

Bar Point Backgammon Study Yields Surprising Results

By Phil Simborg

Many of you do not know that I was a sociology major. In an effort to gain more information on the sociological affects of playing backgammon, I used the Chicago Bar Point Club members, who meet once a week, to conduct a series of surveys. Here are the very interesting results.

The first week, I asked the players if they felt better physically as a result of playing backgammon. 12% said yes; 42% said they felt worse. 48% gave me funny looks or refused to answer the question.

The next week I asked if they felt better emotionally as a result of playing backgammon. 24% said yes. 35% said they felt worse. 17% told me to mind my own business. The rest refused to answer.

The next week I asked players if they slept better or saw any improvement in their eating habits since playing tournament backgammon. 8% said yes. 38% said no. 4% threatened me physically if I continued to ask them questions. The balance

refused to answer the question, and some wouldn't even listen to the question.

The next week I asked the players if they made new friends from backgammon. 3% said yes. 12% said no. 9% said no, but they've made some wonderful enemies. And the rest would not respond, except for one person who's comments I am not able to put in print and who I do plan to sue for his unprovoked physical aggression.

While it is difficult to draw sweeping conclusions from my study, I was able to discern some "trends" that offer interesting insights into the backgammon community, and I had some real quality time to think about it while I was recovering:

1. Backgammon players are not really that tolerant when you ask them simple questions unless the questions are directly related to a checker play or doubling position.
2. Its easier to get a straight answer from a hyperactive 2-year old with a speech impediment during a hurricane than from a typical backgammon player.
3. Surgical removal of a doubling cube is not fun.—*Phil Simborg* Δ



Bar Point Club Holiday Schedule:
Wednesday, Dec. 26 • Wednesday, Jan. 2

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

Information: 773/583-6464

- Jan. 5 Springfield Series #3, Ride the Nine, Bloomington, IL
- Jan. 8 Bar Point Club Awards Night, Holiday Inn, Chicago, Illinois
- Jan. 27 Bar Point Club Doubles Championship, Holiday Inn, Chicago, IL
- Feb. 2 Springfield Series #4, Laps Bar, Springfield, IL
- Feb. 10 25th Illinois State Challenge Cup, Playoffs Bar, Carol Stream, IL
- Feb. 29-Mar. 2 2008 Midwest Backgammon Championships, Wyndham Lisle; Lisle, IL
- Mar. 8 Springfield Series #5, Peoria Pizza Works, Peoria, IL



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2007 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 2 DEC.

David Rockwell	39.40	Carter Mattig	8.16	Paul Franks	2.28	Jacki Singleton	0.72
Rory Pascal	27.90	Michael Ginat	7.92	Allen Tish	2.24	Doug Rodgers	0.72
Herb Roman	24.96	Alex Owen	7.72	Linda Rockwell	1.80	Paul Klein	0.72
Tak Morioka	22.64	Georgina Flanagan	7.08	Felix Yen	1.68	Steve Klene	0.72
Albert Yakobashvili	21.84	Lucky Nelson	7.04	Roy Cohen	1.60	Glenn Martells	0.72
Mike Wolock	20.48	Alice Kay	6.84	Les Moshinsky	1.52	Keith Hanson	0.72
Bob Zavoral	18.12	Jerry Brooks	6.64	Tom Osterkorn	1.44	Brad LaPratt	0.64
Phil Simborg	17.52	Willis Elias	6.56	Elaine Kehm	1.36	Sonja Peacock	0.64
Tim Mabee	15.48	Peter Kalba	6.32	Kendra Wesley	1.32	Ron Wagner	0.64
Bill Davis	15.00	Nora Luna Righter	6.08	Dan Simborg	1.28	James Roston	0.56
Oleg Raygorodsky	13.56	Christopher Shanova	5.92	Dan Weymouth	1.20	John Poulos	0.56
Bill Keefe	12.90	Wayne Wiest	5.40	Denise McDermott	1.16	Jim Opre	0.48
Jacob Moreno	12.88	Ken Tyszko	5.12	Neil Kazaross	1.12	Tim Stoddard	0.48
Bill Bartholomay	11.68	Henry Gray	5.04	Ivan Giorgadze	1.04	Charles Melidosian	0.48
Bob Steen	10.80	Shaw Dogan	4.80	Tim Rockwell	1.04	Bev Loder	0.48
Gary Kay	10.48	Arline Levy	4.52	Bob Koca	1.04	David Araiza	0.48
Steve Klesker	10.24	Lenny Loder	4.32	Sargon Benjamin	0.96	Amy Trudeau	0.40
Roger Hickman	10.08	Wendy Kaplan	4.16	Dan Cox	0.96	Jordan Sanders	0.40
Mike Sutton	9.88	Richard Stawowy	4.00	Paul Baraz	0.96	Roland Dieter	0.40
Mike Pufpaf	9.68	Dave Settles	3.80	Dick Nelson	0.84	Derek Swanson	0.40
Ken Bond	8.72	Adrian Rios	3.52	John Jennings	0.84	Mark Penacho	0.32
Mark Murray	8.44	Royal Robinson	3.44	Joanna Mabee	0.80	Simona Olah	0.24
Larry Goldstein	8.28	Eric Johnson	3.12	Harold Elgazar	0.80	Ken Tibbs	0.24

TAK MORIOKA won player of the month honors on the strength of his 5.12 point Fall Trophy Tourney victory. Runners-up were Albert Yakobashvili (4.32) and Gary Kay (3.88).



ILLINOIS ACTION



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

Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Holiday Inn, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago. 773/693-5800.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Holiday Inn, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago. 773/693-5800.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at Los Potrillos, 201 Landmark Drive, Normal. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:30 P.M. at Capitol Teletrack, 1766 W. Wabash Ave., Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

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

PUB CLUB: Tournaments Thurs., 6:45 P.M. at Playoffs Bar, 720 E. North Ave., Carol Stream. Tim Mabee (630/606-2388).

PEORIA BG CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/689-1964).