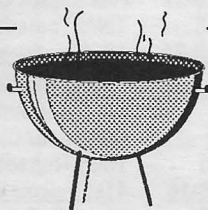


DONG DONG JU

by Jake Jacobs



You've never had Dong Dong Ju? You're in for a real treat. With good Dong Dong Ju, you don't feel drunk, it just sort of *sneaks* up on you, and before you know it, you're *charged* with energy. You just want to get up and dance!"

Actually, the way Fast Freddie's fists were clenched, it looked more like he was standing up to fight. The Korean customers nearest us slid down the picnic table bench to the other end of the tent to get away from the crazy foreigner.

I was interested in trying Dong Dong Ju. I systematically study those things that stimulate the pleasure centers of the brain and am always willing to sacrifice some fresh and unsuspecting nerve endings on the altar of science. Besides, I had an ulterior motive for trailing along—one of my friends was toting a backgammon board.

"I'm the champion of Seoul!" he had announced. The championship had taken place in his living room.

"He's a lucky wanker!" proclaimed his roommates who had placed in the top five themselves, it being a five-man tournament. Now I was ready to dethrone the king of Korean backgammon, or at least mount a raid on his exchequer. But to do so, I had to join the group in its quest for Dong Dong Ju.

Dong Dong Ju is a type of a rice wine. Apparently it is homemade. Typically, it is found in the countryside, served from tubs, not from bottles. We, however, did not have to travel far for our Dong Dong Ju. One of our group had found a vatful in a tent just across the street from Kentucky Fried Chicken. Every night, when the sun goes down, the tents go up. The lamps inside light up the canvas like large glow worms. They are the cheapest places to eat and drink in Korea, and offer the freshest and most interesting foods—dinner is often still crawling or wriggling or squishing around when you arrive.

The champion and I set up his board

and began to play. We sipped our Dong Dong Ju from plastic bowls, and concentrated on our game while the others conversed around us.

"So, when the German guy came out of the bar, there were about ten of those little kids waiting for him, and they stabbed him to death!" said Freddie. Something about how much fun Manila was.

Ten happened to be the number of pips the champion was down when he doubled me. Of course, if he had waited until *after* he rolled his three sets of doubles, I probably wouldn't have taken.

"It was a unit of the Thai army made us

get off the train. 'It's no problem,' they said, 'just insurgency.' Then they called in the air strike!"

"Hey, look at this!" Stewart, the man who had discovered this place, had made another discovery. When he stuck his chopsticks into a fresh pitcher of our Dong Dong Ju, they came out only half wet.

"I'm not cheating you *because* you are nice guys . . ." At this moment the proprietor could have used the services of a good English teacher. Unfortunately, he had just alienated a tentful of them.

"Wasn't real Dong Dong Ju anyway," said Freddie. "It was just Makkoli." Another dream shattered.

Stewart claimed to know another spot, one with guaranteed, real Dong Dong Ju, so we set off. Stewart, by the way, was the most notorious member of our group. He was the model on the boxes of men's

[Continued on page 6]

REPEAT PERFORMANCE



The Pub Club (Villa Park, IL) bested seven Illinois backgammon clubs 28 February in Oak Brook, IL to win their second State Challenge Cup title in a row. Story on page 3.

Pictured clockwise from upper left: Sarg Serges, Kurt Schurecht, director Val Zimnicki, Steve Tennant, Bob Ebbeler and Lou Salzman.

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT
2726 W. Lunt Avenue
Chicago, IL 60645-3039

IN DEFENSE OF BACKGAMMON IN A WEEK

I find a rather arrogant tone in Steve Manning's highly critical opinion of Robin Clay's new book, *Backgammon In A Week*. [See "Letters," Issue 55.] Personally, I am only too happy to read *any* backgammon material and have found quite a few bits and pieces in this book to justify its modest cost.

There seem to be many players of high rank who think that introductory books and basic guides are above them. They are the worse for this attitude, and I am the better! Once or twice a year, I will reread Paul Magriel's masterpiece *Backgammon* just to remind myself of some of the basics yet again.

It is always a good exercise to tease out errors rather than accept all print as gospel truth. I hope that more *constructive* minds will sniff out the errors in *Backgammon In A Week* and help towards creating a more accurate edition.

By the way, Mr. Manning's letter suffers from awkward grammar in its use

[Continued on page 7]

coming attractions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole
313/232-9731

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

1993 American BG Tour events underlined.

Mar 12-14	<u>Boston Open. Sheraton Commander Hotel. Cambridge, MA</u>	617/262-0173
Mar 14*	Cleveland Area Club Tournament, Travelodge Hotel, Mentor, OH	216/663-7332
Mar 13-14	MDA Benefit Tournament, Solvang Holiday Inn Resort, Buellton, CA	800/638-8882
Mar 16-17*	Rex's Black Orchid J&B Tournament, Restaurant Row, Honolulu, HI	808/521-3111
Mar 18	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Mar 19-21	<u>1993 Midwest Championships. Marriott Hotel. Oakbrook, IL</u>	<u>312/338-6380</u>
Apr 3	Springfield Series #6, Davy Byrnes Restaurant, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Apr 4	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Apr 4	Crestmoor Club Monthly Tourney, Crestmoor Downs Apts., Denver, CO	303/388-8849
Apr 15	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Apr 16-18	<u>41st Indiana Open. Omni North Hotel. Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/845-8435</u>
Apr 17	Springfield Series \$1000 Bonus Tourney, Davy Byrnes, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Apr 17	College Park Spring Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0603
Apr 18	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/262-0173
Apr 21	Rscards Spring Computer Modern Tournament, GENie	800/638-9636
Apr 23*	Greater NY Club Awards Night V, Woodbury Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	516/334-4833
Apr 25*	Austin BG Assn. Quarterly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/280-5945
Apr 30-May 2	<u>14th Granite State Open & Team Tourney. Woodbound Inn. Jaffrey, NH</u>	<u>603/863-4711</u>
May 2	Crestmoor Club Monthly Tourney, Crestmoor Downs Apts., Denver, CO	303/388-8849
May 2*	Pittsburgh Club Sunday Tournament, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA	412/823-7500
May 15-16*	<u>Spring Gran Prix. Embassy Suites Hotel. La Jolla, CA</u>	<u>619/294-2007</u>
May 16*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/262-0173
May 28-31	<u>14th Chicago Open. Sheraton Suites Hotel. Elk Grove Village, IL</u>	<u>708/674-0120</u>
Jun 13*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Jun 13*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/262-0173
Jul 2-4	<u>Michigan Summer Championships. Novi Hilton. Novi, MI</u>	<u>313/232-9731</u>
Jul 9-11	<u>College Park Summer Championships. Promenade. Bethesda, MD</u>	<u>301/530-0603</u>
Jul 30-Aug 1	<u>Pine Tree Point Tournament. Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Aug 9-15	<u>Green Mountain Festival of Backgammon. Stratton Mountain Inn. VT</u>	<u>305/527-4033</u>
Aug 27-29*	<u>30th Gammon Associates Invitational. Cavendish West Hollywood, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Sep 3-6*	<u>National Labor Day Tournament. Radisson Hotel. Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/845-8435</u>
Oct 1-3	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament. Turin, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Oct 6-10	<u>3rd Illinois State Championships & America Cup. Hyatt Deerfield, IL</u>	<u>708/945-7801</u>
Oct 29-31	<u>New Hampshire Fall Classic. Sheraton Tara Wayfarer. Bedford, NH</u>	<u>603/863-4711</u>
Nov ?	<u>Autumn Gran Prix. Embassy Suites Hotel. La Jolla, CA</u>	<u>619/294-2007</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Mar 11-14	29th Ted Bassett & Gstaad Palace-Cup, Palace Hotel Gstaad, Switzerland	061/50 58 16
Mar 12-14	1993 Rosendahl Open Tournament, Hotel Rosendahl, Tampere, Finland	35831/654400
Mar 14-17	4th Carlsberg Backgammon Cup, Nation's Cafés throughout Denmark	039/400607
Mar 18-21*	19th Winter Championships, Badrut's Palace, St. Moritz, Switzerland	061/331 58 16
Mar 19-21	Brazilian BG Assoc Tournament, Hotel Rosa dos Ventos, Rio de Janeiro	5521/267 6033
Mar 23-28*	Casino de Vilamoura Portuguese Championship, Hotel Ampalius, Portugal	4421/440 3428
Mar 28	1993 South Australian Open, Unley Citizens Centre, Unley, So. Australia	08/373 2580
Mar 29*	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846 1923
Apr 1-4*	Düsseldorf Open 1993, Hotel Antana, Kaarst, Germany	492151/503591
Apr 3-4	British Isles Open 1993 Trophy Tourney, Lawn Complex, Lincoln, England	0522/53 68 36
Apr 5	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846 1923
Apr 9-12	5th Nordic Open Championships, Hotel Marinelyst, Elsinor, Denmark	039/40 06 07
Apr 28-May 2	2nd Tournament of the Américas, Cariari Hotel, San José, Costa Rica	312/252-7755
Apr 29-May 2	Brazilian BG Assoc Tournament, Hotel Meridien, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	5521/267 6033
May 3*	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846 1923
May 5-10	1993 Backgammon In Paradise, Plantation Club Hotel, Mahé, Seychelles	212/687-9766
May 5-11*	World Series of Backgammon, Carnival's Crystal Palace, Nassau	800/822-2946
May 20-23*	Acapulco Festival of Backgammon, Acapulco Sheraton Hotel, Mexico	818/901-0464
May 26-29*	1st Israeli Open Championship 1993, Tel Aviv, Israel	3120/625477
May 29-30	BIBA Trophy Tournament No. 2, George Hotel, Solihull, England	0522/53 68 36
Jun 1-6*	British Invitational Championships, Rock Hotel/International Casino, Gibraltar	52/818926
Jun 3-6	Brazilian BG Assoc Tournament, Hotel Meridien, Rio do Janeiro, Brazil	5521/267 6033
Jun 25-27*	5th International City of Venice Tournament, Casinò Municipale, Italy	041/5211029
Jun 30-Jul 4	Mitteuropa BJ & Backgammon Tourney, Casino Nova Gorica, Slovenia	392/48019343
Jul 10-11*	The Hilton National, Hilton Hotel, East Midlands Airport, England	0522/53 68 36
Jul 15-18*	European Championships, Hotel des Ambassadeurs, Menton, France	392/48019343
Jul 19-25*	18th World Backgammon Championship, Hotel Loews, Monte Carlo, Monaco	33/9330 9931
Jul 29-Aug 1*	Riviera's Cup Championship, Hotel Martinez, Cannes, France	331/4288 6645

PUB CLUB EDGES BAR POINT CLUB AGAIN—WINS ILL. CHALLENGE CUP

The Pub Club, a close-knit Chicagoland team, hung on to defeat Chicago Bar Point Club 23-22 to win the 13th Illinois State Challenge Cup. The annual event was held at the Braxton Seafood Grill in Oak Brook on 28 Feb. Seven clubs from across Illinois participated.

The Pub Club victory was achieved with balance, including strong 5-1 records from Kurt Schurecht and rookie Lou Salzman, whose victory over Tim Serges in the final round iced the contest. Rounds 2 and 3, where the Pubbers went 12-0 provided the cushion for victory.

Val Zimnicki, director of the Pub Club (meeting Monday nights at Fiddler's in Villa Park), noted that the 23-22 margin over the Bar Point Club was identical to last year's upset victory. He was pleased that the Club once again lived up to its motto: "For The Glory."

Special congratulations to the Bloomington-Normal Club for achieving their highest finish ever, and to CBPC player Gary Kay: the only individual to achieve a perfect 6-0 record. Results: Δ

Pub Club-23

V.W. Zimnicki	3
Bob Ebbeler	3
Kurt Schurecht	5
Sarg Serges	4
Lou Salzman	5
Steve Tennant	3

Chgo Bar Point Club-22

Gary Kay	6
Don Jayhan	4
David Rubin	3
Deeb Shalati	3
Stu Katz	2
Mary Franks	4

Bloomington-Normal Club-19

Lane O'Connor	3
Jim Zimmerman	3
Cliff Mayoh	3
Randy Reiff	3
William Huchison	4
Gary Daniels	3

Central Illinois Club-18

Sue Will	3
John McCabe	3
Ed Zell	2
Doc Rushford	4
Milad Doueihy	4
Linda Woods	2

Prime Club-17

Ira Hoffberg	1
Yamin Yamin	4
Marcy Sloan	4
Howard Markowitz	4
John Brussel	2
Paul Franks	2

Winnetka Club-15

Ed Buerger	2
Trudie Stern	0
Leslie Lockett	3
Ralph Levy	1
Tim Serges	4
Jolie Lewis	5

Sangamon Valley Club-12

Greg Tomlin	2
Mark Kaye	3
John Jennings	1
Ben Zemaitis	3
Gary Schecter	2
Larry Whittenburg	1

Previous Illinois Winners

1981: Gammon's of Chgo
1982: Gammon's of Chgo
1983: Gammon's of Chgo
1984: Gammon's of Chgo
1985: Chgo Bar Point Club
1986: Central Illinois Club
1987: Chgo Bar Point Club
1988: Chgo Bar Point Club
1989: Chgo Bar Point Club
1990: Chgo Bar Point Club
1991: Central Illinois Club
1992: Pub Club
1993: Pub Club



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1993

Standings through 28 February 1993
2 tournaments recorded



Woody Woodson 21.12	John Rockwell 3.96	Nayan Shah 2.90	Farzan Garmroodi 1.32
David Hochron 14.40	Norm Wiggins 3.96	Michael Sharp 2.50	David MacBryde 1.32
Jorgen Granstedt 9.69	Carol Joy Cole 3.60	Carol Falk 1.35	Peter Zacks 1.32
Dave Orandle 7.20	Perry Gartner 3.60	Al Levien 1.35	Johnnie Roberts 1.25
Ron Weingrad 7.20	Denny Leatherman 2.90	Ray Fogertlund 1.32	Dan Bloch 0.65
Marty Kohler 5.85			

February ABT tournaments included in standings: Pittsburgh Charity Tournament (19-21 Feb.), Gammon Associates 29th Invitational (26-28 Feb.). ABT events scheduled for March: Boston Open (12-14 March), 1993 Midwest Championships (19-21 March).



1993 CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 28 FEB.

NEIL KAZAROSS 9.12	ALAN ZIMMERMAN 2.32	Bill Davis 1.08	Marty Tatosian 0.60
JAKE JACOBS 7.92	ALEX ITKIN 2.16	Arlene Levy 1.04	Richard Beagarie 0.56
YAMIN YAMIN 4.80	PHYLLIS SMOLINSKI 2.12	Phil Simborg 0.96	Paul Franks 0.56
TAK MORIOKA 3.92	MARY FRANKS 1.92	Stan Kucharz 0.96	Graham Sievers 0.48
DANNY DEROCHE 3.84	PAUL FRIEDMAN 1.92	Howard Ring 0.88	J.A. Miller 0.40
GARY KAY 3.68	TIM SERGES 1.76	Lou Salzman 0.88	Steve Katz 0.36
TIM MABEE 3.44	DON DESMOND 1.60	Dave Cramer 0.88	Harry Hayward 0.32
DON JAYHAN 3.44	STEVE GRUBART 1.60	Bobbie Shifrin 0.88	Alice Kay 0.28
DAVID RUBIN 3.08	Georgina Flanagan 1.52	Ed Buerger 0.88	Peter Kalba 0.24
DEEB SHALATI 2.56	Jolie Lewis 1.48	Ralph Levy 0.88	Mike Spiropoulos 0.24
HERB ROMAN 2.56	Larry Strommen 1.12	Andy Krenitz 0.80	John Meyers 0.20
STU KATZ 2.56	Tony Schroeder 1.08	Richard Stawowy 0.64	

JAKE JACOBS AND DANNY DEROCHE (Flint Area Backgammon Club's 1992 Player of the Year) tied for February Chicago Bar Point Club top honors earning 3.84 points each. Don Jayhan and Tim Mabee tied for 3rd/4th, both earning 3.44 points.

If you finish in the Top 20 for 1993 (capitalized names on list), you'll be entered in a drawing for over \$300 worth of valuable merchandise. The higher you finish, the better your winning chances. Individual awards: 1st—Trophy + \$200, 2nd—\$125, 3rd—\$75. 1st through 20th—engraved doubling cube. 1st through 6th—Invitation to participate in the 1994 Illinois State Challenge Cup as a member of the Chicago Bar Point Club team.

The New England Backgammon Club presents

The Boston Open

March 12-14, 1993

\$2,000 ADDED MONEY

Sheraton Commander Hotel
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Linc Bedell (603) 863-4711

Rick Barabino (617) 262-0173

100% RETURN

NO LATE

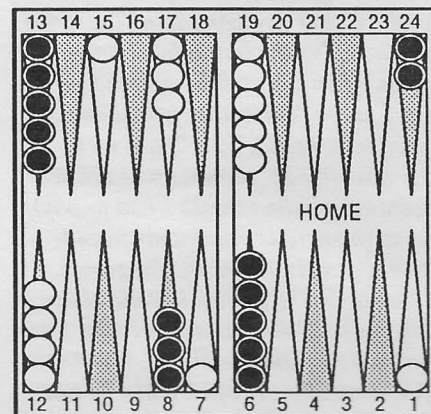
REGISTRATION FEE



your move

PROBLEM #191

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



64

ASK DANNY



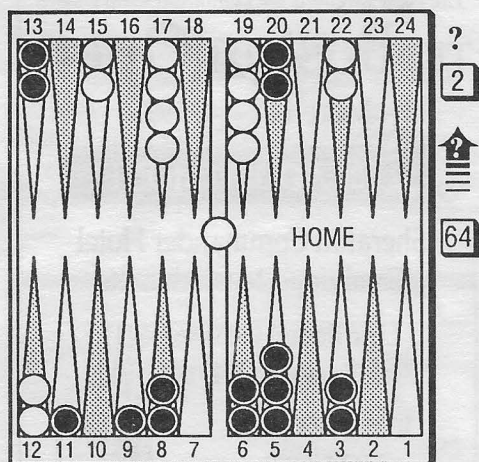
by Danny Kleinman

MAXIMIZING YOUR ROLLOUTS

Dear Danny: When I play money games with a good friend of mine, we often play what I call "propo-money." Whenever a double is offered, both players simultaneously declare their opinion on whether or not the cube is a take. If there is agreement, the game goes on as usual. But when the players disagree, the side advocating a take gets five points from the other and must play the doubled side for five games.

Recently, the following position occurred at the end of a long session:

Money game. Black doubles. **SHOULD WHITE ACCEPT?**



Playing the Black pieces, I doubled and we both had to make a "propo-money" decision. I secretly put a die in my right hand, rather certain that the position was a pass. My friend thought for 30 seconds before bringing his closed hand above the table. To my surprise, he opened up an empty hand (signifying a take).

We played our five games and I lost one or two points plus the initial five I had to pay. Hmm. After a deeper look at the position, I asked for another five games. I don't want to bore you with "hard luck stories," but after 25 games, I was down forty points (including the 25 I had to pay).

My judgment tells me that my friend plays better than I; I think in 100 games, I would lose about 15 points. But the above result shows that White is actually the favorite, and this can't be!

A few days later, I rolled it out 72 times with the following results:

Black won:

24 plain games with the cube at 2 = +48

2 plain games with the cube at 4 = +8

16 gammons with the cube at 2 = +64

Black lost:

21 plain games with the cube at 2 = -42

9 plain games with the cube at 4 = -36

Net Total = +42

My friend did a 1296 rollout using "Expert Backgammon" with similar results: less gammons, but more plain game victories with nearly the same equity.

I'm beginning to doubt my ability to understand easy positions. Nearly everything counts for Black: White is on the bar, Black has an advanced anchor, some priming potential and the better home board in quality and quantity. The race is even, and all that White can hope for are a few direct or indirect shots that are far from decisive.

Perhaps it's that our rollouts haven't shown the exact equity of this position (but 42 points in 72 games is far from a pass). Then again, maybe this position is cursed.—Achim Müller, Rheine, Germany

DEAR ACHIM: Everything you say sounds reasonable to me, but I do not think this—or any other—position is accursed.

Though 42 points in 72 games (a mean of +0.58) may appear a fair measure of worth for this position, the standard deviation is huge. To express the best estimate of Black's expectation in 72 games, statisticians might write $+42 \pm 48$ (two standard deviations, representing about 95% "confidence interval"). Thus the best estimate for Black's per-game equity is +0.58 (barely a double); hence, your rollouts are "compatible" with a true equity of +1.25 (clear pass) and -0.08 (beaver).

Your friend's 1296 computer rollouts, if they yield the same apparent equity, suggest a narrower range, $+0.58 \pm 0.16$, or between +0.42 (no double) and +0.74 (clear take).

Nonetheless, I think the position slightly more favorable to Black than the computer rollouts suggest. Why? Because even a pretty decent computer program like "Expert Backgammon" makes errors that you and your friend would not. The most difficult decisions, I suspect, will involve breaking anchor and leaving combination shots, and these will be Black's.

Your appraisal of the position appears almost perfect. Nearly everything *does* count for Black. You omit the one feature of the position that counts for White, however. Black has two men back, White only one.

Does this compensate for the many advantages you cite for Black? Certainly

not. But it may give White enough winning chances to justify a take.

That is what you should be seeking to learn in your rollouts (obviously, only the games you roll out yourself, not the invisible computer rollouts). *How* does White win the games she does? By entering promptly, avoiding getting hit again, and outracing Black? With early "fly shots" (e.g. Black makes the 2-point with 6-3, then White rolls 4-5 from the bar)? By pouncing on Black's blot when Black breaks anchor later?

In a mere 72 rollouts, you cannot hope for an adequate estimate of Black's equity. But don't waste those rollouts. Use them to obtain insights about the problems Black is likely to encounter on the road to victory, and a more accurate appraisal of the significance of each feature of the position. Then try altering the position slightly to see the impact of each feature. Move Black's blot just one pip forward, from the 11-point to the 10-point (where it becomes a builder for the vital 4-point). I suspect that your results will change dramatically (perhaps suggesting a pass instead of a take) as most of Black's 6s and some of his 3s play much better.

If you milk your rollouts maximally, then you—not I—are the expert on this position.—Yours, Danny Δ

Questions for Danny Kleinman should be addressed to: Ask Danny, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 2726 W. Lunt Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645-3039.



ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis
312/338-6380
Peter Kalba
312/276-4144

Tuesday, 6:45 P.M. at Pat's Pub, 4343 N. Harlem Ave., Norridge 708/457-1166.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:30 P.M. at Braxton Seafood Grill, 3 Oakbrook Center Mall, Oak Brook 708/574-2155.

PUB CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 7:30 P.M. at Fiddler's, 345 W. North Ave., Villa Park. V.W. Zimnicki (708/378-5205.)

SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at On Broadway, 210 S. Broadway, Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tourn. 1st/3rd/5th Tuesday, 6:15 P.M. at Ride The Nine, 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. Lane O'Connor (309/454-1947).

WINNETKA BG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. at 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Stern (708/446-0537).

CENTRAL ILL. BG CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Chi-Chi's, 4415 N. Rockwood, Peoria. Sue Will (309/692-6909).

PRIME BG CLUB OF CHICAGO: Tourn. Friday, 7:00 P.M. at TJ's Lounge, Radisson Hotel, 4500 W. Touhy, Lincolnwood. Joann Feinstein (708/674-0120).

NORTH CLUB: Daily side play except Sunday at 4747 W. Peterson (402), Chicago. Greg Defotis (312/286-8417).



GRIZZLY BEAR-OFF 2 THE CLAWS OF DEATH

A Chicago Point Contest
by Dean Muench

In March, 1989, the "Grizzly Bear-Off" Contest appeared on the pages of CHICAGO POINT. Now Dean Muench brings you another dose of horror. This time, you'll need more than luck to survive.

1st Prize: \$50 / 2nd Prize: One Year Subscription to CHICAGO POINT

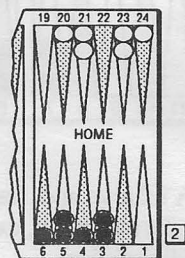
Instructions: Black is always on roll in a money game. Expectancies are rounded off to six decimal places. Probabilities are rounded off to three decimal places. Send your answers along with your name and address to CHICAGO POINT; 2726 W. Lunt Ave.; Chicago, IL 60645-3039. Or you can Fax them to 312/338-6384. **Entries must be received by 2 April 1993.** Ties will be broken by random draw. The decision of Dean Muench and CHICAGO POINT is final.

1 Consider all possible 6 vs. 6 bearoff positions (with the cube centered) that are proper doubles and takes. What is the average probability of winning for the side on roll?

- (A) +0.677 (B) +0.687
(C) +0.697 (D) None of these

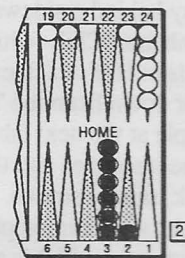
2 Which side has the highest expectancy in points?

- (A) Black
(B) White
(C) Both equal
(D) None of these

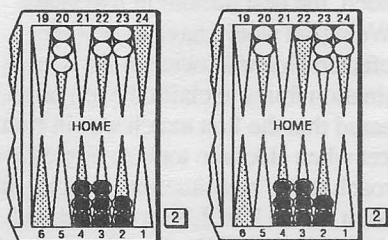


3 What is the correct cube action for this position?

- (A) No redouble
(B) Redouble and take
(C) Redouble and drop
(D) None of these



4 In which position does Black have the highest probability of winning?



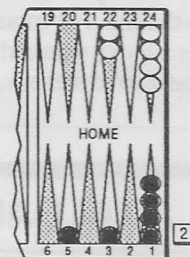
- (A) First (B) Second
(C) Both equal (D) None of these

5 There are 490,816 bearoff positions having six checkers or less vs. six checkers or less that are proper initial doubles. How many of these physical positions would *not* also be proper redoubles should the side on roll own the cube?

- (A) 21,188 (B) 22,188
(C) 23,188 (D) None of these

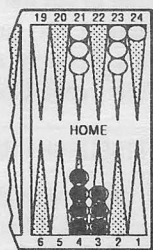
6 What is the probability of Black winning this proper redouble-and-take position?

- (A) +0.601
(B) +0.629
(C) +0.636
(D) None of these

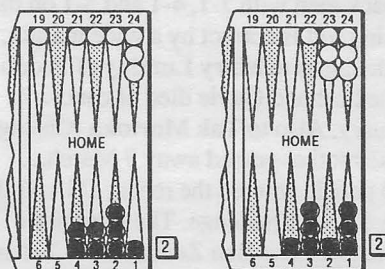


7 Double match-point. Which side has the highest probability of winning?

- (A) Black
(B) White
(C) Both equal
(D) None of these



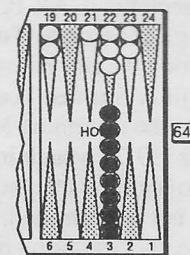
8 In which position does Black have the highest probability of winning?



- (A) First (B) Second
(C) Both equal (D) None of these

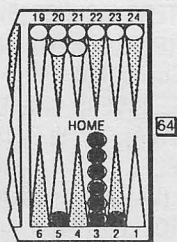
9 What is the correct cube action for this position?

- (A) No redouble
(B) Redouble and take
(C) Redouble and drop
(D) None of these



10 What is the probability that Black will win this position after failing to give his opponent a proper initial double?

- (A) +0.657
(B) +0.674
(C) +0.709
(D) None of these



11 Given all possible 6 vs. 6 bearoff positions with the cube owned by the roller that are proper redouble-and-take decisions, what is the average expectancy for the side on roll?

- (A) +0.778453 x 2 (B) +0.788453 x 2
(C) +0.798453 x 2 (D) None of these

12 Black on roll has two checkers on his 4-, 3-, 2- and 1-points. The cube is centered. The best position for White having six checkers distributed over a total of 20 pips is 021111 (zero checkers on the 6-point, 2 checkers on the 5-point, 1 checker on the 4-point, etc.). The 8th best position using this criterion is 011310. Rank in order the 2nd through 7th best 20-pip positions.

DONG DONG JU

[Continued from page 1]

underwear—the Marky Mark of Korea. When his manly torso appeared in the window of lingerie shops everywhere, many of his students were outraged. That a teacher could appear that way implied that he was a sexual deviate who could not be trusted near Korean women. This is a fair description of English teachers in general, though not of Stewart in particular.

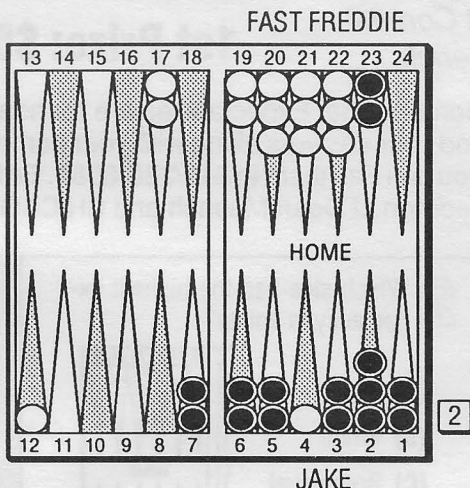
We entered a small restaurant tucked away behind a sidewalk stall just under the Manhattan Club (which is downstairs from the Jazz Hof which everyone knows is one floor down from the Twilight Zone). The people at the next table were barbecuing some intestines and the air was filled with thick, savory smoke.

As we resumed play, Freddie continued to entertain with his stories: "... in a Kung Fu manual, *hundreds of years old*. You hang a vase from the ceiling by a rope, and push it with your tongue, then every day you add a few pebbles to the vase."

The champion hit me in the bearoff for the sixth time. His roommates were right—he was a lucky wanker! I was sure that once he started steaming, he would "go for

the earth," but so far he was rolling far too well to steam. Till this game came along:

Money Game. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-2.**



A relative hush happened to have fallen over the restaurant, except for the sound of Freddie's voice.

"He was saying, 'Is this a sex show or not?' as he climbed up on the stage. They were saying 'No foreigners! No foreigners!' But when they tried to pull him down, all they did was pull off his pants. Just then, he kicked one of them in the face, and I was thinking to myself: 'I better get the hell out of here!'"

AMALGAMATION

Last month's Nevada State Beginners results were incorrect. The correction finish: 1-Ralph Rubalcava (AZ), 2-Paul Mangone (CA), 3/4-Donald Bernstein (CA)/ Paula Estacolchic (CA); 1C-Ling Nelson (Hong Kong), 2C-Carlos Turque (Mexico)... Visiting the Bar Point Club 23 February: Sanjit & Sundee Teelock from Mauritius ... At the upcoming Midwest Championships (19-21 March in Oak Brook, IL), the use of cellular telephones during matches will not be permitted. We found the use of these phones during matches at the recent Nevada State Championships to be very distracting... David Rubin (Chicago) chose Valentine's Day to pop the question to Jolie Lewis. A 23 May alfresco wedding is planned in Lake Geneva, WI. Congrats from CHICAGO POINT... Best wishes to Munchkin and Nelia on their 13 February wedding in Las Vegas. Munchkin's brother Jake Jacobs reports that the bride and groom wore matching red tennis shoes... The Chicago Open (28-31 May in Elk Grove Village, IL) and Gammon Associates 30th Invitational (27-29 August in

L.A.) are the newest additions to the 1993 American Backgammon Tour... Ed O'Laughlin (VA) has been running 486 computers day and night playing out backgammon games on a computer program of his own design. His findings: splitting the back men with 2-1, 4-1 and 5-1 on the opening roll is correct by a wide margin... Condolences to Mary Lunday of Peoria whose husband Gayle died of cancer 22 February. Also to Tak Morioka (Chicago) whose mother passed away 7 March... 7000 people entered the recent USA Today NBA Sports Challenge. The third place handicapper was Ben Zemaitis of Chatham, IL... Scarry stuff. Returning from the Pittsburgh tournament, Carol Joy Cole dropped off Carol Falk near Detroit and continued alone towards Flint. Heavy snows forced her off the road into a deep snow bank. Fortunately a tow truck happened by and pulled her out for a \$45 charge... "Somewhere in the world there is defeat for everyone. Some are destroyed by defeat, and some made small and mean by victory. Greatness lives in one who triumphs equally over defeat and victory."—John Steinbeck from *The Acts of King Arthur and His Noble Knights* Δ

I was thinking the same thing, so I played 23/18, 6/4*. The champion was stupefied, he couldn't conceive of any move besides breaking the bar point. He was kind enough to fan, and I rewarded him with a plastic cubic trophy, size "four." He took, and a minute later I was scoring up a gammon.

The champion began to make strange noises through his nose, his ears turned red, and, fists clenched, he stood up and began to stomp his feet, hopping up and down around the restaurant.

"See that!" said Fast Freddie, "That's how you know it's *real* Dong Dong Ju!" Δ

HOCHRAN OVER WEINGRAD IN PITTSBURGH

David Hochran (CA) defeated hometown favorite Ron Weingrad to win the Pittsburgh Charity Tournament. Steve Hast directed the event, held at the beautiful Greentree Marriott 19-21 February. 70+ players attended, the best turnout in five years.

Weingrad would have to beat the undefeated Hochran twice in the double elimination finals to claim the top prize. It appeared that the first match was in Ron's pocket when Hochran took an aggressive approach to his bad situation. Leading the 11-point match 9 to 2, Ron opened with 4-2 making his 4-point. Hochran immediately doubled and went on to win a close race.

In the next game, Dave rolled 6-3, playing 24/18, 13/10. Ron rolled 6-1, hitting and making his bar point. Once again, Hochran again prematurely doubled. This time he went on to gammon up Weingrad to cut the deficit to 9-8. Hochran won the next two games to grab first place in 1993's premiere American Backgammon Tour event. Complete results: Δ

PITTSBURGH CHARITY TOURNAMENT

OPEN (36): 1-David Hochran (CA), 2-Ron Weingrad (PA), 3-Perry Gartner (NJ); 1C-Dave Orandle (MD), 2C-Carol Joy Cole (MI).

INTERMEDIATE (26): 1-Marty Kohler (OH), 2-Denny Leatherman (PA), 1C-Nayan Shah (PA), 2C-Carol Falk (MI).

BEGINNER (8): 1-Allen Levien (PA), 2-Dan Bloch (PA)

MASTERS JACKPOT (8): 1-Abbas Zaltash (PA).

AMATEUR JACKPOT (16): 1-Carol Falk (MI), 2-Jim Smyth (MI)

THREE RIVERS CHALLENGE (48): 1-Marilyn Faller (PA), 2-Walt Rydzon (PA).

DOUBLES (16): 1-Dennis Culpepper & Greg Lilley (VA), 2-John Bashian & Mike Rezai (OH).

MICROBLITZ (64): 1-Ami Tennenbaum (NJ).

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

of a split infinitive: "When people knowingly buy poorly-written . . . blah blah mumble mumble . . ."—*Martin Lee, West Yorkshire, England*

I am totally astonished by the correspondence regarding Robin Clay's *Backgammon In A Week*. Doesn't the book's title make it clear that this is not a book designed to make experts into masters?!

In A Week was written to assist beginners in improving their game. Obviously, printing errors are regrettable, but they do not ruin the book for the target audience.

For example, I gave Mr. Clay's book to my granddaughter and she tells me that it has improved her game considerably. Perhaps, when she reaches the expert level, Mr. Manning would like to offer her one of his books.—*Denise Kedemis, Paris, France*

EASY TO EXPLAIN

In the February "Dear Miss Lonelyblots" column, the questioner, "Just Curious," wonders why fewer than expected Asian-Americans play backgammon. Miss Lonelyblots points out that many believe that Asian-Americans (in general) are smarter than other races of people. So where's the confusion? If Asian-Americans are in fact smarter, that's a perfect explanation why they *avoid* playing this crazy game of ours.

On a totally unrelated matter, Joe

Sylvester's analysis of Problem #189 reminded me of a suggestion I recently came across. I believe it was Kent Goulding who said that in mid-game contact positions when high doubles must be played, one should play them as if the opponent's checkers weren't even on the board. It amazes me how often this strategy is correct, as I believe it is in Problem #189.

—*Dave Cramer, Chicago, IL*

KUDOS TO THE U.S.A.

I wrote to Worldwide Backgammon Federation asking to know about some backgammon magazines and Alberto da Pra sent me your name. I don't write a very good English, but I'm able to understand everything written. I hope you will answer me and send one number of CHICAGO POINT.

I know that U.S. players are the best in the world, so if I want to play backgammon very well, I must study the American way of playing.—*Francis Cayron, Toul, France*

U.S. players thank you for the compliment, Mr. Cayron. We must tell you that there are now great backgammon players all over the world—not just in America. To further your study, we are forwarding you the addresses of the two most technically-oriented backgammon publications in the world: Inside Backgammon (c/o Bill Robertie; P.O. Box 294; Arlington, MA 02174) and the German language Das Backgammon Magazin (c/o Harald Johanni; Hochstr. 7; 8500 Nürnberg 80; Germany).—Ed.

IT'S ALL IN THE PULL

I guess you had about as much luck as I did in Las Vegas at the Nevada State Tournament—not too much. I got lucky on a slot machine, though. Maybe I should give up backgammon and become a professional slot player . . . a pastime where luck is less of a factor!—*Ray Fogelund, Taft, CA*

SHOULD THERE BE A "SYLVESTER RULE"?

Have any players and/or tournament organizers given much thought to Joe Sylvester's match play suggestion that would limit the maximum number of points the trailer can win in any game to the number of points necessary for the leader to win the match?—*Jim Painter, St. Louis, MO*

A VALID EXCUSE

Sorry I won't be able to attend the Midwest Championships this year but there's just a slight conflict . . . I'm expecting my first child on 17 March. Husband Don and I are very excited. Hope to see you next year.—*Kim McCollom, Bloomington, IL*

KIND WORDS

Enclosed is my 1993 renewal for your truly excellent backgammon publication. As my career and family responsibilities generally keep me from attending tournaments, I eagerly look forward each month to the CHICAGO POINT. Your publication and others like it keep people like me connected to the backgammon scene. Keep up the good work.—*Howard Shapiro, Vienna, VA*

A BUSY SPRING

Players in Europe between 23 March and 12 April will be treated to 14 days of backgammon in three weeks. With the Portuguese Championship (23–28 March), the Düsseldorf Open (1–4 April) and the Nordic Open (9–12 April), this is the time to come to Europe!—*Jean van Ingen, Nijmegen, Netherlands*

BACKGAMMON BOOK IN THE WORKS

Readers of the CHICAGO POINT might be interested to know that the *Backgammon Book* should be available in the fall of this year. The text is being coauthored by The Marquis of Arcangues, Ian Stewart, Lewis Deyong, James Ballié and Bill Robertie.

With more than 150 full color pictures, we think that this grand "coffee table" type book will be a must for every backgammon aficionado. We'll keep you posted as the progress of the book continues.—*Diane de Selliers, editor, Paris, France* Δ

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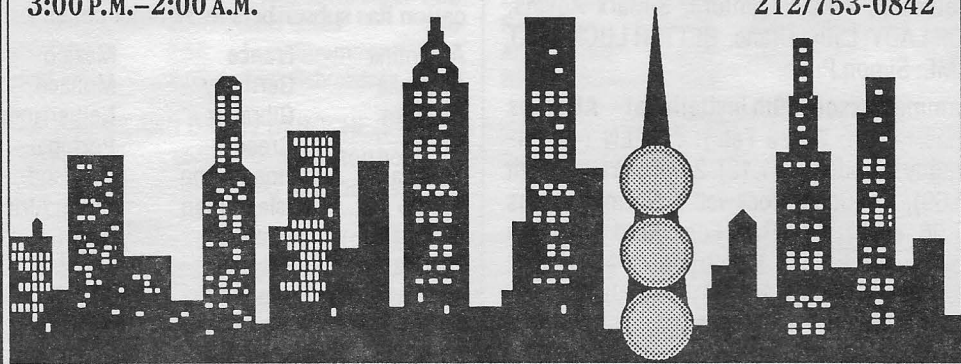
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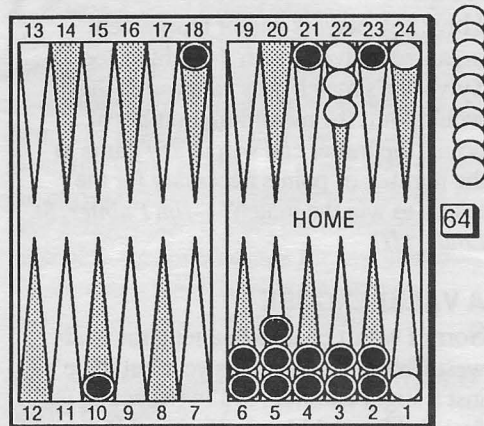
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**PROBLEM #190
SOLVED**

by Kit Woolsey

1993 Nevada State Tournament. 17-point Open finals. Mark Schiffer (Black) leads Don Smolen (White), 15 to 11.
BLACK TO PLAY 6-2



Black had been playing for a gammon, when he hit a last ditch shot. If Black can pick up a second checker, his game-winning chances will increase from fair to excellent. How should Black proceed?

The natural play is 21/13, covering the

bar point and keeping the board intact. The more imaginative play is 10/4, 3/1*, trying to force White to hit back and give Black an immediate shot at the second checker.

21/13 has the advantage of holding the board and maintaining excellent outfield coverage if White escapes. In addition, Black may get his shot without taking the risk of breaking the 3-point. If White rolls 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, or 5-1, Black will get not a single shot, but a double shot in White's home board. The downside is that if White rolls a six first, Black must hit the fleeing checker. Also, if White rolls a two before an ace, then White can cover the blot, although White still may have to leave another blot or two in the future.

10/4, 3/1* forces the issue immediately. Unless White rolls specifically 2-1 or 2-3, any entering roll will give Black a shot at the second checker. In addition, this play prevents White from escaping in one roll. However, this approach does not give White an immediate opportunity to shoot at two new blots.

Additional bad news is that once the 3-point is unmade, it may be difficult to put it back together again. I have often seen players break a point to hit in order to recirculate and pick up another man. Even when their plan works, they still lose, unable to ever remake their board.

So, which is the better play? I'm not

sure. 10/4, 3/1* will probably win a bit more often, but there are other considerations. First, there is the gammon danger. There is no question that breaking the 3-point will lead to Black getting gammoned more often than running 21/13.

Secondly, and very important, we can't forget the cube. White is trailing 15 to 11 in a 17-point match, so White will be willing to send the cube to two on any excuse. If after 10/4, 3/1*, White enters and Black doesn't immediately roll an ace, White will have a very strong double. With no recube vig and gammon jeopardy, I don't think Black can afford to take. In fact, after 10/4, 3/1*, it wouldn't surprise me if White is supposed to double immediately! This is certainly not true after 21/13.

I think Black should play the simple 21/13. If it were double match-point, I would go along with the wild play, but at this score, and with the cube available to White, it doesn't seem to be the percentage play.

In match play, the score and cube location often influence your checker plays. If you are near the end of the match, the match-winning odds can change dramatically. This position is a good illustration of this principle. The match score and cube position make it correct for Black to make the safer play, although it is probably the play that will win less often. Δ

**WINNER'S
CORNER**

Jan.-Feb. 1993

Rscards Winter 1993 Tournament: (GEnie computer service, Jan.-Feb.)... OPEN (21): 1-Blake Sorem (MD), 2-David Lanphear (CA), 3/4-Jim Wilson (MI) / Dave Thomas (FL), 5/8-Bob Paris (FL) / Bill Norris (MI) / Durf Freund (CA) / Bryan Norris (MI).

NEBC Sunday Monthly (Cambridge, MA; 17 Jan.)... EXPERT (23): 1-Evan Diamond, 2-Jim Kasarjian, 3/4-Bob Mohahed / George Sackley; 1C-Mike Nelson, 2C-Rich Sweetman. A DIV. (18): 1-Andy Latto, 2-Dennis Malkowski, 3/4-Bill Barrows / Albert Steg; 1C-Jerry Padova, 2C-Greg West. B DIV. (7): 1-Ron Mak, 2-Susan Peisner; 1C-Al Mason, 2C-Larry Liebster.

GNBYC 2nd Mixed Doubles Tournament (Woodbury, NY; 8 Jan.)... OPEN (16 Teams): 1/2-Bob Bishop & Sam Wang / Steve Keats & Jaws, 3/4-Irwin Ross & Joan Silverman / Mike Nelson & Jim Maloney.

5th Annual Pro-Am Doubles Tournament (Paradise island, Bahamas; 4-7 Feb.)...

DOUBLES I (17 teams): 1-Bill Bartholomay (IL) & Bill Robertie (MA), 2-Drew Giovanis (FL) & Wilcox Snellings (CA). **DOUBLES II** (10 teams): 1-Harvey Huie (TX) & Mike Svobodny (NY), 2-Emil Mortuk (MI) & Ed O'Laughlin (VA). **JACKPOT** (8): 1-Maurice Elghanyan (NY), 2-Dean Muench (IL).

Pittsburgh One-Day (Pittsburgh, PA; 7 Feb.)... OPEN (11): 1-Abbas Zaltash, 2/3-Ron Weingrad / Al Faller.

Hoosier Club Awards Tournament (Indianapolis, IN; 7 Feb.)... OPEN (8): 1-John O'Hagan. **ADVANCED** (4): 1-Cyrus Mobed. **INTERMEDIATE** (5): 1-Dennis Schulte.

Biba Trophy Tournament #1 (Solihull, England; 13-14 Feb.)... OPEN (84): 1-Derek Matheson, 2-Paul Lamford, 3-Mark Adkins. **TOP LADY:** Laura Crane. **BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME:** Simon Price.

Gammon Assoc. 29th Invitational—ABT (Los Angeles, CA; 26-28 Feb.)... OPEN (44): 1-Woody Woodson (21.12), 2-Jorgen Granstedt (9.69), 3/4-John Rockwell / Norm Wiggins (3.96 each), 5/8-Ray Fogelund / Farzan Garmroodi / David MacBryde / Peter Zacks (1.32 each). **LIMITED** (15): 1-Michael Sharp (2.5), 2-Johnnie Roberts (1.25). **SPECIAL 16:** 1-Odis Chenault, 2-Tom Waddell. **OVERFLOW**

8: 1-Gus Contos. **DOUBLES I** (8): 1-Tom Keisler & Joe Singer. **DOUBLES II** (8): 1-Gus Contos & Richard Love.

Fleet Underwood Memorial & Benefit (Flint, MI; 28 Feb.)... **OPEN** (24): 1-Joe Sylvester, 2-Sandy Kaplan, 3-Carol Joy Cole. **INTERMEDIATE** (21): 1-John Quinn, 2-Sandy Grassel, 3-Miriam Bureson. **NOVICE** (9): 1-Matt Tuck, 2-Jeff Clark, 3-David Longman... Sylvester wins back-to-back titles. \$550 raised for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

ALL POINTS BULLETIN

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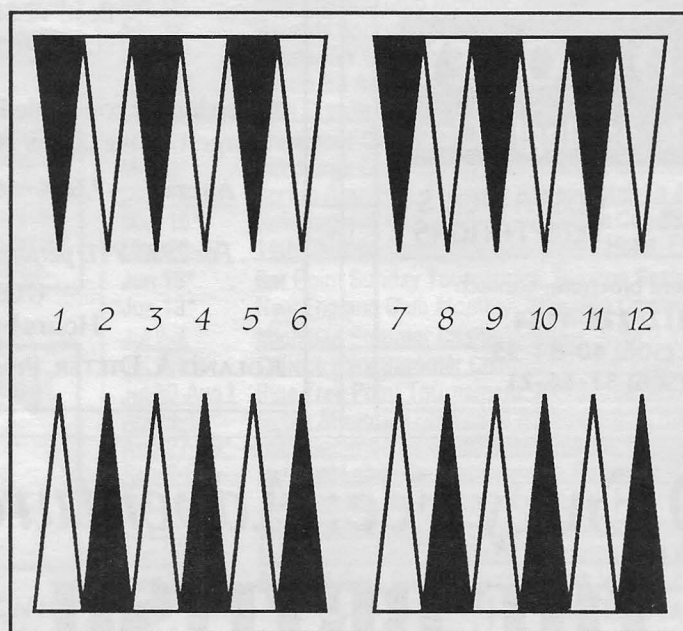
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