

BGFed.be 2024+

Minutes of the General Assembly of BGFed.be

Friday, June 7, 2024, at Royal Orée (Sint-Pieters-Woluwe), from 19:45 until 22:30

Participants: Sonja Custers, Michel Lamote, Daniel Rozenberg, Johan Segers, Itzhak Solsky, Firat Tekil, Inge van den Dorpel, Guy Van Middeltem (president)

Excused: Chantal Lensen, Line Vandamme, Hubert Verstraeten

Welcome

Guy recalls a brief **history of BGFed.be**, the Belgian backgammon federation, how it evolved from informal club gatherings at various places in Flanders in the early 2000's to a formal non-profit organization (NL: vzw; FR: asbl) between 2015 and 2021 to the *de facto* organization it is nowadays.

Membership

In the course of the years, a little over 200 people have been affiliated to BGFed.be. Currently, there are about 100 active members.

Some electronic tools are discussed on how to manage the membership administration more efficiently and in such a way that multiple people can have access to it.

Finances

An overview of the financial situation is given. The **income** consists of 10 euro per member plus 25 euro per 4 Cubes team per year, which averages around a little below 1000 euro per year. The **expenses** concern a financial support of 100 euro per tournament or competition plus 150 euro for the federation's membership to the World Backgammon Federation. All in all, there is a small yearly operational profit. Currently, the balance is 2.648,95 euro, on a Belfius bank account managed by Guy.

It is felt that the **membership fee** of 10 euro per year can (finally) be increased, resulting in a bigger budget to support initiatives.

Organizational structure

Taking a step back, the **lack of clear organizational structure** and transparent decision procedures is recognized. This concerns the organization of competitions, rulings, and financial matters. Currently, these decisions are taken by a handful of enthusiastic people, who are running things with the best of intentions for the common interest. Still, it is felt that more clarity and openness is desirable and would enhance further growth.

Therefore, it is proposed to set up a **working group** that will draft a **new organizational chart**, laying the foundations for BGFed.be's workings in future years. The chart will lay out the various committees, roles, responsibilities, and so on. Once this has been done, the **vacant positions** can be filled and the federation can make a new start on a more solid foundation.

Mission statement

At the core is an agreement on BGFed.be's **mission**. To this end, an article from the statutes of the former non-profit organization is recalled:

BGFed.be aims to:

- 1. Promote backgammon in Belgium.*
- 2. Organize national backgammon championships and organize and participate in international backgammon championships. To this end, it issues the necessary regulations.*
- 3. Maintain contacts with the national backgammon federations of other countries and with international backgammon organizations.*

There is a consensus that these aims still apply and constitute a sound basis for the future.

4 Cubes 2024

The history of the **4 Cubes**, Belgium's backgammon interclub competition, is recalled. Brussels is the champion of 2023, after having regained the trophy from Ghent.

For the 2024 edition, it is still not entirely clear which teams will participate and in which composition.

To settle the matter and allow the competition to take off, the following **procedure** is agreed upon:

- An online registration form will be created.
- In the form, each team will be required to provide the following information: team name, team captain, other team members (between 5 and 8 in total).
- Within a team, all members need to be affiliated to a single club.
- Clubs can send more than one team.
- Players cannot be a member of more than one team, even if a club issues more than one team.
- Registration is to be done not later than June 30, 2024.
- In the likely case that the competition will take three rounds, the timeline is as follows:
Round 1 completed by September 30, 2024; Round 2 completed by November 30, 2024;
Round 3 completed by January 31, 2025.

Red Beaver League

The **huge impact** of the Red Beaver League, set up by Michel and aided by Sonja and Robin Bilderbeek, on the development of backgammon in Belgium, in breadth and in depth, is recognized and deeply appreciated. The RBL has motivated an **increasing number of players** to play and study more intensely and to film, transcribe, and analyze their matches. The RBL has fostered encounters between players of different clubs. High-quality **videos** of the final have been made and shared by Robin (aka Rain), enhancing the international prominence of BGFed.be. The current RBL finalists consider participating in the next **Ultimate Backgammon Championship** in Monaco, representing Belgium at one of the world's most prestigious backgammon tournaments.

Whereas each backgammon tournament in Belgium is supported financially yearly by 100 euro, it is appreciated that both the impact and the efforts of the RBL outweigh those of the other tournaments by far—without thereby minimizing the importance of these other events, of course. While the RBL organizers Michel and Sonja temporarily leave the room, it is decided that BGFed.be donates an additional **400 euro** to the RBL organization to support its activities, including the creation of videos and participation of the Belgian UBC delegates.

At the same time, it is agreed upon that this a posteriori support is a **one-shot measure**. For the future, the budget will be determined in advance, in compliance with the financial means at BGFed.be's disposal. Further decisions concerning financial matters are to be taken within BGFed.be's new organizational structure.

Working group on organizational chart

The composition of the working group that will draft the new organizational chart is determined. Firat and Inge will take the lead, and Sonja, Guy and Johan will complete the group.

Their work is to be completed by the end of the Summer so that the vacancies can be filled in Autumn and BGFed.be is ready for a fresh start in 2025.

Action points

- Create and spread online 4 Cubes 2024 registration form (Johan and Guy)
- Make payment to Red Beaver League (Guy)
- Kick-off the working group on the organizational chart (Firat and Inge)