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VOL. III NO. IV

LAS VEGAS NO. 1
MAGAZINE
NOW IN OUR
5th
YEAR

LONDON
MONTE CARLO

COMPLETE
BACKGAMMON
GLOSSARY

THE BACKGAMMON
WIZARD

A Guide to What's Happening
LAS VEGAS
BACKGAMMON
MAGAZINE

COMPLIMENTARY
ISSUE



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LONDON & MONTE CARLO

ALARM! ALARM! They are slamming the door in our faces and we can't do anything to stop them. What I mean to say is that the dominate promoters of backgammon tournaments are pricing you and I out the door. You have to be a middle eastern sheik to be able to afford London and Monte Carlo in mid-summer. By the time we're finished paying the incidentals expenses, we have to float a loan for a kibitzer's pass.

Assume that each person has an initial investment in air fare from the U.S. of approximately \$1,000, add to that \$80 (round-trip cab fare from Nice to Monte Carlo), \$700 hotel for the week (including the promoter's kick back), \$350 tournament fee (includes banquet), \$300 food and entertainment (includes the \$16 drink, common at

the local discos), and \$300 incidentals (tips, \$12 suntan lotions, etc.). You have now spent around \$3,000 per person. That doesn't include side trips, casino visits and indiscretions.

How many times a year can you afford to do that? Can you afford to take your wife? Should you sell part of your possible earnings in return for being subsidized by a backgammon syndicate (an L.A. phenomenon)? Can you afford to take in London, too? (Prices were 15% higher.)

Who is going to support these tournaments when the very rich tire of them and the average bloke can't afford them?

LONDON: The Curzon House tournament was all Malcolm Dugan. A more dignified, industrious

promoter never existed. He is the casino director and personally handled the tournament arrangements. Although Las Vegas is famous for its buffets, we have never seen a more elegant spread than the one he laid out at the Curzon House. No one was slighted. Everyone's smallest demand was met. All annoyances were eliminated. The most able tournament director, Mr. Oxley, was provided. There was a large cash add (\$5,000), a fair draw, and prompt payoffs during an elegant awards presentation ceremony. H. Michaelides of London took it all home. We were highly impressed with the sophisticated closed circuit system that the Curzon House used to broadcast the final matches. All in all, we had a splendid time. Of course, we lost in the early rounds.

[continued]

LONDON/MONTE CARLO

[continued]

MONTE CARLO: The quintessence of backgammon tournaments or of tournaments period for that matter. The calcutta auction alone was so successful that it will be listed in the *Guinness Book of World Records*. Lewis Deyong is the ablest auctioneer anywhere and the finest precision operator of a tournament. Many participants complain that he manages with too firm a hand but, what else can you do when you have to co-ordinate 1,000 people all at once in a couple of rooms where the air conditioning doesn't always work?

There was a good delegation from Las Vegas: Chip Reese, Jimmy Shahadi, Michael Maxakuli, and Alan Jones in Championship; Donna Abraham and Nancy Reese in Beginners. Henry Watrson was there too and getting a lot of play as the man from Las Vegas because of his association with the Las Vegas Amateur World Backgammon Tournament.

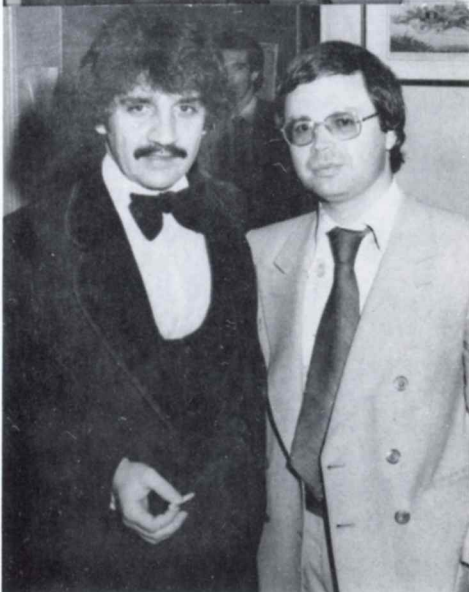
I could go on for days about the splendour and wealth of Monte Carlo, the tournament and the participants. But, let me paint a picture of an outdoor theater richly set to feed a thousand with soft lights dancing at one end and the Mediterranean licking at the rocks on the other; and as fireworks explode in the distance, the immense roof closes over the festive crowd in their tuxedos and Bulgari jewels; the orchestra swings into *Moonlight Sonata* and a hundred french cuffs fly into the air to pledge thousands to the calcutta. Grand is an understatement; this, my friend, is *haute monde*.



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L.V.B.C. ASSOCIATE CLUBS

Association with the LVBC is free to those clubs which will adhere to the LVBC tournament rules and the LVBC rules of backgammon etiquette. The LVBC Association is a group of grass roots backgammon clubs devoted to the love and promotion of backgammon.

Current members of the association are: Milwaukee League of Backgammon, Black Hills Backgammon Club, Portland Backgammon Players, Northern Nevada Backgammon Association, Omaha Backgammon Club, St. Louis Backgammon Club, New Orleans Backgammon Club, Iowa Backgammon Association, and Calgary Backgammon Club.

LVBC associates have access to the club hotline; receive hospitality benefits for their members visiting Las Vegas; receive aid in setting up and operating their club; receive free space to publish their ideas and schedules in the *Las Vegas Backgammon Magazine* (circulation 10,000); and receive complimentary copies of the *Las Vegas Backgammon Magazine* for their members. All in all, associate members enjoy many shared benefits which a union of organizations can provide.

For details on association write to the Las Vegas Backgammon Club or call (702) 361-3910.

New *Las Vegas* ASSOCIATES

NORTHERN NEVADA BACKGAMMON ASSOCIATION

This new associate in our sister city of Reno is already forty members strong. Directed by Bill O'Brien and ably assisted by Jim Roderick, the club holds weekly tournaments on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. -- LaPinata Restaurant, 1575 Vassar. The NNBA is another club in the ever-increasing list of grass roots organizations. It returns many benefits to its members for a small membership fee. Currently, they are planning a "Championship Tournament" in January, 1979, in conjunction with the MGM Grand, Reno. Welcome.

BARCELONA BACKGAMMON CLUB

Jordi M. Araque, has formed this club to organize the growing number of players in Spain. The plans call for an elegant disco and large backgammon rooms sans table fees. We are waiting anxiously for more details from Spain. The club currently operates at Balmes, 380, Barcelona, telephone 211-46-15.

EAST COAST BACKGAMMON CLUB

Robert Howayeck is one of our favorite visitors to Las Vegas. He is an excellent player and an enthusiastic promoter of the game. His club, the ECBC, is highly active and well organized. As a gesture of backgammon unity, he has offered free membership to his club to LVBCers. Send requests for dual membership to ECBC, Box 173, Fall River, Mass. 02723.



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EDITORIAL



BACKGAMMON'S BLACKLIST BOOK

We know who you are. And, we know what you're doing.

Enough is enough. Stop the deceit and the hustle or we will be forced to create a backgammon exclusion list that will circulate worldwide among backgammon promoters and close doors in your face.

We are not about to let it go so far as to result in a blow-up comparable to the Friar's Club scandal. We are talking about the geeks of backgammon—the mechanics, the chip hustlers, the sharp pencil artists and the stiff.

These cutie pies of backgammon travel the circuit from Acapulco to Monte Carlo promoting games and joining in friendly chouettes and all the time there's larceny in their plans. Everyone we know has a horror story to tell about curious dice, suspicious chouettes and six-figure rubber checks.

In an investigation, we found the same names popping up over and over again. And yet, most of us are too polite to point fingers or circulate the names on kited checks. We allow the villains to victimize others—collecting when they win and stiffing when they lose. We are embarrassed at some of the names that appear on the reneging list.

We are familiar with all the ploys—the fake tantrum, the pretended personal offense, the “I-don't-understand-English” con, the “How-dare-you-question-my-character” charade and the old “I owe you but I didn't get paid yesterday from your friend” bit.

As the game becomes more popular, many con artists are drifting into backgammon from other fields. We must identify them now to protect our future. Blacklists

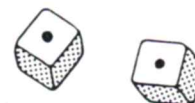
have worked in the past in private clubs and casino situations.

Backgammon, in a sense, is a private club about to be invaded by flim-flam men. We must arm ourselves. Exchange of information is the only weapon we have.

Let's not allow rumor and insinuation to taint backgammon. Let's stand up and put the hustlers down! Light is the only thing a vampire can't stand.

If you have a particular horror story to tell, relate it to us and we will handle it with the utmost discretion. We can not ostracize the flim-flammers unless you identify them to us.

Let's unite and protect ourselves.



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LETTERS FROM READERS



Dear Editor:

At last I can compete with a man in a sport/game without bringing along boxing gloves, shoulder pads or shoes with cleats. All I need is my attache case with all my equipment inside.

Backgammon is a sport where you can show off your pretty new dress, and your sharp mind, while being given a chance to get to know if you would like to have dinner with your opponent.

Having never really excelled in most sports, I find it really rewarding to be able to meet a man on equal grounds.

Although chivalry isn't quite dead, even in this day of women's lib, we can't expect men to let us win because we're the weaker sex... anyone who'd spot me doubles would find an eager opponent.

Well, girls, you won't get a tan playing backgammon, but it does give one a chance to meet interesting people.

So guys and gals, think about boning up on your backgammon game and join me at SALLY'S on Sunday nights.

See you there,
JODI ZWERNER

Dear Sir:

Your acrimonious and bitter editorial is notable in its lack of perspective. To put backgammon on the map, "Stars and Personalities" of the game have to develop as ambassadors. It would seem CBS had to decide which was more interesting to viewers — interviews with faceless backgammon nonentities or 2 three-minute interviews with current champions of the game.

As an illustration of the point I am trying to make, if you were a tennis enthusiast which would you rather watch on TV? An interview with Jimmy Connors or Unknown Jimmy who has played tennis for two years and airs his views on the game?

It was to demonstrate the current public interest in backgammon that this programme was produced on "CBS 60 Minutes", and therefore I find your bitterness as ridiculous as the envy that Jimmy Unknown would have for Connors.

To be quite honest, your editorial was not totally worthless. You mention with rather childish Marxist undertones that backgammon is the "people's game" and "it will endure because of the tedious and thankless job that hundreds of regional promoters and their support are doing". The last statement is quite true. I for one pay tribute to them all.

Yours truly,
JOE DWEK

P.S. For future reference you may like to note that the word "consolation" is spelled with three "o's" and no "u" as in your magazine.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We congratulate Mr. Dwek for his eagle eye which noted our typesetter's inadvertent error. He was severely castigated until his eyes were brimming with tears of repentance. The staff was another story. Never having thought of themselves as "Jimmy Unknowns", they were outraged by Mr. Dwek's obvious, condescending arrogance. We explained, however, that the authoritarian caste system is an inherent British trait which breeds,

among other things, a psychopathic, almost incestuous, elitism. We believe it's time for backgammon's so-called "Champions" to spread their royal seed among the ordinary folks who in the long run will prove to be the strength of the game.

Dear Sirs:

We are pleased to put you on our mailing list and appreciate the correspondence you have been sending us. Your magazine is A-1, and we like your logo, too.

I recall an editorial you had in which you mentioned several cities that had had a difficult time because of the gambling issue and backgammon. To this list must be added Honolulu, as I, on behalf of backgammon in Hawaii, have spent almost \$3000 in legal fees to try to get a ruling on whether backgammon is a game of luck or skill.

The money has been thrown away, as our case has been tossed out of court twice; the only way to get a ruling, says the judge, is to get arrested first! And so, we have tournaments for master points, but no cash prizes; if we had the latter, we could bring in many tourists, and backgammon here would really prosper.

I am enclosing newsletters about our club, and other data which might help you in some small way. I look forward to continuing to receive your mailings.

Sincerely,
PRINCE JOLI KANSIL, Director



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FALL BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENTS

DATE	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION	DIRECTOR
Sept. 1 - 3	Annual South Florida Summer Backgammon Tournament	Palm Beach, Florida	Les Boyd
Sept. 7 - 10	Biarritz Championship	Biarritz, France	Sid Jackson
Sept. 7 - 10	Mexican El Camino Real	Mexico City, Mexico	Nicolas Sanchez-Osorio
Sept. 13 - 17	Baja Backgammon Bash	Baja, Mexico	Sid Jackson
Sept. 21 - 24	Women's World Championship	Pompano Beach, Florida	Les Boyd
Sept. 21 - 24	Chicago Cup Championship	Chicago, Illinois	Sid Jackson
Oct. 12 - 15	Celebrity Backgammon/Tennis Circuit	Las Hadas, Mexico	Nicolas Sanchez-Osorio
Oct. 21 - 22	Tournament of Champions	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Les Boyd
Oct. 24 - 30	Atlantic City Backgammon Championship	Atlantic City, New Jersey	Lewis Deyong
Oct. 29 - Nov. 5	Club Mec Championship	Playa Blanca, Mexico	Sid Jackson
Nov. 17 - 22	Caribbean Championship	St. Thomas, Virgin Islands	Vernon Ball
Dec. 2 - 16	Floating Backgammon	Caribbean	Prince Alexis Obolensky
Dec. 6 - 10	World Amateur Backgammon Championship	Las Vegas, Nevada	Henry Wattson

Nevada's Heritage



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BACKGAMMON BITS



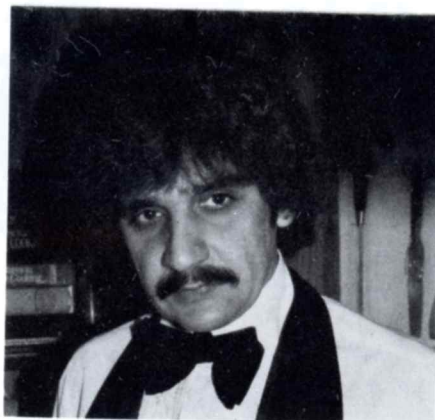
We apologize to TONY MANCARI for inadvertently shorting him several points which would have otherwise put him in the "Top Ten" list for 1978... TRUDY GILLET announces the hanging of her real estate shingle... GENNIE McILVAINE and her ex-husband RED have just published an excellent book on Las Vegas, *Your Las Vegas Connection*, which we recommend highly.



JUDGE ROBERT LEGAKES and wife GLENDA at the 4th Annual Awards Banquet, fortified themselves for the upcoming hectic campaign for District Judge.

RANIER GUND, former owner of Sally's, has opened the all-new BILLY JOE'S disco with LVBCer ERNIE BOURGON as manager... DENNIS MAY has the newly remodeled ADVERTISER BAR in full swing and extends a welcome to all LVBC members.

NOTE: Time Limit of 45 minutes per match will be imposed in all future LVBC Sunday tournaments.



MICHAEL MAXAKULI, ALAN JONES, BILLY INCARDONA, CLARINE, and CHIP REESE—off to London and Monte Carlo for LEWIS DEYONG tournaments... We have requests to buy expensive balanced dice and rent them to those who want to use them. Please call us with suggestions...



JOHN KLEINMAN is cruising off Key West Florida, living on a 40-ft. sailboat... LVBCers KEVEN PRICE and JOHN FORT plan an August wedding at the Candlelight Wedding Chapel.



In town: CHICO FELBERBAUM (Canada), CHRIS PETERSON (Boston), MARK MILLER (New York), HENRY WATTSON (New York), NICOLE (Paris), PEPE CHAVA (Mexico) where his club, "CAPRICCIO PISCO" is located. MICHAEL PICKERT (Alabama), BOB CIAFFONE and JEFF STARR in from Michigan for a week's vacation.

Out of Town: ALAN SAMUELS and ADAM ALMAGORE, both to London.



Long time LVBC supporter DAVE ADDISON, candidate for assembly in district 16, visited the club with his wife SHARON, to keep us abreast of his activities. FRANK CITRO, LVBCer and entrepreneur, extends an invitation to all club members to visit the new enterprise THE REEF (on Sahara Ave., one block west of the Strip). The Reef features exotic dancers and Frank provides special attractions for LVBCers.

BACKGAMMON BITS

[continued]



LT. GOVERNOR BOB ROSE, gubernatorial candidate, popped into the club to wish us well and congratulate us on our 4th Anniversary. Backgammon enthusiast, JANET FORD, in Paris to star in the famous Lido Show; meanwhile, mother, JEAN FORD, is running for State Senate District 3.

SUZY CREAMCHEESE delighted the guests with her fashions at the Sportsman's Ball the night prior to the World Champion Fight between Norton and Holmes, at Caesars Palace . . . Congratulations to LVBC June graduates RON KEEHN, REX BRUSH, the BELL- AKS' SCOTT and SUZY CREAMCHEESE'S MARCI.

* * *

LVBCer ROBERT HOWAYECK captured second place in the 1st Annual Rhode Island State Championship . . . LAMONT, the X-rated hypnotist, was in from New York to spellbind us at SALLY'S. LVBCer LANT BARNEY and MARY ANN have joined in marriage . . . DAVE THOMPSON organizing and teaching a curriculum on casino management at the Clark County Community College.

* * *

Saddened by the loss of longtime LVBCer and famed backgammon promoter, OWEN TRAYNER, director of the Lauderdale Backgammon Club. And, DAVID WANDERER, familiar LVBC tournament player.

it is the NEW!

RUMORS



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BACKGAMMON GLOSSARY



Automatics — An optional rule whereby the cube is automatically turned to 2 if both players throw the same number while contesting for the opening move.

Back Game — A strategic plan whereby one player establishes points in his opponent's home board in the expectation of being able to hit one of his opponent's men while his opponent is attempting to bring his men home.

Backgammon — The name of the game. Also, the result of a game in which one player has removed all of his men while his opponent still has a man (or men) in the winner's home board. This counts as a triple game.

Back man/men — See *Runner*. Also, the rear-most men at any time.

Bar — The center divider separating the outer boards from the home boards. Hit blots are placed "on the bar" to be re-entered in the opponent's home board on a subsequent throw.

Bar-point — The 7-point. One of the key blocking points.

Bearing off — The process of removing the men from the board. The final stage of the game.

Beaver — An optional rule whereby a doubled player may demand that the stakes be quadrupled instead of doubled, while retaining possession of the cube. This demand must be made before the doubler has thrown.

Blockade — A series of contiguous points designed to inhibit the movements of your opponent's

men. The most common blockade is directed against the opposing runners and usually involves the control of one or both of the key points.

Blocking Game — A strategy in which one or both players base their deployment on impeding the movement of the opponent's men.

Blot — A single man on a point. A blot can be hit by an opposing man and placed upon the bar.

Board — The entire playing surface. Also, any one of the four quadrants of the board; your home board, the opponent's home board, your outer board, opponent's outer board.

Box — In a chouette, the player who is playing against the rest of the contestants. Such a player is said to be "in the box." (See *Chouette*.)

Builder — A man whose function it is to aid in the future acquisition of important points.

Captain — In a chouette, the player who represents the interests of all the contestants who are playing against the man in the box (see *Chouette*.)

Checkers — See *Men*.

Chouette — A game of backgammon composed of three or more players. One player, said to be "in the box," plays against the captain. The fortunes of the other players depend on the fortunes of the captain. The various partners may consult freely against the man in the box. At the conclusion of a game, the captain's place is taken by the next-in-order of the contestants on his side, who becomes the new captain. The box plays for the agreed stakes against each of his opponents.

Contact Game — Any position where the opposing positions restrain each other's movements. Contact games are usually some form of positional games and may require delicate maneuvering to maintain an equal balance.

Counters — See *Men*.

Counting the pips — A method of calculating how a player stands in a race by determining the minimum number of pips he will have to roll to remove all of his men from the board. By comparing his total pip count to his opponent's total pip count, he can determine whether he is ahead or behind.

Cube — The doubling cube. A die-shaped object with a geometric progression of six numbers ranging from 2 to 64. At the outset of a game, the cube is placed in the middle; that is, either player has the option of doubling the game. The player who is doubled or redoubled has the option of declining or accepting the cube. If he declines, he loses automatically; if he accepts, the stakes are doubled. The cube is then placed nearer to him, indicating that he is now the owner of the cube and is the only one who can next redouble (see *Double*).

Dice Cup — A cylinder or open-ended box, in which a player shakes his dice, and from which he casts them.

Direct Shot — A chance to hit a blot that is within 6 pips of an opposing man. This blot can therefore be hit by a number on a single die.

Double — The process of turning the cube. Each double multiplies the preceding stakes by two. While the cube itself has markings only up to 64, theoretically doubling and redoubling can continue beyond this number. In practical play, however, a serious game is seldom redoubled and played beyond 8.

Doublet — A throw producing the same number of pips on both dice, entitling the shooter to twice his normal move. Also called "Doubles."

Doubling Cube — See *Cube*.

Exposed Man — See *Blot*.

Gammon — A game in which one player removes all of his men before his opponent has removed any. This scores as a double

game. If, in addition, the loser still has a man in the winner's home board, he loses a triple game. (See *Backgammon*)

Inner Table — See *Home Board*.

Half a roll — The number of pips on a die. A player who has been hit must waste half a roll to re-enter a man from the bar.

Handicap — A concession by which the stronger player accepts a predetermined disadvantage before play begins, so as to help equalize the winning chances for both sides.

Hit — A move which lands on an opponent's exposed man, thus placing that man on the bar.

Home Board — The quadrant to which a player must move all of his men before bearing off.

Home Table — See *Home Board*.

Indirect Shot — An exposed man (or blot) that can be hit only by a combination number using both of the opponent's dice. (By definition, this blot is seven or more pips away from an opposing man.) Also, the opportunity to hit or the act of hitting such a blot.

Key Points — The bar-point and the 5-point, referred to as key points because they are the most effective points to restrain the opposing runners.

Lover's Leap — The move of one runner from the 1-point to immediate safety on the 12-point, made possible by the throw of 6-5.

Men — The individual soldiers of a player's army. Each side has fifteen men occasionally referred to as checkers, counters, stones or tiles.

Non-Contact Game — The race. Both armies have effectively side-stepped any opposing restraint and their sole object is to move around the track with maximum economy, bringing all the men home. Once there, each side tries to complete the bearing off process as quickly as possible.

Off the Board — Said of those men already removed from the board during the bearing off process.

On the Bar — See *Bar*.

Outer Board — The quadrant im-

mediately adjacent to the home board. The last board a player must pass through to reach his home board.

Outer Table — See *Outer Board*.

Pips — The dots that appear on the face of the die, denoting the value of that face.

Points — Spaces occupied by two or more men. A point controls that particular space, preventing an opponent from touching down on it with one of his men. Also, the designation of a location on the board; e.g., the 5-point, the 8-point, the bar-point, etc.

Prime — Six contiguous points occupied by one side. A prime prevents the movement of an opposing man if that opposing man is trapped behind the prime.

Race — See *Running Game*.

Re-enter — The process required to bring a hit man from the bar to a point in the opponent's home board. To re-enter, a player must throw a number on one of his dice that represents a point not controlled by his opponent. Re-entering must be accomplished before any other move can be made. If a player fails to throw a number that will allow him to re-enter, he loses his turn and must try again to re-enter on his next legal turn.

Roll-over — An optional method of play whereby each side has one chance during the game to either re-cast the dice or demand that his opponent do so. This variation is particularly well suited for family play, especially if an experienced player is teaching an inexperienced player.

Runners — The two men that start the game on the 1-point in the opponent's home board. The runners have the longest distance to move to reach their own home board and are most vulnerable to blockades. Also called back men.

Running Game — A strategy whereby a player tries to move his men home as quickly as possible, avoiding blockades and counter blockades as much as he can. The Race.

Safe — A position or play that exposes no men to being hit.

Settlement — An agreement to end the game based on potential equity, rather than put the stakes "up for grabs" based on a single fortuitous throw of the dice.

Straight Race — A position where both sides have bypassed their opponent's blockades and are preoccupied solely with moving their men home and bearing off as quickly as possible; a running game.

Wipeout — An aggressive game plan where one side tries to keep his opponent off balance by simultaneously hitting blots (usually runners) and making home board points. If successful, this strategem can lead to a gammon. If unsuccessful, a very badly timed positional game may result. Practical chances are about equal.

MEMBERSHIP

The *Las Vegas Backgammon Magazine* is one of the most important reasons to belong to the club. It is now considered the finest publication of its kind and can be found on newsstands all over Las Vegas.

In addition to the magazine, members play at a reduced rate in all LVBC tournaments, are invited to all club parties free of charge, may buy equipment at wholesale costs from the club, get free use of the club facilities at SALLY'S (unique in the world), enjoy full access to all the information Las Vegas has on tournaments and players throughout the world, and receive reciprocal benefits from all LVBC associates.

There is no other single better bargain in backgammon than the Las Vegas Backgammon Club. Call (702) 361-3910 to join or renew your membership.

The second annual Plimpton Cup (Dec. 6-10, 1978) for the
World Amateur Backgammon Championship

\$ 100,000.00 + \$ 400.00 per player

AMATEUR: \$75,000.00 + \$400.00 per player OPEN: \$25,000.00 + \$400.00 per player

Only amateurs are eligible to play in the Plimpton Cup. Professionals and amateurs are eligible to play in the Open. The entry fee for either tournament is \$500.00 if post-marked by Nov. 1, 1978 (After Nov. 1 pay \$600 when registering in Las Vegas Dec. 5-7, 1978).

Dunes
HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



THE DUNES HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB

The 24-story 'Diamond of the Dunes' rising in majestic splendor in the heart of the fabled "Strip."
Home of the "CASINO DE PARIS" — The SULTAN'S TABLE — DOME OF THE SEA — TOP O' THE STRIP —
18-HOLE 'EMERALD GREEN' CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE

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AMATEUR

\$75,000.00 + \$400.00 per player

OPEN

\$25,000.00 + \$400.00 per player

		Number of players					Number of players		
		992	1,600	2512			128	256	512
1st	50%	\$ 194,900	\$ 297,500	\$ 451,400	45%	\$ 26,190	\$ 45,630	\$ 84,510	
2nd	20%	77,960	119,500	180,560	25%	14,550	25,350	46,950	
3rd	10%	38,980	59,500	90,280	15%	8,730	15,210	28,170	
4th	6%	23,388	35,700	54,168	9%	5,238	9,126	16,902	
5th — 8th	2% each	4 × 7,796	4 × 11,900	4 × 18,056					
Winner 1st									
4 rounds	\$1,000 each	62,000	100,000	157,000		8,000	16,000	32,000	
Special Prizes (Top prize place winners are not eligible for Special Prizes)									
Early Bird	6%	23,388	35,700	54,168	6%	3,492	6,084	11,268	
Womens	\$10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	\$5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	
non-American	\$10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	\$5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	
TOTAL		\$471,800	\$715,500	\$1,079,800		\$76,200	\$127,400	\$229,800	



THE DUNES HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB

The 24-story 'Diamond of the Dunes' rising in majestic splendor in the heart of the fabled "Strip"

**Request For Room Reservations—For the Backgammon Tournaments
December 5-10, 1978**

To: Miss Vi Kaufman
Reservations Manager
Dunes Hotel & Country Club
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

**TOLL FREE ROOM RESERVATIONS
(800) 634-6971**

Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

All rooms, single or double occupancy—\$19.78 plus tax per night.

Please make the following room accommodations at the Dunes Hotel

No. of Rooms _____ No of Persons _____ Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

FOR CHARTER FLIGHT INFORMATION CALL L. SHAFER, DUNES HOTEL (702) 734-4110



Chico Felberbaum of Alberta, Canada being congratulated by Ron Rubin of New Jersey after winning the first annual Plimpton Cup (worth **\$180,400.00**). Felberbaum, who had never read a book on backgammon, reached the finals by entering the Second Chance Tournament after losing in the main draw. For placing second Rubin won over **\$90,000.00**, including the Early Bird Prize of \$18,000.00.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

- Wednesday 1 pm Lecture by Paul Magriel on strategy of match play.
 6 pm The Dunes Hotel will host a complimentary cocktail party and buffet.

In addition there will be mini-tournaments and a team event. Details to be announced in Las Vegas.

INCENTIVES TO REGISTER EARLY

1. The registration fee will be increased \$100 for those registering after November 1, 1978.
2. All players will start in groups of 16 with no first round byes. **Byes will be given in the fifth round based upon order of registration.**
3. 6% of each prize pool goes to Early Bird Prizes for those registered before October 1, 1978.

For additional information write or call:
American Backgammon Championships

Suite 1006
 575 Madison Ave.
 New York, N.Y.
 (212) 486-1486

506 S. Main St.
 El Segundo, Calif. **or**
 (213) 322-5039

L. Shafer
 Dunes Hotel
 Las Vegas, Nev.
 (702) 734-4110

Or your local Club

RULES

Plimpton Cup rounds will begin at 11 points, up to a 21 point final. Open rounds will begin at 15 points, up to a 25 point final.

A special feature will be the Second Chance Tournament that will begin with 7 point matches. Thus those eliminated in the preliminary rounds will have a second chance at all the prizes. There will be a \$100 fee for those choosing to sign up for a second chance.

Byes will be given in the fifth round based upon order of registration. There will be no byes in the first four rounds.

ESCROW ACCOUNT

The escrow agent will be Valley Bank of Nevada, Las Vegas' largest bank with assets of over \$500,000,000.00. A copy of the escrow agreement is available to participating clubs on request.

Upon receipt, the bank will immediately send an acknowledgement. Neither the promoters nor the Bank shall have any responsibility for any funds until they are received by the Bank.

ELIGIBILITY FOR THE PLIMPTON CUP

Amateurs only. The eligibility Committee will determine professional status. A professional player is one who has ever won \$1,000 or more in a single backgammon tournament after deducting his entry fee, or makes a living playing backgammon. Anyone in doubt about their status must write in advance of the tournament. The Eligibility Committee will transfer any player from the Plimpton Cup to the Open at its sole discretion.

The Eligibility Committee reserves the right to refuse entry, without explanation, to anyone it deems detrimental to the best interest of the tournament.

PAYMENT OF PRIZES

All Prizes are to be paid on December 10, 1978, with the exception of the First and Second prizes. The First Prize winners will be paid \$30,000 on both December 10, 1978 and January 10, 1979. Second Prize winners will be paid \$15,000 on the same dates. The remaining prize money due the First and Second Prize winners will be paid in five equal installments on January 10 of each succeeding year.

Mail your entry form with payment to:

Valley Bank of Nevada
Backgammon Escrow Account
P.O.Box 15427
Las Vegas, Nevada 89114

Entry Form

L. V. B. C.

Player _____

Address _____

Street

City

State

Zip

Telephone _____

Check the appropriate boxes:

- ☐ Plimpton Cup (Amateurs Only)
☐ Open (Amateurs & Professionals)

First round starting time preference

Wed. Dec. 6 ☐ 2 PM ☐ 11 PM

Thur. Dec. 7 ☐ 1 PM ☐ 6 PM ☐ 11 PM

Fri. Dec. 8 ☐ 9 AM ☐ 1 PM

PAYMENT ALTERNATIVES

- A. Pay by check, money order, Master Charge or Visa post-marked by November 1, 1978. \$500
B. NON-REFUNDABLE deposit to reserve space before November 1, 1978 \$ 50
Balance Dec. 5 - 7, 1978 \$475
TOTAL \$525
C. Pay by cash when registering Dec. 5 - 7 at The Dunes Hotel \$600

Entry places will be transferred at no charge. Cancellations will be taken for a \$50 charge.

☐ Here is my check for \$ _____ payable to Backgammon Escrow Acct.

Charge My Master Charge ☐ Visa ☐ Acct. # _____

Name _____ Exp. Date _____

Amount _____ Signature _____

**CREDIT CARD
INFORMATION**

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CHARLIE & SANDY CLARK



JOHN ANDERSON & DOROTHY DE FELICE



LINDA, CHERIE & SUZY



JOE DE NUCCI



DANNY GIBSON & NED DAY



ERNIE, EVIE, MRS. & RANIER GUND

DUNES HOTEL EXEC "hot on" BACKGAMMON

by Hanford Searl



LAS VEGAS—Backgammon is big business, a lure to both the professional and amateur alike not withstanding the hobby-minded.

Although it'll never be a part of Nevada's legalized gambling scene, it draws high rollers to casino action as well as filling Strip hotel resorts during traditional slow tourist seasons.

So says Lenny Shafer, Vice President of Sales and Conventions at the Dunes Hotel and Country Club, who is booking the Second Annual Plimpton Cup for the World Amateur Backgammon Championship.

Just how big is the Backgammon business?

Well, for this six to eight day confab, scheduled to open Dec. 5, the stakes are the largest ever in prize money. Over \$1 million in lovely, green money!

"I thought it was a kids game 10 years ago when I used to play it with my sons, but today it's now the rage of the world," ponders Shafer.

As of June 15 some 250 reservations from around the world — England, Mexico, New Zealand, Iraq and Australia — have been made at the 830-capacity high-rise hotel.

A Vegas resident for 35 years, Shafer and the Dunes, the home of the popular, lavish French spectacular, "Casino de Paris '78," have exclusive rights to the ever-growing tournament for the next two years.

The informal hotel executive reports two more such backgammon happenings are set for June and December of 1979. After that, other Strip hotels will be able to bid for the event.

New York stock broker-backgammon enthusiast, Henry Wattson is in charge of the tournament's promotion despite a \$¼-million loss on last year's four-day confab which attracted such stars as Lucille Ball and George Peppard as players.

"I went to New York as well as to clubs in Florida to check out the game's popularity and broad-base appeal," reflects Shafer, some 20 years with the Dunes. "We foresee this thing getting bigger and better each year."

Last year's initial tournament sent overflow house guests to the nearby Maxim Hotel, which is located in the shadow of the MGM Grand Hotel only several blocks from the Dunes.

That first-time backgammon gathering, somewhat less than taken seriously by almost all Strip hotel-casinos because of a previous such effort two years earlier by another promoter, registered delight with Dunes execs.

For, that debut tournament packed the Dunes during the traditionally slow tourist Christmas season in December, when many rival hotels close a couple weeks to refurbish and shampoo their showrooms.

"The idea was kicked around by other hotels. We decided to take a shot at it because of the unusual slow time of year," recalls Shafer. "We recorded our highest hotel capacity ever for that period."

Shafer explains there will be set amounts for each game with odds based on the backgammon cube. The Crown Jewel Room will service 600 games and some 1,200 people, he adds.

More media exposure is anticipated for this year's convention after 1977's event drew coverage from CBS-TV's "60 Minutes." At press time, the names of definite celebrities was not known.

Paul Magriel, the "Father of Backgammon," known affectionately as "X-22," will attend the upcoming festivities while lecturing Dec. 6 on the strategy of match play.

Some of the prize money will naturally be raised through entrance fees, Shafer reveals, although he admits uncertainty about the rest of the large purses origins coordinated by Valley Bank of Nevada's \$500-million assets.

Shafer concludes backgammon will never be legalized, for it's a contest rather than a skilled game. It's an individual format rather than a player against the house.

"As for myself, I see it as a house game, on a purely hobby basis," reports Shafer. "It's like Gin Rummy, there's a lot of player pride and determination to win."

And, while this Entertainment Capitol has the full hand on gambling, big-name stars and now backgammon, upstart Atlantic City is trying to become the "Backgammon Capitol."

For English backers in conjunction with Phillip Morse cigarettes, are trying to establish that image with their own backgammon tournament Oct. 4.

Can their entry be a serious challenge to Vegas' already established tournament?

Will competition make all this a healthier situation, benefiting the love of the game and up it's prize money?

[continued]

[continued]

Only time will tell, so stay tuned and keep those backgammon sets warmed up!

WHAT TO EXPECT

Plimpton Cup rounds will begin at 11 points, up to a 21 point final.

A special feature will be the Second Chance Tournament that will begin with seven point matches. Thus, those eliminated in preliminary rounds will have a second chance at all prizes.

A \$100 fee for those choosing to sign up for a second chance aside from the set \$500 entry fee which becomes \$600 after Nov. 1.

Byes will be given in the fifth round based upon order of registration. There will be no byes in the first four rounds.



**Hanford
Searl**

EDITOR'S NOTE: The LVBC welcomes Hanford Searl, the Las Vegas correspondent for Billboard Magazine and entertainment critic for the Valley Times newspaper. Mr. Searl is best known for his "no holds barred" observations on the Las Vegas entertainment scene and the many top name stars that appear here. We are proud to add Mr. Searl to the list of top journalistic contributors to the Las Vegas Backgammon Magazine.

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GIFTWARE**

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on Premises*



BACKGAMMON ON TEN

The first regularly scheduled television program entirely devoted to backgammon is on the air! "Backgammon on Ten" is a weekly television event on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in Calgary, Alberta.

The show is hosted by Wayne Roberts, director of the Calgary Backgammon Club, an LVBC associate.

Celebrity guests from the world of backgammon are featured on the program along with instructions and play analysis. Viewers are encouraged to phone in questions and observations.

We hope this series prompts similar spin offs in other cities. We congratulate the Calgary Club in this innovative PR approach to backgammon. We are proud of this breakthrough.

GAMMON

Billed as "the magazine you've been waiting for, GAMMON magazine blitzed the backgammon world last year with an outstanding advertising campaign. Since then, we've been blitzed with calls asking what ever happened to the first issue. It seems, many players subscribed to GAMMON; although their checks have not been cashed, they haven't received a single copy either.

"Just one colorful issue will convince you" the pre-publication publicity releases read. So far, we have been convinced that we'll never see an issue.

We do know that the Los Angeles promoters of the stillborn magazine continue to negotiate for a sponsor to bail them out. We wish them the best of luck. We too have been anxiously waiting for the "magazine designed with the quality and distinction to stand up to your severe criticism."

In the meantime, we suggest to our concerned members that they direct all inquiries to publisher Buddy Berke, 8126 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048, telephone (213) 653-8200.



TOTIE FIELDS

For Totie

Comedian and television star TOTIE FIELDS died recently in Las Vegas. Miss Fields was loved by everyone. She was an inspiration to all in and out of show business. We at the Las Vegas Backgammon Club had a special spot in our heart for Miss Fields because of the support and encouragement that she gave us during our formative years.

Miss Fields was an honorary charter member of the LVBC and our best promoter during that period when hardly anyone played backgammon in Las Vegas. We have fond memories of long evening chouettes at her home. It is hard to imagine now, that playing for \$1 could be so much fun. But, there we were: Totie, her husband, George Johnston, Phyllis McGuire, Lucille Ball, and Suzy Creamcheese whooping and and a hollering at every roll of the dice.

Everyone is going to miss Totie Fields, but none more than we will.



•the showrooms•

ALADDIN 736-0111.

Bagdad Showroom:

8/25- 9/ 5 Rick Nelson,
Stone Canyon Band
9/ 6- 9/18 Danny Thomas
9/19-10/ 2 Loretta Lynn
10/24-11/ 6 Frankie Valli
11/ 7-11/20 Gladys Knight & The Pips
11/21-12/ 4 Conway Twitty
12/29-2/31 Cheech & Chong
12/28- 1/ 3 Loretta Lynn



CAESARS PALACE 731-7110

Showroom:

8/24- 9/ 6 Paul Anka
9/ 7- 9/20 Diana Ross
9/28-10/11 Andy Williams
10/12-10/25 Ann Margret
10/26-11/ 8 Paul Anka
11/ 2-11/22 Tom Jones
11/23-12/20 Open
12/21- 1/ 3 Ann Margret

DESERT INN 733-4444

Showroom:

8/11- 9/26 Wayne Newton, Dave Barry,
Jive Sisters
9/27-10/24 Juliet Prowse, Foster Brooks
10/25-11/ 7 Robert Goulet



CIRCUS CIRCUS 734-0410

Lounge:

Indefinite: Circus Acts from 'Round the World

DUNES 734-4110

Showroom:

Indefinite: Casino de Paris



FRONTIER 734-0110

Showroom:

8/24- 9/ 6 Roy Clark
9/ 7- 9/20 Robert Goulet



GOLDEN NUGGET 385-7111

Showroom:

8/ 8- 8/20 Emmylou Harris
10/31-11/12 Buck Owens
11/14-11/26 Kenny Rogers



HACIENDA 739-8911

Showroom:

Indefinite: Ice Fantasy

HOLIDAY CASINO 732-2411

Mark Twain Showroom:

Indefinite
Wild World of Burlesque

LAS VEGAS HILTON 732-5111

Showroom:

8/24- 9/11 Lou Rawls
9/22-10/12 Liberace, Chinese Acrobats
of Taiwan, Dancing Waters



MARINA 739-1500

Bare Touch of Vegas

Sun.-Thurs. 10 p.m. & 12:30 a.m.

Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m., 10 p.m., 12:30 a.m.



MGM GRAND 739-4111

Showroom:

8/31- 9/13 Carpenters
9/14- 9/27 Dean Martin
11/23-12/ 6 Engelbert Humperdinck
12/ 7-12/16 Rich Little

Ziegfeld Room:

Indefinite: Hallelujah Hollywood



MINT 385-7440

Merrimint Lounge:

Continuous Entertainment Nightly

SHOW GUIDE

[continued]



LANDMARK 733-1110

Nifty Nook:

Indefinite: Eddie Dare
9.00 p.m.-3.00 a.m.

Sky Top Lounge:

Indefinite: Frank Filia
9.00 p.m.-3.00 a.m.

Dark Tuesday

Showroom:

Indefinite: Oh Alice!

8.00 p.m.-12.00 midnight

Dark Monday



ROYALINN 734-0711

Casino Lounge:

Royal Dixie Jazz Band—Daily 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Except Tuesday

SAHARA 737-2111

Showroom:

8/31- 9/13 Tony Bennett
9/14- 9/21 Don Rickles, Cathy Carlson
9/22- 9/23 Johnny Carson

Casbar Lounge:

"Pinups 2001"



ROYALCASINO 732-2916

Main Showroom:

Racy Revue, "Rare & Bare"

SHOWBOAT 385-9123

Showroom:

7/ 4- 7/23 Taffy
8/ 8- 8/20 Rainbow Express

Lounge:

Indefinite: Continuous Entertainment



UNION PLAZA 386-2110

Lounge:

Continuous Entertainment

Showroom:

Mickey Finn Show (2 & 4 p.m. daily)



*It's Never Been Done Before
But Now Del Webb's Sahara Is Doing It!*

Sahara World Championship of Blackjack • Dec. 17-20, 1978

- It's for Everyone! Casual and Skilled Players!
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IMPORTANT! ENTRIES ARE LIMITED!

THREE ENTRY PLANS AVAILABLE BEGINNING AT \$299.95

All plans include a Deluxe Room for 4 days and 3 nights, 4 Sahara Buffet Meals, Tournament Entry Fee, Sahara Bonus Book, Special Golf Rates and applicable taxes and tips.

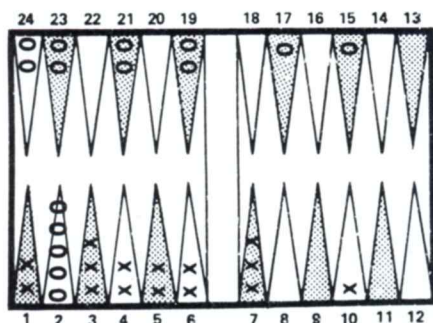
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EDDIE'S PROBLEMS



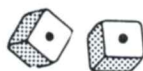
Direction X moves



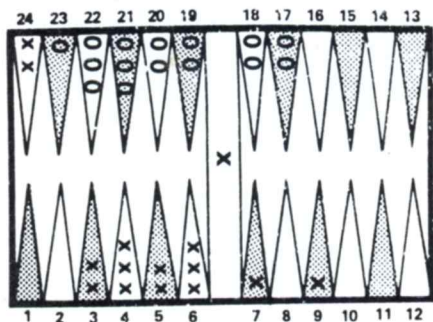
PROBLEM No. 1

X to Play Double 3's

Recently at SALLY'S, a gentleman from Boston and a local Las Vegas gambler played for \$1,000 a point. The cube went to 16 in O's possession! X went on to roll double 3's. He played it 10 to 4 and 7 to 1. Now rolls of 6-5 and 5-4 would leave double shots. A safer play is to move two men from 7 to 4 and one checker from the 7 to the 1 point. As it turned out, X rolled 5-4 on his next shake and was forced to leave a double shot. Both players agreed to call the game a "wash" and start over.



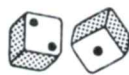
Direction X moves



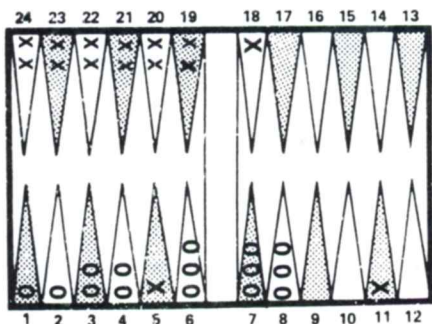
PROBLEM No. 2

X to Play Double 1's

In the recent California Open tournament, two intermediate players were tied 12-12 in a 13 point match. X was in a desperate back game. Suddenly X rolled a set of miracle double aces, but under pressure misplayed his number. The correct play is bar to 24, 24 to 23 hitting the loose blot and 9 to 7 making his own prime. Now if O comes in with 1-6, 1-5, 2-5, 1-4, 2-4 or 2-2, he will have to break his prime giving X a chance to win. However, X made a blunder and played bar to 24, 9 to 7 and 6 to 5.



Direction O moves



PROBLEM No. 3

O to Play 2, 1

On Sunday nights at SALLY'S, the Las Vegas Backgammon Club holds its weekly tournaments. A well-known local player whose anonymity shall remain guarded, made a fatal mistake. O rolls 2-1, instead of making the prime and hitting, he played 8 to 7 and 6 to 4. The correct play is 6 to 5 hit, and 7 to 5 cover and complete a 6 point prime. If X hits the blot on the ace and deuce points, who cares? X will have to break his own home board and possibly O could pick up another checker and win a gammon.

IT PAYS TO PLAY

TOP 10 LAS VEGAS PLAYERS

Vartan Sarkissian	23
Don Hiatt	14
Norman LePore	14
Craig Chellstorp	14
Mike VanDusen	12
John Anderson	12
Clarine	11
Ed Green	11
Munchkin	11
Sam Wilson	11

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address	city
state or province	

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name (please print)	zip or country
address	city
state or province	

Mail to Las Vegas Backgammon Club
9457 Las Vegas Blvd. S. #58
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

LAS VEGAS BACKGAMMON CLUB MEMBERS



KAREN & LEN YELINEK



ZEENA STEELE



MICHAEL MAXAKULI & LINDA



GORDON RITHOLZ & LISA



KAREN & MINE VANDUSEN



L.V.B.C. POOL PARTY

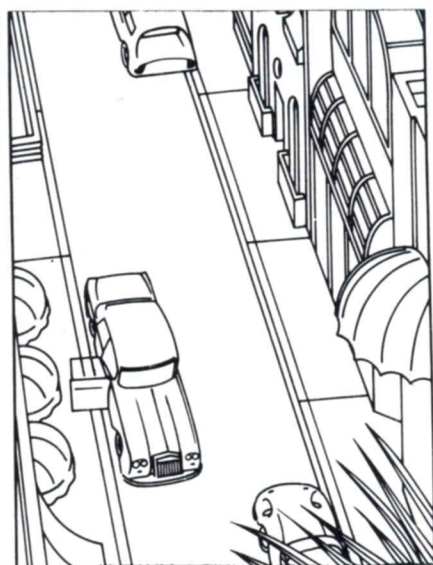


NICOLE & NORMAN LE PORE



CARLO ENRICHI & C.J. SCHIFFLER

CALIFORNIA OPEN



Sid Jackson (and we think George Bassman, although one rarely saw him) ran the first major all-Southern California tournament. Excluding the Palm Spring affair of a couple years ago, it was the first time anyone has made a real attempt to organize a major tournament geared directly to Southern Californians. This was a long over-due idea considering the largest concentration of backgammon enthusiasts in the world exists in the Los Angeles area.

But, in spite of all the precautions taken by the promoters, the tournament fell victim to the usual backgammon tournament woes. Not to fault the promoters, we were disappointed in many of the tournament procedures including poor adherence to time schedules and a very confusing double elimination plan which left both winner and loser confused and unhappy.

We heard many complaints about the promoters rake and even got wind of an impending law suit by one of the participants who felt the promoters fees were misrepresented. Upon investigating, we found that the discrepancies were more likely caused by the promotional free entries rather than any hanky-panky.

By simply eliminating complimentary entries in the future, promoters can avoid explanations to participants who add the figures and come up with exaggerated purses. Although, we must admit the promoters fee for the calcutta was exorbitant in view of what little they did.

Our suggestion is, that in the future, tournaments be held in less expensive surroundings so that the savings can be passed on to the contestants. Universal Sheraton charges were outrageous and the quality of what was returned poor.

The buffet was an insult, the rooms over-priced, convention rooms were too hot and crowded and service very poor, especially on the final days.

We were surprised by the poor quality of equipment provided by Aries of Beverly Hills. The boards had a quarter-inch bar which made it impossible to balance a man on the bar; the cups lacked lips; and the dice were not only unbalanced but also often printed incorrectly.

All in all, we had a good time. The North and South challenge match that we were all looking forward to was cancelled. The stars of backgammon and Hollywood who were promised never materialized and, big money games were few.

Many Las Vegas attended the tournament and did surprisingly well. Dave Ashley and Sam Wilson won the doubles tournament. Michael Maxakuli, Mike VanDusen, Gary Ford and Eddie Hattori all placed in the money. Clarine, Dr. Clyde Stroup, Norman LePore, Tony Zambus and Richard Kiskis were also there but faired less well.

We are looking forward to the next California Open. With a little more luck and publicity, the next one will be more than just "Tuesday Night at the Cavendish" now showing for three days at the Universal Sheraton."

SPECIAL EVENTS

CHOUETTE NIGHT

Due to repeated demands, we are designating THURSDAY nights at 9:00 p.m. as Chouette Night. All those who have asked for it, please show up! In addition to any size chouette (\$1 to \$20), SALLY'S will provide drink discounts to all participants.

* * *

TEAM NIGHT

MONDAYS will be Team Night 2 on 2. Get a partner and come down and play. Excellent opportunity to learn. Same times and benefits as Chouette Night.

* * *

CHILDREN'S TOURNAMENTS

Many children of LVBC members play backgammon and we have been asked to hold a special tournament for them. We will be sending a special announcement for this children's tournament in the near future. In the meantime, we would appreciate a call to let us know the age of the child and day preference for the tournament. This tournament will be divided into two age categories. It will be free. There will be trophies, soda and pizza, and disco dancing for the youngsters. If you would like to volunteer as a chaperon, call Linda at the LVBC office.

■ ■ ■

NOTE: The LVBC held a free tournament at SALLY'S for invited members two weeks prior to the California Open. The prizes of free air fare, hotel and entry fee to the California Open tournament were donated by the LVBC and Sid Jackson. The winners were Sam Wilson (1st Place) and Richard Kiskis (2nd Place). It made for a nice Tuesday night.

■ ■ ■

LAS VEGAS

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

OPEN CLASS

INTERMEDIATE

May 14, 1978

1. Don Hiatt
2. John Anderson
3. Sam Wilson
3. Vartan Sarkissian

1. Andrea Slinker
2. Ruth Scutero
3. Trudy Gillett
3. Meir Bram

May 21, 1978

1. Norman LePore
2. Craig Chellstorp
3. Munchkin

1. Frank Citro
2. Susan Keehn
3. Bob Gromek
3. Fred Jacob

May 24, 1978

1. Sam Wilson
2. Richard Kiskis
3. Nicole
3. Gordon Ritholz

May 28, 1978

1. Jack Reynolds
2. Don Hiatt
3. John Anderson
3. Norman LePore

1. Eli Brush
2. Richard Kiskis
3. Bob Gromek

June 4, 1978

1. Don Hiatt
2. Nicole
3. Vartan Sarkissian
3. Jack Reynolds

1. Jimmy Mataya
2. Darius Schott
3. Bob Gromek
3. Rick Colucci

June 11, 1978

1. Vartan Sarkissian
2. Pedro Navales
3. Clarine
3. Mike VanDusen

1. Ed Green
2. Zeena Steele
3. John Fort
3. Mary Ison

June 18, 1978

1. Donna Darby
2. Ed Green
3. Clarine
3. Munchkin

1. Frank Citro
2. David Eig
3. Gordon Ritholz
3. Ed Seidner

June 25, 1978

1. Clarine
2. Ed Green
3. Gary Ford
3. Mike VanDusen

1. Jodi Zwerner
2. Cherie Bowen
3. Ed Seidner

July 2, 1978

1. Craig Chellstorp
2. Vartan Sarkissian
3. Mike VanDusen

1. Ralph Dietz
2. Don Naifeh
3. Tony Mancari

July 9, 1978

1. John Anderson
2. Vartan Sarkissian
3. Norman LePore
3. Tony Mancari

1. David Eig
2. David Hershleder
3. Craig Hoppe
3. Reid Vogelmann

July 16, 1978

1. Craig Chellstorp
2. Vartan Sarkissian
3. Gary Ford
3. Norman LePore

1. Jimmy Paxson
2. Gordon Ritholz
3. John Fort

July 23, 1978

1. Munchkin
2. David Eig
3. Tony Klonarakis
3. Kenny Chin

1. Reid Vogelmann
2. Craig Hoppe
3. Brian Marshall

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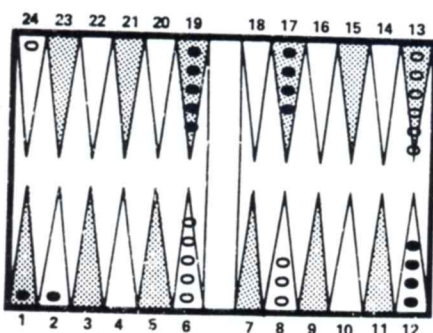
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BACKGAMMON TIPS

by Bob Ciaffone



PROGRESS IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR

A beginning backgammon player first learns to play moves safely so he doesn't get his men hit. After some experience, he sees the need to take chances in certain positions. Let's look at the diagrammed position. White started the game with a 6-5 and took a back man to the midpoint. Black rolled a 5-1 and brought one man to the 8-point and split his back men. White now rolled double sixes. Naturally, he brings three men from the midpoint to the barpoint. How should the fourth six be played?

Most players would bring yet another man to their own barpoint, so as not to leave a vulnerable blot. However, this play is actually a destructive move, since this last man was better placed on the midpoint, so the midpoint is not stripped of its third man. This third man on a point is a useful builder for forming new points without breaking old ones. The right play is to take the remaining back man out to the opponent's barpoint, trying to escape from enemy territory. One-third of the time the man will not be hit. Frequently, he will be hit by the rolls such as 3-1 or 4-2 that could have been used to make a point in the inner board had they not been diverted to hit.

By making the progressive play of trying to run with his last back man, White prevents his opponent from going about his own business and forces him to answer a threat.

THE BACKGAMMON CLUB OF OMAHA

The Backgammon Club of Omaha, begun in early May, is starting a drive to enlist 200-to-300 members, according to Jay Wallin, president.

There are now 30 members whose skills range from beginner to expert. A \$10 annual membership fee includes a newsletter, tournament fee discounts and information on local, national and international meets.

Wallin said such a club is overdue, and said its objectives are 'to promote the play and enjoyment of backgammon and to provide means of communication among members about new developments'.

The club meets weekly at the Westroads Racquet Club, 1212 N. 102nd Street.

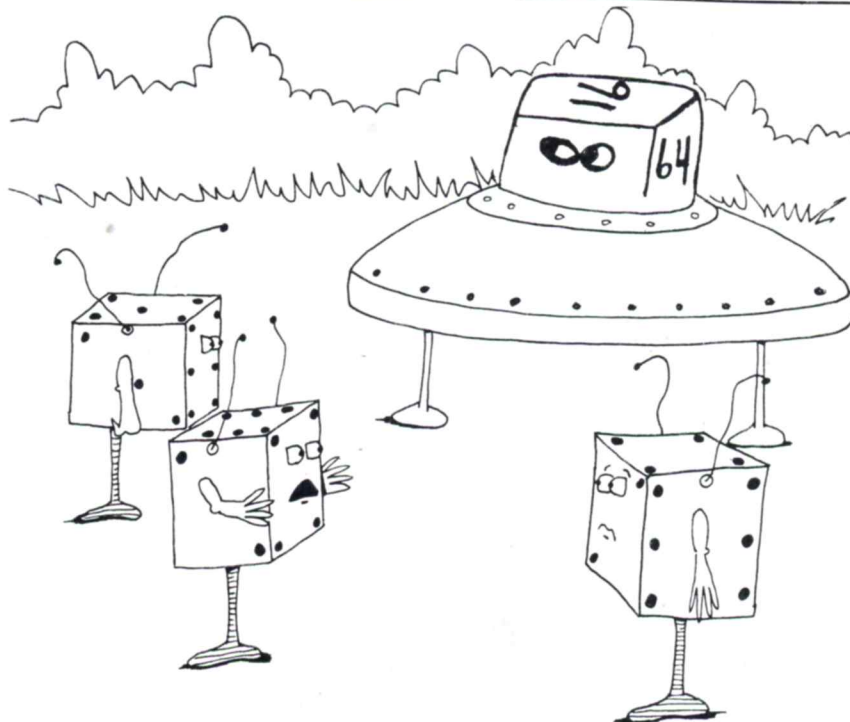
MT. BOYNE, MICHIGAN TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Intermediate flight

1. Duffy Hepner
2. Larry Willer
3. Linda Roach
3. Ron Gyurcsik

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

James Allen
Ted Barr
Alan Berk
Ted Bronson
Dan Cameron
Jonathan Chen
John Cloys
Kathy Day
David Eig
Kevin Flaherty
Tina Fowler
Ernie Geisel
John Glodfelter Jr.
Edward Green
Robert Holyon
Angelos Kairis
Lowi Keese
Len Marmor
Brian Marshall
Allan Petrie
Mitchell Sabshon
Darius Schott — *Lifetime*
Ed Seidner
Donna Sloan
John Sloan
Ronda Stoltz
Robert Tedone
Reid Vogelmann
William White
Kit Woolsey



Encounters of a dangerous kind



BACKGAMMON WIZARD



VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) — A period of high energy and achievement is in store for you after the 13th when Mars enters Virgo during the first quarter of the Virgo Moon. This is a splendid indication of tournament success as your critical eye sharpens your play. Career plans made around the 3rd require personal initiative during the latter half of the month. Backgammon can become a profitable release for pent-up energies this month, while you bubble with self-confidence. Lucky days: 12, 13, 17 and 21. Lucky numbers: 6-6.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23) — Now is the time for you to pursue a new career or adventure. Transits favor new directions for you and that includes backgammon. If you are dissatisfied with your play or results, study from a book after the 3rd, but seek personal guidance after the 16th. At that time, Venus enters Leo, favoring relationships with authority figures. Lucky days: 5, 10, 14, 15 and 16. Lucky numbers: Double Aces, 6-5.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21) — Your curiosity prompts you to explore the hidden and mysterious. You will find backgammon problems entertaining at this time. Your desire to relate spiritually with others is greatest before the 16th. Afterwards, material concerns intrude and remain important until the end of the month. Lucky days: 7, 12, 17 and 25. Lucky numbers: Double deuces, 4-3.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) — Legal correspondence can become a nuisance this month. Deal with such matters between the 3rd and 17th. Chouetting becomes favorable then when others are apt to cooperate and look to you for advice. You are susceptible to infection or fever during the latter half of the month. Personal hygiene and diet should be considered carefully after the 13th. Lucky days: 19, 20 and 27. Lucky numbers: Double 4's, Double 6's and 6-4.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) — Your capacity for work is even better than usual. Mental calculations come readily. Your innate caution and organization ability will be put to the test this month when Mercury transits Gemini and Cancer. Challenges from career, personal relationships and competition should be faced in a sincere earnest manner. Deceptions are not your forte nor are you susceptible now. Lucky days: 21, 22, and 25. Lucky numbers: 4-1, 5-1 and Double 5's.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) — You are going to derive personal satisfaction from competing with someone younger than yourself. Side action is more favorable than tournament play and will make possible new friendships now, and especially after the 16th. Consult the *Backgammon Philosopher* for a clue. Your health remains stable and good through-

out the month though you may experience calf or ankle stiffness from active sports. Lucky days: 5, 15, 19, 23 and 24. Lucky numbers: Double 3's,

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20) — Plan a backgammon bash before the 11th. You are likely to reminisce with old friends and are eager to share more good times. After the 11th, a succession of transits beginning with the Moon and Mars entering Virgo favor new perspectives on work relationships. Plan radical changes when the Moon enters Pisces on the 24th. Situations will call for bold measures when the Moon enters Aries on the 27th. Lucky days: 2, 7, 25, 26 and 30. Lucky numbers: 6-4, 6-2.

ARIES (March 21 - April 19) — You are the firebrand of the Zodiac and are admired for the colorful way you do things. Backgammon will take on a new dimension for you as an art form this month. Sanctify your backgammon activities to provide peak experience by concentrating your attention and high-powered energy. Lucky days: 1, 5 and 18. Luck; numbers: 5-4 and 2-1.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20) — Domestic difficulties are indicated for backgammon widows and widowers. Conditions improve after the 17th however, when Mercury enters Cancer. This transit will affect everyone by focusing attention on personal and emotional communications. For a stubborn Taurus this can mean encounters that cause aggravation. Avoid arguments and follow your conscience. Lucky days: 2, 3 and 30. Lucky numbers: 5-3 and 3-2.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20) — Mental and sensory perception is heightened between the 3rd and the 17th when Mercury, your native ruler, transits Gemini. Telekinesis or clairvoyance over the backgammon board is a likely experience for evolved Geminis during this time. Evaluate your personality and public image; make plans for self-improvement and implement them before the 17th. Lucky days: 4, 5, 6 and 15. Lucky numbers: Double deuces and Double 5's.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22) — You can accomplish a great deal after the 13th when hard work of an analytical or discriminating nature reaps rewards by the end of the month. Seek out the counsel of cognoscentis in backgammon matters after the 11th, when Venus enters Leo, and the Moon, your native ruler, favorably aspects Mars and Saturn. Lucky days: 7, 8 and 25. Lucky numbers: 5-2 and 4-3.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22) — Utilize your strong energy potential before the 13th. Tournament play is favored then. Rest afterwards, and reflect upon the financial implications of any action you have taken during the first half of the month. Lucky days: 5, 10, 11 and 27. Lucky numbers: 5-4 and 6-1.

BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENTS

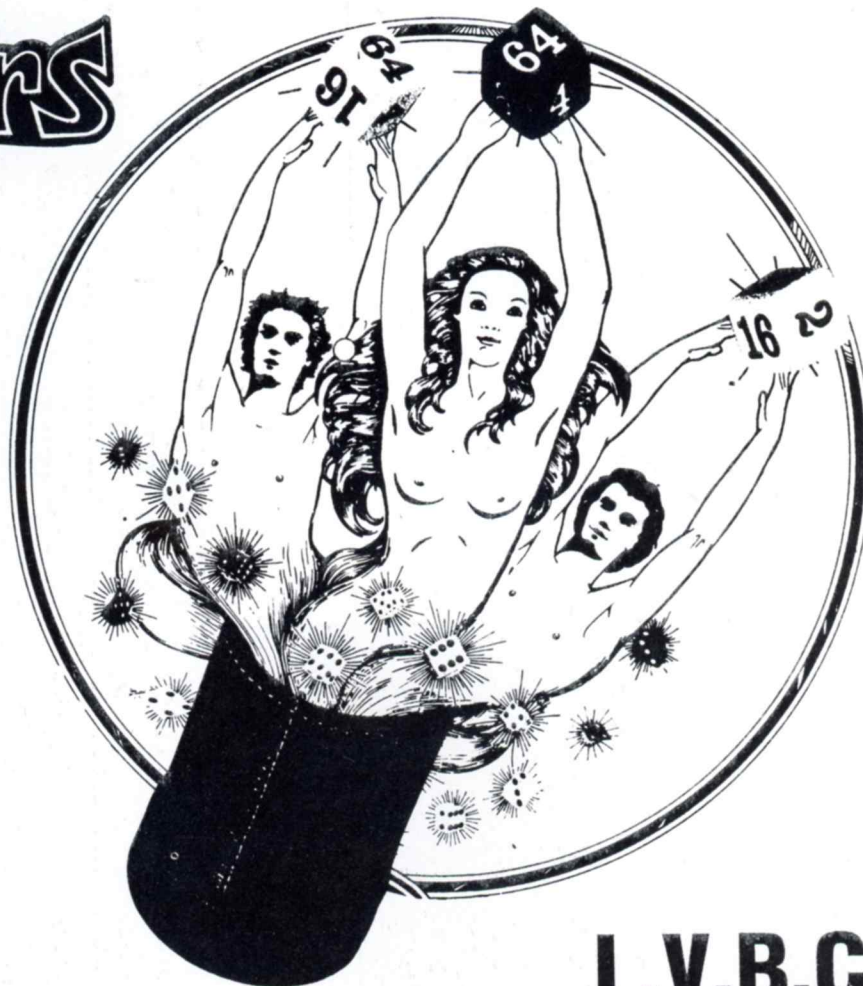
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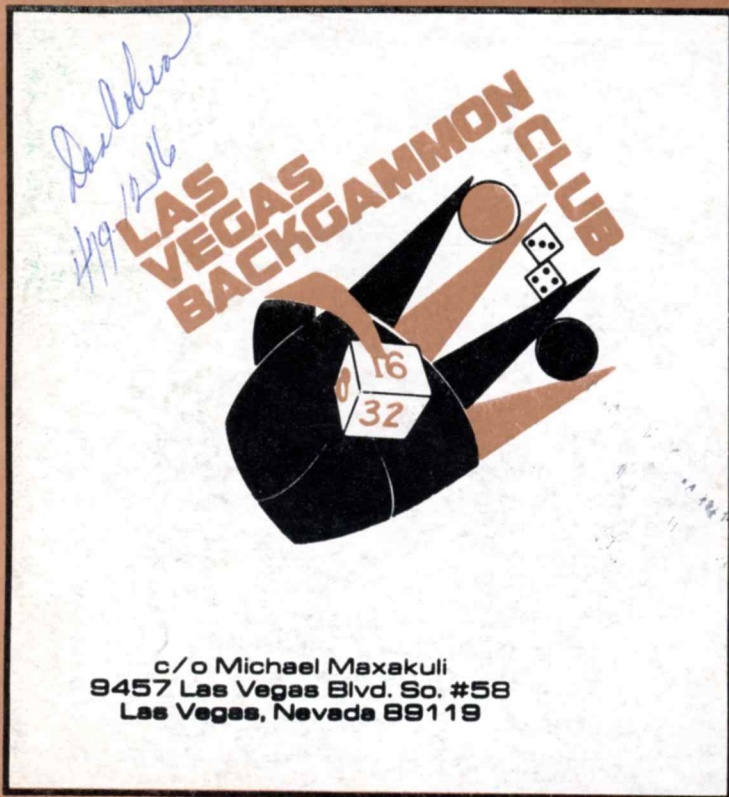
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