

*illinois state championships*

## SYLVESTER SWEEP Wins Illinois Champ & Masters

Joe Sylvester is back . . . with a vengeance! “Sly,” who won the \$100,000 Las Vegas World Amateur in 1983, the first World Cup in 1988, and ranked #3 in the 1993 International Giants of Backgammon voting, captured both the Open and Masters divisions at the 2007 Illinois State Championships.



It was all “Joe Sylvester” in the 13 point Illinois State finals vs. George Barr. Here Joe (L) is rolling for a BG with five of his opponent’s men on the roof.

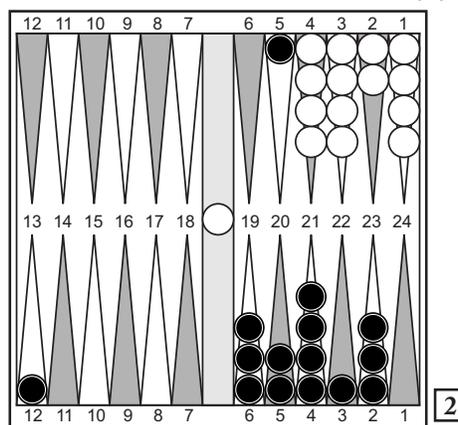
81 main division players (including a record 45 in the Championship division) from across North America converged on the Holiday Inn in downtown Peoria 19–21 October. First time director Linda Rockwell and Peoria club staffers did a wonderful job in running the event . . . and their effort was appreciated.

Joe, now living in Missouri, had a difficult path to the finals. After drawing a bye, he defeated Wendy Kaplan (IL), Tak Morioka (IL), Sam Pottle (WI), and reigning Nevada State champ Alan Grunwald. On the other half of the drawsheet was George Barr. Although George, a 25 year Chicagoland BG veteran, has entered many events as an Intermediate, this year he signed up in the Championship. Naturally, he would face tougher opponents there; but George is battling a far tougher opponent these days: cancer. He was ready to match

his game with the best.

Following his defeat of four excellent players including David Rubin (IL) and Petko Kostadinov (SC), Barr faced another tough opponent in the 11-point semifinals: 2005 Illinois Champion Faddoul Khoury. Faddoul jumped off to a solid 7–4 lead and appeared in control holding a 2-cube. Then Faddoul faltered:

Illinois semifinals. Faddoul Khoury (Black) leads George Barr (White) 7–4 to 11. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



The redouble is wrong. 720 full Snowie rollouts (3-ply, precise) show that Khoury’s hasty action was a big blunder giving up 2.23% in match equity. George correctly took the 4-cube, redoubled to 8 and won the match! It’s interesting to note that at the same score with the cube is in the center, the correct action is easy double/clear pass.

The Sunday final was anti-climatic. Joe’s dice were unstoppable as he rolled to a 13–1 victory. But Joe shared the spotlight with his brave and determined opponent. When director Linda Rockwell announced the results, George was given a one minute standing ovation for his incredible achievement. You can send George Barr your congratulations and best wishes at: [george.barr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:george.barr@sbcglobal.net).

### Land of Lincoln Masters

Last year, Joe Sylvester lost to Bill Davis in the Land of Lincoln Masters. When he reached the finals by winning a qualifier, he was that much more hungry to win the Abraham Lincoln trophy. And he did just that with a flourish, besting Peoria director



First time Illinois State director Linda Rockwell presents the Intermediate champ trophy to Jim Pokela.

Ed Zell 11–3 to sweep both major tournament events. Welcome back to the winner’s circle, Joe!

### Fogerlund Takes ABT Lead

Ray Fogerlund hasn’t won an American Backgammon Tour event this year, but he has cashed in five of them including his big Consolation victory over John Jennings at this event. Ray now leads Richard Munitz by 8.61 points with only two 2007 ABT events to go. With 10 players realistically in contention, it should make for a really exciting Las Vegas Open and California State Championship!

### Other Results

Congratulations to Intermediate winner Jim Pokela (MN), Novice champ Cindy Trine (IL), and Illinois Open winner Brad Barker (IL). Other winners included Lenny Loder (IL) and Albert Yakobashvili (IL) in the Lincoln/Douglas Doubles, and Steve Brown (MN) in the Downtown Peoria Quickie.

### Hats off . . .

. . . to Linda Rockwell and staff for an entertaining weekend. The Halloween theme (which included decorations, costumes, and trick-or-treat candy) was fun. There was free coffee every day. And the Calcutta auction conducted by Michael Plog with color commentary by Phil Simborg generated record numbers. **THE COMPLETE RESULTS ARE ON PAGE 7.**—*Bill Davis* Δ

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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## CUBE HISTORY

I thought that your article on the history of the doubling cube was intriguing and your sleuthing deserving admiration by CSI.

I hope it unearths some more revealing history. Now, if we could just attract some new blood for the future of the sport.—  
*Harvey Gillis, Bellevue, Washington*

*Another important discovery was made last month, Harvey. See page X.—Ed.*

## ARE YOU THE 'BOX' OR THE 'BARN OWL'?

Thought your readers would like to see the definition of "chouette" as posted at [www.dictionary.reference.com](http://www.dictionary.reference.com):

chou.ette. Noun. A variation of a two-handed game, as backgammon, allowing the participation of three or more persons, in which one player accepts the bets of all the others on the outcome of a game between that player and

[Continued on page 3]

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

by Carol Joy Cole  
810/232-9731  
[cjc@flintbg.com](mailto:cjc@flintbg.com)

\*Denotes new or revised listing

### NATIONAL

*American Backgammon Tour events underlined.*

Nov 15	Third Thursday Bonus (California State), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Nov 17	Phoenix Free Monthly—USBL, Gaslight Inn, Glendale, Arizona	602/296-4307
Nov 17*	Backgammon By the Bay, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Nov 18	Pittsburgh Monthly, Panera Bread, Wexford, Pennsylvania	412/760-8363
Nov 18*	NEW DATE: Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Nov 18*	NEW DATE: South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, FL	954/564-0340
Nov 25*	NEW LOCATION: Colorado Monthly, Boulder Broker Inn, Boulder, Colorado	303/791-0271
Nov 25*	Dayton Monthly Free Roll—USBL, Univ. of Dayton Kennedy Union, Ohio	937/890-2536
Nov 30-Dec 2	<u>California State Championship, Masonic Center, Tarzana, California</u>	818/901-0464
Dec 1*	Springfield Series #2, Peoria Pizza Works, Peoria, Illinois	217/622-9447
Dec 2	Bar Point Club Sunday Tourney, Holiday Inn (formerly Ramada), Chicago, IL	773/583-6464
Dec 2	New England Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Dec 3	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Dec 3	Roy's Monthly, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Dec 5	Kansas City Club Monthly, Westport Flea Market, Kansas City, Missouri	816/916-6599
Dec 8*	Backgammon By the Bay, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Dec 9*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Dec 9*	New York Monthly, Midtown BG & Chess Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Dec 9*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Dec 16*	Pittsburgh Monthly, Panera Bread, Wexford, Pennsylvania	412/760-8363
Dec 20*	Third Thursday Bonus (Carolina), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Dec 27*	Flint Club Holiday Party/Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Dec 30*	Dayton Monthly Free Roll—USBL, Univ. of Dayton Kennedy Union, Ohio	937/890-2536
Jan 5*	Springfield Series #3, Los Potrillos, Normal, Illinois	217/622-9447
Jan 10-13	<u>New York Metropolitan Open, Hyatt Regency, Jersey City, New Jersey</u>	702/893-6025
Jan 13-15	World Doubles Championship, Hyatt Regency, Jersey City, New Jersey	702/893-6025
Jan 18-20	<u>8th Carolina Invitational, Hilton University Place, Charlotte, North Carolina</u>	704/814-0850
Jan 27*	Bar Point Club Doubles Championship, Holiday Inn, Chicago, Illinois	773/583/6464
Feb 2*	Springfield Series #4, LAP's Sports Bar, Springfield, Illinois	217/622-9447
Feb 10*	Illinois State Challenge Cup, Playoffs Sports Bar, Carol Stream, Illinois	630/606-2388
Feb 29-Mar 2	<u>2008 Midwest Backgammon Championships, Wyndham Lisle, Lisle, Illinois</u>	773/583-6464
Mar 28-30	<u>30th Pittsburgh Championships &amp; ABT Awards, Holiday Inn, Moon Twp., PA</u>	412/823-7500
Apr 11-13*	<u>Ohio State Championships: Airport Marriott Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio</u>	330/268-4610
Apr 16-20*	<u>Nevada State Tournament, Riviera Hotel &amp; Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	702/893-6025
May 2-4*	<u>Southeast Championships, Holiday Inn Dunwoody, Atlanta, Georgia</u>	678/982-3203
May 23-26*	<u>28th Chicago Open, Eaglewood Resort, Itasca, Illinois</u>	702/893-6025
Jun 6-8*	<u>Los Angeles Open, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California</u>	818/901-0464
Jul 3-6*	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton Novi, Novi, Michigan</u>	810/232-9731
Aug 29-Sep 1*	<u>Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin</u>	608/516-9109
Sep 26-28*	<u>Colorado State Championships, Holiday Inn, Denver, Colorado</u>	303/791-0271
Nov 12-16*	<u>Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel &amp; Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	702/893-6025
Dec 5-7*	<u>California State Championship, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California</u>	818/901-0464

### OUTSIDE USA

Nov 15-18*	2nd Maragogi Open, Hotel Praia Dourada, Maragogi, Brazil	5521-2170300
Nov 15-18	WSOB: Gammonitis UK Masters™, Empire Casino, London, England	441634-821107
Nov 24-25	Copenhagen Klub Championships, Lejrhytten Harebo, Gørløse, Denmark	4551-949494
Nov 27-Dec 2	5th Cancun Invitational Tournament, Ritz-Carlton, Cancun, Mexico	775/829-8403
Nov 28-Dec 2	EBGT: 19th City of Venice Tournament, Venice Casino, Venice, Italy	393290-513415
Dec 1-2	Gilbertson United Kingdom Finals, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Dec 6-9	14th German Open, Hotel GlockenSpitze, Altenkirchen, Germany	49521-64314
Dec 8-9	Thun Open, Beo Cup & Doubles, Waadtländerstube, Thun, Switzerland	4179-4811318
Dec 13-15*	DATE CHANGE: 4th Doubles World Championship, Hotel Ascona, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Dec 14-15*	DATE CHANGE: 11th Grand Prix de Suisse, Hotel Ascona, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Dec 14-16	Gammonitis Jule's Christmas Cracker, Highgate House, Creaton, England	441634-821107
Jan 4-6	2008 Thailand Open, 19th Hole Superpub, South Pattaya, Thailand	661000-1379
Jan 11-13	Bright 'n' Breezy, Paramount Old Ship Hotel, Brighton, England	441522-888676
Jan 17-20	Casino Mountain BG & Poker Open, Kleinwalsertal, Reizlern, Austria	49711-486190
Feb 1-3*	Jarvis Trophy, Paramount Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Feb 14-17*	PGT: Groupe Partouche Trophy, Palm Beach Casino, Cannes, France	33147-587179
Mar 7-9*	Slattery Scottish Open, Paramount Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Mar 20-24*	WSOB: TrueMoneygames Nordic Open, Marientyst, Helsingør, Denmark	4533-363601
Apr 4-6*	British Open, Paramount Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Apr 29-May 4*	EBGT: 2nd Davis Cup/3rd Portuguese Open, Estoril (Lisbon), Portugal	491715-422222

# LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

one other active player, who is permitted to receive advice from the nonplayers.

[Origin: 1885-90; < F, from the phrase faire la chouette to play alone against a group

of opponents (in billiards, etc.), lit., to play the barn owl, perh. alluding to the owl's watchful look] —Bruce Russell, Madison, Wisconsin

## NEWCOMERS WELCOME AT BPC

I am trying to elevate my backgammon game to the next level and possibly would

be interested in playing in your Chicago Tuesday night tournaments. My only reservation is that I would surely be the mark at any of your events. Is it possible for me to attend as a spectator to see if I am comfortable with the competition and maybe pick up a pointer here or there? Naturally I will be sure to keep distractions to a minimum. —Owen Meacham, via Internet

You're more than welcome, Owen. In fact, first-timers who live in the area play for free. Be aware that our hotel has changed names from Ramada to Holiday Inn. Get club details at [www.chicagopoint.com/bpc.html](http://www.chicagopoint.com/bpc.html). —Ed.

## ANIMALS ON PARADE

Paul Magriel's book Backgammon defines a "beaver," but what is a "raccoon"? —Roger Sinclair, Tempe, Arizona

When playing for money, a player who is doubled, can immediately redouble the stakes while maintaining cube possession. This action is called a "beaver." (The player is flipping over the cube just as a beaver flips over his tail.)

Now the original doubler has the option to "raccoon" the cube. To raccoon is to double it's current value (so if the player doubled to 2 and the taker "beavered" to 4, the the player can "raccoon" to 8). Perhaps raccoon was selected because the animal looks like a bandit.

But what if the taker is unimpressed? Then he should "aardvark" to 16! We believe that is the last official doubling cube animal in the backgammon menagerie; however back in the 1970s, we once heard of

[Continued on page 4]



**AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2007**

### AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2007

Top 100 through 11 Nov. 2007 after 15 tournaments  
(Final 2007 event: California State Championship)



**AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2007**

Ray Fogelrund	44.87	John Herron	11.64	Emil Mortuk	7.11	Stewart Pemberton	4.89
Richard Munitz	42.26	Art Benjamin	11.27	Bud Bowers	6.92	Lucky Nelson	4.50
Patrick Gibson	32.77	Howard Markowitz	10.67	Jonah Seewald	6.52	Rory Pascar	4.44
Paul Weaver	31.43	Kieth Hvamstad	10.67	Robb Rossetti	6.52	Alfred Mamlet	4.33
Stick Rice	30.87	Dave Settles	10.44	Charlie Raichle	6.40	Michael Valliere	4.30
Dana Nazarian	29.36	Neil Kazaross	10.19	Roz Ferris	6.15	Ray Bills	4.27
Bill Davis	27.93	Arkady Tsinis	10.07	Christopher Yep	6.08	Ernie McCombs	4.27
Gary Bauer	26.11	Paul Mangone	9.78	Gregg Cattanach	6.08	Frank DiMaggio	4.14
Harvey Gillis	24.15	Steve Hast	9.00	Linda MacLean	6.08	Justin Nunez	4.07
Victor Ashkenazi	24.00	George Barr	9.00	Bob Glass	6.00	Paul Knapp	4.00
Alan Grunwald	23.15	Herb Roman	8.94	Stepan Nuniyants	6.00	Pete Townsend	4.00
Bart Brooks	22.56	Terry Leahy	8.89	Jona Alexander	6.00	Tom Keith	3.79
Steve Brown	21.33	Jolie Rubin	8.62	Vladi Gudgenov	6.00	Bob Zavoral	3.79
Joe Sylvester	20.22	Paul Strasberg	8.60	Beth Raby	5.84	John O'Hagan	3.79
Malcolm Davis	19.84	Steve Maas	8.55	Ken Fischer	5.64	Mark Antranikian	3.70
Ed O'Laughlin	19.25	Adam Bennett	8.51	Jim Pokela	5.60	Perry Gartner	3.70
David Rockwell	18.20	Luis Rivera	8.42	Mark Dean	5.41	Rick Voeller	3.60
Arie Bornstein	18.00	Carmen Webb	8.00	Paul Franks	5.33	Sina Bigdeli	3.60
David Todd	16.49	Stefan Staykov	8.00	Vadim Musaeayan	5.33	Thomas Meyer	3.56
John Jennings	15.17	Petko Kostadinov	7.58	Matt Reklaitis	5.33	Gil Evans	3.46
Maurice Barie	14.22	Cem Aslan	7.45	Scott Johnston	5.33	Steve Cherne	3.43
Mark Donaldson	13.04	Steve Sax	7.40	Matt Cohn-Geier	5.33	David Tanaguchi	3.26
Fred Kalantari	12.16	Yury Millman	7.33	Jim Pasko	5.04	Kamyar Hosseini	3.26
Joe Freedman	12.00	Danielle Bastarache	7.26	Jinelle Girard	5.04	Dennis Rutkowski	3.26
Phyllis Shapiro	11.68	Walter Trice	7.11	Tim Lawless	4.89	Greg Kurrell	3.20



**CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB**

### 2007 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU 9 NOV.

David Rockwell	37.40	Carter Mattig	8.16	Eric Johnson	3.12	Dick Nelson	0.84
Rory Pascar	25.74	Michael Ginat	7.92	Adrian Rios	2.96	John Jennings	0.84
Tak Morioka	22.64	Larry Goldstein	7.88	Arline Levy	2.56	Harold Elgazar	0.80
Herb Roman	22.32	Alex Owen	7.72	Paul Franks	2.28	Doug Rodgers	0.72
Mike Wolock	19.52	Georgina Flanagan	7.08	Allen Tish	2.24	Paul Klein	0.72
Albert Yakobashvili	18.84	Lucky Nelson	7.04	Wendy Kaplan	2.08	Steve Klene	0.72
Bob Zavoral	18.12	Alice Kay	6.84	Linda Rockwell	1.80	Glenn Martells	0.72
Phil Simborg	17.52	Willis Elias	6.56	Felix Yen	1.68	Keith Hanson	0.72
Tim Mabee	15.48	Peter Kalba	6.32	Roy Cohen	1.60	Jacki Singleton	0.72
Oleg Raygorodsky	13.24	Ken Bond	6.00	Les Moshinsky	1.52	Brad LaPratt	0.64
Jacob Moreno	12.48	Christopher Shanova	5.92	Elaine Kehm	1.36	Sonja Peacock	0.64
Bill Keefe	11.94	Nora Luna Righter	5.36	Kendra Wesley	1.32	Ron Wagner	0.64
Gary Kay	10.48	Ken Tyszko	5.12	Dan Simborg	1.28	James Roston	0.56
Bob Steen	10.08	Shaw Dogan	4.80	Denise McDermott	1.16	John Poulos	0.56
Bill Davis	10.00	Wayne Wiest	4.60	Neil Kazaross	1.12	Tim Stoddard	0.48
Mike Sutton	9.88	Lenny Loder	4.32	Ivan Giorgadze	1.04	Charles Melidosian	0.48
Mike Pufpaf	9.68	Richard Stawowy	4.00	Tim Rockwell	1.04	Bev Loder	0.48
Steve Klesker	9.12	Dave Settles	3.80	Bob Koca	1.04	David Araiza	0.48
Roger Hickman	8.92	Henry Gray	3.60	Sargon Benjamin	0.96	Jim Opre	0.48
Bill Bartholomay	8.88	Jerry Brooks	3.52	Paul Baraz	0.96	Jordan Sanders	0.40
Mark Murray	8.44	Royal Robinson	3.44	Dan Weymouth	0.96	Amy Trudeau	0.40
						Mark Penacho	0.32

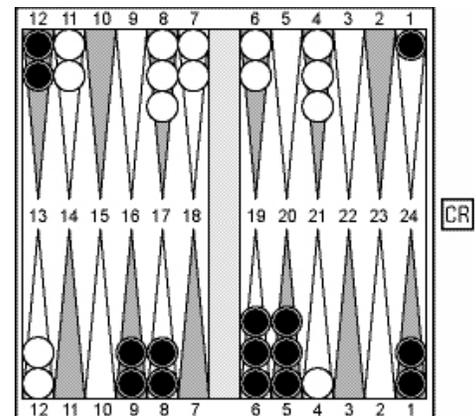
DAVID ROCKWELL had an outstanding October earning 6.96 points and winning or cashing in five out of six events. Runner's-up were Albert Yakobashvili (3.76) and Rory Pascar (3.68).

your move

## PROBLEM #332

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

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



# ASK DANNY

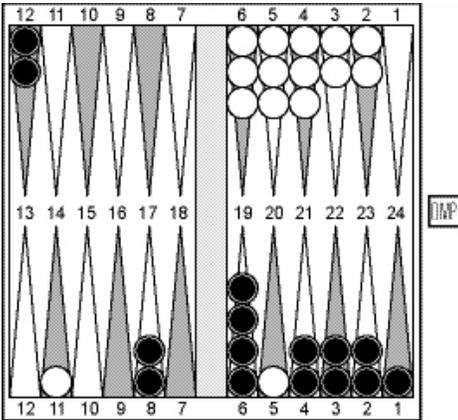


© 2007 by Danny Kleinman

## TACKLING A TOUGH ONE

**D**ear Danny: I recently faced a very difficult double match point problem at a regional event:

11 point match. Black and White tied at 10-all. **Black to play 2-1.**



I decided to hit two men (13/11\*, 6/5\*) which didn't work out. White entered with one piece. I danced. White entered her other checker, and I was history.

I'm not sure if what I did was right. Of course I could ask someone to run it on Snowie, but how is that going to help me solve complex problems like this in the future? When faced with a problem that offers so many choices, where does one begin? —In the Dark

**DEAR DARK:** If gammons counted, it would be folly to hit even one man in this very close race, as White has a stronger and blotless board. Return hits, of which there are many, create a gammon danger well in excess of the modest gammon threat that you have. By playing safely (best is 6/4, 2/1, which maximizes covers for a fifth inside point) now, you retain some chances of hitting *safely* later if White does not extricate his back man.

However, with gammons irrelevant at double match point, hitting can gain, as it sets White back in the race. Hitting in the outfield gains more than hitting on your 5-point, as it sets White back more while preventing the escape of the man that can escape easily if left unmolested. This makes it close between 6/4, 2/1 and the least risky of the hitting plays, 13/11\*, 11/10, which leaves only 12 return shots

(one of which, double-5s, is a splendid roll for White even if it doesn't hit): too close for me to call!

Hitting twice looks a bit too dangerous, even with gammons irrelevant. Not only does hitting twice leave 20 return shots instead of 12, it also leaves a second blot in your home board. You won't always be able to clean up both blots after White dances, so the shot danger is greater still.

Note also that diminishing returns sets in: the first hit gains more in the race than the second hit does. The main merit of the second hit is that it keeps White from anchoring on your 5-point with 5s.

Although hitting twice looks like overdoing it, I might be wrong. At any rate, with gammons not counting, your play is only a small error, not a blunder. —Yours, Danny Δ

Address your questions 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](mailto:bg@chicagopoint.com)

## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

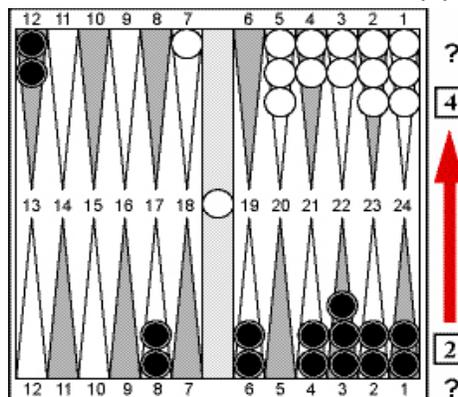
a person "elephanting" to 32. Someone was certainly stomped after that action! —Ed.

### DIAGRAM ERRORS FOR OCTOBER

I discovered two diagram errors in the October POINT. On page 6, in Duane Jensen's excellent article, the roll for diagram #3 should be 3-2, not 2-2. Also in the Colorado report on page 7, could both diagrams have actually been exactly the same? —Mike Puffpaf, Chicago, Illinois

We definitely have to do better. You are correct on both points, Mike. For Pos. 3 in Duane's article, the roll should have been 3-2. And the position where Richard doubled leading 3-1 should have been as follows:

13-point Colorado State finals. Richard Munitz (Black) leads Neil Kazaross (White) 3 to 1. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



We regret both errors. —Ed. Δ

## ASHKENAZI & SAX WIN IN VEGAS

**F**ormer Times Square backgammon director Victor Ashkenazi (NY) defeated Joe Freedman (VA) 17–10 to win the Las Vegas Open. The event, directed by Howard Markowitz, was held at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas. 200+ players attended.

Steve Sax won another Masters title by topping Hugh Sconyers in the \$2000 Superjackpot event.

Only four teams were willing to pony up the \$5,000 entry fee in the 1st American Doubles Championship. The "dream team" winners were Nack Ballard (CA) & Kit Woolsey (CA) over Alan Grunwald (NJ) and Paul Magriel (NV). *Complete results:* Δ

### LAS VEGAS OPEN & AMERICAN DOUBLES

CHAMPIONSHIP (81 + 25 rebuys): 1-Victor Ashkenazi (NY), 2-Joe Freedman (VA), 3/4-Jona Alexander (CA) / Stepan Nuniyants (WA); 1C-Stick Rice (OH), 2C-Bob Glass (CA), 3C/4C-Alan Grunwald (NJ) / Sami Sallak (Germany); 1LC-Richard Munitz (NY), 2-Gary Bauer (NJ). INTERMEDIATE (88 + 32 rebuys): 1, 2-Mark Donaldson (MN), 2-Robb Rossetti (CA), 3/4-Dennis Rutkowski (CA) / Danielle Bastarache (FL); 1C-Jonah Seewald (CO), 2C-Kamyar Hosseinian (CA), 3C/4C-Cem Aslan (TX) / Justin Nunez (CA); 1LC-Rick Voeller (WA), 2LC-David Tanaguchi (CA). BEGINNER (35 + 15 rebuys): 1-George Ramia (IL), 2-Proctor Ritchie (AZ), 3/4-Jack Peled / Joy Zuke (AK); 1C-Don Thompson, Sr. (CA), 2C-Eula Lekas (CA); 1LC-Glen Chee (CA), 2LC-Lee Baker (CA). \$2000 SUPER JACKPOT (16): 1-Steve Sax (CA), 2-Hugh Sconyers (TX), 3/4-Brian Zembic / Arkady Tsinis (NV). \$1000 LIMITED JACKPOT (16): 1-Ted Chee (NV), 2-Dennis Rutkowski, 3/4-Janelle Girard (Canada) / Cem Aslan (TX). \$400 OPEN JACKPOT (16): 1-Alan Grunwald (NJ), 2-Petko Kostadinov (SC), 3/4-Art Moore (CA) / Victor Ashkenazi. AMERICAN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP (4 teams): 1-Nack Ballard (CA) & Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-Alan Grunwald (NJ) & Paul Magriel (NV). \$300 DOUBLES (32 teams): Jeff Acierno (NY) & Steve Keats (NY), 2-Alan Grunwald (NY) & Paul Magriel (NV). SENIORS TOURNAMENT #1 (64): 1-Ray Foglerlund (CA), 2-Tom Wheeler (TX). SENIORS #2 (32): 1-Norm Wiggins (CA), 2-Beth Raby (VA). BLITZ (200): 1-Bob Glass (CA), 2-Kit Woolsey (CA). MINIMATCH (128): 1-Jack Hagelin (WA), 2-Ted Chee (NV). SATURDAY \$300 JACKPOT (12): 1-Ray Foglerlund (CA), 2-John O'Hagan (IN). \$100 JACKPOT (32): 1-Ted Chee (NV), 2-Betty Coppic (FL). \$50 JACKPOT (9): 1-Joy Zuke (AK), 2-Hsiao-Yee Ballard (CA).

# Match Equity For



By Phil Simborg

After 20 years of teaching beginner and intermediate backgammon players, I have STOPPED drilling match equity and take points into them. It just doesn't work for any but highly skilled players, and even many of them screw it up. Also, I have found that for that level of player, trying to master these concepts is frustrating and just makes the game "less fun." Many walk away thinking they can never enjoy tournament play because there's too much to learn and too much math that has to be done over the board to be fun.

The fact is, even most top-level player don't do the math over the board either . . . they understand the concepts of the underlying math, and they have some general rules they follow at various scores; but then, they make their "best guess." You see, even if you have memorized all the take points at every score and are skillful and quick enough to do the math over the board, you still have to be able to look at the board and accurately estimate wins, losses, gammons and backgammons for both sides for the math to accurately apply. That kind of skill takes years of study and a huge internal library of reference positions.

So here is how I teach the concepts to beginner and intermediate players. (And if you are a more experienced player, this is not a bad refresher course for you, too!)

First we look at the concept of MATCH EQUITY and why we need to know anything about it in the first place. I start with a simple example. Let's suppose you are playing a match to 5 points and the score is 3-3. At this score, we say that both players are 2-away. And it doesn't matter whether the score is 3-3 to 5, or 11-11 to 13, or 19-19 to 21. At 2-away/2-away, the match equity is 50% for both players.

At 2-away/2-away, before the first roll, each player has a 50% chance of winning the match (we always assume equal skill level in these computations, but you can adjust in your head if you believe you are far better or worse than your opponent). But after one or two rolls, usually one of

the players has at least a slight advantage. If you were that player, and it is your turn to roll, your decision is simple: *you should double*. Why play a game for just 1 point when you are winning if you can turn the cube to 2 and a win gives you the entire match instead of just the game? If you don't double, you run the risk of getting so good that when you finally double, your opponent will drop.

Now, if you are ahead and don't double, of course there is the chance that your opponent will improve and get to a better position and become the favorite, and by not doubling you might lose only 1 point instead of losing the match. That's certainly possible, but the odds are, since you are ahead when you doubled, you are more likely to be the one to get further ahead and win the game. So play the odds when they are in your favor and double.

There's another advantage to doubling when you have a slight lead: your opponent might make a mistake and drop! Now, because of the Crawford Rule (he cannot double for one game when you first reach one point away from winning the match), he must win two games in a row, or win a gammon on the first game. Assuming equal ability, the odds of him winning one game are 50/50, so the odds of him winning two games in a row is half of that, or 25%. Now, he can also win the match by winning a gammon on the first game, and the odds of that are about 6%, so his true equity if he drops the cube is 31%. That means, if he drops your cube, you are now a 69% favorite to win the match. So if you got to the point at 2-away/2-away where you are a slight favorite, you're delighted if you double and he drops and now you become a big favorite (69%) instead of just a small favorite.

And that brings us to the take decision. If you are the one who is doubled, as you can see from the above, if you drop you have a 31% chance to win the match. Therefore, your TAKE POINT is 31%. You should look at the position of the checkers and try to estimate your winning chances. Gammons and backgammons don't matter if the cube is turned as you both need 2 points, and if you take, the cube would be on 2, so you only need to consider wins and losses. If you think you can win this game more than 31%, you are going to win more matches by taking the cube than by dropping the cube. But if your opponent has waited too long to double, and he has an overwhelming position and is likely to win more than 69% of the time, you are better off dropping and playing more games.

So here you have one of the simplest examples of match equity, but when I go to major tournaments and watch intermediate and beginner players—and even some open players—I often see major cube errors at this score. To make it simple for us "idiots"—at 2-away/2-away, double when you have even a slight lead, and if you're not quite sure if you should double or not, *double anyway*.

At other match scores, the doubling and taking decisions become much more complicated, as in addition to wins and losses, you have to take into account gammon and backgammon chances, both with the cube turned and unturned, and the affect of all of the risks taking into account the differences in the score.

Again, there is no substitute for learning the tables and concepts completely; but as I stated early, except for a few of the top players in the game, most of us apply some general rules of thumb to help us make the decisions.

If you are ahead in the match, you should generally tend to be more conservative with the cube. If you give the cube too early, you generally benefit your opponent more than yourself, and you give him the cube, as a "weapon." Once he has access to the cube and you don't, he can use the cube to end the game and you cannot, or he can force you to take the cube at 4. The higher the cube, generally the greater benefit to the player who is trailing in the score. Whatever your winning chances when you doubled, they go down once your opponent has access to the cube and you don't.

Conversely, if you are behind in the match, you should be more liberal both in giving and taking the cube. You need to take more chances, and you need to recognize that the higher the cube the better chance you have to catch up. However, giving away the cube too soon also reduces your chances of winning the game, as you can no longer end the game with the cube, so you don't just go wild.

If you or your opponent is 2-away from winning the match and you are not, you generally want to be aggressive with the cube. If you lose, and he gets to 1-away (and it is Crawford) so your match equity, depending on your score, is fairly low anyway, so you don't risk that much by doubling. Further, when the cube is turned and he is 2-away, you now get the points benefit of winning gammons and backgammons and he does not. Now, that doesn't mean you should just mindlessly cube on the first roll . . . clearly you should have an

*[Continued on page 6]*



# Marcy's BGG Holiday Gift Ideas

by Marcy Sloan

Here's the 2007 sackful of backgammon-related goodies from our favorite Santa, Marcy Sloan (Boynton Beach, FL). Everything here can be purchased at the Internet address shown.—Ed.



Go "old school" with this \$35 hand-held electronic backgammon unit. Multiple play levels. Also available: portable 12" x 10" backgammon computer with many advanced features. Available at: [www.classicchessandgames.com/Backgammon.htm](http://www.classicchessandgames.com/Backgammon.htm)



This dice ring toss game is perfect for your backyard. Toss the dice to score "21" or more and win! Includes four foam dice and two rings. \$17.99 from: [www.mileskimball.com](http://www.mileskimball.com) (search: 46843).



Get two French wines (or Whisky) in a backgammon case. \$116 from [www.xroniapolla.com](http://www.xroniapolla.com). Click on "Wine & Spirits," then search: Backgammon.



Tell them how you really feel with this unique T-shirt and/or cap. \$17.95 each from [www.casualivingusa.com](http://www.casualivingusa.com). Then search: winning.



Contemplate your next double with a 14kt backgammon ring. They're unique and can be made in any size. For price, go to [www.backgamnonelegance.com](http://www.backgamnonelegance.com) and click on "Jewelry."

## MATCH EQUITY...

[Continued from page 5]

advantage and hopefully, some gammon chances before turning the cube. Conversely, if you are the one who is two-away and you are being doubled, most players get far too conservative about taking the cube. By taking you can now win the match with a simple win. The best reason not to take is if you are in the kind of position where you could get gammoned a lot, and then you probably should drop. But again, you must take into account your opponent's score when you make that decision.

If it is post-Crawford, you should double on the first roll every game. You cannot double for one game, but don't forget to double immediately every game thereafter. (There are some scores and situations where expert players should hold the cube, but again, that should not be a consideration for the beginner and intermediate player.)

If you are both 5-away or greater, the match equity is very similar to that of money games. That means that the take point is around 25 percent. So take the cube if you win about 25% or more (considering gammons and backgammons in your

decision), and give the cube when you are at least a 67% favorite or more (again, depending on gammon and backgammon risks). You can take with a little less than 25% if there is a reasonable chance you can get in a recube, or if enough of your wins also give you gammons.

Your checker play also changes because of match equity. When there are differences in score, gammons and backgammons become more or less important to each side. If you determine that winning a gammon is extremely important, you might be right to take more chances to get a gammon. Conversely, if getting gammoned costs you the match, you should make plays that tend to protect against gammons, even if they might cost you some wins.

While I do advocate to beginner and intermediate players that they are better off applying the above principles than trying to "do the math" over the board, I still advocate, whenever possible, "checking your decisions" by constantly putting positions into Snowie (or Jellyfish or GNUBG) and seeing where you are making mistakes in your decisions. And I advise them to go a step further and actually look at what Snowie says the take-point is for both players and try to understand why a given posi-

tion is a double or not, or a take or not. This will sharpen their judgment, and, along the way, more and more they will start learning the math and the math behind the reasoning and then, SOME DAY, they too can be too good to read articles "for idiots" like us.—Phil Simborg Δ

Want to get into more detail about Match Equity and more detailed aspects of the game? Phil Simborg has been giving private and group lessons live and on line for over 20 years. You can contact Phil at [psimborg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:psimborg@sbcglobal.net).

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# 1929 Vogue Provides More Doubling History

By Grant Scheifer

My family was at my in-laws last summer and my teenage girls were reading the old fashion magazines that were at their house. While looking through the September 14, 1929 issue of *Vogue*, they came across a backgammon article which they immediately brought to my attention.



The backgammon article in this September 14, 1929 *Vogue* magazine provided historical information as to where the concept of doubling was first started.

In an article entitled “Bridge or Backgammon?” by Frank Crowninshield, several points are brought up pertinent to your doubling investigation.

The article, published just 40 days before the fateful 1929 stock market crash begins:

“If one were asked to name the most striking single difference between the society of New York at the moment and the same society a few years ago, one might reasonably answer, ‘Higher gambling.’ Higher risks, higher stakes, higher hazards are in the air, and this follows naturally from the constantly increasing prosperity, extravagance, and adventurousness of the American people, the craving for the chief manifestations of which have been speed and the rocketing course of the stock market.”

Later in the article:

“Risk is in the air in all walks and classes of society. This new passion for hazard-

ous enterprises has also manifested itself, in a curious way, in the games indulged in by fashionable people in New York.”

Backgammon is then referenced:

“Backgammon, as a game, was a dead and discarded pastime relegated to old men in chimney corners until the practice of doubling—‘doubling by matches,’ as it is called—was injected into it and gave it a new stimulus, so much so that it has now everywhere become the rage in clubs and at houseparties.”

After describing how a gammon effected game stakes, and that gammons occurred “very rarely,” the following was written:

“But, for the jaded tastes of people today, this was certainly not enough. **It remained for a group of enthusiasts at the Racquet Club in New York to invent a further hazard in the shape of ‘matches and doubles.’** This device is simplicity itself. Whenever a player, in the course of a game, feels that he has a decided advantage over his adversary, he is at liberty to say ‘I double.’ This means he is willing to double the agreed stake, for that game only.”



An illustration from the article “Bridge or Backgammon” appearing in the September 14, 1929 *Vogue*.

The paragraph then goes on to explain about redoubles and then talks next about scoring by matches; but there is no mention of the doubling cube. At one point in the article, the new doubling invention is called “matches backgammon.” The article concludes with a paragraph about chouettes and how they are played.

I hope this information proves valuable to your investigation.—*Grant Schneider, Alexandria, Virginia*

**EDITOR RESPONDS:** Thanks to Grant Schneider who will earn a one year subscription to CHICAGO POINT. We will use this incredible find to update our online article ([www.chicagopoint.com/doubling.html](http://www.chicagopoint.com/doubling.html)) in the following way:

## STATEMENT #2

The practice of doubling originated in New York City at the Racquet and Tennis Club by an unknown player or players.

The September 14, 1929 *Vogue* magazine states that matches were the common way of doubling and scoring, and there is no mention of the doubling cube. *Vogue* called it “the new form,” and this article beats the earliest printed reference to doubling by matches by almost nine months: Elizabeth Clark Boyden’s June 5, 1930 forward to her book *The New Backgammon*. So we are fairly confident to give a slightly later introduction of the doubling cube into the game, especially on a significant level:

## STATEMENT #4:

The doubling cube was introduced into the game (more commonly for chouette play) in second half of 1929 or the first half of 1930, almost certainly at the Racquet and Tennis Club of New York City.

Forward all improvements on the history of Doubling and the Doubling cube to [bg@chicagopoint.com](mailto:bg@chicagopoint.com). If we judge your submission to be of historical value, you will receive a free one-year subscription to the POINT.—*Ed. Δ*

## 2007 ILLINOIS STATE RESULTS

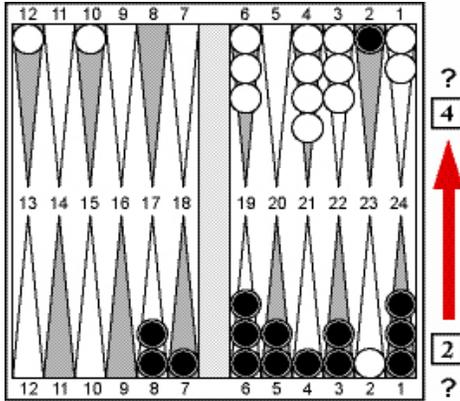
[Continued from page 1]

CHAMPIONSHIP (45): 1-Joe Sylvester (MO), 2-George Barr (IL); 1C-Ray Foggerlund (CA), 2C-John Jennings (IL); 1LC-Lucky Nelson (IL). INTERMEDIATE (28): 1-Jim Pokela (MN), 2-Cookie Frazin (IL); 1C-Jolie Rubin (IL), 2C-Oleg Raygorodsky (IL); 1LC-RamezAbi-Akar (IL). NOVICE (8): 1-Cindy Trine (IL), 2-Maxine Diamond (Canada); 1C-Wendy Russell (IN); 1LC-Casey Sheedy (IN). LAND OF LINCOLN MASTERS (11): 1-Joe Sylvester (MO), 2-Ed Zell (IL). ILLINOIS OPEN (31): 1-Brad Baker (IN), 2-Mark Murray (IL); 1C-Petko Kostadinov (SC), 2C-Harvey Gillis (WA). LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Lenny Loder (IL) & Albert Yakobashvili (IL), 2-Tim Ferrell (WA) & Cliff Mayoh (IL). DOWNTOWN PEORIA QUICKIES (32): 1-Steve Brown (MN), 2-Carol Joy Cole (MI).

## PROBLEM #331 ANALYZED

by Ray Fogerlund

2007 Wis. State finals. David Rockwell (White) leads Bill Davis (Black), 2-0 to 13. Black on roll. **RECUBE ACTION(S)?**



When Bill Davis posed this problem to me, I looked it over and said: “Redouble/Take. I might not like taking all that much, but one doesn’t have to like it; one just has to take it.”

Two facts are pertinent to what actually happened. First, the position occurred in the finals of an American Backgammon Tour event. Second, neither player had won in awhile (if ever), which could lead to more emotional decision-making.

I am what players refer to as a “taker.” Takers make it tough on you because they are willing to stare adversity right in the kisser. They’ll risk losing the doubled gammon just to keep you from getting any free points. I have found that luck favors the player holding the cube.

Getting gammoned or BG’d at a higher level is the entire downside. The taker’s upside is considerably more convoluted and unpredictable. The unknown is in there—

maybe even an abominable “snowman.”

Let’s look at the match situation and get a load of what the redoubler has in mind. Most players having lost the first two games of their final match are itching for their turn. They don’t want to wait too long and get further behind in the finals! Perhaps they can see the Championship trophy in the distance over their opponent’s shoulder. Most, if not all players would recognize this situation as their big chance and send over the 4-cube. “Let *him* think about this one! I am going to seize the initiative right here. Won’t that trophy look nice on my mantle?? By George, I think I’ve got him.”

The gravity of the situation is not lost on his opponent, either. The kibitzers inch closer to take in the moment, or should I say “moments”? These decisions are not made instantly. In this particular case, our swarthy redoubler has the measure of his man. His opponent passes and surrenders 2 points, and the match score is now 2-2/13, with many more games to come.

The shoulders of the kibitzers relax. They move on about their business. The audience is living vicariously through the players, some of them recalling that if they had not been hit with that 2-6 from the bar, maybe they would be playing in the finals instead of watching them! But the tension has been broken and the final judgment has been delayed. Oh, how they would have preferred a brave take here.

But lets give our “passer” his due. For in this instance, the computers tell us he has done the right thing! After 2880 3-ply, precise full rollouts, Snowie has decreed that the position is worth 1.019, so the passer has saved himself a few hundredths of a point which may be important during the final reckoning. He has done well.

Notably, even Snowie is confused by this position, for in its 3-ply evaluation, it admonishes anyone who passes this cube as having made an error of 0.101. It mis-

evaluates the position to be worth only 0.899, (or 1.798 on a redouble).

The passer takes awhile because the answer is close, and it is hard to figure out. We must silently acknowledge the passer’s accurate judgment and marvel at his strict discipline.

... Or should we?? I fly in the face of the silicon solution!

Three types of players will react to this cube as follows: The **average player** will pass out of fear. The **studious player** will pass too, because he is up in the score and he realizes it is technically a close pass. But the **great player** says, “I *still* take. This is the final match. I did not get here by fanning, nor did I get here by missing shots. Today is *my* day; I am going to be the Champion. Here are three reasons why:

- “My opponent is not a computer; he’s just an average guy. He will misplay this position enough to make a computer pass into a comfortable take—especially under pressure.
- “I want to send a message to my opponent that I will *not* be pushed around. He will remember that on all subsequent cube decisions which may be even *more* uncomfortable for me!
- “I might get gammoned, but that is a stretch. I win about a third of the time, and if it is a pass, it’s only because of the score. If I win, I go up at least 6-0/13, and I seize the momentum and the initiative in one fell swoop. If worse comes to worst, I can still win trailing 2-8/13 against a player overprotecting his big lead.

“And besides, I will become a kibitzer’s dream. They love action-packed games and this promises to be one. Hell, I love them even more. It is great to get a direct shot when one is holding a 4 cube, don’t you agree?? Everyone will want to watch me play now!” —Ray Fogerlund Δ

## MORIOKA & STEEN WIN BPC FALL TROPHIES

For the 5th time, Tak Morioka has won the Chicago Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney. The 25th annual event was held at the O’Hare Holiday Inn in Chicago on 9 November. Bill Davis directed the event with more than 50 players attending.

Board maker supreme Tak Morioka defeated 3-time BPC Trophy event winner Gary Kay 7-1 to win nearly \$1,000 in prize money. The win catapulted Morioka to 3rd place in the 2007 BPC points race. He has now won 20% of our 25 BPC trophy events!

In other action, Bob Steen bested Jacob Moreno 7-1 to claim the Intermediate trophy and Ken Tyszko topped Phil Simborg in the One-Point Tourney. Congrats to all the winners. *Complete results:* Δ

### 25th BPC FALL TROPHY TOURNEY

CHAMPIONSHIP (32): 1-Tak Morioka, 2-Gary Kay, 3/4-Wendy Kaplay / Lenny Loder; 1C/2C-Shaw Dogan / Mark Murray. INTERMEDIATE (18): 1-Bob Steen, 2-Jacob Moreno, 3/4-Jim Opre / Alice Kay; 1C-Jacki Singleton (WI), 2C-Amy Trudeau. ONE-POINT TOURNEY (32): 1-Ken Tyszko, 2-Phil Simborg.



Intermediate Fall Trophy Tourney winner Bob Steen (L) and Champ victor Tak Morioka receive their awards from director Bill Davis.

## AMALGAMATION

Does your work block [www.chicagopoint.com](http://www.chicagopoint.com)? Here's a way to outfox them. Go to [babelfish.altavista.com](http://babelfish.altavista.com). Then under "Translate a Web page," type: [chicagopoint.com](http://chicagopoint.com). Select language translation from "French to English" and voilà!... Visiting the Bar Point Club in October: **Dan Olson** (OH), **Virginia Wilson** (Alaska/England), and **Sonja Peacock** (IA)... **EZ Mike Wolock** is recovering from a minor car accident. Mike was rear-ended en route to our Fall Trophy Tourney... Congratulations to our most recent BPC 1000-to-1 achievers: **David Rockwell** (13 wins in a row) and **Gary Kay** (10 wins in a row)... The solid silver coins that Chicago Bar Point Club has awarded to their annual top 20 over the years have really appreciated. For example, the 1996 silver eagle is now selling for \$75!... Poker players **Chris MoneyMaker**, **Annie Duke**, **Howard Lederer**, and **Barry Greenstein** lobbied Congress in October asking for a poker exemption with regard to the online gambling ban. That would be good for backgammon, too. We'll let you know if anything develops... Warning if you play online backgammon. MSNBC reports on a serious cyber-poker cheating scandal. The cheater hacked the system to win around a half million dollars. If they can do it with poker, they can do it with backgammon... Leaving the Bar Point Club until Spring: **Elaine Kehm** (to Palm Desert, CA), **Ken Bond** (to Fort Lauderdale, FL). Leaving the BPC forever: **Mark Murray** who moves to Ohio in December. We'll miss you, Mark!... 2-time MBC Children's champ **Lyle Rubin** (IL) received a nice feature story in the Peoria Journal Star in conjunction with his entry into the Illinois State Championships... The Alcatraz Prison Museum has recently gone through \$3.5 million in renovations. One of the displays shows Regulation #42 that reads: "No gambling is allowed. You may play chess, checkers or backgammon"... According to the November 22, 1926 *Time Magazine*, **Charles Darwin** was an avid backgammon player. In a letter, he writes: "Now the tally with my wife in backgammon stands thus: she, poor creature, has won only 2,490 games while I have won, hurrah, hurrah, 2,795 games!"... Finally, think about this great quote from **Stephen Leacock**: "I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more of it I have"... Happy Holidays from CHICAGO POINT. The next issue will be published in January 2008. Δ

who did what

## WINNER'S CIRCLE



SEP.-NOV. 2007

•**Viator Cup Invitational** (La Jolla, Ca; 15-16 Sep.)... OPEN (29): 1-Dennis Rutkowski, 2-Robart Wachtel; 1C-Art Benjamin, 2C-Norm Wiggins... *Directed by Patrick Gibson and held at Jon Viator's residence.*

•**10th Austrian Open & 4th European Doubles** (Seefeld, Austria; 5-7 Oct.)... MASTERS (35): 1-Götz Hildsberg (GER), 2-Jerzy Behnke (GER), 3/4-Michele Muratori (ITA) / Volker Sonnabend (GER); 1C-Manfred Hollederer (GER), 2C-Werner Hertel (GER), 3C/4C-Harald Johanni (GER) / Rainer Witt (GER); 1LC-Andreas Nussbächer (GER), 2LC-Stefan Parlow (AUS). Ladies Prize: Andrea Riebler (AUS). CHAMPION (46): 1-Roland Sauter (GER), 2-Christian Setzpfandt (GER), 3/4-Helmut Gerdenits (AUS) / Michael Roth (GER); 1C-Damian Plesec (SLO), 2C-Markus Kuntaritsch (AUS), 3C/4C-Thomas Leitner (AUS) / Ingrid Sonnabend (GER); 1LC-Horst Ernst (GER), 2LC-Ferruccio Zucchi (ITA). Ladies Prize: Giovanna La Falce (ITA). INTERMEDIATE (22): 1-Sciadi Azizian (IRN/ITA), 2-Alberto da Pra (ITA), 3/4-Denise Kaiser (GER/SWZ) / Alessandro Stradiotti (ITA); 1C-Andrea Chen (CHN/ITA), 2C-Alfredo Sperti (ITA); 1LC-Philip Hollederer (GER), 2LC-Christian Derichs (GER). Ladies Prize: Denise Kaiser (GER/SWZ). LADIES TOURNEY (13): 1-Ingrid Sonnabend (GER), 2-Meltem Güçer (TUR), 3/4-Petra Jobst (GER) / Laura Monaco (ITA). WARM-UP (52): 1-Neculai Draganuta (ROM), 2-Daniel Scheidiger (SWZ). ONE-POINT #1 (64): 1-Rudolf Prohaska (AUS). ONE-POINT #2 (64): 1-Arda Findikoglu (TUE). SPERTI TROPHY (35): 1-Damian Plesec (SLO), 2-Michele Muratori (ITA). EUROPEAN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP (20 teams): 1-Jerzy Behnke (GER) & Ronald Reinhardt (GER), 2-Francesco Grimaldi (ITA) & Giuseppe Rigon (ITA).

•**Backgammon by The Bay** (Berkeley, CA; 12 Oct.)... OPEN (12): 1-David Levy, 2-Jeremy Bagai; 1C/2C Hideo Tateno / Kit Woolsey. INTERMEDIATE (4): 1-Dale Rose, 2-Joe Potts.

•**29th Flint Area Club Championships** (Flint, MI; 14 Oct.)... OPEN (23): 1-Dion Hogan, 2-Ralph Dietz, 3/4-Michel Hamati / Sandy Kaplan. INTERMEDIATE (19): 1-Bill Calton, 2-Joe Miller (OH), 3-Mark Swanson (IN). NOVICE (7): 1-Ron Ma, 2-Jeanette Spilsbury.

•**Phoenix Backgammon Club—USBL** (Glendale, AZ; 20 Oct.)... OPEN (4): 1-Pete Campbell.

•**Backgammon by The Bay** (Cupertino, CA; 27 Oct.)... OPEN (14): 1/2-Ted Chee / Jeremy Bagai; 1C/2C-Nash Jost / Jenann Nakamura.

•**35th Hawaiian State Championships** (Honolulu, HI; 28 Oct.)... OPEN (14): 1-Paul Lyons, 2-Les Asaumi, 3/4-Aggi Birnbaum / Harry Tanouye;

1C-Bryan Tanouye, 2C-Roman Druker... *Results provided by Bryan Tanouye.*

•**EBGT—3rd European Consulting Doubles & 5th French Open** (Enghien-les-Bains, France; 30 Oct.-4 Nov.)... 3RD EUROPEAN DOUBLES (27+5 rebuys): 1-Piergiorgio D'Ancona & Sandro Mescola (ITA), 2-Georgy Balkandjisky & Dobromir Kyurkchiev (BUL), 3/4-Claude Marbleu & Marc Santo-Roman (France) / Bakuri Tsertsvadze & Gergi Tsertsvadze (GEO). FRENCH OPEN MASTERS (67): 1-Badri Tsertsevadze (GEO), 2-Alexis Vincent (FRA), 3/4-Masayuki "Mochy" Mochizuki (JPN) / Matvey "Falafel" Natanzon (ISR); 1C-Thomas Jespersen (DEN), 2C-Serge Erokhin (RUS); 1LC-Athanasios Lagopatis (GRE/GER). ADVANCED (25): 1-David Fall (ENG), 2-Majken Johansen (Faro Islands), 3/4-Jakob Garal (UKR/GER) / Thomas Löw (GER); 1C-Frederic Andrieu (FRA), 2C-Thomas Löw (GER); 1LC-Bert Van Kerckhove (BEL). BEGINNERS: 1-Antoinette Rodi (USA), 2-Frank Del Rio (FRA), 3-Frank Zennaro (FRA). SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1/2-Thierry Manouck (FRA) / Ed O'Laughlin (USA). LADIES TOURNAMENT (15): 1-Simonetta Barone Herrera (ITA/ENG), 2-Nicole Taboury (FRA). XCITING GAMES CHALLENGE: 1-Roland Herrera (ENG), 2-Masayuki "Mochy" Mochizuki (JPN), 3/4-Nicole Taboury (FRA) / Fuat Erdag (TUR).

"CITY OF VENICE" QUALIFIER: Frederic Andrieu (FRA). SPECIAL PLAYER TROPHIES: Frenando Rocha (ARG), Julie Thabault (FRA). ELEGANCE TROPHY: Kazuko Numazawa (JPN). BEST FRENCH PLAYER TROPHY: Alexis Vincent (FRA).

•**Ohio State Club Monthly** (Akron, OH; 4 Nov.)... OPEN: 1-Stephen Benjamin, 2-Mike Vasilatos.

•**Arizona Club Monthly** (Phoenix, AZ; 5 Nov.)... OPEN (11): 1-Doug Amenda, 2-Harold Melamed, 3-Ken Grossman. Δ



## ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis  
773/583-6464

Peter Kalba  
312/316-1432

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

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

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at Los Potrillos, 201 Landmark Drive, Normal. 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).

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progressive consolation  
tournament on tables  
superjackpot  
swing tournament

friday, 30th november  
registrations  
cayoff circuito nazionale di backgammon  
quarter entries, double & kick off continue  
public draw  
tournaments start

sunday, 2nd december  
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