BACKGAMMON MASTERS SERIES (US)

BMS (US) Ranking Tournament Sunday, April 24, 2016

Dear Backgammon Player,

You are invited to participate in a **Backgammon Masters Series (US)** Ranking Tournament which will be held on **April 24, 2016** at **2050 Claire Ct, Glenview, IL 60025 (Journey Care)**.

The format of the tournament is **truncated round-robin** where **each player plays four rounds of 9 point matches**. All matches will be played with game clocks, which will be set with 18 minutes bank time and 12 seconds delay for each match. Moreover, all matches played will be recorded and subsequently transcribed to electronic match files which will then be analyzed by the current version of eXtremeGammon using BMAB settings.

The registration period will take place between 11 am and 11.30 am.

The tournament will have the following schedule:

- 11:00 am Registration & Light Meal (Sandwiches)
- 11:30 am Announcements
- 11:45 am Rounds 1 to 3
- 5:30 pm Dinner Break
- 6:30 pm Round 4

At tournament registration, players will pay \$25 hospitality fee, \$50 registration fee, and \$100 entry fee into a prize pool (100% return), which will be distributed as follows:

- 70% Tournament Winner
- 30% Tournament Runner~Up

Hospitality will include **light meal** (sandwiches) before the tournament, **dinner**, and coffee, tea, and soft drinks throughout the tournament.

There will also be four side pools:

•	Side pool A (100% return)	\$50 entry
•	Side pool B (100% return)	\$100 entry
•	PR Side pool C (110% return)	\$50 entry
•	PR Side pool D (110% return)	\$100 entry

To enter side pool B, side pool A must also be entered. Similarly, to enter PR side pool D, PR side pool C must also be entered.

For each side pool, the winner and runner-up take 70% and 30% of the pool money. However, if fewer than 4 players enter one (or more) side-pool, the winner will take all.

The criteria for determining the tournament winner and runner up (and winner of side-pools A and B) will be based solely on the number of match wins. Where ties occur, the prize money will be shared equally. With regard to the PR side pools, any score within 1% of the lowest PR shall be deemed to share first place (and first place only).

The PR prizes will be awarded to the two players ~~ or one player if fewer than 4 players are in the same PR side pool ~~ with the lowest aggregate PR, determined from the completed XG player profiles, which weighs the PR from each match against the number of decisions made. The PR prize cannot be awarded until all the matches are transcribed and then analyzed. Consequently, it is expected that there will be a two week period between completion of tournament and the award of PR prize.

At the end of the tournament, players will be provided with 2 recorded match videos which they will be required to transcribe within the next 7 days with match files and submit via email. Players may use third parties to perform this function. Such a service is available at this tournament for the fee of \$30 for two 9 point matches. Consequently, a \$30 deposit will be refunded when players complete the tournament and then complete the required transcription work.

All match files from the tournament will become public domain material and the complete results of the tournament will subsequently be reported and submitted to the Backgammon Masters Awarding Body (BMAB). Matches will be analyzed using the current version of eXtremeGammon (XG) using the following settings: Standard World Class Analysis but with "Gigantic" search interval, 15 x 8 bear-off database, and resignation errors counting.

Sheraton Chicago Northbrook Hotel, located at 1110 Willow Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062 (1 mile away from the tournament), is offering king or double rooms for a discounted rate of \$109 per night. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 1-847-480-1900 and asking for the "Backgammon Tournament Group Rate". Rooms will be held at that rate ONLY UNTIL MARCH 23.

If you accept the invitation it is imperative that you commence and complete the tournament, as a late cancellation will ruin the whole format for all participants.

Therefore, you are kindly asked to confirm your participation by answering the following:

- Send a \$30 deposit via PayPal to dmitriyobukhov@gmail.com.
- Whether you wish to make use of the match transcription service (\$30 for two 9 point matches)
- Whether you are able to bring a memory stick of capacity 8GB or more if you do not require the match transcription service

Please note that the \$30 deposit will be retained until match files are submitted..

We hope all participants will enjoy the challenge of the tournament and its original format. Sincerely Yours,

The BMS(US) Directing Team
(Linda Rockwell and Dmitriy Obukhov)