

*pittsburgh championships*

## PITT GOES TO GARY FRIES Petko Takes Masters

Gary Fries of Falls Church, Virginia went 8-1 in the modified Swiss format to capture the Pittsburgh Championships.



Gary Fries rolling to victory in the Open.

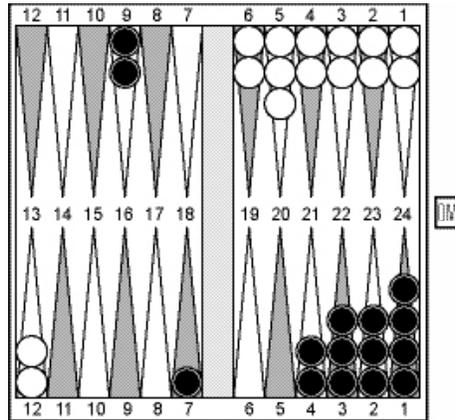
Rob Meier and an excellent staff ran the event that fielded 147 main tourney players—a small attendance increase from 2009. Once again, the Holiday Inn-Airport in Moon Township played host to the 18-21 February event and ABT Awards Ceremony.

Fries fell to former Pittsburgh director Steve Hast in his fourth match, but won four straight to reach the finals. His opponent was Sean Garber (IN) who was white hot, also reaching the finals of both the Masters (where he lost) and the Doubles with Chuck Bower (where they won).

Bill Finneran reports that Gary Fries jumped out to an early 5-0 lead in the 9 point finals, but Sean quickly tied it in two games. At 5-5, Sean doubled aggressively, Gary took, turned the game around and went ahead 7-5. Then trailing 5-8 Crawford, Sean won two in a row to set up an exciting DMP finish highlighted by an interesting 6-3 play for Gary. [See diagram above right.]

Would you stay back and break your board, or break your anchor 16/10, 16/13 and give your opponent a winning ace shot? Gary, close to a 3-to-2 underdog following either play, opted to hurt his racing chances by playing 7/1, 4/1. Good decision. Sean next rolled 5-1 (which would have hit) and ended up losing an exciting race and the match. Kudos to Gary Fries for a job well done.

9-point Open finals. Gary Fries (Black) vs. Sean Garber (White) tied at 8 to 8. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-3.**

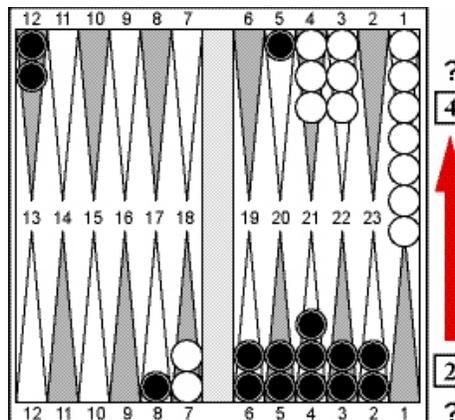


### Pittsburgh Masters

Sean Garber bested Jeff Acierno, Bill Finneran, Stick Rice, and Gregg Cattanch to reach the finals and another tough opponent: Petko Kostadinov. Petko had a tough road as well defeating Malcolm Davis, Steve Keats, John O'Hagan, and Ed O'Laughlin.

In the sixth game of the match, with the score tied at 3-3, Sean doubled and Petko took. The game turned allowing Petko to recube in the following position:

11-pt. Masters finals. Petko Kostadinov (Black) vs. Sean Garber (White) tied at 3 to 3. **BLACK ON ROLL. CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Petko doubles and Sean accepted which is the correct cube action. A few rolls later, it was Sean offering to make it DMP with this 8-cube:

[Continued on page 5]

*new mexico state championship*

## O'HAGAN WINS IN SANTA FE New Mexico is "Enchanting" By Steve Sax

Eighty-five players from all over the United States, Canada, England and New Zealand attended the New Mexico State Backgammon Championship held January 29-31, 2010 at the La Posada de Santa Fe Resort & Spa in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Although this was technically the "second" NM State Championship, it the first multi-day event and was also American Backgammon Tour sanctioned. John O'Hagan was the eventual Champion, but more on that in a few paragraphs.



New Mexico champ John O'Hagan.

Early arrivals to the "Land of Enchantment" (New Mexico's nickname) were treated to a cocktail party at tournament sponsor Ed Bennett's downtown Santa Fe office and about a half foot of snow the following day. In addition, on Thursday, January 28, many of the tourney participants had

dinner and played in an informal doubles tournament at Café Paris near the center of town. The first place prize was a bottle of champagne and upon asking finalist Mary Hickey (along with Bob Koca) who had won, she informed me that she and Bob had lost, but "hedged" by partaking of the champagne during the finals match which was won by England's Sean Williams and Santa Fe local, Dorothy "Doro" Tegnazian.

Action in two jackpots, the RoadRunner 200 and Santa Fe 400 (to honor the 400th anniversary of the City of Santa Fe) got underway Friday at 2:00 p.m. After taking me out in the first round 13-12,

[Continued on page 5]

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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## PRAY FOR ED KING

I regret to tell you that Ed King (OH) has been put on home-based hospice care and will soon be leaving us. If anyone who has enjoyed his company at the many tournaments he has attended would like to get in touch to say a word of encouragement and wish him well, they can e-mail his wife Melissa at [melissaking@hotmail.com](mailto:melissaking@hotmail.com)

We are all sorry to see this fine person, player and promoter of the game lost to us so young.—*Mary Hickey, Kirkersville, Ohio*

## CALIFORNIA STATE CORRECTIONS

Regarding Paul Weaver's report on the California Open, a very long rollout of Pos. 1 using Extreme Gammon actually makes Joe Russell's play of 24/16 best by a "whopping" 0.002 points of equity! The interesting point is that I would have only given 13/5 a passing glance before rejecting it and playing 24/16. That it is so close

[Continued on page 3]

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

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

\*Denotes new or revised listing

## NATIONAL

*American Backgammon Tour events underlined.*

Mar 5-7	CSI-Central States Invitational, Wyndham Lisle, Lisle, Illinois	773/583-6464
Mar 7	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Mar 9	Teakwoods Club Monthly, Teakwoods Tavern, Phoenix, Arizona	480/286-8239
Mar 13	Springfield Series #6, Peoria Pizza Works, Peoria, Illinois	217/622-9447
Mar 13	New England Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Mar 13	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Mar 13*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Mar 14*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Mar 14*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Mar 21*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly Tournament, Cosi, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Mar 21*	3rd Ohio Doubles Championship, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	513/777-7862
Mar 21	27th Fleet Underwood Memorial, Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Mar 26-28	Ohio State Championships, Sheraton Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio	330/268-4610
Mar 27*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Mar 28*	17th Annual FIBS Spring Tournament, online via computer	831/438-7947
Apr 4*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Apr 10*	Springfield Series Grand Finale, King Pin Lanes, Springfield, Illinois	217/622-9447
Apr 10*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Apr 10*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Apr 10*	New England Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Apr 11*	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Apr 11*	Cincinnati Club Monthly Tournament, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Apr 11*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Apr 11*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Apr 14-18	26th Nevada State Tournament, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/218-8238
Apr 30-May 2	Atlanta Spring Classic, Crown Plaza Ravinia, Atlanta, Georgia	770/633-0001
May 13-16	WBGT: 2nd US Open, Embassy Suites Airport, So. San Francisco, California	773/583-6464
May 28-31	Chicago Open, Holiday Inn & Suites-O'Hare, Rosemont, Illinois	617/699-9100
Jun 11-13	Los Angeles Open, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California	818/901-0464
Jul 1-4	Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton Novi, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 23-25*	15th Minnesota Open, Courtyard by Marriott, Bloomington, Minnesota	612/718-2613
Jul 30-Aug 1	Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York	585/396-0969
Aug 20-22	Florida State Championships, Marriott Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/249-1416
Sep 3-6	Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin	608/516-9109
Sep 24-26	Colorado State Championships, Hilton Hotel, Aurora, Colorado	303/791-0271
Oct 8-10	Illinois State Championships, Grand Hotel, Peoria, Illinois	847/677-6852
Oct 14-17	Mid-Atlantic Championships, Marriott Hotel, Towson, Maryland	954/249-1416
Nov 10-14	Las Vegas Open, Bally's Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/218-8238
Dec 3-5	California State Championship, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California	818/901-0464
Jan 22-29	2011 Backgammon & Poker On Board, Western Caribbean Princess Cruise	773/583-6464

## OUTSIDE USA

Mar 5-7	BIBA International Championships, Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, UK	441522-888676
Mar 6-7	BBT: Mokum Open, Café Twee Klaveren, Amsterdam, The Netherlands	31611-106930
Mar 12-14*	New South Wales Open, Ryde Ex-Services Club, Ryde, NSW, Australia	61405-373225
Mar 13-14	SBTT: Genève Swiss Tourne Tour, L'Apéritif, Geneva, Switzerland	4178-7685569
Mar 13-14	TBT: 2nd Bursa Championship/WBF-TR, Efehan Hotel, Bursa, Turkey	905332-352555
Mar 19-21	XI Scottish Open, Barceló Carlton Hotel, Edinburgh, Scotland	441522-888676
Apr 1-5	WBGT: 22nd Nordic Open, Scandic Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark	4533-363601
Apr 7-11	22nd WBF-European Championships & 9th Velden Open, Velden, Austria	390331-923537
Apr 9-11	British Open, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Apr 16-18	5th Strawberry Hill High Stakes Tournament, Irish Town, Jamaica	876/999-0471
Apr 16-18	TBT: 2nd Antalya Open/WBF-TR, Diva Café Bistro, Antalya, Turkey	905332-352555
Apr 17-18	Rhein-Neckar-Cup 2009 Year-End, Mannheim, Germany	496204-620396
Apr 24-25	Istavder 1st Izmir Championship, Green Park Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey	905324-279454
Apr 30-May 2*	1st Kharkov Open, Hotel Mir, Kiev, Ukraine	49-241-74140
May 6-9*	EBGT: 2nd Cyprus Open, Hotel-Casino Golden Tulip, Nicosia, Cyprus	491715-422222
May 7-9*	County Cups Trophy, Barceló Hotel, Hinckley Island, England	441522-888676
May 14-16*	15th Oslo Open, Bridgesenter Vest, Oslo, Norway	4797-513941
May 15-16*	1st Dubrovnik Backgammon Open, Hotel Adriatic, Dubrovnik, Croatia	38598-345135
May 15-16*	TBT: 4th Izmir Open/WBF-TR, Izmir, Turkey	905332-352555
May 21-24*	15th Kaiserbrunnen-Cup, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49711-486190
May 28-31*	WBGT: 2nd Casinorip.com London Open, London, England	442077-001798

# LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

is fascinating but readers shouldn't be left with the impression that 13/5 is definitely correct because it isn't. — Chris Bray, London, England

I just got the newest POINT today and was reading the story by Paul Weaver on the California State Championship. Sadly, he made two major errors.

Matt Cohn-Geier did not win the Masters; our Super-32 was won by Neil Kazaross with Dorn Bishop the other finalist—all of which you certainly new from my submitting to you the full results less than four hours after the tournament was over on December 6.

Then he got his initial Pos. 2 wrong (if showed as a duplicate of Pos. 1), although

readers could figure it out since the resulting position was shown later in the article. [That was my error.—Ed.]

CHICAGO POINT has always been the best in the business: articles, positions, reporting and very, very high quality of presentation (easy to read and attractive composition). Of course with 216 issues, occasionally a typo or other error is likely to occur.—Patrick Gibson, Director, Gammon Associates

*Paul Weaver responds: Writing about Pat Gibson's tournament in LA, I incorrectly mentioned Matt Cohn-Geier as the winner of the Super-32 Jackpot. Although Matt won the Masters in Las Vegas in November 2009, Neil Kazaross was the actual winner of the Super 32 event in LA. He defeated Dorn Bishop in the finals. I apologize to Neil, Dorn and Patrick for this error.*

Pat Gibson runs a terrific tournament twice a year in Los Angeles. He has literally dozens of years experience running tournaments and he does a great job. If you have never attended one of Pat's events in LA, I strongly suggest that you put it on your calendar. If you have a plane, you can fly there and park within 50 feet of the hotel's back door. (Don Thompson actually did this last event.)—Paul Weaver, Birmingham, Alabama

## AID FOR THE UNAIDED EYE

The rollout of Danny Kleinman's "Unaided Eye" position from the Jan./Feb. POINT should have been done with a live cube. White's recubes are not efficient. Without the live cube rollout, this feature of the position is missed. So Danny's analysis wasn't wrong after all. Please let him know that John Henry and the Steam Drill had a stand-off on this one (redouble/take).—David Rockwell, Skokie, Illinois

ExtremeGammon makes the position in "The Unaided Eye" a marginal double and a clear take so Danny Kleinman got this one right.

Over the board, and especially in a tournament with clocks, you couldn't do even Danny's analysis in the time allowed so experience and some formulae would have to be used. I would use Trice's Straggler Count plus EPCs, try to make some adjustment for hits (but that is complicated because of the blot on white's 2-pt) and make a decision.

Using these methods, I determined it was probably a double but then three factors

[Continued on page 4]



**AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2010**

**AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2010**

Compiled through 21 Feb. 2010 after 3 tournaments  
(Upcoming events: Central States—CSI, Ohio State Nevada State)



**AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2010**

Gary Fries	25.20	Greg Cottle	5.33	Damian Plesec	3.04	Jason Pack	1.52
John O'Hagan	18.00	Donny Lomuto	5.17	Lynda Clay	2.67	Marcy Kossar	1.52
Ed O'Laughlin	15.11	Glenn Ramsey	5.17	Jesse Eaton	2.67	Randi Sachar	1.52
Sean Garber	12.60	Carter Mattig	5.04	Sal Chehayeb	2.58	Lynn Lusk	1.33
Patty Geoffroy	10.33	Jeremy Bagai	4.50	Ed Johnson	2.58	Julie Schifferle	1.22
Mel Rappaport	10.08	Mark Andrus	4.50	Ryan Hast	2.58	Wendy Russell	1.22
Dorn Bishop	9.00	Rick Barabino	3.78	Sheri Peters	2.44	Molly Bennett	1.14
Paul Weaver	9.00	Michelin Chabot	3.78	Ben McCracken	2.29	Jenna Longman	0.83
Al Hodis	7.56	Sergiy Rybiy	3.34	Steve Mellen	1.89	Pete Anderson	0.76
Richard Munitz	7.56	Barry Silliman	3.15	Gary Bauer	1.89	Martha Ghio	0.76
Rory Pascar	6.93	Al Faller	3.15	David Shaerf	1.67	Fran Miller	0.61
Gregg Cattanach	6.30	Garry Kallos	3.04	Fred Fado	1.52	Sara Piazza	0.57
Paul Polatov	6.07						



**CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB**

**2010 PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

COMPILED  
THRU 23 FEB.

Phil Simborg	6.72	Mike Wolock	2.88	Adrian Rios	1.60	Ken Tibbs	1.04
Mike Sutton	5.04	Wayne Wiest	2.88	Christopher Shanava	1.60	Georgina Flanagan	0.88
Julius High	4.48	Rory Pascar	2.64	Ralf Boettger	1.56	Alice Kay	0.88
Reginald Porter	4.36	J. A. Miller	2.20	Tak Morioka	1.44	Herb Roman	0.80
Nora Luna Righter	4.32	Dave Settles	2.16	Dujuan Meekins	1.44	Mitch Pomper	0.72
Tim Mabee	4.32	Bob Steen	2.08	Michael Ginat	1.32	Serge Bondar	0.64
Eric Johnson	4.16	Steve Klesker	2.08	Shaw Dogan	1.28	Scott Casty	0.48
Bill Bartholomay	4.08	Larry Goldstein	2.04	Amy Trudeau	1.28	Linda Rockwell	0.48
Howard Markowitz	3.84	John Gaski	1.92	Wendy Kaplan	1.28	Beth Whitney	0.48
Bill Keefe	3.64	Gary Kay	1.92	David Rockwell	1.12	Kwong Chan	0.48
Carter Mattig	2.88	Mike Minkovski	1.68				

January: **PHIL SIMBORG** edged Nora Luna Righter (4.08 to 3.84) to become January's top player with a win on the final playdate of the month. Newcomer Julius High finished third with 3.44.

February: **MIKE SUTTON** cashed in four February events to earn 4.24 points. There was a 3-way tie for second at 2.64 with Tim Mabee, Rory Pascar, and Phil Simborg.

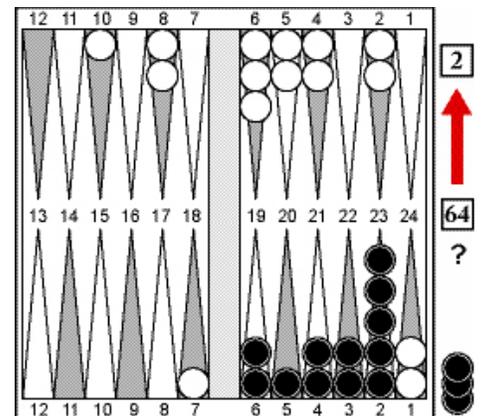
If you finish in the Top 20 for 2010, you'll be entered in a drawing for over \$300 worth of valuable prizes. The higher you finish, the better your winning chances. Individual awards: 1st: Trophy + \$80, 2nd: \$40, 3rd: \$20. Free \$30 entry to the top six finishers who play in the 2011 Illinois State Challenge Cup. 1st through 20th—one ounce silver eagle dollar coin.

your move

## PROBLEM #352

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

White leads Black 7–6 to 11 points. Black on roll. **SHOULD BLACK DOUBLE?**



## DEAR MISS LONELYBLOTS



© 2010 by Danny Kleinman

## A "PRIVATE" MATTER

Dear Miss Lonelyblots: I can't convey adequately how shocked and offended I am. I was playing a match against Horny Harry, one of several middle-aged businessmen who attend the weekly tournaments at the Hustler's Paradise Club regularly. Early in the second game, he hit one of my checkers and placed it on the bar. I rolled a 5-4 and looked to enter the checker on Harry's open 5-point, but somehow it was gone. Harry smiled, and said, "Your checker is on my lap. It must have fallen there while you were shaking your dice. If you want to enter from the bar, you'll have to retrieve it yourself, as the rules do not permit me to touch any checkers during your turn."

"I bet the checker didn't fall from the bar by itself, Harry," I replied. "I bet you knocked it onto your lap. I bet you just want me to touch your privates. The very thought of that disgusts me. Deirdre, come here!"

When Deirdre (the director) arrived, I told her what Harry had done and how disgusting it was, and demanded that he forfeit the match to me.

Deirdre took it all too calmly. She told Harry that it was his responsibility, not mine, to restore the fallen checker to its proper place, reprimanded him for making an unreasonable demand, and ordered play to continue . . . but she did not order the match awarded to me by forfeit. Naturally,

I was so upset that I misplayed my 4 and lost a doubled gammon. Need I add that I lost the match?

I haven't gone back to the Hustler's Paradise for a month and a half, and I don't think I ever will. Not unless they add a rule, which I think should be part of the United States Tournament Backgammon Rules. I came up with the following formulation:

"All players must act like ladies and gentlemen, in a respectful courteous manner. Inappropriate behavior of any kind will result in forfeiture of the match. Repeated offenses will result in expulsion from the club."

Do you think this rule covers things adequately, Miss Lonelyblots? Should we add anything to it, or change the wording? And will you use your influence to get the Hustler's Paradise, along with backgammon clubs everywhere, to adopt it? Otherwise decent respectable women like me will be afraid to go to backgammon tournaments.—Demure Debby

**DEAR DEBBY:** Lighten up. You might have rebuffed Harry with a tart retort, e.g., "Far be it from me to deprive any of the poor girls who make their living that way of a chance to touch your privates. Why don't you hire one of them to sit here and restore misplaced checkers for you?"

That might have put Harry in his place and shamed him into ceasing his shenanigans; but if it didn't work, you could still call the director.

Putting the unfortunate incident aside, you have raised some significant issues. Let's deal with them.

First, offended though you were by Harry's antics, they hardly constituted a serious offense. Harry neither struck you nor groped you. He neither tried to steal money

from your purse nor stole a pip or two with an illegal move in a race. He neither threatened you nor used abusive language. Deirdre's reprimand was entirely appropriate for a first offense.

Second, your proposed rule is too vague. "Inappropriate" behavior cannot be defined, nor can a rule forbidding it be enforced fairly.

However, to list specific behavioral reasons for barring players is neither necessary nor desirable. It goes without saying that directors can and should bar pickpockets from tournament sites. Likewise robbers, rapists and other kinds of criminals we might add to the list if we troubled to think about it, but the fact remains: a backgammon tournament is not a court of law with its rules of evidence and adversarial procedures.

Nor should the criminal codes of the fifty states be appended to the rules of backgammon. Strong legal safeguards are required if an accused person is at risk of losing life, liberty or property at the hands of the state, but not when all that is at stake is the privilege of playing a game in a particular setting. What to do if a player turns the cube during the Crawford Game belongs in the rules; but what to do if a player calls an opponent "rodent" (to cite one of the milder insults I have heard at a backgammon club) does not.—Miss Lonelyblots Δ

*Do you have a backgammon-related question for Miss Lonelyblots involving people problems, game etiquette or the play itself? Write: Dear Miss Lonelyblots, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155 or e-mail [bg@chicagopoint.com](mailto:bg@chicagopoint.com).*

## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

would definitely make me double:

- 1) The match score
- 2) My opponent might drop
- 3) Woolsey's Law

This just goes to prove how difficult backgammon is and why it may never take off in the same way that poker has because making it comprehensible to the general public at a level that comes across well in the media (i.e. TV) has so far proved impossible. Just try explaining this position in 30 seconds!

Incidentally Danny missed quite a few market losing sequences but I suspect that may have been deliberate as he already had

enough. For example 5-4 or 6-4 followed by any entry number that is not a double; 4-3, followed by 4-2; 3-2 followed by 3-2 etc. These variations are easily calculable using Trice's formulae.—Chris Bray, London, England

*Danny Kleinman responds: Chris Bray is largely right. I omitted some of the market-losing sequences because they were very specific combinations of rolls for one side followed by rolls for the other, and contributed only small additions to the total, just the sort of thing one would omit at the table with the unaided eye.*

*I wonder only at the citations, not only by Chris, but by Phil Simborg and others who mention it, of "Woolsey's Law;" look in my "Simplified Doubling Guidelines" (from Vision Laughs at Counting) and*

*you will see it formulated as "The Schizophrenic Rule" (different formulation, same substance, more colorful name).—Danny Kleinman, Los Angeles, California*

## BACKGAMMON ON AN APPLE

I have a client who just purchased a new Apple Macintosh computer and she is having problems finding the right software to play backgammon online with others. On her old PC she used to play online with people all over the world. She has been playing BG for 40 years and is quite accomplished.

What software or site does she need to go to in order to play BG online? Most of the software and websites require windows based software.—Bart Wade, Dallas, Texas

[Continued on page 7]

## O'HAGAN WINS...

[Continued from page 1]

Kit Woolsey went on to win the Santa Fe 400, besting finalist and fellow bay area player Ken Bame. Malcolm Davis and Ed O'Laughlin finished 3rd/4th. In the Road-Runner 200, Los Angeles player Scott Evans took first over Coloradoan Tony Siegel



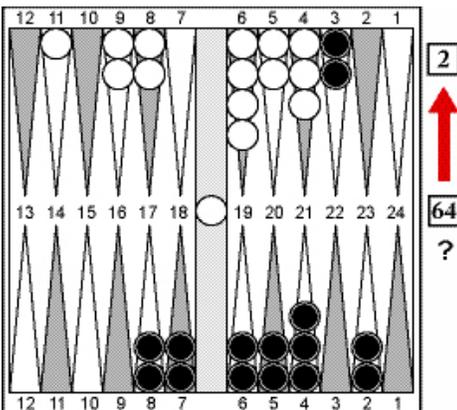
Santa Fe 400 Masters champ Kit Woolsey in an early round vs. Norm Wiggins.

In the 16-player Novice division, Ben McCracken came in first while Ed Bennett's daughter Molly Bennett won the Consolation. Local New Mexico club player Sara Piazza won the Last Chance.

The Advanced Division fielded 24 players and when the smoke cleared, Las Vegas Greg Cottle stood above the rest in first place with Colorado director Linda Clay placing second. The Consolation was won by Jesse Eaton (MN) and the Lynne Lusk (CO) took the Last Chance.

The Open field of 45 was comprised of some of the finest backgammon players in the world. The Sunday finals paired San Diego area Dorn Bishop against Valparaiso, Indiana's own John O'Hagen. John went on to defeat Dorn 11-7 as a result of this cube decision:

11-point New Mexico finals. John O'Hagan (Black) and Dorn Bishop (White) tied at 7 to 7. **BLACK ON ROLL. CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Technically the position wasn't a double, but it was scary enough to give

Dorn cause for concern about the risks of taking the cube and getting gammoned for the match. In the end, Dorn made the right decision, but was punished as John, escaped his two back checkers before busting his board, and cruised to a gammon and Champion's trophy.

California's Jeremy Bagai bounced back from a tough semifinal loss to Dorn to find himself in the Consolation finals vs. Alabama's Paul Weaver. Leading 3-0 to 5, Paul took a scary looking cube from Jeremy and went on to win the game, match and Consolation title. Mark Andrus won the last chance over local player Tim Hartwick.

The Blitz fielded 40 entries and was won by longtime Reno player Jim Allen ahead of Peggy Neubig (NJ).

The tournament was deftly directed by Los Angeles area director Patrick Gibson along with assistant director Ed "E!" Rosenblum, his wife Penina, as well as Felicia Fisher and eight gracious volunteers from the Backgammon Club of Santa Fe.

Phil Simborg was a jack-of-all-trades, not only doing the Calcutta, but giving a quiz and lecture. Even with all those responsibilities, he still managed to win the Doubles with wife Randee who Phil gives most of the credit for the win. Doubles runner's-up were Michigan's Greg Merri-man and bay area backgammon enthusiast Rob Rosetti.

I look forward to returning to the New Mexico State Championships next year, because no matter what the result of our competition during this past weekend, I believe we were all winners at this one-of-a-kind event in one of America's cultural and artistic gems, the lovely city of Santa Fe, New Mexico.—Steve Sax Δ

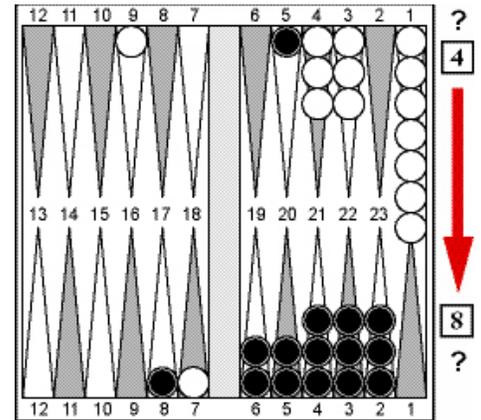
### NEW MEXICO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP-ABT

OPEN (45): 1-John O'Hagan (IN), 2-Dorn Bishop (CA); 1C-Paul Weaver (AL), 2C-Jeremy Bagai (CA); 1LC-Mark Andrus (NV). ADVANCED (24): 1-Greg Cottle (NV), 2-Lynda Clay (CO); 1C-Jesse Eaton (MN); 1LC-Lynn Lusk (CO). NOVICE (16): 1-Ben McCracken (NM); 1C-Molly Bennett (NM); 1LC-Sara Piazza (NM). SANTA FE 400 JP (32): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-Ken Bame (CA), 3/4-Malcolm Davis (TX) / Ed O'Laughlin (VA). ROADRUNNER ADVANCED JP (16): 1-Scott Evans (CA), 2-Tony Siegel (CO). DOUBLES (12 teams): 1-Phil & Randee Simborg (IL), 2-Greg Merriman (MI) & Robb Rosetti (CA). BLITZ (40): 1-Jim Allen (NV), 2-Peggy Neubig (NJ). WARM-UP DOUBLES (13 teams): 1-Doro Tegnazian (NM) & Sean Williams (England), 2-Mary Hickey (OH) & Bob Koca (MD). SIMBORG QUIZ: Open-Kit Woolsey (CA); Intermediate-Peggy Neubig (NJ).

## PITTSBURGH...

[Continued from page 1]

11-pt. Masters finals. Petko Kostadinov (Black) vs. Sean Garber (White) tied at 3 to 3. **WHITE ON ROLL. CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Sean's recube is a small 0.025 error. But it's actually a brilliant pressure DMP double because it gave Petko the chance to make a super blunder by dropping . . . and that's just what happened! Petko's drop gave Sean a 7-3 lead and cost him over 11% of match equity.



Pitt Masters champ Petko Kostadinov.

Sean extended his lead to 9-3 before his dice gave out. Petko rattled off 8 straight points to eek out an 11-9 victory.

### Other Results



Advanced winner Patty Goeffroy with director Rob Maier.

Congratulations to Advanced winner Patty Goeffroy who enjoyed the biggest victory

[Continued on page 6]

# RULES

## To Live By

By Duane Jensen

Williams College was founded in 1793 in Williamstown, Massachusetts. Williams College was easy to get into, but once admitted, the students were regulated by dozens of rules that were enforced by fines. The 1795 list of penalties included the following:

Every spot of ink on a library book..... 2 pence  
Absence from prayers ..... 5 pence  
Getting a haircut on Sunday ..... 2 shillings  
Fornication..... 10 shillings

By 1805 the shillings and pence fines had been replaced with dollars and cents:

Being tardy to chapel exercises..... \$0.02  
Being out of your room after 9 p.m. .... \$0.08  
Keeping a gun in your room..... \$0.17  
Associating with an expelled student.... \$0.34  
Absent from Sunday service..... \$0.50  
Drunkenness ..... \$0.50  
Dancing without permission..... \$1.00  
Fighting..... \$1.00  
Swearing ..... \$1.50  
Playing backgammon ..... \$5.00

Backgammon had its own set of rules. Over the centuries, people have been confused about some of them.



**The New York Spirit of the Times (1875)** [“Throw off” means “bear off” and “took up” means “hit.”—Ed.]

From W. M. M., Fort Smith, Ark.: We were playing backgammon, and I had thrown off all my men but one, when my opponent took that man up, and threw off seven of his men before I could enter; but in entering I took up one of his men, and in my

next play I took up another of his men; then I got home and threw off my man. One of his men being in my board, and another of his men in one of the intervening boards, or, more plainly, when the game was finished, he (my opponent) had thrown off seven men, one of his men were in my board, another in the intervening board, and the rest of his men in his home board. What kind of game is it—a backgammon or a simple game?

Answer: A simple win.

**The Sydney Morning Herald Letter to the Editors (Australia; Feb. 5, 1847)**

From DICEBOX: I am playing a running game with all my men in my board except two. My adversary has two men in my home board also. I throw six-ace. I cannot play the six without moving one of my outside men—ace first, and then six; in which case I leave a blot. I therefore play ace in my board—cannot play six, and leave no blot.

Query: Can I be made to play both, by playing the ace first?

Answer: Yes



**England (1691)**

Lieutenant Colonel Roger Pope began to move two of his men but changed his mind. His opponent, John St. Leger, insisted that by “stirring” the men, Pope was required to move them. Pope disagreed. This led to an argument which led to a bet (100 guineas at 3-to-2 odds) which led to a court case. By statute, the English courts would not hear cases involving wagers on games of chance, but this case was heard because the wager was about the rules of the game. The Groom Porter, an official in charge of gaming and gambling, served as a referee ruling that Pope was correct, that the mere touching of a man didn’t require a player to move that man.—Duane Jensen Δ

## PITTSBURGH...

[Continued from page 5]

of her life. Also to Novice winner Sheri Peters (VA) who captured part of the \$500 prize pool in the free entry Novice tournament courtesy of Rob Maier.

### ABT Awards Ceremony



2009 ABT winners: 1-Ray Fogerlund (center), 2-Stick Rice (L), and 3-Ed Bennett.

The 20 top players of 2009 were honored with one ounce silver eagle coins and marble trophies. A special thanks to Alan Grunwald who donated \$200 so that this year, players #11 through #20 also received silver coin mementos. Δ

### PITTSBURGH CHAMPIONSHIPS—ABT

OPEN (63): 1-Gary Fries (VA), 2-Sean Garber (IN), 3/4-Gregg Cattanach (GA) / Mel Rappaport (NY), 5/8-Carter Mattig (IL) / Barry Silliman (MD) / Rory Pascar (IL) / Al Faller (PA). ADVANCED (62): 1-Patty Geoffroy (MA), 2-Donny Lomuto (NY), 3/4-Sal Chehayeb (MI) / Ed Johnson (NY); 1C-Glenn Ramsey (PA), 2C-Ryan Hast (PA); 1LC-Sergiy Rybiy (NY). NOVICE (22): 1-Sheri Peters (VA), 2-Julie Schifferle (NY); 1C-Wendy Russell (IN), 2C-Fran Miller (OH). PITTSBURGH MASTERS (32): 1-Petko Kostadinov (SC), 2-Sean Garber (IN), 3/4-Gregg Cattanach (GA) / Ed O’Laughlin (VA). ADVANCED JACKPOT (32): 1-Bill Calton (MI), 2-Paul Polatov (NY), 3/4-Joe Nolan (NY) / Sergiy Rybiy (NY). SPEED GAMMON (32): 1-Jeff Acierno (NJ), 2-Richard Munitz (NY), 3/4-Dennis Culpepper (VA) / Paul Polatov (NY). OPEN DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Chuck Bower (IN) & Sean Garber (IN), 2-Brent Cohen (PA) & Richard Munitz (NY), 3/4-Greg Merriman (MI) & Jon Vietor (CA), 2-Mike Nazarovitch (PA) & Michael Safaryan (PA). ADV. DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Bud Bowers (PA) & Mike Vasilatos (OH), 2-Denny McGregor (PA) & Joe Steiner (PA). THUR. \$400 JP (8): 1/2-Gary Bauer (NJ) / Al Hodis (NY). THUR. WARM-UP (27): 1-Jeff Acierno (NJ), 2-Rose Sheedy (IN), 3-Bill Calton (MI). OPEN MULLIGAN JP (16): 1-Ed Bennett (NM), 2-Jeff Acierno (NJ). SUNDAY BEST OPEN JP (8): 1-Mark Gordon (MD), 2-Lucky Nelson (IL). SUNDAY BEST ADV. JP (8): 1/2-John Grecni (PA) / Kye Hedlund (NC). MICROBLITZ (64): 1/2-Joe Nolan (NY) / Mel Rappaport (NY). QUICKIE (32): 1-Phil Simborg (IL). QUICKIE (4): 1-Mark Gordon (MD). SIMBORG CUBE QUIZ: Open-Jeb Horton (NC), Advanced (tie)—Bruce Ballance (PA) / Kye Hedlund (NC).

## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 4]

There are only a few playsites that accommodate the Macintosh OS. We suggest that your client purchase "Parallels Desktop 5 for Mac" which will allow her to simultaneously run both Mac and PC software. It's only \$79, but she'll have to purchase a Windows operating system as well. Windows Vista works well for us.—Ed.

### HOW TO CLEAN AN AL IMM BOARD

I have an old Al Imm board. The checkers are not sliding so well on the playing surface. Any suggestions on cleaning it?—Jay Robinson, Illinois

*Al Imm responds: Sometimes there is a build up of grime on the playing surface. I would first try cleaning the surface with a very mild soap and a slightly damp cloth; then wipe clean with clear water and dry.*

*You could try a leather cleaner on the surface also. Sometimes spraying a little wax on and wiping off will also help.*

*If none of the above steps solve, try putting a little corn starch on the surface and rub gently, then wipe off. I have been told that this helps keep the leather slippery.*

*And with all of these ideas, remember to test a small area first.—Al Imm, Valparaiso, Indiana*

### POSITIVE ABT COMMENTS

OK, so your ABT Awards presentation in Pittsburgh may not have gone the way you would have liked; but I can say with 100% certainty that everyone loves the ABT, and it is definitely good for the game.

And I know for a fact that everyone appreciates all the hard work you put into it. Jolie, Lyle & I would probably not even be playing backgammon if it wasn't for you.—David Rubin, Skokie, Illinois

There are currently 20 ABT events for 2010. That's a pretty good number and gives players from all over the country an opportunity to show their stuff in their respective regional areas.

This ABT bit is sooo responsible for getting out the attendance at backgammon tournaments these days. I hate to think where we'd be without it, especially given the hard hit we took from Texas Hold 'Em the last six or seven years.—Bruce Russell, Madison, Wisconsin

*Very kind words, guys. Thanks!—Ed. Δ*

## BAR POINT CLUB WINS ILLINOIS CHALLENGE CUP

The Chicago Bar Point Club has won the 2011 Challenge Cup. The 30th annual Illinois event for club superiority was staged 31 January at Playoffs in Carol Stream, Illinois. Pub Clubber Dick Nelson directed with assistance from Tim Mabee.

After five rounds of play, the Bar Point Club was tied for fourth with 13 wins—four games behind 2009 champ Sangamon Valley (Springfield). But the Bar Pointers "went to the whip," winning 9 of their last ten matches in the final two rounds. A final win by Dajuan Meekins over Springfield's Laurel Patkes locked up the BPC's 12th win since the club was formed in 1983.



BPC Challenge Cup victors from left: Tak Morioka, Howard Markowitz, Bob Steen, Rory Pascar, Bill Davis & Lucky Nelson.

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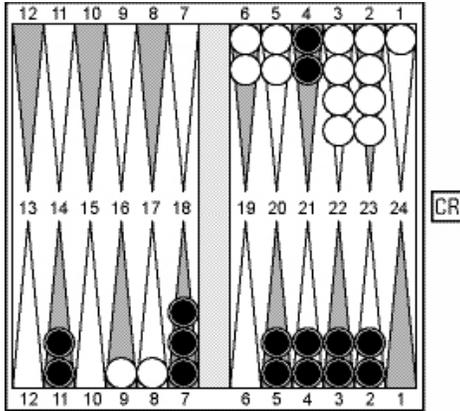
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**PROBLEM #351  
ANALYZED**

by Mary Hickey

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

While watching videotapes of the World Cup finals from sometime in backgammon's Neolithic period, I heard commentator Kent Goulding assert that most bad plays are made because the player never saw the right one! It's easy to overlook the sharpest play when a perfectly adequate alternative presents itself. We all tend not to expend mental CPU cycles when it doesn't seem necessary, and overall that's a good habit. The trick is to know when that "adequate" alternative isn't good enough, and look further.

At Gammon Save, the score we see here, it's easy to overemphasize the "gammon saving" aspect and not give sufficient weight to winning the game. Sure, the gammons are approximately twice as bad as usual, but that doesn't eclipse the desirability of playing to win. It just injects a bit more caution into the process than usual.

With that said, let's see some plays that hopefully you didn't see! One play, 11/8\*(5)(2) hits, keeps your anchor, leaves no shots, and is a triple whoppin' blunder. The related move of 11/8\*(2), 4/1(2) is even worse. You didn't see either of those two plays, did you? Of course not. They don't exist!

If the blot-free, anchor-preserving plays are no good, what is so good about the available plays that do leave shots, abandon the anchor, or both? What do you gain by any risks you take?

For a clue, check out what you need to gain here. You are down 37 pips before the roll, and 25 pips after unless you hit something. Even when you do hit, you don't catch up in the race. White is a favorite to reenter, and so will threaten to break away

into a winning race either now or later. With a board this weak and with poor prospects to improve it quickly, your objective has to be to hit both White's blots if you possibly can.

No matter what you do, you can only hit one blot on this turn. But there are several plays you can make that hit one blot now and also improve your chances of getting the other one later. You must eliminate excessively risky maneuvers such as the four-blotting 21/12, 11/8\*, even though it's great when it works. If you aren't hit back, it maximizes your chances to hit the second blot and/or make your 6-point. The problem is, this leaves too many return shots to be correct at this score, though it ditches the line into first place at Gammon Go.

Fortunately, there are two plays available that permit you to hit, maintain a threat against the other blot, and leave only two blots of your own: 21/9\* and 21/15, 11/8\*(2). The first, 21/9\*, gives up a bit more return shot danger in return for a double shot at the second blot if White fans. That double shot isn't as big a deal as it might seem, though, since if you roll a 5-3, 5-1, or 3-1 after a fan by White, you will use it to make the 6-point rather than hit.

The second contender, 21/15, 11/8\*(2), achieves better control of the outfield in cases where White reenters immediately but doesn't return hit. For example, if White reenters with a 1-5 or 1-4, she cannot hide her second blot in a no-man's land where you can only reach it with indirects. This play leaves you "watching" every point in the outfield with a direct shot.

Since the two plays are close, which should you choose? If you play 21/9\*, you invite White to make a serious error with a 6-4 reentry. She should play bar/15, not bar/19, 17/13 allowing you the chance to point on her, or hit and cover later, on the crucial 6-point. If you make the other play which gives you a direct shot at her on her 13-point from your 15-point, the decision is much closer (it's still better for her to get out, but it's not a blunder if she stays) so you aren't giving her as much opportunity to go wrong.

I think since the bot-rollouts give a small edge to 21/9\* and it has the additional advantage of this potential error-draw, I'll give it the nod also, but you should also give yourself full credit for bar/15, 11/8\*(2). After all, how often would you spot that issue with 6-4 over the board? About the only way you would here is if you were counting White's good and bad rolls after each of the hitting plays, and noticed that the goodness or badness of her 6-4 depended on how she played it.

One clue that this problem is likely

to call for "play to win" tactics, not more guarded strategies based on the score, is that the gammon danger can't be all that great here whatever you do—within reason anyway. Even if White makes her ace point (not guaranteed!), barring a freak parlay, she will have at least three spares buried that are useless in helping to close her board. So if you avoid leaving more than one or two blots at the same time, even if things go horribly wrong, it's unlikely you'll stay out long enough to get gammoned.

Maybe the bottom line here is, use caution at Gammon Save, but don't be afraid of ghosts. The overall objective of winning the match can be achieved by winning this game! So when you need to take reasonable risks to win, don't back off and temporize in the face of relatively small gammon threats.—Mary Hickey Δ

**ILLINOIS ACTION**Bill Davis  
773/583-6464Peter Kalba  
312/316-1432Tuesday, 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 CLUB: Tournaments Monday,  
6:00 P.M. at Ride The Nine; 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington.  
Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).MIDSTATE BG CLUB: Tourn. Tues., 6:00 P.M. at Ride The Nine;  
503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. Ed Bauder (309/830-1632).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).CHICAGO BACKGAMMON ASSOCIATION: Tournaments  
Thursday, 6:15 P.M. at The Parthenon; 314 S. Halsted, Chicago.  
Phil Simborg (312/543-0522) or Carter Mattig (312/493-2911).PEORIA BG CLUB: Tourn. Thursday, 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza  
Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Sue Will (309/699-6005).**Prepare for next Winter!****Backgammon & Poker  
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Contact Sue Will today!

**WINNER'S CIRCLE**

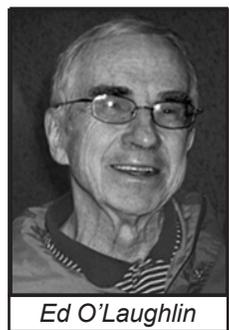


NOV.-DEC. 2010

•**European Backgammon Tour 2009**... 1-Jürgen Orlowski (GER), 2-Frans Bergi (AUT), 3-Matvey "Falafel" Natanzon (ISR)... *Results provided by Chiva Tafazzoli.*

•**Ohio State Club Monthly** (Akron, OH; 3 Jan.)... OPEN (8): 1-Michael Brown, 2-Mike Hendrickson.

•**New York Metropolitan Open—ABT** (Jersey City, NJ; 7-10 Jan.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (51+13 rebuys): 1-Ed O'Laughlin (VA), 2-AI Hodis (NY), 3/4-Rick Barabino (NY) / Rory Pascar (IL); 1C-Richard Munitz (NY), 2C-Michelin Chabot (Canada), 3C/4C-Carter Mattig (IL) / Steve Mellen (NY); 1LC-Mel Rappaport (NY), 2LC-Gary Bauer (NJ). INTERMEDIATE (41+11 rebuys): 1-Paul Polatov (NY), 2-Garry Kallos (Canada), 3/4-Fred Fado (NJ) / Jason Pack (NJ); 1C-



Ed O'Laughlin

Damian Plesec (Slovenia), 2C-Marcy Kossar (CT), 3C/4C-Pete Anderson (WA) / Sergiy Rybiy (NY); 1LC-Randi Sachar (NY), 2LC-Martha Ghio (NY). BEGINNER (10): 1-David Shaerf (NY), 2-Jenna Longman (MI). PETER KASTURAS JUNIORS (12): 1-Troy Longman II (MI), 2-Matt Kasturas (NJ). LIBERTY CUP MASTERS (26+6 rebuys): 1-AI Hodis (NY), 2-Arkady Tsinis (NV). LIMITED JACKPOT (32): 1-Sergiy Rybiy (NY), 2-Mel Rappaport (NY). DOUBLES (20 teams): 1-Carol Joy Cole (MI) & David Shadi (NJ), 2-Michelin Chabot (Canada) & Reginald Proulx (Canada). Side Pool winners: Sami Sallak (Germany) & Antoinette-Marie Williams (NY). WARM-UP (64): 1-Antoinette-Marie Williams (NY), 2-AI Hodis (NY). SENIORS (32): 1-Donny Lomuto (NY), 2-Antoinette-Marie Williams (NY). SENIORS OVERFLOW (8): 1-Nasser Sedaghatpour (NY). \$50 JACKPOT (16): 1-Harvey Gillis (WA), 2-Peter Kasturas (NJ). \$50 JACKPOT (8): 1-Larry Taylor (GA). \$20 JACKPOT (64): 1-Aram Kouleyan (CA), 2-Kye Hedlund (NC).

•**Springfield Series #4** (Springfield, IL; 9 Jan.)... OPEN (17): 1-Greg Tomlin, 2-Mike Flohr, 1C-Gerry Tansey, 2C-John Jennings; 1LC-Jena Jennings. Board Qualifier: Ben Zemaitis.

•**Bloomington-Normal Club Playoffs** (Bloomington, IL; 11 Jan.)... 1-Lucas Bauer, 2-Mark King; 1C-Jim Dammeyer, 2C-Ed Zell.

•**New England Club Monthly** (Malden, MA; 16 Jan.)... OPEN (16): 1-Alex Zamanian, 2-Herb Gurland; 1C-Matt Reklaitis, 2C-Anne Bidner.

•**Sunshine State Regional Tournament** (Tarpon Springs, FL; 16-17 Jan.)... OPEN (8): 1-Stacy Turner, 2-Roland Leutert, 3-David Thomas. ADVANCED

(8): 1-Bob Wright, 2/3-AI Morrone / Andy Palumbo. INTERMEDIATE (4): 1-Doreen Saccardo.

•**Istanbul Open WBF-TR** (Istanbul, Turkey; 22-24 Jan.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (82): 1-Tunç Çelik (TUR), 2-John Broomfield (ENG), 3/4-Giorgos Klitsas (GRE) / Frank Simon (GER); 1C-Ufuk Bozkurt (TUR), 2C-Martin Barkwill (ENG), 3C/4C-Necdet Güvenli (TUR) / Serdar Özkaya (TUR); 1LC-Özkan Kiliç (TUR), 2LC-Irfan Mizrakçi (TUR), 3LC/4LC-Kamil Fatih Dilaver (TUR) / Cemalettin Yüksel (TUR). LADIES PRIZE (8): 1-Tugçe Bultan Sermet (TUR), 2-Angelina Charakoglou (GRE). DOUBLES (28 teams): 1-Mustafa Babal & Gürkan Cüçer (TUR), 2-Mahmut Eren & Alireza Kotzari (TUR), 3/4-Cem Duran & Richard Lukas (TUR) / Ayhan Serin & Gültekin Uygur (TUR). WARM-UP (65): 1-Mustafa Babal (TUR), 2-Haluk Ekrem Özalp (TUR), 3/4-Dursun Çetin (TUR) / Giorgos Klitsas (GRE). 869 BG CUP (68): 1-Irfan Misrakçi (TUR), 2-Alireza Kotzari (TUR), 3/4-Rifat Bulut (TUR) / Dursun Çetin (TUR). SWING (20): 1-Kamil Fatih Dilaver (TUR), 2-Ramazan Özkul (TUR), 3-Özkan Kiliç (TUR), 4-Cengiz Ergin (TUR). ONE-POINTER (128): 1-Rifat Bulut (TUR), 2-Gültekin Uygur (TUR), 3/4-Kemal Aksu (TUR) / Nil Ergin (TUR). BG4BG (72): 8 winners: A. Serin / N. Güvenli / C.A. Genç / I. Alin / S. Büyüksöy / T. Rzymann (AUT) / A. Katsios (GRE) / H. Güven (TUR).

•**Pair-O-Dice Monthly** (New York, NY; 24 Jan.)... OPEN (9): 1/2-AI Hodis / David Shadi; 1C-Gary Bauer. INTERMEDIATE (3): 1-Lemont Haskins.

•**3rd Pub Club Trophy Tourney** (Carol Stream, IL; 30 Jan.)... OPEN (28): 1-Dave Settles, 2-Tak Morioka, 3/4-Mike Wolock, Roger Hickman; 1C-Rory Pascar, 2C-Fouad Malouf

•**Bar Point Doubles Club Championship** (Chicago, IL; 6 Feb.)... OPEN (16 teams): 1-Amy Trudeau & Wendy Kaplan, 2-Mike Sutton & Mike Wolock, 3/4-Scott Casty & Phil Simborg / David & Linda Rockwell; 1C/2C-Bill Bartholomay & Beth Whitney / Julius High & Dave Settles.



Amy Trudeau & Wendy Kaplan

•**32nd So. Australia Open** (Adelaide, So. Australia; 7 Feb.)... OPEN (17): 1-Chris Benham, 2-Terry Efthimiou; 1C-Peter Geelen, 2C-Soto Phillis.

•**Ohio State Club Monthly** (Akron, OH; 7 Feb.)... OPEN (12): 1-Farhad Forudi, 2-Mark Murray.

•**Springfield Series #5** (Bloomington, IL; 13 Feb.)... OPEN (17): 1-Faddoul Khoury, 2-Reggie Porter; 1C-John Jennings, 2C-Randy Armstrong; 1LC-Gerry Tansey. Board Qualifier: Greg Tomlin. Δ

**AMALGAMATION**

Illinois to Missouri: **Henry Gray**... [theage.com](http://theage.com) says that one of the top thoroughbreds is the **Peter Snowden**-trained two-year-old **Backgammon**. Snowden said "If Backgammon continues to improve, he might progress towards the Blue Diamond Stakes." What about the Kentucky Derby?... When BPC director **Bill Davis** complained to Springfield's #1 player **Jena Jennings** about a lack of female attendance at the Bar Point Club, she had the answer: "You need better looking men."... At the Tuesday BPC Masters, **Phil Simborg** often puts a "bounty" on players just ahead of him in the standings. Here is **Steve Klesker** winning a case of Heineken for defeating **Tak Morioka**. That's Tak's favorite beer!



Phil Simborg, Tak Morioka, & Steve Klesker.

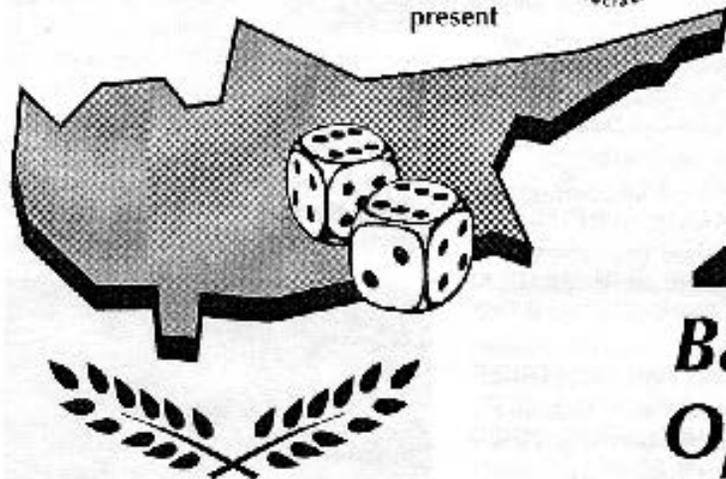
**Art Benjamin** (CA) appeared on **Stephen Cobert's** "Cobert Report" 27 January, and because of it, his new book *Secrets of Mental Math* skyrocketed from #2209 to #20 at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). You can watch the clip here: [tinyurl.com/vc23omy](http://tinyurl.com/vc23omy)... **Gary Kay** (IL) is continuing to have a very difficult time recovering from a recent medical procedure. We wish him all the best... The Sunday monthly New England Backgammon Club resurrected Monday night play on a trial basis with a 22 February meet-up. **Alex Zamanian** will inform us if it becomes a regular event... "Lost" is in its last season and the meaning of the entire series revolves around a game of backgammon. Google "lost backgammon" and see what it all means... In a recent episode of "White Collar" on the USA network, the **Neal Caffrey** character talked about knowing someone "...from playing backgammon against him at the World Championship in Monte Carlo." Someone involved with that show is up on their backgammon... **Chris Bray** (London) informs us that his new backgammon book *Wind Assisted* should be available 10 March... **Julius High** is a great addition to the Bar Point Club. He holds study sessions with a number of BPC players which is a reason our attendance has taken off. Twice in January, we sold out the Masters (16) and the Open (32) and had to turn people away!... **Mary Hickey** (OH) has an interesting way of determining "correct" dice: "After you check that all the opposite faces add to 7, look at the corner of a die with the three smallest numbers facing you. If 1-2-3 forms a letter C (counterclockwise layout), the die is made correctly. The same is true for 4-5-6." Δ

6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2010

Golden Tulip Hotel & Casino Nicosia (Lefkosa), Cyprus



present



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Cyprus Backgammon Open



Quality for



Grand Finale prize pool

20,000 €

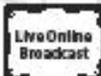
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Quality for the  
WORLD BACKGAMMON  
TOUR

Grand Finale with a prize pool of approx.

\$ 50,000



# 2<sup>nd</sup> US Backgammon Open

MAY 13-16, 2010  
San Francisco  
Embassy Suites SFO  
South San Francisco

For additional information, please contact:  
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