

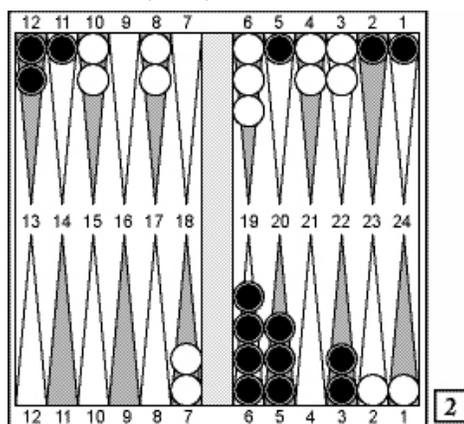
2011 monte carlo world championships

SUZUKI IS NEW WORLD BACKGAMMON CHAMP

Takumitsu Suzuki of Japan has won the 2011 Monte Carlo World Backgammon Championship. The 30-year-old Suzuki, a two-time Japan Open winner, defeated Fabio Gullotta of Italy 25-6 to capture the prestigious title. Howard Markowitz directed the event that saw a respectable 138 Championship level players from across the globe fighting for the world title. But sadly, neither the Intermediate nor the Beginner division was able to fill a 32-bracket as the attendance slide continued in Monaco.

To reach the finals, Suzuki had to defeat countryman and backgammon giant Masayuki Mochizuki. The other semifinal proved to be one of the most entertaining matches of the entire tournament: Gullotta vs. Paul Weaver (USA). Let's pick up the action at double match-point with Weaver on roll:

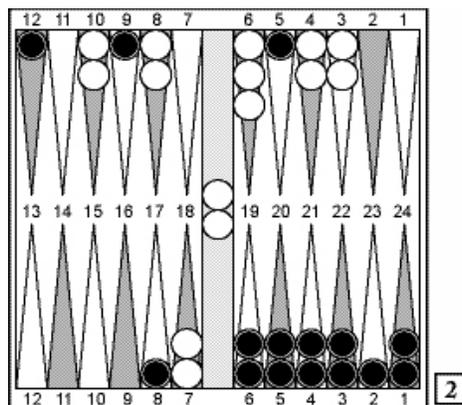
Monte Carlo 23-point semifinals. Paul Weaver (Black) and Fabio Gullotta (White) tied at 21-all (DMP). **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**



Weaver opted for the anchoring play (24/20, 14/13). If gammons mattered, hitting two would be clear. But at DMP, according to a long XG rollout, the two plays are a virtual toss-up with 6/2*/1* better by a hair.

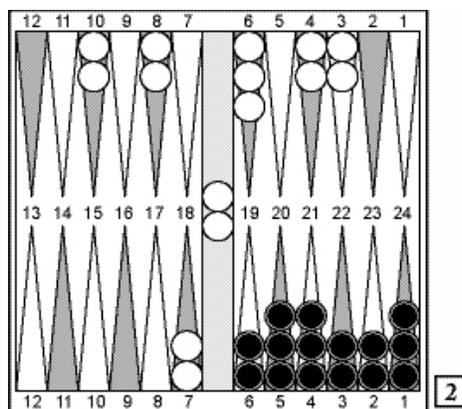
Moving forward, Weaver is looking close his board:

Monte Carlo 23-point semifinals. Paul Weaver (Black) and Fabio Gullotta (White) tied at 21-all (DMP). **BLACK TO PLAY 3-1.**



Instead of going for the closeout with either (20/18, 13/12) or 8/5, Weaver played weakly lifting his 2-blot. XG rates this a 0.029 error. But it made no difference, as Weaver was eventually able to close his board anyway and become the overwhelming favorite:

Monte Carlo 23-point semifinals. Paul Weaver (Black) and Fabio Gullotta (White) tied at 21-all (DMP). **BLACK TO PLAY 5-3.**



5/off, 4/1 leaves no shots on the next turn, but in the long run 6/3, 6/1 is safer by a margin of 97.7% to 96.1%. Paul played correctly and rolled a 6-5 on his next turn. Fabio answered with a 6-5 of his own, hitting and bringing his second checker in. From there he was able to close Paul out and win the match. Paul Weaver learned first hand why the late Barclay Cooke called backgammon "the cruelest game."



2011 World Champion Takumitsu Suzuki (L) with €500 Jackpot runner-up Michihito Kageyama. [Facebook picture]

CONGRATULATIONS also go out to Masters Champion Shimon Kagan (Israel) who bested Masayuki Mochizuki in the 16-player field. And in the all-American (*all New York City!*) Ladies Championship, a tip of the hat goes to Lynn Ehrlich who defeated Antoinette-Marie Williams. *Complete results:* Δ

MONTE CARLO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

CHAMPIONSHIP (138): 1-Takumitsu Suzuki (JPN), 2-Fabio Gullotta (ITA), 3/4-Masayuki Mochizuki (JPN) / Paul Weaver (USA); *1st Cons.*: 1C-Rune Faerevåg (NOR), 2C-Tino Lechich (AUS), 3C/4C-Alain Babilon (FRA) / Kenji Shimodaira (JPN); *2nd Cons.*: 1C-Tero Einola (FIN), 2C-Frank Simon (GER), 3C/4C-Roberto Almeida (BRZ) / Andrea De Zandonati (ITA), 1LC-Philip Vischjager (NED), 2LC-Ricardo Malas (SPN). INTERMEDIATE (31): 1-Arthur Wright (UK), 2-Lise Nielsen (DEN); *1st Cons.*: 1C-Torben Krogh (DEN), 2C-Martin de Bruin (SPN); *2nd Cons.*: 1C-Walter Thesing (LUX), 2C-Kaj Damgaard Nielsen (DEN); 1LC-Yuri Nakamura (JPN), 2LC-Fay K. Danielsen (NOR). BEGINNER (25): 1-Sciadi Azizian (ITA), 2-Fausto Gimondi (ITA); *1st Cons.*: 1C-Oekie Kretzschmar (NED), 2C-Victor Barsekyan (ARM); *2nd Cons.*: 1C-Sergey Grinev (RUS), 2C-Misak Gevorkyan (ARM); 1LC-C. J. Uttley (UK), 2LC-Maria Kaceriakova (SLO). SENIORS #1 (32): 1-Konrad Fröschl (SWE), 2-Michel Hileyan (FRA). SENIORS #2 (16): 1/2-Shimon Kagan (ISR) / Alvaro Savio (BRZ). SUPER JACKPOT (16): 1-Shimon Kagan (ISR), 2-Masayuki Mochizuki (JPN). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Georges Grünbaum (SWZ) & Tobias Hellwag (GER), 2-Daisuke Katagami (JPN) & Kenji Shimodaira (JPN). LADIES (16): 1-Lynn Ehrlich (USA), 2-Antoinette-Marie Williams (USA). JUNIORS (6): 1-Agamir Gevorkian (RUS), 2-Wolfgang Schroder (GER). TEAM TOUR. (34 teams): 1-Daisuke Katagami / Tsuyoshi Minakami / Masahiko Nasu (JPN), 2-Konrad Fröschl (SWE) / Robert Lindbom (SWE) / Tage Mellgren (DEN). MONTE CARLO OPEN: €500 (34): 1-Fernando Braconi (ITA), 2-Michihito Kageyama (JPN); €200 (12): 1/2-Gary Bauer (USA) / Maya Peycheva (BUL); 1C-Sylvia Fioretti (ITA), 2C-Kazuko Numazawa (JPN).

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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Chicago, IL 60659-3155

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ON ED KING'S PASSING

Enjoyed one of you last hard copies of Newsletter on our deck out back last eve! While I did not know Ed King that well (maybe over a board or two at Pittsburgh Tournaments years passed), Ed also achieved Fellow of the Society of Actuaries in 1986 at age 38. Other great past and current backgammon players that achieved Fellow of the Society of Actuaries include the late Oswald Jacoby (TX) and David Rockwell (IL). — *Roland Dieter, past Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, Deerfield, Illinois*

Thank you for your condolences and memorial tribute in your July newsletter. I'm sure Ed would appreciate it as do I. Ed loved backgammon! Thanks for remembering and thanks for sending me extra copies. — *Melissa King, Columbus, Ohio*

[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

*Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Sep 15*	Flint Third Thursday Bonus (Illinois), Sharky's Sports Bar, Burton, Michigan	810/232-9731
Sep 17	3rd Anti-Cruelty Society Invitational, The Drake Hotel, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Sep 24*	Backgammon By the Bay, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Sep 24-25*	Vietor Cup Invitational, Dorn Bishop's residence, San Diego, California	619/316-0982
Sep 25*	18th Annual Fall Tournament on FIBS online via computer	E-mail: david@escoffery.com
Sep 30-Oct 2	<u>Colorado State Championships, Hilton Garden Inn Airport, Aurora, Colorado</u>	303/916-5170
Oct 1*	Springfield Series #1, Capitol Teletrack, Springfield, Illinois	217/622-9447
Oct 2*	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Ruby Tuesday, Skokie, Illinois	773/583-6464
Oct 2*	Ohio State Sunday Monthly, Brubaker's Pub, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Oct 5*	Charlotte Club Monthly, Dilworth Grille, Charlotte, North Carolina	704/965-3573
Oct 8*	New England Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Oct 8*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Oct 8*	Tampa Bay Club Monthly, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/743-0500
Oct 8*	Backgammon By the Bay, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Oct 9*	Cincinnati Club Monthly, Max & Erma's, Sharonville, Ohio	513/807-6926
Oct 9*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Oct 9*	Portland Monthly, Spring Creek Coffee House, Milwaukie, Oregon	503/805-1218
Oct 11*	Arizona Club Monthly, Teakwoods Tavern & Grill, Phoenix, Arizona	602/762-2288
Oct 14-16	<u>Illinois State Championships, Grand Hotel, Peoria, Illinois</u>	847/677-6852
Oct 16*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly Tournament, Lincoln Center Atrium, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Oct 20*	Flint Third Thursday Bonus (Las Vegas), Sharky's Sports Bar, Burton, Michigan	810/232-9731
Oct 21-23	3rd New Orleans "Sweet 16," Inn on Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana	504/366-7498
Oct 23*	33rd Flint Area Club Championships, Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Nov 2*	Charlotte Club Monthly, Dilworth Grille, Charlotte, North Carolina	704/965-3573
Nov 4*	Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Ruby Tuesday, Skokie, Illinois	773/583-6464
Nov 5*	Springfield Series #2, Rusty's Clubhouse & Grill, Springfield, Illinois	217/622-9447
Nov 6*	Ohio State Monthly, Brubaker's Pub, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Nov 8*	Arizona Club Monthly, Teakwoods Tavern & Grill, Phoenix, Arizona	602/762-2288
Nov 9-13	Las Vegas Open, Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/218-8238
Dec 2-4	<u>California State Championship, Four Points-LAX, Los Angeles, California</u>	818/901-0464
Dec 16-18	<u>Sunshine State Classic, Hampton Inn & Suites, Tarpon Springs, Florida</u>	727/743-0500
Jan 5-8*	<u>5th New York Metropolitan Open, Hyatt Hotel, Jersey City, New Jersey</u>	408/529-6769
Jan 13-16*	<u>US Open, Embassy Suites Hotel, South San Francisco, California</u>	304/685-3214
Jan 26-29*	<u>New Mexico State Championship, La Posada, Santa Fe, New Mexico</u>	505/982-2729

OUTSIDE USA

Sep 16-18	TBT: 6th Bodrum Open/WBF-TR, Delfi Hotel, Bodrum, Turkey	905322-329228
Sep 16-18*	6th Torneo del Golfo, Circolo Nautico Posillipo, Naples, Italy	39335-221412
Sep 23-25	Play65/EBGT: Swiss Open, Casino Barrière, Montreux, Switzerland	4179-3584825
Sep 24-25	Danish Doubles Championship 2011, River Club, Valby, Denmark	4531-392791
Sep 28-Oct 2	Austrian Open/Italian Championship, Hotel Veronika, Seefeld, Austria	390331-923537
Sep 30-Oct 2*	CANCELLED: Black Sea Tournament, Grand Hotel, Pomorie, Bulgaria	359899-619219
Sep 30-Oct 2*	21st Norwegian Championship, Anker Hotel, Oslo, Norway	4793-403002
Sep 30-Oct 3	3rd German Championship, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	497152-3593466
Oct. 7-9	Play65/EBGT: 2nd Mallorca Challenge, Marriott, Lluçmajor, Mallorca	4917154-22222
Oct. 7-9	Sandy Osborne Memorial, Barceló Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Oct. 8-10	17th Japan Open, Shidax Hall, Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan	817055-775016
Oct. 14-16	6th Milano Open, Castello di Carimate, Carimate near Como, Italy	393474-330340
Oct 15-16*	TBT: 1st Kocaeli Championship/WBF-TR, Emex Hotel, Kocaeli, Turkey	905322-329228
Oct 21-23	BBT: 19th Irish Open, Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Ireland	353872-144270
Nov 4-6	Townharbour Trophy, Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Nov 4-6*	Löwenstadt-Cup, Mercure Hotel Atrium, Braunschweig, Germany	497152-3593466
Nov 7-9*	WBA Highrollers Classic, Hard Rock, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic	491715-422222
Nov 11-13*	Backgammon Live in London, Salt Quay & YHA, London, England	442077-001798
Nov 12-13*	Australian Open, Ryde Ex-Services Club, Sydney, Australia	61405-373225
Nov 12-13*	Berlin Championship Final, Café Kleisther, Berlin, Germany	491511-9470238
Nov 12-13*	TBT: 4th Edirne Championship/WBF-TR, Arslanli Hotel, Edirne, Turkey	905322-329228
Nov 17-20*	Czechoslovak Open, U Medvidku Brewery Hotel, Prague, Czech Republic	420608-904999
Nov 19-20*	CBT: 3rd Rijek Open, Hotel Jadran, Rijeka, Croatia	385915-352132
Nov 19-20*	ScotGammon Quaiçh 2-11, Circus Casino, Edinburgh, Scotland	441316-202328
Nov 26-27*	Thun Open/BeO-Cup/Swiss Doubles, Waadtländerstube, Thun, Switzerland	4179-4329378
Dec 1-4*	Play65/EBGT: 4th Cyprus Open, Golden Tulip Hotel, Lefkosa, Cyprus	491715-422222



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2011

Compiled through 5 Sep. 2011 after 15 tournaments

(Upcoming events: Colorado, Illinois, Las Vegas)



Ray Fogerlund	83.98	Al Hodis	7.85	Mike Senkiewicz	3.93	Bill Kaludis	2.60
Harvey Gillis	40.16	Petko Kostadinov	7.55	Patrick Gibson	3.93	Stuart Thumson	2.50
Neil Kazaross	30.33	Tim Lawless	7.26	Kent Goulding	3.93	Vadim MUSAELYAN	2.50
Chuck Bower	25.78	Jake Burak	7.25	Eduardo Maciel	3.93	Joan Grunwald	2.41
Jeff Nitschke	21.20	Kit Woolsey	7.10	Nan Feiber	3.83	Bob Howayeck	2.40
Bill Robertie	20.50	Antoinette Williams	6.80	Oleg Raygorodsky	3.83	Dan Gruby	2.40
Ed O'Laughlin	18.14	Peggy Neubig	6.67	Bill Minser	3.80	Harry Brown	2.40
Bob Koca	17.39	Juan Rospigliosi	6.60	Jesse Eaton	3.80	Richie Adams	2.23
Odis Chenault	17.33	Bill Davis	6.42	Frank Ley	3.63	Bob Hickey	2.23
Herb Gurland	15.70	Bill Calton	6.40	John Calcott	3.63	Erik Sawyer	2.11
Garry Kallos	14.24	Alfred Mamlet	6.40	Vicki Ondis	3.63	Matt Cohn-Geier	2.11
Greg Merriman	13.72	Mike Corbett	6.40	Murray Bryntesen	3.60	Greg Adamavich	2.10
Carol Joy Cole	13.67	Lee GenuD	6.40	Georgina Flanagan	3.50	Judy Field	2.10
Gregg Cattanach	13.56	Felix Yen	6.33	Robert Sisselman	3.33	Roman Abramovsky	2.10
Bob Glass	12.89	David Rubin	6.22	Lyle Rubin	3.24	Mike Vasilatos	2.05
Dennis Culpepper	12.80	Homer Hector	6.10	Michihito Kageyama	3.22	Robert Lessard	2.05
Mary Hickey	12.80	John Quinn	5.45	Steve Nelson	3.22	Omar Dessouky	1.96
Gary Bauer	12.67	Prince Barlow	5.45	Gary Fries	3.20	Bill Riles	1.96
Jason Lee	12.67	Lucas Bauer	5.42	Mark Gordon	3.20	Brent Cohen	1.96
John O'Hagan	12.44	Jonathan Leusden	5.33	Grant Schneider	3.20	Mark Antranikian	1.96
Ralf Jonas	12.40	Gus Contos	5.01	Mario Sequeira	3.20	Molly Anderson	1.96
Malcolm Davis	11.56	Karen Davis	5.00	Faddoul Khoury	3.17	Mike Minkovski	1.92
Ben Friesen	10.86	Jolie Rubin	4.99	Dmitriy Obukhov	3.11	Tom Duggan	1.92
Stewart Pemberton	10.59	Neal Weiner	4.46	Sandra Sha	3.10	Jerry Kressin	1.90
Ramez Abi-Akar	9.42	Brian Scorben	4.46	David Levy	3.10	Kathy Weiner	1.88
Cliff Mayoh	8.92	Kathleen Davis	4.42	Justin Nunez	3.10	Robert Ring	1.81
Allen Tish	8.67	Frank DiMaggio	4.33	Brandon Macklin	3.06	Jacques Trivodic	1.81
Masayuki Mochizuki	8.55	Tak Morioka	4.33	Alex Gerding	3.06	Ron Bruns	1.81
Art Benjamin	8.46	Rory Pascar	4.23	Mark Ferrin	2.90	Russ Rosen	1.81
Josh Racko	8.04	Vadim Nuniyants	4.20	Leslie Lockett	2.73	Lynn Lusk	1.81
Rachel Rhodes	7.85	Eden Windish	4.10	Walt Smith	2.73	Scotty Kelland	1.75
David Shadi	7.85	Daniel Barabas	4.10	Bob Goldstein	2.67	Jeff Fischer	1.75
Norm Wiggins	7.85	Larry Taylor	3.93	Jeremy Moulton	2.60	Kyle Wittles	1.67

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

READERS' THANKS

Thank you for all the hard work. CHICAGO POINT has been an excellent read.—*Martin Barkwell, Newcastle Upon Tyne, England*

Thanks for years of enjoyment!—*Charles Messina, Nahant, Massachusetts*

I was sorry to hear about the CHICAGO POINT going out of print. I've much enjoyed it over the years. I guess it sort of marks the end of an era. I realize you'll still have things online but there's a certain nostalgia that will be lost. Thanks for all your years of dedication to the "cause."—*Bruce Russell, Madison, Wisconsin*

I was kind of sorry to see that the POINT will no longer be published on paper, but I guess that's the way the wind's blowing these days. You've done a great service publishing your newsletter all these years. I really appreciate that.—*Jim Gibbs, San Anselmo, California*

I am saddened, but not surprised to see that you will be fully on-line with CHICAGO POINT from next year. My thanks to you for many, many great years of publication and I am sure the online content will still be as strong. I learnt a lot over the years from your work.—*Chris Bray, London, England*

I was sad to see the announcement that come January, there would be no more

[Continued on page 5]



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2011 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 6 SEP.

Rory Pascar	28.44	Bill Keefe	6.16	Kevin Berg	3.08	Vladimir Pekler	0.96
Herb Roman	18.88	Russ Lyutik	6.08	Dan Weymouth	2.40	Mark Murray	0.96
Larry Goldstein	18.80	Tobias Hellwag	5.72	Oleg Raygorodsky	2.36	Richard Stawowy	0.72
Carter Mattig	18.68	Jerry Brooks	5.56	Wendy Kaplan	2.32	Kit Woolsey	0.72
Phil Simborg	18.08	Joann Feinstein	5.36	Roger Hickman	2.24	Mike Peters	0.68
Lucky Nelson	15.12	Tak Morioka	5.20	Allen Tish	2.16	Guseyn Aliyev	0.68
David Rockwell	14.80	Linda Rockwell	5.20	David Nosik	1.88	Scott Richardson	0.64
Nora Luna Righter	13.76	Dave Settles	5.16	Kerem Taskin	1.88	Ken Meng	0.64
Mike Wolock	13.16	Russell Head	4.96	Warren Barnes	1.60	Tom Harrison	0.64
Bob Steen	12.88	Wayne Wiest	4.92	Mike Minkovski	1.60	Michael Ginat	0.56
Bill Bartholomay	11.72	Dujuan Meekins	4.64	Terry Weiss	1.44	Les Moshinsky	0.56
Alex Owen	11.60	Tim Mabee	4.48	Mike Valentino	1.36	Gary Kay	0.56
Bill Davis	11.00	Peter Kalba	4.48	Bob Zavoral	1.36	Ben Silk	0.48
Mike Sutton	9.44	Howard Markowitz	4.16	Alice Kay	1.28	Beth Whitney	0.48
Steve Klesker	9.36	Amy Trudeau	4.00	Steve Bock	1.20	Kit Cabello	0.40
Leslie Lockett	7.88	Matt Cohn-Geier	3.92	Mark Ostrovsky	1.12	Efim Liberman	0.32
Ken Bond	7.44	Jeff Fischer	3.88	Mitch Pomper	1.12	Roland Dieter	0.24
Christopher Shanava	6.96	David Rubin	3.76	Mochy Mochizuki	1.08	Jesse Anderson-Lehman	0.16
Serge Bondar	6.80	Adrian Rios	3.68	Eric Johnson	1.04		

LUCKY NELSON Grabbed July monthly honors earning 4.56 points. Second and third respectively were Alex Owen (3.48) and Nora Luna Righter (2.32).

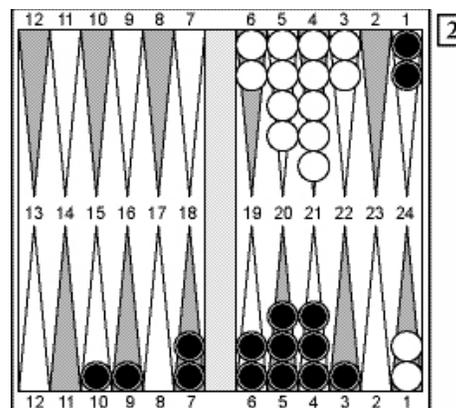
BILL BARTHOLOMAY had an outstanding August collecting 4.88 points. Runner's-up were Dave Settles (4.68) and Larry Goldstein (4.08).

your move

PROBLEM #367

to be analyzed by David Rockwell

7-point match. Black and White tied at 0 to 0. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**

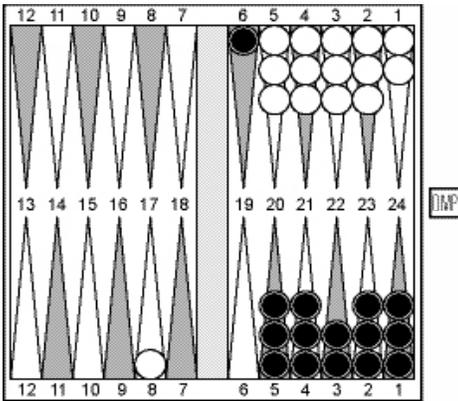


ASK
DANNY

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ONE STEP CLOSER

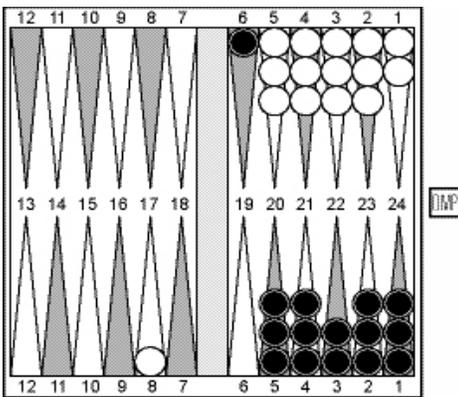
Dear Danny: This position recently came up at the Florida Championship in a critical match:

Tournament DMP. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-1.**

Black played 19/16, 5/4—a significant error. An eXtreme Gammon rollout shows the correct play is to stay put on the opponent's 6-point, obviously to get a direct shot following White's 6-5 roll. But if you change the position slightly and put Black on the 18-point and White on the 7-point, then XG says it is right for Black to move ten away up to the 17-point.

I think you discussed this type of position in a previous book and thought you wrote that 12 away (?) was optimum, but I don't remember the criteria you used.

Yesterday, while studying these types of position, I came across this gem:

Tournament DMP. **BLACK TO PLAY 1-1.**

After a quarter million XG rollouts, the bot favors 18/17, 5/2 by the thinnest of margins over 5/1. This surprised me as I expected that staying back would be clearly superior!

Of course we don't have access to a computer when playing live tournaments. What are some of the things to focus on when a last checker vs. checker spacing problem similar to this arises?—Seeking Guidance

DEAR SEEKING: When I studied this kind of position many years ago, I concluded that when the distance between opposing blots is from 7 to 11, the farther back you are, the better your chances of hitting the blot of your opponent when he is on roll. That is partly because moving one step closer increases the chance that your opponent will hit you with a combination shot before you can hit him. Moving one step closer from 11 away to 10 away, instead of wasting a pip by moving inside your home board, gains a small amount of racing equity that compensates for the slightly reduced hitting chances when the race is close. Moreover, one of your opponent's combination shots when you are 10 away, double-5s, would normally win the race for him even if it did not hit, so moving one step closer duplicates his hitting and running jokers.

In the first position you show, moving 19/18 reduces your return hitting chances substantially after your opponent hits (with 6-4 instead of 6-5), as only 6-1 from the bar (instead of all 6s) hits back.

Coming one step closer does not reduce your return hitting chances when your straggler is already in the outfield and still 11 away, so moving up makes more sense in the second position you show. I wondered how it could gain, however, until I noticed a feature of the position that I had not considered in my original study.

In that study, the only men the opponent had in his home board were on his 1-point. Here he has men on his 2- and 3-points, allowing him to play 1s and 2s within his home board. So unlike in the study, if you stay 11 back, the opponent can play rolls of 4-1 and 4-2 without leaving direct shots. Moving one step closer, however, forces the opponent to leave a direct instead of an indirect shot on those rolls. Against that, we must weigh the fewer combination shots that moving one step closer yields when the opponent rolls 6-3, 6-2, 6-1, 5-4, 5-3, 5-2, 5-1 or 4-3. Now it looks too close to call. It does not surprise me that a quarter-million rollouts were needed to produce even a minuscule difference between the candidate plays.—*Yours, Danny Δ*

Questions for Danny Kleinman should be addressed to: Ask Danny, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155 or send e-mail to: bg@chicagopoint.com

NITSCHKE IS A TWO-TIMER
Takes Minnesota ABT in July, then
Wisconsin over Labor Day

Hot off his Minnesota Open victory in July, Jeff Nitschke has also captured the Wisconsin State Championships. The annual Labor Day tournament was held at the Radisson Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin 2–5 September. Bill Minser did a nice job as the new tourney director replacing Tom Machaj who received a plaque for running the event 2003–2010. The event saw a small attendance increase this year, but was still unable to field a Novice division.



Jeff Nitschke with his Champ trophy for winning in Wisconsin.

Nitschke, a Minnesota native, went undefeated in the ten match Swiss format to face Antoinette-Marie Williams who had compiled the second best tourney record: 8–2. The “Nitsch” only needed to win one match out of three to claim the Champion's trophy.

In the first 9-point match, Antoinette held off a late rally from Jeff to win 9–6. But in the second match, it was Nitschke who held off AMW's late charge to win 9–6. Congratulations to Jeff Nitschke on winning two ABT tournaments in a row (he didn't play in Florida). That is a rare feat indeed.

Nice win for Odis Chenault (CA) who bested Ed O'Laughlin in the Badger Classic Masters. And props to Vadim Nuniyants (Stephan's son and UWM student) who captured the Advanced division. *Complete results:* Δ

WISCONSIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

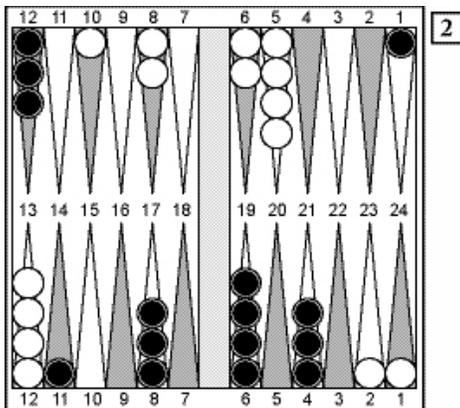
CHAMPIONSHIP (34): 1-Jeff Nitschke (MN), 2/3/4-Neil Kazaross (IL) / Ed O'Laughlin (VA) / Antoinette-Marie Williams (NY). ADVANCED (21): 1-Vadim Nuniyants (WI), 2/3/4-Greg Adamavich (WI) / Judy Field (MI) / Jolie Rubin (IL). BADGER CLASSIC (15+1): 1-Odis Chenault (CA), 2-Ed O'Laughlin (VA). AMATEUR JACKPOT (8): 1-Steve Reuschlein (WI), 2-Jesse Eaton (MN). EARLYBIRD JACKPOT (16): 1-David Todd (MO), 2-Steve Brown (MN). CANCELGAMMON (16): 1-Keene Marin (WI), 2-Linda Rockwell (IL). DOUBLES (11 teams): 1-Stepan Nuniyants (WA) & Vadim Nuniyants (WI), 2-Julius High (KS) & Antoinette-Marie Williams (NY). BLITZ (24): 1/2-Adam Bennett (WI) / Steve Brown (MN).

THE RIGHT PLAY

BY BILL DAVIS

The American Backgammon Tour Facebook website posted this problem on July 17:

The score is 19-19 to 21 points (DMP). You're playing eXtreme Gammon in the finals of the "Man vs. Machine World Championship." XG plays near perfect. Knowing this, **HOW SHOULD BLACK PLAY 6-4.**



The problem evoked 23 comments with all three of the top candidate plays garnering votes. Here are the top three plays ranked by winning percentage (in parenthesis) following a 3600 XG rollout:

24/14 (61.8%)
13/7, 11/7 (61.4%)
6/2*, 4/2 (60.7%)

All three choices are very close. So what is the best play?

In my opinion, none of the above plays are wrong. When the strategies are variable and the choices are close, consider your opponent. Remember, in this match, you're playing eXtreme Gammon, arguably better than any human on the planet. Therefore, ask yourself these questions before making your move:

1. Which game (running, blocking, or blitzing) are you most comfortable with?
2. Which strategy offers the simplest path to victory?
3. Which play can lead to a less complex game thus reducing XG's skill advantage?

In this position, my choice is the pointing play, even though it wins 1% fewer games. My strategy is to keep XG off its "feet" by attacking. In this position, the computer will dance 25% of the time. A dance allows us to continue our attack by making another point, or bringing down more checkers into the zone. But even if

White comes in on the 3- or 5-point, I can still continue my blitz effectively forcing White's plays. If I get lucky and succeed in the closeout, my checkers can skip home to an easy victory.

Look at the other plays. Running 24/14 will require you to play very carefully to get home safely when you aren't hit. When you are hit, it will really be a challenge.

Making your bar-point gives White the entire roll to work on trapping you (or escaping). Despite making this valuable blocking point, you will still be required to make a lot of well-thought-out plays to keep White confined, while at the same time, escaping your straggler.

So my choice in this position against XG or a giant of backgammon is to attack: make the 2-point and put White on the bar. It's right for me. But maybe another move better suits your game style. In this position, the right play is what's right for you.—Bill Davis Δ

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LETTERS...

(Continued from page 3)

print editions of the POINT. Though I wrote my first article for you several months earlier, its appearance was delayed. My debut was an Uncle Jake story entitled "The Tortoise And The Hare" that ran in Volume 3, Number 5, May 1990. I'm not sure if I have every issue since, but I am not sure that I don't. Most are stored in Tucson, and I continue to archive the new ones as they arrive here in Singapore. The Internet has everything going for it, but there is a difference between clicking a link that affirms that, yes, among the five exabytes of information so far uploaded, there's a copy of your story, and holding up a magazine and saying: "Someone cared enough to print this." My daughter is young, and takes for granted that Papa's picture is strewn around cyberspace as wantonly as posters of missing Shih Tzus on light posts near Lincoln Park. But someday I'll dig out my copies of the POINT, and show her Papa is good for something besides microwaving macaroni

and cheese.—*Jake Jacobs, Singapore*

Thanks to all our faithful readers over the years. We have enjoyed producing the POINT more than you will know.—Ed.

MORE ON COMPUTER OBEDIENCE

When I first read your June article "Obedience to the eXtreme" and saw the first position that you used (Stick and me in Las Vegas, April, 2010), it did not look to be the correct position that I doubled him. Now that I have searched out the recorded match and found the exact position and double/take action, I see that the only thing that was incorrect is the labeling of the players. In your June diagram, I am White, Stick is Black, and White is doubling Black.—*Patrick Gibson, Van Nuys, California*

Sorry for that error. Thanks for the correction, Patrick.—Ed.

I loved the article "Obedient to the Extreme" in the June Point. It was more in line with the way I think about backgammon. After all, there is a luck factor in this

game. If I play well and XG rates my play high, I'm not exactly excited about it. Winning is what really counts and exactly why we pay an entry fee.—*Larry Buckingham, Dayton, Ohio*

My friend Mike Weinberger commented on your "Obedience to Computers" article last issue. Near the end of his letter Mike states, "Some players want to mimic computer moves more than anything and some want to win more than anything. Then there is a third group that enjoys a challenge more than anything."

I believe that I could lay a legitimate claim to wanting to do all three, and I fail to see why those three stated goals have to be mutually exclusive. Moreover, what's wrong with wanting to learn the best way to make moves, whether they're learned from books, computers, or whatever source? The source is irrelevant to me. I'll take advice from the guy riding on the back of a garbage truck if he happens to be right.

I freely confess that I am all too willing to mimic the computers; that is, if and

(Continued on page 7)



The Lurking Quiz

By Duane Jensen



“Mopery With Intent To Gawk”

In the winter of 1957, my father bought a new Chevrolet: a Brookwood station wagon. The Brookwood was described as an “entry level” model, meaning *cheap*. The color was “Cay Coral,” meaning *muddy pink*. The car had “Powerglide,” Chevrolet’s sluggish 2-speed automatic transmission. The station wagon had no radio; nor did it have air conditioning, power steering, or power brakes. Riding in the car was a miserable experience.



1958 Chevrolet Brookwood Wagon

The summer of 1958 my father took our family on vacation touring northern Minnesota. After a night on the North Shore

of Lake Superior, my father decided we should drive into Canada for breakfast. We drove to the twin ports of Fort William and Port Arthur. (These ports merged into the city of Thunder Bay in 1970.)

We had breakfast in a hotel dining room in Port Arthur. A large group of men milled about on the sidewalk outside the hotel. My father said that location was probably a gathering point for men who were looking for temporary work. This was 1958—the beginning of a recession.

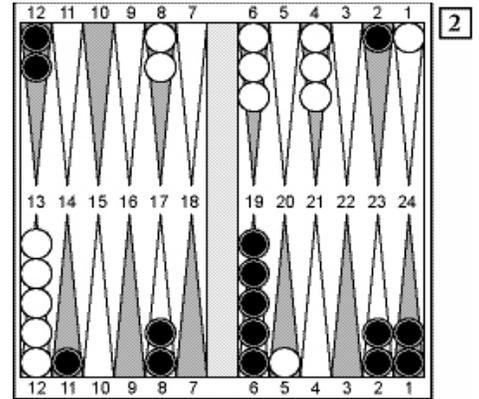
Port Arthur did not have a diverse economy. It was centered on lumber and paper and any recession would send men to the sidewalks looking for work. The sight of all those men milling about compelled my father to share a Great Depression story. He said, “In the 1930s, police would often disperse groups of young men by threatening them with vagrancy charges. Sometimes they’d say that we would be picked up for lurking, or mopery with intent to gawk.”

In the backgammon community there’s a little mopery going on, but even more lurking. The term “lurkers” refers to backgammon players who watch matches online without playing themselves. Lurking and watching are great methods to learn the game of backgammon. It’s often easier to spot a questionable or interesting play as an observer than as a preoccupied player at the board.

Here’s a typical position I’ve observed as a lurker.

Trailing 0–4 to 7, Jeremy Bagai had a 1–2 to play. He hit with the ace and played 11/9. I thought 13/11 was a better deuce

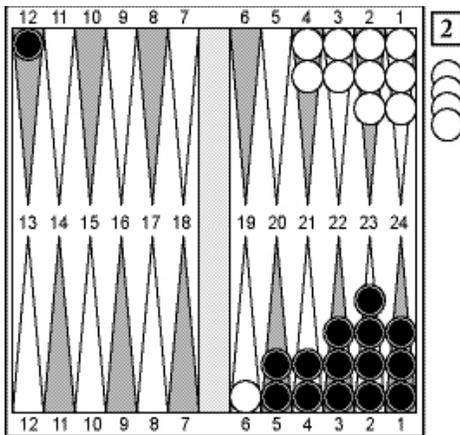
7 point match. Black trails White 0–4. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**



play and made a mental note to analyze that play. Both Jeremy and I were trying to build the 5-point, but we missed the best play of 6/5*, 5/3. The deuce was better played to reduce shots that would send back a second man. 5/3 left only 13 shots while 11/9 left 17 shots and 13/11 left 18 shots—some of them double shots.

Now it’s time for you to take “**The Lurking Quiz.**” Test yourself on the following 10 questions and then check your answers and ranking on page 6.—*Duane Jensen Δ*

1. 7 point match. Black trails White 4 to 5. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**

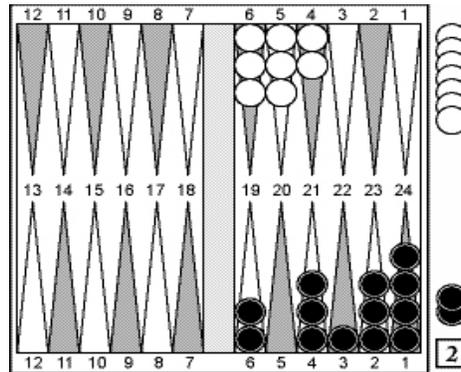


2. 7 point match. In each of the four positions shown at right, Black and White are tied 3 to 3.

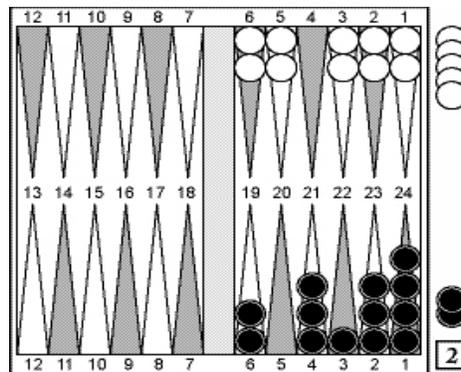
In positions 2A and 2B: **BLACK TO PLAY 6-3.** In positions 2C and 2D: **BLACK TO PLAY 3-1.**

In which of the four positions is it best to bear off two checkers with the roll?

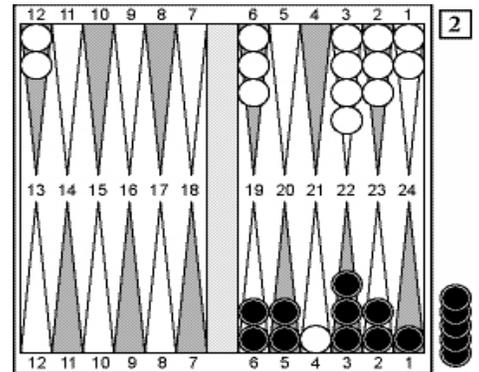
2A. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-3**



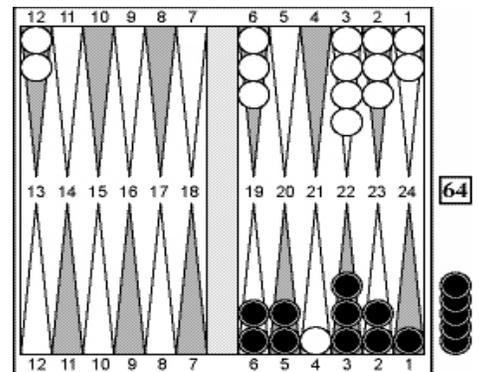
2B. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-3**



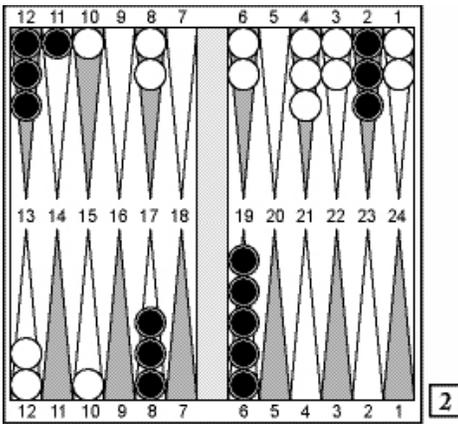
2C. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-3**



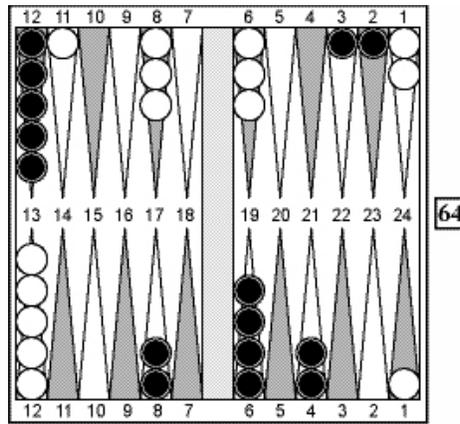
2D. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-3**



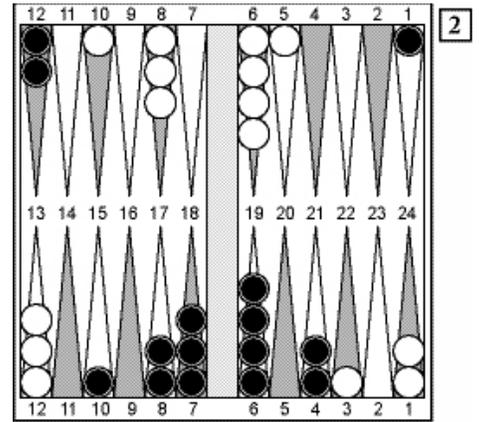
3. 7 point match. Black and White tied at 0 to 0. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-3.**



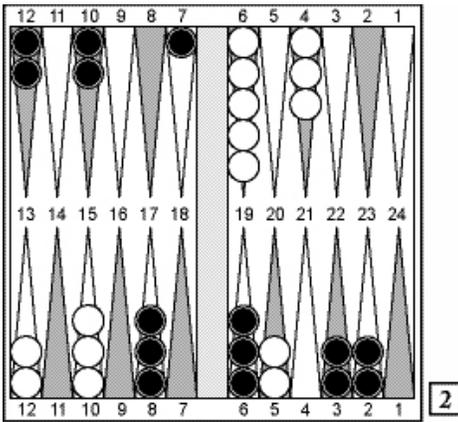
6. 7 point match. Black leads White 6 to 5 (Crawford). **BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.**



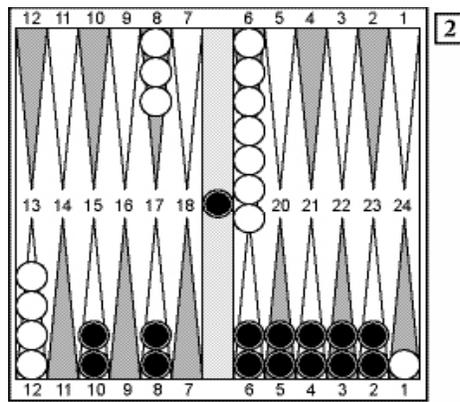
9. Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**



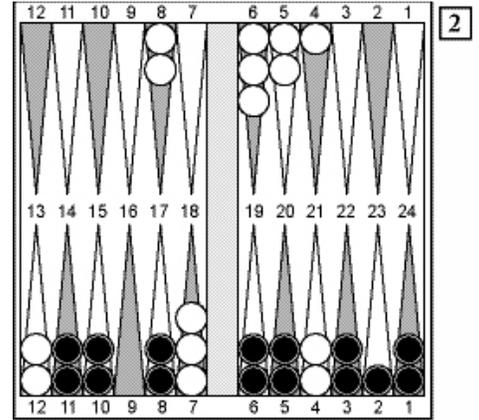
4. Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 1-1.**



7. 7 point match. Black leads White 2 to 0. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**

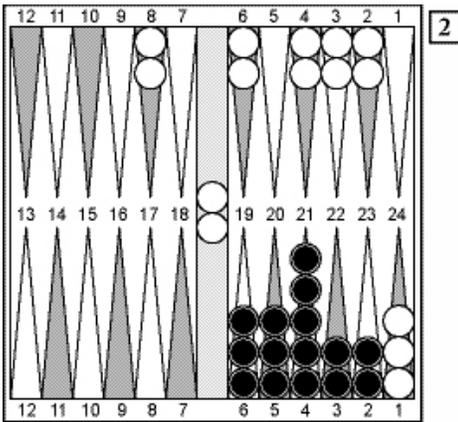


10. Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**

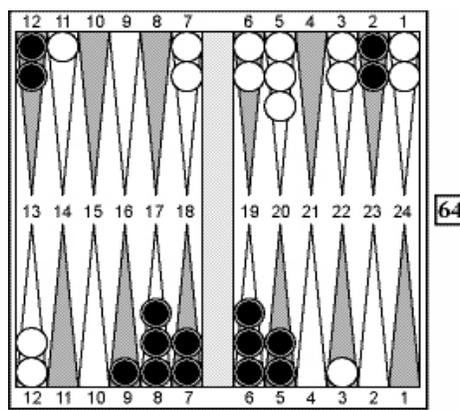


[Answers on page 6.]

5. Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-2.**



8. Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-2.**



LETTERS...

[Continued from page 5]

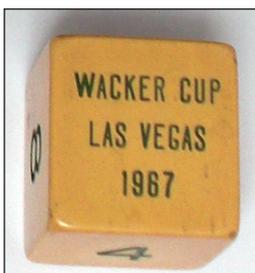
only if they're making the strongest moves. And the records of the best of them amply demonstrate that they do.

Through repeated trial-and-error, I might be able to learn what the bots know following millions of iterations; but why laboriously try to reinvent the wheel? In other areas of knowledge, we are more than happy to benefit from what others have learned before us. I see no reason why we can't employ similar heuristics as we learn to play better backgammon.—*Will Hunn, Gretna, Louisiana*

MIKE WRITES ANOTHER BOOK

Mike Corbett's new book, *Mr. Nachron's List* is now available on both Amazon.com and B&N.com in paperback, Kindle, and Nook format, and will be compatible with smart phones and the iPad. Although this is not a book about backgammon, I'm sure the backgammon community will find it to be an amusing read.—*Danielle Bastarache, Fort Lauderdale, Florida* Δ

VALERIE VALENTINE'S DOUBLING CUBES

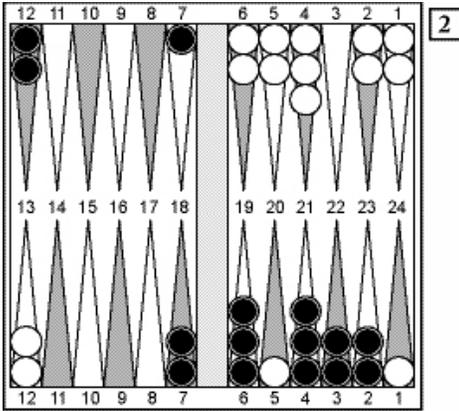


While going through some of my sister Val's things, I came across these doubling cubes from the glory days of her Chicago club. I know she would want you to have them. You wrote such a beautiful article for my sister—she is smiling still. Hope you and yours are well.—*Melody Peckos*

**PROBLEM #366
ANALYZED**

by Kit Woolsey

9 point match. Black leads White 5 to 3.
BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.



This time there are only two plays to look at: The safe 18/13 and the bold double hit 6/5*/1*. These plays are as different as night and day, so it is important to evaluate the pros and cons of each.

There can be no question that the double hit will win more gammons. A lot more gammons. If White doesn't hit back immediately, Black will be a good favorite to have a five-point board. The safe play isn't nearly as gammonish. White won't be on the bar, and Black will have to roll well later in order to mount an attack.

There also can be no question that the

safe play will win more games. If White rolls a 4, she will have a decent holding game, but Black will still be a solid favorite with a good racing lead. If White is unable to roll that 4, Black will have future chances to hit something without leaving a direct return shot. Even if Black is unable to attack, he can simply bring the position home.

For money or at the beginning of a long match, it seems clear that the double hit is best. The gain in gammons simply appears to outweigh the cost of the extra losses. After all, even if White hits back, it is far from fatal. White will have at least one checker behind a broken five-prime, and if Black can enter before his other blot gets picked up, he will probably still be the favorite.

At first glance, it might appear that this would apply at the actual match score. After all, winning a gammon puts Black out exactly. So, why isn't "going for the gusto" just as valuable if not more valuable at this match score?

The answer to this question may lie in the cube. At this match score White has huge cube leverage. If the cube gets to 4, Black loses all recube vig and all gammon gain. Therefore, it is important for Black to avoid variations where White has an effective redouble.

If Black makes the safe play, White isn't likely to have an effective redouble for quite some time. Yes, White might get a shot and hit it, or White might get lucky and pull ahead in the race. However, these things will happen suddenly, so most of the

time Black will be able to pass comfortably. Also, there won't be gammons flying around, so if Black does take, he won't be at the disadvantage of gammons not helping him but helping White.

By contrast, the double hit risks an effective recube. For example, suppose White hits back, entering just one checker, and Black flunks. For money a recube by White now would be a rather reckless gamble. White wouldn't be much of a favorite, and Black could easily turn the game back around. At the match score, however, a recube would be huge. This is exactly the sort of position the player behind in a match and owning a 2-cube should be dreaming of—a very volatile position where with one good roll, he could be winning a gammon and 8 points.

Would Black even have a take, with the big gammon danger and no recube or gammon potential of his own? I have no idea. I do know that I would hate seeing a 4-cube come flying over at this match score after White enters with a hit.

So, is the potential recube danger enough to swing Black to the safe play at the match score? For me, this would be a matter of my assessment of my opponent. If I thought my opponent might not realize what a huge recube he would have in the hit back and flunk variation, then I would go for the double hit. But if I thought he would find the recube, then I would make the safe play, since I believe the safe play is theoretically correct at the given match score.—Kit Woolsey Δ

who did what

**WINNER'S
CIRCLE**



JUL.–SEP. 2011

•**16th Minnesota Open**—ABT (Bloomington, MN; 22-24 Jul.)... OPEN (19): 1-Jeff Nitschke (MN), 2-Bill Minser (WI); 1C-Jesse Eaton (MN), 2C-Jerry Kressin (MN); 1LC-Ray Foglerlund (NV). INTERMEDIATE (13): 1-Jolie Rubin (IL), 2-Lyle Rubin (IL); 1C-Steve Binenstock (MN); 1LC-Eric Hiner (MN). MASTERS JACKPOT (8): 1-Yuri Millman (MN), 2-Ray Foglerlund (NV). DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Jesse Eaton (MN) & Ralph Stowell (MN), 2-Bill Davis (IL) & Steve Klesker (IL). BLITZ (12): 1-Jeff Nitschke (MN).

•**5th Gogi Bukia Memorial Georgian Open** (Chakvi, Republic of Georgia; 1-5 Aug.)... MASTERS (46): 1-Levon Petrosyan (ARM), 2-Kakhaber Natchkebia (GEO), 3/4-Jürgen Orłowski (GER)/Erhan Yenisen (TUR); 1LC-Konstantinos Mitrelis (GRE), 2LC-Luisa



ABT Minnesota Open Winners. **Championship** (Top, L to R): Runner-up Bill Minser, director Dave Minikus, Winner Jeff Nitschke. **Intermediate**: Runner-up Lyle Rubin with his victorious mom, Jolie.

Sequeira (Portugal). INTERMEDIATE (6): 1-Yalkin Erk (TUR), 2-Tamaz Nanitashvili (GEO). SUPER-JACKPOT (8): 1-Frank Simon (GER), 2-Ricardo Malas (LEB). NARDI (19): 1-David Tevdoradze (GEO), 2-Sergei Drmoian (ARM); 1C-Aleksandre Kikaleshvili (GEO). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1/2 split-Ufuk Aksak (TUR) & Sabri Büyüksöy (TUR) / Alex Gerding (GER/USA) & Jan Jacobowitz (GER). GEORGIA VS. THE WORLD: 1-Georgia Team: Simon Pankvelashvili / David Tevdoradze / Omari Dvali / Aleksandre Kikaleshvili / Teimuraz Kurtsikidze / Captain Kakhaber Natchkebia, 2-World Team: Jan Jacobowitz (GER)/Levon Petrosyan (Armenia) / Ricardo Malas (LEB) / Konstantinos Mitrelis (GRE) / Cenk Corbacioglu (TUR) / Captain Jürgen Orłowski (GER). Final score: 22-14. TRAVELER'S TROPHY: Alex Gerding (GER/USA).

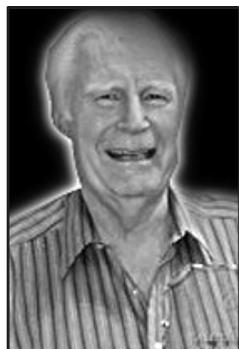
•**6th Annual Summer Sizzler** (Bloomington, IL; 6 Aug.)... OPEN (26): 1-Robert Nagle, 2-Rob Farmer; 1C-Terry Leahy, 2C-Michael Plog; 1LC-Jim Zinkhon. LIMITED (5): 1-Lyle Rubin, 2-Royal Robinson.

AMALGAMATION

Condolences to the family and friends of 1980s Pub Club backgammon regular **Dave Dietrich**. Dave passed away in 2010 and we are only now finding out about it through his wife Linda... Visiting the Bar Point Club this summer: **Fernando Neumark** (Argentina), **Matt Cohn-Geier** (Earth), **Mark James** (CA), **Tobias Hellwag** (Germany), **Joe Auszmann** (NM)... **Lynda Clay** tells us that Beginners enter for free at her upcoming Colorado State Championship (30 Sep.-2 Oct.) with guaranteed \$300 in prize money, even if only one player enters!... Autoguide.com is promoting a \$1536 carbon fiber backgammon board offered by Lotus Cars. The write-up AutoGuide composed to describe the board is comical, with backgammon jargon (beaver, raccoon, Nack blitz) inserted randomly. You can view it here: tinyurl.com/3ksk8v7... Louisville Club director **Holland "Quint" McTyeire** was profiled in the online edition of *Business First* 2 September. Quint is a senior investment officer who believes that playing backgammon, poker, and bridge has helped him in his profession. "I'm a games player, and the stock market is a game."... Although backgammon originated in the Middle East, some believe the Quran condemns it. This very sad quote is from the *Pakistan Observer*: "The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) further said: 'Whosoever plays backgammon is as if he dyes his hands with the flesh of swine and its blood.'"... Chicago Open director **Rory Pascar** tells us that the Giants of Backgammon Invitational will be a biennial event (every other year) to coincide with Giant voting. Rory's new email address is: rory@ChicagoOpenBG.com... Friends gathered for a memorial to **Greg Tomlin** August 13 at the Clayville Historical Site NW of Springfield... Snowie Software has admitted to **Chris Bray** (UK) that their "Snowie 5" software program (meant to compete with XG2) is dead. Speaking of Chris, his books (including *Backgammon For Dummies*) are now available in electronic form from Amazon.com... recently "tweeted" something that we already know: "My all-time favorite game is backgammon. I play it every Sunday by the pool."... New England Patriots quarterback **Tom Brady** admits it in the *Boston Herald* Sept 2: "There's something that burns inside you that when the competition is on in backgammon, I'm like a little kid. If I lose, I break the board. I've broken more backgammon boards than I care to admit." Δ

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Skokie, IL; 7 Aug.)... OPEN (25): 1/2-Matt Cohn-Geier / Dave Settles, 3/4-Serge Bondar/Mike Wolock; 1C-Larry Goldstein, 2C-Jeff Fischer. INTERMEDIATE (12): 1-Mike Valentino, 2-Ben Silk, 3/4-Efim Liberman/Oleg Raygorodsky; 1C/2C-Joann Feinstein / David Nosik.

•**Florida Championship—ABT** (Fort Lauderdale, Florida; 19-21 Aug.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (24): 1-Malcolm Davis (TX), 2-Odis Chenault (CA), 3/4-Harry Brown (FL)/Harvey Gillis (WA); 1LC-Bill Robertie (MA). INTERMEDIATE (24): 1-Juan Rospigliosi (FL), 2-Bob Howayceck (FL), 3/4-Bob Green (FL) / David Simpson (USA/UAE); 1LC-Dan Gruby (FL). BEGINNER (9): 1-Stephen Collins (OH), 2-Max Gruby (FL), 3-Ken Perro (FL). FLORIDA MASTERS (8 @ \$500 + 2 @ \$1000): 1-Malcolm Davis (TX), 2-Gary Bauer (NJ). LIMITED JACKPOT



ABT Florida double winner Malcolm Davis of Dallas, Texas.

(8): 1-Susan Randall (FL), 2-Juan Rospigliosi (FL). MICRO-BLITZ (44): 1-Alex Gerding (FL), 2-Susan Randall (FL). DMP-KNOCK-OUT (64): 1-Alex Gerding (FL). PRO-AM DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Alex Gerding (FL) & Neal Rosensweig (FL), 2-Karen Davis

(OH) & Stephen Collins (OH). AFTER TOURNAMENT (12): 1-Karen Davis (OH), 2-Russ Lyutik (IL). TRAVELER'S TROPHY: David Simpson (Dubai, UAE).

•**NBT-31st Swedish Open** (Stockholm, Sweden; 19-21 Aug.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (57): 1-Sven-Olav Norén (SWE), 2-Conny Eriksson (SWE), 3/4-Rikard Åberg (SWE) / Kathrine Langjord (NOR), 5/8-Martin Birkhahn (GER) / Marvin Khattar (SWE) / Esmail Mirazi (SWE) / Eli Roymi (ISR); 1LC-Mats Carlzon (MAL), 2LC-Steen Grønbech (DEN), 3LC/4LC-Are Karlsen (NOR) / Timo Väättäin (FIN). INTERMEDIATE (43): 1-Beroz Stenström (SWE), 2-Marko Hellsten (Finland), 3/4-Ralf Åkesson (SWE) / Pär-Åke "POM" Mickelsson (SWE); 1LC-Mikael von Bargaen (SWE), 2LC-Ulf Thorsell (SWE), 3LC/4LC-Oekie Kretschmar (HOL) / Inga Vigh-Pedersen (DEN). LADIES (15): 1-Linda Sjörin (SWE), 2-Emma de Groen (SWE). SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-Johan Moazed (MAL). DOUBLES (36 teams): 1-Emma Axling (SWE) & Mårten Howe (SWE), 2-Claus Elken (DEN) & Hans Kristian Mathiesen (DEN). NORDIC PT. RACE (16): 1-Kåre Aronssm (SWE), 2-Manoucher Parchami-Araghi (SWE), 3/4-Mårten Howe

(SWE)/Pär-Åke "POM" Mickelsson (SWE). DiceArena.com CUP (69): 1-Rickard Persson (SWE), 2-Patrick Linderöth (SWE), 3/4-Raj Jansari (ENG)/Manoucher Parchami-Araghi (SWE), 5/8-Roberth Jonnarth (SWE) / Camilla Skipnes (NOR)/Börje Sundbom (SWE) / Henri Virta (SWE). AFTER TOUREY (13): 1-Steffen Lundström (NOR), 2-Mikael von Bargaen (SWE). Δ

'The Lurking Quiz' Answers

From Page 6

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| 1. 13/12, 3/1 | 2 points |
| 2. B and C | 4 points |
| 3. 13/10*, 14/11, 6/3(2) | 2 points |
| 4. 15/13 (2) | 2 points |
| 5. 5/3, 4 off | 1 points |
| 6. 23/22, 13/7 | 2 points |
| 7. Bar/24, 8/3 | 3 points |
| 8. 13/10, 13/11 | 3 points |
| 9. 8/3*, 7/3 | 2 points |
| 10. 10/6, 10/9 | 4 points |

SCORE

25
22-24
17-21
12-16
7-11
0-6

RATING

World Championship
World Class
Expert
Advanced
Casual Player
Completely Adrift



ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis
773/583-6464
Peter Kalba
219/671-5268

Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Ruby
Tuesday, 5203 Old Orchard
Road, Skokie. 847/967-8292.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON
at at Ruby Tuesday, 5203
Old Orchard Road, Skokie.
847/967-8292.

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. Wash-
bash Ave., 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. Thursday, 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza
Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Sue Will (309/699-6005).

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BG JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"Like" ABT today!

They were

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