

ITALY AND RUSSIA EUROPEAN SENIOR TEAM CHAMPIONS 2018



ZISKA HELGI DAM WINS EUROPEAN SMALL NATIONS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2018

CHESS OLYMPIAD BATUMI 2018 GEORGIA

43RD CHESS OLYMPIAD AND 79TH FIDE CONGRESS INVITATION



EUROPEAN UNION YOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2018- CZECH REPUBLIC

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION
NEWSLETTER



Valentina Gunina wins European Women Chess Championship 2018!

Valentina Gunina (RUS, 2507) convincingly won the European Women Individual Chess Championship 2018, which took place from 7th-20th April, in Vysoke Tatry, Slovakia.

Valentina Gunina reached an impressive result of 9 points out of 11 games, without a lost game, to be the whole point ahead of the first runner-ups and to achieve the title of European Women Chess Champion for the third time in her career (2012, 2014, 2018).

Seven players tied for the second place, each with 8 points. According to the tie-break criteria, silver medal went to Dzagnidze Nana (GEO, 2507), the Winner of the Championship in 2017, while Ushenina Anna (UKR, 2422) took the bronze medal and the third place.

Final ranking list






The Closing Ceremony of the Championship took place on 19th of April, with attendance of the President of the Slovak Chess Federation- Ing. Frantisek Jablonicky, Chief Arbiter Dr. Ivan Syrovy, Tournament Director Mrs. Eva Repkova and other distinguished chess figures.The European Chess Union was represented by Mr. Martin Huba, ECU Treasurer.

19 players achieved the international FIDE title norms, while the best ranked 14 players qualified for the next cycle of the World Women's Chess Championship.

The event participated 143 players from 30 different European federations, among whom 13 Grandmasters, 29 International masters, 35 Women Grandmasters, 22 Women International masters and in total 128 titled players, which made the event very strong.












The Championship was played in 11 rounds, Swiss system, in accordance with the ECU Tournament Rules and FIDE Rules of Chess with 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.

The total prize fund of the event was 70.000 EUR.

Official Website of the Championship

Italy and Russia European Senior Team Champions 2018

Teams of Italy and Russia triumphed at the European Senior Team Chess Championship 2018, in categories 50+ and 65+, respectively.

In section 50+, top seeded Italy dominated at the event and won the event with perfect result and 9 consecutive victories. Even though draw in the last round was enough for reserving the first place, Italy stayed invincible until the end of the Championship.

Members of the winning team are: GM Godena Michele (ITA, 2507), GM Garcia Palermo Carlos (ITA, 2404), GM Mariotti Sergio (ITA, 2228), IM Belia Fabrizio (ITA, 2443) and IM Bruno Fabio (ITA, 2439).

In the same category, silver went to Russian Women team, who suffered only one lost, in the very intense match played against Winners, while Belgium VCF was third.

Final ranking list- Section 50+





The Champion of 65+ category wasn't questioned in the last round, since Russian team secured the gold with a round to spare. Russians finished the event unbeatable with all the triumphs and perfect 18 match points.

Members of the winning team are: GM Balashov Yuri S (RUS, 2421), IM Zhelnin Vladimir V (RUS, 2351), GM Pushkov Nikolai (RUS, 2304) and IM Lisenko Alexander (RUS,2368).

Germany ended second with 15 match points, while bronze came to the first team of Sweden with 12 match points.

Final ranking list- Section 65+

Top 3 winning teams of each category were awarded with trophies and medals, while the best individual players were awarded with additional prizes.

European Senior Team Chess Championship 2018 took place from 13th-23rd April 2018, in Walbrzych, Poland.

Official Website of Championship

Ziska Helgi Dam wins European Small Nations Chess Championship 2018

Grandmaster Ziska Helgi Dam (FAI, 2549) became the Winner of the 3rd European Small Nations Individual Chess Championship, which took place from 13th-23rd April, in Klaksvik, Faroe Islands.

Ziska Helgi Dam scored 8.5 points and convincingly won the Championship before the last round with perfect 8/8. In the last round of the Championship, Ziska Helgi Dam drew against Grandmaster Efimov Igor (MNC, 2407), which was more than enough to take the gold.

For GM Efimov Igor, draw in the 9th round was enough for taking the silver medal with score of 7 points. The third place went to IM Berend Fred (LUX, 2357) with 6.5 points.

Final ranking list





The event was played as a Robin-round event in 9 rounds, with participation of 10 players. The time control was 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from the move one.

The total prize fund of the event was 4.500 EUR, with 2.000 EUR reserved for the Winner of the Championship.

The Winner of the European Small Nations Blitz Chess Championship 2018 became Paris Klerides (CYP, 2183).





Official Website of the Championship

Magnus Carlsen triumphed at Vugar Gashimov memorial

The traditional 5th Chess Super Tournament in the memorial of the prominent Azerbaijani Grandmaster and European Champion, Vugar Gashimov, took place from 19th-28th April in Shamkir, Azerbaijan.

Reigning World Chess Champion, Magnus Carlsen (NOR, 2834) stood in the throne and became the Winner of the Vugar Gashimov memorial for the third time in his career (2014, 2015 and 2018).





The event participated world top Grandmasters: world #1 Magnus Carlsen (NOR, 2843), the winner of the tournament in previous 2 years and world #2 Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (AZE, 2814), world #8 Ding Liren (CHN, 2778), world #9 Karjakin Sergey (RUS, 2778), world #10 Giri Anish (NED, 2777), world #17 Veselin Topalov (ECU, 2749), world #18 Radjabov Teimur (AZE, 2748), world #19 Navara David (CZE, 2745), world #20 Wojtaszek Radoslaw (POL, 2744) and world #34 Mamedov Rauf (AZE, 2704).

After the very firm start of the Championship, with only one decisive result in 20 games of the first four rounds, things got more clear after the round 5 when Veselin Topalov took the lead. Until the end of the event, Topalov suffered three lost games and Magnus Carlsen overtook the leadershi. Draw in the last round was enough for Carlsen to win the tournament with 6 points.

The second place went to Ding Liren with 5.5 points, while Anish Giri, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, Wojtaszek Radoslaw and Radjabov Teimur tied for the third place, each with 4.5 points.

Final Rankings






The event was played as 10-players Robin-round tournament, with a total prize fund of 100.000 EUR, with 25.000 EUR reserved for the Winner of the Championship.

Official Website of the event

Business meetings in EU headquarters

ECU has established a constant communication with the European Union Authorities and annual regular meetings taking place in order to extend the co-operation and to search for new areas of common actions. On the 25th of April, ECU President Zurab Azmaiparasvhili, together with the ECU Deputy President Ion-Serban Dobronauteanu and the President of the Romanian Chess Federation, Mr. Sorin-Avram Iacoban paid a visit to the EU headquarters in Brussels.

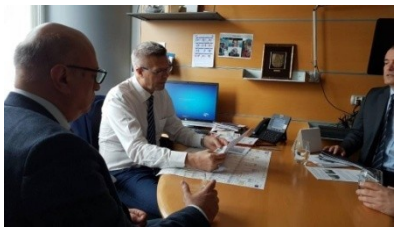





The first scheduled meeting was with the Romanian EU Commissioner Corina Cretu. There were discussed the social values of chess, in particular in education and job market. Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili proposed for the next year, during Romania's presidency of the EU, to include chess in the agenda related to youth and education.

Next meeting was with the Polish MEP Bogdan Wenta, a former top professional sportsman and member of the European Parliament Cultural Commission, focusing in the EU politics and mechanisms in sports field. It is agreed that ECU and Mr. Wenta shall further exchange information and identify certain directions giving chess higher values as sport, education tool and also to define the relevance of chess in the sports business frame.

The third meeting was with Mr. Szabolcs Horvath, member of the Tibor Navracsics' cabinet, the EU commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. The main topic of the meeting was to identify the most suitable directions for the European Chess Union to put in practice its potential and to fructify its capacity by creating projects in education, sports, social domains. Having regard to the continental scale of ECU activity, Mr. Horvath mentioned the next calls for big sport events and respectively partnerships directions that the Commission will open this September, comprising up to 500.000 euros financial support. Mr. Horvath also supported additional Erasmus+ programs related with chess for the year 2020.





All three meetings were very constructive and the EU officials acknowledged chess' wide expand and significant contribution in sports field and the potential in social directions.

43rd Chess Olympiad and 89th FIDE Congress- Invitation

The Georgian Chess Federation and the Chess Olympiad Organizing Committee have the great honor to invite all FIDE member countries to the 43rd Batumi Chess Olympiad and the 89th FIDE Congress to be held from 23rd of September till 6th of October 2018, in Batumi, Georgia.







The 43rd Chess Olympiad is open to all National Federations affiliated to FIDE, each of which can nominate one team for open section and one team for the women's section. Each team shall consist of four players, one reserve and one captain. Additionally, each delegation can nominate one head of delegation and one delegate for the 89th FIDE Congress, which will take place from 27th September to 5th October 2018.

The Chess Olympiad will be played according to the FIDE Chess Olympiad Rules, in 11 rounds, with time control: 90 minutes for 40 moves and 30 minutes until the end of the game, with 30 seconds of increment starting from the move one. Pairing rules of the Chess Olympiad can be found here.

The event will be played in the Olympiad venue, Sport Palace, situated on the center of Batumi. The venue has been built in 2018 and the first event to be held in this very spacious modern complex will be the Batumi Chess Olympiad.









All participants of the Chess Olympiad, as well as of the FIDE Congress, have to be registered. **Registration deadline is 23rd of July 2018**. Registrations for the events shall be done online, through the special online system which can be found on the official website of the event, to the following link: https://batumi2018.fide.com/en/register

Simultaneously with the 43rd Chess Olympiad and the 89th FIDE Congress, Batumi will also host the annual ECU General Assembly which will take place on 2nd and 3rd of October.

All the necessary information about the Batumi Chess Olympiad can be found on the Official Website of the event.

Official Website

Invitation for the 43rd Chess Olympiad and 89th FIDE Congress

Batumi Chess Days at Tbilisi mall

On 21st and 22nd of April 2018, the central atrium of Tbilisi Mall, with regard to the 43rd Chess Olympiad, hosted the rapid chess game demonstrations on a gigantic chessboard and simultaneous chess game sessions with the President of European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili and the Georgian Chess Federation president Giorgi Giorgadze.

The chess enthusiasts played the simultaneous games also with: the World Chess Championship challenger Nana Ioseliani, a two-time European U-18 Champion Nino Khomeriki, member of the Georgian national team of chess players Davit Jojua, the Winner of the World Team Championship Salome Melia, the chess players of the youth team Nikoloz Kacharava, Luka Oboladze and Nikoloz Petriashvili.





"Such activities are always interesting and delightful. Playing with the experienced chess players is a great opportunity for children and a challenge for the amateur players. Even though, today I mostly played with the beginners, I especially liked to chess matches. Furthermore, an opponent was even dominating on the board, but after a making a few mistakes I defeated him", -Said the European Chess Union president Zurab Azmaiparashvili, who has been playing chess on the boards for almost three hours.

"I am very thankful to the organizers of the Chess Days. Today, I spent a wonderful time! The more such events are held, the better, especially for the chess enthusiasts", -Said Enver Pertaia, who visited Tbilisi Mall with his son and played a very interesting match with Zurab Azmaiparashvili.







The Chess Days were dedicated to Batumi Chess Olympiad. According to current information, Georgia will be visited by under 4000 guests coming from 189 countries specially for the chess Olympiad.

European Union Youth Chess Championship 2018,Regulations

The 16th European Union Youth Chess Championship, which will be played in 4 age categories: U8, U10, U12 and U14, will take place from 6th-15th August 2018, in Kouty nad Desnou, Czech Republic.





The event is open only to players based in the European Union member countries. Each federation listed as the EU member can register one player in each of the categories, while there is no limit for additional (extra) players per federation.

The event will be played in 4 age categories, with girls section merged with an open section. By the end of the event, scores of the girls who participated the event will be separated and the best will be crowned as the winners of the European Union Youth Chess Championship 2018 of the appropriate category.

Registrations shall be done online by filling the registration form and sending it back to the organizing committee on the following e-mail address: zdenek.fiala@chess.cz. **Registration deadline is June 30th 2018**.

The event will take place in a 3* Hotel Dlouhe Strane in Kouty nad Desnou, and all the participants and accompanying persons are obliged to stay in the official hotel of the event, which will be also the official playing venue of the Championship.

European Union Youth Chess Championship 2018 will be played in 9 categories, Swiss system, with time control 90 minutes for the whole game+ 30 seconds of increment for each move played.





The first three players of each category will be rewarded with trophies, medals and diplomas, together with valuable prizes, while every player of each category will receive commemorative championship medal and a diploma. Girls of each category will be rewarded separately from boys.

The event is organized by Czech Chess Federation under the auspices of European Chess Union.

Official Regulations of the Championship

Upcoming events in May 2018:

Women's World Chess Champion Match 2018	Shanghai/ Chongqui, China	2nd-20th May	Official Website
48th Bosna Open	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	5th-11th May	Official Website
53rd Capablanka Memorial	Cuba, Havana	8th-20th May	Official Website
Groninger Combinatie Open 2018	Groningen, Netherlands	10th-13th May	Official Website
6th Altibox Norway Chess	Stavanger, Norway	27th May- 8th June	Official Website

FUN ZONE

Interesting facts:

- **The oldest surviving complete chess sets were found on the Isle of Lewis, in northern Scotland, and dates to the 12thcentury. They were probably made in Iceland or Norway, and their appearance was used in the movie Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone for the wizard chess pieces.**

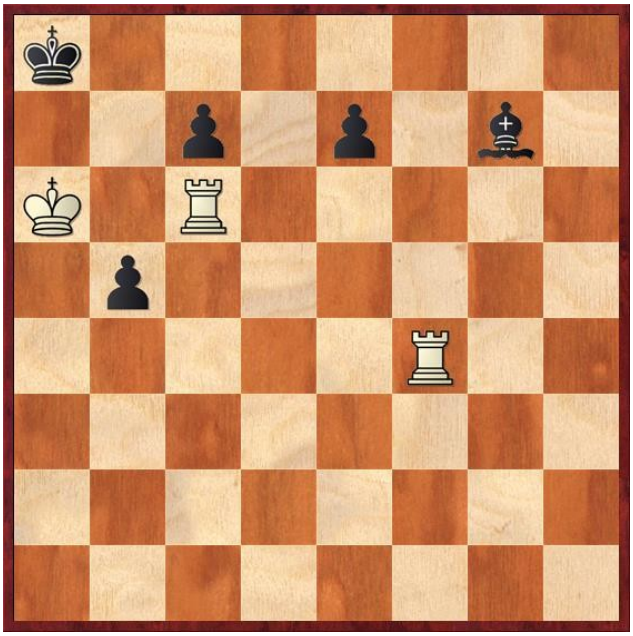


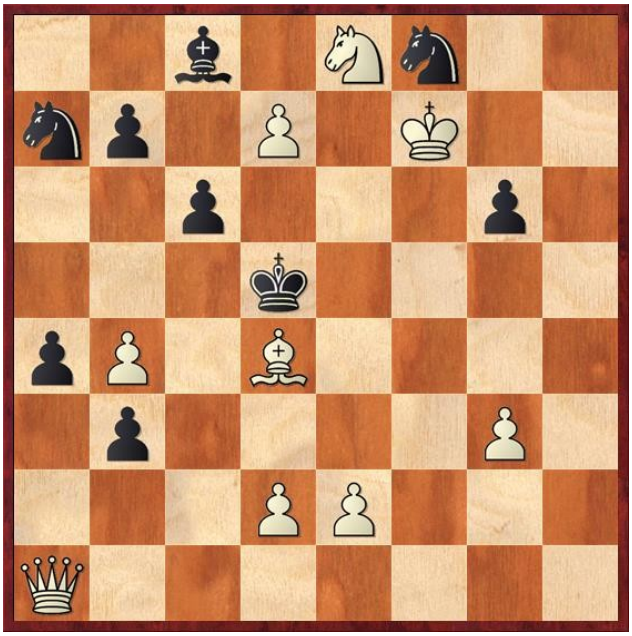


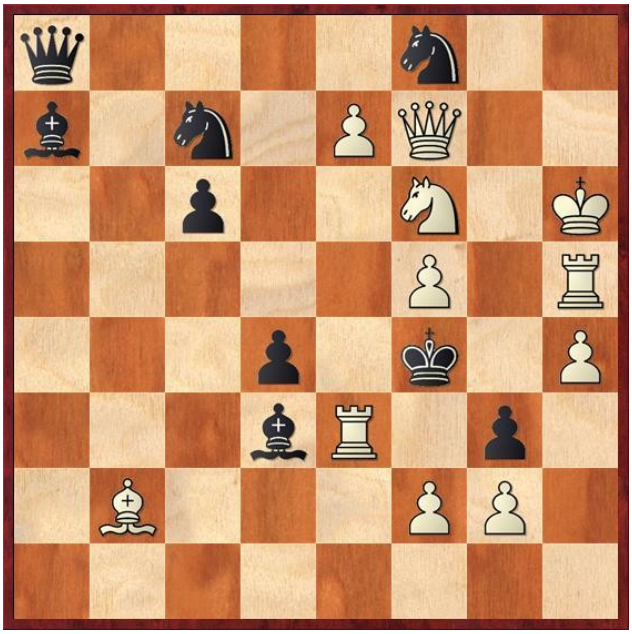
- **The first computer program for playing chess was developed in 1951, by Alan Turing. However, no computer was powerful enough to process it, so Turing tested it by doing the calculations himself and playing according to the results, taking several minutes per move.**

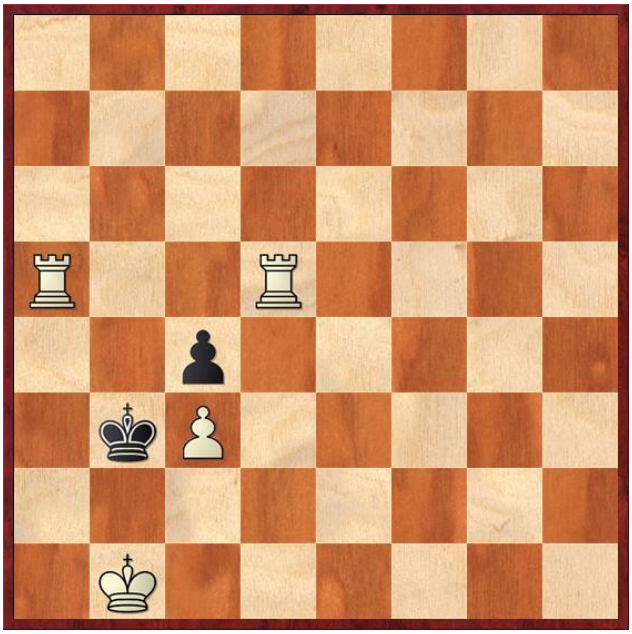


For this edition of the ECU Newsletter we prepared 4 positions where white mates in 3!









Solutions from the ECU Newsletter March 2018:

Puzzle #1:
1. Re4+ Kf5 2. Rg5+ Kf6 3. Rf4#

Puzzle #2:
1. Qf5! Kg8 2. Qg6 Kf8 3.Bd6#

Puzzle #3:
1. Qh5!! + Kg7 (1...Kxh5 2. Rh3#) 2. Qh7 with unstoppable mate on f7.

Puzzle #4:
1. Qg6! Bxg6 2. Ng5! hxg5 3. hxg6 #