

michigan summer championships

FOGERLUND BREAKS ABT RECORD IN MICHIGAN



With ABT wins in Pittsburgh and Michigan, Ray Fogellund looks unstoppable in 2011.

We are barely half way through with 2011 and Ray Fogellund (NV) has shattered Neil Kazaross's 2005 record of 73.22 points in a single season. By beating the undefeated Gary Bauer twice in the true double elimination format at the Michigan Summer Championships, Ray wins his second ABT title of the year

and brings his 2011 point total up to an incredible 82.08 points. That's a 44 point lead over his nearest competitor Harvey Gillis and that is amazing.

Carol Joy Cole's annual summer bash, held 1-4 July at the Sheraton Novi drew 180 players including 151 in the main events.

Ray lost his first match to Claude Landry and then ran off eight straight matches to meet the undefeated Gary Bauer who had defeated last year's Open champ Kit Woolsey in the undefeated final match.

In the finals, broadcast on Ustream.tv with Ben Friesen's (MI) high quality equipment, the dapper Mr. Fogelrund held off Gary in the first match and went on to win the second match 11-7. Now the only question remains: Can Ray Fogelrund top 100 points this year?

In the Michigan Masters, Chicago Bar Point Club's David Rockwell defeated Alfred Mamlet, Petko Kostadinov, and Ray Fogelrund to face the always tough Mike Senkiewicz (NY). But that was where David's run ended. Senk prevailed 11-2 in a lopsided victory.

Congratulations to other winners: Garry



It was Mike Senkiewicz (L) over David Rockwell in the Michigan Masters.

Kallos (Canada) in the Intermediate, Glenn Chee (CA) in the Novice, Alan Grunwald & Alfred Mamlet in the Open Doubles, and Jesse Eaton (MN) in the 'Sandy Kaplan Seniors' event.

The entire tournament was a first, covered from top to bottom at facebook.com/AmericanBackgammonTour including Calcutta sheets, drawsheets, key matchups, and people pix. Watch for similar Facebook coverage at the Minnesota Open 22-24 July.

As usual, it was a lot of Summer fun in Novi. Thanks to Carol Joy Cole and staff for a great event.

[Tournament results are on page 5]

CHICAGO POINT TO CEASE NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

In January 2012, after nearly 24 years and 236 issues, CHICAGO POINT will publish its last newsletter. Subscriptions are falling off monthly and the future of printed matter is bleak. We believe that modern backgammon will be better served if we take our publication online. Following Issue 236, you'll find all of your favorite features plus up-to-the-minute news at www.chicagopoint.com. Public access to all online material will be *totally free*.

And don't worry: subscribers who have supported us over the years, will receive a rebate of \$2.50/issue (\$3/issue overseas) for subscriptions going past issue 236.

It has been a great run with printed matter; but now we want to offer our readers fresh material and that can only be accomplished utilizing today's technology.

So 2012 won't be the end of anything. Consider it a new and exciting beginning for CHICAGO POINT. —Bill Davis, Editor Δ

SUMMER BACKGAMMON BOOT CAMP



Eleven girls at the Dominican Sisters Trinity Summer Day Camp participated in 4-day "Backgammon Boot Camp" in River Forest, IL. The class was run by USBGF Education Advisor Phil Simborg with help from Rory Pascar, Wayne Wiest, and Russ Lyutik. Δ

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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RIP GREG TOMLIN

I received your June Chicago Point yesterday and was very surprised and saddened to learn of the death of Greg Tomlin. I thought well of Greg and enjoyed seeing and talking with him at your past MBC tournaments. Very sad to see a sudden end to a relatively young, vibrant person's life.

R.I.P. Greg. — *Jim Opre, Downers Grove, Illinois*

I was shocked and saddened to read of the sudden death of Greg Tomlin. I always found him to be so warm, friendly, and personable. It made me so sad to realize that he died alone and that no one was aware of what had happened to him for a week. I felt that he was a real asset to the backgammon community and that he will be missed. — *Trudie Chibnik, director, Winnetka (IL) Backgammon Club*

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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26	27	28	29	30
31				

by Carol Joy Cole
810/232-9731
cjc@flintbg.com

*Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Jul 21	Flint Third Thursday Bonus (Florida), Sharky's Sports Bar, Burton, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 23*	Backgammon By the Bay, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Jul 22-24	16th Minnesota Open, Courtyard by Marriott, Bloomington, Minnesota	612/718-2613
Jul 23-24	Summer Cooker, Steve Hast's residence, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	412/823-7500
Jul 30	Cincinnati Club BarbeCube VI, Pete Carcieri's residence, West Chester, Ohio	513/807-6926
Aug 6	6th Annual Summer Sizzler, Fiesta Ranchera, Bloomington, Illinois	309/662-7967
Aug 7	Ohio State Sunday Monthly, Brubaker's Pub, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Aug 7	Chicago Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Ruby Tuesday, Skokie, Illinois	773/583-6464
Aug 7*	Ohio State Sunday Monthly, Brubaker's Pub, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Aug 9*	Arizona Club Monthly, Teakwoods Tavern & Grill, Phoenix, Arizona	602/762-2288
Aug 13*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Aug 13*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Aug 13*	Tampa Bay Club Monthly, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/743-0500
Aug 14*	Cincinnati Club Monthly, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Aug 14*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Aug 18*	Flint Third Thursday Bonus (Wisconsin), Sharky's Sports Bar, Burton, Michigan	810/232-9731
Aug 19-21	Florida Championship, Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Aug 20*	Backgammon By the Bay, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Aug 27*	Kansas City Summer Tournament, Westport Flea Market, Kansas City, Missouri	913/706-1125
Sept 2-5	Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson, Madison, Wisconsin	608/354-7573
Sept 10*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Sept 10*	Tampa Bay Club Monthly, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/743-0500
Sept 11*	Cincinnati Club Monthly, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Sept 11*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Sept 11*	Ohio State Sunday Monthly, Brubaker's Pub, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Sept 13*	Arizona Club Monthly, Teakwoods Tavern & Grill, Phoenix, Arizona	602/762-2288
Sept 14*	Flint Third Thursday Bonus (Illinois), Sharky's Sports Bar, Burton, Michigan	810/232-9731
Sept 17	3rd Anti-Cruelty Society Invitational, The Drake Hotel, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Sept 30-Oct 2	Colorado State Championships, Hilton Garden Inn Airport, Aurora, Colorado	303/916-5170
Oct 14-16	Illinois State Championships, Grand Hotel, Peoria, Illinois	847/677-6852
Oct 21-23	3rd New Orleans "Sweet 16," Inn on Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana	504/366-7498
Nov 9-13	Las Vegas Open, Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/218-8238
Dec 2-4	California State Championship, Four Points-LAX, Los Angeles, California	818/901-0464
Dec 16-18	Sunshine State Classic, Hampton Inn & Suites, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/743-0500

OUTSIDE USA

Jul 15-17	Festival of Games 8th Czech Open, CEZ Arena, Pardubice, Czech Republic	420602-22282
Jul 15-23	36th World Championship & Monte Carlo Open, Fairmont Hotel, Monaco	USA: 702/218-8238
Jul 24*	Toronto Tournament, Maple Leaf Sports Bar, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	647/207-9342
Jul 30-31	BBT: 16th Liverpool Open, Liverpool Bridge Club, Liverpool, England	447931-553829
Jul 30-31	TBT: 6th Kdz. Eregli Championship/WBF-TR, Romantique Café, Turkey	905322-329228
Jul 30-31*	Bergen Bymesterskap/Spillfestival, Togallmenningen, Bergen, Norway	47920-27713
Aug 1-5	65/EBGT Gogi Bukia Geo Open, Oasis, Batumi, Geo	info@world-backgammon-association.com
Aug 5-7	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Aug 18-21*	Backgammon on the Beach, Grado Beach, Gorizia, Italy	390331-923537
Aug 19-21	NBT: 31st Swedish Open, Quality Globe, Stockholm, Sweden	46708-541362
Aug 27-28*	18th Danish Mixed Doubles Championship, River Club, Valby, Denmark	4531-392791
Aug 31-Sept 4*	20th Mitteleuropa Championship, Grand Casino Baden, Baden, Austria	390331-923537
Sept 2-4	BBT: Barceló Cup, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	447985-941729
Sept 3*	Nations Cup Team Tournament, via GridGammon.com http://dubrovnik.apbg.net/index.php	
Sept 10-11	CBT: Mostar Backgammon Open 2011, Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina	38763-791340
Sept 10-11	Hessen-Cup Finale, Restaurant Stadthalle Bergen, Frankfurt, Germany	491743-397363
Sept 10-11*	8th Antwerp Open, Café den Bengel, Antwerp, Belgium	32475-256734
Sept 10-11*	Play65/EBGT: 15th Istanbul Open, Hotel Bostanci, Istanbul, Turkey	905324279454
Sept 16-18	TBT: 6th Bodrum Open/WBF-TR, Delfi Hotel, Bodrum, Turkey	905322-329228
Sept 23-25	Play65/EBGT: Swiss Open, Casino Barrière, Montreux, Switzerland	4179-3584825
Sept 24-25*	Danish Doubles Championship 2011, River Club, Valby, Denmark	4531-392791
Sept 28-Oct 2*	Austrian Open/Italian Championship, Hotel Veronika, Seefeld, Austria	390331-923537
Sept 30-Oct 2	International Black Sea Tournament, Grand Hotel, Pomorie, Bulgaria	359899-619219
Sept 30-Oct 3	3rd German Championship, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	497152-3593466
Oct. 7-9	Play65/EBGT: 2nd Mallorca Challenge, Marriott, Lluçmajor, Mallorca	4917154-22222
Oct. 7-9	Sandy Osborne Memorial, Barceló Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Oct. 8-10	17th Japan Open, Shidax Hall, Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan	817055-775016
Oct. 14-16	6th Milano Open, Castello di Carimate, Carimate near Como, Italy	393474-330340
Oct 21-23*	19th Irish Open, Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Ireland	353872-144270
Nov 4-6*	Townharbour Trophy, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2011

Top 148 through 4 July 2011 after 12 tournaments
(Upcoming events: Minnesota Open, Florida State, Wisconsin State)



Ray Fogerlund	82.08	Bill Davis	6.42	Gary Fries	3.20	Jacques Trividic	1.81
Harvey Gillis	37.76	Bill Calton	6.40	Mark Gordon	3.20	Ron Bruns	1.81
Chuck Bower	25.78	Alfred Mamlet	6.40	Grant Schneider	3.20	Russ Rosen	1.81
Neil Kazaross	23.53	Mike Corbett	6.40	Mario Sequeira	3.20	Lynn Lusk	1.81
Bob Koca	17.39	Lee Genud	6.40	Faddoul Khoury	3.17	Juan Rospigliosi	1.80
Bill Robertie	15.70	Felix Yen	6.33	Dmitriy Obukhov	3.11	Lyle Rubin	1.80
Herb Gurland	15.70	David Rubin	6.22	Sandra Sha	3.10	Scotty Kelland	1.75
Garry Kallos	14.24	Homer Hector	6.10	David Levy	3.10	Jeff Fischer	1.75
Greg Merriman	13.72	John Quinn	5.45	Justin Nunez	3.10	Kyle Wittles	1.67
Carol Joy Cole	13.67	Prince Barlow	5.45	Brandon Macklin	3.06	Debra Oles Campbell	1.67
Gregg Cattanach	13.56	Lucas Bauer	5.42	Mark Ferrin	2.90	Larry Shiller	1.67
Bob Glass	12.89	Jonathan Leusden	5.33	Leslie Lockett	2.73	Glenn Chee	1.67
Dennis Culppepper	12.80	Gus Contos	5.01	Walt Smith	2.73	Fred Kamgar	1.52
Mary Hickey	12.80	Karen Davis	5.00	Bob Goldstein	2.67	Sybil Sha	1.50
Gary Bauer	12.67	Neal Weiner	4.46	Jeremy Moulton	2.60	Nicholas Dale	1.45
Jason Lee	12.67	Brian Scorben	4.46	Bill Kaludis	2.60	David Dows	1.45
Odis Chenault	12.53	Kathleen Davis	4.42	Stuart Thomson	2.50	Ken Braithwaite	1.36
John O'Hagan	12.44	Frank DiMaggio	4.33	Vadim Musaeilyan	2.50	Mike Rezaei	1.36
Ralf Jonas	12.40	Tak Morioka	4.33	Joan Grunwald	2.41	Kate Elmore	1.30
Ed O'Laughlin	11.34	Rory Pascar	4.23	Richie Adams	2.23	Gary Domenickine	1.25
Ben Friesen	10.86	Eden Windish	4.10	Bob Hickey	2.23	Mike Valentino	1.13
Stewart Pemberton	10.59	Daniel Barabas	4.10	Alex Gerding	2.23	Gerard Jendras	1.12
Ramez Abi-Akar	9.42	Larry Taylor	3.93	Erik Sawyer	2.11	Ben Fleurant	1.12
Cliff Mayoh	8.92	Mike Senkiewicz	3.93	Matt Cohn-Geier	2.11	Early Gardner	1.06
Allen Tish	8.67	Patrick Gibson	3.93	Roman Abramovsky	2.10	Janet Genter	1.06
Masayuki Mochizuki	8.55	Kent Goulding	3.93	Mike Vasilatos	2.05	Brandy Thorward	1.05
Art Benjamin	8.46	Eduardo Maciel	3.93	Robert Lessard	2.05	Rochelle Hasson	1.05
Josh Racko	8.04	Nan Feiber	3.83	Omair Dessouky	1.96	Irina Litzenberger	1.05
Rachel Rhodes	7.85	Oleg Raygorodsky	3.83	Bill Riles	1.96	Spencer Chen	0.91
David Shadi	7.85	Frank Ley	3.63	Brent Cohen	1.96	Alex Eshaghian	0.91
Norm Wiggins	7.85	John Calcott	3.63	Malcolm Davis	1.96	Patti Rubin	0.91
Al Hodis	7.85	Vicki Ondis	3.63	Mark Antranikian	1.96	Evan Etter	0.91
Petko Kostadinov	7.55	Murray Bryntesen	3.60	Molly Anderson	1.96	Susan Randall	0.90
Tim Lawless	7.26	Georgina Flanagan	3.50	Mike Minkovski	1.92	Garrett Smith	0.89
Jake Burak	7.25	Robert Sisselman	3.33	Tom Duggan	1.92	Alex Gerding	0.83
Kit Woolsey	7.10	Michihito Kageyama	3.22	Kathy Weiner	1.88	Keith Gershenson	0.83
Peggy Neubig	6.67	Steve Nelson	3.22	Robert Ring	1.81	Blaine McClendon	0.83

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

'OBEDIENT' COMMENTS

Your article on obedience to computers was right on target. I agree with you that the game should be a war of wits, not a contest to see who can memorize the most computer suggestions.

I find it a great challenge to match wits against players who have memorized hundreds or thousands of computer suggestions. In such games I will sometimes make moves that I know the computers do not make and which are a bit risky. Because of this, my opponents may not know how to respond. If they make a blunder or get bad dice on the next roll, my unpredictability becomes dangerous to them.

Alternatively, if my opponent gets great opening dice and I find myself way behind in the race after two or three rolls, I often go into an extreme backgame that few computers play perfectly. In this game, I try to get three anchors in my opponent's home, if possible, with 11-12 checkers back.

I did this in a chouette in the first New Orleans Sweet 16 Tournament and the table watched in amazement as I patiently started to build my own board with only three checkers. Later, I had 10 checkers in my opponent's home. With my five soldiers, I had built my 5- and 6-points with one soldier to spare. Then I hit a blot. That blot never returned to my opponent's home. My remaining 10 checkers hit it again and again. Eventually, I closed my board and won the bear off. James Bray said he never

[Continued on page 5]



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2011 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 5 JULY

Rory Pascar	23.76	Christopher Shanava	5.60	Jeff Fischer	2.92	Mark Murray	0.96
Carter Mattig	17.96	Linda Rockwell	5.20	Tim Mabee	2.56	Matt Cohn-Geier	0.88
Herb Roman	15.04	Joann Feinstein	5.00	Dan Weymouth	2.40	Richard Stawowy	0.72
Larry Goldstein	13.76	Tobias Hellwag	4.76	Wendy Kaplan	2.32	Kit Woolsey	0.72
Phil Simborg	11.84	Bill Keefe	4.68	Allen Tish	2.16	Mike Peters	0.68
Bob Steen	10.56	Tak Morioka	4.48	Amy Trudeau	2.08	Guseyn Aliyev	0.68
David Rockwell	10.32	Howard Markowitz	4.16	Kerem Taskin	1.88	Tom Harrison	0.64
Nora Luna Righter	10.08	Dujuan Meekins	4.00	Warren Barnes	1.60	Scott Richardson	0.64
Mike Wolock	9.96	Jerry Brooks	3.92	Mike Minkovski	1.60	Les Moshinsky	0.56
Lucky Nelson	9.84	David Rubin	3.76	Roger Hickman	1.52	Gary Kay	0.56
Bill Davis	9.44	Adrian Rios	3.68	Terry Weiss	1.44	David Nosik	0.48
Steve Klesker	7.92	Ken Bond	3.60	Bob Zavoral	1.36	Dave Settles	0.48
Alex Owen	7.08	Wayne Wiest	3.48	Alice Kay	1.28	Beth Whitney	0.48
Bill Bartholomay	6.84	Serge Bondar	3.36	Steve Bock	1.20	Mike Valentino	0.40
Mike Sutton	6.72	Peter Kalba	3.36	Mitch Pomper	1.12	Mark Ostrovsky	0.40
Leslie Lockett	6.40	Russell Head	3.12	Mochy Mochizuki	1.08	Kit Cabello	0.40
Russ Lyutik	6.08	Kevin Berg	3.08	Eric Johnson	1.04	Roland Dieter	0.24
				Vladimir Pekler	0.96	Jesse Anderson-Lehman	0.16

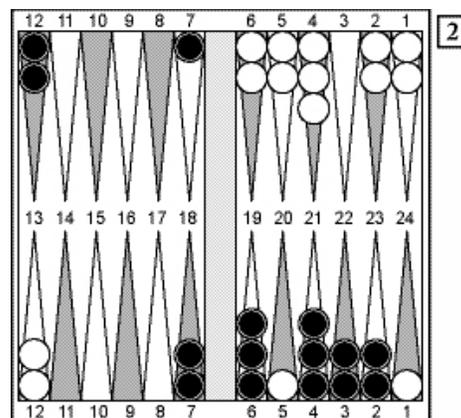
PHIL SIMBORG's 5.16 points edged out Larry Goldstein (4.80) and Rory Pascar (4.24) to earn June Bar Point Club Player of the Month honors.

your move

PROBLEM #366

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

9 point match. Black leads White 5 to 3.
BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.



ASK DANNY

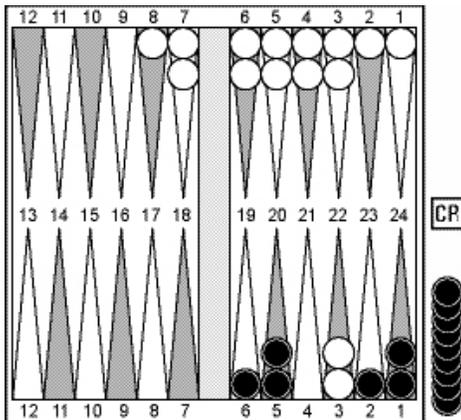


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WHY IS IT SO?

Dear Danny: In this tournament end-game, I had a tricky 6-1 to play.

5 point match. White leads Black 4 to 3, Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.**



I was afraid of leaving two blots, so I moved 6/off, 2/1. A 3600 eXtreme Gammon rollout shows the best play to be 6/5, 5/off.

What is going on here, Danny? I can see that with my play, 2-1 would leave two blots whereas XGs play doesn't. But with the XG play, 3-2 leaves two blots and my play doesn't! Your opinion on this one would be greatly appreciated.—Very Puzzled

DEAR PUZZLED: The two plays are not equal, despite the fact that each incurs a 1-in-18 risk of leaving two blots on the next roll.

The key to this play lies in the usefulness of keeping a man on the 2-point: you can use a 2 next turn to bear a man off.

Compare the two double-blotting positions after each play. After 6/off, 2/1, a roll of 2-1 next requires you to move 5/2, and

remain with five men left. After 6/5, 5/off, a roll of 3-2 next requires you to move 5/off, and remain with four men left.

Compare the two single-blotting positions after each play. After 6/off, 2/1, rolls of 6-2 and 5-2 next let you bear one man off, but after 6/5, 5/off, rolls of 6-2 and 5-2 next let you bear two men off. After 6/off, 2/1, a roll of 4-2 next does not let you bear a man off, but after 6/5, 5/off, a roll of 4-2 next let you bear a man off.

In each case, the extra man off enables you to salvage more of the games in which you get hit as well as to win (slightly) more gammons.—Yours, Danny

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

la open/usbgf invitational

ROUSING SUCCESS AT THE LA OPEN/USBGF INVITATIONAL

By Karen Davis

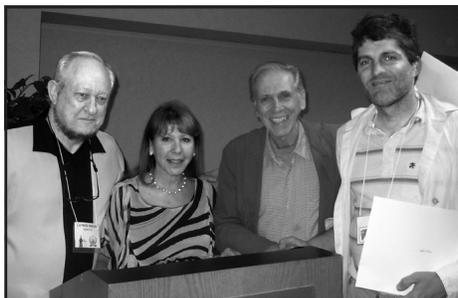
The United States Backgammon Federation (USBGF) and Gammon Associates put on a spectacular show in Los Angeles, June 9-12, 2011 with a dazzling array of exciting backgammon events. The turnout broke records for 2011 backgammon tournaments, with 288 entries (including 178 reentries) in the USBGF National Championship and over 120 L.A. Open participants.



Harvey Gillis (R) rolls it home at DMP vs. Ray Fogelrund to win the L.A. Open. [Photo by Patrick Gibson]

Events held throughout the weekend included the Tournament of the Stars, the USBGF National Championships, the World Giants' Challenge Quiz, and an

awards banquet with Master of Ceremonies Mike Corbett (FL)—all hosted by the U.S. Backgammon Federation and codirected by Patrick Gibson (CA) and Lynn Ehrlich (NY). Gammon Associates events featured the L.A. Open (including Advanced and Limited divisions) as well as the Super 48 Jackpot and Paul Dingwell Amateur Jackpot tournaments.



L.A. Open/USBGF codirectors Patrick Gibson and Lynn Ehrlich with USBGF Tournament of Stars doubles champs Perry Gartner & Bob Koca. [Photo by Karen Davis]

The Tournament of Stars doubles event paired Giants of Backgammon and Backgammon Celebrities including noted backgammon author Danny Kleinman (CA) and 1981 World Champion Lee Genud (FL) with USBGF Founding Sponsors who provided the seed-capital to launch the organization a year ago. Giant Bob Koca (MD) and USBGF President/Executive Director Perry Gartner (FL) finished first out of 19 teams, with Bob Glass (CA) and Russell Sands (FL), 1980 World Amateur Champion coming in second.

The USBGF National Championship began with 36 Playoff qualifying brackets of 8. The finals for the National Championship were a replay of the 2011 CSI finals



The USBGF 2011 National Champion: Neil Kazaross.

between Carol Joy Cole (MI) and Neil Kazaross (IL). Despite a valiant effort by Carol, Neil again emerged victorious.

The weekend included the first-ever World Giant's Challenge Quiz with 16 problems composed by Giants of Backgammon, analyzed with extensive rollouts by Neil Kazaross. Falafel Natanzon from Israel racked up the winning score out of 104 Giants, experts, and players in five countries who took the Quiz simultaneously—including participants in Denmark, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Many matches were streamed live on U-Stream and bracket results reported on Matt Reklaitis's (MA) GamerCafe website as they occurred, all thanks to the excellent work of Rynell Nunez (CA). It was one of the best reported backgammon tournaments ever. [RESULTS ON PAGE 9]—Karen Davis, Chairman & Treasurer, USBGF Δ



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Find a direct link to the page at the top of www.chicagopoint.com

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

saw anything like it. I don't think many computers play a backgame that way.

Some players want to mimic computer moves more than anything and some want to win more than anything. Then there is a third group that enjoys a challenge more than anything. I am in that group, which is why you will never see me studying computer recommendations. I don't mind losing if I have fun and get my jollies off confronting a challenge. Like the man said: "It takes all kinds."—*Mike Weinberger, New Orleans, Louisiana*

In "Obedient to the eXtreme," you mention that those who play best have the best ER. Not true, they have the best PR (performance rating) which is the new standard set by eXtreme Gammon. It is a slightly different (better) measurement of skill.

The basic argument of your article seems to suggest that blindly trying to make the very best play is not necessarily the best way to win tournaments. There is only one major problem with your contention: facts. The facts prove, without question, that the player who plays best wins most, and that totally destroys your argument. And the facts also prove that the best plays are the ones that the computer recommends.

Why am I taking the time to refute your premise? Because I think it would be a shame if players out there got the wrong impression. I teach backgammon for a living, and there is only one reason for anyone to take lessons, read books and articles, practice and study: to make better plays and cube decisions. I believe it is sending a wrong message to instill the thought that there are times when players should "go with their gut" and make a play the think might not be the best play but they have a good feeling about it—or because they have "hot dice" they should take more chances. This flies in the face of logic, pragmatism, and the facts.

There is a reason we try to play like the bots: they're right! And we will win more. Any other approach is provably wrong. If you like using intuition and hunches, I recommend the Ouija board, not the backgammon board.—*Phil Simborg, USBGF Education Advisor, Chicago, Illinois*

Thanks for the "Obedient to the Extreme" article. For several days before and after reading your article, I was percolating on

how much I should "learn" from Snowie and XG. I do find these programs useful for studying my game and finding weaknesses to work on, BUT there seems to be a couple of weaknesses in the bots and I believe I need to think independently of them, especially for cube decisions AND the fact that I beat XG and Snowie around 65 % of the time when playing heads up.

Great article!—*Steve "Independent thinker, not a bot" Hast, Pittsburgh, PA*

I read your "Obedient" article and agree with it 100%.—*Elayne Feinstein, Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

There is no doubt the bots are formidable opponents. In a long series of games, they are probably the best players around. Are they flawless? Hardly. Try putting 10 or 15 checkers back versus 10 or 15 checkers back and see how they do. In many positions, I would wager a consortium of ten great players would all agree that some of their plays are pretty weak. I find they tend to look for root numbers thinking they will gain a lot with certain opponent rolls, giving up large positional advantages.

So if they make clear errors in extremely complicated positions how can we have confidence in their analysis of normally complicated positions? Computers have a ways to go before they are true top players in all positions.

Go carbon forms!—*Rich Siebold, Boulder, Colorado*

DOES NACKGAMMON QUALIFY?

Hypothetically, I was wondering if I ran an event where the main tournament was Nackgammon (or Hypergammon, or any other variant of regular backgammon), would it be eligible to be certified as an ABT event?—*Stick Rice, Columbus, Ohio*

Sorry Stick, but no. It's the American Backgammon Tour, not the American Nackgammon Tour!—Ed.

ADDRESS CORRECTION

I guess I was more tired than I realized when I sent you Gary and my address. It is 24318 La Rochelle Place, Murrieta, CA 92562. Hope all is well!—*Alice Kay, Murrieta, California*

GETTING STARTED WITH ABT TOURNAMENTS

I received your email address from the World Backgammon Association. I have always enjoyed the game of backgammon and have been playing for around 20 years. I have been interested in playing the game

professionally, like in tournaments. How does someone go about getting started in that? Any information would be helpful. I am located in Red Oak, Iowa, which is in the SW region of the state.—*Tim Fridolph, via e-mail*

You're about 350 miles from the next American Backgammon Tour event, Tim—the Minnesota Open 22–24 July in Bloomington, MN. Why don't you give that one a try. A full list of ABT tournaments is at www.chicagopoint.com/abt.html—Ed. Δ

MICHIGAN...

[Continued from page 1]

MICHIGAN SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN (76): 1-Ray Fogertund (NV), 2-Gary Bauer (NJ), 3-Odis Chenault (CA), 4/5-Faddoul Khoury (IL) / Kit Woolsey (CA); 1C-Jason Lee (MD), 2C-Felix Yen (IL), 3C/4C-Bob Koca (MD) / Greg Merriman (MI). INTERMEDIATE (60): 1-Garry Kallos (Canada), 2-John Quinn (MI), 3-Leslie Lockett (IL); 1C-Prince Barlow (MI), 2C-Walt Smith (MI), 3C/4C-Ken Braithwaite (MI) / Mike Rezai (OH). NOVICE (15): 1-Glenn Chee (CA), 2-Blaine McClendon (PA); 1C-Kathy Weiner (FL); 1LC-John Claybourne (MI). MICHIGAN MASTERS (32): 1-Mike Senkiewicz (NY), 2-David Rockwell (IL), 3/4-Malcolm Davis (TX) / Kit Woolsey (CA). SANDY KAPLAN'S SENIOR SPECIAL (32): 1-Jesse Eaton (MN), 2-Harvey Gillis (WA), 3/4-Herb Roman (IL) / Jim Slomkoski (MI). SNOWIE FREEZE-OUT (32): 1-Bill Finneran (VA), 2-Brent Cohen (PA). FIRE-CRACKER JACKPOT \$200 (8): 1-Ted Chee (CA). \$100 (16): 1-Oleg Raygorodsky (IL), 2-Prince Barlow (MI). CHARITY BLITZ (128): 1-Alfred Mamlet (MD), 2-Patrick Gibson (CA). \$300 to Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. FRANK TALBOT'S NEWCOMER FREE ROLL (18): 1-Odis Chenault (CA), 2-Ben Friesen (MI). OPEN DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Alan Grunwald (NJ) & Alfred Mamlet (MD), 2-Steve Brown (MN) & Jesse Eaton (MN), 3/4-Malcolm Davis (TX) & Leslie Lockett (IL) / Mary Hickey (OH) & Claude Landry (Canada). LTD. DOUBLES (13 teams): 1-Stephen Benjamin (OH) & Bob Hickey (OH), 2-Ed Johnson (NY) & Marcy Kossar (CT). EARLYBIRD JACKPOTS \$50 (16): 1-Mary Hickey (OH), 2-Bill Calton (MI). \$30 (16): 1-Farhad Forudi (OH), 2-Bob Kamp (MI). \$20 DETROIT QUICKIE #1 (64): 1-Steve Brown (MN), 2-Larry Morris (KY). #2 (16): 1-Dick Bennett (OH), 2-Gary Fritzsche (MI). \$10 DETROIT QUICKIE (32): 1-Prince Barlow (MI), 2-Susan Randall (FL). THURSDAY WARM-UPS \$50 (32): 1-Emil Mortuk (MI), 2-Karen Davis (OH), 3/4-Petko Kostadinov (SC) / Dmitriy Obukhov (MI). \$30 (32): 1-Paul Farah (MI), 2-Ryan Hast (PA), 3/4-Faris Gabbara (MI) / Fred Ishac (MI). \$30 (8): 1-Gary Bauer (NJ), 2-Neal Weiner (FL). \$20 (8): 1-John Clayborne (MI), 2-Dana Arning (MI). USBGF QUIZ "Last One Standing" Open: Mary Hickey (OH), Intermediate: Ed Johnson (NY). AFTER TOURNEY \$50 (12): 1-Brent Cohen (PA), 2/3-Walt Swan (NJ) / Kit Woolsey (CA). \$20 (15): 1-Susan Randall (FL), 2/3-Abdul Alchalabi (MI) / Jim Kennis (NY).



Time management strategies at the Chicago Open

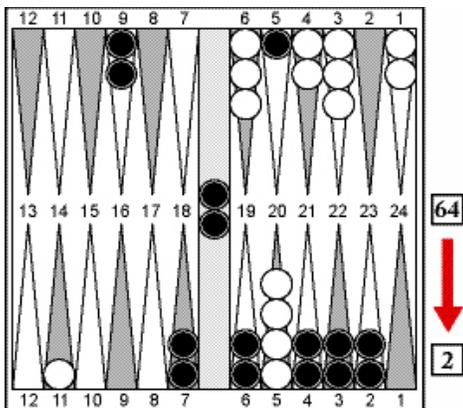
By Jake Jacobs

The recent Chicago Open, held over Memorial Day Weekend at the Holiday Inn & Suites (Rosemont, IL), packed a lot of backgammon into the available time. The Giants of Backgammon Invitational featured best-of-three 9 point matches. In that event, using a chess clock was mandatory. The Open was Swiss format, requiring at least a dozen matches to establish a winner. Clocks weren't mandatory, but were recommended.

Some players find clocks intimidating. Others, perhaps to show they cannot be stampeded, aren't intimidated enough. In one Giants match, Bob Koca began the final game with thirteen seconds left on his clock. Yet he was in the catbird seat because his opponent, Matt Cohn-Geier, had only three seconds left! These were Bronstein clocks, which means the players get twelve seconds each move before the reserve clock counts down; so by moving very fast, they were able to complete the game. At the end Bob had seven seconds left, while Matt had one.

If you worry about finding yourself in time trouble, help is at hand. In the following short tutorial, taken from our Markowitz Masters match, Cool Ray Fogerlund and I will show you how to "beat the clock." Play as we did and your worries are over.

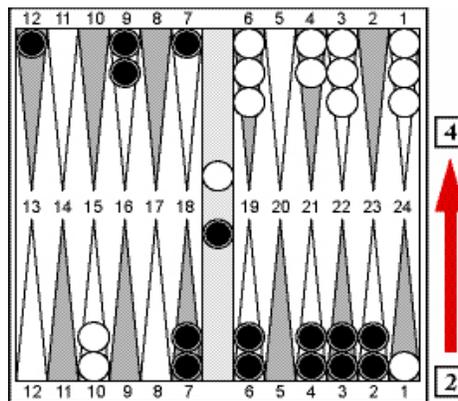
Pos. 1. 11 point match tied at 0–0. Ray Fogerlund (White) on roll vs. Jake (Black).



This was the first game of our 11 point match. Our clocks began with two minutes reserve per point (or 22 minutes), besides the 12 second grace period for each move. Since it was the first game, and none of our decisions had taken overly long, both Ray and I had over 21 minutes on our clocks when the following position occurred. That is plenty of time, but no sense getting complacent! Ray sped things up by doubling me.

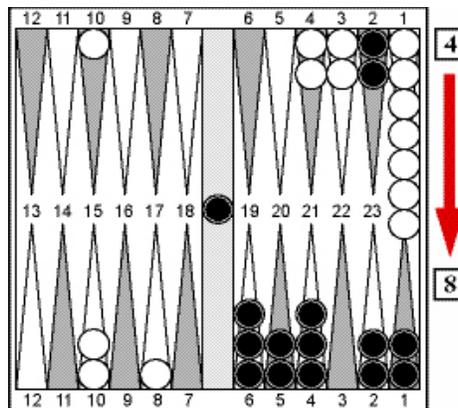
White has a double, since I have two men on the bar with a third blot at risk against a four point board. Over half of Ray's wins will be gammons. On the other hand, my third blot is not in grave danger. I have a good chance of anchoring on his 5-point, and my own four point board will keep him from getting too frisky. I win 3/8 of the time, and about 30% of my wins will be gammons.

Pos. 2. 11 point match tied at 0–0. Jake (Black) on roll.



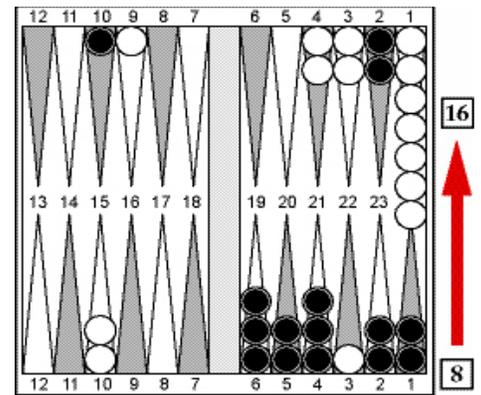
Here I do my part to keep the clock from ticking down. It is still game one, and we still both have over 21 minutes on our clocks. If you ever find yourself in my position, don't let the fact that you are on the bar against a four point board with loose blots strewn about, dissuade you from cubing. You have a prime, and he is behind it. This is a strong redouble.

Pos. 3. 11 point match tied at 0–0. Ray Fogerlund (White) on roll.



This redouble was a bit optimistic. (It is a money beaver.) On the other hand, Ray had only 20:50 left; no sense inviting time trouble.

Pos. 4. 11 point match tied at 0–0. Jake (Black) on roll.



In a money game, this position would be too good to double—over half of my wins are gammons. But my gammons aren't pulling their weight at this score; and if I redouble, the cube is of no value to Ray. Meanwhile, my own clock was under 21 minutes: one more reason to ship it over. Ray wins more than 15% of the time, so his take was solid.

I hit Ray loose on my 3-point, but he rolled an immediate 3. My dice, in the spirit of time management, kept me dancing on the bar. This prevented me from wasting valuable time thinking about how to play.

At the match's end we each had over 20 of our initial 22 minutes remaining. It may not have been the best played match, nor the happiest result for me; but with respect to staying out of time trouble, it was a standout.—*Jake Jacobs* Δ

ILLINOIS ACTION

Bill Davis
773/583-6464

Peter Kalba
219/671-5268

Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Ruby
Tuesday, 5203 Old Orchard
Road, Skokie. 847/967-8292.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON
at at Ruby Tuesday, 5203
Old Orchard Road, Skokie.
847/967-8292.

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).

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

BACKGAMMON LIMERICKS

2

By
Jack Wood



Over the past 20 years, we had collected backgammon limericks and decided to post them all in one article in April. We asked readers to submit any limericks they had heard to add to our collection. Well, Jack Wood of Wooster, Ohio didn't hear any, but he "got busy" and wrote 14 new ones for us, including the one that appeared in the May "Letters" section (page 3)! For his effort, Jack will receive a subscription to CHICAGO POINT.—Ed.

Said a lispng young roller named Tess,
whose backgame had gone to a mess,
"Though my timing is poor, I am not a
whore,
so desist from ogling my chess!"

From backgame to blitz, it's the dice.
They strangle your moves like a vice.
Try to veer from their plan
with ego or élan,
and your game will be frozen like ice.

The novice did not understand;
it was now time to strike up the band.
"You've lost, don't you know?"
claimed his highly skilled foe,
whose checkers were all in his hand.

In L.A. there was a young lass
who went by the name of Sweet Cass.
When gammoned one day,
by a priest who could play,
she bemoaned, "That's because I
missed mass."

The position was now so complex
it completely confounded poor Tex.
Tex asked, "Who's holding who?"
Is it me or you, Sue?"
Sue replied, "I don't care. Let's have sex!"

From the bar he came up with a joker:
Ace-6 that was like a hot poker.
He hit and leaped out,
concluding the bout,
then declared, "That was not mediocre!"

For backgammon giant Nack Ballard:

In Richmond resides the great Nack,
whose game is not that of a hack.
His technique is flawless,
his aggression near lawless,
and in blitzing he cuts you no slack.

In memory of the North Shore (Long Island) Backgammon Club, its operator Steve Kurzban, and Steve Keats (aka The Judge). The club existed in its own building in Carle Place, New York from the late-70s to mid-80s. Tournaments were held two or three times a week and drew 60–80 players every Friday night:

The club in Carle Place—it was jeweled
in an era when backgammon ruled.
The Judge was the King,
K-Ban was all bling,
and the rest of us usually got schooled.

The chouette was one for the ages.
It consisted, for sure, of all sages.
No one had an edge,
not a sliver nor wedge,
so they all traveled home with their wages.

"Your prime is so big," said the floozy,
whose vision was now somewhat
boozy.
Her opponent replied,
"It's only three wide,
so your dice roll need not be a doozy."

For the reigning two-time US Open champion Mary Hickey:

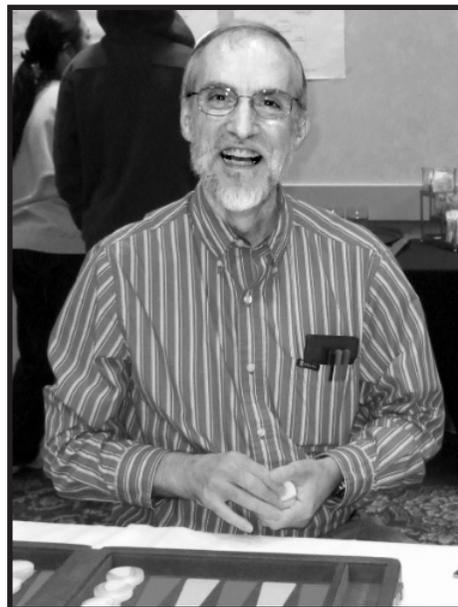
Queen Mary leaves rivals dumbstruck.
With big wins she's shown it's not luck.
Her smile is for real,
her humor has zeal,
and she keeps all your checkers amuck.

In Chicago resided Celeste
whose prime asset was her huge chest.
While opponents did stare,
Celeste's hands with a flair,
adjusted the rolls to her best.

The showgirl had brought her own board
with notches from when she had scored.
You know what I mean,
this chick wasn't lean,
but curvy and so much adored. Δ

ED KING: 1948–2011

Ed King of New London, Ohio has died.
He was 63.



Ed King at a Michigan Summer Championships prior to his cancer takedown.

Until his recent retirement, Ed directed the Nationwide Insurance backgammon

tournaments that raised thousands of dollars for Operation Feed and the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. He also enjoyed making the trip to Michigan for the Summer Championships, and to the Pittsburgh Championships every February.

Ed had earned over 26 ABT lifetime points before cancer took him down in 2009. Placed on hospice care, he never gave up and came back in the latter part of 2010 to reenter the tournament trail up until his last event, the Ohio State Championships in March 2011.

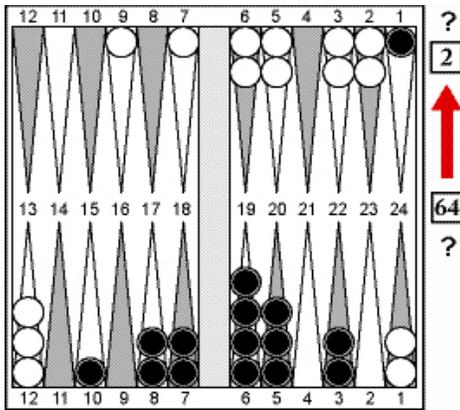
Ed's cancer journey ended the evening of June 14, 2011, at his home. His wife Melissa reports: "Ed remained sweet and loving to the end. His wonderful attitude, patience, and will to fight wer a remarkable example to us all."

Besides backgammon, he enjoyed watercrafting, his family, and life in general. Ed is an inspiration to all of us to live life to the fullest. He will be missed!

Ed King is survived by his wife, Melissa King; daughter, Alyssa King (Mandy Cook); sisters, Merle Blair, Velma Young, Kathy (Tom) Babbit, Dora Miller, and Lois Riggs; brothers, Errol (Nancy) King, and Elvin (Joyce) King; and his beloved Siamese kitties, Tai and Joy.—Mary Hickey Δ

**PROBLEM #365
ANALYZED**

By Dorn Bishop

9-point match. Black and White tied at 7 to 7. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

Correct backgammon strategy often involves giving your opponent a chance to make a mistake. This position tests the limits of that principle.

If this were a money game, it would be a serious error for Black not to double. The position is very volatile; 25 out of Black's rolls improve his position significantly and only 5-5 turns him into an immediate underdog. Black also has significant gammon chances. White might have a take based on the combined strength of her assets, but the take does not appear to be 100% clear. So, for money, Black should double and give White a chance to go wrong.

Does this match score change our analysis? Yes and no. In money play, Black must double to *activate* his gammon wins. At this match score, however, doubling *kills* both players' gammons. Only cubeless winning chances will matter once the cube is turned. To some extent, that simplifies the cube evaluation process for both players. However, it also makes life more difficult because most backgammon players are intuitively less familiar with cubeless probabilities. So they may be more likely to evaluate these types of positions incorrectly. In that sense, this match score argues even more strongly for turning the cube aggressively.

Here, instead of needing 22% *gammon-adjusted* winning chances at money play, White needs around 31% *cubeless* winning chances to accept a double at this match score. Short of that, she is better off resetting her checkers in hopes of either winning two straight games or gammoning Black in the Crawford game.

So first Black must ask whether White

can win this game 31% of the time when played to conclusion. If the answer is yes, then Black should next ask whether he is really 100% absolutely certain about that. If not, then he should probably double and give White a chance to make a mistake. The only exception might be if Black were to win a much higher percentage of gammons than White. In that case, it might be worth taking a shake. Nonetheless, Black should be wary about considering his position "too good to double." White has the same access to the cube as Black. Even as an underdog, White will always be able to double and commit mutual "gammicide" at the first sign of a potential market-losing sequence. If that happens, Black may find himself with fewer cubeless winning chances than he has now.

My over-the-board analysis is that White can probably pull this game out slightly less than one-third of the time. She has several things going in her favor: a Black straggler stuck behind her four point board, some threat of either blitzing or priming Black, outfield control, and an anchor in Black's home board that could become an advanced anchor. While it is difficult to weigh the combined significance of these assets, White probably has a take. However, I doubt that anyone can be absolutely sure about that. Especially given the position's volatility, this would appear to be a mandatory double in practice even if not theoretically correct.

Can it nonetheless be better for Black to wait in order to take advantage of his gammon chances, especially if Black does not respect White's cube-handling ability? Not likely. Black will not gammon White that often, especially with White still having substantial winning equity (not to mention some gammon chances of her own), and a reassuring anchor if all else fails. Besides, if Black has that little respect for White's cube-handling skills, then now would seem like the perfect time to test that theory.

An XG rollout rates this position as double/take. Interestingly, even if you move Black's straggler from the 24-point to the 21-point, XG rollouts judge Black's position "too good to double" by only 0.004 points per game. And if White mistakenly takes, that would be more than a 0.450 point error. So while playing on might be the "optimal" play against a perfect opponent, doubling would still be the best way to maximize Black's equity so long as even *one percent* of all Whites mistakenly take the cube. The lesson appears to be that at 2-away/2-away, it will seldom be correct to refrain from doubling based on your perceived gammon chances.

In summary, Black presumably elected not to double earlier in hopes of reaching a position where his opponent might make an incorrect cube decision. Black has now reached that position. He should pat himself on the back, ship the cube, and leave the mental contortions to White.—Dorn Bishop Δ

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WINNER'S CIRCLE



MAY/JULY 2011

•**Ohio Valley Challenge Cup** (Indianapolis, IN; 14-15 May)... Hoosier Club (Sean Garber, Brad Baker, Jim Curtis, Scott Day, Rose Sheedy, Wendy Russell, Jeff Flowers) defeats Cincinnati Club. **DAY BEFORE TOURNAMENT** (10): 1-Sean Garber (IN), 2-Rose Sheedy (IN), 3-Peter Carcieri (OH). **NIGHT BEFORE DOUBLES** (8): 1-Rose Sheedy & Jeff Flowers, 2-Jim Curtis & Jamie Curtis.

•**Ohio State Club Monthly** (Akron, OH; 5 Jun.)... **OPEN** (11): 1-Daniel Barabas, 2-Mike Rezai.

•**Los Angeles Open & USBGF National Championships / Tournament of the Stars—ABT** (Los Angeles, CA; 9-12 Jun.)...

L.A. **OPEN** (74): 1-Harvey Gillis (WA), 2-Ray Fogerlund (NV), 3-Art Benjamin (CA), 4/5-Ed O’Laughlin (VA) / Rory Pascas (IL), 6/7/8-Matt Cohn-Geier (NY) / Gus Contos (CA) / Masayuki Mochizuki (Japan). **ADVANCED** (29): 1-Jake Burak (CA), 2-Frank Ley (CA), 3-Lynn Lusk (CO), 4/5-Spencer Chen (NV) / Alex Eshagian (CA). **LIMITED** (16): 1-Joan Grunwald (NJ), 2-Fred Kamgar (CA); 1C-Garrett Smith (CA), 2C-Maria Heiner (Brazil/CA). **SUPER-48** (48): 1-Ed O’Laughlin (VA), 2-Steve Sax (CA), 3/4-Alan Martin (FL) / Joe Russell (CA), 5/6-Bob Koca (MD) / Zafer Yasa (CA). **PAUL DINGWELL AMATEUR JACKPOT** (27): 1-Alain Azoulay (CA), 2-Josh Racko (CA), 3/4-Paul Berg (MI) / Ed Rosenblum (NM). **\$400 JACKPOT** (8): 1-Alex Gerding (FL), 2-Jean-Pierre Deleurme (CA) \$200 (8): 1-John Rockwell (CA), 2-Ralf Jonas (Germany). **\$50 #1** (8): 1-Sam Ahmed (Egypt/CA), 2-Danielle Bastarache (FL). **\$50 #2** (4): 1-Ben Friesen (MI). **ADVANCED JACKPOT** (4): 1-Neal Weiner (FL). **NOVICE JACKPOT WINNERS**: Stephen Collins (OH), Max Crosner (AZ), Adam Lusk (CO) / Garrett Smith (CA). **DOUBLES #1** (8 teams): 1-Mark Antranikian (CA) & Ted Chee (CA). #2 (8 teams): 1-Alan & Joan Grunwald (NJ). **USBGF TOURNAMENT OF STARS** (19 teams): 1-Bob Koca (MD) & Perry Gartner (FL), 2-Bob Glass (CA) & Russell Sands (FL), 3/4-Ed Bennett (NM) & Richard Munitz (NY) / Alex Gerding (FL) & Ralf Jonas (Germany). **USBGF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS** (110+178 rebuys): 1-Neil Kazaross (IL), 2-Carol Joy Cole (MI), 3/4-Todd Crosner (AZ) / Bob Glass (CA). **USBGF WORLD GIANTS’ CHALLENGE QUIZ** (54): Giant/worldwide winner: Matvey “Falafel” Natanzon (Israel), Open winner: Ed Rosenblum (NM), Inter-

AMALGAMATION

Hurry! Only 7 spots remain for the 3rd Anti-Cruelty Society Backgammon Invitational. The one-day 16-player event will be held 17 September at the stately Drake Hotel on Michigan Avenue in Chicago. The entry fee is \$600 which includes a \$100 donation to the ACS and dinner at the Cape Cod Room. Contact **Bill Davis** to secure your space (773) 583-6464... At www.chicagopoint.com, **Phil Simborg** (IL) has written a tribute to Chicago Bar Point Club player **Albert Yakobashvili** who died of cancer July 5. Albert was a BPC regular since 2005. He had his best finish in 2007 placing fourth... Visiting the Bar Point Club in June: **Franklin Scott** (OH), **Fernando Neumark** (Argentina)... Congrats to **Arkadiy Tsinis** (NV) who won a gold bracelet and \$500,000+ at the World Series

mediate winner: Irving Gold (CA). Other countries who joined in the Quiz: Denmark, England, Sweden and Turkey.

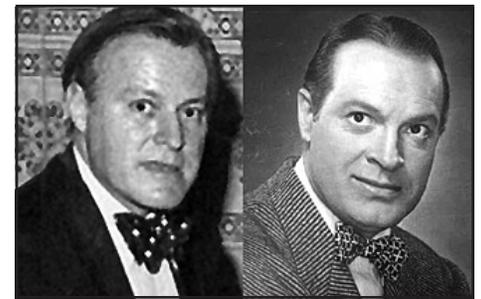
•**Kaiserbrunnen Cup 2011** (Brakel, Germany; 10-13 Jun.)... **OPEN** (47): 1-Michel Lamote (Belgium), 2-Frank Simon (GER), 3/4-Ferat Gündogan / Walter Meuwis; 1C-Kimon Papachristopoulos, 2C-Peer Röwer; 1LC-Corinna Blaschke. **INTERMEDIATE**: 1-Helge Keller, 2-Jacques Wehli, 3/4-Peter Seggermann / Jürgen Kunkel; 1C-Gerd Lingnau, 2C-Robin Kazemieh; 1LC-Uwe Thumm. **BEGINNER**: 1-Regine Hall, 2-Igor Schwarz. **SUPER JACKPOT** (16): 1-Frank Brinkmann, 2-Tobias Hellwag.

•**Play65/EBGT 6th Portuguese Open** (Carcavelos, Portugal; 15-19 Jun.)... **MAS-TERS** (36): 1-Paul Weaver (USA), 2-Tobias Hellwag (GER), 3/4-Minh Nguyen (FRA) / Hans Capel (NED); 1LC-Philip Vischjäger (NED), 2-Christian Sorensen (DEN). **DAVIS DOUBLES**: 1-Piergiorgio D’Ancona (ITA) & Werner Schmuck (AUS), 2-Alain Babillon (FRA) & Philippe Vouhé (FRA), 3/4-Paul Weaver (USA) & Tobias Hellwag (GER) / Ricardo Malas (LEB/SPA) & Frank Simon (GER).

•**Coldwell Banker Jamaica Realty Tournament** (St. Andrew, Jamaica; 19 Jun.)... **Open**: 1-Roy D’Cambre (Jamaica). **INTERMEDIATE**: 1-Lamont Haskins (US).

•**BIBA World Championship** (Hinckley, England; 1-3 Jul.)... **OPEN** (27): 1-Peter Bennet, 2-Chris Ternel, 3/4-Nicky Check / Dan Tutchings; 1C-Tim Line, 2C-Mike Heard; 1LC-Andy Darby, 2LC-Marc Turner. **THE WORLD’S END** (16): 1-Mark Calderbank, 2-Marc Turner. **FRIDAY 500** (12): 1-Andy Darby, 2-Tim Line. **POKER** (7): 1-Marcus Wrinch, 2-Billy Sharp. **DOUBLES** (7): 1-Mum & Dad, 2-The Nannies.

of Poker. Arkadiy’s last finish in an ABT event was at the Nov. 2010 Las Vegas Open where he was Doubles runner-up with **Falafel Natanzon** (ISR). Although an American citizen, Arkadiy protested the US poker crackdown by eschewing the US national anthem in favor of the Ukrainian anthem... The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* had a feature story on Brooklyn born singer **Barry Manilow**. The story stated that “For relaxation, he plays backgammon and word games.”... Speaking of celebrities playing backgammon, check out our new photo album of them at www.chicagopoint.com that covers the stars from **Leonardo DiCaprio** to **Burns & Allen**. 15 are posted now with a new one going up every few days... What a shocker as *Playboy* founder **Hugh Hefner** is dumped at the alter. We guess **Crystal Harris** wasn’t into backgammon... **Phil Simborg** commented on how much a picture of BPC regular **Bill Bartholomay** playing backgammon in 1976 resembled comedian **Bob Hope**. We agree...



Atlanta Braves Chairman Emeritus Bill Bartholomay (L) and comedian Bob Hope bear a striking resemblance.

TV and movie star **Odette Yustman** (*Cloverfield*, *You Again*) and her new husband **Dave Annable** play backgammon regularly. She proudly exclaims: “I just learned and I’m kicking his ass, by the way!”... From the *British Daily Mail*: **Simon Mills** wrote an article on how to chat up an A-list woman. He offers this advice: “Don’t bother telling them how beautiful they are. I was introduced to **Cindy Crawford** recently, and we talked about the joys of (an) iPad backgammon application.”... **Michael Strato** (Canada) tells us about a new BG server of which he is a consultant. The first 1000 players to preregister at GammonPower.com will be eligible for free money to play with as well as some free-roll tournaments... Since its launch two months ago, the International Internet Backgammon Federation (IIBGF) has grown rapidly, attracting over 300 members from around the world at various levels of play from beginner to world-class players. For more info about this organization, email **Rick Janowski** (rick.janowski@ntlworld.com)... Kudos to **Ben Friesen** (MI) who is responsible for the high quality Michigan Summer Championships match video you watched live at www.ustream.tv... Happy Summer! Δ



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