

# Gent Open XIX – March 7

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## Introduction

On Saturday, March 7 2026, the backgammon community gathered again for another enjoyable edition of the Gent Open, welcoming 37 players for a full day of 7 point backgammon matches played over 7 rounds.

Players from three categories participated together in one single Swiss tournament, but separate rankings were made for the Masters, Advanced, and Beginners divisions.

## Catering and Atmosphere

As always, the Gent events combine competitive play with a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Players were welcomed with plenty of 'koffiekoeken' before the tournament started.

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Mid-tournament (after round 3) everyone enjoyed a delicious spaghetti prepared by Nick and his spouse.

Behind the bar, Rita and An ensured that everyone stayed well supplied with drinks throughout the day.

A special highlight of the day was the YouTube livestream by Robin Bilderbeek, allowing people to follow 7 featured matches remotely.

## **Round-by-Round**

### **Round 1**

The tournament started with a wide variety of matchups between the different categories.

Among the Masters, early victories were scored by Bert Van Kerckhove (against Daniel Rozenberg on livestream), Louis Jeannin, Toon Van Herreweghen, Tymon Choroszuca, Paulus Van Rooijen and Paul van Koningshoven.

Several Advanced also started strongly: Sonja Custers defeated Barbara Legermann, Nick De Ruyck beat Jürgen Schettler, and Robert Vledderman won against Marjan Degraeve.

In the Beginners category, Riza Yalçın, Can Unal and Philippe Lescroart all opened their tournament with wins.

### **Round 2**

After two rounds, a small group of players had already moved to 2-0.

Among them were Michel Lamote, Marcus Reinhard, Csaba Daday, Sonja Custers and Louis Jeannin.

One of the notable results was Can Unal defeating Paulus Van Rooijen, showing that the Beginners category could compete strongly with higher-ranked opponents.

### **Round 3**

The third round began to shape the leaderboard.

Michel Lamote scored an important win against Csaba Daday, while Marcus Reinhard stayed undefeated by beating Can Unal.

Bert Van Kerckhove returned to form with a victory against Jessica Rosen.

At the same time, Kris Claeys remained among the best scoring Advanced with a win over Robert Vledderman.

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## **Round 4**

Round four produced several key matches among the leaders.

Michel Lamote defeated his wife Sonja Custers to remain at the top tables.

Marcus Reinhard continued his perfect run with a victory over Louis Jeannin, while Bert Van Kerckhove defeated Paulus Van Rooijen.

The field remained closely packed, with several players still competing for the leading positions.

## **Round 5**

Round five further intensified the race for the top.

Marcus Reinhard defeated Csaba Daday, while Louis Jeannin beat Kris Claeys to stay in contention.

In a particularly important match, Paul van Koningshoven defeated Michel Lamote, tightening the competition at the top of the standings.

## **Round 6**

With only two rounds remaining, the leading players could not afford any mistakes.

Michel Lamote bounced back by defeating Bert Van Kerckhove in a thriller backgame at DMP, while Marcus Reinhard won the top-table clash against Paul van Koningshoven.

Louis Jeannin also stayed near the top with a win over Steven Segaert.

## **Round 7**

The final round determined the podium places. Michel Lamote defeated Marcus Reinhard in a decisive encounter at the top table, Paul van Koningshoven already secured his sixth victory by beating Louis Jeannin.

These results left three Master players tied with 6 wins, with tie-breaks (resistance points) deciding the final order.

## **Final Results**

Although all players competed in one Swiss tournament, separate rankings are made for the three categories:

Masters

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1. Michel Lamote – 6/7
  2. Marcus Reinhard – 6/7
  3. Paul van Koningshoven – 6/7

#### Advanced

1. Kris Claeys – 5/7
2. Koen De Poorter – 4/7
3. Nick De Ruyck – 4/7

#### Beginners

1. Riza Yalçın – 5/7
2. Can Unal – 3/7
3. Onur Chaush – 3/7

A complete ranking can be viewed [here](#).



The winners: Riza, Michel and Kris showing off their trophies

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## Thanks

Many thanks to everyone who helped make this tournament a success:

- All participating players
- Toon for the excellent Ludite software for managing the swiss tournament
- Nick and his spouse for the excellent catering
- Rita and An for running the bar
- Robin for the livestream coverage

We look forward to welcoming everyone again at the next Gent Open!