

Last call: don't miss the great event at Velden!!

2013: from Istanbul to Velden!

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The first step of the 2013 WBF Golden Circuit started with an excellent performance: 126 players in the Main tournament, 50 teams in the Doubles Consultation and players from 15 countries. In total over 140 players registered at 2013 Istanbul Open Backgammon Championship.

The 2013 Istanbul Open was really a very good tournament, one of the best included in the WBF Golden Circuit this year.

126 players in the Main is really a great result and 140 players in total is like a dream nowadays: this is recognition of the incredible job of Arda Findikoglu, WBF Turkey president who leads this group of players so well over the last 13 years. Istanbul in mid January is always a good place to be and the Hotel Armada, very close to Topkapi, Hagia Sofia and Blue Mosque, is the perfect location to play the tournament. This year the tournament attracted players from 15 countries, such as Austria, Belgium, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iran, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, UK and Ukraine.

The main winner was the Greek champion **Yiorgos Kleitsas**, who won the final against the young Turk talent Serkan Koç. The Consolation was won by Gür Sakarya (Turkey), the runner-up Dorothy Lee (UK). The winner of the Last Chance was the Turk **Göksel Kiliç** who fought a good match against the Russian Sergey Chertkov. In Richard Lukas Memorial Warm-Up the winner was **Ricardo Malas** (Lebanon/Spain), finalist the Turk Nedim Yardimci. Only Turks in the Doubles Consulting: **Nisa Aksu** and **Abdullah Sorguven** won against Rifat Bulut and Canan Eren, an excellent result considering the 50 teams taking part.

The complete results are on the WBF Turkey page www.wbfturkey.org.

Photos and videos are available at: www.wbfturkey.org/etkinlik/ist2013mt/2013moeindex.html

Bravo Arda!



Marco Fornasir, General Secretary of WBF, and Yiorgos Kleitsas, winner of 2013 Istanbul Backgammon Championship



Arda Findikoglu, WBF Turkey president

The second step of the WBF Golden Circuit will be the **XXV European Backgammon Championship, 10th European Doubles Consulting Championship & 12th Velden Backgammon Open**.

The traditional European Championship in Velden, hosted in the famous Casino Velden, is the dream of many champions: the target is glory and the **10.000 euros that the Master Winner will receive** as minimum guaranteed prize money.



The enchanted lake Wörthersee is waiting for the players in early April for the event starting Wednesday 3rd and ending on Saturday 7th with the classic Casinos Austria Dinner Party.

Last year the winner was the Japanese Masayuki Mochy Mochizuki (2009 World Backgammon Champion, n. 1 Backgammon Giant 2010/2011 and 2012 European Champion) who won in the final against the Italian Marco Tamigi. There was also an Italian theme in the Doubles Consulting results, because the winners were Ugo Piazza (Italy) and Michel Serrero (France).

The program of this year is planned to give the best emotions to the players. The first two days are scheduled to introduce the players to the atmosphere of the European Championship, with various activities, such as the Warm-up, the **869 BG Trophy** and the Doubles Consulting (on Thursday 4th).

In addition there are the quarter entries for Masters and Champions (only Wednesday and Thursday), jackpots and One Point Matches. On Friday 5th the Main event will start with the Welcome cocktail. The week-end will be dedicated to the Main, the Progressive Consolation and the Last Chance. The gala dinner will close the event. We will also have the video show of Backgammon in Velden 2012. Every 2012 player will receive a DVD with the official video of the XXIV European Backgammon Championship.



Photos: Masayuki Mochy Mochizuki, winner of the last edition (2012) of XXIV European Backgammon Championship in Velden with the prize of 10.000 euros and the... super best prize, his little daughter!



WBF GOLDEN CIRCUIT 2013



Top Ten

After The Istanbul Backgammon Open

Players	Category	Country	Points
Y. Kleitsas	M	Greece	9.000
S. Koç	M	Turkey	6.000
M. Babal	M	Turkey	5.500
M. Taha	M	Egypt/Austria	5.500
J. Broomfield	M	UK	5.250
G. Sakarya	M	Turkey	5.000
C. Ergin	M	Turkey	4.750
R. Korber	M	Austria	4.750
M. Günay	M	Turkey	4.500
M. Dayi	M	Turkey	4.250
M. Dogrusöz	M	Turkey	4.250

NB: M=Master

WBF SURPRISE: WRITE TO US NOW!

We are preparing a nice gift for you...

If you intend to participate in the Championship, please confirm your presence (let us know which hotel you are staying in) and your size (S - M - L - XL - XXL) by sending NOW an email to: info@wbf.net



WBF GOLDEN CIRCUIT MAIN 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)

24th/27th May, 2013 - 2013 MEDITERRANEAN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP
Sealife Family Resort Hotel (Antalya - Turkey)

September, 2013 - VII GEORGIAN BACKGAMMON OPEN - MEMORIAL GOKI BUKIA
Hotel Oasis (Chakvi - Georgia)

2nd/6th October, 2013 - XVI AUSTRIAN BACKGAMMON OPEN & AUSTRIAN DOUBLES CONSULTING CHAMPIONSHIP - Hotel Veronika (Seefeld - Austria)

NB. The date of the Georgian Open will be scheduled soon, the tournament will take place in the second half of September.