

RBL 2023-2024 Wrap-up.

Hi everyone.

The 23-24 season has ended. First and foremost: thank you to all twenty-three participants for playing their duels in true sportsmanship spirit and within the set time frame.

Have a look at the new Starting Grid (right column):

 RED BEAVER LEAGUE 			
	Season 1 - 2022/2023 Initial Starting Grid 	Season 2 - 2023/2024 Starting Grid Levels Gained / Lost ↓ RBL Champion 2023: ★ Geert Van der Stricht  1	Season 3 - 2024/2025 New Starting Grid Levels Gained / Lost ↓ RBL Champion 2024: ★ Marc Van Damme  1
Level 1	★ Marc Van Damme ★ Geert Van der Stricht	★ Marc Van Damme - 0 ★ Michel Lamote  1	★ Geert Van der Stricht  1 ★ Michel Lamote - 0
Level 2	★ Johan Huyck ★ Michel Lamote	★ Johan Huyck - 0 ★ Robin Bilderbeek  3	★ Johan Huyck - 0 ★ Paulus van Rooijen  1
Level 3	★ Johan Segers ★ Paul van Dijke	★ Paul van Dijke - 0 ★ Paulus van Rooijen  1	★ Bert Van Kerckhove  1 ★ Johan Segers  1
Level 4	★ Paulus van Rooijen ★ Bert Van Kerckhove	★ Johan Segers  1 ★ Bert Van Kerckhove - 0	★ Robin Bilderbeek  2 ★ Itzhak Solsky  1
Level 5	★ Robin Bilderbeek ★ Guy Van Middeltem ★ Alain Chif ★ Maurits Pino	★ Guy Van Middeltem - 0 ★ Maurits Pino - 0 ★ Itzhak Solsky  1 ★ Alain Chif - 0	★ Paul van Dijke  2 ★ Maurits Pino - 0 ★ Daniel Rozenberg  1 ★ Vincent Hubert  1

(Graphics: Rain)

Survey

Marc Van Damme is the new RBL Champion. Two hard-fought victories over Bert Van Kerckhove and Michel Lamote paved the way to the Final. There he beat defending champion **Geert Van der Stricht** by the smallest of margins. This memorable marathon duel was recorded and beautifully presented in a series of nine YouTube videos by graphic artist Rain. Congratulations, Marc!

The green and red arrows indicate more turbulence than last year. Only three players contented themselves with simply holding on to their positions. Still, with mounting pressure from below, this is evidently a commendable achievement.

Two highly motivated newcomers from the recently founded Black Beard Backgammon Club, **Daniel Rozenberg** and **Vincent Hubert**, worked their way through arduous qualifying rounds to successfully challenge the two lowest ranked RBL veterans, **Guy Van Middelen** and **Alain Chif**. The gratifying result of these efforts is that the two rookies from Brussels now occupy spots (11) and (12) and can look forward to plenty of fearsomely difficult challenges in this demanding and competitive environment.

Another recent newcomer, **Itzhak Solsky**, the 2024 BIC Champion, saw his imminent ascent thwarted in Level 4 by **Johan Segers**, who vigorously bounced back from last season's disappointment to regain his spot in Level 3. Itzhak, however, looks poised to become a more and more potent threat to his RBL peers.

Paulus van Rooijen is the only player who managed to end up two levels higher than his original starting position in season one. Clearly, this is no mean feat. He is also the player with most kilometres travelled as he keeps making the trip from Vlissingen to venues in Belgium by public transport with endearing enthusiasm.

In an effort to emulate **Robin Bilderbeek's** much heralded run of last year, **Bert Van Kerckhove** brushed off three opponents to make it to Level 1. Sadly, he could not capitalize on this exceptional endeavour as he ended up losing three consecutive duels in the top level. Still, promotion to Level 3 must be a satisfying result. Bert's epic campaign is adequately reflected in the Leaderboard where he ended up on top with 26 points:

Rank	Player	Matches	Match Wins	PR Wins	Points	Overall PR
1	Bert Van Kerckhove	26	14	12	26	5,93
2	Marc Van Damme	20	12	12	24	4,17
3	Paulus van Rooijen	17	12	9	21	6,07
4	Johan Huyck	20	8	11	19	5,12
5	Itzhak Solsky	15	8	10	18	6,36
6	Guy Van Middeltem	20	9	8	17	10,97
7	Michel Lamote	17	7	9	16	4,62
8	Johan Segers	15	8	8	16	5,27
9	Maurits Pino	12	6	6	12	9,21
10	Robin Bilderbeek	14	5	5	10	6,4
11	Paul van Dijke	12	6	3	9	6,73
12	Geert Van der Stricht	9	3	6	9	4,36
13	Alain Chif	9	4	1	5	12,07

Finally, **Paul van Dijke** and **Robin Bilderbeek** could not equal last year's results and suffered a cruel reversal of fortune. Surely, they will be highly motivated to set things straight in the upcoming season.

Remarks

- Maurits, Sonja, Itzhak, Daniel, Steven, Robin, Alain and Johan S. hosted RBL sessions at home. This involves some effort but leads to a unique playing atmosphere of warmth and convivial rivalry. As of next season, players who host RBL sessions at home will be exempt from paying the TR fee for that session.
- In the Qualifiers, ten aspirant players challenged each other and themselves in an attempt to make their way to the upper echelons of the RBL hierarchy. **Nick De Ruyck, Sonja Custers, First Tekil and Christian Standaert** scored below-10 PRs which entitles them to a spot in next season's RBL Contenders (RBL C). They will be joined by **Guy Van Middeltem** and **Alain Chif** (who relegated from Level 5) and **Ronny Conaert**.

Final words

RBL would like to thank BGFed.be for its moral and financial support. Big thanks also to Nick, Daniel, Vincent, Robin, Geert, Marc, Steven and Hubert for their help as TRs.

Finally, RBL could not be sustainable without the help and assistance of Rain and the continued loving encouragement and technical and administrative support of Sonja.

The RBL 24-25 season will be launched any day now. The Kick-off mail is on its way. We all look forward to the first Level 5 duels with eager anticipation:

(9) Paul van Dijke v (12) Vincent Hubert

(10) Maurits Pino v (11) Daniel Rozenberg

See you at the RBL Backgammon Event on June 29!

Michel Lamote

LEVEL 5	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Guy Van Middeltem	7	17,54	0	12,07	3	8,33
Alain Chif	3	16,34	7	14,09	7	13,76

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL					
	Guy Van Middeltem	3	3	Alain Chif		
		12,74	14,73			

LEVEL 5	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Maurits Pino	3	7,69	7	13,35	3	12,8
Itzhak Solsky	7	3,73	0	11,99	7	7,88

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL					
	Maurits Pino	1	5	Itzhak Solsky		
		11,09	7,07			

LEVEL 5 BARRAGE	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Maurits Pino	7	6,26	3	10,38	7	5,57
Alain Chif	3	8,08	7	10,42	5	13,93

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL					
	Maurits Pino	5	1	Alain Chif		
		7,55	10,68			

LEVEL 5 RELEGATION	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3		Match 4		Match 5		Match 6	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Maurits Pino	7	5,13	4	11,72	7	3,99	5	14,92	0	9,34	7	5,73
Guy Van Middeltem	0	12,67	7	11,71	3	15,06	7	9,3	7	9,04	2	11,28

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL											
	Maurits Pino	6	6	Guy Van Middeltem								
		(9,38)	(11,17)									

Level 5 PROMOTION	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3		NP		NP		NP	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR						
Alain Chif	3	6,49	5	16,97	7	10,28						
Daniel Rozenberg	7	2,63	7	6,88	3	4,28						

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL											
		1	5	Daniel Rozenberg								
		(10,94)	(4,44)									

LEVEL 5 PROMOTION	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3		Match 4		Match 5		NP	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR		
Guy Van Middeltem	3	10	7	8,03	3	22,95	3	10,2	7	10,66		
Vincent Hubert	7	6,89	4	13,08	7	12,07	7	7,61	6	7,64		

TR: Daniel Rozenberg	OVERALL											
		3	7	Vincent Hubert								
		(11,42)	(8,96)									

Resignation error

LEVEL 4	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Johan Segers	4	4,8	7	6,44	7	1,46
Itzhak Solsky	7	6,09	6	3,73	2	8,54

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL			
	Johan Segers	4	2	
		4,79	5,47	

PR Bounty

LEVEL 4	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Bert Van Kerckhove	7	7,63	5	9,75	0	4,1
Guy Van Middeltem	3	17,91	7	8,39	7	7,28

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL			
	Bert Van Kerckhove	3	3	Guy Van Middeltem
		7,89	11,32	

LEVEL 4 BARRAGE	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Itzhak Solsky	7	7,7	7	6,16	3	3,55
Guy Van Middeltem	4	11,62	2	1,58	7	3,96

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL			
	Itzhak Solsky	4	2	
		(5,54)	(6,29)	

LEVEL 4 RELEGATION	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3		Match 4		Match 5		Match 6	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Paul van Dijke	5	8,86	1	4,15	7	8,24	7	8,57	7	7,53	6	3,86
Itzhak Solsky	7	4,65	7	3,18	4	4,85	3	6,53	2	13,82	7	5,84

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL			
		5	7	Itzhak Solsky
		(6,78)	(6,83)	

LEVEL 3	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Paul van Dijke	1	2,53	7	6,51	7	11,93
Bert Van Kerckhove	7	1,99	0	4,89	0	9,99

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL					
		2	4	Bert Van Kerckhove		
		6,67	5,15			

PR bounty

LEVEL 3	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Paulus van Rooijen	5	5,46	7	4,81	7	2,61
Johan Segers	7	7,94	5	7,29	6	4

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL					
	Paulus van Rooijen	5	1			
		4,43	6,52			

PR bounty

LEVEL 3 BARRAGE	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Paul van Dijke	0	4,54	0	23,36	7	5,82
Johan Segers	7	8,29	7	1,61	6	3,11

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL					
		2	4	Johan Segers		
		(6,64)	(4,75)			

PR bounty

LEVEL 3 RELEGATION	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3		Match 4		Match 5		Match 6	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Robin Bilderbeek	0	3,57	7	4,48	3	9,57	4	7,9	7	7,22	7	4,28
Johan Segers	7	5,11	5	6,94	7	3,81	7	5,82	5	5,49	6	3,26

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL					
	Robin Bilderbeek	5	7	Johan Segers		
		(5,97)	(5,01)			

PR bounty

LEVEL 2	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3		Match 4		Match 5		NP	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR		
Johan Huyck	5	4,28	7	3,69	4	4,33	4	4,98	7	2,91		
Paulus van Rooijen	7	6,35	0	12,84	7	3,92	7	6,69	2	3,87		

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL				
	Johan Huyck	6	4	Paulus van Rooijen	
		(4,05)	(6,10)		

PR Bounty

LEVEL 2	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3		Match 4		Match 5		NP	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR		
Robin Bilderbeek	1	6,59	0	5,24	7	3,59	7	8,56	6	3,99		
Bert Van Kerckhove	7	5,8	7	4,94	5	7,43	6	6,36	7	3,69		

TR: Nick De Ruyck	OVERALL				
	Robin Bilderbeek	3	7	Bert Van Kerckhove	
		(5,53)	(5,65)		

LEVEL 2 BARRAGE	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Robin Bilderbeek	5	9,72	5	8,85	5	6,99
Paulus van Rooijen	7	8,48	7	9,89	7	7,67

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL				
		2	4	Paulus van Rooijen	
		(8,58)	(8,61)		

LEVEL 2 RELEGATION	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3		Match 4		Match 5		Match 6	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Bert Van Kerckhove	7	8,37	1	2,44	4	5,49	1	8,49	6	5,5	7	3,67
Paulus van Rooijen	5	7,24	7	10,31	7	4,78	7	5,11	7	2,5	6	5,61

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL				
TR: Nick De Ruyck		4	8	Paulus van Rooijen	
		(5,65)	(5,61)		

FINALE	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3		Match 4		Match 5		Match 6		Match 7		Match 8		Match 9	
	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Geert Van der Stricht	3	2,72	7	4,52	3	2,36	7	5,4	2	8,44	1	1,84	7	2,9	5	5,26	5	5,22
Marc Van Damme	7	3,15	0	6,22	7	3,09	6	2,96	7	4,26	7	4,25	5	5,01	7	2,54	7	5,9

TR: Michel Lamote	OVERALL			
	Geert	9	9	Marc
		(4,36)	(4,09)	

Rank	Player	Matches	Match Wins	PR Wins	Points	Overall PR	Position RBL 24-25	
1	Bert Van Kerckhove	26	14	12	26	5,93	5	Season finished
2	Marc Van Damme	20	12	12	24	4,17	CHAMPION	Best OPR
3	Paulus van Rooijen	17	12	9	21	6,07	4	Season finished
4	Johan Huyck	20	8	11	19	5,12	3	Season finished
5	Itzhak Solsky	15	8	10	18	6,36	8	Season finished
6	Guy Van Middeltem	20	9	8	17	10,97	RBL Contender 24-25	Season finished
7	Michel Lamote	17	7	9	16	4,62	2	Season finished
8	Johan Segers	15	8	8	16	5,27	6	Season finished
9	Maurits Pino	12	6	6	12	9,21	10	Season finished
10	Robin Bilderbeek	14	5	5	10	6,4	7	Season finished
11	Paul van Dijke	12	6	3	9	6,73	9	Season finished
12	Geert Van der Stricht	9	3	6	9	4,36	1	Season finished
13	Alain Chif	9	4	1	5	12,07	RBL Contender 24-25	Season finished

Daniel Rozenberg	21	12	14	26	7,19	11	Promoted to RBL 24-25
Vincent Hubert	23	13	13	26	9,04	12	Promoted to RBL 24-25

TH: Michael Lamske	2	6	Vincent Hubert	PR bounty
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[TR: Michel Lamotte]						
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2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026

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TRE Michel Larroche				
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7388.553	7	55.72	5	12.502	5	7.22
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	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Nick De Ruyc	2	19,81	0	20,76	7	7,05

	March 1	March 2	March 3
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TIE: Robin Hilderbeek		OVERALL		
28 november 2023	Sonja Cuijpers	4	2	

Daniel Rozenberg	7	2,55	7	7,67	7	4,33
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Player	Score	PR	Score	PR	Score	PR
Nick De Ruyc	0	6	7	8.07	1	12.85

Roll Q	Match 1		Match 2		Match 3	
	Person	Roll	Person	Roll	Person	Roll

5 november 2023	Huben Verdrucken	3 (10,74)	3 (7,08)	Daniel Rosenberg
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TR: Michel Laroche	OVERALL
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	GROUP	FY	GROUP	FY	GROUP	FY
First Set	2	18,29	2	15,18	5	9,61
Second Set	2	18,29	2	15,18	5	9,61

Day 0	Match 1	Match 2	Match 3
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	Vincent Hubert	3	3	
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Name	Duels	Duel points	Total points	Match points	PR points	Overall PR
Daniel Rozenberg	2	2	8	4	4	6,41
Vincent Hubert	2	1	6	3	3	8,56
Sonja Custers	2	0	4	2	2	8,46

RBL Q Playoff

Daniel Rozenberg	7	5	26	12	14	7,19
Vincent Hubert	7	5	25	12	13	9,2
Sonja Custers	6	3	19	10	9	9,81
Hubert Verstraeten	4	2	13	8	5	10,59
Christian Standaert	4	1	10	3	7	9,01
Nick De Ruyck	4	1	10	6	4	9,89
Firat Tekil	4	1	8	4	4	9,42

Promoted to RBL 24-25
Promoted to RBL 24-25
Qualified for RBL Contender 24-25
Qualified for RBL Contender 24-25
Qualified for RBL Contender 24-25
Qualified for RBL Contender 24-25

	Player	Bubbles	Matches	Match Wins	PR Wins	Points	Overall PR	Adjusted OPR
1	Daniel Rozenberg	3	6	5	4	9	7,31	6,64
2	Firat Tekil	2	4	3	4	7	8,71	8,71
3	Hubert Verstraeten	3	6	4	3	7	12,21	10,56
4	Steven Segaert	5	10	3	4	7	12,6	12,63
5	Christian Standaert	2	4	3	3	6	9,82	9,82
6	Vincent Hubert	3	6	2	2	4	11,18	10,21
7	Alf Martijn	3	6	3	1	4	17,25	15,79
8	Markus Förster	2	4	0	1	1	12,8	12,8

Qualified for RBL Q 23-24