



One Foot In The Gammon

Monthly Backgammon in Ealing Newsletter

BGIE

Issue 2

Dear Ealing BG player,

Firstly a big thank you for all the compliments and constructive criticism of the first issue of OFITG. It was great to have so much feedback, however I will not be taking on the advice of one particular player, (whose name I shall withhold) who suggested I should print some hard copies on Andrex toilet paper so he could find a better use for my rag!

In this month's edition we have a new advertising page, something I am very excited about. My idea is to try to get local businesses involved in Backgammon by offering free advertising in return for BG playing space, sponsorship, special offers and discounts etc and start to see our lovely game appearing outside pubs, clubs and coffee shops on a daily basis. As a good man once said " I have a dream" and as an even greater man once sang, " You've got to have a dream, if you don't have a dream, then how you going to make your dreams come true", oh I loved Captain Sensible!

We have also created a Diary of Events page which will not only highlight the approaching major tournaments but hopefully put players in touch with each other to car share and keep your travelling costs down.

Last but certainly not least, we have a novelist amongst us! The lovely Rosemary Bensley has just had her book "It's not all Rosey" published. I have already heard from others that it is a fascinating read and I am looking forward to getting my copy through the post.

Well, on with the show. Please feel free to write in to OFITG with any questions you may have about Backgammon, which I know nothing about; WW2; which I know a lot about, or the meaning of life, which I know EVERYTHING about!

Happy rolling!

Darren Woodcock

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Ealing Conservative & Unionist Bowls Club

Welcomes Backgammon in Ealing

The bowls club are delighted to play host to the Ealing Backgammon Club every Thursday, a lively, likeable bunch who always appear more hungry than thirsty!!!

The backgammon club complements our club really well, they are a great support to us during our closed season and a welcome addition around the green during the summer months.

We are a small bowls club based very close to Ealing Broadway, we have been around since 1911, although appear to be one of Ealing's best kept secrets!! We may be small but we are perfectly formed, doing really well in competition bowls and tend to have at least a couple of rinks in the Ealing & District Finals.

The club is open 6 days a week during the bowling season, which tends to be from the end of April until end of September, we then move into the closed season when we only open 3 evenings a weeks for social activities.

We welcome new bowlers and new social members. The club house is a great event for private parties and can be hired out for events, we have a fully stocked bar, a new fully fitted kitchen and a great range of music and audio visual equipment.

If our green door is open, so are we, why not call in and see what we have to offer.

Allen Hyde

Club Secretary

Player Profile: LEN BROWN



Unfortunately we were unable to locate a photo of Len so instead, here is a photo of a typical Australian.

Where do you live? I recently moved to Ealing Broadway, Apparently proximity to the clubhouse produces better dice!

What Phrase do you most overuse in backgammon? 'Risk it for a biscuit'. I'm partial to a rhyme from time to time - many thanks to Monica for teaching me this one.

What's your favourite roll? Anything with a one in it, especially when you need a one. The ace from space!

What's your biggest strength? I can be friends with anyone, it makes finding a game easy!

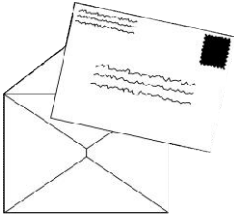
What's your biggest weakness? Overdoing it with the exclamation marks!!!!

What's your biggest secret? Well, that would be telling.

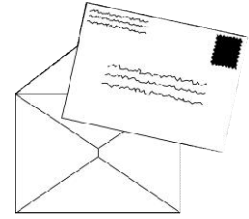
The biggest laugh in backgammon? It has to be the low stakes, late evening chouettes at the Cyprus tournament with Emad and Eric. Praying to the dice god for "something good" and being surprised at disappointment. My stomach is still hurting.

Outside of Backgammon? I love motorbikes, and other games like go, poker and scrabble. Lately I've been playing the ukulele!

Backgammon pet peeves? When looking at a position and someone says 100% or some other absolute statement about their play, but refuses to give be 10,000/1 odds against it. Punks!



Letters Page



Dear Editor,

Whilst sitting in front of my free cappuccino at Waitrose today I at first thought that an image of Jesus had been imprinted on my froth. However I now realise that it was in fact an image of Omar Sharif, that famous BG player. Do you think this is a sign that I will win the London Open?

Delusional of Hanwell

Dear Delusional,

Thank you for your letter. I really do think that this is a message from heaven telling you that you have just as much chance of winning the London Open as Mr Sharif himself, so Register now!

Editor

Dear Editor,

What a brilliant newsletter you have put together. Starting a newsletter that people actually want to read, and then reread, is a hard nut to crack but you did it. It made it even more fun when I saw a verse in the poem about me!

It's been read in Bethesda (USA) and Syracuse (Sicily), so big congratulations from them too and more of the same, please.

Yours in BG, Ben Owen

Ps: Any tips on how you roll a 16 from the bar would be useful.

Dear Ben, try weighted dice. I have some I will lend you. **Editor**

Dear Editor,

What is your opinion on the changes to the law regarding using your mobile whilst driving? They have increased the fine from £100 to £200 and penalty points have doubled from three to six.

Anonymous of Ealing

Dear Anonymous,

If a driver has no regard for his, let alone anyone else's safety, then I do not think the law has gone far enough. Perhaps a 5 year driving ban should be introduced which I am sure after a couple of convictions are made public, would dramatically cut the offence taking place. BTW did you know that there is a £1000 fine for your dog fouling the footpath, so to put that into context you can risk killing someone 5 times, and then let your dog poo outside Tesco's and you are only out of pocket by £2000. Every little helps!

Editor

Diary of Events

MARCH

| DATE | EVENT | VENUE |
|-------|--|----------------------------------|
| 11-12 | BMAB (UK) Ranking Tournament | Best Western Hotel, Long Eaton |
| 19 | Scope Annual Backgammon & Bridge | Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall |

APRIL

| | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 7-9 | BIBA British Open | St John's Hotel, Solihull |
| 13-17 | 29th Nordic Open | Radisson Blu Scandinavia, Copenhagen |
| 21-23 | West Yorkshire Open | Clayton Village Hall, Bradford |
| 29-30 | St Albans Open * | Greenwood Park Community Centre, St Albans |

MAY

| | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 13 | Birmingham Open | Moseley All Services Club, Birmingham |
| 26-28 | London Open | Henrietta Barnett School, Hampstead |

For weekly or monthly club events see:

[UKBGF Clubs page](#)

<http://ukbgf.com/clubs/>

[London Players' League calendar](#)

<http://www.londonplayersbackgammonleague.com/apps/calendar/>

*** This month's featured Tournament. For details see page 6.**

St Albans Backgammon Open

29th-30th April 2017

The weekend of Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th April, sees the eagerly-awaited return of the St Albans Open. Closely based on last year's highly successful format, the tournament features

- Space for just 64 players (book early to avoid disappointment - last year sold out well ahead of the weekend!)
- Swiss format on Saturday - players seeded into groups of four according to latest UKBGF rankings
- Knock-out flights on Sunday - five separate flights, 16 separate cash prizes
- Guaranteed at least 3 matches each day
- Registration just £25
- Tiered entry - from £30 to £300
- Optional side pools and group auction
- Zero rake - 100% return of entry, pool and group auction subscriptions
- Bad luck awards
- BMAB-partnered and a UKBGF Tour event.

The tournament will again be held at Greenwood Park Community Centre, 5 minutes from the M1/M25 junction and 10 minutes from St Albans city centre (under 20 minutes by train from St Pancras); if the weather's half decent there will be outdoor play. St Albans offers accommodation to suit all pockets, an extensive Saturday street market (chartered in 1553), a cathedral (oldest site of continuous worship in Britain), Roman Verulamium (excellent museum and hypocaust), and more pubs (and coffee shops) than you can imagine.

Visit the web-site - www.stalbansbg.co.uk - for full details!

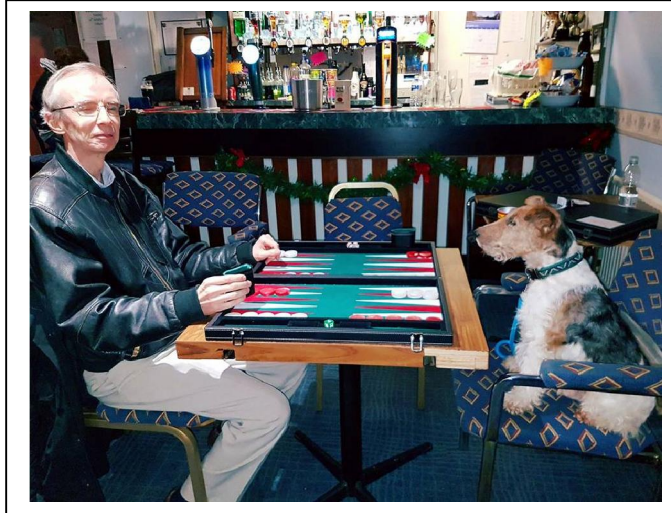
I look forward to seeing you there.

Chris Purchase

Editors note:

If any drivers going to the St Albans Open are looking for a car share why not send me your details which I will advertise on our message board. Similarly if any of you "old hands" want to buddy up with a newbie to show them the ropes, then the same applies.

Caption of the month result for February



Thank you for all your contributions the captions of which I forwarded to the Ealing committee (making sure I left out the names of the contributors) and the results are in!

1st Prize is:

" Enzo thought he was a small 'dog' in this position but now he's everyone's favourite!"

Selected others....

"If you aren't up to my pedigree chum I am going to win a lot"

"If you look around the table and can't tell who the sucker is, it's you"

"Judging by the size of that container in his hand it's not going to be a very big stick"

"Okay....paws crossed this is the guy who's gonna throw a stick and not those f*ing dice."**

"Need my A game for this chap - he's much better than Tariq"

Congratulations goes to...drum roll...**Chris Hamilton**. A bottle of wine will be waiting for you at the Bowls club Chris (at last I can get rid of that bottle of Blue Nun!).

Ealing Ladder movers and shakers

by Eric Maillebiau

| Rank | Name | Score | Points played | Progression vs. last month |
|------|-----------------------------------|----------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Paul Mortimer | 1,633.07 | 56 | = |
| 2 | Sean Clennell | 1,627.43 | 87 | +1 |
| 3 | Monica Beckerson | 1,620.68 | 50 | New |
| 4 | Chris Hamilton | 1,620.63 | 66 | +1 |
| 5 | Ray Mills | 1,606.30 | 51 | +4 |
| 6 | Mike Ireland | 1,587.15 | 95 | +8 |
| 7 | Emad Salib | 1,583.11 | 68 | -1 |
| 8 | Petar Vidovic | 1,579.63 | 170 | +19 |
| 9 | Catalin Bucur | 1,558.12 | 49 | -5 |
| 10 | Richard Biddle | 1,549.81 | 38 | -5 |
| 11 | Elias Hallak | 1,548.56 | 50 | New |
| 12 | Mardi Ohannessian | 1,545.04 | 65 | +14 |
| 13 | Mike Murton | 1,543.00 | 20 | New |
| 14 | Jon Barnes | 1,536.63 | 20 | New |
| 15 | George Jacobs | 1,526.46 | 21 | -6 |
| 16 | Frédéric Thomas | 1,526.38 | 21 | -5 |
| 17 | Tad Collins | 1,522.73 | 5 | New |
| 18 | Graham Read | 1,519.99 | 76 | +4 |
| 19 | Bill Pope | 1,519.21 | 15 | New |
| 20 | Michael Hewson | 1,511.59 | 91 | -12 |
| 21 | Eric Maillebiau | 1,503.19 | 75 | -9 |
| 22 | Peter Bennet | 1,502.65 | 50 | -3 |
| 23 | Ben Owen | 1,502.10 | 58 | +10 |
| 24 | Barbaros Torun | 1,501.43 | 10 | New |
| 25 | Bek Barbaros | 1,500.04 | 28 | -8 |
| 26 | Ray Kershaw | 1,500.00 | 14 | -8 |
| 27 | Iulian Chirita | 1,498.96 | 20 | New |
| 28 | Alexandru Pascu | 1,497.15 | 72 | -13 |
| 29 | Jack Edelson | 1,496.40 | 10 | New |
| 30 | Yanni Argyrou | 1,493.16 | 10 | New |
| 31 | Alan Beckerson | 1,488.98 | 45 | New |
| 32 | Len Brown | 1,485.05 | 45 | -12 |
| 33 | Mike Michaels | 1,483.13 | 35 | -10 |
| 34 | Danny Cohen | 1,479.83 | 5 | -10 |

| | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|----------|-----|-----|
| 35 | Steve Farrell | 1,479.71 | 15 | -10 |
| 36 | Geoff Oliver | 1,473.04 | 65 | -29 |
| 37 | Tony Steward | 1,455.94 | 20 | New |
| 38 | Chris Sly | 1,455.22 | 10 | New |
| 39 | Linda Taylor | 1,455.18 | 24 | -10 |
| 40 | Philippe Gerard | 1,451.90 | 26 | -9 |
| 41 | Lawrence Powell | 1,451.14 | 86 | -20 |
| 42 | Majdi Meziou | 1,450.01 | 10 | New |
| 43 | Trudi Seely | 1,448.59 | 24 | -11 |
| 44 | Tariq Siddiqi | 1,436.19 | 163 | -16 |
| 45 | Darren Woodcock | 1,435.71 | 65 | -32 |
| 46 | Cledwyn Davies | 1,430.26 | 17 | -12 |
| 47 | Anna Price | 1,421.56 | 52 | -17 |
| 48 | Paul Howe | 1,369.89 | 40 | -32 |
| 49 | Joseph Sarkis | 1,302.46 | 142 | -14 |
| 50 | Graham Smith | 1,285.61 | 140 | -14 |

| | | | | |
|---------------|---|------------------|---------|-----|
| Podium | 1 | Paul Mortimer | 1633.07 | = |
| | 2 | Sean Clennell | 1627.43 | +1 |
| | 3 | Monica Beckerson | 1620.68 | New |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------|-----|
| Best progressions | 1 | Petar Vidovic | +19 |
| | 2 | Mardi Ohannessian | +14 |
| | 3 | Ben Owen | +10 |

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|-----|
| Worst falls | 1 | Paul Howe | -32 |
| | 2 | Darren Woodcock | -32 |
| | 3 | Geoff Oliver | -29 |

Welcome to the first Ealing ladder movers and shakers. I am not a big fan of announcing the "worst falls" of players so I decided to lose all my February games on purpose to set the scene. It was obviously a huge gesture on my part and my sincere apologies go out to all those players who thought they had "slaughtered" me in all those first round matches. Maybe this month you can reciprocate the gesture...and if you fall for that one then you are the kind of person I would like to know better!

A huge thanks to Eric for putting this together. Perhaps we will come up with some booby prizes in later editions.

Darren

Classified Ads

The Castlebar
84 Uxbridge Rd, Ealing, W13 8RA
Tel: 020 8567 3819

A Backgammon friendly bar serving great food and drinks, and superbly run by Abel and his team.

"This is a regular haunt of mine as it's always very welcoming. If you get a chance try the Full English breakfast, then drink beer until lunchtime and enjoy the fabulous homemade burgers!" Editor

Julia Maillebiau:
Yoga for all

See this month's star feature on
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BG Buddy

An amazing new Backgammon App designed by Ross Knipe.

BG Buddy is currently available in the Apple Store. Copy and paste the link below into your browser to purchase it:

<https://itunes.apple.com/app/apple-store/id972446985?mt=8>

A full feature will appear in next month's edition.

Parade Fruiterers 7 St John's Parade, Mattock Lane W13 9LL

Family run greengrocers trading in Mattock lane for over 50 years. Sourced and hand-picked daily to supply the residents of Ealing with the best fruit and veg available at very reasonable prices.

" We have been converted from Waitrose to using Parade Fruiterers. They are not only a lot cheaper, but the quality and freshness of the fruit & veg is far superior to any supermarket and lasts a lot longer. You even get a smile with service!" Editor

Yoga in Hanwell



Yoga Lessons with Julia

An ancient discipline and a perfect antidote to the conflicts of modern life, yoga is becoming more popular than ever.

By using a combination of breath and physical exercises, it can bring us into better alignment physically, mentally and emotionally, helping to restore balance in life.

In practical terms, the main benefits include:

- Stress reduction
- Increased strength and flexibility
- Improved balance and digestion
- Reduced back pain
- Better body awareness
- Improved concentration

Over time regular practice helps to create a feeling of spaciousness both in the body and in the mind, improving clarity of thinking and allowing for better decision making. Most of all, yoga is about the ability to clear your mind and do something good for yourself and there are no rules about who can practice – levels of flexibility or fitness, age or body type are irrelevant and everyone is welcome. Each class is made up of a series of poses, which can be adapted to any level of fitness, meaning that anyone can benefit.

I have been practicing for over fifteen years and have now been teaching for five and my Monday morning yoga class at Hanwell Community Centre is an open level class, that offers a mix of stretching and strengthening followed by short relaxation, setting you up for a good week ahead. Everyone is welcome and beginners especially.

Every Monday term time 9.15am – 10.15am, Hanwell Community Centre, W7 1PD, £10 drop-in or a special offer of £45 for a block of five classes. Just bring your mat and call me or email to book a slot.

I also teach private classes to individuals or families who prefer a smaller setting, have trouble getting to a public class or have any health issues.

For more information, please contact Julia on juliamyoga@gmail.com or 07930878697

