



One Foot In The Gammon

Monthly Backgammon in Ealing Newsletter

BGIE
Issue 6



BACKGAMMON Beginners' Club

learn to play, brush up your skills, master the rules

3rd
Monday
7.00pm

106 Northfield Avenue

The Owl & The Pussycat



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Editor's page

Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 6 and the halfway stage for One Foot in the Gammon. I hope you have loved every moment of this journey, well, perhaps not loved but maybe liked? OK then, what about tolerated? No? OK, well let's just leave it that you sometimes open it to make me feel good, but other times you just can't be arsed and never liked me in the first place! There, that's settled!

We have another 6 issues to go before we make the decision as to whether to follow in the footsteps of that great Sunday newspaper, The News of the World, or to battle on bravely in the face of adversity, through back pain, knee pain, large nose syndrome, sore bunions and piles. To say I am a hero is an understatement.

So...are any of you actually going to get typing and send me in something that I can publish? I know who opens this newsletter and I know where some of you live, and although this isn't a direct threat, I have been known to stand outside a bedroom window late at night and sing my version of "Time to say Goodbye". So it's entirely up to you - no pressure - all you have to do is send in something I can publish, and I can promise you that there will be no visits to your bedroom window at midnight and no glimpses of my mutilated knee, or, god forbid, my piles!

On a brighter note, Backgammon in Ealing launched the first of their monthly Beginners classes in The Owl and the Pussycat in Northfield Avenue on 26th June and it was a fantastic success. We attracted five new players on the night who seem very keen to come back for more lessons next month and we have had plenty of online interest through social media for our future dates. A big thank you to Geoff Oliver and Lawrence Powell for swapping their time and expertise for a nice pint of bitter, and also a great turnout from half of the BGIE committee of Valerie, Ben, Peter and myself. A special thanks to our newest committee member, Valerie, who not only had the passion to drive this forward but also designed our fabulous new business cards and posters. Anyone out there wishing to come along just get in touch. Our next gathering will be on 17th July.

I would also take this opportunity to send out an apology to Richard Biddle. Our Beginners classes in Ealing were originally scheduled for the last Monday of each month until Richard contacted me to remind me that we would clash with his monthly BG nights at The Durell Arms in Fulham. We of course immediately changed our date to the 3rd Monday of each month so if anyone does have one of our original business cards which states the last Monday, please make a note of this date change in your diary.

Darren Woodcock

Editor

Player Profile: DAVID DENNIS



Where do you live - Shoreditch, Hackney

How would you describe yourself - I don't take backgammon too seriously, or life for that matter!

Greatest BG achievement - Winning the 2010 Pro Am doubles event at the Florida Open with Mary Hickey. My first live tournament and didn't have to do anything whatsoever. Just sat and watched my partner clean up. Easiest grand I've ever made. It's all been downhill since then!

Which phrase do you most use in BG - "Oops"

Biggest laugh in BG - There's been a few as you can possibly imagine but probably the Ealing BG day at the Grange a couple of years ago. Got pretty drunk early on and by the end of the day, having somehow survived the chouette, I decided to take a so called short cut across the park to the tube station. It had been raining and slipped a couple of times. Got home and crashed on the sofa and woke up to notice I was covered in mud. I must have looked quite the state on the way home!

What do you do outside BG - Travel when I can. Party when I can't!

Captions of the Month



Two caption options this month!

Yours truly (Editor) eating a roti at the carnival

and below Ben Owens trainers and socks left in the middle of the BGIE stall.....why??!!

Entries to dwoodcock@tallyhoeevents.co.uk

Best entry wins a bottle of vino



Hanwell Carnival

We few, we happy few, we band of brothers (and sisters)....by Darren Woodcock



It all started with Ben Owen screeching to a halt outside my house in the hire van, the cars behind honking their horns as he gave them the finger, sweat already running down his face as he smiled at me and shouted, "c'mon Woodcock get your finger out and load the bloody van, there's no time to lose". I dutifully followed orders and placed the gazebo and scrumptious homemade biscuits (courtesy of my beloved Jill) into the van, not forgetting of course to load the Cool box. We jumped in and shut the door just in time for the off as we pulled away at such a rate that I thought we were in an episode of Top Gear.

Within 10 minutes we were at the Carnival and unloading, Ben throwing the items out of the back of the van like a like a Tesco delivery driver with Saint Vitus Dance, whilst Jill and I were desperately trying to erect the gazebo for some shade from the 30 degree heat. Then on the horizon we saw them, Big Bill and Len, good old Aussie Len, Just the type of guy you need in this heat! Then the glamour turned up in the guise of Sue Keeble and Valerie Hayes, with Sue making a beeline for the biscuit tin to reacquaint herself with her love affair with Jill's biccies.

Before I knew it, the stall was set up, seating arranged, boards out and our new business cards and flyers on display, not forgetting some blessed shade. That signalled the arrival of Geoff Oliver and Peter Bennet, whom we suspect were watching from afar (and by "afar" I mean the beer tent) until we had finished setting up! Geoff sat himself under the gazebo, opened up a board and said "fancy a chouette?"

Hanwell Carnival

View from Big Ben:



"As it turned out London's hottest day of the year also coincided with our big day out at the Hanwell Carnival (the second year we have been there).

I wanted the event to be better than 2016, and it was. Before the day, we got off to a great start with the carnival organisers mentioning us in the official programme; we swamped local Facebook Groups and local news websites in a self-promotion exercise to promote our stall; we ordered new 'business' cards to hand out on the day.

All of this reaped results. On the day, we noticed that our stall was larger than we paid for last year and better positioned (it helps to have friends on the carnival committee!); we met more people and we collected 50% more email addresses than we did last year. We were fed and watered all day by being alongside a Polish food stand handing out free samples all day!

As a consequence of meeting someone at our stall who runs a Backgammon Club in a local pub, we will be picking up more people than we met. We caused enough of a stir for four newbies to attend our Beginners' session grand opening on the 26th June. The day after that successful evening, Peter attended a local function when he got chatting to a woman who used to play. She mentioned that she was thinking of going to a new thing that people were raving about on the Northfields Friends Facebook page...which turned out to be our Beginners' Backgammon sessions at The Owl and The Pussycat in Northfield Avenue! She will almost certainly come to the next one on 17th July. Prepare well and reap the rewards.

In OFITG last month I put in a plea for help and I got it. In order to put on an event like this it takes a lot of work from dedicated people so my own massive thanks to BG addicts, Andy Guthrie, Bill Pope, Darren Woodcock, Geoff Oliver, Len Brown, Peter Bennet, Sue Keeble and Valerie Hayes for helping and making the stall so fun and successful on the day."

Calling all Backgammon Players!



Bowls Club Open Day

Come and try your hand at Lawn Bowls
A great activity, good exercise and as sociable as you like to make it

**Open Day on Saturday 15th July 2017
from 1.00pm**

All ages welcome, No experience necessary, just turn up,
Flat Shoes Required

Light refreshments and social bar available

ECUBC Bowls Club, The Pavilion, Craven Road, Ealing W5 2UA
Telephone 07925174595 www.ealingbowlsclub.co.uk



As some of you may be aware there have been developers lurking on every street corner in Ealing and they are dribbling at the thought of trying to get their grubby little paws on our beloved bowls club.

Why is it OUR Bowls club I hear some of you BG players ask? It's our Bowls club as, and I think you will agree, we have been made to feel more than welcome and very much at home every Thursday by Club Secretary Allen Hyde, and glamorous assistants Wendy, Georgette, Alfie and Rik.

So this is our chance to give a little something back. If you are free on Saturday 15th July, even if it's only for a drink, please come along and show your support for all the newbies out there who are rolling their first ever Bowl. You never know, you just might get tempted to have a go yourself!

Editor

A husky writes.....

Dear All,

As I was struggling for content this month, "Mans best friend", my dog Balou, stepped forward to fill the void and offered one of his many stories about life with me. If you want to avoid a monthly column from the mutt then please send in your stories, captions, profiles or just generally have a moan about anything you likem

Murder most foul by Balou

A Husky writes: Today I have the very sad duty of informing you of the death yesterday of my closest friend Sammy. I have known Sammy for 4 years and we have spent many a happy day in my wonderful back garden chewing the fat. His little tail used to twitch with delight each time he saw me through the glass back door, and I used to jump up excitedly for the Ginger one to let me out, then I would chase Sammy round and round the garden, him squealing with delight every time I got close to his bushy tail, and him trying to lead me away from where he had just buried his nuts. To be honest I don't know why he bothered with this as he never remembered were he buried the bloody things anyway, no wonder I used to call him senile Sammy!

How did he die I hear you ask? Well, it's a bit of a grey area really as I have my version of events and the Ginger one has his and is on a bit of a smear campaign, not as smeared as poor Sammy ended up around the garden though (Oh Sammy would have laughed at that one, it's all I can do to hold back my tears) Anyway yesterday afternoon I spotted Sammy burying something in a potted plant so I thought this time I would sneak up on him and surprise him, I did the old 4 paw shuffle and slunk stealthily down the garden path. I got within a paws swipe when Sammy spotted me, He squealed, and I pounced, and the next thing I realised that dear sweet Sammy was flying up in the air, arse over tit, just spinning, spinning spinning. God it was horrible and I thought to myself, the silly bugger's going to break something when he lands so I did the only thing a best friend could do, I leapt, and caught him mid air in my mouth!! Well, rather than thank me, Sammy bit down on my nose which bloody well hurt, and in a moment of " instinctive madness" (A phrase I might use in my defence in court today) I shook him vigorously whilst bouncing him off the fence panels trying to make him let go. Well it was at this point that poor little Sammy's heart gave out. I dropped him to the ground and started to pummel his little chest with my paws. Amazingly I felt a beat, then two, three, four, YES Sammy had come back to me, I had saved his life!! I was so overjoyed that, not thinking, I threw him in the air again, tossing him higher than he had ever gone before.

It was at this precise moment that the Ginger one screamed expletives at me from the doorway! Startled I turned round to see what was wrong and forgot about Sammy, the tumbling squirrel. I heard a sudden crunch as my best friend hit the pavement at approximately 48 MPH breaking every bone in his dear sweet beautiful body. I howled in frustration as I was dragged into the house and put on my bed for an hour with the Ginger one ranting that I'm a murderer (he's a complete idiot as the very worst crime I can be charged with is manslaughter). I have asked for a solicitor at my court appearance today and apparently the Ginger one has applied for online representation for me, which was nice of him considering the circumstances. However, his spelling leaves a lot to be desired and it looks like my "Barista" is arriving at 12.30pm...but at least we will get a decent cup of coffee before proceedings start!

This next offering was sent in anonymously. Anyone want to own up to it?

Mon V Me at DMP & TD = Totally Disinterested.

by anonymous

It's me on-roll with 1-on-the-Bar & 14 all on my 1+2+3 points and Mon with 2 on her 1+3+4+5+6+Bar points & 1 Spare on 4+5+6 points.

Me: "Mon ... half-a-crown ... what did that used to be called?"

Mon: "Half-a-crown? Well ... um ... well wasn't it 2 & 6?"

Me [to TD]: "Umpire! Referee! My opponent is calling my dice ... she should be fined 1 point!"
The TD prised-open a yawn.

The 1st dice was a 2 ... & the 2nd after a minute [actually 0.01 seconds] was ... a 5:I almost had a corona!

Mon closed me out / bore-off 12 checkers / I saved the Gammon ... but not my (quorn) bacon.

'armonica waltzed over to the TD but the result had long-since been penicillined-in ho-hum.

Diary of Events

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
JULY		
10	Hippodrome monthly	Hippodrome Casino, Leicester Square, London
15-16	22nd Liverpool Open	Leo Casino, Liverpool
AUGUST		
12	UKBGF Clubs Championship	The Priory Centre, St Neots, Cambs.
14	Hippodrome monthly	Hippodrome Casino, Leicester Square, London
20-28	Mind Sports Olympiad	JW3, Finchley Road, London NW3
SEPTEMBER		
1-3	4th UK Open	Coombe Abbey Hotel, Warwickshire CV3 2AB
11	Hippodrome monthly	Hippodrome Casino, Leicester Square, London
16-17	BMAB Ranking Tournament	Best Western Hotel, Long Eaton
30	Ealing Summer Tournament	Bowls Club, The Pavillion, Craven Road W5 2UA
23-24	Winchester Open	The Discovery Centre, Winchester
OCTOBER		
5-8	EUBGF European Championships 2017	Reykjavik, Iceland
6-8	25th Irish Open	Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire
9	Hippodrome monthly	Hippodrome Casino, Leicester Square, London
14	Bognor 1-day	The Waverley Pub, Bognor Regis
21-22	Newcastle Open	The Royal British Legion, Newcastle
27-29	Bristol Open	Rainbow Casino, Explore Lane, Bristol
NOVEMBER		
10-12	Manchester Open	Grovenor Casino, Didsbury, Manchester
13	Hippodrome monthly	Hippodrome Casino, Leicester Square, London
17-19	BIBA UK Finals	Wokefield Park, Reading

For weekly or monthly club events see:

[UKBGF Clubs page](#)

[London Players' League calendar](#)

Ealing Tournament Winners

Bowls Club

1 June	T1: Anna Price T2: Petar Vidovic & Alan Beckerson T3: Graham Smith & Joseph Sarkis
8 June	T1: Ben Owen T2: Alan Beckerson
15 June	T1: Alan Beckerson & Len Brown T2: Geoff Oliver T3: Sebastian Adams
22 June	T1: Lawrence Powell T2: Alan Beckerson T3: Chris Hamilton T4: Geoff Oliver
29 June	T1: Geoff Oliver T2: Tariq Siddiqi

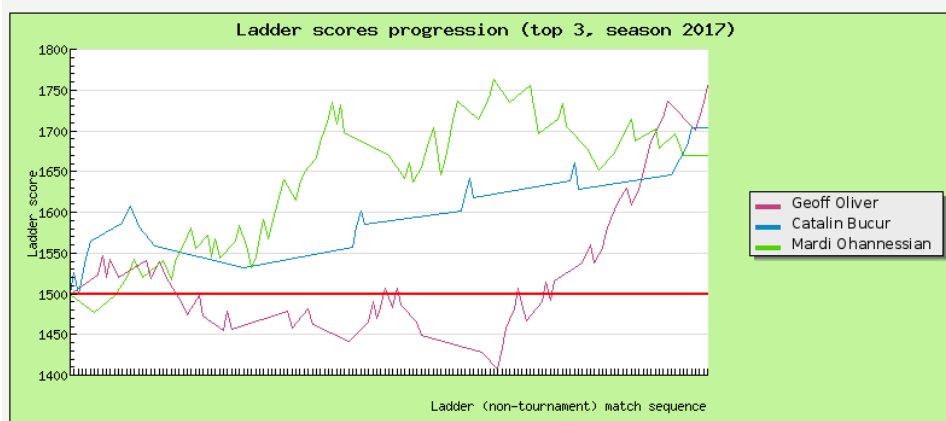
The Grange

5 June	T1: Eric Maillebiau T2: Tariq Siddiqi T3: Sean Clennell
3 July	T1: Catalin Bucur T2: Ben Owen T3: Anna Price T4: Geoff Oliver T5: Bill Pope

Ealing Ladder

Movers and Shakers

Ealing Ladder - Season 2017



We're getting down to the business end of the season, and some seasoned players are making their move - the cream seems to be rising to the top, but as this Ealing piña colada is mixed, who will get the rough end of the pineapple?

Rank ▼	Name	Chart	Score	Points played
1	Geoff Oliver	Remove	1,750.41	327
2	Catalin Bucur	Remove	1,704.15	133
3	Mardi Ohannessian	Remove	1,669.27	371
4	Lawrence Powell	Add	1,660.45	181
5	Paul Mortimer	Add	1,660.37	88
6	Len Brown	Add	1,652.72	306
7	Simon Morecroft	Add	1,644.33	79
8	Ray Mills	Add	1,633.52	73
9	Mike Ireland	Add	1,613.89	251
10	Ben Owen	Add	1,607.38	323

Brandy Alexander Ben Owen has won his last 4 to streak into the top 10 and from all reports is playing some top quality gammon.

While Simon the mojito maestro Morecroft has an excellent record of 9 wins, 4 losses this season which lands him in 7th, and is threatening to break into the top 5. But he might have a hard time with the likes of Cat Palinca, Mardi O'ld Fashioned and Lawrence Appletini Powell already a few rounds ahead of him.

Number one spot at the bar goes to My Goodness My Guinness Geoff Oliver, and he's starting to look comfortable on that bar stool. He may have started slow, but he started at 10am and with an 80% win rate in the last 30 matches, he might just make it to the kebab shop first.

Classified Ads



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Classified Ads

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www.thecitizenstrust.org.uk



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Please mention One foot in the Gammon if you make contact with any of the above organisations.

The 4th UK Backgammon Open



1-3 September 2017

For full details visit www.ukbgf.com/uk-open/

*Venue: Coombe Abbey Hotel, Brinklow Road, Binley, Warwickshire CV3 2AB
- a magnificent historical venue approximately six miles east of Coventry city centre*



The James Ahern Foundation *“Enabling the pursuit of passion”*

