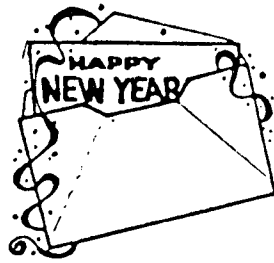


HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB



Hoosier Backgammon Club
January 1989, Vol VI No. 1
Editors: Butch & Mary Ann Meese

37th INDIANA OPEN

March 17-19, 1989

For those who attend the INDIANA tournaments regularly, they have been given a tour of Indianapolis due to all the different hotels used to host the tournaments. The **37th INDIANA OPEN** will be no different; it will be held at the **Radisson Hotel** which is located at the prestigious Keystone at the Crossing, Indianapolis' most exclusive shopping and entertainment complex. This would be a great tournament to bring your spouse, because the hotel is connected to the Fashion Mall which has over 100 specialty stores including Jacobson's, Brook Brothers and Gidding Jenny. The complex also has a dozen fine restaurants all within walking distance. The tournament again will feature the INDY \$500 and already copied MICROBLITZ events.

Editorial - Players Eligibility

The question about a player's eligibility has surfaced (Chicago Point Newsletter, October, November and December 1988). Before 1980, most tournaments had two divisions; Open and Intermediate. Not much later a third division (Novice or Beginners) was added. The purpose of having 3 divisions is implied and has not been stated anywhere for some time, so let's review. The Open Division is the easiest to define and is just that: a division where any one can play with no restrictions. The Novice division is for the "new" or inexperienced players. The Intermediate division is somewhere in between and there lies the problem. The "somewhere in between" will depend on whether the tournament is a local weekly event, a regional tournament or a major tournament like Reno or the World Championships. Some local tournaments do not have a Novice Division.

What becomes the deciding factor for some players is the entry fee versus their perception of their ability to cash. In a local event, the difference is \$5-\$10, surely not enough to make a difference. Where the problem starts to show up is in the regional tournaments where the difference in entry fee can be \$75 to \$150. The regional tournament also has the additional cost of travel and hotel.

At every regional and major tournament, comments are made about players playing "down". It has been suggested that a national organization would be the answer to this problem. Well, it would certainly help but it will not completely solve the problem. It may help where a player enters a tournament in part of the country where he is not known. With a national organization, results of all tournaments could be published complete with size of field and winnings.

For now, the answer still lies on the individual directors to police their own tournament. Only they have the best idea of what the relative strength of the different divisions are. Surely if a player's eligibility is questionable, the director has other directors to poll. One 'rule of thumb' used is if a player wins a lower division in their tournament or a tournament of equal size and entry, then he/she is no longer eligible for that division. But this does not always apply to all winners. It's also up to all players to bring any facts to light about another player to the director that could affect a player's eligibility. Just saying "he/she should not be allowed to play in that division" is not enough.

From a player's view it may be economics that causes him/her to play down in a lower division, but it up to the directors to protect the integrity of tournaments and competitive backgammon.

Director's Note: As director of the INDIANA tournaments, I have had to tell a half dozen players that they could not play in a lower division. Most have moved to a higher division. I have had a player call me who has placed in the Open Division and said if he can't play in the Intermediate division, that he was not coming; he did not come. As a side note: Ira Hoffberg was told a year and half ago that he would not be able to play in the Intermediate and he has not entered an INDIANA tournament since.

Hoosier Pips...Scott Arche will be the director of the upcoming Bluegrass Regional Tournament, February 24-26, 1989...HBC wishes to thank all those who sent warm greetings from around the country: Mark Anshus(WI), Ron Black(IN), John Brussel(NY), Dave Cardwell(MI), Carol Joy Cole(Flint), Jim & Cassie Curtis(IN), Bill Davis(Chicago), Jo DeLano(IN) Jack & Salve Fagan(St Louis), Judy Field(MI), Sam & Joyce Janjigian(Boston), Mark Mikilon(IN), Mike Keener & Laura Nuhn(MI), Kathy Quelch (NV), Paul & Michelle Colpo(PA), Ralph & Marie Roberts(IN), Cheryl Silver (CA) and Glenn Theobald (IN)...Players showing up for weekly play on December 23rd were treated to evening of free play.

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

HBC's newsletter subscription rate \$6.00/year (overseas \$10/year). Let us know if your address changes.

League Play-offs Finish with Gino and Mary Ann as Winners!

Twenty members of the league played in two divisions for 3 months. Each member plays everyone else and in the Open division plays three 9-point matches and 7-point matches in the Intermediate division. The four players with the best win-loss record advances to the ladder play-offs in their division. Any ties are broken by the head-to-head results. Gino Agresti won the Open Division and Mary Ann Meese won the Intermediate Division. Full results are listed below.

Open Division Play-Offs

		Gino Agresti	
	Bill Gheen		Gino Agresti
Jim Curtis		Bill Gheen	
	Jim Curtis	9-2 & 9-7 (18 games)	
Woody Woodworth		9-5, 6-9 & 9-6 (24 games)	
	Woody Woodworth	6-9, 9-8 & 9-1 (21 games)	

Interm Division Play-Offs

		Howard Givel	
	Mary Ann Meese		Mary Ann Meese
Mike Norman		Mary Ann Meese	
	Mike Norman	3-7, 7-5 & 7-4 (23 games)	
Dave Smith		7-6, 2-7 & 7-4 (20 games)	
	Dave Smith	7-1 & 7-5 (9 games)	

\$14,000 added

the sixth annual

**NEVADA STATE
BACKGAMMON
CHAMPIONSHIP**
JANUARY 11-15, 1989

NORTHERN NEVADA
BACKGAMMON ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 70101
RENO, NEVADA 89570

HBC Weekly Results for December

	December 1st	December 8th	December 15th	December 22nd	December 29th
Open 1st	Larry Strommen	Ken Bruck	Larry Strommen	Ken Bruck	Chuck Stimming
2nd	Butch Meese	Larry Strommen	Mary Ann Meese	David Smith	Ken Bruck
3rd	Don Burton	----	----	----	Mick Dobratz

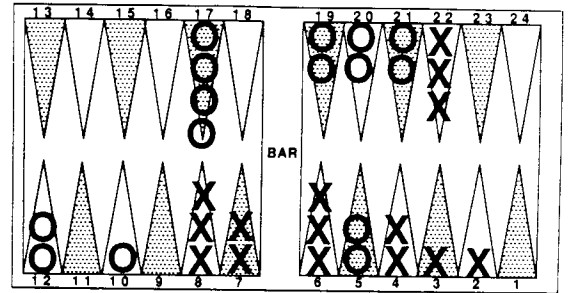
Top Ten - The competition for 1988 has passed and the points counted. Larry Strommen is HBC's 1988 Player of the Year. The top spot was up for grabs after 11 months, but Larry's fine showing in December locked it up. New faces in the TOP TEN are Ken Bruck and Rick Reahard. Ken made a good showing having to travel from Ft. Wayne each week. Rick could have made a better showing but did not play the last two months of the year. An Awards Tournament is set for February 19th at **Dooley O'Toole's**. The TOP TEN will be awarded the engraved doubling cubes. The tournament is open to all who want to attend. Details in next months newsletter.

Final 1988 HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB Gammon Point Standings.

1)	Larry Strommen	17.78	Ellis Bray	2.48	Mark Carlson	0.44
2)	Butch Meese	15.47	Ed Wright	2.26	Don Watkins	0.32
3)	Woody Woodworth	14.56	Frank Scott	2.26	Don Swanson	0.26
4)	Mary Ann Meese	14.28	Bob Green	2.23	Cassie Curtis	0.24
5)	Mick Dobratz	13.85	Jeff Baker	2.02	Randy Floit	0.21
6)	Ken Bruck	13.39	Glenn Theobald	2.00	Zeyda Suzuki	0.20
7)	Rick Reahard	13.31	George Crawford	1.92	Larry Buckingham	0.18
8)	Howard Givel	12.07	Bill Julian	1.92	Paul Balog	0.14
9)	Chuck Stimming	10.34	Kay Beck	1.72	Alex Somerville	0.12
10)	Cyrus Mobed	9.18	Frank Baldwin	1.62	Gabriel Muller	0.12
	Mark Mikolon	9.10	John Brussel	1.24	Greg Varbanov	0.08
	Don Burton	7.92	Jo Delano	0.96	Walter Trice	0.08
	David Smith	7.20	Ves Johnson	0.90	Bob Burchhalter	0.08
	Donna Susens	6.54	Richard DelFuria	0.72	Chris Graves	0.06
	Jim Curtis	6.25	Bill Hodes	0.70	Linda Seamon	0.06
	Gino Agresti	4.88	John O'Hagan	0.70	Harold Branch	0.06
	Brian Nelson	4.42	Stu Whitcomb	0.68	Frank Voirol	0.04
	Kevin McLeaster	4.15	Tom Hendryx	0.56	Lee Hren	0.04
	John Ritzert	4.03	Rick Stannard	0.50	John Leusing	0.02
	Jim Knauer	3.76	Linc Bedell	0.50	Doty Somerville	0.02
	Mike Norman	3.42	Jay Nelson	0.48	Cassidy Dobratz	0.02
	Bill Gheen	2.86	Jim Wilson	0.48	Dennis Schultz	0.02
	Ralph Roberts	2.74	Margaret Roberts	0.47		

Revisit double 4s problem: 9 Point Match, Score 0-0.
 O has cube at 2. X to play 4-4?

In this position, O has control of the outer board and is close to a redouble. Double 4's is a great roll for X and should not be wasted by moving 22-10x, 6-2. X gains nothing when O hits either of the two blots. The advantage X has is the pip count; X=119 and O=143 after the move. One of the best choices for X is to move 22-14(2), establishing a new midpoint. O has few attacking numbers and even if attacked has to hit loose and X has 27 reentry numbers with useful numbers to cover the blots in his home board. X's best chance to race home with the lead is by moving 2 pieces to the 14 point. X should refrain from making the safe 22-18(3), 6-2 play. With this play, X is caught needing doubles again to clear the 18 point. O has the timing to hold the 12 point until X is forced to break.



WORLD CUP Match
Joe Sylvester versus Alan Steffen
37 Point SemiFinal Match

During 1989, this match will be presented in its entirety in this newsletter, 1 to 4 games each month. The first two games are on the next page. Along with the 34 games, all the doubling positions will be presented. There are some both interesting and exciting games in this match between two of the best.

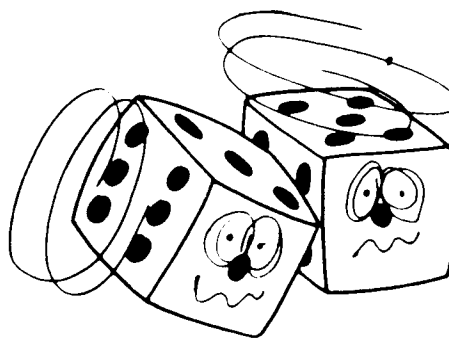
Instructions:

You will need a backgammon board to follow along. The board is numbered 1 to 24 with all points numbered based on the view of the player on roll. The home portion of the board is numbered 1-6. Bearing off is denoted as moving to the 0 'zero' point. Each player will always be moving from a higher to lower point with only the point(s) moved to used. To make it easier to follow, the larger number rolled is denoted first. In some situations where the smaller number rolled is forced, it will be presented first. An example: being on the BAR with a roll of 52 and the 5-point made and the 2-point open.

Abbreviations used are CB - Closed Board, EF - Entry Failure, NP - No Play Possible, x - opponents piece was hit, 5² - superscribe denotes 2 or pieces moving to the same point; this example has 2 pieces moving to the 5 point.

In the doubling positions, Joe will be 'X' and Alan 'O' and are shown from Joe Sylvester's side of the board. Study those first before going through the games.

"Good Times You Can Taste"
DOOLEY O'TOOLE'S
 GOODTIME BAR & EATERY
 5771 E. 86th - Castleton
 Cub-Osco Plaza
 (317) 849-7355



Schedule of BACKGAMMON Events (Information and entry forms available thru HBC)		
Jan 11-15	6th Nevada State Championship - Peppermill Hotel, Reno, NV	(702) 826-1984
Feb 03-05	11th Annual Charity Tournament - Pittsburgh, PA	(412) 241-1301
Feb 12	Fleet Underwood Benefit - Flint, MI	(313) 232-9731
Feb 19	HBC's Awards Tournament - Dooley O'Toole's	HBC Hotline
Feb 24-26	Bluegrass Regional - Louisville, KY	(502) 458-5439
MAR 17-19	37th INDIANA Open - Radisson Hotel	HBC Hotline
Apr 14-16	Midwest Championship - Chicago	(312) 338-6380
Jul 28-30	Michigan Summer Championship - Flint, MI	(313) 232-9731
THURSDAYS	7PM at Dooley O'Toole's - Behind Castleton Sq on 86th St	849-7355

Game 1

Joe Sylvester - 1		Alan Steffen - 2		
Roll	Played	Roll	Played	
1)	--	---	61	7 ²
2)	52	8 11	31	5 ²
3)	52	17x	63	22 7
4)	62	11 ²	11	4 ²
5)	51	6 23	51	2x 23
6)	32	23x 3x	65	20 EF
7)	41	2x ²	63	22 EF
8)	22	5x-3x	32	22x EF
9)	44	EF	44	21 ² 14x
10)	53	22 EF		dbl to 2?
11)		take	64	3x ^{F13}
12)	41	24 EF	32	^{F14} 11 1x
13)	42	23 EF	64	14
14)	21	24x-22	64	15
15)	43	1 ^{F8}	55	3x ²
16)	51	24 1	51	8
17)	53	8 10x	43	21 8
18)	54	3 6	62	13
19)	51	3 23	51	15
20)	42	4x ²	32	EF
21)	52	3 4	63	EF
22)	31	1 2	42	EF
23)	63	3 NP	53	20 10
24)	43	2 1	61	13
25)	41	3 NP	61	6 ^{F13}
26)	41	2 NP	64	5
27)	61	1 NP	54	1 ^{F10}
28)	52	1 NP	61	1 6
29)	11	1 ²	62	4 NP
30)	64	NP	32	5 6
31)	65	12	62	0 3
32)	53	4	51	0 ²
33)	62	15	51	0 ^{F6}
34)	62	7	65	0 1
35)	65	game		

Game 2

Joe Sylvester - 1		Alan Steffen - 4		
Roll	Played	Roll	Played	
1)	21	11 5	51	8 5
2)	51	8 5	51	8 5
3)	42	4 ²	61	7 ²
4)	64	7 ²	21	22 7
5)	42	3x-1x	44	EF
6)		dbl to 2?		take
7)	64	1 4	43	22 EF
8)	32	3x	41	EF
9)	52	3 22	42	23 EF
10)	53	16	54	EF
11)	63	13	62	23 2
12)	53	11 10	52	2 6
13)	54	6 ²	55	18 ² 1 ²
14)	52	1 2	31	5 6
15)	53	1 2	44	5 ^{F13} 9 3
16)	61	6	61	12x 2
17)	43	18	21	7x-6
18)	54	16	64	2 ^{F12}
19)	61	9	32	16x-13
20)	63	16	62	7 4
21)	31	12	66	1 0 ³
22)	61	6 0		dbl to 4?
23)		pass		

Joe - 1

Alan - 6

