

National Labor Day Backgammon Tournament

Labor Day Weekend is alive and well in the Midwest. The attendance of 140 was good considering that two other tournaments were operating that weekend. Players raved about the nice atmosphere at the Radisson Hotel/Keystone Shopping complex.

National Club Team Challenge

The first National Club Team Challenge was won by the New Jersey Backgammon Club with a surprise second by the Hoosier Backgammon Club. The other two clubs competing in the final 4-team round-robin grid were the Chicago Bar Point (Gary Kay, Tak Morioka & Yamin Yamin) and the Backgammon In Georgia, Inc (Dave Cardwell, Jerry Hartsman & Samra Hadden). The final stage had a lot of drama with the winner determined by the last match. The other clubs that entered were the College Park Backgammon Club (Jim Baroff, Karen Davis & Ed O'Laughlin), Festival Backgammon Club (Fred Badagnani, Brian Moss Marty Storer), Flint Area Backgammon Club (John Carrico, Carol Joy Cole & Rick Todd), Louisville Backgammon Club (Harold Branch, Terry Kuchenbrod & Sharon Lennon), New England Backgammon Club (Bill Robertie, Roy Friedman, Walter Trice), NY/NJ Coop (Dr Bob Hill, James Roston, Ron Whitney), Plymouth Backgammon Club (Dean Adamian, Judy Field & Gary Fritzsche) and Twin Cities Backgammon Club (Steve Brown, Duane Jensen, Ralph Stowell). Rick Barabino was scheduled to play with the NEBC and defend his challenge, but weather delayed his flight and Walter Trice was substituted at the last minute.

Outstanding individual efforts were turned in by Gary Kay (6-0), Doug Roberts (5-0), Dave Cardwell (5-1), Chuck Stimming (5-1) and Bill Robertie (3-0). The format used in this year's challenge was found to have a few problems and an improved format will be formulated for next year.

National Club Team Challenge (12)

1st New Jersey Backgammon Club
 Steve Jacobson, Doug Roberts & Ami Tennenbaum

2nd Hoosier Backgammon Club
 Jim Curtis, Wendy Kaplan & Chuck Stimming

Main Events

The swiss movement type format produced some interesting results. For nine rounds, players competed for a win-loss record which would guarantee a spot in the final 8 (final 4 in the novice). Players with 7 to 9 wins were in the final 8 (4) and players with 6-3 records had to play-off for the remaining spots.

Open Division

In the Open division, nine 6-3 players played-off for the three remaining spots. All three players who won their way into the final 8 also made it to the final 4 and two made it to the finals. With this format, a player with 3 losses can still win the tournament. Because it took over 7 hours to play 2-11 point matches in the quarter and semifinals, first and second place prize money was split and both players will receive a trophy as winner.

Open Division (53)

T1st Ed O'Laughlin (NJ)
 T1st Steve Brown (MN)
 3/4 Ed Petrillo (FL)
 3/4 Alan Steffen (IL)
 5/8 Roy Friedman (MA)
 5/8 Joe Sylvester (MI)
 5/8 Marty Storer (Buffalo)
 5/8 Ami Tennenbaum (NY)

Intermediate Division

Terry Kuchenbrod lost his first match. He borrowed a set from the tournament staff to play his second match and won. He borrowed the set again for his third match and won. He requested to continue to play with the set and proceeded to a 7-2 record to make the final 8. In the money rounds, he went 3-0 to capture his first title. OH! by the way, he bought the set.

Intermediate (65)

1st Terry Kuchenbrod (Louisville)
 2nd Stu Katz (Chicago)
 3/4 Jonathan Bennetts (CAN)
 3/4 Marc Ingenoso (WI)
 5/8 Tim Dunphy (Can)
 5/8 Fred King (TX)
 5/8 Jim Roland (Cleveland)
 5/8 Harry Tokatlian (MI)

Novice Division

After four rounds, Lee Shapiro was 1-3 and on the verge of elimination. With the fourth loss, players were eliminated. Lee caught fire and won 8 matches (5 matches to a 6-3 record to make the play-offs with five other players, 1 in the play-offs to make the final four and 2 more for his first place trophy).

Novice (21)

1st Lee Shapiro (Atlanta)
 2nd Randell Witt (TN)
 3/4 Leslie Lockett (Chicago)
 3/4 James Roston (NY)

MicroBlitz & Extra Events

The MicroBlitz events filled the idle time for players when eliminated from main tournament events. These great equity, fast pace events keep growing in popularity. In the Limited MicroBlitz, Jim Bowman turned his \$20 entry fee into a \$1024 first prize. Joe Sylvester won the 8-player \$500 Masters Jackpot and placed with Mike Charison in the Doubles.

Masters MicroBlitz (16)	Doug Mayfield (Chicago)
Open MicroBlitz (64)	Rick Bieniak (FL)
Limited MicroBlitz (128)	Jim Bowman (FL)
Masters Jackpot (8)	Joe Sylvester (MI)
\$100 Special Jackpot (8)	Ralph Stowell (MN)
\$50 Open Jackpot (8)	1st Charlie Cole (WV) 2nd Karen Davis (Wash DC)
\$25 Limited Jackpot (8)	1st Miriam Bureson (MI) 1st Bill Szirtes (Can)
Doubles (32)	1st Carl Sellars/Tim Dunphy (Can) 2nd Mike Rezai/John Bashian (OH) 3/4 Mike Charison/Joe Sylvester (MI) 3/4 Bobbie Shifrin/David Libchaber (IL)

It was learned that all previous swiss movement type backgammon tournaments have not been rated by Kent Gouldings system. HBC will take all necessary steps to assure that the NLD tournament will be the first swiss movement type tournament that will be rated. The HBC staff (Butch and Mary Ann Meese) and LBC staff (Scott Arche and Chuck Winters) would like to thank Woody Woodworth and Dave Cardwell for their expertise and assistance during the tournament. Look forward to the same type of action for Labor Day Weekend 1990 in Louisville. See you There!

Cupid plays Backgammon

Cupid played at the 37th INDIANA Open. Over the summer, two couples who met at the **37th INDIANA Open** in March are now engaged. John Brussel (NYC) and Jill Ferdinand (Chicago) announced their engagement 2 weeks after Wendy Kaplan (formerly NY-now Indy) and David Smith (Indy) made their announcement. During the Labor Day Tournament, a happy Jack Kissane called with good wishes for the tournament (The NY Giants still come first) and announced his engagement and November 24th wedding to Geri Mahoney. Much happiness to all - a backgammon marriage has worked well for the Meeses.



HBC August results	Aug 3th	Aug 10th	Aug 17th	Aug 24th	Aug 31st
1st	Woody Woodworth	Brian Nelson	Howard Givel	Larry Strommen	Howard Givel
2nd	Brian Nelson	Larry Strommen	Jim Curtis	Brian Nelson	Fred Badagnani
3rd	Ken Bruck	Eric George	David Smith	Cyrus Mobed	Mervin Berger
Hoosier Quad				Woody Woodworth	Mick Dobratz

Hoosier Pips....The rumor is now fact -- Wendy Kaplan has moved to Indianapolis....HBC welcomes back Don Woods and new players Scott Richardson and John Cinato....Congrats to Jim Curtis, Wendy Kaplan and Chuck Stimming who represented HBC quite well in the 1st Club Team Challenge....Join us in hoping Dr. Bob Hill is feeling well enough for Tahoe after his unexpected hospitalization while at the Labor Day Weekend Tournament....A brand new newsletter debuted at the Labor Day Tournament. *New Jersey Backgammon Life* looks like a great first effort from editor, Ron Whitney (201) 833-2915....The Gammon Press now has a 1989 Catalog which includes the 4-tape video set of the World Cup Final between Joe Sylvester and Ray Glaeser. You can receive your catalog by writing to Gammon Press, P.O.Box 294, Arlington, MA 02174....The fall league session now under way has 14 Open and 10 Intermediate players.

1989 HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB Gammon Point Standings as of August 31st.						
1)	Woody Woodworth	13.74	Don Burton	1.66	Mark Mikolon	0.16
2)	Butch Meese	12.96	Bill Gheen	1.40	Larry Lesniak	0.16
3)	Chuck Stimming	12.28	Ralph Roberts	1.02	Larry Buckingham	0.16
4)	Larry Strommen	11.39	Herb Roman	0.98	Amber Wiesler	0.16
5)	Howard Givel	11.30	Gino Agresti	0.86	Bob Calhoun	0.14
6)	Mick Dobratz	9.89	Wendy Kaplan	0.86	Ron Becker	0.14
7)	Brian Nelson	7.34	Michael Shanas	0.80	R. C. Robbins	0.12
8)	Mary Ann Meese	7.19	Ellis Bray	0.78	Dan Batts	0.10
9)	Frank Scott	6.31	Bill Julian	0.76	Scott Richardson	0.10
10)	Cyrus Mobed	6.16	Catfish Bryan	0.70	Jay Nelson	0.10
	Eric George	5.48	Fred Badagnani	0.60	John Cinato	0.10
	David Smith	5.08	Mervin Berger	0.60	Scott Arche	0.08
	Ken Bruck	4.80	Ves Johnson	0.50	Mike Hellmer	0.08
	Jim Curtis	4.50	Ron Black	0.48	Walter Trice	0.08
	Glenn Theobald	3.82	John Brussel	0.32	John Leusing	0.08
	Kevin McLeaster	3.70	Don Trapp	0.32	John Ritzert	0.08
	Jeff Baker	3.18	Cassie Curtis	0.32	Scott Musser	0.06
	Kay Beck	3.16	Jamie Curtis	0.24	Jim Wilson	0.02
	George Crawford	3.12	Dick Nelson	0.24	Linc Bedell	0.02
	Marty Lindenmayer	2.64	Donna Susens	0.24	Tom Hendryx	0.02
	Jim Knauer	2.20	Don Woods	0.24	George Barr	0.02
	Greg Varbinov	2.12	Cassidy Dobratz	0.18	Bob Kemerly	0.02
	Mike Norman	2.08	Jim Mieske	0.16	Bev Nelson	0.02
	Rick Reahard	2.04	Rick Bieniak	0.16		
	Bob Goodlett	1.77	Jim Smythe	0.16		

HBC's monthly newsletter for active HBC members and subscribers.

Subscription rate: \$6/year (Canada \$7 & overseas \$10). Let us know if your address changes.

HBC Hotline: Butch & Mary Ann Meese: (317) 845-8435. 7620 Kilmer Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46256-1634

WORLD CUP Match
Joe Sylvester vs Alan Steffen
37 Point SemiFinal

During 1989, this match is being presented in this newsletter, 1 to 4 games each month and this month games 20 thru 23 are presented. Along with the 34 games, all the doubling positions will be included. 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 with 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 more pieces moving to the same point; this example has 2 pieces moving to the 5 point. In the doubling positions, Joe will be dark checkers and Alan the light and are shown from Joe Sylvester's side of the board. Study those first before going through the games.



BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT

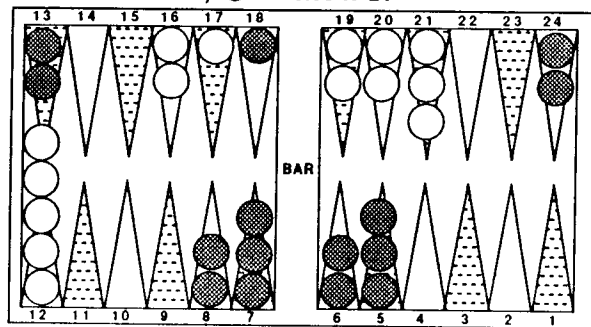
\$20,000 Added Prize Money

OCTOBER 4-8, 1989 A.D.

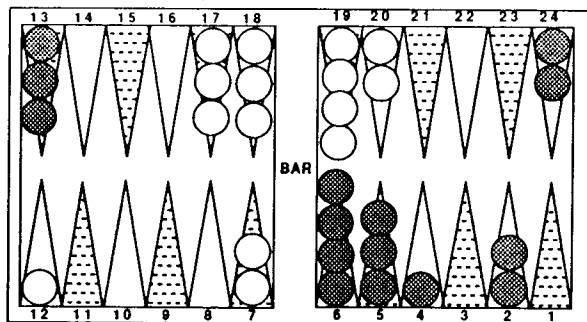
Questions regarding this tournament should be directed to Mark Richardson at (702) 826-1984 weekday afternoons or (702) 852-1221 evenings and weekends; or to Dave Heffner at (702) 847-0553 daily. Correspondence should be sent to:

Northern Nevada Backgammon Association
 P.O. Box 70101 • Reno, NV 89570-0101

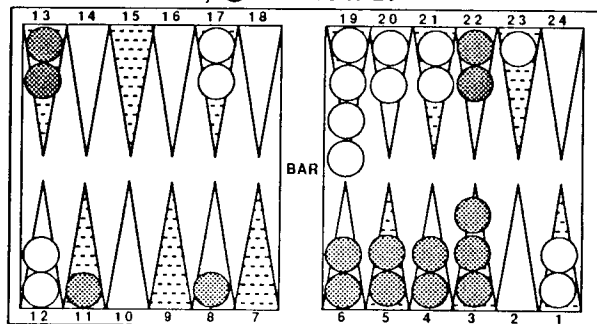
Game 20 - Move 7, O doubles to 2?



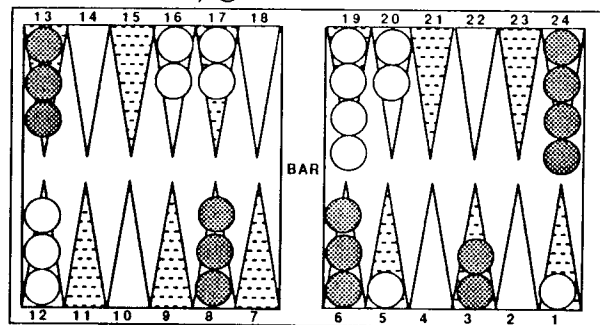
Game 21 - Move 4, O doubles to 2?



Game 22 - Move 6, ● doubles to 2?



Game 23 - Move 5, O doubles to 2?



Schedule of BACKGAMMON Events (Information and entry forms available thru HBC)

Sep 29-30	8th All Georgia Championship - The Beef Cellar, Atlanta	(404) 357-0567
Oct 04-08	Caesars Tahoe Backgammon Tournament	(702) 852-1221
Oct 27-29	7th New Hampshire Fall Classic	(603) 863-4711
Nov 10-12	Backgammon Co-op Fall Championships - Highland, NJ	(201) 833-2915
Nov 17-19	Children's Hospital Benefit - Sheraton-Commander Hotel, Boston	(617) 547-4800
Jan 17-21, 1990	7th Nevada State - Peppermill Hotel, Reno	(702) 852-1221
Aug 07-12, 1990	WORLD CUP II - Sheraton-Commander Hotel, Boston	(301) 299-8264
Sep 01-04, 1990	National Labor Day Backgammon Tournament - Louisville	HBC Hotline
THURSDAYS	7PM at Dooley O'Toole's - Backside of Castleton Sq on 86th St	849-7355

Game 20

Joe Sylvester (21)		Alan Steffen (29)		
Roll	Played	Roll	Played	
1)	--	---	42	4 ²
2)	51	8 5	54	20x-15
3)	63	22 7	54	15
4)	61	7 5	62	9 13
5)	21	20 5	42	9 4
6)	11	5 ^{F8} 7	31	5x ²
7)	61	18		dbl to 2?
8)		pass		

Game 21

Joe Sylvester (21)		Alan Steffen (30)		
Roll	Played	Roll	Played	
1)	--	---	41	9 5
2)	32	10 11	64	7 5
3)	31	5 ²	66	18 ² 7 ²
4)	66	5 4 2 ²		dbl to 2?
5)		pass		

Game 22

Joe Sylvester (21)		Alan Steffen (31)		
Roll	Played	Roll	Played	
1)	53	3 ²	31	5 ²
2)	32	10 11	42	4 ²
3)	54	5 9	32	10 11
4)	54	3 5	54	8 6
5)	22	22 ² 4 ²	54	2 ^{F11}
6)		dbl to 2?		take
7)	44	14 ²	41	2 23
8)	63	8 11	41	4 23
9)	33	7 ²	41	9 3
10)	54	3 4	54	3 5
11)	53	3 ^{F11}	52	1 11
12)	61	4 ^{F11}	41	1 10
13)	31	4 6	42	4
14)	64	0 ²	64	13
15)	65	0 1	64	3
16)	62	0 3	33	11
17)	55	game		

Game 23

Joe Sylvester (23)		Alan Steffen (31)		
Roll	Played	Roll	Played	
1)	53	3 ²	41	9 5
2)	51	8 5	43	20x 5
3)	64	15	31	10x-9
4)	31	24 5x	32	20x
5)	51	24 8		dbl to 2?
6)		pass		

Club Spotlight - DBL

Dallas is rapidly becoming the 'IN' place in the United States to play backgammon. Several players from locations as distant as Virginia and California are planning Texas backgammon vacations in order to learn from the many strong metroplex area players.

Dallas has a rich backgammon heritage dating back to the 1930s. It was the home of the famed gamesman and author Oswald Jacoby and his brilliant wife, Mary Zita. Many of the 'Modern' theories of play were developed in Dallas.

The Backgammon Book written by Jacoby and John Crawford and published in 1970 was the first book to provide the mathematics of the doubling cube. It is considered by many to be the best backgammon book ever written.

The new wave of interest in backgammon in Dallas is primarily due to the formation of the **Dallas Backgammon League (DBL)** in December 1988 and its promotional newsletter *The Double*.

Many Dallas area players assisted in the formation of **DBL** with Malcolm Davis and Bill Barron emerging as its leaders. Nancy Williams directs weekly local tournaments at Dave & Busters, Walnut Hill and N. Central Express Way, Dallas at 7:30 PM on Wednesdays.

Entry fees are: main bracket \$15, consolation \$5, optional side pool \$10. 90% of the money collected is paid out each week. The other 10% is accumulated primarily to subsidize year end tournament and to provide awards to players.

Master points are awarded for participation and achievement with the top eight masters qualifying for the year end masters tournament.

All other players participating in eight or more weekly tournaments are eligible to play in the year end top-flight tournament.

Membership fees are \$10 per year with all members receiving the monthly newsletter, *The Double*, edited by Bill Barron. Davis and Barron think *The Double* is presently the best backgammon newsletter in content and have a goal of making it the best newsletter in backgammon's history.

It is a tremendous value at \$10 per year and players are invited to send their checks for membership to Bill Barron, P. O. Box 740306, Dallas, TX 75374-0306. Bill Barron can be reached at work (214) 361-9033 or home (214) 231-6353. Malcolm Davis' phone number is (214) 691-7777.

Other organizational goals include: 1) The formation of a Dallas monthly or bi-monthly weekend tournament, 2) Working with other Texas directors to develop a major annual Texas tournament and 3) to help other directors in the development of a strong National Backgammon Association.

Malcolm Davis and Bill Barron welcome visiting players and would be pleased to assist in finding games with players of comparable skill levels.

Editor Note: Thanks to Bill Barron and Malcolm Davis for this write-up.