



One Foot In The Gammon

Monthly Backgammon in Ealing Newsletter

BGIE
Issue 9

Was this the best club tournament ever?

James Ahern Cup



**According to Carlsberg it probably
was!**

(see inside for photos)

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The Newcomer by Jack Ellery



As a relative beginner in the backgammon game I was initially apprehensive about an all day tournament. I'd met Ben, Valerie and Peter at the Owl and Pussy Cat in Ealing for a beginners session and felt I had an awful lot to learn before taking on the big guns at Ealing Bowls Club. Ben encouraged me to sign up, and I'm really glad he did as I had a great day. What better way to improve my own game than to battle it out against some top players!

The morning started very well, with a bacon butty and a cup of tea, and swiftly went downhill as I lost my first match in a slightly nervous match against Sebastian Adams. My aim for the day was to win at least one match, and I managed to accomplish this in my second match against Sean Jones from Worcester, with the aid of some quite fortunate rolling. My next match was against Tariq Siddiqi and although I was dispatched with swiftly, I picked up some valuable tips. After a break for a tasty roast dinner and cheese cake, I managed to eek out two more wins in close matches where some lucky rolls helped me out greatly.

The atmosphere throughout the day was extremely friendly, with a competitive edge. I met some great people and learnt a lot about backgammon, while also helping support a very worthwhile charity. I was very excited to open two of the lucky dip envelopes which gave me a chance of winning some cash. I collected a cash prize and the (literal) booby prize which was a memorable experience. All in all a really enjoyable day and I'm looking forward to the next tournament.

Thank you for sending this to us Jack and I am really glad you enjoyed the day. The most satisfying thing about this is that you came through our Beginners Club, played in a main tournament, and actually won 2 out of 5 games against seasoned players, which is a great achievement. Well done!

James Ahern Cup

The next few pages are a selection of photos taken at the event at Ealing Bowls club on Saturday 30th September.

All of the photos reproduced in this newsletter are courtesy of Michael Hewson.

Michael was a pro photographer in a previous century, just about! He did work for the Architectural Association, interiors for the Sunday Times and worked with a couple of the top model agencies working on developing portfolios. He achieved the dizzy heights of shooting both Lloyd Grossman and Noel Edmonds - hurrah!

He has started getting into photography again as he loves taking natural honest portraits. If you are interested in using Michael please contact him at:

The logo for ELECTROFILM, featuring the word in a bold, white, sans-serif font centered within a grey rectangular background.

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Joseph and Petar were standing just a bit too close to the Scones for Peters liking.



Emad through the looking glass...or is he the Emad Hatter!



A man of style, class and sophistication, Colin Saunders was desperately trying not to let rip and have the two years of Bangalore curries get the better of him.



Backgammon in Ealing is at the forefront of every new idea in the BG world what with our two new synchronised BG players, Tariq Siddiqi and Graham Smith, who are warming up for the next Olympics.



Peter had never felt so important as he had his own dedicated Minder!

"Come on in Boys" she says seductively. "I have cake which I made myself" .





"Right you Ginger haired git. I know you have organised this tournament but if you attempt to beat me if we are drawn together then I will break the other hand as well!"



Darren was slightly irritated when the photo lens was pushed in his face, but wasn't exactly sure on how to give the finger whilst keeping his other hand on his Ha'penny!



You can tell that some people just love playing Backgammon!



Larry Smyth sauntering his way to a second place whilst stuffing himself with Plum Crumble!



Father Christmas having some down time before his busy period. He is particularly stressing about flying over North Korea this year.

BGIE have discovered the only way to stop Ben talking was to stick a £20 note in his gob and tell him if he can keep it in there for the next 3 hours it's his!





"No Anna that is NOT a bike shed behind us and I am not going behind it with you"

A pleased Graham Smith
just received a letter from
his ironing lady saying that
she will be back to work
on Monday





Mahmoud was secretly pleased when he looked at the board and realised his opponent didn't even know how to set it up!



The Mighty Jon Barnes celebrates whilst Darren continues writing his autobiography "Another day, Another loser".



The one who's made me the person I am today! Yes, blame her ok!



"Peter, please stop staring at my breasts"



Where did all this bloody Superglue come from?



Oh you wanted a Bar Cleaner, I thought you said Bar Clearer!



Thank you everyone for such a fabulous day!!

Guitarist For Hire - Mike Georgiades



Mike is a classical and acoustic guitarist for hire at UK events, such as weddings, receptions, dinners and corporate events. Mike performs in many styles, namely classical, rock and pop, Spanish and flamenco, jazz and Latin.

Mike is one of the UK's most popular guitarists, and has performed at many prestigious venues including The Oval, Wentworth, The Gherkin, London Zoo, Pizza Express, The National Portrait Gallery, The Royal Pavilion, The Four Seasons Hotels, The Grove, The Savoy and many more.

Mike is also a prominent composer for TV programmes (singled with Sony/EMI) and video games, and recent credits include the hit Ubisoft game Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag and various BBC/ITV/C4 programmes, including The One Show, Top Gear, Coronation Street and Coast vs Country.

Please visit Mike's website www.mikegeorgiades.com for instant audio/video demos, further information, and to enquire as to Mike's availability for your event.

Testimonials:

Friends Of The Earth "A big thank you from FOTE for your fantastic guitar playing and for making our event so special..."

Wedding Ideas Magazine (Feb 2013 Issue) "My dad walked me down the aisle to Canon in D which was played by our guitarist Mike Georgiades, who I have to say was fantastic and really created the perfect romantic atmosphere..."

Investec – International Test Cricket Sponsors Regarding recent performance at the Oval..."Mike was smartly dressed, very friendly and his music went down well with our clients. He fulfilled our brief perfectly and we wouldn't hesitate to book him again."

Guitar Techniques Magazine "Brilliant arrangement ideas."

Musician Magazine "Sublime guitar playing."

Editor: I have worked with Mike before and he is not only a very likeable and approachable person, but also extremely talented and professional. Whatever the size of your event/party, it really is worth getting in touch with Mike to see what he can do to help showcase your day.



The Backgammon community will gather on the 26th of November at the RAC, Pall Mall to support The Squad charity. RAC member Sidi Shatku, a Trustee of the Squad, and the Committee would be delighted to welcome the Backgammon community and their friends and family to this event.

The Squad is based in Wimbledon and runs Thursday night clubs for people with learning disabilities. Our club nights are fun-packed and educational, giving these vulnerable individuals an opportunity to get out of the house, meet like-minded friends, socialize and learn life skills in a safe, welcoming environment. Without organisations like The Squad, it is all too easy for people with learning disabilities to become socially isolated. It also allows their parents and carers also get some much needed respite.

Unfortunately large cuts in council funding over the past few years have left The Squad in a precarious position. We are currently seeking to raise money to keep our doors open for the next 6 months, whilst we continue to pursue more sustainable long-term funding options to secure our future. We have also set-up a donation page to further support our initiative (<https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/savethesquad#>)

This event will be supported by the RAC Backgammon Club and the UKBGF.

Event Schedule

- 11 am : Continental Brunch in the Mountbatten Room
- 12 am : Raffle and live auction
- 1 pm : Tournament commences
- 3.30 pm: Tea and Coffee

Entry fee

Brunch only: £70

Tournament: £100

We will have a single tournament in which each player is guaranteed two matches (Main and Consolation).

The prize for the Main winner will be a Premium Backgammon Board and a Trophy.

There is a limited capacity for this tournament and we will reserve the spots on a first come first serve basis.

Please book your place NOW by emailing me at sidi.shatku@gmail.com and you will receive a confirmation e-mail with the payment details. We will have a great day at the RAC and your support will make a huge difference to this small charity.

The Squad Tournament Backgammon Committee

Trudi Seely, Peter Bennet, Antonio Sgambato, Sidi Shatku

Tournament Director: Richard Hartigan

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“Luck? I don’t know anything about luck. I’ve never banked on it and I’m afraid of people who do. Luck to me is something else: Hard work – and realizing what is opportunity and what isn’t.”

- Lucille Ball