

29th chicago open

IT IS WRITTEN... LARRY TAYLOR WINS CHICAGO OPEN

After exposing a potentially game-losing last shot at DMP in the Chicago Open finals, Larry Taylor (GA) asked his opponent Ray Foglerlund, "Did you see 'Slum Dog Millionaire'? . . . *It is written.*"



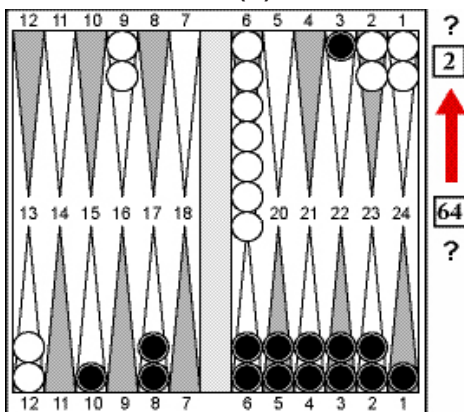
Chicago champ Larry Taylor.

And so it was as Taylor went on to win the 2009 Chicago Open backgammon tournament. The event, co-directed by Howard Markowitz and Rory Pascars, drew 73 players to the beautiful Holiday Inn Select suites hotel in Rosemont Illinois 22–25 May—a small increase over 2008.

The 39 player Open field generated 54 entries with buybacks. Taylor's field was the last to be purchased in the Calcutta—Foglerlund's field was second. But despite their skill differences, both competitors came to play and produced a battle royal.

Ray jumped off to a 4–1 lead after three games only to watch Larry rattle off six straight points. It was at this score (Taylor ahead 7–4) where the match was defined.

15-point finals. Larry Taylor (White) leads Ray Foglerlund (Black). Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

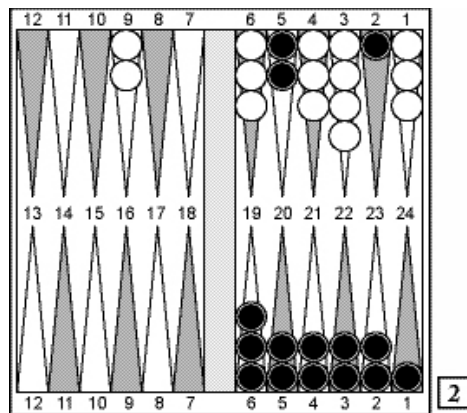


Good players often put pressure on their lesser-skilled opponents and this position is a perfect example. Ray is up only three pips in the race, but his board is ominous. After making a few comments about Larry's stacked position, Ray doubled. In fact, a 720 trial, 3-ply, precise Snowie rollout shows the double to be a .123 blunder. But blunder cubes become brilliant coups when they evoke a pass and that's just what happened. Larry's decision to drop (a .641 whopper blunder) cost him 3% match equity.

Larry remained confident (always good strategy), and after 10 games, he led 10–5. Then it was Ray's turn for some dice. He went on to score nine of the next ten points to gain a 14–11 advantage.

A gammon for Larry in the Crawford game set up the double match-point battle for supremacy. Ray didn't get the dice, but he did get a chance to display his skill.

15-point finals. Double match point. **FOGRLUND (BLACK) TO PLAY 5-2.**



If you considered breaking your home board, you blundered. Trailing the pip count 110 to 63, Black's path to victory involves hitting a shot. If Black breaks his table, he gives up a lot of wins even if he does hit. Ray found the correct play: 20/18, 6/1 which is better than both 20/13 and 20/15, 6/4 by a small margin.

Larry then rolled 3-2 and had to decide whether to hit or play totally safe. After correctly hitting 9/7*, he completely overlooked 9/6, instead playing 7/4. Larry's play leaves five return shots (2-2, 2-4, 5-4) whereas 9/6 leaves only three (5-2, 5-5).

Ray missed this flyshot and later, a last potentially-winning direct 3-shot that evoked a humorous hedge discussion (view the movie at chicagopoint.com/hedge.mov). It seems that *it was written*: Larry Taylor had captured his first ABT title. And it also seems that he is getting his game in gear. This was Larry's third fine finish of 2009 (he also won the Atlanta Doubles and the New York Met Limited Jackpot).

OTHER WINNERS

It was Bill Calton (MI) over Alex Shoshoo (IL) in the Intermediate and Adam Lusk (CO) besting Robert Stoller (AK) in the Novice.

Also worthy of acknowledgement is Memorial Day Masters winner Bob Koca. Bob defeated (in order) Alfred Mamlet, David Rockwell, Alan Grunwald and Matt Cohn-Geier to claim the winner's trophy. Bob also won the Doubles teaming with Perry Gartner to win the Doubles.



Co-director Rory Pascars with Memorial Day Masters champ Bob Koca.

Special congratulations to Bill Bartholomay who won three events: Seniors, Limited Jackpot, and Open Last Chance.



Bill Bartholomay was a triple winner at the Chicago Open.

The introduction of Rory Pascars as co-director added a shot of new blood into the

[Continued on page 7]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS



c/o CHICAGO POINT

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CUT THE CARTOON

You have got to be kidding! Page 7 of the May POINT could not be more inappropriate. Yes there is backgammon in the cartoon, but obviously that is not the main feature. I thought you finally figured out that the "girlie pics" no longer had a place on the website. Why then put them in the newsletter? If I wanted *Playboy* I would get a subscription.—Amy Trudeau, Chicago, Illinois

We're guessing that means you have no interest in the winning submission shown on page 4.—Ed.

O'HAGAN'S NEVADA POSITION

I enjoyed reading John O'Hagan's Nevada State article in the May POINT. One question though: in the position shown on the front page (with Mr. Kaneko having a 4-2 to play), just how much of a "blunder" is

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BACKGAMMON						
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.

Jun 4-7	US Open—Wash. DC, Doubletree, Arlington, VA	ckt@world-backgammon-association.com
Jun 7	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jun 7	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Jun 12-14	Los Angeles Open, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, California	818/901-0464
Jun 13	Southwest Ohio Summer Solstice Tournament, Peter's, West Chester, Ohio	513/777-7862
Jun 13	Kansas City Double Points, Granfalloon, Kansas City, Missouri	816/916-6599
Jun 13	New England Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden Massachusetts	781/324-0892
Jun 13	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Jun 13	Tampa Bay Club Monthly, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/786-9133
Jun 14	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Jun 14	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Jun 18	Third Thursday Bonus (Florida State), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jun 21*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly Tournament, Cosi, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Jun 28*	Colorado Monthly Tournament, Old Chicago, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
Jun 28*	Dayton Club Monthly—USBL, Barnes & Noble, Beavercreek, Ohio	937/864-1748
Jul 1	Michigan Summer Warm-Up, Sheraton Hotel, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 2-5	Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 11*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Jul 11*	Tampa Bay Club Monthly, Hampton Inn, Tarpon Springs, Florida	727/786-9133
Jul 12*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Jul 12*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Jul 12*	3-Man Team Tournament, Bridge Stars Bridge Club, Northbrook, Illinois	312/543-0522
Jul 24-26	14th Minnesota Open, Courtyard by Marriott, Bloomington, Minnesota	612/718-2613
Jul 31-Aug 2*	1000 Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York	585/752-5393
Aug 2*	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Aug 6-9	Florida State Championships, Sheraton Airport, Dania, Florida	954/564-0340
Aug 15-16	Summer Cooker, Steve Hast's residence, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	412/823-7500
Sep 4-7	Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin	608/516-9109
Sep 25-27	Colorado State Championships, Hilton Airport Hotel, Aurora, Colorado	303/791-0271
Oct 9-11	Illinois State Championships, Ramada Inn, Peoria, Illinois	847/845-3579
Oct 16-18	Mid-Atlantic Championships, Marriott Burkshire, Towson, Maryland	954/564-0340
Nov 4-8	2009 Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/218-8238
Dec 4-6	California State Championship, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, California	818/901-0464

OUTSIDE USA

Jun 5-7	Austrian Masters Finale, Montesino, Vienna, Austria	436642-127412
Jun 5-7	Casinorip.com English Open, Barceló Daventry Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Jun 12-14*	3rd Braunlage-Harz-Cup, Hotel Hohenzollern, Braunlage, Germany	495204-880305
Jun 12-14	Swedish Championship 2009, Loginn Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden	46708-541362
Jun 19-21	1st Torneo del Mediterraneo, Siracusa, Italy	393388-022946
Jun 19-21	Stavanger Bymesterskap, Hovmesteren, Stavanger, Norway	4799-153113
Jun 20*	Vancouver Summer Open, Bridge Centre, Vancouver, BC, Canada	604/241-1986
Jun 27-28	3rd Geneve Club Open, Bar L'Aperitivo, Geneva, Switzerland	4178-7685569
Jun 27-28*	WBF—Turkiye 14th Istanbul Championship, Nosta Restaurant, Istanbul	905322-329228
Jul 3-5	BIBA World Championship, Barceló Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Jul 8-12	3rd Nice Casino Ruhl Open, Casino Ruhl, Nice, France	390331-923537
Jul 12-19	34th World Championship, Fairmont Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA: 212/222-7177
Jul 17-19	Festival of Games 6th Czech Open, CEZ Arena, Pardubice, Czech Repub.	420466-535200
Jul 18-19*	Córdoba Open Tournament, La Cumbre, Córdoba, Argentina	543514-533885
Jul 22-26	WSOB: Riviera Cup, Palm Beach Casino, Cannes, France	336-86235554
Jul 25-26	14th Liverpool Open, Liverpool Bridge Club, Liverpool, England	447931-553829
Jul 29-Aug 5	EBGT: 3rd Gogi Bukia Memorial & Georgian Open, Tbilisi, Georgia	491715-422222
Jul 31-Aug 2	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy, Daventry Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Aug 14-16*	6th Pohojanmaa Open, Backgammon Soumi, Kessula, Finland	3540-5789579
Aug 15-16	Stavanger Bymesterskap, Resept AS, Stavanger, Norway	47916-22655
Aug 21-23	Offene Deutsche BG-Championship, Penta Hotel, Wiesbaden, Germany	49711-486190
Aug 22-23*	Danish Mixed Doubles Championship, Farnum, Denmark	4533-363601
Aug 28-30	Bristol Open, Artillery Grounds & Bristol Sports Club, Bristol, England	441179-556862
Aug 28-30	Swiss Championships 2009, Casino Barrière, Montreux, Switzerland	4179-3584825
Aug 31-Sep 6	18th Mitteleuropa Championship, Park Hotel, Nova Gorica, Slovenia	390331-923537
Sep 4-6	Backgammon in London at BIBA, Barceló Hotel, Hinckley Island, England	441522-888676
Sep 11-13	29th Swedish Open, Elite Palace Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden	46762-644266
Sep 12-13*	Hessen-Cup Season-end, Restaurant Stadthalle Bergen, Frankfurt, Germ.	491743-397363
Sep 12-13*	7th Antwerp Open/Diamond Edition, Café den Bengel, Antwerp, Belgium	32475-256734
Sep 16-20*	DATE CHANGE. WSOB: European Championships, Hilton, Prague, Czech	336-86235554
Sep 20-22*	15th Japan Open, Shidax Hall, Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan	813/33733814

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

5/1*, 6/4 ? I fully understand that gammons have no meaning here and that double match point usually mandates “pure play,” but is there anything to be said for White’s trying to preclude John from making an anchor, especially an ace point anchor?

Anyway, please tell me how much equity Kaneko would have given up with the “foolish” 5/1*, 6/4.—Bruce Russell, Madison, Wisconsin

5/1*, 6/4 ranks in the second tier of answers, Bruce. It is 0.119 worse than 13/9, 7/5 (the best play). In terms of match equity. Making your move instead of Kaneko’s play would cost you 5.97%—Ed.

BACKGAMMON ON THE MENTALIST

I like to watch a CBS show called *The Mentalist* and noticed that in the previews of the 5 May episode, they showed the star playing backgammon. It’s rare for backgammon to be shown on TV or in the movies so I thought I’d let you know.—

Michael Coats via e-mail (forwarded by Eric Barr)

We recorded the show and took a screen shot for our readers, Michael. Shown below is Simon Baker’s character playing backgammon vs. a Middle Eastern prince in an exclusive gaming club. Baker beats the prince out of thousands, but refuses to take his money because he can apparently control the dice with his mind and rolls double 6s twice in a row to prove it.—Ed.



Simon Baker plays backgammon in CBS’s *The Mentalist* TV show.



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2009

Top 100 through 25 May 2009 after 8 tournaments
(Upcoming events: US Open, Los Angeles Open, Michigan)



Neil Kazaross	28.50	Neil Garvie	6.67	Bill Bartholomay	3.25	Robert Tansi	2.33
Stick Rice	25.62	Stacy Turner	6.50	Bill Davis	3.25	Samuel Raisanen	2.33
Julius High	21.33	Ed King	6.22	Bob Carpenter	3.20	Joe Nolan	2.10
Bob Glass	21.00	Tom Hodous	6.00	Malcolm Robertson	3.20	David Hamill	2.00
John O’Hagan	20.74	Scott Casty	5.79	Mike Hendrickson	3.11	Tim Johnson	1.89
Rod Covlin	20.73	Lucky Nelson	5.33	John McDonald	3.11	Sheri Peters	1.88
Victor Ashkenazi	17.00	Matt Reklaitis	5.25	Bill Pow	3.00	Beverly Flowers	1.80
Ray Fogerlund	16.94	Herb Roman	5.25	Joe Eckert	3.00	Robert Sisselman	1.80
Petko Kostadinov	15.00	Al Faller	5.25	Michael Flohr	2.60	Luciana Abes	1.67
Mary Hickey	13.33	Bill Calton	5.20	Alex Shoshoo	2.60	Jon Hochberg	1.67
Larry Taylor	13.00	Matt Cohn-Geier	5.19	Gary Bauer	2.59	D.J. Oles	1.56
David Todd	12.80	Rory Paszar	5.19	Mark Schiffer	2.59	Harry Georgiou	1.50
Rob Maier	11.54	Ramon Eleazar	5.19	Justin Nunez	2.59	Terry Seymour	1.50
David Rubin	10.67	Sal Chehayeb	5.08	Frank Frigo	2.57	Irv Taylor	1.44
Adam Bennett	10.67	Ramez Abi-Akar	5.08	Patty Geoffroy	2.54	Adam Lusk	1.33
Shinichiro Kaneko	10.37	Jesse Eaton	5.00	Larry Buckingham	2.54	Regina Regelis	1.30
Brandon Macklin	10.17	Murray Bryntesen	5.00	Bill Schragel	2.54	Brian Ross	1.30
Ed Johnson	10.00	Charles Toots	4.67	Jason Switzer	2.50	Sean Garber	1.29
Steve Sax	9.58	Bill Devine	4.67	Peter Carcieri	2.50	Scotty Kelland	1.25
Bob Schumacher	9.33	Jon Vieter	4.50	Bob Hathaway	2.50	Kate Elmore	1.25
Philip Smith	9.00	Richard Munitz	4.25	Wanda Roberts	2.50	Lynda Clay	1.17
Charlie Silverman	8.60	Pernille Rosendal	4.25	Rollow Mickle	2.50	Scott Cole	1.17
Rick Barabino	8.50	Boris Dekhtyar	4.25	Peter Roubicek	2.50	Glen Arnold	1.17
Falafel Natanzon	8.50	Robert Regan	3.60	Christian Stoddard	2.33	Susan Lee	1.05
Majid Jahanbani	7.20	Frank Talbot	3.33	Sam Ahmed	2.33	Andre DeLucinges	1.05

ABT IN TAMPA?

We are very interested in hosting an annual ABT Backgammon tournament in the Tampa Bay area, perhaps as early as 2010. Could you please tell us what steps we must follow in order to accomplish this. The closest tournaments are in Atlanta, GA and Ft. Lauderdale, and we would like to put Tampa on the map as well.—Dimitur Alipiev, Tampa Bay Backgammon Club

The tournament must be a minimum of two days in length held in a public establishment

[Continued on page 4]



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB

2009 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU XX XXX.

Lucky Nelson	14.76	Peter Kalba	4.24	Jacob Moreno	2.72	Mark Ostrovsky	1.16
Rory Paszar	14.62	Wayne Wiest	4.04	Nora Luna Righter	2.64	Paul Baraz	1.16
Herb Roman	11.28	Gary Kay	3.80	Jerry Brooks	2.56	Eric Johnson	1.08
Bob Steen	9.96	Albert Yakobashvili	3.68	Bill Keefe	2.16	Sonja Peacock	0.88
Howard Markowitz	8.32	Ken Bond	3.68	Dan Cox	2.00	Roz Ferris	0.80
Mike Wolock	7.64	Tim Mabee	3.60	Christopher Shanava	1.92	Dustin Lindgren	0.80
Carter Mattig	7.58	Michael Ginat	3.60	Roger Hickman	1.92	John Jennings	0.80
Mike Sutton	7.24	Larry Goldstein	3.36	Royal Robinson	1.92	Roy Cohen	0.68
David Rockwell	7.24	Tak Morioka	3.36	Jeff Fischer	1.64	Bob Pondelicek	0.60
Bill Davis	6.88	Alexander Medvedev	3.20	Richard Stawowy	1.56	Lindsay Mattig	0.56
Alice Kay	6.36	Dave Settles	3.08	Linda Rockwell	1.52	Barry Miller	0.56
Steve Klesker	6.36	Michael Minkovski	3.00	Scott Casty	1.36	Steve Hines	0.40
Bill Bartholomay	6.08	Alex Owen	2.92	Phil Simborg	1.28	Georgina Flanagan	0.32
Oleg Raygorodsky	5.84	Mike Pufpaf	2.80	Adrian Rios	1.20		

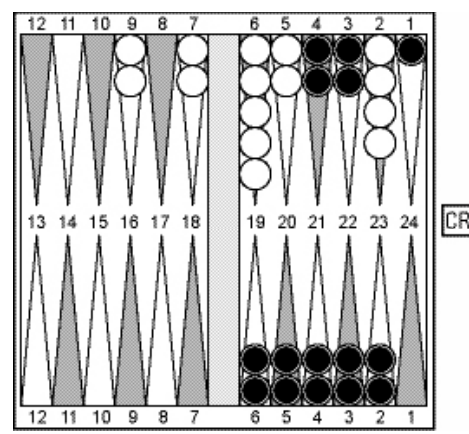
LUCKY NELSON cashed in every May event to earn 3.84 points to win the month. Runner’s-up were Rory Paszar (3.36) and Ken Bond (2.16).

your move

PROBLEM #346

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

9-point match. Black leads White 8 to 7 Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**



ASK DANNY

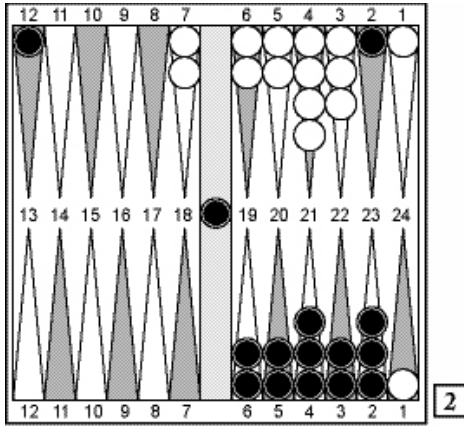


© 2009 by Danny Kleinman

SURVEY PROBLEM FROM THE PAST

Dear Danny: Many years ago, this was a survey problem in the *Gammon's of Chicago* newsletter:

Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**



Here is how the best players of the day weighed in:

Bar/23, 4/3: Les Bart, Kent Goulding, Bill Horan, Chuck Papazian

Bar/23, 13/12: Arthur Dickman, Vladimir Dobrich, Gaby Horowitz, Darrell Marcus, Chris Stanford, Jeff Ward

Bar/23, 2/1*: Nack Ballard, Lee Genud, Badei Khoury, Nick Maffeo, Joe Monro, Kathy Posner

Bar/24*, 13/11: Bob Holyon, Joe Neiman, Jim Pasko, Bill Robertie, Elliott Winslow, Tim Wisecarver

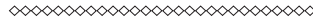
It's always fun to check expert opinion from the pre-Snowie past and this example is no exception. A survey of 23 nationally respected players and analysts conducted at the 1982 Chicago Open and Las Vegas Amateur Championships yielded the above answer assortment.

Note that only 22 names are listed. That's because you also gave an answer to this survey, Danny. What would your play be now and why?—Bill Davis

DEAR BILL: Many years ago, I favored a passive play, Bar/23, 13/12, hoping for White to crack immediately with awkward 5s, but now I think that I can wait for White to crack later and hitting is almost a must. Else White can escape with 6s and has a decisive 6-6 joker. As for where to hit, I

prefer to hit loose on my 1-point not only because I may be able to cover and close White out but also so I can enter with the 2 by anchoring on White's 2-point, which is a bulwark against White's 5s and from where my own escape will be easier. White can still crack immediately on 1-5 and 1-4 from the bar.

So I'd play Bar/23, 2/1*. Do I have enough reasons? If that's not enough, here's the clincher: how can a play favored by both Lee Genud and Nack Ballard be wrong?—*Yours, Danny*



You still must have the August 1982 CHICAGO POINT to know which play you voted for, Danny. Either that, or you possess an incredible memory!

Here are the results of a massive 2880 3-ply, precise Snowie rollout:

Bar/24*, 13/11: Wins 1.0% BGs, 16.7% gammons and 52% games. Loses 0.6% BGs, 12.3% gammons.

Bar/23, 4/3 (−0.013): Wins 0.4% BGs, 7.4% gammons and 54.5% games. Loses 0.2% BGs, 8.5% gammons.

Bar/23, 2/1* (−0.027): Wins 0.3% BGs, 7.5% gammons and 55.6% games. Loses 0.6% BGs, 12.0% gammons.

Bar/23, 13/12 (−0.044): Wins 0.3% BGs, 7.1% gammons and 53.4% games. Loses 0.3% BGs, 8.6% gammons.

So with regard to wins, you had it right. But the gammon wins swing the decision.

This survey led to some very strong differences of opinion. As we wrote back then:

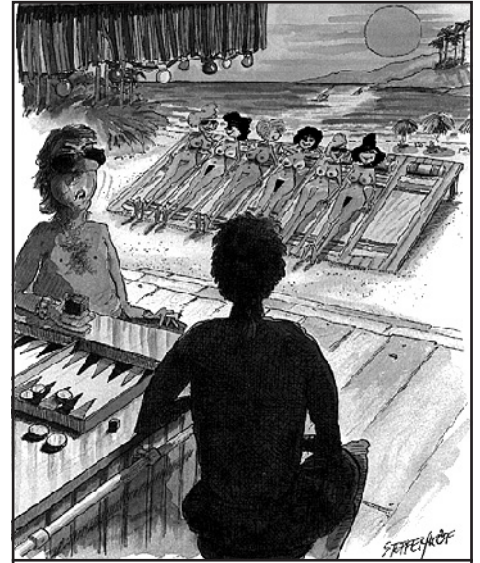
“Gaby Horowitz of Los Angeles defended the ‘no hit’ play with absolutes. Chicagoan Kathy Posner was just as sure about the correctness of entering on White’s 2-point and hitting loose on the 1-point. Jersey Jim Pasko, who favored Bar/24*, 13/11, took his certainty a step further by offering to play the set-up as a proposition.”

Jersey Jim’s comments—a master of the proposition—should have steered us to the correct move. But instead, we relied on our small sampling of 25 rollouts of each position and leaned towards Bar/23, 4/3.

A tip of the hat goes to Tim Wisecarver nearly 27 years after the fact. We referenced him in our write-up thusly: “... Tim Wisecarver (who faced the problem in actual play) reports that his extensive trials show Bar/24, 13/11 to be superior.”*

Backgammon is interesting now, but in a different way, it was even more interesting before Snowie.—Ed. Δ

'CAPTION THIS CARTOON' WINNER



I said I was counting 'pips.'

CHICAGO POINT readers proved that they are a creative lot with over clever 25 cartoon caption submissions. Seven ABT directors voted for their top three favorites generating the following results:

1. “I said I was counting ‘pips.’” (*Phil Simborg who wins a DGT 960 chess clock*)
2. “You feel like playing on a bigger set?” (*David Rubin*)
3. “Hey, I thought we agreed—no beavers!” (*Roy Cohen*)

Honorable mention goes to Robert Stoller’s late submission: “On a board like that, doing a pip count is a real pleasure!”

Thanks to all who participated. Δ

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

(preferably in an establishment with sleeping accommodations). Additionally, there is a \$25 registration fee. You can get more information at the ABT website. Click on “Explanation” at the top.—Ed.

BACKGAMMON ON BOARD?

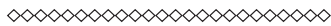
Do you know of any backgammon cruises coming up in the next year?—*David Friedman, via Internet*

It looks like Backgammon & Poker On Board X will sail in late January 2011. Watch the newsletter and website for details in the coming months.—Ed. Δ



BG Peeves

By Larry Liebster



TOURNAMENT DISTRACTIONS

Finally . . . I have a legitimate BG peeve! Saturday, April 18 at the Nevada State Championship in the Riviera Hotel pent-house ballroom, all play was suspended for the celebration of a birthday complete with two cakes, the singing of "Happy Birthday," and a short speech. I spoke with the organizer Jona Alexander and he said two more people had approached him suggesting that he also organize the celebration of their birthdays at future tournaments.

Where and when will it stop?



One of Larry's two 80th birthday cakes presented to him at the Nevada State Tournament. [Photos by Jona Alexander]

Anniversaries, baby-namings, bar mitzahs. Will we need a special committee scheduling these events far in advance?

The majority of people travel thousands of miles to play backgammon. Without their permission, they should not be forced to engage in an activity that they would probably avoid at home if it weren't for their four-year-old nephew.

When this happened, I was playing Bill Riles in the Seniors. I blame my loss to him on this interruption. As an aside, should not valid evidence have to be produced allowing one to play in the Seniors tournament? Bill still has down on his face.

Back to my original peeve. True, there were people singing and laughing during the interruption, but I was crying. I do not

know how many others were doing the same. The fact is that the cakes were in celebration of my 80th birthday, and it was a complete surprise to me.

Truth be told, it was one of the nicest things that ever happened to me. I want to thank all the people involved who allowed and supported this event, especially the organizer, Jona Alexander. I want to thank John O'Hagan for calling me a gentleman in the May CHICAGO POINT, even after he saw how I treat waitresses.



Larry Liebster cuts into one of his cakes.

The backgammon community is the most loving group of people I know. I have never seen adults of all ages and backgrounds have more fun at a minimal cost than I do at backgammon tournaments. Thank you all.—Larry Liebster Δ

2009 FLORIDA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

August 7-9, 2009

(Menkes Memorial, Thursday Aug. 6)

Sheraton Fort Lauderdale Airport

Featuring a full array of events.

Hotel Accommodations: Sheraton Airport (1825 Griffin Road., Dania (954/920-3500) is offering tourney participants the rate of \$90/night, (single or double occupancy). Reserve by July 22.

FREE SHUTTLE to and from the airport.

Information: Elayne Feinstein, Director
954/249-1416 -or- bginfla210@aol.com
charmcityopen.com/FLORIDA_ST.html



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.

CHICAGO BACKGAMMON ASSOCIATION: Tournaments Monday, 6:30 P.M. at The Parthenon; 314 S. Halsted, Chicago. Phil Simborg (312/543-0522) or Carter Mattig (312/493-2911).

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

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:00 P.M. at Capitol Teletrack, 1766 W. Wabash 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. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Sue Will (309/699-6005).

An 1890s Rule I Could Use



By
Duane
Jensen

Foster's Encyclopedia of Games is a gaming rule book compiled by Robert Foster in 1897. Published by F. A. Stokes Company (New York), the book gives a picture of backgammon in the gay nineties. The book is fully digitized, so if you want to check it out, use Google to search for “Foster’s Encyclopedia of Games,” then click on the “Google Books Result” link.

The backgammon section in *Foster's Encyclopedia of Games* gives this advice on playing a back game.

“As it is to the advantage of the forward player to avoid picking up men, the one who is behind can leave blots with great freedom, and may even spread his men so that some of them must be taken up. This intense back game is peculiarly American . . .”

Why was the backgame characterized as “peculiarly American”? Were Americans more daring, creative, and skillful than English backgammon players? Probably, but the Americans definitely played a different game than the English players across the sea. The 19th century Americans and English played by different laws and rules. In England, gammons and backgammons counted. In America, gammons and backgammons were treated as single point losses. Americans could fall back into a backgame without the penalty of losing two or three times the stakes.

Backgammon rules are dynamic and the backgammon laws in this 1897 book had some interesting and useful twists:

– Any man touched, except for the purpose of adjusting it, must be moved if the piece is playable. A player about to adjust a man must give due notice by saying, “J’adoube.” A man having been properly played to a certain point and quitted, must remain there.

– If a player throws off men before all his men are at home, the men so thrown off must be placed on the bar, and reentered in the adversary’s

home table, just as if they had been captured in the course of play. The same penalty attaches to throwing off men while one is on the bar.

– If the caster interferes with the dice in any way, or touches them after they have left the box, and before they come absolutely to rest and the throw is called by the caster, the adversary may place face upward on the die or dice so interfered with, any number he chooses, and the caster must play it as if thrown.

– Before playing, the throw must be announced by the caster, and if the throw is played as called it stands good, unless an error in the call is discovered before the dice have been touched for the purpose of putting them in the box again.

The last rule would be useful for me because I frequently misread the dice. “Announcing” the roll could eliminate any confusion.

I recall one of these situations many years ago when I was watching one of backgammon’s “Golden Boys.” Mr. X was definitely a backgammon rising star. He was intelligent, good-looking, and an expert player even at his young age. Mr. X was also selfish, whiney, annoying, and an all-around jerk.

Near the end of one game, both Mr. X and his opponent were in the bearoff. As the opponent was bearing off his men, he was running out of space to stack the checkers and began putting them across the bar in his outfield. When it was obvious to Mr. X that he was about to lose, he said to his opponent, “You know, those checkers are now in play and you’ll need to reenter them before you can continue bearing off.”

A tournament representative was called to give a ruling. This mediator was a well-respected, expert player. We would soon see if he had the *wisdom of Solomon* to judge this dispute.

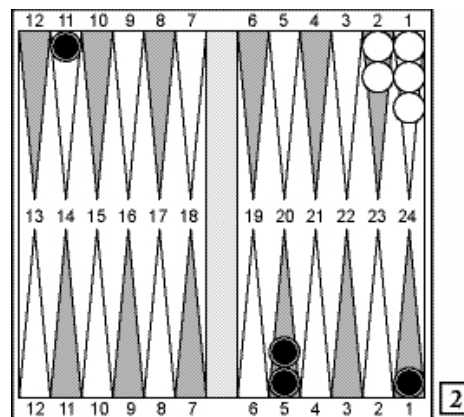
After hearing the details, he looked at Mr. X and said, “My first impression is that an inadvertent error was made and out of good sportsmanship and fairness you should ignore the mistake. However, if I read the rules strictly, I would be forced to rule in your favor and put the checkers back in play. Having said this, I want you to know that if you insist that I rule this way, you will *not* be welcome at any future tournaments with which I am associated. How would you like me to rule?”

Mr. X thought it over and decided that the checkers should stay off the board. He was a smart player and realized that it would be better to lose this skirmish and win bigger battles in the future.

The next day I had the opportunity to play Mr. X in a 5-point match. I was determined to play more carefully than usual and avoid any rules violations. I trailed

4-away, 3-away in this position:

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



I studied it for a minute and then played 14/12, 5/4. Mr. X then asked “Didn’t you roll 3-1?”

A friend who was watching the match confirmed that I’d misread the dice, playing 2-1 instead of 3-1. “Do you want me to replay the roll?” I asked.

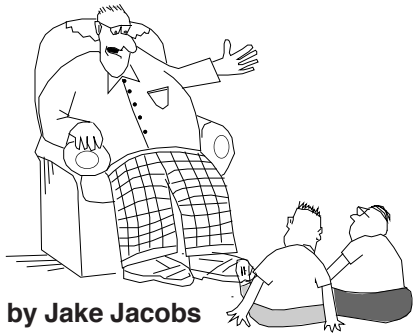
Yeah, sure, I knew Mr. X wasn’t going to give me an extra pip in this racing position, but he stunned me when he said that I could correct my move and play the 3-1. Had the stern lecture he received changed him? Was Mr. X now a generous, fair player who wanted to win the game with legal moves? I happily played 14/11, 5/4. But it made no difference in the outcome as I lost this game and later, the match.

Following my loss, I looked for a computer to see if I’d made the correct 3-1 play. (It might have been better to play 14/10 with the trailing checker.) The backgammon program GNUBG said that a roll of 3-1 played 14/11 5/4 put my match winning chances at 21.2%. If I played 14/10 my MWC were 21.3%, so I’d misplayed the 3-1. When I looked at the 2-1 I’d mistakenly played, I was surprised to see that playing 14/12 5/4 left MWC at 21.7%. The smaller 2-1 roll was better than a 3-1 because it enriched a possible following roll of 4-4 by taking two men off.

I had to rethink Mr. X’s apparent transformation. Was he being a nice guy by letting me replay the larger 3-1 roll, or was he so smart and quick that he realized a 3-1 was inferior to a 2-1? I will never know for sure, but I think Mr. X is much smarter than he is nice.

Mr. X rarely plays in tournaments now. He wasn’t banned; he just found greener pastures in the world of Texas Hold’em poker. He is still a Golden Boy, but now his star is rising in the poker world.—*Duane Jensen Δ*

SAFE OR SORRY?



by Jake Jacobs

Uncle Jake, why would I want to go to Thailand this summer?"

"It would give you a chance to see your cousin and babysit . . . I mean, spend some time getting to know her."

"But there's nothing to do there!"

"That's not what Uncle Glen said. He just came here for a visit. He asked me to show him something he couldn't see back home in Carpentersville. So I did. He may never eat a banana again!"

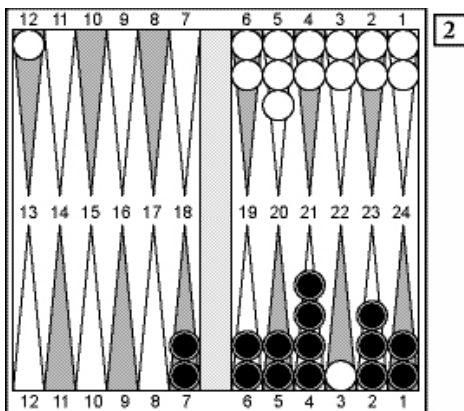
"Why's that, Uncle Jake?"

"Never you mind! There are some cultural opportunities you'll have to wait a few years to avail yourself of."

"But isn't Thailand dangerous?"

"Nick, anyplace is dangerous if you don't know what you are doing. Look here."

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



"Not a backgammon position!"

"Yes, a backgammon position. Looks safe for Black, right? So what's the hidden danger?"

"That White wins the race?"

"Not this time. It looks safe to pick and pass, but you won't like it if you roll a 4 next time. Clearing the barpoint is right. That's just what Michy did."

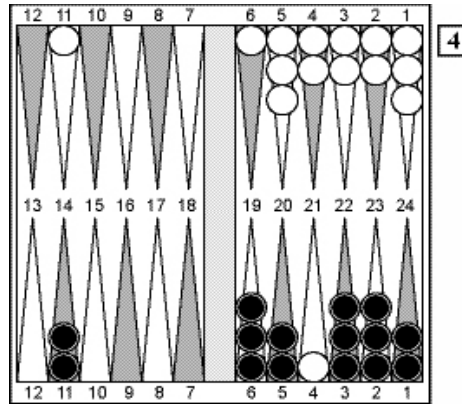
"Who's Michy? Is he Thai?"

"Thai? No, he's Japanese, and he just won the King of Backgammon crown."

"Okay, so if I am up in the race, I play safe. Now can I hear about the bananas?"

"Later. Besides, if you think that's all there is to it, what about this?"

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



"Okay, I play safe by going 6/1, 3/1."

"Yuck! That's a two-bagger play: put one bag over the board, and another over your face so no one knows you made it. You're only up fourteen pips after the roll, and you just wasted half of them."

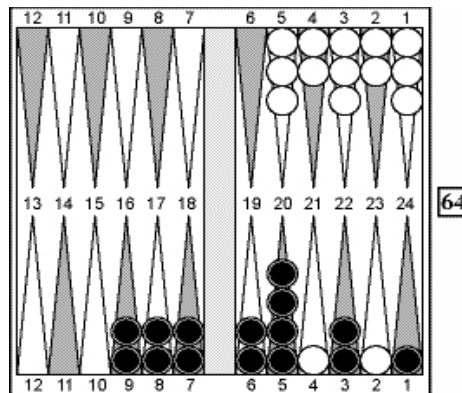
"So should I play 11/6, 3/1?"

"That's what the player did over the board. I'd tell you who it was, but it's still a one-bagger play and he was wearing it. Suffice it to say he did not go on to win the Super Jackpot. Not only does White have good racing chances, but that play leaves six shots. If you are going to leave shots, leave a few more and play 11/4*. Anything else is a blunder."

"Okay, so play bold if the race is close, and safe if it isn't."

"Fine, but the race is pretty close here."

15 point match. Black leads White 14 to 4, Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**



"Uncle Jake, I don't understand. Isn't making the prime the safest play? Are you saying I should do something else just because the race is close?"

"No, but over the board, the player looked at two other plays. First, he looked at 9/4*, 4/3. Then he looked at 8/3, 8/7."

"Those don't look like good plays!"
"They aren't, Nick. So instead he played 7/2*, 2/1. That's actually the second best play."

"It isn't a bad play?"

"It's a terrible play! It is an eighty-nine bag play."

"Eighty-nine bags?"

"There were eighty-nine people in the room at the time. Make a play like that and you better make sure everyone else has a bag over their head so they don't see it."

"Why did he play that way?"

"That's the danger, Nick. Sometimes you think you have everything covered, nothing can go wrong, and then: Bam! Out of nowhere you get hit in the eye with a banana."

"He got hit in the eye with a banana?"

"No. He only played like he did.

But Uncle Glen? He got hit with the banana."—Jake Jacobs Δ

CHICAGO OPEN...

[Continued from page 1]

event. Rory found a convenient and beautiful hotel that allowed him to have a daily hospitality spread. Additionally, his trophies were especially nice. And he scheduled three morning seminars (featuring Phil Simborg, Stick Rice, and Perry Gartner). We hope this event grows next year. Δ

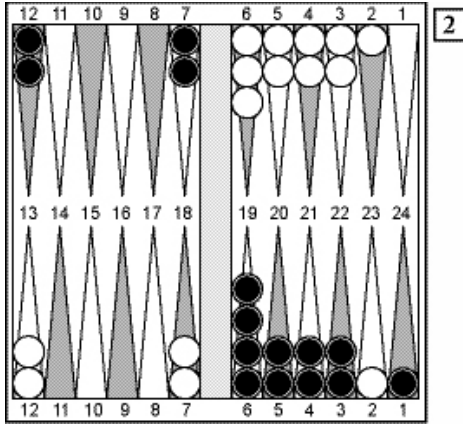
29th CHICAGO OPEN

OPEN (39+15 rebuys): 1-Larry Taylor (GA), 2-Ray Fogelund (CA), 3/4-Scott Casty (IL) / Bill Davis (IL); 1C-Stacy Turner (FL), 2C-Stick Rice (OH); 1LC-Bill Bartholomay (IL). INTERMEDIATE (26+8 rebuys): 1-Bill Calton (MI), 2-Alex Shoshoo (IL); 1C-Michael Flohr (IL), 2C-Brian Ross (GA); 1LC-Regina Ragelis (OH). NOVICE (8): 1-Adam Lusk (CO), 2-Robert Stoller (AK). MEMORIAL DAY MASTERS (16): 1-Bob Koca (MD), 2-Matt Cohn-Geier (IL). MASTERS OVERFLOW (4): 1-David Todd (MO). LIMITED JACKPOT (16): 1-Bill Bartholomay (IL), 2-Jacob Moreno (IL). SENIORS (32): 1-Bill Bartholomay (IL), 2-Albert Yakobashvili (IL). BLITZ (64): 1-Peter Carcieri (OH), 2-Lynn Lusk (CO). DOUBLES (18 teams): 1-Perry Gartner (FL) & Bob Koca (MD), 2-Alex Owen (IL) & Albert Yakobashvili (IL). PERRY GARTNER'S QUIZ (18): 1-Bob Koca (MD), 2-Robert Stoller (AK), 3-Lucky Nelson (IL). AFTER TOURNEY TOURNEY (16): 1-Farhad Forudi (OH), 2-Adrian Rios (IL).

PROBLEM #345 ANALYZED

by Paul Weaver

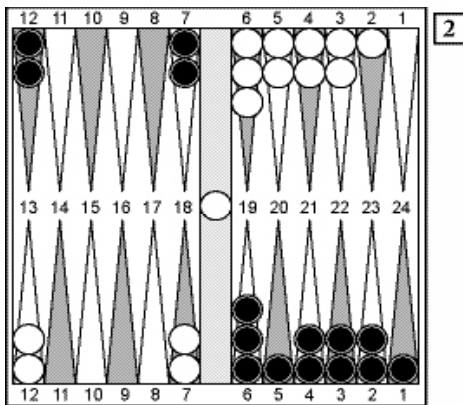
9-point match. White leads Black 6 to 5.
BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.



Black faces a difficult decision with his 4-3 in Problem 345. He has no safe play and White has her best four-point board. Three different plays are correct at different match scores.

At the given score, it is much more important for Black to be concerned about winning a gammon than losing one. He can therefore make more aggressive plays at this score than he would for money.

Position 1. White leads Black 6-5 to 9. Black rolled 4-3 and has played 6/2*, 5/2.

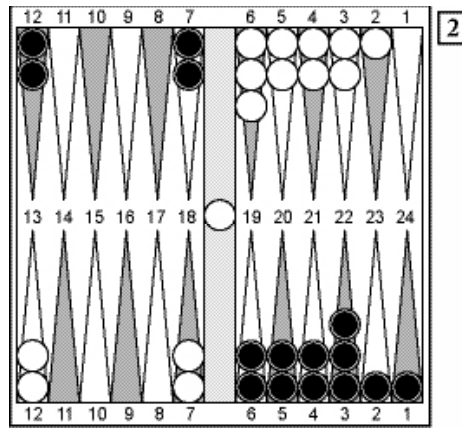


At the given score and at gammon go, the best play is 6/2*, 5/2 (shown above).

Breaking the 5-point to make the 2-point is a move that few players would find over the board. This play gives Black a good chance to close out White and win a gammon.

If White fans in Position 1, Black will make a five-point board with 26 numbers. If Black closes out one checker while White never moves again, Black's chance of winning a gammon is roughly 80%.

Position 2. White leads Black 6-5 to 9. Black rolled 4-3 and has played 6/2*, 6/3.

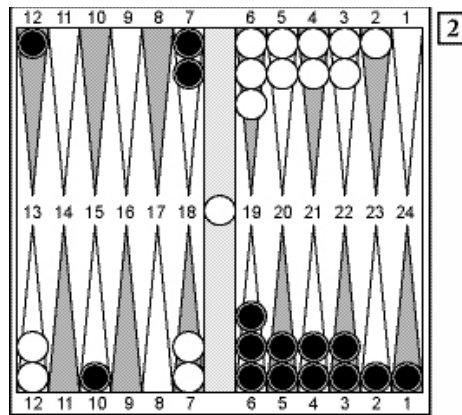


In Position 2, Black has played 6/2*, 6/3. This play (unlike 6/2*, 5/2 in Position 1) has the advantage of keeping a four-prime.

The disadvantage of 6/2*, 6/3 is that Black duplicates his aces (3/2 and 2/1), thereby reducing his chance of making a five-point board next roll. If White fans, Black has only 23 numbers that give him a five-point board, compared to 26 numbers in Position 1.

Another disadvantage of 6/2* 6/3 is that after Black gets hit in Position 2, he has some bad entries from the bar that expose an additional blot (3-1, 3-2, 4-1, 4-2, 5-1).

Position 3. White leads Black 6-5 to 9. Black rolled 4-3 and has played 6/2*, 13/10.

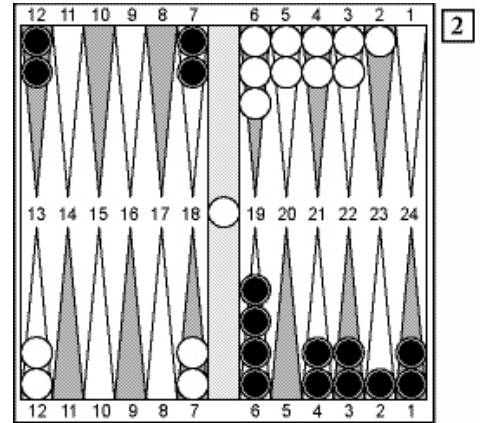


By playing 6/2*, 13/10, Black gives himself 34 numbers that make at least a five-point board. If Black knew that White would fan, 6/2*, 13/10 would be best by a clear margin.

White, however, is not a favorite to fan. White enters with 20 numbers and hits two or more blots with 12 of these entries. Black can often survive getting hit in Position 1, where White will hit at most one blot, but it is much more difficult for Black to survive after getting two blots hit in Position 3.

Black wins a few more gammons in Position 3 (compared to Position 1), but also loses more games and more gammons.

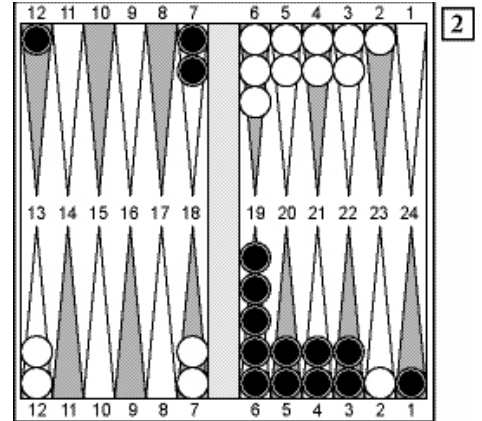
Position 4. White leads Black 6-5 to 9. Black rolled 4-3 and has played 5/2*, 5/1.



The play shown in Position 4 (5/2*, 5/1) is correct for money and at DMP. By removing both checkers from his 5-point, Black will have difficulty remaking this key point, closing his board and winning a gammon.

Black's gammon-winning chances are reduced from 28% in Position 1 to 23% in Position 4.

Position 5. White leads Black 6-5 to 9. Black rolled 4-3 and has played 13/6.



Position 5 shows the correct play (13/6) at gammon save. This anemic-looking move fails to hit and would be a serious error for money and at the given match score.

Black will win few gammons after making this play, but that is irrelevant at gammon save. If Black is hit and closed out, he will need 14 fewer pips to run off the gammon in Position 5 than in Positions 1, 2 and 4. This play also gives Black playable 6s if White misses.—Paul Weaver Δ

Paul Weaver and Nack Ballard are co-authors of Backgammon Openings—Book A. Available from www.flintbg.com for \$39 plus shipping.—Ed.

WINNER'S CIRCLE



MAY 2009

•**Golden Week BG Festival** (Tokyo, Japan, 1st Week of May)... **KING OF BACKGAMMON** (16): 1-Michy Kageyama, 2-Tatsuya Tanaka; 3/4-Kenji Shimodaira / Yusuke Itagaki. **DOUBLES** (8 teams): 1-Ed O'Laughlin (USA) & Serge Rived, 2-Satoshi Kubota & Poem Nishimura. **SUPER JACKPOT** (15): 1-Paul Weaver (USA), 2-Naoya Kihara.

•**Arizona Club Monthly** (Phoenix, AZ; 4 May)... **OPEN** (19): 1-Dave Cohen, 2-Dan Pelton, 3-Todd Crosner, 4-Jim Lowe.

•**Ohio State Club Monthly** (Akron, OH; 4 May)... **OPEN**: 1-Mike Hendrickson, 2-Mike Vasilatos.

•**Country Cups Trophy** (Hinckley Island, England (8-10 May)... **OPEN** (26): 1-Rachel Rhodes, 2-Chris Ternel, 3-Nicky Check, 4-Marcus Wrinch; 1C-Arthur Wright, 2C-Paul Gilbertson. **FRIDAY 500** (12): 1-Paul Gilbertson, 2-Jeff Bale. **POKER** (8): 1-Marcus Wrinch, 2-Paul Gilbertson. **TEAM** (8): 1-Richard Biddle, 2-Brian Metcalf.

•**Northwest Indiana Club Monthly** (Porter, IN; 9 May)... **OPEN**: 1-John O'Hagan.

Tampa Bay Club Monthly (Tampa Bay, FL; 9 May)... **ADVANCED**: 1-Andy Palumbo, 2-Jim Pascoe. **INTERMEDIATE**: 1-Jerry Kissel, 2-Ron Fandrick.

•**New England Club Monthly** (Malden, MA; 9 May)... **OPEN**: 1-Greg Jukins, 2-Tom O'Riordan; 3/4-Jacob Mashak / John Racoosin; 1C-Ed Ahola, 2C-Dan Chicoine.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 10 May)... **OPEN** (8): 1-Eli Turgell, 2-Gary Fishman.

•**4th TrueMoneyGames Portuguese Open-EBGT** (Estoril, Portugal; 14-17 May)... **MASTERS** (52): 1-Frans Bergi (Austria), 2-Freddie Noer (Denmark), 3/4-Steen Grønbech (Denmark) / Hugh McNeil (Canada); 1C-Andrea Wirth (Germany), 2C-Götz Hildsberg (Germany); 1LC-Costas Chiotinis (Greece). **INTERMEDIATE** (32): 1-David 'Moon' Ablett (England), 2-Cecilia Sparke (England), 3/4-Klaus Evers (Germany) / Jose Torres (Portugal); 1C-Gaz Owen (England), 2C-Christian Setzpfandt (Germany); 1LC-Marcus Wrinch (England). **WARM-UP** (54): 1-Peter Winkler (Austria), 2-Lars Nielsen (Denmark). **PRO/AM DOUBLES**: 1-João Borges & Eduardo Mendia Jr. (Portugal), 2-Hamza Nar & self (Turkey). **EXHIBITION MATCH**: 1-Danish Team Champs, 2-The Rest of the World. **SPORTSMANSHIP TROPHY**: Raj Jansari (England). **SPECIAL PLAYER TROPHY**: Hugh McNeil (Canada).

•**21st European Championship / 8th Velden Open** (Velden, Austria; 17-19 May)... **MASTERS** (27): 1-Christos Groutsos (Greece), 2-Michihito Kageyama (Japan), 3/4-Manos Mastorakis (Greece) / Marco Tamigi (Italy); 1C-Fabrizio Lo

AMALGAMATION

Thanks to **Tim Mabee** (IL) who filled in for us as Bar Point Club director on 5 May. And look for **Amy Trudeau** to be your director at Bar Point Club Sunday Backgammon on 7 June (12:00 noon). **Peter Kalba** (IN) and yours truly will be in Washington DC working the US Backgammon Open... A new dice-rolling machine "Dice-O-Matic" can make and record over 1.3 million dice rolls per day, supplying genuinely random results for an email-based card and strategy gaming service. See it in action at tinyurl.com/qvn5s... The Bar Point Club extend their prayers to **Phyllis Smolinski** (IL) who remains hospitalized with a serious illness... On 5 May, Financial Services Committee Chairman **Barney Frank** (D-MA) unveiled legislation that would enable Americans to bet online effectively repealing the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act. H.R. 2267, the Internet Gambling Regulation, Consumer Protection, and Enforcement Act of 2009 would establish a federal regulatory and enforcement framework under which Internet gambling operators could obtain licenses authorizing them to accept bets and wagers from individuals in the United States. Don't expect a vote until the fall... San Francisco to Chicago: **Matt Cohn-Geier** (at least for the summer)... Los Angeles Police paid a visit to the Playboy Mansion on 21 May responding to a "shots fired" complaint. At the time, **Hugh Hefner** was playing backgammon against his son **Marston**. According to TMZ.com, the threat was false and "the only shots being fired were of the backgammon variety"... American backgammon players know that **Patrick Gibson** is Gammon Associates' MFIC. But here's something you might

Surdo (Italy), 2C-Sava Nadazdin (Serbia), 3C/4C-Takis Chatzelis (Greece) / Ricardo Malas (Lebanon/Spain); 1LC-Masayuki Mochizuki (Japan), 2LC-Nihat Sorguven (Turkey). **Ladies Prize**: Angelina Charakoglu (Greece). **CHAMPIONS** (27): 1-Helmut Gerdenits (Austria), 2-Ali Serif Rende (Turkey), 3/4-Neculai Draganuta (Romania) / Scarlett Serrero (France); 1C-Ferat Gundogan (Turkey/Germany), 2C-Andrea Riebler (Austria), 3C/4C-Markus Kuntaritsch (Austria) / Antonio Iaquinta (Italy); 1LC-Kristoffer Hötzeneder (Austria), 2LC-Walter Jarc (Canada/Slovenia). **Ladies Prize**: Scarlett Serrero (France). **INTERMEDIATE** (25): 1-Inge Pfettrisch (Germany), 2-Rodica Pacuraru (Romania), 3/4-Alberto da Pra (Italy) / Mahmoud Taha (Egypt/Austria); 1C-Takanori Ito (Japan), 2-Michael Christofides (Greece), 3/4-Dursun Cetin (Turkey) / Rudolf Prohaska (Austria); 1LC-Seda Koc (Turkey), 2LC-Flavio Bordin (Italy).

not have known. Patrick just returned from a 50th anniversary reunion of his University of Southern California track team. Way back then, Patrick participated in high hurdles as well as the high jump (best 5' -10") and long jump (best 22' -0")... Oops! We forgot to include that 1977 Love Boat picture of **Jaclyn Smith** and **Dennis Cole** playing backgammon... There's a new backgammon app for



Jaclyn Smith and Dennis Cole playing backgammon on "The Love Boat" in 1977. The couple married for real in 1978.

the iPhone: "Backgammon Position Cards." The app is great for long term position storage. Check it out at backgammonpositions.com. \$4.99 from **Hiroyuki Kitago**... The 2009 World Series of Poker is up and running in Las Vegas at the Rio Hotel. Will keep you posted if any backgammon players cash... Former **James Bond** actor **Roger Moore** attended the 28 May British Film Institute celebration honoring the late Bond producer **Cubby Broccoli**. Moore stated that he and Broccoli used to play backgammon on the Bond sets during filming breaks. The two first met in 1962 in London at the White Elephant gaming club. "Where else is a potential Bond going to meet the producers, except over a gaming table?" Δ

Ladies Prize: Inge Pfettrisch (Germany). **LADIES TOURNAMENT** (10): 1-Scarlett Serrero (France), 2-Inge Pfettrisch (Germany). **SUPER JACKPOT #1** (8): 1-Werner Schmuck (Austria), 2-Peter Raugust (Germany). **#2** (8): 1-Masayuki Mochizuki (Japan), 2-Hamza Nar (Turkey). **WARM-UP** (27+29): 1-Thomas Löw (Germany), 2-Stefan Bobenhausen (Germany). **SPERTI TROPHY** (30+22): 1-Dursun Cetin (Turkey), 2-Hormoz Shahrokhshahi (Iran/Germany). **ONE-POINT MATCH PRESIDENT'S TOURNEY #1**: Dursun Cetin (Turkey). **#2**: Neculai Draganuta (Romania). **6th EUROPEAN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP** (18 teams): 1-Francesco Grimaldi (Italy) & Mario Sequeira (Portugal), 2-Kristoffer Hötzeneder (Austria) & Thomas Leitner (Austria).

•**Casinorip.com London Open** (London, England; 29-31 May)... **OPEN** (56): 1-Julian Fetterlein, 2-Uli Koch; 1C-Barry McAdam, 2C-Jon Barnes. Δ

WORLDWIDE BACKGAMMON FEDERATION

is proud to present the



Le Ruhl Casino Barrière de Nice

Nice - France

Friday 10th - Sunday 12th July, 2009

Le Ruhl Double Consulting Tournament
Thursday 9th July, 2009

Warm-up, Sperti Trophy, Quarter entries, Jackpots & One Point Matches
Wednesday 8th - Thursday 9th July, 2009

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

*To be announced at the Tournament under the Presidency of Alberto An Pro,
President of the Worldwide Backgammon Federation*

DIRECTOR

Marcu Furnasir

sanctioned by the WBF - Worldwide Backgammon Federation

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