

news/editorial

CENTRAL STATES INVITATIONAL TO INITIATE DRESS CODE IN 2011

Old guard backgammon players will remember the class and style that was backgammon in the late 1970s/early 1980s. Attending a Chicago Black & White Scotch tournament was as much a social event as it was a competition. Many of Chicago's 400 were gammoners including A. Bradley Eben, Faye Schwimmer, Homer Hargrave, Christie Hefner, Bill Bartholomay, Armen Avedisian, Lillian Florsheim and others. With pre-tourney soirées at Chicago's Playboy Mansion and post-tourney knockouts at Faces Disco, these were weekends to remember.

But this is 2010 and for the most part, "fashionable affairs" are a thing of the past. Even Chicago's Gibson Restaurant permits customers to dine in T-shirts and jeans. So in 2011, why on earth would the upcoming Central States Invitational (4-6 March at the Sheraton Gateway Suites O'Hare Chicago) initiate a dress code?



Casual dress run amok at this European tourney circa 2007. [Photo submitted by Becca Thompson.]

The answer is to promote backgammon as it once was: a game of engaging competitive interaction in an atmosphere of moderate decorum.

2011 CSI MEN'S DRESS CODE:

Collared shirts requested in the playing room. No T-shirts, sweatshirts, or shorts. Women should dress appropriately.

Over the years, Backgammon has lost the one ingredient that made it popular in both the 1930s and 1970s: prominence. Our game grabbed the national spotlight in 1930, one year after the stock market crash sent America into a deep depression. During that period, high society adopted the "game of kings" as a vehicle for social interaction. Celebrities like Fred Astaire, Joan Crawford, the Marx Brothers played, promoting the elegance of the game. Movies featured backgammon as a game of glamour. Soon backgammon became a fad and everyone was playing.



Fred Astaire and Cary Grant were two of the many celebrities who took up backgammon in the 1930s.



Leslie Howard and Norma Shearer gave backgammon a glamorous and romantic feel in their 1931 movie "A Free Soul."

Then backgammon went into hibernation only to be rediscovered in the mid-1970s. Once again, the banner was stylishly carried by celebrities of the day such as Hugh Hefner, Omar Sharif, and Lucille Ball. Backgammon again became a lifestyle of the rich and famous, which in turn, recreated the fad.

We can't manufacture the feeling of elegance that once was backgammon, but we can show our game the respect it deserves

by dressing accordingly. Unlike today's poker players who look like they're ready to dig ditches, we can promote backgammon as a fashionable recreation.



Lucille Ball was a huge backgammon aficionado in the 1970s and 1980s. She even ran her own annual charity tourney.



Roger Moore respecting the game in the 1983 James Bond movie "Octopussy."

That is the reason for the CSI's new dress code. And a very moderate code it is. We ask that men who attend the event wear at the very least, a collared shirt. That means no T-shirts or sweatshirts. One director asked, "No sweatshirts? But what if it gets chilly in the playing room?"

Our response: "Did you ever hear of a sweater or sportcoat?"

We will be encouraging an even higher standard of dress by offering added money to any man who neatly wears a dress shirt and tie (coat optional) for all his matches en route to winning the Championship (\$400 added), Advanced (\$200 added), or Limited (\$100 added) title. A woman need only dress appropriately to qualify for these bonuses.

The policy is not without controversy and is already creating peculiarities. For example, two BPC players, Tak Morioka

[Continued on page 6]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

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DOESN'T SEEM FAIR

Here's another goofy thing about ABT point computations: Richard Munitz gets 5.71 points for coming in 2nd in New York with just 20 players. I got only 4.40 points for coming in 2nd in Minnesota, with 22 players.—David Rubin, Skokie, Illinois

The Thousand Islands tournament had 20 entrants, hence 20 ABT points to distribute, and only paid three places. With 22 entrants, Minnesota chose to spread out the awards by paying five places.

There's nothing wrong with this. Different formats and different payouts are part of the personality and diversity of each event. Take the recent tournament in Madison Wisconsin: 31 player field with a Round Robin format. Rory Pascas compiled a 10-0 record and his closest competitor was 8-2. Yet even after this incredible achievement, Rory still needed to win one

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BACKGAMMON						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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

*Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined

Oct 8-10	Illinois State Championships, Grand Hotel, Peoria, Illinois	847/677-6852
Oct 9	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Oct 9	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Oct 9	New England Monthly, Docksider Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Oct 10*	South Florida Monthly, Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Oct 10*	Portland Monthly, Spring Creek Coffee House, Milwaukie, Oregon	503/515-5682
Oct 12*	Teakwoods Club Monthly, Teakwoods Tavern & Grill, Phoenix, Arizona	602/762-2288
Oct 14-17	<u>3rd Mid-Atlantic Championship, Burkshire Marriott, Towson, Maryland</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Oct 17*	Bellingham Monthly, Pacific Martial Arts, Bellingham, Washington	360/733-6173
Oct 17*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly Tournament, Lincoln Center Atrium, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Oct 21*	Third Thursday Bonus (Las Vegas), Liquid Sports Bar, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Oct 23*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Oct 23*	Hoosier Club Fall Trophy Event, McAllister's Deli, Indianapolis, Indiana	317/241-0605
Oct 24	32nd Flint Area Club Championships, Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Oct 31*	Atlanta Northside Monthly, Gail Newburn's place, Covington, Georgia	770/612-0818
Nov 3*	Charlotte Club Monthly, Dilworth Grille, Charlotte, North Carolina	704/965-3573
Nov 5	Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Nov 6*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Nov 6*	Springfield Series #2, Peoria Pizza Works, Peoria, Illinois	217/622-9447
Nov 7*	Cincinnati Club Monthly, Tournament, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Nov 7*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Brubaker's Pub, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Nov 9*	Teakwoods Club Monthly, Teakwoods Tavern & Grill, Phoenix, Arizona	602/762-2288
Nov 10-14	<u>2010 Las Vegas Open, Bally's Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	<u>702/218-8238</u>
Nov 13*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Nov 13*	Tampa Bay Club Monthly, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/786-9133
Nov 14*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly Tournament, Lincoln Center Atrium, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Nov 14*	South Florida Monthly, Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Dec 3-5	<u>California State Championship, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Dec 5*	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jan 6-9*	<u>New York Metropolitan Open, Hyatt Regency, Jersey City, New Jersey</u>	<u>408/529-6769</u>
Jan 14-17*	<u>3rd US Open & Masters, Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, Florida</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Jan 22-29	2011 Backgammon & Poker On Board, Western Caribbean Princess Cruise	773/583-6464
Jan 27-30*	<u>3rd New Mexico State Championships, La Posada Resort, Santa Fe, NM</u>	<u>505/982-2729</u>
Feb 17-20*	<u>33rd Pittsburgh Championships/ABT Awards, Airport Holiday Inn, Moon Twp., PA</u>	<u>304/685-3214</u>
Mar 4-6*	<u>CSI—Central States Invitational, Sheraton Gateway Suites, Rosemont, Illinois</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Oct 7-10	EBGT: 1st Mallorca Challenge, Marriott Son Antem, Lluçmajor, Mallorca	491715-422222
Oct 8-11	WBGT: 16th Japan Open, Shidax Hall, Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan	817-55481741
Oct 8-12*	Brazilian Torneio, Blue Tree Towers Macaé, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil	552141-015757
Oct 9-10	BBT: 1st Hasselt Open, Borrelhuis, Hasselt, Belgium	32-11-740937
Oct 9-10*	22nd Danish Championships, Café Park, Copenhagen, Denmark	4531-392791
Oct 15-17	5th Milano Open, Castello di Carimate, Carimate near Como, Italy	393474-330340
Oct 15-17	2nd German Masters, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49711-486190
Oct 16-17	Australian Open, City Tattersalls Club, Sydney, Australia	612405-373225
Oct 23-24	TBGT: 14th Istanbul Open, Green Park Hotel Bostanci, Istanbul, Turkey	905324-279454
Oct 26-31	EBGT/WBGT: 6th Doubles / 8th French Open, Enghien-les-Bains, France	491715-422222
Oct 29-31	18th Irish Open Championship, Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, Ireland	358-72144270
Nov 1-2	WBGT: WBGT Grand Finale, Casino Barrière, Enghien-les-Bains, France	491715-422222
Nov 5-7	Townharbour Trophy, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Nov 6-7	TBGT: 2010 Grand Finale, Green Park Hotel Bostanci, Istanbul, Turkey	905324-279454
Nov 12-14	8th Trofeo delle Città, Castello di Modanella, Tuscany, Italy	393478-336862
Nov 12-14	10th Backgammon Live in London, The Kings Stores, London, England	442077-001798
Nov 13-14*	Berlin-Cup Year-end Tournament, Café Belmont, Berlin, Germany	491515-1419020
Nov 13-14	TBT: 3rd Edirne Open/WBF-TR, Arslanli Complex, Edirne, Turkey	905332-352555
Dec 3-5	Christmas UK Finals, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Dec 4-5	SBTT: Thun Open/BEO-Cup/Doubles, Waadtländerstube, Thun, Switzerland	4179-4329378
Dec 8-12*	2nd Meribel Tournament 2010, Hotel L'Eterlou, Meribel, France	33620-902726
Dec 18-19*	TBT: 17th Istanbul Championship/WBF-TR, Mertes Gunes Hotel, Turkey	905322-329228
Dec 26-27*	Christmas Tournament, Somboon, Dongtan Beach, Pattaya, Thailand	6686-8187480
Jan 7-9*	Bright 'n' Breezy, Barceló Old Ship Hotel, Brighton, England	441522-888676
Jan 8-9*	BBT: 7th Masters International Open, Café Den Bengel, Antwerp, Belgium	31653-276835
Jan 10-12*	16th Thailand Open, Aisawan Resort, Pattaya, Thailand	6686-8187480
Jan 14-16*	TBT: 2011 Istanbul Open/WBF-TR, Armada Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey	905322-329228
Feb 4-6*	Jarvis Trophy, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

more match (out of three) to become champion. But that's fine because the format was stated in advance.

One constant in the Championship

division is that if 40 players enter, then 40 ABT points are at stake. After that, directors have the right to run their tournaments and make payouts as they see fit. If the players don't care for the format or payout schedule, they can lodge a complaint with the director or simply pick another event to attend.—Ed.

STYLE AND MONTE CARLO

Your September Monte Carlo photos of the differences in attire at our tournaments then and now made me think of this pic sent to me a few years back. Have you ever seen a more well-dressed bunch of guys who rate at the top of their field?! Our sport is not exactly known for it's fashion sense I guess! Love Tobais's man-purse, but Sander takes the cake with the wife-beater, shorts, and black socks.—Becca Thompson, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Becca's photo is in the first column on page 1. From left to right: Tobias Hellwag, Abraham Eitan, Falafel Natanzon, Morton Holm, and Sander Lyloff—Ed.

Enjoyed your article on Monte Carlo. I like your idea for a big event in Vegas in July at the end of the World Series of Poker.—Drew Giovanis, Las Vegas, Nevada

I am in complete agreement with your comments about the Monte Carlo tournament. It is high time that the Backgammon World Championship move to a location likely to draw more players. At the very least it should be rotated every year between a few major cities. I'd suggest Monte Carlo, Las Vegas, Copenhagen and Tokyo.

Las Vegas would be the perfect venue for the BG World Championship and a perfect time would be just as the World Series of Poker is winding down. With three or four days left in the WSOP, you'll have thousands of gamers knocked out of a \$10,000 event and looking for more action.

[Continued on page 6]



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2010

Top 100 through 6 Sept. 2010 after 15 tournaments
(Final 2010 events: Illinois, Mid-Atlantic, Las Vegas, California)



John O'Hagan	36.67	Paul Weaver	11.00	Jim McGirr	5.33	Michelin Chabot	3.78
Richard Munitz	31.45	Ray Fogerlund	10.84	Donny Lomuto	5.17	Neil Kazaross	3.67
Kit Woolsey	31.34	Patty Geoffroy	10.33	Glenn Ramsey	5.17	Jolie Rubin	3.61
Rory Pascar	25.89	John Baron	10.19	Ernest Ho	5.17	Bob Hickey	3.60
Gary Fries	25.20	Mel Rappaport	10.08	Carter Mattig	5.04	John Jennings	3.46
David Rubin	21.17	Tak Morioka	9.67	Alfred Mamlet	4.83	Steve Sax	3.46
Dorn Bishop	18.60	Justin Nunez	9.09	Josh Racko	4.69	Stacy Turner	3.46
Ed O'Laughlin	18.31	George Haskour	9.09	Johnny Jigamian	4.65	Steve Nelson	3.20
Jesse Eaton	18.26	Jeremy Bagai	9.05	Mark Andrus	4.50	Barry Silliman	3.15
Bob Steen	17.33	Scott Cole	8.89	Elli Nache	4.49	Al Faller	3.15
Gary Bauer	16.78	Matt Cohn-Geier	8.80	Sergiy Rybii	4.45	David Rockwell	3.11
Patrick Gibson	16.00	Joe Russell	8.55	Lynn Ehrlich	4.44	Garry Kallos	3.04
Mary Hickey	14.67	Oleg Raygorodsky	8.39	Damon Singer	4.44	Damian Plesec	3.04
Bill Davis	14.67	Ary Nogueira	8.00	Bob Schumacher	4.40	Marcy Kossar	2.97
Eden Windish	14.34	Ken Bame	7.67	Sal Chehayeb	4.38	Terry Weiss	2.83
Steve Hast	13.83	Sasan Taher	7.33	Jason Pack	4.38	Sandra Sha	2.82
Dana Nazarian	13.83	Greg Cottle	7.33	Faddoul Khoury	4.33	Steve Neidecker	2.80
Stick Rice	12.83	Prince Barlow	7.20	Mark Antranikian	4.33	Rob Reynolds	2.70
Mike Senkiewicz	12.80	Dean Adamian	6.92	Dujuan Meekins	4.20	Terry Seymour	2.70
Sean Garber	12.60	Lucky Nelson	6.83	Ken Tyszko	4.20	Neal Rosensweig	2.67
Lynda Clay	11.69	Jerry Godsey	6.40	Gary Schachtschneider	4.00	Danielle Bastarache	2.67
Larry Yudin	11.64	Michael Flohr	6.30	Tom Wheeler	4.00	Pete Mostoufi	2.58
Mike Corbett	11.40	Paul Polatov	6.07	Jim Slomkoski	3.88	Jesse Jestadt	2.58
Gregg Cattanaach	11.30	Dave Pink	5.82	Roz Ferris	3.83	Ed Johnson	2.58
Al Hodis	11.23	Bob Weigel	5.40	Rick Barabino	3.78	Ryan Hast	2.58



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2010 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 28 SEP.

Phil Simborg	25.64	Carter Mattig	8.16	Rolf Boettger	2.28	Dan Cox	1.08
Rory Pascar	21.68	Mike Minkovski	8.08	Jerry Brooks	2.16	John Spatafora	0.96
David Rockwell	20.96	Michael Ginat	8.04	Alex Aliyev	2.16	Matt Cohn-Geier	0.96
Tim Mabee	16.72	Dave Settles	7.36	Joann Feinstein	2.16	Paul Baraz	0.88
Bill Davis	15.92	Mike Peters	7.20	John O'Hagan	2.08	Greg King	0.88
Howard Markowitz	15.28	Steve Klesker	7.12	Mitch Pomper	2.00	Mihai Pop	0.80
Bill Bartholomay	13.64	Julius High	6.80	John Gaski	1.92	Stefan Pop	0.72
Bob Steen	13.28	Georgina Flanagan	5.92	Alex Owen	1.84	Richard Stawowy	0.72
Larry Goldstein	12.12	Ken Bond	5.28	Roger Hickman	1.84	Richard Pearlman	0.64
Mike Sutton	11.64	Serge Bondar	4.40	Royal Robinson	1.68	Dean Livas	0.64
Bill Keefe	11.48	Peter Kalba	4.36	Adrian Rios	1.60	John Jennings	0.56
Tak Morioka	11.28	Alice Kay	4.20	Jolie Rubin	1.44	Paul Lombardo	0.48
Herb Roman	10.24	Lucky Nelson	4.16	Bill Kaludis	1.32	Mike Pufpaf	0.48
Eric Johnson	10.08	Scott Casty	3.60	Mike Terenin	1.32	Linda Rockwell	0.48
Wayne Wiest	10.00	J. A. Miller	3.24	Wendy Kaplan	1.28	Kwong Chan	0.48
Christopher Shanava	9.72	Dan Weymouth	2.88	Shaw Dogan	1.28	Beth Whitney	0.48
Mike Wolock	9.64	Gary Kay	2.84	Mark Murray	1.28	Randy Pals	0.48
Nora Luna Righter	9.04	Mark Ostrovsky	2.60	Eren Merzeci	1.24	Leslie Lockett	0.32
Reginald Porter	8.56	Amy Trudeau	2.48	Sam Yoyen	1.20	Les Moshinsky	0.32
Dujuan Meekins	8.32	Ken Tibbs	2.32	Joe Rafson	1.12	Oleg Raygorodsky	0.24

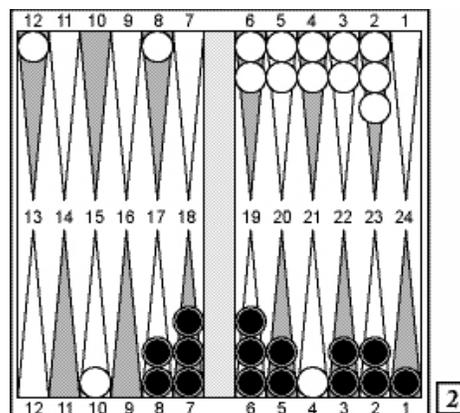
TIM MABEE split first in two Masters events to capture 3.84 points and September Player of the Month honors. Runner's-up were Tak Morioka and Phil Simborg with 2.88 points each.

your move

PROBLEM #358

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

7-point match. Black leads White 5 to 4. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-2.**

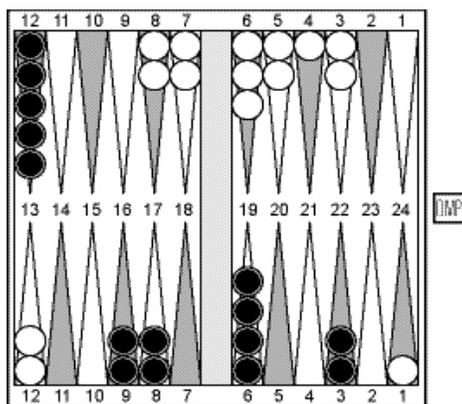


A Fortuitous Roll

By Alex Caraplis

This position came up online recently on GridGammon.

Tournament double match point. Trailing in the pip count 118 to 129, **BLACK TO PLAY 4-2.**



There are two main alternatives:

- A. Make the 4-point.
- B. Bring two down off the midpoint.

Black is outboarded $3\frac{1}{2}$ points to 2 and trails in the race. Containing White's back checker while minimizing the downside of getting hit seems to be the main way to win.

Let's take a look at the board and see what's going on. Black has nine checkers outside and White has six back with one in Black's inner board for a total of seven. Black needs 14 crossovers to White's 11, so the race is worse for Black than it appears. Usually, when behind in a race, pip conservation can be a more important factor than making an inside point. You have to get the checkers across before you can bring them in. Black therefore, is outboarded, trails in the race and crossovers, and has an inferior position.

Now that we have all the basic facts, what other considerations are important before we even start moving checkers?

Play A equalizes the board strength while leaving four shots (6-1 and 4-3). When hit, Black has to roll an immediate 4 or some other entering and (hopefully) hitting number like 1-1, 2-1, or 5-1 to prevent getting crushed rather quickly. The 4-point makes a crossover and strengthens Black's home board but doesn't offer much help in the race.

Play B has the advantage of bringing two men down with two crossovers but does nothing to improve the home board

and doesn't appear very threatening. It only leaves White a 6-4 with which to hit so it is initially safer.

Now for the million dollar questions: How much risk should one take at this moment? Does the stronger board and extra risk of Play A outweigh the safer play of bringing two down with Play B? Which of the two plays leaves less residual shots with a more flexible position a roll later?

Over the board, I'd expect most players to make the 4-point without much hesitation.

Let's make a chart comparing Black's follow-up rolls, the resultant positions, and their equity to see if we can narrow down the differences between the plays. For comparison sake, Play A is twice as risky as Play B, so the "two down" play has to have more flexibility, more point-making potential with higher equity in the resulting positions, and better clean-up potential to balance taking the extra risk of making the 4-point.

The first table depicts Blacks follow-up rolls, plays and equities after he moves, and White plays retaining the midpoint by playing off the bar- and 8-points. White's immediate escape numbers 4-3, 6-1, 6-3, 6-4, or 6-5 are listed separately in the last table.

[See table shown below.]

In the first group of numbers, A is ahead 9 to 6 in the edge department. In the swing roll section, B is ahead 3 to 1 with two rolls (5-2 and 6-5) about even overall. The final result is 10 to 9 slightly in favor of A.

However, A's small edge is grossly outweighed by the huge drop in winning

chances when Black gets jockeyed on the 8-point immediately with more residual hit numbers on subsequent rolls by White.

In a nutshell, Play A leaves double the initial hit numbers for your opponent whereas Play B keeps you in the game for an extra roll without a significant decrease in flexibility. Play B also gains on 6-3 by having an extra checker to aim at the blot when White runs out to the 15-point and gains slightly in the race with the extra crossover. The gain on the 6-3 is quite significant and easily overlooked. The extra checkers by playing two down yield more possible priming plays and pins the 5- and 7-point down more often leading to better overall structure.

Play B results in six checkers outside versus only three with Play A. So, more checkers outside results in more point-making potential (builders) and primes especially with small doubles such as 1-1 or 2-2. Larger doubles like 4-4 and 5-5 yield much stronger positions as well with Play B.

In a bit of a surprise, Play B gets the nod for the best play at double match-point. B is best for money play as well.

The plays were 3-ply reviewed by Snowie Pro version 4.7 and eXtreme Gammon 1.21 software. A Snowie 500 game rollout has Play A (making the 4-point) winning 51.6% to 49.4% over Play B (two down).

The eXtreme Gammon level 6 evaluation yields 52.3% to 49.7%. That's quite a surprising difference between the two plays! Which move would you have made?—Alex Caraplis Δ

Blk. Roll	After Play A	After Play B	% Blk. Wins A/B	Hit #s A/B	Blots A/B	Edge
1-1	8/5, 6/5	8/7(2), 6/5(2)	62.8/68.1	0	0	B
3-1	8/5, 6/5	13/10, 11/10	62.8/60	0	0	A
4-4	13/5 (2)	9/5(2), 8/4(2)	74.7/71.2	2/4	1/2	A
4-1	9/5, 6/5	9/5, 6/5	63/64.7	4/2	2/1	B
2-2	13/7, 9/7	9/7(2), 6/4(2)	68.3/70.2	4/3	1/2	B
6-2	13/7, 9/7	13/7, 9/7	64.2/65.3	5/2	2/1	B
3-3	13/7(2)	13/10 (3), 11/8	68.7/67.9	2/0	1/0	A
6-6*	13/7(3), 9/3	13/7(3), 9/3	73.2/74.3	5/2	2/1	B
5-1	13/8, 9/8	13/8, 9/8	59/57	3/2	1/1	A
5-2	13/8, 13/11	9/4, 6/4	64/64	2/2	1/1	=
5-3	13/8, 13/10	13/8, 11/8	63.2/58.5	4/0	1/0	A
5-4	13/8, 13/9	9/4, 8/4	65/60.3	0/6	0/2	A
4-2	13/9, 13/11	11/7, 9/7	59.3/62.8	6/0	2/0	B
3-2	13/8	13/8	61/58	0/2	0/1	A
5-5	13/8(2), 13/3	9/4(2), 6/1*(2)	72.4/71	0/4	0/2	A
2-1	9/7, 8/7	13/11, 9/8	59.5/58.1	1/0	1/0	A

* Making the ace-pt. is roughly equivalent with the listed 6-6 play. Now for White's BIG SWING ROLLS:

Wht. Roll	After Play A	After Play B	% Blk. Wins A/B	Edge
6-1	24/17*	24/23, 8/2	35.4/59.5	B
4-3	24/17*	24/21, 8/4	35.4/51.8	B
6-3	24/15	24/15	43.2/47.9	B
6-4	24/14	24/14*	40/26.8	A
6-5	24/13	24/13	27.6/28	≈

BACKGAMMON BACK THEN

Check out this Calcutta Sheet from Valerie Valentine's 1977 Chicago Cup Tournament. Backgammon was very special back then. The total auction take of \$25,800 would be worth nearly \$75,000 in today's money. Δ

4TH ANNUAL "CHICAGO CUP" TOURNAMENT

May 28-29, 1977

Player 1 - Tony Goble \$2000

Player 5A

FIELD A - Bob Scheckman \$900

Suzanne Bouhall
Jack Bernstein \$900
David Fine
Leon Denerboian

FIELD B - Dan Marcus
Vin Paris \$1300
Irv Robinson
Christie Hefner

Player 2 - Armen Avedisian \$1100

FIELD C - George Brandt
Brad Eben \$1200
Donald Desmond
Chuck Maltz

FIELD D - Homer Hargrave
Preston Braunig \$1000
Ollie Paris
Lee Warren

Player 3 - Ken Goodman \$1000

FIELD E - ~~Hal Magriel~~ Jeff Michael
Chris Averkiou \$900
Dennis Bell
Fred Leinweber
Christine Brent

FIELD F - Al Dolnick
Howard Gundee \$600
Myron Goldman
Roger Johnson

Player 4 - Alfonso Negrete \$700

FIELD G - Arthur Ramer
Don Brumlik \$700
Howard Markovitz
David Baum

Bob Anderson \$500

\$25,800

FIELD H - Gunnar Bennett
Sarge Sergis \$900
Bill Hirsch
Diane Blumenfeld

Player 5 - Malcolm Davis \$800

FIELD I - Faye Schwimmer
Penny Dolnick \$900
Haig Messerlian
Irv Kalick
Rick Munchkin

FIELD J - Charles Witz
Tim Wisecarver \$1200
Dr. Milton Nathanson
Michael Rovell

Player 6 - Gus Karaboyas \$1000

FIELD K - Jerry Goldberg
Dorothy Press \$1000
Bill Davis
Frank Cook

FIELD L - Jim Michael
~~Katie Wright~~ Jim Gibbs
David Joyce \$1200
Fred Turatsi

FIELD M - Mike Garner
Jim Knauer \$1200
Marty Brandt
Barbara Glazer
Craig Chellstrop

Player 7 - Mike Carson \$1600

FIELD N - Bill Bartholomay
Norma Shyer \$1300
Keith Ambrose
Mausy Sayle

FIELD O - Dan Johnston
J. H. Baroff \$1100
Dan Geiger
Lillian Florsheim
Ron Garber

Player 8 - ~~Gino Sealamandre~~
Lynn Goldsmith \$1300

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pgibsonmfic@roadrunner.com

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CSI DRESS CODE...

[Continued from page 1]

and Wayne Wiest said they would wear a dress shirt and tie as long as they continue to win matches. But David Rockwell, known for squeezing every iota of equity out of a backgammon position said the shirt and tie is not for him and will forgo the chance to win an additional \$400. It seems that even equity hounds have their limits.

Will the dress code hurt attendance as some have predicted? Actually, we think that the curiosity of what fellow players will wear is going to increase attendance. Sure, a few backgammon "number crunchers" who don't even own a collared shirt may seek out other tournaments. But we hope they upgrade their wardrobe and join us. The 2011 CSI is going to be the most "stylish" major backgammon event in the world.

And that's half of what backgammon has always been about. Δ —*Bill Davis & Amy Trudeau, Directors, CSI*

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

Clearly backgammon should try to piggyback on poker and surely some of these "deep pocket" players would take a roll at a major backgammon tournament, especially if there were divisions for different skill levels.—*Neil Kazaross, Barrington, Illinois*

RETURN TO BACKGAMMON

I would like to play backgammon and I wondered if you have a classification for those who are not as experienced as someone like Tak Morioka? I have not played for many years and I want to get back into the flow. I learned from Valerie Valentine when her group was playing at Maxim's and the Gas Light Club in the early 80s. I even played at your club on the Northwest side once or twice, however the distance was a disadvantage to me. Can you offer any suggestions?—*Debra Ann Petitan, via E-mail*

We have two divisions playing on Tuesday nights at the Holiday Inn O'Hare on Cumberland Road in Chicago and a few of the old guard from Valerie Valentine's club still participate including Bill Bartholomay and Richard Stawowy.

The 16-player Masters division commences at 5:30 pm and is sold out for a month in advance. The other tournament is a \$10 version labeled "Open." It has a mix of all levels of players. We usually draw around 24 in that event.

[Continued on page 8]

The verdict is *IN* on the first New Orleans "Sweet 16" Backgammon Tournament

"A very fun and friendly event."—Scott Rudebeck

"An excellent tournament and very well organized. The directors were friendly, helpful, and made sure that all the players had a good time."—Alan Epstein

"The level of play was excellent. Everybody I talked to had fun."—Scott Ward

Next tournament **March 18–20, 2011.**

Only 4 spaces remain!

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or visit NolaBackgammon.org





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.

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

MIDSTATE BG CLUB: Tourn. Tues., 6:00 P.M. at Ride The Nine; 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. Ed Bauder (309/830-1632).

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 Mabee (630/606-2388).

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



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wisconsin state championship

PASCAR WINS 1ST ABT IN WISCONSIN

Another Masters Title for Munitz

Rory Pascar (IL) compiled an incredible 10-0 record, then went on to defeat Bill Davis (IL) in the playoffs to capture the 2010 Wisconsin State Championship.



Champ Rory Pascar (C) with Wis. staffers from left: Bill Minser, Beth Martinson, Sonya Sidky, and director Tom Machaj. [Photos: Carol Joy Cole]

The event directed by Tom Machaj for the last time (Bill Minser will take over in 2011) was held 3-6 September at the Radisson Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin. 49 players took part in the annual Labor Day affair.

After 10 rounds of play, only Rory (at 10-0) and 2007 Wisconsin Champ Bill Davis (8-2) had a chance to take the title. But because he was down two in the loss column, Bill would need to beat Rory three times in a row to be declared champion. Rory lost in their first match, but captured the second. The win was Rory's first ABT victory. Expect more to follow from the defending two-time Chicago Bar Point Club Player of the Year.



Richard Munitz (NY) was a repeat winner in the Badger Classic. He beat Bill Riles (TX) to claim his second Badger in two years. Δ

WISCONSIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (31): 1-Rory Pascar (IL), 2-Bill Davis (IL), 3/4-Michael Flohr (IL) / Jim Slomkoski (MI). ADVANCED (18): 1-John Baron (OH), 2-Oleg Raygorodsky (IL), 3-Greg Adamavich (WI). BADGER CLASSIC (12): 1-Richard Munitz (NY), 2-Bill Riles (TX), 3-Sean Garber (IN). AMATEUR JACKPOT (8): 1-Eric Hiner (MN), 2-John Baron (OH) DOUBLES (10 teams): 1-Bill Davis (IL) & Herb Roman (IL), 2-Chuck Bower (IN) & Sean Garber (IN). EARLYBIRD JACKPOT (16): 1-Matt Cohn-Geier (IL), 2-Alex Gerding (FL). BLITZ (48): 1-Lucky Nelson (IL), 2-Jim Allen (NV). CANCELGAMMON (16): 1-Bruce Russell (WI), 2-Keene Marin (WI). QUICKIE KNOCKOUT #1 (16): 1-Scott Day (IN). #2 (8): 1-Kye Hedlund (NC).

BACKGAMMON WORD SEARCH CONTEST!

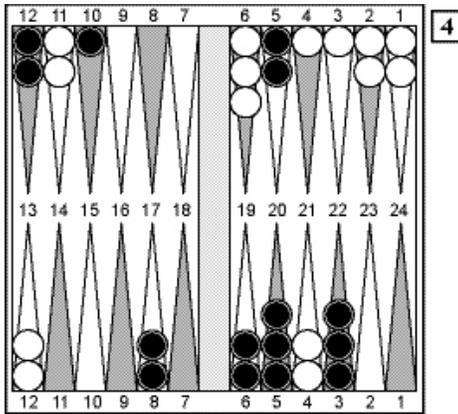
Hidden below in the 15 x 15 grid (up, down, diagonal, backwards or forwards) are backgammon-related words. Find the most of them and you'll win a one year subscription to CHICAGO POINT. Mail (or email) your word lists to us by October 25 (postmark). Ties will be broken by random draw and the decision of CHICAGO POINT is final. Δ

F	R	D	I	R	E	C	T	W	Y	X	Z	O	O	N
C	O	N	T	A	C	T	A	G	T	S	T	H	T	W
D	S	O	P	G	C	O	B	O	Q	E	I	J	U	R
R	L	B	R	S	O	W	L	F	T	M	L	C	A	E
O	R	R	C	P	N	S	E	A	F	A	B	A	D	V
F	I	E	O	L	S	B	C	N	Y	G	G	P	O	O
W	G	V	U	I	O	I	H	H	F	D	J	T	U	S
A	A	A	N	T	L	J	O	C	I	N	A	A	B	S
R	K	E	T	P	A	S	U	H	S	E	C	I	L	O
C	R	B	U	H	T	H	E	E	R	M	O	N	E	R
D	O	D	U	C	I	O	T	C	E	I	B	L	E	C
R	H	J	C	T	O	T	T	K	V	R	Y	G	C	T
A	C	R	U	A	N	G	E	E	I	P	A	U	I	O
O	N	A	B	M	W	O	X	R	D	P	P	M	D	L
B	A	B	E	N	T	E	R	E	D	L	I	U	B	B

**PROBLEM #357
ANALYZED**

by Neil Kazaross

9 point match. Black trails White 1 to 5.
BLACK TO PLAY 4-4.



Problem #357 is a very interesting scored-based problem with lots of choices. The most important things to note are the score and cube position. Trailing 1–5 to 9 points with your opponent holding a 4-cube is exactly the same as what many match players call “gammon go (GG): ie

1-away, 2-away Crawford. For the trailer at this score, the added value from winning a gammon is huge. Rather than being worth half the value of winning the game (as for money play), winning a gammon here for Black is worth as much as winning the game. But when Black gets gammoned, it’s no worse than losing the game.

From a match equity (ME) standpoint, the difference in Black’s ME between winning or losing the game is 50%, and the difference in Black’s ME between winning a single game and winning a gammon is also 50%.

It is quite possible that due to the increase in gammon value and decrease in gammon cost, Black’s correct play at this GG score could be different than for money or for double match-point. At DMP, I think Black’s play is clear: move forward and increase blocking vs. White’s anchor while taking some slight risks that White hits and covers and things then go badly. By a clear margin, rollouts agree that the best DMP play is 20/16(2), 13/9(2).

For money, this simple play is also best. Often, the best way to limit your opponent’s cube vig is to make the play that wins the most games. It might seem risky to leave the blot on the 15-point exposed

to a double shot, but there are few hit-and-cover jokers.

However, at this GG score, things change due to the increased value of gammons. A play that puts White under more pressure and contact is indicted since extra blots hit can lead to a gammon win (despite White’s anchor).

When I first saw this position I felt that 13/9(2), 15/7 would be best since the only real risky jokers were 3-1 and 3-3. My second choice was 13/9(2), 15/11, 5/1 because it leaves no shots (White can’t even dream to hit with a seven at GS), but I didn’t like the blot on my ace point. I didn’t even consider the DMP and money game play of 20/16(2), 13/9(2) to be an option at GG since I felt it released too much contact and wouldn’t garner enough gammons.

However, a long and strong eXtreme Gammon rollout shows that my initial thoughts were a bit off the mark and that 13/9(2), 15/11, 5/1 is likely the best GG play. Apparently dodging a 3-3 and 3-1 joker mean something here and hopefully that blot on the ace point can be covered with a 2, or if hit, can hit back. It’s close, but this play wins just enough added gammons vs. the added wins from 13/9(2), 20/16(2) to be best.—Neil Kazaross Δ

LETTERS...*[Continued from page 6]*

Every other month, we have a Sunday tournament with two divisions: \$40 Open and \$20 Intermediate. The next Sunday event is Dec. 5. Hope to see you then.—Ed.

RECORDING RIGHTS

This weekend [10–12 September], I participated in the New Orleans Sweet 16 Tournament. One of the players had a video camera set up over the board. I’ll refer to him only as “Tom.” Though the tournament began on Saturday, Tom participated in the New Orleans group’s regular Wednesday evening event held at a neighborhood coffee shop. There, I saw his camera, and commented to member of our group that I would be uncomfortable playing a match that was being videotaped by my opponent.

As the draw came out, I was paired to play a first-round match against Tom. I had been told that on Wednesday, Tom had graciously volunteered to turn off his camera if any player had an objection. So at the Sweet 16 Tournament, I was surprised when, after asking Tom to turn off his camera, he instead called the director for a ruling.

The three-person committee made no decision except to say, “Roll high die to see if the camera stays on or not.”

Tom then escalated the situation asking, “If I lose the roll-off, can I just switch the camera mode to still pictures?”

To me, that’s just like saying, “If I lose the roll-off, can I still win on a lesser scale?”

Is there some precedent for this, either in the written rules or etiquette? To my mind, it is only gentlemanly and fair to turn off one’s camera if a paying participant in a money tournament politely requests “no video.”

Not only am I generally adverse to raising study of one’s game to that level during a tournament (preparation should happen beforehand, not during the tournament), but I also am concerned that Tom is taping not simply to study his own game, but to study my game, as an underhanded sort of preparation for future matches between us. If we are someday in the finals for a prize of \$875, as was the prize in this tournament, and he has a journal full of notes on his opponents, haven’t I unwillingly given an unfair advantage to the player who videotapes my game? I find this contrary to fair play. Simply put, it is unsportsmanlike to deny a player’s kind request of his opponent to turn off a video camera.

Can you offer an opinion on this?—Joe Kight, New Orleans, Louisiana

For the most part, we would agree with you on this issue, Joe. There is nothing in the

rules that permits a player to videotape his match. But because backgammon is becoming more of a “studious” game, many directors are siding with the videographers. At the upcoming CSI tournament, if a player objects to the video or hand recording of his match, then the match won’t be recorded. The exceptions are in all Grand Crystal Beaver Masters and the semifinals and finals of the Championship, which both may be recorded upon request.

In the modern era, nearly everyone has a camera (even on their phones), so we do permit players to photograph occasional interesting positions. But good sportsmanship dictates the following: (1) pictures should be kept to a minimum so as not to disrupt the flow of the match, (2) the flash should be turned off, and (3) players should announce which play they will be making prior to taking a picture.—Ed.

GRAVIDA TAKE

There was a story back in the 70s about a man who took a recube for a huge sum because “I can’t pay if I lose.” His name might have been Gravidia, and these were called *Gravidia Takes*. Was that the name, or was it something else?—Jake Jacobs, Singapore

We haven’t heard of that story before, Jake. Maybe one of our older readers can help you out.—Ed. Δ

**WINNER'S
CIRCLE**



AUG.-OCT. 2010

•**ESOB: 5th Bristol Open** (Bristol, England; 20-22 Aug.)... OPEN (45): 1-Wayne Felton, 2-Julian Fetterlein, 3/4-Andy Darby / Mike Heard; 1C-Murray Sharp, 2C-Pete Bennet; 1LC/2IC-Rachel Rhodes / Ray Tannen. ADVANCED (26): 1-Anna Mielech (POL), 2-Tony Fawcett, 3/4-George Miltiadou / Mick Vacarey; 1C-Duncan Lee, 2C-Phil Hill; 1LC-Rosey Bensley, 2LC-Steve Morris. INTERMEDIATE (11): 1-Shezan Hirjee, 2-Alan Parfitt; 1C-Andrew Bennet. WARM-UP (30): 1-Michihito Kageyama (JPN), 2-Shadow Hamilton, 3/4-Martin Barkwill / Murray Sharp. QUIZ #1: 1/3-Simon Gascoigne / Michihito Kageyama (JPN) / Frank Simon (GER). QUIZ #2: 1-Ann Pocknell. POKER (20): 1/3-Tony Fawcett / Roy Hollands / Michael Sørensen (DEN).

•**2010 Swiss Championships & Open** (Montreux, Switzerland; 27-29 Aug.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (45): 1-Serge Didisheim, 2-Robert Wachtel (USA), 3/4- René Kälin / Jean-Pierre Schoeffel; 1C-Marco Benetti, 2C-Agripa Leib-Ionescu; 1LC-Clive Kaye (ENG), 2LC-Bruno Kürsteiner. SWISS OPEN (16): 1-Denis Etienne, 2-Tobias Hellweg (GER); 1C-Frédéric Rochat, 2C-Gian-Reto Iseppi. INTERMEDIATE (20): 1-Nils Baumann, 2-Sefik Mancilikilar; 1C-Denise Kaiser, 2C-Anne-Marie Zarb. SWISS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (8 teams): 1-Weckiwecki: Daniel Bruni / Tom Meyer / Daniel Scheidiger, 2-Sound Go Round: / Silvio Carrese / Rico Fussenegger / Halil Tulan. 1-POINT (64): 1-Roland Himmelberger, 2-Eddy Pfenninger.

•**WBGT: 30th Swedish Open** (Stockholm, Sweden; 3-5 Sep.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (67): 1-Pawel Bielewicz (SWE), 2-Michael Lofblad, 3/4-Jukka Pajuniemi (FIN) / Vincenzo Riceputi (ITA), 5/8-Oscar Carlsson / Martin Foldager (DEN) / Fredrik Reinholdsson / Pernille Rosendal (DEN); 1LC-Frédéric Andrieu (France), 2LC-Branko Markovic. INTERMEDIATE (49): 1-Marcus Ekholm, 2-Walter Meuwis (BEL), 3/4-Erik Hansen (DEN) / Lykke Pia Rasmussen (DEN), 5/8-Bo Adler / Klaus Evers (GER) / Liz Johansson / Ulf Thorsell; 1LC-Bjorn Rye, 2LC-Chiva Tafazzoli (IRN/GER). LADIES TOURNAMENT (21): 1-Grete Arntzen (NOR), 2-Liz Johansson. DOUBLES (33 teams): 1-Anna Mielech (POL) & Bob Wachtel (USA), 2-Emma de Groen & Pom Mickelsson. SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-Rickard Persson. REBUY BLITZ (DMP): 1-Patrick Linderoth.

•**New Orleans Sweet 16 Tournament** (New Orleans, LA; 10-12 Sep.)... FIRST TOURNAMENT: 1-Alan Epstein (GA), 2-Ray Gaudet (LA); 1C-Adam Bennett (WI), 2C-Preston Guidry (LA). SECOND TOURNAMENT: 1-Larry Smith (LA), 2-Jack Takala (MI).

•**New England Club Monthly** (Malden, MA; 11 Sep.)... OPEN (19): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Matt Reklaitis, 3/4-Jacob Mashak / Eric Wicklund; 1C-Marcy Kossar, 2C- Ed Ahola.

•**Ohio State Monthly** (Akron, OH; Sep. 12)... OPEN (16): 1-Farhad Forudi, 2-Mike Vasilatos.

•**Victor Cup** (La Jolla, CA; 18-19 Sep.)... OPEN (23): 1-Mark Andrus (NV), 2/3/4/5-Bob Glass / John Rockwell / Art Benjamin / Tom Horton.

•**Pair-O-Dice Monthly** (New York, NY; 19 Sep.)... OPEN (10): 1-Andy Rubien, 2-Vincent Reece; 1C-Robert Rosen (NJ). INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Lemont Haskins, 2-Martha Ghio; 1C-Michael Murton (ENG). BEGINNER (6): 1-Sonja Fischer, 2-Nicholas Misch; 1C-Michael Guida.

•**Pub Club Championship League Tourney** (Carol Stream, IL; 19 Sep.)... OPEN (22): 1-Don Marek, 2-Lucky Nelson, 3/4-Val Zimmnicki / Larry Goldstein; 1C-Rory Pas-car, 2C-Christopher Shanava; 1 LC-Oleg Raygorodsky.

•**WBGT/ESOB: 2nd London Open** (London England, 24-26 Sep.)... MASTERS (33): 1-Arild Idsøe (NOR), 2-Julian Fetterlein (UK), 3/4-Frederik Bentler (DEN) / Mario Sequeira (POR); 1C-Martin Foldager (DEN), 2C-Martin Birkhan (GER), 3C/4C-Farzin Arabi (NOR) / Henrik Bang (DEN); 1LC-Shahab Ghodsi (NOR), 2LC-Lawrence Powell (UK). MASTERS SATELLITE #1 (8): 1-Engin Ongel (UK). #2 (8): 1-Martin Birkhan (GER). #3 (8): 1-James Grenier (UK). #4 (8): 1-Shahab Ghodsi (NOR). CHAMPIONSHIP (28): 1-Marcus Wrinch (UK), 2-Tom Duggan (UK), 3/4-Jon Barnes (UK) / Gary Brooker (UK); 1C-Michael Kamintzi (UK), 2C-Kenroy Brown (UK), 3C/4C-Michael Flesch (UK) / Danny Gallagher (UK); 1LC-Graham Read (UK), 2LC: Alex Polden (UK). ROUND ROBIN EVENT (6): 1-Vicky Gilbert (UK). SWISS TOURNAMENT (8): 1-David Garafalo (UK). GANG TOURNAMENT (16): 1-Samira Yagoubi (DEN).

•**Springfield Series #1** (Springfield, IL; 2 Oct.)... OPEN (22): 1-Randy Armstrong, 2-John Jennings; 1C-Jeff Anderson, 2C-Don Marek; 1LC-Scott Day (IN).

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Chicago, IL; 3 Oct.)... OPEN (29): 1-Howard Markowitz, 2-Lucky Nelson, 3/4-Ken Bond / Carter Mattig; 1C/2C-Alex Owen / Christopher Shanava.

AMALGAMATION

A huge drop in BG On Board Cruise prices. The final deadline for signing up is 11 Oct. For details: chicagopoint.com/bgonboard.html. Newest signups: **Butch & Mary Ann Meese** (IN), **Amy Trudeau** (IL), and **Dick Bennett** (OH) and his bride-to-be who will honeymoon with us!... When **Carter Mattig** (IL) heard that **Rory Pas-car** (IL) had a tear in his eye after winning his first ABT event (Wisconsin), Carter asked, "Why, did somebody mace him?" Speaking of Rory, he and his father-in-law did an incredible rebuild of the 30-year-old Illinois State Challenge Cup which will accommodate at least six more winners... Visiting the Bar Point Club in September: **Bill Kaludis** (TN)... One week prior to the Tennis US Open, the US Backgammon Federation (USBGF) announced that it was presenting an honorary lifetime membership to tennis hottie **Ana Ivanovic** (Serbia)... A beautiful backgammon cake was served at **Lyle Rubin's** (IL) Bar Mitzvah 11 Sept.... Could the Indiana Open (under new directorship) be returning to the ABT schedule in the next year or two? Stay tuned... Best wishes to **Tom Machaj** (WI) who steps down as director of the Madison Backgammon Club. **Bill Minser** (WI) will take over the duties and also continue the Wisconsin State Championships, an event Tom has successfully directed since 2003... **Trudie Chibnik** (IL) was hospitalized last month, missing two Winnetka Wednesday night games. She's back now and we wish her all the best... Sad news regarding onetime BPC player **Glenn Martells** (MI). He dropped a welding torch on his leg this summer. It became infected and had to be amputated. Cards may be sent to Glenn at 4206 Metcalf Road; Lakeport, MI 48059... You'll see that **Stephanie Hoover** (PA) is a true artist when you check out her specialized backgammon boards at tisthegift.com... Discover a board for the 21st century. "Backgammon Vega" by Deuce features a digital display with a touch sensitive screen. Or you can play with regular pieces. See it at www.deuce.fr... **Marco Fornasir** (Italy) informed us of the World Backgammon Federation's great new website: www.wbf.net... **Rick Reisch** (PA) informs us that the Berks County Club has returned for play first Tuesday monthly at the BBQ Pit in Sinking Spring, PA... **Beverly Flowers & Randi Sachar** have relocated the Midtown Backgammon Club (212/575-2003). Open daily, it's now meeting at 142 W. 36th St., Room 402 in New York City... In an Internet article "Celebrities Who Play Board & Card Games," backgammon fans include **Jason Alexander, Keira Knightley, Robbie Williams, Sienna Miller, Tobey Maguire** and diehard fan **Glenn Close**. Watch Glenn interviewed in front of a BG board on YouTube. Search: "Glenn Close Shield scenes." Δ



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