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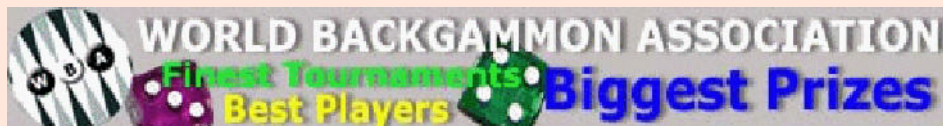
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10th Mind Sports Olympiad 2006

Reports and Results

By Michael Crane



The 10th Mind Sports Backgammon got off to a damp and drizzly start as the streets of London glistened thanks to an early shower of fine, misty rain; spitting - the sort that wets you more according to Peter Kaye. Although the light rain kept the dust of the City down it did nothing to dampen down the sultry heat. The air-conditioning (windows!) in the playing room proved ineffective in keeping the temperature down and it only let in warmer air and the muted sound of the traffic as it crawled along Marylebone Road. Baker Street, the famous home of Sherlock Holmes is just around the corner but it wouldn't have taken his acute powers of observation and deduction to realise that once again there were no entries for the Beginner's Tournament. Why? Does it mean that no one is learning to play backgammon nowadays? Or is it because no one wants to be identified as a beginner? If it's the latter then there's not going to be much of a market for my book, *Teach Yourself Backgammon*! Perhaps next year I'll not include a Beginner's Tournament . . . that'll ensure we get a few entries!

London Cup (19)

The London Cup was a better event. It got off to a good start on the first day for five players who were each on 2/2 going into the 3rd Round: Jan Stastna vs Mahmoud Jahanbani, Crispin Duke vs Steve Rimmer, and Nicky Check vs Richard Biddle (elevated to make an even draw). With an entry of 19 there wasn't a guarantee of anyone getting 6/6 so 5/6 could win a medal, even the Gold. Jan, Crispin and Nicky all made it to the second day with 3/3. Jan and Crispin came through the 4th Round unscathed but Nicky went down to Richard. Going into the 5th we had just two on 4/4, Jan and Crispin, with four more on 3/4 - Nicky vs Jakub Selmr and Jeff Barber vs Jimmi Wong - from which Jakub and Jeff came out the winners.

Jan emerged as the only one with a clean sheet, 5/5 and it fell to Jakub Selmr to see if he could keep him on that score and thus open up the field for the top position. The match between Crispin and Jeff (4/5) guaranteed us another 5/6 - an encounter which Crispin won. Jakub went on to beat Jan and we were then left with three on 5/6, Crispin, Jan and Jakub. Head-to-head tie-breaks then further reduced that to: Jakub, Gold; Jan, Silver and Crispin, Bronze.

It might not have been the biggest turnout, but it was certainly a triumph for the Czech Republic as they took Gold and Silver, with England taking the Bronze. Well done all of you.

1-Point Wipeout (10)

It's a game of two halves, 'arry, know what I mean? No, not football, the beautiful game - that's all about millionaires kicking a bag of wind around for 90 minutes, I'm referring to backgammon, where (some) bags of wind throw dice around for a few hours. This year there was a slight alteration to the points awarded. They were:

- Normal win = 1 point,
- gammon = 2 points,
- backgammon = 3 points.
- Lose normal game = ½ point,
- lose gammon or backgammon = minus 1 point.



London Cup
Crispin, Jakub, Jan



1-Point Wipeout
Steve, Jeff, Mahmoud



Biba One-Day Challenge
Jon, Jeff, Steve

Continued on the next page ►

With an entry of just ten, we decided on an all-play-all x 2 format. In the first half, leading the field after winning all his games was Jan Statsna with 11 points, his nearest rival was Alexander Baron with 9 points. Just behind Alexander was Jeff Barber and Richard Biddle on 8 points each. Last year's winner of the 1-point Wipe-out, Steve Rimmer was trailing well behind after losing seven of his nine games with just 6.5 points. Charles Heppell, a Junior playing in his first event was yet to win a game and stood at -3 points . . . but things were about to change - for several entrants including Charles.

We broke for lunch after which Jan suffered his first loss, a gammon loss resulting in -1 points! Later, Steve Rimmer also took a gammon off him, and he lost games to Charles, Alexander, Mahmoud Jahanbani and Alan Berlyn! His medal hopes were dashed as he increased his points to 15 in the second half. Alexander faired no better - just adding 2.5 points to his previous total. Steve Rimmer did a complete reversal and won seven of his nine games - pushing himself into the Silver position. Just pipping him by half a point was Jeff who also won seven of his games and it was enough to get him the Gold. Bronze was a play-off between Richard (whose strategy in the first half was to win gammons) and Mahmoud; an encounter from which Mahmoud emerged the victor. Charles came last overall but he had stunning victories over much tougher opponents: Stephen Gardener, Richard, Jan, Alexander and Alan Berlyn. Charles demonstrated that you just never give up; you keep trying and when you succeed, victory is so much sweeter.

It was an exciting event and one which I always enjoy working on. I am already looking forward to next year.

Biba 1-Day Challenge (14)

Wow, what a challenge it turned out to be! Jeff Barber challenged everyone and beat 'em all! He gathered up an armful of wins and went straight into the Gold with 5/5; and took his second successive Gold. Steve Rimmer, true to form took his second successive Silver; but alas, this is Steve's final appearance this year - he flies off to sunnier climes and back to work. This leaves Jeff as favourite to clinch this year's Amateur Backgammon Championship - go Jeff, go Jeff, go Jeff!

Bronze was a nightmare, five players had 3/5 and it was down to the tie-breaker. Head-to-heads sorted it out inasmuch as two players had between them beaten all the other 3s and had lost only to the Gold and Silver winners. These two were Martyn Hamer and Jon Barnes. It was Jon who emerged the victor leaving Martyn without a medal.

This was quite a hectic little event and it was touch and go for Jeff in his final match against Jon. Had Jon won it might have made deciding the medal winners a little easier . . . but then Jeff wasn't sure of the Gold . . .

The Blitz 30 August (10)

With an entry of just ten it was decided to make the event an all-play-all instead of a Swiss format. When we decided to do this I had no idea what 'trouble' it'd land me in later! TJ got off to a good start and won his first four matches - not bad for someone that doesn't play backgammon! However, he didn't do so well after lunch and he only managed to win one more. By the last round it was clear there was going to be a draw - but it wasn't clear between whom. I was approached by one player to work out some, 'what if' scenarios but I refused to do so. It's hard enough sorting it out when you have to let alone doing it when you don't!

Archive photos



**The English Open
Bijan and Paco**



**Olympiad
Jeff**



**Amateur Championship 2006
Jeff Barber**

Continued on the next page, including event results ►

Eventually the final round was played and we had three on six wins: Jimmi Wong, Stephen Gardener and Martin Thompson. The criteria for MSO10 tie-breaks is:

1. Head-to-head encounters
2. Shared opponents and wins against them.

When I applied head-to-head it worked out that each had beaten one other and they all came out equal. On the shared opponents the result was also a draw. During my deliberations I was barracked by two of the three players and accused of changing the rules. This was totally untrue and I was offended by it. In the past tie-breaks had been: head-to-head and then sum of opponents' wins. The latter has never been popular so for MSO10 is was replaced by the victories over shared opponents. Having exhausted my authority on tie-breaks I had to go the Chief Arbiter for his ruling.

The Chief Arbiter tried several ways in which to divide the three into 1st, 2nd & 3rd but the only fair solution he came up with was, all-play-all again. I offered this solution to the three and the same two kept harping on about rule changes and that it wasn't fair. I pointed out that a decision had been made and eventually the dissenting pair decided they'd play - by which time an hour had been lost due to their continued arguing; because of this I offered them 1-point matches or 3-point matches and put it to the vote. One voted for 1-pointers and one voted for 3-pointers and the third abstained. I had made it clear before the vote that my choice was 1-pointers and that's what I chose . . . and then the abstainer kicks in and moans about the decision! I gave him the choice, play or drop down to Bronze and the other two can playoff for Gold and Silver - he played.

The outcome was, Jimmi - Gold, Stephen - Silver and Martin - Bronze. By this time there was no-one to hand out the medals and this is why there are no pictures either. To find out why, please read The English Open.

English Open (22)

Throughout the week I had been suffering from a severe head cold and by Wednesday evening it had become unbearable; it was for this reason that I left the MSO on Thursday morning and returned home to be nursed by my lovely wife, Sharen!

Tony Corfe arranged cover for me and (reluctantly) I left it in his safe hands. The only drawback with this is that I wasn't present to write a proper report nor to take pictures of the medal winners. I do know that by Round 6, the final round, Bijan Mehdinejan had done enough to win it, it was then down to whomever took Silver and Bronze. Alexander Baron came out in 2nd place with 5-5 to take home the Silver and Paco Garcia took the Bronze after the application of tie-breaks.

I have added an archive picture of Bijan and Paco (sorry, but I cannot find one of Alexander).

This is the second time Bijan has won the English Open, having won it in 2003. Not bad for a guy that doesn't take it too seriously! I keep asking him to join Biba but he keeps telling me he's not good enough!

Olympiad Championship (12)

As you might have guessed, no report from this one either. Sorry about this but I really was feeling bob!

London Cup (19)				
pos	name	wins	amateur	GP
1	Jakub Slemr	5	94.44	
2	Jan Stastna	5	94.44	
3	Crispin Duke	5	94.44	
4	Jeff Barber	4	77.78	9.29
4	Stephen Drake	4	77.78	9.29
4	Uldis Lapikens	4	77.78	9.29
7	Cliff Connick	3	50.00	6.19
7	Chris Johnson	3	50.00	
7	David Startin	3	50.00	6.19
7	Jimmi Wong	3	50.00	6.19
7	Nick Check	3	50.00	6.19
7	Peter Durrans	3	50.00	
7	Steve Rimmer	3	50.00	6.19
14	Mahmoud Jahanbani	2	25.00	4.13
14	Richard Biddle	2	25.00	4.13
16	Graham Parlour	1	11.11	
16	Paul Gilbertson	1	11.11	2.58
16	Tomas Kosicka	1	11.11	
19	Stephen Cole	0	0.00	

1-Point Wipeout (10)			
pos	name	wins	amateur
1	Jeff Barber	19.0	100.00
2	Steve Rimmer	18.5	88.89
3	Mahmoud Jahanbani	15.5	72.23
3	Richard Biddle	15.5	72.23
5	Jan Stastna	15.0	55.56
6	Alan Berlyn	12.5	44.44
7	Alexander Baron	11.5	33.33
8	Stephen Gardner	10.0	22.22
9	Tomas Kosicka	8.0	11.11
10	Charles Heppell	2.5	0.00

Biba 1-Day Challenge (12)			
pos	name	wins	amateur
1	Jeff Barber	5	100
2	Steve Rimmer	4	92.31
3	Jon Barnes	3	69.23
3	Jimmi Wong	3	69.23
3	Martyn Hamer	3	69.23
3	Stephen Drake	3	69.23
3	Sean Williams	3	69.23
8	Mahmoud Jahanbani	2	34.62
8	Martin Thompson	2	34.62
8	Richard Biddle	2	34.62
8	Zoe Cunningham	2	34.62
12	Andrew Havery	1	11.54
12	Ron Havenhand	1	11.54
12	Stephen Gardner	1	11.54

This was a very poor turnout, due no doubt to the reduced number of points played to because of time restrictions on the Sunday. On the first day it was increased from 5 to 7 but it was too little, too late. I will have to re-think the schedule for next year.

It was Jeff Barber that came out on top with 5-6; enough for his third Gold of the games . . . and with it the Amateur Title. Coming in at 2nd place for the Bronze (to add to his previous Gold) was Jimmi Wong, and my old mate, Alan Beckerson took the Bronze.

Olympiad Amateur Championship 2006

This event is based upon the top four points out of six using the MSO Pentamind scores to determine the Champion. Out of the 39 possible entrants only five managed to gain points in four or more events. Jeff Barber won it by a good margin of almost 100 points, a remarkable achievement. Well done, Jeff.

Amateur Championship		
1	Jeff Barber	380.95
2	Jimmi Wong	287.78
3	Mahmoud Jahanbani	209.23
4	Richard Biddle	185.42
5	Stephen Gardener	151.22

Olympiad Championship (12)				
pos	name	wins	amateur	GP
1	Jeff Barber	5	100.00	9.29
2	Jimmi Wong	4	77.28	6.19
2	Alan Beckerson	4	77.28	6.19
2	Uldis Lapikens	4	77.28	6.19
2	Peter Durrans	4	77.28	
6	Richard Biddle	3	50.00	4.13
6	Mahmoud Jahanbani	3	50.00	4.13
8	Stephen Cole	2	27.27	2.58
8	Monica Beckerson	2	27.27	
8	Alain Dekker	2	27.27	2.58
11	Paul Gilbertson	1	9.09	2.06
12	Mehmet Ozerkman	0	0.00	

The Blitz (10)			
pos	name	wins	amateur
1	Jimmi Wong	6	88.89
2	Stephen Gardner	6	88.89
3	Martin Thompson	6	88.89
4	Alexander Baron	5	55.56
4	Dan Rosen	5	55.56
4	TJ	5	55.56
7	Jeff Barber	3	16.17
7	Mahmoud Jahanbani	3	16.17
7	Richard Biddle	3	16.17
7	Stephen Cole	3	16.17

English Open (22)				
pos	name	wins	amateur	GP
1	Bijan Mehdinejad	6	100.00	
2	Alexander Baron	5	95.24	
3	Paco Garcia	4	80.95	
3	Chris Berrell	4	80.95	
3	Jeff Barber	4	80.95	9.29
3	Luis Lantaron	4	80.95	
3	Uldis Lapikens	4	80.95	9.29
8	David Startin	3	52.38	6.19
8	Jimmi Wong	3	52.38	6.19
8	Martyn Hamer	3	52.38	
8	Mahmoud Jahanbani	3	52.38	6.19
8	Michael Main	3	52.38	6.19
8	Sean Williams	3	52.38	6.19
8	Tomas Kosicka	3	52.38	
15	Kevin Stebbing	2	28.57	4.13
15	Richard Biddle	2	28.57	4.13
15	Stephen Gardner	2	28.57	
18	Edward Leighton	1	11.91	
18	Martin Thompson	1	11.91	
18	Peter Durrans	1	11.91	
18	Stephen Cole	1	11.91	2.58
22	Alan Farrell	0	0.00	0.00

WANTED

Backgammon players to play against the reigning World Champion



Fancy it? Philip Vischjager, the 2006 World Champion, will be attending the 10th Bright 'n' Breezy in January and you could be one of the 'lucky' players to be drawn against him. So, get yourself to Brighton and bring your lucky dice with you!

Picture courtesy of /www.gammonlife.com on whose web site you can read an interview with Philip conducted by Michael Strato, 12 August 2006 ©

How Good Is Your Backgammon?

Asks Michael Crane & Snowie

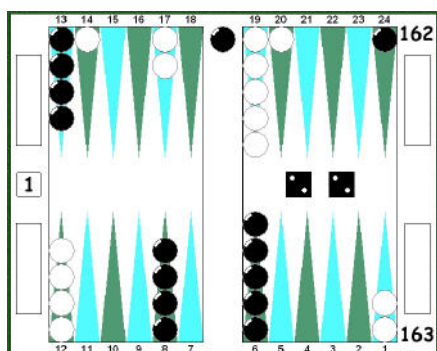
We return to the marathon battle between Neil Kazaross (white) and Michael Meyburg (black) during the 1991 Monte Carlo World Championships ¼ Finals.

We restart the article in Game 19 with black leading 18-11. When you come to ??? Cover up the text below the position and decide your move. Keep a record and at the end see how you scored. The match is to 21 points.

Game 19

Kazaross : 11 Meyburg : 18

01) 54: 13/8 24/20
02) 32: 8/5* 13/11



??? Black to play 22

Well here's a partly easy one to get you started. Three parts of this move are quite clearly 25/23 24/20* all you have to do now is work out the fourth part! Three reasonable plays are 13/11 or 21/23 or 20/18; any other move is going to get you zero points. The actual play of 13/11 was Snowie's 3rd choice although I must admit, it was my move. It left 3s to make the 20-point and gave good outer-board cover for 7s, 9s and 10s off the bar. Moving 23/21 can still make the 20-point but with fewer rolls; and this was Snowie's 2nd

choice. The Number One move was playing 20/18 giving nil chances of making the 20-point and instead concentrating on the 18-point. It also gives white shots with 6s and 4s leaving indirect replies off the bar.

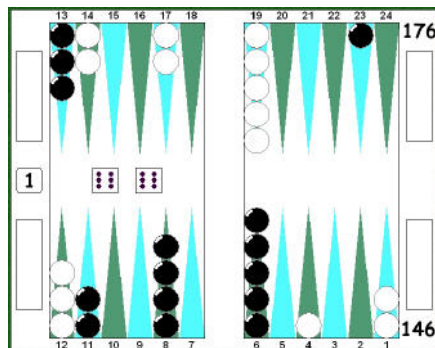
I am going to use my author's discretion here and go with the 13/11; not because of the 13/11 but because it leaves more chances of making the 20-point than the 23/21 does. It's more important to hold an advanced anchor at the moment and it should take precedence over the 18-point. For those that know these things the equity was -0.016 for the actual move, the other two moves being equal.

25/23 24/20* 3/11 5A
25/23 24/20* 21/23 4
25/23 24/20* 20/18 4

22: 25/23 24/20* 13/11

03) 42: 25/21 13/11 54: 20/11

White's 42 off the bar would have meant black would have been on the bar with 11/7* and then black's 54 wouldn't have made his 11-point.



??? White to play 66

A few to consider: Make the bar- and

5-point. Make the 18-point and 5-point. Make the 5-point and hit/make the 2-point. What should be clear here is, make the 5-point.

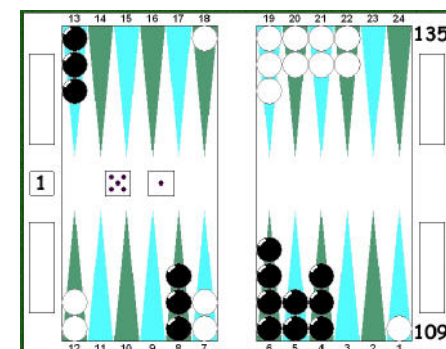
Let's first deal with the first move, 13/7(2) 11/5(2). This might look good, a 4-prime, but it leaves white very inflexible everywhere else.

The actual move of 24/18(2) 11/5(2) is better but at the moment black isn't threatening to do a great deal that warrants two checkers on his bar-point.

The best move this time is to play 11/5(2) and then hit & cover with 8/2*(2). Black is now facing a 3-point board and white has covering checkers around the board when the second half of black's roll is moved.

11/5(2) 8/2*(2) 5
24/18(2) 11/5(2) 4A
13/7(2) 11/5(2) 3

04) 66: 24/18(2) 11/5(2) 52: 23/16
05) 11: 6/4(2) 42: 8/4* 6/4
06) 61: 25/24 13/7 21: 16/13
07) 32: 8/3 54: 13/4
08) 41: 8/3 33: 11/5(2)



??? White to play 51

Does black's last move, making his 5-point, panic white into moving 24/18? It is certainly an error, being placed in 5th place with an equity of -0.046. As soon as

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the white runner is moved off his 1-point, black will merrily play loose into his home-board. Rollouts tell us that the 24-point checker is in a crucial position and to move it off there is wrong. The best move here is the simple play of 7/2 6/5 keeping the remaining checkers in the existing positions.

7/2 6/5	5
7/2 3/2	4
13/7	3
13/8 6/5	2
24/18	1A

09) 51: 24/18 65: 13/2

We can now see the folly of black moving off the 1-point. White's 65 roll is guaranteed to leave a direct shot with 1s and white's next roll of 31 would have knocked it straight onto the bar.

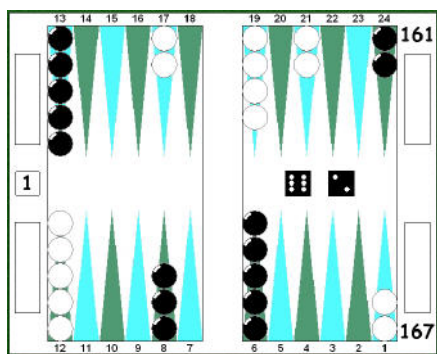
10) 31: 6/2 33: 13/10(2) 8/5 6/3
11) 31: 13/10 13/12 Doubles to 2

As it turned out, moving the runner lost white the point. After hitting with 31 and black dancing with 33 he could have cashed in with the cube. As it was, black cashed instead.

12) Drops Wins 1 point

Game 20
Kazaross : 11 Meyburg : 19

01) 42: 8/4 6/4



??? Black to play 62

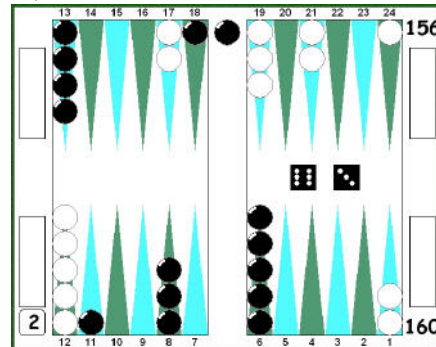
Research has shown us that an opening 62 is best played 24/18 13/11 (equity +0.066 as opposed to -0.0117 with 24/16). But this isn't an opening roll and therefore the correct play against an opening 42 making the 4-point is the old-fashioned 24/16 and not the actual move of 24/18 13/11.

24/16	5
24/18 13/11	4A
24/18 24/22	2

62: 24/18 13/11 Takes
02) Doubles to 2

With the match score at 2-away, 10-away in black's favour, white's match winning chances are just 7% and therefore he's compelled to cube black leaving him nursing a dead cube.

03) 32: 6/1*

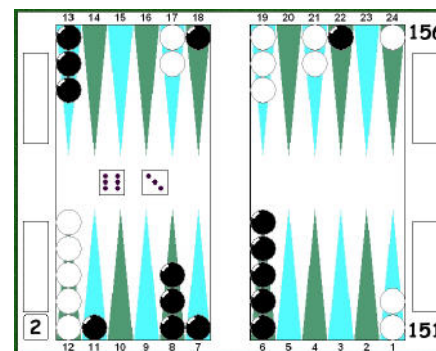


??? Black to play 63

OK, just four to choose from. The only merit in playing 25/22 13/7 is to duplicate 6s but in doing so it adds an extra black blot to the board. White will hit on the black bar-point if he rolls a 6 even if he does have a 1-point blot. Snowie placed this, the actual move in 2nd place. If you moved 25/22 8/2 then be prepared to lose a few points - it's very bad! Slotting the 5-point isn't much better, but it does give 1s, 3s and 8s if not hit back on white's next roll. Here the best play is to keep running off the bar, 25/16; a little sacrificial but the game is in an early stage and not much harm will become black at the moment.

25/16	5
25/22 13/7	4A
25/16 11/5	2
25/22 8/2	-2

63: 25/22 13/7



??? White to play 63

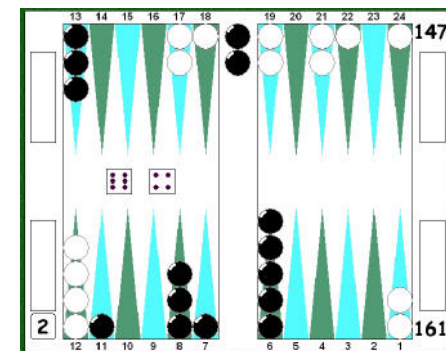
Well, it appears that no matter which of the two top moves black moved, he was going to end up on the bar; and with the

roll of 63 the best move is to go for the double-hit. However, which two to hit is the question: 24/18* & 6/3* or 13/7* & 6/3*? According to Snowie there's no better move than the double-hitting 24/18* 6/3*. If you moved 13/7* 6/3* then you leave black the chance to make his own bar with 33, 22 and 11. Mind you, any of those three doubles is bloody good!

24/18* 6/3*	5
13/7* 6/3*	4A

04) 63: 13/7* 6/3* 66: Dances

Black rolls a Joker and white's game winning chances (GMC) suddenly shoot up from 54.3% to 67.8%, with gammon chances leaping from 24.1% to 42.5%. However, the two blots are a liability and need to be covered as soon as possible. White gets the opportunity on his next roll.



??? White to play 64

White misses a great opportunity to increase his GMC and gammon chances with the correct play of 24/18* 7/3; it covers the higher 3-point and places a 3rd black checker on the bar. Instead he plays Snowie 3rd, 13/9 7/1. Although this gives good covers for the 3-point blot, the 1-point isn't the priority here - the 3-point is. Snowie 2nd, 13/3 leaves good covers for the 1-point; but the third blot and the 4-point are by far the better moves. If you went even further and played the double-hit, 24/18* 18/14* then you've not quite grasped the significance of the two blots and you lose a few points again.

24/18* 7/3	5
13/3	3
13/9 7/1	1A
24/18* 8/14*	-2

05) 64: 7/1 13/9 32: 25/22* 25/23

Black's re-entry and hit turns the game around and could quite possibly cost white the match.



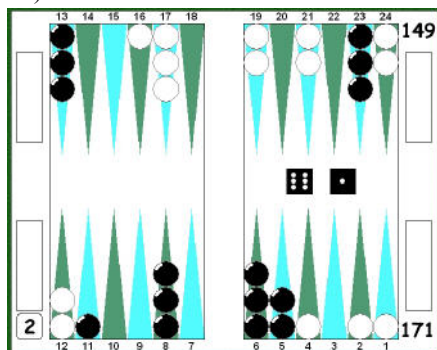
06) 63: 25/22 24/18* 62: 25/23 22/16*

Too late white hits the 18-point blot, but black now anchors and puts another white checker back onto the bar.

07) 22: 25/23 22/20 18/14*
21: 25/23 6/5*

Both sides re-enter and hit back.

08) 61: 25/24 14/8 51: 16/11 6/5
09) 43: 13/9 24/21



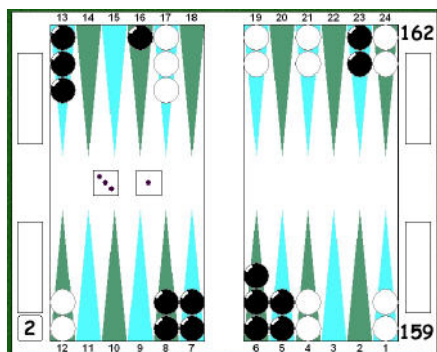
??? Black to play 61

Only two realistic moves here: 23/16* or 13/7 8/7. Making the bar-point looks good and makes full use of the spare checkers on the mid- and 8-points; but is it better than hitting the blot on the 16-point? The short answer is, No! Currently white can escape his runners with 5s, but if black were to make his own bar-point it'd make life very difficult for the escaping threesome; therefore the hit is better than the point.

23/16* 5A
13/7 8/7 3

61: 23/16*
10) 21: 25/24 23/21 41: 11/7 8/7

Although white has made two good anchors, black's 41 has made a big difference for him. Not so long ago white's GMCs were 67.8% and now it has been reversed and he stands at 32.2%.



??? White to play 31

As tempting as it might be, the actual move of hitting 13/9* is not the best move. Black doesn't have any spare checkers to launch a credible attack and white will re-enter 75% of the time. The only spare checkers white has to play with with this roll are the two runners; and it is these that should now be played, 24/21 24/23. Moving 24/21 8/7 takes a builder away from the vital bar-point.

24/21 24/23 5
13/9* 2A
24/218/7 1

11) 31: 13/9* 51: 25/20 13/12*
12) 64: 25/15 62: 20/14 12/10*
13) 21: 25/22 51: 14/9 10/9
14) 32: 24/21 24/22 43: 23/16*

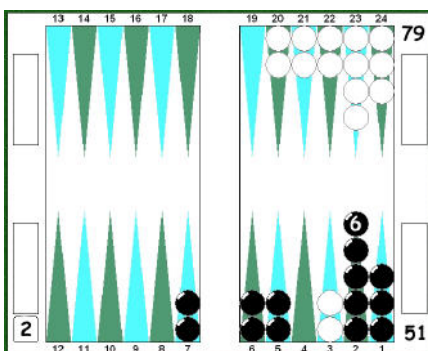
This timely 43 shifts whites GMC up to a dizzy 85.2%. White is in need of a miracle now if he's to win this game and save the match.

15) 61: 25/24 21/15 52: 23/16
16) 53: 15/10 24/21 61: 16/10 16/15*
17) 51: 25/24 8/3 54: 15/10 13/9
18) 65: 8/2 8/3 62: 13/5

Black now hopes to see white's board crunch . . . which it does.

19) 32: 6/3 6/4 44: 10/6(2) 9/1*
20) 61: 25/24* 21/15 31: Dances
21) 31: 24/21 3/2 61: 25/18
22) 55: 15/5 32: 18/13
23) 62: 21/13 43: 6/2 5/2
24) 54: 13/4 63: 8/2 8/5
25) 31: 4/1 4/3 64: 13/7 6/2
26) 65: 21/10 43: 9/5 9/6
27) 61: 21/14 54: 6/1 5/1
28) 31: 14/11 3/2 63: 7/1 5/2
29) 51: 11/5 31: 6/2
30) 22: 10/2

White prays that black rolls one of the twelve rolls that leaves a blot . . .



21: 7/5 7/6

... but he doesn't!

31) 31: 22/18 55: 6/1(3) 5/0

32) 63: 18/9

Black has sixteen bad rolls but again rolls 21 and is safe.

21: 2/0 1/0
33) 41: 9/4 52: 5/0 5/3*

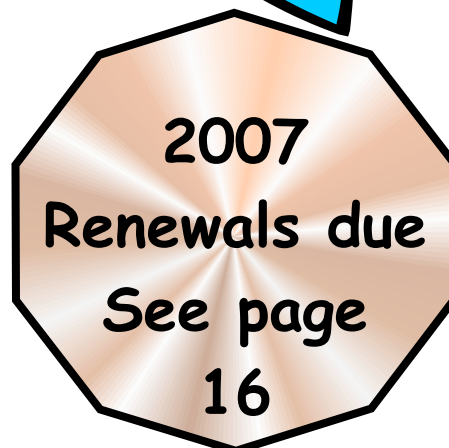
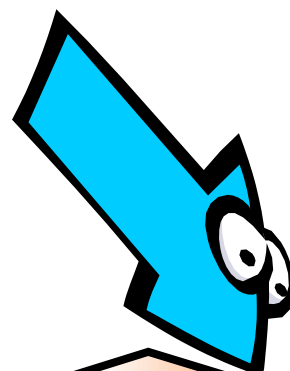
White's last chance (albeit a slim one) is to roll a 3 . . . but he doesn't and he loses the game and the match.

34) 44: 25/9 61: 3/0 1/0
35) 64: 9/3 5/1 21: 2/0 1/0
Wins 2 points and the match

This has been a marathon article and one I hope you have enjoyed. The full match between Michael and Neal is on the CD-ROM version of Bibafax or is available via email.

So, how good is your backgammon?

45	You are Michael Meyburg
40-44	You are Neil Kazaross
30-39	You've almost got it
20-29	It's just out of your grasp
10-19	Needs a bit of help!
09-	Take up tiddlywinks





Peter Hallberg's 2006 Monte Carlo World Championship Blog

Peter Hallberg was the 2004 World Championship winner. This picture was taken right after he received the trophy in Monte Carlo. This article is based on his blog (web log/diary) and is reproduced here with his kind permission.

6 July - Introduction

This year is the 31st year where the world championship is held in Monte Carlo. This year is also special because of the added prize money and television coverage. The goal is to present backgammon to a wider audience and hopefully get more people to play this great game.



Beautiful Monte Carlo

The final is going to be commentated live by well known player and author, Paul Magriel.



**Paul Magriel
when I played him in 2003**

Last year a field of 230 players attended the championship flight. I think there will be more than 256 players this year.

The tournament kicked off with a welcome reception on Monday July 10th. On the first playing day the field is reduced

to the last 64. This means 2 or 3 matches to 17 points on the first day, which is a hard day's work. Making it to the second day is a good result for most players.

Personally I have had a good run the last few years. In 2003 and 2005 I made it to the last 32 and in 2004 I won the tournament. Unfortunately I haven't spent as much time preparing for the event as I would have wanted to. Still I feel ready to take on the challenges.

My wife and I leave for Monte Carlo midnight Saturday. Then we have a couple of days there just relaxing and enjoying the good life of Monaco.

9 July -From A to B

We planned to travel Saturday evening. The flight from Copenhagen, Denmark to Nice, France is a 2h 30m flight. Unfortunately the airport of Copenhagen isn't suited to a lot of travellers. The standard delays were 2 to 3 hours. We arrived at the airport a little past 7 p.m. and the check-in and security check took 10 min total! That meant 3 hours looking at airplanes and dreaming of Monte Carlo.

The temperature was 24 degrees when we arrived at Nice airport two hours past midnight. We got a cab and arrived shortly after at our destination, the Fairmont Hotel, Monte Carlo. The hotel has been the host of the World Championships for more than 30 years now. I've been attending 6 times since 1996 so this place is like a 2nd home to me. I really felt that nice, warm feeling when we entered the lobby yesterday.



Fairmont reception

After getting some room service and drinking a small bottle of champagne on our balcony we went for a little night walk to enjoy the great view of Monte Carlo by night.

Even though this hotel is ****L it hadn't got Internet in the rooms until this year. Having it is better than nothing, but still I feel that 30 euros a day is kind of much for Internet access.

A good feeling

During the flight I began to feel really good about the tournament and I believe I'm going to do more than well this year. As opposed to all the previous years I'm not nervous of whom I'm going to play in the first round. I feel I'm going to win if I do my best.

The first bet

It's impossible for me not to bet on almost anything. The first bet I made was that I believe there will be more than 239 participants in the championship flight this year. If I'm right I'll win \$450. There were 230 participants last year and 273 the year before. Backgammon has gotten a lot of attention lately and I think more and more players will attend the World Championship of Backgammon starting this year.

10 July - Coffee and cars

When we got up around noon we took ourselves down to the lobby bar and got some coffee and breakfast. Strangely enough we didn't meet a lot of backgammon players.

The weather was perfect according to me. I like it when the sun doesn't burn you and you can breathe. We went for a stroll in the city looking for anything of interest. Not far from the hotel we saw the first Rolls and Ferraris of many.



Ferrari and Helle

The whole afternoon went by looking at shops, cars and boats.

After roaming Monte Carlo for hours we sat down at a small café at the harbor and



got ourselves a cold beer while enjoying the French people preparing for the soccer world cup final between France and Italy.

France vs. Italy

Later we meet some of the other backgammon playing Danes who were daz- zling around the harbor with no specific goal in mind. They joined us for a beer and we all decided to find a place to watch the soccer game together. Strange- ly enough there weren't any big screens anywhere so we went back to the Fair- mont where they showed the game on a 40 inch TV. To our surprise they had opened another bar with a projector and a big screen.

Monte Carlo shares a border with France and there is less than 100 miles to Italy. We expected some celebrations no matter who won. The next 3-4 hours after the game almost every car was honking their horn, it seemed.

11 July - The hard life of Monte Carlo

I always consider Monday the first real day of the championship even though there are never any games played. Most of the players have arrived to sign up and attend the welcome cocktail reception with free food and drinks.

After breakfast (well past noon) I went to our room to do some work and Helle (my wife) went to the pool at the top of the hotel. It is no secret I was kind of jealous of her when I sat in our room thinking of great weather and cold long drinks.

More bets

I found a bookmaker who would give me 100-to-1 to win the championship with 256 players participating. Unfortunately I believe this is about the right odds which means I won't bet on it. There were many other interesting odds and I decided to bet \$100 on 18 different players regarding how they would do in the tournament.

The bet I made regarding how many play- ers would attend this year looks really bad. I think I'm losing with only 10 play- ers but I can't say for sure, yet.

Welcome cocktail reception

At 8 p.m. we went down to enjoy the welcome cocktail reception. My guess is that more than 300 other players have had the same idea and there were kind of crowded. We got in and got ourselves a few glasses of champagne and a little bite to eat.



Welcome cocktail reception

We met a lot of old faces and had a great time chatting away.

Fireworks

Right after the reception a fireworks com- petition started at the harbor. From the top of our hotel we had the best view we could imagine. A 1-hour long show of fabulous fireworks were lighting up the night sky at Monaco. After 15 minutes it was hard to believe that the next part of the show would get even better, but it did.

We went back to the tournament room and spent the rest of the night with some fellow Danes.

12 July - Let the games begin

The first day of play finally arrived. There were 212 players in the champion- ship division, which is the lowest number of participants for many years. The inter- mediate and beginner's flight had 76 and 48 participants.

As usual there were many Danes in the top flight and the draw seemed to have favored us. Last year the draw was hor- rendous from a Danish perspective.

1st round (round of 256)

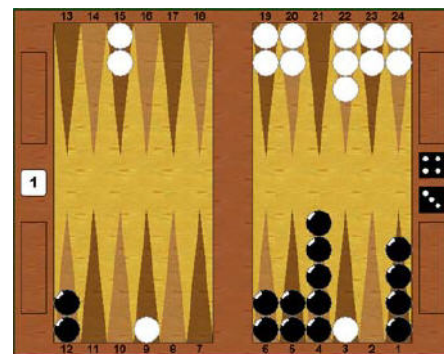
I didn't get a bye and faced Yuri Chele- khsaev in the first round whom I didn't know. All first day matches are played to 17 points.



Me and Yuri

I didn't get much play in the first 8 games of the match. At that point I trailed 3- 9/17. In the 9th game we ran into some tough decisions. Here is the deciding decision of the game.

Position 1



Pip: B70 - W95

17 point match

Yuri (b) leads 9-3

Yury is up by 25 pips and has a direct shot. He also has a lot of bad rolls. There are not many gammons either way. This is a clear double and a clear take.

Yury doubled and I took. Then he rolled 41. He took at least 5 minutes to decide on his play. There are two alternatives. You can play safe by lifting the 6-point or you can go for the win (and gammon) by hitting on the 3-point and playing 12/8. The fact that Yury is leading by 25 pips and that he can wait for a better spot to hit makes it clear by a huge margin to play safe. Never-the-less he hit and I hit back and won 4 points. Over the board I could easily have made the same mistake. When he asked me after the match I told him I liked his moved, which I did.

After that the match turned around and luck was on my side in most of the impor- tant situations. I won the match 17-11/17.

It was a pleasure to play Yuri who is a kind, calm and solid player.

2nd round (round of 128)

This was the last match of the day. I played C. Tsarev whom I had never played before. He got off to a good start taking the lead by 6 to nothing. I then won 10 points straight making the score 10-6/17 in my favor. This clearly didn't amuse my opponent as he pointed out every time I got lucky and he got unlucky for the rest for the match.

I don't mind emotional players but I do mind players who take it personally when the dice aren't going their way. I believe I was the favorite to win the match but if I were as lucky as my opponent said I would have won in 2 or 3 games.

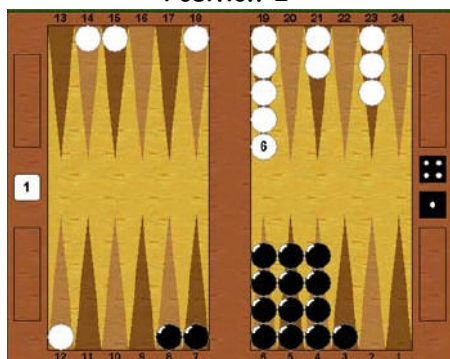
The match took 15 games and ended 17-14/17 in my favor.



There was a crucial decision in the 11th game. I were leading 15-10/17. I rolled a lucky 55 which solved all my problems in the position. It probably was a market loser. When it became my turn again I decided (after some thought) to roll on even though there were no gammons to be won. By that action I implied I thought the position weren't good enough to double. That way I had the perfect opportunity to make a double next roll look takeable.

We both rolled 8 pips and then I doubled in this position.

Position 2



Pip: B78 - W91

17 point match

Peter (b) leads 15-10

He went in the box thinking for more than 15 minutes. Finally he decided to pass but he wanted me to play out the position for fun, just to see what would have happened. I instantly declined still amazed he would ask me that in a serious tournament like this is supposed to be.

Looking forward

The next two rounds are played Thursday. I'm going to play Peter Jes Thomsen from Denmark who won the World Championship back in 1993. He is still on the top of his game and I consider him the favorite to win the match. Still I like my chances.

Should I make it through Peter Jes I'm probably faced with Lars Bønding. He is one of the most (if not the most) winning players in the history of Danish backgammon. Tough crowd, but who said the World Championship should be easy?

Team Peter Hallberg.com

We are a small team with 4 members on it. Helle Hallberg (my wife), Thomas Hansen (current Danish champion), Jacob Andersen (friend of mine) and of course myself. Thomas did well in the championship division where he got a bye in the 1st round and won his 2nd

round match. Jacob lost his first match in the intermediate division and Helle also lost her first match in the beginner's flight after having had the lead 10-6/11.

Team Peter Hallberg.com



Thomas, Helle, Jacob and Peter

Status

There are 64 players left in the tournament and 8 of them are from Denmark. It is theoretically possible to get two all Danish semi-finals. Also the world champions are doing well. Still in the tournament are Dennis Carlston '05 (USA), Luigi Villa '79 (Italy), Peter Hallberg '04 (Denmark), Peter Jes Thomsen '93 (Denmark), Jon Royset '03 (Norway) and Paul Magriel '78 (USA).

I'll make some further analysis of the last 64 later.

13 July - The day off

Wednesday is always the day off and Wednesday evening is reserved for the gala dinner. I spend most of the day doing absolutely nothing. Got up late and walked around the city for less than an hour. Helle went to the beach and hung out at the pool. During daytime the temperature is too high for me to enjoy the outdoor life. Luckily I have my laptop with me and I spend some of the afternoon sitting in my room with the aircon on full throttle playing World of Warcraft online. I know this might seem a little bit strange but why not do what you like.



Caught playing World of Warcraft

Gala dinner

At 8:30 p.m. everybody attending the tournament including their guests were invited to a gala dinner which took place in the Monte Carlo Sporting Club. Some-

how we got a little too late off to the sporting club but we got a cab pretty fast and made it in time. Well, we got there so much in time that we were the first arrivals! Then we realized that the clock in our room was an hour ahead. We then spend 40 minutes wandering the premises and looking for a bar or café. With some help from the English party we got ourselves an appetizer before we got seated at the gala dinner.



Helle - before the Gala dinner

During the first two courses a band were playing some relaxing music to create a good atmosphere. When the coffee got on the tables the main show started. The Sporting Club had booked a show where they sang Abba and Bee Gees songs. We did enjoy the show a lot. In my opinion it was the best show they've had for many years.

At the Monte Carlo Sporting Club lies the most famous and the most exclusive bar in town. It is called Jimmy's. We went there with 20 other Danes to get a drink or two. I had to pay 27 euro for a beer and it was possible to get a bottle of champagne for 9800 euro. After an hour we left Jimmy's and went to the lobby bar at the Fairmont where we shared a bottle of champagne for only 55 euro. I believe the money we saved more than makes up for the difference in quality.

The remaining 64 players

I'm not going to handicap all 64 players as I intended to do yesterday. Instead I'm going to give you my thoughts on the chances of the remaining Danish players and World Champions. There will be 16 players standing after today. I hope I'll find the time to comment on all 8 matchups tomorrow.



If **Pia Jeppesen** wins her first match she is probably going to play Jeremy Bagai in the second round of today. Jeremy has to be the favorite to win that match.

Erik Sørensen is playing former World Champion David Nahmad. If he advances, Humke might be waiting. Erik plays really well and he has to be on top of his game to come out a winner.

Henrik Gwinner meets Carlos Pinto whom I played a lot of times online. I say Gwinner is the favorite but Carlos did well in this championship last year.

Thomas Holm reached the final two years running here at the World Championships back in 2000 and 2001. This guy can win. He stands to play Ray Foglerlund a fire-fighter from the USA with a solid game. I see Thomas win both matches.

Dennis Carlston and **Poul Lindberg Sørensen** might square off in the second match of the day. The defending World Champion versus 'Lindberg'. Tough call. I played Lindberg a lot of times in Denmark and I think I still have my first win coming. Still I have to pick Dennis to be the favorite to advance.

Luigi Villa is playing against three opponents I don't know. Hard to say what will happen.

Now **Peter Hallberg**, **Peter Jes Thomsen** and **Lars Bønding** are going to fight it out. I think I'm going to draw the longest straw but I think Lars Bønding is the favorite to advance.

Thomas Hansen is the current Danish champion. If he wins his first match he can be faced with Michihito Kagayama whom I think is one of the strongest players in the world. I think Kagayama will advance, but I'm rooting for Hansen.

Jon Royset plays great backgammon and is in my opinion a clear favorite to advance to tomorrow.

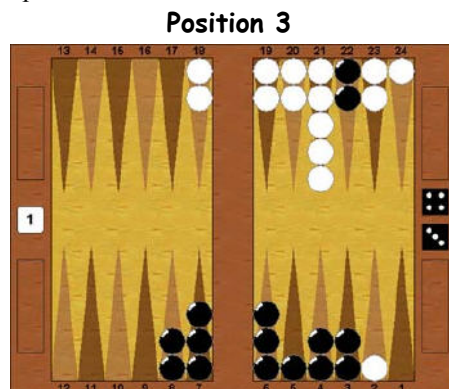
Paul Magriel plays Sven Rumcker in the first match today. I think the winner of that match will advance from the second match also.

14 July - 3rd round (round of 64)

I was faced with Peter Jes Thomsen who won the World Championship in '93 and made it to the final in '94. He is number 12 on the current giants list and the book-makers had him as a favorite to win the tournament. You could get 45 times your

money on him with 256 players in the field.

In no time I was trailing 1-7/19. Then I got some momentum and fought my way back to 6-7/19 where this position came up.

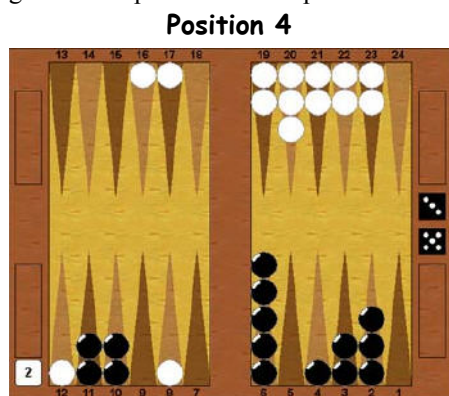


Position 3
Pip: B118 - W84
19 point match
Peter (b) trails 6-7

I thought for quite a while. A fast look tells me this is a pass. I'm up 35 pips in the race but that is not important at all in this position. I kept on thinking that if he didn't close his 5-point I would be in good shape. More, I have a 4-prime which is a lot harder to escape as you would think. Suddenly I wanted to take. After a little while I decided to pass because my 4-prime would evaporate as soon as I didn't roll a 3.

When I look at the position now it looks like an easy pass, but over the board I really didn't know. It's important to not be afraid of taking deep against the best in the world because when you pass a clear take in a difficult position they will surely take advantage of that information later.

We evened the score at 9-9/19 where Peter Jes had doubled me earlier in the game. This position came up.



Position 4
Pip: B88 - W92
19 point match
Peter (b) level 9-9

If you feel you're the underdog it's very important not to miss doubles especially re-doubles. You don't want to lose your market in a volatile position. I'm ahead 4 pips which by itself only makes me a few percent favorite. I of course have 21 direct shots. Only 4 of them (52, 53) will leave direct return shots. On those 4 numbers I just have to play safe and not hit. Furthermore I have the high doubles to take a huge lead in this game. I doubled and Peter Jes accepted. I rolled 63 and Peter never saw the sun again in this game. I won a gammon and 8 points. Snowie rollout says I will win less than 2% gammons after the double and furthermore Snowie doesn't even think it's a double.

The match was over 3 games later. The match took two hours which is very fast for a 19-point match. I felt great and went for some dinner.

4th round (round of 32)

When I came back Lars Bønding had won his match and I was going to play him next match. He is also a giant with a rank of number 7. It is always tough to play fellow countrymen, but Peter Jes and Bønding the same day, that's inhumane.

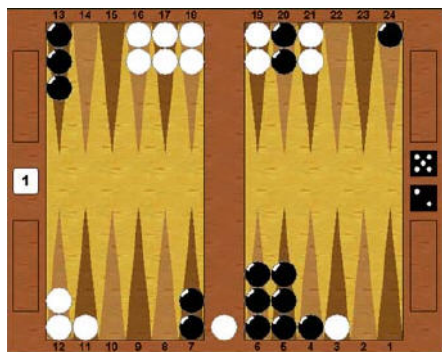


Picture taken after the match

I think there were a lot of difficult positions during this match. We both got very lucky and unlucky which lead us into those awkward situations. Of all those situations I have selected three to show you.

Position shown on the next page ►

Position 5

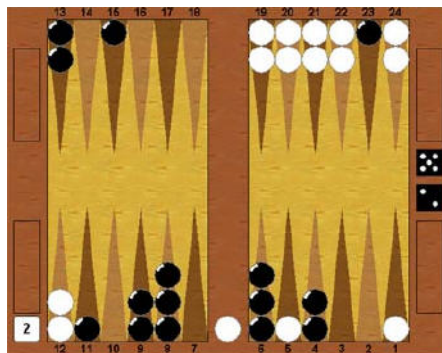


Pip: B154 - W155
19 point match
Bønding (b) trails 0-1

You are never happy to take a cube when you have a checker on the bar, a blot in the outfield and a blot to be attacked in the opponent's home board. But this is an illusion. The duplication is strong and there is a lot of work to be done for Bønding. He has to attack and escape with his rear checker at the same time. This even makes the position a no-double. I took and lost the game.

At 8-9/19 I had doubled earlier in the game and we came to this position.

Position 6

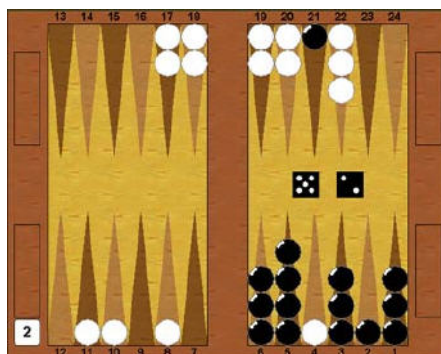


Pip: B143 - W133
19 point match
Bønding (b) leads 9-8

Again I'm under heavy fire and Bønding is putting the pressure on me. There is no doubt about the take because I'll probably re-double or play on for the gammon if I hit a checker soon. If I anchor up on the 20-point I've got a solid position for a long time. Bønding decided to double, maybe because he thought there was a slight chance that I would pass this ugly looking position. The fact is that this is a big no/double costing more than 2% match equity. I accepted the cube and hit a checker and went on to win a gammon and 8 points putting me into the lead with 16-9/19 (equals about 86% favorite to win the match).

In the next game I got doubled and accepted. This crucial position came up.

Position 7



Pip: B73 - W128
19 point match
Bønding (b) leads 16-9

I was faced with this ugly 52. I looked at the moves. 21/16, 5/3 and 21/16, 6/4*. The match score dictates that I have to gain double as many gammons as I lose to go for a gammon. I thought that I would win more games hitting, but I thought I would lose nearly as many gammons as I would gain. The fact is that I gain more than double as many gammons as I lose and I win nearly 7% more games, which makes it a huge mistake (approx. 1.3% match equity) not to hit. I lost the game and went on to lose the whole match after double match point at 18-18/19.

The last 16 players

It was not possible for me to get into the tournament area this morning to see who did make it into the last 16. That makes it kind of hard for me to give my thoughts on it. If I get the time today I'll make an extra blog entry.

15 July - 2nd consolation

To make a short story even shorter I won a match and lost the next after leading 6-0/9. The only chance I have left in this tournament is the last chance on Saturday.

My wife, Helle, is playing in the beginner's flight where she did very well and won 4 matches in her 2nd consolation. The last match was a total wipeout of her high spirited opponent with a 7-0/7 score. Some of the good rolls Helle didn't get in the main she certainly got credited in this match. I don't need to tell you I'm very proud to have another Hallberg on the stage at the prize giving receiving a trophy.

After Helle qualified for the semi-final

we went to a good restaurant to celebrate. When we got back none of the quarter-final matches in championship were finished.

The final four

The updates show that Humke (strong German player) is going to play Villa (former world champion). I say Humke is a huge favorite to win this game. In the other semi-final Shino is ready to play either Vaatainen (one of the strongest Finnish players) or Vischjager. I don't know Vischjager at all, but I can see that he did win over some good players to get where he is. If Vaatainen wins the match I put him as the favorite to advance to the final and I'll give it a 50/50 between Vischjager and Shino.



Andreas Humke

I think the most likely final will be Humke vs. Vaatainen. I take Humke as a small favorite to win that match and a huge favorite to be the next World Champion



Timo Vaatainen

with the results I have available at the moment. Unfortunately I can't tell you much more because I really didn't see what happened after Helle got into the quarter final match. I hope to have more to tell you tomorrow.

16 July - Near the end

In beginner's flight Helle met Andranlk Harutyunyan from Armenia in the semi-final of 2nd cons.



The match was played to 9 points. Helle stared out by winning 2 points in the first game. Then Andranlk got his game up and running taking the next 3 games. He ended up with a 9-3/9 victory. We are still very happy with the semi-final finish and we are looking for-





ward to the prize giving ceremony.

I lost to Alain Babillion in the last chance after leading 4-0/5.

Then we had all the day off and went on some sight-seeing. Helle took a lot of pictures which can be seen online at my web site (details later).

First semi-final:

Andreas Humke vs. Luigi Villa

The first semi-final was played between Andreas Humke and Luigi Villa. Villa had won his quarter-final very late the night before and you could anticipate some fatigue from the world champion from 1979.

Humke came out on fire taking the lead 14-1/23 (90% favorite) after only 4 games. Everybody knew the match was over at that point. But anything can happen in backgammon... and it did. Twenty games later Humke still had the lead but now it was only by 22-20/23 (69% favorite). Villa doubled early as he is supposed to do. After 27 rolls Villa had closed Hunke out with two checkers on the bar. Suddenly Villa is more that 70% favorite to win the match. After a few suspect moves Villa got his gammon and won the match. There was no doubt that he was worn out and just wanted to get the match finished.

Second semifinal:

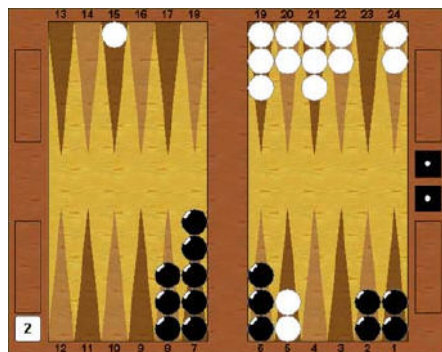
Kazuhiro Shino vs. Philip Vischjager

This match started very late last night. I really don't like the idea of starting an important 23 point this late when the winner is going to play the final next day. A semi-final can easily take 5 hours with-

out nothing unusual happening.

In the 11th game this position came up.

Position 10



Pip: B83 - W98

15 point match

Vischjager (b) leads 15-5

Philip is up by 15 pips and it seems like he is in a very strong position. I'm not sure if I would take this cube in a money game (probably close) but here the match score really matters. If this is close for money it is a super easy take when trailing by a lot in a match and only being 15 pips down. If Shino takes this cube he has to roll one good roll to be back in the game owning a 4 cube. Philip could roll on only worrying about the very few market losers he has. When he rolls a market loser he is leading 17-5/23 (90% favorite). Philip redoubled and won four points.

This match was not nearly as exiting as the other one. Philip got an early lead and kept on winning every game it seemed. The match was over after 15 games with the crushing result 23-6/23 in Philip's favor.

and finally Philip did. Villa showed a lot of heart playing really aggressive making the match exciting and enjoyable to watch.

I can't give you any positions because TrueMoneyGames has removed the match from their software less than half a day after the final.

Prize-giving

The prize-giving is always the best thing of the tournament. Most people are happy, at least for some of their friends who made it far in the tournament. As usual most of the Danish and Japanese players were attending this event. You were never in doubt when a Dane or Japanese player received a trophy.

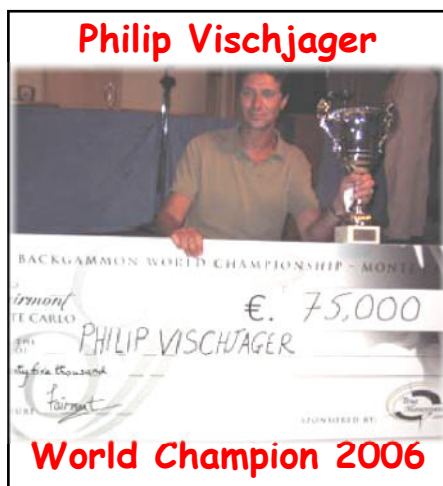


The Japanese players

During the last couple of years the Danish Backgammon Federation (DBgF) and the Japanese Backgammon League (JBL) have been in a close dialog and corporation concerning developing Backgammon throughout the world. Japan is becoming bigger and bigger on the world map of backgammon.

All for now

This is all for now from the 31st World Championship of Backgammon. I hope you enjoyed reading my article. You're more than welcome to drop me a line or two at peter@hallberg.dk. if you have any comments (good or bad) about this article which first appeared as a blog on: www.peterhallberg.com



17 July - Philip Vischjager is the new World Champion

After a very exciting match against former World Champion Luigi Villa, Philip Vischjager could call himself World Champion 2006. Philip was ahead in the match most of the time but Villa caught up and evened the score at 19-19/25. After a few more games the score was 23-23/25. Either player didn't double until late in the game where Philip had taken a strong lead and cubed Villa. It seemed like a take but Villa passed it. The next game was really intense and both players got their chances to end the match

A little more on the next page ►



As usual there were plenty of Biba members there and they all dressed in their best DJs and frocks to attend the Gala Dinner. However, one, Paul Gilbertson, let his hair down a bit - as can be seen above!



L to R:

Myke Wignall, Paul Barwick, Paul Gilbertson,
Peter Bennet, Rachel Rhodes, Lawrence Powell,
Rachel Rhodes and friend, Carol

2007 Bibafax Subscription Renewals

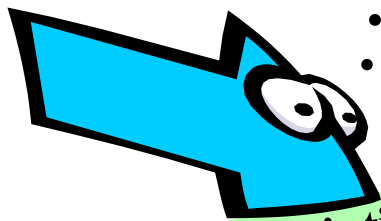
Renewals for 2007 are due soon, and I am pleased to say that the fees are unchanged for the 2007 season. *NB: All costs include postage*

Bibafax subscriptions are UK & Europe:
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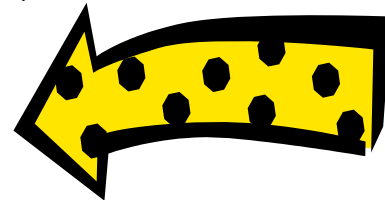
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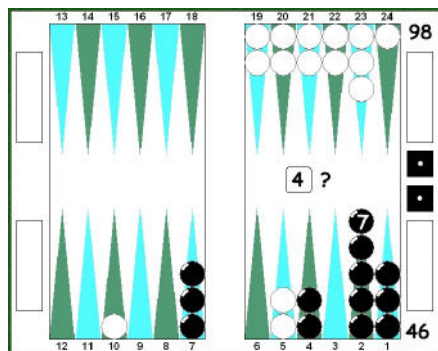
Sandy Osborne Trophy

Report by Michael Crane

Ten years ago I was the winner of this tournament; and, because it was an event dedicated to a member and friend who had died some years earlier, winning it was one of the highlights of my backgammon career. Since then I've won bugger all - but I don't mind. Over this weekend, Sandy would have been delighted to have seen the thirty-five players battling it out for his trophy; even though very few of them present had actually met him.

One who did was Jeff Ellis, and he was keen to get his name on the records next to mine. He did well in the **Friday Jackpot (8)** after I dropped out to let Jeff Barber take my place (playing against Jeff in the 1st Round). Jeff (Ellis) won and then carried on into the final where he met new member, Tony Sykes. Jeff proved too good for Tony and it was he that pocketed the lion's share of the pot.

Jeff didn't fair so well in the **Main (35)** when he was knocked out in the 2nd Round by Paul Barwick. Paul then went on to face Peter Bennet for a place in the last eight. He was doing rather well up to this point, where, playing as black, he ships across a 4-cube . . . and it was clear that if Peter took, it'd be shipped back immediately on his next roll.

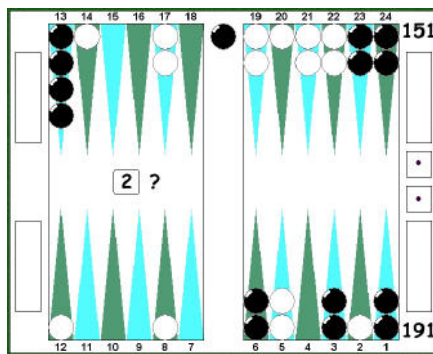


Black 7 White 2 to 11
Black re-cubes to 4

Of course, Peter took. Snowie said no-redouble/take; and I have a sneaking suspicion that Peter had worked it out for he took a long time to decide. If he were to drop he'd be 9-away, 2-away, about 9%; at the moment his game winning chances (gwc) are 15.5% so it makes sense to take and turn. Peter didn't get a shot, but after turning the cube he rolled 55 off the bar and then 66 and then more doubles until he was left with three checkers on his 1-point and Paul with just one on his:

And Peter rolls a double and takes the eight points! Paul never fully recovered and Peter went on to win . . . only to lose to Dave Motley in the quarter-finals.

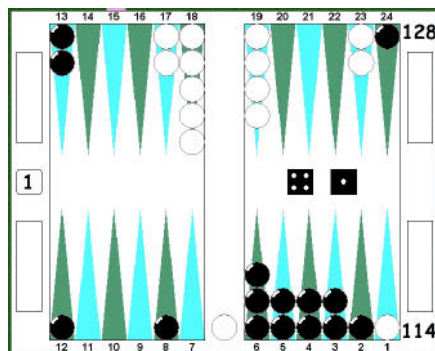
Dave in turn lost to Chris Gibbins (having the tournament of his life) and Chris got into his first ever Biba Final. Waiting there was Rachel Rhodes who had just despatched Jonathan Powell (also having a great tournament). Rachel (white) took an early lead, 9-0 thanks to a backgammon in the 2nd game.



Black 0 White 2 to 11
White cube action

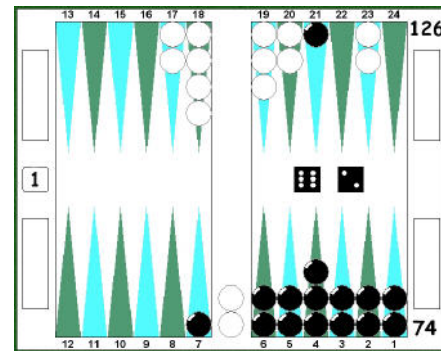
Rachel is clearly too good to double here - her gammon chances are around 45% and she should play on; however, she cubes . . . and Chris takes! The game progresses to the bearoff for Rachel and Chris has six checkers on her 1-point and one on the bar. He does get two chances to roll a 1 and perhaps save the backgammon/gammon but he misses each time and Rachel racked up six more points. Although Chris fought back bravely and got to 9-7 down, he couldn't quite make it and Rachel emerged the victor.

It's often the little things that mean a lot and Chris made two small errors of judgment and they cost him valuable points. They were both in the 3rd game. Here Chris (black) has a 41 to play:



Black 0 White 8 to 11
Black to play 41

Quite correctly he covered, 6/2 but then he failed to realise the importance of blocking off white's escape by playing 8/7 and then rolling a 6 or 5 next time to make his bar-point. Instead he moved 13/11. Rachel rolled 11; came in and made her 5-point. Chris then rolled 63 (a great 6 if he'd played to his bar on his previous move). As it turned out, Rachel then rolled a 63 and hit with a runner. However; Chris eventually recovered and took the lead with 96% gwc when he had to play a 62 in this position.



Black to play 62

Here he made a classic beginner's mistake - he didn't allow for rolling a blot-leaving roll; double-six! He played 21/13 which left 66 which would leave a blot on his 6-point should he roll it . . . which he did . . . and then Rachel rolled 62 off the bar, later on cubing him out and taking the point he should have had. The correct move for black is 21/15 7/5; now 66 plays safely. The match was fraught with errors from both players, Chris 34 including 16 blunders; Rachel 20 including 6 blunders. Snowie rated Rachel as Advanced and Chris, Beginner. What let Chris down was his doubling, of his 34 errors, 18 of them were cube related, and 7 of his 16 blunders. Perhaps Chris should consider purchasing a copy of Snowie Pro 4 . . . available from Biba! This match should appear on Gammon-Village and GammonLife soon.

In the **Progressive Consolation (31)** Myke Wignall gave all his opponents a display of Dynamic Backgammon as he stormed through players of the calibre of David Nathan, David Startin and Ray Tannen to face Tony Fawcett from the Prog side. Myke's dynamics didn't let him down and he came out the winner.

If you ever get the chance to have a lesson from John Slattery, take it. Apparently Bob Bruce had one on Saturday night and it proved invaluable - he beat Slats in the Semi-final of the **Last Chance (32)**! His opponent there was



Paul Gilbertson; but he was unable to stem Bob's flow and Bob came out triumphant; extolling the virtues of lessons from Slats!

Rodney Lighton emerged the winner of **The Sandwich (16)** after beating Nicky Check in the Final. However, because Rodney wasn't in the pool, two others were 'winners' too; Mick Vacarey and Ann Pocknell sharing 2nd place!

The Poker (11), saw John Slattery came out on top with Lawrence Powell 2nd (still finding his way around a poker table - but he's getting there); with the ubiquitous Paul Gilbertson in 3rd place. The **Poker Grand Prix** is fast reaching its decisive phase, and an exciting competition it's proving to be. Paul Gilbertson hung on for 3rd place when, with a short stack, he made a full house to cripple Mick Vacarey who at the time was looking like cashing for the first time this year. This was enough to push him into the lead at the expense of the absent Tony Lee. John Slattery won this month's event to end a run of second places. It's rumoured that there will be a big field at the final poker event at the **Gilbertson UK Finals**, so there are plenty of GP points still to be won and the prospect of this GP competition going all the way to the wire. *NB: From Martin Hemming*

It seems as if the Doubles has faded out of fashion - but it is still there but in disguise! We had a **Team (6)** event (Mike Main's Gang with a different name!). Two teams of three battled it out, the winning team splitting 2 vs 1, from which emerged a 1 vs 1 (myself and Ian Shaw); an encounter from which I was lucky to be second! Rodney Lighton came third.

In the **£50 Jackpot (4)**, Nicky Check and Mardi Ohannessian fought it out in the final - from which Nicky came out on top.

Overall it was another good event. For the first time ever all four elements ended at the same time and there was a good crowd still left there for the presentations. I am sure Sandy enjoyed it.



**Main
Rachel & Chris**



**Consolation
Myke & Tony**



**Last Chance
Bob & Paul**



**The Sandwich
Rodney & Nicky**

Match detailed statistics		
Player	Chris	Rachel
Rating	beginner	advanced
Overall	15.195/35.605	7.075/20.099
Errors(blunders)	34(16)	21(7)
Checker play errors		
Checker play	6.803/18.690	6.653/19.365
Errors(blunders)	15(8)	20(6)
Double errors		
Overall	5.913/12.472	0.422/0.735
Missed double	5.913/12.472	0.046/0.060
Wrong double	0.000/0.000	0.377/0.675
Errors(blunders)	18(7)	1(1)
Take errors		
Overall	2.479/4.443	0.000/0.000
Wrong take	2.479/4.443	0.000/0.000
Wrong pass	0.000/0.000	0.000/0.000
Errors(blunders)	1(1)	0(0)
Favourite: Rachel, 65.51% - 34.49%		

Friday 500

Exciting news! At 9 o'clock on Friday nights during 2007 there will be a new free entry tournament for all members stopping at the hotel (non-residents will pay £20 to enter). It is a 5-point Knockout based over 11 tournaments, the final winner of which will take home from the December, Gilbertson UK Finals the princely sum of

£500

Starting in January at the Bright 'n' Breezy 'position-points' (pp) will be awarded to the top eight places in the Friday 500 thus: 1st = 15, 2nd = 12, 3/4 = 9, 5/8 = 6; all other entrants will get 2 points for entering .

The Townharbour Trophy in November will be the last Friday 500 after which the top 16 highest players will battle it out at the December UK Finals for the £500 prize. *NB: Any qualifying entrant not attending the Finals will forfeit their position and others will move up.*

Should the 16th player share their total points with any others taking the number of entrants to over 16 there will be a play-off between them to decide the 16th entrant prior to the December Finals. The Friday 500 Final will be drawn thus: 1 vs 16, 2 vs 15, 3 vs 14, etc. In the unlikely event of fewer than 16 entrants, byes will be drawn on a random basis. A running points total will be maintained (online and in Bibafax) to show each entrants' position on the Registration List.

Please remember, each knockout starts at 21.00 prompt!
Late entrants are liable to be denied entry.

14th Irish Open Report from Sean Casey

Main (50) 50 players with entries from UK, Belgium, Turkey, France, South Africa as well as the home contingent. John Broomfield won 6/6 on the Saturday and was straight into the last 8.....but that was the end of his great run. Semifinals: Adrian Jones vs Ronny Conaert (Belgium) and Aubrey Tapley (Ireland) vs Brian Barber (USA). Adrian, the current champion lost to Ronny and Aubrey after going 6-1 ahead lost to Brian. The final went to 9-9 but Brian then pulled ahead in the final two games to win 11-9 after playing some top class backgammon all weekend. A very deserving champion. (top picture, Ronny & Brian)

Consolation (32) Last 4: Natalie Guez(France) vs Luc Palmans (Belgium) and Uldis Lapikens vs Felix Vink. Luc and Uldis in the finals which Luc won fairly easily. (middle picture, Luc & Uldis)

Teams The team event was won by Nicky Check, Mick Vicarey and John Samuel. Not sure the whiskey will have made it untouched over the Irish sea!(bottom picture, Mick, Nicky & John)

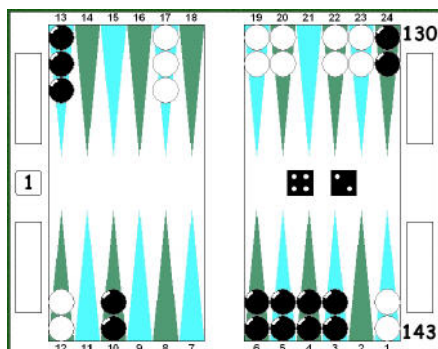
No Clock Controversy! Strangely there was no clock controversy this year. On one occasion I did have to place a clock in close proximity to two players but that was as close as we came to using a clock. In a very small number of games I did shorten the match but overall everything ran very smoothly.

MC: Unfortunately no one kept a copy of the drawsheets so the GP points allocated are incomplete; however following the TT event it is now apparent that the missing Grand Prix points won't affect the payouts. Therefore, the points below have been awarded and added to the totals.

Brian Barber	18.58	Luc Palmans	13.41
Ronny Conaert	13.42	Uldis Lapikens	9.28
Adrian Jones	9.29	Natalie Guez	6.18
Aubrey Tapley	9.29	Felix Vink	6.18

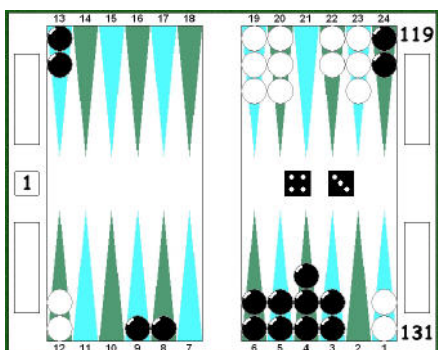


01 - Black to play 42
Black 0 White 0



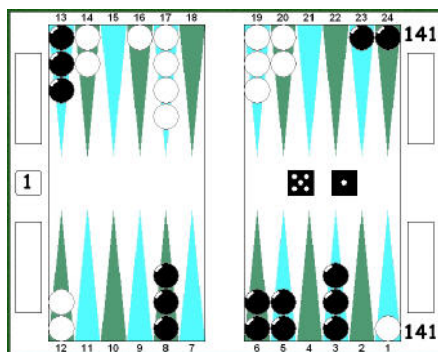
13/11 10/6
13/9 10/8
10/4

02 - Black to play 43
Black 0 White 0



24/21 9/5
9/6 8/4
13/6

03 - Black to play 51
Black 0 White 3

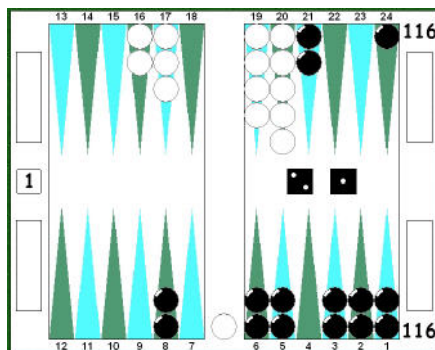


23/22 13/8
24/23 13/8
23/18 3/2

3 2 1 - Action! By Michael Crane

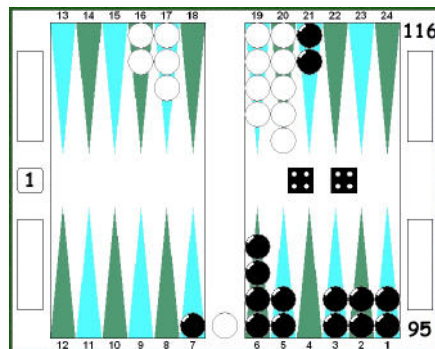
In this article there are three candidate moves to choose from for each position in a match to 11 points. See if you can spot the top move each time. Cover up the text on the right, work out your answers and then check if it came 1st, 2nd or 3rd, to see how you fared.

04 - Black to play 21
Black 0 White 3



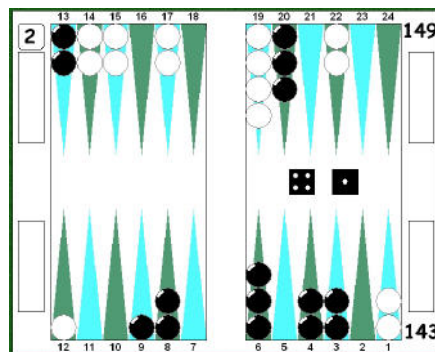
24/23 8/6
8/6 8/7
8/5

05 Black to play 44
Black 0 White 3



7/3 6/2 5/1(2)
6/2(2) 5/1(2)
6/2(4)

06 - Black to play 41
Black 5 White 7

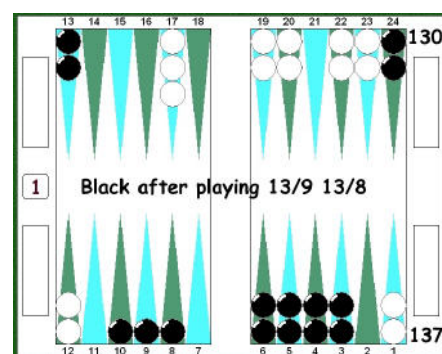


20/16 13/12*
13/9 13/12*
9/5 6/5

Answers: I have shown the moves and their Snowie position and equity, then underneath the Gammon% and the GameWinning%.

01 Answer

Black's play of clearing the 10-point, 10/4 was the worst of the three, but as it turned out it was for the better. Why? If he'd played the best move, 13/9 10/8 and left three blots on . . .



. . . he would have been on the bar after white rolls 62 and plays 24/16*. He could have played the middle move, 13/11 10/6 and been missed too.

I must say I thought the best move was very risky, but according to the stats it is correct:

1	13/9 10/8	
	21.3%	59.6%
3	13/11 10/6	-0.069
	20.3%	59.0%
5	10/4	-0.146
	20.3%	56.3%

02 Answer

This time the actual play is well down Snowie's list in 9th place! 24/21 9/5 is let down by the 24/21 play; this gives white plenty of scope to do some damage. Although not as bad, the middle play 13/6 does give white direct 1s plus 66, 61 and 62. The best play here is to keep it safe with 9/6 8/4. Now if white rolls a 6 he's going to have to vacate an anchor and without the benefit of placing black on the bar with it he's going to perhaps leave a shot thus turning the game to white's advantage.

White did roll a 6, 63 and had to leave a shot, but, because black had slotted

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white's 4-point, he played 13/4*; a roll that black was unable to recover from and he dropped a 2-cube not long after. If black had played safe then white's only realistic play with the 63 was to run 24/15; and black's roll of 32 would have placed it back onto the bar.

1	9/6 8/4	
	22.2% 59.3%	
5	13/6	-0.107
	19.6% 57.1%	
9	24/21 9/5	-0.344
	21.5% 53.9%	

03 Answer

Another where the actual move - 24/23 13/8 - comes in at 9th; yet it only differs from the best play by a gnat's: Best = 23/22 13/8, Worst = 24/23 13/8! The solution to this problem lies with the 1. By making the 23-point black has greatly reduced his escape chances and left himself inflexible; white only has a two-point board and by playing 23/22 instead and going 'under the gun' he'd increase his GWC by 5.2% and his GC by 1.7%. The middle move of 23/18 3/2 looks absolutely suicidal yet its equity loss is less than half that of the actual move!

1	23/22 13/8	
	12.9% 39.6%	
5	23/18 3/2	-0.090
	12.3% 38.6%	
9	24/23 13/8	-0.183
	11.2% 34.4%	

04 Answer

Black's actual move of 8/6 8/7 is well down Snowie's list; and it seems to ignore the fact that his runners can only escape with 6s. Although keeping white on the bar looks attractive it will be of no use if it all crunches due to the fact the back men can't escape white's home-board.

Also, black now needs a 3 to make his 4-point and a 3 would be better used by a back checker. The best move here is to move 24/23 to greatly increase escaping rolls, with 8/6 threatening the open 4-point. The middle move, 8/5 doesn't address the escape options but at least it doesn't duplicate an escaping number.

1	24/23 8/6	
	15.6% 58.7%	
3	8/5	-0.205
	13.5% 55.1%	
5	8/6 8/7	-0.329
	12.7% 52.5%	

White dances next roll and then black rolls 63 and gets a runner out:

White
52: Dances
52: Dances
55: Dances

Black
63: 24/15
54: 15/6

Which now brings us to . . .

05 Answer

Black rolls a cruncher and then misplays it by moving 6/2(2) 5/1(2). If you played out all three candidate moves you'll have spotted that only one roll doesn't leave return shots off the bar, 7/3 6/2 5/1(2); and this is the best move.

White would love to re-enter with a hitting roll; and black has just given him four chances to do it! However, once again Lady Luck smiles on black's misplay as white rolls 61 and dances; but black's problems are far from over when he next rolls 55 and his home-board compacts and white gets in with a second 61.

1	7/3 6/2 5/1(2)	
	5.2% 43.9%	
2	6/2(4)	-0.152
	4.2% 40.3%	
3	6/2(2) 5/1(2)	-0.202
	4.9% 38.6%	

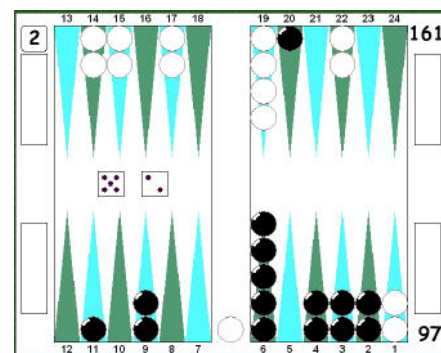
It is the two back checkers that lose black the game: He is unable to shift them both out of white's side of the board and is eventually cubed out.

06 Answer

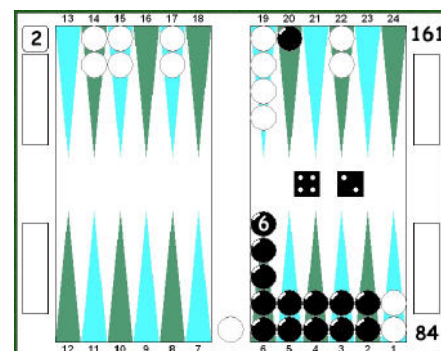
Paul Magriel has been saying it for yonks and it's as true today as when he first told us in his book *Backgammon* in the mid-70s, make the 5-point! Hitting at the moment isn't the best thing to do; white is unlikely to dance on a four-point board (he re-enters 75% of the time) and being hit is of little consequence to him. In the long-term the stronger home-board for black will pay dividends that the short-term possibility of dancing never could.

1	9/5 6/5	
	26.2% 71.9%	
2	20/16 13/12*	-0.076
	27.9% 68.3%	
4	13/9 13/12*	-0.221
	24.4% 64.1%	

As it turned out, white rolled 64 and danced; three times in a row! Black took advantage to make another point and the board ended up like this:

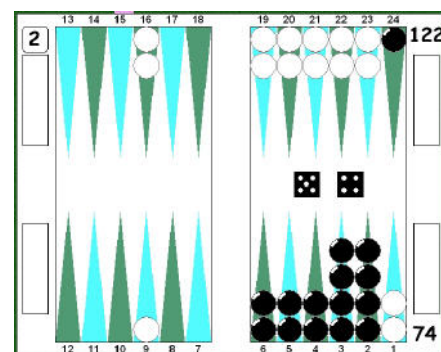


White moved 25/18 and then black rolled the superb 22, 9/7*(2) 7/5(2). White continued to dance and in this position . . .



. . . black has a comfortable 81.1% GWC including 49.7% gammons after he moves 20/16 6/4.

It was now when things go drastically wrong for him; white rolls Snake Eyes, 11. Black is unable to safety his runner and eventually he rolls a cruncher that leaves a blot:



He moves 6/2 and white rolls The Girls, 55! This is a devastating blow for black, he went from 81.1% in his favour down to 9.5% facing 39.6% gammon losses for the match as white played 24/19* 16/1* for the double hit. Black never recovers and white, thanks to a double-six rolls out to win the gammon and the match.

How did you fare?

6 Top player

4 or 5 Above average player

3 Average player

1 or 2 Below average player

0 Bottom player

2007 Biba Tournaments (plus non-Biba GP events *thus*)

?? = Bibafax due

January - XcitingGames 10th Bright 'n' Breezy						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
①	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	<u>5th Cotswolds</u>			

February - XcitingGames Jarvis Trophy						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March - Slattery Scottish Open						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	>

April - XcitingGames 16th British Open						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				Mar:	31	1
2	3	4	5	⑥	7	8
⑨	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	<u>Manchester 1-Day</u>					

May - XcitingGames County Cups						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
⑦	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
⑳	29	30	31			

June - XcitingGames Hilton Trophy						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

July - Keren Di Bona Trophy						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				Jun:	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	<u>12th Liverpool Open tba</u>				

August - XcitingGames SAC Trophy						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
⑳	28	29	30	31	<u>MSO tba</u>	

September - Backpacker Trophy						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October - XcitingGames Sandy Osborne						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	<u>15th Irish Open tba</u>			

November - XcitingGames Townharbour Trophy						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December - Gilbertson UK Finals						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	⑳	㉑	27	28	29	30
31						

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

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 Thurs of the month.
Dublin - Brendan Burgess - 603 0891 - wildlife@indigo.ie - 2nd Monday of every month.
Dunfermline - Graeme Campbell, 01383 738968 - graeme.campbell@tiscali.co.uk - tba
Eastbourne & Bexhill - John Thomas - 01424 219415 - Mondays 19.30.
Glasgow, Renfrew - John Paul Vass 0141 587 0255 - 1st Tuesday of month @ 7:00
Herne Bay/Broomfield - Bob Bruce - 01227 362181 or mobile 07754 549 576 - Last Tuesdays of the month
Herefordshire - Andy Robertson, 07989 345494 / 01981 240016 - Saturday, 6pm
Huddersfield - Rachel Rhodes - 07961 355433 - dicewitch@yahoo.co.uk - Tuesdays
Lincoln - Michael Crane - 01522 829649 - michael.a.crane@ntlworld.com - Every Tuesday.
Liverpool - Simon K Jones - 0151 428 3082 - vineries@btinternet.com - Last Friday of each month
London - Croydon - 07737 735556 Danny Gallagher - croydonbackgammonclub@yahoo.co.uk - Thursdays + Sundays (phone)
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 - Tuesdays
Middx - Starting up at Hatch End - 07989 751717, claudiatops@yahoo.co.uk - Mondays or days to suit
Newcastle - Looking to start a club Cal Pearson calpearson2000@yahoo.co.uk
Nottingham - Conrad Cooper - 0115 9113281 - conrad_cooper@excite.com - Monday, 9.00 pm.
Perth - Steve Wallace- info@perthgammon.org.uk 01738 587574 - Tuesdays, 7.30
Preston - Nigel Merrigan 01772 517672 acumen1@blueyonder.co.uk - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
Reading - Kevin Carter - kevin@profundus.com - 0118-971 2948 - Alternate Wednesdays.
St. Albans - John Ingamells - john.ingamells@ntlworld.com - Every Tuesday
York - Kevin Stebbing 01904 611172 - Kevin@stebbing1900.fslife.co.uk - 3rd Wednesday

- 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

Local Clubs

Where - Who - When

Forthcoming Events

December 2/3: Gilbertson UK Finals:

Sponsored by Rosey, Paul & John, this event is already underway . . . we have our 8 'qualifiers': Mike Grabsky (replacing John Hurst), Martin Hemming, Tim Line, Nigel Merigan, Paul Gilbertson, Julian Minwalla, Brian Barber and Mark Dixon. Whenever a member wins one of the eight events that make up the GP Finals circuit, they automatically qualify for the Last 16 of the UK Finals. Part of their prize is free accommodation (dinner, b&b) for the Friday night of the UK weekend. If they want to stay for the Saturday night they can do so for the special rate of £30.

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

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

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

The 8 from the playoffs will play against the 8 Pre-Qualifiers from the UK circuit on Sunday

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

Optional black tie dinner on the Saturday evening for those that want to dress up and look really cool



In addition to the above there is a Consolation and Last Chance starting Sunday. Also, Rosey's Rollout, The Wine Taster and other goodies including Freeze Out Poker on Friday evening @ 20:30. It's a fun tournament (fiercely fought) and should be well attended. Book your accommodation immediately if not sooner!

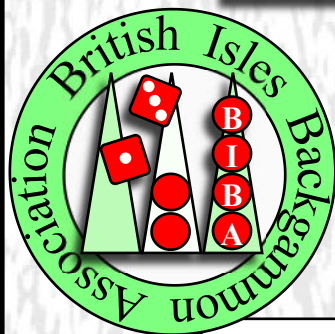
Bright 'n' Breezy, 13/14 January 2007 * including a worldclass entrant! *



This is one of the biggest events in the British Backgammon calendar and this year it celebrates its 10th Birthday. Sponsored by www.xcitinggames.com it promises to be an unforgettable experience: The first Friday 500, and the first Biba appearance of current World Champion, Philip Vischjager!

Offering the four usual elements this event will attract a big entry so book your accommodation as soon as you can - don't miss out on the action!

2006/2007 Details, Deals and Dates



Registration: Saturday 1030 to 1230

Play Starts: Friday 2100, Saturday 1300, Sunday 1030

Auctions: Group, Saturday 1245, Individual, Sunday 1015

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

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

All tournaments feature a Friday night Warm-up, Saturday night Knockout,
Poker Grand Prix and Jackpots subject to demand.

Registration Fees: Members only: £20 -you can join on the day-
Entrants not residing at the hotel, £10 extra to cover facilities
(all fees and surcharges to be paid on the day - prepayment not required)

FRIDAY

2100: Warm-up Knockout &
Jackpots (on demand)

SATURDAY

Registration 1030 / 1230
Play starts 1300 prompt

SUNDAY

Play resumes 1030
(penalty points apply 1035)

Dinner, bed and breakfast @ Hilton Coventry 2006

Single room: 1 night £59, two nights £104

Double or twin room: 1 night £94, two nights £180

Reservations: 02476 603000 ask for 'Group Reservations' and quote 'backgammon'
*There are a limited number of rooms made available to Biba at the above rates
and they will be allocated on a first come - first served basis.*

**** Dinner, bed and breakfast @ Hilton Coventry 2007 ****

Single room: 1 night £61, two nights £106

Double or twin room: 1 night £98, two nights £188

Reservations: 02476 603000 ask for 'Group Reservations' and quote 'backgammon'
*There are a limited number of rooms made available to Biba at the above rates
and they will be allocated on a first come - first served basis.*

Bright 'n' Breezy, 13/14 January 2007

Holiday Inn Brighton-Seafront

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

Single room 1 night @ £75 -- Single room 2 nights @ £144

Double/Twin room 1 night @ £111 -- Double/Twin room 2 nights @ £214

The contact numbers are:

Tournament information 01522 888676 or info@backgammon-biba.co.uk

Accommodation 01273 828280 and quote 'backgammon'

It should be noted 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. The hotel has their own car park the cost of which is £12 per day. However, there is a NCP carpark nearby which guests can use if preferred.

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.

2006 Tournament Calendar

Dec 02-03	Gilbertson UK Finals	-	-	Coventry	Double KO
2007 Tournament Calendar (all confirmed except ??)					
Jan 13-14	Bright 'n' Breezy	GP	UK	Brighton	Knockout
Jan 26-28	5th Cotswold Tournament	GP	-	Nr. Stroud	Knockout
Feb 03-04	Jarvis Trophy	GP	UK	Coventry	Swiss
Mar 10-11	Slattery Scottish Open	GP	UK	Coventry	Knockout
Mar 31-Apr 01	Play65 British Open	GP	UK	Coventry	Knockout
Apr 22	Manchester 1-Day	GP	-	Manchester	Combination
May 05-06	County Cups Trophy	GP	UK	Coventry	Swiss
Jun 02-03	Hilton Trophy	GP	-	Coventry	Knockout
Jun 30-Jul 01	Keren Di Bona Memorial	GP	-	Coventry	Knockout
Jul ??	11 th Liverpool Open	GP	-	Liverpool	Combination
Aug 11-12	SAC Trophy	GP	UK	Coventry	Swiss
Aug ??	11 th Mind Sports Olympiad	GP	-	tba	Swiss
Sep 01-02	Backpacker Trophy	GP	-	Coventry	Knockout
Oct 06-07	Sandy Osborne Memorial	GP	-	Coventry	Knockout
Oct ??	15 th Irish Open	GP	UK	Dublin	Combination
Nov 03-04	Townharbour Trophy	GP	UK	Coventry	Swiss
Dec 01-02	Gilbertson UK Finals	-	-	Coventry	Double KO

Townharbour Trophy

Report by Michael Crane

Well, we finally come to the end of the Swiss format events and with it the end of the championship race for the Grand Prix and Ranking titles. Giving entrants 6 x 11-point matches to play it offers a wide scope for major changes to the final positions; but before we get to the championship results, let's take a look at what occurred during the tournament.

Friday Warm-up (8)

Defending TT champion, Eddie Barker made it into the final where Peter Christ-

mas was waiting to for him. Regrettably it wasn't the other way around for I had a really funny line I was going to use!

The Warm-up was played in the bar, and, when we started it was fairly quiet; however when they sat down to play the final the pub filled with a deluge of builders on their annual night out and it became impossible to concentrate amidst all that talk of footings, gable ends and cement. So, Peter and Eddie decided to share 1st place!

Main (16/30)

With an entry of 30 we ended up with just three on 3/3: Mark Dixon, Bob Young and Martin Hemming. In the 4th Round

Bob lost to Paul Gilbertson (a 2/3 drawn in the play 3/3) and Martin lost to Mark. This put Mark in a strong position. In his next match he despatched Kevin White and in the 6th Round it was down to Paul Christmas to keep Mark on 5/6 to give us multiple choices for 5/6.

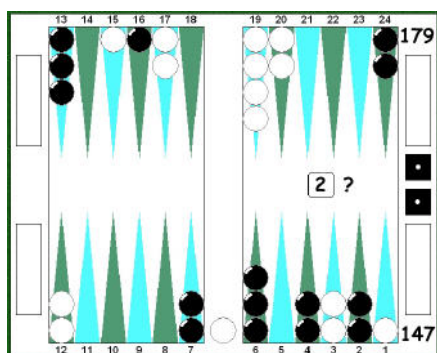
The match was very one-sided almost from the start. Paul took the first point . . . and then it began to go wrong for him. In the position shown on the following page he took a 2-cube from Mark (black).

According to Snowie this is nearly an 'optional' cube and a take; optional being when the equity for double or is exactly the same. In this position the equity dif-



Mark Dixon - Jeff Barber - Ian Davidson

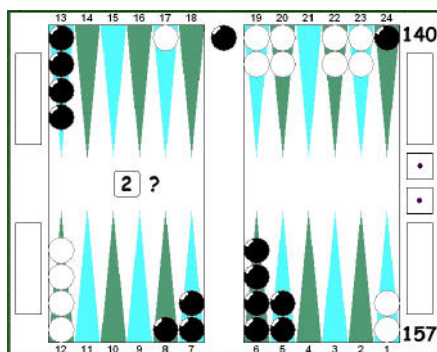
ference is just 0.001: Double/take 0.584, no double 0.583. Quite correctly. Paul took.



11 point match
Black 0 White 1
Black offers a 2-cube

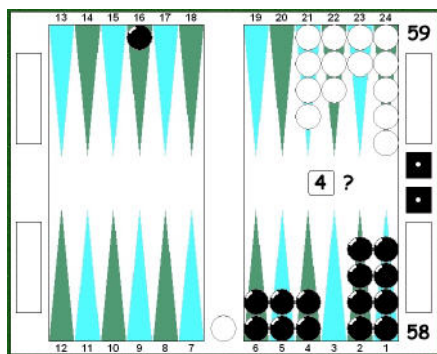
Not long after this Paul ends up with eight checkers in Mark's home board: five on the 3-point and three on the 1-point; a position from which he goes on to lose a backgammon!

In the next game Paul gets into a fairly strong position:



11 point match
Black 6 White 1
White offers a 2-cube

... and offers over a cube that should be a drop, however Mark takes and gives away 0.153. Paul was quite happy with the take - that was until it was shipped back as a 4-cube here:



The equity is almost identical @ 0.156, and Paul does the same and takes what should be a drop; and he then goes on to

lose the four points and goes down 1-10 Crawford. Paul wins the next game but then loses the game and the match.

Consolation (10/30)

Only one player managed to come out on top with 3/3 and that was Ian Davidson. This left Eamon Keogh as runner-up after the application of the tie-break of opponents' average ranking score.

Team

It seems as if the Team event is catching on. Two teams of three each battled it out until Caroline Stafford faced the formidable team of Arthur Wright and myself. We took an early lead of 1-0...

... and then we took an early bed as she gammoned us on a 4-cube in the next game!

Poker (13)

The poker grand prix is hotting up now (see table) and the evening's results of Paul Christmas 1st, Martin Hemming 2nd and Tony Fawcett 3rd did Martin a power of good and helped him in his bid for grand prix gold. The Grand Prix includes the December tourney, and the top 3 places in the GP list will receive the prizes in proportion 50% 30% 20%. Only the best 7 scores count for GP calculations. Grand Prix fund stands at £748. Numbers in brackets are the scores each of the leading players must discard before adding to their score in the December event, the last in the series. Top 10:

- 51 Paul Gilbertson (2)
- 48.5 Myke Wignall (3)
- 46.5 Tony Lee (0)
- 45 Martin Hemming (3)
- 41 John Slattery (0)
- 40 Chris Gibbins (3)
- 31 Kevin White (0)
- 30 Alison Lee
- 28 Rosey Bensley
- 28 John Samuel

Finally

It was a good tourney and an exciting end to the annual championships; as you will now discover.

Match detailed statistics		
Player	Mark	Paul
Rating	advanced	intermediate
Overall	7.867/11.651	10.558/14.832
Errors(blunders)	17(5)	17(9)
Checker play errors		
Checker play	7.234/10.913	9.120/12.458
Errors(blunders)	16(4)	15(7)
Double errors		
Overall	0.000/0.000	0.791/0.871
Missed double	0.000/0.000	0.791/0.871
Wrong double	0.000/0.000	0.000/0.000
Errors(blunders)	0(0)	1(1)
Take errors		
Overall	0.633/0.738	0.648/1.503
Wrong take	0.633/0.738	0.648/1.503
Wrong pass	0.000/0.000	0.000/0.000
Errors(blunders)	1(1)	1(1)
Favourite: Mark Dixon 53.18% - 46.82%		

2006 Championships

Grand Prix Championship 2006

(180 Entrants)

What a finish! It was all down to the last two rounds of the Swiss at the Townharbour Trophy. By this time it was clear that the winner would be either David Startin or Paul Gilbertson. Paul has had a tremendous year and all he needed to do was win his last two matches to become the 2006 Grand Prix Champion. Alas, he was unable to accomplish this and that left it for David to take the title.

Ranking Championship 2005

(166 Entrants. 37 Qualifiers)

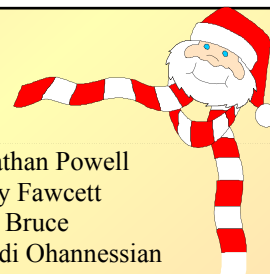
Where was Chris Ternel over the TT weekend? His absence gave those beneath him the opportunity to leap over him and to wrest the title from his grasp. Jeff Barber took full advantage and, by winning 5/6 in the TT he came out as the 2006 Ranking Champion.

Conclusion

It's been a good year in the Championships and the Top 10 in each element will be taking home a cheque for their efforts. Some will be getting a double-payout thanks to their performances in both Championships. Well done, everyone; and to those of you who almost made it... good luck for 2007!

Tournament Results

Sandy Osborne Trophy, 7 & 8 October, 2006



Main (35)

1	Rachel Rhodes
2	Chris Gibbins
3/4	Dave Motley
3/4	Jonathan Powell
5/8	Peter Bennet
5/8	Gerry Enslin
5/8	Mardi Ohannessian
5/8	Ian Shaw

Consolation (31)

1	Myke Wignall
2	Tony Fawcett
3/4	Ray Tannen
3/4	Ian Shaw
5/8	John Slattery
5/8	Michelle Fisher
5/8	Ron Havenhand
5/8	Gerry Enslin

Last Chance (32)

1	Bob Bruce
2	Paul Gilbertson
3/4	George Hall
3/4	John Slattery
5/8	Jeff Ellis
5/8	Ann Pocknell
5/8	Brian Lever
5/8	David Startin

The Sandwich (16)

1	Rodney Lighton
2	Nicky Check
3/4	Mick Vacarey
3/4	Ann Pocknell

Friday Jackpot (8)

1	Jeff Ellis
2	Tony Sykes

Poker (11)

1	John Slattery
2	Lawrence Powell
3	Paul Gilbertson

£50 Jackpot (8)

1	Nicky Check
2	Mardi Ohannessian

Team Gang (6)

1	Ian Shaw
2	Michael Crane
3	Rodney Lighton

Grand Prix @ Sandy

18.58	Rachel Rhodes
13.42	Chris Gibbins
13.41	Myke Wignall
9.29	Dave Motley
9.29	Peter Bennet

9.29	Jonathan Powell
9.28	Tony Fawcett
9.27	Bob Bruce
6.19	Mardi Ohannessian
6.19	Ian Shaw
6.19	Gerry Enslin
6.18	Ray Tannen
6.18	Michelle Fisher
6.17	Paul Gilbertson
4.13	Jeff Ellis
4.13	Brian Lever
4.13	Paul Barwick
4.13	Jeff Barber
4.13	Nicky Check
4.13	Chris Ternel
4.13	Ian Hill
4.13	Ron Havenhand
4.13	Arthur Wright
4.12	Lawrence Powell
4.12	John Slattery
4.11	George Hall
4.10	Rodney Lighton
2.58	Uldis Lapikens
2.58	David Startin
2.57	Ann Pocknell
2.06	David Nathan
2.06	Tony Sykes
2.05	Mick Vacarey

Townharbour Trophy, 4 & 5 November 2006

Main (16/30)

Pos	Player	Wins	GP
1	Mark Dixon	6	24.77
2	Jeff Barber	5	13.42
3	Martin Hemming	5	13.42
4	Vicky Chandler	4	9.29
5	Dave Motley	4	9.29
6	Peter Christmas	4	9.29
7	Paul Christmas	4	9.29
8	Kevin White	4	9.29
9	Rachel Rhodes	3	6.19
10	David Startin	3	6.19
11	John Slattery	3	6.19
12	Bob Young	3	6.19
13	Uldis Lapikens	3	6.19
14	Paul Gilbertson	3	6.19
15	Richard Biddle	2	4.13
16	Arthur Wright	2	4.13

Consolation (10/30)

Pos	Player	Con	Wins	GP
1	Ian Davidson	3	4	9.29
2	Eamon Keogh	2	3	6.19
3	Richard Granville	2	3	6.19
4	Tony Fawcett	2	3	6.19
5	Myke Wignall	1	1	2.58
6	Cliff Connick	1	2	4.13
7	Ron Havenhand	1	1	2.58
8	Mick Vacarey	0	0	0.00
9	Mardi Ohannessian	0	0	0.00
10	Peter Bennet	0	1	2.58
**	Caroline Stafford	0	1	2.58
*	Tony Lee	0	1	2.58
*	Rosey Bensley	0	1	2.58
*	Eddie Barker	0	1	2.58
**	Spare 'man'			
* Failed to enter or complete				

Friday Warm-up (8)

1	Peter Christmas & Eddie Barker
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Poker (13)

1	Paul Christmas
2	Martin Hemming
3	Tony Fawcett

Teams

1	Caroline Stafford
2	Michael Crane & Arthur Wright

Michael & Sharen wish you all a
Very Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year



Grand Prix Championship 2006 (180 Entrants)

70.17	David Startin	18.58	Mike Grabsky	6.19	David Dunkley
69.12	Paul Gilbertson	17.55	Ronny Conaert	6.19	George Miltiadou
68.13	Jeff Barber	17.54	Dod Davies	6.18	Billy Sharp
65.02	John Slattery	17.53	Luc Palmans	6.18	Paul Statter
63.94	Martin Hemming	16.52	Richard Biddle	6.18	John Ingamells
60.37	Nigel Merrigan	16.00	Mick Butterfield	6.18	Rutger Beijderwellen
59.84	Rachel Rhodes	15.98	David Fall	6.17	John Broomfield
56.76	Uldis Lapikens	15.48	Jonathan Powell	5.14	John Thomas
55.72	Chris Ternel	15.46	Peter Snape	4.64	Colin Laight
50.55	Peter Bennet	15.46	Felix Vink	4.62	Adam Stocks
50.55	Myke Wignall	15.45	Roland Herrera	4.13	Dale Taylor
48.51	Mark Heidenfeld	14.95	Mike Heard	4.13	Brendan Burgess
48.48	Tim Line	14.45	Cliff Connick	4.13	Connor Dickinson
46.43	Dave Motley	14.45	Mahmoud Jahanbani	4.13	Liz Perry
46.42	Brian Lever	13.93	Roy Hollands	4.13	Raj Jansari
45.36	Nicky Check	13.42	Andrew Sarjeant	4.13	George Suilimirski
44.37	Ron Havenhand	13.42	Simon Morecroft	4.13	Blaine Buchanan
44.36	Stephen Drake	13.42	Ian Davidson	4.13	Ian Hill
41.28	John Hurst	13.40	Bob Bruce	4.13	David Horner
41.26	Tony Fawcett	12.39	Jon Barnes	4.13	Jackie Griffiths
39.22	Gerry Enslin	12.38	Mike Main	4.13	Paul Van Dijke
39.21	Rosey Bensley	10.32	David Edwards	4.13	Steven Crowder
39.20	Adrian Jones	10.32	Christopher Baxter	4.12	Carl Dell
39.17	Rodney Lighton	10.29	Matthew Fisher	4.12	Cedric Lytton
38.18	Mardi Ohannessian	10.29	Steve Hallet	4.12	John Frame
37.12	Lawrence Powell	9.29	Steve Simkin	4.12	Diane Iveson
35.60	Tony Lee	9.29	Barry McAdam	4.12	Khachik Melikyan
35.59	David Nathan	9.29	Aubrey Tapley	4.12	Danny Gallagher
35.09	John Samuel	9.29	Michel Lamote	4.12	Patty Geoffroy
35.08	Ray Tannen	9.29	Lee Wood	4.11	Arthur Musgrove
34.57	Peter Christmas	9.28	John Harrison	2.58	Dan O'Farrell
34.05	Mick Vacarey	9.28	Carter Mattig	2.58	Monica Beckerson
34.03	Stuart Mann	9.27	John Wright	2.58	Richard Wenban
33.03	Chris Gibbins	9.27	Howard Furr-Barton	2.58	Malcolm Robertson
33.02	Mark Dixon	8.77	Richard Granville	2.58	David McNamara
31.97	Ian Tarr	8.26	Jeff Ellis	2.58	Caroline Stafford
30.94	Kevin White	8.26	Edwin Turner	2.58	Paul Baeyens
30.93	Peter Chan	8.25	Tim Brown	2.58	Colin Harrocks
30.44	Eamon Keogh	8.25	Fanika Petkovska	2.58	Joe Dooley
28.88	Tim Mooring	8.22	David Wallbank	2.58	Rebecca Bell
28.88	Julian Fetterlein	6.71	Wayne Felton	2.58	Vicky Gilbert
28.85	George Hall	6.70	Geoff Conn	2.58	David Markwick
28.39	Arthur Wright	6.70	Eddie Barker	2.58	Andrew McKechnie
26.84	Jason Champion	6.68	Alan Greenwood	2.58	Nick Saxon
26.83	Julian Minwalla	6.19	Lionel Mann	2.58	Richard Hope
26.81	Vicky Chandler	6.19	Alan Beckerson	2.58	Dimitri Psaltopoulos
25.80	Stephen Cole	6.19	Neil Webb	2.58	Araik Parsilyan
23.19	Paul Barwick	6.19	Chris Bray	2.57	Miles Illott
22.18	John Gilbertson	6.19	Bob Young	2.57	Angela Dell
21.67	Steve Rimmer	6.19	Marc Steyvers	2.57	Brian Busfield
21.16	Brian Barber	6.19	David Naylor	2.57	Nick Valley
21.15	Jimmi Wong	6.19	Sean Casey	2.06	Stephen Chadwick
21.13	Ann Pocknell	6.19	Paul Watts	2.06	Simon K Jones
20.62	Simonetta Barone	6.19	Ian Shaw	2.06	Emmanuel Di Bona
20.13	Paul Christmas	6.19	Darryl Kirk	2.06	Rogier Van Gemert
19.61	Mike Greenleaf	6.19	Andrew Darby	2.06	Ruben Gulustyan
19.59	Tony Walters	6.19	Andy Bell	2.06	Tony Sykes
19.58	Kevin Stebbing	6.19	Sue Keeble	2.05	Jo Curl
19.58	Michelle Fisher	6.19	Sean Williams	2.05	Zoe Cunningham
19.57	Martin Barkwill	6.19	Ray Fard	1.55	Michael Crane

Ranking Championship September 2006 (166 Entrants including 37 Qualifiers)
(played - average-name)

14	2250.71	Jeff Barber	7	1748.57	Mark Heindenfeld	2	1508.50	Raj Jansari
14	2231.57	Chris Ternel	7	1625.57	David Horner	2	1508.50	Ronny Conaert
14	2222.57	John Slattery	7	1586.29	Mike Heard	2	1461.00	Dod Davies
14	2205.00	Paul Gilbertson	7	1515.71	Tony Walters	2	1447.00	Ed Turner
14	2202.43	Uldis Lapikens	7	1360.71	Bob Bruce	2	1415.00	Liz Perry
14	2164.79	Gerry Enslin	7	1306.86	John Thomas	2	1136.00	Simonetta Herrera
14	2154.00	Martin Hemming	6	1924.83	Mike Grabsky	2	965.50	Diane Iveson
14	2147.00	Nigel Merrigan	6	1773.83	Lee Wood	2	927.50	David Markwick
14	2129.29	Dave Motley	6	1754.00	Julian Fetterlein	1	1762.00	Tony Sykes
14	2093.79	Ron Havenhand	6	1732.17	David Naylor	1	1498.00	Danny Gallagher
14	2063.71	David Startin	6	1668.50	Richard Biddle	1	1434.00	Brian Barber
14	2055.57	Tim Line	6	1656.83	Mick Butterfield	1	1347.00	Luc Palmans
14	2052.50	Eamon Keogh	6	1640.33	Lionel Mann	1	1317.00	Howard Furr-Barton
14	2043.57	Peter Christmas	6	1626.00	Bob Young	1	1312.00	Araik Parsilyan
14	1996.71	Tony Fawcett	6	1420.83	Matthew Fisher	1	1299.00	Rogier Van Gemert
14	1991.86	Mardi Ohannessian	6	1367.67	Brian Lever	1	1297.00	Steve Hallett
14	1991.71	Rodney Lighton	6	1353.33	Richard Wenban	1	1270.00	Andrew McKenchnie
14	1984.43	Nicky Check	5	1846.40	Ian Tarr	1	1263.00	John Frame
14	1971.21	Stephen Drake	5	1828.80	Mike Greenleaf	1	1260.00	Arthur Musgrove
14	1964.07	Adrian Jones	5	1752.80	Kevin Stebbing	1	1238.00	Stuart Mann
14	1963.79	Rosey Bensley	5	1743.40	Dave Edwards	1	1234.00	Paul Baeyens
14	1952.86	John Samuel	5	1637.40	Simon Morecroft	1	1223.00	Zoe Cunningham
14	1942.14	Tony Lee	5	1525.20	Ann Pocknell	1	1213.00	Dave McNamara
14	1937.29	Myke Wignall	4	1823.75	Michel Lamote	1	1198.00	Rebecca Bell
14	1933.29	Rachel Rhodes	4	1818.25	Barry McAdam	1	1194.00	Carter Mattig
14	1923.79	Lawrence Powell	4	1459.00	Eddie Barker	1	1193.00	Hubert de l'Epine
14	1920.14	Chris Gibbins	4	1423.75	Geoff Conn	1	1168.00	Billy Sharp
14	1914.21	Arthur Wright	3	1894.67	Andy Bell	1	1156.00	Paul Statter
14	1829.21	David Nathan	3	1882.67	Sean Williams	1	1151.00	Bill Spiers
14	1822.86	Kevin White	3	1857.67	Andrew Darby	1	1148.00	Steve Lynch
14	1739.50	Peter Chan	3	1832.00	Darryl Kirk	1	1124.00	Malcolm Robertson
14	1721.43	Mick Vacarey	3	1830.67	Mike Main	1	1105.00	Ian Gwynne
14	1713.14	George Hall	3	1795.00	Sean Casey	1	1100.00	Cedric Lytton
14	1713.00	Stephen Cole	3	1765.67	Ray Fard	1	1099.00	Jo Curl
14	1697.64	Jonathan Powell	3	1763.67	Paul Watts	1	1092.00	Felix Vink
14	1586.57	Peter Bennet	3	1760.33	Neil Webb	1	1086.00	Miles Ilott
14	1580.14	Paul Christmas	3	1731.33	Ian Shaw	1	1072.00	Sabri Sabri
13	1813.77	Jason Champion	3	1722.00	Sue Keeble	1	1059.00	Nick Valley
13	1730.08	Ray Tannen	3	1712.67	George Miltiadou	1	1042.00	Patty Geoffroy
12	1883.08	Tim Mooring	3	1704.33	David Dunkley	1	1017.00	Martin Barkwill
12	1464.75	John Gilbertson	3	1700.00	Chris Bray	1	1010.00	Khachik Melikyan
12	1373.08	Richard Granville	3	1683.33	Roland Herrera	1	1000.00	Dan O'Farrell
11	1436.55	Roy Hollands	3	1642.67	Marc Steyvers	1	1000.00	Alan Greenwood
10	1631.60	Steve Rimmer	3	1537.33	Wayne Felton	1	1000.00	Emmanuel Di Bona
10	1498.90	Paul Barwick	3	1417.00	Caroline East	1	1000.00	Colin Harrocks
9	1707.11	Vicky Chandler	2	1846.00	Andrew Sarjeant	1	1000.00	Nick Saxon
9	1198.56	Fanika Petkovska	2	1809.50	Paul Van Dyke	1	985.00	John Ingamells
8	1857.25	Mark Dixon	2	1796.50	Ian Hill	1	969.00	Richard Hope
8	1708.38	Ian Davidson	2	1748.00	Jackie Griffiths	1	942.00	Dimitri Psaltoploulos
8	1703.25	Jon Barnes	2	1721.50	Tim Brown	1	925.00	Brian Busfield
8	1623.50	Chris Baxter	2	1711.00	George Sulimirski	1	894.00	Ruben Gulustyan
8	1531.50	Michelle Fisher	2	1702.50	Steven Crowden	1	888.00	Pat O'Connor
8	1495.00	Cliff Connick	2	1624.50	Brendan Burgess	1	875.00	Joe Dooley
8	1331.25	Jeff Ellis	2	1567.00	Rutger Beijderwellen	1	838.00	Vicky Gilbert
7	2073.57	John Jurst	2	1551.50	John Harrison			
7	2000.00	Julian Minwalla	2	1544.50	Dale Taylor			

Active Rankings November 2006 (new-old-name)

2005	2005	Julian Fetterlein	1672	1672	Ian Tarr	1512	1512	Felix Vink
1941	1941	Brian Lever	1669	1641	Dave Motley	1508	1508	George Hall
1926	1955	John Slattery	1669	1669	Jason Champion	1500	1483	Richard Biddle
1889	1889	Lawrence Powell	1664	1692	Ron Havenhand	1494	1494	Matthew Fisher
1880	1902	Rachel Rhodes	1662	1662	Connor Dickinson	1488	1506	Arthur Wright
1836	1836	Stuart Mann	1659	1659	Steve Rimmer	1487	1487	Chris Gibbins
1835	1860	Tony Lee	1657	1657	Roy Hollands	1484	1484	Tony Walters
1824	1824	Nigel Merrigan	1652	1652	Barry McAdam	1483	1483	Miles Illott
1815	1815	John Hurst	1650	1650	Brian Busfield	1483	1483	David Sanders
1806	1806	Ray Tannen	1649	1587	Martin Hemming	1478	1478	David Horner
1806	1806	Chris Ternel	1647	1647	Mick Butterfield	1477	1495	Cliff Connick
1803	1803	David Nathan	1638	1638	Martin Barkwill	1465	1465	Rebecca Bell
1802	1802	Dave McNair	1630	1630	Ian Shaw	1460	1460	Simonetta Barone
1801	1815	David Startin	1625	1625	Jeff Ellis	1459	1459	Mike Main
1788	1788	Dod Davies	1619	1619	Rodney Lighton	1456	1456	Wayne Felton
1776	1776	Steve Hallet	1619	1619	Tim Line	1455	1417	Kevin White
1774	1774	Nicky Check	1617	1617	Mike Heard	1454	1454	Andy Bell
1768	1769	Paul Gilbertson	1611	1611	John Thomas	1446	1446	Jonathan Powell
1760	1733	Peter Christmas	1609	1609	Ian Gwynne	1445	1437	Tony Fawcett
1757	1772	Richard Granville	1604	1604	Edwin Turner	1444	1444	Malcolm Wilson
1756	1693	Jeff Barber	1600	1600	Ken Gibson	1440	1440	John Samuel
1756	1756	Steve Pickard	1588	1588	John Gilbertson	1440	1440	David Markwick
1754	1754	Mike Grabsky	1583	1583	John Wright	1430	1430	Jane Oxley
1754	1798	Peter Bennet	1580	1591	Eddie Barker	1428	1428	David Naylor
1749	1749	Tim Mooring	1580	1539	Vicky Chandler	1423	1423	Leslie Singleton
1748	1748	Danny Cohen	1575	1575	Paul Statter	1415	1415	Lionel Mann
1740	1749	Uldis Lapikens	1569	1569	Julian Minwalla	1412	1422	Rosey Bensley
1740	1740	Raj Jansari	1568	1568	Grahame Powell	1412	1449	Myke Wignall
1738	1738	Ann Pocknell	1568	1470	Mark Dixon	1408	1408	Paul Watts
1723	1723	Kevin Stebbing	1565	1559	Eamon Keogh	1405	1405	Alan Greenwood
1722	1722	Simon K Jones	1564	1564	Gerry Enslin	1397	1397	Bob Bruce
1721	1721	Stephen Drake	1562	1522	Paul Christmas	1395	1395	Catherine Oldfield
1715	1715	Sean Casey	1561	1561	Peter Chan	1391	1391	Tim Brown
1709	1709	Arthur Musgrove	1561	1561	Jon Barnes	1382	1382	Jo Curl
1708	1708	Brendan Burgess	1561	1561	Roland Herrera	1366	1366	Paul Fox
1706	1706	Mark Heidenfeld	1556	1556	Andrew Darby	1364	1364	Cedric Lytton
1697	1697	Emmanuel Di Bona	1555	1555	Geoff Conn	1350	1350	Stephen Cole
1696	1696	Dale Taylor	1541	1501	Ian Davidson	1322	1322	Jon Sharpe
1696	1696	Adrian Jones	1537	1537	Darryl Kirk	1306	1377	Mick Vacarey
1688	1688	Mike Greenleaf	1535	1535	Stavros Elia	1252	1252	Fanika Petkovska
1686	1692	Bob Young	1516	1516	Andrew Sarjeant	1248	1248	Alison Lee
1677	1741	Mardi Ohannessian	1514	1514	Paul Barwick			

Grand Prix	Payout	Ranking
David Startin	308.70	Jeff Barber
Paul Gilbertson	220.50	Chris Ternel
Jeff Barber	176.40	John Slattery
John Slattery	132.30	Paul Gilbertson
Martin Hemming	88.20	Uldis Lapikens
Nigel Merrigan	66.15	Gerry Enslin
Rachel Rhodes	44.10	Martin Hemming
Uldis Lapikens	22.05	Nigel Merrigan
Chris Ternel	22.05	Dave Motley
Peter Bennet	22.05	Ron Havenhand
Myke Wignall	22.05	

So, here's the good news for some of you - a nice New Year present of a few quid! Cheques will be handed out at the Bright 'n' Breezy, or mailed in the January Bibafax.

The total paid out was £2205 plus an extra payment of £22.50 because two members in the Grand Prix shared the same number of points.

The Prize Fund has been a tremendous success and I am sure next year will see an even bigger Prize Fund.

The PartyGammon.com World Series of Backgammon

**The biggest thing to happen to backgammon in 3000 years...
now airing across Europe on Eurosport 2!**

Programme One - Monday November 6th 22.15 (UK) and 23.15 (CET)

Reportage and semi final coverage of the Nations Cup from the Palm Beach Casino, Cannes. 21 countries are competing including the USA (Gartner, Markowitz, Fogerlund) and defending champions Israel lead by Falafel and favourites Denmark (Holm, Jes Thomsen, Lylloff) fighting for the prestige and added prize money

Programme Two - Monday November 13th 22.15 (UK) and 23.15 (CET)

Coverage of the closing stages of the Nations Cup from Cannes

Programme Three - November 20th 22.15 (UK) and 23.15 (CET)

Coverage of the Nations Cup final

Programme Four - Monday November 27th 22.15 (UK) and 23.15 (CET)

Coverage from the 2nd WSOBG event, the Riviera Cup. A world class field including Maria Krancheva, Falafel, Morten Holm, Peter Heitmuller et al fight for the €50,000 first prize. Reportage and match-play coverage from the 3rd round 3 (last 32)

Programme Five Monday December 4th 22.15 (UK) and 23.15 (CET)

Quarter final action. Match-play coverage from money rounds in the Riviera Cup

Programme Six - Monday December 11th 22.15 (UK) and 23.15 (CET)

Coverage of the 1st semi final of the Riviera Cup

Programme Seven - Monday December 18th 22.15 (UK) and 23.15 (CET)

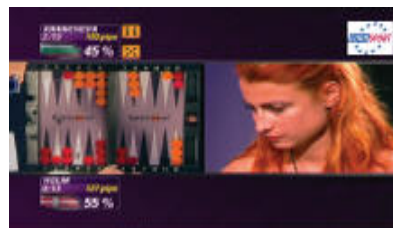
2nd semi final action and reportage from the WORLD SERIES OF BACKGAMMON Riviera Cup

Programme Eight - Monday December 25th 22.15 (UK) and 23.15 (CET)

Coverage of the final of the RIVIERA CUP 2006



Kara Scott and John Clark introduce the show



Maria Krancheva takes on Morten Holm in the WSOBG Riviera Cup (programme 4)

Eurosport 2 is currently available in 37 European countries - please check your local listings for availability or watch out for future scheduling on Eurosport 1 and Eurosport Asia.

for information on future events, online qualification etc lookout for regular announcements at www.WorldSeriesofBackgammon.com

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