

14 ABT DIRECTORS APPROVE NEW U.S. TOURNAMENT RULES

American Backgammon Tour directors have approved new sets of tournament and clock rules which are now in effect. The January 2008 US Backgammon Tournament Rules & Procedures replace the old version in use since March 1990. Voting in favor of the updated rules were Gregg Cattanach (GA), Lynda Clay (CO), Carol Joy Cole (MI), Bill Davis (IL), Elayne Feinstein (FL), Steve Hast (PA), Jeb Horton (NC), Tom Machaj (WI), Joe Miller (OH), David Minikus (MN), Linda Rockwell (IL), and Renée Rosenbloom (NY). Approving the new rules with the exclusion of Article 6.3 (the player's right to appeal a Director's ruling) were Howard Markowitz (NV) and Patrick Gibson (CA).

New Clock rules (October 2007) were also unanimously approved. The rules are written for the Bronstein time clock which is the fairest clock for monitoring backgammon tournament matches.

The biggest single US Tournament Rules change involves premature rolling. Previously, US Rules stipulated that if the opponent rolled before the player had picked up his dice, the opponent was required to reroll. Now, all premature actions (dice rolls and cube action) shall stand if otherwise valid. An opponent who has yet to complete his turn or act upon the cube may then do so with foreknowledge of the premature action. This new rule is more in line with BIBA (England), DBF (Denmark), and WBF rules (although not as harsh as DBF and WBF where the offended player has the additional right to demand that the fast-roller reroll).

Aside from the many improvements in clarity and grammar, the major differences between 1990 and 2008 are as follows:

1.5 The line "Player may forbid his opponent from wearing headphones" has been eliminated. A player may still forbid his opponent from wearing headphones if the Director determines that they are disturbing the flow of the game.

- 1.6 "Players may not use cell phones or other electronic communication devices except during authorized breaks." This addition is self-explanatory. Penalties are left to the individual Directors.
- 1.7 "Spectators who observe improprieties or irregularities during a match should discuss them in private with the Director." For example, if you see that the two players don't have the same score, you should privately report this, or any other impropriety to the Director immediately.
- 3.1 "A baffle box may be used by agreement of both players or by requirement of the Director." Previously, there had been no mention of baffle boxes.
- 4.1 "Between turns the dice shall remain in the dice cup with the cup kept in plain view." This is proper etiquette that also protects both players from misdeeds.
- 4.2 "Both dice must leave the cup before

[Continued on page 7]

FOGERLUND TOPS IN 2007 Edges Munitz in tight ABT race

Ray Fogerlund of Bakersfield, California is the 2007 American Backgammon Tour Player of the Year. In one of the closest races in the 15 year Tour history,



2007 ABT Player of the Year Ray Fogerlund

Fogerlund edged out 2006 ABT winner and Monte Carlo semifinalist Richard Munitz (NY) 44.87 to 42.26. And amazingly, Ray earned all of his points without ever winning a tournament—a Tour first!

Fogerlund, a fireman by profession, cashed in five events: Carolina (2nd Cons.), Los Angeles (1st Cons.), Michigan (2nd), Wisconsin (3rd), and Illinois (1st Cons.).

[Continued on page 4]

BACKGAMMON IN MONTE CARLO??



We were glad to see Cigar Aficionado spotlight the Monte Carlo World Backgammon Championship in their December article "Rolling The Dice In Paradise." Fred Chamanara, Matvey "Falafel" Natanzon, Gus Hansen, David Nahmad, and other BG players were featured. But if they think backgammon looks like this, they've been asleep for 75 years!

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS



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THE "CALCUTTA" AUCTION

How did backgammon tournament auctions get named "Calcutta" auctions?—*Michael Flohr, Director, Bloomington-Normal Club, Illinois*

When horse racing started in India in the 18th century, there was no pari-mutuel wagering. 100 lottery tickets were sold on horses at 10 Rupees per ticket. When all the tickets had been sold, horses were drawn against the ticket numbers. Then the tickets were auctioned with the better horses fetching a higher bid.

In those days, auctions took place at lottery dinners the night before racing with the bidders' enthusiasm stimulated by fine wine. In the 1970s and before, many backgammon tournaments also held their Calcutta auctions at dinners the evening prior to play.—Ed.

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole
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cjc@flintbg.com

*Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined

Jan 5*	Springfield Series #3, Ride the Nine, Bloomington, Illinois	217/622-9447
Jan 5*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Westport Flea Market, Kansas City, Missouri	816/916-6599
Jan 6*	New England Club Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Jan 6*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Jan 7*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Jan 7*	Roy's Monthly, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Jan 8*	Bar Point Club Awards Night, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jan 9*	Winnetka BG Club Awards Night, Winnetka Community House, Winnetka, IL	847/446-0537
Jan 10-13	<u>New York Metropolitan Open, Hyatt Regency, Jersey City, New Jersey</u>	<u>702/893-6025</u>
Jan 13-15	World Doubles Championship, Hyatt Regency, Jersey City, New Jersey	702/893-6025
Jan 13*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Jan 17*	Third Thursday Bonus (Midwest Champs), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jan 18-20	<u>8th Carolina Invitational, Hilton University Place, Charlotte, North Carolina</u>	<u>704/814-0850</u>
Jan 19*	Phoenix Free Monthly-USBL, Glendale Gaslight Inn, Glendale, Arizona	602/296-4307
Jan 20*	Pittsburgh Monthly Tournament, Panera Bread, Wexford, Pennsylvania	412/826-1334
Jan 27	Bar Point Club Doubles Championship, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583/6464
Jan 31*	Flint Club Awards Party/Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Feb 2	Springfield Series #4, LAP's Sports Bar, Springfield, Illinois	217/622-9447
Feb 3*	New England Club Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Feb 3*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Feb 4*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Feb 4*	Roy's Monthly, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Feb 6*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Westport Flea Market, Kansas City, Missouri	816/916-6599
Feb 10	Illinois State Challenge Cup, Playoffs Sports Bar, Carol Stream, Illinois	630/606-2388
Feb 10*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Feb 17*	2008 Ohio Doubles Championship, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	513/777-7862
Feb 29-Mar 2	<u>2008 Midwest Backgammon Championships, Wyndham Lisle, Lisle, Illinois</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
Mar 16*	25th Fleet Underwood Memorial, Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Mar 28-30	<u>30th Pittsburgh Championships & ABT Awards, Holiday Inn, Coraopolis, PA</u>	<u>412/823-7500</u>
Apr 11-13	<u>14th Ohio State Championships, Airport Marriott Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio</u>	<u>330/268-4610</u>
Apr 16-20	<u>24th Nevada State Tournament, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	<u>702/893-6025</u>
May 2-4	<u>Southeast Championships, Holiday Inn Dunwoody, Atlanta, Georgia</u>	<u>678/982-3203</u>
May 23-26	<u>28th Chicago Open, Eaglewood Resort, Itasca, Illinois</u>	<u>702/893-6025</u>
Jun 6-8	<u>Los Angeles Open, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Jul 3-6	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton Novi, Novi, Michigan</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Aug 1-3*	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York</u>	<u>585/752-5393</u>
Aug 15-17*	<u>Florida State Championship, Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, Florida</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Aug 29-Sep 2	<u>Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin</u>	<u>608/516-9109</u>
Sep 26-28	<u>Colorado State Championships, Holiday Inn, Denver, Colorado</u>	<u>303/791-0271</u>
Oct 10-12*	<u>Illinois State Championships, Ramada Hotel, Peoria, Illinois</u>	<u>847/845-3579</u>
Oct 17-19*	<u>Mid-Atlantic Championship, Days Inn, Timonium, Maryland</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Nov 12-16	<u>Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	<u>702/893-6025</u>
Dec 5-7	<u>California State Championship, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Jan 4-6	2008 Thailand Open, 19th Hole Superpub, South Pattaya, Thailand	661000-1379
Jan 5-6*	4th BG Masters International Open, Café den Bengel, Antwerp, Belgium	31653-276835
Jan 11-13	Bright 'n' Breezy, Paramount Old Ship Hotel, Brighton, England	441522-888676
Jan 13-14*	Rhein-Neckar-Cup Finale, MFC Phönix Clubhaus, Mannheim, Germany	496204-620396
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*	BIBA International Championship, Paramount Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Mar 20-24	WSOB: TrueMoneygames Nordic Open, Marienlyst, Helsingør, Denmark	4533-363601
Apr 3-6*	PGT: Lyon Trophy 2, Casino Le Lyon Vert, La Tour de Salvagny, France	331-47645938
Apr 4-6	British Open, Paramount Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Apr 23-27*	PGT: 9th Paris Master & Open, Hotel Lutetia, Paris, France	331-47645938
Apr 29-May 4	EBGT: 2nd Davis Cup/3rd Portuguese Open, Estoril (Lisbon), Portugal	491715-422222
May 2-4*	County Cups Trophy, Paramount Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
May 29-Jun 1*	PGT: Eden Tournament, Eden Casino, Juan-les-Pins, France	331-47645938
May 30-Jun 1*	Austrian Masters Finale, Cafe Heine, Vienna, Austria	436642-127412
May 31-Jun 6*	Neil Davidson's 2008 Festival of Backgammon, near Ronda, Spain	447798-614800
Jun 5-8*	2nd Braunlage-Harz-Cup, Hotel Hohenzollern, Braunlage, Germany	49521-64314
Jun 6-8*	Paramount English Open, Paramount Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676

LETTERS...

(Continued from page 2)

SHOULD IT BE THE OTHER WAY?

In the upcoming Midwest Championships Battle of the Sexes event (Feb. 29–Mar.2),

the ladies can be any age and the men must be 50 years old or over. But since backgammon is mostly played by oldies, you would give more help to the ladies if you said the men must be 50 or less.—Ray Kershaw, London, England

Good point, Ray. It would also encourage more youth to participate in our game. But we're afraid to change the age requirement any time soon. Have you ever seen old men rioting? It ain't pretty.—Ed.

THE VOGUE DOUBLING CUBE ARTICLE

Excellent article by Grant Schneider on doubling history and the Vogue Article. ["Schneider" is correct. We misspelled Grant's last name in the November article.—Ed.] Do you have a copy of the complete Vogue article that you could send me?—Chris Bray, London, England

We scanned the article, Chris and sent it to you. Any others who would like the 1929 Vogue article should write us or send an e-mail to: bg@chicagopoint.com. Look for another Doubling Cube "find" in the March CHICAGO POINT.—Ed.

GREETINGS FROM BUENOS AIRES

Here's wishing you and all the Bar Point Club members a Merry Christmas and a lucky 2008!—Claudio Salamone, Buenos Aires, Argentina Δ

DOUBLING CUBE QUESTIONS

I enjoyed the article you have posted online, investigating the history of doubling and the cube (www.chicagopoint.com/doubling.html). I'm afraid I don't have information to help your investigation, only questions I hope you can help me with:

1. Certainly someone must be alive today who had played backgammon in the

(Continued on page 7)



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2007

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2007

Final Top 100 after 16 tournaments – 200 players earned pts.
(Upcoming 2008 events: NY Met, Carolina, Midwest Champs)



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2007

Ray Fogerlund	44.87	Phyllis Shapiro	11.68	Yury Millman	7.33	David Taniguchi	5.23
Richard Munitz	42.26	John Herron	11.64	Danielle Bastarache	7.26	Jinelle Girard	5.04
Patrick Gibson	32.77	Art Benjamin	11.27	Emil Mortuk	7.11	Jim Pasko	5.04
Paul Weaver	31.43	Howard Markowitz	10.67	Walter Trice	7.11	Ernie McCombs	5.02
Gary Bauer	30.93	Kieth Hvamstad	10.67	Bud Bowers	6.92	Stewart Pemberton	4.89
Stick Rice	30.87	Dave Settles	10.44	Robb Rossetti	6.52	Tim Lawless	4.89
Dana Nazarian	29.36	Neil Kazaross	10.19	Jonah Seewald	6.52	Norm Wiggins	4.82
Bill Davis	27.93	Arkadiy Tsinis	10.07	Charlie Raichle	6.40	Lucky Nelson	4.50
Harvey Gillis	24.15	Paul Mangone	9.78	Roz Ferris	6.15	Rory Pascar	4.44
Victor Ashkenazi	24.00	Michael Schecter	9.64	Linda MacLean	6.08	Alfred Mamlet	4.33
Alan Grunwald	23.15	Kamyar Hosseinian	9.26	Gregg Cattanach	6.08	Michael Valliere	4.30
Bart Brooks	22.56	George Barr	9.00	Christopher Yep	6.08	Ray Bills	4.27
Steve Brown	21.33	Steve Hast	9.00	Vladi Gudgenov	6.00	Frank DiMaggio	4.14
Joe Sylvester	20.22	Herb Roman	8.94	Jona Alexander	6.00	Justin Nunez	4.07
Malcolm Davis	19.84	Terry Leahy	8.89	Stepan Nuniyants	6.00	Pete Townsend	4.00
Adrian Costa	19.27	Jolie Rubin	8.62	Bob Glass	6.00	Paul Knapp	4.00
Ed O'Laughlin	19.25	Paul Strasberg	8.60	Beth Raby	5.84	John O'Hagan	3.79
David Rockwell	18.20	Steve Maas	8.55	Ken Fischer	5.64	Bob Zavoral	3.79
Arie Bornstein	18.00	Adam Bennett	8.51	Jim Pokela	5.60	Tom Keith	3.79
David Todd	16.49	Luis Rivera	8.42	Mark Dean	5.41	Perry Gartner	3.70
John Jennings	15.17	Carmen Webb	8.00	Matt Reklaitis	5.33	Mark Antranikian	3.70
Maurice Barie	14.22	Stefan Staykov	8.00	Vadim Musaelyan	5.33	Sina Bigdeli	3.60
Mark Donaldson	13.04	Petko Kostadinov	7.58	Paul Franks	5.33	Thomas Meyer	3.56
Fred Kalantari	12.16	Cem Aslan	7.45	Matt Cohn-Geier	5.33	Gil Evans	3.46
Joe Freedman	12.00	Steve Sax	7.40	Scott Johnston	5.33	Steve Cherne	3.43



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB

2007 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

FINAL STANDINGS
93 players earned points

David Rockwell	42.04	Alex Owen	8.44	Linda Rockwell	2.76	Jacki Singleton	0.72
Rory Pascar	27.90	Mark Murray	8.44	Paul Franks	2.28	Doug Rodgers	0.72
Herb Roman	27.36	Alice Kay	8.16	Allen Tish	2.24	Paul Klein	0.72
Albert Jakobashvili	24.60	Carter Mattig	8.16	Felix Yen	1.68	Steve Klene	0.72
Tak Morioka	23.36	Georgina Flanagan	7.68	Roy Cohen	1.60	Glenn Martells	0.72
Mike Wolock	21.68	Lucky Nelson	7.04	Les Moshinsky	1.52	Keith Hanson	0.72
Phil Simborg	18.84	Peter Kalba	6.96	Tom Osterkorn	1.44	Brad LaPratt	0.64
Bob Zavoral	18.12	Jerry Brooks	6.64	Elaine Kehm	1.36	Sonja Peacock	0.64
Tim Mabee	17.40	Willis Elias	6.56	Kendra Wesley	1.32	Ron Wagner	0.64
Bill Davis	16.20	Christopher Shanova	6.40	Dan Simborg	1.28	Jolie Rubin	0.60
Bill Keefe	14.34	Henry Gray	6.40	Dan Weymouth	1.20	James Roston	0.56
Bob Steen	14.16	Nora Luna Righter	6.08	Denise McDermott	1.16	John Poulos	0.56
Jacob Moreno	14.08	Wayne Wiest	6.04	Neil Kazaross	1.12	Jim Opre	0.48
Oleg Raygorodsky	13.56	Arline Levy	5.72	Ivan Giorgadze	1.04	Tim Stoddard	0.48
Steve Klesker	12.88	Ken Tyszko	5.12	Tim Rockwell	1.04	Charles Melidosian	0.48
Bill Bartholomay	11.68	Shaw Dogan	4.80	Bob Koca	1.04	Bev Loder	0.48
Roger Hickman	10.80	Royal Robinson	4.68	Sargon Benjamin	0.96	David Araiza	0.48
Gary Kay	10.48	Lenny Loder	4.32	Dan Cox	0.96	Amy Trudeau	0.40
Mike Sutton	9.88	Wendy Kaplan	4.16	Paul Baraz	0.96	Jordan Sanders	0.40
Mike Pufpaf	9.68	Eric Johnson	4.08	Dick Nelson	0.84	Roland Dieter	0.40
Ken Bond	9.36	Richard Stawowy	4.00	John Jennings	0.84	Derek Swanson	0.40
Michael Ginat	8.96	Dave Settles	3.80	Joanna Mabee	0.80	Mark Penacho	0.32
Larry Goldstein	8.76	Adrian Rios	3.52	Harold Elgazar	0.80	Simona Olah	0.24
						Ken Tibbs	0.24

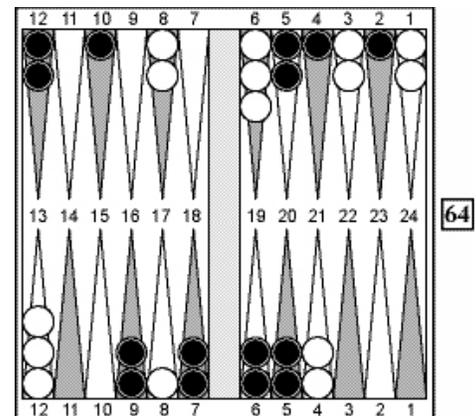
November POM: TAK MORIOKA (5.12). 2nd: Albert Jakobashvili (4.32), 3rd: Gary Kay (3.88).
December POM: BILL DAVIS (5.36). 2nd: Steve Klesker (3.76), 3rd: Henry Gray (2.80).

your move

PROBLEM #333

to be analyzed by Dana Nazarian

11-point match tied at 6–6. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-3.**



SHADES OF GRAY

A RULES AND RULINGS COLUMN

© 2008 by Danny Kleinman

DANNY LOOKS AT THE NEW RULES

The new US Tournament Rules (1/08) and US Clock Rules (10/07) are out. Danny Kleinman, who was involved in the rewrite process, offers his take on a few ruling questions asked from various sources online and at the Chicago Bar Point Club:

1. Rule 4.6 Premature Actions says that if your opponent rolls his dice before you have completed your turn, the roll will stand and you get to play your current roll with full knowledge of your opponent's misdeed. Previously, all premature rolls were void and had to be recast. Why the harsh change?

Voiding a premature roll creates an incentive for players to fast-roll; if the fast-roller likes his roll, he says nothing, but if he dislikes it, he draws attention to its prematurity and rerolls. The fast-roller's opponent must be diligent to observe the timing of the roll, and disputes may arise. Having all rolls stand eliminates this incentive and reduces the need for diligent observation.

2. Previously, some players when rolling prematurely would grab their own dice as they were bouncing around, once they realized (a split second too late) that the roll was early. With 4.6 in effect, there really isn't such thing as a premature roll . . . all rolls are valid. So what happens now if somebody grabs his dice mid-roll? Now he's interfering with a legal roll.

There are three cases to consider:

(1) B has rolled two dice prematurely and both have landed. Then, when he picks up his dice, he has played ("no play") the

roll and A, after completing his own turn, but before lifting his dice may either accept B's "no play" or require B to make a legal play. After that, A gets another turn.

(2) B has grabbed his dice after one has landed. Then A completes his own turn, but before lifting his dice, specifies whether B is to reroll both dice or only the die that did not land.

(3) B has grabbed his dice before either has landed. No penalty; B has prevented his own error by prompt action.

Note that in no case does B ever have an incentive to roll prematurely. Cases (1) and (2) provide a disincentive.

3. Under article 6.2 Testimony, the rule states: "Spectators shall only testify at the Director's request." Does this mean that when a director is called to make a ruling, a spectator who witnessed cheating cannot say anything at the table unless he is asked to testify?

At the table, no: the spectator must not volunteer information. Privately, away from the table, yes: a spectator may and should convey his observations to the director.

4. According to article 4.4 Checker Handling, "A player with a checker illegally removed from play may still be gammoned or backgammoned." Does this mean that if the offended player does not correct the illegal removal, the checker remains out of play for the game's duration? And similarly, what happens when a player puts his own checker on the bar?

Black cannot save a gammon by removing his own checker from the board illegally. White cannot gammon Black by removing a black checker from the board. The rules must protect each player against his opponent's infractions, whether deliberate or not, and it is best that the issue of intent not arise. However, there is no reason for the rules to protect a player against his own

errors. So if a player accidentally puts his own checker on the bar, his opponent can either accept the misplay or require the player to make a legal move.

5. Clock rule 4.1 Mishandling Dice states that "A player who prematurely picks up the dice forfeits his per move deductible for his next checker play." (Bronstein clocks are now the official method of timekeeping.) But Tournament rule 4.6 Premature Actions says "All premature actions (dice rolls or cube actions) shall stand if otherwise valid." How should directors rule if a fast roll occurs during a clocked match.

The fast roll stands. The player who picks up the dice and rolls them before his opponent hits the clock suffers the time forfeiture specified . . . on the roll following his premature roll.

6. When using the clock, the rules state that a player's turn is over when he hits the clock. What if the player takes a double but doesn't hit his clock. Because his turn has not "officially" ended, can he still change his mind?

No. Cube actions, unlike checker plays that can be changed prior to hitting the clock, are final.

7. There is nothing in the rules regarding a player's right to take a picture of a position for future study or whether or not a player can videotape a match if his opponent objects. How will directors rule on this controversial subject?

Common sense prevails. Unobtrusive use of a camera is unobjectionable; the camera flash can be distracting, and taking time to snap pictures can slow a match to the detriment of the tournament. Directors will rule accordingly . . . I hope.—Yours, Danny Δ

Have you ever been involved in a questionable ruling? Get Danny Kleinman's opinion. Write to: Shades of Gray; c/o CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155 or e-mail: bg@chicagopoint.com.

FOGERLUND...

[Continued from page 1]

Ray is the only player to have scored ABT points in 13 of 15 seasons and his all-time total shows it. He's now second on the leaderboard with 210.77 points.

Congratulations on a great year for Ray Fogerlund who besides winning matches and working as a Calcutta Auctioneer, also contributed many articles to CHICAGO POINT, *Flint BackgammonNews*, and GammonVillage.com. What's next for Ray . . . a book?

Rounding out the top three is Gammon

Associates Director Patrick Gibson (CA). Patrick established another "first" in ABT history: he earned Intermediate points en route to winning an ABT trophy. You may remember Patrick's big Michigan Summer victory worth 30.33 points; but without the 2.44 points he earned (for 2nd Cons.) in his swan song performance as an Intermediate at the Nevada State event, Gibson would have ended up in 7th. Well done, MFIC!

Aside from the Top-3 trophies, CHICAGO POINT is donating 1 oz. solid silver dollars to all of the Top Ten finishers. [See page 3.] The Awards Ceremony will be in March at the Pittsburgh Championships. Δ

Danny's books available online

www.dannykleinman.com

The Best in Bridge & Backgammon

Backgammon Clubs in North America

Information for this listing has been obtained directly from the featured backgammon clubs. Changes are inevitable and we suggest that you always call before attending. CHICAGO POINT would like to maintain an accurate listing of USA Backgammon Clubs online at: www.chicagopoint.com/useclubs.html. Please send club information, including new clubs and club closings and updates to: **CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659. 773/583-6464. Fax: 773/583-3264. E-mail: bg@chicagopoint.com**

WEST

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT (E-MAIL)	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Arizona Backgammon Club	Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub	Phoenix, AZ	1st Monday monthly-7:00 PM	Pete Campbell (arizonabackgammon@webtv.net)	602/279-0215	928 E. Berridge Lane; Phoenix AZ 85014
Phoenix Backgammon Club-USBL	Glendale Gaslight Inn	Phoenix, AZ	3rd Saturday monthly-12:00 PM	Dan Pelton (dpeltoni@yahoo.com)	602/296-4307	2605 N. 36th Street G7; Phoenix, AZ 85008
Gammon Associates	Acapulco Cantina	Burbank, CA	Tuesday-5:45 PM	Patrick Gibson (pgibsonmfc@roadrunner.com)	818/901-0464	7641 Orion Avenue; Van Nuys, CA 91406
"	A.R. Private Club	Los Angeles, CA	Sunday-2:00 PM	"	"	"
Backgammon Club of San Diego	Coast Cafe/Embassy Suites	La Jolla, CA	Tuesday-6:00 PM	Tom Fahland (tom_fahland@yahoo.com)	858/472-1516	558 Summer View Circle; Encinitas, CA 92024
Backgammon By The Bay	Peking Express Restaurant	Berkeley, CA	2nd Saturday monthly-12:00 PM	Ted Chee (ted_chee@yahoo.com)	831/261-4583	137 La Mesa Drive; Salinas, CA 93901
"	Britannia Arms Pub	Cupertino, CA	4th Saturday monthly-1:00 PM	"	"	"
Restaurant Roy Backgammon	Restaurant Roy	Santa Barbara, CA	1st Monday monthly-7:00 PM	Roy Gandy (roy@restaurantroy.com)	805/966-5636	7 W. Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Boulder Backgammon Club	Boulder Broker Inn	Boulder, CO	1st & 3rd Thurs.-7:00 PM	Lynda Clay (info@coloradobackgammon.com)	303/791-0271	5516 Samuel Peak; Highlands Ranch, CO 80130
Colorado Backgammon Assoc.	"	Boulder, CO	4th Sun. except Sep. & Dec.-1 PM	"	"	"
Denver Backgammon Club	Bennigan's	Denver, CO	2nd & 4th Thursdays-7:00 PM	"	"	"
Backgammon Club of Las Vegas	Jackson's Bar & Grill	Las Vegas, NV	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Jason Lee (jlee@vegasbg.net)	702/301-4987	1154 Heavenly Harvest #1; Henderson, NV 89002
Nevada Backgammon Association	Riviera Hotel	Las Vegas, NV	Event dates: www.nvbg.com	Howard Markowitz (howard114@cox.net)	702/893-6025	3131 Espanol Drive; Las Vegas, NV 89121
Puget Sound Backgammon Club	Wizards Restaurant/Casino	Burien, WA	Tuesday-7:30 PM	Ruth Robbins (ruthles5@comcast.net)	425/226-3120	12611 155th Avenue SE; Renton, WA 98059

CENTRAL

Pub Club	Playoffs Sports Bar & Grill	Carol Stream, IL	Thursday-6:45 PM	Tim Mabee (tim.mabee@experian.com)	630/606-2388	224 Split Oak Road; Naperville, IL 60565
Chicago Bar Point Club	Holiday Inn-O'Hare Hotel	Chicago, IL	Tue.-6:30 PM, Sun. bimonthly-12 PM	Bill Davis (bg@chicagopoint.com)	773/583-6464	3940 W. Bryn Mawr #504; Chicago, IL 60659
Bloomington-Normal BG Club	Ride The Nine	Bloomington, IL	Monday-6:00 PM	Michael Flohr (mflohr0925@verizon.net)	309/662-7967	707 Broadmoor Drive; Bloomington, IL 61704
Peoria Backgammon Club	Peoria Pizza Works	Peoria, IL	Thursday-6:30 PM	Ed Zell (bg2008@thezells.com)	309/224-9579	9019 N. Picture Ridge; Peoria, IL 61614
Sangamon Valley BG Association	Capitol Teletrack	Springfield, IL	Wednesday-6:30 PM	Randy Armstrong (randya@insightbb.com)	217/622-9447	2012 N. 20th Street; Springfield, IL 62702
Sangamon Valley Springfield Series	Various locations	Central Illinois	1st Sat/Nov to Apr-11:30 AM	"	"	"
Winnetka Backgammon Club	Winnetka Community House	Winnetka, IL	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Trudie Chibnik (winnbackgammon@aol.com)	847/446-0537	740 Ballantrae Drive; Northbrook, IL 60062
Hoosier Backgammon Club	Buffalo Wild Wings	Indianapolis, IN	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Sean Garber (seagar1824@yahoo.com)	317/241-0605	1824 N. Auburn Street; Speedway, IN 46224
Northwest Indiana BG Association	VFW Hall	Porter, IN	2nd Saturday monthly-1:30 PM	Charlie Halberstadt (chbug@yahoo.com)	219/617-5566	P.O. Box 84; Westville, IN 46391
Flint Area Backgammon Club	Days Inn	Flint, MI	Thursday-7:00 PM	Carol Joy Cole (cjc@flintbg.com)	810/232-9731	3719 Greenbrook Lane; Flint, MI 48507
Grand Rapids Backgammon Club	Cascade Roadhouse	Grand Rapids, MI	Tuesday-7:00 PM	John Drexel (j.drexel@comcast.net)	616/647-9965	4845 Brookgate Dr. NW, Comstock Pk., MI 49321
No. Michigan Backgammon Club	Horizon Bookstore	Petoskey, MI	Thursday-7:00 PM	Bob Townsend (drtownsend@msn.com)	231/622-4533	1691 Townline Road; Petoskey, MI 49770
Plymouth Backgammon Club	Box Bar & Grill	Plymouth, MI	Wednesday-7:30 PM	Dean Adamian (Deans3491@hotmail.com)	734/981-5706	42954 Barchester; Canton, MI 48187
Metro North Backgammon Club	Crash Landing Restaurant	Warren, MI	Monday-6:30 PM	Paul Berg (paulberg@wideopenwest.com)	313/330-7803	921 Winchester; Lincoln Park, MI 48146
Twin Cities Backgammon Club	The Little Wagon	Minneapolis, MN	Thursday-7:00 PM	David Minikus (dminikus@comcast.net)	612/718-2613	6300 Phoenix Street; Golden Valley, MN 55427
Rochester Minnesota BG Club	Mickey's Irish Saloon	Rochester, MN	Wednesday-5:30 PM	Ray Bills (ray@us.ibm.com)	507/280-8956	618 23rd Street NE; Rochester, MN 55906

(Continued on opposite side)

Backgammon Clubs In North America*(Continued from opposite side)***CENTRAL (continued)**

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT (E-MAIL)	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Columbia, MO BG Club-USBL	Cherry Street Artisan	Columbia, MO	3rd Thurs. monthly-6:30 PM	Carl Hill (freudatease@yahoo.com)	573/442-3683	3295 Oakland Church Rd.; Columbia, MO 65202
Kansas City BG Club-USBL	Lew's Grill & Bar	Kansas City, MO	2nd & 4th Tuesday-6:30 PM	Steve Miller (smiller18@kc.rr.com)	816/807-7205	3906 NE 79th Street; Kansas City, MO 64119
Kansas City Backgammon	Westport Flea Market	Kansas City, MO	1st Wed.-6:30 PM or Sat.-11:30 AM mthly	Eric Barr (eric@kcbkbackgammon.com)	816/916-6599	421 E. 65th Street; Kansas City, MO 64131
Lincoln, Nebraska BG Club-USBL	Mo Java Cafe	Lincoln, NE	1st Thurs. monthly-6:00 PM	Andy Lewicki (gammonraze@yahoo.com)	402/560-7656	5044 Martin Street; Lincoln, NE 68504
Ohio State Backgammon Club	Spagheti Warehouse	Akron, OH	1st Sunday monthly-2:00 PM	Joe Miller (osbg@neo.rr.com)	330/288-4610	1066 Winston Street; Akron, OH 44314
Miami Valley Backgammon Club	Parera Bread	Dayton, OH	2nd Sunday monthly-12:45 PM	Roger Foster (MVBckgammon@woh.rr.com)	937/864-1748	4151 W. Enon Drive; Enon, OH 45323
Dayton Backgammon Club-USBL	Univ. of Dayton-Kennedy Union	Dayton, OH	Last Sunday monthly-12:45 PM	"	"	"
Cincinnati Backgammon Players Club	Metropole Coffee Company	Sharonville, OH	1st & 3rd Sun. monthly-12:30 PM	Peter Carcieri (pacr417@cincybg.com)	401/286-7336	6926 Jerry Drive; West Chester, OH 45069
Dallas Backgammon League	IHOP	Addison, TX	Wednesday-8:00 PM	Tom Wheeler (zwheel@sbcglobal.net)	972/484-3038	3705 Pageant Place; Dallas, TX 75244
Austin Backgammon Club	Doubletree Hotel	Austin, TX	Mon.-7 PM; Bimonthly-1 PM	Lessey Joy DeMoss (lesseye@isp.com)	512/251-3719	5107 Gregg Lane; Manor, TX 78653
Houston Backgammon Club	TBA. Call for info.	Houston, TX	TBA. Call for info.	Tom Wright (tomw64@hotmail.com)	281/687-1673	14664 Perthshire Road F; Houston, TX 77079
Madison Backgammon Club	J.T. Whitney's Pub & Brewery	Madison, WI	Tuesday-6:30 PM	Tom Machaj (tom.machaj@madisonbg.com)	608/516-9109	5821 Tolman Terrace; Madison, WI 53711
Milwaukee Backgammon Club	John Hawks Pub	Milwaukee, WI	2nd Wednesday-7:00 PM	Bob Holyon (bholief64@yahoo.com)	414/672-8359	911 S. 11th Street; Milwaukee, WI 53204

NORTHEAST

New England Backgammon Club	Dockside Restaurant	Malden, MA	Occ. Wed.-6:30 PM; Sun. mthly-1 PM	Herb Gurland (propyey@juno.com)	781/324-0892	62 Newman Road; Malden, MA 02148
Baltimore Backgammon Club	Treerhouse Restaurant	Cockeysville, MD	1st & 3rd Thursday-7:00 PM	Vic Morawski (vmorawski@juno.com)	443/570-0400	3358 Hickory Ave.; Baltimore, MD 21211
Mid Jersey Backgammon Club	Town & Country Inn	Keyport, NJ	Thursday-7:30 PM	Alan Grunwald (alan205@aol.com)	732/588-2988	205 Doe Trail; Morganville, NJ 07751
Midtown Backgammon & Chess Club	Club Room	New York, NY	Daily-12 PM; Tour. Sun.-2:30 PM	Beverly Flowers (flowers_beverly@hotmail.com)	212/575-2003	265 W. 37th Street; New York, NY 10018
Times Square Backgammon & Chess	Bryant Park	New York, NY	Daily except Sun.-12 PM Apr.-Dec.	Victor Ashkenazi (socratbg@gmail.com)	973/204-6932	1021 Harmon Cove Towers; Secaucus, NJ 07094
Pittsburgh Backgammon Club	Parera Bread	Wexford, PA	3rd Sunday Monthly-1:00 pm	Bud Bowers (budsmail@zozoom.net)	412/760-8363	P.O. Box 13; Wexford, PA 15090
Berks County BG Club-USBL	Bar-B-Q Pit	Sinking Spring, PA	Tuesday monthly-7:00 PM	Rick Reisch (reisch@comcast.net)	610/334-7150	320 Swampbridge Road; Denver, PA 17517
Northern Virginia Backgammon Club	Bailey's Pub & Grille	Arlington, VA	Monday-6:45 PM	Bill Pow (bill_22003@hotmail.com)	703/577-1927	9310 Hedgerford St.; Manassas Park, VA 20111
Beltway Backgammon Club	O'Malley's Pub/Crowne Plaza	McLean, VA	18± Sundays/year -12:15 PM	Barry Silliman (sillybaz@beltwaybg.org)	240/674-7222	P.O. Box 612; Walkersville, MD 21793

SOUTH

Suncoast Backgammon Assoc.	New York, New York Lounge	Cleawater, FL	Monday & Friday-6:30 PM	Bob Carpenter (gammon167@yahoo.com)	727/771-6544	1801 Eastlake Rd. 12E; Palm Harbor, FL 34685
South Florida Backgammon Club	NorthRidge Raw Bar	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Sat.-1 PM; Sun. mthly-1 PM	Elyne Feinstein (BGrfla210@bellsouth.net)	954/249-1416	649 W. Oakland Park 108A; Oakland Park, FL 33311
Atlanta Backgammon Association	Landmark Sidedoor Lounge	Atlanta, GA	Monday-7:00 PM	Dave Cardwell (info@BGrGA.com)	770/365-0974	2340 Ithica Drive; Marietta, GA 30060
Northside Backgammon Club	On The Rocks Tavern	Sandy Springs, GA	Wed.-7pm; Sun.-2:30 PM	Gregg Cattanauch (gcattanauch@bellsouth.net)	678/962-3203	1107 Rutherford Glen Circle; Doraville, GA 30340
Louisville Backgammon Club	Fox and Hound Pub & Grille	Louisville, KY	1st & 3rd Tuesday-6:30 PM	Quint McTyeire (hnm@gdm.com)	502/567-3672	4906 Crofton Road; Louisville, KY 40207
Charleston Backgammon Society	O'Charley's	N. Charleston, SC	Monday-7:00 PM	Brett Meyer (bmbmeyer@comcast.net)	843/532-5426	8058 Long Shadow Ln.; N. Charleston, SC 29406
Nashville Backgammon Club	Blackstone Brewery	Nashville, TN	Tuesday-6:30 PM	John Ramm (jrhill@comcast.net)	615/427-9244	1507 Shadywood Lane; Murfreesboro, TN 37130

CANADA

Natl Capital Backgammon Club	TBA. Call for info.	Ottawa, ON	1st Sunday monthly-10:00 AM	Eeden Windish (eeden-windish@rogers.com)	613/741-2530	396 Bangs St.; Ottawa ON, K1K 2N6; Canada
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NEW US RULES...

[Continued from page 1]

either die contacts the board; otherwise they must be rerolled." This defines "simultaneously tossing" the dice as described in Article 4.1.

- 4.4 "A player with a checker illegally removed from play may still be gammoned or backgammoned." This sentence warns us to play our checkers carefully. Illegal actions like removing a checker from the board or putting oneself on the bar will stand at the opponent's discretion.
- 4.6 "All premature actions (dice rolls or cube actions) shall stand if otherwise valid." As described at the start of this article, this is the biggest change between the 1990 and the 2008 rules sets.

- 4.9 "Players are responsible for playing to the posted match length. The first player to reach the posted match length is the winner." This addition, sometimes mentioned in announcements prior to previous tournaments, is now the official rule.
- 4.10 "The director may correct a wrongly-posted result and should do so in a timely manner fair to all." This gives the Director flexibility to rectify posting errors even after an incorrect match has commenced.
- 5.6 The new "Dead Cube" Article states: "When the cube level is high enough to ensure that the match will end with the current game, that game shall be played to conclusion at the present cube level."
- 6.3 The Appeals Article has been changed.

Players still have the right to appeal a Director's ruling; however now it will take a unanimous decision by the three person committee to overturn the Director's ruling. The logic is that if the Director votes one way, and the three person committee splits 2-1 against the Director, that would make the overall vote 2-2. In this instance, the Director's ruling will prevail.

We encourage all clubs to begin following the new tournament and clock rules immediately. ABT players should familiarize themselves with the new rules as they will be used beginning with the NY Metropolitan Open in January. You can access links to them at www.chicagopoint.com.

Players without a computer can get both rule sets by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659. Δ

DAVID ROCKWELL: BPC 2007 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

He was third in 2004, second in 2005, but in 2007, David Rockwell "owned" the Chicago Bar Point Club. Rockwell amassed an impressive 42.04 points to become our 2007 Player of the Year. And what a year it was.



BPC Player of 2007: David Rockwell

David (who almost never splits in the finals) won 16 weekly tournaments and was our Player of the Month five times. His point total is the best ever except for Tak Morioka's 46.44 in 1986 and 42.48 in 1987 when we were meeting on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sunday bimonthly.

And it wasn't just at our club where David had tournament success. Playing in just a handful of 2007 ABT tournaments, he won the Minnesota State Championship, was runner-up in Wisconsin, and won the Ohio State Doubles event (with his wife Linda) earning a total of 18.20 points and a ranking of 18th nationally. Congratulations, David Rockwell on an incredible year.

Rounding out our top three were Rory

Pascar (27.90) and Herb Roman (27.36), our 2006 Player of the Year. Rory's total was far and away his best ever and in some years would have been enough to win it all.

Rounding out our 6-player Illinois Challenge Cup team are: Albert Yakobashvili (24.60), Tak Morioka (23.36), and Mike Wolock (21.68). Well done, guys!

Players who finished in the Top 20 will receive a one ounce solid silver coin and the chance to win over \$400 in prizes at our Awards Night 8 January at the Holiday Inn-O'Hare. Mark your calendar. Δ

CHICAGO BAR POINT DOUBLES CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

Sunday, 27 January 2008 • 12 NOON

Holiday Inn-O'Hare

5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

\$60/team with \$40 side pool

An extra \$50 to the male/female team who wins this trophy event!

Info: 773/583-6464 • 312/316-1432

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

1930s. Could they provide some information for your investigation? Or perhaps there are secondhand accounts from people who knew such players. Has anyone interviewed these people?

2. The antique pointing device and the bakelite scoring matches are very intriguing. Since I'm trying to decorate my basement as a 1930s prohibition bar, I'm interested in where I can obtain some of these relics. Any hints?—*Brian S. Donahue, Nashville, Tennessee*

Actually there is no old historian that can help us, Brian. Even Oswald Jacoby (when he was alive) couldn't solve the mystery of who invented doubling and the cube . . . and he was part of the 1931 backgammon rules committee!

As for your request to obtain backgammon matches and/or a pointing device, we only know of two sets of bakelite back-

gammon matches in existence: ours and Art Grater's. The only pointing device we know of belongs to Chris Bray (England). Check out ebay and someday you might get lucky.—Ed.

AGE BEFORE BEAUTY

Has the Chicago Bar Point Club ever had a player over 70 years old reach the top 10? I ended up 6th this year and must say that it is extremely hard to beat the younger generation—especially when they are *Snowie'ing* everything!

Thanks for a wonderful, fun, and exciting year that included: (a) being shot at in my car going home from the game, (b) getting into an auto accident coming to the game, and (c) coming directly from my hospital room (still wearing the bracelet) to play.—*Mike Wolock, Chicago, Illinois*

You are not the oldest Illinois State Challenge Cup player, Mike. But you are the oldest BPC Challenge Cup team member. Good luck at that event 10 February in Carol Stream, Illinois.—Ed.

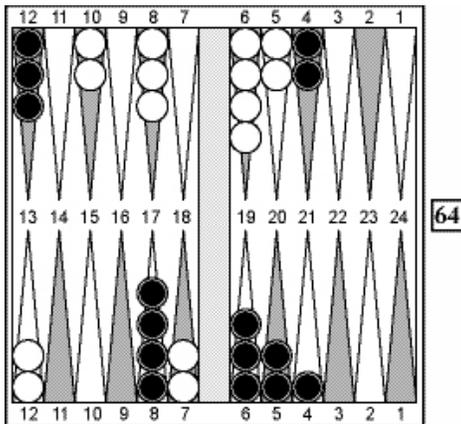


At previous Pro-Am Doubles events, I've had financial backing from my partners. This year, though, at the first American Doubles Championship (held atop the Riviera Hotel in conjunction with the Las Vegas Open, Nov. 7–11), the only lucrative offer I received came too late. I was already stuck having accepted an invitation from superstar Kit Woolsey. But “stuck”? . . . It was more like the man carried me!

Our opponents in the 11-point finals were the legendary Paul “X-22” Magriell and his partner Alan Grunwald (who had cashed in three other events!). Grab a board and play along with our first game.

Ballard & Woolsey (Black)	Magriell & Grunwald (White)
3-1: 8/5, 6/5	6-2: 24/18, 13/11
4-3: 24/21, 13/9	3-1: 8/5, 6/5
3-1: 24/21, 9/8	6-5: 24/18, 13/8
5-2: 13/8, 6/4	3-1: 13/10, 11/10
	6-3:

Pos #1. White to play 6-3.



This is the first of three plays in which our opponents overestimated the value of keeping their midpoint. It is instructive to see how much difficulty it caused them.

In Pos. #1, their (White's) best play (by .05) is 13/10, 13/7, paying to a shot now instead of later. We (Black) will not hit with 6-3 or 3-1, and other 3s are fraught with danger. Most often we miss, giving them a chance to make a fifth point in front of us, and in any case the problem of their thin outfield is solved.



American Doubles champs Nack Ballard and Kit Woolsey. [Photo: Carol Joy Cole]

4-1: 8/4, 6/5	6-3: 8/2, 6/3
	6-1: 8/2, 8/7

For the 6-1, 13/6 rolls out better by .02.

5-2: 8/3, 5/3	6-2: 7/1, 3/1
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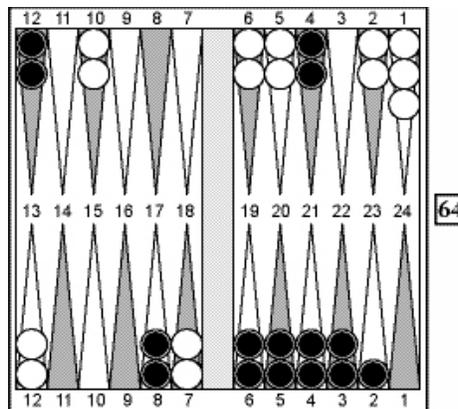
This play is a significant blunder. They (White) are in serious danger of leaving a direct shot on the next two turns. They should repair their stripped position with 13/11, 13/7, risking only four shots.

3-1: 13/9

Breaking our board (to avoid leaving a direct shot) would be terrible, taking the pressure off our opponents. They have a four-point board, but we have a better one.

4-1: 6/1
6-1: 9/2
5-4:

Pos. #2. White to play 5-4.



Critical decision. They *might* get the first shot or roll doubles after 10/6, 10/5, but their timing is inferior. It took courage to leave 14 shots with 18/14, 18/13, but their play triumphs in long rollouts by .02, largely due to the swing in cube efficiency.

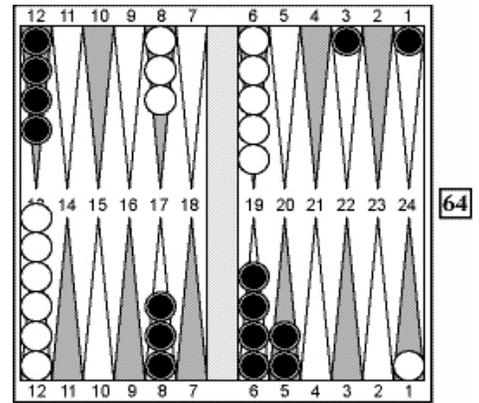
5-4: 18/14, 18/13

In this match, the dice rewarded our plays and punished theirs. We now rolled

6-2, then 6-1, hitting and priming, though they escaped the (1-level) gammon.

Due to space limitations, I have condensed the rest of the match (except for Game 3, covered in *Flint Area BackgammonNews*, #291) down to some interesting early game play decisions.

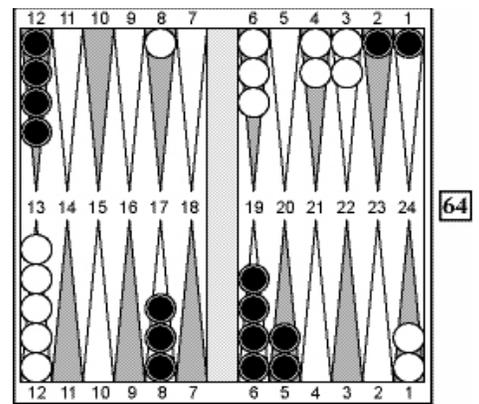
Pos #3. Black leads 1–0 to 11. White to play 6-6.



I've studied doublets on the first four rolls in some depth. If you run with 6-5 followed by double-6s, you should usually play three 6s down and run out (24/18). Half the time, you'll be missed, hit back or run back out to the outfield, and the play avoids stripping your midpoint.

Their actual play, 13/7(4) is a frequent error, though here it costs less than .02.

Pos. #4. Black leads 5–2 to 11. Black to play 5-2.

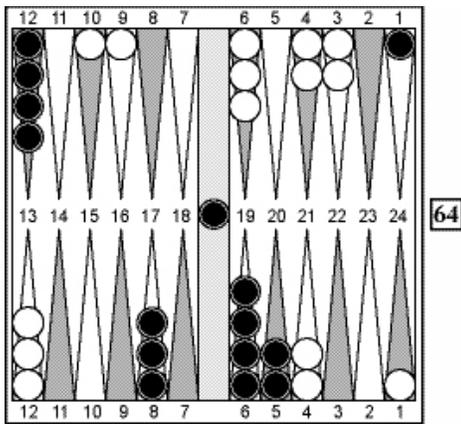


After they correctly made their 4-point with 4-2 (reaching Pos. #4), we rolled 5-2. Kit suggested 13/11, 13/8 but deferred to me on early game plays. (*For my opening book series, go to www.nackbg.com*)

I ran (23/16). The game flows better when we're missed and I dislike stripping our midpoint. On the other hand, I took the heat off their 8-point blot and let them unstack their midpoint while hitting with 4s.

Kit was right; I was wrong (by .03). In fact, the second best play is 13/6!

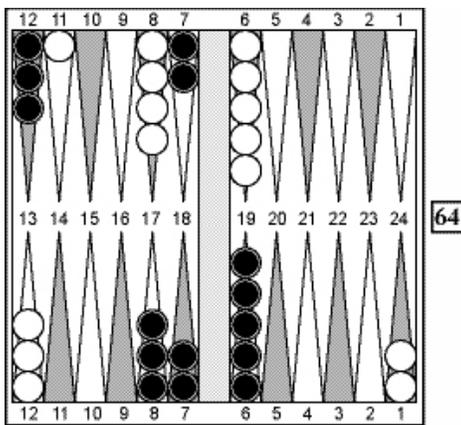
Pos. #5. Black leads 5-2 to 11. Black to play 5-4.



A few rolls later, in Pos. #5, we rolled 5-4 and anchored on our 20-point. Hitting (Bar/16*) is wrong by .05. If you have any doubts, read the “Anchor or Hit with 5-4?” article in CHICAGO POINT #178.

As a sidelight, revisit Pos. #4. If Black rolls 4-3, anchoring beats hitting by .04.

Pos. #6. Black leads 7-4 to 11. White to play 4-1.



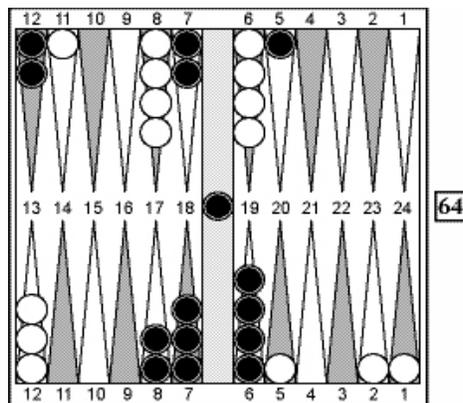
Paul and Alan chose 24/20, 6/5. When the opponent has an advanced anchor, splitting and slotting is often best (e.g., see *Backgammon Openings, Book A*, p. 82). However, *double slot*—6/5, 8/4!—is an even better play (by .02) here. White’s primary goal is to build a strong inner board as quickly as possible.

Their actual play (24/20, 6/5) sort of led



to what they wanted (a slugfest), and we reached Pos. #7 with a 4-2 to play:

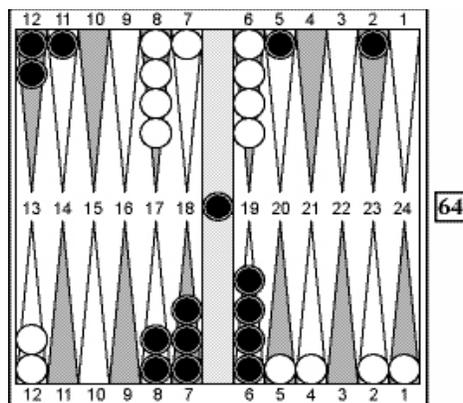
Pos. #7. Black leads 7-4 to 11. Black to play 4-2.



Black must not compromise with Bar/21, 20/18 or Bar/21, 7/5* (errors of .05 and .07 respectively). We correctly ousted their loose builder and recaptured our racing lead with Bar/23, 18/14*.

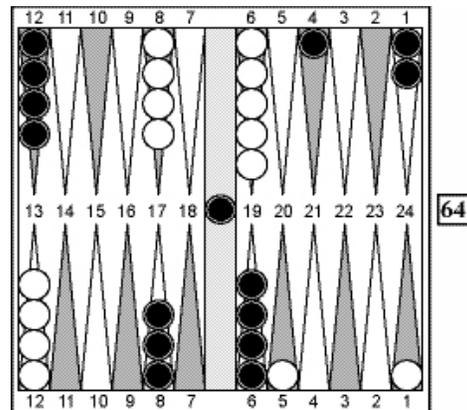
The first joker often wins loose hitting battles, and we rolled it. After their subpar 6-4 entry, we threw double-2s in Pos. #8:

Pos. #8. Black leads 7-4 to 11. Black to play 2-2.



To reduce their chance of anchoring high, we correctly hit both *inside* blots with Bar/23, 7/5*, 6/4*. However, our last deuce, covering the 5-point, is too pure. It is better (by .03 at this score) to cover the 4-point, keeping the 7-point as a hedge.

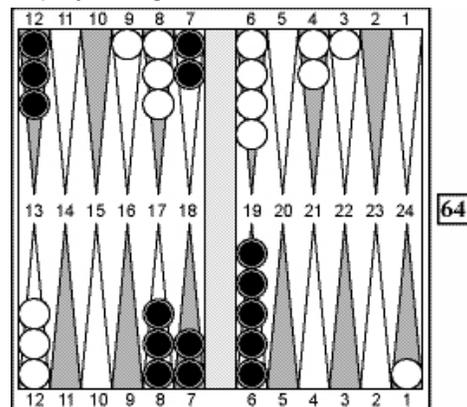
Pos. #9. Black leads 9-4 to 11. Black to play 5-1.



Some people take hitting exchanges too far: Bar/20, 6/5* is a big blunder (-.11). Black should just anchor on the 20-point (which we did), especially at this score.

After we anchored with 5-1 in #9, they (White) counter-anchored with 6-2 and we rolled 2-1, electing that time to appropriately start our 5-point with 13/11, 6/5 (which is tied with 24/22, 6/5).

Pos. #10. Black leads 9-6 to 11. White to play a single 5.



This is a commonly arising theme. White has one remaining 5 (of double-5s) to play. Their 9/4 is a small misplay.

Covering the third point with 8/3 is slightly better (by .01), leaving a mere five shots (we won’t hit with 6-2 at this score).

Basically, the loose end on their 9-point hurts them less than the loose end on their 3-point after the “safe” (9/4) play.

Even though they failed to cover their 3-point, we played 13/7, 8/7 with our next roll 6-1. Yes, it looks stiff, but slotting (13/7, 6/5) would be a blunder (-.06).

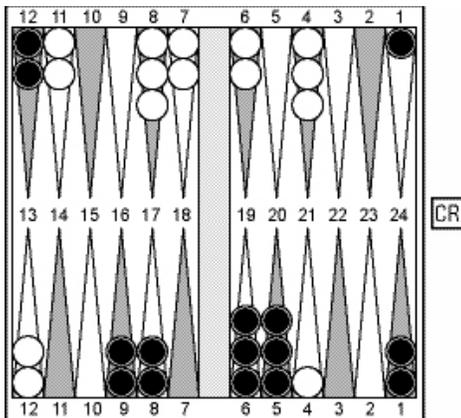
Later, in a straight race, they doubled us, but ultimately our dice triumphed (once again), ending the match.

I hope you learned as much as we did! Thanks to Chris Yep for his rollout help.—
Nack Ballard Δ

**PROBLEM #325
ANALYZED**

by Kit Woolsey

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



Black needs a 4 to escape the back checker. He quickly plays 24/20 with the 4, and then looks around for the 6. He doesn't find one he can play. Back to the drawing board. The back checker will stay where it is, and Black has to find another way to play the roll.

At this match score, gammons don't matter. The only difference between losing a single game and losing a gammon for Black is the loss of the free drop. That is very tiny on the large scale of things. Backgammons matter a lot, but at this stage of the game Black can't worry about that. For all practical intents and purposes, Black should play as if it were double match point.

What are the candidate plays? If Black hits loose with the 4 he should certainly play 8/2 with the 6—13/7 leaves far too many blots. Black could play safe with 9/5, 9/3. He could strengthen his board with 8/2, 6/2. Or he could bring builders down with 13/9, 13/7. There doesn't appear to be anything else.

What are Black's assets and liabilities here. He is a little behind in the race, which argues somewhat for aggression. He has the stronger inner board, which argues for a bolder play. He has made his ace point, which argues for a blitzing approach. Still, the quieter plays might be right. Black has only one back checker to escape, and White isn't optimally organized to complete a prime due to the wasted checker on the 4-point.

How do things look after the safe play of 9/5, 9/3? White escapes with 3s, 5s and

6s. Black might get a shot from the bar point. But even if White doesn't escape or Black hits a shot, Black's builders are badly placed. The advantage of this play is simply that it is safe, so if Black gets his back checker out he can try to win the race. But with White having that four-prime plus the critical 11-point to back it up, Black may be hard pressed to escape.

13/7, 13/9 leaves Black well-placed to attack if White doesn't escape. If White does get out, however, Black is in big trouble since he has lost his midpoint and has no outfield control. If things go Black's way, White doesn't escape and Black makes the 4-point on White's head next roll, but even that might not be conclusive—Black still has the combined problem of continuing the blitz and escaping the back checker.

Making the 2-point holds the midpoint and builds on Black's main strength: his inner board. The problem is that it leaves White 4s to hit and 3s and 6s to escape. That may be too many good numbers to leave White.

8/4*, 8/2 leaves White a double shot to hit back. But that doesn't necessarily escape for White. Black can enter and he will have some builders in play to continue the fight. Black does have the stronger inner board and he owns his ace point, so attacking is thematic. If White does flunk against the 3-point board, Black will suddenly be in great shape. If White does hit, Black has a chance to anchor back in White's board and fight from there as well as slashing back.

It is a difficult choice. I think the hit is best. What I like about hitting is that it gives Black a route to win when things go well, while not necessarily losing if things go badly. The other plays leave Black in big trouble if White escapes, while not being conclusive if White doesn't escape. Gammons don't matter, so having a couple of men sent back isn't as bad as it would be in a normal game. The hit is a play which attempts to win. The other choices are more "playing not to lose." —Kit Woolsey Δ

Kit Woolsey and Patti Beadles are co-authors of the new "52 Great Backgammon Tips: At Home, Tournament and Online." Although geared towards beginner and intermediate players new to the game, all levels will benefit by reviewing the tips presented in this 144 page book. \$13 (plus shipping) from Carol Joy Cole (cjc@flintbg.com or 810/232-9731).

**2007 WORLDWIDE
PLAYERS OF THE YEAR****NATIONAL (Alphabetized by State)**

American Backgammon Tour: Ray Fogerlund (CA)
Arizona Backgammon Club: Pete Campbell
Phoenix Backgammon Club (AZ): Pete Campbell
Gammon Associates (CA): Justin Nunez
Backgammon By The Bay (CA): David Levy—

Open, Dale Rose—Intermediate
South Florida BG Club (FL): Steve Flam
Suncoast BG Association (FL): Susan Randall
Atlanta BG Association (GA): Dave Cardwell
Northside Backgammon Club (GA): Carl Sorg
Bloomington-Normal BG Club (IL): Michael Flohr
Chicago Bar Point Club (IL): David Rockwell
Pub Club (IL): Tim Mabee

Peoria Backgammon Club (IL): Faddoul Khoury
Sangamon Valley BG Assn. (IL): Randy Armstrong
Winnetka Backgammon Club (IL): Neil Banoff
Hoosier Backgammon Club (IN): Sean Garber
NW Indiana Backgammon Assoc.: John O'Hagan
Louisville BG Club (KY): Quint McTyeire
Beltway BG Club (MD): Barry Silliman
New England BG Club (MA): Herb Gurland
Flint Area BG Club (MI): Dan Kiurski

Grand Rapids BG Club (MI): Michael Darooge
Plymouth Backgammon Club (MI): Ralph Dietz
Metro North BG Club (MI): Emil Mortuk
Twin Cities BG Club (MN): Yury Millman
Rochester Minn. BG Club (MN): Mark Donaldson
Kansas City Backgammon (MO): Eric Barr
Kansas City BG Club—USBL (MO): Steve Miller
Las Vegas Backgammon Club (NV): Jason Lee
Midtown BG & Chess (NY): Victor Ashkenazi
Midtown BG—USBL (NY): Mike Pistilnick
Ohio State BG Club (OH): Mike Hendrickson
Miami Valley BG Club (OH): Tom Seibold
Cincinnati BG Player's Club (OH): Jim Mieske
Dayton Backgammon Club (OH): Roger Foster
Charleston BG Society (SC): Brett Meyer
Nashville BG Club (TN): John Ramm
Dallas BG League (TX): Tom Wheeler
Houston Backgammon Club (TX): Scott Ward
No. Virginia BG Club (VA): Rainer Stachowitz
Puget Sound BG Club (WA): Molly Anderson
Madison Backgammon Club (WI): Stan Livingston

INTERNATIONAL

World Champion: Jorge Pan (Argentina)
World Series of Backgammon: Sean Casey (Ireland)
WBF Golden Circuit: Ricardo Malas (Lebanon/Spain)
PartoucheGammon Champ: Götz Hildsberg (Germany)
EBGT European Master: Thomas Jespersen (Denmark)
European Champion: Werner Schmuck (Austria)
Mitteleuropa Champ: Christos Groutsos (Greece)
Italian Champion: Nino Di Bella
French Champion: Eric Guedj
BIBA Grand Prix Champ (UK): John Slattery
BIBA Ranking Champion (UK): Myke Wignall
Gammonitis Rating Champ (UK): Julian Fetterlein
Nat'l Capital BG Club (Canada): Alan Robinson

WINNER'S CIRCLE



OCT.-DEC. 2007

•**Minnesota Open—ABT** (Bloomington, MN; 5-7 Oct.)... OPEN (14): 1-David Rockwell (IL); 1C-Paul Knapp (MN); 1LC-Yury Millman (MN). INTERMEDIATE (10): 1-Steve Cherne (MN); 1C-Sharon Rich (WA); 1LC-Bachan Khosa (MN). MASTERS JACKPOT (11): 1-Harvey Gillis (WA), 2-Steve Brown (MN). DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Steve Brown (MN) & Jim Pokela (MN). BLITZ (16): 1-Greg Bowman (KS), 2-Art Moore (CA). MINI-MATCH (4): 1-Art Moore (CA).



David Rockwell

•**Townharbour Trophy** (Coventry, England; 3-4 Nov.)... OPEN (32): 1-Jerry Limb, 2-Mardi Ohannessian; 1C-Geoff Conn. FRIDAY 500 WARM-UP (14): 1-Nicky Check, 2-Mardi Ohannessian. £50 JACKPOT (4): 1-Geoff Conn. TEAM EVENT (7): 1-Michael Crane. ROUND ROBIN (14): 1-Johathan Powell. POKER (8): 1-Paul Gilbertson.

•**Las Vegas Open—ABT & American Doubles** (Las Vegas, NV; 7-11 Nov.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (81+25 rebuys): 1-Victor Ashkenazi (NJ), 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 (GER); 1LC-Richard Munitz (NY), 2-Gary Bauer (NJ). INTERMEDIATE (88+32 rebuys): 1-Mark Donaldson (MN), 2-Robb Rossetti (CA), 3/4-Danielle Bastarache (FL) / Dennis Rutkowski (CA); 1C-Jonah Seewald (CO), 2C-Kamyar Hosseinian (CA), 3C/4C-Cem Aslan (TX) / Justin Nunez (CA); 1LC-Rick Voeller (WA), 2LC-David Taniguchi (CA). BEGINNER (35+15 rebuys): 1-George Ramia (IL), 2-Proctor Ritchie (AZ), 3/4-Jack Peled (NY) / Joy Zuke (AK); 1C-Don Thompson Sr. (CA), 2C-Eula Lekas (CA); 1LC-Glen Chee (CA), 2LC-Lee Baker (CA). \$2000 SUPER JP (16): 1-Steve Sax (CA), 2-Hugh Sconyers (NV), 3/4-Arkady Tsinis (NV) / Brian Zembic (NV). \$1000 LTD JP (16): 1-Ted Chee (CA), 2-Dennis Rutkowski (CA), 3/4-Cem Aslan (TX) / Jinelle Girard (CAN). \$400 OPEN JP (16): 1-Alan Grunwald (NJ), 2-Petko Kostadinov (SC), 3/4-Victor Ashkenazi (NJ) / Art Moore (CA). AMERICAN DOUBLES (4 teams): 1-Nack Ballard (CA) & Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-Alan Grunwald (NJ) & Paul Magriel (NV) OPEN DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Jeff Acierno (NY) & Steven Keats (NY), 2-Alan Grunwald (NY) & Paul Magriel (NV). SENIORS #1 (64): 1-Ray Foglerund (CA), 2-Tom Wheeler (TX). #2 (32): 1-Norm Wiggins (CA), 2-Beth Raby (VA). BLITZ (200): 1-Bob Glass (CA), 2-Kit Woolsey (CA). MINI-MATCH (128): 1-Jack Hagelin (WA), 2-Ted Chee (CA). SATURDAY \$300 JP (12): 1-Ray Foglerund (CA), 2-John O'Hagan (IN). \$100 JP (32): 1-Ted Chee (CA), 2-Betty Coppic (FL). \$50 JP (9): 1-Joy Zuke (AK), 2-Hsiao-Yee Ballard (CA). \$50 AFTER TOURN. (21): 1-Kamyar Hosseinian (CA), 2-Tom Wheeler (TX). \$20 AFTER TOURN. (16): 1-Damjan Plesec (SLO), 2-Troy Longman (MI).

•**UK Masters—WSOB** (London, England; 15-18 Nov.)... MASTERS (123+5 rebuys): 1-John Hurst, 2-Christian Plenz (GER); 1C-Rida Hassan (EGY);

1LC-Maya Peycheva (BUL). INTERMEDIATE (26): 1-Alain de Foucher (FRA), 2-Louise Kortbek (DEN); 1C-Gareth Owen; 1LC-Chris Rogers. DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Nicky Check & Lawrence Powell, 2-Hans-Uli Koch (Germany) & Ed O'Laughlin (USA).

•**5th Cancun Invitational** (Cancun, Mexico; 27 Nov.-2 Dec.)... OPEN (28+4 rebuys): 1-Katja Spillum (NOR), 2-Kyle Carlston (NV), 3/4-Dennis Carlston (CA) / Harry Demetriou (UK).

•**19th City of Venice & Davis Doubles** (Venice, Italy; 29 Nov.-2 Dec.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (54): 1-Damjan Plesec (SLO), 2-Masahito Yamamoto (JPN); 1C-Carlo Melzi; 1LC-Badri Tsertsvadze (GEO). INTERMEDIATE (32): 1-Nicola Spiro, 2-Udo Geib (GER); 1C-Peter Bardehle (GER); 1LC-Thomas Löw (GER). AMATEUR (32): 1-Antonio Varisco, 2-Girolamo Castiglioni; 1C-Laura Monaco; 1LC-Dario Bertola. DAVIS DOUBLES (21 teams): 1-Piero Gallo & Giuseppe Ricciardi, 2-Hans-Uli Koch & Michael Schmidt (GER). CASINO OF VENICE KICK-OFF (64): 1-Sergio Fragiaco. SUPER-JP: 1-Nodar Gagua (RUS). LADIES (16): 1-Giovanna La Falce (ITA). UISP "NO MONEY" (56): 1-Fanika Petrovska (England). "SWING" TOURNAMENT (26): 1-Dino Visentin, 2-Sandro Mescola. ESTORIL QUALIFIER (64): 1-Piergiorgio D'Ancona. ITALIAN NAT'L CIRCUIIT 2007: 1-Carlo Melzi.

•**California State Championship—ABT** (Tarzana, CA; 30 Nov.-2 Dec.)... OPEN (53): 1-Adrian Costa (CA), 2-Michael Schechter (CA), 3-Norm Wiggins (CA); 1C-Azzam Masarani (CA), 2C-Gary Bauer (NJ), 3C/4C-Kouroush Kamali (CA) / Mike Sharp (CA). ADVANCED (30): 1-Kamyar Hosseinian (CA), 2-Niel Borden (CA); 1C-David Escoffery (CA), 2C-Richard Armbruster (CA), 3C/4C-Douglas DeWitte (CA) / Ernie McCombs (TX). LIMITED (8): 1-Larry Saltzman (CA), 2-Charles Kabani (CA); 1C-Sid Kamarva (CA). SUPER 32: 1-Dana Nazarian (CA), 2-Alfred Mamlet (MD), 3/4-Jason Lee (NV) / Andranik Safarian (ARG). PAUL DINGWELL AMATEUR JACKPOT (16): 1-Saul Meir (CA), 2-Nash Jost (CA). 2-POINT QUICKIES (48): 1-Steve Grund (PA), 2-Dan Pelton (AZ). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Alan Grunwald (NJ) & Stepan Nuniyants (WA), 2-Bob Glass (CA) & Steve Sax (CA). OVERFLOW DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Stick Rice (OH) & Bill Riles (TX), 2-Harvey Gillis (WA) & Paul Stokes (CA).

•**Springfield Series #2** (Peoria, IL; 1 Dec.)... 1-Scott Johnston (IN), 2-Ed Zell; 1C-Randy Armstrong, 2C-Sean Garber (IN); 1LC-Faddoul Khoury. "Z" HOLD'EM QUALIFIER: Faddoul Khoury.

•**UK Finals** (Coventry, England; 1-2 Dec.)... OPEN (45): 1-Mick Butterfield, 2-Peter Christmas, 3/4-Julian Minwalla / Jerry Limb; 1C-Uldis Lapikens, 2C-Tom Duggan; 1LC-Nigel Merrigan. SNOWBALL (10): 1-Uldis Lapikens. FRIDAY 500 (16): 1-Rosey Bensley, 2-Myke Wignall. FRIDAY JP (12): 1-Paul Gilbertson, 2-Tony Fawcett. TEAM (6): 1-Peter Christmas. POKER GP FINALS (8): 1-Tony Fawcett. POKER (16): 1-Tony Lee. CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS (6): 1-Jerry Limb. WHISKEY GALORE (64): 1-Brian Lever. ROSEY'S ROLLOUT: 1-Julian Minwalla.

•**New England Club Monthly** (Somerville, MA; 2 Dec.)... OPEN (16): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Jerry Padova; 1C-John Leonard, 2C-Tim Gallagher.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Chicago, IL; 2 Dec.)... OPEN (26): 1-Bill Davis, 2-Jerry Brooks, 3/4-Henry Gray / Tom Osterkorn; 1C-Wendy Kaplan, 2C-Steve Klesker. INTERMEDIATE (10): 1-Wayne Wiest, 2-Roland Dieter; 1C-Derek Swanson. Δ

AMALGAMATION

As of the Illinois statewide smoking ban in public places, the Chicago Bar Point Club is now smoke-free... Two US House bills friendly to online backgammon and poker play, HR 2046 (Internet Gambling Regulation & Enforcement Act) and HR 2610 (Skill Game Protection Act), were introduced in the first half of 2007. Both are going nowhere... Condolences to the family and friends of well-known poker player **Chip Reese** on his 4 December passing. Mr. Reese was also a BG player, written up numerous times in 1980s *Las Vegas Backgammon* magazines... It appears that two BG publications folded tent in 2007: *The Double* (**John Wallis's** glossy US magazine that printed only one issue) and *Make Your Point* (**Andrew Sarjeant's** UK pub to promote Gammonitis)... According to the *New Jersey Star Ledger*, New England Patriot linemen are "cutthroat" backgammon players. Pats quarterback **Tom Brady** is also quite a backgammon fan... Shame on **José Farca** for buying a **Tak Morioka** board, copying the design, having them cheaply produced, and selling them online for \$800 as "Farca Backgammon Sets." (chessexpress-tore.com/faba.html). We suggest you pay a few extra dollars and get a real Taki-Board at: chicagopoint.com/takboards.html... **Chuck Bower** (IN) and **Frank Frigo** (KY) had a December article in the *Indy Star* about their NFL computer analysis program "Zeus." Will an NFL team take a shot at their Snowie-type football program next season?... The Nashville Backgammon Club has moved to Tuesday nights at the Blackstone Brewery on Broadway. **John Ramm** is the new director. Check out the most up-to-date club info in this issue and online at chicagopoint.com/usclubs.html... Good luck to **Elayne Feinstein** (FL) who will direct a new ABT event: The Mid-Atlantic Tournament 17-19 October in Timonium, Maryland (a suburb of Baltimore). Including the New York Metropolitan event in New Jersey (10-13 January), that's two new ABT Eastern tournaments in 2008... Glad to hear that both **Kathleen Davis** (MO) and **Lucky Nelson** (IL) are doing better following December hospital visits... **Jason Lee** (NV) reports that the 2007 Nevada Club Tournament of Champions "Maxakuli Cup" (named in honor of the late **Michael Maxakuli**) has been won by **Cy Yehros**... **Michael Weinberger** (LA) is trying to start a New Orleans backgammon club in 2008. If you're interested or can offer help, visit his website nolabackgammon.org. Happy 2008 from CHICAGO POINT.

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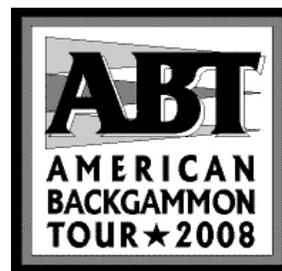
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