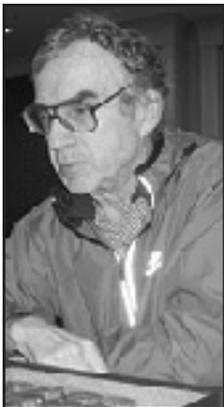


26th chicago open

TWO 8-CUBES HIGHLIGHT O'LAUGHLIN CHICAGO WIN

Yamin takes Memorial Masters



Ed O'Laughlin in the Open finals.

“Live by the 8-cube, die by the 8-cube” That’s Todd Obadal’s story vs. champion Ed O’Laughlin at this year’s Chicago Open. The 26th Annual event, co-directed by Howard Markowitz & Joann Feinstein, drew 100 players to the beautiful Oak Brook Hills Resort 27–30 May. Troy Longman and Georgina

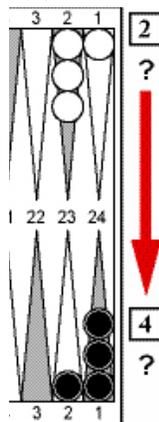
Flanagan made up the hard-working staff.

O’Laughlin went undefeated through the 37-player Championship field, which meant finalist Obadal (MD) would need two 13-point victories to capture the winner’s trophy. In the first match, leading 9–5, Todd recubed to 4.

Match #1. Obadal (White) on roll leads O’Laughlin (Black) 9–5 to 13. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

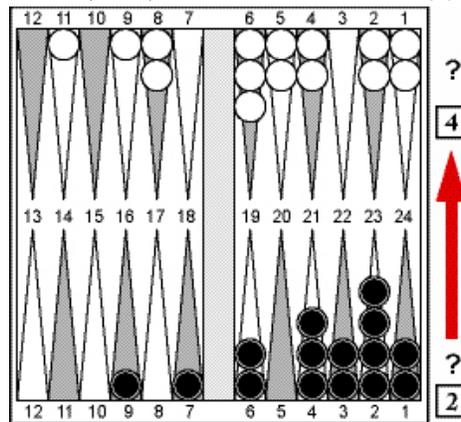
Ed took the early redouble and on his turn, flipped over an 8-cube for the match—a good play by the Florida expert (even though he ended up losing). If he drops, Ed’s match equity trailing 11–5 is only about 12%. He can win 18.6% of these bearoffs.

In the rubber match, the tables were turned with O’Laughlin in the lead. Ahead 10–6 and holding a 2-cube, the recube decision is on Ed [see above right]:



Ed correctly spun the doubler to 4. Todd decided to put all his eggs in one basket. He took and recubed to 8 on his

Match #2. O’Laughlin (Black) on roll leads Obadal (White) 10–6 to 13. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



next turn. Here, Todd should have dropped the 4-cube. Trailing 12–6 Crawford, his match-winning chances are around 8%. By playing for the match in this position, he wins only 6%.

But Todd realized that Ed was clearly a better player, so both of his redoubling decisions are understandable, albeit clearly wrong. O’Laughlin rolled on to win the bearoff and take the 2005 title.

Yamin Yamin (IL) is back! After a hiatus from the game, Yamin stormed back to



Memorial Day Masters champion Yamin Yamin (center) with co-directors Howard Markowitz and Joann Feinstein.

win the 32-player Memorial Day Masters defeating Todd Obadal (who had a great tourney) 11–8. Other main winners (all from Illinois) included



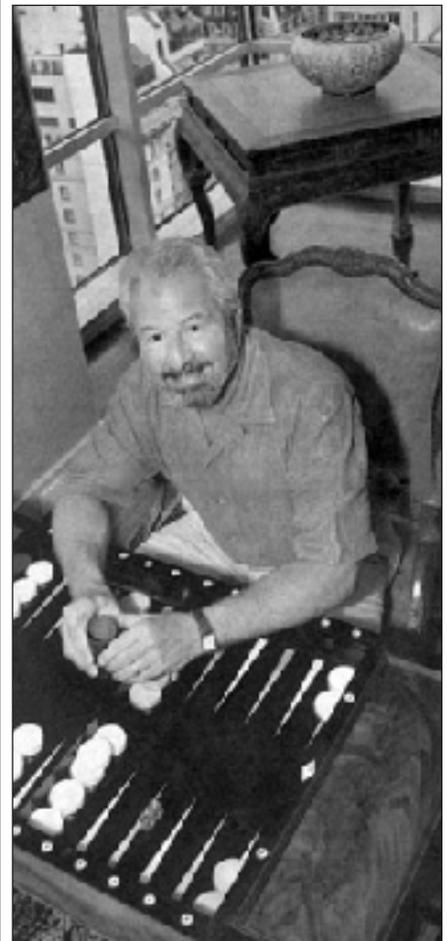
George Barr

George Barr over Mark Murray in the Intermediate division, and Richard Schwartz ahead of Carol Hooker in the Beginners. Results above right: Δ

26TH CHICAGO OPEN

CHAMPIONSHIP (37): 1-Ed O’Laughlin (FL), 2-Todd Obadal (MD), 3-Tim Mabee (IL); 1C-Dana Nazarian (CA), 2C-Ed Zell (IL). INTERMEDIATE (47): 1-George Barr (IL), 2-Mark Murray (IL), 3/4-Joe Feldman (MI) / Neil Garvie (Canada); 1C-Wayne Wiest (IL), 2C-Michael Edge (SC). BEGINNERS (14): 1-Richard Schwartz (IL), 2-Carol Hooker (IL). MEMORIAL DAY MASTERS (32): 1-Yamin Yamin (IL), 2-Todd Obadal (MD). DOUBLES (20 teams): 1-Ray Foglerlund (CA) & James Roston (NY), 2-Fred Kalantari (MN) & Dana Nazarian (CA). BLITZ (64): 1-Claudia Imatt (IL), 2-Larry Liebster (NJ). MINI-MATCH (32): 1-Paul Baraz (IL), 2-Ray Bills (MN).

BOB VILA IMPROVES HIS HOME (BOARD)



Home improvement guru Bob Vila is shown at his antique French “Directoire” backgammon table in his penthouse in midtown Manhattan. [The photo by Stan Godlewski first appeared in USA Today.]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Bill Davis

3940 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue 504
Chicago, IL 60659-3155

Tel: 773/583-6464 ♦ Fax: 773/583-3264

E-mail: bg@chicagopoint.com

www.chicagopoint.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Carol Joy Cole (MI)	Danny Kleinman (CA)
Mary Hickey (OH)	John O'Hagan (IN)
Jake Jacobs (IL)	Steve Sax (CA)
Duane Jensen (MN)	Phil Simborg (IL)
Neil Kazaross (IL)	Kit Woolsey (CA)

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LETTERS

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MY EXPERIENCE WITH JELLYFISH

I have played backgammon for over 50 years. At a 1970s tournament in Las Vegas, I played Ozzie Jacoby. It was a tense 17-point match for both of us because he had won the event four times and here we were tied at 16-all. I was already bearing off when the dice forced me to leave an ace shot which he hit and went on to win the match. He signed the score card "Thank God—Ozzie" which is one of my cherished possessions. I mention the story only to show my level of experience in this game we love.

For the past few months, I have been playing 9-point matches against JellyFish at the recommended Level 7. I soon discovered it was rather difficult to win so I began to keep track of my results. 520 9-point sets later, I had won only 142 or 27.3%. So I tried Level 6 for 315 sets and managed to improve to 29.2%. I gave up

[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.

Jun 11	Father's Day Open, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Jun 11*	Backgammon By the Bay, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/688-9722
Jun 12	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Gambits Bar, Marriott Hotel, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Jun 12	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	508/829-3283
Jun 16*	Third Thursday Bonus (Georgia), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jun 17-19	<u>Los Angeles Open, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, California</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Jun 25*	Backgammon By the Bay, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/688-9722
Jun 25	Atlanta Summer Chouette Tournament, Mazzy's Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Jun 25	Denver Summer Swiss Tournament, Cadillac Jack's, Denver, Colorado	303/519-5711
Jun 30	Michigan Summer Warm-Up, Sheraton Novi Hotel, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 1-4	<u>30th Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton Novi, Novi, Michigan</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Jul 4*	Roy's Monthly Tournament, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Jul 9	Firecracker Classic, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Jul 10	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Gambits Bar, Marriott Hotel, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Jul 10	Ohio State Club Monthly, Tres Potrillos, Copley, Ohio	330/268-4610
Jul 11	Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's, Kansas City, Missouri	816/561-4330
Jul 16*	Austin Club Saturday Bimonthly, JC's Steakhouse, Austin, Texas	512/261-8518
Jul 21*	Third Thursday Bonus (Indiana Open), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 23*	Georgia Warm-up & Peach Cup Qualifier, Mazzy's Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Jul 29-31	<u>1000 Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York</u>	<u>585/396-0969</u>
Jul 29-31	<u>Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin</u>	<u>608/516-9109</u>
Aug 1*	Roy's Monthly Tournament, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Aug 6*	Chouette Tournament, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Aug 7	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Aug 7*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Tres Potrillos, Copley, Ohio	330/268-4610
Aug 13*	Hot As Hades Open, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Aug 14*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Gambits Bar, Marriott Hotel, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Aug 18-21	<u>12th Georgia Championships, Marriott Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
Sep 2-5	<u>53rd Indiana Open, Sheraton Suites Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Sep 16-18	<u>Florida State Championship, Sheraton Suites, Fort Lauderdale, Florida</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Sep 17-18*	Jon Viator Invitational Cup, Jon Viator's residence, La Jolla, California	818/901-0464
Sep 23-25	<u>2nd Pacific Northwest Championships, Holiday Inn, Seattle, Washington</u>	<u>253/856-7513</u>
Oct 14-16	<u>Illinois State Championships, Springfield Hilton, Springfield, Illinois</u>	<u>217/528-0117</u>
Oct 28-30*	<u>2005 Minnesota Open, Mystic Lake Casino, Prior Lake, Minnesota</u>	<u>651/699-6758</u>
Nov 11-16*	Backgammon Pro Am Doubles, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Nov 16-20*	2005 Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025

OUTSIDE USA

Jun 10-12	5th Austrian Masters Finale, Cafe Heine, Vienna, Austria	436642-404285
Jun 16-19*	South African Masters & Marimba Open, Capetown, South Africa	2783-3003380
Jun 18-19	Liz Barker's 30th Birthday, Sundridge Park, Bromley, England	447900-983038
Jun 21-23*	Porteño Championship Series #3, Porteño Club, Buenos Aires, Argentina	54114-3131780
Jun 22-26	1st Belgian Open, Grand Casino Oostende, Oostende, Belgium	491715-422222
Jun 25-26*	Turnier für Jedermann, Ruhrpokal, Ruhrgebiet, Germany	491634-621521
Jul 2-3	Keren Di Bona, Hanover Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Jul 7-10	17th City of Venice International Tournament, Venice, Italy	3941-5211029
Jul 8-10*	1st Lucien Barrière Gold Cup & Cannes Open, Casino Croisette, France	392-69018168
Jul 11-17	30th World Championship, Fairmont Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco <i>USA contact:</i> 954/527-4033	
Jul 15-17	Festival Games Czech Open, Duhova Arena, Pardubice, Czech Republic	420737-677242
Jul 19-21*	Porteño Championship Series #4, Porteño Club, Buenos Aires, Argentina	54114-313178
Jul 20-24	Riviera's Challenge 3/Nation's Challenge, Palm Beach, Cannes, France	336624-67001
Jul 23-24	10th Liverpool Open, Liverpool Bridge Club, Liverpool, England	441514-283082
Jul 30-31*	DATE CHANGE: Gammonitis League Tour., Sundridge Pk., Bromley, Eng.	447900-983038
Jul 30-31*	3rd Nagoya Open, Nagoya Kowan Kaikan, Nagoya, Japan	81904-4481829
Aug 6-7	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy, Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Aug 10-14	1st Backgammon & Golf Fun, Bad Griesbach, Germany	491715-422222
Aug 12-14*	BG Sommerfestival, Hotel GlockenSpitze, Altenkirchen, Germany	49521-64314
Aug 16-18*	Porteño Championship Series #4, Porteño Club, Buenos Aires, Argentina	54114-313178
Aug 18-21	BG On the Beach/8th Friuli Championship, Grado Beach, Gorizia, Italy	392690-18168
Aug 18-21	1st Sommer-Cup & DBGL Team Cup, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49711-48190
Aug 20-21	Gammonitis Live Challenge Finals, Sundridge Park, Bromley, England	447900-983038
Aug 20-29	9th MindSports Olympiad BG, Netherhall College, Cambridge, England	441522-888676
Aug 27-28*	Bristol Wide-Open Wedding Tourney, Bristol, England	441179-241145
Sep 1-15*	Zykanthos Festival of Backgammon, Peligoni Club, Zakynthos, Greece	447798-614800
Sep 2-4*	Mittleuropa Championship, HIT Park Hotel, Nova Gorica, Slovenia	392-69018168

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

after 40 sets at Level 5 when my winning average had jumped to 40%.

What's with this JellyFish? Does anyone know a player who can regularly win better than 70% of the time against above average competition? I am curious to hear how JellyFish does it.—*Gardner Soule, Shelburne, Vermont*

"BG PEEVES" COMMENTS

Although Larry Liebster said that I once allowed my opponent to bring my man in

from the bar, and then played my full roll from that point, I've never actually done this. However, I did tell Larry that I would like to use it on a chronic offender someday.

The director in this case made a serious blunder with his ruling against Larry. If we desire "friendly" tournaments, then we should bar blatantly rude actions. Once victimized by his own gloating and illegal behavior, the perpetrator will *never* touch his opponent's checkers again.

After the first offense, Larry gave his opponent a warning. When the violation happened again, he merely accepted the illegal move. What's wrong with that?

Friendly players don't touch their opponent's pieces. Lets create a user-friendly atmosphere.—*Ray Fogerlund, Bakersfield, California*

In last month's "BG Peeves," Larry Liebster and Ray Fogerlund are almost exactly right. An opponent has no right to handle dice or checkers during the player's turn. Black should not have to devote any attention to whether White is moving checkers, either legally or illegally. Black should be free to devote his entire effort to playing his own numbers.

Why do I say "almost" exactly right? Because the deliberate violation of a rule for possible advantage to the violator is the gravest offense. A director should not merely rule against the violator, but should expel a repeat violator from the tournament.

One person's "friendly game" is another person's *cheating*.—*Danny Kleinman, Los Angeles, CA*

TOURNAMENT IN NORWAY

I am living and studying in Norway, and I want to organize a backgammon tournament at my University. Could you send me your point counting system and also the tourney rules you follow? I am thinking of making a tournament where all players meet and play against each other and sum points. The winner would be the one with the most points.

As I have never organized such a tournament, I would appreciate any help you can provide.—*Eduardo Galletti, via Internet*

[Continued on page 5]



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2005

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2005

Compiled through 30 May after 6 tournaments

(Upcoming events: LA Open, Michigan Summer, 1000 Islands, Wisconsin)



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2005

Neil Kazaross	52.78	Tom Green	5.27	Cookie Frazin	3.20	Cole Parker	1.60
Phil Simborg	40.24	Mary Ann Meese	5.27	Bruce Ballance	3.19	Murray Bryntesen	1.59
Ray Glaeser	18.39	Michael Plog	5.20	Ralph Byrns	2.94	Mark King	1.57
Howard Shirey	16.71	Randy Armstrong	5.09	Doug Roberts	2.90	Tony Garcia	1.56
Ed O'Laughlin	15.50	Boris Dekhtyar	4.99	Steve Goldstein	2.90	Carmen Webb	1.41
J. A. Miller	12.64	Jeff Acierno	4.94	Connie Tipton	2.80	Joe Davidson	1.41
Larry Strommen	10.61	Wayne Wiest	4.92	Tim Mabee	2.58	Shane Joos	1.28
Carter Mattig	10.54	Joe Freedman	4.67	Jonah Seewald	2.58	Dick Nelson	1.28
Bob Hathaway	10.54	Don Sloan	4.49	Kathy Sorci	2.56	Suzu Jazwa	1.25
Bill Minsner	10.40	Jack Takala	4.49	Les Moshinsky	2.53	Carol Hooker	1.04
George Barr	9.04	Carol Joy Cole	4.32	Mike Cyrkiel	2.50	Mark Hong	0.99
Mark Rozans	8.64	Neil Garvie	4.23	Jolie Rubin	2.50	Greg Buonocore	0.96
Ed Zell	8.43	Mark Murray	4.11	Richard Schwartz	2.46	Ray Reed	0.96
Dana Nazarian	7.74	Petko Kostadinov	3.80	Jeb Horton	2.35	Kim Owens	0.94
Todd Obadal	7.74	David Rogers	3.80	Gregg Cattanch	2.22	Frank Patrick	0.80
Vadim MUSAELYAN	7.60	Ed Johnson	3.68	Rory Pascar	2.22	Tim Johnson	0.67
Carlos Azcarate	6.40	Marc Gray	3.53	Michael Edge	2.12	Peggy Neubig	0.63
Chuck Bower	6.40	Ben Elliott	3.38	Stuart Thomson	1.90	Brenda Cohen	0.63
Herb Roman	5.80	Lynn Lusk	3.20	Joe Feldman	1.65	Ryan Hast	0.63
Malcolm Davis	5.80	Karen Chung	3.20	Ernie McCombs	1.64	Richard Newfield	0.51



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB

2005 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 31 MAY

Tak Morioka	15.08	Howard Ring	4.56	Bob Steen	2.16	David Marcus	0.80
David Rockwell	11.32	Norma Shyer	4.32	Dave Cramer	2.04	Ken Tibbs	0.72
Phyllis Smolinski	11.02	Alice Kay	4.08	Joann Feinstein	1.96	Greg Merriman	0.72
Lucky Nelson	10.76	Jerry Brooks	3.96	Randee Simborg	1.76	Linda Rockwell	0.72
Herb Roman	10.20	Oleg Raygorodsky	3.96	Roger Hickman	1.76	Ken Bond	0.72
Paul Baraz	9.96	Larry Goldstein	3.88	Sargon Benjamin	1.52	Michael Brand	0.72
Carter Mattig	8.64	Michael Ginat	3.08	Paul Franks	1.44	Bob Sexton	0.64
Bill Keefe	8.28	Richard Stawowy	2.88	Joe Auszmann	1.44	Mark Murray	0.56
Bill Davis	8.24	Igor Kaplunovsky	2.80	J. A. Miller	1.32	Cookie Frazin	0.56
Albert Yakobashvili	8.24	Bill Bartholomay	2.80	Elaine Andrews	1.28	Julia Ring	0.56
Phil Simborg	8.14	Eric Johnson	2.80	Val Zimnicki	1.28	Don Marek	0.48
Gary Kay	6.96	Yamin Yamin	2.76	Royal Robinson	1.20	Mark Phillips	0.48
Tim Mabee	6.12	Arlene Levy	2.72	Barbara Levinson	1.12	Bill Stegich	0.40
Steve Klesker	5.92	Georgina Flanagan	2.68	Kurt Thompson	0.96	Lisa Nelson	0.32
Mike Wolock	5.04	Boris Dekhtyar	2.60	Kwong Chan	0.88	Dave Settles	0.24
Wayne Wiest	4.72	Dan Weymouth	2.40	Adrian Rios	0.84		

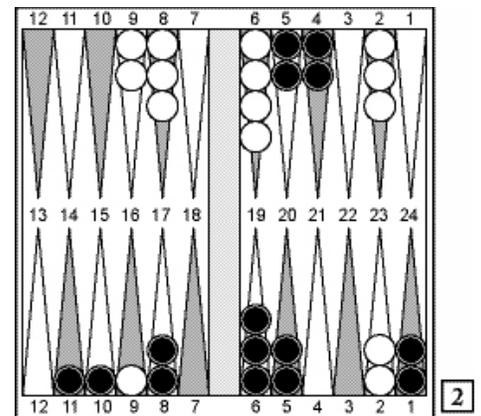
PAUL BARAZ won back-to-back Tuesday Masters en route to capturing 5.12 points and May Player of the Month honors. Mike Wolock (2.96) and Albert Yakobashvili (2.84) placed 2nd/3rd.

your move

PROBLEM #310

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

5-point match. Black leads White 4 to 2. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-4.**



SHADES OF GRAY

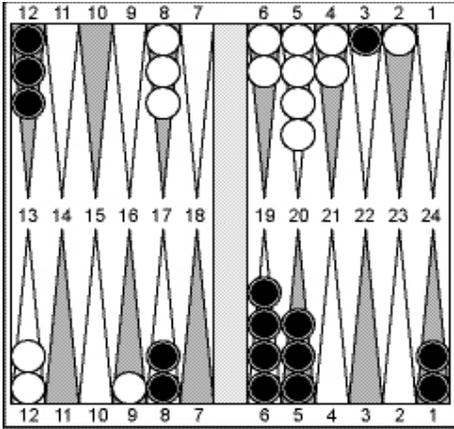
A RULES AND RULINGS COLUMN

© 2005 by Danny Kleinman

THE PINNED CHECKER

I was Black, leading my opponent 11–8 in the 15-point finals of the Central States Backgammon Championships when the following position arose:

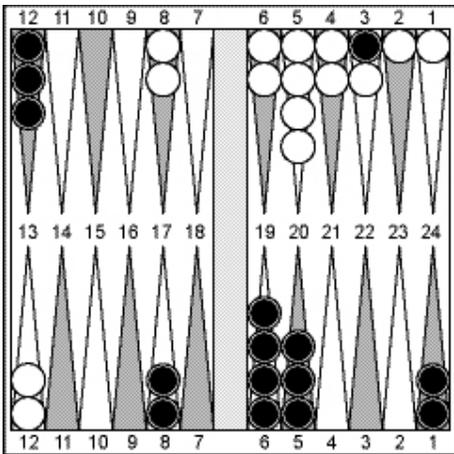
13-point finals. Black leads White 11–8.
WHITE TO PLAY 5-5.



My opponent made a bizarre play to say the least: 16/1, 8/3*! He later explained that this was his first finals and although it was his intention to point on my straggler, he only placed one checker on the point. He played the rest of his move (slotting the ace) so as not to break his 13- or 8-points.

Had he picked my checker up and placed it on the bar, there would have been no discussion; however, he left the position like this and then picked up his dice:

13-point finals. Black leads White 11–8 after White has incorrectly played 5-5.



The director was called and determined the setup to be “illegal.” He required my opponent to return all the checkers to their

original position and play the entire roll legally. Because this director does not offer the players any right of appeal, his decisions are final.

If appeal Rule 6.3 were available, I would have asked a three-person committee to make a ruling based on the following:

(1) Rule 4.8 of the US Backgammon Tournament Rules states: “Upon drawing attention to an illegal move, player may condone it or demand that opponent legally replay the entire roll.” I did not get that choice. The director made the choice for me.

(2) I believe the resulting position is not “illegal,” but “impossible.”

(3) I wanted my opponent merely to complete the play by placing my pinned checker on the bar.

As it turns out, I went on to lose the game and match. Had my opponent been required to complete his play and put me on the bar, I would have been a big favorite to win a match-ending gammon myself. Can you shed any light on this complicated ruling situation, Danny?—*Frustrated Ruling Victim*

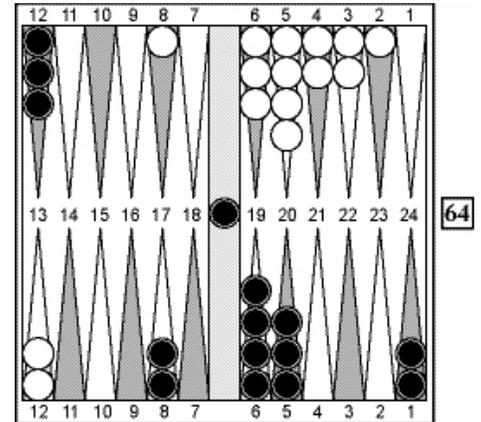
DEAR FRUSTRATED: I’m sorry that you were not allowed to make a timely appeal, and I can understand your disappointment at being deprived of the triple shot that every good backgammon player deserves at least once in every game. I quite agree with you that the position you show after your opponent moved is “impossible” (in other words, *not a backgammon position*) rather than illegal.

Because the position is impossible, had you been granted the right to condone your opponent’s move, the game and match could not have continued. So the only

remedy in this case is the one imposed by the director: to have your opponent replay his double-5s.

You do not show the doubling cube, but from your reference to a “match-ending gammon,” I would infer that it is still in the center. In that case, I presume from your statement of your opponent’s intentions that instead of moving 16/6, 13/8(2) preparing to cash, he played a gammon-hungry 16/6, 8/3*(2), leaving:

13-point finals. Black leads White 11–8 after White has played 5-5.



To obtain justice, you needed 2-6 from the bar. I suggest that your best action would have been to cry “Ray Foggerlund!” before rolling.—*Yours, Danny Δ*

Have you ever been involved in a questionable ruling? Get Danny Kleinman’s opinion. Write to: Shades of Gray; c/o CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155 or e-mail: bg@chicagopoint.com.



ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis
773/583-6464

Peter Kalba
312/316-1432

Tuesday, 6–7 P.M. at Whistler’s Restaurant, 3420 W. Devon, Lincolnwood. 847/673-9270.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Champs Sports Bar, 17 W. 517 Roosevelt Rd., Oakbrook Terrace. 630/691-1888.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Damon’s Grill, 1701 Fort Jesse Road, Normal. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:15 P.M. at Damon’s Grill, 3050 Lindbergh Blvd., Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

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

PUB CLUB: Tournaments Thurs., 6:45 P.M. at Playoffs Bar, 720 E. North Ave., Carol Stream. Tim Mabee (630/606-2388).

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

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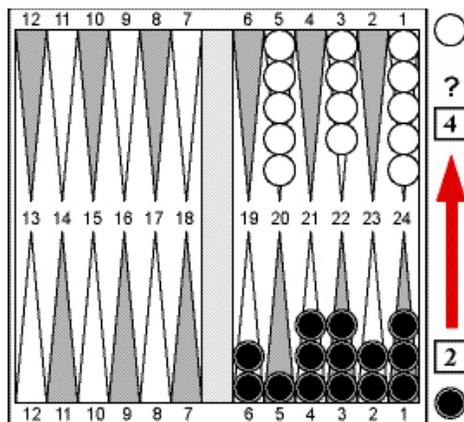
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The POZZLING Pass

By John O'Hagan

Money game. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Should Black redouble this position, shown to me by Phil Simborg? Backgammon master Kit Woolsey has some good advice to follow when you're thinking of doubling. It's called the "Woolsey Rule." When deciding whether or not to double, ask yourself if you're 100% sure that your opponent has a take. If your answer to that question is "no," then you should turn the cube.

In the vast majority of bearoff positions where your side is three pips down in the race and each side has 14 checkers left, the answer to the "Woolsey Rule" question is clearly "yes." Your opponent obviously has a take and in most cases redoubling is hugely wrong. But here White has those horrible gaps on the 2- and 4-points. Is that enough to change things? Quite possibly.

White needs 1s and 3s to fill those gaps but will use those same 1s and 3s to bear checkers off, so the gaps are unlikely to ever be filled. This means White won't be able to bear a checker off with a 4 until the 5-point is cleared and not with a 2 until the 3-point is cleared.

Because of this wastage, my answer to the Woolsey Rule question is a definite "no." I am nowhere near 100% sure that White has a take in this position. It might be a pass or it might be a close take, but either way it looks like a mandatory redouble.

Does that mean I redouble right away? Yes, if this were a complex positional game. There are no reliable formulas you can use to analyze complex positions, so you have to rely on judgment. If your judgment tells you your opponent has a marginal take/pass, then you just have to redouble and hope that your assessment of the position is accurate. But this is a bearoff so before redoubling, I would like to confirm that my intuition is at least in the ballpark by using a couple of bearoff formulas that attempt to adjust for stacks and gaps. If they agree with my conclusion, fine. If not, then I'll have to decide between following my own instincts and doing what the formulas suggest.

In this position, I'll use the "Ward Count" (as described in Jeff Ward's 1982 book *The Doubling Cube—Vol. 1*) and the Keith Count (created by *Backgammon Galore* webmaster Tom Keith). For Black, Ward gives an adjusted count of 48.4, arrived at as follows: A pip count of 45, plus 2 for a third checker on the ace, minus 3 for three additional points covered in the board, plus 10% of the total so far = 48.4.

For White, Ward's count is 48: A pip count of 42, plus 6 for three extras on the ace point.

You then compare Black's count (L for leader) with White's count (T for trailer).

Ward recommends a redouble if $L - T$ is less than 1 (it is) and a take if $T - L$ is less than 2 (also the case).

The "Keith Count" works as follows: Pip count + 2 for every checker greater than one on the ace, + 1 for every checker greater than one on the deucepoint, + 1 for every checker greater than three on the 3-point, + 1 for every empty point on the 4-, 5-, and 6-points. You do the above for both sides and then increase the leader's count by 1/7, rounding down. Doing this gives adjusted pip counts of 57 for L and 53 for T. For doubling purposes, Keith's rules are: If $L - T$ is 4 or less, then it's an initial double; if $L - T$ is 3 or less, then it's a redouble; if $L - T$ is 2, then it's redouble/take; if $L - T$ is 1 or less, then the trailer should drop. So the Keith Count says "no redouble and take."

I'll follow my intuition in this position and predict redouble and close pass. I think these adjusted pip count methods make approximately the right adjustments for gaps that are likely to be filled, but that they underestimate the severity of permanent gaps like those in White's board. I could be wrong of course, but that's what I would do over-the-board.

So what does Snowie say? Snowie's database gives Black 78.9% cubeless chances in this position which the evaluation function translates into a razor thin pass for White of -1.002 on a 2-cube. However, Snowie evidently overestimates White's cube ownership vig since an 864 game rollout with the "truncated when reaching bearoff database" option turned off showed it to be a bigger pass with White's equity: $-1.052 \pm .012$ on a 2-cube.

If you would like to learn more about the Keith Count and other adjusted pip count methods, check out Tom Keith's *Backgammon Galore* website at www.bkgm.com/articles/CubeHandlingInRaces/ —John O'Hagan Δ

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

The tournament format you are speaking of is "round robin" where players compete against each other and the one with the most wins is the champion.

In this format, matches are usually played to a set amount of points (5, for example). The winner is determined by the person with the most wins. If there is a tie, then the score differential is considered. For example, I play you and you win 5-2. Then I would record your result as W (+3) and

mine as L (-3) because you beat me by 3 points. Additionally, in a match to 5 points, the winner can score a maximum of 5 points. No overage is credited.

I am including a few items in PDF format. If you (or any other POINT readers) need other items like score sheets and elimination drawsheets, or chouette sheets, let me know.—Ed.

SIMBORG RULE 2?

How about this for a backgammon tournament rules variation?: In match play, whoever has the lower score gets to play the opening roll regardless of who shakes

the higher die.—Phil Simborg, Chicago, Illinois

SEARCHING FOR DWEK AND MARTYN

I was wondering if you could help me. I'm trying to find out what became of Joe Dwek and Phillip Martyn. Are they still playing? If not, can you provide any other information about them?—Grant Hoffman, Magellan Software, Nelson, New Zealand

BIBA director Michael Crane responds: All I know is that they both live in London . . . but I'm not even 100% certain of that.—MC Δ



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AMALGAMATION

Visiting the Bar Point Club in May: **Jim Dulong** (MI), **Harold Melamed** (MN), **Michael Brand** (Germany), **Gary Kallos** (Canada), and **James Roston** (NY)... Former Pub Club director **Jeff Henry** reports

that **Dean Morehouse**, a fixture of Chicago backgammon in the 1980s, died of a heart attack 20 January at his home in Florida. He was 57. Dean played primarily at the Pub Club where he still ranks 9th on their all-time standings. His Chicago point total of 153.92 places him 42nd overall.



The late Dean Morehouse at the 1987 Midwest Championships.

Dean coined the Pub Club credo: "For the Glory." Additionally, he was the spark plug behind the first "Backgammon On Board" cruise tourney back in 1986. He is survived by his wife **Kenice**, three children, and one grandchild... Gammon Associates player

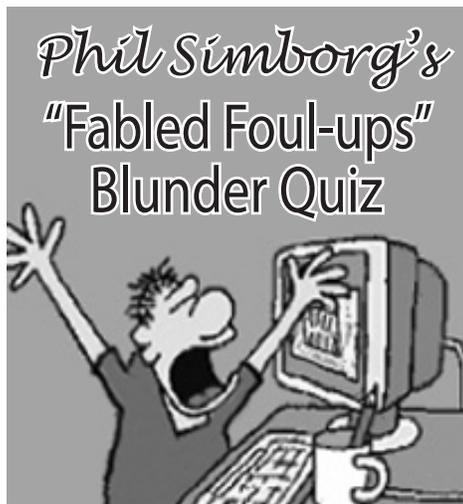
Zev Vered is a proud father. His son **Jerome Vered** finished 3rd (just behind **Ken Jennings**) in the recent Jeopardy Challenge of Champions... Initially offered on ebay for \$2000, **Elvis Presley's** 1970 backgammon board game is now offered for \$1500. Still



You'll need \$1500 to "take care of business" on Elvis's backgammon board.

no bidders. Apparently, Elvis gave his board to **Trish Henley**, his nurse as a gift when he informed her that he hadn't the patience to play... From the 4 May UK Digital Bulletin: "Trying to emulate the poker qualifier concept, Backgammon Ltd. will host "Backgammondollars Million," to be launched in June, which will offer the biggest prize in the game. The launch will also be backed by global marketing activity, initially focusing

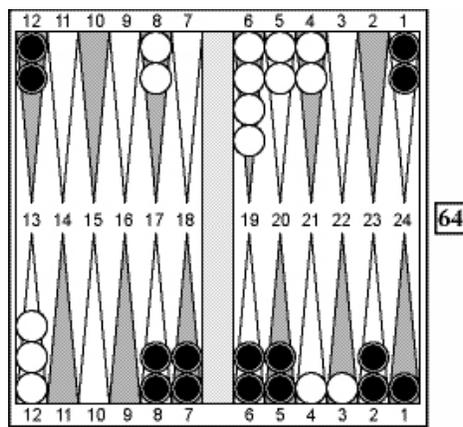
on the UK, US and Scandinavia. Backgammonmillion.com will host a series of global online tournaments. The winners of these will progress to a final to be held in the Bahamas in December. At this point, the online finalists will be joined by a mixture of pro players and celebrities, who will buy in to the event to compete for a \$1m prize pool..." Yes, there is a song totally dedicated to backgammon. Listen to "Backgammon Blues" by **Drazen Majerski** at www.citlink.net/~stormygal/. We love this line from the song: "I'll keep on playin' backgammon, but the fact is backgammon is playin' me..." On June 2, W Hotels Worldwide announced plans for the first W Hotel in the Caribbean, W Vieques—Martineau Bay, located on the largely undiscovered island of Vieques. It's great for our game that the property, made up of 20 private villas, will have an extensive fitness facility, two tennis courts and "an entertainment salon featuring billiards and backgammon..." Although **Ray Foggerlund** (CA) claims credit, **Val Zimmnicki** says he actually coined the phrase "2-6 from the bar?!" in the early 1990s when he was directing the Pub Club... In closing, ponder the answer to this question asked in the 1970s television series "Kung Fu": Victory and defeat—does not the true value lie in what one does with either? Δ



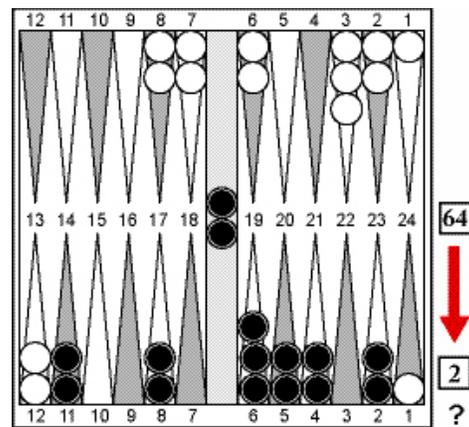
I run an average of 50 positions and 20 online matches a week through Snowie. Whenever I find a cube or checker play decision that I can't make any sense out of, I send it to a large group of friends for their edification. If I'm lucky, they'll share their expertise with me which is of great value.

I have collected, saved, and studied volumes of comments from the likes of Jake Jacobs, Nack Ballard, Paul Weaver, Perry Gartner, John O'Hagen, Joe Sylvester,

1. 5-point match. White leads Black 3 to 2. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-2.**



2. Money game. White doubles. **SHOULD BLACK TAKE?**

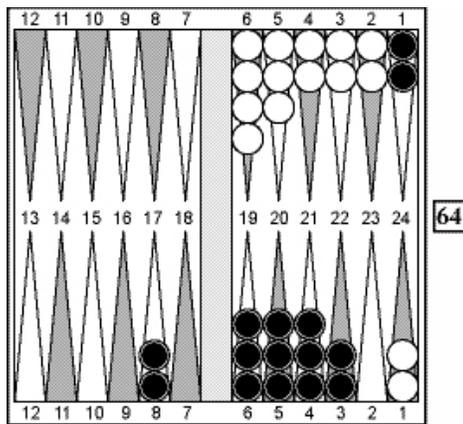


Snowie rollouts show my errors to range from -0.177 to -0.376 . [Snowie labels a blunder as -0.110 or greater.—Ed.]

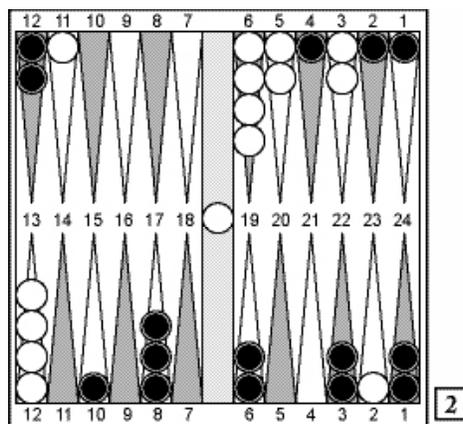
It won't be hard to improve on my score of zero. The question is: How many major blunders can you avoid? Because I missed them all, I have to say that 4 right is good, 6 is very good, and if you get all 8 right, remind me to buy you in the next Calcutta Auction.—Phil Simborg.

—Answers on page 9—

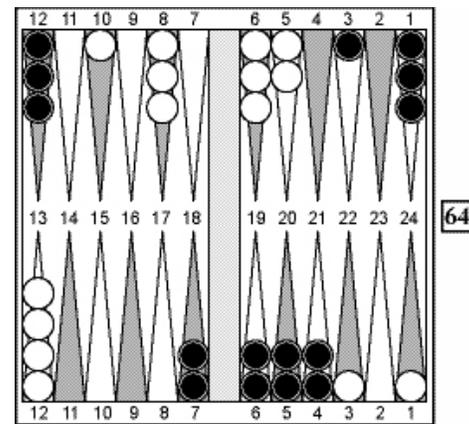
3. Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-4.**



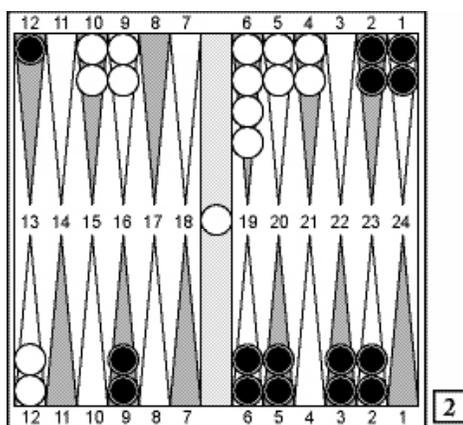
4. Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-4.**



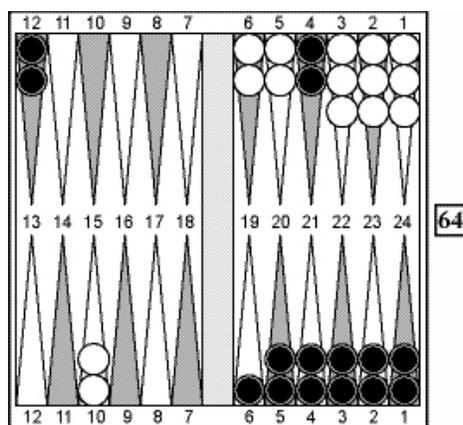
5. Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-3.**



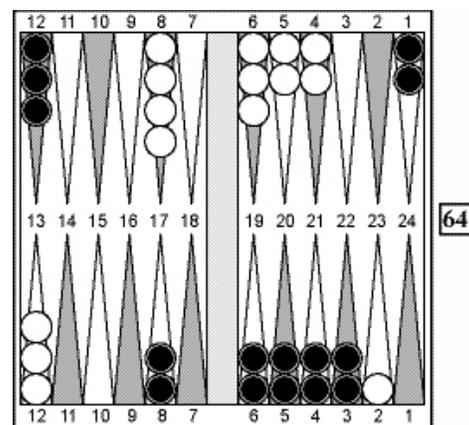
6. Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**



7. 5-point match. White leads Black 3 to 2. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.**



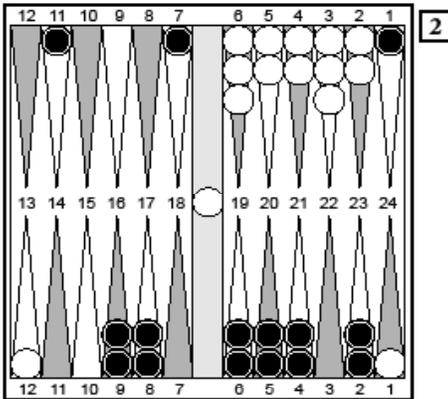
8. 5-point match. Black leads White 3 to 2. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-5.**



**PROBLEM #309
ANALYZED**

by Mary Hickey

7-point match. Black and White are tied at 3-all. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-3.**



This position starts with you missing a double shot, but it needn't end as a hard-luck story. Finding the right play here requires an intricate interweaving of game-winning objectives. A match-ending gammon would be great, but is it worth taking risks that could easily lead to a gammon for your opponent?

We can eliminate any play that leaves more blots than necessary and also leaves additional immediate shots. Such plays rate to work well if White stays out because of the diversified hitters and builders they create. The problem is that they risk too much right now and leave you with too little if they blow up. Among such plays would be 14/9, 8/5, or the somewhat preferable 18/13, 9/6 and 18/13, 8/5, which diversify your running and hitting numbers. Of those last two, the latter rolls out a bit better, probably because it eliminates White's 6-3 joker from the bar. The 5-3 it leaves for her instead already plays decently, entering and hitting on the ace point.

The hitting play (9/1*) must be considered since your gammons trade off so well versus single losses. According to the Woolsey-Heinrich match equity table, you gain 32% match equity for an incremental gammon while losing 36% for an added single loss, which is almost 1:1. However, this isn't normally going to be the actual tradeoff here. When the hit fails, it's likely to fail spectacularly, resulting in a gammon, set, and match win for your opponent.

The hit would be a serious contender at Gammon Go, since rollouts show it really does win the most gammons. Snowie shows its added gammons costing few enough added losses to be correct at Gammon Go; but the JellyFish rollouts bring it up just short com-

pared to the best play. However, neither bot will touch it at the actual score of 4-away, 4-away cubed, due to the many extra gammons it loses. The principle here is one we all know, but sometimes forget: *Respect a five point board, especially if you can get gammoned.*

The builder-creating 9/4, 9/6 leaves no new blots and succeeds very well at diversifying your hitting and point-making numbers for the next turn if White fans. Its main deficiency, aside from the number of shots and blots it leaves, is that your 6s are duplicated next roll. The goal of getting out of her five point board with those two menacing builders is extremely urgent, and your next 6 should be reserved for that purpose if at all possible. In the rollouts, this play outperforms all the four-blot plays but is not as good as the hit.

The simple 14/6 has some appeal because it allows you to play with only two blots, but again leaves you with a quandary next turn if White fans and you roll a 6. With 6-1, you'll probably make her bar point and play 6/5 with the ace, since that is very neat-looking; but what will you do with a roll like 6-5? You can hit once, hit twice, make the 3-point, or make her bar! (In this case you'd probably want to hit once and continue on to slot the bar, but you also might never roll another 6.) Why not avoid these decisions by finding a similarly-themed play with an easier follow-up?

Which plays are "similar-themed"?

Those that work towards the twin goals of getting the game home without mishap, but also allow for pursuit of the gammon if things go well. The best of these are 18/10; 14/9, 18/15; and 18/13, 14/11. These plays try to balance risk avoidance and damage control if an accident happens, with comfortable play and opportunities for gammons if your opponent fails to land a punch this roll.

18/13, 14/11 can be eliminated not because of anything really bad about it, but because it falls a little short of the other two plays without any compensating advantage. 14/9, 18/15 plays with one fewer blot, and 18/10 leaves you better off after some key sequences. Those extra builders aimed at the bar are an illusion, since even if you roll a "perfect" 6-4 after a fan, you'll use it to run (24/18, 13/9) rather than make the bar anyway.

I would have chosen 14/9, 18/15 over the board, reasoning that one less blot means one fewer banana peel to step on. But here, since even getting two men trapped is likely to lead to being gammoned, it appears that other themes predominate. There is always a danger of misinterpretation when we reason backward from rollout results, but here are some differences I see favoring 18/10:

(1) It avoids turning White's 3-3 into a near-

superjoker, hitting two blots and buying time for her to escape. Instead, it forces her last 3 to play awkwardly, with 13/10 probably best though it gives up on hitting your outer board checker (at least for now).

- (2) Although it improves White's 3-2 and 1-2, these were already decent rolls for her, hitting on the ace point and leaving a non-duplicated 5 as a direct cover.
- (3) If White fans, you have 15 rolls to hit the outer board blot, instead of 13. This isn't insignificant, since this hit would both win more gammons and buy extra time for your last back man to escape.

How good are the rollouts in these positions? Based on my experience with JellyFish, it probably plays many of the endings "according to the score" without intending to. In money play, JellyFish tends to bear off a bit too aggressively against a man or men on the bar, as can be demonstrated with rollouts of some of its riskier-than-required choices. However, at this score, the above-noted 32:36 gammon trade-off versus added single losses comes into play once you are bearing off and can no longer lose a gammon yourself. Taking a few more chances of losing a plain game to bear off a little faster will often be correct in the cases where you close out White's two back checkers but keep missing the third (or perhaps it scoots home before you can bag it). I think this factor explains why the JellyFish rollouts produced more Black gammons than Snowie did with the top two plays. In the end though, both bots concluded that 18/10 was the best of the many options here.—*Mary Hickey* Δ

TV COVERAGE AT MONTE CARLO

The 2005 World Backgammon Championships from the Fairmont Hotel Monte Carlo sponsored by TrueMoneygames.com will be televised for the first time in its 30 year history. The deal for four 60 minute shows follows the success of poker on TV and has been commissioned by UK TV channel Pokerzone to be broadcast this Autumn. The producers also hope to secure deals with various international broadcasters including in the US, Japan and Europe.

Several key matches will be filmed multi-cam in a specially built studio enhanced by lively commentary and graphics based on AI software, Snowie. Additional interviews and fly-on-the-wall footage of some of the world's leading players will enhance the build-up. The series will be produced by 8mm Productions of London. Series Producer, Andy Bell. Executive Producer Patti Rubin. Δ

**WINNER'S
CIRCLE**



APR-JUN. 2005

•**New England Club Monthly** (Somerville, MA; 17 Apr.)... OPEN: 1-Walter Trice, 2-Doug Zare, 3/4-Nora Luna / Bob Menga; 1C-Tarek Eldin, 2C-Bob Menga.

•**1st Halkidiki Backgammon Open** (Halkidiki, Greece; 21-24 April)... CHAMPIONSHIP (19) 1-Nikos Dikaros, 2-Peter Sarzynski (Thailand), 3/4-Miomir Sjekic / Babis Drouvis; 1C-Nodar Gagua (Russia), 2C-Christos Groutsos; 1LC-Athanas Georgiev (Bulgaria), 2LC-Kostas Chiotinis. INTERMEDIATE (19): 1-Leyeris Moschos, 2-Harilaos Ladis, 3/4-Jim Papoutsis / Thanasis Gougoulas; 1C-John Chnaras, 2C-Stelios Sourvas; 1LC-Alexander Nikolov (Bulgaria), 2LC-Kostas Christou. WARM-UP: 1-Maya Peicheva (Bulgaria), 2-Nodar Gagua (Russia). TEAM EVENT (8): 1-*The Sheeps* (Deliakis, Vallianos, Groutsos). SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-Peter Sarzynski (Thailand).

•**5th City of Jesolo Interational** (Jesolo, Italy; 22-25 Apr.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (36): 1-Sergio Fragiaco, 2-Alexander Rasic (SER), 3/4-Giulio Alessandri / Christian Liebe-Harkort (GER); 1C-Rolf Vetsch (SWZ), 2C-Yomi Peretz (FRA); 1LC-Andreas Reichel (AUT). INTERMEDIATE (35): 1-Matteo Bastagli, 2-Franco DiNatale, 3/4-Maurizio Molinari / Gloria Zaro; 1C-Paolo Ruffato, 2C-Stefano Battain; 1LC-Lorenzo Borsoi. TEAM TOURNEY (11): 1-*Benedictus* (deBruin, Spagnolo, Winkler), 2-*Benetton* (Liebe-Harkort, Plesec, Werner). DOUBLES (20): 1-Heinz Edy & Werner Schmuck (AUT), 2-Daniel Scheidiger & Rolf Vetsch (SWZ). PARK HOTEL BRASILIA TRHOPY *Champ.* (8): 1-Arnaud Mattern (FRA); *Int.* (26): 1-Damian Plesec (SLO). 4TH NATIONS TROPHY (4): *Italy* (Flamigni, Serventi, de Zandonati).

•**South Australian Monthly KO** (Adelaide, South Australia; 3 May)... OPEN (8): 1-Chris Benham, 2-John McLean.

•**Arizona Club Monthly** (Phoenix, AZ; 3 May)... OPEN: 1-Pete Campbell, 2-Michael Ramsey, 3-Gary Crain.

•**County Cups Trophy** (Hinckley, England; 7-8 May)... OPEN (42): 1-John Slattery, 2-David Nathan, 3/4-Peter Bennet / Richard Granville; 1C-Chris Ternel, 2C-Darryl Krik. FRIDAY WARM-UP (12): 1-Paul Christmas, 2-David Sanders. £100 JACKPOT (8): 1/2-Peter Bennet / John Slattery. DOUBLES (4): 1-Prickly Pair. POKER (13): 1/2-Rosey Bensley / Tony Lee, 3-John Gilbertson.

•**5th Annual 1-to-1 Children's Charity Tourney** (London, England; 8 May)... OPEN (96): 1-Stephen Pearson, 2-David Pears, 3/4-Karen Lever / Mark Pollack; 1C-Wayne Felton, 2C-John Armstrong.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 8 May)... OPEN (8): 1-Neil Rosensweig, 2-Mike Corbett.

•**1st Aix-les-Bains Open** (Aix les-Bains, France; 12-14 May)... CHAMPIONSHIP (32): 1-Marc Santo Roman, 2-Michel Seoual, 3/4-Harald Johanni (GER) / Rainer Witt (GER); 1C-Artur Muradian (ARM), 2C-Lars Trabolt (DK); 1LC-Patrick Didisheim (SWIZ), 2LC & LADIES PRIZE-Maria Kraneva (BUL). AMATEUR (16): 1-Laurent Arnone, 2-Lise Howard (USA/SWIZ), 3/4-Delphine Delambre / Marcel Liechiti (SWIZ); 1C-Nadya Marinova (BUL/FRA), 2C-Guil Dray; 1LC-David Sneoual, 2LC-David Fischelis. BEGINNER (10): 1-Boris Brichet, 2-Jean Marc Grunberg; 1C-Karine Grumberg, 2C-Eric Delambre. SUPER-JACKPOT: 1-Tore Fredriksen (NOR), 2-Ed O'Laughlin (USA).

•**Armbruster's Friday the 13th Bash** (Los Angeles, CA; 13 May)... DOUBLES: 1-Paul Armbruster & Norm Wiggins, 2-Julia & Ron Bruns; 1C-Tom Gillen, 2C-Judy Collins. BLACK CAT TOSS: Judy Gedigian. BLACK CAT HUNT: Judy Collins... *Richard Armbruster's regular Friday the 13th frolics.*

•**Mother's Day Open** (Houston, TX; 14 May)... OPEN (21): 1-James Bray, 2-Steve Bowen, 3/4-Mary Morse / Chris Stanford; 1C-Jorge Salazar, 2C-Gonzalo Molina.

•**Gammonitis Eynsham Cup** (Withey, England; 14-15 May)... OPEN (20): 1-Tom Duggan, 2-Monica Beckerson, 3/4-Nigel Bridges / John Broomfield; 1C-Mardi Ohannessian, 2C-Chris Jeans; 1LC-Mike Heard, 2LC-Alan Beckerson. POKER: 1-Mardi Ohannessian, 2-Simon Barjet, 3-Andrew Sarjeant.

•**17th WBF European Championships & 4th Velden Open** (Velden, Austria; 19-22 May)... MASTERS (30): 1-François Tardieu (FRA), 2-Werner Schmuck (AUT), 3/4-Alain Babilion (FRA) / Gadi Carmeli (ISR); 1C-Sami Sallak (GER), 2C-Artur Muradian (ARM); 1LC-Avetis Rostomian (ARM), 2LC-Thomas Kob (AUT). CHAMPIONS (51): 1-Thomas Loew (GER), 2-Fabrizio Lo Surdo (ITA), 3/4-Arda Findikoglu (TUR) / Giuseppe Ricciardi (ITA); 1C-Arut Martuosian (ARM), 2C-Curtis Lucas (USA); 1LC-Tunc Hamarat (AUT), 2LC-Horst Ernst (GER); LADIES PRIZE: Jessica Rusconi (ITA). INTERMEDIATE (42): 1-Nadya Marinova (BUL/FRA), 2-Jean-Marie Etchevery (FRA), 3/4-Wolfgang Loscher (AUT) / Florin Popa (ITA/ROM); 1C-Zbigniew Papierniak (POL), 2C-Remus-Andrei Veres (ROM); 1LC-Neculai Draganuta (ROM), 2LC-Andrea Hollman (GER); LADIES PRIZE: Nadya Marinova (BUL/FRA). SUPER-JACKPOT (8): 1-Marius-Corneliu Veres (ROM), 2-John Slattery (UK). SPERTI TROPHY (52): 1-Arnaud Mattern (FRA), 2-Werner Schmuck (AUT). WARM-UP (65): 1-Danny Cohen (UK), 2-Nedim Yardimci (TUR). RIZZELLO & ROMAGNOLI TROPHY (16): 1-Tore Fredriksen (NOR), 2-Karol Szczerek (POL). 1-POINT

**"Fabled Foul-ups"
Blunder Quiz Results**

(From Pg. 7) By Phil Simborg

Hopefully, you beat my score of zero. Remember that Snowie's default ranking of a blunder is -0.110. All of my blunders (shown in parenthesis) are far worse.—*Phil Simborg*

1. **24/22; 7/3*/1** (*I played 8/6; 7/3*/1 wrong by -0.172*)
2. **Take** (*I dropped which is a -0.177 blunder*)
3. **24/14** (*I made my 2-point erring by -0.204*)
4. **8/4(2); 6/2(2)*** (*My choice was 10/2*, 8/4(2) off by -0.221*)
5. **24/16** (*13/5 was my play, wrong by -0.199*)
6. **23/18** (*My play of 21/17; 6/3 was 7th best and wrong by -0.195*)
7. **13/6** (*21/17, 6/3 was a huge -0.376 blunder*)
8. **24/13** (*My choice was 13/2*, another -0.313 super-blunder*)

PRESIDENT'S TOURNEY: 1-Haluk Oral (TUR).

•**1st Deauville Backgammon Trophy Tourney** (Deauville, France; 1-5 June)... **CANCELLED** by Casino Deauville due to poor advance room reservations.

•**Pub Club Grand Re-Opening Tourney** (Carol Stream, IL; 2 Jun.)... OPEN (21): 1-Jim Opre, 2-Greg DeVolpi, 3/4-Claudia Imatt / Wayne Wiest; 1C/2C-Kathy Sorci / Joe Szewedo... *Established in 1979, the Pub Club is back with new co-directors*



Jim Opre won the Pub Club Grand Re-Opening.

Tim Mabee and Dick Nelson (in attendance despite recent knee surgery). The kickoff event took place at Playoffs Bar in Carol Stream with 24 players present. Among the old time Pubbers attending (with the year they first played) were Earl Risch (1979), Lucky Nelson (1979), Bill Davis (1979),

tourney winner Jim Opre (1980), Yamin Yamin (1980), Peter Kalba (1980), Don Marek (1988), past Pub Club director Val Zimnicki (1989), and Ken Tyszko (1989).

•**Bar Point Club Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL 5 Jun.)... OPEN (17): 1-Carter Mattig, 2-Mark Murray, 3/4-Lucky Nelson / Tak Morioka; 1C-/2C-Tim Mabee / Yamin Yamin. INTERMEDIATE (2): 1-Joe Szewedo.

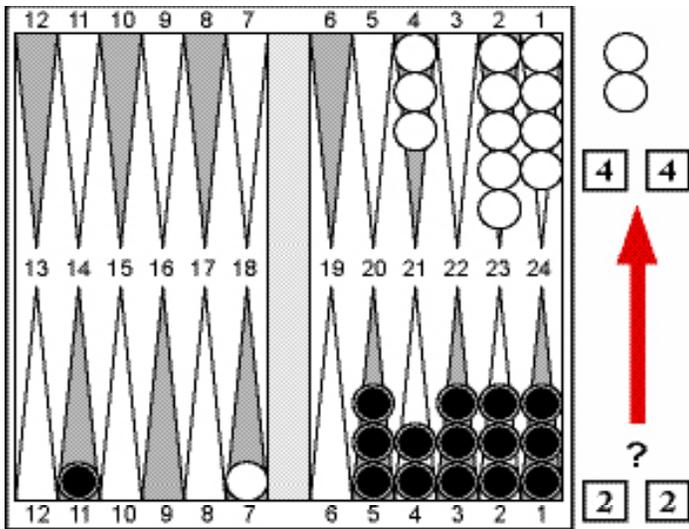
Smarter than Carter



By
Phil
Simborg

This doubling decision came up in a Chicago Bar Point Club chouette last month and Carter Mattig got it right which surprised me on two levels (but I won't say which two). What would you do?

Money chouette. Carter & Phil (Black) on roll vs. Lucky Nelson (White). **RECUBE ACTION(S)?**



Carter was the first to act, doubling Lucky. Lucky was up eight pips and had two checkers off. Figuring that Lucky would take later, I thought that it was premature to hand him a 2-cube. In fact, I was surprised to see that 1440 3-ply, precise Snowie rollouts show Black winning 71% from this position. I guess distribution and crossovers really matter.

Lucky grabbed Carter's cube (he almost beavered). Again, Carter was right to cube (by 0.013) and Lucky was right to take.

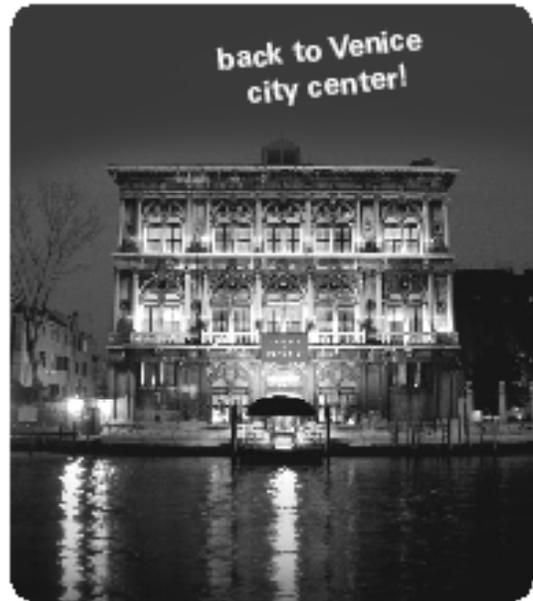
Ah . . . but I was even more right by *not* doubling. I hit Lucky with a 4 and cubed him two rolls later. Lucky still took and ended up losing the game.

The fact that I hit Lucky, waited two rolls to double, and still got him to take proves that I am officially "Smarter than Carter."

—Phil Simborg Δ

17th city of venice international backgammon tournament

casino of venice
7th - 10th july 2005



the event will be held in ca' vendramin calergi, the historical 16th century palace on the gran canal, which hosts the glamorous casino of venice in the city center

	entry fees €	registration €
champion	500	70
intermediate	200	50
amateur	50	20
double (champ.)	400 per team	50
double (interm.)	120 per team	30

programme

thursday, 7th july
quarter entries
warm up
superjackpot

saturday, 9th july
progressive consolation
tournament continues

friday, 8th july
double consulting
tournament starts

sunday, 10th july
last chance
finals
prize-giving & cocktail

info

studiogiochi
san polo 3083
30125 venezia

backgammon@studiogiochi.com
www.studiogiochi.com