



Labor Day Tourney returns to INDY

The National Labor Day Backgammon Tournament
once again will be held in INDIANAPOLIS
at the Holiday Inn, Union Station.
August 31st - September 3rd, 1990
Butch or Mary Ann Meese (317) 845-8435.



Videos as an added learning tool...

When I walked into the 1990 Midwest Championship and learned that one of the door prizes was a copy of the video showing the match between 1990 Reno finalists, Doug Roberts and Bill Davis, I secretly hoped I would win it. Guess what? I did win the video and I found the match to be both entertaining and educational.

The Indianapolis backgammon community is made up largely of intermediate players. Butch and Mary Ann Meese have done more to encourage beginning backgammon players than I have ever seen done before. David Smith has volunteered his time to give lessons to beginners and there is a beginner backgammon tournament held in round-robin format every Thursday evening. The beginners eventually do become intermediate players within a reasonable amount of time and one of the questions that I am frequently asked is "What do you think the best backgammon book is after I've read Magriel?" Another one of the frequently asked questions is "What's the best way to learn how to play like the professionals do?" In my opinion, Bill Robertie's blue book, "Advanced Backgammon" is the one that I found to be most useful and comprehensible for the intermediate player. However, my answer to these folks is that they should spend some time watching chouettes and listening to the commentaries of Joe Sylvester, Jack Kissane, Neil Kazaross, etc. It affords an excellent opportunity to not only watch plays but listen to their reasoning as well.

by Wendy Kaplan

Now, I have another answer. VIDEOS! First of all, it is usually educational to watch the players who have made it to the finals of any major tournament. In this match, however, there were several instances of poor cube decisions and incorrect checker plays. Although this can be somewhat embarrassing for the players, it serves as an excellent study tool in that it affords the commentators an opportunity to analyze and discuss backgammon strategy in their critique. Kit Woolsey, Joe Sylvester and Kent Goulding entertain you with their cutting remarks and barbed commentary while instructing you with their insights and match strategies. There are some sequences in that match that I found to be particularly instructive in that Joe and Kit are so frequently opposed in their opinions of the "correct play". They openly discuss and debate their respective points of view. Although going play by play through matches and studying various players' analysis on match play and strategy is certainly a worthwhile study approach, I have always found it easier to understand the thought processes while being able to watch the match in progress and listen to the simultaneous dialogue. I do believe that if match videos with audio ever become affordable, these would certainly be a viable learning tool for any player at any level of play.

Note: see **Hoosier Pips**, Page 4, for some available videos.

Weekly Results	May 3rd	May 10th	May 17th	May 24th	May 31st
Open 1st	Gabe Stiasny	Butch Meese	Butch Meese	Terry Kuchenbrod	Woody Woodworth
2nd	Cyrus Mobed	Gabe Stiasny	Kay Beck	Mick Dorbatz	John Cinatl
2nd	Preston Breunig	Frank Scott	Ken Bruck	Wendy Kaplan	Chuck Stimming
Intermediate	Kay Beck	Scott Roberts			Scott Richardson
Novice	Scott Roberts		June Werner	Peg Simsic	

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

Subscription rate: \$7/year (Canada \$8 & overseas \$12). Let us know if your address changes.

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

The three point prime...by Harold Branch

Diagram #1

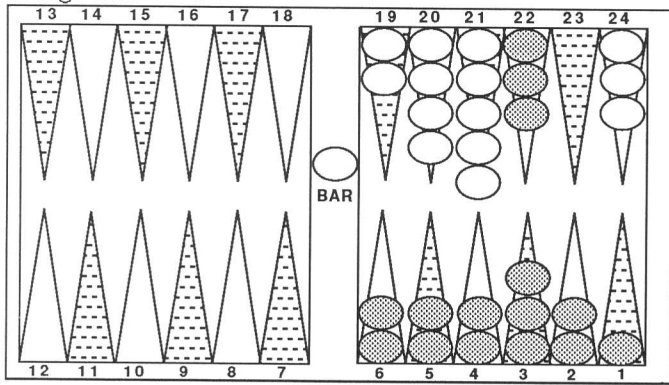


Diagram #2

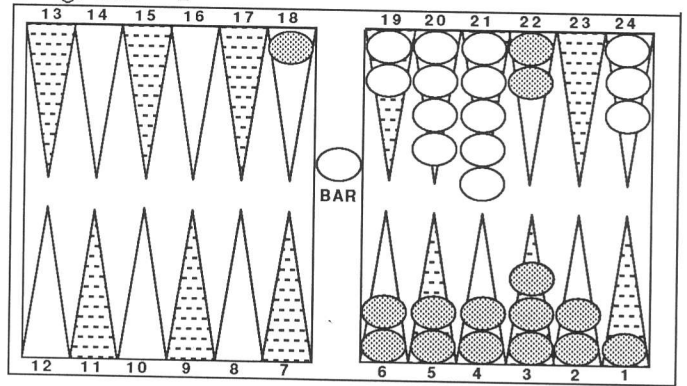


Diagram 1 appeared in the May 1990 Hoosier Backgammon Club newsletter. In a match to 33 and trailing 18 to 26, Bill Robertie (Black) doubled. Ray Glaeser (White) "took". What do you think about the double? About the take? My first glance impression suggested double and pass. But, wait a minute! I see the 20 covering numbers, but how many actually close out the board? Six - that is all; 6-2, 5-2 and 4-2. And what is the effect of the 9 lowest number on Black's board? Experiment a little. How do you play a 3-1? Or a 2-2? Or a 3-3?! The point is that 25% of Black's numbers will transfer a small advantage back to White. So it looks like a take. Was it a good double then? Yes, it was an excellent double. And a mandatory take. Bill, trailing in the match, has a reasonable positive expectation and has a wild hope - really forlorn - that Ray might err and pass.

Now let's give Black a present of 4 pips (Diagram 2). Bill would double. There are not enough gammons not to double. Would Ray take or pass? He would pass promptly, wasting no time. So would you and if you would take this, don't admit it to anyone!

Disregarding the extra 4 pips completely, we notice two differences: One - all 12 of Black's cover numbers close the board, not just 6. Two - no numbers disrupt Black's 5 point board.

To measure the approximate effect of that big 3-point prime, look at the results of 200 random rollouts for each diagram after the double and take.

Diagram 1 - Black won 125 plain, 8 gammons. White won 62 plain, 5 gammons. Black scores 138 net instead of 200. Diagram 2 - Black won 164 plain, 6 gammons. White won 26 plain, 4 gammons. Black scores 284 net instead of 200.

So that little obstacle (a 3-point prime) is easy to overlook but changes an easy take into a BIG PASS. Those of us who are a little hard of thinking find this type of study instructive.



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1990 HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB Gammon Point Standings as of May 31st.

1)	Butch Meese	9.10	Jeff Baker	1.52	Jamie Curtis	0.38
2)	Chuck Stimming	8.86	Marty Lindenmayer	1.28	Bob Zavoral	0.32
3)	Wendy Kaplan	7.58	Scott Richardson	1.10	Bill Julian	0.32
4)	Don Woods	6.64	Cindy White	1.10	Lara Simsic	0.30
5)	Woody Woodworth	6.47	Bob Goodlett	1.08	Randall Witt	0.24
6)	Larry Strommen	5.72	Jim Gatesman	1.05	Christopher White	0.20
7)	Ken Bruck	5.64	Pete Ryder	1.00	Mark Mikolon	0.20
8)	Frank Scott	5.38	Bill Hodes	1.00	Amber Wiesler	0.20
9)	John Cinatl	5.09	Terry Kuchenbrod	0.98	Stu Whitcomb	0.12
10)	David Smith	4.98	Chuck Winters	0.92	Don Waltons	0.12
	Mick Dobratz	4.29	Bill Gheen	0.84	Teri Ivey Long	0.10
	Mary Ann Meese	4.24	John Brussel	0.80	Jeane Eggerberger	0.08
	Cyrus Mobed	3.86	Ralph Roberts	0.72	Greg Tomlin	0.08
	Kevin McLeaster	3.70	Christine Riha	0.72	John O'Hagan	0.08
	Jim Curtis	3.40	Ellis Bray	0.64	Cassie Curtis	0.08
	Kay Beck	2.88	Scott Roberts	0.60	Mark King	0.08
	Gabe Stiasny	2.87	Preston Breunig	0.60	Kevin Garrison	0.06
	Glenn Theobald	2.65	Linc Bedell	0.60	Jim Smyth	0.04
	June Werner	2.08	Howard Givel	0.60	George Crawford	0.04
	Philip Degan	2.05	Larry Buckingham	0.56	Jim Knauer	0.04
	Sharon Lennon	1.96	Jay Mershon	0.40	Ismet Demirel	0.04
	Brian Nelson	1.86	Margaret Roberts	0.40	Scott Arche	0.04
	Peg Simsic	1.85	Jay Ward	0.40	Eric George	0.04
	Fred Brooks	1.73	Carolyn Doyle	0.40	Lou Ramer	0.02

WORLD CUP Match

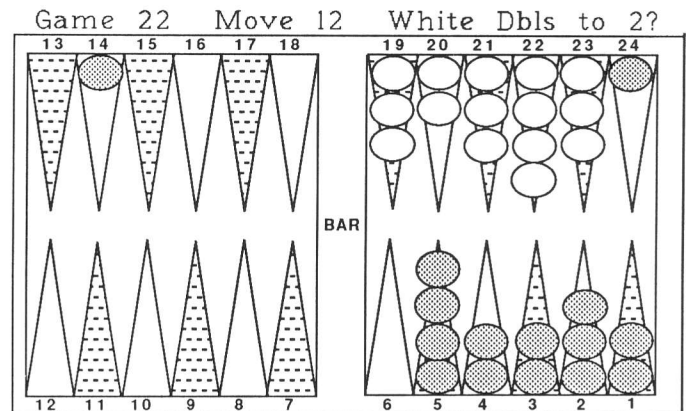
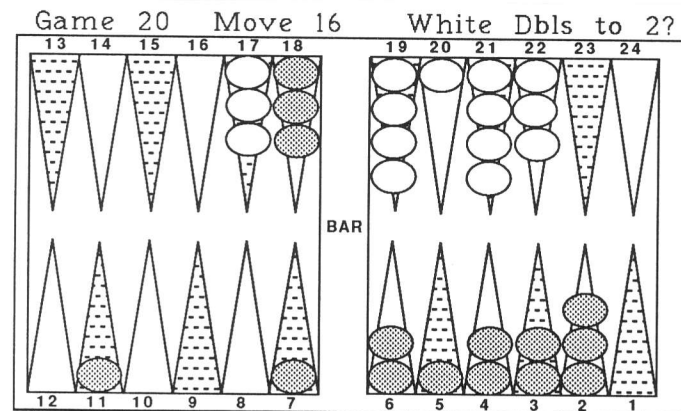
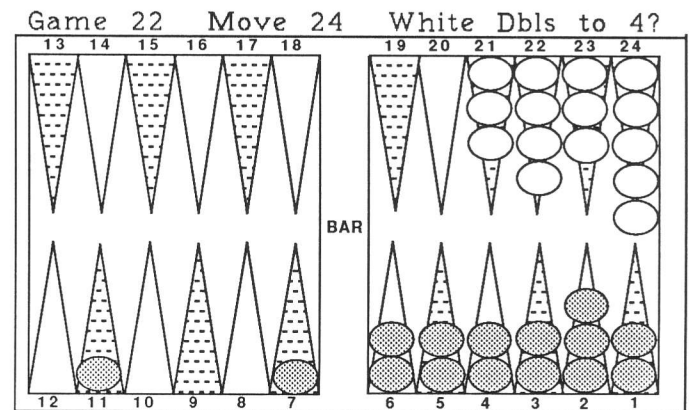
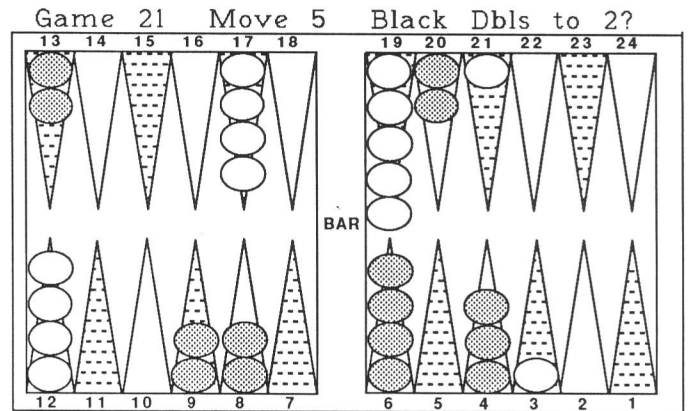
Bill Robertie vs Ray Glaeser

33 Point Quarter Final Match

This year the **HBC Newsletter** presents one of the quarter final matches from the first World Cup between twice world champion Bill Robertie and Ray Glaeser. World Cup II will be held in Boston, August 7-12. Qualifiers for World Cup II will be held across the country, including Michigan Summer Championships (June 29-July 1).

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, Bill is the dark checkers and Ray the light and the board is shown from Bill Robertie's side. Study those first before going through the games.



Schedule of BACKGAMMON Events (Information and entry forms available thru HBC)		
June 29-July 01	Michigan Summer Championships - Sheraton Inn, Flint, MI	(313) 232-9731
July 05-08	Champion of Great Britain, Palace Hotel, Douglas - Isle of Man	(0624) 851045
July 16-22	Monte-Carlo World Backgammon Championship	(305) 527-4033
Aug 07-12	WORLD CUP II & Eastern Open - Sheraton-Commander Hotel, Boston	(301) 299-8264
Aug 13-19	Green Mountain Festival of Backgammon - Ascutney Mt Resort, Vt	(305) 527-4033
Aug 31-Sep 3	National Labor Day Backgammon Tournament - INDIANAPOLIS	HBC Hotline
Sept 21-23	Minnesota Open Backgammon Tournament	(621) 521-9532
Oct 24-28	Caesars Tahoe Backgammon Tournament - South Lake Tahoe	(702) 851-1452
THURSDAYS	7:00 PM at Grisanti's - Northside of Castleton Square on 86th St	842-8323

World Cup

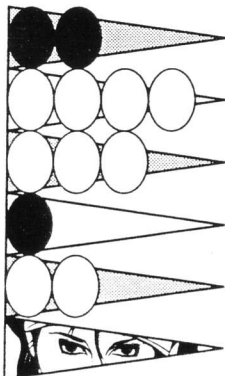
Quarter Final

33 Point Match

Game 20

Bill Robertie (24)		Ray Glaeser (28)	
Roll	Played	Roll	Played
1)	--	63	18 10
2)	32	41	24x 14
3)	53	62	4 ²
4)	43	63	8 21
5)	32	42	21x 4
6)	41	32	22 6
7)	31	42	21 4
8)	52	51	3 ²
9)	43	63	4
10)	64	21	23 3
11)	66	33	EF
12)	62	52	20 11x
13)	53	65	14 6
14)	51	55	8 ² 4
15)	21	21	5 ^{F8}
16)	43		dbl to 2?
17)			pass

Michigan Summer



Backgammon Championships

June 29-July 1, 1990

Sheraton Inn ♦ Flint, MI

For more information, contact Carol Joy Cole at 313/232-9731

Game 22

Bill Robertie (24)		Ray Glaeser (31)	
Roll	Played	Roll	Played
1)	--	31	5 ²
2)	53	53	3 ²
3)	62	22	4 ² 11
4)	52	66	18 ² 7 ²
5)	62	53	8 ²
6)	65	41	13
7)	42	66	7 ² 2 ²
8)	44	53	10
9)	55	52	3
10)	51	41	3 6
11)	62	53	2 4
12)	64		dbl to 2?
13)			pass

BR - 24

RG - 32

Game 21

Bill Robertie (24)		Ray Glaeser (29)	
Roll	Played	Roll	Played
1)	--	54	8 20
2)	42	51	14
3)	54	62	8 22
4)	44	31	4
5)			take
6)	31	43	EF
7)	43	41	24 4
8)	43	65	EF
9)	51	66	EF
10)	31	54	EF
11)	43	66	EF
12)	62	42	23 4
13)	65	32	23x 5x
14)	61	43	1x ²
15)	43	66	17x-11 7 ²
16)	65	53	3x ²
17)	65	22	2 ²
18)	52	33	10 ² 8 1
19)	65	42	6 ^{F10} 8
20)	11	41	4 7
21)	65	61	1 3
22)	51	42	2 ^{F6} 1
23)	43	33	4 ² 3 ²
24)	54		redbl to 4?
25)			pass

11th Chicago Open - Memorial Day Weekend

Championship Division (32)

- 1st Harry Cohn (Chicago)
- 2nd Steve Tennant (Chicago)
- C1st Ali Zaltash (PA)
- C2nd TAK Morioka (Chicago)

World Cup Qualifier -

Yamin Yamin

Doubles (32)

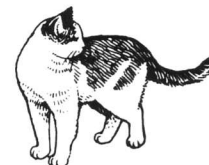
- 1st Peter Kalba/Tom Walthes
- 2nd Mark King/Randall Witt
- 3/4 Don Desmond/Kathy Posner
- 3/4 Emil Mortuk/Linda Ross

Intermediate Division (62)

- 1st Mike Charison (MI)
- 2nd Stu Katz (Chicago)
- 3/4 John Bashian (OH)
- 3/4 John McCabe (IL)
- C1st Lucky Nelson (Chicago)
- C2nd Peter Kalba (Chicago)

\$50 Jackpot (32)

- 1st Howard Ring (CA)
- 2nd John O'Hagan (IN)
- 3/4 Mike Rezai (OH)
- 3/4 Tom Walthes (IL)



Hoosier Pips: HBC welcomes new player Tristan Wilbrandt and out-of-town visitors Terry Kuchenbrod (Louisville), Sharon Lennon (Frankfort, KY), Scott Roberts (Phoenix, AZ), Greg Tomlin (Springfield, IL) and Randall Witt (Knoxville, TN)....One video tape available is the 8 1/2 hours World Cup I finals between Joe Sylvester and Ray Glaeser. The 4 VHS tapes cost \$60 and can be ordered from **The Gammon Press**, P.O. Box 294, Arlington, MA 02174....Another is the 1990 Nevada State Open Final between Bill Davis and Doug Roberts. The 2 VHS tapes sells for \$59.95 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling from **NNBA Productions**, Box 70101, Reno, NV 89570.

R.I.P.

The backgammon community has sadly lost two friends. Deepest sympathies to wife Glenda and son Richard Heffner and the Northern Nevada BG Association in the passing of Dave Heffner May 28th of a heart attack. Harry Isbenjian (Stamford, CT) died mid-May. Our sincere condolences to the families.

U.S. Backgammon Enterprises
presents

THE FOURTH EASTERN OPEN AND WORLD CUP II

August 7-12, 1990
Sheraton-Commander Hotel
Cambridge, MA