

partygammon million

WITNESS TO HISTORY

Jake Jacobs reports from the PartyGammon Million

When we last heard from Germany's Andreas Märtens, he was collecting a giant insect as his trophy at the fourth Thai Open. After which he faded into the mists, never to be...

Six 3-Star Michelin chefs, eleven courses, ten wines, all for a million baht (not including service charge). How much is one million baht? About what the Atlantis Resort charges for breakfast!

So there were Svobo and I, together weighing more than the plane we were riding in, seated on the same side of the aisle. Would we have to fly all the way to Nassau at a 45° tilt!?

Damn, it's hard to come up with a good opening to an article! But this *is* CHICAGO POINT, so let's scrap those. I know you want to know how Chicago did: were we better than the Bears?

Well . . . Including erstwhile Chicagoans like me we were well represented. I am normally the well-traveled one in the crowd, but I may have to cede my title, as I was rooming with Carter Mattig, Chicago's Goodwill Ambassador to the World.



PartyGammon Million winner Andreas Märtens [All photos by Jake Jacobs]



Carter with Scarlett Serrero from France.

Carter was knocked out early, and so as he put it, "I got to work on my \$12,000 sun tan!"

Faring better were David Wells, Neil Kazaross, and I; we all reached the round of 32. Doing still better was Restaurateur Freddie Chamanara who made it to the round of 16 before losing to Ralf Jonas. But the round of 16 was one round shy of the money. It was up to Sakura Sugawara to salvage our honor by coming in second in the \$1000 Jackpot (to Russia's Nodar Gagau). Way to go Sakura!



The Wells's: Sakura, Mama, and Amanda

If you are not sure what we are talking about, or wondering why there is a camera boom in the background, the answer is: The Million. Last month history was being made on Paradise Island, Bahamas, as the world's first "Million Dollar Backgammon Tournament" was held under the aegis of PartyGammon.

Paradise came with a price. As hinted above, the resort was very expensive. It was also huge, so getting from the rooms to the playing room was quite a hike. There were also some issues with the TV cameras. Those were the negatives. But oh, the positives!

Besides the giant prize money, there was the incredible field. There have probably been tournaments in the past that were more *dense* with talent, but there has never been a tournament with so *many* top players. Twenty-five of the Giant 32 attended, and that was just for starters. I have in front of me the auction sheet, and see that several of the fields went for as much as \$1200.

[Continued on page 6]

29th pittsburgh championships

IT'S NAZARIAN IN PITT Giovanis captures Grandmasters

Dana Nazarian of Sunnyvale, CA rallied from a 2-8 deficit against David Todd to capture the Pittsburgh Championships 13-11. Steve Hast directed the backgammon/food Bacchanalia, now in its 29th year. The Airport Holiday Inn near Pittsburgh provided the venue over the President's Day weekend 16-18 February.



Pittsburgh director Steve Hast is flanked by Pitt winner Dana Nazarian (L) and runner-up David Todd (R).

To reach the finals, Dana defeated Gregg Cattanach (GA), ABT's #2 man in 2006. Even the intimidating presence of Gregg's trophy at the table couldn't stop Dana's hot dice. The other semifinal match was much closer with David Todd (MO) winning a close one over Florida's Linda MacLean.



2006 ABT trophies were presented to (from left) Ken Fischer (3rd), Richard Munitz (1st), and Gregg Cattanach (2nd) prior to the Calcutta Auction.

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CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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Subscription Rates: \$30/12 issues (\$50/24 issues) in US and Canada. \$40/12 issues (\$70/24 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

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MOBILE FIBS?

Is there a download for a FIBS backgammon board for Windows Mobile 2003?—
John Calcott, via e-mail

Gammon Links webmaster Mel Leifer answers: Check out FIBS CE 1.1 at http://geocities.com/mau_butti/FibsCE/index.htm

*Here are two for cell phones:
www.harmoniccode.com/MobileFIBS/
<http://mobilebg2.sourceforge.net/mobilebgfibs.html>*

CONGRATS TO HERB

I want to offer my personal congratulations to Herb Roman for becoming the 2006 Bar Point Club Champ. I didn't believe a word of his acceptance speech about being lucky. Every match I played against Herb was on Snowie, and there is no question in my mind that he has studied and worked hard, elevated his game, and he deserved the title.

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31				

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

*Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Mar 10*	Backgammon By the Bay, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Mar 10*	Drew McCulloch Classic, Dugout Sports Bar & Grill, Houston, Texas	281/687-1673
Mar 10*	Kansas City Winter Classic, Harpo's, Kansas City, Missouri	816/916-6599
Mar 10*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Mar 11*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, U. of Dayton Kennedy Union, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Mar 11*	New York Monthly, Midtown BG & Chess Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Mar 11*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Mar 15*	Third Thursday Bonus (Ohio State), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Mar 17*	Phoenix Free Monthly—USBL, Glendale Gaslight Inn, Glendale, Arizona	602/296-4307
Mar 17*	2nd Rocky Mountain Regional, Ramada Inn Continental, Denver, Colorado	720/979-3620
Mar 18*	New England Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	718/324-0892
Mar 18*	24th Fleet Underwood Memorial, Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Mar 19*	14th Annual FIBS Spring Tournament, via computer	e-mail: fibs@escaffery.com
Mar 23-25	<u>2007 Midwest Championships, Wyndham Lisle Hotel, Lisle, Illinois</u>	773/583-6464
Mar 24*	Austin Club Saturday Bimonthly, Doubletree Hotel, Austin, Texas	512/261-8518
Mar 24*	Backgammon By the Bay, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Mar 25*	Colorado Monthly, La Loma Restaurant, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
Mar 25*	Dayton Monthly Free Roll—USBL, Barnes & Noble, Beavercreek, Ohio	937/890-2536
Apr 1	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Ramada Plaza, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Apr 1*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, U. of Dayton Kennedy Union, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Apr 1*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Apr 2*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Apr 4*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's, Kansas City, Missouri	816/916-6599
Apr 7*	Springfield Series, LAP's Sports Bar, Springfield, Illinois	217/622-9447
Apr 8*	New York Monthly, Midtown BG & Chess Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Apr 8*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Apr 14*	Backgammon By the Bay, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Apr 14*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Apr 14*	Tax Refund Classic, Dugout Sports Bar & Grill, Houston, Texas	281/687-1673
Apr 13-15	<u>13th Ohio State Championships, Airport Marriott Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio</u>	330/268-4610
May 4-6	<u>1st Southeast Championships, Holiday Inn Dunwoody, Atlanta, Georgia</u>	678/982-3203
May 23-27	<u>23rd Nevada State Tournament, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	702/893-6025
Jun 3*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Ramada Plaza, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jun 8-10*	<u>Los Angeles Open, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, California</u>	818/901-0464
Jul 5-8	<u>32nd Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton, Novi, Michigan</u>	810/232-9731
Aug 3-5	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York</u>	585/396-0969
Aug 16-19*	<u>Florida State Championship, Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, Florida</u>	954/564-0340
Aug 31-Sep 3	<u>Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin</u>	608/516-9109
Sep 28-30*	<u>Colorado State Championships, Hilton Hotel, Denver, Colorado</u>	720/979-3620
Oct 19-21*	<u>Illinois State Championships, Holiday Inn City-Centre, Peoria, Illinois</u>	309/224-9579
Nov 30-Dec 2*	<u>California State Championship, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, California</u>	818/901-0464

OUTSIDE USA

Mar 23-25*	Gammonitis Falstaff Tournament, Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa, England	441634-821107
Mar 26-Apr 1*	\$250K Crowns Cup Challenge Invitational, Berlin, Germany	49715-422222
Mar 30-Apr 1	2nd Tegernsee Open, Hotel zur Post, Bad Wiessee, Germany	49711-486190
Mar 31-Apr 1	<u>Xciting Games British Open, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England</u>	441522-888676
Apr 5-9	EBGT: <u>TrueMoneygames Nordic Open, Marienlyst Hotel, Helsingør, Denmark</u>	453336-3601
Apr 14-15	3rd Annual Backgammon X, Spread Eagle, Croydon, England	442086-884296
Apr 18-22*	PGT: 8th Paris Master & Open, Lutetia Hotel, Paris, France	331-4764-5938
Apr 27-29*	Gammonitis Barnett Tournament, Barnett Hill, Guildford, England	441634-821107
Apr 28-May 1	7th City of Jesolo Tournament, Lido di Jesolo, Venice, Italy	393283-380725
May 5-6	County Cups Trophy, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
May 10-13*	PGT: Lyon Open, Casino le Lyon Vert, Lyon, France	331-4764-5938
May 11-13	19th WBF European Championship & 6th Velden Open, Velden, Austria	390331-923537
May 16-20*	EBGT: 2nd Portuguese Open & Grand Prix d'Estoril, near Lisbon, Portugal	491715-422222
May 24-27	3rd Aix-les-Bains Open, Casino Grand Cercle, Savoie, France	336-60639726
May 25-28*	GammonitisGames UK Masters, Woodside, Kenilworth, England	441634-821107
May 25-28	Xciting-Cup, Mercure Hotel, Köln/Cologne, Germany	49711-486190
Jun 1-3*	Austrian Masters Finale, Cafe Heine, Vienna, Austria	436642-404285
Jun 2-3*	Hilton Trophy, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Jun 7-10*	Braunlage-Harz-Cup, Hotel Hohenzollern, Braunlage, Germany	49521-64314
Jun 7-10*	PGT: Belgium Open, Casino Knokke, Knokke le Zoute, Belgium	3314764-5938
Jun 30-Jul 1*	Keren Di Bona Memorial, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Jul 9-15	32nd World Championship, Fairmont Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA: 954/527-4033
Jul 17-22*	PGT: Nations Cup & Riviera 5, Palm Beach Casino, Cannes, France	331-4764-5938

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

In fact, I think the final standings this year reflect the players' skills extremely well. If you were to put everyone's matches in Snowie every time, I am confident that Herb and Taki would be at the top and very close (along with Bob Zavoral who didn't place simply because he didn't come that often).

As for the rest of the field, again, I believe Snowie would show that Dave Rockwell, Bill Davis and I would be next in line, with the possible exception of Carter who also missed a lot of Tuesday nights and had a bad year at the club because he was worried too much about his teenage daughter getting so pretty.

I also think Linda Rockwell deserves a lot of credit for her finish as "leading lady" at the club . . . she too has worked hard on her game and I personally think she is the scariest person with a cube in her hand I have ever played, except for maybe Lucky

Nelson (who will hopefully return to the club soon so I can start eating at better restaurants again).

Congratulations to the BPC on having another great year, with the Masters event filled every week; with an Open event that drew many players and many new players to the game; with a policy that gave free entry to new players to encourage them to come; and with your help in setting up a most successful children's tournament in honor of our beloved friend, Howard Ring.—*Phil Simborg, Chicago, Illinois*

A NOTE FROM PAUL STRASBERG

After a long backgammon layoff, I was excited to win the Advanced division in Charlotte 17 January. The whole week-end made me reminisce about my parents [1980s Louisville directors Larry & Sylvia Strasberg—Ed.] and how much they loved coming to, hosting, and playing in backgammon tournaments. What amazes me is that I could count only about eight of the 115 people in attendance that had ever

been to a Louisville Labor Day event in 1988. That's quite a rate of attrition over 19 years.—*Paul Strasberg, Fairfax, Virginia*

TOUGH QUIZ

I took your "To Hit Or Not To Hit" quiz in the January POINT and managed only *one* correct answer. What a difficult series of problems to face in one game!—*Ben Elliott, Durham, North Carolina*

A number of expert players had similar results.—Ed.

BG RULES IN POLISH?

I am a regular backgammon player in Scotland and have been asked by a friend if I can find a set of backgammon rules in Polish. Can you help me in finding this?—*Colin Longworth, via Internet*

Gammon Links editor Mel Leifer to the rescue: www.kurnik.pl/tryktrak/zasady.phtml

DOG FOOD?

After a delay in the mail, I just called home and my first issue of CHICAGO POINT arrived. At first my wife told me the dog ate it and I almost had a heart attack!—*Matthew Cullen, Richmond, Virginia*

YOU READ IT HERE FIRST

Over the last few weeks, POINT readers have heard a lot of dishonest men falsely claiming to be the father of Anna Nicole Smith's baby. I am getting a lawyer and holding a press conference later this month to announce that I am the true father. A DNA test will confirm my claim.—*Paul Weaver, Birmingham, Alabama* Δ

ABT AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2007	AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2007 Compiled through 18 Feb. 2007 after 2 tournaments (Upcoming events: Midwest Championships, Ohio State)	ABT AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2007
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Dana Nazarian	24.32	Gregg Cattanach	6.08	Dave Settles	4.30	Roz Ferris	2.15
Paul Weaver	17.33	Linda Maclean	6.08	Mark Dean	3.11	Mike Freeman	1.63
David Todd	16.49	Beth Raby	5.84	Doug Roberts	3.04	Ryan Hast	1.56
Ed O'Laughlin	14.75	Adam Bennett	5.84	J.A. Miller	2.92	Carol Leatherman	1.56
Fred Kalantari	12.16	Alfred Mamlet	4.33	Bud Bowers	2.92	Gil Evans	1.46
Phyllis Shapiro	11.68	Bill Davis	4.33	Vic Morawski	2.92	Almon Hall	0.81
Stick Rice	8.67	Ray Fogerlund	4.33	Arline Austin	2.92	Ron Cohen	0.81
Paul Strasberg	8.60	Michael Valliere	4.30	Samra Hadden	2.15	Cheryl Holahan	0.78
Christopher Yep	6.08						

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers receive engraved trophies. 4th through 10th place finishers receive a 2007 Standing Liberty solid silver dollar memento. Awards to be presented in Pittsburgh—February 2008.

	CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2007 PLAYER OF THE YEAR	COMPILED THRU 28 FEB.
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David Rockwell	8.32	Lucky Nelson	2.24	Kendra Wesley	1.32	Bob Zavoral	0.72
Michael Ginat	5.76	Tim Mabee	2.16	Dan Simborg	1.28	Mike Wolock	0.72
Oleg Raygorodsky	5.12	Mike Pufpaf	2.12	Royal Robinson	1.28	Paul Franks	0.72
Phil Simborg	4.88	Albert Yakobashvili	1.92	Bill Davis	1.20	Ron Wagner	0.64
Herb Roman	4.64	Shaw Dogan	1.92	Bill Bartholomay	1.20	Sargon Benjamin	0.56
Bill Keefe	4.16	Tak Morioka	1.76	Denise McDermott	1.16	Jerry Brooks	0.48
Steve Klesker	3.60	Wayne Wiest	1.68	Paul Baraz	0.96	Tim Stoddard	0.48
Mike Sutton	3.28	Adrian Rios	1.60	Georgina Flanagan	0.96	Peter Kalba	0.48
Carter Mattig	2.64	Roger Hickman	1.44	Les Moshinsky	0.96	Jordan Sanders	0.40
Rory Pascar	2.40	Larry Goldstein	1.36	Dick Nelson	0.84	Wendy Kaplan	0.32
Dave Settles	2.40	Nora Luna Righter	1.36	Felix Yen	0.80	Mark Murray	0.32
Willis Elias	2.40	Bob Steen	1.36				

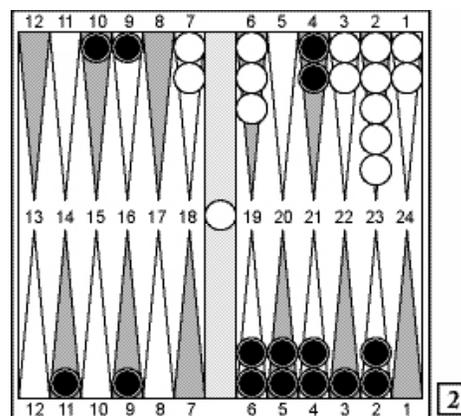
JANUARY: DAVID ROCKWELL jumped off to a quick start winning two tournaments in January and monthly honors earning 5.36 points. 2nd and 3rd were Phil Simborg (3.60) and Michael Ginat (3.36).

FEBRUARY: DAVID ROCKWELL wins again in February with 2.96 points. 2006 BPC Player of the Year Herb Roman (2.72) was 2nd and Carter Mattig (2.64) finished 3rd in a very close race.

your move

PROBLEM #325
to be analyzed by Dana Nazarian

11-point match. Black leads White 9 to 7. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**



ASK DANNY



© 2007 by Danny Kleinman

“TOO GOOD” POST-CRAWFORD?

Dear Danny: In his 2002 article, Neil Kazaross said that it is not always right for you to double when trailing post-Crawford, and that you can be “too good to double” after the first two rolls. For example, if you trail 7–8 post-Crawford and make your 5-point on the opening roll, you will be too good to double after your opponent rolls 6-3. Sure enough, I put this position to Snowie, who opined “Too good to double.” Likewise after you roll an opening 4-2 and your opponent counters with 6-3 or any of several other poor rolls.

This is contrary to what I was always taught. What is your thinking on this? — Learning Every Day

DEAR LEARNING: Neil and Snowie are echoing my thinking some 27 years ago when I wrote “Topsy Turving Doubling Strategy” in *Vision Laughs at Counting with Advice to the Dicolorn*.

To retrace that thinking, picture the backgammon game as a drunk ambling about a city with two boroughs, a rundown Takeburg on the south side and a well-maintained Cashtown on the north. At the extreme north end of Cashtown lies Gammonville, a particularly rich neighborhood.

The drunk, who starts out on the railroad track that separates the boroughs, bounds northward into Cashtown early in the game, before you have a turn at which you can double. When that turn comes, you need not double immediately. You will have other turns at which you can double, and you may be able to defer your decision.

As in most decision-making, you should weigh risk versus gain at each turning point. The risk if you wait is that the drunk will reverse direction and lurch southward into Takeburg. If he can’t stumble more than a few blocks into Takeburg from one turn to the next, you will have lost little by waiting. Instead of cashing, and starting the next game tied 8-8 with 50% chances of winning, you will wind up doubling your opponent in and playing the current game for the match. As in all of Takeburg, your chances will be less than 50%, but as the drunk hasn’t stumbled very far south, only slightly less than 50%. And of course, he is unlikely to stumble

far enough south to cross over to Takeburg from Cashtown at all. So by failing to cash when you can, you incur a modest risk of a small loss of match-winning chances.

However, the drunk (whose random movements represent the luck of the dice in backgammon) may also stumble further northward toward Gammonville. Oops, did I say “random movements”? That is not exactly right. So long as the drunk is not within stumbling distance of the railroad tracks, you may be able to shove him in the direction of Gammonville. At this score, and other post-Crawford scores, the gammon you may gain *doubles* your chances of winning the match. Without having to worry about losing a meaningless gammon yourself, you can hit aggressively, seeking to move the game along the gammonish path you desire, blitzing your opponent or forcing him into a back game . . . a slapdash style of play you would not attempt if gammons helped you only moderately and you had to fear losing a gammon.—*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

IN MEMORY OF HARVEY K. HUIE, JR. (1920–2007)

By Malcolm Davis

At about 10:00 a.m. on the morning of January 19th, the world lost one of its truly great men. Harvey Huie of Dallas, Texas left us. He was 86.

The newspapers tell us that he was a well-known Dallas builder/developer and member of the North Texas Commercial Real Estate Hall of Fame. Also, that he served as a Sergeant in the US Marine Corps during World War II and survived beach landings on both Saipan and Okinawa, Japan. But to his friends and family, he was even more.

I was privileged to know Harvey well, having met him nearly 20 years ago. He was a highly intelligent man with a great level of integrity, loved and respected by all who were fortunate enough to come in contact with him.

Harvey had a passion for backgammon, and was in many ways a very gifted player. I had a standing challenge at the elite Preston Trail Golf Club in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, that Harvey could beat all of its backgammon-playing members in a timed backgammon quiz—and many world class



Harvey Huie (R) with friend Malcolm Davis at the 1999 Midwest Championships.

players as well!

Harvey played very fast, and consequently sometimes overlooked plays. Still, he was an exceptional match player. He finished in the top 25 on the American Backgammon Tour in 1997, was a finalist in the first-ever Grand Crystal Beaver Masters in Chicago in 1998 (losing to Kent Goulding), and combined with Nack Ballard to win the prestigious Las Vegas Pro-Am Doubles in 2001.

In 1992, he was primarily responsible for moving the Kent Goulding/Bill Robertie World Cup tournament from Massachusetts to his own hotel in Dallas where it was held biennially until 1998.

Ill-timed bad fortune and his sometimes overly courageous spirit combined to

provide material for our many discussions regarding cube theory. In trying to explain to Harvey my somewhat murky understanding of equity and related cube decisions, I came to grasp a much greater knowledge of such than I otherwise ever would have been able to acquire.

Harvey taught me something else that I dare say many backgammon players would claim theoretically impossible. There are in fact some positions, when he was playing the checkers, that are simultaneously a pass and a non-offer for some of his team members (in non-consulting chouette play). Ask me at a tournament to explain.

A short and related Harvey story: We were in Chicago for a tournament and as usual, Harvey rented a car to travel between the airport and hotel. He always drove and his sense of directions were not much better than mine, so we got lost returning to the airport—a not unusual occurrence. When we finally made it back to Dallas, I told Roxy that we would still be in Chicago if I had not tricked Harvey into going in the right direction by intentionally telling him to go just the opposite!

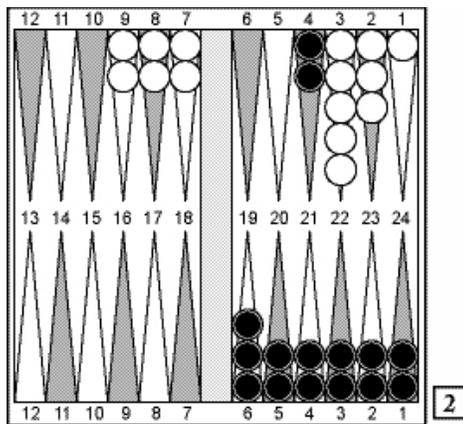
Harvey had a wonderful, acute sense of humor. He was a great man. All those who knew him will miss him tremendously.—*Malcolm Davis Δ*

WITNESS...

[Continued from page 1]

My own field had five players, and one of the others in it was 2004 World Champion Peter Hallberg, and our field went for only \$500. Flanking me on the draw sheet was a five-man field that included Ed O’Laughlin and “The Gambla from Down Unda” Tino Lechich; also a four-man field with Carter, Jersey Jim Pasko, and Brazilian star Alvaro Savio; *those* were also \$500 bargains. How about X-22 and Neil Kazaross in a three-man field that went for \$700? Or another three-man field that had *only* Dirk Schiemann *and* two-time World Champion Jörgen “The Joker” Grandstedt, that went for *only* \$600! Picking a favorite was beyond the ken of even the most gifted cleromancer.

Backgammon Million 21-point semifinal match. Andreas Mårtens (Black) and Ralf Jonas (White) tied 19-all at DMP. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-1.**



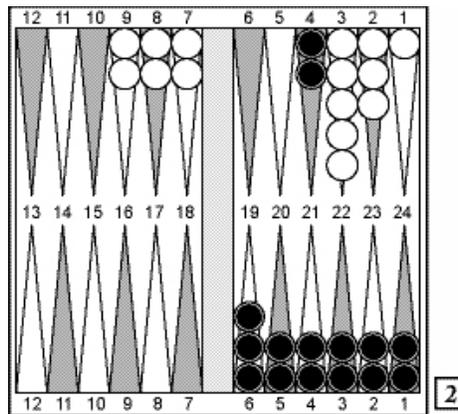
After three days of play the semifinals pitted two pros against two players who had qualified online. Because the matches were roped off for the TV cameras I couldn’t see to obtain a position from the match between Nack Ballard and Denmark’s Lasse Hjorth Madsen. In the other match Germany’s Ironman, Ralf Jonas, was playing fellow German Andreas Mårtens. Andreas has been playing poker the last few years, but that wooden praying mantis in his trophy case must have been getting lonely. Andreas won a qualifier, and won his way to the semi’s. Tied at 19-all in the 21-point match, he had to play 3-1. Do you split, or not? Without even thinking about the money for first place, the difference between the semifinal money and second place was nearly \$85,000 (\$60,040 versus \$144,096). Snowie took mere seconds to tell me it *would* split: 21/20, 6/3. Andreas, with everything riding, took several minutes to count up the shots before playing

6/2. When Snowie was asked to roll the position out, it also took several minutes to decide that . . . Andreas was right after all! Splitting won 43.3%, but keeping the point won 46%.

Unfortunately, after Ralf cleared his 9-point with 6-1, Andreas crashed with 4-4; splitting would have let him run one all the way around, better for the race *and* for contact. But the turn after that he rolled 6-6 and the race was on! It came down to the wire, but Andreas pulled it out, to go into the finals, where he would face Lasse Hjorth Madsen, the other online qualifier.

Both players are in fact very strong. Andreas was making a name for himself before he turned to poker. Lasse is what we sometimes joke about as a “random Dane,” meaning that even the Danes you have never heard of turn out to be very good. Lasse is ranked #13 by the Danish Federation. The final (I had to take the word of people who could see the board!) was well played. It was also hugely exciting. Lasse led 6-0 to 23 before Andreas zoomed by to lead 21-9.

Backgammon Million 23-point final match. Andreas Mårtens (Black) leads Lasse Hjorth Madsen (White) 21 to 9. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.**



Just about the time you are counting your money comes this little horror! After a well-judged double and take, Andreas had turned things around. All he needed to do was win the game, but 6-1 wasn’t the number to do it!

And since Andreas was perhaps counting his money, let’s do our own count. Already mentioned was the \$144,096 second prize. *First prize* was \$600,400, the largest prize by far in backgammon history.

The match went to DMP, and came down to an ace shot: Lasse praying for it; Andreas waving garlic and crucifixes at it. Garlic and crucifixes worked, and Andreas’s preying mantis gets some company in the trophy case: six hundred grand, a crystal trophy, and a “bespoke” (that means “custom

tailored” for those of you who can’t afford to use the term) watch that is valued at more than most backgammon prizes all by itself. (If you have to ask, you can’t afford it, but reputedly it cost twenty grand.)

Then it was party time!



Auctioneer Kent Goulding, Bill Robertie, Danielle Bastarache, and Mike Corbett.

The team that made history happen included Stephen Pearson and his staff from PartyGammon, the announcers for the finals anchored by Kent “He rolled 6-2!” Goulding, and the crack directing cadre: Howard Markowitz, Carol Joy Cole, Pat Gibson, Sam Pottle, and Troy Longman. Rumor has it the next stop is Macau, and a first prize of one million dollars. It’s an exciting time to be a backgammon player! Someday we’ll look back at this tournament as the beginning of a new era. Maybe by then I’ll have found an opening for this article.—*Jake Jacobs* Δ

PARTYGAMMON MILLION

CHAMPIONSHIP (120+8 rebuys): 1-Andreas Mårtens (Germany), 2-Lasse Hjorth Madsen (Denmark), 3/4-Nack Ballard (USA) / Ralf Jonas (Germany), 5/8-Alex Lehmann (USA) / Sander Lylloff (Denmark) / Arkadiy Tsinis (USA) / Henrik Veje (Denmark); 1C-Lars Trabolt (Denmark), 2C-Torsten Haase (Germany), 3C/4C-Kent Goulding (USA) / Yaniv Shimony (Israel). \$200 JACKPOT (11): 1-Odin Spillum Svendsen (Norway), 2-Steen Grønbech (Denmark). \$500 JACKPOT (16): 1-Neil Garvie (Canada), 2-Frank Frigo (USA). \$1,000 JACKPOT (18): 1-Nodar Gagua (Russia), 2-Sakura Sugawara (USA). \$2,000 JACKPOT (16): 1-Rick Barabino (USA), 2-Morten Holm (Denmark). \$5,000 DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Lars Bønding (Denmark) & Mark Teltcher (England), 2-Leo Fernandez (Argentina) & Christian Toth (Brazil).

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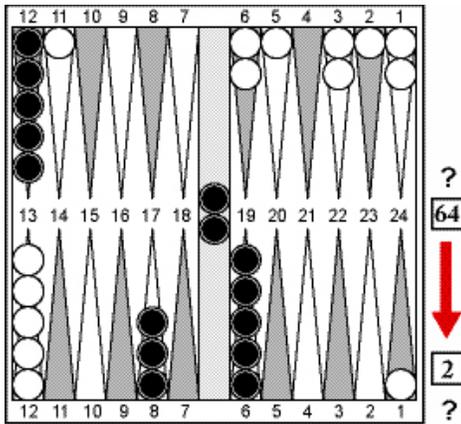
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NAZARIAN...

[Continued from page 1]

The 13 point finals began promptly at 1:00 p.m. Sunday with Dana winning the first two points. But the lead was short-lived as David doubled the next game producing a gammon and a 4-2 lead. David's good dice continued into the third game and in the setup shown below, he had to decide whether to cash his blitzing position, or try for an undoubled gammon.

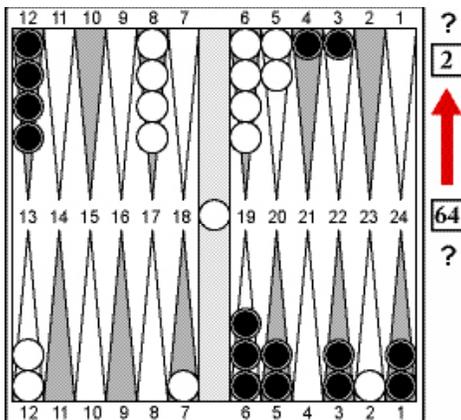
13-point Pittsburgh finals. Dana Nazarian (Black) trails David Todd (White), 2 to 4. White on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



720 Snowie rollouts (3-ply, precise) show us that David's decision to cube was a 0.105 blunder as he is way too good. But David was vindicated when Dana took!—a 0.730 whopper that cost him 3.44% in match equity. In the end, it was another doubled gammon for David giving him an 8-2 lead.

But Dana Nazarian is way too good to let one error mess with his mind. He remained focused and brought the score back to where he trailed 7-9. Now it was Dana on shake who had to decide. Should he double and cash, or roll on?

13-point Pittsburgh finals. Dana Nazarian (Black) trails David Todd (White), 7 to 9. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



At the given score, 720 Snowie (3-ply, precise) rollouts show Dana's double to be perfect. And it's even better when David takes... which is just what happened! This monster blunder (0.555) cost David 3.70% in match equity. The good news for him is that he saved the gammon.

The match went right down to the wire with Dana winning the DMP game for a final score of 13-11. The win vaults Nazarian to the top of the 2007 ABT standings after two circuit events. Well done!

The \$750 Grandmasters Jackpot drew 16 players. Kudos to Drew Giovanis who defeated fellow Las Vegas Howard Markowitz in the finals. That's not an easy task, as Nevada director Markowitz was a winner or finalist in five 2006 Masters events.



Grandmaster JP winner Drew Giovanis with runner-up Howard Markowitz.

Congratulations to Steve Hast and staff for creating a backgammon/food festival unparalleled in the United States. *Results:* Δ

29TH PITTSBURGH CHAMPIONSHIPS—ABT

CHAMPIONSHIP (76): 1-Dana Nazarian (CA), 2-David Todd (MO), 3/4-Gregg Cattanaach (GA) / Linda MacLean (MA); 1C-Fred Kalantari (MN), 2C-Ed O'Laughlin (FL); 1LC-Christopher Yep (OH), 2LC-Doug Roberts (MA). ADVANCED (73): 1-Phyllis Shapiro (MO), 2-Adam Bennett (WI), 3/4-Arlene Austin (PA) / Vic Morawski (MD); 1C-Beth Raby (VA), 2C-Bud Bowers (PA); 1LC-J.A. Miller (WI), 2LC-Gil Evans (NH). NOVICE (28): 1-Mark Dean (PA), 2-Carol Leatherman (CO); 1C-Ryan Hast (PA), 2C-Cheryl Holahan (PA). GRANDMASTER JP (16): 1-Drew Giovanis (NV), 2-Howard Markowitz (NV). MASTERS JP (32): 1-Petko Kostadinov (SC), 2-David Taniguchi (CA), 3/4-Joe Freedman (VA) / Fred Kalantari (MN). AMATEUR JP (32): 1-Joe Miller (OH), 2-Dan Kiurski (MI), 3/4-Michael Edge (SC) / John Greci (PA). LTD. JP (8): 1-Gale Pollack (FL), 2-Ryan Hast (PA). LADIES JP (8): 1-Brenda Cohen (PA), 2-Peggy Neubig (NJ). OPEN DOUBLES (28 teams): 1-Jeff Acierno (NY) & Larry Liebster (NJ), 2-Elayne Feinstein (FL) & Petko Kostadinov (SC), 3/4-Bill Finneran (VA) & Gary Fries (VA) / Fred Kalantari (MN) & Dana Nazarian (CA). LTD. DOUBLES (15 teams): 1-Bob & Susie Hathaway (VA), 2-Gary Fishman (FL) & Beth Raby (VA). BLITZ (48): 1-Bob Koca (MD), 2-Kit Woolsey (CA). 2-PT QUICKIE #1 (64): 1-Gary Kallos (Canada), 2-Eric Johnson (IL). #2 (64): Bob Glass, 2-Brent Cohen (PA). PITT. MEMORIAL CUP (16): 1-Ken Fischer (CA), 2-Greg Merriman (MI). THREE RIVERS JP (16): 1-John Greci (PA), 2-Chris Knapp (Canada). EARLY ELIM. JP (8): 1-Kevin Kelly (NJ).

7th carolina invitational

WEAVER WINS CAROLINA

Paul Weaver (AL) defeated Stick Rice to capture the 7th Carolina Invitational. The event was held 12-14 January at the Hilton University Place in Charlotte, NC. Once again Jeb and Robin Horton's kickoff ABT event saw attendance increase to record levels.



Carolina Champ winner Paul Weaver.

The Advanced division was captured by a familiar backgammon name from the past: Paul Strasberg (VA). Paul's parents, Larry and Sylvia Strasberg ran the Louisville Labor Day tournaments in the 1980s.

Congrats also to Queen City Masters champ Herb Gurland (MA). *Results:* Δ

7th CAROLINA INVITATIONAL

OPEN (52): 1-Paul Weaver (AL), 2-Stick Rice (OH), 3/4-Bill Davis (IL) / Alfred Mamlet (MD); 1C-Ed O'Laughlin (FL), 2C-Ray Foglerund (CA); 1LC-David Todd (MO). ADVANCED (43): 1-Paul Strasberg (VA), 2-Michael Valliere (PA); 1C-Dave Settles (IL), 2C-Samra Hadden (GA); 1LC-Roz Ferris (IL). NOVICE (13): 1-Mike Freeman (NC), 2-Almon Hall (NC); 1C-Ron Cohen (PA). QUEEN CITY CUP (25): 1-Herb Gurland (MA), 2-AI Hodis (NY). CARDINAL CLASSIC (29): 1-Ken Larsen (NC), 2-Marvin Widenhouse (NC), 3/4-Betty Coppic (FL) / Dan Grogan (MI). DOUBLES (23 teams): 1-Betty Coppic (FL) & Vadim MUSAELYAN (NC), 2-Carol Joy Cole (MI) & Ray Glaeser (OH). QUICKIES (64): 1-Carter Mattig (IL), 2-Ray Foglerund (CA). BLITZ (32): 1-Tim Mabee (IL), 2-Evan Etter (FL). SKUNK DICE: 1-Evan Etter (FL). (\$842 was raised for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.)

BACKGAMMON ON BOARD VIII Mexican Riviera Cruise Tourney 20-27 January 2007

Winners: Kit Woolsey (Open), Bill Davis (Masters), Nora Luna Righter (Captain's Tourney), Jake Massler (Poker), Lois Merriman (Honorary)

Complete story and pix online at:
www.chicagopoint.com/bgb8.html



By Phil Simborg

Editor's Note: Phil Simborg has been frustrated by the Bots for some 20 years, and even more frustrated by other players for some 45 years!

As all good players know, there are many situations and reasons why you should not always do what the backgammon bots (Snowie, Jellyfish, and GNU) tell you to do. But some of those reasons are not so obvious to even the most advanced players.

Let's take care of the obvious reasons first:

1. The bots are not always right. Very often, when you enter a position, you will get the wrong, or a misleading answer. Many positions require very long rollouts before the right play can be determined.

2. Even the rollouts are not always right. I have attended several lectures by Mike Corbett where he highlights positions that none of the bots get right, even after a long rollout. The bots simply don't understand the overall strategy of certain positions and often make the wrong plays right from the start. What difference does it make if the bot rolls out the position a million times if it makes the wrong play on the first or second roll just about every time?

3. The bots assume that both players will make every play and every cube decision correctly ("correct" meaning that it would be in accordance with its plays). We all know that no non-cheating human matches the bots exactly, so from a practical matter, this is not a correct assumption.

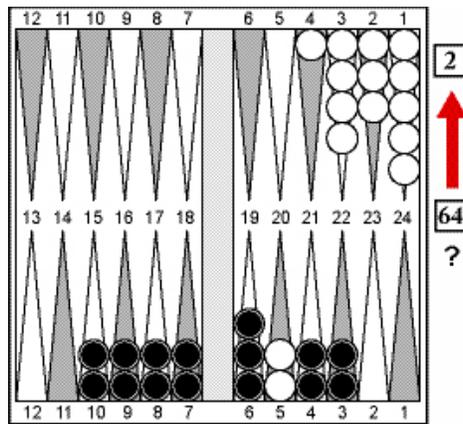
Most good players understand and apply #3 in real life. We often give early cubes if we think there is a good chance our opponents might erroneously drop. And we might give a cube that we think is "too good to double" if we think our opponent might erroneously take. Additionally, we might make a play that leads to a more complex game if we believe our opponent is weak and is more likely to misplay the position.

But what a lot of players don't realize—and this even applies to world-class players

—is that they, themselves, have limitations that should be taken into account.

I recently came across a great example of this in a money game. In the position below, Black is on roll and the cube is in the center. Snowie tells us, both in the evaluation and in a long rollout, that this is a bare double and an easy take.

Money game. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)? Then BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**



The "rub" is that Black has a very complex and complicated position to bring home, while most of White's moves will either be forced or relatively simple. So if Black doubles this (as the bots tell him too), he had better know the correct strategy to bring this home.

To illustrate my point, let's assume that Black doubles and White takes, and then Black rolls. **HOW SHOULD BLACK PLAY 4-1?**

I posed this question to some very excellent Championship level players and none came close to playing it correctly (assuming Snowie is right, which it might not be). And I would not have played this right myself. So this tells me that since I am not a strong enough player to fully understand how Black is supposed to bring home this game, I should not be doubling until my position improves.

Now, let's look at the correct play for 4-1. I have to admit that my initial instinct (and the same is true for some other top players) was to make the 9th or 10th best play: clearing either the 7- or 8-point, trying to keep White from running too soon and preventing the huge jokers of 5-5 and 3-3 in addition to the 6-6 he already has.

But as you can see from the above table shown below, Snowie either doesn't give any additional jokers (making the 2-point) or he forces White to hit on many of his rolls that run. What Snowie understood better than most of us mortals, is that *getting hit here is actually a good thing* if White is able to run. It's good because you

might have a chance to pick up the blot on White's 4-point, and it's good because you have a chance to pick up the checker that escaped when White ran.

"SNOWIE" 3-PLY EVALUATION: 4-1 PLAY

1.	7/2	0.400
	0.3% 12.4% 69.8% 30.2% 2.2% 0.1%	
2.	6/2 3/2	0.397 (-0.003)
	0.2% 10.1% 70.4% 29.6% 1.4% 0.0%	
3.	9/4	0.395 (-0.004)
	0.3% 12.1% 69.8% 30.2% 2.2% 0.1%	
4.	8/7 6/2	0.369 (-0.031)
	0.3% 12.5% 68.7% 31.3% 2.9% 0.1%	
5.	6/1	0.368 (-0.032)
	0.2% 9.9% 69.2% 30.8% 1.3% 0.0%	
6.	9/8 6/2	0.364 (-0.036)
	0.3% 12.3% 68.7% 31.3% 3.0% 0.1%	
7.	8/3	0.355 (-0.045)
	0.3% 11.5% 68.3% 31.7% 2.1% 0.1%	
8.	10/9 6/2	0.317 (-0.083)
	0.3% 11.1% 67.2% 32.8% 2.8% 0.1%	
9.	7/3 7/6	0.287 (-0.113)
	0.2% 8.9% 66.1% 33.9% 1.1% 0.0%	
10.	8/4 8/7	0.283 (-0.116)
	0.2% 9.5% 65.4% 34.6% 1.0% 0.0%	

Of course, there are many rolls other than 4-1 that pose similar problems for Black, but I simply used that as an example because that was the one my good friend Doug Mayfield pointed out would cause him, me, and many others a lot of pain.

So what is the lesson to be learned. What's the "moral" of this story?

1. The bots are not always right, but even when they are right, that doesn't mean it's always right for us mortals to do what they say; and

2. Even with the advent and help of these super computer programs, backgammon continues to be a highly complex, interesting, challenging, and fun game.—*Phil Simborg* Δ

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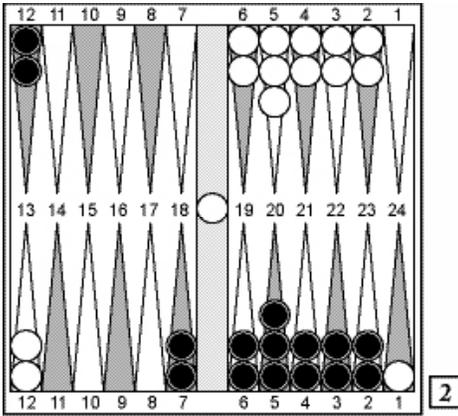
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PROBLEM #324 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

5-point match. Black leads White 1-0.
BLACK TO PLAY 6-3.



This is a tricky problem. Hitting will get Black more gammons, but it also may lose. Match equities are very important here. Also, it is important to note that Black owns the cube. Black's redoubling potential may have a considerable effect on the results.

Let's first look at match equities. If Black wins a non-gammon, he'll be ahead 3-0 for 75% match equity. Losing puts him behind 2-1 for 41% match equity. If your match equity table uses different numbers the results of the calculations may come out a little different, but it isn't going to matter much. The estimates of the winning and gammon chances with the hit and non-hit are the big factors.

If Black chooses to hit, he should certainly play 7/1*, 7/4. He does not want a bunch of blots strewn around in case White hits back. If Black chooses not to hit, his best play is probably 13/4. Even if White rolls 1-1 Black can double and I doubt that White has a take—White needs 25% winning chances to justify taking and I don't believe she's quite there. 13/4 gives Black more pointing rolls than 13/7, 13/10. But it won't make much difference which play Black makes. The big decision is whether or not to hit.

There are four possible scenarios to consider. They are:

1) Black doesn't hit and White flunks. Black owns the cube, so he can make sure that he never loses the game. Black will be able to hit loose next roll with any 3 or 4, and if White hits back, Black will be able to claim with the cube. Black also has a few

pointing numbers. I'll estimate that Black wins a gammon 60% of the time, and wins a single game 40%. He never loses unless he takes a risk, and I'm assuming that this possibility is factored into my estimates.

2) Black doesn't hit, and White rolls an ace. Once again, Black can always claim with the cube. Here playing on all the way is more dangerous, but Black can afford to take a couple of rolls and see how the wind is blowing. I'll estimate that Black wins a gammon 15%, with 85% single wins. Of course if Black plays to conclusion he will win more gammons, but a lot of the time Black will simply be cashing.

3) Black hits and White flunks. Once again, Black can't lose due to his cube ownership. He has 3s, 4s, and 6-6 (25 rolls) to close the board. His gammon chances are obviously very good. I'll estimate that Black wins a gammon 85% of the time, with 15% single game wins.

4) Black hits and White hits back. This time Black will not be able to claim with the cube. The possibilities are complex. If Black enters first and White doesn't enter, Black can claim (or play on if he rolled a 1-6). If both enter at the same time, the game is up for grabs with Black a definite favorite. If White enters first, Black is in trouble. Filtering gammons and recubes into my estimates, I'll give Black 70% wins (without gammons) and White 30% wins (without gammons).

With these estimates, if Black doesn't hit his match-winning chances are:

$$25/36 \times [(0.60 \times 100\%) + (0.40 \times 75\%)] \text{ plus} \\ 11/36 \times [(0.15 \times 100\%) + (0.85 \times 75\%)] = \underline{86.56\%}$$

If Black does hit, his winning chances are:

$$25/36 \times [(0.85 \times 100\%) + (0.15 \times 75\%)] \text{ plus} \\ 11/36 \times [(0.70 \times 75\%) + (0.30 \times 41\%)] = \underline{86.64\%}$$

Too close to call.

At the table a player couldn't do these calculations in his head unless he was a human computer. He could make some approximations which should be sufficient to get pretty close. The estimates I used could easily be wrong, and if one of them is wrong by a lot then one of the plays will come out clearly superior. My inclination would be to hit. Black can use exactly 4 points to win the match, and that is often the deciding factor.

Whether I am right or not isn't important. What is important is understanding the methodology involved to come to a conclusion.—*Kit Woolsey* Δ

BPC WINS '07 CHALLENGE CUP

By Ed Zell

The Chicago Bar Point Club won their fourth straight Illinois State Challenge Cup in dramatic fashion by going 11-1 in the last two rounds. Now in its 27th year, the annual event, held this year on 11 February at Ned Kelly's in Bloomington, saw five clubs from Illinois vie for the coveted trophy.



BPC Champs front row: Bill Davis, Gary Kay. Back row: Steve Klesker, David Rockwell, Herb Roman, Tak Morioka.

Springfield who went 9-3 after two rounds, slipped to 6-6 in the last two rounds to lose what would have been their first Challenge Cup ever. The final round had two matches between the leaders as Gary Kay topped Sean Garber and John Jennings beat Bill Davis. David Rockwell ended up winning the clinching match with a victory over Steve Neidecker by rolling several large sets at DMP. Final results: BPC (16-8), Springfield (15-9), Peoria & Bloomington (10-14), Pub Club (9-15).

Congrats to Gary Kay, David Rockwell, and Jena Jennings who all went undefeated to split the side pool.—*Ed Zell* Δ



ILLINOIS ACTION



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

Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Ramada Plaza, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago. 773/693-5800.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Ramada Plaza, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago. 773/693-5800

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at Ned Kelly's Steak House, 1603-A Morrissey Drive, Bloomington. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:30 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. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/689-1964).

WINNER'S CIRCLE



JAN.-FEB. 2007

•**Xciting Games Bright 'n' Breezy** (Bristol, England; 12-14 Jan.)... OPEN (80): 1-John Hurst, 2-Stuart Mann, 3/4-Mike Heard / Rachel Rhodes; 1C-Julian Fetterlein, 2C-Uldis Lapikens, 3C/4C-George Miltiadou / Ann Pocknell; 1LC-Adrian Jones, 2LC-Fanika Petkovska. TIDAL WAVE (64): 1-Mark Heidenfeld, 2-John Slattery, 3/4-Mike Main / Nick Valley. FRIDAY 500 KO (38): 1-Mardi Ohannessian, 2-Rogier van Gemert (NL), 3/4-Matthew Franklin / Jerry Limb. POKER(25): 1-Andy Bell, 2-Matthew Franklin, 3-Ann Pocknell, 4-Rosey Bensley, 5-Eamon Keogh. DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-No Idea, 2-MC's Secret Lovers.

•**Ed Chambers Memorial** (Houston, TX; 13 Jan.)... OPEN (16): 1-Gary Oleson, 2-Patrick Lee; 1C-Alan Sheeks, 2C-Scott Ward.

•**Miami Valley Club Monthly** (Dayton, OH; 14 Jan.)... OPEN (14): 1-Gary Weiss, 2-Regina Ragelis.

•**Phoenix Free Monthly** (Glendale, AZ; 20 Jan.)... OPEN (9): 1-Terry Valentine, 2-Dave Perkins, 3-Joni Brummer.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 21 Jan.)... OPEN: 1-Andy Palumbo, 2-Karen Davis.

•**5th Cotswold Fireside Tournament** (Stroud, England; 26-28 Jan.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (47): 1-Raj Jansari, 2-Stuart Mann; 1C-Barry McAdam, 2C-Ann Pocknell. INTERMEDIATE (30): 1-Richard Biddle, 2-Gaz Owen; 1C-Nick Barham, 2C-Tony Fawcett. BEGINNER (9): 1-Mervyn Bleach, 2-Carrington Marshall, 3-Andrew Bennet, 4-Steve Bak. LAST CHANCE (64): 1-Chris Bray, 2-Mike Heard. SATELLITES (40): Championship winners Mardi Ohannessian, Andy Bell, Barry McAdam. Intermediate winners Mike Ireland, Arthur Wright. BEAR OF RODBOROUGH PRIZE: Stuart Mann.

•**Backgammon By the Bay** (Cupertino, CA; 27 Jan.)... OPEN (11): 1/2-Sam Ahmed / Ernesto Nassau; 1C/2C-David Levy / Ted Chee. INTERMEDIATE (6): 1/2-Jenann Nakamura / Bill Cadwell; 1C-Ken Johnson.

•**Dayton Monthly Freeroll—USBL** (Beavercreek, OH; 28 Jan.)... OPEN (9): 1-Roger Foster, 2-2-Regina Ragelis.

•**BarPoint Doubles** (Chicago, IL; 3 Feb.)... OPEN (16 teams): 1-Phil & Dan Simborg, 2-Mike Sutton & Nora Luna Righter; 1C-Herb Roman & Les Moshinsky, 2C-Wendy Kaplan & Tak Morioka.



The father & son team of Dan and Phil Simborg with their Bar Point Doubles Club Championship trophies.

•**Jarvis Trophy Tournament** (Coventry, England; 3-4 Feb.)... OPEN (38): 1-Giorgio Castellano, 2-Adrian Jones, 3-John Slattery, 4-Edwin Turner; 1C-Julian Fetterlein, 2C-Simon Morecroft. FRIDAY 500 (12): 1-Rosey Bensley, 2-David Nathan. DOUBLES (8): 1-A Cake of Cheese. POKER (9): 1-Paul Watts.

•**Ohio State Club Monthly** (Akron, OH; 4 Feb.)... OPEN: 1-Ray Glaeser, 2-Mike Hendrickson.

AMALGAMATION

Thanks to Pub Club director **Tim Mabee** for running the Tuesday 23 January BPC tourney for us while we involved with Backgammon On Board... **Joe Miller** informs us that airfare to Cleveland is very reasonable at this time. His Ohio State Championships roll off 13-15 April. For more info, call Joe at 330/268-4610... Remember **Les Levi**, editor of *Backgammon Times* in the early 1980s? Les is now a Professor of Business Ethics and Managing Director at Advent Capital management, a fixed-income hedge fund... During filming "Gone With the Wind, to while away the time between takes, **Clark Gable** and **Vivien Leigh** retreated to a corner of the set to play backgammon. It seems that although Gable taught her to play, she beat him nearly every game... We did it again! For the second year in a row, we forgot to mention the Illinois Pub Club Player of the Year: Don Marek... Former BG expert **Kathy Posner** (IL) got a couple of great honors last month in Chicago. She received the "Heart of Gold" award from **Shaare Zedek** Medical Center in Jerusalem for her many volunteer activities. Additionally, the Illinois



Pub Club's best in 2006: Don Marek.

•**Arizona Club Monthly** (Phoenix, AZ; 5 Feb.)... OPEN (9): 1-Michael Ramsey, 2-Ken Ambrose, 3-Dave Perkins.

•**Springfield Series #4** (Bloomington, IL; 10 Feb.)... OPEN (32): 1-David Rockwell, 2-John Bare; 1C-Greg Tomlin, 2C-Terry Leahy; 1LC-Roger Hickman.

•**Northwest Indiana Club Monthly** (Porter, IN; 10 Feb.)... OPEN: 1-Terry Greaves, 2-John O'Hagan.

•**Columbia Memorial Tourney** (Houston, TX; 10 Feb.)... OPEN (12): 1-Al Johnson, 2-Bill Riles, 3/4 Jack Erwin / Gary Oleson; 1C-John Hill, 2C-Tom Wright.

•**Miami Valley Club Monthly** (Dayton, OH; 11 Feb.)... OPEN (14): 1-Ben Elliott (NC), 2-Regina Ragelis, 3-Peter Carcieri.

•**Midtown Club Monthly** (New York, NY; 11 Feb.)... OPEN (8): 1/2-Alan Grunwald / Victor Ashkenazi.

•**Phoenix Free Monthly** (Glendale, AZ; 18 Feb.)... OPEN (7): 1-Pete Campbell, 2-Joe Lafornera, 3-Marty Gootzeit.

•**Dayton Monthly Freeroll—USBL** (Beavercreek, OH; 25 Feb.)... OPEN (6): 1-John Crockford.

House of Representatives designated February 14 to Posner who has been "indefatigable in her [charitable] efforts." **Mayor Richard Daley** also recognized her as an "inspiration" to Chicago residents. Wow!... **Mike Wolock** was late to Bar Point Club backgammon 6 February and for good reason. His car was fired upon. Two bullets totally smashed the back windshield, but Mike was not hit. Get rid of that pink caddy, Mike!... Two BPC players attended the Bears/Indy Super Bowl: **Wayne Wiest** and **Judy Zager**. But while Wayne got his ticket at face value (\$600), Judy paid scalper prices. It cost her family of four a cool \$16,000 to see the game!... Get well wishes go out to BPC regular **Arline Levy** who fell and broke her wrist and two ribs last month. (Sadly, it was her rolling hand!)... According to the 5 February "US Weekly," the Kobe Club in New York City is the newest hot spot. On the weekends, the guests (including **Jennifer Lopez**, **Ryan Seacrest**, and **Susan Sarandon**), munch on expensive Kobe beef while playing backgammon... **Bill Davis** will again teach a backgammon class at the Levy Center in Evanston for six weeks beginning 3 April. For more information, call 847/448-8250... The Cincinnati Backgammon Players Club is open for business. Director **Peter Carcieri** informs us that the club meets 1st and 3rd Sundays monthly at the Metropole Coffee Company. For info, call Peter at 513/777-7862... Finally, from **E. B. White**: "Luck is not something you can mention in the presence of self-made men." Δ

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