

# Madison Backgammon News



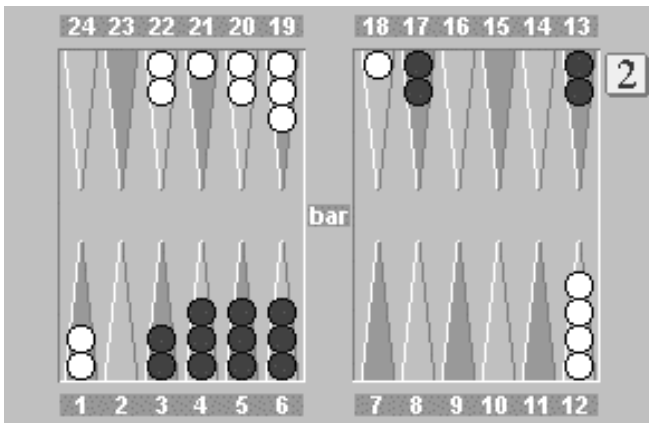
Number 37

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## Answers to Quiz Problems

By Sam Pottle

### Problem 13



Money game, White owns the cube.  
Black to play 43. (4 points)

It looks like the most natural thing in the world for Black to make the two point with this 43 roll. But is it right?

This kind of problem is known as a "pay now or pay later" decision. Once you tear your eyes away from Black's inner board and look at the whole position, you will see that Black's biggest problem is not making the deuce point, which she will probably be able to do later, but rather clearing the 17 point. Black can hang on to that point this turn, or clear it immediately with 17/13 17/14, leaving a shot. If she hangs on, she will probably be forced to leave a shot there anyway a couple of turns down the road.

Volunteering a shot in a holding game is usually wrong. The questions to ask are these: Is White's game improving or deteriorating? Is Black likely to leave as many shots later? Will Black win the game if she "pays now" and gets away with it? Here, White's game is clearly improving. White has a blot on his four point at the moment, which will make it very dangerous for him to hit this turn. A turn or two down the road, White will have a solid four point board, and a hit will be very strong. Note that after 17/13 17/14 White has twos to hit

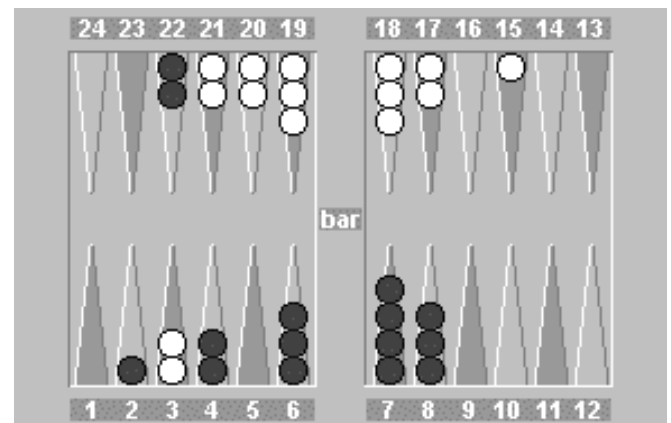
and twos to cover the blot, so that only 32 and 22 both hit and cover.

What about Black's future shot-leaving chances? She can only clear the 17 point cleanly with 64 or doubles next turn, and once the midpoint goes, even 64 doesn't work. Black will be able to play with those midpoint checkers for a couple of turns, but the squeeze is coming, and she is very likely to be forced off the 17 point while White still holds the midpoint.

What if Black pays now and gets away with it? She will be in a very strong position. White will have a couple of chances to hit a fly shot from his anchor, and Black still needs to fill in her two point, but she has several builders aiming at it, and several turns in which to make it. This shouldn't be a big problem.

If the answer to any of the questions favored waiting, it would probably be correct to pay later. As it is, Black should pay now. Since she will probably leave a shot anyway, it is better to leave it now while White's board is still vulnerable. Score 4 points for 17/13 17/14.

### Problem 14



Money game, Black to play 61.  
(a) Center cube. (2 points)  
(b) Black owns a 2-cube. (2 points)

(continued on page 2)

## Answers

(continued from page 1)

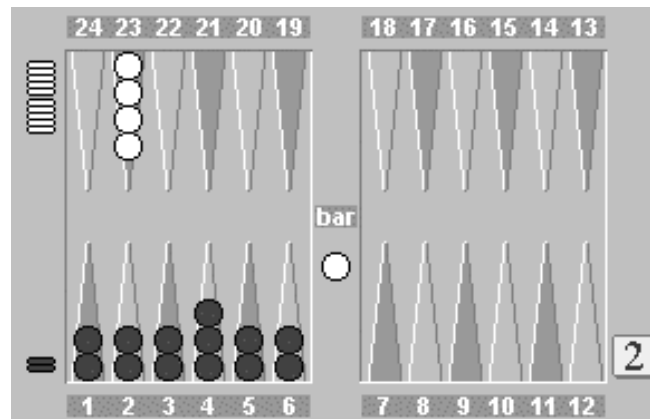
Black has just rolled a 17 to 1 shot. The question is whether he can afford to use it. He can go ahead and hit with 22/15\*, or he can keep the anchor, in which case 7/1 2/1 looks best (nice builder distribution, no blots). Hitting is clearly the best play to win the game: it both escapes a man over White's formidable 5-prime and hits, sending a third White checker back. The problem is that blot on Black's two point. Black is going to get gammoned pretty often if that man is hit. Without an anchor to stabilize his position, Black's game is likely to get washed away by an incoming tide of a dozen White checkers.

With gammons counting double, Black cannot afford to risk the hit. He does better to cover his blot and sit on the position. With the cube centered, however, it is a different story. Because this is a money game, the Jacoby rule applies, and gammons don't count if the cube has not been turned. So in part (a), Black can afford to hit because he can't lose a gammon. White could double from the bar to activate gammons, but her game isn't strong enough; if she dances, misses, or exchanges hits on her three point she will not be the favorite.

In part (a), score two points for 22/15\*. In part (b), score two points for 7/1 2/1.

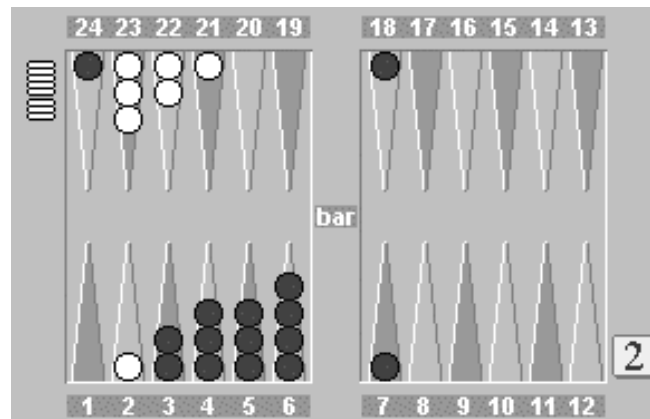
## New Quiz Problems

### Problem 15



Money game, Black owns the cube.  
Black to play 51. (4 points)

### Problem 16



Money game, Black owns the cube, Black on roll.  
(a) Should Black redouble? (2 points)  
(b) If doubled, should White take? (2 points)

## Club Standings As Of 9/05/00

Mark Tremayne	25.25
Bill Minser	21.60
Sam Pottle	18.90
Stan Livingston	17.70
Tom Machaj	17.65
Charlie Walter	13.25
Gary Hines	13.10
Lee Pflugrad	12.95
George Steele	12.35
Carl Jespersion	12.05
Ilia Guzei	6.80
Gary Fries	3.70
Stephen Turner	1.95
Mark Kremer	1.65
Jerry Neviasser	1.00
Sonja Peacock	0.80

## Recent Club Tournament Results

**June 20** – (7 players) 1<sup>st</sup> Lee Pflugrad,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Stan Livingston, Cons. Gary Hines.

**July 11** – (5 players) 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Gary Hines & Lee Pflugrad.

**July 18** – (7 players) 1<sup>st</sup> Gary Fries,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Tremayne, Cons. Stephen Turner.

**August 1** – (8 players) 1<sup>st</sup> Tom Machaj,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Carl Jespersion, Cons. Ilia Guzei.

**August 15** – (8 players) 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Tremayne,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ilia Guzei, Cons. Sam Pottle.

**September 5** – (8 players) 1<sup>st</sup> Stan Livingston,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ilia Guzei, Cons. Bill Minser.

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Events

**September 19**—Club Tournament. JT Whitney's Pub & Brewery, 674 S Whitney Way, Madison, WI. (608) 274-1776. 6:30 p.m. Registration. 7:00 p.m. Play begins. \$6/Entry, \$4/1<sup>st</sup> Side pool, \$5/2<sup>nd</sup> Side pool.

**September 24** – Milwaukee Bimonthly Tournament. John Hawks Pub, 100 E Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI (414) 272-3199. 11:30 a.m. Registration. 12:30 p.m. Play begins. \$40/Open - \$10/Side Pool, \$20/Limited.

**October 3** – Club Tournament. JT Whitney's Pub & Brewery, 674 S Whitney Way, Madison, WI. (608) 274-1776. 6:30 p.m. Registration. 7:00 p.m. Play begins. \$6/Entry, \$4/1<sup>st</sup> Side pool, \$5/2<sup>nd</sup> Side pool.

**October 8** – Chicago Bar Point Sunday Tournament. Anyway's Chicago Grill & Bar, 5 E Roosevelt Rd, Oakbrook Terrace, IL (630) 932-9323. 11:30 a.m. Registration. 12 Noon play begins. \$40/Open, \$20/Intermediate. Entry includes \$5 food & drink coupon.

**October 13-15** – 2000 Illinois State Backgammon Championships. Springfield Hilton, 700 E Adams St, Springfield, IL. (217) 789-1530. 12:00 noon Friday registration opens. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday final registration. 11:30 a.m. Calcutta auction. Play begins following auction & drawing. \$100/Open - \$50/Side, \$40/Intermediate - \$20/Side. Several other events.

**October 17** – Club Tournament. JT Whitney's Pub & Brewery, 674 S Whitney Way, Madison, WI. (608) 274-1776. 6:30 p.m. Registration. 7:00 p.m. Play begins. \$6/Entry, \$4/1<sup>st</sup> Side pool, \$5/2<sup>nd</sup> Side pool.

**November 7** – Club Tournament. JT Whitney's Pub & Brewery, 674 S Whitney Way, Madison, WI. (608) 274-1776. 6:30 p.m. Registration. 7:00 p.m. Play begins. \$6/Entry, \$4/1<sup>st</sup> Side pool, \$5/2<sup>nd</sup> Side pool.

**November 17-19** – Minnesota State Championships. Best Western Thunderbird Hotel, I-494 & 24<sup>th</sup> Ave, Bloomington, MN. (612) 854-3411. 3:00 p.m. Friday registration opens. 9:00-10:30 a.m. Saturday final registration. 11:00 a.m. Calcutta auction. 12:30 p.m. Play begins. \$225/Open - \$100/Side, \$120/Intermediate - \$35/Side. Several other events.

**November 21** – Club Tournament. JT Whitney's Pub & Brewery, 674 S Whitney Way, Madison, WI. (608) 274-1776. 6:30 p.m. Registration. 7:00 p.m. Play begins. \$6/Entry, \$4/1<sup>st</sup> Side pool, \$5/2<sup>nd</sup> Side pool.

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*Madison Backgammon News* is published every month or so to promote the fine art of backgammon in south central Wisconsin. Madison Backgammon Club meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. at J.T. Whitney's Pub & Brewery. Club tournaments are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of every month. Chouettes and one-on-one play are conducted on all other Tuesdays and after players have completed their tournament matches. For further information, contact Tom Machaj at (608) 276-8144 or by e-mail at [machaj@itis.com](mailto:machaj@itis.com)