



Video Recording of Matches: A privilege, not a right.

By Bill Davis

Should a player be able to videotape his match even if his opponent objects? This long-standing controversy resurfaced last month at the Illinois State Backgammon Championships when Ben Friesen (MI) faced Jena Jennings (IL) in the quarterfinal round of the Intermediate main flight bracket. Here's Ms. Jennings' description of what transpired:

"After winning two matches, Ben came over to me and said that we play. Then he informed me he wanted to videotape the match. I was a bit surprised and caught off guard, as I had never been taped in an Intermediate event before.

"I told Ben that I didn't want a camera recording our match. He then said that we should get a ruling from the director, Linda Rockwell. Linda quickly ruled in Ben's favor telling me that if Ben wanted it, the match had to be recorded. 'No' was not an option. I asked if we could at least roll for it and she stated, 'No. This is a learning tournament and the right to videotape is clearly stated in the invitation.'



Jena Jennings (on her knees) pleads her case against video recording to director Linda Rockwell without success.

"What was actually stated in the invitation was 'Video taping is welcome.' To me, that doesn't mean that my opponent can force a camera on my match against my wishes.

"After losing the argument, I asked Ben if we could play on my board and he agreed. But the location made it difficult to set up the camera, so Ben kindly dropped his request to record our match. Perhaps Ben felt bad forcing me to do something I was uncomfortable with. I don't know, but I want to thank him for his thoughtfulness.

"Why did the threat of a camera bother me? Many things were running through my head like, 'Oh crap. What if I play horribly and my stupid plays end up on YouTube? Or what if I play really well and because of this one match, I'm forced to move up to the Championship division.' Either way I lose.

"When I play backgammon, I don't like to be the center of attention. The added pressure of being taped and singled out would definitely hurt my ability to concentrate. Times are tough and I wasn't even sure I was going to play this year. But I was on a hot streak and figured that I had a decent chance to cash.

"Well, I lost to Ben anyway. What can ya do? I was not in the best frame of mind and certainly the stress from the camera distraction didn't help. Frustrated, I left the tournament Saturday night and didn't bother returning on Sunday for the free Last Chance.

"I think videotaping in tournament play should be by mutual agreement, especially in ABT-sanctioned events. This was the Illinois State Championship—this was not simply a 'learning tournament' as the director put it. I find it perfectly acceptable to write down a position or snap a picture. But I think it is a very bad rule to force players, especially Intermediates, to be videotaped at the whim of their opponent. I will not be back next year, nor will I attend any other event where my opponent can force a video camera on my match."

THE UNITED STATES Backgammon Tournament Rules & Procedures state:

1.5 AIDS. Once a match is in progress, players shall not use written, mechanical or electronic aids except to keep score.

We believe that a video camera is a "mechanical or electronic aid" of sorts. As

Joe Kight wrote in an October 2010 letter to CHICAGO POINT:

"Not only am I generally adverse to raising study of one's game to [videotaping] during a tournament (preparation should happen beforehand), but I also am concerned that [my opponent] is taping not simply to study his own game, but to study my game as an underhanded sort of preparation for future matches between us. [When my match is recorded against my wishes], haven't I unwillingly given an unfair advantage to the player who videotapes my game? I find this contrary to fair play. Simply put, it is unsportsmanlike to deny a player's kind request of his opponent to turn off a video camera."

IN CHESS, there is no rule that gives players the right to put a camera over the chessboard during a tournament match. When we contacted the United States Chess Federation, a tournament official stated, "The use of a camera would likely be allowed unless one of the players objected for reasons that it was bothering his concentration."

We realize that nearly all chess players record their matches with paper and pencil. But let us remind the backgammon scholars that our game is not chess. The majority of players who attend backgammon tournaments do so for entirely different (usually more sociable) reasons than those players who attend chess tournaments.



Backgammon giant Malcolm Davis is a big proponent of recording his matches. He regularly plays at XG's "World Class" level.

Malcolm Davis (TX), a backgammon giant and a strong proponent of match recording, is always quick to kindly send a match transcript to his opponent. Invariably when Malcolm's match arrives, his eXtreme Gammon performance rating

[Go to page 8]

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

ERROR MESSAGE

In your writeup of the Colorado Tournament last issue, about the 2-2 play, you said "eXtreme Gammon confirms that Rich's play is best ..." Umm . . . no? I have no idea what you did since you didn't post your rollout results, but my XG did nothing of the sort. Staying is absolutely correct, running costs about .030. This was easy for me to calculate even before looking at the bot. — *Stick Rice, bgonline.org, Columbus, Ohio*

CHICAGO POINT NOSTALGIA

Although I was disappointed that you will no longer be mailing me your newsletter, my disappointment was replaced with happiness when I saw that I can still read your backgammon news on line. There is no one in the backgammon world who has done more to promote the game than you. I am ever appreciative of the help and advice that you have always offered to me and

[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.

Nov 9-13	Las Vegas Open, Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/218-8238
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*	Backgammon By the Bay, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Nov 19	New England Bonus, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Nov 20	Pair-O-Dice Monthly Tournament, Lincoln Center Atrium, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Nov 20	Michigan-Ohio Challenge Cup, Karen Davis' residence, Toledo, Ohio	419/469-2819
Dec 2-4	California State Championship, Four Points-LAX, Los Angeles, California	818/901-0464
Dec 3*	Springfield Series #3, Rusty's Clubhouse & Grill, Springfield, Illinois	217/622-9447
Dec 4	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Ruby Tuesday, Skokie, Illinois	773/583-6464
Dec 7*	Charlotte Club Monthly, Dilworth Grille, Charlotte, North Carolina	704/965-3573
Dec 10*	New England Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Dec 10*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Dec 11*	Cincinnati Club Monthly, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Dec 11*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Dec 11*	Portland Monthly, Spring Creek Coffee House, Milwaukie, Oregon	503/805-1218
Dec 13*	Arizona Club Monthly, Teakwoods Tavern & Grill, Phoenix, Arizona	602/762-2288
Dec 15*	Flint Third Thursday Bonus (New York), Sharky's Sports Bar, Burton, Michigan	810/232-9731
Dec 16-18	<u>Sunshine State Classic, Hampton Inn & Suites, Tarpon Springs, Florida</u>	<u>727/743-0500</u>
Dec 18*	Cincinnati Tournament of Champions, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Dec 21*	5th Maxakuli Cup, Jackson's Bar, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/458-0926
Jan 5-8	<u>5th New York Metropolitan Open, Hyatt Hotel, Jersey City, New Jersey</u>	<u>408/529-6769</u>
Jan 13-16	US Open, Embassy Suites Hotel, South San Francisco, California	See Internet
Jan 26-29	New Mexico State Championship, La Posada, Santa Fe, New Mexico	505/982-2729
Feb 4*	Bar Point Doubles Club Championship, Ruby Tuesday, Skokie, Illinois	773/583-6464
Feb 16-19	Pittsburgh Championships/ABT Awards, Four Points Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA	304/685-3214
Mar 9-11	3rd Central States Invitational, Sheraton Gateway Suites, Rosemont, Illinois	773/583-6464
Mar 23-25*	Ohio Championships, Cleveland Airport Marriott Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio	330/268-4610
Apr 26-29*	Atlanta Spring Classic, Crowne Plaza Airport, Atlanta, Georgia	770/633-0001
May 11-13*	Florida Championship, Marriott North Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	See Internet
May 24-28	Chicago Open, Holiday Inn O'Hare Hotel, Rosemont, Illinois	617/699-9100
Jun 8-10*	Los Angeles Open, Four Points LAX, Los Angeles, California	818/901-0464

OUTSIDE USA

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 Quaich 2-11, Circus Casino, Edinburgh, Scotland	441316-202328
Nov 19-20*	Istavder KentPlus, Green Park Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey	905337-122151
Nov 25-27*	Kharkov Open, Club Radmir, Kharkov, Ukraine	49241-74140
Nov 26-27	10th Thun Open/BeO-Cup/Swiss Doubles, Waadtlanderstube, Thun, Switzerland	4179-4329378
Dec 1-7	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 10-11*	TBT: Istanbul Championship/WBF-TR, Armada Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey	90533-2352555
Dec 26-27	Christmas Tournament, Somboons, Dong Tarn Beach, Pattaya, Thailand	6681-6649085
Jan 2-3*	17th Thailand Open, Somboons, Dong Tarn Beach, Thailand	6681-6649085
Jan 13-15*	BBT: Bright 'n' Breezy, Old Ship Hotel, Brighton, England	441522-888676
Jan 14-15*	8th Masters Open Café den Bengel, Antwerp, Belgium	31653-276835
Feb 3-5*	Jarvis Trophy Tournament-BIBA, Barceló Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Feb 24-26*	EBGT: Istavder 4th Anniversary, Istanbul, Turkey	90533-7122151
Mar 2-4*	British Doubles-BIBA, Barceló, Hinckley Island, England	441522-888676



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2011

Compiled through 16 Oct. 2011 after 17 tournaments
(Final three 2011 events: Las Vegas, California, Florida)



Ray Foglerlund	83.98	Norm Wiggins	7.85	Bob Lekse	4.00	Chris Scott	2.90
Harvey Gillis	40.16	Al Hodis	7.85	Greg Cottle	4.00	Ken Tyszko	2.90
Neil Kazarow	37.73	Petko Kostadinov	7.55	Larry Taylor	3.93	Mark Ferrin	2.90
Chuck Basser	25.78	Gerry Tansey	7.40	Mike Senkiewicz	3.93	Leslie Lockett	2.73
Jeff Nitschke	21.20	Tim Lawless	7.26	Patrick Gibson	3.93	Walt Smith	2.73
Bill Robertie	20.50	Jake Burak	7.25	Kent Goulding	3.93	Bob Goldstein	2.67
Ed O'Laughlin	18.14	Kit Woolsey	7.10	Eduardo Maciel	3.93	Jeremy Moulton	2.60
Bob Koca	17.39	Antoinette Williams	6.80	Nan Feiber	3.83	Bill Kaludis	2.60
Odis Chenault	17.33	Peggy Neubig	6.67	Oleg Raygorodsky	3.83	Stuart Thomson	2.50
John O'Hagan	16.14	Juan Rospigliosi	6.60	Bill Minser	3.80	Vadim Musaelyan	2.50
Herb Gurland	15.70	Bill Davis	6.42	Jesse Eaton	3.80	Kathy Weiner	2.45
Joe Sylvester	14.80	Bill Calton	6.40	Penina Rosenblum	3.75	Joan Grunwald	2.41
Alfred Mamlet	14.40	Mike Corbett	6.40	David Rockwell	3.70	Bob Howayeck	2.40
Garry Kallos	14.24	Lee Genud	6.40	Frank Ley	3.63	Dan Gruby	2.40
Greg Merriman	13.72	Neal Weiner	6.34	John Calcott	3.63	Harry Brown	2.40
Carol Joy Cole	13.67	Felix Yen	6.33	Vicki Ondis	3.63	Richie Adams	2.23
Gregg Cattanach	13.56	David Rubin	6.22	Murray Bryntesen	3.60	Bob Hickey	2.23
Bob Glass	12.89	Homer Hector	6.10	Georgina Flanagan	3.50	Erik Sawyer	2.11
Dennis Culppepper	12.80	Vinton Knarr	5.80	Robert Sisselman	3.33	Matt Cohn-Geier	2.11
Mary Hickey	12.80	John Quinn	5.45	Lyle Rubin	3.24	Greg Adamavich	2.10
Gary Bauer	12.67	Prince Barlow	5.45	Michihito Kageyama	3.22	Judy Field	2.10
Jason Lee	12.67	Lucas Bauer	5.42	Steve Nelson	3.22	Roman Abramovsky	2.10
Ralf Jonas	12.40	Jonathan Leusden	5.33	Gary Fries	3.20	Mike Vasilatov	2.05
Malcolm Davis	11.56	Gus Contos	5.01	Mark Gordon	3.20	Robert Lessard	2.05
Ben Friesen	10.86	Karen Davis	5.00	Grant Schneider	3.20	Omar Dessouky	1.96
Stewart Pemberton	10.59	Jolie Rubin	4.99	Mario Sequeira	3.20	Bill Riles	1.96
Ramez Abi-Akar	9.42	Brian Scorben	4.46	Jeff Fischer	3.20	Brent Cohen	1.96
Cliff Mayoh	8.92	Kathleen Davis	4.42	Faddoul Khoury	3.17	Mark Antranikian	1.96
Allen Tish	8.67	Frank DiMaggio	4.33	Dmitriy Obukhov	3.11	Molly Anderson	1.96
Masayuki Mochizuki	8.55	Tak Morioka	4.33	Sandra Sha	3.10	Mike Minkovski	1.92
Art Benjamin	8.46	Rory Pascar	4.23	David Levy	3.10	Tom Duggan	1.92
Josh Racko	8.04	Vadim Nuniyants	4.20	Justin Nunez	3.10	Jerry Kressin	1.90
Rachel Rhodes	7.85	Eden Windish	4.10	Brandon Macklin	3.06	Joe Potts	1.88
David Shadi	7.85	Daniel Barabas	4.10	Alex Gerding	3.06	Robert Ring	1.81

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

I am very proud to call you my friend—
Elayne Feinstein, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Thanks, Elayne. We all do our part to promote backgammon, including yourself!—Ed.

I'll miss the hard copies of CHICAGO POINT, but you've done a great job. I think I may have every copy going back to 1982. When did you start writing the newsletter?
—*Martin Brown, Austin, Texas*

Our first issue of the POINT was June 1988. But that began with Problem #136 because we had written newsletter issues under different banners prior to this: National Backgammon League (1977–1979), Gammon's of Chicago (1979–1983), and Chicagoland Backgammon Newsletter (1983–1988).—Ed.

FUN IN MADISON

For those of you who may not know, Paul the bartender usually kicks us out of Basie's (our Madison Club play location) at about 11:30 PM every Tuesday night. Those of us interested in chouchetting move out into the Radisson Hotel hallway, bring a table and chairs, and play for another couple of hours.

And that's exactly what happened on October 4. By about 2:00am, there were five of us left—Brad, Lee, Jonah, myself, and . . . Keene Marin. But Keene wasn't totally with us. He had fallen rather soundly asleep in one of the big fat lazy chairs out in front of the bar. We were using Keene's

[Continued on page 7]



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2011 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 4 NOV.

Rory Pascar	34.28	Linda Rockwell	7.96	David Nosik	3.24	Mark Murray	0.96
Larry Goldstein	25.72	Wayne Wiest	7.68	Mike Minkovski	3.20	Hugh Morris	0.72
Herb Roman	23.20	Bill Keefe	7.16	Kevin Berg	3.08	Richard Stawowy	0.72
Phil Simborg	22.64	Joann Feinstein	7.08	Dan Weymouth	2.40	Kit Woolsey	0.72
David Rockwell	22.16	Wendy Kaplan	6.80	Roger Hickman	2.24	Mike Peters	0.68
Carter Mattig	18.68	Jerry Brooks	6.72	Allen Tish	2.16	Guseyn Aliyev	0.68
Bill Davis	18.36	Tak Morioka	6.64	Kerem Taskin	1.88	Scott Richardson	0.64
Bob Steen	17.36	Oleg Raygorodsky	6.44	Ken Meng	1.64	Tom Harrison	0.64
Lucky Nelson	16.56	Amy Trudeau	6.40	Warren Barnes	1.60	Georgina Flanagan	0.56
Mike Wolock	16.16	Dave Settles	6.36	Mark Ostrovsky	1.52	Michael Ginat	0.56
Nora Luna Righter	14.48	Russ Lyutik	6.08	Roz Ferris	1.44	Les Moshinsky	0.56
Bill Bartholomay	14.12	Jeff Fischer	5.80	Terry Weiss	1.44	Gary Kay	0.56
Mike Sutton	12.76	Tobias Hellwag	5.72	Mike Valentino	1.36	Ben Silk	0.48
Alex Owen	12.76	Tim Mabee	5.20	Bob Zavoral	1.36	Beth Whitney	0.48
Steve Klesker	11.28	Russell Head	4.96	Alice Kay	1.28	Joe Sylvester	0.48
Ken Bond	11.12	Peter Kalba	4.48	Steve Bock	1.20	Kit Cabello	0.40
Leslie Lockett	9.72	Howard Markowitz	4.16	Mitch Pomper	1.12	Efim Liberman	0.32
Serge Bondar	9.48	Matt Cohn-Geier	3.92	Mochy Mochizuki	1.08	Roy Cohen	0.32
Dujuan Meekins	9.48	David Rubin	3.76	Eric Johnson	1.04	Roland Dieter	0.24
Christopher Shanava	8.80	Adrian Rios	3.68	Vladimir Pekler	0.96	Jesse Anderson-Lehman	0.16

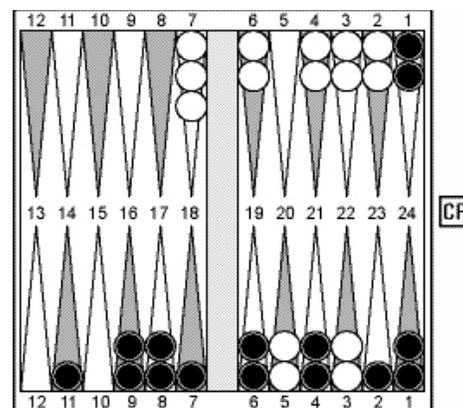
BOB STEEN parlayed a Sunday win and placed in two other events to grab October Player of the Month with 4.48 points. Second was Larry Goldstein (3.56). Bill Davis & Phil Simborg tied for third (3.12).

your move

PROBLEM #369

to be analyzed by Mary Hickey

7-point match. White leads Black 6 to 5, Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-2.**



THE UNAIDED EYE

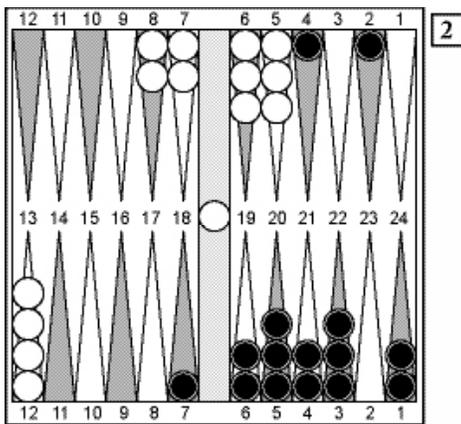


© 2011 by Danny Kleinman

A 'PIP' OF A DIFFERENCE

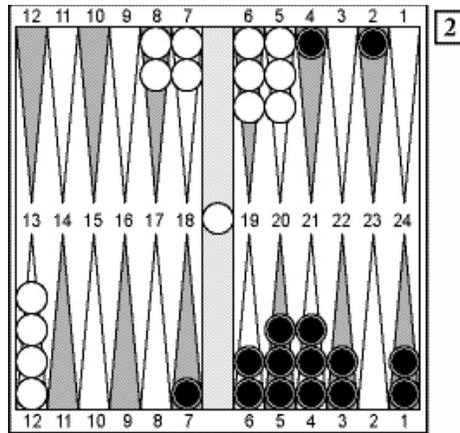
Dear Danny: I have been studying a position with the aid of eXtreme Gammon and have found an incredible shift in the correct play by moving what appears to me to be a rather trivial ace. Let me show you the two cases.

1. Money game. BLACK TO PLAY 5-3. Black has spare checkers on the 5- and 3-points.



In this position, the correct play is to run 21/13. If Black makes his 2-point, a 3600 XG rollout says he is committing a 0.105 blunder. But now let's change the above position by one pip, moving Black's 3-point spare back to his 4-point.

2. Money game. BLACK TO PLAY 5-3. Black has spare checkers on the 5- and 4-points.



Now 3600 XG rollouts show that making the 2-point is correct and running is a big 0.085 error.

That is a HUGE swing. How could that one pip make such a big difference, Danny? —No Clue

DEAR NO: I too am surprised by the size of

the difference between the rollout results that you cite, but I am not surprised that there is a big swing in the direction indicated. Here are some clues.

By running in Position 1, you diversify your rolls: 1s, 3s and 5s remain as builder-hitters for the 2-point, while 2s let you move to the edge of White's prime. In contrast, by running in Position 2, you duplicate some of your rolls: 2s, 3s and 5s remain as builder-hitters for the 2-point, but 2s are needed also to move to the edge of White's prime.

By making the 2-point in Position 1, you are at risk for crashing next on many rolls, including all 3s but 5-3. In contrast, by making the 2-point in Position 2, you are no longer at risk for crashing on 6-3 (which you can play 21/16, 4/1), 3-2 (which you can play 23/21, 4-1) or 3-1 (which you can play 23/22, 4-1). As breaking your board can be disastrous in this position, this difference ("saving a 3" to avoiding crashing on these six rolls) is very significant indeed.

Perhaps I shouldn't have been surprised after all. — 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

ILLINOIS: SLY IS BACK! David Rockwell Wins Masters

Just weeks after his move from St. Louis back to the Chicagoland area, Joe Sylvester has captured the 2011 Illinois State Championships. The annual Halloween-themed event was held at the Grand Hotel in Peoria, Illinois with Linda Rockwell directing. Attendance was up over 25% from 2010.

Sly had a tough road to the finals that



Joe Sylvester accepts his Open trophy from director Linda Rockwell. He'll never be late to a tournament again!

included Al Hodis, Neil Kazaross, and Chicago Open Champion Chuck Bower. In the finals, he was paired against online backgammon phenom Gerry Tansey (MO). It was Joe all the way as he returned to the form that made him a legend in the 1980s. We hope to see more of Joe in ABT events next year.

Congratulations to Land of Lincoln Masters champ David Rockwell who won a nail biter finals vs. Malcolm Davis. Also props to Intermediate victor Vinton Knarr, Novice winner Mike Drew, and Prairie Classic champ Tony Siegel. Complete results follow.



David Rockwell (L) gets a congratulatory handshake from Malcolm Davis for winning the Land of Lincoln Masters.

Once again Linda Rockwell and staff outdid themselves with the fun Halloween-themed event that included a great seminar given by Phil Simborg and Tobais Hellwag prior to the Saturday Calcutta. Additionally, \$1,100 was raised for Mary Ann Meese's Haiti relief mission—a record. Well done!

ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (37): 1-Joe Sylvester (IL), 2-Gerry Tansey (MO); 1C-Neil Kazaross (IL), 2C-John O'Hagan (IN); 1LC-David Rockwell (IL). **INTERMEDIATE (29):** 1-Vinton Knarr (IL), 2-Chris Scott (IL); 1C-Ken Tyszko (IL), 2C-Cinda King (IL); 1LC-Jeff Fischer (IL). **NOVICE (7):** 1-Mike Drew (IL); 1LC-Casey Sheedy (IN). **LAND OF LINCOLN MASTERS (8):** 1-David Rockwell (IL), 2-Malcolm Davis (TX). **PRAIRIE CLASSIC (32):** 1-Tony Siegel (CO), 2-David Rockwell (IL); 1C-Carol Joy Cole (MI), 2C-Chris Scott (IL). **LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DOUBLES (16 teams):** 1-Al Hodis (NY) & Mary Hickey (OH), 2-Ben Friesen (MI) & Jim Slomkoski (MI). **PEORIA QUICKIES (32):** 1-Jim Zinkhon (IL), 2-Bruce Russell (WI). **MIDSTATE MICROBLITZ (16):** 1-Bruce Russell (WI). **TAKE-BACK GAMMON (8):** 1/2-Chris Scott (IL) / Rose Sheedy (IN).

1st–4th DECEMBER 2011
Golden Tulip Hotel & Casino Nicosia (Lefkosa), Cyprus

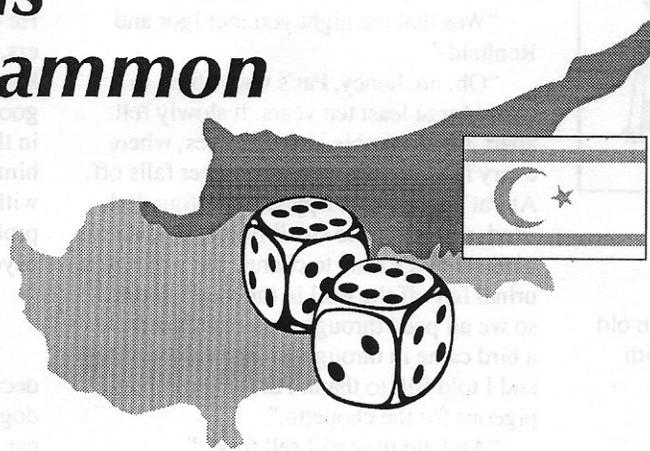


İSTAVDER
İSTANBUL TAVLA SPOR KULÜBÜ DERNEĞİ



present

4th Cyprus Backgammon Open



GRAND FINALE
5–7 DEC 2011

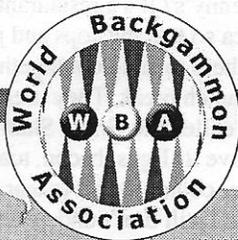
Last Chance to qualify for



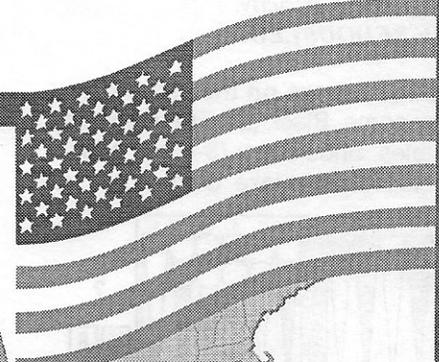
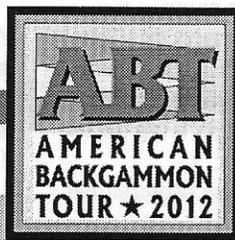
Grand Finale prize-pool
25,000 €

05th November 2011, 18:30 GMT

www.world-backgammon-association.com • Further info: info@world-backgammon-association.com



present



4th US Backgammon Open

JANUARY
13–16, 2012



Embassy Suites SFO
250 Gateway Boulevard
South San Francisco
California, USA

For additional information, please contact:

info@world-backgammon-association.com / www.world-backgammon-association.com



PAPA'S PAT'S PUB POINT



By Jake Jacobs

“What are you reading, Papa?”

“The Point.”

“What is it?”

“The Chicago Point, honey; it’s an old article about a backgammon game with some people I knew. Look here:”

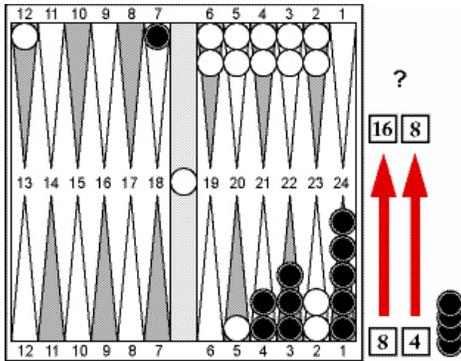
“The doctor examined the board.

“Perhaps some things are not meant to be. Maybe this experiment ends now, but the only way to truly bring a monster to life is to turn on the electricity.”

HE REDOUBLED.

The doctor turns on the electricity.

Money game. Black (Dr. Frankenstein) redoubles. Should Igor (8-cube) and Renfield (16-cube) take, drop, or beaver?



Perhaps he meant it to end there; but unbeknownst to him, Igor’s and Renfield’s brains had been replaced with the brains of homicidal maniacs. Growling now, they snatched the cubes like wolves tearing flesh from a carcass. Tapping into the mysterious force that hides in the darker corners of the universe and shreds stable matter into chaotic energy, the doctor hurled forth 4-4.

“Should they have taken those cubes, Papa?”

“A lot off the players in that chouette

suffered from a rare blood disease; they needed to take lots of 16-cubes, or they slipped into a coma.

“There were lots of characters playing in those old games. That’s why Bill Davis started the CHICAGO POINT, so that backgammon players all over the world could find out about the doings at Pat’s Pub.”

“What’s that?”

“Pat’s? It was a bar; it used to be a restaurant, but then someone ordered the food, and word got out. When I started going there it was just about to close down.”

“Was that the night you met Igor and Renfield?”

“Oh, no, honey, Pat’s was ‘about to close’ for at least ten years. It slowly fell apart, like a zombie in the movies, where every few minutes an ear or finger falls off. At Pat’s the booths ripped, carpeting darkened, and started to smell like your turtle tank when it’s time to change the water. A urinal fell off the wall in the men’s room, so we all peed through the hole. One night a bird came in through a hole in the ceiling, and I told Bill to thank Pat for providing pigeons for the chouette.”

“And did they still sell food?”

“No, they sold Tombstone pizzas. They were made out a cardboard, and a chemical that resembled cheese, and proved the theory that the only people paying less attention to their food than guys drinking fifteen Harvey Wallbangers are guys taking 16-cubes. Also, Rose, the waitress, used to run across the street to Burger King for the gourmets in the crowd.

“Luckily, we had medical professional around in case of trouble.”

“There were doctors?”

“No, but we had Jerry the Dentist.

We called him that because his name was Jerry, and he was a dentist. He offered free medical advice, like the time he told Uncle Munchkin that your grandpa shouldn’t use a WaterPik on his ears. And there was Stu. He wasn’t a doctor, either, but he worked in a hospital, and pretended to be a doctor whenever his phone rang in a theater.

“We had some other interesting players. One was the Lowing Lothario. He would sit on a stool hollering ‘Rose, more booze.’ He had a lot of girlfriends among the players, but none of them wanted anyone to know they were dating him. Which was good, because sometimes they all played in the same chouette. One of them told him that her psychiatrist said ‘Sleeping with you isn’t healthy.’ Sand he said ‘No problem, I don’t want to sleep with your psychiatrist!’

His real loves were his dogs.”

“Did the dogs play?”

“No, the chouette voted, and they decided they would be embarrassed if the dogs outplayed them. So they waited in the car. Then, at four in the morning, when the game ended, we’d drive up Harlem Avenue to Denny’s.”

“What’s that?”

“Denny’s? It’s a restaurant they have in America so that the cops and junkies have somewhere to hang out together when they are on lunch break. They used to have a special called the Grand Slam breakfast. Dogs love it! Eggs, bacon, toast, pancakes . . . They couldn’t wait to tear into it.”

“But I still don’t understand, Papa, if



Pat’s Pub in 1985. That’s Peter Kalba in the foreground with a “famous” pizza. In the background are five players no longer with us: Dean Morehouse, Don Jayhan, Norma Shyer, Bobbie Shifrin, and Phyllis Smolinski.

Pat's Pub was falling apart, why did it stay open?"

"The Wolfman."

"The one that turns into a wolf every full moon?"

"No, this was Frankie Wolfman. We kept waiting for him to turn into a musician every Tuesday, but it never happened. He played the same songs, in the same order, and hit the same wrong notes at the same time . . . You could set your watch! 'F-sharp, it must be 10:43!'"

But when they hired Frankie the crowds started coming to Pat's. We could play over on the bar side until about the end of the second round of the tournament. Then Rose would make us squeeze into the restaurant side. The band would set up, and a hundred people would show up to listen to Frankie. No one knows why. Maybe he bit them and this was part of the curse. There was an open arch between rooms so we could hear the show. None of the crowd ever wandered over to see what we were up to. Maybe there was leftover garlic from the days when Pat's served food that kept them at bay. That would explain the smell."

"Were all the players really bad?"

"No, honey! The tournament was probably the toughest in the world, for a \$10 club tournament. We had talent to burn. Luckily for me, they all went home before the chouette got rolling.

We had more of everything. We had four people who made boards. We had Dean, who owned the world's largest board. It was so big he had to hang a "wide load" sign on it before using public roads. He had so many doubling cubes he kept them in a separate trailer.

We also had the world's slowest players, Herb, Ira, a bunch of Daves. Some names tend to be fast players. Bobs! Most Bobs are fast. Name a kid Herb, though, and you are looking for trouble. And Dave? Forget it! Each one slower than the last. Except David Wells, the lone exception. And the truth is that his mom wanted to name him Carter Bob Wells, but she wasn't sure how to spell it.

"We had one player that told Bill Davis "I may be an intermediate, but I have a secret weapon. I do five counts: Kleinman, Thorp, Ward, Magriel, and Trice, and then I average them."

"Was it a good formula, Papa?"

"I'm not sure honey. Pat's eventually changed hands a few times. It became a Polish restaurant, and when I left Chicago it was a Mexican restaurant. When I moved to Tucson the score was 3-2 in his second round match. I think they had a few back-games and those pip counts are murder!"

"Pat's Pub was sold? Did they still play backgammon there?"

"No, the game moved, first to the

Golden Flame, and then other places. The game goes on. Too many of the players left early: Howard, Dean, Stu, all of them were way too young. Phyllis, Bobbi, Norma, Don, Ed . . . We've lost an entire bracket over the years."

"Papa, I wish I could see Pat's Pub."

"Me too, honey, me too!"—*Jake Jacobs* 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 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).

KAPLAN & RAYGORODSKY: BPC FALL TROPHY CHAMPS



2011 Fall Trophy
Tourney champ
Wendy Kaplan.

Wendy Kaplan is not a regular Bar Point Club player. But when she does play in a tournament, she makes it count. Kaplan marched through a 28 player field to take the BPC's 29th annual Fall Trophy Tourney. Bill Davis, assisted by Amy Trudeau directed the event at Ruby Tuesdays in Skokie, Illinois. 45 players

from three states attended.

Kaplan, who's currently producing a new play "Clutter" (opening at the Greenhouse Theater in Chicago 20 January), beat David Rockwell and Ken Bond, then bested Mike Wolock in a DMP thriller. As Mike put it, "I felt like I was her appetizer for the finals."

This set the stage for the trophy match against director Bill Davis, who just com-



Oleg Raygorodsky receives the Intermediate winner's trophy from director Bill Davis as runner-up David Nosik looks on.

pleted ten wins in a row at the club. As Bill's dice faded, Wendy's surged. She won the match 7-2.

Congratulations to Oleg Raygorodsky who bested David Nosik in the Intermediate finals. And also to Nora Luna Righter who prevailed over Bruce Russell (WI) in the 1-point event. Results: Δ

OPEN (28): 1-Wendy Kaplan, 2-Bill Davis, 3/4-Mike Wolock / Serge Bondar; 1C-Rory Pascar, 2C-Linda Rockwell. INTERMEDIATE (17): 1-Oleg Raygorodsky, 2-David Nosik, 3/4-Jeff Fischer / Christopher Shanava; 1C-Leslie Lockett, 2C-Roy Cohen. 1-POINTEVENT (16): 1-Nora Luna Righter, 2-Bruce Russell (WI).

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

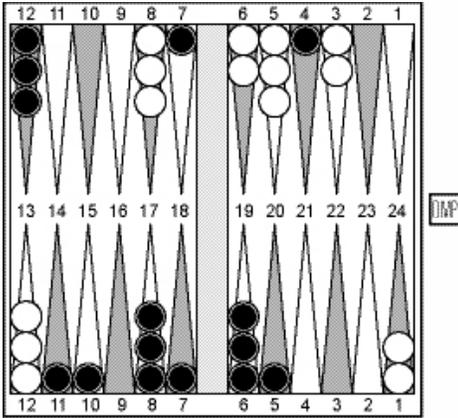
board, cubes, chouette sheets, etc., and Brad was handling his cube.

With Jonah in the box and Brad in the captain's chair, we were just finishing up a game when Brad came up with the idea that perhaps we should quietly shut down the chouette, settle up, turn out the hall lights and simply leave the building. And that's exactly what we did (!)—right at 2:15am. Brad and I had headed for our respective homes and Lee gave Jonah a ride back to campus. That left Mr. Keene snoring up a storm in that big old chair with his board still wide open and his BG stuff all over the place.

Well, it's now 11:45 on the morning after. I can only assume that Keene woke up at some point, scratched his head a bit, and kind of wondered what he'd missed. Oh, well, it's nothing for him to worry about. After all, I see "old guys" up at the Ho Chunk Casino in the early morning, falling asleep at the poker table on a regular basis. I'll probably be doing the same thing when I get to be Keene's age.—*Bruce Russell, Madison, Wisconsin* Δ

**PROBLEM #368
ANALYZED**

by Kit Woolsey

7-point match tied at 6 to 6 (DMP).
BLACK TO PLAY 6-3.

If Black makes White's bar point with the 13, he can either cover his own 5-point or his own bar point with the 6. If

Black chooses to cover both his 5-point and his bar point, he can do so in two different ways. Thus, the candidate moves are: (21/18, 13/5); (21/18, 11/5); (13/7, 8/5); and (11/5, 10/7).

Suppose Black chooses to make the two offensive points. 13/7, 8/5 gives Black better diversification for making future points and covering Black's outer board. However, this play leaves two blots on Black's side of the board in addition to the blots on White's side of the board. While these blots aren't in direct range now, there

is the future to worry about. White will almost certainly be hitting at least one of Black's blots on her next turn, and a blot-hitting contest will occur. If Black loses out in this contest, those outfield builders may become targets. 11/5, 10/7 avoids this danger. The resulting distribution is still quite good, with spares on the midpoint, 8-point, and 6-point. 11/5, 10/7 looks like the better of these two plays.

Suppose Black chooses to make the anchor. Making the bar point leaves all 4s, 3-1, 2-2, 1-1, and 6-3 for White to hit—17 shot numbers. Making the 5-point leaves all 6s, 5-1, 4-2, and 3-3 for White to hit—16 shot numbers. If White doesn't hit, Black will be a pretty big favorite to cover the other key point whichever play he makes.

Suppose White does hit. Which point would Black rather have?

It looks like Black would rather have the 5-point for two reasons. One is that it is an inner board point, which is always good to have in a blot-hitting contest. The other is that when Black then enters and hits back, if he hits back on his bar point White doesn't have a direct shot from the bar while if he enters and hits back on the 5-point, White does get that direct shot from the bar. These arguments indicate that 21/18, 11/5 is better than 21/18, 13/7.

Now for the big question: offense or defense? 11/5, 10/7 or 21/18, 11/5?

The solid four-prime is nice, but it won't win the game by itself. White hits with aces, 4s, and 6s. Rolls such as 6-3, 1-3, 6-1, 6-4 allow White to hit both checkers. 4-1, 1-1, 2-2, 3-3, and 4-4 are all very strong. White won't have many

bad numbers. White has a three-point board. If White hits and Black rolls badly from the bar, White will have a reasonable chance to continue the attack. With Black stuck on the bar, White will be able to move her back checkers up and over Black's blockade. White figures to have enough checkers to play with so she isn't likely to crunch. If White's attack succeeds, she will have time to extricate her back checkers.

Suppose instead Black plays 21/18, 11/5. If White doesn't hit, Black will be in great shape. He will be a big favorite to cover the blot on the bar point next roll, and the combination of his solid four prime plus having the advanced anchor and all of his men out will be sufficient to give Black a considerable advantage. If White does hit, Black may enter and hit back. And in the worst-case scenario where White hits and Black gets stuck on the bar, Black will always have the defensive bar point.

White is very unlikely to be able to carry out a successful blitz, so Black will probably have at worst, a bar point holding game even if White escapes all of his back checkers. It looks like 21/18, 11/5 is the best play.

The key to this position is to recognize that because White has the stronger inner board, she is itching for a blitz or a blot-hitting contest. When Black locks up White's bar point, it takes away her attack potential, forcing her to play against Black's strength, which is the potential prime. If White's inner board was weaker, making both offensive points and letting the back checkers fend for themselves might be better. — *Kit Woolsey* Δ

VIDEO RECORDING...*[Continued from page 1]*

destroys mine. In the past when I played Malcolm, I also felt that I was competing against his camera, XG, and Snowie. Instead of simply playing to win, I played to get a good PR. That gave Malcolm a psychological advantage because there was no way I was ever going to outplay him according to the bots.

About a year ago, I stopped playing backgammon to see how close I could get to mimicking a robot. That's not my style, and it's no fun anyway. And maybe that was part of the reason that I had never won a match under Malcolm's camera—not until this year's Illinois State Championships.

Last month when I faced Malcolm, I decided that I wouldn't care one iota about my XG rating. (I didn't even ask Malcolm to mail me a copy of our match.) I was

playing to win here and now, and that's exactly what I did. When Malcolm sent me the match, as expected, he crushed me 3.20 to 14.60 with a luck factor of +3.9 my way. I wrote Malcolm back, "Thanks Malcolm. Very happy with my match!" And that was the truth.

Video recording favors bot-minded players and threatens their lesser-skilled opponents who fear that their actual playing level will be publically exposed. As Tak Morioka put it, "To some, a camera over the backgammon board is like a loaded gun on the table."

JUST LIKE Jena Jennings, we see nothing wrong with snapping occasional pictures to record a specific position. Everyone has a camera phone these days. The same can't be said about video cameras and tripods. At the upcoming Central States Invitational, we will allow recording on request in the Grand Crystal Beaver masters event. However, in

the Championship division, players will only be able to force a video camera on their opponent in the semifinals and finals. And in 2013, except for the Grand Crystal Beaver, video recording of matches in every other division will be by mutual agreement only.

We hope other directors will see the attendance risk of always allowing BG videographers to control the match atmosphere. To build attendance, we don't need to appease the intellectuals of our game. They're already hooked. We must try to hold on to the sociable players so that the face of backgammon does not morph into the face of chess. To us, that's a terrifying thought. — *Bill Davis* Δ

Sheraton Suites • Mar. 9-11, 2012

**CSI:
BACKGAMMON**

WINNER'S CIRCLE



SEP.-NOV. 2011

•**2011 German Open** (Brakel, Germany; 30 Sep.-3 Oct.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (42): 1-Tobias Hellwag (Germany), 2-Rogier van Gemert (Holland), 3/4-Norbert Lisiecki / Christoph Wagener; 1C-Günter Holzinger, 2C-Sven Rümcker; 1LC-Mehrzad Jarrah-Layegh, 2LC-Klaus Schicks. INTERMEDIATE (21): 1-Hamid Akbari, 2-Philip Kazemeh; 1C-Helmut Jeske, 2C-Jacques Wehli (Switzerland); 1LC-Denise Kaiser (Switzerland), 2LC-Bernd Runge. BEGINNER (4): 1-Regina Papachristopoulos. SUPER JACKPOT (16): 1-Kimon Papachristopoulos, 2-Jürgen Schettler. BLITZ 10 (16): 1-Peter van de Bruck, 2-Denise Kaiser (Switzerland).

•**17th Japan Open** (Tokyo, Japan; 8-10 Oct.)... OPEN (54): 1-Kazuhiko Yotsushika, 2-Tsuyoshi Minakami, 3/4-Naiya Kihara / Yuya Watanabe; 1C-Kiyokazu Nishikawa, 2C-Shunji Terao. INTERMEDIATE (28): 1-Takeyuki Hino, 2-Koki Kobayashi; 1C-Takashi Adachi. NOVICE #1 (24): 1-Daisuke Koyama. NOVICE #2 (20): 1-Keita Hirai. NOVICE #3 (28): 1-Souichiro Mitsui. \$500 SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-Michihito Kageyama, 2-Yuri Nakamura. LADIES TOURNAMENT (15): 1-Minako Omiya, 2-Yumi Hunabashi. ONE-POINTER #1 (32): 1-Shinichiro Kaneko, 2-Seichi Tabata. ONE-POINTER #2 (32): 1-Tomomo Kobayashi, 2-Chihirio Nakagawa. ONE-POINTER #3 (32): 1-Kiichi Tobita, 2-Shigetomo Nagata.

•**Ohio State Club Bimonthly** (Akron, OH; 15 Oct.)... OPEN (12): 1-Farhad Forudi, 2-Franklin Scott.

•**Pair-O-Dice Monthly** (New York, NY; 16 Oct.)... OPEN (20 + 4 buybacks): 1-Jeff Acierno (NJ), 2-Steve Grill (NY); 1C-Chris Trencher (NY). INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Kevin Finch (PA), 2-David Shaerf (NY); 1C-Herman Arzuman (NY). BEGINNER (4): 1-Scott Rademeyer, 2-Jennifer Burtner (NY); 1C-John Johnson (NY).

•**19th Irish Open** (Dublin, Ireland; 21-23 Oct.)... OPEN (42): 1-Viadas Novicenko, 2-Alastair Woods, 3/4-James Degabrielle / Jonathan O'Grady; 1C-Robin Swaffield, 2C-Jeff Ellis; 1LC-Liz Perry, 2LC-Carol Lindley. FRIDAY JACKPOT (8): 1-Robin Swaffield, 2-Peter Bennet. €20 JACKPOT: 1-Shea Mulhall, 2-Mark Calderbank. ONE POINT SHOOTOUT: 1-Mark Calderbank, 2-Peter Bennet.

•**33rd Flint Area Club Championship**

AMALGAMATION

Visiting the Bar Point Club: **Bruce Russell** (WI)... Madison director **Bill Minser** is pulling the plug on the Madison Club's Labor Day event. He decided not to compete against **Rob Maier's** new Three Rivers Championships to be held 30 August-2 September in Pittsburgh... St. Louis to Chicagoland: **Joe Sylvester**. Request him as your waiter at Flemings Steakhouse in Lincolnshire, Illinois... Flash—or should we say “Crash”? **Carol Joy Cole's** computer crashed in October, delaying in her Fall newsletter. Most of her data has been recovered; however there are still issues to be resolved. Look for the *Flint Area BackgammonNews* to be mailed out by the end of this month. In the interim, we posting “Mark Your Calendar” for her on the Internet... **Dave Settles** (IL) saw our article about available Illinois backgammon vanity license plates in the December 2010 POINT and scooped one of them up...



Dave Settles with his new license plate.

There's a nice article about backgammon in Tokyo featuring **Kenji Shimodaira**. Read it at: bit.ly/u6tQzJ... **Wendy Kaplan** (IL) is thrilled to be producing what should be a very successful Chicagoland play “Clutter” early next year. Read about it here: bit.ly/tHcFaK... Congratulations to Connecticut Backgammon director **Ross Gordon** who married **Brooke Becker** in October... Now that **Elayne Feinstein** has disbanded her South

(Flint, MI; 23 Oct.)... OPEN (30): 1-Dean Adamian, 2-Karen Davis (OH), 3/4-Dmitriy Obukhov / Walt Smith, 5/6-Prince Barlow / Joe Miller (OH). INTERMEDIATE (22): 1-Gerard Jendras, 2-Lorenzo Morales. 3/4-Jim Lawrence / Duane Salinas, 5/6-Dirk Hogan / Bob Kamp. NOVICE (6): 1/2-Patricia Burry / Stephen Collins (OH).

•**Springfield Series #2** (Lincoln, IL; 5 Nov.)... OPEN (19): 1-Scott Day (IN), 2-Jim Zimmerman; Consolation TBD-Rob Farmer vs. Scott Rudebeck; 1LC-Dan Eatherington. Δ

Florida Backgammon Club, **Perry Gartner** and **Mike Corbett** are promoting the new Downtown Hollywood Backgammon Club directed by **Norlu Hammad**. The club meets 12:30 pm Saturdays at the Alexandria Restaurant. For details, call 954/274-2054... When you aren't visiting the ABT Facebook site, check out **Jay Cushner's** www.backgammonpuzzles.com. You get a new problem every few days with a button to click for the XG solution... The Butler Public Library in Butler, NJ now holds monthly backgammon tournaments. For info on their next tournament, call 073/838-3262... Backgammon Learning Center teacher **Phil Simborg** (IL) recently wrote the backgammon rules and tip book that will be included in every purchase of a Wycliffe Brothers backgammon board. As Phil put it, “It's basically the same rules except if you roll 6-6, you have to send \$5 to Phil Simborg, Chicago, Illinois... Here's a luck quote from the late **Frank Sinatra**: “People often remark that I'm pretty lucky. Luck is only important in so far as getting the chance to sell yourself at the right moment. After that, you've got to have talent and know how to use it.” Δ



New every day. Join the party.



facebook.com/AmericanBackgammonTour

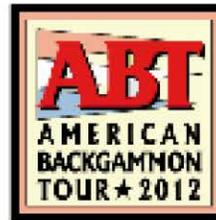
Instructions: Find the backgammon word hidden in each of the sentences below.

1. Take a look at our name: NTA. It means “National Teachers Association.”
2. Get baptized every day! Swim at church in the new Olympic pool.
3. Come on, Joe. Quit your awful job so you can play more Othello.
4. The recent FDA medical cut takes effect in the first quarter of 2012.
5. The lifeboat's unplumb oar does not meet Ohio Great Lakes safety standards.



This is one of those positions that's just shy of a beaver.—Stick Rice

**NY BACKGAMMON & THE U.S. BACKGAMMON FEDERATION
INVITE YOU TO HAVE
FOUR FUN-FILLED DAYS IN NEW YORK CITY**



**NEW YORK METROPOLITAN OPEN AND
THE USBGF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

E-MAIL: INFO@NYBACKGAMMON.COM

JANUARY 5-8, 2012

**HELD AT THE
HYATT REGENCY ON THE HUDSON
2 EXCHANGE PLACE
JERSEY CITY, NJ
1-800-233-1234**

**RESERVATIONS BY DECEMBER 20, 2011
\$109 PER NIGHT FOR BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT**

**TOURNAMENT ORGANIZER AND CO-DIRECTOR: LYNN EHRLICH
CO-DIRECTOR: TROY LONGMAN
WWW.NYBACKGAMMON.COM
408-829-8769**

JOIN THE USBGF FOR FREE ENTRY TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: [HTTP://USBGF.ORG](http://USBGF.ORG)

WIN A FREE 5-DAY STAY IN BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO!

NEW YORK METROPOLITAN OPEN

- ★ CHAMPIONSHIP \$400, 90% RETURN
- ★ INTERMEDIATE \$150, 85% RETURN
- ★ BEGINNER \$30, 80% RETURN
- ★ NEW YORK DOUBLES TOURNAMENT, \$200, 85% RETURN
- ★ LIBERTY CUP MASTERS, \$500, 95% RETURN
- ★ LIMITED JACKPOT, \$150, 85% RETURN
- ★ SENIORS TOURNAMENT, \$50, 85% RETURN
- ★ PETER KASTURAS JUNIORS TOURNAMENT, NO ENTRY FEE, TROPHY EVENT

USBGF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

- ★ SINGLES EVENT FOR USBGF PREMIUM/YOUTH MEMBERS
- ★ FIRST ENTRY FREE; RE-ENTRIES \$50, 85% RETURN
- ★ OPTIONAL SIDE POOLS, 100% RETURN
- ★ WIN A FREE 5-DAY STAY IN BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO; DETAILS POSTED AT WWW.NYBACKGAMMON.COM

BRING YOUR BACKGAMMON BOARD AND CLOCK