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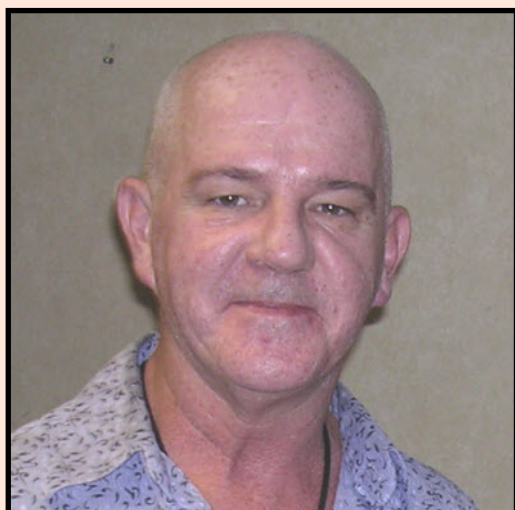
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Dedicated To Backgammon 2007 Champions



Myke Wignall



John Slattery

Details on page 21



Götz Hildberg Triumphs at the Grand Finale of the 2007 Partouche Gammon Tour.

Competition was fierce at the Grand Finale of the 2007 PGT held Sept. 6-9, 2007 at Partouche's luxurious casino in Grand Domaine de Divonne-Les-Bains, France where 29 players vied for €100,000 in added prize money.

When the last dice roll hit the board, it was Germany's Götz Hildberg that emerged victorious over Denmark's Morten Holm, Backgammon Giant #27, to take home the lion's share of the prize money... a cool €60,000! This was Götz's second win - he won the Stop 1 event in April

The semi-finalists in the Grand Finale were Thierry Manouck of France and Chris Ternel of England.

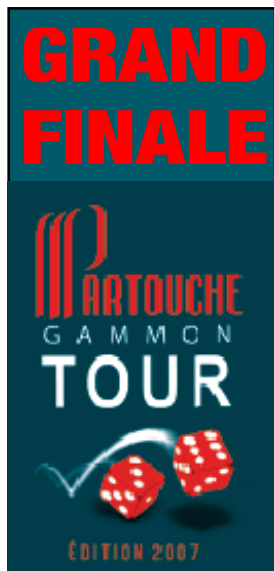
Grand Domaine de Divonne-Les-Bains, was also the scene of the first main tournament of the 2008 Partouche Gammon Tour. The main championship flight was won by Zoran Maric of Bosnia/France, who coincidentally also had to fend off Morten Holm of Denmark to grab the title. Zoran took home €25,000 for his victory.

So, who is the inaugural winner of the 2007 Partouche European Backgammon Tour? It is the dazzling Dane himself, Sander Lylloff. Sander was already widely seen as the most promising newcomer of the international backgammon scene; experienced card player, and also excellent chess player, he keeps on adding new talents to his range, and demonstrates again that Backgammon and Poker live happily together, and require similar skills.



This reminds us of another Danish player who successfully started his career with Backgammon, and who then moved to Poker, someone named Gus Hansen...

The dexterity and cold blood of Lylloff in both disciplines makes him The Player of the moment. And even if his



Stops 1 & Grand Finale: Götz Hildberg



**Stop 2:
Pia Jeppesen**



**Stop 4:
Sander Lylloff**



Stop 3: Jürgen Orlowski

performance in the last backgammon World Championship (Monte Carlo -July 07) was not so convincing (he was defeated in the first round), Lylloff has great chances to figure in the next list of the Backgammon Giants (a ranking of the best players in the world): His skills talks for him: He has been playing at a constant world class level during the entire PGTour 2007.

This report was compiled from various sources:
Michael Strato @ www.gammonlife.com/
Eric Geudj @ www.partouchegammon.fr/

See the back page for more exciting backgammon action involving Partouche.

All-In-One, or How To Put All Your Eggs in One Basket

By Michael Crane

It's not often that 11-point matches are over in one game, but that's what happened during the 2000 Illinois State Championship when Bill Davis sat opposite Jake Jacobs. These two are world-renowned players and backgammon personalities. Bill is the Editor and Publisher of *Chicago Point*, the excellent backgammon magazine; and Jake, as well as being one the world's best players, is a much respected writer and analyst of the game. I hope that both players will forgive my impudence in commenting on their moves during this exciting game.



Jake Jacobs

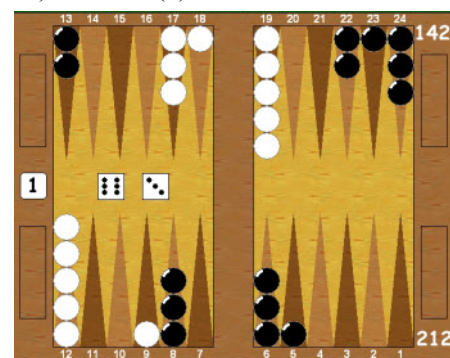


Bill Davis

Slowly but surely, black's error rate is climbing. The error this time is in playing 24/22(2) 23/22 6/5. Snowie prefers to make the 5-point this roll by playing 25/24(2) 6/5(2), no doubt because if white can't safety his bar-point blot the extra home board point might come in handy.

	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
25/24(2) 6/5(2)	43.4	9.0	
25/24(2) 23/22 6/5	42.6	8.4	-0.045

05) 11: 25/24(2) 23/22 6/5



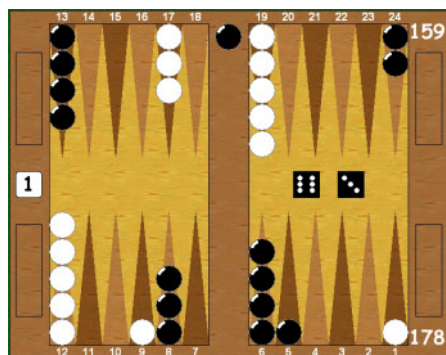
White to play 63

11 point match

Game 1 (the only one!)

Bill Davis : 0 Jake Jacobs : 0
01) 41: 13/9 6/5 53: 24/21 21/16*

Bill, playing as black starts with an aggressive 41, and white then misses the easier 4-shot but hits the 8-shot. It's on black's second move that his first error is made, albeit a marginal one.



Black 0 White 0
Black to play 63

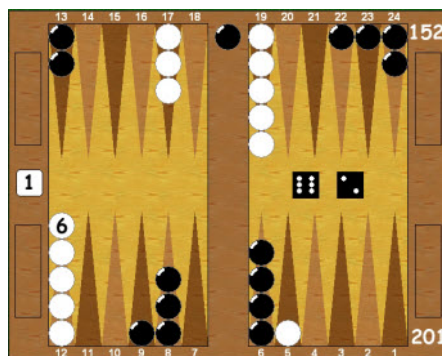
After re-entry, 25/22, black then moves 13/7, slotting his bar-point. This is a tad risky, leaving two direct shots, 4s and 6s; and it is with 4s that the best move lies. Playing 25/16 will duplicate 4s as a hitting number.

	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
25/16	44.8	11.8	
25/22 13/7	12.5	44.1	-0.031

02) 63: 25/22 13/7 65: 24/18* 18/13

White 'picks & passes' the unnecessary blot.

03) 42: 25/23 13/9* 32: 25/22 22/20*



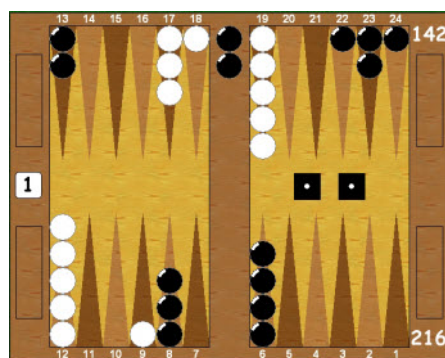
Black to play 62

Another 62 for black and another small error. He plays 25/23 24/18 leaving four blots around the board. The best play was to do what should have been done last time - duplicate 4s with 25/23 22/16.

	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
25/23 22/16	41.8	10.2	
25/23 24/18	42.1	9.8	-0.036

04) 62: 25/23 24/18 64: 13/7* 20/16*

The failure to duplicate has now resulted in two in the air whereas with the duplication the outcome would have been one in the air, 20/16, with an awkward 6 to play - which would have most likely have been 16/10 leaving re-entry rolls with 3s (except 63) and 64 and 55 to hit the outer board blot.



Black to play 11

White jumps in with the highest error so far; and it looks like a good move! White ran his back checker 16/7, covering his bar-point, however; Snowie thinks this is too safe and prefers to shift two off the mid-point, 13/7 13/10, leaving a nice builder for his 5- or 4-point. This builder is exposed to an indirect shot so, if black does roll one of his hitting numbers he won't be able to cover his 5-point blot. Leaving the runner exposed on the 16-point isn't too much of a risk: black has a poor home board and a stripped mid-point. If black does hit he'll have to vacate the only safe haven for his back checkers who will be left with only the 8-point (or 9-) to land upon.

	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
13/7 13/10	57.9	26.8	
16/7	56.7	25.2	-0.066

63: 16/7

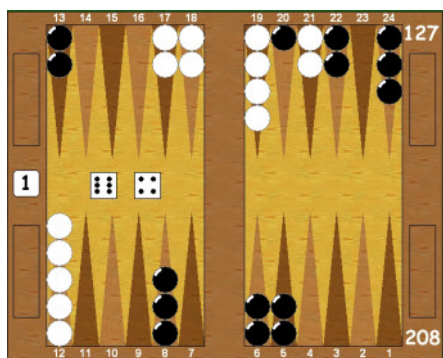
06) 21: 23/21 6/5

A slightly better move here would have been 24/22 24/23; as it turned out, white next rolled 42 and pointed on the blot on his 4-point.

42: 8/4* 6/4



07) 41: 25/20

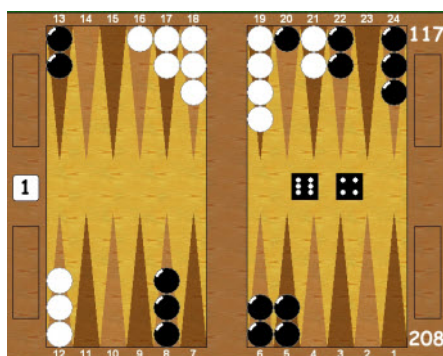


White to play 64

Black is nicely set up here to cause white a load of trouble; and already white has to leave a blot. He plays 13/7 13/9. Although the 9-point blot is directly under the gun from direct 4s and 6s, black is unlikely to hit with a direct 6 if it means losing control of white's 22-point. It would have been marginally safer to have moved 13/7 6/2, leaving just 1s to hit.

	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
13/7 6/2	53.9	25.8	
13/7 13/9	53.8	25.8	-0.012

64: 13/7 13/9



Black to play 64

Well, black rolls 64 and can, if he wants to, hit with either die; but instead he decides not to and plays 24/20 13/7! Has he gone mad? Well, the short answer is - no! Hitting now would be a largish error at best @ -0.088 and a big blunder at worst. It is too soon for black to be hitting; he only has a 2-prime and little hope of containing the white checker. The best play here is to ignore the blot and make the 20-point; thus giving black an excellent anchor and denying white the opportunity to make the 5-point himself.

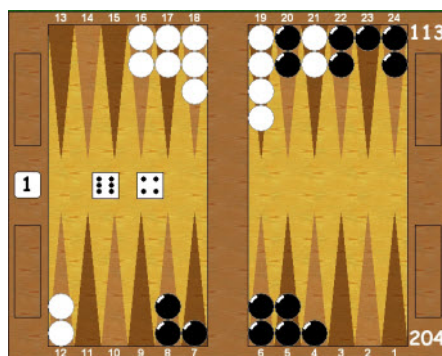
	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
24/20 13/7	48.9	8.7	

08) 64: 13/7 24/20 11: 13/12* 12/9

Ironic, isn't it? Black plays the correct

move and he still gets hit. Mind you, if he hadn't made his 20-point he'd have lost it completely with this 11.

09) 42: 25/23 8/4

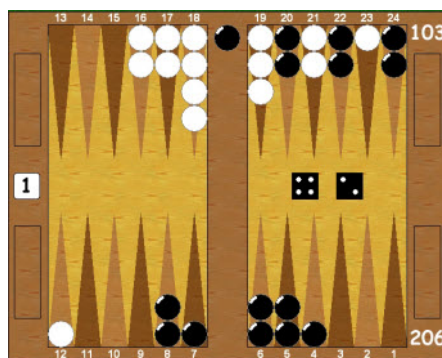


White to play 64

White decides that he'd rather hit now than play safe, so he moves 13/7 6/2*, leaving black with 2s, 11, 31 and 51 to hit. Black won't be too put out about being hit; he's now got a chance to hit, or land safely upon one of his three anchors. Some players might think that it would have been better to make the 2-point instead of hitting loose, but they'd be making a bigish error. The best move here is the simple, two off the mid-point, 13/7 13/9; safe and secure and providing builders for the 2-point if needed.

	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
13/7 13/9	48.5	25.6	
13/7 6/2*	48.0	25.2	-0.020

64: 13/7 6/2*



Black to play 42

The hit, 25/23* is forced, but there is some choice (albeit not very good) with the 4; and in truth, there's only two viable moves: 24/20 or 8/4. At first glance - and I'd imagine over the board for most players - 8/4 looks the better of the two by a long chalk; but it's not, it's an error @ -0.068. Black has to get his back checkers out of white's home board and he doesn't need three anchors. Moving 24/20 means he can now jump out with 5s or 6s without having to break off his 20-point an-

chor. If white does hit back off the bar, it won't be too bad for black because he's favourite to re-enter.

	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
25/23* 24/20	48.2	8.8	
25/23* 8/4	45.7	8.9	-0.068

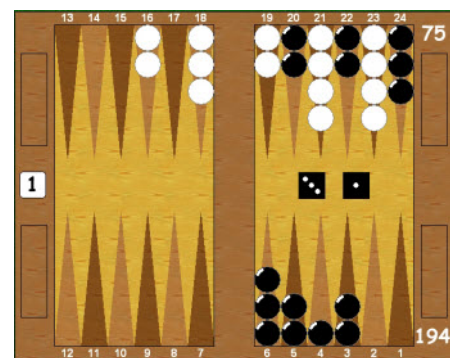
10) 42: 25/23* 8/4 52: 25/18*

Being hit was unavoidable for black with this roll from white; but at least his next roll (also a 52) enabled him to get a spare checker on the 20-point.

11) 52: 25/20 8/6 44: 18/2*
12) 11: 25/24 6/3 52: 7/2 13/11
13) 51: 20/15 4/3 44: 11/7 8/4(2) 6/2

At least black's spare checker on his 20-point paid off; and white's second double four means that black's chances of a hit will come sooner rather than later.

14) 63: 15/6 65: 7/2



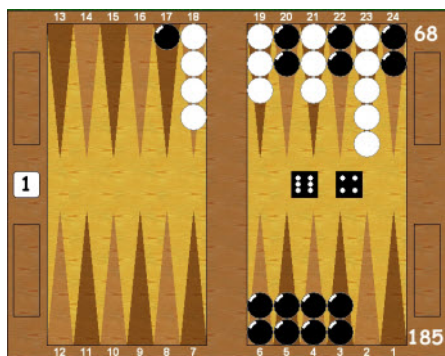
Black to play 31

The dilemma here is whether to move off the 20-point, 20/17 or not. Black does and then moves 6/5 leaving him 1s to make the very important 5-point. Snowie thinks it marginally better to play 6/2 and retain all three anchors.

	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
6/2	57.7	8.2	
20/17 6/5	58.5	8.2	-0.008

15) 31: 20/17 6/5 32: 9/6 9/7
16) 41: 24/20 5/4 62: 4/2

The 41 from black was an excellent roll: re-established the anchor and made the 5-point. ▶

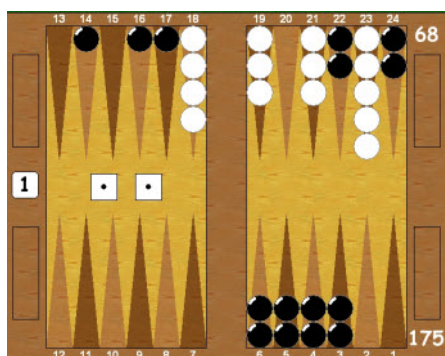


Black to play 64

Breaking from the 20-point, 20/14 20/16 is a marginal error for black; Snowie just plays 17/7 and keeps his anchor intact.

	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
17/7	64.0	9.7	
20/14 20/16	6303	8.9	-0.034

17) 64: 20/14 20/16



White to play 11

It's ironic but, if black had played Snowie's choice of 17/7 then this 11 for white would have been played 7/6(4); instead of 6/5(3) 5/4 which is a massive blunder @ -0.262. Stacking the checkers on the 6-point looks clumsy, but moving 6/5(3) 5/4 gives away almost 4.5% gwc.

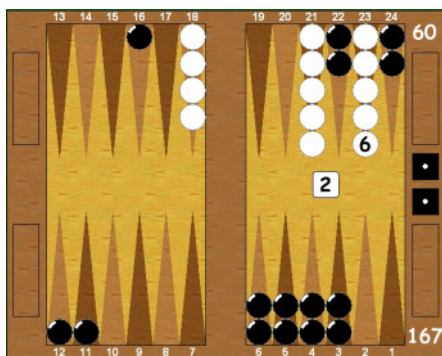
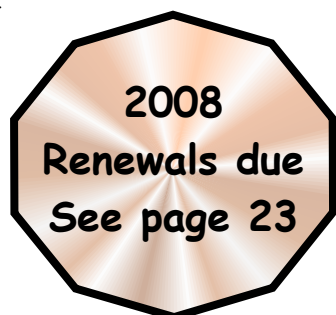
	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
7/6(4)	46.0	26.8	
6/5(3) 5/4	41.6	22.9	-0.262

11) 6/5(3) 5/4

18) 62: 17/11 14/12

31) 5/2 5/4

White is forced onto his 4- and 2-points and now black takes the opportunity to cube.



Black cube action

Despite his semi backgame, black doesn't have a double at the moment and this is an easy take for white. Black's decision to cube now costs him dearly in equity loss.

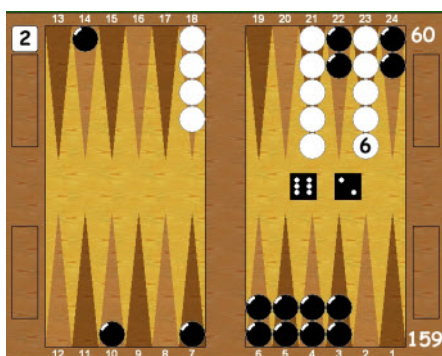
Snowie: No Double/Take			
No double	0.270		
Double, take	0.135	-0.135	
Double, pass	1.000	+0.730	

19) Doubles to 2

Takes

20) 22: 16/14 12/10 11/7 64: No move

White remains static and then black rolls 62 and plays another big blunder.



Black to play 62

We have to travel well down Snowie's list for this one, right down to 12th place for 22/20 14/8. The 14/8 bit's OK, but Snowie isn't keen on the 24/20 bit. It reduces the gwc by a tidy margin, even if it does get hits with a good few of white's rolls 38.9%. There are a few pointing (13.9%) or pick&pass rolls (5.55%) with the actual play but it is hard to see why this particular play is so far down Snowie's list.

	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
10/2	62.2	12.6	
22/20 14/8	57.0	11.4	-0.188

21) 62: 14/8 22/20

63: 7/4

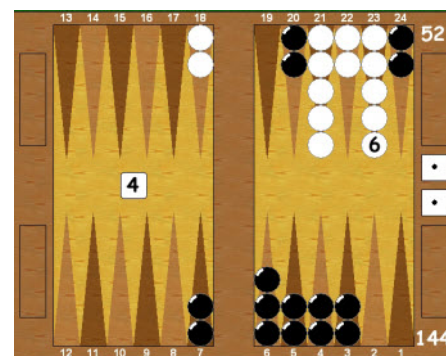
22) 11: 10/7

41: 7/3* 4/3

23) 51: 25/20 7/6

After coming in and anchoring on white's

5-point, white now ships across the recube to 4.



White cube action

Black has an easy take here, mainly because it's not a good double. Black now has a very decent home board and is hopeful of a hit soon. White has a lot of poor rolls that'll leave a blot (52.8%); and therefore he should keep a tight grip on the 2-cube and not hand it over too lightly.

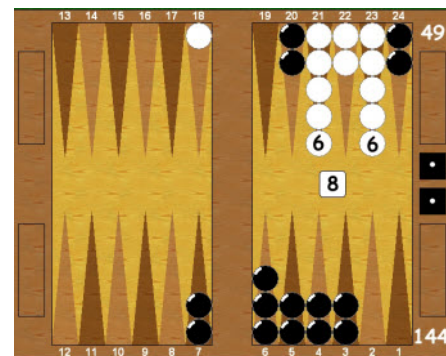
Snowie: No Re-double/Take			
No double	0.450		
Re-double, take	0.303	-0.148	
Re-double, pass	1.000	+0.550	

Re-doubles to 4

24) Takes

63: 7/4

White rolls one of the blot-leaving numbers and black recubes immediately.



Black cube action

Even though black seems to have a massive advantage: a good home board and a double shot, this is a not redouble and is a take. White is 95 pips ahead in the race and it could be sometime before black gets back a second checker to clinch the game.

Snowie: No Re-double/Take			
No double	0.310		
Re-double, take	0.297	-0.013	
Re-double, pass	1.000	+0.690	

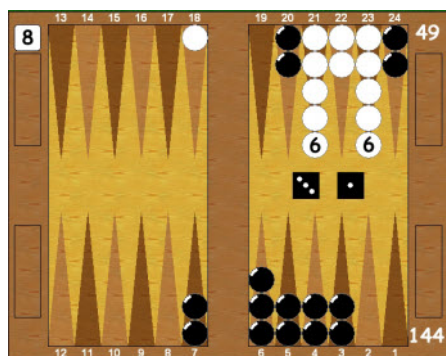
25) Re-doubles to 8

Takes

With 6s and 2s for a double hit, black has



good chances here to change the game around. His gwc are around 60%. But ...



Black misses with 31

Black misses with his double shot and then breaks his prime, 7/3. This is an error and Snowie advises that slotting 6/2 is better; it keeps the 5-prime intact and still allows him to make the 2-point.

	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
6/2	29.3	1.3	
7/3	27.2	1.0	-0.048

26) 31: 7/4 4/3

33: 7/4 3/0 3/0

White's 33 gets him in and off but now he's left holding just two points, his 4-

and 2-

27) 31: 20/17 3/2

61: 4/0 4/3

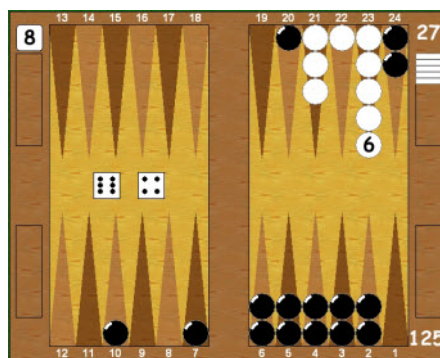
Black correctly ran a checker out and slotted, and then white leaves a blot on his 3-point.

28) 61: 17/10

54: 4/0 4/0

29) 31: 6/2

Twice black misses out by not rolling a 2 (30.55% chance each time) and then white rolls a nightmare 64.



White to play 64

White is forced to leave two shots and black moves up to favourite with 52.2%

gwc as he gets 2s and 3s to hit (55.55%).

30) 65: 20/14 14/9

64: 4/0 4/0

65: 4/0 3/0

Black's 65 misses the blots and white's 65 gets them both off; now white has moved from 47.8% to 94.4%; including 83.2% gammons! White really has to stay behind now and hope for a hit to save the gammon . . . but he doesn't do it. The only 1 that white rolls is double-one, and it's curtains for black.

31) 53: 24/19 10/7

52: 2/0 2/0

32) 32: 9/6 19/17

64: 2/0 2/0

33) 32: 6/1

11: 2/1*(2) 1/0 1/0

Wins 11 points and the match

This match is available from Biba HQ and appears on the CD-ROM version of Bibafax.

Optional: Black-tie and posh frocks for Saturday night!

The Gilbertson UK Finals - 30 November, 1 & 2 December, 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 genuine beginners. Registration and entry is free, but each entrant must pay £1 for a 1-Day Biba Membership if they are not already members. The format will be (all without the cube): Main, 3-points; Consolation 3-points; 1-pointer. So, if your local club has a few beginners or your partner or friend is a beginner, get them along to Coventry and see if they can win a few quid! This element will start at 1130 on the Saturday morning. Please do not be late! Phone 07900 961468 if you might be.



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



All The Best - From the Hilton Trophy

Starring Uldis Lapikens (l) and Chris Ternel (r)



By Michael Crane

When Chris Ternel and Uldis Lapikens sat opposite each other in the final of the Hilton trophy it looked as if Uldis was going to end up in second place after he trailed 2-7 at the start of Game 8. However, it was during this game that Uldis stepped up a gear and the match eventually got to 9-9; at which point, Uldis made a an early double (which Chris took)

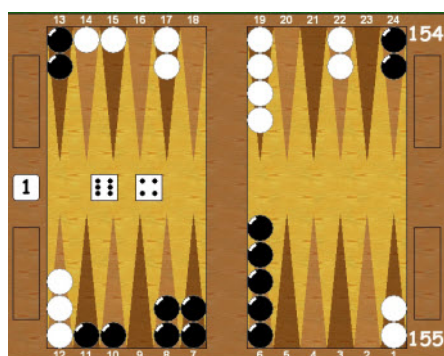
and the game went slightly to Chris until he rolled a 54 which left a blot. Uldis hit the blot and from thereon it went his way and he became the 2007 Hilton Champion.

Usually articles concentrate on the errors and blunders, and this match had plenty, from both players! But; this time I am going

to concentrate on the better moves played by each player. Given a choice of three candidate moves, see if you can spot the best one. Chris is playing as black and Uldis, white.

The solutions are on page24 ►

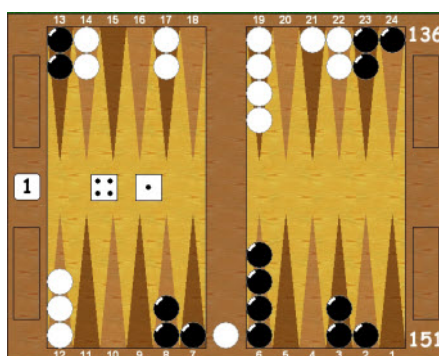
Pos: 01



Black 0 White 0
White to play 64

13/7 11/7
10/4 8/4
24/14*

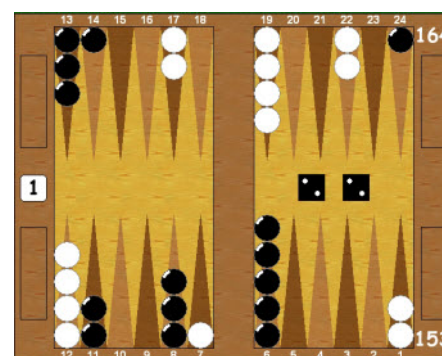
Pos: 02



Black 0 White 0
White to play 41

25/21 4/3
25/24 8/4
25/20

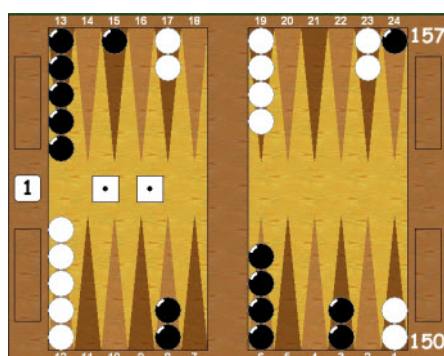
Pos: 03



Black 0 White 1
Black to play 22

11/9(2) 6/4(2)
11/7* 6/4(2)
11/7*(2)

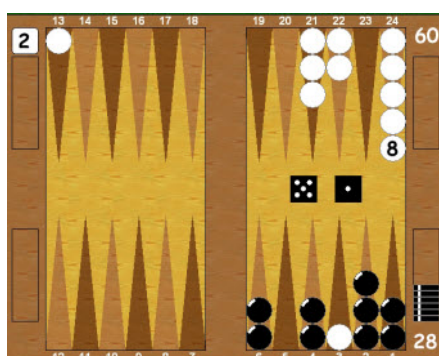
Pos: 04



Black 4 White 2
White to play 11

24/23(2) 6/5(2)
6/5(2) 2/1*(2)
8/7(2) 6/5(2)

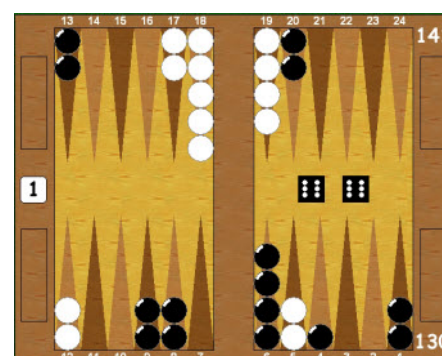
Pos: 05



Black 4 White 2
Black to play 51

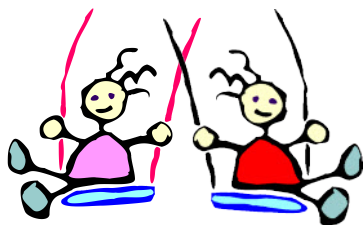
6/1 2/1
6/1 6/5
6/0

Pos: 06



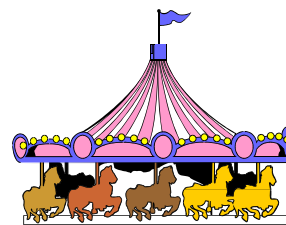
Black 7 White 4
Black to play 66

20/14(2) 13/7(2)
20/14(2) 9/3(2)
20/8(2)



Swings & Roundabouts

By Michael Crane



Often, throughout a match or a game the match equity can change dramatically by moving the 'wrong' move. During their 6th Round match at the SAC Trophy in August, Eamon Keogh (b) and Stephen Drake (w) both made several 'wrong' moves and sustained dramatic equity swings.

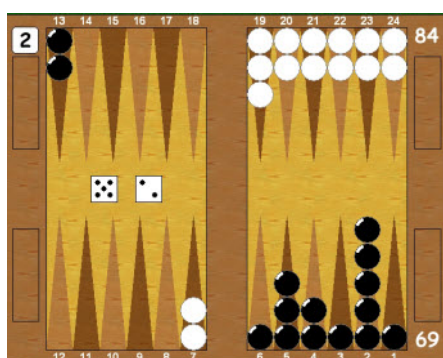
It is these 'swings' and 'roundabouts' that this article concentrates on

two points.

Position 01	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
18/16 6/1	43.38	7.8	
6/1 4/2	38.50	1.6	-0.165

isn't actually blocking anything at the moment. The consequence of this is that with the 4-point play we get 66.5% gwc as opposed to 60.8%; and 19.3% gc instead of 13.3%.

Position 01



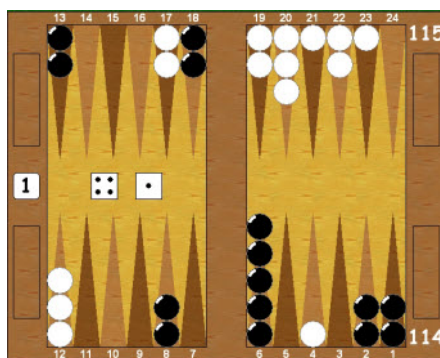
Black 2 White 0
White to play 52

The Swing: With three home-blots just crying out to be hit, white should be trying his best to get a shot, making full use of his home-prime. With this in mind the best play is 18/16 giving away a double-shot and 6/1. This might look suicidal, but it creates great gwc (game winning chances) and enhanced gc (gammon chances). The actual play 6/1 4/2 returns 38.5% gwc and 1.6% gc; which is a good bit lower than the return of 43.8% gwc and 7.8% gc with the provocative play.

Black will not willingly hit on his 7- or 9-point because he doesn't have any safe ways of hitting and covering his blots. The best hitting roll he could roll would be double-two, and that would leave white with just over 22% hitting rolls off the bar. If black rolls any 6 he's going to leave at least one direct hit off the bar with four of his 6s, and two shots with the remaining seven 6s.

The Roundabout: On his next roll black managed to evade rolling a 6, and instead rolled 51 and played safe, 6/1 2/1. It was white who then rolled the first 6, 18/9; the blot was hit and black went on to win the

Position 02



Black 4 White 0
White to play 41

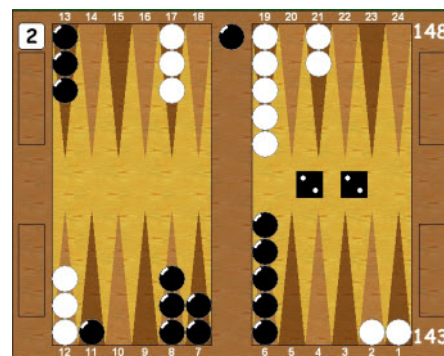
The Swing: I would think a lot of players would have made one of two moves, 13/8 or 21/16, the latter being the actual play. The more 'sighted' among you will have played 6/2 5/4, leaving a single checker on the 6-point. I know it's been drummed into you never to strip your 6-point, but in this instance it is much better than the two non-stripping plays. White has improved his board and now has 8s and 2s to make a 5-prime; and in doing so he has moved from 51.2% gwc to 55.9%, but more importantly, he's gone from 7.9% gc to almost double with 14.7%.

The Roundabout: Black failed to pick up the blot on his 9-point, and later, thanks to a very timely 22, white was able to bring his runners into his outer board, and then double black out.

Position 02	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
6/2 5/4	55.9	14.7	
21/16	51.2	7.9	-0.245

The Swing (position in the next column): Doubles are usually great rolls; but as well as being able to move four checkers instead of two, the margin for error is also greater. In this position it is the difference between making the 9-point with 25/23 13/11 11/9(2) to form a four-point blocking prime, and making the 4-point by playing 25/23 13/11, 6/4(2). Although the four-prime looks very good, the 9-point

Position 03

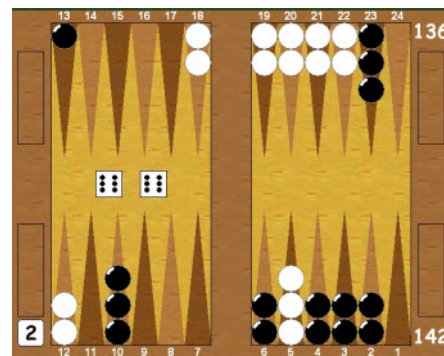


Black 6 White 2
Black to play 22

The Roundabout: On his next roll white rolls a fairly poor 32; well, it would have proven to be fairly poor if black had made the 4-point and stopped white anchoring with 24/22 23/22! Establishing this crucial anchor keeps white in the game - to such an extent that he is able to recube to 4 and take the two points.

Position 03	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
25/23 13/11 6/4(2)	66.5	19.3	
25/23 13/11 1/9(2)	60.8	13.3	-0.235

Position 04



Black 6 White 4
White to play 66

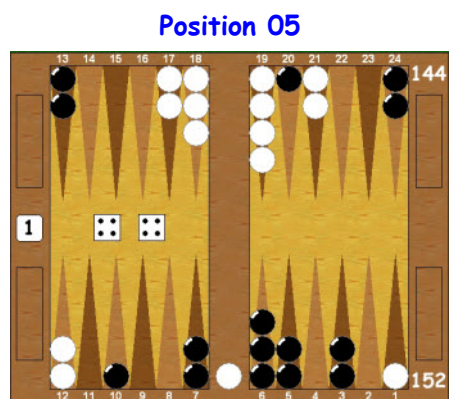
The Swing: There's really only two realistic plays here - and one of them is a



huge blunder @ -0.280! It is 20/14(3) 14/8 that is so very wrong; the correct play is the pure, 20/8(2). Black is fronting the white 5-prime and needs 6s to escape; therefore it makes perfect sense to deprive him of that escape route for as long as it is viable. Leaving the shot with 14/8 returns 82.5% gwc and 18.3% gc as opposed to 90.3% and 23.5%. Leaving the lone runner on the black 5-point isn't a worry for white, with his 6-prime block and two spare checkers on his mid-point he has great timing.

The Roundabout: Those of you that know Ken 'Stacker' Staines might also be familiar with his 'catchphrase', "Punish to the max!" Black certainly punished white to the max when he rolled 64, 23/17* 17/13. It turned the game around, especially after a second checker was launched off the black 23-point to knock back a second white checker. However, white eventually made a 6-prime - behind which resided one lone black checker . . . but it was this lone checker that cost white the game for it came in off the bar with a hit, and enabled black, a few rolls later, to cube white out.

Position 04	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
20/8(2)	90.3	23.5	
20/14(3) 14/8	82.5	18.3	-0.280



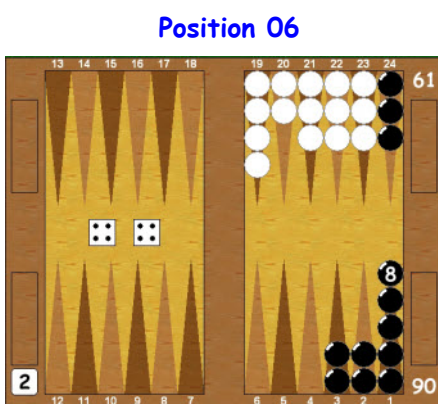
Black 8 White 4
White to play 44

The Swing: According to Snowie (and I have to agree) there's only one move here, the simple racing 25/9. Well down Snowie's list of moves is the actual play of 25/21 13/9(2) 9/5*, leaving a blot on the 5-point and lots of shots off the bar. Gammon chances aren't much altered, 17.7% down to 19.4%, but the gwc shift from 51.9% down to 45.3%. Black is looking for contact here and would have been fairly pleased to have seen 25/9 played, but now he must be ecstatic with this move!

The Roundabout: Black's reply was 41, 25/20*; but white recovered with 31, anchoring on the black 4-point. A double-three from black slightly improved his outer board but it was 41 from white - 9/5* 6/5 - that turned the game back to white's favour. A few rolls later white doubled when he was "too good" and he went on to win two points when black narrowly saved the gammon thanks to a hit on white's 1-point following an unforced error.

But, before that we have another Swing.

Position 05	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
25/9	51.9	17.7	
25/21 13/9(2) 9/5*	45.3	19.4	-0.260



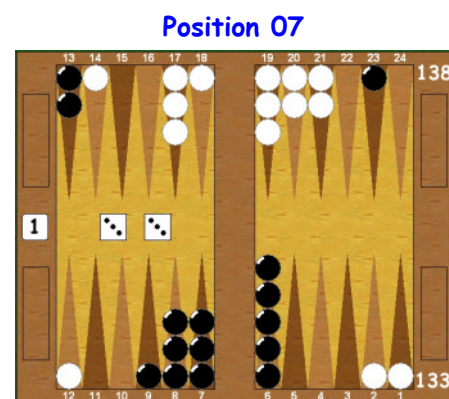
Black 8 White 4
White to play 44

The Swing: Another double-four for white and this time, although his gwc don't alter @ 96%, he drops a load with his gammon chances, 40.3% down to 30.7% when he plays 'safe' by moving 6/2(4)! He is unlikely to lose this game (96% gwc) and therefore he should be trying to win a gammon and setting the scores level at 8-8; this is best done with 6/2 4/0(3). I put 'safe' into quotes because with each of the two plays there are approx. 19% rolls that can leave a blot next roll, so the gammon play was no riskier and it could have resulted in four points.

The Roundabout: Let's play out the actual dice rolls as if white had taken off instead of moving down. On his roll black rolled 54, which, if Snowie's choice had been played would have blocked off a runner from escaping, thus enhancing the gammon chances. White then rolled 65, 6/0 5/0 leaving a blot on his 5-point. Black misses with 53 and runs out 24/16. White takes off two checkers with 52, 5/0 2/0. A double-four from black would be played 24/20 to threaten white's two

checkers on his 6-point, and 16/4. White still leaves a blot on when he rolls 52, 6/1* 3/1. Black now has to get out as quick as he can and 53 is played 25/17; not even the slim chance of white rolling 11 is enough to block 1s. Hitting 6/5* 5/0 with 51, white increases his gc to 71.3%. *NB: It was this roll of 51 that left black a shot on the 1-point, which he hit to save the gammon!* Black dances with 31 and white then rolls 52, 3/0 3/1. Black's re-entry roll of 64 is a good one and he plays 25/19 17/13; but it isn't enough and he doesn't manage to save the gammon!

Position 06	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
6/2 4/0(3)	96.0	40.3	
6/2(4)	96.0	30.7	-0.127



Black 8 White 6
White to play 33

The Swing: White's play of 13/7 11/5 looks very good: it is very threatening to the black runner; but it does leave black to play all of his next roll, and two of them could be 61; and if that came out then white would be in trouble. Even if it didn't, black has good chances of keeping white's runners pinned down.

What white has to do here is put pressure on black with 8/2*(2) and at least rob him of 1/2 a roll and give himself a bit of timing to extricate his runners. Although it risks a few re-entry shots, (approx 19%) it is well worth it, it returns 66.5% gwc with 39.9% gc as opposed to 59.3% and 22.7%.

The Roundabout: Black rolled 54 and would have danced, instead he played 13/8 13/9 forming a 4-prime; and white's reply was 62 with which he ran out a runner, 23/15; but then black rolled 61 and did the same, 23/16, which would have left a lone black checker on the white 1-point leaving white well in the game. However, an excellent 33 from black put the two white runners onto the



Position 07	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
8/2*(2)	66.5	39.9	
13/7 11/5	59.3	22.7	-0.384

bar and enabled black to double out for the game.

So, as we have seen often when we play the 'wrong' move it has a knock-on effect on how the game turns out. It is easy to see this effect with the benefit of hindsight and Snowie rolling out the plays, but it is much harder doing it over the

board and under pressure. Backgammon can be fun, and often it isn't fair, but if you want to avoid the funfair, stay away from the swings and roundabouts!



11th Mind Sports Olympiad 2007

Diary of a stand-in TD, By Richard Biddle



Day 1 – The Potters Bar Cup – 2 day Swiss Format of 6 x 11 pt matches

A new year and a new venue saw only 5 regular backgammon players show up to begin with. I was ecstatic as with an odd number, it meant that I would be able to compete. However, with a few minutes to go before kick-off, 3 established MSO regulars showed up as other events had been cancelled due to low attendance. As we all knew already, backgammon conquers all where other games fall by the wayside. It's not the oldest game for nothing. And no, I didn't get to play :-)

Round 1 of this 8-man Swiss tournament finished with wins for two of the MSO players and two of the BG players; the giant-killing of Steve Rimmer by MSO regular Andrew Havery being the result of that round.

Round 2 saw both Andrew and Alexander, players who do not play regularly as the only two with two wins. Uldis Lapikens, who admittedly had played tough opposition, had zero wins along with George Lane, better known for his published book on Mental Calculations. George had just been thumped 11-1 by John Slattery, picking up his first win and announcing "Now I am back on track!!" As the UK's only representative on the Giants of Backgammon list, it is great that he makes the effort to attend this event. It is a great honour for lesser players to learn from playing and watching players like the charismatic Slats, without risking huge amounts of money. It would be great if other established players followed suit.

Round 3 saw Andrew continue to march towards world domination, wiping out Alexander. Slats remained on track, seeing off Chris Purchase. Steve and Ian Davidson had a humdinger that went down to the final checker, Steve keeping his cool and winning. Uldis rediscovered that winning feeling.

Round 4 - The final round of this first day



set up a clash of the titans – Slats v Andrew. Andrew kept to his winning ways. Slats fell back off the track. Steve saw off the challenge from Alexander. Ian kept his hopes alive with a win over Uldis. So at the end of the first day, the non-regular player Andrew leads the field with four wins, closely followed by Steve. Can any of the players on two wins put in a perfect day tomorrow to knock Andrew off his winning stride? This challenge will fall to Chris Purchase who plays him first.

Day 2 – The venue, being a church was being used on Sunday morning, so we all got a lie in. These are always appreciated by backgammon players as most of us stay up far too late playing backgammon.

Round 5 - Chris set off to try and halt Andrew and true to form it wasn't long before the former had a large number of checkers in Andrew's home board. Chris, it appears, only knows how to play a backgame and he would rather chew his own arm off than play out a straight race even if he was ahead on pips. However, this method worked for him today, as he swept Andrew aside to leave Andrew still on four wins and four other players on 3 wins, setting up a very open final round. All four matches had a potential

medal winner in them. Steve was most overjoyed as he was playing George, who fairly new to the game, was yet to win. But as we all know, anything can happen in backgammon.

Round 6 - All the possible permutations started to make my head hurt and I figured my tie-breaking skills would probably be put to the test before the day was out. We might end up with four players on four wins. Oh well, so much for getting a quick getaway to watch the Liverpool-Chelsea match down the local.

Chris was the first join Andrew on 4 wins. Andrew was being challenged all the way by Uldis who at this stage was playing for pride, and possibly to do his St Albans team-mate a favour. On the other side of the room, it looked like Slats may also join the players on four wins as he led 10-1 in his match against Alexander. Lastly, Steve looked very comfortable against the inexperienced George.

So we ended up with four players on four wins. Looking at their common opponents, as head-to-head didn't give a clear order; we ended up with two players on two wins. By virtue of the fact that Andrew had already beaten Steve, he picked up the Gold, Steve picked up Silver and Slats collected Bronze. Chris finished just outside the top three despite having four wins. Unlucky.

Potter's Bar Cup				
Pos	Name	Wins	Amateur	GP
Gold	Andrew Havery	4	78.57	n/a
Silver	Steve Rimmer	4	78.57	9.29
Bronze	John Slattery	4	78.57	9.29
4	Chris Purchase	4	78.57	9.29
5	Ian Davidson	3	35.71	6.19
6	Uldis Lapikens	3	35.71	6.19
7	Alexander Baron	2	14.29	n/a
8	George Lane	0	0.00	n/a

Day 3 - Biba 1 Day Challenge Cup

Down to a format of 6 x 5 point matches,



with 8 players we decided to do a round robin of 7 x 5 point matches. More games for everyone and I was able to play to make it an even number, yippee!! It was fairly close coming up to the final rounds until Steve Rimmer won his final two matches while all the others faulted. He finished with five wins and four players vying for second spot with four wins. Looking at the results of matches between these four players, Biba regulars, Richard Biddle & Ian Davidson had won two each. Richard picked up Silver due to the head-to-head result over Ian, who collected Bronze. It was fitting that 3 Biba members picked up the medals in the Biba 1 Day Challenge, a fun format that everyone enjoyed. I think we will have a few more coming back this week as word gets out that backgammon is the place to be.

Day 4 - The Olympiad Blitz

Ironically being a weekday, we had the biggest field yet as 10 hearty enthusiasts roughly split half-half between experienced and non-experienced players. We agreed the best format would be a round-robin of three point matches. We achieved this within the time available despite the accusations of me being a slow player. I would like to make the observation that I do not take a long time over each move, I just have to make more moves than anyone else. Once again, Steve Rimmer's experience shone through as he picked up Gold with 7 wins. We had a whole host of players finishing up on 5 wins, so we looked at their head-to-heads. Sadly for one of them, Daniel Rosen, no wins were achieved in the head-to-heads. With no other way to do and no time for a three way play-off, Silver was awarded to Alexander Baron, Martyn Hamer and Alan Berlyn.

Day 5 - The Olympiad Rapid

After yesterday's record breaking attendance, it was disappointing to only have four players today. We set off on the task of playing two round robins of 7 point matches. At the half way stage, there were three players on 2 wins. Andrew Havery was unable to record a win in the morning session, MSO fatigue kicking in. For the final round, it ended up with the two leading players playing each other for Gold, the other two playing for pride, the Bronze already being decided. In a thrilling final match, Daniel Rosen picked up his first medal of the year, beating Richard Biddle. Steve Rimmer continued his medal haul with a third placed Bronze.

Day 6 & 7 - The Olympiad English Open

A Biba Grand Prix event saw the return of Uldis Lapikens and John Slattery to give us our largest event yet with 12 runners. Special thanks go to Adam Tansley who showed up to be arbiter, with the even number of players it meant he would not get to play so his presence was much appreciated by me, who could play. Slat finished the day on three wins along with Bijan Mehdi-njad. Knowing that they would definitely be playing their first match the next day, they decided to start it that evening. Bijan spotted that Slat was a little backgammoned out, having seen off Tige Nnando, Richard Biddle and Alexander Baron. Bijan had already beaten Chris Purchase, John Ingamells and Tomas Kosicka. Bijan had definitely faced the tougher opposition, so must have been a favourite against this mere Giant of Backgammon. Our friendly Giant, however, wasn't fazed by this young pretender and consolidated his position and, in fact, went on to win his next match. This set up a thrilling final match against Ian Davidson, who had to win this match to win Gold. Despite getting to the Crawford match and looking in a strong position having made a couple of big plays, Ian had to succumb to Slat's racing doubles. Winning all his matches, Slat was the undisputed English Open Champ. Ian had to settle for Bronze as Uldis Lapikens pipped in for Silver.



Slat's & Bijan battle it out in their 'early' match

Biba Challenge Cup			
Pos	Name	Wins	Amateur
Gold	Steve Rimmer	5	100.00
Silver	Richard Biddle	4	64.29
Bronze	Ian Davidson	4	64.29
4	Martyn Hamer	4	64.29
5	Daniel Rosen	4	64.29
6	Tige Nnando	3	28.57
7	Josef Kollar	2	7.14
8	Kenneth Ho	2	7.14

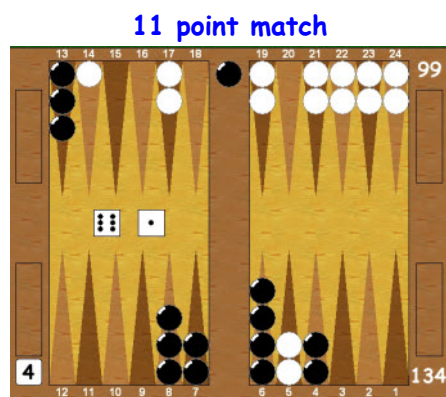
The Blitz			
Pos	Name	Wins	Amateur
Gold	Steve Rimmer	7	100.00
Silver	Alexander Baron	5	72.22
Silver	Martyn Hamer	5	72.22
Silver	Alan Berlyn	5	72.22
5	Daniel Rosen	5	72.22
6	Richard Biddle	4	33.33
7	Kenneth Ho	4	33.33
8	Chris Briscoe	4	33.33
9	Alain Dekker	3	5.56
10	Joey Ho	3	5.56

The Rapid			
Pos	Name	Wins	Amateur
Gold	Daniel Rosen	5	100.00
Silver	Richard Biddle	4	66.67
Bronze	Steve Rimmer	2	33.33
4	Andrew Havery	1	0.00

MSO English Open				
Pos	Name	Wins	Amateur	GP
Gold	John Slattery	6	100.00	24.77
Silver	Uldis Lapikens	4	81.82	9.29
Bronze	Ian Davidson	4	81.82	9.29
4	Tomas Kosika	4	81.82	n/a
5	John Ingamells	3	45.45	6.19
6	Martyn Hamer	3	45.45	n/a
7	Bijan Medinejad	3	45.45	n/a
8	Richard Biddle	3	45.45	6.19
9	Alexander Baron	3	45.45	n/a
10	Tige Nnando	2	18.18	n/a
11	Mahmoud Jahanbani	1	9.09	2.58
12	Chris Purchase	0	0.00	0.00

Continued on the next page ►

No match report is complete without a position or two. I have only been able to record one position this week in a match between John Ingamells (white) and Richard Biddle (black).



Black 5 White 5 White to play 61

The top 3 moves according to a Snowie Rollout are:

20/13

**Live cube rollout: 0.875
0.864**

20/14 8/7

**Live cube rollout: 0.859 (-0.016)
0.845**

20/14 11/10

**Live cube rollout: 0.857 (-0.018)
0.836**

However, John Ingamells went for the big play of 11/5 8/7. This was a whopping blunder according to Snowie.

11/5 8/7

**Live cube rollout: 0.646 (-0.230)
0.645**

It was a moment of madness that I wanted to punish, even though I was still not favourite to enter let alone win the game. My feeling over the board was that if I lost this game I would likely lose by a gammon. I was favourite to miss and John was favourite to cover. This was the wrong assumption and one that lead me to double back for the game. If I hit, I felt I would win the game and match if I doubled.

The Snowie rollout shows that I only lost a gammon 45.2% of the time, so I was too pessimistic about my position and was wrong to do a last ditch double. It was also

pointed out that just by entering and hitting on the five-point, I was not guaranteed a win and therefore it was not a market loser. However, I wanted to justify my crazy, last-ditch double to the world and pestered anybody that would listen to me about the position.

By not doubling, what was my match equity at 9-5 down? That's assuming I only lost a single game. Let's not forget Snowie says I will lose a gammon 45.2% of the time. Approx 21%? How did this compare with the 27.7% after my double? Surely this means it is right to double? Could someone explain if I had got this wrong?

My thanks go to Adam Tansley, who not only put up with me on the day but also tried to explain this position to me when I was stubbornly refusing that I was wrong. He then had to deal with a nuisance voicemail from me as I still argued the position. I then got this email from him and I thank him profusely for the education.

For the record, I failed to throw a hitting five; John covered and promptly won the match.

Adam says: Following John's move of 11/5 8/7, According to my rollout, you win 28% (just under, actually) of the time from here, which includes 5% gammons, and John wins 72% of the time which includes 45% gammons. As you said, if you recube, your match winning chances are 28%. What are your match winning chances if you don't redouble? Look at Fig a.

If you do not redouble now, then in fact you will win more than 28% of games. Consider owning the cube after you hit. John's takepoint will be 20% (as per the match equity table). Well, you may get to 100% game winning chances 28% of the time, but you will get to 81% game winning chances considerably more often, at which point you will have a redouble/drop.

According to my rollout details, in 5% of games you will reach a redouble/drop

position. There will be many more games in which you become a big favourite, but John just about has a take. The net result of the cubeful figures is that your match winning chance after not recubing is around 32%. So recubing costs around 4% match winning chance, which may not sound too much, but actually is a great deal to give up in just one play.

You will hear many players talking about cubing in various positions where they stand to lose a high percentage of gammons, but it is almost ALWAYS wrong to do it (without market losers).

The general way to think of it is that if you lose gammon, it doesn't matter whether or not you double. It is the variations where you are not gammoned that are key (ie. if you hit in your particular example). In these variations where would you rather have the cube? If your opponent owns it, all he has to do is win a single to win the match (which he may well still be favourite to do - consider hitting a late shot when playing an ace-point game, with a crunching board). If you own it, you may not win the game, but saving the gammon will keep you in the match. You may even be able to use the cube to wins games that you might otherwise not have - "snuffing out your opponents residual chances" as Walter Trice puts it. Adam.

My thanks go out again to Adam for stepping in as Tournament Director having just got off the plane from holiday so that I could play. And also for this valuable lesson on cubing strategy.

Day 8 & 9 - The Olympiad Championship

This competition saw backgammon grow in popularity in Potters Bar with 16 entrants. We had a good mix of players with representation from St Albans, Camden and Biba players. With Biba Grand prix points up for grabs, Uldis Lapikens and Slats were putting pressure on the Grand Prix Leader board. And we had glorious sunshine for the first time this week and the outside tables were quickly snatched up by the sun-worshippers – as seen on Page 1 of this diary. ▶

Fig a	% of games	Match equity @ resulting score	Match winning chance
Win single	23%	80%	18.40%
Win gammon	5%	100%	5.00%
Lose single	27%	20%	5.40%
Lose gammon	45%	0%	0%
			28.80%

Round 1 - The first round draw once again saw the inexperienced George Lane draw the Giant of Backgammon, aptly shortened to GoB, John Slattery. Might we see a giant-killing? My question was, if he is such a Giant, why does he need to stack chairs on top of each other to make himself taller over the board? The stacked chairs worked and John won his ninth consecutive 11-point match during this MSO week.

There were no other surprises in the first round other than Jo Davies giving the experienced Monica Beckerson a walloping 11-1. The final match of the round saw Uldis Lapikens narrowly beaten by Andy Kindler who made a terrible blunder at 10-7 down, when he failed to see an entering double 4 hit, that could have cost him the match. He may possibly have been distracted by Uldis murmuring mistakenly under his breath that it was a miss. The large crowd of watchers were beside themselves but had to keep quiet. Fortunately for Andy, he held his nerve and won 11-10.



Jo Davies & Sue Keeble

Round 2 - Andy's reward for beating Uldis was a tough match against the MSO Backgammon veteran Steve Rimmer. Steve, the form player during MSO, was unstoppable picking up his second win. Uldis, continued his poor form with another loss to Mahmoud Jahanbani. Jo continued her winning ways by beating Slats 11-10. She immediately jumped on the phone to speak to Dodd, her partner who plays a little backgammon but is recognized as not being as strong a player as Jo. I overheard her say she would give him a little lesson when she gets home. Slats had been thwarted from winning 10 consecutive 11-point MSO matches.

Round 3 - Four contenders on 2 wins, all to play each other: The solid Steve vs the jubilant Jo. The aspiring Alan Beckerson v the languid Lawrence Powell. The majority of players were on one win, but all still had a chance if they won their next

match. Steve was victorious as was Alan, to set them up as a head-to-head in the next round. The secret is out on how to beat Slats. As he lost to an excitable Sue Keeble, it is evident he struggles to beat females having previously lost to Jo. That's it, next time I am drawn against Slats, I am going to try a little cross-dressing. Any of the female backgammon players got an LBD I can borrow? It has taken a few attempts, but George Lane finally got this first match win of the week and what bigger scalp than Uldis. Well done George! Uldis, the only way is up from here after three losses.

Round 4 - Alan & Steve got off to an early start with Alan taking a 5-1 lead; followed by six players on 2 wins, all still with a realistic chance of medals. Lawrence was exhausting himself working out the permutations and quickly went 4-0 down to Nicky Check. Now Ian Davidson was not wearing an LBD but did have a fetching lime green polo shirt. This was enough to distract Slats as the latter lost his third match on the trot. Alan held his nerve and beat Steve. Lawrence and his permutations failed to see off Nicky Check. In the battle to get off the mark, Larry Bennet and Uldis went to 10-10. Uldis pulled through in the end.

Round 5 - Alan then faced Gerry Enslin, a dark horse who had kept a low profile but had won enough matches to go into the draw to play Alan. Gerry knocked Alan off his stride and opened the competition up again for those on four wins. Uldis faced Slats this time round and despite not wearing any distracting attire managed to keep the Giant of Backgammon down whose results were going from bad to worse.

Round 6 - The final round had four players on 4 wins facing each other: Nicky vs Alan, and Steve vs Gerry. Nicky had to win and hope that Gerry lost to Steve to have a chance of winning Gold. Nicky won his match but Gerry had his own agenda and it didn't match Nicky's. So Gerry won the Gold, Nicky, non-plussed, picked up Silver, and Alan, by virtue of

Olympiad Championship				
Pos	Name	Wins	Amateur	GP
Gold	Gerry Enslin	5	96.67	13.42
Silver	Nicky Check	5	96.67	13.42
Bronze	Alan Beckerson	4	76.67	9.29
4	Lawrence Powell	4	76.67	9.29
5	Steve Rimmer	4	76.67	9.29
5	Mahmoud Janhanbani	4	76.67	9.29
7	Sue Keeble	3	50.00	6.19
8	Monica Beckerson	3	50.00	6.19
9	Ian Davidson	3	50.00	6.19
10	Jo Davies	3	50.00	6.19
11	Uldis Lapikens	2	26.67	4.13
12	Larry Bennett	2	26.67	n/a
13	George Lane	2	26.67	n/a
14	Andy Kindler	1	10.00	2.58
15	John Slattery	1	10.00	2.58
	Linda Taylor	Withdrawn		

beating the other contenders, collected Bronze. Slats picked up his fifth loss of the day to St Albans player, Larry Bennett playing his first ever tournament.

Final day - 1 Point Wipe-out Challenge

This event was designed to attract the less experienced players to play, in much the same way as the legendary Tric-Trac Tournaments founded my Mad Mike Monk. Slightly different scoring than Tric-Trac which does not penalize you for losing gammons and backgammons.

Win a single game = 1 point

Win a gammon = 2 points

Win a backgammon = 3 points

Lose a single game = ½ point

Lose a gammon or b/gn = 0 points

However, we were competing with other popular games events today, including Monopoly so only four players showed up. It did mean that we could have plenty of games, so we chose to have 5 rounds of round robins. The games were played at a ferocious pace which added to the excitement.

After the first round things were fairly tight but Ian Davidson set the pace by gammoning Martyn Haymer. However, by the second round, we had a new leader, Richard Biddle, who remained a front runner to the end mixing the requirement to win the odd gammon and not lose a gammon. In Rounds Two and three Martyn looked to be consolidating Silver, but in the last two rounds he only won two games and lost 3 gammons allowing Steve Rimmer to jump in for Bronze. Steve had previously been written off as he had only 1.5 points on the board after



three rounds. Ian Davidson was able to capitalize on Martyn's demise and collected Silver.

Backgammon Amateur Championship

This is based on the Pentamind points scoring system and requires players to have played in at least four events to qualify. Four players had done so:

Congratulations go to Steve Rimmer who has collected his second MSO Backgammon Amateur Championship.

A final word about MSO Backgammon

MSO Backgammon has been around for 11 years now and enjoyed various successes under the umbrella organization of Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO). MSO opened in 1997 in a blaze of publicity filling the Royal Festival Hall and with fantastic corporate sponsorship. My claim to fame is that I won the first ever MSO Gold medal; I played in the Beginners' Backgammon so there is a special place in my heart for MSO. Before you start asking what I was doing in the Beginners' Backgammon, I hasten to point out that I had to beat the likes of John Clarke to get to the final. He certainly knew his way around the board.

For the majority of years, Michael Crane has looked after MSO Backgammon; for several of the last few years this has been an unpaid role due to diminishing MSO revenue as numbers dwindled. This year, with other commitments he was unable to help out. If Michael was not going to do it, it was probable that there would be no MSO Backgammon this year. The decision for me was either to step forward to look after it or have no backgammon at all. There would always be a 50-50 chance I would get to play if we had an odd number of players show up, which happened in six of the ten days.

By all accounts from those who did come to Potters Bar, the ten days have been a

1-Point Wipeout			
Pos	Name	Wins	Amatuer
Gold	Richard Biddle	14.5	100.00
Silver	Ian Davidson	10	66.67
Bronze	Steve Rimmer	8.5	33.30
4	Martyn Hamer	7.5	0.00

Amateur Championship	
Name	Points
Steve Rimmer	355.24
Richard Biddle	276.41
Ian Davidson	262.78
Martyn Hamer	181.96

success and I see the potential to build this annual backgammon event to be a driving force as MSO grows back to former levels. This should be a festival of backgammon that attracts all those players who would like to play tournament backgammon but are intimidated by the national and international backgammon organizations.

MSO should be a good stepping stone for those players wanting to play more before playing more regularly on the circuit. This should not preclude the high-rollers. We had several expert players attend this year who enjoy playing and studying the game and do not feel it necessary just to play for high stakes. It also allows others to learn from them and, of course, grow the game in the social conscience. The mix of formats offers challenges for all, and the opportunity to play new games.

There will always be arguments about venues, accommodation and location and ideally people would like this to be in Central London, but there is a cost attached to this and unless the numbers are guaranteed it is going to be tricky being in London. We need to grow out of the current venue, which is only 30 minutes by train from King's Cross. We will never please everyone and, at the very least, it should be a site that is easily accessible to the unpaid volunteers who give up 10 days a year to work at this event.

No decision has been made about the venue next year and I have yet to speak to Michael Crane about his role if he still wants to run the MSO BG. But we are at

a crucial crossroads in the backgammon revolution with the growth of online and TV exposure. MSO can help fuel the backgammon explosion.

Next year, I want to make sure this event is properly marketed to all backgammon players. Despite being one of the smaller MSO years for attendance, we still managed to get many people playing many different games and three pages of exposure in the Guardian (G2 27.8.07). I made minimal efforts to market this year due to time constraints and not having a distribution list. It was literally a few emails to mates. Next year, I hope to get co-operation from both the national and international backgammon associations in marketing this as a ten day festival of backgammon. We are not competing with these organisations and I would be happy to promote their events at MSO.

I will be surveying all backgammon attendees this year to find out what went well and what didn't go well. If you didn't attend, please feel free to contact me at chelseamuffin@aol.com to let me know why you didn't attend and what you would like to see in the future to encourage you to attend. All criticism is welcome.

MC: Comments can also be directed to Biba on info@backgammon-biba.co.uk



IMPORTANT: I must repeat, there are a limited number of rooms available for each Biba event during 2008. To avoid disappointment you are advised to book as early as you can - you can always cancel or pass on your reservation to someone else via the Biba Forum on The Gammonlife web site at: www.gammonlife.com/glforum/index.php

The 2007 Festival of Backgammon — Zakynthos

Report from Neil Davidson



The heatwave had just got going when the players arrived to take part in the 2007 Festival of Backgammon on the beautiful Ionian Island of Zakynthos. This was the 6th year of the tournament and was universally hailed as the best. David Hale had visited from Crete, Mick Vacarey had taken a route that even Marco Polo would have been proud of, via most major cities in Europe, and people dropped in and arrived to take part every day to enhance the experience for everyone.

Temperatures reached 42 degrees but the shaded playing area, and the breeze kept the players cool, except when anti-jokers popped out of the throwing cups. A tournament took place every day after lunch, and a full draw meant that everyone got loads of backgammon for their entry money. As in previous years, the focus of the week was friendly competition in a houseparty type atmosphere.

There did not have to be a single ruling all week, even when Malcolm Robertson lost 180 points in a chouette in a single game. Malcolm never missed a beat, and is as gracious a loser as you can find. He was awarded the annual Spirit of Backgammon trophy at the final prize giving despite protests from him that he didn't deserve it. The overall prize for the week went to a previous winner, John Hurst, who has attended every year that the festival has taken place. Runner up was Mick Vacarey, who collected his prize in between the poker, which he won, and windsurfing. Eight pairs entered the doubles competition which was eventually won in a close final by Ann Pocknell from Canada and Leroy Brown from New Zealand.

As well as windsurfing, we had water skiing, tennis, table tennis and trips by speed boat to some great tavernas - one of which we had to jump out of the

boat and wade in to reach the fish on the table! Whilst out in the boat, we had the rare treat of being in the middle of a shoal of leaping tuna and dolphin. According to the local boatman, he had been out 10 times every day for 6 years and had only seen this twice. How lucky were we, and it was a sight we won't forget.

As always, the atmosphere was fantastic, and some participants took the opportunity to hire a car and visit the neighbouring islands of Cefalonia and Ithaca. It truly followed the original intention of a holiday with backgammon and the photos bear witness to the beauty of the place and the fun had by all. Every participant has provisionally booked their place for 2008.

The provisional dates for 2008 are June 21-28. Contact Neil on neil@wellbeingnetwork.co.uk

Sandy Osborne Trophy

Report by Michael Crane

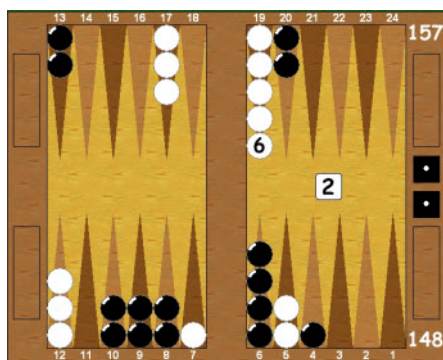


They never knew what hit them. He came across all jovial and jolly and self effacing, but behind the facade of bonhomie there lurked a killer; a ruthless roller and fearless mover who, 'though showing 'respect', had none for any of his victims. First it was Myke Wignall in the Keren di Bona. Poor Myke was bludgeoned from behind and he was left reeling and dizzy with just three points.

Next it was David Nathan at the Backpacker. David fared little better than Myke, he was left shell-shocked and trembling with just four points.

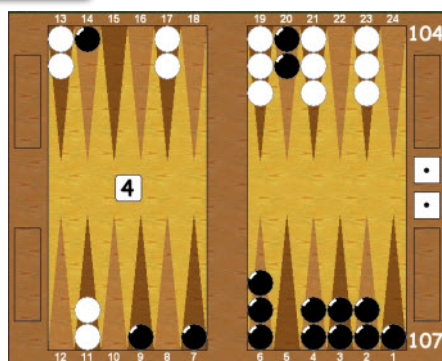
Finally, Tony Lee was drawn into his lair. Like something out of the Little Shop of Horrors, Tony was sucked in by an oversized Venus flytrap dangling dubious cubes and suspect moves to entice him in. However; Tony managed to put up a bit of a fight . . . but it was all in vain, his only consolation: eight points. It wasn't enough and Tony was led crying and muttering out of the playing room by two men dressed in white towards a waiting van and oblivion.

So, can anyone beat Tom Duggan? It appears not! Here's a few cube decisions made during Game 2 of the **Main (22)** when Tom (black) was leading 2-0.



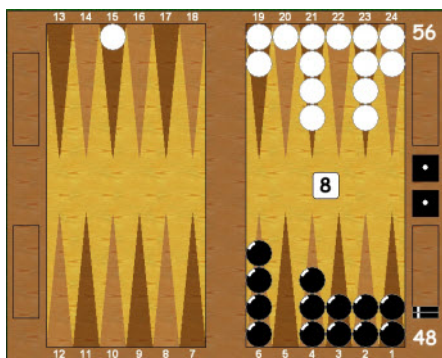
11 point match
Black 2 White 0
Black cube action

Tom, leading by just 9 pips ships across a dubious 2-cube. Tony - who (usually) knows a thing or two about cubing snatched it up. Tom is too flat around the board and his 3-prime in his outer board is sure to crunch. Sixes play awkwardly (except 66) and giving the cube away in this position is a marginal blunder @ -0.117.



White cube action

A lot has happened since Tony snatched up the cube and it is he that now ships across a dubious re-cube. Now it is sixes that are awkward to play for him . . . it's deja vous all over again - the race is almost level and the re-cube is another marginal blunder @ -0.118! Without a second's thought, Tom snatches the cube back.



Black cube action

At last, a correct cube action: Re-double, pass.

Eventually Tom takes the match to Crawford, 10-1; and then something really wonderful happens: not only does Tony fight back and prevail, but the entire game is played without errors or blunders and each player is deemed extra-terrestrial by Snowie! Unfortunately for Tony this high level of expertise didn't last and Tom finally clinched his third consecutive victory, 10-8.

Looking through the Biba records it appears that Tom is the first to win three in a row; and at the same time he has also won the coveted **1000-to-1 Trophy** for winning ten consecutive, 11-point matches. Well done, Tom.

PS: Here's a tip if you're playing Tom

when using his dice. According to the Snowie dice statistics, 2s and 5s came out far more often than expected. Theoretically each number (1 to 6) should be appear 137.3 times, but 2s came out @ 160 and 5s @ 150. I remember that many of the 2s were accompanied by a 3 . . . so look out for 32!

In the **Consolation 20**), only one of the progressive entrants made it to the final, Uldis Lapikens. Here he met with Ray Tannen. After a little hiccup they both sat down to play and it was Uldis that came out the winner; which stood him in good stead for the Grand Prix Championship when he was propelled into 2nd place.

The **Last Chance (16)** saw new member, Paul Plumbtre in the final against veteran, Jeff Barber. Despite his best attempt, Jeff could only manage Runner-up and Paul went home from his first Biba tournament with a winner's trophy - well done, Paul.

Gerry Enslin and Stephen Drake battled it out for the **Sandwich (16)**, an encounter that Gerry proved victorious after trailing 2-0 in the 3 point match; a good fight back, Gerry.

The **Poker (3)** was a non-event for the three entrants and after some negotiations it was decided that they be declared equal 1st and the GP points be divided between them . . . and the princely sum of six quid was added to the prize money for the December play-offs. NB: As I write this report the fund is still short of £158.

Tom wasn't the only player this weekend to win three in a row - I did too. For the third time I won the **Round Robin (15)**! I made it by half a point . . . which was the same amount by which I lost the first Round Robin in July to Jeff Barber. I have banned Tom from entering the Townharbour Trophy in November (so he's going to go to Las Vegas instead) and I am going to see if I can't beat his record. Wish me luck.

The **Friday 500 (8)** saw David Nathan (1st) and Tom Duggan (2nd) consolidate their the places in the finals in December.

Finally

It was a smaller turnout than expected, but those that did attend the Sandy this year had a good time and those that won a few rounds certainly enhanced their GP and Ranking Championship chances.

Photos on the next page ►



Top Left: Tony & Tom
Top Right: Uldis & Ray
Bottom Left: Jeff & Paul
Bottom Right: Gerry & Stephen

Below: Michael & Caroline



Match detailed statistics for Sandy Osborne

Player	Tom Duggan	Tony Lee
Rating	intermediate	advanced
Overall	9.082/23.995	6.775/19.685
Errors(blunders)	35(9)	25(9)
Checker play errors		
Checker play	6.505/19.112	5.884/17.590
Errors(blunders)	25(6)	22(6)
Double errors		
Overall	2.576/4.884	0.560/1.513
Missed double	2.292/4.332	0.275/0.391
Wrong double	0.284/0.552	0.285/1.123
Errors(blunders)	10(3)	2(2)
Take errors		
Overall	0.000/0.000	0.331/0.582
Wrong take	0.000/0.000	0.000/0.000
Wrong pass	0.000/0.000	0.331/0.582
Errors(blunders)	0(0)	1(1)
Tony Lee was 54.31% - 45.69% favourite.		

PSYCHOCON

A GREAT PLACE FOR GAMES!

Backgammon at Psychocon, 12 to 14 October, 2007
Report by Kevin Stebbing

Last year there was no backgammon at the Psychocon games convention, so, I was asked to resurrect it this year.

The advertised format was a Swiss with 5 matches of 5-points. At 10:30 there were 8 players, so it was agreed to play all v all. Just after play had started, another player arrived so I played as well to make an even 10. We reverted to a 7 round Swiss. It took a lot of head-scratching to minimise duplicate matches while still pairing players with similar scores.

After 2 rounds, Solomon Wright, Kevin Jones, and myself were on 2 wins. Kevin Jones proceeded to beat each of us. For me it was all downhill from there, but, Solomon came back, winning his last 4 matches. At the end of the 7 rounds, Kevin and Solomon had achieved 6 wins. The final playoff resulted in victory for Kevin Jones.

From the tournament director's point of view everything went quite smoothly. I hope the players had an enjoyable day. Thanks to Biba for providing the prize of a Bibafax colour subscription, and, to Cunning Fox Games for the trophies.



Solomon & Kevin



Kevin & Kevin

Psychocon and Cunning Fox Games can be found on the internet at www.psychocon.co.uk and www.cunningfox.co.uk

Irish Open 2007

Report by Michael Crane

I have never heard such a loud cheer before at the Irish Open. Nearly every player present whooped and whistled! Had Brendan Burgess announced the drinks were on him? No. Had Paul O'Kelly lost his voice? No. Had Stuart Mann announced he was going to play faster this year? No. Had I announced that this year I wouldn't be controversial and make a fuss about something? No . . . as if that would ever happen! None of these prompted the outburst (although each would have); it was Brendan's announcement that they had a perfect 64 field and perhaps this year they could run a knockout! Alas, our cheers that greeted this news soon died on our lips when we

realised it was a joke! Never mind, perhaps next year.

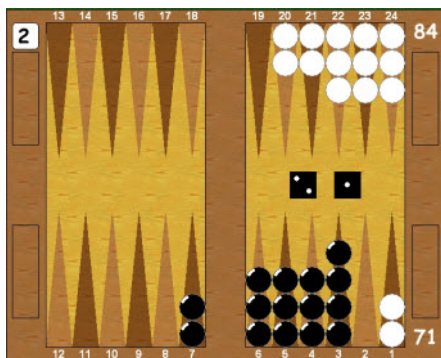
So, we got underway with the 6 x 7-point matches to qualify for the Irish Open 16 player draw. I won't bore you with my dismal performance but I will dazzle you with this: Sean Casey (who kept calling me a baby, for reasons I won't go into here; suffice to say I wasn't impressed by his powers of argument and debate and I found it hard to think that he and Oscar Wilde were of the same stock!) won 6/6 and looked as if he'd become the first player to win the title three times (1999 and 2000). He went straight into the last 8 of the Main for his achievement. I'll also dazzle you with this bit of biased reporting: Four out of six Lincoln BG Club players made it into the Main - Tim Mooring, Jeff Ellis, Jim Moore and John Batty. Alas, Tim and John fell in the 1st

Round; Jim fell to Sean in the Last 8; and Jeff went out in the semi, beaten by Uhlrich, the eventual Runner-up.

Sean was stopped by Jacob Anderson in the semi, and in the final Jacob met with friend and fellow Dane, Uhlrich - a match I was unable to see due to having to catch a plane home, but one from which a new name appears on the trophy, that of Jacob Anderson. Well done, Jacob. It is worth noting that three Danes made it into the Main; and only two locals, Sean and Dama Cunningham.

The 'Luck of the Irish' doesn't just favour the Irish - some of it rubbed off onto Dane, Uhlrich, during his match with John Batty. John, playing black, was leading 10-9, post-Crawford when he had to play a 21 in the following position.





Double match point

Normally John would have played 4/2 3/2 hoping that Uhlrich's home prime would collapse, but instead he cleared his 7-point, 7/5 7/6. Uhlrich rolled double-six and went on the win the race and the match! According to Snowie, John played a very good move, @ -0.004 it is not worth much in equity loss - but it was costly nonetheless.

In the Consolation (32), Phil Tutchings from Coventry lost to Felix Vink . . . who is claimed as Irish, giving the hosts a victory! A second host victory followed in the Team event when Cracker's team beat that of Rachel Rhodes. And, finally (although it happened on Saturday), Rosey Bensley won a bottle of whiskey for being the first player to lose 3/3 during the Qualifiers! Mind you, she made it for it by going out Saturday night to play in a poker tournament and coming home at 3.45 in the morning the winner! (continued on the next page)



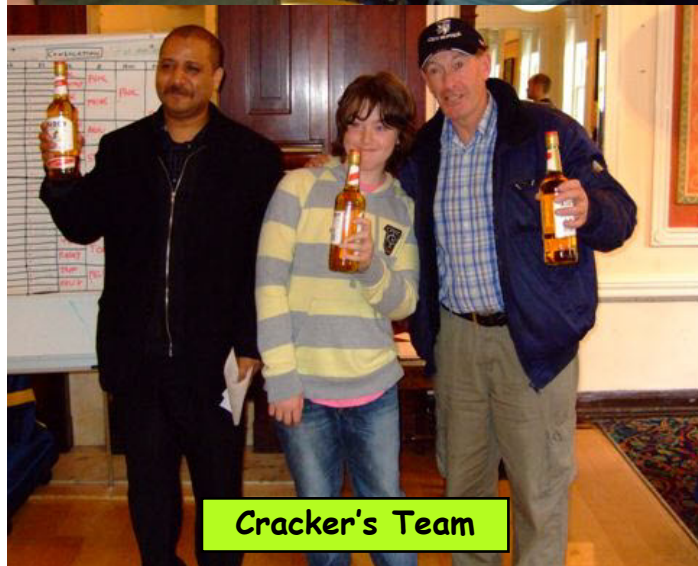
Paul O'Kelly - Auction Man



Brendan & Phil



Brendan & Felix



Cracker's Team



Jacob & Uhlrich

Finally

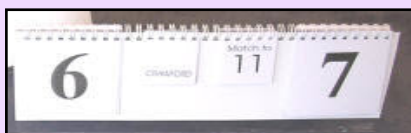
So, was it a good event? Well, overall, I think it was. It was marred by one incident. Two players had a scoring dispute; and the whole episode brought back memories for me as Brendan and I ruled against the player that did not present a legible or easy-to-follow score-card to back up his claim. I have now altered rule 5.1 (see below) to make it absolutely

clear to players what is expected of them. The aggrieved player then threw a wobbler and claimed we had acted against him in favour of an Irish player. This was a spurious claim for all Brendan and I were presented with were two score-cards with the owners' names removed. Our decision was based purely on what we could see and personalities didn't come into it . . . and they never do.

Over the weekend I asked Brendan why the qualifying format? He told me it gave everyone more chances to qualify for the Main. Oh yeah? Well here's a radical suggestion: Why not make it a straight knockout with a progressive Consolation and put **everyone** into the Main?

5.1 Keeping Score: Each player shall keep a running match score and compare it with the opponent's at the start of each game. It must clearly show each point won and be openly displayed for the opponent to check and verify and must follow the format as shown. In the event of a scoring dispute the player not keeping score in accordance with this rule will be at a disadvantage.

5.1a Visual Score Displays: (see example) Such aids are approved by Biba but they should not replace a written score kept by both players as above.



Player	Opponent
1	0
2	0
2	1
4	1
4	5
Etc.	Etc.

Townharbour Trophy Report by Michael Crane



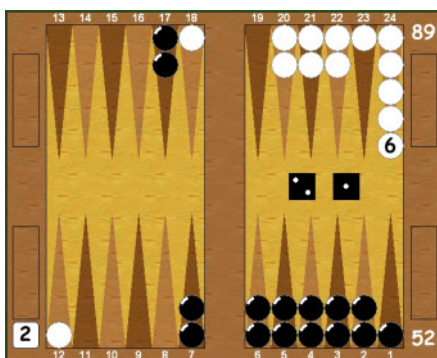
The weekend got off to a flying start in the **Friday 500 (14)** for Nicky Check. After months of trying to get into Top 16 he finally made it by beating Mardi Ohannessian in the final. He was propelled into 12th place and secures his shot at the £500. See page 22.

For the Main we had a perfect draw of 32, which nicely split into 16 each for the Main and the Consolation. In the **Main (16)** we almost had an outright winner when Mark Heidenfeld went into the last round unbeaten on 5/5, I say almost because here he was stopped by Jerry Limb. Jerry's victory complicated matters somewhat for we then ended up with four players on 5/6, Jerry, Mark, Mardi and Peter Christmas! The 'head-to-head' couldn't show an outright winner for although Peter had beaten Mardi and Jerry, Mark had beaten Peter and Jerry had beaten Mark; as one player rose to the top another replaced him! So I was left with the average ranking score of each players' opponents. This returned Jerry as the winner with Mardi Runner-up and Mark 3rd and Peter Christmas 4th. *See more on this after this report.* Tim Cross, the 'sponsor of the TT kindly gave £100 which was shared between the four players; a gesture they all appreciated.

The last round match between Jerry Limb and Mark Heidenfeld saw Jerry playing

as Advanced and Mark as World Class. Each of them made 11 errors of which two were blunders, so they were evenly matched; and their error rates were acceptable at 2.881 for Mark and 3.548 for Jerry.

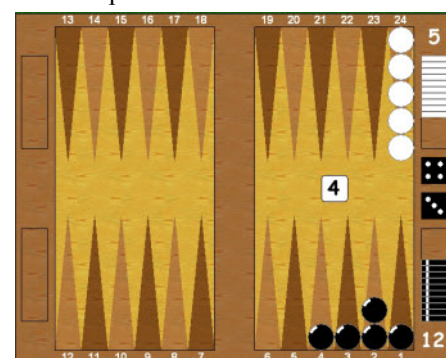
They both made blunders when playing a 21. Here's Mark's. He is playing as black.



11 point match
Black 0 White 0
Black to play 21

Mark's blunder @ -0.115 is moving both checkers 7/5 7/6. Jerry is very likely to get his 13-point checker safe next roll; but just in case he doesn't, the split, 17/16 7/5 is the better play. Even if hit, Mark will probably get a shot off the bar, especially with 5s duplicated. Jerry rolled 43 and safetied the runner and the race began. Soon they were down to five check-

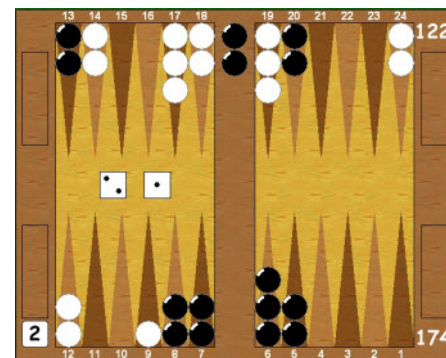
ers each and a three-roll finish when Mark ships across the cube:



Black cube action

A live-cube rollout reveals this as a redouble/pass, but Jerry takes - and loses four points!

Jerry's 21 blunder is a bit larger than Mark's @ -0.134:



Black 4 White 0
White to play 21

Going for another home-board point Jerry moves 11/9 8/7; but Snowie thinks this too risky and prefers the safe play of



16/13. Jerry's play did return slightly more gammons - 19.6% to 18.5%, but his game winning chances were reduced by a fairly large margin - 66.5% down to 60.9%. However, Jerry didn't make another point on his next roll, but he did win the game and two points.

From hereon Mark wins only one more point and in Game 12, Jerry later bears off against a 2-point anchor to win two points and the match 11-5, and in doing so secures himself a place in the UK Finals.

Meanwhile in the **Consolation (16)**, Arthur Wright had come through with 3/3 and he then awaited the outcome of the match between Nicky Check and Geoff Conn. It was Geoff that emerged the victor; and on the tie-break it was he that came out the winner.

On the Saturday night the **Poker (8)** Grand Prix reached a climax when Paul Gilbertson emerged the winner with Tony Fawcett 2nd and Paul Learmount 3rd. We now have our Top Table of eight players (see page 27) who will fight it out for the prize money at the UK Finals.

Also on the Saturday night Geoff Conn won the **£50 Jackpot (4)**; and I won the **Team (7)** event beating Ian Davidson in the Final. Our initial team's victory was particularly sweet seeing as we were trailing 3-0 down and we went on to win it! In the **Round Robin (14)**, Jonathan Powell took home all the dosh. I failed to qualify this time . . . although I did have only one attempt instead of my usual five!

Finally

It was a good end to the year's backgammon. The weekend went smoothly and everyone enjoyed themselves. We concluded our Ranking and Grand Prix Championships and the results are . . .

Grand Prix Championship 2007 (165 Entrants)

There weren't any changes made to the Top 4 places over the Townharbour weekend, so Slat remains in 1st place and Uldis in 2nd. Had Uldis won one more match he'd have moved up into 1st place. Well done, Slat - you've done it again!

Ranking Championship 2007 (137 Entrants. 35 Qualifiers)

Well, what a surprise outcome! Thanks to a great performance at the Townharbour Trophy, Myke Wignall emerges as the 2007 Ranking Champion, knocking



John Slattery



Myke Wignall

Adrian Jones into 2nd place. No doubt the last match they played against each other at the TT (from which Myke came out onto top) was the point at which Adrian dropped into 2nd place and Myke was propelled into 1st. Well done, Myke.

Finally (again!)

It's good to see Myke Wignall at the top of the Ranking list. He's played some very strong opponents this year and he's beaten a good few of them. I have taken a good look at the stats and it is apparent that if you want to do well in the championships you need to enter the Swiss format events. Playing 6 x 11 point matches will ensure qualification for the Grand Prix, and it doesn't harm your Ranking championship hopes either!

Thanks to all this year's participants, and good luck to you all for 2008.

Swiss Format Tie-Breaker

Working out the winner in Swiss Formats when there are more than two players sharing the same number of wins is something we have yet to achieve where-in the criteria is fair to all. I fear we may never be able to do it. The present method using the average ranking score of opponents has proven to be better than the method it replaced - sum of opponent's wins - purely because in the previous method any player who dropped out of the competition had a lower win ratio



**Main: Mardi & Jerry
Consolation: Arthur
Consolation: Geoff**

than those that remained in. The 'average' method reasoned that the lower the average ranking, the 'weaker' the opponents, ergo, the 'easier' the draw. Of course, this is far from true, but it was a fairer way than using win ratios.

The 'head-to-head' method was introduced and is used prior to using the average method and, on occasions it has proven adequate: it has either returned a result of 1st, 2nd, 3rd; or it has failed to do so and the average has been the decider. During the Townharbour, the 'head-to-head' couldn't show an outright winner, therefore I have devised a head-to-head method that might prove more decisive; and unless someone can come up with something better or point out glaring errors

in its usage it will be used starting next year.

The method is:

a. 1 point is given for each victory over your those sharing top wins.

The result of this is that Mardi gets 0 points, Mark and Jerry get 1 point each, and Peter gets 2 points. Therefore, Peter is 1st and Mardi is 4th.

b. When two or more share the same number of points another 'head-to-head' is employed. If this doesn't return a position then c. is used.

Mark and Jerry both had 1 point each; however, they had played each other and Jerry had beaten Mark, therefore Jerry would be 2nd, leaving Mark 3rd.

c. If the players haven't played each other then shared opponents are compared to return a position, else the 'average' method is used.

If Mark and Jerry had not played each other then shared opponents would have shown that they both layer Peter and Mark won which would have placed Mark 2nd and Jerry 3rd.

I am not suggesting this is **the** answer, just that it is **an** answer to the solution. I am more than happy to hear other solutions and will gladly adopt them should they prove worthwhile and workable.

Friday 500 Positions, November 2007

Well, here's the final listing showing the 16 qualifiers who'll battle it out for the winner-takes-all prize of £500 in December at the UK Finals. Is your name there? If not, don't despair for it's likely that one or more of the Top 16 won't be able to make it - and that means that players from 17th and up can take their places! If, on the Friday night we are short of a full 16 entry, any player present who is on the list (in strict order 17th to whatever) and is a resident in the hotel, will get free entry. If you are on the list but not a resident then there is an entry fee of £20. Please don't moan to me about not being able to book a Friday night room because they have all gone, they have been available since August of last year!

61 Mardi Ohannessian	18 Richard Biddle	6 Mike Main	2 Mark Heidenfeld
45 Jeff Barber	15 Emmanuel Di Bona	6 Geoff Conn	2 Martin Barkwill
42 Jerry Limb	15 Sean Willams	4 Mike Greenleaf	2 Michel Lamote
40 David Nathan	12 Paul Christmas	2 Adrian Jones	2 Paul Van Dijke
36 Ray Tannen	12 Rogier Van Gemert	2 Ann Pocknell	2 Peter Bennet
35 Tom Duggan	12 Paul Gilbertson	2 Cedric Lytton	2 Rachel Rhodes
35 Paul Learmount	10 Peter Christmas	2 Chris Ternel	2 Ramsey Jamil
34 Ed Turner	9 Liz Perry	2 David Hale	2 Ron Havenhand
33 Gerry Enslin	9 Matthew Franklin	2 Dorothy Lee	2 Sean Casey
30 Rosey Bensley	9 Miles Farren	2 Eamon Keogh	2 Shino Kazuhiro
29 Giorgio Castellano	9 Paul Barwick	2 Fanika Petkovska	2 Tim Line
29 Nicky Check	8 Brian Lever	2 Felix Vink	2 Tim Mooring
28 Paul Watts	6 Anderson Whamond	2 Graham Powell	2 Tony Lee
21 Chris Gibbins	6 Brendan Burgess	2 Jonathan Powell	2 Tony Walters
20 Myke Wignall	6 Roy Hollands	2 Luke Christmas	
19 John Slattery	6 Stuart Mann	2 Mark Dixon	



Michael, Sharen and Caroline
wish you all a
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

2008 Bibafax Subscription Renewals

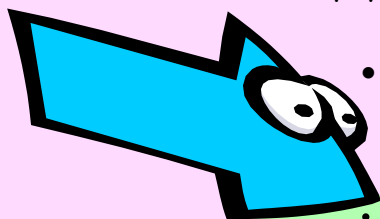
Renewals for 2008 are due soon, and I have to report an increase in the cost (the first for two years) due to higher postage costs; however, this is off-set by a decrease in the membership fee.

Bibafax subscriptions are UK & Europe:
Rest of the world add £5 to these costs.

B&W or CD-ROM	Full Colour
£30	£45

If subscribers want to become members and take part in 2008 Biba tournaments then they can do so for a one-off payment which can be paid one of two ways:

- £5 with their annual subscription
- £10 at their first Biba tournament



2008 Subscription Renewals
Pay before January 1st 2008 and
save on the tournament fee!



2008 renewal fees can be paid in one of three ways (sterling):

- Cheque payable to Biba
- Cash at tournament
- Visa card using PayPal online



Bright 'n' Breezy 2008

11, 12, 13 January

The first tournament of the 2008 season, and without a doubt, the favourite of many backgammon players from around the world. The usual four elements are there for your enjoyment, plus a few extras to keep you occupied.

To launch the 2008 season there's a special added prize for the Friday 500 - not only will the winner get their weekend's accommodation free, they will also win free accommodation and registration for the Paramount English Open in June!

To avoid disappointment all players are advised to book their accommodation now. This is a very popular tournament and Biba's room allocation is dwindling very quickly. See pages 26 & 27 and for costs and contact number.

*** This is a Biba Grand Prix and UK Finals Event ***



All The Best - The Solutions

Pos: 01

13/7 11/7
10/4 8/4
24/14*

Each of these three candidate moves looks good enough to eat: You can make the very important bar-point; or you can make a very useful home board point; or you can hit a lovely black blot. Usually, making your bar-point would be the correct play - after all, black has already made his and this is a great roll for making yours, except that to do so would be a big blunder.

A third home board point would be nice; although the 5-point is the point you'd rather have; and making the 4-point is also a big blunder. The correct play here is to hit. If you don't then black is likely to reinforce his 3-prime and place further restraints upon the escape of the back white checkers.

Pos: 01	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
24/14*	58.2	22.5	
13/7 11/7	50.1	17.6	-0.358
10/4 8/4	49.5	18.9	-0.369

Pos: 02

25/21 4/3
25/24 8/4
25/20

The key to the correct play here lies with the blot on white's 4-point. If 25/20 is played then it remains vulnerable to 3s and 2s - so that move is out. The next move, do you safety it with 4/3? Well, the very short answer is, No! The longer explanation is; because it's a point you need and moving off it to protect the blot is not as good as making it with 8/4. Playing 8/4 will leave a direct 6 and 43, but 6s are also needed by black to cover his own blot on his bar-point (or even his 2-point to a lesser extent). White wouldn't be too bothered if black were to vacate his anchor for the hit; as far as he's concerned the 4-point will be there until the bearoff.

Pos: 02	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
25/24 8/4	62.8	24.8	
25/21 4/3	58.1	16.8	-0.302
25/20	54.7	17.5	-0.466

Pos: 03

11/9(2) 6/4(2)
11/7* 6/4(2)
11/7*(2)

It would be unwise to leave white's checker on the bar-point, so 11/9(2) 6/4(2) is out; after all, you don't want white to anchor there. So, which of the two remaining pointing plays is the better one? It's a matter of whether or not to leave a return shot off the bar with 7s and 6s (36.11%) or to play it safe(r) and leave just the blot on the 14-point (25.0%). Although it is safer to play 11/7*(2), making the 4-point is a much better play. Having another home board point will increase the gwc (game winning chances) by just 0.3%, but it will increase the gc (gammon chances) by as much as 3.9%. The odds are well in black's favour that his bar-point blot won't be hit; and when it isn't he's got 86.11% chance of covering the blot, or making his 5-point with 32 (or safe with 53); which relates to just one roll that leaves the bar-point blot exposed: 55 - and that'll make the 3-point!

Pos: 03	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
11/7* 6/4(2)	60.7	20.6	
11/7*(2)	60.4	16.7	-0.077
11/9(2) 6/4(2)	59.5	15.8	-0.113

Pos: 04

24/23(2) 6/5(2)
6/5(2) 2/1*(2)
8/7(2) 6/5(2)

Playing 6/5(2) is an obvious play with double-one, but what's less obvious here are the two remaining 1s. Moving the runners, 24/23 isn't correct; and nor is the 'usual' play of 8/7(2). In this position the correct play is to hit 2/1*(2). The reason is, the black blot on white's 10-point. By hitting, white might get a shot at this blot too; and that is why this is a better play than the other two.

Pos: 04	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
6/5(2) 2/1*(2)	50.3	19.6	
8/7(2) 6/5(2)	47.9	16.5	-0.126
24/23(2) 6/5(2)	45.8	14.8	-0.187

Pos: 05

6/1 2/1
6/1 6/5
6/0

Black has rolled one of the few numbers that gives white a chance to save the

gammon. If white does hit then he's likely to 'rob' black of two extra points; therefore, is it correct to lessen the number of blot-hitting rolls? Well two of our candidate moves involves leaving a blot on the 6-point; so let's look at the move that returns fewer hitting roll, 6/1 6/5. There's a 30.55% chance of being hit on the 5-point as opposed to 36.11% on the 6-point; so logically, to lessen the risk of being hit, 6/1 6/5 is correct. Well, yes and no! The odds are in favour of black not being hit (69.45% and 63.89%) wherever he leaves the blot; this fact, coupled with having an odd number of checkers at the moment leads to the correct play, 6/0. White, should he miss, could save the gammon in three rolls (average of 8 pips per roll) and is very likely to save it in four; so black needs to be able to bearoff as quickly as possible, so leaving eight checkers to clear is a whole roll fewer than not playing 6/0.

Pos: 05	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
6/0	96.5	9.6	
6/1 6/5	96.2	6.3	-0.042
6/1 2/1	95.1	6.1	-0.075

Pos: 06

20/14(2) 13/7(2)
20/14(2) 9/3(2)
20/8(2)

Whenever you've got two checkers fronting a prime, large doubles are a Godsend for shifting them out, so at least half this roll is used 20/14(2); the question now is: how to move the remaining two 6s? Well, one move certainly isn't 6/3(2); this was included to see if anyone was silly enough to actually play it! Of the two remaining moves, carrying on the 8-point, 14/8(2) is correct, even though it stacks. The alternative is to have a nice little 3-prime; which does look very good; however; this does return fewer gwc - but more gc. Because the gc are so low (5.1% or 3.9%) they aren't worth 'risking' the game upon.

Pos: 06	gwc %	gc %	-eqty
20/8(2)	77.5	3.9	
20/14(2) 13/7(2)	75.4	5.1	-0.014
20/14(2) 9/3(2)	68.9	7.1	-0.327

This match is on the CD-ROM version of Bibafax

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

Bath - sarah.alexander6@btinternet.com - Tuesday, 7pm
Birmingham - Dave Motley. 0121 4764099 davemotley@blueyonder.co.uk - Monday
Brighton - Ian Eiloart - <http://bbc.eiloart.com/>
Bristol - Ian Tarr, 0117-9556862 or 07940 284652, brismgammon@btinternet.com - Thursday
Broomfield (Kent) - Bob Bruce 01227 362181 or mobile 077745 12902 - Last Tuesdays
Coventry - Phil Tutchings – tutchingsp@aol.com Tel: 02476 44546 - Thursdays @ 8.00pm
Dublin - Brendan Burgess 603 0891. wildlife@indigo.ie - 2nd Mondays
Dunfermline - Graeme Campbell, 01383 738968. graeme.campbell@tiscali.co.uk - Wednesday
Eastbourne and Bexhill- John Thomas. Tel: 01424 219415 Email: info@ebbc.org.uk - Wednesday @ 8.00
East Malling - david_lettington@hotmail.com or 01732 870356 - Monday 7.30pm to 9.30pm
Exmouth - James Homer jim_homer@tiscali.co.uk Tel: 01395-227659 & 0777-277-8367 - Phone first
Glasgow - John Paul Vass 0141 587 0255, johnpaulv3@hotmail.com- 1st Tuesday @ 7pm
Halifax/West Yorkshire - Rachel Rhodes 07961 355433 dicewitch@yahoo.co.uk - Phone first
Herefordshire - Andy Robertson, 07989 345494 / 01981 240016 - Saturday, 6pm
Huddersfield - Rachel Rhodes 07961 355433 dicewitch@yahoo.co.uk - Tuesday
Lincoln - Michael Crane, 01522 829649, michael.a.crane@ntlworld.com - Tuesday from 19:30 to 23:00
Liverpool - Simon K Jones (0151 428 3082) vineries@btinternet.com -Last Fridays
London (Fox Reformed) - Robbie (020) 7254 5975, robbie.richards@fox-reformed.co.uk - Monday
London (Tric Trac Tournos) - MikeMadMonk 0207 3540595 - 1st Wednesday
London (Croydon) - 07737 735 556, croydonbackgammonclub@yahoo.co.uk - Thursday
London (Piccadilly) - backgammoninpiccadilly@googlemail.com - Monday
Manchester - Rodney Lighton 0161 445 5644 email lighton@btinternet.com - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Middlesex - 07989751717 or claudiatops@yahoo.co.uk - Monday
Nottingham - Conrad Cooper. conrad_cooper@excite.com ; 0115 9113281- Monday @ 9pm
Perth - Steve Wallace. info@perthgammon.org.uk 01738 587574 - Tuesday, 7.30pm
Preston - Nigel Merrigan 01772 517672 acumen1@blueyonder.co.uk - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
St Albans - John Ingamells john.ingamells@ntlworld.com - Tuesday 19.45 (for 20.00) to 23.30
Tyneside - Cal Pearson calpearson2000@yahoo.co.uk is hoping to set up a club in Newcastle. Call him!
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

See page 6 for the Gilbertson UK Finals, and page 23 For the Bright 'n' Breezy

1, 2, 3 February. The Jarvis Trophy:

The first of our four Swiss format events and the second 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!



WIN FREE MONEY WITH THE ROUND ROBIN

Five groups of five players playing a Round Robin format. Each group winner gets 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!

7, 8, 9 March: Scottish Open

Always a popular event it has the usual four elements and the 'traditional' cabaret on the Saturday evening. If you have a party piece and would like to take part in the cabaret let Biba know and we'll see to it that you get your chance to shine. Already we have two acts, one of which is the Two Runnies! So, get out your diary and open it at 7 February 2008 and put in it, "Must enter the Scottish Open!" Keep a look out on the web site and in the next issue for details of a new sponsor.

I wonder who the new sponsor will be?



2007 & 2008 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

Reservations: 02476 603000 ask for 'Individual Reservations' and quote GBACF
Gilbertson UK Finals: Friday, 30th November and Saturday, 1st December 2007

NEW CODE

Dinner, bed and breakfast @ Paramount (Brighton & Daventry) 2008

Reservations on 0870 1610 797

(9am to 9pm Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm @ weekends) and quote 'backgammon'.

Rates for all hotels (Hilton & Paramount): Single room: 1 night £61, two nights £106.

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

Note: There are a limited number of rooms made available to Biba in the above
hotels at these rates and they will be allocated on a first come - first served basis.

2007 XcitingGames.com Backgammon Calendar

Dec 01-02	Gilbertson UK Finals	-	-	Coventry	Double KO
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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	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.

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
Paramount Hotels

Bringing You Backgammon



GP	Player	Chips	Prize
80	Tony Fawcett	7200	£193
79	Paul Watts	6600	£121
79	Paul Gilbertson	6800	£96
59	Paul Learmount	4950	£48
57	Myke Wignall	5700	£24
44	Lawrence Powell	3700	
43	Tony Lee	3625	
38	Rosey Bensley	3200	
38	Eamon Keogh	3200	
30	Matthew Franklin	3000	
30	Andy Bell	3000	
30	John Slattery	3000	
29	Paul Christmas	2975	
29	Chris Gibbins	2975	
27	Ann Pocknell	2950	
26	Michelle Fisher	2925	
26	Matty Gilbertson	2925	
25	Mark Dixon	2925	
22	Mick Vacarey	2900	

Poker Grand Prix Positions, November 2007

These are the Top 8 players who'll shuffle and bluff their way into the payoffs. As with the Friday 500, if any of the eight don't attend, players 9th etc. will be promoted to take part. Lawrence Powell won't be attending - so that's good news for Eamon!

The listing shows each player's position, their starting chip total and the payoff relative to the finishing position on the night. The total prize money residing in the Biba account is £482*. The final will be a freeze-out and will take place Saturday evening.

**At the time of going to press there is still £158 outstanding. Should this amount be deposited in the Biba account prior to December 1st the payout will be altered to suit the new prize fund total.*

2008 Friday 500 & Poker Grand Prix Formats

Now that the Friday 500 and the Poker Grand Prix have finished for the year (except for the December play-offs) it's time to set out the 2008 formats.

POKER GP 2008																		
Pos	Points	Bonus																
1	26	(+10)																
2	24	(+9)																
3	22	(+8)																
4	20	(+7)																
5	18	(+6)																
6	16	(+5)																
7	14	(+4)																
8	12	(+3)																
9	8	<table><tr><th colspan="2">Friday 500 2008</th></tr><tr><th>Pos</th><th>Points</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>3 & 4</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>5 to 8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>9 to 16</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>17+</td><td>4</td></tr></table>	Friday 500 2008		Pos	Points	1	20	2	16	3 & 4	12	5 to 8	9	9 to 16	7	17+	4
Friday 500 2008																		
Pos	Points																	
1	20																	
2	16																	
3 & 4	12																	
5 to 8	9																	
9 to 16	7																	
17+	4																	
10	7																	
11	6																	
12	5																	
13	4																	
14	3																	
15	2																	
16	1																	

Poker: The first alteration is that the poker grand prix is to function as the backgammon grand prix inasmuch as the leader after the November event will be the Poker Grand Prix Champion and the prize money accrued over the year will be paid out according to the listing to the Top Five placed players thus: 1st 40%, 2nd 25%, 3rd 20%, 4th 10% and 5th 5%. To encourage (and reward) regular entry the qualifying minimum number of events needed to qualify for a Top Five place will be five (out of a possible 11). Once a player reaches five entries they can replace lower scores with higher ones.

In addition to the above poker alterations, the points for position award is to alter as well. During 2008 players making the final 8 will get bonus points of 3 to 10 for position 8th to 1st. Thus in a 16-player tourney the last-placed person scores 1 point, second to last 2 points, third to last 3 points and so on until we reach 8th place where the bonus kicks in and 8th place gets 12 points and 9th 8 points. It is recognised that making the 'final' table is an achievement and is therefore rewarded by the new points allocation.

Friday 500: The whole idea of the 500 is to encourage Friday night attendance - with this firmly in mind I have altered the points award thus:

All players get 4 points for entering. This is increased to 7 for last 16 losers, 9 for last 8, 12 for semi-final losers, and finally 16 and 20 for 2nd and 1st respectively. This method of awarding points means that it could be possible

to gain enough points to qualify by attending on a regular basis (11 x 4 = 44 points). At the same time it means that coming just once or twice throughout the year and winning or placing in the last 8 won't guarantee a place. This new system also means that should the turnout be fewer than 16 (but greater than 8), the 1st Round losers will in fact get 7 points, and for fields of 8 and fewer, the 1st Round losers will get 9 points. Just how many entrants each event will attract is unknown - so it might well be worthwhile entering just in case the number of entrants is fewer than 16! Can you afford *not* to enter?

As in 2007 the top placed player after the November event will receive £100. The December draw will be 1st vs 16th, 2nd vs 15th, etc, etc. If fewer than 16 entrants turn up in December players from 17th upwards will be allowed to enter should they be present. A failure to get a 16-draw will mean byes will be applied, and these will be allocated from 1st position downwards until filled.

Finally, if you need another incentive to attend on the Friday night, the return of the free weekend prize might just clinch it! Friday 500 winners (except for the December final) will get their accommodation (excluding extras) free. So, what are you waiting for? Book your Friday night accommodation now!

You want it?

THE backgammon SHOP

THE backgammon SHOP

We've got it!

www.bgshop.com



Tournament Results

Sandy Osborne, 6 & 7 October, 2007



Main (22)

1	Tom Duggan
2	Tony Lee
3&4	Stephen Drake
3&4	Rachel Rhodes
5to8	Peter Chan
5to8	Adrian Jones
5to8	Jeff Barber
5to8	Peter Bennet

Consolation (20)

1	Uldis Lapikens
2	Ray Tannen
3&4	Adrian Jones
3&4	Mardi Ohannessian
5to8	Peter Chan
5to8	Miles Farren
5to8	Jeff Barber
5to8	Peter Bennet

Round Robin (15)

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

Last Chance (16)

1	Paul Plumptre
2	Jeff Barber
3&4	David Nathan
3&4	Rachel Rhodes

Sandwich (16)

1	Gerry Enslin
2	Stephen Drake
3&4	Peter Christmas
3&4	Philip Tutchings

Friday 500 (8)

1	David Nathan
2	Tom Duggan
3&4	Jeff Barber
3&4	Caroline Stafford
5to8	Myke Wignall
5to8	Gerry Enslin
5to8	Michael Crane
5to8	Ray Tannen

Grand Prix @ Sandy . . .

13.42	Tom Duggan
13.41	Uldis Lapikens
9.29	Stephen Drake
9.29	Tony Lee
9.28	Ray Tannen
6.19	Peter Chan
6.19	Rachel Rhodes
6.19	Adrian Jones
6.17	Paul Plumptre
4.13	Paul Barwick
4.13	Jeff Barber
4.13	Mardi Ohannessian
4.13	Peter Bennet
4.13	Jon Barnes
4.12	Miles Farren
2.58	Myke Wignall
2.58	Arthur Wright
2.58	Phil Tutchings
2.57	David Nathan
2.56	Gerry Enslin
2.06	Chris Ternel
1.55	Peter Christmas

XcitingGames Townharbour Trophy, 3 & 4 November, 2007

Main (16/32)

1	Jerry Limb	5	15.48
2	Mardi Ohannessian	5	14.97
3	Mark Heidenfeld	5	18.58
4	Peter Christmas	5	17.55
5	Myke Wignall	4	11.35
6	Paul Watts	4	12.39
7	Fak Laight	4	9.29
8	Tim Cross	4	10.84
9	Jeff Barber	4	12.39
10	David Motley	3	8.25
11	David Startin	3	7.74
12	Paul Plumptre	3	7.74
13	Adrian Jones	3	6.19
14	Paul Barwick	3	7.74
15	Peter Chan	3	8.25
16	Jonathan Powell	2	5.68

Con (16/32)

1	Geoff Conn	3 / 4	9.29
2	Arthur Wright	3 / 4	10.84
3	Bob Young	2 / 2	4.13
4	Gerry Enslin	2 / 3	6.19
5	Mick Butterfield	2 / 3	7.74
6	Brian Lever	2 / 3	7.74
7	Nicky Check	2 / 2	4.13
8	Uldis Lapikens	2 / 3	6.19
9	Phil Tutchings	1 / 2	4.13
10	Simon Morecroft	1 / 1	2.58
11	Richard Biddle	1 / 2	4.13
12	Paul Learmount	1 / 1	2.58
13	Tony Fawcett	0 / 1	4.13
14	Eamon Keogh	0 / 1	4.13
15	Ian Davidson	0 / 1	2.58
16	Paul Gilbertson	0 / 1	2.58

Friday 500 (14)

1	Nicky Check
2	Mardi Ohannessian
3&4	Jerry Limb
3&4	Paul Barwick
5 to 8	Paul Gilbertson
5 to 8	Paul Learmount
5 to 8	Richard Biddle
5 to 8	Geoff Conn

Poker (8)

1	Paul Gilbertson
2	Tony Fawcett
3	Paul Learmount

Round Robin (14)

1	Jonathan Powell
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£50 Jackpot

1	Geoff Conn
2	Nicky Check

Team (7)

1	Michael Crane
2	Ian Davidson

Ranking Changes @ TT:

			1676	1654	Tim Cross	1509	1505	Paul Plumptre
			1647	1581	Mardi Ohannessian	1502	1558	Ian Davidson
			1647	1647	David Motley	1500	1459	Paul Watts
			1645	1677	Eamon Keogh	1479	1441	Arthur Wright
			1644	1623	Jeff Barber	1470	1497	Richard Biddle
			1629	1659	Bob Young	1459	1404	Myke Wignall
			1620	1635	Peter Chan	1420	1428	Phil Tutchings
			1575	1530	Geoff Conn	1396	1340	Fak Laight
			1556	1555	Gerry Enslin	1394	1382	Paul Barwick
			1549	1606	Simon Morecroft	1389	1435	Paul Learmount
			1525	1581	Tony Fawcett	1328	1336	Jonathan Powell
			1524	1446	Jerry Limb			
1921	1957	Brian Lever						
1822	1852	Adrian Jones						
1811	1863	Nicky Check						
1803	1822	David Startin						
1800	1753	Peter Christmas						
1793	1747	Mark Heidenfeld						
1731	1748	Uldis Lapikens						
1702	1712	Mick Butterfield						
1691	1732	Paul Gilbertson						

Grand Prix Championship 2007

85.62	John Slattery	22.71	Ian Tarr	6.19	Malcolm Robertson
84.62	Uldis Lapikens	22.70	Chris Bray	6.19	David Hale
80.46	Adrian Jones	21.68	Tim Mooring	6.19	Stavros Elia
63.97	Nicky Check	21.14	Miles Farren	6.19	Alison Lee
63.44	Brian Lever	20.13	Ron Havenhand	6.19	Wayne Felton
60.87	Tom Duggan	19.61	Sue Keeble	6.19	Martin Hemming
58.83	Gerry Enslin	19.60	Neil Davidson	6.19	George Miltiadou
56.75	Stephen Drake	18.58	John Broomfield	6.19	Anderson Whamond
55.74	Peter Christmas	18.55	David Wallbank	6.19	Lars Justsen
55.71	Peter Chan	17.54	Bob Bruce	6.18	Roland Herrera
55.71	Giorgio Castellano	17.53	Simon K Jones	6.17	Peter Snape
51.57	Mark Heidenfeld	16.99	Paul Learmount	6.16	Lee Wood
49.54	Rachel Rhodes	16.51	Ramsay Jamil	5.15	Steve Hallet
46.43	Jeff Barber	15.99	Felix Vink	4.13	Roy Hollands
46.41	David Motley	15.48	Monica Beckerson	4.13	Brendan Burgess
45.40	Myke Wignall	15.47	Jon Samuel	4.13	Arthur Musgrove
44.38	David Nathan	14.95	Martin Barkwill	4.13	Raymond Kershaw
43.85	Chris Ternel	14.44	Philip Virschjager	4.13	Steve Simkin
43.34	Tony Fawcett	14.43	Grahame Powell	4.13	Liz Perry
42.32	David Startin	13.94	Caroline Stafford	4.13	Cedric Lytton
41.79	Mardi Ohannessian	13.93	Jonathan Powell	4.13	John Batty
41.77	Simon Morecroft	13.91	Paul Plumptre	4.13	Vicky Gilbert
40.74	Paul Watts	13.41	Michael Maley	4.13	Sean Williams
40.26	Stuart Mann	13.41	Alan Beckerson	4.13	Nick Valley
39.74	Steve Rimmer	13.41	Sean Casey	4.13	Karolina Michalak
39.23	Eamon Keogh	13.41	Paul Van Dijke	4.13	Chris Johnson
38.71	Arthur Wright	13.39	Ralph Eskinazi	4.12	Neil Webb
38.12	Phil Tutchings	12.87	Tim Brown	4.12	Alison Hamill
37.65	Paul Gilbertson	12.37	Andy Bell	4.12	Julian Minwalla
36.61	Ian Davidson	11.87	Bob Young	4.12	Pat O'Connor
36.12	Peter Bennet	11.87	Mahmoud Jahanbani	4.12	Rogier Van Gemert
35.09	Lawrence Powell	11.87	Geoff Conn	4.11	Tim Wilkins
35.09	Richard Biddle	11.35	Alan Greenwood	4.11	Angela Dell
32.50	Ray Tannen	10.84	Tim Cross	4.11	Ian Shimwell
32.00	Rosey Bensley	10.32	Andrew Sarjeant	4.11	Ian Shaw
31.99	Mike Heard	10.32	Jo Davies	2.58	Bill Spiers
31.90	Fak Laight	10.32	John Ingamells	2.58	John Wright
30.96	Paul Christmas	10.31	Kevin White	2.58	Kamal Verma
30.42	Dorothy Lee	10.31	Mark Dixon	2.58	David Fall
29.91	Ann Pocknell	9.80	Richard Holness	2.58	Nicole Taboury
28.90	John Hurst	9.79	Mick Vacarey	2.58	Andrew Kindler
28.90	Raj Jansari	9.29	Nigel Merrigan	2.58	Mike Bailey
27.86	Jon Barnes	9.29	Barry McAdam	2.58	Tony Walters
27.84	Jerry Limb	9.29	Blaine Buchanan	2.58	Ray Fard
27.33	Tony Lee	9.29	Simonetta Barone	2.58	Michel Lamote
26.79	Paul Barwick	9.29	Chris Purchase	2.58	George Hall
25.81	Edwin Turner	8.77	Mike Greenleaf	2.58	Michelle Fisher
25.64	Rodney Lighton	8.23	Mike Main	2.58	Margo De Santis
25.29	Julian Fetterlein	6.70	Kevin Stebbing	2.57	Carl Dell
25.27	Fanika Petkovska	6.70	Steve Bak	2.57	Emmanuel Di Bona
24.71	Tim Line	6.69	Geoff Hall	2.56	Cliff Connick
24.26	Chris Gibbins	6.19	Jim Moore	2.06	Lionel Mann
24.25	Mick Butterfield	6.19	Mike Grabsky	2.06	David Horner
24.23	Jeff Ellis	6.19	Matthew Fisher	2.06	Matthew Franklin
23.70	Vicky Chandler	6.19	Mike Waxman	2.05	Rutger Beijderwellen

2007 UK Finals - The Pre-Qualifiers

The players on the right have all qualified for and have confirmed their attendance at the Gilbertson UK Finals for December. If you aren't one of them, you can qualify by entering the event on the Saturday. You could qualify by winning just five, 7-point matches! So, get your room booked and see if you can be the 2007 UK Champion!

Stuart Mann - Gerry Enslin
Brian Lever - Nicky Check
Stephen Drake - Jerry Limb
Jacob Anderson

Ranking Championship 2007

played / points / player (played 6 or higher. Q = Qualifier)

Q	2246.14	Myke Wignall	Q	1835.29	Peter Bennet	10	1860.20	Dorothy Lee
Q	2200.57	Adrian Jones	Q	1820.07	Brian Lever	10	1750.60	Ray Tannen
Q	2199.43	David Motley	Q	1813.71	Ed Turner	10	1748.90	Tim Mooring
Q	2184.36	Tom Duggan	Q	1798.57	Arthur Wright	9	1818.22	Tony Lee
Q	2166.86	Gerry Enslin	Q	1771.93	Giorgio Castellano	9	1756.22	Lawrence Powell
Q	2138.07	David Nathan	Q	1770.43	Paul Gilbertson	9	1625.56	Mick Butterfield
Q	2133.43	Peter Christmas	Q	1653.86	Rosey Bensley	8	1881.13	Stuart Mann
Q	2129.21	Peter Chan	Q	1611.07	Paul Barwick	8	1589.00	Jeff Ellis
Q	2128.79	Uldis Lapikens	Q	1479.14	Ian Davidson	8	1551.63	Ann Pocknell
Q	2120.00	David Startin	Q	1449.00	Paul Learmount	7	2037.86	Mike Heard
Q	2118.71	Stephen Drake	Q	1393.14	Jonathan Powell	7	1798.71	Paul Plumptre
Q	2100.14	Tony Fawcett	Q	1377.14	Ron Havenhand	7	1733.00	Geoff Conn
Q	2046.71	Eamon Keogh	13	1709.92	Paul Christmas	7	1701.86	Vicky Chandler
Q	2035.64	Simon Morecroft	13	1664.23	Jon Barnes	7	1437.57	Steve Bak
Q	2000.00	Jeff Barber	13	1569.15	Bob Young	7	1360.86	Richard Holness
Q	1981.43	Nicky Check	13	1431.92	Rodney Lighton	6	2089.33	John Hurst
Q	1981.43	Phil Tutchings	13	1363.00	Fak Laight	6	1962.17	Ian Tarr
Q	1967.29	Mardi Ohannessian	12	1873.33	Jerry Limb	6	1711.83	Philip Virschjager
Q	1964.86	John Slattery	12	1860.92	Chris Gibbins	6	1636.67	Martin Hemming
Q	1958.64	Rachel Rhodes	12	1797.75	Julian Fetterlein	6	1635.83	Tim Cross
Q	1898.93	Chris Ternel	12	1482.58	Richard Biddle	6	1595.67	Matthew Fisher
Q	1855.07	Mark Heidenfeld	11	1655.73	Ramsey Jamil	6	1580.67	Caroline Stafford
Q	1844.93	Paul Watts	10	1872.30	Steve Rimmer	6	1103.17	Mervyn Bleach

Grand Prix	Prize	Ranking
John Slattery	£282.10	Myke Wignall
Uldis Lapikens	£201.50	Adrian Jones
Adrian Jones	£161.20	David Motley
Nicky Check	£120.90	Tom Duggan
Brian Lever	£80.60	Gerry Enslin
Tom Duggan	£60.45	David Nathan
Gerry Enslin	£40.30	Peter Christmas
Stephen Drake	£20.15	Peter Chan
Peter Christmas	£20.15	Uldis Lapikens
Peter Chan	£20.15	David Startin
Giorgio Castellano	£20.15	

So, will you be starting the New Year off in Brighton with a nice little cash prize? These players will be; in fact some of them will be getting a double bonus!

The majority of these 'lucky' players have attended a good few tournaments this year and done quite well in the process. Make sure your name appears here next year and enter as many events as you can!

Congratulations to all our winners.

Irish Open, 20 & 21 October, 2007

Main (64)

1	Jacob Andersen
2	Uhlrich
3&4	Sean Casey
3&4	Jeff Ellis
5to8	Jim Moore
5to8	Dama Cunningham
5to8	Adrian Jones
5to8	Lars Justsen
9to16	Stuart Pemberton
9to16	Mick Butterfield
9to16	Peter Chan
9to16	Stuart Mann
9to16	Yousef
9to16	Tim Mooring
9to16	John Batty

Consolation (32)

1	Felix Vink
2	Phil Tutchings
3&4	Ann Pocknell
3&4	Jorgen
5to8	Mike Wade
5to8	Stephen Drake
5to8	Alison Jess
5to8	Tom Duignan

Team

1	Cracker's Team
2	Rachel's Team

Friday Jackpot (8)

1&2	Paul O'Kelly & Cracker
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Grand Prix @ Dublin:

13.41	Felix Vink
9.29	Jeff Ellis
9.29	Sean Casey
9.28	Phil Tutchings
6.19	Jim Moore
6.19	Lars Justsen
6.18	Ann Pocknell
6.18	Adrian Jones
4.13	Peter Chan
4.13	Tim Mooring
4.13	Stuart Mann
4.13	Mick Butterfield
4.13	John Batty
4.12	Stephen Drake
4.12	Alison Hamill
2.58	Uldis Lapikens
2.58	Jeff Barber
2.58	Rosey Bensley
2.58	Nicole Taboury
2.58	Dorothy Lee

November 2007 - July 2008

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