

2008 midwest backgammon championships

## GLAESER & FOGERLUND ARE TOP GUNS IN MIDWEST

By Bill Davis

Ray Glaeser, a expert player from Brunswick, Ohio has captured the 2008 Midwest Backgammon Championships. The annual American Backgammon Tour charity tournament was held Feb. 29-Mar. 2 at the Wyndham Lisle Hotel in Lisle, Illinois. "Sheriff" Bill Davis directed the cowboy-themed 25th anniversary event with great assistance from his posse: Peter Kalba (IN), Carol Joy Cole (MI), Dru Heggen (IL), Amy Trudeau (IL), and Mark King (IL). \$5,100 was raised for Anti-Cruelty Society animals.



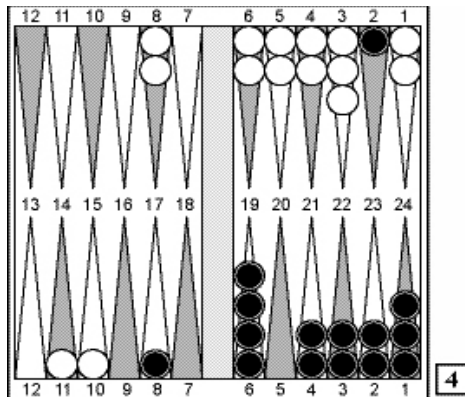
Championship winner Ray Glaeser with daughter Daisy and son Greg.

Glaeser, whose last big win was at the 2005 Indiana Open Jackpot tournament, defeated Maurice Barie (MI), Dave Cramer (IL), Neil Kazaross (IL), Bob Zavoral (IL), and Larry Liebster (NJ) to reach the finals. His opponent was the red hot Greg Merriman from Ann Arbor, Michigan. When the match was played at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, Greg was in the semifinals of the Open Doubles and the finals of the Taki Six-Shooter tourney.

After five games in the 15-point finals, Glaeser found himself ahead 3-2. The match was still a tossup after 13 games with Ray leading 9-9. Then in game 14, guns were blazing.

With Ray holding a 4-cube, the following critical checker play arose:

15-point MBC finals. Ray Glaeser (Black) leads Greg Merriman (White), 9 to 8. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**

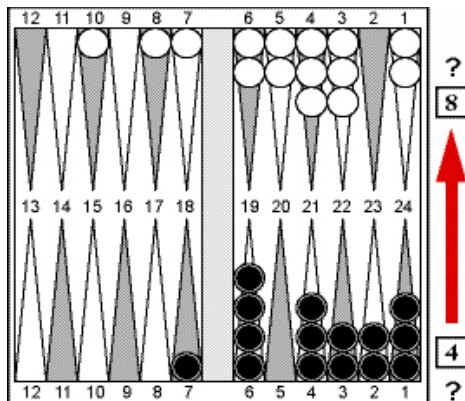


Should Glaeser (Black) come out to Merriman's bar-point and play the 4 on his side of the table; or is it better to run all the way 23/14? Ray thought for minute and decided on 23/18, 8/4. A 720 3-ply, precise Snowie rollout shows this play superior to 23/18, 6/2 by .031. But is it better than running all the way?

Moving to the bar point leaves 11 aces and 10 more combos of 7 and 8 to hit for a total of 21 shots. By running to the 14-point, Black will be hit with all 3s and 4s plus 1-1, 2-1, and 2-2; that's 24 shots. Although there are cube considerations after both plays when Black is not hit, the extra three shots swing the decision in favor of Glaeser's move.

A few rolls later, the match was on the line:

15-pt. MBC finals. Ray Glaeser (Black) leads Greg Merriman (White), 9 to 8. **BLACK ON ROLL. CUBE ACTION(S)?**



[Continued on page 6]

30th pittsburgh championships

## VIETOR WINS TWO IN PITT Steve Hast Retires as PBC Director

Jon Viotor of La Jolla, CA defeated 2007 ABT Champ Ray Fogelrund 13-1 to win the 30th Pittsburgh Championships. The gammon/food festival was held 28-30 March at the Pittsburgh Airport Holiday Inn.

It's been 17 years since Jon won a major event and he beat good players here to do it. Jon also partnered with Greg Merriman (MI) to win the Doubles event. Well done, Jon! Your famous backgammon father Jack Viotor is certainly smiling down on you.

After numerous runner-up finishes, Jolie Rubin (IL) broke through in the Advanced by defeating Bruce Ballance (PA) in a thrilling come-from-behind DMP victory. Jolie's 4th grade son Lyle also won a trophy by winning the Novice Consolation.

After 17 years, Steve Hast announced his retirement (more next month). Next year, he'll assist Rob Maier who will assume directorial duties. *Results on page 8.* Δ



# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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## MIDWEST CHAMPS KIND WORDS

Thanks to you and your staff for hosting the greatest BG tourney ever! I am already getting ready for the 2009 MBC with a 1960s theme! I'm such a hippie chick (ha, ha) and have a little place in my closet that I'm already putting together all my outfits to wear. I'm going to change twice a day! —  
*Kathleen Davis, Kansas City, Missouri*

Thanks for another fun Midwest weekend. I sure wanted one of those trophies and both events I played in had them as prizes. Please, please continue to provide unique and quality made trophies. As I mentioned previously, the Beargammon trophy from a couple years back (when I won the Last Chance) is the jewel of my trophy case. —  
*Chuck Bower, Bloomington, Indiana*

Thanks for everything you do: for running the tourney, for welcoming us so kindly, keeping the game alive with a children's

[Continued on page 3]

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

We thank Carol Joy for her calendar listings that have appeared in all 200 issues of the POINT...and online, too! —Ed.

by Carol Joy Cole  
810/232-9731  
[cjc@flintbg.com](mailto:cjc@flintbg.com)

\*Denotes new or revised listing

### NATIONAL

*American Backgammon Tour events underlined.*

Apr 5*	Springfield Series #6, Ride The Nine, Bloomington, Illinois	217/622-9447
Apr 5*	Austin Club Bimonthly, Doubletree Hotel Lounge, Austin, Texas	512/251-3719
Apr 6	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Apr 6	New England Club Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Apr 6	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Apr 6*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly, Cavendish Bridge Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Apr 7	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/296-4307
Apr 7	Roy's Monthly, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Apr 11-13	14th Ohio State Championships: Airport Marriott Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio	330/268-4610
Apr 12*	Backgammon By the Bay, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Apr 12*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Apr 12*	Springfield Series Finale, Laps Sports Bar, Springfield, Illinois	217/622-9447
Apr 13*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Apr 13*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Apr 16-20	24th Nevada State Tournament, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Apr 17*	Third Thursday Bonus (Southeast Champs), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Apr 27*	Colorado Monthly, Bennigan's Restaurant, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
May 2-4	Southeast Championships, Holiday Inn Dunwoody, Atlanta, Georgia	678/982-3203
May 3*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Westport Flea Market, Kansas City, Missouri	816/916-6599
May 4*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
May 5*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/296-4307
May 5*	Roy's Monthly, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
May 10*	New England Bonus, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
May 11*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
May 23-26	28th Chicago Open, Eaglewood Resort, Itasca, Illinois	702/893-6025
Jun 1*	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jun 6-8	Los Angeles Open, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California	818/901-0464
Jul 3-6	Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton Novi, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 25-27*	Minnesota Open, Marriott Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota	612/718-2613
Aug 1-3	Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York	585/752-5393
Aug 15-17	Florida State Championship, Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Aug 29-Sep 2	Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin	608/516-9109
Sep 26-28	Colorado State Championships, Holiday Inn, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
Oct 10-12	Illinois State Championships, Ramada Hotel, Peoria, Illinois	847/845-3579
Oct 17-19	Mid-Atlantic Championships, Days Inn, Timonium, Maryland	954/564-0340
Nov 12-16	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Dec 5-7	California State Championship, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California	818/901-0464
Jan 18-25*	Backgammon & Poker On Board, Princess Cruise, Ft. Lauderdale to Caribbean	773/583-6464

### OUTSIDE USA

Apr 3-6	PGT: Lyon Trophy 2, Casino Le Lyon Vert, La Tour de Salvagny, France	331-47645938
Apr 3-6	6th Torneo Città di Cavalese, Hotel Bellavista, Cavalese, Italy	393283-380725
Apr 4-6	"Birthday Boy" British Open, Barceló Daventry Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Apr 5-6*	WBF-Turkiye 1st Izmir Open, Best Western Hotel, Izmir, Turkey	905322-329228
Apr 23-27	PGT: 9th Paris Master & Open, Hotel Lutetia, Paris, France	331-47645938
Apr 24-27*	8th City of Jesolo Tournament, Lido di Jesolo, Venice, Italy	393283-380725
Apr 29-May 4	EBGT: 2nd Davis Cup/3rd Portuguese Open, Estoril (Lisbon), Portugal	491715-422222
May 2-4	County Cups Trophy, Barceló Daventry Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
May 2-4*	13th Oslo Open, Bridgesenter Vest, Oslo, Norway	4797-513941
May 2-6*	15th Ouisen Tournament, Bunkyo Civic Center, Tokyo, Japan	813-36307036
May 9-12	13th Kaiserbrunnen-Cup, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49711-486190
May 14-18*	20th WBF European Championship & 7th Velden Open, Velden, Austria	390331-923537
May 16-18	NetGammon's Montreal Open, Hotel Novotel, Montreal, Quebec, Canada	661/618-9940
May 16-18*	4th Oulu Open 2008, Holiday Club Hotel/Spa Eden, Oulu, Finland	358456-760512
May 29-Jun 1	PGT: Eden Tournament, Eden Casino, Juan-les-Pins, France	331-47645938
May 30-Jun 1	Austrian Masters Finale, Cafe Heine, Vienna, Austria	436642-127412
May 31-Jun 7*	POSTPONED: Neil's 7th Festival of BG, Cortijo Salinas, Andalucia, Spain	447798-614800
Jun 5-8	2nd Braunlage-Harz-Cup, Hotel Hohenzollern, Braunlage, Germany	49521-64314
Jun 6-8	Barceló English Open, Barceló Daventry Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Jun 6-8*	Strawberry Hill Invitational, St. Andrew, Kingston, Jamaica	876/999-0471
Jun 19-22*	PGT: Forges Gammon Challenge, Grand Casino, Forges-les-Eaux, France	331-47645938
Jun 19-26*	7th Zakynthos Festival of BG & Poker, Peligoni Club, Zakynthos, Greece	447946-801801
Jul 4-6*	Keren Di Bona Memorial, Barceló Daventry Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Jul 7-13*	33rd World Championship, Fairmont Hotel, Monte-Carlo, Monaco	USA: 954/527-4033



# LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

tourney, for mentioning Howard, for the pictures you sent, for raising \$ for your charity, etc.

Kudos to you and your staff. See you next year if not before.—*Linda Ring, Northbrook, Illinois*

## DOUBLING CUBE DISCOVERIES

Congratulations on the excellent new piece on doubling history. Keep digging! Given that contract bridge was invented in 1925, it seems logical that the idea of doubling made its way from one game to the other and backgammon then saw exponential rise in its popularity. I have checked the archives of UK newspapers from that period of history and have found precisely nothing.—*Chris Bray, London, England*

I am very interested in the history of backgammon and it's a pity that the roots of doubling are so far away from Germany. I wish you much success in further tracing down the doubling cube history!—*Hardy Hübener, Germany, www.hardyhuebener.de/engl*

Regarding your doubling article in issue 199, brilliant doubling cube research.

Looking at the "America Goes Backgammon!" picture, I'm not convinced they have set up the board correctly! We can't see the man's 24-point; he seems to have light checkers on his 13- and 8-points, but dark checkers on his 6-point.

The woman seems to have light checkers on her 24-point, dark checkers on her 13- and 8-points, and light checkers on her 6-point.

Perhaps they played a more complicated game in those days.—*Ray Kershaw,*

*London, England*

*Probably just another photographic screw-up by someone who had no idea how to play the game.—Ed.*

## FAST ROLLING REACTION

I saw Larry Buckingham's letter in the February POINT about the new fast rolling rule and noticed that his complaints about the new rule weren't answered. I think it is an excellent rule and solves the "fast-rolling" problem very well.

If you opponent rolls early, the roll stands; and now you get the benefit of making your play knowing exactly what your opponent's next roll will be, and knowing that he will not be doubling. That's a huge penalty for rolling early, and should stop early rolls from happening pretty much all of the time.

In the past, an habitually premature roller caused confusion and often tended to rush his opponent's play. There was also the potential problem of deciding whether the offender did or didn't roll early. Now, there is no debate: every roll stands. And the same is true for cube action.

Tonight during my Bar Point Club semifinal match, I was thinking about doubling and my opponent half-jokingly said, "I drop." According to the new rules, if I did cube, she would have to drop. (The director and I both agreed on this.) Otherwise she could use this statement as a ploy to get me to cube when she would take, and that would not be very good sportsmanship.

I think this is one of the better rule changes made in a long time.—*Phil Simborg, Chicago, Illinois* Δ



### AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2008

Compiled through 30 Mar. 2008 after 4 tournaments  
(Upcoming events: Ohio State, Nevada State, SE Champs)



Bob Koca	23.33	Owen Black	6.20	Bill Davis	4.50	Lynn Ehrlich	2.64
Mike Senkiewicz	22.33	Alan Gold	5.71	Ed O'Laughlin	4.50	Susie Hathaway	2.13
Ray Glaeser	21.33	Rick Barabino	5.58	Milton Gonzalez	4.10	Charles Toots	2.05
Jon Vietor	18.67	Neil Deutsch	5.58	Dave Settles	4.10	Tom Rebelo	2.05
Jeff Acierno	15.84	Antonio Ortega	5.58	Bob Pietras	3.33	Roy Cohen	1.67
Michael Edge	13.67	Stepan Nuniyants	5.58	Joseph Jemal	3.10	Chris Scott	1.67
John O'Hagan	11.17	Eric Barr	5.33	Beth Raby	3.10	Evan Etter	1.55
Matt Reklaitis	10.76	Les Moshinsky	5.33	Tami Jones	2.86	Ben Elliott	1.55
Greg Merriman	10.67	Herb Roman	5.33	Pegy Neubig	2.67	Julius High	1.32
Tak Morioka	10.67	Larry Liebster	5.33	Mark Donaldson	2.67	Josh Rechnitz	1.25
Barry Miller	10.67	Kit Woolsey	5.33	Lynda Clay	2.67	Lyle Rubin	1.06
Jolie Rubin	10.56	Chris Knapp	5.28	Harold Roberson	2.67	Kim Messina	1.06
Ray Fogerlund	9.33	Bruce Ballance	5.28	Jesse Eaton	2.64	Alan Lawrence	1.00
David Rubin	9.00	Dana Nazarian	4.67	Arthur Sutton	2.64	Josh Racko	0.83
Reggie Proulx	8.20	Howard Markowitz	4.67	Gary Fishman	2.64	Camille Lawrence	0.50



### CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2008 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU 31 MARCH

Rory Pascar	8.42	Bill Bartholomay	3.12	Carter Mattig	1.44	Sargon Benjamin	0.72
Herb Roman	8.40	Alex Owen	3.12	Mike Pufpaf	1.40	Wendy Kaplan	0.60
Bob Zavoral	7.82	Bill Davis	3.08	Albert Yakobashvili	1.36	Linda Rockwell	0.56
Nora Luna Righter	7.28	Tak Morioka	2.76	Tim Mabee	1.32	Lucky Nelson	0.56
David Rockwell	7.28	Jacob Moreno	2.64	Mike Wolock	1.20	Sherry Nelson	0.56
Phil Simborg	6.20	Wayne Wiest	2.04	Bill Keefe	1.20	Bill Gradl	0.56
Steve Klesker	5.24	Larry Goldstein	2.00	Nicole Tibbs	1.12	Kathy Sorci	0.52
Royal Robinson	4.48	Mike Sutton	1.92	Tom Machaj	1.12	Roger Hickman	0.48
Gary Kay	4.32	Ken Tibbs	1.84	Scott Casty	1.08	Bob Steen	0.48
Michael Ginat	4.08	Alice Kay	1.60	Jerry Brooks	1.08	Eric Johnson	0.40
Oleg Raygorodsky	3.60	Georgina Flanagan	1.52	Mary Franks	0.96	Roz Ferris	0.32
Adrian Rios	3.36	Richard Stawowy	1.44	Christopher Shanova	0.96	Paul Baraz	0.32

**HERB ROMAN** collected 4.80 points to become *February's* Player of the Month. David Rockwell (3.36) and Rory Pascar (2.52) finished 2nd and 3rd respectively.

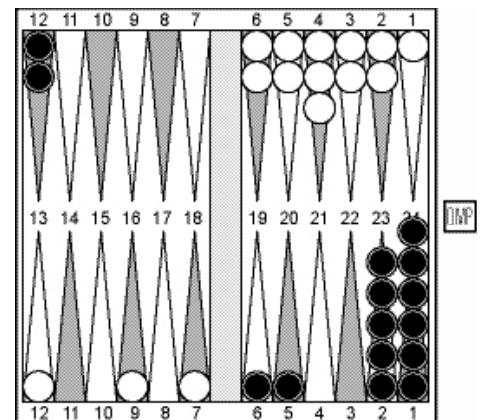
*March* POM **BOB ZAVORAL** was 12-1 winning or splitting three out of four Masters events for the month and earning 5.34 points. Runner's-up were Rory Pascar (3.42) and Herb Roman (2.88).

*your move*

## PROBLEM #335

to be analyzed by Walter Trice

Tournament double match-point.  
**BLACK TO PLAY 6-3.**



## ASK DANNY



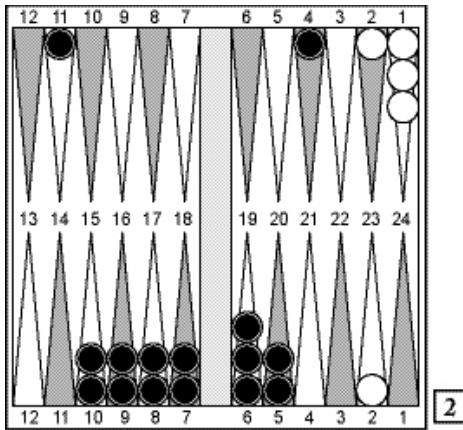
© 2008 by Danny Kleinman

### HUMAN VS. SNOWIE ANALYSIS

**D**ear Danny: Snowie has changed not only how we look at backgammon; it has also changed how analysts solve backgammon problems. If the ultimate goal is simply to determine the correct play, this is a good thing. But backgammon tournaments are not played on the computer. There needs to be a method of determining the right move “over the board.”

A couple of weeks ago at the Chicago Bar Point Club, Phil Simborg (the man in the box) was hooked up in a chouette with Scott Casty and crew.

Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-3.**



Over much disagreement, Scott convinced his teammates to make a certain play that eventually resulted in Phil winning a gammon. After the game, Scott remained vehement about the correctness of his play. At one point, a \$1000 wager was even proffered (although I don't think it actually happened).

Phil ran a basic 3-ply analysis and the next day, sent out a mass e-mail sharing Snowie's preference with his readers. He

also mentioned that Scott's play was actually “. . . a .099 error.”

I found this position interesting enough to run a full 3000, 3-ply, precise Snowie rollout to determine the top 10 plays. It turns out that you can't dismiss any of the top six plays as “incorrect.” They are all within .005—incredible in its own right. And ironically, neither Snowie's 3-ply choice or Scott's play even made the top eight.

I have two questions:

1. What play would you make over the board?
2. After looking at the extensive data, what is really going on with this position? — Snowie “Fan-addict”

**DEAR ADDICT:** As Black, my primary objective is to keep my prime. My secondary objectives are to roll my prime forward so that it extends from the 3-point to the 8-point, and to pick up the blot on White's 2-point.

I would have liked a 2 to be able to slot the 4-point without breaking the prime, but it is still tempting to slot the 4-point with the 6. If White rolls any 2 but 2-1 or 1-1, he will be forced to hit while leaving his blot exposed on the 2-point. If White doesn't hit, I'm a big favorite to cover the 4-point next turn, rolling my prime forward. Thus 10/4, 14/11 looks reasonable as the best of the slotting plays (providing more covering rolls than 10/4, 10/7 or 10/4, 21/18).

Nonetheless, I prefer to keep the prime intact, even though breaking it from the rear serves both secondary objectives, as I would hate to lose a gammon after having hit a shot earlier. So I'll choose the best of the building plays, 14/8 (activating 4s as builders), along with 21/18. Note that I can slot the 3-point fearlessly, 14/8, 6/3, as White won't want to hit with an ace, but I really prefer to make the 4-point first . . . which is also why I reject making the 3-point, 9/3, 6/3.

All the plays that keep the prime and move only the men that are on the 14-point and 21-point are reasonable, but 14/8, 21/18 is my favorite.

### THE TOP 10 AFTER 3000 ROLLOUTS

Snowie's quick 3-ply analysis showed 14/5 to be the best move. Scott Casty liked 8/2\*, 6/3 which placed 16th following the rollout: a 0.127 blunder.

1.	R	14/11	10/4		-0.233				
		0.0%	0.0%		37.1%	62.9%	9.0%	2.0%	
2.	R	10/4	10/7		-0.233				(-0.001)
		0.0%	0.0%		37.6%	62.4%	10.2%	2.1%	
3.	R	14/8	6/3		-0.235				(-0.002)
		0.0%	0.0%		35.8%	64.2%	6.9%	1.2%	
4.	R	21/18	14/8		-0.235				(-0.002)
		0.0%	0.0%		35.7%	64.3%	6.9%	1.0%	
5.	R	9/3	6/3		-0.236				(-0.003)
		0.0%	0.0%		36.9%	63.1%	9.2%	1.8%	
6.	R	21/15	14/11		-0.238				(-0.005)
		0.0%	0.0%		35.8%	64.2%	7.3%	1.2%	
7.	R	21/12			-0.242				(-0.009)
		0.0%	0.0%		35.5%	64.5%	7.0%	1.2%	
8.	R	21/18	10/4		-0.242				(-0.009)
		0.0%	0.0%		36.8%	63.2%	9.4%	1.9%	
9.	R	14/5			-0.243				(-0.010)
		0.0%	0.0%		35.8%	64.2%	7.5%	1.3%	
10.	R	10/4	6/3		-0.256				(-0.023)
		0.0%	0.0%		37.0%	63.0%	10.3%	2.7%	

“What is really going on in this position” is what goes on in nearly every difficult problem: tradeoffs among plays that serve different objectives. The building plays serve the main objective: preserving the prime to prevent the escape of White's one trapped man. The slotting plays serve the two secondary objectives: rolling forward and getting a shot at a second man. The “extensive data” do not reveal the tradeoffs (only human insight into the position does that), but merely put numbers on them (for which human calculating ability is inadequate).

Frankly, if any play is within .010 of the supposedly best play, it's too close to call. 3000 rollouts may not be enough to decide among truly close plays. I would be merely surprised, not shocked, if after a fresh 3000 rollouts, 14/5 (the weakest “building” play) appeared to be best of all. — Yours, Danny Δ

We thank our monthly columnist Danny Kleinman on this our 200th POINT issue.

If you have a question either on the rules, with the play, or even with the players, Danny is always here to help you! — Ed.

### PEORIA WINS ILLINOIS CUP

The Peoria Backgammon Club won a Doubles playoff over the Pub Club to capture the 2008 Illinois State Challenge Cup. The event was hosted by the Pub Club Feb. 10 at Playoffs Bar in Carol Stream Illinois. Six Illinois Clubs participated made up of their top six master point achievers for 2007.

After five rounds, Peoria and the Pub Club tied with 18–12 records, followed by

the Bar Point Club (16–14), Springfield (15–15), Bloomington Normal (12–18), and Winnetka (11–19). To break the tie, the six team members paired up to create three Doubles teams. Ramiz Abi-Akar and Ed Zell clinched the cup for Peoria with a 5–2 win over Don Marek and Dick Nelson. It was their first Cup victory since 2001 and stopped the Bar Point Club's Cup winning streak at four.

Special congrats to Peoria director Ed Zell who went undefeated to win the side pool. Δ



2008 Illinois Challenge Cup winners (L to R): Ed Zell, Faddoul Khoury, Mark Schwerman, Fouad Malouf, Jim Zinkhon, and Ramez Abi-Akar.





# BG Peeves

By Larry Liebster



## THE "TIME" OF MY LIFE

Saturday evening, March 1, 2008. 25th Midwest Backgammon Championships at the Wyndham Lisle Hotel near Chicago. This is not a backgammon peeve. I am about to be treated to one of the most exciting experiences of my life.

I'm in the Championship quarterfinals. One more win puts me "in the money" with ABT points. My opponent Lucky Nelson has just requested a clock. Time clocks (especially Bronstein-type clocks) are now commonly used at ABT events to keep play on schedule. I've had little experience playing with a clock, so a director came over, explained how to use it, and sat with our match until I was comfortable with the mechanics.

Bronstein backgammon clock rules state that players gets 12 seconds to complete their move plus a reserve of 2 minutes per match point. So we each received,  $2 \times 11 = 22$  minutes in reserve.

One set of dice is used for both players. To start the game, each player rolls one die. The player rolling the high die makes the opening move while the opponent starts that player's time clock. The player signifies the end of his turn by stopping his clock which simultaneously starts his opponent's clock. Every new turn starts with a fresh 12 second countdown. Only after those 12 seconds have elapsed does the player's reserve time begin to count down. Any player whose reserve time runs out loses the match regardless of the score.

I was reassured that 12 seconds plus 22 minutes was "plenty of time." A while later when I was winning 7-4 with only 2½ minutes left to play, it became obvious that

I had to rethink my approach to avoid running out of time. No more counting pips, reviewing candidate plays, or determining how many shots hit a particular blot. Just put the dice in the cup, shake quickly, toss them out, make the gut response play, and hit the clock. (How many times had I forgotten to do this?)

I was now leading 9-4, but only 39 seconds were left on my clock. A crowd had gathered and began speculating when I would run out of time. During a break in the action, I overheard some kibitzers talking amongst themselves, one of which provided some sage advice: "Larry better put a rocket up his ass!"

After the first roll I doubled and my opponent accepted. Now I was playing for match. A few rolls later, with nothing to lose, my opponent recubed. I do not know how I did it, but with only nine seconds remaining on my clock, I won the game and match to the cheers of a supportive crowd. This was a peak experience.

## WHAT I LEARNED:

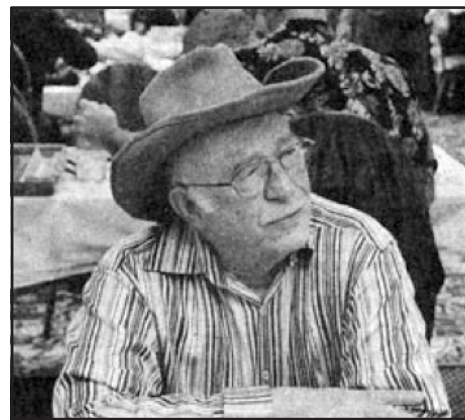
- It's a good idea to practice with the clock.
- Normal moves end when you put your dice in the cup. With the clock, you must remember to end your move by hitting the clock.
- When every second counts, players must focus on the game, and not waste time on the fortunate or unfortunate sequences that are occurring.
- Determine your standing in the race and review all the candidate plays only when it's necessary.
- Dispense with any and all dice-rolling

rituals. Just shake them twice and throw them nice. (Starting with your home board on your left is a small advantage. There will be less checkers in the right half of the board; hence less chance to roll cocked dice.)

I was asked if I thought it was fair for my opponent to request a clock against me, a clock rookie. I responded "This is the highest level of backgammon competition and I should be able to play under any legal condition."

It is my hope that all backgammon players will have the thrill of playing a game like this at least once in their career.—Larry Liebster Δ

*Editor's note: Although Larry Liebster went on to lose a heartbreaker to eventual MBC Champ Ray Glaeser in the semifinals, the Chicago Tribune spotlighted his achievement in their March 9 feature story. To read the article, go to: [chicagopoint.com/mbctribune.pdf](http://chicagopoint.com/mbctribune.pdf)*



Larry in the March 9 Chicago Tribune.

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**ILLINOIS ACTION**

Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago. 773/693-5800.  
Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago. 773/693-5800.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 6:00 P.M. at Ride The Nine, 503 N. Prospect Road. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:00 P.M. at Capitol Teletrack, 1766 W. Wabash Ave., Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

WINNETKABG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. at Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Chibnik (847/446-0537).

PUB CLUB: Tournaments Thurs., 6:45 P.M. at Playoffs Bar, 720 E. North Ave., Carol Stream. Tim Mabee (630/606-2388).

PEORIA BG CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/224-9579).

## GLAESER...

[Continued from page 1]

Ray Glaeser's racing lead is 56 to 70. He does have a big gap on the 5-point which diminishes some of his advantage; however a 14 pip lead in such a short race is huge. Kit Woolsey's match equity table gives Merriman 15% winning chances if he passes to make the score 13-8. But Kit admits that his 15% figure is probably low. Snowie says White can win 16.8% but some experts consider that a shade high. The Snowie database can handle this position and says White wins exactly 13.9% of the time. It may not be the .108 blunder that Snowie suggests, but Greg's acceptance of the 8-cube in this position is a clear error. Glaeser won the bearoff, nearly \$5000 prize money, the beautiful \$300 Remington bronze trophy "Coming Through The Rye," and enough ABT points to take over third place in the 2008 race.

### GRAND CRYSTAL BEAVER

The master's event at the Midwest Championships is called the "Grand Crystal Beaver." With 16 players at the \$800 entry fee level, competition was fierce. Many of the participants were world class including Steve Brown (MN), Steve Sax (CA), Howard Markowitz (NV), Fred Kalantari (MN), Dana Nazarian (CA), Bob Glass (CA), Petko Kostadinov (SC), and 2007 ABT Player of the Year Ray Foglerlund (Bakersfield, California).



Crystal Beaver winner Ray Foglerlund at the Taki board he won in Six-Shooter.

Ray had tough DMP victories over Nora Luna Richter (MA) in the round-of-8 and Danny Zamost (IL) in the semifinals to reach the finals. His opponent was nemesis player Stepan Nuniyants of Renton, Washington. For good luck, Stepan wore the same shirt he had on when he defeated Ray in the 2006 Pacific Northwest Championship.

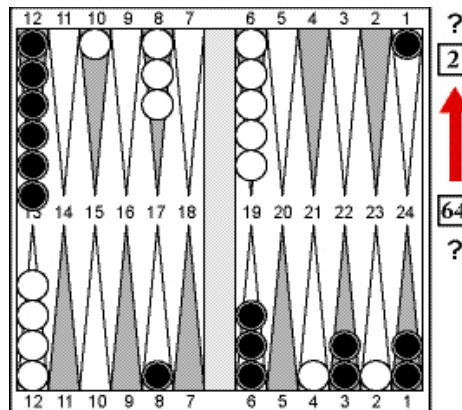
The 11-point final immediately turned Stepan's way when he won a doubled gammon to jump ahead 4-0. But Foglerlund stormed back with a gammon of his own



MBC "posse" from left: Amy Trudeau, Peter Kalba, Director Bill Davis, Carol Joy Cole, Mark King, Dru Heggen. [Photo: J.A. Miller]

knocking the score at 4-all. A pivotal game in the match occurred with the score tied 7-7:

11-point Beaver finals. Ray Foglerlund (Black) and Stepan Nuniyants (White) are tied 7 to 7. **BLACK CUBE ACTION(S)?**



To reach this setup, Ray rolled an opening 6-5 followed by 2-1, 5-5, and then 4-1 for Stepan. Needing four points to win the tournament, Foglerlund pushed a pressure cube towards his lesser experienced opponent. As Ray had hoped, Stepan dropped and set up for another game. Although a Snowie rollout shows the position to be gammonish (White loses 22.5% Gs), a 720 3-ply, precise rollout makes dropping the position a huge .540 error. In fact, Ray erred .025 by doubling!

Foglerlund capitalized off his one point advantage by springboarding to victory 11-7. After the match, Ray later explained the logic behind his mathematically incorrect double:

"I think this type of cube is a *big* reason why I won the ABT last year. Technically strong players don't double this position, thus failing to take full advantage of those who might pass. I know my opponents well (because I play a lot). I send over psychologically tough doubles that because of score considerations and potential gammon threats, are difficult to take. I try to capitalize on fear if I can. This allows me to steal points from certain competitors oftentimes

giving me better results than the rigidly technical bots."

### OTHER MAIN EVENTS

Congrats to the other main event and first time ABT winners, Barry Miller (IL) in the **Advanced**, Bob Pietras (IL) in the **Limited**, and Alan Gold (WI) in the **\$125 Open**.



Main event winners from left: Alan Gold (\$125 Open), Barry Miller (Advanced), and Bob Pietras (Limited).

The **Children's Tourney** (8th grade & under) fielded 15 participants. A \$10 entry allowed the kids to play for Remington bronze trophies, iPod products, and precious metals. Congratulations to Philip Ring of Northbrook, Illinois (the late Howard Ring's son) over Gordon Miller (IL) in the Main division, and Lyle Rubin (IL) over Jonathan Munitz (NY) in the Consolation bracket.



Three Kids winners from left: Philip Ring (1st-Open), Gordon Miller (2nd-Open), and Lyle Rubin (1st.-Cons.). [Photo: Jolie Rubin]

### SIDE TOURNAMENTS

The **Battle of the Sexes** is always a popular event. This year 32 men (aged 50 and over) battled amongst themselves to see who would challenge the winner of 11 women (of any age) in the final match for 2008 bragging rights. The male victor Stepan Nuniyants (WA) faced female rep Roz Ferris (IL), co-director of this year's Chicago Open. When the smoke cleared, Roz was victorious.

2008 is a leap year, so what better way was there to celebrate on February 29 with a **Leapgammon** tournament! The rules were simple: best 3-out-of-5 games with



no gammons and no doubling cube. Play the game regularly except if you leap your opponent's contiguous 4- or 5-prime, you win instantly. Ed Bennett (NM) mastered the strategy besting the 32-player field.

Arizona director Dan Pelton won the 128-player Quickie event, and the **Cheyenne Blitz** champion winner was Peoria director Ed Zell. **Doubles** winners were **Open:** Rory Pascar (IL) & Stick Rice (OH), and **Intermediate:** Kieth Hvamstad (MN) & Harold Roberson (MN).

The **Taki Six-Shooter** tourney was used to raise money for our tournament beneficiary, the Anti-Cruelty Society. First prize was a Taki Western Bakelite backgammon board valued at \$1200. The game was diabolical -- a one game match with backgammon as usual and the following exceptions. Players used two different colored dice. One die was designated the six-shooter die. When the designated die landed on 6, the opponent had to remove one of the player's pieces before the player made his move. In the end, Ray Fogelrund prevailed over Greg Merriman.

#### FUN SIDE EVENTS

Congratulations to Sean Garber (IN), winner of **Rodeo Bagatelle**. The **Chips** game was captured by Jerry Godsey (GA), and Vinton Knarr (IL) joined an elite group of two-time **Pig-Rolling** champions.

#### CALCUTTA AUCTION

There is always fun action at the auction and this year was no exception. Auctioneer Peter raised over \$20,000 in Auction bids with 10% going to the ACS.

Did you find the hidden puzzle inside this year's Midwest Champs invitation? Here is this year's puzzler:



Put it together and you get: HORSE + Diana Ross in the WIZ + boot with SPUR + ER = "Horse Whisperer." The director of that movie was Robert Redford and incredibly, six of our entrants brought a picture of Redford to the Auction and won \$20 each for their efforts.

Three players have attended all 25 Midwest Championship: Tak Morioka, Jim Opre, and Richard Stawowy. Prior to the actual auction, the three were awarded souvenir doubling cubes and free entry into the Quickie tournament.

Join us next year as the Midwest Championships "Make Primes, Not War" in a 1960s-themed event March 20-22, 2009. Δ

#### 2008 MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (64): 1-Ray Glaeser (OH), 2-Greg Merriman (MI), 3/4-Herb Roman (IL) / Larry Liebster (NJ); 1C-Tak Morioka (IL), 2-Kit Woolsey (CA); 1LC-Bob Koca (MD). ADVANCED (64): 1-Barry Miller (IL), 2-Eric Barr (MO), 3/4-Peggy Neubig (NJ) / Mark Donaldson (MN); 1C-Les Moshinsky (IL), 2-Lynda Clay (CO); 1LC-Harold Roberson (MN). LIMITED (30): 1-Bob Pietras (IL), 2-Roy Cohen (IL); 1C-Chris Scott (IL). \$125 OPEN (10): 1-Alan Gold (WI); 1C-Tami Jones (ID); 1LC-Matt Reklaitis (MA). CHILDREN'S TOURNAMENT (15): 1-Philip Ring (IL), 2-Gordon Miller (WI); 1C-Lyle Rubin, 2C-Jonathan Munitz (NY). GRAND CRYSTAL BEAVER (16): 1-Ray Fogelrund (CA), 2-Stepan Nuniyants (WA). BATTLE OF THE SEXES (32 men & 11 women): 1-Roz Ferris (IL), 2-Stepan Nuniyants (WA). LEAPGAMMON (32): 1-Ed Bennett (NM), 2-Chris Knapp (Canada). OPEN DOUBLES (29 teams): 1-Rory Pascar (IL) & Stick Rice (OH), 2-Faddoul Khoury (IL) & Raghavendra Hegde (IL), 3/4-Abby Biss (New Zealand) & Neil Kazaross (IL) / Ed Bennett (NM) & Greg Merriman (MI). INTERMEDIATE DOUBLES (16): 1-Kieth Hvamstad (MN) & Harold Roberson (MN). CHEYENNE BLITZ (104): 1-Ed Zell (IL). QUICKIE (128): 1-Dan Pelton (CO), 2-Dan Weymouth (IL), 3/4-Mark Antranikian (CA) / Dan Pelton (AZ). TAKI SIX SHOOTER TOURNEY for Taki Board (16): 1-Ray Fogelrund (CA). CACTUS JACKPOT (8): 1-Jeff Acierno (NJ), 2-Jon Viotor (CA). WHEEL OF FORTUNE: 1-Bob Pietras (IL). PIG-ROLLING: 1-Vinton Knarr (IL). CHIPS GAME: 1-Jerry Godsey (GA). RODEO BAGATELLE: 1-Sean Garber (IN).

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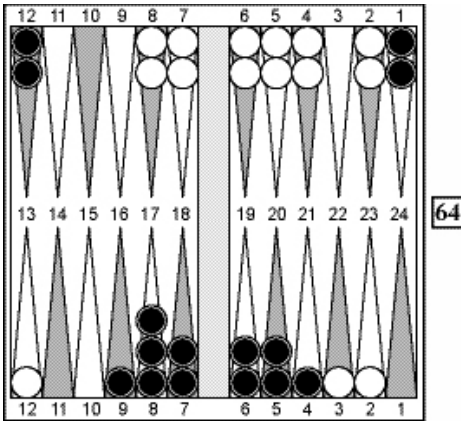
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**PROBLEM #334  
ANALYZED**

by Kit Woolsey

9-point match tied at 0 to 0. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**

Despite having two checkers back on the same point and not at the edge of White's five-prime, Black has very reasonable chances in this priming battle. After his play he will have a solid five-prime of his own, and White will have only one outfield checker. A desperation play such as 13/9, 8/3\* is not needed. This only slows White down and gives White more flexibility along with the danger of getting more men sent back and increasing the gammon risk. The real candidates are (13/9, 13/8); (13/4); and (9/4, 8/4). All of these plays complete a solid five-prime with relatively minimal risk.

13/9, 13/8 has the advantage of immediately shutting off White's 6s. If White hits with an ace or a deuce, Black will be on the bar, which might be good or bad. If White misses, Black will have a chance to

complete a six-prime. The main problem with this play is that Black's prime isn't advanced enough. The difference between making the 4-point and making the 9-point is a big ten pips. These are ten pips which Black will have to play somewhere, and that will hurt him in the priming battle. True, if White misses Black might roll a 4 and have a full prime; but if Black fails to roll that 4, his roll may play very inconveniently. Making the 4-point is very important.

9/4, 8/4 is the simple safe play. This leaves no blots, which cuts down on the gammon danger compared to the other candidates. White will be threatening to escape a checker with a 6, but she hasn't rolled that 6 yet. Even if she does, she will still have one checker stuck behind Black's five-prime and not at the edge. This play leaves Black with those two checkers on the midpoint which can be effectively used to handle the next couple of rolls. Black will have definite chances in the priming battle, and these chances will be quite good if White doesn't roll a 6 in the next two or three rolls.

13/4 is an interesting choice. It leaves two blots, but that may not be so bad. White's aces are duplicated, since White can use an ace to advance the back checker to the edge of the prime. If White rolls a 6, she escapes with a hit; but that may be better for Black than not being hit. Black could win the priming battle simply by staying on the bar. Otherwise, Black might enter with a 3, which gets to the edge of White's prime without releasing the back anchor. Black's only really bad entrances would be 1-1, 1-4, 1-5, and 1-6. If White doesn't hit either blot, Black has a shot at completing a full prime with a 4. If Black fails to complete that full prime, he might choose to hit loose on his 3-point with a 5 driving White away from the edge of the

prime. Still, leaving those blots increases the gammon danger and may not be worth the risk.

It is an interesting problem, but I believe the simple 9/4, 8/4 is best. Those two remaining checkers on the midpoint give Black plenty of maneuvering room. If White doesn't escape or advance the back checker, Black will have the potential to hit loose on the 3-point and be very strong in the priming battle. If White does escape or anchor, Black will still be in decent shape. He might hit a shot in the outfield, and if that doesn't happen he has a decent chance of containing the remaining back checker and outlasting White. Keep in mind that White has those two partially wasted checkers on the 2-point, so unless White rolls perfectly, she will not be able to complete a full prime. Black may be able to split one checker up to White's 3-point soon, and it will be White who is scrambling to contain Black rather than vice versa.

The final factor is the decreased gammon danger compared to the other plays. While either of the other plays probably wins more, 9/4, 8/4 will win its fair share of the time with less gammon danger. — Kit Woolsey Δ

*Kit Woolsey has analyzed every even-numbered CHICAGO POINT backgammon problem since March 1989 (Problem #144). That's 96 articles without a miss. Thanks, Kit! — Ed.*

**TIM FERRELL (1951–2008)**

Master backgammon board maker Tim Ferrell suffered a massive heart attack at his home in Auburn, Washington Sunday, March 16 and passed away. He would have been 57 in May. He was married to wife Ruthann and had one son (Casey) who he taught how to play the game.

Tim, owner of the Dolphin Press, went to Peoria about six years ago for his first backgammon tournament. It was there he came up with the idea of creating the "Brahma Board." He teamed up with his



friends Randy Merriman and I to build over forty Brahma Backgammon Boards. Additionally, the three of us ran the Pacific Northwest Championships (an ABT event) for three years 2004–2006.

For more info about Tim, please go to [www.brahmaboard.com](http://www.brahmaboard.com). — Clyde Jones Δ

**30TH PITTSBURGH CHAMPIONSHIPS** [From page 1]

CHAMPIONSHIP (56): 1-Jon Vieter (CA), 2-Ray Fogerlund (CA), 3/4-Michael Edge (SC) / Dana Nazarian (CA); 1C-Matt Reklaitis (MA), 2C-Jeff Acierno (NJ); 1LC-Howard Markowitz (NV). ADVANCED (66): 1-Jolie Rubin (IL), 2-Bruce Ballance (PA), 3/4-Lynn Ehrlich (NY) / Gary Fishman (FL); 1C-Chris Knapp (Canada), 2C-Arthur Sutton (NJ); 1LC-Jesse Eaton (MN), 2LC-Julius High (NY). NOVICE (17): 1-Susie Hathaway (VA), 2-Kim Messina (MD); 1C-Lyle Rubin (IL). GRANDMASTER JP (14): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-Harvey Gillis (WA). MASTERS JP (32): 1-Alan Grunwald (NJ), 2-Greg Merriman (MI), 3/4-Gregg Cattanach (GA) / Fred Kalantari (MN). AMATEUR JP (32): 1-Jesse Eaton (MN), 2-Gary Fishman (FL), 3/4-Doug Battaglia (NJ) / Larry Buckingham (OH). PITTSBURGH MEMORIAL CUP (15): 1-Chuck Bower (IN), 2-Tak Morioka (IL). THREE RIVERS AMATEUR CUP (14): 1-Lynn Ehrlich (NY), 2-Joe Miller (OH). LIMITED JACKPOT (8): 1-Sergey Rybiy (NY). NOVICE JACKPOT (8): 1-Casey Sheedy (IN), 2-Elvie Greci (PA). EARLY ELIMINATION JP (8): 1-Antoinette-Marie Williams (NY). OPEN DOUBLES (18 teams): 1-Greg Merriman (MI) & Jon Vieter (CA), 2-Luther Lute (OH) & Jon Stephens (OH). LTD. DOUBLES (16): 1-Mark Gordon (MD) & Barry Silliman (MD), 2-Bob & Susie Hathaway (VA). BLITZ (64): 1-Herb Roman (IL). 2-POINT QUICKIES (64): 1-Dave Settles (IL), 2-Dana Nazarian (CA). CUBE QUIZ: 1 Champ.-Stick Rice (OH); 1 Adv.-Mark Gordon (MD)... \$1300 raised for charity with \$1000 to Brenda Ayers Cancer Fund.



# WINNER'S CIRCLE


**FEB.—MAR. 2008**

•**Jarvis Trophy** (Daventry, England; 1-3 Feb.)... OPEN (32): 1-John Hedge, 2-Edwin Turner, 3-Chris Ternel; 1C-Marcus Wrinch, 2C-Paul Barwick. FRIDAY 500 (16): 1-Stewart Pemberton, 2-Mardi Ohannessian. POKER (10): 1-Vicky Pemberton. TEAM (9): Gerry Enslin & John Hedge.

•**Springfield Series #4** (Springfield, IL; 2 Feb.)... OPEN (21): 1-John Jennings, 2-Greg Tomlin; 1C-Michael Plog, 2C-Scott Day (IN); 1LC-Faddoul Khoury. "Z-BOARD" QUALIFIER: Mark England.

•**Super Bowl Backgammon Bash** (Glendale, CA; 3 Feb.)... OPEN (16): 1-Art Moore, 2-Justin Nunez; 1C-Patrick Gibson, 2C-Azzam Masarani... *Ray Baker played host.*

•**Northwest Indiana Monthly** (Porter, IN; 9 Feb.)... OPEN: 1-Terry Greaves, 2-John O'Hagan.

•**Pub Club Trophy Tourney** (Carol Stream, IL; 9 Feb.)... OPEN (26): 1-David Rockwell, 2-Herb Roman, 3/4-Steve Neidecker / Oleg Raygorodsky; 1C-Roger Hickman, 2C-Nora Luna Righter.

•**New England Club Monthly** (Somerville, MA; 10 Feb.)... OPEN (23): 1-Jerry Padova, 2-Greg Jukins; 1C-Walter Trice.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 10 Feb.)... OPEN (13): 1-Gary Fishman, 2-Mike Corbett.

•**30th So. Australian Open** (Adelaide, So. Australia; 10 Feb.)... OPEN (32): 1-Paul Weaver (US), 2-Chris Benham; 1C-Claudie Tromp.

•**Miami Valley Club Monthly—USBL** (Dayton, OH; 10 Feb.)... OPEN (9): 1-Mike Coy, 2-Roger Foster.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 12 Feb.)... OPEN (12+1 rebuy): 1-Gary Fishman, 2-Mike Corbett.

•**PGT—Partouche Trophy Tournament** (Cannes, France; 14-17 Feb.)... PARTOUCHEGAMMON TOUR OPEN (81): 1-José Salema (POR), 2-Fernando Braconi (ITA); 1C-Jean-Philippe Rohr (FRA); 1LC-Luigi Villa (ITA). INTERMEDIATE (15): 1-Takki Naka (JPN), 2-Marguinand (FRA); 1C-Julie Thabault (FRA); 1LC-Beauvois (FRA). BEGINNER WINNERS: Devar (FRA), DeBrand (FRA). WARMUP (47): 1-Olivier Decultot (FRA). €500 SUPERJACKPOT (8): 1-Morten Holm (DEN).

•**Queensland Championship** (Queensland, Australia; 23-24 Feb.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (47+17 rebuys): 1-Paul Weaver (US), 2-Robbie Solomon, 3-Simon Woodhead.

•**Pair-O-Dice Monthly** (New York, NY;

24 Feb.)... OPEN (8): 1-Al Hodis, 2-Steve Elkin. INTERMEDIATE (6): 1-Bob Tilp, 2-Lynn Ehrlich.

•**Ohio State Monthly** (Akron, OH; 2 Mar.)... OPEN: 1-Mike Vasilatos, 2-Joe Miller.

•**Springfield Series #5** (Peoria, IL; 8 Mar.)... OPEN (18): 1-Greg Tomlin, 2-Ramiz Abi-Akar; 1C-Faddoul Khoury, 2C-Steve McGuire; 1LC-Sean Garber (IN). "Z-BOARD" QUALIFIER: Chris Scott.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 9 Mar.)... OPEN: 1/2-Perry Gartner / Steve Flam.

•**New England Club Monthly** (Somerville, MA; 9 Mar.)... OPEN (19): 1-Greg Jukins, 2-George Saba; 1C-Herb Gurland.

•**25th Fleet Underwood Memorial** (Flint, MI; 16 Mar.)... OPEN (22): 1-Ralph Dietz, 2-Dean Adamian, 3-Art Gillis. INTERMEDIATE (31): 1-Caleb Rutledge, 2-Bill Calton, 3-Fred Ishac. NOVICE (6): 1-Levi Serebryanski... *\$300 raised for American Diabetes Association.*

•**Pair-O-Dice Monthly** (New York, NY; 23 Mar.)... OPEN (8): 1-Brian Glubok, 2-Victor Ashkenazi (NJ). INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Steve Grill, 2-Vincent Reece.

•**WSOB—20th Nordic Open** (Helsingør, Denmark; 20-24 Mar.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (154): 1-Tassilo Rzymann (AUS), 2-Hans Kristian Mathiesen (DEN), 3/4-Jan Jacobowitz (GER) / Manouchehr Parchami-Araghi (IRN/SWE); 1C-Masayuki Mochizuki (JPN), 2C-Karsten Bredahl (DEN); 1LC-Giorgio Castellano (ITA). ADVANCED (78): 1-Ole Anderson (DEN), 2-Søren Larsen (DEN); 1C-Kåre Aronsson (SWE). INTERMEDIATE (78): 1-George Miltiadou (ENG), 2-Jürgen Stahlkopf (GER); 1C-Casper Andersen; 1LC-Anita Zelmerlów (DEN). BEGINNER (79): 1-Frederik Blinkenberg (DEN), 2-Martin Bøhm (DEN). SUPERJACKPOT (16): 1-Morten Holm Lassen (DEN), 2-Sander Lylloff (DEN). 2008 JAPAN OPEN QUALIFIER (32): 1-Uli Koch (GER). 2008 WORLD CHAMP/CANNES QUALIFIER (32): 1-Volker Sonnabend (GER). LADIES CUP (64): 1-Pia Sevelin (SWE), 2-Pia Jeppesen (DEN). DOUBLES (44): 1-Marko Hellsten (FIN) & Miika Lappalainen (FIN), 2-Hamza Nar (TUR) & Nedim Yardimci (TUR), 3/4-Scott Casty (USA) & Carter Mattig (USA) / Michael Larsen (DEN) & Jakob Simonsen (DEN). NATION'S CUP (12 teams): 1-Play65: Krsten Bredahl / Michael Larsen / Jakob Simonsen (DEN). TEAM EVENT: 1-Play65: Krsten Bredahl / Michael Larsen / Jakob Simonsen (DEN). \$10,000 EXHIBITION SPEED-GAMMON MATCH: 1-Gus Hansen (DEN), 2-Sander Lylloff (DEN). LOWEST SNOWIE ERROR RATE PRIZE: Masayuki Mochizuki at 1.90 (JPN). Δ

## AMALGAMATION

Visiting the BPC in Feb/March: **Paul & Mary Franks** (NV), **Greg Merriman** (MI), **Mark Murray** (OH)... Check out the new *Flint Area BackgammonNews* for this year's "Giants of Backgammon" list... **Howard Markowitz** (NV) has been selected to co-direct the Monte Carlo World Championships in July (with **James Baillé**). Quite an honor... **Joe Sylvester** (MO) landed a great job with Maggiano's restaurant in St. Louis as a Corporate Trainer. He's currently playing more poker than backgammon... If you have the iPhone or another touch-screen cell phone, try this free backgammon game: [powapps.com/igammon](http://powapps.com/igammon)... With his recent victories in Australia, **Paul Weaver** (AL) becomes the first backgammon player to win a major backgammon tournament on five continents... USA Club additions: **Ayal Eckstein** is running Backgammon On the Hill in Chapel Hill (919/357-8170); the Charlotte Backgammon Club is back in action with **Jeb Horton** (704/814-0850) directing for now; and **Farris Meritt** (479/464-8050) has opened the Northwest Arkansas BG Club... **Phil Simborg** (IL) is hobbling around with a broken toe from a Racquetball injury... Chris Bray informs us that the UK backgammon community is mourning the death of **Edward Baliszewski**... **Adam Bennett** (WI) informs us that a New Mexico State Championships ABT event is still possible this year... BG expert **François Tardeau** (France) won a poker Super Satellite in Lyon, €15,000, and a seat into the Cannes finals 5-7 September... Longtime playsite GamesGrid is closing its Internet doors within a month; however backgammon promoter **John Clark** (England) has an announcement at the GamesGrid site that [gameaccount.com](http://gameaccount.com) will be filling the gap with new and improved software... Have you visited the Backgammon Players Social Network? It's online at [backgammonsocialnetwork.ning.com](http://backgammonsocialnetwork.ning.com)... Thanks to **Chris McNamara** who covered our Midwest Championships for the *Chicago Tribune*. You can read the article at: [chicagopoint.com/mbctribune.pdf](http://chicagopoint.com/mbctribune.pdf)... **Dan Pelton** has taken over from **Pete Campbell** as director of the Arizona Backgammon Club... BPC players in the hospital: **Eric Johnson** is fully recovered a recent operation, **Albert Yakobashvili** is still recovering from his operation, and **Mike Pufpaf** is preparing for his on 6 April... Kudos to Rochester BG Club director **Ray Bills** (MN) for his front page interview in the *Rochester Post-Bulletin*... Finally, here's a good piece of advice from **Richard Munitz** (NY): "I don't know if 'attitude' produces rolls, but it does produce wins." Δ



The WBF  
Worldwide Backgammon Federation is proud to present the

# 20<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP

## 5<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN DOUBLE CONSULTING CHAMPIONSHIP

### & 7<sup>th</sup> VELDEN BACKGAMMON OPEN

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2008

Warm-up, Sperti Trophy, Quarter entries and Jackpots  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2008

European Double Consulting Championship  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2008

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Philip Voelckers  
2008 Backgammon World Champion