

HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB

Hoosier Backgammon Club
September 1987, Vol IV No. 7
Editors: Butch & Mary Ann Meese

HBC presents the **4th INDIANA CLASSIC** Downtown at the *Atkinson Hotel*, December 4-6, 1987

By popular demand, the **4th INDIANA CLASSIC** is being held downtown at the *Atkinson Hotel*, Georgia at Illinois Streets. The *Atkinson Hotel* is within walking distance of **Union Station** and a half dozen fine restaurants. The entry fees have been increased to \$180 for the Open Division and \$90 for the Intermediate Division. The Indy \$500 event will be run again and will remain as long as players want it. The format will again be the full double elimination with progressive consolation. This format gains popularity every time it is used and because of this, the format will be given the name of the "INDY" DEF (Double Elimination Format) so it will not be confused with other grids. We're looking forward to a larger crowd (109) than in the spring.

Hoosier Pips..HBC welcomes new players Jean & Jessie Cabatingan, Jo Delano, Richard Herd and Chris Graves plus welcomes back Margaret Roberts and Patt Drippe..A local player states that 6-2 is the most common roll from the bar, what do you think?..Kent Goulding has nicknamed a nationally known female player "The Girl", do you know who it is?..Have you seen the neat backgammon boards with ultra suade built by Mike Keener of Detroit..Need a greeting card for a special backgammon friend, check Sly Sayings, Inc, P. O. Box 6546, Ft. Wayne, IN, 46896. They have variety pack of 10 cards with a backgammon theme for \$15.00.

Weekly Results	August 6th	August 13rd	August 20th	August 27th
1st	<i>Butch Meese</i>	<i>Jim Curtis</i>	<i>Butch Meese</i>	<i>Butch Meese</i>
2nd	<i>Gino D'Alesandro</i>	<i>Woody Woodworth</i>	<i>Howard Givel</i>	<i>Rick Reahard</i>
3rd	---	<i>Butch Meese</i>	<i>Woody Woodworth</i>	---
Intermediate	---	---	<i>Jessie Cabatingan</i>	<i>Frank Scott</i>

Extra ** Extra ** Intermediate Players

Frank Scott won the August free entry to the **4th INDIANA CLASSIC** in the Novice Division. There will be also be winners for the months of September and October. HBC is encouraging the return of old friends, Intermediate and Novice players by allowing all playing in the Intermediate division to play **free**. The player winning the most gammon points for each month will be awarded **FREE** entry into the Novice Division of the **4th INDIANA CLASSIC** (non-transferable). An optional \$5.00 side pool will also be available.

1)	Butch Meese	13.00	Bill Julian	0.75	Steve Bartz	0.16
2)	Woody Woodworth	9.56	Jim Knauer	0.72	Dexter Skidmore	0.16
3)	Larry Strommen	8.90	Susie Henderson	0.60	Greg Varbinov	0.12
4)	Mary Ann Meese	6.80	John Galambos	0.50	Tom Waithes	0.12
5)	Jim Curtis	5.60	Donald Walter	0.50	Patt Drippe	0.12
6)	Chuck Stimming	3.84	John Ritzert	0.48	Randy Bruck	0.12
7)	Howard Givel	3.75	Fred Bartz	0.48	Margaret Roberts	0.12
8)	Ed Wight	3.50	Art Overbay	0.44	Vickie Anderson	0.10
9)	Frank Baldwin	3.02	Ron Black	0.40	Dennis Schulte	0.10
10)	Cyrus Mobed	2.75	Gino D'Alesandro	0.38	Jim Wilson	0.08
	Rick Reahard	2.57	Ken Bruck	0.38	Bob Calhoun	0.08
	Stu Whitcomb	2.16	Dave Groner	0.36	Jeff Baker	0.08
	Ralph Roberts	2.07	Lee Burton	0.35	Jean Cabatingan	0.06
	George Crawford	1.86	Bob Burchhalter	0.34	Jo Delano	0.06
	Bill Gheen	1.81	Tom Hendryx	0.33	Gerald Williams	0.04
	Mark Mikolon	1.71	Mike Stall	0.32	Jim Schneider	0.04
	Frank Scott	1.50	Frank Cook	0.30	Mike Cyrkiel	0.04
	Mick Dobratz	1.28	Nick Leal	0.24	Ves Johnson	0.04
	Alan Tavel	1.24	Don Watkins	0.24	Chris Graves	0.04
	Walter Wallace	1.20	Jessie Cabatingan	0.20	Larry Buckingham	0.02
	Ellis Bray	1.08	Donna Susens	0.18		
	Gino Agresti	1.04	Rich Stannard	0.16		

HBC Plays
every Thursday
at the

**BOMBAY
BICYCLE
CLUB**

9111 North Michigan
872-3446
Open \$10.00
(Side Pool \$5.00)
Interm Free

HBCs Operation and then there was two....

The joint operation of Butch & Mary Ann Meese and myself in developing quality backgammon tournaments with great player equity has been very successful. Now that joint effort has ended. The responsibility of running HBC and its tournaments has been turned over to Butch & Mary Ann. I have found it increasingly necessary to devote more of my time to the development of some business endeavors but intend to continue playing the backgammon tournament circle where I have found a number of fine friends. Happy Doubling: L. A. Strommen

The International Backgammon Rating List: You decide what happens

For the past 3 to 4 years Kent Goulding has spent endless hours on the International Rating List. Kent has done a great job and is now at a crossroad of whether it is worth all the effort. You need to show your support. If there is ever going to be a national or international backgammon association, you must not let this list die. Write him and let him know how you feel. You can also order a copy of the summer list (Reno results included) for \$5.00. There is a NEW #1 and it is not Joe Sylvester! Just remember, if this list dies, it may never surface again. Write: **Kent Goulding**, 3504 Frederick Place, Kensington, MD 20895.

Schedule of BACKGAMMON Events (Information and entry forms available thru HBC)	
Sep 25-27 Autumn in Minnesota - Minneapolis	(612) 925-4070
Oct 09-11 Plymouth Gammonfest - Livonia, MI	(313) 232-9731
Oct 16-19 Backgammon on Board - Carnival Cruise Lines	(312) 964-9800
Oct 18-25 SUPER Cruise Venice → Dubrovnik	Italy 0184-80-595
Oct 30-Nov 01 New Hampshire Fall Tournament	(603) 352-9836
Nov 13-15 Boston Benefit Children's Hospital - Sheraton-Commander	(617) 547-4800
Nov 29th Flint Area Club Championship - Sheraton, Flint	(313) 232-9731
* Dec 04-06 4th INDIANA CLASSIC - Atkinson Hotel	HBC Hotline *
Mar 05-12 Backgammon Tournament of the Pharoahs (\$50K Added) - Egypt	
* Mar 18-20 38th INDIANA OPEN - Atkinson Hotel	HBC Hotline *
Apr 08-10 Midwest Backgammon Championships - Chicago	(312) 338-6380
Apr 28-May 01 "Sands-Regent" Backgammon Tournament - Reno	(312) 286-8417
May 27-30 Boston Symphony Benefit - Sheraton-Commander	(617) 547-4800
THURSDAYS 7PM at BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB - 9111 North Michigan Road	872-3446

12th Louisville Labor Day Tournament

One hundred and fifteen players including Jim Curtis, Cassie Curtis, Woody Woodworth, Mary Ann Meese, Larry Strommen and Mick Dobratz took in the 12th Annual Labor Day Backgammon Tournament. Jim and Cassie Curtis placed in the Mixed Doubles, Mick Dobratz won the A Division while Larry Strommen won the AA Division Consolation. The tournament was co-directed smoothly by HBC's Butch Meese and author Danny Kleinman.

AAA Division (52) 1st Ed O'Laughlin (VA) 2nd Ray Glaeser (NJ) 3rd Antoinette Williams (NY) C-1 Dean Adamian (MI) C-2 Joe Glazier (LA)	Open Doubles (32) 1st Mike Nelson/Roy Friedman (MA) 2nd Laura Nuhn/John Carrico (MI) 3/4 David Libchaber/TAK Morioka (CHI) 3/4 Dean Adamian/Larry Buckingham(MI/OH)	500 Invitational (16) 1st Rick Barabino (MA) 2nd Wendy Kaplan (NY)
AA Division (48) 1st David Thomas (FL) 2nd Larry Whittenburg (IL) C-1 LARRY STROMMEN (Indy) C-2 Sharon Lennon (KY) C34 Ron Stur (CHI) C34 David Libchaber (CHI)	Super Doubles (16) 1st Mike Nelson/Rick Barabino (MA) 2nd Sam Janjigian/Dean Muench (MA/CHI)	\$100 Jackpot (8) 1st Rafael Janowitz(CAN) 2nd Ernest Klein (TX)
A Division (15) 1st MICK DOBRATZ (Indy) 2nd Cindy Best (Peoria) C-1 Salve Fagan (MO) C-2 Larry Deckel (Louisville)	Mixed Doubles (16) 1st Dwan Tolbert/Pete Klein (NY) 2nd CASSIE & JIM CURTIS (Indy)	\$50 Jackpot #1 (8) 1st Mike Cyrkiel (IN) 2nd Drew Giovanis (FL)
	Seniors (16) 1st Andy Argyropoulos (IL) 2nd Joann Feinstein (IL)	\$50 Jackpot #2 (8) 1st Bob Zavoral (MO) 2nd Carol Joy Cole (MI)
		\$25 Jackpot (16) 1st Carl Severino (IL) 2nd Ira Hoffberg (CHI)

Major Tournament Scheduled for Late April

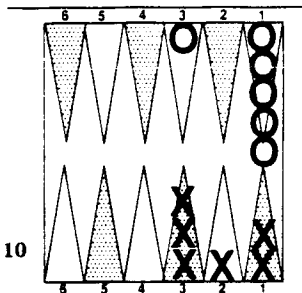
The Sands-Regent Hotel & Casino in Reno, Nevada has contacted Howard Markowitz to direct a backgammon tournament April 28th thru May 01st, 1988. All the details are not available at his time, but mark your calendar because this tournament will offer a unique backgammon package with guaranteed money and 100% return on added events.

Backgammon Table For Sale

Originally purchased from Max Tyrrell's Backgammon Supply Co. and still in excellent condition. Includes all accessories (pieces, cups, precision dice). Asking price \$500. For more information call Joe Glazier (504) 355-2761.

World Championship Match Equities by Guest Columnist Mike Keener

Seemingly simple positions in money play become much more complex in match play when match equities are taken into consideration. Although match equity can seem difficult, mind boggling and complicated, it can be mastered in game situations. In most instances, match equity is the last hurdle for an expert to become a true world class player.



Bill Robertie - 6

23 Point Semifinal Match

Gerard Duguet-Grasser - 10

This position occurred in the semifinal match of the 1987 World Championship in Monte Carlo. Leading 10 to 6 in a match to 23, X decided to redouble to 8. Using the BEAROFF program, this position yields 67% victory chances for X and 33% for O. In a money game, it's a simple double/take position. But in match play however, the score, match length and match equities all make a large difference.

Questions in match play requiring evaluation are:

1. Even though X is favorite, does he gain by redoubling to 8?
2. Does O have a take at the 8 level being a 2-1 underdog?
3. If O takes and X doesn't roll a crushing number, should O be thinking of redoubling to 16?

Answering Question #1:

Considering X not doubling.

67% of the time X wins the game to go up 14 - 6 and wins the match 83% of the time. The other 33%, X loses the game, ends up 10 - 10 and wins the match 50% of the time.

Looking at X redoubling.

67% X wins to score 18 - 6 and be 92% to win the match. 33% X loses to go down 10 - 14 and 27% to win match.

Total match equity (ME) =

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{winning chances in game}) \times (\text{match chances}) + \\ & (\text{losing chances in game}) \times (\text{match chances}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{ME (not redoubling)} = 67\% \times 83\% + 33\% \times 50\% = 72.11\%$$

$$\text{ME (redoubling)} = 67\% \times 92\% + 33\% \times 27\% = 70.55\%$$

Comparing the difference in the above figures shows that it is extremely close, but slightly to X's advantage (1.56%) not to redouble.

Now let's see if O has a take or pass for Question #2.

This answer requires a little different calculation as it compares the difference between passing and taking the cube.

First, O has the option to pass and continue at 6-14 or 17% to win the match. Second options is to take. If O takes and loses, the score is 6-18 and O wins a mere 8% of the time. On the other hand, O takes and wins to go up 14-10 he will be 73% to win the match.

Take Point = Risk ÷ Total Swing.

$$\text{Risk} = \text{Pass} - (\text{Take} \& \text{Lose}) = 17\% - 8\% = 9\%$$

$$\text{Gain} = (\text{Take} \& \text{Win}) - \text{Pass} = 73\% - 17\% = 56\%$$

$$\text{Total Swing} = \text{Gain} + \text{Risk} = 56\% + 9\% = 65\%$$

$$\text{Take Point} = 9\% \div 65\% = 13.8\%$$

This calculation shows that O needs only 13.8% to take the cube. With 33% to win the game, it's a CLEAR TAKE by a wide margin.

Say X rolls 3-1 and O must decide to answer Question #3.

X's 3-1 toss left O slightly better off (35% by BEAROFF program).

First O Not redoubling to 16?

35% the score goes to 14-10 and O's 73% to win the match.

65% the score ends up 6-18 and O wins the match 8% of the time.

Next O Redoubling to 16?

35% O wins this game to go to Crawford Game (22-10) or 98% to win match.

65% O loses to go down 6-23 to lose the match (0% for calculations).

$$\text{ME (not redoubling)} = 35\% \times 73\% + 65\% \times 8\% = 30.75\%$$

$$\text{ME (redoubling)} = 35\% \times 98\% + 65\% \times 0\% = 34.30\%$$

Comparison of the two figures tells although it is close, it's an advantage (3.55%) for O to REDOUBLE to 16!

Although it was close that X was slightly better off not redoubling, he certainly should not be criticized for doing so. On the other hand, O's take was crystal clear and his subsequent redouble to 16 was close but solid. Extremely close decisions during match play are (more often than not) usually decided by the flow and intensity of the match itself. Sometimes it pays to press even the smallest of an advantage or even a slight disadvantage into what can turn out to be a huge psychological edge over an otherwise strong opponent when the plan works. What ever the reason, try to imagine yourself making these extremely difficult mathematical and emotional decisions under the scrutiny of dozens of betting spectators. Not to mention your own money that's also on the line. And, oh yes, if that isn't enough, how about just the pure pressure of playing in the semi-final round in the most prestigious backgammon tournament in the world, even if the room were empty?

As a point of additional interest, if the position were changed to a two roll situation (without any misses for either side) O would still have a take. His take point remains at 13.8% and his chances to win this two roll position are 14%. However, O would not be good enough to redouble to 16 as he would need a minimum of 17.5% winning chances to warrant a redouble.

Tournament Note: Gerard did redouble to 8 and Bill took. Gerard rolled a 3-1 and Bill answered by redoubling to 16. Gerald took and rolled 6-5. Finally Bill won the game with double 4s and went on capture his second world championship. Congratulations Bill!