

2002 monte carlo world championship

MADS ANDERSON HANGS ON TO WIN WORLD TITLE

Examining How Cube Action Can Affect One's Play

by Harald Johanni

Danish expert Mads Anderson has won the 2002 Monte Carlo World Championships. The annual summer mega-event, held at the Grand Hotel in Monte Carlo, Monaco 8–14 July was one of best-attended ever attracting over 500 players from across the globe.

This was the first year since 1988 that I was unable to participate. But thanks to GammonVillage.com, I could follow all the Monte Carlo action (including the gala parties!) online. Every day I had a look at Michael Strato's postings and replayed all the available matches with the GV Match Viewer. Michael's incredible reporting efforts were consequently honored with the Chairman's Trophy by the World Championship organizers.

Along with Mads Anderson, fellow Dane Jan Bloxham, Veronica Dabul (Argentina), and Israeli Felix Ziva made up four of the best-ever semifinalists to compete for the World Championship. With these competitors, anything result would be possible, because even on a bad day, they all play at the expert level.

Mads Andersen, who placed 16th in Yamin Yamin's Giants of Backgammon and 19th in the BGM (performance evaluation by Snowie™ analysis) ranking list, won the semifinals against Jan Bloxham in a 23–22 cliffhanger. In the finals against another excellent player, Felix Ziva from Israel, Mads claimed the world title and \$80,000 prize money by winning another double match-point nail-biter 25–23.

Mads Andersen is a fine and quiet backgammon player. His main skill is a sharp understanding of complicated positions. Mads is the worthy 2002 World Champion.

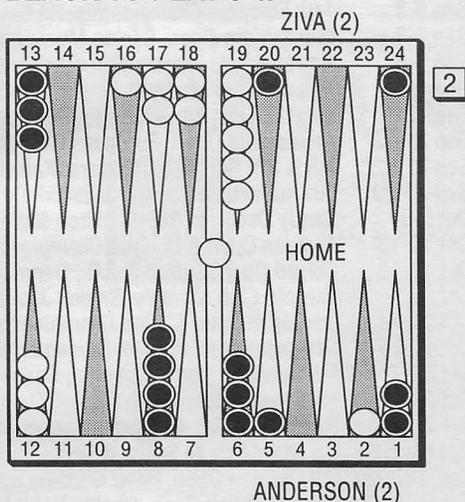
While analyzing matches, especially from the semi's and the finals, I discovered typical checker play errors occurring



World Champ Mads Anderson receives his trophy from Director James Ballié (left) and Chairman François Julien (right). [Photo by Michael Strato]

just before or just after tense cube actions again and again. So rather than refer to the following examples as reference positions, think of them as reference situations that often occur in critical matches (where winning or losing is of significant consequence). Let's go to the first position:

Pos. 1. 25-point World Championship finals. Mads Anderson (Black) and Felix Ziva (White) are tied at 2-all. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-4.**



We are in game 3 of the World Backgammon Championship finals. The score of the 25-point match is tied 2–2. Mads Andersen (Black) has just doubled and rolled 6-4 following Felix Ziva's (White) correct take.

Mads played 20/16*/10. Andersen is an excellent player and I firmly believe he

[Continued on page 5]

michigan summer championships

BOWER COMEBACK EDGES HICKEY IN MICHIGAN

JACK KISSANE WINS MASTERS

More than 200 players gathered at the Novi Hilton Hotel over the 4–7 July holiday weekend to enjoy the camaraderie and backgammon action at the Michigan Summer Backgammon Championships. Director Carol Joy Cole made sure everyone had a great time. Some of the happy winners included Chuck Bower (Open), Dan Grogan (Intermediate), Bud Bowers (Beginner), Jack Kissane (Michigan Masters), and Chicago's Tim Mabee (Games-Grid Blitz).



Chuck Bower ponders a difficult move vs. Mary Hickey in the Michigan Summer Championship finals.

The Open Tournament

Ohio expert Mary Hickey, a contributing editor for CHICAGO POINT and other backgammon publications, rolled undefeated through the double elimination event with victories over seven opponents including Abbas Zaltash (PA), Herb Gurland (MA) and Matt Reklaitis (PA). Mary's opponent in the finals was Chuck Bower of Indiana. Chuck, who is the *Hoosier Newsletter* contributing editor, lost his second match and then ripped through such opponents as Mike Corbett (FL), Bob Glass (CA) and Canadian Will Chu.

[Continued on page 7]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

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NEW BAR POINT CLUB HOME

Your new home at the Clarion Hotel sounds great. Two divisions of play (Masters and Open) with no worry about getting shut out. Your club is one of the reasons why Chicago is just such a great town. It's a backgammon Disneyland!—*Fred Badagnini, Irving, Texas*

ACEY-DEUCEY

I would like to put on an Acey-Deucey Tournament at our USS Threadfin SS-410 November biannual reunion in Las Vegas. As Acey-Deucey is similar, but not the same as, Backgammon I am trying to figure out the best method to set-up the tournament. Can you help with rules and drawsheets?—*George Lockwood, Sarasota, Florida*

Go to *Mel Leifer's Gammon Links at:*
<http://www.chicagopoint.com/links.html>

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole
810/232-9731
cjc@tir.com

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Sep 8	Backgammon by the Bay Monthly, TGI Friday's, Oakland, California	831/688-9722
Sep 8	South Florida Monthly, Sheraton Suites Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Sep 14	Red, White & Blue Open, Triple Crown Sports Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Sep 14-15	23rd Vietor Invitational Cup, Vietor residence, La Jolla, California	818/901-0464
Sep 15*	Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio	614/771-0981
Sep 15*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Canton, Ohio	330/866-2811
Sep 15*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/779-8209
Sep 19*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament (Illinois), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Sep 21*	Redwood Empire Monthly, Embassy Suites Hotel, San Rafael, California	707/477-6430
Sep 23*	FIBS 2002 Fall Tournament, via computer	<i>david@escoffery.com</i>
Sep 27-29	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, New York</u>	<u>716/387-0767</u>
Sep 28*	Backgammon by the Bay Saturday, Gigi's Cafe, Scotts Valley, California	707/477-6430
Sep 28*	Colorado Fall Classic, Arapahoe Bowling, Greenwood Village, Colorado	303/756-8622
Sep 28*	Northwest Indiana Gammon Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/728-8622
Sep 29*	Ace Point Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Sep 29*	Milwaukee Club Monthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	414/962-8549
Oct 1*	"Dinner for the Winner" Monthly, TableRock Brewpub, Boise, Idaho	208/342-8865
Oct 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer	<i>tournaments@cyberarts.com</i>
Oct 1*	MSN Gammonzone Medallion Monthly, via computer	<i>GZMedallion@gammonzone.net</i>
<u>Oct 4-6</u>	<u>Florida State Championships, Sheraton Suites, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Oct 5*	Universal Mall Bimonthly Series #5, All the King's Men, Warren, MI	313/381-6639
Oct 6*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyways Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Oct 6*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Canton, Ohio	330/866-2811
Oct 12*	Fall Classic, Triple Crown Sports Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Oct 20*	Flint Area Club Championships, All the King's Men, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
<u>Oct 11-13</u>	<u>Illinois State Championships, Springfield Hilton, Springfield, Illinois</u>	<u>217/528-0117</u>
<u>Oct 18-20</u>	<u>Northeast Regional, Comfort Inn Albany Airport, Latham, NY</u>	<u>603/863-4711</u>
<u>Nov 1-3</u>	<u>Minnesota State Championships, Mystic Lake Casino, Prior Lake, Minn.</u>	<u>763/682-1716</u>
Nov 12	20th Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Clarion Hotel, Chicago, IL	773/583-6464
Nov 16-20	Pro-Am Championship, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Nov. 20-24	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
<u>Dec 6-8</u>	<u>50th Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
<u>Dec 27-29*</u>	<u>Ace Point Holiday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, New York</u>	<u>212/753-0842</u>
Jan 16-20*	2nd Boston Open & Masters Jackpot, Hyatt Harborside, Boston, Mass.	781/641-2091
<u>Jan 17-19*</u>	<u>3rd Carolina Invitational, Charlotte, North Carolina</u>	<u>704/814-0850</u>
Feb 1-8	BG on Board VI, Ft. Lauderdale/ St. Maarten/St. Thomas, Golden Princess	773/583-6464

OUTSIDE USA

Sep 6-8	14th European Championship, Hit Casino, Park Hotel, Nova Gorica, Slovenia	392-69018168
Sep 7-8	Munkebjerg Open, Casino Munkebjerg Vejle, Vejle, Denmark	4575-833435
Sep 7-8	Roy Hollands Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Sep 8*	Toronto Club Monthly, Smilin' Jack's, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
Sep 13-15*	CANCELLED: 4th Süddeutscher-Cup, Freiburg/Baden-Baden, Germany	49711-486190
Sep 21-22*	Amsterdam Open, European Go Cultural Center, Amstelveen, Holland	316-55377395
Sep 21-22*	7th & 8th Ranglistenturniere, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Sep 28-29	5th Humlebæk Open, Humlebæk Centret, Humlebæk, Denmark	4520-671995
Oct 5-6	Sandy Osborne Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Oct 10-13	Austrian Open & Doubles Championship, Hotel Veronika, Seefeld, Austria	43512-287244
Oct 12-13	Solrød Open, Solrød A.B.C., Denmark	4556-124282
Oct 13*	Toronto Club Monthly, Smilin' Jack's, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
Oct 12-14	8th Japan Open & 32nd Championship, Nakano Sun Plaza, Tokyo, Japan	813-33733814
Oct 19-20	Centrebet Åbne Fynske, Studenterhuset Odense, Denmark	4565-923363
Oct 24-27	5th Salvador Open, Salvador, South Bahia, Brazil	557191-357820
Oct 26-27	10th Irish Open, Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, Ireland	3531-6030891
Oct 26-27*	DATE CHANGE: 4th Süddeutscher-Cup, Karlsfeld, Munich, Germany	49711-486190
Oct 30-Nov 3	7th Grand Prix de Suisse & World Doubles, Splendide Royal, Lugano, Switz.	4179-3374425
Oct 31-Nov 3*	9th German Open, Hotel Glocken Spitze, Altenkirchen, Germany	49521-64314
Oct 31-Nov 3	22nd Swedish Open, Quality Hotel Nacka, Stockholm, Sweden	468-189346
Nov 8-10*	Rio Tournament, Hotel Portobello, Angra-dos-Reis, Rio, Brazil	55212-5570350
Nov 9-10*	Townharbour Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Nov 16-17*	9th & 10th Ranglistenturniere, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Nov 23-24*	Danish Championships 2002, Copenhagen, Denmark	4533-363601
Nov 23-24*	Swiss Championships, Hotel Krafft am Rhein, Basel, Switzerland	4161-4812755
Dec 7-8*	United Kingdom Finals, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Dec 10-14*	2nd Cancun Open, Ritz Carlton Hotel, Cancun, Mexico	<i>Germany contact:</i> 49911-409505
Dec 12-14*	1st Itaparica Open, Salvador, South Bahia, Brazil	55719-1357820
Jan 1-6*	8th Thailand Open, 19th Hole Super Pub, Pattaya, Thailand	6638-251461
Jan 5-7*	World Grand Jackpot, Grand Marriott Hotel, Bucharest, Romania	97252-581329
Jan 7-12*	World Cup Challenge VII, Grand Marriott Hotel, Bucharest, Romania	97252-581329

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

and you'll find a number of websites dealing with Acey-Deucey. As for the drawsheets, we're happy to supply you

with a single or double elimination format.—Ed.

REENTRIES AND MASTER POINTS

We are fortunate enough to run tournaments with 10–14 players on a regular

basis now (double what we had this time last year), and to fill the empty slots in the main tournament we have been selling them as buybacks. Everyone seems happy enough with the arrangement, however some players who always buyback if a slot is available are getting more master points. Some players believe that if a player buys back, that player should not be entered into the consolation round.

There can be conflicts when a player has a match in both the main and consolation flight at the same time, but other than this I don't see a problem. I believe they are jealous of others making more points.

Do you sell your empty slots? How would you organize things when buybacks are allowed?—*J. P. White, Director, Nashville (TN) Backgammon Club*

Chicago Bar Point Club tournaments don't allow defeated players to reenter the same event believing that it would taint a master point race. If you want to allow reentries, try this:

Award cash prizes to everyone in the tournament with only the first time entrants eligible for master points. That would seem to be fair as far as your annual points race is concerned and still generate extra prize money. But don't permit a player to simultaneously enter in two different slots. It could really slow down the tournament.—Ed.

NOT UNDER CONSIDERATION

I'd gladly pay double your current subscription rate if you would simply start

[Continued on page 4]



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2002

Top 100 compiled through 11 Aug. 2002 after 10 events
(Next up: Indiana Open, Towpath Inn, Florida State)



Ed O'Laughlin	34.37	Bruce Brown	7.22	Dave Cardwell	4.80	Bud Olejniczak	2.50
Chuck Bower	27.00	William Chu	6.76	Mike Friedman	4.78	Ben Elliott	2.50
Paul Klein	22.88	Bob Holyon	6.76	Al Tesoro	4.71	Gary Branton	2.50
Jeremy Bagai	22.69	Bill Versaw	6.50	Bob Wilensky	4.19	Paula Estacolchic	2.42
Ray Foglerlund	20.45	Jim Price	6.50	Greg Lilley	4.19	Bill Papa	2.42
Dan Grogan	18.11	Bud Bowers	6.29	Kurt Schurecht	4.16	Jack Kissane	2.35
Dennis Culpepper	16.99	David Rubin	6.25	Frank Talbot	4.16	Abdi Zaltash	2.27
Walter Trice	14.88	Chris Wilson	6.19	Dana Nazarian	4.09	Glenn Ramsey	2.27
Joe Freedman	13.78	Jeff Lentchner	6.03	Odis Chenault	4.09	Ray Woo	2.27
Jeb Horton	13.65	Jerry Godsey	6.00	Brian Barber	3.78	Marc Gray	2.25
Mary Hickey	13.49	Malcolm Davis	6.00	Boris Mindich	3.76	Tom Green	2.22
Bob Glass	13.49	Wally Wolf	5.89	Ilia Guzei	3.59	Dale Smith	2.11
Keith Kuligowski	12.50	Len Dangremond	5.75	Abbas Zaltash	3.38	Doug Rodgers	2.09
Al Jones	12.00	Sam Yoyen	5.50	Matt Reklaitis	3.38	Femi Owiku	2.08
Owen Black	11.44	Bill Choi	5.45	David Todd	3.38	Jena Rooney	2.08
Takis Sakkalis	11.36	David Rogers	5.40	Joann Feinstein	3.25	George Barr	2.06
Barry Murphy	11.36	Bill Bartholomay	5.29	Pete Lewandowski	3.25	Boris Dekhtyar	2.06
Steve Sax	11.33	Chen-Fu Yu	5.29	Stan Livingston	3.20	Bill Chibnik	1.83
Fred Kalantari	11.20	Jolie Rubin	5.20	Stuart Thomson	2.99	Ed Ratajczyk	1.71
Denise Hemingway	10.59	Jeff Acierno	5.18	Wally Swan	2.99	Charles Walter	1.71
Arman Karamian	10.59	Marianne Gatenby	5.17	Doug Johnson	2.99	Connie Tipton	1.70
Linda MacLean	10.02	Eric Johnson	5.11	James Roston	2.99	Luther Lute	1.70
Emil Mortluk	8.39	Vadim Musaelyan	5.00	Rudy Silich	2.76	Wanda Roberts	1.65
Sho Sengoku	8.18	Hank Chesko	4.99	Tim Carroll	2.64	4 tied with	1.63
Doug Mayfield	8.18	Neil Kazaross	4.86	Karen Chung	2.56		



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2002 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 31 AUG.

Lucky Nelson	17.92	Tak Morioka	6.08	David Rubin	1.92	John Brussel	0.88
Joe Wollick	15.52	Paul Baraz	5.68	Ken Bond	1.68	John Jennings	0.88
Herb Roman	13.28	David Araiza	5.28	Bill Keefe	1.60	Henry Gray	0.84
Bob Zavoral	12.32	Rory Paszar	5.00	Arline Levy	1.52	Royal Robinson	0.72
Carter Mattig	11.68	Alice Kay	4.80	Michael Peters	1.36	Tia Bailey	0.64
Steven Coren	11.60	David Wells	4.80	Jon Vietor	1.28	Terry Weiss	0.64
Tim Mabee	11.20	Val Zimnicki	4.32	Bill Sandman	1.28	Don Marek	0.64
Tim Carroll	10.72	Paul Lombardo	3.80	Brian Barber	1.28	John Stryker	0.60
Mike Sutton	10.08	Richard Stawowy	3.76	Kim Smith	1.28	Ronora Stryker	0.60
Phyllis Smolinski	9.08	Eric Johnson	3.60	Doug Rodgers	1.28	Paul Friedman	0.60
Richard Lloyd	7.92	Paul Franks	3.20	Mark Murray	1.20	Kendra Welsey	0.56
Don Jayhan	7.76	Mary Franks	3.12	Elaine Kehm	1.20	Sakura Sugawara	0.56
Bob Steen	7.52	Barbara Levinson	2.76	Karen Meyer	1.16	Erik D. Erland	0.56
Glenn Martells	7.40	Bill Davis	2.76	Lindsay Mattig	1.16	Reginald Porter	0.56
Bill Bartholomay	7.36	Joann Feinstein	2.64	Ken Tibbs	1.12	Bob Stringer	0.56
Norma Shyer	7.24	Tom Meyer	2.48	Scott Richardson	1.12	Jim Roland	0.48
Tim Serges	7.04	Steve Klesker	2.40	Femi Owiku	1.04	Ken Tyszko	0.48
Peter Kalba	6.76	Dave Cramer	2.40	David Hart	0.96	Erik A. Erland	0.40
Mitch Pomper	6.64	Joe Auszmann	2.16	Nora Luna Righter	0.96	Joe Szewdo	0.40
Ed Buerger	6.48	Fred Badagnani	2.16	Georgina Flanagan	0.88	Steve Neidecker	0.40
Wayne Wiest	6.20	Roz Ferris	2.12	Jason Fishbein	0.88	Scott Zucker	0.24

July's Player of the Month was **HERB ROMAN** (4.24). Runner's up were Bob Steen (3.84) and Phyllis Smolinski (3.48).

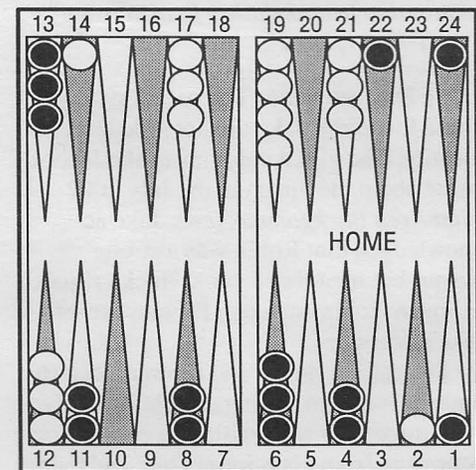
August honors go to **CARTER MATTIG** (4.40). Bob Zavoral (3.84) was second and Ed Buerger (3.20) finished third.

your move

PROBLEM #284

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

Match to 9 points. Black leads White, 8 to 3, Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-4.**



SHADES OF GRAY

A RULES AND RULINGS COLUMN

© 2002 by Danny Kleinman

THE DRINKER

Dear Danny: At a tournament not long ago, I watched a semifinal match between two players I'll call Jukin' Jake and Rockin' Robin in a 16-player Jackpot. It was late Saturday night, and Robin was really in the cups. In the past, I'd seen him sit down with a full bottle of wine before a major championship, but this time he must have had three bottles. He was slurring his words, pouring water into wine glasses and pouring wine into water glasses.

Clock Rules didn't seem to help. Robin frequently knocked his dice cup off the table, or lost his dice, but was alert enough to stop his clock immediately while a throng of "voyeurs" (including me) scurried to retrieve them. There's much more to tell, but I'm guessing you heard all about it. It was a sad night for backgammon; we'd all have been terribly embarrassed had an outsider wandered into the ballroom.

Over the years, ironically, I had often complimented Robin on his excellent dice-shaking technique. But this time, I felt nothing but contempt for him. Then, to my amazement, at the conclusion of the match (which Jake won at double match-point), the voyeurs applauded. I couldn't join in the applause; I just walked away shaking my head in disgust, with a very bad taste in my mouth, and ashamed to have been involved even as a spectator.

Should the tournament rules deal with a match in which one of the players is drunk? Should alcoholic beverages be barred from tournaments, as one director has proposed? Should the match have been forfeited to Jake and the entry fee refunded to Robin? If so, should Jake have been required to beat the other finalist twice?—*Very Disappointed*

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: The pseudonym you chose for Jukin' Jake did not hide his identity. The gifted columnist Jake Jacobs wrote about the match in the July 2002 *Flint Area Backgammon News*. Jake acknowledged that Robin was a strong player, but mentioned some "lucky rituals" in which Robin engaged. I'll cite part of Jake's account.

Pre-rolling rituals: (1) rub shoulder 16 times in hopes of rolling double-4s; (2) clear throat, sip wine, adjust eyeglasses, pour wine from glass into goblet and then

into another glass, drink water. Post-moving ritual: (3) flipping (shared) dice onto opposite quadrants of the board, causing the opponent to burn clock time retrieving them.

Delays: (4) three long bathroom breaks; (5) breaks between games; (6) hunts for lost dice. During these delays, as well as during pre-rolling rituals, the clock was stopped.

Here are my opinions.

(a) The rules need not bar alcohol, but should *protect* opponents (and players who may be waiting to start the next match) from the *behavior* that you and Jake describe, whether caused by drinking or not.

(b) Forfeits are unnecessary if the rules are enforced, but players who forfeit have no right to a refund of fees (which would diminish the prize pool for others). Matches won or lost by forfeit should be treated like any other matches.

(c) Clock rules, *as interpreted*, do not offer the needed protection. "Lucky" pre-rolling or post-rolling rituals have no place in backgammon. Players who perform such rituals in *clocked* games should be required to do so with their own clocks running. In unlocked games, such rituals should be barred. They are worse than a waste of time. If a player truly believes that rubbing his shoulder 16 times will produce double-4s, he is trying to *cheat* by doing so, for any attempt (mental or physical) to produce other than *random* numbers violates the rules.

Jake included an anecdote in his article that suggests proper procedure. A famous player, who was taking inordinately long for easy plays, was ordered by a famous director to play faster, but instead of complying, gave the director lip, arguing, "I think about more things than most people." The director promptly penalized the player two points telling him to "Think about that."

No clock can gauge the reason for delays in a match. In some games, such as difficult back games, there *are* more things to think about. If a match appears to be taking too long, it is part of the director's job to observe and *judge* the reasons for the delay. Perhaps a player is stopping his clock when he shouldn't, in which case the director should adjust the clock appropriately and make sure the clock rules are enforced thereafter. In unlocked games, the director should follow the example of the director in Jake's anecdote and assess penalty points. Remember, it is the director's job not merely to protect opponents against the antics of players like Rockin' Robin, but to ensure that the tournament will be run smoothly for the benefit of all.—*Yours, Danny Δ*

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

including your online "Point Girls" as centerfolds in the Chicago Point. It would be a most perfect and timely addition to your monthly presentation.—*Bruce Russell, Madison, Wisconsin*

BACKGAMMON IN SINGAPORE?

I'm trying to find backgammon players in Singapore. I want to get an informal, regular "BG evening" going first, with a view to setting up a formal club and tournaments over time. If you have any contacts or leads here in Singapore, please do pass them on.—*James Chadwick, via E-mail*

We're forwarding your letter to contributing editor Jake Jacobs (tobaksa@rocketmail.com) who regularly visits the that part of the globe.—*Ed. Δ*

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Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at Clarion Hotel, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago; 773/693-5800.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Anyway's Chicago Grill & Bar, 5 E. Roosevelt Rd., Oakbrook Terrace; 630/932-9323.

PUB CLUB: Tourn. Mon., 7:00 P.M. at Danny's Grill and Bar, 345 W. North Ave., Villa Park. Joe Wollick (847/942-2068).

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Caboose Smokehouse, 608 W. Seminary, Bloomington. Rob Farmer (309/821-9766).

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wed., 6:30 P.M. at Brewhaus, 617 E. Washington, Springfield. Ben Zemaitis (217/483-4028).

WINNETKA BG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. at 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Chibnik (847/446-0537).

T/P BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:30 P.M. at Java Oasis; 2240 S. Michigan, Chicago. J.A. Miller (312/719-1245).

PEORIA BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/674-0557).

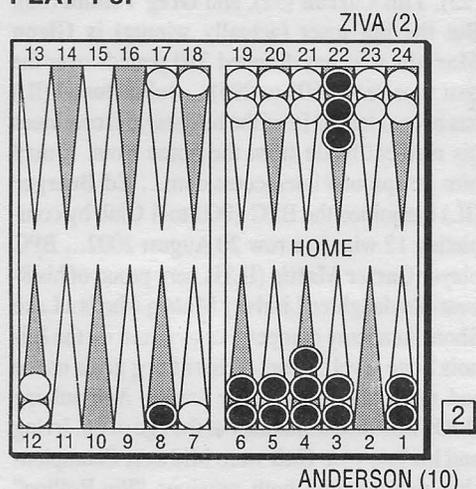
MONTE CARLO...

[Continued from page 1]

only blundered this move because of added tension following double/take. It's good general strategy to point on an opponent's checker in your home board. Position 1 is no exception. 6/2*, 8/2 is the right play.

The next example is from game six:

Pos. 2. 25-point World Championship finals. Mads Anderson (Black) leads Felix Ziva (White), 10-2. **WHITE TO PLAY 4-3.**



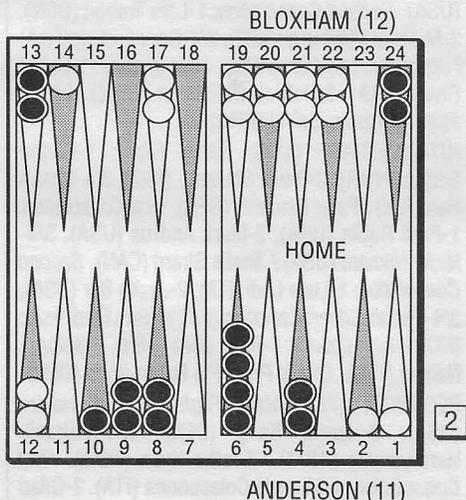
Anderson (Black) entered from the bar with double-3s. Felix Ziva (White) cubed and Mads took this borderline take/pass position. Felix Ziva (White) then rolled 4-3.

I think that almost everyone would hide

the two checkers in front of White's home board (8/4, 7/4), and of course it's the right move. Felix's play, 18/15, 8/4, leaves two blots and more shots. This can't be right. Felix Ziva would not have erred except for the prior cube excitement (enter/double/take).

The following example comes from game 16 of the Anderson/Bloxham 23-point semi's:

Pos. 3. 23-point World Championship semifinals. Jan Bloxham (White) leads Mads Anderson (Black), 12-11. **WHITE TO PLAY 3-1.**



Bloxham (White) had just doubled with Mads Anderson (Black) correctly taking. Now Jan must play a 3-1.

He chose 24/20. Jan plays very well and certainly would not have missed the right play if he had not doubled just before.

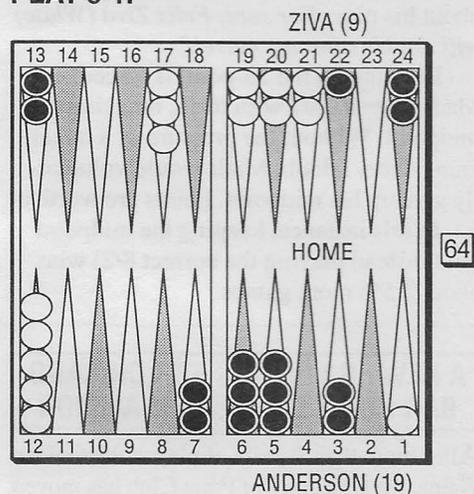
Simply put, 11/8, 23/22 (freezing the 8- and 9-points and saving the outfield blot) is best. The powerful 11/7 is also better than 24/20, because Jan's play does little more than invite his own checker to dance, and in this position, trying to follow Black's lead could prove deadly. After 24/20, Black's winning chances greatly increase if he makes the 5-point. White doesn't need the anchor that much. At this stage, he should simply prevent Black from gaining counter play.

And now I'll tell you why the women regularly exhibit excellent performance in the big tournaments. When tension is highest, women are tougher competitors than men. For example, Veronica Dabul from Argentina was best of the four semifinalists in these terms. Her checker play was never negatively influenced by tense cube actions. She always played her aggressive style with little or no emotion. Bravo, Veronica Dabul!

Many players could greatly improve their performance in big backgammon tournaments if they pause for a moment (a smile is a good break!) and cool down following a demanding cube exchange. You have a big advantage if you can handle exciting situations! Everyone makes mistakes. The best a player can do is stay focused and not let tension scare him out of making the right move.

Here are two examples from the finals demonstrating how the threat of cube action can influence a player's checker play:

Pos. 4. 25-point World Championship finals. Mads Anderson (Black) leads Felix Ziva (White), 19-9. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**



It's game 14 of the finals and Mads (Black, with a big 19-9 lead) knew that Felix Ziva (White) is steaming and might double if Mads "wakes him up" by pondering his move too long. So he quickly played 13/7. This is a big blunder certainly

[Continued on page 6]

9th German Open

31 Oct.-3 Nov. 2002

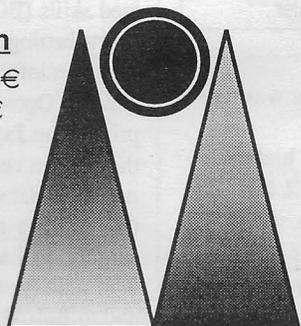
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MONTE CARLO...

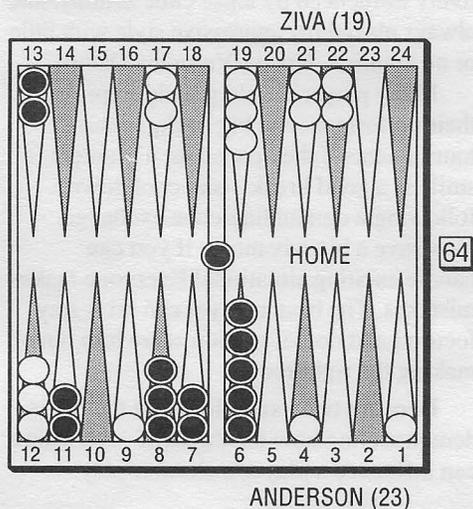
[Continued from page 5]

not caused lack of playing skill. Surely, Mads knows the right play. Only the threatening cube action would make him misplay this roll. ("If I play this move fast, maybe Felix will forget to cube.")

The better plays are 24/18, fighting for the opponent's key bar point with the highest number of wins, and 24/23, 6/1* with the lowest number of gammon losses.

Here is the last example:

Pos. 5. 25-point World Championship finals. Mads Anderson (Black) leads Felix Ziva (White), 23-19. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.**



We're in game 20 of the finals. Mads Andersen's lead is dwindling, and Felix Ziva is still steaming. Mads (Black) thinks about his play. *For sure, Felix Ziva (White) will double after my move!*

Entering on the 23-point is forced. Mads played 13/7 with the 6, breaking the midpoint. Without the pressure of a threatening cube, I doubt Mads would voluntarily give up his midpoint. Points are worth a lot. In this instance, keeping the midpoint (and instead playing the correct 8/2) wins about 2.5% more games.

A NEW ERA BEGINS FOR CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB BACKGAMMON

After more than 9 years of play at the Golden Flame, the Chicago Bar Point Club has moved to a new location: The Clarion Barcelo Hotel; 5615 N. Cumberland Avenue in Chicago.

The Clarion Hotel is located just South of the Cumberland exit on I-90, just three miles east of O'Hare Airport. We play in a private room with weekend tournament-style tables. Hotel General Manager Dan Ouellette is very accommodating, the food

and drinks are good, and our new waitress Jennifer is doing a great job.

MONTE CARLO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

CHAMPIONSHIP (281): *Main Flight:* 1-Mads Andersen (DEN), 2-Felix Ziva (ISR), 3/4-Veronica Dabul (ARG) / Jan Bloxham (DEN). *First Consolation:* 1-Jerry Grandell (SWE), 2-Francois Tardieu (FRA), 3/4-Richard Persson (SWE) / Paul Magriel (USA). *Second Consolation:* 1-Lars Trabolt (DEN), 2-Michael Meyburg (GER), 3/4-Gary Franck (FRA) / Jorge Alberto Pan (ARG). *Last Chance:* 1-Serge Rived (FRA), 2-Patrick Didisheim (SWZ). *Lady's Prize:* Veronica Dabul (ARG).

INTERMEDIATE (114): *Main Flight:* 1-Stefan Berger (NOR), 2-Raviv Shevach (ISR), 3/4-Shaun Herd (UK) / Peter Bardehle (GER). *First Consolation:* 1-Patti Rubin (USA), 2-Mark Andrus (USA), 3/4-Nicky Niknam (USA) / Jinelle Girard (CAN). *Second Consolation:* 1-Luca Lodi (ITA), 2-Justin Bor (USA), 3/4-Parker Gilbert Carvalho (BRZ) / Tore Fredriksen (NOR). *Last Chance:* 1-Brian Ullitz (DEN), 2-Shlomo Nahary (ISR). *Lady's Prize:* Pia Rasmussen (DEN).

BEGINNER (75): *Main Flight:* 1-Said Hakim (USA), 2-Henrik Bang (DEN), 3/4-Andranik Harutyunyan (ARM) / Grethe Kvan (NOR). *First Consolation:* 1-Michele Colasuonna (ITA), 2-Gilad Tissona (ISR), 3/4-Tine Jacobsen (DEN) / Tal Kimchi (ISR). *Second Consolation:* 1-Judy Olsen (DEN), 2-Karl Heinz Zink (GER), 3/4-Silvio Carrese (SWZ) / Robert Willems (HOL). *Last Chance:* 1-Eli Rohmi (ISR), 2-Sune Fabricius (DEN).

SUPER JACKPOT: 1-Pawel Bielewicz (SWE), 2-Morten Holm (DEN), 3/4-Leo Fernandez (ARG) / Manfred Sierke (CAN), 5/8-Stuart Hosen (USA) / Ian Macfarlane (BRZ) / Jerry Grandell (SWE) / Raj Jansari (UK).

FORTIS TEAM EVENT: 1-Kolya Mosoyan, Khalik Melikian & Samuel Aghraman (ARM), 2-Martin de Bruin (USA/SPA), Torsten Schoop & Ingo Meissner (GER).

CHAIRMAN'S TROPHY: Michael Strato, Gammon-Village (CAN). **FIDELITY TROPHY:** Alfred Schwarz (GER). **TRAVEL TROPHY:** Samson Højgaard (Faroe Islands). **ELEGANCE TROPHIES:** *Men:* Yoshito Takeuchi (JPN). *Women:* Mila Guecheva (BUL). **COURTESY TROPHY:** Jaakko Salava (FIN)

DOUBLES TENNIS TOURNEY: 1-Schneiter/Valpiani, 2-Parker/Robin. **GOLF TOURNEY:** 1-Patrick Didisheim (SWZ), 2-Hilke Vogler.

and drinks are good, and our new waitress Jennifer is doing a great job.

After nearly 20 years of BPC history, we are now a **NO SMOKING CLUB**. The Clarion offers an adjoining room where smokers will be able to play their matches, but the decision on where to play will be up to the non-smoker.

There are now two divisions of play: \$20 single elimination Masters Tourney (16 player limit) and \$10 Open. So now you can arrive as late as 6:45 and still play tourney BG.

Hope to see you next Tuesday!

AMALGAMATION

The Clarion Hotel, our new Chicago Bar Point Club Tuesday night playing location had an infamous guest when it was known as the O'Hare Plaza back in 1996. Room 915 is where **O. J. Simpson** claims to have cut his hand following his flight from California after the **Nicole Simpson / Ron Goldman** double murder... Visiting the BPC in July/August: **David Hart** (CA), **Bob Stringer** (CA)... Our Illinois players are dropping pounds: **Peter Kalba** (18), **Bob Zavoral** (25), **Tim Carroll** (32), and **Greg Tomlin** (60). But the big loser (actually winner) is **Glenn Martells** who has dropped 310 pounds over the past four years (605 to 295)... **John Bussel** (IL) has been released from the hospital and continues his medical battle from the home front. E-mail him at: sprout@interaccess.com... **Ed Buerger** (IL) has joined the BPC 1000-to-1 Club by completing 12 wins in a row 20 August 2002... BPC player **Carter Mattig** (IL) is very proud of his 8-year-old daughter **Lindsay Mattig** who is a Lake Shore Academy competitive gymnast on the Illinois State level... **Joel Achtenberg** gives us the sad news about his father **Irving Achtenberg** (MO) who died in January at the age of 86. Irving and his late wife **Gail** were Midwest Championship regulars and both previous "Pig-Rolling" champs. Condolences also to the family and friends of **Howard Shapiro** (DE) who died of a liver ailment on 10 August at the age of 50. His last major event was February in Pittsburgh... **Jake Jacobs** (AZ) sends us a strange article from the 9 August Bangkok Post. The FBI has asked police to investigate the source of several packages containing dice coated with radioactive paint sent to Miami, Dallas, and a city in Tennessee. "US authorities believed gamblers could tell the way the treated dice were falling by using a portable detector hidden in their clothes." We're still uncertain how this info could help them, however... Speaking of Jake, his brother **Munchkin** has written a book entitled *Gambling Wizards*. It's a collection of interviews with some of the most successful gamblers ever to perfect their specialized skills (BG, poker, blackjack, horse racing, sports betting, and even slots). \$17.95 plus s&h. For order info: asnyder@huntingtonpress.com... Chicago Open director **Joann Feinstein** (IL) surprised **Don Jayhan** (IL) with a cake 13 August at the BPC in celebration of his 75th birthday this month... Get well wishes go out to **Arlene Levy** (IL) who is recovering from hip replacement surgery, to **Larry "Diceman" Strommen** (IN) who underwent major prostate surgery in July, and to **Bob Wilensky** (GA) who is on the mend following spinal surgery... Backgammon in the media: **Bernie Mac** was seen playing backgammon on his hit TV show 3 July... Finally, from tennis bad boy **John McEnroe**: "It doesn't matter whether you win or lose... until you lose." Δ

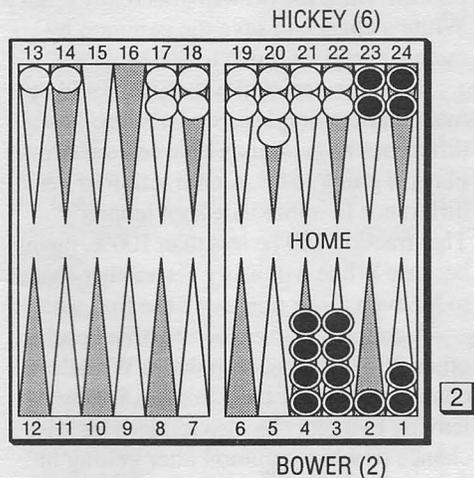
MICHIGAN...

[Continued from page 1]

Chuck Bower would need to win back-to-back 13-point matches against his skilled opponent to capture the title. Here is his first-person commentary involving three critical plays from the pivotal first match:

Trailing 2-6 to 13, I ended up in a poorly-timed 1-2 backgame after Mary had doubled. Mary is bearing in, hoping to win a gammon when . . .

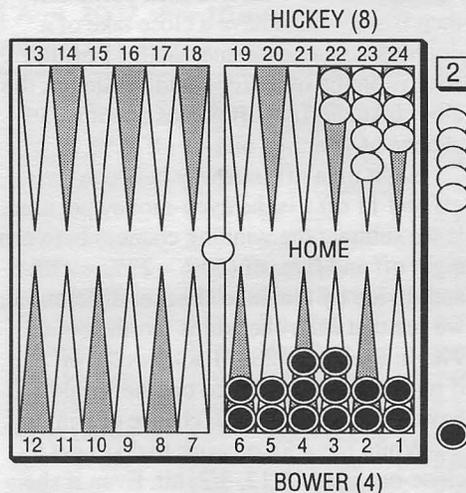
Pos. 1. 13-point Michigan finals #1. Mary Hickey (White) leads Chuck Bower (Black) 6-2. **WHITE TO PLAY 4-4.**



Mary voluntarily opened her prime with 12/4, 7/3 (2). I think she was trying to trap me into running one man out (off either anchor) in order to go for a fifth home bound point giving her another landing space. Snowie rated her play a 0.065 equity error preferring 11/3, 8/4(2). I immediately rolled a lucky 6-6 which considerably dropped my gammon-loss expectation. Mary won, but I escaped the gammon.

Trailing 4-8 in game six, I was playing an ace-point game and Mary was having trouble bearing in and off. She left repeated shots, one of which I finally hit, eventually closing her out. Mary had five off and one man on the bar when I rolled 2-2 here:

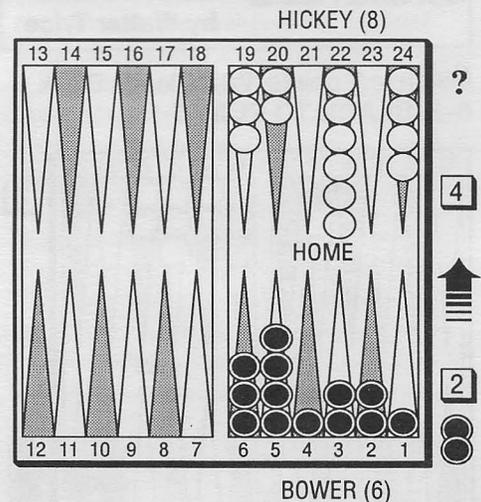
Pos. 2. 13-point Michigan finals #1. Mary Hickey (White) leads Chuck Bower (Black) 8-4. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-2.**



I went the safe route, clearing the 6-point and bearing a man off (6/4/2/off, 6/4). Snowie slammed me hard for not bearing off three checkers and opening my deuce-point with 4/2, 2/off(3) which wins a shopping 9% more games. Mary immediately responded with a 6, entering and taking a lead in the game! There was still some excitement when Mary rolled doubles late in the game forcing me to either roll doubles or lose the game. My dice came through (which was typical for both matches).

Game 7 was pivotal. Trailing 6-8 I took an early cube and turned it into a race. Mary made a small error bearing in and compounded it with a significant cube error:

Pos. 3. 13-point Michigan finals #1. Mary Hickey (White) leads Chuck Bower (Black) 8-6. Black redoubles. **SHOULD WHITE TAKE?**



Snowie says the take is right on the borderline at money play, but accepting at this score costs 0.11 in equivalent money game (emg) equity. Mary's take allowed me to grab my first lead in the match. I ran out the match to win 13-8. (Snowie's overall ratings for match 1 were in the 4-5 mppm range with our skill levels dead even.)

The second match was not very interesting as I was significantly outplayed but Mary was more significantly outrolled. (Snowie ratings: 4.3 to 7.9 mppm making Mary a 4-to-3 favorite.) Final score 13-6 my way. It was a thrill winning my first major event and I felt very fortunate to defeat an opponent as worthy as Mary Hickey.—Chuck Bower

Michigan Masters

New Yorker Jack Kissane won \$10,000 by prevailing over a tough field of 32 players in the Michigan Masters. His formidable opponents included Mike Corbett, Mary Hickey, Steve Sax, Frank Talbot, and Doug Mayfield.



Michigan Masters champ Jack Kissane.

The finals vs. Doug Mayfield (CA) was particularly exciting. Trailing the entire match, Jack rallied to win 13-11. Jack is back!

Congratulations . . .

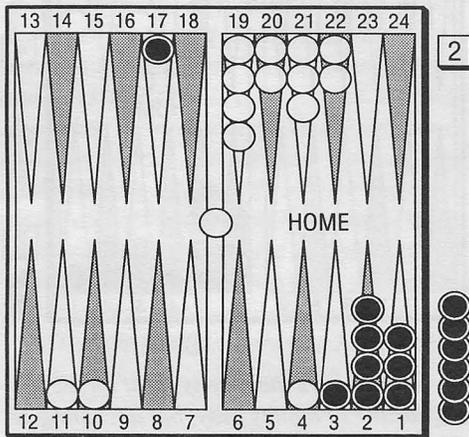
. . . to the other winners (listed below), to the tournament sponsors including those who added money: GamesGrid and the Nevada Backgammon Association. Also to the capable Michigan Summer staff. And to Carol Joy Cole who year after year provides us with 4th of July backgammon fireworks. Δ

MICHIGAN SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN (81): 1-Chuck Bower (IN), 2-Mary Hickey (OH), 3-William Chu (Canada), 4/5-Matt Reklaitis (PA) / David Todd (MI); 1C-Bob Glass (CA), 2C-Bob Holyon (WI), 3C/4C-Joe Freedman (VA) / Abbas Zaltash (PA). INTERMEDIATE (78): 1-Dan Grogan (MI), 2-Bill Versaw (PA), 3-Joann Feinstein (IL), 4/5-John Christner (WI) / Greg Feller (IL); 1C-Jim Price (MI), 2C-Pete Lewandowski (MI), 3C/4C-Saad Ghiso (MI) / Denny Leatherman (CO). NOVICE (26): 1-Bud Bowers (PA), 2-Karen Chung (MD); 1C-Neil Garvie (Canada), 2C-Carmen Webb (PA). GAMESGRID BLITZ (128): 1-Tim Mabee (IL), 2-Steve Sherbel (MI). MICHIGAN MASTERS (32): 1-Jack Kissane (NY), 2-Doug Mayfield (CA). CHICAGO-VEGAS-MICHIGAN BONUS TOURNAMENT (74): 1-Len Dangremond (MI), 2-Jack Kissane (NY), 3/4-Bob Glass (CA) / Sam Pottle (WI). OPEN DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Dan Kiurski & Frank Talbot (MI), 2-John & Ronora Stryker (IL), 3/4-Jim Curtis & Sean Garber (IN) / Stu Thomson & Bob Wilensky (GA). OVERFLOW DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Joe Freedman (VA) & Linda MacLean (MA). LIMITED DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Pete Esposito (OH) & Patty Geoffroy (MA), 2-Gordon Pinkney (Canada) & Jim Price (MI). SUMMER FREEZE-OUT (32): 1-Bob Glass (CA), 2-Paul Franks (IL). \$500 FIRECRACKER JACKPOT (8): 1-Ed O'Laughlin (FL), 2-Gyl Savoie (MI). \$200 FIRECRACKER JACKPOT (16): 1-Doug Mayfield (CA), 2-Jake Jacobs (AZ). \$100 FIRECRACKER LIMITED JACKPOT (16): 1-Ed King (OH), 2-Sal Chehayeb (MI). \$20 DETROIT QUICKIES #1 (64): 1-Carl Sorg (SC), 2-Denny Leatherman (CO). #2 (64): 1-Fred Kalantari (MN), 2-Patrick Gibson (CA). #3 (32): 1-Todd Obadal (MD), 2-Sho Sengoku (CA). \$10 DETROIT QUICKIES #1 (64): 1-Cliff Mayoh (IL), 2-Faddoul Khoury (IL). #2 (32): 1-Howard Gianera (MN), 2-Gus Pappas (Canada). OPEN EARLYBIRD JACKPOT (16): 1/2-Jim Pascoe (CT) / Herb Roman (IL). LIMITED EARLYBIRD JACKPOT (16): 1-Russ Haley (MS), 2-Lou Steiner (PA). WEDNESDAY WARM-UP \$50 (29): 1-Doug Roberts (MA), 2-Jim Slomkoski (MI), 3/4-Ray Fogelrund (CA) / Patrick Gibson (CA). \$30 (29): 1-Jim Price (MI), 2-Dan Mowczan (MI), 3/4-Sal Chehayeb (MI) / Glenn Nunez (CA). \$20 (22): 1-Wanda Roberts (MA), 2-Saad Ghiso (MI), 3-Ron Brouckaert (MI), 4/5-Patty Geoffroy (MA) / Ray Knes (MI).

**PROBLEM #283
ANALYZED**

by Walter Trice

Match to 7 points. White leads Black
6-3. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**

Black can hit with 17/11* leaving two blots and 11 shots, or he can play 17/12, 3/2, picking up one of his blots but leaving 19 shots. Over the board I would not give this one too much thought. The match-winning gammon means a lot to Black, the hit is best for the gammon, and for once the aggressive play is also the safest, in the short run. So I would hit.

The problem is worth exploring, though, since various modifications (for example, double match point or more checkers off for Black) might change the play. Aside from the shot count, I see four main ingredients to the solution:

- The probability that Black loses if he leaves two blots and gets hit;
- The probability that Black loses if he leaves one blot and gets hit;
- The increased gammon percentage for Black if he hits; and
- The value of a gammon win relative to a plain win.

I suggest jotting down your estimates of these quantities before reading on. If this seems "too technical" and difficult, keep in mind that gross approximations are likely to work for any particular problem. The odds are that your errors will offset each other to some extent. Most likely if you take the plunge and attempt a technical solution you will get the right answer, gaining some valuable analytical experience in the process.

ITEM D IS A MATTER OF MATCH EQUITY.

Black trails 3-6 post-Crawford, going to 7. A plain win puts him at 5-6, with the ability to double for the match. With White's

free drop, this translates to just under 50%. A gammon win lifts Black to 100%, while any loss drops him to 0%. So gammons trade one for one against losses, the difference between 100% and 50% being the same as the difference between 50% and 0%.

SOME BASIC ENDGAME CUBE knowledge helps with Item B. If White had a closed board with good distribution, and Black were on the bar with five men borne off, then Black would have a close take of a double in a money game. With 11 off the shoe is on the other foot, and White has the close take. So five off means about a 23% chance of winning, and 11 off 77%.

Eight men off (midway between five off and 11 off), is the even-money position. If we subtract the winning chances between eight off and five off ($50\% - 23\% = 27\%$) and divide by the three checker differential, we see that each checker is worth about 9%. In Problem #283 Black has six off, so if he were cleanly closed out, he would have $(23\% + 9\%) = 32\%$ chance of winning.

White has a lot of work to do to get a close-out after 17/12, 3/2; hit. Even if she does get the close-out it may come in the form of a sub-optimal bear-off position. Black is clearly much better than 32% in this variation. For several rolls he will threaten to enter, followed by a 6-6 or 5-5 joker or a lucky run through the outfield, assisted perhaps by a lucky hit or two. If as White in a money game I hit here and then got doubled, my instinct is that it's a beaver, but not a huge beaver. So **my guess for Item B is 50%**.

NEXT LET'S TACKLE ITEM A. Although Black stands badly after a hit (having left a second blot), he's not dead. He may manage to enter and get the second blot home safely, or hop back into the outfield with some chance of surviving a slugfest. Note that after 17/11*, 4 of White's 11 hits leave a man on the bar, giving Black an extra tempo or two in some variations. Also Black may get both blots hit but make an anchor in White's home board and hold it for a while, in which case he is no worse off than having one checker closed out. On the other hand if both blots get closed out, his chances are reduced to flukes. All in all it seems reasonable to estimate that the second blot reduces Black's chance of surviving a hit by more than half, so **I'm going to make a guess of 80% for Item A.**

NOW WE COME TO C, the increase in gammon chances. Hitting is best for the gammon for two reasons: first, because it sets White back 11 pips, and second because it is the best play to never get hit. As things stand, White needs 51 pips to get her checkers

home. Allowing six more pips for wastage and the bear-off of the first checker, that's 57 pips, or about seven rolls. Assuming Black plays 17/12, 3/2, he'll have an effective pip count of about 43.5. (3.5×9 , for 9 checkers, plus 12 outfield pips: $3.5 \times 9 + 12 = 43.5$.) So Black rates to bear off in somewhat more than five rolls. Being on shake and down more than 1.5 rolls, White should have only a 20% chance of saving the gammon, assuming that no hitting by either side occurs.

80% gammons, given no hitting by either side, is quite a lot. Clearly Black does not need to gain in the race to bag his gammon, so much as he needs to avoid getting hit himself. Still, the hit will drastically reduce White's chance to save the gammon by racing, cutting it down to 5% or so.

The next part of the analysis could be made rather complex, but let's not. The difference in gammons between the two plays is going to be some fraction of the difference in immediate shot jeopardy. That fraction will be less than 100%, mainly because White will likely get another chance to hit even if she misses on the first whack.

A couple of other factors offset each other. If Black hits, he reduces White's chance to race off the gammon, but by leaving two blots he also reduces his own chance to win a gammon after getting hit. So let's ignore those two complications.

Start with the shot difference: $8/36 = 22\%$. Knock off 1/3 of that for White's second roll hits (roughly, credit for a direct shot) and assume everything else comes out in the wash. **That leaves 15%, so that's going to be my estimate for Item C.**

NOW WE CAN PUT IT ALL TOGETHER. The hitting play (17/11*) will be correct if $D \times C$ is greater than $11/36 \times B - 19/36 \times A$. $D \times C$ is just 15%. $11/36 \times B$ is $11/36 \times 80\%$, or 24%. $19/36 \times A$ is $19/36 \times 50\%$, or 26%. In other words, based on these estimates it would be correct to hit even at double match point. The extra gammons are gravy!

So how did we do? Snowie rollouts indicate that my estimates for A and C were very good. (I got lucky!) My guess for B, Black's probability of losing when he makes the 1-blot play and gets hit, was apparently low by 3% to 4%. But (lucky again) an error in another assumption offset this one: White's chance of hitting on the second roll is greater if Black hits, whereas I had implicitly assumed that 2nd-roll hits were equal for the two plays.

BOTTOM LINE: close play at double match point, with a small edge for 17/11*, but the gammon factor makes hitting very clear at the given match score.—Walter Trice Δ

who did what

WINNER'S CIRCLE



JUL.-AUG. 2002

•**14TH CITY OF VENICE** (Venice, Italy; 4-7 Jul.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (74): 1-Mogens Knudsen (DEN), 2-Matti Haaksila (FIN); 1C-Lars Trabolt (DEN); 1LC-Sam Akirov (ENG). INTERMEDIATE (68): 1-Peter Blachian (GER), 2-Gabriele Passuello (ITA); 1C-Damian Plesec (SLO); 1LC-Andrea Simonetta (ITA). AMATEUR (61): 1-Alberto Franceschini (ITA), 2-Walter Ratti (ITA); 1C-Mauro Soster (ITA); 1LC-Riccardo Becchio (ITA). WARM-UP (256): 1-Sven Rümker (GER). DOUBLES (16): 1-Serge Rived (FRA) & Tobais Hellweg (GER). INT. DOUBLES (16): 1-Mauro Cusmai & Fabio Gullotta (ITA). SUPERJACKPOT #1: 1-Vichai Kwatra (THA). #2: 1-Heinz Edy (AUS).

•**Firecracker Classic** (Houston, TX; 13 Jul.)... OPEN (27): 1-Gary Fomby; 1C-Harold Hovland.

•**4TH Czech Open** (Prague, Czech Republic; 17-21 Jul.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (44): 1-Hugh Sconyers (US), 2-Arkady Tsinis (US); 1C-Tobias Hellweg (GER); 1LC-Jakov Nepomniagutchi (RUS). INTERMEDIATE (22): 1-Klaus Rydeng (DEN); 1C-Siegfried Tonzer (GER); 1LC-Jiri Vit (CZH). BEGINNER (17): 1-Kenneth Straarup (DEN); 1C-Per Jacobsen (DEN); 1LC-Laren Pors (DEN). DOUBLES: 1-Babis Drouvis/George Klitsas (GRE), 2-Malcolm Davis/Hugh Sconyers (US). SUPER JACKPOTS: #1-Steve Hammond (US), #2-Nevil Eber (SAF). LADIES CUP: 1-Kazuko Numazawa (JPN), 2-Antoinette Williams (US).

•**Thousand Islands Tourney—ABT** (Alexandria Bay, NY; 2-4 Aug.)... OPEN (24): 1-Al Jones (Canada), 2-Bruce Brown (NY), 3-Mike Friedman (Canada). NOVICE (5): 1-Susan Foster (NY). DOUBLES (7): 1-Al Jones & Lorraine Jones (CAN).

•**SAC Trophy** (Coventry, England; 3-4 Aug.)... OPEN (56): 1-Brian Lever, 2-John Thomas, 3-David Startin. FRIDAY KO (24): 1-Emmanuel di Bona, 2-John Renicks. DOUBLES (12): 1-A Rolling Prime Gathers No Loss. SPORTSMAN'S 2002 TROPHY: Ian Tarr.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 4 Aug.)... OPEN (16): 1-Tim Mabee, 2-Dave Cramer; 1C-Joe Wollick. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Ed Buerger.

•**2002 GEORGIA CHAMPIONSHIPS—ABT** (Atlanta, GA; 8-11 Aug.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (30): 1-Ed O'Laughlin (FL), 2-Jerry Godsey; 1C-Malcolm Davis (TX). ADVANCED (27): 1-Jeff Lentchner (GA), 2-Doug Johnson (FL); 1C-James Roston (NY). LIMITED (10): 1-Wanda Roberts (MA). GEORGIA PEACH CUP (14): 1-Mike Corbett (FL), 2-Jerry Godsey (GA). DOGWOOD LIMITED (8): 1-Al Tesoro (FL). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Manuel Arce (GA) / Peter Roubicek (GA), 2-Vadim Musaelyan (NC) / Doug Johnson (FL). SPEEDGAMMON BLITZ (16): 1-Carl Sorg (SC). LAST CHANCE TOURNAMENT (16): 1-Owen Black (VA). CASA CHARITY TOURNAMENT (16): 1-Carl Sorg (SC). FUZZY DICE TOURNAMENT (8): 1-Mike Blakeney (GA). DICE CUP THROW: Steve Kovach (GA). "CHIPS" CHAMPION: John Stryker (IL).

•**"Hot as Hades" Open** (Houston, TX; 10 Aug.)... OPEN (22): 1-Dr. James Bray; 1C-Ed Chambers.

•**Backgammon by the Bay** (Oakland, CA; 11 Aug.)... OPEN (10): 1-Karam Ashoo; 1C/2C-Glenn

de Guzmán/Dana Nazarian. INTERMEDIATE (18): 1-Rob Ring; 1C-Ted Chee. BEGINNER (4): 1-Johathan Mitchell.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 11 Aug.)... OPEN (8): 1-Al Tesoro. INTERMEDIATE (11): 1-Don Heinsler.

•**6TH Mind Sports Olympiad Backgammon** (Loughborough, England; 13-18 Aug.)... ENGLISH OPEN (26): 1-Rosemary Bensley, 2-Anthony Fawcett, 3-John Clark. OLYMPIAD (18): 1-John

Slattery (Scotland), 2-Martin Hemming. BEGINNER (12): 1-Jan Stastna, 2-Peter Horlock.

•**Peoria Club Summer Sizzler** (Lacon, IL; 17-18 Aug.)... OPEN (32): 1-Greg Feller, 2-Terry Leahy, 3/4-Wendy Kaplan / Ben Zemaitis; 1C-Ed Bauder, 2C-Faddoul Khoury. INTERMEDIATE (16): 1-Neal Uphoff, 2-Tim Johnson; 1C-Mark Reese, 2C-Scott Richardson... A great summer event preceded by Ed and Lisa Zell's picnic at their home with the able assistance of steak-master Cliff Mayoh. Δ

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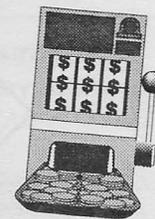
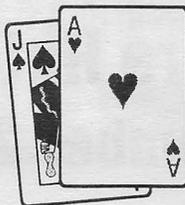
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