**The 4 Cubes 2014**

Every Belgian club (or team representing a club) can compete for the title of ‘BBBC - Belgium's Best Backgammon Club’ symbolized by the 4 Cubes trophy. The current holders are Brugge, who successfully won the trophy in November 2013. Brugge will therefore keep the title till the end of 2014. At the end of the year, Brugge will offer the ‘4 Cubes’ to the winner of the competition, the ‘BBBC 2014’.

The competition will be set up as a single round-robin, i.e. all competing teams will meet once, either away or at home, in their clubhouse. In the case of an even number of participating teams, some teams will have to play more matches away than at home. If possible, this will then reverse the next year, in 2015.

An encounter between 2 teams consists of 3 rounds of 3 matches to 7 points, all to be decided on a single day. Preferably, clocks will be used (Bronstein, 14 minutes, 12 seconds’ increment). Winner is the team who wins 5 or more matches.

A team can, if they so desire, field more than 3 players in a single encounter. Therefore, at the beginning of each round, each team captain needs to announce the 3 players picked. The players will then be paired by draw, with the provision that 2 players cannot meet twice in the same encounter.

Addendum: of course, there's no problem at all if 3 players (A, B, C) meet 3 players (a, b, c) in an encounter. 1st round : Aa - Bb - Cc ; 2nd round : Ab - Bc - Ca ; 3rd round : Ac - Ba - Cb. If a 4th player (D) is involved in the 2nd round, a possible problem could eventually occur in the 3rd round. **Please make the draw for the 2nd round that way that all players can play the 3rd round with the provision that 2 players cannot meet twice.**

Example: let's say that in the 1st round the draw is Aa - Bb - Cc. **If D plays the 2nd round in replacement of C, D will NOT play against c in that 2nd round!** (Because if that's the case, A will play b & B will play a in the 2nd round and in the 3rd round A and B should both play against c which is not possible).

Rule: if a player (let's say D) replaces another player (let's say C) in round 2, he cannot play against the opponent of player C in round 1.

If it happens that a team can only muster 2 players for a particular round (e.g. illness or early departure), they can still compete and win the encounter but they will lose that particular match. In a single year, a player can only represent one team. Every player must be member of BGFed.be.

At the end of the year, the teams are ranked as follows:

1) Number of confrontations won;

2) Mutual results against other tying teams;

3) Number of matches won.

The team who ends up on top wins the competition and can display the Four Cubes in their clubhouse for a year.

The competition is scheduled in game days. Each game day needs to be played before a set date. These dates will be announced at the beginning of the competition. The team captains need to contact each other as promptly as possible to arrange a date. The visiting team's captain needs to take the initiative. The date is then relayed to the Tournament Director. Both teams need to be flexible in setting up a date. Teams who have a fixed playing evening preceding a working day need to be willing to play on a Friday or Saturday, or any other day preceding a holiday.

To subscribe a team, the following information needs to be provided:

\* Name of team or club (the name of the city/town where the team has its clubhouse needs to be part of the name)

\* Name of the team captain, e-mail, home phone or cell

\* Address of the clubhouse

\* (if available) Website

\* List of players (this list can be extended in the course of the year)

The draw is scheduled to take place on Friday 3 January during the Brussels Friendly 33. The calendar will be ready on Sunday 5 January and announced by e-mail to the respective team captains and on the official ‘4 Cubes’ webpage.

We hope to lift backgammon in Belgium to another level and look forward to an exciting competition.

We wish you a lot of fun with ‘live’ backgammon in 2014!

Guy Van Middelem