



# HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB



**Hoosier Backgammon Club**  
June 1989, Vol VI No. 6  
Editors: Butch & Mary Ann Meese

## The National Labor Day Backgammon Tournament



featuring the **National Club Team Challenge**

September 1-4, 1989 at The Radisson Hotel in Indianapolis.

9-Match Format in 3 divisions. MicroBlitz in 3 levels. \$500 Masters Jackpot.

Information: HBC (317) 845-8435, LBC (502) 429-0153 or (502) 458-5439



### 10th Annual Chicago Open

Over 80 players enjoyed the 10-match format Memorial Day week-in in Chicago. Howard Markowitz announced his retirement from directing backgammon tournaments. In the 10 years he has directed the Chicago Open, he believes only Carol Joy Cole, TAK Morioka and Trudie Stern have attended all 10 tournaments. Co-director, Joann Feinstein said she will continue to hold this annual event but gave no details. Best of luck to Howard in his future endeavors and to Joann with the Chicago Open. Butch Meese placed second in the doubles with partner Wendy Kaplan.

#### Championship Division (32)

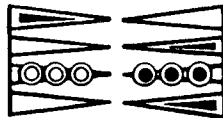
- 1st Fred Kalantari (Edina, MN)
- 2nd Doug Huch (New York City)
- 3/4 Jim Baroff (Falls Church, VA)
- 3/4 Gary Keyes (Chicago)
- C-1 Steve Brown (Minneapolis)
- C-2 Howard Ring (San Francisco, CA)

#### Open Blitz (64)

- 1st David Cramer (Chicago)

#### Limited Blitz (32)

- 1st Merrill Schragger (Milwaukee)



#### Intermediate Division (48)

- 1st Jeff Baker (Ft. Wayne, IN)
- 2nd Sandy Grassel (Centerline, Mich)
- 3/4 Greg Varbinov (Ft. Wayne, IN)
- 3/4 Merrill Schragger (Milwaukee)
- C-1 Jim Allen (Reno, NV)
- C-2 Alice Kay (Chicago)

#### Doubles (32)

- 1st Tom Walthes/Mike Cyrkiel (IL/IN)
- 2nd Wendy Kaplan/Butch Meese (NY/Indy)
- 3/4 George Barr/Marianna Sturm (Chicago)
- 3/4 Carl Severino/Stam Weiss (IL/CA)

**Hoosier Pips....** D. I. Long, a Louisville Backgammon Club member, passed away May 13th after a year long battle with cancer. Condolences to his wife and former HBC member Teri Ivey Long. The whole backgammon community will certainly miss this gentleman who had a true passion for backgammon....If you are thinking of flying to the **National Labor Day Backgammon Tournament**, check out Southwest Airlines. They are advertising great one-way fares; for instance \$19 from Detroit and St Louis, \$99 from Las Vegas and Phoenix and \$109 from Los Angeles (LAX)....HBC welcomes new players Dan Batts, Ron Becker, Larry Lesniak, Scott Musser, Bev Nelson (Brian Nelson's wife), and Herb Roman and welcome back R. C. Robbins....Attendance has been averaging 16 players weekly since the first of the year. When more than 16 players show-up the **HOOSIER QUAD**, a special 4 player double-elimination format with 9-point matches, will be used. All players will be asked to volunteer. With less than 4 volunteers, players according to the gammon points standings will be used to fill the grid. When attendance jumps over 20, HBC has a modified double-elimination grid it will use....One entry for the **National Club Team Challenge** has been received and it is not from either HBC or LBC. The deadline for entries is August 1st with a limit of 32 teams....Report from Michigan: Carol Joy Cole reports that preregistration is ahead of last year for the **Michigan Summer Championships**. 90 entries were already received by June 7th. For information, call Carol Joy at (313) 232-9731.

Tournament Results		
Tournament	Winner	Finalist
April in Tahoe (48)	David Eig	Dean Muench (Chicago)
New Hampshire (32)	Wilcox Snellings	Evan Diamond
Isle of Man (126)	Alan Steffen (USA)	Hans Bohm (Netherlands)
Boston Benefit (33)	Herb Gurland	David Doloman



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

HBC Weekly Results	May 4th	May 11th	May 18th	May 25th
1st	Larry Strommen	Mary Ann Meese	Eric George	Howard Givel
2nd	Wendy Kaplan	Howard Givel	Larry Strommen	Chuck Stimming
3rd	Glenn Theobald	Cyrus Mobed	Jeff Baker	- - -
Hoosier Quad		Butch Meese		

1989 HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB Gammon Point Standings as of May 31st.						
1)	Chuck Stimming	9.58	Rick Reahard	2.04	Donna Susens	0.16
2)	Butch Meese	8.04	Bob Goodlett	1.77	Larry Buckingham	0.16
3)	Woody Woodworth	8.02	Don Burton	1.66	Ves Johnson	0.16
4)	Mick Dobratz	7.95	Eric George	1.64	Amber Wiesler	0.16
5)	Larry Strommen	6.81	Marty Lindenmayer	1.60	Jim Mieske	0.16
6)	Howard Givel	6.50	Kevin McLeaster	1.50	Larry Lesniak	0.16
7)	Mary Ann Meese	6.13	Bill Gheen	1.40	Bob Calhoun	0.14
8)	Frank Scott	3.59	Ralph Roberts	1.02	R. C. Robbins	0.12
9)	Ken Bruck	3.34	Gino Agresti	0.86	Jay Nelson	0.10
10)	David Smith	3.30	Michael Shanas	0.80	Dan Batts	0.10
	Cyrus Mobed	3.28	Ellis Bray	0.78	Mike Hellmer	0.08
	George Crawford	3.12	Wendy Kaplan	0.72	John Leusing	0.08
	Jeff Baker	2.88	Bill Julian	0.66	Walter Trice	0.08
	Brian Nelson	2.82	Kevin Bryan	0.58	John Ritzert	0.08
	Jim Curtis	2.74	Ron Black	0.48	Bev Nelson	0.02
	Glenn Theobald	2.52	John Brussel	0.32	Linc Bedell	0.02
	Kay Beck	2.42	Don Trapp	0.32	Tom Hendryx	0.02
	Jim Knauer	2.20	Cassie Curtis	0.32	Bob Kemerly	0.02
	Greg Varbinov	2.12	Jamie Curtis	0.24		
	Mike Norman	2.08	Cassidy Dobratz	0.18		



**Result: Backgammon Wordsearch Contest**

HBC received 10 entries listing all 36 backgammon words from Bill Barron (Dallas, TX), Kay Beck (HBC), Harold Branch (Louisville, KY), Ed Buerger (Wilmette, IL), Carol Joy Cole (Flint, MI), Bill Davis (Chicago), Mick & Leeann Dobratz (HBC), Wendy Kaplan (Mahopac, NY), Leslie Lockett (Kenilworth, IL), and Rick Reahard (HBC). A tie-breaker drawing was held on June 1st and the winner is **Carol Joy Cole**. Carol Joy will receive \$40 off her entry fee to the **National Labor Day Backgammon Tournament**.

Backgammon Wordsearch Contest Solution																		
-	-	-	m	i	d	p	o	i	n	t	-	-	p	a	s	s	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	c	r	o	s	s	o	v	e	r	-	-	p	b
h	i	t	r	g	a	m	m	o	n	-	d	r	o	p	-	h	i	a
-	-	a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	d	-	-	-	-	d	-	o	p
-	b	-	-	c	a	l	c	u	t	t	a	-	i	-	l	c	k	a
-	-	-	-	r	e	-	-	s	-	-	-	c	-	l	o	g	r	
-	-	t	e	i	-	-	-	l	b	-	-	e	-	a	u	a	b	
-	-	o	y	f	-	-	-	o	l	-	-	-	-	n	n	m	e	
-	l	a	t	-	-	-	-	t	i	-	-	-	-	d	t	e	a	
b	e	u	m	-	-	-	-	y	-	t	-	-	-	-	-	-	r	
b	o	p	a	a	-	-	b	b	-	z	-	-	-	-	-	-	o	
-	s	r	-	n	t	o	-	o	c	a	p	t	a	i	n	-	s	
t	h	i	-	-	c	c	-	a	-	c	-	b	u	i	l	d	e	
a	o	m	-	a	-	h	h	r	-	h	-	-	-	-	l	-	-	
k	t	e	j	-	-	o	d	-	e	-	-	-	b	-	-	-	-	
e	s	c	r	a	w	f	o	r	d	c	-	-	u	-	-	c	-	
-	-	f	-	-	-	-	-	-	k	-	-	o	-	-	-	u	-	
-	-	a	-	-	-	-	-	-	e	-	d	b	o	x	-	b	-	
-	-	n	-	-	-	-	-	-	r	c	h	o	u	e	t	t	e	
-	-	t	o	u	r	n	a	m	e	n	t	-	-	-	r	o	l	

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Cub-Osco Plaza  
(317) 849-7355

Schedule of BACKGAMMON Events (Information and entry forms available thru HBC)		
Jun 21-25	U. S. Open & MASTERS Invitational - Reno	(702) 852-1221
Jul 10-16	World Championships of Backgammon - Monte Carlo	(305) 527-4033
Jul 15-16	The 1989 Nation's Capital Summer Backgammon Tournament	(703) 620-3239
Jul 28-30	Michigan Summer Championship - Flint, MI	(313) 232-9731
Aug 07-13	Green Mountain Festival - Ascutney Mt Resort	
Sep 01-04	<b>National Labor Day Backgammon Tournament - Indianapolis</b>	<b>HBC Hotline</b>
Oct 04-08	Caesars Tahoe Backgammon Tournament	(702) 852-1221
Jan 17-21, 1990	7th Nevada State - Peppermill Hotel, Reno	(702) 852-1221
THURSDAYS	7PM at <b>Dooley O'Toole's</b> - Behind Castleton Sq on 86th St	849-7355



**A Fast Way to Record Backgammon Position** by Jeff Ward (reprinted from the LVBG Magazine - March, 1981)

Sooner or later, you will probably want to write down a backgammon position. It may be an unusual situation or a difficult play that you would like to show someone or perhaps study at a later time. Play may be interrupted and you would like to save the position so that a game can be resumed later.

Whatever the reason, most people record a position by drawing a picture of the board and the checkers. To save time, some players use pre-printed diagrams of an empty board. Even so, it is still time-consuming and tedious to draw thirty checkers each time a position is recorded.

To get around this problem, the author has developed a notation system that is fast, easy to use and does not rely on pre-printed diagrams. The notation system uses numbers, capital letters, small letters, slashes, and a check mark.

Letters represent the number of checkers on individual points. Each letter stands for the number of checkers equal to the letter's rank in the alphabet. The rule has one exception to be described later, but otherwise A equals 1, B equals 2, E equals 5, J equals 10 etcetera.

Capital letters are used for the dark-colored checkers and the small letters for the light-colored checkers. For example, B represents a point containing two dark checkers while 'd' indicates a point with four light checkers.

Numbers represent groups of consecutive empty points within one of the four quadrants of the board. For example, black's home board at the start of a game contained five black checkers on the six-point and two white checkers on the one-point. This would be written b4E with the 4 representing the four empty points. If black made his four-point on the first roll, his home board become b2B1D.

Slashes (/) separate quadrants of the board. The two quadrants on the far side of the board are written on the same line and separated by a /. The two quadrants on the near side are written on a line beneath the other one.

The space between the lines is reserved for two symbols. In the center, a letter (or letters) indicates checkers on the bar; and at one side a check mark shows which pair of quadrants are the home boards.

Since there are fifteen checkers per player in backgammon, only the first fifteen letters of the alphabet are needed for the notation system. Within this group of letters, most corresponding capital and small letters are quite different from each other in appearance. For example, G does not look at all like g. This is a distinct advantage, for, with positions recorded in a hurry, capital and small often turn out to be about the same size.

There are two exceptions, however. The capital and small of both C (three checkers) and O (fifteen checkers) have the same shape. Although we can safely ignore the possibility of fifteen checkers of the same point; three checkers on a point is, of course, extremely common.

In practice, using C to represent three checkers on a point will often result in confusion as to which letters are capitals and which ones are not.

To avoid this problem, R is used for three men on a point. Capital and small R look totally different; and as the eighteenth letter of the alphabet. R's meaning cannot be misinterpreted since it has no other use in the notation system.

This completes the description of the notation system. An example of how it works is the illustrated position which is written as follows:

3Bbe/r4R  
 ✓ a  
 3B1D/1R2Ad

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12
				X	O	O		O					X
				X	O	O	O	O					X
					O	O		O					X
						O							
							Bar						
						X							O
						X							O
				X	X			X					O
			X	X	X			X			X	O	O
	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12

This notation system should prove to be faster and just as accurate as drawing a picture. A temporary stumbling block for some people might be translating numbers into letters. But most backgammon positions require only the letters A, B, R, D and E; letters beyond G are rarely, if ever, needed. Since the same few letters are used over and over again, with a little practice it should become easy to quickly substitute a letter for the appropriate number of checkers.

Editor's Note: This article is reprinted because a lot of new players have been introduced to backgammon since it was first printed. Below is one more position to practice on with the answer on page 4. There are also two examples using the notation system which are the doubling positions in Game 14 of the World Cup match on page 4. See if you can set them up on a board.

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12
	X	O	O	O	O	O						O	
		O	O	O	O	O							
							Bar						
						X							
						X		X					
			X	X	O	X		X			X	O	
	X	X	X	O	X			X			X	O	
	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12

Move 5:  
 BR1b1r/1r2aA  
 ✓ a  
 1a3D/AR1A1d

Move 35:  
 Br1r1b/3A2  
 ✓ a  
 2BRBB/BA4

