

2008 michigan summer championships

## NEIL RETURNS TO WINNING WAYS IN MICHIGAN

Malcolm Davis is the Master

After a 3-year ABT drought, Chicagoland's Neil Kazaross returned to his winning form besting a record-setting 94-player Open field at the Michigan Summer Championships. Flint Director Carol Joy Cole and staff welcomed over 200 international players including 189 in the main events to the Sheraton Novi 3-6 July. It was the tournament's best attendance



Neil Kazaross extends his hand on winning the 2008 Michigan Summer title as 2007 champ Patrick Gibson (center) applauds.

since 1989.

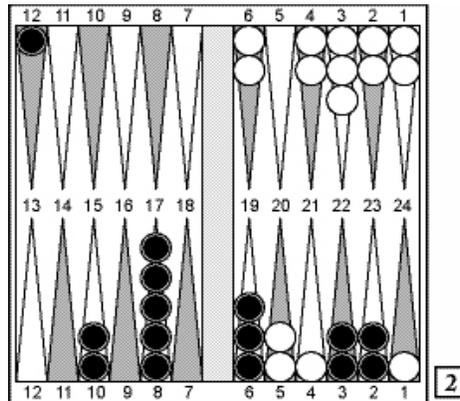
After defeating Steve Sax in the double elimination undefeated bracket, Neil waited to see who his final opponent would be. Stick Rice (Ohio) emerged with one loss to face the all-time ABT point leader with the daunting task of trying to beat the "An-Neil-ator" twice in a row.

In the first 13-point match, Stick was playing catch-up from the start. Then at 10-6, Neil faced a difficult play:

[See position above right.]

Following 15 minutes of deep thought, Neil played 8/4\*. A 720 3-ply, precise Snowie rollout shows 13/12, 6/3 to be best with Neil's move rated as a .68 error. Hitting does win a lot more gammons (14.4% vs. 8.2%); however it also loses a lot more gammons (14.8% vs. 6.5%). And since Neil doesn't get full value from the four

13-point Open finals. Neil Kazaross (Black) leads Stick Rice (White) 10 to 6. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-1.**



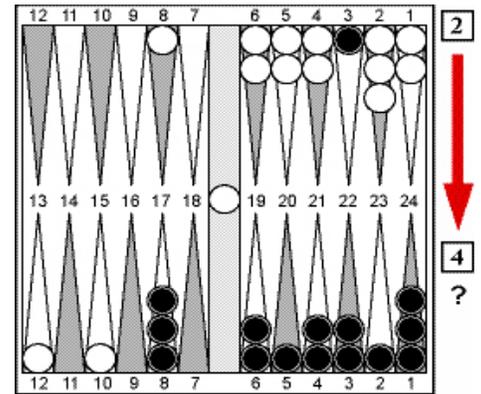
point victory, the non-hitting play is superior here. (If the score had been 9-6, the choice is far closer.)

Stick barely saved the G, but lost the next game to give Neil the 13-6 victory. The win vaulted Neil Kazaross into the 2008 ABT lead, just ahead of Ray Fogelund who had to cancel from the tourney to fight forest fires in California.

### MICHIGAN MASTERS

A wait-listed field of 32 players anted up \$500 to participate in the Michigan Masters. When the smoke cleared, two of the nation's best, Malcolm Davis (TX) and Steve Sax (CA), were still standing.

The 11-point finals rolled off at 1:00 P.M. Steve leaped ahead 3-1, but Malcolm rallied back to gain a 6-4 edge. Then with Steve holding a 2-cube and Malcolm on roll, a key sequence occurred: 11-point Masters finals. Malcolm Davis (Black) leads Steve Sax (White) 6 to 4. Black has just played 3-1 (Bar/22, 6/5\*). White on roll. **RECUBE ACTION(S)?**



[Continued on page 4]

## TAKING THE PLUNGE



Congratulations to Carter and Michelle Pfeifer Mattig who were married in front of 53 family members and friends on June 14 at the Hotel Baccara in Cancun, Mexico. The couple honeymooned at the 7th Zakyntos Backgammon & Poker tourney. Iain Shearer provided the accommodations: his \$15,000/week guest home. Nice!

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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## WHAT'S GNU?

I want to get computer software to study my play. I know that the Snowie interface is superior to that of Gnu; however Gnu is free, so I want to try this first. Where do I download it and how do I learn how to use it?—Jeff Vaughn, via e-mail

You can get GnuBG online at: [gnu.org/software/gnubg/gnubg.html](http://gnu.org/software/gnubg/gnubg.html) Once you've downloaded it, learn out how to use it at Tom Keith's "Backgammon Galore": [bkgm.com/gnubg.html](http://bkgm.com/gnubg.html)—Ed.

## A DONATION FROM ALAN

I think that one of the most wonderful thing that the American Backgammon Tour does is to inspire players to participate, which helps to keep the tournaments alive. I've noticed that once players accumulate some points (myself included), they tend to start attending more tournaments hoping to

[Continued on page 3]

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



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.

Jul 12	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Jul 12	Kansas City Club Monthly, Westport Flea Market, Kansas City, Missouri	816/916-6599
Jul 12*	Backgammon By the Bay Bonus, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/688-9722
Jul 13	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Jul 13	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Jul 17	Third Thursday Bonus (Wisconsin), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 20	Pub Club Summer Sunday Tournament, Playoffs Bar, Carol Stream, Illinois	630/606-2388
Jul 25-27	Minnesota Open, Marriott Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota	<u>612/718-2613</u>
Jul 26*	Backgammon By the Bay Bonus, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Jul 27	Colorado Monthly, Bennigan's Restaurant, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
Jul 27*	Northside Club Monthly, Brian Ross's house, Atlanta, Georgia	770/612-0818
Aug 1-3	Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York	<u>585/752-5393</u>
Aug 2*	3rd Annual Summer Sizzler, Ride the Nine, Bloomington, Illinois	309/662-7967
Aug 3	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Aug 3	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Aug 4	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/296-4307
Aug 4	Roy's Monthly, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Aug 9*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Aug 15-17	Florida State Championship, Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Aug 17*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly, Cavendish Bridge Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Aug 21*	Third Thursday Bonus (Colorado State), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Aug 23*	Puget Sound Club Annual Tournament/Party, Lake Retreat, Washington	425/226-3120
Aug 29-Sep 2	Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin	<u>608/516-9109</u>
Aug 30*	36th Hawaii State Championships, Elks Lodge 616, Honolulu, Hawaii	808/286-5133
Aug 31*	Colorado Monthly, Bennigan's Restaurant, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
Sep 1*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/296-4307
Sep 1*	Roy's Monthly, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Sep 7*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Sep 13*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Sep 14*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly, Cavendish Bridge Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Sep 20-21*	Jon Victor Cup Invitational, Jon Victor's residence, La Jolla, California	818/901-0464
Sep 26-28	Colorado State Championships, Holiday Inn, Denver, Colorado	<u>303/791-0271</u>
Oct 5*	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Oct 10-12	Illinois State Championships, Ramada Hotel, Peoria, Illinois	847/845-3579
Oct 17-19	Mid-Atlantic Championships, Days Inn, Timonium, Maryland	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Nov 12-16	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	<u>702/893-6025</u>
Dec 5-7	California State Championship, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California	818/901-0464
Jan 18-25	Backgammon & Poker On Board, Princess Cruise, Ft. Lauderdale to Caribbean	773/583-6464

### OUTSIDE USA

Jul 11-12	Festival of Games 5th Czech Open, CEZ, Pardubice, Czech Republic	420466-535200
Jul 15-20	WSOB/PGT: Nations Cup & Riviera 6, Palm Beach Casino, Cannes, France	331-47645938
Jul 19-20	13th Liverpool Open, Liverpool Bridge Club, Liverpool, England	447931-553829
Jul 21	WSOB: Championship Finale, Palm Beach, Cannes, France	3314764-5938
Jul 26-27*	WBF-Turkiye 3rd Karadeniz Championship, Kordon Café, Ereğli, Turkey	905322-564360
Jul 31-Aug 5	EBGT: Gogi Bukia Memorial & Georgian Open, Tiflis, Tbilisi, Georgia	491715-422222
Aug 1-3	Australian Open, Waxy's Irish Pub, Surfers Paradise, Australia	61402-863825
Aug 1-3	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy, Daventry Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Aug 2-3*	Bergen Bymesterskap, Torgallmenningen/Gjestehus, Bergen, Norway	47926-59767
Aug 7-10	2nd Casino-Cup, Casino Kleinwalsertal, Riezlern near Oberstdorf, Austria	49711-486190
Aug 8-10	Pohojanmaa Open, Backgammon Suomi, Alavus, Finland	3540-5789579
Aug 15-17*	Alpine Palace Luxus Open, Hinterglemm, Austria	E-mail: <a href="mailto:m.meyburg@pokerevents.de">m.meyburg@pokerevents.de</a>
Aug 23-24	Newcastle Open, Kotara Bowling Club, Kotara, NSW, Australia	612-49469222
Aug 23-24	Danish Doubles Championship, Kulturcenter, Solrød Strand, Denmark	4522-614800
Sep 5-7	Backpacker Backgammon Trophy, Barceló Hotel, Hinckley Island, England	441522-888676
Sep 5-7*	1st Balkan Championship/Casino Flamingo Open, Gevgelija, Macedonia	390331-923537
Sep 5-7*	POSTPONED: 17th Mitteleuropa Championships, Nova Gorica, Slovenia	390331-923537
Sep 5-7*	28th Swedish Open, Elite Palace Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden	468708-541362
Sep 13-14*	6th Antwerp Open, Café den Bengel, Antwerp, Belgium	32475-256734
Sep 18-21	PGT: Aix-en-Provence Cup, Casio Aix, Aix-en-Provence, France	331-47645938
Sep 20-26	Egyptian International Tournament, Coral Bay, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt	2016-3308375
Sep 22-27	Aldiana-BG-Poker-Golf Cup, Aldiana Club, Nabeul, Tunisia	49711-486190
Sep 26-29	3rd Sorrento Coast Tournament, Villa Angelina, Sorrento, Italy	39335-221412
Oct 3-5*	Doubles Challenge / 11th Austrian Open, Hotel Veronkia, Seefeld, Austria	390331-923537
Oct 3-5*	Sandy Osborne Memorial, Barceló Daventry Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Oct 10-13*	14th Japan Open, Nakano Sunplaza, Tokyo, Japan	813-33733814
Oct 17-19*	3rd Milano Open, San Siro Country Club, Milan, Italy	393286-757792
Oct 18-19*	East Coast Movers & Shakers, Bangalow Bowling, Byron Bay, Australia	61413-564838

# LETTERS...

*(Continued from page 2)*

finish in the Top 10.

In 2009, what about giving out more silver dollar coins to the Top 25? This would keep more player interest and increase attendance throughout the year. I would be happy to help cover some of the additional expense in order to make it hap-

pen. What do you think?—*Alan Grunwald, Morganville, New Jersey*

*Great idea, Alan. Beginning in 2009, the Top 25 ABT finishers will receive one ounce silver dollar keepsakes. And thanks for your offer to help with the coin expenses. Silver is skyrocketing!—Ed.*

## NEW ITALIAN BG BOOK

I am completing a new Italian backgammon

book in which more than 150 pages (out of 528) are dedicated to the history of the game. I took some information from your investigation about the doubling cube and my graphic designer is some of the photos from your website. I hope you don't mind.—*Dario de Toffoli, Venezia, Italy*

*We're glad to help, Dario. And we're sending you a new earlier picture of a doubling cube from September 1930 as well as the name of the individual (according to the Racquet & Tennis Club of New York). Point readers watch for this info in an upcoming issue.—Ed.*



## AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2008

Compiled through 6 July 2008 after 10 tournaments  
(Upcoming events: Minnesota, New York, Florida, Wisconsin)



NEIL KAZAROSS	34.33	Jolie Rubin	10.56	Antonio Ortega	5.58	Wally Wolf	3.13
RAY FOGERLUND	31.88	Jonah Seewald	10.22	Eric Barr	5.33	Joseph Jemal	3.10
BOB KOCA	23.33	Justin Nunez	9.04	Les Moshinsky	5.33	Beth Raby	3.10
Stick Rice	23.07	Joe Russell	9.04	Herb Roman	5.33	Malcolm Robertson	3.00
Mike Senkiewicz	22.33	David Rubin	9.00	Larry Liebster	5.33	Stuart Thomson	3.00
Ray Glaeser	21.33	Scott Casty	8.84	Bruce Ballance	5.28	Tami Jones	2.86
Bill Davis	20.17	Reggie Proulx	8.20	Karsten Busch	5.11	Charles Toots	2.85
Jon Vietor	18.67	Stepan Nuniyants	7.84	Jeff Whitlaw	5.11	Ron Bruns	2.82
Drew Giovanis	18.07	Mary Hickey	7.83	Dana Nazarian	4.67	Zev Vered	2.82
Jeff Acierno	15.84	Paul Berg	7.83	Howard Markowitz	4.67	Albert Yakobashvili	2.70
Chris Knapp	14.97	John Jennings	7.40	Jona Alexander	4.52	Peggy Neubig	2.67
Christopher Yep	14.80	Rose Sheedy	6.89	Ed Bennett	4.52	Mark Donaldson	2.67
Kit Woolsey	13.77	David Escoffrey	6.40	Justin Bor	4.52	Lynda Clay	2.67
Michael Edge	13.67	Saad Ghiso	6.25	Ed O'Laughlin	4.50	Harold Roberson	2.67
Sal Chehayeb	12.50	Owen Black	6.20	Gary Fishman	4.20	Jesse Eaton	2.64
Dave Settles	12.46	Petko Kostadinov	6.18	Milton Gonzalez	4.10	Arthur Sutton	2.64
Carol Joy Cole	12.00	Joe Freedman	6.00	Julius High	4.02	Lynn Ehrlich	2.64
Antoinette Williams	12.00	Vadim Musaeayan	6.00	Maurice Barie	3.92	Kate Elmore	2.60
Roy Gandy	11.27	Robert Lessard	6.00	Steve Sax	3.92	Neal Rosensweig	2.60
George Matthews	11.27	Steve Hast	6.00	Ken Bond	3.70	Carsten Muencheberg	2.56
John O'Hagan	11.17	Alan Gold	5.71	Sam Pottle	3.70	Dennis Rutkowski	2.56
Matt Reklaitis	10.76	John Rockwell	5.64	Bob Pietras	3.33	Kamyar Hosseini	2.56
Greg Merriman	10.67	Eliot Bean	5.64	Carl Blumenstein	3.20	Frank Ley	2.56
Tak Morioka	10.67	Rick Barabino	5.58	Richard Armbruster	3.20	Gary Schachtschneider	2.26
Barry Miller	10.67	Neil Deutsch	5.58	Elayne Feinstein	3.13	Michael Brown	2.22

## JASON CLOCK COMMENTS

In Alan Grunwald's June letter, he says that the problem with "clocks optional" is that it allows players to angle against those who might feel more pressured by a clock by picking and choosing which match to clock.

The rule can be easily modified to placate people like myself who ardently believe that every Open level match should be clocked and those who might be pressured by the clock. All we need to do is to change "clocks optional" so that prior to the tournament, each player must declare if he is exercising the clocks optional rule, and if so, then *all* of his matches must be clocked.

I'd be first in line to sign up onto that list. 20 years from now, we're all going to laugh riotously at the era when major backgammon tournaments didn't clock every single match.—*Jason Lee, Las Vegas Backgammon Club Webmaster, Henderson, Nevada* Δ



## CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2008 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU 1 JULY

Rory Pascar	17.74	Wayne Wiest	5.08	Mike Pufpaf	2.36	Chiva Tafazzoli	0.72
David Rockwell	16.96	Bill Keefe	5.04	Jerry Brooks	2.12	Tim Rockwell	0.68
Herb Roman	15.16	Christopher Shanova	4.80	Ken Tibbs	1.84	Henry Gray	0.60
Phil Simborg	12.44	Richard Stawowy	4.80	Roger Hickman	1.76	Wendy Kaplan	0.60
Nora Luna Righter	11.04	Albert Yakobashvili	4.80	Eric Johnson	1.60	Elaine Kehm	0.56
Carter Mattig	10.98	Oleg Raygorodsky	4.64	Dan Weymouth	1.44	Linda Rockwell	0.56
Bill Davis	10.00	Ken Bond	4.64	Nicole Tibbs	1.12	Sherry Nelson	0.56
Bob Zavoral	8.54	Jacob Moreno	4.56	Tom Machaj	1.12	Bill Gradl	0.56
Gary Kay	7.00	Tim Mabee	4.38	Efim Liberman	1.12	Bill Devine	0.56
Bill Bartholomay	6.72	Lucky Nelson	4.16	Ray Lass	1.04	Kathy Sorci	0.52
Tak Morioka	6.52	Mike Wolock	4.08	Sargon Benjamin	1.04	Arline Levy	0.48
Michael Ginat	6.00	Alice Kay	3.88	Mary Franks	0.96	Andrew Mack	0.48
Steve Klesker	5.96	Larry Goldstein	3.84	Dan Cox	0.96	Mark Swanson	0.40
Mike Sutton	5.92	Adrian Rios	3.36	Mark Murray	0.88	Roz Ferris	0.32
Dave Settles	5.56	Bob Steen	3.04	Les Moshinsky	0.80	Phyllis Smoliński	0.24
Alex Owen	5.24	Scott Casty	2.72	Paul Baraz	0.80	Lucia Armenta	0.24
Royal Robinson	5.20	Georgina Flanagan	2.48				

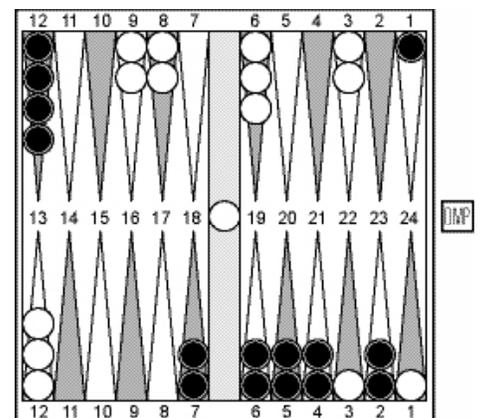
**CARTER MATTIG** won 11 matches in a row through 1 July and earned 5.28 points in June to grab Player of the Month honors. Runner's-up were Dave Settles (3.60) and Albert Yakobashvili (3.44).

*your move*

## PROBLEM #338

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

7-point match tied at 6 to 6 (double match-point). **BLACK TO PLAY 3-1.**



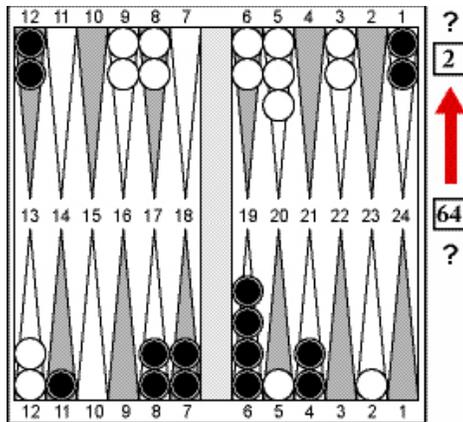
ASK  
DANNY

© 2008 by Danny Kleinman

## A CLOSE ONE

*Dear Danny: I faced this very nasty problem over the board last week at my local club:*

7 point match tied at 5 to 5. Should Black double? Then Black to play 5-2.



*I might as well have tossed a coin on each decision (I didn't double and then played 13/11, 13/8). What would you do? Would the doubling and play decisions be easier at different scores? For example Black leading 5-3 to 7 or Black trailing 3-5 to 7? And if so, why?—Brain Overload*

**DEAR BRAIN:** This position looks as close

to even as the human eye can tell. White has a modest lead in the race and a moderately stronger board. Black has the initiative, being on roll with attacking possibilities. White has gammon chances based on the prospects of making the 5-anchor and locking Black's back men up behind a prime. Black has gammon chances based on the hope of winning the battle for his 5-point and priming White.

In money play, or substantially earlier in an even match, Black would not be close to a double. However, 5-5 in a 7-point match is a crazy score in a way. If the game ends with a double and a pass, the passer enters the Crawford Game trailing 5-6 and has about 30% match-winning chances. This means that a player who is doubled needs better than 30% chances to take and should thus be *cuphobic*. Just the opposite applies to a player who is contemplating doubling: he should be *cuphrenic* with *gammicidal tendencies*. For at this score, a double *kills gammons*.

In "normal" circumstances, a gammon threat should induce a player to double. At this score, just the opposite applies: a gammon threat should deter a player from doubling. A double and take favors the player who figures to win most of the games that do not end in gammons, in other words, the *plain-game favorite*. If all the losses of the player who loses the game are gammons, he has a "can't-lose" double.

Under these circumstances, the game is extremely unlikely to be played to conclusion without either player doubling. The first player who faces a significant risk of rolling well enough to lose his market (and

remember, the opponent needs at least 30% winning chances to take) should double, provided only that his opponent is not the clear plain-game favorite.

In this roughly-even position, you can assume that *the cube will be turned*. Do you risk market loss if you do not turn it now? Yes, I think, when you roll doublets that make the 5-point and your opponent dances. Admittedly, the chances of that happening are not great, but they are substantial enough to justify doubling now, though the decision is close.

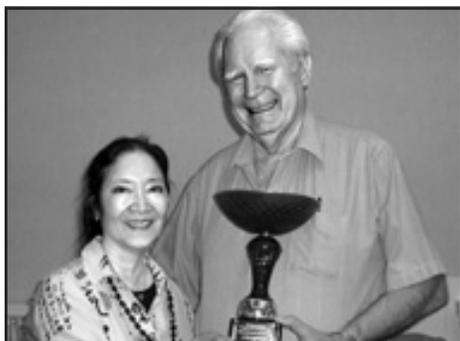
As for the 5-2 you rolled next, I would recommend *going for the throat* by hitting twice, 7/2\*, 7/5\*, instead of seeking safety via 13/8, 13/11, despite the substantially higher risk of losing a gammon. Some might think that if you *haven't* killed gammons by doubling, you should play safe, but I disagree; I repeat, *assume that the cube will be turned*.

At other scores in a 7-point match, your cube and play decisions should be different. At 3-3, or if you lead in the match, leave the cube untouched and play safe. If you trail 3-5, however, you have all the more reason to turn the cube and hit two men. For at that score, doubling kills only your opponent's gammons, but it invigorates your own gammons with match-winning potency.—*Yours, Danny Δ*

*Questions for Danny Kleinman should be addressed to: Ask Danny, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155 or send e-mail to: [bg@chicagopoint.com](mailto:bg@chicagopoint.com)*

## MICHIGAN...

[Continued from page 1]



*Malcolm Davis collects his Michigan Masters trophy from director Carol Joy Cole.*

Malcolm entered and hit 6/5\*. Snowie prefers the quiet Bar/22, 2/1 by a minimal .022. Steve saw an opening to win a match-ending 8-point gammon and recubed to

4. This is a very volatile position that results in lots of G wins for both sides. At 5-away, 7-away, Malcolm overrated the comparative gammon winning efficiency and passed to make the score 6-all. In fact, dropping the recube cost Malcolm nearly 5% in match equity.

Regardless, the pass worked out. Later tied at 8-8, Steve recubed to 4 in a mini-contact race position. Malcolm took, promptly rolled 5-5, and went on to win yet another Master's title.

## OTHER EVENTS

Congratulations to other significant winners. It was Sal Chehayeb (MI) over Saad Ghiso in the Intermediate division, and Michael Brown (OH) topped Sheila Hodis (NY) in the Novice.

The Open Doubles winners were Larry Liebster (NJ) & Gary Bauer (NJ) over Fadoul Khoury (IL) & Michael Flohr (IL). Danielle Bastarache (FL) edged Bob Koca



*Open doubles winner Larry Liebster and Gary Bauer, both from New Jersey.*

Frank Talbot put up \$500 for newcomers to play for in a free event. The cash went to Al Hodis edging his wife Sheila.

The Howard Ring Memorial was won by Steve Brown. \$300 was raised for the Gastro-Intestinal Research Foundation in memory of Howard.

Congrats to CJC and staff for a grand event. **Complete results are on page 7.** Δ

# TANGENTS

By Duane Jensen

Woodpeckers attacked my house again this year pounding a dozen dime-sized holes in my siding. I went to Home



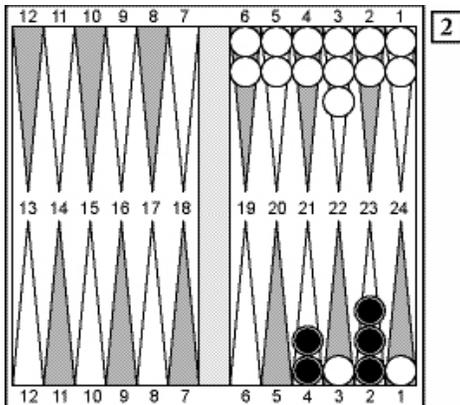
Depot to pick up some patching compound to fill the holes. The “shopping” part of my trip was successful: I brought home a wet-dry vac, three LED night lights, and a power drill; but unfortunately no patching compound. No doubt, I

was distracted by the bright, shiny objects at the store and completely forgot about what I had gone to buy.

The older I get, the more vulnerable I’ve become to distractions. Every day I’m flooded by tangents that lead me in different directions. The result is that I have many interesting projects started, but few completed. That reminds me of a backgammon quiz I began and never completed.

Each problem in this quiz had two parts. You were required to answer questions about a backgammon position and then using the clues provided, determine the player involved with the position. Here’s an example:

15 point match tied at 0–0. Bill Robertie (White) vs. “Mr. X” (Black). **BLACK TO PLAY 1-1.**



## Part 1

- How many ways can “Mr. X” play 1-1?
- How many plays leave no blots for “Mr. X”?
- What is the best way to play 1-1?

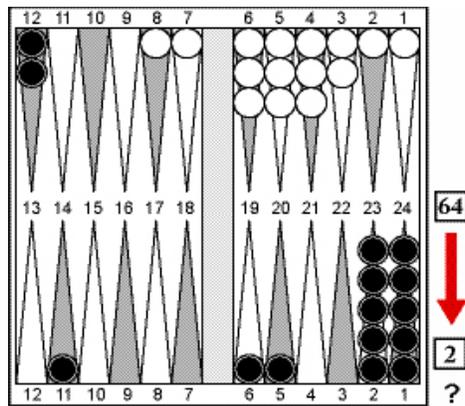
## Part 2

- “Mr. X” wore a plaid shirt, tan shorts, black shoes and no socks.
- “Mr. X” wore glasses.
- “Mr. X” took three minutes to play his roll of 1-1.
- “Mr. X” is playing World Champion Bill Robertie in a 15 point match so “Mr. X” is probably a player of substance playing in a tournament of consequence.
- Who is “Mr. X”?

Thinking about that abandoned quiz reminded me of a tournament in Indiana years ago. I was watching Ed O’Laughlin play Steve Brown in a final match. I saw an Ed O’Laughlin I’d never seen before. Ed is usually a deliberate player who studies each play methodically, but this Ed made every checker play in mere seconds. This was O’Laughlin on meth.

Steve Brown saw my amazed expression and explained “Ed’s got a plane to catch.” Ed was trying to finish the match and catch his flight back east because Ed had a family function he didn’t want to miss. Near the end of the first game, Steve doubled Ed:

11 point match tied at 0–0. Steve Brown (White) vs. Ed O’Laughlin (Black). Black doubles trailing the raw pip count 69 to 63. **SHOULD WHITE TAKE?**



Steve asked Ed what adjustment he made when many checkers are stacked on the ace and deuce points. Ed replied that he counted each of those checkers as three pips. I wanted to check that out to see if Ed was correct, and put that on my “backgammon things to do” list.

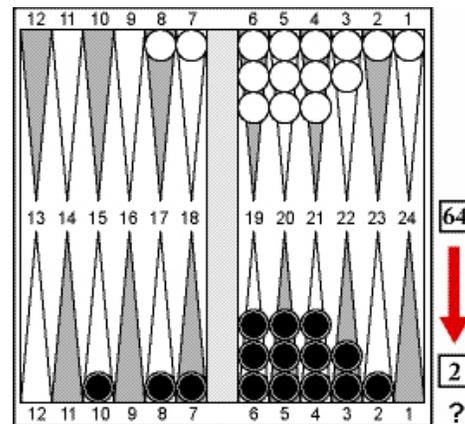
Back in 2004, while reading Tom Keith’s “Cube Handling In Non-contact Positions,” I noted that he adjusted the pip count by adding two pips for each checker more than one on the ace point and adding one pip for each checker more than one on the deuce point. This correction was similar to the adjustment Ed O’Laughlin made by

counting each checker on the ace and deuce points as three pips. I had renewed interest in Ed’s statement, but not enough interest to act on it.

Yesterday I returned to Home Depot and purchased some *Bondo*, a patching compound that works well on cars and wood siding. As I filled the woodpecker holes, I noticed that they were stacked in columns like backgammon checkers. They reminded me of the Ed O’Laughlin position on my “backgammon things to do” list.

After I patched the holes, I sat down at the computer and took out the old O’Laughlin race position. The count of the 10 black checkers on the ace and deuce points was adjusted to 30 pips bringing the total up to 78 (from the original 63). I then created a “normalized” position using Ed’s adjusted pip count:

11 point match tied at 0–0. Steve Brown (White) vs. Ed O’Laughlin (Black). Black doubles leading the adjusted pip count 69 to 78. **SHOULD WHITE TAKE?**



I rolled out both positions finding that the original position won 78.4% cubeless games. The adjusted, “normalized” position won 78.5% cubeless games. It looks as if Ed O’Laughlin’s pip count adjustment is usable as a quick approximation . . . especially if you have a plane to catch.

I’d like to thank Ed O’Laughlin, Steve Brown, Tom Keith, two woodpeckers, and Home Depot for making this article possible. Tomorrow I return to Home Depot to get some primer and exterior paint to cover the patched holes. I wonder what I’ll bring back from the store tomorrow.—Duane Jensen Δ

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## A Silly Game of Luck



By Phil Simborg

The other night an old friend came over to my house. Joe walked in, sat down, and noticed a few of my backgammon trophies. (Don't know how he happened to see them on the mantle with the spotlight on them!) He got up, took a closer look and said, "Backgammon! You mean they actually give trophies for winning a silly game of luck like that?"

Being a clever, quick-witted person, I responded, "Huh?"

Further conversation revealed that Joe had "mastered" backgammon when he was in college but gave it up when he realized that it was almost purely a game of luck. He'd been playing "real games of skill" like bridge, scrabble and chess ever since.

I guess my wife sort of noticed my neck turning red and my eyes getting quite large,

because just as I was about to let him have it, she served up a couple of drinks and completely changed the subject. Of course, she also gave me one of those looks that immediately told me that if I open my mouth, just once, it might be the last time I ever do.

Thankfully, she reminded me that Joe was a guest in our home, and no matter how rude and stupid his remarks, I should and would treat him with civility. So I simply let the subject pass and talked about less controversial things . . . like politics and religion.

Inevitably, however, the subject of backgammon came up again, as Randee and I were talking about a trip we would be taking soon to a backgammon tournament. And again, he expressed his amazement that "an intelligent person like you could

waste your time playing such a silly game of luck."

I smiled, and asked him if he still remembered how to play, and he smiled back and said sure. I made him a small, friendly wager that if we played 5 games he could not win more than one. (We had to play individual games because he didn't know how to use the doubling cube.)

I don't have to tell you what happened. He played horribly and beat me unmercifully. Naturally, I was a very good sport (my wife was watching carefully and holding a very sharp knife) and complimented him on his victory and his skill.

The experience has not changed my feelings about Backgammon, but I have to admit that the trophies are now in the storage locker.—Phil Simborg Δ

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## KAPLAN WINS ACS TOURNEY Style Returns To Backgammon

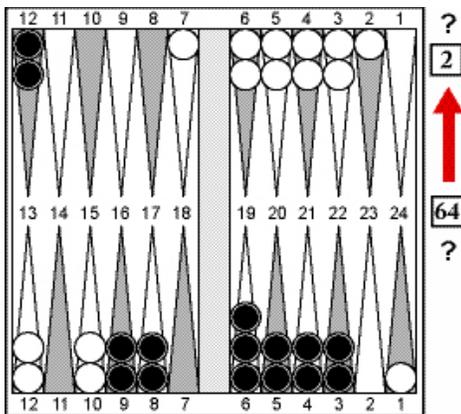
Wendy Kaplan of Deerfield, Illinois has won the 2008 Anti-Cruelty Society Backgammon Invitational. The event, a flashback to the stylish backgammon affairs of the past, fielded 16 players at the stately Ambassador East Hotel in Chicago on Saturday, June 14. Bill Davis directed the “jacket and tie required” tournament which raised \$2100 for the ACS.

Auctioneer Phil Simborg ran a “Chinese-style” charity auction (one player from column A, one from column B) that generated \$3500 in bids. Then at the dinner break, held at the hotel’s famous Pump Room, Simborg raised another \$2100 auctioning off the final four in the Main and Consolation flights.

Wendy Kaplan bested television “High Stakes Poker” player and Chicago restaurateur Fred Chamanara in the opening round; then defeated Dan Weymouth and Lucky Nelson to reach the finals. On the opposite side of the drawsheet, Michigan’s Greg Merriman topped Scott Casty, Yamin Yamin, and 2006 World Champion finalist John O’Hagan (IN) for his seat at the “final table.”

The pivotal match cube occurred with the 9 point match tied at 2–2:

9 point ACS finals. Wendy Kaplan (Black) and Greg Merriman (White) are tied at 2–2. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Wendy doubled and Greg accepted. A 2880 Snowie 3-ply, precise rollout shows the position to be just barely “Too good to double/pass.” Black wins 80.1% of the time. Gammons break 21.4% for Black and only 2.7% for White. Wendy’s doubling error is small: .009; however Greg’s take is a whopping .529 blunder costing him over 3% match equity.

Wendy rolled home this game and then ran the table for a 9–2 victory. First



ACS champ Wendy Kaplan shows off her \$300 trophy. Runner-up Greg Merriman is a good sport at her side.

prize was worth \$3500 (not including the Calcutta) and a beautiful Kosta Boda glass sculpture worth \$300.

On the other side of the drawsheet, Nora Luna Righter (Massachusetts), the only other female in the field, reached the finals before falling to the always-tough Bob Zavoral.



Nora Luna Righter and Bob Zavoral looked very stylish in their Consolation final match.

Thanks to the Ambassador East for providing playing space at a reasonable rate allowing us to make a larger donation to the Anti-Cruelty Society. It was also great to have acting ACS president David Dinger stop by during the afternoon. Plans for the 2009 ACS Backgammon Invitational are already in the works. Δ



At left: Tournament director Bill Davis. At right: Anti-Cruelty Society acting president David Dinger.



Tournament participants and guests were treated to a gourmet meal at Chicago’s famous Pump Room.

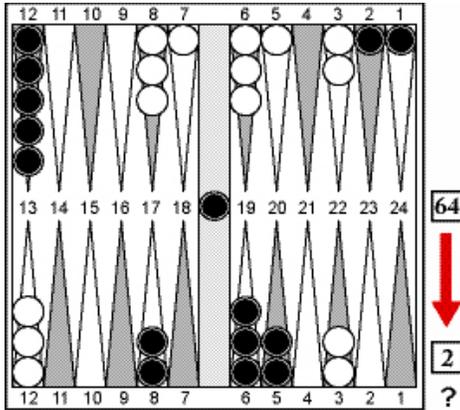
### MICHIGAN SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN (94): 1-Neil Kazaross (IL), 2-Stick Rice (OH), 3-Paul Berg (MI), 4/5-Steve Sax (CA) / Kit Woolsey (CA); 1C-Bill Davis (IL), 2C-Mary Hickey (OH), 3C/4C-Maurice Barie (MI) / Petko Kostadinov (SC). INTERMEDIATE (75): 1-Sal Chehayeb (MI), 2-Saad Ghiso (MI), 3-Wally Wolf (MI), 4/5-Betty Coppic (FL) / Gary Fishman (FL); 1C-Chris Knapp (Canada), 2C-Elayne Feinstein (FL), 3C/4C-Jim Airgood (MI) / Dave Settles (IL). NOVICE (20): 1-Michael Brown (OH), 2-Sheila Hodis (NY); 1C-Lee White (MI), 2C-Linda Pohly (MI). MICHIGAN MASTERS (32): 1-Malcolm Davis (TX), 2-Steve Sax (CA), 3/4-Neil Garvie (Canada) / Joe Russell (CA). HOWARD RING MEMORIAL (32): 1-Steve Brown (MN), 2-Brent Cohen (PA). TALBOT’S NEWCOMER FREE ROLL (35): 1-AI Hodis (NY), 2-Sheila Hodis (NY). SNOWIE FREEZE-OUT (32): 1/2-Yury Millman (MN) / Pete Townsend (PA). MICHIGAN BLITZ (128): 1-Danielle Bastarache (FL), 2-Bob Koca (MD). FIRECRACKER JACKPOTS: \$200 (16): 1-Steve Brown (MN), 2-Dave Williams (TN). \$100 (16): 1-Larry Buckingham (OH), 2-Joseph Jemal (NJ). OPEN DOUBLES (32): 1-Gary Bauer (NJ) & Larry Liebster (NJ), 2-Faddoul Khoury (IL) & Michael Flohr (IL), 3/4-Mary Hickey (OH) & Claude Landry (Canada) / Emil Mortuk (MI) & Akemi Ota (MI). SATELLITE DOUBLES (16): 1-Bob Koca (MD) & Stick Rice (OH), 2-Sal Chehayeb (MI) & Samantha Shaffer (MI). LTD. DOUBLES (8): 1-Peggy Neubig (NJ) & Gail Newburn (GA), 2-Jeff Grund (MI) & Stevie Grund (PA). DETROIT QUICKIE WINNERS \$20 (64): Karen Davis (NY), \$20 (32): Jim Pascoe (FL), \$10 (64): Chris Scott (IL), \$10 (16): Patty Geoffroy (MA). EARLYBIRD JACKPOT WINNERS \$50 (16): Mary Hickey (OH), \$50 (16): AI Hodis (NY), \$30 (16): Ryan Hast (PA), \$30 (16): Danielle Bastarache (FL). SUN. JACKPOT WINNERS \$50 (8): Sean Garber (IN), \$50 (8): Kit Woolsey (CA), \$30 (8): Julius High (NY). WED. WARM-UPS \$50 (23): 1-Ralph Dietz (MI), 2-Gary Schachtschneider (MN), \$30 (16): 1-Mike Rezai (OH), 2/3-Faris Gabbara (MI) / Dave Kamp (MI), \$20 (8): 1-Brenda Cohen (PA), 2-Nancy Ishac (MI). AFTER-TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENTS \$50 (12): 1-Kit Woolsey (MI), 2/3-Maurice Barie (MI) / Brent Cohen (PA), \$20 (13): 1-Zaven Dolik (MI), 2/3-Dave Brotherton (MI) / Jim Lawrence (MI).

**PROBLEM #337  
ANALYZED**

by Mary Hickey

Chicago Open Doubles semifinals tied at 3-3 to 7. Phil & Randee Simborg (White) double Bill Davis & Nora Luna Righter (Black). **SHOULD BLACK TAKE?**



Let's start by all of us agreeing this is a huge take for money and a close double if it is one at all. No dissenters, right? Good! And I'm pretty sure we can also agree that the 4-away, 4-away score isn't early enough in a match to be "just like money." At that score, White has a clear double, and your noble editor Bill Davis and his partner Nora Luna Righter faced the difficult decision regarding the take playing Black in a recent doubles match.

To figure out what time it is, let's start by reviewing how the watch works. Using values from the Kit Woolsey/Hal Heinrich match equity table (KWHH), we can calculate a 25% basic take point at this score if there will be no gammons. We then adjust for the considerable recube vig because the original doubler needs 32% to take a recube. This pushes us toward taking a bit more liberally than for money in races, bearoffs, and minimal contact positions.

That's not what we find here, though. Black's man on the bar, combined with two others already back on deep points, sounds a clear warning of gammon danger. We can also identify some offsetting factors:

- White may fail to make the 5-point giving Black the opportunity to recover the rebound.
- White's 4-point is still up for grabs and Black may get several chances to make it.
- Black is a long way from being closed out even if he rolls poorly for awhile, and with only three men back, he has at least reasonable chances to save the gammon even if nothing ever works out well for him.

The bottom line is that despite the danger, at gammon prices resembling money, Black has a comfortable take. But the gammon price here is high (about .89 using KWHH) since gammons lose the match.

It may be even worse than that would indicate, since standard gammon-adjusted take point calculations tend to understate the danger of taking a gammonish cube at this score. The sticking point is where you subtract your chance of winning a gammon from your chance of being gammoned before multiplying by the gammon price. At 4-away, 4-away, the gammons you win are of less than usual value to you, since you will normally redouble if you see daylight—all you need is to be over 50% to send it back. Whether your opponent takes or passes, your gammons are not going to matter.

Your gammons would be meaningful if you jumped from not-enough to too-good in one monster sequence. In this position, that seems possible but unlikely:

- If things start popping now, he will still have his 22-point anchor, and chances are you will redouble him rather than play on.
- If your winning possibilities develop midway from here to the end, when he tries to leave the anchor, there may be a few times you roll a joker and try to gammon him with a closeout.
- If you hit a shot later in the game, chances are he will already have at least one man off. Even if not, you will rarely have such a perfect position that you can play on rather than redouble.

At this score, there are also cases where you can double with low winning chances as a way of killing his gammons. This factor attenuates his gammon threat to the extent that you think such a position could arise from the current one.

I've played around with this one trying to contrive negative-money-equity recube positions that could plausibly arise from here. The problem (if you want to see it that way) is that usually you're too likely to save the gammon if you miss to justify such a redouble. When this game goes wrong, it will tend to become a deep-anchor game where you won't always want to double on the first shot you get, for two reasons. The first is that if you miss now, you may hit later in his mid-bearoff and be very glad to have the cube still on your side. As we already noted, his take point of your recube is quite high (32% per KWHH), so you will be able to power him out of positions that weren't even doubles for money. The second reason is that you may

hit a very late shot and save the gammon, but not win the game, allowing the match to proceed with you still having that 32% winning chance.

I did say you won't "always" want to double on the first shot you get. You might do so if his distribution is awful and he's likely to leave you quite a few more shots soon rather than late. With all the time he has here to build his points nicely, that isn't too likely, but if he has a hard time disentangling himself from your 3-point, bad things could happen to his prime or board.

Which is more important: the gammon menace, or your ability to recube earlier than usual? According to Snowie 4 and also a Snowie 3 rollout with the score noted, but normal checker play, this is a clear double and a big pass at this score. On the other hand, two Snowie 3 rollouts with checker play at the score, one at 2-ply and a shorter one at 3-ply, concur that this was a pass, but they greatly reduce the margin of error for the take. I also rolled it out with Jelly-Fish 3.0 for another opinion, and its result also supports the pass being correct.

So what is the bottom line? Nora was probably right to want to pass, but given that the error was small in the most relevant rollouts, this conclusion should not be considered QED. It was clearly worth discussing at the time, and saving to study later! Opponent factors could definitely swing this one, but which way you went would depend on specifics, not generalities, about the ability of your opponents. And that's a topic for another day.

Until next time, see you at the games!—Mary Hickey  $\Delta$

**ILLINOIS ACTION**

Bill Davis  
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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 Monday, 6:00 P.M. at Ride The Nine, 503 N. Prospect; Bloomington. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:00 P.M. at Capitol Teletrack, 1766 W. Wabash Ave., Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

WINNETKABG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. at Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Chibnik (847/446-0537).

PUB CLUB: Tournaments Thurs., 6:45 P.M. at Playoffs Bar, 720 E. North Ave., Carol Stream. Tim Mabee (630/606-2388).

PEORIA BG CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/224-9579).

**WINNER'S CIRCLE**



MAY-JUN. 2008

•**Dayton Club Monthly**—USBL (Beaver creek, OH; 25 May)... OPEN (7): 1-Tom Salmon, 2-John Crockford.

•**Eden Partouche Tournament** (Juan-les-Pins, France; 29 May-1 Jun.)... PARTOUCHEGAMMON TOUR OPEN (59+5 rebuys): 1-Andy Bell (ENG), 2-Jürgen Orłowski (GER), 3/4-Götz Hildsberg (GER) / Catherine Pascal (FRA); 1C-Thierry Manouck (FRA), 2C-Tassilo Rzymann (AUS), 3C/4C-Raj Jansari (ENG) / Athanasios Lagopatis (GER); 1LC-Zoran Maric (FRA), 2LC-Chris Ternel (ENG). Ladies Prize: Catherine Pascal (FRA). BEGINNERS (4): 1-Didier Rouxell (FRA). WARM-UP (38): 1-Lucas Surmeyan (ARM/AUS). FAIR PLAY PRIZE: Frank Brinkmann (GER). €500 SUPERJACKPOT (8): 1-Carlo Melzi (ITA), 2-Tassilo Rzymann (AUS). SPEED BLITZ20 #1 (16): 1-Chris Ternel (ENG). SPEED BLITZ20 #2 (16): 1/2-Piergiorgio D'Ancona (Italy) / Chris Ternel (ENG). DOUBLE CONSULTATION (16 teams): 1-Uli Koch (GER) & Ed O'Laughlin (USA), 2-Pierre Semour (FRA) & Mario Sequeira (POR).

•**Ohio State Monthly** (Akron, OH; 1 Jun.)... OPEN: 1-Joe Miller, 2-Mark Keenleyside.

•**2008 Los Angeles Open**—ABT (Van Nuys, CA; 6-8 Jun.)... OPEN (62): 1-Ray Foglerlund (CA), 2-Roy Gandy (CA), 3-John Rockwell (CA); 1C-George Matthews (CA), 2C-Eliot Bean (CA), 3C/4C-Ron Bruns (CA) / Zev Vered (CA). ADVANCED (32): 1-David Escoffery (CA), 2-Carl Blumenstein (CA); 1C-Richard Armbruster (CA), 2C-Dave Settles (IL), 3C/4C-Comet (CA) / Charles Toots (CA). LIMITED (5): 1-Gene Meyers (CA), 2-Chris Kelly (CA); 1C-Sean Cooper (CA). SUPER-32 (32): 1-Ray Foglerlund (CA), 2-Dorn Bishop (CA), 3/4-Odis Chenault (CA) / J. P. Deleurme (CA). PAUL DINGWELL AMATEUR (16): 1-Ron Bruns (CA), 2-David Taniguchi (CA). DINGWELL AMATEUR OVERFLOW (16): 1-Todd Crosner (AZ), 2-George Haskour (CA). 2-POINT QUICKIES (56): 1-Comet (CA), 2-John Rockwell (CA). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Harvey Gillis (WA) & Norm Wiggins (CA), 2-Alan & Joan Grunwald (NJ). OVERFLOW DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Bob Glass (CA) & Joe Russell (CA), 2-Reza Daryabegi (CA) & Azzam Masarani (CA). \$50 JACKPOT #1 (8): 1-Saul Meir (CA). \$50 JACKPOT #2 (8): 1-J. P. Deleurme (CA)... *What a tournament for 2007 ABT Player of the Year Ray*

*Foglerlund who swept to victory in both the Championship and Masters flights. Director Patrick Gibson expressed satisfaction with the 100+ players in attendance.*



*Ray Foglerlund swept both the Championship and Masters events at the LA Open. [Photo by Patrick Gibson]*

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 8 Jun.)... OPEN (11): 1-Neal Rosensweig, 2-J. P. McGirr.

•**New England Backgammon Club 07-08 Playoffs** (Malden, MA; 8 Jun.)... 1-Gil Evans (NH), 2-Herb Gurland, 3/4-Roger Rondeau / Walter Trice.

•**Backgammon By the Bay** (Berkeley, CA; 14 Jun.)... OPEN (10): 1-David Levy, 2-Jeremy Bagai; 1C-Christian Stoddard.

•**Southwest Ohio Summer Solstice Tourney** (Peter Carcieri's House, West Chester, OH; 14 Jun.)... OPEN: 1-Larry Buckingham (OH), 2-Sean Garber (IN).

•**Forges Partouche Challenge** (Forges-les-Eaux, France, 19-22 Jun.)... PARTOUCHEGAMMON TOUR OPEN (38+13 rebuys): 1-Ed O'Laughlin (USA), 2-Kakhaber Natchkebia (GEO), 3/4-Guil Draï (FRA) / Giorgio Castellano (ITA); 1C-Olivier Croisille (FRA), 2C-Jean-Philippe Rohr (FRA), 3C/4C-Raj Jansari (ENG) / Volker Sonnabend (GER); 1LC-Athanasios Lagopatis (GER), 2LC-Serge Dahan (FRA). Ladies Prize: Cécile Wolf (FRA). DOUBLE CONSULTATION (4 teams): 1-Serge Dahan (FRA) & Franck Stepler (FRA), 2-Fernando Braconi (ITA) & Fabrizio Lo Surdo (ITA). WARM-UP (28): 1-Luisa Sequeira (POR). FAIR PLAY PRIZE: Richard Saint Pierre (FRA). BLITZ (16): 1-Fabrizio Lo Surdo (ITA).

•**Backgammon By the Bay** (Cupertino, CA; 28 Jun.)... OPEN (8): 1-David Levy, 2-Christian Stoddard; 1C-Karam Ashoo. BEGINNER (4): 1-Avo Sadakian.

•**Dayton Club Monthly**—USBL (Beaver creek, OH; 29 Jun.)... OPEN (7): 1-Stephen Trundy, 2-Lauren Darcy.

•**Northside Club Monthly** (Larry Taylor's Home, Atlanta, GA; 29 Jun.)... OPEN (16): 1-Stuart Thomson, 2-Homer Hector; 1C-Jim Hickey. Δ

**AMALGAMATION**

Visiting the Bar Point Club last month: **Bill Devine** (Reno, NV), **Brendan Edgerton** (Australia), and WBA director **Chiva Tafazoli** (Germany)... Speaking of **Chiva**, he is announcing a new ABT event for 2009: The US Open to be held 4-7 June at the Doubletree Hotel Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia across the Potomac from Washington DC... Ever heard of a group called "**The Sammies**"? They have a new song ("Glisten") and their lead singer's name is **Frank Backgammon**. Can't be all bad... According to the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, while pitcher **John Smoltz** waits to rejoin the Atlanta Braves following shoulder surgery, he spends some of his time "bringing down mighty **Chipper Jones** in the backroom backgammon game"... The *June Health News Digest* encourages kids to play games during the summer that can strengthen their math skills, specifically PayDay, Monopoly, and Backgammon... 2008 French Open tennis champ and [chickipedia.com](http://chickipedia.com) hottie **Ana Ivanovic** relaxes before her matches



*Tennis pro Ana Ivanovic loves backgammon.*

by playing Sudoku or Backgammon... Beaver trivia from Snapple: "Beavers were once the size of bears," and "Beavers can hold their breath for 45 seconds"... PGT Director **Eric Guedj** reports that A backgammon player from the Republic of Georgia has allegedly been caught red-handed while playing with rigged dice at a June PartoucheGammon Tour event being held at Casino Forges-les-Eaux in Normandy, France. The player in question is **Badri Tsertsvadze** of Georgia who was apprehended by the security team of the casino. Tsertsvadze was purportedly using rigged dice in the playing room of the tournament during the final day of the PGT competition... BPC player **Mike Sutton** is a 4 handicap golfer who can drive the ball over 310 yards... It appears that **Dan Pelton** is no longer involved with the Phoenix Backgammon Club. The search for a new director and play location is on. If you would like backgammon in Phoenix, e-mail **Ben Cohen** at [ben@onlyinsuranceleads.com](mailto:ben@onlyinsuranceleads.com)... Finally from **Ron Livingston**: "I say the one thing about luck is you can't really count on it. Then what good is it?"... The next POINT will be published in September. Have a great summer. Δ



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