

BACKGAMMON MASTERS AWARDING BODY (UK)

Kingfisher Court, Great Howarth, Rochdale, UK, OL12 9HD

Reference: BMAB (UK)/1218/TIL

Date: 3 July 2018

Dear Backgammon Player,

BMAB (UK) Ranking Tournament, 15-16 December 2018, Long Eaton **(Sponsored by Andy Darby)**

You are invited to participate in a Ranking Tournament run by the backgammon tournament promoting organisation, **Backgammon Masters Awarding Body (UK)** which will be held at the following venue:

- Best Western – Nottingham-Derby, Bostock Lane Long Eaton, Notts, NG10 4EP
- Telephone: 0115-946000 (Front Desk),
- Website: <https://www.bestwestern.co.uk/hotels/best-western-nottingham-derby-83937>
- Date: 15-16 December 2018

This tournament is kindly sponsored by **Andy Darby** whose donation will be used to provide trophies, certificates, and also £200 of added prize-money distributed as follow:

- £100 in the two PR-side pools
- £50 to the advanced, intermediate or beginner level participant who achieves the lowest PR at the tournament (not open to Grandmasters, masters, provisionally-graded or ungraded players)
- £50 to the advanced, intermediate or beginner level participant who achieves the greatest percentage improvement in PR, comparing tournament PR with average PR before the tournament (not open to Grandmasters, masters, provisionally-graded or ungraded players)

In all the above cases, where results are within 1% of each other they shall be deemed to be equivalent.

In addition to the very kind sponsorship provided by **Andy Darby**, **Michihito Kagamaya** has also dedicated a special prize to the tournament: A signed copy of Michy's recent book "Opening Concepts Vol.1), co-authored with Roland Herrera, will be presented to the Tournament Winner.

The format of the tournament is a 14 to 28 player truncated round-robin where each player plays six rounds of 11-point matches, where three matches are played on both Saturday and Sunday. All matches will be played in accordance with the current version of the UKBGF tournament rules, including the requirement for game clocks, which will be set at a **22** 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 analysed by the current version of eXtremeGammon.

Players will be provided with standardised BMAB (UK) tournament score cards which will inform each player of who they must play in which particular round and on which table. Players are required to strictly follow the sequence and table positions specified on the tournament score cards. This is particularly important in order to allow for proper control of the match recording process.

The registration period will take place between **10.00** and **11.00** on Saturday followed by introductions and start of play at **11.15**. On Sunday play starts at **10.00**. All other rounds will have an earliest start of **90** minutes after the start of the previous round.

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. Consequently you are required to pay a deposit of £30 which will only be refunded where players complete the tournament and then complete the required transcription work. Please pay the deposit before Friday 12 October 2018, either through paypal (using the paypal account rick.janowski@ntlworld.com) or by electronic bank transfer. Please ensure that the method of payment does not cause fees to be charged to BMAB (UK).

At the end of the tournament, players will be provided with 3 match videos which they will be required to transcribe within the next 7 days with match files subsequently sent to me by email (rick.janowski@btinternet.com). Players may use third parties to perform this function. Such a service is available at this tournament for the fee of £10 per 11-point match. The £30 deposit will be refunded in full when a player transcribes all their allotted matches within the 7 day period. Where some but not all matches have not been transcribed, £10 shall be retained for each un-transcribed match.

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 (International). Matches will be analysed 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.

At tournament registration, players will pay a £60 registration fee and pay £30 entry fee into a prize pool, which, after deducting 10% retention fees, will be distributed as follows:

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

There will also be five side-pools:

- Side-pool A (£25 entry)
- Side-pool B (£50 entry)
- Side-pool C (£100 Entry)
- PR side-pool D (£25 entry)

- PR side-pool E (£50 entry)

To enter side-pool B, side-pool A must also be entered. To enter side-pool C, both side-pools A and B must also be entered. Similarly, to enter PR side-pool E, PR side-pool D must also be entered. For all side-pools, including the PR side-pools, the winner and runner-up take 70% and 30% of the pool money, after deducting 10% retention fees. Each of these PR-side pools will include £50 of added prize money, donated by our sponsor **Andy Darby**.

Note that any pool with less than three players will be cancelled. Should PR side-pool E be cancelled, PR side-pool D will have £100 added prize money.

The criteria for determining the tournament winner and runner up (and winner of side-pools A to C) will be based solely on the number of match wins. Where ties occur, the prize money will be shared. Where ties occur in the tournament winner or runner-up positions, to determine official positions, the tie breaker adopted will generally be by simply throwing of two dice from a cup in accordance with normal backgammon rules, with doubles counting, and highest number winning. However, if all the interested players agree, there could be a play-off involving short matches. Tie-breakers are not used in the side-pools.

The winner and runner-up in the two PR side-pools will be awarded to the two players with the lowest aggregate PR, in each pool, determined from the completed XG player profiles, which weighs the PR from each match against the number of decisions made. However, PR values within 1% of each other shall be deemed to be equivalent.

The PR prizes cannot be awarded until all the matches are transcribed and then analysed. Consequently, it is expected that there will be a two week period between completion of tournament and the award of this prize.

Hotel rooms are available at the price of £55 B&B (Single Occupancy) and £65 B&B (Double Occupancy). There is also a limited number of Executive Rooms with an additional surcharge of £15, and Deluxe Rooms with an additional surcharge of £20. The Hotel is close to Junction 25 of the M1. For guests arriving by train the closest station to the hotel is Long Eaton. To travel from the station by taxi costs about £5 for a standard size vehicle. There is also a regular Skylink bus service from East Midlands Airport stopping at Long Eaton Railway Station before reaching Nottingham. (For bus time tables: <https://www.trentbarton.co.uk/services/skylinkderby/maps-and-times>).

Breakfast is served in The Grill 25 Restaurant immediately adjacent to the hotel. The hotel also offers a Lunch menu where orders will be brought to the ground floor lobby area at **13.30 on Saturday and Sunday**. Moreover, there will be a block booking for dinner at the restaurant for dinner at 19.30 on Saturday for those interested. The hotel will provide coffee, tea and chilled water free throughout the day.

Please confirm your intention to attend the tournament and also provide the following information:

- Day of arrival (Friday or Saturday)
- Please clarify whether you intend to join the Group dinner.
- Do you wish to use the match transcription service (£10 per 11-point match).
- Are you are able to bring a memory stick of capacity 8GB or more if you do not require the match transcription service. If you hope to transcribe more than three matches you will need greater capacity than 8GB.

I hope all participants will enjoy the challenge of this tournament.

Yours faithfully,

Rick Janowski, BMAB (UK) Tournament Director



UKBGF Tournament Director of the Year 2015 and 2016