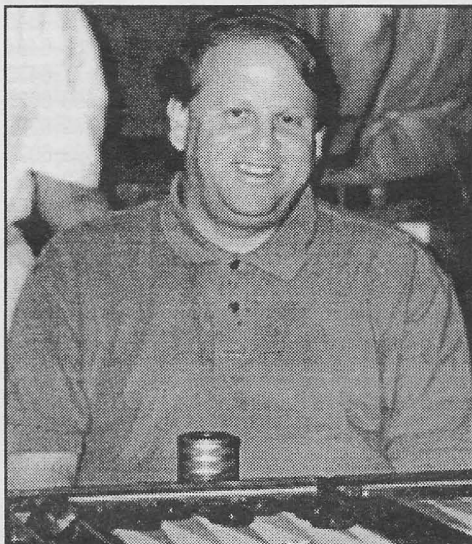


50th indiana open

INDY WIN VAULTS SAX INTO 2002 ABT LEAD

Karen Davis Wins Indy 300

Steve Sax (CA) and Karen Davis (NY) were the big winners at Indiana Open. An big crowd of 170+ backgammoners joined Butch and Mary Ann Meese in celebrating the 50th edition of this long-running event, staged over the Labor Day weekend at the beautiful Sheraton Hotel in



50th Indiana Open winner Steve Sax.



Karen Davis displays her unique Indy race car trophy for topping Neil Kazaross in the Masters. [Photo by Andrew Liebenenthal]

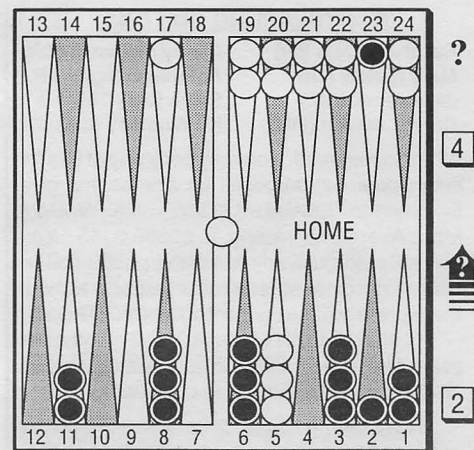
Indianapolis. A stellar field of backgammon legends including Paul Magriel, Bill Robertie and Neil Kazaross joined the festivities.

Evidently, the Championship division Swiss movement format appealed to both Steve Sax (8-0) and Jim Curtis (7-1). All participants with at least a 6-2 record qualified for the playoffs. In the semifinals, Sax defeated Perry Gartner (NJ) and Curtis advanced when Bill Robertie failed to bear off two checkers on his deuce at double match-point.

The finals swung back and forth with an interesting redouble occurring with the match tied at 7-all to 13 [shown at right].

Steve simply couldn't find a way to take the dangerous cube. Later in the match, trailing 9-10, Sax flipped over an aggressive cube himself which Curtis correctly took. A timely set of double 5s

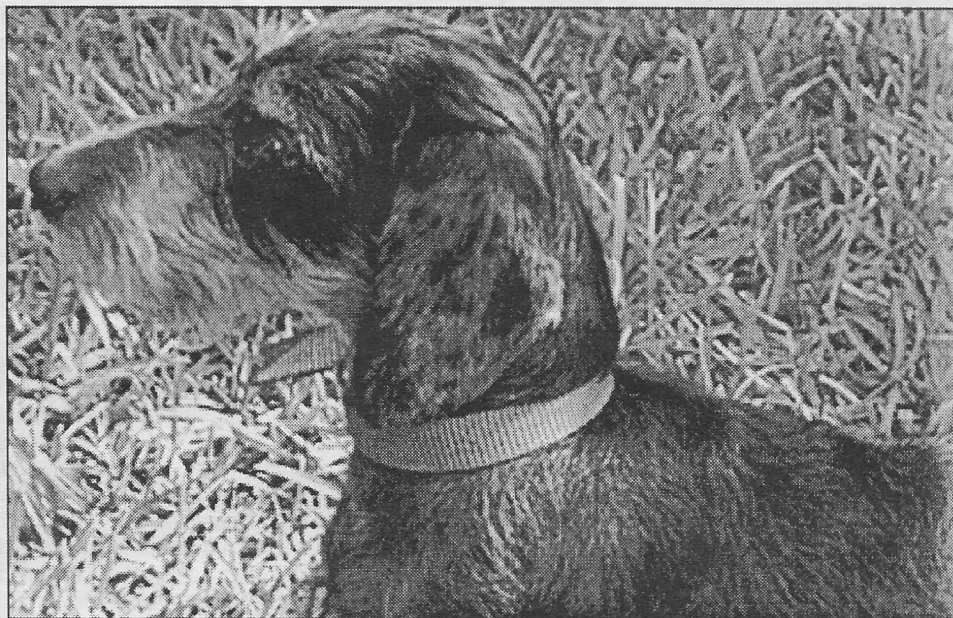
13-point Indiana Open finals. Steve Sax (White) and Jim Curtis (Black) are tied at 7-7. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



helped Steve win a gammon and claim the match 13-10. The victory vaulted Sax into

[Continued on page 4]

KIT WOOLSEY GRAZIN' IN THE GRASS



Diane Varner (NC) loves dogs and backgammon. So when her Miniature Wirehaired Dachshund show dog "Diane's Dakota Starlight" whelped a litter of pups on March 31, 2002, she just had to name the cutest one "Diane's BG Master Kit Woolsey MWD." As Diane puts it, "I asked [backgammon master] Kit Woolsey if I could name the pup after him and he said 'Why thank you. Woof!' Lucky pup, lucky guy. They are both winners!" [Photo by Nina Marie Sherrer] Δ

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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CONGRATS TO CHUCK

I enjoyed reading Chuck Bower's account of the Michigan finals. Though of course I'd rather have won it, if not I'm happy to see the winner be someone like Chuck. He's a good student of the game who's always happy to share what he's learning, whether in the Hoosier newsletter or at Kit Woolsey's *GammonLine* bulletin board, where he's currently Number 4 on the "Top 10 Most Prolific Posters" list.

Congratulations again, Chuck. See you at Novi next year, perhaps in the finals again. "I'll be back."—*Mary Hickey, Kirkersville, Ohio*

YOU'LL BE MISSED, MARTIN

At long last I have had to admit to myself that I am very unlikely ever to play tournament backgammon abroad again as I am really not physically strong enough any

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole
810/232-9731
cjc@tir.com

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Oct 11-13	Illinois State Championships, Springfield Hilton, Springfield, Illinois	217/528-0117
Oct 12	Fall Classic, Triple Crown Sports Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Oct 13*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Shattuck Hotel, Berkeley, California	831/688-9722
Oct 17*	Third Thursday Bonus (Minnesota), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Oct 18-20	<u>Northeast Regional, Comfort Inn Albany Airport, Latham, NY</u>	<u>603/863-4711</u>
Oct 19*	Redwood Empire Monthly, Embassy Suites Hotel, San Rafael, California	707/477-6430
Oct 20*	Austin Club Bimonthly Tournament, JC's Bar & Grill, Austin, Texas	512/261-8518
Oct 20	Flint Area Club Championships, All the King's Men, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Oct 20*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/779-8209
Oct 20*	Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio	614/771-0981
Oct 26*	Atlanta Modified Swiss Tournament, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Oct 26*	Backgammon By the Bay Saturday, Gigi's Cafe, Scotts Valley, California	831/688-9722
Oct 26*	Northwest Indiana Gammon Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Oct 27*	Ace Point Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, New York	212/753-0842
Oct 27*	Milwaukee Club Monthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	414/962-8549
Nov 1*	MSN Gammonzone Medallion Monthly, via computer	GZMedallion@gammonzone.net
Nov 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer	tournaments@cyberarts.com
Nov 1-3	<u>Minnesota State Championships, Mystic Lake Casino, Prior Lake, Minn.</u>	<u>763/682-1716</u>
Nov 3*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Canton, Ohio	330/866-2811
Nov 5*	"Dinner for the Winner" Monthly, TableRock Brewpub, Boise, Idaho	208/342-8865
Nov 9*	Springfield Series #1, Wildlife Sports Bar, Springfield, Illinois	217/528-0117
Nov 9*	Turkey Trot Open, Triple Crown Sports Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Nov 10*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Shattuck Hotel, Berkeley, California	831/688-9722
Nov 10*	South Florida Monthly, Sheraton Suites Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Nov 12	20th Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Clarion Hotel, Chicago, IL	773/583-6464
Nov 16*	Redwood Empire Monthly, Embassy Suites Hotel, San Rafael, California	707/477-6430
Nov 16-20	Pro-Am Championship, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Nov 17*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/779-8209
Nov. 20-24	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Dec 1*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyways Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Dec 6-8	50th Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA	818/901-0464
Dec 27-29	<u>Ace Point Holiday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, New York</u>	<u>212/753-0842</u>
Jan 16-20	2nd Boston Open & Masters Jackpot, Hyatt Harborside, Boston, Mass.	781/641-2091
Jan 17-19	<u>3rd Carolina Invitational, Charlotte, North Carolina</u>	<u>704/814-0850</u>
Feb 1-8	BG on Board VI, Ft. Lauderdale/ St. Maarten/St. Thomas, Golden Princess	773/583-6464
Feb 14-16*	<u>25th Pittsburgh Champs & ABT Awards, Greentree Radisson, Pittsburgh, PA</u>	<u>412/922-8400</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Oct 10-13	Austrian Open & Doubles Championship, Hotel Veronika, Seefeld, Austria	43512-287244
Oct 12-14	8th Japan Open & 32nd Championship, Nakano Sun Plaza, Tokyo, Japan	813-33733814
Oct 13	Toronto Club Monthly, Smilin' Jack's, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
Oct 19-20	Centrebet Åbne Fynske, Studenterhuset, Odense, Denmark	4565-923363
Oct 19-20*	TrueMoneygames Trophy, Premier Lodge, Manchester, England	44127-3261073
Oct 24-27	5th Salvador Open, Salvador, South Bahia, Brazil	557191-357820
Oct 26-27	10th Irish Open, Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, Ireland	3531-6030891
Oct 26-27	DATE CHANGE: 4th Süddeutscher-Cup, Karlsfeld, Munich, Germany	49711-486190
Oct30-Nov3	7th Grand Prix de Suisse & World Doubles, Splendide Royal, Lugano, Switz.	4179-3374425
Oct31-Nov3	9th German Open, Hotel Glocken Spitze, Altenkirchen, Germany	49521-64314
Oct31-Nov3	22nd Swedish Open, Quality Hotel Nacka, Stockholm, Sweden	468-189346
Nov 8-10	Rio Tournament, Hotel Portobello, Angra-dos-Reis, Rio, Brazil	55212-5570350
Nov 9-10	Townharbour Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Nov 10*	Toronto Club Monthly, Smilin' Jack's, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
Nov 16-17	9th & 10th Ranglistenturniere, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Nov 16-17*	27th Finnish Open Championships, Club Ascot, Helsinki, Finland	35850-5930139
Nov 22-24*	2nd Praia de Forte Open, Salvador, South Bahia, Brazil	55719-1357820
Nov 23-24	Danish Championships 2002, Copenhagen, Denmark	4533-363601
Nov 23-24	Swiss Championships, Hotel Krafft am Rhein, Basel, Switzerland	4161-4812755
Nov 24*	Toronto Club Masters, Smilin' Jack's, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
Nov29-Dec8*	World Grand Jackpot & Championship, Mövenpick, Tangier, Morocco	97252-581329
Dec 7-8	United Kingdom Finals, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Dec 10-15	2nd Cancun Open, Ritz Carlton Hotel, Cancun, Mexico	Germany contact: 49911-409505
Dec 12-14	1st Itaparica Open, Salvador, South Bahia, Brazil	55719-1357820
Dec 14-15*	Brighton Gammonitis Trophy, Premier Lodge, Brighton, England	44127-3261073
Dec 21-22*	11th & 12th Ranglistenturniere, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Dec 27-29*	5th Süddeutscher-Cup & Series Finale, Hotel Pyramide, Fürth, Germany	49711-486190
Jan 1-6	8th Thailand Open, 19th Hole Super Pub, Pattaya, Thailand	6638-251461
Jan 5-7	World Grand Jackpot, Grand Marriott Hotel, Bucharest, Romania	97252-581329
Jan 7-12	World Cup Challenge VII, Grand Marriott Hotel, Bucharest, Romania	97252-581329

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

more. It has taken a couple of years for me to face up to this fact. However, I should not just quietly pass into BG oblivion without first acknowledging the wonderful

gift of friendship that I have had from so many people since I retired in 1984 and played my first international tournament. The years since then have been truly wonderful and some of the best in my life! I particularly am indebted to Carol Joy Cole, Bill Davis, Peter Kalba, Antoinette-

Marie Williams, Jean and Don Hatt and Gayle and Wally Wolf; but there are many, many others to numerous to mention who have helped me like Peter Winkler (whom I had only just met that day) who unselfishly pushed me in my wheelchair around various parts of Istanbul after finding that my definition of "wheelchair accessible" did not exactly match that of the tour operator's!

So, a very big thanks to all of you who have dragged my sorry self or my wheelchair around and about various exotic locations. It has been truly wonderful meeting you all and I wish you all the best of dice in the future!"—*Martin Lee, West Yorkshire, England*

TIM HOLLAND

Do any of your readers know whatever happened to 1970s backgammon author and successful tournament player Tim Holland?—*Ian Flint, Williamsburg, Virginia*

That's a good question, Ian. Perhaps one of our New York subscribers can help on this one.—Ed.

SUGGESTION TO BRUCE

I read in the September "Letters" column that Bruce Russell would "pay double" the subscription fee for a monthly centerfold in CHICAGO POINT. (Feigning shock!) Bruce, with all your time, energy, and obvious extra cash, please consider helping to organize a 2003 Wisconsin State Tournament in Madison!—*Gayle Wolf, Troy, Michigan Δ*



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2002

Top 100 compiled through 6 Oct. 2002 after 13 events
(Next up: Illinois State, NE Regional, Minnesota Open)



Steve Sax	37.21	Arman Karamian	10.59	Len Dangremond	5.75	Abbas Zaltash	3.38
Ed O'Laughlin	34.37	Ray Woo	10.03	Sam Yoyen	5.50	Matt Reklaitis	3.38
Chuck Bower	27.00	Linda MacLean	10.02	Bill Choi	5.45	David Todd	3.38
Paul Klein	22.88	Kit Salisbury	8.33	David Rogers	5.40	Linda Rockwell	3.29
Jeremy Bagai	22.69	Sho Sengoku	8.18	Bill Bartholomay	5.29	Joann Feinstein	3.25
Ray Fogelund	20.45	Doug Mayfield	8.18	Chen-Fu Yu	5.29	Pete Lewandowski	3.25
Bill Versaw	18.92	Al Tesoro	8.00	Jolie Rubin	5.20	Stan Livingston	3.20
Dan Grogan	18.11	Bruce Brown	7.22	Jeff Acierno	5.18	Michael Flohr	3.14
Mike Friedman	17.72	Joanne Reid	6.95	Marianne Gatenby	5.17	Paul Weaver	3.11
Dennis Culpepper	16.99	William Chu	6.76	Eric Johnson	5.11	Petko Kostadinov	3.06
Chris Stanford	15.00	Bob Holyon	6.76	Vadim Musaelyan	5.00	Stuart Thomson	2.99
Walter Trice	14.88	Jim Price	6.50	Hank Chesko	4.99	Wally Swan	2.99
Emil Mortuk	13.95	Lloyd Lindauer	6.36	Neil Kazaross	4.86	Doug Johnson	2.99
Joe Freedman	13.78	Bud Bowers	6.29	Dave Cardwell	4.80	James Roston	2.99
Jeb Horton	13.65	David Rubin	6.25	Bob Wilensky	4.19	David Menkes	2.82
Mary Hickey	13.49	Chris Wilson	6.19	Greg Lilley	4.19	Rudy Silich	2.76
Bob Glass	13.49	Bill Davis	6.18	Kurt Schurecht	4.16	Tim Carroll	2.64
Jim Curtis	12.65	Kate Elmore	6.18	Frank Talbot	4.16	Terry Bennice	2.64
Keith Kuligowski	12.50	Russ Hoser	6.13	Dana Nazarian	4.09	Eden Windish	2.60
Al Jones	12.00	Jeff Lentchner	6.03	Odis Chenault	4.09	Karen Chung	2.56
Owen Black	11.44	Jerry Godsey	6.00	Renee Rosenbloom	3.90	Bud Olejniczak	2.50
Takis Sakkalis	11.36	Malcolm Davis	6.00	Brian Barber	3.78	Ben Elliott	2.50
Barry Murphy	11.36	Wally Wolf	5.89	Boris Mindich	3.76	Gary Branton	2.50
Fred Kalantari	11.20	Bill Robertie	5.88	Ilia Guzei	3.59	Paula Estacolchic	2.42
Denise Hemingway	10.59	Perry Gartner	5.88	Marvin Widenhouse	3.53	Bill Papa	2.42



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2002 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 30 SEP.

Lucky Nelson	19.60	David Araiza	6.12	Fred Badagnani	2.16	John Brussel	0.88
Joe Wollick	18.16	Tak Morioka	6.08	Roz Ferris	2.12	John Jennings	0.88
Bob Zavoral	16.16	Ken Bond	6.08	Michael Peters	1.92	Roger Hickman	0.88
Herb Roman	13.28	Paul Baraz	5.68	David Rubin	1.92	Henry Gray	0.84
Steven Coren	13.04	Val Zimnicki	5.04	Ken Tibbs	1.84	Roland Dieter	0.72
Tim Carroll	12.72	David Wells	4.80	Bill Keefe	1.60	Tia Bailey	0.64
Carter Mattig	11.68	Alice Kay	4.80	Arlene Levy	1.52	Terry Weiss	0.64
Tim Mabey	11.20	Joann Feinstein	4.76	Darrell Marcus	1.44	Don Marek	0.64
Phyllis Smolinski	10.60	Dave Cramer	3.84	Paul Friedman	1.36	John Stryker	0.60
Mike Sutton	10.08	Paul Lombardo	3.80	Jon Viotor	1.28	Ronora Stryker	0.60
Bob Steen	8.24	Richard Stawowy	3.76	Bill Sandman	1.28	Kendra Welsey	0.56
Bill Bartholomay	8.16	Bill Davis	3.64	Brian Barber	1.28	Sakura Sugawara	0.56
Richard Lloyd	7.92	Eric Johnson	3.60	Doug Rodgers	1.28	Erik D. Erland	0.56
Don Jayhan	7.76	Royal Robinson	3.28	Elaine Kehm	1.20	Reginald Porter	0.56
Norma Shyer	7.72	Paul Franks	3.20	Karen Meyer	1.16	Bob Stringer	0.56
Glenn Martells	7.40	Mary Franks	3.12	Lindsay Mattig	1.16	Jim Roland	0.48
Mitch Pomper	7.36	Barbara Levinson	2.76	Scott Richardson	1.12	Ken Tyszk	0.48
Rory Pascar	7.16	Mark Murray	2.60	Femi Owiku	1.04	Erik A. Erland	0.40
Tim Serges	7.04	Tom Meyer	2.48	David Hart	0.96	Joe Szwedo	0.40
Ed Buerger	7.04	Kim Smith	2.40	Nora Luna Righter	0.96	Steve Neidecker	0.40
Peter Kalba	6.76	Steve Klesker	2.40	Georgina Flanagan	0.88	Scott Zucker	0.24
Wayne Wiest	6.20	Joe Auszmann	2.16	Jason Fishbein	0.88		

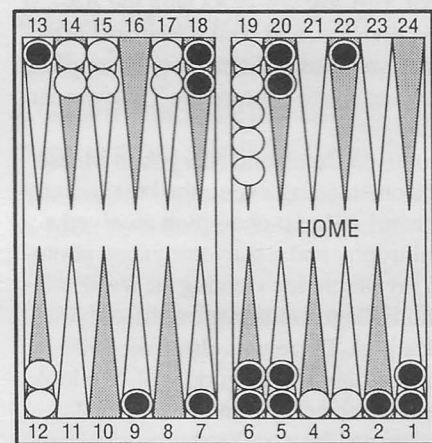
September's Player of the Month was **KEN BOND** (4.40). Bob Zavoral (3.84) was second and Joe Wollick (2.64) finished third.

your move

PROBLEM #285

to be analyzed by Steve Sax

Match to 7 points. Black and White are tied at 2-2. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-3.**



64

ASK DANNY

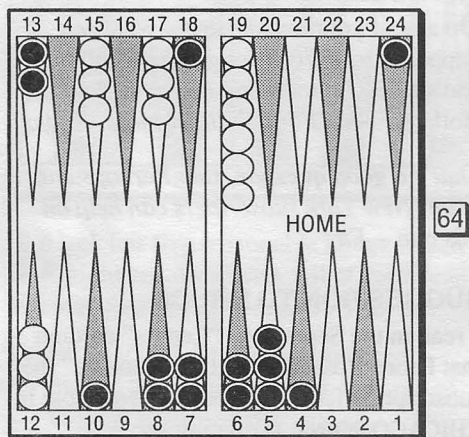


© 2002 by Danny Kleinman

RUN, ANCHOR, OR STAY PUT

Dear Danny: Last tournament, I stepped up from the Limited Division into the Advanced on the theory that you learn more by playing better players. Perhaps I don't belong there. In the first game I faced this position and was totally lost on which way to proceed:

9 point match. No score. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**



At first I decided to leave my two back checkers alone and simply make my 4-point (10/4). But then it started to look too much

like I was going to end up with two men trapped.

Moving to my opponent's bar was safer, but it really allowed White a lot of flexibility in playing behind me.

I couldn't decide on either of these two plays so I opted for a third, middle-of-the-road play: running a man to safety and making the 5-prime (18/13, 5/4). One man escapes and I still threaten White. But truthfully, I'm not sure what is right.

I assume that each play is correct in specific situations. Can you categorize them for me, or do I just need to determine which is correct?—Kind of Lost

DEAR LOST: In positions like this, you should count the race to determine your best strategy. If you're ahead, you should seek to extricate you back men and break contact: getting pointed on, even getting hit, can set you back disastrously. If you're behind, you should seek to maintain contact, hoping for a hit that can put you ahead.

After playing your 5-1, you will be four pips *plus the shake* behind in the race. The shake is equivalent to about four pips, which means that you're about eight pips behind. You trail in the race, but not hopelessly, so desperate measures to maintain contact are not necessary.

Rule out 10/4 because that's truly desperate. White has nine rolls that point on the blot it leaves on his bar-point; a tenth roll, double-5s, lets him attack on his 1-point. He can play all other rolls safely except for 6-5, with which he can hit two

blots. If White were stripped, he'd have some bad rolls, but you should notice that he has at least one spare on every point.

18/13, 5/4 isn't really a "middle of the road" play; it is simply a less risky play to maintain contact than 10/4, and it is the play I would recommend if you were significantly farther behind in the race. But of course if you were farther behind in the race, other features of the position would also be different. 18/13, 5/4 will sometimes commit you to waiting for a shot, for sometimes White will make his bar-point and 5-point to trap your remaining back man.

The true compromise play is 24/18, for it gives you two ways to win. Anchoring on White's bar-point puts you in position to take advantage if you roll numbers large enough to forge ahead in the race, and it maintains substantial contact if you don't. Your two men on White's bar-point make it difficult for White to clear his midpoint and 10-point safely and will "hold" several of his men in the outfield while you lengthen and advance your prime. In addition, 24/18 can pay a large dividend if White rolls double-6's next, for he will have to break one outer-court point and strip the other, making it more difficult for him to clear his midpoint later. That's the play I recommend.—Yours, Danny Δ

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

INDIANA OPEN...

[Continued from page 2]

the American Backgammon Tour lead with only a handful of events remaining.

IN OTHER MAJOR RESULTS, Karen Davis edged Neil Kazaross in the Indy 300 Jackpot, Bill Versaw (PA) won the Advanced division, and Neil Kazaross bested 26 other previous Indiana Open champions and runner-ups to capture the Tournament of Champions.

Kudos to Butch and Mary Ann Meese for this outstanding event: the best Indiana Open ever! All past champion received a special trophy and a souvenir group photograph (available for viewing at: www.gammonvillage.com/images/photos/toc18ca.jpg). There was also over \$500 in door prizes and lots of good will. We look forward to the next 50 Indiana Opens! Complete results at right: Δ

50TH INDIANA OPEN

CHAMPIONSHIP (76): 1-Steve Sax (CA), 2-Jim Curtis (IN), 3/4-Bill Robertie (MA) / Perry Gartner (NJ); 1C-Mike Friedman (CAN), 2C-Bill Davis (IL), 3C/4C-Al Tesoro (FL) / Linda Rockwell (IL).

ADVANCED (62): 1-Bill Versaw (PA), 2-Russ Hoser (OH); 1C-Kate Elmore (GA), 2C-Michael Flohr (IL), 3C/4C-Tom Meyer (IL) / Petko Kostadinov (SC).

INTERMEDIATE (19): 1-Patricia Geoffroy (MA), 2-Dave Kiurski (MI); 1C-Michael Plog (IL).

NOVICE (4): 1-Karen Meyer (IL).

INDY 300 JACKPOT (32): 1-Karen Davis (NY), 2-Neil Kazaross (IL), 3/4- Jim Curtis (IN) / Doug Mayfield (CA).

AMATEUR JACKPOT (32): 1-Adam Versaw (PA), 2-John Grenici (PA), 3/4-Bill Versaw (PA) / Mark Rozans (LA).

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS (26): 1-Neil Kazaross (IL), 2-Ed O'Laughlin (FL), 3-Jim Curtis (IN).

DOUBLES (32): 1-Lou Steiner/Bud Bowers (PA), 2-Bill Davis/Michael Plog (IL).

DIRECTOR'S CUP (22): 1-Steve Sax (CA), 2-Ed Bauder (IL).

MICRO-BLITZ (128): 1-Manuel Acre (GA).

QUICKIE #1 (64): 1-Dr. Bob Hill (NY). **QUICKIE #2:** 1-Abbas Zaltash (PA).

\$200 LABOR DAY JP (8): 1-Ray Baker (CA). **LABOR DAY AMATEUR JP (8):** 1-David Nye

(CAN). **\$50 LABOR DAY JP (16):** 1-Steve Brown (MN). **50TH JACKPOT (32):** D. David Marcus (IL). **FREE EVENT (128):** 1-Carl Sorg (SC), 2-Al Jones (CAN).

A 6-PACK OF

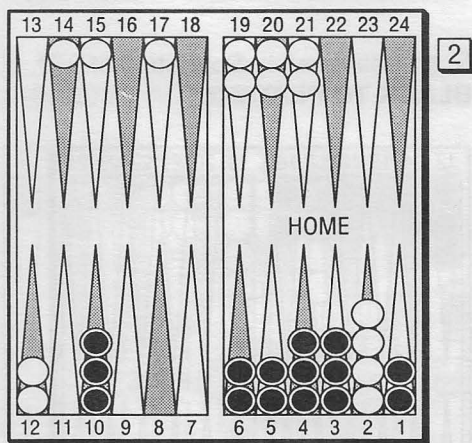


HASTY PLAYS

by Duane Jensen

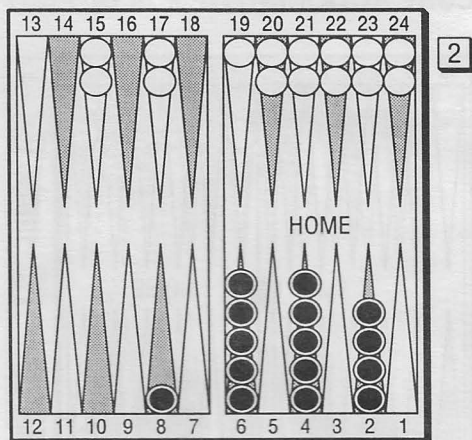
Here's a 6-pack of checker plays for your pleasure. Be careful, though. Overindulgence can lead to hasty plays.

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



The natural, safe play is 4/1, but a more flexible move is to break the 6-point with 6/5, 6/4. This play gives better distribution and removes the joker 6-6 roll which would leave a shot. The three outfield checkers really don't need the 6-point as a landing spot.

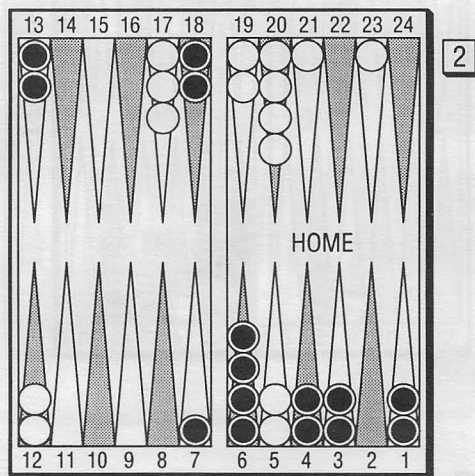
2. Money game. BLACK TO PLAY 1-1.



Some players might bring the man in and bear off a checker with 8/6, 2-off, but it's

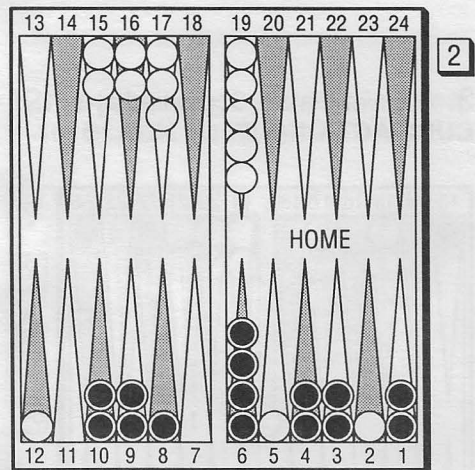
best to use this small doublet to distribute checkers. Don't touch that man on the 8-point. Play inside with 6/5 (2), 4/3, and 2/1.

3. 7-point match. Black trails White, 5 to 3. BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.



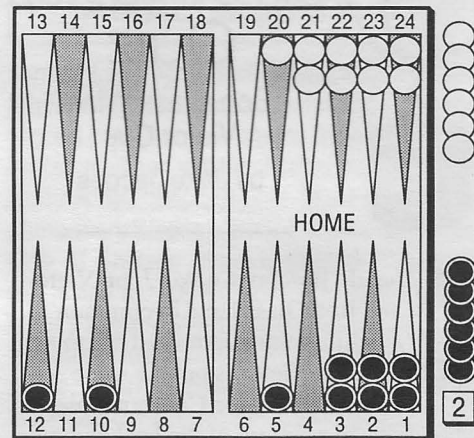
Slotting the 2-point is reasonable and safe. You could also build the 2-point with 6/2, 3/2 leaving a blot on your bar point. Since you're ahead in the race and White has a weak inner board, you might try breaking a man from the opponent's bar point with 18/13. From the rollouts I did, the best play is 13/8, leaving a string of blots (bait) for your opponent to hit. At this 4-away, 2-away score, your opponent must be wary of hitting plays that expose himself to gammons. For most rolls, these three blots are nearly untouchable being too dangerous for your opponent to hit.

4. 7-point match. Black trails White, 5 to 3. BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.



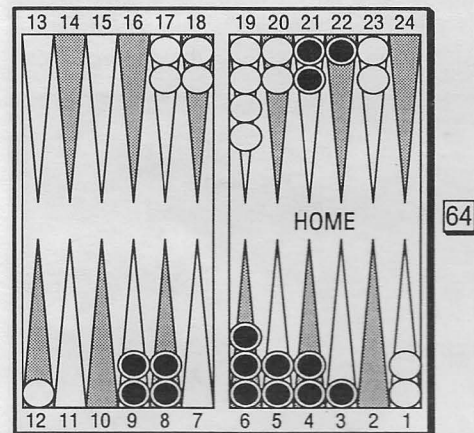
While it's difficult to find fault with building the 5-point (8/5*, 9/5), the match score calls for the double-hit (9/5*, 5/2*). This play kicks out more 4 point gammons that will end the match.

5. Money game. BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.



This was an easy one for me to play... incorrectly that is. The '4' filled in the hole on the 6-point and I played the '3' from 12 to 9. Can you find the better play? You'll win only 10-11% of these games. When your win percentage is that low, it's time to see if you can position your men to get the most from specific doublets. The best play is 12/5, capitalizing on double-5s which usually cashes with a recube.

6. Money game. BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.



I'm sure many people would look at this position, play 9/3 to make the point, and then look for the best '2' to play. That's what I did. The best play, by a wide margin, is running 22/14, leaving the blot on the 3-point. This play duplicates '2's to hit in the outfield and your inner board. This duplication is vital; without it, it would not be the highly favored play. —Duane Jensen Δ

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Glass Into Cup Quiz

Bob Glass Wins
Viotor Cup
by Jake Jacobs

What do Barclay Cooke, John Viotor, and Bob Glass have in common? Here's a helpful hint guaranteed not to help you at all: John Viotor is not the same person as Jon Viotor, the California player who has been a fixture of the backgammon scene for the last decade. While the clock winds down, it is only fair to warn you that the questions get harder from here!

ZZZZ! Times up! The answer is that all three have their names inscribed on the Viotor Cup. Jon's dad, John Viotor, began hosting this eponymous event back in 1962. During the first twenty years the host was the victor exactly once. Barclay so far is the record holder; the silver cup has Barclay's name inscribed six different times. After a nineteen year hiatus, Jon Viotor decided it was time to continue the tradition, and the event, overseen by California's premier director Pat Gibson, has been held three more times.

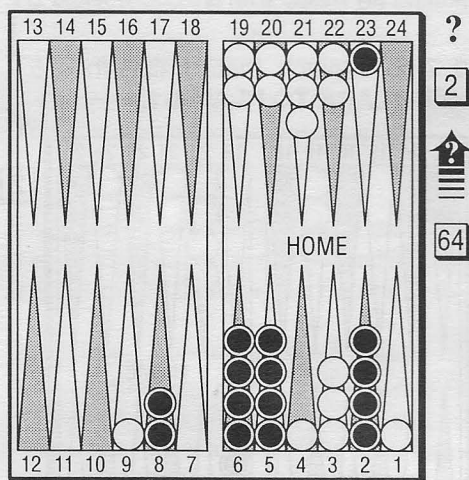


Viotor Cup champ Bob Glass. [Photo by Patrick Gibson.]

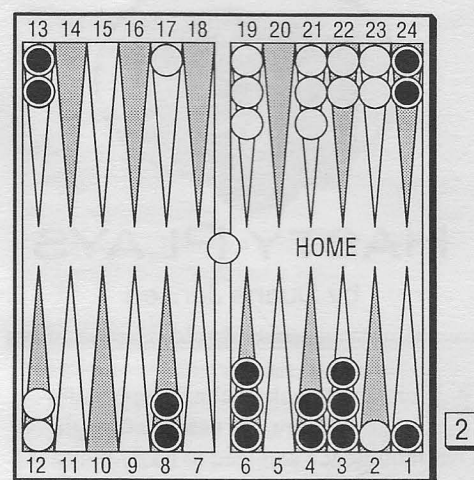
On September 15, 2002, the Northridge Nemesis, Bob Glass, earned the right to have his named added to the distinguished list when he defeated Sho Sengoku. Sho was runner-up in 2000, won the tournament last year, and this year, after losing to Bob in the finals of the undefeated bracket, came back through the second chance bracket for a rematch. Sho won the first final, and led 7-2 to 11 in the rubber match, before losing at DMP. Look out Barclay, you're being stalked!

Here are 12 challenging positions from the Viotor Cup tournament. Fragile. Handle with care. [Answers and complete Viotor Cup results on page 8.]—*Jake Jacobs* Δ

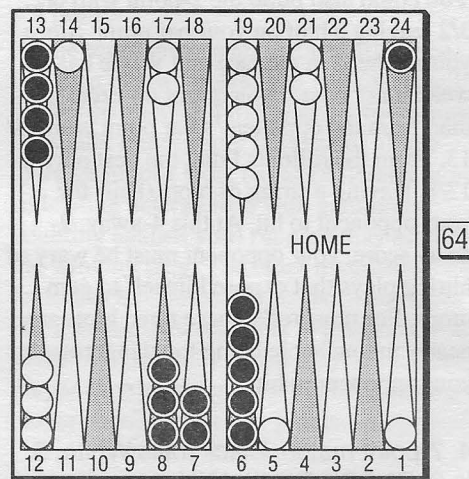
1. 11-point match. Black leads White 1-0. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



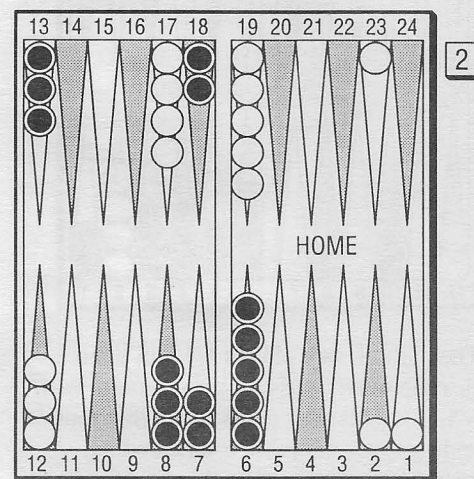
4. 11-point match. Black leads White 7-2. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.**



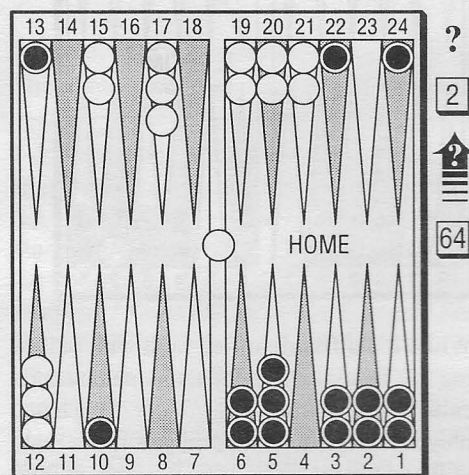
2. 11-point match. Black leads White 5-1. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-3.**



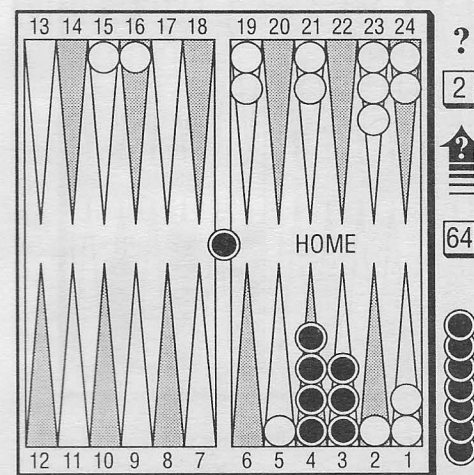
5. 11-point match. Score tied at 9-9. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-2.**



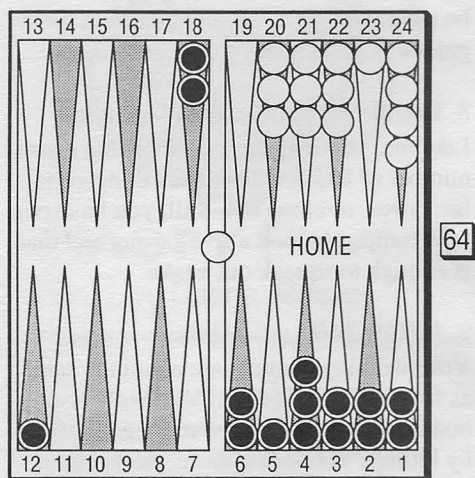
3. 11-point match. Score tied at 1-1. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



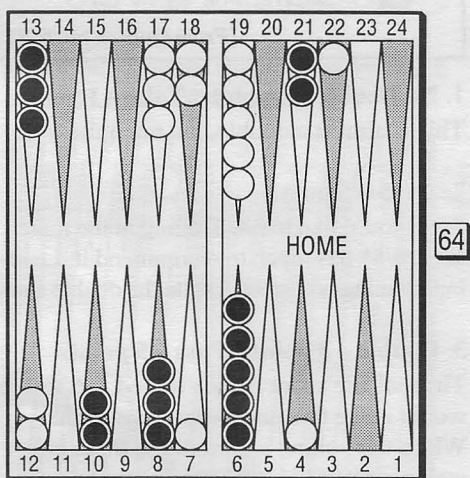
6. 11-point match. Score tied at 2-2. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



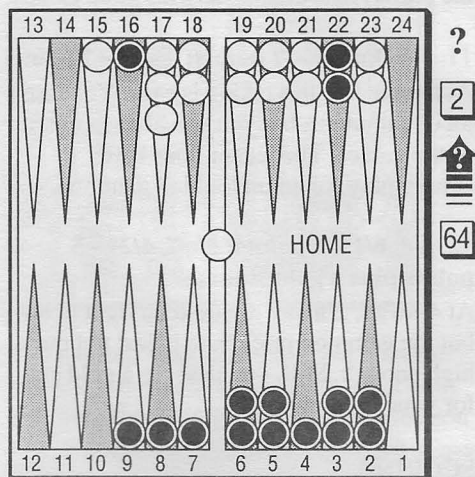
7. 11-point match. Black trails White 2-7. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-3.**



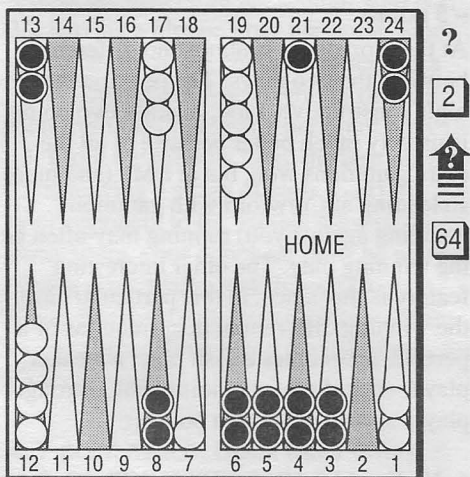
10. Tournament double match-point. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-1.**



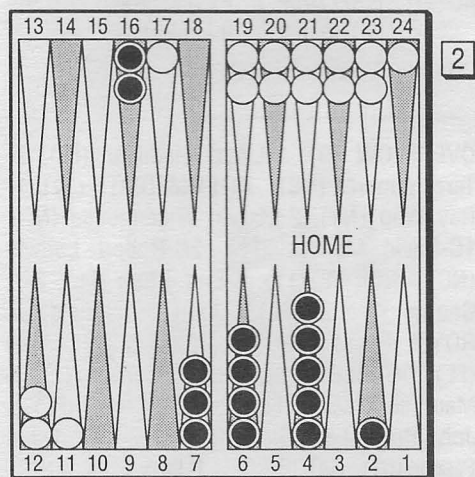
8. 15-point match. Black trails White 1-9. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



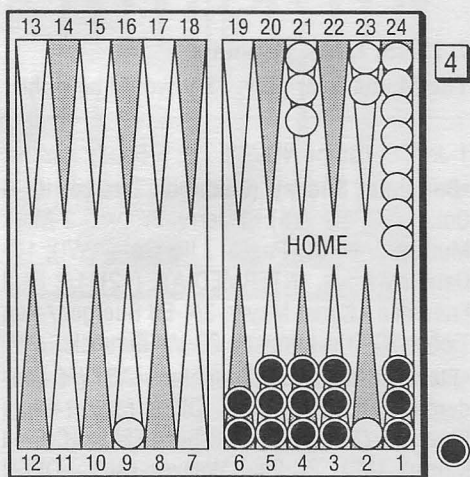
11. 15-point match. Black leads White 12-2. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



9. 15-point match. Black trails White 11-13. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-3.**

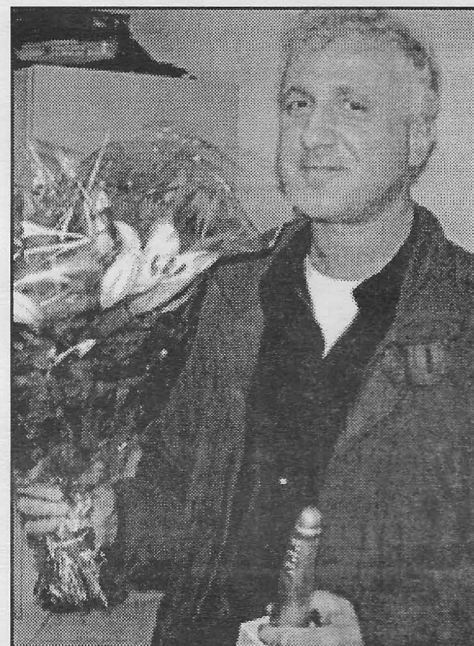


12. 15-point match. Black trails White 7-10. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-2.**



AMALGAMATION

Former Las Vegas Backgammon Club editor **Michael Maxakuli** has accumulated hundreds of great backgammon photos from the game's golden past and will be sharing them with the world at chicagopoint.com. We'll post a new photo every Wednesday... Past Backgammon Club of Chicago director **Valerie Valentine** (IL) is sad to report that longtime area player **Mausy Sayle** suffered a heart attack followed by a stroke in September. Her condition is now stable... **Bill Bartholomay** (IL) has made an incredible donation of \$1,000,000 to Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo... Peoria director **Ed Zell** is proud of 10-year-old daughter **Clare** who has a role in the E. Peoria *high school* version of *Les Miserables*... GammonVillage.com currently has a picture of **Mac Lean**, winner of the Amsterdam Open. **Liz Barker's** report includes



Mac's trophy was popular with the ladies.

a picture of the winner with (what we hope is) his exotic trophy in hand... Visiting the Bar Point Club in September: **David Smith** (Canada)... Last month, **Norma Shyer** (IL) visited the Anti-Cruelty Society (our Midwest Champs beneficiary) and adopted "**Roxie**," a mixed poodle terrier... It's fall and time for the Springfield Series kickoff event 9 November. Just a reminder that Parkers Sports Bar has changed its name to the Wildlife Sports Bar (more appropriate for backgammon players). For more info, contact **Ben Zemaitis** at 217/483-4028... The first person to invent a "backgammon dice duplicator" was **Oswald Lord**. The invention, circa 1930, was unsuccessful according to a *Time* magazine from that era... It was **Newton** who said: "If you don't have action then nothing can happen." Δ

WINNER'S CIRCLE



AUG.-OCT. 2002



Glass Into Cup Quiz Answers

[From Quiz on pp. 6-7]

•**BGBB Inaugural Saturday Monthly** (Scotts Valley, CA; 24 Aug.)... OPEN/INT. (14): 1-David Escoffery, 2-Karam Ashoo; 1C/2C-G. Lipska / E. Winslow. BEGINNER (4): 1-Ernesto Nassau.

•**BGBB Sunday Monthly** (Oakland, CA; 8 Sept.)... OPEN (6): 1-David Levy; 1C-Glenn DeGuzman. INTERMEDIATE (12): 1-Cheryl Andersen. BEGINNER (4): 1-Loretta Bowen.

•**14th European Championships** (Nova Gorica, Slovenia; 6-8 Sep.)... MASTERS (72): 1-Katja Sophie Spillum (Nor), 2-A. Hogg (Eng), 3/4-R. Spörk (Aus) / R. Witt (Ger); 1C-J. Hessing (Den/Aus), 2C-D. Visentin (Ita); 1LC-M. Sacchi (Ita); Ladies Prize-K. Sophie Spillum (Nor). CHAMPIONSHIP (93): 1-Rolf Vetsch (Swz), 2-C. Facchetti (Ita), 3/4-C. Dindar (Tur) / L. Esposito (Ita); 1C-A. Markov (Bul), 2C-P. Blachian (Ger); 1LC-A. Poduie (Ita); Ladies Prize-M. Husum (Nor). INTM. (77): 1-N. Draganuta (Rom), 2-A. da Pra (Ita), 3/4-R. Bertini (Ita) / H. Höllriegel (Ger); 1C-F. d'Onofrio (Ita), 2C-A. Chen (Ita); 1LC-V. Di Clemente (Ita); Ladies Prize-M. Croce (Ita). SUPER JACKPOT (16): 1-H. Edy (Aus), 2-K. Puchkov (Rus). HEINER HAUSSLEITER MEMORIAL (118): 1-V. Sonnabend (Ger), 2-M. Faltermann (Ger). 1-POINT (64): 1-G. Rigon (Ita). SPERTI TROPHY (82): 1-H. Johanni (Ger), 2-O. Avidor (Isr).

•**Roy Hollands Trophy** (Coventry, England; 7-8 Sept.)... OPEN (59): 1-Harry Bhatia, 2-V. Versteeg, 3/4-A. Williams / E. Barker; 1C-R. Tannen, 2C-R. Hollands; 1LC-D. Startin. SUICIDE! (64): 1-J. Barber, 2-R. Bensley, 3/4-E. Di Bona / L. Singleton. FRIDAY KO (28): 1-E. Barker, 2-D. Nathan, 3/4-E. Di Bona / R. Rhodes. DOUBLES (12): 1-Batgirl & Boy Blunder.

•**Red, White & Blue Open** (Houston, TX; 14 Sept.)... OPEN (23): 1-Gonzalo Molina, 2-Kerry Blodgett; 1C-Jack Ervin, 2C-Patrick Lee.

•**23rd Vietor Cup** (Vietor residence, La Jolla, CA; 14-15 Sep.)... OPEN (16): 1-Bob Glass, 2-Sho Sengoku, 3-Odis Chenault. LIMITED (16): 1-John Rockwell, 2-Bill Papa, 3-Kalisa Wells.

•**Amsterdam Open** (Amstelveen, Holland; 21-22 Sept.)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Mac Lean, 2-R. van Tiggelen, 3/4-J. Wismeyer / J. van Ingen; 1C-P. van Haasterd, 2C-P. Vischjager; 1LC-D. Pascu (Rom). INTM.: 1-A. Gurekian (Italy), 2-K. Vasilios (Bel), 3/4-M. Brugman / R. Lever; 1C-R. Pothoven (Bel).

•**Towpath Inn Tournament—ABT** (Turin, NY; 27-29 Sept.)... OPEN (13): 1-Joanne Reid (Canada), 2-Renée Rosenbloom (NY), 3-Eden Windish (Canada). DOUBLES (5): 1-Joanne Reid & Alan Robinson (Canada), 2-Renée Rosenbloom (NY) & Jim Pascoe (CT).

•**Ace Point Monthly** (New York, NY; 29 Sept.)... OPEN (8): 1-Gene Gold. INTM. (10):

1. No Double – 3 points; Take – 1 point

This is almost a double, but not quite.

2. 24/15 – 5 points

Sure, you'd like to hit. Trailing in the match 13/7, 8/5* has much to recommend it. Leading, running is correct despite the double shot.

3. Double – 3 points; Pass – 5 points

The real-life score (Black trailed 1-6 to 11) would make this one easier to get right. White wins about a third of the time, but well over half his losses are gammons.

4. 24/17* - 7 points; 8/1 – subtract 5 points

Hitting sends a second man back while escaping a man; covering breaks the 8-point.

5. 7/5(2), 6/4(2) – 6 points; 18/16(2), 6/4(2) – 5 points

At the score there is almost no difference between the two plays. The position is still highly instructive. First, making two points is usually much better because of all the extra gammons won, but at DMP (and more so leading at Crawford with gammons counting against you) running may often be the winning play. The other interesting feature is that since, in this particular case, the winning differential is in fractions of a percent, it becomes a Fish play: a weaker player should prefer running, but a stronger player should make two points.

6. No Double – 6 pts.; Double (but you knew it was too good) – 9 pts.; Pass – 4 pts.

You are too good to double (approximately 1.05), but some of that comes from correct handling of all follow-up cube decisions. Meanwhile, if all your opponents would pass this, you are playing with the wrong crowd.

7. 18/15, 12/6 – 10 points

The Mama Bear play. 18/9 would be right

at DMP, but for fractionally more wins you give up several percent more gammons. Reverse the score and lifting the blot would be right; you give only about half as many games as gammons you avoid.

8. Double – 3 points; Take – 9 points

Like me, you may have noticed that every number of Black's does something good: hit; cover; or come out. Still, you have two men trapped behind a five-prime, and that is enough to squeak out a take.

9. 16/11*, 16/13 – 5 points

Your winning chances are about the same as if you distained the hit and built your board, but you win a few more gammons by hitting. You lose zillions more, but at the score that doesn't matter.

10. 8/7*, 7/4* - 10 points

In real life Black trailed 2-6 to 11, but I changed the score to make this harder. Even trailing I'd be inclined to make the 5-point, but the bot says the double hit wins more games!

11. No Double – 7 points; Take – 7 points

At a score like this taking is easy. You lose a lot of gammons, but you win about a quarter of the games. The leader does better to simply play for an undoubled gammon.

12. 6/4, 6/1 – 6 points; 5/off, 4/2* - 5 points plus a gold star

At 4-away, 2-away it would be right to hit, but the gammon price here is just not quite high enough. Still, you deserve a gold star for your fighting spirit!

SCORING

100-81: There's room for your name on that CUP!

80-61: Let's raise a GOBLET and toast you!

60-41: No fine wines this time, but you've earned a STEIN of beer!

40-21: Next time, drink a MUG of coffee before taking this test!

20-0: You are a MUG!

1-Jordan Lampe NOVICE (3): 1-Sandy Kazlow.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 6 Oct.)... OPEN (15): 1-Jerry Brooks, 2-Mark Murray, 3/4-Rory Pascas / Ilia Guzei (WI); 1C-Darrell Marcus. INTERMEDIATE (12): 1/2-Paul Friedman / Karen Meyer, 3/4-Ed Buerger / Ken Tibbs; 1C-Eric Johnson, 2C-Val Zimnicki.

•**Florida State Championships—ABT** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 4-6 Oct.)... OPEN (32): 1-Chris Stanford (TX), 2-Kit Salisbury (FL); 1C-Emil Mortuk (MI), 2C-Paul Weaver (AL). OPEN

OVERFLOW (9): 1-Lloyd Lindauer (FL), 2-Terry Bennice (NC). INTERMEDIATE (32): 1-Ray Woo (NY), 2-Marvin Widenhouse (NC); 1C-David Menkes (FL), 2C-Robert Ludwig (NC). NOVICE (11): 1-Eric Tilton (FL), 2/3-George Kierspe (FL) / John Broomfield, Jr. ROYAL PALM CLASSIC (10): 1-Mike Corbett (FL). DOUBLES (26): 1-Hugh Sconyers (TX) & Maureen Wasley (FL), 2-Martin King (FL) & John Broomfield, Sr. (UK). BLITZ (16): 1-Jim Pascoe (CT). GATOR ROLL: 1-Terry Bennice (NC).

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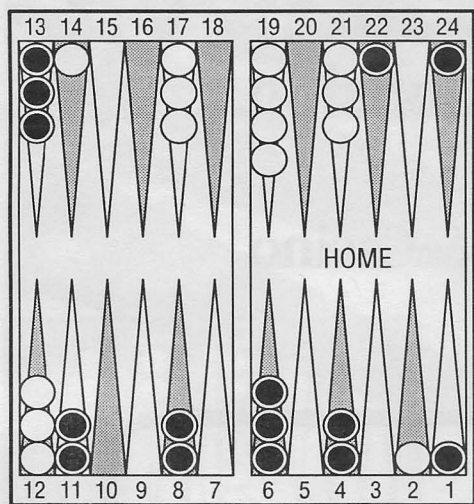
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PROBLEM #284 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

Match to 9 points. Black leads White, 8 to 3, Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-4.**



Black has five reasonable things which might be considered. All of them lead to some kind of improvement. They are:

- 1) 24/18, 22/18. Makes an advanced anchor, and gets both back men out of White's inner board.
- 2) 24/14*. Hits, which has the advantages of gaining in the race, putting White on the bar, ripping away an important builder, sending another checker back, and partially escaping one of the back checkers.
- 3) 13/7, 11/7. Makes the valuable blocking bar point.
- 4) 11/1. Locks up the ace point for good.
- 5) 8/2*, 6/2. Puts White on the bar while making a third inner board point.

The first on our list of eliminees is 11/1. While there is nothing at all wrong with making the ace point in this sort of position, the play is otherwise weak. It gives up the 11-point leaving and indirect shot there, does nothing to prevent White's back checker from escaping, and gives White her full roll with which to attack. The other candidates have to be stronger.

Next to go is the pure 13/7, 11/7. Making the bar point may look pretty, but it isn't the right game plan. White has only one man back, so the offensive approach should be geared toward attacking rather than priming. In addition, Black has that checker on his ace point, which doesn't go well with a priming game. Making the bar

point costs Black his 11-point. Just like 11/1, the play is too passive. It gives White his full roll with which to attack or build. Black has to accomplish more than this with the 6-4 roll.

8/2*, 6/2 is aggressive, and is consistent with the plan of attacking the lone checker rather than trying to prime it. The problem is that Black doesn't have the ammunition to carry out a blitz. The blot on the ace point is vulnerable to a return hit, and Black doesn't even have any builders in direct range to cover the blot if it is missed. In addition, this play gives up the important 8-point, as well as stripping the 6-point. This play would be okay if there weren't anything else available. However, both 24/14* and 24/18, 22/18 are very productive and maintain Black's structure up front. Therefore, we have to eliminate making the 2-point and look at the plays which involve moving the back men.

24/18, 22/18 is rock solid. This play pretty much guarantees that the worst Black will emerge with is a good bar point holding game. If Black is able to contain White's back checker, Black may come out with even better. Black's board has some holes, so most of the time White's back checker will find a way to slip through and we will have a simple holding game. Black is a little behind in the race, which goes against him, but the good holding game combined with the potential to contain White's back checker gives Black decent winning chances at relatively little risk.

24/14* is also a productive play. Hitting a blot in the opponent's outer board is good for all the reasons mentioned. The race factor is very significant since this hit puts Black a little ahead in the race. Sending the second checker back is also quite meaningful. It is a lot easier to contain the enemy if there are two back checkers rather than one. The only downside to 24/14* is the blot on Black's ace point, which may be hit from the bar. If it weren't for this blot, the hit would be a standout. The potential cost of this blot being hit is sufficient to make the two plays look very close.

If there were no score considerations, I would go with 24/14*. This is the play which puts the pressure on. If White fails to hit back, Black becomes a clear favorite, since he will have one man back to White's two men back as well as having a good structure.

The match score does make a difference. At this score, Black has no use for a gammon. White, on the other hand, has every use for a gammon since this is the Crawford game and White has an even

number of points to go. 24/18, 22/18 is the play which is less likely to lead to a gammon for either side, since that will usually result in a holding type of game. 24/14* is more likely to lead to a gammon for either side, as there won't be an advanced anchor and more checkers will be sent back.

Because of the match score only, I think that 24/18, 22/18 is superior—for money or earlier in the match with gammons of equal value for both sides I would play 24/14*.—Kit Woolsey Δ

NICOLE THE 'BACKGAMMON FIEND'



Between takes on the movie sets, Nicole Kidman has been spotted playing backgammon "on her luxe brown leather roll-up set, called the Wrapgammon," according to *US* magazine.

The Sept. 9 blurb labels her a "backgammon fiend." Δ



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T/P BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:30 P.M. at Java Oasis; 2240 S. Michigan, Chicago. J.A. Miller (312/719-1245).

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