

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S RAPID&BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2018



ECU BOAD MEETING BATUMI 2018



FABIANO CARUNA WON FIDE CANDIDATES TOURNAMENT



REYKJAVIK OPEN 2018 AND FISCHER RANDOM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION
NEWSLETTER



Ivan Saric is the European Chess Champion 2018!

Ivan Saric (CRO, 2657) triumphed at the 18th European Individual Chess Championship with 8.5 points after defeating Navara David (CZE, 2737) in the last round to emerge over the runner-ups and to be the sole Winner of the Championship.

The battle for the top was intense until the last minutes of the Championship which reflects on the fact that seven players tie for the second place. According to the tiebreak system, the silver medal went to Wojtaszek Radoslav (POL, 2738) and the bronze came to Sjugirov Sanan (RUS, 2652).





The event was officially closed at the Closing Ceremony, which took place on 28th of March. The Closing Ceremony was attended by the President of the European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, ECU Secretary General, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, the Chairman of the Government of Adjara, Mr. Zurab Pataradze, the Finance Minister of Latvia, Mrs. Dana Reizniece-Ozola, the Georgian Deputy Minister of Culture and Sport, Mr. Shalva Gogoladze, the member of the ECU Educational Commission and the President of Belarus Chess Federation, Mrs. Anastasia Sorokina, the Vice President of FIDE and President of the Turkish Chess Federation, Mrs. Gulkiz Tulay, and others distinguished chess figures.





The European Individual Chess Championship 2018, which took place from 16th-29th March in Batumi, Georgia, participated over 300 players from 34 European federations, among whom 135 Grandmasters, 56 International masters, 6 Women Grand Masters, 1 Women International Master, and in total 254 titled players.

Many female players used the opportunity to compete in one of the strongest European Individual Chess Championships ever. The best women player of the event was Stefanova Antoaneta (ECU, 2481), who scored 6.5 points and finished the event as 93rd. The second women player became Goryachkina Alexandra (RUS, 2491) with 6 points, followed by Arabidze Meri (GEO, 2369), Girya Olga (RUS, 2482) and Danielian Elina (ARM, 2413) each with 5.5 points.








The best ranked Junior players are: Sarana Alexey (RUS, 2577) and Shevchenko Kirill (UKR, 2545) with 7.5 points each, followed by Hakobyan Aram (ARM, 2497), Nguyen Thai Dai Van (CZE, 2517) and Esipenko Andrey (RUS, 2581) with 7 points each.

The best ranked Senior players are: Smirin Ilia (ISR, 2594) with 6.5 points, Beliavsky Alexander (SLO, 2537), Khalifman Alexander (RUS, 2614), Minasian Artashes (ARM, 2467) and Krasenkow Michael (POL, 2644) with the same score of 6 points.





23 players qualified for the next World Chess Cup, among them well known European Grand masters, but also a few surprises, such as 19 years old and very talented International master Santos Ruiz Miguel (ESP, 2488), 18 years old Sarana Alexey (RUS, 2577), or 21 years old Yuffa Danil (RUS, 2521) who's starting rank position was 123!

Final Ranking List

Even 21 players achieved FIDE titles norms and the list of those players is available here.

The Championship had a total prize fund of 100.000 EUR, and was played as 11-round Swiss System tournament, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game+30 seconds increment per move, starting from move one.

European Individual Chess Championship 2018 tagged impressive live and media coverage with 104 games in live transmission together with a live commentary given by GM Mikhalchishin Adrian and Keti Trsatsalashvili who hosted many guests during the live commentary.

During the event, many side events were organized, such as the simul on 24 boards played by the President of the European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, on the rest day.

Players and the organizers of the event also joined the tradition made by the organization "World Down Syndrom Day", on the 21st March, and expressed the solidarity in an original way.





During the event, the ECU Board hold the 1st meeting in 2018, which took place on 26th and 27th March, in Hotel Sheraton, Batumi, Georgia.

The European Individual Chess Championship 2018 was organized by the government of Georgia, the government of Adjara Autonomous Republic, Tbilisi City Hall, Georgian Chess Federation, under the auspices of ECU.

Official Website of the event

European ACP Women's Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2018 concluded in Tbilisi, Georgia

European ACP Women's Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2018 took place from 29th March-1st April, in Tbilisi, Gergia, with participation of 78 players from 16 European federations.





The first on the schedule was the European ACP Women's Rapid Chess Championship, which was played on 30th and 31st March, in Hotel Iota, as the official venue of the event. After two days and 11 rounds, five players tied for the first place, each with 8 points. According to the tiebreak system, Paehtz Elizabeth (GER, 2475 Rapid rtg) became the new European ACP Rapid Chess Champion, while the second place went to Bodnaruk Anastasia (RUS, 2425 Rapid rtg) and Muzychuk Anna (UKR, 2611 Rapid rtg) took bronze.

Final standings-Rapid

The Blitz competition took place on the 1st of April, and was played in 13 rounds. The title of the European ACP Women's Blitz Chess Champion came to Muzychuk Anna (UKR, 2545 Blitz rtg) who reached 10 points to be the sole Winner of the Championship. Three players tied for the silver, but the best tiebreaks had Paehtz Elizabeth (GER, 2648 Blitz rtg) who took silver, while the third place came to Socko Monika (POL, 2314 Blitz rtg).

Final Standings- Blitz







The total prize fund of the event was 25.000 EUR, with 14.500 EUR reserved for the Rapid Championship and 6.000 EUR reserved for the Blitz Championship.

The event was organized by government of Georgia, the Tbilisi City Hall, the Georgian Chess Federation and the Association of Chess Professionals, under the auspices of ECU.

ECU Board Meeting, Batumi 2018

The 1st European Chess Union Board meeting in 2018 took place on the 26th and the 27th of March in Batumi, Georgia, after the kind invitation of the Georgian Chess Federation.
The meeting was held under excellent conditions in the hotel Sheraton during the European Individual Chess Championship 2018. The President of the Georgian Chess Federation, Mr. Giorgi Giorgadze, opened the meeting and welcomed the ECU Board in Batumi.






Main information and decisions:

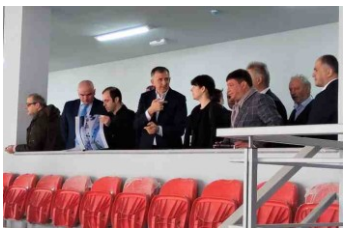
1. ECU Board approved the financial results and the closing of the year 2017. The income for 2017 was the highest ever for the European Chess Union while the organization's reserves funds increasing annually.
2. ECU signed a contract with the UK based company "ChessPlus," concerning training services for chess teachers and related Educational chess material.
3. The deadline of the bidding procedure for the ECU official championships is the 30th of April 2018.
4. A budget of 30.000 € was approved for the ECU Educational Commission and its actions.
5. ECU Board and the Faroese Chess Federation will organise the European Small Nations Individual Chess Championship 2018 from 13rd to 23rd of April.
6. ECU Board have been informed and approved the ECU Smart Kids projects.
7. An invitation will be sent to the National Federations for partnership in the upcoming Erasmus applications.

The ECU Board invites the European National federations:

1. To send their proposals for arbiters for the 43rd Chess Olympiad till the 30th of April 2018. The European Chess Union had the right to propose to FIDE up to 15 arbiters for the 2016 Chess Olympiad in Baku. Similar number is expected for this year, thus the proposals coming to the ECU should be for no more than one arbiter per National federation.
2. To submit proposals for the organisation of the European Fischer Random Championship in a classical time control.

The ECU Board and European National Federation representatives visited the Olympic venue and were informed about the constructions and preparations for the upcoming World Chess Olympiad in Batumi.

On 28th of March, the Turkish Chess Federation invited Georgian Officials and representatives of the ECU Board for a business lunch with the Turkish General Consul in Batumi, Ms. Makbule Kocak.



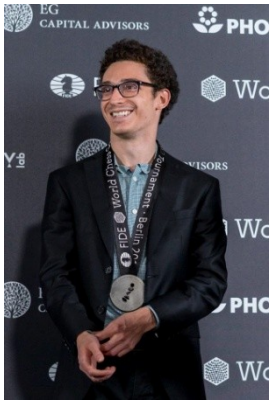



Fabiano Caruana won FIDE Candidates Tournament

Fabiano Caruana (USA, 2784) became the Winner of the 2018 FIDE Candidates Tournament and became the Challenger of reigning World Chess Champion- Magnus Carlsen.

After very intense 14 rounds, Fabiano Caruana convincingly won the event with 5 wins, only one lost game and 8 draws to reach 9 points, and to be a whole point ahead of the first runner-ups.





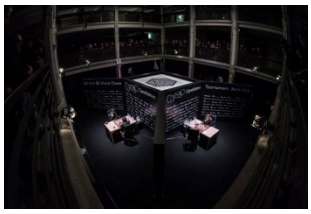
The start of the event didn't show the clue which would lead to the Winner. Vladimir Kramnik (RUS, 2800) has opened his tournament very well, with score 2.5/3, but it seems that in the next rounds, Kramnik underestimated the positions, and suffered 3 losses in the next 5 rounds.

Fabiano used that opportunity to get closer of the winning. Nevertheless, the situation on the top became even more uncertain since in the 12th round Caruana suffered the lost against Sergey Karjakin (RUS, 2763), when they equalized on the ranking list with 7 points each.

Already in the next- 13th round, the circumstances cleared out, when Fabiano Caruana emerged as the sole and almost secure winner of the event by making a win against Aronian Levon (ARM, 2794), while Karjakin Sergey drew against Wesley So (USA, 2799). Although only the draw was enough for Caruana to be alone on the throne of the FIDE Candidates Tournament, he confirmed the strength and made a victory in the last round of the Championship.

















The event took place from 16th-29th March in Berlin, Germany, and was played as a double robin round system, in 14 rounds, with a total prize fund of 400.000 EUR.

Final Standings, Official Website of the event

Photographs by: Niki Riga

GAMMA Reykjavik Open 2018 and 1st European Fischer Random Cup Chess Championship

The 33rd edition of GAMA Reykjavik Open, which took place from 5th-14th March, in Reykjavik, Iceland, was dedicated to the chess legend and 11th World Chess Champion- Bobby Fischer. Besides the main event, the Open Championship, several events were organized in honor and importance of chess contribution of Bobby Fischer.

Along with special Bobby Fischer Memorial events, the Icelandic Chess Federation and European Chess Union organized the 1st European Fischer Random Cup which was played on 9th March.







The Reykjavik Open was played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with the total prize fund of 15.000EUR and with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves+30 minutes after move 40, with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from the move one.

The Winner of the Reykjavik Open became Adhiban B. (IND, 2650) with 7.5 points. The second place went to Lagarde Maxime (FRA, 2587) and the third place came to Yilmaz Mustafa (TUR, 2619).

The European Fischer Random Cup 2018 took place on 9th March, Bobby Fischer's birthday, and the day when Bobby Fischer would have turned 75 years, during the GAMMA Reykjavik Open. The event was played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with time control 10 minutes+3 seconds of increment per every move. The prize fund of the event was around 7.500 EUR.

The event participated 100 players and the top three places went to American trio: Lenderman Aleksandr (USA, 2606), Moradiabadi Elshan (USA, 2562) and Friedel Joshua (USA, 2562). The best ranked European player who became the European Fischer Random Cup Champion was Richard Rapport (HUN, 2708).






During the GAMMA Reykjavik Open, the President of European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili has visited the event and on the 7th of March, had a meeting with the Minister of Education, Science and Culture of Iceland- Lilja Alfredsdottir, and with a President of the Icelandic Chess Federation, Gunnar Bjornsson.

Official Website of the event

Summer Chess Camp in Maribor, Slovenia

European Chess Academy, Kasparov Chess Foundation and European Chess Union organize the Summer Chess Camp in Maribor, Slovenia, from 23rd-28th July 2018.

The Camp comprises of 5 days full-filled with individual and practical chess work and chess lectures given by famous chess trainers, Grandmasters and FIDE Senior Trainers. Besides the organized time for studying chess, participants will also have the organized time for sports and fun, as well as the optional chess excursion.

The Summer Chess Camp will have more groups formed by the players of the same level. The Camp is open to everybody and the groups will be created after the **registration deadline, 30th of June.**





European Youth Chess Champions for 2018 of each group, the best players from Kasparov Chess Foundation and Slovenian National Champions will have the special invitation for the event.

The lectures will be given in three different languages: English, Russian and Slovenian, but if necessary, also in German and French, and the lecturers are:

- Arshak Petrosian (references: Peter Leko, Armenian National team-3 times Olympic Chsmpions!)
- Alexandr Beliavsky (references: Garry Kasparov, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Alexandr Morozevic, sisters Muzychuk...)
- Adrian Mikhalchishin (references: Anatoly Karpov, Polgar sisters, Maya Chiburdanidze...)
- Vladimir Grabinsky (references: Andrey Volokitin, Yury Krivoruchko...)
- Olexandr Sulypa (references: Vasily Ivanchuk, Ukrainian team...)
- +Trainers asistents (the best Slovenian trainers)

Accommodation will be free to choose and the organizer will help according to the participants wishes.

Registration shall be done online before the registration deadline, 30th of June, on e-mail address of the Organizers: office@european-chessacademy.com , camp-eca@gmail.com , also on the phone number: 00386 40 834 432.

Full program of Summer Chess Camp

Official Website of the event

European Youth Chess Championship 2018- Riga, Latvia

Latvian Chess Federation, and the European Chess Union have the honor to invite all European Chess Federations affiliated to FIDE and ECU to participate in the European Youth Chess Championship 2018, organized in Riga, Latvia, from 19th -30th August 2018.

The European Youth Chess Championship 2018 will be played in 6 age categories: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18, boys and girls separately.





Each national federation can register one player in each of categories, and the maximum number of twelve invited players. There is no limit per national federation of registering extra players. The personal rights to participate the event have the best ranked three players of the previous European Youth Chess Championship 2017. However, all the registrations have to be done by national federations and to be sent to the organizing committee not later than the **registration deadline- 18th of June 2018.**

The event will be held in International Exhibition Centre Kipsala, as the official playing venue of the Championships.

The Organizers provided several hotel options with different categories (5*, 4*, 3*). Invited players, players with personal rights and delegation chiefs (only with a FIDE Trainer licence) wll be accommodated with full board in double or triple rooms, in the category selected by the federation. Booking and payments for these rooms must be made and sent to the organizer not later than **22nd of June 2018**.

The Championship will be played in 9 rounds by Swiss system in accordance with the ECU Tournament Rules and FIDE Rules of Chess. The time control will be 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one.

All the participants of the event will receive presents, while the top three ranked players of each category will be awarded with cups and medals, and the first five players will be awarded with cups, diplomas and special prizes.





European Youth Chess Championship 2018- Official Regulations

Official Website of the event will be: www.eycc2018.eu

European School Chess Individual Cup 2018- Montenegro

European Chess Union, International School Chess Union and Montenegro Chess Federation, have the honor of inviting all National Chess Federations of the European Chess Union and eligible players in the European School Chess Individual Cup 2018 on combined system (classic, rapid, blitz) organized in Budva, Montenegro, from 3rd-12th October 2018.

The European School Individual Cup 2018 will be played in five age categories: U7, U9, U11, U13 and U15, boys and girls separately. The event is open to all National Federations, listed as ECU members. Each National Federation or School Association or schools may enter an unlimited number of players in each of the 10 groups. In case that one girl's group has less than 10 participants, it will be merged with the same open age category.





Registration deadline is 10th July 2018. Registration will be done online, by sending completely filled entry forms to the organizing committee. Registrations shall be sent from National Federations or the players only if the copy of registration is sent to the National Federation.

The official playing venue of the event will be located in Hotel Mediteran, as one of the official hotels of the event.

The tournament will be held according to the Combined system and will comprise:

1. Five days for Classic tournament (time control 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game, with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from the move one)
2. One day for Rapid tournament (time control 15 minutes for the whole game with 10 seconds increment for each move)
3. One day for Blitz tournament (time control 3 minutes+ 2 seconds for each move)

After 5 rounds in tournament with Classic time-control in each age group players will be divided in group A and group B. Group A will consist of players ranked from 1-8 after 5 played rounds, and group B will consist from other players. Eight players from group A will continue to play in rapid in Olympic System (3 double rounds with Armageddon in each round if needed) and blitz in Robyn System (7 double rounds).

The event will be tested through years 2018-2020, and in case of success will be included in the ECU Regulations.

Official regulations of the event

Official Website of the event

Upcoming events in April 2018:

- ## ECU and FIDE events:

European Women's Individual Chess Championship 2018	Vysoke Tatry, Slovakia	7th-20th April	Official Website
European Senior Team Chess Championship 2018	Walbrzych, Poland	13th-23rd April	Official Website
European Small Nations Individual Chess Championship	Klaksvik, Faroe Islands	13th-23rd April	Official Website
World School Individual Championship 2018	Durres, Albania	20th-29th April	Official Website
World Amateur Chess Championship 2018	Cagliari-Sardegna, Italy	21st-30th April	Official Website

- ## Other events:

Saint Petersburg Championship 2018	St.Petersburg, Russia	3rd-14th April	Official Website
11th Triandria Open	Thessaloniki, Greece	9th-15th April	Official Website
Budapest Spring Festival	Budapest, Hungary	18th-26th April	Official Website
5th Vugar Gashimov Memorial	Shamkir, Azerbaijan	19th-28th April	Official Website

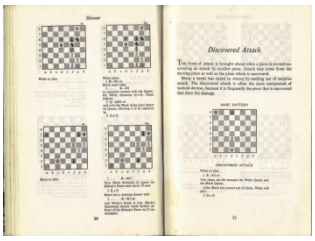
FUN ZONE

Interesting facts:

- **The second book to be ever printed in English language was about Chess.**
- **A German named Dr. Emanuel Lasker retained the Champion title for the most time: 26 years and 337 days!**
- **The longest game of chess that is possible is of 5,949 moves.**
- **The number of possibilities of a Knight's tour is over 122 million.**
- **From the starting position, there are eight different ways to Mate in two moves and 355 different ways to Mate in three moves.**
- **The first mechanical Chess Clock was invented by Thomas Wilson in 1883. Prior to that, Sandglasses were used. Sandglasses were first used in London in 1862. The present day push-button Clock was first perfected by Veenhoff in 1900.**
- **In 1985, Eric Knoppert played 500 games of 10-minute Chess in 68 hours.**



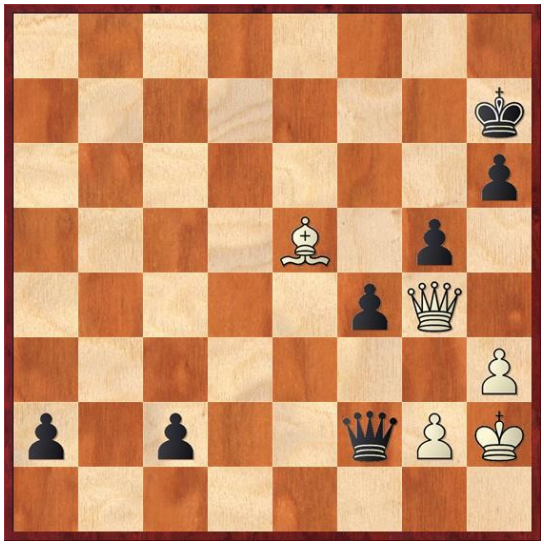


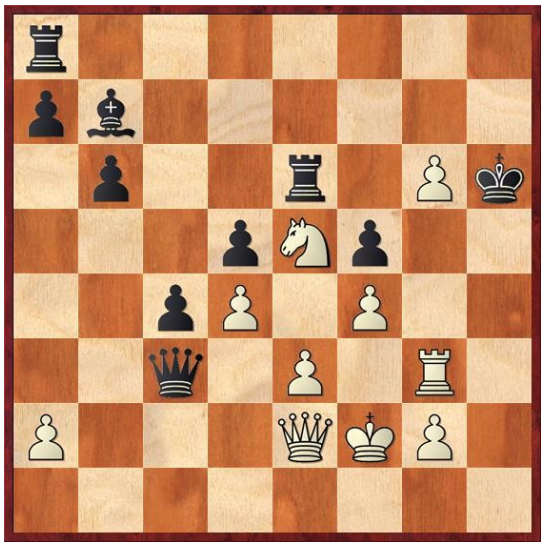


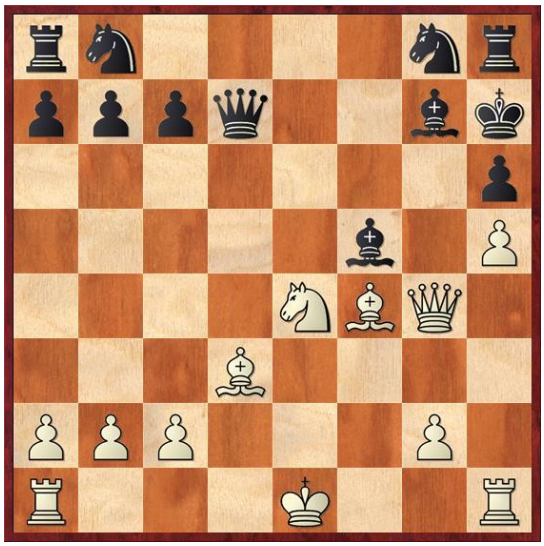
- **The oldest recorded chess game in history is from the 900s, between a historian from Baghdad and his student.**
- **Initially, the Queen could only move one square at a time, diagonally. Later, she could move two squares at a time, diagonally. It wasn't until Reconquista Spain, with its powerful queen Isabella, that the Queen became the strongest piece on the board.**
- **Chess is often cited by psychologists as an effective way to improve memory function. Also allowing the mind to solve complex problems and work through ideas, it is no wonder that chess is recommended in the fight against Alzheimer's. Some contend that it can increase one's intelligence, though that is a more complex topic. The effects of chess on young individuals had led to chess being introduced in school districts and various countries. It has been shown to improve children's grades and other positive effects as well.**

For this edition of the ECU Newsletter we prepared four position where white mates in 3!









Solutions from the ECU Newsletter January 2017:

Puzzle #1:
1. Qc5!! With unstoppable mate in the second move.

Puzzle #2:
1. Nxc4 dxc4 (1... Rxe3 2 Qxe3#; 1... Re5 2 Rxe5#; 1... fxg4 2 Qxg4#) 2. Qxc4#

Puzzle #3:
1. f8=N+ Kxf6 2. dxe8=N#

Puzzle #4:
1. g5xf6 e.p.! Tricky position where black in the last move played f7-f5 which lets the white to take gxf6 with unstoppable mate in the next move- f7#.