



Hoosier
Backgammon
Club



September 2001

49th Indiana Open

In a year that saw some tournaments down in attendance, the Indiana Open jumped from last year's 117 to 143. The previous record for Labor Day weekend was 139 in 1989. The previous record for the Indiana Open was 132 in 1979 which only ran two divisions. The record for the Championship/Open still stands at 76 from the 1979 Indiana Open. This year there were 73 in the Championship Division. Some of the increase could be the growing popularity of the Indy Swiss Format used in the Championship and Advanced divisions.

Mr Consistant, **Chuck Stimming**, placed big in two events. Chuck finished second to backgammon expert **Neil Kazaross** in the Championship Division. The deciding game came by way of a 16 cube. Chuck also placed second in the Amateur Jackpot. Chuck's combined win-loss record for the two events was 13-3. What a great weekend - congratulations!!

A relatively new player to HBC, **Jeff Flowers**, won the Intermediate Division over **Bob Sexton** of Chicago. Jeff's record was 8-2.

Pictures, tournament write-up and complete results can be seen on the **Gammon Village** website at: www.gammonvillage.com. Do a search on **Indiana Open**.

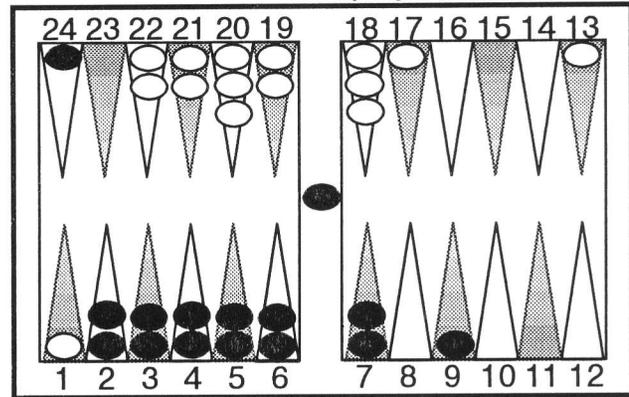
HBC is looking forward to hosting the Golden Anniversary of the **Indiana Open** next year on Labor Day Weekend back at the Sheraton Hotel and Suites.

Groner goes 13-0: that is the way the month of August started off for **Dave Groner**. He won first place for the first three weeks and was on his way to winning the fourth until he finally lost to Gabe. He also won **Player of the Month**. Way to go, Dave!!

48th Indiana Open Prime vs Prime by Hugh McNeil

This position came up between myself and the very amiable **Jeremy Bagai** (PA) at the **48th Indiana Open** over the Labor Day Weekend, 2000. The fact that it generated a considerable amount of debate between several strong players shows how much work is still to be done in understanding cube and checker play in such situations.

9- Point Match, Black-0, White-0
Black to play 2-2?

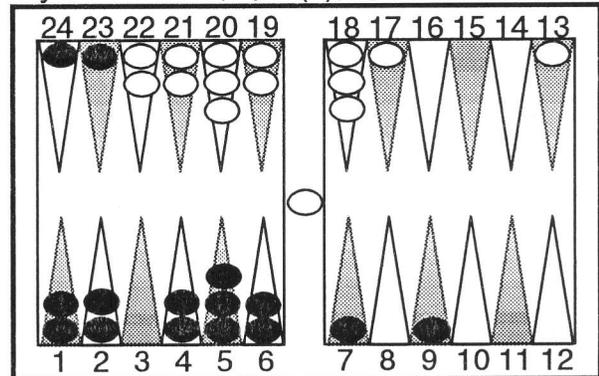


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The three reasonable choices for Black to play double twos are illustrated below, and it is suggested you try to answer the following questions before reading the analysis and Snowie results which follow:

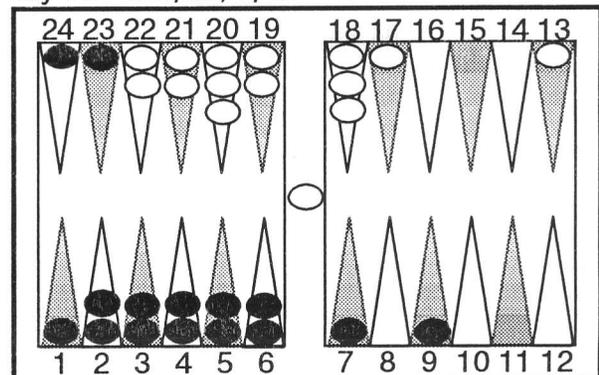
- 1) which play gives Black the best chance of winning the game;
- 2) which play gives Black the best chance of winning the match;
- 3) what do you estimate Black's chances of getting gammoned to be for each position;
- 4) what do you estimate Black's chance of losing a gammon to be for each position;
- 5) should White redouble to four after any of the plays below?

Play #1 Bar-23, 3/1x(2), 7/5



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Play #2 Bar/23, 7/1x

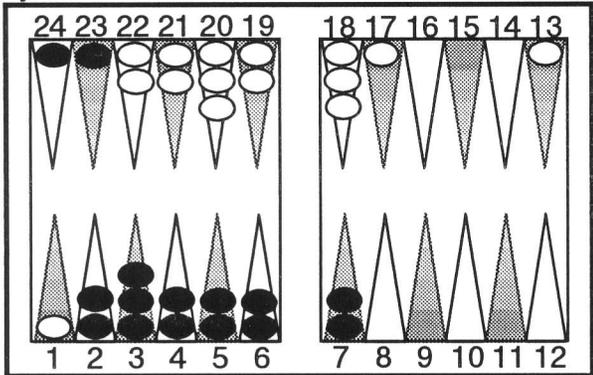


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Play # 3 Bar/23, 9/3



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Over the board, my play was in fact to hit loose on the ace point, as in Play #2, leaving Jeremy free to hit with any one, a total of eleven immediate shots. He hesitated, then recubed to the four level. In spite of the gammon risk, and the potential for an eight point loss in the first game of a nine point match, I thought it was an easy take. Of course, I ended up in very short order with four checkers on his two point...and got gammoned.

The consensus from most of the other players was that the gammon risk was too great to justify leaving eleven direct shots, with another four blots scattered around the board. Play #3 was pretty much ignored by everybody, as it left White with too many good rolls, and Black with a very short lived prime.

My feeling was that after Play #1, White still has seven very strong entering and hitting numbers, [3-4, 3-6, 3-3, and 3-5] and the other threes will enter and safety the blot on the 17 point. So it turns out that I am paying off with four extra very gammonish rolls. Since my take depended very strongly on reds dancing for at least a few rolls, I wanted to have the strongest possible board to help that happen. After my play, I would have several numbers that make the 6-point board, and after a few rolls, I am very likely to still have at least a five point board, even if I don't manage to roll a six in the meantime.

After Play #2, I would be unlikely to attain a six point board, and it is quite possible that I would be reduced to a four point board within the next few rolls, with a glaring gap on the three point. As it turns out, Snowie agrees with slotting on the ace point, but it is a close decision after the redouble. Snowie gives Black a

40% chance of winning the game, with a 20% chance of winning a gammon, versus a 22% chance of losing a gammon.

Play #1 gave Black a 37% game winning chance, with a 19 % chance of winning a gammon, and only a 17 % risk of losing an eight point gammon. It turns out that the extra wins, and the extra gammons, offset the added gammon risk.

As for the redouble, Walter Trice put it very succinctly: *Jeremy, in thirty percent of the games [that Jeremy comes in with a one and hits], you might win a gammon. In the other seventy percent of the games [that Jeremy fails to enter], you will be happy to get off a gammon yourself.* And Snowie agreed that the redouble was a bit optimistic.

Editor Note: This article first appeared on the Gammon Village Website September 10, 2000. It is being reprinted here with permission.

**2001 Hoosier Backgammon Club
The Player of the Month for August was
Dave Groner with 241 gammon points.**

- 1 Butch Meese.....1093
- 2 Jim Curtis.....1011
- 3 Sean Garber.....897
- 4 Mary Ann Meese.....695
- 5 Gabe Stiasny.....663
- 6 Chuck Stimming.....629
- 7 Woody Woodworth.....539
- 8 Larry Strommen.....538
- 9 Dave Groner.....476
- 10 Scott Day.....367
- Jeff Flowers.....257
- Rick Steele.....247
- Terry Bateman.....241
- Al Gomez.....236
- Ron Black.....122
- Steve Brown.....100
- David Schwind.....80
- Chuck Bower.....80
- Charley Haley.....79
- Timothy Jaxon.....69
- Kevin Heacox.....66
- Karen Davis.....61
- Frank Scott.....48
- Jack Kissane.....36
- ...abbreviated list...

	August 1st	August 8th	August 15th	August 22nd	August 29th
1st	Dave Groner	Dave Groner	Dave Groner	Gabe Stiasny	Steve Brown (MN)
2nd	Woody Woodworth	Gabe Stiasny	Jeff Flowers	Jim Curtis	John Brussel (IL)
2nd	Mary Ann Meese	Butch Meese	Butch Meese	...	Karen Davis (NY)
2nd	Timothy Jaxon (CA)

Oct 5-7.....	Canadian Open , Le Nouvel Hotel, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.....	(904) 777-8816
Oct 19-21.....	Illinois State Championships , Hilton Hotel, Springfield, IL.....	(217) 528-0117
Nov 2-4.....	48th Gammon Associates Invitational , A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA.....	(818) 901-0464
Nov 16-18.....	Minnesota State Championships , Thunderbird Hotel, Bloomington, MN.....	(612) 378-1536
Wednesdays..	7:00 PM at Neon Johnny's , 86th & Township Line Rd (Cellular 442-4065).....	HBC 255-8902