

# BGFed.be meeting - Minutes

Friday, October 19, 2012

University Snooker & Pool, Hertogstraat 88, B-3001 Heverlee (Leuven)

Present: Geert Dooms, Johan Segers (secretary), Akbar Soltani, Liévin Vandenplas, Geert Van der Stricht, Guy Van Middeltem (moderator)

## Introduction

To enjoy backgammon, one needs to find players and to organize activities. That is the purpose of BGFed.be. We are not an official organization. But still, we seem to be visible, for instance via new players finding clubs or via the invitation to Belgium to participate in the online Nations Cup.

Guy reviews some recent Belgian backgammon history: 4 Cubes, new clubs and tournaments, rating list, websites. To confirm and continue the progress that has been made in the past years, it is a good idea to sit together and get organized.

## Budget

There are a few annual costs:

- Bigelo, the rating list (web hosting): about 100 euro per year
- bgfed.be, the website (domain name and web hosting): about 50 euro per year

To pay these and possible other future costs, it is proposed to ask players a **membership fee** of 5 euro per year. The fee will grant the player the right to participate in the 4 Cubes, in the Belgian Single Championship, and to have his or her name included in the yearly rating list (see below).

## 4 Cubes

Tournament director Guy evaluates the first edition of the 4 Cubes interclub competition. All matches have been or will be played. A few remarks:

- Clubs are requested to arrange a playing venue which has sufficient space and offers the calm atmosphere needed to make serious backgammon matches possible.
- Clubs are also requested to communicate efficiently regarding the process of finding dates for the encounters.
- The use of clocks is strongly encouraged. If clocks are available, they should be used. With some effort, it should be possible in most cases to make sure there are three clocks. (The purchase of clocks could also be done by BGFed.be.)

In 2013, the **second edition** will take place in the same format and with the same director. Clubs with sufficiently many members are welcome to register more than one team.

## Rating

The importance of the rating list, Bigelo, is hard to underestimate. A big thanks to Toon Van Herreweghen for the implementation and the maintenance!

Players in the lower half of the rating list, however, might feel they will never be able to go up in the ranking anymore and become discouraged. To counter this unwanted effect, it is proposed to have, next to the current, permanent rating list, a **yearly rating list**, covering the period from the 1st of January to the 31st of December. This list will be reset every year and will be based on the matches entered in Bigelo for that particular year. Only players that have paid the membership fee will be visible.

It is highly desirable that this yearly rating list is embedded in the current Bigelo system, if possible, of course.

## Belgian Single Championship

Following a suggestion by Luc Palmans, it is proposed to organize a yearly **Belgian Single Championship**. The championship would take one calendar year and would pit players against each other in longer matches, for instance best-of-three or best-of-five 11-pointers, according to a home/away player format. Matches are to be played live, and the use of sets of medium-length matches rather than really long matches is to offer greater flexibility to arrange live meetings. Depending on the number of participants, one could think of a system with two divisions, with players promoting or descending from one division to the other.

Guy offers to organize the tournament and to work out the details. First edition: 2013.

To spice up the championship, a generous anonymous sponsor kindly offers precious prizes, luxury backgammon boards, for the winners of the first and second divisions.