

wisconsin state championships—ABT

## TIM MABEE WINS IN WIS. Steve Brown loses 3 finals

Pub Club director Tim Mabee (IL) rallied against Steve Brown to win the 2008 Wisconsin State Championships. A small but enthusiastic crowd of 76 players traveled to the Radison Hotel in Madison to partake in the annual Labor Day modified Swiss tournament—down from 103 in 2007. Tom Machaj directed the tournament, ably assisted by other Madison club members.



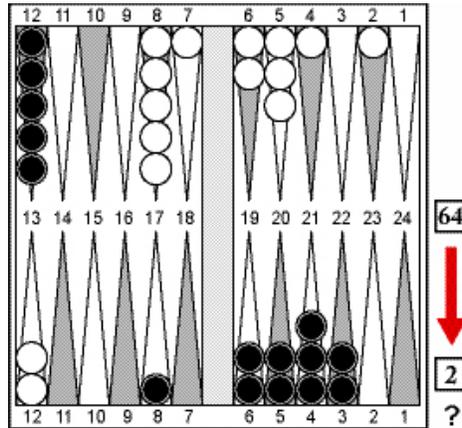
Tim Mabee (L) receives the Champion's trophy from Tom Machaj. That's runner-up Steve Brown on the right.

The 9-round swiss format ended with Steve Brown undefeated. Tim's record was 7-2. This put Steve in the finals and had the two other 7-2 qualifiers, Matt Cohn-Geier (CA) and Neil Kazaross (IL), battling to determine Steve's opponent. Tim won a bye, then defeated Matt in the semifinals to gain a shot at the Minnesota expert.

Steve Brown won every match he entered during the first three days of the event. He was a finalist with Jesse Eaton in the Doubles; he reached the final three of the Badger Classic Masters, and went 9-0 in the main tournament. But Monday defeats in the Doubles (to Chicagoans Joann Feinstein & Herb Roman) and Masters (to Neil Kazaross) brought him down to earth.

The 13-point finals began as a runaway for Steve. After five games, he was ahead 6-0. Then Tim got his game into high gear tying the match at 8-all. In the next game, Tim won a doubled game to take a 10-8 lead. But he got very careless in the next game:

13-point Wis. finals. Tim Mabee (Black) leads Steve Brown (White), 10 to 8. White on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Steve doubled and Tim (trailing only 113 to 106) miscounted the position and dropped. According to 720 3-ply, precise Snowie rollouts, the position is not even a double. Steve is only seven pips ahead in the race with worse inner board checker distribution than his opponent.

But this was destined to be Tim Mabee's match. Bearing in for the double match-point win, Tim left a 6-5 flyshot which Steve hit to flip the game around. But five rolls later, Tim tossed a game-changing 6-5 of his own to seal the deal.

Julius High (NY) recorded the final game and although a Snowie analysis of that game shows that Steve outplayed Tim (3.28—World Class to 6.97—Advanced), Tim prevailed to win over \$4,000 and the state title. Congratulations to Tim Mabee on the first ABT victory of his life.



Canadian Advanced player Chris Knapp en route to his first ABT title of 2008.

[Continued on page 4]

florida state championship—ABT

## CORBETT WINS AT HOME Fogerlund Takes Palm Classic

Mike Corbett showed why he is a "Giant of Backgammon" by defeating fellow Floridian Steve Flam in the 2008 Florida State Championship finals. Director Elayne Feinstein welcomed 105 main tournament entrants to her 10th annual affair held at the Marriott North Hotel in Ft. Lauderdale.

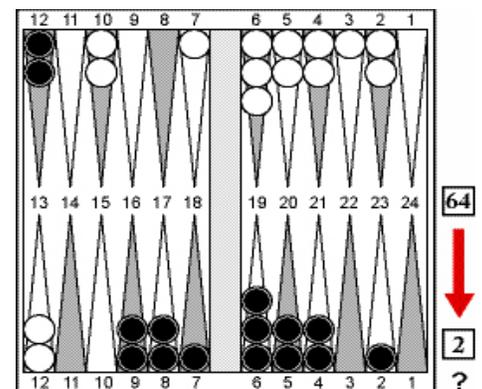


2008 Florida State Champ Mike Corbett (right) with runner-up Steve Flam.

Following a big win over ABT leader Neil Kazaross in the semifinals, Corbett faced Steve Flam, a fine player in his own right. Flam, a 1999 Florida finalist, defeated Chicagoan Phil Simborg in the semifinals to advance to the finals.

After 15 games and five lead changes, the 11-point match was knotted at 8-all. Steve, on shake, applied severe pressure on BG Giant #27 with a double in this position:

11 point Florida Championship. Mike Corbett (Black) and Steve Flam (White) tied at 8 to 8. White doubles. **SHOULD BLACK TAKE?**



[Continued on page 7]

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

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## JULY/AUGUST ERRORS

There were two errors in your Michigan writeup that I want to correct. First off, my error in the first position on the cover rolls out to a .068 error, not the .68 super blunder that you suggest. Second, I took a long time with my 3-1 play, but nowhere near 15 minutes.—Neil Kazaross, Barrington, Illinois

*Sorry about that, Neil. We misplaced the decimal point. And we got the 15 minute estimate from a spectator who exaggerated the amount of time you took.—Ed.*

In the Duane Jensen "Tangents" article, the race position between Steve Brown and Ed O'Laughlin is all messed up. The diagram says "Black doubles trailing the raw pip count 69 to 63" and "Should White take?" It should read "White doubles..." and "Should Black take?" The second

[Continued on page 3]

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

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

\*Denotes new or revised listing

### NATIONAL

*American Backgammon Tour events underlined.*

Sep 13	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Sep 18	Third Thursday Bonus (Illinois State), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Sep 20*	New England Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Sep 20-21	Jon Viotor Cup Invitational, Jon Viotor's residence, La Jolla, California	818/901-0464
Sep 21*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly, Cavendish Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Sep 21*	30th Flint Area Club Championships, Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Sep 26-28	Colorado State Championships, Hilton Airport Hotel, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
Sep 28*	Northside Club Monthly, Jerry Godsey's residence, Atlanta, Georgia	770/612-0818
Oct 5	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Oct 5*	15th Annual Fall tournament on FIBS, via computer	E-mail: <a href="mailto:david@escoffery.com">david@escoffery.com</a>
Oct 5*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Oct 6*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	480/286-8239
Oct 6*	Roy's Monthly, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Oct 11*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Oct 16*	Third Thursday Bonus (Las Vegas Open), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Oct 18*	New England Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Oct 10-12	Illinois State Championships, Ramada Hotel, Peoria, Illinois	847/845-3579
Oct 17-19*	<u>NEW VENUE: Mid-Atlantic Championships, Marriott Berkshire, Towson, MD</u>	954/564-0340
Oct 26*	Colorado Monthly, Bennigan's Restaurant, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
Oct 26*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly, Cavendish Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Nov 1*	Springfield Series #1, Ramada Hotel, Peoria, Illinois	217/622-9447
Nov 2*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Nov 3*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	480/286-8239
Nov 3*	Roy's Monthly, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Nov 12-16	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Nov 21*	Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Dec 5-7	California State Championship, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California	818/901-0464
Dec 7*	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jan 8-11*	New York Metropolitan Open, Hyatt Regency, Jersey City, New Jersey	702/218-8238
Jan 16-18*	9th Carolina Invitational, Hilton University Place, Charlotte, North Carolina	704/651-2949
Jan 18-25	Backgammon & Poker On Board, Princess Cruise, Ft. Lauderdale to Caribbean	773/583-6464

### OUTSIDE USA

Sep 13-14	6th Antwerp Open/Diamond Edition, Café den Bengel, Antwerp, Belgium	32475-256734
Sep 13-14*	Greek Monthly Tournament, Thessaloniki, Greece	306973-990985
Sep 13-15*	Sapporo Open 2008, El Plaza, Sapporo, Japan	8111-7066497
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 1-5*	Yalta Meetings 2008, Morskoy Priboy, Yalta, Crimea, Ukraine	49241-74140
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 10-12*	18th Norwegian National Championship, Sardinien, Bergen, Norway	47958-33404
Oct 10-12*	FARO Burg-Open, KARO Munich, München-Unterföhring, Germany	49711-486190
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
Oct 18-19*	34th Annual Finnish Open 2008, Hotel Presidentti, Helsinki, Finland	358405-586818
Oct 18-19*	12th Rotterdam Open, Café Spiegel, Rotterdam, The Netherlands	316-53579164
Oct 23-26*	PGT: Grande Finale & Divonne Open, Grand Domaine de Divonne, France	331-47645938
Oct 25-26*	16th Irish Open Championship, Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, Ireland	358-72144270
Oct 28-Nov 2*	EBGT: European Doubles/6th French Open, Enghien-les-Bains, France	491715-422222
Oct 31-Nov 2*	Townharbour Trophy, Barceló Daventry Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Nov 7-9*	6th Torneo delle Città, Castello di Modanella, Siena, Italy	393478-336862
Nov 7-9*	Swiss Championships 2008, Casino Barrière, Montreux, Switzerland	4179-3854825
Nov 13-16*	Kitzbuehel BG & Poker Master, Casino Kitzbuehel, Austria	49711-486190
Nov 14-16*	17th Mitteleuropa Championship, Park Casino/Hotel, Nova Gorica, Slovenia	390331-923537
Nov 26-30*	EBGT: 20th City of Venice Tournament, Venice Casino, Venice, Italy	393283-380725
Dec 5-7*	15th German Open, Recklinghausen, Germany	49521-64314
Dec 5-7*	Gilbertson UK Finals, Barceló Walton Hotel, Warwickshire, England	441522-888676
Dec 12-14*	Stockholm Events, Piperska Grottan, Stockholm, Sweden	4676-2335759
Dec 12-14*	46th Thun Open, Beo Cup, Doubles, Waadtlanderstube, Thun, Switzerland	4179-4329378
Jan 2-4*	13th Thailand Open, Somboone's House, Dongtan Beach, Thailand	668-70826120

# LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

diagram also commits these same two errors.—*Herb Roman, Chicago, Illinois*

*We're glad you could figure that out, Herb; and we hope other readers realized that*

*based on the comments and cube & arrow on each diagram.—Ed.*

## VOTE IN THE POINT POLLS

I like your "voting booth" at the Point website ([www.chicagopoint.com](http://www.chicagopoint.com)). I hope they continue.—*Bruce Russell, Madison, Wisconsin*

*So far we've asked web visitors about videotaping matches, premature rolling, tournament formats, clocks, and permitting other countries to run ABT tournaments. Look for more interesting topics in the future.—Ed.*

## TOUCH MOVE?

Enclosed is my subscription renewal. Thanks for all the years of your great newsletter.

I'm still pushing for a "touch move" rule and believe it would really improve our great game.—*Ralph Stowell, Osceola, Wisconsin*

## BG FOR THE IPHONE

Do you recommend any backgammon games for the new iPhone?—*Joel Mirmelstein, Wilmington, Delaware*

*We don't know how good it is, but PosiMotion offers a new backgammon game that is sold at Apple's "App Store" for \$5.99. You can read about it by Googling "Posimotion Backgammon."—Ed.*

## ABT ONLINE?

Is there a running list of the ABT online for 2008? I thought there used to be, but I only see the Top 25 at the ABT website ([chicagopoint.com/abt.html](http://chicagopoint.com/abt.html)).—*Kathleen Davis, Kansas City, Missouri*

*There is not, Kathleen. The idea is to get players to subscribe to newsletters like Chicago Point and Flint Area BackgammonNews to see the complete listing. But with computers taking over the world, we will rethink this for 2009.—Ed.*

[Continued on page 9]



### AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2008

Top 100 through 1 Sep. 2008 after 14 tournaments  
(Upcoming events: Colorado, Illinois, Mid-Atlantic)



Neil Kazaross	40.63	John O'Hagan	11.17	Saad Ghiso	6.25	Ed O'Laughlin	4.50
Ray Foglerlund	31.88	Matt Reklaitis	10.76	Owen Black	6.20	Fabrizio Schaffrath	4.42
Bob Koca	23.33	Greg Merriman	10.67	Joe Freedman	6.00	Lynn Lusk	4.42
Stick Rice	23.07	Tak Morioka	10.67	Vadim Musaeayan	6.00	Mark Donaldson	4.27
Mike Senkiewicz	22.33	Barry Miller	10.67	Robert Lessard	6.00	Gary Fishman	4.20
Ray Glaeser	21.33	Jolie Rubin	10.56	Steve Hast	6.00	Milton Gonzalez	4.10
Chris Knapp	20.97	Jonah Seewald	10.22	Alan Gold	5.71	Julius High	4.02
Bill Davis	20.17	Alan Robinson	10.00	John Rockwell	5.64	Maurice Barie	3.92
Richard Munitz	20.00	Adam Bennett	9.40	Eliot Bean	5.64	Steve Sax	3.92
Tim Mabee	18.80	Justin Nunez	9.04	Rick Barabino	5.58	Ken Bond	3.70
Jon Vietor	18.67	Joe Russell	9.04	Neil Deutsch	5.58	Sam Pottle	3.70
Drew Giovanis	18.07	David Rubin	9.00	Antonio Ortega	5.58	Murray Bryntesen	3.56
Jeff Acierno	15.84	Scott Casty	8.84	Les Moshinsky	5.33	Raul Timerman	3.50
Christopher Yep	14.80	Kevin Jones	8.83	Herb Roman	5.33	Perry Gartner	3.50
Mike Corbett	14.00	Gary Schachtschneider	8.66	Larry Liebster	5.33	Bob Pietras	3.33
Kit Woolsey	13.77	Eric Barr	8.33	Bruce Ballance	5.28	Carl Blumenstein	3.20
Michael Edge	13.67	Reggie Proulx	8.20	Karsten Busch	5.11	Richard Armbruster	3.20
Petko Kostadinov	13.18	Stepan Nuniyants	7.84	Jeff Whitelaw	5.11	Art Moore	3.20
Steve Brown	12.60	Mary Hickey	7.83	Jesse Eaton	5.04	Elayne Feinstein	3.13
Sal Chehayeb	12.50	Paul Berg	7.83	Matt Cohn-Geier	4.70	Wally Wolf	3.13
Dave Settles	12.46	Lynn Ehrlich	7.64	Dana Nazarian	4.67	Joseph Jemal	3.10
Carol Joy Cole	12.00	John Jennings	7.40	Howard Markowitz	4.67	Beth Raby	3.10
Antoinette Williams	12.00	Steve Flam	7.00	Jona Alexander	4.52	Malcolm Robertson	3.00
Roy Gandy	11.27	Rose Sheedy	6.89	Ed Bennett	4.52	Stuart Thomson	3.00
George Matthews	11.27	David Escoffery	6.40	Justin Bor	4.52	John Baron	3.00



### CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2008 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU 31 AUG.

Rory Pascar	21.66	Ken Bond	6.88	Mike Pufpaf	2.76	Mark Murray	0.88
David Rockwell	20.76	Dave Settles	6.84	Scott Casty	2.72	Les Moshinsky	0.80
Herb Roman	19.56	Bill Bartholomay	6.72	Jerry Brooks	2.60	Chiva Tafazzoli	0.72
Phil Simborg	17.72	Alice Kay	6.64	Arline Levy	2.52	Tim Rockwell	0.68
Carter Mattig	13.14	Michael Ginat	6.60	Eric Johnson	2.32	Wendy Kaplan	0.60
Bill Davis	12.64	Jacob Moreno	6.32	Ken Tibbs	1.84	Elaine Kehm	0.56
Nora Luna Righter	11.76	Alex Owen	6.20	Paul Baraz	1.76	Linda Rockwell	0.56
Tim Mabee	10.94	Richard Stawowy	6.08	Henry Gray	1.56	Sherry Nelson	0.56
Steve Klesker	10.44	Mike Wolock	5.88	Dan Weymouth	1.44	Bill Gradl	0.56
Lucky Nelson	10.28	Christopher Shanova	5.68	Yamin Yamin	1.28	Bill Devine	0.56
Tak Morioka	9.64	Wayne Wiest	5.64	Nicole Tibbs	1.12	Kathy Sorci	0.52
Albert Yakobashvili	8.88	Bill Keefe	5.52	Tom Machaj	1.12	Andrew Mack	0.48
Bob Zavoral	8.54	Roger Hickman	5.28	Efim Liberman	1.12	Mark Swanson	0.40
Larry Goldstein	8.08	Royal Robinson	5.20	Ray Lass	1.04	Amy Trudeau	0.32
Mike Suttton	7.04	Adrian Rios	3.36	Sargon Benjamin	1.04	Roz Ferris	0.32
Gary Kay	7.00	Georgina Flanagan	3.16	Mary Franks	0.96	Phyllis Smoliński	0.24
Oleg Raygorodsky	6.88	Bob Steen	3.04	Dan Cox	0.96	Lucia Armenta	0.24

July POM **LUCKY NELSON** went 16–2 ending July with a 14 match win streak to earn monthly honors with 7.08 points. Larry Goldstein (3.76) and Phil Simborg (3.28) were 2nd & 3rd.

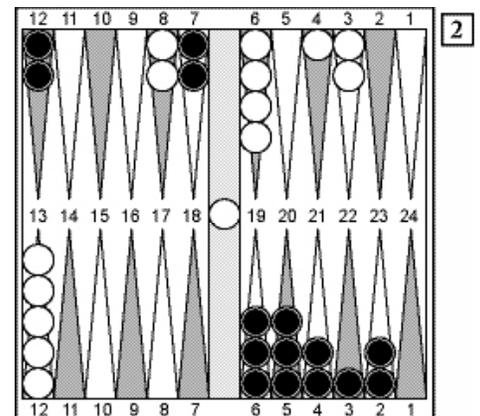
August POM **TIM MABEE** captured 5.12 points by splitting two Masters events and finishing 2nd on Sunday, Aug. 3. Runner's-up were Steve Klesker (4.48) and David Rockwell (3.20).

*your move*

## PROBLEM #339

to be analyzed by Steve Sax

11-point match. White leads Black 4 to 3. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**



## ASK DANNY

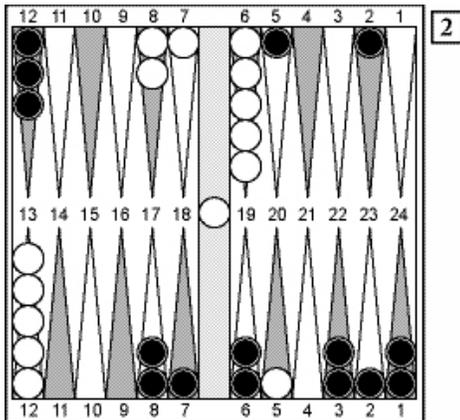


© 2008 by Danny Kleinman

### HIT OR BUILD?

Dear Danny: My partner and I recently played in an ABT doubles event. Although I generally get along with him, he does like to contradict me, especially in pressure situations. We faced such a position in our most recent tournament match:

7-point match. Black trails White 3 to 5.  
**BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**



I wanted to simply hit the second checker (23/18\*). My partner preferred

another strategy: 7/2, building a fourth point. Because gammons would win the match for us, I ended up making my hitting play and what happens? Our opponents roll 2-2 anchoring and making their 4-point. (Of course, 2-2 dances if I had listened to my partner.) Needless to say, we couldn't bring the position home and I haven't stopped hearing from my partner for a month.

What do you think, Danny. Was I wrong to pick up the second piece while I had the chance, or is building the 2-point a better move at this score?—*Taking heat*

**DEAR HEAT:** Seeking backgammon wisdom many years ago, I trekked to a place that is very cold, a remote slope in the Himalayas where I found the reclusive guru Maharishi Mahesh Daniel. The Maharishi whispered a mantra to me that has served me well ever since. May I repeat it to you, as I do to my shadow fifty times each morning?

#### *Destroy Valuable Enemy Slots.*

What has my mantra to do with your backgammon position?

Having made your 1-point, you will be at a disadvantage in a positional game. However, you have a tremendous advantage in the game you have embarked upon, a *blitz*. In other kinds of games, the quality of the points you have made is paramount,

but in a blitz, the number of inside points prevails. A wonderful match-winning gammon looms if you can continue the blitz successfully.

What can end the blitz and convert the game to a positional battle? An anchor for your opponent. In the current position, White threatens to make an anchor: the golden anchor on your 5-point. Stop him! His blot on your 5-point "slots" that anchor, and is as valuable in this position as a slot on his own 5-point is in other kinds of positions. That, not the relatively unimportant slot on his bar-point, is the slot you must destroy.

Although better rolls were possible, your actual 4-1 lets you accomplish this priority while keeping a three point board and leaving only one inside blot of your own. Hit 6/5\* with the ace, destroying the slot, keeping your opponent dancing, and creating three inside blots only temporarily, then move 6/2 with the 4, consolidating two of these blots into a third inside point. Sending a third man back can wait, and so can making a fourth inside point.

Don't make me feel that my journey to Nepal was in vain.—*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*

## WISCONSIN...

[Continued from page 1]

Although the money was split three ways in the 24-player Masters event, Neil Kazaross won the round robin playoff for the trophy and title. Steve Brown and Richard Munitz (NY) placed 2nd/3rd. Congratulations to Neil (who also extended his ABT lead with a 2nd Consolation finish) and to Limited winner Ken Rotar (WI) and Advanced champ Chris Knapp (Canada). The win moves Chris into 7th in the 2008 ABT points race . . . and all of his points have been earned in Intermediate events!



Doubles champions Herb Roman and Joann Feinstein.

This is the only Swiss format event on the ABT circuit and we recommend that you give it a try next Labor Day. The dates are set: 4-7 September, 2009 at the Radisson in Madison. Complete results. Δ

### WISCONSIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (47): 1-Tim Mabee (IL), 2-Steve Brown (MN), 3-Matt Cohn-Geier (CA); 1C-Adam Bennett (WI), 2C-Neil Kazaross (IL). ADVANCED (24): 1-Chris Knapp (Canada), 2-John Baron (OH); 1C-Eric Barr (MO). LIMITED (5): 1-Ken Rotar (WI), 2-Lyle Rubin (IL). BADGER CLASSIC (24): 1-Neil Kazaross (IL), 2/3-Steve Brown (MN) / Richard Munitz (NY). AMATEUR JACKPOT (8): 1-Jesse Eaton (MN), 2-Julius High (NY). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Joann Feinstein (IL) & Herb Roman (IL), 2-Steve Brown (MN) & Jesse Eaton (MN). EARLYBIRD JACKPOT (16): 1-Terry Leahy (IL), 2-Sean Garber (IN). BLITZ (32): 1-Carol Joy Cole (MI), 2-Yury Millman (MN). CANCELGAMMON (16): 1-Walt Swan (NJ), 2-Bruce Russell (WI). QUICKIE (32): 1-Keene Marin (WI). \$200 JACKPOT (8): 1-Bob Glass (CA), 2-Carol Joy Cole (MI). \$50 JACKPOT (4): 1-Herb Roman (IL).



## ILLINOIS ACTION



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

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

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Holiday Inn O'Hare, 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 Road. 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).



# BG Peeves

By Larry Liebster



## HEDGING & SETTLEMENTS

At a recent tournament, I overheard two of my friends (let's call them Bob and Jim) talking before commencing play in the finals of the Seniors event. Bob said, "Let's play the match with the winner getting 60% and the loser 40%."

Jim replied, "Fine by me."

I looked at the prize structure and saw that the winner was supposed to receive \$950 with second place getting \$450. Now, I can do the 60/40 calculation in my head. The total of \$950 and \$450 is \$1400.

Dividing that by 5 makes each one-fifth (or 20%) worth \$280. So the winner after the hedge gets  $\$280 \times 3 = \$840$  and the loser gets  $\$280 \times 2 = \$560$ . This changes the prize return of each player by a measly \$110—negligible compared to the amount of time and effort expended to reach the finals.

Now, I know these guys. One is a multi-millionaire and the other is by no means financially strapped. When I was in a similar situation, instead of hedging, I said, "Let's bet an additional \$100 on the side."

So, why did Bob and Jim make the hedge?

My answer is that it is a ritual, just like the dance football players do after scoring a touchdown. We humans love ritual. Religions and governments all have theirs. It's part of our culture.

I can understand hedging when the the prize money is extremely large with a huge swing between the first and second place payout. And when the players are in desperate need of the money, hedging makes sense. But when the amount of money is basically insignificant to their lives, then I think the players are just strutting their stuff; running at each other and banging bellies in celebration of getting into the finals.

This is okay as long as they realize what they are doing and no feelings are hurt, but when done in the manner of ruffling feathers or trying to gain a degree of psychological superiority, it is one of my BG peeves.—Larry Liebster Δ

## LARS TRABOLT CLAIMS WORLD TITLE FOR DENMARK

Backgammon Giant Lars Trabolt of Denmark defeated Mario Sequeira 25–12 to claim the title of World Backgammon Champion. The 33rd Monte Carlo extravaganza took place at the Fairmont Hotel in Monaco. Howard Markowitz directed the 6–12 July event that saw a 13% attendance decrease from 2007. Δ



Lars Trabolt

## MONTE CARLO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

CHAMPIONSHIP (199): 1-Lars Trabolt (DEN), 2-Mario Sequeira (POR), 3/4-Achim Müller (GER) / Joel Schiff (ISR); First Cons.: 1C-Lars Degerman (SWE), 2C-Carsten Joh (GER), 3C/4C-Masa Nasu (JPN)/Ed O'Laughlin (USA); Second Cons.: 1C-Neville Eber (SAF), 2C-Ricardo Spinola (BRA), 3C/4C-Michael Friedrich (GER) / Paul Van Dijke (Netherlands); 1LC-Tom Zarrinam (USA), 2LC-Michihito Kageyama (JPN). INTERMEDIATE (58): 1-Valery Mikhaylets (RUS), 2-Alain De Foucher (FRA), 3/4-Sam Ahmed (EGY) / Pernille Rosendal (DEN); First Cons.: 1C-Jonas Enemark (DEN), 2C-Sara Utku (SWE), 3C/4C-Jacob Andersen (DEN) / Josue Bendaoud (FRA); Second Cons.: 1C-Cyrille Fauquet (FRA), 2C-François Coignard (FRA), 3C/4C-Holger Gerwin (GER) / Majken Johansen (DEN); 1LC-Kaj Nielsen (DEN), 2LC-Martin de Bruin (USA/SPN). BEGINNERS (41): 1-Vasili Kavun (UKR), 2-Edith Afchani (GER), 3/4-Kacik Gasparian (ARM) / Janek Mistowski (DEN); First Cons.: 1C-Omari Dvali (GEO), 2C-Avtandil Todria (GEO), 3C/4C-Lars Hove (DEN) / Boris Mamporia (RUS); Second Cons.: 1C-Lyova Ghazarian (ARM), 2C-Laura Monaco (ITA), 3C/4C-Bartolomeo Migliore (ITA) / Dana Wanounou (NOR); 1LC-Amélie Viennois (FRA), 2LC-Levon Petrossian (ARM). SUPER JACKPOT (32 @ €1,000): 1-Bob Wachtel (USA), 2-Ary Nogueira (BRA), 3/4-Steve Hammond (USA) / Matvey "Falafel" Natanzon (ISR). LTD. JACKPOT (32 @ €500): 1-Bob Koca (USA), 2-Leonid Riskin (UKR/GER). DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Kenji Shimodaira (JPN) & Takumitsu Suzuki (JPN), 2-Rickard Persson (Sweden) & Mohamad Badiei (IRN/SWE). €40 BLITZ (56): 1-Bülent Ozer (TUR), 2-Gerry Maria Daniel (USA). €100 BLITZ (176): 1-Hamza Nar (TUR), 2-Hans-Uli Koch (GER). €200 JACKPOT (32): 1-Jakob Simonsen (DEN), 2-Christopher Yep (USA). LADIES TOURNEY (32): 1-Scarlett Serrero (FRA), 2-Ingrid Sonnabend (GER). FORTIS WORLD TEAM (66 teams): 1-Christos Groutsos / Giorgos Klitsas / Alexandros Kolonias (GRE), 2-Adam Bennett (USA) / Ed Bennett (USA) / Stephan Kostov (BUL).

1000 Islands Tournament—ABT

## MUNITZ WINS 2ND TIME IN 3 YEARS IN UPSTATE NY

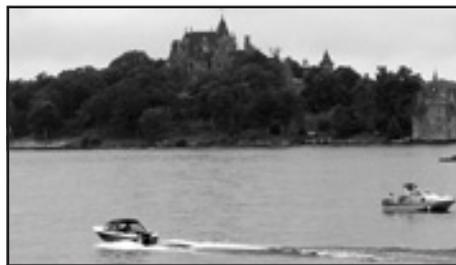
Richard Munitz bested Lynn Ehrlich 13–7 to capture the 1000 Islands Tournament. The ABT event drew 35 players in the Open division to the beautiful 1000 Islands area. Renée Rosenbloom and Eden Windish directed at the Pine Tree Point in



Richard Munitz (center) accepts his trophy from co-directors Renee Rosenbloom and Eden Windish.

Alexandria Bay 1–3 August.

If you've never visited beautiful upstate New York, we suggest you mark your calendar for the 2009 version of this event. Δ



1000 Islands is beautiful in the summer.

## 1000 ISLANDS TOURNAMENT

OPEN (35): 1-Richard Munitz (NY), 2-Alan Robinson (Canada), 3-Lynn Ehrlich (NY). DOUBLES (12 teams): 1/2-Harvey Gillis (WA) & Alan Grunwald (NJ) / Garry Kallos (Canada) & Chris Knapp (Canada). FRIDAY MINI-TOURNAMENTS OF 8: Five winners - Alan Grunwald (NJ), Chris Knapp (Canada), Ed Johnson (NY), Daniel Dorinbaum (Canada), Rodrigue Despard (Canada).

28<sup>TH</sup> OCT. – 2<sup>ND</sup> NOV, 2008

4<sup>th</sup>  
*European Backgammon*

6<sup>th</sup> French Open  
*d' Enghien-les-Bains*  
Lucien Barrière

Doubles  
*Championships*

TOTAL ADDED PRIZE

UPTO **50.000 €**

LAST YEAR'S TOTAL PAYOUT 200.000 €



ESTIMATED TOTAL PAYOUT  
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## 2008 MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

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# FLORIDA...

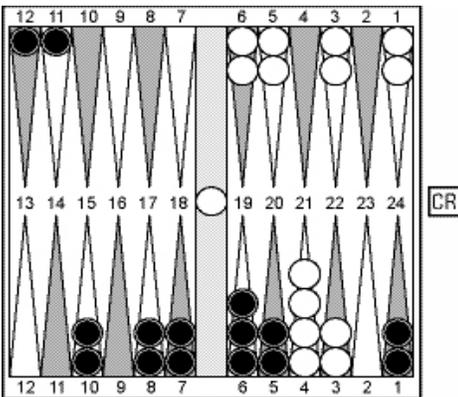
[Continued from page 1]

After a couple of minutes, Mike dropped the double against his weaker opponent. Against equal competition, a Snowie 3-ply analysis shows his decision to be a near blunder, but following a 720 full rollout, the error drops to a mere .035—a loss of only 0.33% match equity.

“I figured my match chances were better trailing 8–9 because my opponent could still make cube errors at this complicated score,” explained Mike.

It was an excellent decision for the author of *Backgammon Problems*. Following the next game, Mike was ahead 10–9 Crawford and rolling this position home when:

11 point Florida Championship. Mike Corbett (Black) leads Steve Flam (White) 10 to 9 Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-6.**



What’s your play here? A quick 3-ply Snowie analysis prefers 14/2, 13/7, 8/2.

Instead, Corbett played Snowie’s third choice: 13/1, 14/2. In any event, Mike was able to roll the position home and claim his third Florida State title in the 10 year history of the event.

After the match, not one person in the playing room would have made Mike’s play. But a 1440 3-ply, precise rollout shows his move to be correct! These are the exact type of positions that Mike Corbett likes to feature in his lectures: maintain your prime and give White the chance to crash his home board. Well done Mr. Corbett!

## PALM CLASSIC MASTERS

Ray Fogerlund won an incredible fourth Masters title of the year defeating BG legend Alan Martin in a nail-biter finals. But monetarily, the two players broke even.



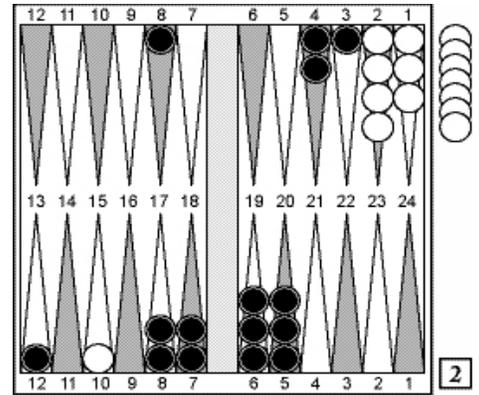
Ray Fogerlund makes his move in the Palm Classic finals.

Here’s the incredible position that caused the money split:

[See position above right]

Leading 9–8/11, but holding a 2-cube and in danger of being gammoned for the

11 point Plam Classic finals. Ray Fogerlund (Black) leads Steve Flam (White) 9 to 8. Black on roll. **BLACK OFFERS TO SPLIT THE PRIZE MONEY. SHOULD WHITE ACCEPT?**



match, Ray ran calculations in his head and decided that he would have slightly the best of it if he offered to split the prize money. Alan pondered the offer and eventually accepted the deal. Ray rolled a 2 to hit Alan’s blot, and proceeded to bring the game home to claim the title.

In fact, Ray’s settlement is incredible in its accuracy. A 1440 game 3-ply, precise full Snowie rollout shows that Ray wins 40.5% of these games and loses 59.5% of which 30.7% are match-ending gammons or back-gammons. The Snowie rollout shows:

Ray wins the match 40.5%. He can also win when Alan wins a plain game (59.5% – 30.7% = 28.8%) and Ray goes on to win from a 9–10 Crawford deficit 30% of the time. Doing the math:

$$40.5 + (28.8 \times .30) = 49.14\%$$

Therefore Ray has slightly the worst of the position and made an incredibly accurate settlement. It’s true that Ray would have a slight skill advantage in the remainder of the match; but it’s also true that only Ray can misplay the current game as Alan’s moves are all forced.

Congratulations to the other main event winners: Kevin Jones (FL) in the Advanced and Beginner Champ Julie Sommer (NY).

In other events, Chris Knapp continued his incredible Intermediate year winning the Amateur Jackpot. Juan Rospigliosi (FL) & Leon Turner (FL) captured the Doubles, and Neal Rosensweig (FL) took the David Menkes Memorial event.

Kudos to Elayne Feinstein and staff who despite an overall drop in national attendance, actually saw an attendance increase compared to last year. We wish Elayne the best as she prepares for her new event: The Mid-Atlantic Championships at the Burkshire Marriott in Maryland 17–19 October. **COMPLETE RESULTS ON PG. 8 Δ**

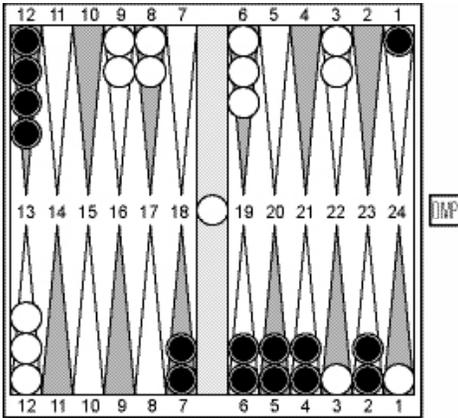
## BLAME MICHELLE PFEIFFER



Here are Carter & Christina Pfeifer Mattig posing for a beautiful wedding pic. Christina was incorrectly named “Michelle Pfeifer Mattig” in last month’s POINT. We’re blaming actress Michelle Pfeiffer for the error and forever banning her from our newsletter. Δ

**PROBLEM #338  
ANALYZED**

by Kit Woolsey

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

If gammons counted, 7/3\* would be quite attractive. Even though Black is short on ammunition and might not be able to remake his barpoint on a bad day, the chance of winning the fight for the 3-point and thus upping Black's gammon chances considerably would make the loose hit a worthwhile gamble. But gammons don't

matter. Black simply has to find the play which is most likely to win the game. 7/3\* is still a candidate, of course. In addition, Black might play 13/9 unstacking the heavy midpoint and getting a builder six away from the 3-point. He also might play 24/20, hoping to escape while White is on the bar and leaving White with little more than a 3-point or acepoint game.

I don't care for the loose hit. Black doesn't really need it. He is short on ammunition, and giving up the barpoint here could be quite serious. If White hits back, Black will be scrambling to recover. If White doesn't hit back, Black will have to roll well to cover the blot on the 3-point. And even if that happens, Black doesn't have any ammunition in place to complete a closeout, so White will probably wind up with an acepoint game. Since White's winning chances from the acepoint are about as good as his winning chances from the 3-point, Black will not have gained much. The theme here is to not give up what you have when you are short on ammunition. If one or two of the checkers on the midpoint were in range of the 3-point, it might be another story.

13/9 is a productive play. If White flunks or enters with an ace and Black rolls a 6, he can afford to hit loose on the

3-point, since he retains the important barpoint. Also, if Black rolls a 4 he can just make the 9-point. Still, the play has its flaws. White might roll 1-6 or 3-6 from the bar, and Black definitely does not want a second checker back. Also, this play leaves the back checker stranded, and Black doesn't want to do that.

24/20 follows the "bring them around and win" game plan. This is an excellent time to try to extricate the back checker with White on the bar. Black will probably be conceding White some anchor, but that isn't a big deal with gammons not counting. Black will probably be able to continue running the back checker next turn, and once that is accomplished it should be smooth sailing. I believe this is the play which is consistent with the position and what Black's main game plan should be.

It is easy to take one's eye off the ball in this type of position. The key is to determine what is most important for Black, and what he can definitely accomplish. Winning the fight for the 3-point would be nice, but that might not happen and Black would still have the problem of extricating the back checker. Black knows he wants to run his straggler, and he has rolled a convenient number to do so. Therefore, that is what he should do.—Kit Woolsey Δ

**AMALGAMATION**

Visiting the Bar Point Club this Summer: **Mark Murray** (OH)... **Joann Feinstein** (IL) slipped in the kitchen and broke her hip. We wish her a speedy recovery... POINT columnist **Kit Woolsey** (CA) was hospitalized in early September for a battle with pneumonia. Looks like Kit won... Nice to have **Bill Bartholomay** (IL) back at the BPC after a little heart work... Benihana restaurant founder **Rocky Aoki** died 10 July in New York. He was 69. Rocky played a lot of backgammon in the 1980s... **Christopher Yep** (OH) reports that there are still no pitchers of water at the Fairmont Hotel for the Monte Carlo World Championships. But the hotel does offer a half liter bottle for ♂8 (approx. \$12.50)... **Dan Pelton** has resigned as director of the Arizona and Phoenix Backgammon Clubs. The club is meeting sporadically, but a new director has not been named... Better hurry. Last call for Backgammon & Poker On Board is 8 October. Don't miss out! Call **Sue Will** at 309/699-6005... Baltimore Backgammon Club director **Vic Morawski** has made 27 short videos on how to play backgammon and they are outstanding. If you know someone

who wants to learn the game, have them Google "monkeysee backgammon"... **John Ramm** resigned as director of the Nashville Backgammon Club on 1 August. We wish **Rollow Mickle** best of luck as the new director... Director **Elayne Feinstein** informs us that the Mid-Atlantic Championships has a new venue: Burkshire Marriott Hotel in Towson, MD. The rate is unchanged: \$89/night. See the ad on page 6... Congratulations to **Gil Evans** (NH), the New England Backgammon Club's top player for the 07-08 season... Former Michigan BG expert **Bob Ciaffone**, a delegate at the Democrat Convention and as a professional gambler stated "You can bet the house that Barack Obama will be the next President." Of course this was pre-**Sarah Palin**... In a phony publicity stunt, Backgammon Masters claimed that they would purchase Olympic speedster **Usain Bolt**'s running shoes and donate them to charity. Fat chance... Speaking of the Olympics, did you know **Gary Kallos** of Montreal wrestled for Canada in the 1984 Olympics?... Finally from **Ernest Hemingway**: "For a long time now I have tried simply to write the best I can. Sometimes I have good luck and write better than I can." The same can be said about backgammon! Δ

**FLORIDA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

[Story on Pg. 8]

CHAMPIONSHIP (35): 1-Mike Corbett (FL), 2-Steve Flam (FL); 1C-Petko Kostadinov (SC), 2C-Raul Timerman (Argentina); 1LC-Perry Gartner (FL). ADVANCED (53): 1-Kevin Jones (FL), 2-Fabricio Schaffrath (Argentina/FL), 3/4-Danielle Bastarache (FL) / Eli Turgell (FL); 1C-Lynn Lusk (CO), 2C-Dixie McGaffick (FL); 1LC-Murray Bryntesen (FL). NOVICE (17): 1-Julia Sommer (NY), 2-Richard Wisniewski (FL); 1C-Hayden Burrus (FL); 1LC-Paul Lazarus (FL). AL TESORO PALM CLASSIC (16): 1-Ray Foglerlund (CA), 2-Alan Martin (FL). AMATEUR JACKPOT (20): 1-Chris Knapp (Canada), 2-Gary Fishman (FL). DOUBLES (22 teams): 1-Juan Rospigliosi (FL) & Leon Turner (FL), 2-Denise Hemingway (MD) & Neal Rosensweig (FL). BLITZ (64): 1-Dan Gruby (FL), 2-Rod Covlin (NY). DAVID MENKES MEMORIAL (26): 1-Neal Rosensweig (FL), 2-Albert Yakobashvili (Georgia Republic/IL). SUNSHINE CUP (16): 1-Neil Kazaross (IL). First Prize was a Vitor Hollanda backgammon board. MIKE & DANIELLE'S NOVICE FREE ROLL TOURNAMENT (13): 1-Larry Schultz (FL), 2-Rosanne Rutnick (FL). GATOR ROLL: 1-Albert Yakobashvili (Georgia Republic/IL).

**WINNER'S CIRCLE**



JUL./AUG. 2008

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 13 Jul.)... OPEN (8): 1-Philippe Salnave, 2-Elayne Feinstein.  
 •**Pub Club Summer Tourney** (Carol Stream, IL; 20 Jul.)... OPEN (29): 1-Mike Wolock, 2-Gary Kay, 3/4-Sharon Steffens / Tim Mabee; 1C-David Rockwell, 2C-Albert Yakobashvili.



Mike Wolock (L) receives a plaque from Pub Club director Tim Mabee for winning their Summer Trophy Tourney.

•**6th PartoucheGammon Riviera & Nation's Cup** (Cannes, France; 15-21 Jul.)... PARTOUCHEGAMMON TOUR OPEN (155): 1-Bob Koca



Bob Koca was super hot in Europe this summer.

(USA), 2-Gus Hansen (DEN), 3/4-Nicky Check (ENG) / Robert Lindbom (SWE); 1C-Karsten Bredahl (DEN), 2C-Alain Babilon (FRA), 3C/4C-Marc Santo Roman (FRA) / Jakob Simonsen (DEN); 1LC-Hamza Nar (TUR), 2LC-Robert Lego Fursund (DEN). INTERMEDIATE (32): 1-Levon Petrossian (ARM), 2-Harutyan Martirosian (ARM), 3-Giorgioleni Tamaz (GEO), 4-George Miltiadou (ENG); 1C-Amélie Viennois (FRA), 2C-Giovanni Celentano (ITA); 1LC-Didier Rouxel (FRA). BEGINNERS (28): 1-Doriand DeBrand (FRA). WSOB SUPER SATELLITE #1 (16): 1-Frédéric Andrieu (FRA). WSOB SUPER SATELLITE #2 (16): 1-François Tardieu (FRA). SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-Ed O'Laughlin (USA). SPEED BLITZES #1 (32): 1-Volker Sonnabend (GER), 2-Giorgio Castellano (ITA). #2 (32): 1/2-Florin Popa (Romania/ITA) / Chris Ternel (ENG). #3 (32): 1-Chris Ternel (ENG), 2-Fabrizio Lo Surdo (ITA). WARM-UP (128): 1-Jan Jacobowitz (GER). LADIES TOURNEY (18): 1-Pernille Rosendal (DEN). LADIES PRIZE: Amélie Viennois (FRA). FAIR PLAY PRIZE: Rassoul Rasti (IRN/SWZ). DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Claude Lambert (FRA) &

José Rodriguez (FRA), 2-Karsten Bredahl (DEN) & Steen Grønbech (DEN), 3/4-Jan Jacobowitz (GER) & Jürgen Orłowski (GER) / Hans-Uli Koch (GER) & Ed O'Laughlin (USA). FREE ROLLS #1 (32): Florin Popa (Romania/ITA). (Prize = Riviera entry & hotel for 2009). #2 (32): Adrian Jones (ENG). NATION'S CUP (16 teams): 1-Germany: Götz Hildsberg / Jan Jacobowitz / Christian Plenz, 2-Italy: Fernando Braconi / Piergiorgio D'Ancona / Fabrizio Lo Surdo, 3-Sweden: Robert Lindbom / Sven-Olav Norén / Sara Utku, 4-Norway: Tore Fredriksen / Hans Liby / Jon Kristian Røyset / Katja Spillum. WORLD SERIES OF BG SHOOTOUT (16): 1-Frédéric Andrieu (FRA), 2-Bob Koca (USA), 3/4-Matvey "Falafel" Natanzon (ISR) / Lars Trabolt (DEN).

•**13th Minnesota Open—ABT** (Bloomington, MN; 25-27 Jul.)... OPEN (16): 1-Gary Schachtschneider (MN), 2-Art Moore (CA); 1C-Steve Brown (MN), 2C-Neil Kazaross (IL); 1LC-Mark Donaldson (MN). INTERMEDIATE (12): 1-Jesse Eaton (MN), 2-Hugh Morris (MN); 1C-Ray Bills (MN), 2C-Wayne Wiest (IL); 1LC-Ed Ziesche (MN). MASTERS JACKPOT (10): 1-Ray Fogerlund (CA), 2-David Rockwell (IL). DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Jim Pokela (MN) & Ralph Stowell (WI). HYPERGAMMON (16): 1-Gary Schachtschneider (MN), 2-Jeff Nitschke (MN). BLITZ (32): 1-Jim Pokela (MN), 2-Fred Kalantari (MN).

•**Atlanta Northside Monthly** (Atlanta Area, GA; 27 Jul.)... OPEN (16): 1-Steve Kovach, 2-Dave Williams; 1C-Samra Hadden.

•**3rd Davis Doubles & 2nd "Gogi Bukia Memorial" Georgian Open** (Tbilisi, Georgia; 31 Jul.-5 Aug.)... DAVIS DOUBLES (7 + 1 rebuy): 1-Morten Holm (DEN) & Sander Lylloff (DEN), 2-Jakob Garal (UKR/GER) & Leonid Riskin (UKR/GER). MASTERS (28+4 rebuys): 1-Cem Duran (TUR), 2-Fabrizio Lo Surdo (ITA), 3/4-Zurab Mikaia (GEO) / Jürgen Orłowski (GER); 1C-Kakhaber Natchkebia (GEO), 2C-Nodar Gagua (GEO/RUS); 1LC-Rezo Tskhovrebashvili (GEO). INTERMEDIATE (28+3 rebuys): 1-Rambiz Khalili (IRN), 2-Chiva Tafazzoli (IRN/GER), 3/4-Boris Danelia (GEO) / Zurab Margvelashvili (GEO); 1C-Badri Lominadze (GEO), 2C-David Tevdoradze (GEO); 1LC-Sergey Grinev (RUS). AMATEURS (12): 1-Kakha Kurtzikidze (GEO), 2-Marina Gurgenidze (GEO), 3-Janguli Esebua (GEO). PRO/AM DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Bob Wachtel (USA) & self, 2-Boris Mamporia (Russia) & Givi Shengelia (GEO). EXHIBITION MATCH: 1-Georgia: Nodar Gagua (Captain) / Gocha Chokhnelidze / Tamas Giergobiani / Kakhaber Natchkebia / David Tevdoradze, 2-Rest of the World: Matvey "Falafel" Natanzon (Captain/ISR) / Artur Muradian (ARM) / Jürgen Orłowski (GER) / Tassilo Rzymann (AUT) / Bob Wachtel (USA). ELEGANCE PRIZE: Khachik Melykian (ARM). FAIR PLAY PRIZE: Arut Martirosian (ARM). LADIES TROPHY: Marina Gurgenidze (GEO). BEST GEORGIAN PLAYER: Zurab Mikaia

•**Australian Open Championship** (Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia; 1-3 Aug.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (57+71 rebuys): 1-Jay Deva, 2-Grant Hoffman (NZE), 3/4-Virginia Jones / Simon Ustick, 5/8-Stephen Davy / Alex Falon /

Tony Hryscos / David Kinston, 9/16-Mick Dyett / Jim Giallisi / Ross Hancock / Kevin Jessup / David Reitzin / Peter Sun / Tony Walker / Griff Ware.

•**Bloomington/Normal Summer Sizzler** (Bloomington, IL; 2 Aug.)... OPEN (25): 1-Chris Scott, 2-John Jennings; 1C-Mark King, 2C-David Rubin; 1LC-Greg Tomlin. LIMITED (9): 1-Joseph Alford, 2-Susan Alford; 1C-Casey Sheady, 2C-David Berndt; 1LC-Barb McGuire. 3-POINT QUICKIE: 1-Steve McGuire, 2-Cindy Trine.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Chicago, IL; 3 Aug.)... OPEN (22): 1-Steve Klesker, 2-Tim Mabee, 3/4-Yamin Yamin / Richard Stawowy; 1C-David Rockwell, 2C-Tak Morioka. INTERMEDIATE (5): 1-Mike Pufpaf, 2-Oleg Raygorodsky.

•**Miami Valley Monthly** (Dayton, OH; 10 Aug.)... OPEN (11): 1-Gary Weiss, 2-Andrew DeCarlo.

•**Phoenix BG Club—USBL** (Glendale, AZ; 21 Aug.)... OPEN (7): 1-Proctor Ritchey, 2-Cherie Owens, 3-Dave Cohen.

•**Pair-O-Dice Monthly** (New York, NY; 24 Aug.)... OPEN (12): 1-Al Hodis, 2-Julius High; 1C-Nasser Sedaghatpour, 2C-Lynn Ehrlich.

•**Winnetka Club 25th Anniversary Tourney** (Winnetka, IL; 27 Aug.)... OPEN (16): 1-Oleg Raygorodsky. Δ

**LETTERS...**

*[Continued from page 3]*

**MICHAEL ON CLOCKS AND PINUPS**

Regarding Jason Lee's letter in the July POINT, at Biba events, the Director (me!) has discretionary powers over who gets a clock.

"Issuance of clocks: At the discretion of the Director, clocks that allocate a set time per move and time in reserve will be issued purely as a means to complete a match within the time allowed. Opponents who suspect slow play can request a clock only for timing purposes and not to gain an advantage."

I never allow clocks to be used just because a player asks for one. If they do ask and if I deem it necessary, then I will allocate one.

On another topic, what's happened to the pinup Point Girls on your web page? Don't tell me you've given in to the PC brigade? — Michael Crane, BIBA, Lincoln, England

We have received over a dozen letters from [chicagopoint.com](http://chicagopoint.com) viewers asking about the Point Girl's disappearance. The truth is that because we run a children's tournament and additionally because the artist who created next year's Midwest Championships graphic celebrating the 1960s is only 14, we have had an epiphany of sorts. Sorry guys! — Ed. Δ

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