

*2nd us open & masters*

## US OPEN TO MARY HICKEY

### San Francisco is a popular venue

In many ways, Chiva Tafazzoli's second US Open held 13–16 May at the Embassy Suites in South San Francisco was more successful than his first venture last year in Washington DC. For one thing, total attendance increased by 50%—from 54 to 82 total backgammoners. Additionally, the Embassy Suites (at the outstanding rate of \$99/night) received rave reviews from everyone attending.



*US Open Champ Mary Hickey with Play65 co-founder Daniel Mester. Mary won a Play65 online qualifier into the tourney. [US Open photos by Carol Joy Cole.]*

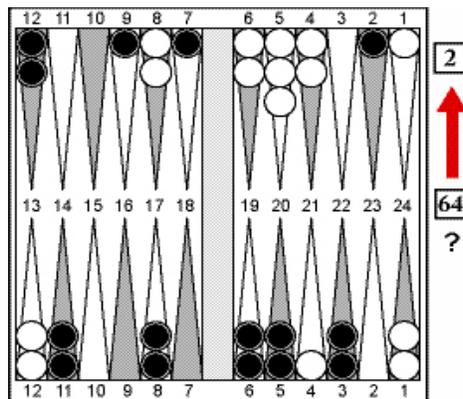
But is this tournament misnamed? Is it the US Open, or the *Women's US Open*? Carol Joy Cole won in 2009 and this year, the title of US Open Champion goes to Mary Hickey of Kirkersville, Ohio.

Mary had not even planned to attend the tournament. But two weeks prior to the start date, she won an online qualifier at Play65 that provided her with a free Open entry and hotel room. You can't beat that!

Following a bye in the opening round, Mary won four straight matches to face Dorn Bishop (CA) in the 17-point finals. The match was broadcast on the Internet via Ustream with assistant director Rob Maier uploading the moves. Here are some highlights from that match.

Trailing 3–4, Mary reached this setup and was hungry to put pressure on Dorn:

**POS. 1.** 17-point US Open finals. Mary Hickey (Black) trails Dorn Bishop (White) 3 to 4. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



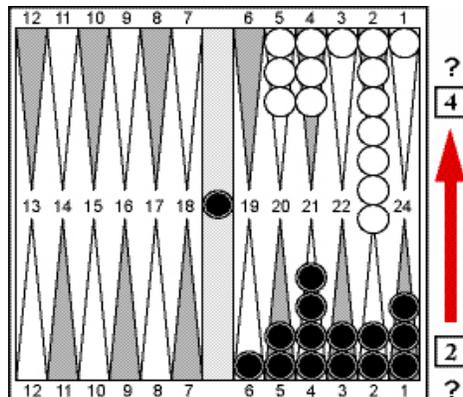
There's no question the position threatens Dorn, but Mary's double is too early. Dorn's take was trivial.

Mary rolled 5-2. She compounded her aggressive double with an overly aggressive checker play hitting with 11/4\*. True, this play wins the most Gs; but it also loses the most Gs. A number of plays are better, but the anchoring 23/18, 16/14 is best.

Dorn responded with a 3-2, entering and hitting Mary's blot. A few rolls later he made a proper recube to 4 and went on to win an eight point gammon.

Now trailing 3–12 and holding a 2-cube, Mary was looking to make something happen when an awkward double forced Dorn into the following position with Mary on shake:

**POS. 2.** 17-point US Open finals. Mary Hickey (Black) trails Dorn Bishop (White) 3 to 12. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

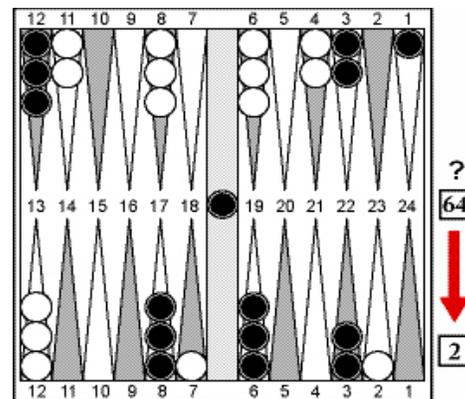


Mary correctly recubed here. If she simply holds the doubler and loses the game, she'll still trail 3–14. Mary really needs to win this game and redoubling has the added benefit of winning her an occasional gammon.

Dorn thought for about 30 seconds before taking the 4-cube (the right decision). Mary tossed a golden 2-1 hitting both checkers and when the smoke cleared, she was just one double shy of winning an eight point gammon. Still, the win tightened the score to 12–7 bringing her within striking distance.

Mary grabbed two points in the next game to cut her deficit to 9–12. The next game turned the tide. Perhaps a little frustrated after losing six straight points, Dorn pushed a bit in this position:

**POS. 3.** 17-pt. US Open finals. Dorn Bishop (White) leads Mary Hickey (Black) 12 to 9. White on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Dorn cubed to two. Although White wins from this position nearly two-thirds of the time, White's 12–9 lead makes this an early cube. Mary scooped it up and reached a tasty recube position 12 turns later that Dorn was forced to take. Mary brought the four point game home to take a 13–12 lead.

Mary Hickey took her 13–12 lead and never looked back. She swept the remaining games to earn a 17–13 victory and the 2010 US Open title. Well done, Mary!

### OTHER WINNERS

In the US Masters Jackpot, congratulations to long time expert Jeremy Bagai (CA)

*[Continued on page 4]*

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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## NOT LUCKY

I have never written a "Letter to the Editor" of any publication before, but I feel compelled to do so now because a letter printed in May's CHICAGO POINT was erroneously attributed to me, but I did not write it! I'm not sure if (a) my name inadvertently posted by mistake or (b) someone is trying to steal my identity! If it's (a), please inform your readers that I am not that petty to write a letter criticizing such insignificant little errors; and if it's (b) kindly alert the authorities (or Jack Bauer from "24") and don't accept a credit card with my name on it for next year's POINT subscription! —*Lucky Nelson, Arlington Heights, Illinois*

## PHIL EXPLAINS WHY HE STEPPED DOWN FROM USBGF

I was informed that there was a notice in the "Amalgamation" column of the May

[Continued on page 3]

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



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

\*Denotes new or revised listing

### NATIONAL

*American Backgammon Tour events underlined.*

Jun 4	Portland Club Monthly, Spring Creek Coffee House, Milwaukie, Oregon	503/515-5682
Jun 5	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Jun 6	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jun 6	Cincinnati Club Monthly Tournament, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Jun 6	Ohio State Club Monthly, Brubaker's Pub, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Jun 8	Teakwoods Club Monthly, Teakwoods Tavern, Phoenix, Arizona	480/286-8239
Jun 11-13	Los Angeles Open, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California	818/901-0464
Jun 12	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Jun 12	New England Monthly & Playoffs, Docksie Restaurant, Malden, MA	781/324-0892
Jun 12	Tampa Bay Club Monthly, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/786-9133
Jun 13*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Jun 13*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Jun 13	Pair-O-Dice Monthly Tournament, Lincoln Center Atrium, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Jun 17*	Third Thursday Bonus (Florida), Liquid Sports Bar, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jun 19*	SW Ohio Summer Solstice Tournament, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Jun 20*	Bellingham Monthly, Pacific Martial Arts, Bellingham, Washington	360/733-6173
Jun 27*	Atlanta Northside Monthly, Larry Taylor's Place, Atlanta, Georgia	770/612-0818
Jun 29*	3rd Annual Mayor's Cup Championship, NY Athletic Club, New York, New York	646/420-7262
Jun 30	Michigan Summer Warm-up, Sheraton Hotel, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 2*	Portland Club Monthly, Spring Creek Coffee House, Milwaukie, Oregon	503/515-5682
Jul 1-4	Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton Novi, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 10*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Jul 11*	Cincinnati Club Monthly Tournament, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Jul 11*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Brubaker's Pub, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
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 8*	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Aug 19-22	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 10-12*	New Orleans Sweet 16, Inn on Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana	504/366-7498
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

Jun 4-6	English Open, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Jun 5-6	Istavder Istanbul Championship #13, Green Park Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey	905324-279454
Jun 6	4th Open de Genève, Bar L'Apéritivo, Geneva, Switzerland	4178-7685569
Jun 11-13	Austrian Masters Grand Finale, Montesino, Vienna, Austria	436642-127412
Jun 12-13	TBT: 16th Istanbul Championship/WBF-TR, Merter Gunes Hotel, Turkey	905322-329228
Jun 17-20*	2nd Torneo del Mediterraneo, Hotel Fontane Bianche, Siracusa, Italy	393388-022946
Jun 17-24	ESOB: Zakynthos Festival/BG & Poker, Peligoni Club, Zakynthos, Greece	447946-801801
Jun 19-20	SBTT: Swiss Club Championships/Montreux Open, Switzerland	4179-3584825
Jun 23-27	EBGT: 5th Portuguese Open & Doubles, SANA Hotel, Estoril, Portugal	491715-422222
Jun 26-27	CBT: Bol Backgammon Open 2010, Bol na Bracu, Croatia	38598-456788
Jul 2-4	ESOB: BIBA World Championship, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, UK	441522-888676
Jul 9-11*	1st Menton Open, Casino Barrière de Menton, Menton, France	390331-923537
Jul 11-18	35th World Championship, Fairmont Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA: 212/222-7177
Jul 16-18	Festival of Games 7th Czech Open, CEZ Arena, Pardubice, Czech Republic	420602-222282
Jul 20-25	ESOB: 7th Riviera & Nations Cup, Pullman Mandelieu, Cannes, France	336-75841247
Aug 1-5*	EBGT: 4th Gogi Bukia Memorial & Georgian Open, Tbilisi, Georgia	491715-422222
Aug 6-8	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy, Barceló Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Aug 7-8	TBT: 5th Karadeniz Championship/WBF-TR, Kordon Café, Eregli, Turkey	905332-352555
Aug 20-22*	DATE CHANGE: ESOB: Bristol Open 2010, Artillery Grounds, Bristol, England	447904-546188
Aug 27-29*	Swiss Championships 2010, Casino Barrière, Montreux, Switzerland	4179-3584825
Aug 28-29*	17th Danish Mixed Doubles Championship, River Club, Valby, Denmark	4533-363601
Sep 3-5*	Backgammon in London at BIBA, Barceló Hotel, Hinckley, England	447985-941729
Sep 3-5*	WBGT: 30th Swedish Open, Quality Globe Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden	46708-541362
Sep 11-12*	BBT: 8th Antwerp Open, Café den Bengel, Antwerp, Belgium	32475-256734
Sep 11-12*	Hessen-Cup, Restaurant Stadthalle Bergen, Frankfurt, Germany	491743-397363
Sep 16-19*	5th Sorrento Coast Tournament, Villa Angelina, Sorrento, Italy	39335-221412

# LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

POINT that I had resigned from the USBGF. Let me set the record straight. I stepped down from my chairmanship of the Rules and Ethics and the Education Committees and the Board of Governors largely because my role as a teacher, profiting from giving backgammon lessons, was causing some people to question my motives and to become critical of my efforts to promote

the USBGF.

Because I have no desire to subject myself to personal attacks and negativity, and because I do not want to do anything that could hurt the progress of the USBGF, (an organization I helped form and strongly support), I stepped down. I continue to be an advisor to the Education Committee and I am working very closely with the members of that committee to promote backgammon in the schools and generally in the United States.

I continue to believe the USBGF is the best hope for the future of backgammon in the US, and I will continue to give it my strong support, even though I may not agree with all of the decisions of the Board of Directors or the attitude of many involved.—*Phil Simborg, Chicago, Illinois*

## BPC SUNDAY BACKGAMMON INFO REQUESTED

I am interested in participating in the upcoming Bar Point Club Sunday tournament on Sunday, June 6 at the O'Hare Holiday Inn at noon. Is it possible to send me a document via e-mail containing the official rules, or direct me to a link where the rules are published, for this tournament?

I learned backgammon from my father-in-law whose gameplay is very traditional: no doubling cube, no "hit-and-run" in the opponent's entry spaces, no game is worth more than two points, no time limit, etc. and have never participated in one of your events. I occasionally play backgammon on MSN and the rules used on that website are quite different from the way I was taught to play. I am able to adjust my play to the rules, but I need to know what the rules are.—*Robert Parks, via e-mail*

*We play standard international backgammon rules using the Doubling Cube. You can hit-and-run, you can win a backgammon (worth three points), and although there is no time limit, if a match is delaying the tournament, it will be clocked. You can review standard tournament rules at: [chicagopoint.com/usrules.html](http://chicagopoint.com/usrules.html)*

*We hope to see you at the Sunday event or on some Tuesday night tourney.—Ed.*

[Continued on page 8]



## AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2010

Compiled through 31 May 2010 after 9 tournaments  
(Upcoming events: Los Angeles, Michigan, Minnesota, 1000 Isles)



John O'Hagan	26.67	Prince Barlow	7.20	Joe Russell	4.00	Bob Koca	2.42
Gary Fries	25.20	Rory Pascar	6.93	Gary Schachtschneider	4.00	Daniel Stroberger	2.40
Ed O'Laughlin	18.31	Mike Corbett	6.40	Roz Ferris	3.83	Ben McCracken	2.29
Bob Steen	17.33	Jerry Godsey	6.40	Rick Barabino	3.78	Aaron Foust	2.22
Gary Bauer	16.78	Gregg Cattanach	6.30	Michelin Chabot	3.78	Elli Nache	2.22
David Rubin	16.77	Paul Polatov	6.07	Neil Kazaross	3.67	Richard Stawowy	2.10
Dorn Bishop	16.33	Bob Weigel	5.40	Kit Woolsey	3.67	Adrian Rios	2.10
Patrick Gibson	16.00	Glenn Ramsey	5.17	John Baron	3.60	Larry Taylor	2.00
Jesse Eaton	15.21	Donny Lomuto	5.17	Bob Hickey	3.60	Georgina Flanagan	1.92
Mary Hickey	14.67	Ernest Ho	5.17	Steve Nelson	3.20	Steve Mellen	1.89
Stick Rice	12.83	Carter Mattig	5.04	Barry Silliman	3.15	Dave Kiurski	1.80
Mike Senkiewicz	12.80	Lynda Clay	4.89	Al Faller	3.15	Sybil Sha	1.67
Sean Garber	12.60	Alfred Mamlet	4.83	David Rockwell	3.11	David Shaerf	1.67
Al Hodis	11.23	Mark Andrus	4.50	Garry Kallos	3.04	Randi Sachar	1.52
Paul Weaver	11.00	Jeremy Bagai	4.50	Damian Plesec	3.04	Marcy Kossar	1.52
Patty Geoffroy	10.33	Sergiy Rybiy	4.45	Terry Weiss	2.83	Jason Pack	1.52
Mel Rappaport	10.08	Lynn Ehrlich	4.44	Terry Seymour	2.70	Fred Fado	1.52
Tak Morioka	9.67	Damon Singer	4.44	Rob Reynolds	2.70	Lyle Rubin	1.50
Scott Cole	8.89	Sal Chehayeb	4.38	Pete Mostoufi	2.58	Tom Duggan	1.35
Ray Foglerlund	8.64	Mark Antranikian	4.33	Jesse Jestadt	2.58	Kate Elmore	1.35
Ary Nogueira	8.00	Lucky Nelson	4.33	Ryan Hast	2.58	Lynn Lusk	1.33
Ken Bame	7.67	Faddoul Khoury	4.33	Ed Johnson	2.58	Tom Horton	1.29
Richard Munitz	7.56	Ken Tyszko	4.20	Sheri Peters	2.44	Josh Racko	1.29
Sasan Taher	7.33	Dujuan Meekins	4.20	Michael Flohr	2.42	Charlie Nordlinger	1.29
Greg Cottle	7.33	Tom Wheeler	4.00	Carol Joy Cole	2.42	Johnny Jigamian	1.25



## CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2010 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED THRU 25 MAY

Rory Pascar	13.28	Larry Goldstein	5.64	J. A. Miller	2.76	Wendy Kaplan	1.28
Phil Simborg	12.56	Wayne Wiest	5.44	Serge Bondar	2.56	Lucky Nelson	1.28
Bill Bartholomay	10.56	Georgina Flanagan	5.36	Ken Tibbs	2.32	Alex Aliyev	1.04
Tim Mabee	9.28	Tak Morioka	5.04	Amy Trudeau	2.24	John Spatafora	0.96
Michael Ginat	8.04	Carter Mattig	5.04	Jerry Brooks	2.16	Paul Baraz	0.88
Mike Sutton	8.04	Christopher Shanava	4.80	Alice Kay	2.08	Mihai Pop	0.80
Dave Settles	7.36	David Rockwell	4.56	Peter Kalba	2.04	Stefan Pop	0.72
Julius High	6.80	Mike Minkovski	4.56	Mitch Pomper	2.00	Ken Bond	0.72
Howard Markowitz	6.64	Reginald Porter	4.36	John Gaski	1.92	Richard Pearlman	0.64
Bob Steen	6.64	Mike Peters	3.96	Royal Robinson	1.68	Mark Ostrovsky	0.60
Bill Davis	6.44	Dujuan Meekins	3.20	Scott Casty	1.68	Alex Owen	0.56
Nora Luna Righter	6.40	Steve Klesker	3.04	Adrian Rios	1.60	Linda Rockwell	0.48
Eric Johnson	6.08	Mike Wolock	2.88	Ralf Boettger	1.56	Beth Whitney	0.48
Herb Roman	5.92	Dan Weymouth	2.88	Mark Murray	1.28	Kwong Chan	0.48
Bill Keefe	5.64	Gary Kay	2.84	Shaw Dogan	1.28	Paul Lombardo	0.48
						Mike Pufpaf	0.48

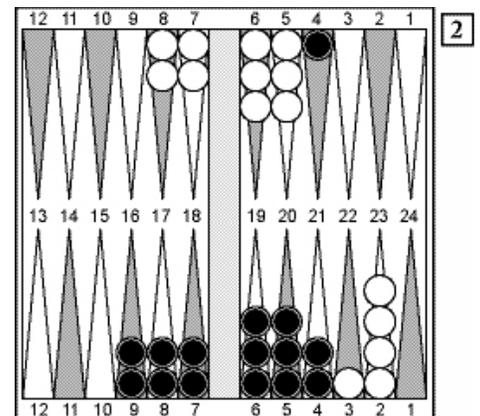
RORY PASCAR scored points in all four May tournaments to capture 3.68 points and May honors. Mike Sutton was 2nd with 2.40. Tied for third with 2.16 were Phil Simborg and Carter Mattig.

your move

## PROBLEM #355

to be analyzed by Jake Jacobs

Money game. BLACK TO PLAY 6-4.



# THE UNAIDED EYE

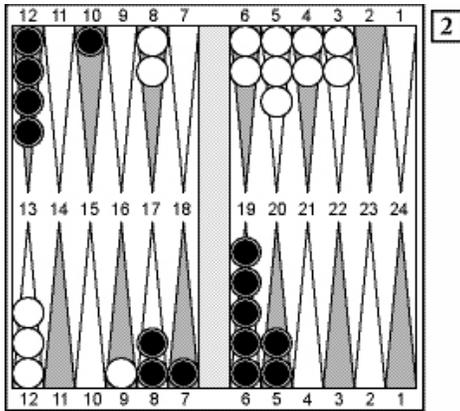


© 2010 by Danny Kleinman

## PLAYING WITH DUCKS

Dear Danny: I faced the challenging set of ducks in the Consolation flight of our weekly event:

5 point match. Black trails White 2 to 4. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-2.**



I completely misread the concept here picking the third best play. I've rolled it out but would love to have your input on how to solve this challenging position "over the board." After the play I made, sign me—*Quackin' Up*

**DEAR DONALD:** The first thing worth noticing in this position is the race, as both

sides have sprung their back men and at present little contact remains. If you let White convert to a pure race, you have little chance to win the game, as you are far behind. So your first priority must be to hit, which gains nine pips in the race and prevents White from breaking contact immediately.

As you will still trail in the race, though not by less than before hitting, a secondary priority for you is preventing the escape of the blot you send back. The best play for that purpose is 13/9\*, 6/4(2), making your 4-point, giving White five additional dancing rolls (4-6, 4-5 and 4-4) and strengthening both your board and your prime (which can grow to a 5-prime if you roll a 6, a 2, 5-3 or 4-4 next).

However, that play, as well as another play that is good for containment, 13/9\*(2), leaves blots and shots (11 return hits in all, the equivalent of a simple direct shot). I would choose 13/9\*, 6/4(2) if White had only three inside points, but not when he has four. Because White's board and prime are already developed and stronger than yours, a return hit will be disastrous. For this reason, I favor the safe 15/9\*/7, a play that doesn't put all your game-winning eggs in one leaky basket. You will have several paths to victory. You can win the race, despite being behind, just by rolling larger numbers than your opponent. You can hit White's blot if he flees to your outer board, or point on the blot if he remains in your home board. You can extend your blockade in either direction.—*Yours, Danny*

## Snowie Rollout Data

6000 cubeless rollouts were run for each play. Parameters were full, 3-ply, precise.

	BLACK			WHITE		
	BGs	Gammons	Wins	Wins	Gammons	BGs
1. 13/9* 6/4(2)	0.3%	8.0%	57.4%	42.6%	18.2%	0.6%
2. 15/9*/7	0.1%	4.5%	60.2%	39.8%	3.0%	0.1%
3. 13/11(2) 11/9*/7	0.2%	5.1%	55.2%	44.8%	9.3%	0.2%

## Danny Kleinman Responds

Looking at some rollout results, I see that 13/9\*, 6/4(2) is slightly superior, despite the slight inferiority of boards, and despite the fact that it wins 2.8% fewer games. Of course this would not be true if gammon losses could harm, as it leads to gammon losses in a whopping 18.2% of all games, and I knew that when I even considered the play. What I overlooked, however, is that making the 4-point increases your chances of winning a gammon, from an almost negligible 4.5% of all games to a substantial though not large 8.0%. At this score, where winning a plain game ties the match but a gammon wins the match outright, increased gammon chances trade one-for-one with increases chances of losing.

The lesson to be learned, for me as well as for you, is that even innocuous-looking positions contain small gammon threats, and that building your board increases those gammon threats significantly.—*DK*

## US OPEN...

*[Continued from page 1]*



Master's Champion  
Jeremy Bagai

who defeated another legend, Rick Barabino (NY). Nash Jost (CA) topped Christian Stoddard (CA) in the Limited Jackpot. Ernest Ho (CA) grabbed the Intermediate title ahead of Pete Mostoufi (CA). And Hsiao-Yee Ballard captured the Beginner title. The

Pro-Am Doubles was a popular event with 16 teams competing. In the end, Carl Blumenstein (CA) & Ted Chee (CA) topped Tom Horton (CA) & Joe Russell (CA).

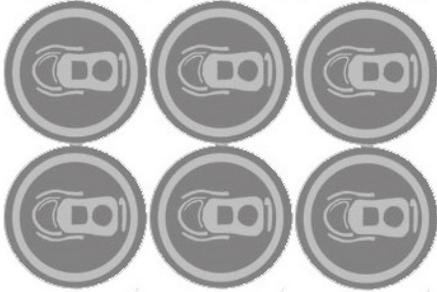
## LOOKING AHEAD

The 2011 US Open is scheduled for Fort Lauderdale, Florida over the King Birthday weekend 14–17 January. That's just five days prior to when Backgammon On Board sails out of Fort Lauderdale (22 January 2011). Chiva also has his eye on another San Francisco event next year as well as the Florida Championship in August and the Mid-Atlantic in October. There is also the possibility that he'll run an event next year in Dallas, Texas. *Results: Δ*

### 2nd US OPEN AND MASTERS JACKPOT

**CHAMPIONSHIP (44):** 1-Mary Hickey (OH), 2-Dorn Bishop (CA), 3/4-Ken Bame (CA)/Al Hodis (NY); 1C-Sasan Taher (CA), 2C-Neil Kazaross (IL); 1LC-Kit Woolsey (CA). **INTERMEDIATE (31):** 1-Ernest Ho (CA), 2-Pete Mostoufi (CA), 3/4-Charlie Nordlinger (CA) / Josh Racko (CA); 1C-Jesse Jestadt (CA), 2C-Tom Horton (CA); 1LC-Daniel Stroberger (WA). **BEGINNER (7):** 1-Hsiao-Yee Ballard (CA), 2-Ken Tibbs (IL), 3-Fernando Corredor (CA). **US MASTERS JACKPOT (16 @ \$1,000):** 1-Jeremy Bagai (CA), 2-Rick Barabino (NY). **LIMITED JACKPOT (16 @ \$250):** 1-Nash Jost (CA), 2-Christian Stoddard (CA). **DMP-KNOCKOUT (64):** 1-Alex Gerding (FL), 2-Al Hodis (NY). **DOUBLES PRO/AM (16):** 1-Carl Blumenstein (CA) & Ted Chee (CA), 2-Tom Horton (CA) & Joe Russell (CA). **SASSANGAMMON FREEROLL (85):** 1-Dale Rose (CA), 2-Neil Kazaross (IL). **\$50 JACKPOT (8):** 1-Josh Racko (CA). **\$100 AFTER TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT (16):** 1-Steve Sax (CA), 2-Nick Maffeo (CA). **FTH BOARD JACKPOT (8):** 1-Carl Blumenstein (CA). **WORLD BACKGAMMON ASSOCIATION SPECIAL AWARD:** José Antonio Torres (Peru).

# Six-Pack



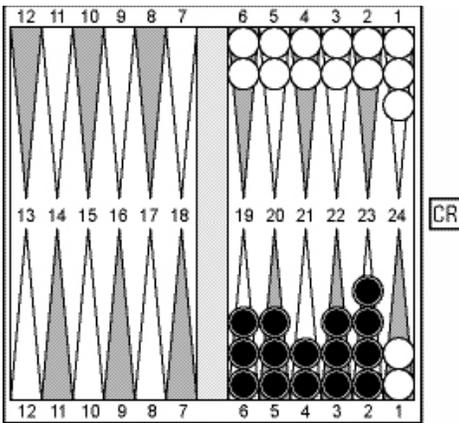
## Bearoff Quiz

By Bill Davis



Shown below is a fairly straight-forward bearoff position for Black:

7 point match. Black trails White 5 to 6 Crawford. **BLACK ON SHAKE.**



So basically, Black wants to win the game, but a match-ending gammon would be best of all. How aggressive is Black supposed to get trying for the gammon?

What follows are six different rolls for Black in the exact same position. You have only 10 minutes to circle the best move for each roll.

Each correct answer is worth one point. There is one question where the correct answer following 3000 full, precise, and cubeless Snowie rollouts is only best by 0.007. In that one instance, the second best answer will be worth 1/2 point.

How well can you do in this 6-pack bearoff quiz? We're betting that only the very top experts will get 4 or higher.

Answers on page 7. Δ

1. Black to play 2-1.
  - a. 3/off
  - b. 5/4, 2/off
  - c. 6/5, 2/off
2. Black to play 2-2.
  - a. 2/off(4)
  - b. 6/2, 2/off(2)
  - c. 6/4, 5/3, 2/off(2)
3. Black to play 3-3.
  - a. 6/off, 5/2, 3/off
  - b. 6/3(3), 3/off
4. Black to play 4-4.
  - a. 6/2(2), 4/off(2)
  - b. 6/2(3), 4/off
5. Black to play 5-2.
  - a. 5/off, 2/off
  - b. 6/4, 5/off
6. Black to play 5/3.
  - a. 5/off, 3/off
  - b. 6/3, 5/off

30th chicago open

## MEMORABLE MEMORIAL WEEKEND FOR TAKI

In order to qualify for this year's Chicago Open playoffs, players needed to win a round-of-8. The event, directed by Howard Markowitz & Rory Pascar, was held 28-31 May at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Rosemont, Illinois. 62 players attended.



Chicago Open #1: Tak Morioka.

Tak Morioka, Chicago's all-time master point leader, qualified on his third attempt, then won four straight matches to add another ABT title to his scrapbook. Tak defeated Stick Rice (OH) in the finals by the lopsided score of 11-1. It was yet another loss for Stick who holds the record for being in

the most ABT finals without ever winning.

Tak said his toughest match was against Carol Joy Cole in the semifinals. Carol and Tak teamed to place second in the Doubles (behind Ed & Austin O'Laughlin).

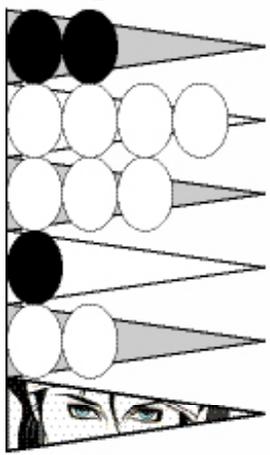
Roz Ferris defeated the Jesse Eaton for the Intermediate title. Jesse's finish gives him 15.21 Intermediate points—probably enough for a top 20 silver coin at year's end.

This year's Chicago Open, although sparsely attended, received positive feedback for the format and the food. Kudos to Rory and Howard for a job well done. Δ

### 30TH CHICAGO OPEN

OPEN (29 + 67 reentries): 1-Tak Morioka (IL), 2-Stick Rice (OH), 3/4-Carol Joy Cole (MI) / Ray Fogerlund (CA); 1C-Alfred Mamlet (MD), 2C-Michael Flohr (IL); 1LC-Bob Koca (MD). INTERMEDIATE (23 + 57 reentries): 1-Roz Ferris (IL), 2-Jesse Eaton (MN), 3/4-Sandra Sha (FL) / Ron Williamson (TX); 1C-Georgina Flanagan, 2C-Joann Feinstein; 1LC-Adrian Rios (IL). NOVICE (10): 1-Sybil Sha (FL), 2-Terry Weiss (IL). CHILDREN'S (6): 1-Sybil Sha (FL), 2-Lyle Rubin (IL). MASTERS (8): 1-Ed O'Laughlin (VA), 2-Alfred Mamlet (MD). LIMITED JACKPOT (16): 1-Lucky Nelson (IL), 2-Kye Hedlund (NC). DOUBLES (16): 1-Ed & Austin O'Laughlin (VA), 2-Carol Joy Cole (MI) & Tak Morioka (IL). SENIORS (32): 1-Carol Joy Cole (MI), Jesse Eaton (MN). BLITZ (40): 1-Mel Rappaport (NY), Bill Bartholomay (IL). AFTER TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT (8): 1-Rory Pascar (IL), Brian Ross (GA).

### Michigan Summer



Backgammon Championships

## TRADITION.

The 4th of July weekend is coming. That means another **Michigan Summer Backgammon Championships**. In this our 35th year, come and spend the holiday weekend with friends!

**July 1-4, 2010**

Wednesday Warm-up June 30

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# BG Peeves

By Larry Liebster



## OCTOGENARIAN

I am an octogenarian.

It has its benefits. In some cities the buses have special seats for us. The movies let us in for less money. There are senior discounts at certain stores. It's like they are saying, "We know you are slowing down and having difficulty moving around, so we will try to make it easier for you to be here. We appreciate and respect you."

Not so in backgammon these days. The powers that be want to "improve" our game—speed it up at any cost. They have introduced clocks and made them mandatory

in a number of divisions including mine.

Clocks change many aspects of backgammon including the handling of dice. I am used to picking them up to end my turn. I have my own dice in money games (which I play a lot of), but in clocked matches, one pair of dice is shared and you end your turn by pushing a button. So I am required to switch back and forth. You say this is easy to learn and do? For younger players, maybe. But I've been doing the same thing for decades, so it is much harder for me.

I have had speedy players request a clock with me, probably to gain an advantage. Sometimes they complicate their movement of checkers to distract me and use up time. I do not mean complicated games. I mean picking both checkers up, holding them, and then positioning and repositioning them. So now I have to shift my concentration away from strategy, pip count, and clock use to remember where the checkers started and see if they were placed correctly. Clock use fosters abuse like this. I guess as we move up the skill ladder, we'll all have to accept this if we want to continue to play tournament backgammon.

I have dined with tournament directors and they all express the same concern: where are the new players going to come from? In my opinion, they should be making it easier to play the game, not more complex.

Sir, what's that you say? You don't know what an octogenarian is? Your mother

tongue is different and this is not in your vocabulary? I commend you for trying to survive in this world, but the powers that be do not want you. English is the official language of backgammon. They have limited access to the game for foreigners, and now they're going after the slower-moving individuals.

In my lifetime, I have seen purification tried before in Nazi Germany. Their goal was the creation of a blond, blue-eyed master race. To reach this end, they eliminated those considered to be the negative parts of their society. Now it's starting in backgammon.

You say, "Why are you making such a fuss?"

At three different tournaments, I have lost matches on time. I have traveled a long distance and paid substantial money only to be disqualified. I have had trouble handling the clocks (there are at least three different types in use, usually requiring a director to set up), picking up (sometimes dropping) both dice, not hitting the clock, and just thinking about my moves.

I am doing my best to adjust; but I also wonder about new players entering the Championship. Will they stay with backgammon, or go to a game that is more accommodating?

I only have about twenty years left to play, and I want tournaments to exist until I leave. With clock use expanding, I'm beginning to have my doubts that the game can draw enough new players to remain viable in the years to come.—Larry Liebster Δ

# New Orleans "Sweet 16" Backgammon Tournament

## September 10–12, 2010 in the heart of the French Quarter.

**Entry fee: \$200. 100% return.**

**Prize money based on 16 entries: \$3200**

*Your perfect opportunity to experience  
the food and tradition that is New Orleans.*

**Register now to reserve one of 16 spaces.**

**For more info: [www.nolabackgammon.org](http://www.nolabackgammon.org)**



## ILLINOIS ACTION



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

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

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON  
at Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615  
N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago.  
773/693-5800.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL 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).

WINNETKA BG 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. Thursday, 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza  
Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Sue Will (309/699-6005).

## SIX PACK BEAROFF QUIZ ANSWERS

[From quiz on page 5]

Here are the rollout results (3000 rollouts each) of the top choices. Give yourself one point for each correct answer and 1/2 point if you selected B as the correct answer for Problem #2.

Three right is decent, four is excellent, and five or more is super-human. Δ

#1. BLACK			WHITE		
BGs	Gammons	Wins	Wins	Gammons	BGs
(C)	6/5 2/off		1.122		
0.4%	12.8%	93.3%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%
(B)	5/4 2/off		1.101 (-0.021)		
0.4%	13.2%	91.9%	8.1%	0.0%	0.0%
(A)	3/off		1.066 (-0.056)		
0.4%	11.4%	91.9%	8.1%	0.0%	0.0%

#2. BLACK			WHITE		
BGs	Gammons	Wins	Wins	Gammons	BGs
(A)	2/off(4)		1.171		
0.8%	17.8%	90.8%	9.2%	0.0%	0.0%
(B)	6/2 2/off(2)		1.164 (-0.007)		
0.5%	15.5%	92.7%	7.3%	0.0%	0.0%
(C)	6/4 5/3 2/off(2)		1.137 (-0.034)		
0.4%	14.6%	92.2%	7.8%	0.0%	0.0%

#3. BLACK			WHITE		
BGs	Gammons	Wins	Wins	Gammons	BGs
(A)	6/off 5/2 3/off		1.031		
0.4%	12.1%	89.5%	10.5%	0.0%	0.0%
(B)	6/3(3) 3/off		0.968 (-0.063)		
0.2%	9.4%	89.0%	11.0%	0.0%	0.0%

#4. BLACK			WHITE		
BGs	Gammons	Wins	Wins	Gammons	BGs
(B)	6/2(3) 4/off		0.339		
0.1%	4.6%	62.3%	37.7%	0.0%	0.0%
(A)	6/2(2) 4/off(2)		0.310 (-0.029)		
0.1%	6.3%	59.2%	40.8%	0.0%	0.0%

#5. BLACK			WHITE		
BGs	Gammons	Wins	Wins	Gammons	BGs
(A)	5/off 2/off		1.088		
0.4%	14.2%	90.2%	9.8%	0.0%	0.0%
(B)	6/4 5/off		1.070 (-0.018)		
0.3%	11.7%	91.8%	8.2%	0.0%	0.0%

#6. BLACK			WHITE		
BGs	Gammons	Wins	Wins	Gammons	BGs
(B)	6/3 5/off		1.010		
0.2%	10.1%	90.4%	9.6%	0.0%	0.0%
(A)	5/off 3/off		0.980 (-0.030)		
0.4%	12.3%	86.6%	13.4%	0.0%	0.0%

## WHO WAS THAT PERSON?

Last month, we showed you this picture from 1978 of Fran Goldfarb with an unknown backgammon player who is on the circuit today.



“I have a suspicion that the player next to Fran Goldfarb is Richard Munitz.” — Patrick Gibson, Van Nuys, CA

“Is that Kit Woolsey in the picture?” — Randy Armstrong, Springfield, IL

In fact the individual pictured is Alan Grunwald (NJ). He hasn't changed a bit, right?



Alan & Joan Grunwald



# AUGUST 19-22, 2010

# Florida

# Championship

# 2010



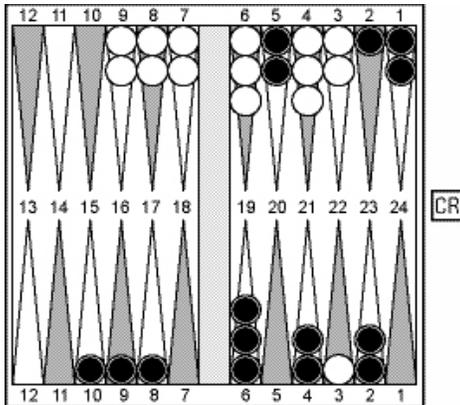



For additional information, please contact:  
[info@world-backgammon-association.com](mailto:info@world-backgammon-association.com) / [www.world-backgammon-association.com](http://www.world-backgammon-association.com)

**PROBLEM #354  
ANALYZED**

by Kit Woolsey

11-point match. Black leads White 10 to 8 Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**



First of all, let's consider the match score and how it might be relevant to Black's choice. Black is ahead 10–8 Crawford. It matters little to Black whether he loses a single game or a gammon. If White wins she will be turning the cube as soon as possible in the following game, so all getting gammoned costs Black is his free drop.

Getting backgammoned, on the other hand, is very serious. Instead of being at DMP, Black loses the match. Consequently, if the decision is otherwise close, Black should be choosing a play which has lower backgammon frequency. While backgammons are rare in any event, they can happen in a position like this.

Given the above analysis, I think it is pretty clear that Black must play 24/23 with the ace regardless of what he does with the 5. Assuming Black winds up with some sort of backgame, he will be sticking around for a last ditch shot as long as possible if there is little extra risk involved. If Black plays a 2-5 backgame and doesn't get an early shot, he will probably be able to safely stay with one or even two checkers on White's 2-point to the bitter end without taking any serious backgammon risk.

It is likely that White will be forced to dump checkers behind the 2-point anchor, and these dead checkers will be good backgammon protection. If Black winds up with a 1-5 backgame, it is another story. Now Black will not be able to stay until the bitter end due to the backgammon danger. Since it's not clear that the 2-5 backgame doesn't generate as many shots as the 1-5 game to begin with, this extra added backgammon danger make the 2-5 structure superior here.

For the 5, there are a couple of choices. The purer play is to slot the 5-point. This is the point Black wants to make the most. It won't matter much if White picks up some more checkers. If anything that might help Black's timing, although Black timing will probably be okay anyway. The other play is to hit loose on the 3-point. While it is unlikely that Black can win frontwards, there is the possibility that White might get jammed in on Black's ace point and be forced to break some of the blockade.

My preference is to slot the 5-point. Even if White is forced to break some of his blockade, that isn't going to help Black all that much. Winning frontwards is pretty impossible. The main danger with hitting loose is that White gets stuck on the bar and Black fails to get his back spare onto the 20-point launching pad in time. If that happens, Black will have to leave the defensive 5-point and be left with just a 2-point game. With White forced to move, White will probably hit one of Black's blots and Black's timing should be secure. 24/23, 10/5 for me.

This is a difficult position. One must look ahead and see what Black is really trying to accomplish here. When the proper goals are realized, the best play can be determined. — Kit Woolsey Δ

**LETTERS...***[Continued from page 3]***UNDERWATER BACKGAMMON**

It's official! So grab your dive gear and book your flights! The 2010 Underwater Backgammon World Championship will take place September 22–25 in Zakynthos, Greece. We chose this idyllic Ionian island because of its magnificent beauty and pristine waters.

We will be working together with the Diver's Paradise dive base [www.diversparadise.gr] during the event. The dive location will depend on weather conditions and will be decided each day before the dive(s).

Each dive will cost 25 euros (if you bring your own equipment). This price includes air tanks, weights and boat trip. Naturally, any and all dive equipment can be rented from the dive base, as needed.

Count on doing at least three to four dives. Advancing to the final rounds of the tournament will naturally require more dives! More fish, more tavlí, more fun!

If you require some tips on lodging, our local contact and owner of Diver's Paradise, Mr. Fanis Nikoloudakis, can be of great assistance.

Of special note: For all you "15 minutes of fame" people out there, the event is planned to be covered by the local (and possibly national) TV stations, as well as possibly the *Discovery Channel* (Canada). So, bring your best Oscar performance and start practicing!

For more information, please go to our website: [www.underwaterbackgammon.com](http://www.underwaterbackgammon.com)

See you in Zakynthos! — *The Underwater Backgammon Team*

**ABT RECORDS PAGE**

Great records page at the ABT website! [chicagopoint.com/abtrecords.html] You have done a great job of picking out lots of significant stats. I enjoyed going thru them all.

More, more, please! Perhaps a current listing that includes all points for 2010 to-date (either as a specific menu item on the ABT page, or even better, by tournament as they are earned throughout the year? I'd like to be able to see the cumulative points for all players earning points in the current year and by tournament, all the points earned in each event. — *Patrick Gibson, Van Nuys, California*

**SIMBORG INTERVIEW OF PETKO**

It was interesting to read Phil Simborg's

online interview with Petko Kostadinov [simborgbackgammonlessons.com/petko]. Especially interesting was Petko's comment that he averages four hours a day playing and/or studying backgammon (and plans to do more when his son graduates from college). Even if I had the talent, that's more time than I can afford to spend.

It really seems to me that there should be separate divisions: one for Masters like Petko and one for simple old Advanced/Open players like myself. Increasingly, I feel that I've really got to get lucky to cash in an Open tournament. Kind of frustrating. — *Bruce Russell, Madison, Wisconsin Δ*

**Here's the deal:**

It's warm now, but this January it will be cold... unless you cruise with us aboard the Crown Princess for **Backgammon & Poker On Board**. Hurry! We need your deposit before **15 Sept. 2010**. For more info, contact Sue Will: 309/699-6005.

Or check out our cruise website: [chicagopoint.com/bg onboard.html](http://chicagopoint.com/bg onboard.html)

**WINNER'S  
CIRCLE**

APR.–MAY 2010

•**New England Club Monthly** (Malden, MA; 10 Apr.)... OPEN (14): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Anne Bidner; 1C-Alex Zamanian, 2C-Marcus Hermansen.

•**XXII European Championship & 7th European Doubles & 9th Velden Backgammon Open** (Velden, Austria; 9-11 Apr.)... MASTERS (40): 1-Eli Roymi (ISR), 2-Tassilo Rzymann (AUS), 3/4-Walter Otto Tragholz (AUS) / Yiorgos Kleitsas (GRE); 1C-Matvey "Falafel" Natanzon (ISR), 2C-Harald Johanni (GER), 3C/4C-Mario Lazzer (AUS) / Tobias Hellwag (GER); 1LC-Kazuhiro Shino (JPN/UK), 2LC-Bob Wachtel (USA). Ladies Prize: Angelina Charakoglou (GRE). CHAMPIONSHIP (31): 1-Ferat Gundogan (TUR/GER), 2-Feza Diyarbekir (TUR), 3/4-Peter Neumann (GER) / Ciprian Radulescu (ROM); 1C-Jack Zybert (ITA), 2C-Günther Holzinger (GER), 3/4-Lorenzo Rusconi (ITA) / Lorenzo Laganà (ITA); 1LC-Stefano Caroli (ITA), 1LC-Markus Kuntaritsch (AUS). Ladies Prize: Andrea Riebler (AUS). INTERMEDIATE (27): 1-Shadi Azizian (ITA), 2-Vasilios Kyrkos (GRE/BEL), 3/4-Cetin Yildirin (TUR/GER) / Annick Hasdenteufel (BEL); 1C-Marius -Corneliu Veres (ROM), 2C-Jakob Garal (UKR/GER), 3C/4C-Remus Calin Ilea (ROM) / Ciprian Emilian Sdrobis (ROM); 1LC-Remus Calin Ilea (ROM), 2LC-Ciprian Emilian Sdrobis (ROM). Ladies Prize: Annick Hasdenteufel (BEL). LADIES TOURNAMENT (8): 1-Kazuko Numazawa (JPN), 2-Seda Koc (TUR), 3/4-Maria Grigis (ITA) / Eve Zizkova (CZE). SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-Vincenzo Riceputi (ITA), 2-Michihito Kageyama (JPN). WARM-UP (65): 1-Stefan Parlow (AUS), 2-Stefan Bobenhausen (GER). SPERTI TROPHY (55): 1-Kristoffer Hötzeneder (AUS), 2-Takis Chatzelis (GRE). ONE POINT MATCH (PRES. TOURNAMENT): Winners: Yiorgos Kleitsas (GRE), Christos Groutsos (GER)

•**Pair-O-Dice Monthly** (New York, NY; 25 Apr.)... OPEN (14): 1-Julian Weinberg, 2-Sergiy Rybiy; 1C-Mel Rappaport. INTERMEDIATE (3): 1-Marci Kossar (CT). BEGINNER (3): 1-Ross Gordon (CT).

•**EBGT: 2nd Cyprus Open** (Nicosia, Cyprus; 6-9 May)... MASTERS (40): 1-Eli Roymi (Israel), 2-Fuat Erdag (Turkey), 3/4-Dragomir Nicolae-Cristinel (Romania)

/ Erhan Yenisen (Turkey); 1C-Jürgen Orłowski (Germany), 2C-Matvey "Falafel" Natanzon (Israel); 1LC-Frank Simon (Germany). INTERMEDIATE (21): 1-Arzu Akincioglu (Turkey), 2-Yavuz Genc (Turkey), 3/4-Ahmet Nar (Turkey) / Seyfi Uslubas (Turkey); 1C-Walter Meuwis (Belgium), 2C-Osman Girgin (Turkey); 1LC-Umut Sari (Turkey). BEGINNERS (10): 1-Handan Erdag (Turkey), 2-Kamil Karaal (Turkey), 3-Özlem Gamze-Demirkol (Turkey). SUPER-JACKPOT (8): 1-Tassilo Rzymann (Austria). PRESIDENT'S TOURNEY (64): 1-Caglar Erdogan (Turkey), 2-Yalkin Erk (Turkey). DOUBLES PRO/AM #1 (16 teams): 1-Matvey "Falafel" Natanzon (Israel) & Sabri Büyüksoy (Turkey). #2 (8 teams): 1-Volker Sonnabend (Germany) & Hisar Uyar (Turkey). LONG-DISTANCE AWARD: Matt Cohn-Geier (USA). NICEST LOSER AWARD: Halvor Losnedahl (Norway). WBA SPECIAL AWARDS: Mustafa Altuntas (Turkey), Hilmi Göçhan (Turkey), Peter Wiklund (bwin), Kutlu Kaya (Turkey), Fuat Erdag (Turkey).

•**Portland Club Monthly** (Milwaukie, OR; 7 May)... OPEN (17): 1-Reid R.; 1C-Marty D'Alexander.

•**County Cups Trophy** (Hinckley Island, England; 7-9 May)... OPEN (32): 1-Gerry Enslin, 2-Rachel Rhodes; 1C-Chris Terne, 2C-Daniel Tutchings. FRIDAY 500 (11): 1-Mardi Ohannessian, 2-Nicky Check. POKER (10): 1-Dan Tutchings, 2-Andy Darby. TEAM (6): 1-Brian Metcalf, 2-Michelle Ford.

•**Backgammon by The Bay** (Berkeley, CA; 8 May)... OPEN (14): 1-Jeremy Bagai, 2-Carl Blumenstein; 1C/2C-Cheryl Andersen / Nash Jost. INTERMEDIATE (4): 1/2-Adam Bronstein / Fernando Corredor. BEGINNER (4): 1-Michelle Andersen.

•**Northwest Indiana Club Monthly** (Porter, IN; 8 May)... OPEN: 1-John O'Hagan, 2-Charlie Halberstadt.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 16 May)... OPEN (8): 1/2-Alan Martin / Danielle Bastarache.

•**Backgammon by The Bay** (Cupertino, CA; 22 May)... OPEN (7): 1-Ted Chee, 2-Mark Antranikian; 1C-Ken Bame. BEG./INT. (4): 1-Tim Wong, 2-Marty Podesta.

•**Pair-O-Dice Monthly** (New York, NY; 23 May)... OPEN (14): 1-Alan Grunwald (NJ), 2-Sergiy Rybiy; 1C-Victor Ashkanazi. INTERMEDIATE (3): 1-Marci Kossar (CT). BEGINNER (5): 1-Barren Barber. Δ

**AMALGAMATION**

Thanks to **David Rockwell** and **Tim Mabee** for helping to run the Bar Point Club tournament during my illness May 4 and May 11... **David Rockwell** has been diagnosed with Avascular Necrosis of the foot. We wish him the best with this serious affliction... **Eric Johnson** is recuperating following successful double bypass heart surgery... The Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act (UIGEA) goes into effect 1 June. If you are currently gambling online illegally, chances are that very little will change regarding enforcement... How do **Carter & Christina Mattig** get tickets for nearly every Hawks playoff and Stanley Cup game?... **Leonardo DiCaprio** playing backgammon in West Hollywood 8 May while watching the Los Angeles Lakers semifinals on a big screen TV... Long time Chicago players will remember **Dick McCall** (NV) who passed away 17 April at the age of 89. Dick, moved from Chicago to Las Vegas in 1994 and became a regular of the Las Vegas Backgammon Club. **Mike Wolock** remembers Chicago Gaslight Club chouettes with Dick, **Fred Chamanara**, **Darrell Marcus**, and **Bill Bartholomay** in the early 1980s... **Perry Gartner** replaces **Rod Covlin** as Executive Director of the United States Backgammon Federation... Take note: the USBGF is compiling won/loss records back to May 2009 of all main event and jackpot matches played at ABT tournaments? USBGF will maintain these records for their private use. We're told that you will be able to see your own record if you buy a USBGF membership fee... Do you have a spare £22,500 (about \$44,000)? chrisbeetles.com is selling **Thomas Rowlandson's** classic "A Hit At Backgammon" for that price... A Georgian woman who will turn 130 this summer is making a claim to be the oldest person in the world. **Antisa Khvichava** has birth documents dating back to 8 July 1880. According to the sifynews story, Khvichava spends her time playing backgammon and drinking vodka... Congrats to **Phil Simborg** who ran a 15-player Kid's Tourney at the Parthenon restaurant in Chicago May 10... A new chess clock for the iPhone is out and you can get rid of all the other ones. Merkmatics Chess Clock is perfect for backgammon and best of all, it's free... **Nik Johnson** writes in his 20 May "Heckler Spray" Internet column: "Does anyone other than 60-year-old alcoholics that have lived in pubs since the 70s know how to play backgammon? Hasn't the generation that liked backgammon long since died off?" Ouch!... Returning to Chicago from Florida: **Ken Bond & Mark Ostrovsky**... Backgammon/Poker great **Gus Hansen** was blinded out at an April €25,000 European Poker Tour event. Why? Apparently because he blew off the poker tourney for the chance to play backgammon with a very wealthy Russian gambler in Monte Carlo. It's rumored that €2,000,000 was the prize. Δ

# 23 – 27 JUNE 2010



Qualify for the  
EBGT Grand Finale



Grand Finale  
prize-pool  
**20,000 €**

## 5<sup>th</sup> Portuguese Backgammon Open & Davis Doubles

For pre-registration and additional info:  
[info@world-backgammon-association.com](mailto:info@world-backgammon-association.com)  
[www.world-backgammon-association.com](http://www.world-backgammon-association.com)



## 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2010

## 4<sup>th</sup> "Gogi Bukia Memorial" Georgian Open



Qualify for the  
EBGT Grand Finale

Grand Finale prize-pool  
**20,000 €**

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