

us open championships

US OPEN TO CAROL JOY! Bill Finneran takes Masters

June 4–7 in a suburb outside of Washington, DC, Carol Joy Cole became the 14th individual to win the US Open backgammon title. Directed by World Backgammon Association president Chiva Tafazzoli and American Backgammon Tour founder Bill Davis, the event drew a small but strong field of 54 players to the Doubletree Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.



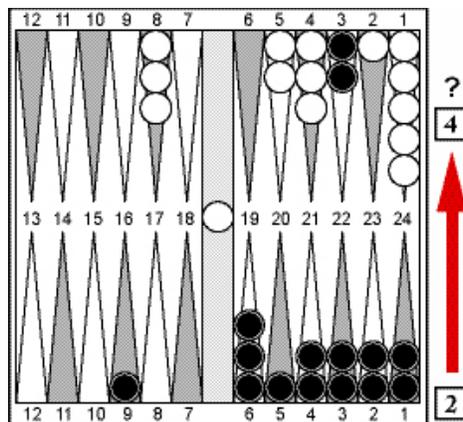
2009 US Open champ Carol Joy Cole with runner-up Joe Russell (L) and director Chiva Tafazzoli.

Carol Joy is well known to the backgammon world. She has directed the Flint Area Backgammon Club (Michigan) and edited the international newsletter for over 30 years. Additionally, she annually directs the Michigan Summer Championships over the 4th of July weekend. She was the only female in the 25 player Championship field, but that didn't intimidate her. She drew a bye, then proceeded to defeat (in order) 2009 Chicago Open champ Larry Taylor (Georgia), 2009 Pittsburgh champ Bob Glass (California), and 2009 European Backgammon Super Jackpot winner Werner Schmucki (Austria) en route to the 17-point finals with 1989 World champion and 1995 ABT champion Joe Russell (California).

In the semifinals, Carol defeated Werner Schmucki at DMP and Joe Russell bested Ed O'Laughlin 15–8. This set up the 17-point finals. Underdog CJC leaped ahead 5–0. Seven games later, with the Carol leading 10–6, Joe doubled and Carol

accepted. A reversal of fortune allowed Carol to recube in this position:

17-point US Open finals. Carol Joy Cole (Black) leads Joe Russell (White) 10 to 6. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Joe thought for a while before taking the 4-cube. If you take the spare checker on Joe's 8-point and place it on his 2-point, the recube take is correct. But here, it's a blunder. Carol rolled 5-3 and correctly left her 5-point slotted. But Joe missed again and eventually lost four points to trail 6–14. Joe's late rally fell short and Carol Joy Cole went on to win 17–12 (see the video at chicagopoint.com/carolwins.mov).

After the match, Joe (who played the match at an "expert" level to Carol's "advanced") said "I actually thought the position might be a pass, but figured if I ever came in hitting, I would have a super-strong rewhip to 8. I also thought that if Carol had rolled a non-covering roll containing a 6, she might make a mistake and lift the blot on her 5-point."

THE STRONG MASTERS FINALS was captured by the local player Bill Finneran. Bill knocked off Petko Kostadinov (SC) and Ray Fogerlund (CA) before facing the up-and-coming Rod Covlin (NY) in the finals. Bill prevailed to win nearly \$7,000 in prize money. Prior to beginning play, he wrote a poem about the US Open that can be found on page 8.

Congratulations to other winners Eric Johnson in the Intermediate and Joan Grunwald in the Novice. Also to Pro/Am

[Continued on page 8]

michigan summer championships

FAMILY AFFAIR: ED & ADAM BENNETT SWEEP MICHIGAN Bill Riles is Michigan Master

Ed & Adam Bennett had memorable results at this year's Michigan Summer Championships 2–5 July at the Sheraton Novi: Ed won the Championship Main event and son Adam won the Consolation. 200 players attended Carol Joy Cole's annual summer gammon festival with 181 participating in the main tournaments.



Michigan Open champion Ed Bennett.

Failing to draw a bye in the 95 player Champ field meant that Ed, a 73-year-old retired commercial banker from New Mexico, needed seven 11-point victories in a row to win the undefeated bracket. This included an exciting seventh match against the always-tough Ray Glaeser (OH).

In the one-loss bracket, Dean Adamian skunked 2000 Michigan Summer Champ Mike Senkiewicz (NY) 11–0 to earn his spot in the finals. Now Dean would need to beat Ed in two 13-point matches to claim his second Michigan Summer title (he won in 2003).

Dean never trailed in the first match eventually taking a 12–6 Crawford lead. But Ed made it interesting and trailing 9–12, was just a doubled gammon away from victory. Dean hung on to win 13–9 setting the stage for one final match.

"When in doubt, try to pressure your opponent. Play to win rather than to avoid losing." That was Ed's motto during the

[Continued on page 5]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Bill Davis

3940 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue 504
Chicago, IL 60659-3155

Tel: 773/583-6464 ♦ Fax: 773/583-3264

E-mail: bg@chicagopoint.com

www.chicagopoint.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Carol Joy Cole (MI)	Danny Kleinman (CA)
Mary Hickey (OH)	John O'Hagan (IN)
Jake Jacobs (IL)	Steve Sax (CA)
Duane Jensen (MN)	Phil Simborg (IL)
Neil Kazaross (IL)	Kit Woolsey (CA)

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Subscription Rates: \$30/10 issues (\$50/20 issues) in US and Canada. \$40/10 issues (\$70/20 issues) international airmail in USD check. Make PayPal payments to bg@chicagopoint.com.

Advertising Rates: 2 3/8" x 3 1/4" = \$40. 1/4 page = \$70. 1/2 page = \$115. Full page = \$200. If the ad is not "camera ready," request layout and typesetting for an additional charge.

LETTERS



c/o CHICAGO POINT

3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504
Chicago, IL 60659-3155

E-mail: letters@chicagopoint.com

CAROLINA INVITATIONAL CEASES

For reasons completely unrelated to backgammon, Robin and I will not be running the Carolina Invitational in January 2010 — nor will anyone else at this point. Robin and I have no plans to resume running the tournament in the future; but we also will not rule out the possibility. For now, we are simply saying we will not be running it in 2010.

This decision is not based on any adverse conditions in our lives. We are not having health or financial problems. Nor is it due to any negative experience with the tournament. In fact, our experiences have been overwhelmingly positive. Running the tournament just doesn't fit with our priorities at this time.

We want to thank all our friends in the backgammon community for their encouragement and support over the nine years we ran the Carolina Invitational. We will miss hosting you every January, but we

[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

*Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Jul 16*	Third Thursday Bonus (Wisconsin State), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 19*	2nd Annual Pub Club Summer Sunday, Playoffs Bar, Carol Stream, Illinois	630/606-2388
Jul 26*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly Tournament, Cosi, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Jul 26*	Northside Club Monthly, Jerry Godsey's residence, Atlanta, Georgia	770/612-0818
Jul 24-26	<u>14th Minnesota Open, Courtyard by Marriott, Bloomington, Minnesota</u>	<u>612/718-2613</u>
Jul 31-Aug 2	<u>1000 Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York</u>	<u>585/752-5393</u>
Aug 2	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Aug 2*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Aug 8*	4th Annual Summer Sizzler, Ride the Nine, Bloomington, Illinois	309/662-7967
Aug 8*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Aug 9*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Aug 9*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Aug 6-9	<u>Florida State Championships, Sheraton Airport, Dania, Florida</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Aug 15*	Kansas City 5th Anniversary Classic, Granfalloon, Kansas City, Missouri	816/916-6599
Aug 15-16	Summer Cooker, Steve Hast's residence, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	412/823-7500
Aug 16*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly Tournament, Cosi, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Aug 20*	Third Thursday Bonus (Illinois State), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Aug 29*	Puget Sound Club Lake Retreat Tournament/Party, Ravensdale, WA	425/226-3120
Aug 30*	Northside Club Monthly, Larry Taylor's residence, Atlanta, Georgia	770/612-0818
Sep 4-7	<u>Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin</u>	<u>608/516-9109</u>
Sep 6*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Sep 12*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Sep 19-20*	Jon Viator Cup Invitational, Jon Viator's residence, La Jolla, California	818/901-0464
Sep 25-27	<u>Colorado State Championships, Hilton Airport Hotel, Aurora, Colorado</u>	<u>303/791-0271</u>
Sep 27*	31st Flint Area Club Championships, Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Oct 4*	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Oct 9-11	<u>Illinois State Championships, Ramada Inn, Peoria, Illinois</u>	<u>847/845-3579</u>
Oct 16-18	<u>Mid-Atlantic Championships, Marriott Berkshire, Towson, Maryland</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Oct 24*	2nd Anti-Cruelty Society Invitational, Ambassador East Hotel, Chicago, IL	773/583-6464
Nov 4-8	<u>2009 Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	<u>702/218-8238</u>
Nov 13*	Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Dec 4-6	<u>California State Championship, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, California</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Jul 12-19	34th World Championship, Fairmont Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA: 212/222-7177
Jul 17-19	Festival of Games 6th Czech Open, CEZ Arena, Pardubice, Czech Repub.	420466-535200
Jul 18-19	Córdoba Open Tournament, La Cumbre, Córdoba, Argentina	543514-533885
Jul 22-26*	WSOB: Cannes & Team World Cup, Palm Beach Casino, Cannes, France	447980-122344
Jul 25-26	14th Liverpool Open, Liverpool Bridge Club, Liverpool, England	447931-553829
Jul 31-Aug 2	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy, Daventry Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Aug 1-5*	EBGT: 3rd Gogi Bukia Memorial & Georgian Open, Tbilisi, Georgia	491715-422222
Aug 7-9*	Australian Masters, Vibe Hotel, Surfer's Paradise, Queensland, Australia	61402-863825
Aug 14-16	6th Pohojanmaa Open, Backgammon Soumi, Kessula, Finland	3540-5789579
Aug 21-23	Offene Deutsche BG-Championship, Penta Hotel, Wiesbaden, Germany	49711-486190
Aug 22*	Toronto Open, Mom's Café, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	647/207-9342
Aug 22-23	Danish Mixed Doubles Championship, Farnum, Denmark	4533-363601
Aug 28-30	Bristol Open, Artillery Grounds & Bristol Sports Club, Bristol, England	441179-556862
Aug 28-30	Swiss Championships 2009, Casino Barrière, Montreux, Switzerland	4179-3584825
Aug 31-Sep 6	18th Mitteleuropa Championship, Park Hotel, Nova Gorica, Slovenia	390331-923537
Sep 4-6	Backgammon in London at BIBA, Barceló Hotel, Hinckley Island, England	441522-888676
Sep 11-13	29th Swedish Open, Elite Palace Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden	46762-644266
Sep 12-13	Hessen-Cup Season-end, Restaurant Stadthalle Bergen, Frankfurt, Germany	491743-397363
Sep 12-13	7th Antwerp Open/Diamond Edition, Café den Bengel, Antwerp, Belgium	32475-256734
Sep 16-20	WSOB: European Championships, Corinthia, Prague, Czech Republic	447980-122344
Sep 20-22	15th Japan Open, Shidax Hall, Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan	813/33733814
Sep 25-27*	4th Sorrento Coast Tournament, Villa Angelina, Sorrento, Italy	39335-221412
Sep 26-27*	35th Annual Finnish Open, Puotilan Kartano, Helsinki, Finland	358400-467777
Sep 30-Oct 4*	Doubles Challenge/12th Austrian Open, Hotel Veronika, Seefeld, Austria	390331-923537
Oct 2-4*	19th Norwegian Championship, Thon Nordlys Hotel, Bodø, Norway	47958-33404
Oct 2-4*	Sandy Osborne Memorial, Barceló Daventry Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Oct 6-11*	EBGT: Moroccan High Stakes Open, Marrakech, Morocco	491715-422222
Oct 21-26*	WSOB: UK Masters & WSOB Championship, Loose Cannon, London, UK	447980-122344
Oct 27-Nov 1*	EBGT: European Doubles/7th French Open, Enghien-les-Bains, France	491715-422222
Nov 26-29*	CANCELLED—EBGT: 21st City of Venice Tournament, Venice, Italy	393283-380725

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

do look forward to seeing you out on the Tour.—*Jeb & Robin Horton, Matthews, NC*

SWEET SUCCESS—FINALLY!

I had played in about half of the ABT tournaments over the last five years without ever winning even a fraction of a point. Despite some wins/cashings in various

side events and the occasional victories over great players, a lot of frustration was experienced.

Along the way I've developed many great friendships, learned a lot about backgammon, learned a lot about myself, and have always received never-ending encouragement and support from all my fellow competitors. I've seen fellow journeymen have those moments I wanted and I've seen backgammon greats suffer the same ongoing frustration of not winning.

But, I (as they) have continued toward my goals. I've always contended that to win a major backgammon tourney one has to be skillful, fortunate, and lucky. My moment finally arrived at the 2009 Michigan Summer Championships where I won both the Michigan Masters and reached the Open Consolation finals.

To my fellow competitors, the tourney staff, and the many well-wishers: thank you all so very much.

To all you journeymen and women who want to win, and to all of the great players who should have already won, keep at it. I will. Hard work, study, dedication, and perseverance do ultimately pay off. Skill, good fortune, and luck do occasionally converge. It was nice, and I want to experience it again.—*Bill Riles; Houston, Texas*

THANKS TO CHIVA

I wanted to thank Chiva Tafazzoli for directing the US Open and returning big-time Backgammon to the DC area. We have long history of good backgammon in the area with KG, Kit Woolsey, Paul Weaver, Ed O'Laughlin, and others living here at one time or another. KG directed some really big tournaments in late 1970s and early 1980s. I am sure you know that the last ABT tournament here was in 1999.

By the way, I got some great mileage from telling my golf buddies I could not play golf last weekend because I had a conflict with playing in "US Backgammon Open."—*Bill Finneran, Arlington, Virginia*

Next year's US Open is already set: May 14-16 at Club One Poker Casino in Fresno, California.—*Ed. Δ*



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2009

Top 100 through 5 July 2009 after 11 tournaments
(Upcoming events: Minnesota, 1000 Islands, Florida, Wisconsin)



Ray Foglerlund 37.30	Matt Cohn-Geier 9.15	Malcolm Davis 5.09	David Taniguchi 3.10
Stick Rice 35.80	Philip Smith 9.00	Sal Chehayeb 5.08	Cheryl Anderson 3.10
Ed Bennett 31.67	Charlie Silverman 8.60	Ramez Abi-Akar 5.08	Bill Pow 3.00
Neil Kazaross 28.50	Rick Barabino 8.50	Jesse Eaton 5.00	Joe Eckert 3.00
Adam Bennett 26.50	Falafel Natanzon 8.50	Murray Bryntesen 5.00	Joe Nolan 2.88
Julius High 21.33	John McDonald 8.38	Joe Russell 5.00	Gerard Jendras 2.64
Bob Glass 21.00	Mike Senkiewicz 7.92	Brian Barber 5.00	Dick Bennett 2.64
John O'Hagan 20.74	Bill Riles 7.92	Charles Toots 4.67	Michael Flohr 2.60
Rod Covlin 20.73	Majid Jahanbani 7.20	Bill Devine 4.67	Alex Shoshoo 2.60
Victor Ashkenazi 17.00	Richard Munitz 6.75	Jon Viotor 4.50	Gary Bauer 2.59
Dean Adamian 15.83	Neil Garvie 6.67	Pernille Rosendal 4.25	Mark Schiffer 2.59
Petko Kostadinov 15.00	Stacy Turner 6.50	Boris Dekhtyar 4.25	Justin Nunez 2.59
Mary Hickey 13.33	Ed King 6.22	Eric Johnson 4.00	Frank Frigo 2.57
Larry Taylor 13.00	Trisha Hegland 6.20	Ray Glaeser 3.96	Zafar Yasa 2.55
David Todd 12.80	Tom Hodous 6.00	Joe Freedman 3.96	Mark Antranikian 2.55
Rob Maier 11.54	Scott Casty 5.79	Wendy Kaplan 3.96	Patty Geoffroy 2.54
David Rubin 10.67	Lucky Nelson 5.33	Robert Regan 3.60	Larry Buckingham 2.54
Harold Rex 10.55	Gary Fishman 5.27	Frank Talbot 3.33	Bill Schragel 2.54
Shinichiro Kaneko 10.37	Matt Reklaitis 5.25	Bill Bartholomay 3.25	Jason Switzer 2.50
Dorn Bishop 10.18	Herb Roman 5.25	Bill Davis 3.25	Peter Carcieri 2.50
Brandon Macklin 10.17	Al Faller 5.25	Scotty Kelland 3.25	Bob Hathaway 2.50
Ed Johnson 10.00	Bill Calton 5.20	Bob Carpenter 3.20	Wanda Roberts 2.50
Carol Joy Cole 10.00	Rory Pascar 5.19	Malcolm Robertson 3.20	Rollow Mickle 2.50
Steve Sax 9.58	Ramon Eleazar 5.19	Mike Hendrickson 3.11	Peter Roubicek 2.50
Bob Schumacher 9.33	Jona Alexander 5.09	Roger Foster 3.11	Kent Goulding 2.50



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2009 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 7 JULY

Lucky Nelson 20.60	Larry Goldstein 5.68	Alexander Medvedev 3.20	Phil Simborg 1.28
Herb Roman 20.56	Michael Ginat 5.52	Jacob Moreno 3.12	Paul Baraz 1.16
Rory Pascar 16.94	Alex Owen 5.00	Bill Keefe 2.84	Eric Johnson 1.08
David Rockwell 13.72	Michael Minkovski 5.00	Matt Cohn-Geier 2.84	Georgina Flanagan 0.96
Bob Steen 10.92	Wayne Wiest 4.60	Christopher Shanava 2.72	Sonja Peacock 0.88
Howard Markowitz 9.76	Tim Mabee 4.56	Mark Ostrovsky 2.36	Roz Ferris 0.80
Bill Davis 8.72	Albert Yakobashvili 4.40	Roger Hickman 2.24	Dustin Lindgren 0.80
Steve Klesker 8.28	Gary Kay 4.36	Dan Cox 2.00	John Jennings 0.80
Alice Kay 7.96	Jerry Brooks 4.24	Royal Robinson 1.92	Roy Cohen 0.68
Mike Sutton 7.96	Peter Kalba 4.24	Dan Weymouth 1.68	Leslie Lockett 0.64
Mike Wolock 7.64	Dave Settles 3.96	Jeff Fischer 1.64	Alex Aleyev 0.64
Carter Mattig 7.58	Ken Bond 3.68	Steve Hines 1.60	Bob Pondelicek 0.60
Nora Luna Righter 7.44	Mike Pufpaf 3.52	Richard Stawowy 1.56	Lindsay Mattig 0.56
Oleg Raygorodsky 7.20	Adrian Rios 3.44	Linda Rockwell 1.52	Barry Miller 0.56
Bill Bartholomay 6.80	Tak Morioka 3.36	Scott Casty 1.36	Dujuan Meekins 0.48

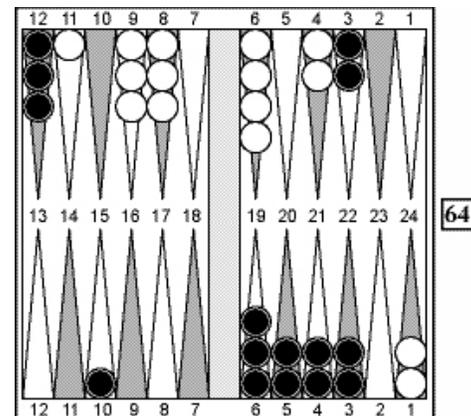
HERB ROMAN had an outstanding 7.52 July point total to win monthly honors. Runner's-up were Lucky Nelson (5.12) and David Rockwell (4.56).

your move

PROBLEM #347

to be analyzed by Mary Hickey

7-point match. No score. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.**



ASK DANNY

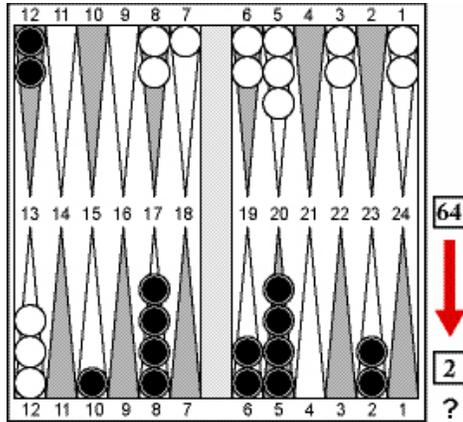


© 2009 by Danny Kleinman

TWO RACE CUBE QUESTIONS

Dear Danny: In a local club match, I faced the following racing position:

7-point match. Black (X) and White are tied at 5-5. White doubles. **SHOULD BLACK TAKE?**



Trailing by only 7 pips, I took the cube. In fact, 720 3-ply, precise Snowie rollouts show Black winning 29.8% which equates to a 0.094 error to take or a 1.73% reduction of my match-winning equity.

I remember reading somewhere that if the leader's pip count advantage is at least 8% of his total count, then he can make an initial double. And I can take up to 12%.

$$(104-97)/97 = 7.2\%$$

Given White's distributional advantage, I can understand her double; but I can't figure out why Black should drop this cube. What am I missing here, Danny? — Wondering Wayne

DEAR WONDERING: What you're missing is consideration of the score. If you pass and then enter the Crawford Game trailing 5-6, you figure to have about 30% (some theorists estimate more, higher than 31%) match-winning chances, so you need at least 30% game-winning chances to justify a take. Any guidelines for race takes based on money play, or match play at the start of a match, are based on a 22% take-point (which would be 25% if not for the ability to redouble).

Also, I don't think the guideline you cite is very accurate. I use another guideline, based on the ratio $D2/S$, where D is the difference in adjusted pip counts and

S is the sum of the two pip counts. The adjustments to pip count include crediting the doubler with four fewer pips to account for the advantage of being on shake. So, without any other adjustments (such as for distribution in home boards and crossovers from the outfield), here $D = 104 - 93 = 11$, $S = 104 + 93 = 197$, and $D2/S = 121/197 = 0.6142$. A chart in "The Racer's Edge" (a chapter of my book *Double-Sixes From the Bar*) equates a ratio of 0.6142 to about 71% game-winning chances . . . or about 29% game-winning chances for the doubled player (you).

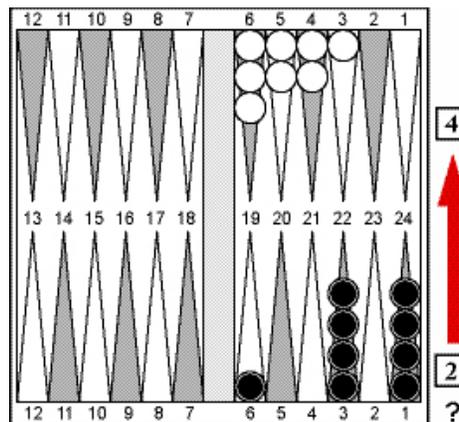
Is it worth memorizing that chart (or a similar one)? That's for you to decide; but if you have such a chart in your head, you definitely have an edge in judging cube actions at various match scores.

By the way, at 5-5 in a match to 7, even a small advantage should result in an early double by a player who may "lose his market" after a very favorable exchange of rolls. I'm surprised that the cube was left unturned so long. — Yours, Danny



Dear Danny: In the US Open Masters event, I faced Steve Sax in the quarter-finals. Leading 7-1, I recubed to 4 in this position:

11-point match. Black (Ed O'Laughlin) leads White (Steve Sax) 7 to 1. **SHOULD BLACK RECUBE?**



Steve took, recubed to 8, and rolled well enough to gain a 9-7 advantage. He then went on to win our match. The Snowie bearoff database says that my recube was a small error. Black wins 85.2% which translates into a 0.025 error.

I know many techniques for adjusted pip counting in the bearoff, but they all pointed to this being a recube. Do you know of a method that would have given me the right answer? — Ed O'Laughlin

DEAR ED: You probably are better at

calculating adjusted pip counts than I am, but using my crude estimates, I would have thought you were slightly less than an 85% favorite to win the game (only about 82%). I see that I was mistaken, as the database you consulted is undoubtedly more accurate than my off-the-cuff estimates.

If you have memorized a match equity chart (such as the one in the book that Antonio Ortega and I wrote with three annotated matches of Neil Kazaross), you will see that by keeping the cube at 2, you will wind up with match-winning chances of 0.927 if you win the game, 0.754 if you lose. By redoubling to 4, you induce your opponent to take and send the cube right back to you at 8, resulting in match-winning chances of 1.000 if you win the game but only 0.322 if you lose; in effect, you are offering 432-to-73 odds that you will win the game. To offer those odds, you need better than 85.5% game-winning chances.

If your actual game-winning chances were as much as 85.2%, then you were very close to a redouble indeed. I'm not good enough to cut it that close. Just looking at the position, however, and taking the score into account, I'd have waited a shake and redoubled next turn only if nothing bad happened during the intervening exchange of rolls.

Be extra cautious in turning the cube when your opponent will take and (with nothing to lose by doing so) redouble immediately. How cautious is "extra" cautious? Your guess is as good as mine. — Yours, Danny Δ

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.

CHICAGO BACKGAMMON ASSOCIATION: Tournaments Monday, 6:30 P.M. at The Parthenon; 314 S. Halsted, Chicago. Phil Simborg (312/543-0522) or Carter Mattig (312/493-2911).

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 6:00 P.M. at Ride The Nine; 503 N. Prospect Road, 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).

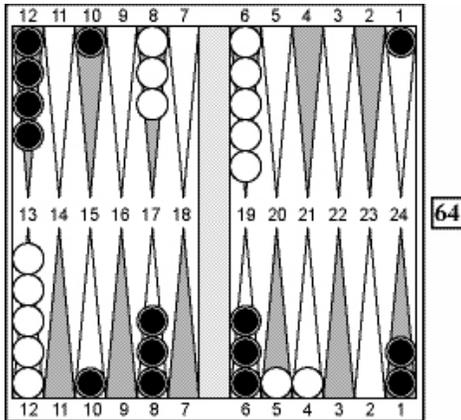
PEORIA BG CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Sue Will (309/699-6005).

MICHIGAN...

[Continued from page 1]

tournament and the following position from the first match is a good example.

13-point Michigan Open finals #1. Dean Adamian (White) leads Ed Bennett (Black) 6 to 2. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.**



Ed chose the bold double hit: 10/4*, 6/5*. Dean danced and Ed ended the game with a correct cube-out. Although the play ranks second best to simply making the 9-point, it demonstrates why aggressive errors generally work out better compared to passive ones.

It looked like a walkover for Dean in the rubber match. With Ed trailing 5–10 to 13, Adam (who had won the Open Consolation) had to leave for the airport. En route, he called his mom to tell her “It doesn’t look very good for dad.”

Things started to look better, though, as Ed rallied to tie the match at 10—all. Three points later, Ed Bennett was claiming his first ABT win since the Chicago Open in 2003. It was a great victory for a man who had open heart surgery in 2007 and missed this year’s March Midwest Championships due to some more procedural heart work.

OPEN CONSOLATION

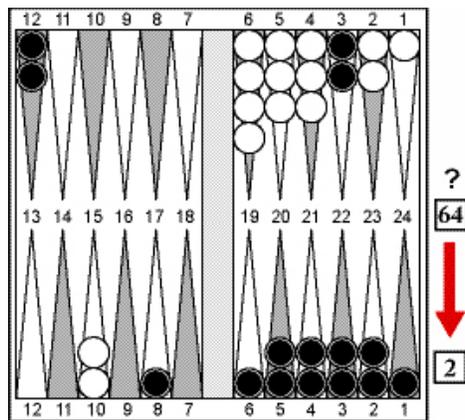
Although only playing Open level events for a year, Adam Bennett (Madison, WI)



Open Consolation champ Adam Bennett.

is quickly “catching on.” He won the 2008 Open Consolation in Wisconsin, and was runner-up at the Midwest Championships earlier this year. Here in Michigan, Adam survived a tense 11-point finals vs. Bill Riles to win the Open Consolation. This play was the decider:

11-pt. Michigan Open Cons. finals. Adam Bennett (Black) leads Bill Riles (White) 9 to 8. White on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Trailing 3-away, 2-away, Bill’s double is clear, but whether to drop or take is very close. Adam made the correct decision by taking and was rewarded with an 11–8 match victory.

MICHIGAN MASTERS

An incredible 32-player field including Sax, Weaver, Gartner, Koca, Kazaross, Woolsey, Munitz, Rice, Russell, Fogelund, O’Laughlin, Senkiewicz and O’Hagan battled for thousands of dollars in prize money in the Michigan Masters. When the dust settled, two were standing: Bill Riles (TX) and Brent Cohen (PA).



Bill Riles

The match was a good one with the leading changing hands a number of times. But the big game occurred with Cohen ahead 11–9 to 13. Bill Riles calls it the “Backgame From Hell.” Read about it here: tinyurl.com/michbg.

In the end Bill Riles prevailed to capture the first big win of his life. [See his letter on page 3.] So was Brent Cohen who teamed with Neil Kazaross to win the Open Doubles.

OTHER CONGRATS

Congratulations also to Intermediate winner Harold Rex (MI), to Novice champ Roger Foster (OH), and to the many other champions crowned over the July 4th weekend. And congratulations to Carol Joy Cole and staff on another job well done. Δ

MICHIGAN SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN (95): 1-Ed Bennett (NM), 2-Dean Adamian (MI), 3-Mike Senkiewicz (NY), 4/5-Matt Cohn-Geier (IL)/Ray Glaeser (OH); 1C-Adam Bennett (WI), 2C-Bill Riles (TX), 3C/4C-Joe Freedman (VA) / Wendy Kaplan (IL). INTERMEDIATE (58): 1-Harold Rex (MI), 2-Gary Fishman (FL), 3-Gerard Jendras (MI); 1C-John McDonald (Canada), 2C-Dick Bennett (OH), 3C/4C-Ovak Arslanian (NY) / Jeff Clark (MI). NOVICE (28): 1-Roger Foster (OH), 2-Timothy Turner (FL); 1C-Lorenzo Morales (MI); 1LC-Julie Schifferle (NY). MICHIGAN MASTERS (32): 1-Bill Riles (TX), 2-Brent Cohen (PA), 3/4-Harvey Gillis (WA) / Stick Rice (OH). MICHIGAN BLITZ (128): 1-Steve Brown (MN), 2-Kit Woolsey (CA). HOWARD RING MEMORIAL JP (32): 1-Steve Brown (MN), 2-Richard Munitz (NY), 3/4-Claude Landry (Canada) / Herb Roman (IL). [\$300 raised for Gastro-Intestinal Research.] SNOWIE FREEZE-OUT (32): 1-Neil Garvie (Canada), 2-Claude Landry (Canada). \$200 FIRECRACKER JP #1 (16): 1-Howard Markowitz (IL), 2-Rod Covlin (NY). #2 (8): 1-Ed O’Laughlin (VA). \$100 FIRECRACKER JACKPOT (8): 1-Danielle Bastarache (FL), 2-Steve Sherbel (MI). OPEN DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Brent Cohen (PA) & Neil Kazaross (IL), 2-Joe Freedman (VA) & Alan Grunwald (NJ), 3/4-Bill Davis (IL) & Tak Morioka (IL) / Garry Kallos (Canada) & Greg Merriman (MI). SATELLITE DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Joe Miller (OH) & Mike Rezai (OH). LIMITED DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Dave Settles (IL) & Phyllis Shapiro (MO), 2-Reggie Harvel (MI) & Jim Lawrence (MI). \$20 DETROIT QUICKIES (64): 1-Lucky Nelson (IL), 2-AI Hodis (NY). \$10 DETROIT QUICKIES (64): 1-Peter Carcieri (OH), 2-Peggy Neubig (NJ). FRANK TALBOT’S NEWCOMER FREE ROLL (32): 1-Farhad Forudi (OH), 2-Aaron Goldstein (CA). \$50 EARLYBIRD JACKPOT #1 (16): 1-Claude Landry (Canada), 2-Greg Merriman (MI). #2 (16): 1-Rod Covlin (NY), 2-Martin Veltmann (Canada). \$30 EARLYBIRD JACKPOT #1 (16): 1-Larry Buckingham (OH), 2-Scott Day (IN). #2 (8): 1/2-Faris Gabbara (MI) / Garry Kallos (Canada). \$50 WED. WARM-UP (23): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-Jim Slomkoski (MI), 3/4-Harry Brown (MI) / Gary Fritzsche (MI). \$30 WED. WARM-UP (20): 1-Sal Chehayeb (MI), 2-John Baron (OH), 3/4-Art Gillis (MI) / Dan Kiurski (MI). \$20 WED. WARM-UP (17): 1-John Claybourne (MI), 2-Lorenzo Morales (MI), 3/4-Lois Merriman (MI) / Gary Takessian (MI). AFTER-TOURNAMENT \$50 (16): 1-Alan Grunwald (NJ), 2/3-Richard Munitz (NY) / Ed O’Laughlin (VA). \$20 (11): 1-Jesse Eaton (MN), 2/3-Reggie Harvel (MI) / Dan Smith (MI).

Two Very Valuable Doubling Charts

by Phil Simborg

		PRICE OF GAMMONS			
		2-away/2-away	2-away/3-away	2-away/4-away	2-away/5-away
0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
0.70	0.50	0.70	0.50	0.70	0.50
0.80	0.50	0.87	0.62	0.70	0.50
1	0.65	1	0.65	0.65	0.65
0.72	0.45	0.45	0.65	0.65	0.65
1	0.57	0.45	0.95	0.65	0.65
0.50	0.80	0.50	0.80	0.80	0.80
0.70	0.40	0	0.90	0.80	0.80
1	0.40	0	0.80	0.80	0.80
0.45	0.75	0	1	0.80	0.80
0	0.85	0	0.85	0.85	0.85

CENTERED CUBE TAKE POINTS	MATCH SCORE	LEADER		TRAILER	
		RANGE	AVG.	RANGE	AVG.
2-away/2-away	31.5%	31.5%	31.5%	31.5%	31.5%
2-away/3-away	27%	27%	25-37%	25%	25%
2-away/4-away	18%	18%	18-36%	18%	18%
2-away/5-away	17%	17%	23-39%	23%	23%
3-away/3-away	23-31%	25%	23-31%	25%	25%
3-away/4-away	19-23%	20%	22-38%	26%	26%
3-away/5-away	17-21%	19%	21-32%	23%	23%
4-away/4-away	18-28%	22.5%	18-28%	22.5%	22.5%
4-away/5-away	17-23%	20%	20-29%	24%	24%
5-away/5-away	19-25%	21%	19-25%	21%	21%
Money	20-25%	22%	20-25%	22%	22%

Cube decisions (both doubling and taking) have two elements. You really need to get both right to make the correct decision. The first element involves assessing the situation over the board. You need to look at the board and estimate the wins, losses, and gammons for both sides. You need to consider your market-losers and when your doubling window opens and closes. You need to determine the volatility of the position and the value of potential recubes if you give or take the cube.

When you've done all that, you have only half of what you need to make an informed cube decision. The other half is applying all of the above to the given match score. At different scores, there are different take points, and the price of gammons also changes with the score. Both of these factors change at different cube values as well.

The "Centered Cube Take Point" chart shows when you should take or drop an offered double based on the match score. If you are trailing 3-5 to 7 (2-away/4-away), the chart says you can take a double with only 18% winning chances. Why such a low take point? Because at this score, if you drop, you would trail 3-6 Crawford which is a bad place to be. Additionally, your take gives you an automatic recube to 4, which is DMP meaning gammons are meaningless for both sides.

If you are leading 3-2 to 7 (4-away/5-away), you can take a double if you are within the 20% to 29% range of winning (or an average of 24%). That range is dependent on how many times you get gammoned in the position and how likely it is you will be able to redouble.

The "Price of Gammons" chart tells you just how much those gammons are costing you at a given match score, or how much they are worth to your opponent compared to the value of winning the game.

To help players learn these important values, I have developed the charts at left. I can't wait until I come up against one of you in a tournament who beats me thanks to these charts! Actually, that would give me some pleasure.—Phil Simborg Δ

PHYLLIS SMOLINSKI 1947-2009

Phyllis Smolinski died on July 4 at her home in Palos Park, Illinois. Phyllis lost her battle with Leukemia following a two-month stay in the hospital. She leaves behind a husband Wayne, a son Michael, three sisters and a brother.



Phyllis at the BPC Doubles tourney February 9, 2005.

At the time of her death, Phyllis ranked 8th on the all-time Chicagoland point list with 321.49. She began her tournament career playing at the House of Backgammon in the late 1970s. She also earned points playing at the Pub Club, Gammon's of Chicago, Prime Backgammon Club, and at the Bar Point Club where she collected the bulk of her points (259.66) playing between 1984 and 2008. She represented the Bar Point Club seven times at the annual Illinois State Team Challenge Cup winning three Cups.

Ms. Smolinski had a fine national tournament year in 2000 where at the Chicago Open, she won the Intermediate Consolation and was a finalist in the Open Doubles. Additionally, at the Nevada State Tournament, she was an Intermediate semifinalist.

Phyllis, a breast cancer survivor, slowed her play after 2007, but still attend the BPC for chouette play at least twice a month until hospitalized due to Leukemia complications earlier this year and laid to rest at the Cumberland Chapel in Norridge on July 9.



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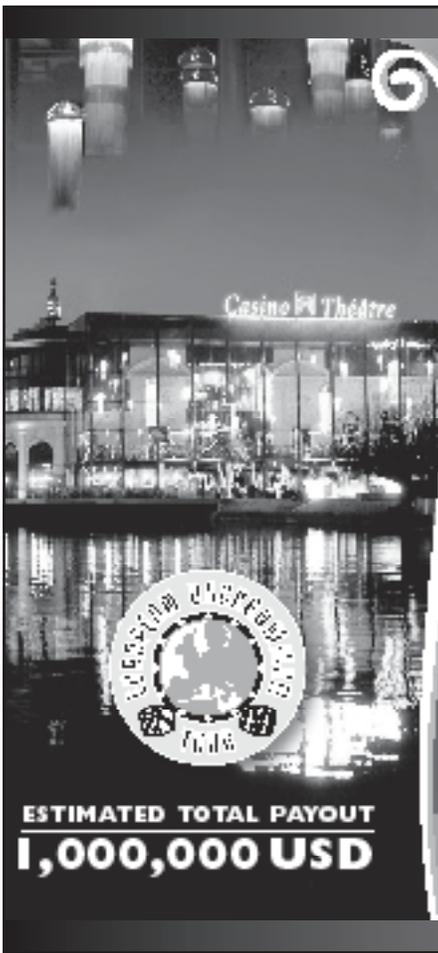
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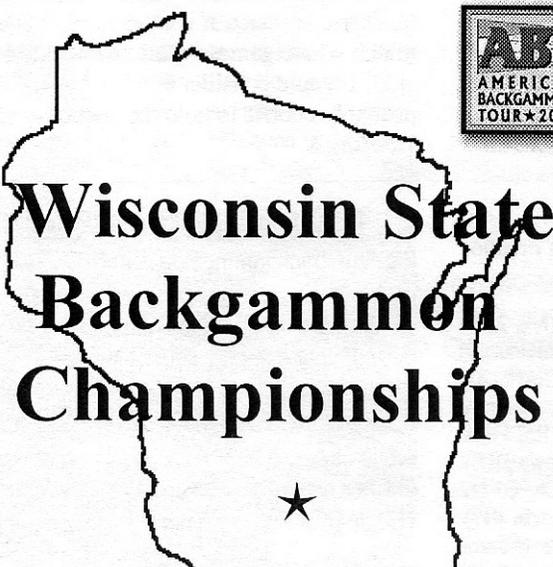
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**What players have
 said about their
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 Lessons with
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“Phil is the best. I have read books and was still confused about many things like match equity. In just two hours, I understand that completely.” — *Mitch Lowe; Austin, TX*

“Before Phil’s tutoring, I didn’t have any significant results. [Since then, I’ve] won two major tournaments and reached the semi’s in two more. Now I am considered one of the top ten players here in Turkey.” — *Mete Topcuoglu; Istanbul, Turkey*

“Although English isn’t my native language, I had no problems understanding the lessons. Phil was able to explain every aspect in a thorough way.” — *Martin Sterel; Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

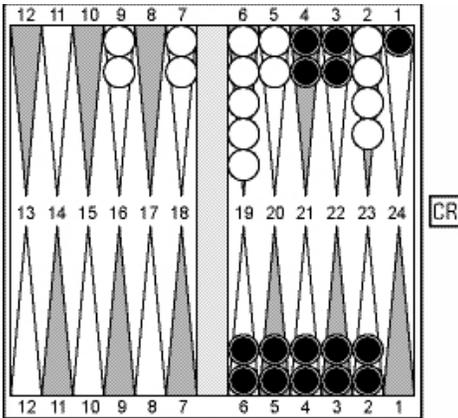
“My lessons with Phil Simborg were easily the most productive and enjoyable backgammon investment I’ve ever made.” — *Steve Schreiber; Carmel, NY*

Phil Simborg, 2005 ABT runner-up, has been giving backgammon lessons live and online for over 20 years. Want to improve your game? Call Phil at (312) 543-0522 or e-mail him: psimborg@sbcglobal.net

PROBLEM #346 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

9-point match. Black leads White 8 to 7 Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**



If Black chooses to break his board and hold the double anchor, there are three possible approaches:

1. he could leave no inner board blots with 6/5, 6/2;
2. he could leave one blot with 5/4, 5/1, or;
3. he could leave both points slotted with 6/1.

Even though Black may be getting a shot next turn, 6/5, 6/2 looks too stiff. That spare on the 2-point is dead. The only thing Black can do with it is move it onto the ace point. Black will certainly need at least a five-point board if he hopes to contain a hit checker, and since he is losing one of the

back points, he will want to have the ace point slotted. That spare checker belongs on the ace point.

5/4, 5/1 is a reasonable compromise. There shouldn't be much difference between giving up the 6-point and giving up the 5-point. The ace point remains slotted, and Black will be a three away from remaking a five-point board; although of course not as good a board. If Black does hit a shot, getting hit back on the ace point might not be too bad since at least the White checker will be partially contained.

6/1 has the advantage of leaving the 6-point slotted, so when Black later pulls out one of the back checkers, he will be able to remake the point quicker. Black will need his 6- and 5-points at some time in the future if he is to contain a hit checker. The downside of this play is that it leaves two inner board blots with no checkers in immediate cover range. Black's first shot may be coming quickly, and leaving two inner board blots may be too big. On balance, if Black does break his board, I think that 5/4, 5/1 is the right compromise of aggression and safety.

Now, on to the big question. Should Black hold his front board and play 22/17 (which is the only legal way Black can hold his front board)? Keeping the board is very important for Black's winning chances. If Black does hit a shot, he will need to put his board together if he hopes to contain the hit checker. If Black breaks his board now, it will be difficult for him to put it back together regardless of which board-breaking play he chooses. Is it worth the risk?

Leaving the 22-point is very committal. Not only does this give White several

pointing numbers which previously did not exist, but it gives up the 22-point forever. Black is much more likely to get a shot holding the 22-point compared to holding the 21-point. Black will need to roll perfectly next turn in order to hold both anchors, since he can't afford to break his board any more. However, Black will be a lot happier breaking the 21-point anchor rather than the 22-point anchor, since the farther back the anchor, the better chance of getting a shot.

The match score is a major factor here. Black is certainly more likely to get gammoned if he breaks his 22-point anchor, since White will have more ways to blow Black out of the water and then come in safely against the meager anchor on the 21-point. On the other hand, if Black does hit a shot, his winning chances will be considerably better if he keeps his board intact. So it appears that Black will win more often if he plays 22/17.

At this match score, getting gammoned is extra costly to Black since it is the difference between playing the next game at double match-point and losing the match. For this reason mainly, I do not think that Black should release the anchor. If the score were reversed so losing the game loses the match whether Black gets gammoned or not, then I would go with 22/17, particularly since Black could conceivably win a gammon if he hits an early shot and his board is intact. If it were early in the match where gammons are of value to both sides I would consider it close, but I would probably choose to hold the anchor. — *Kit Woolsey* Δ

US OPEN...

(Continued from page 1)

Doubles champions Ed O'Laughlin and Kristina Vig.



Bill Finneran (L) accepts congratulations from Rod Covlin upon winning the Masters event.

For a list of previous US Open winners, visit chicagopoint.com. Chiva Tafazzoli

has announced the next US Open May 14–16, 2010 at the Club One Casino in Fresno, CA. *Complete 2009 US Open results:*

CHAMPIONSHIP (25): 1-Carol Joy Cole (MI), 2-Joe Russell (CA); 1C-Brian B. Smith (NY), 2C-Kent Goulding (MD); 1LC-Richard Munitz (NY). INTERMEDIATE (20): 1-Eric Johnson (IL), 2-Scott Kelland (CT); 1C-Bruce Whitaker (MD), 2C-Devika Patel (TN); 1LC-Frank Raposa (VA). BEGINNERS (9): 1-Joan Grunwald (NJ), 2-Genna Cowan (MD). US MASTERS JACKPOT (12 @ \$1,000): 1-Bill Finneran (VA), 2-Rod Covlin (NY). LIMITED JACKPOT (8 @ \$250): 1-Chiva Tafazzoli (Iran/Germany), 2-Brandon Macklin (MD). DMP-KNOCKOUT (64): 1-Donald Gabbai (VA), 2-Rod Covlin (NY). SASSANGAMMONFREEROLL (57): 1-Steve Sax (CA), 2-Michael Auer (MD). PRO/AM CONSULTING DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Ed O'Laughlin (VA) & Kristina Vig (WA), 2-Bob Glass (CA) & Brandon Macklin (MD). \$100 JACKPOT (8): 1-Rod Covlin (NY), 2-Jeb Horton (NC). WBAMEMBER OF HONOUR: Bill Davis (IL), for Lifetime Achievement. SPECIAL TROPHY: Ray Fogelund (CA), Werner Schmucki (Austria). Beltime Chronograph Watch donated by Alan Grunwald (NJ): Awarded to Rod Covlin (NY) for placing in the most trophy events.

THE US OPEN by Bill Finneran

Big-time backgammon back in DC, How many will show and make Chiva glee. To open qualify, there is no test, Only a desire to play your best. Locals murmur about the entry fee bailout, But we came to win, not to pout. While our game is not retarded or cracked, At times luck vs. skill has the brackets whacked. The open in golf often goes to straight hitters, Fairways and greens, zen-like non-quitters. While big money looks for a usual pick, An Ed O, Coolrey, KG, but no Koca or Stick. Maybe it is not time for our Tiger and Phil. Perhaps a guy like Dr. Bob Hill. No, you can't buy Jessica Alba, But we have a steal on Peter Kalba. Alas, Peter a big no show, So here is Ray, no Joe Bozo. In the field no BG clods, Start the bidding and defy the odds. Δ

WINNER'S CIRCLE



MAY.-JUL. 2009

•**Casinorip.com London Open** (London, England; 29-31 May, corrected from last month)... CHAMPIONSHIP (56): 1-Uli Koch (GER), 2-Julian Fetterlein, 3/4-George Sulimirski / Neil Robins; 1C-Barry McAdam, 2C-Jon Barnes. Intermediate Flight (23): 1-Graham Read, 2-John Wright, 3/4-Eric McAlpine / Jo Davies; 1C-John Plummer, 2C-Sue Keeble. CASUALS FLIGHT (7): 1-Andrew Bennet. COMBINED LAST CHANCE (64): 1-Raj Jansari, 2-Jo Davies, 3/4-Tom Duggan / Uldis Lapikens.

•**Pair-O-Dice Monthly** (New York, NY; 31 May)... OPEN (6): 1-Bob Carpenter (FL), 2-Vincent Reece; 1C-Bob Sisselman.

•**Casinorip.com English Open** (Daventry, England; 5-7 Jun.)... OPEN (33): 1-Brian Lever, 2-Kevin Stebbing, 3/4-Martin Barkwell / Gheorghe Filipas; 1C-Marcus Wrinch, 2C-Richard Biddle; 1LC-David Nathan, 2LC-Uldis Lapikens. THE GRAMMY (8): 1-Mick Vacarey, 2-Tony Fawcett. FRIDAY 500 (16): 1-Tom Duggan, 2-Marcus Wrinch. POKER (14): 1-Martin Barkwell, 2-Lawrence Powell. TEAM (4): 1-Nicky Check. JACKPOT (4): 1-Tony Fawcett.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Chicago, IL; 7 Jun.)... OPEN (23): 1-Herb Roman, 2-Michael Ginat, 3/4-Lucky Nelson / Matt Cohn-Geier; 1C-Nora Luna Righter, 2C-Alex Owen. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Leslie Lockett, 2-Roger Hickman... *Thanks to Amy Trudeau who filled in as director while we attended the US Open.*

•**Ohio State Club Monthly** (Akron, OH; 7 Jun.)... OPEN: 1-Stephen Benjamin, 2-Farhad Forudi.

•**Los Angeles Open—ABT** (Van Nuys CA, 12-14 Jun.)... OPEN (56): 1-Ray Foglerund (CA),

2-Stick Rice (OH), 3-Malcolm Davis (TX); 1C-Dorn Bishop (CA), 2C-Jona Alexander (CA), 3C/4C-Mark Antranikian (CA) / Zafar Yasa (CA). ADVANCED (31): 1-Trisha Hegland (CA), 2-Cheryl Anderson (CA); 1C-David Taniguchi (CA), 2C-Lynn Lusk (CO), 3C/4C-



Ray Foglerund hams it up after winning in L.A.

Jenann Nakamura (CA) / Joe Nolan (CA). LIMITED (9): 1-Liam Zaidel (CA), 2-Susan Lee (AZ); 1C-Don Thompson, Sr. (CA). SUPER-32 JACKPOT (32): 1-Dorn Bishop (CA), 2-Neil

AMALGAMATION

After 26 years, the Midwest Championships, known for its costumed themes and wacky side events is ending its run. Over the years, the tourney raised \$58,000 for the Anti-Cruelty Society. A new event, the Central States Invitational will take its place, co-directed by **Amy Trudeau** and **Bill Davis**... Get well wishes go out to Suncoast (FL) backgammon director **Bob Carpenter**, who was taken from the US Open playing room by paramedics complaining of chest pains... **Eric Johnson** (IL) is beaming over his niece **Erin O'Connor** who was named Miss Illinois on 20 June and will compete in the Miss America Pageant 30 January in Las Vegas... The first week in July, we received a letter containing a \$100 deposit check from **Alan Gold** (WI) for the Midwest Championships... the 2008 Midwest Championships! The postal delay actually worked to Alan's advantage as he won the Open overflow that year... **Ruth Robbins** informs us that the Tuesday Puget Sound Club has moved to PJ Pockets Casino, 1320 S. 324th Street #A-10. Get more info from Ruth at 425/226-3120... Congrats to our bimonthly problem editor **Kit Woolsey** (CA) who was part of the six-man team that won the 2009 US Bridge Championship. Kit and his five team members will represent the US in Sao Paulo this fall... **Mike Corbett** (FL) sent us a non-backgammon book, "Laughter of the Damned," that's very entertaining. If you want a copy (\$12), e-mail danielleb@sprynet.com... Americans won't have Stick to kick around for a few months. **Stick Rice** (OH) is in Europe until late fall, but you can still get his BG commentary at

[bgonline.org/forums...](http://www.bgonline.org/forums...) Congrats to **Herb Roman** (IL) who completed 10 BPC wins in a row on 9 June... Former Hoosier Club director **Butch Meese** has put all of the Hoosier BG Club Newsletters (1979-2005) on disk in PDF format. You can get a copy by making a \$50 donation to fight breast cancer. For details, call Butch at 317/867-0229 or e-mail him at butchmeese@indy.rr.com... Although the South District of New York recently seized millions of dollars of online poker players' funds, all **Congressman Barney Frank** said to WSOP players in Vegas was that the **Obama** administration "may not have been behind it." Frank's Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act has been postponed until at least the fall... As we go to press, out of 6494 entrants at the World Series of Poker, **Kent Goulding** (MD) is in the final 185... The online UK Mirror says that Wimbledon entrant **Lleyton Hewitt** is "desperate to win everything he plays whether it is tennis or a running race or a game of backgammon." **Tim Henman** and **Andy Murray** also play BG... Phil Simborg believes that the new program "eXtreme Gammon" is faster and more accurate at analyzing positions than Snowie and GNU. And the price is only \$49.99! E-mail Phil for details: psimborg@sbcglobal.net... Want to see a movie on how programs like Snowie are created? Go to iTunes and search "backgammon tutor," then download the free 15 minute movie put out by MIT... Backgammon Galore (bkgm.com) webmaster **Tom Keith** (Canada) is developing an iPhone app that will make it easy to record a backgammon match. Stay tuned... The next CHICAGO POINT will be out after Labor Day. Have a great summer! Δ

Kazaross (IL), 3/4-Jason Lee (NV) / Steve Sax (CA). PAUL DINGWELL AMATEUR JACKPOT (32): 1-Jerry Jabaghourian (CA), 2-Bruce Newberg (CA), 3/4-J. L. Carter (CA) / Lynn Lusk (CO). 2-POINT QUICKIES (32): 1-Ted Chee (CA). BLITZ (96): 1-Ron Bruns (CA). DOUBLES (24 teams): 1-Reza Daryabegi (CA) & Azzam Masarani (CA), 2-Ray Foglerund (CA) & Rob Maier (WV), 3-Larry Bosen (CA) & Justin Nunez (CA). \$50 JACKPOTS #1 (8): 1-Josh Racko (CA). #2 (8): 1-Larry Bosen (CA).

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 14 Jun.)... OPEN (8): 1-Bob Paris, 2-Philippe Salnave.

•**Vancouver Regional** (Vancouver, Canada; 20 Jun.)... OPEN (23): 1-Stathis Papadopoulos, 2-Duncan McLellan; 1C-Lance Henderson, 2C-Pat MacNeil. JUNIORS (4): 1/3-Carol McGannon, Alex Lieblich, Brian Tucker. JACKPOT (8): 1-Rob Eighteen-Bisang, 2-Ruth Robbins.

•**3rd Geneva Open** (Geneva, Switzerland; 27-28 Jun.)... OPEN: 1-Denis Etienne, 2-Bayram Bozkurt; 1C-Clive J. Klay, 2C-Martin Barkwill

•**Pair-O-Dice Monthly** (New York, NY; 28 Jun.)... OPEN (12): 1-Perry Gartner (FL), 2-Julius High; 1C-Alan Grunwald (NJ). LIMITED (2): 1-Phyllis Zook (NJ)

•**2009 BIBA World Championship** (Daventry, England; 3-5 Jul.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (54): 1-Chris Ternel, 2-Marcus Wrinch, 3/4-Paul Gilbertson / Wayne Felton; 1C-Martin Barkwill, 2C-Mick Vacarey, 3C/4C-Kevin Stebbing / Vicky Pemberton; 1LC-Nicky Check, 2LC-Chris Evans. WORLD'S END (2): 1-Kevin Jones, 2-Gheorghe Filipas. TEAM (12): 1-Michael Crane, 2-Nicky Check. FRIDAY 500 (8): 1-Julian Fetterlein, 2-David Nathan. POKER (19): 1-John Hedge, 2-Robert Tutchins. JACKPOT (8): 1/2-Dave McNamara / Arthur Wright.

•**Arizona Club Monthly** (Phoenix, AZ; 6 Jul.)... OPEN: 1-Ken Grossman, 2-Proctor Ritchie, 3-Ehsan Mowzoon. Δ

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Mitteleuropa Double Consulting Championship
Thursday 3rd September, 2009

Warm-up, Sperti Trophy, Quarter entries, Jackpots & One Point Matches
Wednesday 2nd - Thursday 3rd September, 2009

Backgammon & Poker action
2nd - 6th September, 2009

Valid for the official WBF Italian Championship

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Marco Fornasir
ph.: +39 0331 923537
mob. +39 337 303804
fax: +39 0331 920621
email: info@wbf.net
on Skype: marcofornasir
www.wbf.net

HIT CASINO HOTEL PARK

Delphinova 5 - Nova Gorica
ph. +386 5 3362000
hotelpark@hit.si
www.hit.si



**park**

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PROFESSIONAL BACKGAMMON BOARDS