

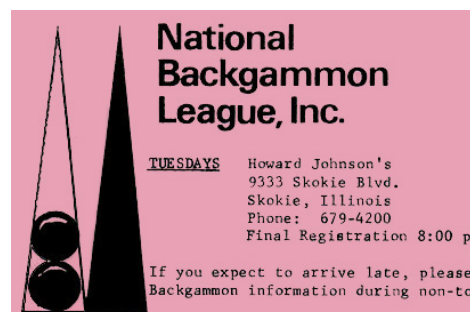
chicago point: 1988–2012

THANKS for the Memories

BY BILL DAVIS

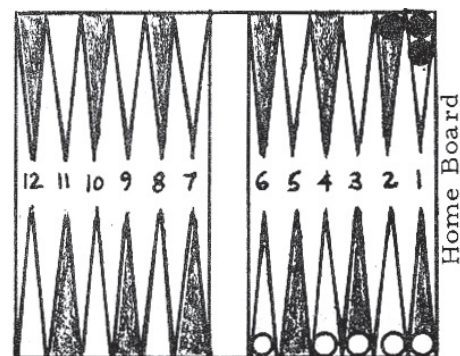
1988. Ronald Reagan was President of the United States, “Rain Man” won an Oscar for Best Picture of the Year, George Michael’s “Faith” topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart, Michael Jordan was in his fourth season with the Chicago Bulls. And in June of 1988, the first issue of *Chicago Point* appeared.

January 2012 marks the last publication of the Point, the fourth backgammon newsletter that I have edited. It all started in early 1977 when Randy Cone and I took over the Chicago-based National Backgammon League after the former president scooped up “lifetime” membership fees and left with the cash. My premiere issue (March 1977) was really a one page *NBL* flyer.



That “newsletter” included our club standings and my first monthly problem.

White has the cube and rolls 1-1. What’s the best he can do with it?



I have always kept a running count of the monthly problems. In this issue, Problem #371 is on page 3. That means when you combine all four publications, this is actually my 371st newsletter.

In all, 33 *NBL* newsletters were published; the last one dated November 1979. The following month, Howard Markowitz was set to open Gammon’s of Chicago. Howard convinced me that for the good of unified backgammon in Chicagoland, I should disband the *NBL* and come on board as a Gammon’s director and newsletter editor. I agreed.



The *Gammon’s* publication grew, first to legal size paper, and then to occasional four page spreads. I was the editor of 41 issues until April 1983.

Disappointed with the direction the Gammon’s club was taking in its fourth year, I formed the more sociable Chicago Bar Point Club with assistance from Peter Kalba. Subscription requests were starting to come in from all over the world, so rather than call it “Bar Point Club News,” I named it the more encompassing *Chicagoland Backgammon Newsletter* (and used the same strategy in naming *Chicago Point*.) The first issue was timed with the grand opening of the Bar Point Club at Pat’s Pub in Norridge: May 1983.



In the latter part of the 1980s, it became obvious that the typewriter was destined for obsolescence. In April 1988, I made the home computer plunge, purchasing an Apple Macintosh. It was love at first “byte”—a 20-megabyte hard drive to be exact.

30 SUBSCRIBERS FORGO POINT REFUND. DONATE OVER \$500 TO ACS

30 CHICAGO POINT subscribers generously gave up a refund on their remaining Point issues and instead donated a total of \$530 to the Anti-Cruelty Society. CHICAGO POINT refunded \$2.50 per issue to all those who had two or more issues remaining on their subscription.

Thanks to Dion Hogan, Matt Reklaitis, Russell Sands, Ralph Stowell, Charlie Cole, Eric & Kathleen Barr, Susie Witters, Judy Field, Jim Allen, Eric Hiner, David Rogers, Brent Cohen, Neil Webb, Mark Murray, Larry Buckingham, Nan Feiber, Francisco Mauri, Nora Luna Righter, Ray Fogerlund, Martin Veltmann, Martin Reade, David Dor-el, Dorn Bishop, Art Grater, Sean Casey, Rich Hallbeck, Norm Wiggins, Bobby Silvers, Jim Opre, and Jim Caray for their combined donation that will be made in conjunction with our upcoming Central States Invitational in March. Δ



Where the Point was created in 1988.

What an incredible machine! So easy to learn on and so much fun to use compared to the unfriendly PCs of the day. (Carol Joy Cole, my “Mac buddy” for 24 years, would agree.) And it was great for desktop publishing and graphics. In two months, I learned enough to put out *Chicago Point* using PageMaker, CricketDraw, Microsoft Works and an Apple LaserWriter 300 dpi printer.

Desktop publishing on a Mac made the *Point* look professional. I never had any training in journalism. In English, I was

[Continued from page 10]

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

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.

This is the final printed issue. Follow us free of charge online at www.chicagopoint.com. Additionally, check us daily for new material at facebook.com/AmericanBackgammonTour.

LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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

E-mail: letters@chicagopoint.com

KIND WORDS FROM SUBSCRIBERS

Just heard that you are ceasing publication of CHICAGO POINT in printed form. Well, I just want to say it's been a long run as your subscriber and I've enjoyed reading every issue! Two of the most memorable/significant items for me were Jack Kissane's Pip Counting article (still a classic), and a Brahma Board advertisement that inspired me to buy one. It remains today the most beautiful board I've ever seen!

Thanks, Bill, for your labor of love. May the game continue to benefit promotion-wise from your new venture.—*Andrew Liebenthal, Monroe Township, New Jersey*

Please donate the remainder of my subscription to the Anti-Cruelty Society. I'll miss looking forward to getting the publication in the mail. It's the only fun thing I get—everything else is a bill! I will remain a faithful reader on the Internet and wish you all the best.—*Susie Witters, Indianapolis, Indiana*

[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

Jan 13-16	US Open, Embassy Suites Hotel, South San Francisco, California	491715-422222
Jan 14	New England Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Jan 14	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Jan 14	Tampa Bay Club Monthly, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/786-9133
Jan 15*	Bellingham Monthly, Pacific Martial Arts, Bellingham, Washington	360/733-6173
Jan 15	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Jan 19*	Flint Third Thursday Bonus & Awards Party, Sharky's, Burton, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jan 26-29	<u>New Mexico State Championship, La Posada, Santa Fe, New Mexico</u>	<u>303/519-5711</u>
Jan 28	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Jan 29*	NEW DATE: Cincinnati Tourn. of Champions, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, OH	513/807-6926
Jan 29*	Atlanta Northside Club Monthly, Il Forno NY Pizza, Atlanta, Georgia	770/612-0818
Feb 1	Charlotte Club Monthly, Dilworth Grille, Charlotte, North Carolina	704/965-3573
Feb 4*	NEW LOCATION: Bar Point Doubles Championship, Aegean Isles, Niles, Illinois	773/583-6464
Feb 4	Springfield Series #5, Rusty's Clubhouse & Grill, Lincoln, Illinois	217/622-9447
Feb 5	Ohio State Club Monthly, Brubaker's Pub, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Feb 11*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Feb 11*	New England Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Feb 11*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Feb 11*	Tampa Bay Club Monthly, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/786-9133
Feb 12*	Cincinnati Club Monthly, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Feb 12	32nd Illinois State Challenge Cup, Parthenon, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Feb 14*	Arizona Club Monthly, K O'Donnell's Bar & Grill, Scottsdale, Arizona	602/762-2288
Feb 16-19	<u>Pittsburgh Championships/ABT Awards, Four Points Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA</u>	<u>304/685-3214</u>
Feb 19*	Bellingham Monthly, Pacific Martial Arts, Bellingham, Washington	360/733-6173
Feb 25*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Mar 3*	Springfield Series #6, Pizza Works, Peoria, Illinois	217/622-9447
Mar 3-4	4th New Orleans "Sweet 16," Inn on Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana	504/366-7498
Mar 4*	Cincinnati Club Monthly, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Mar 4*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Brubaker's Pub, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Mar 9-11	<u>3rd Central States Invitational, Sheraton Gateway Suites, Rosemont, Illinois</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
Mar 23-25	<u>18th Ohio State Championships, Airport Marriott Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio</u>	<u>330/268-4610</u>
Apr 1*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Aegean Isles, Niles, Illinois	773/583-6464
Apr 18-22	<u>Nevada State Tournament, Flamingo Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	<u>702/218-8238</u>
Apr 26-29	<u>Atlanta Spring Classic, Atlanta Airport Marriott, Atlanta, Georgia</u>	<u>770/633-0001</u>
Apr 28-29*	Buckeye Battle & Ohio Valley Cup, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
May 11-13	<u>Florida Championship, Marriott North Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, Florida</u>	<u>491715-422222</u>
May 24-28	<u>Chicago Open, Holiday Inn O'Hare Hotel, Rosemont, Illinois</u>	<u>617/699-9100</u>
Jun 8-10	<u>Los Angeles Open, Four Points LAX, Los Angeles, California</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Jul 5-8	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton Novi Hotel, Novi, Michigan</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Jul 20-22*	<u>17th Minnesota Open, Marriott Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota</u>	<u>612/718-2613</u>
Aug 16-19*	<u>2nd Golden Gate Open, Embassy Suites Hotel, South San Francisco, CA</u>	<u>491715-422222</u>
Aug 30-Sep 3*	<u>Three Rivers Championship, Four Points Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</u>	<u>304/685-3214</u>
Oct 5-7*	<u>Illinois State Championships, Grand Hotel, Peoria, Illinois</u>	<u>847/677-6852</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Jan 27-29*	15th Championship of France, Chez Oscar, Paris, France	33761-883686
Feb 3-5	Jarvis Trophy Tournament-BIBA, Barceló Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Feb 5*	Vancouver Club Monthly, Firefighters' Club, Burnaby, BC, Canada	604/241-1986
Feb 18-19*	TBT: 8th Ankara Championship/WBF-TR, Elit Palas, Ankara, Turkey	905322-329228
Feb 24-26*	EBGT: Istavder 4th Anniversary, Green Park Bostanci, Istanbul, Turkey	905337-122151
Mar 2-4	British Doubles Championship, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, England	441522-888676
Mar 4*	Vancouver Club Monthly, Firefighters' Club, Burnaby, BC, Canada	604/241-1986
Mar 9-11	3rd Mokum Open, Café Twee Klaveren, Amsterdam, The Netherlands	31652-663616
Mar 9-11*	21st Torneo Città di Torino, Hotel Sitea, Torino, Italy	393356-557556
Mar 16-18	BBT: XIII Scottish Open, Barceló Hotel, Edinburgh, Scotland	441522-888676
Mar 17-18*	TBT: 4th Bursa Championship/WBF-TR, Efehan Hotel, Bursa, Turkey	905322329228
Mar 17-18	3rd Sântis-Open, Restaurant Bierhof, St. Gallen, Switzerland	4176-3077525
Mar 23-25	BFCE UK Open & Clubs Championship, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England	442476-445467
Mar 28-Apr 1	EBGT: European Pro Championships & Doubles, Lefkosa, North Cyprus	491715-422222
Apr 5-9*	NBT: 24th Nordic Open, Scandic Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark	4531-392791
Apr 11-15*	24th WBG-European Championship & 11th Velden Open, Velden, Austria	391331-923537
Apr 13-15*	British Open, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Apr 20-22*	2nd Porto Carras Open, Porto Carras Hotel, Halkidiki, Greece	306945-298985
Apr 27-29*	Stavanger Bymesterskap 2012, Hovmesteren, Stavanger, Norway	4799-153113
Apr 27-29*	TBT: 4th Antalya Open/WBF-TR, Sealife Resort, Antalya, Turkey	905322-329228



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2011

Final standings—20 events • Top 132 • 226 players earned points
(Upcoming 2012 events: NY Metro, US Open, New Mexico State)



RAY FOGERLUND 88.80	Stewart Pemberton 10.59	Jonathan Leusden 5.33	Vicki Ondis 3.63
HARVEY GILLIS 40.16	Ramez Abi-Akar 9.42	Rick Wolf 5.33	Murray Bryntesen 3.60
NEIL KAZAROSS 37.73	Cliff Mayoh 8.92	Gus Contos 5.01	Georgina Flanagan 3.50
Chuck Bower 25.78	Neal Weiner 8.71	Karen Davis 5.00	Robert Sisselman 3.33
Matt Cohn-Geier 24.63	Allen Tish 8.67	Jolie Rubin 4.99	Evan Etter 3.28
Alfred Mamlet 24.04	Masayuki Mochizuki 8.55	David Taniguchi 4.82	Lyle Rubin 3.24
Jeff Nitschke 21.20	Art Benjamin 8.46	Mark Antranikian 4.77	Michihito Kageyama 3.22
Ed O'Laughlin 20.55	Rachel Rhodes 7.85	Carsten Muencheberg 4.74	Steve Nelson 3.22
Bill Robertie 20.50	David Shadi 7.85	Alex Eshaghian 4.51	Gary Fries 3.20
Todd Crosner 19.27	Norm Wiggins 7.85	Brian Scorben 4.46	Mark Gordon 3.20
Gary Bauer 18.30	Al Hodis 7.85	Kathleen Davis 4.42	Grant Schneider 3.20
Bob Koca 17.39	Gerry Tansey 7.40	Frank DiMaggio 4.33	Mario Sequeira 3.20
Odis Chenault 17.33	Tim Lawless 7.26	Tak Morioka 4.33	Jeff Fischer 3.20
Petko Kostadinov 17.19	Jake Burak 7.25	Walt Swan 4.33	Faddoul Khoury 3.17
John O'Hagan 16.14	Cheryl Andersen 7.20	Rory Pascal 4.23	Dmitriy Obukhov 3.11
Herb Gurland 15.70	Kit Woolsey 7.10	Vadim Nuniyants 4.20	Sandra Sha 3.10
Bill Davis 15.09	Antoinette Williams 6.80	Eden Windish 4.10	David Levy 3.10
Joe Sylvester 14.80	Peggy Neubig 6.67	Daniel Barabas 4.10	Justin Nunez 3.10
Garry Kallos 14.24	Juan Rospigliosi 6.60	Bob Lekse 4.00	Brandon Macklin 3.06
Greg Merriman 13.72	Bill Calton 6.40	Greg Cottle 4.00	Alex Gerding 3.06
Carol Joy Cole 13.67	Mike Corbett 6.40	Larry Taylor 3.93	Chris Scott 2.90
Gregg Cattanach 13.56	Lee Genud 6.40	Mike Senkiewicz 3.93	Ken Tyszko 2.90
Bob Glass 12.89	Felix Yen 6.33	Patrick Gibson 3.93	Mark Ferrin 2.90
Dennis Culpepper 12.80	David Rubin 6.22	Kent Goulding 3.93	Dorn Bishop 2.81
Mary Hickey 12.80	Homer Hector 6.10	Eduardo Maciel 3.93	Luiz Torres 2.81
Josh Racko 12.78	Vinton Knarr 5.80	Nan Feiber 3.83	Leslie Lockett 2.73
Jason Lee 12.67	Falafel Natanzon 5.63	Oleg Raygorodsky 3.83	Walt Smith 2.73
Ralf Jonas 12.40	Wayne Jeffcoat 5.63	Bill Minser 3.80	Ron Bruns 2.71
Malcolm Davis 11.56	Charlie Pipkin 5.63	Jesse Eaton 3.80	Lynn Lusk 2.71
Tom Duggan 11.40	John Quinn 5.45	Penina Rosenblum 3.75	Bob Goldstein 2.67
Jeremy Bagai 11.26	Prince Barlow 5.45	David Rockwell 3.70	Marc Grutka 2.67
Motonori Kunishima 11.26	Lucas Bauer 5.42	Frank Ley 3.63	Jeremy Moulton 2.60
Ben Friesen 10.86	Scotty Kelland 5.35	John Calcott 3.63	Bill Kaludis 2.60

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

Re CHICAGO POINT ending publication. Surely, I'm speaking for the backgammon community in thanking you heartily for your 30-plus years of service and innovations. Happy Holidays to you and yours! — *Drew Giovanis, Las Vegas, Nevada*

DICE TUBE REVISITED

What do you think about using a dice tube to speed up slow play, sort of like you would use a clock? I think it would help some, but would it be enough to make a difference? The tube is less technical than the clock. — *Randy Armstrong, director, Sangamon Valley Backgammon Club, Springfield, Illinois.*

Personally, we don't like a dice tube. We also don't like the random dice generators you can get on any smart phone. We prefer shaking dice in a cup and propelling them onto the playfield. — *Ed.*

MORE ON TOURNEY VIDEOTAPING

This is in regards to your editorial against unrestricted match videotaping and Linda Rockwell's letter of response in the December Point, I think the statement in the Illinois State invitation, "Video taping is welcome," is a little vague. I understand why the ruling was made and certainly think Linda is a fine director with a great track record.

I agree with your position at the upcoming CSI tournament—that "both players must agree," to videotaping (not vague).

[Continued on page 6]



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2011 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

FINAL STANDINGS
84 players earned points

RORY PASCAR 36.68	Bill Keefe 9.16	Mike Minkovski 3.20	Mark Murray 0.96
LARRY GOLDSTEIN 29.60	Wayne Wiest 9.08	Kevin Berg 3.08	Reginald Porter 0.72
HERB ROMAN 28.96	Dave Settles 8.92	Dan Weymouth 2.68	Hugh Morris 0.72
PHIL SIMBORG 25.68	Linda Rockwell 8.60	Ken Meng 2.36	Richard Stawowy 0.72
DAVID ROCKWELL 24.24	Oleg Raygorodsky 8.52	Roger Hickman 2.24	Kit Woolsey 0.72
BOB STEEN 23.56	Jerry Brooks 7.36	Allen Tish 2.16	Tom Holmberg 0.68
Carter Mattig 23.48	Joann Feinstein 7.08	Joe Sylvester 2.04	Mike Peters 0.68
Bill Davis 22.84	Wendy Kaplan 6.80	Eric Johnson 2.00	Scott Richardson 0.64
Lucky Nelson 20.88	Amy Trudeau 6.40	Kerem Taskin 1.88	Tom Harrison 0.64
Nora Luna Righter 20.56	David Nosik 6.24	Warren Barnes 1.60	Georgina Flanagan 0.56
Bill Bartholomay 17.00	Russ Lyutik 6.08	Mark Ostrovsky 1.52	Michael Ginat 0.56
Mike Wolock 16.72	Peter Kalba 6.00	Roz Ferris 1.44	Les Moshinsky 0.56
Dujuan Meekins 14.40	Jeff Fischer 5.80	Terry Weiss 1.44	Gary Kay 0.56
Mike Sutton 13.48	Tobias Hellwag 5.72	Guseyn Aliyev 1.40	Roland Dieter 0.48
Alex Owen 12.76	Tim Mabee 5.20	Bob Zavoral 1.36	Ben Silk 0.48
Serge Bondar 12.52	Russell Head 4.96	Alice Kay 1.28	Beth Whitney 0.48
Steve Klesker 12.00	Mike Valentino 4.32	Steve Bock 1.20	Kit Cabello 0.40
Ken Bond 11.84	Howard Markowitz 4.16	Mitch Pomper 1.12	Efim Liberman 0.32
Christopher Shanava 11.04	Matt Cohn-Geier 3.92	Mochy Mochizuki 1.08	Roy Cohen 0.32
Leslie Lockett 10.76	David Rubin 3.76	Steve Blanchard 0.96	Jay Robinson 0.24
Tak Morioka 10.48	Adrian Rios 3.68	Vladimir Pekler 0.96	Jesse Anderson-Lehman 0.16

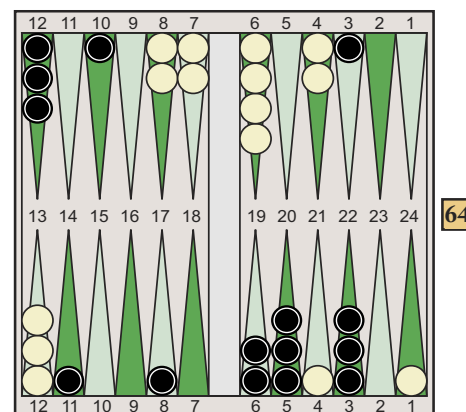
BOB STEEN did what he had to do to make the BPC Challenge Cup team winning Dec. Player of the Month with 3.88 points. Runner's up were Nora Luna Righter (3.44) and Tak Morioka (3.12).

your move

PROBLEM #371

to be analyzed online at
chicagopoint.com by Steve Sax

Money game. BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.



THE UNAIDED EYE

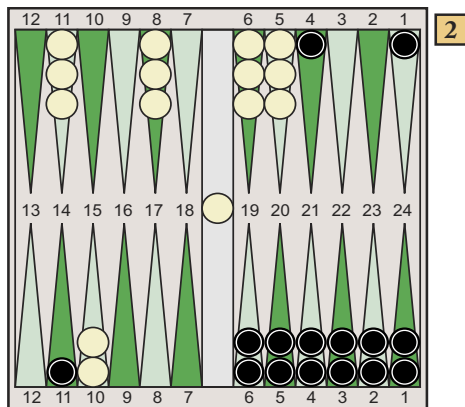
© 2012 by Danny Kleinman



NOT SO EASY GETTING HOME

Dear Danny: Here's a brutal play I faced in one of our club's consolation matches.

5 point match. White leads Black 3 to 1.
BLACK TO PLAY 1-1.



There are a lot of plays and according to eXtreme Gammon, my play was not in the top three. Let me know your thought process on this one. Then maybe you could comment on the rollout data and see if it makes any sense.—Baffled As Usual

DEAR BAFFLED: You must consider your plan for winning this game and retaining good chances for a match-winning gammon (at this score, just as important as winning the game). Unfortunately, you must break your board now. You can break it without leaving an inside blot by playing 6/5(2) or 5/4 (2) with two of your aces, burying two men, but that leaves you with three men available for remaking the point you break.

That's not enough, especially with two of your three free men far away in your opponent's home board. Unless you reconstitute your closed board quickly, your opponent will have time to reenter, after which the game will become a positional game with all the action taking place in midfield and on his side of the board, where you have three free men to his eleven.

Perhaps I should digress to explain the concept of free men. A man is free if he is neither buried nor married (one of the two men that form a point that must be kept). The four men that form your opponent's 6-point and 5-point are not free. The two spares on those points and his other nine men are free.

So your first decision should be to move only one man in your home board and leave its mate slotted.

Your next consideration should be to maximize your chances of escaping your two back men and minimize the risk of further crashing on your own side of the board. The potential crashing numbers are 4s, so your second decision should be to create escaping 4s. That's easy: you must move 24/22 to be able to play 22/18 with a 4.

Thus the choice boils down to 24/22, 6/4 and 24/22, 5/3. Is there a tie-breaker?

Yes. The most awkward rolls are often large doublets, of which the worst here will be double-5s, which you will play 21/6, 11/6, leaving a lone back man stranded on your opponent's 3-point. After having played 24/22, 5/3 earlier, you will have only aces to remake your closed board, but after having played 24/22, 6/4 earlier, you will already have remade it. That is a bigger difference that the difference on double-6s next, which you will play 22/16, 21/9, 11/5, remaking your board if you've broken your 5-point and still leaving an inside blot-cum-slot if you've broken your 6-point, but at least having sprung your last back man.

So, I give a slight edge to 24/22, 6/4.—
Yours, Danny

ROLLOUT DATA

eXtreme Gammon rollout chart following 3600 trials of the top four play. (P = Black; O = White.) Numbers following the letter are: plain wins, gammons, and BGs.

24/22 6/4	+1.095
P: 63.5 41.2 0.1 O: 36.5 6.3 0.5	
24/22 5/3	+1.087
P: 63.1 41.3 0.1 O: 36.9 7.2 0.6	-0.008
24/21 5/4	+1.077
P: 63.8 40.1 0.1 O: 36.2 5.3 0.4	-0.019
24/21 6/5	+1.076
P: 64.2 39.6 0.1 O: 35.8 5.1 0.3	-0.019

Danny Responds: The rollouts support this conclusion, but surprise me in a way, as I didn't expect the plays that make the 4-anchor to be almost as good as diversifying escaping numbers. Safety on the 4-anchor is ephemeral, as the back men will soon have to wend their way through the outfield, and at this score gammon-losses are meaningless—*D.K. 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

2011 WORLDWIDE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

NATIONAL (Alphabetized by State)

American BG Tour: Ray Fogerlund (CA)
Arizona BG Club (AZ): Michael Ramsey
Gammon Associates (CA): Frank Ley
Backgammon By the Bay (CA): Ted Chee
Boulder Backgammon Club (CO): Ed Gazvoda
Suncoast BG Assoc. (FL): Jeff Burdsall
Tampa Bay BG Club (FL): Bob Carpenter
Atlanta Northside BG Club (GA): Carl Sorg
Bloomington-Normal BG Club (IL): Faddoul Khoury
Chicago Bar Point Club (IL): Rory Pascas
Pub Club (IL): Oleg Raygorodsky
Peoria Backgammon Club (IL): Faddoul Khoury
Sangamon Valley BG Assn. (IL): Jena Jennings
Winnetka Backgammon Club (IL): Neil Banoff
Hoosier BG Club (IN): Sean Garber
Hoosier BG Club—USBL (IN): Sean Garber
NW Indiana BG Assoc.: Dajuan Meekins
New Orleans BG Club (LA): Ray Gaudet
Baltimore BG Club (MD): Larry Cecchetti
Beltway Backgammon Club (MD): Bob Koca
New England BG Club (MA): Herb Gurland
Flint Area BG Club (MI): Carol Joy Cole
Grand Rapids BG Club (MI): Chris Haviland
Plymouth Backgammon Club (MI): Dean Adamian
Metro North BG Club (MI): Faris Gabbara
Twin Cities BG Club (MN): Steve Brown
Kansas City BG—USBL (MO): Eric Barr
Sante Fe Backgammon Club (NM): Ed Bennett
Durham/Chapel Hill BG Club (NC): John Snyder
Charlotte BG Club (NC): Vadim Musaelyan
Las Vegas BG Club (NV): Ramon Eleazar
Ohio State BG Club: Farhad Forudi
Charleston BG Society (SC): Brett Meyer
Nashville BG Association (TN): Joe Nolan
Dallas Backgammon League (TX): Cem Aslan
No. Virginia BG Club (VA): Frank Raposa
Bellingham BG Assoc. (WA): Michael Cain
Puget Sound BG Club (WA): Al Lunder
Madison BG Club (WI): Keene Marin

INTERNATIONAL

World Champion: Takumitsu Suzuki (Japan)
WBF Golden Circuit: To Be Determined
EBGT European Champ: Mario Sequeira (Portugal)
WBF European Champion: Shimon Kagan (Israel)
Danish Champion: Aron Tendler
BIBA Grand Prix Champ (UK): Julian Fetterlein
BIBA Ranking Champ (UK): Julian Fetterlein
Ottawa BG Club (Canada): Scott Douglas

'It Can Be Done Better!'

Ray Foglerlund talks about his ABT win & record-breaking year.

THUD!

That is how my record year in the ABT came to an end at the Sunshine State Classic, 16–18 December in Tarpon Springs, Florida. 0 for 3 . . . “Thank you very much for your participation, Mr. Foglerlund.”

Bill Davis won the event, and he went undefeated. Congratulations, Bill! He did this while overseeing first time American Backgammon Tour director Dimitur Alipiev's tournament organization and draw sheets.

I also helped a bit when I refused to take a payout for a field of 16, when only 8 players participated in the 1-point Mini-match event. Wasn't that nice of me?

That success along with a little side action and having 60% of finalist Walter Swan, helped replenish my wallet somewhat. All in all it, was a nice friendly tournament, even though attendance was low. Maybe people were getting ready for the holidays?



2011 ABT Player of the Year Ray Foglerlund.

As for the 2011 season, I was proud to set a new record for ABT points in one year—88.80. I honestly never thought anyone would approach Neil Kazaross's record performances of just over 70 points in two different years. There is

a reason he is number one all-time, and he clearly had a better year than I did. Deservedly so!

Neil is one of the highest-rated players

on the new USBGF ratings list, and one of the very few ever to have topped a rating of 1700. I, myself got close to that number mid-year at 1698 but have since fallen below 1600. I lost a *lot* of matches in 2011, especially in the first round of ABT events.

Of course I also had some remarkable streaks in the consolation or “losers” bracket of double elimination tournaments. I won seven straight to reach (and lose in) the Los Angeles Open, the event with the highest ABT points prize of the year.

I won ten straight to win Michigan, which had the largest Open attendance this year. I won nine straight after losing my first match to capture the Vietor Cup, a non-ABT event.

Those are impressive streaks for anyone and it points up the vulnerability of my brand new record in points. I mean, it is more than twice as hard to win a double elimination event from the loser's bracket than it is to do it when you win your first and subsequent matches.

Sometimes one needs only win six or seven matches in a row, or possibly as few as five depending on the size of the field. In my experience it adds two matches to your journey to emerge victorious after losing. Losing in the first round tends to compound the problem in progressive consolation events. So, clearly I was lucky. But I could have made *more* points *more easily*, had I not lost so much in the first round! I have always taken pride in being able to survive adversity, of which there is much in backgammon. But this year was ridiculous!

Therefore, an intelligent observer might note that if one of the young geniuses of this game gets motivated to attend and perform to their full capability, my new record is in danger!

I am speaking of course of players like Matt Cohn-Geier, Stick Rice (if he returns to the circuit), Falafel Natanzon now that he is in the USA, and Justin Nunez if he decides to travel.

Also dangerous: Alfred Mamlet and

any of the constantly changing top 10 on Grid Gammon. Check it out sometime. Join, play, and participate. FLY to a tournament. make the American Backgammon Tour your baby. I did.

Let's not forget Neil Kazaross, a man who has topped every team or list or club he has ever played in with one glaring exception: The Giants of Backgammon list. FYI it is time to vote for the GIANTS yet again. I hope you will follow my lead and vote for Neil as the number one player in the world.

He certainly deserves it for his level of play and his contributions to the game. He is always in the top 3 or 5 at least, but nobody really does it any better. Trust me, I know.

As a warning to all the young guns and players who will have me in their sights in 2012, I will be there again, but this time I will NOT be overconfident like I was after winning in 2007 and 2009. Overconfidence resulted in poor results in '08 and '10. I am still working on my game and I am motivated to succeed.

I plan to do it better in 2012. Bring your butt to an ABT event and try me, sometime.

Welcome Bill Davis to the world of online publishing. And thank you for your continued selfless contributions to backgammon in general, and the American Backgammon Tour specifically. We can't do it without you, and your Facebook updates (facebook.com/AmericanBackgammonTour) are the best innovation in quite some time. Bill Davis, you are the MAN.—Ray Foglerlund Δ

Congratulations, Ray, and thanks for the kind words. We will be in Pittsburgh to award you (1st—88.80), Harvey Gillis (2nd—40.16) and Neil Kazaross (3rd—37.73) marble trophies for your 2011 achievements. Additionally, the top 20 finishers will each receive a solid silver dollar coin (courtesy of Chicago Point, Ed Bennett, and Alan Grunwald).—Bill Davis

Rory Pascas Coasts to 2011 CBPC Player of the Year.

Congratulations to Chicago Open director Rory Pascas who earned 36.68 points to become Chicago Bar Point Club's 2011 Player of the Year. That's three out of the past four years that Rory has been our top player. And this year proved to be a real cakewalk.

Pascas opened 2011 winning Player of the Month honors in January, March, and April. In June, he led his nearest rival

by six points. And by October 11, Rory's total would prove to be greater than second place finisher Larry Goldstein's 29.60 points for all of 2011.

Runner-up Goldstein had a great year in his own right. Prior to this year, Larry's best finish had been 13th place.

Our third place finisher was Herb Roman with 28.96 points. This is the tenth year in a row that Herb has earned the right to play on our Top 6 Challenge Cup team. This year's other team members are Phil Simborg, David Rockwell, and Bob Steen.

The last week was a thriller for the final Challenge Cup spot. Bob Steen, Carter Mattig and Bill Davis all had a good chance. Davis won the Open, Mattig, the Masters; but Steen's 2nd place Open finish locked up his spot.

Bar Point Club Top 20 Awards will be given out Jan. 10th. Δ



2011 BPC Champ Rory Pascas.

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

This should be the standard followed in all divisions and flights of all tournaments. Privacy issues are rights we all have and we shouldn't have to discard those unknowingly when we check in to play.

More clarification on videotaping policies in tournament invitations should stop any problems and prevent a director from being put into an uncomfortable position again.

So put the entire policy in writing.—
Larry Buckingham, Dayton, Ohio

I began video recording my backgammon matches seriously as a study aid in early 2011. This came about after the chap that was supposed to record the 2010 Australian Open finals dropped, and broke, the camera.

Our regular chouette is now recorded, and interesting positions are analyzed and discussed the following week.

I have seen, and had to adjudicate on, some very dodgy situations. In one case an intentional misplay was only resolved by the spectators who were watching at the time. That's why I'm all for the use of video evidence to assist in tournament rulings. The one thing I have learned from reviewing my videos is that there are a lot

of errors that are missed by both sides. Seeing how many misplays are actually made has taught me to watch the checkers more closely.

In all my recordings over the past year, I have only come across one player who was mildly concerned; although he didn't really mind the cameras presence. But then I only use a very small camera on a tiny tripod.—*Tony Walker, via Internet*

I feel a few things in your December video recording clarification are very misleading if not downright wrong. First, the most obvious comes when you say "we've seen players bar their loved ones from watching their matches because of concentration issues. No problem. The rules allow it."

If you had stopped after the first sentence it would have been stretching it, but fine. Once you say "the rules allow it," though, that's entirely wrong. No player can bar another player from watching a backgammon match unless you've changed the rules without telling us about it. They can request the director to bar a player, but they cannot bar someone on their own.

The reason for recording in backgammon is to have a record of the match. You compare it to chess and Scrabble in the sense of video recording, but that comparison isn't fair. In chess, both players record the game and in Scrabble you're also al-

lowed to record the game (though without the help of your opponent, you won't have his full rack).

The poker "take movies of your faces" is donk. The only reason video recording isn't allowed in Scrabble or poker is fear of cheating, not because it would negatively affect anyone's concentration as you say is the reasoning we shouldn't force it on someone in backgammon.

You call people camera shy. What sense does that make? In backgammon you're recording the board and the match, not the people, so again it comes down to having a record of the match and nothing else which chess, Scrabble, and poker allow.—*Stick Rice, Columbus, Ohio*

Stick is correct that players cannot bar spectators. They must request the director to do that. But in reality, we have never heard of a husband or wife being barred by their spouse and then asking the director to overrule.

We believe that match videotaping is not just about "having a record of the match and nothing else." If that were the case, then as with chess, why don't these people learn to transcribe their matches with pencil and paper? (Remember, chess allows video recording by mutual agreement only.) We believe that setting up a video camera over the board is also about intimidation and gaining a psychological advantage from playing the match under conditions set by the videographer. Just ask any of the many players who do feel intimidated.—Ed.

DOUBLE ELIMINATION & BASEBALL

At Patrick Gibson's recent California State Championship, the second chance winner with one defeat only had to beat the undefeated winner one game to win the tournament. Instead, how about the following?

Given 11 point matches in the undefeated bracket (A) and 9 pt. matches in the one-loss bracket (B). If the B bracket winner finishes, in baseball parlance, ½ game ahead of the A bracket winner (i.e. 7-1 to 5-0) then A plays B one 11 pt. match for the championship. If, on the other hand the B and A bracket winner finish "even" in baseball parlance (i.e. 6-1 to 5-0) then A plays B one 13 point match with A getting a 3 point spot.

This approach gets away from the need to play a true double elimination, by having a defined championship match, and yet gives the A bracket winner an advantage when he has indeed earned it.—*Bruce Russell, Madison, Wisconsin* Δ

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

"A must if you haven't visited New Orleans."—Bill Davis

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

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

March 3-4 Three seats left!

Call Will Hunn 504/366-7498 to reserve one of the last spots for our March 2012 "Sweet 16" tourney or visit NolaBackgammon.org



Backgammon Clubs in North America

Information for this listing has been obtained directly from the featured backgammon clubs. Changes are inevitable and we suggest that you always call before attending. CHICAGO POINT would like to maintain an accurate listing of USA Backgammon Clubs online at: www.chicagopoint.com/usacclubs.html. Please send club information, including new clubs and club closings and updates to: **CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr #504; Chicago, IL 60659. 773/583-6464. E-mail: bg@chicagopoint.com**

WEST

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT (E-MAIL)	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Anchorage Backgammon Club	Title Wave Books	Anchorage, AK	Thursday & Saturday-5:00 PM	Bob Stoller (stoller@alaska.net)	907/522-2299	800 E. Dimond Blvd. #3-537; Anchorage, AK 99515
Arizona Backgammon Club	K O'Donnells Bar & Grill	Scottsdale, AZ	2nd Tuesday monthly-6:30 PM	Doug Amenda (doug@amendainsurance.com)	480/284-6400	15230 N. 75th St. #2031; Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Phoenix Backgammon Club-USBL	Baseline Sports Bar	Tempe, AZ	3rd Thursday monthly-7:00 PM	Joni Brummer (jonibrummer@hotmail.com)	623/206-1450	8613 N. 50th Lane; Glendale, AZ 85302
Backgammon By The Bay	Peking Express Restaurant	Berkeley, CA	2nd Saturday monthly-12:00 PM	Ted Chee (ted@bgbythebay.com)	831/261-4583	137 La Mesa Drive; Salinas, CA 93901
"	Britannia Arms Restaurant	Cupertino, CA	4th Saturday monthly-1:00 PM	"	"	"
Gammon Associates	El Torito	Burbank, CA	Wednesday-5:00 PM	Patrick Gibson (pgibsonmfc@roadrunner.com)	818/901-0464	7641 Orion Avenue; Van Nuys, CA 91406
"	A.R. Private Club	Los Angeles, CA	Sunday-2:45 PM	"	"	"
Backgammon Club of San Diego	Indulge Restaurant/Embassy Suites	La Jolla, CA	Tuesday-6:30 PM	Tom Fahland (tom_fahland@yahoo.com)	858/472-1516	415 S. Tremont Street; Oceanside, CA 92054
Boulder Backgammon Club	Rodeway Inn & Suites	Boulder, CO	1st, 3rd & 5th Thurs.-7:00 PM	Richard Siebold (rsiebold7@gmail.com)	720/233-5690	4644 Ashfield Drive; Boulder, CO 80301
Denver Backgammon Club	Fox & Hound Smokehouse	Littleton, CO	2nd & 4th Thurs.-7:00 PM	Lynda Clay (info@coloradobackgammon.com)	303/791-0271	5516 Samuel Peak; Highlands Ranch, CO 80130
Las Vegas Backgammon Club	Jackson's Bar & Grill	Las Vegas, NV	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Tony Anton (tonyanton@earthlink.net)	702/458-0926	2894 Casa Mia Lane; Las Vegas, NV 89121
Nevada Backgammon Association	Flamingo Hotel & Casino	Las Vegas, NV	Event dates: www.nvbg.com	Howard Markowitz (howardmarkowitz@yahoo.com)	702/218-8238	1001 Dumont Blvd. #115; Las Vegas, NV 89169
Backgammon Club of Santa Fe	La Posada Hotel	Santa Fe, NM	Tuesday-6:00 PM	Barbara McIntyre (b@barbaramac.com)	505/820-1815	3101 Old Pecos Trail #707; Santa Fe, NM 87505
Portland Backgammon Club	Spring Creek Coffee House	Milwaukee, OR	2nd Sunday monthly-4:00 PM	Rob Ingram (rob.ingram@yahoo.com)	503/805-1218	1802 SE 35th Place; Portland, OR 97214
Bellingham Backgammon Assoc.	Pacific Martial Arts	Bellingham, WA	3rd Sunday Monthly-6:15 PM	Michael Can (backgammon@pacificmartialarts.net)	360/733-6173	PO Box 2237; Bellingham, WA 98227
Puget Sound Backgammon Club	PJ Pockets Casino	Federal Way, WA	Tue.-7:30 PM, 1st or 2nd Sun.-2 PM	Kristina V'ig (justgammon@ymail.com)	253/230-6561	1415 S. 17th Street; Tacoma, WA 98405
Ballard Backgammon Club	Ristorante Piccolinos	Seattle, WA	Wed.-6:30 PM, tournament 3rd Wed.	David Burch (info@ballardbackgammonclub.com)	206/783-1414	3050 NW 63rd Street; Seattle, WA 98107

CENTRAL

Pub Club	Playoffs Sports Bar & Grill	Carol Stream, IL	Thursday-6:45 PM	Tim Mabee (Timmabee1@gmail.com)	630/606-2388	224 Split Oak Road; Naperville, IL 60565
Bloomington-Normal BG Club	Ride The Nine	Bloomington, IL	Monday-6:00 PM	Michael Flohr (michael.flohr@frontier.com)	309/662-7967	707 Broadmoor Drive; Bloomington, IL 61704
Chicago Bar Point Club	Aegean Isles Restaurant	Niles, IL	Tue.-6:30 PM, Sun. bimonthly-12 PM	Bill Davis (bg@chicagopoint.com)	773/583-6464	3940 W. Bryn Mawr #504; Chicago, IL 60659
Peoria Backgammon Club	Peoria Pizza Works	Peoria, IL	Thursday-6:30 PM	Sue Will (cruiserbag@comcast.net)	309/699-6005	147 Field Grove Court; East Peoria, IL 61611
Sangamon Valley BG Association	Capitol Teletrack	Springfield, IL	Wednesday-6:00 PM	Randy Armstrong (randya1@comcast.net)	217/622-9447	2012 N. 20th Street; Springfield, IL 62702
Springfield Series	Various locations	Central Illinois	Sat. monthly/Oct.-Apr.-11:30 AM	"	"	"
Winnetka Backgammon Club	Winnetka Community House	Winnetka, IL	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Trudie Chibnik (winnbackgammon@aol.com)	847/446-0537	740 Ballantrae Drive; Northbrook, IL 60062
Hoosier Backgammon Club	Buffalo Wild Wings	Indianapolis, IN	Wednesday-6:30 PM	Sean Garber (seagar1824@yahoo.com)	317/241-0605	1824 N. Auburn Street; Speedway, IN 46224
Northwest Indiana BG Association	VFW Hall	Porter, IN	2nd Saturday monthly-12:30 PM	Charlie Halberstadt (chbug@yahoo.com)	219/617-5566	P.O. Box 84; Westville, IN 46391
Southwest Michigan BG Club	The Livery	Benton Harbor, MI	Tuesday-7:30 PM	Marc Churchill (marcochurchill170@comcast.net)	269/207-9996	PO Box 30; Coloma, MI 49038
Flint Area Backgammon Club	Sharky's Sports Bar	Burton, MI	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Carol Joy Cole (cjc@flintbg.com)	810/232-9731	3719 Greenbrook Lane; Flint, MI 48507
Plymouth Backgammon Club	TC Gator's	Canton, MI	Tuesday-7:30 PM	Dean Adamian (deanadamian@gmail.com)	734/981-5706	42954 Barchester; Canton, MI 48187
Metro North Backgammon Club	Crash Landing	Warren, MI	Monday-7:00 PM	Paul Berg (p.berg@att.net)	313/330-7803	921 Winchester; Lincoln Park, MI 48146
Grand Rapids Backgammon Club	Anazeh Sands West	Wyoming, MI	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Bob Kamp (4thekamps@comcast.net)	616/956-1910	322 Clements Mill Court; Ada, MI 49301
Twin Cities Backgammon Club	Chester Bird Amer. Legion Hall	Golden Valley, MN	Thursday-7:00 PM	David Minikus (dminikus@comcast.net)	612/718-2613	6300 Phoenix Street; Golden Valley, MN 55427
Kansas City Backgammon Club-USBL	Lew's Grill & Bar	Kansas City, MO	1st & 3rd Tuesday-6:30 PM	Eric Barr (mister.eb@gmail.com)	816/237-8089	7637 Bellevue Avenue; Kansas City, MO 64114

(Continued on opposite side)

Backgammon Clubs In North America

(Continued from opposite side)

CENTRAL (continued)

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT (E-MAIL)	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Ohio State Backgammon Club	Brubaker's Pub	Akron, OH	Sat. & Sun. monthly--2:00 PM	Joe Miller (osbc@neo.rr.com)	330/268-4610	1066 Winston Street, Akron, OH 44314
Dayton Backgammon Club--USBL	Varies--contact director	Dayton vicinity, OH	Last Sunday monthly--12:45 PM	Teresa Wonderly (backgammonny@aol.com)	937/233-5786	5400 Pitcairn Road, Huber Heights, OH 45424
Miami Valley Backgammon Club	Cadillac Jack's	Kettering, OH	2nd Sunday monthly--12:30 PM	Roger Foster (MVBackgammon@woh.rr.com)	937/864-1748	4151 W. Enon Drive, Enon, OH 45323
Columbus Backgammon Club	Max & Erma's	Reynoldsburg, OH	1st Sunday monthly--12:30 PM	Jason Marshall (jason@columbusbg.org)	614/633-6229	3574 Whisper Creek Drive, Columbus, OH 43231
Cincinnati Backgammon Players Club	Max & Erma's	Sharonville, OH	1st Sunday monthly--12:00 PM	Peter Carcieri (pac417@cincybg.com)	401/286-7336	6926 Jerry Drive, West Chester, OH 45069
Dallas Backgammon League	IHOP	Addison, TX	Wednesday--8:00 PM	Tom Wheeler (zwheel@sboglobal.net)	972/484-3038	3705 Pageant Place, Dallas, TX 75244
Austin Backgammon Club	Doubletree Hotel	Austin, TX	Monday--7:00 PM	Leslye Joy DeMoss (leslye@isp.com)	512/251-3719	411 Sarah Street, San Marcos, TX 78666
Madison Backgammon Club	Basie's--Radisson Hotel	Madison, WI	Tuesday--6:30 PM	Bill Minser (bill@madisonbg.com)	608/354-7573	2416 Bydawe Trail, Fitchburg, WI 53711
Milwaukee Backgammon Club	John Hawk's Pub	Milwaukee, WI	2nd Wednesday monthly--7:00 PM	Bob Holyon (bhole64@yahoo.com)	414/530-9283	911 S. 11th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204

NORTHEAST

Connecticut Backgammon Club	Various locations	www.meetup.com/CT-Backgammon-Club/calendar/list		Ross Gordon (ross@grossrunners.com)	203/521-7866	42 Overton Avenue, Milford, CT 06460
Baltimore Backgammon Club	The Charred Rib	Timonium, MD	1st & 3rd Tuesday--7:00 PM	Vic Morawski (vmorawski@juno.com)	443/208-7432	3358 Hickory Ave., Baltimore, MD 21211
New England Backgammon Club	Dockside Restaurant	Malden, MA	Saturday monthly--12:00 PM	Herb Gurland (herb.gurland@gmail.com)	781/324-0892	62 Newman Road, Malden, MA 02148
Mid Jersey Backgammon Club	Town & Country Inn	Keyport, NJ	Thursday--7:30 PM	Alan Grunwald (midjerseybg@gmail.com)	973/214-7288	205 Doe Trail, Morganville, NJ 07751
Midtown Backgammon & Chess Club	Club Room	New York, NY	Daily--12 PM, Side play	Beverly Flowers (flowers_beverly@hotmail.com)	212/575-2003	142 West 36th Street, Room 402, New York, NY 10025
Pair-O-Dice Backgammon	Rubenstein Atrium/Lincoln Center	New York, NY	Sunday monthly--12:00 PM	Antoinette Williams (montecarlbg@gmail.com)	212/222-7177	135 W. 106th Street #4C, New York, NY 10025
Northern Virginia Backgammon Club	Bailey's Pub & Grille	Arlington, VA	Monday--6:45 PM	Bill Pow (bill_22003@hotmail.com)	703/577-1927	9310 Hedgerford St., Manassas Park, VA 20111
Beltway Backgammon Club	O'Malley's Pub/Crowne Plaza	McLean, VA	18+ Sundays/year --12:15 PM	Barry Silliman (sillybazz@belwaybg.org)	240/674-7222	P.O. Box 612, Walkersville, MD 21793
Richmond Backgammon League	Cafe Caturra	Richmond, VA	1st Tues., 3rd Wed. mthly--5:30 PM	Daniel Peters (kdp920@hotmail.com)	804/201-5813	5618 Jessup Station Place, Richmond, VA 23234
Kanawha Rifles Backgammon Club	Panera Bread	S. Charleston, WV	2nd Tuesday monthly--6:00 PM	Edward Burgess (edchessman@gmail.com)	304/444-6302	851 Hughes Drive, Saint Albans, WV 25177

SOUTH

Downtown Hollywood BG Club	Taverna Yamas	Hollywood, FL	Saturday--12:30 PM	North Hamrad (backgammonclub@rockemail.com)	954/274-2054	500 Three Islands Blvd., Hallandale Beach, FL 33009
Suncoast Backgammon Association	Perkins Restaurant	Sarasota, FL	Monday & Friday--6:30 PM	Bob Carpenter (gammon167@yahoo.com)	727/424-9019	1801 E. Lake Road #12E, Palm Harbor, FL 34685
Tampa Bay Backgammon Club	Hampton Inn & Suites	Tarpon Springs, FL	Thursday--7:00 PM	Dimitur Alpiev (bgchump@gmail.com)	727/786-9133	450 Hadley Drive, Palm Harbor, FL 34683
Atlanta Northside Backgammon Club	Crown Plaza Hotel-Ravenna	Roswell, GA	Wednesday--7:00 pm	Jerry Godsey (jerrygod2000@hotmail.com)	770/612-0818	1795 High Trail, Atlanta, GA 30339
"	Varies. Contact director	Greater Atlanta area	Last Sunday monthly--2:00 PM	"	"	"
Louisville Backgammon Club	Fox & Hound Pub & Grille	Louisville, KY	1st & 3rd Tuesday--6:30 PM	Quint McTyeire (nmm@gdm.com)	502/587-3672	4906 Crofton Road, Louisville, KY 40207
New Orleans Backgammon Club	Flora's Cafe	New Orleans, LA	Wednesday--6:30 PM	Will Hunn (willhunn@cox.net)	504/366-7498	180 Willow Drive, Gretna, LA 70053
Charlotte Backgammon Club	Dilworth Neighborhood Grille	Charlotte, NC	Mon--7 PM, 1st Wed. monthly--7 PM	David Rogers (dashro@carolina.rr.com)	704/965-3573	2903 N. Davidson St. #1031, Charlotte, NC 28205
Durham/Chapel Hill BG Club	Jason's Deli	Durham, NC	Monday--6:00 PM	Ken Larsen (klarsen1@nc.rr.com)	919/942-8635	807 Emory Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Charleston Backgammon Society	O'Charley's	N. Charleston, SC	Tuesday--6:30 PM	Brett Meyer (mbmeyer@comcast.net)	843/552-5426	8058 Long Shadow Lane, N. Charleston, SC 29406
Nashville Backgammon Association	Edgefield Sports Bar & Grill	Nashville, TN	Monday--6:30 PM	Rollow Mickle (rollmick@comcast.net)	615/942-9979	1518 Compton Avenue #C, Nashville, TN 37212

CANADA

Ottawa Backgammon Club	Buster's Bar & Grill	Ottawa, ON	1st Sun. mthly except Jul. & Aug.--10 AM	Eden Windish (Eden.Windish@hc-sc.gc.ca)	613/741-2530	396 Bangs St., Ottawa ON, K1K 2N6; Canada
Vancouver Backgammon Club	The Firefighters' Club	Burnaby, VC	1st Sunday monthly at 1:00 PM	Pat MacNeil (snappys@shaw.ca)	604/241-1986	9131 Glenallan Dr., Richmond, BC V7A 2S6 Canada

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!

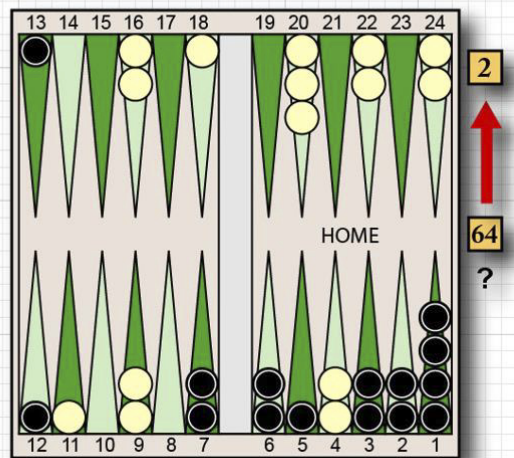


ABT CONTEST—WIN \$20

When said together, these three pictures represent a person, place, or thing associated with "Backgammon." If you think you have the answer, mark "solved" as your comment. (If anyone posts the solution now, no money will be awarded.) Contest closes Friday Dec. 9 at 2:00pm, Chicago time. We'll randomly pick one of the entrants and give them the chance to post their answer. A correct answer will win \$20 USD.



Randolph Scott (Black) on roll. The Jacoby Rule is NOT in effect (you can win a gammon without turning the cube). SHOULD BLACK DOUBLE?



What is this? • ¿Qué es esto?



The diagram illustrates a 24-slot memory bank. The top half (slots 1-12) and bottom half (slots 13-24) each contain a sequence of green and light green triangles. The bottom half also includes stacks of black and white circles in slots 19-24. A legend on the right shows a stack of yellow circles and a yellow square with the number 2.

CHICAGO
POINT
A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

January 2012

WINNER'S CIRCLE

DEC. 2011–JAN. 2012



•**EBGT Grand Finale** (Lefkosa, Cyprus; 1–7 Dec.)... PLAY65/EBGT GRAND FINALE (24): 1-Mario Sequeira (Portugal), 2-Jürgen Orlowski (Germany), 3-Konstantinos Mitrelis (Greece) . . . *This event concluded the 4th Cyprus Open, results of which were posted in the Dec. CHICAGO POINT.*

•**BIBA Christmas UK Finals** (Hinckley, England; 2–4 Dec.)... OPEN: 1-Arthur Wright, 2-Rachel Rhodes, 3/4-Yan Kit Chan / Andy Darby; 1C-Michelle Ford, 2C-Chris Ternel; 1LC-Dorothy Lee. FRIDAY 500 (16): 1-Michael Crane, 2-Anabel Carrington, 3/4-Rosey Bensley / Tony Fawcett. SNOWBALL: 1-Chris Ternel, 2-Rosey Bensley. CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS: Peter Bennet. DOUBLES: 1-Jingle Bells, 2-Holly & Ivy. POKER: 1-Mick Vacarey, 2-Julian Minwalla. ROSEY'S ROLLOUT: Peter Christmas.

•**3rd Meribel Tournament** (Meribel, France; 7–11 Dec.)... OPEN (41): 1-Bengt Christensen (Denmark), 2-Katja Sophie Spillum (Norway), 3/4-Jakob Krogh Jørgensen (Denmark) / Phillip Vouhé (France); 1C-Klaus Rydeng (Denmark), 2C-Alain Babillon (France), 3C/4C-Thierry Manouck (France) / Werner Schmucki (Austria); 1LC-Bozhidar Stoyanov (Bulgaria), 2LC-Carter Mattig (USA). MID-FLIGHT (19): 1-Jacques Wehli (Switzerland), 2-Arina Duquenne (Russia), 3/4-Jean-Noel Duval (France) / Jean-Jacques Issartel (France); 1C-Omari Dvali (Georgia), 2C-Patrick Martel (France); 1LC-Serge Tournois (France), 2LC-Loui Westin (Sweden). SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-Michel Serrero (France), 2-Bozhidar Stoyanov (Bulgaria). HIGHEST LITTLE TOURNAMENT IN THE WORLD (38): 1-Bozhidar Stoyanov (Bulgaria), 2-Carter Mattig (USA), 3-Ricardo Malas (Spain). PRE-TOURNAMENT (12+4): 1-Raj Jansari (England), 2-Steen Grønbech (Denmark). WARM-UP TOURNAMENT (48): 1-Katja Sophie Spillum (Norway), 2-Alain Babillon (France), 3-Raj Jansari (England), 4-Robin Neumann (Denmark). GANG TOURNAMENT (20): 1-Thomas Jespersen (Denmark), 2-Carter Mattig (USA). SPEEDGAMMON (16): 1-Carter Mattig (USA), 2-Georges Grünbaum (Switzerland). 1-POINTER (64): 1-Serge Dahan (France), 2-Nicolas Deloche (Switzerland), 3/4-Charles Lecomte (France) / Valérie Touvet (France). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1- 3 Oeufs Durs: Thierry Manouck (France) & Michel Serrero (France), 2-Better Not End Late: Steen Grønbech (Denmark) & Carter Mattig (USA), 3/4-Mal-kee: Malcolm Robertson (Hong Kong) & Sue Keeble (England) / Rassoul & JP: Rassoul Rasti (Switzerland) & Jean-Pierre Schoeffel (Switzerland).

•**New England Club Monthly** (Malden, MA; 10 Dec.)... OPEN (16): 1-Howard Rosenthal, 2-Herb Gurland, 3/4-Tom O'Riordan / Mark Houser, 1C-Alex

Zamanian, 2C-Marcus Hermansen

•**Pair-O-Dice Monthly** (New York, NY; 11 Dec.)... OPEN (16): 1-Michael Pustilnik, 2-Michael Sall; 1C-Boris Dekhtyar. INTERMEDIATE (6): 1-Lisa Harmon, 2-Jeff Haber; 1C-Gabby Golan (NJ). BEGINNER (4): 1-Douglas Jaime, 2-Claire Hathaway.

•**Sunshine State Classic—ABT** (Tarpon Springs, FL; 16–18 Dec.): OPEN (13): 1-Bill Davis (IL), 2-Walt Swan (NJ). ADVANCED (16): 1-Rick Wolf (FL), 2-Marc Grutka (FL). NOVICE (8): 1-Moty Bernstein (FL), 2-Rosanne Rutnik (FL). MASTERS (8): 1-Stacy Turner (FL), 2-Jeff Burdsall (FL). GULF COAST DOUBLES (12 teams): 1-Jeff Burdsall (FL), 2-Ray Foglerund (NV) & Neal Weiner (FL). MICRO-BLITZ (32): 1-Stacy Turner (FL). 1-POINTER (8): 1-Ray Foglerund (NV). AFTER TOURNAMENT (15): 1/2-Kathy Weiner (FL) / Bob Wright (FL).



Director Dimitur Alipiev (R) awards Bill Davis a crystal die trophy for winning the premiere Sunshine State Classic.

•**2011 Bloomington-Normal Top 10 Playoffs** (Bloomington, IL; 2 Jan.)... OPEN (10): 1-Lucas Bauer, 2-Faddoul Khoury; 1C-Scott Rudebeck, 2C-Michael Flohr.

•**New York Metropolitan Open—ABT** (Jersey City, NJ)... CHAMPIONSHIP (55+15 rebuys): 1-Victor Ashkenazi, 2-Bill Phipps, 3/4-Arkadiy Tsinis / Antonio Ortega (Costa Rica); 1C-Jeff Acierno, 2C-Mike Senkiewicz, 3C/4C-Donny Lomato (NY) / Alfred Mamlet (MD); 1LC-Matt Cohn-Geier (NV), 2LC-Petko Kostadinov. INTERMEDIATE (50+10 rebuys): 1-Arthur Sutton (NJ), 2-Cloyd Laporte (NY), 3/4-Donald Gabbai (VA) / Milton Gonzalez (Costa Rica); 1C-Keith Gershenson (NY), 2C-Ruben Martirosyan (NY), 3C/4C-Branden Macklin (MD) / Jim Ryan (NY); 1LC-Rick Wolf, 2LC-Jim Kennis. BEGINNER (14): 1-Joan Grunwald (NJ), 2-Julia Sommer (NY); 1C-Nick Retzkin (NY). USBGF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (192): 1-Arkadiy Tsinis (NV), 2-Ed O'Laughlin. LIBERTY CUP MASTERS (25+7 rebuys): 1-Bill Phipps, 2-Dion Hogan (MI). LIMITED JACKPOT (26+6 rebuys): 1-Rick Wolf (FL), 2-Brandon Macklin (MD), 3/4-Leon Marini (NJ) / Arman Karaminian (NY). NEW YORK DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Jeff Acierno (NY) & Steven Keats (NY), 2-Falafel Natanzon (ISR/USA) & Victor Ashkenazi (NJ). SENIORS TOURNAMENT (32): 1-Brent Cohen (PA), 2-Alex Gerding (FL). PETER KASTURAS JUNIORS TOURNAMENT (2): 1-Stephen Collins, 2-Jamie Rosen (NY). Δ

AMALGAMATION

A new location for the Chicago Bar Point Club beginning in February: Aegean Isles in Niles, Illinois. Go to chicagopoint.com/bpc.html for more details... Boston Red Sox general manager **Ben Cherington** has a new year's resolution: "Beat [BoSox president] **Larry Lucchino** in Backgammon."... **Rynell Nunez** (CA) and the USBGF did an outstanding job broadcasting live matches from the New York Metro tournament... **Massimiliano Calusio** (Italy) sent us a link to a classic backgammon scene with **Humphrey Bogart** and **Ava Gardner** in "The Barefoot Contessa." You can view it at the ABT Facebook site under "Photos/Videos."... California State director **Patrick Gibson** received an "anonymous surprise" at his California State Championship including brass anchor bookends, treasure coins, pirate statue, life preserver clock, and a letter of praise. "Captain" Gibson (who has a nautical background) responded: "I am very flattered by the whole surprise and very touched by the sentiments expressed in the beautiful letter. To whomever is responsible for this wonderful surprise, thank you very much."... Get well wishes to **Tom Holmberg** (IL) recovering from knee surgery... What did actress **Lucy Liu** do for the holiday? "On Christmas, we're going to hike and see a movie and play backgammon."... Guests at **Christina Aguilera's** 31st birthday bash at L.A.'s Spare Room "...bowled and played board games including Connect Four, Checkers, and Backgammon. Christina is really competitive and wanted games to be a part of the party."... We hear that **Walt Swan** (NJ) has a new hobby: stand-up comedy at clubs... What did Miami Heat team president **Pat Riley** do during the NBA lockout? According to ESPN he played a lot of gin rummy and backgammon. He claims to be the No. 1 backgammon player in the Heat front offices... According to an article in SFGate.com, seniors need to stay active and engaged for good mental health. "While dementia and short-term memory loss are common among seniors, mentally-stimulating activities can help them delay or possibly even prevent the onset of these conditions." Backgammon is mentioned as a good game for maintaining cognitive function... The "Amalgamation" column first appeared in the January 1980 *Gammon's of Chicago* newsletter. Thirty-two years. Where did the time go?... "When you look for the bad in mankind expecting to find it, you surely will." That's my favorite quote.—*Bill Davis Δ*

CSI: BACKGAMMON

MARCH 9-11, 2012
SHERATON GATEWAY SUITES
ROSEMONT, ILLINOIS
FREE AIRPORT SHUTTLE!

\$600 ADDED MONEY if you wear a dress shirt and tie. Women need only dress appropriately.



www.chicagopoint.com/csi2012.html

WE'RE SAILING AGAIN
19-26 JANUARY 2013

Backgammon & Poker
On Board XI

ONE YEAR TO PREPARE.

WEBSITE TO BE POSTED
LATER THIS MONTH.

CHICAGOPOINT.COM/
BGONBOARD.HTML



2012 OHIO STATE BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIPS

The People-Friendly Tournament!

Lecture & Calcutta
by Phil Simborg

Cleveland Airport Marriott Hotel

4277 West 150th Street; Cleveland, Ohio

Thursday Warm-Up
Tourney—7:00 pm

March 23-25, 2012

Free shuttle
to and from
the Airport.



CLOCK USE NOT REQUIRED.
May be used if both players agree, or
if deemed necessary by Director.

\$89 rooms.
800/627-7468
Reserve by
March 15.

Open, Advanced, & Novice; Master & Amateur Jackpots; Doubles, Blitz & Quickies

Your hosts: Joe & Fran Miller • 330/268-4610 • osbc@neo.rr.com

For more info: home.roadrunner.com/~osbclub