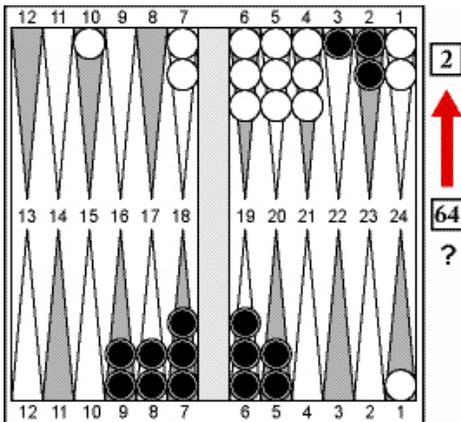


DOUBLING OUR PLEASURE Randee & I Take BPC Doubles Title

By Phil Simborg

This year's Bar Point Doubles Club Championship drew 14 teams to Champs Bar in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois on Super Bowl eve, February 5, 2005. In the first round, my wife Randee and I faced the top-ranked team of Howard Ring and his young daughter Julia. The first game produced an interesting cube decision:

7 point match. Randee & Phil (Black) vs. Julia & Howard Ring. **CUBE ACTION?**



I talked Randee into cubing against her better judgement. I thought it might be a bit early, and according to Snowie's



Peter Kalba (center) awards crystal doubling cube trophies to Randee & Phil Simborg.

evaluation, it was. But my reasoning was that since Julia is a very strong player and roller, we need to gamble some and be aggressive with the cube.

Naturally, Julia was not phased by this at all. She grinned, scooped, and a couple of rolls later, redoubled us out.

Howard's comments after the match were very interesting. It would probably be more correct to cube someone less skillful as they might have made the error of dropping. So my reasoning was exactly backwards. Maybe we should be a little less aggressive with the cube when faced with the likes of a Julia and Howard Ring, and give lesser opponents more of a chance to make an error. Once again, I should have listened to my wife!

After falling behind 1-6 Crawford, Randee decided to make extremely aggressive checker plays (that we probably wouldn't have considered against lesser players) and proceeded to win two gammons in a row to capture the match. I am sure there was little or no luck involved in the outcome.

We proceeded to win the rest of our matches, two of them at DMP, to win the tournament and the matching crystal cubes presented by Bar Point Club Champs director Peter Kalba. As for Howard and Julia, they also won the rest of their matches to take the Consolation prize. — Phil Simborg

BAR POINT CLUB MOVES TO WHISTLERS MARCH 1

Mark your calendar for Tuesday evening, March 1. That's the night when the Chicago Bar Point Club moves from the Clarion Hotel to Whistler's Restaurant, 3420 W. Devon, Lincolnwood, Illinois.

Whistler's is a 24-hour restaurant with a diverse reasonable menu and full liquor bar. There is plenty of parking in the adjoining lot, and proprietors Chris & Tom are backgammon friendly!

Starting March 1, we look forward to seeing you at our new home, just 5 minutes east of the Edens Expressway.

The Grand Opening event will follow our usual schedule with the Masters at 5:30 and Open at 6:30. See you at Whistler's! Δ



2005 BPC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 31 JAN.

Tim Mabee	2.76	Arline Levy	1.60	Norma Shyer	0.64
Herb Roman	2.56	Bill Bartholomay	1.44	Wayne Wiest	0.64
Larry Goldstein	2.56	Bill Davis	1.36	Val Zimnicki	0.56
Gary Kay	2.40	Tak Morioka	1.32	Royal Robinson	0.56
Phyllis Smolinski	2.40	Kurt Thompson	0.96	Jerry Brooks	0.52
Carter Mattig	2.24	Sargon Benjamin	0.88	Alice Kay	0.48
Phil Simborg	2.16	Ken Tibbs	0.72	Don Marek	0.48
Lucky Nelson	1.92	Steve Klesker	0.72	Bob Steen	0.48
David Rockwell	1.68	Howard Ring	0.64	Kwong Chan	0.40

TIM MABEE placed in three out of the four January tournaments to take the lead in the 2005 BPC points race. Herb Roman and Larry Goldstein tied for second with 2.56 points each.

If you finish in the Top 20 for 2005, you will 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 2006 Illinois State Challenge Cup.



ILLINOIS ACTION



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

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

Sunday 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).