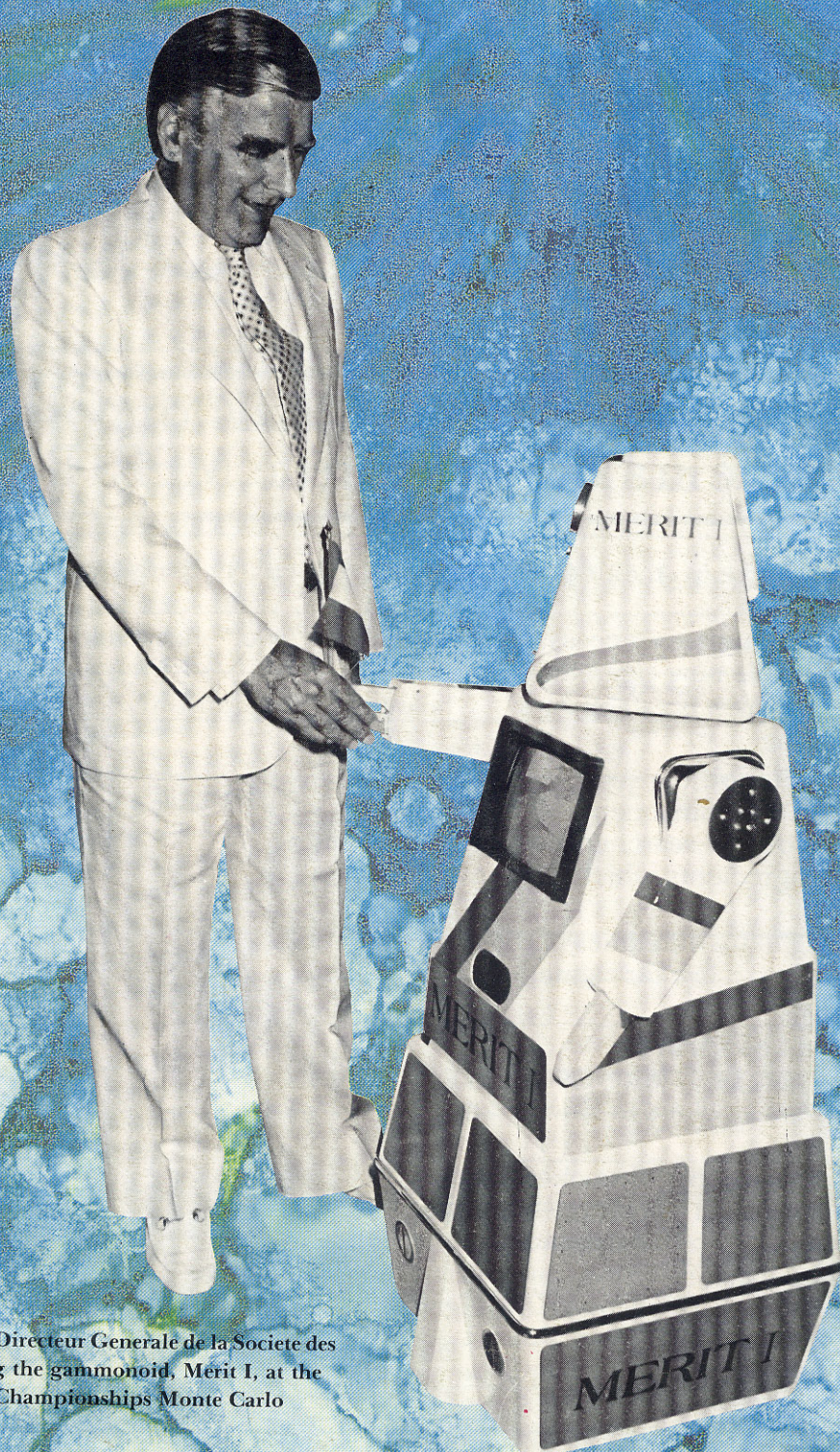


international **BACKGAMMON** **REVIEW**

November 1979



M. Bernard-F. Combemale, Directeur Generale de la Societe des Bains de Mer congratulating the gammonoid, Merit I, at the Merit World Backgammon Championships Monte Carlo July 15 1979

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MERIT WORLD BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP

Monte Carlo July 1979

This year's Merit World Championship comprised a record total of 602 players (601 mammals, 1 robot).

The crowds were denser than ever, total prize money went over \$360000, all distributed on the spot in cash, and the Monte Carlo title travelled not too far down the Mediterranean coast. From the Cannes villa of 1978 winner Richard de Surmont to the residence of the new World Champion, Dr. Luigi Villa of Milan, the first Italian to inscribe his name on the roll of honour.

The extension of the tournament by one extra day proved a necessity rather than a luxury, and by 3.00am Monday July 16th, when the resoundingly successful Merit Inter-Club Tournament (described on page 16) drew to a close, most of the hard working staff went straight to bed for 48 hours. To credit fairly everyone involved is a lengthy task, but Graham Bogle, Roland Jakober, Sid Jackson, James Baillie, Lorrie Mickle, Pat Smith and Liz Beattie, Malcolm Marks, Lilly

Powers and Wojtek Janowski (both 'seconded' from Coral Leisure) Danielle Brouty-Boué, the Merit Hostesses, M. Delauney jnr. Julie Friedman, M. Bataille of S.B.M., John Anderson, Kim Brand of Intelligence Systems Ltd., and quite a few others, deserve more than honourable mention for working hours above and beyond the call of duty. Special thanks to Sandy Sokolsky of Turnberry Isle, who had so little time to verify that \$360000.

Some of these names may be



Andre Rolfo-Fontana with Mr. Basran
(Turkish Champion)



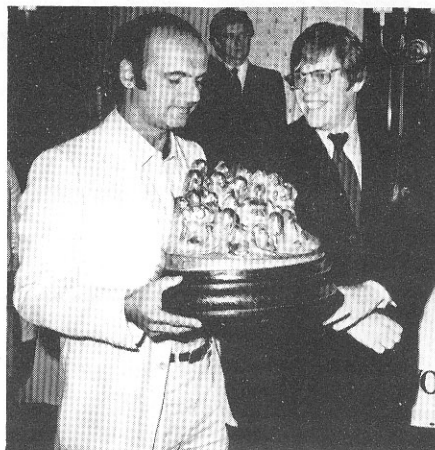
Matti Karsikko and Ky Nyman



Diane Pearson and Mahmoud Merchant



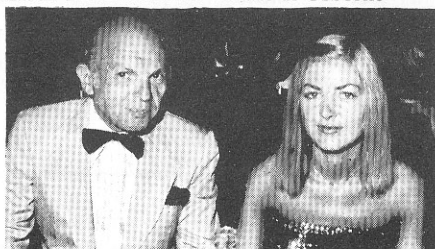
Mr. and Mrs. Theo Laub



Dr. Luigi Villa of Milan, 1979 World Champion with 1978 Champion, Paul Magriel.



Karen BenSimon and Rafael di Osborne



Marcel Baquiche and Rosemary Motakhassess



"US Visitors" Hugh Sconyers and Mike Corbett



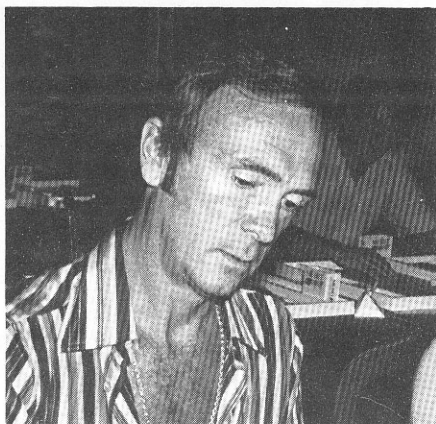
Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Reisner



Vicki and Roland Jakober



Peter Bader, Tanya Haswell Maurice Shawzin



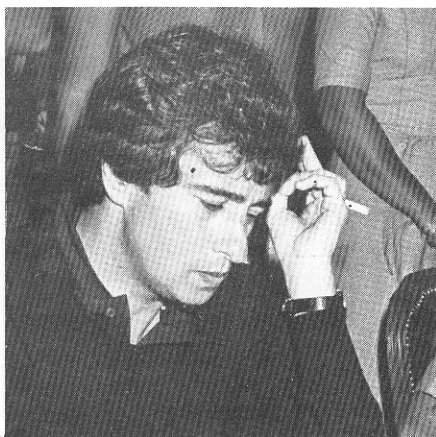
K. Motakhassess



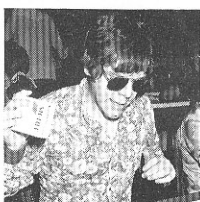
Contessa di Stefano



S. Lorenzin (European Champion 1979)



J. Dwek



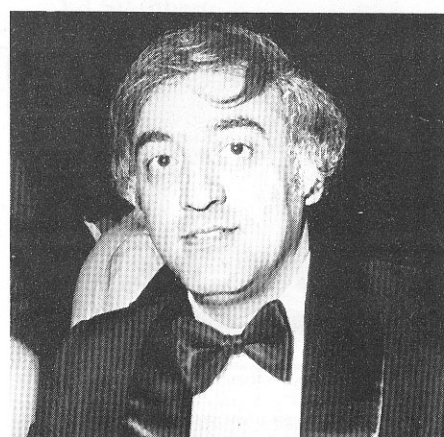
P. Magriel



J.N. Grinda



Start of the Final: J. Westheimer, Dr. R. Kernan (referee) and L. Villa



J. Suzyn

unrecognised by many players. Nevertheless, they were all hard at work either in the playing rooms, or shepherding around our little guest, Merit 1, or shepherding around a slightly less docile group of 40/50 members of the working press. Stories appeared whose languages varied from Arabic to Finnish. The Tournament was featured in 4 television programmes (2 French, 2 Italian). This gives some idea of behind the scenes activity which took part simultaneously with the tournament. Adding in the 3 parties, the tennis tournament and the necessary coordination with the

Direction du Tourisme of Monaco, you come up with quite a full week.

If you don't believe it, try to organise a 7 day fun fair attended by 600 prima donnas (all the players except you the reader).

Anyway, onto next year, starting with the dates, July 7/13 1980. The astounding triumph of the Kim Brand/Hans Berliner/Paul Magriel/John Anderson brain child, Merit 1 (who defeated Luigi Villa in a \$5000 winner take all challenge, by a score of 7-1) has catalysed more work, research and funding of gammonoids. 1980 will mark the 5th Anniversary of Merit-Monte Carlo

backgammon. Merit V, an advanced cousin of Merit 1 will be on hand, and we promise quite a few surprises and novelties.

Andre Rolfo-Fontana, backgammon's greatest friend in Monte Carlo, has many ideas for the anniversary event, and tournaments around the world are already starting to feature trips to Monte Carlo 1980 as a main prize.

Can any event expect higher praise?

		MAIN	INTERMEDIATE	BEGINNERS
Championship	<i>Winner</i>	Luigi Villa (Italy)	Mrs. H. Lee (USA)	C. Dime (Canada)
	<i>Finalist</i>	Jeffrey Westheimer (USA)	T. Hey (Germany)	T. Robinson (Canada)
	<i>Semi-Finalist</i>	K. Laubmeier (Germany)	N. Coral (UK)	J. Rusher (USA)
	<i>Semi-Finalist</i>	F. El-Zanaty (Egypt)	B. Van Diest (Holland)	F. Scalamandre (USA)
First Consolation	<i>Winner</i>	A. Martin (USA)	P. Narboni (Switzerland)	R. Bushman (USA)
	<i>Finalist</i>	H. Michaelides (Greece)	R. Dionne (USA)	C. Peroni (Italy)
	<i>Semi-Finalist</i>	A. Kouleyan (USA)	A. Azaria (Holland)	S. Bernstein (UK)
	<i>Semi-Finalist</i>	J. Maas (Switzerland)	Mr. Basaran (Turkey)	C. de Pedrasa (Spain)
Second Consolation	<i>Winner</i>	H. Sconyers (USA)	J. Los Arcos (Spain)	Dr. Coplans (UK)
	<i>Finalist</i>	D. Winn (USA)	W. Passman (Germany)	Mrs. N. Achkar (Iran)
	<i>Semi-finalist</i>	M. Gorgone (Italy)	S. Lee (USA)	N. Prossliner (Germany)
	<i>Semi-Finalist</i>	L. Genud (USA)	J. Rettew (USA)	D. Semmig
Last Chance	<i>Winner</i>	R. Daglas (Australia)	L. Alfarez (Spain)	M. King (UK)
	<i>Finalist</i>	N. Pakzad (Iran)	K. Speakman (UK)	S. Lapiere (France)
Ladies Prize		F. Busson (France)	Mrs. H. Lee (USA)	E. Sosin (USA)

CROCKFORD'S SUMMER BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT

July 1979



Joe Allgood, Managing Director of Cartier of Bond Street, presents the Cartier Prize for the lady with the best result in the tournament to Beverley Phillips.



Victor Sharabany playing Roger Low in the final of the Second Consolation. Sharabany was leading 16-6 in a 17 point game but was defeated by Low



Henry McDowell in prayer while refereeing final



Championship winner, Alan Simonin, receives his trophy from Nicholas Coral, Chairman of the Coral Leisure Group, and a travel bag donated by Tom Neate, General Manager of Smythson of Bond Street



The Championship Final between Alan Simonin and George Sulimirski

Championship

Winner
Finalist
Semi-finalist
Semi-finalist

A Simonin (France)
G. Sulimirski (UK)
H. Perlman (USA)
A. Rosenthal (Germany)

First Consolation

Winner
Finalist
Semi-finalist
Semi-finalist

J. Hassidoff (Israel)
D. Kourdoulou (Greece)
R. Fricker (UK)
H. Michaelides (Greece)

Second Consolation

Winner
Finalist
Semi-finalist
Semi-finalist

R. Low (USA)
V. Sharabany (UK)
D. Liebowitz (USA)
J. Rettew (USA)

Last Chance

Winner
Finalist

C. Jeans (UK)
J. Broomfield (UK)

Ladies Prize

B. Phillips (UK)

MERIT EUROPEAN CIRCUIT

ST. TROPEZ

The third round of the Merit Backgammon Championship was the traditional April tournament at the Hotel Byblos in St. Tropez. At the off-set Kumar Motakhasses and Nihat Erdeniz headed the points table and a good result from either of them would have given them a commanding lead in the Championship. Backgammon however is renowned for upsets and both were early round casualties. The final produced two players, one of whom, Gabriel Gutman, had only played in the Intermediate section in Paris. His opponent, Manfred Kohrs, a tough

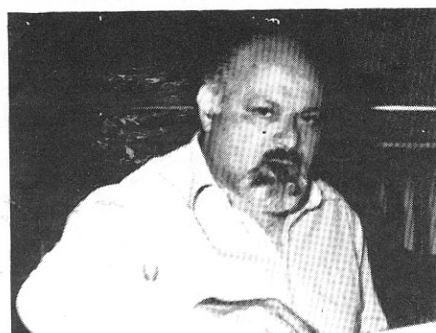
competitor from Germany, was playing his first tournament final and in the long final match he emerged the winner by the narrowest of margins. This was the first International tournament victory for Germany since Robert Prager won in St. Moritz two years before, and a

most popular win it proved to be.

Apart from the usual trophies, money and points for the Championship, Manfred was able to collect his weight in wine, donated by Les Maitres Vignerons de St. Tropez, and a trip to Miami donated by the Turnberry Isle Yacht Club

MEDITERRANEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship	Winner	M. Kohrs (Germany)
	Finalist	G. Gutman (USA)
Consolation	Winner	H. Michaelides (Greece)
	Finalist	K. Motakhasses (Iran)
Last Chance	Winner	P. Negri (UK)
	Finalist	U. Denneboom (Holland)



Uri Denneboom



John Garrett



Jean King and Claud Maret



Martin King



Angelo Ferretti



Left to right; Arthur Richelmann, Manfred Kohrs and Rolf Stern



The Merit Team at Work

MERIT EUROPEAN CIRCUIT

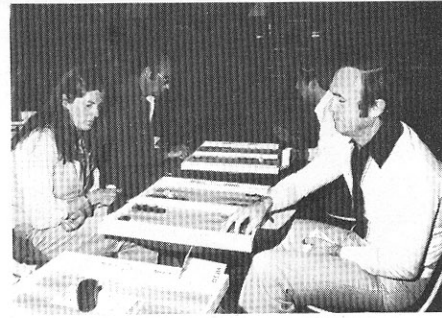
St. Tropez - Le Byblos



Jacques Davidoff and Gerard Duruz



Brian Young and Yanni Zographos



Floki Busson and Kumar Motakhasses

SARDINIA

Everyone looks forward to new venues for Backgammon and for the players who made the long trip not one seemed to be disappointed.

The celebrated Costa Smeralda is certainly one of Europe's most scenic spots and the Hotel Cala di Volpe afforded us luxuries in accommodation, food and wine that one had almost forgotten existed; especially in view of the price.

Play for this 4th round of the Merit European Backgammon Championship was actually held at the Perero Golf Club some ten minutes walk from the hotel. The golfers certainly

made us welcome and prepared to allow "their" club to be overrun by backgammon fanatics.

As one would expect the Italian contingent was the largest among the entry and started as favourites for the title. Arnaldo Ciboldi from Milan qualified to play Serge Lorenzin (France) in the final. For Lorenzin

this was a vital match to keep him in contention in the overall championship and after a level start the match soon swung his way and he ran out a comfortable winner. Even with all his enthusiastic Italian supporters willing the dice for him Ciboldi had to be content with second place.

COSTA SMERALDA CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship	<i>Winner</i>	S. Lorenzin (France)
	<i>Finalist</i>	A. Ciboldi (Italy)
	<i>Semi-finalist</i>	R. Lorenz (UK)
	<i>Semi-finalist</i>	R. Rosenzweig (Germany)
Consolation	<i>Winner</i>	G. Pozzi (Italy)
	<i>Finalist</i>	S. Fiorentini (Italy)
Last Chance	<i>Winner</i>	M. Kohrs (Germany)
	<i>Finalist</i>	F. Franzi (Italy)



Arnaldo Ciboldi and Bobby Lorenz



Nihat Erdeniz and Frederico Franzi

COMO

All the leading Italian players were amongst the strong field of 120 contesting the Merit Italian Backgammon Championship, held at the Villa D'Este in Lake Como this week-end. This was the fifth and final round of the Merit European Championship and, at the start of

play on the final day it was extremely tense as three of the leading players - Kumar Motakhasses, Nihat Erdeniz and Serge Lorenzin - all had a chance to become the first overall Merit European Champion.

A "Home Victory" was a strong possibility as Alberto Belli (from Milan) moved into the semi-finals on Saturday night but he was narrowly

defeated in an exciting match by Bambos Xantos (from Greece). Arthur Richelman (Frankfurt) won the other semi-final after a long struggle by beating Serge Lorenzin. The final, therefore, produced the fifth new winner in the Championship and Bambos Xantos was in brilliant form to win by 21 points to 15.

MERIT EUROPEAN CIRCUIT

The winner of the European Championship was not known until the final hour of the tournament and it was Serge Lorenzin who received the Merit Trophy and a cheque for US Dollars 5,000 from the guest celebrity at the prize-giving

ceremony - Clay Regazzoni, Grand Prix racing driver, who thrilled millions of racing fans with his storming finish to second place in the Monaco Grand Prix the previous weekend.

Serge also received an additional

prize of a British Airways Concorde ticket from London - New York return from the beautiful Roz Hanby, the well-known British Airways Stewardess featured in their advertising campaigns.



Left to right: Robert Perry, Serge Lorenzin ("Merit" European Champion) and Clay Regazzoni

LAKE COMO RESULTS

Winner	Bambos Xantos(Greece)
Runner-up	Arthur Richelman (Germany)
Semi-finalist	Alberto Belli (Italy)
Semi-finalist	Serge Lorenzin (France)

MERIT EUROPEAN CIRCUIT 1979

The Merit European Circuit was a most satisfactory first effort, and the 1980 season will see some new venues, new players and perhaps a new champion.

Meanwhile all our old friends are welcome back, and we trust that the lucky dice will be shared equally among you all.

FINAL POSITIONS

Name	Nationality		
1. S. Lorenzin	France	7. H. Michaelides	Greece
2. K. Motakhasses	Iran	8. S. De Pablo	Spain
3. N. Erdeniz	Turkey	9. A. Rosenthal	Germany
4. M. Kohrs	Germany	10. R. Lorenz	England
5. P. Hattu	France	11. U. Denneboom	Holland
6. R. Rosenzweig	Germany	12. H. Pietraru	France
		Ladies Prize	
		S. Wolf	Germany

NEUILLY MAILLOT

For All those who wanted to be ready for the Monte Carlo event and to have a good training session a short time before, Jean-Louis Meillaud and Bertrand Laborde have staged a one session tournament in the setting of the

.C. Neuilly-Maillet (20 Bis Ave. Ch. de Gaulle, Neuilly. Telephone 624 25 35).

This event was organised with the much appreciated help of Daniele Brouty Boue and the Club Merit

who supplied the material and extra prizes.

The first prize was awarded to Phillippe Goureau who defeated Dominique Gerin (the Bridge Champ) for the title.

The prizes of the Second Chance were taken by Jean-Louis Chassaigne and Thierry de Verschere, and golf player Phillippe Cornet Epinat, also a competitor.



Philippe Goureau ponders while Olaf Kleman, Gerard Grasser, Francoise Meillaud, Gerard Levy and J-L Chassaigne look on.

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