

2006 illinois state championships

MARK IS "KING" OF ILLINOIS
Lincoln Masters trophy to Bill Davis

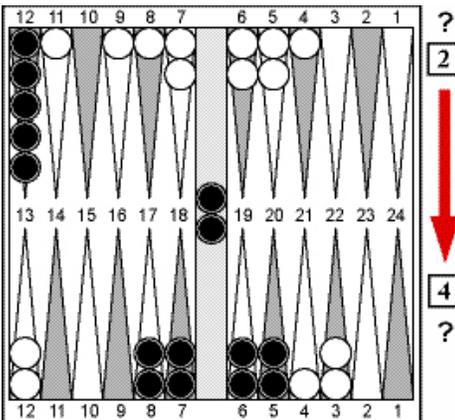
Champion Mark King (IL) and runner-up Thomas Meyer (IL) both learned it's better to give than to receive at the 2006 Illinois State Championships. The 6-8 Oct. event, held at the Holiday Inn-Peoria, was directed by Faddoul Khoury with assistance from Peoria Club director Ed Zell.



Illinois State Champ Mark King shares his victory moment with daughters Elizabeth (L) and Emily.

In a real seesaw battle, King topped Meyer to take the Illinois crown 15-13. The incredible match saw each player give a redouble and go on to win a gammon worth 8 points. Let's look at both of them.

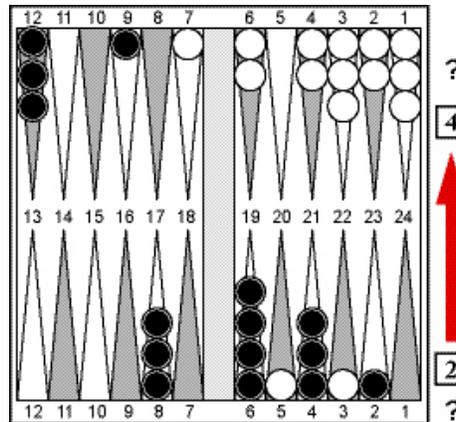
Pos. 1. 15-point Illinois finals. Mark King (Black) leads Thomas Meyer (White) 4 to 2. White on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



This is a close recube that is very well

timed. Even if the redouble was mathematically wrong by a fraction, it would still be correct to redouble. That's because some opponents would drop here and when that happens, White gains a ton of equity. Meyer won the gammon to take a big lead. But although it was now 10-4, Mark King was not "over and out."

Pos. 2. 15-point Illinois finals. Mark King (Black) trails Thomas Meyer (White) 4 to 11. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



With a centered cube, it would be a blunder for Mark to double here. But at the given score, Mark's recube negates all of Thomas's gammons. The 8 point win leapfrogged Mark ahead 13-12 and he never trailed again. Congratulations to the 2006 "King" of Illinois.

LAND OF LINCOLN MASTERS



Illinois director Faddoul Khoury (R) presents Bill Davis with the Land of Lincoln Masters trophy. [Photo by Ed Zell.]

The 16-player Land of Lincoln Masters saw CHICAGO POINT editor Bill Davis defeat former World Amateur and World Cup champ Joe Sylvester (MO) 13-10. Trailing 4-8 and holding a 2-cube, Joe recubed Bill

[Continued on page 5]

pacific northwest championships

NUNIYANTS 3-PEATS SEATTLE!
Markowitz is Mt. Ranier Master

Stephan Nuniyants (WA) won his third straight Pacific NW title besting Ray Foglerund (CA) 15-8 at the SeaTac Holiday Inn Sep. 29-Oct. 1. The accomplishment vaulted Nuniyants to third place in the 2006 ABT race. Read the entire tourney report by Ray Foglerund at www.gammonvillage.com.

In the Mt. Ranier Masters, it was Nevada Director Howard Markowitz (NV) over G/A director Patrick Gibson (CA). Gibson had a great tourney winning both the Doubles and the Open Last Chance event. Δ



Finalist Ray Foglerund (R) toasts 3-time Pacific NW champ Stephan Nuniyants.



Staffer Tim Ferrell (L) awards Howard Markowitz his Mt. Ranier Masters plaque.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN (28): 1-Stepan Nuniyants (WA), 2-Ray Foglerund (CA); 1C-Tami Jones (ID), 2C-Jeb Horton (NC); 1LC-Patrick Gibson (CA). INTERMEDIATE (26): 1-Matthew Miner (NY), 2-Katherine Denison (WA); 1C-Lynda Clay (CO), 2C-Steven Naar (FL); 1LC-Mark Kaiser (WA). NOVICE (2): 1-Susan "AZMom" Lee (AZ), 2-Wendy Gillis (WA). MT. RAINIER CUP (14): 1-Howard Markowitz (NV), 2-Patrick Gibson (CA). SEATAC DOUBLES (14): 1-Patrick Gibson (CA) & Ruth Robbins (WA), 2-Maia Bergstrom (CO) & Lynda Clay (CO). PUGET SOUND BLITZ (36): 1-Henry Gosage, 2-Stevie Grund (PA). SASQUATCH QUICKIE (32): 1-Stevie Grund (PA), 2-Howard Markowitz (NV). BRAHMA BOARD WINNER: Rick Voeller (WA).

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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HELLO FROM DAVID LIBCHABER

A long time ago, I used to play this game at with Chicago Bar Point Club at Pat's Pub. I recently ran into the CHICAGO POINT website with Tak's boards and Takgammon articles on display! Wanted to know if you had his e-mail address.

Also, I see your website includes a charming girl. Always enjoyable. All the best to you and your club members.—*David Libchaber, New York, New York*

Nice to hear from you David, and thanks for subscribing to CHICAGO POINT. Take it at takiboard@yahoo.com.—Ed.

MAN VS. MACHINE

In the September issue, Neil Kazaross wrote a fascinating piece on the Monte Carlo event in which runner-up Dr. Luigi Villa of Italy was mentioned as the first winner in 1979. Back then, Hans Berliner

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



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

*Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

| | | |
|-----------|---|--------------|
| Oct 20-22 | 11th Minnesota Open, Comfort Inn, Bloomington, Minnesota | 612/718-2613 |
| Oct 21* | Austin Club Saturday Bimonthly, Doubletree Hotel, Austin, Texas | 512/261-8518 |
| Oct 21* | Phoenix Free Monthly, Gaslight Inn, Glendale, Arizona | 602/296-4307 |
| Oct 28* | Backgammon By the Bay, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California | 831/688-9722 |
| Nov 1* | Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's, Kansas City, Missouri | 816/916-6599 |
| Nov 1-5 | 2006 Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada | 702/893-6025 |
| Nov 5* | Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio | 330/268-4610 |
| Nov 5-9 | 2006 World Doubles Championship, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada | 702/893-6025 |
| Nov 6* | Roy's Monthly Tournament, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California | 805/966-5636 |
| Nov 7* | Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona | 602/279-0215 |
| Nov 10 | Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Purple Hotel, Lincolnwood, Illinois | 773/583-6464 |
| Nov 11* | Backgammon By the Bay, Peking Express, Berkeley, California | 831/688-9722 |
| Nov 11* | Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana | 219/785-2082 |
| Nov 11* | Springfield Series, Ned Kelly's Steakhouse, Bloomington, Illinois | 217/622-9447 |
| Nov 11* | Turkey Trot Open, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas | 281/556-0428 |
| Nov 12* | Miami Valley/Dayton Free Roll, Barnes & Noble, Beaver Creek, Ohio | 937/890-2536 |
| Nov 12* | South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida | 954/564-0340 |
| Nov 16* | Third Thursday Bonus (California State), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan | 810/232-9731 |
| Nov 18* | Phoenix Free Monthly, Glendale Gaslight Inn, Glendale, Arizona | 602/296-4307 |
| Nov 19* | Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio | 614/784-8132 |
| Nov 19* | Pittsburgh Monthly Tournament, Hartner's Lounge, Cranberry Twp., PA | 412/826-1334 |
| Dec 1-3 | California State Championship, Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Los Angeles, CA | 818/901-0464 |
| Dec 2* | Springfield Series, Peoria Pizza Works, Peoria, Illinois | 217/622-9447 |
| Dec 3 | Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Purple Hotel, Lincolnwood, Illinois | 773/583-6464 |
| Dec 4* | Roy's Monthly Tournament, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California | 805/966-5636 |
| Dec 5* | Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona | 602/279-0215 |
| Dec 6* | Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's, Kansas City, Missouri | 816/916-6599 |
| Dec 9* | Atlanta Holiday Tournament, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia | 770/333-1876 |
| Dec 9* | Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana | 219/785-2082 |
| Dec 9* | Tournament of Champions, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas | 281/556-0428 |
| Dec 10* | Miami Valley Club Monthly, Gambits Bar, Marriott Hotel, Dayton, Ohio | 937/890-2536 |
| Dec 10* | South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida | 954/564-0340 |
| Dec 16* | Phoenix Free Monthly, Glendale Gaslight Inn, Glendale, Arizona | 602/296-4307 |
| Dec 17* | Pittsburgh Monthly Tournament, Hartner's Lounge, Cranberry Twp., PA | 412/826-1334 |
| Jan 12-14 | 7th Carolina Invitational, Hilton University Place, Charlotte, North Carolina | 704/814-0850 |
| Jan 20-27 | Backgammon On Board 8, Princess Cruise, Los Angeles to Mexican Riviera | 773/583-6464 |
| Feb 16-18 | 29th Pittsburgh Championships, Holiday Inn, Moon Twp., Pennsylvania | 412/823-7500 |
| Mar 23-25 | 2007 Midwest Championships, Wyndham Lisle Hotel, Lysle, Illinois | 773/583-6464 |

OUTSIDE USA

| | | |
|--------------|--|---------------|
| Oct 19-23* | 10th Rotterdam Open, Cafe Spiegel, Rotterdam, The Netherlands | 31650-818573 |
| Oct 21-22 | 14th Irish Open Championship, Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, Ireland | 35872-144270 |
| Oct 24-27 | 2nd European Doubles Championships, Enghien-les-Bains, France | 491715-422222 |
| Oct 26-29 | 4th Lucien Barrière Open d'Enghien-les-Bains, Enghien-les-Bains, France | 491715-422222 |
| Oct 30-Nov 3 | 3rd Caribbean Open, Casino Royale, Sonesta Maho Beach, St. Maarten | 39331-923537 |
| Nov 2-5 | 3rd OWL-Cup/Kaiserbrunnen Open/Amateur-Cup, Brakel, Germany | 49711-486190 |
| Nov 2-5 | 26th Swedish Open, Scandic Ariadne Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden | 468-6523033 |
| Nov 4-5 | Townharbour Trophy, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England | 441522-888676 |
| Nov 10-12* | Backgammon Live in London 2006, Spice Island & YHA, London, England | 447985-941729 |
| Nov 11-12 | 4th Torneo delle Città, Modanella, Italy | 39335-6031493 |
| Nov 18-19 | Gammonitis League Tournament, Eynsham Hall, Oxford, England | 441634-840592 |
| Nov 28-Dec 3 | Cancun Invitational Tournament, Ritz-Carlton, Cancun, Mexico | 775/829-8403 |
| Nov 30-Dec 3 | 18th City of Venice Tournament, Venice Casino, Venice, Italy | 3941-5211029 |
| Dec 2-3 | Gilbertson United Kingdom Finals, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England | 441522-888676 |
| Dec 2-3 | 5th Thun Tournament & Doubles, Waadtländerstube, Thun, Switzerland | 4179-4811318 |
| Dec 7-10 | 13th German Open, GlockenSpitze, Altenkirchen, Germany | 49521-64314 |
| Dec 9-10 | Julian's Christmas Cracker, Eynsham Hall, Oxford, England | 441634-840592 |
| Jan 3-7* | 11th Thailand Open, 19th Hole Superpub, South Pattaya, Thailand | 661-0001379 |
| Jan 4-7* | Winter-Open/Amateur-Cup Final, Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany | 49711-486190 |
| Jan 13-14* | 10th Birthday Bright 'n' Breezy, Holiday Inn Seafront, Brighton, England | 441522-888676 |
| Jan 21-25 | PartyGammon.com Million, Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas info@partygammon.com | |
| Jan 26-28* | 5th Cotswold Fireside Tournament, Bear of Rodborough, Stroud, England | 441453-821479 |
| Feb 3-4* | Jarvis Trophy, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England | 441522-888676 |

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

(then at Carnegie Mellon, and a past chess postal World Champion), had developed version BKG 9.8 dubbed "Gammonoid" by the organizers. Hans thought worthy of challenging a human, so after winning the 1979 title, Luigi Villa was pitted against

Gammonoid in a \$2500 winner-take all challenge. Gammonoid won the match 7-1.—*Roland Dieter, Deerfield, Illinois*

The Berliner AI article is in the June 1980 Scientific American (pages 64-72).—Ed.

THANKS FROM THE MEESES

We want to thank those who supported the last Indiana Open to be run by the Meeses.

At the event, we were asked many times why we are no longer going to run the Indiana tournament. The answer is that we are not going away; we are just changing gears.

During the Calcutta Auction, we were humbled with the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award plaque, a gift certificate, and over \$400 from 24 club directors across the country. [The recognition was the brainchild of Michael Flohr (Bloomington Normal Club), with Bruce Russell (Madison Backgammon Club) composing the inscription for the plaque.—Ed.] To be recognized by the community you have served was a very special moment that we will always remember. Let us share this recognition with our dedicated staff of many years: Rob Maier, Ellen Schremp, and Woody Woodworth.

Thanks very much to all who have supported us for the last 23 years.—*Butch & Mary Ann Meese, Westfield, Indiana* Δ



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2006

Top 100 through 8 Oct. 2006 after 14 tournaments
(Final 2006 events: Minnesota, Las Vegas, California)



| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-----------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Richard Munitz | 56.15 | Mark Donaldson | 10.24 | Thomas Meyer | 6.00 | Michael Flohr | 3.56 |
| Gregg Cattanach | 49.62 | David Todd | 10.10 | Mario Savan | 5.94 | Nancy Takala | 3.52 |
| Stepan Nuniyants | 36.16 | Alan Robinson | 9.90 | Michael Edge | 5.77 | Eric Barr | 3.26 |
| Ken Fischer | 28.13 | Neil Garvie | 9.38 | Robert Lessard | 5.77 | Ralph Byrns | 3.20 |
| Bob Glass | 27.22 | Dana Nazarian | 9.11 | Mark Rozans | 5.65 | Patty Geoffroy | 3.20 |
| Doug Roberts | 26.56 | Lee Wood | 9.05 | Roz Ferris | 5.64 | Dan Cramer | 3.15 |
| Fred Kalantari | 25.50 | Wayne Wiest | 8.86 | Tami Jones | 5.59 | Chris Spieldenner | 3.00 |
| Richard Lloyd | 20.68 | Sam Pottle | 8.83 | Stuart Katz | 5.29 | Blaze Braden | 3.00 |
| Petko Kostadinov | 20.26 | Tak Morioka | 8.83 | J.A. Miller | 5.28 | Bill Davis | 2.99 |
| Peter Beling | 19.22 | Christopher Yep | 8.74 | Steve Sax | 5.20 | Ken Johnson | 2.97 |
| Perry Gartner | 17.63 | Michael Battaglia | 8.00 | Elayne Feinstein | 5.12 | Mark Weiner | 2.97 |
| Peter Kalba | 14.78 | Brent Cohen | 7.39 | Mary Hickey | 5.06 | Gary Fishman | 2.92 |
| Jeff Nitschke | 14.64 | Joe Freedman | 7.39 | Kathy Sorci | 4.89 | Mike Rezai | 2.92 |
| Chuck Bower | 14.58 | Steve Brown | 7.32 | Joe Miller | 4.52 | Bill Finneran | 2.83 |
| Matthew Miner | 13.39 | Art Moore | 7.32 | Iancho Hristov | 4.52 | Chris Martin | 2.82 |
| Sal Pittelli | 12.56 | Barry Murphy | 7.20 | Beth Raby | 4.42 | Nayan Shah | 2.82 |
| David Rubin | 12.38 | Sal Chehayeb | 7.11 | Bill Bartholomay | 4.32 | Henry Gray | 2.82 |
| Arlene Austin | 12.25 | Tolga Ece | 6.80 | Peggy Neubig | 4.21 | Jeb Horton | 2.80 |
| Mark King | 12.01 | Raymond Rickard | 6.66 | Norm Hansen | 4.00 | Patrick Gibson | 2.80 |
| Nick Maffeo | 12.00 | Dennis Culpepper | 6.64 | Cole Parker | 4.00 | Keene Marin | 2.72 |
| Malcolm Davis | 11.59 | Faddoul Khoury | 6.48 | Bill Minser | 3.91 | Greg Tomlin | 2.70 |
| Rose Sheedy | 11.54 | Bruce Russell | 6.40 | Jolie Rubin | 3.83 | Dave Settles | 2.70 |
| Ray Foglerlund | 11.42 | Carlos Azcarate | 6.27 | Doug Mayfield | 3.78 | Jesse Eaton | 2.60 |
| Sean Garber | 11.28 | Ted Chee | 6.00 | Pete Esposito | 3.68 | Katherine Denison | 2.59 |
| John Jennings | 10.72 | Harvey Gillis | 6.00 | Gary Schachtschneider | 3.66 | Stewart Pemberton | 2.56 |





CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2006 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 30 SEPT.

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|---------------------|------|---------------------|------|----------------|------|
| David Rockwell | 22.08 | Bill Keefe | 6.94 | Arlene Levy | 3.92 | Adrian Rios | 1.12 |
| Phil Simborg | 20.16 | Rory Pascar | 6.64 | Alex Owen | 3.88 | Marcia Karen | 1.08 |
| Herb Roman | 19.96 | Roger Hickman | 6.64 | Les Moshinsky | 3.68 | Mark Ostrovsky | 0.80 |
| Tak Morioka | 18.94 | Albert Yakobashvili | 6.36 | Peter Kalba | 3.48 | Tom Harrison | 0.76 |
| Steve Klesker | 16.20 | Wayne Wiest | 5.88 | Amy Trudeau | 3.12 | Dave Cramer | 0.72 |
| Bill Davis | 13.76 | Larry Goldstein | 5.72 | Christopher Shanova | 2.72 | Martha Ghio | 0.72 |
| Gary Kay | 12.52 | Alice Kay | 5.64 | Richard Stawowy | 2.64 | Jordan Sanders | 0.68 |
| Tim Mabee | 12.04 | Ken Bond | 5.52 | Efim Liberman | 2.32 | Ryan Anderson | 0.64 |
| Bob Zavoral | 11.60 | Michael Ginat | 5.20 | Russ Lyutik | 2.16 | Ron Washington | 0.52 |
| Bill Bartholomay | 10.60 | Jacob Moreno | 5.08 | Vlad Genkin | 2.16 | Mike Pufpaf | 0.48 |
| Bob Steen | 10.44 | Boris Dekhtyar | 4.80 | Nora Luna Righter | 1.96 | Doug Rodgers | 0.48 |
| Eric Johnson | 10.20 | Sargon Benjamin | 4.80 | Elaine Kehm | 1.80 | Judy Zager | 0.48 |
| Phyllis Smolinski | 10.00 | Mark Murray | 4.48 | Dave Settles | 1.80 | Tony Santori | 0.48 |
| Oleg Raygorodsky | 9.64 | Willis Elias | 4.48 | Kwong Chan | 1.52 | Elaine Andrews | 0.48 |
| Paul Baraz | 9.60 | Glenn Martells | 4.36 | Steve Mellen | 1.44 | Tony Garcia | 0.48 |
| Linda Rockwell | 9.04 | Mike Sutton | 4.28 | Ken Tyszko | 1.20 | Daniel Lillian | 0.32 |
| Mike Wolock | 8.00 | Carter Mattig | 4.28 | Felix Yen | 1.20 | Kamau Jibri | 0.24 |
| Georgina Flanagan | 7.96 | Jerry Brooks | 3.96 | Ken Tibbs | 1.12 | Michael Peters | 0.16 |

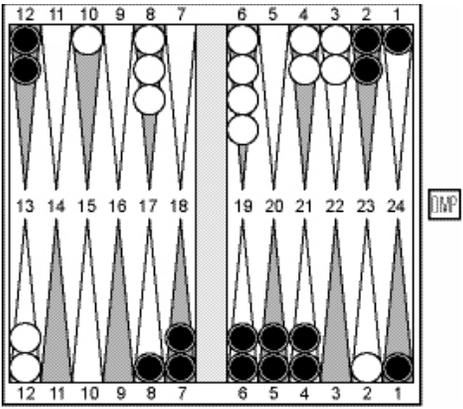
Newcomer **CHRISTOPHER SHANOVA** won the closest monthly competition in BPC history capturing September honors. His 2.72 total edged out Rory Pascar (2.64) and Bob Steen (2.56).

your move

PROBLEM #322

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

7 point match tied at 6 to 6. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-4.**

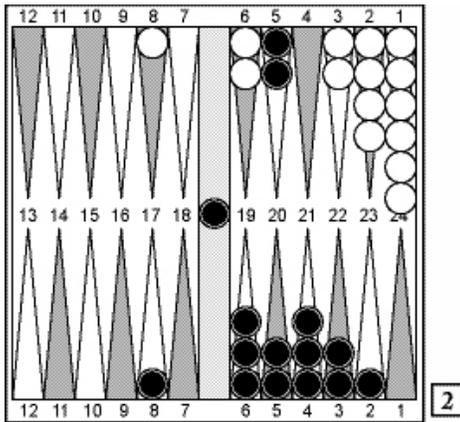


ASK
DANNY

© 2006 by Danny Kleinman

COME OUT OR COME IN?

Dear Danny: I recently faced this seemingly easy problem in the Intermediate Division of a weekend tournament.



I immediately ruled out playing to my

opponent's bar (B/20/18) for fear being hit and increasing her gammon chances. So it was between making my deuce-point or bringing a checker in. I eventually played 8/6.

After the match, an Open level kibitzer said I should have definitely come out to the bar. When I asked him why, he replied, "Let experience be your teacher."

I'd rather learn from you, Danny. Is coming to the bar right?—*Can't wait for experience*

DEAR INEXPERIENCED: I favor B/20/18.

Look at the position from White's perspective after you move out to her bar-point. Suppose she rolls one of the numbers that let her hit safely, 6-1, 5-1 or 4-1. Should she do so?

I think not. To hit 8/7* and continue to safety will set you back a bit in your effort to save a gammon, but it will also incur subsequent shot danger if you dance or enter on her 4-point. White will be better off bringing her man home and bearing a man off her 1-point.

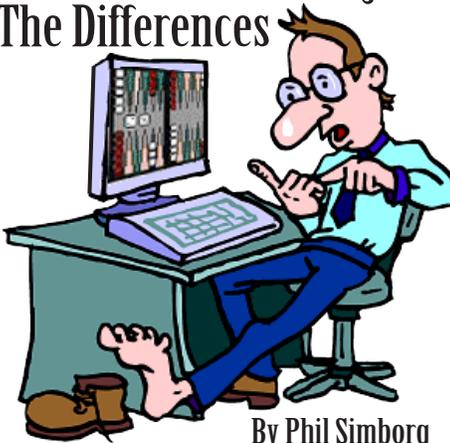
The swing rolls for White are her

combinations of 1s and 3s. If she rolls 1-1, she will be forced to hit you, sending your blot back to the bar and increasing her shot danger. If she rolls 3-3, you will have 20 hitting rolls instead of 14. And if she rolls 3-1, she will play 8/7*/4, leaving a blot she would not otherwise leave.

In short, you have little to lose but much to gain from coming out to White's bar-point.

Alas, experience isn't always the best teacher. For one thing, positions in backgammon are too infrequent to provide enough experience. But if this position arises again, I suspect some poor soul will play B/20/18, get hit by an opponent who rolls snake eyes, and write a letter to Miss Lonelyblots complaining about the gammon he lost in consequence, then promising never to leave blots voluntarily in the future.—*Yours, Danny Δ*

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

Online vs. Live Play:
The Differences

By Phil Simborg

I play a lot of backgammon, both online and live. While the game is basically the same, there are some differences and adjustments that must be made.

Pip Count: The biggest difference, for me and many others, is that online, you always know the pip count. Live, you have to actually stop and count or estimate. Unfortunately, many players don't bother to count live, and they will make mistakes as a result. For players used to playing online, counting pips is bothersome, but it's something they must learn to do.

Direction: People who play online get used to playing in one direction. On most servers, your inner board is always in the lower

right corner. When they come to their first live tournament, they are shocked to find out that both players can't have the inner board in their lower right corner, and they must occasionally play in the other direction. After only playing one way, you can imagine how confusing this can be to a new, live player. The good news is that after a few games, you get used to it.

Illegal Moves: There are no illegal moves online; but live, you had better be careful. You can cheat yourself with an illegal move because if you make a bad one, your opponent has the option of letting it stand. And intentionally or unintentionally, your opponent can take advantage of you with an illegal move. People make points, safety blots, and take off too many checkers all the time with illegal moves. You must be alert.

Tells: When you play live, it is possible to receive signals from your opponent that will help you. They can say or do things with body language that lets you know they would drop the cube—that's probably the biggest tell there is. Otherwise, the game is always right there on the table and there are no hidden agendas, so I don't put much stock into reading your opponent live.

Are there other differences? I know lots of people who make all kinds of claims about the dice online being unfair, or having too many doubles, or giving you just what you don't need or want at just

the wrong time. I totally disagree. All the studies that have been done on the online dice over the years shows they are totally random and fair. Dice are dice. They will make you dance on a one point board once in a while, and they provide jokers galore both live and online. It's human nature to only see and remember the bad dice you get and the good ones your opponents get; or only remember those times when there are five doubles in a row. As they say, "Dice happen."

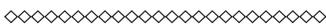
What about cheating? I won't go into all the details, but I am absolutely convinced that there is a great risk of being cheated online, and a minimal risk of being cheated live. You should stay on your toes and watch out for cheating live, but there's little you can do about it online. You can never be sure who you are really playing. Whether they are using a bot (Snowie, GNU or JF) to help them with their moves, getting help from a better player, or even if they have some method of knowing what the next roll is going to be.

I have personally been involved in exposing online cheaters, but what's to prevent them from coming right back with a new identity? All I can say is, if you think you are good enough to play for a lot of money online, you had better be as good, or better than the bots. And there's only a handful of people in the world I consider to be close to that level.—*Phil Simborg Δ*



BG Peeves

By Larry Liebster



EQUIPMENT

One of the highlights of my year is playing in the Las Vegas tournament at the Riviera penthouse overlooking the town of Las Vegas with the mountains in the distance and 360 degrees view. I attend many tournaments and find this one especially

like old home week. At these tournaments, I can say “hello” and quip with people (some of whom I label as friends) from all over the nation.

It was at the first match of the last Las Vegas tournament. I had started playing, when from two seats over I heard, “Larry, do you have any dice you can lend me?” This was from an expert player with whom I sometimes chat.

“Of course,” I responded and opened my board (I was playing my match on my opponent’s board). In doing so, the dice pouch and some checkers fell out. I gave him a set of dice and closed the board. When done with my match, I opened my board to straighten it out and discovered one checker missing. I tried looking for it, to no avail. In the meantime, I am saying to myself that I traveled across the country carrying the equipment, while he lives here in Vegas borrowing my equipment. Yet, here I am crawling around on the floor, and he is blissfully rolling my dice.

It has taken me years, but I asserted myself by interrupting his match and asking him to help. He stopped his match and joined me on the floor. After five minutes of us both crawling about the floor some lady found the errant checker in one of my

cups. He went back to his match.

Where to go with this?

Another incident. I am matched with a friend. I suggest using my board. He concurs. When opened, he looks and says that the board is a little warped. I tell him I will be glad to play on his board. He says he did not bring it. I say that I guess we will have to play on this one. He concurs. I tell him if he is so particular why doesn’t he bring his own board. I think sometimes this is a ploy to create negative feelings in me.

Where to go with this?

I have a friend who says that tournaments should supply the equipment—and the players buying registered dice—and these situations would never occur. They do this at some European tournaments. He says, “Can you imagine going to a poker game where a player says that he just got this custom deck of cards, hand made, individually crafted, \$800 cost, and that is what we will play with.” This would never happen because the possibility of bringing in marked cards is too high.

Cheating has occurred through the years. Use of common equipment might eliminate this. But I can’t see penalizing a player for not bringing equipment. I think the purchase price, transportation and distribution costs required for all the tournaments to provide equipment would be prohibitive. The tournament directors have a tough enough job and, as things are done now, have little enough profit margin.

I think we’ll have to live with things the way they are, but I can complain about it.

No!!

I don’t like complainers. I’ll just live with it.—Larry Liebster Δ

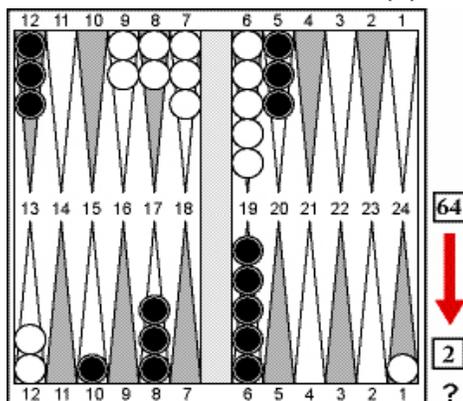
ILLINOIS...

[Continued from page 1]

to 4. Bill looked to be the winner until he ended in the “Coup Classique” position (3 remaining checkers on his deucepoint vs. one opponent’s checker on the ace). Bill tossed a 4-1 leaving two blots, Joe picked up both pieces, won the game, and knotted the score at 8—all.

Joe Sylvester offered a key double in game 15 with Bill leading 11 to 10.

Pos. 3. 13-point Masters finals. Bill Davis (Black) leads Joe Sylvester (White) 11 to 10. White on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



This is a fine double at 2-away, 3-away. If Bill drops to make the score 11—all, he is

50% in the match. Does Bill have enough equity in the current game to take?

The answer is “yes.” By taking, he gets 35% now, plus (65% x 30%) in the next game for a total of 54.5%.



Kathy Sorci (IL).

AND FINALLY

Kudos to the other main flight winners, Kathy Sorci (IL) in the Intermediate and Cindy Trine (IL) in the Novice. Cheers also to the Illinois staffers for a job well done! Complete results: Δ

ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (30): 1-Mark King (IL), 2-Thomas Meyer (IL); 1C-Sean Garber (IN), 2C-Bill Davis (IL); 1LC-Chuck Bower (IN). INTERMEDIATE (26): 1-Kathy Sorci (IL), 2-Wayne Wiest (IL); 1C-Terry Leahy (IL), 2C-Brad King (MI); 1LC-Scott Rudebeck (WI). NOVICE (12): 1-Cindy Trine (IL), 2-Mike Redenbaugh (IL); 1C-Nick Fady (IL), 2C-Dawn Pope (IL). LAND OF LINCOLN MASTERS (16): 1-Bill Davis (IL), 2-Joe Sylvester (MO). LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Stan Livingston (WI) & Tom Machaj (WI), 2-John Bare (IL) & Michael Flohr (IL). SPRINGFIELD OPEN (31): 1-Vadim Musaelyan (NC), 2-Petko Kostadinov (SC); 1C-Tim Mabee (IL), 2C-Terry Leahy (IL).

ILLINOIS ACTION



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

Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at The Purple Hotel, 4500 W. Touhy Avenue, Lincolnwood. 847/677-1234.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at The Purple Hotel, 4500 W. Touhy Avenue, Lincolnwood. 847/677-1234.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at Ned Kelly’s Steak House, 1603-A Morrissey Drive, Bloomington. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:30 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).

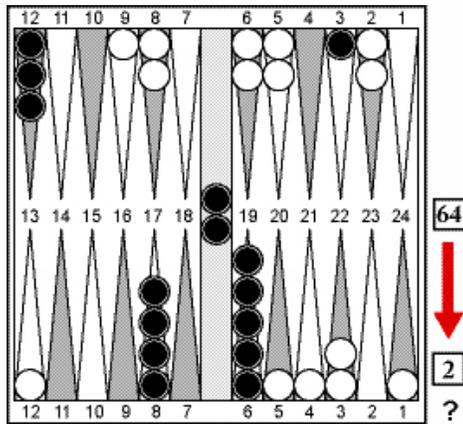
PEORIA BG CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/689-1964).

By Steve Sax

As the last defending champion of the Indiana Open Backgammon tournament, I gave my best effort to repeat. Instead I had my worst qualifying record (1-4) in my nine years of attendance. I did however encounter a variety of interesting positions, four of which are shown below.

After defeating Ray Glaeser, my "usual" first round opponent, I faced off against another nemesis, Jake Jacobs in the second round. Jake has rarely been seen in the States as of late, but he made a special appearance in this final Indy Open. Jake didn't take long before giving me a tough decision as he cubed in the following position in the first game of our 9-point second round match:

Steve Sax (BLACK) and Jake Jacobs (WHITE) are tied at 0-0 to 9. White on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



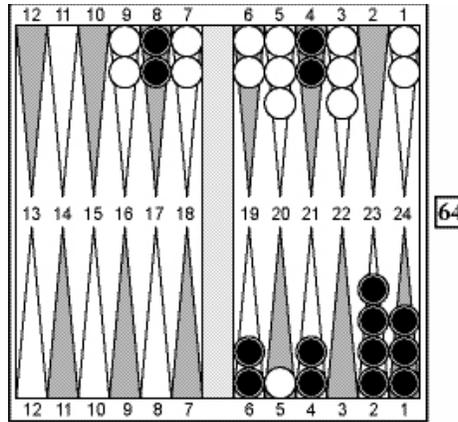
The race is even, but the pip-count barely has anything to do with this blitz cube. Jake's advantages are obvious as he has a three point board to my one point, and I already have two checkers on the bar with the threat of a third checker going to the roof. I decided that since he had five checkers in my home-board, there was a fairly good chance that it was a take.

Although we were both uncertain at the time, it turns out that Jake and I were both right about the position since it was double/take. Nearly half of Jake's 65% wins are gammons but since I win 35% of which 9% are gammons going my way, I have a comfortable take. Jake would go on to beat me 11-7 before falling to the eventual Indy 300 Masters champion Mary Hickey.

The next position comes from my fourth qualifying match. My record was now 0-3 having lost to Neil Garvie, David Todd and Carol Joy Cole. John Stryker was my opponent in this match and leading 6-2

to 9, I arrived at the following position:

Steve Sax (BLACK) leads John Stryker (WHITE) 6-2 to 9. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-6.**

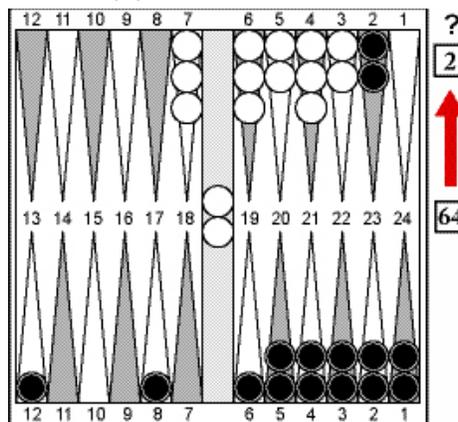


I thought to myself that it would be nice to roll boxes and point on him on my 5-point. Amazingly I did roll double 6s, but before pointing him off, I wondered if there could be a better play. Making the 5-point is nice and looks pretty, but there are two major tactical flaws. First, I have no additional builders to contain him with, and if he comes in immediately with a 3, I have little maneuverability with my back checkers. Secondly, even if he fails to enter, I am under heavy pressure to roll a 6 or 4 immediately or begin crushing my board.

Escaping from behind the prime and moving the two checkers 17/11(2) seemed to be an overall better tactic as I was still up seven pips after my non-hitting move. My estimation was correct as I gain a bit more than 0.5% match equity by making my move as opposed to the pointing play.

After winning my only match of the Indy Open, I faced Mark Rosans in round five. Trailing 4-6 to 9, I took this gammon threat opportunity to double Mark.

Steve Sax (BLACK) trails Mark Rosans (WHITE) 4-6 to 9. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



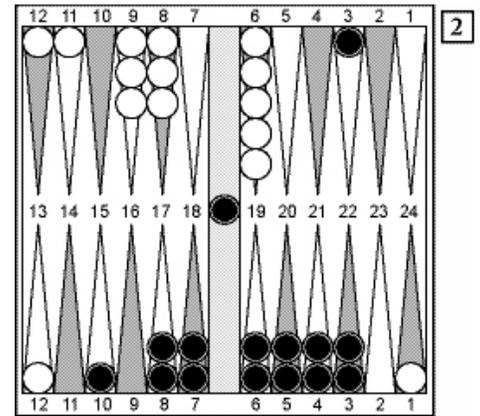
I was fairly certain he had a take here; still, it was correct for all kinds of reasons

to double. First of all he might pass. Anytime you can cube and it gets your opponent to drop when it is a take, you gain equity. Additionally, when Mark is able to turn the position around, his recube will be severely constrained and because of the score, he only gets half credit for gammons. Although Mark incorrectly passed, he had enough gas to get to the finish line as he defeated me 9-8 to end my "run" at Indy in 2006.

On the bright side, losing to Mark allowed me two advantages: (1) the opportunity to sleep in Sunday morning, and (2) the chance to enter the \$200 Labor Day Jackpot which I split with Yuri Millman.

In the first round of that jackpot, I faced off against 1996 Indiana Open champion, Dave Williams. Here, I rolled a 2-6 from the bar:

Steve Sax (BLACK) trails Dr. Dave Williams (WHITE) 0-1 to 9. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.**



Since the 2 was forced I had to decide to keep my prime or hit loose breaking my prime. Since Dave had five builders to make his bar point and other various numbers to make his 5-point, I figured that my best tactic was to hit loose (7/1*) and try to harvest those three outfield checkers for a gammon. In this case, the downside of being hit was far outweighed by the risk of being counter-primed when I play passively.

While looking at Snowie's rollout result, it is clearly right to hit loose; but at the time I thought it was at least worthy of a photo. I even found a few good players who thought it was correct to keep the prime. You won't read who they are as I am keeping this information for myself!

Bob Glass and I did manage to win the Doubles in our final try here besting Ray Glaeser and Neil Garvie at DMP to earn the title. Congratulations to all the others who won in Indy's last tournament and to all those who attended showing respect to Butch and Mary Ann Meese who ran such a great event for so many years.—Steve Sax Δ

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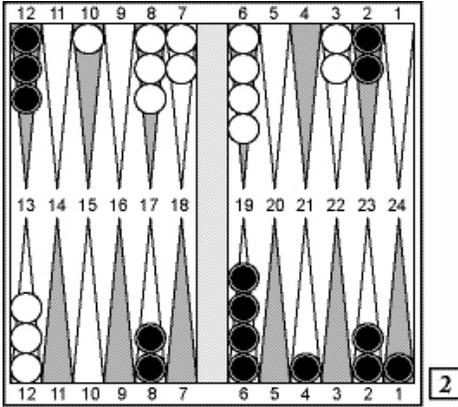
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PROBLEM #321 ANALYZED

by John O'Hagan

7-point match. Black and White are tied at 3-3. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.**



Well let's see. It's 4-away/4-away, Black owns a 2-cube and has a 6-2 to play. Abandoning the anchor to hit with 23/15* could work, but it is very dangerous. Hitting evens up the race but leaves four blots around the board and gives White 1s, 3s, 4s, 5s, and 6s (28 rolls in all) to hit one or more of them. That might well be too much risk.

On the other hand, passing on the hit with 13/7, 6/4 (my choice among the non-hitters) or 13/5 might be too conservative. All that leaves you with is a deucepoint game which doesn't win that often plus some extra vig when White is unable to fill in her 4- and 5-points.

Which of these approaches is Black's best bet at this score? Let's take a closer look at each play.

23/15*. Compared to not hitting, this play increases both Black's game-winning and gammon-losing chances. Breaking the anchor and leaving four blots obviously creates more gammons for Black's opponent, but good things can happen as well. Black's winning chances go up if White misses altogether, if she rolls one of her single hitters and Black comes back with something good, or if White rolls a double hitter but Black hits back. 23/15* therefore is clearly the right play at double match-point (DMP) since gammons have no value at that score. But gammons always count against you in money games and usually in tournaments as well.

One of the skills that experts have over average players is their ability to more accurately assess whether or not a play that gives you "x" extra wins but costs you "y"

extra gammon losses is a good tradeoff. A good tool to aid you in these types of decisions is called the *gammon price*—a measurement of how valuable a gammon is to either player compared to a single game win or loss. With the cube on 2 in a money game, the gain from turning a loss into a win is twice as much as the loss from turning a single loss into a gammon loss (going from -2 to +2 is a 4 point gain while going from -2 to -4 is a 2 point loss). It therefore follows that winning the game is twice as important as avoiding a gammon (always in money games and at most tournament scores as well), and that a play that gives you "x" extra wins but costs you "y" extra gammons is correct if $x > y/2$.

For example, let's say you own a 2-cube in a money game and have to choose between plays A and B. A makes you an 80/20 underdog with no gammons for either side and B increases your winning chances to 30% and your gammon-losing chances to 20%. Which play should you make? It actually makes very little difference since both plays leave you with a cubeless expectation of 1.2 points lost per game. B would be the cubeless winner however since it would give you more chances to redouble in a favorable position than A.

The gammon price is usually around this 1/2 figure at most match scores as well, but this score is one of the exceptions. Gammons with the cube on 2 at 4-away/4-away are a lot more valuable than normal. Using the Heinrich-Woolsey Match Equity Table (HWMET), a single game win/loss makes the leader/trailer a 68/32 favorite to win the match which is a 36 point swing. Turning a single win to a gammon win raises the leader's match-winning chances all the way to 100%—a 32 point swing. The gammon price is therefore 32/36 at this score, a lot higher than the normal 1/2. It also follows that $x > 8y/9$ for the riskier play to be correct at this score.

Now that we know the gammon price is 8/9, we next need to estimate how many extra gammon losses result from hitting on the 15-point. Remember that we are talking about *extra* gammons. Black is a long shot to be gammoned with two men on the deuce, but it certainly could happen. I would estimate that Black's net gammon losing chances if he makes the safe play this time are around 5%.

How about if Black hits? White's 16 double hitters (especially 4-4) could be a disastrous return, and 3-3 which hits and makes the 5-point is pretty gammonish as well. I don't see many gammon losses coming from White's other 19 rolls; and remember that it's legal for Black to roll a

joker and gammon White as well. Altogether it looks like the hit probably gives White around 20% net gammons, an increase of 15% over the safe play.

Does hitting increase Black's winning chances by at least 8/9 of 15% (around 13.3%) over what they would be after 13/7, 6/4? Let's take a closer look at Black's position after 13/7, 6/4 and try to estimate his winning chances.

13/7, 6/4. White will mostly fill in the 4- and 5-points leaving Black with a reasonably-timed deucepoint game behind a full 6-prime. How often does Black win from that kind of position? I don't know but 17-18% seems about right. Black also figures to get a few indirect shots along the way and sometimes White won't roll the right numbers to make the 4- and/or 5-point which will make her bearin/bearoff more treacherous. Other times, Black might roll 2-2 or 3-3 and make the 20- or 21-point yielding good racing/holding chances. So I would say Black's winning percentage chances are in the low 20s after making the safe 13/7, 6/4 play.

Now we need to decide if the hitting play can win around 34-35% of the time. White's next roll breaks down into 4 categories: 4 dancers, 4 enter-but-don't-hit, 12 single hits, and 16 double hits. I would estimate Black's cubeless chances in these four to be 50%, 35%, 30%, and 25% respectively. This adds up to 11 wins in 36 games (30.55%). That's an increase of around 8.5% in our raw winning chances over 13/7, 6/4 which makes it the right play for money, but close to 5% short of what we need at this score. Remember that these are cubeless, not cubeless numbers. Black's cube ownership figures to be more valuable than normal since White's 4-cube takepoint (32%) is so high at this score. But is it enough to overcome the almost 5% shortfall in cubeless winning chances? Well, maybe.

Let's compare hitting versus staying back on the deucepoint in terms of which play is more likely to enable Black to offer an efficient redouble (one where our cubeless chances are right around 68%) at some point in the future. If Black doesn't hit now, his chances of finding an efficient recube sometime down the road aren't very good. My experience with deucepoint games is that most of your wins come after hitting a shot when the opponent has zero to three checkers off. That figures to be a big market loss unless you've got a blot or a high open point in your inner board. You also might be able to offer an efficient recube if you roll boxes and convert to a race

[Continued on page 9]

WINNER'S CIRCLE



NOV.–DEC. 2006

- End of Summer Cookout Tourney** (Castle Rock, CO; 3 Sep.)... OPEN: 1-Carol Leatherman, 2-Charlie Raichle, 3-Denny Leatherman; 1C-Tom Christner, 2C-Lynda Clay... Hosted by Denny & Carol Leatherman.
- Backpacker Trophy Tourney** (Coventry, England; 9-10 Sep.)... OPEN (21): 1-Peter Chan, 2-David Nathan, 3/4-Tim Mooring / Chris Ternel; 1C-Peter Bennet, 2C-Ray Tannen; 1LC-Howard Furr-Barton, 2LC-David Motley. MAD MONKEY (16): 1-Michelle Fisher, 2-Chris Ternel. FRIDAY WARM-UP (5): 1-Peter Chan. JACKPOT WINNERS: Peter Chan, Peter Bennett, Chris Gibbins. GANG (11): 1-Mike Main, 2-Jackie Griffiths. POKER (7): 1-Tony Lee.
- South Florida Monthly** (Fort Lauderdale, FL; 10 Sep.)... OPEN (14): 1-Howard Rosenthal, 2-Karen Davis (NY).
- 13th Georgia Backgammon Championships—ABT** (Atlanta, GA; 15-17 Sep.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (10): 1-

PROBLEM #321...

[Continued from page 8]

after White has broken the 8-point or if you hit a shot late in the bearoff when White has six or more men off. But these are the exceptions, not the norm.

Hitting seems to offer more ways for Black to gradually improve and then to eventually redouble in a 63–68% position. Look at the resulting position if Black rolls a good number after White dances, enters without hitting, or rolls one of her weaker single hits like 6-5 or 6-3. Any of these give Black a pretty good chance of offering an efficient redouble in the near future.

Is this cube efficiency factor enough to make hitting the right play? I don't think so but it probably makes the decision somewhat close. Over the board, I would make the quiet play and hope to win from my deucepoint game.

I had GNU roll this position out and it also likes the quiet play:

| Play | Wins | G's | Losses | G's | Cubeless | Cubeful |
|-----------|------|------|--------|------|----------|---------|
| 13/7, 6/4 | 23.3 | 2.2 | 76.7 | 7 | 38.82% | 41.19% |
| 23/15* | 33.1 | 10.2 | 66.9 | 29.2 | 37.84% | 40.49% |

This rollout shows that hitting gives Black 10% extra wins and 14% extra gammon losses which is not a good tradeoff at this score. Notice that the cubeful numbers are closer than the cubeless so the cube efficiency factor does help the hitting play but by not enough to make it the right play.

The rollout above was done using the HWMET so I also had GNU roll the position out using the Snowie Match Equity Table. The quiet play is an even bigger winner using Snowie's MET, winning by 1.77% cubeless and 1.26% cubeful.—*John O'Hagan* Δ

Richard Munitz (NY), 2-Petko Kostadinov (SC); 1C-Peter Roubicek (GA). ADVANCED (5): 1-Jenni Charmichael (GA), 2-Marvin Widenhouse (NC). LIMITED (2): 1-Tom Charmichael (GA). PEACH CUP (4): 1-Richard Munitz (NY). DOGWOOD JACKPOT (4): 1-Vadim Musaelyan (NC).

•**Gammonitis Live Challenge Finals** (Oxford, England; 16-17 Sep.)... OPEN: 1-Mardi Ohannessian, 2-Chris Ternel; 1C-John Broomfield, 2C-Ray Kershaw; 1LC-John Clark. TEXAS HOLD'EM: 1-John Clark.

•**New England Club Monthly** (Malden, MA; 17 Sep.)... OPEN (12): 1-Ed Ahola, 2-Marcus Hermanson.

•**Ring's Research Roll Children's Charity Tourney** (Northbrook, IL; 17 Sep.)... OPEN: (24 Children): 1-Lindsay Mattig, 2-Gordan Miller. FAMILY EVENT (18 Families): 1-Lutz Family... *Linda Ring's fundraiser honoring her Husband Howard was a rousing success. Phil Simborg and Yamin Yamin were on hand to help.*

•**1st Portuguese Open & Grand Prix d'Estoril** (Estoril, Portugal; 20-24 Sep.)... OPEN: 1-Jean-Philippe Rohr (FRA), 2-Carsten Byrn (DEN), 3/4-Thorsten Haase (GER) / Jorge Figueiredo (POR); 1C-Kazuhiro Shino (JPN), 2C-Ronald Reinhardt (GER); 1LC-Andreas Humke (GER). INTERMEDIATE: 1-Eduardo Mendia, Jr. (POR), 2-Diogo Matos (POR); 1C-Kazuko Numazawa (JPN), 2C-Marc Steyvers (BEL); 1LC-Dobromir Kyurkchiev (BUL). AMATEUR: 1-Victor Trincao (POR), 2-Pedro Cabral da Camara (POR). GRAND PRIX D'ESTORIL: 1-Ronald Reinhardt & Thorsten Haase (GER), 2-Pedro Matos & José Costa Lima (POR). LADIES TOURNAMENT: 1-Dorothy Lee (GBR), 2-Rita Rego (POR). SUPER JACKPOT: 1-François Tardieu (FRA), 2-Alain Babillon (FRA). PRESIDENT'S TOURNAMENT: 1-Jacques Mercier (FRA), 2-TheCube (IRN).

•**Jon Viator Invitational Cup** (La Jolla, CA; 23-24 Sep.)... OPEN (22): 1-Steve Sax, 2-Tom Fahland; 1C-Nick Maffeo, 2C-Ron Bruns.

•**Kansas City Monthly** (Kansas City, MO; 4 Oct.)... OPEN (5): 1-James Worley, 2/3-Eric Barr / Scott Schaper.

•**Austrian Open & European Doubles Championship** (Seefeld, Austria; 6-8 Oct.)... MASTERS (39): 1-Stefan Bobenhausen (GER), 2-Stefan Parlow (AUS), 3/4-Damjan Plesec (SLO) / Kaha Nachkebia (GEO); 1C-Harald Johanni (GER), 2C-Michel Serrero (FRA); 1LC-Rainer Witt (GER), 2LC-Philip Vischjager (NED); Ladies Prize: Andrea Riebler (AUS). CHAMPIONSHIP (31): 1-Alexander Reichel (AUS), 2-Horst Ernst (GER), 3/4-Günther Holzinger (GER) / Peter Winkler (AUS); 1C-Stefano Rossetti (ITA), 2C-Günter Hegglin (GER); 1LC-Antonio Iaquinata (ITA), 2LC-Inge Pfettrisch (GER); Ladies Prize: Anna Maria Zarb (SWZ). INTERMEDIATE (31): 1-Hans Werner Ketteler (GER), 2-Eduard Razvan Tomciuc (ROM), 3/4-Claudio Cantoni (ITA); 1C-Petra Ketteler (GER), 2C-Vittorio Molè (ITA); 1LC-Renato Sovani (ITA), 2LC-Inge Wais (AUS); Ladies Prize: Susanne Lederer (AUS). LADIES TOURNEY (9): 1-Anna Maria Zarb (SWZ), 2-Maria Croce (ITA). WARM-UP (32): 1-Cristian Antohe (ROM), 2-Michael Higsberger (AUS). SPERTI TROPHY (37): 1-Torsten Haase (GER), 2-Stefan Parlow (AUS). 1-PT. TORNEO DEL PRESIDENTE #1 (64): 1-Neculai Draganuta (ROM). #2 (32): 1/2-Fabrizio Lo Surdo (ITA) / Renato Sovani (ITA). 3RD EUROPEAN DOUBLE CONSULTING CHAMPIONSHIP (16 teams): 1-Hans Weber (GER) & Rainer Witt (GER), 2-Tunc Hamarat (TUR) & Michael Higsberger (AUS).

•**Rocky Mountain Regional** (Denver, CO; 7 Oct.)... OPEN: 1-Jonah Seewald, 2-Marc Brosseau, 3/4-Don Alexander / Larry Disher; 1C-Dan Braden. LIMITED: 1-Michelle Barkenbus.

•**Sandy Osborne Memorial** (Coventry, England; 7-8 Oct.)... OPEN (35): 1-Rachel Rhodes, 2-Chris Gibbins,

3/4-Dave Motley / Johathan Powell; 1C-Myke Wignall, 2C-Tony Fawcett; 1LC-Bob Bruce, 2LC-Paul Gilbertson. THE SANDWICH (16): 1-Rodney Lighton, 2-Nicky Check. FRIDAY JACKPOT (8): 1-Jeff Ellis, 2-Tony Sykes. POKER (11): 1-John Slattery. £50 JACKPOT (8): 1-Nicky Check. TEAM GANG (6): 1-Ian Shaw.

•**Miami Valley Monthly** (Dayton, OH; 8 Oct.)... OPEN (5): 1-Gary Weiss, 2-Roger Foster.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 8 Oct.)... OPEN: 1-Mike Corbett, 2-Danielle Bastarache. Δ

AMALGAMATION

Thanks to TrueMoneygames/Snowie, the Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney will return 100% of the entry fees. Join us at the Purple Hotel, Friday, 10 November for all the action... Although PartyGammon has suspended all real money online gaming activities to US customers (due to the Internet Gambling ban signed by **President Bush** on 13 October), they are not canceling their 21–25 January Bahamas “Backgammon Million.”... **Malcolm Davis** (TX) has recorded a “How To Play Backgammon” series for ExpertVillage.com. Check it out at: hobbies.expertvillage.com/interviews/backgammon.htm... *What Colour is the Wind* backgammon author **Chris Bray** (UK) is planning a new book, *Second Wind*. The book, a compilation of his articles over the past five years, is scheduled for release in early 2007... Thanks to BackgammonMasters sponsorship, hospitality will be free and rakes reduced at the upcoming Pittsburgh Championships (16–18 Feb.). You can print out an invitation at www.chicagopoint.com... Good luck to **Hal Huddleston** (hk.hudd@yahoo.com) as he begins as director of the Castle Rock BG Club at the Rockyard Grille in Castle Rock, CO. That's the third new club to pop up in Colorado within one year!... According to **Matt Bai** of the New York Times Magazine, Democratic National Committee Chairman, **Howard Dean**, at the airport en route to Alaska, left his group to print out an online boarding pass. Instead, he was found playing online backgammon with a guy from China... Two location changes: The Phoenix Club moves to the Glendale Gaslight Inn in Glendale, AZ; and the New England Backgammon Club opens it's new season at the Dockside Restaurant in Malden, MA... Visiting the Bar Point Club this past month: **Nora Luna Righter** (MA), **Paul Slusarski** (NV), **Bob Smith** (MI), and **John Lüdemann** (Spain)... The (Bar Point Club home) Purple Hotel owner's wife **Jenny Guzon-Bae**, is one of this season's Survivor contestants. She's doing quite well... **Liz Barker** (UK) will step down as editor of *Make Your Point* backgammon magazine at the end of the year... Finally, here are **Thomas Jefferson**'s thoughts on luck. “I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.” Δ

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 **Sonesta Maho Beach Resort & Casino**
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