

Romania won the 2016 European Championship

A double challenge between Romania and Italy featured Backgammon XXVIII European Championship, held in the Casino Velden (Austria) from 30th March to 3rd April



From left: Klaus Rappitsch (Casino Velden); Francesco Oliva, Italy (Intermediate winner); Ciprian Radulescu, Romania (Master winner); Marco Fornasir (Tournament Director)

For the main title and the guaranteed prize-money of 5,000 euros, in the Masters category fought the Romanian Ciprian Radulescu, who won the main bracket, and the Italian Gerhard Stoll, current Italian Champion and winner of the Second Chance bracket. The final was really a challenge to the last roll: Stoll won the first game 17 to 12, always leading the match and forcing Radulescu to the second decisive 11 points match. The match was very balanced and the players arrived at the score of 10 to 10, a thriller. An unlucky race, with Radulescu who earned many pips on Stoll scored the last game. In any case Radulescu won the main draw and the final in the doubles match with Stoll, so he deserved to win.

In the Intermediate category we witnessed another challenge Italy - Romania, with the winner of the main bracket, the Italian Francesco Oliva in his first participation in a tournament of the WBF Golden Circuit, and Romanian Ioan Giobanu. The match was also extremely balanced here, with players at love on 5 to 5 and then on 10 to 10. Francesco Oliva won the final match 11 to 10 and the European title.

11 teams took part in the Doubles European Championship and played intense games to win prize and title. In the final, the pair Ingo and Svetlana Mohr (Germany/Ukraine) clashed the Turkish Arda Findikoglu and Tunç Hamarat.

The pair (also in life) Ingo and Svetlana Mohr defeated 3 to 7 dangerous Turkish opponents. In the other tournaments we signal the victory of the German Peter Raugust in the Super-Jackpot, Roman Korber defeated Peter Blachian in the new The best play the best reserved for the European Champions, the double affirmation of the French Laurence SINITZKI-BILLARD in 869BG Trophy and in the



Ladies Tournament. Warm-up and its weekend tribute for 2017 went to Ingo Mohr, Austrian Peter Urbanschtschitsch has instead defended the Austrian pride by winning the One Point Matches. The award ceremony took place during the gala dinner offered by the Casino Velden to all the players. Thanks to all participants and sponsors: the **Casino Velden** (since 15 years on the WBF side to provide an high level events), **Veldener Tourismus** and the **City of Velden**. The official results are on www.wbf.net. Next European Championship will be 19th-23rd April, 2017.

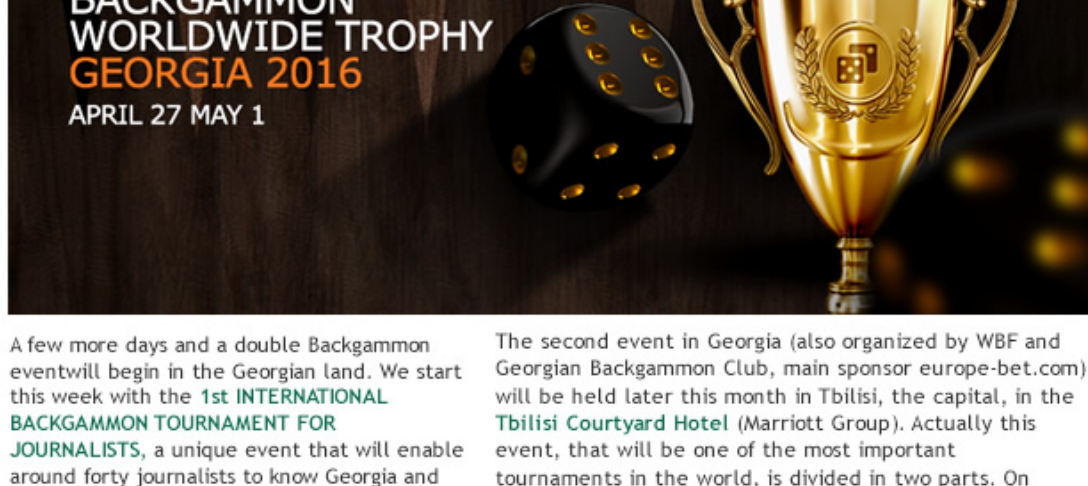
BACKGAMMON IN VELDEN: ROMAN KORBER AND ITS SCHOOL FOR YOUNGSTERS PLAYERS

New blood for backgammon

Since last year the European Champion 2015, the Austrian Roman Korber (on the right, in the photo), has founded and runs a school in Velden for youngsters Backgammon players. The headquarter is at the International School of Velden. During the recent European Championship, Korber accompanied a group of young students and their parents, to see a match played by the 2015 World Champion, Japanese Akiko Yazawa. Young Backgammon players were allowed to stand half an hour inside the Casineum, the room (separated from the rest of the casino) where the European Backgammon Championship took place. Thanks to the WBF supporter Roman Korber for this initiative!



Georgia Count-Down



BACKGAMMON WORLDWIDE TROPHY GEORGIA 2016

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A few more days and a double Backgammon event will begin in the Georgian land. We start this week with the 1st INTERNATIONAL BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT FOR JOURNALISTS, a unique event that will enable around forty journalists to know Georgia and to play Backgammon. The journalists come from Finland, Germany, Italy, Russia, Ukraine, UK and USA joined by local journalists. This event is organized by the WBF and Georgian Backgammon Club in cooperation with the Georgian National Tourism Administration and sponsored by europe-bet.com and Tskaltubo Plaza Hotel. After arriving in Tbilisi, the operational base will be in the Tskaltubo spa resort (near Kutaisi, the second largest city of Georgia) and from there are planned numerous visits and excursions to discover the beauty of Georgia. The backgammon tournament, free of charge, will be played at Tskaltubo Plaza and the winners will share the 3,000 \$ prize pool made available by europe-bet.com. All details on www.wbf.net.

The second event in Georgia (also organized by WBF and Georgian Backgammon Club, main sponsor europe-bet.com) will be held later this month in Tbilisi, the capital, in the Tbilisi Courtyard Hotel (Marriott Group). Actually this event, that will be one of the most important tournaments in the world, is divided in two parts. On Wednesday 27 and Thursday, April 28 the Worldwid Team Challenge, a tournament for national teams with a guaranteed minimum prize money of \$ 25,000. At the moment we recorded around twenty teams, that ranged the world's best players. Before closing the newsletter we received the confirmation of Armenia (2 teams), Azerbaijan (2 teams), Denmark (1 team), Georgia (2 teams), Germany (2 teams), Japan (1 team), Iran (1 team), Russia (2 teams), Ukraine (1 team), UK (second team) and USA (1 team). They are still more registrations expected. Each team consists of five players and two reserves holders.

Tskaltubo Plaza Hotel

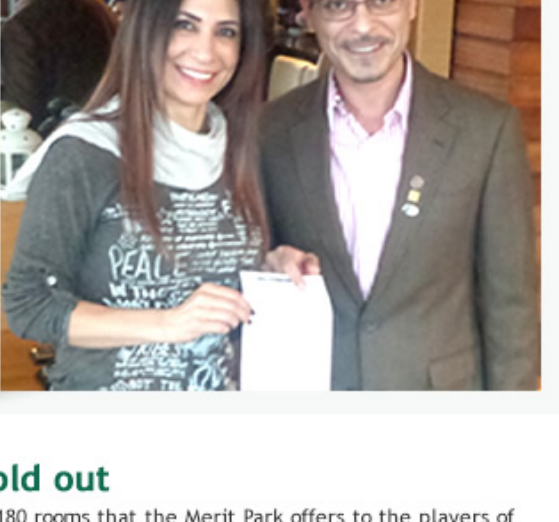


The individual Trophy Worldwide Georgia 2016 tournament will begin on Friday, April 29 at 14:00 and will have a **guaranteed minimum prize money of 100,000 \$**. Nearly 200 participants are expected to attend, and it is estimated that at least 150 of these will take part in the individual Master tournament. Among them the most important names of the Backgammon Gotha. To complete the intensive Tbilisi program we will also play Doubles, Ladies Tournament and the Super-Jackpot. And, of course, we will have the **Backgammon Seminar** by Mochi. The Last Chance and the Sunday finals will conclude this important event. A traditional Georgian Dinner Party will end this gorgeous international challenge.

The entire program is available on www.wbf.net.

A woman is the 3000th supporter in Turkey

Ms. Tamay Fidan is the 3.000th WBF supporters in Turkey. Congratulations to her and to the President of WBF Turkey Arda Findikoglu, with her in the picture.



Merit Park in Cyprus: rooms sold out

In early March we received the information that the 180 rooms that the Merit Park offers to the players of Merit Backgammon Open at a discounted price are sold out. By the end of the previous tournament, before leaving the hotel, 70 players had booked their room for the 2016 tournament. About 100 rooms and suites are available and can be purchased at market price. The 4th Merit Open will be held from 2 to 6 November 2016.

The new WBF partner in North Cyprus

Tuesday, March 22nd, the president Niyazi Ünlütürk started the activity of Kuzey Kıbrıs Elit Tavla Dernegi, the new Backgammon Association of Northern Cyprus, WBF partner. The opening night was attended by 29 players together with Arda Findikoglu, WBF Turkey president. The previous weekend, for the first time four players of the newly-formed association took part at the 12th ANKARA BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP (March 19/20, 2016).

Congratulations to Niyazi for this new association.

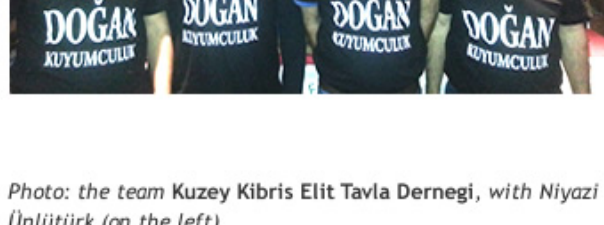


Photo: the team Niyazi Ünlütürk (on the left)

The 2016 WBF Golden Circuit

After the ISTANBUL OPEN 2016 and the XXVIII EUROPEAN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP, the next tournament of the WBF Golden Circuit 2016 is the GEORGIA WORLDWIDE TROPHY, 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/Nevsehir). In September we will fly to Georgia again for the X GOGI BUKIA MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT (added prize money 20.000 US Dollar, 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 will be the best way to end the Backgammon year! **See you in Tbilisi!**

WBF 2016 GOLDEN CIRCUIT EVENTS

- 15th-17th January, 2016
2016 ISTANBUL OPEN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP
Istanbul Armada Hotel - Istanbul - Turkey
- 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
- 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/Nevsehir - 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)
Batumi - 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

