

## THIRTY GOLD YEARS OF BACKGAMMON



**30 years are something! It was the summer of 1986 when Alberto da Pra started the WBF Worldwide Backgammon Federation to offer the players the chance to have common rules all over the world**

The targets were the diffusion of the game, to the standard worldwide rules, supervision of the international tournaments, all that always with transparency and correctness. In the logo is our mission: transform the modern Backgammon into a real Sport of Mind.

The players appreciated the target and in few years WBF became one of the most important organizers in the Backgammon world. We started to organize also international tournaments from the very beginning with the International Backgammon Tournament of Sanremo and we kept organizing it till 1991, before in the Royal Hotel and later in the Sanremo Casino, when we offered a 60.000.000 Italian Lire as minimum guaranteed money-prize. After that, several tournaments have been filling in our portfolio: Cannes, Saint-Tropez, Nova Gorica, Venice (two editions of the Backgammon Olympiad, in partnership with Studiogiocchi), Kranjska Gora, Menton, Crans-Montana, Beaulieu-sur-Mer, Locarno, Costa Rica, Marbella, Velden, St. Maarten, Seefeld, Nice, Grado, Milan, Baden bei Wien, Parenzo/Porec, Chakvi, Batumi, Istanbul, Antalya, Kyrenia/Girne.

We started 28 years ago to entitle the European Champions, we opened a great era in Nova Gorica: during 18 years the cooperation WBF/Hit Casino attracted over 1.000 players to the little Slovenia. Since the 2004 the European Backgammon Championship has moved to Austria, where in the Velden Casino we found a great location for this important event.

Since 2013, WBF runs the biggest tournament of the year, the Merit Open in the fantastic Merit Park in North Cyprus (in partnership with Elite Bg Club Turkey): attracted more than 400 players and distributed a money-prize over 300.000 euros in 2015. This year we will add another important event: the WORLDWIDE TROPHY GEORGIA 2016, with 125.000 \$ as guaranteed total money-prize (sponsored by Europe-bet.com). It will be the best way to celebrate 30 years of our organisation, with transparency and correctness. Thank you players! Thank you Alberto!



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### ▼▼ HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. PRESIDENT!



Wednesday 2nd March, 2016 is the birthday of Alberto da Pra, WBF President. We would like to wish him a very happy birthday! Photo: Alberto da Pra with his wife Maria during the 2011 European Championship in Velden (Austria)

## ► It's time to Velden!

At the end of the Month on Wednesday 30th March, 2016 the XXVIII European Backgammon Championship will open the games in the enchanting Velden am Wörthersee



Last year the event distributed to the winners more than 24,000 euros in total, 5,000 euros for the Master Winner Roman Korber (Austria). The format will be the Double Elimination + Last Chance (7 money prize) for the two categories: Master (450 euros) and Intermediate (100 euros). Again is scheduled the tournament **The best play the best**. It's a direct elimination format reserved to the past European champions (Master category): no entry fee (but only the registration) and the WBF Golden Card 2016 will be charged) and the winner will be registered for the Master main event. It's a way to

celebrate the past European champions. As usual in the WBF Golden Circuit tournament, the time clocks will not be used during the event, except when a specific match is unduly delaying the tournament. However, by mutual agreement both players may use a clock. The draw is public, random and it is conducted manually, as a guarantee to all the players. We confirm the sponsor for the second satellite tournament: 869BG will provide the board for the winner of the 869BG Trophy. We also take care of the equipment: all matches will be played on professional tournament boards. We are the only organization that regularly cleans and disinfects our boards after every tournament. Also leisure time is famous in the Casino Velden: the Welcome Cocktail on Friday 1st of April, 2016 and the Sunday Gala Dinner on Sunday 3rd April. The casino bar will be open during the tournament matches. Detailed information on [www.wbf.net](http://www.wbf.net) We are waiting for you in Velden! Maybe you will be the next European Champion!

## ► Georgia Redouble!

The second half of April a large number of the best players will be in Georgia, were the Georgian Backgammon Club with the sponsor europe-bet.com, under the WBF organization, organize two fantastic events.

last chance) with a total prize-money of 3,000 US dollars offered by europe-bet.com, the famous game website specialized for Backgammon. This event is scheduled from Thursday 21st till Monday 25th April, 2016. Immediately after this incredible tournament,



The 1st INTERNATIONAL BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT FOR JOURNALISTS is a wonderful chance to discover the real April in Casino Velden (Austria). At the end of April we will introduce a new star in our Circuit: the WORLDWIDE TROPHY GEORGIA 2016, with an extraordinary guaranteed prize money of 125,000 \$ (sponsored by Europe-bet.com). The second part of the Circuit will start in Turkey in the middle of August, when is scheduled the new-entry 1st INTERNATIONAL CAPPADOCIA OPEN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP, hosted in Aithra

Wednesday 27th April, 2016 will start the WORLDWIDE TROPHY GEORGIA 2016 & WORLDWIDE TEAM CHALLENGE, the new tournament part of the WBF Golden Circuit 2016. This event will be at the Courtyard Tbilisi Hotel (Marriott Group) and the sponsor europe-bet.com guarantees a total prize money minimum of 125,000 US dollars, 25,000 for the Team Challenge and 100,000 US dollars for the Master event. All the programs are available on wbf.net and we think to have a very large attendance for this first edition. It will be five very intense days, the first two dedicated to the Team Challenge and the other three days dedicated to the main event, the Doubles, the Ladies Tournament and the Super-Jackpot. And, of course, we will have the Backgammon Seminar by Mochi. A traditional Georgian Dinner Party will ends this gorgeous international challenge.

## Good-bye, friends...

At the end of last year the famous Portuguese player Mario Sequeira (European Champion 1999) suddenly passed away in Rio de Janeiro. You can see him in Batumi (Georgia), during the last Gogi Bukia Memorial (September 2015). We must also say good-bye to several other friends who played in the WBF tournaments and passed away recently. We remember Ion Ressu (Romania/Switzerland), European Champion 1992 and 1994 and World Champion 1992; Herb Gurland (USA); Hormoz Shahrokshahi (Iran/Germany), Zheleznyakov (RUSSIA, aka Partizan); Barry McAdam (UK), the first European Champion in the 1989, Massimo Moretti (Italy), Italian Champion 2004 and the unforgettable Claudio Salamone (Argentina), the most important organizer in South America. They are playing in the sky. Good-bye friends!



Mario Sequeira

## The 2016 WBF Golden Circuit

After the ISTANBUL OPEN 2016, the first step of the WBF Golden Circuit 2016, the time of the XXVIII EUROPEAN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP is getting closer, scheduled at early April in Casino Velden (Austria). At the end of April we will introduce a new star in our Circuit: the WORLDWIDE TROPHY GEORGIA 2016, with an extraordinary guaranteed prize money of 125,000 \$ (sponsored by Europe-bet.com). The second part of the Circuit will start in Turkey in the middle of August, when is scheduled the new-entry 1st INTERNATIONAL CAPPADOCIA OPEN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP, hosted in Aithra

Cave Hotel (Urgup/Nevesehir). In September we will fly to Georgia again for the X GOGI BUKIA MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT (added prize money 20.000 US Dollars - sponsored again by Europe-bet.com). After the lovely Georgia, we will move in October to the charming Casino Seefeld, in the heart of Tyrol, for the XIX AUSTRIAN BACKGAMMON OPEN & AUSTRIAN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP. We will end the season with a super happy end in Northern Cyprus, where the Casino Hotel MERIT PARK will offer to the winners of the 4th MERIT OPEN an exceptional added of 40,000 euro: it is the best way to end the Backgammon year! See you in Velden!

### ▼▼ WBF 2016 GOLDEN CIRCUIT EVENTS

15th-17th January, 2016  
2016 ISTANBUL OPEN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP  
Istanbul Armada Hotel - Istanbul - Turkey  
Director: Arda Findikoglu

30th March-3rd April, 2016  
XXVIII EUROPEAN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP, 13th EUROPEAN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP, 15th VELDEN BACKGAMMON OPEN (5,000 euros minimum prize money for the Master Winner)  
Casino Velden - Velden - Austria  
Director: Marco Fornasir  
Hotel booking: Marco Fornasir - info@wbf.net

27th April-1st May, 2016  
WORLDWIDE TROPHY GEORGIA 2016 (125,000 US dollars minimum guaranteed total prize money)  
Courtyard Tbilisi Hotel - Tbilisi - Georgia  
Directors: Marco Fornasir - Arda Findikoglu  
Hotel booking: Contact directly the hotels partner, password "Backgammon", for special conditions

19th-21st August, 2016  
INTERNATIONAL CAPPADOCIA OPEN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP  
Aithra Cave Hotel - Urgup/Nevesehir - Turkey  
Director: Arda Findikoglu  
Hotel booking: Arda Findikoglu - afindikoglu@wbfturkey.com

7th-11th September, 2016  
X GOGI BUKIA MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT (added prize money 20.000 US Dollars)  
Gogumi - Georgia  
Director: Marco Fornasir  
Hotel booking: to be announced

5th-9th October, 2016  
XIX AUSTRIAN BACKGAMMON OPEN & AUSTRIAN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP  
Casino Seefeld - Seefeld - Austria  
Director: Marco Fornasir  
Hotel booking: Marco Fornasir - info@wbf.net

2nd-6th November, 2016  
4th MERIT OPEN - INTERNATIONAL BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP (added prize money 40,000 euros)  
Merit Park Hotel & Casino - Girne - North Cyprus KKTC  
Directors: Marco Fornasir - Arda Findikoglu  
Hotel booking: Arda Findikoglu - afindikoglu@wbfturkey.com

▼▼ For any information: [www.wbf.net](http://www.wbf.net) - [info@wbf.net](mailto:info@wbf.net) - Mr. Marco Fornasir

