

December 9, 2006

World Champion Alex Moiseyev sent us this play update for the Octopus ending; our thanks to Mr. Moiseyev for this informative additional material.

The Octopus ending which is covered on pages 62-63 is not forceable! Once, having the Black pieces, I played it differently in order to prevent this ending, and survived... not because my opponent missed a win, but because it was just another draw. Here is the full text of this game:

A. Moiseyev vs. R. Beckwith
3-move US National Tournament 2004
Las Vegas, Nevada, August 3, 2004
Round 3, Game 1

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

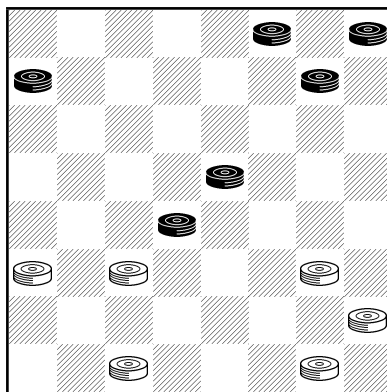


Diagram #1

*After 14-18**

A. See **Diagram #1**. This move, 14-18, is a good alternative to published play 3-7 which forces the play into the Key Ending #18 and well covered in Richard Pask book. It was 100% crossboard innovation on my part and I didn't have any prior knowledge of this move. However, during the game I spent some time and didn't find significant dangers for Black after this move.

B. Right after the game I and Dr. Richard Beckwith looked a little bit over 22-17 which may be a good alternative to 24-19 but still draws. Later I checked everything after 14-18 by utilizing Nemesis (a strong computer program) help. Verdict remains unchanged— draw! Continue from diagram: 22-17 18-23 24-19 15-24 28-19 5-9 17-13 9-14 13-9 8-11 9-6 14-18 etc. Drawn.

C. The only move to draw!