

BIBAFAX

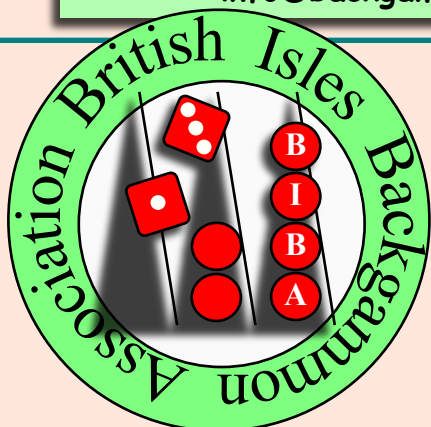
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Dedicated To
Backgammon

3rd
European Backgammon
Doubles
Championships

5th
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d'Enghien-les-Bains

30TH OCT. – 4TH NOV. 2007

See page 7

BACKPACKER BACKGAMMON AT BIBA

Fri 31st Aug, Sat 1st and Sun 2nd Sept 2007

Mike Main (sponsor) took home one of his own trophies from the Backpacker tournament ... But one player took home an astonishing four - out of six events entered!

Read all about it on Page 24



Sander Lylloff of Denmark won the Main Championship flight of the Partouche Gammon Tour's Riviera and Nations Cup Backgammon Festival in Cannes on 22 July taking home €25,000 and claiming the 2007 PGT Ranking List - in fact it was the first Main event Lylloff has won internationally.
Report by Michael Strato



The 25-year-old Danish sensation told GammonLife that although he has won a Super Jackpot in Las Vegas and a Masters event in Paris,



this was his first main Championship victory, "it always feels good to win," Sander told us modestly. "I started out young in Denmark, in the clubs and cafes playing a lot of money games and chouettes." And that was before Snowie, which he only began to utilize a few short years ago... "the program is great because it gives you the answer right away," Sander said.

Lylloff won the Cannes Final defeating another top player on the PGT, Gotz Hildsberg of Germany. Gotz told us on his first break of the match, when Lylloff was ahead 10-3 in the 23-point match, that the cube had gone to 4 in a game he thought he was sure to win but Sander got lucky and turned it around to gammon him and win 8 points. Sander went on to win 23-4. In his victory speech, Sander thanked Eric Guedj and the entire staff and organization behind this great new tour that will continue in 2008.



Sander has come in second in various other events such as the 2005 Pro Am with Mark Teltscher of England and in the main Championship of Partouche Gammon Tour's Lyon Backgammon Open back in May of this year, where he was defeated by Pia Jeppesen, also of Denmark, the previous leader of the PGT Ranking. He also won the 16-country Nations Cup for Denmark here in Cannes this past weekend with partner Morten Holm.

Michael Strato is the Editor-in-Chief of GammonLife; and this article appears here with his permission. More can be seen at: www.gammonlife.com

The Grand Finale for the best 29 players of the Tour : Sept. 6-9, 2007 - Grand Domaine de Divonne-Les-Bains

The **Grand Finale** will be a special competition for €100,000 and there will also be a separate Open tournament which will count as the first tournament of the 2008 **Partouche Gammon Tour** in which players earn ranking points.



'Falafel' vs Pierre Zakia



Babillon vs Kokholm



Cool Tee-shirt

It is fortunate for British players that there are no clashes with Biba events for the PGT's first year, giving you all no excuse not to attend! More info: www.partouchegammon.fr/

See the back page . .

The Gilbertson UK Finals - December 5, 6 & 7, 2007

Sponsored by Paul Gilbertson



This is becoming one of the most popular events in the Biba calendar; and this year it gets even better! Paul is offering £100 prize-money for a new, Beginner's Tournament. Entrants must be non-Biba members, and be genuine beginners. Registration and entry is free, but each entrant must pay £1 for a 1-Day Biba Membership. The format will be (all without the cube): Main, 3-points; Consolation 3-points; 1-pointer. This element will start at 1130 on the Saturday morning. Please do not be late!

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday: Main: 11 point Knockout.

Progressive Consolation: 7 point Knockout with entry from Main 1st Round

Last Chance : Open draw Knockout

Dr. Jakob Garal Invents Gadget to Record Live Backgammon Games

By Michael Strato - GammonLife Editor



Dr. Jakob Garal

Dr. Jakob Garal of the Ukraine, now living in Germany, has come up with a prototype of a backgammon board with optic sensors that can be used in live play to produce a match file for analysis. It can also broadcast the match to an Internet site.

The invention consists of electronic panels that are inserted onto the surface of a backgammon board. They are connected by wires to two electronic consoles (one positioned next to each player) that the players use to punch in their dice rolls and cube actions. These consoles are connected to a laptop computer which plays the moves in a backgammon program on the computer.

The computer can display the game being played on a big screen, or with an Internet connection, can show it through a backgammon interface on a website.

Dr. Garal revealed the board to the public for the first time at the 18th European Backgammon Championships in Velden, Austria on May 20, 2006. GammonLife Editor Michael Strato tested the board in a game with Dr. Garal and all functions appeared to be working properly. However, when further testing was done the

next day between Dr. Garal and John Slattery of Scotland, a few "minor" issues were acknowledged but these, according to Dr. Garal, would be easy to fix.

The board components actually consist of two panels that were custom built to fit the playing surfaces of a real board and a third part that fits onto the bar. For the prototype a Rizzello and Romagnoli tournament-size board was used.

Here are some different views of the board:



Continued on the following page ►

#1 Site of the Worldwide Backgammon Community...

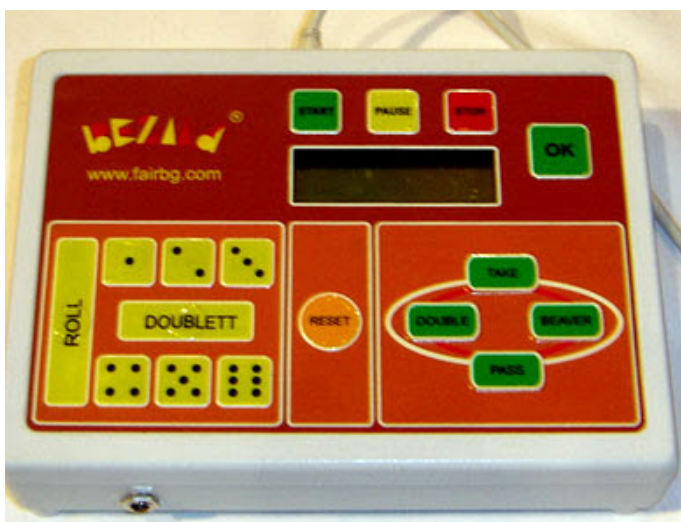
Born to Play

gammonlife.com

...we helped to make the million happen.



There are five optic sensors that run vertically on each triangle of the board and more across the bar. Players set up the checkers in the usual opening position and the sensors detect how many checkers are on each triangle showing them on the computer screen. The player who wins the opening roll punches the numbers to play into the keypad on the console:



The player then makes his move and presses the "OK" button to confirm his move. If a player makes a wrong move an error

sound will be heard, otherwise, the console sends the signal to the computer and the move is shown on the screen. The console also has other functions including the ability to double and beaver.

At the end of the game, a match file is produced and quickly analyzed in GNU or another bot.

With limited funding, Dr. Garal will probably sell each board for about \$1,000 each until the business gets rolling. He would love to see these boards used for every match in every major tournament as it would be a very effective way to compile an international ranking list, as well as to show live matches on the Internet. However, at \$1,000 a board in a 128-player event, that's an initial investment of \$64,000 and way too much for tournament organizers.

There are probably quite a few professional players that would want to buy one of these for their personal use since match recording at live events costs about \$50 an hour; the board would pay for itself after about five tournaments or so.

It is also likely that some tournament organizers will buy two or three of these to record semi-finals and the final of a main event or even to broadcast such matches on the Internet.

Dr. Garal has several other backgammon projects happening, including a 73-page proposal for a new set of backgammon rules and formats for live tournament play called "**Fair Backgammon Tournament Rules**". One of the changes he is proposing is the elimination of the Crawford Rule.

We will have more news from Dr. Garal soon, he definitely has some very interesting and unique ideas for the future of backgammon.

Michael Strato is the Editor-in-Chief of GammonLife; and this article appears here with his permission. More can be seen at: www.gammonlife.com



In Memoriam - Grahame Powell

6 January 1957 - 10 July 2007



Michael Crane

Grahame never took anything seriously; and that included life. He took it by the scruff of its neck, French-kissed it, his tongue deep down its throat, and then he cast it aside and began living it. Thus he started on a binge of drugs, alcohol and, when he was lucky enough to get some, sex! Is it any wonder he died so young? I mean, whose body could take such punishment and survive? Did he care? No way! He not only burnt the candle at both ends, he burnt it in the middle, too.

How serious can you take a guy that has an invisible, 6' rabbit as a pet? Harvey, as he was called, was Grahame's



Harvey

constant companion, and he regularly accompanied him to Biba tournaments. Mind you, Grahame was always careful to smuggle Harvey into his room due to the strict, No Rabbits hotel policy!

I first met Grahame in the late 80s when we were both members of the National Backgammon Players Society (NBPS). The year he won the UK title (it's so long ago now I don't even remember when it was) he was the only player to beat me . . . and he got the title and I got bugger all! When I formed Biba, Grahame was one of the first to 'defect' from the NBPS (even though he was told he'd be barred from the NBPS) and join Biba on 5 March, 1990; and he remained a member until he died. He won the 1991, County Cups tournament; another event where the only one to beat me was him! But I think his greatest win was the 2003, Irish Open. He enjoyed this victory and was most proud of it.

When he was first diagnosed with an inoperable cancer (or as Grahame put it, "an 'orrible" cancer) he rang me and we talked for ages. He told me he was very disappointed to be dying of cancer - it had always been his ambition to die of alcohol poisoning! Mind you, he told me he was going to work on attaining his ambition. When he first went to see the specialist (or #@%& as he so eloquently put it!), he was told he had just seven weeks to live. On his next visit it rose to six months; and on a later visit, 18 months. "I'm going back tomorrow," he told me, "so that I can have three years!"

Sadly, the six month estimate proved the closer of the lot.

But, back to his ambition: Near where he lived there are three pubs down the Portobello Road, and Grahame planned to go in one telling the landlord he only had three months to live; after which he could enjoy a good few "sympathy pints". After three months he'd go to the second pub and tell the landlord he only had three months to live . . . Sadly I don't think he made it to the second pub; but I bet he had a bloody good try. He grudgingly accepted he wasn't going to survive the cancer; but he was pissed off about it, more so because at the time of the telephone conversation he sounded like Marge Simpson; his voice was so high-pitched!



I'll miss Grahame. I'll miss the regular phone calls and the gossip on what and who was going on in London. At least he's proven one thing to me, it's not just the good that die young!

Finally. I do hope he's made adequate provision for Harvey. I'd hate to think the poor soul is left alone and neglected. He loved that rabbit.

Nicky Check

My friend, Mad Dog Grahame

I first met Grahame around 1994. I was new to the game and Grahame quickly showed me all his good qualities, how to play well, but more important how to use backgammon as a way to meet a wide variety of people, have a laugh and drink loads of alcohol. I quickly learnt from him and thank him. Over the years Grahame continued to come to tournaments

with me, and I was amazed how quickly he took to new people, making friends. I fondly remember the days back at the George in Solihull where the 'Ealing' crew would be the first at dinner and the last to leave, all drunk, then Grahame would start on the whiskey chasers.

He was a great ambassador for the game - running for a long time the Ealing Backgammon Club on Sundays with his 8-man knockout tournaments. Grahame made everyone welcome. A lot of people passed through Ealing in those days.

Grahame faced his illness with a lot of strength and dignity, fighting it to the end. I will miss him, going to tournaments with him, shouting and singing in my car, insulting everyone he could. The sad thing was, he was more together in the last year than ever since I first knew him.

Take care Mad Dog

Chiva K. Tafazzoli

I sadly never had the opportunity to meet Grahame personally, but I sure would have liked to be around such a personality. It is with deep regret and sorrow that I learned about him entering his next life and I wish him to do longer and better there... Any loss of a player is a loss for the backgammon community. My sincere condolences to his family and friends. May he rest in peace now since he was restless in life.

Jason Champion

I was very sad to hear of Grahame's passing, in a game full of characters he truly was a one of a kind. Always a tough opponent and great fun to share



a drink with. Will miss you Grahame.

Marco Fornasir

I'm very sorry for that. I didn't know Grahame personally but I'm sorry when a Backgammon Player pass away. Please, give to the family my condolences.

Ric Gerace

The world is a lesser place when it loses one of its mad rabbit lovers. Sorry for your loss, Michael. Sounds like a great funeral.

Nigel Merrigan

I have fond memories of Grahame and his colourful character. The first of which, goes way back to 1990 at a Biba event held at the George Hotel (what a great venue that was). I was playing a certain Miss Bett. Grahame got wind of it and said to me 'If you get beat I am going to spread the news to everyone'. A few rolls later I found myself 8-0 down. The pressure was on. Luckily I got out of jail. Over the years we struck up a friendship that can only be described as camaraderie whenever we met. There were never tears, only laughter. Making you laugh was his personal signature on life and this is how I will remember Grahame most of all. I'll miss the tears of laughter.

Christy Confrey ... and on behalf of: Andy Towers, Mike Dunz, Mark Donaldson + many many more of Grahame's old travelling mates.

I got a link to this site and read the fine comments from some of your members about our mutual friend Grahame Powell who recently passed away.

Although I did enter the British Backgammon championships with Grahame sometime in the mid eighties, when we shared a flat together in London, it was not through backgammon that I met him. I met him about 1980 in Greece and from then until about 1988 we were a group who used to spend our summers there. Months on end pissed as farts until we couldn't take it anymore. Then go home around November and dry out for a few months. After that it was back to the "rock" as we referred to the island of Ios, where we spent most of our time. We did play a lot of backgammon there, for example during a period in about 1986 myself and Grahame rented a house together. We took ourselves down to the square every morning where we'd meet up with others for "breakfast"... breakfast consisted of a

backgammon session during which we went through the cocktail list... we usually ended up going through it again backwards after doing it from the beginning. Anyway, some of us have always kept in touch, including Grahame. Although anyone who has ever got a handwritten letter from Grahame will understand how difficult that was :-). The appearance of email made that much easier and just last year we were on our way to having a 25 year anniversary get together, even though it would've been 26 years :-). Because of commitments we couldn't all get together at the same time so nothing became of it.

Four of us booked tickets last month to come and see Grahame next month, August, but we are too late as you know. None of us realised really how bad he was. Although it seems he was fine and then suddenly it all went very quick. Anyway, we have decided to do it anyway. We will be in London, we're coming from Sweden, Germany and Scotland, on the 24th of August until the 27th. We'll meet up with some of Grahame's friends there who we're in contact with and have a little remembrance ceremony for him and celebrate his life... then go on a bender where I imagine we'll all be telling stories of Grahame's escapades... of which there are many :-). Of course everyone who wants to be there is very welcome. Just email me on christy.confrey@comhem.se

He's going to be missed.

Rosey Bensley (and Slatts)

First of all I would like to say a few words to Grahame from Slatts "If ya kinny ya kenny ya ken!". The two of them spent many an hour at my house playing backgammon, saying stupid things to each other, smoking a lot, reminiscing about music, telling jokes and generally being loud and annoying me!! Slatts is in Thailand and cannot be at the funeral but I am sure he will be there in spirit.

I will remember Grahame most fondly for the time we spent in Solihull when playing BG at the George. We went out and had lunch together and consoled each other over the fact that we both had bad ankles, told each other stories about our previous lives and I do believe Grahame managed not to swear once! You see he was just a sweetie at heart! RIP Grahame.

Andy Towers

I first met Grahame on his beloved island, Ios in the summer of 1984 or '85. He was always known to his friends from the Ios days as 'backgammon' - Grahame always

had his board with him. I had some long backgammon sessions with him and if you were lucky he might do a snake dance for you! Slowly the Ios crowd broke up after seeing each other for 8 or 9 summers on the island. I stayed in contact with Grahame and came once or twice to London every year to visit him. He was very sharp witted, had a vast knowledge of music, and could play backgammon at the highest level when he put his mind to it. May he rest in peace.

Liz Perry

On behalf of all of the Irish players, I'd like to express our sorrow on the untimely death of the 2003 Irish Backgammon Champion, Grahame Powell. He was always welcome here and always made us feel welcome when we came to the UK.

Mike Dunz (Mad-Mike)

I first met Grahame in 1982 on "his" beloved island Ios, Greece! We were a big group of friends (such they are: Animal-Andy, Metaxa-Mark, Tight-Tony, Christy Confrey, Shakin' Steve, Pisshead-Paul, Jenny, Dirty-Ratty, Rubber-John, Scottie and many more). Ever since we were friends!

I love to remember all those backgammon games with him, and the great time we spent together. In the beginning he always liked to play me for money! I explained to him, that I don't play friends for money. Then he liked to play me for breakfast and drinks. Useless to say, that I mostly won. Then, later on, he had a lot of practise and became better and better. I can't think when I won the last time against him! Just had no chance!

Many times he sent me letters and music-tapes (especially Blues) over to Germany! Grahame, my old friend, I miss you and will always remember you! May you rest in peace. All the best, wherever you are now!

And finally, on the day of his 'funeral': It was a good turnout. No one wore a black tie and no one brought flowers - just as he wanted! We all dressed in bright colours and the sun shone down on us all despite the weather forecast to the opposite.

It was a great celebration, the highlight being the final song - it was *The Ying Tong Song*, by The Goons! You can



hear it via the Biba web site if you're not familiar with it. What a laugh! Poor Gill, (Grahame's sister) had to get up when it finished to thank us all for coming - but, the Ying Tong Song is never-ending; just when you think it's over, it restarts . . . several times! Poor Gill was up and down like a yo-yo. ☆

During the celebration I stood up and said a few words, and then I recited a poem I'd written to warn people that Grahame intended to provide constant reminders that he was still 'around'. I mentioned it was similar to the poem from *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, unfortunately some thought it was *the* poem! With apologies to W H Auden, here's my (less mawkish/sentimental) version above.

Here's one last reminder of the sort of character that Grahame was. When he was going through his varicose veins period he told me that he was embarrassed to have to wear support stockings.

I am not dead, I am still here.
Just look around, I'm always near.

I am the 62 off the bar.
I am the scratch on your new car.

I am the soup dripped on your tie.
I am the eyelash in your eye.

I am the spot upon your bum.
I am the wax in your eardrum.

I am the pebble in your shoe.
I am the mozzie biting you.

I am the bald patch on your head.
I am the fluff beneath your bed.

I am your glass of flat champagne.
I am your picnic spoilt by rain.

I am the kid with snotty nose
That sneezes on your nice clean clothes.

I am the song stuck in your head.
Remember me, .. and I'm not dead.

When all these things start to appear.
Just say out loud, "Grahame's near!"

Michael Crane July 2007 ©

"Mind you, Michael," he said, "I am really enjoying wearing the suspender belt!" He added, "If I can get me pair of fishnet support stockings I'd be a very happy man!" ☆

Cheers, Grahame. You were one of a kind - which is a good thing, for the world could never have coped with two of you.

Gill has since informed me that there has been over £700 collected in total. Next year I have plans for a memorial at the new, **Paramount English Open**, details will be in a future Bibafax.





3rd European Backgammon Doubles Championships

5th French Open d' Enghien-les-Bains

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Competition 2007 No2. 8801-06 Answers

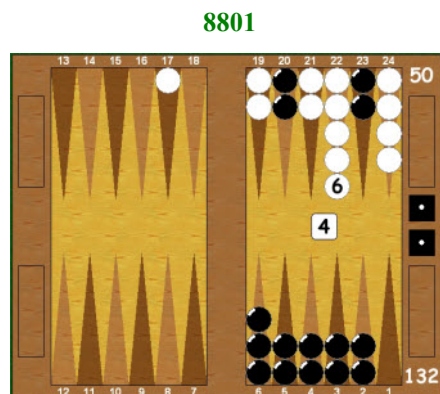
By Michael Crane

Before we get to the six problems, let's have a reminder of what's required from our silicone friend, Snowie: This is a great set of positions that demonstrate many of the complex elements of doubling. Before looking at the specifics let's remind ourselves of the basics. There are five fundamental things to consider when doubling/taking:

- Race – who is winning on the pip-count?
- Assets – who has the better static elements, e.g. number of home-board points, anchors etc?
- Threat – does the doubler have significant threats which if carried out would lose his market?
- Match Score – how does the match score influence the cube actions? Opponent – how will the opponent react? We are all (except myself) human so what is a double/take to one person is a no double/pass to another!

If you are ahead in two of the first three criteria you should at least be considering doubling.

In these positions we will ignore the fifth factor and assume perfect play. The problem with the above is that it is only a guide. To do the job properly we must ally technique with knowledge which brings into play the fundamental skill of backgammon – pattern recognition. You can't always derive the correct answers to doubling decisions from first principles – you have to use your store of previous similar positions to help you.



11 Point match
Black 1 White 1
Cube action

MC: Our first three entrants think this

isn't a redouble/take. One even draws upon his extensive library for his answer. Rumour has it that Bob has several books at home, many of which he has yet to colour in!

Bob Young: No Redouble/Take

Given that I only have twelve seconds in a match without eating into my reserve, the following thought process luckily only took eleven seconds. My first thought was that this looked very similar to a position described in Bill Robertie's *Advanced Backgammon, Vol 1, Positional Play No 198*, which analysed that the position was Double, Take. However, there are some serious differences, Black's hitting chances are less, and no second blot exposed yet, the take is even more certain. The maths are a little less quick to do, and fraught with possible analysis errors, but here goes. With no cube used, the 24 hits are well on the way to winning the game, 48 points, the remaining 12 misses will need to be played out to completion by White with no access to the cube, and it is realistic to expect Black to turn perhaps a quarter of these into late hits and wins, so another 6 points for Black. The losses are perhaps in the order of 35% gammon chances, so the nine games will generate perhaps 24 points, netting out for Black of $48+6-24=+30$.

Using the cube, 24 hits are worth 96 points, the remaining 12 misses with White now owning the cube will have a choice of playing on for the gammon or cubing Black out. If Black drops, White wins 48 points, giving Black a net score of +48 ($96-48$), if White plays on, assuming 35% gammons, White will win 64 points ($8 \text{ games} \times 4 \text{ points} + 4 \text{ games} \times 8 \text{ points}$) assuming Black never gets to make the three late hits, as White will use the cube when risk and reward necessitates it i.e. White could leave a shot on the next roll. So Black's worst score would be $96-64=32$ points.

The end result is that it is almost the same, +30 vs +32 for Black, but as it is so close, and the assumptions minimise the winning chances of White after he is hit, the reality being somewhat higher than I have assessed, the best advice I can fall back on is, "Owning the cube, cube the opponent out after the hit, not before", the retaining of the cube could be vital for

post non-hitting matches, so No Double. All within twelve seconds, flawed thinking is a wonderful thing, and so much more enjoyable when I could have probably guessed my conclusion without all that head hurting thinking!!

MC: I hope Bob's saved a few words for the remaining five problems – I'd hate to think he's used them all up in one go! Brian Lever has read the same book . . . or so he thinks!

Brian Lever: No Redouble/Take

This is a position which might lend itself to the case analysis type of solution, popularised I believe by Bill Robertie – apologies if in fact it was someone else. $2/3^{\text{rd}}$ rolls hit and $1/3^{\text{rd}}$ miss (obviously).

The theory goes like this: in 36 games, if Black redoubles to 4 and hits, he won't win every game – White holds the cube and might turn things around. But Black will win some gammons, which may cancel out white's wins. So say he wins 96 points. In the 12 games he misses, White is likely to be able to redouble out, and so win 48 (cube of course now on 4) points – net result, 48 points to Black

If Black doesn't double, his 24 hits mean he can double white out on almost any sequence; there are a couple of return jokers white might have – eg double 1s followed by a six, or even 6-1 on the first shake, but black is going to net at least, 48 points, allowing for a few gammons/white fluky wins. If he misses, however, there's still life in the game. He holds the cube and white's awkward structure may generate extra shots. I'd split these 12 games equally. Net result – 48 points again. Dead heat between doubling and not.

I've got to make a decision, and as I feel I was generous to Black in giving him a net 48 points for doubling, I would choose to hold on to the cube, for that extra life if I miss. Don't think the match score yet comes into it.

Rodney Lighton: No Redouble/Take

Twenty-four hits, if I've counted correctly, but what happens if Black misses? I have a vision (nightmare) of seeing an 8 cube coming back. I think it's correct to double after the hit (if it comes).



MC: Rodney wants to hold back and double after the hit – but the decision not to redouble is incorrect. Our next entrant gets the redouble part correct ... but not the reaction to it.

Cedric Lytton: Redouble/Pass

Black hits with 24 rolls, if he misses White's board is near to collapse and he is in danger of leaving more blots and even losing the gammon. With some spares on his 4- and 6- points he would have had an easy take. No rolls mess Black up; even with 55, 44, 54 he can simply clear the Golden anchor and wait.

MC: According to Snowie, White already has "a trivial take." The remaining two entrants are spot on:

Peter Christmas: Redouble/Take

Holding the 2- and 5-points is one of the weakest back games so Black has got a result getting a double shot before a checker is off and it is almost a last roll problem. If Black only had two direct numbers, with 20 shots he wouldn't have a redouble but with the extra 21 and 51 it brings it up to 24/36 exactly two thirds and clearly puts him into the double window. White needs at least 25% chances to take and the 12/36 misses must give him more than this. In a cross section of 36 games dropping loses 72 points, if he takes and loses the 24 games he is hit, he may escape a couple of times but this would be evened out from a couple of gammon losses, he would be 96 points down. (24x4) So he needs to win nine of the games he is not hit to break even but I think he can do better than that as apart from getting 8 points for any gammons he can turn the cube as soon as he feels the gammon chances are fading for an easy cash.

MC: Good reasoning, Peter. All you need now is a few more full-stops and we'd be able to make more sense of it! ☺

Richard Biddle: Redouble/Take

Black has 24 hitting shots next roll, all market losers. So Black must double here. But can White easily take as even though 12 rolls for Black do not hit, White will have difficulty playing the next roll without leaving a shot if not hit first time. For this reason, my first reaction is that it is a drop but let's consider the maths. The event of Black rolling and failing to hit represents 33% win equity for White. We need to subtract from this, the times that White will continue to leave a shot and the additional hitting chances for Black. A calculation shows

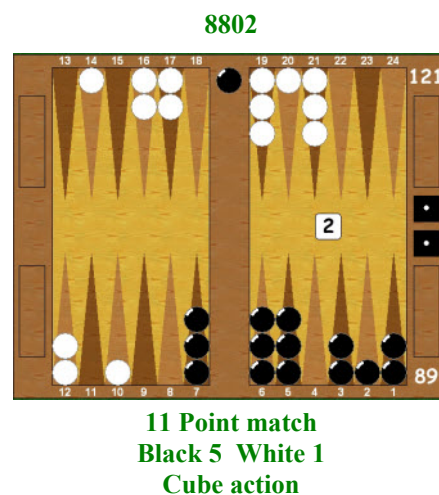
that there are actually only approx 10 rolls that leave a shot for White. Let's assume he will be hit two thirds of the time so this represents approx a parlay of just over 3/36. This takes us down to approx 25% White winning equity, so actually this is a borderline take for White. The profit being the ownership of the cube. Easier to make this decision, on holiday with a glass of wine and time to calculate. In a match, I would get this wrong but here I say correct decision redouble, take.

MC: Yes, it is a borderline take, Richard; and Snowie explains ...

Snowie: Redouble/Take

Black is ahead in two of three elements, assets and threat and the position is very volatile. Black has twenty-four hitting numbers so he should be considering redoubling as nearly all hits will lose his market. Sometimes twenty-four numbers are not enough and it is correct to first hit and then double but here there are two additional factors in his favour: white's structure is very poor and crucially on most of his misses black can accept the white's redouble to eight.

The double is quite close but correct and of course white has a trivial take. He will easily win 25% of the games and quite a lot of them will be gammons.



MC: OK, OK, this wasn't the best one to choose. Everyone got it correct! Some used more words than others, so I have produced them in descending order, having nothing better to do! ☺

Bob Young: No Double/Take

Twenty-one non-hitting rolls coupled with no chance of surviving if making it to the bar-point, means Black has to roll and try and use his racing lead after he has entered.

Cedric Lytton: No Double/Take

Trivial; Black isn't even favourite to hit, and on his misses White, who is favourite to cover his 5-point and complete the prime, has a cube of his own which (like 8604 last time) looks like a pass.

Rodney Lighton: No Double/Take

Black has a good race lead and the threat of hitting on the 5-point. There is plenty of volatility here and White is in some danger of losing a gammon. However, I think that if Black doesn't throw a five then there is too much difficulty in getting the last checker round.

Brian Lever: No Double/Take

I can deal with this more briefly. Black isn't anything like favourite to hit – and he may be hit back if he does. If he doesn't hit, White is a heavy favourite to make the 5-point, and has outfield control. Black does have a stronger board and a healthy race lead – but he also has a blot in board and an open 4-point. With a sizeable deficit in the match, as White I'd be please to see the cube coming my way. True, if things go badly I could lose a gammon, but the most likely sequence is that I end up with my 5-point, almost equal board strength and threatening a lone Black blot. No double, easy take

Richard Biddle: No Double/Take

Last time all the competition answers were doubles, so I assumed we would have the same case here, but I am really struggling to see how this could be a double. Yes, we, as Black, are ahead in the race; have a four and a half point board attacking a blot in White's two and a half point home board. Yes, it looks quite gammonish, but do we really want to give the cube away at 5-1 up. I doubt I would in a match. I might wait a roll as we only have 15 hitting shots and only 5 that hit and cover. Not enough for me to double. I'll wait for the gammon or to cash in once I have hit. As White here I would take.

Peter Christmas: No Double/Take

Black has four dancing numbers and 15 hitting numbers but of those only five hit and cover the 2-point with (joker) double-five maybe bringing in some gammons but the majority of rolls are going to leave Black on the 1-, 2- or 3-points with White a favourite to cover his 5-point blot, or using it to point on Black. Even when Black is able to jump out with all the White checkers to clear he is a big favourite to be knocked back again. The most common outcome maybe a reverse of problem 8803 with Black jumping out



to the bar with a closed board and his opponent thinking about the cube so definitely no double/take.

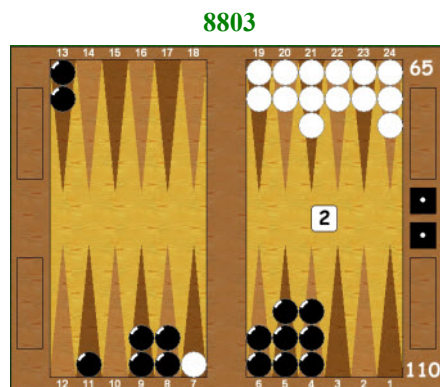
MC: And, as the explanations come to a close, Snowie has the final word. Now please excuse me as I hide my head in shame ☹

Snowie: No Double/Take

Here Black is well ahead in the race and a hit followed by a fan will certainly lose his market but he is not favourite to hit (fifteen numbers of which only 55 is crushing). He has the better home-board but all White's men are in play and if Black doesn't hit he may soon find himself facing a prime and the cube.

The final point is the score. Leading 5-1, if Black doubles and doesn't hit, that cube will be coming back very quickly indeed.

These factors combine to make doubling a blunder and it is only justified if White were to pass (a mega-blunder). The fact that Black is not favourite to hit the blot should quickly lead you to the conclusion that he must wait. If he gets lucky and hits and covers he can play on for the gammon. In other variations he will be better off if the cube is still in the middle.



8803
11 Point match
Black 1 White 5
Cube action

MC: The first two entrants have opposing views . . . and neither of them gets it completely correct.

Cedric Lytton: Double/Pass

Only 55 and 53 don't hit, and Black has excellent chances of completing a deadly prime and watching White's board collapse. White has a few chances of getting a fly-shot with a 7 (at most 17%) or if Black can't hit and White escapes and wins the race (8% x 50%); total 21%, not enough.

MC: Snowie admits that the take is trivial, but it is a take; also, Snowie rates White's game winning chances higher than 21%, calculating instead, 30.7%. Peter agrees it's a take, but not a double!

Peter Christmas: No Double/Take

On the up side for Black 33/36 rolls hit and at 1-5 down should lean towards an early double but with a closed board and down in the race I think it is a gamble at least one roll too early. The main problem is Black may have to break one of three points to hit and could leave three blots open which will give White a fair few indirect shots for a few rolls to come unless Black can form some kind of prime. Four rolls complete the 6-point prime immediately and would be market losers but if Black can force White to break his closed board he can double with little worry of a gammon loss and going 1-9 behind.

MC: It is because of the market losers that Black has to double. The remaining entrants all agree

Richard Biddle: Double/Take

Black is way behind in the race but has got huge shot equity. Only 3 shots fail to hit but Black only has a 3-point board and any return hit spells certain disaster. I think you have to consider what your opponent might do. A lesser opponent might drop seeing all the shots and failing to see the bigger picture of his closed-out home board. That is certainly the correct time to double for Black to make back some points in this match. What would a better opponent do? They would see the closed board, they would see the pip count and they would see only a three point board to enter against. They would also know there is value in the cube, to put them also beyond reach in this match.

MC: Good to see that Richard is using Snowie's 'fifth factor'.

Bob Young: Double/Take

Only 34 hitting rolls for Black!, but many indirect shots from the bar for White, along with 27 re-entry rolls, and Black's incomplete prime, as well as his huge racing lead should present White with enough opportunities to race home whenever Black doesn't roll precisely.

Brian Lever: Double/Take

... and again I'd be wary of cubing here, but this time Black's the one with the match deficit and the incentive to rack up some more points. White's board is at its most imposing, but I hit with almost eve-

rything and can probably arrange my checkers so as to reduce return hits to single digits; plus there are a few entry numbers which break up his happy home. I do have concerns about the position of my spares on the 4- & 5-points but hopefully they can be used to attack. White's board and racing lead give him a take – double take

Rodney Lighton: Double/Take

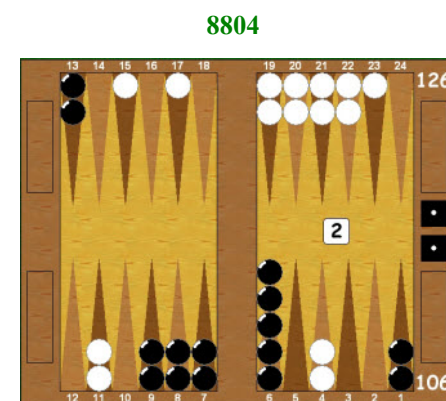
Black will hit White almost all the time here (and when there is no hit Black may get a second chance). The question is can Black contain the last checker after the hit? I think the blockade is good enough (and the match score favours slightly loose doubles). The take looks OK, White will escape some of the time and the gammon danger is virtually zero.

MC: The gammon risk is a bit higher than zero, it is 3.4%; but I see what Rodney is saying.

Snowie: Double/Take

A classic match-play situation. For money Black should hold the cube and double next turn if things go well. White leads in two of the three criteria (race and assets) and Black's threats are not strong enough to make this a double.

However, trailing 1-5 it is a different matter and Black doesn't want to lose his market so he is justified in doubling now, although it is close. White's take is trivial. He will easily win 25% of the games and when he gets lucky (e.g. Black hits with 51, 13/7*, and then White return hits with 25 from the bar) he will win some gammons.



8804
11 Point match
Black 4 White 1
Cube action

MC: This time I am starting with Snowie followed by the only entrant to agree with its "technical perspective" – which is Cedric.



Snowie: Double/Take

This type of position can (and must) be learnt because it occurs so often. Kit Woolsey's "The Backgammon Encyclopaedia – Volume 1" is an excellent reference manual and covers this type of position in depth.

There are a number of factors involved in determining the correct cube action. These are the race, the number of landing points that Black has for his men on his mid-point and any gaps in his board (in this position Black would like to make his 5-point).

It is also the type of position the leader in a match wants – non-gammonish and non-volatile. His doubling decision may well be influenced by the opponent factor.

From a technical perspective this is a correct double (but only just) and an easy take.

Cedric Lytton: Double/Take

Eleven rolls clear the mid-point and lose the market, but some rolls - 61, 62, 63, 42, 22 - break the outer board and give White better chances of a shot: and White has plenty of timing. The double is close and the take is easy.

MC: Now we'll here from everyone else as to why it isn't a double.

Rodney Lighton: No Double/Take

Black might lose the market if the mid-point is cleared safely, but not by much with the 5-point still to be made. Black's position is too inflexible for my liking.

MC: I'd have liked to know why it is a take for White. Richard gives his reason.

Richard Biddle: No Double/Take

I can't see a double here even though the racing lead is approx 15%. This would normally be enough for a double, drop, but White has shot equity from the points on the 11- and 5-points. White also has a well built four point prime in his home board. At 4-1 up I would be prepared to wait a roll first to clear the mid-point first, so would hold off doubling. Conversely, because of the above, I would definitely take as White.

Bob Young: No Double/Take

Black is unlikely to get home without leaving a shot, only ten rolls clear the mid-point safely, White has both contact and racing chances of his own, neither enough alone, but sufficient together to justify the take. White's home board

makes the hit a win, and Black's flexibility is hindered by the high stack on the 6-point, as well as two checkers with nowhere to go 'til bearoff on the 1-point.

MC: Once again the word, 'inflexibility' is used.

Peter Christmas: No Double/Take

I have to say my guiding light on this one was Problem 213 in Bill Robertie's *Advanced Backgammon*, a benchmark in holding games I try to keep memorised. He estimates clearing the 6-, 7-, and 8-point against the 5-point gives 23% chance of leaving a shot and about 8% chance you will be hit. Add about 2% chance of a shot for each extra point to clear and being about 20% down in the race equates to around 15% to 18% chance of winning the race for the trailer. With White sitting back on the 4-point and the 5-point being open it gives Black extra problems and the mid-point only has 64 or 65 to clear it safely and after either White should still have a narrow take. Only the three biggest doubles would lose Black his market and as Bill says three or four market losers don't warrant a double.

MC: Perhaps Peter is reading the wrong book this time? He should have read Kit Woolsey's "The Backgammon Encyclopaedia – Volume 1" instead!

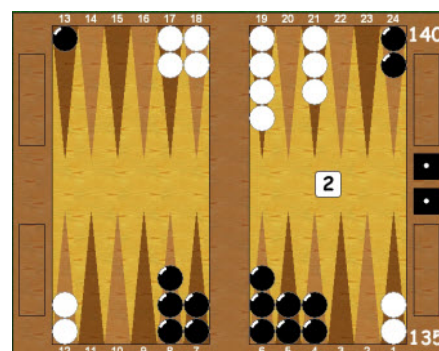
Brian Lever: No Double/Take

I like this deceptive position; awkward structure plus stripped points and early made 1-point against well organised fluent structure – beauty and the beast. Beast has probably 10 market losers (5 doubles plus 54, 64 and 65); everything else is neutral or even weakening. His big plusses are the racing lead, the outside landing points, the fact that he has escaped both back men and the recurring joker possibility. And White may need to leave the surrogate mid-point soon. Actually, that's quite a lot. But there's a very good chance one of the landing points will disappear in a turn or two and most of the upcoming rolls don't give his position the required makeover (would love to see 42). White's decision is easy take now, probably even easier one later. No double this roll, perhaps when White is about to lose his outside point. [PS David, my son (aged 9) has just expressed surprise at your swearing in the note to this competition – "no bloody cheating" – and now wants to come to a tournament to hear it in person!]

MC: Reading the first part of Brian's analysis one could surmise he's going to

double – and then he talks himself out of it. Brian, regarding the swearing: Now that Ernie Pick has cornered the market in swearing there's little or none at Biba tournaments seeing as he has moved to Spain!

8805



11 Point match
Black 2 White 7
Cube action

MC: A couple can't agree here . . .

Brian Lever: Double/Pass

Black has already formed his prime and while White might do likewise, it'll take very lucky rolling to achieve it. In his favour is the outfield control he's likely to have after Black's next roll (Black will move the blot on the mid-point if he can) which will allow him to spread his own mid-point checkers, and the possibility of a double 1 or 2, or even 62 to move up/escape. But his main option will probably be to hit Black checkers as they attempt their own escape, and a return hit may be fatal. Add to that the very real desire to preserve a match lead and the equally real whiff of gammon in the air; better to give up - double/pass

MC: Brian is correct about the gammons, 20.8%, but it is still a Take, albeit a 'skinny' one, as we shall learn later.

Bob Young: No Double/Take

My Great Grandmother used to say, never part with the cube in Prime vs Prime situations, and although she never played backgammon, she knew a lot of things about positions like this one. Her thinking was a bit flawed though, it could have been all that worrying about where my Great Granddad used to go when he said he was just popping out to check the combine harvester, but of course with the cube in the middle originally, Black is not really parting with it, because White already had access to it anyway. Now I think about it, there were a lot of sayings that my Great Grandmother never really



understood, the one like "It's an ill wind that becomes a tornado", and "Always leave the meal table wishing you had a bigger plate". Strange lot in Hampshire. Anyway, back to the plot... The game is still very volatile, many ways for Black's position to go pear-shaped, big non-working doubles ruining his timing, never escaping his rear checkers, White making a perfect prime of his own, all suggest no cube use yet.

MC: Bob's reminisces remind me of my old Grandma, she always said, "You can lead a whore to culture but you can't make her think!" Or was that Dorothy Parker?

Cedric Lytton: Double/Take

Black has 20 spare pips (about 2½ rolls) to avoid breaking his prime while waiting for a 4, and White needs a 2, then a 6, twice. White might make his 9-point, 5-point or 3-point and get a prime of his own, which gives him a close take, particularly since a gammon (which often results from a prime vs prime battle) would give him the match.

MC: Cedric goes for the close take . . .

Peter Christmas: Double/Take

A major factor for Black is being 2-7 down he needs to score some points and this looks like an opportunity as he should be able to get his blot safe and split his back men next roll. This should give Black enough time and spares to maintain or improve his 5-point prime while he tries to establish an advance anchor or escape one of his runners. White's best chances lie in attacking the runners and moving up his own back anchor or completing his broken prime and if the *status quo* is maintained he may have slightly better timing, all of which is enough for a take.

MC ... and now Peter cites his favourite rock band to justify the take!

Richard Biddle: Double/Take

Black has a great five point prime, a loose man on the mid-point for timing and is looking good to escape White's broken prime provided a four is thrown in the near future. Black may also suspect that many opponents, good and bad, would drop this due to the score line and not wanting to give away too many points. So for these reasons, definitely a double. Now do we take this at 7-2 up? It is not an easy take as we have been trapped behind a five point prime built on solid foundations. But there is still plenty of

play left and this could still turn out to be a prime vs prime battle. It could then be anyone's game and this is when you want to have ownership of the cube. The next cube for White would be to cash in so cube ownership is worth it.

MC: Nicely argued for the take. Owning the cube could prove to be very advantageous.

Rodney Lighton: Double/Take

Black has a better blockade, a race lead and the threat to escape a back checker. This could go horribly wrong if Black doesn't throw a four soon. However, the match score favours a double and White could get gammoned here. I would take as White, the anchor protects against gammons and the timing battle could go in White's favour.

MC: Rodney is using his time to take. Let's get the low-down from the expert.

Snowie: Double/Take

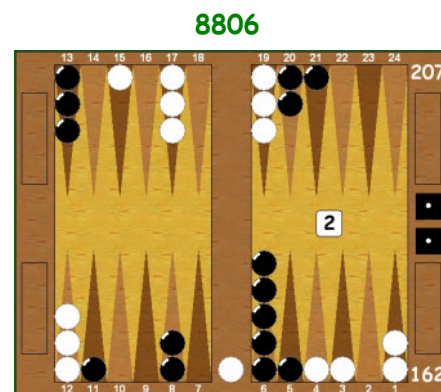
Here the race is virtually level, Black the edge in assets and threats (his main threats being to escape his back men or extend his prime). White's position is sound but the spares in his home board are poorly distributed. Having said that he still has the potential to make a full prime and so he is still in the game. He can also escape his back men (although that will take some doing).

This is where pattern recognition comes in; good players will have seen this type of position before and will have a feel for the correct cube actions. It would be very difficult to 'calculate' the right answer here.

For money this is a good double and an easy take. At this match score it is much closer as White's redoubles will be severely limited by the score (he will only redouble when he is a virtually certain winner). However, he can use all four points that a doubled gammon would give him. This factor lets him take the double but it is the skinniest of takes and he could not be criticised for passing (if Black's back men were split (i.e. on the 24-point and 23-point) then White would have a pass.

MC: So Brian can't be criticised for passing – but he can get fewer points, I'm afraid.

Let's move on to our final position and then we can see just what our entrants have achieved.



11 Point match
Black 5 White 1
Cube action

MC: Our first two agree . . .

Cedric Lytton: Double/Pass

Black has 1s, 3s, 6s to make his Golden Point, and can hit a second, even a third man with everything. White has a chance of getting a reasonably-timed 1-3 or 1-4 backgame, but most of the time he'll have 5 or 6 men back on his ace-point and be losing a lot of gammons to be 10-away, 2-away (about 7% MWE).

Brian Lever: Double/Pass

This is a scary take if it is one at all. Every Black roll either hits a 2nd checker, makes an inside point or does both. Black can attack freely, with the security of his anchor. White has chances if he anchors on the 3- or 4-point and still has the 1-point if all else fails. Even so, I'd pass what is a sure double

MC: The problem lies with Black's market losers; he doesn't want to start a successful blitz and then be too good to double. White can certainly take here, especially since he occupies the 1-point. Our next two also agree . . .

Rodney Lighton: No Double/Take

Black has plenty of shots here and some chance of a successful blitz, but a double looks premature to me. White gets two anchors in this position much of the time, which usually means no double.

Bob Young: No Double/Take

Black is unlikely to severely worry White whatever he rolls. Black has to cover his blot, and White has two slotted points for making a forward anchor. This game has a long way to go and either can win going forward, or in White's case, the possibility of playing with six men back, with an anchor already established on the base line.



MC: Again, Black needs to double this before he's too good. Our final pairing get it right.

Peter Christmas: Double/Take

Leading 5-1 you want to be cautious about giving away the cube too early and having made no home board points and three men back it is early days. But with so many White blots around and one on the bar most of Black's rolls play very well and the blitz is really on big time with a lot of hit and covers. Obviously White won't do worse than a 1-point game and will have chances to establish a second anchor and a reasonable back game. At 1-5 down White should get chances and could help turn the match around and although he could end up with a stack on the 1-point he should be able to spring enough to avoid many gammons with chances to win till the end. Double/Take for me but should I be worried about the Richard Biddle factor that one of the problems at least should be a drop, I hope not.

MC: The Richard Biddle Factor? Have we coined a new Backgammon Glossary entry? ☺

Richard Biddle: Double/Take

This is wide open, so I can say straight away it is a double, take. Black is looking to double and win the gammon. White sees himself still very much in the game, so would be a fool to drop, also, welcoming ownership of the cube.

MC: Straight to the point and no mess-

ing! What have you done with the real Richard Biddle?

Snowie: Double/Take

This is very difficult if you haven't come across this type of position before. Black leads in the race and the assets are approximately equal. Black has some threats but they are not that powerful. White will very likely establish a second anchor and the game will be very long and complex.

On the plus side Black's doubles all play well and when he does mount a successful blitz attack he will win a lot of gammons. For White, he is in the game until the end as he has the ace-point anchor and he could yet win by going forwards.

The score is a factor but not a big one as both sides can use four or more points. The position is volatile so Black should double in case he loses his market but White has a very straightforward take.

A good set of problems and an excellent work-out for my neural nets.

MC: So, here we are again, at the end and this time it's Richard that comes out on top with a near perfect score. One more to go and we'll have this season's competition drawn to a close. The final positions are on page 22.

So, who'll prevail in the end? It's very close between Richard and Peter; but can they hold back the threat of those

below them storming through? Check out Bibafax 92 to see who wins!

	Action	Score
8801	Double/Take	10
	No Double	7
	Double/Pass	3
8802	No Double	10
8803	Double/Take	10
	No Double	7
	Double/Pass	3
8804	Double/Take	10
	No Double	7
8805	Double/Take	10
	No Double	7
	Double/Pass	3
8806	Double/Take	10
	No Double	7
	Double/Pass	3

Name	Pts	Pts	Total
Richard Biddle	47	57	104
Peter Christmas	49	54	103
Rodney Lighton	45	51	96
Brian Lever	51	40	91
Bob Young	41	48	89
Cedric Lytton	30	32	62

Name	8801	8802	8803	8804	8805	8806	Tot
Richard Biddle	Double/Take	No Double	Double/Take	No Double	Double/Take	Double/Take	57
Peter Christmas	Double/Take	No Double	No Double	No Double	Double/Take	Double/Take	54
Rodney Lighton	No Double	No Double	Double/Take	No Double	Double/Take	No Double	51
Bob Young	No Double	No Double	Double/Take	No Double	No Double	No Double	48
Brian Lever	No Double	No Double	Double/Take	No Double	Double/Pass	Double/Pass	40
Cedric Lytton	Double/Pass	No Double	Double/Pass	Double/Take	Double/Pass	Double/Pass	32

Ask The Ruleinator



Dear Ruleinator, what is the highest theoretical backgammon score? I mean in one game, with no doubling, just with good play and good luck by the winner and very bad luck by the loser? My record is 150.
Yours, Petre Pointre.

Dear Petre, methinks you are not

playing backgammon as we know it! From the score you've given I imagine it is based upon the number of checkers left on the board by your opponent after you've taken all of yours off. This isn't the way modern backgammon games are scored . . . and I am not even sure where such a scoring system is used! Modern backgammon scoring is very simple (and worldwide): 1 point for bearing off your checkers before your opponent bears his off. 2 points (called a gammon) if he has failed to

take any off but has none in your home board or on the bar. 3 points (called a backgammon) if he has failed to take any off and has at least one checker either on the bar or in your home board.

So, the 'correct' answer is: 3 points is the most a player can score without the use of the cube in a single game. If the cube is used then the single, gammon or backgammon are multiplied by the cube value.

Biba is pleased to announce a change of venue for 2008. The January, Bright 'n' Breezy tournament will be held at Brighton's oldest and most established hotel, the Paramount, Old Ship.



For the remainder of the year we return to the Paramount, Daventry Hotel. The hotel has undergone extensive refurbishment since our last visit, and over £2 million has been spent to turn it into a superb venue.

As part of our deal with Paramount Daventry, Biba has negotiated complimentary wi-fi in the playing rooms, plus the welcome return of the weekend prize for the Friday evening. In 2008, Friday nights will become 'must attend' nights: The Friday 500, plus the weekend free for the 500 winner! Also, accommodation at both hotels has been kept at the 2007 rate.

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

Single: 1 night £61, two nights £106 / Double or twin: 1 night £98, two nights £188

To book accommodation at either Paramount hotel, call 0870 1610 797 (9am to 9pm Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm @ weekends) and quote 'backgammon'. Lines are open now!



British Isles Backgammon Association
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The 15th Irish Open 2007 Backgammon Championship

Wynn's Hotel, Dublin - 20/21 October 2007

Tournament Organizer : Liz Perry

Tournament Director: To be announced

**BIBA 2007
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QUALIFIER**

Friday 19th €200 Optional Jackpot starts 7.30 pm

Saturday 20th Registration opens 11.00 am.

Entry Fee €40 (There will be optional €30 and €100 side-pools)

Play starts promptly at 12.00 noon. (Late arrivals call Sean on 086 2596419)

Sunday 21st Playoffs for last 16 @ 9.00 am (Unless they can be fitted in on Saturday evening)

Last 16 @ 10.00 am. Consolation 10.30 am. Team Event 12.00 noon

Scheduled finishing time: 6.00 pm

Format: Combined Swiss and Knockout

Six rounds of 7 point matches will be played on Saturday. Winners of 6 matches out of 6 will go into the last 8 on Sunday. Winners of 5 matches out of 6 will go into the last 16. Winners of 4 matches out of 6 will go into a playoff for any remaining places in the last 16. The Swiss format on Saturday means that there are a lot of matches to be played and slow play can be very disruptive to the running of the tournament. For that reason, there will be time controls in place. Any player can insist on playing with a chess clock, subject to availability. Further Information - Liz Perry eperry@iol.ie 00353 1 298 5282, 00353 8721 44270 and on the Biba web site.

2007 Liverpool Open

By Michael Crane

This year, instead of playing backgammon I did the touristy thing and went walkabout - and shopabout - with Sharen. I thought it high time I actually took a look at Liverpool proper and not just the Toxteth Bridge Club!

Main (56): I don't know why Ron Havenhand and Brian Lever bothered to sit down and play an 11-pointer; all they really had to play was a 1-pointer for their marathon match went to DMP. It was Brian that came out the winner, making him the second player to win the event three times, something he shares with John Slattery.

Consolation (38): One of the many surprises that I saw this year was the reappearance of Bob Parmley. He's not as mobile as he used to be and he now needs a motorised chair to get him from A to B, but this 'impediment' hasn't hampered him in any way. His 'minder', Michael Maley (whom we haven't seen for years!) took the winner's place after beating David Wallbank in their Final. No doubt David played it in his usual manner - standing up - but the fact that he probably towered over Michael didn't work to his advantage.

Last Chance (64): Backgammon unknown (well, unknown to me!), Will Nolan took home the winner's trophy after he beat Coventry's Phil Tutchings (whom I do know!).

1-point Shootout (64): Mmm, not too sure about the title of this element; perhaps another, less 'controversial' title might be more PC! Most of you already know of Rodney Lighton - but did you know there was another Lighton rolling and shaking on the backgammon circuit? Well, there is, and it is daughter, Ellie. Earlier this year she shot to fame after throwing six doubles in seven rolls to beat British Open Champion, Brian Lever, in Manchester. This time she beat Pam Wright (John Wright's wife) in the Final - which by all accounts was a quiet and civilised affair.

Finally: As usual there was plenty of food to eat and the bad weather held off so that players could play outside in the sunshine. If you didn't attend this year, keep your eyes peeled for the 2008 dates and make sure you enter and have a great time.



Inset: Bob Parmley

From the top
Main: Brian & Ron
Consolation: David & Michael
Last Chance: Phil & Will
1-pointer: Ellie & Pam

Left: Some of the entrants at the start

Over a period of four weeks during late July and early August, Channel Five broadcast four programmes about the PartyGammon Million. If you didn't get to see it or wasn't aware of it, it might be due to the fact it was aired around 0530ish each day! Unless you had Sky+ or similar it meant getting up at the crack of dawn and watching it bleary-eyed.

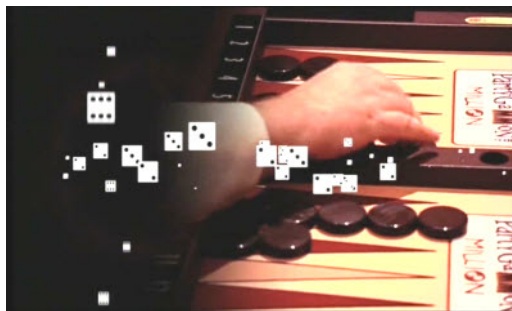
So, what was it like? Well first of all let's talk about the two presenters, Jesse May and Roxanne Siordia. It was clear neither of them were backgammon *aficionados* and that they were reading an autocue and sticking to a script. It didn't take long for their voices to really grate and I was often reaching for the volume control to mute them.

Jesse tried very hard to come across as an 'expert' but he failed on a few points: He said that Bill Robertie had written "... a bible on backgammon." Then later he said of Paul Magriel that "He had written the bible on backgammon!" Perhaps Robertie wrote the King James version!

At the end of the final programme he signed out by saying he'd see us all again when we had, "one man on the board and the dice on the bar." - whatever that means! However, despite his lack of backgammon knowledge, Jesse did manage to conduct several interesting interviews.

Mind you, there was one other 'presenter' that acquitted himself very well, Julian Wilson. Julian gave several tutorials to explain to the backgammon virgins what was going on and how to play the game. He did a great job and was aided by some clear graphics and clear explanations . . . and in a voice that didn't grate! If you'd like to catch up with Julian's tutorials, you can download them for Windows Media player via the www.partygammon.com, Home Page.

Overall the presentation was very professional. The location in the Ba-

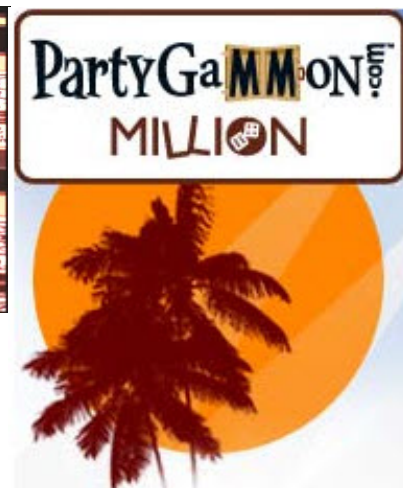


hamas was stunning and it was good to be able to put faces to the many names we've all heard about, Bill Robertie, Nack Ballard (who seems to have a variety of cloth-caps surgically sewn onto his head!), Paul Magriel, Sander Lylloff, Malcolm Davis, Masayuki Mochizuki, Mike Svobodny, Andreas Märtens, Lasse Madsen, James Vogl and many, many more. Oh, and Victoria Smirnoff!

Wow, what a lady! Victoria's not only an excellent backgammon player but she is also very beautiful and I could have gazed at her for ages - in fact I did! She has a great warm-up technique that has to be seen for words alone cannot describe it. I have added a screen-shot of her but it doesn't do her justice. Victoria has her own web site, www.victoriasmirnoff.com which is well worth a visit. The portrait picture of her is taken from there.

I found viewing the matches shown a little frustrating inasmuch as the screen was split in two (down the middle) and this meant that not only could you see the board but the protagonists as well. The frustrating thing about this layout was the fact that the board was too small. I really wanted to see more of the board action and a lot less of the players faces and dice shaking. It would have been far better to have let the board occupy the greater part of the screen and the players consigned to a corner . . . if at all.

Having got that off my chest, the graphics and stats were well presented and clearly visible; the only thing I was a little 'bothered' by was the commentating from Kent Goulding. Often he was OTT and it took the



calming influence and voice of co-commentator, Julian, to tone it down to a more respectable, *English*, level.

I was a little disappointed with the Doubles coverage. I was expecting some banter and discussion from the teams but it was conducted in relative silence. I was amazed at how quiet and reserved, Mark Telscher was. Those of you who might be expecting 'The Backgammon Boy' of years ago to be as outspoken and 'annoying' as he was in the 'Movers & Shakers' would not have recognised him. Next time a doubles match is televised, give the teams a microphone and let us hear what they have to say.

The Final took up most of the last transmission and a good part of it was shown. However, harking back to my previous comment - it would have been nicer to have seen more of the board (*ergo*, the dice more clearly). However, this is just a personal gripe and no doubt many others weren't bothered by it.

So, was televised backgammon a success? In this instance, Yes. It might have been shown at an ungodly hour but it was on mainstream UK television and that's a good thing. Perhaps, when it's repeated (and I am sure it will be), it might get a more sensible slot. If it doesn't I suggest you invest in Sky+!

OK, I'm off now to work out to my Victoria Smirnoff, Warm-up video. Bye!!!





Screen shots: Roxanne, Jesse, Lasse, Andreas, Falafel, Nack, Victoria, Julian

XcitingGames SAC Trophy

By Michael Crane

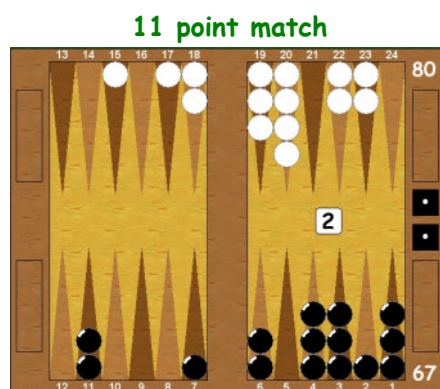
It all began on Friday night with the **Friday 500(6)**. It was a disappointing turn-out; but it did give me the chance to enter. I used that chance well and progressed to the final where I met Chris Gibbins. After taking a good lead, Chris fought back and it went to DMP - an encounter from which I came out on top. The latest 500 listings can be seen on page 26. With just three more to come it should be a close call for the bottom few places.

The action then moved to the Saturday.

Main (12/26)

By Round 5, only one player, Stephen Drake, had won all five matches. It was, therefore, up to Eamon Keogh (4-5) to stop Stephen's progress and at the same time enhance his own chances to come out 5-6 with Stephen. It was an interesting match (which I recorded) and it went mostly Eamon's way in the early stages.

In the first game, Eamon (black) shipped across the cube in this position:

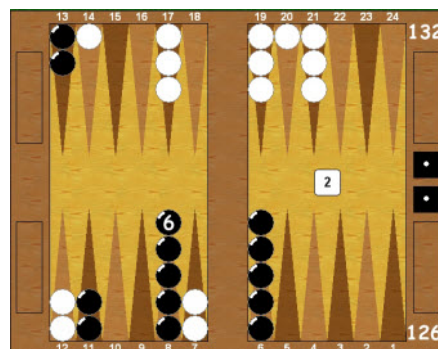


11 point match
Black 0 White 0
Black cube action

Leading by 13 pips and one fewer cross-over, this is a double/pass; but Stephen takes. White is already stacking his 5- and 6-points whilst black is 'bottom-heavy'. However, just to reinforce the pass element, Eamon then goes on to roll 62, 64 and takes off the first checker. In reply Stephen rolls 52, 22 and takes the lead with two checkers off. Next, both players roll 1s and take off just one more checker. This galvanises Eamon into action: he rolls consecutive double-fives while Stephen flounders with 62 and 21 taking off just two checkers in total.

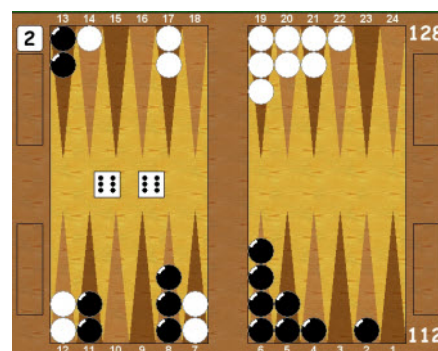
In the next game Eamon ships across a very early cube in what is quite an inflex-

ible position (white has a bar-point and 13-point blocking game going on), his only spare checkers are on his own 8-point - and he doesn't have any home board points except the one he started with:

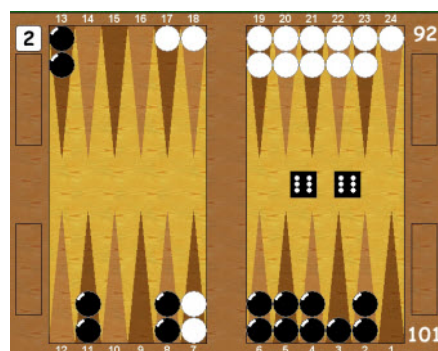


Black 2 White 0
Black cube action

This isn't a double and is an easy take for Stephen. Some time later white rolls 66 ...



... and is forced to vacate the 13-point with 13/7(2), 8/2(2), but he still has excellent chances of a hit with his 18-point anchor. A little later black rolls 66 ...

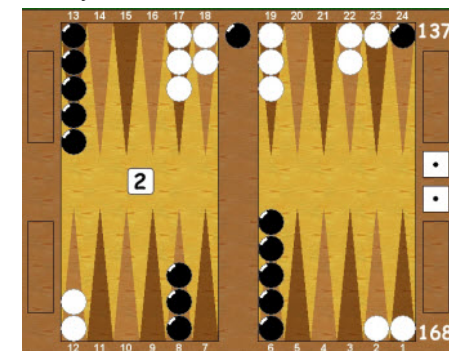


... and is then left with two checkers on his 13-point, and white has two spare 6s he can play. Both home boards now start to crunch and it is white who eventually rolls a 6 and leaves a blot - which is hit. He never recovers and black goes on to win another two points.

Stephen wins the next game but then

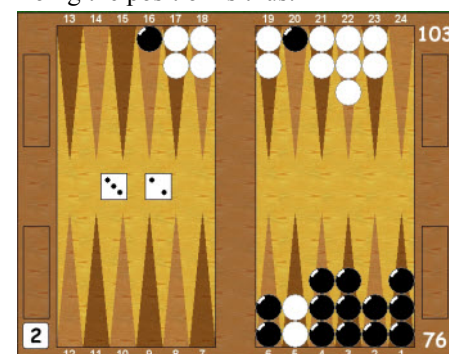
Eamon moves away to 6-1. Stephen then comes back: 6-2, 6-4. However, Stephen is then stuck on 4 while Eamon pulls away to 8-6, then 9-6; at which point, Stephen claws it back to 9-6 and then 9-7.

It is during this game that Stephen falls foul to the luck of the Irish! He is on roll in this position and he cubes at 4-away, 2-away:



Black 9 White 7
White cube action

This is far too good to double and is an easy drop for Eamon; but no one told Eamon is was an easy drop and he took! But, if it's too good to double, then taking should be in white's favour, shouldn't it? Much later on after lots of tooting and froing the position is thus:



White correctly makes his 5-point, 8/5* 7/5, and then black rolls 61 off the bar, a roll that Stephen never recovers from. He has plummeted from 86.3% game winning chances (including 26.8% gammon chances) to 24.2% gwc and 4.3% gc. However, he only re-enters after black has played behind him and he fails to win the bearoff and the match.

This then left me with three players on 5-6, Stephen, Eamon and Mark Heidenfeld who beat Peter Bennet in Round 6. The head-to-head tie-break couldn't resolve who came where because Stephen had beaten Mark, Mark had beaten Eamon and Eamon had beaten Stephen; so it was left to the backup tie-breaker, the opponents' average ranking score; and it was this that placed Stephen 1st and Mark



2nd by just 1 point: 1684 to 1683!

This outcome (over which I have no control I hasten to add) worked out well for me: I had purchased Stephen in the Biba Tote (sole owner) and he hadn't been in the **Winner-Takes-All** prize fund, thus giving us a Rollover of £225 for the Backpacker in September.

Meanwhile, in the **Consolation(12/26)** section, only two players made it to 2-2, John Slattery and Peter Christmas. From this encounter, Peter came 1st, and then we had to resort to the tie-break again to see which of the four 2s (Slats, Fanika Petkovska, Jeff Barber and Richard Holness) would come 2nd. As it worked it was Slats - with the others in the order given.

Running in tandem with the SAC was the second, **Cazzie's Round Robin(25)**. This 1-pointer all-play-all is getting to be very popular, especially with me! I made it into the Final group (again!) where I met two previous opponent's from the 1st Round Robin, Chris Ternel and Jeff Barber. They were joined by Steve Rimmer and Simon Morecroft. It was a close-run group and I snatched it out of Simon's hands by just 1/2 a point! Mind you, I did panic a bit and had already hedged my bets with Simon when it became clear I could lose - so we both went home happy!



On the Saturday the **Poker(8)** saw Slats going all-in and losing, and then buying back in . . . and then going out first! Next to go was Eamon, then Rosey, then poker 'virgin' Peter Bennet. Next to go (and out of the money) was Myke 'Mr. Fluffy' Wignall; this left Tony Fawcett, Paul Learmount and Chris Gibbins to finish off the night in ascending order with Tony now topping the Poker Grand Prix. See page 26 for the latest listing.. Only the Top 8 go into December's Play-off, so the next three rounds could prove decisive for some players.!

<u>Match detailed statistics for SAC Trophy</u>		
Player	Eamon Keogh	Stephen Drake
Rating	Beginner	Intermediate
Overall	14.773/59.485	11.976/40.571
Errors(blunders)	33(15)	30(19)
Checker play errors		
Checker play	7.860/36.966	7.240/25.157
Errors(blunders)	26(10)	17(11)
Double errors		
Overall	0.856/2.619	4.408/14.808
Missed double	0.273/1.406	3.449/11.845
Wrong double	0.583/1.213	0.959/2.963
Errors(blunders)	3(1)	12(7)
Take errors		
Overall	6.057/19.900	0.327/0.605
Wrong take	5.556/18.957	0.327/0.605
Wrong pass	0.502/0.943	0.000/0.000
Errors(blunders)	4(4)	1(1)
Favourite: Stephen Drake @ 68.91%		



Accommodation for January's Bright 'n' Breezy is quickly being taken up. This is one of the most popular events in the Biba calendar and demand for accommodation will soon outstrip our allocation. Look at page 14, and book your room now!

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 briscammon@blueyonder.co.uk 2nd Thurs of the month.

Coventry Whitefriars Olde Ale House - Phil Tutchings – tutchingsp@aol.com Tel: 02476 445467 - Thursdays @ 7.30pm

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 07774 512 902 - 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

London - Queens Head Pub, Picadilly - Alan backgammoninpiccadilly@googlemail.com - Monday nights 6pm until late

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

October 6 & 7. Sandy Osborne Trophy:

The old favourite offering the usual Main Tournament, Consolation, Last Chance, The Sandwich; and the return of the popular, Cazzie's Round Robin in which you can win £100 and it won't have cost you a penny to win it!



WIN FREE MONEY WITH CAZZIE'S ROUND ROBIN

Five groups of five players playing a Round Robin format. Each group winner get's their £5 entry fee back and then they all play each other until one player emerges top to take the £100 prize! This addition is offered at most Biba tournaments for those that like to play around!

15th Irish Open 2007 October 20 & 21 Wynn's Hotel, Dublin

Whether you play backgammon or not, Dublin is a great city to visit. This event is a great opportunity to take your partner away for the weekend, knowing that you can play backgammon while they busy themselves with the sights and sounds of a vibrant city. Full details on page 14. ◀

November 1 & 2. Townharbour Trophy:

The fourth and last of our four Swiss format events and your final UK Finals Qualifier event. If you like playing 6 x 11 point matches over the weekend, then this is the event for you. Swiss events offer great opportunities to rack up championship points, Grand Prix and Ranking - and could well place you in the money!



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 500, 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: Friday 500
+ 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 2007 * ***

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

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

Reservations: 02476 603000 ask for 'Individual Reservations' and quote . . .

Sandy Osborne: Friday, 5th & Saturday, 6th October 2007 - GBACD

Townharbour Trophy: Friday, 2nd & Saturday, 3rd November 2007 - GBACE

Gilbertson UK Finals: Friday, 30th November and Saturday, 1st December 2007 - GBACF

*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.*

NEW CODES

2007 XcitingGames.com Backgammon Calendar

Oct 06-07	Sandy Osborne Memorial	GP	-	Coventry	Knockout
Oct 20/21	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

2008 Backgammon Calendar

Jan 11,12,13	Bright 'n' Breezy		UK	Brighton	Knockout
Jan ??	5 th Cotswold 'Fireside'		-	Stroud	Knockout
Feb 1,2,3	Jarvis Trophy		UK	Daventry	Swiss
Mar 7,8,9	Slattery Scottish Open		UK	Daventry	Knockout
Apr 4,5,6	British Open		UK	Daventry	Knockout
Apr ??	Manchester 1-Day		-	Manchester	Combination
May 2,3,4	County Cups Trophy		UK	Daventry	Swiss
Jun 6,7,8	*NEW* Paramount English Open		-	Daventry	Knockout
Jul 4,5,6	Keren Di Bona Memorial		-	Daventry	Knockout
Jul ??	13 th Liverpool Open		-	Liverpool	Combination
Aug 1,2,3	SAC Trophy		UK	Daventry	Swiss
Aug ??	12 th Mind Sports Olympiad		-	tba	Swiss
Sep 5,6,7	Backpacker Backgammon Trophy		-	Daventry	Knockout
Oct 3,4,5	Sandy Osborne Memorial		-	Daventry	Knockout
Oct ??	16 th Irish Open		UK	Dublin	Swiss/Knockout
Oct 31, Nov 1,2	Townharbour Trophy		UK	Daventry	Swiss
Dec 5,6,7	Gilbertson UK Finals			Daventry	Double KO

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.

Competition 2007 No3. 9001-06 Positions

By Michael Crane

Welcome to the last of the three Competitions that make up the 2007 season.

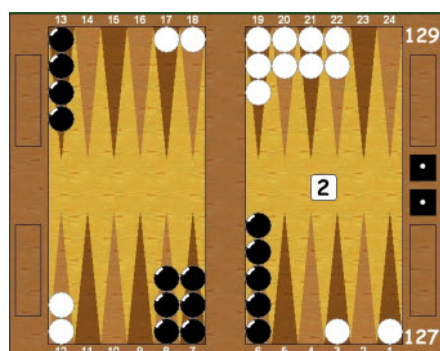
- The winner will win half price Saturday accommodation at any one tournament of their choice.
- The member with the highest points total at the end of the year will win £75.

Entries to be in by 15 November 2007 - Answers published 21 January 2008, Bibafax 92.

Email: to info@backgammon-biba.co.uk
and all 'hard copy' to Biba HQ via Royal Mail.

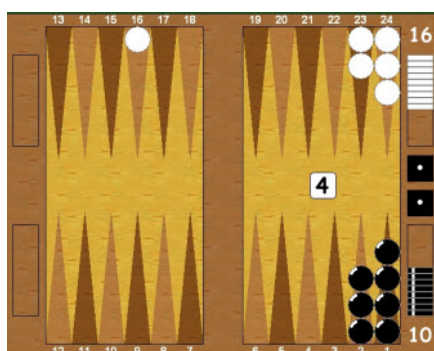
We finish off the series on the doubling cube; and the points awarded will not be based on the number of votes each position gets, as in the past, but on the correct solution as decided by our silicone pal, Snowie. I am going to trust all entrants not to use any artificial aids in coming to their decisions - so: **No Bloody Cheating!**

9001



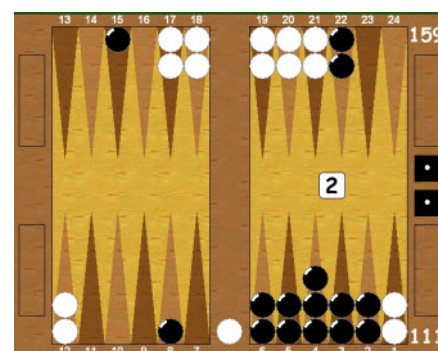
11 point match
Black 4 White 8
Cube action

9003



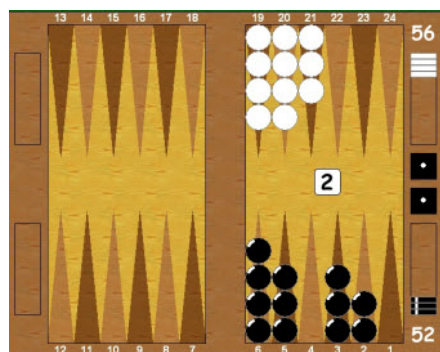
11 point match
Black 4 White 0
Cube action

9005



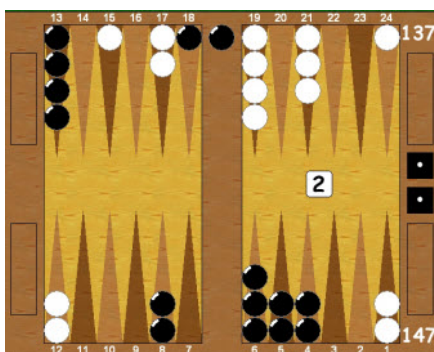
11 point match
Black 1 White 4
Cube action

9002



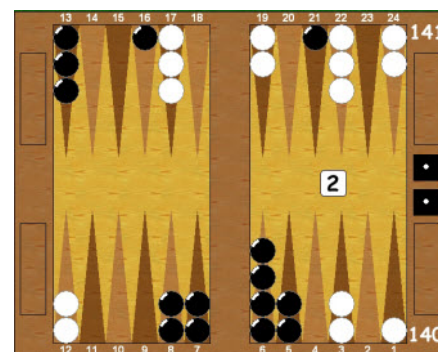
11 point match
Black 9 White 9
Cube action

9004



11 point match
Black 0 White 4
Cube action

9006



11 point match
Black 2 White 8
Cube action

BACKPACKER BACKGAMMON AT BIBA

Fri 31st Aug, Sat 1st and Sun 2nd Sept 2007



As usual, the Backpacker packed in loads of action over the weekend. There were no fewer than 11 different events for players to take part in! I availed myself of a few; most of which I won! I chalked up victories in the **Friday Jackpot (4)** after beating Nicky Check followed by our sponsor, Mike Main; then I won the **Gang (9)** tournament after whittling the field down to just myself and Bob Young. If you're not sure what the Gang entails I'll tell you: it entails two teams each headed by a Captain and lots of shouting . . . lots! The winning team is split into another team and so on until we have a Final pairing.

My third victory came right after the Gang when I won the **Saturday Jackpot (4)** when I trounced Mike Main and then Nicky Check! And finally - after four failed attempts at qualifying - I made it into the final of **Cazzie's Round Robin (25)**. Jeff Barber had already made a fantastic start, beating Bob Young and winning a backgammon (worth 3 points); and when I joined it he had finished on 5 points. I strapped myself in and won two gammons and two singles to pinch it off Jeff by one point! This is my third Round Robin final and my second consecutive win . . . I like these!



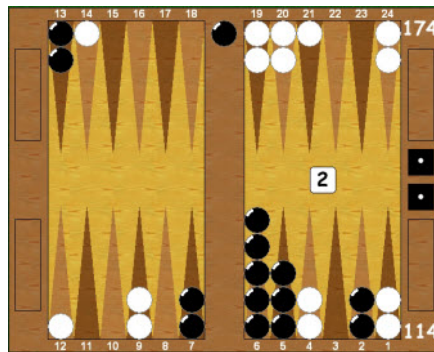
Me and my trophies!

In the **Friday 500 (8)**, Sean Williams, returning from Down Under, gained his first points when he beat Ray Tannen. This win for Sean propelled him into 16th place, qualifying for the £500 in December at his first attempt! See page 26.

In the **Main (23)** we slimmed the players down to four on the Sunday morning: Tom Duggan vs Simon Morecroft and Jon Barnes vs David Nathan (Runner-up

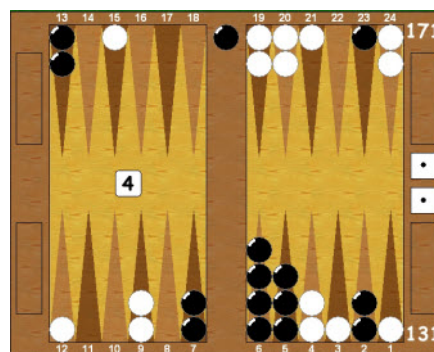
last year). Tom took an early lead, as did David; however, their opponents pulled back but in the end it wasn't enough and Tom and David met in the final. David's match against Jon was worthy of a final in its own right - and I wished I had recorded it. As it turned out, the final proper was over very quickly thanks to some very dodgy cube action from Tom.

With the score at 5-0 to David, Tom is heard to say, "This is going to be embarrassing." After watching the entire match I am now wondering if he was referring to the current score or looking into the future and commenting on a cubing decision he made when the score had improved to 5-4!



11 point match
Black 5 White 4
Black cube action

David (b) offers across a good cube, it being both a double and a take, and Tom quickly scoops it up, "Snatch!" He cries. David rolled 32, 25/23 6/3. Tom rolls 21 and hits the blot on the black 22-point and moves 11/10 to cover his 4-point blot with 6s. David dances with 61 and then Tom recubes to four in this position:



White cube action

This is a massive blunder @ -0.407 and

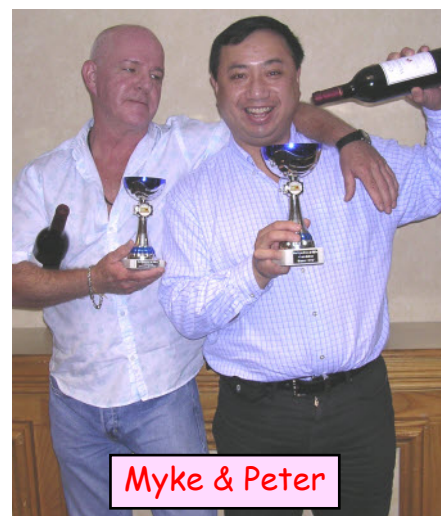
David is delighted to have a 4-cube in residence on his side of the board. At the moment Tom has approx. 42% game winning chances and he should have held on to the cube. According to Snowie, David has almost 58% of which 26% are gammons! Easy take - bad double!

David re-enters fairly quickly, anchoring with double-two; but two rolls later a third checker is hit and David then dances for twelve consecutive rolls; during which time Tom is well into the bearoff. Tom gets down to just five checkers to bearoff when he is forced into leaving a shot - David misses and Tom chalks up a gammon on a 4-cube and steals the match!



David & Tom

Meanwhile, in the **Consolation (19)**, Peter Chan (last year's Main winner) had entered from the non-progressive side and was waiting in the final to see if fellow non-prog, Myke Wignall would be joining him, or progressive, Stephen Drake. Myke prevailed and against Peter he clawed his way to dmp after trailing, but it was Peter who came out the winner - a triumph of luck over dynamic backgammon?



Myke & Peter

In the **Last Chance (16)**, Peter's travelling companion, Adrian Jones, made it to



the final where he finished off Lawrence Powell to take home a second trophy back to Liverpool I mention this because Peter told me to!



Lawrence & Adrian

The **Mad Monkey (16)**, 3-pointer, saw Friday's 500 winner, Sean, in the final playing against Fak Laight. It was Sean that emerged the victor, leaving Fak in 2nd place. Over the weekend, Fak had bought a new car and was seen reading the owner's manual several times perhaps he should have bought a new backgammon board instead!



Fak & Sean



Mike Main

The final backgammon report is for the **Sunday Jackpot (8)**. This is one of the two events I failed to win this weekend; but at least I was beaten by the eventual winner, our sponsor, Mike Main. He beat Lawrence Powell to take home one of his own trophies. Well done, Mike.

The **Poker (6)**, was a little low on entry, but this didn't bother a couple of poker-virgins, Neil Webb and William Spiers. They had travelled down from Glasgowish and were very pleased to make it into the payouts. Neil came 1st, Lawrence Powell 2nd, and William 3rd. Unfortunately, Neil and William left for home early Sunday morning so there isn't a photo of them. The **Poker Grand Prix** is hotting up now, and you can read about how it's going on page 26.

Match detailed statistics for Backpacker		
Player	David Nathan	Tom Duggan
Rating	advanced	intermediate
Overall	7.485/10.662	12.162/22.860
Errors(blunders)	11(5)	16(8)
Checker play errors		
Checker play	4.226/6.781	6.524/13.920
Errors(blunders)	7(1)	12(4)
Double errors		
Overall	3.259/3.881	2.774/6.055
Missed double	3.259/3.881	0.000/0.000
Wrong double	0.000/0.000	2.774/6.055
Errors(blunders)	4(4)	2(2)
Take errors		
Overall	0.000/0.000	2.864/2.885
Wrong take	0.000/0.000	2.864/2.885
Wrong pass	0.000/0.000	0.000/0.000
Errors(blunders)	0(0)	2(2)
Favourite: David Nathan @ 62.20%		

Finally: As usual the Backpacker was a cornucopia of backgammon. Eleven elements in total meant there was plenty of action for everyone; and those that attended had a great time. I'd like to thank Mike for directing it and for the many trophies, and Sean for the Excel spreadsheet that is the engine behind the drawsheets and number crunching. I had a great weekend, winning four elements, as well as 'owning' both Main finalists via the Saturday Auction. and winning the Biba Tote (again!) after being the sole owner of Tom! Yep, I had a great weekend. ★

Year-End Information

UK Finals - Adrian Jones has dropped out of the UK Finals, he'll be in Venice paddling Peter Chan around in a gondola! Let's hope Peter doesn't start singing, "Just one cornetto, give it to me!" Adrian dropping out has meant that Gerry Enslin takes his place; and, there's some doubt that Giorgio Castellano will be there owing to the fact that he has returned to Italy. If he doesn't attend then his place will be taken up by an extra qualifier from the Saturday tournament. There are two events at which you can win a place in the last 16, the Irish Open and the Townharbour.

Grand Prix Championship - Tom Duggan makes his first appearance in the money, as does Stephen Drake, they have replaced Chris Ternel and Tony Fawcett. With three more chances to rack up the Grand Prix points (Irish, Sandy and Townharbour) the field is wide open. With a potential 74 points knocking about, no one on this list is safe! My advice is - get to all three and win, win, win! Details on page 31.

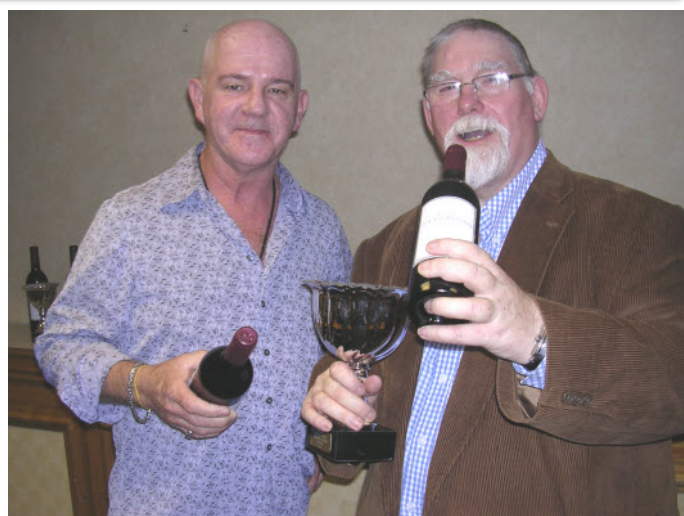
Ranking Championship - David Nathan has shot into 2nd place behind Adrian Jones, and Stephen Drake pokes in in 9th. David and Stephen's appearance have toppled Eamon Keogh and Chris Ternel from the prize fund. But, the championship is far from over and is still wide open to many players. There are points to be picked up in two more tournaments, The Sandy Osborne and the Townharbour. The latter, being a Swiss, will give players six chances to better their current score; so, can the current Top 10 remain in residence or will it all change? We'll know by mid-November. Details on page 31.

Dynamic Backgammon - Not For The Fainthearted!

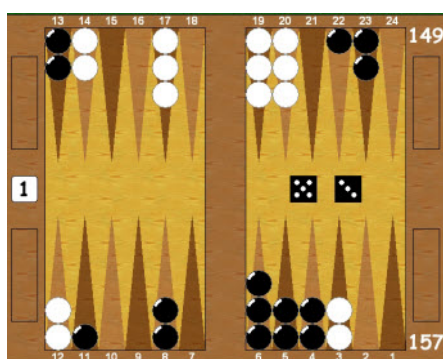
By Michael Crane

Before I get into this article I must first apologise to Tom and Myke for not printing their picture in the previous Bibfax! I simply forgot to include it. So, I redress the omission and here it is with Myke on the left.

Those that know Myke Wignall know he's an exponent of **Dynamic Backgammon**; or to put it another way . . . bloody risky backgammon! But, is it Dynamic or just another word for Blunder? During their Final in the Keren Di Bona Trophy a total of seven checker-play blunders (or Dynamic Blunders) were made between the two of them. I have reproduced them all below as played by black. See if you can spot Myke's dynamic style. The answers are at the end of the article. *NB: None of the candidate moves is the correct move, that is shown in the analysis and stats list; and the match score isn't shown, but this does not affect the outcome.*



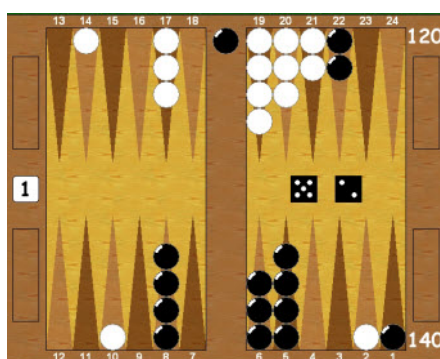
Position 01



Black to play 53

13/5
11/8 6/1
13/8 13/10

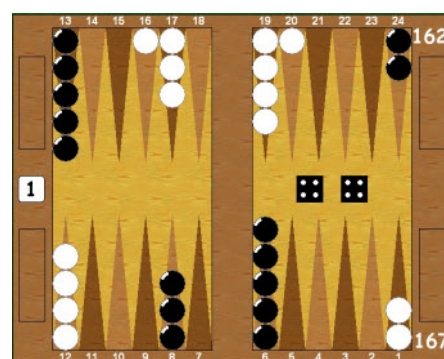
Position 02



Black to play 52

25/18
25/23 6/1
25/23 8/3

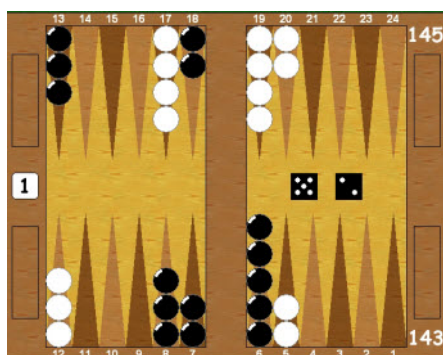
Position 03



Black to play 44

24/20*(2) 8/4(2)
24/20*(2) 13/9(2)
24/20*(2) 20/16*(2)

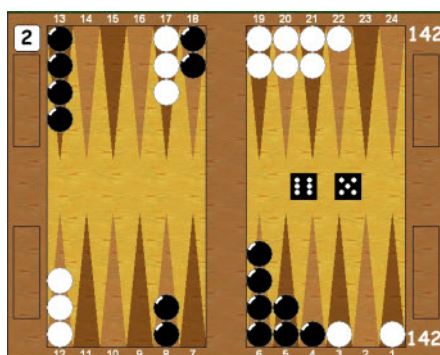
Position 04



Black to play 52

7/2 6/4
13/11 8/3
18/13 18/16

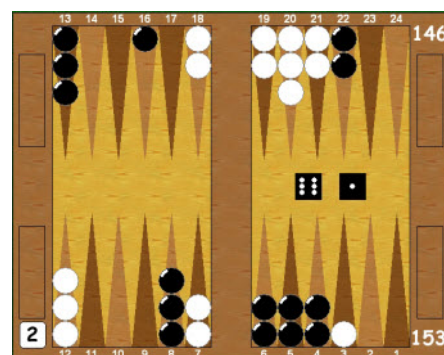
Position 05



Black to play 65

13/7 8/3*
13/7 13/8
18/13 8/2

Position 06



Black to play 61

22/15
22/16 5/4
22/16 4/3*

Continued on page 27 ►

Friday 500 Positions, September 2007

49 Mardi	15 Sean Williams	6 Stuart Mann	2 Mark Heidenfeld
34 Ed Turner	14 Nicky Check	6 Mike Main	2 Martin Barkwill
33 Jerry Limb	12 Myke Wignall	4 Mike Greenleaf	2 Michel Lamote
32 Jeff Barber	12 Paul Christmas	2 Adrian Jones	2 Paul Van Dijke
30 Ray Tannen	12 Richard Biddle	2 Ann Pocknell	2 Peter Bennet
29 Giorgio Castellano	12 Rogier	2 Cedric Lytton	2 Rachel Rhodes
29 Paul Learmount	9 Liz Perry	2 Chris Ternel	2 Ramsey Jamil
28 Rosey Bensley	9 Matthew Franklin	2 David Hale	2 Ron Havenhand
26 Paul Watts	9 Miles Farren	2 Dorothy Lee	2 Sean Casey
25 David Nathan	8 Brian Lever	2 Eamon Keogh	2 Shino Kazuhiro
25 Gerry Enslin	8 Peter Christmas	2 Fanika Petkovska	2 Tim Line
23 Tom Duggan	6 A. Whamond	2 Felix Vink	2 Tim Mooring
21 Chris Gibbins	6 Brendan Burgess	2 Jonathan Powell	2 Tony Lee
19 John Slattery	6 Paul Gilbertson	2 Luke Christmas	2 Tony Walters
15 Emmanuel Di Bona	6 Roy Hollands	2 Mark Dixon	

Well, it's all beginning to move about a bit now. The Top 16 will be at the play-offs for the £500 prize; but I know for a fact that at least one of them (and perhaps two more) won't be taking up their places at the event. It has been decided that on the night, in order to make a full 16 player entry, that players occupying positions 17th and downwards will qualify . . . if they are present! So, if you are just teetering around the qualifying level, turn up on the night and see if you can get a place and a shot at the £500. Sean Williams has shot into 16th place after just one appearance! So, if you haven't managed to make the Finals yet, don't despair, there are two chances left for you to make it.

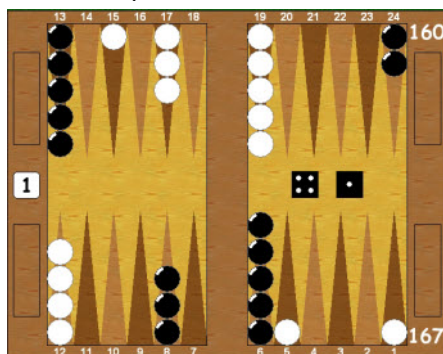
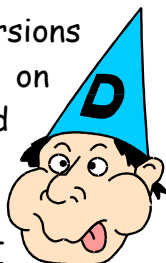
Poker Grand Prix Sept. 2007

76 Tony Fawcett	6847	12 Jon Samuel
74 Paul Watts	6667	12 David Horner
68 Paul Gilbertson	6126	11 Zaklina
55 Myke Wignall	5315	11 Neil Webb
51 Paul Learmount	4595	10 Roy Hollands
44 Lawrence Powell	3964	10 Ray Fard
38 Tony Lee	3423	10 Felix Vink
38 Rosey Bensley	3423	9 John Gilbertson
37 Eamon Keogh		8 Rutger
30 Matthew Franklin		8 Alison Lee
30 Andy Bell		6 William Speirs
30 John Slattery		6 Tom Duggan
29 Paul Christmas		6 Mick Butterfield
29 Chris Gibbins		6 Crispin Duke
27 Ann Pocknell		5 Martin Hemming
26 Michelle Fisher		5 Kevin White
26 Matty Gilbertson		4 Peter Bennet
25 Mark Dixon		4 Martin Barkwill
22 Mick Vacarey		4 Julian Minwalla
19 Shino		2 Tim Wilkins
17 Philip Vischjager		2 Simonetta Barone
16 Paul Van Dyke		1 Raj Jansari
16 Jeremy Limb		1 Miles Farren
16 Ian Shaw		
15 Tim Line		
14 Steve Hallet		
14 Luke Christmas		
13 Andrew Sarjeant		

The poker is coming to a conclusion soon and I think it's time to make things clear about the Final. It will be a Freeze-out on the Saturday night for the

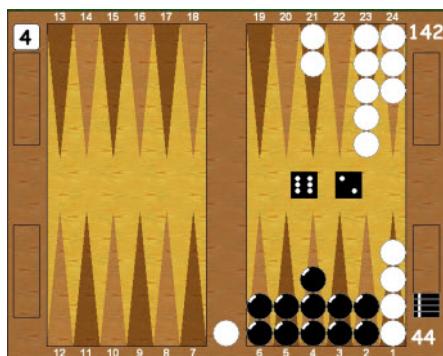
prize money. To date the fund stands at £412 (there is £158 outstanding from January & February to be added which would make it £570). If any of the Top 8 players fail to take their place at the table then their place(s) will go to 9th, 10th, etc until we have 8 starters. NB: Lawrence Powell won't be attending - he's in Venice - renting out gondolas! There will be 40K chips on the table and players will receive chips relative to their TOTAL points accrued over the year, the Top 6 GP total merely being a means of deciding the 8 entrants. This is an incentive for those with six scores already to keep attending to gain maximum chips. Those of you with fewer chips at the moment have two opportunities to increase your points before December's Final. The latest table shows each players' starting chips based upon their current accrued total. It can be plainly seen that some have twice as much as others - the benefit of regular attendance and good performance.

Ooops! In some versions of Bibafax 89, on page 20, I posted the wrong board for Magriel's third position. I posted a duplicate of the second one! I apologise to everyone and reproduce below the correct position.



Black to play 41

◀ Dynamic Backgammon.
Continued from page 25



Black to play 62

6/0 4/2
6/0 2/0
6/0 5/3

Position 01

This is where dynamic backgammon comes into its own. Snowie rated two plays above that played by Myke: 23/15 and 23/18 11/8. Black's next roll was 31, and if Myke had actually played either of these two he'd have been on the bar with this roll. But, Myke played 13/8 13/10, and he wasn't hit and continued to play on!

Playing both off the mid-point leaves the

three back checkers a long way to go to reach safety, 11 & 12 pips at the moment. This move also lets white's mid-point checkers move more freely. The best move was the simple runner, 23/15: teases a shot from white's mid-point and 11-point; although it does leave white plenty of point-making rolls with from his 8-, 6- and 5-points.

Snowie 3rd	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
23/15	47.0	14.4	
13/8 13/10	44.7	12.3	-0.209

Position 02

The three candidates are in fact the only three moves possible! Did you spot the Dynamic play? It was from Tom this time and was 25/23 6/1. Moving off the 5-point to cover the 1-point isn't of much use; the best play was to run off the bar all the way, 23/18. If this checker remains on the 23-point it will need 5s to escape, whereas if he runs it out now, while black has an anchor, it can take the chance.

Snowie 2nd	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
25/18	29.9	7.6	
25/23 6/1	26.9	5.9	-0.134

Position 03

Tom opened with an aggressive 41, 13/9 6/5, and Myke responded with a splendid double-four; but he ran both checkers out to the 16-point for his double-hit. What was needed here was the double-hit, 24/20*/16* with one checker and then two off the laden mid-point, 13/9(2). With two on the bar, the blocking/building potential of the 9-point more than makes up for not owning the 16-point.

Snowie 4th	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
24/20* 20/16*	62.6	24.4	
13/9(2)			
24/20*(2)	61.8	20.8	-0.112
20/16*(2)			

Position 04

It's Myke's turn again and he plays both checkers off the 18-point. It is too soon to vacate the 18-point, and leaving a blot on to do it is wrong. It's a strong point to hold at the moment and instead he should have played 13/8 6/4 and kept it all safe and see what white's next roll might bring.

Snowie 6th	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
13/8 6/4	52.4	5.1	
18/13 18/16	49.2	4.1	-0.154

Position 05

Myke once again, and this is a very 'dynamic' play: 13/ 7 8/3*. Very aggressive and, with four blots on, very dangerous! The only ways that white won't hit a blot is to roll 5s & 6s - and it's not that likely. The only way to play this is to play it in the 'normal' way, 13/2. Still risky, but kept to a minimum.

Snowie 4th	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
13/2	47.0	12.0	
13/7 8/3*	40.6	13.4	-0.272

Position 06

Tom takes up the reins this time. He finds a bloody good 6, 22/16; but there aren't any good 1s to go with it. This doesn't bother Tom, he plays 4/3*, thinking the double-shot in his home board is worth holding his 16-point! It is not. What is proper is the simple 16/9. It still leaves a double-shot, but one of them will come off the black bar-point to do it.

Snowie 5th	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
16/9	40.6	10.0	
22/16 4/3*	39.8	9.9	-0.182

Position 07

You'd think it hard to produce a blunder with this move in this position, but Tom managed to do it with his 6/0 2/0, which is a huge blunder @ -0.408! If he reckoned this gave him greater gammon chances, he was sadly mistaken. The safer play returned 79.4% gammons and the actual play returned just 55.8%. Of course, the correct play was 6/0 6/4.

Snowie 3rd	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
6/0 6/4	97.3	79.4	
6/0 2/0	92.1	55.8	-0.408

So, did you spot the Dynamic play? Did you work out the correct play?

I'd like to thank Myke and Tom for their (unwitting) participation in this article; without their input it would have meant two blank pages in the Bibafax!

Backgammon @ MSO11

**Full results and reports
will be in the December
issue of Bibafax**

Trophies 4 Free!

Here are some 'pre-owned' trophies that are offered free to Biba members. They can be collected at any Biba tournament. The number beside each letter is the height in inches. If you would like any, please email info@backgammon-biba with your selection. If you have any old trophies at home you'd like to donate, please email me and let me know.



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Tournament Results

Liverpool Open. 28, 29 July, 2007

Main (16/56)

1	Brian Lever
2	Ron Havenhand
3&4	Monica Beckerson
3&4	John Broomfield
5to8	Rachel Rhodes
5to8	Mike Waxman
5to8	Fak Laight
5to8	Lee Wood

Last Chance (64)

1	Will Nolan
2	Phil Tutchings
3&4	Steve Simkin
3&4	Dorothy Lee
5to8	Tim Line
5to8	George Hall
5to8	Steve Rimmer
5to8	Ellie Lighton

Grand Prix @ Liverpool ...

18.58	Brian Lever
13.42	Ron Havenhand
13.41	Michael Maley
9.29	Monica Beckerson
9.29	John Broomfield
9.28	David Wallbank
6.19	Mike Waxman
6.19	Rachel Rhodes
6.18	Tim Brown
6.18	Tim Line
6.16	Lee Wood
6.16	Phil Tutchings
6.10	Fak Laight
5.68	Adrian Jones
4.13	Uldis Lapikens
4.13	Geoff Hall
4.13	Simon K Jones
4.13	Steve Simkin
4.13	Kevin Stebbing

Consolation (37)

1	Michael Maley
2	David Wallbank
3&4	Tim Brown
3&4	Tim Mooring
5to8	Tim Line
5to8	David Smith
5to8	Dorothy Lee
5to8	Alan Beckerson

Point Shoot Out (64)

1	Ellie Lighton
2	Pam Wright
3&4	Ron Havenhand
3&4	Steve Hallett
5to8	David Smith
5to8	Joe Derry
5to8	John Vass
5to8	David Reeves

4.13	Vicky Chandler
4.12	Alan Beckerson
4.12	Dorothy Lee
2.58	Steve Hallet

2.58	John Wright
2.58	Steve Rimmer
2.05	Angela Dell
2.05	David Motley

2.05	Rodney Lighton
1.55	Jeff Barber
1.55	Mick Vacarey
1.55	Fanika Petkovska

XcitingGames SAC Trophy, 11 & 12 August, 2007

Main (12/26)

Main	GP
1 Stephen Drake	5 18.58
2 Mark Heidenfeld	5 17.55
3 Eamon Keogh	5 16.52
4 Steve Rimmer	4 9.29
5 Chris Gibbins	4 10.84
6 Peter Bennet	4 11.35
7 Tony Fawcett	4 11.35
8 David Startin	4 10.84
9 Paul Learmount	3 6.19
10 Simon Morecroft	3 8.25
11 Uldis Lapikens	3 9.29
12 Chris Ternel	2 5.68

Consolation (12/26)

Con/Main	GP
1 Peter Christmas	3 / 4 9.29
2 John Slattery	3 / 3 6.19
3 Fanika Petkovska	3 / 2 7.74
4 Jeff Barber	2 / 2 4.13
5 Richard Holness	2 / 2 5.68
6 Myke Wignall	2 / 2 4.13
7 Arthur Wright	2 / 2 5.68
8 David Motley	1 / 2 4.13
9 Phil Tutchings	1 / 2 4.13
10 Paul Barwick	1 / 2 4.13
11 Rosey Bensley	1 / 2 5.68
12 Rachel Rhodes	0 / 0 0.00

Friday 500 (6)

1	Michael Crane
2	Chris Gibbins
3&4	Paul Learmount
3&4	Rosey Bensley
5to8	John Slattery
5to8	Jeff Barber

Poker (8)

1	Tony Fawcett
2	Paul Learmount
3	Chris Gibbins

Cazzie's Round Robin (25)

1	Michael Crane
---	---------------

Spare: Caroline Stafford 2 5.68
Withdrew: Ron Havenhand

Ranking Changes After The Backpacker Trophy (next page)

1942	1952	John Slattery	1592	1610	Neil Webb
1941	1931	Lawrence Powell	1585	1612	Gerry Enslin
1863	1873	Nicky Check	1584	1548	Jon Barnes
1845	1832	Adrian Jones	1568	1588	Bill Spiers
1820	1800	Stephen Drake	1535	1535	Sean Williams
1815	1784	David Nathan	1455	1465	Phil Tutchings
1810	1821	Ray Tannen	1429	1416	Myke Wignall
1718	1733	Uldis Lapikens	1407	1403	Bob Bruce
1669	1607	Tom Duggan	1340	1356	Fak Laight
1659	1683	Bob Young	1336	1353	Jonathan Powell
1631	1605	Peter Chan			
1614	1627	Jeff Barber			
1606	1591	Simon Morecroft			

ACCOMMODATION

The Hilton was 'full' for the backpacker and many players didn't attend because they couldn't book a room. It is likely to be 'full' for the remainder of the year; so book early and ensure you get a room at all the events.

Backpacker Trophy, 1 & 2 September, 2007



Main (23)

- 1 Tom Duggan
- 2 David Nathan
- 3&4 Jon Barnes
- 3&4 Simon Morecroft
- 5to8 John Slattery
- 5to8 Stephen Drake
- 5to8 Sean Williams
- 5to8 Lawrence Powell

Consolation (19)

- 1 Peter Chan
- 2 Myke Wignall
- 3&4 Nicky Check
- 3&4 Stephen Drake

Last Chance (16)

- 1 Adrian Jones
- 2 Lawrence Powell
- 3&4 Jeff Barber
- 3&4 Phil Tutchings

Mad Monkey (16)

- 1 Sean Williams
- 2 Fak Laight
- 3&4 Gerry Enslin
- 3&4 John Slattery

Friday 500 (8)

- 1 Sean Williams
- 2 Ray Tannen
- 3&4 Tom Duggan
- 3&4 David Nathan
- 5to8 Nicky Check
- 5to8 Michael Crane
- 5to8 Myke Wignall
- 5to8 Mike Main

Poker (6)

- 1 Neil Webb
- 2 Lawrence Powell
- 3 William Spiers

Friday Jackpot (4)

- 1 Michael Crane
- 2 Myke Wignall

Saturday Jackpot (4)

- 1 Michael Crane
- 2 Nicky Check

Sunday Jackpot (8)

- 1 Mike Main
- 2 Lawrence Powell

Gang (9)

- 1 Michael Crane
- 2 Bob Young

Cazzie's Round Robin (25)

- 1 Michael Crane

Grand Prix @ Backpacker Trophy

13.42	David Nathan	6.17	Adrian Jones	2.58	Fak Laight
13.42	Tom Duggan	4.13	Ray Tannen	2.58	Phil Tutchings
13.41	Peter Chan	4.13	Lawrence Powell	2.57	Jeff Barber
9.29	Jon Barnes	4.13	Bob Bruce	2.56	Gerry Enslin
6.19	Stephen Drake	4.13	Sean Williams	1.55	Bob Young
6.19	John Psaltery	4.12	Nicky Check	1.55	Jonathan Powell
6.19	Simon Morecroft	2.58	Bill Spiers		
6.18	Myke Wignall	2.58	Uldis Lapikens		

Active Rankings, September 2007

1997	1997	Julian Fetterlein	1677	1677	Emmanuel Di Bona	1535	1535	Sean Williams
1957	1957	Brian Lever	1677	1677	Eamon Keogh	1535	1535	Dorothy Lee
1942	1952	John Slattery	1669	1607	Tom Duggan	1517	1517	Julian Minwalla
1941	1931	Lawrence Powell	1659	1683	Bob Young	1513	1513	Ron Havenhand
1869	1869	Stuart Mann	1650	1650	Mike Greenleaf	1513	1513	Michelle Fisher
1863	1873	Nicky Check	1647	1647	David Motley	1507	1507	Ramsay Jamil
1848	1848	Tony Lee	1646	1646	Martin Barkwill	1501	1501	Simonetta Barone
1845	1832	Adrian Jones	1642	1642	Mike Heard	1499	1499	Felix Vink
1822	1822	David Startin	1642	1642	Tim Line	1497	1497	Richard Biddle
1820	1800	Stephen Drake	1641	1641	Edwin Turner	1486	1486	Miles Farren
1815	1784	David Nathan	1636	1636	Roy Hollands	1483	1483	Richard Holness
1810	1821	Ray Tannen	1631	1605	Peter Chan	1459	1459	Alan Greenwood
1800	1800	Rachel Rhodes	1625	1625	Vicky Chandler	1459	1459	Paul Watts
1789	1789	Peter Christmas	1620	1620	Jeff Ellis	1455	1465	Phil Tutchings
1762	1762	Tim Mooring	1616	1616	Ian Shaw	1450	1450	Arthur Wright
1756	1756	Steve Hallet	1614	1627	Jeff Barber	1448	1448	Kevin White
1747	1747	Mark Heidenfeld	1606	1591	Simon Morecroft	1446	1446	Jeremy Limb
1742	1742	Peter Bennet	1599	1599	Paul Christmas	1443	1443	Jon Samuel
1733	1733	Chris Ternel	1592	1610	Neil Webb	1435	1435	Paul Learmount
1732	1732	Paul Gilbertson	1585	1612	Gerry Enslin	1429	1416	Myke Wignall
1725	1725	Ian Tarr	1584	1548	Jon Barnes	1409	1409	Caroline Stafford
1723	1723	Ann Pocknell	1582	1582	Mardi Ohannessian	1407	1403	Bob Bruce
1718	1733	Uldis Lapikens	1581	1581	Tony Fawcett	1397	1397	Lionel Mann
1712	1712	Mick Butterfield	1575	1575	Rodney Lighton	1393	1393	Rosey Bensley
1711	1711	Steve Rimmer	1569	1569	Mark Dixon	1384	1384	Paul Barwick
1709	1709	Sean Casey	1568	1588	Bill Spiers	1340	1356	Fak Laight
1705	1705	Brendan Burgess	1563	1563	Roland Herrera	1336	1353	Jonathan Powell
1704	1704	Philip Virschjager	1560	1560	Stavros Elia	1268	1268	Fanika Petkovska
1703	1703	Giorgio Castellano	1556	1556	Chris Gibbins	1223	1223	Alison Lee

Grand Prix Championship September 2007 (6.19 and higher)

85.62	John Slattery	28.90	Raj Jansari	13.41	Alan Beckerson
80.46	Adrian Jones	28.35	Paul Watts	13.41	Paul Van Dijke
77.40	Uldis Lapikens	25.81	Edwin Turner	13.39	Ralph Eskinazi
63.97	Nicky Check	25.64	Rodney Lighton	12.87	Tim Brown
58.28	Brian Lever	25.29	Julian Fetterlein	12.38	Mick Butterfield
55.71	Giorgio Castellano	25.27	Mardi Ohannessian	12.37	Andy Bell
55.22	Gerry Enslin	25.27	Fanika Petkovska	12.36	Jeremy Limb
47.46	Stephen Drake	24.71	Tim Line	11.87	Mahmoud Jahanbani
47.45	Rachel Rhodes	24.26	Chris Gibbins	11.35	Alan Greenwood
47.45	Tom Duggan	23.73	Jon Barnes	10.32	Andrew Sarjeant
44.38	David Nathan	23.73	Ann Pocknell	10.32	Jo Davies
43.85	Peter Chan	23.70	Vicky Chandler	10.32	John Ingamells
43.85	Chris Ternel	23.22	Ray Tannen	10.31	Kevin White
43.34	Tony Fawcett	22.71	Ian Tarr	10.31	Mark Dixon
42.31	Peter Christmas	22.70	Chris Bray	9.80	Richard Holness
42.29	David Motley	22.61	Fak Laight	9.79	Mick Vacarey
41.76	Simon Morecroft	20.13	Ron Havenhand	9.29	Nigel Merrigan
39.74	Steve Rimmer	19.61	Sue Keeble	9.29	Barry McAdam
38.71	David Startin	19.60	Neil Davidson	9.29	Blaine Buchanan
38.18	Myke Wignall	18.58	John Broomfield	9.29	Simonetta Barone
38.17	Jeff Barber	18.55	David Wallbank	9.29	Chris Purchase
37.65	Paul Gilbertson	18.04	Tony Lee	8.77	Mike Greenleaf
36.13	Stuart Mann	17.55	Tim Mooring	8.26	Caroline Stafford
35.10	Eamon Keogh	17.54	Bob Bruce	8.25	Jonathan Powell
35.09	Lawrence Powell	17.53	Simon K Jones	8.23	Mike Main
34.56	Peter Bennet	17.02	Miles Farren	7.74	Bob Young
34.03	Ian Davidson	16.99	Paul Learmount	6.70	Kevin Stebbing
32.99	Mark Heidenfeld	16.51	Ramsay Jamil	6.70	Steve Bak
32.97	Phil Tutchings	15.48	Monica Beckerson	6.69	Geoff Hall
31.99	Mike Heard	15.47	Jon Samuel	6.19	Mike Grabsky
31.48	Rosey Bensley	14.95	Martin Barkwill	6.19	Matthew Fisher
30.96	Paul Christmas	14.94	Jeff Ellis	6.19	Mike Waxman
30.96	Richard Biddle	14.92	Paul Barwick	6.19	Malcolm Robertson
30.41	Dorothy Lee	14.44	Philip Virschjager	6.19	David Hale
29.93	Arthur Wright	14.43	Grahame Powell	6.19	Stavros Elia
28.90	John Hurst	13.41	Michael Maley	6.19	Alison Lee

Ranking Championship September 2007

played / points / player (played 5 or higher. Q = Qualifier)

Q	2176.07	Adrian Jones	Q	1673.21	Paul Gilbertson	8	1642.13	Ian Davidson
Q	2138.07	David Nathan	Q	1653.86	Rosey Bensley	8	1589.00	Jeff Ellis
Q	2131.07	David Motley	Q	1532.93	Mardi Ohannessian	8	1551.63	Ann Pocknell
Q	2104.93	Uldis Lapikens	Q	1377.Q	Ron Havenhand	7	2037.86	Mike Heard
Q	2088.00	Peter Christmas	13	1709.92	Paul Christmas	7	1701.86	Vicky Chandler
Q	2086.50	Myke Wignall	13	1664.23	Jon Barnes	7	1583.57	Bob Young
Q	2059.00	Tony Fawcett	13	1503.85	Arthur Wright	7	1437.57	Steve Bak
Q	2027.43	Gerry Enslin	13	1431.92	Rodney Lighton	7	1360.86	Richard Holness
Q	2004.86	Stephen Drake	13	1289.77	Paul Barwick	7	1260.29	Fak Laight
Q	1994.07	David Startin	12	1860.92	Chris Gibbins	6	2089.33	John Hurst
Q	1980.79	Simon Morecroft	12	1797.75	Julian Fetterlein	6	1962.17	Ian Tarr
Q	1964.86	John Slattery	11	1655.73	Ramsay Jamil	6	1739.33	Jerry Limb
Q	1921.21	Eamon Keogh	11	1594.91	Paul Watts	6	1711.83	Philip Virschjager
Q	1898.93	Chris Ternel	10	1872.30	Steve Rimmer	6	1636.67	Martin Hemming
Q	1880.93	Tom Duggan	10	1860.20	Dorothy Lee	6	1595.67	Matthew Fisher
Q	1861.57	Phil Tutchings	10	1801.50	Brian Lever	6	1580.67	Caroline Stafford
Q	1852.Q	Nicky Check	10	1748.90	Tim Mooring	6	1575.83	Richard Biddle
Q	1848.21	Rachel Rhodes	10	1498.90	Paul Learmount	6	1103.17	Mervyn Bleach
Q	1845.64	Peter Chan	10	1285.90	Jonathan Powell	5	1706.00	Tony Lee
Q	1813.71	Ed Turner	9	1795.67	Ray Tannen	5	1683.80	Jon Samuel
Q	1771.93	Giorgio Castellano	9	1756.22	Lawrence Powell	5	1520.80	Bob Bruce
Q	1760.07	Jeff Barber	8	1881.13	Stuart Mann	5	1256.20	George Hall
Q	1736.Q	Peter Bennet	8	1768.50	Mark Heidenfeld			

Eric Guedj's 2007 Partouche Backgammon Tour is an unqualified success - a series of tournaments culminating in a Grand Finale at which qualifiers from regional tournaments compete for a massive euro prize. So, how do you follow that? Easy ... you make it even better next year !

Next year's Partouche Tour will consist of seven events, plus the Finale, with three new locations - Forges les Eaux, Aix en Provence & Juan-les-Pins. Each of the preliminary stops will still guarantee 50,000€ prize-pool (in the PGT division only, not including the Doubles, SuperJackpot, Intermediate, etc). In addition to the Main there will be an Intermediary Division (and Beginner Division) in most of the stops.

Extra events are just the start, PGT are raising the total guaranteed Prize Pool to 500,000€ and the winner of the 2008 Tour will take home a first prize of 100,000€ ; probably the biggest in Europe!

Players on the Tour all get 'performance points', which next year is to be revised, and will in future take into account every single match won, and the match lengths. The PGT loyalty points system will take the first five participations to max-up loyalty points - and by the way, the players who attended all four stops during 2007 have qualified this year, just by showing up! Each of those won his seat in the Finale, worth over 4.000€ !! Loyalty pays off at Partouche!

An exciting addition for 2008 is that online qualifiers from 2€ to 20€ will be available in many countries, and on different web sites (deals are underway with leading online backgammon operators to propose satellites for the PGTour).

And last but not least, Partouche are making provision for those backgammon players that also play poker: Poker-rooms will be open in every casino of the Tour, so there will be Texas Hold'em action (50€, 100€, 250€) for all dual players.

For the latest information on the Tour refer to Page 2 (for tournament reports) and the back page of Bibafax, or check out the Partouche Backgammon Tour dedicated web site on www-partouchegammon.fr

