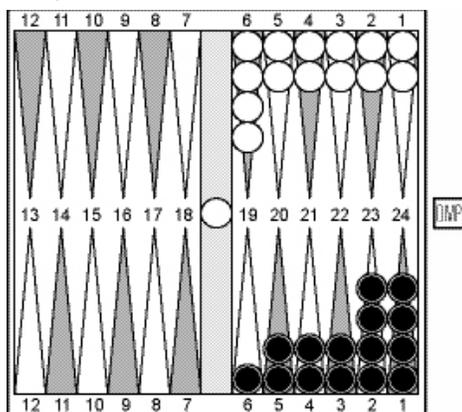




You're at DMP in the finals of the Nevada State Tournament competing for the \$10,000 first prize. It will later be shown that you and your opponent were very worthy adversaries, both playing at the "world class" level. But now, while bearing in for the win, you are forced to leave a shot:

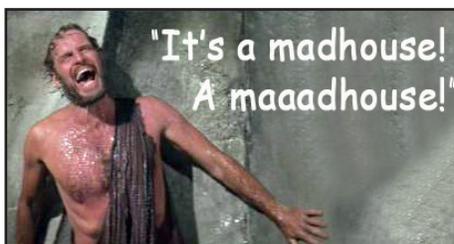
Nevada State finals. Double match-point with your opponent (White) on shake.



Your opponent shakes and rolls . . . 6-5. He enters, moves to your 11-point, and picks up his dice. But wait. Pressure has gotten the best of him. He's forgotten to pick up your checker and put it on the bar!

So instead of being a 96% underdog, you have become a 96% racing favorite. Don't feel bad for your nervous opponent, though. You're playing "legal moves." So you let him collect his thoughts and then request that he put your checker on the bar. This action costs you the tournament.

Let's review what just happened. Two individuals have completed a hard fought backgammon match. Based on luck and skill, they were both equally deserving of the title. Yet the observant, focused player has just handed first place and ten grand over to his unmindful, inattentive opponent. To quote Charlton Heston's character in *Planet of the Apes*:



Last September at bgonline.org, respected former world champion Joe Russell initiated this post: "I declare myself a member of the 'Legal Moves Club' and will play legal moves with anyone that adds their name to it." Roughly 30 players signed on.



Joe Russell in the finals of the 2009 US Open.

We asked Joe to tell us why he prefers playing legal moves—a gentleman's agreement with one's opponent requiring all illegal moves to be played legally, regardless of whom is harmed or helped. He responded, "I think backgammon matches should be determined by the skill of moving the pieces and expertise in use of the cube, as well as the luck of the dice; but

not by one's ability to read the dice properly. Many players, more each year as the backgammon community ages, have vision issues and should not be penalized for this."

That's a noble point of view and we encourage all players to inform the tournament official requesting a directive on how to proceed if they believe their opponent (aging or otherwise) is visually impaired. In this article, we'll only consider the illegal moves that occur due to carelessness, excessively fast play, and/or lack of concentration.

Joe's main reason for playing LM is that "Backgammon is a social game and it is more social to play legal moves. The backgammon community is small and, for the most part, we play with friends we have known for years. The game should be conducted in a gentlemanly manner. When playing legal moves, pointing out an opponent's illegal play that would have

been to his detriment is similar to you calling a penalty on yourself in golf. You are required to do it in both cases. In both cases it hurts your competitive chances, but fosters trust, goodwill, and brotherhood with your competitors."

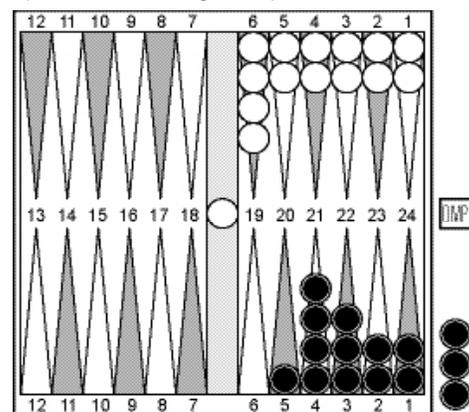
Fostering "trust, goodwill, and brotherhood" by overlooking your opponents' careless mistakes—who can take issue with that? We can.

Three things determine backgammon champions: Luck, skill, and what Lee Genud describes in her *Backgammon Book* as a basic requirement for success: a "clear head." I have no chance to out-skill the majority of Joe Russell's "legal eagles" (Nack Ballard's term). And now they want to negate my one potential advantage: concentration. Thanks, but no thanks.

Calling a penalty on oneself in golf is upstanding. If I'm on the green and accidentally double hit my tap-in putt, I take a penalty stroke. I don't expect my opponent to say, "Rehit it legally." In fact, I would insist on taking the penalty because my definition of good sportsmanship starts with me. I made a mistake and accept the consequences of my error. If I were to get upset, it would be with myself, not with my opponent who simply chose to play by the rules.

Most legal eagles will only play LM with individuals they trust. So they are *selectively* fostering goodwill and brotherhood. Additionally, White gets no pass from them if she makes an absentminded mistake here:

White rolls 6-5, moves to the 11-pt., and picks up her dice, but forgets to put Black on the bar.



[Continued on page 5]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Bill Davis

3940 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue #504
Chicago, IL 60659-3155

Tel: 773/583-6464 ♦ Fax: (E-mail PDF file)

E-mail: bg@chicagopoint.com

www.chicagopoint.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Carol Joy Cole (MI)	Danny Kleinman (CA)
Mary Hickey (OH)	John O'Hagan (IN)
Jake Jacobs (IL)	Steve Sax (CA)
Duane Jensen (MN)	Phil Simborg (IL)
Neil Kazaross (IL)	Kit Woolsey (CA)

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504
Chicago, IL 60659-3155

E-mail: letters@chicagopoint.com

REMEMBERING VALERIE

Thank you for sending me your current newsletter featuring that lovely tribute to Valerie Valentine. She had a very special ability to relate to people in all walks of life, and that was very much in evidence when you consider the diverse groups of people she brought together for her tournaments.

I was not aware that anyone played backgammon anymore, yet surprisingly, your newsletter indicates lots of activity throughout the country. Good luck to you in your efforts to keep the game alive. — *Eve Heffer, Chicago, Illinois*

Great article in the POINT. Thank you for sending me that outstanding, perfectly researched tribute to Valerie. She was a dear friend, a diligent co-worker and a truly outstanding personality. I read and reread the article many times.

It's shameful that there is so little

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	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.

Mar 2*	Charlotte Club Monthly, Dilworth Grille, Charlotte, North Carolina	704/965-3573
Mar 4-6	CSI—Central States Invitational, Sheraton Gateway Suites O'Hare, Rosemont, IL	773/583-6464
Mar 5*	3rd Annual Whatcom Benefit, Leopold Hotel, Bellingham, Washington	360/676-0122
Mar 6*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Brubaker's Pub, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Mar 8*	Arizona Club Monthly, Teakwoods Tavern & Grill, Phoenix, Arizona	602/762-2288
Mar 12*	Tampa Bay Club Monthly, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/786-9133
Mar 12*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Mar 12*	New England Club Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Mar 12*	Springfield Series #6, Rusty's Clubhouse & Grill, Lincoln, Illinois	217/622-9447
Mar 13	28th Fleet Underwood Memorial, Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Mar 13*	Cincinnati Club Monthly Tournament, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Mar 13*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Mar 13*	Portland Club Monthly, Spring Creek Coffee House, Milwaukie, Oregon	503/805-1218
Mar 17*	Third Thursday Bonus (Ohio State), Sharky's Sports Bar, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Mar 18-20	2nd New Orleans "Sweet 16," Inn on Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana	504/366-7498
Mar 20*	Bellingham Club Monthly, Pacific Martial Arts, Bellingham, Washington	360/733-6173
Mar 25-27	17th Ohio State Championships, Airport Marriott, Cleveland, Ohio	330/268-4610
Mar 26*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Apr 2*	Springfield Series Grand Finale, Rusty's Clubhouse & Grill, Lincoln, Illinois	217/622-9447
Apr 3*	Chicago Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Ruby Tuesday, Skokie, Illinois	773/583-6464
Apr 3*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Brubaker's Pub, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Apr 9*	New England Club Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Apr 10*	Tampa Bay Club Monthly, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/786-9133
Apr 10*	Cincinnati Club Monthly Tournament, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Apr 10*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Apr 10*	Portland Club Monthly, Spring Creek Coffee House, Milwaukie, Oregon	503/805-1218
Apr 10*	Arizona Club Monthly, Teakwoods Tavern & Grill, Phoenix, Arizona	602/762-2288
Apr 13-17	27th Nevada State Tournament, Bally's Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/218-8238
Apr 17*	Bellingham Club Monthly, Pacific Martial Arts, Bellingham, Washington	360/733-6173
Apr 29-May 1	Atlanta Spring Classic, Crowne Plaza Ravinia, Atlanta, Georgia	770/633-0001
May 12-15	First Golden Gate Open, Embassy Suites, South San Francisco, California	304/685-3214
May 26-30	31st Chicago Open/1st Giants Invitational, Holiday Inn O'Hare, Rosemont, Illinois	617/699-9100
Jun 5*	Chicago Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Ruby Tuesday, Skokie, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jun 9-12	Los Angeles Open/1st USBGF Invitational, Four Points LAX, Los Angeles, CA	818/901-0464
Jul 1-4	Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton Novi Hotel, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 22-24*	16th Minnesota Open, Marriott Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota	612/718-2613
Aug 21-23*	Florida Championship, Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Sep 2-5*	Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson, Madison, Wisconsin	608/354-7573

OUTSIDE USA

Mar 4-6	BIBA International Championship, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, England	441522-888676
Mar 4-6*	Backgammon Open, Peria Hotel Casino, Slanic Moldova, Romania	40745-895980
Mar 5-6	2nd Sântis-Cup, Restaurant Bierhof, St. Gallen, Switzerland	4171-8773241
Mar 12-13	Mokum Open, CaféTwee Klaveren, Amsterdam, The Netherlands	31611-106930
Mar 12-13	TBT: 3rd Bursa Championship/WBF-TR, Efehan Hotel, Bursa, Turkey	905322-329228
Apr 8-10	British Open, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Apr 8-10	9th Torneo Città di Cavalese, Hotel Bellavista, Cavalese, Italy	393283-380725
Apr 15-17	TBT: 3rd Antalya Open/WBF-TR, Sealife Resort, Antalya, Turkey	905322-329228
Apr 21-25	23rd Nordic Open, Scandic Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark	4531-392791
Apr 27-May 1	23rd WBF-European Championship & 10th Velden Open, Velden, Austria	390331-923537
Apr 27-May 1*	Play65/EBGT: European Pro Championships & Doubles, Lefkosa, Cyprus	491715-422222
May 3-5*	17th Ouisen Tournament (Tokyo Open), Bunkyo Civic Center, Tokyo, Japan	817055-775016
May 6-8*	County Cups Trophy, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
May 6-8*	11th Torneo Città di Jesolo, Hotel Atlantico, Jesolo Lido, Italy	393477-938686
May 14-15*	CBT: 2nd Dubrovnik Open, Hotel Petka, Dubrovnik, Croatia	385989-772316
May 20-22*	TBT: 2nd Mediterranean Open/WBF-TR, Sealife Resort, Antalya, Turkey	905332-352555
May 28-29*	37th Annual Finnish Open, Oulun Eden Hotel, Oulu, Finland	358466-153751
May 28-29*	Austrian Masters Grand Finale, Montesino, Vienna, Austria	436642-127412
Jun 3-5*	BBT: English Open, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Jun 3-5*	16th Oslo Open, Bridgesenter Vest, Oslo, Norway	4797-513941
Jun 10-13*	16th Kaiserbrunnen-Cup, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	497152-3593466
Jun 15-19*	Play65/EBGT: 6th Portuguese Open, Hotel Riviera, Carcavelos, Portugal	491715-422222
Jun 18-19*	TBT: 18th Istanbul Championship/WBF-TR, Armada Hotel, Turkey	905322-329228
Jul 15-22*	36th World Championship, Fairmont Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA: 702/218-8238

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

backgammon activity in the Coachella Valley—just some private play at a low level. I'm now into pan and bridge.

Again, thanks for the wonderful “deja vu” trip—a delightful journey back into the fun days.—*Faye Schwimmer Phillips, Rancho Mirage, California*

I cannot thank you enough for the very beautiful and moving tribute to my sister Valerie. She would have been so pleased and humbled by your kind words. She was indeed a very special person and a wonderful sister. Thank you so much.—*Melody Peckos, McHenry, Illinois*

BACKGAMMON ON BOARD

Thank you very, very much for a great cruise tournament. I had a good time and everyone was friendly and seemed to get along

well. I have a new appreciation of how complicated it is to organize tournaments (especially at sea) and how hard you and Peter worked to achieve “smooth sailing.” Well done!—*Nan Feiber, Chicago, Illinois*

I enjoyed seeing your Backgammon On Board cruise pictures (linked at the www.chicagopoint.com/results.html page). Is the cruise every year or every other year?—*Lynda Clay, director, Colorado State Championships*

It's every other year, Lynda. Hope you can make the next one in 2013.—Ed.

BACKGAMMON IN OKLAHOMA

My name is Craig Huddleston, a 27-year-old from Oklahoma City. Now that we have that out of the way . . . I am looking for information regarding backgammon clubs in or around the Oklahoma area.

I learned to play backgammon one night at my lake house during a power

failure. All we had was a candle, a backgammon board, and a “How to play backgammon” book! We read about four chapters and then began to play. We ended up playing a total of nine hours that first night! We finally went to sleep, only to wake up and play 14 hours into the next night! Since then, needless to say, I'm hooked! I have played and taught the game as much as possible to all interested parties. If you do know of any clubs in or around Oklahoma, that would be great! If not, information on starting one would be equally helpful!—*Craig Huddleston, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

Go to chicagopoint.com/usacclubs.html and you'll see that the closest club to you is in Dallas: 200 miles away. You can find a link to starting a club on the chicagopoint.com index page. If you need supplies (draw sheets, scoresheets, etc.) let us know. Additionally, we suggest you try your luck at an upcoming ABT tournament. Check Carol Joy Cole's calendar page for upcoming events.—Ed.

BARONG TAGALOG

Regarding your upcoming CSI tournament and dress code. I'd like to wear my barong tagalog which is the traditional formal wear of the Philippines. I would only attend if the barong was considered equal to a shirt and tie.—*Ed O'Laughlin, Culpepper, Virginia*

That won't be acceptable for the \$400 added, Ed. But if we ever run an event in the Philippines, you'll be “good to go”!—Ed.

[Continued on page 7]



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2011

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2011

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2011

Compiled through 20 Feb. 2011 after 4 tournaments
(Upcoming events: Central States, Ohio, Nevada)

Ray Fogerlund 35.91	Larry Taylor 3.93	Bob Hickey 2.23	Janet Genter 1.06
Bill Robertie 15.70	Kit Woolsey 3.93	Alex Gerding 2.23	Brandy Thorward 1.05
Bob Koca 14.22	Mike Senkiewicz 3.93	Erik Sawyer 2.11	Rochelle Hasson 1.05
Dennis Culpepper 12.80	Harvey Gillis 3.93	Roman Abramovsky 2.10	Irina Litzenberger 1.05
Mary Hickey 12.80	Murray Bryntesen 3.60	Ben Friesen 2.10	Kathy Weiner 1.05
Stewart Pemberton 10.59	Gregg Cattanaach 3.56	Omar Dessouky 1.96	Homer Hector 0.90
Rachel Rhodes 7.85	Garry Kallos 3.33	Bill Riles 1.96	Susan Randall 0.90
David Shadi 7.85	Robert Sisselman 3.33	Brent Cohen 1.96	Alex Gerding 0.83
Ed O'Laughlin 7.11	Bill Davis 3.20	Juan Rospigliosi 1.80	Keith Gershenson 0.83
Peggy Neubig 6.67	Gary Fries 3.20	Sandra Sha 1.80	Sybil Sha 0.67
Bill Calton 6.40	Mark Gordon 3.20	Kyle Wittles 1.67	Elvira Greci 0.53
Alfred Mamlet 6.40	Grant Schneider 3.20	Debra Oles Campbell 1.67	Mike Wasson 0.53
Mike Corbett 6.40	Mario Sequeira 3.20	Larry Shiller 1.67	Joe Fitzpatrick 0.53
Lee Genud 6.40	Brandon Macklin 3.06	Josh Racko 1.33	Theres Delaney 0.53
Jonathan Leusden 5.33	Kathleen Davis 2.67	Gerard Jendras 1.12	Jenna Longman 0.53
Neal Weiner 4.46	Bob Goldstein 2.67	Ben Rant 1.12	Frank Kovarick 0.33
Brian Scorbén 4.46	Richie Adams 2.23	Early Gardner 1.06	



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB

2011 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 28 FEB.

Carter Mattig 7.52	Bill Bartholomay 2.64	Tim Mabee 1.84	Leslie Lockett 0.72
David Rockwell 6.00	Mike Wolock 2.44	Larry Goldstein 1.84	Wayne Wiest 0.72
Rory Pascar 5.12	Bill Davis 2.24	Howard Markowitz 1.44	Roger Hickman 0.68
Bob Steen 4.56	Tak Morioka 2.16	Joann Feinstein 1.24	Bill Keefe 0.64
David Rubin 3.76	Phil Simborg 2.08	Adrian Rios 1.04	Les Moshinsky 0.56
Herb Roman 3.76	Steve Klesker 2.04	Eric Johnson 1.04	Gary Kay 0.56
Tobias Hellwag 3.32	Mike Sutton 2.00	Nora Luna Righter 0.72	Alice Kay 0.56
Christopher Shanava 3.28	Lucky Nelson 1.92	Serge Bondar 0.72	Beth Whitney 0.48
Linda Rockwell 2.72	Alex Owen 1.88	Bob Zavoral 0.72	Jerry Brooks 0.48
			Amy Trudeau 0.40

January: **RORY PASCAR** raced to January Player of the Month honors with 5.12 points. Runner's-up were Carter Mattig (4.40) and Bob Steen (3.60).

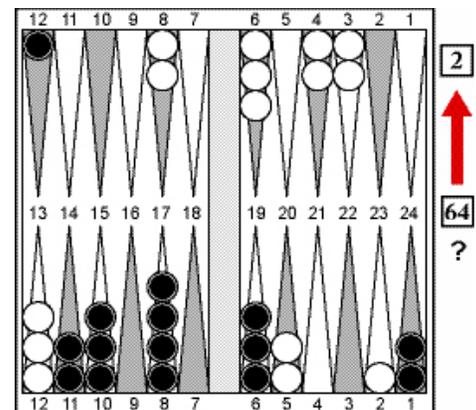
February: **TOBIAS HELLWAG** (Germany) became our first international visitor to become BPC Player of the Month with 3.32 points. Closely following were Herb Roman (3.20) and Carter Mattig (3.12).

your move

PROBLEM #362

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

1978 Chicago Cup finals. Paul Magriel (Black) and Vladimir Dobrich (White) are tied 16–16 to 19. **SHOULD BLACK DOUBLE?** Then **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1**.



ASK DANNY

© 2011 by Danny Kleinman



THE FUTURE OF BACKGAMMON

Dear Danny: *The last five years have seen a serious downturn in backgammon attendance on the national level. Can the same be said for bridge? Do you think the backgammon downturn is cyclical or is the new cyberworld going to end both board and card games as we have known them? And finally, do you see anything that can be done about this problem?* —Concerned Gamer

DEAR GAMER: The decline in participation in organized bridge had been going on for three or four decades prior to the last five years, but my impression (without statistics to back it up) is that participation has roughly leveled off since then. However, online games have cut into face-to-face competition to some extent. About five years ago, my most frequent bridge student stopped hiring me for face-to-face play because he had become hooked on internet play (and stayed up until 2:00 A.M. regularly playing on line).

Online play may reduce face-to-face competition, but it won't eliminate it, just as online shopping hasn't eliminated retail stores. I expect most aficionados of both bridge and backgammon to play in both online and face-to-face games, which provide direct human contact that we as social animals need. Whether direct participation in games and tournaments will decrease, increase or stay at present levels, of course, is beyond my ability to predict. What I say here is mere speculation.

Is the level of participation a problem? Yes, to the extent that attendance dips below the minimum for club owners and tournament sponsors to operate at a modest profit. However, beyond a certain point, how many players attend matters little. A tournament can be too large as well as too small, with overcrowded playing rooms, accommodations at host hotels unavailable, and long lines of players waiting to be served at nearby restaurants.

What can be done to increase participation? Relatively little within the control of those who run tournaments, I fear. Yes, it helps to run tournaments smoothly and fairly, and to have pleasant playing sites, but there are other variables beyond the control of tournament sponsors and directors, primarily education and culture. I probably would not have become a serious bridge player if bridge had not been popu-

lar in my parents' generation, thanks in part to the promotional talents of Ely Culbertson and newspapers that ran daily bridge columns, so that a substantial number of my college classmates knew and played the game. Likewise, I probably would never have learned backgammon had there not been rubber bridge clubs in the 1970s, like the Cavendish West, where other games (O'Hell, hearts, pinochle, gin rummy and eventually, backgammon) were played.

For a variety of reasons, including the overcrowding of cities, with rising rents and shrinking street parking, rubber bridge clubs disappeared from my city, the lone survivor closing its doors in mid-1993. Backgammon and bridge, like chess and checkers, are intellectual games, and to thrive, they require a culture of respect for intellect accompanied by a willingness to study. In a culture of instant gratification and "action," video games and slot machines will replace contemplative games.

So look mainly to the public schools and the media, rather than the backgammon community itself, for the fostering of the game. —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

Backgammon in the Land of Enchantment

By Ed (E!) Rosenblum



Beautiful weather graced Santa Fe, "The City Different," for the start of the 2011 New Mexico State Backgammon Championship, January 27–30 at the La Posada Resort. The initial festivities began with a Wednesday night cocktail party at Ed Bennett's home in Tesuque. Jan Brennan, our most gracious hostess, arranged a beautiful welcome party in the lovely mountainous setting.

On Thursday night, the scene shifted to downtown Santa Fe where the Tournament sponsored a free doubles match at Mucho Gusto. 48 players feasted on local New Mexican dishes and then formed 24 teams.

The optional pool of \$550 certainly made the evening even more interesting. The finals match came down to Ray Fogelund (CA) & Penina Meisels (NM) vs. the Mark Antranikian (CA) & Carl Blumenstein (CA). The restaurant needed to close so the teams retired to the Library at the La Posada Resort where the midnight finals match began. In the end, Mark & Carl prevailed and pocketed some nice pre-tourney

spending money late Thursday night.

With over 300 days of sunlight, Santa Fe did not disappoint and the spacious tournament room glowed as the 2:00 P.M. start time called for the beginning of the Roadrunner and Masters Jackpots. Play continued throughout the day and by midnight, Neil Kazaross (IL) and Stepan Nuniyants (WA) were the Masters finalists. In the Roadrunner event, Roberto Litzenberger (VA) and Lawrence Wilson (CO) each won their semifinals to advance to Sunday at 2:00 P.M.

On Saturday, the tournament moved into high gear. Registration was completed quickly. Each player was given a personalized 12-match score sheet, and a nametag with State or Country identity and a personalized event schedule on the back.

After Adam Bennett, the tournament's Associate Director, conducted a successful Calcutta auction, all the main events kicked off. Backgammon Club of Santa Fe founder, Barbara McIntyre and her volunteers assisted throughout the event and everything ran quite smoothly. The Open Division fielded 32 players, with 24 in the Advanced and a respectable 19 Novices.

By Sunday, everyone was ready for a little break and Paul Magriel was avail-

able for his lecture after having flown in from Australia the night before. Paul used my magnetic teaching board to reanalyze a match he had played against Germany's Michael Meyburg. Paul entertained us with his insights and detailed analysis.



Paul Magriel gave a wonderful presentation.

On Sunday evening, with all the results in including big wins by Bob Koca (Open), Ray Fogelund (Open Consolation), and Stepan Nuniyants (Masters), Stepan and Ray took a good number of the tournament staff and volunteers to the Tesuque Village Market for a lovely Sunday night dinner.

It was a great tournament. I truly appreciate all the players that came up and told me what a wonderful time they had. So did I. [Complete results are on page 9.] —Ed (E!) Rosenblum, Director Δ

BACKGAMMON ON BOARD DELIVERS ON GOOD TIMES

Another great January cruise aboard the Crown Princess. Players are already planning for the 2013 event! More pix online. Δ



Kit Woolsey (R) defeated George Morse in the Caribbean Jackpot.



The Open finals, Mike Sutton (R) vs. Phil Nutting, was played at the Awards Party. Sutton also won the "Pop Idol" singing competition.



Poker runner-up Don Marek with wife Tammy and daughter Caillie.



Top: Larry Liebster & Kazuko Numazawa (Japan). Below: Poker champ Chris Knapp & Patty Geoffroy.

BACKGAMMON & POKER ON BOARD X (Jan. 22-29, 2011), Crown Princess

OPEN (31+73 rebuys): 1-Mike Sutton (IL), 2-Phil Nutting (CA). CARIBBEAN JACKPOT (8): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-George Morse (TX). CAPTAIN'S TOURNEY (31): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-Larry Liebster (NV). POKER TOURNEY (17+11 rebuys): 1-Chris Knapp (Canada), 2-Don Marek (IL), 3-Doug Roberts (MA). HONORARY TROPHY: Kazuko Numazawa (Japan).

LEGAL MOVES...

[Continued from page 1]

Again, White has played carelessly, and her intention to hit is just as obvious as in our first example. But *technically*, hitting isn't forced. Black doesn't need to "foster" anything with her and will simply begin bearing checkers off.

And what about in other unfortunate situations such as when your opponent forgets to automatically double post-Crawford? Should you show brotherhood and remind him to turn the cube? How about when a beginner fast-rolls a set of double 6s against you in the bearoff? Should you spread goodwill and allow his roll to stand? Overlooking your opponent's careless mistakes to your own detriment can become a slippery, masochistic slope.

Is playing "legal moves" even legal? At first glance, it would seem so based on the US Tournament Rules & Procedures because the LM agreement simply requires both competitors to always follow the second sentence of Rule 4.8:

4.8 ILLEGAL MOVES. A player may condone his opponent's illegal play by rolling his dice or turning the cube. Otherwise, he must require the opponent to replay the entire roll legally.

The counter-point is that any form of collusion between players is illegal. For example, if players A and B meet in a late round and only B (the better player) is in the side pool, it is illegal for A to throw the match in exchange for a percentage of B's prize money and side pool winnings. A player should make all of his match decisions to the best of his ability in a manner that gives him the best chance to win.

The legal moves proponent does not always act with those intentions, instead choosing to harm himself by assisting his opponent when she loses her concentration and makes an illegal blunder. Legal movers will tell you that they are only hurting themselves, but that's not entirely true. They are also hurting their Calcutta auction owners who have paid top dollar for "horses" they expect will act in their own best winning interests for every checker play, cube action, and ruling decision.

World Backgammon Association and ABT director Chiva Taffazoli has taken legal moves one step further by instating an "Illegal Moves" rule at all of his events:

4.2.3 CHECKERS AND MOVES. ILLEGAL MOVES

1. If an illegal move is noticed before the opponent has rolled his dice it must be corrected. Only the two players and tournament officials are allowed to point out an illegal move.

2010 ABT Player of the Year Kit Woolsey comments, "With an independent monitor, I like playing legal moves. But if there is no monitor present, I don't understand what making legal moves mandatory even means. Let's say you and I are playing and you make an illegal move. Can I be penalized for not correcting it? Obviously not—I can be just as careless as you. Thus, it is totally unenforceable.

"Playing legal moves can only help the crook. He only corrects his opponent's illegal moves when it is to his benefit to do so, while his 'honest' opponent corrects all the crook's illegal moves regardless of who benefits."

ALL PLAYERS should strive to promote kind, gracious, and friendly tournament behavior. But we do not think that reversing your opponent's illegal move to the detriment of your own winning chances is any more polite than it is when *you* make the illegal move and then counter your legal moves proponent by saying, "No, I made a dumb error and I deserve to be punished for it."

And if you are called an unfriendly jerk for not letting your opponent replay his absentminded, illegal move, just ignore it. You're not the one being rude. All you are doing is playing by the rules.—Bill Davis Δ

ILLINOIS ACTION



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

Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Ruby
Tuesday, 5203 Old Orchard
Road, Skokie. 847/967-8292.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON
at Ruby Tuesday, 5203
Old Orchard Road, Skokie.
847/967-8292.

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).

WINNETKABG 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).

North Dakota, *Hide-the-Die*, and **SECOND CHOICE** by Duane Jensen

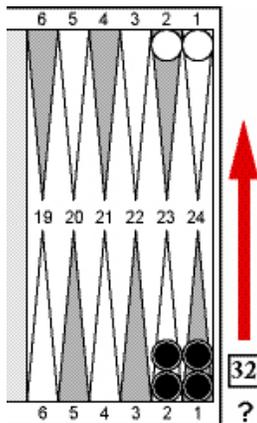
There are many varieties of backgammon played throughout the world. Some are old and regional like *Plakato* played in Greece, while others are modern like *Nackgammon* and *Hypergammon*. Three lesser-known backgammon varieties are *North Dakota*, *Hide-the-Die*, and *Second Choice*.

1. Jeff Nitschke and his family were driving through North Dakota when Jeff sensed mechanical problems with his RV and pulled off the road into a small town. You don't want your RV breaking down on some desolate road in the middle of nowhere, and there's lots of "nowhere" in North Dakota.

While the mechanic was examining the RV, Jeff crossed the street and went into a restaurant where the locals were playing backgammon. Although the checker play was familiar to Jeff, the cube play was bizarre. Beavers and raccoons weren't allowed, but the cubes were unusually high, often at 32, or maxed out at 64 on the small cube.

Here's one unusual position associated with *North Dakota*:

Position #1. Black on roll playing *North Dakota*.
SHOULD BLACK RECUBE?

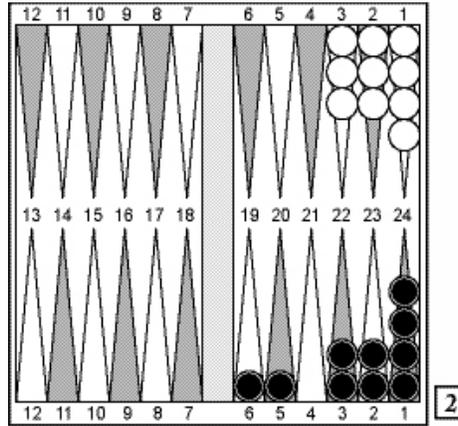


This position is a recube for Black, not because Black is favored (he obviously isn't), but because he is trying to reduce his loss. In *North Dakota*, after the roller announces a double, the opponent either takes or drops. If he takes, the small doubling cube is rolled to determine the value of the cube. In the above position, after the cube is rolled the average cube value will be $(2 + 4 + 8 + 16 + 32 + 64) / 6$ which equals $126/6$ or 21. By redoubling, the expected value of the cube is lowered from 32 to 21. Had the initial cube been at 16, it would not have been a redouble.

2. Frank Talbot and I were in the bearoff, finishing up a long game of *Hide-the-Die*. Frank made a brilliant choice which gave him

a roll of double-4s. I couldn't roll a double of my own and had to drop Frank's recube.

Position #2. Black on roll playing *Hide-the-Die*. Duane Jensen (White) and Frank Talbot (Black) will each determine a secret die roll for Frank to play.



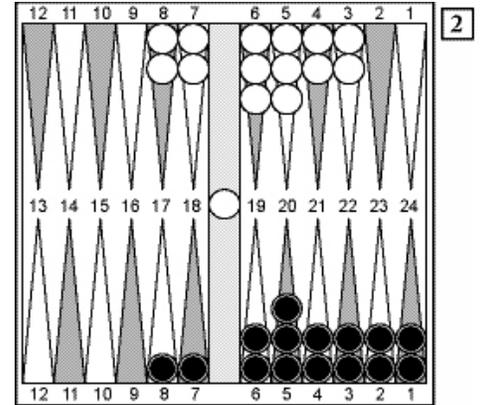
In *Hide-the-Die*, the only true dice roll is the opening roll. All other dice rolls are created manually by the players. Each player controls one die and conceals it under his inverted dice cup with his chosen die number face up. Both dice cups are lifted and the exposed dice become the dice roll. Each player contributes half the roll throughout the rest of the game.

For Frank's roll, I had numbers to avoid. I couldn't set up an ace because he might do the same giving him four men off with 1-1. I thought he would select a 6 as his die number so I chose a 4 so he'd take only one man off, losing a full roll. Unfortunately Frank outsmarted me, anticipating

my play. He chose a 4 on the die under his cup giving him the winning roll of 4-4.

3. *Second Choice* backgammon involves both players in every roll. After a player makes his checker play, he must ask his opponent: "Second Choice?" If the opponent says yes, then he must discard the original play and make his second best play. Being forced to make the second best play dilutes the powerful natural opening rolls like 3-1, 4-2, and 6-5, but creates interesting positions and challenging bearoffs.

Position #3. Playing *Second Choice*, how should Black play 5-1 here?



Bear-ins and bear-offs are tricky. The best play is breaking the 6-point with 6/1 6/5. Although it appears you can be hit from the bar, you can insist "second choice," and the opponent must play a 6-1 or 6-2 that doesn't hit. Safety is more important than greed when playing *Second Choice*.—Duane Jensen Δ

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LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

CLOCK MECHANICS

Regarding clock usage at backgammon tournaments: just promote the use of the clock for the “clock mechanics,” without a time limit. Players would start with a very long reserve time (10 hours). They would use one pair of dice and complete their move by hitting the clock.

If the match goes on for a long time and is indeed delaying the tournament, then the director would step in and reset the clock to a shorter (real) time reserve. This way, the benefits that clock use brings would be realized without the pressure.—*Adrian Rios, Buffalo Grove, Illinois*

We also believe an improvement in those tournaments that feel the need to clock all matches would be to remove time constraints whenever a double match-point situation is reached. Let that last game (not the clock) decide the winner.—Ed.

LEGENDS FROM LAUDERDALE

Got your packet with the back issues including the report on the current situation

in Monaco. Thanks for that! Sue and I read all from cover to cover—always good to read news about events, editorials, situations, results, etc. Thanks again for “keeping us in the loop.” Best of luck with your future events and for all that you do for backgammon and the players!—*Les and Sue Boyd, Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

I am in your court with regards to dress codes at the major tournaments. I really enjoyed dressing to the 9s and miss the beautiful venues and fine dining (replaced by water and ham sandwiches).

I was a bridge player before getting hooked on backgammon. If I had wanted a chess-like approach, I would have joined a chess club. Sadly, the changes are, for the most part, eliminating the nightly chouettes and “social mischief.” Let me know when a “gala auction dinner” is happening!—*Lee Genud, Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

PIG EXPRESSION?

I wonder if you happen to know the backgammon saying that goes something like “. . . pigs go to the slaughterhouse”? Was trying to recall this, but my memory has failed! Hope your memory is better than mine (or that you have the resources to

answer this for me).—*Leslie Lockett, Highland Park, Illinois*

The only expression we have heard similar is “Like lambs to the slaughter,” a description of how a weaker player might feel prior to playing a giant of backgammon.—Ed. Δ

KANEKO & TOBIAS AT THE BAR POINT CLUB IN FEBRUARY

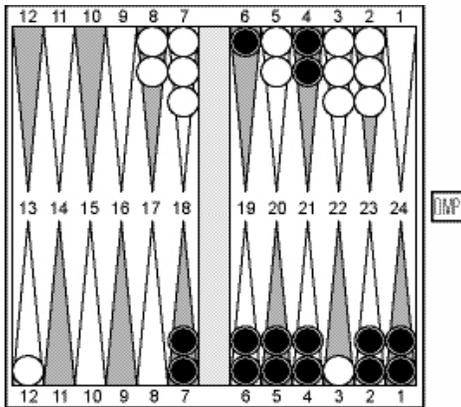


The Chicago Bar Point Club was lucky enough to have two international visitors on 15 Feb.: Shinichiro Kaneko (Japan) & Tobias Hellweg (Germany).

**PROBLEM #361
ANALYZED**

by Neil Kazaross

7-point match. Black and White are tied at 6 to 6 (DMP). **BLACK TO PLAY 3-2.**



When I first saw this strange looking DMP problem, I took a double-take and checked my reading glasses to make sure I knew which direction the players were moving! I'm guessing that along the way, White rolled a blocked 4-4 and

decided to switch points with it. Anyhow our concern is how Black should best play this dud of a 3-2. I'll first discuss my initial pre-bot thoughts noting that it is DMP so gammons don't matter.

This roll is quite poor and clearly there's nothing good to do with it. The first candidate play that came to mind was the passive: 19/14 simply hoping to be missed and roll better next time while maintaining a four-prime and five point board. The problem with this play is that White usually hits and/or safes up a checker. Even if missed, Black (trailing in the race) must still hope to deal with the remaining White blot on his 3-point before it runs away.

Black's other option is to attack with 6/4, 6/3*. This works great if White dances and Black can cover, hop out, and run home (often catching another White blot). But hitting has the serious drawback of breaking a five point board. Eventually, I felt that 19/14 was simply not strong enough. Noting White's weakish three point board, I still saw plenty of life even if 6/4, 6/3* didn't work out immediately, so I chose the attacking play.

There are other ways to hit and leave one blot, but none as good as 6/4, 6/3* giv-

ing Black two numbers to cover. You could also play 19/16 and hit 5/3*, really hurting White if she dances; but it looks like too much duping of 4s and 2s to me. And 19/16, 7/5 (duping 4s) just doesn't seem strong enough here.

So . . . it was time to do some rollouts and I used my strongest bot—a developmental version of XG2—and put quite a few plays through a 3-ply rollout to filter them to a smaller size prior to doing 5184 rollouts using XGR+ to determine the final results. (This feature will be available to XG2 users when the program is released in a few months.)

I was pleased with the results since 6/4, 6/3* ranked first winning 52.04% whereas my close second choice of 19/14 won 51.10%.

However, I was surprised to see 19/16, 5/3* come out in second place winning 51.42%. In spite of the duplication, this play really punishes White when she dances. It also keeps open some chances to complete a close-out. These were clearly the top three candidates.

An unusual position can call for an unusual play. My rollout results show that 6/4, 6/3* is best.—Neil Kazaross Δ

**MARY HICKEY DEFENDS HER US
OPEN TITLE IN FORT LAUDERDALE**

Mary Hickey winning her second US Open.

Mary Hickey (OH) prevailed over a tough 32 player field to win her second US Open title in as many years. WBA chairman Chiva Tafazzoli directed the event 14–17 January at the Marriott North in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Mary bested Mario Sequeira (Portugal) in the semifinals while Mike Corbett (FL) was defeating Ray Fogerlund (NV). In her finals vs. Mike Corbett, Mary prevailed winning two of three 7-point matches.

When asked to comment about woman dominating the US Open event (Carol Joy Cole won in 2009), Mary was philosophical:

"I don't think of any aspect of the game in terms of my being a 'woman player' any more than I think of myself as strictly an 'Ohio player' or a Midwestern one. I don't think of the game in ways that divide people, or worse, put asterisks by someone's win or title." Δ

CHAMPIONSHIP (32): 1-Mary Hickey (OH), 2-Mike Corbett (FL), 3/4-Ray Fogerlund (CA) / Mario Sequeira (Portugal); 1LC-Lee Genuid (FL). INTERMEDIATE (18): 1-Murray Bryntesen (FL), 2-Juan Rospigliosi (FL), 3/4-Homer Hector (GA) / Susan Randall (FL); 1LC-Sandra Sha (FL). BEGINNER (4): 1-Sybil Sha (FL), 2-Frank Kovarick (FL). US MASTERS JACKPOT (10 @ \$1,000 level): 1-Paul Weaver (AL), 2-Justin Nunez (CA). LIMITED JACKPOT (7 @ \$500 level): 1-Alex Gerding (FL), 2-Susan Randall (FL). DMP CHALLENGE (16): 1-Philippe Salnave (FL), 2-Robert Howayeck (FL). PRO/AM DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Gerald Gray (FL) & Jim McGirr (FL), 2-Ray Fogerlund (CA) & Alex Gerding (FL). WBA-BOARD CHALLENGE: 1-Ray Fogerlund (CA), 2-Justin Nunez (CA). TRAVELER'S TROPHY: Rickard Persson (Sweden). SPECIAL TROPHY (Loyalty & Support): Carter Mattig (IL). SPECIAL TROPHY (Lifetime Achievement): Bill Davis (IL). AFTER TOURNAMENT (16): 1-Steve Flam (FL), 2-Mary Hickey (OH). WBA WATCH (Courtesy of Alan Grunwald) WINNER: Mary Hickey (OH).

**FOGERLUND TAKES PITTSBURGH
WOOLSEY & TOP 20 RECEIVE ABT AWARDS**

Ray Fogerlund

Ray Fogerlund defeated Dennis Culpepper to capture the 2011 Pittsburgh Championships. The event, directed by Rob Maier drew near 150 players to the Sheraton Four Points near the Pittsburgh Airport 17–20 Feb. for the BG, food and ABT Awards.

The modified Swiss format qualified eight players with zero, one, or two losses. Ray went 6–1 to qualify, then ran the table to win his fifth all-time ABT title and take a big lead in this year's race.

Congrats to Petko for winning the Masters and to Kit Woolsey who received his American Backgammon Tour Award for 2010. Δ

OPEN (64): 1-Ray Fogerlund (CA), 2-Dennis Culpepper (VA), 3/4-Bill Calton (MI) / Alfred Mamlet (MD), 5/8-B. Davis (IL) / G. Fries (VA) / M. Gordon (MD) / G. Schneider (VA). ADVANCED (58): 1-Stewart Pemberton (CT), 2-Neal Weiner (FL), 3/4-R. Adams (MD) / B. Hickey (OH); 1C-Brian Scorben (NJ), 2C-Brandon Macklin (MD), 3C/4C-G. Jendras (MI) / B. Rant (Canada); 1LC-Alex Gerding (FL). NOVICE (21): 1-Ben Friesen (MI), 2-Irina Litzenberger (VA), 3/4-E. Grecni (PA) / M. Wasson (PA); 1C-Kathy Weiner (FL). PITT. MASTERS (26): 1-Petko Kostadinov (SC), 2-Paul Weaver (AL), 3/4-D. Culpepper (VA) / C. Mattig (IL). ADV. JACKPOT (32): 1-Arthur Sutton (NJ), 2-Dmitriy Obukhov (MI), 3/4-B. Macklin (MD) / G. Schneider (VA). SPEEDGAMMON (32): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-Michael Edge (SC), 3/4-M. Hickey (OH) / C. Knapp (Canada). OPEN DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Garry Kallos (Canada) & Daniel Pehoushek (OH), 2-Adam & Bill Versaw (PA), 3/4-M. Gordon (MD) & B. Silliman (MD) / T. Hellwag (Germany) & H. Roman (IL). ADV. DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Bob & Susie Hathaway (MD), 2-Irina & R. Kenny Litzenberger (VA). ADV. DOUBLES #2 (4 teams): 1-Peter & Regina Carcieri (OH). MICRO-BLITZ (64): 1-Claude Landry (Canada), 2-P. Townsend (PA). NOVICE BLITZ #1 (8): 1-Michael Auer (MD). #2 (4): 1-Irina Litzenberger (VA). OPEN MULLIGAN (4): 1-Lucky Nelson (IL). ADVANCED MULLIGAN (2): 1-Ed King (OH). LAST STRAW OPEN (8): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA). ADVANCED (16): 1-Thomas Rebelo (Canada), 2-B. Rant (Canada). THREE RIVERS 1-PT. (32): 1-Sean Garber (IN). THUR. 400 (8): 1-Brent Cohen (PA), 2-J. Acierno (NJ). THUR. WARM-UP (35): 1-Lucky Nelson (IL), 2-D. Obukhov (MI), 3-M. Kossar (CT).

WINNER'S CIRCLE



JAN.-FEB. 2011

•**Bloomington Club 2010 Playoffs** (Bloomington, IL; 3 Jan.)... (9 players): 1-Michael Flohr, 2-Faddoul Khoury; 1C-Robert Nagle, 2C-Scott Rudebeck.

•**New York Metro—ABT** (Jersey City, NJ; 6-9 Jan.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (53+13 rebuys): 1-Bill Robertie



Bill Robertie

(MA), 2-Rachel Rhodes (England), 3/4-Larry Taylor (GA)/Kit Woolsey (CA); 1C-David Shadi (NJ), 2C-Mike Senkiewicz (NY), 3C/4C-Omar Dessouky (NY) / Bill Riles (TX); 1LC-Harvey Gillis (WA), 2LC-Brent Cohen (PA). INTERMEDIATE (45+15 rebuys): 1-Peggy

Neubig (NJ), 2-Garry Kallos (Canada), 3/4-Stewart Pemberton (CT) / Kyle Wittels (NY); 1C-Robert Sisselman (NJ), 2C-Debra Oles Campbell (NC), 3C/4C-Alex Gerding (FL) / Keith Gershenson (NY); 1LC-Larry Shiller (CT), 2LC-Brandon Macklin (MD). BEGINNER (21): 1-Roman Abramovsky (NY), 2-Brandy Thorward (NJ); 1C-Rochelle Hasson (NY), 2C-Theres Delaney (NJ); 1LC-Jenna Longman (MI). LIBERTY CUP MASTERS (32): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-Claude Landry (Canada). LIMITED JACKPOT (32): 1-Leon Marini (NJ), 2-Jason Lee (MD). NEW YORK DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Bill Robertie (MA) & Russell Burke (NY), 2-Austin O'Laughlin (NY) & Ed O'Laughlin (VA). NEW YORK WARM-UP (64): 1-Harvey Gillis (WA). SENIORS (64): 1-Alan Grunwald (NJ), 2-Yehuda Hodara (NY). \$50 BLITZ (32): 1-Carter Mattig (IL), 2-Mel Rappaport (NY). \$20 BLITZ (64): 1-Eddie Sant'Ana (Brazil/NJ), 2-Rachel Rhodes (England). PETER KASTURAS JUNIORS (4): 1-Troy Longman II (MI), 2-Matt Kasturas (NJ).

•**Springfield Series #4** (Bloomington, IL; 8 Jan.)... OPEN (22): 1-Joe VanDerWal, 2-Jim Zimmerman; 1C-Ed Zell, 2C-Oleg Raygorodsky; 1LC-Chuck Bower (IN).

•**Istanbul Open—TBT** (Istanbul, Turkey; 14-16 Jan.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (104): 1-Selim Kalyoncu (TUR), 2-Sabri Büyüksoy, 3/4-Murat Ates / Charbel Haddad (LEB); 1C-Shimon Kagan (ISR), 2C-Kemal Erdem, 3C/4C-Ugur Taskan / Erhan Yenisen; 1LC-Levent Erim, 2LC-Cengiz Ergin, 3LC/4LC-Irfan Mizrakçi / Aysun Utkular. LADIES PRIZE (7): 1-Nisa Aksu, 2-Paraskevi Skriboni (GRE). DOUBLES (43 teams): 1-Arda Findikoglu & Serkan Koç, 2-Ilker Göçhan & Ramazan Gür, 3/4-Barbaros Erim & Levent Erim / Irfan Mizrakçi & Abdullah Sisman. WARM-UP (90): 1-Ramazan Gür, 2-Shimon Kagan (ISR), 3/4-A. Seref Basaslan / Gültekin Uygur. 869BG CUP (94): 1-Martin Barkwill (ENG), 2-Sava Nadazdin (SER), 3/4-Ercüment Çalışlar / Zoran Todorov (MAC). SWING (27): 1-Barbaros Erim, 2-Cihangir Çetinel, 3-Aysun Utkular, 4-Abdullah Sorgüven. 1-POINTER (128): 1-Yakov Omrad (ISR), 2-Ufuk Bozkurt, 3/4-Costas Chiotinis (GRE) / Kasra Moshirabadi (IRN). SPORTSMANSHIP PRIZE: C. Tamer Celasun.

•**New England Club Monthly** (Malden, MA; 15 Jan.)... OPEN (20): 1-Matt Reklaitis, 2-Phyllis Seidel; 1C-Ed Ahola, 2C-Howard Rosenthal.

•**Sunshine State Regional** (Tarpon Springs, FL;

18-20 Jan.)... OPEN (5): 1-Perry Gartner, 2-Roland Leutered. ADVANCED (9): 1-Juan Rospigliosi, 2-Bob Wright. NOVICE (9): 1/2-Bill Allard / Morty Bernstein. DOUBLES (5): 1-Stacy Turner & Michelle Pruitt, 2-Bob Wright & Doreen Saccardo. AFTER TOURNAMENT: 1-Marion Roland, 2-Roland Leutered.

•**BG On Board Warm-Up Tourney** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 21 Jan.)... OPEN (19): 1/2-Woody Woodworth (IN) / Bob Howayeck (FL), 3/4-Neal Rosensweig (FL) / Philippe Salnave (FL)... *Directed by Elayne Feinstein.*

•**Pair-O-Dice Monthly** (New York, NY; 23 Jan.)... OPEN (9): 1-Alan Grunwald (NJ), Leon Marini (NJ); 1C-Victor Ashkenazi (NJ). INTERMEDIATE (7): 1-Sonja Fischer (NY), 2-Gary Sloane (NY); 1C-Lynn Ehrlich (NY). BEGINNER (9): 1-Dmitry Dragomeretsky (NY), 2-Anna Covlin (NY); 1C-Roman Abramovsky (NY).

•**3rd New Mexico Championships—ABT**; 27-30 Jan.)... OPEN (32): 1-Bob Koca (MD), 2-Ed O'Laughlin (VA); 1C-Ray Fogelund (CA); 1LC-Gregg Cattanach (GA). ADVANCED (24): 1-Jonathan Leusden (CO), 2-Kathleen Davis (MO); 1C-Bob Goldstein (NM); 1LC-Josh Racko (CA). NOVICE (19): 1-Erik Sawyer (NM), 2-Early Gardner (NM); 1C-Janet Genter (NV); 1LC-Joe Fitzpatrick (NM). MASTERS JACKPOT (16): 1-Stepan Nuniyants (WA), 2-Neil Kazaross (IL). ADVANCED JACKPOT (16): 1-Lawrence Wilson (CO), 2-Kenny Litzenberger (VA). PRO-AM DOUBLES (8 teams): 1/2-Ed Bennett (NM) & Jan Brennan (NM) / Lowell Schulman (NY) & David Wilshin (AZ). BLITZ (32): 1-Frank Talbot (MI), 2-Joe Potts (TX). 2-POINT QUICKIES (16): 1-Ed Rosenblum (NM). DOUBLES (22 teams): 1-Mark Antranikian (CA) & Carl Blumenstein (CA), 2-Ray Fogelund (CA) & Penina Meisels (NM); 1C-Erik Sawyer (NM) & Andrew Wice (NM).

•**BPC Doubles** (Skokie, IL; 5 Feb.)... OPEN (18 teams): 1-David & Linda Rockwell, 2-Tak Morioka & Leslie Lockett, 3/4-Bill Bartholomay & Beth Whitney (MI) / Mike Wolock & Mike Sutton; 1C/2C-Gary & Alice Kay / Herb Roman & Les Moshinsky... *Read the story in the "Feb. Extra" online at www.chicagopoint.com.*

•**Ohio State Club Monthly** (Akron, OH; 7 Feb.)... OPEN (14): 1-Pete Ziegler, 2-Farhad Forudi; 1C-Mike Vasilatos, 2-Donna Davenport.

•**Springfield Series #5** (Springfield, IL; 12 Feb.)... OPEN (22): 1-Gerry Tansey (MO), 2-Michael Plog; 1C-Milad Doueihii; 1LC-Oleg Raygorodsky.

•**31st Illinois State Challenge Cup** (Springfield, IL; 13 Feb.)... (7 Teams): 1-Chicago Bar Point Club (26-10), 2/3/4-Midstate Club (18-18) / Bloomington Club (18-18) / Peoria Club (18-18), 5-Winnetka Club (17-19), 6-Pub Club (16-20), 7-Springfield (13-23)... *BPC results: (Phil Simborg 5-1, David Rockwell 5-1, Rory Pascar 3-3, Howard Markowitz 2-4, Bill Davis 5-1, Tak Morioka 6-0). Δ*



2011 Illinois State Challenge Cup Bar Point Club winners (L to R): Howard Markowitz, Phil Simborg, Tak Morioka, David Rockwell, Bill Davis, Rory Pascar.

AMALGAMATION

Thanks to Pub Club director **Tim Mabee** who directed Bar Point Club weeklies for us Jan. 18 and 25 while we attended the US Open and BG On Board... For you "Lost" TV fans, the *Lost Encyclopedia* is out and apparently it answers the question as to what the meaning of backgammon was with relation to the show...

Angelina Jolie and **Brad Pitt** have a new hangout: The Spare Room at the Roosevelt Hotel in Los Angeles. Hollywood's new hot spot features two vintage reclaimed bowling lanes, backgammon tables, and a full service bar in art deco styling... Most BPC players are really enjoying our new home at Ruby Tuesday in Skokie... **Phil Simborg** (IL), Education Advisor for the USBGF, remains hard at work promoting backgammon to colleges across the country... Backgammon aficionado **Omar Sharif** had a birds-eye view of the Egyptian uprising from his high-rise Cairo apartment. Needless to say, he has deep concerns about his homeland... Former Pub Club director **Jeff Henry** (IL) and his dog **Smoakie** made the newspapers and radio last month. While out for a walk near their Geneva home, Smoakie got caught in an animal trap. When Jeff went back to post a warning sign, he was also snared in a trap. In both cases, police had to be called to free them... Last month, **Prince Harry** and girlfriend **Chelsy Davy** were spotted at the Beaufort House, a private club in the Chelsea district of London. The exclusive club offers backgammon, whisky tasting, and cinema screenings... Good luck to **Bob Stoller & Ed Sawyer** who are expanding their Anchorage, Alaska Go Club to incorporate backgammon. Get details at chicagopoint.com/usclubs.html... Our thoughts and prayers are with **Alan & Lourdes Steffen** (NY) whose young son **Alan Paul** battles cancer... **Mike Corbett's** book *Laughter of the Damned* is now available at both Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com, both in paperback and for the Kindle... Former "Reba" costar **Melissa Peterman** will reunite with **Reba McEntire** on her new comedy sitcom, "Working Class." Reba says about her long time friend: "We love to play backgammon and I always beat her."... Director **Tony Anton** reports that after 339 consecutive weeks of play at the Las Vegas Backgammon Club, "Iron Man" **Cy Yehros'** streak which began in 2004, came to an end on 22 Feb.... In promotion of his new comedy *Hall Pass*, director **Bobby Farrelly** describes star **Owen Wilson** as "...a heck of an athlete. He loves to bet. Don't play him anything for money — pool, backgammon, ping pong. Stay away."... **Shinichiro Kaneko**, a Bar Point Club visitor on 15 Feb., tells us that in Japan, the word "backgammon" translates to "foolish man." We report, you decide. Δ

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