**The 4 Cubes 2015**

**1. Competition format**

Every Belgian club (or team representing a club, eventually more than 1 team per club) can compete for the title of ‘BBBC - Belgium's Best Backgammon Club’ symbolized by the 4 Cubes trophy. The clubs must be affiliated to BGFed.be, the official Belgian Backgammon Federation. The championship has 1 division, with all registered teams.

The current holders are Hasselt, who successfully won the trophy in November 2014. Hasselt will therefore keep the title till the end of 2015. At the end of the year, Hasselt will offer the ‘4 Cubes’ to the winner of the competition, the ‘BBBC 2015’.

**2. Organizing Committee**

Tournament Director for 2015 is Luc Palmans; Guy Van Middelem & Johan Segers completes the Referee Committee.

**3. Registration and representation**

To subscribe a team, registration is needed before the 15th of December 2014 and the following information needs to be provided:

\* Name of team or club (the name of the city/town where the team has its clubhouse needs to be part of the name)

\* Name of the team captain, e-mail, home phone or cell

\* Address of the clubhouse

\* (if available) Website

\* List of players (this list can be extended in the course of the year)

The entry fee for 2015 is 25, - € per team. All players must be member of BGFed.be (10, - € for 1 year in 2015). In a single year, a player can only represent one team.

**4. Calendar and schedule**

If 2 to 7 registered teams, the competition will be set up as a single round-robin, i.e. all competing teams will meet once, either away or at home, in their clubhouse. In the case of an even number of participating teams, some teams will have to play more matches away than at home. If more than 7 registered teams, another format will apply (more info later, if necessary).

The competition is scheduled in game days. Each game day will be played on the fixed playing evening date for the home team, in the 3rd week of a month (Gent plays on Tuesday, Hasselt plays on Wednesday, Brugge plays on Thursday, Leuven and Brussels play on Friday). These precise dates will be announced at the beginning of the competition. The team captains need to contact each other to arrange the starting hour (between 7.00 PM and 8.00 PM).

Nevertheless, both team's captains may take initiative to fix another date (and both teams will be flexible in setting up another date). This new playing date must be in the corresponding month - or before -, preferably before the scheduled date, and must be relayed to the Tournament Director 15 days before the scheduled playing date. Otherwise (without agreement), the scheduled playing date prevails.

The draw is scheduled to take place on Friday 2 January 2015 during the Brussels Friendly 45. The calendar will be ready on Sunday 4 January 2015 and announced by e-mail to the respective team captains and on the official ‘4 Cubes’ webpage.

**5. Conditions of contest**

An encounter between 2 teams consists of 3 rounds of 3 matches to 7 points, all to be decided on a single day. Preferably, clocks will be used (Bronstein, 12 minutes, 12 seconds’ increment). Winner is the team who wins 5 or more matches.

A team can, if they so desire, field more than 3 players in a single encounter. Therefore, at the beginning of each round, each team captain needs to announce the 3 players picked. The players will then be paired by draw, with the provision that 2 players cannot meet twice in the same encounter.

Addendum: of course, there's no problem at all if 3 players (A, B, C) meet 3 players (a, b, c) in an encounter. 1st round : Aa - Bb - Cc ; 2nd round : Ab - Bc - Ca ; 3rd round : Ac - Ba - Cb. If a 4th player (D) is involved in the 2nd round, a possible problem could eventually occur in the 3rd round. Please make the draw for the 2nd round that way that all players can play the 3rd round with the provision that 2 players cannot meet twice.

Example: let's say that in the 1st round the draw is Aa - Bb - Cc. If D plays the 2nd round in replacement of C, D will NOT play against c in that 2nd round! (Because if that's the case, A will play b & B will play a in the 2nd round and in the 3rd round A and B should both play against c which is not possible).

Rule: if a player (let's say D) replaces another player (let's say C) in round 2, he cannot play against the opponent of player C in round 1.

If it happens that a team can only muster 2 players for a particular round (e.g. illness or early departure), they can still compete and win the encounter but they will lose that particular match.

**6. Results and standings**

At the end of the year, the teams are ranked as follows:

1) Number of confrontations won (victories);

2) Mutual results against other tying teams;

3) Number of matches won.

*Tie-breaking rules. By ‘mutual results’ is meant:*

*If 2 teams have the same number of victories: the winner of their mutual encounter (1 encounter) will rank the 2 teams.*

*If 3 teams have the same number of victories: the team with the most number of victories (2) in their mutual encounters (3 encounters) is ranked above the others, the team with the lowest number (0) in their mutual encounters is ranked under the others.*

*In case of a tie in the number of victories (1 each) between the 3 teams, the number of matches won in these mutual encounters will rank the 3 teams. In case of a tied number of matches won in these mutual encounters between the 3 teams, the number of matches won in all the confrontations will rank the 3 teams. In case of a tied number of matches won in these mutual encounters between 2 teams, the mutual encounter between these 2 teams will rank the 2 teams. In case of a complete tie between the 3 teams and if the 4 Cubes is at stake, play-offs will be organized to determine the ranking of the 3 teams (rules & regulations of these play-offs will be decided by the Referee Committee).*

*If 4 or more teams have the same number of victories: the team with the most number of matches won in their mutual confrontations (6 encounters if 4 teams, 10 encounters if 5 teams, 15 encounters if 6 teams) is ranked above the others, the team with the lowest number of matches won in their mutual encounters is ranked under the others. In case of a tied number of matches won between 2 teams, the mutual encounter between these 2 teams will rank the 2 teams. In case of a tied number of matches won between more than 2 teams, the number of matches won in all the confrontations will rank the teams. In case of a complete tie between some teams and if the 4 Cubes is at stake, play-offs will be organized to determine the ranking of the 3 teams (rules & regulations of these play-offs will be decided by the Referee Committee).*

The team who ends up on top wins the competition and can display the Four Cubes in their clubhouse for a year.

**7. Sanctions**

The penalty for a team that does not show with at least 2 players on the scheduled playing date or the alternative date agreed by the team captains is a 0 – 9 loss by forfeit.

We hope to lift backgammon in Belgium to another level and look forward to an exciting competition.

We wish you a lot of fun with ‘live’ backgammon in 2015!

For BGFed.be, Guy Van Middelem