



Hoosier
Backgammon
Club

November 2002

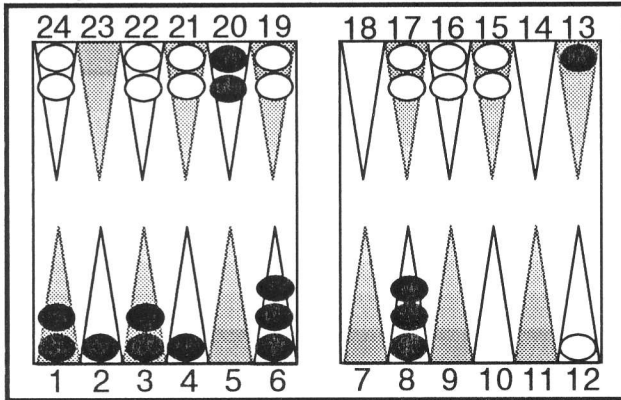


If Tomorrow Never Comes

by Chuck Bower

Position One.

Money Game, Black to play 3-1?



To hit or not is a frequent decision in backgammon. The gains from hitting are many and well known, for example: improvement in racing chances and taking away opponent's options next turn. Downsides include loss of an asset (for example, an anchor) and the threat of getting one's own checkers sent back. The latter concern is an issue in Position 1.

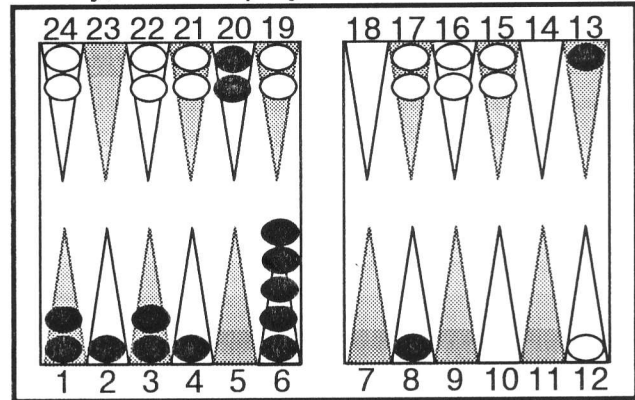
Many players would fail to hit here with the rationale *I'll wait until I've improved my moth-eaten board; then I'll hit*. The problem here is that White may never leave that future shot and when s/he does, Black might miss it.

According to Snowie rollouts, the best non-hitting plays (13/10, 8/7 or 13/10, 6/5) are **Whoppers**, giving up 0.11 units of cubeless equity. Although minimizing gammon risks, these plays win only about 29% of games compared to over 36% for the best choice. And what is that **best** choice? Possibly surprising the purists who are steeled in avoiding stacking the acepoint, 13/12x, 4/1 is considerably better than 13/12x/9 by 0.07 units of cubeless equity. Mostly this comes from 7% fewer gammon losses, but lifting also wins nearly

2% more games from 35% to 37%.

Position Two.

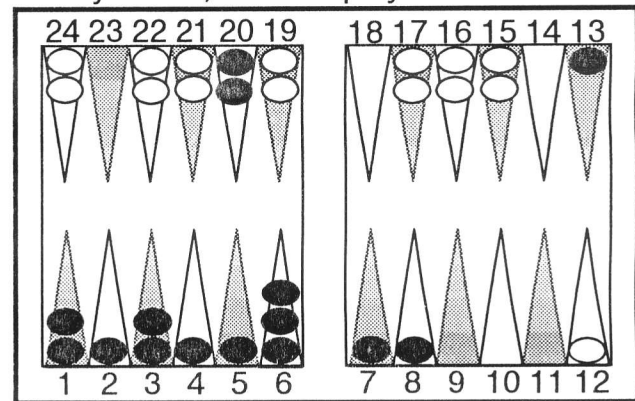
Money, Black to play 3-1?



How much do we need to change Position 1 in order for it to be correct to leave that blot alone? Position 2 is such an example. The primary reason that hitting is now incorrect is the blot on the 8-point. Even when Black lifts 4/1, the extra blot and loss of the blocking point give White too many gammons. Another reason to play safe is Black's improved racing equity. The combination of two pips and two extra crossovers improve Black's racing chances by nearly 4% over Position 1. The correct play is 13/10, 6/5 which is better than 13/12x, 4/1 by a whopping 0.13 equity units. The hitting play loses 1% more games and 13% more gammons than the safe play.

Position Three.

Money Game, Black to play 4-1?



In contrast to the previous situation, hitting in Position 3 is again correct. Covering 8/4 leaves Black with a 4-point board and if White fans Black has excellent prospects of turning it into a five pointer. Once again failing to hit is a blunder, worse by 0.12 cubeless equity units. The extra blots are scary, and when Black's plan fails the

HBC's Fall One-Day Tournament Sunday - December 8th 2002

Arni's Restaurant (875-7034)
3443 West 86th Street (west of Walmart)

Registration: 12 Noon Play Begins 12:30 PM

Open Division: \$20 (Optional \$10 Sidepool) Limited Division: \$8
Format: Main (9-points) - Consolation (7-points)

gammons will flow, but the stronger board (both its current configuration and future possibilities) make the risks worthwhile. Black loses 18% gammons after hitting, compared to 1% by playing safe but those are more than made up for by 10% more total wins and 10% more gammon wins.

Waiting for **tomorrow** to hit can be right, but you must weigh the possibility that tomorrow never comes.

HBC 2002 Standings

The **Player of the Month** for **October** was **Jim Curtis** with **191** gammon points.

- 1 Jim Curtis..... 1440
- 2 Rick Steele..... 1082
- 3 Butch Meese..... 1044
- 4 Larry Strommen..... 891
- 5 Sean Garber..... 804

- 6 Woody Woodworth. 745
- 7 Chuck Stimming.... 701
- 8 Mary Ann Meese.... 674
- 9 Gabe Stiasny..... 652
- 10 Terry Bateman..... 504
- Scott Day..... 426
- Josh Riddell..... 140
- Al Gomez..... 133
- Chuck Bower..... 120
- Jeff Flowers..... 108
- Frank Scott..... 104
- Kevin Heacox..... 100
- Walter Trice..... 100
- Dan Moore..... 96
- Luke Clippinger..... 80
- Peter Kalba..... 69
- Dean Adamian..... 60
- Jon Vietor..... 60
- Joe Miller..... 51
- Mark Swanson..... 42
- Alan Tavel..... 39
- David Schwind..... 36
- Dragan Stevanovic... 36
- Shaw Dogan..... 36
- Paul Franks..... 36
- Doug Roberts..... 36
- Terry Leahy..... 36

- Diane Varner..... 36
- Katya Beshparova.... 34
- Rob Adams..... 30
- Rob Maier..... 28
- Stan Denski..... 26
- Mary Franks..... 26
- Jeff Baker..... 22
- Dave Groner..... 18
- Dion Hogan..... 18
- Mike Kelley..... 16
- Carl Sorg..... 16
- Ken Inman..... 16
- Charley Haley..... 12
- Roger Blaine..... 10
- Butch Bates..... 10
- Fred Kalantari..... 10
- Bill Wilner..... 10
- Karen Davis..... 10
- Andy Liebenthal..... 10
- Bob Weeks..... 8
- Cathie Benneth..... 8
- Jim Roston..... 8
- Rudy Silich..... 8
- Jon Stephens..... 8
- Jerry Godsey..... 8

| | <u>October 2nd</u> | <u>October 9th</u> | <u>October 16th</u> | <u>October 23rd</u> | <u>October 30th</u> |
|-----|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1st | <i>Larry Strommen</i> | <i>Larry Strommen</i> | <i>Chuck Stimming</i> | <i>Butch Meese</i> | <i>Josh Riddell</i> |
| 2nd | <i>Jim Curtis</i> | <i>Jim Curtis</i> | <i>Woody Woodworth</i> | <i>Chuck Stimming</i> | <i>Mary Ann Meese</i> |
| 2nd | ... | ... | <i>Gabe Stiasny</i> | <i>Jim Curtis</i> | ... |

Nov 20-24..... **Las Vegas Open**, Riviera Hotel and Casino, Las Vages, NV..... (702) 893-6025
 Dec 6-8..... **50th Gammon Associates Invitational**, A. R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA..... (818) 901-0464
 Feb 14-16..... **25th Pittsburgh Champs & ABT Awards**, Greentree Radisson, Pittsburgh, PA..... (412) 922-8400
 Wednesdays.. 7:00 PM at **Neon Johnny's**, 86th & Township Line Rd (Cellular 442-4065)..... HBC 255-8902