

PRESIDENT OF GEORGIA JOINS THE CHESS PROJECT MILION MOVES



SHEVCHENKO KIRILL WINS EUROPEAN YOUTH GRAND PRIX SERIES 2017/2018



JU WENJUN BECAME FIDE WOMEN'S WORLD CHESS CHAMPION



ALTIBOX NORWAY CHESS 2018

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION
NEWSLETTER



President of ECU, Zurab Azmaiparashvili, on working meetings in UAE

The president of European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, paid a working visit in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, where he met with the representatives of Asian Chess Federation, the Arab Union and the UAE Chess Federation.

The president of ECU met with the General Secretary of the Asian Chess Federation, Hisham Al Taher, Assistant to Secretary General of the UAE Chess Federation, Mahdi Abdulrahim and the Executive Director of UAE Chess Federation, Saud Al Marzouqi.

After the meeting, the UAE Chess Federation hosted a dinner for the representatives of the European Chess Union and Georgian Chess Federation. Together with the Zurab Azmaiparashvili, the dinner attended the president of Georgian Chess Federation, Giorgi Giorgadze, the General Secretary of the Georgian Chess Federation, Akaki Iashvili, the Chief Executive Officer of FIDE, Geoffrey Borg, and a FIDE consultant Tea Kipshidze.





After the meetings, the president of ECU visited a Sharjah chess club, where he met with the president of Arab Chess Union, Sheikh Saud Al Mualla, a delegate of Palestinian Chess Federation, Al-Susi Rajai, the General Secretary of Sharjah chess club and the former General Secretary of UAE Chess Federation, Jamal Elisa Mohaman Almidfa, and Grandmaster Salem Al Saleh.





Aside from the discussion of the possibility that the Asian Chess Federation, the Arab Union and the UAE Chess Federation start a more close relationship with the ECU, Zurab Azmaiparashvili acquainted the representatives with the ECU's new direction of chess in school. It is also worth mentioning that chess already exists in many schools of Sharjah, the United Arab Emirates.

Shevchenko Kirill wins European Youth Grand Prix Series 2017/2018

After the 3rd and the last stage of European Youth Grand Prix Series 2017/2018, Shevchenko Kirill (UKR, 2569) was crowned as the Winner of series of three tournaments which gathered the best young and talented players from Europe.

The final Grand-Prix standings consist of the results of each of the European Youth Grand Prix event. Young Ukrainian Grandmaster and the Winner of the 2nd leg of European Youth Grand Prix tournament, Shevchenko Kirill, came on the top by reaching 270 points. GM Hakobyan Aram (ARM, 2542) took the second place with 250 points, while the third place went to FM Shunin Kirill (RUS, 2317) with 220 points.






The final leg of the European Youth Grand Prix Series took place from 14th-26th May, in Kirishi, Russia, under the name "World Youth Stars" dedicated to the memory of Vanya Somov.

The Winner of the final tournament was decided according to the tiebreak system, since three players reached the same score of 8 points after 11 played rounds. On the tiebreak basis, Hakobyan Aram took gold, which wasn't enough for leaping on the top of the final list, since Shevchenko Kirill was silver, while the bronze came to Sargsyan Shant (ARM, 2489).

Final Standings of the last stage of European Youth Grand Prix 2017/2018






The European Youth Grand Prix is a series of three tournaments held over two calendar years, 2017 and 2018, which were played as a 12-player single Round Robin events, with the time control: 90 minutes for the end of the game for each player, plus 30 seconds per move starting from move one. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners of each competition were awarded with diplomas and prizes.

The 1st Series took place in Kirishi, Russia from 16th-28th May 2018, under the name XV World's Youth Stars- Vanya Somov's Memorial, the 2nd series took place in Dzermuk, Armenia in October 2017, and the 3rd took place again in Kirishi from 14th-26th May.

Ju Wenjun became Women's World Chess Champion!

The 17th FIDE Women's World Chess Championship took place from 2nd-20th May in China. The first part of the Championship (5 rounds) were played in Shanghai, while the second part of the event took place in Chongqing.

The match for the title of FIDE Women's World Chess Champion, played between Ju Wenjun, the challenger, and Tan Zhongyi, defender of the World Chess Champion title, was intense until the last round. Tan Zhongyi, with black pieces, played for a win to proceed into the tiebreak matches, while Ju Wenjun needed only a draw.

Eventually, even though the challenger had a winning position, the last game of the match ended in a peaceful manner, draw, and the match ended with result 5.5-4.5 in favor of the challenger of the match, China received the title for the 6th time and Ju Wenjun was crowned as new Women's World Chess Champion.







The Closing ceremony of the event, which took place on 19th May was attended by Vice-president of the FIDE, Boris Kutin, Vice-President of FIDE, president of Belarus Chess Federation and member of ECU Educational Commission, Mrs. Anastasia Sorokina, president of China Chess Association, Yang Jun'an, deputy-director of the China National general administration of sports chess sports management center, Vice-president of the China chess association, Coach of the China national team, Ye Jiangchuan, director of the China National general administration of sports, chess sports management center Chess office, secretary general of the Chine chess association Tian Hongwei, and Chongqing city Leaders.







Official Website

Altibox Norway Chess 2018

The 6th edition of one of the strongest world chess tournaments has started and takes place from 26th May to 10th June 2018, in Stavanger, Norway.

The event features 10 of the world top 13 chess players: #1Carlsen Magnus (NOR, 2843), #2 Caruana Fabiano (USA, 2822), #3 Mamedyarov Shakhriayar (AZE, 2808), #5 Ding Liren (CHN, 2791), #6 Vachier-Lagrave Maxime (FRA, 2789), #7 Karjakin Sergey (RUS, 2782), #8 Wesley So (USA, 2778), #10 Nakamura Hikaru (USA, 2769), #12 Levon Aronian (ARM, 2764) and Viswanathan Anand (IND, 2760).





Before the start of the main event, visitors had the opportunity to join the simultaneous exhibition by Wesley So. After that, on 27th of May, the participants of Altibox Norway Chess 2018 played the Blitz opening. After 9 played rounds, the winner of the blitz event became Wesley So with 6 points, who, as the winner, has the right to choose his starting number for the main event. The second place went to Nakamura Hikaru with 5.5 points, and the third place came to Viswanathan Anand with the same score, 5.5/9.

Blitz ranking list

The main event has started on the 28th of May. The main event is played in 9 rounds, according to Round Robin system, with the total prize fund 250.000 EUR, with 75.000 EUR reserved for the Winner. If the Winner is not determined after 9 played rounds, the players who tie for the top will play the playoffs.










Official Website

Polish-Hungarian friendship chess tournament in Katowice

Polish-Hungarian friendship chess championship was held on the weekend of 5th-6th May 2018. Six hundred players from ten countries participated the 6th edition of the event. The event, which was played in 9 rounds, as Rapid Swiss tournament, took place in the International Congress Center in Katowice city in Poland.







The time control was 15 minutes per player, with a 10- second increment for each move. The total prize fund of the event is 10.000 EUR.

The event was organized by the cities of Katowice in cooperation with Miskolc and the Silesian chess Association, with aim to make Polish-Hungarian relations stronger.

The event attracted strong Grandmasters, including well known chess family Bartosz Socko (POL, 2593) and Monika Socko (POL, 2458), then Robert Kempinski (POL. 2575), Pakleza Zbigniew (POL, 2503), legendary Michal Krasenkow (POL, 2628), and two times World solving Champion Kacper Piorun (POL, 2633) who managed to win the tournament with amazing score 8/9.

After 5 played rounds, GM Bartosz Socko had a leading position with a maximum result, but in the 7th round, he lost a winning game against IM Hnydiuk Aleksander, and at the end of the event, tied for the second place with IM Hnydiuk Aleksander, IM Klekowski Maciej and Ukrainian GM Kazakov Mikhail, who had the same score of 7.5 points.

European Chess TV was broadcasting the event, together with the live commentary of the games from the open studio by WGM Keti Tsatsalashvili and IM Piotr Nguyen.

The youngest participants received special prizes, while the best players from event were awarded with regular prizes.





Official website, Photos by: Walusza photography, Karol Bartnik

President of Georgia joins the chess project "Million moves"

The President of Georgia, Giorgi Margvelashvili, officially joins the chess project- "Million Moves". The main aim of the project is popularizing chess by involving and integrating people of the world. "Milion moves" is the Georgian innovation, which will be completed several hours before the start of the 43rd World Chess Olympiad, which will take place in Batumi, and which will gather 189 countries and 4000 visitors.

The president of European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili and a chesslover, a director of a research and development association, Aleksandre Sulava, developed the idea of the project, where various players will make the moves through the specially designed online platform of "Milion Moves".

The main charm of the "Milion Moves" project is based on the fact of infinite possibilities in chess, and everyone knows chess language, regardless of their nationality, race or religion. That is why people of the world join in this game.

The president of Georgia, Girorgi Marvelashvili, will make the first move in the game of "Milion Moves" project, which will be held on 10th May at 13:00, at the Presidential Palace. In response, from the Tbilisi Chess Palace, the answering move will be made by Levan Antsukhelidze, son of a Georgian national hero Giorgi Antsukhelidze.

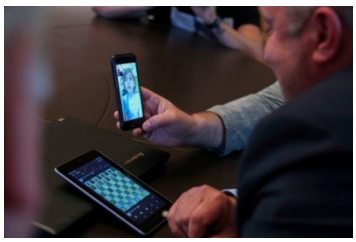




The second move will be made by the author of the project, the president of ECU, Zurab Azmaiparashvili, who will be answered by Nona Gaprindashvili, former World Chess Champion. The third move will be made by the president of the Georgian Chess Federation, Giorgi Giorgadze, who will play against the current world blitz chess champion, Nana Dzagnidze.

After that, the president's palace staff and the students of Tbilisi International Chess Academy will be involved in the match.







The online platform which will cover the match is created by chess.com, and will represent a kind of bridge for people in different parts of the world, connected by chess.

Simultaneous exhibition by Minister of finance of Latvia, Mrs. Dana Reizniece-Ozola and the 12th World Chess Champion, Anatoly Karpov

After the 1st edition of French School Chess Championship which took place from 5th-6th May 2018, in prestigious setting of Château d'Asnières, in Paris, France, the minister of finance of Latvia, Mrs. Dana Reizniece- Ozola and the 12th World Chess Champion, Anatoly Karpov, played the simultaneous games against the best ranked players of the event.



Distinguished guests have played two simultaneous matches against 5 teams each. Mrs. Dana Reizniece-Ozola have played against: EM Lyon, Efrei Paris, EDHEC, ESCP Europe and ENSCL Lille and won the match with result 3.5-1.5.

Anatoly Karpov was playing the match against EM Lyon, Paris PSB, EISTI, Telecom ParisTech and Centrale Supelec and won the match with result 4.5-0.5.

Besides this magnificent conclusion of the 1st French School Chess Championship, Mrs. Dana Reizniece-Ozola and Anatoly Karpov also attended the closing ceremony of the event and awarded the best teams and players.







Czech Tour and Czech Open 2018-2019

The 18th edition of International Chess Festivals Series will be held through years 2018 and 2019 in 10 different cities of Czech Republic. The official regulations of Czech Tour are published. Chess events will take place in: Pardubice, Prague, Olomouc, Trebic, Hradec Kralove, Brno, Plzen, Lytomysl, Manamske Lazne and Liberec.





The event which will open the Czech Chess Tour will be the 29th Czech Open. Traditionally, tournament will take place from 12th-27th July 2018 in Tipspot Arena, in Pardubice. The biggest chess event of the Czech Tour will consist of 27 separated competition played in various categories, with a total prize fund of around 20.000EUR.

Other chess events within the Czech Tour are:

- 5th Summer Prague Open (33rd-10th August 2018, Prague)
- 21st Olomouc Chess Summer (11th-18th August 2018, Olomouc)
- 12th Highlands Open (22nd-29th Sepember 2018, Trebic)
- 9th Hradec Kralove Open (30th September-7th October, Hradec Kralove)
- 10th Plzen Open (18th-24th November, Plzen)
- 1st Lytomysl Open (26th December 2018-1st January 2019, Lytomysl)
- 18th Prague Open (11th-18th January 2019, Prague)
- 18th Marienbad Open (19th-26th January 2019, Marienbad)
- 19th Liberec Open (23rd February-2nd March 2019, Liberec)

The Czech Tour 2018/2019 brochure, as well as the regulations for the biggest event within the tour- 29th Czech Open 2018, can be downloaded bellow.

Brochure Czech Open 2018

Brochure Czech Tour 2018/2019

Official Website

Upcoming events in June:

European Amateur Chess Championship 2018

Montenegro Chess Federation in association with City of Niksic and under the auspices of the European Chess Union are organizing European Amateur Chess Championship 2018, which will be held from 14th-21st June, in Niksic, Montenegro.

The tournament will be held in Onogost hotel, which will be the official playing venue of the event, as well as the official hotel of the Championship.



The event will be held in 3 categories: Under-1700, Under-2000 and Under-2300. In each rating section, a separate championship for women will be organized only if there are at least 10 women entries, otherwise, the women's event will be merged with open.

The Championship will be played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves+30 minutes for the rest of the game, with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from the move one.

For now, there are 34 players from 10 federations, registered for the European Amateur Chess Championship, section Under 2300. In section Under 2000, 55 players from 11 federations registered for the event. For section Under 1700, 46 players from 7 federations registered for the competition, while in section Women U-1700, there are 23 players from 4 federations registered for the Championship.

The total prize fund of the event is 5.000 EUR. Top three players of each category will be awarded with cups and medals, while the Winners of the event will receive the title of the European Amateur Chess Champion for 2018 for the category the player participated.

Official Regulations of the Championship

European School Chess Championship 2018

The Malopolska Chess Association, the Polish Chess Federation, the Community of Krakow under the auspices of European Chess Union are organizing the European School Chess Championship 2018, from 29th June-8th July 2018, in Krakow, Poland.

European Schools Championship 2018 is played in 6 age categories: Under 7, Under 9, Under 11, Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17, open and girls section separately. In case that one girl group has less than 10 participants, it will be merged with the same Open age group category.







The playing venue of the Championship, as the official hotel of the event, will be 4 stars Galaxy hotel. The Championship will be played according to the Swiss System, in 9 rounds, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves+30 minutes for the rest of the game, with an increment of 30 seconds per move starting from move 1.

Until today , 123 players from 12 European federations registered for the event

The best 3 ranked players of each category will be awarded with trophies and medals, while the best six players of each category will be awarded with special prizes. The winners of the European Championships 2018 have the right to participate free board and lodging to the World School Championship 2019 in Tunisia. Maloposka Chess Association provided for the new European School Chess Champions of each category free accommodation for the 29th International Chess Festival "Cracovia 2018", which will be held from 27th December 2018-4th January 2019, in Krakow, Poland.





Besides the chess activities, organizers provided many side events for participants and their accompanying persons, such as: excursions with professional guides, School Chess Teacher training seminar, sports activities and blitz competition.

Official Website of the Championship

Mitropa Cup 2018

The 36th edition of the traditional event, Mitropa Cup, will take place from 30th May-9th June in a 4 stars La Castella Resort- Calabria, in Isola Capo Rizzuto, Italy.





This year, the team event with long tradition will bring together 10 federations who will be competing against each other in Open and Women section. Each team will be composed of 4 players plus one reserve player (for open section), 4 women players plus one reserve woman player (for women section), with one of the players who will be a team captain.

Participants of Open section will be: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Hungary and Italy, while the registered teams of Women section are: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Slovakia, Italy and Slovenia.

The event will be played as a single Round Robin event, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes to finish the game, with 30 seconds increment for each move from move one. The best ranked teams of each group will be awarded with trophies and medals. Pairings, results and live games can be followed through the official website of the event.





The Mitropa Cup is the annual team chess tournament for national teams from Central Europe. The word Mitropa is a derivative of German Mittel Europa (Central Europe): MITtel euROPA. The idea of the Mitropa Cup came from Gertrude Wagner, who wanted to create a chess team tournament after the example of respective football competition, together with her husband Karl and the president of the Austrian Chess Federation Kurt Jungwirth were the founders and organizers of the tournament. The event commenced in 1976: Grtrude will organize the next twenty editions.

More about the history of Mitropa Cup read here.

Official Website of the Championship

- **ECU and FIDE events:**

European Amateur Chess Championship 2018	Niksic, Montenegro	13th-21st June	Official Website
European School Chess Championship 2018	Krakow, Poland	29th June-8th July	Official Website
World Cadet U8, U10, U12 Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2018	Minsk, Belarus	21st-25th June	Official Website

- **Other events:**

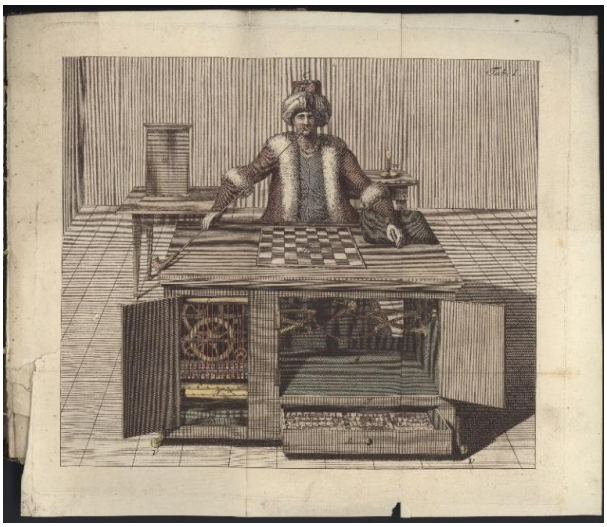
Mitropa Cup	Le Castella, Italy	30th May-9th June	Official Website
Icelandic Open	Reykjavik, Iceland	1st-9th June	Official Website
Grand Chess Tour Rapid&Blitz Your Next Move	Leuven, Belgium	10th-17th June	Official Website
Grand Chess Tour Rapid&Blitz Paris	Paris, France	17th-26th June	Official Website
Silver Lake Open 2018	Silver Lake, Serbia	17th-24th June	Official Website
32nd Pula Open	Pula, Croatia	23rd-30th June	Official Website

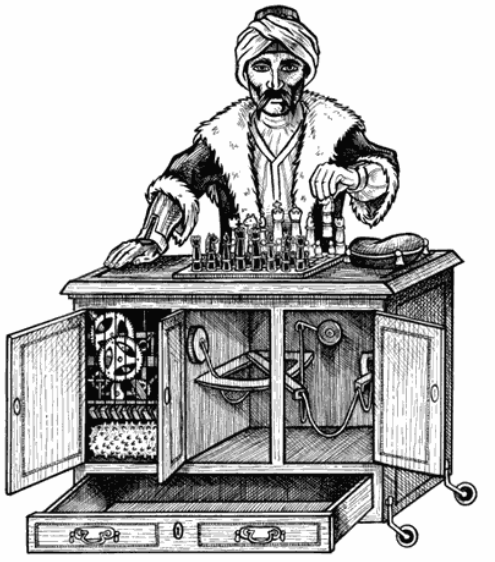
FUN ZONE

Interesting facts:

- **The Police raided a Chess Tournament in Cleveland in 1973, arrested the Tournament director and confiscated the Chess sets on charges of allowing gambling (cash prizes to winners) and possession of gambling devices (the Chess sets).**

- **Wolfgang Von Kempelen, a Hungarian inventor created the Turk in 1770, it was a chess playing automaton that was capable of moving the chess pieces and could imitate various facial expressions while playing.**

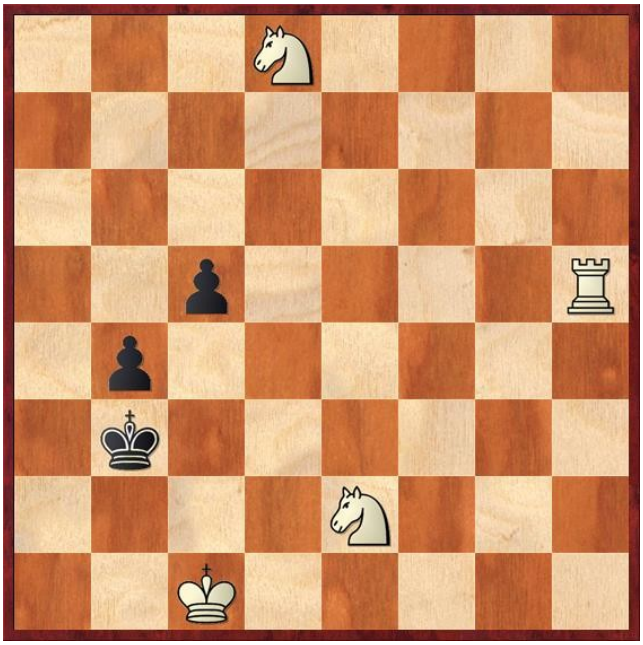


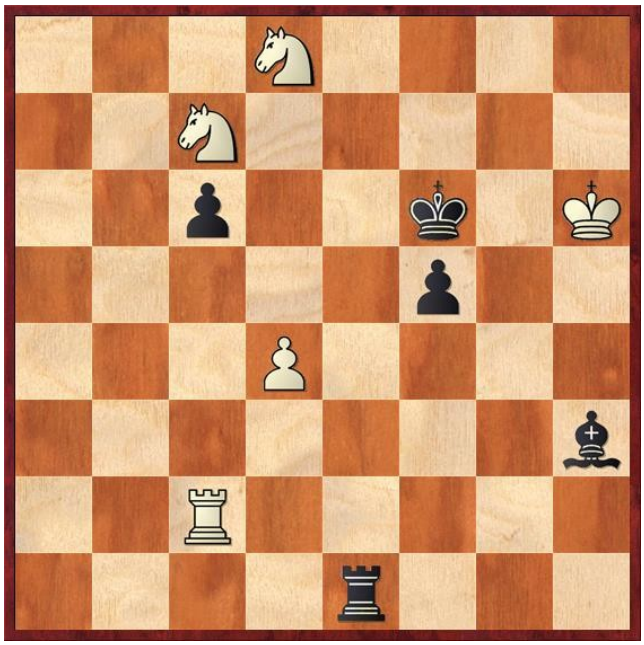


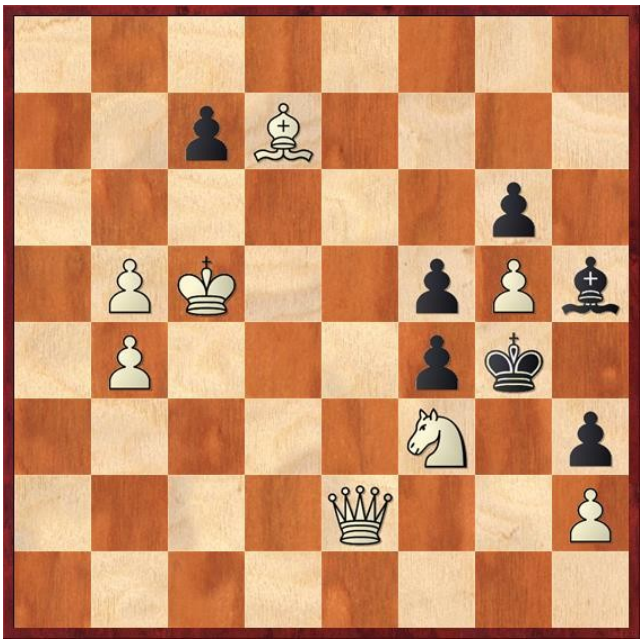
- **The first mention of chess in America occurred in 1641 in Esther Singleton's history of the Dutch settlers. The first American chess tournament was held in New York in 1843.**

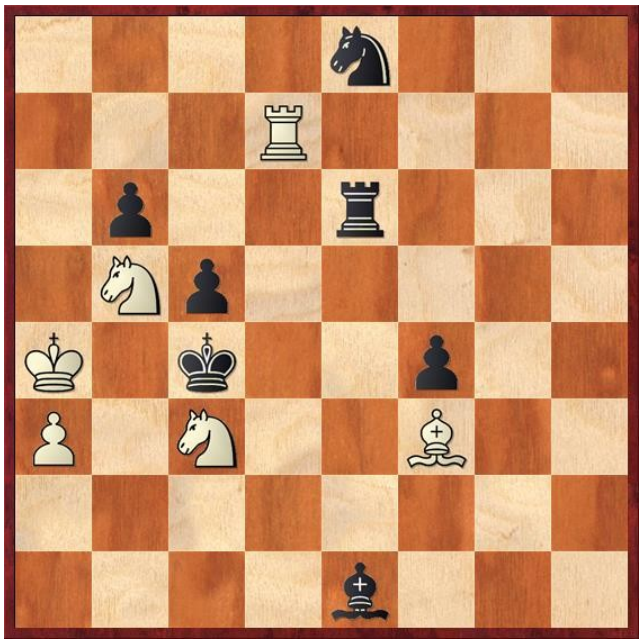
- **Russia has the most grandmasters of any other country, totaling 256 GMs, Uniteted States are second with 92 Granmasters and Ukraine trails with 91.**

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









Solutions from the ECU Newsletter April 2018:

Puzzle #1:
1.Rh6! Bxh6 [If black answers with any other move made by pawn or king, white proceed with 2. Rh8 and after Bxh8 3. Rf8#] 2. Rd4 with unstoppable mate with Rd8#

Puzzle #2:
1.Bc3!! with idea 2. Qh1 and 3. Qe4#

Puzzle #3:
1.Qa2!! (with idea 2. fxg3 and after Kxe3, 3.Bc1#) dxe3 2. fxg3+ Kxg3 3. Be5#

Puzzle #4:
1. Ra4!! Kxa4 [1...Kxc3 2. Ka2!! Kc2 3. Rxc4#] 2. Kc2 Ka3 3. Ra4#