

LONDON CHESS CONFERENCE 2015



WORLD SENIOR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP ITALY 2015



WORKING MEETING IN TBILISI - CHESS OLYMPIAD 2018



EUROPEAN RAPID & BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2015

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION
NEWSLETTER



Double gold for Russia in Reykjavik

The national teams of Russia have completely dominated the 2015 European Team Chess Championships, winning the gold medals in both Men's and Women's tournaments.

In the final round of the Men's section Russia tied the match against Hungary to complete the race with 15 points and take the winner's trophy. This is Russia's first gold in the European Team Championships since 2007.

Two points behind the champions are Armenia, Hungary and France on the shared second place. According to the tie-break, Armenia won the silver medal, while Hungary took the bronze.






In the last round of the Women's section Russia defeated Germany 3-1 and convincingly took the trophy with 17 points (from 18 possible). Silver medal goes to Ukraine on 15 points and bronze to Georgia on 14 points.





The organizer also awarded the best board prizes for the best individual results on each board.

Open Section

Board 1 GM Viktor Bologan (MDA 2630) ratP 2845

Board 2 Richard Rapport (HUN 2693) ratP 2828

Board 3 GM Levan Pantsulaia (GEO 2567) ratP 2868

Board 4 GM Hrant Melkumyan (ARM 2632) ratP 2770

Board 5 GM Dmitry Jakovenko (RUS 2735) ratP 2756

Board prizes Open





Women Section

Board 1 GM Mariya Muzychuk (UKR 2542) ratP 2772

Board 2 WGM Jovana Vojinovic (SRB 2295) ratP 2576

Board 3 IM Lela Javakhishvili (GEO 2479) ratP 2559

Board 4 WGM Aleksandra Goryachkina (RUS 2478) ratP 2668

Board 5 WGM Joanna Majdan-Gajewska (POL 2378) ratP 2423

Board prizes Women





The closing ceremony was held at Reykjavik's magnificent concert hall Harpa. The prizes were distributed by Iceland's Prime Minister, Mr. Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson, President of the City Council, Mr. Soley Tomasdottir and the President of the ECU, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili.

The Tournament Director and President of the Icelandic Chess Federation, Mr. Gunnar Bjornsson, thanked all the partners who made this special event possible: the ECU, the Icelandic Government, Reykjavik City and the City Council.

After speeches by the present dignitaries, the individual board prizes were distributed. Besides their medals, each winner of an individual prize also received an invitation to next year's Reykjavik Open.

The three medal winners of both sections then received their trophies, before the closing ceremony was concluded with a fantastic musical performance by one of Iceland's most famous bands - Hjaltalin.







A very sad news – terrorist attacks that happened in the capital of France hit the participants of the Championship On Friday 13th November. Therefore, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, President of the ECU announced the start of the 2nd round of the Championship with 1 minute silence in the memory of the victims of the attacks.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili, on behalf of the European Chess Union expressed the sincerest condolences to the French Chess Federation, French teams and players and the whole French Nation for the victims of the terrorist attacks in Paris.

Official Website

Photos by M. Emelianova, H. Jökulsson and M.Glukhovsky

World Senior Chess Championship 2015

The World Senior Chess Championship 2015 held in Acqui Terme in northern Italy, 10-21 November, 2015.

Italy was the host of the World Senior Championship for the 6th time, after Arco in 2001 and 2010, Lignano Sabbiadoro in 2005, Arvier in 2006 and Condino in 2009.

The organizers, IO Cristina Pernici Rigo and IO Michele Cordara provided a perfect venue, the Convention Center of Acqui Terme.

305 players from all continents competed for the World Champion titles in 4 categories: Open 50+, Women 50+, Open 65+ and Women 65+. Open sections were played as a 11-round Swiss System tournaments, while Women 50+ played a 9-round Swiss system and Women +65 9-round Round Robin tournament with 10 participants.

Thanks to the contribution of the local chess club and the Italian Chess Federation, 30 games were transmitted live on the internet.







After the exciting fights, GM Vladimir Okhotnik (RUS) won the World Senior Chess Championship in Open 65+ for the second time, after 2011 in Rijeka/Croatia, with 9.5 points out of 11 rounds (8 games won, 3 draw). The second place went to GM Anatoly Vaisser (FRA) and the third place to GM Viktor D. Kupreichik (BLR).







GM Predrag Nikolic (BIH) defeated GM Keith C. Arkell (ENG) in the final round and triumphed in the section Open 50+. GM Eduardas Rozentalis (LTU) took the silver medal by defeating IM Fabrizio Bellia (ITA) while GM Georg Mohr (SLO) came third. All these three players didn't lose any game during the whole championship. GM Carlos Garcia Palermo became best Italian player with 8 points and finished the tournament on the fourth place.

In section Women 65+ the legendary GM Nona Gaprindashvili (GEO) won the title with one round to spare. In the last round she agreed to a quick draw and won the tournament with 7 points out of 9 games (5 wins and 4 draws). WGM Tamar Kmiadashvili (GEO) got the silver medal with the last round victory, while WIM Ludmila A. Tsifanskaya (ISR) took the bronze medal with a quick draw in the final round.





The women in section 50+ had an interesting finish. WGM Galina Strutinskaia (RUS), WFM Petra Schulz (GER) and WFM Tatiana Bogumil (RUS) shared the lead before the last round with 5.5 points each, but none of them managed to win in the last round! Finally Strutinskaia won the tournament, and better tie break than the rest of the players with 6 points.

Chess-Results

Official Website

FIDE World Youth & Cadets Chess Championship 2015

FIDE World Youth & Cadets Championship 2015 was held in Porto Carras, Halkidiki from 24th October to 6th November 2015.

The players from India dominated the event, winning as many as 11 medals, among them 5 gold. Russia and USA took 4 medals each, but none of them was gold. Iran, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Germany, Greece, Uzbekistan and Vietnam have one gold medal each.





Mosadeghpour Masoud cruised to the victory in the Open U18 leaving the nearest followers a full point behind. In the Girls U18 WFM Mahalakshmi M lost her game, but she already secured the gold medal with one round to spare.





One of the most dramatic sections was Open U16. After the multiple change of the leaders throughout the event Vogel Roven emerged as the winner. The local hero WIM Tsolakidou Stavroula won five games in a row to claim the gold medal in Girls U16.

Vokhidov Shamsiddin won the Open U14 on better tie-break. WFM Vaishali R was rather convincing in the Girls U14.

The Open U12 finished in a three-way tie on the first place. CM Muradli Mahammad took the gold medal on best tie-break score. Among the Girls U12 WFM Salimova Nurgyul won the medal on the better tie-break.





Both U10 sections ended in a two-way ties where the winners were to be decided on additional criteria. The Indians were the most successful – FM Praggnanandhaa R claimed the gold in Open, while Rakshitta Ravi was best among the Girls.

As was expected, Bharath Subramaniyam H won the gold in the Open U8. After the dramatic finish in the Girls U8, WCM Nguyen Le Cam Hien took the gold medal on better tie-break.





The Organizing Committee of the 2015 FIDE World Youth & Cadets Championship announced that the following players have achieved title norms after the completion of the tournament:

WFM Kiolbasa Oliwia POL – WIM norm

WFM Harazinska Ewa POL – WIM norm

Mosadeghpour Masoud IRI – IM norm

FM Marek Matyas CZE – IM norm

FM Faizrakhmanov Ramil RUS – IM norm

Kaczur Florian HUN – IM norm

Daskalov Dimitar BUL – IM norm

Aradhya Garg IND – IM norm

Official Website

Photos by Andreas Kontokanis

ECU NEWS

London Chess Conference 2015



A small but fast growing community is using chess to improve social relations and wellbeing. The game may help to prevent dementia, it is used in prisons, and it is tested in therapies against addiction. Most recently, activists in numerous countries showed the great potential of chess in the integration of refugees. Even school chess is no longer only about cognitive development and academic achievement but increasingly emphasizes inclusion and integration.

The third London Chess and Education Conference is addressing this development under the theme “Chess and Society”. On 5 and 6 December 2015 experts and activists from more than 25 countries will come together as part of the London Chess Classic.

In order to support those who start projects and are bringing the social benefits of chess to a new level, the first “Social Chess Entrepreneurship Bootcamp” has been added. This programme, consisting of lectures, workshops and a competition, is held 4-6 December.

The ECU is teaming up with Chess in School and Communities, the charity behind the Classic and chess in more than 200 UK schools, to enable six stipendiates from Europe to take part in this: Radislav Atanasov (Bulgaria), Luis Blasco de la Cruz (Spain), Alessandro Dominici (Italy), Martina Korenova (Czech Republic), Patrick Reinwald (Austria) and Hedinn Steingrimsson (Iceland). Official Website

ECU President at working meeting in the Ministry of Finance of Georgia

As the Chess Olympiad in Baku approaches, the preparations for 2018 Chess Olympiad in Batumi/Georgia are in progress.

On Saturday, 27th November, 2015 a working meeting in the Ministry of Finance of Georgia in Tbilisi took place.







Georgian Minister of Finance, Mr. Nodar Khaduri received the Executive Director of FIDE, Mr. Nigel Freeman, the ECU President & Chairman of the Organising Committee, Mr. Zurab Azmaparashvilli and the President of Georgian Chess Federation, Mr. Giorgi Giorgadze.

FUN ZONE

In November Fun Zone we prepared 4 nice combinations from the recently ended European Team Chess Championship in Reykjavik.

The first diagram shows the position from the game Carlsen vs Aronian, second diagram is from the game Lagno vs Khotenashvili, third position is from the game Rapport vs Fressinet, and the fourth diagram shows the game A. Muzychuk vs Skripchenko.



Black to play



White to play



White to play



White to play

Solutions from the NL October 2015:

Magnus Carlsen vs Viswanathan Anand

Carlsen-Anand World Championship | Sochi RUS | Round 2 | 9 Nov 2014 | 1-0

34... h5?? 35. Qb7 1-0

Viktor Korchnoi vs Anatoly Karpov

Baguio City | Wch match | Round 17 | 26 Aug 1978 | 0-1

39. Ra1?? Nf3+! 40. gxf3 Rg6+ 41. Kh1 Nf2#

Garry Kasparov vs Anatoly Karpov

Wch match | Moscow RUS | Round 11 | 1 Oct 1985 | 1-0

22... Rcd8?? 23. Qxd7! Rxd7 24. Re8+ Kh7 25. Be4+ 1-0 (25... g6 26.Rxd7 Ba6 27. Bxc6 Qxc6 28.Rxf7#

Mikhail Chigorin vs Wilhelm Steinitz

Wch match | Havana CUB | Round 23 | 28 Feb 1892 | 0-1

32. Bb4?? Rxh2+ 1-0 (33. Kg1 Rdg2#)

They told about chess…



"*Chess is the art which expresses the science of logic*"

Mikhail Botvinnik, Soviet and Russian Grandmaster, three-time World Chess Champion (1948–57, 1958–60, 1961–63)

UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER

ECU EVENTS

EUROPEAN RAPID & BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2015



National Olympic Committee of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Belarus and Belarus Chess Federation, under the auspices of the European Chess Union organize European Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2015, 17-21 December, 2015, in Minsk/Belarus. The tournament venue will be Sports Palace, Pr. Pobeditelei, 4, Minsk, Belarus.

The European Individual Blitz Chess Championship is held on 18th December, 2015. It will be played according to the Swiss system, in 11 paired rounds, with the time control 3 minutes game + 2 seconds per move starting from the first move.

So far 616 players have registered, and the first seed is Stanislav Bogdanovich (UKR 2815).
Total prize fund is EUR 10,300, with main prizes: EUR 7,650 and special prizes: EUR 2,650.

Blitz Participants

The European Individual Rapid Chess Championship is held 18-21 December, 2015.

736 players have registered in Rapid Championship so far, and the top seed is Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (AZE 2784).

Rapid Participants

Schedule for Rapid Championship:

Friday, 18 December 2015 Arrival & registration of the participants

Saturday, 19 December 2015 rounds 1-7

Sunday, 20 December 2015 rounds 8-11

Monday, 21 December 2015 Departure of the participants

Rapid Championship will be played according to the Swiss system, in 11 rounds, with the time control 15 minutes game + 10 seconds per move starting from the first move.

Total prize fund is EUR 20,120, with main prizes: EUR 16,250 and special prizes: EUR 3,870.

Both Championships are open to all players representing Chess Federations which are ECU members (FIDE zones 1.1. to 1.10), regardless of their title and rating. There is no limit to the number of participants per federation.

Official Website

EUROPEAN EVENTS

LONDON CHESS CLASSIC 2015	4 - 14 December	London/UK	Website
ACP MASTERS 2015	7-10 December	Ashdod/Israel	Website
18TH INTERNATIONAL PADOVA OPEN 2015	12 - 20 December	Padova/Italy	Website
OPEN BEFORE CHRISTMAS 2015	14 - 20 December	Prague/Czech Republic	Website
10TH BRAUNAU OPEN 2015	18 - 20 December	Neukirchen/Austria	Website
ADELBODEN WINTER CHRISTMAS OPEN 2015	18 - 20 December	Adelboden/Switzerland	Website
12TH VANDOEUVRE OPEN 2015	19 - 23 December	Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy/France	Website
CHESS FESTIVAL GRONINGEN 2015	21 - 30 December	Groningen/Netherlands	Website
25TH ERFURT CHESS FESTIVAL 2015	26 - 30 December	Erfurt/Germany	Website
RILTON CUP 2015	27 Dec 2015 - 5 Jan 2016	Stockholm/Sweden	Website