

HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB

 **The Tenth
Pan American Games
Indianapolis
7-23 August 1987**

Hoosier Backgammon Club
May 1987, Vol IV No. 4
Co-editors: Mary Ann Meese,
Butch Meese & Larry Strommen

The 8th Annual
Chicago
OPEN
An Invitational Backgammon Tournament

Featuring a modified
continuous play format
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
May 22nd thru May 25th, 1987

HOTEL SOFITEL
5550 N. River Road
Rosemont, Illinois 60018
312-678-4488 • 800-233-9959

For further information contact:
Howard Markowitz (312) 673-0917
or (312) 286-6719 / 286-8417

Changes to the
8th Annual Chicago Open
The Championship
division entry fee is now
\$190 and a \$10 match prize
has been added for each win
in the Intermediate division.
Any questions call Howard
Markowitz at (312) 673-0917.
(Side note: Mary Ann Meese
will be on the
tournament staff.)

**The 4th Annual
Nevada State
BACKGAMMON
Championship
and
MASTERS
INVITATIONAL
\$12,500 Added**

**NORTHERN NEVADA
BACKGAMMON ASSOCIATION**
P.O. Box 70101 • Reno, NV 89470

Weekly Results - In the first four months of the this year, over 25 different players have played on Thursday. Some have been disappointed at the small turnout. If you are one of these players, give it another try. The format is double elimination with 90% return. In addition, HBC provides yearly prizes for the TOP TEN in the Gammon Point Standings. The TOP TEN usually consists of the players who attend regularly. If you have any questions or suggestions, contact one the HBC staff; This is your club too!

| | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| April 2nd | April 9th | April 16th | April 23th | April 30th |
| 1st Cyrus Mobed | Larry Strommen | Woody Woodworth | Ed Wright | Woody Woodworth |
| 2nd Larry Strommen | Mark Mikelon | Mary Ann Meese | Butch Meese | Larry Strommen |

1987 HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB Gammon Point Standings as of April 30th.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|------|-----------------|------|-----------------|------|
| 1) Butch Meese | 6.66 | Gino Agresti | 1.04 | Stu Whitcomb | 0.24 |
| 2) Woody Woodworth | 5.61 | Alan Tavel | 0.96 | John Ritzert | 0.24 |
| 3) Larry Strommen | 4.65 | Bill Gheen | 0.85 | Dexter Skidmore | 0.16 |
| 4) Mary Ann Meese | 3.58 | Bill Julian | 0.73 | Rich Stannard | 0.16 |
| 5) Ed Wright | 3.50 | Susie Henderson | 0.58 | Steve Bartz | 0.16 |
| 6) Chuck Stimming | 3.44 | Jim Knauer | 0.56 | Randy Bruck | 0.12 |
| 7) Frank Baldwin | 2.86 | John Galambos | 0.50 | Greg Varbinov | 0.12 |
| 8) Jim Curtis | 2.78 | Fred Bartz | 0.48 | Tom Walthes | 0.12 |
| 9) George Crawford | 1.86 | Ron Black | 0.40 | Rick Reahard | 0.08 |
| 10) Ralph Roberts | 1.83 | Mark Mikelon | 0.40 | Jim Schneider | 0.04 |
| Cyrus Mobed | 1.71 | Ken Bruck | 0.38 | Mike Cyrkiel | 0.04 |
| Walter Wallace | 1.20 | Lee Burton | 0.35 | Gerald Williams | 0.04 |
| Ellis Bray | 1.08 | Tom Hendryx | 0.33 | Gino Delasandra | 0.02 |
| Frank Scott | 1.08 | Nick Leal | 0.24 | Donna Susens | 0.02 |

Thursday evening play at
9111 N. Michigan 872-3446
** Open Division \$10.00 **
Intermediate Division \$5.00
Play Begins at 7:00 PM

**BOMBAY
BICYCLE
CLUB**

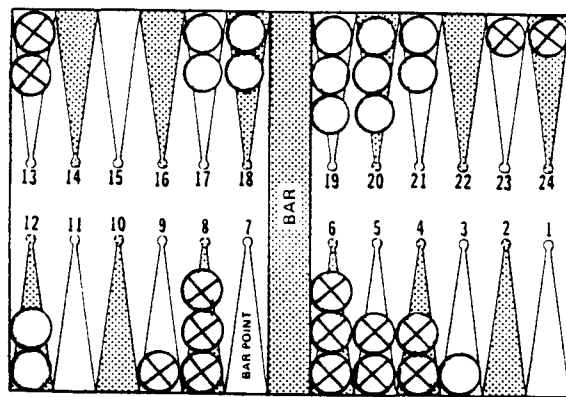
Bombay Bicycle Club
has a great menu and
atmosphere. Come out
early and join us
for dinner.

Butch Meese has come across a couple of shareware backgammon programs which run on IBM PC or compatible. The backgammon is not an easy game to program and do not be surprised at the play of these programs. Maybe you can help the author improve these. I'm sure they would appreciate your comments. If you are interested in the programs, send Butch a floppy disk with return postage.

Schedule of BACKGAMMON Events (Information and entry forms available thru HBC)

| | |
|---|----------------|
| May 15-18 9th National Capital Backgammon - Ottawa, Ont, Canada | (613) 236-0201 |
| May 22-25 8th Chicago Open - Hotel Sofitel, Chicago | (312) 673-0917 |
| May 22-25 9th BSO Benefit - Sheraton Commander Hotel, Boston | (617) 547-4800 |
| Jun 03-07 4th Annual Nevada Backgammon Champ. - Reno, Nevada | (702) 826-1984 |
| Jul 17-19 Michigan Summer Championship - Flint, Mich | (313) 232-9731 |
| Oct 16-19 Backgammon on Board - Carnival Cruise Lines | (312) 964-9800 |
| THURSDAYS 7PM at BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB - 9111 North Michigan Road - | 872-3446 |

Guest Columnist: Danny Kleinman 7 Point Match X-4 O-6 (Crawford) X to play 4-1?
 This problem along with others and a complete analyzed match will be presented in Danny's next book. The release date has not been set.



A PRIMING AND TIMING PROBLEM.

The player who faced this problem in a recent tournament asked me to choose between 13-9, 24-23 and 13-9, 8-7 and cited expert opinions favoring each of these two plays.

Both plays attempt to contain O's back man and play a prime-versus-prime game. Both plays suffer from fragile timing. O has 1 man back and 14 men in play, compared to X's 2 men back and 13 men in play. O's back man can escape directly; X's back men, away from the edge of O's prime, must escape in two steps.

The bold bar-slot, 13-9, 8-7 has merit of seeking to close O's escape point. But if best comes to best, with O failing to hit any of X's blots and X covering his bar-point by rolling a 6 next, how long can X hope to keep his 6-prime? Not long, I'm afraid; his only playable spare is already in his home board, on the 6-point, and even that may have to advance further if the covering 6 X rolls is anything but 5-1 or 4-2. Moreover, by failing to anchor, X allows O to point inside with combinations of 6's, 5's and 3's when O doesn't roll the 1 or 4 needed to hit in the outfield. Play 13-9, 24-23 at least doesn't give O so many good numbers other than 1's and 4's. For this reason, I prefer it slightly to the bar-slot, which seldom produces the 6-prime anyway, and which offers only mediocre winning chances even when successful.

Actually, the 1 I think most useful is the advance 23-22. In a battle of primes X figures to do better if he can free one man, or if he can make the anchor (the 3-anchor) from which he threatens to escape directly with 6's. But 13-9, 23-22 shares with 13-9, 8-7 the exposure to attack inside when O fails to roll an escaping 4 or a hitting 1. I like it only marginally better than the solid 13-9, 24-23.

What I dislike about all three plays is the havoc O can wreak upon X's timing by hitting on the midpoint with an 1. The midpoints in positions like this are reservoirs of timing, representing 10 or 12 playable pips. To be hit on the midpoint, even though it sets you back 12 pips, hurts your timing instead of helping. Why? Because you'll seldom lose much time re-entering on an opposing three point board, but you'll often remain trapped in the back court behind an opposing prime. As the result, you may have to play valuable pips inside your own home court, and your prime may crumble.

Therefore, I think, the "obvious" 13-9, though it does some good in blocking O's escaping 6's, does at least as much harm in exposing a blot on the midpoint. This suggests a plausible alternative, 9-5, 23-22 as a less dangerous way of seeking escape or the superior anchor. But like 13-9, 23-22 it gives O many attacking combinations with 5's, 3's and 2's when O fails to roll the 6's and 4's which let him escape from X's home court.

If you see X's midpoint as a reservoir of timing, perhaps you can also see O's midpoint in the same like. In that case, you may like, as I do, the enterprising loose hit, 8-3x. True, O may re-enter with a hit; but getting hit on your 3-point is much better for your timing than getting hit on the midpoint. Or O may dance, permitting you to improve your board and your prime or move up in the back court which he is on the bar. Best of all, O may re-enter awkwardly with 2-6, 2-4, 1-5 or 1-4. Then he'll have to break his midpoint or his prime or hit loose deep in his home board. Yes, I think 8-3x offers the most chances for victory.

Hoosier Backgammon Club Hotlines

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