

Last call: don't miss the great event of Georgia!!

XI Georgian Open Gogi Bukia Memorial International Backgammon Tournament is waiting for you!

COME TO TBILISI
and enjoy 10.000 USD added money-prize

20th - 24th September, 2017

About Georgia

Georgia is truly a beautiful country, rich in tradition and with an important cultural heritage stretching back thousands of years. The ancient name of Georgia was Colchis, a territory that gave rise to myths and legends that are famous throughout the world, such as Medea and the Argonauts. Both the history and culture of Georgia are European even if its territory is in Asia, located on the Eastern shores of the Black Sea. It was one of the first kingdoms to declare Christianity a state religion in 337 AD. Georgia has a sub-tropical climate and thanks to this it is a large producer of mandarins, lemons and tea. Today Georgia is an independent Country since 1991, when the Soviet Union ceased to exist, and currently enormous efforts are being made to equip it with important infrastructure.

My approach

It was early January 2012 when Nodari Gagua, a well known Georgian Backgammon player throughout the world, contacted me and invited me to go to Florence to propose me to organize an International Backgammon tournament in Chakvi, near Batumi, on the Black Sea coast. The tournaments started in the 2007, but the participation was not so great, around 50 players. I was in Batumi in May, 2012 to meet Goderdzi Bukia, chairman of the tournament and brother of Gogi Bukia, to whom the tournament is dedicated. I was with him also in Khobi, in Mengrelia region, where the Bukia family have their origin.

Since the first moment I felt something good about Georgia and I'm very happy to have the chance to run more events during the years in this beautiful Country.

The developing of the event

With the strong partnership between WBF Worldwide Backgammon Federation and the Georgian Backgammon Club Ltd., and with the support of the Georgian Backgammon Federation, the tournament grew and reached more than 100 participants: 2012, 61 players; 2013, 90 players; 2014, 93 players; 2015, 110 players; 2016, 101 players. Our partnership also started in 2016 with the Worldwide Trophy Georgia and the International Media Tournament for Journalists. Both event had a great success.

Who was Gogi Bukia



Gogi Bukia was a famous journalist and an avid and passionate Nardi player (traditional Backgammon) well known and respected in his country. He suddenly died years ago and his brother Goderdzi started to organize this event to honor the memory of his beloved brother.



XI Georgian Open Gogi Bukia Memorial



This year we moved back to Tbilisi (as in origin), instead of remaining on the coast in Chakvi or Batumi. All the details are on WBF website www.wbf.net (Events section). We will use the double elimination format with progressive second chance + last chance for both categories. An ADDED MONEY-PRIZE OF 10.000 \$ is sponsored by Ambassadors Hotel & Casino. I hope you'll be able to join us for this exciting event in Tbilisi!

The Georgian Backgammon Club

Since the beginning of our partnership, Georgian Backgammon Club has developed Backgammon in the Country. The chairman Goderdzi Bukia, a well known business man and for over 20 years member of the Georgian Parliament, the managers Marina Mikadze and the director of the Georgian Backgammon Club Nino Tevzadze are very focused on the Backgammon events. In particular they search the sponsor, the location and are very good at promoting the events. Another strong partnership!

AMBASSADORI TBLISI HOTEL & CASINO

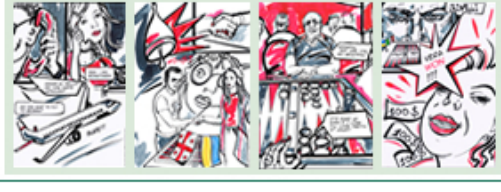
This edition of the tournament has a new sponsor: the Ambassadors Tbilisi Hotel & Casino (www.ambassadors.com), that will host the event and guarantee a sponsorship of 10.000 \$ for the winners. The Ambassadors is located in the centre of Tbilisi, at 17, Ioane Shavteli str. The Ambassadors Hotel guarantees SPECIAL RATES FOR BACKGAMMON PLAYERS (discount 20%). The contact is: Marika Lapiashvili, ph. 00995 32 2439494 - Email: reservation@ambassadors.com, m.lapiashvili@ambassadors.com



THE GEORGIAN NATIONAL TOURISM ADMINISTRATION



The cooperation with the GNTA (Georgian National Tourism Administration) is great! With their help, WBF and Georgian Backgammon Club started to organize the international Backgammon Media Tournament for Journalists. The chairman of the GNTA Giorgi Chogovadze and the manager Masho Bojgva believe in this project and they optimize the international Backgammon events to develop a great communications campaign. Since last year we organized the Media event in Tskaltubo, near Kutaisi (the second largest city of Georgia that also hosts the Parliament) with a large participation of foreigners and Georgian journalists. One of the goals, after the first tournament, was the making of the first cartoon about Backgammon, from the Ukraine journalist and designer Vera Degtyarova. And many articles about Georgia were written by the guests. Great and strong partnership!



Stay tuned

After the XI GEORGIAN OPEN GOGI BUKIA MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT (with an added prize money of 10.000 \$ sponsored by Ambassadors Casino (info at www.wbf.net, Events section)) we look forward to seeing you for several events.

In early October there will be the traditional AUSTRIAN BACKGAMMON OPEN, scheduled again in the Casino Seefeld.

In early November we will go to the charming island of Cyprus, where Casino Hotel MERIT PARK will offer to the winners of the 5th MERIT OPEN the exceptional added of 40.000 euros.

We will conclude the season early December in Ragusa/Dubrovnik: the Casino MERIT Libertas will offer the winners of the 2nd MERIT OPEN Dubrovnik Grand Prix an added money prize of 25.000 euros: it is the best way to end the Backgammon year.

Please book your rooms and your flights asap!

For any information: www.wbf.net - info@wbf.net - Mr. Marco Fornasir