



# One Foot In The Gammon

Monthly Backgammon in Ealing Newsletter

**BGIE**  
**Issue 8**

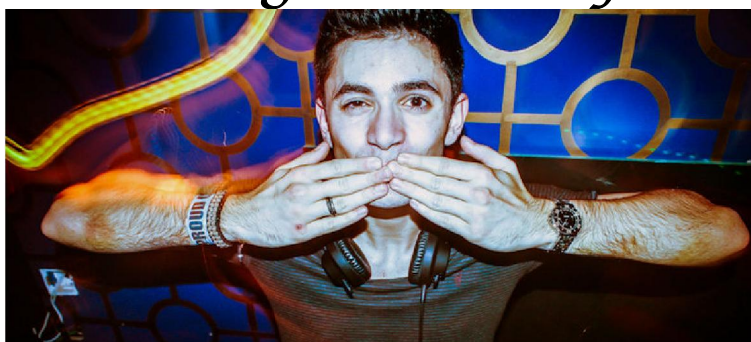
**Two "Firsts" that you just can't miss!**

## *The 1st Winchester Open*



*The Discovery Centre,  
23rd-24th September*

## *The (1st) James Ahern Backgammon Cup*



*Ealing Bowls club  
Saturday 30th September*

### **Inside this issue:**

*Winchester Open*  
Page 2

*Player profile*  
Page 3

*Cookery corner*  
Page 4

*The 4th UK Open*  
Page 5-7

*Unofficial Awards*  
Page 8

*Tim Mount's Soul quiz*  
Page 9

*Yamy writes!*  
Page 10

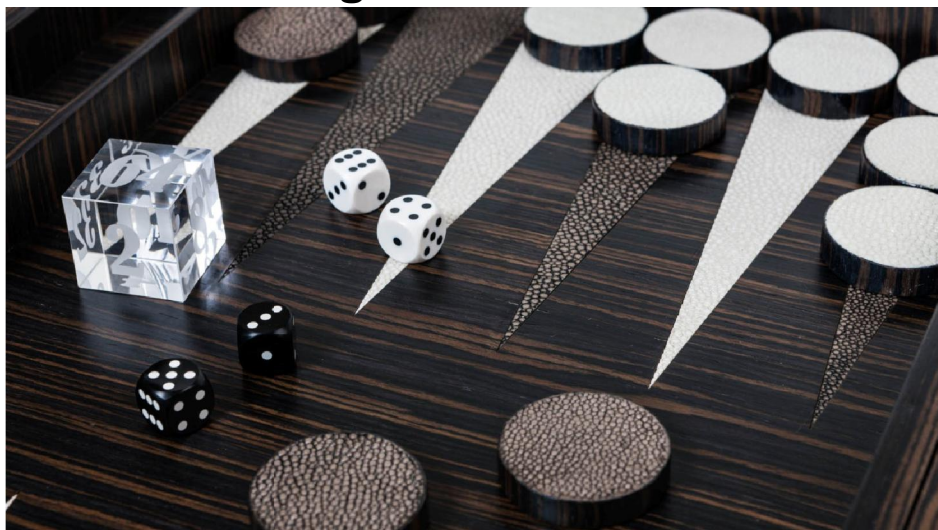
*James Ahern Cup*  
Page 11

*Ladder review*  
page 12

*Diary of events*  
Page 13

# **THE 1ST WINCHESTER OPEN BACKGAMMON**

**Join us for an exciting weekend playing the oldest  
board game in the world**



**23rd-24th September 2017**

**For details including format and entry information  
visit**

**<http://winchesteropen.juliahayward.com>**



**[www.ukbgf.com](http://www.ukbgf.com)**

**Part of the UKBGF tour**

# Player Profile: VALERIE HAYES



Unfortunately we were unable to locate a photograph of Valerie so this is a drawing of a typical Frenchwoman.

**Who introduced you to BG?** My mate Natalie Delciappo aged 6.

**What was the first BG club you played at?** BGIE.

**What was your worst BG experience?** Playing Chris Hamilton and being given a telling off for not shaking the dice properly.

**Which player do you enjoy playing most, and why?** Hussain (Mr Double 4) we laugh so hard it hurts, the game is so much fun when not taken too seriously.

**What is your favourite song/Artist?** "We are the Champions" by Queen.

**What is your favourite Film/Book?** To Kill a Mockingbird - I love justice.

**Favourite holiday destination and why?** Mystical magical adventures, with waterfalls and castles.

**What is your favourite BG tournament?** The only one I've experienced is BGIE.

**What is your pet hate?** Answering profile questions.

**At which shop are you most likely to max out your credit card?** Sauvignon Blancs' vineyard.

**Which cartoon character turns you on?** Simon's Cat.

**If your life was a movie, what would the title be, and which actor/actress would play the love interest?** Where the fxxx is Albert? played by Milo Ventimiglia.

**List three things still on your bucket list?** Seek out Atlantis, Machu Picchu, and the rainforests of the Amazon.

**What's your biggest weakness?** Apart from Darren's moaning, chocolate.

# *Cookery Corner*

## **How to make.....Crispy Charcoal Pizza**

First walk boastfully into your local Backgammon club telling anyone who will listen that you have reached six consecutive finals, including one at the UK Open. Then let them buy you copious amounts of beer just to shut you up. At the end of the night, stagger down high street and pop into Tesco Express. Purchase the beef and onion pizza and continue on your merry way. Upon reaching the front door remember to do the "Jitterbug key dance" and then finally let yourself fall pleasantly through the door, remembering to slam it shut behind you.

Turn the oven to gas mark 9 for ten minutes then place the pizza on the top shelf, forgetting of course to lower the gas to mark 7. Put the timer on for 12 minutes, pour yourself a glass of water, put the TV on, and fall asleep on the sofa for the next two hours.

Upon waking to the shrill screams of your partner, jump to your feet and do your best impersonation of a pinball as you bounce from side to side down the hallway through the smoke filled flat until you reach the back door. Fumble for the key and as you slowly sink to your knees gasping for air, allow the door to swing open so you can fall head first into the garden.

When the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning has abated return to the oven, turn it off, remove contents, and serve.

Voila!





# Coombe Abbey and the 4<sup>th</sup> UK Open

The hard work behind the scenes; the journeys up from London to Coventry for meetings; the barrage of emails; the negotiations for reduced room rates; the discussions on the feeding of the 5000 (well 159 plus partners); the two-tier room rates.....and then finally the day dawned and we were ready to rumble. My only worry now was how would the BG players feel about this new venue, the place I have been pushing to the UKBGF for over 2 years as a new home for the UK Open. Of course, as we all know, there will be the usual serial complainers but the great thing about these players is at least we know who they are and generally what they are going to complain about so you can plan your replies accordingly. (I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Sun Tzu for writing his book "The Art of War", as it was my bedtime reading in the days before battle was to commence on 1st September, but as poor old Sun is long dead, there is not a lot of point in thanking him.)

However, as the weekend progressed I was very pleasantly surprised by how well the hotel was received by the BG fraternity and after a several pats on the back and congratulations I was able to relax and start thinking about winning a match or two!

In Round one I met Shaun Goode, a very likeable player and we helped put each other's nerves at ease as the game was played in a friendly manner. I scraped through 11-9 and was told I had a bye into round 3! Well that's the furthest I have been in a major tournament so I happily trotted off to the bar (yes it was slightly early in the day but I was in holiday mode by this time), and on my way proudly told anyone who would listen that I was in round 3.

I had a bit of a wait until my next match but eventually got to play Mucella Ozandac who was over from Turkey on holiday. She didn't speak English but her daughter translated. She has been playing BG for 70 years and wow what a killer she was with the cube. I was 7-10 down and staring defeat in the face, but somehow managed to get that extra bit of luck and crawl over the line 11-10. She was an absolutely fantastic lady and so was her lovely daughter and interpreter, Can.



Round 4 next and again a very pleasant surprise awaited me in the form of Donna Sherred, another absolutely beautiful lady. Again it went to the wire, and another set of lucky rolls got me over the finishing line 11-10. By this time I was physically drained, so I sauntered off to the bar, stopping by the small terraced area to have a chat with Sean Clennell. Sean was looking so relaxed and at home that we thought he had recently purchased the property, but I think it had a lot to do with the fact that he had brought his lovely wife Natalie with him. That alone spoke volumes to me that we had made the right choice in holding the event at Coombe Abbey, a venue where we could all invite our partners.

After my beer, I headed back for Round 5 against Adam Sinclair. I didn't know a lot about Adam but got to like him a lot in the space of our match. The bugger beat me 11-7 (at least I think it was 11-7 but I couldn't see the scoreboard through my tears) so I was relegated to the Fighters bracket in which I would now have to win three consecutive 5-point matches to realise my dream of my first ever final.

Next up was Lucy Friedman. I had met Lucy on the Friday evening in a satellite game where she soundly beat me, so it was with some trepidation that I sat down opposite her to await my fate. However, the dice gods were yet again with me and I got over the winning line.



Two matches to go before the final! Don't think about it Darren, just one step at a time (I told myself). So I headed off to the bar (a bit of a theme of mine) past the now vertical Sean Clennell, a quick top up of Coombe Bitter and back to meet my next opponent....Garry Jones!

Garry hails from the Worcester club which is by all accounts run superbly by his much older brother Sean (he told me to say that Sean). I don't know if any of you came across the Worcester players over the weekend but I found them all, without exception, to be a credit to the game. Garry and I verbally sparred as we raced around the board, commenting on our every move. Considering we were both within touching distance of the semi-final, the game was played in a great spirit and I "rightfully" ran out the winner!

Being a superstitious player, I went through the same process before the start of each match, head to the bar, past the vertical Sean, pint of Coombe's finest ale and back to face...the Bugger!

Yes, Adam Sinclair was waiting for me again with a big grin on his face! Oh well, I thought, I could be pleased with myself as I had made the semi's and done my BG club in Ealing proud. However...yes....wait a minute...I actually beat him and had made it to the finals! I warmly shook his hand and we have promised to meet up for beers (yes beer again!).



So I had actually made it to the final, but before the match I had one very important thing to do...no it wasn't a beer). I proposed to Jill, my partner for the last 12 years, and she actually said yes!

With a jauntily step to my stride (well as jauntily as I can get with a dodgy back and knee) I raced down to play my last opponent, Cristian Cozos, another friendly player. The first match was to 11 points and if I won we would then have to play a 5-point decider, so basically I had to win two matches.

Well the impossible happened and I raced away to win the first match 11-0. I was obviously on a high after my proposal (give it a year I hear you cynics say!) and, as we sat down to play our second match to 5 points, we both agreed that we would split the winnings down the middle and just play for the Geoffrey Parker Professional Roll-up board. Well that was a result for me as I lost the decider 5-2. Cristian was a very good player and thoroughly deserved his victory, but I felt like I was the real winner with Jill's acceptance of my proposal!

It occurred to me that throughout the Advanced tournament that I didn't hear one complaint! No moans about my lucky dice, no one telling me I made a lot of mistakes, and no general bitchiness. We just had fun and great banter, with plenty of good friendships made. Do I want to get to a final in the Advanced and win it one day? If it means playing with those serious players in the Professional tournament, those that tell me how hopeless I am, then the honest answer is no thank you. I would rather stay where I am and actually enjoy the game!

***My "Unofficial" awards for the UK BG Open:***

**Most harassed looking:** Peter Bennet (all weekend)

**Loudest laugh:** Anna Price (Saturday night in the bar)

**Biggest Hangover:** Anna Price (Sunday morning lost in the Grounds)

**Most relaxed:** Sean Clennell

**Friendliest team:** Worcester- Garry Jones- Darren Mansell - Gemma Preece - Jamie MacPherson - Richard Munslow - Richard Furborough - David Pritchard - Luke Baldacchino

**Nicest couple:** A dead heat between Sean Clennell & Natalie, and Donna Sherred & Mike Williams

**Worst Selfie:** Mike Ireland (in the "Birdcage" at breakfast with his slippers on!)

**Mr "Tech":** Emad Salib (assembling his camera was a joy to watch!)

**Nicest player:** Derek Cooper

**Most miserable:** 50% of the players after the 1st round

**Most Manic:** David Dennis, who else!

**Most missed:** Ben Owen



# Tim Mount's Soul Quiz

1. Who is known as The Godfather of Soul?
2. Which famous group are members of the Magic Circle and used to have magic tricks as part of their show?
3. Which soulful Cornish born singer started singing at 16 and always performs in bare feet?
4. Which famous soul singer was tragically shot dead by his father?
5. Which group sang "tracks of my tears" and "tears of a clown"?
6. Which genre of soul has "keep the faith" as their catch phrase?
7. Which famous soul singer has sung with George Michael and Elton John .
8. Which blind black singer became a heroin addict?

**\*Tie Breaker.** Who will win The James Ahern Cup on 30th September?

Send your answers to [dwoodcock@tallyhoeevents.co.uk](mailto:dwoodcock@tallyhoeevents.co.uk) no later than 29th September to be in with a chance to win a nice bottle of plonk.

\*In the event of a further tie, dice will be rolled to determine the winner.

# THE 2017 CZECH BG OPEN ..... JUST LIKE WORLD WAR 2!!

by Yarny

In Pardubice 1 hour by train east of Prague I Played in the 2017 Czech BG Open = 22 Players. There were 14 Czechs 6 Germans 1 Brit (me) & 1 Italian. I lost to a German Player in the Final & the 2 Losing semi-finalists were German Players too.

The Tournament took place on a Friday evening & all-day Saturday culminating in a Saturday Night Party: an open-air smorgasbord of fodder & booze galore with live-music on a stage 20 yards away at a riverside camp site. The cadre of German Players congratulated me on a close-fought Final & said it made it look better than-if all-4 Prize-winners were German ... & that of course the Tournament Organisers had been hoping for at-least 1 Czech Player to be in the last-4 ... or Final.

Many of the 14 Czech Players also congratulated me & said pretty much the same thing too i.e. it was good that not just 1 Nationality took all-4 Prizes. Each time I was congratulated a beer was presented to me & the (strong) golden-gargle was soon-flowing at a bubbling pace in-tandem with the gurgling nearby river.

The Tournament Director [TD] congratulated me [more Toastings ... of the non-bread kind] & announced that in 2018 there was an expectation that the Czech Players would make more of a fight of it. Then I was asked to say something.

I said: "What do you mean by more of a "FIGHT"! That was not a fight ... that was just like World War 2!! Listen! There were 14 Czech Players who between all-14 of them managed to knock out just ONE German Player! Also there was just 1 English Player ... but I managed to knock out FOUR of the German Players!! So ok ... the last of the German Players Player number 6 ... he got me in the Final. Yes he got the Gold Trophy & will be taking it back to the Fatherland ..... like I say ... just the same as World War 2!!"

Everything I was saying was being raucously received as I fended-off comments such as: "What about the Italian ... you are forgetting the Italian!?" "Das ist NICHT wahr mein freund!" I said: "El Italiano started out supporting the Czechs when he saw 1 or 2 of them were winning ... but then ... he changed sides to supporting the Germans when THEY started steam-rolling Wins just like a Panzer Tank! The Italian got knocked out because he was only interested in coming to this Party drinking lots of alcohol & chatting-up the waitresses ... like I already have said ... exactly the same as World War frigging 2!!"

The TD promised the Czechs would be stronger "Allies" the next time. I said: "Hey listen! There's an old Beatles-song called "Get by With a Little Help From my Friends" ... & "little" does not mean MICRO bloody SCOPIC! So I tell you what we will do next year ... you 14 Czech Players knock out 3 German Players & I ALSO will knock out 3 German Players so we make it 50-50 ok!?"

The TD said: "This must be the famous British sense of Fair Play." I finished by raising a tankard & saying: "Let's ALL drink to that!!!"

# *The James Ahern Foundation*

*proudly presents*



## *The James Ahern Backgammon Cup*

*Ealing Bowls club*

*Saturday 30th September*

*Numbers strictly limited to 32*

*£5 registration, £25 entry*

*MINIMUM PRIZE POOL £1000*

*(includes additional funds from BGIE)*

*£30 payment reserves your seat*

*(latest cancellation one week prior)*

# Ealing Ladder

Is the measure of a mountain in its height? For mountains do not last forever.

The old strength, Lawrence Everest Powell has enjoyed being the peak among the range for eons already. Is it enough just to be the highest mountain? Can he say "I'm number one, so why try harder?". The continents shift beneath and a resounding NO echoes down to the plains. Mr Everest, apparently not satisfied, reaches even higher into the thin air.

But Lo! A newcomer appears on the horizon. What once was a mild hillock, supporting green grass and family picnics has bloomed into a contender. Gone are the lush soft warm meadows. The unfortunate child with a frisbee can do nothing but stare up the sheer dark and snow topped menacing cliff of D.K.2 Woodcock. "Where did you come from?" The young boy asks. But only an eerie silence is received for an answer. K2 is rising so fast, streaking towards the sky so quickly, all the picnics and frisbee throwers have moved on. Now there is a new mountain, a new contender. Ladies and gentlemen, the horizon has been changed forever.

Last eras highest hill, G. Kilimanjaro Oliver maintains his height. While far more than a mere mound this player, a plateau has developed. Either up or down is the way to go. If all my mountaineering experience has taught us anything, it's that the smooth tabletop is deceptive. Can you hear the warning call? To defend the title, now is the time to rise Kilimanjaro!

Rank ▼	Name	Score	Points played
1	Lawrence Powell	1,858.67	288
2	Darren Woodcock	1,793.98	464
3	Geoff Oliver	1,681.82	367
4	Mardi Ohannessian	1,669.17	371
5	Len Brown	1,662.07	341
6	Paul Mortimer	1,655.77	103
7	Simon Morecroft	1,644.53	89
8	Peter Bennet	1,640.25	276
9	Chris Hamilton	1,634.99	245
10	Ray Mills	1,633.52	73

Nearing the end of an era, still anything could happen. Mountains do not last forever and a low gurgle can be heard - the ground rumbles slightly, there is massive power down low, it could happen any time, if just one volcano erupts the skyline will be forever altered. Don't paint your landscapes just yet people!



# Diary of Events

## DATE

## EVENT

## VENUE

### SEPTEMBER

16-17	<a href="#">BMAB Ranking Tournament</a>	Best Western Hotel, Long Eaton
23-24	<a href="#">Winchester Open</a>	The Discovery Centre, Winchester
30	<a href="#">Ealing 'James Ahern Cup'</a>	Bowls Club, The Pavillion, Craven Road W5 2UA

### OCTOBER

5-8	<a href="#">EUBGF European Championships 2017</a>	Reykjavik, Iceland
6-8	<a href="#">25th Irish Open</a>	Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire
9	<a href="#">Hippodrome monthly</a>	Hippodrome Casino, Leicester Square, London
14	<a href="#">Bognor 1-day</a>	The Waverley Pub, Bognor Regis
21-22	<a href="#">Newcastle Open</a>	The Royal British Legion, Newcastle
27-29	<a href="#">Bristol Open</a>	Rainbow Casino, Explore Lane, Bristol

### NOVEMBER

10-12	<a href="#">Manchester Open</a>	Grosvener Casino, Didsbury, Manchester
13	<a href="#">Hippodrome monthly</a>	Hippodrome Casino, Leicester Square, London
17-19	<a href="#">BIBA UK Finals</a>	The Manor Hotel, Meriden, Solihull

### DECEMBER

9	<a href="#">Bradford Xmas</a>	Napoleons Casino, Bradford - £500 added
9-10	<a href="#">BMAB Ranking Tournament</a>	Best Western Hotel, Long Eaton
28	<a href="#">Worcester Turkey Tourney</a>	Barbourne Ex-Servicemens Club
30	<a href="#">Manchester Xmas Tournament</a>	The Moor Club, Stockport

### JANUARY

12-14	<a href="#">BIBA Bright 'n' Breezy</a>	Jury's Inn, Brighton
-------	--	----------------------

For weekly or monthly club events see:

[UKBGF Clubs page](#)

[London Players' League calendar](#)

If you would like to publicise your club competition free of charge in One foot in the Gammon then please contact the editor.