



Press Release 13: Comments to a website story

This press release is prepared as a consequence of a story published at the website of the Ebonite International Luxembourg Open at the conclusion of the tournament on 3 February 2008.

Before commenting the content of the story I will confirm the following:

- Both organizers of the Ebonite International Luxembourg Open and the Hammer Bronzen Schietspoel Tournament in Tilburg have addressed me with their wish of conducting their tournaments in the same week in February 2009.
- Both organizers have a preference of the weekend in the period in the so called Carnival period. The Carnival period is not a fixed period, but moves around from year to year, most typically in the month of February.
- When I received the second wish for the same week for conduction in 2009, I contacted both organizers with the purpose to search for a compromise. During the following email discussions it became clear to me, that it most certainly was impossible to expect a solution without interference from ETBF, but before any compromise (primary option) or decision (secondary option) was presented by me, the organizer of the tournament in Luxembourg decided not to include the tournament in the EBT 2009. After this message I considered the case for closed and no further actions were taken by me.

Then, to my absolute surprise, I found that the organizer of the Ebonite International Luxembourg Open, by the conclusion of his tournament on 3 February 2008, presented a website story including various view on the "date-clash-problem". I will comment the story in 3 items.

1. Conduction in the Carnival period

The organizer presents the following opinion:

For the last 5 years, we have organised the Luxembourg Open during the Carnival weekend. Before we decided to take this risk, nobody had dared to organise such a big event at this time of the year, and we are proud to say that time and specially the growing popularity of the event have proved us right.

The correct view is that the Ebonite International Luxembourg Open appeared in the EBT 2006 for the first time and that the tournament therefore has been adopted 3 times in the tour.

In these three years the two tournaments have been conducted in the carnival period as follows:

2006: Ebonite International Luxembourg Open
2007: Hammer Bronzen Schietspoel Tournament
2008: Ebonite International Luxembourg Open



Based on this list, it is not possible for just one organizer to claim any historical right of the carnival period and to me it looks more like a possible swop situation, where I would have proposed a continuation, by awarding the carnival period to Tilburg in 2009, to Luxembourg in 2010 etc.

But, as we now know, it was never proposed because the Ebonite International Luxembourg Open had its last tour appearance in 2008.

2. The status of a side tournament in Tilburg

The organizer writes:

We would like to take the opportunity to point out that the same people organised a "Dolphins Tournament" to coincide with our EBT 2008. And what is the Dolphins Tournament? - A simple tournament, open to player's holders of a license issued by the Dutch Bowling Federation or the player's respective national federation (ETBF).

In normal terms this would mean an international tournament approved by the ETBF, unfortunately we can't find any information on the ETBF Homepage. We understand this to mean that this tournament is not recognised by the ETBF, that it is an illegal tournament and a move to hinder participation here in Luxembourg with the aim to eventually make us stop our tournament.

According to the ETBF Constitution, a tournament is defined as a National Open Tournament, if it is open for players from not more than 4 ETBF federations. If the tournament is open for more than 4 ETBF federations, then ETBF approval is mandatory. In this case, the membership of a federation, and not the nationality, is the decisive factor for the relation player-federation.

In the Dolphins Tournament there were players from Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Czech Republic and as such the Dolphins Tournament was legal.

Formally it was a minor mistake not in advance to present the federations, to which the tournament was open, but it is caused to a simple misunderstanding and has no real influence on the situation and furthermore, if the organizer in Tilburg had asked for an ETBF Approval, it would have been granted anyway, since no rules are against it.

The status of the side tournament in Tilburg must therefore be considered as irrelevant for the number of players taking part in the tournament in Luxembourg.

3. Number of participants in Luxembourg

It became at a moment clear that two Dutch players cancelled their participation in Luxembourg because of the final of the side tournament in Tilburg. But due to some interference of the organizer in Tilburg, these players changed their spots in Luxembourg and the problem was solved. Besides this minor happening, no other clashing problem between the side tournament in Tilburg and the tournament in Luxembourg has been brought to my attention.

The number of participants in Luxembourg was 212 in 2008 and 224 in 2007, while the number of entries was 446 in 2008 and 428 in 2007. These differences are marginal and prove that the side tournament in Tilburg had no influence on the number of participants in Luxembourg.



My conclusion

There have never been any previous disagreements between ETBF and the organizer of the Ebonite International Luxembourg Open, the organizer has always fulfilled all obligations and requirements, the organizer has been a dedicated contributor to the tour and in all aspects it was never the wish of ETBF that the co-operation should be terminated.

It is therefore not clear why it was necessary to go online with the website story in Luxembourg, since all mentioned problems could have been handled smoothly without making them to media issues. But, since the story was made and published, there were no other possibility than preparing this press release to clarify the situation.

Left back is the following concluding statements:

- The organizer of the Hammer Bronzen Schietspoel Tournament had and have an equal right to claim a conduction of their tournament in the carnival period
- No rule violations were made by the organizer in Tilburg
- No actions were taken to damage the tournament in Luxembourg
- The number of players taking part in Luxembourg looked normal and acceptable, compared with previous years

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