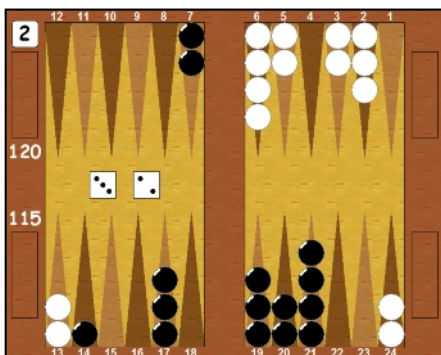
Black cube action

Peter took a long time to decide on this cube, in fact, he took about 2 minutes and when he'd shipped it over he remarked that he'd "only got 2m 30s left." In contrast to Peter's thoughtfulness, Chris took within his 12 second allowance. XG rated it *Double/Pass*.

As it turned out, the take cost Chris the match - but we're jumping ahead slightly. The next rolls went; Black 51: 9/4, 5/4; White 55: 11/6, 8/3(3).

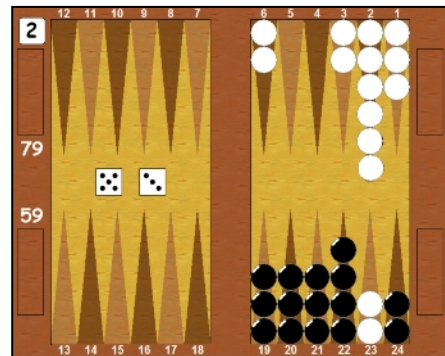


Peter was torn between running to white's bar-point or making his own bar-point. After a while he settled on running, 24/18(2), the correct play. Next; White 21: 8/6, 3/2 (8/5 might have been better); Black 52: 13/11, 13/8. Then ...

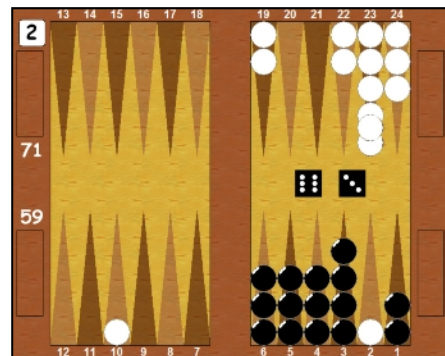


Chris couldn't choose between 6/1, keeping it all safe, or 24/22, 6/3, taking a chance by creeping forward. He chose to creep forward and made a blunder @ -0.148. The 3-point (or his bar-point) is Peter's next point and moving 24/22 has given Peter the bonus of pointing on him. He doesn't quite point on him, but at least he hits, 61: 11/5, 4/3*. It progresses thus:

32: 6/3, 24/22	61: 11/5, 4/3*
62: 25/23, 24/18	63: 8/2*, 6/3
54: Dances	61: 8/2, 8/7*
21: 25/24	21: 4/1*
41: 25/24*	11: 25/24, 5/4, 2/1*(2)
22: 25/23(2), 13/11(2)	64: 24/18, 7/3
43: 5/1, 5/2	21: 18/15
54: 6/1, 6/2	31: 15/11
65: 11/5, 11/6	66: 18/6, 18/12, 11/5
32: 5/2, 3/1	54: 12/3



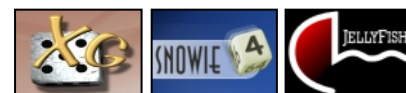
Not wanting to vacate his anchor, Chris takes a long, hard look at 6/3, 6/1, but he knows he's just putting off the fact that he'll have to move soon, so he goes with 23/15.



Peter hits: 6/0, 5/2*; and this is where it all goes wrong for Chris. Although he comes in with 21: 25/23*, 15/14, Peter is soon back on his own side of the board and Chris is back on the bar. As Peter's board contracts towards his 1-point, Chris manages to follow him down with a series of dancing rolls ...

21: 25/23*, 15/14	65: 25/14
22: 14/6	66: 14/2*, 6/0(2)
41: Dances	32: 3/0, 4/2
42: Dances	62: 5/0, 5/3
32: Dances	42: 4/0, 4/2
22: Dances	31: 3/0, 3/2
31: Dances	55: 3/0(2), 2/0(2)
22: Dances	52: 2/0(2)

At which point Chris resigns the gammon and the match and the title goes to Peter.





Major Rhodes Ahead

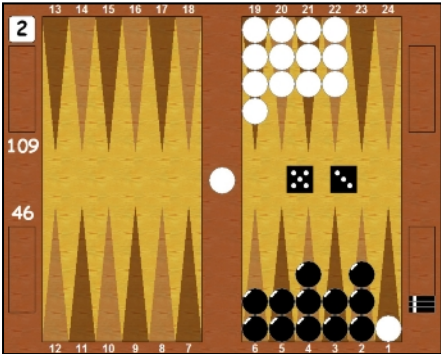
By Michael Crane

Rachel Rhodes is arguably the best female back-gammon player in the UK. She has won five Biba tournaments, three of them major titles: 2000 & 2005 British Open, 2004 Scottish Open. During her 6th Round match against Julian Minwalla in the 2011 County Cups, Rachel outplayed eXtremeGammon five times. This article takes a look at those plays.

In the match, to 11 points, Rachel is playing as black and Julian Minwalla, white.

The next game, thanks to a double from Julian (XG rated it *No Double/Take*), was in fact the last game, and one in which Rachel had the most outplays.

Game 8



White 5 Black 6

RR: 5/2, 5/0
XG: 6/1*, 4/1

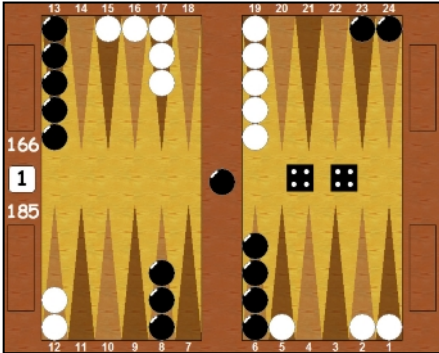
With white holding a 2-cube, Rachel would dearly love to get a gammon here, and, if she was to play XG's move, she'd have 10% more gammon chances. However, this is offset by the gwc (game winning chances) of which with her play Rachel is 83.73% and XG is 78.53%.

If white hits off the bar next roll black will have lost a lot of ground and could well be cubed out or lose the race; but if they don't hit, what then?

Of the two plays it looks as if XG's is less safe, it returns 19 bad rolls whereas Rachel's is a bit better at 17! Look at it in more detail. XG's play is risking 11 shots off the bar (all 6s), but it has shifted white off the 1-point and that will make it nigh impossible for white to get a checker or anchor in black's home board that'll be of any worry to her.

With Rachel's play white can still anchor on the ace-point and could pose a threat, albeit until a 6 is rolled. As it went, white did anchor, 21:25/24, 4/2. He later got the hit, and was looking very good when Rachel rolled 65 off the bar and ran away; however, a timely 66 gave black the chance to re-cube and Rachel had to drop.

Game 9



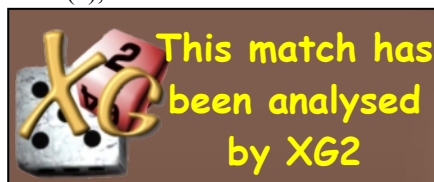
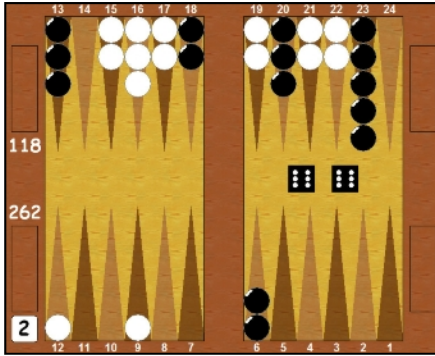
White 7 Black 6

RR: 25/21, 24/16*, 6/2*
XG: 25/21, 24/16*, 13/9

Both Rachel and XG agree on this move, that is until the last of the 4s is played, then they differ between hitting loose on the 2-point or playing safe off the mid-point.

XG has plenty of chances next roll to make another good point on black's side of the board, but before that white has to roll. He has good chances of anchoring, and lots of hitting rolls that are bearing down on black's four blots. But, it's the 'anchoring' part that lets it down. Only five rolls won't anchor: 66 (dances), 64 and 63.

Rachel's play to the 2-point increases the non-anchoring rolls to 13, although all 2s (and 11) will hit her blot. There's not much between the two rolls, but the edge goes to Rachel for her 'tempo' play. Julian entered immediately with 55: 25/20(2), 25/10.

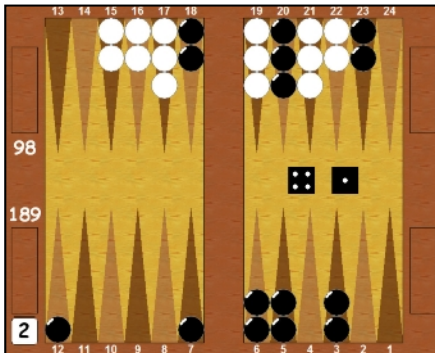
BM: 20/8, 18/12*(2)
RR: 18/12*(2) 13/7(2)
XG: 20/8, 13/7(2)

Before you ask, BM is Best Move. Both Rachel and XG were outplayed by XG! Outplayed such that Rachel's move is an error and XG's a blunder!

Now, before you think this position is set up all wrong, let me tell you, this is correct! For the last seven rolls Rachel has had just two checkers in her half of the board, both on her 6-point. Having taken the cube she was almost forced into this 'back-game'. Had this 66 been a 44 she'd have been a lot happier.

XG's play is the only one of the three not to hit and it is the poorer for not doing so. It does keep the 18-point, but loses the mid-point. Rachel prefers to hit and to shift off the 18-point giving her good outer board control . . . but only on her side of the board! The best move hits and gives excellent outer board control and a spare checker on the mid-point.

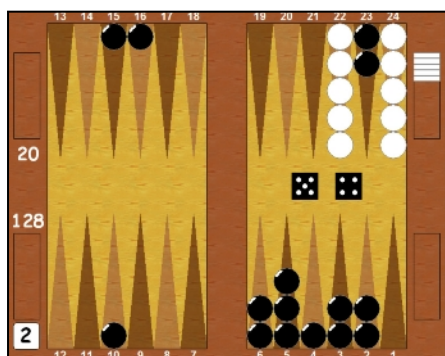
For eight rolls the two white blots are harried and hit, but eventually they both find safe refuge on the 9- and 10-points, and Rachel has remade the white bar-point.



RR: 12/7
XG: 18/14, 7/6

A 5-2 backgame isn't the best, the 5-point anchor being too high to be fully effective or longlasting. Here XG decided to abandon the 18-point and let white have a few shots at the blot, and in doing so got ➤

himself a blunder. Black needs to plug the gap on her 4-point, but it can't be made yet, so the bar-point will do for now. Only one roll leaves a shot for white, 44, but, with XG's play the gammon losses are slightly increased by just over 3%. White rolls 43 and safely moves 8/1. Many rolls later . . .



RR:15/6
XG: 16/7

Rachel has held onto her 2-point anchor and Julian has an almost 80% chance of a gammon and the match. Rachel's chances of winning are slim indeed but she can possibly save the gammon with a bit of luck. Mind you, without a hit she's going to need at least one good double with her 11 crossovers; white has 10 which actually puts him one full roll ahead.

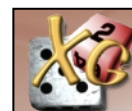
Her best chance is if white rolls one of the five doubles that leave a single blot on. With his partly in mind, and coupled with the need to maximise crossovers, Rachel's play looks best. It gets in two crossovers and still leaves 6s, 2s and 1s to cover the 4-point. XG's 'lost' crossover could well be the crossover needed to take a checker off to save the gammon.

Julian doesn't roll a double, but two rolls later Rachel gets a 1-shot but fails to hit.

She does get a cracking 55 and it looks like she'll save the gammon, but she ends up needing to roll a 6 with anything but a 1 and she rolls 51 (12/6) and loses the game and the match . . .

However, following her correct play with the 54: 15/6, Rachel then fails to maximise her crossovers on a couple of rolls. Had she maximised the crossovers her final roll of 51 could likely have been played 7/6, 5/0!

Isn't hindsight a wonderful gift? ★



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DYNAMIC BACKGAMMON

By Michael Crane

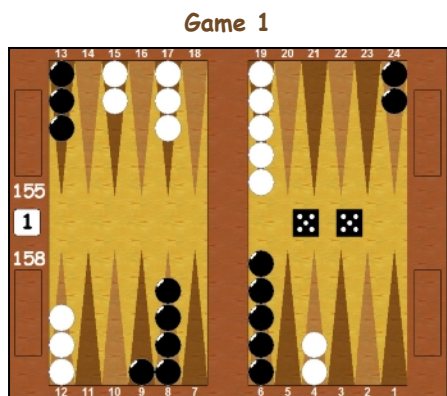
What is *Dynamic Backgammon*? It's backgammon played in as short a time as possible, playing the unexpected with flair and a disregard for conventions. Myke Wignall (left) is an exponent of *Dynamic Backgammon*, and he demonstrated its usage during the Finals of the Hinckley Five-O when he played against top ranked player, Julian Fetterlien (right).



In the 11-point match positions below Myke is playing as black. In addition to the match score and the roll I have added the start times of each game (when the seconds start showing) so that you can see *Dynamic Backgammon* in action

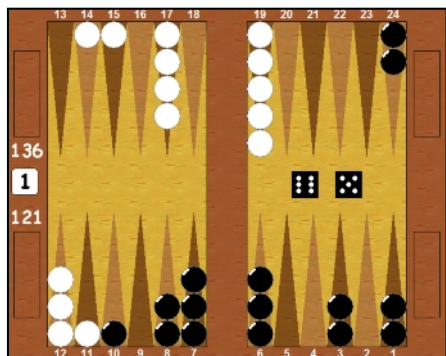
at the moment. Instead, Myke plays it very safe: 14/7.

Three rolls later he has a chance to run . .



White 0 Black 0
Black to play 55

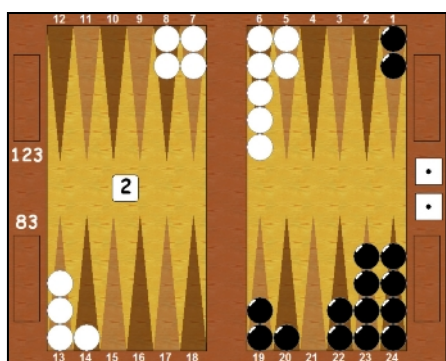
It's Myke's second roll of the game and already he's being dynamic. His move of 13/3, 8/3, 6/1 is in contrast to the expected play of 8/3(2), 6/1(2); but, on his next roll he rolls 65: and ends up with the same inner board position the 'accepted' play would have given him! On Julian's 4th roll of the game he dances with 31 and Myke cubes him out.



Black to play 65

. . . and doesn't! White still hasn't got much going for him and this is a great chance to get one checker out and running leaving the remaining checkers to hopefully close his 5- or 4-points. Myke plays 10/5, 8/2. Julian then rolls 41, a roll that would have hit Myke's runner if he'd ran.

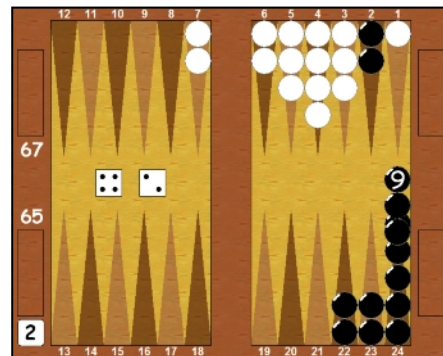
Two rolls later and Julian ships across a 2-cube in this position.



White cubes

His board is already crunching and he's got two checkers trapped on white's 1-point . . . and Myke takes! Julian was expecting a pass and was delighted to see the take, his gammon chances being 22.2%.

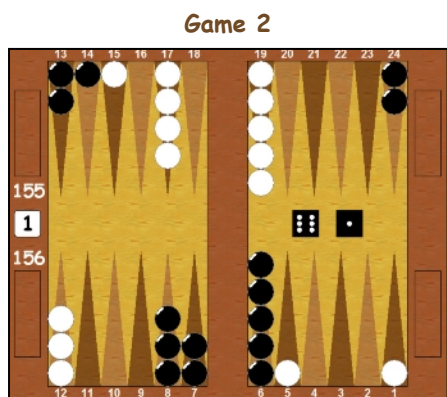
Mind you, XG thought this too good to double and wanted Julian to play on for the gammon.



White to play 42

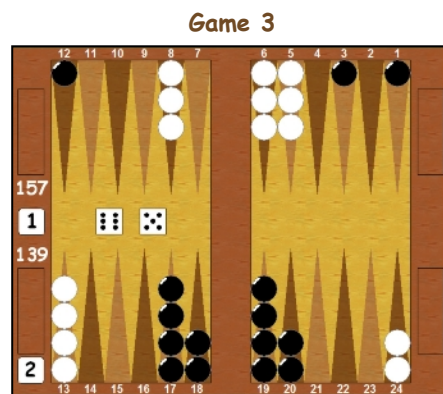
Julian is just about to bring in his last two checkers and, predictably, Myke's home board has collapsed completely, when Julian rolls 42 and he's left with a dilemma: 7/5, 7/3 or 5/1, 3/1? He takes almost 90s to decide on the latter, Myke rolls 32: 3/1; and then Julian rolls the dreaded 65 and leaves two blots, one of which Myke hits with 53: 23/18* 18/15. Julian is saved with a roll of 31: 25/22*, 6/5. Myke's reply is 22: 25/23 (back where it all started), 15/9. Several rolls later Myke eventually saves the gammon when he rolls 66.

The match time now moves into the minus 20 minutes timescale (shown in brackets), well, it does for Julian.



White 0 Black 1
Black to play 61

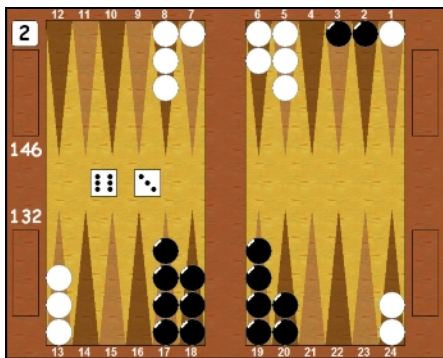
White is threatening to make his 20-point (black's 5-point) so the correct play here is 14/8, 6/5* taking advantage of white's poor home board and lack of any primes



White 2 (19:21 / 21:00) Black 1
White to play 65

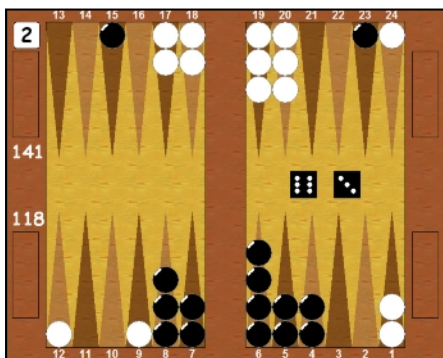
Uncharacteristically, Julian plays 13/7, 6/1* whereas he should have played 13/7, 6/3* in the hope of making his 3-point. Myke then doubles whilst on the ▶

bar, and the 2-cube is taken by Julian (XG says: No double/Take). Myke then rolls 62: 25/23, 13/7; and Julian then rolls a 63 that gives him a little trouble.



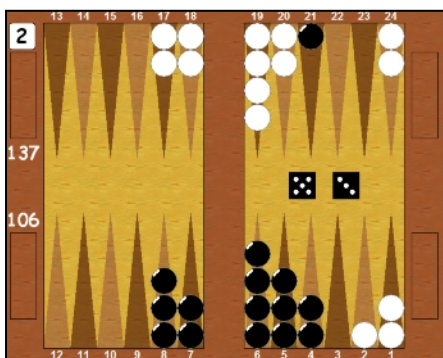
White to play 63

Playing 13/7 is clearly correct, but XG and Julian disagree on the 3. XG wants 24/21 and Julian plays 13/7. Julian is looking to improve his prime and XG is looking to escape. XG had it pegged for Myke rolled 61: 22/15*. Two rolls later and Myke misses a great opportunity to hit and build.



Black to play 63

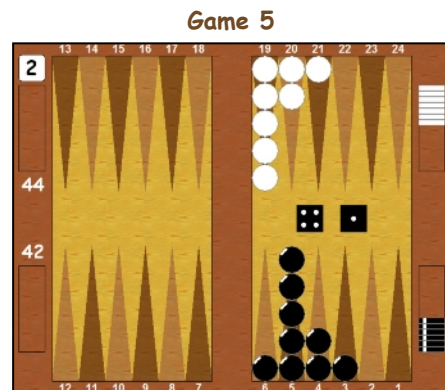
Myke has two blots to hit, but he cannot hit them both. He picks&passes 15/12*, 12/6 when it would have been far superior to have played 15/9*, 6/3 and given himself another builder. Two rolls later he misses making a six-prime.



Black to play 53

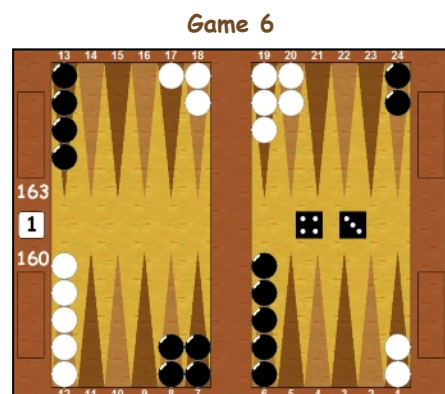
He runs out 21/13 but he should have been playing 8/3, 6/3. Julian is trapped and Myke has a good chance of escaping with his next roll, 6s and 5s. As it turned out, running was the best play for Julian

rolled 44 on his next roll. Having survived the hit Myke runs round and starts bearing off and wins the two points.



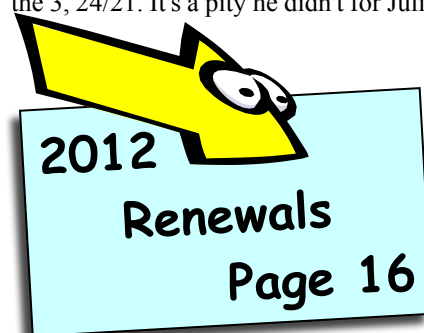
White 3 (16:21 / 21:00) Black 3
Black to play 41

Myke was hoping to get a couple of checkers off here but can't with a roll of 41. At this stage it's all about giving yourself the best chances of winning the game and Myke's play gives him 53.05% whereas XG's play 5/0 returns 57.76%. It's not until his last roll that Myke bear-off his last two checkers (5- and 4- points) with 44 leaving Julian with just a single checker on his 6-point.

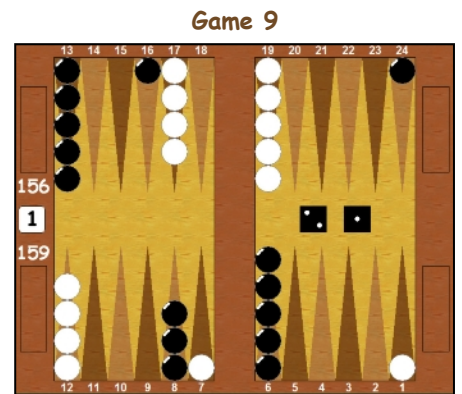


White 3 (15:05 / 20:00) Black 5
Black to play 43

Myke stops for a while and looks at his options and then plays 24/21, 17/13! Why he didn't go for 24/17* is a mystery. It might be because he moved his 4 first 17/13 first and didn't realise that he could cover the blot when moving the 3, 24/21. It's a pity he didn't for Julian

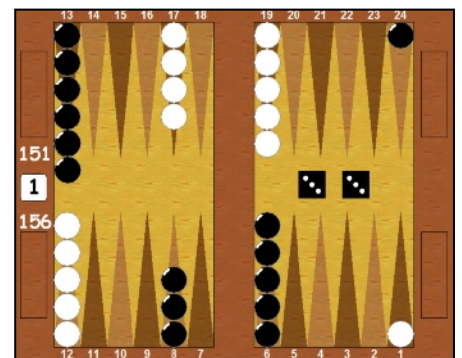


rolled 55 and was grateful to play 13/3(2) instead of having to play all four 5s into his home board.



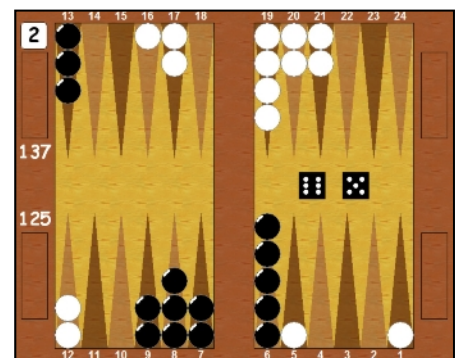
White 4 (13:12 / 20:00) Black 7
Black to play 21

Julian has opened (2nd roll of the game) with 65: 24/18, 13/8; an unconventional play, no doubt prompted by Myke's initial opening 62: 24/16 instead of the 'accepted' 24/18, 13/11. Myke should be concentrating on stopping Julian making his bar-point and should play 13/11, 8/7*; but he goes for 'safety' with 16/13. Julian then rolls 41: 18/13 and then Myke rolls a cracking 33.



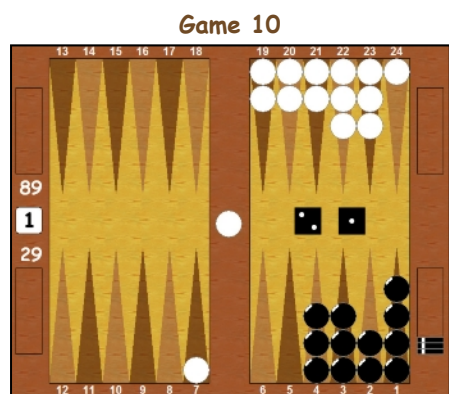
Black to play 33

Without hesitation he plays 13/7(2) and makes his bar-point. With one white checker back he should be looking to shift off his two heavy points, the mid- and 6-point with 13/10(2), 6/3(2). White can only get safe with 65 and using all four dice to make the bar-point to stop this happening is unnecessary.



Black to play 65

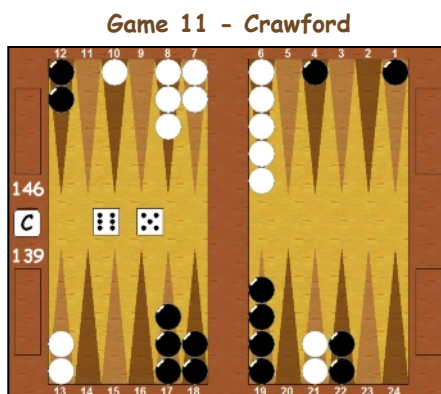
Four rolls later and Myke is ahead in the race and is facing having to leave a blot with his roll of 65. His play of 13/8, 13/7, leaving 1s and 8s to hit leaves Julian 15 rolls; XG prefers to attack with 7/1*, 6/1 cutting the return shots down to 11. Julian didn't hit with 63: 9/3, 6/3, but he did make another very good home board point. The game continues to the bearoff wherein Myke rolls another 44 to bear off his last three checkers.



White 4 (10:20 / 19:55) Black 9
Black to play 21

Leading 2-away, 7-away Myke should be looking to increase his gammon chances with this roll but instead he goes from 27.17% with XG's 4/2, 1/0, down to 20.92% with his play of 4/2, 3/2. It might look tidy and safe but taking no checkers off is a mistake. In the end it didn't matter

for on his next roll Julian popped out 66 and was doubled out one roll later.



White 4 (9:41 / 19:44) Black 10
White to play 65

This is a particularly interesting play for the time Julian took over it, 3m-28s! His first move is 21/10 and he comments upon moving it, "it's probably the right play." But he isn't happy with it, even though he takes a good long look at it.

"But," he went on after a while, "there's Johnny-no-mates left over there," referring to the runner. He resets the checkers and goes for the double hit, 10/4*, 6/1*, his "Plan B". He changes his mind and puts his checkers back but leaves Myke's checkers on the bar. "Is that how we started?" he joked. Another long look and he goes back to his first move but is

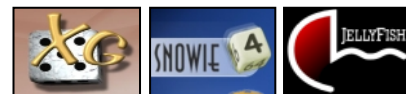
worried about his last checker being pointed on. Eventually he says, "Can't do it," and he goes for the double-hit after all. XG preferred 21/10.

Myke rolled 43 off the bar: 25/22, 25/21*. Julian keeps his 21-point anchor for the remainder of the game, a couple of times a third checker is knocked back but the anchor remains intact - and it was still intact when Myke rolled 44 (again!) and left them facing nothing and Myke takes the title.

At the end of the match Julian had just 4:53 left on his clock whereas Myke had a stonking 19:05! This actually equates to Julian using up 6 seconds of his time allowance per roll; whereas Myke used up just 1 second! Dynamic, or what?

On paper, with starting ranking scores of 2024 for Julian, 1469 for Myke, Julian was massive favourite to win; but, the Dice Gods favoured the 'Dynamic' and Julian could do little to thwart their plans.

Mind you, Myke did have a +7.578 luck factor on his side too. After the match the actual ranking scores were upped to 2039 for Julian (XG ranking: 2089), and 1561 for Myke (XG ranking: 1792).

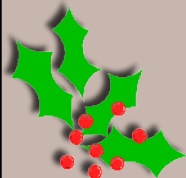


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bwin.com/wsob

World Series of Backgammon® Teams up with bwin.com

WSOB who has run some of the richest tournaments ever staged from London to Copenhagen, Prague to Cannes, announced a new initiative with bwin.com to run official WSOB online tournaments exclusively at www.bwin.com/wsob

The new WSOB online backgammon season kicks-off with the opportunity to become the 2011 WSOB Champion by winning the new WSOB Online Tour™. The tour will be run as a series of five major online tournament Stops followed by a finale, the WSOB Championship, where the 2011 Champion will be crowned. The Championship will be streamed live at www.worldseriesofbackgammon.com with commentary provided by leading players of the world game.

Twelve players will qualify for the WSOB Championship through the WSOB Race. Race points are accrued for each match won on the tour.

The WSOB Champion will win an official WSOB board worth €2,400 plus the coveted WSOB Gold Cube®. And there is an added bonus exclusively for full, Biba Members: WSOB will pay a €250 cash bonus to the top performing BIBA member on the Tour *

*conditions

- 1) You must be a current full, BIBA, member, ie membership paid prior to 27 January, 2012
- 2) €250 bonus will be paid in cash or by bank transfer
- 3) The top BIBA player on the WSOB will be determined from the final standings in the WSOB Race only - not in the finale, the WSOB Championship

More information can be seen at www.playwsob.com

Entrants can sign-up at www.bwin.com/wsob

WSOB Online Tour schedule:

Stop 1 - Sunday 30 October

Stop 2 - Sunday 27 November

Stop 3 - Friday 30 December

Stop 4 - Sunday 29 January

Stop 5 - Sunday 26 February

WSOB Championship - Sunday 4th March

The five Stops all start at 7pm CET with a buy-in of €55 and a 100% prize pool return and will be played exclusively online at www.bwin.com/wsob. The WSOB Championship is limited to the top twelve players in the Race. Weekly €5 sub-qualifiers start on Sunday 23 October, 2011.

bwin.com/wsob also offers real money games and matches and uses leading technology endorsed by World Series of Backgammon.

WSOB director Andy Bell commented: "The tournament interface is superb and the site plays beautifully. Players can even create their own avatar. bwin backgammon is already part of a major network that offers players a considerable range of all stakes action with thousands of players, from micro stakes action to €100 a point or match. Being a player myself, I wanted this offer from WSOB to be the very best, offering playability and plenty of action"

A bwin spokesperson commented: "We are delighted to be working with World Series of Backgammon and to exclusively offer our players on bwin.com the chance to become the 2011 WSOB Champion. This is the biggest backgammon challenge of the year."

About World Series of Backgammon

WSOB has run the world's largest live events from the UK Masters held in London to Cannes, Prague and Copenhagen, partnering with the world's leading federations from the Danish Backgammon Federation to Japanese Backgammon League and BIBA of the UK. WSOB has produced over 30 hours of broadcast quality coverage of its events which can also runs an online TV channel at:

www.vimeo.com/channels/wsob

About bwin.party

bwin.party digital entertainment plc is the world's largest listed online gaming company and owns the bwin brand. The company was formed from the merger of bwin Interactive Entertainment AG and PartyGaming Plc on 31 March 2011. Incorporated and licensed and regulated in Gibraltar, the group has over 3,100 employees in offices in Europe, India, Israel and the US and generated total pro forma revenue of €830.1m and pro forma Clean EBITDA of €168.2m in 2010. bwin.party is also licensed in France, Italy and Alderney, and commands leading market positions in each of its four key product verticals: online sports betting, poker, casino and bingo with some of the world's biggest online gaming brands including www.PartyPoker.com, www.FoxyBingo.com, www.bwin.com, and www.PartyCasino.com.

At the heart of our business, our proprietary software, online gaming platforms and a strong portfolio of games collectively differentiate our customer offer compared with our competitors.

For more information please contact:

Andy Bell of World Series of Backgammon at - ab@worldseriesofbackgammon.com

WSOB Online Tour™

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5 NEW ONLINE TOUR STOPS and the Race

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Sunday March 4th 2011

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Terms apply 1. you must be a 2012 BIBA full member signed up by January 27th 2012 |
2. € 250 will be payable by only bank transfer to a UK bank within 7 days of the conclusion
of WSOB Race (WSOB Championship standings do not count)
3. In the event of a tie, the players will play off at bwin.com/wsob in a format tba

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WSOB Online Tour™
The 2011 Season



2012 Bibafax Subscription Renewals & Membership

Biba is altering slightly for 2012, although still predominately a subscription-based, members-only Association, certain events will be open to 'the public' albeit via a temporary membership basis *. The 'public' events are the Bright 'n' Breezy (January), the British Doubles Championships (March), the XIII Scottish Open (March), the British Open (April) and the Biba Olympic Backgammon Event (September); events at which there will be a temporary membership fee of £5. This temporary membership entitles players to win the guaranteed prize money posted for each event but does not cover any Winner-Takes-All Rollovers. All other Biba entry conditions will be as posted per event (see page 24).

* Temporary members do not need to be subscribers to Bibafax. Temporary members can opt-in to full membership by paying the relevant level as posted in Subscriptions for January to March, after which opting-in will not qualify for any Biba Championship although they are able to subscribe or become full members regardless.

IMPORTANT: Temporary members will be ranked in their (11-, 7- and 5-point) matches, and they will be awarded Grand Prix and BBT points where applicable; however, Rankings and Grand Prix points will not count towards the annual championships (unless opting-in by April 2012- see above) these are for Full Biba Members only. In addition, Temporary members cannot qualify for the Friday 500 December Finals, the Poker Finals or the UK Finals, and should any UK Finals Qualifying event be won by a Temporary member the vacant position will be filled by a Saturday Qualifier at the December event.

NB: New Members (those who have not previously joined as Temporary members) can join at any time and will be eligible for benefits of Full membership including Championships and annual prize fund payouts.

There are no other changes for 2012 and all subscriptions and full membership fees remain as they were for 2011. If subscribers want to become members of Biba and take part in all 2012 Biba tournaments they can do so for a one-off payment of £15, either with their subscription or later.

EMAIL	CD-ROM	B&W	COLOUR
£20	£25	£30	£45

Bibafax subscriptions worldwide

2012 renewal fees can be paid in one of three ways (sterling):

- Cheque payable to Biba
- Cash at tournament



The Christmas UK Finals - 2, 3, 4 December 2011

@ 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, re-sponsored by Peter & Paul Christmas,
Christmas is coming early . . . again!

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 2011 2,3,4 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.

Design a Christmas Card

Win £25 plus a year's free Biba membership (£15) if your card is voted the best.



This weekend sees the Final of the Friday 500 from which one lucky player will get to take home £500. Will it be you?

Also, the Poker Grand Prix reaches its climax as we decide on Saturday evening who'll top the list and be declared the 2011 Poker Champion

The Sandy Osborne Trophy

Report by Michael Crane

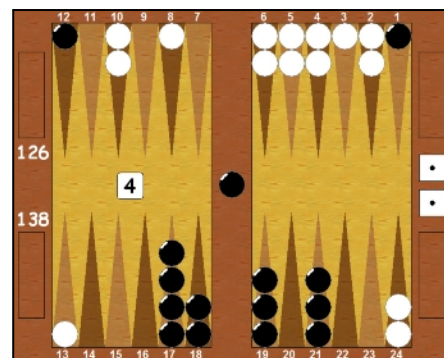
It was a disappointing turnout for the **Main (21)** considering the £585 Rollover, not that it bothered those that turned out to have a go at winning it. One of the more determined was last month's winner, Myke Wignall. This time he was in the WTA and wanted 'his' money back!

He got the chance when, on the Sunday in the semi-final he beat Andy Bell. In the other semi, Paul Plumptre got the better of Dan Tutchings. Playing with clocks, Myke predicted he'd not use much of his reserve time (as in his final against Julian Fetterlein in last month's Hinckley Five-O final) and he was true to his word.

The match hinged around the cubing decisions, which, like the curate's egg were good and bad in parts - very bad in some! In the 11 point match Myke was playing as black.

Black is in danger of being trapped behind a prime quite soon so this cube is just about at the right time. White is ahead in the race and his two runners will soon be on their own side of the board. But, black's anchor is just good enough for the take.

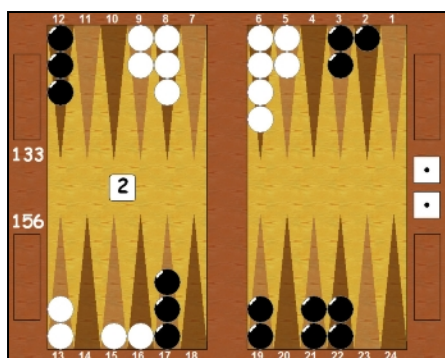
White rolled 62: 16/10, 15/13. Later he left a shot off the bar with 8s, black missed and white won the two points.



White re-cubes

Having seen black hand over an easy take, white now hands over an even easier pass. This is too good to double. White has almost 46% gammon chances and could well afford to hang onto the cube and see what transpires. I know Myke has a reputation for taking (and giving) some suspect cubes, but even he dropped this one like a hot potato.

Game 1

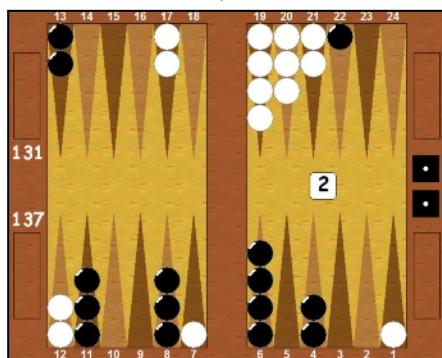


White 0

Black 0

White cubes

Game 2



White 2

Black 0

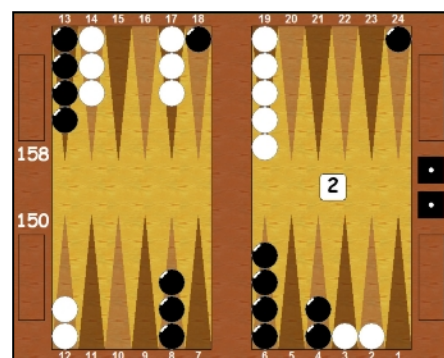
Black cubes

This isn't a cube. Black has some potential but at the moment he's only got one extra home board point made and he's got a runner facing three pointing checkers.

White has a good home board 3-prime and is threatening to make black's bar-point. It's an easy take for white.

Later we get the re-cube

Game 3



White 4

Black 0

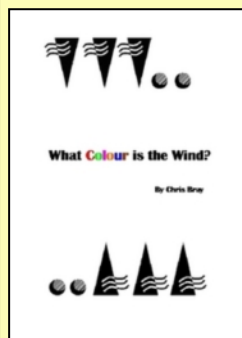
Black cubes

It's far too early to be cubing and white was never going to pass. There's only eight pips between them and the ▶

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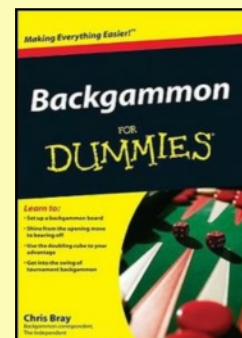
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Chris Bray



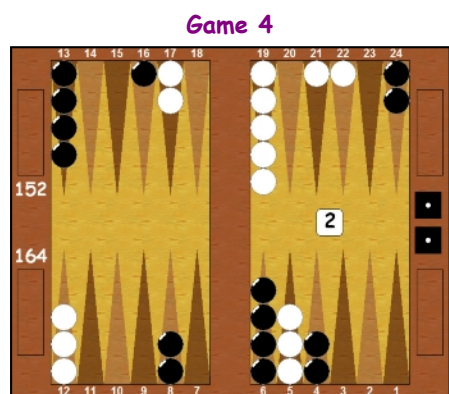
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£7.59

only 'advantage' black has is his 4-point. He has two blots on, one of which is under attack from three white checkers. Probably of the two, white is the favourite.

However, being the 'favourite' didn't work out for white. He ended up back on black's ace-point desperately looking for a hit but never got one. Black won the bearoff and the two points as he chased, but failed to get, a gammon.



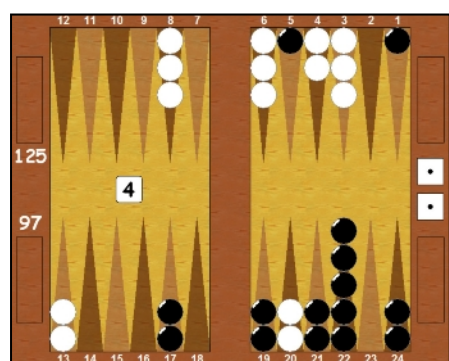
White 4

Black cubes

Black 2

Almost a repeat of the previous cube. Again black has little 'advantage' - he doesn't even own his own 5-point. His only hope here is to hit one or both of white's blots. It's an easy take for white.

Six rolls later and the 4-cube is offered.

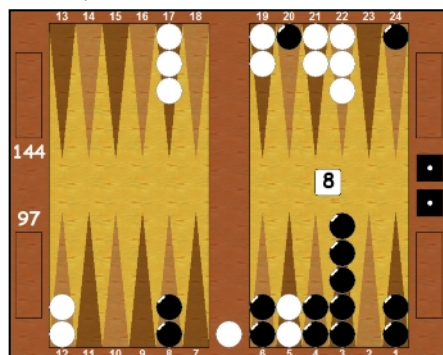


White re-cubes

White is certainly in a better position than black: he (still) holds the advanced anchor, and he's got two black runners a long way from any points on which to

land safely. But, he still has to get his own runners away. Black has a good take here.

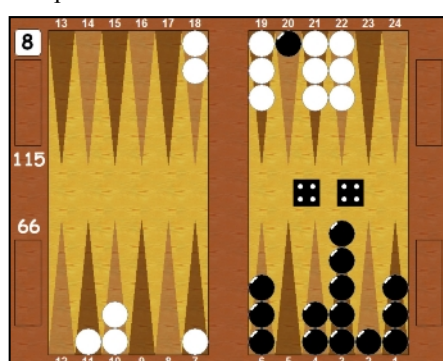
White rolls 41: 6/5*, 5/1* and goes for two on the bar. The reply is 51: 25/20, 25/24*; after which white dances with 31.



Black re-cubes

Yep, it's an 8-cube! Myke has more 8-cube games than anyone else I know. He ships it across immediately after white's 31 dancer. White is still favourite to re-enter and by holding the black 5-point, he's got a nice safe landing spot, one of which is quite easy to escape from. Black still has to escape his two runners and that might well prove difficult. An easy take for white.

White is soon up against it with five checkers back in white's home board and bar; however, he turns it around but is robbed when black rolls a cracking 44 in this position:



Black's Boxes
20/4

With 8 points heading black's way, white has to save the gammon, which, in this

position looks quite doable. But, white didn't foresee black's two consecutive double-sixes; and if black had rolled a third double (they all worked) it would have been a gammon. In fact black wouldn't have needed the double, all white had to do was roll a 2 or a 1 to be gammoned - he rolled 53: 10/5, 3/0.

The Crawford game went Myke's way, helped by an opening 66; and later, another 66 and a 22 got him into a position where he could bear in and all he had to do was avoid leaving a shot for the two white checkers waiting expectantly on his 3-point. He did and went on to win the match and his second consecutive Main. Well done, Myke, and commiserations to Paul.

Meanwhile, in the **Progressive Consolation (17)**, Andy Darby (prog-side) was pitched against non-prog, Lawrence Powell, and prog-side Paul Christmas was pitched against non-prog Mark Calderbank. Andy and Paul prevailed and in the final, Paul took home his second Consolation trophy.

The **Last Chance (16)** saw Neil Everitt beat Fanika Petkovska and Peter Bennet beat Peter Christmas in the semis. In the final Peter got the better of Neil and he took home his second Last Chance trophy. The **Sandy (8)**, 3-pointer had Paul Barwick beat Lawrence Powell, and Dan Tutchings beat Mark Calderbank in the semis. In the final it was Dan who got the upper hand and he notched up his second 3-pointer trophy.

Alongside the Main we ran a **1-point Knockout (18)**, the final of which saw Lawrence Powell triumph over Paul Christmas.

As usual the Saturday evening saw the **Poker (6)** in which new-member, Brad Frishberg came 1st, Lawrence Powell 2nd and Paul Christmas 3rd. The **Doubles (4)** had *Cottagewebs* weave their web around *Pure Evil*, and *The Reluctant Duo* shooed away *The Bears*. In the ►

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final, *Cottagewebs* were spun out completely by *The Reluctant Duo* as they reluctantly took first place.

The **Friday 500 (8)** saw Paul Christmas lose to Mardi Ohannessian as Mardi returned from his Greek island holiday.

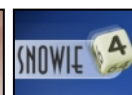
Although he didn't do too well (he lost in the first round) Myke Wignall gained enough points to go slightly ahead of Tim

Line in the listings. If he can keep at the top of the list after November's event he'll get a £100 bonus - but it's not going to be easy. With 20 points up for grabs, and with the least number of points Myke can gain being just 4, he can be replaced.

Finally

It was a good weekend, slightly marred by the slow restaurant service on Saturday evening - almost 40 minutes for the

starters to be served and 75 minutes for the main course. Next month it's back to Hinckley where at least the service is (slightly) better.



Main: Myke & Paul



Consolation: Paul & Andy

Main Semi Finalists:



Andy & Dan

L/C: Neil and Peter



The Sandy: Dan & Paul



The Coventry Open Backgammon Tournament

Report by Phil Tutchings

Forty one players attended this year's Coventry Open tournament at Coventry & North Warwickshire Cricket & Squash Club. Entrants came from throughout England including participants from Liverpool, Manchester, Burnley, Yorkshire, Newcastle, St Albans, Camberley, Hemel Hempsted, Brighton, Wycombe and London joining players from across the Midlands.

Myke Wignall came through the field to defeat Paul Plumptre in a nine point final and succeed Mark Calderbank as Coventry Open Champion. This is Myke's third win in four major tournaments (having won the last two Biba events). He was also runner-up in September's BFCE Midland Open (and winner of the Friday warm-up of that event) - so the form player of the moment!

Julian Fetterlein came through the progressive side of the thirty seven player consolation tournament to win against Neil Everitt in the final. Brian Lever won the thirty player five point Last Chance event winning against David Pritchard in the final.

Thanks to all players for making this an easy tournament to manage (not a single dispute in any game and all played in good spirit). Also thanks to Di for all of her help in running the tournament, Eric for photography (and loan of his camera!) and to all of the staff at the club for the catering and work on the day.

Main: Paul & Myke



Consolation: Julian & Neil



Last Chance: Brian & David



2011 & 2012 Details, Deals

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 Doubles, Poker Grand Prix and Jackpots subject to demand

Registration Fees. All Members: £25 - you can join on the day. Temporary Membership: £5
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 £15 entry fee, this fee will go towards the £500 prize money for December's Finals.

The Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel for the December, 2011, Christmas UK Finals

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

2012 HOTEL RATES

The Old Ship, Brighton (January event)

Reservations: 01273 329 001 and quote 'backgammon'

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast (per room)

One night package: Single @ £73. Double/Twin @ £121

Two night package: Single @ £111. Double/Twin @ £222

Three night package: Single @ £150. Double/Twin @ £300

The Barceló Edinburgh Carlton Hotel (March event)

Reservations: 0131 472 3001 and quote 'backgammon'

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast (per room, per night)

Single @ £82 Double/Twin @ £120

The Barceló Hinckley Island and Daventry Hotels

Reservations: 0800 652 8413 and quote 'backgammon'

1 person x 1 night @ £70. 1 person x 2 nights @ £123

2 persons x 1 night @ £115. 2 persons x 2 nights @ £215

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.

2011 Calendar

X Dec 2,3,4	UK Christmas Finals	-	-	-	Hinckley	Double KO
(Sponsored by Peter & Paul Christmas)						

★ = Biba Temporary Membership

2012 Calendar

★ = Non-Biba Events

X Jan 13-15	★	Bright 'n' Breezy	GP	UK	BBT	Brighton	Knockout
(Sponsored by bwin.com/wsob)							
Feb 3-5		The Jarvis Trophy	GP	UK		Daventry	Swiss
Mar 2-4	★	British Doubles Championship	GP			Hinckley	Knockout
Mar 16-18	★	XIII Scottish Open	GP		BBT	Edinburgh	Knockout
Apr 13-15	★	British Open	GP	UK		Hinckley	Knockout
Apr 22		Manchester 1-Day	★	GP	BBT	Manchester	Combination
May 4-6		County Cups Trophy	GP	UK		Hinckley	Swiss
Jun 1-3		The English Open	GP			Hinckley	Knockout
Jul 6-8		Biba World Championship	GP	UK		Hinckley	Knockout
Jul tba		17th Liverpool Open	★	GP	BBT	Liverpool	Combination
Aug 3-5		SAC Trophy	GP	UK		Hinckley	Swiss
Aug tba		16th Mind Sports Olympiad	★			London	Swiss
Sep 7-9	★	The Biba Olympic Backgammon Event	GP			Hinckley	Knockout
Oct 5-7		The Barcelo Cup	GP			Daventry	Knockout
Oct tba		The Coventry Open	★	GP	BBT	Coventry	Knockout
Oct tba		20th Irish Open	★	GP	UK	Dublin	Knockout
Nov 2-4		Townharbour Trophy	GP	UK		Hinckley	Swiss
Nov 30-2 Dec		UK Finals				Hinckley	Double KO

3-5 February, 2012. The Jarvis Trophy @ Barceló Daventry Island Hotel

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 Doubles Saturday night.

This is a UK Finals and Grand Prix Event

Bob Young
Julian Minwalla
Peter Bennet
Julian Fetterlein
Viadas Novicenko
Mardi Ohannessian



These six players are the Qualifying entrants for the Christmas UK Finals in December. There is still time to join them (see pages 16 & 17) by entering the Double Knockout Qualifying Tournament on the Saturday.



★ BIBA EVENTS OPEN TO 'THE PUBLIC' ★

Common to all events: The Friday will be the normal, Friday 500, free entry for residents, £15 for non-residents, with non-members being able to win the weekend break and enter side-pools but not allowed to qualify for the Friday 500 December Finals. On the Saturday, Temporary Biba Membership (TMP) is available @ £5. This temporary membership entitles players to win the guaranteed prize money and the Winner-Takes-All but does not cover any Winner-Takes-All Rollovers (note: in the Doubles Championship both players must be full members to win any rollover). All non-hotel residents will be asked to pay a surcharge of £10/£15 to cover facilities provided by the hotel, payable when Registering. Temporary members do not need to subscribe to Bibafax. All other Biba entry conditions will be as posted per event. (see page 16 for details)

Bright 'n' Breezy (January): Reg £25, Entry £15, TMP £5, Surcharge £10. Guaranteed 1st Prize: £500

British Doubles Championships (March): Per entrant - Reg £20, Entry £12.50, TMP £5, Surcharge £15. Guaranteed 1st Prize: £400. It will be a two-day event, consulting pairs, 7-points per round Main Knockout with a partial Progressive Consolation and Last Chance. Optional side pools per pair: WTA £30. £60 & £20 pools for Main. £20 Consolation and Last Chance.

XIII Scottish Open (March): Reg £15, Entry £15, TMP £5. Guaranteed 1st Prize: £350

British Open (April): Reg £25, Entry £15, TMP £5, Surcharge £15. Guaranteed 1st Prize: £500

Biba Olympic Championship (September): Format to be decided. Reg £25, Free Entry, TMP £5, Surcharge £15.

Viadas Novicenko (Ireland) Wins the Irish Open

Brendan Burgess and Peter Bennet report.

This year it was the Cracker's turn to be Tournament Director but when he announced that he was going to play in it as well, we had a problem. The committee argued that he wouldn't be able to both play properly and organise properly at the same time. His response that as he wasn't able to play properly anyway and as he wasn't able to direct properly either, this made no difference.

We were floored by this logic, so Paul Waters volunteered to direct the main event. Even a simple knockout does require a dedicated organiser. Dama Cunningham took the very welcome initiative of organising a €20 jackpot (in addition to the scheduled €200 jackpot) on the Friday night and a one-point shootout to run concurrently with the main tournament.

We had a new venue, the Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Leary - a harbour town 20 minutes south of Dublin. This had the intended effect of reducing the number of British visitors, so for the first time we had a majority of Irish players in the tournament.

The €200 jackpot was scheduled to start at 7.30 pm on the Friday and I arrived in good time only to find that they had already done the draw. I had encouraged the Cracker to show a bit of initiative but this was going a bit too far. He got the impression that as there were 8 people at 7.15, he might as well do the draw as "latecomers would only complicate it". A few others showed up at 7.30 but they were happy to enter the €20 jackpot organised by Dama. Shea Mulhall beat Mark Calderbank in the €20 jackpot

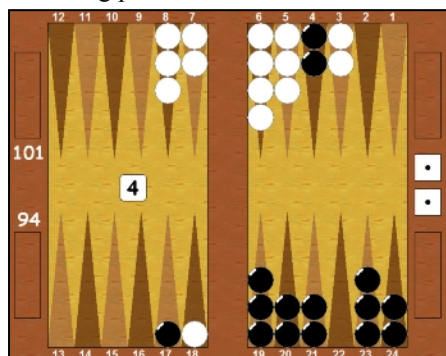
while Robin Swaffield from Hong Kong beat Peter Bennet in the final of the €200 jackpot.

We had 42 people in the main event. 20 from the UK, 22 from Ireland, 1 from Norway plus Robin Swaffield from Hong Kong. Up to now Seán Casey and Felix Vink have been the only Irish players to win the Irish Open, which is a poor record after 18 tournaments. Well the Irish were lucky this year, accounting for 6 of the last 8, and all four semi-finalists. Of course we have to stretch the definition of Irish a bit to include those living in Ireland. Shea Mulhall beat James Degabriele in one semi-final while Viadas Novicenko beat Jonathan O'Grady in the other semi-final.

This was Jonathan's first tournament; he is confined to a wheelchair and has limited use of his hands and arms. So his

opponents had to roll and move for him. Despite this he managed to beat Ginge Fullen, Peter Bennet and Rune Farevaag, all experienced tournament players. In fact, Rune won the Championship level consolation in Monte Carlo this year. Peter commented that he managed to roll 3 double sixes in a row for his opponent in a race.

The final between Shea Mulhall and Viadas was a great match for the audience to watch. Viadas had a good lead but Shea was clawing it back when, trailing 8-10 to 13, he offered Viadas a redouble in the following position:



White ships across a 4-cube

Viadas leads by 7 pips in the race, but this lead vanishes if Shea hits the ace shot. After much thought Viadas passed to level the score at 10 apiece, and some discussion ensued amongst the spectators during the subsequent break. Interestingly the score is all-important here. For money XG says that the take is easy and it is the redouble which is marginally incorrect.

At the match score, not only is the cube dead once taken, but only three of the four points are useful to Viadas. It is this factor, more than the relatively low gammon risk, which makes the pass correct by quite a wide margin. If, instead of 10-8 Viadas had led 9-7, all four points would have been useful resulting in a close but clear take. Viadas eventually went on to win 13-11.

In the Consolation, Robin Swaffield beat Jeff Ellis in the final. So between winning the €200 jackpot on the Friday and the consolation side-pool, Robin must have covered the cost of his flight from Hong Kong.

In the Last Chance, Liz Perry beat Carol Lindley. The prize was a fantastic mobile phone holder which the Cracker had bought in a pound shop. But being the gracious woman that she is, Liz posed proudly with her trophy.

Mark Calderbank won the one point shootout, beating Peter Bennet in the final.

It was a friendly tournament in more spacious and comfortable surroundings than Wynne's with no hassle for the tournament director. Several players commented that they preferred the Royal Marine Hotel, and hopefully we will be back there next year.

MC: At the time of going to press there were no images available for this tournament.

The Townharbour Trophy Report by Michael Crane

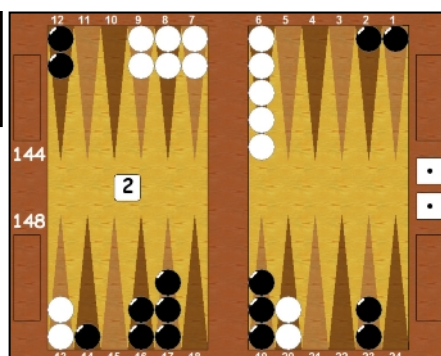
I was surprised by the low turnout for this last Swiss of the year, but that didn't detract from some very good matches, one of which was the Round 6 match between Mardi Ohannessian (5/5) and Julian Minwalla (4/5); however, before we get there . . .

On the Sunday morning we had three on 3/3; Mardi, Marc Turner and Paul Plump-tre. Mardi was pitched against Paul, from which Mardi emerged the first on 4/4, but Marc, pitched against Peter Bennet (2/3) wasn't so fortunate! This left us with just one, Mardi, on 4/4. He next met Paul who despite his best attempt was also unable to stop his run of wins and then we get to where we came in: Mardi vs Julian and their Round 6 match.

The first game proved to be a pivotal one and it was in this game that the tone of the match was set. In the 11 point match Mardi is playing as black.

Julian (w) 0 **Mardi (b) 0**
61: 13/7, 8/7 21: 24/23, 13/11
44: 24/20(2), 13/9(2) 44: 13/9(2), 6/2(2)

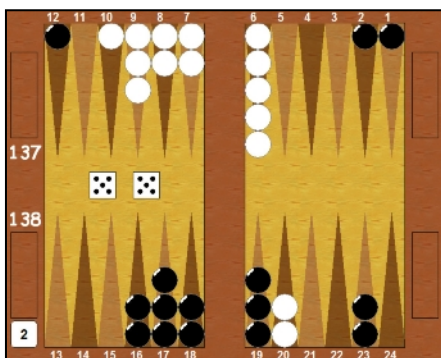
So far, so good, and then we get to this cube:



This is just too soon, there's nothing in the race and although white has a decent prime he's flat all over with spare checkers only on his 6-point. Mardi snatched it up.

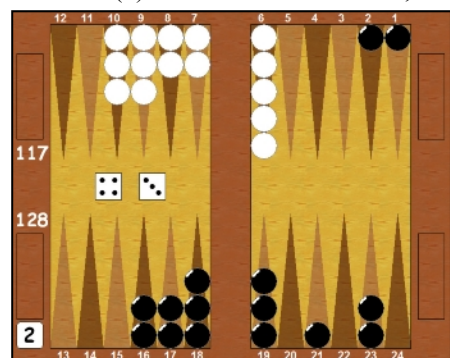
43: 13/10, 13/9 64: 13/7, 11/7

The 64 was a slight error and would have been better played 24/14; but then Julian made a blunder with *The Girls*.



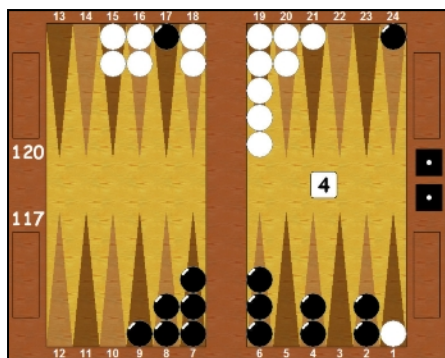
Running out, 20/10(2) was a wasted opportunity - the double-hit, 7/2*(2), 6/1*(2) was far superior. Black is very vulnerable and white's 20-point anchor is a great asset and one which will make it easy for him to re-enter should he get hit, but with two on the bar this is very unlikely.

55: 20/10(2) 64: 13/7, 8/4



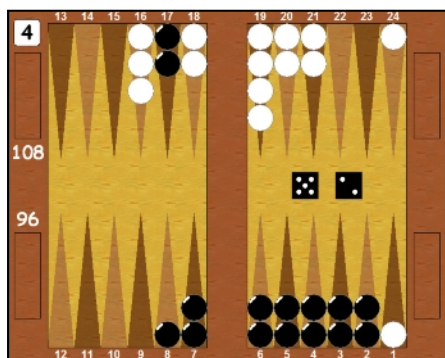
And another mistake from Julian as he plays 9/5, 8/5. There's only one roll that won't leave a shot, stacking on the 6-point, but that's not very constructive and leaving a direct 6 is too risky. The best move here is to attack with a spare checker, 6/2* and then 10/7 keeping your builders poised for the cover. As it turned out, Mardi gets the hit on his very next roll.

43: 9/5, 8/5 65: 23/17* 9/4
61: 25/24, 10/4



Now it's Mardi's turn to make a big mistake as he ships across a recube to 4!. Like the first cube the race is negligible and neither player really has an advantage with a lot of play left in this game. XG advises, "No redouble/Take" with Mardi on 58.44% and Julian not too far behind at 41.56%. Julian takes.

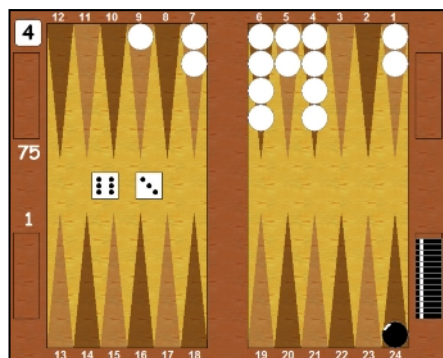
52: 24/22, 6/1
31: 25/24, 7/4
31: 10/9, 10/7



Julian is now behind a 6-prime and Mardi bears off two off his 17-point when he should

have been hitting 8/1*. By not hitting at the moment he allows Julian to make a good home board which might prove very useful if he gets a shot during the bearoff.

Later on . . .



He doesn't get a shot, and thanks to 66, 22, 22 during the bearoff Mardi puts gammon pressure on Julian when he needs a double 4, 5 or 6 to lose either 4 or 8 points; he loses the gammon with his roll of 63.

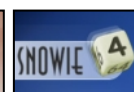
From hereon Julian slowly pulls the score back to 9-7 after a few earlyish cubes and some good rolling and playing but he is unable to get the better of Mardi and he finally bows out in the bearoff. So, we have an outright winner on 6/6, Mardi. The 2nd place was a decider between Uldis Lapikens and Paul Plumptre, each on 4/5. Because they had played in the first round they were not playing each other, Uldis beat Peter Bennet but Paul failed to beat Chris Ternel.

In the Consolation element, two players were tied on 3/3 and the final position was decided by tie-break leaving Peter Finnimore the winner with Brian Lever Runner-up.

As usual the weekend kicked off with the **Friday 500 (6)**. The battle between Tim Line and Myke Wignall has finally concluded and by virtue of going one round further than Myke during the TT, Tim took first place in the listing by just a single point and wins £100! Gerry Enslin was the winner on the night when he beat Mick Vacarey in the final. We now have our Top 16 for the December play-off for the £500 (see page 28)

On the Saturday night the Poker was cancelled due to a low entry (two) and therefore we all played **Doubles (6)**. The 'Sons of Anarchy' proved to be pushovers as they lost twice in Round 1 thanks to a (fruitless) buy-back. In the semi-final 'The Losers' lived up to their apt name thanks to 'Bad Influence' and the 'Norfolk Nodules' where krunched by the 'Kent Krunchers'. . . . who in turn were themselves krunched by 'Bad Influence'.

Finally. It was a small tournament, but perfectly formed.



Main: Mardi & Uldis



Consolation: Brian & Peter



JAYCEE TROPHIES

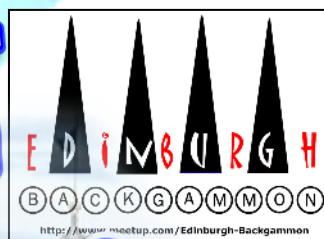


The British Isles Backgammon Association



Presents In partnership with

Edinburgh Backgammon



The XIII Scottish Open

16-18 March 2012



Barceló Carlton Hotel, Edinburgh

bwin.com/wsob



Biba rates for dinner, bed & breakfast:

Single @ £82, Double/Twin @ £120 per night

Call Reservations on 01786 272 727 option #2 and quote 'backgammon'
(9am to 9pm Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm @ weekends)

Registration Fee: £15 Entry Fee £15

Guaranteed 1st Prize: £350 minimum

Biba is proud present the 2012, XIII Scottish Open. A Biba Backgammon Tour event it comprises of Main Knockout & Progressive Consolation, Last Chance and 3-pointer open to all players (non-Biba entrants welcomed, see details below*). In addition there will be a free entry Beginner's Knockout of 3-point matches, no cube, added prize money of £50. It all starts 1300 on the Saturday (registration 1030 to 1230). For those attending the Friday night there is a Warm-up knockout, Registration £5 with optional side-pools, the winner of which will win full entry and registration into the Main on Saturday - this is also open to non-Biba members at no extra charge.

* Non-Biba members are subject to a 'one-off membership fee' of £5 in order to qualify for the guaranteed 1st prize of £350.

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.

Edinburgh Backgammon Club: www.meetup.com/Edinburgh-Backgammon/



Poker Grand Prix November 2011

Points	Name	Played	Lowest point to drop/replace				
123	Andy Darby	Q	13	24	25	26	35
89	Lawrence Powell	Q	14	15	18	18	24
88	Marcus Wrinch	Q	10	14	16	17	31
79	Myke Wignall	Q	8	8	14	20	29
69	Mark Calderbank	Q	10	12	12	17	18
40	Mick Vacarey	Q	3	4	7	8	18

Due to the low turnout at the Townharbour Trophy in November the Poker was cancelled and we are now onto the final event, the Christmas UK Finals in December, an event at which the Championship shall be decided; however, it looks as if it'll be a race for 2nd place!

Friday 500 November 2011

101	Tim Line	52	Anabel Carrington	23	John Frame
100	Myke Wignall	47	Nicky Check	23	Mike Heard
88	Mardi Ohannessian	36	Arthur Wright	20	Fanika Petkovska
66	Andy Darby	32	Jerry Limb	18	Mick Harris
66	Mick Vacarey	31	Martin Barkwill	16	Crispin Duke
59	David Wallbank	27	Peter Bennet	16	Eddie Barker
59	Rachel Rhodes	<u>Qualifiers above here</u>		16	John Hurst
58	Mark Calderbank	25	Billy Sharpe	16	Sam
55	Ginge Fullen	25	Brian Metcalf	14	Kevin Stebbing
54	Gerry Enslin	25	George Hall	14	Nigel Merrigan
		25	Paul Christmas	13	Brian Lever

The battle between Tim Line and Myke Wignall has finally concluded and by virtue of going one round further than Myke during the TT, Tim took first place in the listing by just a single point and wins £100! The remainder of the Top 16 Qualifiers for the Friday 500 Finals and the £500 1st Prize in December remained unchanged. If any qualifier fails to attend in December their place(s) will be taken up by those next in line. If two or more are tied for the 'upgrade' then a play-off will decide.

The Sandy Osborne Trophy, 7-9 October, 2011

Main (21)

1	Myke Wignall
2	Paul Plumptre
3&4	Dan Tutchings
3&4	Andy Bell
5to8	Andy Darby
5to8	Julian Minwalla
5to8	Paul Barwick
5to8	Paul Christmas

Consolation (17)

1	Paul Christmas
2	Andy Darby
3&4	Lawrence Powell
3&4	Mark Calderbank
5to8	Michelle Ford
5to8	Julian Minwalla
5to8	Paul Barwick
5to8	Peter Bennet

Last Chance (16)

1	Peter Bennet
2	Neil Everitt
3&4	Fanika Petkovska
3&4	Peter Christmas

The Sandy (8)

1	Dan Tutchings
2	Paul Barwick
3&4	Lawrence Powell
3&4	Mark Calderbank

1-Pointer (18)

1	Lawrence Powell
2	Paul Christmas

Doubles (4)

1	Reluctants
2	Cottagewebs

Poker (6)

1	Brad Frishberg
2	Lawrence Powell
3	Paul Christmas
4	Mark Calderbank
5	Andy Darby
6	Myke Wignall

Friday 500 (8)

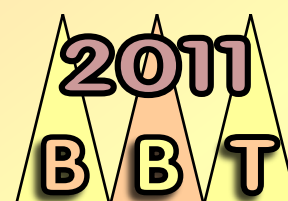
1	Mardi Ohannessian
2	Paul Christmas
3&4	Mark Calderbank
3&4	Michael Crane
5to8	Myke Wignall
5to8	Andy Darby
5to8	Fanika Petkovska
5to8	Peter Christmas

New Ranking and GP @ Sandy

Andy Bell	1473	23.52	Fanika Petkovska	1200	10.50	Myke Wignall	1614	40.45
Andy Darby	1664	22.48	Jon Barnes	1637	10.50	Neil Everitt	1494	10.24
Arthur Wright	1465	5.50	Julian Fetterlein	2024	10.50	Paul Barwick	1440	16.51
Brad Frishberg	1523	10.50	Julian Minwalla	1741	16.51	Paul Christmas	1583	28.51
Chris Ternel	1873	5.50	Lawrence Powell	1842	17.55	Paul Plumptre	1714	31.54
Dan Tutchings	1668	23.52	Mardi Ohannessian	1674	10.50	Peter Bennet	1952	15.25
			Mark Calderbank	1589	17.55	Peter Christmas	1732	8.50
			Michelle Ford	1377	10.47			

The Coventry Open, 16 October, 2011

Main		Consolation		Last Chance	
1	Myke Wignall	1	Julian Fetterlein	1	Brian Lever
2	Paul Plumptre	2	Neil Everitt	2	David Pritchard
3&4	Steve Malins	3&4	Robert Tutchings	3&4	Uldis Lapikens
3&4	Paul Barwick	3&4	George Hall	3&4	John Wright
5to8	John Wright	5to8	Carl Dell	5to8	Gary Brooker
5to8	Robert Tutchings	5to8	Annette Sutherland	5to8	Robert Perry
5to8	Neil Smith	5to8	Paul Gilbertson	5to8	Kevin Jones
5to8	Annette Sutherland	5to8	David Motley	5to8	Carl Dell



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GP & BBT @ Coventry

8.50	Andreas Sophocleas	8.50	Gary Brooker	37.89	Myke Wignall	19.95
17.55	Annette Sutherland	22.48	George Hall	28.51	Neil Everitt	11.92
20.21	Brian Lever	10.47	Harry Fatcher	17.55	Neil Smith	8.92
17.55	Carl Dell	8.50	Irving Czechowicz	24.82	Paul Barwick	13.93
8.50	Chris Ternel	17.55	John Wright	17.55	Paul Gilbertson	5.98
8.50	Dan Tutchings	34.55	Julian Fetterlein	31.32	Paul Plumptre	16.94
17.55	David Motley	10.47	Kevin Jones	10.47	Rachel Rhodes	2.97
15.25	David Pritchard	10.47	Marc Turner	22.48	Rob Tutchings	9.97
8.50	Deana Fawcett	5.50	Mark Calderbank	10.47	Robert Perry	2.97
8.50	Dorothy Lee	8.50	Martin Barkwill	10.47	Rodney Lighton	2.97
8.50	Ellie Lighton	10.47	Maurice Ekpenyong	8.50	Rowena Paliwoda	
5.50	Eric Westbrook	10.47	Michael Damianou	8.50	Stefan Paliwoda	
8.50	Fak Laight	8.50	Michelle Ford	24.82	Steve Malins	13.93
		10.47	Mike Wood	10.24	Uldis Lapikens	

Wicklow, October, 2011

The Irish Open, October, 2011

Main		Main		Consolation		Last Chance	
1	Paul O'Kelly	1	Viadas Novicenko	1	Robin Swaffield	1	Liz Perry
2	Mike Waid	2	Shay Mulhall	2	Jeff Ellis	2	Carol Lindley
3&4	Michael Farrugia	3&4	James Degabrielle	3&4	Bob Tutchins	3&4	Uldis Lapikens
3&4	Paul Davitt	3&4	Jonathan O'Grady	3&4	John Broomfield	3&4	Rob Tutchings
5to8	Shay Mulhall	5to8	Alastair Woods	5to8	Mick Vackery	5to8	John Wright
5to8	Felix Vink	5to8	Sean Casey	5to8	Roger Keys	5to8	Dave McNamara
5to8	Phil Tutchings	5to8	Rune Farevaag	5to8	Brendan Gasparro	5to8	Mark Calderbank
5to8	Kerrin Buck	5to8	Kerrin Buck	5to8	Rachel Rhodes	5to8	Phil Tutchings

GP & BBT @ Wicklow & Irish combined

26.99	Alastair Woods	8.92	11.75	Jim Moore	20.02	Peter Bennett	4.91
5.50	Billy Sharp		30.98	Joe Dooley	19.00	Phil Tutchings	8.92
25.52	Brendan Burgess	9.82	22.48	John Broomfield	20.02	Rachel Rhodes	5.98
17.55	Brendan Gasparro	5.98	20.02	John Wright	22.48	Rob Tutchings	9.97
15.25	Carol Lindley		35.92	Jonathan O'Grady	34.55	Robin Swaffield	13.93
8.50	Dama Cunningham		37.49	Kerrin Buck	17.55	Roger Keys	5.98
11.75	Dan Tutchings		20.21	Liz Perry	5.50	Rory Brennan	
37.57	Dave McNamara	16.83	20.02	Mal Jones	26.99	Rune Farevaag	8.92
8.50	David Sheehy		11.75	Marc Turner	26.99	Sean Casey	8.92
8.50	Eugene Mallon		7.25	Mark Calderbank	57.27	Shay Mulhall	25.86
22.25	Felix Vink	11.89	16.50	Michael Farrugia	5.50	Sue French	
11.75	Frank Conway		17.55	Mick Vacarey	11.75	Tom Duignan	
11.75	Ginge Fullen		43.54	Mike Waid	10.47	Uldis Lapikens	2.97
44.42	James Degabrielle	19.91	17.25	Noel Byrne	59.76	Viadas Novicenko	19.95
28.51	Jeff Ellis	11.92	28.25	Paul Davitt	10.47	Volkan	2.97
			31.54	Paul O'Kelly	10.47	Youssef Youssef	2.97



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SPONSORS OF THE BIBA BACKGAMON TOUR

The Townharbour Trophy, 4-6 November, 2011

Main	Wins	GP	Consolation	C / M	GP	Friday 500 (6)
1 Mardi Ohannessian	6	50.50	1 Peter Finnimore	3 / 4	27.42	1 Gerry Enslin
2 Uldis Lapikens	5	35.30	2 Brian Lever	3 / 4	28.45	2 Mick Vacarey
3 Marc Turner	4	30.51	3 Bob Young	2 / 2	14.45	3&4 Tim Line
4 Paul Plumptre	4	30.51	4 Brian Metcalf	2 / 3	20.43	3&4 Mardi Ohannessian
5 Chris Ternel	4	29.48	5 Tim Line	1 / 2	14.45	5to8 Myke Wignall
6 Julian Minwalla	4	28.45	6 Richard Biddle	1 / 1	9.47	5to8 Brian Metcalf
7 Peter Bennet	3	22.49	7 Myke Wignall	1 / 2	14.45	
8 Paul Barwick	3	21.46	8 Bob Bruce	1 / 2	15.48	
9 Jeff Barber	3	20.43	9 Mick Vacarey	0 / 1	9.47	Doubles (6)
10 Gerry Enslin	2	15.48	10 Neil Everitt	0 / 0	5.50	1 Bad Influence
						2 Kent Krunchers

New Ranking after TT

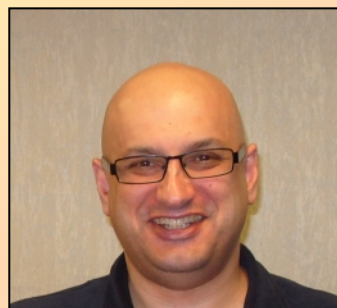
1318 Bob Bruce	1498 Jeff Barber	1456 Paul Barwick
1611 Bob Young	1758 Julian Minwalla	1741 Paul Plumptre
1946 Brian Lever	1701 Marc Turner	1923 Peter Bennet
1424 Brian Metcalf	1771 Mardi Ohannessian	1583 Peter Finnimore
1888 Chris Ternel	1270 Mick Vacarey	1461 Richard Biddle
1716 Gerry Enslin	1580 Myke Wignall	1595 Tim Line
	1452 Neil Everitt	1748 Uldis Lapikens

Grand Prix Championship, 2011 (171 entrants)



After leading the field for several months and with little change between them, Julian Fetterlein (L) and Julian Minwalla are this year's Grand Prix Championship, 1st and 2nd.

Myke Wignall was threatening to usurp Julian Minwalla but was unable to improve on his score at the Townharbour Trophy and came in a creditable 3rd.



241.67 Julian Fetterlein	80.26 Ginge Fullen	37.82 Joe Dooley	17.72 Jason Pack	10.50 Richard Coburn
212.97 Julian Minwalla	79.38 Richard Biddle	37.25 Kevin Stebbing	17.72 M Ekpenyong	10.50 Roy Hollands
190.34 Myke Wignall	72.61 Adrian Jones	36.60 Simon K Jones	17.55 Brendan Gasparro	10.50 Stefanie Rohan
187.85 Paul Plumptre	70.21 Alastair Woods	36.02 Brendan Burgess	17.55 Cliff Connick	10.50 Sue Metcalf
178.25 Brian Lever	70.00 Andy Bell	35.48 John Broomfield	17.55 Dod Davies	10.47 M Damianou
167.89 Marc Turner	68.94 Ann Pocknell	35.32 Ian Hesketh	17.55 Geoff Conn	10.47 Philip Newton
162.97 Chris Ternel	67.90 Anabel Carrington	34.66 Rosey Bensley	17.55 Hanna Thorsen	10.24 Ian Turner
162.13 Peter Bennet	65.92 Michelle Ford	34.55 Robin Swaffield	17.55 Ian Shaw	9.47 Bill Young
159.69 Dan Tutchings	65.78 Jerry Limb	34.02 Chris Purchase	17.55 Paul Lamford	9.25 Alan Greenwood
147.72 Uldis Lapikens	63.97 Neil Webb	32.49 Sean Casey	17.55 Ray Kershaw	9.25 Ash Dalvi
145.25 Rachel Rhodes	62.77 Shea Mulhall	32.00 Paul Gilbertson	17.55 William Spiers	9.25 Kevin Nicholson
144.75 Mardi	61.86 Brian Metcalf	31.74 Irving Czechowicz	16.97 Angie Dell	9.25 Steve Fowles
140.07 Arthur Wright	60.56 Jon Barnes	31.54 Neil Oswald	16.51 Cecilia Sparke	8.92 Felix Vink
137.92 Gerry Enslin	59.76 Viadas Novicenko	31.54 Paul O'Kelly	16.51 Jason Dennis	8.50 Danny Cohen
134.82 Phil Tutchings	57.59 George Miltiadou	30.96 W Thompson	16.51 Jonathan Frame	8.50 Dave Sheehy
132.10 Neil Everitt	56.79 Nigel Merrigan	30.39 Carl Dell	16.51 Mike Williams	8.50 Rowena Paliwoda
131.99 Lawrence Powell	56.76 Mike Waid	29.90 Jeff Barber	16.51 Tony Lee	8.50 Stefan Paliwoda
120.11 Mark Calderbank	56.68 Bob Bruce	29.52 Mick Butterfield	16.47 Robert Perry	8.50 Stewart Wilson
118.92 Mike Heard	54.45 Fanika Petkovska	29.48 Nigel Briddon	15.75 A Sophocleous	8.50 Tony Walters
113.39 Bob Young	54.08 Dave McNamara	29.21 Rodney Lighton	15.48 Steve Rimmer	7.25 Matthew Fisher
108.84 Nicky Check	52.10 John Hurst	28.51 Jeff Ellis	14.00 Andrew Smith	6.84 Andy Steadman
108.22 John Wright	52.03 Stuart Mann	27.25 David Pritchard	13.22 David Phillips	6.50 Ian Shimwell
104.56 Marcus Wrinch	51.57 John Frame	27.00 Wayne Felton	12.75 Michael Horne	6.50 Jon Williams
104.09 Tim Line	50.53 Crispin Duke	25.73 Gary Brooker	11.75 Felix Vink	6.00 Alexis Hogg
102.90 Andy Darby	50.50 Dave Ablett	25.55 Vicky Chandler	11.75 Frank Conway	5.50 Jimmi Wong
101.34 Paul Barwick	50.47 Dave Motley	24.82 Steve Malins	11.75 Jim Moore	5.50 Ron Havenhand
99.96 Peter Christmas	49.38 Kevin Jones	23.75 Tim Brown	11.00 Eric Westbrook	5.50 Steve Bietkowski
96.47 Dorothy Lee	46.79 Al Hogg	23.52 M Jahanbani	10.50 Brad Frishberg	
95.07 Martin Barkwill	46.02 Tony Fawcett	23.52 Sean Williams	10.50 Donna Sherred	
93.72 Mick Vacarey	45.99 Eddie Barker	22.49 David Startin	10.50 Gareth Pritchard	
88.45 David Wallbank	45.51 Paul Christmas	22.49 Tony Gardner	10.50 Gareth Timms	
87.92 Peter Finnimore	43.05 Tim Mooring	22.48 Neil Davidson	10.50 Jo Davies	
86.85 Simon Morecroft	42.52 Gheorghe Filipas	21.25 Fak Laight	10.50 Jon Sharpe	
85.87 Peter Chan	41.67 Deana Fawcett	21.00 James Dixey	10.50 Mick Harris	
82.96 Rob Tutchings	40.45 John Batty	20.43 Jonathan Lock	10.50 Paul Learmount	
82.73 George Hall	38.51 Billy Sharp	20.21 Liz Perry	10.50 Ray Fard	



Ranking Championship, 2011 (123 Entrants. 33 Qualifiers)



Julian Fetterlein makes it a 'double' as he remains at the top of the listing after a remarkable year's playing.

In 2nd place was Paul Plumptre who tried valiantly to topple Julian but to no avail.



2310.57	Julian Fetterlein	1423.43	Anabel Carrington	1364.83	Rosey Bensley	1649.00	Mike Williams
2283.21	Paul Plumptre	1340.71	Andy Bell	1315.33	Bill Young	1547.50	Brad Frishberg
2260.14	Marc Turner	Qualifiers above here		1291.33	Steve Rimmer	1543.00	Hanna Thorsen
2244.14	Julian Minwalla	1860.92	Mike Heard	1962.60	John Batty	1470.00	Cecilia Sparke
2227.43	Chris Ternel	1423.46	Ginge Fullen	1903.40	Kevin Stebbing	1427.00	Paul Lamford
2220.71	Uldis Lapikens	1717.58	George Hall	1789.80	Chris Purchase	1105.00	Tim Mooring
2192.21	Peter Bennet	1554.67	John Wright	1678.40	Jonathan Frame	1027.00	James Dixey
2149.50	Myke Wignall	1497.75	Jeff Barber	1265.80	Rob Tutchings	981.00	Jason Pack
2143.64	Mardi Ohannessian	1816.27	Simon Morecroft	1854.25	Neil Oswald	1436.00	Geoff Conn
2099.64	Brian Lever	1484.60	Michelle Ford	1499.50	Tony Fawcett	1395.00	Cliff Connick
2089.43	Dan Tutchings	1263.40	Deana Fawcett	1442.50	Jerry Limb	1389.00	Sean Casey
2088.29	Bob Young	1663.22	Ann Pocknell	1410.75	Paul Christmas	1364.00	Tony Walters
2085.79	Lawrence Powell	1210.67	Fanika Petkovski	1409.25	Wayne Felton	1359.00	Stewart Wilson
2085.21	Rachel Rhodes	1796.88	Eddie Barker	1317.50	Crispin Duke	1329.00	Ray Kershaw
2067.43	Mark Calderbank	1767.63	George Miltiadou	1311.75	Stuart Mann	1264.00	Jo Davies
2049.00	Gerry Enslin	1549.63	Dorothy Lee	1824.33	Dave McNamara	1256.00	Neil Davidson
2025.79	Peter Finnimore	1457.00	Warwick Thompson	1807.00	Tony Lee	1173.00	Sue Metcalf
1997.57	Phil Tutchings	1909.29	Neil Webb	1783.00	Sean Williams	1147.00	Donna Sherred
1949.00	Marcus Wrinch	1824.29	Peter Chan	1695.00	Mahmoud Jahabani	1131.00	Ian Shaw
1930.50	Neil Everitt	1699.43	Martin Barkwill	1521.67	Mick Butterfield	1122.00	Richard Coburn
1922.14	Nicky Check	1607.86	Gheorghe Filipas	1495.00	Alastair Woods	1115.00	Michael Horne
1893.57	Arthur Wright	1984.50	Dave Ablett	1472.33	John Hurst	1098.00	Philip Newton
1751.43	Paul Barwick	1826.67	Nigel Briddon	1399.67	John Frame	1091.00	Gareth Timms
1685.71	Mick Vacarey	1798.50	David Motley	1360.00	Adrian Jones	1085.00	Danny Cohen
1652.21	Tim Line	1742.83	Nigel Merrigan	1254.00	Billy Sharp	1064.00	Roy Hollands
1643.14	Peter Christmas	1672.83	David Startin	1091.33	Eric Westbrook	1062.00	Ian Hesketh
1623.36	Andy Darby	1638.50	Jonathan Lock	1792.00	Brendan Burgess	1042.00	Stefanie Rohan
1593.57	David Wallbank	1592.50	Tony Gardner	1716.50	Mick Harris	1037.00	Ray Fard
1562.21	Brian Metcalf	1584.50	Al Hogg	1708.00	William Speirs	1003.00	Gareth Pritchard
1485.29	Bob Bruce	1536.33	Jon Barnes	1703.00	Paul Learmount	948.00	Dod Davies
1458.79	Richard Biddle	1449.17	Paul Gilbertson	1662.50	Jason Dennis	794.00	Jon Sharpe

Annual Championships Prize Fund £1965 Payout 2011

Grand Prix	Payout	Ranking
Julian Fetterlein	£275.10	Julian Fetterlein
Julian Minwalla	£196.50	Paul Plumptre
Myke Wignall	£157.20	Marc Turner
Paul Plumptre	£117.90	Julian Minwalla
Brian Lever	£78.60	Chris Ternel
Marc Turner	£58.95	Uldis Lapikens
Chris Ternel	£39.30	Peter Bennet
Peter Bennet	£19.65	Myke Wignall
Dan Tutchings	£19.65	Mardi Ohannessian
Uldis Lapikens	£19.65	Brian Lever

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 January - a good start to anyone's year!

Good luck to everyone entering next year.

Finally: Another good year of Championship performances, especially from Julian Minwalla who won three Main events; Myke Wignall who won two Mains; Paul Plumptre who won none and still came 2nd in the Ranking Championship and of course, Julian Fetterlein who won two Mains and came second a good few times! Without doubt, Julian is the best Biba player at the moment - so who (if anyone) will be dislodging him next year?



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