

**Presenting the games of
the 33rd 3-Move World
Championship Checkers
Match**

June 2025

**Sergio Scarpetta (Champion)
vs.
Melikaya Nonyukela (Challenger)**

Referee: Donald Oliphant

Annotated by Richard Pask

Presenting the 33rd 3-Move WCM June 2025: Sergio Scarpetta (Champion) vs. Melikaya Nonyukela (Challenger)

Key

- KR: KingsRow (Dr Ed Gilbert)
- CC: R: *Complete Checkers: Repertoire* (Richard Pask)
- CC: I: *Complete Checkers: Insights* (Richard Pask)
- pp: published play
- WCM: world championship match
- CR: colours reversed

Game 1 (14.6.25). Black: S. Scarpetta; White: M. Nonyukela. (Duration: 1h 40m)

9-13 24-20; 10-15 28-24; 5-9 23-19; 6-10 26-23; 1-5 30-26; 9-14 22-17; 13-22 25-9; 5-14 29-25 **(A)**; 15-18 26-22; 2-6 22-15; 11-18 32-28; 7-11 31-26; 11-16 20-11; 8-15 19-16; 12-19 23-16; 15-19 24-15; 10-19 16-11 **(B)**; 6-9 27-24; 18-23 24-15; 23-30 15-10; 4-8! **(C)** 11-4; 30-26 10-6; 9-13 6-2; 14-18 2-6; 26-22 6-10; 22-29 10-15; 18-23 15-18; 23-26. **Drawn.**

A: A good vary from the published 26-22: M. Tinsley vs. Chinook 1992. CC: R #460.

B: KR also shows 26-22 and 27-24 to draw.

C: Bringing things to a neat conclusion. A fine original game.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta ½ M. Nonyukela ½

Game 2 (14.6.25). Black: M. Nonyukela; White: S. Scarpetta. (Duration: 2h)

9-13 24-20; 10-15 23-18; 5-9 28-24; 6-10 27-23 **(A)**; 1-5 **(B)** 23-19; 11-16 20-11; 7-23 18-11; 8-15 26-19; 3-7 30-26; 7-11 26-23; 9-14 22-18; 15-22 25-9; 5-14 29-25; 11-15 25-22; 2-7 31-27 **(C)**; 12-16 19-12; 14-18 23-14; 10-26 **(D)** 27-23; 26-31 23-19; 15-18 19-16; 18-23 24-20; 7-10 16-11; 23-26 12-8; 26-30 8-3; 30-26 11-7; 10-15 7-2; 26-23 20-16; 15-18 16-11; 18-22 2-7; 22-25 7-10; 25-30 3-8; 31-27 8-12; 30-26 11-7; 27-24 7-2; 24-19 2-7; 19-16 12-19; 23-16 10-15; 4-8 15-18; 8-12 18-22; 26-17; 21-14. **Drawn.**

A: Under CC: R #458, I recommended 21-17 here. In fact, there is little in it between 21-17 and the text.

B: Arguably 10-14 gives Black a tiny edge. The text permits a return to standard pp.

C: This allows Black a slight advantage in the endgame. Instead, 24-20 is simple: M. Tinsley vs. E. Lowder 1975. CC: R #453.

D: White employs normal care from here out to secure the draw.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 1 M. Nonyukela 1

Game 3 (14.6.25). Black: M. Nonyukela; White: S. Scarpetta. (Duration: @2h)

11-16 22-18; 16-19 24-15; 10-19 23-16; 12-19 25-22; 8-11 29-25; 9-14 18-9; 5-14 22-17; 6-10 25-22; 4-8 **(A)** 22-18; 14-23 27-18; 8-12 17-13; 10-15 18-14; 7-10 **(B)** 14-7; 3-10 26-22; 10-14 22-17; 14-18 17-14; 18-22 14-10; 11-16 21-17; 15-18 31-27; 19-23 17-14; 16-20 14-9; 22-26 9-6; 2-9 13-6; 12-16 28-24; 26-31 6-2; 18-22 **(C)** 27-18; 20-27 32-23; 31-26. **Drawn.**

A: 11-15 is now generally preferred, to prevent the upcoming exchange. CC: R #635.

B: A radical exchange which virtually restores equality.

C: A sweet conclusion to a fine game.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 1 ½ M. Nonyukela 1 ½

Game 4 (14.6.25). Black: S. Scarpetta; White: M. Nonyukela. (Duration: 1h 35m)

11-16 22-18; 16-19 24-15; 10-19 23-16; 12-19 25-22; 8-11 29-25; 9-14 18-9; 5-14 22-17; 6-10 25-22; 11-15 **(A)** 17-13; 1-6 27-23 **(B)**; 4-8 23-16; 8-12 32-27; 12-19 27-23; 3-8? **(C)** 23-16; 8-12 31-27; 12-19 22-17; 7-11 27-24; 2-7 26-23; 19-26 30-23 **(D)**. **White wins.**

A: The move mentioned under Game 3.

B: A good alternative to 22-17; 4-8 27-24; 8-12 32-27; 7-11 to a draw: A. Huggins vs. R. Fortman (P) 1964. CC: R #636.

C: This is a loser. Instead, 19-24 28-19; 15-24 22-18; 6-9 13-6; 2-9 26-22; 7-11 22-17; 10-15 17-10; 15-22 10-6; 11-16 6-1; 16-20 to a draw.

D: Black cannot clear the bottleneck of pieces.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 1 ½ M. Nonyukela 2 ½

Game 5 (15.6.25). Black: M. Nonyukela; White: S. Scarpetta. (Duration: 1h 45m)

11-16 24-19; 7-11 22-18; 3-7 28-24; 9-14? **(A)** 18-9; 5-14 26-22; 11-15 22-18; 15-22 25-9; 6-13 29-25; 16-20 25-22? **(B)**; 8-11 31-26; 1-6? **(C)** 22-18? **(D)**; 13-17 21-14; 10-17 18-15; 11-18 23-14; 4-8 19-15; 7-10 14-7; 2-18 26-22; 18-25 30-14; 12-16 24-19; 16-23 27-18; 20-24 18-15; 24-28 14-10; 8-11. **Drawn.**

A: Almost certainly a losing move. Instead, the natural 16-20 draws. CC: R #1975.

B: KR gives 32-28! to win.

C: Another loss. Instead, 11-16 draws.

D: KR's 21-17! wins here but is incredibly hard to find across the board.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 2 M. Nonyukela 3

Game 6 (15.6.25). Black: S. Scarpetta; White: M. Nonyukela. (Duration: 2h 15m)

11-16 24-19; 7-11 22-18; 3-7 25-22; 11-15 18-11; 8-24 27-11; 7-16 29-25 **(A)**; 4-8 22-18; 8-11 **(B)** 25-22; 10-15? **(C)** 28-24? **(D)**; 16-20 23-19; 20-27 19-10; 6-15 31-24; 12-16 24-20; 1-6 21-17; 6-10 17-13; 15-19 13-6; 2-9 30-25; 10-15 25-21; 19-24 21-17; 24-28 26-23; 9-13 18-14; 15-19 23-18; 19-23 14-10; 23-26 10-7; 26-30 7-3; 30-25 18-15. **Drawn.**

A: 22-18 is usually played first, the position also arising from **11-15 23-18; 8-11 27-23; 11-16 18-11; 3-8 24-20; 8-15 20-11; 7-16 22-18; 15-22 25-18** same!

B: More complicated than the regular 9-14 exchange. CC: R #1972.

C: KR views this as a loser, with 10-14 preferred to draw.

D: KR gives 21-17! as the killer.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 2 ½ M. Nonyukela 3 ½

Game 7: (15.6.25). Black: S. Scarpetta; White: M. Nonyukela. (Duration: 2h 20m)

11-16 22-18; 8-11 24-20; 3-8 **(A)** 25-22; 16-19 23-16; 12-19 29-25; 9-14 18-9; 6-13 **(B)** 27-23; 8-12 23-16; 12-19 22-18 **(C)**; 1-6 **(D)** 18-14; 10-17 21-14; 4-8 32-27; 8-12 27-23; 11-15 **(E)** 23-16; 12-19 31-27; 6-9 14-10; 7-14 27-23; 15-18 23-16; 14-17 26-22; 17-26 30-14; 9-18. **Drawn.**

A: Choosing to transpose into **11-16 24-20; 7-11**, as recommended in CC: R. Also available from **12-16 24-20; 8-12**.

B: Knowledge is power!

C: Continuing the run-off with 32-27, as given in CC: R #2000, runs back into the game as played.

D: On a par with 5-9, as given in CC: R #1999, this again runs into play given under CC: R #2000.

E: From here, a completely thematic draw.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 3 M. Nonyukela 4

Game 8: (15.6.25). Black: M. Nonyukela; White: S. Scarpetta. (Duration: @3h)

11-16 22-18; 8-11 25-22; 16-20 29-25; 10-14 18-15; 11-18 22-15; 9-13 **(A)** 26-22 **(B)**; 5-9 22-18; 7-10 30-26; 10-19 24-15; 3-7 25-22; 7-11? **(C)** 15-8; 4-11 28-24; 6-10 24-19; 11-16 27-24!; 20-27 31-24; 1-5 **(D)** 24-20; 10-15 18-11; 14-17 21-14; 9-25 11-8; 25-30 20-11; 13-17 8-3; 30-25 19-16; 12-19 23-16; 25-22 26-23; 22-26 23-19; 26-23 11-8; 17-22 8-4; 22-26 4-8; 26-31 8-11; 31-27 11-15; 27-24 16-11; 23-7 3-10 **(E)**; 5-9 32-28; 24-27 15-18; 9-13 18-22; 27-23 28-24; 23-27 24-20; 27-23 20-16; 23-19 16-12; 19-16 12-8; 16-19 8-4; 19-23 4-8; 23-27 8-11; 27-23 11-16; 23-27 16-19; 27-32 10-15; 32-27 15-18; 27-32 18-23; 32-28 23-27; 28-32 19-23; 32-28 27-32; 28-24 32-28; 24-20 23-18; 20-16 18-15; 16-12 15-11 **(F)**. **White wins.**

A: 7-10 is Black's other good attack, for which see CC: R #922.

B: At one time held in low regard in pp, but long since rehabilitated. I have no doubt this had been thoroughly prepared by Mr Scarpetta. Far from damaging crossboard play, the advent of powerful computer programs has greatly enhanced it, reemphasising the game's practically limitless scope.

C: Loses. Instead, 7-10 draws. The reason for Mr Nonyukela's choice becomes apparent in the next note: a bona fide trap as per Derek Oldbury!

D: The planned-for 16-20 loses immediately to the 18-15 rebound shot.

E: A stark 3 x 3 ending beautifully executed by White.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 4 M. Nonyukela 4

Games 9 and 10 (16.6.25)

After an official review, these two games (one was played in full) were later both annulled. For the purposes of the scorecard, in effect they counted as two draws.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 5 M. Nonyukela 5

Game 11 (17.6.25). Black: M. Nonyukela; White: S. Scarpetta. (Duration: 1h 15m)

9-14 24-19; 11-15 27-24; 8-11 22-18; 15-22 25-9; 5-14 29-25; 11-15 25-22; 6-9 24-20; 15-24 28-19; 9-13 32-27; 4-8 22-18; 1-5 18-9; 5-14 26-22; 14-17 21-14; 10-26 31-22; 8-11 30-25; 11-16 20-11; 7-16 19-15 **(A)**; 3-7 25-21 **(B)**; 16-19 23-16; 12-19 22-18; 19-23 **(C)** 27-24; 23-27 24-20; 27-31 15-11; 7-16 20-11; 31-27 18-15; 27-23 11-8; 2-7 8-3; 23-18 3-10; 18-11 10-14; 11-15 **(D)** 21-17!; 13-22 14-18; 15-10 18-25; 10-14 25-22 **(E)**. Drawn.

A: 25-21; 3-7 19-15 same and slightly more commonly played.

B: Harry Moulding contrived to lose here with 23-18? in the 1927 2nd International Match.

C: Or 7-10 and an immediate draw. CC: R #1682.

D: Now Diagram 67 in CC: I.

E: Standard pp.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 5 ½ M. Nonyukela 5 ½

Game 12 (17.6.25). Black: S. Scarpetta; White: M. Nonyukela. (Duration: 2h 15m)

9-14 24-19; 11-15 22-18; 15-24 18-9; 5-14 28-19; 8-11 25-22; 11-15 22-18 **(A)**; 15-22 26-17; 4-8 29-25; 8-11 25-22; 6-9 **(B)** 17-13; 11-15 13-6; 2-9 30-26; 15-24 27-20; 9-13 23-19; 7-11 26-23; 11-15 32-28; 15-24 28-19; 3-7 22-18; 1-5 18-9; 5-14 31-26; 14-17 21-14; 10-17 19-15; 17-21 20-16; 12-19 23-16; 21-25 26-23; 25-30 23-18; 30-26 18-14; 26-23 15-10; 23-18; 10-3; 18-9 **(C)** 3-7; 13-17 7-10; 17-22 10-15; 22-26 15-19; 26-30 16-12; 30-25 12-8; 25-22 8-4 **(D)**. Drawn.

A: 32-28 is of course standard, but this is perfectly sound.

B: 11-15 27-24; 15-18 is a decent alternative, as given under CC: R #1707. The text move quickly leads to absolute equality.

C: Under normal circumstances, a draw would be agreed here.

D: Many more moves were played, but it is of course a dead draw. Note for Edgar Allan Poe: you were wrong!

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 6 M. Nonyukela 6

Game 13 (18.6.25). Black: M. Nonyukela; White: S. Scarpetta. (Duration: 1h 40m)

9-13 22-18; 6-9 25-22; 11-15 18-11; 8-15 24-20; 4-8 28-24; 1-6 23-19; 9-14 26-23; 15-18 22-15; 7-11 32-28 **(A)**; 11-18 30-25; 13-17 25-22 **(B)**; 17-26 31-15; 3-7 **(C)** 20-16; 14-18 **(D)** 23-14; 10-17 21-14; 6-10 15-6; 2-18 29-25; 5-9 24-20; 7-10 27-24; 9-13 16-11; 8-15 20-16; 18-23 25-22; 23-27 16-11; 27-31 19-16; 12-19 22-18; 15-22 24-6 **(E)**. **Drawn.**

A: 29-25; 11-18 30-26; 3-7 transposes into **9-13 22-18; 11-15**. CC: R #136.

B: 31-26 calls for 17-22! 26-17; 6-9 in reply to keep Black's game sound.

C: Essential.

D: 6-9 and the rebound shot runs the same way, Black securing an iron clad man-down draw.

E: I would imagine that both players were completely au fait with this variation.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 6 ½ M. Nonyukela 6 ½

Game 14 (18.6.25). Black: S. Scarpetta; White: M. Nonyukela. (Duration: 1h 8m)

9-13 22-18; 6-9 18-14; 9-18 23-14; 10-17 21-14; 12-16 26-22; 11-15 22-18; 15-22 25-18; 1-6 29-25; 6-10 25-21; 10-17 21-14; 2-6 24-19 **(A)**; 16-23 14-9; 5-14 18-2; 8-12! **(B)** 27-18; 3-8 2-11; 8-22 31-27; 4-8 27-23; 13-17 **(C)** 23-18; 17-21 18-15; 22-25 15-10; 25-29 10-7; 29-25 7-3; 25-22 28-24; 22-18 24-19; 8-11 19-15; 11-16 15-10; 16-19 3-8; 18-23 8-11; 19-24 10-6; 24-27 6-2; 27-31 2-6; 31-26 6-10; 26-22 10-15; 22-17. **Drawn.**

A: Often wrongly dismissed as permitting a soft draw, this was played with a definite purpose in mind!

B: Correct. The more natural 7-10? loses, as I showed many years ago. CC: R #49.

C: A sound alternative to 22-26.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 7 M. Nonyukela 7

Game 15 (18.6.25). Black: S. Scarpetta; White: M. Nonyukela. (Duration: 31m)

10-14 22-18; 11-16 24-19; 8-11 26-22; 16-20 22-17; 7-10 30-26; 11-16 26-22; 9-13 18-9; 5-14 22-18; 13-22 18-9; 6-13 25-18; 4-8 29-25; 8-11 18-14; 10-17 21-14; 13-17 25-22; 17-26 31-22; 1-6 22-18; 6-10 14-7; 3-10 28-24; 2-7 32-28; 10-14 18-9; 7-10 9-6; 10-14 19-15; 11-18 6-2; 18-22 2-6; 22-26 6-9; 14-17 23-19; 16-32 9-13; 20-27 13-24; 12-16 24-20; 16-19 20-24 **(A). Drawn.**

A: Standard pp as given in CC: R #1984.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 7 ½ M. Nonyukela 7 ½

Game 16 (18.6.25). Black: M. Nonyukela; White: S. Scarpetta. (Duration: 2h 17m)

10-14 22-18; 11-16 25-22; 7-10 **(A)** 18-15; 10-19 24-15; 14-18 23-14; 9-25 29-22; 5-9 22-18; 3-7 **(B)** 26-22; 9-13 **(C)** 30-26; 8-11 15-8; 4-11 27-23; 6-9 28-24; 7-10 24-19; 1-5 **(D)** 22-17; 13-22 26-17; 9-14 18-9; 5-14 17-13; 16-20 13-9; 11-15 32-28; 15-24 28-19; 20-24 9-5; 24-28 5-1; 28-32 1-5; 32-28 31-26; 28-32 5-9; 32-27 9-18; 10-14 18-9; 27-18. **Drawn.**

A: During his aborted 1994 match with Chinook for the short-lived Man-Machine world title, playing Black Tinsley unusually elected to transpose from **9-14 22-18; 11-15** into **10-14 22-18; 6-10**. Even more unusually, he then forgot his lines. The text move is even more surprising, transposing into **10-14 22-18; 7-10**, until one realises that the regular 16-20 29-25; 8-11 would transpose into Game 8! Given his evident familiarity with the tougher ballot, and a lack of opportunity to thoroughly review Game 8, I think Mr Nonyukela made a very wise choice.

B: I gave 8-11 in CC: R #894. The text is on a par.

C: 8-11 is still sound and could transpose into the note B play.

D: From here to the end, the game runs very smoothly to a draw.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 8 M. Nonyukela 8

Game 17 (19.6.25). Black: S. Scarpetta; White: M. Nonyukela. (Duration: 2h 5m)

9-14 22-18; 11-15 18-11; 8-15 25-22; 5-9 24-20; 7-11 22-17; 4-8 17-13; 3-7 28-24; 15-19 24-15; 10-16 23-16; 12-19 26-22; 19-23 27-18; 14-23 21-17 **(A)**; 7-10 29-25; 9-14 25-21 **(B)**; 11-15 20-16 **(C)**; 8-11 16-7; 2-11 31-26; 1-5 26-19; 15-24 30-26; 24-28 **(D)** 26-23; 11-15 32-27; 5-9 27-24; 28-32 24-19; 15-24 23-19; 14-18 22-15; 32-27 15-11; 27-23 19-16; 23-19 16-12; 19-16 11-7; 16-11 7-2; 10-15 17-14; 9-18 2-9. **Drawn.**

A: Or 29-25; 7-10 21-17 same.

B: Varying from Tinsley's 31-27, CC: R #614, this is a decent alternative.

C: 13-9; 6-13 31-27; 23-26 30-23 15-18 leads to a quick resolution.

D: Very forceful from here to the end.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 8 ½ M. Nonyukela 8 ½

Game 18 (19.6.25). Black: M. Nonyukela; White: S. Scarpetta. (Duration: 2h 20m)

9-14 22-18; 11-15 18-11; 8-15 25-22; 5-9 24-20; 7-11 22-17; 9-13 **(A)** 30-25; 13-22 25-9; 6-13 29-25; 3-7 25-22; 1-5? **(B)** 23-18; 15-19 22-17; 13-22 26-17; 19-23 27-24; 11-16 20-11; 7-16 24-20; 16-19 20-16; 4-8 17-14; 10-17 21-14; 2-6 18-15; 23-26 31-22; 19-23 14-10; 12-19 10-1; 23-26 1-6; 26-31 15-10; 31-26 22-17; 26-22 17-13; 19-23 10-7; 23-26 7-3; 8-12 3-7; 26-30 7-11; 30-26 6-10; 22-17 32-27; 26-22 27-23; 22-25 23-19; 25-30 11-16; 30-26 16-20; 26-22 20-24. **White wins.**

A: Varying from the more common defence of the previous game and, although generally viewed with some suspicion, is perfectly sound.

B: The weak link. Correct is 1-6 23-18; 15-19 22-17; 13-22 26-17; 10-15 18-14 (having the man on square 6 makes a big difference!); 19-23 27-18; 15-22 and the 14-10 shot into an ending where Black must employ care to draw.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 9 ½ M. Nonyukela 8 ½

Game 19 (19.6.25). Black: M. Nonyukela; White: S. Scarpetta. (Duration: 1h 50m)

10-14 22-17; 11-16 17-10; 6-15 23-18; 15-22 25-18; 7-10 29-25 (**A**); 3-7 26-23; 1-6 24-19 (**B**); 8-11 18-14; 9-18 23-14; 16-23 27-18; 10-17 21-14 (**C**); 11-16? (**D**) 28-24 (**E**); 4-8 31-26; 8-11 32-27; 16-20 24-19; 11-16 26-23; 6-10 25-21; 10-17 21-14; 2-6 30-25; 6-10 25-21; 10-17 21-14; 7-10 14-7; 5-9 7-2; 9-13 2-7; 13-17 7-11; 17-22 27-24; 20-27 11-20; 27-32 18-14; 32-27 23-18; 22-26 14-9; 26-31 19-15; 27-23 18-14; 23-18 15-10; 31-26 10-7; 26-22 7-2; 18-15 9-5; 15-11 14-10; 22-18 10-7.
White wins.

A: 26-23; 3-7 29-25 same.

B: White has held back 25-22 in readiness for the 18-14 dyke.

C: Black is now faced with a tricky problem to solve.

D: This loses, as does everything apart from the key 11-15! 18-11; 7-16 which turns out to be quite easy for Black. This will be published in the hardback version of CC: R and came to light after reviewing the 2024 USA vs. Italy match. Here, the same position arose from **10-15 23-19; 11-16** with Mr Scarpetta playing Black and Alex Moiseyev playing White! In this game, Black missed the draw with 6-9?, but White was unable to consummate the win.

E: The win is brilliantly forced from here to the end.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 10 ½ M. Nonyukela 8 ½

Game 20 (19.6.25): Black: S. Scarpetta; White: M. Nonyukela. (Duration: 1h 10m)

10-14 22-17; 11-16 17-10; 6-15 24-19; 15-24 28-19; 8-11 25-22; 9-14 22-18; 7-10 18-9; 5-14 26-22; 3-7 22-18; 1-5 18-9; 5-14 29-25; 16-20 25-22; 11-15 32-28; 15-24 28-19; 4-8 22-18; 14-17 21-14; 10-17 31-26; 7-11 18-14; 11-16 14-10; 8-11 10-7; 2-6 19-15; 11-18 23-14; 6-10 7-2 (**A**); 10-15 2-7; 15-18 26-23; 16-19 23-16; 12-19 7-10; 17-22 14-9; 19-23 10-14; 23-32 14-23; 22-26. **Drawn.**

A: 14-9; 10-15. Drawn: N. Proffitt vs. W. Carter (P) 2003. CC: R #833.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 11 M. Nonyukela 9

Game 21 (20.6.25). Black: M. Nonyukela; White: S. Scarpetta. (Duration: 1h 30m)

10-15 22-17; 9-13 17-14; 15-19 24-15; 11-18 26-22 **(A)**; 12-16 22-15; 7-10 14-7; 3-26 30-23; 8-12 25-22; 6-10 28-24; 1-6 24-19; 6-9? **(B)** 22-18? **(C)**; 9-14 18-9; 5-14 **(D)** 27-24 **(E)**; 16-20 31-26; 20-27 19-15; 10-19 23-16; 12-19 32-16; 4-8 16-12; 8-11 12-8; 11-15 8-3; 15-19 3-8; 19-24 26-23; 24-27 29-25; 27-31 25-22; 31-26 22-18; 26-19 18-9; 19-15 9-5; 15-10 5-1. **Drawn.**

A: In CC: R #1262 I gave preference to 28-24. The two attacks are on a par.

B: A natural move which loses. Instead, 2-7, 4-8 and 10-14 will all draw.

C: A natural move which draws. Instead, 27-24!; 16-20 23-18; 20-27 32-23 will win as per KR.

D: The position is now dead even.

E: The old faithful rebound shot. It had quite a role to play in this great match.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 11 ½ M. Nonyukela 9 ½

Game 22 (20.6.25). Black: S. Scarpetta; White: M. Nonyukela. (Duration: 1h 30m)

10-15 22-17; 9-13 17-14; 11-16 21-17; 13-22 25-11; 8-15 24-19; 15-24 27-11; 7-16 23-18; 4-8 28-24; 8-11 29-25; 6-10 **(A)** 14-7; 3-10 25-22; 5-9 24-20; 1-5 **(B)** 32-28; 16-19 31-27; 9-14 18-9; 5-14 27-24; 10-15 26-23; 19-26 30-23; 2-6 24-19; 15-24 28-19; 6-10. **Drawn.**

A: A defence popularised by the legendary MFT.

B: In CC: R #1252 I gave 10-15 to draw, but this is equally good. From here to the end the game follows a natural course.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 12 M. Nonyukela 10

Game 23 (20.6.25). Black: S. Scarpetta; White: M. Nonyukela. (Duration: 1h 40m)

11-16 24-20; 16-19 23-16; 12-19 22-18; 9-14 18-9; 5-14 25-22; 8-12 22-17; 4-8 29-25; 8-11 27-23 **(A)**; 11-15 23-16; 12-19 20-16; 15-18 **(B)** 26-22 **(C)**; 18-23 31-26; 6-9 17-13; 10-15 13-6; 1-10 16-11; 7-16 28-24; 19-28 26-12; 15-19 22-17; 14-18 17-13; 18-23 13-9; 10-15 9-5; 2-7 5-1; 7-11. **Drawn.**

A: Perfectly sound of course. However, my personal preference is for 27-24; 11-15 32-27; 3-8 27-23; 8-11 23-16; 12-19 17-13; 1-5 21-17!; 14-21 25-22 to a draw. CC: R #2020

B: Better than 19-24 28-19; 15-24 and a transposition into **9-14 22-17; 11-16** 25-22; 8-11 22-18; 16-20 18-9; 5-14 24-19; 11-15 19-16; 12-19 23-16; 4-8 29-25; 8-12 (6-9 is best) 27-23; 12-19 23-16; 20-24 28-19; 15-24 same!

C: 17-13; 10-15 32-27 is an important CR transposition into **9-13 22-18; 10-15** 25-22; 6-10 18-14; 10-17 21-14; 15-19 24-15; 11-25 29-22; 8-11 28-24; 1-6 22-18; 13-17 24-19; 11-16 18-15; 16-20 23-18; 4-8 same! This is given under CC: R #110. After the text move, both sides play perfectly to the close.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 12 ½ M. Nonyukela 10 ½

Game 24 (20.6.25). Black: M. Nonyukela; White: S. Scarpetta. (Duration: 1h 25m)

11-16 24-20; 16-19 23-16; 12-19 22-18; 9-14 18-9; 25-22; 8-11 27-23; 4-8 23-16; 8-12 32-27; 12-19 22-17 **(A)**; 11-15 20-16; 15-18 17-13 **(B)**; 14-17 **(C)** 21-14; 10-17 29-25 **(D)**; 17-21 16-12; 7-10 13-9; 6-13 27-23; 18-27 31-6; 1-10 28-24; 2-7 25-22; 10-14 24-19; 7-10 26-23; 14-17 22-18; 17-22 18-15; 10-14 15-11; 22-26 19-15; 26-31 23-19; 31-27 11-7; 3-10 15-6; 27-23 19-16; 23-18 6-2 **(E)**. **Drawn.**

A: The continued run-off with 27-23 is obviously simpler and might have been expected given the scoreline. CC: R #2022.

B: The Game 23 Note C transposition.

C: 10-15 is natural, but this is generally considered to be slightly better.

D: 27-23; 18-27 31-15; 6-9 13-6; 1-19 is an easy draw.

E: Substantially replicating L. Claxton vs. S. Cohen 1931.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 13 M. Nonyukela 11

Game 25 (21.6.25). Black: S. Scarpetta; White: M. Nonyukela. (Duration: 3h 15m)

11-15 23-18; 9-14 18-9; 5-14 22-17; 8-11 25-22; 4-8 29-25; 12-16 24-19; 16-23 27-9; 6-13 17-14; 10-17 21-14; 11-16 25-21; 8-12 **(A)** 32-27; 15-19 **(B)** 27-23 **(C)**; 16-20 23-16; 12-19 22-18 **(D)**; 3-8 **(E)** 18-15; 7-11 14-10; 11-18 26-23; 19-26 31-15; 1-5 30-26; 5-9 26-23; 9-14 23-19; 13-17 19-16; 8-12 16-11; 17-22 10-7; 22-26 7-3; 26-30 3-7; 30-26 7-10; 14-18 11-8; 26-23 8-3; 18-22 10-14; 22-26 3-8; 26-30 15-10; 12-16 21-17; 16-19 8-12; 30-25 **(F)** 17-13; 25-22 13-9; 22-18 10-6; 18-15 14-10; 20-24 12-16; 15-11 16-7; 2-11 6-2; 11-15? **(G)** 2-7; 15-18 10-15; 18-22 7-11; 22-26 9-5; 26-30 5-1; 30-26 11-16. **White wins.**

A: 7-11 is a fighting alternative.

B: 16-19 27-24; 12-16 24-20; 1-5 guts the game and leads to a quick draw. CC: R #1587.

C: 22-17; 13-22 26-17 is perhaps the most popular move; both sides operating in their opponent's double-corner. CC: R #1588.

D: Both 31-27 and the simpler 26-23 exchange are more commonly played.

E: Black could of course play a man down with 19-24 28-19; 20-24, but it doesn't appear to amount to much.

F: If Black wants a simple draw, then 23-26 will suffice.

G: Loses; 24-27 will draw.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 13 M. Nonyukela 12

Game 26 (21.6.25). Black: M. Nonyukela; White: S. Scarpetta. (Duration: 1h 50m)

11-15 23-18; 9-14 18-11; 8-15 22-17; 4-8 **(A)** 25-22; 15-19 **(B)** 24-15; 10-19 17-10; 6-15 **(C)** 21-17; 5-9 17-13; 1-6 29-25; 7-10 27-23; 9-14 23-16; 12-19 25-21; 8-12 32-27; 2-7 27-24; 14-17 21-14; 10-17 26-23; 19-26 30-23; 17-26 31-22; 7-11 22-17; 11-16 17-14; 15-18 24-20; 18-27 20-11. **Drawn.**

A: 5-9 is my preference, CC: R #1581, but this is equally good and perhaps offers Black more winning chances.

B: New to me. Instead, 8-11 26-23; 6-9 17-13; 14-17 13-6; 17-26 31-22; 2-9 23-19 etc ... is the regular continuation.

C: Identical to a Double-Corner Dyke, after **9-14 22-17; 11-16** 25-22; 16-19 24-15; 10-19 23-16; 12-19 17-10 6-15 except that the man which here is on square 4 is on square 12 in the game. Thus, Black is 4 moves ahead in development rather than just 2. However, this doesn't seem to amount to much and both players develop in a completely thematic way until the natural dissolution.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 13 ½ M. Nonyukela 12 ½

Game 27 (21.6.25). Black: M. Nonyukela; White: S. Scarpetta. (Duration: 1h 5m)

11-15 21-17; 9-13 25-21; 8-11 30-25 **(A)**; 4-8 24-19; 15-24 28-19; 11-16 22-18; 13-22 26-17; 8-11 17-14; 10-17 21-14; 16-20 25-22 **(B)**; 6-10 31-26; 10-17 22-13; 2-6 19-16; 12-19 23-16; 6-10 29-25; 10-14 18-9; 5-14 13-9; 14-17 25-21; 11-15 21-14; 7-11 16-7; 3-17 27-23!; 17-21 26-22; 21-25 23-18; 1-5 18-11; 5-14 32-27; 25-30 27-23; 20-24 25-22; 14-17 23-19; 30-26 19-15; 26-23 18-14; 23-18 14-10; 18-14 10-7 **(C)**. **Drawn.**

A: In Lesson 115 of CC: I, I track the history of this defence and how it has come to supplant the more complicated 17-14 exchange, whose merits are aptly described by the legendary Samuel Gonotsky. Indeed, the historical approach, advocated by Derek Oldbury in his *The Square World* magazine, is a key component when it comes to properly understanding what makes the game tick. Another example would be **9-14 22-17; 5-9** 17-13; 1-5 25-22; 14-17 21-14; 9-25 29-22; and now 10-15 – played originally with 23-18 in mind and the CR Dyke transposition. As Con McCarrick put it to me most emphatically many years ago, it is not at all clear that this is really the best defence; it is just that players have stuck with it as they have through necessity come to learn a lot about it. Even more unclear is Tinsley, Long and Hellman's preference for **12-16 21-17; 16-20** 17-13 and now 8-12 rather than 11-15 – which seems to be just a matter of convenience (doubling -up) - and also **9-13 23-19; 6-9** 27-23 and now 9-14 instead of 11-15 for the same reason.

B: Karl Albrecht's zwischenzug with 31-26! is also sound, and was played to a draw by Alex Moiseyev against Mr Scarpetta in their 2022 WCM

C: But for a few moves at the end, a replication of D. Lafferty vs. R. Fortman 1975. CC: R #1468.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 14 M. Nonyukela 13

Game 28 (21.6.25). Black: S. Scarpetta; White: M. Nonyukela. (Duration: 15m)

11-15 21-17; 9-13 25-21; 5-9 29-25; 15-19 24-15; 10-19 23-16; 12-19 17-14; 9-18 22-15; 6-9 25-22; 9-14 22-18; 14-23 27-18; 8-12 32-27; 4-8 27-23; 12-16 15-10; 7-14 18-9; 1-5 30-25; 5-14 25-22; 16-20 **(A)** 23-16; 14-17 21-14; 8-11 16-7; 3-17 **(B)**. **Drawn.**

A: 14-18 23-14; 8-12 was given under CC: R #4. The text was played on four occasions by L. Kondlo vs. M. Bernini in their 2022 Freestyle WCM.

B: One of the few rest games of this fine match. We are indeed fortunate to have so many great players in this modern era.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 14 ½ M. Nonyukela 13 ½

Game 29 (22.6.25). Black: M. Nonyukela; White: S. Scarpetta. (Duration: @ 3h)

9-13 24-19; 5-9 28-24; 11-16 **(A)** 22-18; 16-20 32-28; 10-14 18-15 **(B)**; 7-11 **(C)** 26-22 **(D)**; 11-18 22-15; 8-11 15-8; 4-11 30-26; 11-16 19-15; 1-5 15-11; 6-10 25-22; 3-7 11-8; 14-17 21-14; 9-25 29-22; 10-14 8-4; 14-17 23-18; 17-21 22-17; 13-22 26-17; 7-10? **(E)** 18-15; 10-19 24-15; 5-9 15-10; 21-25 4-8; 9-14 17-13; 25-30 13-9; 30-25 9-5; 25-22 5-1; 14-17 1-5; 17-21 5-9; 21-25 8-11; 25-30 9-13? **(F)**; 30-25? **(G)** 10-7? **(H)**; 2-6 7-3; 6-10 3-8; 10-15 11-18; 22-15 13-17; 25-30 17-21; 15-18 8-11; 18-22 11-15; 16-19! **(I)** 15-24; 12-16 27-23; 20-27 31-24; 16-20 24-19; 30-26 23-18; 22-24 28-19. **Drawn.**

A: A fighting defence which is sound. Remarkably, in addition to the regular 11-15, Black also has sound options in 9-14 and 10-14. The text was played in the first 3-move WCM in 1934, Newell Banks, Black, losing to Asa Long. No doubt as a direct consequence, it fell out of favour. Certainly, it is not for the faint-hearted!

B: In CC: R I wrote that 'White is powerfully arrayed'.

C: Banks played 1-5 which was strongly met with the 15-10 exchange. The text is better.

D: The 15-10 is a powerful option here too.

E: According to KR, this is a losing move, with 21-25 required to draw.

F: Permits a technical draw; 10-6! wins.

G: Back into a loss; 30-26! draws

H: 13-9!; 25-30 is back into the win of Note F. Granted a reprieve, Mr Nonyukela plays skilfully to draw.

I: A nice touch.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 15 M. Nonyukela 14

Game 30 (22.6.25). Black: S. Scarpetta; White: M. Nonyukela. (Duration: 25m)

9-13 24-19; 5-9 27-24; 11-15 22-18; 15-22 25-18; 8-11 19-15; 10-19 24-8; 4-11 32-27; 6-10 18-14; 9-18 23-14; 10-17 21-14; 11-15 29-25; 12-16 25-22; 1-5 26-23; 16-19 23-16; 7-11 16-7; 3-26 31-22; 5-9 27-23; 9-14 28-24; 2-7 30-25; 7-11 23-19 **(A)**; 14-17 19-10; 17-26 **(B)**. **Drawn.**

A: 25-21; 11-16 22-18; 15-22 24-20. Drawn: A. Long vs. A. Cameron 1952. CC: R #287.

B: Referee Donald Oliphant notes that Black had more time available at the end of the game than at the beginning! – an interesting consequence of the excellent time increments system.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 15 ½ M. Nonyukela 14 ½

Game 31 (22.6.25). Black: S. Scarpetta; White: M. Nonyukela. (Duration: 1h 35m)

10-15 24-20; 6-10 (A) 21-17 **(B)**; 9-14 25-21; 15-19 23-16; 12-19 17-13; 11-15 27-24; 1-6 **(C)** 22-17; 14-18 29-25; 8-11 26-23 **(D)**; 19-26 30-14; 6-9 **(E)** 13-6; 2-18 24-19; 15-24 28-19 **(F)**; 4-8 17-14; 10-17 21-14; 18-23 25-21; 8-12 32-28; 7-10 14-7; 3-10 21-17; 11-15 17-13; 15-24 28-19; 10-14 13-9; 14-17 9-6; 5-9 6-2; 9-13 2-6; 23-26 31-22; 17-26 6-10; 13-17 10-14; 17-22 **(G)**. **Drawn.**

A: As this and Game 32 show, there is definitely more to this ballot than meets the eye!

B: Perfectly playable, although Black has the playing edge. I featured it in the Postscript to CC: R.

C: In the Note B source, I recommended 8-11 after which 22-17? (both the 21-17 break-up and 32-27 draw); 4-8 29-25 is hopeless for White: Black have winning moves available in 1-6, 8-12 and 14-18! The text is equally good.

D: Well, played. Instead, 32-27?; 4-8 transposes into the Note C play.

E: 4-8 24-19; 15-24 28-19; 6-9 13-6 2-18 same.

F: From here to the end, both sides employ ordinary care to secure the draw.

G: A fine, original game.

Running totals: S. Scarpetta 16 M. Nonyukela 15

Game 32 (22.6.25). Black: M. Nonyukela; White: S. Scarpetta. (Duration: 1h 45m)

10-15 24-20; 6-10 (A) 28-24; 1-6 23-18; 15-19 24-15; 10-19 21-17; 9-13 17-14; 19-23 **(B)** 26-19; 6-10 22-17 **(C)**; 13-22 27-23; 10-17 25-21; 11-16 21-14; 7-10 14-7; 3-10 20-11; 8-24 30-26; 5-9 26-17; 9-13 32-28? **(D)**; 13-22 28-19; 2-6 **(E)** 31-27; 4-8 18-15; 22-26 23-18; 26-31 27-23; 31-27 29-25; 27-24 25-22; 24-27 **(F)**. **Black wins.**

A: With one game to play and being one game up, Mr Scarpetta had retained his title. However, it was obviously correct to play the final game, since it afforded Mr Nonyukela the opportunity to draw the match. And this he did!

B: Although published, this clearly took Mr Scarpetta by surprise, expecting as he was 6-9. Evidently the pitch was an inspired choice.

C: Played after a very long think, but not the best. Instead, 31-26; 10-17 20-16 (KR prefers 18-15; 11-18 22-15); 11-20 25-21; 7-11 21-14; 20-24 27-20; 13-17 22-13; 11-16 20-11; 8-31 14-10; 4-8 10-6; 2-9 13-6; 8-11 6-2; 11-16 19-15; 16-19 2-6; 12-16 15-11; 31-26 30-23; 19-26. Drawn. Analysis by William Ryan in *Big League Checkers*.

D: Loses. Instead, 18-14; 13-22 14-7; 2-11 32-28 will draw. Unpleasant as this continuation looks, I feel sure Mr Scarpetta would have taken it had he foreseen 2-6 at Note E.

E: This seals White's fate.

F: Continue: ... 22-17; 27-24 17-13; and 8-11 finishes matters. A fine win by Mr Nonyukela to even the score.

Final totals: S. Scarpetta 16 M. Nonyukela 16
3 wins each and 24 (26) draws

End Notes

1: Ballots

Ballot	Games
9-13 22-18; 6-9	13, 14
9-13 24-19; 5-9	29, 30
9-13 24-20; 10-15	1, 2
9-14 22-18; 11-15	17, 18
9-14 24-19; 11-15	11, 12
10-14 22-17; 11-16	19, 20
10-14 22-18; 11-16	15, 16
10-15 22-17; 9-13	21, 22
10-15 24-20; 6-10	31, 32
11-15 21-17; 9-13	27, 28
11-15 23-18; 9-14	25, 26
11-16 22-18; 8-11	7, 8
11-16 22-18; 16-19	3, 4
11-16 24-19; 7-11	5, 6
11-16 24-20; 16-19	23, 24

Note: Games 9 and 10 were annulled.

2: Wins & Missed Wins

- Mr Scarpetta won Games 8, 18 and 19. (3)
- Mr Scarpetta missed wins in Games 5, 21 and 29. (3)
- Mr Nonyukela won Games 4, 25 and 32. (3)
- Mr Nonyukela missed a win in Game 6. (1)

3: Original and Published Games

Of course, no game of checkers can be wholly original, but this is my best estimate.

Original (to some degree): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 31 and 32. (23)

Standard pp: 11, 15, 20, 24, 27, 28 and 30. (7)

4: 3-Move WCM Data (33 matches from 1934 – 2025)

- Total games played = 1187
- Draws = 927 (78%)
- Wins = 260 (22%)
- Of the 260 wins, 73 (28%) were Black wins and 187 (72%) were White wins.
- 6 ballots have yet to appear: 9-13 22-18; 10-14. 9-13 22-18; 11-16. 9-13 23-18; 6-9. 11-15 24-20; 8-11. 11-16 22-17; 9-13 and 12-16 23-18; 16-20.