

# BIBAFAX

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## European Backgammon News

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See page 35



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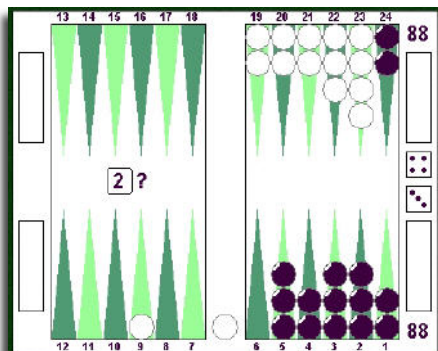
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## Norah - Help for the Hopeless

Dear Norah, In the position below white is on roll and leads 8-4 in an 11 point match.

White doubled and black dropped.



**11 point match.  
White cube action?**

Could you please tell us the correct cube action and explain how to reach this decision?

How should this action vary for different scores?

Best wishes,  
T and J

Dear T and J,

When considering whether or not white should double the first thing to do is decide whether black, if doubled, has a take.

If you are not sure that black has a take then it is always correct to double. Even if you are sure he has a take it might still be correct to double.

In this case one cannot be sure so white should double. What is black's take point if doubled?

If black passes the score is 9-4 to white, which gives black 15% chances of winning the match. If black takes and wins the score is 8-6 to white, which gives black 34% chances of winning the match.

If black takes and loses the score is 10-4 to white, which give black 9% chance of winning the match.

Black risks losing 6% (15%-9%) to gain 19% (34%-15%).

His take point is RISK / (GAIN + RISK) which is 6/25 or 24%.

The cube is of value to black if he takes. The mathematics are complicated but the bottom line is that black can take if he can win 19% of the time. A 1296 rollout gives black winning 26.7% of the games. Hence the correct cube action is DOUBLE, TAKE.

Let us now look at the 1296 (live cube) rollout results when the match scores are changed. Because white is on roll his score is always the first. Errors are when the equity differs from the best move by 0.03 or more, blunders when it differs by 0.110 or more.

8-8: Proper cube action: Double, pass. No double. Blunder losing 0.276. Take. Blunder losing 0.276.

8-7: Proper cube action: Double, pass. No double. Blunder losing 0.195. Take. Blunder losing 0.127.

8-6: Proper cube action: Double, take. No double. Blunder losing 0.176.

Pass. Error losing 0.091.

8-5: Proper cube action; Double, take. No double. Blunder losing 0.166. Pass. Error losing 0.091.

8-4: Proper cube action: Double, take. No double. Error losing 0.068. Pass. Blunder losing 0.244.

8-3: Proper cube action: Double, take. No double. Error losing 0.048. Pass. Blunder losing 0.263.

8-2: Proper cube action: Double, take. No double. Error losing 0.015. Pass. Blunder losing 0.345.

8-1: Proper cube action: Double, take. No double. Error losing 0.002. Pass. Blunder losing 0.356.

8-0: Proper cube action: No double, take. Double. Error losing 0.029. Pass. Blunder losing 0.408.

Note that black can be expected to roll two sixes, before white rolls one six, 25% of the time. How will white feel if black then gives him the cube at 4? Think about it.

My regards and love to all at Biba.

Norah

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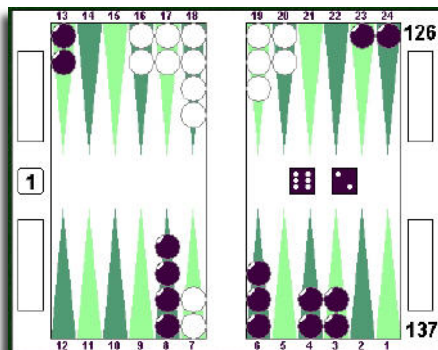
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# Competition 2004 No2, 7001-06 Answers

By Michael Crane

*Throughout this article I have left Chris Bray/Snowie's moves out of the voting and used his comments as a decider in tied positions.*

70.01



5 point match  
White 0 Black 0  
Black to play 62

*To quote Chris Bray (see later), "When is a problem not a problem? When there is only one answer." Ah, but, there is one lone voice out there advocating a different move to all the rest!*

## Richard Biddle: 23/15

Black is in terrible position and needs to make the move that will prevent White from doubling next turn. A double Black will almost certainly need to drop. White has a well-formed five-point prime; Black may escape one checker but is unlikely to escape two. White is not immediately threatened by Black's home board and should be able to escape his back checkers.

Black can escape the double by playing 23/15. I think any other move will invite the double. It only leaves 5 indirect shots on the escaping checker, but also places a little more pressure on Whites back checkers. Suddenly White is under pressure to contain the last Black checker and also bring his own back checkers in safely

## Steve Hallett: 23/15

Black only slightly behind in race but has two men stuck behind White's five point prime. With White's anchor on the 18-point Black will be running out of spare checkers to play even if he manages to anchor. Black's only advantage is his slightly stronger board which might come in handy if a blot hitting contest ensues. Possible plays like 8/2 4/2, 8/2 8/6 or even 13/5 must be discarded and playing the two to the edge of White's prime

23/21 and leaving it there (in the hope of making an advanced anchor) only risks getting gammoned. Having thrown an escaping number Black must take this opportunity to run.

## Mark Oram: 23/15

I don't want to say this was an easy choice, but all of the other options I could see seem so dire. 13/5 invites disaster on any 6 by White (possibly excepting 61), and 8/2 (one of the few legal sixes here) along with, say, 23/21, appears to bury a man for no gain. True we'd move one man up to the edge of White's prime but simply give us an extra home board blot which would inhibit us from hitting White if we did get the chance. Also, if we are to move a man up to escape, why not escape him completely this time? 23/15 tries this, and most of White's 8s to hit (44, 53) play very well for him in any case, by extending his prime.

## Bob Young: 23/15

Take a big breath ... Almost trapped behind a near complete prime, and no realistic chance of trapping an opponent behind any prime that Black may make in the future, running with the rear checker, avoiding being hit next roll with an eight, making safe the running checker, stepping up to the edge of the prime with the last checker, escaping if not hit off that point, catching up in the race and winning with superior rolling once escaped and in the lead seems the "easiest" way of winning one point ..... Placing a Black checker at the end of the White prime gives White a safer way of making it a full prime, as not all rolls are as good from the bar if hit off that point. There seems no merit in burying checkers behind Whites advanced anchor.

## Rodney Lighton: 23/15

It looks right to run one checker here. Many of White's sixes now play badly and Black has only one checker left to escape. If the checker on the 14-point survives this turn, then Black has plenty of flexibility, while White may be struggling.

## Jeff Barber: 23/15

Move one of the back men to where it can be an extra attacker should white break away from Black's bar point. White five point prime is obviously a big danger to black: so lifting a checker from behind this is a plus for Black.

*So, this lot all agree. Arguing on his own is Paul Statter ...*

## Paul Statter: 23/21 8/2

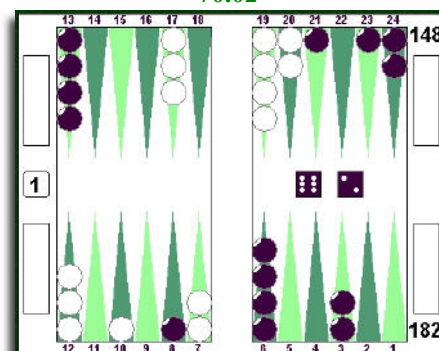
I don't want to leave one back against a 5-prime - soon to be a full prime, perhaps. So not 23/15. I cannot see any reason to break the 13-point, leaving a blot and a direct shot. So 8/2 is "forced". At the moment White has a builder on her 8-point. If I play 23/21 or 24/22 it effectively takes away a builder if my new blot is not hit. I prefer 23/21 so that I can anchor in front of the prime and a future 66 becomes a saving joker.

## Chris Bray/Snowie: 23/15

*When is a problem not a problem? When there is only one answer. I doubt whether anyone would play anything other than 23/15 here. Playing anything else means that you will have to drop White's double. At least after 23/15 technically you have a take but it's no bargain and no one would criticise you for dropping, particularly in a 5 point match where you could be 4-0 down going into the next game.*

*OK, so I've not yet got the swing of this question thing yet! I mean, the first one had all but one of the entrants deciding on the same answer; this time they all agree!*

70.02



5 point match  
White 0 Black 1  
Black to play 62

## Jeff Barber: 24/18 23/21

Black's intention with this play is to prevent White from complete domination of their own outer board.

*Blimey, Jeff, that's succinct! I wish a few more of you would follow Jeff's example and keep your answers down to six words and a maximum of two syllables!*



**Richard Biddle: 24/18 23/21.**

Another position that if not played correctly will invite the inevitable double. The key to avoiding the double is to make the anchor on the 21-point. However, that only leaves us with two choices for the six. The blot on the 8-point, though at risk may prove valuable if we can make that point later, if not hit.

That just leaves 24/18. A very high-risk strategy with blots spread all over. White may well not double, sensing a gammon. But we have a forward anchor and lots of return shots if hit. This will make White work harder for their victory and may win us the game on the way.

**Steve Hallett: 24/18 23/21**

Black behind in race but should not be thinking of a back game yet, he needs an advanced anchor and now is the time to grab it, so the two must be played 23/21. This leaves only a choice of 24/18 or 8/2 with the six 8/2 is much too deep as Black needs to be making the five and four points next not the two point which leaves 24/18 as the six.

**Paul Statter: 24/18 23/21**

So what's the plan? We're behind in the race so we're not looking to race ourselves. We want to get an advanced anchor and generally make things awkward for our opponent. 21/13 (or 13/5) is better suited to a racing game. 23/21 gives us the anchor; do we have a decent 6 to play? I don't like 8/2 which leaves me with nothing in the outfield. Anyway, if it gets hit I'll have plenty of return shots if I come in from the bar.

Even a double hit doesn't end my chances if I've anchored on the 21-point. So that leaves 24/18. I've made it sound as though I've been reluctantly forced into this play, but I favoured 24/18 from the start. It threatens a stronger anchor than the 21-point whilst at the same time covering the outfield. Leaving a checker on the 24-point means White cannot play in behind me.

**Mark Oram: 24/18 23/21**

Again, sixes are awkward for us right now: 8/2 as half a move is burying a man, and it is easier to count White's numbers which *don't* hit if we play 23/15. Instead, 23/21 to form the anchor seems so automatic that I almost wonder if I am miss-

ing something by starting with this move. Once we anchor, however, we have strength in White's home board, and leaving one man on the 24 point (with 24/18) still causes White some problems – would he be very keen to make his ace point at this stage in the game for example. By making a bid for White's bar we either threaten take it (and solidify our defence) or distract him by hitting outside instead of further closing his board.

**Bob Young: 24/18 23/21.**

Making the 21-point and keeping the ace point, setting up for a 1-4 back game is way too early to lay out the defence, with far too few pips behind in the race to play it effectively, so try for a more advanced position, the single anchor on the 21-point, and slot the bar point. This duplicates ones, and if hit, will be recycled. If not hit, an advanced second anchor is highly likely.

**Rodney Lighton: 24/18 23/21**

Grabbing the anchor with the two looks obvious. Black could then safety the blot on the 8-point, but playing deep behind the anchor is anti-thematic. Since Black is well behind in the race being hit is no tragedy. I prefer the more provocative 24/18.

*So, we all agree then, the anchor is very important!*

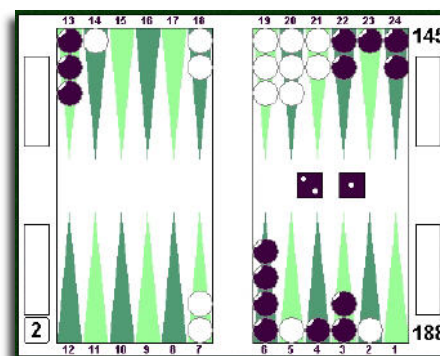
**Chris Bray/Snowie: 24/18 23/21**

Again this is fairly straightforward. The 2 is virtually forced, 23/21, securing the high anchor in White's board. This leaves a choice of two sixes, 24/18 and 8/2.

*This will be a long and complex game and one thing I have tried to teach you humans is that in such games you need to put your men where they belong. The man on your 8-pt belongs on the 4-pt or 5-pt, it certainly doesn't want to go to the 2-point. Equally well you are not yet committed to a back game and you should try to move forward if you can.*

*24/18 is clearly the correct 6, starting the fight for the enemy's bar-point, and it has the added merit of duplicating 1 as a hitting number although that is of little consequence in comparison to implementing the right game plan for the position.*

70.03



**5 point match**  
**White 0 Black 0**  
**Black to play 21**

*At last, a position that splits the field into four camps. Out on his own against the elements is our first one:*

**Jeff Barber: 6/4 23/22**

Black is playing a reasonably timed back game: needs to make a better home board to later capture a decisive White blot. Hitting White now is not the correct play for Black: as he would be giving more timing to White to maintain White's anchor on Black's bar point.

*Moving just a little bit differently is our remaining 'on-his-own' entrant.*

**Richard Biddle: 6/4 24/23.**

We haven't got the timing to play a perfect back game so I could be tempted to play 13/11 6/5 or 6/4 6/5\* to slow ourselves down by inviting a hit. But White still has some way to go to bring his checkers home so we could find ourselves with half our checkers stuck behind a prime and the rest sitting on our one, two and three-points. Time for consolidation, 6/4 24/23, by making another point in our home board, and bringing another back checker up to direct escaping range. This un-stacks our 6-point and keeps our threat in the outer board. White will struggle not to leave a shot later.

*Strangely, half Richard's move is half shared by the remaining entrants. They either like his 6/4 or his 24/23 but not at the same time! The next three all agree on the move.*

**Steve Hallett: 24/23 24/22**

This looks like a continuation of the last problem but now Black is holding a two cube. Black has the start of a back game



but hasn't enough timing especially for a one, three back game, so unless he spreads his outfield checkers out with 13/12 13/11 in the hope of being hit which would increase his chances of being gammoned he must transpose to a two, three position which allows White to play sixes and also gives Black chances to run off the gammon if he doesn't hit any White checkers, so the one in my opinion must be played 24/23. Now we have the choice of two's 24/22, 13/11 or 6/4. 6/4 locks up the 4-point but leaves the spare on the 24-point where it cannot be easily recycled. 24/22 puts the spare checker where it can escape into the outfield but leaves a blot on the four point. 13/11 allows White to hit which could improve Black's timing/increase gammon chances. I think the one should be played 24/22, allowing Black to circulate his back checker.

*Our next one seems to have been taking a leaf out of Bob Young's book and has answered using as many words as possible!*

#### **Paul Statter: 24/23 24/22**

This looks pretty innocuous and I suspect I'd play 6/4 with either 24/23 or 23/22 without much thought if it occurred in a match. But what are the options (in addition to the two plays I've mentioned)? Did you consider the double hit (6/5\* 4/2\*) or 6/5\* 6/4? Then I think 24/23 24/22 at least needs looking at. I think I need a plan. (Thanks for teaching me this, Chris Bray!)

Black is playing a back game, so we need to consider his timing and ensure he creates spare checkers. He wants to keep the 13-pt, which means he currently has just one spare checker in the outfield, so getting spare checkers to the 22-pt and 23-pt is important. Provided he can get his checkers circulating, being hit is not the end of the world - indeed it will improve his timing. It's also important for Black to create a strong home board so when White is hit, he struggles to get back on. Is there any advantage in hitting White? At the moment Black does not have enough forces available to keep White out for long. 6/5\*, 6/4 looks like the play if he's going to try to force the issue at this stage.

I think that now leaves just the first two

moves I mentioned - but which? I know that a 3-2 back game is stronger than a 3-1, but that leaves Black with no checkers ready to leap White's 4-prime. So I favour 23/22 6/4. But hang on, I said I'd look at 24/23 24/22. Surely not? But it gives me the 3-2 back game as well as the spare on the 22-point. Can I afford to leave that blot on the 4-point? I'm tempted to ask gnu, but do the bots play these positions correctly?

Then there's competition tactics: points are awarded to the most popular answer, so do I guess that 23/22 6/4 will be most popular and go for the points, or do I go for the strange-looking 24/23 24/22 which I suspect will be less popular? One problem is that I've taken the cube, so I'm worried about being gammoned, but at least that means I can cope with things getting worse before they get better. At least White isn't going to double simply because I've left the blot, nor can he double after hitting it. So I think the position of the cube makes my move stronger.

*After much soul-searching Paul talks himself into the 24/23 24/22 play.*

#### **Mark Oram: 24/23 24/22**

Here the back game looms large, so one early move I looked at (and dismissed) was 23/22 24/22 (with a view to springing as many men as possible). We'd simply lose the double anchor and find it hard to recover if White attacked us on his ace-point. If a back game is the way to play this position, can a case be made for something like 31/11 6/5\* (trying to have White hit us several times)? In the end it seems we'd be too badly off with the points we'd remain holding after this kamikaze approach.

Instead, 24/23 24/22 maintains the double anchor and allows a man to re-circulate on fives or sixes. If our four-point blot is not picked up we have some chance to cover it, giving us a reasonable looking 3 point board which should serve us well for future containment of White if we hit him. Holding the cube also means we can play this game to a finish, which is what we are hoping to do following this strategy.

*Mark dismisses the play and then talks himself into it, too! Now for something completely different, as my friend Monty*

*would say . . .*

#### **Bob Young: 6/4 6/5\***

Where to play is the question, home board, opponent's home board, or a bit of both? Moving everything up from the rear vacates the rear point, and gives White the opportunity to dump any awkward rolls here, so I prefer to keep the rear anchor. 6/4 is crying to be made, so that just leaves the one...23/22, 13/12 or 6/5? Rob Billertie once said that it is usually right to hit on the 5-point, and with eights to cover (53, 62, 71 or 80) as well as double twos or fours, then I prefer this to cut down on White flexibility in future rolls.

#### **Rodney Lighton: 6/4 6/5\***

Black can still win this game going forward with a bit of luck, so I attack, noting that White's blot on the 14-point is potentially vulnerable. Black doesn't have the timing necessary for a back game yet, so a move like 6/4, 24/23 is dubious.

*So, what does the oracle have to say? Well he plumps for the 'popular' 24/22 24/23 but he does mention 6/4 6/5\* in dispatches.*

#### **Chris Bray/Snowie: 24/22 24/23**

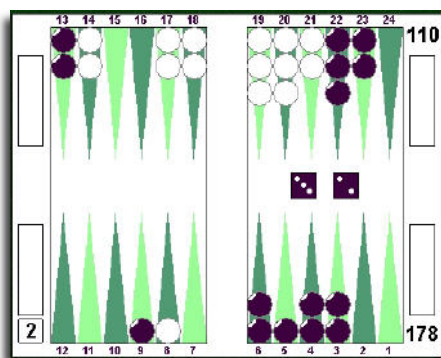
*This one is much more fun and much more difficult. Although occasionally Black will win by going forward, 95% of the time he will be playing a back game. Which back game should he choose? We know that the best of all back games is the 2-3, closely followed by the 1-3. Here, either option is available. The choices are: (a) 24/22 24/23 (b) 23/22, 6/4 and (c) 24/23, 6/4.*

*I don't like (c) because it doesn't bring a spare man to the edge of White's prime and Black's timing is a little precarious. The question then is whether to sacrifice the best back game option in order to make the 4-pt. The answer is no - the pure play of 24/22 24/23 is the right one. The blot on the 4-pt may get hit but it can always be re-circulated.*

*By the way congratulations if you considered the attacking play 6/4 6/5\*. Not quite the right idea here because Black hasn't yet got the ammunition in range to win going forward but certainly worthy of consideration.*



70.04



**5 point match**  
**White 0 Black 0**  
**Black to play 32**

*Now this has really opened the field right up. Only one of the solutions is shared by two entrants, the remainder are on their own. The two sharing are:*

#### Steve Hallett: 13/10 9/7

Continuing from 70-02 and 70-03 we get here! Black has a chance to hit the White checker on the 8-point and hopefully trap it which could work if he's lucky, but White has spares on the 11-, 6- and 5-points to move before his five prime gives way, which should be enough time to jump Blacks prime, if Black is lucky enough to make it. So I think the hit 13/8\* is far to risky so I reject that move. Black could play perfectly safely with 9/4 or 9/7 5/2 but I think Black needs to make a prime of his own if he is to contain any White checkers he is lucky enough to hit, so taking builders away from the five and bar points is not the way to go. The two should be played 9/7 starting the bar-point which leaves the three to be played 13/10 giving builders for both the bar and the five point, if White does hit it could improve Blacks timing and if he doesn't then the builders are in place to make the best possible board for later.

#### Mark Oram: 13/10 9/7

I was first tempted by 13/10 13/11, with a view to maximizing builders for our five point. I reasoned White would not necessarily want to hit us with his last man coming home, but leaving three direct blots might be too much for him to resist, particularly with a 11. So instead I play 13/10 9/7 for much the same reasons, except this time we do not duplicate a six to escape or cover, and leave him one fewer target (double shots are missed often enough). We also give us eights to

close our five point, and one further (related) point is that with 13/10 9/7 a subsequent 44, 55 or 66 all play reasonably well enough.

*Now for the singletons.*

#### Richard Biddle: 9/4.

This looks like it may be a few moves on from Position 70-03 which in turn looks like a continuation from Position 70-02. We are bit further into the back game and our timing is deteriorating. We have to decide whether we want to be hit again to improve our timing with moves like 13/8\* or 13/10 13/11. The danger here, of course, is that we may not be able to escape the White prime and end up with a crunched home board and the danger of a gammon and a lost match.

So perhaps we should avoid the hit and hope to throw a six soon so that we can escape the spare checker on the 22-point. This would mean playing safely with 9/7 5/2 or 9/4. We still have a back-game but we are also beginning to bring our checkers home to avoid the gammon. I prefer 9/4 as it does give us a cross over and allow us half a chance of making our 5-point later if we can manage any hits.

*According to later on, if making the 5-point is a consideration then this is the wrong play! Another lonely voice advocates a move that Richard discarded.*

#### Paul Statter: 9/7 5/2

Totally stumped when I first looked at this - couldn't even decide what the candidate moves are. So I thought, "How would I like the game to proceed?" I want Black to bring round his checkers and start crunching his board whilst I bring my spares round, strengthening my own board. So that rules out 13/8\*, which I didn't like anyway: four blots, I don't think I want to play a back game with up to nine back. I don't want another checker sent back, so I need to move the blot on the 9-point. So the candidates are 9/7 5/2 and 9/4. I can see that 9/4 will restrict my choices if I roll a 6 next turn; although I would probably want to play 22/16, I think I would like to keep my options open. Apart from this, I see no difference between the two moves. I'll leave Mike to tell me what I've missed!

*So Paul chooses Richard's reject and*

*Richard chooses Paul's! What a strangle kettle of fish this position has turned out to be. Our penultimate Lone Ranger has come up with good reasons to play Steve Hallett's risky 13/8\*.*

#### Rodney Lighton: 13/8\*

This looks like a continuation of 70-03. Although things don't seem to have gone as well as hoped, I still attack with 13/8\*. If Black can get the 5-point locked up and spring a back checker with a six the game still has reasonable winning chances. Here, being hit back may give Black the timing for a back game, although White's prime is probably too strong for this to be a good chance.

*So, is Rodney living in cloud cuckoo land? Well, according to the 'expert' he is! But, our next entrant does in fact have an advocate for his play in the guise of Snowie. The last two have the honour of having Snowie agree with their move.*

#### Bob Young: 13/10 13/11

Plan A, leave all checkers open on the board as blots, hoping that White hits one or more will give Black the chance to re-circulate and hit a blot later on. At present, all that is going to happen is that Black will be collapsing, as White can bring his remaining three checkers into the prime, any bad rolls being played behind the Black blockade. At present, Black has all his front men where he wants them, moving the checker from the 9-point all the way means that it can never be used to help provide a prime if White should ever be hit. Black cannot hope to send White back to the bar, and hold him there, while at the same time extricating five checkers behind a five point prime.

#### Jeff Barber: 13/10 13/11

Here Black is maximising his chances of making his own five point which would be crucial later if Black manages to hit. Black needs White to start dismantling his prime: so hitting the lone blot is not the required play.

#### Chris Bray/Snowie: 13/10 13/11

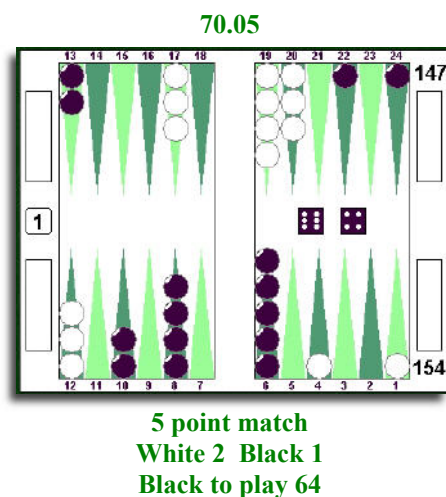
*Later the same game? Firstly trying to win going forward by hitting 13/8\* belongs in cloud cuckoo land - it just isn't going to happen often enough to make it a viable plan.*



The key thing here is purity. Black wants to make his 5-point so 9/4 is the wrong idea. He needs to position builders to make the 5-point, a point he must have to win the game when he gets his hit later on (thinking optimistically). If one of those builders gets hit, so be it. Black is playing a back game so whilst he doesn't necessarily want to be hit it's not the end of the world.

Having come up with a plan the two candidate plays are 13/10 13/11 and 13/11 9/6. My rollouts have the two plays as equal for all practical purposes. I'll vote for 13/10, 13/11 as being the more aesthetically pleasing! It may look risky but White is unlikely to hit more than one of the 3 blots – if he rolls 11 you know it's just not your day!

*Thanks to the last comment Bob and Jeff came out on top.*



*Two moves this time, both looking to anchor; the latter being the hitting and pointing play 10/4\* 8/4. But first let's see what the majority favour.*

#### Richard Biddle: 24/18 22/18

It is tempting to play 10/4\* 8/4 here but actually this may just lead to a blot hitting contest which we are likely to lose with the poorer spread of builders. Even if we do make our 4-point, White can attack our checker on the 22-point with any 2, 3, or 5 plus 64, 55, 33 hits our blot on the 10-point. If we make White's bar-point we immediately put a hole in White's developing prime.

With this as a foundation, we can then afford to be looser next time when looking for White hits and making valuable points in our home board. It will also add difficulty to White's task of bring his back checkers home.

#### Jeff Barber: 24/18 22/18

Make White's bar point is preferential to hitting and pointing on the 4-point. White has only 4 throws that keep him on the bar for the next throw whereas as Black making the White bar point makes many sixes awkward to play for the rest of the game.

#### Paul Statter: 24/18 22/18

Two candidates, 24/18,22/18 or 10/4\*,8/4. (I don't think anyone's suggesting 8/2,6/2 are they? Not a point we want to make this early in the game.) Attack or defence? White has already got his troops in place ready for a blitz. If we attack, we might delay the blitz for one move (or none if white comes in with a double), but if we make our opponent's bar point we side-step white's attack.

#### Bob Young: 24/18 22/18.

Do what is harder first, how many times have we read that? Now you've read it again...., Well, only two rolls make the bar point, and safety the blots, whereas eleven rolls point on the 4-point, so no contest. This stifles any hope that White may have had of blitzing or priming Black.

#### Rodney Lighton: 24/18 22/18.

A difficult problem, attack with 10/4\* 8/4 or defend with 24/18 22/18. Normally in this sort of position I would attack, but here several factors point to defending: White's stronger board and useful spares; Black will be hitting with the wrong checkers, leaving a bad stack on the 6-point and a blot on the 10-point.

*So, all the above prefer to avoid a possible blot-hitting contest and therefore reject 10/4\* 8/4. Here's a couple that haven't done that.*

#### Steve Hallett: 10/4\* 8/4

Race more or less even but White has better board and better distribution of builders than Black. Possible plays, 24/18 22/18, 10/4\* 8/4, or 8/2 6/2 8/2 6/2 can be discarded even though it makes a point and unstacks the heavy 8- & 6-points, its too deep and leaves the checkers in Whites home board liable to attack. So it's a choice between safety or attack. 24/18 22/18 looks nice and safeties all of Black's blots but with the stacks of checkers on the 8- & 6-points as the only spares unless Black rolls exceptionally well he'll be leaving blots around when White has built a better board. Because of the distribution of Black's checkers he has to attack with 10/4\* 8/4 equalising board strengths and putting White on the bar

and hope to survive by keeping White off balance.

*Never one to miss an opportunity, Steve attacks.*

#### Mark Oram: 10/4\* 8/4

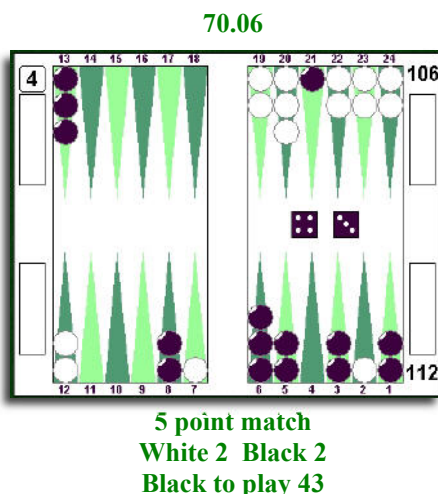
This seems a straightforward choice between two moves: anchor up with 24/18 22/18 or play aggressively on our side of the board with a hitting/pointing move. Nothing else reasonable seems apparent: 24/14 has very few benefits (maybe duplicating a White two which he would use to close his three point: somehow this does not seem enough!) and if anyone can make a *convincing* case for 8/2 6/2 I'd love to read it. So do we anchor or hit? Anchoring is safe but gives White several numbers to anchor himself and equalize. By hitting we only give White one killer number (55); in addition we stop him making a further inner board point for at least one move (barring doubles), giving us another chance to anchor next move.

*Well, what point did you make? Our resident 'expert' comes in with the majority.*

#### Chris Bray/Snowie: 24/18 22/18

A very easy one. Ahead in the race after the roll and with the opportunity to stifle any white attack indefinitely 24/18, 22/18 is clearly correct. 10/4\*, 8/4 looks good but follows the wrong plan.

There is an old adage in backgammon that says when given the choice make the point that is more difficult to make. Those points are normally in your opponent's home board because you have only two men to play with. Here Black will have many chances to make points in his home board – he may never get another chance to make the opponent's bar-point. QED – 24/18, 22/18 is the play, anything else is a massive blunder.



*Well, after an easy start I seem to have come home with a winner. Snowie says this is the most difficult one, and, judging by the split he appears correct; we have four camps - three pairs and a loner. Starting off with the first two that agree.*

**Paul Statter: 8/5 6/2\***

It's DMP so no fear of gammons. Do we hit or not? If we don't, we hand over the initiative. Even if we get hit back, unless White rolls 21, we have a chance of anchoring on the 4-point. So 6/2 is a must, what about the 3? 21/18, 13/10 or 8/5? 8/5 creates another builder, hoping to make the 2-pt, but leaves another blot if we are hit. 13/10 leaves another blot without the compensation of another builder, although it does give us another piece attacking the blot on our 7-point. 21/18 means 62 rather than 21 is now a joker, but if we are hit on our 2-point we can no longer anchor in White's home board. I think this rules out 21/18. Is having a third checker sent back really that serious? The important thing if we are hit is to anchor, a third man back won't affect the chances of anchoring. I'll take the extra builder and play 8/5.

**Steve Hallett: 8/5 6/2\***

Last and to me most difficult. Black is slightly behind in race after this roll but not enough to affect play. White has a stronger board and Black has to leave at least one blot after any play. Because of this I would discard 13/6. So now we have to decide whether to run (without hitting) from the 21-point or not.

If we run which is the best 21/14 or 21/17 6/3? 21/14 appears best only leaving 13 shots compared to 21/17 6/3 leaving 17 shots; it also leaves the spare checker in a better place on the 6-point. The cube is dead so we don't have to worry about gammons etc just try to win the match and the way to win I think is to hit White's blot on the 2-point with a four from the 6-point; and we are left with four possible plays of the three 21/18, 13/10, 8/5 & 5/2.

If White dances then 8/5 is best giving more covering numbers (27) for the 2-point but leaves Black exposed to 14 rolls that hit at least one checker. 6/2\* 5/2 reduces the covering numbers to 17 and exposure to hits also reducing to 13 rolls. 21/18 has covering numbers (18) and exposure to hits (13). 13/10 has covering numbers (20) and exposure to hits (17). Because we are playing for the match I think the checker on the 21-point should remain there giving us the chance of an anchor if we are hit; so reject 21/18.

13/10 almost increases the chance of being hit to 50/50 which is too much risk so reject 13/10. Even though 6/2\* 5/2 has one less hitting roll the reduction in covering numbers from 27 to 17 is too big a price to pay so reject 6/2\* 5/2. Which leaves 8/5 6/4\* as the play of choice. Sorry this has been long winded but I couldn't work it out any other way.

*Long winded? This is nothing compared to Bob's usual offerings! Our next two favour hitting and pointing on the 2-point*

**Richard Biddle: 6/2\* 5/2.**

If we run with our back checker to the 14-point we leave ourselves open to 13 shots, one pip ahead, White can use all of his roll next time and no guarantee that our next roll will not force us to leave a blot.

If we hit 6/2\* and run with 21/18, we put White on the bar with 20 rolls that re-enter, of which 10 rolls hit us once, 3 hit twice.

If we hit 6/2\* 5/2, we put White on the bar with 20 rolls that re-enter, of which, 11 rolls hit once, two hit twice. If we are not hit 19 rolls cover the blot on the 5-point or make the 4-point and many more allow us to safety the blot in our home board.

There are other moves, but I am convinced we need to hit to remove half of White's roll and to give ourselves the 4/9 possibility that White dances.

*I like the logic and agree with this move. Also agreeing is our next one, Bob.*

**Bob Young: 6/2\* 5/2.**

The cube is dead, and this is almost a last roll situation, get this right and the game and match is up for grabs. Black cannot play this position without leaving a direct shot, so it's a case of sitting and working out the minimum shots next roll. Running the rear checker leaves thirteen or seventeen shots, dependant on where it stops. One all the way from the mid point leaves sixteen shots at the rear checker. Hitting 6/2 leaves eleven direct shots from the bar, and coupled with 21/18 offers eighteen in all. When coupled with 8/5 offers fifteen shots, and coupled with 13/10 offers seventeen shots. However, and this is where the value of these puzzles comes in, because I am sure I would never have looked at this option in a match with time restraints, when coupled with 5/2 also offers thirteen shots (some duplication of ones). So, running or hit-

ting will leave thirteen shots. However, running only makes the race close, whilst hitting and White dancing will almost guarantee a win for Black. So hit is my choice, which is often made reference to in articles, when in doubt, the aggressive play is usually correct, and I see no exception in this case.

*When in doubt, hit! Not a bad maxim, but is it a point winner in the Competition? Our next two disagree with both the previous choices and set their store by a different one.*

**Mark Oram: 21/14**

By staying back we make White's aces very effective, so running seems a must. The only question then becomes where to leave our straggler, given we cannot bring him to safety. I did think for a while of 21/17 6/3, on the grounds we duplicate White's fives and remain with only one man exposed. However, if missed we still need a specific number (4) to escape, whereas on the 14-point we have ones and sixes to bring him safe. If hit White will likely lose his mid-point in doing so, and the hitter would still be out of direct range of his open four-point – and this not the case if we are hit on our 17-point. We don't want to have a builder in direct range of Whites four point, despite the loss of the return hit, as we don't want to raise White's chances of closing us out altogether if he does hit us. Finally, we may rue the day we lost the spare on our six point, if we need to use that man to close our four point in the future.

**Rodney Lighton: 21/14.**

One alternative is to hit loose on the 2-point, but White's 5 point board makes that look wrong. Black could play 13/6 safely here, leaving the blot on the 21-point exposed to fewer shots. However, the back checker would still have to be got safe some time and Black's position would be somewhat inflexible. I think that it is right to run out now; if hit Black will lose most of the time, but if the blot survives, Black's chances are very good.

*Good, sound reasoning from these two but to no avail despite the rollout!. Evidently pointing on the 2-point is the way to go . . according to Snowie, that is. But what about the loner? Well, Jeff has found another move!*

**Jeff Barber: 13/6**

With White's threatening home board Black should play safe hoping to get another shot at White later on.

Short and sweet but off the mark, unfortunately.

### Chris Bray/Snowie: 6/2\* 5/2

Saving the most difficult position for last. The most important things are the match score and the value of the cube. Effectively this game will be played cubeless with gammons not counting and therefore we need to find the play that wins the highest percentage of games.

For money one of the hitting plays would be correct because of the high gammon possibility and 6/2\*, 5/2 is the best play by a long way.

In the actual position we have the option of playing with one blot by playing 21/14 and trying to run for home or still going for the attack with 6/2\*, 5/2 and then potentially closing White out.

Over the board this would be a very difficult choice and it would be virtually impossible to calculate your winning chances in either variation. My rollouts have the two plays at virtually a dead-heat.

Because 6/2\*, 5/2 gives a clear and quick path to victory when it works I would go with this rather than 21/14. Also, in the variations after 6/2\*, 5/2 where White hits the blot on the Black's 5-point Black

| Fax | Month | Questions | Answers |
|-----|-------|-----------|---------|
| 72  | Sep   | 7201-06   | 7001-06 |
| 74  | Jan   | 7401-06   | 7201-06 |
| 76  | May   | 7601-06   | 7401-06 |
| 78  | Sep   | 7801-06   | 7601-06 |

| Name              | Scores | Tots |
|-------------------|--------|------|
| Snowie            | 54 60  | 114  |
| Bob Young         | 53 58  | 111  |
| Richard Biddle    | 56 54  | 110  |
| Rodney Lighton    | 57 52  | 109  |
| Jeff Barber       | 55 53  | 108  |
| Mark Oram         | 47 54  | 101  |
| Steve Hallett     | 45 43  | 88   |
| Paul Statter      | 38 50  | 88   |
| Richard Granville | 60 0   | 60   |
| Peter Bennet      | 50 0   | 50   |

| No.  | move        | score |
|------|-------------|-------|
| 7001 | 23/15       | 10    |
|      | 23/21 8/2   | 7     |
| 7002 | 24/18 23/21 | 10    |
| 7003 | 24/23 24/22 | 10    |
|      | 6/4 6/5*    | 8     |
|      | 6/4 24/23   | 7     |
|      | 6/4 23/22   | 7     |
| 7004 | 13/10 13/11 | 10    |
|      | 13/10 9/7   | 9     |
|      | 9/4         | 7     |
|      | 13/8*       | 5     |
|      | 9/7 5/2     | 5     |
| 7005 | 24/18 22/18 | 10    |
|      | 10/4* 8/4   | 6     |
| 7006 | 6/2* 5/2    | 10    |
|      | 21/14       | 9     |
|      | 8/5 6/2*    | 8     |
|      | 13/6        | 6     |

has an opportunity to anchor on White's 4-point, providing some additional long-term equity.

Well, Chris Bray (aided by Snowie rollouts) comes out on top with a perfect score; but because he uses the bot, Chris can't be the 'official' numero uno; that place goes to Bob Young with a creditable 58 this time around. Bob is the winner of the half price Saturday accommoda-

tion for Competition No2. Bob is also the official leader over the competition as a whole with a 1 point lead over Richard Biddle; who in turn is just 1 point ahead of Rodney. So, it looks as if it'll all hinge on the 3rd and last Competition which can be seen on page 41. Good luck, everyone.

| name           | 7001      | 7002        | 7003        | 7004        | 7005        | 7006     | Tots |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|------|
| Snowie         | 23/15     | 24/18 23/21 | 24/22 24/23 | 13/10 13/11 | 24/18 22/18 | 6/2* 5/2 | 60   |
| Bob Young      | 23/15     | 24/18 23/21 | 6/4 6/5*    | 13/10 13/11 | 24/18 22/18 | 6/2* 5/2 | 58   |
| Mark Oram      | 23/15     | 24/18 23/21 | 24/23 24/22 | 13/10 9/7   | 10/4* 8/4   | 21/14    | 54   |
| Richard Biddle | 23/15     | 24/18 23/21 | 6/4 24/23   | 9/4         | 24/18 22/18 | 6/2* 5/2 | 54   |
| Jeff Barber    | 23/15     | 24/18 23/21 | 6/4 23/22   | 13/10 13/11 | 24/18 22/18 | 13/6     | 53   |
| Rodney Lighton | 23/15     | 24/18 23/21 | 6/4 6/5*    | 13/8*       | 24/18 22/18 | 21/14    | 52   |
| Paul Statter   | 23/21 8/2 | 24/18 23/21 | 24/23 24/22 | 9/7 5/2     | 24/18 22/18 | 8/5 6/2* | 50   |
| Steve Hallett  | 23/15     | 24/18 23/21 | 24/23 24/22 | 13/10 9/7   | 10/4* 8/4   | 8/5 6/2* | 43   |

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## Local clubs

Anyone requiring a fuller list can see one on the Biba web site or via the mail from Biba HQ. If your club isn't on this list then send me the details (*see right*) either via Biba HQ or you can email information in the order below, to: [clubs@backgammon-biba.co.uk](mailto:clubs@backgammon-biba.co.uk)

**Birmingham** - Dave Motley - 0121 476 4099 - [davemotley@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:davemotley@blueyonder.co.uk) - Monday.

**Brighton** - <http://eiloart.com/bbc/> - Tuesday 8pm until closing.

**Bristol** - Ian Tarr 0117-9756349 [brismagmon@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:brismagmon@blueyonder.co.uk) 2nd Thursday of the month.

**Dublin** - Brendan Burgess - 603 0891 - [wildlife@indigo.ie](mailto:wildlife@indigo.ie) - 2nd Monday of every month.

**Eastbourne & Bexhill** - John Thomas - 01424 219415 - [Jtprincesgaragelimited@btinternet.com](mailto:Jtprincesgaragelimited@btinternet.com) - Mondays 19.30.

**Halifax/West Yorkshire** - Rachel Rhodes - 07961 355433 - [dicewitch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dicewitch@yahoo.co.uk) - Sporadic.

**Herne Bay/Broomfield** - Bob Bruce - 01227 362181 or mobile 07754 549 576 - Monday.

**Huddersfield** - Rachel Rhodes - 07961 355433 - [dicewitch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dicewitch@yahoo.co.uk) - Tuesdays

**Lincoln** - Michael Crane - 01522 829649 - [michael.a.crane@ntlworld.com](mailto:michael.a.crane@ntlworld.com) - Every Tuesday.

**Liverpool** - John Wright - 0151 280 0075 - [jpwright@cableinet.co.uk](mailto:jpwright@cableinet.co.uk) - Last Friday of each month

**London** - Fox Reformed - Robbie (020) 7254 5975 - [robbie.richards@fox-reformed.co.uk](mailto:robbie.richards@fox-reformed.co.uk) - Mondays

**London** - Ealing -Grahame / Geoff - 020 8 968 6327 - [Ealingbackgammon@netscape.net](mailto:Ealingbackgammon@netscape.net) - Every Sunday 3.00pm.

**Manchester** - Rodney Lighton - 0161 445 5644 [lighton@btinternet.com](mailto:lighton@btinternet.com) - 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month.

**Nottingham** - Conrad Cooper - 0115 9113281 - [conrad\\_cooper@excite.com](mailto:conrad_cooper@excite.com) - Monday, 9.00 pm.

**Perth** - Steve Wallace - [perth\\_gammon@hotmail.com](mailto:perth_gammon@hotmail.com) - 01738 552735 - Sundays, 7.00pm

**Preston** - David Wallbank - [d.wallbank@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:d.wallbank@blueyonder.co.uk) - Last Tues of every month.

**Reading** - Kevin Carter - [kevin@profundus.com](mailto:kevin@profundus.com) - 0118-971 2948 - Alternate Wednesdays.

**St. Albans** - Richard Biddle - [chelseamuffin@aol.com](mailto:chelseamuffin@aol.com) - Every Tuesday 19.45 - 01442 885246

**Tunbridge Wells** - Liz Park - email:[LizP@parksconsulting.com](mailto:LizP@parksconsulting.com) - Every Tuesday.

**York** - Leo Waters is hoping to start a club in York. Contact him on [watersleo@hotmail.com](mailto:watersleo@hotmail.com).

- 1 Club Name
- 2 Venue
- 3 Address/location
- 4 Club contact
- 5 Club web page
- 6 Club nights
- 7 Club format and activities
- 8 Club fees or cost to join/play
- 9 Accepted playing standard
- 10 Can beginners/guests play
- 11 Comments

## Forthcoming Events

### Sandy Osborne Trophy. 9/10 Oct

Yet again another knockout format including all the good stuff you've come to expect.

### 12th Irish Open. October 30/31

A very popular tournament with lots of Biba members. Not only is it an opportunity to become the Irish Champion but also you can top up those much wanted *Grand Prix* points. *Grand Prix* points will be awarded in the Main (starting on the Sunday) and, if records are available, the Consolation too.

### Townharbour Trophy. November 6/7

This is the last of the Swiss formats and also the last of this year's chances to increase your ranking score and *Grand Prix* points. So, don't delay, book today!

### UK Finals. December 4/5

Fancy a last chance to become a National title holder? Then get yourself booked in here. The format is: Saturday, Main Qualifier: Entrants will play 2 x 7pt matches of Swiss Format. All players that win 0/2 will go into the Sunday Consolation. All players that win 1/2 will go into a 5pt Knockout to playoff for 4 players. All players that win 2/2 will go into a 7pt Knockout to playoff for 4 players. The 8 from the Saturday Knockouts will play

against the 8 Pre-Qualifiers from the UK tournaments. The Pre -Qualifiers are to date: Mark Heidenfeld, Stuart Mann, Rachel Rhodes, Mike Greenleaf, Tony Lee (double entry). The remaining two will come from the Irish Open and the Townharbour Trophy.

### Bright 'n' Breezy. January ??

At the time of publishing the dates and deals for this event hadn't been decided. More details in the November issue.

Did you know that this issue of Bibafax is available on a CD, and that if you prefer it to the paper version it is completely free? Not only is this issue on the CD but all of the 2004 issues to date are also on it! And it gets better. Also included are JellyFish and Snowie match files of all the matches featured in each issue - and you can open them even if you don't have JellyFish or Snowie using Acrobat Reader . . . and that's on the CD too. Oh, and don't forget, it is all in fantastic full colour. Mmmm, nice!

If you'd like have the CD but wanna keep the paper version then it'll set you back just £6 to take you to the end of the year. What a bargain! Cheaper than chips!



## 2004/5 Details, Deals and Dates



**Registration: Saturday 1030 to 1230**

**Play Starts: Friday 2130, Saturday 1300, Sunday 1030**

**Auctions: Group, Saturday 1245, Individual, Sunday 1015**

**Pools: Private, members only prize pools available at £25, £10 & £5**

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

**All tournaments feature a Friday night Warm-up and Super Jackpot (8 players, £250 entry fee) with £2000 1st prize, Saturday night Doubles Knockout and Jackpots on demand.**

### **FRIDAY**

**\*Warm-up Knockout & Super Jackpot**

### **SATURDAY**

**Registration 1030 / 1230**

### **SUNDAY**

**Play resumes 1030  
(penalty points apply)**

**Registration Fees: Members only: £16 (you can join on the day)**

**Entrants not residing at the hotel, £10 extra to cover facilities**

**(all fees and surcharges to be paid on the day - prepayment not required)**

**Contact Central Reservations: 08457 444 123 and quote 'backgammon'**

**Hanover accommodation costs 2004 & 2005:**

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast, standard room, single occupancy

Saturday: **2004**, £55 per person. **2005** £57 per person

Friday & Saturday: **2004**, £100 per person. **2005** £104 per person

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast, standard room, double occupancy

Saturday: **2004**, £55 per person. **2005** £47 per person

Friday & Saturday: **2004**, £100 per person. **2005** £94 per person

*Members can be upgraded to deluxe rooms for just £20 per night upon arrival at the hotel.*

***Backgammon tournament weekends cannot be booked through any other special offer or promotional rate. Players not on the Biba special rate or not staying in the hotel shall pay a surcharge of £10 to cover facilities provided.***

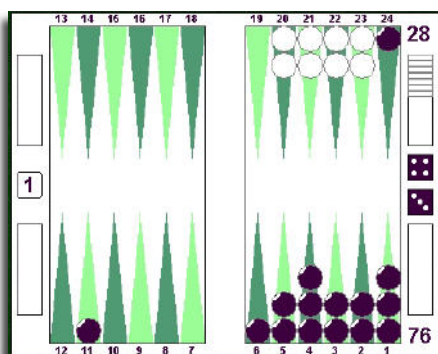
| Date        | Tournament               |    |    | Venue      | Type        |
|-------------|--------------------------|----|----|------------|-------------|
| Oct 09-10   | Sandy Osborne Memorial   | GP | .  | Daventry   | Knockout    |
| Oct 30-31   | 12th Irish Open          | GP | UK | Dublin     | Combination |
| Nov 06-07   | Townharbour Trophy       | GP | UK | Hinckley   | Swiss       |
| Dec 04-05   | UK Finals                |    | .  | Hinckley   | Double KO   |
| <b>2005</b> |                          |    |    |            |             |
| Jan ??      | Bright 'n' Breezy        | GP | UK | Brighton   | Knockout    |
| Feb 05-06   | Jarvis Trophy            | GP | UK | Hinckley   | Swiss       |
| Mar 05-06   | Slattery Scottish Open   | GP | UK | Hinckley   | Knockout    |
| Apr 02-03   | At-A-Glance British Open | GP | UK | Hinckley   | Knockout    |
| May 07-08   | County Cups Trophy       | GP | UK | Hinckley   | Swiss       |
| Jun 04-05   | Hilton Trophy            | GP | .  | Daventry   | Knockout    |
| Jul 02-03   | Keren Di Bona Memorial   | GP | .  | Daventry   | Knockout    |
| Jul ??      | Liverpool Open           | GP | .  | Liverpool  | Combination |
| Aug 06-07   | SAC Trophy               | GP | UK | Hinckley   | Swiss       |
| Aug ??      | Mind Sports Olympiad     | GP | .  | Manchester | Swiss       |
| Sep 03-04   | tba                      | GP | .  | Hinckley   | Knockout    |
| Oct 08-09   | Sandy Osborne Memorial   | GP | .  | Daventry   | Knockout    |
| Oct ??      | 13th Irish Open          | GP | UK | Dublin     | Knockout    |
| Nov 05-06   | Townharbour Trophy       | GP | UK | Hinckley   | Swiss       |
| Dec 03-04   | UK Finals                |    | .  | Hinckley   | Double KO   |

## VENICE

Slatts, my brother John and myself arrived in Venice early Thursday morning. We were the only Brits there on Thursday. Slatts and John had been up all night playing Backgammon and had no sleep, consequently Slatts was nodding off at every opportunity. Fortunately the hotel (which was in the back of beyond) allowed us to have our rooms early and we all crashed out. The hotel turned out to be miles away from the playing room at Venice Casino and the first taxi ride cost us 45 euros (£30) which we found out later should only have been around £20! We weren't too impressed! There was nothing exciting to report about the opening night except for Slatts winning his quarter-entry, 11-2, 11-2 (2nd attempt though!)

On Friday, we all (yes Slatts got up early!) went into Venice to sight see. The weather was glorious and we walked around the narrow lanes and across the little bridges heading for St Marks Square we never actually made it there as we ran out of time! Simonetta and Roland arrived Friday evening making the number of Brits up to five. Slatts was one of only 8 players in the championship division that didn't get a bye. He won his first match quite convincingly but then fell to one of the BG Giants Bob Glass (USA).

I was doing okay in the Intermediates first round until I found myself in this position at 8-9 down to 11 points, playing as black:



**11 Point match  
Black 8 White 9**

According to Snowie I was 70% favourite not to get gammoned. The dice gods decided differently. The rolls were 4-4/ 3-1/ 2-2. Goodnight! Simonetta, Roland and John all qualified for the Consolation Amateurs.

On Saturday Slatts started off very well by beating Shahab Ghodsi, 11-10 after being behind 3-7 at one point. He then

## Rosey - The Roving Reporter

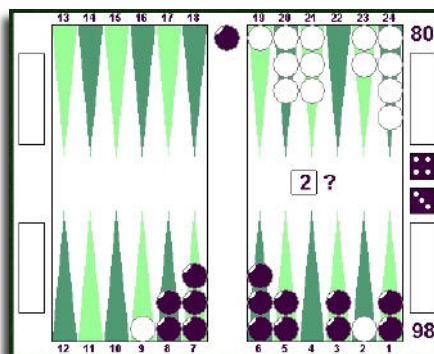
Follow the backgammon exploits of our intrepid reporter as she rolls her way around the world - ably supported by Slatts and a bunch of Brits!



**11 point match  
Black 9 White 10**

beat Tobias Hellwag 11-0. In one of the games Toby had Slatts on the bar whilst holding his 2 point to 7 point. Slatts managed to come in on the 1 point. Toby decided he wanted to pick up a loose checker in Slatts home board so hit him on the 1 from his 7 point. Slatts came in with 1-6 to the delight of the crowd!

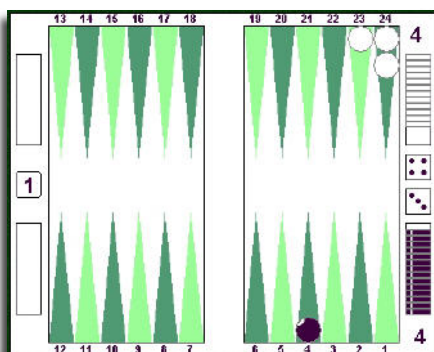
In the Quarter Finals the opponent was Hans Koch ( One of the best players going back 25yrs!) At 8-9 the position looked like this when Slatts (black) offered the cube:



**11 Point match  
Black 8 White 9  
Black cube action?**

Hans thought about it for a long time but decided to drop, score now 9-9. In the next game Hans got into a position where Slatts had no choice but to drop, score now 9-10. The bear off in the Crawford game was exciting and the position got to the position at the top of the next column.

Hans thought about it for a long time but decided to drop, score now 9-9. In the next game Hans got into a position where Slatts had no choice but to drop, score now 9-10. The bear off in the Crawford game was exciting and the position got to:



Yes, you guessed it, Hans rolled the double to win!

Both John and Roland reached the semi-finals of the Amateur Consolation. Sadly, John lost his. Roland's game was deferred until Sunday.

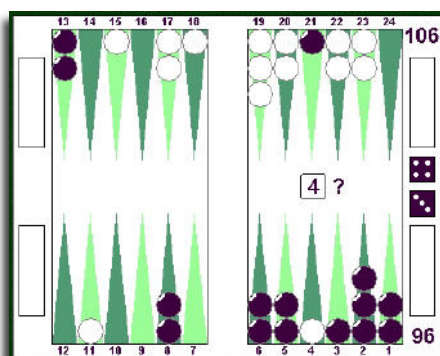
It was good news for the 3 Danes. Lars Trabolt and Mogens Knudsen who are best friends met each other in the Championship Final. Lars Bonding was in the final of the Super Jackpot.

Lars B is holding, what looks to have all the makings of an excellent tournament in Scandinavia, October 14-17th 2004. The event is held in Munkebjerg with 14000 euros added. There is also going to be Poker each night in the casino. Room rate includes breakfast and 3 course dinner and at 145 euros for 2 people sharing and 125 euros for single, seems very good value. Lars has included a Gala Dinner on the Sunday Evening. Simonetta is doing a star turn, playing her Cello and Roland will accompany her on the keyboard or hopefully play a duet on the violin. It would be fun to have Brits there to cheer them on so if you are interested go to: [www.scandinavianchallenge.com](http://www.scandinavianchallenge.com) for more information.

Back to Sunday! For those of us that qualified for the last chance, it was the last chance for us Brits! Roland got off to a scary 0-6 start in his Consolation final but prevailed and won! John G was also pleased to win his first trophy at his first International, for being a Consolation Semi-finalist.

In the Championship Final, Lars was 8-0 down when Mogens (black) offered a 4 cube in the position on the following page.





**19 Point match**  
**Black 8 White 0**  
**Black cube Action?**

## The 2004 World Championships ... well, at least a little bit of it!

I only arrived at the Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo on Friday and assumed that someone else was probably doing a report and that I would just put my feet up and enjoy watching the games. There must be something inside me however, that means I can't resist writing down a few interesting positions or stories.

On my arrival I met up with my brother John and we went to the Café de Paris for coffee and bumped into Wayne Felton. I got up-to-date with all of the hard luck stories as to why no Brits were still in the Main tourney, and as always, there were lots of those! Dod and Paul G had done well to get through to the play on Thursday but had now qualified for the Second Consolation.

Most of the Brits were staying at The Miramar Hotel at Cap D'Ail, which has been a long time favourite place to stay. A mini-tournament had taken place on the beach there on Wednesday. It boasted 21 players, including some Norwegians, and was won by Roland Herrera. He wasn't actually playing in the World Championship so was pleased to have got some backgammon action.

So who made up the British contingent this year? Well, I shall apologise in advance for leaving names off but I can remember seeing the following players huddled over their backgammon boards with pained expressions on their faces!! In no particular order :-

John Slattery, Paul and John Gilbertson, Myke Wignall, Peter Bennet, Dod Davies, Jo Curl, Roland Herrera, Simonetta Barone, Rachel Rhodes, Jane Oxley, Laurence Powell, Ernie Pick (who was playing at his first Monte Carlo tourney; and enjoyed it so much he says he will defi-

nitely be back!), Mike Butterfield, Will Richardson, Wayne Felton, Kevin Stebbings, Geoff Conn, Alex Naylor, Cynthia and her partner from Bristol, Justin Silver (from the RAC Club), Ash, Mark Telscher, James Vogel (for the first few days only and then he went off to play Poker!). I am sure there were more than this but old age is setting in and I can't remember there names! Like me Vicki only made it for part of the week so didn't play.

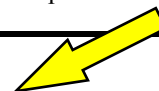
After taking a long time to consider the cube he eventually dropped to go 10-0 down. Time for a break! Things didn't get much better and he went 12-0 down. Then the excitement started. Game by game Lars pulled back the points. The crowd waited with bated breath when at 16-17 to 19 Mogens offered the cube. Lars took and re-cubed. What had looked like a sure winning position for Mogens turned into a tense even game. Lars rolled well and with 3 pieces left to Mogens 2, the crowd waited in anticipation for Lars last roll. Unfortunately for him, but to the delight of Mogens (who won in Venice

two years ago) the double eluded him.

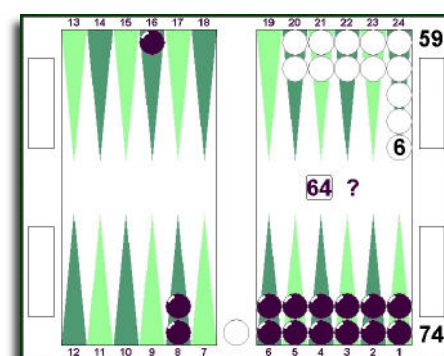
At the prize giving Dario apologised for the venue and hotel arrangements and promised that next year the tournament will be back nearer the centre of Venice.

For us it will probably depend on when BIBA is!

My next report (below) is from the World Championships in Monte Carlo.



est, would you take in this position?



**Money Game**  
**Geoff (b) cube action?**

Well. Kevin thought very logically about it. He gave me an insight into what he had been thinking before realising his logic was wrong! "I must assess this cube decision properly and ignore that it is for a lot of money. If he has 5 fewer men than me off then it's a double, and then if I have a fast bearoff it's a take. But he has no fewer men than me off, so it's not even a double!"

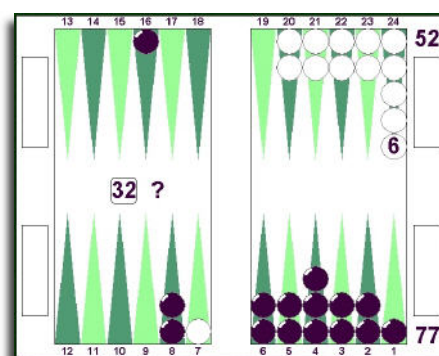
Kevin takes.

G: "You've taken!"

K: "Yes, it's a take." It was at that point that he realised he had made an appalling blunder! His thoughts again - "I'll have to go to the bank tomorrow to get the money. This is going to be really embarrassing!"

Geoff thought all his Christmases had come at once! He was over the moon if not a bit surprised at Kevin's decision. It wasn't long after this euphoria that Geoff saw the magician at work. As soon as Geoff had cleared his 6-point out popped a double 6 from Kevin! He continued to roll well in the bearoff and ended up with 3 men left against Geoff's 2. Yes, he rolled a double 3. Geoff drops his dice cup onto the board. Poor Geoff was

If I was prone to sub-headings this story would have to be entitled "Was Conn conned by the magician?"! Geoff Conn and Kevin Stebbings were playing money games, at 10 euros a point, when after being fairly even on the points, one in one particular game every move seemed to become a double-take decision. Geoff has a double-shot and re-doubles to 16. Kevin takes. Geoff misses leaving this position:



**Money Game**  
**Kevin (w) cube action?**

Kevin says, "this game's getting expensive but I have to double." Geoff takes the 32 cube. Kevin then throws 62 and moves 18/10. His thoughts were that it would be much worse to leave the blot further back. Geoff was delighted when he rolled a joker double one that did everything - hit Kevin, and closed his board. Geoff didn't hesitate and shipped Kevin the cube which had written on it "Monte Carlo" but Geoff made sure there was no mistaking it was a 64 cube. Now be hon-



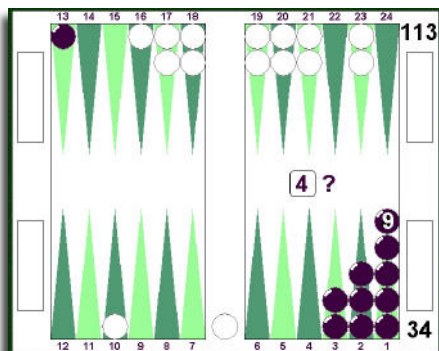
stunned, and in his own words "gutted", although what came out of his mouth was "oh s - - - !".

He went round in a daze for at least 2 days telling everyone his hard luck story. Us Brits all felt for him. It probably didn't help though when one bright spark decided to tell Geoff how Kevin had been teaching them how to roll double-6 on demand!!! I am sure Geoff and Kevin are best of friends again now although I must admit when I asked Geoff if he wanted to form a team with me and Kevin, he did reply "no thanks, Kevin takes silly cubes!!"

My only other story is the one about the Team event and the success of the Mad Hatters. Slatts, Peter Bennet and Paul Gilbertson all dressed up in Slatts' hats and sequined waistcoats to play together. They had to endure quite a few photo calls before they actually sat down to play! They really did look the part and if there had been a prize for the best-dressed team I am sure they would have won!

Their first match was against 3 American Ladies. I have got to admit I was quite disappointed when I went over to check on progress and found them down in all 3 matches, 4-0 / 4-0 / 2-0! The matches were only to 5 points so I didn't give them much hope of getting past the first round. To my surprise and theirs I think, they actually prevailed and won all 3 matches!

They continued to do well until the Quarter Finals when the team had won one, lost one and Slatts had a particularly tough match against one of the members of a Dutch team. He managed to save a gammon to stay in the match and went on to win when a double was required on the last roll! In the semi-final they played an experienced French team. This time it was Peter that was under the spotlight. He was 2-0 up when he got to this position.



**5 point match**  
**French (w) 0 Brits (b) 2**  
**Brits cube action?**



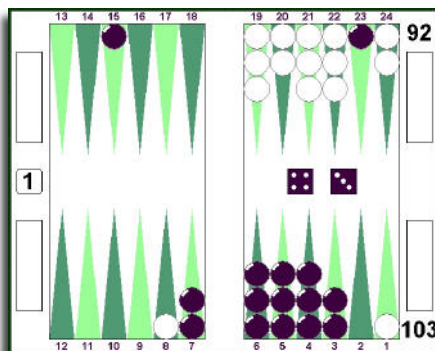
**Peter, Paul and Slatts**

He thought about it for a long time and then threw the 4-cube across. His team members were not convinced this was the right play!

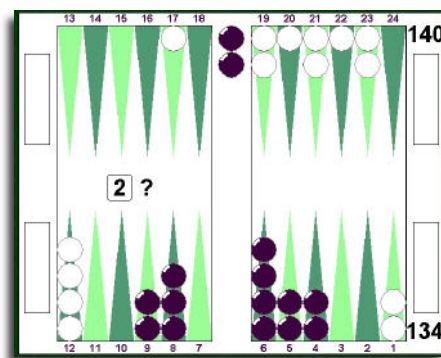
However, as Peter said afterwards he felt certain the French player would drop, in which case it was an excellent cube. His opponent thought long and hard about his decision, but did eventually drop. Peter went on to win the match and the Mad Hatters were in the final! When I had said to Slatts that I was flying out to Monte Carlo to watch him in the final, I had said it tongue in cheek. I am glad he didn't let me down though!

Unfortunately, the team final was over a bit too quickly and the Mad Hatters had to content themselves with Runner-Up trophies and Fortis watches. I don't think they minded too much as they were extremely pleased at doing so well at such a prestigious event.

Here's a couple of positions that cropped up during their games.

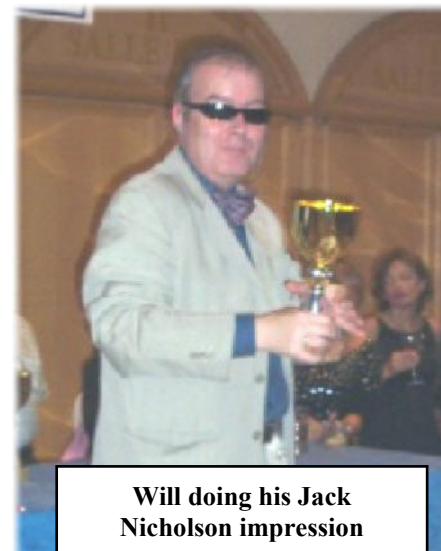


**5 point match**  
**Dutch (w) 3 Brits (b) 0**  
**Brits roll 43**



**5 point match**  
**White 2 Black 3**  
**White cube action?**

Apart from the team winning, Will Richardson did extremely well and took home the trophy for winning the Intermediate Consolation. Justin Silver was a semi-finalist in the Beginners Main and Alex Naylor won a trophy for being a semi-finalist in the Beginners Consolation. Well done the Brits!



**Will doing his Jack Nicholson impression**



Peter Hallberg of Denmark defeated Robert Wachtel of the USA to become the 2004 World Champion of Backgammon! When he collected his trophy he said that he hadn't actually come to play in the tournament originally! He was obviously delighted that he had though and was certainly the happiest player around that night.

### Finally . . .

Slatts got a lot of strange looks when asked if he was going to Cannes to try for a share in the added prize money. His reply was "No, I am going back to the UK to play in the Liverpool Open!" He probably did elaborate and let them know that he won the title in 2000 and 2002 and wanted to reclaim it in 2004 after only winning the Consolation last year!!!

MC: Go to the Liverpool Open on page xx to see how Slatts fared. Peter Bennet was the unfortunate victim of a theft in Monte. For full details of this and more on the World Championship see [www.gammonvillage.com](http://www.gammonvillage.com).

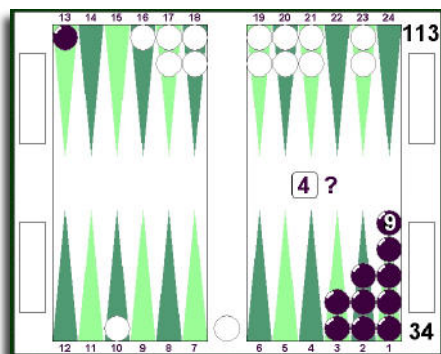
Martin de Bruin (right) was surprised to be called up on stage to win the Fidelity trophy



How does one stop a steamroller career-ing down a hill out of control with all pistons flying? Well, one thing you don't do is get in its way - you will get hurt! For steamroller substitute John Slattery - and for hill substitute the **Main** (16) in the Liverpool Open; for John's progress within the tournament can be likened to a steamroller crushing all in its path leaving broken backgammon players reeling and wondering what the hell hit them!

Fak Laight and Ron Havenhand were early victims, then came John Wright (Liverpool's last hope) who could only manage to take 2 points off John as he bouldered into the Final. Here, waiting for him was Martin Barkwill; all fired up and rearing to go after despatching Connor Dickinson, Nigel Hamill and Tim Mooring.

But, Martin had forgotten to pack his big spanner to throw into John's works and it soon became very one-sided; John 9, Martin 2. It was at this score that this position came up (I can't remember exactly where John's checkers were, but this is close enough). Martin is playing black.



11 point match  
Black to play 52

## Liverpool Open Report by Michael Crane

Quite correctly Martin played 6/1 6/4. John then rolled double-six and went on to win the bearoff and the match . . . for the third time! Well played that man; and hard luck Martin - but you didn't stand a chance against The Steamroller!



No wonder Martin lost, he's been playing with his eyes closed!

In the **Consolation** (32) it looked as if a local man would emerge the victor from the Final. Simon K Jones sat down facing Steve Rimmer, but it was Steve who came out on top.

The **Last Chance** was an open 64 draw and came to an exciting climax when yours truly sat down in the Final to face Conner Dickinson. I had seen Ralph Eskinazi off in the semi and Connor had done the same to Steve Hallett. We had

an amazing match wherein the games oscillated so much it was hard to tell who was leading; but in the end I was robbed and Connor took home the winner's trophy.

The popular **1-Point Shootout** (64) was popular with me . . . I did a deal with Ralph in the semi-final and took a share of his winner's pot when he beat Andy Maisey in the winner-take-all £100 sweep!

On the Sunday we had a new (and hopefully regular) element, the **Gerry Smith Knockout** (64). Gerry's last Liverpool Open was last year and I organised this element to remember him by. There was a £100 first prize (thanks to £63 from entries - one mean bugger didn't put a quid in!) and £37 from the Liverpool Club. Also, there were a couple of boxing related prizes (Gerry used to be a boxer) for the finalists - a



Steve doing his Martin Barkwill impression

## DANISH TAKE ALL!

### Mogens Knudsen

from Denmark won the

### 16th City of Venice International Backgammon Tournament

Held from the 8th to the 11th of July in the new setting of the Venice Casino in Ca' Noghera near the Venice International Airport. Knudsen won the City of Venice in 2002 as well, so is the 1st player with 2 victories in this tournament; in the final he defeated an other Danish Lars Trabold. While the 3rd Danish at the tournament, Lard Bonding, won the big super-jackpot.

There were 122 players from 22 countries, officially registered at the tournament (39 in the champion, 39 intermediates, 35 amateurs, and 9 others in official events (doubles, quarter-entry, etc.) over 1.500 official matches were played.

More than 30 trophies were awarded in a festive prize-giving ceremony. The event was organised by *studiogiochi* on behalf of the Casino of Venice. (above info from Dario De Toffoli Tournament Director)

#### Championship Main (39) €18,170

|               |                 |         |         |
|---------------|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Winner        | Mogens Knudsen  | € 9,170 | Denmark |
| Finalist      | Lars Trabold    | € 5,000 | Denmark |
| Semi Finalist | Vittorio Castro | € 2,000 | Italy   |
| Semi Finalist | Marcel Liecht   | € 2,000 | Swiss   |



Mogens Knudsen raising his Gigantic Winners Cup  
Dario de Toffoli Tournament Organizer looking on

#### 1st Championship Consolation € 9.000

|               |                       |         |         |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| Winner        | Shinichiro Kaneko     | € 5,000 | Japan   |
| Finalist      | Piergiorgio D'ancona  | € 2,000 | Italy   |
| Semi Finalist | Hans (Uli Point) Koch | € 1,000 | Germany |
| Semi Finalist | Hugh Mcneil           | € 1,000 | Canada  |

#### Championship Last Chance € 3.000

|          |                  |         |       |
|----------|------------------|---------|-------|
| Winner   | Kenji Shimodaira | € 2.00  | Japan |
| Finalist | Steve Sax        | € 1,000 | Japan |

#### Intermediate Main (39) € 11.750

|               |                   |         |         |
|---------------|-------------------|---------|---------|
| Winner        | Giulio Alessandri | € 3,750 | Italy   |
| Finalist      | Ivano Zanenghi    | € 1,800 | Italy   |
| Semi Finalist | Roberto Piccioni  | € 800   | Italy   |
| Semi Finalist | Yvonne Nanga      | € 800   | Austria |

#### Intermediate Consolation € 3.400

|               |                   |         |         |
|---------------|-------------------|---------|---------|
| Winner        | Hisako Nishizawa  | € 1,800 | Japan   |
| Semi Finalist | Vazgen Matevosyan | € 800   | Armenia |
| Semi Finalist | Silvio Carrese    | € 400   | Swiss   |
| Finalist      | Frederic Andrieu  | € 400   | France  |

#### Intermediate Last Chance € 1.200

|          |                      |       |         |
|----------|----------------------|-------|---------|
| Winner   | Nasser Hadjihosseini | € 800 | Iran    |
| Finalist | Marc Werner          | € 400 | Germany |

#### Amateur (35) € 1.750

|               |                      |       |         |
|---------------|----------------------|-------|---------|
| Winner        | Gaahil Bachalbachyan | € 600 | Armenia |
| Finalist      | Giancarlo Fassina    | € 300 | Italy   |
| Semi Finalist | Alberto Profumo      | € 140 | Italy   |
| Semi Finalist | Luca Boni            | € 140 | Italy   |

#### Amateur Consolation € 300

|               |                     |       |        |
|---------------|---------------------|-------|--------|
| Winner        | Roland Herrera      | € 280 | UK     |
| Finalist      | Marcello Zancarello | € 140 | Italy  |
| Semi Finalist | John Gilberston     |       | UK     |
| Semi Finalist | Mossy Heby          |       | Israel |

#### Amateur Last Chance € 140

|          |                |      |       |
|----------|----------------|------|-------|
| Winner   | Sandro Mescola | €140 | Italy |
| Finalist | Giuseppe Bau   |      | Italy |



Japan's happy go lucky popular 'Japan Open' organizer / tournament director, Kenji Shimodaira, teamed up with Iranian Shahab Ghodsi. Kenji also won the Championship last chance. Shahab, living in Norway for many years is a man to watch, he has been winning a lot of trophies lately.

#### Double Consultation Champion

|               |                     |        |
|---------------|---------------------|--------|
| Winners       | Kenji Shimodaira    | Japan  |
| Winners       | Shahab Ghodsi       | Norway |
| Semi Finalist | Andrea De Zandonati | Italy  |
| Semi Finalist | Ivano Zanenghi      | Italy  |



## Winners 16th City of Venice

(continued from page 1)

### Double Consultation Intermediate

|               |                 |          |
|---------------|-----------------|----------|
| Winner        | Sandro Mescola  | Italy    |
| Winner        | Giuseppe Bau    | Italy    |
| Semi Finalist | Serqio Fragiaco | Italy    |
| Semi Finalist | Damian Plesec   | Slovenia |

### Super Jackpots 1 & 2

|               |                  |         |
|---------------|------------------|---------|
| Winner 1      | Lars Bonding     | Denmark |
| Semi Finalist | Gad Carmelli     | Israel  |
| Winner 2      | Dario De Toffoli | Italy   |
| Semi Finalist | Reiner Witt      | Germany |

### Warm up (64)

|        |                  |         |
|--------|------------------|---------|
| Winner | Yoshito Takeuchi | Japan   |
| Winner | Cyrus Afchani    | Germany |



Lars Bonding continues his winning ways by winning the super jackpot. Above he is recording and keeping score of the 19 point final for his Danish friends Mogens and Lars. He was looking on in astonishment as Mogens jumps to 8 to 0 lead in the 19 point final.

Things got worse after that, the score soon jumped up, 12 to 3. When every thing look bleak for Lars, the Dice Gods all of sudden shined on him as he clawed his way back to 13 to 13. Certainly amazing, after such a disastrous start.

At one point Lars even managed to go ahead at 17 to 15 before the unpredictable Dice Gods again let him down, and Knudsen went to beat his best friend in a thrilling spectator final. Another lesson of the old adage 'Never Give Up'



Venice tournament winner Mogens Knudsen and Finalist Lars Trabolt sharing their trophies, for the moment with Italian backgammon enthusiast and aspiring future champion, Simonetta Barone.

(more Venice pictures on page 3)



Above photo shows most of the Championship winners. (left to right) Piergiorgio D'ancona, Hans Uli Koch, Shinichiro Kaneko, Dario da Toffoli, Mogens Knudsen, Lars Trabolt, Kenji Shimodaira and Steve Sax.



## More Winners 16th City of Venice - The biggest Backgammon event in Italy



Championship Consolation Winner Shinichiro Kaneko (Japan) Piergiorgio D'ancona (Italy) Finalist



Intermediate winner Giulio Alesandri who outpointed Finalist Ivano Zanenghi. Both from Italy



Amateur Winner Gaghil Bachalbachyan (Armenia)  
Champion Consolation



Amateur Winner Roland Herrera (right) with runner up Marcello Zancarello. Roland makes his first big win in an international tournament with his long time girlfriend Simonetta cheering him on in the back.



Winners: a smiling and very happy Shinichiro Kaneko with Piergiorgio D'ancona. In the background is a regular tournament staff member, Giorgio Salvadego. Giorgio informs us that the next City of Venice tournament next year will return to its original location at the main Venice Casino, which is located in a beautiful centuries old palace directly on the Grand Canal in the center of Venice.



This happy face with the big trophy belongs to the 2004 Venice champion Denmark's Mogens Knudsen. Mogens is rated as one of the best players in Denmark (there are so many) this is his second win in Venice, his first win was three years ago. He Loves Venice!

( Pictures and text by Martin de Bruin ©EBN )

# European Backgammon News

## Places to Play In Europe

Updated in each issue with your help !

|          | Name and address                                                                      | Contact                             | email                                                  | Phone/Fax                                        |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Armenia  | Armenia BG Assoc. 14 Chekova 15 Erevan                                                | Tonoian Subat.<br>Gurgen Adevosyan  | tigran@netsys.am                                       | +88 2 25 09 or 2<br>2510 F +88 393 2 24<br>33    |
| Austria  | Vien na -BG Association                                                               | Manfred Hamal                       | www.backgammon.at                                      | +43 (0) 676 754 46<br>13                         |
| Austria  | Vien na Café Heine Heinestrasse 39. Cafe Zum<br>Alten Stadttheater. Himelfortgasse 24 | aba.office@chello.at                | aba.office@chello.at                                   | +43 (0) 664 230<br>3940 +43 (0) 676<br>754 46 13 |
| Austria  | Innsbruck & Hotel Veronika Seefeld                                                    | Peter Winkler                       | winkler.p@aon.at                                       | +43 521 287 244                                  |
| Belgium  | Antwerp BG Assoc.                                                                     | Paul Baeyens                        | paul.baeyens@skynet.be                                 | +323 2814795                                     |
| Bulgaria | Bulgarian BG Federation                                                               | Maria Krancheva                     | marakra@fedorbg.com                                    | bgf@bnet.bg                                      |
| Denmark  | Danish BG Federation. Klarebodeme 10 1 Sal<br>DK 1115 København K                     | Torben Hasseris.<br>Thomas B Jensen | info@dbgf.dk www.dbgf.dk                               | +45 33 36 36 01 +45<br>33 36 36 02               |
| England  | British Isles BG Association. 2 Redbourne<br>Drive. Lincoln LN2 2HG                   | Michael Crane                       | info@backgammon-biba.co.uk                             | +44 1522 888 676 M<br>0411 361 566               |
| Finland  | Finnish BG Assoc. Fleminginkatu 20 A 9<br>Helsinki 00510                              | Mika Mäkinen. Tapio<br>Palmroth     | Mika.P.Makinen@ntc.nokia.com &<br>tapio@palmroth.com   | +358 050 593 0139<br>+358 3 252 5255             |
| Finland  | Tampere BG Club Hämeenkatu 13                                                         | Tapio Palmroth                      | tapio@palmroth.com                                     | 358-50-68 061                                    |
| Finland  | Helsinki Sporting Club Ratakatu 9 Helsinki                                            | Mika Mäkinen                        | mika.makinen@ilmarinen.fi                              | 358 (0) 96 1260140                               |
| France   | French Riviera BG Group. 7 Promenade Des<br>Anglais 0600 Nice                         | Rashid Aalam                        | Mobile +33 06 14 01 04 99. Email -<br>moaalam@yahoo.fr | F +33 493 802 578 T<br>+33 493 879 436           |
| France   | France Aviation Club. Champs Elysees 104<br>Paris 75008                               | Jean Claud Bensaid                  | ABFG@wanadoo.fr                                        | +33 01 4562 2688                                 |
| France   | Association De BG. 12 Rue Chabonais 75002<br>Paris                                    | Serge Nadjar. Eric<br>Guedj         | minitel 3615GAMMON & ffbg<br>@wanadoo.fr               | F +33 0149 260899<br>T +33 14261 8080            |
| France   | BG Aux Bains. Every Tues 9pm. Les Bains 7<br>Rue Du Bourg 75003 Paris                 | FFBG                                | ffbg@wanadoo.fr<br>www.lesbains-club.com               | +33 6 62 46 70 01                                |
| France   | Troislets" 33 Rue De Montreuil PARIS                                                  | Joseph                              | ffbg@wanadoo.fr                                        | +33 1 43 72 43 66                                |
| France   | Bridge Club De Toulouse 2 Bd De Strasbourg                                            | Claude Marbleu                      | ffbg@wanadoo.fr                                        | +33 056162 0318                                  |
| France   | BG Club Du Rhône LYON- Sathonay                                                       | David Claudin                       | david.claudin@chello.fr                                | +33 06 08 69 27 54                               |
| France   | Plasma Café 11 Rue Offenbach 06000 Nice                                               | n/k                                 | plasma06@hotmail.com                                   | +33 4 93 16 17 32                                |
| France   | BG Solférino De LILLE. 20 Rue Des Postes                                              | Bernard Bailleul                    | bernard@mail-good.pasteur-lille.fr                     | +33 03 20 42 94 11                               |
| France   | Snooker & Pool. 55 Bld Côte Blatin. Clermont.<br>Ferrand                              | n/k                                 | ffbg@wanadoo.fr                                        | +33 04 73 35 13 96                               |
| France   | LARRINGES Thonon-Les-Bains &<br>Evian-Les-Bains                                       | Laurent Defretin                    | www.backgammonclub.fr.st                               | +33 04 50 81 00 43                               |
| Georgia  | Georgian BG Federation. Sakartkelo (Republic<br>Of Georgia) 8 A Pipia St. Tblisi      | Akaki Kakalashvili                  | kazazyani@yahoo.com &<br>medp@netsys.am                | T +995 32 341 044 F<br>+995 32 341044            |
| Germany  | Bonzo BG. Jöllenbekerstr. 104 D-33613<br>Bielefeld                                    | Andreas Born                        | kaiserbrunnen@shopit.de &<br>ingrid.born@t-online.de   | T +49 0521 64314 F<br>+49 0521 64314             |
| Germany  | BG Club Monaco Hirschau Gysslingstr15                                                 | Chiva K. Tafazzoli                  | ckt@munich-backgammon.de                               | +49 (089) 152 762                                |
| Germany  | Germany Jugencentrum Wiesbaden/Biebrich<br>Bunsenstr. 6                               | Birgit Scheuering                   | BirgitScheuering@gmx.de                                | +49 0 179 219 3347                               |
| Germany  | Munich BG Club. Helene-Weber-Allee 6<br>D-80637 München                               | Chiva K. Tafazzoli                  | info@munich-backgammon.de                              | +49 (089) 152762 M<br>49 0171-54 22222           |
| Germany  | Süddeutsche BG-Cup                                                                    | Jürgen Lenz                         | www.bg-info.de                                         | T +0711 - 486190                                 |
| Greece   | Vergina BG Club Thessaloniki                                                          | n/k                                 | vergina@the.forthnet.gr                                | +30 (031) 516021                                 |
| Greece   | Tennis Club 2 Davaki St Athens                                                        | Nikos Ahtipis                       | Meimaris Theodoros 30 01 600 0297                      | 30 (1) 608 0594                                  |
| Holland  | Café Tweekeerbelln Nijmegen                                                           | Wim van den Nobelen                 | TKBNijmegen@xs.nl                                      | +31 024 360 6902                                 |
| Holland  | Café Het Monumentje Westerstraat 120                                                  | n/k                                 | n/k                                                    | +31 020 624 3541                                 |
| Holland  | Amsterdam BG Club                                                                     | Vincent Versteeg                    | backgammon@zonnet.nl                                   | +31 020 463 3724                                 |
| Holland  | Schaak Café Lange Leidsedwardsstraat 134                                              | n/k                                 | n/k                                                    | +31 020 624 3133                                 |
| Holland  | Café De Twee Klaveren De Clerqstraat 136                                              | n/k                                 | n/k                                                    | +31 020 618 9125                                 |
| Holland  | Café Van Dijk Stadionplein 19                                                         | n/k                                 | n/k                                                    | +31 020 6792771                                  |
| Holland  | Rotterdam BG Club. Cafe Easy. Claes De<br>Vrieselaan 113. Rotterdam                   | Ed Baars                            | ed.baars@zonnet.nl                                     | +31(0) 644 768 716                               |
| Ireland  | Dublin BG Club. 7 Famey Park. Sandymount.<br>Dublin 4                                 | Brenden Burgess                     | wildlife@indigo.ie                                     | T +353 1 661 477 1                               |
| Israel   | Jaffa Point Club 54 Hayarkon St. Ramat Gan                                            | Easy Nelson                         | easy_nelson@hotmail.com                                | +972-3-517799 1                                  |
| Israel   | Israel BG Association. 7 Sharat Street. Ramat<br>Gan 52425                            | Abraham Eitan                       | doirins@in.intemet~zahav.net<br>eitanbg@zahav.net.il   | T +972 3 672 8918 F<br>+972 3 672 7063           |
| Italy    | Genova BG Club                                                                        | Alberto Bertot                      | albertot@libero.it                                     | N/K                                              |
| Italy    | Studiogiochi S.Palo 3083 30125 Venice                                                 | Dario De Toffoli                    | daridet@tin.it                                         | T +39 041 521 1029                               |



|          |                                                                                                                          |                                             |                                                                    |                                          |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Italy    | BG.It (Newsletter In Italian) Via Gorizia 2 36015-Schio (VI)                                                             | Nicola Pagano. Roberto Gobbo                | pagot@schio.net gobbo@thex.it                                      | T +39 0445 526 935<br>F +39 041 524 0881 |
| Italy    | Milano BG Club. Every Monday 20:00. The Duomo Center In Duomo Place.                                                     | Marco Fomasir                               | fomasir@iol.it www.wbf.net                                         | T +39-02 6901 8168<br>F +39-02 6901 8163 |
| Italy    | BG ROMA. Mondays 21:00 LeBarbu Club Via Po 2A 00198. Pirelli S.p.A. Sede di Rappresentanza Foro Romano 3. Massimo Armeni |                                             | massimo.armeni@pirelli.com & roma@backgammon.it                    | +39 06 812 4208 or<br>+39 03 49 633 917  |
| Italy    | BG Club di Rome Via Linneo 1                                                                                             | n/k                                         | n/k                                                                | +39 6 320 8350                           |
| Italy    | Milano BG Club - CSO Garibaldi 39 Milano                                                                                 | n/k                                         | n/k                                                                | +39 2 7200 3950                          |
| Italy    | Circolo del BG c/o Bridge Club Via Piacenza 12 Milano                                                                    |                                             | cdbm@fastwebnet.it                                                 | +39 340.5863285                          |
| Italy    | BG Venice. Calle 2 Portoni 10 30171 Mestre (Venezia)                                                                     |                                             | alfos@tin.it Thurs. Eve.                                           | +39 3 48 226 9933                        |
| Italy    | Piccadillycircolo Mestre. Every night from 9.00                                                                          | Dario de Toffoli                            | dariodet@tin.it                                                    | T +39 041 521 1029                       |
| Italy    | BG Point. Dongi Club.Via Vittorio Emanueleii 66 Torino                                                                   | Daniela Manzoni. Giuseppe Steffenino        | dongi@fastnetweb.it & backgammon torino@libero.it                  | +3911 309 8806 M<br>+39 347 230 4145     |
| Italy    | IBA (iperBG association) c/o Bridge Club Milano.via Piacenza 12. MILANO                                                  | Alfonso Sara                                | alfos@tin.it www.backgammon.it                                     | T +39 041 521 1029                       |
| Italy    | BG Napoli WBF via Caravaglios 27- Fuorigrotta. Sede c/o Livingstone Via Martucci 8 Chiaia - Napoli                       |                                             | napolibackgammon@yahoo.it www.babettegroup.it cuccurullo@inwind.it |                                          |
| Norway   | NORWEGIAN BG Federation. www.nbgf.no                                                                                     | Eirik Milch Pedersen. Arne Kristian Nordhei | eirik.milch.pedersen@if.no<br>arne.knordhei@no.axis-shield.com     | +47 934 80 387 +47<br>996 37 475         |
| Norway   | Askøy BGklubb                                                                                                            | Hilde Bergesen                              | hbergesen@hotmail.com                                              | +47 934 80 387                           |
| Norway   | Bergen BG Club                                                                                                           | Bjørn Inge H. Lorentzen                     | bhlorentzen@hotmail.com                                            | +47 991 62 952                           |
| Norway   | Bodø BGklubb                                                                                                             | Terje Dalhaug                               | dalers@c2i.net                                                     | +47 911 19 152                           |
| Norway   | Fedje BGklubb                                                                                                            | Ulf Valdemar Andersson                      | fevaor@online.no                                                   | +47 950 65 710                           |
| Norway   | Hammerfest BGklubb                                                                                                       | Bjørn Erik Hansen                           | perleson@online.no                                                 | +47 78 41 16 57                          |
| Norway   | Ishavsbyen BGklubb (Tromsø)                                                                                              | Thomas Kristiansen                          | murf@start.no                                                      | +47 993 86 866                           |
| Norway   | Oslo BGklubb                                                                                                             | Eivind Brenning                             | eivind.brenning@bekk.no                                            | +47 982 19 323                           |
| Norway   | Ringerike BGklubb                                                                                                        | Tor Bertheig                                | tberteig@online.no<br>ringerikebackgammonklubb@hotmail.com         |                                          |
| Norway   | Stavanger BGklubb                                                                                                        | Øystein Johansen                            | ojohans@statoil.com                                                | +47 51 99 28 41                          |
| Norway   | Trondheim BGklubb                                                                                                        | Dagfinn Snarheim                            | snarheim@stud.ntnu.no                                              | +47 996 29 396                           |
| Poland   | BG Club at Cracow University of Economics. ul. Rakowicka 27 Krakow Zip 31-510                                            | Marek Aewiklicki                            | www.ae.krakow.pl/~kb<br>cwiklicm@ae.krakow.pl                      | +48 (0)12 3925 257                       |
| Portugal | Centro De Bridge De Lisboa. Av Antonio Augusto De Aguiar 163 3º                                                          | Manuel Capucho                              | villasboas@mail.telecap.pt                                         | +351 21 387 7751                         |
| Romania  | 29 Aprodu Movils Street Timisoara                                                                                        | Michai Golopenta                            | golopenta2004@yahoo.com                                            | ?                                        |
| Spain    | European BG news. c/o Aptdo 81 Garrucha 04630 Almeria                                                                    | Martin & Bambi deBruin                      | backgammon@wanadoo.es                                              | T +34 950 133 009<br>F +34 950 133 009   |
| Spain    | Sports Cafe Calle 1 D Nueva Andalucia Marbella                                                                           | Bob Amari                                   | Daily Fax +34 9528 16629                                           | +34 952 817 336                          |
| Sweden   | Swedish BG Federation. PO Box 22221 Stockholm S-10422 S                                                                  | Patrik Thelin                               | prime.minister@sbgf.se<br>www.sbgf.se                              | T +46 8 652 3033 F<br>+46 8 652 3033     |
| Swiss.   | BG Association                                                                                                           | Rino Mathis                                 | info@backgammon.cc                                                 | +41 (079) 401 58 11                      |
| Swiss.   | Penalty Bar Hallwylstrasse 40 Zürich                                                                                     | Rino Mathis                                 | info@backgammon.cc                                                 | +41 (0) 79 401 58 11                     |
| Swiss.   | BG Club MagicStone Glattbrugg                                                                                            | Jürg Sommerhalder                           | jsommerhalder@softworks.ch                                         | +41 (0) 78/793 68 24                     |
| Swiss.   | BG Club. Bern Rest.Shooters Moserstr.27                                                                                  | Thomas Ruprecht                             | Tuesdays 7:PM. til late                                            | +41 (0) 31 331 40 11                     |
| Swiss.   | BG-Club. Lugano Thurs. 19.30PM till 1:00                                                                                 | Reine Knoll                                 | Birreria Jonny Via Maggio 21 Cassarate                             | +41 (0) 91/911 70 11                     |
| Swiss.   | BG Club Basel - Kleinhünigen Rest. Rheinhafen. Kleinhünigenanlage 2                                                      | Karl Müller                                 | info@backgammon.cc                                                 | 41 (0) 61/311 13 10                      |
| Swiss.   | BG-Club THUN. Restaurant Waadtländerstube Hofstettenstr.13                                                               | Daniel Scheidiger                           | info@backgammon.cc<br>scheidiger@bluewin.ch                        | +41 (0)79 432 93 78                      |
| Swiss.   | Swiss BG Group. Lugano. Fabianne Raspail - fabi_o_r@hotmail.com                                                          | Rafaelo Gatti. James Baillie                | info@backgammon.cc<br>www.backgammon.ch                            | +41 79 373 5577 +41<br>(0) 7 93 20 52 76 |
| Turkey   | WBF Turkey BG Association.Merkezi B.119 Kapi.39 Besiktas Istanbul                                                        | Ardal Findikoglu                            | WBF_Turkey@yahoo.com<br>www.wbfturkey.com                          | T +90 532 232 9228<br>F +90 212 325 2259 |
| WBF      | Worldwide BG Federation.                                                                                                 | Alberto Da Pra. Marco Fomasir               | depra@iol.it www.wbfonline.com<br>fomasir@iol.it www.wbf.net       | T +39-02 6901 8168<br>F +39-02 6901 8163 |

## Please Help Us Out!

**Tell us where and when you play, giving all the information listed above**

Remember our readers are Traveling Backgammon Players

They want to know where and when to play, and who to contact, when they are visiting a strange city.

If you have any additional information **SEND IT NOW!**

In the event that any of the information is incorrect

please send me the updated information.....

**So..... We can list it correctly in the next issue.**

**Many THANKS!** Martin de Bruin [backgammon@wanadoo.es](mailto:backgammon@wanadoo.es) Tel & Fax +34 951 133 009

# 2004 Monte Carlo World Championships

## Scandinavians in Monte Carlo

Scandinavians, in particular the Danish, recently seem to be dominating the Monte Carlo World Championships as well as the winners lists of most of the major tournaments in Europe.

In 1997 it was Jerry Grandell (Sweden) who won the World title. In 1999 Jörgen Granstedt (Sweden), was Champion, and he came right back in 2001 to win it for the second time. In 2002 it was Mads Andersen (Denmark of course), followed by last years 2003 winner Jon Royset from Norway.

This year it was Peter Hallberg's turn, one of Denmark's finest. Well respected and well liked, Peter has a multitude of friends amongst the Scandinavian players.

The Danish Backgammon Federation has ranked Hallberg as number one for the last two years. In that time has won five trophies at the Nordic Open in Denmark. He is no stranger to the computer world as he is the owner and director of his own software company called "Hallberg Consulting".

The 25-point final for about \$100,000 was a real cliffhanger which could have gone either way as the score went to 22 to 22 after almost 3 hours of play. Peter made it 23-22 before winning the last game.

Paul Magriel, who again did an excellent narration of the big screen TV finals said he was, "very impressed with Peter's checker and cube play." Also, according to Paul, "he made only a very few errors."



***A triumphant Peter Hallberg celebrates his world championship victory***

Peter's worthy opponent in the finals was American champion and author Bob Wachtel from California. Bob wrote a very interesting book on the Ace Point a few years ago, and is presently writing a novel. Bob, although small in size is a giant in the games world. He plays almost everything from chess to tennis (table, grass, clay, paddle, or whatever) and will give you a game for fun or money any time.

## Afghanistan in Monte Carlo

One of the greatest achievements of this year World Championships, was attained by a gentleman from Afghanistan. Now Afghanistan has been in the world news a lot lately but not in connection with Backgammon. I will bet that you did not know that millions of people there play backgammon daily. Personally I didn't know, until Nadjib Salamzy told me. It seems that backgammon is their national game and everyone starts to learn it from the time they are old enough to hold pair of dice.

If you don't know the name Nadjib Salamzy you should. Nadjib who?..... Who is he you say? He is only the man who has made more money at the Monte Carlo World Championships than anyone else. Nope he has never won the World Championships but he has won the big Super Jackpot there for the last two years in a row.

The Super Jackpot has a first prize of \$100,000. Yep, one hundred thousand US dollars! Every year Sue and Les Boyd organize this big money prize event. 128 players pay \$1500 to compete and there are eight prizes from \$100,000 to \$5000. To win it twice in a row like Nadjib did, is a phenomenal feat.

Najib has lived in German for many years and owns very successful restaurants in the Stuttgart area. He always plays doubles with his long time partner Yaneva Krassimira. When I ask Najib what he planned to do with his big winnings, he replied,

"Now that Afghanistan is again becoming a peaceful democratic country, I would like to spend some of my winnings to create backgammon clubs and tournaments in Afghanistan. Although almost everyone plays there, Afghans are not organized, they do not use the doubling cube and they do not know the international rules for tournament play. By creating clubs and tournaments in my home country they would soon become proficient in both."

Certainly a worthwhile quest, better to fight across the board for a trophy than amongst each other for senseless causes, that only ends up in death and destruction. We are certainly looking forward to more Afghans at future international tournaments.



***Nadjib Salamzy.  
Two Times Monte Carlo Jackpot Winner***



# Winners Monte Carlo

29th World Backgammon Championship

Monte Carlo Grand Hotel

July 12 to 16 2004

Championship Main € 240,616 (276) € 143,661

|               |                  |             |         |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|---------|
| Winner        | Peter Hallberg   | € 86,179.60 | Denmark |
| Finalist      | Bob Wachtel      | € 28,723.20 | USA     |
| Semi Finalist | Engelhardt Serge | € 14,391.60 | Germany |
| Semi Finalist | Dag Ekmark       | € 14,391.60 | Norway  |



A great day for a great Dane, as Peter Haleberg wins the 29th World Championship in great style.

1st Championship Consolation € 36,168

|               |                  |          |         |
|---------------|------------------|----------|---------|
| Winner        | Volker Sonnabend | € 21,700 | Germany |
| Finalist      | Aranud Mattem    | € 7,233  | France  |
| Semi Finalist | Perry Garter     | € 3,616  | USA     |
| Semi Finalist | J. Rodriguez     | € 3,616  | France  |

2nd Championship Consolation € 36,432

|               |               |          |         |
|---------------|---------------|----------|---------|
| Winner        | Bernard Morel | € 21,859 | Swiss   |
| Finalist      | F. Eighanayan | € 7,286  | Iran    |
| Semi Finalist | David BenZion | € 3,616  | Israel  |
| Semi Finalist | Henrik Jorn   | € 3,643  | Denmark |

Championship Last Chance € 24,288

|          |                |          |         |
|----------|----------------|----------|---------|
| Winner   | Morten Nielsen | € 17,001 | Denmark |
| Finalist | Morten Holm    | € 7,286  | Denmark |

Championship Ladies Prize Carina Meile Denmark

Intermediate Main € 40,584 (108) € 24,168

|               |                     |          |         |
|---------------|---------------------|----------|---------|
| Winner        | Giora Goldreich     | € 14,500 | Israel  |
| Finalist      | Martirosvan Harutun | € 4,833  | Armenia |
| Semi Finalist | Luca Lodi           | € 2,417  | Italy   |
| Semi Finalist | Gilbert Grimberg    | € 2,417  | France  |

1st Intermediate Consolation € 6,156

|               |                 |         |         |
|---------------|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Winner        | Will Richardson | € 3,693 | UK      |
| Semi Finalist | Inge Meissner   | € 1,231 | Germany |
| Semi Finalist | Laurent Amone   | € 615   | France  |
| Finalist      | Torben Krogh    | € 615   | Denmark |

2nd Intermediate Consolation € 6,156

|               |                  |        |         |
|---------------|------------------|--------|---------|
| Winner        | R Van Gemert     | € 3693 | Holland |
| Semi Finalist | Melikyan Khochik | € 1231 | Armenia |
| Semi Finalist | Sergey Dromyan   | € 615  | Armenia |
| Finalist      | Michael Hansen   | € 615  | Denmark |

Intermediate Last Chance € 4104

|          |                  |        |         |
|----------|------------------|--------|---------|
| Winner   | Patrick Svensson | € 2873 | Sweden  |
| Finalist | Henrik Veje      | € 1231 | Denmark |

Intermediate Ladies Prize Natalie Guez France

Beginners Main € 17,580 (90) € 10,440

|               |                   |        |         |
|---------------|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Winner        | Rolf Hauswirth    | € 6246 | Swiss   |
| Finalist      | Valery Mikhaylets | € 2088 | Russia  |
| Semi Finalist | Justin Silver     | € 1044 | England |
| Semi Finalist | Bachvalt Bachal   | € 7044 | Armenia |

Beginners Consolation € 2640

|               |                |        |         |
|---------------|----------------|--------|---------|
| Winner        | Claus Cato     | € 1584 | Denmark |
| Finalist      | Carlo Costanza | € 528  | Italy   |
| Semi Finalist | Guil Draï      | € 264  | Israel  |
| Semi Finalist | Meo Migliore   | € 264  | Italy   |

Beginners Consolation € 2700

|               |                   |        |         |
|---------------|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Winner        | Bogdan Gadalean   | € 7620 | Romania |
| Finalist      | S. Yilmaz Hosoglu | € 540  | Turkey  |
| Semi Finalist | Rene Hansen       | € 270  | Denmark |
| Semi Finalist | Alex Naylor       | € 270  | England |

Beginner's Last Chance € 7700

|          |                 |        |         |
|----------|-----------------|--------|---------|
| Winner   | Teruma Takeuchi | € 1260 | Japan   |
| Finalist | Judy Olsen      | € 540  | Denmark |

Beginners Ladies Prize Terumi Takeuchi Japan

\$1500 Super Duper Jackpot 128 € 192,000.

|               |                 |           |             |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|
| Winner        | Nadjib Salamzy  | \$100.000 | Afghanistan |
| Finalist      | Ari Nogueira    | \$30.000  | Brazil      |
| Semi Finalist | Carsten Joh     | \$15.000  | Germany     |
| Semi Finalist | Pawel Bielewicz | \$15.000  | S / Poland  |
| Qtr. Finalist | Hugh Sconyers   | \$5.000   | USA         |
| Qtr. Finalist | Ricardo Spinola | \$5.000   | Brazil      |
| Qtr. Finalist | Steve Sax       | \$5.000   | USA         |
| Qtr. Finalist | Gadi Camelli    | \$5.000   | Israel      |

Fortis Team Tournament ( 80 teams )

|                            |                                                  |         |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Winners Team "Sisu"        | Teppo Salo<br>Petri Pietita<br>Matti Haaksila    | Finland |
| Finalists Team-Mad Hatters | John Slattery<br>Paul Gilbertson<br>Peter Bennet | England |

Elegance Trophy Women

|        |                 |       |
|--------|-----------------|-------|
| Winner | Kazuko Numazawa | Japan |
|--------|-----------------|-------|

Elegance Trophy Men

|        |                  |         |
|--------|------------------|---------|
| Winner | Khachik Melykian | Armenia |
|--------|------------------|---------|

Fidelity Trophy

|        |                 |            |
|--------|-----------------|------------|
| Winner | Martin de Bruin | USA -Spain |
|--------|-----------------|------------|

Travel Trophy

|        |            |           |
|--------|------------|-----------|
| Winner | Ryan Jones | Australia |
|--------|------------|-----------|

Courtesy Trophy

|        |              |        |
|--------|--------------|--------|
| Winner | Aldo Peretti | France |
|--------|--------------|--------|

Chairman's Trophy

|        |              |             |
|--------|--------------|-------------|
| Winner | The Moneyman | Monte Carlo |
|--------|--------------|-------------|

Golf Tournament

|        |                       |         |
|--------|-----------------------|---------|
| Winner | Jaakko Salava         | Finland |
| Winner | Champagne - Jean Noel | France  |

Tennis Tournament - Men's Doubles

|          |               |           |
|----------|---------------|-----------|
| Winners  | E. Faramarz   | Iran- UK  |
| Winners  | Miller        |           |
| Finalist | Timerman Raul | Argentina |
| Finalist | Parker        |           |





Dag Ekmark (holding aloft his trophy) is one of the most underrated players not to have won the World Championships. He always scores well but the big prize always seems to elude him. Dag, from Norway, is in the real-estate business in Spain. He has lived in Marbella for many years where he married his Spanish sweetheart and is raising a family there. He is seen above with Grand Hotel CEO Julian and Tournament Director James Ballié



Laurent Arnone was Semi Finalist in the Intermediate Consolation. Laurent is the Organizer and director of the 2nd BIG Paris tournament at Enghien les Bains. This year they have upped the Added Prize Money to a Whopping €50,000. Don't miss this one, to be held at the Lucien Barriere Casino in Enghien from the 19th to 24th of October 2004 (see page 10)



Now here is a lovely young lady, Teruma Takeuchi from Japan, who really deserves the Ladies Prize. Last year she and her husband Terumi traveled to Monte Carlo on their honeymoon, and to play in their first ever International Backgammon Tournament. They were both enthusiastic beginners and had the time of their lives. This year they came back for another try only this time Teruma is pregnant and waiting for a bouncing baby backgammon player. You can be sure we will be hearing a lot more about this enthusiastic backgammon couple in the future.



Bob Wachtel, Championship Finalist, contemplating his next move in the 25 point final against winner, Peter Hallberg.



Bob is receiving his well earned trophy from Grand Hotel Managing Director Julian and Organizer James.





Volker Sonnabend Consolation Winner from Germany.  
His first ( but not last) big win in Monte Carlo



Kazuko Numazawa Ladies Elegance Trophy Winner  
with her elegant Japanese friend Hisako Nishizawa



Now here are three guys that nobody in Monte Carlo will ever forget even though they came in second in this year's Team Championships. Left to right they are, Peter Bennet, John Slattery and Paul Gilbertson. John is well known for his colorful well-tailored backgammon suits, sequined waistcoats and hats, but this time he dressed his team in all his splendor.



**World Backgammon Association**

*proudly presents the*

**€ 50,000**

*Added Prize Money*

**2nd Groupe Lucien Barrière**

**GIANTS DOUBLE CONSULTATION**

19-20 October 2004

**BACKGAMMON OPEN**

20-24 October 2004

**in Enghien-les-Bains,  
Paris, France.**



*Casino Barrière  
d'Enghien-les-Bains*

**1/8 entry and 1/4 entry for all flights (Champion, Intermediate, Amateur)**  
will be held on [GamesGrid](http://GamesGrid) starting in August, 2004.

Directors and Organizers - [Chiva Tafazzoli](#) and [Laurent Arnone](#)

Email: [WorldBackgammonAssociation](mailto:WorldBackgammonAssociation)

Website: [www.World-Backgammon-Association.com](http://www.World-Backgammon-Association.com)

**Hotel Reservations**

**Please contact Nahide Dabi or Delphine Lecamus**

**Tel: 00 33 1 39 34 11 34 Fax: 00 33 1 39 34 11 44**

**Email: [backgammonopen@lucienbarriere.com](mailto:backgammonopen@lucienbarriere.com)**

**Websites: [Lucien Barrière Group](#) [Hôtel du Lac](#) [Grand Hôtel Barrière](#)**



## **Tournament Information Fees, Program & Conditions**

Entry fees  
Champion 750 €  
Intermediate 350 €  
Amateur 100 €

Registration fees  
Champion 150 €  
Intermediate 100 €  
Amateur 50 €

Quarter-ent  
Champion 250 €  
Intermediate 125 €  
Amateur 40 €

Giants Double Consultation (limited to 32 team) € 1500 €uros per team (entry)  
Giants Double Consultation (limited to 32 team) € 200 €uros per team (entry)

### **Program: October 19 - 24, 2004**

#### **Tuesday - October 19th**

15:00 - Registration begins "Giants Double Consultation"

18:00 - Start "Giants Double Consultation" **Wednesday - October 20th**

14:00 - "Giants Double Consultation" resumes / Quarter-entries, Jackpots

22:00 - Start Warm-Up / 1st Superjackpot

#### **Thursday - October 21st**

14:00 - Quarter-entries, Jackpots

15:00 - Last registration Champion flight

16:00 - Start Champion flight

17:30 - Last registration Intermediate and Amateur flights

18:00 - Start Intermediate and Amateur flights

20:00 - Dinner break

22:00 - Play resumes

#### **Friday - October 22nd**

14:30 - Play resumes all flights

16:30 - Start Consolation round, Champion and Intermediate flights

18:00 - Start Consolation round, Amateur flight

20:00 - Dinner Break

22:00 - Play resumes / 2nd Superjackpot

#### **Saturday - October 23rd**

14:00 - Play resumes

15:00 - Start Double Consultation

20:00 - Dinner break

22:00 - Play resumes / 3rd Superjackpot

#### **Sunday - October 24th**

14:00 - Start Last chance

15:00 - Start finals

20:30 - Awards ceremony & cocktail

## **Tournament Information**

Directors and Organizers - Chiva Tafazzoli and Laurent Arnone

Email: World Backgammon Association [ckt@world-backgammon-association.com](mailto:ckt@world-backgammon-association.com)

Website: [www.World-Backgammon-Association.com](http://www.World-Backgammon-Association.com)

# 6<sup>th</sup> AUSTRIAN OPEN

and

## Continental Doubles Backgammon Championships

Hotel VERONIKA – CASINOS AUSTRIA – Seefeld Austria

7th - 10th October 2004

### Tournament Schedule

| Thursday October 7 <sup>th</sup> 2004 |                                                |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 3:00 pm                               | Registration Quarter-entries Jackpots          |
| 10:30 pm                              | <sup>i</sup> Super-Jackpot                     |
| Friday October 8 <sup>th</sup> 2004   |                                                |
| 2:00 pm                               | Registration - Quarter-entries - Jackpots      |
| 8:30 pm                               | Public Draw                                    |
| 9:00 pm                               | Tournament starts                              |
| Saturday October 9 <sup>th</sup> 2004 |                                                |
| 2:00 pm                               | Tournament continues - Progressive consolation |
| 9:00 pm                               | Ladies Tournament                              |
| 10:00 pm                              | Continental Double                             |
| Sunday October 10 <sup>th</sup> 2004  |                                                |
| 1:00 pm                               | Last Chance                                    |
| 3:00 pm                               | Finals                                         |
| 8:00 pm                               | Awards Ceremony & Cocktail                     |

| Tournament         | Entry Fees         | Registration |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Masters            | € 400.             | € 50.        |
| Champions          | € 150.             | € 30.        |
| Continental Double | € 400. per Team    | € 40.        |
| Ladies Tourney     | € 50.              | € 10.        |
| Blitz              | € 45.              | € . 5.       |
| Super Jackpots     | € 1000. and € 500. | 3%           |

6<sup>th</sup> Austrian Open Tournament takes place at the  
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e-m@ail : [veronika@seefeld.at](mailto:veronika@seefeld.at) - website : [www.hotel-veronika.at](http://www.hotel-veronika.at)

Double (single occupancy) € 72. Double Superior ( per person ) € 55. Suites € 145.  
Price includes breakfast till noon, free indoor swimming pool, special price for dinner for hotel guests

### TOURNAMENT INFORMATION and DIRECTORS

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Precision dice sets and new boards provided by European Backgammon News

(BYOB)

# Danes do it Again

## Jan Bloxham Wins the Riviera's Challenge

After a hectic two weeks of backgammon, again a large number of diehard backgammon players packed up their boards and moved from Venice to Monte Carlo to Cannes. They were all rushing to attend the 2nd Riviera's Challenge which this year was sponsored by Partouche's Palm Beach Casino, and the Partouche organization was offering a whopping € 40,000 in Added Prize Money. Another added feature was the Nations Challenge Team Tournament which was spiced up with € 10,000 of the Added Prize Money.

The Riviera's Challenge looked like another quick runaway tournament for Andreas Humke, who is one of Germany's toughest money players. In order to reach the finals both Jan and Andreas battled their way through a tough field of intentional players which included some of the top names in the game.

Humke jumped out to a 14 to 3 lead in the 21 point final, leaving Denmark's Jan Bloxham scratching his head wondering what was happening. Jan started to fight back and managed to recover a few points. When the score went to 19-10 everyone was sure, with 2 points to go, it was all but over. Believe it or not Jan then clawed his way back to 19 -19 in spectacular fashion. Suddenly the large Danish contingent was really cheering loudly with every roll of the dice. Now it was Humkes' turn to sit in amazement wondering what happened? The final two points went to Bloxham who let out a sigh of relief and smiled as realized that he had miraculously come from far behind and won the biggest prize of his life.



*Jan Bloxham at the moment he collected his final two points to win the Cannes Tournament. He really has reason to smile as he is now € 40,000 richer.*

Now every one knows the Danish are good players and that Denmark is the European country with the most players. This is thanks to the active Danish Backgammon Federation, who holds the most regular organized competitions of any country in Europe. However, to win 3 major tournament was quite a feat even for the Danes. First it was Mogens Knudsen who won in Venice, followed by Peter Hallberg who won in Monte Carlo and now here in Cannes it was Jan Bloxham. Actually Jan is originally from England but he, like Chris Ternell, have both lived in Denmark for so many years that they really qualify to be Danes.

The semi finalists were two of Americas top players Howard Markowitz, who is the organizer of the two big yearly tournaments in Las Vegas. The other almost winner was Steve Sax who was the ABT player of the year in 2002.

## Nations Challenge

The Nations Challenge was a new tournament with an interesting challenging format. Twenty-two teams of two or three players each paid €375 per team to represent their country. To qualify for the final knock out each team had to win over two other teams in 7-point matches with the clock for 7 minutes. This resulted in the final four teams. Mexico, Argentina, Norway and Poland.

The finals were between the Winning team Mexico, represented by big Tex- Mex Malcolm Davis and Jose Farca from Mexico, who took home the worthwhile €10,000 First Prize. Argentina represented by Leo Fernandez and his girl friend Veronica Dabal won the €4,500 second prize.

The Third and fourth places were settled by a play-off between Norway, which was represented by Arild Idsøe and Jon Røyset, who won € 3,000 for their efforts. Poland's national team of Pawel Bielewicz and Zbigniew Szczerek came in forth and still took home €1,500. A great new competition that was enjoyed by all the teams , everyone really had a lot of fun representing their respective countries.



*Malcolm Davis collecting Nations Challenge 1st Prize from Partouche Casinos Executive Secretary Andreé*



## Winners Riviera's Challenges II

July 20-25, 2004; Cannes, France

Partouche Palm Beach Casino €40,000 Added

### 2nd Nations Challenge (24 teams) : €19.000

|                    |                                      |          |                  |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| Winner Mexico      | Malcolm Davis<br>Jose Farca          | € 10.000 | TexMex Mexico    |
| Finalist Argentina | Veronica Dabul<br>Leo Fernandez      | € 4.500  | Argentina        |
| 3rd Place Norway   | Arlid Idsøe<br>Jon Røyset            | € 3.000  | Norway           |
| 4th Place Poland   | Pawel Bielewicz<br>Zbigniew Szczerek | € 1.500  | S. Poland Poland |



The winners, Malcolm Davis from Texas and Jose Farca from Mexico, competing as the Mexican Team. They are deep in thought, contemplating their next move in the finals of the 2nd Nations Challenge team competition with its €10,000 first prize.

Time is of the essences because this popular tournament was again played with the clock. You will note that Malcolm always records his matches and analyzes them with Snowie 4.1. Since he started to review all his recorded matches he has become one of the top international players and has won many tournaments on both sides of the Atlantic. For the year 2003 he was rated as the Top, *Numero Uno* on the American Backgammon Tour. He is presently rated in 5th place for 2004 on the ATM.

### RIVIERA'S CHALLENGE II Prize Pool €98,760 Championship Main (104+24 re-entries total 128 )

|               |                  |          |            |
|---------------|------------------|----------|------------|
| Winner        | Jan A. Bloxham   | € 40,000 | DK.England |
| Finalist      | Andreas Humke    | €13,650  | Germany    |
| Semi Finalist | Howard Markowitz | € 7,260  | USA        |
| Semi Finalist | Steve Sax        | € 7,260  | USA        |

#### Championship Consolation

|               |                   |          |             |
|---------------|-------------------|----------|-------------|
| Winner        | Yuriy Krivoy      | € 12,500 | Israel      |
| Finalist      | Jyri Lammi        | € 4,159  | Finland     |
| Semi Finalist | Zbigniew Szczerek | € 2,100  | Poland      |
| Semi Finalist | Pawel Bielewicz   | € 2,100  | Swdn Poland |

#### Championship Last Chance

|               |                  |        |              |
|---------------|------------------|--------|--------------|
| Winner        | Shahab Ghodsi    | €6,800 | Iran -Norway |
| Finalist      | Serge Engelhardt | €2,940 | Germany      |
| Semi Finalist | Will Felton      |        | England      |
| Semi Finalist | E. Israel        |        | France       |

### Intermediate Main (45+19 re-entries total 64)

|               |                      |         |
|---------------|----------------------|---------|
| Winner        | Aventis Rostomyan    | Armania |
| Finalist      | Frederic Andrieu     | France  |
| Semi Finalist | Haruntun Martirosian | Armenia |
| Semi Finalist | Eli Schvidler        | Israel  |

#### 1st Intermediate Consolation

|               |                  |         |
|---------------|------------------|---------|
| Winner        | Hanna Nilsson    | Norway  |
| Finalist      | David Sneoual    | France  |
| Semi Finalist | Cyrus Afchani    | Germany |
| Semi Finalist | Hisako Nishizawa | Japan   |

#### Intermediate Last Chance

|          |               |        |
|----------|---------------|--------|
| Winner   | Olivier Lafon | France |
| Finalist | Dan Zanzouri  | France |

### Beginners Main (26+6 re-entries total 32)

|               |                      |        |         |
|---------------|----------------------|--------|---------|
| Winner        | Benjamin Lambert     | € 1000 | France  |
| Finalist      | David Fischelis      | € 340  | France  |
| Semi Finalist | Andranik Haruntunyan | € 170  | Armenia |
| Semi Finalist | Massimiliano Maini   | € 170  | Italy   |

#### Beginners Consolation

|          |                 |       |        |
|----------|-----------------|-------|--------|
| Winner   | Eric Benichou   | € 390 | France |
| Finalist | A Nepomniaschiy | € 180 | Russia |

#### Beginners Last Chance

|          |                 |      |        |
|----------|-----------------|------|--------|
| Winner   | D Le Boulenger  | €260 | France |
| Finalist | Terumi Takeuchi |      | Japan  |

### Ladies Tournament (22)

|          |                   |       |             |
|----------|-------------------|-------|-------------|
| Winner   | Hanna Nielsen     | Watch | Norway      |
| Finalist | Yaneva Krassimira | Jewel | Afghanistan |

### Riviera's Challenge II Consultation Doubles(32)

|               |                                   |        |             |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Winner        | Najib Slamzy<br>Krassimira Yaneva | € 8000 | Afghanistan |
| Finalist      | Felix Ziva<br>Matvey Natanzon     | € 2000 | Israel      |
| Semi Finalist | Eric Guedj<br>Oliver Decultot     | € 1000 | France      |
| Semi Finalist | Morten Holm<br>Meile Carina       | € 1000 | Denmark     |

### € 100 Super Jackpot Intermediate (16)

|               |                     |       |           |
|---------------|---------------------|-------|-----------|
| Winners       | Martin de Bruin     | € 900 | USA Spain |
| Winners       | Emmanuel Israel     | € 350 | France    |
| Semi          | Finalist J. Michele | € 100 | France    |
| Semi Finalist | Kazuko Numazawa     | € 100 | Japan     |

### € 500 Super Jackpot (16)

|        |                  |  |         |
|--------|------------------|--|---------|
| Winner | Shinichiro Kneko |  | Japan   |
| Winner | Tobias Hellwag   |  | Germany |

### € 500 Super Jackpot (32)

|               |                |         |         |
|---------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| Winner        | Mogens Knudsen | € 8.900 | Denmark |
| Winner        | Lars Trabolt   | € 3.400 | Denmark |
| Semi Finalist | Flix Ziva      | € 1.210 | Israel  |
| Semi Finalist | Yomi Peretz    | € 1.210 | France  |

### €1000 Super Jackpot 1 (16)

|               |               |          |           |
|---------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| Winner        | Paul Magriel  | € 11.000 | USA       |
| Finalist      | Yomi Peretz   | € 4.000  | France    |
| Semi Finalist | Leo Fernandez |          | Argentina |
| Semi Finalist | Ed O'Loughlin |          | USA       |

### €1000. Super Jackpot 2 (16)

|          |                         |  |        |
|----------|-------------------------|--|--------|
| Winner   | François Tardieu        |  | France |
| Finalist | Constantine Mezadourian |  | France |

### Ladies Prize: Veronica Dabul (Argentina).





***Bulgarian Champion Maria Krancheva with Ladies tournament finalist Yaneva Krassimira***



***The Finalists of the First Nations Challenge Argentina's team. Veronica Dabul & Leo Fernandez  
Veronica also was awarded the Ladies Prize***



***Ladies Tournament Winner Hanna Nielsen from Norway with Finalist Krassimira Yaneva***



***Two happy first time Winners in the Beginners  
2nd David Fischelis and Winner Benjamin Lambert***



***Najib Salamzy, not satisfied with his €100,000 win in Monte Carlo, won another €8,000 with Yaneva in the Consolation Doubles tournament in Cannes***



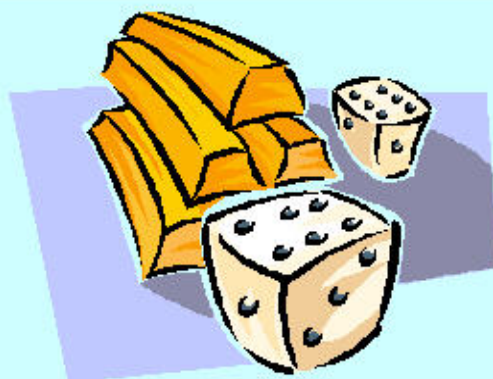
***Andreas Humke Finalist and Winner Jan A. Bloxham  
Looking much more relaxed at the prize giving ceremony after their tough, very close Final***

# **Backgammon Pro Am**

November 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 2004

**The Worlds Largest Pro Am**

**\$10,000** Entry per Team plus registration fee



**Pro Am Limited to only 32 teams**

*Winning Team 60% 2<sup>nd</sup> Place 20% Finalists 10% each*

**Plus 3 Giant Jackpots**

*Entry Fees*

**Nov. 7 \$1000. Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> \$1500. Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> \$ 2000.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize 70% - 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize 30%**

*The Riviera Hotel and the Nevada Backgammon Association Proudly present  
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*Prizes will be awarded at random Public Drawing*

**5 Prizes of \$200. 5 Prizes of \$500. 5 Prizes of \$1000. and 1 Prize of \$1500.**

November 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> 2004

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For more Tournament information contact

Tournament Director - **Howard Markowitz**

email - [howard114@cox.net](mailto:howard114@cox.net)

Telephone - +1 702 893 6023 Fax +1 702 893 0043

punch bag (which swore like hell at you when you hit it (very un-Gerry like!) and a pair of baby boxing gloves.



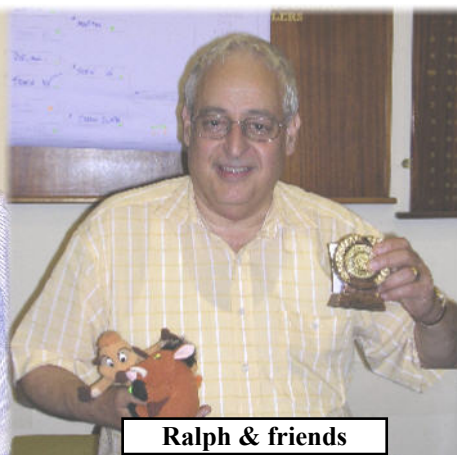
The finalists, Steve Rimmer and Alison Hamill fought it out and the winner chose which prize they wanted. Much to Steve's relief, even though he lost and was denied first choice, Alison picked the punch bag!

Finally. I'd like to mention one player this weekend who got as far as the last eight on two drawsheets and the last four on two more, and in each instance he was beaten by a finalist; and two of those were winners! Hard luck to Tony Fawcett.

Lastly, I can't wind up without thanking the Liverpool Club for being fantastic hosts and for once again giving us a great weekend's backgammon. Thank you, all of you.



Michael & Connor



Ralph & friends



Steve & Alison



Sharen & Julie Shopping mad!

## SAC Trophy. August 7/8 2004

Report by Michael Crane

*"Playing backgammon is like making love to a beautiful woman".*

*"First you've got to decide which way round you are going to play her. Then you need to get hold of her cups and give them a good shaking. After that you'll need to give her a good roll and then, when she least expects it, put her on the bar and make her dance for you.*



*Finally, bear everything off and give her a good gammon - they can't get enough!"*

### Main (10/38)

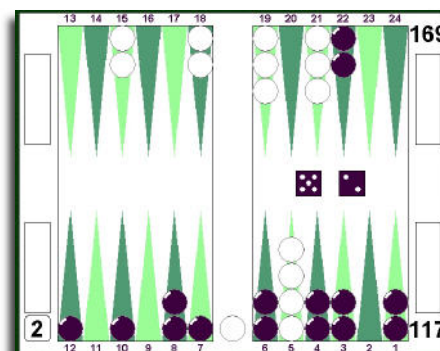
Now there's a man that knows a thing or two . . . about backgammon, anyway! Yes

## SAC Trophy Report by Michael Crane

our own Swiss Tony, Tony Lee, is making a name for himself by winning two consecutive Swiss events after only winning one match in the Jarvis. Mind you, winning the SAC wasn't straight forward for we had a true Swiss format wherein no-one scored six wins. Therefore we had four players on 5/6 after the 6<sup>th</sup> Round. Using count-backs as the first tie-breaker we established that Ken Gibson came 4<sup>th</sup> and Stuart Mann came 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tony and Ron Havenhand were tied so we went to the back-up tie-breaker, if they'd met in the tournament then the winner would prevail . . . and of course, Ron had lost to Tony in an earlier round.

Tony could have won the tourney outright if he'd beaten Stuart Mann in the 6<sup>th</sup> Round, but it was Stuart that came out the winner - forcing the tie-breaker.

With the score on 9-5 to Tony, Stuart offered over a two-cube; correct action was double/take. Several rolls later this was the position facing Tony (black) as he decides how to play his 52.



**11 point match**  
**Black 9 White 5**  
**Black to play 52**

Tony thought about it for a while and then played 22/20 12/7 making his bar-point. This turned out to be a wrong move! Snowie rates it as a blunder losing 0.121 in equity preferring to move 22/17 12/10. Just how wrong is evident two rolls later. Stuart rolls 64 and dances, Tony rolls 53 and instead of picking up the blot on his 10-point he makes his 17-point. Now, before we get into an argument here, this is in fact the correct play according to Snowie; but, the failure to make the 10-point earlier is now coming home to roost.

What Tony has done here is ensure that should the joker double-five come out for



Stuart it'll be a corker; off the bar, a man on the bar and a three-point home prime. This is exactly what happens, Stuart rolls 55 and Tony ends up on the bar. Tony's game/match winning chances have gone from 70.3% (52 played to make the 12-point) to 44.6% while on the bar. It is quite possible that he could have won outright had he not made the blunder with the 52. As it turned out, Stuart went on to win the point; and later the match.

#### Consolation (28/38)

2004 marked the start of the new Swiss format incorporating the Consolation element. The SAC is the third of such formats and one change was made to make the second match meaningful if the first one was lost. It was decided upon (by consensus among the players) that wins in the 1st or 2nd Rounds would count in the Consolation.

Two players in the 6<sup>th</sup> Round sat down with 4/5 to battle it out for the winner's place: Simonetta Barone and Steve Rimmer. It was a tight match and it went all the way to the wire before Simonetta whooped with joy at winning a trophy; her fist winner's one. Steve had to settle for the Runner-up position.

#### Friday Warm-up (10)

Rosey Bensley's weekend got off to a cracking start after she beat Geoff Conn in the Final. Rumour has it that she offered Geoff a 64-cube and he dropped!

#### £50 Jackpot (8)

Myke Wignall was on his way to the big money when up stepped Kazu Niki to stop him in his tracks in the Final. Mind you, Myke picked up a few Ranking Points for his efforts as well as a bit of dosh!

#### Doubles (6)

The SAC Doubles event has become an anniversary event for Paul Gilbertson and Jane Oxley - it being the event at which they met two years ago. This year, as last, they sponsored a trophy, and this one had a heart made up of entwined hands (ah!) which was very apt for the engaged couple. Aptly it was won by another couple, Catherine Oldfield and partner Paul Fox, playing as *Cathy's Clowns*. Somehow I can't see David Sanders and Peter Christmas (*Christmas Puddings*) having the same look in their eyes had they been the recipients of the salver instead of being the losing finalists!

**Poker** . . . there wasn't any! In future, anyone wanting to play poker must regis-

ter online (or via Biba HQ) before the weekend - Martin might not accept on-the-day entries. At the **Backpacker Trophy** in September, Mike Main has already set up a web page for registration (backgammon & poker) but you can also inform me via the Biba web site or HQ.

#### Finally . . .

It was a good weekend, free from problems and confrontation . . . just as I like it! If I have one complaint it is that it was too bloody hot to sleep at night!

#### Grand Prix and Ranking Championship News

Thanks to four wins at the weekend, John Slattery has pulled away a little from nearest rival in the *Grand Prix*, Steve Pickard, by just 11.35 points. The next *Grand Prix* points up for grabs are at the **Mind Sports Olympiad**, Weekend Tournament (August 21/22), *Olympiad* Championship (August 26/27) and the *English Open* (August 28/29). Tony's second Swiss victory has now given him a bye into the last eight of the UK Finals, well done, Tony.

In the Ranking Championship Peter Christmas has taken the lead over his nearest rival, Stuart Mann, by a similar amount to Slats, 11.36 points.

Both Championships are wide open at the moment and are set for an exciting next few months. Is it because there here is **prize money this year?** The 2004 *Grand Prix and Ranking Champions* will receive £250 each and the Runners-up £50 each, with 3rd getting £25 in each Championship. So, come on you lot, get to a few more tourneys and win a few more



games and it could be you taking home two hundred and fifty quid!

For the latest on the Championships see later in this issue.

# 8th Minds Sports Olympiad Backgammon

Reports from Michael Crane



**Nodar Gagua**

**4 Golds**

**1 Silver**

**Olympiad Amateur Champion**

One player stood out this games, Nodar. His remarkable number of medals is testament to his playing abilities and temperament. A backgammon player of considerable skill he finished 1<sup>st</sup> three times, 2<sup>nd</sup> once and 7<sup>th</sup> once with two lapses into 12<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> place to become the undisputed top player. Read on below to see how he achieved his medals.

## Beginner's Tournament 21 August

When is a Beginner's tournament not a Beginner's tournament? Answer, when just two players enter! Yep, just two entrants, Steven Watson and Jan Palmgren entered this event. It seems that the desired effect of keeping 'established' players out of the event by playing 3-point matches without the cube was too successful. Hopefully word will get around next year that the event is a true beginner's event and will therefore attract a few more than just a couple of entrants.

Not to worry, the two 'winners' were immediately elevated to the Weekend Tournament...

## Weekend Tournament (20) 21/22 August

Defending Champion, Martyn Hamer got off to a good start beating Richard Biddle and Dario de Toffoli. However, his 3<sup>rd</sup> Round opponent, Connor Dickinson soon put a stop to that letting Martyn win just four points in their match together.

Meanwhile Uldis Lapikens, 12<sup>th</sup> last year was sitting down to play Piero Zama in the 3<sup>rd</sup>



*The crowd watch the last round match between Dario and Connor*



*Connor and Uldis with their medals*



*Steven and Fanika battle it out for their first 11-point win*

Round in their bid to win 3/3. The match score went to 9-9 and, as per the book, Uldis cubed at the first advantage. After a tight game in which it could have gone either way it was Uldis that emerged with three wins under his belt.

In their encounter, after a match that oscillated more than an electric fan in a hurricane, Connor notched up his 4<sup>th</sup> win leaving Uldis on three. It was now the turn of David Phillips to stop Connor's bid for Olympic Gold. David kept up the pressure and kept nosing ahead, then Connor would pull back, and then David would nose ahead... you get the picture? It was Connor who eventually came out on top: 5-5 with one to go.

So here we are in Round 6, Connor on 5 playing Dario de Toffoli on 4 (random draw), and Uldis on 4 playing Jeff Barber on 3 (random draw). Hopefully our medal winners should come from these players – at least on 5-5 Connor will win silver at least... I think!

The match went to DMP but it was Connor who came out the winner with 6-6 and the Gold medal. This left count-backs for the Silver and Bronze from the fours. Uldis Lapikens took the Silver and Dario de Toffoli took home the Bronze.

The two 'beginners', Jan and Steven had differing experiences. Jan was the last (and third) player with 2/2 but was beaten by David Phillips. Steven, unfortunately was unable to win any matches on the Saturday. On his second day he faced Fanika Petkovska who was also after her first win. It was Fanika who emerged on top, a big smile cleaving her face in two, leaving Steven seeking that elusive first win. Could John Rudolf be Steven's first victim in Round 5? No he wasn't.

It was then down to Steven and Richard Biddle – could Steven win? Richard was desperate for a second win so it was going to be tough. In the end Steven went home without a win, but I am sure he enjoyed himself, nonetheless.



Father and son rivals, John and David Rudolf (junior entrant) carried on their annual 'I'm better than you' encounter with John winning only his 3<sup>rd</sup> Round match against Fanika, and David winning his 3<sup>rd</sup> Round match against Tim Brown.

At 1-1 going into Round 4 would one of them emerge with a second win? John failed against Tim Brown (getting revenge on the dad for being beaten by the son!). David, thanks to four doubles in the bearoff against Jeff Barber went 10-7 up, but this sequence of jokers wasn't enough and Jeff prevailed. So, back to the battle

It was in Round Six that the two Rudolfs faced each other on two wins each; one of them would emerge the victor. Worried about losing his pocket money David thought it prudent to let his dad win and therefore, once again, John won the family battle . . . and David retained his pocket money!

Congratulations to all our medal winners and thanks to everyone for taking part.

### 1-Point Wipeout (15)

**23 August**

What a little gem this new format turned out to be. 1-point matches without the cube, the player accruing the most points from the Round Robin format being the winner.

Points were awarded thus:  
Normal win = 1 point,  
gammon = 2 points,  
backgammon = 3 points.  
Lose normal game = ½ point,  
lose gammon or backgammon = 0 points.

So, to maximise your points, gammons and backgammons were crucial. Not only did they do you well, they did your opponent harm. After seven rounds gammons and backgammons had put Vicky Chandler in pole position with a score of 9.5. This she increased to 15 points after 10

rounds; and it was here that she faltered. Richard Biddle had accrued 10 points, as had John Kwee and Paco Garcia; and Martyn Hamer 11.5 – all in contention.

Over the remaining rounds Vicky won just 1.5 more points finishing on 16.5, which, due to the failure of the pack following her to win enough gammons/backgammons, was enough to take the Gold.

Of the players above only Paco gained enough points to take the Silver with 15.5

points, and Irving Czechowicz took Bronze with 14.5 points, snatching it off Martyn who also had 14.5 points but had lost his match against Irving and therefore was out of the medals.

It was a good event and one I am looking forward to running it again next year – and also, I think are the 15 entrants, too.

### Biba 1-Day Challenge (21)

**24 August**

Arriving late, John Slattery had to be content with a ½ point bye because we had an entry of 20 players and he made it an odd number. It was touch and go for a while that he'd in fact get zero points on penalties but he hadn't pre-registered; as he'd thought!

Mind you, in the end it didn't really matter for he managed to finish off with just 3.5 points and out of the medals. Someone very much into the medals was Nodar Gagua, winning 4-4 he was matched against Kevin Stebbings. It fell to Kevin to beat Nodar and then leave it wide open on the medal front for any of the 4s waiting on the sideline.

Kevin did the job; and in doing so was robbed of a medal himself! Of the four on 4-4, Kevin's countbacks were the fewest and he was pipped by just 1 point. The medals went thus: Nodar, Gold. John Broomfield, Silver. John Kwee, Bronze.

### Umist Cup (21)

**25 August**

Jane Oxley got off to a good start, 3-3 and facing Mahmoud Jahanbani in the 4<sup>th</sup> Round. From this encounter one of them would emerge with 4-4. Nodar Gagua was playing against John Slattery (a 2-3 elevated to play with a 3-3) to see if we could have two on 4-4. Nodar lost to John and this left just Jane or Mahmoud able to pull ahead, 4-4.

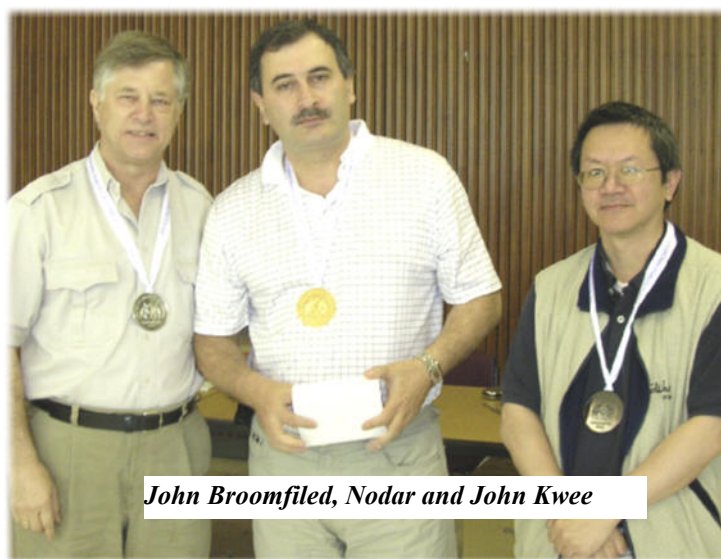
Jane triumphed over Mahmoud and became the only 4-4 in the tournament. Nodar was elected to play her in the 5<sup>th</sup> Round; an encounter from which Jane would emerge with the Gold should she



*John and David battle it out- again!*



*The Medal Winners.  
Vicky, Irving and Paco*



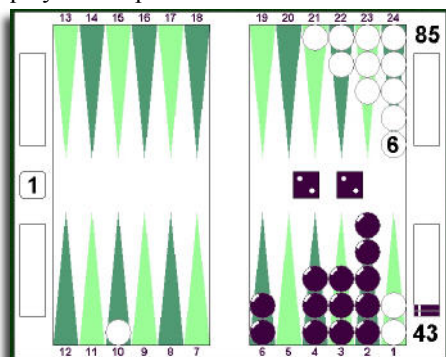
*John Broomfield, Nodar and John Kwee*



win . . . else it would go to countbacks for the five players on 4-5, a situation Jane was anxious to avoid.

Nodar did in fact beat her and so it was down to countbacks – again! After some time checking the scores the outcome was favourable for Jane, she came out 0.5 points ahead of Nodar and took the Gold, Nodar took Silver (his second consecutive medal). The Bronze was a lot harder to award. Two players had the same points and on countbacks they were also level. After taking advice from event organiser, Tony Corfe it was decided that further tiebreaks were going a bit too far so both players were awarded joint Bronze; the two were John Broomfield (Silver yesterday) and John Slattery.

During John Slattery's game against Steve Rimmer in the final round, Steve (black) had a double two to play in this position:



**11 point match  
Crawford game  
Black 3 White 6  
Black to play 22**

It's crucial here that Steve wins, for if he loses this game he loses the match. Playing 4/2 3/0(3) is tempting for a gammon chance but in fact it is too risky and returns fewer gammon chances than the correct play of 6/4(2) 2/0(2). This play gives Steve 98.9% winning chances and 44.3% gammon chances, the former move is 97.6% and 42.8%. Steve chose to take the three checkers off, "the gammon play" as he called it; which wasn't . . . but he got the gammon anyway!. Unfortunately though, it was John that prevailed in the end and, as you've read above, it



**John, Jane, Nodar and Slats**



**Paco, Nodar and Uldis**

gained him a Bronze medal to boot.

### **Olympiad Championship (20) 26/27 August**

Despite the fact that there are six other opportunities to win a gold medal over the ten days this is recognised as *the* gold to aim for. Playing 6 x 11 point matches over two days it is the one event that players recognise as the true Olympiad backgammon event.

On the first day Jane Oxley won 2-2 and had her sights set on another medal to add to her Gold in the Umist Cup but Paco Garcia dashed her hopes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round leaving her an outside chance of a medal. John Rudolf was on 2-2 when he faced Nodar Gagua on the same score. Nodar, already a double medal winner, Gold and Silver, came out on top and was on his way to another medal with 3-3. Joining him on 3-3 was the only other player with a perfect score, Uldis Lapikens. They have met twice so far this games and each time Nodar has won the encounter, so, would Day Two be Uldis's day?

At the opposite end of the event, John Kwee and Andrew Havery faced each other on 0-3 in a bid to see who will be

leaving Round Three with their first win. It was John who won and then Andrew had to play John Broomfield. Against the 'smart' money, Andrew emerged from the fray clutching his first win; spurred on by this he then went on to beat Fanika Petkovska in the 6<sup>th</sup> Round to finish on 2-6.

Uldis lost again to Nodar, but, he had the last laugh because this was his only loss, so on 5-6 Uldis was sat waiting for a Nodar/Jane battle (again) to see what medal he'd end up with, silver or bronze. Nodar was already on 5-6 so only Jane could stop him winning gold outright. But, as before it was Nodar who came out the winner and with it his second Gold and his third medal in as many events! What a player. No-one seems to be able to stop him. Thanks to this encounter Uldis took the Silver (his second of the games) and, on countbacks, the Bronze went to Paco Garcia (to join his previous silver).

So, the Olympic Championship is over for another year. Let's hope that Nodar will return next year to see if he can make it two in a row.

### **English Open (36) 28/29 August**

Shake, rattle and roll. No, it's not a throwback to the golden age of rock, it's my advice to a player after their opponent complained about the way in which he shook his dice. A proper shake is in an up and down motion with the a hand over the cup to stop the dice catapulting across the playing room; then they have to be hurled out of the cup from a height high enough for them both to bounce across the board before coming to a halt. Side to side and tipping out from 1/2" above the playing surface is *not* a valid roll. So ends today's lesson.

The (first) *match of the day* was between John Slattery and Nodar Gagua. It went to 9-9 and, with just 10 minutes of playing time left before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round was due to begin.

A crowd soon gathered around to watch to see who would win and whether or not they would incur any penalty points for taking too long over the match. As it

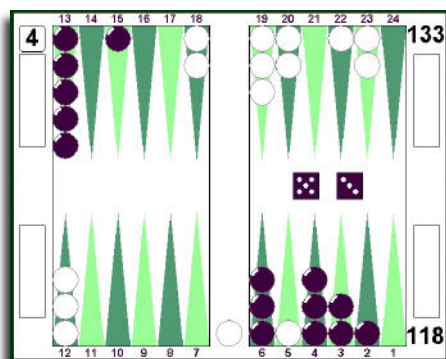


turned out, John won with one minute to spare. So, Nodar loses his first match – and with it perhaps his chance of gold? Time will tell. After the end of play on Saturday we had 5 players on 3-3, John Slattery, Thomas Allsop, John Broomfield, Ian Gwynne and Paco Garcia.

Jeff Barber had a tough match against Nodar in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round. He was 10-0 down post-Crawford and he pulled it back to DMP. It all came down to the bearoff in the end. Jeff had three checkers on his 1-point and Nodar had three, one each on his 6-, 5- and 2-points. Nodar rolled 32 and played 2/0 and was left with the three to play. After a lot of moving and looking he settled on 6/3; which was the correct play in this position – although his roll of 63 didn't make any difference. Jeff needed a double but was unable to chuck out one of the six lurking inside his cup. Good effort, Jeff and well played but once again the bridesmaid.

From the five fives above John Slattery and Ian Gwynne made it 5-5 and played off for the gold – silver might or might not go to the loser, countbacks will decide. In the 6<sup>th</sup> Round it was a definite playoff for the gold, and it was John with a clean sheet 11-0 that came out gleaming; the English Open Champion 2004. So, that left Ian on 5-6 along with Connor Dickinson and Jan Palmgren and it was down to countbacks for the medals. Unfortunately for him Jan's countbacks were not enough to make it into a medal position; these went to Ian, Silver, Connor, Bronze.

Connor Dickinson (black) had a difficult choice of move in his match against Kevin Stebbing in Round 2.



**11 point match**  
**Black 5 White 7**  
**Black to play 53**



**John Slattery**  
**English Open Champion**



**Tim Brown, Tony Corfe (Event Manager)**  
**Nodar and John Slattery**

The temptation to misplay this is great. Making the 5- or 10-points looks OK but both are blunders. The correct play here is to move 13/5\* and place two on the bar. This is what Connor did and he went on to win the match from hereon and a Bronze medal.

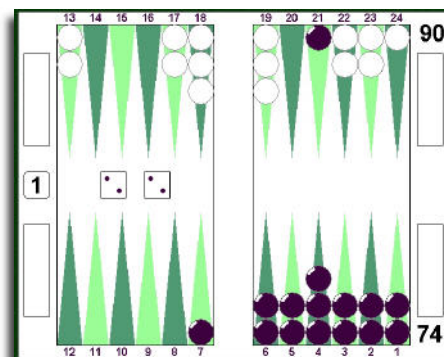
### Manchester Blitz (14)

#### 30 August

An entry of just 14 meant that this was going to be an open event right until the end. Favourites were Nodar Gagua and John Slattery - not only were they looking for the gold, but for high points in the Olympiad Amateur Championship too (see below). The crunch came when they met in Round 4 with John on 3-3 and Nodar on 2-3 (beaten by Tim Brown in the 2<sup>nd</sup>) It was Nodar that came out the winner and from thereon he won the re-

maining two matches to be the only one with 5-6 and took home his third Gold. Slats got the Silver and Tim Brown pipped Rachel Rhodes to the Bronze.

During his journey to the Gold, in the match between him and Slats, Nodar (white) had a double-two to play in this position:



**3 point match**  
**Crawford game**  
**Black 1 White 2**  
**White to play 22**

As one might expect from a top player, Nodar chose the correct play of 8/4\*(2) even though Slats's board is closed. If he is hit on the 1-point it is likely that Slats's prime will crumble and if Slats enters with a 5n the 12-point checkers will have a go at him on the way past.

### Olympiad Amateur Championship

This event is based upon the top four points out of seven using the MSO Pentamind scores to determine the Champion. On the final day, Monday, it was John Broomfield who lead the field by just 8 points with Nodar and Slats close behind him.

John wasn't present on the Monday and therefore he left his winning position in the hands of others - with strict instructions that everyone was to beat Nodar and Slats. Alas this wasn't the case and the win for Nodar in the Blitz ensured his top position with Slats in 2<sup>nd</sup> placer and John Broomfield in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This part of the MSO has been a popular addition and it will be repeated next year without doubt.

### Finally . . .

So, 'man of the games' was undoubtedly Nodar; three Gold, one Silver and the Amateur Championship (effectively another Gold). All week he was the man to



beat and he rarely was! John Slattery missed out on three of the seven events and one can only wonder what he might achieved had he been there for all seven. I think it would have been a close call between these two and I'm not being drawn into which of them I think might have been the better!

### Finally; a few light moments . .

Provision was made for those players about to face Nodar



and John Broomfield relaxes while his opponent, Brian Lever contemplates his next move!



| Weekend Tournament |                   |      |     |        |       |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|
| pos                | name              | wins | Pts | Pent   | GP    |
| 1                  | Connor Dickinson  | 6    | 27  | 100.00 | 24.77 |
| 2                  | Uldis Lapikens    | 4    | 23  | 81.58  | 9.29  |
| 3                  | Dario De Toffoli  | 4    | 20  | 81.58  | 9.29  |
| 4                  | Irving Czechowicz | 4    | 19  | 81.58  | 9.29  |
| 4                  | John Broomfield   | 4    | 19  | 81.58  | 9.29  |
| 6                  | Mahmoud Jahanbani | 4    | 17  | 81.58  | 9.29  |
| 7                  | Jeff Barber       | 4    | 16  | 81.58  | 9.29  |
| 8                  | David Phillips    | 3    | 22  | 47.37  | 6.19  |
| 9                  | Steve Rimmer      | 3    | 21  | 47.37  | 6.19  |
| 10                 | Martyn Hamer      | 3    | 21  | 47.37  | 6.19  |
| 11                 | Piero Zama        | 3    | 19  | 47.37  | 6.19  |
| 12                 | Nodar Gagua       | 3    | 18  | 47.37  | 6.19  |
| 13                 | Jan Palmgren      | 3    | 17  | 47.37  | 6.19  |
| 14                 | John Rudolf       | 3    | 13  | 47.37  | 6.19  |
| 15                 | David Rudolf      | 2    | 18  | 18.42  | 4.13  |
| 16                 | Alan Greenwood    | 2    | 16  | 18.42  | 4.13  |
| 16                 | Richard Biddle    | 2    | 16  | 18.42  | 4.13  |
| 16                 | Tim Brown         | 2    | 16  | 18.42  | 4.13  |
| 19                 | Fanika Petkovska  | 1    | 13  | 5.26   | 2.58  |
| 20                 | Steven Watson     | 0    | 15  | 0      | 0     |

| Olympiad Championship |                   |      |     |        |       |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|
| pos                   | name              | wins | Pts | Pent   | GP    |
| 1                     | Nodar Gagua       | 6    | 22  | 100.00 | 24.77 |
| 2                     | Uldis Lapikens    | 5    | 21  | 94.74  | 13.42 |
| 3                     | Paco Garcia       | 4    | 25  | 81.57  | 9.29  |
| 4                     | Jane Oxley        | 4    | 21  | 81.57  | 9.29  |
| 4                     | Steve Rimmer      | 4    | 21  | 81.57  | 9.29  |
| 6                     | Richard Biddle    | 4    | 15  | 81.57  | 9.29  |
| 7                     | John Rudolf       | 3    | 23  | 52.63  | 6.19  |
| 8                     | Irving Czechowicz | 3    | 21  | 52.63  | 6.19  |
| 8                     | Kevin Stebbing    | 3    | 21  | 52.63  | 6.19  |
| 10                    | John Slattery     | 3    | 18  | 52.63  | 6.19  |
| 10                    | Luis Lantaron     | 3    | 18  | 52.63  | 6.19  |
| 12                    | John Kwee         | 3    | 16  | 52.63  | 6.19  |
| 13                    | Tim Brown         | 3    | 15  | 52.63  | 6.19  |
| 14                    | John Broomfield   | 2    | 22  | 21.05  | 4.13  |
| 15                    | David Rudolf      | 2    | 16  | 21.05  | 4.13  |
| 15                    | Jeff Barber       | 2    | 16  | 21.05  | 4.13  |
| 15                    | Mahmoud Jahanbani | 2    | 16  | 21.05  | 4.13  |
| 18                    | Andrew Havery     | 2    | 14  | 21.05  | 4.13  |
| 19                    | George Lane       | 1    | 16  | 5.26   | 2.58  |
| 20                    | Fanika Petkovska  | 1    | 14  | 5.26   | 2.58  |

| 1 Point Wipe out |                   |      |        |
|------------------|-------------------|------|--------|
| pos              | name              | wins | Pent   |
| 1                | Vicky Chandler    | 16.5 | 100.00 |
| 2                | Paco Garcia       | 15.5 | 92.86  |
| 3                | Irving Czechowicz | 14.5 | 82.14  |
| 3                | Martyn Hamer      | 14.5 | 82.14  |
| 5                | Richard Biddle    | 13.5 | 71.43  |
| 6                | Steve Rimmer      | 13   | 64.29  |
| 7                | Nodar Gagua       | 12.5 | 53.57  |
| 7                | John Kwee         | 12.5 | 53.57  |
| 9                | Jeff Barber       | 12   | 39.28  |
| 9                | Mahmoud Jahanbani | 12   | 39.28  |
| 11               | Fanika Petkovska  | 10.5 | 28.57  |
| 12               | Uldis Lapikens    | 9.5  | 17.86  |
| 12               | John Broomfield   | 9.5  | 17.86  |
| 14               | Tim Brown         | 7    | 7.14   |
| 15               | William Chandler  | 5    | 0.00   |

| Manchester Blitz |                   |      |     |        |
|------------------|-------------------|------|-----|--------|
| pos              | name              | wins | Pts | Pent   |
| 1                | Nodar Gagua       | 5    | 19  | 100.00 |
| 2                | John Slattery     | 4    | 22  | 84.61  |
| 3                | Tim Brown         | 4    | 21  | 84.61  |
| 4                | Rachel Rhodes     | 4    | 14  | 84.61  |
| 5                | Gert Mittring     | 3    | 21  | 50.00  |
| 6                | Fanika Petkovska  | 3    | 19  | 50.00  |
| 6                | Uldis Lapikens    | 3    | 19  | 50.00  |
| 8                | Richard Biddle    | 3    | 18  | 50.00  |
| 9                | John Kwee         | 3    | 17  | 50.00  |
| 10               | Mahmoud Jahanbani | 3    | 16  | 50.00  |
| 11               | Irving Czechowicz | 2    | 15  | 23.08  |
| 12               | Jeff Barber       | 1    | 18  | 11.52  |
| 13               | Kevin Stebbing    | 1    | 11  | 11.52  |
| 14               | Rosemary Bensley  | 0    | 10  | 0.00   |



| Umist Cup |                   |      |      |       |
|-----------|-------------------|------|------|-------|
| pos       | name              | wins | Pts  | Pent  |
| 1         | Jane Oxley        | 4    | 15   | 90.00 |
| 2         | Nodar Gagua       | 4    | 14.5 | 90.00 |
| 3         | John Broomfield   | 4    | 13   | 90.00 |
| 3         | John Slattery     | 4    | 13   | 90.00 |
| 5         | Richard Biddle    | 4    | 11   | 90.00 |
| 6         | Mahmoud Jahanbani | 3    | 16   | 65.00 |
| 7         | Steve Rimmer      | 3    | 15   | 65.00 |
| 8         | John Kwee         | 3    | 14   | 65.00 |
| 9         | Luis Lantaron     | 3    | 12.5 | 65.00 |
| 10        | Bijan Mehdinejad  | 3    | 12   | 65.00 |
| 11        | Jeff Barber       | 2    | 17   | 32.50 |
| 12        | Mark Tastet       | 2    | 14   | 32.50 |
| 13        | Kevin Stebbing    | 2    | 14   | 32.50 |
| 14        | Fanika Petkovska  | 2    | 13.5 | 32.50 |
| 15        | Uldis Lapikens    | 2    | 13   | 32.50 |
| 16        | Jan Palmgren      | 2    | 11   | 32.50 |
| 17        | Rodney Lighton    | 2    | 8    | 32.50 |
| 18        | Josef Kollar      | 2    | 7    | 32.50 |
| 19        | Paco Garcia       | 1.5  | 10   | 10.00 |
| 20        | Irving Czechowicz | 1    | 11   | 5     |
| 21        | Tim Brown         | 1    | 8.5  | 5     |

| Biba Challenge |                   |      |     |       |
|----------------|-------------------|------|-----|-------|
| pos            | name              | wins | Pts | Pent  |
| 1              | Nodar Gagua       | 4    | 16  | 92.50 |
| 2              | John Broomfield   | 4    | 15  | 92.50 |
| 3              | John Kwee         | 4    | 14  | 92.50 |
| 4              | Kevin Stebbing    | 4    | 13  | 92.50 |
| 5              | John Slattery     | 3    | 11  | 80.00 |
| 6              | Tim Brown         | 3    | 16  | 65.00 |
| 7              | Mahmoud Jahanbani | 3    | 15  | 65.00 |
| 8              | Jane Oxley        | 3    | 14  | 65.00 |
| 9              | Steve Rimmer      | 3    | 13  | 65.00 |
| 10             | Piero Zama        | 3    | 10  | 65.00 |
| 11             | Martin Thompson   | 3    | 9   | 65.00 |
| 12             | Joey Ho           | 2    | 16  | 30.00 |
| 13             | Luis Lantaron     | 2    | 14  | 30.00 |
| 14             | Irving Czechowicz | 2    | 13  | 30.00 |
| 14             | Uldis Lapikens    | 2    | 13  | 30.00 |
| 16             | David Rudolf      | 2    | 10  | 30.00 |
| 16             | Fanika Petkovska  | 2    | 10  | 30.00 |
| 18             | Jeff Barber       | 2    | 7   | 30.00 |
| 19             | Paco Garcia       | 1    | 14  | 7.50  |
| 20             | Josef Kollar      | 1    | 13  | 7.5   |
| 21             | Richard Biddle    | 1    | 8   | 0     |

| English Open |                   |      |     |        |       |
|--------------|-------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|
| pos          | name              | wins | Pts | Pent   | GP    |
| 1            | John Slattery     | 6    | 21  | 100.00 | 24.77 |
| 2            | Ian Gwynne        | 5    | 23  | 94.28  | 18.58 |
| 3            | Connor Dickinson  | 5    | 21  | 94.28  | 13.42 |
| 4            | Jan Palmgren      | 5    | 16  | 94.28  | 13.42 |
| 5            | Paco Garcia       | 4    | 24  | 82.86  | 9.29  |
| 6            | Thomas Allsop     | 4    | 22  | 80.00  | 9.29  |
| 7            | John Broomfield   | 4    | 21  | 80.00  | 9.29  |
| 8            | Uldis Lapikens    | 4    | 18  | 80.00  | 9.29  |
| 9            | Rodney Lighton    | 4    | 17  | 80.00  | 9.29  |
| 10           | Mahmoud Jahanbani | 4    | 15  | 80.00  | 9.29  |
| 11           | Brian Lever       | 4    | 14  | 80.00  | 9.29  |
| 12           | Dawn Colley       | 3    | 22  | 52.85  | 6.19  |
| 12           | Richard Biddle    | 3    | 22  | 52.85  | 6.19  |
| 14           | Irving Czechowicz | 3    | 20  | 52.85  | 6.19  |
| 14           | Nodar Gagua       | 3    | 20  | 52.85  | 6.19  |
| 16           | Ian Shaw          | 3    | 18  | 52.85  | 6.19  |
| 16           | Vicky Chandler    | 3    | 18  | 52.85  | 6.19  |
| 18           | Jeff Barber       | 3    | 16  | 52.85  | 6.19  |
| 19           | Luis Lantaron     | 3    | 15  | 52.85  | 6.19  |
| 20           | John Kwee         | 3    | 14  | 52.85  | 6.19  |
| 21           | Adrian Jones      | 3    | 14  | 52.85  | 6.19  |
| 22           | Tim Brown         | 3    | 13  | 52.85  | 6.19  |
| 23           | Demis Hassabis    | 3    | 11  | 52.85  | 6.19  |
| 24           | Kevin Stebbing    | 2    | 22  | 30     | 4.13  |
| 25           | Rosemary Bensley  | 2    | 21  | 30     | 4.13  |
| 26           | Tony Fawcett      | 2    | 19  | 30     | 4.13  |
| 27           | Martin Hemming    | 2    | 16  | 30     | 4.13  |
| 28           | John Hamer        | 1    | 16  | 14.28  | 2.58  |
| 29           | Fanika Petkovska  | 1    | 14  | 14.28  | 2.58  |
| 30           | Alan Greenwood    | 1    | 13  | 14.28  | 2.58  |
| 31           | Jon Sharpe        | 1    | 12  | 14.28  | 2.58  |
| 32           | Ian Shimwell      | 1    | 9   | 14.28  | 2.58  |
| 33           | Alexander Baron   | 1    | 9   | 14.28  | 2.58  |
| 34           | Jane Oxley        | 1    | 6   | 14.28  | 2.58  |
| 35           | Bijan Mehdinejad  | 0    | 11  | 2.86   | 0     |
| 36           | Martyn Hamer      | 0    | 9   | 2.86   | 0     |

**The Amateur Championship scores can be seen on the Biba web site and the *Grand Prix* Points for the three events on page 47.**

# Competition 2004 No3, 7201-06 Questions

By Michael Crane

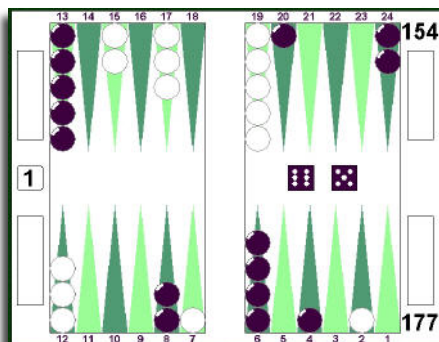
**Welcome to the last of the three Competitions that make up the 2004 season.**

- The winner will win half price Saturday accommodation at any one tournament of their choice.
- The member with the highest points total at the end of the year will win £75.

Entries to be in by November 1st. 2004

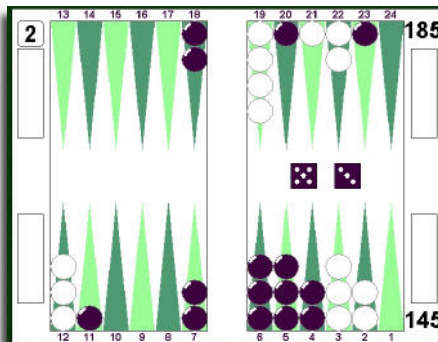
Email: to [comps@backgammon-biba.co.uk](mailto:comps@backgammon-biba.co.uk)  
and all 'hard copy' to Biba HQ via Royal Mail.

**7201**



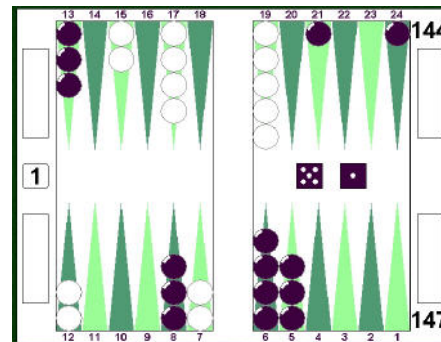
**5 point match**  
**White 1 Black 0**  
**Black to play 65**

**7203**



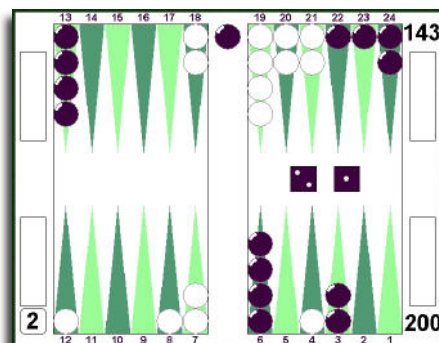
**5 point match**  
**White 0 Black 1**  
**Black to play 53**

**7205**



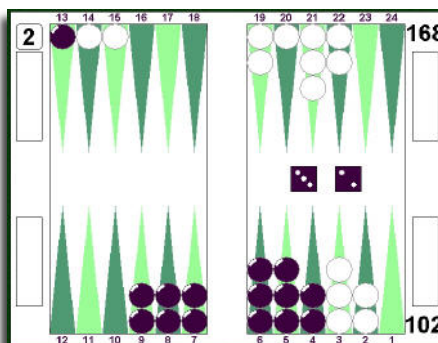
**5 point match**  
**White 1 Black 2**  
**Black to play 51**

**7202**



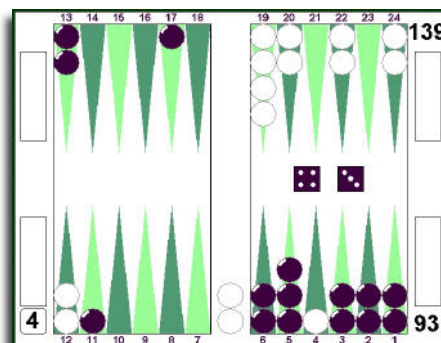
**5 point match**  
**White 0 Black 1**  
**Black to play 21**

**7204**



**5 point match**  
**White 0 Black 1**  
**Black to play 32**

**7206**



**5 point match**  
**White 2 Black 2**  
**Black to play 43**



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# BACKPACKER-BACKGAMMON

## TRIC TRAC TOURNOS

TRAVEL BACKGAMMON SETS

Sponsored by and Directed by Mike (*Mad Monk*) Main this event was wholly run via a spreadsheet on his laptop and projected onto a screen for all to see. The program worked very well for its first real test, however it does need a few tweaks to iron out some gremlins.

Mike designed the bit we all see - the front end where all the data is displayed, and Sean Williams designed all the clever bits that make it work. A lot of time and effort has been put into the programme and it is hoped one day to market it as a tournament tool for directors. I must say I was impressed by its operation but I am deterred from its use again due to the high cost of the projector required to display the contents - £900ish is a bit too much; and would buy a lot of paper and pencils!

### Main (39)

The 1<sup>st</sup> Round draw was made with 25 byes, placed at regular intervals. This meant that some players on byes were waiting on the outcome of the 1<sup>st</sup> Round before they could start their 2<sup>nd</sup> Round, and in some cases this delay was just over two hours. At Biba tournaments the byes are all lumped together and play starts immediately, which is preferred by the members.

However, once all players had an opponent things went along smoothly. On the Sunday morning, of the last eight, three of them were females: Rebecca Bell, Kerry Jackson and Anne Pocknell. Of these three only one didn't make it to the semis; Anne. Rebecca faced off against Jon Sharpe and Kerry against John Thomas. Rebecca prevailed but Kerry didn't (I'm certain JT was threatening her - but I can't prove it!). In her match against John it went Rebecca's way and she emerged the winner becoming the first Backpacker Trophy winner. (*Due to time constraints the match will appear at a later date on gammonvillage*).

### Consolation (35)

Neatly slipping in from the Main via Sean's programming, the 35 entrants battled it out. One or two players had fairly long waits for opponents but overall the timing was fair.

Playing from the 1<sup>st</sup> Round, (thanks to Zoe Cunningham) Tony Lee (of Swiss Tony fame!) played through six tough matches to reach the final. Anne Pock-

## Backpacker Trophy Report from Michael Crane



nell, Tony's opponent, had an easier route entering into the last eight from the Main via the Progressive side.

In the final it was 'Swiss' that came out on top - spouting something about making love? This seven rounder stood Tony in

good stead for *Grand Prix* points and has now placed him in 2<sup>nd</sup> place behind John Slattery!

### Last Chance (18)

Eighteen? Yes. For reasons unknown Mike made this element Progressive and therefore the entrants are well down on what is normal (32). In fact if we hadn't slipped a few more into slots created by byes the number would have been even lower. The progressive nature also meant some long delays for a few players.

Strangely, the four players that leapt into the last eight progressively were all beaten by original 1<sup>st</sup> round entrants and it was two of these 1<sup>st</sup> rounders that battled for the trophy - Zoe Cunningham and Vince Poil. Being a perfect gentleman Vince didn't really try and Zoe emerged victorious. Oh yeah?

### Suicide! (32)

Ah, 32; that's more like it. An open draw and plenty of re-entries. Taking advantage of one of those re-entries was Uldis Lapikens; he was beaten on his first attempt by Paul Statter but on his second attempt he made it to the final. Here he met Ken Gibson who needed just the one entry to get there. It would appear that the continued flow of matches aided Ken for he emerged an unbeaten winner and left Uldis clutching the Runner-up trophy.

### Friday Warm-up (16)

Despite a valiant effort by yours truly in the semi-final, Steve Lynch made it into the final. Here, after knocking out Zoe Cunningham, waited Jeff Barber. However, he waited for nothing for it was Steve that took the dosh and the weekend break for two.

### Doubles (8)

Make a note of this name: Saskia Griffiths-Moore. At 13 years old she was the youngest entrant in the competition and in the Doubles she teamed up with a much much older player to form *Bermuda Shorts* so named because he wore a Bermuda shirt and she was short! *Shorts* soon made short work of *Xmas Puds* and *23 Blue Boar Dream Team* to face *V Max* in the final. What a dilemma; for the *V Max* teamed consisted of Saskia's mum and her friend Howard! Poor girl, what could she do? Well, what she did was win! Much to her delight. She might have



lost a bit of pocket money by beating mum but the prize money more than made up for it. When asked the secret of their success Richard said, "I owe it all to my partner!"

### Poker (12)

I don't see much of the poker. Two reasons, 1- I'm always in the Doubles, and 2- it's too smokey to see anything!

One player unaffected by the smoke (perhaps because he was a major contributor to it!) was Steve Lynch. He took the winner-takes-all pot after it was suggest to play for it all by the 2<sup>nd</sup> place player, Tony Lee. Mick Vacarey came 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Finally.

It was good tournament and a fair turn-out. It would have been better but for a plane load of Brits (tagging along with Rosey Bensley and Slats) going to Slovenia - where Slats won the Consolation;



Uldis & Ken

Bermuda Shorts

about which you can read in the next issue of Bibafax and online shortly.

I'd like to thank Mike and Sean and Zoe for their hard work and dedication to a project about which they feel passionate and I wish them all success in marketing it when it is fully functional. I for one will be interested in using it . . .

less the progressive Last Chance . . . and if I can ever afford the projector!

## Tournament Results

### SAC Trophy. August 7/8

| Main (10/38)        |                  |      |       | Friday Warm-up (10)      |                    |   |      |
|---------------------|------------------|------|-------|--------------------------|--------------------|---|------|
| pos                 | name             | wins | gp    |                          |                    |   |      |
| 001                 | Tony Lee         | 5    | 18.58 | 007                      | Kazu Niki          | 3 | 6.19 |
| 002                 | Ron Havenhand    | 5    | 13.42 | 009                      | Jeff Barber        | 3 | 6.19 |
| 003                 | Stuart Mann      | 5    | 13.42 | 009                      | Alison Lee         | 3 | 6.19 |
| 003                 | Ken Gibson       | 5    | 13.42 | 011                      | Leslie Singleton   | 3 | 6.19 |
| 005                 | Ian Gwynne       | 4    | 9.29  | 012                      | John Gilbertson    | 3 | 6.19 |
| 006                 | Stavros Elia     | 4    | 9.29  | 013                      | Myke Wignall       | 3 | 6.19 |
| 007                 | Vicky Chandler   | 4    | 9.29  | 013                      | Jane Oxley         | 3 | 6.19 |
| 008                 | Richard Biddle   | 3    | 6.19  | 015                      | Peter Christmas    | 3 | 6.19 |
| 008                 | Nigel Briddon    | 3    | 6.19  | 016                      | Uldis Lapikens     | 2 | 4.13 |
| 010                 | Ian Tarr         | 2    | 4.13  | 017                      | Tony Fawcett       | 2 | 4.13 |
| Consolation (28/38) |                  |      |       | 018                      | Martin Hemming     | 2 | 4.13 |
| 001                 | Simonetta Barone | 5    | 13.42 | 019                      | Paul Barwick       | 2 | 4.13 |
| 002                 | Steve Rimmer     | 4    | 9.29  | 019                      | Kevin White        | 2 | 4.13 |
| 003                 | Steve Pickard    | 4    | 9.29  | 019                      | Anthony Coker      | 2 | 4.13 |
| 004                 | John Slattery    | 4    | 9.29  | 022                      | Paul Fox           | 2 | 4.13 |
| 005                 | Geoff Conn       | 4    | 9.29  | 023                      | David Nathan       | 1 | 2.58 |
| 006                 | Paul Gilbertson  | 3    | 6.19  | 024                      | Rosey Bensley      | 1 | 2.58 |
| 007                 | Emmanuel Di Bona | 3    | 6.19  | 025                      | Malcolm Wilson     | 1 | 2.58 |
|                     |                  |      |       | 025                      | Mick Vacarey       | 1 | 2.58 |
|                     |                  |      |       | 025                      | David Sanders      | 1 | 2.58 |
|                     |                  |      |       | 028                      | Catherine Oldfield | 1 | 2.58 |
|                     |                  |      |       | £50 Jackpot (8)          |                    |   |      |
|                     |                  |      |       | 1                        | Kazu Niki          |   |      |
|                     |                  |      |       | 2                        | Myke Wignall       |   |      |
|                     |                  |      |       | 3/4                      | Ian Gwynne         |   |      |
|                     |                  |      |       | 3/4                      | John Slattery      |   |      |
|                     |                  |      |       | Doubles (6)              |                    |   |      |
|                     |                  |      |       | 1                        | Cathy's Clowns     |   |      |
|                     |                  |      |       | 2                        | Christmas Puds     |   |      |
|                     |                  |      |       | Top Name: Cathy's Clowns |                    |   |      |

|    |                                 |    |                               |
|----|---------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| 35 | 8th Minds Sports Olympiad       | 41 | Gammonvillage advert          |
| 2  | Advertising                     | 42 | Hatrick Boards advert         |
| 43 | Backpacker Trophy Report        | 16 | Liverpool Open                |
| 4  | Competition No2 - The Answers   | 11 | Local Clubs                   |
| 41 | Competition No3 - The Questions | 3  | Norah - Help for the Hopeless |
| 3  | Cottagewebs advert              | 42 | PlaymakerWorld advert         |
| 12 | Dates & Deals & Calendar        | 14 | Rosey's Reports. Monte Carlo  |
| 2  | David naylor Boards             | 13 | Rosey's Reports. Venice       |
| 17 | European Backgammon News        | 33 | SAC Trophy Report             |
| 11 | Forthcoming Events              | 44 | Tournament Results            |
| 48 | GamesGrid advert                |    |                               |

## Backpacker Trophy. September 4/5

### Main (39)

|     |               |
|-----|---------------|
| 1   | Rebecca Bell  |
| 2   | John Thomas   |
| 3/4 | Kerry Jackson |
| 3/4 | Jon Sharpe    |
| 5/8 | David Sanders |
| 5/8 | Peter Chan    |
| 5/8 | Al Hogg       |
| 5/8 | Anne Pocknell |

### Last Chance (18)

|     |                |
|-----|----------------|
| 1   | Zoe Cunnighnam |
| 2   | Vince Poil     |
| 3/4 | Paul Statter   |
| 3/4 | Ron Havenhand  |

### £50 Jackpot (4)

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 1 | Paul Statter |
| 2 | Geoff Conn   |

### Doubles (8)

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1                        | Bermuda Shorts          |
| 2                        | V Max                   |
| 3/4                      | 23 Blue Boar Dream Team |
| 3/4                      | A Right Pair of Anchors |
| Top name: Bermuda Shorts |                         |

### Consolation (35)

|     |                  |
|-----|------------------|
| 1   | Tony Lee         |
| 2   | Anne Pocknell    |
| 3/4 | Myke Wignall     |
| 3/4 | Peter Chan       |
| 5/8 | Al Hogg          |
| 5/8 | Tim Mooring      |
| 5/8 | David Sanders    |
| 5/8 | Jackie Griffiths |

### Suicide (32)

|     |                  |
|-----|------------------|
| 1   | Ken Gibson       |
| 2   | Uldis Lapikens   |
| 3/4 | Jeff Barber      |
| 3/4 | Seam Williams    |
| 5/8 | Mick Vacarey     |
| 5/8 | Richard Biddle   |
| 5/8 | Stavros Elia     |
| 5/8 | Fanika Petkovska |

### Poker

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 1 | Steve Lunch  |
| 2 | Tony Lee     |
| 3 | Mick Vacarey |

### Warm-up (16)

|     |                |
|-----|----------------|
| 1   | Steve Lynch    |
| 2   | Jeff Barber    |
| 3/4 | Zoe Cunningham |
| 3/4 | Michael Crane  |

## Grand Prix at Backpacker Trophy

|                 |       |                    |      |                  |      |
|-----------------|-------|--------------------|------|------------------|------|
| Rebecca Bell    | 24.77 | Uldis Lapikens     | 4.13 | Richard Biddle   | 2.58 |
| Tony Lee        | 24.77 | Tim Mooring        | 4.13 | Alison Lee       | 2.58 |
| John Thomas     | 18.58 | Mike Greenleaf     | 4.13 | Ron Havenhand    | 2.58 |
| Kerry Jackson   | 13.42 | David Nathan       | 4.13 | Jackie Griffiths | 2.58 |
| Jon Sharpe      | 9.29  | Stavros Elia       | 4.13 | Jeff Barber      | 2.06 |
| Peter Chan      | 9.29  | Myke Wignall       | 4.13 | Kevin White      | 2.06 |
| Zoe Cunningham  | 9.29  | Alexis Hogg        | 4.13 | Chris F Roberts  | 2.06 |
| Peter Christmas | 6.19  | Ian Gwynne         | 4.13 | Fanika Petkovska | 2.06 |
| Alistair Hogg   | 6.19  | Sean Williams      | 4.13 | Geoff Conn       | 1.55 |
| Ann Pocknell    | 6.19  | Paul Statter       | 4.13 | Bob Bruce        | 1.55 |
| Ken Gibson      | 6.19  | Mick Vacarey       | 4.13 |                  |      |
| Vince Poil      | 6.19  | Tony Walters       | 4.13 |                  |      |
| David Sanders   | 6.19  | Howard Furr-Barton | 4.13 |                  |      |

## Grand Prix Championship September 2004

|        |                  |       |                   |       |                   |
|--------|------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|
| 106.31 | John Slattery    | 41.80 | Ron Havenhand     | 31.48 | Ken Gibson        |
| 92.89  | Tony Lee         | 41.80 | Tom Allsop        | 30.97 | Nick Check        |
| 79.48  | Steve Pickard    | 41.29 | John Thomas       | 30.96 | Ann Pocknell      |
| 63.99  | Martin Hemming   | 41.29 | Paul Barwick      | 28.90 | Rebecca Bell      |
| 62.96  | Ian Gwynne       | 41.28 | Paul Gilbertson   | 27.35 | Julian Fetterlein |
| 61.92  | Nodar Gagua      | 41.28 | Vicky Chandler    | 26.84 | John Clark        |
| 59.86  | Roy Hollands     | 40.25 | Brian Lever       | 26.84 | Mahmoud Jahanbani |
| 59.35  | Stuart Mann      | 40.25 | Tony Fawcett      | 26.84 | Raj Jansari       |
| 55.73  | Peter Christmas  | 39.74 | Mardi Ohannessian | 26.32 | Rodney Lighton    |
| 53.67  | Uldis Lapikens   | 39.22 | Paul Christmas    | 26.32 | Stavros Elia      |
| 53.67  | Emmanuel Di Bona | 39.21 | Peter Bennet      | 25.29 | Ian Tarr          |
| 49.55  | Simon K Jones    | 38.19 | Dod Davies        | 24.77 | Eddie Barker      |
| 48.51  | Steve Rimmer     | 37.66 | Jason Champion    | 24.77 | Paul Statter      |
| 47.48  | Connor Dickinson | 37.15 | Jane Oxley        | 24.26 | Geoff Conn        |
| 47.48  | Rosey Bensley    | 36.12 | Dawn Colley       | 24.25 | Alison Lee        |
| 46.45  | David Nathan     | 35.09 | David Startin     | 23.73 | Mick Vacarey      |
| 46.45  | Mick Butterfield | 34.57 | Richard Biddle    | 22.71 | Danny Cohen       |
| 45.42  | Mark Heidenfeld  | 34.06 | Kevin Stebbing    | 22.70 | John Gilbertson   |
| 44.90  | Lawrence Powell  | 33.03 | John Broomfield   | 21.15 | Tim Brown         |
| 44.38  | Tim Mooring      | 33.03 | Martin Barkwill   | 20.13 | David Markwick    |
| 43.34  | Jeff Barber      | 32.51 | Kevin White       | 19.61 | Bob Young         |
| 43.34  | Myke Wignall     | 32.00 | Mike Heard        | 18.58 | Richard Granville |
| 42.83  | Rachel Rhodes    | 32.00 | Peter Chan        | 18.58 | Dave Robbins      |
| 42.32  | Mike Greenleaf   | 31.48 | Simonetta Barone  | 18.58 | Steffen Nowak     |

|       |                     |      |                      |      |                    |
|-------|---------------------|------|----------------------|------|--------------------|
| 18.06 | Jon Sharpe          | 9.29 | Jim Johnson          | 6.19 | Adam Robac         |
| 17.55 | Jeff Ellis          | 9.29 | Alan Beckerson       | 6.19 | Cynthia Roberts    |
| 17.55 | Kerry Jackson       | 9.29 | Simon Barget         | 6.19 | Adrian Jones       |
| 17.55 | Julian Minwalla     | 9.29 | Andreas Giannopoulos | 5.13 | Andrew Darby       |
| 16.51 | Colin Laight        | 9.29 | Darryl Kirk          | 4.64 | Chris Evans        |
| 16.51 | John Kwee           | 9.29 | Alex Naylor          | 4.13 | Monica Beckerson   |
| 16.00 | Dave McNair         | 9.29 | Christopher Baxter   | 4.13 | Simon Baker        |
| 15.48 | Ralph Eskinazi      | 8.77 | Vince Poil           | 4.13 | Tim Wilkins        |
| 15.48 | Raymond Kershaw     | 8.77 | Catherine Oldfield   | 4.13 | Bill Spiers        |
| 15.48 | Jo Curl             | 8.26 | Steve Hallet         | 4.13 | Brendan Burgess    |
| 15.48 | Paul Fox            | 8.26 | Bryony Jessiman      | 4.13 | Mike Grabsky       |
| 15.48 | Kazu Niki           | 8.26 | Sean Williams        | 4.13 | Dave Raynsford     |
| 14.97 | Alan Greenwood      | 8.26 | Stephen Cole         | 4.13 | Chris Bray         |
| 14.96 | David Sanders       | 8.26 | Tony Walters         | 4.13 | Angela Dell        |
| 13.42 | Ray Tannen          | 8.25 | David Fall           | 4.13 | Peter Snape        |
| 13.42 | John Wright         | 8.25 | Cedric Lytton        | 4.13 | Tim Taylor         |
| 13.42 | Elliot Smart        | 6.19 | Diane Suliminski     | 4.13 | Paul Guy           |
| 13.42 | Johan Sallfors      | 6.19 | Miles Ilott          | 4.13 | Steve Lynch        |
| 13.42 | Frank Conway        | 6.19 | Neil Webb            | 4.13 | Colin Talbot       |
| 13.42 | Dzhiga Ulyumdzhieva | 6.19 | Dave Coyne           | 4.13 | Anthony Coker      |
| 13.42 | David Horner        | 6.19 | Nigel Merrigan       | 4.13 | Simon Morecroft    |
| 13.42 | Clyde Wolpe         | 6.19 | Nigel Hamill         | 4.13 | Ernie Pick         |
| 13.42 | Mochy Masayuki      | 6.19 | Arthur Musgrove      | 4.13 | Andrew Kindler     |
| 11.87 | Cliff Connick       | 6.19 | David McNamara       | 4.13 | David Barker       |
| 11.87 | Malcolm Wilson      | 6.19 | Alistair Hogg        | 4.13 | Adam Stocks        |
| 11.35 | Zoe Cunningham      | 6.19 | Brian Busfield       | 4.13 | Alexis Hogg        |
| 10.84 | Grahame Powell      | 6.19 | Andrew Sarjeant      | 4.13 | Vicky Gilbert      |
| 10.84 | Roland Herrera      | 6.19 | John Hurst           | 4.13 | Dan Boxall         |
| 10.32 | Michael Crane       | 6.19 | Felix Vink           | 4.13 | Eamon Keogh        |
| 10.32 | Malcolm Robertson   | 6.19 | Barry McAdam         | 4.13 | Andy Bell          |
| 10.32 | Dave Motley         | 6.19 | Francine Brandler    | 4.13 | Sue Keeble         |
| 10.32 | Kevin Berry         | 6.19 | Leslie Singleton     | 4.13 | Robbie Richards    |
| 10.32 | Ian Shaw            | 6.19 | Tom Duggan           | 4.13 | Zibia Szczerek     |
| 10.32 | Nigel Briddon       | 6.19 | Steven Reddi         | 4.13 | Howard Furr-Barton |
| 9.81  | Bob Bruce           | 6.19 | Simon Fahoury        | 4.12 | Chris F Roberts    |
| 9.80  | Fanika Petkovska    | 6.19 | Maureen Hart         |      |                    |

### Ranking Championship September 2004

|         |    |                   |         |    |                   |         |    |                    |
|---------|----|-------------------|---------|----|-------------------|---------|----|--------------------|
| 2211.50 | 14 | Peter Christmas   | 1835.29 | 14 | Jane Oxley        | 1514.17 | 12 | Kevin Stebbings    |
| 2152.21 | 14 | Stuart Mann       | 1832.57 | 14 | David Startin     | 1457.08 | 12 | Paul Statter       |
| 2128.50 | 14 | Ian Gwynne        | 1811.86 | 14 | Tim Mooring       | 1384.42 | 12 | Kevin Berry        |
| 2118.57 | 14 | Steve Pickard     | 1802.29 | 14 | Jason Champion    | 1324.75 | 12 | Malcolm Wilson     |
| 2109.86 | 14 | David Nathan      | 1797.36 | 14 | Lawrence Powell   | 1283.25 | 12 | Simon Fahoury      |
| 2101.36 | 14 | Emmanuel Di Bona  | 1788.00 | 14 | Rachel Rhodes     | 1034.33 | 12 | Cynthia Roberts    |
| 2099.07 | 14 | Tony Lee          | 1726.50 | 14 | Geoff Conn        | 1968.36 | 11 | Ann Pocknell       |
| 2095.43 | 14 | Mark Heidenfeld   | 1726.43 | 14 | Simon K Jones     | 1891.91 | 11 | Mike Heard         |
| 2078.86 | 14 | Roy Hollands      | 1724.93 | 14 | Peter Bennet      | 1793.82 | 11 | Mike Greenleaf     |
| 2055.36 | 14 | Mardi Ohannessian | 1671.29 | 14 | Nicky Check       | 1520.18 | 11 | Richard Biddle     |
| 2053.86 | 14 | Rosey Bensley     | 1652.71 | 14 | Peter Chan        | 1427.45 | 11 | David Markwick     |
| 2037.29 | 14 | John Slattery     | 1640.36 | 14 | Stavros Elia      | 1331.73 | 11 | Grahame Powell     |
| 2026.57 | 14 | Myke Wignall      | 1572.21 | 14 | Ian Tarr          | 1304.36 | 11 | David Sanders      |
| 2016.50 | 14 | Vicky Chandler    | 1555.43 | 14 | John Gilbertson   | 1707.00 | 10 | Kazu Niki          |
| 2008.71 | 14 | Tony Fawcett      | 1527.43 | 14 | Alison Lee        | 1663.30 | 10 | Steve Rimmer       |
| 1991.29 | 14 | Mick Butterfield  | 1515.57 | 14 | Mick Vacarey      | 1686.89 | 9  | Dawn Colley        |
| 1989.57 | 14 | Uldis Lapikens    | 1480.00 | 14 | Keven White       | 1664.67 | 9  | Jeff Ellis         |
| 1986.36 | 14 | Ron Havenhand     | 1304.36 | 14 | Paul Fox          | 1623.67 | 9  | Brian Lever        |
| 1978.14 | 14 | Jeff Barber       | 1276.50 | 14 | Jo Curl           | 1263.00 | 9  | Byrony Jessiman    |
| 1968.36 | 14 | Martin Hemming    | 1835.08 | 13 | Ken Gibson        | 1867.00 | 8  | Rebecca Bell       |
| 1944.93 | 14 | Simonetta Barone  | 1205.69 | 13 | Roland Herrera    | 1689.75 | 8  | David Horner       |
| 1906.21 | 14 | John Thomas       | 1697.83 | 12 | Tom Alsop         | 1558.63 | 8  | Nigel Briddon      |
| 1897.93 | 14 | Paul Barwick      | 1643.33 | 12 | Bob Young         | 1318.00 | 8  | Dzhiga Ulyumdzhier |
| 1892.93 | 14 | Paul Christmas    | 1612.75 | 12 | Steffen Nowak     | 1259.63 | 8  | Stephen Cole       |
| 1869.86 | 14 | Dod Davies        | 1611.92 | 12 | Rodney Lighton    | 1088.75 | 8  | Bob Bruce          |
| 1864.21 | 14 | Paul Gilbertson   | 1542.42 | 12 | Richard Granville |         |    |                    |

## Active Rankings September 2004

|      |      |                   |      |      |                   |      |      |                   |
|------|------|-------------------|------|------|-------------------|------|------|-------------------|
| 1968 | 1930 | Tony Lee          | 1642 | 1642 | Ian Tarr          | 1504 | 1474 | Peter Chan        |
| 1964 | 1964 | John Clark        | 1639 | 1639 | Barry McAdam      | 1492 | 1492 | Cliff Connick     |
| 1951 | 1951 | Julian Fetterlein | 1635 | 1627 | Peter Christmas   | 1488 | 1488 | John Gilbertson   |
| 1915 | 1915 | Brian Lever       | 1630 | 1630 | Paul Christmas    | 1487 | 1476 | Geoff Conn        |
| 1846 | 1846 | Stuart Mann       | 1630 | 1630 | Mick Butterfield  | 1486 | 1486 | Darryl Kirk       |
| 1833 | 1833 | Dod Davies        | 1629 | 1629 | Mark Heidenfeld   | 1481 | 1481 | Ernie Pick        |
| 1823 | 1823 | Jim Johnson       | 1625 | 1625 | Dave Robbins      | 1475 | 1472 | Myke Wignall      |
| 1822 | 1822 | John Slattery     | 1624 | 1624 | Rodney Lighton    | 1474 | 1474 | Rosey Bensley     |
| 1812 | 1812 | Lawrence Powell   | 1623 | 1623 | Steffen Nowak     | 1473 | 1473 | Johan Sallfors    |
| 1806 | 1806 | Dave McNair       | 1619 | 1619 | Steve Rimmer      | 1460 | 1460 | Anthony Coker     |
| 1801 | 1801 | David Startin     | 1618 | 1618 | Simon K Jones     | 1460 | 1460 | Jane Oxley        |
| 1791 | 1791 | Ray Tannen        | 1614 | 1569 | Kerry Jackson     | 1458 | 1458 | Vianney Bourgios  |
| 1791 | 1791 | Steve Hallet      | 1613 | 1613 | Mike Heard        | 1456 | 1456 | Monica Beckerson  |
| 1789 | 1789 | Rachel Rhodes     | 1612 | 1622 | Ian Gwynne        | 1449 | 1449 | Julian Minwalla   |
| 1782 | 1782 | Richard Granville | 1595 | 1595 | Francine Brandler | 1448 | 1453 | Kevin White       |
| 1777 | 1783 | David Nathan      | 1593 | 1593 | Nigel Briddon     | 1446 | 1427 | David Sanders     |
| 1774 | 1774 | Emmanuel Di Bona  | 1591 | 1591 | Martin Hemming    | 1433 | 1433 | Tony Fawcett      |
| 1762 | 1762 | Mardi Ohannessian | 1583 | 1583 | John Wright       | 1430 | 1332 | Rebecca Bell      |
| 1749 | 1749 | Ralph Eskinazi    | 1576 | 1576 | Ian Shaw          | 1429 | 1429 | Elliot Smart      |
| 1746 | 1746 | Danny Cohen       | 1575 | 1566 | Alistair Hogg     | 1425 | 1425 | Will Richardson   |
| 1745 | 1745 | Raj Jansari       | 1575 | 1575 | Raymond Kershaw   | 1422 | 1422 | Leslie Singleton  |
| 1743 | 1743 | Steve Pickard     | 1573 | 1588 | Ron Havenhand     | 1414 | 1414 | Wayne Felton      |
| 1737 | 1737 | Simon Barget      | 1571 | 1571 | Grahame Powell    | 1412 | 1412 | Andy Bell         |
| 1731 | 1731 | Roy Hollands      | 1568 | 1568 | Jason Champion    | 1409 | 1409 | Hubert De L'Epine |
| 1719 | 1719 | Brendan Burgess   | 1560 | 1560 | Eddie Barker      | 1404 | 1418 | Bob Bruce         |
| 1708 | 1708 | Dave Coyne        | 1552 | 1556 | Uldis Lapikens    | 1401 | 1401 | Paul Fox          |
| 1706 | 1682 | Ann Pocknell      | 1550 | 1574 | Jeff Barber       | 1398 | 1398 | David Naylor      |
| 1704 | 1704 | Jeff Ellis        | 1550 | 1550 | Amir Mossanen     | 1397 | 1397 | Colin Laight      |
| 1702 | 1702 | Tim Wilkins       | 1543 | 1543 | Stavros Elia      | 1389 | 1389 | Alan Greenwood    |
| 1700 | 1700 | Kevin Stebbing    | 1533 | 1533 | Dave Motley       | 1385 | 1385 | Cedric Lytton     |
| 1691 | 1644 | John Thomas       | 1532 | 1532 | Alan Beckerson    | 1385 | 1385 | Michael Main      |
| 1689 | 1689 | John Hurst        | 1530 | 1530 | Vicky Chandler    | 1382 | 1382 | Chris Evans       |
| 1683 | 1683 | Nick Check        | 1528 | 1528 | Kevin Berry       | 1374 | 1374 | Tim Brown         |
| 1680 | 1680 | Dale Taylor       | 1528 | 1528 | Paul Gilbertson   | 1366 | 1366 | Liz Barker        |
| 1664 | 1657 | Tim Mooring       | 1523 | 1523 | Paul Barwick      | 1364 | 1364 | Jo Curl           |
| 1659 | 1659 | Mike Grabsky      | 1520 | 1520 | David Horner      | 1364 | 1359 | Mick Vacarey      |
| 1652 | 1652 | Arthur Musgrove   | 1519 | 1519 | Roland Herrera    | 1357 | 1357 | Simon Fahoury     |
| 1652 | 1652 | Bob Young         | 1517 | 1517 | David McNamara    | 1352 | 1374 | Alison Lee        |
| 1650 | 1654 | Mike Greenleaf    | 1514 | 1514 | Steven Reddi      | 1327 | 1288 | Jon Sharpe        |
| 1648 | 1648 | Peter Bennet      | 1513 | 1513 | Pat Holly         | 1319 | 1319 | Sue Perks         |
| 1643 | 1643 | Brian Busfield    | 1512 | 1512 | Simonetta Barone  | 1249 | 1249 | Bryony Jessiman   |

## MSO8 Grand Prix Points

|                   |       |       |      |
|-------------------|-------|-------|------|
| Nodar Gagua       | 6.19  | 24.77 | 6.19 |
| Uldis Lapikens    | 9.29  | 13.42 | 9.29 |
| John Broomfield   | 9.29  | 4.13  | 9.29 |
| Mahmoud Jahanbani | 9.29  | 4.13  | 9.29 |
| Jeff Barber       | 9.29  | 4.13  | 6.19 |
| Richard Biddle    | 4.13  | 9.29  | 6.19 |
| Tim Brown         | 4.13  | 6.19  | 6.19 |
| Fanika Petkovska  | 2.58  | 2.58  | 2.58 |
| Connor Dickinson  | 24.77 | 13.42 |      |
| John Slattery     | 6.19  | 24.77 |      |
| Steve Rimmer      | 6.19  | 9.29  |      |
| John Kwee         | 6.19  | 6.19  |      |
| Jane Oxley        | 9.29  | 2.58  |      |
| Kevin Stebbing    | 6.19  | 4.13  |      |
| Alan Greenwood    | 4.13  | 2.58  |      |
| Ian Gwynne        | 18.58 |       |      |
| Brian Lever       | 9.29  |       |      |
| Rodney Lighton    | 9.29  |       |      |
| Thomas Allsop     | 9.29  |       |      |
| Adrian Jones      | 6.19  |       |      |
| Dawn Colley       | 6.19  |       |      |
| Ian Shaw          | 6.19  |       |      |
| Vicky Chandler    | 6.19  |       |      |
| Martin Hemming    | 4.13  |       |      |
| Rosemary Bensley  | 4.13  |       |      |
| Tony Fawcett      | 4.13  |       |      |
| Jon Sharpe        | 2.58  |       |      |

# play online

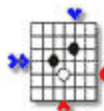
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