



Hoosier  
Backgammon  
Club

January 2003



## HBC's 2002 Player of the Year

**No Surprise: Jim Curtis**

Some time in the future, **Jim Curtis** is going to look back and say **2002 was a good year**. Jim won **Player of the Year** for 2001 and in 2002 took over the gammon points lead in May and never looked back. He won **Player of the Month** an unprecedented 6 times (4 months in a row). To show that it was not just a lucky streak, Jim achieved the triple crown at the **50th Indiana Open Backgammon Tournament**. He finished second in the Championship Division, won the consolation in the prestigious **Tournament of Champions** and cashed in the **Indy300 Jackpot**. Many kudos to Jim Curtis. **Rick Steele** finished second followed by **Butch Meese**, **Larry Strommen** and **Sean Garber**. Final 2002 standings is listed on Page 2.

## HBCs 2002 Awards Tournament

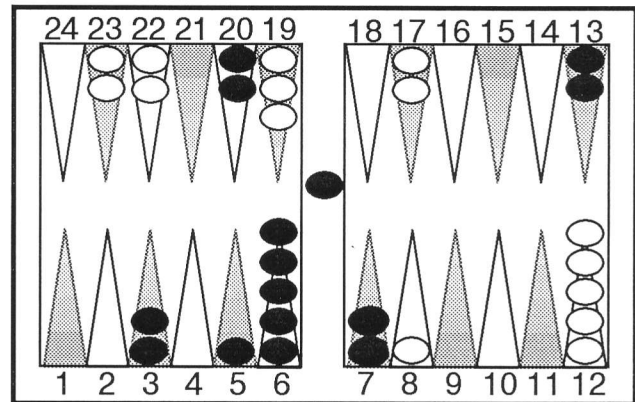
Sunday - February 23rd, 2002

**Arni's Restaurant (875-7034)**  
3443 West 86th Street (west of Walmart)

Registration: 12 noon  
Awards: 12:30 PM  
Play Begins: 12:45 PM

Open Div: \$20 with \$10 Op SPool  
Limited Div: \$8  
Format: Main-Consolation

## Tomorrow Is Only A Day Away by Chuck Bower



64

Money game. Black to play 6-5?

Often the most difficult plays are the ones where there are many candidates to choose from. That's not the source of the problem here. In the illustrated position, Black's 5 is forced: entering from the bar. With only three legal 6's, shouldn't Black's remaining decision be simple? How would you play this?

Black will be 9 pips behind in the race after playing this move. That's not so bad, but Black should be looking at how best to send a White checker back to reverse the race lead. In the actual game, Black was thinking:

- I have the security of the 20-point anchor should things go poorly,*
- by advancing to the 14-point I put pressure on White's blot,*
- 13/7 gives up the midpoint prematurely and*
- 7/1 makes my board a mess and starts the lowly acepoint. Continuing 20/14 is the play that makes the most sense.*

Snowie says this logic is faulty. Moving 7/1 is better than 20/14 by 0.08 units of cubeless equity, winning 2.5% more total games and losing almost 3% fewer gammons. 13/7 is a distant third place, 0.15 cubeless equity units worse than 7/1. So, where did Black's reasoning fail him?

For starters, White's position is stripped which usually indicates making a quiet play, waiting for White's inflexibility to cost him. Second, volunteering a double shot is usually wrong, unless you don't mind being sent back. Here getting hit and fanning would be quite costly, giving White a solid double but also a clear take

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for Black.

In the November article, where hitting was best because it looked like Black would not get future chances, here White has a lot of real estate to clear before getting past White's anchor. Forcing the issue is not required. Finally, with the time available Black can afford to leave a couple blots in his board, even one on the acepoint. Making the 1-point is wrong when the game is likely to turn into either a priming battle or a backgame. In a holding game, as is the case here, all homeboard points are valuable so slotting the acepoint isn't a liability.

There is no substitute for good judgment at backgammon. But that judgment doesn't appear overnight; it takes years of experience to hone. In November, the lesson was *don't leave the action for tomorrow, because tomorrow may never come*. This month it's *don't walk into a storm today when tomorrow's forecast is for sunshine*. Unfortunately, knowing which situation (if either) is present can't be taught in a couple newsletter articles.

HBC thanks Chuck Bower for his continuous contributions to the HBC newsletter. He finished third in the **2002 ABT** due to winning the Michigan Summer Championship. He will receive his award at the **25th Pittsburgh Championships**, Feb 14-16th.

### HBC 2002 Final Standings

The **Player of the Month** for **December** was **Butch Meese** with **166** gammon points.

- 1 Jim Curtis..... 1593
- 2 Rick Steele..... 1271
- 3 Butch Meese..... 1250
- 4 Larry Strommen... 1065
- 5 Sean Garber.....994
- 6 Woody Woodworth. 859
- 7 Chuck Stimming.... 857
- 8 Mary Ann Meese.... 815
- 9 Gabe Stiasny.....770
- 10 Terry Bateman.....610
- Scott Day.....524
- Josh Riddell.....250
- Chuck Bower..... 150
- Al Gomez..... 133
- Jeff Flowers..... 132
- Dan Moore.....114
- Frank Scott..... 104
- Kevin Heacox..... 100
- Walter Trice..... 100
- Peter Kalba..... 99
- Luke Clippinger..... 80
- Alan Tavel..... 73
- Dean Adamian.....60
- Jon Vietor..... 60
- Steve Hurst..... 59
- Mark Swanson.....54
- Katya Beshparova... 52
- Joe Miller..... 51
- David Schwind.....36
- Dragan Stevanovic... 36
- Shaw Dogan.....36
- Paul Franks..... 36
- Doug Roberts..... 36
- Terry Leahy..... 36
- Diane Varner..... 36
- Rob Adams..... 30
- Rob Maier.....28

- Stan Denski..... 26
- Mary Franks..... 26
- Jeff Baker..... 22
- Dave Groner..... 18
- Dion Hogan..... 18
- Mike Kelley..... 16
- Carl Sorg..... 16
- Ken Inman..... 16
- Charley Haley..... 12
- Bill Gheen..... 12
- Roger Blaine..... 10
- Butch Bates..... 10
- Fred Kalantari..... 10
- Bill Wilner..... 10
- Karen Davis..... 10
- Andy Liebenthal.....10
- Jim Slomkoski..... 10
- Bob Weeks..... 8
- Cathie Benneth..... 8
- Jim Roston..... 8
- Rudy Silich..... 8
- Jon Stephens..... 8
- Jerry Godsey..... 8

### 2002 Players of the Month

- Jan..... Larry Strommen
- Feb..... Jim Curtis
- March..... Rick Steele
- April..... Jim Curtis
- May..... Jim Curtis
- June..... Jim Curtis
- July..... Jim Curtis
- August.... Terry Bateman
- Sep..... Rick Steele
- Oct..... Jim Curtis
- Nov..... Chuck Stimming
- Dec..... Butch Meese

# Happy New Year

	<u>December 4th</u>	<u>December 11th</u>	<u>December 18th</u>	<u>Sunday - Dec 8th</u>
1st	<i>Butch Meese</i>	<i>Gabe Stiasny</i>	<i>Larry Strommen</i>	<i>Rick Steele</i>
2nd	<i>Rick Steele</i>	<i>Sean Garber</i>	<i>Josh Riddell</i>	<i>Mary Ann Meese</i>
2nd	<i>Scott Day</i>	...	...	<i>Butch Meese</i>

Feb 14-16..... **25th Pittsburgh Champs & ABT Awards**, Greentree Radisson, Pittsburgh, PA..... (412) 922-8400  
 Feb 27-Mr 02.. **Southern Open**, Sleep Inn, Atlanta Ga.....(270) 333-1876  
 Mar 21-23..... **20th Midwest Championships**, Wyndham Lisle Hotel, Lisle IL..... (773) 583-6464  
 Wednesdays.. 7:00 PM at **Neon Johnny's**, 86th & Township Line Rd (Cellular 442-4065)..... HBC 255-8902