

1ST EUROPEAN SCHOOL INDIVIDUAL CHESS CUP CONCLUDED



2ND EUROPEAN SCHOOL TEAM CHESS OPEN INTERNET CHAMPIONSHIP



LONDON CHESS CONFERENCE 2018



GLOBAL CHESS FESTIVAL 2018

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION
NEWSLETTER





CERCLE D'ECHECS DE MONTE-CARLO AND MEDNYI VSADNIK ARE EUROPEAN CLUB CUP CHAMPIONS 2018

Teams of Mednyi Vsadnik Saint Petersburg and team of Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo have become the Winners of 34th European Chess Club Cup and 23rd European Chess Club Cup, respectively.

The Closing Ceremony of the event took place on 18th October, with attendance of FIDE President, Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich, President of European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, ECU Vice Presidents, Mr. Ivan Sokolov and Mr. Adrian Mikhalchishin, ECU Secretary General, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, FIDE Vice President, Mrs. Anastasia Sorokina and Vice Governor of Halkidiki, Ioannis Giorgos.

In both sections, the winners were determined in the last round of the event. In open section, 5 teams were running for the medal in the last round, with Valerenga who was the sole leader after 6 played rounds. The last round was marked by the clash of the leaders, and the direct match for the gold between Valerenga and Mednyi Vsadnik Saint Petersburg.

Mednyi Vsadnik St. Petersburg defeated Valerenga to come on the top and to tie for the first place with team of AVE Novy Bor who defeated team of Odlar Yurdu in the last round of the Championship. Tie-breaks were in favour of Mednyi Vsadnik, who became the 34th European Club Cup Champion. Silver medals went to AVE Novy Bor, while four teams tied for the 3rd place: Molodezhka, Obiettivo Risarcimento Padova, Valerenga Sjakklubb and Alkaloid. Thanks to the better additional criteria, Molodezhka took bronze.





The Winner of Women Section was determined in the direct playoff match for gold in the last round of the Championship, played between European Women Chess Club Cup Champion 2016- Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo and European Women Chess Club Cup Champion 2017- Nona chess club. The match ended in a draw, and Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo became the Winner of the Championship since Anna Muzychuk defeated Nana Dzagnidze on the first board, and Nona chess club took silver. Bronze medal went to team of Ugra who won the playoff match for the bronze medals against team SSHOR.





The event took place from 11th-19th October in Porto Carras, Greece, with total prize fund of 40.000 EUR and with participation of 73 chess clubs, represented by players coming from 47 federations.

Official Website

1st European School Individual Chess Cup concluded

The 1st European School Individual Chess Cup took place from 4th-11th October, in beautiful ambient of Congress Centre of the Mediterian Hotel, in Budva, Montenegro.

The event was played in a Combined system, with 5 rounds played according to the classical time control, and after a break, competitors continued with rapid and blitz tournaments. Championship gathered 34 young chess players, divided in 2 age sections: U15 and U9.

After 7 days of fights, the Winner of U9 section became Warchol Kamil (POL), who triumphed on all three tournaments. The second place went to Borsch Alexander (RUS), bronze medalist of classical event, and silver medalist on rapid and blitz tournaments, while third place went to Damodaran Patrick (ENG) who was 4th on the classical and blitz tournament, and took bronze on the rapid event.






The Winner of the U15- A category became Pobor Milo (MNE) who took gold medal in blitz championship, silver on the classical event and bronze on the rapid tournament. Leszko Bence (HUN) went second with two bronze medals on classical and blitz championship, and silver on the rapid, while Vuckovic Marko (MNE) came third with gold medal on the rapid event and 4th and 5th place on blitz and classical tournament, respectively.

Volkova Alina (RUS) triumphed in section U15-B, with gold medal in blitz championship, and two silvers in classical and rapid event. Popovic Mateja (MNE) was second as the Winner of classical tournament and second on blitz tournament, but with the 6th place on rapid event. Bojovic Neda (MNE) took the third place on general standings after winning the rapid event and taking the 10th and 5th place on classical and blitz event, respectively.

The Closing Ceremony of the event was attended by Mr.Alexander Kostyev, the President of the International School Chess Union. He also took part in the prize giving ceremony.






The Combined system of a chess competition was implemented by enthusiasts of European School Chess Union (ISCU), and was accepted by the ECU and Montenegro Chess Federation. This is the first event held according to the Combined system of Classic tournament, rapid tournament and blitz tournament, and will be held also in 2019 and 2020, when it will be decided if the event will become one of the Official ECU events.

Official Website

2nd European School Team Chess Open Internet Championship

The European Chess Union, the Education Committee of ECU, and the International School Chess Union have the honor of inviting all National Chess Federations of the ECU and schools in Europe to participate the Second ECU School Team Open Internet Championship 2018, which will be held from 9th- 21st November.



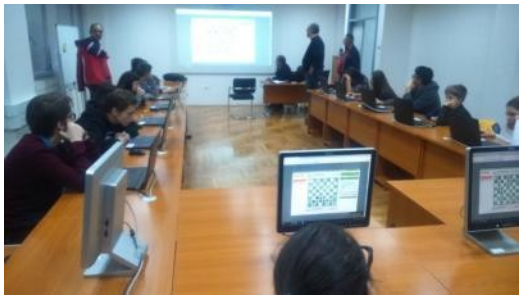


The event can participate any school from a European country with one team for each of the two age groups: U11 (for players born on 1st of January in 2007 or after) and U17 (for players who were born on 1st of January in 2001 or after).

The teams shall consist of 4 players, 2 boys and 2 girls, and all the players of the team must be the students of the same school.

Entry forms must be filled in by the schools and to be submitted to the Organizing Committee by e-mail chesskingweb@gmail.com , no later than **Friday November 9 2018**. The registration form and application must be signed by the Teacher or Coach, and the Principal of the School.

By November 12, 20018, the teams for each school will be created based on the submitted entry forms and login data will be sent to the team manager listed in the entry. If the team manager doesn't receive the usernames and passwords for all players by the end of November 12, he or she should notify the organizers.





In order to promote the event, to promote chess in schools and to expand area of playing chess and bring the official ECU tournaments more accessible to all the youngest chess lovers, European Chess Union brought the decision to waive the entry fee for participation in the 2nd European School Team Chess Open Internet Championship.

Each tournament will be played in one day according to the Swiss system in 7 rounds. Rate of play will be 10 minutes per player with an increment of 3 seconds per move, starting from the move one. All players of the school team must be located in the school computer classroom under the supervision of school coach/teacher.

Official Regulations of the Championship

Arbiters' refreshing course- Porto Carras

ECU Arbiters' Council, during the European Club Cup 2018 in Porto Carras, Greece, has organized ECU Arbiters' Refreshing Course for International and FIDE Arbiters.

The Refreshing Course took place in the Porto Carras Conference Center on 13-14 October 2018, with participation of arbiters from 9 countries. In total, 14 arbiters took part in the Refreshing Course, including 6 International and 2 FIDE Arbiters. Lecturer of the Refreshing Course was IA Ashot Vardapetyan (Armenia), Chairman of ECU Arbiters' Council and FIDE Lecturer.

The program of Refreshing Course included the following issues:

1. FIDE Laws of Chess 2018
2. General Regulations for Competition
3. Anti-Cheating Rules
4. Case studies from chess tournaments



All participants have shown high interest and activity during the discussions of above mentioned issues. The list of participants is below.

List of Participants

No.	Name	FED	Birth	Sex	Title
1	Densing, Gert	GER	1975	M	NA
2	Dervieux, Dominique	FRA	1973	M	IA
3	Drzasga, Michael	GER	1966	M	NA
4	Ho, Conrad	CAN	1989	M	
5	Fregidis, Nikolaos	GRE	1981	M	NA
6	Jacobsen, Poul	DEN	1959	M	IA
7	Kalnins, Toms	LAT	1996	M	FA
8	Karali, Panagiota	GRE	1983	F	IA
9	Kontrokanis, Andreas	GRE	1981	M	IA
10	Kovara, Magdalena	POL	1992	F	NA
11	Olivo Ilaria	ITA	1990	F	FA
12	Prokopova, Jirina	CZE	1992	F	IA
13	Savic, Natasa	SRB	1973	F	IA
14	Tzeska, Ismini	GRE	1989	F	NA

Herewith, I thank the European Chess Union and Organizer of European Club Cup 2018 for organization and successful implementation of this Refreshing Course.

The Lecturer
IA Ashot Vardapetyan
Chairman of ECU Arbiters' Council

Global Chess Festival 2018

The special venue of the Hungarian National Gallery recently hosted the fourth Global Chess Festival, on October 13, where participants of the event could play among fine art masterpieces spanning hundreds of years. Olympic chess Champion Judit Polgar brought together 250 locations across 23 countries from around the world, with representatives from many nations- ranging from India and Chile to China and the US- also taking part in the festival's programs.

For the first time at the festival, the Goodwill Ambassador of Artistic Values of Chess was awarded to a number of artist whose work has been inspired or influenced by the great game of chess. The festival itself even received praise from famed Italian singer Andrea Bocelli.



Nearly 100.000 viewers watched Polar's simultaneous online game on the eve of the event via Twitch TV, which streamed the event online in conjunction with Chess.com. The stand out event of the festival was the simultaneous match held by Judit and Sofia Polgar. Nearly 50 players played against the two multiple Olympic champions in tandem, with all ages represented. Young Argentine Grandmaster, Gamian Lemos, also competed with the most adventurous players.

It is with the spirit of Polgar's personal motto "Chess Connects Us", that the fourth Global Chess Festival was held. Chess was able to show it's many faces during the event- including competitive sports, art and education- proving that chess truly does not have any boundaries.



The ability for chess to educate was once again highlighted this year, with Judit Polgar's Chess Palace and Chess Playground educational programs also playing a major role at the festival. These programs were developed for the younger generation to help them tackle the challenges of the 21st century and to teach them how to navigate the digital age and face the constant barrage of information that we are all required to endure on a daily basis.

"Chess is a world, but a precious one, without the lies. It is a pure form of art"- said Arkady Dvorkovich, the newly elected president of FIDE, who acknowledged the festival's motto of connectedness. "It gives us an opportunity to have an honest relationship with others and ourselves. This festival has the power to gather all the generations, and to bring everyone close to everyone, to meet each other in socializing and to transmit that energy further. The idea that Judit Polgar put into focus, fact that chess have power to connect people, is the guiding principle for all of us."

Official Website of the event

London Chess Conference 2018

The sixth edition of the annual London Chess Conference, supported by Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC), European Chess Union (ECU) and Erasmus Plus, will take place from 8th-9th December in Irish Cultural Centre, in London, United Kingdom.

The theme of the conference this year will be the future of chess in education. The question arises because there are many developments in the world of chess and also many challenges facing our education systems. In the UK, the head of the schools inspection body, OFSTED, recently announced that they would switch their attention from looking at how children perform in exams to looking at how they learn in the classroom. The new idea, "quality of education", is a reversion to a time before league tables forced schools to narrow the range of education. The likely consequence of the revived approach is that schools should make time for arts, music, sports and, we may hope, activities such as chess.





A strong argument for chess in schools is that it prepares children for the digital future. Chess is about the manipulation of abstract ideas- the raw material of the digital age. Citizens need to be able to navigate a range of logic-rich performing any task. The chess playing child goes deep into the logical relationship between the elements. At its essence, chess becomes a series of if-then conditions. If you move your bishop, then I will checkmate you. Once you begin to think in this structured way, you can overcome a wider range of problems that one meets in everyday life. Conference speakers will explain how schools will be using chess to develop not only intellectual, but also social skills which are vital for future citizens.

The conference will also host a multiplier event for the Erasmus Plus CHAMPS project on Chess and Mathematics in Primary Schools, which takes place as a conference stream on Saturday 8th December. Attendance at the CHAMPS sessions is free, but is subject to registration. The CHAMPS project explores the connections between chess and mathematics and adapts a number of these into instructive problems suitable for solving by young people.

After the end of the London Chess Conferece, venue of Irish Cultural Center will host ECU School Chess Teacher Training Course, which will take place on 10th and 11th December, and on 12th December, new course accredited by European Chess Union, ECU Chess and Mathematics Teacher Training Course.

By passing each of the courses, and the online test, participants will receive the certificates which certifies that the attendee has achieved a professional level in teaching chess in schools, and are endorsed by the European Chess Union to recognise that the individual has didactical methods for the classroom.

Official Website

GAMMA Reykjavik Open 2019

The GAMMA Reykjavik Open 2019 will be held for the 34th time from April 8th until April 16th, 2019 in Harpa, the 28.000 sq.m. concert-and conference centre in Reykjavik.

Many world class players have taken part in the GAMMA Reykjavik Open in recent years, including Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, Anish Giri, Baadur Jobava, Richard Rapport, Pavel Eljanov, Alexei Shirov, the Indian prodigies Nihal Sarin and Pragganandhaa and their fellow countryman Baskaran Adhiban, who was the winner of the 2018 event.

In the 2018 tournament, which was also the Bobby Fischer Memorial Tournament, 248 players from 34 countries participated, including 27 grandmasters, 12 of which had an ELO rating of 2600 or higher. The total prize fund in the 2019 edition will be 15.000 EUR, including many special prizes for various age- and rating categories, in addition to the traditional top women's prize. The Reykjavik Open has in recent years always been voted one of the best open tournaments in the world by ACP.

The new April schedule is aimed at giving the players an even better chance of enjoying Iceland, with warmer temperatures, when the island burst into spring colour, allowing the guests to soak up the bright spring light and hopefully having that bit of extra energy to spend on 64 squares.







As in earlier years, several chess-themed events will take place at the same time as the tournament, including the now famous Reykjavik Open Chess Pub Quiz and the Golden Circle sightseeing tour that includes stops at Geysir and Bobby Fischer's final resting place in the southern part of Iceland. The full 2018 side-event calendar will also include a Fischer random tournament (Chess960), the Harpa Blitz Tournament, Iceland vs. Rest-of-the-World Football Match, a backgammon tournament, the popular opening party and more.

Throughout its history the Reykjavik Open has featured many of the strongest chess players in the world at the time. These include the current world champion, Magnus Carlsen, as well as his current challenger for the title Fabiano Caruana, the 8th world champion Mikhail Tal, who won the first tournament in 1964 with a record of 12.5/13, as well as the 7th world champion Vasili Smyslov. It has also featured the strongest women in the world, including, Judit Polgar, and world champions Hou Yifan and Nona Gaprindashvili, as well as challengers for the world title like Victor Korchnoi,David Bronstein, Nigel Short and Jan Timman. In recent years, the tournament has featured world class players like Alexander Grischuk, Alexei Shirov, Hikaru Nakamura, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Wesley So, while earlier additions featured legends like Fridrik Olafsson, Anthony Miles, Bent Larsen, Lev Polugaevsky, Mark Taimanov and Samuel Reshevsky.

As in previous years, the goal of organizers is to invite many of the youngest and most promising chess players in the world, as well as the strong women players. 2019 promises to be as big and diverse as previous editions.

Official Website

UPCOMING EVENTS IN NOVEMBER:

• FIDE events:

Women's World Chess Championship 2018	Khanty Mansiysk, Russia	1st-25th November	Official Website
World Cadet U8, U10, U12 Championships 2018	Santiago de Compostela, Spain	3rd-16th November	Official Website
World Chess Championship Match 2018	London, United Kingdom	9th-28th November	Official Website
World Senior Championship 2018	Bled, Slovenia	17th-30th November	Official Website
World Youth U16 Chess Olympiad 2018	Konya, Turkey	24th November-3rd December	Official Website

• Other events:

8th Brno Open	Brno, Czech Republic	10th-17th November	Official Website
10th Pilsen Open	Plzen, Czech Republic	18th-24th November	Official Website
15th Vasylyshyn Memorial 2018	Lviv, Ukraine	20th-28th November	Official Website
78th ch-ITA 2018	Salerno, Italy	22nd November- 5th December	Official Website

FUN ZONE

Interesting facts:

- **The records for consecutive professional tournament victories (15) and consecutive super-class tournament victories (10) are both held by Garry Kasparov.**



- **Sergei Tiviakov holds the record of the greatest string of 110 games without a loss. On the second place is Bogdan Lalic with 108 games continuously played without a lost game. On the third place is Mikhail Tal who, in the period from 1973-1974, played 95 games in a row, without a loss, with 46 victories and 49 draws. Recently, Ding Liren got closer to the record of Mikhail Tal. In the last year, in period from 2017-2018, Ding Liren has played 94 games, and didn't suffer one single defeat. There are 16 more games to be played for Ding Liren, to break a current record!**

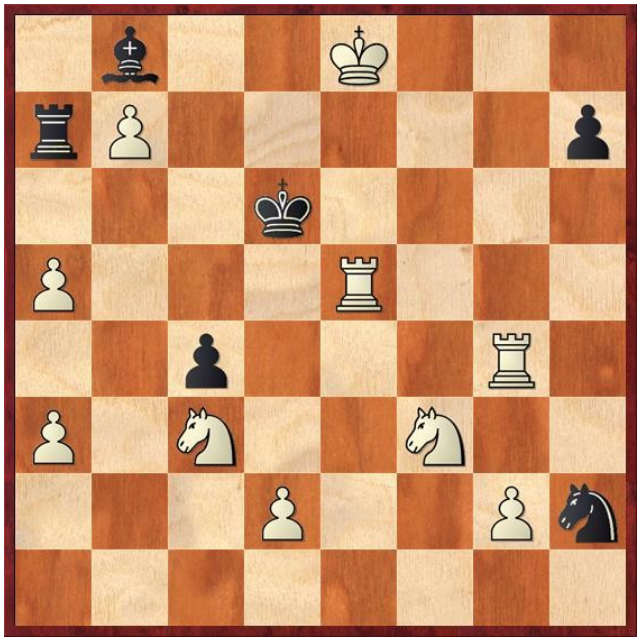


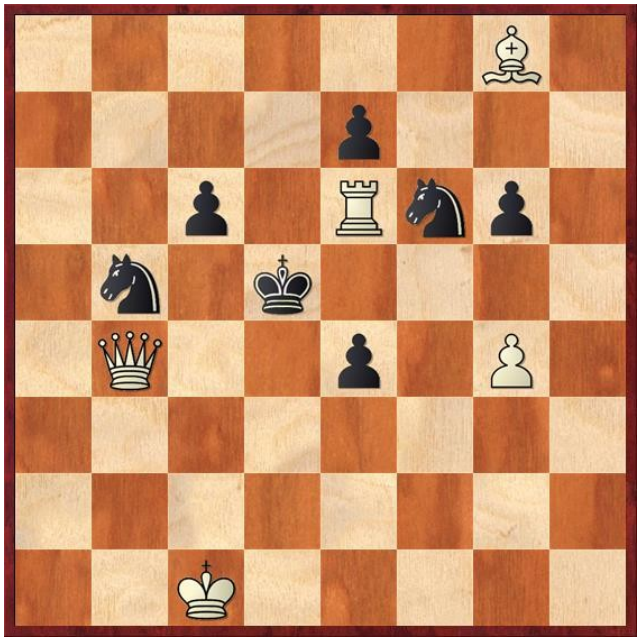


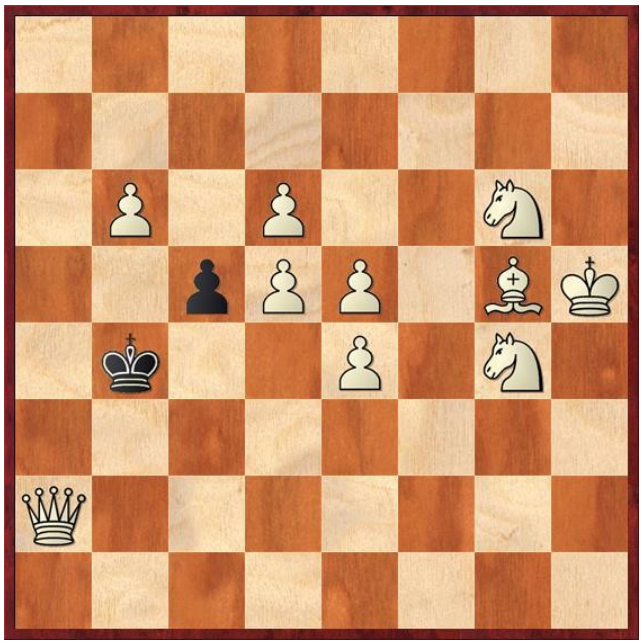




For this edition of the ECU Newsletter we prepared 4 puzzles where white mates in 3!









Solutions from the ECU Newsletter September 2018:

Puzzle 1:
1.Ba6! Nxa5 [1...Bxa5 2.Ne5+ Kxd5 3. Bc4#] 2. Nb4+ Kb6 3.Bd4#

Puzzle 2:
1. Nd4 Kxd4 [1...Nxf2 2. Qxf4#; 1...d5 2.Nec6+ Kd6 3.Be7#] 2.Qd2+ Ke5 3. Qd5#

Puzzle 3:
1.Kf7 Nf4 [1...Kd6 2.Qd7#] 2. gxf4 gxf4 3. Qe6#

Puzzle 4:
1.Bb7 Rxb7 [1...Bxb7 2. Kxc4+ Kh7 3. Qg7#] 2. Qh1+ Rh7 3.Qxa8#