

9th Chicago Open

The 10-match format used at the 9th Chicago Open is growing in popularity, especially with the Intermediates. The Open division plays until 4 losses occur and the Intermediate division plays all 10 matches. A crowd of over a hundred players including INDY players Woody Woodworth, Larry Strommen, John Ritzert and the Meeses' were quite pleased with the tournament and the Westin Hotel O'Hare. The host, Howard Markowitz, turned the director duties over to Joann Feinstein, Butch Meese and Mary Ann Meese so he could play. And play he did - he finished 8-2 and defeated Joe Sylvester in the semifinal and Neil Kazaross in the final. The complete results are below.

9th Chicago Open	
Championship (40)	Open Doubles (32)
1st Howard Markowitz (Chicago)	1st Judy Field (Flint, MI)/Ed Maslansky (Silver Springs, MD)
2nd Neil Kazaross (San Diego)	2nd Ed O'Laughlin (Arlington, VA)/Jim Baroff (Wash, DC)
3/4 Joe Sylvester (Detroit)	3/4 Buddy Ashmore (Alberta, Can)/Dennis Rutkowski (Garden Grove, CA)
3/4 Howard Ring (San Francisco)	3/4 Mike Cyrkiel (Crown Point, IN)/Tom Walthes (Chicago)
C-1 TAK Morioka (Chicago)	
C-2 Harry Cohn (Chicago)	Mixed Doubles (16)
	1st Joan Hegg (Peoria, IL)/ Neil Kazaross (San Diego)
	2nd Pete & Dwan Klein (Astoria, NY)
Intermediate (54)	Overflow Doubles (4) - 1st Mike Razar (Chicago)/Paul Strasberg (Louisville)
1st Larry Deckel (Louisville)	Special \$1000 Tourney (8) - 1st Wendy Kaplan (Mahopac, NY)
2nd George Barr (Chicago)	
3/4 Evie Merecki (Minnesota)	Beginners (10)
3/4 Betsy Miller (Chicago)	1st Chuck Crownover (Crown Point, IN)
C-1 Ira Hoffberg (Chicago)	2nd JOHN RITZERT (Indianapolis, IN)
C-2 Jill Ferdinand (Mt Prospect, IL)	

Hoosier Pips... Carol Joy Cole reports from Flint that she already has over 100 advanced entries for the **MICHIGAN SUMMER BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIPS**, July 22-24, so if you plan to go - send in your entry today... Report from the **WORLD CUP**: Kent Goulding has 40 entries for the **WORLD CUP** - flyers should be in the mail this week -- there will be live entertainment during dinner -- dinner is free for **WORLD CUP** and Open Division entrants and \$35 for Intermediate entrants and for guests... A survey was conducted during the 36th **INDIANA Open** -- the item of most interest was about the Holland Rule -- the results will appear in the August newsletter -- it's not too late to provide your input -- just mail to HBC whether you are in favor or against the Holland Rule and why... A local player suggests that HBC hold a **ONE-DAY DOUBLES TOURNAMENT** (there be some mini knock-outs on the side) -- if you are interested, let us know.

HBC Weekly Results for May				
	May 5th	May 12th	May 19th	May 26th
Open 1st	<i>Rick Reahard</i>	<i>Howard Givel</i>	<i>Mary Ann Meese</i>	<i>Don Burton</i>
2nd	<i>Woody Woodworth</i>	<i>Rick Reahard</i>	<i>Woody Woodworth</i>	<i>Cyrus Mobed</i>
3rd	-----	-----	<i>Larry Strommen</i>	-----

**THE THIRD EASTERN OPEN
AND
THE 1988 WORLD CUP CHAMPIONSHIP**

August 3-7, 1988

 Sheraton-Commander Hotel
 Cambridge, MA 02238

TOURNAMENT CHAIRMEN
 Kent Goulding
 Bill Robertie

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS
 Carol Cole
 Joanne Goulding
 Butch & Mary Ann Meese

PREVIOUS WINNERS:

 1984: Steve Moffitt
 1986: Dennis Culpepper

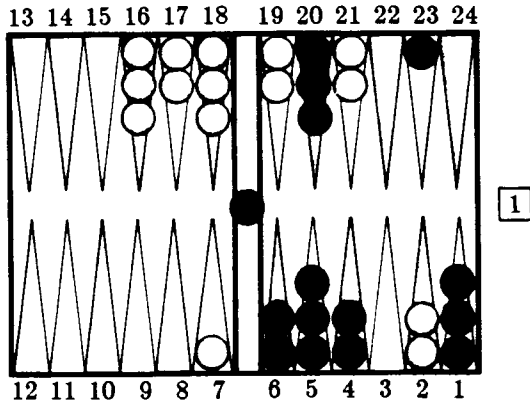
1988 HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB Gammon Point Standings as of May 31st.						
1)	Larry Strommen	7.58	Mike Norman	2.08	Margaret Roberts	0.47
2)	Howard Givel	6.75	Ellis Bray	1.76	Ves Johnson	0.34
3)	Butch Meese	6.75	Jeff Baker	1.62	David Smith	0.30
4)	Mary Ann Meese	6.60	Frank Baldwin	1.62	Glenn Theobald	0.26
5)	Rick Reahard	6.40	Ed Wright	1.48	Stu Whitcomb	0.24
6)	Chuck Stimming	5.96	Brian Nelson	1.42	Tom Hendryx	0.24
7)	Mick Dobratz	5.49	Frank Scott	1.40	Randy Floit	0.21
8)	Woody Woodworth	5.43	Gino Agresti	1.12	Larry Buckingham	0.18
9)	Don Burton	4.99	John Brussel	1.00	Paul Balog	0.14
10)	Ken Bruck	3.64	George Crawford	0.96	Gabriel Muller	0.12
	Mark Mikolon	3.58	Bill Julian	0.94	Alex Somerville	0.12
	Donna Susens	3.57	Jim Knauer	0.80	Chris Graves	0.06
	John Ritzert	2.85	Richard DeFuria	0.72	Harold Branch	0.06
	Cyrus Mobed	2.54	John O'Hagan	0.70	Linda Seamon	0.06
	Bob Green	2.23	Bill Hodes	0.60	Lee Hren	0.04
	Jim Curtis	2.18	Rick Stannard	0.50	Frank Voirol	0.04
	Ralph Roberts	2.08	Jo Delano	0.50	Doty Somerville	0.02

HBC Hotline → Butch & Mary Ann Meese, 7620 Kilmer Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46256 (317) 845-8435
 HBC's newsletter subscription rate \$6.00 a year (overseas \$10.00). Let us know of your address change.



The Importance of Avoiding Bad Numbers

An interesting position arose recently in a chouette among several of the better local players which led to a rather strong exchange between the captain and one of the crew members regarding the proper play of 5-1 in the position below:



The captain, recognizing the possibility of subsequent bad roll(s) requiring the breaking of his anchor on the box's 5-point, wanted to play Bar-20, 5-4. A crewman, a staunch advocate of avoiding the immediate bad numbers, preferred Bar-24, 20-15. As both players believed their solution to be vastly superior, the captain eventually exercised his prerogative and made his play. Of course, as lady luck often decrees, the captain on his roll got double 4s and his remaining defense was promptly shattered. The box promptly cubed. The crewman smirked and dropped, happy but one unit. The captain, apparently still confident of his play, took and in the fullness of time was appropriately gammoned. At the conclusion of the game, the captain remarked that he would play the roll in question the same. The crewman retorted that the captain would still be wrong and the two exchanged no further kind words that night.

So, what's the best play in cases like this? On rolling out the position 100 times from each alternative, the following results were obtained:

Play	Captain's	Crewman's
Box Regular	58	42
Wins Gammon	14	13
Captain Regular	26	41
Wins Gammon	2	4
Captain's Equity (*)	-1.21	-0.19

(*) Assuming double by the box and take by the captain.

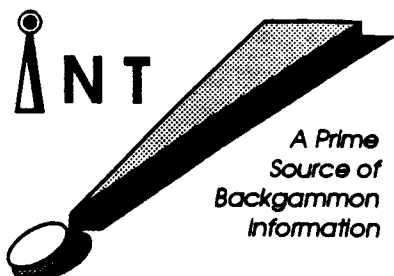
Note that the crewman's play resulted in one fewer gammons by the box, the probable overriding concern of the captain's avoidance of breaking of the box's 5-point. However, there are too many future combinations of bad rolls from the captain's position that effectively destroy any chance of turning the game around for the win. Had there been but two checkers on the 20-point, the captain's fears may have been justified, but the far greater danger was what in fact happened - collapsed defense in the home board, box hits more blots, captain unable to bring all pieces around in time to avoid the gammon. The crewman's play yields no greater risk of a crushing roll by the box than currently exists and almost assures retention of his 4-, 5-, and 6-points as well as a high probability of reestablishing the third checker on the 20-point and/or establishing a 3-5 or 2-5 back game should the latter be a desirable alternative. The captain's failure to provide for one or more 4-small rolls in following turns decreased his chances of winning with no commensurate protection from the gammon. The lesson here is similar to the purchase of insurance: beyond the necessary amount, the expense is wasted. Secondly, avoid giving yourself bad single numbers particularly in games of high volatility. In the above case, two single numbers were bad, inviting the disaster that eventually befell the captain.

Sawdust

HBC welcomes input for the newsletter from all players. Thank you, Sawdust, for your analysis.

Get The

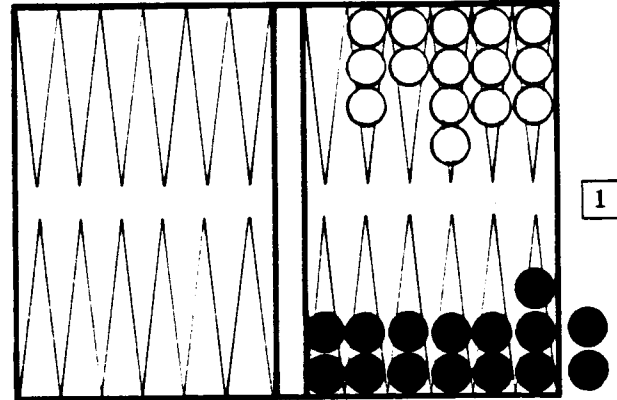
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5 Point Match Score 0-0 Black doubles to 2?



Does White have a take? Answer in next month's newsletter!



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MICHIGAN SUMMER BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIPS

to be held at the
Sheraton Inn-Flint
July 22-24, 1988

Kindly telephone Ms. Carol Joy Cole
inquiries to: (313) 232-9731

Schedule of BACKGAMMON Events (Information and entry forms available thru HBC)		
Jun 16-19	U. S. Open Championships - Reno, NV	(702) 826-1984
Jul 11-17	World Backgammon Championship - Monte-Carlo	(800) 221-4708
Jul 22-24	Michigan Summer Championships - Flint, MI	HBC Hotline
Aug 03-07	World Cup/Eastern Open - Sheraton-Commander Boston	HBC Hotline
Sep 02-05	Labor Day Weekend Tournament - Ramada Inn, Louisville	(502) 584-8419
OCT 07-09	5th INDIANA CLASSIC - Viscount Hotel, Indianapolis NE	HBC Hotline
Dec 02-05	3rd Annual Backgammon On Board - Tropical Cruise	(312) 338-6380
THURSDAYS	7PM at Dooley O'Toole's - Behind Castleton Sq on 86th St	849-7355