

illinois state championships

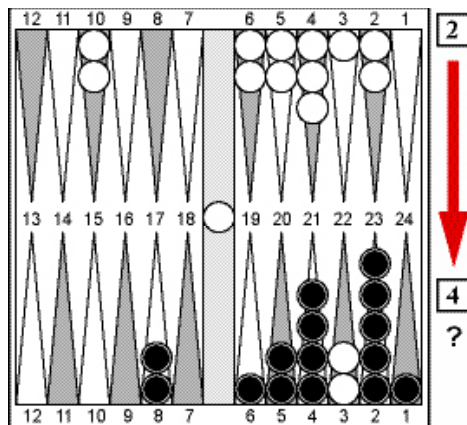
RUBIN GETS HIS TITLE

Matt Cohn-Geier wins Masters

Although he ranks in the American Backgammon Tour top 25 all time with 98 points, David Rubin's win at the Illinois State Championships (Oct. 9–11 at the Grand Hotel in Peoria) was his first ABT Championship title. And how sweet it was. Linda Woods directed the Halloween-themed event (in costume) with assistance from able staffers Mary Ann Meese, Sue Will, and Dru Heggen. Phil Simborg teamed with Michael Plog to do the entertaining Column A/ Column B auction.

Rubin beat (in order) Alan Gold (WI), Matt Cohn-Geier (IL), Howard Markowitz (IL) and Mary Hickey (OH) before facing Bill Riles (TX) in the 13 point finals. It had the makings of a blowout when David leaped out to a 9–2 lead, but Bill offered a series of well-timed doubles to bring the score back to 9–6. Then it was David's turn to offer a cube which Bill accepted. The game turned David's way and was looking good until he threw an awkward 5 that forced him to leave two blots with 6/1:

13 point finals. David Rubin (Black) leads Bill Riles (White) 9 to 6. White recubes. **SHOULD BLACK TAKE?**



Bill's cube is pressure-packed. After watching his lead slip from 9–2 to 9–6, does David really want to give Bill the chance to win a 4-cube, and maybe even



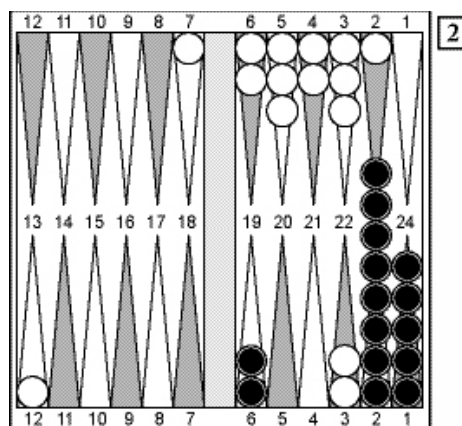
Director Linda Rockwell presents Champ trophies to winner David Rubin (R) and runner-up Bill Riles.

a gammon for the match? David quickly dropped and took a break.

Returning from the washroom, David realized that "maybe passing that double was a bit hasty." In fact he was right. Dropping this position is a massive 0.485 error giving up 6.25% in match equity.

Leading 9–8, David again gained the advantage and correctly cubed eliciting a proper take from his opponent. In the later stages of the game, Bill Riles faced a particularly interesting 4–2 play:

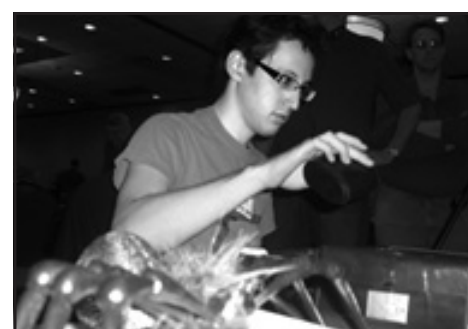
13 point finals. David Rubin (Black) leads Bill Riles (White) 9 TO 8. **WHITE TO PLAY 4-2.**



Many of the kibitzers were certain that Bill must split his back holding (22/20) to create a few more shots for himself with certain rolls. Instead Bill played 13/7. At the given score, Snowie rollouts show

Bill's play to be correct by 0.024 over the splitting play! What's happening is that although the split wins a fraction more games, it also loses more gammons when Black is able to use some awkward numbers to put White on the bar.

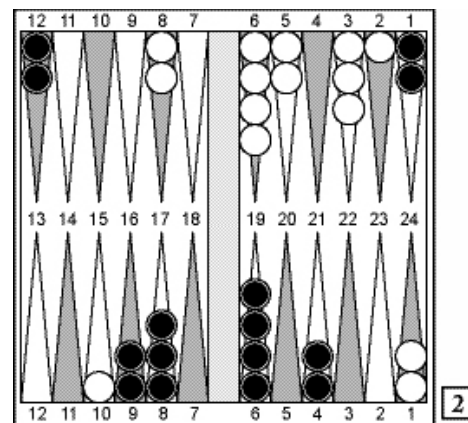
But Bill's play didn't matter. David rolled 4–4 and went on to win a gammon and the match. Watch him capture the title at: chicagopoint.com/illinois2009.mov



Matt Cohn-Geier rolling to victory in the Land of Lincoln Masters event.

MATT COHN-GEIER enjoyed the biggest win of his short career defeating the legendary Malcolm Davis in the Land of Lincoln Masters finals. Matt bested Malcolm 13–9 in a hard fought match. Although Matt made very few errors in his well-played match, here's one just to prove he's human:

13 point finals. Matt Cohn-Geier (Black) leads Malcolm Davis (White) 11 to 9. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.**



Matt took almost two minutes on this move eventually hitting (13/10*, 13/9). Making the 5-point is better by more than

[Continued on page 7]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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REMEMBERING ELAINE

Elaine and I always joked that she was "my American mom" and she always called me "Kiddo." The years I lived in Chicago, we would do many things together. Elaine took me to my first ACBL bridge tournament up in Winnetka and patiently taught me the ropes. We would go to Lake Geneva and play in the regional and she took me to Cincinnati for my first NABC and eventually the bridge passion led to me starting an online bridge club. Elaine would come visit it and she played almost 9000 boards through the years.

I would sometimes remember to send her a greeting on Mother's day or birthday greeting and sometimes I would forget. But she would never hold that against me. She always sent me letters, photos and news of Chicago and in spite of the distance, when I moved back to Europe, we kept in contact.

I always thought I would be seeing

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole

810/232-9731

cjc@flintbg.com

*Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined

Oct 16-18	Mid-Atlantic Championships, Marriott Berkshire, Towson, Maryland	954/564-0340
Oct 24	2nd Anti-Cruelty Society Invitational, Ambassador East Hotel, Chicago, IL	773/583-6464
Oct 25	Pair-O-Dice Monthly Tournament, Così, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Nov 1*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Nov 4-8	2009 Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/218-8238
Nov 7*	Springfield Series #2, Ride the Nine, Bloomington, Illinois	217/622-9447
Nov 8*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Nov 13	Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Nov 14*	New England Club Bonus, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Nov 14*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Nov 15*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly Tournament, Così, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Nov 19*	Third Thursday Bonus (California State), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Nov. 21*	BG By the Bay Monthly, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Nov 22*	2nd Annual Mayor's Cup Championship, NY Athletic Club, New York, NY	646/420-7262
Dec 4-6	California State Championship, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, California	818/901-0464
Dec 5*	Springfield Series #3, Peoria Pizza Works, Peoria, Illinois	217/622-9447
Dec 5*	New England Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Dec 6	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Dec 7	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	480/286-8239
Dec 12*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Dec 13*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Dec 13*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly Tournament, Così, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Dec 17*	Third Thursday Bonus (New York Metro), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jan 7-10*	New York Metropolitan Open, Hyatt Regency, Jersey City, New Jersey	408/529-6769
Jan 9*	Springfield Series #4, King Pin Lanes, Springfield, Illinois	217/622-9447
Jan 16-17*	2010 Sunshine State Regional, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/786-9133
Jan 31*	Illinois State Challenge Cup, Playoffs Sports Bar, Carol Stream, Illinois	630/606-2388
Feb 19-21*	Pittsburgh Championships, Holiday Inn Airport, Moon Twp., Pennsylvania	304/685-3214
Mar 5-7*	Central States Invitational, Windham Lisle, Lisle, Illinois	773/583-6464
Mar 26-28*	Ohio State Championships, Sheraton Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio	330/268-4610
Apr 14-18*	Nevada State Touranment, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/218-8238
May 14-16*	2nd US Open & Masters, Club One Casino, Fresno, California	773/583-6464
May 28-31*	Chicago Open, Holiday Inn & Suites, Rosemont, Illinois	617/699-9100
Jun 11-13*	Los Angeles Open, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California	818/901-0464
Jul 1-4*	Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton Novi, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 30-Aug 1*	Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York	585/396-0969
Aug 20-22*	Florida State Championships, Marriott Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/249-1416
Sep 3-6*	Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Illinois	608/516-9109
Sep 24-26*	Colorado State Championships, Hilton Hotel, Aurora, Colorado	303/791-0271
Jan 22-29	2011 Backgammon & Poker On Board, Western Caribbean Princess Cruise	773/583-6464

OUTSIDE USA

Oct 17-18*	1st International Tournament, Hotel Jadran, Rijeka, Croatia	385911-228313
Oct 21-25*	WSOB: London/UK Masters, Loose Cannon, London, UK	447980-122344
Oct 23-25	17th Irish Open Championship, Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, Ireland	358-72144270
Oct 28-Nov 1	EBGT: European Doubles/7th French Open, Enghien-les-Bains, France	491715-422222
Oct 29-Nov 1	Stockholm Events, Piperska Grottan, Stockholm, Sweden	4676-2335759
Oct 30-Nov 1	Arthur Wright's Big 70!, Barcelò Daventry Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Nov 7-8	Australian Open, City Tattersalls Club, Sydney, Australia	612405-373225
Nov 7-8	Danish Championships, Prøvehallen, Valby, Denmark	4533-363601
Nov 7-8*	WBF-Türkiye 2nd Edirne Open, Arslanli Complex, Edirne, Turkey	905332-352555
Nov 13-15	Backgammon Live in London, The King's Stores, London, England	447985-941729
Nov 14-15	7th Torneo delle Città, Castello di Modanella, Tuscany, Italy	393478-336862
Nov 19-22*	8th Torneo Aberto, Hotel Portoveleiro, Cabo Frio, Brazil	552194-982218
Nov 20-22*	13th Rotterdam Superzondag, Café o Kay, Rotterdam, The Netherlands	316-53579164
Nov 21-22	New Zealand Championships, Founders Heritage Park, Nelson, NZ	643-5468622
Nov 26-29	EBGT: 1st Cyprus Open, Hotel-Casino golden Tulip, Nicosia, Cyprus	491715-422222
Dec 1-6	7th Cancun Invitational Tournament, Ritz-Carlton, Cancun, Mexico	USA: 775/829-8403
Dec 4-6	Gilbertson UK Finals, Barcelò Oxford Hotel, Oxford, England	441522-888676
Dec 5-6	50th Thun Open/BEO-Cup/Doubles, Waadtländerstube, Thun, Switzerland	4179-4329378
Dec 10-13	Meribel Internatioinal Tournament, Hotel L'Eterlou, Meribel, France	33620-902726
Dec 12-13*	Stavanger Klubb Championship, Hovmesteren Bar, Stavanger, Norway	4799-153113
Dec 26-27*	Christmas Tournament, Somboon, Dongtan Beach, Pattaya, Thailand	6686-8187480
Jan 2-3*	Chouette Tournament & Pattaya Open, Somboon, Dongtan Beach, Thai	6686-8187480
Jan 9-10*	6th BG Masters International Open, Café Den Bengel, Antwerp, Belgium	31653-276835

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

Elaine again. It never crossed my mind that I wouldn't even get to say goodbye. It is just so very sad, so very very sad.—*Laila Leonhardt, Denmark*

With Elaine Kehm Tallackson's passing,

Chicago backgammon has lost a really fine, lovely lady.

A few years ago I offered free backgammon lessons to kids, and another time free lessons to people on the lakefront in Chicago. Both times, Elaine came with backgammon boards to help out. She was a very kind and genteel lady and we will miss her.—*Phil Simborg, Chicago, Illinois*

Elaine was a sweetheart with such a sunny attitude. I am sending a donation to the Scoliosis Association in her memory.—*Carol Joy Cole, Flint, Michigan*

UNFAIR CALCUTTA

The Calcutta auction at the Illinois State Championships was unfair to the players. In order to jack up the bids, the auctioneers gave out prizes ranging from free room nights to dice cups to a mystery \$100 cash award. That's great for increasing the value of the teams, but what about when we have to buy back? Is it fair that we must pay a larger price because our owner bid higher than what our team was really worth in order to get a blanket? If tournaments want to give door prizes, draw for them.

In order to stop this unfair practice, I suggest that players never buy back whenever their actual team value is skewed by add-on prizes.—*Vinton Knarr, Bloomington, Illinois*

WISCONSIN ATTENDANCE

In your September issue you wrote about the Wisconsin State Championships that it was "... sparsely attended (68 main event players from the US and Canada) ..."

Is that all you can say about our tournament?! First of all, you do realize that Bob Glass and Wendy Kaplan had to cancel out at the last minute. Further, do you remember seeing Perry Gartner at our tournament? I think you do. Well, here is what Perry told us when we first contacted him.

"With the exception of Vegas I only take nonstop flights. I also do not fly in

[Continued on page 4]



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2009

Compiled through 11 Oct. 2009 after 17 tournaments
(Final 2009 events: Mid-Atlantic, Las Vegas, California State)



Ray Foglerlund 43.10	Harold Rex 10.55	Patty Geoffroy 6.04	Jerry Kressin 4.20
John O'Hagan 36.70	Shinichiro Kaneko 10.37	Lynn Lusk 6.00	Harvey Gillis 4.20
Stick Rice 35.80	Dorn Bishop 10.18	Tom Hodous 6.00	Neal Rosensweig 4.00
Ed Bennett 33.77	Brandon Macklin 10.17	Alfred Mamlet 5.50	Bob Howayeck 4.00
Neil Kazaross 32.68	Carol Joy Cole 10.00	Ed Rosenblum 5.50	Eric Johnson 4.00
Adam Bennett 26.50	Ed Johnson 10.00	Jena Jennings 5.40	Wendy Kaplan 3.96
David Rubin 25.87	Steve Sax 9.58	Gary Fishman 5.27	Ray Glaeser 3.96
Larry Taylor 24.00	Bob Schumacher 9.33	Al Faller 5.25	Charles Morrison 3.86
Mary Hickey 21.69	Matt Cohn-Geier 9.15	Herb Roman 5.25	Gerry Tansey 3.80
Julius High 21.33	Philip Smith 9.00	Matt Reklaitis 5.25	Dennis Culpepper 3.70
Bob Glass 21.00	Charlie Silverman 8.60	Bill Calton 5.20	Robert Regan 3.60
Rod Covlin 20.73	Falafel Natanzon 8.50	Ramon Eleazar 5.19	Frank Talbot 3.33
Scott Casty 17.37	Rick Barabino 8.50	Rory Pascar 5.19	Bill Davis 3.25
Victor Ashkenazi 17.00	David Rockwell 8.40	Rose Sheedy 5.11	Bill Bartholomay 3.25
Tak Morioka 16.73	John McDonald 8.38	Malcolm Davis 5.09	Malcolm Robertson 3.20
Dean Adamian 15.83	Joe Freedman 8.14	Jona Alexander 5.09	Bob Carpenter 3.20
Bill Riles 15.52	Mike Senkiewicz 7.92	Ramez Abi-Akar 5.08	Roger Foster 3.11
Alan Grunwald 15.43	Majid Jahanbani 7.20	Sal Chehayeb 5.08	Mike Hendrickson 3.11
Petko Kostadinov 15.00	Richard Munitz 6.75	Brian Barber 5.00	Cheryl Anderson 3.10
Philippe Salnave 14.80	Neil Garvie 6.67	Joe Russell 5.00	David Taniguchi 3.10
Murray Bryntesen 13.00	Stacy Turner 6.50	Bill Devine 4.67	Bill Pow 3.00
David Todd 12.80	Michael Flohr 6.40	Charles Toots 4.67	Joe Eckert 3.00
Lucky Nelson 12.73	Ed King 6.22	Jon Vietor 4.50	Joe Nolan 2.88
Rob Maier 11.54	Trisha Hegland 6.20	Boris Dekhtyar 4.25	Dave Settles 2.70
Scotty Kelland 10.96	Jesse Eaton 6.10	Pernille Rosendal 4.25	D. Bennett/G. Jendras 2.64



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2009 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 6 OCT.

David Rockwell 28.04	Oleg Raygorodsky 7.76	Alexander Medvedev 3.20	Eric Johnson 1.08
Rory Pascar 27.90	Mike Wolock 7.64	Jacob Moreno 3.12	Wendy Kaplan 0.96
Lucky Nelson 23.64	Nora Luna Righter 7.44	Richard Stawowy 3.00	Sonja Peacock 0.88
Herb Roman 22.48	Albert Yakobashvili 7.36	Bill Keefe 2.84	Henry Gray 0.88
Bob Steen 17.16	Ken Bond 7.28	Dan Cox 2.80	Roz Ferris 0.80
Howard Markowitz 16.64	Christopher Shanava 7.04	Steve Hines 2.48	Dustin Lindgren 0.80
Matt Cohn-Geier 14.84	Peter Kalba 6.96	Mark Ostrovsky 2.36	Dujuan Meekins 0.80
Carter Mattig 11.58	Roger Hickman 6.52	John Jennings 2.24	Roy Cohen 0.68
Bill Davis 10.84	Scott Casty 5.92	Dan Weymouth 2.16	Leslie Lockett 0.64
Phil Simborg 10.40	Dave Settles 5.88	Royal Robinson 1.92	Elaine Kehm 0.64
Alice Kay 10.36	Adrian Rios 5.60	Georgina Flanagan 1.92	Joe Rafson 0.64
Larry Goldstein 10.12	Michael Ginat 5.52	Rob Maier 1.68	Mark Murray 0.64
Tak Morioka 10.08	Jerry Brooks 5.12	Jeff Fischer 1.64	Bob Pondelicek 0.60
Wayne Wiest 9.52	Alex Owen 5.00	Linda Rockwell 1.52	Lindsay Mattig 0.56
Bill Bartholomay 9.52	Gary Kay 5.00	Alex Aleyev 1.52	Barry Miller 0.56
Steve Klesker 9.24	Tim Mabee 4.56	Neil Kazaross 1.44	Rodney Gonzalez 0.48
Mike Sutton 8.44	Mike Pufpaf 4.48	Paul Baraz 1.16	Jolie Rubin 0.32
Mike Minkovski 7.88	David Rubin 4.08	Richard Pearlman 1.12	

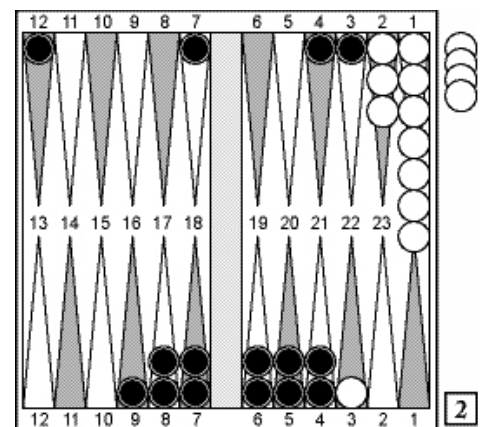
PHIL SIMBORG earned 5.28 points last month to win September honors. Finishing second and third were Matt Chon-Geier (3.60) and David Rockwell (3.28).

your move

PROBLEM #349

to be analyzed by John O'Hagan

Match to 9 points. Black leads White 7 to 5. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-2.**



ASK DANNY

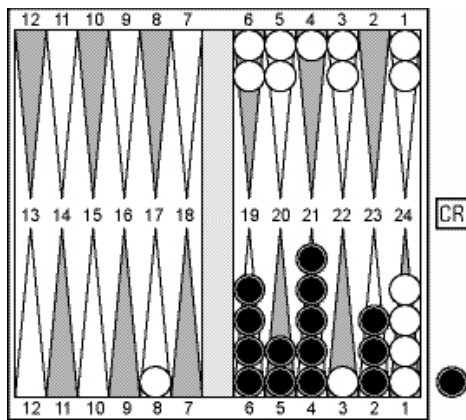
© 2009 by Danny Kleinman



TAMING THE BEAR-OFF

Dear Danny: Last month, I had this bear-off problem at the Colorado State Championships. I was leading in the Crawford game, so gammons didn't matter. Is there a strategy to follow here given the score and my opponent's board?—Just Wondering

11 point match. Black leads White 10 to 6, Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**



DEAR WONDERING: You have an “obvious” safe smoothing play with your ace, 6/5, and can safely bear a man off, 2/Off, a slightly better play than 4/2, with your deuce.

Yet the safety of a blotless play is an illusion here. Getting hit here is not disastrous. White has four inside points and a blot on his 4-point for which he has no covering checkers within a mile and a half. He has so much work to do after hitting that you should not worry about getting hit now.

The greater danger by far is leaving blots and double shots later, after White has brought a man or two out and around to build or perhaps complete a fifth inside point and your own board has deteriorated somewhat. White's blot on your 3-point is a slot for a second anchor. He threatens to turn an otherwise simple “acepoint” game into a well-timed 1-3 back game.

Don't let him! Use your ace to destroy White's slot on your 3-point, 4/3*.

Once you recognize the danger of White's making a second anchor on your 3-point, you will see that bearing a man off from your 2-point is not the most effective use of your deuce. Instead, you should use that deuce to cover your 3-point, 5/3, foreclosing forever White's chance to play a 1-3 back game. Yes, that switches your blot rather than eliminating it, but what a difference there is between having the 5-point

and having the 3-point in a game like this! A 1-5 back game doesn't provide nearly as many double shots as a 1-3 back game. Furthermore, by breaking your 5-point now you prepare to clear it soon, avoiding the danger of rolling an awkward blot-leaving 5 later.—*Yours, Danny Δ*

Questions for Danny Kleinman should be addressed to: Ask Danny, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155 or send e-mail to: bg@chicagopoint.com

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LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

the small jet regional aircraft (seating too uncomfortable for me) that is the only one available for nonstop service to Madison.”

And yet Perry was at the tournament. Now just how did we accomplish that? Put your thinking cap on and see if you can figure that out.

You've really pissed the king off this time. I fully expect some sort of disclaimer or expression of caveat in your next issue. Further, I think the great majority of Open players had a pretty darn good time up here last weekend. As for the Intermediate turn-out, that issue has all been taken care of. I think you'll see a distinct improvement in that regard next year.

Sign me, Pretty damn STEAMED.—
Bruce Russell, Madison, Wisconsin

In the September front page story on Wisconsin, the full sentence that Bruce clipped reads as follows: “Although sparsely attended (68 main event players from the US and Canada), the tournament ran like clockwork.”—Ed.

NEW IPHONE BG GAME

Backgammon NJ is now clearly the best playing game for the iPhone. It is neuro network based and offers analysis of your play via an error rate. There is also an equity percentage on the screen to let you know how you stand. Nothing fishy about this program. Definitely worth the \$4.99 price tag.—*Richard Munitz, Suffren, New York*

A SIMILAR PROBLEM

I noticed the similarities between the “Ask Danny” problem in the September POINT and something I did some work on. Jake Jacobs and Phil Simborg should get credit for identifying its challenging nature (see GammonVillage.com, September 2008). References to the problem itself are on pages 1 and 15 of that article.

I took the bait and gave a lecture in Baltimore, part of which I later included at GammonVillage.com October 2008 titled “Shadenfreude.” If your readers have the time, they may find it interesting.—*Mike Corbett, Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Why are matches almost always played to

an odd number of points? Why are there no 6-pointers or 8-pointers?—*Phyllis Shapiro, St. Louis, Missouri*

There are 2-point “quickies.” But we suspect that (especially with matches to five and nine points) the number is odd so that a gammon of a double or redouble in the first game won't end the match.—Ed. Δ

Our Club Championship!



FALL TROPHY TOURNEY

OPEN: \$50 INTERMEDIATE: \$20

FRIDAY, NOV. 13 @ 6:00 PM

HOLIDAY INN O'HARE

5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

Trophies • Double Master Points

Info: Bill Davis 773/583-6464

TAYLOR WINS AGAIN IN CO.

Malcolm Davis captures Masters

Larry Taylor (GA) continued his retirement "See America" driving tour with another backgammon success. This stop was Aurora, Colorado where he defeated a first time ABT player: Ed Rosenblum (NM) to capture his second Tour title of 2009. Lynda Clay directed the Sept. 25-27 affair at one of the most attractive venues on the tour: Hilton Airport Hotel near Denver.

Larry defeated Ray Foglerlund (CA), Harvey Gillis (WA), and Malcolm Davis (TX) en route to his finals appearance in the



Open Winner Larry Taylor (L) with director Lynda Clay and runner-up Ed Rosenblum.

double elimination event. Well it wasn't a true double elimination. It was decided that one loss bracket winner (Rosenblum) would only have to beat Taylor once to win the title.

The match was exciting with Larry on the verge of victory numerous times only to watch his rookie opponent roll timely doubles to stay alive. Double match point game was the same thing. But this time Ed failed to roll a match-ending double on his final cast. The win gives Larry 24 points—enough for 8th in this year's ABT race.



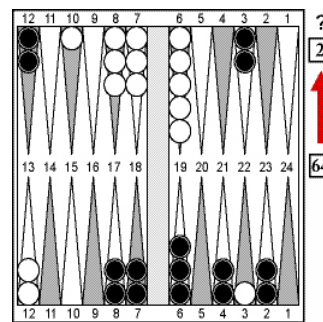
Malcolm Davis

CONGRATULATIONS to Malcolm Davis for another Master's victory. After losing an 8-cube vs. Ed Rosenblum in the finals of the one loss Championship bracket, Davis bounced back in the Masters vs. red hot fellow

Texan Bill Riles to win 11-9. Check out the deciding cube shown above right.

A bad take for Riles. The mistake cost him over 3% in match equity. In three rolls, Malcolm completed a winning 6-prime with his opponent trapped on the bar. The problem with the take is that it loses more than 25% gammons. *Full results at right.* Δ

11 point Masters. Malcolm Davis (Black) trails Bill Riles (White), 7 to 9. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



2009 COLORADO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN (22): 1-Larry Taylor (GA), 2-Ed Rosenblum (NM); 1C-Alfred Mamlet (MD). **ADVANCED (14):** 1-Patty Geofroy (MA), 2-Lynn Lusk (CO); 1C-Ed Gazvoda (CO). **NOVICE (10):** 1-Myra Chapman (CO), 2-Allan Peterson (CO); 1C-Barbara McIntyre (NM). **CONTINENTAL DIVIDE JP (8):** 1-Malcolm Davis (TX), 2-Bill Riles (TX). **ROYAL GORGE JP (12):** 1-Richard Siebold (CO), 2-Mark Stone (CO). **DOUBLES (8 teams):** 1/2-Patrick Gibson (CA) & Harvey Gillis (WA) / Ed Gazvoda (CO) & Sam Raisanen (CO). **BLITZ (32):** 1-Greg Kurrell (CO), 2-Stuart Epstein (TX). **QUICKIES (32):** 1-Neville Kerr (CO).

2009

CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

December 4-6, 2009

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PLAYER OF THE YEAR



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Patrick Gibson, Director: 818/901-0464

pgibsonmfic@roadrunner.com

home.roadrunner.com/~pgibsonmfic/ga_next-event.htm



Bonus Question Quiz:

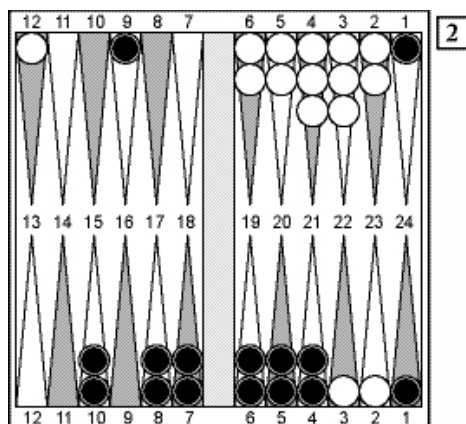
GA is associated with which state?

By Jake Jacobs

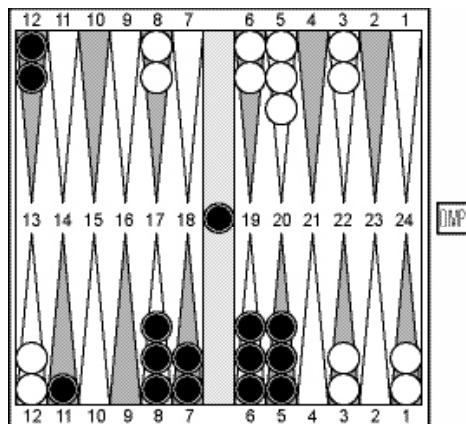
Reviewing the records I see it is far too long since we have had a quiz. That's easy to fix! All of these problems arose during the recent LA Open.

Quiz answers with a ranking table are on page X.

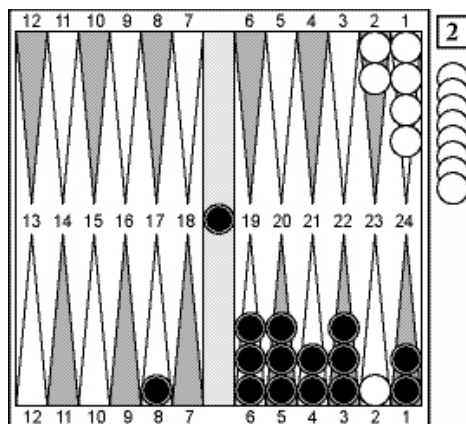
1. Black trailing 6-9 to 11 to play 1-1:



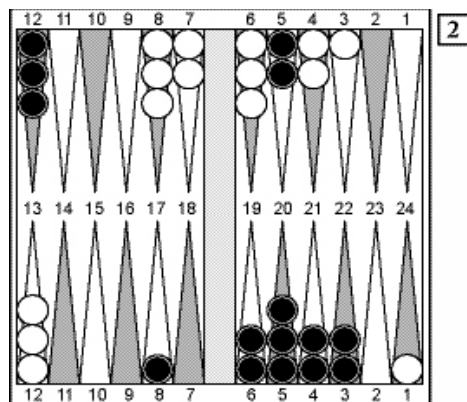
2. Double match point. Black to play 2-2:



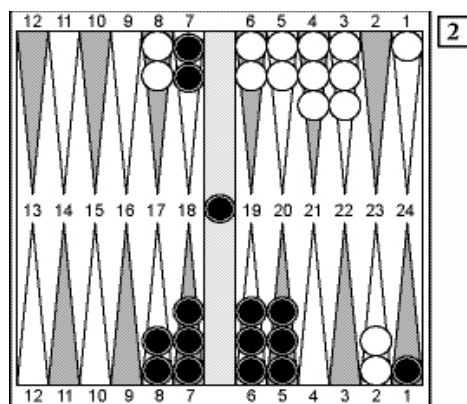
3. Black trailing 3-5 to 9 to play 3-2:



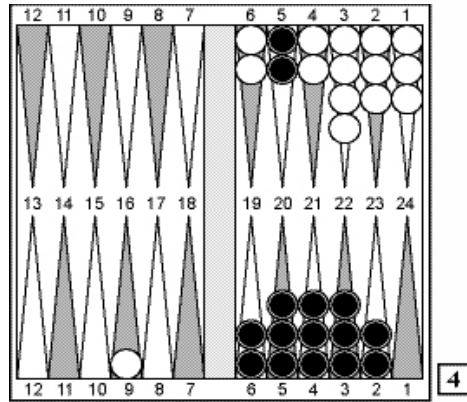
4. Black leading 1-0 to 9 to play 6-6:



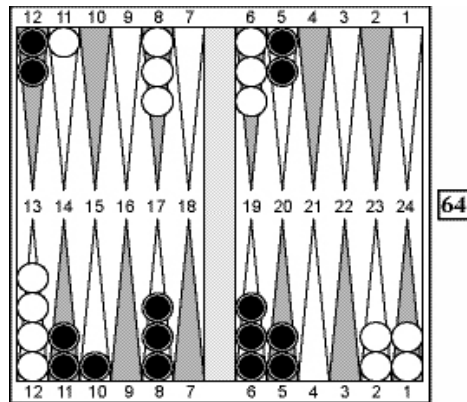
5. Black trailing 3-5 to 9 to play 3-2:



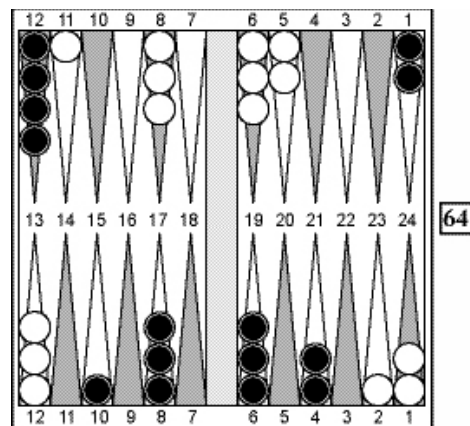
6. Black leading 1-0 to 9 to play 5-1:



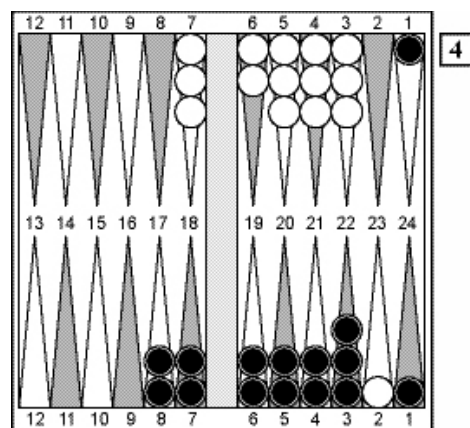
7. Black on roll, 0-0 to 13: Cube actions?



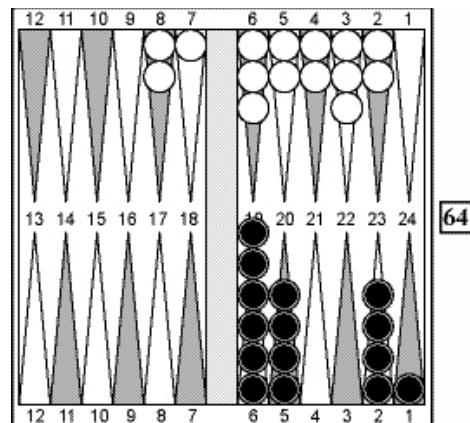
8. Black trailing 1-2 to 13 to play 3-3:



9. Black trailing 0-1 to 9 to play 4-1:



10. Black on roll, 0-0 to 13: Cube actions?



Talk to someone who has attended this event. Plan for 2011 now.

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Elaine Kehm Tallackson 1941–2009

Elaine Kehm Tallackson, a retired math teacher from New Trier High School, died 25 September from pneumonia, complicated by a lifelong battle with severe scoliosis. She was 68.

As BPC director, it was a pleasure working with, playing against, and just knowing Elaine Kehm Tallackson. Elaine started playing backgammon in Chicago in 1976. She last played at our club on August 4 where she reached the semifinals in the Open event. Over the years, she accumulated enough points to rank 111th out of over 2000 Chicagoland players. Elaine was also a life master bridge player earning over 1000 ACBL master points.



Elaine with MBC director Bill Davis. She worked on the Midwest staff 1998–2000.

But it was her warmth and kind attitude that set her apart from the rest. Whenever she attended our weekly club, she would always help me with the pairings. She never was impatient about waiting for a match (she would just read the book she brought); she never complained about bad dice over the backgammon board; she never said a nasty thing about anyone—neither publicly, nor privately to me. And in a game like backgammon, with incredibly cruel luck swings, her even demeanor was amazing.



Elaine with Laila Leonhardt & Nack Ballard at the 1999 Midwest Championships. Elaine introduced Laila to bridge.



Elaine with husband Jerry. They married in 1990.

Her husband Jerry of nearly 20 years describes the events that led up to her unexpected passing:

“We were up in Egg Harbor, Wisconsin at a resort with two other couples Sept. 11–13. We had a great time. Elaine was her usual energetic self. On Sunday, a couple of the girls went bike riding, but Elaine stayed back. That was unusual but she didn’t say anything. We left the resort Sunday night to go back to our place in Door County. She stopped at Pick ‘n Save and got some groceries, then went home and went to bed.

“When she got up on Monday, I noticed her breathing was distressed. I got some decongestant, but that didn’t help. So we called the doctor for an appointment and drove back to Chicago on Tuesday. I dropped her off at the doctor’s office on Wednesday and she was immediately admitted to Northwestern Hospital. On Thursday, she was moved to intensive care. On Friday, she was really struggling and

that was the last day I talked to her. On Saturday, they put her on a ventilator and it was basically all over. Each succeeding day after that, they had a new plan, but nothing worked. Elaine’s whole immune system seemed to fail.”

Elaine is survived by her sister Linda Shedloski, and five nephews and nieces. Donations in her memory can be made to Chapter #10 (Deerfield, IL) of the Scoliosis Assoc., Inc. at www.scoliosis-assoc.org/. Δ

RUBIN TITLE...

[Continued from page 1]

0.080. It does the two things that Black is most concerned with here: wins more games and loses less gammons.



Intermed. winner Jena Jennings.

CONGRATULATIONS to the other main event winners, Jena Jennings (IL) in the Intermediate and Simon Bechara (IL) in the novice. Also, a tip of the hat to Linda Rockwell and staff who dressed in Halloween costumes for the Calcutta. The playing room was beautifully decorated in the same theme.

This is always a fun event. Results: Δ

2009 ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (38): 1-David Rubin (IL), 2-Bill Riles (TX); 1C-John O’Hagan (IN), 2C-Michael Flohr (IL); 1LC-Gerry Tansey (MO). **INTERMEDIATE (27):** 1-Jena Jennings (IL), 2-Dave Settles (IL); 1C-Lynn Lusk (CO), 2C-Greg Tomlin (IL); 1LC-Oleg Raygorodsky (IL). **NOVICE (8):** 1-Simon Bechara (IL), 2-Barbara McGuire (IL); 1C-Jacki Singleton (WI); 1LC-Wendy Russell (IN). **PRAIRIE CLASSIC (32):** 1-Adam Bennett (WI), 2-Vinton Knarr (IL); 1C-John O’Hagan (IN), 2C-Scott Rudebeck (IL). **LAND OF LINCOLN MASTERS (12+3 rebuys):** 1-Matt Cohn-Geier (IL), 2-Malcolm Davis (TX). **LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DOUBLES (11 teams):** 1-Bill Davis & Georgina Flanagan (IL), 2-Jeff Fischer & Oleg Raygorodsky (IL). **PEORIA QUICKIES (32):** 1-Phil Simborg (IL), 2-Jim Zinkhon (IL). **“KILL PHIL” TOURNAMENT (8):** 1-Wendy Kaplan (IL), 2-Ed Bennett (NM). **AFTER TOURNAMENT (8):** 1/2-Ed Bennett (NM) / Ray Fogelund (CA).



ILLINOIS ACTION



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

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

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

CHICAGO BACKGAMMON ASSOCIATION: Tournaments Monday, 6:00 P.M. at The Parthenon; 314 S. Halsted, Chicago. Phil Simborg (312/543-0522) or Carter Mattig (312/493-2911).

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 6:00 P.M. at Ride The Nine; 503 N. Prospect Road, Bloomington. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:00 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).

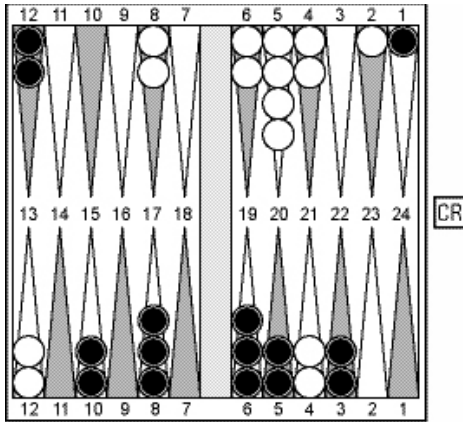
PUB CLUB: Tournaments Thurs., 6:45 P.M. at Playoffs Bar, 720 E. North Ave., Carol Stream. Tim Mabey (630/606-2388).

PEORIA BG CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Sue Will (309/699-6005).

PROBLEM #348 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

7-point match. Black leads White 6 to 5, Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.**



Black has several choices. They can be put into four categories.

1. The hitting plays. These are 24/23*, 13/7 and 24/23*, 8/2. Between these, 24/23*, 8/2 is certainly better. Only one blot, the midpoint is retained, and the cleanup is easier. 24/23*, 13/7 leaves White 1-6, 2-5, 3-4, 1-3, 2-3, 2-1, 4-1, and 1-1 to hit with, so 24/23*, 8/2 is safer also.
2. The running play. 24/18, 6/5.
3. The priming play. 13/7, 8/7.

4. The do-nothing plays. These are 8/1, 8/2, 3/2, and 8/2, 6/5. Not much to choose between these, but 8/2, 3/2 is probably slightly better as the blot on the 3-point is easier to cover and keeping the spare back in the 6-point is better.

The hitting play has a lot going for it. Right now, the race is just about even, and the hit puts Black well ahead. Black's inner board is just as strong as White's. Black won't like being hit back since then he would have a second checker to extricate, but White hits back only 11/36 of the time. White might stay on the bar, which is great for Black. White will have a third checker to extricate. Also, the hit prevents White from making a fourth inner board point, something Black would not like to be facing.

The do-nothing play doesn't look very good by comparison. White has plenty of rolls to make his two point, attack, or both. The race will be about even, Black will still have to escape the back checker, and Black will have a blot hanging in his inner board.

The running play might be right if Black were well ahead in the race, since then all Black would need to do is escape and win. But that is not the case. The race is virtually even. White would have 24 hitting rolls, many of which also cover the blot on the two point. That could be very bad for Black. If White doesn't hit Black still has to complete the escape, and even then White has a decent game holding the enemy four point in an even race.

The priming play makes it more difficult for White to escape his back checkers. But White can still escape with 5s when he is ready to do so. The blot left on the midpoint is a big liability. If White hits Black has two checkers back, and White will have control of the outfield. If White misses, Black's advantage still isn't too great. White will make his two point with most rolls, and Black will be scrambling to escape. Black's timing isn't so great in a priming battle, even though he would have one man back to White's two men back. White's advanced anchor makes up for that. If Black is unable to escape the back checker, it will be Black who will probably be forced to break his prime first. White has more spares to play with. And even if everything goes Black's way, White still has his 4-point holding game in a nearly even race. Granted that holding game isn't so great in the face of Black's blockade, but White will still have quite decent winning chances.

When in doubt hit is often a good policy to follow in backgammon. This position doesn't look like an exception. The gains from hitting are quite real, while the potential loss of getting hit back is smaller since it doesn't have to happen. The other plays leave White ways to win frontwards as well as winning a later race if White is unable to contain Black's back checker. The hit takes away White's racing chances, forcing him to win by hitting or containing a checker.—*Kit Woolsey* Δ

Bonus Question Quiz Answers

[From quiz appearing on page 6]

Pencils down!

1. 16/13*/12: 10 points – The prime is enticing, but it's a blunder. Aside from the fact that gammons are a one-way street running your way, White's entering 4s or 5s are disasters.

2. Bar/23, 13/9, 11/9: 8 points – Only at DMP. The 11pt wins very slightly more games; at any other score the 4pt is better.

3. Bar/22, 4/2*: 8 points – You have to break your board to get your name in the newsletters! In real life Black didn't. Black was (name withheld because he didn't break his board). And before you ask, no, White does not have a redouble from the roof.

4. 13/1(2)*: 12 points – Did you see you could make a six-prime? So did I. Aren't we clever! Since we've doubled making the acepoint is mandatory. Making the prime is a triple whopper.

5. Bar/23, 18/15: 10 points – White would love to hit and split; slotting either point is a blunder.

6. 20/15, 3/2: 7 points – All I can say in favor of breaking the board is that Snowie doesn't hate it nearly enough, and thinks it is only an error. The legendary Sandy Lubetkin once said about a fellow player from the Lone Star State: "He's got the smallest weenie in Texas!" If you thought about breaking your board all I can say is: Texas is ready for a new champ!

7. Double: 3 points; Pass: 8 points – I admit it folks, I wouldn't have passed. But Matt Cohn-Geier did when Stick Rice cubed, and Snowie backs him up.

8. 24/21(2), 8/5(2): 12 points – Coming out to the bar is a substantial error, and all others plays are blunders.

9. 8/4, 3/2*: 12 points – My opponent found 24/23, 5/1 which is second best. It's a "Double Whopper with cheese" so you can guess how good any other play is. Keep it pure and hope for the best.

10. Double: 5 points; Take: 5 points

– It turns out that if you simply count the pips without thinking about making any adjustments for either side you'll nail this one. But confess Doctor Frankenstein, you couldn't resist ordering Igor to drag this one to your lab for dissection!

SCORING

100–81: Baby, we're gonna make you a star!

80–61: Your name isn't going above the title, but you'll get decent billing.

60–41: Do yourself a favor and find a drama coach.

40–21: Which is it: parking cars or pumping gas?

0–20: How do you get your footprints on the Walk of Fame? Next time the shelter lets you shower, don't wash those feet!

Bonus Answer from Quiz title: California. (Gammon Associates sponsors the LA Open.)—*Jake Jacobs* Δ

WINNER'S CIRCLE



SEP.-OCT. 2009

•18th MITTELEUROPA CHAMPIONSHIP

(Nova Gorica, Slovenia; 4-6 Sep.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (38): 1-Michele Muratori (ITA), 2-Fabio Gallotta (ITA), 3/4-Fausto Pescini (ITA) / Lorenzo Rinaldo (ITA); 1C-Walter Jarc (CAN/SPA), 2C-Peter Winkler (AUS); 1LC-Marco Tamigi (ITA), 2LC-Abdullah Sorgüven (TUR); Ladies Prize - Gioivanna La Falce (ITA). INTERMEDIATE (27): 1-Stefano Sinopoli (ITA), 2-Massimo Curcella (ITA); 1C-Bruno Grizzaffi (ITA), 2C-Paolo Satriani (ITA); 1LC-Alessandro Stradiotti (ITA), 2LC-Alfredo Sperti (ITA); Ladies Prize - Dahlia Schmuck (PHL/AUS). SPERTI TROPHY (29): 1-Tassilo Rzymann (AUS), 2-Mario Sequeira (POR). MITTELEUROPA DOUBLES (10 teams): 1-Luisa Sequeira & Mario Sequeira (POR), 2-Sergio Riboldi & Lorenzo Rinaldo (ITA). LADIES TOURNEY (4): 1-Ingeborg Haussleiter (GER), 2-Maria Croce (ITA). HEINER HAUSSLEITER MEMORIAL (30): 1-Ricardo Malas (LEB/SPA), 2-Renato Sovani (ITA).

•Ohio State Club Monthly (Akron, OH; 12 Sep.)... OPEN (15): 1-Pete Zeigler, 2-Mark Murray.

•29th SWEDISH OPEN (Stockholm, Sweden; 11-13 Sep.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (62): 1-Kazuhiro Shino (JPN/ENG), 2-Andreas Becher (DEN), 3/4-Robert Lindbom (SWE) / Thomas Rönn (SWE); 1LC-Stig Landström (SWE), 2LC-Pernille Rosendal INTERMEDIATE (40): 1-Tomas Kervenhed (SWE), 2-Douglas Andersson (SWE) 3/4-Henri Virta / Loui Westin; 1LC-Martin Lindbom (SWE), 2LC-Salim Chabo (SWE). BEGINNERS: 1-Lukas Sevelin (SWE), 2-Erik Fröschl (SWE). DOUBLES: 1-Marcus Ekholm & Stig Landström (SWE). SUPERJACKPOT: 1-Michihito Kageyama (JPN). REBUY BLITZ: 1-Masayuki Mochizuki (JPN).

•WSOB Prague (Prague, Czech Republic; 16-20 Sep.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (52+12 rebuys): 1-Jan Jacobowitz (GER), 2-Shahab Ghodsi (NOR), 3/4-Tage Mellgren (DEN) / Jürgen Orłowski (GER); 1C-Sander Lylloff (DEN), 2C-Sean Williams (ENG). INTERMEDIATE (11): 1-Sabrina Milling Petersen (DEN), 2-Marianne Petersen (DEN); 1C-Bernhard Kaiser (GER). WED. FREEROLL (40): 1-Jan Jacobowitz (GER), 2-Stick Rice (USA), 3/4-Thomas Jespersen (DEN) / Bob Wachtel (USA). Prize = entry to WSOB UK MASTERS LONDON. DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Dahlia & Werner Schmucki (AUS), 2-Steen Grönbech (DEN) & Tage Mellgren (DEN). LADIES TOURNAMENT (8): 1-Sabrina Mill-

ing Petersen (DEN), 2-Marianne Petersen (DEN); 1C-Eva Zizkova (CZR). SATELLITE #1: 1-Bob Wachtel (USA). #2: 1-Mika Laukanen (FIN). SUPER SATELLITE SUNDAY: 1-Christian Plenz (GER), 2-Bernhard Kaiser (GER). Prize = 10K seat at WSOB CHAMPIONSHIP in London. SUPER JACKPOT @ 1,000 euros (8): 1-Werner Schmucki (AUS), 2-Frans Bergi (AUS). SPEEDBLITZ #1 (32): 1-Sven-Olav Norén (SWE). #2 (32): 1-Kazuhiro Shino (JPN). 50-euro JACKPOT (8) Winners: Eva Biro (HUN), Evi Titka (ISR), Eva Zizkova (CZR), Michael Sørensen (DEN).

•10th Vietor Cup (La Jolla, CA; 19-20 Sep.)... OPEN (28): 1-Jason Lee, 2/3/4/5-Mike Ungerleider/Julius High/Nick Maffeo/Steve Sax.

•Pair-O-Dice Monthly (New York, NY; 20 Sep.)... OPEN (16): 1-Frank DiMaggio, 2-Leon Marini (NJ); 1C-Jason Pack (NJ). BEGINNER (4): 1-Funlayo Ifakemi Olatunji, 2-Doug Pader.

•15th Japan Open & Championship (Tokyo, Japan; 20-22 Sep.)... JAPAN OPEN (41): 1-Noriyuki Hosaka, 2-Jake Jacobs (USA/SNG), 3/4-Yoshito Takeuchi / Youichiro Umetsu, 5/6-Yosuke Takahashi / Tatsuya Tanaka. First Prize included a free trip to WSOB London in November, sponsored by the WSOB. CHAMPIONSHIP (32x4): 1-Masahiko Nasu, 2-Robin Swaffield (HK), 3/4-Makoto Shimada / Yosuke Takahashi. First prize included a free trip to Monte Carlo in 2010. INTERMEDIATE (32+36): 1-Hiroyuki Miro, 2-Teruyuki Suzuki, 3-Yoshiyuki Nakamura. BEGINNER (23+70): 1-Yuya Toyoda. SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-Jake Jacobs (USA/SNG), 2-Masahito Yamamoto. LADIES TOURNAMENT (16): 1-Mayumi Kanno, 2-Etsuko Kobayashi. DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Megumi Isii & Nozomy Kawazoe, 2-Michitaka Imanishi & Tatsushi Miyano. OTHELLO QUIZ (9): 1/2-Shinichiro Kaneko / Yutaka Mitsuishi. 1-POINTER #1 (64): 1-Takayuki Hino; #2 (64): 1-Masahito Yamamoto.

•31st Flint Club Championships (Flint, MI; 27 Sep.)... OPEN (25): 1-Bill Calton, 2-Harry Tokatlian, 3/4-Carol Joy Cole / Frank Talbot, 5/6-Paul Berg / John Grayson. INTERMEDIATE (20): 1-Jeff Clark, 2-David Pink, 3/4-Abdul Alchalabi / Dirk Hogan, 5/6-James Baltes / Miriam Bureson. NOVICE (6): 1-David Goodman, 2-Linda Hoggatt (OH).

•New England Club Monthly (Malden, MA; 3 Oct.)... OPEN: 1-Alex Zamanian, 2-Anne Bidner; 1C-Herb Gurland, 2C-Eric Wicklund.

•Bar Point Sunday (Chicago, IL; 4 Oct.)... OPEN (24): 1-David Rockwell, 2-Scott Casty, 3/4-Bill Bartholomay / Rory Pascal; 1C-Tak Morioka, 2C-Carter Mattig. INTERMEDIATE (3): 1-Peter Kalba.

•Ohio State Club Monthly (Akron, OH; 4 Oct.)... OPEN: 1-Farhad Forudi, 2-Mike Rezai. Δ

AMALGAMATION

Visiting the Bar Point Club this fall: **James Bray** (TX) and **Mark Murray** (OH)... What are the incredible odds?: "Giant of Backgammon" **Malcolm Davis** (TX) lost 11-0 to **Wayne Wiest** (IL) in the Main, 9-0 to **Mike Shanas** (MO) in the Consolation, and 7-0 to **Chuck Bower** (IN) in the Last Chance at the Illinois State Championships... New BG Clubs has popped up down South! **Will Hunn** (504/366-7498) directs the New Orleans Club at Flora's Cafe, and **John Ramm** (615/427-9244) is running the NW Alabama Club at Demo's Restaurant in Florence. Check out all the new club info at chicagopoint.com/usacclubs.html... A backgammon board from the Mary Rose warship (sunk in 1545) is going on display at the Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth, England... Our prayers go out to Pub Club player **Carol Hooker** who is going through chemo and radiation treatments during Oct. and Nov....

Kent Goulding (MD) can be seen in episode 18 (and maybe more) of ESPN's World Series of Poker show. He finished 77th out of 6494 entrants... Opening in Spring 2010, the Chatwall Hotel in New York will "recreate iconic glamour and style of the 1930s Gotham." In-room finishes include suede covered walls, leather wrapped double closets, and a specially crafted backgammon set... Visit **Phil Simborg's** new website: www.simborgbackgammonlessons.com. It's filled with a lot of great BG info... NBC golf reporter **Roger Maltbie** on the strategy of match play vs. stroke play in golf: "[Match play strategy] is almost like playing backgammon with the doubling cube."... In the newly released movie "Whiteout," **Kate Beckinsale** asks "I wonder if there is professional backgammon in the United States."... Easy C Riders bicycle club held the first annual "Walter Trice Memorial Metric Century" bike ride in Worcester, MA on 5 September... When sexy **Megan Fox** isn't fighting Transformers, she likes to play backgammon as well as bowling and pottery. Adding "Other than that, I like to read, I'm pretty boring." Δ



KG on ESPN World Series of Poker.



Megan Fox covering her pips.



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7th *French Open*
d'Enghien-les-Bains
Lucien Barrière



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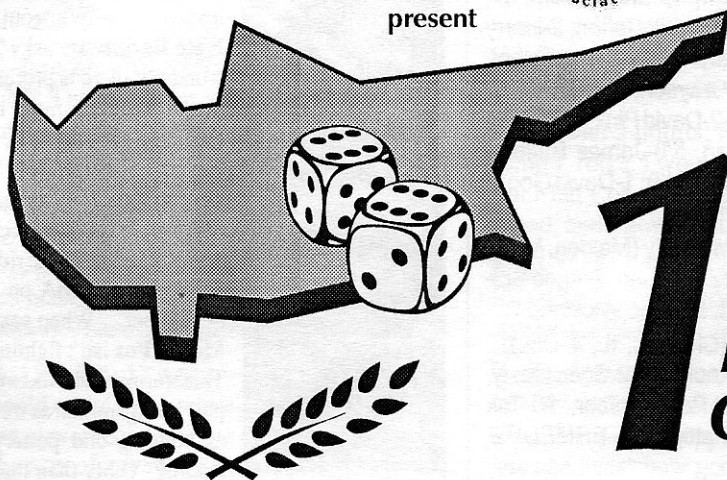
26th – 29th NOVEMBER 2009

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