

**Hoosier
Backgammon
Club**

April 1995



WW wins Club Championship

Woody Woodworth joins an elite list of HBC members who have won the **Club Championship**. Players are only eligible by winning **Player of the Month** honors or finishing in the **Top Ten**. *Chuck Stimming* won the 1st Club Championship in 1991 followed by *Don Woods* in 1992 and *Larry Strommen* in 1993.

Woody beat Butch Meese (second time as a finalist) 13-10 in 13 games. Woody jumped to an early 7-0 lead in the first 3 games. In the next 8 games, Butch came back to lead 10-9. Game 12 found the score tied at 10. In game 13, Woody doubled and played aggressively. Butch hit a late shot, but not to be outdone, Woody hit a long shot. Butch danced, Woody picked up another checker to grab a gammon and the match.

Free-Time Knock-Out Results

Open Division
Bill Hodes over **Mick Dobratz**
13-8 in 18 games

Advanced Division
Neil Ezell over **Lance Jenkins**
11-6 in 11 games.

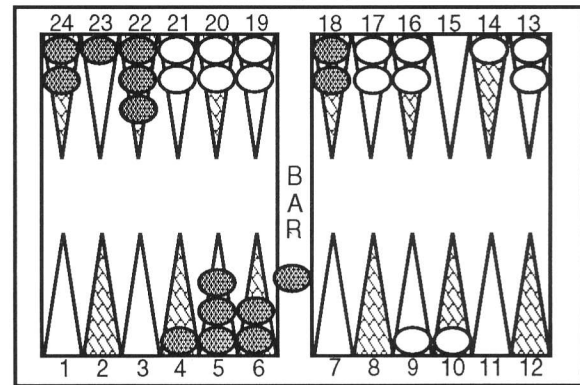
Giving New Players a Fair Shake

Some new players find it tough going against a field of seasoned veterans. Mike Fujita, Director of the San Diego Backgammon Club, suggests a way to help those players and we agree. The first time a new player plays with the club, the cost will be the normal \$10. If that player does not win a match, he/she can play free until he/she wins a match. This also applies to players who have not played with the club for over a year.

If you bring a new player, you get \$5 off your entry fee. If the player becomes an HBC member, you get \$10 off your entry fee.

Problem of the Month

9-Point Match
White - 7 Black - 1
Black to play 1-1?



This position came up during a FIBS match in the Spring tournament. Black is a long way from victory being down 7-1 in a 9 pointer. In fact, White would love to win the match on this game by winning a gammon.

Black was able to capture the 18-point a couple of moves earlier. It is the major reason Black is still alive in this game. So Black must play to keep the 18-point. White on the other hand is playing to force Black to break that point.

Double 1's is a great roll for Black. It gives him needed flexibility. Black is in a back-game and the most important point in a back-game is the 22-point. Whether Black keep the 24 or 23 point with the 22-point in this back-game really does not matter. Having an extra checker on the 22-point has a great affect on how to play double 1's. With that extra checker, he can play 4's to the 18-point and out. If Black plays two 1's from the bar to the 23-point, he'll have 6's, 5's and 4's to play out to the 18-point. When Black has to move from the back points, if he plays 6-x off the 24-point, then he will play a 2-3 back-game. But if he play 5-x off the 23-point then he play 1-3 back-game. Nice flexibility.

Black played two 1's on the far side of the board, what about this side? He would like to have only one 1 to play, but backgammon forces us to play the whole roll. Having two blots is not a great idea and playing too deep is not great either. Black played 6-4 leaving only one checker on the 6-point. This is better than playing too deep even though it goes against the unwritten law of never breaking the 6-point.

Side Note: Black hit a shot with 10 checkers off and won the game and, 4 games later, the match.

Hoosier Backgammon Club's Newsletter for HBC members and subscribers.

Subscription rate: \$12/year (Canada \$14 and overseas \$16). Let us know if your address changes.

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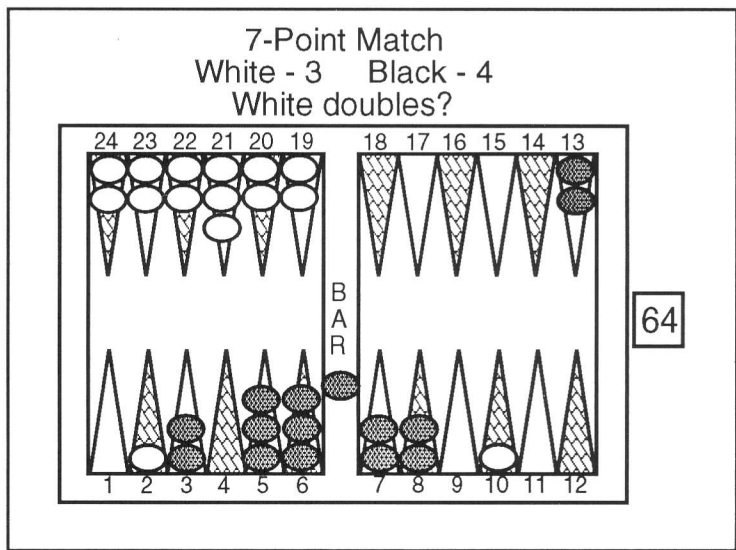
1995 HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB Gammon Point Standings.

HBC Player of the Month for March was **Chuck Stimming** with 276 gammon points.

1) Dave Groner..... 488	T10) Mary Ann Meese.....200	Bill Hodes.....40
2) Gabe Stiasny..... 464	Chuck Bower..... 154	Reggie Porter..... 32
3) Don Woods..... 450	Neil Ezell..... 136	Bob Cassell..... 20
4) Ellis Bray..... 438	Kevin McLeaster..... 120	Peter Kalba..... 20
5) Chuck Stimming.....420	Sean Garber..... 110	Richard Heinz..... 16
6) Butch Meese..... 406	Rick Reahard..... 110	Lance Jenkins..... 16
7) Jan Gurvitz..... 298	J.A. Miller..... 80	Elijah Miller..... 16
8) Larry Strommen..... 250	Wendy Kaplan..... 60	Stan Gurvitz..... 16
9) Woody Woodworth..... 224	Scott Richardson..... 48	Paul Ruterman..... 10
T10) Mick Dobratz..... 200	Brian Nelson..... 48	Tom Helt..... 10

Top Ten Reasons
to attend the
43rd Indiana Open
Labor Day Weekend
Indianapolis

10. Home Grown Backgammon
9. Swiss Movement Format
8. Directors' Cup (new)
7. All Divisions: 85% Return
6. \$300 Masters Jackpot
5. \$100 Amateur Jackpot
4. more later...



Hoosier Pips: Mary Ann and Butch Meese tested their marriage by playing in the Doubles Event at the Midwest Backgammon Championships last month. This was not the first time they played together but is the first time they have cashed. They finished 3rd/4th: maybe thanks to lady luck (see position next column)...Wendy Kaplan finished 2nd in the Championship Division Last Chance...Butch Meese (indianajones) and Wendy Kaplan (madkap) each won a Blitz qualifier on FIBS.

In the second round of the doubles at the Midwest Backgammon Championships, the Meeses' (Black) faced this situation. After giving some thought, they took. White was able to roll a 2 and move up to the edge of the 4-prime only after moving the checker on the 10-point deep into his home board. On the next roll, White rolled 4-2 forcing them to open up the home board. "The Arm" rolled 6-2 coming in and hitting. White came in with 6-2. We re-doubled and White dropped. We asked a pro and he said he would drop the initial double. We ran it on JellyFish which gave us about 27% chance of winning. We got lucky!

<u>March 2nd</u> 1st Dave Groner 2nd Gabe Stiasny 2nd Chuck Stimming	<u>March 9th</u> Butch Meese Ellis Bray Woody Woodworth	<u>March 16th</u> Woody Woodworth Chuck Stimming ...	<u>March 23th</u> Chuck Stimming Don Woods ...	<u>March 30th</u> Ellis Bray Chuck Stimming Gabe Stiasny
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Backgammon Tournament Schedule

Apr 19-23.....	4th Tournament of Americas , Herradura Hotel, San Jose, Costa Rica.....	(312) 252-7755
Apr 28-30.....	New England Championships , Oak & Spruce Center, South Lee, Mass.....	(603) 853 4711
Apr 28-30.....	Spring Gran Prix , Embassy Suites Hotel, La Jolla, California.....	(619) 294-2007
May 26-29.....	16th Chicago Open , Woodfield Hyatt Regency Hotel, Schaumburg, Illinois.....	(708) 674-0120
Jun30-Jul03..	Michigan Summer Championships , Novi Hilton, Novi, MI.....	(810) 232-9731
Sep 01-04.....	43rd INDIANA OPEN , Ramada Inn East, Indianapolis.....	(317) 845-8435
Thursdays.....	7:00 PM at SPATS (842-3465) Castleton Square (between J.C.Penney's & L.S.Ayres)...	845-8435