

18th illinois state challenge cup

### BAR POINT CLUB WINS 18TH CHALLENGE CUP Peoria Club charge falls short

Steady play helped the Chicago Bar Point Club win the 1998 Illinois State Challenge Cup. The seven active Illinois backgammon clubs sent their 1997 top six players to The Old Main Inn in Wheaton, Illinois to do battle at the 18th annual affair on 31 January.

After two rounds of play, the Winnetka Club had a 9-8 lead over the BPC. But following four wins in round 3, the Bar Pointers never looked back.

The Peoria Club mounted a late surge to trail 20-19 after the 5th round, but wins by Gary Kay, Herb Roman, Phyllis Smolinski and Paul Franks in round 6 brought the BPC win total to 24. Peoria finished second with 22 victories followed by Sangamon Valley (21), Winnetka (18), Games People Play (14), Bloomington-Normal (14) and the defending champion Pub Club (13).

Congratulations to Bar Point Club representatives Gary Kay, Herb Roman, Phyllis Smolinski, Harry Cohn, Paul Franks and Bill Davis. It must be noted that Franks and Davis were appointed to the

squad when 1997 top-6 finishers Neil Kazaross and Rick Bieniak were unable to attend. Complete Challenge Cup results: Δ

#### 18th ILLINOIS STATE CHALLENGE CUP

**(1) CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB (24-12):** Gary Kay (5-1), Herb Roman (5-1), Phyllis Smolinski (2-4), Harry Cohn (5-1), Paul Franks (5-1), Bill Davis (3-3).

**(2) PEORIA CLUB (22-14):** Dick Nelson (4-2), Cliff Mayoh (5-1), Ed Zell (3-3), Greg Feller (5-1), Marjean Streitmatter (4-2), Greg Tomlin (1-5).

**(3) SANGAMON VALLEY (21-15):** Mark Kaye (2-4), John Jennings (4-2), Ben Zemaitis (3-3), Randy Armstrong (4-2), Linda Woods (4-2), Michael Plog (4-2).

**(4) WINNETKA CLUB (18-18):** Paul Friedman (2-4), Marty Tatosian (4-2), Ed Buerger (3-3), Trudie Chibnik (1-5), Boris Mindich (4-2), George Barr (4-2).

**(5) GAMES PEOPLE PLAY (14-22):** Femi Owiku (4-2), Reginald Porter (0-6), Roger Hickman (2-4), J.A. Miller (3-3), Phil Barrett (2-4), Henry Gray (3-3).

**(6) BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL (14-22):** Jim Zimmerman (5-1), Wm. Hutchison (3-3), Mike Flohr (4-2), Gary Daniels (0-6), Randy Reiff (1-5), Randy Peterson (1-5).

**(7) PUB CLUB (13-23):** Joe Wollick (1-5), Kurt Schurecht (1-5), Val Zimnicki (2-4), Mark Murray (3-3), Don Marek (2-4), Ken Tyszko (4-2).



Bar Point Club team members celebrate winning the 18th Illinois State tournament. Clockwise from center: Phyllis Smolinski, Gary Kay, Herb Roman, Harry Cohn, Bill Davis & Paul Franks. [Photo by Henry Gray.]

#### UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

Information: 773/583-6464

- Mar. 1 Springfield Series #5, Parkers Sports Bar, Springfield, IL
- Mar. 8 Milwaukee Sunday Tournament, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI
- Mar. 20-22 1998 Midwest Championships, Radisson Hotel, Lisle, IL
- Apr. 5 Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyways Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL



### 1998 BPC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU 31 JAN.

Steve Mellen	6.00	Paul Franks	1.12	Steve Rota	0.56
Laila Leonhardt	3.92	Phyllis Smolinski	0.96	Jerry Brooks	0.48
Gary Kay	2.16	Andy Krenitz	0.88	Paul Friedman	0.40
Paul Baraz	1.76	Joe Wollick	0.88	Georgina Flanagan	0.24
Paul Klein	1.68	Bill Keefe	0.80	Joseph Esfahani	0.24
Rick Bieniak	1.44	Neil Kazaross	0.80	Arline Levy	0.18
Richard Stawowy	1.20	Alice Kay	0.80	Joann Feinstein	0.18
Bill Davis	1.12	Reginald Porter	0.56		

It didn't take recent Michigan transplant **STEVE MELLEN** long to adjust to Bar Point Club play. In becoming January Player of the Month, Steve won two tournaments and a consolation win en route to compiling an outstanding one month win record of 15-2. Laila Leonhardt (3.92) and Gary Kay (2.16) finished 2nd/3rd respectively.

If you finish in the Top 20 for 1998 (bold names on list), you'll be entered in a drawing for over \$300 worth of valuable merchandise. The higher you finish, the better your winning chances. Individual awards: 1st-Trophy + \$150, 2nd-\$100, 3rd-\$50. 1st through 20th—one ounce solid silver dollar. 1st through 6th—Invitation to participate on the Chicago Bar Point Club team in the 1999 Illinois State Challenge Cup.



### ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis  
773/583-6464  
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 The Old Main Inn, 2330 N. Main St., Wheaton. V. W. Zimnicki (630/924-8632).

**GAMES PEOPLE PLAY:** Tourn. Monday, 6:30 P.M. at The Clique, 2347 S. Michigan, Chicago. Reginald Porter (773/471-5066).

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

**SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN:** Tournaments 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 Chibnik (847/446-0537).

**PEORIA BACKGAMMON CLUB:** Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/673-7622).