# CHICAGO PO NT

**NUMBER 168** 

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

SEPTEMBER 2004

52nd indiana open

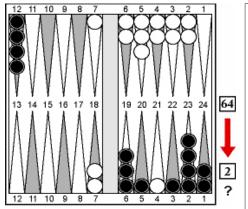
## MISS-TAKE PROVES THE DIFFERENCE IN INDY

Trice & Kazaross are Big Winners

A miss-take in the 10th game of the Championship finals helped Walter Trice (MA) come from behind to emerge victorious over a determined Petko Kostadinov (SC) in the 52nd Indiana Open. Hoosier Club directors Butch & Mary Ann Meese presided over 130 backgammon players at the beautiful Sheraton Hotel in Indianapolis for Labor Day weekend fun and games.

Both Trice and Kostadinov compiled 8–1 records in the Indy Swiss format to earn semifinal berths in the playoffs. While Walter was defeating Canadian expert Michel Merlitti, Petko was in a fierce battle against New Yorker Steve Mellen. Trailing 8–9 to 11, Mellen cubed giving Petko a challenging decision:

11 point semifinals. Petko Kostadinov (Black) leads Steve Mellen (White), 9–8. White on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?** 



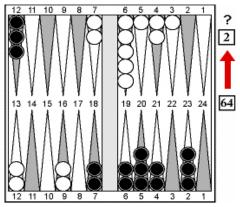
Petko wins a lot of games here (over 36%). The problem is that more than one-third of his losses are match-ending gammons. After about two minutes of deliberation, he correctly passed. The next game, Petko doubled early and rolled the game home to earn a chair at the finals.

Game one of the Trice/Kostadinov 13-point finals saw Walter Trice make an optimistic take in a race-type position:



Walter Trice rolling to victory at the 52nd Indiana Open.

13 point finals. Kostadinov (Black) on roll vs. Trice (White). No score. **CUBE ACTION(S)?** 



[Continued on page 7]

11th georgia championships

## THE AN-NEIL-ATOR SWEEPS IN ATLANTA

Kazaross Wins Open & Peach Cup

An-Neil-ator! That's the best word to describe Chicagoland's Neil Kazaross who swept the Open and Peach Cup events at the Georgia Championships. Dave Cardwell directed the tournament (now in it's 11th year) at the Hilton Gardens Inn in Atlanta 12–15 August. Overall participation topped 60.



[Continued on page 4]

#### **BACKGAMMON IN THE USA—2014?**



Is this the future of backgammon at the Chicago Bar Point Club (and other clubs across the United States)? Do your part. Introduce backgammon to a few young players in your area and bring them to a local event or a regional weekend tournament. The game you save may be ours!  $\Delta$ 



A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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#### **LETTERS**

c/o CHICAGO POINT 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504 Chicago, IL 60659-3155

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## CORRECTION FROM THE WORLD CHAMP

In last month's article "Peter Hallberg Wins World Title," you mention that my wife Helle is from Norway. In fact, she is from Denmark.—Peter Hallberg, Copenhagen, Denmark

Correction noted, Peter. And congrats on your great victory.—Ed.

#### **POST THE ENTIRE ABT**

In reviewing your All-Time American Backgammon Tour history online at chicagopoint.com, I see that my total is 36.94; but in looking for the year I placed second, the historical review only goes back to 1996. Are you able to create the first few years and add them to the website? It would be nice to see the finishers (top 25 or even all) for each year that we have held the ABT.

My year was 1994 and second place

[Continued on page 3]

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



#### by Carol Joy Cole 810/232-9731 cjc@tir.com

\*Denotes new or revised listing \*\*NATIONAL\*\*\*

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.\*\*

Sep 16	Third Thursday Bonus (Florida State), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Sep 16*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's Westport, Missouri	816/561-4330
Sep 16*	Queen City Club Monthly, Fricker's, Cincinnati, Ohio	513/729-8484
Sep 18	Double Trouble Tournament, New York Chess & BG, New York, New York	212/869-6057
Sep 18-19	25th Vietor Invitational Cup, Jon Vietor residence, La Jolla, California	818/901-0464
Sep 19	Austin Club Bimonthly Tournament, JC's Bar & Grill, Austin, Texas	512/261-8518
Sep 24-26	Pacific Northwest Championships, Muckleshoot Casino, Auburn, Washington	253/856-7513
Sep 25	Atlanta Fall Chouette Tournament, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Sep 26	Ace Point Club Monthly, Ace Point Club, New York, New York	212/888-2231
Sep 26	Miami Valley Monthly, Holiday Inn McKenna's Grille, Fairborn, Ohio	937/864-1748
Oct 2	Bar Point Saturday Bimonthly, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Oct 3	Ohio State Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Canton, Ohio	330/268-4610
Oct 5*	Arizona Club Bimonthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Oct 8-10	Illinois State Championships, Pere Marquette Hotel, Peoria, Illinois	217/528-0117
Oct 9*	Fall Classic, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Oct 10*	South Florida Monthly, NorthRidge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Oct 15-17	Florida State Championship, Sheraton Suites, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Oct 17*		@escoffery.com
Oct 21*	Third Thursday Bonus (Minnesota Open), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Oct 23*	Atlanta Mini-Blitz Tournament, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Oct 24*	Miami Valley Monthly, Holiday Inn McKenna's Grille, Fairborn, Ohio	937/864-1748
Oct 29-31	2004 Minnesota Open, Mystic Lake Casino, Prior Lake, Minnesota	651/699-6758
Oct 30*	Double Trouble Tournament, New York Chess & BG, New York, New York	212/869-6057
Oct 31*	Ace Point Club Monthly, Ace Point Club, New York, New York	212/888-2231
Nov 2*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Nov 5*	22nd Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Clarion Hotel, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Nov 6-10	Las Vegas Pro Am, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Nov 10-14	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Nov 21	26th Flint Area Club Championships, Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Dec 3-5 Dec 4	California State Championship, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, California Bar Point Saturday Bimonthly, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	818/901-0464 773/583-6464
Jan 14-16	5th Carolina Invitational, Hilton University Place, Charlotte, North Carolina	704/814-0850
Jan 23-30	Backgammon On Board VII, Star Princess, Ft. Lauderdale to E. Caribbean	773/583-6464
Feb 18-20*	27th Pittsburgh Championships, Holiday Inn, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	412/823-7500
Mar 18-20*	2005 Midwest Championships, Wyndham Lisle Hotel, Lisle, Illinois	773/583-6464
14141 10 20		7707000 0101
Sep 18-19*	OUTSIDE USA	AECC 110000
•	13th Centrebet Abne Fynske 2004, Odense Casino, Odense, Denmark	4566-118203
Sep 20-23		5411-43736138 39328-3380725
Sep 24-26 Sep 30-Oct 3	7 7	49521-64314
	11th German Open, Hotel GlockenSpitze, Altenkirchen, Germany	
Oct 1-3	Norwegian Championships, Clarion Hotel Admiral, Bergen, Norway	47911-62952
Oct 7-10	Austrian Open & Doubles Championship, Veronika Hotel, Seefeld, Austria	43512-287244
Oct 9-11		44152-2888676
Oct 9-11	10th Japan Open, Nakano Sun Plaza, Tokyo, Japan	813-33733814
Oct 14-17	Munkebjerg Scandinavian Challenge, Casino Munkebjerg, Vejle, Denmark	4529-724214
Oct 19-20 Oct 20-24	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	49171-5422222 49171-5422222
Oct 20-24 Oct 23-24*		44163-4304908
Oct 23-24 Oct 23-24	Swiss & Casino Baden Championships, Casino Baden, Baden, Switzerland	
Oct 30-31	12th Irish Open Championship, Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, Ireland	3531-6030891
Nov 4-7	24th Swedish Open, Clarion Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden	468-6523033
Nov 4-7 Nov 6-7	·	44152-2888676
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Nov 12-14		
Nov 12-14	Backgammon Live in London 2004, Spice Island & YHA, London, England	442077001798
Dec 4-5	Backgammon Live in London 2004, Spice Island & YHA, London, England United Kingdom Finals, Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, England	442077001798 44152-2888676
Dec 4-5 Dec 4-5*	Backgammon Live in London 2004, Spice Island & YHA, London, England United Kingdom Finals, Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, England 2nd SBA Goes Germany/Open/Doubles, Waadtländerstube, Thun, Switzerland	442077001798 44152-2888676 4179-4811318
Dec 4-5 Dec 4-5* Dec 11-12	Backgammon Live in London 2004, Spice Island & YHA, London, England United Kingdom Finals, Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, England 2nd SBA Goes Germany/Open/Doubles, Waadtländerstube, Thun, Switzerland Gammonitis Chirstmas Tournament, George Hotel, Solihull, England	442077001798 44152-2888676 4179-4811318 44163-4304908
Dec 4-5 Dec 4-5* Dec 11-12 Dec 27-30*	Backgammon Live in London 2004, Spice Island & YHA, London, England United Kingdom Finals, Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, England 2nd SBA Goes Germany/Open/Doubles, Waadtländerstube, Thun, Switzerland Gammonitis Chirstmas Tournament, George Hotel, Solihull, England 1st Weihnachtopen, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	442077001798 44152-2888676 4179-4811318 44163-4304908 49711-486190
Dec 4-5 Dec 4-5* Dec 11-12 Dec 27-30* Jan 28-30*	Backgammon Live in London 2004, Spice Island & YHA, London, England United Kingdom Finals, Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, England 2nd SBA Goes Germany/Open/Doubles, Waadtländerstube, Thun, Switzerland Gammonitis Chirstmas Tournament, George Hotel, Solihull, England 1st Weihnachtopen, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany 3rd Cotswold Fireside BG & Holdem Poker, Crown Inn, Blockley, England	442077001798 44152-2888676 4179-4811318 44163-4304908 49711-486190 44145-3821479
Dec 4-5 Dec 4-5* Dec 11-12 Dec 27-30*	Backgammon Live in London 2004, Spice Island & YHA, London, England United Kingdom Finals, Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, England 2nd SBA Goes Germany/Open/Doubles, Waadtländerstube, Thun, Switzerland Gammonitis Chirstmas Tournament, George Hotel, Solihull, England 1st Weihnachtopen, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	442077001798 44152-2888676 4179-4811318 44163-4304908 49711-486190

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#### LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

was my finish. I covet that trophy in my collection as a very special accomplishment.—*Patrick Gibson, director, Gammon Associates, Van Nuys, CA* 

Good idea, Patrick. We will try to get all the years posted within a couple of months.—Ed.

#### **ONLINE PLAY**

I'm interested in playing online for money but I'm concerned with the legitimacy and

integrity of the gambling sites (i.e. playing against a program instead of people, collecting if I win, etc.). Any suggestions for good sites?—Frank Mannarino, via E-mail

There are a number of good sites, Frank. Check out <a href="www.chicagopoint.com/links.">www.chicagopoint.com/links.</a>
<a href="https://https

#### ABT AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR \* 2004

#### American Backgammon Tour $\star$ 2004

Compiled through 6 September after 12 tournaments (Upcoming events: Pacific NW, Illinois, Florida, Minnesota)



Neil Kazaross	32.78	Brent Cohen	10.23	Geoff Arnold	5.20	Joann Feinstein	3.01
Ray Fogerlund	31.96	Norma Shyer	9.83	Kate Elmore	5.20	Roger Hickman	3.00
Frank Talbot	31.11	Doug Roberts	9.48	Rob Maier	5.08	Dan Kiurski	3.00
Malcolm Davis	28.87	Ron Wagner	9.48	Jordan Lampe	5.08	Joe Feldman	2.92
Walter Trice	23.53	Alan Fenster	9.28	Steve Brown	4.86	Joan Hac	2.92
Bob Stringer	22.88	Jason Lee	9.09	Ilia Guzei	4.80	Richard Martin	2.71
Wayne Jeffcoat	22.72	Arnold Freeman	9.09	Norm Wiggins	4.55	Dean Adamian	2.70
Lucky Nelson	22.69	Eric Johnson	8.47	Sassan Kamali	4.55	Mark Murray	2.60
Faddoul Khoury	21.40	Vadim Musaelyan	7.61	Asad Zaltash	4.24	Bill Landry	2.60
Emil Mortuk	18.22	Mark Antranikian	7.58	Bear Lumbra	4.24	Cem Aslan	2.59
Gregg Cattanach	17.47	David Rubin	7.56	Milad Doueihi	4.16	Bruce Ballance	2.52
Lloyd Upper	15.50	Michel Merlitti	7.56	Phil Simborg	4.16	Danielle Bastarache	
Bob Glass	15.33	Mary Franks	6.89	Ben Elliott	3.96	Dave Settles	2.32
Bill Versaw	15.33	David Haddad	6.80	Ed Bennett	3.88	Akemi Ota	2.16
Dave Wetzell	13.64	Mary Hickey	6.80	Jim Hall	3.88	Julian Haley	2.12
Petko Kostadinov	13.20	Wally Swan	6.65	Chuck Bower	3.78	Rich Catalano	2.12
Bill Minser	12.81	Tak Morioka	6.40	Joe Sylvester	3.78	Kevin Kelly	2.12
Mike Corbett	12.02	Woody Woodworth	6.22	Arman Karamian	3.78	Patty Geoffroy	2.08
Alan Robinson	11.61	Don Faix	6.20	Bruce Russell	3.44	Jonah Seewald	2.08
Denny Leatherman	n 11.50	Carl Sorg	6.20	Stuart Thomson	3.40	Kathy Sorci	1.99
Brian Barber	11.20	Steve Mellen	5.88	Brad Andersen	3.40	Arlene Austin	1.98
Charlie Cole	11.18	Michel Merlitti	5.88	Sandy Barnes	3.37	Peter Roubicek	1.90
Betty Coppic	11.04	Neil Garvie	5.75	Dan Cramer	3.20	Cookie Frazin	1.70
Dan Grogan	10.80	Mark Anshus	5.60	Spencer King	3.13	Troy Will	1.69
Philip Smith	10.72	Ernie McCombs	5.27	Randy Reiff	3.01	Alex Rosenberg	1.68

### CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2004 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED THRU 31 AUG.

23.60	Steve Klesker	8.08	Tom Meyer	2.24	David Rubin	0.96
20.64	Adrian Rios	7.88	Royal Robinson		Josh Riddell	0.84
14.88	Norma Shyer	7.20	Mark Phillips	2.16	Cookie Frazin	0.80
14.40	Lucky Nelson	7.12	Ron Washington	2.04	Rick Sorci	0.80
13.64	Alice Kay	6.48	John Jennings	1.92	Kathy Sorci	0.80
13.24	Joann Feinstein	6.28	Ken Tyszko	1.92	Amy Trudeau	0.72
13.00	David Marcus	6.12	Roland Dieter	1.88	Roy Cohen	0.72
12.08	Mark Murray	5.96	Felix Yen	1.76	Robert Ring	0.72
11.48	Roger Hickman	5.96	Jake MaandeKok	1.64	Brooke Gottshall	0.72
10.92	Bob Steen	5.84	Elaine Kehm	1.60	John Stryker	0.72
10.48	Georgina Flanagan	5.40	Bill Stegich	1.52	Harry Cohn	0.72
10.32	Peter Kalba	5.20	Neil Kazaross	1.52	Paul Klein	0.64
10.08	Les Moshinsky	5.12	Tim Carroll	1.44	Gaby Kairouz	0.64
9.48	Paul Franks	4.16	Dave Cramer	1.20	Will Hare	0.64
9.24	Mary Franks	4.04	Kwong Chan	1.16	Romeo Kap	0.64
9.00	Wayne Wiest	3.88	Barbara Levinson		Mike Bandman	0.64
8.88	Michael Peters	3.32	John O'Connor	1.04	Jay Bleiman	0.56
8.80	Arline Levy	2.96	Nora Luna	1.04	Spencer King	0.56
8.72	Eric Johnson	2.72	Mark Swanson	0.96	Jolie Rubin	0.24
8.40	Bill Keefe	2.32				
	20.64 14.88 14.40 13.64 13.24 13.00 12.08 11.48 10.92 10.48 10.32 10.08 9.48 9.24 9.00 8.88 8.80 8.72	20.64 Adrian Rios 14.88 Norma Shyer 14.40 Lucky Nelson 13.64 Alice Kay 13.24 Joann Feinstein 13.00 David Marcus 12.08 Mark Murray 11.48 Roger Hickman 10.92 Bob Steen 10.48 Georgina Flanagan 10.32 Peter Kalba 10.08 Les Moshinsky 9.48 Paul Franks 9.24 Mary Franks 9.20 Wayne Wiest 8.88 Michael Peters 8.80 Arline Levy 8.72 Eric Johnson	20.64       Adrian Rios       7.88         14.88       Norma Shyer       7.20         14.40       Lucky Nelson       7.12         13.64       Alice Kay       6.48         13.24       Joann Feinstein       6.28         13.00       David Marcus       6.12         12.08       Mark Murray       5.96         11.48       Roger Hickman       5.96         10.92       Bob Steen       5.84         10.48       Georgina Flanagan       5.40         10.32       Peter Kalba       5.20         10.08       Les Moshinsky       5.12         9.48       Paul Franks       4.16         9.24       Mary Franks       4.04         9.00       Wayne Wiest       3.88         8.88       Michael Peters       3.32         8.80       Arline Levy       2.96         8.72       Eric Johnson       2.72	20.64         Adrian Rios         7.88         Royal Robinson           14.88         Norma Shyer         7.20         Mark Phillips           14.40         Lucky Nelson         7.12         Ron Washington           13.64         Alice Kay         6.48         John Jennings           13.24         Joann Feinstein         6.28         Ken Tyszko           13.00         David Marcus         6.12         Roland Dieter           12.08         Mark Murray         5.96         Felix Yen           11.48         Roger Hickman         5.96         Jake MaandeKok           10.92         Bob Steen         5.84         Elaine Kehm           10.48         Georgina Flanagan         5.40         Bill Stegich           10.32         Peter Kalba         5.20         Neil Kazaross           10.08         Les Moshinsky         5.12         Tim Carroll           9.48         Paul Franks         4.16         Dave Cramer           9.24         Mary Franks         4.04         Kwong Chan           9.00         Wayne Wiest         3.88         Barbara Levinson           8.80         Arline Levy         2.96         Nora Luna           8.72         Eric Johnson	20.64         Adrian Rios         7.88         Royal Robinson         2.24           14.88         Norma Shyer         7.20         Mark Phillips         2.16           14.40         Lucky Nelson         7.12         Ron Washington         2.04           13.64         Alice Kay         6.48         John Jennings         1.92           13.24         Joann Feinstein         6.28         Ken Tyszko         1.92           13.00         David Marcus         6.12         Roland Dieter         1.88           12.08         Mark Murray         5.96         Felix Yen         1.76           11.48         Roger Hickman         5.96         Jake MaandeKok         1.64           10.92         Bob Steen         5.84         Elaine Kehm         1.60           10.48         Georgina Flanagan         5.40         Bill Stegich         1.52           10.32         Peter Kalba         5.20         Neil Kazaross         1.52           10.08         Les Moshinsky         5.12         Tim Carroll         1.44           9.48         Paul Franks         4.16         Dave Cramer         1.20           9.24         Mary Franks         4.04         Kwong Chan         1.16	20.64         Adrian Rios         7.88         Royal Robinson         2.24         Josh Riddell           14.88         Norma Shyer         7.20         Mark Phillips         2.16         Cookie Frazin           14.40         Lucky Nelson         7.12         Ron Washington         2.04         Rick Sorci           13.64         Alice Kay         6.48         John Jennings         1.92         Kathy Sorci           13.24         Joann Feinstein         6.28         Ken Tyszko         1.92         Amy Trudeau           13.00         David Marcus         6.12         Roland Dieter         1.88         Roy Cohen           12.08         Mark Murray         5.96         Felix Yen         1.76         Robert Ring           11.48         Roger Hickman         5.96         Jake MaandeKok         1.64         Brooke Gottshall           10.92         Bob Steen         5.84         Elaine Kehm         1.60         John Stryker           10.48         Georgina Flanagan         5.40         Bill Stegich         1.52         Harry Cohn           10.32         Peter Kalba         5.20         Neil Kazaross         1.52         Paul Klein           10.08         Les Moshinsky         5.12         Tim Carroll

**BOB ZAVORAL** earned 4.40 master points to become August Player of the Month. Paul Baraz (3.84) and Tak Morioka (3.60) placed 2nd and 3rd respectively.

#### **BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL**

I just discovered your site. I live in Cincinnati, Ohio and have been looking for backgammon tourneys for the last couple of weeks. Finally, I tried *Google* and it hit "Mark Your Calendar." Thanks to Carol Joy Cole for maintaining it! My question is, are these tourneys open to anyone, or just CHICAGO POINT members?

Also, I read somewhere that one can write off travel expenses, entry fees, etc. when participating in backgammon tourneys if one is a "professional." How does one become a professional backgammon player?—*Curt Derby, via E-mail* 

Practice, practice, practice!

Seriously, we don't know of any tournament players who are "declared professionals." (And yes, the tournaments are open to anyone.) The competition is just too keen for one player to take a sustained profit (after expenses) against the current field on a regular basis—and it's getting even tougher!

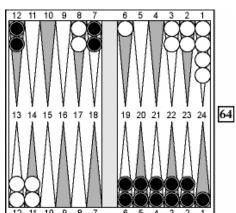
If you do turn pro, you'll need to fill out a Schedule C form. Check with the IRS.—Ed.  $\Delta$ 

your move

#### PROBLEM #303

to be analyzed by Jake Jacobs

Match to 7 points. No score. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.** 



September 2004 CHICAGO POINT 168

advice to the dicelorn

#### DEAR MISS LONELYBLOTS

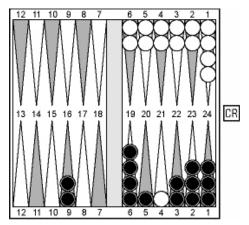


© 2004 by Danny Kleinman

#### PARTNER PROBLEMS

Dear Miss Lonelyblots: I am looking for a new doubles partner. Last month in Atlanta, with a big 6–0 (Crawford) lead and my former partner on roll, we faced the following position:

7 point doubles match. Black leads White 6–0, Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.** 



A lousy roll, so I'd just play it quietly, 9/3, 5/3, leaving one blot and 15 shots, and move on. But does my partner make this move? No-oooo! He has to "get creative," playing 9/3, 6/4\*, leaving three blots and 20 shots!, you can guess what happened. Our opponents responded with 4-1, hitting two men, followed by 4-3, putting a third checker on the roof. A few enemy doubles coupled with our entry failure, and we ended up getting backgammoned, reducing our lead to 6-3. The next game, we were gammoned for the match. Incredible!my "safe" play, we would have been ahead 11 pips in the race and in very good position to win the game the 21 times in 36 that White fails to hit our lone blot. Why risk losing a gammon or backgammon with an advantage like this? Can you explain that to my partner, Miss Lonelyblots? then can you please find me a new partner? - Safe & Steady

**D**EAR SAFE: I am not a matchmaking consultant, so I can't find you a new partner for either backgammon or romance. However, I am a match-winning consultant, so perhaps I can help you understand the position in which your backgammon partner's move

turned out badly.

First you should see that you were extremely unlucky, both to have your opponents hit all three men without breaking their board and to lose a backgammon with three men closed out.

Then you should see that leading Crawford-even, losing two points instead of one costs little—only the loss of your "free pass"—so the gammon danger your partner's risky play incurred was irrelevant at this score. At most other scores, or in money play, that gammon danger is substantial enough to induce a sensible player to leave only one blot—which is why, being accustomed to those other situations, you were horrorstricken by your partner's three-blot play.

Finally, you should see that despite your 11-pip lead, the race would still be fairly close if your partner played 9/3, 5/3 as you desired. Being on shake is worth about four pips to your opponents, and the gaps on your 4-point and 5-point that your play leaves will cause you to miss in the bearoff. If White missed the shot, you would be only about a 2-to-1 favorite to win the game. Double 6s, double 4s and double 3s would put White ahead, and 6-4 would just about equalize the race.

That is why 9/3, 6/4\* has merit. It gains four pips immediately, and on White's 16 dancing rolls, it gains a lot more: a full roll, with perhaps more to come if White dances again. True, it incurs future jeopardy, as White may dance, you may fail to clean up your blots, and White may hit a later shot, but that's a three-legged parlay: relatively unlikely, the equivalent of little more than one extra shot. If you *don't* get hit, you've gained enormously in the race and are almost a lock to win. Did anyone ever say "win the race first"?

Easy to overlook is that in contrast to White's 15 hits after your safe play, all of which are virtually fatal, four of White's 20 hits after the three-blot play may allow you to survive, as his 5-1 and 4-2 force him to break his board, leaving a return shot.

All in all, I'd give the edge to your partner's play—though not by much and certainly not at a score where gammons mattered. But that's not important in the larger scale of things. When you play doubles, you must be prepared to tolerate your partner's different appraisals of moves, even when he's wrong. Only if you find yourself at odds with him very often—or he refuses to take a moment or two to discuss the reasons for one play or another—should you consider changing partners.—Miss Lonelyblots Δ

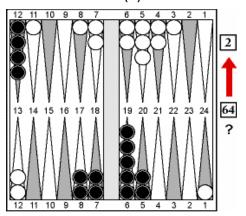
#### AN-NEIL-ATOR...

[Continued from page 1]

Neil's opponent in the 11-point double elimination Championship finals was Wally Swan (MA). In order to win the tournament, Wally would have to defeat Neil two matches in a row—a tall order.

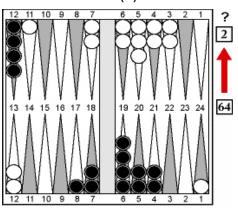
Leading 5-1, Neil demonstrated his ability to judge a position. Take a look at this setup and decide whether or not Neil should be doubling:

11 point Open finals. Kazaross (Black) leads Swan (White) 5 to 1. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?** 



It's close, but against a weaker opponent and sitting on a 5–1 lead, Neil correctly waited. He rolled 4-2 making his 4-point and Wally tossed 4-1 making his 3-point. Now what are the correct cube actions?:

11 point Open finals. Kazaross (Black) leads Swan (White) 5 to 1. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?** 



Neil correctly doubled and Walter accepted (what is technically a drop) and ended up losing two more points to give Neil a 7–1 lead. Wally was not able to recover and the eventual final score was 11–5.

The Peach Cup finals "pitted" Neil Kazaross against last year's Open champ Paul Weaver (AL). It was actually only a 1-point

[Continued on page 8]



### **Empty or Half Full?**

#### **Bob & Steve's Excellent** European Adventure **By Steve Sax**

Tot having attended the Monte Carlo World Championship in 15 years since fellow Californian Joe Russell won, I decided to cash in my unused miles for a "free" trip to Europe this past July. Joe, who is the only player to have won the World Championship, Pro-Am Doubles and American Backgammon Tour challenged me to try to win the other two (I won the ABT in 2002). I accepted the challenge to win the second leg and left for Europe with Bob Glass, hot off his third consecutive Consolation flight victory at Michigan Summer Championships.



Bob Glass energizes between matches at the Michigan Summer Championships with three main courses.

The journey had an auspicious beginning as Bob failed to wake me up for mealtime on the first of three connecting flights to Venice, Italy—stop number one on our three tournament, three country backgammon expedition to southern Europe. After expressing my dismay to Bob for not realizing that food has a higher priority to me than sleep, I tried to get the attention of a flight attendant to bring my meal. After several failed attempts, I gave up and proceeded to escape the confines of the

window seat by balancing myself between the front and rear seats as I nimbly took careful steps on Bob's inner and then outer armrests. Bob's fears of being crushed were unwarranted as I deftly made my way to the aisle and then towards the back of the plane to retrieve some well-deserved food.

I returned with my meal, placing it on the fold-down tray in front of my seat. I then set to make the balletic return to my seat. It was at this point when "Giant of Backgammon #13 Steve Sax" took on a new context. I came crashing down on top of Bob as the outer armrest snapped under the weight of my gentle frame.



Luckily, my meal safely ensconced on my tray was untouched: however the remainder of Bob's pasta and most of his apple juice came flying back towards his formerly clean Hollywood Park T-shirt. Bob issued some unrepeatable praises towards me since

any other clean and dry shirts he could retrieve from his over-packed luggage would be 2 1/2 stops and thousands of miles away in Venice. At least the flight attendant was able to relocate Bob in a dry seat at the back of the plane so I could finish my meal in peace.

After arriving in Venice and suffering from jet lag, I crashed in the postmodern stainless steel hotel room, sleeping on and off for most of the next 36 hours. Bob was sufficiently rested to venture to the tournament hall for the first night's Super Jackpot. Unfortunately for both of us the tournament hall was 10 miles away and only reachable by taxi or hotel shuttle.

After failing to do anything in the first Jackpot, Bob tried his luck in the casino (which was sponsoring the tourney). Unfortunately for Bob, the final "scheduled" hotel shuttle had left before his gaming experiences had concluded so he asked the concierge to call him a cab. He walked outside and waited, and waited... and waited. Bob waited for 30 minutes, one hour, two hours, and still no cab.

It was now 4:00 A.M. and Bob was tired of standing. Unfortunately there were no benches or chairs in front of the casino so Bob (being no stranger to inventing a convenience where none existed) continued his wait from the only available seat: the cool

dry asphalt roadway in front of the elegant casino.

With no experience at such a sight, the casino concierge assumed this must not be acceptable and asked Bob to politely stand as he waited for his cab. Having exhausted his patience at the one hour and thirty minute point, Bob remained on the ground demanding his cab.

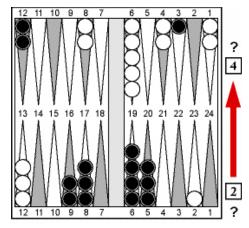
The concierge informed Bob that if he didn't get up, the police would be called. Bob told him to make the call and that maybe the cops would take him to his room.

I'm not sure if they ever called the police but if they did, the cab got there minutes before the cops and Bob finally was shuttled back to the hotel at around 5:00 A.M.

When Bob entered the hotel room he uttered the second least favorite phrase I like to hear when I'm traveling with someone outside the United States: "I almost got arrested." My least favorite phrase is, "I got arrested" which I have heard on one famous occasion . . . but that's another story.

Things were starting to get back to normal and I was sleeping well by the third day of the tournament. Unfortunately, I still hadn't won a match and found myself in the Last Chance at the Venice tournament. After defeating three strong German players in a row, I found myself in the semifinals facing none other than Bob Glass. The score was 1–1 in a 5-point match:

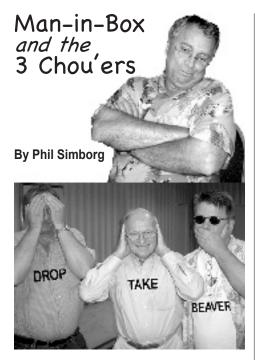
City Of Venice Last Chance semifinals to 5 points. Steve Sax (Black) vs. Bob Glass (White) tied at 1 to 1. Black on roll. CUBE ACTION(S)?



Since most of my numbers played well and a gammon would win me the match, I doubled. How wrong I was! This is a poor double since I have few market losers and at this match score, Bob has a powerful recube forcing me to pass if I am less then 33%.

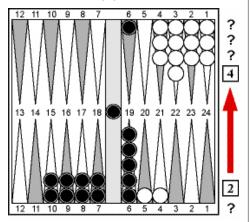
But since the standard for this trip was

[Continued on page 6]



In some recent classic Chicago Chouette action at the Bar Point Club, the following position came up which resulted in a money recube, followed by a drop, take and a beaver. With Black on roll, what would you have done?

Money game. Phil Simborg (Black) is in the box and on roll against Tim Mabee, Ken Bond, and Bob Zavoral. **CUBE ACTION(S)?** 



Now, as it happens, I was the redoubler, Tim Mabee was the dropper, Ken Bond was the taker, and Bob Zavoral was the beaverer. Two of us did the right thing. Which two?

According to 720 3-ply, precise Snowie 4 rollouts, the correct action is No Double/ Take, but both Kenny and I did the right thing. Redoubling is only a small 0.016 equity error. I was right because I gave my opponents the chance to make some big equity errors (drop, beaver).

Ken Bond was right simply because he always is.—Phil Simborg  $\Delta$ 

#### IS THE GLASS...

[Continued from page 5]

to outplay your opponent and lose, Bob saw *boxes* roll out of my cup and was swiftly gammoned for the match falling out in the money round.

Things wouldn't get any better for Bob in Monte Carlo as he lost in the money round of the Super Jackpot. I won my money round in the same event but was quickly vanquished by the solid German, Carsten Joh.

Bob found no more success in our third and last stop in Cannes and once again I won my 17-point money round match (after trailing 10–16 Crawford) in an exciting final game gammon to secure a one point victory.

However, as was par for the course, I lost the next match in the semifinals to the very capable Andreas Humke (Germany). Andreas would eventually lose the finals 19–21 after leading 19-10 over soon-to-be champion Jan Bloxham (Denmark).

The final rooting interest for Bob was in partner Malcolm Davis who teamed up with José Farca, the only Mexican at the tournament in the Nation's Challenge. Bob was the silent partner of Malcolm, the 2003 ABT Champion who was allowed to team with Farca because no other Mexican was available.

In this first-of-its-kind event, director Eric Guedj came up with an event where teams from up to 32 countries could compete in a World Cup style tournament where you would have to win your group to advance.

There were eight seeds among the groups of three and powerhouse nations such as Germany, Denmark and the USA (2004 Vice-World Champion Bob Wachtel, 2004 Cannes semifinalists Steve Sax and Howard Markowitz, and 2004 Chicago Open Finalist Emil Mortuk) all failed to qualify for the quarterfinals.

Japan was the only seeded team to reach the final 8 before they were eliminated. With Poland coming in 4th and Norway finishing 3rd, two Latin American countries would be vying for the title as Argentina sent it's two biggest stars Veronica Dabul and Leo Fernandez up against the mixed Mexican squad.

After splitting the two singles matches, Malcolm Davis and José Farca would prevail by winning the deciding consulting doubles match to become the first Nations's Challenge Champions. At the Awards Ceremony, Bob Glass could be heard yelling "¡Viva México!" as the two North Americans received a trio of Mexican flags during the awards ceremony.

I guess the Glass was half full after all!—Steve Sax  $\Delta$ 

#### **AMALGAMATION**

There is still time to join us for Backgammon On Board this January (that is NOT the hurricane season!) Call Sue Will at 309/699-6005 to reserve space... Don't forget that during the pro football season, the Bar Point Club meets Saturday bimonthly at Champs. Next tourney is 2 October... Because we have been unable to reach Pub Club director **Joe Wollick** for two months, the Pub Club has been removed from Chicagoland Club listings. Stay tuned for more info... Phil & Randee Simborg vacationed in the Nevada desert over the Labor Day weekend at a place called "Burning Man." It was an experience they will never forget. For more on what is involved, go to www. burningman.com... Visiting the Chicago Bar Point Club Aug / Sept.: Rory Pascar (MD), **Bob Koca**, (PA), and **Bob Bern**stein (TN)... Not one, but two of our BPC players totaled their cars last month. Peter Kalba was run off the road at 60 mph by a driver trying to make an exit. He crashed into a tree, but walked away with only

scratches. And with two lanes merging into one on his trip back from the Indy Open, **Lucky Nelson** (recently recovering from a bad bout of kidney stones) tried to slip past a semi. It was a tie. The truck crushed him against a concrete wall, but he narrowly avoided severe injury and also walked away from the accident... Condolences to the friends and family of long-time Michigan player **Carol Falk** who died from a heart attack last month. She was 66...



The late Carol Falk partnered with Steve Tennant to win the Jigsaw-Gammon event at the 1993 Midwest Champs.

[Continued on page 7]

#### **INDIANA OPEN...**

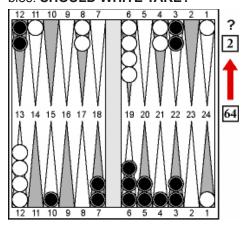
[Continued from page 1]

Down by 24 pips in the race (94–118) with minimal contact, this is an easy drop. But there are other considerations. In the first game of the match, how much does this take really give away compared to what could be gained psychologically? Walter Trice is an expert player as well as a world-renowned author/analyst whose new book Backgammon Boot Camp is a best seller. Petko Kostadinov is a comparative rookie with little "big match" experience. If Trice can take and win a position like this, it could plant seeds of doubt in his opponent's brain. And even when Walter loses, he has subliminally given notice: "Watch your aggressive doubles—I am a taker."

Petko won the race easily and then won another doubled racing game to jump ahead 4–0.

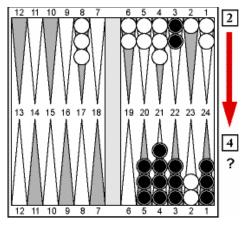
Trailing 2–8, Walter captured two doubled games in succession to pull within two points. Then, behind 6–9 to 13, Trice was faced with this 2-cube:

13 point finals. Kostadinov (Black) leads Trice (White), 9–6. Black doubles. **SHOULD WHITE TAKE?** 



Taking here is a gigantic error giving away over 2.3% in match equity. But the dice don't always understand match equity. Some shifts in fortune brought the game to this position with Trice on shake:

13 point finals. Kostadinov (Black) leads Trice (White), 9–6. White redoubles. **SHOULD BLACK TAKE?** 



Walter has made a very nice recube that Petko must take (as he correctly did). Then it was "buckle up" for some of really sick swings. Within a few rolls, Petko went from a 90% favorite to getting closed out with two on the bar and eventually being gammoned for the match.

An analysis of the finals cube play shows that Petko made every correct decision. And except for the two cube decisions diagrammed, Walter's actions also perfect. Well-played finals on the part of both competitors, with special kudos to the rookie Petko. You'll definitely be seeing his name more and more in the future.

Congratulations to all the other main event winners including Bill Minser (Advanced), Norma Gartner (Intermediate), and Akemi Ota (Novice). And congrats also to Neil Kazaross (IL). Neil captured his second Masters title within three weeks



Neil Kazaross reacts to taking over first in the 2004 ABT race.

and finished 2nd Consolation to move ahead of Ray Fogerlund in the 2004 American Backgammon Tour race by less than one point. Complete results: Δ

#### **52ND INDIANA OPEN**

CHAMPIONSHIP (64): 1-Walter Trice (MA), 2-Petko Kostadinov (SC), 3/4-Steve Mellen (NY) / Michel Merlitti (Canada); 1C-Charlie Cole (VA), 2C-Neil Kazaross (IL). ADVANCED (52): 1-Bill Minser (WI), 2-Kate Elmore (GA), 3-Bill Landry (IL); 1C-Geoff Arnold (IN), 2C-Mark Murray (IL). INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Norma Gartner (NJ), 2-Dave Kiurski (MI). NOVICE (4): 1-Akemi Ota (Japan/MI). INDY 300 JACKPOT (32): 1-Neil Kazaross (IL), 2-Emil Mortuk (MI), 3/4-Bob Glass (CA) / Lucky Nelson (IL). AMATEUR JACKPOT (32): 1-Bill Riles (TX), 2-Jona Alexander (CA), 3/4-James Bray (TX) / Sonya Sidky (WI). MICRO DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Chuck Bower (IN) & Ilia Guzei (WI), 2-Michel Merlitti (Canada) & Isham Yamani (Canada). DIRECTORS CUP (16): 1-Patricia Geoffroy (MA), 2-Roger Hickman (IL). MICROBLITZ (64): 1-Jim Curtis (IN). QUICKIE #1 (64): 1-Sean Garber (IN). QUICKIE #2 (64): 1-Faddoul Khoury (IL). JOHN BRUSSEL MEMORIAL JACKPOT (32): 1-Mary Hickey (OH), 2-Steve Mellen (NY). \$200 LABOR DAY JACKPOT (8): 1-Jim Curtis (IN). LABOR DAY AMATEUR JACKPOT (16): 1-Bill Riles (TX), 2-Jona Alexander (CA).

#### **AMALGAMATION...**

[Continued from page 6]

Darrell David Marcus won a 150-player Holdem Poker tournaments in Chicagoland last month cashing for nearly \$5000... Good luck to the new Queen City BG Club in Cincinnati, Ohio. For info, contact Dave Dargis at 513/729-8484. Marv Arnol (414/355-5562) informs us that the Milwaukee Backgammon Club is back in action at John Hawks Pub on Wednesday nights... The Dayton (OH) Art Institute is currently featuring the Rau Collection: European Masterpieces. A 1627 painting entitled "Backgammon Players" by Hendrick Ter Brugghen is featured. It is described as

"...a morality tale warning viewers of the dangers of game-playing and gambling."...



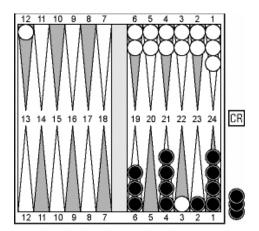
"Backgammon Players" by Hendrick Ter Brugghen. Does this picture look "morally dangerous" to you?

Long-time Chicago BG veteran Norma Shyer returned to the Bar Point Club following a hospital stay. We're glad you're back, Norma!... Georgia to Florida: Betty Coppic... Our best to cupmaker Tim Johnson (IL) who will soon have a total knee replacement... Congrats to "Giants of Backgammon" creator **Yamin Yamin** (IL) and wife Roula with their new son Christian Yamin born 23 August. Also to England's Make Your Point editor Liz Barker & Andrew Sarjeant on the 16 August birth of James Barker Sarjeant... Backgammon Pro v1.21 is ranked #1 among Palm OS computer programs by NYC Digital Users Group. Price: \$15 at: standalone. com/palmos/backgammon\_pro... In BG: "A pound of pluck is worth a ton of luck."  $\Delta$  last month's position

#### PROBLEM #302 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

Match to 7 points. Black trails White 5–6 Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-3.** 



nly two plays to look at here: 6/3(3)\*, 3/0ff and 4/1(4). If one wants to do better than make an intuitive guess, there is no substitute for some number crunching. I could haul out my pencil and paper and impress everybody by getting the correct answer to the third decimal place by putting in a lot of time and effort, but what good would that do? We can't use pencil and paper when playing over the board, and we don't have unlimited time. What we need to be able to do is develop an algorithm which allows us to make decent approximations and come to something near the proper conclusion.

6/3(3)\*, 3/0ff will win more gammons, which is good for Black, However, Black's chances of winning a gammon are pretty small anyway. On the other hand, Black can "pay later" and play 5/1(4), If he then gets hit later, not only will he have probably taken another checker off, but all of his remaining checkers will be on the ace or 2-point. This will improve his chances after being hit. Black has few enough men off that White will be a good favorite in all variations where she hits a shot, but Black still has chances. I'm going to guess that these two factors (the extra gammons for Black vs. the extra winning chances after being hit) about cancel each other out, since they are both fairly small to begin with.

The hitting play gets hit back immediately 11 times out of 36. In addition, there is the possibility of a delayed hit. That requires White to flunk (9/36). Then Black would have to roll no ace or a deuce (16/36 or 4 of those 9). And finally, White would have to hit. Since Black will have some more men off White's hits won't be as effective. So overall, I'll only give White one hit out of those four.

That comes to essentially 12 hits out of 36.

Analyzing 4/1(4) will be more difficult. White will be able to stay back on all numbers except 6-6, although if she rolls 3-3, 4-4, or 5-5 she will have to break her board which hurts her chances considerably. If she needs to be able to stay back for two turns, that will be more difficult. Anyway, we'll just examine the chances of hitting a shot immediately to start with, and filter in the rest later if necessary.

On Black's next roll, he is safe for a turn if he rolls any ace or 2, as well as all doubles except 3-3 for a total of 23 safe numbers. Seven rolls (3-3, 6-5, 6-4, and 5-4) leave a single shot. White hits roughly one-third of these, so that's about two and one-half hits for White so far.

Now for the six nightmare rolls: 6-3, 5-3, and 4-3. 6-3 and 5-3 leave White a triple shot—only 1-1, 4-4, 5-4, and 5-5 miss. That's 31 hitters which is not quite as bad after 4-3, but still pretty bad. In addition, there is some chance White will pick up a second checker. White will be a good favorite if she hits one checker whichever play Black makes, but the second checker pretty much cinches it. For that reason, I'll give White the equivalent of all six hits, getting her up to 8 and one-half hits so far.

What about the delayed hits? If Black leaves a shot, White pretty much has to hit it now—she almost certainly won't get another chance. So, the relevant cases are when Black rolls an ace or a deuce (20 numbers). Assuming it wasn't 1-1 or 2-2 (which would require slightly different numbers), Black would then leave a shot if he rolls big and small (6-1, 5-1, 4-1, 6-2, 5-2, 4-2, 6-3, 5-3, 4-3) which comes to 18 numbers or half the time. That reduces Black's threat numbers from 20 to 10. And White hits about 1/3 of these. That comes to about 3 and one-half of those 10 numbers, totaling 12 hits. A tie!

So, what is the tiebreaker? It must be that after 5/1(4) White is forced to play her roll, and that is bad for White. If she rolls, say, 6-5, she has to pile a fourth checker on the ace point, which will hurt her chances after hitting. If she needs to stay for a delayed shot, the danger of going deep or, worse, breaking her board, is even greater. That factor puts the ugly 5/1(4) ahead of the hitting play.

This is roughly the way I would analyze this problem at the table. The counting and calculations aren't particularly difficult when done this way, and can easily be done in one's head. Of course I might have left out something, or made some arithmetic error, or made some very bad estimate, and that could swing the decision. But this sort of approach is the best we can expect to do at the table.—Kit Woolsey  $\Delta$ 

#### AN-NEIL-ATOR...

[Continued from page 4]

match as Weaver (who gave an excellent Saturday seminar) graciously agreed to split the money so that Neil could play his Open finals.

Kudos to Limited champ Frank Patrick (GA), and to Advanced winner Philip Smith (NC) who edged Betty Coppic (GA). It was



Advanced division finalist Betty Coppic with tourney winner Philip Smith.

an especially uplifting victory for Philip because he had recently been the victim of a traumatic home invasion/robbery. About two weeks prior, a blond-haired white woman wearing a nursing uniform and carrying a clipboard knocked on his door asking to speak with another person. When Phil informed her that she had the wrong address, the "nurse" convinced him to open the door so that she could call her office. Phil opened his door and two big black men rushed in, knocking him to the floor. They beat him up, hogtied him, and robbed his home, including an \$850 Taki-Board. The lesson of this experience is to expect the unexpected.  $\Delta$ 

#### 12th GEORGIA CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (30): 1-Neil Kazaross (IL), 2-Walt Swan (NJ), 3-Stuart Thomson (GA); 1C-Malcolm Davis (TX), 2C-Bob Wilensky (GA). ADVANCED (19): 1-Philip Smith (NC), 2-Betty Coppic (GA), 3/4-Ernie McCombs (TX) / Diane Varner (NC); 1C-Peter Roubicek (GA), 2C-Zia Afshani (GA). LIMITED (8): 1-Frank Patrick (GA), 2-Sally Winter (GA). GEORGIA PEACH CUP (14+2 rebuys): 1-Neil Kazaross (IL), 2-Paul Weaver (AL). DOGWOOD JACKPOT (14+2 rebuys): 1-Gregg Cattanach (GA), 2-Jeb Horton (NC). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Cem Aslan (GA) & Steve Kovach (GA), 2-Don Faix (NC) & Jim Hall (GA). MICRO-BLITZ (8): 1-Gail Newburn (GA). SPEEDGAMMON (16): 1-Steve Kovach (GA), 2-Dave Cardwell (GA). POKERGAMMON (64): 1-Mike Corbett (FL), 2-Alan Epstein (GA). CHOUETTE TOURNAMENT (12): 1-Dave Cardwell (GA), 2-Stacy Turner (FL), 3-Steve Kovach (GA). CHARITY DICE CUP THROW: 1-Jeb Horton (NC). LAST CHANCE JACKPOT (16): 1-Phillip Burns (GA), 2-Stuart Thomson (GA). \$80 KICKOFF (16): 1-Emil Mortuk (MI), 2/3-Peter Beling (VA) / Frank Talbot (MI). \$40 KICKOFF (8): 1-Peter Roubicek (GA), 2-Frank Dama (FL).

who did what

#### WINNER'S CIRCLE



AUG.-SEP. 2004

•Studio Anne Carlton Trophy (Hinckley, England; 7-8 Aug.)... OPEN (38): Tony Lee, 2-Ron Havenhand, 3-Stuart Mann, 4-Ken Gibson; 1C-Simonetta Barone, 2C-Steve Rimmer. FRIDAY WARM-UP (10): 1-Rosey Bensley, 2-Geoff Conn. £50 JACKPOT (8): 1-Kazu Niki, 2-Myke Wignall. DOUBLES (6): 1-Cathy's Clowns, 2-Christmas Puds.

•So. Florida Monthly (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 8 Aug.)... OPEN(8): 1-Les Boyd, 2-Mike Corbett. INTER. (8): 1-John Gdowik, 2-David Glass.

•Kansas City BG Grand Opening (Kansas City, MO; 12 Aug.)... OPEN (11): 1-Al Morrone, 2-Christy Sharp, 3-Rick McCullough.

•HotAs Hades Open (Houston, TX; 14Aug.)... OPEN: 1-Scott Ward, 2-Gary Fomby, 3/4-Allen Hubnak / John Shakori; 1C-Al Johnson, 2C-Ira Hessel.

•Gammonitis Rollout Trophy (Solihull, England; 14-15 Aug.)... OPEN (30): 1-René van der Pluijm, 2-Alan Beckerson, 3/4-Tom Duggan/Martin Barkwill; 1C-Julian Fetterlein, 2C-Ray Kershaw; 1LC-John Leavey. TEXAS HOLDEM POKER: 1-Andy Bell, 2-Liz Park, 3-John Clark. £25 JACKPOT: 1-Ray Kershaw, 2-Monica Beckerson. £100 JACKPOT: 1/2-Peter Bennet / Mike Heard.

•14th Mitteleuropa Champioinship (Nova Gorica, Slovenia; 3–5 Sep.)... MASTERS (40): 1-Lars Bønding (Denmark), 2-Rino

Mathis (Switzerland), 3/4-Maria Krancheva (Bulgaria) / Eduardo Velasco (Spain); 1C-John Slattery (Scotland), 2C-Massimo Moretti (Italy), 3C/4C-Atanas Georgiev (Bulgaria) / Heimo Krainer (Austria); 1LC-Shinichiro Kaneko (Japan), 2LC-Marius Veres (Romania); Ladies Prize: Maria Krancheva (Bulgaria). CHAM-PIONSHIP (41): 1-Mario Viceconte (Italy), 2-Roberto Piccioni (Italy), 3/4-Roberto Catalano (Italy) / Dino Visentin (Italy); 1C-Enrico Ferrucci (Italy), 2C-Gabriele Passuello (Italy), 3C/4C-Simonetta Barone (England) / Antonio Fini (Italy); 1LC-Giuseppe Ricciardi (Italy), 2LC-Gianmichele D'Onofrio); Ladies Prize: Andrea Riebler (Austria). INTERMEDIATE (63): 1-Herbert Höllriegel (Germany), 2-Alberto Bertot (Italy), 3/4-Daniela Gasperini (Italy) / Mattia Occhialini (Italy); 1C-Silvio Riccobon (Italy), 2C-Federico D'Onofrio (Italy), 3C/4C-Stefano Catani (Italy) / Nicola Vasaturo (Italy); 1LC-Jan Stastna (Czech Republic), 2LC-Andrea Sgardi (Italy); Ladies Prize: Daniela Gasperini (Italy). MASTERS DOUBLES (2 teams): 1-Andreas Fischer (Austria) & Werner Schmuck (Austria). CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Piergiorgio d'Ancona (Italy) & Damjan Plesec (Slovenia), 2-Alfredo Maccallini (Italy) & Alfredo Sperti (Italy). SUPER JACK-POT #1 (16): 1/2-Andreas Fischer (Austria) / Tore Fredriksen (Norway). SJ#2(8): 1-François Tardieu (France), 2-Marius Veres (Romania). HEINER HAUSSLEITER MEMORIAL WARM-UP (56): 1-Andrea Barraco (Italy), 2-Salchai Houshang (Iran/England). SPERTI TROPHY (59): 1-Christian Liebe-Harkort (Germany), 2-Harald Johanni (Germany). 1-POINT TOURNEY #1 (64): 1-Shinichiro Kaneko (Japan). 1-PT. #2 (64): 1-François Tardieu (France). 17TH ITALIAN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP: Master - Massimo Moretti, Championship - Mario Viceconte, Intermediate - Alberto Bertot. POKER TOURNAMENT: 1-Christian Liebe-Harkort (Germany), 2-Rolf Vetsch (Switzerland), 3-Udo Kindler (Switzerland). BLACKJACK TOURNAMENT: 1-Mario Pierotti (Italy), 2-Fioretta Bozic (Italy), 3-Renzo Margherit (Italy), 4-Carla Porrini (Italy)... Director Marco Fornasir reports 144 players representing 23 countries.

•Arizona Club Monthly (Phoenix, AZ; 7 Sep.)... OPEN: 1-Bruce Yee, 2-Doug Amenda, 3-Darin DuMolin. Δ

## | | ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis 773/583-6464 Peter Kalba

Peter Kalba 312/316-1432 Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at the Clarion Hotel, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago; 773/693-5800.

Saturday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Champs Sports Bar, 17 W. 517 Roosevelt Rd., Oakbrook Terrace; 630/691-1888.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Damon's Grill, 1701 Fort Jesse Road, Normal. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wed., 6:15 p.m. at Damon's Grill, 3050 Lindbergh Blvd., Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

WINNETKABG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. at 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Chibnik (847/446-0537). PEORIABACKGAMMON CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/674-0557).

Twin Cities Backgammon Club presents a 2004 **ABT** event

#### MINNESOTA OPEN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIPS

October 29-31, 2004

Mystic Lakes Casino Hotel Prior Lake, Minnesota

\$59/night room rates! Reserve by October 1

For more information: Steve Brown 651/699-6758

scbrown@visi.com

twincitiesbackgammon.org/tournament2004.html



## Pittsburgh Championships ON THE MOVE!



The Feb. 18–20, 2005 Pittsburgh Championships will be at a **NEW HOTEL**.

Moving to the Holiday Inn Pittsburgh Airport Hotel means the entire tournament can be played in a

**FULL SIZE BALLROOM** 

And the famous Pittsburgh Hospitality will be BETTER THAN EVER.

Don't miss the tournament action as well as the 2004 ABT AWARDS CEREMONY

To request an invitation, contact Steve Hast a 412/823-7500 or pghsteve1@aol.com

September 2004 CHICAGO POINT 168



## Backgammon Pro Am

Riviera Hotel & Casino Las Vegas, Nevada November 6-10, 2004



#### **Pro-Am Doubles Event**

- (a) 2-person teams (each team may have only one player of a high championship level).
- (b) Entry Fee: \$10,000 per team. 100% of entry fees collected will be returned as prize money.
- (c) Registration Fee: \$800 per team.
- (d) Prize Money: Winning Team-60%, 2nd Place-20%, 3rd/4th-10% each.

#### **Special Jackpots**

\$1000, 1500, and \$2000 Jackpots will be held at the tournament (95% return).

#### **Tournament Conditions**

All fees paid at the tournament must be in cash.

This will be a clock event. However, if both teams agree to play without a clock, they may do so.

#### **Hotel Information**

\$64/night room rates (single or double occ.)! Reserve you room before Oct. 19 at 800/634-6753 or 702/734-5110.

#### **For More Information**

Howard Markowitz: 702/893-6025 E-mail: howard114@cox.net Visit the tournament website: nvbg.com/04lvproam.html

Be part of the biggest tournament in America

## 2004 Las Vegas Open

Calcutta \$10,000 Giveaway



# Riviera Hotel & Casino November 10–14, 2004

#### **SCHEDULED EVENTS**

Championship, Intermediate, Beginner, Super Jackpot, Limited Jackpot, Blitz, Mini-Match, Doubles, Seniors Tourney, Jackpots & After Tournament Tournament



#### **HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

\$64/night (single or double occ.)
Call 800/634-6753 or 702/734-5110
Cut-off reservation date: October 19
Info: Howard Markowitz • 702/893-6025