

monte carlo report/editorial

## IS BENTZON MONTE CARLO'S LAST WORLD BG CHAMP?

By Bill Davis

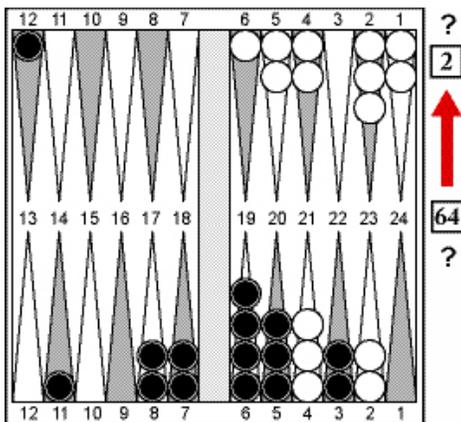
Lars "Buster" Bentzon of Denmark is the new 2010 Monte Carlo World Backgammon Champion. The 35<sup>th</sup> annual event, held 11–18 July at the Fairmont Hotel in Monte Carlo, drew 221 players from across the globe. Howard Markowitz (USA) and James Ballié (SWZ) co-directed.

Buster, a relative unknown whose only other significant victory was winning a Las Vegas Overflow Limited Jackpot in 2002, had a comparatively "friendly" draw before facing fellow Dane Pia Jeppesen in the semifinals. Victory over Pia propelled Buster into the finals.

Ricardo Malas of Spain was the other finalist. His draw was more challenging with Stick Rice (USA) and Armando Balbi (Brazil) in his path.

The 25-point finals commenced Sunday afternoon with Falafal Natanzon (Israel) and Matt Cohn-Geier (USA) providing expert commentary. Buster won the first game and never lost the lead. The tenth game, with Buster leading 10–4 proved to be an interesting one and pretty much sealed Ricardo's fate.

25-point MC finals. Bentzon leads Malas 10–4. Bentzon on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



After missing a number of proper doubles, Buster is now too good to cube.

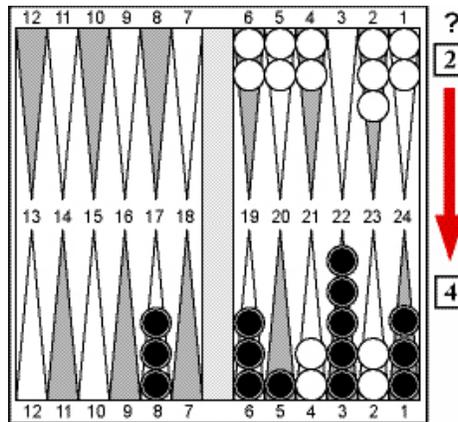


"Buster" Bentzon. [Facebook picture.]

He decided to cash the game anyway. Instead, Ricardo (with extremely suspect timing) took the double—a whopping 0.611 error.

As it turned out, there was a lot of play left in this game. Buster bore in quickly and then rolled an unlucky 4-4 leaving Ricardo a double shot:

25-point MC finals. Bentzon leads Malas 10–4. Malas on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

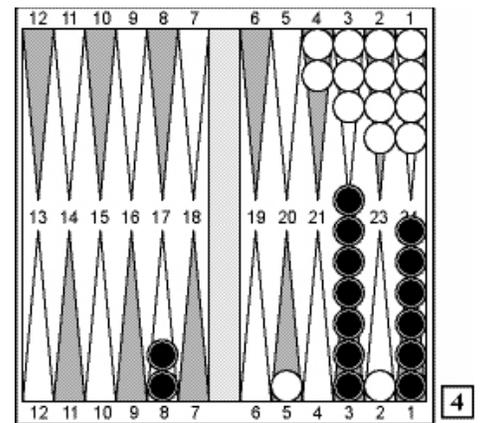


An underdog in this game with a big chance to be gammoned should he fail to hit a shot, Ricardo reshipped to 4. This error ranked as a monster 0.415 blunder. Ricardo rolled 3-1 immediately hitting. Buster was able to escape and eventually reached this horribly ugly bear-in. [Shown above right.]

Buster rolled 5-4, which was fairly decent, all rolls considered. Ricardo hit to keep the game interesting. Buster danced twice before entering with a 6-4. By that time Ricardo was a huge racing favorite. In the end, late sets of 4s and 5s were just enough for Buster to win the four point game in a photo finish. Ahead 14–4, he breezed to a 25–9 victory.

In game ten, the bots rated Ricardo Malas's play as "Awful!" He improved to a "Casual player" rating by match end. Buster Bentzon played "Intermediate."

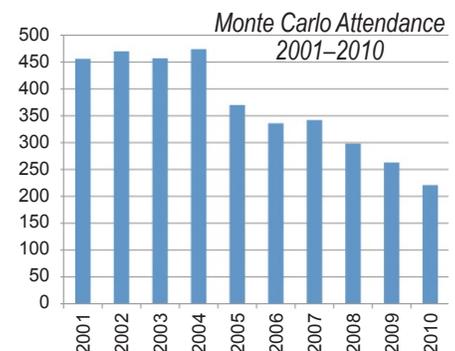
25-point MC finals. Bentzon leads Malas 10–4. Malas on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Ultra-studious players might dismiss this year's finalists as merely "lucky" or even "undeserving" representatives of our game. Hogwash. Lars Bentzon and Ricardo Malas were both very worthy finalists. They traveled to Monte Carlo and each paid €1000 (plus €240 registration and pricey accommodations) to compete for the most coveted title in all of backgammon against many of the best players in the world. Over six days, both players maintained their cool, winning six matches in a row to reach the stressful "final table." In backgammon, that's how we crown champions.

Congratulations to Lars Bentzon and Ricardo Malas for their outstanding achievements. Also to Super Jackpot winner Lars Trabolt (Denmark), Intermediate victor Sam Ahmed (Egypt) and Beginner champ Sergey Vartanyants (Russia). Complete results are on page 4.

## IS IT THE END FOR MONTE CARLO?



[Continued on page 5]

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS



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## COUNTERING LARRY

Besides having lost three different tournament matches on time, Larry Liebster apparently has also lost his marbles. Recently in this publication he had the audacity and poor taste to equate the introduction of clocks into backgammon tournaments to the Nazi's attempt to purify Germany during the Holocaust. Larry's accusations are baseless and without merit.

First of all Larry claims to be and old dog that can't be taught new tricks which makes learning the nuances of clock play too difficult and confusing for him. He complains that he can't get used to the concept of sharing dice and remembering to tap a clock to signify the end of a turn. Contrarily, Larry has purchased the new dice tube and insists on using it in all his matches. I've observed his use of the shared dice and his ability to tap the tube

[Continued on page 3]

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31				

by Carol Joy Cole  
810/232-9731  
[cjc@flintbg.com](mailto:cjc@flintbg.com)

\*Denotes new or revised listing

## NATIONAL

*American Backgammon Tour events underlined*

Sep 10-12	SOLD OUT: New Orleans Sweet 16, Inn on Bourbon Street, New Orleans, LA	504/366-7498
Sep 10*	Portland Club Monthly, Spring Creek Coffee House, Milwaukie, Oregon	503/515-5682
Sep 11	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Sep 11*	Nothwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Sep 11	Tampa Bay Club Monthly, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/786-9133
Sep 11*	New England Monthly, Docksider Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Sep 12	Cincinnati Club Monthly Tournament, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Sep 12*	South Florida Monthly, Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Sep 14*	Arizona Club Monthly, Teakwoods Tavern & Grill, Phoenix, Arizona	602/762-2288
Sep 16*	Third Thursday Bonus (Mid-Atlantic), Liquid Sports Bar, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Sep 18-19	Vietor Cup Invitational, Jon Vietor's residence, La Jolla, California	818/901-0464
Sep 19*	Bellingham Monthly, Pacific Martial Arts, Bellingham, Washington	360/733-6173
Sep 19*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly Tournament, Lincoln Center Atrium, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Sep 24-26	<del>CANCELLED: Colorado State Championships, Hilton Hotel, Aurora, Colorado</del>	<del>303/791-0271</del>
Sep 25*	Backgammon by the Bay Monthly, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Sep 25*	FIBS 17th Annual Fall Tournament, online via computer	E-mail: <a href="mailto:david@escoffery.com">david@escoffery.com</a>
Sep 26*	Atlanta Northside Monthly, Veranda Greek Taverna, Roswell, Georgia	770/612-0818
Sep 26*	Colorado Monthly Tournament, Dave & Buster's, Denver, Colorado	919/605-8201
Oct 2*	Springfield Series #1, King Pin Lanes, Springfield, Illinois	217/622-9447
Oct 3*	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Oct 3*	Cincinnati Club Monthly Tournament, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Oct 3*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Brubaker's Pub, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Oct 6*	Charlotte Club Monthly, Dilworth Grille, Charlotte, North Carolina	704/965-3573
Oct 8-10	Illinois State Championships, Grand Hotel, Peoria, Illinois	847/677-6852
Oct 9*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Oct 9*	New England Monthly, Docksider Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Oct 9*	Nothwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Oct 14-17	Mid-Atlantic Championships, Marriott Hotel, Towson, Maryland	954/249-1416
Oct 24*	32nd Flint Area Club Championships, Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Nov 5*	Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Nov 10-14	Las Vegas Open, Bally's Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/218-8238
Dec 3-5	California State Championship, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California	818/901-0464
Jan 22-29	2011 Backgammon & Poker On Board, Western Caribbean Princess Cruise	773/583-6464

## OUTSIDE USA

Sep 10-12	20th Norwegian Championship, Thon Hotel, Åsgårdstrand, Norway	47-91-99-7155
Sep 11-12	BBT: 8th Antwerp Open, Café den Bengel, Antwerp, Belgium	32475-256734
Sep 11-12	Hessen-Cup, Restaurant Stadthalle Bergen, Frankfurt, Germany	491743-397363
Sep 16-19	5th Sorrento Coast Tournament, Villa Angelina, Sorrento, Italy	39335-221412
Sep 17-19	TBT: 5th Bodrum Championship/WBF-TR, Delfi Hotel, Bodrum, Turkey	905332-352555
Sep 17-19*	International Black Sea Tournament, Grand Hotel, Pomorie, Bulgaria	359596-28888
Sep 18-19	36th Annual Finnish Open, Puotilan Kartano, Helsinki, Finland	358466-153751
Sep 24-26	1st Kharkiv Open, Hotel Mir, Kharkiv, Ukraine	49241-74140
Sep 24-26	WBGT/ESOB: 2nd London Open, Doggett's Coat & Badge, London, England	442077-001798
Sep 25-26	TBGT: 2nd Izmir Open, Best Western Hotel Konak, Izmir, Turkey	905324-279454
Sep 29-Oct 3	13th Austrian Open/Doubles Challenge, Hotel Veronika, Seefeld, Austria	390331-923537
Sep 30-Oct 3*	Crimea Open-2010, Hotel Argo, Crimea, Ukraine	491714-209100
Oct 1-3	23rd Italian Championship, Hotel Veronika, Seefeld, Austria	390331-923537
Oct 1-3	Sandy Osborne Memorial, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, UK	441522-888676
Oct 7-10	EBGT: 1st Mallorca Challenge, Marriott Son Antem, Lluçmajor, Mallorca	491715-422222
Oct 8-11	WBGT: 16th Japan Open, Shidax Hall, Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan	817-55481741
Oct 9-10*	BBT: 1st Hasselt Open, Borrelhuis, Hasselt, Belgium	32-11-740937
Oct 15-17	5th Milano Open, Castello di Carimate, Carimate near Como, Italy	393474-330340
Oct 15-17	2nd German Masters, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49711-486190
Oct 16-17	Australian Open, City Tattersalls Club, Sydney, Australia	612405-373225
Oct 23-24*	TBGT: 14th Istanbul Open, Green Park Hotel Bostanci, Istanbul, Turkey	905324-279454
Oct 26-31*	EBGT/WBGT: 6th Doubles / 8th French Open, Enghien-les-Bains, France	491715-422222
Oct 29-31*	18th Irish Open Championship, Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, Ireland	358-72144270
Nov 1-2*	WBGT: WBGT Grand Finale, Casino Barrière, Enghien-les-Bains, France	491715-422222
Nov 5-7*	Townharbour Trophy, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Nov 6-7*	TBGT: 2010 Grand Finale, Green Park Hotel Bostanci, Istanbul, Turkey	905324-279454
Nov 12-14*	8th Rrofoe delle Città, Castello di Modanella, Tuscany, Italy	393478-336862
Nov 12-14*	10th Backgammon Live in London, The Kings Stores, London, England	442077-001798
Nov 13-14*	TBT: 3rd Edirne Open/WBF-TR, Arslanli Complex, Edirne, Turkey	905332-352555
Dec 3-5*	Christmas UK Finals, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Dec 4-5*	SBTT: Thun Open/BEO-Cup/Doubles, Waadtlanderstube, Thun, Switzerland	4179-4329378

# LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

to signify the end of his turn, but he would have us believe clock play confuses him.

Secondly, the thought that people single Larry out for clock play simply to try to gain an advantage is preposterous. People

just prefer to have their matches end in a reasonable amount of time, and as far as people moving and repositioning checkers (a problem with or without the clock), I suggest that Larry pay attention when the other guy is moving. Paying attention to see that checkers are placed properly is a part of the game and not something that

requires any great shifts in concentration or strategy.

Finally, as for Larry's complaint that clocks are mandatory in his division, he is incorrect. Larry simply needs to set his ego aside and play in the Intermediate division where his backgammon talents dictate.

Clocks will not only help the growth of backgammon by making the game more accommodating, they will also help lure newer players to the game. If Larry wishes to partake in non-timed competition, then I suggest he take up baseball. Clocks are here to stay and they will remain viable well past the twenty years Larry expects to continue playing the game. — *Steve Diano, Las Vegas, Nevada*

## NOT EARLY

The Jul./Aug. article regarding my Los Angeles Open finals match with Justin Nunez stated "Ahead 9-8 (to 11) . . . Richard doubled early with only a 10 pip lead (116 to 126)."

At this score, Justin needs 25% wins to take the cube and reshuffle to 4. Lacking future recube equity, he must take more conservatively than for money and so I can correctly double a bit earlier than for money. A XG full 3-ply 1296 game rollout confirms that this is not even close to an early cube. Justin wins about 26.8% and it would be a .083 blunder not to double. — *Richard Munitz, Suffren, New York*

## ERRORS CORRECTED

I spotted three typos in the Point #221. One was in my article, and it should have been

[Continued on page 4]



## AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2010

Top 100 through 22 Aug. 2010 after 14 tournaments  
(Upcoming events: Wisconsin, Illinois, Mid-Atlantic)



John O'Hagan	36.67	Rory Pascar	10.39	Glenn Ramsey	5.17	Jolie Rubin	3.61
Richard Munitz	31.45	Patty Geoffroy	10.33	Ernest Ho	5.17	Bob Hickey	3.60
Kit Woolsey	31.34	Mel Rappaport	10.08	John Baron	5.05	John Jennings	3.46
Gary Fries	25.20	Tak Morioka	9.67	Carter Mattig	5.04	Steve Sax	3.46
David Rubin	21.17	Justin Nunez	9.09	Alfred Mamlet	4.83	Stacy Turner	3.46
Dorn Bishop	18.60	George Haskour	9.09	Josh Racko	4.69	Steve Nelson	3.20
Ed O'Laughlin	18.31	Jeremy Bagai	9.05	Johnny Jigamian	4.65	Barry Silliman	3.15
Jesse Eaton	18.26	Scott Cole	8.89	Mark Andrus	4.50	Al Faller	3.15
Bob Steen	17.33	Matt Cohn-Geier	8.80	Elli Nache	4.49	David Rockwell	3.11
Gary Bauer	16.78	Joe Russell	8.55	Sergiy Rybiy	4.45	Garry Kallos	3.04
Patrick Gibson	16.00	Ary Nogueira	8.00	Lynn Ehrlich	4.44	Damian Plesec	3.04
Mary Hickey	14.67	Ken Bame	7.67	Damon Singer	4.44	Marcy Kossar	2.97
Eden Windish	14.34	Sasan Taher	7.33	Bob Schumacher	4.40	Terry Weiss	2.83
Steve Hast	13.83	Greg Cottle	7.33	Sal Chehayeb	4.38	Sandra Sha	2.82
Dana Nazarian	13.83	Prince Barlow	7.20	Jason Pack	4.38	Steve Neidecker	2.80
Stick Rice	12.83	Bill Davis	6.92	Faddoul Khoury	4.33	Rob Reynolds	2.70
Mike Senkiewicz	12.80	Dean Adamian	6.92	Mark Antranikian	4.33	Terry Seymour	2.70
Sean Garber	12.60	Lucky Nelson	6.83	Dujuan Meekins	4.20	Neal Rosensweig	2.67
Lynda Clay	11.69	Jerry Godsey	6.40	Ken Tyszko	4.20	Danielle Bastarache	2.67
Larry Yudin	11.64	Paul Polatov	6.07	Gary Schachtschneider	4.00	Pete Mostoufi	2.58
Mike Corbett	11.40	Oleg Raygorodsky	5.82	Tom Wheeler	4.00	Jesse Jestadt	2.58
Gregg Cattanach	11.30	Dave Pink	5.82	Roz Ferris	3.83	Ed Johnson	2.58
Al Hodis	11.23	Bob Weigel	5.40	Rick Barabino	3.78	Ryan Hast	2.58
Paul Weaver	11.00	Jim McGirr	5.33	Michelin Chabot	3.78	Philippe Salnave	2.50
Ray Fogerlund	10.84	Donny Lomuto	5.17	Neil Kazaross	3.67	Phil Simborg	2.50
						Karen Davis	2.50



## CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2010 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU 31 AUG.

Phil Simborg	22.76	Michael Ginat	8.04	Ken Tibbs	2.32	John Spatafora	0.96
Rory Pascar	21.68	Reginald Porter	7.48	Rolf Boettger	2.28	Matt Cohn-Geier	0.96
David Rockwell	18.32	Carter Mattig	7.44	Jerry Brooks	2.16	Paul Baraz	0.88
Bill Davis	13.92	Dave Settles	7.36	Alex Aliyev	2.16	Greg King	0.88
Bill Bartholomay	12.92	Mike Wolock	7.00	John O'Hagan	2.08	Mihai Pop	0.80
Howard Markowitz	12.88	Mike Peters	6.80	Mitch Pomper	2.00	Stefan Pop	0.72
Tim Mabee	12.88	Julius High	6.80	John Gaski	1.92	Richard Stawowy	0.72
Bob Steen	12.40	Steve Klesker	6.40	Alex Owen	1.84	Joann Feinstein	0.72
Larry Goldstein	11.24	Georgina Flanagan	5.92	Roger Hickman	1.84	Richard Pearlman	0.64
Bill Keefe	10.84	Ken Bond	4.40	Royal Robinson	1.68	Dean Livas	0.64
Mike Sutton	10.52	Peter Kalba	4.36	Adrian Rios	1.60	John Jennings	0.56
Herb Roman	10.24	Serge Bondar	3.92	Jolie Rubin	1.44	Paul Lombardo	0.48
Christopher Shanava	9.72	Scott Casty	3.60	Wendy Kaplan	1.28	Mike Pufpaf	0.48
Wayne Wiest	9.52	Alice Kay	3.48	Shaw Dogan	1.28	Linda Rockwell	0.48
Eric Johnson	9.44	Lucky Nelson	3.44	Mark Murray	1.28	Kwong Chan	0.48
Tak Morioka	8.40	J. A. Miller	3.24	Eren Merzeci	1.24	Beth Whitney	0.48
Dujuan Meekins	8.32	Dan Weymouth	2.88	Sam Yoyen	1.20	Randy Pals	0.48
Nora Luna Righter	8.32	Gary Kay	2.84	Mark Ostrovsky	1.16	Leslie Lockett	0.32
Mike Minkovski	8.08	Amy Trudeau	2.48	Joe Rafson	1.12		

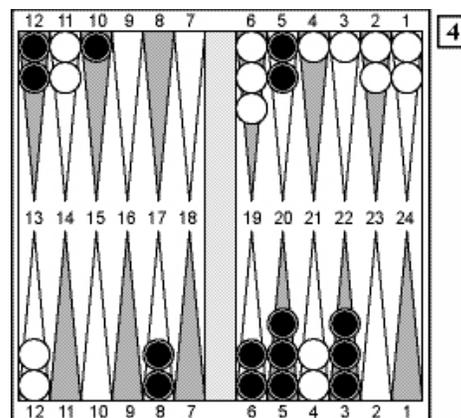
DAVID ROCKWELL repeated as August Player of the month, this time with an outstanding 8.56 points. Tim Mabee (3.60) and new leader Phil Simborg (3.44) finished second and third respectively.

your move

## PROBLEM #357

to be analyzed by Neil Kazaross

9-point match. Black trails White 1-5.  
**BLACK TO PLAY 4-4.**



# THE UNAIDED EYE

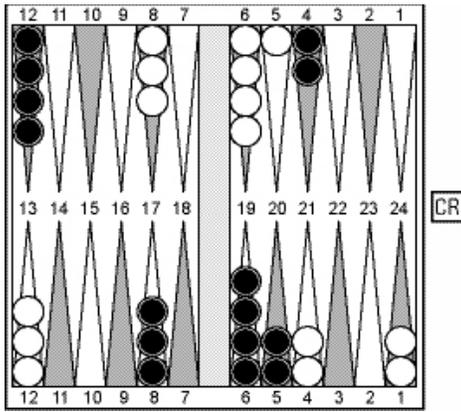


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## A MOVE FROM THE OLDEN DAYS

**D**ear Danny: This position arose a few weeks ago. With the given score, I naturally want to win the game; however, the gammon wins the match. What would be your inclination here, play standard or play wild? I simply can't decide.— Toss-up Tommy

9 point match. Black trails White 7–8 (Crawford game). **BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.**



**DEAR TOMMY:** At this score, winning a gammon is just as important as winning the

game. If you lose the game by trying for a gammon instead of winning it, you lose 50% match equity, but if you win a gammon instead of a plain game, you gain 50% match equity.

So I am inclined to “play wild” (as you call it). I would go all out to make the bar-point, 13/7, 13/11.

Black has two inside points to White's one, and White has a vulnerable blot on his 5-point, making this a fine time to engage in a blot-hitting contest. Moreover, White's 3s are duplicated, better used to cover his 5-point than to hit at the expense of breaking the strong anchor on Black's 4-point.

Making the bar-point will accomplish more than bringing a new builder for the lower points (13/5) or springing a back man from the relative safety of the 4-anchor (21/13).— Yours, Danny

### Snowie Rollout Data

3000 cubeless rollouts were run for each play. Parameters were full, 3-ply, precise.

	BLACK			WHITE		
	BGs	Gammons	Wins	Wins	Gammons	BGs
1. R 13/5	1.1%	20.8%	59.0%	41.0%	9.2%	0.4%
2. R 21/13	1.1%	18.2%	60.7%	39.3%	9.0%	0.3%
3. R 13/7 13/11	1.2%	20.1%	58.0%	42.0%	9.5%	0.5%
4. R 21/15 13/11	1.4%	19.2%	58.7%	41.3%	10.3%	0.6%

The results of 2000 computer rollouts show that 21/13 offers the best game-winning chances, and by a wide enough margin to be the best play at most other scores as well as at double matchpoint. No surprises there.

However, the best play at this score is not the “wild” 13/7, 13/11. The utterly conservative 13/5, though offering slightly poorer game-winning chances than 21/13, produces even more gammons than 13/7, 13/11, and at smaller risk of losing the game. I can understand the smaller game-losing risk, but I do not understand the greater gammon prospects.

Strangely enough, 13/5 is the play that I would have chosen in 1975, when I knew how little I knew about backgammon, and perhaps also later in the 20th century. Could it be that in the 21st century I know even less?—DK Δ

### World BG Championship Results

**CHAMPIONSHIP (158):** 1-Lars Bentzon (DEN), 2-Ricardo Malas (LEB/ESP), 3/4-Olivier Décultot (FRA) / Pia Jeppesen (DEN); 1st Consolation: 1C-Kari Jokinen (FIN), 2C-Kenji Shimodaira (JPN), 3C/4C-Fausto Pescini (ITA) / Lorenzo Rinaldo (ITA); 2nd Consolation: 1C-Tobias Hellwag (GER), 2C-Johnny Tønnesen (NOR), 3C/4C-Masayuki Mochizuki (JPN) / Matvey Natanzon (ISR); 1LC-Ary Nogueira (BRA), 2LC-Leonid Riskin (GER). **INTERMEDIATE (40):** 1-Sam Ahmed (EGY), 2-Alain De Foucher (FRA), 3/4-Torben Krogh (DEN) / Lise Nielsen (DEN); 1st Consolation: 1C-Ilhan Koç (TUR), 2C-Rolf Vetsch (SWZ); 2nd Consolation: 1C-Myke Wignall (ENG), 2C-Håvard Hafskjold (NOR); 1LC-Vasyl Kavun (UKR), 2LC-Carsten Simonsen (DEN). **BEGINNERS (23):** 1-Sergey Vartanyants (RUS), 2-Jacques Ravier (FRA), 3/4-Michael Zuitwinsky (ISR) / Shadi Azizian (IRN/ITA); 1st Consolation: 1C-Thorben Nielsen (DEN), 2C-Levan Kipiani (GEO); 2nd Consolation: 1C-Edouard Comment (SWZ), 2C-Fay Danielsen (NOR); 1LC-Bianca Phillips (USA/SP), 2LC-Ibrahim Guendogan (TUR). **SUPER JACKPOT (32):** 1-Lars Trabolt (DEN), 2-Daisuke Katagami (JPN), 3/4-Shimon Kagan (ISR) / Marc Olsen (DEN). €500 **JACKPOT (8):** 1-Michel Serrero (FRA), 2-Marc Olsen (DEN). **DOUBLES (32 teams):** 1-Fuat Erdag (TUR) & Ilhan Koç (TUR), 2-Takis Chatzelis (GRE) & Charis Christidis (GRE), 3/4-Arda Findikoglu (TUR) & Abdullah Sorgüven (TUR) / Matvey “Falafel” Natanzon (ISR) & Eli Roymi (ISR). **LADIES TOURNEY (16):** 1-Zoe Cunningham (ENG), 2-Joan Grunwald (USA). **SENIORS TOURNEY (64):** 1-Omari Dvali (GEO), 2-Masahiko Nasu (JPN), 3/4-Ed Baars (The Netherlands) / Jakob Garal (GER). **CHILDREN'S TOURNEY (4):** 1-Frederico Riceputi (ITA), 2-Mary Rachel Garal (GER), 3/4-David Broomfield (ENG) / Thomas Décultot (FRA). **FORTIS WORLD TEAM TOURNEY (46 teams):** 1-Speak to Birds: Alain Babillon (FRA) / Olivier Décultot (FRA) / Olivier Lafon (FRA), 2-Z3 Blue Boar Court Dream Team: Zoe Cunningham (ENG) / Sean Williams (ENG) / Gary Bauer (USA). €500 **AFTER TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT (4):** 1-Frank Simon (GER).

## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

a “loose hit” rather than a “lose hit” though if you hit you might lose. I haven't looked, but maybe I saddled you with that one.

It should be “No tennis for Ken Bond,” and not “So tennis for Ken Bond.” Either way, more power to Kenny! The man taught Bill Tilden how to play, and is still out there giving lessons to Federer. I'd love to play that well when I am half Kenny's age, which according to my algebra gives me 37 years to take up the game.

Finally, Black's hindmost checker in “The Unaided Eye” is pictured on the 22-point, but from the analysis, it should be on the 23-point. Since it was blocked in the version I saw, making the 5-point was the only real option.— Jake Jacobs, Singapore

## MYSTERY MAN

I was just given the May issue of Chicago Point and found a photo of me with a mystery cute guy (incorrectly identified as Alan Grunwald). Seems people are trying

to figure out who he is. I believe he used to play at the old Mayfair club, but I don't remember his name.

Nice to see you're keeping the game alive in the Chicago area. I get to see some of my old friends, from when I was playing backgammon, every winter at the Hyatt New Jersey tournament. Hope to see some of you there. Keep up the good work.— Fran Goldfarb, New York, New York

## IMAGINARY CONGRATS

Congratulations to Jake Jacobs for introducing the world to a new character: “imaginary” Mike Corbett. If I could teach him to wash dishes, he would be superior to the real thing.— Danielle Bastarache, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

## XG GETS A DIFFERENT ANSWER

Regarding the 50/50 Doubling Quiz, you'll be happy to find out that you only have the wrong answer on one problem out of six according to XG rollouts LOL. #2 is a No Double by approximately 0.015 after 13,000 trials.— Stick Rice, Columbus, Ohio Δ

## MONTE CARLO...

[Continued from page 1]

The drop in Monte Carlo participation over the past decade is nothing short of catastrophic. Attendance has fallen from 474 in 2004 to 221 in 2010. And the Beginner drop is even worse: from 90 in 2004 to 23 this year.

People will point to the economy as a primary reason for the big slide. That certainly has something to do with it, but it is not the principle reason. The late 1970s also saw tough times, yet tournaments like Monte Carlo thrived and the 1978 Las Vegas World Amateur Championship fielded 652 "amateur" entrants at \$500 per entry.

In the salad days, backgammon was as much a social function as a competition. It was the game of kings. A trip to Monte Carlo was the experience of a lifetime, filled with pomp and circumstance. Hundreds of wealthy players converged to party with the upper crust. They played in the tennis and/or golf side events, dined on yachts, and in short, enjoyed the good life with the beautiful people.



Backgammon in 1982: Meet the elite.



2010 Monte Carlo cocktail party: Matt Cohn-Geier & Stick Rice wearing clean T-shirts. [2010 Monte Carlo photos by Mike Main.]

Those days are gone. This year's cocktail party had as much class and style as a Friday night at Duffy's Tavern in Chicago. Jeans and T-shirts reigned supreme. Casualness is a beautiful thing for the brainiacs who have no idea how to tie a half-Windsor knot. Yet

for those wanting to enjoy a bit of special elegance, the Monte Carlo World Championship has become a waste of money.



Backgammon in 1979: A stylish game.



Monte Carlo—2010: More T-shirts & jeans.



The backgammon playing room in 1989: Ties, sport coats, and collared shirts.



Monte Carlo playing room—2010: T-shirts, hoodies and backwards baseball caps.

We can't bring back the era of sophistication; but without it, Monte Carlo loses a lot of its opulent appeal. Why spend \$5000 to hobnob with ragamuffins? You can do that at any regional tournament for one-fifth of the price. The World Backgammon Championship needs a modern day makeover.

## GO WHERE THE ACTION IS

This year 7319 poker players each paid \$10,000 to enter the World Series of Poker at the Rio Hotel. Why not piggyback onto that event? Hold the World Backgammon Championship the day after (or even a few days before) the WSOP ends. There is a rumor that the 2011 WSOP will be held at Planet Hollywood right on the strip. We're betting they would love successive gaming events; and if not, a nearby hotel such as the Monte Carlo (wouldn't that be ironic?) would love to host.

A smart promoter who wanted to grow the game would focus on attracting some of poker's young blood. To do that, hold an event for novice players only, defined as those who have never entered an ABT tournament. Make it a free-roll with \$5,000 or more in prize money, perhaps donated by Planet Hollywood and/or our backgammon community. And keep it simple: best five-out-of-nine games with no doubling cube.

Monte Carlo director Howard Markowitz has heard this idea before. Although not in a position to change the venue on his own, he believes that the vast majority of losing WSOP poker players would leave town immediately after losing.

That might be true . . . but it might be false. Just think of the value to backgammon in having thousands of BG flyers spread throughout the poker playing room. What better way to reach this era's largest crop of active gamers?

It's time for a bold move. We believe that relocating the 2011 World Backgammon Championships to Las Vegas immediately following the World Series of Poker is an idea whose time has come.—Bill Davis Δ

Complete tourney results on page 4.

Enjoy two January weeks  
of FUN IN THE SUN!

3rd US Open  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Jan. 14–17, 2011

(King birthday weekend)

Backgammon & Poker  
On Board X

Jan. 22–29, 2011

(Sailing from Ft. Lauderdale)

Cruise payment MUST be made by  
Sept. 15. Sue Will: 309/699-6005

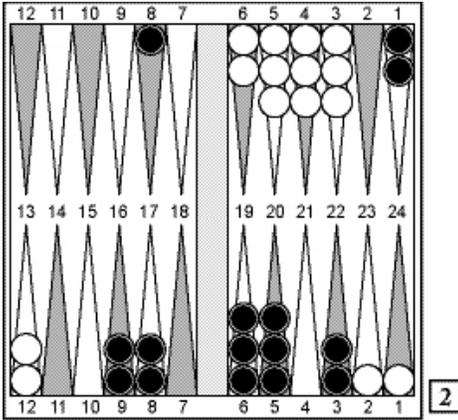


# The Most DIFFICULT Roll To Play

By Duane Jensen

Twenty years ago at the Michigan Summer Backgammon Championships, I polled a few players to get their thoughts on this position:

**Pos. 1.** Black and White tied at 3-3 to 7 points. **BLACK TO PLAY 1-1:**



**A. 3/2\*(2) 2/1\*(2).** Frank Talbot and Dean Muench chose this play. Dean added that “Any play that is not aggressive leaves Black with nothing better than an equal position.”

**B. 3/2\*(2), 24/23(2).** Shel Segal’s choice.

**C. 6/4 5/4, 17/16.** Chosen by Bob Zavoral.

**D. 24/23(2), 8/7(2).** Selected by Doug Roberts, Dennis Culpepper, Marc Gray, Marty Storer, Jeff Kane, and Walter Trice. Walter felt White’s 2-point was important.

**E. 9/7(2).** Another popular play chosen by Steve Brown, Joe Sylvester, Sharon Lennon, Randall Witt, Butch Meese, and John O’Hagan.

While polling players might point you to the correct play, the more accepted method today is using computer evaluations and rollouts. A rollout showed that E, 9/7(2) is the best way to play double aces in this position.

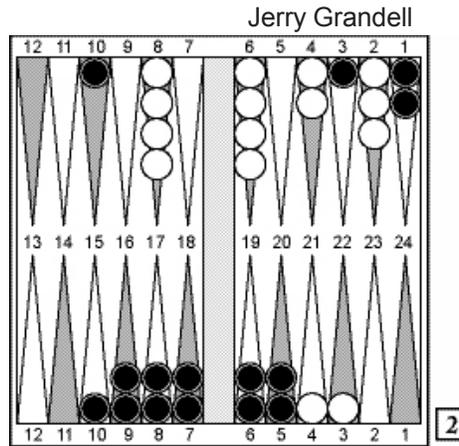
1. (E) 9/7(2) eq:+0.376
2. (A) 3/2\*(2), 2/1\*(2) eq:+0.335 (-0.042)

I could take a poll to answer another question as well: *What is the most difficult dice roll to play, not for a specific position but overall?*

My vote for most troublesome dice roll would go to double 4s. It’s usually a fine roll with many good options, and that’s my problem—too many good plays on both sides of the board. You can use 4-4 to build the opponent’s 5-point or advance your most distant anchor, or race. You can build primes, make points in your outfield, or make inner board points. If your opponent has blots in your board, you can switch points to hit them. The rolls 3-3 and 2-2 are troublesome for me as well, for they also offer the same good options.

Many players share my problem with the 4-4, 3-3, and 2-2 rolls.

**Pos. 2.** Black leads White 11–5 to 25 points. **Black to play 4-4:**

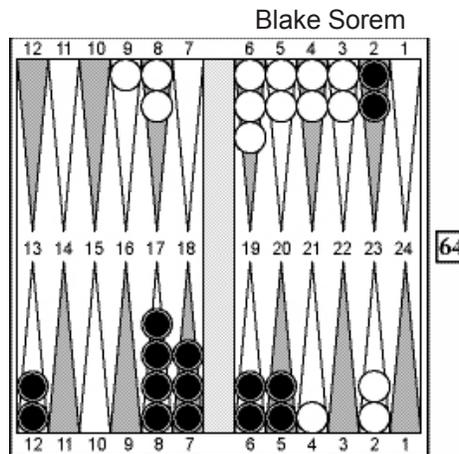


Bill Robertie

Bill Robertie used this 4-4 to build on the two blots in his board 8/4\*(2), 7/3\*(2). The rest of his builders were so distant that a better play was to make the 6-prime.

1. 24/20, 22/10 eq:+1.036
2. 8/4\*(2), 7/3\*(2) eq:+0.882 (-0.154)

**Pos. 3.** No score to 7 points. **Black to play 3-3:**



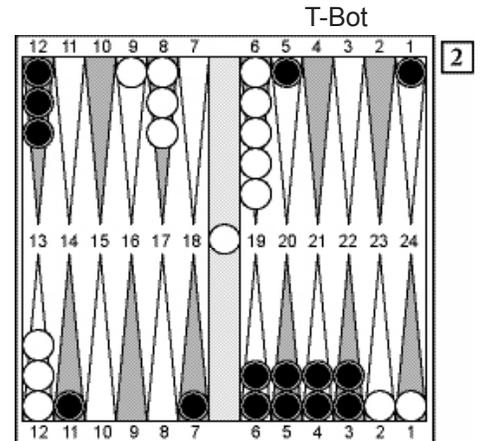
Kit Woolsey

Kit Woolsey used his 3-3 to build his 9-point and 4-point [12/9(2), 7/4\*(2)]. A

better play was to build the 9-point and hit loose on the 4-point keeping an intact 5-prime.

1. 12/9(2), 8/5, 7/4\* eq:+0.574
2. 12/9(2), 7/4\*(2) eq:+0.345 (-0.229)

**Pos. 4.** Money game. **Black to play 4-4:**



Mike Senkiewicz

Mike Senkowitz attacked a fourth blot with his 2-2 (20/16\*, 11/7), but he should have used the roll to switch points in his board to prevent White from anchoring.

1. 4/2\*(2), 3/1\*(2) eq:+1.298
2. 20/16\*, 11/7 eq:+1.086 (-0.212)

If I polled many backgammon players, I could probably get an idea of which roll is the most difficult to play, but I would never feel confident using such a subjective method. Eventually I’d have to use a computer to look at many thousands of rolls from many matches to give me a more objective result.

And that’s what I did.

I examined 100 matches and money sessions including the usual suspects such as Woolsey, Robertie, Sylvester, Magriel, O’Hagan, Kazaross, Heinrich, and other talented players. The money sessions included Ballard, Sax, Kissane, Ring, Winslow, Russell, Bishop, Roberts, and Wells. In each of the matches, the players made at least 25 checker play errors.

The 100 matches included 61,714 dice rolls, but only 51,485 rolls resulted in plays that were unforced. The players made 6,666 checker plays that were “errors.” I defined an error as any move that lost at least 0.02 of equity compared to the correct play.

The most frequent errors were associated with the rolls 1-4 (451), 1-2 (434), 2-5 (433), and 1-5 (431). But I was looking for the most difficult roll to play, the roll that had the highest error rate. I divided the errors by the unforced plays for each roll to

get the error rates. The highest error rates were for 3-3 (17.4%), 2-2 (17.2%), and 4-4 (17.1%). My nemesis of 4-4 finished a close third. The rolls of 1-3, 1-6, and 2-4 which are dedicated to building the 5-, 7-, and 4-points are rolls with low error rates. This look at error rates is a small sample of only 60,000 rolls. A more thorough examination might adjust the rankings, but I'm confident that the troublesome trio of 2-2, 3-3, and 4-4 would still be close to the top.

Dice Roll	Total Rolls	Unforced Plays	Errors	Dice Roll	Error Rate
1-1	1771	1513	193	1-1	12.8%
1-2	3520	3031	434	1-2	14.3%
1-3	3423	3087	339	1-3	11.0%
1-4	3417	3123	451	1-4	14.4%
1-5	3271	2955	431	1-5	14.6%
1-6	3341	2998	300	1-6	10.0%
2-2	1708	1469	252	2-2	17.2%
2-3	3381	2981	392	2-3	13.1%
2-4	3325	2953	317	2-4	10.7%
2-5	3461	3074	433	2-5	14.1%
2-6	3490	3070	368	2-6	12.0%
3-3	1718	1388	241	3-3	17.4%
3-4	3337	2870	378	3-4	13.2%
3-5	3258	2830	315	3-5	11.1%
3-6	3333	2781	291	3-6	10.5%
4-4	1742	1318	226	4-4	17.1%
4-5	3359	2792	370	4-5	13.3%
4-6	3194	2583	309	4-6	12.0%
5-5	1789	1206	184	5-5	15.3%
5-6	3332	2539	313	5-6	12.3%
6-6	<u>2544</u>	<u>924</u>	<u>129</u>	6-6	14.0%
Total	61714	51485	6666		

—Duane Jensen Δ

minnesota open

## MATT COHN-GEIER SWEEPS IN MINNESOTA

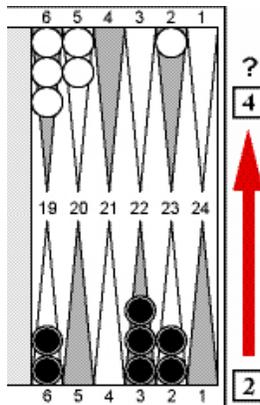
Playing his first ABT events in 2007 as an Intermediate, Matt Cohn-Geier has quickly made his mark in the backgammon world. At the 2008 Las Vegas Open, he was a Championship finalist. In 2009 at the same event, he won the Super Jackpot.



Minnesota director David Minikus presents Matt Cohn-Geier (R) with trophies for Open and Masters. David Rubin (R) was 2nd in the Open.

23–25 July at the Marriott Hotel in Bloomington is where Matt won his first ABT title—the Minnesota Open. To add icing on the cake, he also captured the Masters Jackpot.

Although it was only a 22-player Open field, a number of world-class competitors were present. Matt defeated Phil Simborg (IL), Bob Schumacher (MN), and Steve Brown (MN) to face the red-hot David Rubin (IL) in the 13-point finals. After five games with Matt leading 6–1, the potential for a blowout existed. Then in game six with Matt holding a two cube and in the following position, something strange happened:



Minnesota Open 13-pt. finals. Matt Cohn-Geier (Black) leads David Rubin (White) 6 to 1. Black on roll. CUBE ACTIONS?

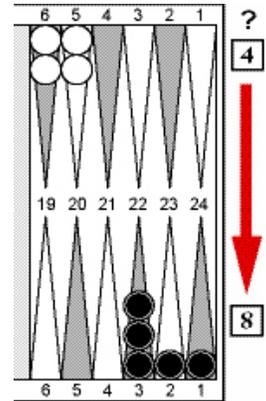
Matt recubed to four here. What's strange about this is that Matt made a 0.132 error in recubing! In his own words:

“I worked David's takepoint out to be somewhere around 17% but thought I was

closer to a 78–80% favorite to win. The problem is my missing 4s and 5s are so bad. Compare with a position where I have three on my 5-point, two on my 3-point, and two on my deuce. The pip count is the same and I miss with 4s and 1s, but I win about 76.5% of the time and the redouble is a toss up. Or, compare with a position where I have one each on my 6-, 5- and 4-points, two on my 3, and two on my deuce. Again the pip count and number of checkers are the same but here it's a massive recube. I failed to properly adjust for how bad the misses were.”

David naturally accepted the recube and eventually reached this position:

Minnesota Open 13-pt. finals. Matt Cohn-Geier (Black) leads David Rubin (White) 6 to 1. White on roll. CUBE ACTIONS?



David thought for a few minutes before reshipping to 8. Although he wins just under 45% of the time, the match score makes it a beautiful 8-cube. Matt's take is trivial. David rolled a 4-3 missing twice. Matt responded with 6-3. Then David tossed 6-2 missing once and failed to roll a double on his last shake. Final score: 14–1.

**TO REACH THE MASTERS JACKPOT FINALS** against defending champ Harvey Gillis (WA), Matt defeated Ray Fogelrund (CA) and Steve Brown. Trailing 9–10 to 13, Matt offered an excellent double that resulted in a gammon victory for the title.

Congratulations to director David Minikus who saw a slight attendance rise from 2009—a rarity for backgammon tournaments this year. Complete results. Δ

### MINNESOTA OPEN

OPEN (22): 1-Matt Cohn-Geier (IL), 2-David Rubin (IL); 1C-Bob Schumacher (MN), 2C-Ray Fogelrund (CA); 1LC-Jesse Eaton (MN). INTERMEDIATE (14): 1-Steve Neidecker (IL), 2-Judy Field (MI); 1C-Ed Ziesche (MN), 2C-Kurt Thompson (MN); 1LC-Jolie Rubin (IL). MASTERS JACKPOT (8): 1-Matt Cohn-Geier (IL), 2-Harvey Gillis (WA). DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Mel Rappaport (NY) & Bob Schumacher (MN), 2-Hugh Morris (MN) & Ed Ziesche (MN). BLITZ (16): 1-Phil Simborg (IL), 2-Alex Gerding (FL).



## ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis  
773/583-6464  
Peter Kalba  
312/316-1432

Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago. 773/693-5800.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago. 773/693-5800.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 6:00 P.M. at Ride The Nine; 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

MIDSTATE BG CLUB: Tourn. Tues., 6:00 P.M. at Ride The Nine; 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. Ed Bauder (309/830-1632).

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:00 P.M. at Capitol Teletrack, 1766 W. Wabash Ave., Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

WINNETKA BG 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).

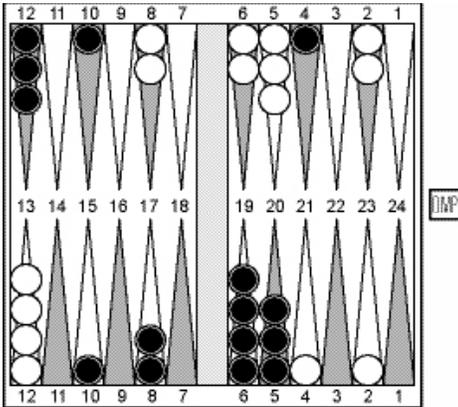
PEORIA BG CLUB: Tourn. Thursday, 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Sue Will (309/699-6005).

last month's position

## PROBLEM #356 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

9 point match tied at 8 to 8 (DMP).  
**BLACK TO PLAY 3-3.**



**3-3** is a fine roll, but Black can't do it all. In fact, Black can't play the roll safely. He must leave at least one direct shot. So what should his priorities be? Let's look at the basic features of the position:

1. Black is ahead in the race by 15 pips after the roll (or more if he hits something). That argues for a racing sort of play.
2. White has the stronger inner board. That argues for a safer sort of play.
3. White's position is more advanced, since she has made her 2-point. That argues for a priming approach rather than an at-

tacking approach. The offensive 2-point is about as good as any other inner board point in a blot-hitting contest, but it doesn't function well with the 8-point for priming purposes.

These observations make it clear that two of Black's 3s should be played 21/15. Not only is this a racing type of play, but it leaves considerably fewer blots than any play which doesn't involve making the 15-point. Getting one checker hit isn't fatal, since White's board has holes in it and a hit checker can probably scramble out through these holes. It is getting more than one checker hit which Black can't afford. If Black doesn't unite his back checkers, he will be scrambling for the next few moves to take care of them.

How should the other two 3s be played? One possibility is 10/4\*. This knocks White off Black's 4-point and goes after the point directly. It will be great if it works. However White hits back with all 4s, 3-1, 3-2, 2-2, 2-1, and 1-1. That's 19 return shots. And if White doesn't hit, Black still has to cover the point. Since Black is ahead in the race, he doesn't have to win the fight for his four point in order to win the game. Black will still be the favorite if White anchors on Black's 4-point.

Another possibility is to make the 3-point. This is the strongest offensive play. However, White hits the blot left on the 10-point with all 6's, 5-1, 3-3, and 5-3 for 16 hitting numbers. In addition, 5-5 runs both checkers to safety, and 2s which don't hit, anchor on Black's 4-point. If gammons

were of value this would probably be the best play, since if White rolls badly, Black would be well-placed to attack. Since gammons don't matter, a more structural approach could be better.

The other candidates involve making the 10-point. This is a strong blocking point, since if White anchors on Black's 4-point, those checkers will be hemmed in as effectively as possible. If White doesn't anchor, Black can use the checkers on the 4-point for attacking purposes. 13/10(2) brings more ammunition down. However, it gives White aces, 5-4, 6-3, and 6-5 to hit—17 shot numbers. The indirect hits are quite effective, since they simultaneously escape one of White's back checkers. Black does better to hold the midpoint.

We are left with 13/10, 6/3 and 13/10, 5/2\*. The first play leaves White only 11 shot numbers. However, in addition to making Black's 4-point or hitting, White would have 5-5 to make a race of it and 5-3 to anchor on Black's bar point. The loose hit leaves 12 shot numbers, but by putting White on the bar, Black doesn't give White those great 5-3 and 5-5 rolls.

In addition, White might flunk which would be great for Black. If White does hit back, the hitting checker is on Black's 2-point where its 6s are blocked. All things considered, 21/15, 13/10, 5/2\* looks like the play.

It is easy to get confused with so many possible plays. A focus on the primary goals of the position narrows down the choices to a few candidates, and then a sensible decision can be made.—Kit Woolsey Δ

# 07-10 OCTOBER 2010

# 1<sup>st</sup> Mallorca Backgammon Challenge



Qualify for the  
**EBGT Grand Finale**



Grand Finale prize-pool  
**20,000 €**

For pre-registration and additional info:  
[info@world-backgammon-association.com](mailto:info@world-backgammon-association.com)  
[www.world-backgammon-association.com](http://www.world-backgammon-association.com)

## WINNER'S CIRCLE

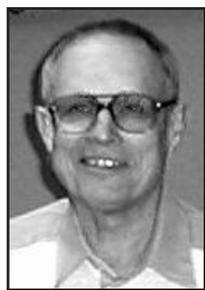


JUN.-AUG. 2010

•**New England BG Club '09/'10 Playoffs** (Malden, MA; 12 Jun.)... 1-Eric Wicklund, 2-Matt Reklaitis, 3/4-Alex Zamanian / Herb Gurland.

•**BIBA World Championship** (Hinckley, UK; 2-4 Jul.)... OPEN (34): 1-George Hall, 2-Chris Temel, 3/4-Lawrence Powell / Gerry Enslin; 1C-Paul Plumptre, 2C-Peter Bennet; 1LC-Jeff Barber, 2LC-Uldis Lapikens. **WORLD'S END** (16): 1-Eric Westbrook, 2-Al Hogg. **TEAM** (6): 1-Arthur Wright. **FRIDAY 500** (18): 1-Paul Gilbertson, 2-Andy Darby, 3/4-Rachel Rhodes / Robin Swaffield. **POKER** (16): 1-Al Hogg, 2-Dan Tuchings.

•**Thousand Islands Tourney—ABT** (Alexandria Bay, NY; 30 Jul.–1 Aug.)... OPEN (20): 1-Eden Windish (Canada), 2-Richard Munitz (NY), 3-Jason Pack (NY). **DOUBLES** (8): 1-Irina & Kenny Litzenberger (VA), 2-Frank DiMaggio (NY) & Al Hodis (NY). **FRI. MINI-TOURN. WINNERS:** Claude Forget (Canada), Garry Kallos (Canada).



Eden Windish

•**Pub Club Summer Saturday** (Carol Stream, IL; 31 Jul.)... OPEN (22): 1-Alex Owen, 2-Phil Simborg, 3/4-Neil Kazaross / Don Marek; 1C/2C-Matt Cohn-Geier / Oleg Raygorodsky.

•**Ohio State Club Monthly** (Akron, OH; 1 Aug.)... OPEN: 1-Joe Miller, 2-Stephen Benjamin.

•**4th Gogi Bukia Memorial Georgian Open** (Tbilisi, Georgia; 1-5 Aug.)... **CHAMPIONS** (24): 1-Dimitri Harutyunyan (Armenia), 2-Ricardo Malas (Spain), 3/4-Nodar Gagua (Georgia) / Hilmi Göchan (Turkey); 1C-Simon Pankivilashvili (Georgia), 2C-Rezo Tskovrebashvili (Georgia); 1LC-Frans Bergi (Austria).

**PRESIDENT'S TOURNAMENT / DMP-CHALLENGE** (32): 1-Haluk Oral (TUR). **DOUBLES** (16 teams): 1-Givi Shengeli (GEO) & Nokri Svanidze (GEO). **NARDI-FREEROLL** (32): 1-Giorgi Bukia (GEO), 2-Erhan Yenisen (TUR). **WBAMEMBER-SHIP OF HONOR:** Marina Mikadze (Khobi Charity Foundation, Georgia). **FURTHEST TRAVELER TROPHY:** Ricardo Malas (ESP).

•**Florida Backgammon Championship—ABT** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 1-5 Aug.)... **CHAMPIONSHIP** (30): 1-John O'Hagan (IN), 2-Gregg Cat-



John O'Hagan

tanach (GA), 3/4-Philippe Salnave (FL) / Phil Simborg (IL); 1C-Mike Corbett (FL), 2C-Lucky Nelson (IL); 1LC-Karen Davis (OH). **INTERMEDIATE** (32): 1-Jim McGirr (FL), 2-Neal Rosensweig (FL), 3/4-Fabian Melnik (FL) / Rick Wolf (FL); 1C-Danielle Bastarache (FL), 2C-Doug Johnson (FL); 1LC-Ryan Lowe (Jamaica). **BEGINNER** (13): 1-Sandra Sha (FL), 2-Kathy Weiner (VA), 3-Joan

Grunwald (NJ). **FLORIDA MASTERS** (14 + 2 rebuys): 1-Mike Corbett (FL), 2-Sasan Taher (CA). **LIMITED JACKPOT** (16): 1-Jim McGirr (FL), 2-Fabian Melnik (FL). **SPEEDGAMMON** (8): 1-Ray Fogerlund (CA), 2-Sasan Taher (CA). **DMP-KNOCKOUT** (64): 1-Gary Fishman (FL), 2-Al Hodis (NY). **DOUBLES PRO/AM #1** (16 teams): 1-Mary Hickey (OH) & David Dennis (England), 2-Phil Simborg (IL) & Efim Liberman (IL). **DOUBLES PRO/AM #2** (4 teams): 1-Bob Howayeck (FL) & Tim Shane (FL). **ALTESORO MEMORIAL QUIZ:** Open winner: Ray Fogerlund (CA); Intermediate winner: Efim Liberman (IL). **FTH BOARD CHALLENGE** (8): 1-Mel Rappaport (NY). **AFTER-TOURNAMENT #1** (16): 1-Neal Rosensweig (FL), 2-Matt Cohn-Geier (IL). **AFTER-TOURNAMENT #2** (8): 1-Carol Joy Cole (MI). **ENCOURAGEMENT PRIZE:** Sybil Sha (FL).

•**5th Summer Sizzler** (Bloomington, IL; 7 Aug.)... OPEN (24): 1-Mark King, 2-David Rockwell; 1C-Lucas Bauer, 2C-Scott Day; 1LC-Linda Rockwell. **LIMITED** (4): 1-Jason Dalby, 2-Tim Rockwell.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Chicago, IL; 8 Aug.)... OPEN (25): 1-David Rockwell, 2-John O'Hagan (IN), 3/4-Tim Mabee / Christopher Shanava; 1C/2C-Bill Davis / Phil Simborg. **INTERMEDIATE** (6): 1-Randy Pals (IN), 2-Amy Trudeau.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 8 Aug.)... OPEN: 1-Gary Fishman, 2-Rick Wolf.

•**Pair-O-Dice Monthly** (New York, NY; 15 Aug.)... OPEN (8): 1-Alan Grunwald (NJ), 2-Douglas Pader; 1C-Michael Battaglia (NJ). **INTERMEDIATE** (3): 1-Barren Barber. **BEGINNER** (3): 1-Ross Gordon (CT). Δ

## AMALGAMATION

What a two week winter vacation! You can tie in the US Open in Fort Lauderdale (14–17 January) with Backgammon and Poker On Board (22–29 January). But hurry. Final cruise deposit must be in by 15 September. Call **Sue Will** (309/699-6005)... Visiting the Bar Point Club this summer: **Matt Cohn-Geier**, **Greg King** (OH), **Glenn Martells** (MI), and **James Murray** (CA)... **Masayuki "Mochy" Mochizuki** (Japan) and **Paul Weaver** (USA) are now offering online video lessons at [www.back-gammon.tv](http://www.back-gammon.tv)... Nevada to Maryland: **Jason Lee**... North Carolina to South Carolina: **Becca Thompson**... In his retirement years, **Roger Hickman** (IL) has landed a nice job teaching chess at Chicago Public Schools... Former backgammon director **Lewis Deyong** (UK) was quoted in an online US Open tennis article at [www.theglobeandmail.com](http://www.theglobeandmail.com). Deyong, who liked to wager on tennis, stated that "the players are the worst at handicapping their sport"... Congrats to **Trudie Chibnik** (IL), Winnetka Backgammon Club director who commemorated the club's 27th anniversary on 11 August... A *Nashville Examiner* writer stated that according to a Tennessee

Titans football camp report, Titan players **Kery Collins**, **Chris Simms** and **Jake Scott** like to sit in the back corner of the locker room and play backgammon. Says lineman Scott: "It's a nice way to unwind after a hard practice"... Crisloid is partnering with the World Series of Backgammon to make special backgammon merchandise. See it at [www.crisloid.com](http://www.crisloid.com)... Want a free iPhone backgammon app? Be one of the first ten POINT readers to email [george@game-systems.us](mailto:george@game-systems.us) and you'll receive a complimentary download of "Backgammon by George!"... Condolences to the friends and family of **Mark Rozans** (PA) who passed away 16 August... What does **Hugh Hefner** (CA) do on a warm August afternoon? This is what he tweeted: "Hanging out poolside Sunday with **Crystal** & the Centerfolds, playing backgammon with [his young sons] **Cooper**, & maybe **Marston** too"... **Marcy Kossar** (CT) had a nice article about her successful backgammon trip to the Michigan Summer Championships in [www.law.com](http://www.law.com)... Good luck to **Tad Smith** (256/712-5634), the new director of the NW Alabama Backgammon Club... **John Westerlund** (615/507-4270) is the contact for a new club in the Nashville area. The Music City Backgammon Club meets at the Embassy Suites in Franklin,

TN on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. The grand opening set for 9 September... Peoria Backgammon Club player **Ed Zell** informs us that his daughter **Clare Zell** played the lead roll of Sandy in "Grease" at the Peoria Players Theatre last month... Effective now, the South Florida Backgammon Club meets at 1:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sunday monthly at the Fort Lauderdale Marriott North on Andrews Avenue. For more info, contact **Elayne Feinstein** at 954/564-0340... The actual backgammon set used on the TV show "Lost" was auctioned off at the official Exhibit in Santa Monica, CA August 21–22... The Heritage Auction House auctioned off a lot of **Lucille Ball** memorabilia on 17 July including three of her backgammon sets. They sold for \$597, \$1075, and \$1,792, the latter being an Aries set... Congrats to **Kit & Sally Woolsey** (CA) who celebrated their 25th wedding Anniversary last month. They were also written up in the *New York Times* on 6 August for placing second (with **Gloria & Les Bart** of Florida) in a Mixed Board-a-Match Bridge Teams event in New Orleans... The home computer turned 33 on 3 August. That's the day in 1977 that Tandy announced it would mass produce them. It had 4 KB of RAM and shipped with a 12-inch monitor and offered blackjack and backgammon games. Δ

TOWSON · MARYLAND OCTOBER 14-17, 2010



# Mid-Atlantic Championship 2010



For additional information, please contact:  
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2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2010

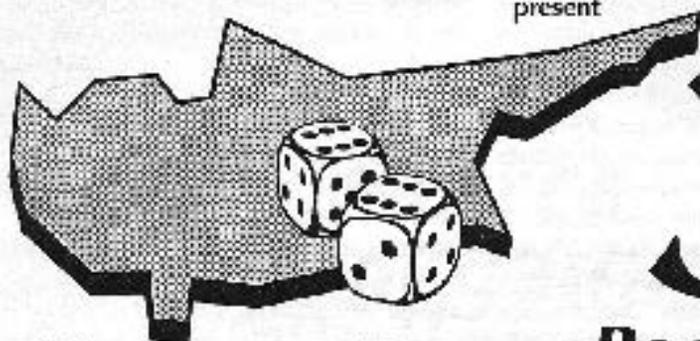
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