

PROBLEM OF THE WEEK #7 – JANUARY 20, 2021

THE POSITION:

○ is Double A Red
score: 0
pip: 104

5 point match

pip: 108
score: 0

● is KellyRae

XGID=-AbaBCCBB-----Bb-bcbc-:1:-1:1:42:0:0:0:5:10

● to play 42

THE TOURNAMENT AND THE PLAYERS:

For this week's problem, we continue taking positions from games played by members of our regular player pool in the "For The Glory" online tournament circuit. This position comes from last Monday's weekly tournament (January 11, 2021). Bill "KellyRae" Lonergan is playing the Black checkers in a consolation round match against Ralph "Double A Red" D'Onofrio, who is playing the White checkers.

THE GAME SITUATION:

It's the first game of a 5-point match, and Bill has found himself in quite a nice position, having found a spot to double earlier in the game and with White having three checkers trapped behind a solid five-prime. Bill now has the task of determining how best to play this relatively non-descript 42 roll that the dice Gods have presented him with.

THE QUESTION:

This week, we'll try a slightly different tack for our Problem of the Week – a two-part question:

1. What play did Bill actually make in this position?
2. What is Black's best play in this position?

The first part is different in that it is more a question of knowing the playing style of a player that you play with on a regular basis in our weekly tournaments. The second part follows our usual routine, and requires you to use your best backgammon skills to try to determine the best play; it differs from the first part in that for the first part you must take into consideration the very real possibility that today's protagonist has no clue what he is doing.