

editorial

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO BACKGAMMON?

Backgammon, king of games and game of kings, is one of the world's oldest and most fascinating contests of skill and chance. For 5000 recorded years it has been the sport of emperors, enthraling all who have played it, from Antony and Cleopatra to Montezuma, from the English monarchs at court to the jet-set at home in their smart international casinos."

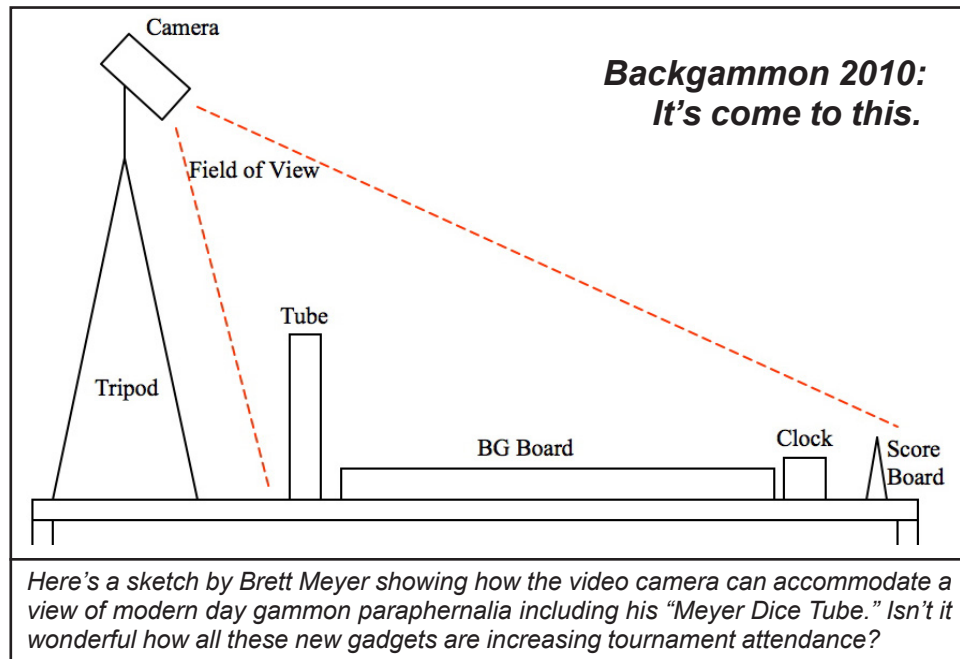
That was promoter/director Prince Alexis Obolensky's vision of backgammon forty years ago as described in his book *Backgammon, The Action Game*. Fast forward to modern times. Elegance and sociability have taken a back seat to efficiency and skill. An entire book is written on the 3-1 opening roll. The ELO chess rating system is reintroduced to rank players. Clocks are mandatory at numerous events. Dice tubes are used to generate numbers. Matches are recorded at tournaments that profess to be "video friendly." In short, backgammon is morphing into chess.



Take a look at Brett Meyer's sketch of today's backgammon (above right). Brett, inventor of the "Meyer Dice Tube," drew this up to show potential buyers that the camera's field of vision is wide enough to accommodate the board along with a dice tube, chess clock, and scoreboard. As California expert Steve Sax so aptly commented: "Yeah, but can the camera pick up the 'ring girl' who parades around the table with the scorecard over her head?"

This would all be laughable except for the fact that it's actually happening to backgammon right now.

Picture this scenario. Player A is in the finals of the US Open at double match point. Player B has one checker left on his ace point. Player A needs any double to win the tournament. He picks up his cup



and begins shaking. He changes hands, continuing to rattle the dice extra loud. He reaches back and follows through, casting the cubes that fly out of the cup like shrapnel. They spin and bounce across the playfield finally landing on . . .

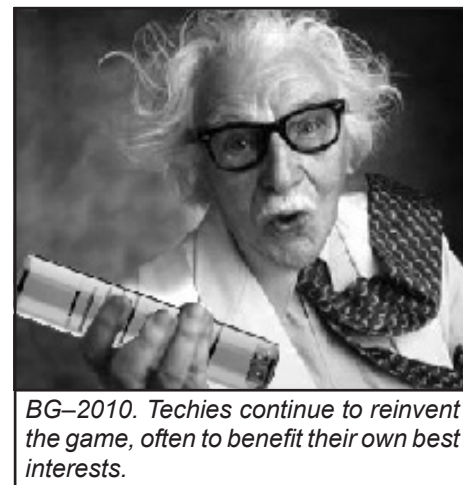
Same situation, but now both players are sharing a dice tube. Player A turns it

over generating a 4-1. "Oh well. I lose. Thanks for the match."

How anti-climactic. Where's the excitement? Where's the drama?

There's no dispute that the "Meyer Dice Tube" speeds play, stops fast-rolling, and discourages cheating. But if the tube is good, than by the same logic, playing on a computer is an even "better mousetrap." It generates numbers even faster with no chance of cocked dice, it plays "legal moves," and it can analyze the match play of both competitors at the touch of a button.

[Continued on page 6]



CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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CENTRAL STATES DRESS CODE

I just finished reading the October Chicago Point and I want to congratulate you on the upcoming CSI dress code. Good for you guys.—*Tom Walthes, Glenwood, IL*

For 17 years I felt I was an innovator running my tournament with ideas such as coupling lower entry fees with an optional side pool, and providing wall-to-wall food and beverage hospitality at a very low cost to the players. Kudos to you and Amy for trying to make your tournament feel like it is something special and different (even though coat-and-tie was the norm in the 60s and 70s). See you in March 2011.—*Steve Hast, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

I see that you called me an "equity hound" in your CSI dress code article. I liked that. To me being an equity hound has nothing to do with the money. It's a way of life.

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole
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*Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Nov 5	Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Holiday Inn—O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Nov 6	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Nov 6	Springfield Series #2, Peoria Pizza Works, Peoria, Illinois	217/622-9447
Nov 7	Cincinnati Club Monthly, Tournament, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Nov 7	Ohio State Club Monthly, Brubaker's Pub, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Nov 9	Teakwoods Club Monthly, Teakwoods Tavern & Grill, Phoenix, Arizona	602/762-2288
Nov 10-14	<u>2010 Las Vegas Open, Bally's Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	<u>702/218-8238</u>
Nov 13	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Nov 13	Tampa Bay Club Monthly, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/786-9133
Nov 14	Pair-O-Dice Monthly Tournament, Lincoln Center Atrium, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Nov 14	South Florida Monthly, Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Nov 14*	Portland Monthly, Spring Creek Coffee House, Milwaukie, Oregon	503/515-5682
Nov 18*	Third Thursday Bonus (New York Met Open), Liquid Sports Bar, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Nov 20*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Nov 20*	New England Club Bonus, Docksider Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Nov 20*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Nov 21*	Bellingham Monthly, Pacific Martial Arts, Bellingham, Washington	360/733-6173
Nov 21*	3rd Annual Open Mayor's Cup, New York Athletic Club, New York, New York	646/420-7262
Dec 1*	Charlotte Club Monthly, Dilworth Grille, Charlotte, North Carolina	704/965-3573
Dec 3-5	<u>California State Championship, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Dec 4*	Springfield Series #3, Rusty's Clubhouse & Grill, Lincoln, Illinois	217/622-9447
Dec 5	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn—O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Dec 5*	Cincinnati Club Monthly, Tournament, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Dec 11*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Dec 11*	New England Monthly, Docksider Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Dec 11*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Dec 11*	Tampa Bay Club Monthly, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/786-9133
Dec 12*	Ohio Valley Challenge Cup, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Dec 12*	Portland Monthly, Spring Creek Coffee House, Milwaukie, Oregon	503/515-5682
Dec 12*	South Florida Monthly, Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Jan 6-9	<u>New York Metropolitan Open, Hyatt Regency, Jersey City, New Jersey</u>	<u>408/529-6769</u>
Jan 14-17	<u>3rd US Open & Masters, Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, Florida</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Jan 22-29	2011 Backgammon & Poker On Board, Western Caribbean Princess Cruise	773/583-6464
Jan 27-30	<u>3rd New Mexico State Championships, La Posada Resort, Santa Fe, NM</u>	<u>505/982-2729</u>
Feb 17-20	<u>33rd Pittsburgh Championships/ABT Awards, Airport Holiday Inn, Moon Twp., PA</u>	<u>304/685-3214</u>
Mar 4-6*	CSI—Central States Invitational, Sheraton Gateway Suites O'Hare, Rosemont, IL	773/583-6464
Mar 18-20*	2nd New Orleans "Sweet 16," Inn on Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana	504/366-7498
Mar 25-27*	17th Ohio State Championships, Airport Marriott, Cleveland, Ohio	330/268-4610
Apr 13-17*	<u>Nevada State Tournament, Bally's Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	<u>702/218-8238</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Nov 5-7	Townharbour Trophy, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Nov 6-7*	New Zealand Championship, Founders Heritage Park, Nelson, New Zealand	6427-546-8622
Nov 6-7	TBGT: 2010 Grand Finale, Green Park Hotel Bostanci, Istanbul, Turkey	905324-279454
Nov 12-14	8th Trofeo delle Città, Castello di Modanella, Tuscany, Italy	393478-336862
Nov 12-14	10th Backgammon Live in London, The Kings Stores, London, England	442077-001798
Nov 13-14	Berlin-Cup Year-end Tournament, Café Belmont, Berlin, Germany	491515-1419020
Nov 13-14	TBT: 3rd Edirne Open/WBF-TR, Arslanli Complex, Edirne, Turkey	905332-352555
Nov 20-21*	Antonis Maltezopoulos Cup, Hotel Du Lac, Ioannina, Greece	302107-706142
Nov 20-21*	Ordförändens Cup 2010, Interpool, Malmö, Sweden	4670-5642718
Dec 3-5	Christmas UK Finals, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Dec 4-5	SBTT: Thun Open/BEO-Cup/Doubles, Waadtländerstube, Thun, Switzerland	4179-4329378
Dec 8-12	2nd Meribel Tournament 2010, Hotel L'Eterlou, Meribel, France	33620-902726
Dec 18-19	TBT: 17th Istanbul Championship/WBF-TR, Armada Hotel, Turkey	905322-329228
Dec 26-27	Christmas Tournament, Somboon, Dongtan Beach, Pattaya, Thailand	6686-8187480
Jan 7-9	Bright n' Breezy, Barceló Old Ship Hotel, Brighton, England	441522-888676
Jan 8-9	CANCELLED: 7th Masters Open, Café Den Bengel, Antwerp, Belgium	31653-276835
Jan 10-12	16th Thailand Open, Aisawan Resort, Pattaya, Thailand	6686-8187480
Jan 14-16	TBT: 2011 Istanbul Open/WBF-TR, Armada Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey	905322-329228
Feb 4-6	Jarvis Trophy, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Feb 12-13*	TBT: 7th Ankara Championship/WBF-TR, Enerji Hotel, Ankara, Turkey	905322-329228
Feb 18-20*	BBT: XII Scottish Open, Barceló Stirling Highland Hotel, Stirling, Scotland	441522-888676
Feb 25-27*	EBGT: Istavder/WBA Anniversary, Green Park Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey	905324-279454



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2010

Top 132 through 17 Oct. 2010 after 17 tournaments

(Final 2010 events: Las Vegas, California State)



John O'Hagan	36.67	George Haskour	9.09	Bob Schumacher	4.40	Pete Mostoufi	2.58
Richard Munitz	31.45	Jeremy Bagai	9.05	Sal Chehayeb	4.38	Jesse Jestadt	2.58
Kit Woolsey	31.34	Scott Cole	8.89	Jason Pack	4.38	Ed Johnson	2.58
Rory Pascar	25.89	Matt Cohn-Geier	8.80	Faddoul Khoury	4.33	Ryan Hast	2.58
Gary Fries	25.20	Joe Russell	8.55	Mark Antranikian	4.33	Philippe Salnave	2.50
David Rubin	21.17	Phil Simborg	8.50	Dujuan Meekins	4.20	Karen Davis	2.50
Dorn Bishop	18.60	Oleg Raygorodsky	8.39	Ken Tyszko	4.20	Sheri Peters	2.44
Ed O'Laughlin	18.31	Ary Nogueira	8.00	Gary Schachtschneider	4.00	Bob Koca	2.42
Jesse Eaton	18.26	Ken Bame	7.67	Tom Wheeler	4.00	Daniel Stroberger	2.40
Mary Hickey	17.67	Sasan Taher	7.33	Jim Slomkoski	3.88	Ben McCracken	2.29
Bob Steen	17.33	Greg Cottle	7.33	Roz Ferris	3.83	Aaron Foust	2.22
Carter Mattig	17.04	Prince Barlow	7.20	Rick Barabino	3.78	Rob Farmer	2.20
Gary Bauer	16.78	Dean Adamian	6.92	Michelin Chabot	3.78	Mark Murray	2.20
Patrick Gibson	16.00	Lucky Nelson	6.83	Neil Kazaross	3.67	Adrian Rios	2.10
Tak Morioka	15.67	Jerry Godsey	6.40	Jolie Rubin	3.61	Richard Stawowy	2.10
Bill Davis	14.67	Michael Flohr	6.30	Bob Hickey	3.60	Larry Taylor	2.00
Eden Windish	14.34	Paul Polatov	6.07	John Jennings	3.46	Georgina Flanagan	1.92
Steve Hast	13.83	Dave Pink	5.82	Steve Sax	3.46	Steve Mellen	1.89
Dana Nazarian	13.83	Carol Joy Cole	5.42	Stacy Turner	3.46	Dave Kiurski	1.80
Stick Rice	12.83	Bob Weigel	5.40	Steve Nelson	3.20	Peter Wisniewski	1.70
Mike Senkiewicz	12.80	Jim McGirr	5.33	Barry Silliman	3.15	Sybil Sha	1.67
Sean Garber	12.60	Donny Lomuto	5.17	Al Faller	3.15	Connie Wetzell	1.67
Lynda Clay	11.69	Glenn Ramsey	5.17	David Rockwell	3.11	David Shaerf	1.67
Larry Yudin	11.64	Ernest Ho	5.17	Garry Kallos	3.04	Fred Fado	1.52
Mike Corbett	11.40	Alfred Mamlet	4.83	Damian Plesec	3.04	Randi Sachar	1.52
Gregg Cattanach	11.30	Josh Racko	4.69	Marcy Kossar	2.97	Lyle Rubin	1.50
Al Hodis	11.23	Johnny Jigamian	4.65	Terry Weiss	2.83	Fran Miller	1.44
Paul Weaver	11.00	Mark Andrus	4.50	Sandra Sha	2.82	Judy Field	1.40
Ray Fogerlund	10.84	Elli Nache	4.49	Steve Neidecker	2.80	Ed Ziesche	1.40
Patty Geoffroy	10.33	Sergiy Rybiy	4.45	Rob Reynolds	2.70	Tom Duggan	1.35
John Baron	10.19	Lynn Ehrlich	4.44	Terry Seymour	2.70	Kate Elmore	1.35
Mel Rappaport	10.08	Damon Singer	4.44	Neal Rosensweig	2.67	Fabian Melnik	1.33
Justin Nunez	9.09	Joe VanderWal	4.40	Danielle Bastarache	2.67	Rick Wolf	1.33

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

I don't see anything controversial about what you plan to do at your March event. You and Amy are trying to create something special, and that's great. If I am the only one playing who doesn't plan on wearing a suit, I would probably fold and go along with it. No promises at this point, but I'm a big believer of "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." So we'll see.—
David Rockwell, Skokie, Illinois

When I moved from New York City to Los Angeles nearly 48 years ago, I did not bring any neckties with me (though I brought a couple of bow ties). Years later, remembering and George 17th-poet who (*Altar*), I *Necktie* at least Am I the you know neckties

Yoke that tugs upon my neck and hangs down almost to my thigh---that bows my head and crimps my breath---that drags me down and spreads slow death: let go your grip before I die, find someone else to choke not I

emulating Herbert (the century wrote *The* wrote *The* so I would have one. only man who finds oppressive?

So much for imposing a dress code upon anyone.—*Danny Kleinman, Los Angeles, California*

[Continued on page 6]



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2010 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED THRU 26 OCT.

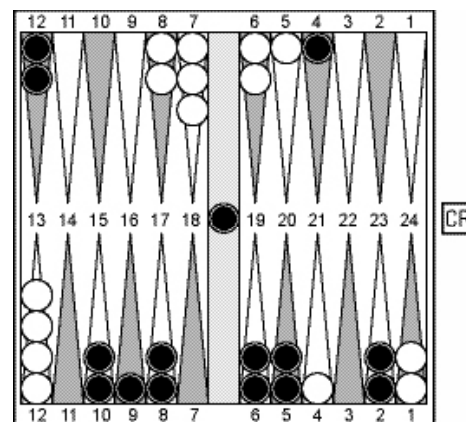
Phil Simborg	27.32	Ken Bond	8.56	Rolf Boettger	2.28	Joe Rafson	1.12
Rory Pascar	23.60	Reginald Porter	8.56	Jerry Brooks	2.16	John Spatafora	0.96
David Rockwell	23.36	Michael Ginat	8.04	Joann Feinstein	2.16	Matt Cohn-Geier	0.96
Howard Markowitz	20.48	Dave Settles	7.36	John O'Hagan	2.08	Paul Baraz	0.88
Bill Davis	18.00	Mike Peters	7.20	Mitch Pomper	2.00	Greg King	0.88
Tim Mabee	16.72	Steve Klesker	7.12	John Gaski	1.92	Mihai Pop	0.80
Bill Bartholomay	16.52	Julius High	6.80	Dan Cox	1.88	Bob Zavoral	0.72
Larry Goldstein	15.00	Lucky Nelson	6.56	Roger Hickman	1.84	Stefan Pop	0.72
Christopher Shanava	13.52	Georgina Flanagan	5.92	Royal Robinson	1.68	Richard Stawowy	0.72
Bob Steen	13.28	Alex Aliyev	5.60	Adrian Rios	1.60	Richard Pearlman	0.64
Bill Keeffe	13.08	Serge Bondar	4.40	Linda Rockwell	1.44	Dean Livas	0.64
Tak Morioka	12.72	Peter Kalba	4.36	Jolie Rubin	1.44	John Jennings	0.56
Mike Sutton	12.36	Alice Kay	4.20	Bill Kaludis	1.32	Paul Lombardo	0.48
Herb Roman	12.16	Alex Owen	3.60	Mike Terenin	1.32	Mike Pufpaf	0.48
Wayne Wiest	11.92	Scott Casty	3.60	Wendy Kaplan	1.28	Kwong Chan	0.48
Nora Luna Righter	11.68	J. A. Miller	3.24	Shaw Dogan	1.28	Beth Whitney	0.48
Mike Wolock	11.44	Dan Weymouth	2.88	Mark Murray	1.28	Randy Pals	0.48
Dujuan Meekins	10.88	Gary Kay	2.84	Eren Merzeci	1.24	Leslie Lockett	0.32
Eric Johnson	10.08	Mark Ostrovsky	2.60	Sam Yoyen	1.20	Les Moshinsky	0.32
Carter Mattig	9.76	Amy Trudeau	2.48	Maurice Barie	1.12	Oleg Raygorodsky	0.24
Mike Minkovski	9.12	Ken Tibbs	2.32				

HOWARD MARKOWITZ added a 2nd Consolation finish to his big Sunday, Oct. 3 win to earn 5.20 points and October POM honors. Christopher Shanava (3.80) and Alex Aliyev (3.44) were runner's-up.

your move

PROBLEM #359 to be analyzed by Steve Sax

7-point match. White leads Black 6 to 5, Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-2.**



ASK DANNY

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DANNY REMEMBERS

Dear Danny: I've read nearly all of your books since Vision Laughs at Counting was published in 1980. Additionally, you've been writing for Chicago Backgammon Newsletter since 1984 and CHICAGO POINT since its inception in 1988. When did you first become involved with backgammon? Additionally, in all of that time, which BG individuals have had the most memorable impact (good and bad) on your life?" —Editor, CHICAGO POINT

DEAR BILL: I first observed backgammon being played in chouettes at the Cavendish West Club, which until then had been primarily a rubber bridge club, in 1973. I learned by watching, and had played a few games for dimes—yes, that kind of dimes, small metallic discs—in settings outside the club.

One evening in 1974, I came to the club with my bridge friend Stella Rebner, an outstanding player and a hustler who liked to play in very weak games and preferred that I not play against her. Seeing two of her favorite rubber-bridge “pigeons” waiting for a fourth, she approached the staff member on duty, Patti Medford, a weak bridge player, and asked Patti to start with them. It was Patti’s job to do so, but she demurred: “I can’t break up the chouette”—a three-handed \$2 chouette with Sylvia Cooke (no relation to Barclay) and Sam Wilson.

Stella drew me aside and whispered, “Do you play that silly badminton?”

“It’s backgammon, Stella, not badminton. I play, but I don’t play well.”

“I don’t believe you, Danny. Everything you do, you do well.”

Obviously, Stella had never seen me play tennis or badminton, nor had she seen me play backgammon. Nonetheless, she said, “Do me a favor. Play for me. I’ll pay if you lose, and if you win, we’ll split the money.”

An offer I could not refuse. In that era (soon to end), Captain and Crew consulted. Whenever I was Captain, I played as Sam or Sylvia suggested. However, when I won the Box, I was on my own. Now I have no chance, I thought: wrong! Sam and Sylvia consulted. When one of them wanted to play a back game, the other wanted to go forward. When one of them wanted to blitz, the other wanted to build a prime. And so forth. The upshot was that neither followed a con-

sistent game plan, and beginner that I was, I had a significant edge and won steadily.



Gaby Horowitz

sistently and with flair.

It was while watching Gaby, admirably, that I first observed cheating. He was playing against Spencer Nilson, his favorite “pi-zhon,” and I was among the throng of kibitzers who had gathered. Gaby put on a show: covering a hittable blot with an elbow he placed on it casually, suggesting bad moves to Spencer, and doing other things to distract Spencer. Was Gaby cheating, or was he just displaying bad sportsmanship?

Soon I found out. Somehow, despite playing poorly, Spencer developed a broken prime and had doubled Gaby. Gaby needed 5s to escape when he rolled double-6s, which were blocked. That was his worst roll, and he had only three ways to play it, all bad, but one of them was obviously the least of evils. The usually lightning-fast Gaby sat and sat without moving. Presently, an attractive young woman walked by and greeted Spencer. As Spencer looked up to return her greeting, Gaby quickly sprung both his back men, in effect moving a 5 and then a 7 with each.

Unlike Gaby’s other tactics, that was not in the least amusing. I went to tell Patti all that I had seen, expecting her to take action.

“The club will do nothing about it, Danny,” said Patti. “It’s your word against Gaby’s.”

I was shocked. Why wouldn’t Patti simply accept my word? She had known me for a decade and should have known I was an accurate and honest witness; furthermore, it wasn’t my word against Gaby’s, for Patti hadn’t asked Gaby for his side of the story.

Hours later, when Gaby left the club, I walked out with him.

“I know what you’re going to ask, Danny,” he said. “Why would I do what you saw me do against Spencer?”

“Yes, Gaby. I’m not a good player, but Spencer is so bad that I’d gladly spot him

an opening 3-1.”

“Well, Danny, in the game where I rolled those double-6’s, how had I been playing?”

“Very well, Gaby.”

“And how had Spencer been playing?”

“Quite poorly.”

“Where was the cube?”

“You owned it at 2?”

“And what would have happened had I played the double-6s legally?”

“You probably would have lost, most likely a gammon.”

“You understand exactly, Danny! Now, I ask you: if I was playing very well and Spencer was playing poorly, would it have been justice for him to have won four points? I had to do what I did to prevent an injustice, and so I have special moves for special people.”

Perhaps I should have run away from backgammon after that incident, but I didn’t. In the early spring of 1975, I had been laid off from what turned out to be my last full-time job as a computer programmer. While looking for other jobs, and doing whatever freelance programming work I could find, I frequented the Cavendish West most afternoons and played both bridge and backgammon there. One day in the late autumn of 1975, I was approached to design and program the first backgammon computer, to which I gave the catchy name Jack Gammon. Keenly aware of my own lack of backgammon skill, I enlisted the aid of a good player, Mike Gilbert. Mike worked with me on developing strategy for Jack, reviewing Jack’s plays with me and telling me what was wrong with them. After a few months, however, Mike got an offer of a paying job in Dallas, leaving me on my own to design Jack’s strategy. Yes, I had sought to enlist the aid of other good players, but each had turned me down. However, working with Mike and discussing positions with him, along with watching high-class chouettes that often included world-class players like Billy Eisenberg and Lee Genud, had started me on the road to understanding the game.

Some favorable associations in backgammon came years later, after I had accomplished in backgammon all I had it in me to accomplish alone, when I collaborated with Antonio Ortega and Norm Wiggins, two fine scholars and gentlemen, on worthwhile books.—*Yours, Danny Δ*

Questions for Danny Kleinman should be addressed to: Ask Danny, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155 or send e-mail to: bg@chicagopoint.com

The 2011 CSI Dress Code

By Jake Jacobs

Next March 4-6 at the Sheraton Gateway Suites (just three minutes from O'Hare Airport in Rosemont, Illinois), The Central States Invitational is requesting that all men wear at least a collared shirt in the playing room. In addition, winners who wear a tie for all of their matches will share in \$700 added money. In both cases, women need only dress appropriately.

What follows are Jake Jacobs' modern day views on a dress code.—Ed.

Near the end of the Age of Vikings a Danish king named Canute (or Cnut) sat on the throne of England. The tale most often associated with him concerns his attempt to "hold back the tides." Canute was actually a wise king (or so we are told). It was the sycophants surrounding him who insisted that he could turn back the ocean tides if he so ordered. Canute challenged them on it, and they insisted that "Of course if your majesty orders it . . ." So Canute ordered the tides to reverse their course, and proved his yes-men to be foolish when, obviously, the tides kept rolling in.

In the September CHICAGO POINT, Bill and Amy are attempting to roll back the tides. Next year's Central States Invitational features a dress code which, they hope, will

bring back grace and civility to the game, as a parade of suave Astaires and chic Rogers, demure Shearers and debonair Howards will flock to the restored aura of genteel sophistication. King Canute would laugh.

I wish them all the best, but their efforts are quixotic. Today's fashion setters are not the ones of yore. The 21st century Fred Astaire is:



Brad Pitt

Today's Leslie Howard is:



Snoop Dogg

Then there's the dancing darling that replaced Ginger Rogers in our hearts!



Britney Spears

And the beloved modern version of the classy Norma Shearer:



Lady Gaga

While I am renowned for my fashion sense, when I wear a tie, I feel like Tuco the Terrible praying that Clint Eastwood doesn't miss his shot.

Wrongheaded as the effort is, I hope I can attend the tournament next spring. The chance to see Stick Rice in top hat and tails, or Ed O'Laughlin doing the Carnaby Street Strut is irresistible.—Jake Jacobs Δ



Jake!



ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis
773/583-6464
Peter Kalba
312/316-1432

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

MIDSTATE BG CLUB: Tourn. Tues., 6:00 P.M. at Ride The Nine; 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. Ed Bauder (309/830-1632).

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

WINNETKA BG 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. Thursday, 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Sue Will (309/699-6005).

BG WORD SEARCH CONTEST RESULTS

Last month, we asked you to find backgammon-related words in a 15 x 15 letter grid. Five of the entries CHICAGO POINT received found more than 35 words. The ultimate winner, **Stick Rice** of Columbus, Ohio, found 38 words. Although he missed two valid words, "diversfy" and "slot," Stick found a few words that we didn't even put in the puzzle! He also came up with three very good acronyms: bg, dmp, and xg (for eXtreme Gammon). Stick's 38 acceptable words were:

anchor, auto, bar, beaver, blitz, blot, board, bot, build(er), captain, checker, chouette, consolation, contact, count, Crawford, crossover, cube, cup, dice, direct, double, duplicate, endgame, enter, fan, game(s), gap, girls, hit, Jacoby, match, men, prime, roof, shot, split, table. Δ

WHAT IS HAPPENING...

[Continued from page 1]

So why don't we all use computers to play live backgammon?

The answer is that most of us have old-fashioned human emotions. Rolling and playing on a board is good hand and finger exercise. Cups and dice are also an outlet for "letting off steam." (Many players release their tension by giving the dice an extra hard shake.) Finally, casting the number you need is just more emotionally satisfying than turning over an acrylic tube. Can you imagine the uproar at craps tables if casinos took the dice out of the shooter's hand in favor of more efficient number generation? Fahgettaboudit.

After graduating college and getting a job, I searched for a hobby to occupy my free time. For a while, I played in bridge tournaments accumulating over 50 master points. Then I tried a few chess events and placed once. Both were interesting in different ways, but both lacked what I was looking for: an intriguing game that offered a stylish social outlet where I could unwind after a day's work in the company of my peers.

My favorite part of any tournament is still the Saturday evening dinner break shared with friends. We have a drink, trade hard luck stories, and lick our wounds before starting the evening session. For others, a \$3 chouette is the best part of their weekend. In both cases, it's not about the technical aspects of the game; it's about the camaraderie.

I don't disparage players who bring their analytical mind to backgammon. In fact I respect them. Backgammon giants are a critical element of our game. However, I don't want their chess mentality and techie gadgets scaring away recreational players.

We can be an all-inclusive group; but for that to happen, we must try to keep the focus sociable. That means a little more patience with slow players and occasional conversations with new players that have nothing to do with match equity.

Backgammon is not chess. If a vocal minority succeeds in "chess-ifying" backgammon, the special glamour of our game will be lost forever and attendance will continue to decline.—*Bill Davis* Δ

BACKGAMMON RESPECT THE GAME

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LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

After returning to a recent Bar Point Club event, it did not have the appearance of things as I remembered. As you say, the group on the whole was not dressed for the game. I do hope the Central States Invitational will be able to bring back the respect that people should have for backgammon and regain a little class in their dress.—*Debra Ann Petitan, Chicago, Illinois*

I want to comment on your decision to impose a dress code at the CSI. Denny and I started playing backgammon in the 1970s. Our tournaments were held on Sunday afternoon in venues like the Pittsburgh Athletic Club and Oakmont Country Club where coats and ties were required with a sit-down dinner served late in the afternoon. I have wonderful memories of the people we played with back then and miss the "civilized" feel. I'm glad that you are working to reverse the trend a little.—*Carol Leatherman, Castle Rock, Colorado*

Thanks for the great article about backgammon in the 60s and 70s. The people back then did take pride in the way they dressed. I had heard that Lucille Ball was a BG enthusiast, so it was good to see the article include some information about her.

Additionally the old Calcutta sheet was interesting; there were some people playing then with deep pockets!—*Vinton Knarr, Bloomington, Illinois*

Yay! Dress for success! Count me in. You really go for what means something to you. Great idea!—*Barbara Levinson, Northbrook, Illinois*

I read with interest your comments on the loss of glamour in backgammon and I applaud the new dress code that you and Amy are initiating. Once again, you are at the forefront of innovation in Backgammon as you were with the American Backgammon Tour and your curious just-for-fun side events. I like it!

I am glad that while registering on Friday for your event, I will not have to look at a ridiculous backdrop of hundreds of T-shirts and the huge boxes they came in.

I think that is probably the crux of the problem—that directors feel obligated to produce a t-shirt that commemorates their event. I have traveled to more ABT events than almost anyone else and by now, I figure why not just pack the backgammon T-shirts? Where else am I going to wear them?

So, to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem, I would like to pledge \$100 towards to the purchase of silk ties, (or any ties you and Amy find appropriate), for the Central States Invitational in 2011.—*Ray Fogerlund, Bakersfield, California*

I remember when I started in computer programming back in the early 70s, ties were required. Three or four years later those clothing standards were relaxed to allow programmers to work sans tie. I found myself able to concentrate better and write tighter code.

Back then, the IBMers that use to come out and visit our site (in Colorado) were always dressed to the nines. Eventually, that standard was relaxed—a very controversial decision back then. But I believe their relaxed standards remain in effect to this day.

Bottom line: If you want to see my best backgammon you have to cut me some slack on the tie thing. What's the first thing men do when they get done going to a wedding or funeral? Loosen their tie, correct? I don't like going to weddings or funerals. I hope I don't go through the same experience at weekend long backgammon tournaments.—*Bruce Russell, Madison, Wisconsin*

I applaud you for your decision to initiate a dress code at the 2011 CSI. Hopefully the vast majority of backgammon players will cooperate in returning a little class to our game. You guys have always run classy tournaments and this bold move will only further your deserved recognition as one of the leading tournament directors and innovators on the American backgammon scene. See you at CSI 2011!—*Jim Opre, Downers Grove, Illinois*

Simply put, I love your new dress code policy.—*Chiva Tafazzoli, World Backgammon Association & US Open Director*

I hate getting dressed up and wearing ties. In 1978 when I was the youngest ever president of the Chicago Association of Industrial Realtors, I shocked everyone by coming to the meetings without wearing a coat and tie . . . just a nice shirt and slacks. I have been that way most of my life.

However, what Bill and Amy are doing is interesting and different and should be approached that way. This is not about wearing ties and getting dressed up. It's about reminding us what it was like in the glory days of backgammon, when everyone was expected to dress and act like gentlemen and ladies; when royalty was showing up and movie stars were common in the

room. This is about adding some flavor and nostalgia and fun to the game.

Please come and wear a tie, not because of stiff shirts and meaningless rules to try to make people conform, but because of the nostalgia and to reward the directors for trying something new.—*Phil Simborg, Chicago, Illinois*

What is this? More affirmative action for women? Re your dress code that women need only “dress appropriately”? Women should wear slinky dresses (think Fred Astaire movies) which would parallel the requirement that men wear dress shirts and ties to be eligible for more \$\$.

Of course if some men want to wear slinky dresses, who am I to object?—*Val Zimmnicki (aka Val-ee Lama), Chicago, Illinois*

As you might have expected, I applaud your dress code experiment for returning some class to backgammon. With clocks and a dress code, your event will be rather professional. However, as a player that feels you always put on an entertaining tournament that deserves success, I am concerned that you might see a drop in attendance. Some of these iconoclastic guys might take it as a challenge to their signatures . . . ?
—*Harvey Gillis, Bellevue, Washington*

We’re looking to produce a “sociable” event, Harvey, not a “professional” one. No Open division players can be forced to play with a clock unless their matches are delaying the flow of the tournament.—Ed.

DEYONG ON MONTE CARLO

This current Monte Carlo backgammon situation is a tragedy, rather like seeing a grand dowager replaced by a bag lady. Some of the blame can be laid upon the various entities that succeeded the Loews Hotel, currently the Fairmont. A few years ago I went back to the SBM with a very prominent sponsor anxious to co-opt the World Championship. I can assure you there would have been plenty of Euros available to turn in a top class affair. Sadly, SBM did not want to be seen by the Fairmont as horn-ing in on their associates so they declined, and the deterioration accelerated.

Although I have been out of Monte Carlo for over 20 years, I am somewhat in touch with things, and what stands out is the reluctance of the hotel management to spend one centime on the operation. From what I understand, boy does it show; hence this year’s attendance of 220. In my biggest year, we attracted 702 players, plus wives, friends, the press, etc. for a total complement close to 1000.

What can be done? With the attitude of the present Monte Carlo management, the current World Championship organisers are right to consider Las Vegas, where fabulous hotel deals are going begging. The \$10,000 No Limit Hold’em is the final World Series of Poker event. I would start backgammon on the day after 70–75% of the poker players had been eliminated. Talk to the Rio where I ran two big events in the 1990s. They are at least familiar with the game and might see value in hanging on to some roomers for a few extra days. And if it’s true that the WSOP is leaving the Rio, that’s an even bigger incentive for them to host a major backgammon tournament.

Canvass the Internet for logical sponsors who might like to throw in a bit of added prize money and/or trophies, prizes etc. To be blunt, anything would be an improvement compared to the shoddy, tawdry “Balkan Bazaar” currently masquerading as the World Backgammon Championship.

As for me, I bet sports for excitement and rarely play backgammon. I still trundle around the tennis court, and am on the golf course in Miami during the winter, part of the two to three months I spend in the United States every year. My best to you and all my backgammon friends from way back when.—*Lewis Deyong, London, England*

RESURFACING A TAKI-BOARD

After years of playing on my Taki-Board, the playing surface has faded. Can it be replaced? If so, what is the cost and the time frame for the job?—Jim Allen, Reno, Nevada

Tak (773/465-0675) says that he can do the resurfacing for \$200 plus shipping. The turn-around time is roughly three weeks.—Ed.

ABT POINTS PAYOUTS

In response to David Rubin’s letter expressing displeasure with my receiving more ABT points than him for taking second in a smaller tournament, I agree with him. I think you can probably attest to the fact that nobody has advocated more than I have for an ABT point system in which the winner of any 64 player tournament receives the same number of points, regardless of format and regardless of payout structure. However, while that is my personal preference, there is nothing unfair about the current system. The system is completely transparent and each player’s equity at the start of any Open event is exactly one ABT point.

While the winner of one event paying five places might feel unhappy because someone else received more points for winning a similar event paying only three

places, I am certain that there are two other players in that same event that are happy the event paid five instead of three. The player needing a big win to land themselves an ABT trophy likes the big payout event. The player who just needs three points to move into trophy position is happy to have more chances to cash in an event. In the end, these subtleties all add to the intrigue of the ABT.

If it is any consolation to David, I had to go 7–1 to win the consolation in a 20 player tournament (yes, it is indeed possible to construct such a drawsheet) and receive half the points of the winner who went 4–0. So I don’t feel guilty in the least (this time).—*Richard Munitz, Suffren, New York*

THE “GREVITA TAKE” EXPLAINED

In answer to Jake Jacobs’ question, the “Grevita take” was a phrase that originated in the 1960s at the London Clermont Club, then under the ownership of the late legendary gambler John Aspinall. “Grevita” is an amalgam name of two players who were both guilty at different times of taking recubes because they couldn’t pay if they simply passed. Their real names must accompany me to the grave, to be revealed when my memoirs are unsealed in 2110!—Lewis Deyong, London, England Δ

HANDCYCLE CRASH INJURES ANTOINETTE MARIE WILLIAMS



Antoinette Marie Williams

On 2 October, New York Pair-O-Dice backgammon director Antoinette Marie Williams was riding her handcycle in a Central Park half marathon (13 miles) preparing for the November

New York City Marathon. She hit a huge rock flipping the bike, fracturing her left wrist, breaking two vertebrae in her neck, and requiring stitches in her left elbow. Fortunately the helmet absorbed most of the head trauma.

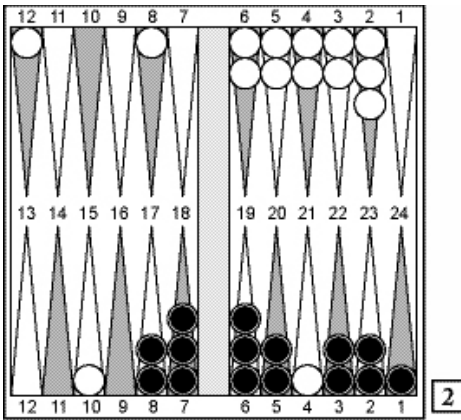
Although AMW will be in rehab for at least a month, her spirits remain high. “Call me the one-armed, no neck-turning, Ferrari scooter-riding mama. And if I’ve learned anything from this experience, it’s that big rocks don’t budge, no matter how hard you hit them!!”

She’d love to hear from you. Call her at (212) 222-7177 or e-mail montecarloamw@gmail.com Δ

PROBLEM #358 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

7-point match. Black leads White 5 to 4. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-2.**



Finding the right final nail to put in the coffin can be difficult. Black has all but won the match, but in backgammon there are always pitfalls until the last checker is borne off. What is Black's safest way to win the game?

There are three possible approaches:

1. Black can make the 4-point,
2. Black can hit and pass, covering the ace point, or

3. Black can not hit and just come home.

If Black chooses to just come home, he should clearly play 8/6, 8/5, vacating the 8-point and bringing two checkers in. So, the correct move candidates are 6/4*, 5/4; 6/4*, 4/1; and 8/6, 8/5.

If gammons mattered for Black this would not be a problem. Black would make the 4-point, substantially increasing his gammon chances. But since gammons don't matter, Black is just looking for the safest way to win the game.

How gin is gin? If Black simply plays 8/5, 8/6 he will be 27 pips ahead in the race. That is pretty hefty, but it isn't gin. If White barrels out with an immediate 6-6 or 5-5, we will suddenly be looking at a pretty close race. In addition, Black won't be 100% safe anyway. White can sit on Black's 4-point for a while, forcing Black to bear in awkwardly and leave the 4-point open. This will hurt Black's bearoff, so a later big doubles by White may be sufficient to win. Since both of the hitting plays are very strong, it looks like the non-hitting play can be eliminated.

6/4*, 4/1 is pretty good. This puts White on the bar, which virtually eliminates White's racing chances unless she enters immediately. The resulting structure for Black is awkward with the 6-point stripped and exactly five outside checkers, but most of the time this won't matter.

White is on the bar and Black is unlikely to be forced to leave a direct shot in spite of the awkward structure.

Making the 4-point is the interesting play. This will be a near claim if Black can complete the closeout; and if White does hit, Black has the full prime while White does not.

In order for Black to lose the priming battle, he would have to enter fairly quickly and then be forced to break his prime. Black would certainly be a favorite, but White could well win the priming battle. It is White who is farther back in the outfield, and White might even be able to build her bar point along the way. White can certainly afford to be aggressive and slot it at the match score.

One final factor is the gammon possibility. If Black does make the 4-point, gets hit, and loses the priming battle, it is conceivable he could get gammoned. Not likely of course, but not impossible. After the pick-and-pass play, it would take a real freak scenario for Black to be gammoned.

It is a close decision, but I would go with 6/4*, 4/1. It looks ugly, but it's not too dangerous.

Making the 4-point looks prettier, but backgammon isn't a beauty contest. The goal is to get your checkers off before your opponent does. It doesn't matter how you do it. —Kit Woolsey Δ

CARTER WINS PRAIRIE ST. Stutz claims Land of Lincoln Masters

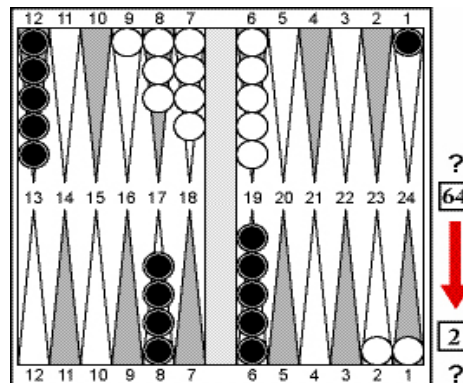
Carter Mattig defeated his chouette buddy Phil Simborg 13-9 at the Illinois State Championship. The event, directed by Linda Rockwell, was held at the Grand Hotel in Peoria Illinois 8-10 Oct. Except for an unfortunate drawsheet glitch, the event ran perfectly including an entertaining Auction program opened with the National Anthem sung by Bunny and Clare Zell, wonderful



Open Champion Carter Mattig (L) hams it up with runner-up Phil Simborg as director Linda Rockwell looks on.

Halloween decorations & staff costuming, and lots of coffee and snacks.

With Carter leading 9-7 to 13, Phil (White) offered an early double:



Carter correctly took the early cube and went on to win the game. But Phil had a reason for his double: "It's a trick that most players aren't aware of. I've studied psychology and know that when people are nervous or scared, they generally fart more. It smelled really bad prior to my double, so I thought there was a good chance Carter would drop. When he took, I was quite surprised. But then I looked around and noticed Rory over my shoulder. A careless blunder on my part."



Jim Stutz.

Congratulations to Carter on his first ABT win!

In the Land of Lincoln Masters, credit Jim Stutz with a terrific performance capped off with his defeat of ABT leader John O'Hagan in the finals. Δ

ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (30): 1-Carter Mattig (IL), 2-Phil Simborg (IL); 1C-Tak Morioka (IL), 2C-Mary Hickey (OH); 1LC-Carol Joy Cole (MI). INTERMEDIATE (22): 1-Joe VanDerWal (IL), 2-Rob Farmer (IL); 1C-Mark Murray (OH), 2C-Jena Jennings (IL); 1LC-Tony Siegel (CO). NOVICE (5): 1-Susie Witters (IN); 1LC-Marc Riess (IL). LAND OF LINCOLN MASTERS (16): 1-Jim Stutz (CT), 2-John O'Hagan (IN). PRAIRIE CLASSIC (32): 1-Bill Calton (MI), 2-Mike Flohr (IL); 1C-Rory Pascor (IL), 2C-Bill Riles (TX). LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DOUBLES (15 teams): 1-Adam Bennett (WI) & Mary Hickey (OH), 2-Mike Flohr (IL) & Mark King (IL). PEORIAQUICKIES (32): 1-Rob Farmer (IL), 2-Jim Zinkhon (IL). MIDSTATE MICROBLITZ (16): 1-Howard Markowitz (IL), 2-Larry Liebster (NV).

WINNER'S CIRCLE



OCTOBER 2010

•**Ohio State Club Monthly** (Akron, OH; 3 Oct.)... OPEN (12): 1-Paul Berg (MI), 2-Joe Miller.

•**EBGT: 1st Mallorca Challenge** (Llucmajor, Mallorca; 7-10 Oct.)... MASTERS (24+8 rebuys): 1-Mario Sequeira (Portugal), 2-Christos Groustos (Greece); 1C-Konstantinos Mitrelis (Greece), 2C-Thomas Kazemieh (Germany); 1LC-David Ablett (England). DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Ricardo Malas (Spain) & Mario Sequeira (Portugal), 2-Jürgen Orlowski (Germany) & Bob Wachtel (USA).

•**New England Club Monthly** (Malden, MA; 9 Oct.)... OPEN (13): 1-Herb Burland, 2-Gil Evans; 1C-Alex Zamanian, 2C-Phyllis Seidel

•**22nd Danish Championship** (Copenhagen, Denmark; 9-10 Oct.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (137): 1-Henrik Løber, 2-Jørgen Mohr, 3-Karsten Bredahl, 4-Jan Larsen, 5/8-Andreas Christensen / Carsten Kruse / Brian Pedersen / Johnny R. Pedersen. DM SIDE EVENT (39): 1-Michael Bjørn Sejers Jensen, 2-Robin Neumann, 3/4-Frederik Bentler / Claus Elken.

•**WBG: 16th Japan Open** (Tokyo, Japan; 9-11 Oct.)... OPEN (51): 1-Takumitsu Suzuki, 2-Kenji Shimodaira, 3/4-Masayuki Mochizuki / Scarlett Serrero (France); 1C-Michihito Kageyama, 2C-Youichiro Umetsu. INTERMEDIATE (24): 1-Tadanori Nakayama, 2-Motoko Murakami, 3/4-Hiroyuki Itamochi / Toru Kaji; 1C-Tatsushi

Miyano, 2C-Tomohiro Nakagawa. NOVICE #1 (28): 1-Akiharu Okazaki, 2-Hiroyoshi Hamasaki. NOVICE #2 (22): 1-Tadashi Ishihara, 2-Kenichiro Kobayashi. NOVICE #3 (33): 1-Naoki Nitori, 2-Touno Nishikawa. \$1,000 SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-Masahito Yamamoto, 2-Hiroshi Tanaka. \$500 SUPER JACKPOT #1 (8): 1/2-Yusuke Itagaki / Masahiko Nasu. \$500 SUPER JACKPOT #2 (8): 1/2-Kiyokazu Nishikawa / Tatsuya Tanaka. LADY'S TOURNAMENT (24): 1-Masayo Ogasawara, 2-Megumi Ishii. ONE-POINTER (64): 1-Masahiko Nasu, 2-Yuri Nakamura.

•**Mid Atlantic Championship—ABT** (Towson, MD; 14-17 Oct.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (18): 1-Mary Hickey (OH), 2-Joe Freedman (VA); 1C-Richard Munitz (NY), 2C-Frank Raposa (VA); 1LC-Alan Grunwald (NJ). INTERMEDIATE (27): 1-Donny Lomuto (NY), 2-Michael Battaglia (NJ); 1C-Neal Weiner (VA), 2C-Richie Adams (MD); 1LC-Albert Bowman (VA). BEGINNER (12): 1-Kathy Weiner (VA), 2-Linda Bradley (NC), 3-Ruth Spivak (MD). MARYLAND MASTERS (8 @ \$600): 1-Alan Grunwald (NJ), 2-Behrooz "Ray" Zamani (MD). LIMITED JACKPOT (6 @ \$150): 1-Brandon Macklin (MD), 2-Peggy Neubig (NJ). DOUBLES PRO/AM (11 teams): 1-Frank Raposa (VA) & Lloyd Webber (VA), 2-Ken Litzenger (VA) & Alex Gerding (FL). WBA BOARD



Mary Hickey

CHALLENGE (11): 1-Chiva Tafazzoli (Iran/Germany). TRAVELER'S TROPHY: Masayuki "Mochy" Mochizuki (Japan).

•**2nd German Championships** (Brakel, Germany; 15-17 Oct.)... MASTERS (38): 1-Rainer Witt, 2-Guido Hehmann, 3/4-Marcel Geist / Mehrzad Jarrah-Layegh; 1C-Corinna Blaschke, 2C-Peter Kaiser; 1LC-Dankwart Plattner, 2LC-Sakis Lagopatis. CHAMPIONS (21): 1-Michael Roth, 2-Helge Keller, 3/4-Michael Friedrich/Helmut Jeske; 1C-Peter Neumann, 2C-Matthias Krings; 1LC-Ole Nielsen (Denmark), 2LC-Igor Bakunowski. AMATEURS (4): 1-Sebastian Francke, 2-Igor Schwarz. SUPERJACKPOT (8): 1-Fouad Wanli, 2-Thomas Kazemieh. BLITZ (16): 1-Andreas Bünz, 2-Peter Schroeder. KAISERBRUNNEN 1-POINTER (63): 1-Heribert Lindner. LADIES CUP (7): 1-Ingrid Sonnabend. POKER (20): 1-Thomas Kazemieh, 2-Nikolaus Menyhart.

•**Pair-O-Dice Monthly** (New York, NY; 17 Oct.)... OPEN (10): Doublas Pader, 2-Dr. Nasser Sedaghatpour; 1C-Steve Grill. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Baron Barber, 2-Robert Raphael; 1C-McDonald. BEGINNER (5): 1-Michael Guida, 2-John Johnson; 1C-Nicholas Misch.

•**Hoosier Club Fall Trophy Event** (New York, NY; 23 Mar.)... OPEN (18): 1-Scott Day, 2-Tony White (OH); 1C-Sean Garber, 2C-Brad Baker.

•**32nd Flint Area Club Championships** (Flint, MI; 24 Oct.)... OPEN (28): 1-Frank Talbot, 2-Paul Berg, 3-Dmitriy Obukhov, 4/6-Gary Fritzsche / Emil Mortuk / Jim Price. INTERMEDIATE (25): 1-David Pagnier, 2-John Claybourne, 3-Lorenzo Morales. 4/6-Gerard Jendras / Bob Kamp / Jim Lawrence. Δ

AMALGAMATION

Visiting the BPC in October: **Mark Murray** (OH) and **Maurice Barie** (MI)... **Walter Meuwis** reports that the 1st Hasslet Open scheduled for 9–10 Oct. in Belgium had to be cancelled. Someone lodged a complaint with the gaming commission just four days before the start of the tournament. The commission then shut down the event siting that backgammon is a game of chance... BPC regular **Steve Klesker** had a great time at the Japan Open. He was the only American in the tournament... **Wendy Kaplan** (IL) is stage managing "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" and says it's a fun show. The play runs 12 Nov.–4 Dec. at the Prairie Lakes Theater in Des Plaines, Illinois... Condolences to the family and friends of former Houston backgammon director **Tom Wright** who passed away on 6 Oct.... Which American in Paris dressed like a pig and had B.O.?... New Mexico State director **Ed Rosenblum** has become the backgammon editor for the national edition of *examiner.com*. To check

out Ed's articles, go to the website and search "backgammon." Speaking of the New Mexico State Championships (27–30 Jan.), the legendary **Paul Magriel** is scheduled to give a seminar at the event. You can get more info at: backgammonsantafe.org/tournament... Remember the recent Hewlett Packard sexual harassment claim that resulted in the resignation of CEO **Mark Hurd**? Well the woman at the center of it all was **Jodie Fisher**. Now 50 years old, Fisher posed for Playboy in 1980 listing backgammon as one of her favorite hobbies... Congratulations to



Jodie Fisher was good at backgames.

Yamin Yamin, an Illinois state licensed professional engineer, who just became a licensed real estate broker... After scanning all of the *Backgammon Times* newspapers from the early 1980s onto a CD, **Maurice Barie** (MI) is now working on scanning the *Las Vegas Backgammon Magazines*. For information on purchasing either or both of these historical treasures, call Maurice at (248) 245-2791 or email MauriceB@peoplestrustcu.org... A wonderful article on 2010 US Open champion **Mary Hickey** (OH) appeared online at the *Newark Advocate*. Check it out at: tinyurl.com/2dbg6h8... Do you have an iPad? "Sushi Backgammon" is one of the latest apps. We can't vouch for its level of play, but for 99 cents, you get what is described as "The most edible version of backgammon you may ever play." It includes free moving sushi game pieces, squishy sounds, and addictive true-to-life rolling. Bon appetit!... **Adam Bennett** (WI) will be attending the Chicago Bar Point Club's Fall Trophy Tourney (Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5 Nov. at 6:30 P.M.) as a reporter for *gammonvillage.com*. Wear a tie and you might win part of an extra \$150 in added money. Δ

2nd - 5th **DECEMBER 2010**

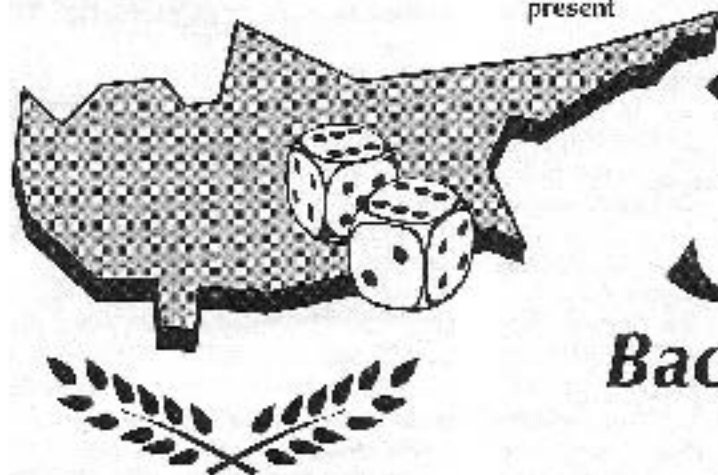
Golden Trip Hotel & Casino (Nicosia - Lefkosa), Cyprus



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