

BIBAFAX

No. 73 2004
November
December

Magazine of the British Isles Backgammon Association

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European Backgammon News

Volume 7 The Independent International Backgammon Newsletter Issue 72/76

Published in association with Bibafax, the oldest and most reliable source of backgammon information in Europe



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2004 Ranking Champion

John 'Slats' Slattery
2004 Grand Prix Champion



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Archive: On Your Marks . . .

By Michael Crane

In January 1992 at the 1st Marriott tournament in Amsterdam, Biba member, Mark Adkins played against Germanies Matthias Pauen. Matthias was to be the Runner-up in the 1994 German Open, but that was two years away. Mark's claim to fame was a lot nearer, he won the Biba Ranking Championship that year and was Runner-up in the *Grand Prix*.

My thanks go to the following: Author / Recording: Harald Johanni / Wolfgang Griesse for this match file (which I sweated blood over converting it to Jelly-Fish and Snowie!).

5 point match Game 1

Adkins (w): 0 **Pauen (b) : 0**
01) 51: 13/8 6/5

Rather an unconventional opening move. Snowie prefers the usual 24/23 13/8 by 0.017. The problem with this sort of 5-point slot is that any roll containing a 4 is bound to hit you.

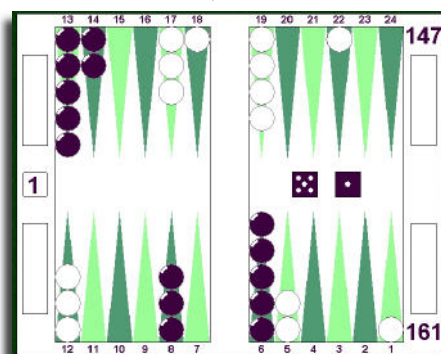
64: 24/20* 20/14

Told you!

02) 54: 25/20 24/20 64: 24/18 18/14
With two in a row, what else can you do?

03) 65: 13/7 8/3

Game 1, Position 4

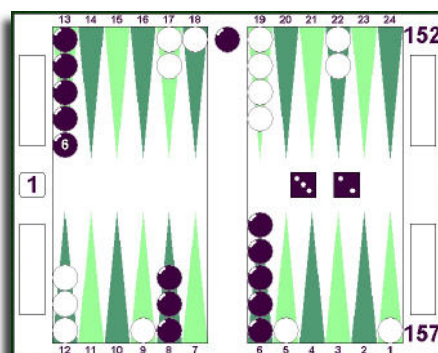


Black to play 51

13/7 is an option but it gives away 0.049 but breaking off the 14-point is correct, especially before white makes a home-board prime. At least there's a bit of duplication with 4s.

04) 54: 20/16* 8/3

Game 1, Position 5



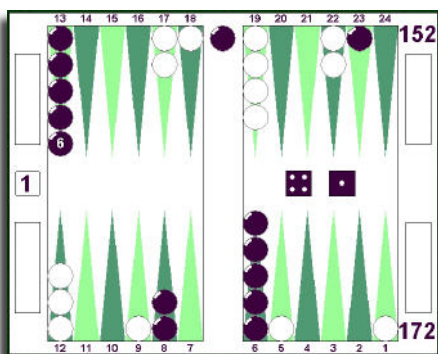
Black to play 32

Only four moves to pick from here. The better by far is the actual play of 25/23 8/5*. Running off the bar 25/20 doesn't do anything and gives white quite a few good rolls. Hitting and slotting the 5-point puts a bit of pressure on white's bar-point blot.

32: 25/23 8/5*

05) 41: 25/21 21/20*

Game 1, Position 6



Black to play 41

The actual move, 25/21 6/5* turns out to be a blunder losing 0.101. Clearly there has to be a hit here but is it correct to hit and slot the 5-point again?

Certainly the 6-point is top heavy and could do with a bit of lessening but the correct move here is to hit from the 13-point, 13/9*. I don't necessarily agree with this for I think it allows white to anchor on his 20-point if hit on the 13-point. Perhaps this was the reasoning

51: 14/13 14/9

behind the slot/hit.

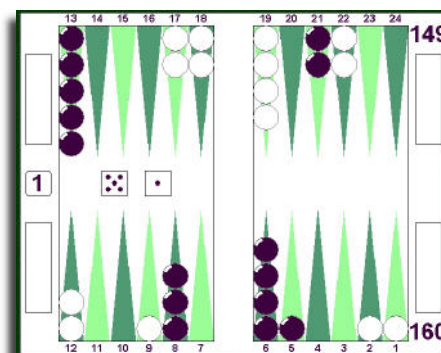
41: 25/21 6/5*

06) 62: 25/23 13/7

As it turned out the slot would have been missed . . . but the blot cannot be made safe with black's next roll.

52: 23/21 13/8

Game 1, Position 7



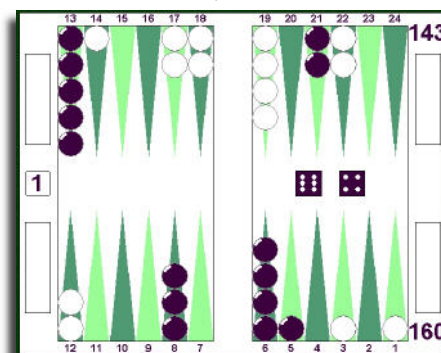
White to play 51

Getting the 16-point blot safe is the way to play the 5, but what about the 1? Snowie favours the slotting play 6/5 here. Although it is under threat from 1s, black will need 1s and 3s to cover his own 5-point blot; so, the risk is minimal and the gain is great.

White preferred to play the 1, 23/22 which, apart from giving sixes as an escape roll, does nothing else and loses 0.030 in equity.

07) 51: 23/22 16/11

Game 1, Position 8



Black to play 64

Well, black, not content with one home



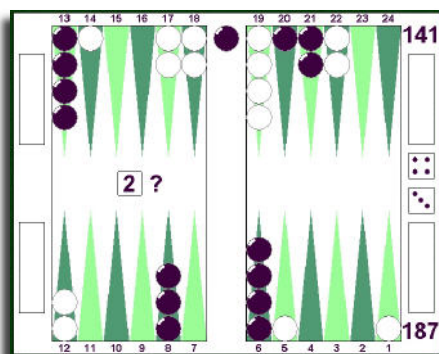
board blot decides to double it to two and plays 13/3*! As bad as it looks it comes out the best play after a rollout. 13/7 5/1* was 2nd and the boring 2-point maker, 8/2 6/2 came out 3rd.

64: 13/7 7/3*

08) 32: 25/22* 22/20* 65: 25/20

Well, white gets the double hit with the 32 and both black blots end up on the bar. Even though black re-enters one of them, white doubles him out.

Game 1, Position 9



White cube action?

Well there's no doubt about it being a double; but is it a take or pass for black? According to Snowie it's a take; black loses just 0.004 by passing. It's better to play on with the 2-cube on your side of the board and keep it warmed up for a re-cube to 4 later on.

09) Doubles to 2
10) Wins 1 point

Drops

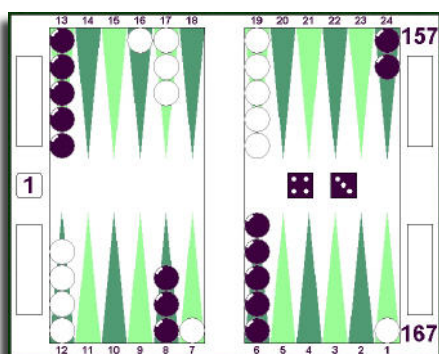
Game 2

Adkins : 1

Pauen : 0

01) 64: 24/18 13/9

Game 2, Position 2



Black to play 43

Has black gone mad? He hits loose on the 1-point playing 8/1*! It's early days yet

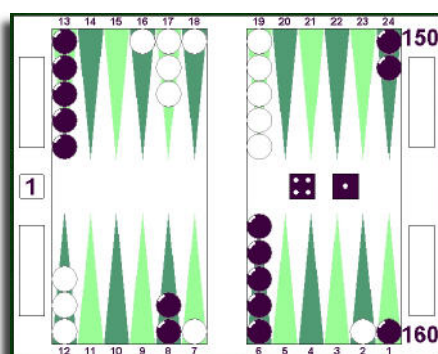
but is it correct to waste a man so soon? According to Snowie the actual play loses 0.074 in equity, better moves are (all of which except one include a runner moving off the 24-point); 24/21 13/9, 24/20 8/5, 24/20 13/10, 24/20 24/21, 13/9 8/5.

All a bit confrontational, but none so wasteful as playing to the 1-point. If missed it's a man out of the fight and it'll be a point not worth making for some time.

43: 8/4 4/1*

02) 62: 25/23 13/7

Game 2, Position 3



Black to play 41

Very often two in the air is the best play; but, when it entails leaving two home board blots, it is better to leave one well alone. This is black's really big blunder. His double hit play, 8/7* 6/2* loses a mammoth 0.342 in equity. The pick-and-pass play 6/2* 2/1 is the best move that Snowie can come up with. Just above the actual play comes 6/1 without the hit. Now, that looks like a stupid move doesn't it? Why not hit?

In possible defence (but not an argument for) of the actual move is the two white blots on the 7- and 9-points. Perhaps there's some merit in having an extra go at these two; but the cost at -0.342 is just too high.

41: 8/7* 6/2*

03) 62: 25/23*

Hit off the bar with a two. Told you the cost was too high!

22: 25/23 24/22 22/20 20/18*

But, things have changed around and now white has got the two in the air!

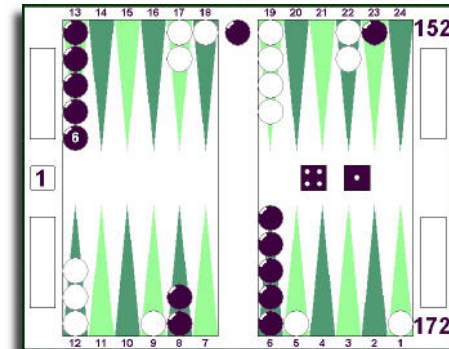
04) 41: 25/24* 25/21 54: 25/20 20/16*
The blot hitting goes on . . .

05) 64: 25/21 24/18*
. . . and on.

43: 25/21 21/18

Eventually black anchors on his 18-point and things begin to settle down a bit.

Game 2, Position 6



White to play 43

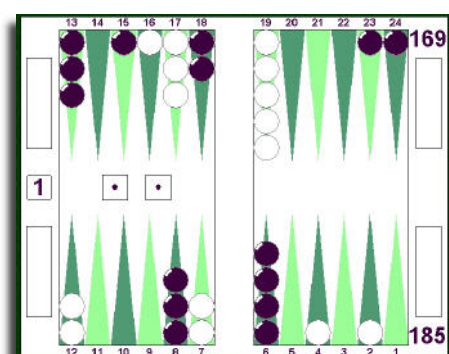
Which one to hit? Seventeen or 9-point? I favoured the 17-point for he poses the greater threat: a possible home-board hit and point. So, if the hit is there, where is the three played? From the same point making it difficult for black to come off his mid-point.

However, white decides that this isn't the way to go and hits off his mid and strikes at the blot on his 9-point instead. According to Snowie this is just 0.008 poorer.

06) 43: 21/18 13/9*

55: 25/20 20/15 13/8(2)

Game 2, Position 7



White to play 11

Well, certainly 6/5(2) is two of them, but what about the other two? White picks 23/21 and makes the 21-point anchor. I thought this reasonable but it's been relegated to Snowie 3rd losing 0.021 in equi-



Now you can do it @....



ty. One of the remaining 1s has to be used to safety the 9-point blot, so we are then left with our final 1. Snowie picks 21/20 in the hope, perhaps, of making the advanced anchor. Coming in at 2nd place is 23/22 enabling a direct six to escape. I still prefer the actual play!

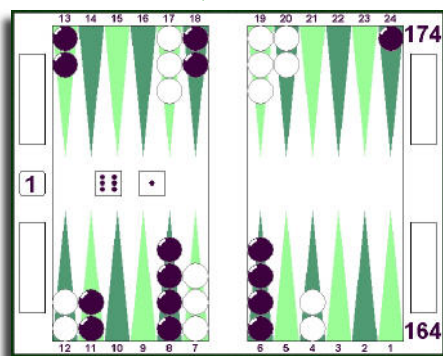
07) 11: 23/22 22/21 6/5(2)

52: 23/18 18/16*

08) 65: 25/20 20/14 43: 16/13 15/11*

09) 61: 25/24 24/18 52: 13/11 13/8

Game 2, Position 10



White to play 61

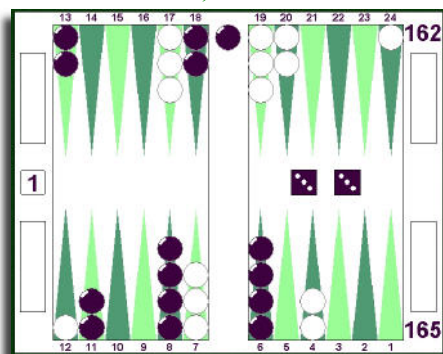
White completely wastes a perfectly good builder here and hits playing 8/1*. I know it's the only move to be played using the full roll, but it's not a good one. It comes in at Snowie 3rd and loses 0.058. The best play keeps that 8-point builder active and moves 21/15 6/5. Black hasn't a board to speak of and white is in good control of the outer board from the 18-point. This move dares black to vacate one of his points and leave return shots.

10) 61: 8/2 2/1*

54: 25/21 21/16

11) 41: 13/9* 9/8

Game 2, Position 12



Black to play 33

Is it correct to use a couple of these 3s and

hit playing 18/12*? Well, the short answer is No! After coming in off the bar the next two 3s are better used making the 5-point, 8/5(2); and the remaining little 3 is simply played 6/3. This was the actual move and the best as well. Hitting off the 18-point loses 0.048.

33: 25/22 8/5(2) 6/3

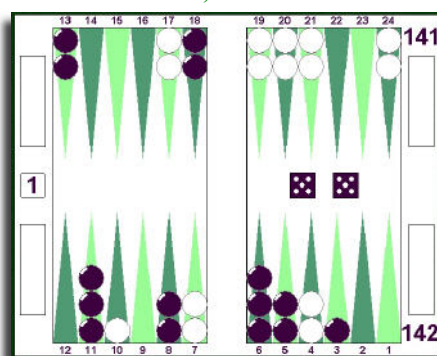
12) 44: 13/9 9/5 8/4 5/1

Double four isn't a good roll for white. Unable to move any back checkers he's forced to clear builders from his 13- and 8-points.

65: 22/16 16/11

13) 32: 18/15 6/4

Game 2, Position 14



Black to play 55

Two moves here: 18/13(2) 13/3 or 18/8(2). With just 0.006 between them it's a matter of strategy. The former gets the runners safe but leaves white's outer board free from danger. The latter vacates the mid-point and makes a third home point. Of the two, running both men got my vote but Snowie preferred the other move; but only by 0.006.

55: 18/13(2) 13/8(2)

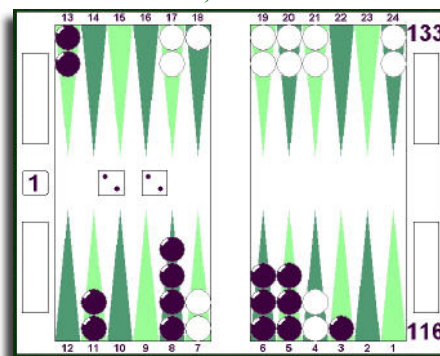
14) 53: 15/10 10/7

Had black played the 'best' move he'd have had a shot at white's blot for he'd have been unable to safety it with this 53.

42: 11/9 9/5

Continued in the next column

Game2, Position 15



White to play 22

Well, after rolling out eight candidate moves the actual play came out 8th. I am wondering if I'd have rolled out any lower? Moving 8/4 7/3 loses 0.053 in respect of the 'best' move of 18/16(2) 8/6 7/5.

Both moves are aiming at making another home board point but the 'best' one does it without slotting and at the same time advances two runners a little further forward.

Here's what Snowie said about the moves; all but one of which entail moving two off the 18-point:

18/16(2) 8/6 7/5 -0.570

18/16(2) 7/3 -0.578 -0.008

18/16(2) 5/3(2) -0.587 -0.017

18/16(2) 8/4 -0.587 -0.017

8/6 7/5 5/3(2) -0.605 -0.036

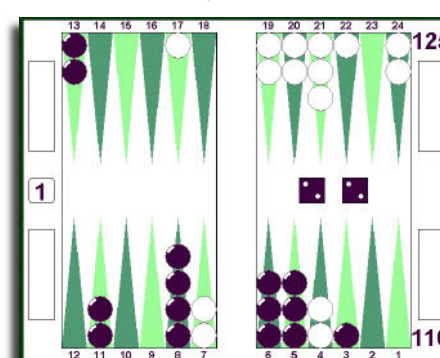
18/16(2) 8/6(2) -0.615 -0.045

18/16(2) 4/2(2) -0.618 -0.049

8/4 7/3 -0.623 -0.053

15) 22: 8/6 7/5 6/4 5/3

Game2, Position 16



Black to play 22

Black's checkers on his mid-point will soon become a liability and therefore this timely double-two is just the ticket to



move them with. Playing them both to the 9-point is the best move. However, black decides to leave them where they are and plays 11/9(2), continuing with 8/6 5/3. White's timing is poor and the 9-point would have been useful in attacking the back checkers.

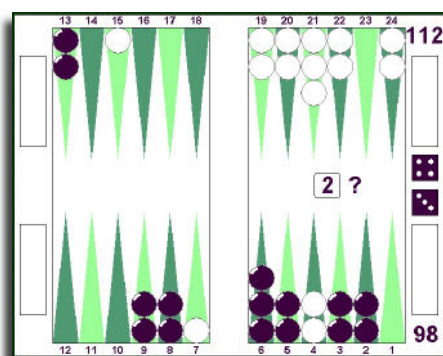
22: 11/9(2) 8/6 5/3

16) 41: 8/4 4/3 64: 8/2 6/2

Prior to this roll of 64 black should have cubed. He has spare sixes and white has none. If white rolls a six he's going to have to vacate an anchor and leave a shot.

17) 53: 18/13 13/10

Game 2, Position 18



Black cube action?

Black doubles and a live cube rollout agrees with the double/pass.

Doubles to 2
Wins 1 point

18) Drops

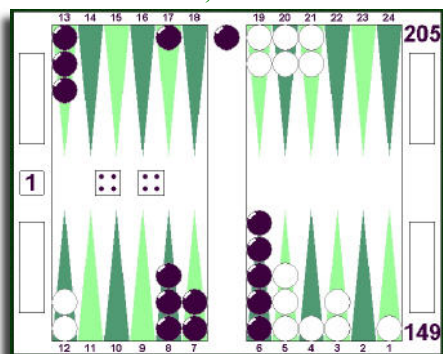
Game 3

Adkins : 1

Pauen : 1

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 01) 41: 13/9 6/5 | 62: 24/18 18/16* |
| 02) 64: 25/21 13/7 | 41: 24/20* 16/15 |
| 03) 33: 25/22 13/10* | 8/5*(2) |
| | 43: 25/22 25/21 |
| 04) 61: 10/4* 4/3* | 31: 25/24 25/22* |
| 05) 66: | 64: 24/18* 8/4* |
| 06) 31: 25/24 25/22 | |
| | 55: 22/17* 18/13 13/8(2) |
| 07) 52: 25/23 25/20 | 61: 13/7 8/7 |
| 08) 22: 23/21* 22/20 6/4(2) | 66: |
| 9) 42: 24/22 24/20 | 55: |

Game 3, Position 10



White to play 44

After a lot of slotting and hitting and jockeying for position we come to the first real play in this game. Doubles always have plenty of scope for errors and this one is no exception. White's error here is in leaving the very useful and valuable 20-point by playing 24/20 20/16(3).

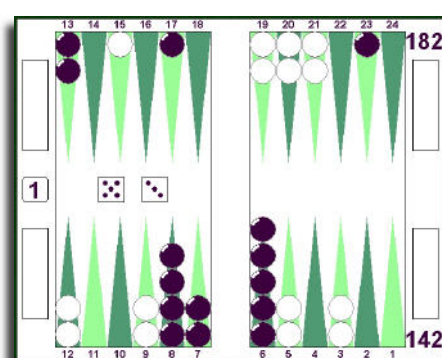
A better play here is to move two checkers off the mid and block sixes should black roll 63. The remaining two 4s are then used to run out 24/16.

10) 44: 24/20 20/16(2) 20/16 66:

I am not sure whether or not so many double-sixes were actually rolled while on the bar or it's a recorder's shorthand for a dancing roll. I suspect it to be the latter.

11) 31: 21/20 16/13 65:
12) 21: 13/11 11/10 52: 25/23 13/8

Game 3, Position 13



White to play 53

The actual move here is a huge blunder losing 0.150 in equity yet I suspect it's the play most of you would make. The 'best' move, I suspect, is perhaps the one you'd least make!

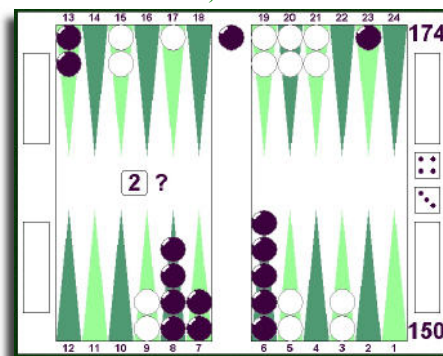
The actual play was 13/8* 13/10 and was 4th on Snowie's list. All of the top moves feature the hit, but even Snowie 2nd loses 0.136 in equity! By far the best move is 16/8* according to Snowie, and that's after a rollout.

I suppose that because black doesn't have a board at the moment white has nothing to fear and the best move gives greater chances of making another holding point; but I like the actual move myself.

16/8*	0.398	
13/8* 10/7	0.262	-0.136
13/8* 8/5	0.257	-0.141
13/8 13/10	0.248	-0.150

13) 53: 13/10 13/8* 66:
Double-six? Again? How unlucky!

Game 3, Position 14

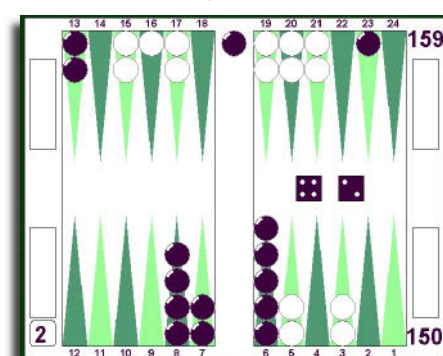


White cube action?

A live cube rollout says No double, take. White actually loses 0.173 in equity by doubling at the moment. With a 57.9% chance of winning the game it's too small a margin to give away the cube. Black snaps it up.

14) Doubles to 2 Takes
15) 43: 16/13 13/9 64:
16) 53: 16/11 11/8

Game 3, Position 17



Black to play 42

OK, well my choice for the 2 is 25/23; what was yours? The 4 is the one to think about, and here we have just a couple of sensible moves: 8/4 or 6/2. One plays behind and is safe but unproductive the other is productive but under threat from 1s. With a difference of just 0.007 in equity either one is acceptable; but the 'best' one is the safe play. Getting hit here will not aid black's winning chances and therefore why take the chance?

42: 25/23 8/4
17) 53: 10/5 9/6 21: 8/7 6/4
18) 11: 10/9 8/7(2) 5/4 52: 13/8 6/4
Black is now nicely poised for any movement from white's back checkers.

19) 22: 22/20(2) 9/7 7/5
Moving 22/20(2) now means that white can move out without leaving a blot in black's home board.

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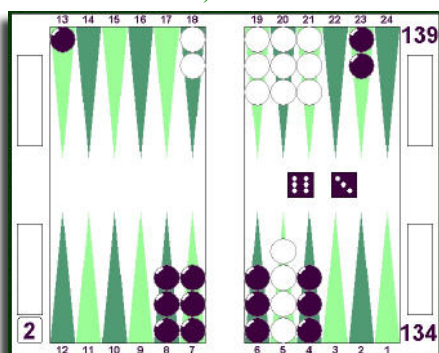
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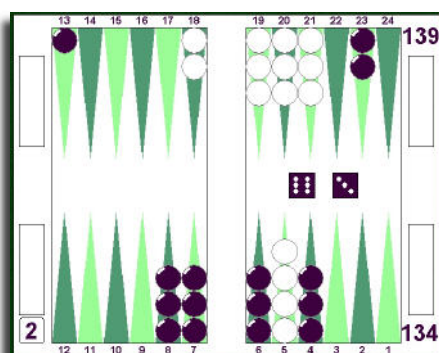
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Game 3, Position 20



Black to play 63

I must admit, the 'best' move here really surprised me; but a rollout made it the better by 0.046 from it's nearest rival and 0.100 better than the actual play. The actual play was to make the 1-point, which I do think is weak and unnecessary; but the 'best' move of 23/17 7/4 seems an big risk leaving 16 pointing rolls (though not all of them are good) onto the 2-point blot. However, take a look at the board after the play:

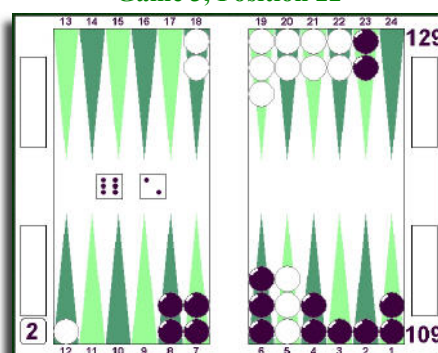


Sixes play badly for white and are likely to leave a shot unless accompanied by a 2 or another 6. This play offers good outer board cover . . . but at a possible price.

Looking into my crystal ball I discovered, using the actual rolls and playing sensibly, that if black had ran out instead of making the 1-point he'd end up with three checkers on the bar and facing a real gammon loss. So much for the 'best' play!

20) 52: 20/15 15/13 63: 7/1 4/1
21) 21: 5/3 4/3 52: 13/8 8/6
54: 8/3 6/2

Game 3, Position 22



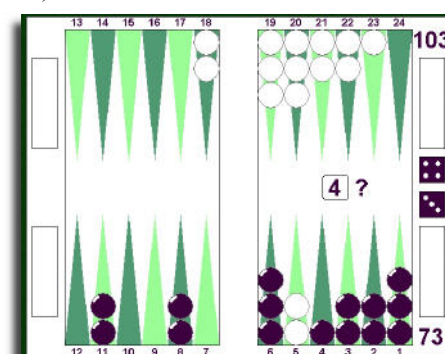
White to play 62

The actual move here of 20/12 seems a bit panicky to me. OK, it stops 65 but that's all it seems to do. So what if the blot on the mid-point is hit, does it really matter when black has two home board blots? No it doesn't.

In fact white should use these two blots to his advantage; and this is exactly what the best move does. By playing 20/14 13/11 white is daring black into a combination hit and in doing so letting white have twenty shots at sending back another black checker.

22) 62: 20/14 14/12 41: 6/2 4/3
23) 43: 12/8 8/5 61: 7/6 7/1
24) 62: 13/7 5/3 66: 23/17(2) 17/11(2)
I might be wrong here but I suspect this was a real 66 and not one of the recorder's shortcuts! It was enough to enable black to recube to four on black's next move and for white to drop. This scenario also reinforces the No double, take advice a little earlier on in this game!

25) 21: 7/5 3/2 Doubles to 4



26) Drops Wins 2 points

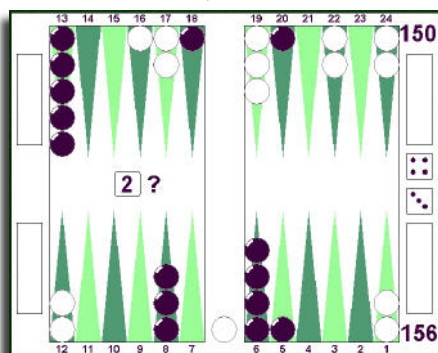
Game 4

Adkins : 1 Pauen : 3
01) 54: 13/9 13/8 53: 24/21 21/16*
02) 54: 25/20 13/9* 61: 25/24 24/18



03) 55: 8/3(2) 6/1* 6/1 51: 25/20 6/5*

Game 4, Position 4

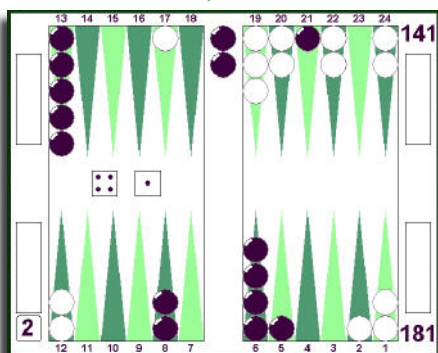


White cube action

Looking for a quick point white cubes while on the bar . . . and black takes! Even though he's got blots all over the place with at least one and perhaps two of them being hit next roll, black decides this is a take; and loses a whopping great 0.606 in equity by doing so. White has a 35.4% chance of a gammon at the moment which translates into a 35.4% chance of winning the match; which is better than the 32% he has of winning the match according to the match equity tables at 2-away, 4-away.

04) Doubles to 2 Takes
05) 21: 25/23 6/5* 64: 25/21 8/2*
06) 22: 25/23* 9/7* 8/6 7/5 11:

Game 4, Position 7



White to play 41

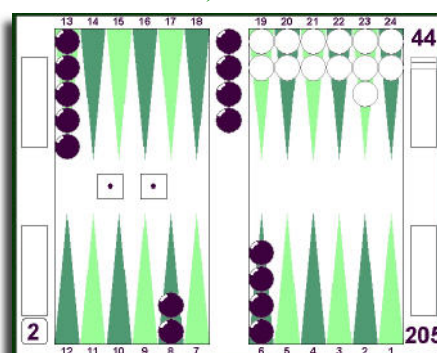
Clearly black cannot be allowed to anchor and therefore 8/4* is essential. It's just the 1 now; what is the best move for it? Snowie likes to play 5/4 and leave the blot on the 5-point. White prefers 24/23.

Both plays leave seventeen covering rolls next time, but the actual move of 24/23 seems like a non-move to me and achieves nothing; perhaps that's why it loses 0.040 in equity and comes in at Snowie 5th behind 8/4* 4/3 (-0.003), 8/4* 6/5 (-0.010), and 23/22 8/4* (-0.034).

07) 41: 24/23 8/4* 21: 25/23 black can re-enter and white can win.
08) 63: 13/7 7/4 53:
09) 21: 23/21 21/20* 64: 19) 11: 6/5(2) 5/4(2) 52:
10) 66: 20/14 14/8 13/7 8/2* 41: 20) 54: 5/1 5/0 21:
11) 42: 24/22 6/2 66: 21) 51: 4/3 4/0 21:
Black starts to dance with four checkers on the bar and does so for some time. 22) 11: 4/3(2) 3/2 1/0 63: 25/19
White's gammon chances are now higher than 90%. 23) 42: 3/1 3/0 32:
24) 32: 3/1 3/0 Resigns
25) Wins 4 points and the match

12) 64: 22/16 7/3 66:
13) 53: 23/20 16/11 66:
14) 21: 20/18 11/10 66:
15) 43: 18/14 14/11 66:
16) 63: 11/5 10/7 66:
17) 63: 7/1 5/2 66:
18) 31: 3/0 1/0 66:

Game 4, Position 19



White to play 11

Quite correctly white plays 6/4(2) making sure that black can get in with 6s. The last thing white wants now is to leave a blot. It is imperative that white clears his top points as quickly as possible so that

Match detailed statistics

Player	Pauen	Adkins
Rating	Intermediate	Expert
Overall	10.293/14.267	5.070/6.837
Errors(blunders)	7(2)	9(2)
Checker play errors		
Checker play	5.356/6.799	4.092/5.851
Errors(blunders)	5(1)	8(1)
Double errors		
Overall	0.610/0.616	0.978/0.987
Missed double	0.610/0.616	none
Wrong double	none	0.978/0.987
Errors(blunders)	1(0)	1(1)
Take errors		
Overall	4.327/6.852	none
Wrong take	4.296/6.819	none
Wrong pass	0.031/0.032	none
Errors(blunders)	1(1)	0(0)
Adkins was 57.43% - 42.57% favorite.		

Without further recording it is evident that black either never got a shot or re-entered and he resigned a gammon and the match. Black's take of the 'drop' cube has proven to be costly and has lost him the match whereas had he dropped he'd still be favourite at 2-away, 3-away.

My thanks to Harald Johanni for recording the match and to Mark and Mathias for playing it.



Archive - Winning Strategies (Robin Clay)

By Michael Crane

Here's the latest of Robin's quiz.

There is a big difference between reading about how to play and actually using the correct principles when it comes to playing the game. This quiz, taken from Robin Clay's *Backgammon - Winning Strategies*, is designed to enhance the analytical skills required to become a successful player.

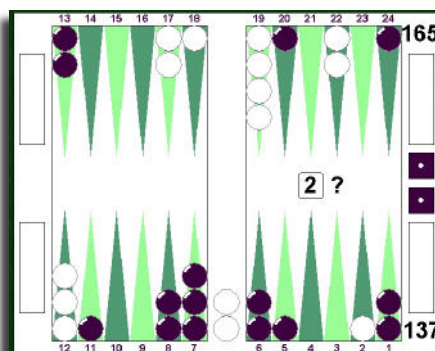
There's not enough space to show all the moves. Robin's choices for each position are designed to try and illustrate both the wrong and correct move. It is just as important to know why a move is wrong as it is to know why it is right.

The positions are all money games, not tournament play, and without the Jacoby Rule (*No gammon or backgammon can be won unless the cube has been turned*). Robin's moves have been rolled out by Snowie (in the book he used JellyFish 2.1, all that was available to him at the time) and have been updated where necessary with Snowie 4, Professional.

Tick your play for each position and then check your score on page xx, along with the analysis. More positions will appear at a later date. This issue we deal with positions 31 to 40.

Sadly, Robin Clay died in November 2000. No doubt he's looking down on us as we continue to play the game he loved so much.

Problem 32



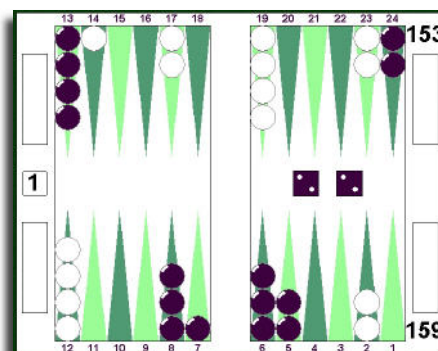
Black cube action

- a) Should Black double?
- b) Play on for a gammon?

Should White take?

- c) Yes
- d) No

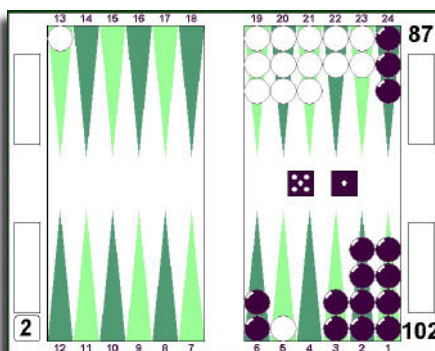
Problem 35



Black to play 22

- a) 13/7 13/11
- b) 13/7 24/22
- c) 8/4 6/4 13/11
- d) 24/24(2)
- e) 8/4 6/4 7/5
- f) 8/4 6/4 24/22

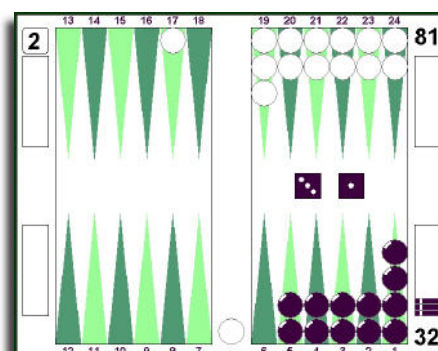
Problem 33



Black to play 51

- a) 6/1 6/5*
- b) 6/1 2/1

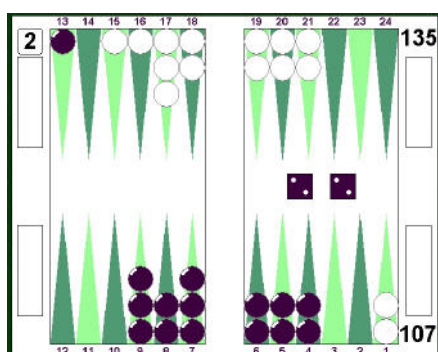
Problem 36



Black to play 31

- a) 5/4 5/2
- b) 4/3 4/1
- c) 3/0 3/2

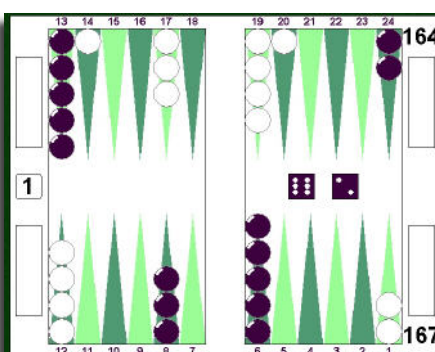
Problem 31



Black to play 22

- a) 13/5
- b) 13/11 9/5 7/5
- c) 9/3 13/11
- d) 13/11 8/6 8/4

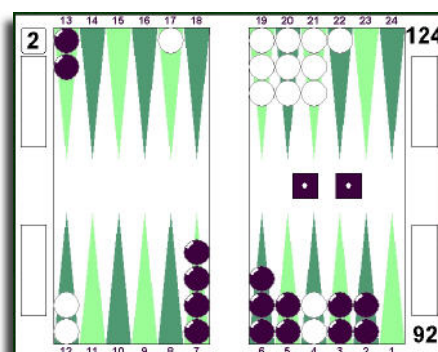
Problem 34



Black to play 62

- a) 13/7 13/11
- b) 24/18 13/11
- c) 24/16
- d) 13/5
- e) 13/7 24/22

Problem 37

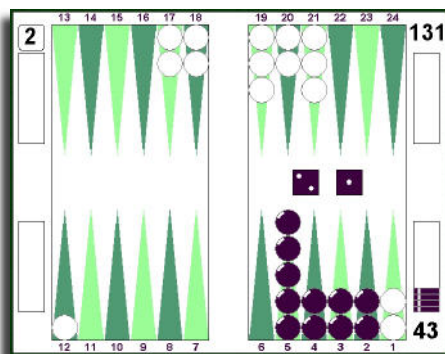


Black to play 11

- a) 7/5(2)
- b) 7/6(2) 2/1(2)
- c) 2/1(2) 7/5
- d) 3/1(2)



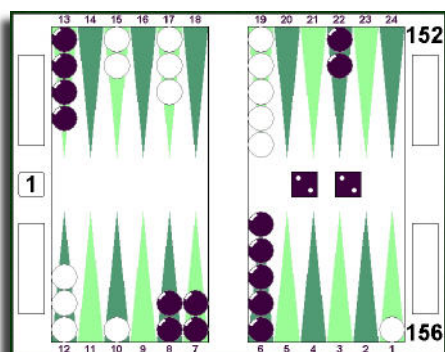
Problem 38



Black to play 21

- a) 5/2
- b) 5/4 5/3
- c) 4/3 4/2

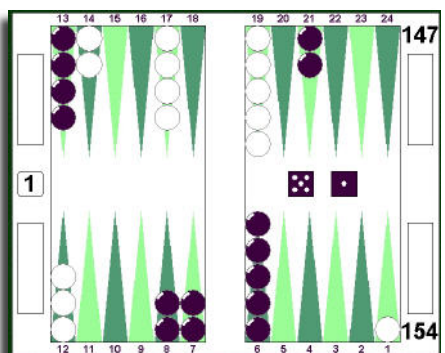
Problem 39



Black to play 22

- a) 22/18(2)
- b) 6/4(2) 7/5(2)
- c) 22/20(2) 6/4(2)
- d) 13/9(2)
- e) 13/11(2) 22/20(2)

Problem 40



Black to play 51

- a) 13/8 6/5
- b) 13/8 21/20
- c) 13/7
- d) 21/20 21/16

Record all your answers and then check out your score against the answers on [page 13](#)

Hubble Bubble Double Trouble

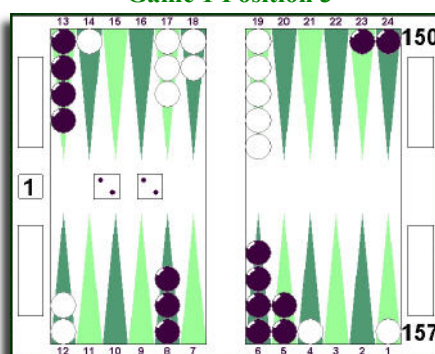
By Michael Crane

During their **Backpacker** Final in September, Rebecca Bell and her opponent, John Thomas made several checkerplay blunders. Interestingly many of them involved doubles - 66 55 etc, not cube doubles! Moving doubles is always fraught with traps for errors - four checkers = four times the number of errors that can be made. In a match that saw both playing as Beginners the doubles that gave them problems have been rolled out by Snowie 4 Pro. John is black and Rebecca, white.



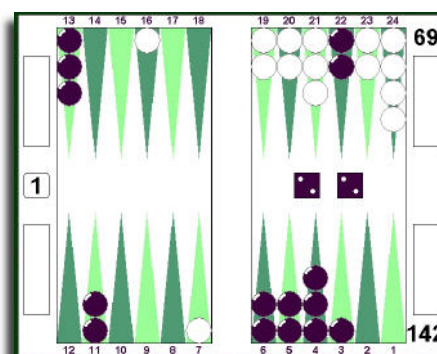
A few moves later in the same game John decides to misplay his own double-two.

Game 1 Position 3



11 point match
Black 0 White 0
White to play 22

Game 1 Position 18



11 point match
Black 0 White 0
Black to play 22

No-one can argue with 6/4(2), unless of course you are Maureen Moron, then you'd probably argue it's rubbish! So, what about the remaining two 2s?

Well Rebecca chose 24/22 and 11/9. Moving 24/22 doesn't do a great deal except allow black to play 4s and 5s behind you, so it's a good thing for black, and not so good for white. The 11/9 doesn't make much difference to making the 5-point and is also a non-move. Rebecca's move came in at 5th place whereas the best move was 7/5(2) 6/4(2).

Making three strong consecutive home board points will make it harder for black to re-enter off the bar when hit, and the checker on the 11-point, along with the mid-point checkers will make it difficult for black's runners to escape.

7/5(2) 6/4(2)	0.280
13/11(2) 6/4(2)	0.226 -0.054
11/7 6/4(2)	0.206 -0.075
24/22 13/11 6/4(2)	0.093 -0.187
24/22 11/9 6/4(2)	0.080 -0.200

Well, what was John thinking when he moved 11/7*(2)? Did he not see the blot on his 3-point? Did he not see that Rebecca had five closed points leaving him just eleven rolls off the bar? Evidently not!

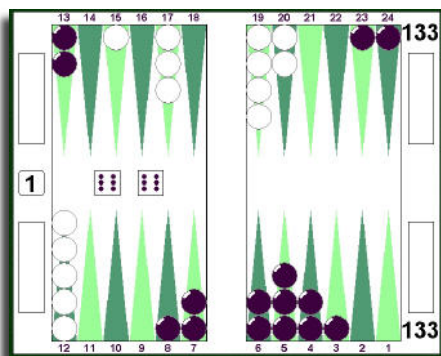
Most players, and I include beginners in this, would have cheerfully played one checker from the 11-point, hitting the blot on the way and covering the 3-point in one smooth action. This was the best move, and, although John chose Snowie 2nd he lost a whopping 0.584 in equity! Rebecca must have thought it was her birthday - or at least Christmas!

11/7* 7/3	0.756
11/7*(2) 0.173	-0.584

The Dice Gods didn't look too well on John for his appalling move; they gave Rebecca a 31 off the bar; John danced for a couple of rolls and then he was cubed out.



Game 2. Position 6



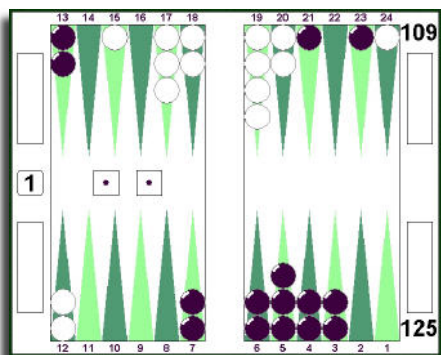
11 point match
Black 0 White 1
White to play 66

Playing off the mid-point is correct with two checkers, but Rebecca seems to think that there's merit in moving three and then one of them carrying on to hit on the 1-point! She's got the right idea in hitting but not at the expense of leaving a direct shot off the bar. All black would need is a 1 with a 2, 4 or 5 and he'd have a pretty good home board and good winning chances. Hitting is correct but in such a way that black would find it hard to hit off the bar and make another point. One such way is 13/1* 8/2*(2) and placing two on the bar. Now 1s aren't so bad because unless it's double-one the black blot is open to a hit off the bar. But; the best move is 13/7 (2) making the bar-point and then 8/2*(2) putting a blot on the bar and leaving combination shots that fail to cover the blot on the black 3-point.

13/7(2) 8/2*(2)	0.842	
13/1*(2)	0.804	-0.038
13/1* 8/2*(2)	0.656	-0.185
13/7(3) 7/1*	0.524	-0.318

John rolled 54 and then, on her very next roll Rebecca's dice are inverted and fall out as double-one with another opportunity to get it wrong!

Game 2. Position 7



11 point match
Black 0 White 1
White to play 11

Rebecca's play was the most obvious one, 6/4*(2); but hey, what about the return shots off the bar? And have you looked at John's home board? He's got five consecutive points and he will be cubing you out in all probability if you re-enter on his 1-point.

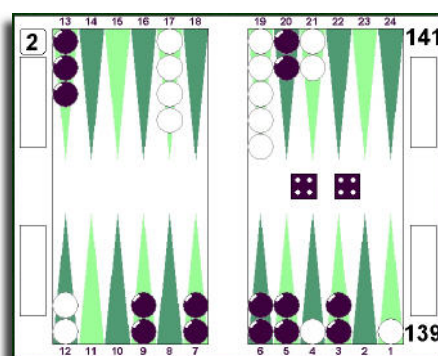
The best way to play 11 is by simply moving 10/7 6/5. No risk, great potential. Snowie doesn't advocate the hit until its 7th choice . . . and then it's 5/4*(2)!

10/7 6/5	0.946	
10/6	0.921	-0.025
10/8 8/7(2)	0.911	-0.035
10/8 6/5(2)	0.861	-0.085
6/4*(2)	0.797	-0.149

Luckily for Rebecca, John rolls 22 and misses the blot.

For the next double blunder we move to Game 9 where Rebecca has built up a substantial lead and John is anxious to win the game else face being 2-away, 9-away at best or losing the match to a gammon!:

Game 9. Position 6



11 point match
Black 2 White 7
Black to play 44

John's move of 13/9(3) 9/5 just places checkers on points already covered by him and does nothing to threaten white or better his own position. In fact, moving the three checkers from the mid-point isolates his runners and leaves them eleven pips away from their nearest friendly point.

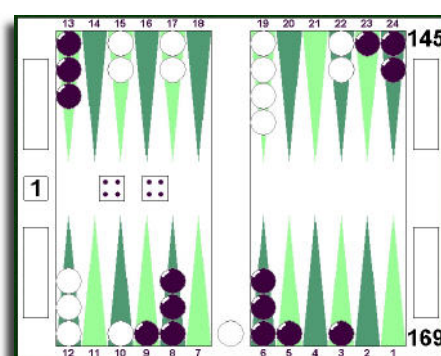
Playing 9/1*(2) is better than John's play by 0.114; and, although John's play isn't a major blunder, it is in Snowie 5th place. By placing white on the bar black robs her of at least half a roll and possibly a whole one if she dances. That, coupled with white's poor home board might just be enough for him to cube her out on his next roll.

9/1*(2)	0.573	
20/16(2) 13/5	0.570	-0.002
20/16(2) 13/9(2)	0.489	-0.083
20/16(2) 9/5(2)	0.460	-0.113
13/9(3) 9/5	0.459	-0.114

Rebecca rolled 66 next roll; which would have danced if the best move had been played. Ideally John needed a gammon to keep the scores close and the actual play returned 20% and the best move 29.5%. In the end, Rebecca narrowly missed losing a gammon when John failed to remove his last four checkers with any double except double-one.

Once again, after one of them plays a double-blunder the other has a go at the same double. Rebecca tried her hand with her own double-four:

Game 11. Position 6



11 point match
Black 4 White 8
White to play 44

Clearing two checkers off the 6-point 6/2*(2) is correct after entering off the bar with 25/21. What about the final four? Snowie prefers 15/11 placing the 15-point blot out of direct harm's way. However, Rebecca didn't lessen her heavy 6-point, she played 8/4(2) and then hit loose with the last four, 6/2*.

She might have been tempted by John's home board blots; but hitting one of them back would only serve to increase his timing and help him make a second anchor in her home board. Hitting loose is well down the Snowie list . . . but high on John's, no doubt!

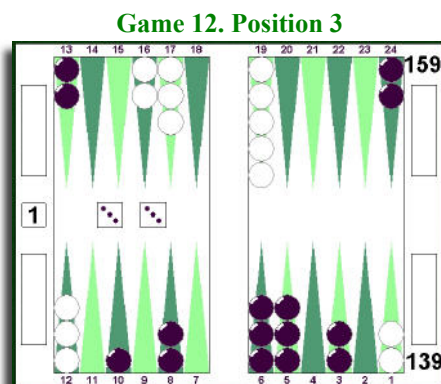
25/21 15/11 6/2*(2)	0.714	
25/21 13/9 6/2*(2)	0.671	-0.042
25/21 10/6 6/2*(2)	0.606	-0.108
25/21 8/4(2) 6/2*	0.545	-0.168

John obliged by rolling double four (another one!) and Rebecca cubed him out. A classic case of making the wrong move and it coming out smelling of roses. How many times have you corrected a



beginner's play saying, "No, that's not the way to do it. Do it like this," only to be moaned at when their play came out better after all? Too many times. eh?

The score went up to 9-4 in Rebecca's favour when she found a new double-blunder to ponder over, a double-three:



Game 12. Position 3
11 point match
Black 4 White 9
White to play 33

Rebecca had the right idea - move off the 24-point; but she moved too far and played 24/18(2). At Snowie 3rd she gave away 0.177 in equity. Moving 24/21(2) was much better. It stops black making another important home board point and threatens the bar-point. Holding your opponent's bar-point isn't all it's cracked up to be. It's a bugger to vacate safely and you usually hang around as long as you can hoping to roll a suitable double to escape them both at the same time. Simonetta Barone calls it *The Point of Doom*, and she's not far wrong.

The remaining two 2s should have been deployed 6/3(2) shifting some of the surplus checkers off the laden 6-point; and starting to make a few home board points to keep any subsequent black blots that get hit on the bar.

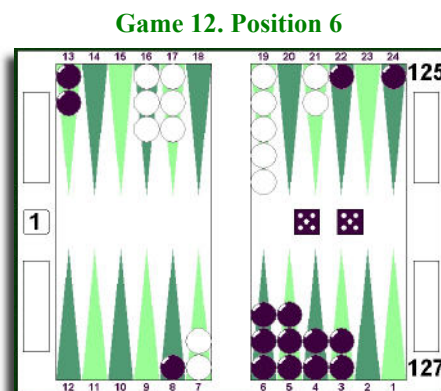
24/21(2) 6/3(2) 0.021
24/21(2) 8/5(2) -0.048 -0.069
24/18(2) -0.157 -0.177

Finally, we come to our last double-blunder and, to complete the set it's double-five (see the next column for the position).

Not many checkers can move a five, but moving three of them 6/1 is awful! This was John's play, 8/3 6/1(3). Much better by a huge amount (0.327 to be exact) is 13/8(2) and then playing 8/3 6/1.

The actual move makes it difficult to shift the two checkers off the mid-point and white is favourite to get a hit. Moving

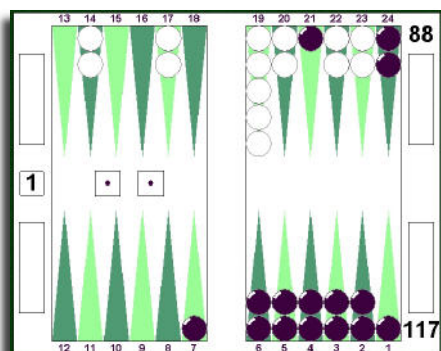
closer will make it a doddle to get them safe and help to preserve a decent home board prime should white find herself on the bar.



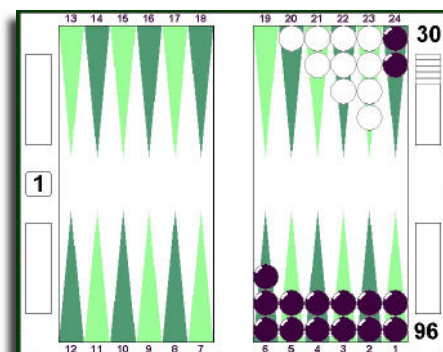
Game 12. Position 6
11 point match
Black 4 White 9
Black to play 55

13/8(2) 8/3 6/1 -0.336
13/8(2) 6/1(2) -0.393 -0.056
13/3(2) -0.252 -0.188
8/3 6/1(3) -0.664 -0.327

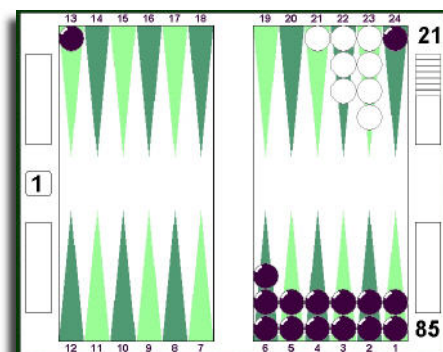
Eventually John is cubed out, the game moves to Crawford, 10-4 to Rebecca. A timely double-one in this position . . .



. . . gives Rebecca an 88.3% chance to win the match when she makes her 4-point; and at the same time stops John's board crumbling away while he stays on the bar. When John does re-enter it's with a 61 and he keeps his timing and home board intact . . . Rebecca later rolls a 54 and leaves John a shot . . .



. . . and he misses with 65. Rebecca rolls a 65 of her own and leaves him another shot . . .



. . . and John misses with 42 and resigns the match three moves later.

Below are the Snowie stats for each player. A copy of this match is on the CD-ROM version of Bibafax.

Match detailed statistics		
Player	John Thomas	Rebecca Bell
Rating	Beginner	Beginner
Overall	13.545/24.887	15.729/27.217
Errors(blunders)	36(9)	35(14)
Checker play errors		
Checker play	10.786/20.656	11.350/20.526
Errors(blunders)	29(6)	27(9)
Double errors		
Overall	2.115/3.230	4.380/6.691
Missed double	1.164/1.835	3.204/4.987
Wrong double	0.951/1.395	1.176/1.704
Errors(blunders)	6(2)	8(5)
Take errors		
Overall	0.644/1.002	none
Wrong take	none	none
Wrong pass	0.644/1.002	none
Errors(blunders)	1(1)	none
John Thomas was 52.33% - 47.67% favorite.		

Archive - Winning Strategies - The Answers

Problem 31: This problem deals with the best way to roll a prime forwards keeping it as mobile as possible.

- a) **+0** Probably most players would select this move keeping the six-point prime intact and with three spare builders with which to roll the prime forwards. This position is not as flexible as it looks and after moving 13/5 Black will only be able to play 61 or 63 by exposing a blot to White which, if hit could easily be trapped behind a white prime.
- b) **+1** Placing two builders on the same point makes the prime more immobile and more difficult to roll forwards.
- c) **-1** Slotting in front of the white anchor, even with a six-point prime, is wrong. When hit there is a very real danger of being trapped in a prime versus prime situation and Black's board will probably break first.
- d) **+2** This is the best move, breaking the prime now in order to increase flexibility and make the prime more mobile. Now Black can play 61 or 63 without difficulty. A mobile five-point prime is often superior to a less flexible six-point prime.

Problem 32: Black has achieved an excellent blitz position and White would be most unwise to accept a double. So should Black play on for a gammon? In general terms once a player commits himself to a blitz it is very often difficult to change tactics when it goes wrong. In this potential blitz Black has already started to make low points in his board so if White anchors on one of the higher points Black may well find many of his checkers are out of play, leaving him with poor prospects.

A blitz is a delight when all goes well and the opponent is caught with two or three checkers on the bar against a closed board and a certain gammon loss, but a blitz is also a highly volatile type of game so Black is right to double, putting the pressure on White.

In a tournament the double would be right if Black were trailing, but wrong if he were ahead. A cautious player would wait to see if White anchors before deciding to double.

- a) **+0**
- b) **+1**
- c) **-1**
- d) **+2**

Problem 33: A simple beginner's problem, should Black hit the blot or move 2/1?

- a) **-1** This would be a mistake. Black is trying to avoid a gammon, by hitting Black simply increases the return hits by White from eleven to thirteen, in addition, if White stays on the bar there are a number of dice that again expose a blot such as 42, etc.
- b) **+1** This is the correct move giving White only eleven potential hits.

Black's chances of being gammoned are about 15 per cent with three checkers back, if a fourth checker is hit gammon probability jumps to about 40 per cent and more.

Problem 34: This problem deals with 'hit and cover'. For the opening move playing a 62 4/18,13/11 would be correct. Now that White has slotted his 5-point it becomes quite wrong; it gives White far too many dice that hit on the 7-point and cover on the 5-point.

- a) **+0** According to Robin and JellyFish this is the best move but Snowie 4, after rollouts rated it last losing 0.039.
- b) **+2** An attacking move that takes the battle to White. White has twenty-one hit and cover numbers: 66, 63, 62, 61, 44, 43, 42, 41, 33, 31, 22, 21 and 11 but Black will have an chance to make an advanced anchor off the bar if hit or to cover the 18-point blot if missed.
- c) **+0** In an opening position this would be the wrong move for reasons explained in chapter one. After this move White can hit and cover on the 5-point with thirteen numbers: 64, 44, 43, 41, 23, 22, 21 and 11.
- d) **+1** Black challenges White to a 5-point battle. White has seven hit and cover numbers: 64, 44, 43, 41 but it is likely that Black can make a good point on his next roll.
- e) **+3** A good move that gives White only six hit and cover numbers: 66, 63, 61 and 33.

Problem 35: How should Black make really good use of this excellent double? The decision is not always easy!

- a) **+1** This surely must be the first move to catch the eye. Trap White behind a four-point prime and bring down another checker from the 13-point. It proves to be the third best move.

- b) **+3** Again a four-point prime and splitting the rear checkers ready to try to establish a forward anchor or escape. This is the best move.
- c) **+2** Capture the 4-point and bring down an extra builder to increase the probability of making the bar-point. Unfortunately this results in the blot on the bar-point being hit far too often but is a worthwhile play.
- d) **+0** With the attention mesmerized by the need to cover on the bar-point this move is not always easy to see! But by capturing the 20-point Black will have a long-term advanced anchor that may prove invaluable. It is, however, the wrong move. Black must concentrate on further improving his superior position. Attack not defence is the priority here.
- e) **+0** Giving up the attempt to capture the bar point is too weak.
- f) **+1** Like C this leaves the blot on the bar point exposed to hits.

Problem 36: A conflict of principles here. One principle is: never open a point in your home board where the opponent can enter and linger to wait for a shot. The other principle is: keep even numbers of checkers on your top two points. Which principle should be applied to this position?

- a) **+1** According to Robin this was the best move despite uneven numbers of checkers on the top point. He says, after this move Black wins 0.985 points per game. Hugh Scoyners data base confirms that opening the 5-point gives the lowest probability of being hit. However, Snowie 4 rated this second best losing 0.021, perhaps due to the fact that there are 16 bad rolls coming up.
- b) **+0** Having the odd checker on the inner of the top two points usually greatly reduces the number of blot-exposing dice but the gap on the 4-point makes it weaker than move A.
- c) **+2** Leaving a gap within your board proves to be the best move here, leaving just four rolls that leave a blot, 62 and 52.

Breaking from the top and not opening a point in the board doesn't always prove to be the best move. Check out what might happen next before applying the 'move from the top' principle.

Problem 37: When making this move Black should have two considerations in mind. Firstly, he needs to retain an outside six to avoid breaking his 13- or 7-point when he throws a six. Secondly, he



should be keeping as many spares as possible in front of the white anchor and spread on different points.

- a) **+1** This move leaves no spare outside six and places the other builders on only two points in front of the anchor.
- b) **+0** Again the same considerations as A apply but inferior in practice.
- c) **+2** This is the correct move retaining an outside six and spreading the builders over different points in front of the white anchor.
- d) **+0** Retains an outside six but does not spread the builders equally over the points in front of the white anchor.

Problem 38: Almost a certain gammon here - provided White does not get a hit which, with only four checkers off, could easily lose the game.

- a) **-1** When playing against a one-point anchor it is most important not to leave interior points without a spare on them. After this move Black has no spares on the 3- and 4-points so that dice like 43 would expose the dreaded interior blot. This move will result in Black winning 80.1% of all games.
- b) **+1** This move guards against the horror interior blot by placing the spares on interior points so is superior to move A, but will leave an exterior blot with dice like 65. This move wins 84.1% of all games.
- c) **+2** Despite the fact that this opens a gap in the board this is the best move. Every point cleared in front of the opponent reduces the danger of a blot

being exposed. The fewer points to be cleared the less danger of a blot. If Black is forced to expose a blot it is now almost certain to be an exterior blot not an interior blot. This move also wins 84.1% of all games.

Problem 39: In this position Black must give urgent priority to unloading his 6-point and should not strip the mid-point. Black has the difficult choice of deciding whether to make his own 5-point or the opponent's 5-point

- a) **+0** Capturing the bar-point is not the best anchor. Black needs to have his anchor in the white home board so that he can always re-enter any checker that may be hit and it does nothing about un-stacking the overloaded 6-point.
- b) **+2** An excellent move that builds the board and unloads the overstocked 6-point. This, however, is one of the rare positions where making the 5-point is not as valuable as holding the 7-point. The reason is that it is much harder to remake the bar after switching to the 5-point than to make the 5-point after keeping the bar.
- c) **+3** The best move making a forward anchor and unloading the 6-point.
- d) **+0** This move strips the mid-point and makes it too easy for White to improve his position and does nothing about the surplus checkers on the 6-point.
- e) **+1** This move has the same defects as D but does at least make a forward anchor.

Problem 40: The vital question here is should Black slot the 5-point? The race, after Black plays, will be virtually equal.

- a) **+1** Slotting the 5-point is wrong for two reasons. Firstly Black, when hit, falls back in the race by over 20 pips and secondly, White has only one checker back so that if he hits his checker will be in a good position to escape while Black wastes half his next move re-entering. However when the slot is not hit Black frequently covers to make the 5-point. This makes it the second best move.
- b) **+0** Not a good move, giving White many attacking opportunities.
- c) **+2** This is the best move placing a builder ready to make points later.
- d) **-1** This moves gives White far too many attractive targets.

Slotting in front of an opponent with only one runner back is often, but by no means always, wrong.

Rating your standard of play.

Maximum score = 24

Minimum score = -4

Advanced	24 to 20
Lower Intermediate	19 to 13
Higher Intermediate	12 to 7
Beginner	6 to 1
Weak Beginner	0 to -4

INDEX			
2	Advertising	35	Hatrick Boards
3	Archive: On Your Marks . . .	41	Irish Open Clock Issues
34	Calendar and Deals 2005	33	Local clubs
2	David Naylor Boards	38	Open Letter on Paris
10	Double Trouble	35	Playmaker World
20	European Backgammon News	32	Renewal Fees 2005
33	Forthcoming Events	39	Rosey at the Irish Open
48	GamesGrid	17	Rosey in Slovenia
7	GammonVillage	30	Rosey in Denmark
36	Rosey In Paris		
14	Rosey in Rotterdam		
29	Sandy Osborne Trophy		
44	Tournament Results		
43	Townharbour Trophy		
9	Winning Strategies - Questions		
13	Winning Strategies - Answers		



Michael, Sharen, Tim and Julie
wish you all a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.



The Rotterdam Beach Backgammon Tournament 20 – 22 August 2004

What a fun weekend this turned out to be! I had to use all of my persuasive powers on Slatts to make him come to this new tournament as he was already planning to go to the opening weekend of the MSO at Manchester. Ed Baars had done a good job of promoting the tournament at Monte Carlo and Myke Wignall, my brothers Paul and John and Ernie Pick were all saying they were going. I didn't want to miss out on this one! As it turned out there were 9 Brits playing in the tournament and we took home 8 prizes between us! Read on and see how we all got on – Tony Fawcett was the star performer and deserves a special mention, as this was his first international tournament!

Slatts, John. Paul and I arrived on Friday afternoon to find Ernie at the hotel waiting for us and dying for a game! The Friday evening play was in the Maritime Café just around the corner from the Tulip Inn where we were staying. The action was centred on the quarter entries and the Warm Up tournament. Ernie met Slatts in his quarter entry final having beaten the winner of the August Gammonitis tournament, Rene van der Pluijm.

He played a good game but Slatts was triumphant. In the warm-up Ernie and Slatts were looking forward to playing each other again in the final, as they had both reached the semis in separate halves of the draw! Unfortunately, it was not to be as they both lost! However, they did each win a Special Backgammon Edition of Jameson's Irish Whiskey. I am sure they both considered this to be better than the first prize of Snowie 4, which, as those of you that know the 2 players concerned, would have been of no interest at all!!! The whiskey actually ended up costing me 20 Euros! After breakfast on Saturday, Ernie was joking around with me, Paul and John (Slatts being still in bed of course!) and was talking about the prize. He said "it's really a great prize you know, the box opens up into a backgammon board and the pieces are inside." We all laughed and told him to pull the other one. Unfortunately for me, I had a bet on it and lost!! The plan was to get John and Ernie to pose for a photo with

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!



Oh I do like to be beside the seaside . . .

the whiskey but in the end Ernie became camera shy (he even hid when the photo of all the Brits was being taken – I suspect the Inland Revenue are after him and he doesn't want to be recognised!!)

On Saturday, we woke up to a very grey, murky, wet day and felt like we were in England! The idea of a beach tourney had sounded a great idea at the time. I decided not to put my bikini on (much to the relief of all present!) and went across to the playing area, umbrella in hand. Myke Wignall, Tony Fawcett and his wife (a non-player) had arrived to join the British contingent and we met up with Zoë Cunningham and her friend Sean (Fox Reformed players) at the beach.

Ed Baars and Michel Buket had organised the tournament in a very friendly beach bar. Slatts, Paul and Ernie joined the 32 players in the Masters and the rest of us decided to play in the 16 draw Intermediate tournament. Surprisingly, none of us were drawn against each other in the first round. There were also 8 beginners playing.

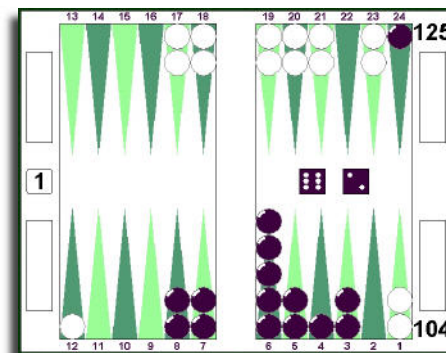
After the first days play had ended the Brits were feeling good. Slatts had qualified for the Masters Main semi-final and Paul was in the Masters Consolation quarterfinal. However, this was a bit of a disappointment as he had thought his win in his last match put him in the semi, but it was a progressive consolation, resulting in him effectively playing 2 quarterfinal rounds!! Myke, Tony and myself were all in the Intermediate Main semi-

finals, which meant at least one of us, was going to go through to the final.

The atmosphere in the playing area was very good although it was quite noisy. In the evening the bar was full of non-bg players enjoying an evening out. There was a Doubles Consulting tournament and Jackpots going on throughout the evening.

Ed Baars told us that the sun was going to shine on Sunday and I am pleased to report that it did! It made a nice change to be out in the open air playing.

I sat down to play Tony and got off to a good start. The dice gods seemed to be on my side and had definitely deserted Tony. He asked for a break at 11-5 down to 15. When we resumed I hoped that my luck was going to continue and sure enough took the next 2 points to make the score 13-5. Tony won the next game and with the score at 13-6 we had this position :-



15 point match
Black 13 White 6
Black to play 62

I decided that I should play 24/16. Not Snowie's favourite but definitely the play of most of the players whose opinion I asked for after the match had finished. Tony said "I'm going to roll 43 so I had better cube you!" He actually thought that if he didn't hit he would get gammoned and lose 2 points and the match anyway. I took the cube and sure enough the dice gods turned and gave him the 43! I did manage to save a gammon but that game

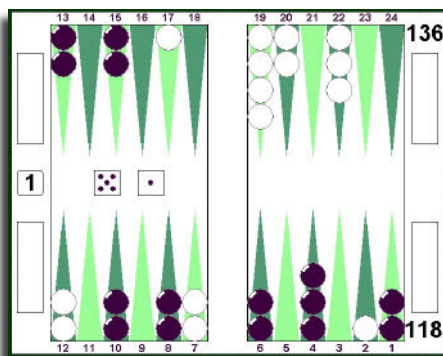


proved to be the turning point in the Match. Tony played very aggressively and I couldn't do a thing! He didn't let me win another point and won the match 13-15. Needless to say I wasn't very happy and told Slatts he had to give me a few lessons on how to win from 2-away. I always seem to struggle to win when at that score! Still, as he pointed out, I had still won a trophy and some money so should be pleased with myself.



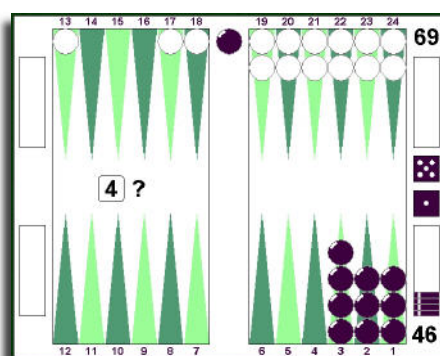
Myke in the meantime had come second to Leon Weyl so Tony faced a Dutchman in the final. I kept an eye on the match and felt sorry for Tony when he once again found himself trailing 15-6 to 17, losing 7 games in a row. His opponent asked for a break at this point and I just reminded Tony about his 4/3 joker at 13-6 down against me and told him to come out fighting. This is just what he did! Leon made the mistake of cubing when 2 away. Tony took and gave the cube back on 4. He rolled well and won the game putting him back in contention at 15-10. Tony cubed early on each of the next 3 games, all of which he won! Score now 15-16 to Tony. By now the Brits watching were spurring him onto victory and he didn't let us down. A big congrats to Tony winning his first International Intermediate tournament at the first attempt.

In the Masters, Slatts sat down to play his semi-final against Rogier van Gemert, currently considered to be the best Dutch player. They were quite evenly matched. The last time they played was in the Team event in Monte Carlo. In that game, Slatts was 1-4 down in a 5 pointer and he needed to beat Rogier to keep his team in the tourney. He was triumphant and so Rogier told him he was out for revenge in Rotterdam! With the score at 11-15 to 17 Slatts had to play a 51 in this position :-



17 point match
Black 11 White 15
White to play 51

Slatts considered his move for some considerable time and opted for 23/18 6/5. He had decided that his play gave him more flexibility and Rogier still had 4 points to clear with no spares. Slatts strengthened his board and Rogier left him a shot. At this point Slatts cubed to 2. Rogier admitted that he didn't like seeing the cube, but after giving the position due consideration he took it. Slatts missed the shot and Rogier went on to win the match. Francois Tardieu was watching the game and told Slatts that he agreed with his cube decision. Rogier went on to meet an up and coming young Dane in the final, Sander Lillof. Rogier was considered to be the favourite and had a lot of local support of course. He went 7-4 down but then won 8 points in one game to take the lead 7-12 to 19. Then Sander fought back and went ahead 15-12. They got to this position and Sander was looking at whether or not to cube for match. The general consensus in the crowd was that it was a No Redouble / Take position.



19 point match
Black 12 White 15
White cube action?

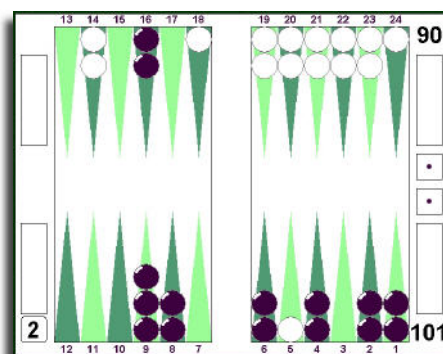
This a redouble for money but not at this match score. Sanders inexperience showed here. Rogier took the 4 cube and redoubled to 8. He got the better dice and won the game and the match.

Meanwhile, Paul was playing his consolation final. He didn't appear to be having

much luck (no change there then!) and found himself in this position at 7-4 down to 15. (see below for position)

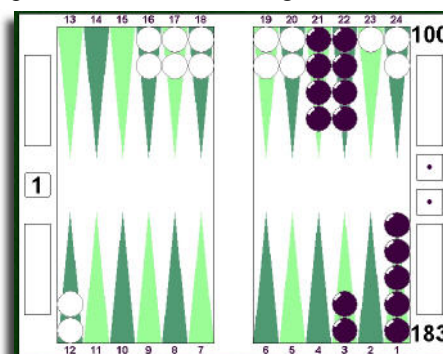
Paul felt that if he could hit he had a good chance of picking up 4 points. He was, of course, well aware that if the dice gods decided it wasn't his day that he would be massive underdog in the match. As his bad luck would have it the dice went as follows :- Paul rolls 42 He moved 9/5* 8/6 Snowie favoured 9/5* 5/3 but

only by a very small margin. Tore rolls the joker 65! Hits and closes his board and gammons Paul for match.



15 point match
Black 4 White 7
Black on roll

Myke decided to get some more playing action and went into a 50 Euro Jackpot. He played in his usual flamboyant fashion and when Tony, Paul and I were watching he had got himself into this position in the Crawford game!



Can Myke (black) win this game?

Yes, he did manage to win the game. Not only that he went onto win the match!!! Unfortunately for him he didn't win his next round so didn't cash.

Included in the registration fee was a free meal on Sunday night. This could be eaten at any time between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m across the beach. It was chicken sate, chips and salad and was very tasty. Michel and Ed ended up giving out the



prizes at about 9 p.m. and there was free champagne for everyone. Brigitte from Antwerp gave out the prizes and a special thanks goes to her for assisting Ed in running the tournament. The general consensus was that it was an excellent tournament and well worth a visit next year.

Results

Beginners:

- 1) Duncan Roussou from NL
- 2) Brigitte Freyer from NL

Intermediate:

- 1) Anthony Fawcett from England
- 2) Leon Weyl from NL
- 3/4) Myke Wignall from England
- 3/4) Rosey Bensley from England

Consolation:

- 1) Ali from NL
- 2) Rob Willems from NL

Last Chance:

- 1) Zoe Cunningham from England

Masters:

- 1) Rogier Van Gemert from NL
- 1) Sander Lylloff from Denmark
- 3/4) John Slatterly from England
- 3/4) Misja Alma from NL

Consolation:

- 1) Tore Fredriksen from Norway
- 2) Paul Gilbertson from England
- 3/4) Paul Van Dyke from NL
- 3/4) Hassan Rida from NL (Egypt)

Last Chance:

- 1) Paul Van Rooyen NL
- 2) Phillip Visjager from NL

Rosey's next report, below, is from Slovenia, where last year Slatts won the European Championships . . . Which were actually held earlier this year!

14th Mitteleuropa Backgammon Championship. Nova Gorica, Slovenia 3rd to 5th September 2004

Our adventure started on Wednesday when Ian Tarr, Simonetta Barone and Roland Herrera arrived at our house in High Wycombe ready for the journey to the airport in the morning. They didn't arrive until 10 p.m., but, needless to say, that didn't deter them, together with Slatts, from starting a chouette at 2 a.m.! I declined from joining in as I still had some work to do in the morning so knew I would be up early. Slatts eventually came to bed at 4.45 a.m. – I wasn't looking forward to having to wake him up at 8.30!



We were flying to Trieste from Stanstead where we were meeting up with John Gilbertson and Martin Barkwill. I decided to chance my luck and call the hotel to see if I could persuade them to send a mini-bus to collect us at the airport. Trieste is just over the border in Italy and the journey takes about 30 minutes.

When I got through to the receptionist she sounded somewhat unsure as to whether she could help. She asked if we were staying at the hotel, and I said we were and gave my name. This didn't seem to have the right effect and then I remembered I had booked the room in Slatts name. I said "Mr Slatterly" and immediately she said "Ah, John Slatterly, yes, leave this with me and I will call you back." I had obviously said the magic word, as sure enough they confirmed that there would be transport waiting for us at Trieste.

We met up with Will Richardson at check-in and managed to fit him in as well. When we arrived at the very

friendly Hit Park hotel and casino, we found that the transport had been provided by them 'Gratis' which was very nice of them.

Martin Hemming had driven all across Europe to be at the tournament. He loves driving and had the added incentive that he was meeting up with his son who was staying with his grandparents in Slovenia.

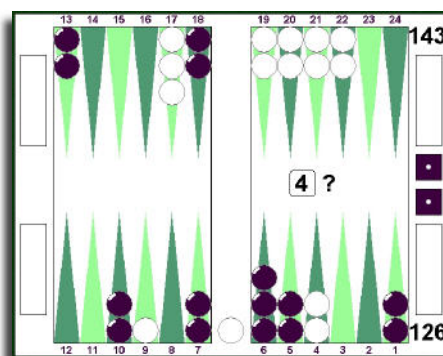
John G had a good start to his tournament, going the furthest of all the Brits that entered the Warm Up, reaching the Quarter Finals. Masters player, Shino, an American Indian that lives in London, beat him. Martin H won the Texas Holdem Poker tournament, which was a nice birthday present, earning him over a thousand euros.

On Friday, Martin H drove Ian, John G, Simonetta and myself to the Postojnska Jama, he was on his way to visit his son. The caves are the largest in Europe and really are spectacular. Well worth a visit if you come to the tournament. The weather was glorious and we had a lot of fun.

At the start of the tournament, there turned out to be 13 Brits playing. Slatts, Danny Cohen, Martin Barkwill and Brian Lever had registered for the Masters. Simonetta, Roland, John G, John Broomfield, Will, Ian, Martin H and myself were in the Championship division and Gay Roberts (resident of Tenerife and Isle of Man) was in the Intermediates. There were 144 players in all from 23 different countries.

Martin B had a tough draw against Lars Bonding. He took a 6-0 lead. I happened to be playing at the next table and glanced across to see Lars studying the board

intently and having to make a cube decision. I apologised to my opponent and asked if he minded if I wrote it down. The score was 8-6 to Martin (black) and he had offered a 4 cube in this position.



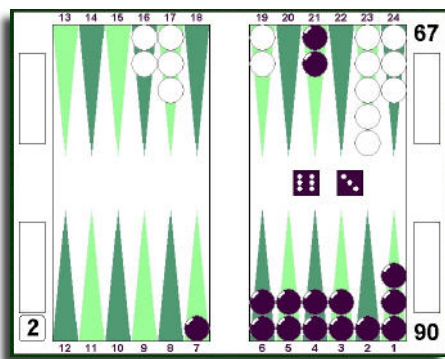
17 point match
Black 8 White 6
Black cube action?

Lars takes the cube. Martin rolls 65 and after his move Lars gives the cube back to Martin on 8. According to Snowie this cube is also a No Redouble. Martin takes and loses the match. Lars goes on to win the tournament!

In my first round match I played an Austrian who I remembered had beaten me in a previous tournament. I got off to a good start and was winning 5-1 to 11 when he asked for a break. This was after I had just rolled a lucky double 6 when he had a checker on his 1 & 2 points and I had one on each of my 3,4,5 and 6 points!

Taking a break when ahead is always fatal for me, as readers of my Rotterdam report will remember! This one was no exception! He went ahead 5-7. At 8-8 with me (black) holding a 2 cube I find myself rolling a 63 in the position on the next page . . .

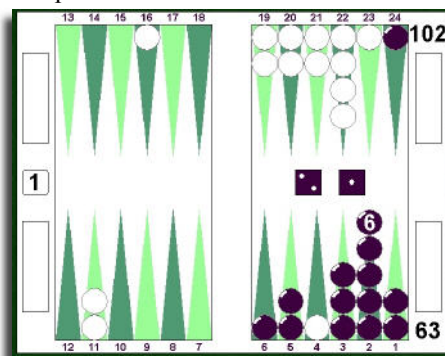




11 point match
Black 8 White 8
Black to play 63

I decided to run to my midpoint. Which having run a truncated cubeless rollout on Snowie 4 turns out to be the correct move! He rolls 53 and hits. I come in with 51. He does leave me a shot but I miss and go 8-10 down.

In the next game I (black) find myself in this position and roll 21.



11 Point match
Crawford
Black 8 White 10
Black to play 21

I decided I had nothing to lose by hitting both his blots which proved to be right as I nearly backgammoned him for match. In the end I had to settle for a gammon and DMP. Unfortunately, the last game turned out to be a running game and he rolled two double fours to win the race.

Slatts played a girlie, Maria Kraicheva, from Bulgaria in the first round. He freely admits that he underestimated her and took a dodgy cube in the first game, got gammoned and soon found himself 0-6 down! He did rally himself and eventually got to 9-10 but then he loses an undoubled gammon.

In the Crawford game Slatts misses hitting with 1's, 2's, 8's, 9's and 12's by rolling 55. He is in a 3-1 back game but has to run with a 61 and she hits and gets a 6 prime. Slatts doesn't come in for four rolls and loses the match. He congratu-

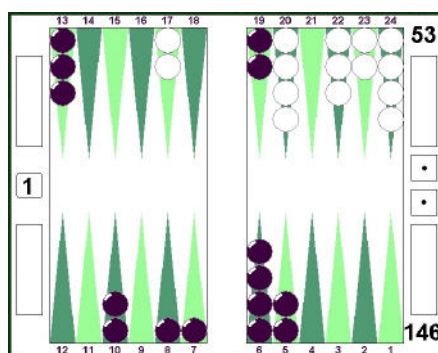
lates Maria and then says, "Well, that's another title down the Swanee!!"

Simonetta and Roland play each other for a place in the 3rd round. (This is one reason why I like to play in a different division to Slatts.) Roland offers a 2 cube at 9-9 but Simonetta wisely drops. In the Crawford game she gets an early advantage but Roland rolls well and eventually closes his board with Simonetta on the bar. He wins the match on his 40th birthday! We all think that she very cleverly let him win without anyone noticing!!

Ian Tarr meanwhile, had beaten Slatts in the semi-final of a 50-euro jackpot. This was Ian's first International and he was delighted when he went on to win. John G also had his first jackpot win; he was having a good tournament considering he has only been playing since December 2003!

On Saturday, Slatts found himself playing against Vetsch in the first round of the Masters Consolation. Last year they faced each other here in the final of the European Championship. When I started to watch, Slatts was 9-5 ahead to 11 but he struggled to get ahead in any of the next 4 games and Vetsch went ahead 9-10. Slatts won the Crawford game and the final game swung backwards and forwards until Vetsch hit Slatts on his 2 point when all other points were closed in his home board. Slatts rolled the 2, hit, and went onto win the match.

In his next game against Lorince of Romania, Slatts (black) was again 9 -10 down. He managed to win the Crawford game by rolling a double 3 on his last roll, and looked like a goner in the last game when he found himself in this position :-



11 point match
DMP
White on roll

His poor opponent rolled a one every roll for about 7 rolls with the exception being a double 2! This meant that he failed to get past Slatts' two men on his 6 point.

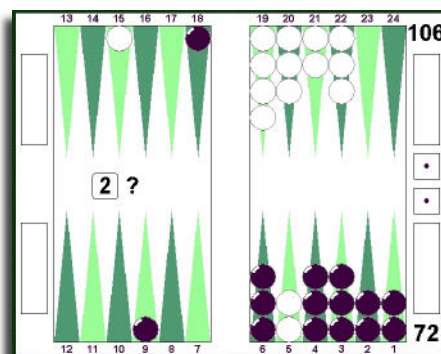
Slatts meanwhile had managed to build his board leaving only his one point open. Lorince ended up with all of his men on his 1 & 2 points apart from the two on his 8-point. His luck was really out when he rolled a 21, left the shot, Slatts hit it and went on to win the match. Lorince was absolutely shattered!

On Saturday evening 27 of us were going out to a local restaurant to celebrate Roland and Martin's birthdays. Roland, was holding the proceedings up when he was playing in the semi-final of the Championship consolation. We started watching when the score was 9-9 to 11. Roland had a difficult 6 to play and chose to hit his opponent on his one-point in the hope he would dance and that he could then close him out and get a gammon for match. Unfortunately, his opponent hit and a long game ensued. We all had to leave for the meal, which had been pre-arranged, and waited for Roland's arrival to find out the outcome. We obviously wanted Roland to be the victor especially as it was his birthday! Unfortunately, he came a close second but the restaurant turned up trumps!

The meal was very well presented, tasty and cheap at 15 euros (£10) per head, which included wine. They made an excellent birthday cake with lots of candles on for the two birthday boys to blow out! Then it was back to play more backgammon!

Slatts won his 3rd round against the Norwegian, Liby 11-9.

In his quarter final against Stegenborg of Denmark, Slatts was 17 down to 13 when he asked for a break. He came back, relaxed and determined to do some damage! Sure enough he got to 9-7 when there was one particularly exciting game. Playing as black he was offered a 2 cube in this position :-

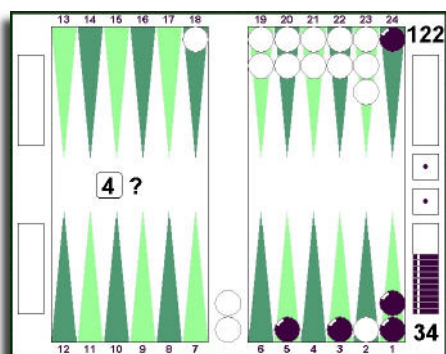


13 point match
Black 9 White 7
White cube action?



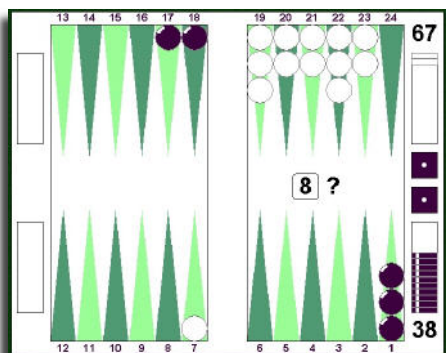
Now me being a mere beginner would have dropped it like a brick as all I could see was that he had 4's and 3's to hit, but Slatts snatched it! Stegenborg throws 42 , hits, Slatts throws 23 hits back and says "didn't you see the gammons against you when you offered the cube?!" and what does he proceed to do – gammon him for match, of course!

The time is now 2.35 a.m. and Slatts sits down to play the semi-final, already assured of a trophy. He won 13-6 against Georgiev of Bulgaria. So he had made it into yet another International final and was in the money – 3,600 euros to the winner and 1,800 euros to the loser. We ended up going to bed at just past 5 o'clock in the morning! In the meantime, knowing I was the Biba Roving reporter, Brian Lever had come to me with a couple of positions in his Quarter-final Consolation match against Houseman. He has forgotten to write down what the score was so I have assumed 0-0. As Snowie says this is a No double, beaver for money I assume the re-cube was a big error whatever the score!



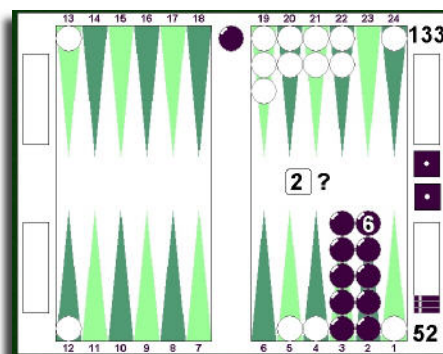
11 point match
Black 0 White 0
White cube action?

Brian now had the comfort of owning a 4 cube and saw his opportunity of winning the match when he got to this position and re-cubed to 8. He went on to win the game and the match 11-5.



11 point match
Black 0 White 0
Black cube action?

On Sunday, Slatts sat down to play his final against Moretti of Italy. A local favourite. The match was to 15 and at 7-1 down Moretti asked for a break. He was gone for 20 minutes. When he reappeared he pointed out that he had changed into his lucky red shirt (the question is "why didn't he start to play in it?!"). The first game after the break turned into a real drama, there was a crowd watching and it ended up lasting 35 minutes! Slatts (black) offered the 2 cube in this position:-



15 point match
Black 7 White 1
Black cube action?

Moretti took and the marathon began. Slatts throws 21 and chooses not to hit. Moretti continuously hits the loose checker and gets into a position where he offers Slatts a 4 cube, which was a take as he was off the gammon with 3 pieces off. Slatts came very close to getting the last checker home but Moretti keeps hitting until eventually he closes his board and wins the game. Score now 7-5. Was the lucky shirt going to change the course of the match? Unfortunately, for Moretti, no! Slatts wins a backgammon on the next game and goes on to win the match 15-6. Moretti did achieve the status of now being the Italian Champion.

An interesting point to mention is that in 2002 Katya Spillum of Denmark won the European Championship, and the Mitteleuropa Championship and the following

year won the consolation. Slatts won the title in 2003 and also won the consolation the following year. If this trend is to follow then Lars Bonding of Denmark, who won a resounding victory in the final of the Masters this year will have to come back and sacrifice himself in the Main to win the consolation next year!



Slatts

As I was too busy following Slatts' match I didn't watch any of the final of the Main but I consider Lars to be a good friend and was pleased he won. My next report will be on the tournament he is running in Scandinavia in October. Luckily for the players Lars won't be playing! John G, Martin B, Martin H, Slatts and I delayed our departure until Tuesday. We had a very relaxing lunch with Simonetta, Roland, Ian and Brian who were flying home late Monday, in a lovely, picturesque seaside town called Duino. It was probably referred to as a sleepy place until we descended on it! In the afternoon the BG board came out and a 4 man chouette ensued. John G ended up the only winner!

For those of you Brits who haven't yet put your toe in the water and ventured abroad for a tournament I think Ian Tarr will endorse the fact that Slovenia is a wonderful place to start. It is still definitely one of my favourites even though I only won one match the whole time I was here. Then again, if I had been winning, this report would be a lot shorter!!

Photos Copyright by Francois Tardieu



Lars - The Winner

European Backgammon News

Volume 7 The Independent International Backgammon Newsletter Issue 72/77

Published in association with Bibafax, the oldest and most reliable source of backgammon information in Europe

2nd Lucien Barriere Backgammon Open d'Enghien-les-Bains

From 19-24 October 2004, more than 140 players from 28 countries competed for Cash Prizes worth over €240.000 (\$300,000).

The second Enghien championship was again organized by the World Backgammon Association (WBA) and sponsored by the Lucien Barrière Group and the Casino Barrière d'Enghien-les-Bains. This unique casino is in a centuries old palace, which was formally the palatial home of the Count of Enghien. The palace is located directly on the picturesque small lake just 14 miles from the Champs Elysées, downtown Paris.

Tournament directors Laurent ARNONE and Chiva K. TAFAZZOLI and their great tournament staff Nadya MARI-NOVA, Audrey ARNONE, and Nathalie GUEZ, tirelessly presented a memorable long to be remembered tournament. Again like last year the prize giving cocktail and buffet was out of this World. This year they featured all the oysters you could eat, and boy were they good. There were so many scrumptious hot and cold dishes, cheese and desserts, that it would fill a few pages to name them all. This was topped off with unlimited quantities of champagne and the best French wines, served in the style only the French can do.



Oysters Oysters and more Oysters
Boy were they good – I had a dozen, Bambi ate 2 dozen

I can only say that the sponsors spared no expense to make the players feel welcome. Each player was also issued a black casino card which entitled them to free entrance to the casino, plus up to €30, Euros for drinks or snacks in the Casino. Also the all the players received many gifts including souvenir T-shirts and glass key-chains with red and blue lights inside. Now the trophies were something else, large see-through holographic cubes with the name of the tournament three dimensionally inside, which also lit up with blue and red lights.

The well-known and respected Artur Muradian, an international tournament player from Armenia won the first prize of €32.650. His opponent in the very close finals 19–19 double match point to 21, was a Dutchman previously slightly known on the international circuit. Rogier VAN GEMERT, who consoled himself with the second prize of €15.350. The finals we shown on a large projected screen in the playing room as well as dozens of other flat wall screens throughout the casino and bars. The match was one way for Artur who was leading 16 to 8 before Rogier could get started. It was one of those games that looked like it was almost over with Artur needing only 5 points to win. Just when the spectators were looking around to see what else was happening, then Rogier's suddenly dice caught fire. Point by point he clawed his way back to 19–19 and everybody was riveted to the screens. Naturally the cube was turned early and Artur prevailed in the end taking the final 2 points. Well Done to Both.

2nd Lucien Barriere Backgammon Open d'Enghien-les-Bains Winners 19-24 October 2004

Championship Main (78) €86.007

Winner	Artur MURADIAN	€ 32.650	Armenia
Finalist	Rogier VAN GEMERT	€15.350	Holland
Semi Finalist	Thomas BRAEMER	€4.760	Denmark
Semi Finalist	Bernard MOREL	€4.760	Swiss



Championship Consolation

Winner	Rainer WITT	€15.570	Germany
Finalist	Francois TARDIEU	€7.815	France

Championship Last Chance

Winner	Eric SFEZ	€5.102	France
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Intermediate Main (32) €13.660

Winner	Georgy BALKANDIJSKY	€4.925	Bulgaria
Finalist	Andrei MARKOV	€2.360	Bulgaria
Semi Finalist	Martin HEMMING	€890	UK
Semi Finalist	David MARWICK	€890	UK

Intermediate Consolation

Winner	Serge NADJAR	€2.365	France
Semi Finalist	Arda FINDIKOGLU	€1.020	Turkey

Intermediate Last Chance

Winner	Stephane BENICHO	€1.210	France
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Amateur Main (32) €4.087

Winner	Dominique Leboulenger	€1.415	France
Finalist	Carla DOUMARD	€680	France
Semi Finalist	Pedro MACHADO	€240	Portugal
Semi Finalist	Sisazh GHAMBARYAN	€240	Armenia

Amateur Consolation

Winner	Isabelle BONVALOT	€735	France
Finalist	Sam SHABANSKY	€427	France

Amateur Last Chance

Winner	Zeki ÖZGÜL	€350	Turkey
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Frank and Emil came all the way from Michigan to win the doubles trophy. A long but worthwhile trip.

Doubles Consultation (32) €9.600

Winners	Frank TALBOT	USA
	Emil MORTUK	
Semi Finalist	Lars TRABOLT	Denmark
	Torben HASSERIIS	



Yomi proudly showing off his trophies, his son & winner's cube.

Arnaud wins his biggest prize ever. Just a week ago he was semi-finalist in the Austrian Open in Seefeld

Giants Doubles Consultation (32) € 60.000

Winners	Yomi PERETZ	France
€42.000	Arnaud MATTERN	
Semi Finalist	Lars TRABOLT	Denmark
€18.000	Torben HASSERIIS	

"Serge Rived - Warm-up" €800 (96)

Free week hotel stay at next year's tournament

Winner	Kenji SHIMODAIRA	Japan
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Marcus Michel from Germany receiving his winner's trophy from WBF President Chiva Tafazzoli. Not satisfied with winning the €1,000 Euro Jackpot Marcus came right back and won €500 as well.

1st Super Jackpot - €1.000 entry (16)

Winner	Markus MICHEL	€15.200	Germany
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2nd Super Jackpot - €500 - entry (16)

Winner	Constantin Mazandairan	€7.600	France
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3rd Super Jackpot - €1.000 - entry (8)

Winner	Markus MICHEL	€7.600	Germany
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4th Super Jackpot - €1.000 - entry (8)

Winner	Matvey "Falafel" NATANZON	€7.600	Israel
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Ladies Tournament (32) €350 added* € 1.515

Winner	Luiza SEQUEIRA	€815	Portugal
Finalist	Maria KRANCHEVA	€350	Bulgaria

Many thanks to the sponsors of the added prize money: Werner SCHMUCK, Najibullah SALAMZY, Martin de Bruin, Mario Sequeira, Chiva Tafazzoli

The WBA slogan is

"Life, like backgammon, is constant decision-making under uncertainty. Mastering it requires maximizing chances, minimizing risks as well as flexibility and adaptation of strategies facing the ever-changing situations that occur."

It certainly makes the Point

Artur showing off his spectacular Trophy



More Pictures of the Fantastic Enghien Trophies



A sparkling display of crystal and light.

More Enghien tournament Pictures



Kenji SHIMODAIRA the Happy go lucky Director and organizer of the Japan Open. His motto Is "Meet Kenji Eat Sushi"

Here he is accepting his prize for winning the warm up, which included a week's stay for next year's tournament



Torben HASSERIIS and Lars TRABOLT both from Denmark accepting their €18,000 Euros for winning the 2nd prize in the Giant Doubles Consultation.



Lars Bonding, last year's winner presenting the this years winners trophy to Artur MURADIAN

Precision Dice and Semi-Precision Dice

Before explaining the difference between Semi Precision and Casino or Precision dice you must first be fully acquainted with the difference between precision dice and normal diceRead on

Casino Dice - Precision Dice?

Just what are casino dice or precision dice?

A die is a single six sided cube with markings on each side that denote the numbers one through six. The numbers are indicated by the use of spots corresponding to the number for that side. A side is a face of a die that contains a spot or spots. Any more than one die are called dice.

Casino dice are different from dice used in board games. Casino dice (also called precision dice) come in many colors and are normally transparent. Casino dice have to be as perfectly square as is technologically possible in order to be fair to both the casino and the players. Dice used in board games are poorly manufactured and always favor the higher numbers (4, 5, and 6) because more material is drilled or injected out of those sides.

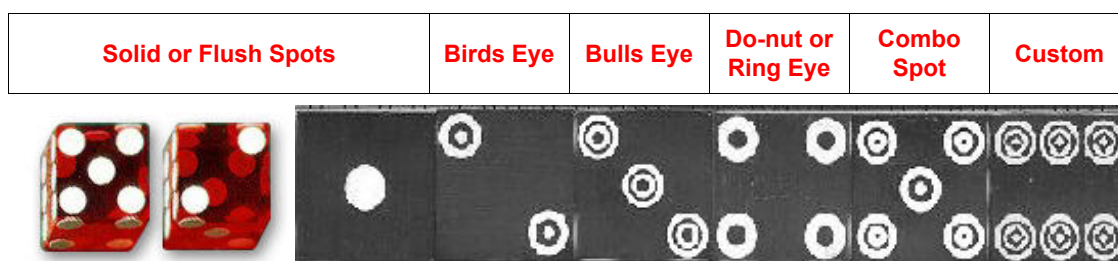
Four Components Of Casino Dice

CUBE

Casino dice are made up of four main components: the cube, spots, edges, and graphics. The cube is made of cellulose acetate, a special kind of plastic that holds up to the physical stress put on dice by handling and throwing. Early precision dice were made of cellulose nitrate. This plastic does not last well over the years, and these dice are sometimes *crystallized*. Crystallization is a change in the plastic of the corners, edges, and sometimes the entire die to a yellow crystallized state. Crystallization occurs from a combination of age (plastic fatigue), and exposure to ultraviolet light or sunlight.

SPOTS

Next come the spots. Spots on every opposite side should always equal seven. That is, the side with three spots must be opposite the side with four spots, the one spot opposite the six spot, and the two spot opposite the five spot. Spots are made in many different styles: solid, bulls-eye, birds-eye, doughnut, and several more. The spots are filled in with special discs or paint that weighs the same as the plastic that was drilled out for the spots. This insures that each side of the cube weighs exactly the same.



EDGES

There are different kinds of edges used in manufacturing casino dice. The kind used for most modern casino dice is called Razor Edge. The other kinds of edges are: *Feathered*, *Brushed*, *Slightly Turned*, and *Heavy Turned*. The different edges determine the ability of the dice to grab the cloth of the table and rotate as they are thrown. There are also more edges that are sometimes used in cheating or "gaffed" dice. These other edges offer a greater chance for the dice to be controlled.

GRAPHICS

Then there are the graphics. These include logos, pictures, lettering, numbers, and symbols. The casino usually puts their name and sometimes the city or location on the face of the one spot. This is because the one spot is the side with the most room. Consequently, a logo or graphic picture is placed on the two side, or in between the spots on the six side.



FLUSH SPOTS - High Polish, Razor Edge. With or without serial numbers





BIRD'S EYE - High Polish, Razor Edge. With or without serial numbers.



RING EYE or DONUT - High Polish, Razor Edge. With or without serial numbers.



CUSTOM LOGOS" Dice - Dice sets with custom logos. Available in Flush, Ring Eye, or Bird's Eye Spots in High Polish or Sand finish with Razor or Feathered edges.



SERIALIZED SETS - Dice sets with serial numbers. These dice sets are manufactured under strict security controls. For additional security, glow spot or key spot (hidden number) dice are available. Available in Flush, Ring Eye, or Bird's Eye Spots in High Above dice come in Polish or Sand finish with Razor or Feathered edges.

Semi Precision Dice

Unlike Precision Dice which are normally made of cellulose acetate, Semi Precision Dice are made from durable ABS or pastello Plastic. Instead of being precision laser cut like Precision Dice they are injected with a Injection Molding system similar to that used to manufacture normal dice. However there are two very important differences.

ONE: The mold is highly precision and polished to insuring that the dice are, in all cases, always equal perfect squares. That is to say as perfect as technically possible.

TWO: This precision mold has a double injection system that enables it to inject two different colors of the plastic at the same time. By injecting two colors of the same plastic at the same time, (one for the color of the dice and one for the spots) it insures that nothing is changed in weight or accuracy when producing the numbers or spots.

Normal injected dice have either injected or drilled holes for the numbers on the faces of the dice. These holes then must be filled with special coloring or paint to make the numbers stand out. There is now way to guarantee that this filling process is exact for each hole.

The Semi Precision dice have no holes, as the two plastics are injected at the same time, resulting in flush faces on all sides requiring no painting or filling.

If you cut a semi-precision die in two with a normal hacksaw, you will clearly see the two different colors of plastic, with one color flowing to form the spots and the other to make the base color of the cube. Although Semi-Precision Dice are much better than normal dice they are not quite up to the standard of Precision dice. But almost. EBN is the major manufacturer and distributor of double injected Semi Precision Dice.

EBN Precision Dice - Free Service

For the past 20 years European Backgammon News has been providing precision dice, free of charge, for the World Championships in Monte Carlo and most of the major International tournaments. At registration, each player pays a small deposit and rents their own pair of registered, numbered, precision dice and souvenir doubling cube in a personalized, souvenir container.

A list of numbers is maintained and controlled by the EBN Precision Dice Registration Desk, in order to assure each player is only playing with official Precision Dice. In other words cheating is virtually impossible, because these dice sets were manufactured and numbered specially for each tournament. After the tournament the players can return the dice for a full refund of the deposit paid.

This Article published in the European Backgammon News / BIBAfax, November 2004.

Research and technical statistics compiled by Martin de Bruin from websites & information supplied by various dice experts and precision dice manufacturers.

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Seefeld Austria Open Masters won by Ronald Reinhardt

Now here is a name we haven't seen around for quite a while. Ronald was starting to make a name for himself as a top player a few years ago when he suddenly dropped out of tournament play. It's nice to see him back in winning form. He has always been full of mischief and very entertaining during his skillful and methodical play.

This years final against Daniel Scheidiger, one of Switzerland's top players, was no exception. As Ronald will confirm, everything went the Germans way, and Daniel plagued by extremely bad luck Daniel was thoroughly trounced. I assure you that the final score did not bear out Daniel's capabilities. He normally throws extremely well.



**Ronald contemplating his next move
on his way to Victory.**

I can only repeat what I said last year about the Seefeld tournament that the most impressive thing is.....

Hospitality...

the only word that comes to mind when you arrive at the Veronika Hotel, which has been the venue of the Austrian Open for the last six years. This friendly family owned hotel opens its doors exclusively to the backgammon players for a full week every October.

The backgammon player is truly treated like royalty and every whim is catered to. One feature that all the participants truly enjoy is that the breakfast room stays open for a fantastic buffet breakfast until noon each day. The players who stay up all night playing never have to worry about breakfast... its always there.

The Four Star Veronika Hotel Is located in the center of the Tyrolean Alpine Village of Seefeld, which is surrounded by the Austrian Alps. From the hotel, no matter which way you look the views are spectacular, especially in October when the first winter snow starts to fall.

I give the Veronika a 5 star rating for comfort, friendliness and hospitality.

The Austrian Open was again organized and directed by the unflappable Innsbruck businessman Peter Winkler and his able assistant Anita Brock.

Austria Continental Doubles Championships In Seefeld Austria won by . . .



Martin de Bruin & Ricardo Malas

Two long time friends from Spain met by accident in Seefeld and decided to play the Continental Doubles together. The result was great and they went away with the first prize, also enough money to pay for their next few tournaments.

Ricardo, a Lebanese property promoter has been developing property in the Canary Islands and Florida for many years. Martin EBN publisher, originally from Denver Colorado has lived and worked in Spain for over 40 years. They have played a lot of backgammon together, both in Spain and at other international tournaments mainly Monte Carlo which Ricardo always goes to.

Their opponents in the final were two German lawyers from Munich, Andreas Grötsch and Mundi Manfred who almost won but in the end were beaten by the better team. Ha!

Personally I have been coming to the Seefeld tournament since its inception and I wouldn't miss it for the world. It's one of my favorite and friendly places to play, specially since I get to play a few games with tournament organizer Peter Winkler every year.

Winners 7th Austrian Open 2004 Hotel Veronika, Seefeld Austria 7th to 10th October 2004

Masters Main (35) € 8,400

Winner	Ronald Reinhardt	€4,620	Germany
Finalist	Daniel Scheidiger	€2,100	Swiss
Semi Finalist	Finalist Arnaud Martens	€840	France
Semi Finalist	Finalist Manfred Hamal	€840	Austria

Masters Consolation

Winner	Heinz Edy	€2,310	Austria
Finalist	Tobias Hellweg	€1,050	Germany
Semi Finalist	Prager Prager	€420	Germany
Semi Finalist	Rino Mathis	€420	Swiss

Masters Last Chance

Winner	Sammi Sallak	€840	Germany
Finalist	Thomas Köb	€560	Austria



Continental Doubles Winners
Ricardo Malas and Martin de Bruin with Tournament
Director Peter Winkler and his able assistant
Anita Brock who kept everything running smoothly

7th Continental Doubles (14) €5,600

Winners	Martin de Bruin	USA - Spain
€3.360	Ricardo Malas	Lebanon - Spain
Finalists	Andreas Grötsch	Germany
€ 2,240	Mundi Manfred	
Semi Finalist	Werner Schmuki	Austria
	Manfred Hamal	

Super Jackpot (16) €8,000

Winner	Arnaud Martens	€5,600	France
Finalist	Françoise Tardieu	€2,400	France



Super Jackpot winner Arnaud Martens and the Tournament
winner Ronald Reinhardt with Peter Winkler in the back-
ground. Arnaud also won another trophy as semifinalist in
the main event.

Below is Ladies Tournament winner Jean Nanga,
who hails from far off Cameroon Africa. You can be sure
she is one of the few backgammon players from there.



Oliver Muller from Germany very happily
showing off his Championship winner's trophy

Championship Main (38) €3,420

Winner	Oliver Muller	€1,881	Germany
Finalist	Hans Klein	€855	Germany
Semi	Finalist Alex Reichel	€342	Austria
Semi Finalist	Mario Lazzar	€342	Austria

Championship Consolation

Winner	Udo Geiss	Germany
Semi Finalist	Andrea Riebler	Austria
Semi Finalist	Peter Blachian	Germany
Finalist	Arthur Piccinini	Austria

Championship Last Chance

Winner	Horst Ernst	Germany
Finalist	Laura Nobile	Swiss

Ladies Tournament (12)

Winner	Jean Nanga	Cameroon
Finalist	Conny Schoch	Swiss
Semi Finalist	Yvonne Kettler	Germany
Semi Finalist	Petra Kettler	Germany

European Backgammon News

Places to Play In Europe

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Holland	Café Van Dijk Stadionplein 19	n/k	n/k	+31 020 6792771
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Norway	Bodø BGklubb	Terje Dalhaug	dalers@c2i.net	+47 91 1 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	Ishavsbien BGklubb (Tromsø)	Thomas Kristiansen	murf@start.no	+47 993 86 866
Norway	Oslo BGklubb	Eivind Brenninge	eivind.brenninge@bekk.no	+47 982 19 323
Norway	Ringerike BGklubb	Tor Bertheig	tberteig@online.no 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 Aewickicki	www.ae.krakow.pl/~kb 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.telepac.pt	+351 21 387 7751
Romania	29 Aprodu Movils Street Timisora	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 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 www.sbgf.se	T +46 8 652 3033 F +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.ShootersMoserstr.27	Thomas Ruprecht	Tuesdays 7:PM. til late	+41 (0) 31 331 40 11
Swiss.	BG-Club. Lugano Thurs. 19.30PM till 1:00	Rene Knoll	Birreria Jonny Via Maggio 21 Casserate	+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 Waadtland erstube Hofstettenstr.13	Daniel Scheidiger	info@backgammon.cc scheidiger@bluewin.ch	+41 (0)79 432 93 78
Swiss.	Swiss BG Group. Lugano. Fabianne Raspail - fabi_o_r@hotmail.com	Rafaello Gatti. James Baillie	info@backgammon.cc www.backgammon.ch	+41 79 373 5577 +41 (0) 7 93 20 52 76
Turkey	WBF Turkey BG Association.Merkezi B.119 Kapi.39 Besiktas Istanbul	Ardal Findikoglu	WBF_Turkey@yahoo.com www.wbfturkey.com	T +90 532 232 9228 F +90 212 325 2259
WBF	Worldwide BG Federation.	Alberto Da Pra. Marco Fomasir	depra@iol.it www.wbfonline.com fomasir@iol.it www.wbf.net	T +39-02 6901 8168 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 Tel & Fax +34 951 133 009

Sandy Osborne Trophy

Report by Michael Crane

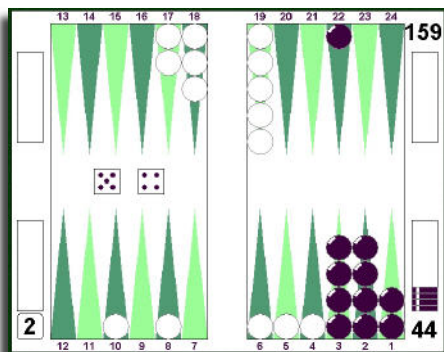
Main (35)

Was it possible that Rebecca Bell could make it two in a row? Could she back up her Backpacker victory with the Sandy? It began to look possible when she knocked out Paul Gilbertson and then Rachel Rhodes to make it into the last eight for the Sunday. She then knocked out Martin Hemming to earn a place in the semis. However, it was here where she met her Waterloo in the form of Emmanuel Di Bona. Rebecca had notched up nine 11 point wins in a row and wanted just one more for the coveted **1000-to-1 Trophy** but it wasn't to be so. It was Emmanuel who went through to the final to face Arthur Musgrove.

Arthur had fought his way through and, as long as Judith, his wife, kept away he had a good chance of pulling it off - apparently Judith is a harbinger of doom where Arthur and backgammon are concerned and so she was under a self-imposed exile from the playing room.

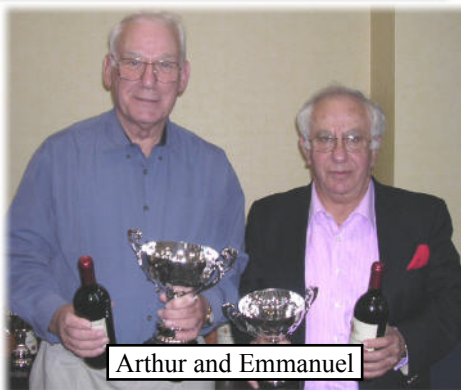
Arthur took an early lead of 5-0. This prompted Emmanuel to take a cigarette break after which he returned and took the score to 5-3 at which time Arthur asked him what was in the cigarette he'd just had and demanded a dope test! I carried out one and the conclusion was that Emmanuel was in fact a dope! This is backed up when the score reached 8-5 to Arthur.

Regular readers of Bibafax (now available in full colour!) will know what a cockshot is . . . and Arthur rolled one that won him the match. It was in this position that Emmanuel (white) had a 54 to play:

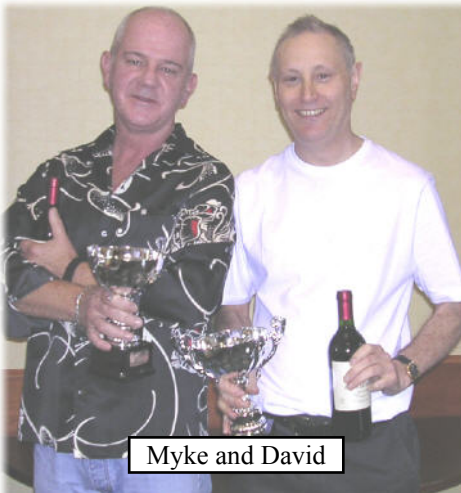


11 point match
Black 8 White 5
White to play 54

Emmanuel chose to point on the blot on his 3-point; and as you can guess, Arthur rolled a 62 and re-entered and hit the



Arthur and Emmanuel



Myke and David



Simon and Adrian



Ken and Paul

8-point blot. Emmanuel then danced with 21 : Arthur rolled 52 hitting on the 10-point : Emmanuel danced again with 31 : Arthur rolled 64 hitting on the 6-point and bearing off : Emmanuel rolls double-five (a roll too late) and concedes the match!

This move on a 3-ply evaluation is 19th out of 20 - no doubt a rollout might change its position but it won't make it a good move. The mistake here is pointing. Far better is to play 21/16 and block the joker 66 and then move 19/15 to gain maximum hitting chances should white run out with a six . . . which he did. See *Snowies detailed analysis on the following page.*

Consolation (33)

As usual this was a progressive one and I caused a little confusion by overlaying the non with the progressive side. All it meant was that all the fixtures were on the same drawsheet and non entrants kept meeting progressive entrants throughout. It didn't make any difference except that it was possible for all entrants to see how many remaining matches they had left.

Myke Wignall was really baffled by it. Entering from the progressive side he seemed to stand still for two matches and never moved at all - but in reality he kept getting one match nearer to the final. Eventually he did make it to the final against David Nathan. It was here however that he truly stood still after David emerged the victor.

Last Chance (32)

The final of this 5-pointer saw two Liverpool players battle it out for the trophy; Simon K Jones and Adrian Jones (are they related?). Both were knocked out of the Main in the 1st Round and had fared no better in the Consolation so this was a consolation for them!

It was Simon who came out on top leaving Adrian with the runner-up trophy.

Suicide! (32)

Over the weekend there was a lot of talk about the depressing title of this element; so, if anyone has a better name for it let me know. There's a prize for the best one.

Taking advantage of the open draw Ken Gibson made it third time lucky after losing his first two in the 1st Round. He cleaved a way through four opponents to meet Paul Gilbertson in the final. Paul had done it the easy (and cheaper) way by using just the one entry.



Ken was hoping for a second consecutive suicide win following his Backpacker victory last month but Paul just wouldn't allow him and he had to settle for runner-up to Paul's first.

Doubles (8)

Apparently the *harbinger of doom* mantle that Judith bears doesn't matter if she's actually playing with Arthur - for it was they playing as *The Pilgrims* that came out the winners in their final against *Lost a Packet*. *Lost a Packet* were a scratch team that made a late entry and it paid off for them right up to the final.

The top name went to *The Cunning Stunts*.

Friday Warm-up (16)

Tim Mooring and Paul Gilbertson battled their way through three opponents each to face each other in the final. With a weekend break for two worth £200 up for grabs it was well worth winning . . . and so Tim won! However, wife Julie was disappointed for he flogged it thus depriving her of a nice weekend away!

£100 Jackpot (8)

Organised by Slatts for the big boys, the

winner was one of the smallest, Geoff Conn! He knocked out Paul Gilbertson, Steve Pickard and then Martin Hemming to take home a nice big wad . . . to place in a wallet bursting with . . . receipts!

£50 Jackpot (8)

Nicky Check found the £100 Slatts' entry a bit too steep so he organised a smaller one. Here Kevin Stebbing conjured up three wins in a row to take home a slightly smaller wad than Geoff's, leaving his final opponent, Rachel Rhodes with the crumbs.

Finally.

The turnout was just one less than last year; and, if it wasn't for too much alcohol being consumed by a couple of players on Friday night it would have been one more than last year!

One of the two awoke in the hotel with a hangover that lasted all Saturday and part

Match detailed statistics		
Player	Arthur	Emmanuel
Rating	Intermediate	Intermediate
Overall	10.195/20.195	9.305/19.083
Errors(blunders)	32(7)	32(6)
Checker play errors		
Checker play	6.227/13.017	6.203/13.743
Errors(blunders)	24(5)	23(2)
Double errors		
Overall	1.978/3.376	2.391/4.258
Missed double	1.344/2.053	1.983/3.415
Wrong double	0.634/1.324	0.408/0.843
Errors(blunders)	7(1)	8(3)
Take errors		
Overall	1.990/3.802	0.710/1.082
Wrong take	none	none
Wrong pass	1.990/3.802	0.710/1.082
Errors(blunders)	1(1)	1(1)
Emmanuel was 51.11% - 48.89% favorite.		

of Sunday . . . and the other awoke in a police cell - but that's another story!

Munkebjerg Sandinavian Challenge

By 'Roving' Rosey Bensley



October 14th To 17th 2004. Held At The Munkebjerg Hotel, Denmark

Slatts, Julian Minwalla (Jules) and myself were taken to Gatwick for our flight to that well-known airport Billund, (famous for Legoland), by a very smart Paul Gilbertson. Jules did complain that whilst Paul looked excellent in his suit he was disappointed that he'd forgotten his chauffeur's hat! It was great to have Jules traveling with us, this being his first International since Thailand in January 2004. The flight was uneventful and after a 40 minute taxi ride we arrived at the hotel. We were just in time for Slatts to do a half-entry which proved to be a good thing since he won convincingly (9-1) and saved himself 400 euros.

Simonetta and Roland had been in Denmark since Tuesday and were happy to be playing backgammon in the country where they have made so many good friends. Ralph Eskinazi and David Fall were both there, accompanied by their lovely wives Val and Christine. Only 7 Brits playing in the inaugural tournament - or so I thought. There turned out to be another Brit playing - Marks Banks the

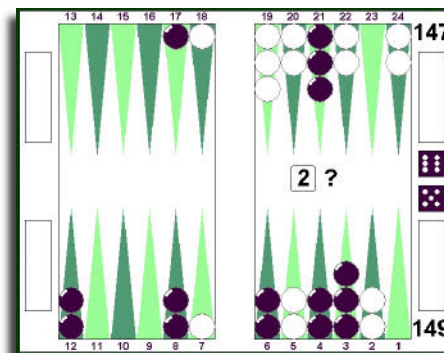
Casino Manager who hailed from New-castle originally.

The public draw brought a few groans when Slatts and Jules were drawn together. Fortunately, the draw was deemed null and void when it was found that some late entrants had been put in twice! There were 43 in the Championship division, 31 in the Advanced and 44 in the Amateurs. The Danes out-numbered the foreigners by 5 -1. 13 countries were represented. I must admit I was very disappointed to see that the other Scandinavian countries had failed to support this new tournament run by Lars Bonding. There was only one Norwegian (Katja Spillum) and no Swedish competitors. I came to the conclusion that it was the Danes reputation for being strong players that must have kept them away. This reputation was upheld when the last turned out to be all Danes! For the full list of players and the results go to the official website www.scandinavian-challenge.com

Battle commenced and all I am going to say about my first match is to quote my opponent "I have never seen anyone

dance so many times on a 2-point board!"

I joined Slatt's first match against Bodholdt (Denmark) when the score was 9-9 and Slatts (black) offered the 2-cube in this position:-



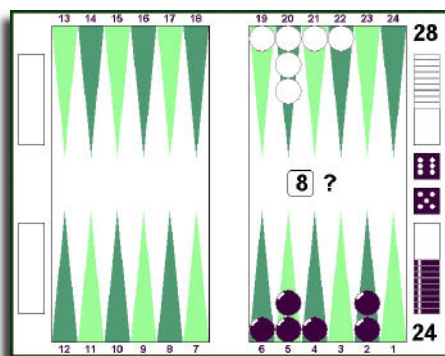
17 point match
Black 9 White 9
Black cube action?

Snowie says this is a no-double, take and Slatts must have been thinking the same thing after he rolled one of his worst numbers 66. He made the best move (according to Snowie), which was 21/9(2). His opponent rolled 4 /2, hits and Slatts danced several times before he was offered the cube on 4 and declined it.

In the next game Slatts got an early advantage and cubed which was a definite take. He then rolled badly and ended up



behind in the race 111 to 99. He was offered a re-cube to 4 and this time he takes. He did manage to roll in his usual style with a fair few doubles and decided to re-cube to 8 for match in this position.



17 point match
Black 9 White 11
Black cube action?

His opponent made the correct decision and declined. After winning two more single games Slatts was ahead in the match 15–11. In the next game Slatts was offered the 2-cube early in the game and takes. He was immediately rewarded with an 8 shot, which he hits; his opponent missed the blot in his home board and fails to come in. Slatts closes his board and wins the match 17–11.

Ralph wins his first match in the Advanced division but the rest of us went to bed having come second!

One of the great things about this tournament was that breakfast was open to 11 a.m. (not that this made any difference to Slatts who still failed to make an appearance on tournament days!). There was a fantastic breakfast buffet with a chef on hand to make omelettes and pancakes to order. Dinner was also included in the price of the room and this was also buffet style with a very good selection of dishes to choose from. Desserts were extremely good!

After breakfast on the first day, Jules and I decided to venture out for a walk and take in some of the scenery. The hotel receptionist recommended that we walked out of the hotel down 240 steps to the woods below and then followed one of the walks on their pamphlet. This was of course written in Danish and as we soon discovered when we got lost, was not a great deal of use to us! Anyway off we set feeling very energetic. The energy seemed to slip away very quickly after the 240 steps and then the hilly bits! However, we encountered a small farm at the bottom of the woods and we found some lovely highland cattle grazing there.

We eventually found our way back to the hotel after about an hour, and decided to shower and change before meeting up for a well-earned cup of coffee!

In his second match Slatts played Stovgaard (Denmark) and couldn't seem to do a thing right and was 6–15 to 17 down when he was faced with the 2-cube on a race that was 86 to 75. He took it and re-cubed to 4. Fortunately the dice gods were with him and he won the game.

Jules had had a tough first round draw against Thomas Holm (twice runner-up in Monte Carlo) and now played Howard Markowich (USA) (the organiser of the Las Vegas tournaments) in the first round of the Championship Consolation. The photo shows them playing with the score at 8–2 to Jules. It was a long hard fought match with Jules the victor, winning 11–8.

So did Slatts make a triumphant come back from 6–15 down? Unfortunately not, he got to 12–15 and then his luck deserted him and he lost the match 12–17.

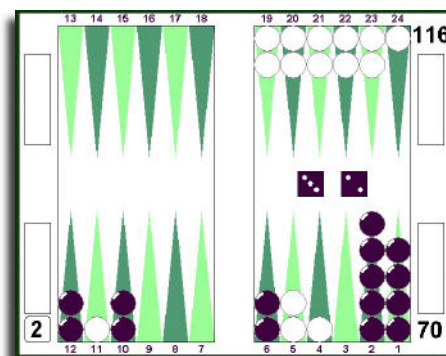
In the meantime the Brits weren't having a lot of luck. Simonetta and Roland were unlucky enough to meet each other in the first round of the Amateur Main with Roland being the victor. Unfortunately, they both lost their Consolation matches on day 2 to qualify for the Last Chance. I had drawn Mark Banks in the Consolation first round and managed to win a match.

I faced David Fall in the next round. He had already scared me by telling me that he had won his last match by taking an 8-cube and then throwing 6 doubles in a row to win the race! He did pretty well throwing doubles against me as well, but I didn't mind losing to a fellow Brit! Having won his first match,

Ralph didn't have any luck either, and with Jules and Slatts both losing in the Consolation it was left to David to fly the flag for Britain. He did very well and got through to the semi-final of the Advance Consolation. He didn't do a deal on the money though, so when he lost the match he came away empty handed.

In the end Roland was the only one of us to win a trophy – Runner-up in the Last Chance.

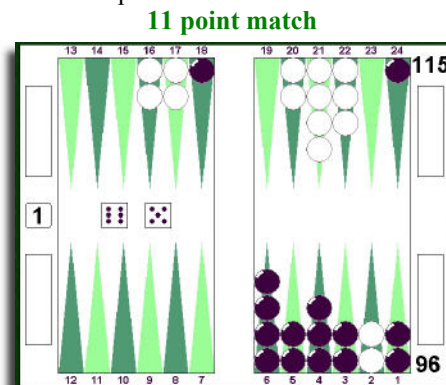
Slatts (black) had a go at the Super Jackpot and faced Lars Trabolt (Denmark). In this particular game he had an awkward 32 to play in this position.



11 point match
Black 5 White 4
Black to play 32

He made the Snowie play of 12/10, 12/9. He didn't win the game though as he got hit but he did manage to save the gammon.

With the score at 8–10 Lars (white) rolls 65 in this position . . .



11 point match
Black 8 White 10
Crawford game
White to play 65

. . . and couldn't make up his mind what to do. He kept moving the pieces backwards and forwards and in the end played Snowie's 3rd best move 8/2, 8/3. He ended up becoming a big under-dog with Slatts looking like he could even get a gammon to even the match. Alas, it was not to be. With 5 men off Slatts rolled a double 6 leaving a blot on his 6-point. Lars rolled double 4 to hit and ended up closing Slatts out and winning the match.

Unfortunately, my reporting skills went to pot on the last day and I didn't watch the final being played as I decided to join in with the poker, along with Ralph and David. Ralph played in a higher entry game and David and I watched him lose most of his chips when he got trip queens, only to find that he was betting against a player also with 3 queens but with a higher kicker. This didn't deter him going into another tournament where his luck turned. He had two notable good hands, one was 4 eights, and the one that I saw him win was amazing. He had



Jack, 10 in his hand and the flop was 10, J, 10. He slow played it, and was delighted when a 4th 10 came on the river. He went on to be one of the final two players and split the money, so covered some of his expenses.

Overall the Brits all agreed it had been a fun tournament and the venue was superb. Val and Christine had enjoyed it so much that they have decided to become BG

Groupies and travel the world watching their husbands play! Rumour has it that they may even play in the Amateurs next time they go. The Gala Dinner on the Sunday night was superb. The food was delicious and the wine flowed. Simonetta and Roland showed their musical talent and performed several pieces for us (Simonetta on the Cello with Roland accompanying her on the piano) in between the food and the prize giving. They are

a really talented couple and I am hoping Slatts will sign them up for the next Slat-tery Scottish Open. All of the tournament staff did a brilliant job and Lars Bonding made an excellent Tournament Director for both the Backgammon and the Poker. There will be another Scandinavian Challenge next year at the same venue and it is well worth a visit.

Roland and Simonetta enjoy their dinner before performing on the piano and cello.



The night of the round table! L to R: Julian, Slatts, Rosey, Ralph, Val, David, Christine, Roland and Simonetta



Julian on his way to beating Howard.

Renewal Fees 2005

Yes, it'll soon be time to renew your membership for another year. You should have spotted the label on the front of the envelope in which this Bibafax arrived - but if you missed it you can log onto the Biba web site to see what your renewal fee is or pay at the December or January tournaments.

New for 2005 are two full colour Bibafax options: Original size, A4 booklet or a reduced A5 version. The bigger one costs £40 for six issues and the smaller one, £20.

Also, a CD-ROM version of Bibafax is available as a PDF document for £12 for 2005. This has the entire Bibafax plus Snowie and JellyFish files of featured matches. NB: The Snowie files can be opened as html files without Snowie using the folder on the CD.



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

- 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

Birmingham - Dave Motley - 0121 476 4099 - davemotley@blueyonder.co.uk - Monday.
Brighton - <http://eiloart.com/bbc/> - Tuesday 8pm until closing.
Bristol - Ian Tarr 0117-9756349 brisgammon@blueyonder.co.uk 2nd Thursday of the month.
Dublin - Brendan Burgess - 603 0891 - wildlife@indigo.ie - 2nd Monday of every month.
Eastbourne & Bexhill - John Thomas - 01424 219415 - Jtprincesgaragelimited@btinternet.com - Mondays 19.30.
Halifax/West Yorkshire - Rachel Rhodes - 07961 355433 - 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 - Tuesdays
Lincoln - Michael Crane - 01522 829649 - michael.a.crane@ntlworld.com - Every Tuesday.
Liverpool - John Wright - 0151 280 0075 - jpwright@cablenet.co.uk - Last Friday of each month
London - Fox Reformed - Robbie (020) 7254 5975 - robbie.richards@fox-reformed.co.uk - Mondays
London - Ealing - Grahame / Geoff - 020 8 968 6327 - Ealingbackgammon@netscape.net - Every Sunday 3.00pm.
Manchester - Rodney Lighton - 0161 445 5644 lighton@btinternet.com - 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month.
Nottingham - Conrad Cooper - 0115 9113281 - conrad_cooper@excite.com - Monday, 9.00 pm.
Perth - Steve Wallace - perth_gammon@hotmail.com - 01738 552735 - Sundays, 7.00pm
Preston - David Wallbank - d.wallbank@blueyonder.co.uk - Last Tues of every month.
Reading - Kevin Carter - kevin@profundus.com - 0118-971 2948 - Alternate Wednesdays.
St. Albans - Richard Biddle - chelseamuffin@aol.com - Every Tuesday 19.45.- 01442 885246
Tunbridge Wells - Liz Park - email:LizP@parksconsulting.com - Every Tuesday.
York - Leo Waters is hoping to start a club in York. Contact him on watersleo@hotmail.com.

Forthcoming Events

The Gilbertson UK Finals. December 4/5 Fancy a last chance to become a National title holder? Then get yourself booked in here.

The Gilbertsons, Rosey, Paul and John have sponsored this year's UK Finals and it promises to be a stunning event. 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), John Slattery and Connor Dickinson.

Bright 'n' Breezy. January 15-16

At last a date and **new** venue. The hotel is the Hilton West Pier - NOT the Metropole; so don't go to the wrong one! I expect it to be one of the biggest turn-

outs of the year so book as soon as you can (see below). As in previous years the Consolation will feature the Albert Tinker Memorial Trophy kindly donated by his friends, Tony Fawcett and Mick Butterfield.

Jarvis Trophy. February 5-6. The first chance to enter the new, 2005 Swiss Consolation with the 'Last Chance' pool for those who cannot win the Consolation on the Sunday. See the Townharbour report on [page 43](#).

2005 Accommodation at Brighton

The 2005 Bright 'n' Breezy is at the Hilton West Pier Hotel, Brighton.

The rates for Dinner, Bed & Breakfast per person are:

Single: 1 night £68, 2 nights £130

Double/twin: 1 night £104, 2 nights £200

The contact numbers are:

Tournament information info@backgammon-biba.co.uk

Accommodation 08702 421 303 and quote 'backgammon'

It should be noticed that the hotel have blocked off an allocation of 50 rooms and they will be allocated on a *first-come first-served* basis. To be certain of a room book as soon as you can and avoid being disappointed.



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)**

Contact Central Reservations:

Hanover 08457 444 123

Brighton 08702 421 303

and quote 'backgammon'

Hanover accommodation costs 2004 & 2005: (see previous page for Brighton)

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**

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
Dec 04-05	The Gilbertson UK Finals 2004	-	.	Hinckley	Double KO
Jan 15-16	Bright 'n' Breezy	GP	UK	Brighton	Knockout
Jan 28-30	3rd Cotswold 'Fireside'	GP	.	Blockley	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
Apr 24	Manchester 1 Day event	GP	.	Manchester	Combination
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 20-29	Mind Sports Olympiad	GP	.	Manchester	Swiss
Sep 03-04	Backpacker Trophy	GP	.	Hinckley	Knockout
Oct 08-09	Sandy Osborne Memorial	GP	.	Daventry	Knockout
Oct ??	13th Irish Open	GP	UK	Dublin	Combination
Nov 05-06	Townharbour Trophy	GP	UK	Hinckley	Swiss
Dec 03-04	UK Finals	-	.	Hinckley	Double KO

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2nd Lucien Barriere Open

By 'Roving' Rosey Bensley



2nd Lucien Barriere Backgammon Open. October 19th To 24th 2004. Held at Casino Barriere, D'enghien-Les-Bains, Paris

Whenever I mention to my friends where I am going to play backgammon they are always asking me how much sightseeing I do. None of them can believe I would go to somewhere like Paris and not shop! Well, those of you that know me well enough know I don't do shopping – anywhere!! I have done sightseeing in Paris many times and Enghien-les-Bains is a small suburb far enough away from the centre of Paris for me not to feel guilty about not doing anymore! Having said that Fanika and her friend Sarah (not a BG player) certainly spent a good few hours there and a good few euros I think! I am afraid France is not my favourite destination and Charles de Gaulle airport I think is the worst airport in the world!!

There were 120 players from 20 countries, over 70 of which were in the Championship division. All hoping for a share of the 50,000 euros added prize money. For full results go to www.world-backgammon-association.com

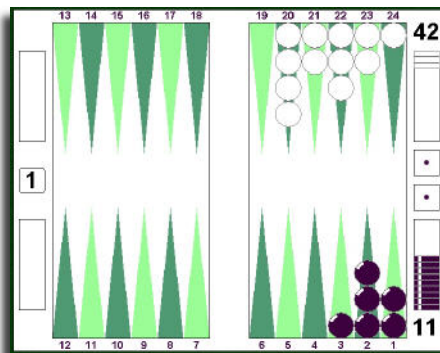
There was a great crowd of Brits for this tournament. Slatts was the only one in the Championship Division. Martin Hemming, Myke Wignall, Paul G, Ernie, David Fall, David Markwick, Tom Duggan (who ended up having to go home on Saturday morning), Roland and myself played in the Intermediates and Simonetta and Fanika in the Amateurs. I am afraid I caused a bit of controversy when I decided to follow Roland and Simonetta (and Liz Barker last year) into the Amateur division. I was politely asked to upgrade to the Intermediates and did so without too much fuss. Unfortunately, they decided to also tell Roland that he couldn't play in the Amateurs either, despite letting him play a quarter entry, which he won. Understandably he wasn't very pleased with this decision and ended up only playing in the Consolation and Last Chance. *MC: See later in this report.*

In round one of the Championship Main Slatts played Rageb (USA/Mexico) with a side bet of \$300 for the match. After winning the first game Rageb didn't have much luck. He showed me he was even a better dancer than me when he danced 4 times on a 1-point board during the

match. When the score was 10–4 to 15 in Slatts's favour, Slatts rolled a very good double 4 which allowed him to win a gammon. In the Crawford game Slatts had 2 men on his 2-point and Rageb had 2 on his 1-point and 2 on his 2-point. Slatts obliged by throwing 51 but Rageb didn't throw the double he needed to save the match.

Slatts 2nd round was against Sami (Germany) which went to 13–13 to 15 after Slatts had been 12–6 up. In the next game Sami cubed early but Slatts managed to roll a required 61 to hit him and put him on the bar against a 4-point board and a 5 prime. He went on to win the match and go through to Day 2.

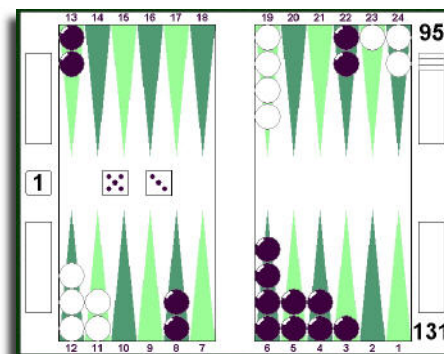
In the Intermediates David Fall fell as Ernie picked him off game by game!! (I hope the play on words are not wasted!) Unfortunately, he lost his next round. Paul and Myke both lost their first round matches but bought back in. Paul was his usual unlucky self in his first game, when at 10–10 to 11 his opponent rolled double-6 and double-5 to win the match. However, we all told him to put that behind him, buy back in and come out fighting. He did win his next two matches despite losing in this position on the Crawford game in one of them. He is black.



13 point match
Black 12 White 8
White on roll

I won my first match and was disappointed to lose my 2nd match after fighting my way back from 1–11 down to 11–11 in a 13 point match. In the next game I found myself (white) with a 53 to play, and no idea what was the right move. I showed the position to Paul and Slatts after the match and they said I had made a big error in making the play I did. I had to confess that I hadn't even seen their play, which is terrible (my only excuse is that I am very much a lark and

not an owl and was tired by the time the match was played in the early hours of the morning)! As it happens Snowie made my move the 3rd best play but with not much in it.



13 point match
Black 11 White 11
White to play 53

My opponent Miki (France) cubed me for match after I had played 13/5. I thought about it for quite a time but decided that as I was 20 pips ahead in the race, and she had a blot in board as well, it was a take. I was pleased afterwards to hear from the British spectators, who had watched me come back from the dead, that it was the right cube decision on my part. Snowie also agreed! She failed to hit the 1, so I gave a big sigh of relief and got on with what I hoped would be winning the game. Alas, it was not to be, I had to leave a 7 shot which Miki missed the first time, I roll 32 and fail to get past, she misses again, I roll 32 again, and of course 3rd time lucky she rolls 61 to hit me. By this time she had a 5 point board and I had minimal chances of recovery!! Well, at least I qualified for the Consolation!

Martin went through to Day 2 having encountered two opponents who both helped him win by not playing the cube well. They were either taking when there were gammons on or taking late when they should have dropped. Dave Markwick, who had won his quarter entry, had a good day. He beat Carole Joy Cole in his 2nd round. All the 3 Brits through to Day 2, Paul, Martin and David, were in separate quarters of the draw so I was hopeful for an all Brits Intermediate Main final.

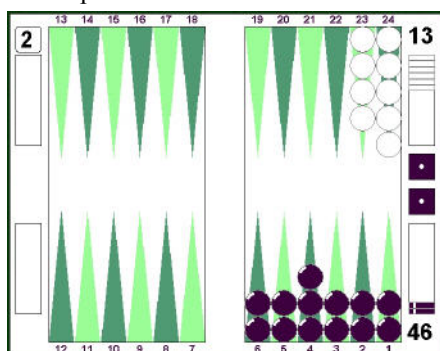
Simonetta won her first 2 matches in the Amateurs but was persuaded to play a 3rd match on the first night, which she lost at DMP. I think Fanika made the decision to lose quickly so she could shop in Paris with Sarah!!

So what had happened to poor old Myke then? He was definitely not having a



good day! Having lost his first round match and then his re-buy, he decided to try his luck at the Casino. He was playing roulette and decided to place his last 45 chips on Red. The only problem was that he is colour-blind and couldn't see which was red and which was black!! Paul put him right and Myke waited for the ball to come to a stop. Great, it was red. However, the croupier raked in all the chips including Myke's! Myke couldn't believe it. Fortunately, another member of staff saw what happened and told Myke that the play would be on camera. She watched the replay and paid him what he was due.

This is where my report stopped! I got so disillusioned with my play, the dice gods were definitely not looking down on me and I just felt that I was never going to have a decent run of games again!! You would have thought that this would have meant that I would put more effort into the writing, but that was not the case! I watched Slatts go out of the Championship Main with some awful throwing! And then saw Paul (white) lose this game and subsequently the match when he was 12-9 up to 13.



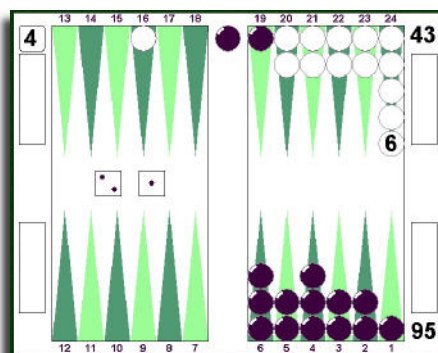
13 point match
Black 9 White 12
Black on roll

His opponent threw Double 1, Double 2, Double 6 and ended with Double 5!!! As Slatts said when I showed him the position "It could only happen to Paul!" George went on to win the Intermediate Main tournament having knocked out 4 Brits along the way!

Martin and David both had a good day and got themselves through to the semi-finals of the Intermediate Main so they were already in the money and were guaranteed a trophy.

The rest of us all went out of the Consolation quite quickly and qualified for the Last Chance with the exception of Paul who won a few rounds and then had his usual luck and went out in the Quarters.

This meant that on Saturday we had to enter the Doubles Consulting if we wanted to play. Slatts teamed up with Martin, Ernie with me, Myke & Paul, Roland & Kenji (Japan) and Simonetta with Lars Bonding (Denmark). Simonetta was over the moon that she was partnering Lars and had high hopes for being in the money, alas, disaster struck when they were gammoned on a 4 cube in a match to 7! Slatts & Martin were playing Falafel (top Israeli player) and Serge (France) and lost. Ernie and I went out at double match point. Roland and Kenji got beaten in the quarterfinals after their opponents, Durve & Champier (France, white), made an error and cubed them when they were 4-5 ahead. They shipped the cube back to 4 and battle commenced. It got to this position when an amazing sequence of dice happened.



7 point match
Black 4 White 5
White to play 21

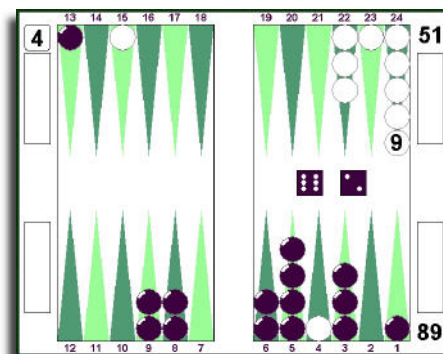
They make the correct move and clear their 3-point. The rolls were then as follows:-

Roland and Kenji	Durve & Champier
31: dance	21: 9/7, 2/1
43: bar/22, 6/2	21: 9/6*

followed by D & C rolling 21 three times more in succession but never getting hit. That was five consecutive 21s!

They now met Paul & Myke, the only British duo to go through to the semis, which was to be played after dinner. The prize money was only for the finalists but was 6,700 euros to the winners and 2,900 euros to the runners-up. P & M hoped that they could at least do a saver in the next match. D & C, however, decided that not only did they not want to do a deal, they would like to have 200 euros on the match! This was declined! In the first game Paul & Myke offered an early cube and got into trouble and were faced with a 4 cube, which they took as they were 38 pips ahead in the race. This was the posi-

tion with them playing as white:-



7 point match
Black 0 White 0
Black to play 62

D & C rolled 62, which didn't do any damage. Unfortunately, Paul was rolling the dice. He rolled double 1. Their next roll hit and they ended up winning the game. They went 6-0 up and although they won the Crawford game Paul & Myke couldn't get into the post-Crawford game and lost the match. This meant that Paul had gone out in 3 elements of the tournament just before the money! It was just as well he was being lucky at Roulette!

Slatts had been challenged by Nadjib Shalamzy (Afghanistan), who was featured in the last Bibafax. He has won the Monte Carlo \$100K Super jackpot twice. He wanted to play 5 games at £100 a point. Slatts, never one to turn down a challenge, accepted and during the course of the next few days ended up winning 17 points. Not a bad weekend's work!

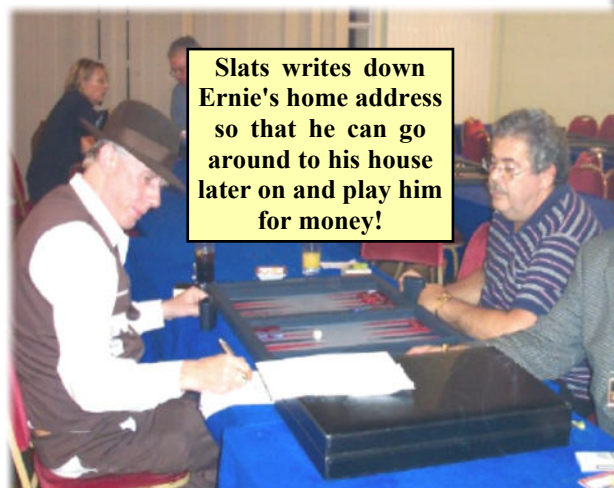
David and Martin both lost their semi-finals, but were very pleased to pick up their money and a very nice trophy. Chiva and his team had chosen some wonderful trophies. The majority of them were see-through dice about 3-inch cubes, which sat in a box with coloured lights underneath. I had never seen anything similar to them.

Overall, I had a thoroughly good time with the social side scoring more points than the backgammon! I couldn't even win one round in the Ladies tournament! The dice gods were a bit kinder to me on Sunday when I got to the final of a 20 euro jackpot – at last I had managed to win two matches in a row! As Roland was the other finalist we decided to split the lolly.

The trip was spoiled for me by the chaos at Charles de Gaulle airport and I have vowed never to use it again!! BMI weren't much better, losing our case at



Heathrow! We did get it back 3 hours later though! Myke has been telling us for ages that we should let the train take the strain and use the Eurostar, perhaps I'll listen to him next time.



Slats writes down Ernie's home address so that he can go around to his house later on and play him for money!



A very happy (and lucky) Harald Johanni in the safe hands of Fanika and Sarah.



Paul removes a large piece of chewing gum from his board while his opponent looks sheepishly at him.



David Fall . . . Before he fell!

MC: An open letter from Dr. Chiva K. Tafazzoli & Laurent Arnone on Paris.

Dear readers of Bibafax. First of all, let me thank you for your support and contribution to make the second edition of this tournament a big success. As always, we were delighted to welcome British players and see two of them reach money places.

The controversy regarding who should play in which division will always lead to different opinions. As I had stated before in postings on different sites, we feel that nowadays, more than ever, considering the threat from poker and the migration of players, that newcomers to backgammon should be protected and encouraged rather than scared off.

The Amateurs division of our tournaments are especially dedicated to the rookies in order to attract them to modern backgammon and the tournament variation of it. I personally don't think that people who have played the game for many years, online and offline, should enter this division at all, just because of an apparently easy equity. In the same way, the intermediate division should

only be played in by those who don't constantly figure among prize winners.

These were the main reasons why we kindly asked the Armenian players who regularly reach money prizes on international events (recently in Venice, Monte-Carlo, Cannes & Scandinavian-Challenge), to enter the champions division. And look what happened, Artur Muradian won it all....

Of course, we, as tournament organizers, are not safe from making mistakes and Rosey, Simonetta, Roland as well as one or two other players in the Amateurs should not figure there (we have already spoken with them and expressed our disappointment), in the same way as Liz Barker and Lise Howard shouldn't have been there last year. But since some had already entered satellites and won them and complaints had been taken to the directors about their entries in those divisions, we had to find a solution which was not an easy thing to do. We certainly should have kept watch and not let them into the qualifiers and told them before but on the spot and on a very busy day, things unfortunately happen....

The criteria for admittance to the different divisions is not easy to set. The French Backgammon Federation is vigorously taking entries for the French players based on their rating points. We are working on a WBA rating system which will count in every official match played on our events. We have started with Salzburg and will continue to do this for Enghien and our next tournaments. Once we have reached a significant number of tournaments, we will base entries upon the ratings and we will find a solution to award the highest ranked players. That ranking chart will be put online on our website once it becomes significant.

However, we did our best to find a just and fair solution and promise to take better care of the entries in the future in order to keep backgammon tournaments a place for a true and sporting competition.

Hope to see all of you on our upcoming events. Kind regards. We love the game....

Dr. Chiva K. Tafazzoli & Laurent Arnone

The 12th Irish Open

By 'Roving' Rosey Bensley



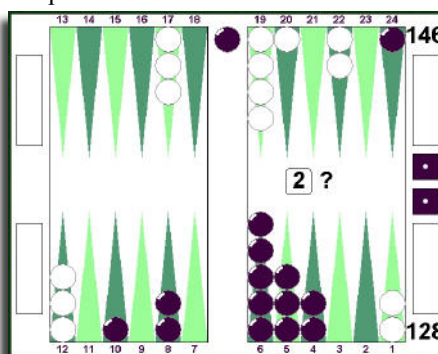
The Irish Open is one of my favourite tournaments, probably because it was the first International tournament I ever went to back in October 2000. There is always an excellent turnout from the Brits and this year was no exception. I will attempt to name everyone as I recall them, but apologise if I leave anyone out! There was Slatts to represent Scotland of course, myself and Rachel endeavouring to win for the girls!, John Gilbertson, Ernie Pick, Jules Minwalla, Peter and Paul Christmas, Simon K Jones, Adrian Jones, Fak Laight, Steve Pickard, Ralph Eskinazi, Grahame Powell (Irish Open Champion 2003 - there to defend his title!), Brian Lever, Nick Check, Stuart Mann, Jason Champion, Kevin White, Jeff Barber, Tim Brown, Uldis Lapikens and Pat O'Connor (Irish but an honorary Brit as he lives in London!!).

On the Friday night there was a €200 jackpot which Slatts, Ernie and the Christmases entered. Paul Christmas went out early and did a buy-back and went onto the final. He did a split on the money, all but €200, with his opponent Luc (Belgium) and he ended up coming second when he played the final on Saturday morning. Irene, John and I went out to sample the delights at Eddie Rockets. This is an old fashioned style fast food place specialising in burgers, which has individual 4-man booths with their own mini-juke boxes. We did get the waitress to take a photo so maybe you'll see what I mean in the photo gallery!

The format for the Irish is six 7-point matches on Day 1. One person will win 6 out of 6 and go through to the last 8 of the Main tournament on the Sunday. Those with 5 out of 6 automatically go through to the last 16 and those with 4 out of 6 have to play off for a place. All other players go through to the Consolation, which is not progressive. Once you are out of the Main and Consolation there is a Team event. The teams are randomly selected and are made up of 3 players per team. The prize is always a bottle of whiskey for each player. Interestingly, there are only trophies (and very nice they are too!) for the winners of the Main and Consolation, not the runners-up. So in the words of Anne Robinson if you are a runner-up "You go home with nothing!!" Everyone is warned that they will be put on clocks if they are getting behind the schedule. Some players like Slatts and

Asger Kring (Denmark) insist on playing with the clock. In Slatts's case this is because he has had matches shortened in length before, just because his opponents have been slow! Paul Kelly starts off the proceedings with an auction, which is always good fun. Brendan and his team come up with auction teams such as previous winners, the girls, the Christmas crackers etc (see photo). There are always 2 groups which are called "all the others" and if you buy one of these groups and the winner is not in a named group you share the total auction fund with the person who bought the other all winners group.

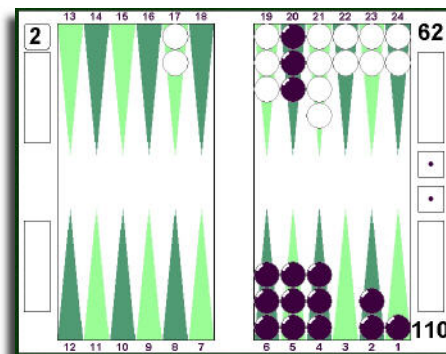
For once I had a bit of luck on my side and managed to win 5 out of 6. This meant I was playing all of the time on Saturday so had little time for reporting. I did have an exciting match with Asger. After being gammoned on the first game and going down 0-4 to 7, I doubled early in the next game. Asger (white) took some time to think about the take and once he had decided to take he asked if we could stop the clock and write down the position.



**7 point match
Black 7 White 4
Black cube action?**

Asger turned the game round and re-offered me the cube on 4, which I took, and re-cubed him to 8 for match on my next roll. I ended up winning the game after making a terrible blunder – read on!

Asger remembered the position and the moves when he cubed and set it up. He said "this wasn't a Take!" My comment back was "Snowie may not think so, but against you, and being 4 nil down, it was a take for me. This is something Slatts has taught me. My equity is better to take and recube for match than to go 6 nil down against a much stronger player."



Asger (white)	Rosey (black)
33: 6/3 4/1(3)	53: 20/12
43: 6/2 6/3	54: 12/3
52: 8/6 8/3	61: ??

Now the 6/1 play is obvious, isn't it? So, I picked up my piece from his 5 point, hit, and . . . put my piece on his 6 point and his piece on his 12 point!!! Idiot or what? Worst still, I didn't even notice! Asger obviously did but chose to condone it and rolled his dice. The dice gods were smiling on me, he rolled 3/1 and played 12/8. I hit, closed him out and won the game and match. I know I was extremely lucky and made sure I didn't complain about my rolls for the rest of the day!!

As it happened, the Brits had an excellent day and represented 10 out of the final 15 players for the Main tournament. Ralph did exceedingly well winning 6 out of 6. Rachel, Brian, Jason, Grahame (I think!) and myself got 5. Slatts, John, Simon and Stuart won their play-offs to qualify.

On Saturday evening Ernie, his lovely wife Irene, Jules, John, Slatts and I went out for a delicious meal at The Italian Connection. The Chinese food was excellent (only joking, seeing if you are paying attention!). We were all really hungry and tucked into our starters with gusto. The wine flowed and a jolly good time was had by all.

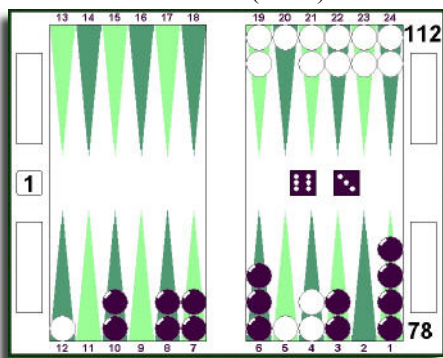
When we got back to the hotel, Irene and I excused ourselves and went for an early night (extra early in fact as the clocks had gone back an hour). The 4 guys played chouette until about 1 a.m. when Jules and John called it a day and left Slatts and Ernie playing. I am sure Ernie won't mind me telling everybody that he won 14 points from Slatts at £10 a point!

On Sunday, play started at 10 a.m. for those of us in the Main and 10.30 for the Consolation players. Slatts had asked me whom I didn't want to meet in the first round apart from him. My reply was Stuart as I had never beaten him in an 11-point match as far as I could remember.



So whom did I get? Stuart of course! I lost 7–11 but had been keeping my eye on the clock in the last game as Stuart only had a few minutes left. He won with one-minute to spare, but as the better player, he deserved the win.

John G meanwhile was playing the 2003 Irish Champ, Grahame. I started watching when the score was 10–10. As John is my brother, and has only been playing since December '03, I was delighted for him when he won. He then had to face Slatts in the next round. He went 6–1 ahead and a lot of people were thinking he was going to be the day's giant killer. Slatts had other ideas though and went on to win the match and a place in the Semi-finals. Here he met Ralph who went 8–2 ahead quite quickly. Slatts had a ciggie break, which meant he was forced to get fresh air now that Dublin's bars are no smoking. It must have done him some good because he fought back and faced the roll of 63 in this position, with the score at 10–9 to Slatts (black).



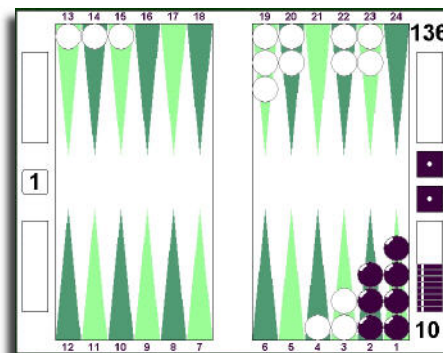
11 point match
Black 10 White 9
Black to play 63

He chose the Snowie move of 10/1, Ralph rolls 41 and hits and what does Slatts roll? 55 of course - to double hit. Ralph couldn't recover and Slatts goes through to the Final.

Stuart beat Simon in his quarterfinal and faced Rachel in the semis. There was a big crowd watching when I joined the match with Stuart in the lead at 10–9. Slatts explained to me that Rachel had decided not to bring the cube into play as Stuart was running out of time. In order for this to be of benefit to her the score must not become DMP, this is because at DMP the clocks do not matter. Her intention was to make the last game as complicated as possible so that if the clock ran out for Stuart, she would go into the Final. Her plan appeared to be working, when I started watching the game Rachel (white) had 8 men back in Stuart's home board!

MC: I think I should point out that if the match is post-Crawford then Stuart should have doubled Rachel! If she takes or drops the game becomes DMP... and the clocks are removed! Being one of the slowest players around and often having to play with a clock, Stuart really should study the Clock Rules - they can work for him as well as against him!

The time was ticking away and with no more than 5 seconds on the clock the position was like this:



11 point match
Black 10 White 9

Stuart called the tournament director, Brendan Burgess, and made a plea for winning the match as it was a gin position (a position where he couldn't lose). He did however, forget to stop the clock, so by now the flag had gone down and Rachel felt she had won. Brendan ruled in Rachel's favour but advised Stuart to appeal, which he did. Brendan appointed Asger and Sean Casey as the committee and stated that if those two ruled against him then the decision could be changed. After some considerable deliberation, Sean announced the committee's decision – "Stuart, having called for the tournament director whilst he still had a few seconds on the clock, did the right thing. He should have the right to concede the point and not lose the match." Rachel felt that was fair and so they sat down to play the final game with the score at 10 all. Stuart got the better dice and won the match.

MC: Stuart shouldn't have let the flag go down and this counted against him. However, I believe the Irish Open is played to Biba Rules and Rule 4.9 clearly states:

- **4.9 Completion** Games must be rolled to completion unless ended by a pass of a double or redouble, or conceded in no-contact positions, single game, gammon or backgammon losses, or where it is mathematically impossible for an opponent to win or save a gammon or backgammon.

This means that when gin is called the game/match is over.

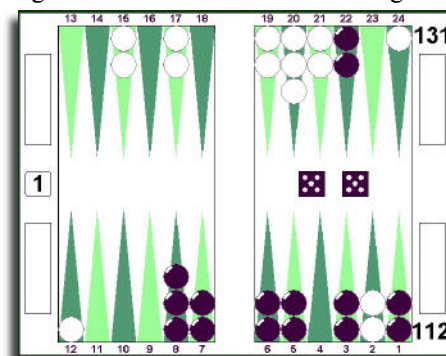
In the final Stuart decided that he would like to play for board – Slatts won, and for direction (this is important when clocks are used as the person rolling into the home boards tends to cock the dice more often, costing valuable time) – Slatts won again!

The time on the clock had been reduced to 55 (instead of 66) minutes per person, as by now the tournament was running behind schedule. In fact we had a flight to catch so I had to keep a careful watch on the time.

There was a little bit of drama when with the score at 2-3, Slatts threw the dice so hard one of them landed in my bag – never to be seen again! Well, not quite but they had to use a substitute dice whilst I emptied the contents of my bag – perfume, chocolate (for Slatts of course), umbrella, book, glasses, cigarettes (for Slatts of course), hairbrush etc. etc

Sometime around here Paul Kelly did the presentation to the Consolation winner, Adrian Jones from Liverpool, he had beaten Liz Perry (Ireland) in the final. Jules team won the whiskey, much to the annoyance of Ernie as it looked like he was going to win his game against Jules to win the match for his team. Poor Ernie got hit at the last hurdle and Jules was triumphant!

Back to the Final of the Main. Slatts took a strong lead but at 10–5 Crawford he manages to throw 55 in this position. Not a good roll and one that cost him the game.



11 point match
Black 10 White 5
Black rolls 55

At 10–6 post Crawford, and with Slatts holding a 2-cube it looked as though Stuart was assured of a gammon to level the match. Slatts had other ideas though and threw double 6 to save the gammon. With the match now at 10–8 Stuart was



once again struggling against the clock. In the next game he cubed straight away and then managed to get Slatts into difficulties, it looked like he could win a gammon for match. Slatts threw a double 4 and raced round the board to make sure the gammon couldn't be on, it turned out to be academic as Stuart ran out of time and lost the match. Stuart recognises that he needs to speed up his game but it must be a hard way to learn the lesson.

The presentation was very rushed as we were now running late, it was 19:45 and we had to be at the airport no later than 20.25 to catch our flight. Despite the foggy night we made it with 5 minutes to spare. I would have liked a bit more time to take pictures and to see Slatts enjoying the moment so perhaps I'll make the decision to stay over next year like quite a few of the Brits did.

Next year it would be good to see even more Brits attend the tournament. The Irish crowd are great and everyone is always smiling. I hear the Guinness is great and the food was excellent. Irene can vouch for the shops being very inviting and I don't think I've ever had really bad weather when the tournament has been on. So come on guys and girls put the last weekend of October in your diary for next year and take a trip across the channel – I am sure you won't be disappointed.

Some clock issues from the Irish Open By Brendan Burgess

We design the Irish Open so that players get to play as much backgammon as possible. There are six 7 point matches on the Saturday, followed by a 7th round of play offs for those who win 4 matches out of 6. If everyone was to take 6 minutes per point, it would take about 9 hours to finish on the Saturday.

The top 16 get into the playoffs on the Sunday, where they play 11 point matches. Again, if everyone takes the full 6 minutes per point, it would take a total of 10 hours to finish the finals. Personally, I would prefer to give up backgammon and train for the marathon.

There is a conflict between having long matches and finishing up on the Sunday at a reasonable time so that our overseas visitors can catch their flights home. This is not such an issue in Biba tournaments where most players don't have flights to catch. If the final goes on late, they just drive home a bit later.

Here are some of the issues which arose at this year's Irish Open. One slow player who had lost his first two rounds on the Saturday, just disappeared. After 15 minutes calling his name, we assumed he wasn't coming back and proceeded without him. Ten minutes after being eliminated, he strolled back into the room. He was a first time player, so it's probably understandable. Understandable, but we didn't allow him back into the tournament.

But how many tournaments has Brian Lever played in? 50? 100? He was through to the last 16 on Sunday and showed up 10 minutes late for his match against Mark Heidenfeld. No player should be late, but a player like Brian who is the second slowest in BIBA has a special duty to show up on time.

Brian won the first match and played Rachel Rhodes in the second round. I noticed after a while that Rachel was wandering around and made no comment as presumably Brian was taking a short break. 5 minutes later, Rachel was still wandering around, so I asked where Brian was. He had gone to check out of the hotel! I find this astonishing. A slow player has a responsibility to the other players in the tournament to turn up on time and ensure that there will be no distractions during the tournament.

So how much time should be allowed for a match? We used to allow 5 minutes per point and upped it to 6 minutes after a few games were being "decided by the clock". But players like Stuart Mann are still running out of time with 6 minutes per point. I am quite sure that if he was given 10 minutes per point, he would still get into time trouble.

Stuart was the last player to start Round 5 on the Saturday. We could not do the final draw for Round 6 until we had the result of that match. The way the numbers fell, we were lucky in that we were able to do the draw for the playoffs before Round 6 was finished. But we might have had to wait another hour or more if there had been an odd number of people. So one player could have been responsible for having 16 people hanging around for an extra hour on the Saturday night when they should have been out enjoying the sights and sounds of Dublin.

With 6 minutes per point, Stuart almost ran out of time against Rosey in the last 16 on the Sunday. Rosey could have done a Rachel on it and made some of the

positions more complicated to use up Stuart's time.

In the semi-final, Rachel made sub-optimal moves to make the position more complicated. She dropped a takeable cube at 9-8 and again at 9-9, to stretch out the match. The Crawford-9, game was very exciting. Stuart's flag had started to rise, which meant he had about three minutes left to finish the game. Rachel forced Stuart to keep hitting her checkers, so that she had lots of checkers back and was able to keep sending Stuart back. With 7 checkers left on the board, Stuart looked up at me and said "That's it". I assumed that he was conceding, but our rules state clearly:

When a player's time expires, his opponent should stop the clock and claim penalty points. It is up to the opponent to make this claim. Spectators may not inform either player that a flag has dropped. The director will not award penalty points until the opponent has stopped the clock or sought advice on the rules from the director.

I shrugged my shoulders as it was clearly up to Rachel to make the claim and I did not want to prompt Rachel. Seconds later Rachel claimed the match.

What had actually happened was that Stuart's flag had not fallen. But he thought that he had won the game as he had cleared Rachel's back checkers and had reached a gin position. This may be in some rules, but it's not in our rules. Stuart should have stopped the clock and sought a ruling, but he didn't and his clock ran out. I awarded the game to Rachel but I advised Stuart to appeal, which he did.

Seán Casey and Asger Kring formed the Appeals Committee and reached the following decision. When Stuart looked up at me and said "That's it", I should have interpreted it as seeking a clarification of the rules. If I had done so, I would have explained to him his options which would have included conceding the game for the maximum number of points which was one as he had borne off some checkers. The score would then be double match point and the clock would no longer apply at double match point. So they ruled that Stuart and Rachel should play at double match point. I advised Rachel and Stuart that they could argue this, but neither did and they played a one point match.

I didn't agree with the ruling but as neither player objected, I said nothing. Perhaps I should have argued on Rachel's behalf? Stuart plays with the clock frequently. It's up to him to know the rules. He knows that he should stop the clock when he is claiming the match and he didn't. He didn't seek any guidelines – he quite clearly claimed the match, I really have no sympathy for such persistently slow players.

Here are a few tips on clock use

- 1) Read the rules if you are playing with a clock.
 - 2) Stop the clock and ask for guidance from the tournament director if the clock is becoming a factor.
 - 3) Most rules now state that the clock does not apply at double match point, so if you are at 9-9, and your opponent is running out of time, drop the cube if it is offered. Now the score is 10*-9 and the clock still counts.
 - 4) If you are leading 10*-9 and running out of time (as Stuart was), double your opponent. The Crawford rule can be interpreted differently: either the cube is dead or the trailer is not allowed to cube. I don't know how I would have ruled.
- MC: In Biba Rule 5.5 the cube is dead and will not be recognised.*
- 5) If you are leading 10*-9 and running

out of time and the position is gin (as Stuart was) concede the game for one point to get the score to double match point.

Stuart played three 11 point matches between 10 am and 5.30 pm. That is 7 hours and 30 minutes. In my opinion, that is simply too long. If we allowed him to take another 2.5 hours for the final, John Slattery would have missed his flight which was at 9 pm. The rules allow the Tournament Director to reduce the time on the clock where slow play is interfering with the smooth running of the tournament. I reduced the time from 66 minutes to 55 minutes, and Stuart ran out of time and lost the game, match and tournament to John Slattery.

John is a deserving winner of the Irish Open. But some people think that winning it on time in some way tarnishes the victory. I beat Stuart in the semi-finals of the Irish Open on the clock two years ago. In the Bibafax report, Michael Crane made a big issue of the way I played to take maximum advantage of the clock, so my victory was also tarnished.

So what can we do about persistently slow players? Do we allow them to continue disrupting the smooth running of

tournaments? Do we allow them to tarnish the victory of their opponents and the reputation of the Irish Open?

Out of 62 entrants in the Irish Open, only two players interfered with the smooth running of the tournament. Two others had clocks imposed on them. So clocks are only affecting a tiny minority of slow players. I will propose to my committee the following rule change:

5 minutes per point.

One penalty-free extension per player of 10 minutes for the whole tournament.

So if Stuart runs out of time in the first round, he gets an extra 10 minutes and no penalty. But clocks and penalties will be applied to all subsequent matches.

This will allow for the normal speed player to have a particularly long match without penalty while penalising the persistently slow players. Perhaps if we advertise the 5 minutes per point limit on our brochure we might deter the slow players from entering the tournament.



**Julian's
Team**

**Slats &
Brendan**

**The
Jukebox
Diner**

**And a
few
players**

Townharbour Trophy

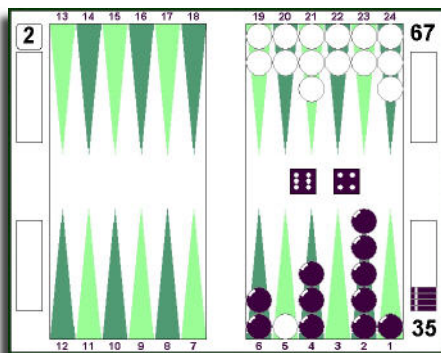
By Michael Crane

Main (10/38)

Given the opportunity to play David Nathan and get £1,200 if you beat him, or if you lose, take home £300; most players would be crushed in the stampede to do so. There wasn't a stampede at the TT but in the 6th Round Connor Dickinson was the only player on 5/5 and he had to play David Nathan (4/5) who was determined to stop him.

So, you ask, why such money for winning or losing? Well, Connor was in the *Winner-Takes-All Prize Fund* which stood at just under £1,200, and if he beat David he'd take the lot. Also, a bit of wheeling and dealing had gone on which meant that if Connor lost he was assured of a share of the fund amounting to about three hundred quid!

The match swung back and forth for ten games at which stage they were 6-6 in the 11th. It was here that David pulled away; and where they both made massive blunders! David was the first. Playing black he had a 64 to move:



11 point match
Score 6-6
Black to play 64

David took two off, 6/0 4/0 giving away 0.553! Why? His gammon chances are slight at 0.2% at best with 6/0 6/2, but by leaving Connor a shot they could well be 0%.

Connor then rolls 51; and doesn't pick up the blot! He plays 20/14 without hitting, giving David 100% chance of winning the point whereas if he'd have hit him he'd lessen that to 29.8% and leave himself as favourite with 70.2%. This blunder lost Connor 1.785 in equity; and nearly cost him a gammon. It is likely that Connor never even saw the hit... which is worse than playing it so badly!

From hereon Connor fails to win another

point and David emerges the victor.

Now the good bit begins: Four players on 5/6! Count-backs came out the same for all four! So, it was play-off time. Paul Statter vs Connor, David vs Paul Barwick. The latter two being the winners and our 'finalists'.

From the 'final' it was Connor who emerged the victor... and about time too.

Consolation (28/38)

Chris Ternel, one of the top players in Denmark and an international player of high repute and regard missed out on the Main when he was beaten by John Gilbertson in the 1st Round. This meant he was relegated to the Consolation, wherein he won all his matches to face Rosey Bensley in a play-off for 1st place.

Rosey had arrived in the play-off after beating Dave Motely in the final round. She was hoping to meet Paul, her brother who was playing Chris, but it wasn't to be. Could Rosey regain the family honour and avenge her sibling? Unfortunately the answer was no! It was Chris that emerged from the play-off the winner and Rosey had to settle for Runner-up.



Connor and Paul



Chris and Rosey

Match detailed statistics		
Player	Nathan	Dickinson
Rating	Intermediate	Intermediate
Overall	12.096/36.896	12.498/44.894
Errors(blunders)	42(9)	30(6)
Checker play errors		
Checker play	7.860/27.295	8.843/37.234
Errors(blunders)	25(5)	23(3)
Double errors		
Overall	4.236/9.601	2.205/4.511
Missed double	4.170/9.458	1.931/3.974
Wrong double	0.066/0.144	0.273/0.537
Errors(blunders)	17(4)	6(2)
Take errors		
Overall	none	1.450/3.139
Wrong take	none	none
Wrong pass	none	1.450/3.139
Errors(blunders)	none	1(1)
Nathan was 57.99% - 42.01% favorite		

Now, the Swiss format is like the curate's egg; good and bad in parts. Good inasmuch as players get to play 6 x 11-point matches, bad inasmuch as if you lose a couple or three there's not a lot of incentive to carry on (although in my opinion you should be prepared to play on once you've started). Of course there's always the all important ranking and Grand Prix points to pick up (and a few quid in the pools) but sometimes players need a bit more than that. This weekend they had it.

We had players in the Main. Players in the Consolation. And players in the 'Last Chance'. Last Chance? What's that? Well it's where all players on 0/3 on Sunday morning were offered a £10 pool and any player that won the last three matches took it all or shared it with any other on three wins. This worked out a treat and the 'winners' were Mardi Ohanessian and John Gilbertson. This feature proved popular and it is expected to make a reappearance at the Jarvis Trophy in February.

Friday Warm-up (16)

New member, Brian Kenny made a name for himself when he beat Emmanuel Di Bona in the final to take the pot and the weekend break for two. On his way to the final he had to beat Martin Hemming and David Nathan (previous warm-up winners). The Warm-up offers good value for money: £5 entry and a weekend for two worth two hundred quid as a prize! Not bad, eh?

Also, the winner gets a bye (if any are available) in the next KO event they enter. Well done, Brian.

Doubles (8)

Pain & Able and the *Prickly Pear* went out quickly. As did *The Very Edge of*



Reason. It was left to *Pitas* or *Cubeless* to produce a winner . . . but they decided to split and go to bed! The Top Name was: *Con Hair* . . . you had to be there!

£50 Jackpot (8)

Myke Wignall, the *dynamic backgammon* expert certainly had a good night when he shared the pot with Brian Busfield.

£100 Jackpot (8)

Ian Gwynne was the player taking home the lion's share of the pot after beating Mardi in the final. Well done, Ian.

Finally.

Not as good a turnout as expected, especially with a prize fund exceeding £1,000 for a fifteen quid stake; but nevertheless, it was a good tournament and, because of the lower turnout we had a proper Swiss wherein it was open to being won by any one of four players who had already lost one match.

Biba Championships 2004

Grand Prix Championship

(209 Entrants)

Well, after winning the Irish Open (as well as doing very well in a few more events throughout the year), John Slattery has firmly ensconced himself at the top of the Biba player list and proved himself to be a formidable player and an opponent to be feared.

1st in 2003 and now 1st in 2004 - can nothing stop John Slattery? All that the TT needed to do was sort out who came 2nd. Well, despite not entering the TT (he was called away) Tony 'Swiss' Lee kept his 2nd position despite a late attempt by Connor Dickinson to usurp him. However, Connor's late bid did oust Steve Pickard from 3rd place and deposited him in 4th.

As you all know the 2004 Championships have a prize fund; and John took home £250, Tony £50 and Conner robbed Steve of £25.

Ranking Championship 2004

(202 Entrants. 52 Qualifiers)

John didn't do the double this year, instead it was Peter Christmas that came out on top. A good bit behind him came David Nathan (thanks to his TT success), and close behind him came Rosey Bensley (also thanks to a TT success). These latter two knocked down Stuart Mann and Steve Pickard (yet again) and out of the money.

Peter gets a nice wedge of £250, David picks up £50 and Rosey pockets £25.

I'd like to thank all the players that took part in the tournaments and Championships throughout the year; and, if you didn't win, perhaps you'll do it next year.

Good luck for 2005!

NB: Awards and pictures will be carried out at Brighton in January, at the Hilton West Pier hotel.

Tournament Results

Sandy Osborne Trophy 9/10 October

Main (35)

- 1 Arthur Musgrove
- 2 Emmanuel Di Bona
- 3/4 David Nathan
- 3/4 Rebecca Bell
- 5/8 Geoff Conn
- 5/8 Julian Minwalla
- 5/8 Steve Pickard
- 5/8 Martin Hemming

Consolation (33)

- 1 David Nathan
- 2 Myke Wignall
- 3/4 Rachel Rhodes
- 3/4 Rebecca Bell
- 5/8 Martin Hemming
- 5/8 Julian Minwalla
- 5/8 Steve Pickard
- 5/8 Geoff Conn

Last Chance (32)

- 1 Simon K Jones
- 2 Adrian Jones
- 3/4 John Slattery
- 3/4 Tony Fawcett
- 5/8 Kevin Stebbing
- 5/8 Matthew Fisher
- 5/8 Rosey Bensley
- 5/8 Mick Vacarey

Suicide! (32)

- 1 Paul Gilbertson
- 2 Ken Gibson
- 3/4 Jeff Barber
- 3/4 Matthew Fisher
- 5/8 Richard Biddle
- 5/8 Nicky Check
- 5/8 Fak Laight
- 5/8 Rosey Bensley

Friday Warm-up (16)

- 1 Tim Mooring
- 2 Paul Gilbertson

£100 Jackpot (8)

- 1 Geoff Conn
- 2 Martin Hemming

£50 Jackpot (8)

- 1 Kevin Stebbing
- 2 Rachel Rhodes

Doubles (8)

- 1 The Pilgrims
- 2 Lost a Packet

Top name: *The Cunning Stunts.*

Grand Prix at Sandy Osborne Trophy

- 18.58 Arthur Musgrove
- 13.42 Emmanuel Di Bona
- 9.29 Simon K Jones
- 9.29 David Nathan
- 9.29 Myke Wignall
- 9.29 Rebecca Bell
- 6.19 Uldis Lapikens
- 6.19 Peter Chan
- 6.19 Steve Pickard
- 6.19 Geoff Conn
- 6.19 Julian Minwalla
- 6.19 Paul Gilbertson

- 6.19 Martin Hemming
- 6.19 Adrian Jones
- 4.13 Tim Mooring
- 4.13 Nick Check
- 4.13 Rachel Rhodes
- 4.13 Connor Dickinson
- 4.13 Richard Biddle
- 4.13 John Slattery
- 4.13 Mick Butterfield
- 4.13 Tony Fawcett
- 4.13 Ken Gibson
- 4.13 Mick Vacarey

- 2.58 Matthew Fisher
- 2.58 Jeff Barber
- 2.58 Colin Laight
- 2.58 Peter Bennet
- 2.58 Kevin Stebbing
- 2.58 Vicky Chandler
- 2.06 Rosey Bensley
- 2.06 Stephen Cole
- 1.55 Dave Motley
- 1.55 Fanika Petkovska

Grand Prix at Irish Open

24.77 John Slattery	9.29 John Gilbertson	6.19 Rosey Bensey
18.58 Stuart Mann	9.29 Brian Lever	4.13 Nick Check
13.42 Adrian Jones	9.29 Simon K Jones	2.58 Dzhiga Heidenfeld
13.42 Ralph Eskinazi	6.19 Kevin White	2.58 Jason Champion
13.42 Rachel Rhodes	6.19 Graham Powell	2.58 Julian Minwalla
9.29 Liz Perry	6.19 Mark Heidenfeld	2.58 Paul Xmas
9.29 Dave Coyne	6.19 Mark Flanagan	2.58 Uldis Lapikens

Townharbour Trophy 6/7 November (Pos / name / wins / GP)

Main (10/38)

1	Connor Dickinson	5	24.77
2	Paul Barwick	5	18.58
3	David Nathan	5	13.42
3	Paul Statter	5	13.42
5	Ron Havenhand	4	9.29
6	John Slattery	4	9.29
7	Adrian Jones	4	9.29
8	Peter Bennet	3	6.19
9	Roland Herrera	3	6.19
10	Mick Vacarey	1	2.58

Consolation (28/38)

1	Chris Ternel	5	13.42
2	Rosey Bensley	4	9.29
3	Paul Gilbertson	3	9.29
3	Brian Kenny	3	9.29
5	Peter Christmas	3	9.29
5	Dave Motley	3	6.19
7	Mardi Ohannessian	3	6.19
8	John Gilbertson	3	9.29

9	Uldis Lapikens	2	6.19
10	Bob Young	2	6.19
10	Eddie Barker	2	6.19
12	Jeff Barber	2	4.13
12	Lawrence Powell	2	6.19
12	Carl Alderman	2	6.19
15	Jeff Ellis	2	6.19
16	Rodney Lighton	2	6.19
17	Vicky Chandler	2	4.13
18	Villi Flari	1	2.58
19	Myke Wignall	1	4.13
20	Simonetta Barone	1	4.13
21	Martin Hemming	1	2.58
22	Peter Chan	1	2.58
23	Paul Christmas	1	4.13
24	Ken Gibson	0	2.58
25	Brian Busfield	0	2.58
26	Ian Gwynne	0	2.58
27	Tony Fawcett	0	0.00
28	Emmanuel Di Bona	0	2.58

Friday Warm-up (16)

1	Brian Kenny
2	Emmanuel Di Bona

£100 Jackpot (8)

1	Ian Gwynne
2	Mardi Ohannessian

£50 Jackpot (8)

1/2	Myke Wignall
1/2	Brian Busfield

Doubles (8)

1/2	Pita
1/2	Cubleless
3/4	The Rat Pack
3/4	Con Hair . . . Top Name

2004 Grand Prix Championship (209 entrants)

121.79 John Slattery	41.80 Mardi Ohannessian	26.84 John Clark
92.89 Tony Lee	41.80 Tom Allsop	26.84 Mahmoud Jahanbani
83.61 Connor Dickinson	41.29 John Thomas	26.84 Raj Jansari
79.48 Steve Pickard	41.28 Vicky Chandler	26.32 Julian Minwalla
77.93 Stuart Mann	40.25 Tony Fawcett	26.32 Stavros Elia
66.05 Martin Hemming	40.24 Jason Champion	25.80 Bob Young
63.48 Paul Barwick	39.23 Nick Check	25.80 Mick Vacarey
62.96 Ian Gwynne	39.22 John Gilbertson	25.29 Ian Tarr
61.92 Nodar Gagua	38.19 Dod Davies	24.77 Arthur Musgrove
60.90 Emmanuel Di Bona	38.19 Rebecca Bell	24.25 Alison Lee
60.90 David Nathan	38.19 Ken Gibson	23.74 Jeff Ellis
59.87 Simon K Jones	38.19 Paul Statter	22.71 Danny Cohen
59.86 Roy Hollands	37.15 Jane Oxley	21.15 Tim Brown
58.83 Peter Christmas	36.64 Kevin White	20.13 David Markwick
57.80 Rosey Bensley	36.64 Kevin Stebbing	19.09 Colin Laight
56.25 Rachel Rhodes	36.12 Richard Biddle	18.58 Richard Granville
53.67 Uldis Lapikens	36.12 Dawn Colley	18.58 Dave Robbins
51.61 Mark Heidenfeld	35.61 Peter Chan	18.58 Steffen Nowak
51.09 Lawrence Powell	35.61 Simonetta Barone	18.06 Jon Sharpe
50.58 Mick Butterfield	35.09 David Startin	18.06 Dave Motley
49.54 Brian Lever	35.09 Adrian Jones	17.55 Kerry Jackson
48.51 Steve Rimmer	33.03 John Broomfield	17.03 Grahame Powell
48.51 Ron Havenhand	33.03 Martin Barkwill	17.03 Roland Herrera
46.44 Paul Gilbertson	32.51 Rodney Lighton	16.51 John Kwee
46.44 Myke Wignall	32.00 Mike Heard	16.00 Dave McNair
44.38 Tim Mooring	30.96 Eddie Barker	15.48 Dave Coyne
43.86 Peter Bennet	30.96 Ann Pocknell	15.48 Raymond Kershaw
43.35 Paul Christmas	30.45 Geoff Conn	15.48 Jo Curl
43.34 Jeff Barber	28.90 Ralph Eskinazi	15.48 Paul Fox
42.32 Mike Greenleaf	27.35 Julian Fetterlein	15.48 Kazu Niki

14.97	Alan Greenwood	8.25	Cedric Lytton	4.13	Ernie Pick
14.96	David Sanders	6.19	Diane Sulimirski	4.13	Andrew Kindler
13.42	Ray Tannen	6.19	Miles Illott	4.13	David Barker
13.42	John Wright	6.19	Neil Webb	4.13	Adam Stocks
13.42	Chris Ternel	6.19	Nigel Merrigan	4.13	Alexis
13.42	Elliot Smart	6.19	Mark Flanagan	4.13	Vicky Gilbert
13.42	Johan Sallfors	6.19	Nigel Hamill	4.13	Dan Boxall
13.42	Frank Conway	6.19	David McNamara	4.13	Eamon Keogh
13.42	Dzhiga Ulyumdzhieva	6.19	Alistair Hogg	4.13	Andy Bell
13.42	David Horner	6.19	Andrew Sarjeant	4.13	Sue Keeble
13.42	Clyde Wolpe	6.19	John Hurst	4.13	Robbie Richards
13.42	Mochy Masayuki	6.19	Felix Vink	4.13	Zibia Szczerek
11.87	Cliff Connick	6.19	Barry McAdam	4.13	Howard Furr-Barton
11.87	Liz Perry	6.19	Francine Brandler	4.12	Chris F Roberts
11.87	Malcolm Wilson	6.19	Leslie Singleton	2.58	Dale Taylor
11.35	Zoe Cunningham	6.19	Tom Duggan	2.58	David Wallbank
11.35	Fanika Petkovska	6.19	Steven Reddi	2.58	Paul Lamford
10.32	Michael Crane	6.19	Carl Alderman	2.58	Matthew Fisher
10.32	Malcolm Robertson	6.19	Simon Fahoury	2.58	Carl Dell
10.32	Kevin Berry	6.19	Maureen Hart	2.58	Alison Hamill
10.32	Ian Shaw	6.19	Adam Robac	2.58	Sue Perks
10.32	Nigel Briddon	6.19	Cynthia Roberts	2.58	George Suilimirski
10.32	Stephen Cole	5.13	Andrew Darby	2.58	Hubert De L'Epine
9.81	Bob Bruce	4.64	Chris Evans	2.58	Stefanie Rohan
9.29	Jim Johnson	4.13	Monica Beckerson	2.58	Michael Main
9.29	Alan Beckerson	4.13	Simon Baker	2.58	Grant Dewsbury
9.29	Simon Barget	4.13	Tim Wilkins	2.58	Vianney Bourgeois
9.29	Andreas Giannopoulos	4.13	Bill Spiers	2.58	Sonia Spencer
9.29	Darryl Kirk	4.13	Brendan Burgess	2.58	Kerry Wells
9.29	Alex Naylor	4.13	Mike Grabsky	2.58	Villi Flari
9.29	Christopher Baxter	4.13	Dave Raynsford	2.58	Jackie Griffiths
9.29	Brian Kenny	4.13	Chris Bray	2.06	Barry Teece
8.77	Brian Busfield	4.13	Angela Dell	2.06	Paul Cohen
8.77	Vince Poil	4.13	Peter Snape	2.06	David Naylor
8.77	Catherine Oldfield	4.13	Tim Taylor	2.06	Ian Shinwell
8.26	Steve Hallet	4.13	Paul Guy	2.06	Nick Stoop
8.26	Bryony Jessiman	4.13	Steve Lynch	1.55	Colin Harrocks
8.26	Sean Williams	4.13	Colin Talbot	1.55	Lorenzo Naylor
8.26	Tony Walters	4.13	Anthony Coker	1.55	Kevin Williams
8.25	David Fall	4.13	Simon Morecroft		

2004 Ranking Championship (202 Entrants. 52 Qualifiers - Pos / Points / Name)

1	2245.57	Peter Christmas	19	2038.29	Simonetta Barone	37	1832.57	David Startin
2	2161.93	David Nathan	20	2037.29	Paul Barwick	38	1815.71	Bob Young
3	2154.64	Rosey Bensley	21	2025.79	Paul Gilbertson	39	1802.29	Jason Champion
4	2152.21	Stuart Mann	22	2012.57	Uldis Lapikens	40	1801.93	Paul Statter
5	2140.71	Emmanuel Di Bona	23	2012.07	Lawrence Powell	41	1749.07	Nicky Check
6	2136.36	Steve Pickard	24	2008.71	Tony Fawcett	42	1736.07	Simon K Jones
7	2128.50	Ian Gwynne	25	2006.21	Paul Christmas	43	1665.71	Mick Vacarey
8	2126.50	Ron Havenhand	26	1934.79	Peter Bennet	44	1663.50	Jeff Ellis
9	2119.57	Myke Wignall	27	1925.21	Geoff Conn	45	1640.36	Stavros Elia
10	2118.93	John Slattery	28	1908.29	Tim Mooring	46	1572.21	Ian Tarr
11	2099.07	Tony Lee	29	1906.21	John Thomas	47	1528.86	Richard Biddle
12	2095.43	Mark Heidenfeld	30	1895.64	Rodney Lighton	48	1527.43	Alison Lee
13	2079.71	Mardi Ohannessian	31	1881.43	Ken Gibson	49	1480.00	Keven White
14	2078.86	Roy Hollands	32	1873.93	Peter Chan	50	1432.50	Roland Herrera
15	2066.86	Martin Hemming	33	1871.00	Rachel Rhodes	51	1304.36	Paul Fox
16	2063.71	Vicky Chandler	34	1869.86	Dod Davies	52	1276.50	Jo Curl
17	2059.00	Mick Butterfield	35	1854.93	John Gilbertson			
18	2052.86	Jeff Barber	36	1835.29	Jane Oxley			

Active Rankings November 2004 (old / new / name)

1968	1968	Tony Lee	1639	1639	Simon K Jones	1503	1469	Rosey Bensley
1964	1964	John Clark	1639	1639	Barry McAdam	1492	1492	Cliff Connick
1951	1951	Julian Fetterlein	1629	1629	Mark Heidenfeld	1489	1515	Vicky Chandler
1915	1915	Brian Lever	1626	1626	Mick Butterfield	1486	1486	Darryl Kirk
1846	1846	Stuart Mann	1625	1625	Dave Robbins	1486	1512	Simonetta Barone
1833	1833	Dod Davies	1623	1623	Steffen Nowak	1481	1481	Ernie Pick
1831	1794	David Nathan	1622	1573	Ron Havenhand	1480	1505	Myke Wignall
1828	1815	John Slattery	1619	1619	Steve Rimmer	1473	1473	Johan Sallfors
1823	1823	Jim Johnson	1619	1624	Rodney Lighton	1472	1472	Rebecca Bell
1806	1806	Dave McNair	1614	1614	Kerry Jackson	1465	1521	Peter Chan
1801	1801	David Startin	1613	1613	Mike Heard	1462	1462	Richard Biddle
1791	1791	Ray Tannen	1611	1643	Brian Busfield	1460	1460	Anthony Coker
1791	1791	Steve Hallet	1611	1620	Peter Bennet	1460	1460	Jane Oxley
1791	1812	Lawrence Powell	1610	1630	Paul Christmas	1458	1458	Vianney Bourgios
1787	1787	Rachel Rhodes	1595	1595	Francine Brandler	1457	1457	Julian Minwalla
1782	1782	Richard Granville	1593	1593	Nigel Briddon	1456	1456	Monica Beckerson
1780	1804	Emmanuel Di Bona	1583	1523	Paul Barwick	1448	1448	Kevin White
1751	1762	Mardi Ohannessian	1583	1583	John Wright	1446	1446	David Sanders
1749	1749	Ralph Eskinazi	1583	1614	Ken Gibson	1429	1429	Elliot Smart
1749	1749	Steve Pickard	1582	1612	Ian Gwynne	1425	1425	Will Richardson
1746	1746	Danny Cohen	1576	1576	Ian Shaw	1422	1422	Leslie Singleton
1745	1745	Raj Jansari	1575	1575	Alistair Hogg	1414	1414	Wayne Felton
1737	1737	Simon Barget	1575	1575	Raymond Kershaw	1412	1412	Andy Bell
1731	1731	Roy Hollands	1571	1571	Grahame Powell	1409	1409	Hubert De L'Epine
1726	1726	Kevin Stebbing	1570	1616	Martin Hemming	1404	1404	Bob Bruce
1719	1719	Brendan Burgess	1568	1568	Geoff Conn	1401	1401	Paul Fox
1719	1719	Arthur Musgrove	1568	1568	Jason Champion	1398	1398	David Naylor
1708	1708	Dave Coyne	1560	1523	Paul Gilbertson	1396	1396	Colin Laight
1706	1706	Ann Pocknell	1560	1560	Eddie Barker	1389	1389	Alan Greenwood
1702	1702	Tim Wilkins	1555	1555	Uldis Lapikens	1385	1385	Cedric Lytton
1694	1704	Jeff Ellis	1554	1484	Paul Statter	1385	1385	Michael Main
1691	1691	John Thomas	1543	1543	Stavros Elia	1382	1382	Chris Evans
1689	1689	John Hurst	1532	1532	Alan Beckerson	1374	1374	Tim Brown
1680	1680	Dale Taylor	1528	1544	Jeff Barber	1364	1364	Jo Curl
1680	1627	Connor Dickinson	1528	1528	Kevin Berry	1357	1357	Simon Fahoury
1672	1672	Nick Check	1524	1488	John Gilbertson	1352	1352	Alison Lee
1666	1666	Tim Mooring	1521	1519	Roland Herrera	1344	1424	Tony Fawcett
1659	1659	Mike Grabsky	1520	1518	Dave Motley	1335	1373	Mick Vacarey
1657	1635	Peter Christmas	1520	1520	David Horner	1327	1327	Jon Sharpe
1650	1650	Mike Greenleaf	1517	1517	Matthew Fisher	1319	1319	Sue Perks
1648	1652	Bob Young	1517	1517	David McNamara	1249	1249	Bryony Jessiman
1642	1642	Ian Tarr	1514	1514	Steven Reddi			

Please note. The Grand Prix and Ranking Championship data will be re-set to zero for the start of 2005. For further details see the Biba web site or contact Biba HQ

Top Fifty - Win% (played 24 or more 11 point matches)

Pos / Name / Played / Won / Win%

01	Mike Heard	26	20	76.92	15	Richard Granville	190	120	63.16
02	Julian Fetterlein	89	66	74.16	16	Ralph Eskinazi	219	135	61.64
03	Jim Johnson	252	173	68.65	17	Lawrence Powell	136	83	61.03
04	Brendan Burgess	130	88	67.69	18	Steve Hallet	136	82	60.29
05	Dave Coyne	42	28	66.67	19	Danny Cohen	189	113	59.79
06	Dale Taylor	245	163	66.53	20	John Wright	160	95	59.38
07	Brian Lever	314	208	66.24	21	Mike Grabsky	172	102	59.30
08	Ray Tannen	95	62	65.26	22	Rachel Rhodes	181	107	59.12
09	Dave McNair	187	122	65.24	23	Tim Wilkins	213	125	58.69
10	John Clark	232	150	64.66	24	Jeff Ellis	275	159	57.82
11	Tony Lee	147	95	64.63	25	Ian Tarr	289	165	57.09
12	Connor Dickinson	39	25	64.10	26	Roy Hollands	342	194	56.73
13	Arthur Musgrove	58	37	63.79	27	Jeff Barber	362	205	56.63
14	Mardi Ohannessian	239	152	63.60	28	Steve Pickard	169	95	56.21



29	John Thomas	239	134	56.07	40	Grahame Powell	132	69	52.27
30	Mike Greenleaf	72	40	55.56	41	Matthew Fisher	173	89	51.45
31	Simon K Jones	214	118	55.14	42	Tim Mooring	261	128	49.04
32	Emmanuel Di Bona	278	153	55.04	43	David McNamara	29	14	48.28
33	Bob Young	186	102	54.84	44	Paul Barwick	351	167	47.58
34	Peter Christmas	265	145	54.72	45	Monica Beckerson	215	98	45.58
35	Nick Check	165	89	53.94	46	Cliff Connick	228	100	43.86
36	Alan Beckerson	223	120	53.81	47	Peter Chan	264	111	42.05
37	Steve Rimmer	79	42	53.16	48	Alan Greenwood	72	28	38.89
38	Uldis Lapikens	343	182	53.06	49	Will Richardson	126	44	34.92
39	Paul Christmas	108	57	52.78	50	Jon Sharpe	36	10	27.78

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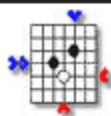
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