

The Japanese Tsunami

A Japanese Tsunami distinguished the XXV EUROPEAN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP: Michihito Kageyama (Master Winner), Yoshiyuki Nakamura (Master Consolation Winner), Kazuhiko Yotsushika (Master Last Chance Winner and OPM Winner) and Masayuki Mochizuki (Doubles Consulting Winner - together with Marion Weeber - and Super-Jackpot Winner) score a strike in this edition of the Championship.



Velden 2013. The winners. All together!

The new European Champions in the Champion category is Antonio Iaquinta (Italy) and in the Intermediate category is Austrian Rudolf Prohaska. In the Intermediate category all the titles went to the Austrian players.

Last year, after the victory of Masayuki "Mochy" Mochizuki I thought that we saw the Japanese wave: in fact also Michihito Kageyama won the Master Consolation and Akiko Yazawa won the Master Lady Prize, the Warm-up tournament and was finalist in the Super-Jackpot 2012. This year the bingo that the Japanese group won in Velden was incredible. Only the German Frank Simon tried to stop this Japanese tsunami, as you can see in the final scoresheet against Kageyama: 0-2; 4-2; 4-3; 6-3; 7-3; 7-4; 8-4; 8-6; 8-7; 8-8; 10-8; 11-8; 11-10; 13-10; 14-10; 15-10; 15-11; 16-11; 17-11; 17-15; 17-17; 19-17. Simon started well (0-2), after few games was 8-8 and finally was 17-17, very close to the victory.



Michihito Kageyama (Master Winner). Right: the new European Champions: Prohaska, Kageyama, Iaquinta



Congratulations to the Japanese champions who are really the best players in the world at the moment. The only prize in the Master not won by the Japanese went to Maria Menchaca Salamanca (Spain), who conquered the Ladies Prize cup.

In the Doubles Consulting the new European Champions are Masayuki Mochizuki (Japan) and Marion Weeber (Germany) who won 11-7 against the Japanese team Yoshiyuki Nakamura and Kazuhiko Yotsushika. In the Champion category the winner was the Italian Antonio Iaquinta, who finally conquered the European title against the Belgian Walter Meuwis. The Consolation went to Arda Findikoglu (WBF Turkey president and president of the tournament committee) against the Italian new entry Edgardo Bianco, and the Last Chance went to the Austrian Markus Kuntaritsch, of Velden.

The German Marion Weeber won the Ladies Prize. In the intermediate category it was an Austrian Kaiserlich dominion: Prohaska won the Main against the Turk Gür Sakarya, Helmut Tweraser won the Consolation against the Italian Franco Candeo, Vera Toifl won the Last Chance against the Romanian Gioni Munteanu, Susanne Lederer won the Ladies Prize.

BACKGAMMON IN VELDEN - 2013 RESULTS OF ALL TOURNAMENTS

Minimum guaranteed prize money for the Master Winner: 10.000 euros.
Winner took 10.000 euros (wich included an added prize-money of 4.400 euros).
Total money distribution 35.710 euros (including super-jackpot).

- Notes**
 Master: 20 players
 Champion: 21 players
 Intermediate: 21 players
 Players of the Doubles Consulting, Ladies, Warm-up and **869 BG Trophy** not participating in others categories: 13
 Total: 75 players (from 18 Countries: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine).
 Director: Marco Fornasir (Italy)
 Tournament Committee: Arda Findikoglu (Turkey, president); Andreas Laure Fischer (Austria); Jakob Garal (Ukraine); Shimon Kagan (Israel); Yiorgos Kleitsas (Greece); Ricardo Malas (Lebanon/Spain); Masayuki Mochizuki (Japan)

- Tournaments**
Master flight - 20 players
 Winner: Michihito Kageyama (Japan)
 Main finalist: Frank Simon (Germany)
 Main semi-finalist: Sven Rümcker (Germany)
 Main semi-finalist: RRicardo Malas (Lebanon/Spain)
 Consolation winner: Yoshiyuki Nakamura (Japan)
 Last chance winner: Kazuhiko Yotsushika (Japan)
 Ladies Prize: Maria Menchaca Salamanca (Spain)
Champion flight - 21 players
 Winner: Antonio Iaquinta (Italy)
 Consolation winner: Arda Findikoglu (Turkey)
 Last chance winner: Marlus Kuntaritsch (Austria)
 Ladies Prize: Marion Weeber (Germany)
Intermediate flight - 21 players
 Winner: Rudolf Prohaska (Austria)
 Consolation winner: Helmut Tweraser (Austria)
 Last chance winner: Vera Toifl (Austria)
 Ladies Prize: Susanne Lederer (Austria)
Ladies Tournament - 4 players
 Winner: Marion Weeber (Germany)
 Finalist: Laurence Sinitzky-Billard (France)
Super Jackpot - 8 players
 Winner: Masayuki Mochizuki (Japan)
 Finalist: Anton Kraft (Germany)
Warm-up - 41 players
 Winner: Ricardo Malas (Lebanon/Spain)
869 BG Trophy - 33 players
 Winner: Dirk Leinberger (Germany)
One Point Match Tournament - President's Tournament
 Winner: Kazuhiko Yotsushika (Japan)
10th European Doubles Consulting Championship
 14 Team x 500 Euros = 7.000 Euros
 Team winner: Masayuki Mochizuki (Japan) - Marion Weeber (Germany) - 5.000 Euros
 Team finalist: Yoshiyuki Nakamura (Japan) - Kazuhiko Yotsushika (Japan) - 2.000 Euros

CASINO VELDEN
 Machen Sie Ihr Spiel

Mochy's Lecture
 Great success, as every year, of the interesting lecture about prime cube action.

Masayuki Mochy Mochizuki (2009 World Backgammon Champion, n. 1 Backgammon Giant 2010/2011 and 2012 European Champion) explained perfectly the different situations.

Other winners were Marion Weeber (Germany) in the Ladies Tournament, Ricardo Malas (Lebanon/Spain) in the Warm-up and Dirk Leinberger in the 869 BG Trophy, the tournament reserved to the WBF supporters. We had 75 players from 18 countries: as every year a very international event. In total 35.710 euros were distributed and the Master winner Kageyama took the 10.000 euros guaranteed, wich included an added prize-money of 4.400 euros. Everything went very well, but the final night with the gorgeous dinner gala and the award ceremony was really fantastic. Thank you Casino Velden! Auf wiedersehen at 30th April - 4th May, 2014!

WBF GOLDEN CIRCUIT 2013 UPCOMING EVENTS

18th-20th January, 2013
 2013 ISTANBUL OPEN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP - Istanbul Armada Hotel (Istanbul - Turkey)
 3rd-7th April, 2013
 XXV EUROPEAN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP, 10th EUROPEAN DOUBLES CONSULTING CHAMPIONSHIP, 12th VELDEN BACKGAMMON OPEN - Casino Velden (Velden - Austria)
 31st May-2nd June, 2013
 2013 MEDITERRANEAN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP - Sealife Family Resort Hotel (Antalya - Turkey)
 4th-8th September, 2013
 7th GEORGIAN BACKGAMMON OPEN - MEMORIAL GOGI BUKIA - Hotel Oasis (Chakvi - Georgia)
 2th-6th October, 2013
 XVI AUSTRIAN BACKGAMMON OPEN & AUSTRIAN DOUBLE CONSULTING CHAMPIONSHIP - Hotel Veronika (Seefeld - Austria)

NB: We will probably add more tournaments to this list. Stay tuned!

New date for the next step of the WBF Golden Circuit 2013

The 2013 International Mediterranean Open Backgammon Championship, is definitively scheduled from 31st May till 2nd June 2013 in Antalya, the sunny southern coastal city of Turkey. In this giant of 8 different tournaments, we estimate having more than 100 players from many countries including well known backgammon masters. The Backgammon room is ready on the top floor of the 5 star resort hotel Sealife with a spectacular view of Mediterranean Sea. Please check the link for detailed information: www.wbfturkey.com/etkinlik/akdeniz2013/ilanakdeniz2013eng.htm

Porto Carras is waiting for you!

The Greek Backgammon Federation has organized the 3rd International Open in the Porto Carras Grand Resort & Casino (Chalkidiki, Greece) from 9th till 12th May, 2013. It's a beautiful venue and the players can add the pleasure of the sea and the tournament. The tournament coordinators are Angelina Lina Charakoglou and Fernando Braconi. The event is included in the 2013 Games Festival. Info: [www.bgfed.gr](mailto:info@bgfed.gr) - info@bgfed.gr



Yiorgos Kleitsas is WBF the agent for Greece

The Greek Champion Yiorgos Kleitsas, one of the best Greek players, is the official WBF Agent for Greece. This position will help Backgammon in Greece, including a help in organizing some WBF events in this beautiful country. Kleitsas has also excellent relations with the Greek Backgammon Federation. Thank you Yiorgos and good job!



Photo: Yiorgo Kleitsas (right) with Marco Fornasir, General Secretary of WBF

VII Georgian Backgammon Championship

The Georgian Backgammon Championship "Gogi Bukia Memorial" is scheduled from 4th till 8th September 2013 in the Oasis Hotel, in Chakvi, near Batumi (Georgia). After the success of last year, also this year the added prize-money of 10.000 USD is confirmed. The 2013 edition has already received reservations, before printing the program. Georgia is truly a beautiful country and the Backgammon tournament is a good chance to visit it. Georgia is the ideal weather to swim in the Black Sea. The flight connection is easy with Turkish Airlines through Istanbul. Info: info@wbf.net

