

Phil Simborg has been teaching backgammon for over 20 years. He has been playing over 50 years. In 2005, Phil ended up No. 2 on the ABT tour. He lives in Chicago, is married to Randee, and has two children and two step children. Phil is also an excellent racquetball player, a Life Master in Bridge, and an excellent gin rummy player. He has published over 100 articles on backgammon on various web sites and newsletters.

The Backgammon Lecture and Quiz consists of several very interesting positions which will be presented to the group as a whole. Players will select their preferred play or cube decision and enter it on the answer sheet. Points will be awarded for the best, second best, and sometimes third best plays. The Open Level and Intermediate Level players with the best scores will receive trophies and small cash prizes. Only the highest scores will be revealed, so no one need be embarrassed if they don't score well. This program will be a great learning experience as the positions selected will illustrate important concepts of checker and cube play, and they will be discussed fully. At the end of the program, all participants will receive a hard-copy of the program including detailed explanations. Similar programs are scheduled for other ABT events this year. This is an excellent way to find out just how much you know about the game and to learn a lot of strategies and concepts.

Kill Phil is an event that has been popular at many tournaments the past few years. Players are invited to compete in 5 point blitz matches, but there are two twists: 1) The "Simborg Rule" will be in effect for all matches, and 2) if you happen to draw Phil and beat him, there is a bonus. The Simborg Rule states that the winner of the opening roll of the game (every game) CANNOT make a point and if he rolls a 6-5, he cannot run a single checker. The theory is that this rule somewhat reduces the advantage of the opening roll, but it also leads to more unusual and complicated positions in the early game that would not otherwise happen...thus making the game more challenging.

Perry Gartner and Phil Simborg have teamed up to provide a lecture on the important concepts of the use of the doubling cube. Together they have developed a methodology that they believe it is important to apply to every doubling cube decision, and they will explain their process in detail, discuss the important considerations of the doubling cube, and provide a take-away for all attendees. Perry and Phil have a long and distinguished history of teaching and playing and have often teamed up to give seminars and lectures both live and on line.

More information about Phil Simborg can be found on his web site, which includes a position of the day, articles, tips, and other information that is changed daily.

Phil's site is <http://www.simborgbackgammonlessons.com>