



# HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB

*Happy New Year  
1988*

**Hoosier Backgammon Club**  
January 1988, Vol V No. 1  
Editors: Butch & Mary Ann Meese

## 36th INDIANA Open Backgammon Championship

The **36th INDIANA Open** is scheduled for March 18-20 at the *Atkinson Hotel* downtown Indianapolis. The popular double elimination with progressive consolation format will be used. Qualifying for the **WORLD CUP** to be held in Boston during August will be a featured event.



HBC One-Day Tournament - Sunday February 14th, 1988  
A Great Way to Warm-up for the **36th INDIANA OPEN**  
**BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB** - 9111 North Michigan Road - 872-3446  
Open Division \$65 \*\* Intermediate Division \$25 \*\* Novice Division \$8 \*\* 90% Return  
Optional Side Pool for Entry Into OPEN Division -- Double Gammon Points -- Double Elimination Format  
Registration: 11:00AM-11:45AM \*\* HBC's 1987 Award Presentation: 11:45AM \*\* Play Begins: 12 NOON

### Fall League Play

Jim Curtis won the Open Division and Ralph Roberts won the Intermediate Division in the Fall League. For three months, 10 players in each division play round-robin. The top four in the final standings advance to the ladder play-offs. Jim Curtis finished fourth and won 3 play-off matches including a 5-hour final against Jim Knauer 9-7, 8-9 and 9-6 in 31 games. Ralph Roberts captured first by defeating Howard Givel in the final 7-4 and 7-6 in 15 games.

Weekly Results	December 5th	December 12th	December 19th	League - Open	League - Intermediate
Open 1st	<i>Mick Dobratz</i>	<i>Donna Susens</i>	<i>Ken Bruck</i>	<i>1st Jim Curtis</i>	<i>1st Ralph Roberts</i>
2nd	<i>Jim Curtis</i>	<i>Jeff Baker</i>	<i>Larry Strommen</i>	<i>2nd Jim Knauer</i>	<i>2nd Howard Givel</i>
3rd	----	----	<i>Don Burton</i>	<i>3rd Butch Meese</i>	<i>3rd Mick Dobratz</i>
Intermediate	<i>Dorisan Overbay</i>	----	<i>Jo Delano</i>	<i>4th Frank Baldwin</i>	<i>4th Ellis Bray</i>

### 1987 TOP Player of the Year

Butch Meese captured the HBC's 1987 TOP Player of the Year for the second year in a row. Butch along with the rest of the TOP TEN will receive engraved doubling cubes and the TOP FIVE will receive cash prizes during the February 14th one-day tournament. The race for the 1988 TOP TEN promises to be a tighter fight because Howard Givel and Mick Dobratz made a good showing for 1987 with only half of the year to do so.

### Final 1987 HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB Gammon Point Standings.

1)	Butch Meese	18.58	Larry Strasberg	1.00	Janna Pratt	0.24
2)	Woody Woodworth	14.60	Brian Nelson	0.88	Jessie Cabatingan	0.20
3)	Larry Strommen	13.48	Mike Norman	0.84	John Brussel	0.20
4)	Jim Curtis	12.73	Jo Delano	0.78	Margaret Roberts	0.20
5)	Mary Ann Meese	11.49	Art Overbay	0.64	Tom Hirschinger	0.18
6)	Howard Givel	9.55	Bill Hodes	0.60	Dexter Skidmore	0.16
7)	Mick Dobratz	8.03	Susie Henderson	0.60	Rich Stannard	0.16
8)	Rick Reahard	5.46	Jeff Baker	0.58	Steve Bartz	0.16
9)	Ed Wright	5.10	Donald Walter	0.50	Tom Walthes	0.12
10)	Chuck Stimming	4.82	Paul Colpo	0.50	Greg Varbinov	0.12
	Frank Baldwin	4.80	John Galambos	0.50	Mike Kelley	0.12
	Ralph Roberts	4.32	Fred Bartz	0.48	Randy Bruck	0.12
	Cyrus Mobed	4.16	Jim Mieske	0.48	Paula Schultz	0.12
	Bill Gheen	3.89	Bill Leiderbach	0.45	Dennis Schulte	0.10
	Jim Knauer	3.86	Ron Black	0.40	Vickie Anderson	0.10
	George Crawford	3.14	Gino D'Alesandro	0.38	Jim Wilson	0.08
	Bob Green	2.72	Dave Groner	0.38	Larry Buckingham	0.08
	Frank Scott	2.57	Lee Burton	0.35	Bob Calhoun	0.08
	Stu Whitcomb	2.52	Bob Burchetter	0.34	Randy Floit	0.06
	Donna Susens	2.43	Tom Hendryx	0.33	Paul Balog	0.06
	Alan Tavel	2.36	Mike Stall	0.32	Jean Cabatingan	0.06
	Ellis Bray	2.04	Richard Herd	0.30	Mike Cyrkiel	0.04
	John Ritzert	1.74	Tony Furdock	0.30	Chris Graves	0.04
	Mark Mikolon	1.71	Frank Cook	0.30	Gerald Williams	0.04
	Gino Agresti	1.68	Dorisan Overbay	0.30	Ves Johnson	0.04
	Bill Julian	1.61	Sylvia Strasberg	0.30	Mary Ann Boleman	0.04
	Walter Wallace	1.20	Paul Strasberg	0.24	Jim Schneider	0.04
	Ken Bruck	1.13	Nick Leal	0.24	Merv Berger	0.02
	Patt Drippe	1.13	Don Watkins	0.24		
	Don Burton	1.01	Scott Arche	0.24		

HBC Plays  
every Thursday  
at the



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



HBC's Newsletter subscription Rate \$5.00 a year.

**HBC Hotline** → Butch & Mary Ann Meese, 7620 Kilmer Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46256 (317) 845-8435

**Extra, Extra Intermediate Players**

HBC is encouraging the return of old friends, Intermediate and Novice players by allowing to play **FREE** in the Intermediate division. The player winning the most gammon points for the months of January and February will be awarded **FREE** entry into the Novice Division of the **36th INDIANA OPEN** (non-transferable). An optional \$5.00 side pool is also available.

**WORLD CUP & Eastern Open**

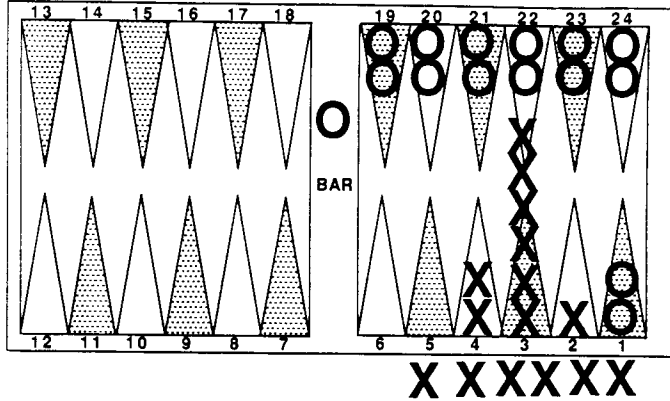
Kent Goulding's U.S. Invitational has grown to **THE WORLD CUP**. **THE WORLD CUP** is an invitational tournament with the best of the 'WORLD' along with winners of special qualifying tournaments to be run during regional tournaments all over the country. **THE WORLD CUP** will be a 32-player single-elimination tournament with an entry fee of \$3500. Qualifying tournaments are now scheduled for the **36th INDIANA OPEN** during March and **Michigan Summer Championships** in July; check with the Hoosier Backgammon Club and Flint Area Backgammon for details. **THE WORLD CUP** is scheduled for August 3-7th in Boston, along with the Eastern Open.

**Interesting Positions From the 4th INDIANA CLASSIC**

Position #1 - 11 Point Match

Score: X-6 O-3

O doubles to 8? As X what do you do?



**Position #1**

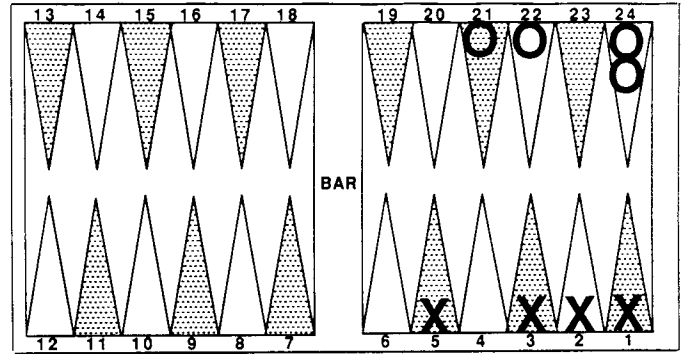
In an 11 point match, O had the cube at 4 and was about to be gammoned and lose the match when a blot was produced. O quickly seized the opportunity to redouble to 8 and has nothing to lose by doing so. With O's closed board, X can see a **BIG** swing on this next roll all the way to losing the match. In the heat of a match, swings like this have to be dealt with and X has to decide what to do with this double. Without the pressures of the tournament, let us look at this closer. If X drops, the score will be 6 to 7 (or 41% of X) and needs more than that to justify a take. It's easier to calculate O's chances because the only way O can win is by hitting X's blot this turn or later. If X takes, the match is on the line with this game. O hits 16 of 36 rolls this turn and will be greater than 68% to win this game and the match. (Note: the 68% is calculated from the fact X would be 32% against a closed board with one piece up and no misses bearing off after entering). If O misses on this turn, O will have chances on his next turn but takes too much space here to detail (it is available upon request). A short summary shows that O will have no blot on 13/36 of X's rolls, single blot on 17/36 and a double shot on 6/36. What the calculations do show is that O's match equity is 30.0% (16/36 X 68%) on his first turn plus 17.6% on his next turn or 47.6%. What can be estimated from this is that it is close for X to drop or take. When it is close like this, X has to decide to put the match on the line by taking and completing this game or by dropping and playing from the score of 6 to 7. This is what makes backgammon the intriguing game it is.

Position #2 - 9 Point Match

Score: X-3 O-7

O on roll. As O do you double?

If O doubles, what do you do as X?



**Position #2**

From Marc Gray, Mayfield, NY.

Dear Folks, Here is my solution to Problem #2 from your December newsletter. I must first compliment you on the 2 excellent problems that you have chosen for presentation this month. The solutions that I came up with are both surprising to me; and that's what makes them so elegantly didactic. Keep up the fine work. I am certain that it is much appreciated by more people than you realize.

And now for my solution: O should double and X should drop! "BEAROFF" computer simulation generates 77% winning chances for O. If O refrains from doubling O's match equity is computed as follows:

Game Outcome	x Score	= Equity
O Wins 77%	x 8-3 (90%)	= 69.3%
O Lose 23%	x 7-4 (75%)	= 17.3%
Total Match Equity 86.6%.		

If O doubles and X drops, O's match equity becomes 90%. If O doubles and X takes, the match equity computes as follows:

Game Outcome	Score	= Equity
O Wins 77%	x 9-3(100%)	= 77.0%
O Lose 23%	x 7-5 (68%)	= 15.6%
Total Match Equity 92.6%.		

Clearly O profits by doubling, irrespective of X's response, gaining 3.7% where X drops and gaining 6.0% when X takes. If X follows the preferred course of action and drops, her match equity will be 10.0% and 7.4 to take. It is 13.4% in the event that O fails to double.

Side Notes: In Position #1, X dropped and won the match. In Position #2, O did not double, rolled double 5's to send the match to the Crawford Game and lost the match.

Schedule of BACKGAMMON Events (Information and entry forms available thru HBC)		
Jan 20-24	5th Annual Nevada State BG Championships - Reno	(702) 826-1984
Jn27-Fb01	North American Backgammon Championships - Bahamas	<b>HBC Hotline *</b>
Feb 05-07	Easter Seal Benefit - Pittsburgh	(412) 241-1301
Feb 12-14	6th Valentine BG Tourny - Resort at Gold Canyon Ranch, AZ	(713) 784-6622
<b>* FEB 14th</b>	<b>HBC One-Day and Awards Tournament - Bombay Bicycle Club</b>	<b>HBC Hotline *</b>
Feb 21st	Fleet Underwood Memorial and Benefit - Flint, MI	(313) 232-9731
Feb 26-28	Bluegrass Regional - Louisville	(502) 584-8419
Mar 05-12	Backgammon Tournament of the Pharaohs (\$50K Added) - Egypt	
<b>* Mar 18-20</b>	<b>36th INDIANA OPEN - Atkinson Hotel</b>	<b>HBC Hotline *</b>
Apr 08-10	Midwest Backgammon Championships - Chicago	(312) 338-6380
May 27-30	Boston Symphony Benefit - Sheraton-Commander Boston	(617) 547-4800
Jul 22-24	Michigan Summer Championships - Flint, MI	(313) 232-9731
Aug 03-07	World Cup/Eastern Open - Sheraton-Commander Boston	(301) 942-4365
<b>THURSDAYS</b>	<b>7PM at BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB - 9111 North Michigan Road</b>	<b>872-3446</b>