

american backgammon tour

DENNIS CULPEPPER WINS 1996 ABT TITLE

Two regional victories in July and October were enough to give Dennis Culpepper Player of the Year honors in the American Backgammon Tour Points Race for 1996. Culpepper, a veteran backgammon player from Chesterfield, Virginia (he won back-to-back Eastern Opens in the late 1980s) had no points going into the 4th of July Michigan Summer Championships.



1996 ABT Champ Dennis Culpepper. Winning in Michigan was key.

Winning the 85-player field tourney (biggest of all Tour events) gave Culpepper 31.00 points. That was good enough to lead until Dave Cardwell (Atlanta, GA) increased his total by winning the Last Chance event at the Illinois State Championships on 6 Oct.

But Cardwell's 31.30 total would lead only one week. On 13 Oct., Dennis won his second ABT event: the Nation's Capital Championships. The 25-player field generated another 10.11 points giving Dennis his final winning total of 41.11. Dave Cardwell placed second (31.30) and all-time ABT master point leader Art Benjamin (Claremont, CA) placed third (30.00). [See *All-Time ABT standings on page 5*.—Ed.]

1996's top three will be honored at the official American Backgammon Tour Awards Ceremony at the Pittsburgh Championships (14–16 Feb.)—the kickoff event for the 5th year of ABT competition. 1996 final standings are on page 3. Δ



Hasty Plays by Duane Jensen

BLAME BARCLAY

No one accepts responsibility for their actions anymore. If people encounter problems or setbacks, it's because they're being discriminated against for their race, creed, sex, size or shape.

They may use a physical or mental disability as an excuse for failure. They may possess a drug or alcohol abuse problem which distorts their behavior. They may have fallen under the influence of a charismatic character who controls their life. The bottom line is that a person, group, or force beyond their control is directing part of their life absolving them of responsibility for their actions.

I realize now that I'm not responsible for all my "hasty plays." I found someone to blame: Barclay Cooke, backgammon author and longtime dead person. About 20

years ago, Barclay Cooke was the "advisor" to the Twin Cities Backgammon Club in Minnesota. I don't know whether he answered questions by mail or gave backgammon lectures in Minnesota or if the title "advisor" was merely honorary.

I was just learning about backgammon, and one of the club members told me to read Cooke's *Paradoxes and Probabilities* to improve my game. What I absorbed from the book was Cooke's fixation with capturing the opponent's 5-point. To Cooke, it was the most important point from which you could attack, race, or reenter if hit. I quickly became infected by Cooke's preoccupation for this 5-point, a preoccupation which has blinded me from

[Continued on page 9]

MAKE IT 4 FOR NEIL

Kazaross proves unstoppable in Chicago Bar Point Club tourney play.

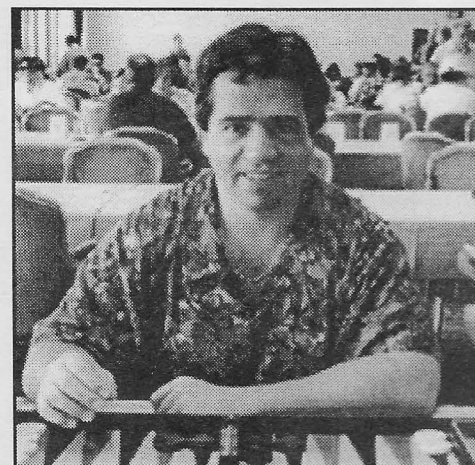
The Chicago Bar Point Club is a tough place to play. With players such as Jake Jacobs, Harry Cohn, Dean Muench, Howard Ring, Gary Kay, Joe Sylvester, Yamin Yamin and Tak Morioka playing regularly or occasionally, it probably ranks as one of the toughest weekly backgammon clubs in the world. That's what makes Neil Kazaross's accomplishment of winning his fourth club title in a row so impressive.

Kazaross took over the points lead in February and never looked back. Surprisingly, although he defeated Herb Roman, his closest competitor by over 10 points (32.64 to 21.92), Neil earned only two Player of the Month titles. This highlights the extent of his consistent play.

The An-Neil-ator finished December in strong fashion, winning 10 matches in a row. It's the fourth time he's had 10 or more straight BPC wins in the past three

years. That's also a Bar Point Club record.

Congratulations to Neil and Herb as well as Tim Mabee, Richard Lloyd, Jake Jacobs and Reggie Porter, all of whom will be invited to represent the BPC at the Illinois State Challenge Cup 2 February in Peoria, Illinois. Δ



Neil Kazaross: Chicago Bar Point Club Player of the Year for the 4th year in a row.

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

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FORCED OCCUPANCY?

After reading the invitation to the World Cup Challenge III in Istanbul, Turkey (13-19 Jan.), I have one question. The entry form insert says, "Participation in the Tournament will be allowed only if hotel room reserved directly through the hotel at \$125 per night."

Does this in fact mean that a poor Norwegian student like myself, who wants to travel from Norway to Istanbul on a bumpy train for 2 1/2 days to save money, and who wants only to participate in the Beginner tournament (\$200!!), must also pay \$125 per night for accommodations in order to be allowed to play? I had hoped to find myself a crummy little hotel, or even a bench in the park!

Seriously, this is too much money for my wallet. Are there no exceptions to this rule? And who is participating in the

[Continued on page 3]

coming attractions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole

810/232-9731

E-mail: cjc@flint.org

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Jan 19	Bimonthly Sunday Tournament, Greentree Marriott Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA	412/823-7500
Jan 20*	Games People Play Grand Opening, Mr. Ricky's Note, Chicago, IL	773/734-9430
Jan 23	Flint Club Awards & Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jan 25	Hawthorne Backgammon Classic, Hawthorne Race Course, Cicero, IL	773/583-6464
Jan 25*	Beverly Hills Monthly Tournament, Clarine's, Beverly Hills, CA	310/273-1632
Jan 25-26	Nation's Capital Winter Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Jan 25-26*	Ace Point Club New York Super Bowl Tournament, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Jan 26*	Open House at the Coterie Club, New York, NY	212/371-5151
Feb 1*	Games Grid Monthly Online Tournament, via computer modem lainer@cyberbeach.net	217/528-0117
Feb 1	Springfield Series #4, The River Station, Peoria, IL	773/583-6464
Feb 2	17th Illinois State Challenge Cup, The River Station, Peoria, IL	773/583-6464
Feb 2	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Coffee Configure@tions, Akron, OH	330/966-2811
Feb 2*	Tournament of Champions, Mo's Fine Foods, Burbank, CA	818/901-0464
Feb 9*	Bar Point Sunday Grand Opening, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Feb 9	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Feb 14-16	<u>19th Pittsburgh Championships, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA</u>	<u>412/823-7500</u>
Feb 16*	Backgammon By The Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	510/838-7789
Feb 20*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Feb 22*	Beverly Hills Monthly Tournament, Clarine's, Beverly Hills, CA	310/273-1632
Feb 23*	Atlanta Monthly Tournament, Tony's Grill & Tap, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Mar 1*	Springfield Series #5, Parkers Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
Mar 1*	Games Grid Monthly Online Tournament, via computer modem lainer@cyberbeach.net	217/528-0117
Mar 9*	14th Fleet Underwood Charity Tournament, Ramada, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Mar 16*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Mar 16*	Backgammon By The Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	510/838-7789
Mar 21-23	<u>1927 Midwest Championships, The Drake Oakbrook, Oak Brook, IL</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
Apr 1*	FIBS 1997 Spring Tournament, via modem. E-mail: davide@sco.com	408/438-7947
Apr 4-6*	38th Gammon Assoc. Invitational, Location TBA, California	818/901-0464
Apr 6*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Apr 11-13*	South Florida Spring Tournament, Ireland's Inn, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	954/785-1282
Apr 12-13	Nation's Capital Spring Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Apr 22-27	4th Worldwide Twin Championships, Four Queens Hotel, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
May 23-26	<u>18th Annual Chicago Open, Wyndham Hamilton Hotel, Itasca, IL</u>	<u>847/674-0120</u>
Jun 20-22*	<u>Georgia Championships & Peach Cup, Location TBA, Georgia</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
Jul 3-6	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi, MI</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Jul 12-13	Nation's Capital Summer Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Aug 29-Sep 1	<u>45th Indiana Open, Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Sep 19-21*	<u>2nd Minnesota State Championships, Location TBA, Minnesota</u>	<u>612/378-1536</u>
Oct 2-5	<u>Illinois State Champs & America Cup, Holidome, Rolling Meadows, IL</u>	<u>847/945-7801</u>
Oct 10-12	<u>Nation's Capital Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD</u>	<u>301/530-0604</u>
Nov 3-8*	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Dec 5-7*	<u>Gammon Assoc. Invitational, Location TBA, California</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Dec 27-28*	<u>Ace Point New York Holiday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY</u>	<u>212/753-0842</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Jan 22-26	Soothing Tournament, Sofia, Bulgaria. E-mail: gammon@mbox.digsys.bg	3592-72362
Jan 30-Feb 2*	Monte Cassel Cup, Schloßhotel, Wilhelmshöhe, Kassel, Germany	49561-898768
Feb 15-16	Jarvis Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, East Midlands Airport, England	441522-546993
Feb 22-23*	Italian Championship and Viva Las Vegas, Hotel Zola, Bologna, Italy	393-37583431
Feb 27-Mar 2	Einladungsturnier, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314-5
Feb 27-Mar 2	11th Cannes Festival of Games, Hotel D'Albian, Cannes, France	4179-33744255
Mar 5-9	Grand Prix de Lugano, Hotel Splendid Royal, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Mar 11-12	2nd European Pro-Am Team Championship, Palace Hotel, Gstaad, Switz	4161-2710137
Mar 13-16	Trophée des Alpes: Ted Basset Cup, Palace Hotel, Gstaad, Switzerland	4161-2710137
Mar 15-16*	Italian Championship & Dal Negro Cup, Hotel Lajadira, Cortina, Italy	392-29409743
Mar 20-23	Trophée des Alpes: St. Moritz, Badrutt's Palace Hotel, St. Moritz, Switz	4161-2710137
Mar 21-22*	4th Hong Kong Invitational, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong	852/28461923
Mar 22-23*	3rd Lundia Open, Hotel Lundia, Lund, Sweden	4640-913292
Mar 28-31	9th Nordic "Wide" Open, Scandinavia Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark	4539-400607
Apr 3-6*	Tornei Sulla Nave "Costa Riviera," Crociera, Italy	392/29409743
Apr 12-13	British Open, Hilton National Hotel, East Midlands Airport, England	441522-546993
Apr 19-20*	Italian Championship Big Ten Finals, Hotel Zola, Bologna, Italy	393-37583431
May 1-7*	3rd EBN Internat'l Tournament, San Juan Los Terreros, Almeria, Spain	349-50133009
May 3-4	Italian Championship Torneo, Hotel Ritz, Rome, Italy	392-29409743
May 16-18	2nd Istrian Open, Hotel Parentium, Porec, Parenzo, Croatia	392-40073420
May 17-18	County Cups Trophy, Hilton Nat'l Hotel, East Midlands Airport, England	441522-546993
Jun 12-15*	Swedish Open, Foggs Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden	468-6524009
Jun 19-22*	9th "City of Venice" Tournament, Casino Municipale, Venice, Italy	3941-5211029
Jul 7-13*	Monte-Carlo World Championship, Loews Monte-Carlo Hotel, Monaco	305/527-4033



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1996

Top 100—Final standings after 20 tournaments
177 players earned points



Dennis Culpepper	41.11	Abdi Zaltash	11.34	Fred Dardashti	6.44	Frank Klein	4.20
Dave Cardwell	31.30	Wally Watson	11.34	Tim Mabee	6.40	Jim Mieske	4.16
Art Benjamin	30.00	Dave Groner	11.13	Marty Storer	6.30	Clarine	4.13
Tak Morioka	29.02	Carl Adamec	10.96	Joe Miller	5.94	Ron Bruns	4.12
Jake Jacobs	27.88	Bill Talmadge	10.80	Kevin Muench	5.86	Lou Florio	3.92
John O'Hagan	27.53	Leslie Lockett	10.78	Elijah Miller	5.70	Lee Genud	3.91
David Jaffe	22.68	Mike Ungerleider	10.48	Francois Margot	5.67	Joann Feinstein	3.90
Matt Reklaitis	20.01	Kit Woolsey	10.40	Reza Nowbar	5.67	Drew Giovanis	3.87
Dave Williams	20.00	Paul Magriel	10.00	Ray Glaeser	5.67	Doug Roberts	3.85
Bruce Brown	18.00	David Wells	9.67	Jeff Acerno	5.61	Ray Gronck	3.82
Ali Haddad	17.31	Dean Muench	9.66	Zar Petkov	5.46	Gus Contos	3.79
Odin Chenault	17.12	Bill Davis	9.00	Bob Koca	5.38	Dave Cramer	3.45
Linda MacLean	15.50	Jim Pascoe	8.52	Fred Badagnani	5.29	Jerry Ungar	3.43
Harry Cohn	15.48	Greg Lilley	8.35	Chester Warzel	5.29	Lloyd Hilling	3.38
Ernest Ho	15.21	Mario Sequeira	8.25	James Roston	7.95	Neil Kazaross	3.37
Hersel Namdar	14.45	Andy Krenitz	7.80	Carol Leatherman	5.17	Frank Dickerson	3.33
Bob Glass	13.34	Blake Sorem	7.60	David Montgomery	5.05	Georgina Flanagan	3.32
Marc Ingenoso	13.30	Steve Petersen	7.60	Dean Adamian	4.80	Ed Johnson	3.28
Bruce Pollack	12.93	Al Jones	7.50	Ed Abou-Zeid	4.62	Jonathan Bennetts	3.25
Howard Levine	12.88	Jolie Rubin	7.23	Al Tesoro	4.62	David Kaufman	3.22
Janice Newman	12.54	Neil Young	7.18	Ralph Stowell	4.50	Paul Friedman	3.20
Andy Palumbo	12.53	David Rockwell	6.90	Bob Bishop	4.44	Pete Ryder	3.15
Judy Collins	12.36	Ray Fogelund	6.75	Jack Kissane	4.44	Ray Baker	3.15
Kent Goulding	11.53	Dave MacBryde	6.66	Perry Gartner	4.41	John Gdowik	3.06
Rob Maier	11.44	Austin Healy	6.44	Dan Shapiro	4.41	Lee Pflugrad	3.01

Dennis Culpepper, Dave Cardwell and Art Benjamin will be honored at the 1997 American Backgammon Tour kickoff event: The Pittsburgh Championships 14–16 Feb. at the Greentree Marriott Hotel. For details, call Steve Hast at 412/823-7500 or E-mail: pghsteve@telerama.lm.com



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1996 PLAYER OF THE YEAR—FINAL

COMPILED
THRU 31 DEC.

88 players earned points

Neil Kazaross	32.64	Ed Buerger	7.32	David Rubin	2.16	Sarg Serges	0.80
Herb Roman	21.92	Bobbie Shifrin	6.56	Jon Vietor	2.16	Don Marek	0.80
Tim Mabee	19.68	Bill Davis	5.80	Matt Surecki	2.08	Elijah Miller	0.78
Richard Lloyd	18.08	Leslie Lockett	5.52	Elaine Kehm	1.98	Fred Gehlhoff	0.72
Jake Jacobs	17.60	Jeff Kane	5.48	Fred Badagnani	1.92	Lenny Loder	0.72
Reggie Porter	16.96	Bill Keefe	5.44	Marcy Sloan	1.52	David Flinn	0.64
Paul Friedman	16.52	Phil Simborg	5.36	Nora Luna	1.44	Marv Arnol	0.60
Andy Krenitz	15.36	Steve Klesker	5.36	Harold Seif	1.28	Peaches Stewart	0.56
Peter Kalba	14.60	Paul Klein	4.96	Russell Harris	1.28	Roz Ferris	0.56
Phyllis Smolinski	13.94	Arlene Levy	4.84	Dave Cramer	1.28	Arlynne Simon	0.56
Harry Cohn	13.56	Frankie Farjood	4.72	Scott Richardson	1.24	J.A. Miller	0.56
Paul Franks	13.28	Tak Morioka	4.32	V.W. Zimnicki	1.20	Dave Groner	0.48
Joann Feinstein	11.84	Georgina Flanagan	4.24	Bruce Pollack	1.20	Richard Stawowy	0.44
Wendy Kaplan	11.84	Don Jayhan	4.24	Ernest Ho	1.12	Tom Fahland	0.40
John Demian	10.68	Amy Valerio	4.12	Ralph Levy	1.02	Bruce Baxter	0.36
Norma Shyer	10.52	Tim Serges	4.08	Wally Wolf	0.96	Boris Mindich	0.30
Stu Katz	10.24	Marty Tatolian	3.84	George Barr	0.92	Femi Owiku	0.28
Gary Kay	9.44	Bob Koca	3.84	Darryl Purpose	0.88	Sonja Peacock	0.28
Mary Franks	9.24	Dean Muench	3.80	Mark King	0.88	Elaine Andrews	0.24
Alice Kay	7.68	Jerry Brooks	2.88	Gary Fries	0.88	Travis Kane	0.20
Ken Bond	7.52	John Jennings	2.48	Jim Painter	0.88	Nan Feiber	0.20
John Stryker	7.52	Henry Gray	2.48	Jolie Rubin	0.82	Scott Kaplan	0.16

WENDY KAPLAN had a terrific December going 16–1. In a four week period, she split first in three events and won a Consolation to earn 7.04 points. That's the highest monthly total since Neil Kazaross collected 7.68 points in January 1993. Speaking of Neil, he was December runner-up with 3.84. Phyllis Smolinski finished third, earning just enough (2.72) to move into the 1996 Top 10.

The top six for 1996 are invited to participate in the Illinois State Challenge Cup 2 Feb. in Peoria, Illinois as a member of the defending state champion Bar Point Club team.

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

Beginner tournament that can afford to pay \$125 per night?! I really would like to attend the event, but my funds are very limited.—*Eirik Milch Pedersen, Trondheim, Norway*

We talked with the director Abraham Eitan and he admitted that the wording on the form was confusing. The statement was supposed to mean that if you decided to stay at the Conrad Istanbul, then you would be required to book the room directly with the hotel and not with a travel agent. Mr. Eitan regrets the misunderstanding.—Ed.

DENNIS ISN'T FIBBING

I read in *rec.games.backgammon* that Dennis Culpepper won the 1996 American Backgammon Tour. Way to go, Dennis! Now what do we have to do to get you to play in the FIBS chouette more often?!

It's funny. I don't think I won a single ABT point in 1996, yet I had a fine backgammon year. I guess I'm just not "regional" enough.—*Elliott Winslow, San Francisco, CA*

Elliott did have a fine year, including his big win at the \$20,000 Added São Paulo Open tournament in Brazil (Nov. 1996).—Ed.

KIND WORDS FROM DENMARK

CHICAGO POINT is always a great magazine well worth reading. You are setting standards (both with your magazine and the

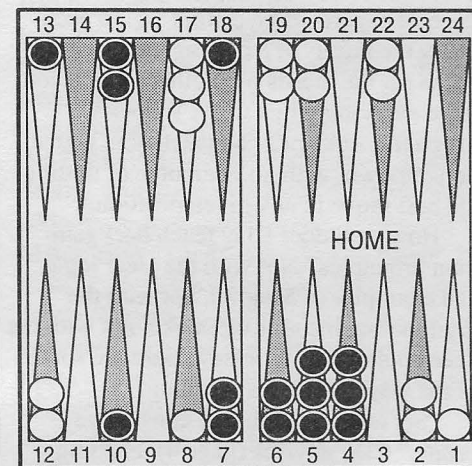
[Continued on page 9]

your move

PROBLEM #231

to be analyzed by Danny Kleinman

Double match point. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.**





"With Just 8 Pounds of Clay"

Danny Kleinman's review of the new Robin Clay book:

BACKGAMMON WINNING STRATEGIES

Backgammon Winning Strategies ©1996 by Robin Clay. Published by MacMillan Publishers, Ltd.; 25 Eccleston Place; London SW1W 9NF, England. Tel.: 0171 881 8000. Fax: 0171 881 8001. Soft cover, 244 pages. £8 sterling.

Robin Clay's new book, *Backgammon Winning Strategies* promises to "make a weak player victorious" [Clay's emphasis—DK] "ensuring that one can arrive at the next game confident of victory" and show the reader "how to make his own luck once backgammon probability is mastered."

This is contrary to all we know. Nobody but a dice mechanic can "make his own luck" and enter "the next game confident of victory." The outcome of a game depends on (1) the quality of your play, (2) the quality of your opponent's play, and (3) luck. Of these, you can control only (1) and "backgammon probability" can take you only a small part of the way in doing so. Counting shots, for example, may tell you that you'll get hit slightly less often if you place your blot in one place rather than another, but it won't tell you how valuable a checker on a particular point will be if it is *not* hit (often a decisive criterion).

Likewise the "fundamental principles" Clay teaches can take you only so far. We can almost always recognize assets and liabilities of positions, merits and drawbacks of plays. Most real problems arise when principles conflict. Which shall we do with our roll: anchor or extend our own blockade, slot or split, escape or hit? As Kit Woolsey's recent book demonstrates, even the best experts often cannot weigh accurately the merits of a play against its drawbacks (or the merits of another). Once you learn everything that Clay, Woolsey, Magriel, Cooke or I can teach you, you are on your own, with no guarantee of finding the best move in any given position.

How well does Clay teach backgammon principles? Not with the clear logic and examples of Magriel, not with the illuminating insights of Cooke, not with the keen analyses of Woolsey. Here are some of the ways I find Clay lacking.

"Set out with a plan to construct a prime," Clay advises (page 4). Priming however, is only one of several sensible

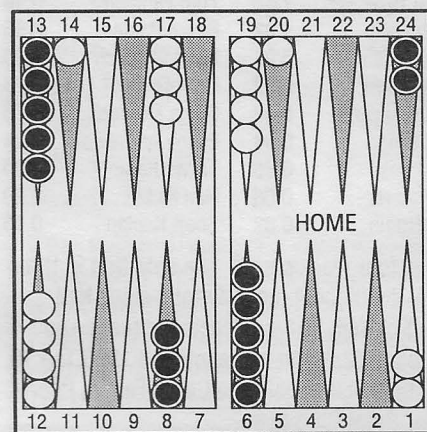
game plans, and your choice among them is often determined by which numbers you have rolled an which plays your opponent has made.

"Whenever there is a choice of which point to make," says Clay (page 6), you should follow a fixed order (5-point, 4-point, bar-point, 3-point). Nonsense! This order determines the ranking of opening rolls (3-1, 4-2, 6-1, 5-3), but after just a couple of rolls, priorities change with features of the position. even when this order is correct, it shouldn't govern your moves entirely. You must also consider issues that Clay never addresses explicitly, including:

- Which point most impedes your opponent in this position?
- Which point does your opponent threaten to make if you don't?
- Which point can you most easily make later if you don't make it now?
- Which point works best in tandem with other points and builders?
- Which point will you be willing and able to retain longest?

"In the opening stages of the game when faced with a choice of hitting a blot or making a point it is generally correct to hit," says Clay (page 13). His example is

From page 13. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-1.**



correct (hitting with 3-1 after an opponent has slotted with an opening 2-1), but his principle is not: would you hit with a 3-1 after an opponent moves 24/16 with an opening 6-2? What he omits is well known: by hitting a *slot* your opponent threatens to cover, you do *two* good things (sending a man back *and* keeping your opponent from making a key point) instead of one (just making your 5-point).

Rather than continue through Clay's book to point out deficiencies (mainly oversimplifying and overgeneralizing), I'll focus on his whoppers:

Clay refers to "three factors" governing cube decisions ("*race, position, and threat*") and asks you to consider turning the cube with "at least two in your favor," taking with "at least one in your favor" (page 25), but mentions neither the usual 25% threshold for takes nor what kind of threat is significant. This is simply a threat to reduce the opponent's chances substantially below 25% by next turn, and only the player on shake can have it, not the player facing a cube to be taken or passed.

Later on (page 120), Clay offers astounding chouette advice. When the Box doubles, Clay urges Captain and Crew to beaver: not on the merits of the position, but to put "great pressure on the Box" and cause him "to make errors or ruin his position by trying to play safe." Clay urges a weak player in the Box to *pass* the Captain's and Crew's cubes "to avoid the risk of a big loss"—again without reference to the merits of the position.

Strangely, Clay overcomplicates some simple things. In a "Probability and Luck" chapter that gets some complex problems wrong, he lists *many* principles for positioning the last two men in bear-off races when there is a choice. I offer *one*: the better placement is that whose distance between men is closer to 2.7 (actually any fraction between 2 and 3 will do).

Clay's principles lead to errors. He says (#4) that the greater the distance between the two men, the better—except (#5) when the gap rises beyond three (that is, the distance rises beyond four). This implies erroneously that it is better to have men on the 6- and 2-points than the 5- and 3-points. Then he makes another exception, claiming (#6) that it is better to have men on the 5- and 4-points than the 6- and 3-points. Just the opposite is true (if the positions seem equivalent at first glance, try playing a 2-1).

Clay compounds his errors (page 101) by adding that the same principles which govern bearing off two men also govern bearing your last two men in to save a

[Continued on page 5]

BOOK REVIEW...

[Continued from page 4]

gammon. to see why this is wrong, just picture a closed board, men on the 12-, 11-, and 9-points, and a 6-1 to play. Clay's rules yield 12/6, 9/8, but in fact 12/6, 11/10 is best. The superiority of 12/6, 11/10 manifests itself if you roll 3-1 next and play 10/6, risking a gammon only on 2-1 following. After 12/6, 9/8, you can do no better than 8/5, 11/10 with 3/1 next, risking a gammon not only on 2-1 but on 1-1, 3-1 and 3-2 following.

Clay cites four computer programs as aiding him in the analyses of positions in his book, including JellyFish™, and Expert

Backgammon™. Throughout the text, he indicates a JellyFish result or conclusion by an unequal-sign, an Expert Backgammon result or conclusion by a dagger. It would be easier on the reader if he used mnemonic abbreviations ("JF" and "EB"). I wonder why anyone having access to JellyFish would ever use the less-reliable Expert Backgammon.

I also wonder, when Clay cites a preference of either program, whether he is referring to the program's *play* or the results of *rollouts* using the program (which are more reliable than the program itself). This is in sharp contrast to Woolsey, who commendably outlines his methodology at the start of his book.

Perhaps it is unfair for any reviewer to appraise Clay's book so soon after reading the one by Woolsey and Heinrich. Despite his mistakes, wrong principles, and failure to state sound principles where applicable, Clay does reiterate some of the things a beginner must learn to become an intermediate; and to his credit, he includes a fairly decent 100-problem quiz at the end of the book. At eight pounds sterling, the book is reasonably priced by today's standards. You'll do much better, however, to save your shillings for a down payment on *New Ideas In Backgammon* . . . or the re-released paperback edition of Magriel's classic *Backgammon* if you don't already own the hardbound.—Danny Kleinman Δ



American Backgammon Tour

All-Time Top 40
1993-1996

1	Art Benjamin	103.78
2	Neil Kazaross	81.29
3	Doug Roberts	80.43
4	Abbas Zaltash	69.00
5	Dean Muench	65.60
6	Jake Jacobs	58.80
7	Dave Williams	56.21
8	Marty Storer	53.78
9	Harry Cohn	53.22
10	Walter Trice	48.20
11	Arnold Zousmer	47.75
12	Tak Morioka	45.01
13	Odis Chenault	44.51
14	Kit Woolsey	42.71
15	Mike Friedman	42.69
16	Dennis Culpepper	41.11
17	Paul Stebbing	40.34
18	Joe Russell	37.81
19	Patrick Gibson	36.94
20	Harry Brown	33.82
21	Ray Fogelund	32.01
22	Dave Cardwell	31.30
23	John O'Hagan	29.21
24	Howard Markowitz	26.66
25	Ben Lang	26.00
26	Maurice Barie	25.82
27	Frank Talbot	25.78
28	David Wells	25.56
29	David Rubin	25.28
30	Malcolm Davis	25.20
31	Paul Magriel	24.50
32	Judy Brown	23.68
33	Bob Holyon	23.68
34	Ed Johnson	23.28
35	Mike Colgan	22.88
36	David Jaffe	22.68
37	Blake Sorem	21.70
38	Woody Woodson	21.12
39	Andy Palumbo	20.90
40	Joe Harris	20.83

CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB ALL TIME TOP 50 1974-1996

1	Tak Morioka	515.30	15	John Demian	196.09	33	Paul Franks	141.21
2	Howard Markowitz	467.01	16	Stu Katz	192.26	34	Neil Kazaross	133.69
3	Bill Davis	382.11	17	Deeb Shalati	190.82	35	Ida Zeman	130.56
4	Yamin Yamin	361.36	18	Earl Risch	185.98	36	Norma Shyer	128.66
5	Bobbie Shifrin	277.95	19	Kent Maynard	177.97	37	Steve Tennant	124.76
6	Don Desmond	260.97	20	Gary Kay	177.16	38	Marty Tatosian	122.40
7	Chris Stanford	244.88	21	Peter Kalba	177.10	39	David Rubin	121.88
8	Joann Feinstein	240.03	22	Phyllis Smolinski	177.09	40	V.W. Zimnicki	120.52
9	Jake Jacobs	229.74	23	Gene Chait	170.14	41	Paul Friedman	118.74
10	Sarg Serges	223.23	24	Barry Epstein	169.74	42	Herb Roman	115.52
11	Ed Bauder	220.22	25	Don Jayhan	167.24	43	Ken Bond	113.79
12	Harry Cohn	215.18	26	Phil Martorelli	163.47	44	Tim Mabee	105.22
13	Dave Cramer	201.23	27	Kathy Rudnick	160.28	45	Jim Gibbs	97.93
14	Randy Cone	199.94	28	Ron Garber	158.98	46	Brooks Robinson	96.82
			29	Ira Hoffberg	156.60	47	Jeff Henry	93.12
			30	Lucky Nelson	155.30	48	Tim Serges	92.24
			31	Dean Morehouse	153.92	49	Mary Franks	90.44
			32	Ed Buerger	146.76	50	Dean Muench	89.36

A BACKGAMMON NEW YEAR'S TOAST

By Phil Simborg



To all of my backgammon friends,
And all of my backgammon foes:
I wish you a year full of pleasure,
Both in and out of your clothes.

I wish that you build many primes,
And have sixes right up the kazoo,
I hope that you win many gammons,
Except when I play against you.

May opponents you face be polite,
And the tournaments always be fun,
With a couple of laughs on the way,
And a couple of bucks when you're done.

Yes, I wish you a most happy year—
Love, prosperity, also Godspeed,
Oh, and if you should ever play me,
I hope I crush you 'til you bleed! Δ



ILLINOIS ACTION



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Peter Kalba
773/252-7755

Tuesday, 6:15 P.M. at Golden Flame, 6417 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago; 773/792-0424.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Anyway's Chicago Grill & Bar, 5 E. Roosevelt Rd., Oakbrook Terrace; 630/932-9323.

PUB CLUB: Tourn. Monday, 7:30 P.M. at Harpo's, 290 S. Schmale, Carol Stream. V. W. Zimnicki (708/924-8632).

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: Tourn. Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Mr. Ricky's Note, 118 E. Cermak, Chicago. J.A. Miller (773/734-9430).

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tourn. Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Ride The Nine, 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. Gary Daniels (309/452-3034).

SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN: Tourn. Wednesday, 6:00 P.M. at Brewhaus, 617 E. Washington, Springfield. Ben Zemaitis (217/483-4028).

WINNETKA BG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. at 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Stern (847/446-0537).

CENTRAL ILL. BG CLUB: Tourn. 1st Thur. mthly, 6:30 P.M. at River Station, 212 Constitution Ave., Peoria. Sue Will (309/699-6005).

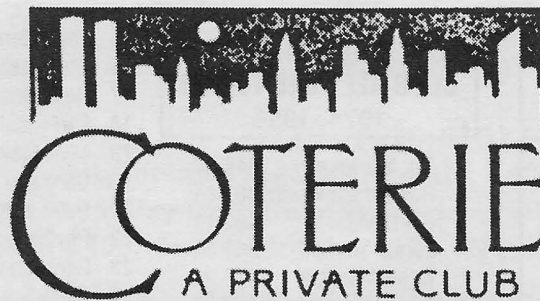
PRIME BG CLUB: Tournaments Friday, 7:30 P.M. at Holiday Inn, 1000 Busse Road, Elk Grove Village. Joann Feinstein (847/674-0120).

NORTH CLUB: Daily except Sunday, 1:00 P.M. at 4747 W. Peterson (Suite 2), Chicago. Greg Defotis (773/286-6719).

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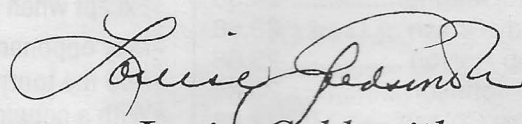
The cards are on the table.
The checkers and dice are on the boards.
The brunch is on the house.

Nonmembers are cordially invited to the COTERIE on Sunday, January 26, 1997 for Backgammon, Gin Rummy, Chess, Scrabble, Hearts and Chinese Poker.

Please call 212-371-5151 if you can be with us on this special day.
We always look forward to introducing new players to the COTERIE.

***SUPER BOWL POOL**

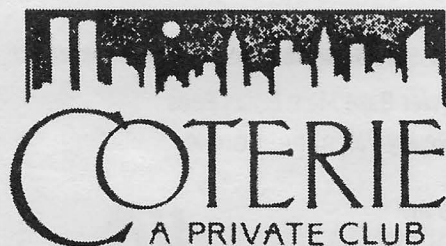
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COTERIE: A place to play Chinese Poker
COTERIE: A place to take an aspirin
COTERIE: A place to discuss politics
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COTERIE: A place to talk about people
COTERIE: A place to play Chess
COTERIE: A place to read magazines
COTERIE: A place to play props
COTERIE: A place for business meetings

COTERIE: A place to be invisible
COTERIE: A place to drink white wine with one ice cube
COTERIE: A place to gossip
COTERIE: A place not to raise your voice
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COTERIE: A place to drink ice water
COTERIE: A place to discuss futures
COTERIE: A place to spend money
COTERIE: A place to run a tab
COTERIE: A place to talk real estate
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COTERIE: A place to send a FedEx
COTERIE: A place to unwind
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COTERIE: A place to knock or gin
COTERIE: A place to watch TV
COTERIE: A place to discuss options
COTERIE: A place to celebrate birthdays
COTERIE: A place to eat hors d'oeuvres
COTERIE: A place to double your opponent
COTERIE: A place for grandchildren pictures
COTERIE: A place to spend the winter
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Second qualifying entry:	Open: \$100	Intermediate: \$40	Novice: \$20
Third qualifying entry:	Open: \$ 50	Intermediate: \$20	Novice: \$10
Fourth qualifying entry:	Open: Free (3-point matches)	Intermediate: Free (7-point matches)	Novice: Free (5-point matches)

Sunday, January 26 Playoffs start at 12:00noon

Reception and registration at 11:00am

Sunday entry into the playoffs is available.

Open: \$400 Intermediate: \$160 Novice: \$60

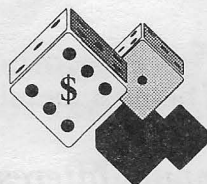
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LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

Internet presence) for the rest of the world to try to aim for.—*Erik Gravgaard, president of the EMG Group, Hellerup, Denmark*

That's a very kind remark, Erik. Thanks from our entire staff. We'll do our best in 1997 to try and live up to your praise.—Ed.

THREE DECIMAL PLACES

I'm beginning work on an new backgammon book and it would be helpful to have Kit Woolsey's match equity tables to three decimal places. Could you obtain those figures for me?—*Antonio Ortega, San José, Costa Rica*

Kit Woolsey answers: Sorry, but there is no such animal. Keep in mind that when I constructed my match equity table, it was not an output of some exact formula which I shoved into the computer; if it were, I would have it to the three decimal places

(at least I would have something to three decimal places). In fact, my equity table was a combination of some computer analysis, some interpretation of empirical data, some assumptions I made, and some intuitive guesses on my part.

Doesn't sound very rigorous, does it? Well, I never claimed that it was, nor have I claimed that my match equity table is right even to two decimal places. I'm sure that if God were to derive the "correct" equity table, there would be plenty of errors in what I have done. The big advantage of my table is that it is practical. The figures probably aren't too far wrong, and errors we make assessing a position are likely to be far greater than any errors in the table.

I believe some people have been able to produce (via some formulas which I don't know) match equity tables which are "accurate" to three decimal places. However, the assumptions they made to construct their formulas are likely no better than the various things I did to construct my table.—K.W. Δ

95/96 PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

NATIONAL (Alphabetized by State)

1996 American BG Tour: *Dennis Culpepper*
Gammon Associates (CA): *Jona Alexander*
Atlanta Backgammon Assn. (GA): *Dave Cardwell*
Chicago Bar Point Club (IL): *Neil Kazaross*
Pub Club (IL): *Jake Jacobs*
Games People Play (IL): *J.A. Miller*
Central Illinois BG Club (IL): *Dick Nelson*
Prime Backgammon Club (IL): *Bobbie Shifrin*
Winnetka Backgammon Club (IL): *Paul Friedman*
Sangamon Valley BG Assn. (IL): *John Jennings*
Bloomington-Normal BG Club (IL): *Jim Zimmerman*
Hoosier Backgammon Club (IN): *Don Woods*
Louisville BG Club (KY): *Quint McTyeire*
Beltway Backgammon Club (MD): *Mel Leifer*
New England BG Club (MA): Points Race: *Evan Diamond*. Monarch of Monday Night: *Herb Gurland*
Flint Area Backgammon Club (MI): *Carol Joy Cole*
Twin Cities Backgammon Club (MN): *Ralph Stowell*
New York Chess & Backgammon (NY): Club Champion: *Mike Natanzon*, Points Race Winner: *Feliks Goykhan*.

Northern Ohio BG Club (OH): *Joe Miller*
Pittsburgh Backgammon Club (PA): Tie: *Rob Maier* and *Ali Haddad*
Dallas Backgammon League (TX): *Tom Wheeler*
Austin Backgammon Assn. (TX): *Bob Toellner*
Pacific NW Backgammon Assn. (WA): *Bill Phipps*
Puget Sound Backgammon Club (WA): *Al Lunder*

INTERNATIONAL (Alphabetized by Country)

1995 WBF European Champion: *Nicholas Kitt*
Beckwith BG Club (Vic, Canada): *Bill Franche*
British Isles BG Champion: *Geoff Oliver*. Ranking winner: *Tim Cross*
Hong Kong Backgammon Club: *John Simon*
Italian Champion: *Giuseppe Rigon*

AMALGAMATION

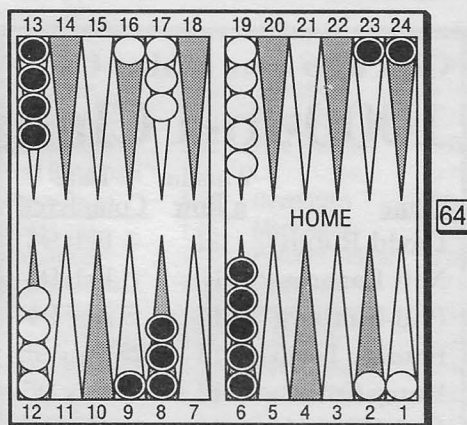
Now don't freak out. The next issue of CHICAGO POINT will be mailed out 3 March ... The Chicago Bar Point Club is happy to announce a new Sunday play location: Anyway's Chicago Grill & Bar. The restaurant, managed by **George Lamberis** and **Brian Lopprino**, is located at 5 E. Roosevelt Road in Oakbrook Terrace, IL. It's just three minutes from the Oakbrook Mall. We hope to see you at our Grand Opening Tourney on 9 February beginning at 12:00 NOON... Nevada Backgammon Director **Howard Markowitz** announces the cancellation of the World Series of Backgammon. Markowitz had hoped to conduct 128 16-player knockouts worldwide at \$150 per entry with a top prize of \$100,000 to be paid at the November Las Vegas Open. Markowitz will return 100% prize money (\$2400) to the two qualifiers **Bob Glass** (CA) and **Jake Jacobs** (IL)... **Walter Trice** will review Jake Jacobs' new book "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Four-Point" in the March POINT... New York Chess & Backgammon now offers a great \$69 hotel room on their club premises—and you don't even have to play backgammon to take advantage of it. Call 800/520-1809 for details... Congratulations to **Tom Fahland** (IL) who recently earned his Doctorate in Physics from Brown University... The MacFIBS Internet BG user interface is now on the MacUser magazine's "Gaming MegaPac" CD-Rom with exposure to over 200,000 users... Backgammon has a bit part in the new **Barbra Streisand** movie, "The Mirror Has Two Faces"... Good luck to new Illinois directors **Sue Will** (Central Illinois Club) and **Gary Daniels** (Bloomington-Normal Club). Sue, a former CIBC director, replaces **Linda Woods** who is now working in Springfield. Gary replaces **Lane O'Conner** who is raising a teenager... Last month, Games People Play director **J.A. Miller** (IL) reached the quarterfinals of the Hawthorn Race Course Handicapper's Tournament... Best wishes to long time POINT subscriber **Ary Nogueira** (Brazil) who recently got married... **Chuck Breckenridge** (director, Pacific NW Backgammon Assoc.) tells us that he is working with the Lucky Eagle Casino (85 miles south of Seattle, WA) on a one-day (20 March) \$1500 added backgammon tournament. Details in the March issue. Can't wait? Go to **Carol Joy Cole's** "Mark Your Calendar Alive!" website at <http://homepage.interaccess.com/~chipoint/calendar.html>... We're sorry to hear that long time Pub Club player **Lou Salzman** (IL) is dying of cancer. Our prayers to his loved ones... For a copy of the House of Backgammon & Games 1997 products price list, call 800/270-5613. Δ

HASTY PLAYS...

[Continued from page 1]

seeing better options. Look at this position, one we've all experienced:

Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.**

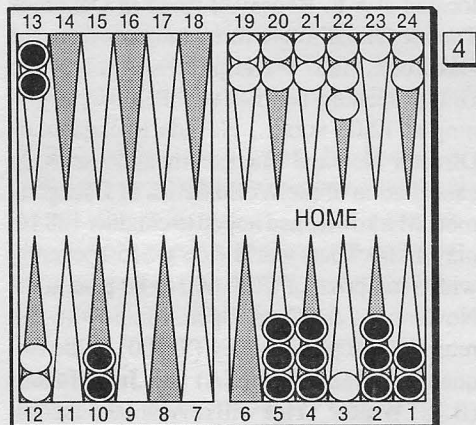


This is pretty early for a "hasty play," but I managed to pull one off. It's a great roll in which all the options are good: hit a blot or build either 5-point. I made my opponent's 5-point, but I should have hit the blot on the 9-point. Early in a game, it's best to hit and send a man back, forgoing even a valuable 5-point. Backgammon is essentially a racing game, and hitting puts you in the lead. When my "misplay" was pointed out, I felt bad, but I sleep better now knowing that it's not my fault. Barclay Cooke and his book—that's who to blame. Δ

**PROBLEM #230
ANALYZED**

by Kit Woolsey

Match to 7 points. Black leads White, 1 to 0. White is holding a 4-cube. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-2.**



Black is faced with a treacherous position. The race is far from being a claim, so it may be important for Black to delay or contain White's back checker. On the other hand, that checker represents a potential threat.

White's board is very strong, so Black cannot afford to be hit. This 2-2 roll leaves Black several options.

The straightforward play is to simply make the 6-point. This certainly can't be bad. The 6-point is helpful both for bringing the rest of the checkers in safely and for containing White's back checker. If White is unable to flee the back checker to safety, she will probably be forced to break the midpoint, and Black can now either attack or start to clear the midpoint—whichever the dice dictate.

Another plan involves clearing the midpoint now and trying to run home safely. Both 13/11(2), 10/8(2) and 13/9(2) are possible. There probably isn't much difference between these plays. Making the 9-point is a bit better for containment purposes, so it is probably the superior of the two. This approach might be reasonable if White had three men on the midpoint. As it is, White is getting ready to clear the midpoint herself, so these plays take some of the pressure off White. Making the 6-point and retaining the pressure on White's midpoint looks to be better.

What about the attacking plays? Putting White on the bar certainly has its advantages. If White flunks, Black gains heavily in the race, and he can afford to leave a blot in the outfield next turn since it will only

be an indirect shot. If White enters, Black's position may be a bit ragged.

Shifting points is good for a safer future. However Black would, for the most part, be forced to play 13/11 with the fourth deuce, and those indirect shots cost too much. If Black is going to hit, his plan is to rush his men home safely. Thus, 13/11(2), 5/3*, 3/1 looks to be better than 10/8(2), 5/3*, 3/1.

So, our two main choices appear to be 10/6(2), and 13/11(2), 5/3*, 3/1. Purity vs. tactics. Always a difficult problem. Making the 6-point sure looks nice. Still, the gains from hitting are pretty big. The race is close enough that putting White on the bar can lead to great gains. If White flunks, Black is in excellent shape to barrel home with reasonable safety. If White enters with a 6, Black will have plenty of pick-and-pass numbers. And if White enters with a 3, Black can clear his outfield points and only leave indirect shots. There will be some danger, but Black wouldn't have a free ride home after making the 6-point either. It's a close choice, but I would go with 13/11(2), 5/3*, 3/1.

There is no hard and fast rule which will solve this sort of problem. However, when you have a chance to put an opponent on the bar against a four point board, it is often correct to do so. She flunks almost half the time, and the gains when this happens can easily outweigh the losses when she enters. Δ

Chicago Bar Point Club 1000-to-1 Club

<u>Name</u>	<u>Wins in a Row</u>	<u>Date Completed</u>
David Rubin	11	1 Feb 94
Neil Kazaross	10	8 Feb 94
Phil Simborg	11	5 Apr 94
Frankie Farjood	11	25 Apr 95
Harry Cohn	11	9 May 95
Neil Kazaross	10	19 Sep 95
Neil Kazaross	11	12 Dec 95
Herb Roman	10	11 Aug 96
Andy Krenitz	12	5 Nov 96
Neil Kazaross	10	23 Dec 96
Wendy Kaplan	10	7 Jan 97

The named players listed above have won at least 10 matches in a row in Chicago Bar Point Club competition and have earned an engraved doubling cube to honor their achievement.

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WINNER'S CIRCLE



Nov.—Dec. 1996

•**17th Opre Invitational** (Downers Grove, IL; 2 Nov.)... CHAMPEENSHIP (8): 1-Tom Walthes, 2-Bill Davis. DOUBLES (4): 1-Jim Opre & Yamin Yamin, 2-Peter Kalba & Tom Walthes... *Jim & Carmel Opre's 17th Invitational party tournament was another great helping of backgammon and food.*

•**Hong Kong Monthly** (Hong Kong; 4 Nov.)... OPEN: 1-John Simon, 2-Gregg Westrick; 1C-Jonathan Barnes, 2C-Melody Rae. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Chris Roberts, 2-Peter Wong; 1C-Cynthia Roberts, 2C-Charles Barguidjian.

•**Greek Tournament** (Halandri-Athens, Greece; 16 Nov.)... OPEN (32): 1-John Vallianos, 2-Pavlos Thanopoulos, 3/4-B. Petrides/G. Xyngogeorgopoulos; 1C/2C-Notis Avagianos/Baggelis Nartis. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Marios Meimaris, 2-Dimitris Meimaris; 1C-John Birakis.

•**18th Flint Area Club Championships** (Flint, MI; 17 Nov.)... OPEN (18): 1-Maurice Barie, 2-Ralph Schaffner (CAN), 3-Judy Field. INTERMEDIATE (28): 1-Gary Tong, 2-Paul Berg, 3/4-Irv Gold / Bob Neumann. NOVICE (8): 1-Reggie Harvel, 2-Mike McCarthy.

•**1st City of Florence Tournament** (Florence, Italy; 30 Nov.-1 Dec.)... MASTER (32): 1-Maurizio Biasini, 2-Giorgio Caldera; 1C-Roberto Giorti, 2C-

Nino Di Bella. CHAMPIONSHIP (13): 1-Enrico Colangiolo, 2-Paolo D'Onofrio; 1C-Rolando Grossi, 2C-Elena Grigore. INTERMEDIATE (21): 1-Gianni Pallotti, 2-Giorgio Tomba; 1C-Miriam Montefusco, 2C-Maria Grigis. SUPERJACKPOT (12): 1-Alfonso Sara, 2-Guido Flamigni. ONE-POINT (32): 1-Paolo Michelini, 2-Guido Flamigni.

•**1996 Argentine Championship** (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays in Dec.)... CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER: Juan Rosa. JUNIOR WINNERS: Basilio Theocharidis, Jorge Labrousse. BEGINNER WINNER: Morris Haber... *Claudio Salamone tells us that the champions for the year will be determined in March 1997.*

•**Spring Tournament** (South Australia, 1 Dec.)... OPEN: 1-Bill Toubakaris, 2-Elke Trevilyan. CONSO-LATION REPECHAGE: 1-Nick Begakis.

•**Hong Kong Monthly** (Hong Kong; 2 Dec.)... OPEN: 1-Bai-Ling, 2-Jonathan Barnes; 1C-Avry Ben-Zeev, 2C-Marc Mostacci. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Peter Wong, 2-Glen DeGuzman; 1C-Pearl Liu, 2C-Peter Franklin.

•**Gammon Associates 37th Invitational—ABT** (Woodland Hills, CA; 6-8 Dec.)... OPEN (30): 1-Odis Chenault, 2-Dave MacBryde; 1C-Mike Ungerleider, 2C-Bob Glass. ADVANCED (29): 1-Fred Dardashti, 2-Dave Kaufman; 1C-Judy Collins, 2C-Paul Stokes. SUPER-JACKPOT (26): 1-Blake Sorem, 2-Doug Mayfield, 3/4-Dorn Bishop / John O'Hagan (IN). DOUBLES (12): 1-Paul Gedigian & Azzam Masarani, 2-Ray Baker & Clarine, 3-Linda MacLean & Jon Vietor. ONE-POINT BLITZ (32): 1-Rudy Citrom

•**Springfield Series #2** (Bloomington, IL; 7 Dec.)... OPEN (21): 1-Mark Kaye, 2-Vinton Knarr; 1C-Randy Armstrong, 2C-Ed Bauder; 1LC-John Jennings.

•**Midtown "Sweet 16" Invitational** (New York, NY; 7 Dec.)... OPEN (16): 1/2-Perry Gartner (NJ) / Alan Martin.

•**Final Bar Point Sunday at Braxton** (Oak Brook, IL; 8 Dec.)... OPEN (27): 1/2-Harry Cohn / Tim Mabee, 3/4-Lenny Loder / Jake Jacobs; 1C/2C-Leslie Lockett / Don Jayhan. INTERMEDIATE (28): 1-Paul Friedman, 2-Scott Richardson, 3/4-Elijah Miller / Bruce Baxter; 1C-J.A. Miller, 2C-Sonja Peacock.

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (San Mateo, CA; 15 Dec.)... OPEN (20): 1-Kevin Mansfield, 2-Blake Sorem, 3/4-Art Grater / Richard McIntosh; 1C-Robert Caradien, 2C-Odis Chenault. INTERMEDIATE (11): 1-Carmi Brandis, 2-Hamish Birnie; 1C-Julius High, 2C-Vesko Marinov. BEGINNER (8): 1-Michael Mitzenmacher, 2-Greg Kemnitz; 1C-Bill Landry.

•**NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 15 Dec.)... EXPERT (22): 1-Mark Damish, 2-Jay Giutarri, 3/4-Walter Trice / Ernesto Adrienzen; 1C-Connie Machakos, 2C-Herb Gurland. A DIV. (13): 1-Jim Sullivan, 2-Zita Samuels, 3/4-Roy Chatalbash / Ken Newman; 1C-John Koulopoulos, 2C-Ken Newman.

•**Ace Point Holiday Tournament** (New York, NY; 28-29 Dec.)... OPEN (35): 1-Mel Rappaport, 2-Mike Senkiewicz, 3/4-Karen Davis / Mrtha Ghio. NOVICE: 1-Bruce Balance, 2-Kathryn Hansen... *A grand opening for new Ace Point Club owners Alan & Lourdes Steffen. Δ*

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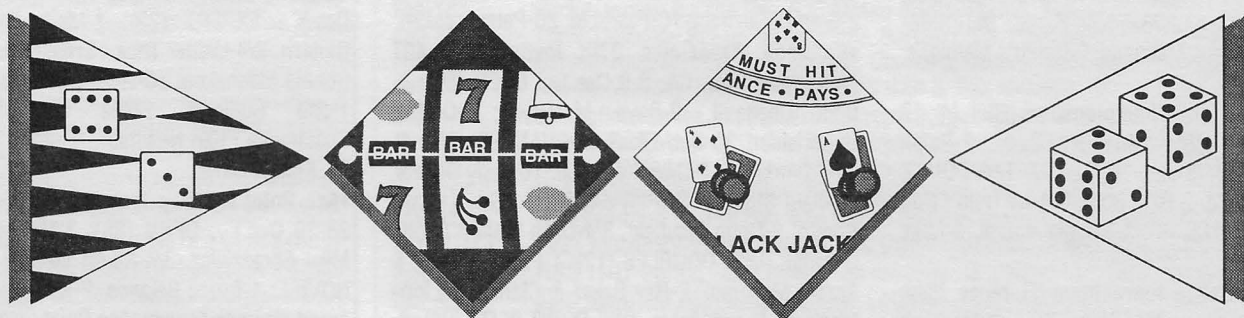
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CHICAGO POINT's 1997 Listing of...

Backgammon Clubs in North America

Information for this listing has been obtained directly from the featured backgammon clubs. Changes are inevitable and we suggest that you always call before attending. As a service to our readers, CHICAGO POINT would like to maintain an accurate listing of Backgammon Clubs in North America. Please send information including updates, club closings and new clubs to: **CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659. 773/583-6464. Fax: 773/583-3264. E-mail: chipoint@interaccess.com**

WEST

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT (E-MAIL)	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Tucson Backgammon Club	El Parador	Tucson, AZ	Sunday-4:00 PM	Terry Valentine (terryv@webtv.net)	888/490-7600	7014 E. Golf Links Road 350; Tucson, AZ 85730
Beverly Hills Backgammon	Private Residence	Beverly Hills, CA	Last Saturday mthly-7:00 PM	Clarine	310/273-1632	430 N. Maple Dr. 103; Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Gammon Associates	Mo's Fine Foods	Burbank, CA	Sunday-2:00 PM	Patrick Gibson (pgibson@cris.com)	818/901-0464	7641 Orion Avenue; Van Nuys, CA 91406
"	Acapulco Cantina	Burbank, CA	Tuesday-6:00 PM	"	"	"
Backgammon Club of San Diego	Acme Bar & Grill	La Jolla, CA	Tuesday-6:30 PM	Mike Fujita (fujita@cts.com)	619/294-2007	P.O. Box 178119; San Diego, CA 92177
San Francisco Bridge & BG Club	Clubroom	San Francisco, CA	Wed, Fri-9:00 PM	Augie Hunt	415/776-6949	777 Jones Street; San Francisco, CA 94109
Backgammon By The Bay	Clubroom	San Mateo, CA	3rd Sunday monthly-12:00 N	Joan Clark (gking@netcom.com)	510/838-7789	121 Wilshire Court; Danville, CA 94526
Las Vegas Backgammon	Jockey Club	Las Vegas, NV	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Michael Maxakuli	702/458-9359	311 Pecos Way; Las Vegas, NV 89121
Oregon Backgammon Club	The Apple Peddler	Oak Grove, OR	1st & 3rd Tues-7:30 PM	Marge Lewandowski	503/981-9852	394 W. Clackamas Circle; Woodburn, OR 97071
Pacific NW Backgammon Assn.	The Venue	Bellevue, WA	Monday-7:00 PM	Chuck Breckenridge	206/778-8181	7015 Olympic View Dr.; Edmonds, WA 98026
Puget Sound Backgammon Club	European Connection	Burien, WA	Tuesday-7:30 PM	Ruth Robbins (alunder@aol.com)	206/226-3120	12611 155th Ave. SE; Renton, WA 98059

CENTRAL

Bloomington-Normal BG Club	Ride The Nine	Bloomington, IL	Monday-6:30 PM	Gary Daniels (dzdh73a@prodigy.com)	309/452-3034	1708 Johnson Drive; Normal, IL 61761
Pub Club	Harpo's	Carol Stream, IL	Monday-7:30 PM	Val Zimnicki (zimtoons@aol.com)	630/924-8632	P.O. Box 72216; Roselle, IL 60172
Games People Play	Mister Ricky's Note	Chicago, IL	Monday-6:30 PM	J.A. Miller	773/734-9430	P.O. Box 8630; Chicago, IL 60680
Chicago Bar Point Club	Golden Flame	Chicago, IL	Tuesday-6:15 PM	Bill Davis (chipoint@interaccess.com)	773/583-6464	3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659
"	Anyway's Chicago Grill & Bar	Oakbrook Terrace, IL	Sunday bimonthly-11:45 AM	Peter Kalba (chipoint@interaccess.com)	773/252-7755	2510 W. Iowa Street; Chicago, IL 60622
The North Club	Clubroom	Chicago, IL	Daily except Sunday-1:00 PM	Greg Defotis	773/286-6719	4747 W. Peterson Ave. 2, Chicago, IL 60646
Prime Backgammon Club	Holiday Inn	Elk Grove Village, IL	Friday-7:30 PM	Joann Feinstein (ferst@interaccess.com)	847/674-0120	8149 Kenton; Skokie, IL 60076
Central Ill. Backgammon Club	River Station	Peoria, IL	1st Thurs monthly - 6:30 PM	Sue Will	309/699-6005	147 Field Grove Court; East Peoria, IL 61611
Sangamon Valley BG Assn.	Brewhaus	Springfield, IL	Wednesday-6:00 PM	Ben Zemaitis (bzemaiti@fqi.net)	217/483-4028	301 Estes Park Drive; Chatham, IL 62629
"	Parker's Sports Bar	Springfield, IL	1st Sat/Nov to Apr-11:30 AM	"	"	"
Winnetka Backgammon Club	Winnetka Community House	Winnetka, IL	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Trudie Stern	847/446-0537	740 Ballantrae Drive B; Northbrook, IL 60062
Summit City Backgam'n League	Alumni Club	Ft. Wayne, IN	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Ken Bruck (bruckshire@aol.com)	219/639-6898	P.O. Box 6546; Fort Wayne, IN 46896
Hoosier Backgammon Club	Benchwarmers Bar	Indianapolis, IN	Thursday-7:00 PM	Butch Meese (hbc@ix.netcom.com)	317/255-8902	1008 Tuckahoe Street; Indianapolis, IN 46260
Flint Area Backgammon Club	Ramada Inn	Flint, MI	Thursday-7:00 PM	Carol Joy Cole (cjc@flint.org)	810/232-9731	3003 Ridgecliffe Drive; Flint, MI 48532
Plymouth Backgammon Club	Box Bar & Grill	Plymouth, MI	Wednesday-7:30 PM	Dean Adamian (adamiancan@aol.com)	313/981-5706	42954 Barchester; Canton, MI 48187
Cavendish North BG Club	Clubroom	Southfield, MI	Daily except Sunday-1:00 PM	Bud Olejniczak	810/540-0197	30065 Greenfield Road; Southfield, MI 48076
Twin Cities Backgammon Club	Pracna on Main	Minneapolis, MN	Thursdays-7:00 PM	Steve Maas	612/378-1536	841 20th Ave. SE; Minneapolis, MN 55414
Northern Ohio Backgammon Club	Coffee Configure@tions	Akron, OH	Wednesday-6:30 PM	Joe Miller (jmiller@imperium.net)	330/966-2811	6633 Lake-O-Springs; Canton, OH 44718
Dallas Backgammon League	Jo Jo's Restaurant	Addison, TX	Wednesday-7:45 PM	Tom Wheeler	214/361-9836	6402 Melody Lane 1117; Dallas, TX 75231

(Continued on opposite side)

CENTRAL (continued)

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT (E-MAIL)	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Austin Backgammon Assn.	Bombay Bicycle Club	Austin, TX	Monday-7:30 PM	Jackie Seiders-Smart	512/261-8518	30 Hightrail Way, Austin, TX 78738
Valley View Backgammon	Valley View Bridge Club	Farmer's Branch, TX	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Marc Poe (marcpoe@airmail.net)	972/422-2965	1832 Blossom Trail, Plano, TX 75074
Houston Backgammon Club	Hooters	Houston, TX	Tuesday-6:45 PM	Phyllis Davidson	713/977-0702	2100 Tanglewilde 633; Houston, TX 77063
San Antonio Backgammon	I Don't Know Yet Lounge	San Antonio, TX	Friday-9:00 PM	Ira Hessel	210/493-2249	2826 Barrel Oak; San Antonio, TX 78231
Madison Backgammon Club	J.T. Whitney's	Madison, WI	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Bruce Russell (brussell@mail.state.wi.us)	608/233-2046	5105 Tocora Lane; Madison, WI 53711
Milwaukee Backgammon Club	Gas Lite North	Milwaukee, WI	2nd & 4th Wed-7:00 PM	Marv Arnol	414/355-5562	9031 N. 70th Street; Milwaukee, WI 53223
Milwaukee Backgammon	John Hawks Pub	Milwaukee, WI	Sunday bimonthly-11:30 AM	Merrill Schrager	414/463-2498	9043 W. Grantosa Drive; Milwaukee, WI 53225

NORTHEAST

Beltway Backgammon Club	Promenade Cardroom	Bethesda, MD	2nd & 4th Sunday-12:00 N	Barry Steinberg (bkgm@aol.com)	301/530-0604	5712 Quebec Street; Berwyn Hts., MD 20740
Cavendish Club of Boston	Clubroom	Brookline, MA	Thur-6:00 PM, Sat-1:00 PM	Carl Saldinger	617/734-2230	111 Cypress Street; Brookline, MA 02146
New England Backgammon Club	Sheraton Commander Hotel	Cambridge, MA	Mon-7PM, Sun mthly-12:30 PM	Walter Trice (wgt@world.std.com)	508/829-3283	549 Wachusett Street; Holden, MA 01520
New Jersey Backgammon Assn.	Best Western Oritani Hotel	Hackensack, NJ	Friday-7:45 PM	Ron Whitney	201/833-2915	279 Glen Court; Teaneck, NJ 07666
Ace Point Backgammon Club	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily-12:00 N, Tour. Thur. & Sat.	Alan & Lourdes Steffen (adslmt@prodigy.net)	212/753-0842	41 E. 60th Street; New York, NY 10022
Coterie	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily-1:00 PM	Louise Goldsmith	212/371-5151	680 Madison Ave. 311; New York, NY 10021
The Midtown Club	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily, Tour. Sun-2PM, Sat mthly-8PM	Dr. Bob Hill	212/935-9800	216 East 49th Street; New York, NY 10017
New York Chess & Backgammon	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily, Tour. Sun.-2:00 PM	Steve Manning (nycb@interport.net)	212/302-5874	120 W. 41st Street 3; New York, NY 10036
Saratoga Backgammon Club	Waterfront Restaurant	Saratoga Springs, NY	Friday-1:00 PM	Lee Hoge	518/584-1714	P.O. Box 563; Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Cavendish Club of Philadelphia	Clubroom	Philadelphia, PA	Mon, Wed, Thu-7PM; Sat-1PM	Ken Reiver	215/878-5777	3801 Conshohocken; Philadelphia, PA 19131
Pittsburgh Backgammon Club	Murphy's Tap Room	Pittsburgh, PA	Tuesday-8:30 PM	Steve Hast (pghsteve@telerama.lm.com)	412/823-7500	3560 Ridgewood Drive; Pittsburgh, PA 15235
Tyson's Corner Backgammon Club	Mr. Smith's Restaurant	Tyson's Corner, VA	Monday-7:00 PM	Bill Pow (pow@dtvms3.dt.navy.mil)	703/549-1808	8906 Hooes Road; Lorton, VA 22079

SOUTH

Suncoast Backgammon Assn.	New York, New York Lounge	Clearwater, FL	Monday-7:00 PM	Drew Giovanis	813/726-1398	25350 US Hwy 19 N 67; Clearwater, FL 34623
South Florida Backgammon	Big Apple Sports Pub	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Sunday-1:00 PM	Elayne Feinstein (elayne@webtv.net)	954/785-1282	2621 NE 7th Terr.; Pompano Beach, FL 33064
Orlando Backgammon	Mulligan's	Orlando, FL	Tuesday-7:30 PM	David Thomas	904/736-2844	P.O. Box 803; Deland, FL 32721
Backgam'n Society of Sarasota	Sarasota Bath & Racquet Club	Sarasota, FL	Tuesday-6:45 PM	Harriet Durham	941/924-9765	6227 Elmwood Avenue; Sarasota, FL 34231
Atlanta Backgammon Assn.	Tony's Grille & Tap	Roswell, GA	Thur-7PM, 4th Sun mthly-1PM	Dave Cardwell (bginga@aol.com)	770/333-1876	P.O. Box 2266; Norcross, GA 30091
Louisville Backgammon Club	Delta Lounge	Louisville, KY	2nd & 4th Tuesday-6:30 PM	Quint McTyeire (hnm@gdm.com)	502/896-9783	4906 Crofton Road; Louisville, KY 40207

CANADA

Vancouver Backgammon	Ribs, Ribs, Ribs	Vancouver, BC	Tuesday-7:30 PM	Marty Jensen	604/517-5554	1339 Burnaby 402; Vancouver BC, V6E 1R2; Canada
Beckwith Backgammon Club	Private Residence	Victoria, BC	Thursday-7:00 PM	Dan Scoones (rook@islandnet.com)	250/478-0532	606 Hallsor Drive, Victoria BC, V9C 1L4, Canada
Toronto Backgammon Club	Jack Russell Pub	Toronto, ON	Daily-4PM, Tour. Thur-7PM	Merv Ginsberg (merv@sprynet.com)	416/789-1238	48 Meadowbrook Rd. 6; Toronto ON M6B 2S6; Canada
Nat'l Capital Backgammon Club	Lunergan's Pub	Vanier, ON	1st Sun/Sep to Jun-12:30 PM	Eden Windish	613/741-2530	396 Talbot St.; Ottawa ON, K1K 2N6; Canada
Le Gammon	Clubroom	Montreal, QB	Daily-3:30 PM	Hicham Yamani	514/845-8370	552 St. Catherine E; Montreal QB, H2L 2E1; Canada