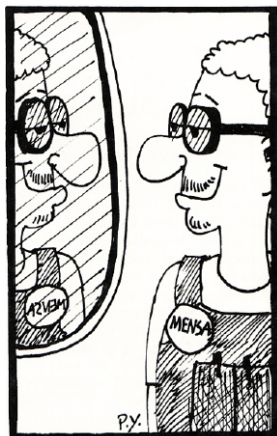


MIRROR STARS

The following editorial first appeared in the Las Vegas Backgammon Magazine (Vol. 6, 1979). CHICAGO POINT readers can decide as to whether any of today's players fit the description of a "Mirror Star." Just realize that the new world is far more technical than it was in 1979. There's a big difference between an arrogant "Mirror Star" who belittles lesser-skilled players and a genuine student of the game.—Ed.

There is an aborigine, indigenous to backgammon clubs, whose reason for being is to dampen the enthusiasm of less talented players.

He huddles with denizens of the same ilk discussing the fine and lofty points of backgammon.



He and his tribe are the foundation of the Mirror Stars. Their national anthem is "I'll Play That as a Proposition!" Their uniform is drab and pocketless. Their rituals include the secret handshake of the

empty palm. They are of no value to backgammon. They are the bane of backgammon clubs.

These egomaniacs create an uncomfortable atmosphere by snickering and brow-beating the lesser players.

The intermediate player, who is the bread and butter of the backgammon club, finds himself in a no-win situation: if he loses, he is out his cash and has no fun; if he wins, he is told how stupid and lucky he was and has no fun.

This is of no consequence to the Mirror Star since he is out to prove how great and smart he is and not to entertain the cus-

tomers. He would rather be right than rich. But, while he is costing himself money and wonders why he can't get a decent game, he is also losing clientele for the backgammon club he inhabits.

The backgammon club operator should hasten to rid his club of the Mirror Stars. One sure way of accomplishing this is to eliminate sofas and easy chairs so they have nowhere to sleep.

The club owner should realize that the public joins backgammon not to earn a diploma in advanced theory, but to be entertained. The new member is willing to spend money for membership, tournaments and side play in exchange for amusement. The Mirror Stars rob him of his good time.

Every man, woman and child in America could be a prospect for backgammon if backgammon clubs were entertaining. Al Roth, the shrewd and famous operator of the Mayfair Club in New York, long has been a proponent of backgammon as pure recreation. "When I talk to groups about backgammon," he says, "I never mention the game! I only talk about the diversions—the fun, the activities."

We agree with these views and believe that discouraging the Mirror Star elite is the first step in adding more enjoyment to the game. No one enjoys the game when a self-appointed crew of critics stands in judgment at every roll of the dice.

Who wants to be surrounded by humorless intellectuals who can't believe it's possible for them to lose even a single game? Who wants to be told that they are foolish when they are having fun?

The Cavendish Club in Los Angeles, perhaps the most successful backgammon club in the world, has the best policy of all. They simply suspend players who are habitual irritants. We applaud their no-nonsense approach.

There is no room in backgammon for the Mirror Stars and their inflated egos.

ATTENTION CLUB OPERATORS: Don't cater to the few who pretend to understand backgammon best. Clear the space they now occupy and it will soon be overflowing with active, fun-seeking and consuming backgammon supporters.—LVBM Δ

2011 colorado state championships

MAMLET HAS SUPER TOURNAMENT IN COLO.
Wins Colorado State. Runner-up to Rich Siebold in Masters.

Beautiful blue skies and temperatures near 80 enhanced the enjoyment of the Colorado State Championships. The event, held 30 Sept.—2 Oct. and directed by Lynda Clay, drew a sparse, yet friendly gathering of 35 players in three divisions. The Hilton Garden Inn, just minutes from the Denver Airport in Aurora, Colorado was the venue.



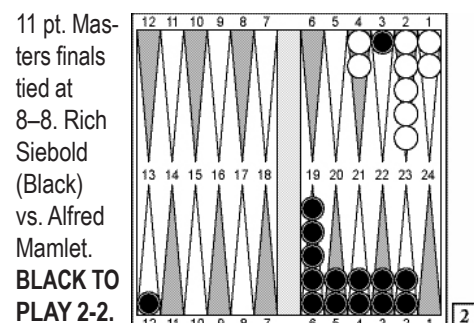
Alfred Mamlet

Alfred Mamlet of Maryland had a chance to sweep both the Open and Masters divisions. He lost the Masters to Rich Siebold (CO) but bested live tourney newcomer Bob Lekse (CO) to win eight ABT points and vault to #11 in the 2011 standings (the

top 20 ABT finishers win 1 oz. silver coins.

In the Open double elimination event, Mamlet lost the first match to Lekse, but leading 10–8 in the 13-point rubber match, Mamlet was able to win a backgammon for a 13–8 victory and his first-ever ABT title.

Congrats to Richard Siebold for his Continental divide Masters Jackpot victory. In the 11-point finals vs. Mamlet, Siebold had this 2-2 to play:



[Continued on page 7]

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)

All rights reserved. You may copy any of this for noncommercial purposes as long as you give full credit to "CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504, Chicago, IL 60659-3155." You may not reproduce any part of this publication on the Internet or via other electronic media without the express-written consent of CHICAGO POINT.

Subscription Rates: \$30/10 issues (\$50/20 issues) in US and Canada. \$40/10 issues (\$70/20 issues) international airmail in USD check. Make PayPal payments to bg@chicagopoint.com.

Advertising Rates: 2 3/8" x 3 1/4" = \$40. 1/4 page = \$70. 1/2 page = \$115. Full page = \$200. If the ad is not "camera ready," request layout and typesetting for an additional charge.

LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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

E-mail: letters@chicagopoint.com

MORE THANKS FROM READERS

How long I have been your subscriber. How much I have learned and enjoyed! My oldest issues (dating back to the 1990s) have been bound in leather and put into my bibliotheque before the advent of the Bots.

I'll bind the most recent issues as well and I suggest to everyone to do the same; because this has been such a well done opera. Chicago Point newsletters will be stored with my best books.—*Francesco Mauri, Milano, Italy*

Thanks for three decades of good backgammon reading, learning, and entertainment. I feel really sorry that the printed Chicago Point is ending. But renew me for the last five issues! All my best.—*Jaakko Salava, Helsinki, Finland*

You are welcome, Jaakko. And thank YOU for being (perhaps) our longest subscriber.

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



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

*Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined

Oct 8	New England Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Oct 8	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Oct 8	Tampa Bay Club Monthly, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/743-0500
Oct 8	Backgammon By the Bay, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Oct 9	Cincinnati Club Monthly, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Oct 9	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Oct 11	Arizona Club Monthly, Teakwoods Tavern & Grill, Phoenix, Arizona	602/762-2288
Oct 14-16	<u>Illinois State Championships, Grand Hotel, Peoria, Illinois</u>	<u>847/677-6852</u>
Oct 16	Pair-O-Dice Monthly Tournament, Lincoln Center Atrium, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Oct 16*	Portland Monthly, Spring Creek Coffee House, Milwaukie, Oregon	503/805-1218
Oct 20	Flint Third Thursday Bonus (Las Vegas), Sharky's Sports Bar, Burton, Michigan	810/232-9731
Oct 21-23	3rd New Orleans "Sweet 16," Inn on Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana	504/366-7498
Oct 22*	Backgammon By the Bay, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Oct 23	33rd Flint Area Club Championships, Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Oct 30*	Atlanta Northside Monthly, Il Forno NY Pizza, Atlanta, Georgia	770/612-0818
Nov 2	Charlotte Club Monthly, Dilworth Grille, Charlotte, North Carolina	704/965-3573
Nov 4	Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Ruby Tuesday, Skokie, Illinois	773/583/6464
Nov 5	Springfield Series #2, Rusty's Clubhouse & Grill, Springfield, Illinois	217/622-9447
Nov 6	Ohio State Sunday Monthly, Brubaker's Pub, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Nov 8	Arizona Club Monthly, Teakwoods Tavern & Grill, Phoenix, Arizona	602/762-2288
Nov 9-13	<u>Las Vegas Open, Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	<u>702/218-8238</u>
Nov 12*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Nov 12*	Tampa Bay Club Monthly, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/743-0500
Nov 13*	Cincinnati Club Monthly, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Nov 13*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Nov 13*	Portland Monthly, Spring Creek Coffee House, Milwaukie, Oregon	503/805-1218
Nov 17*	Flint Third Thursday Bonus (California), Sharky's Sports Bar, Burton, Michigan	810/232-9731
Nov 19*	New England Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Nov 20*	Michigan-Ohio Challenge Cup, Karen Davis' residence, Toledo, Ohio	419/469-2819
Nov 20*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly Tournament, Lincoln Center Atrium, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Dec 2-4	<u>California State Championship, Four Points-LAX, Los Angeles, California</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Dec 4*	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Ruby Tuesday, Skokie, Illinois	773/583-6464
Dec 16-18	<u>Sunshine State Classic, Hampton Inn & Suites, Tarpon Springs, Florida</u>	<u>727/743-0500</u>
Jan 5-8	<u>5th New York Metropolitan Open, Hyatt Hotel, Jersey City, New Jersey</u>	<u>408/529-6769</u>
Jan 13-16	<u>US Open, Embassy Suites Hotel, South San Francisco, California</u>	<u>304/685-3214</u>
Jan 26-29	<u>New Mexico State Championship, La Posada, Santa Fe, New Mexico</u>	<u>505/982-2729</u>
Feb 16-19*	<u>Pittsburgh Championships/ABT Awards, Four Points Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA</u>	<u>304/685-3214</u>
Mar 9-11*	<u>3rd Central States Invitational, Sheraton Gateway Suites, Rosemont, Illinois</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Oct. 14-16	6th Milano Open, Castello di Carimate, Carimate near Como, Italy	393474-330340
Oct 15-16*	Antonis Maltezopoulos Cup, Saronis Hotel, Methana, Greece	302107-706142
Oct 15-16	TBT: 1st Kocaeli Championship/WBF-TR, Emex Hotel, Kocaeli, Turkey	905322-329228
Oct 16*	Rails and Ales Tournament, Rails and Ales Lounge, Toronto, ON, Canada	647/207-9342
Oct 21-23	BBT: 19th Irish Open, Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Ireland	353872-144270
Nov 4-6	Townharbour Trophy, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Nov 4-6*	CANCELLED: Löwenstadt-Cup, Mercure Hotel, Braunschweig, Germany	497152-3593466
Nov 5-6*	23rd Danish Championship Finale, Casino Copenhagen, Denmark	4531-392791
Nov 6*	Vancouver Club Monthly, St. Augustine's Pub, Vancouver, BC, Canada	604/241-1986
Nov 7-9	WBA Highrollers Classic, Hard Rock, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic	491715-422222
Nov 11-13	Backgammon Live in London, Salt Quay & YHA, London, England	442077-001798
Nov 11-13*	7th Rome Open, Circolo Antico Tiro a Volo, Rome, Italy	393478-336862
Nov 12-13	Australian Open, Ryde Ex-Services Club, Sydney, Australia	61405-373225
Nov 12-13	Berlin Championship Final, Café Kleisther, Berlin, Germany	491511-9470238
Nov 12-13	TBT: 4th Edirne Championship/WBF-TR, Arslanli Hotel, Edirne, Turkey	905322-329228
Nov 17-20	Czechoslovak Open, U Medvidku Brewery Hotel, Prague, Czech Republic	420608-904999
Nov 19-20	CBT: 3rd Rijeka Open, Hotel Jadran, Rijeka, Croatia	385915-352132
Nov 19-20	ScotGammon Quiaich 2-11, Circus Casino, Edinburgh, Scotland	441316-202328
Nov 26-27	Thun Open/BeO-Cup/Swiss Doubles, Waadtländerstube, Thun, Switzerland	4179-4329378
Dec 1-4	Play65/EBGT: 4th Cyprus Open, Golden Tulip Hotel, Lefkosa, Cyprus	491715-422222
Dec 2-4*	Christmas UK Finals, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Dec 5-7*	Play65/EBGT: 2011 Grand Finale, Golden Tulip Hotel, Lefkosa, Cyprus	491715-422222
Dec 6-7*	13th Milan Challenge/Lombardy Championship, Admiral, Milan, Italy	390331-923537
Dec 7-11*	3rd Meribel Tournament 2011, Hotel L'Eterlou, Meribel, France	33620-902726
Dec 26-27*	Christmas Tournament, Somboons, Dong Tarn Beach, Pattaya, Thailand	6681-6649085



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2011

Compiled through 2 Oct. 2011 after 16 tournaments

(Upcoming events: Illinois State, Las Vegas Open)



Ray Fogerlund	83.98	Al Hodis	7.85	Mike Senkiewicz	3.93	Bill Kaludis	2.60
Harvey Gillis	40.16	Petko Kostadinov	7.55	Patrick Gibson	3.93	Stuart Thomson	2.50
Neil Kazaross	30.33	Tim Lawless	7.26	Kent Goulding	3.93	Vadim Musaelyan	2.50
Chuck Bower	25.78	Jake Burak	7.25	Eduardo Maciel	3.93	Kathy Weiner	2.45
Jeff Nitschke	21.20	Kit Woolsey	7.10	Nan Feiber	3.83	Joan Grunwald	2.41
Bill Robertie	20.50	Antoinette Williams	6.80	Oleg Raygorodsky	3.83	Bob Howayeck	2.40
Ed O'Laughlin	18.14	Peggy Neubig	6.67	Bill Minser	3.80	Dan Gruby	2.40
Bob Koca	17.39	Juan Rospigliosi	6.60	Jesse Eaton	3.80	Harry Brown	2.40
Odis Chenault	17.33	Bill Davis	6.42	Penina Rosenblum	3.75	Richie Adams	2.23
Herb Gurland	15.70	Bill Calton	6.40	Frank Ley	3.63	Bob Hickey	2.23
Alfred Mamlet	14.40	Mike Corbett	6.40	John Calcott	3.63	Erik Sawyer	2.11
Garry Kallos	14.24	Lee Genud	6.40	Vicki Ondis	3.63	Matt Cohn-Geier	2.11
Greg Merriman	13.72	Neal Weiner	6.34	Murray Bryntesen	3.60	Greg Adamavich	2.10
Carol Joy Cole	13.67	Felix Yen	6.33	Georgina Flanagan	3.50	Judy Field	2.10
Gregg Cattanach	13.56	David Rubin	6.22	Robert Sisselman	3.33	Roman Abramovsky	2.10
Bob Glass	12.89	Homer Hector	6.10	Lyle Rubin	3.24	Mike Vasilatos	2.05
Dennis Culpepper	12.80	John Quinn	5.45	Michihito Kageyama	3.22	Robert Lessard	2.05
Mary Hickey	12.80	Prince Barlow	5.45	Steve Nelson	3.22	Omar Dessouky	1.96
Gary Bauer	12.67	Lucas Bauer	5.42	Gary Fries	3.20	Bill Riles	1.96
Jason Lee	12.67	Jonathan Leusden	5.33	Mark Gordon	3.20	Brent Cohen	1.96
John O'Hagan	12.44	Gus Contos	5.01	Grant Schneider	3.20	Mark Antranikian	1.96
Ralf Jonas	12.40	Karen Davis	5.00	Mario Sequeira	3.20	Molly Anderson	1.96
Malcolm Davis	11.56	Jolie Rubin	4.99	Faddoul Khoury	3.17	Mike Minkovski	1.92
Ben Friesen	10.86	Brian Scoben	4.46	Dmitriy Obukhov	3.11	Tom Duggan	1.92
Stewart Pemberton	10.59	Kathleen Davis	4.42	Sandra Sha	3.10	Jerry Kressin	1.90
Ramez Abi-Akar	9.42	Frank DiMaggio	4.33	David Levy	3.10	Joe Potts	1.88
Cliff Mayoh	8.92	Tak Morioka	4.33	Justin Nunez	3.10	Robert Ring	1.81
Allen Tish	8.67	Rory Pascar	4.23	Brandon Macklin	3.06	Jacques Trivodic	1.81
Masayuki Mochizuki	8.55	Vadim Nuniyants	4.20	Alex Gerding	3.06	Ron Bruns	1.81
Art Benjamin	8.46	Eden Windish	4.10	Mark Ferrin	2.90	Russ Rosen	1.81
Josh Racko	8.04	Daniel Barabas	4.10	Leslie Lockett	2.73	Lynn Lusk	1.81
Rachel Rhodes	7.85	Bob Lekse	4.00	Walt Smith	2.73	Scotty Kelland	1.75
David Shadi	7.85	Greg Cottle	4.00	Bob Goldstein	2.67	Jeff Fischer	1.75
Norm Wiggins	7.85	Larry Taylor	3.93	Jeremy Moulton	2.60	Four tied at	1.67

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

We'll try to keep you entertained at www.chicagopoint.com and at our newest endeavor, www.facebook.com/AmericanBackgammonTour.—Ed.

DAVE DIETRICH REMEMBERED

I'm very sorry to hear about Dave's passing. I ran the Pub Club for a few years in Lisle and Downers Grove. That's how I met Dave, and got to know him fairly well, even attending his wedding with a good friend, Chris Stanford.

Dave was also one of the six Pub Club charter members at the inaugural "Illinois State Challenge Cup" backgammon tournament in 1981. He, along with Lucky Nelson, Dean Morehouse, Dale Barker, myself, and one other Top Six finisher, hired a limo (with champagne) for the ride down to Chicago to take on Howard Markowitz's mighty Gammons of Chicago.

Dave brings back a lot of backgammon memories for me.—Jeff Henry (Illinois State Challenge Cup founder), Geneva, Illinois

CELEBRITY BACKGAMMON PLAYERS

I love your Celebrity Backgammon Players feature at www.chicagopoint.com. Brilliant! Keep them coming.—Luca Lodi, Rome, Italy

Thanks, Luca. We have already posted 38 celebrity backgammon players (from 1930–present) and have about 12 more to go.—Ed.

[Continued on page 4]



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2011 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 4 OCT.

Rory Pascar	29.16	Bill Keefe	6.76	Kevin Berg	3.08	Vladimir Pekler	0.96
Larry Goldstein	22.76	Tak Morioka	6.64	David Nosik	2.52	Mark Murray	0.96
Herb Roman	21.52	Joann Feinstein	6.48	Dan Weymouth	2.40	Hugh Morris	0.72
Phil Simborg	20.64	Dujuan Meekins	6.48	Wendy Kaplan	2.32	Richard Stawowy	0.72
David Rockwell	19.52	Russ Lyutik	6.08	Roger Hickman	2.24	Kit Woolsey	0.72
Carter Mattig	18.68	Dave Settles	5.96	Allen Tish	2.16	Mike Peters	0.68
Bob Steen	16.08	Linda Rockwell	5.76	Kerem Taskin	1.88	Guseyn Aliyev	0.68
Lucky Nelson	15.12	Tobias Hellwag	5.72	Ken Meng	1.64	Scott Richardson	0.64
Nora Luna Righter	14.48	Amy Trudeau	5.68	Warren Barnes	1.60	Tom Harrison	0.64
Mike Wolock	13.96	Jerry Brooks	5.56	Mark Ostrovsky	1.52	Georgina Flanagan	0.56
Bill Bartholomay	13.40	Tim Mabee	5.20	Roz Ferris	1.44	Michael Ginat	0.56
Bill Davis	13.16	Russell Head	4.96	Terry Weiss	1.44	Les Moshinsky	0.56
Alex Owen	12.76	Oleg Raygorodsky	4.52	Mike Valentino	1.36	Gary Kay	0.56
Mike Sutton	11.32	Peter Kalba	4.48	Bob Zavoral	1.36	Ben Silk	0.48
Ken Bond	9.68	Howard Markowitz	4.16	Alice Kay	1.28	Beth Whitney	0.48
Steve Klesker	9.36	Jeff Fischer	4.12	Steve Bock	1.20	Kit Cabello	0.40
Leslie Lockett	8.44	Matt Cohn-Geier	3.92	Mitch Pomper	1.12	Efim Liberman	0.32
Christopher Shanava	8.32	David Rubin	3.76	Mochy Mochizuki	1.08	Roland Dieter	0.24
Wayne Wiest	7.20	Adrian Rios	3.68	Eric Johnson	1.04	Jesse Anderson-Lehman	0.16
Serge Bondar	6.80	Mike Minkovski	3.20				

OLEG RAYGORODSKY had a nice string of wins to earn 3.24 September points and Player of the Month status. Runner's-up were David Rockwell (3.12) and Phil Simborg/Mike Sutton (2.76).

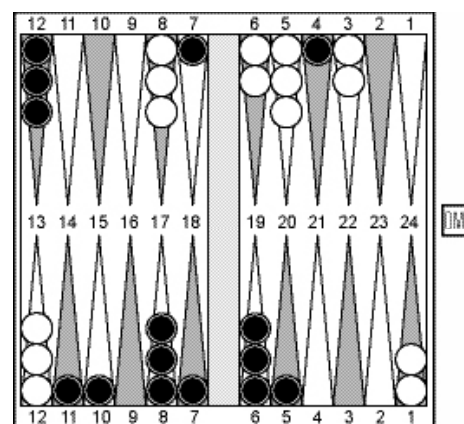
your move

PROBLEM #368

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

7-point match tied at 6 to 6 (DMP).

BLACK TO PLAY 6-3.



THE UNAIDED EYE

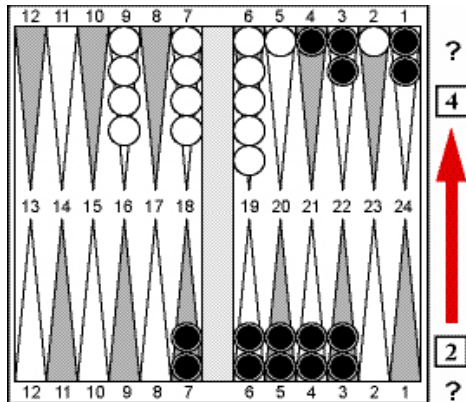
© 2011 by Danny Kleinman



HOW CAN THIS NOT BE A DOUBLE?

Dear Danny: In a recent Doubles tournament, my partner and I faced this tricky doubling decision:

7 point match tied at 0 to 0. Black on roll, holding a 2-cube. **RECUBE ACTION(S)?**



If I wanted to redouble, and you were my partner, what would you tell me? I understand that I can roll this out using XG (and I did, discovering to my surprise that to redouble would almost be a blunder). But none of us have that luxury over the board.

If it is of any concern, the team we were playing would probably be a 5-to-4 underdog to us in any given match.—Rocked by

the Rollout

DEAR ROCKED: I would be shocked by any rollout that showed a redouble to be wrong. The best four point board and a five prime coupled with two White blots that can be hit by 27 rolls would induce me to redouble without qualms, as I expect to lose my market on inordinately many sequences. Even if I miss, I remain with much the stronger board and an acepoint game or a holding game to fall back on.

Come to think of it, you might have lost your actual market (two human opponents) already. Did you redouble and get your opponents to pass? — *Yours, Danny*

ROCKED REPLIES: *I wanted to double and my partner said no. Before we cubed he whispered to me that if I wanted to double, I had to bet him \$50 that this was a double. I did bet him and doubled and like you said, our opponents dropped. But when I ran it on XG2, rolling the position out 3600 times, the results showed:*

Black wins 63.72% (G: 20.50%, BG: 0.75%)
White wins 36.28% (G: 9.25%, BG: 0.55%)

No redouble +0.629
Redouble/Take +0.598 (−0.031)
Redouble/Pass +1.000

So I lost \$50! After looking at these numbers, can you offer any additional input as to why this rolls out to be “no double” and an easy take? I have heard that XG2 does not play backgammons with the same degree of perfection as other positions. This is all I can figure out.—Rocked

DEAR ROCKED: Given your rollout results, the take is easy, as even after adjusting for the difference in gammons, your opponents’ winning chances are more than 32% . . . well in excess of the 25% needed to justify taking the redouble.

Although I cannot derive equities from those rollout results, especially as the value added by cube ownership is not calculable, the equities you show, +.598 for a redouble and take versus +.629 for keeping the cube, do not convince me (and shouldn’t convince you) that redoubling was wrong. The chance that your opponents will pass (as they did) more than justifies redoubling. Suppose that chance were as slim as 10%. Then 10% of the time, your gain in equity would be .371 and 90% of the time your loss in equity would be .031, so redoubling would earn you, on average, $.0371 - .0279 = +.0092$. Or suppose that chance were as fat as 50%. Then 50% of the time, your gain in equity would be .371 and 50% of the time your loss in equity would be .031, so redoubling would earn you, on average, $.1855 - .0155 = +.1700$.

The gain from a misguided pass far exceeds the loss from a premature redouble.

But why might we expect the opponents to pass?

I think because the number of shots and the 5-prime scare them.— *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

LETTERS...

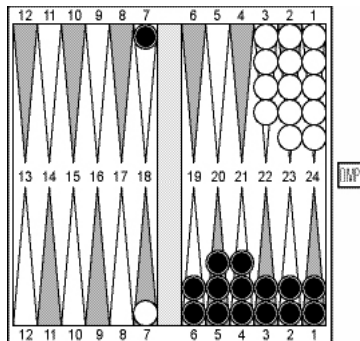
[Continued from page 3]

‘ASK DANNY’ ERROR

Oops! I just opened the September Chicago Point and saw that the second board diagram is wrong in my “Ask Danny” column.—*Danny Kleinman, Los Angeles, CA*

Sorry, Danny. Here’s the corrected position:

Tourney
DMP.
BLACK
TO
PLAY
1-1.



The bot favored 18/17, 5/2 (moving to within 10 pips) and you determined it was correct because White has the flexibility to play the small portion of her roll inside her home board thus reducing Black’s hitting numbers. We suggest that our readers take another look at Danny’s writeup with this new diagram replacing incorrect second diagram.—Ed.

DANNY RULES

A match is proceeding with a clock in a close bearoff. It’s White’s turn. She touches the cube (she doesn’t lift it), says “I double,” and then hits the clock. Black says “Take it,” and reaches for the clock. As soon as he touches the clock, White rolls 6-6.

Black freaks out. He says “I said ‘take it.’ YOU take the point. I was in the process of centering the buttons when you rolled. Could you ask Danny Kleinman for a rul-

ing on this one?—*Bar Point Club member, Chicago, Illinois*

Danny Kleinman Answers: Apparently, playing with a clock has affected both players adversely, as each appears to be very concerned to avoid losing time and both have short-cut the normal process of physically moving the cube in favor of exclusively oral actions. Even though White neglected to hoist and shove the cube, however, her gesture and words constitute a cube action. Likewise Black’s purely oral response. Did Black mean “I take the cube” when he said “Take it,” or did he mean “You take a point”?

Nobody can read minds, nor can a director called upon to rule rely on Black’s self-serving after-the-fact translation of his “Take it” into “Pass” following White’s obviously favorable roll of double-6s. I

[Continued on page 9]

KAZAROSS STOPS CASTY IN ACS INVITATIONAL

\$2000 Raised for the Animals

The legendary Drake Hotel on Chicago's Michigan Avenue was the scene of the third Anti-Cruelty Society Backgammon Invitational 17 September. Twelve players anteed up \$600 to enter the elegant jacket-and-tie fundraiser.

The festivities opened with a Friday night pre-tournament cocktail party drawing 22 backgammoners to organizer Bill Davis's home. During the evening (which included a perpetual slideshow of 300 nostalgic BG pictures on the TV screens), we also celebrated Wendy Kaplan's birthday with a cake.

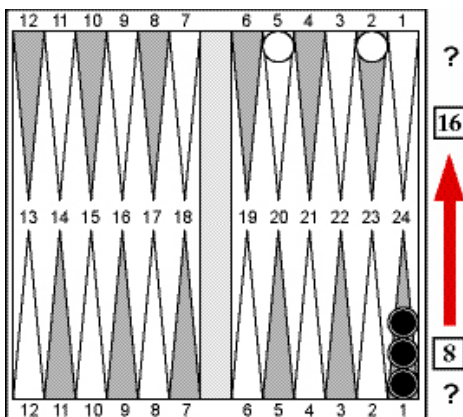


Birthday girl Wendy Kaplan (L) talks with Linda Rockwell at the pre-tourney cocktail party. That's Scott Richardson at right.

The tournament Calcutta commenced on Saturday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. in the Drake's beautiful Parkside Room. Auctioneer Phil Simberg raised \$3540—impressive for the 12-player field. 10% of the proceeds were donated to the ACS.

This interesting match cube highlighted the quarterfinals during the afternoon session:

9 point match. Neil Kazaross (Black) vs. Phil Simborg (White). **BLACK ON ROLL.**



Neil is a 56/44 favorite to win on shake. He must send the cube to 16 and Phil must

take. Neil rolled a non-double and Phil flat-lined with 3-2, sending Neil to the semi's.



L to R: Bill Bartholomay, Peter Kalba, Leslie Lockett & Mike Sutton watch Herb Roman and Scott Casty in an early round.



Nora Luna Righter glances at the conclusion of a wedding in her match vs. Greg Merriman. The view from the playing room was magnificent.

Following two rounds of play, the 12 players, tourney staffer Amy Trudeau and three guests enjoyed a great meal at the Drake's Cape Cod Room (included in the entry fee). It was a great meal that included a knot-tying "seminar" by Herb Roman.

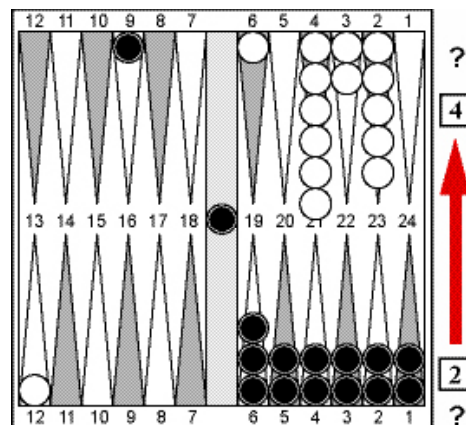


Herb Roman shows Mike Sutton how to tie a full windsor knot in the Cape Cod Room during the ACS dinner break.

The semifinals saw Neil Kazaross defeat Fred Chamanara. In the other bracket, defending ACS champion Scott Casty edged out a determined Paul Knapp at DMP. Many in the room were rooting for Knapp because if he won, he promised to pull \$2000 out of his pocket and offer Neil Kazaross an additional wager in the finals. (We're certain Neil would have accepted.)

In the Kazaross/Casty 9 point finals, this interesting recube developed:

9 point finals. Neil Kazaross (Black) vs. Scott Casty (White). **BLACK ON ROLL.**



Neil correctly redoubled and Scott made the proper acceptance. Neil hit, but failed to win a gammon to take a 6-3 lead. Neil brought the match home in the next few games to win 9-3.

In the Consolation bracket, congrats to Bill Davis who strung together three match wins to take the prize.



ACS staffer Amy Trudeau with Main winner Neil Kazaross (center) and Consolation winner/event organizer Bill Davis.

Following the trophy presentation, Neil generously gave an additional \$200 of his winnings to the ACS to bring our total 2011 donation up to \$2000. Our thanks to all those who participated in this worthwhile event. We hope to stage it again next year with a full 16-draw. Δ



What's at www.facebook.com/AmericanBackgammonTour ?

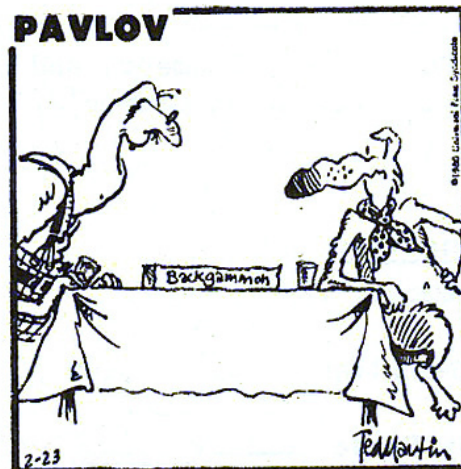


Everything backgammon! If you're not on Facebook, you can still visit the site (a link is at the top of www.chicagopoint.com).

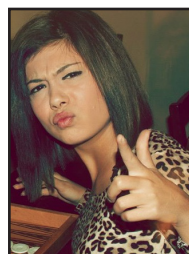
But if you are on Facebook, please visit us and "Like" American Backgammon Tour. That way you can comment and win things!



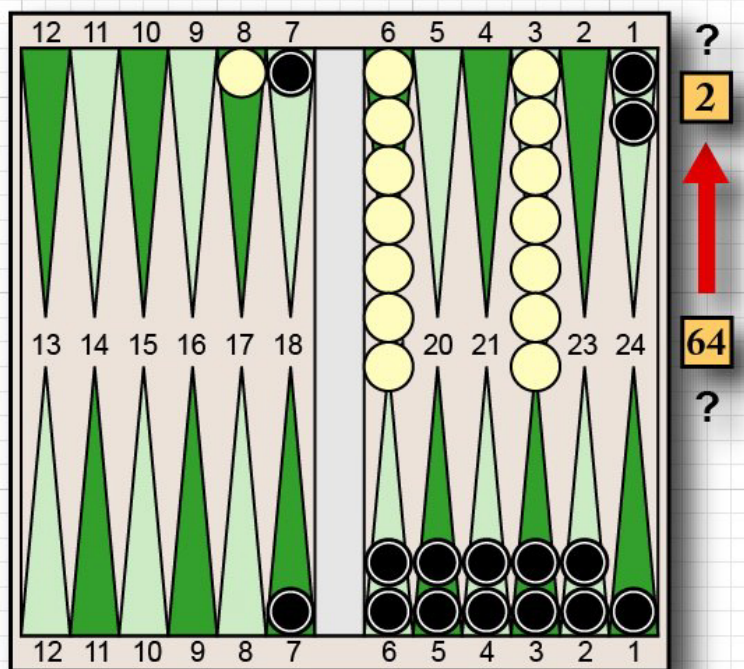
1V011101-1/11/72--LAS VEGAS, NEV.--Hugh Hefner, millionaire publisher of Playboy Magazine, arrived in Las Vegas recently with his entourage of vice presidents, executives and "Playmates" for some "R & R," rest and relaxation. "Hef" is here for the Fourth Annual Backgammon Tournament at the Tropicana Hotel. Here, the publisher, right, practices the game with Oswald Jacoby, international expert on bridge, prior to the start of the tournament (1/14). Hefner arrived from Chicago in his private and posh black jet airplane. He said he still has plans to build one of his clubs in Nevada, "possibly in Las Vegas. UPI db/mp



"OK, I'll play—but I want either the racing car or the thimble. . ."



Money game. Black on roll. SHOULD BLACK DOUBLE? If Black doubles, WHAT IS THE PROPER RESPONSE FROM WHITE?



You find the torn score sheet shown below. Assuming all four players participated in the first game, think of a possible scenario that would make Alan +19.

Chouette			
Alan	Bob	Carl	Dan
+19	-		

Rules: Alan is permanent box. Jacoby Rule and beavers are in play. No settlements, individual cubes, or automatic doubles.

Hoyle's 1926 Rules of Backgammon



How have the rules of backgammon changed since 1926? *Hoyle's Games* by R. F. Foster, a copyrighted 1926 gaming rules book updated from 1907 and 1914, gives us an insight. You'll find nothing about doubling or the doubling cube in this book. The first written mention of doubling in backgammon is in the 1928 book *Modern Backgammon* by Grosvenor Nicholas. (Chicago Point offers \$100 to anyone who can find an earlier documented mention.) But you will find the rules for doubling and redoubling in the "Laws of Auction Bridge" (also in the book). This was very likely a precursor to doubling and redoubling in backgammon.

The rules provide an insight into backgammon in the 1920s and before. For example, good lighting was an issue in the early 1900s. For that reason, it was "...usual to place the side of the board with only two men on points, nearest the window, so that there shall be good light on the home tables." Additionally, in order to stop dice misreads, Hoyle's backgammon rules stated that the throw, prior to moving, had to be announced by the caster.

"Points" were sometimes referred to by the French word, "flèches" (meaning "arrows"). Other French terms are used including "Tric Trac" and "J'adoube." We also learned the reasons as to why the 7-point is known as the bar point . . . and it isn't because of its proximity to the bar!

Here are some highlighted quotes from *Hoyle's Games* rules of backgammon. If you want the complete rules (ten pages, plus one page for Russian Backgammon), the book is available from Amazon.com for \$11.34.

Backgammon Or Tric-Trac

- The points in the home tables are known by their numbers, which correspond to the faces of a die, and are called; ace point, deuce point, trey point, four point, five point, and six point.
- The point which would be No. 7, which is immediately across the bar which divides the two tables, is called the "bar point;" not because it is next to the bar, but because it bars the two adverse men in your home table from running away with double sixes if you can "make it up."
- Regarding the opening roll, "It is sometimes agreed that the winner of the cast may use his own and his adversaries throw for the first move; but it is more usual to cast two dice together for the opening move, especially as that is the only way to get doublets.
- Taking men off was referred to as "bearing" the men.
- The first player to bear all his men wins the game. If his adversary has already borne some of his men, it is called a "hit," and counts as a single game. If the adversary has not borne a single man, it is a "gammon," and counts double. If, in addition to not having borne a single man, any of his men are still on your side of the board, even in the outer table, it is a "backgammon" and counts a triple game.
- If the board is wrongly set up or a player starts with the incorrect number of men, the error cannot be rectified after the player has made a throw for his move.
- Before playing, the throw must be announced by the caster.
- If the caster interferes with the dice in any way, or touches them after they have left the box, and before they come absolutely to rest and the throw is called by the caster, the adversary may place face upward on the die or dice so interfered with, any number he chooses, and the caster must play it as if thrown.
- Any man touched, except for the purpose of adjusting it, must be moved if the piece is playable. A player about to adjust a man must give due notice by saying, "J'adoube." A man having been properly played to a certain point and quitted, must remain there.
- If a player throws off men before all his men are at home, the men so thrown off must be placed on the bar. The same penalty attaches to throwing off men while one of that color is on the bar. Δ

COLORADO...

[Continued from page 1]



Richard Siebold

Many would stay back by playing 12/4 (actually 12/6, 3/1 is slightly better), but Siebold opted to forego his win chances with 12/6, 22/20. eXtreme Gammon confirms that Rich's play is best

and it was confirmed when Rich saved a gammon only because he ran 22/20! Then trailing 8-10, Rich rallied to win the title at Double match-point.

The Intermediate title was another first-time winner Penina Rosenblum (NM). And props to Kathy Weiner who captured the added money Novice event.



Penina Rosenbloom (center) receives her 1st-Advanced Trophy from director Lynda Clay with runner-up Joe Potts.

Congratulations to all the other winners. Hope you'll be able to visit the Mile-High City for next year's Colorado Open. Δ

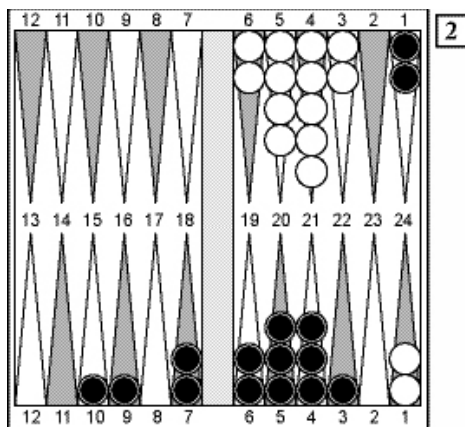
COLORADO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN (16): 1-Alfred Mamlet (MD), 2-Bob Lekse (CO); 1C-Greg Cottle (NV). ADVANCED (15): 1-Penina Rosenblum (NM), 2-Joe Potts (TX); 1C-Neal Weiner (FL). NOVICE (4): 1-Kathy Weiner (FL), 2-Caitlyn Christner (CO), 3-Paul Mondani (CO). CONTINENTAL DIVIDE MASTERS JACKPOT (8): 1-Richard Siebold (CO), 2-Alfred Mamlet (MD). ROYAL GORGE LIMITED JACKPOT (16): 1-Jonah Seewald (CO), 2-Dennis Leatherman (CO). DOUBLES (10 teams): 1-Lynda Clay (CO) & Todd Obadal (NY), 2-Alain Azoulay (CA) & Jonah Seewald (CO). MICROBLITZ (8): 1/2-Lynn Lusk (CO) / Joe Potts (TX). QUICKIE (8): 1-Ed Rosenblum (NM). AFTER TOURNAMENT (8): 1-Ed Rosenblum (NM), 2-Greg Kurrell (CO).

**PROBLEM #367
ANALYZED**

by David Rockwell

7-point match. Black and White tied at 0 to 0. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**



Black has a timing advantage in this prime-versus-prime position. However, White doesn't move on most 5s and 6s and retains some hope that Black will crack first. White can also hope to escape a checker or improve her anchor to the deuce point which would increase her equity. Lastly, White may have residual winning chances with a broken ace point game. If Black can send another of White's checkers back behind his prime, it will hurt White's winning

chances from each of these angles and will win many more gammons in the process.

Black has three approaches to this 2-1 move. The first is to make the back of the prime 10/8, 9/8. It is fundamental that Black should prefer the advanced five-prime [3-7 points] to the retarded five prime [4-8]. Even if that wasn't true, being hit on the 3-point surrenders gobs of equity, rendering this idea unwise. Making the back of the prime is a blunder.

The second choice is to split the back checkers while making the 3-point. The idea behind this move is not to escape with 5s. Black is going to be hit with every roll other than 6-1 and 6-6. He will be busy entering rather than escaping. The idea behind splitting is to force White to play her fives 6/1* breaking the 6-point. This works very well when it happens. Is there any downside to the play? In fact there is. When White attacks Black, her chances of improving her anchor or escaping while Black is on the bar increase. 2-1, 31, and 4-1 are particularly strong rolls as White retains her four-prime and splits to the edge of Black's prime while Black is on the bar. For example, after 4-1 played 24/23, 5-1*, Black is doing well if he hits from the bar. However, a dance allows White to anchor with an ace, escape one checker with 6s, and cover the blot with 3s and 4s. Furthermore, 5s are no longer bad since they cover the ace rather than creating a new blot.

The splitting play is double-edged. Some sequences improve Black's position; others make it worse.

Black's third option is to keep his anchor, make the 3-point, and hope to win the timing battle. There are five different choices within this category and the variations in equities are small. It's better to have a spare on the 5-point than the 4-point. While this is a minor feature of the position, it allows us to dismiss 5/3, 4/3, as well as 9/8, 5/3 and 10/9, 5/3. This leaves two candidates: 9/7, 4/3 and 10/8, 4/3. Slotting the 8-point, making the 8-point later, and having it matter is a long parley that can be ignored. The differences between the point-making potential of these two spare placements are small, but having the blot on the 8-point pays big to a hitting 6-1. So 9/7 is the preferred deuce.

So our final candidates are 9/7, 4/3 holding the anchor, and the splitting play 24/23, 5/3. Computer analysis tells us that the better choice is 9/7, 4/3. The disadvantages of the splitting play slightly outweigh the advantages. But, the plays are very close: 0.018. I believe that most players including myself would have trouble separating plays that are this close over the board. There is often more to understanding a position than getting the best play. If you were able to visualize the pros and cons of the splitting play, you understood the difficult aspects of this problem.—David Rockwell Δ



Gammon Associates proudly presents
**2011 CALIFORNIA
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

December 2-4, 2011

Four Points by Sheraton at LAX

\$89/night (single or dbl. with comp wireless Internet)

Reserve by Nov. 18. 310/645-4600 or 800/529-4683

Open, Advanced, and Limited main divisions. Super-32

\$400 Masters Jackpot, Paul Dingwell Amateur Jackpot,

Doubles, Blitzes, and 2-point Quickies

Patrick Gibson, Director: 818/901-0464

pgibsonmfic@roadrunner.com

Click "Next ABT Event" at GammonAssociates.com



WINNER'S CIRCLE



SEP.-OCT. 2011

•**Copenhagen Open** (Copenhagen, Denmark; 3 Sep.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (49): 1-Klaus Switon, 2-Michael Weile, 3/4-Allan Christensen / Michael "Mik" Larsen; 1C-Klaus Rydeng, 2C-Kåre Aronson (Sweden). ADVANCED (25): 1-Flemming Sørensen, 2-Erling Skorstad, 3/4-Villy Rikard Christensen / Lykke Pia Rasmussen; 1C-Deniz Keskin, 2C-Kristian Ernst. INTERMEDIATE (33): 1-Kim Pedersen, 2-Cajsa Tendler (Sweden), 3/7-Carl Erik Frost / Bjørn Kroghsbo / Bjørn Kruse / Niels Skov Larsen / Jim Rasmussen.

•**New England Club Monthly** (Malden, MA; 10 Sep.)... OPEN (18): 1-Joe LaRochelle, 2-Yan Friedman, 3/4-Randi Schalet / Alex Zamanian; 1C-Marcus Hermansen, 2C-Jim McKenna.

•**15th Istanbul Open** (Istanbul, Turkey; 10-11 Sep.)... MASTERS (73): 1-Ali Çetin Belene (Turkey), 2-Oguz User, 3-Hamza Nar, 4-Dogan Sunar; 1C-Konrad Fröschl (Sweden), 2C-Irfan Mizrakci, 3C-Bulent Bahar, 4C-Ibrahim Karaca. SUPER JACKPOT (64): 1-Alaattin Ozaltun, 2-Baris Ozler. DOUBLES #1 (16 teams): 1-Hilmi Gochan & Ilker Gochan, 2-Caglar Erdogan & Hisar Uyar. DOUBLES #2 (16 teams): 1-Yalkin Erk & Murat Kapikiran, 2-Ali Çetin Belene & Fuat Erdag. ONE POINT TOURNAMENT #1 (64): 1-Veyssel Kalfa. #2 (64): 1-Konrad Fröschl (Sweden). JACKPOT #1 (16): 1-Umut Sari, 2-Sabri Buyuksoy. #2 (16): 1-Yalkin Erk, 2-Ufuk Aksak. #3 (16): 1-Ufuk Aksak, 2-Cihangir Cetinel. SPECIALPLAYERAWARDS: Arzu Akincioglu, Handan Erdag, Helmut Gerdenits (Austria), Rudolf Prohaska (Austria).

•**Pair-O-Dice Monthly** (New York, NY; 11 Sep.)... OPEN (10): 1-Reuben Jones, 2-Boris Dekhtyar; 1C-Victor Ashkenazi. INTERMEDIATE (7): 1-Herman Arzunian, 2-Matthew Miner; 1C-Nicholas Misch. BEGINNER (5): 1-Jennifer Burtner, 2-John Johnson; 1C-Mikeal Rubin.

•**Swiss Backgammon Open** (Montreux, Switzerland, 23-25 Sep.)... MASTERS (21): 1-Ion Ressu (Switzerland), 2-Kimon Papa-christopoulos (Greece/Germany); 1C-Mario Sequeira (Portugal), 2C-Jan Jacobowitz (Germany); 1LC-Masayuki Mochizuki (Japan), 2LC-Philippe Vouhé (France). INTERMEDIATE (15): 1-Nicolas Deloche, 2-Jérôme Clavien; 1C-Roland Himmelberger, 2C-Peter Grünbaum; 1LC-Nicolas Déhon, 2LC-Scarlett Serrero (France). SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP (38): 1-Daniel Bruni, 2-Denis Etienne, 3/4-Ro-

land Himmelberger / Michael Schoppmeyer (Germany); 1C-Claus Weisbarth (Germany), 2C-Daniel Scheidiger; 1LC-Denise Kaiser, 2LC-Rassoul Rasti. DOUBLES (10 teams): 1-Roland Klein (Germany) & Claus Weisbarth (Germany), 2-Masayuki Mochizuki (Japan) & Marion Weeber (Germany). SWISS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (10 teams): 1-Coffre Fort: Roland Klein / Christian Liebe-Harkort / Claus Weisbarth (Germany), 2-Hannibal: Nicolas Deloche / Zaiem Kais / Olivier Stephanus (Switzerland). SUPERJACKPOT (8): 1-Fernando Braconi (Italy/Greece), 2-Kimon Papa-christopoulos (Greece/Germany). 1-POINT (64): 1-Rassoul Rasti, 2-Peter Grünbaum. LADIES TROPHY: Angelina Charakoglu (Greece). SPECIALPLAYER TROPHY: Bob Wachtel (USA). TRAVELER'S TROPHY: Masayuki Mochizuki (Japan).

•**2011 Vietor Cup** (San Diego, CA; 24-25 Sep.)... Open (26): 1-Ray Fogerlund, 2-Mark Andrus, 3/4/5: Adrian Costa / David Wells / Norm Wiggins.

•**Springfield Series #4** (Springfield, IL; 1 Oct.)... OPEN (22): 1-David Rockwell, 2-Dick Nelson (Mexico); 1C-Gerry Tansey (MO), 2C-Michael Flohr; 1LC-Jena Jennings.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Skokie, IL; 2 Oct.)... OPEN (20): 1-Bob Steen, 2-Mike Minkovski, 3/4-Phil Simborg / Dajuan Meekins; 1C-Ken Bond, 2C-David Rockwell. INTERMEDIATE (10): 1-Dave Settles, 2-Ken Meng, 3/4-Oleg Raygorodsky / Amy Trudeau; 1C-Joann Feinstein, 2C-Jeff Fischer.

•**Ohio State Monthly** (Akron, OH; 2 Oct.)... OPEN (14): 1-John Barron, 2-Dick Bennett; 1C: Dick Bennett, 2C-Stephen Benjamin. Δ



ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis
773/583-6464
Peter Kalba
219/671-5268

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

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON
at 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.: Tournam-
ents Wednesday, 6:00 P.M. at Capitol Teletrack, 1766 W. Wa-
bash 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 Mabey (630/606-2388).

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

AMALGAMATION

News flash: **Rob Maier** (WV) will hold a second Pittsburgh-based ABT tournament over the Labor Day weekend commencing in 2012. The Madison Backgammon Club has run the ABT Wisconsin State Championships over Labor Day since 2007. Following the announcement, Madison director **Bill Minser** had made no official decision as to how to proceed in the coming year... On 4 Oct., the ABT Facebook page (link at the top of www.chicagopoint.com) went over 5,000 likes. Let's hope this generates into some new live players in the coming year. The site only promotes LIVE backgammon play... Visiting the Bar Point Club in September: **Hugh Morris** (MN), **Mark Murray** (OH)... Attention backgammon teachers. **Ed Rosenblum's** (NM) "Teaching Board" is the best demo set we have ever seen. For details and pricing, contact Ed at essentialbg@gmail.com... **Phil Simborg** (IL) brought a clear baffle box to the Bar Point Club on Sunday, 2 Oct. It is small enough to fit in a BG set which is an important criteria... Bad news for backgammon/poker experts **Leo Fernandez** and **Veronica Dabul**. The Wynn Hotel in Las Vegas has filed a lawsuit against the Argentine nationals seeking recovery of \$700,000 they claim the couple cheated them out of at the craps table by using illegal "dice sliding" techniques... Add another celebrity to the "I love backgammon" club. Movie star **Rose McGowan** says "I'm not involved in nightlife—never really was... I'd rather spend time at my friends' houses playing backgammon. I love backgammon."... Get well wishes go out to **Roland Dieter** (IL) who is battling stage II pancreatic cancer. Roland is confident that it "will not hurt my longevity."... **Phil Simborg** informed us that the online dictionary "Word of the Day" for 6 Sept. was "gammon." Humorously, one of the non-related backgammon definitions was "deceitful nonsense." Δ

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 4]

hate pronouns, and my first act following my appointment as Emperor of the English Language will be to make the utterance of the word "it" punishable by death. In contrast, I love verbs, and I would rule Black's use of the verb "take" a serious abuse of ordinarily language if he meant to do anything but "take" the cube, as he could just as easily have said "pass" or even "I'll give you a point."

So I would rule that the game continues with Black owning the cube at 2 and White to play double-6s.

Could anything persuade me to change this ruling?

Yes. If the position prior to White's double-6's called for a pass quite clearly, and Black could demonstrate this without pause for thought, I would then believe him and award a point to White.—D.K. Δ

BE A ROCK STAR

The richest and most luxurious
backgammon tournament of the
year will be held in paradisiac
Punta Cana, from
7th to 9th of November 2011.

WBA's HIGHROLLERS' CLASSIC 2011

\$100,000
guaranteed prize-pool

The event is limited to 64 players
maximum (first come, first served).

Pre-registration and further information:
info@world-backgammon-association.com



Punta Cana Poker Classic

Come and join the Punta Cana Poker Classic 2011,
a 5 day Texas Hold'em poker event with a
Guaranteed prize pool of

\$500,000 USD.

Meet poker pros and
other celebrities.

\$1,500 + \$150 buy-in
to the main tournament.

Packages including buy-in, hotel
and other benefits available.

Pre-registration and further information:
info@puncanapokerclassic.com
www.puncanapokerclassic.com

TRUE
POKER
www.truepoker.com

www.facebook.com/AmericanBackgammonTour

We're all about BACKGAMMON and a lot more.

Join the party.



*"Like"
ABT
today!*



+



What well-known backgammon
term is represented by the rebus-
anagram shown at right? Give
up? You'll find the answer here:

www.chicagopoint.com/rebus.jpg

-



= ?