

EUROPEAN RAPID&BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2018 CONCLUDED



LONDON CHESS CONFERENCE 2018



ECU BOARD MEETING IN SKOPJE



HIKARU NAKAMURA WINS LONDON CHESS CLASSIC

# EUROPEAN CHESS UNION
# NEWSLETTER






# European Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2018

The European Individual Rapid&Blitz Chess Championships 2018 took place from 5th-9th December in Skopje, FYR of Macedonia. After four days of fights, the Winner of European Blitz Chess Championship became twenty years old Russian player Artemiev Vladislav (RUS, 2825 blitz rtg), and the European Rapid Chess Champion became Popov Valerij (RUS, 2531 rapid rtg).





The event has started with European Individual Chess Championship, which was played on 6th and 7th of December with participation of 311 players from 37 European federations. The winner of the event was already known after 21 played rounds, since Artemiev Vladislav had one and a half point more than the runner-ups and won the Championship with a round to spare. With a draw in the last round, Artemiev claimed the title of European Blitz Chess Champion 2018 with score of 18.5 points. The second place went to Cheparinov Ivan (GEO, 2618 blitz rtg), while Navara David (CZE, 2707 blitz rtg) took bronze medal.

European Individual Rapid Chess Championship 2018 was plazed on 8th and 9th December, with participation of 395 players coming from 37 countries. After 13 played rounds, another Russian player, Popov Valerij, emerged on the top to become European Rapid Chess Champion 2018. Dramatic and very intense finish of the Championship ended with four players tying for gold: Popov Valerij (RUS, 2531 rapid rtg), and three youth competitors- 16 years old Esipenko Andrey (RUS, 2643 rapid rtg), 20 years old Sanal Vahap (TUR, 2476 rapid rtg) and 18 years old Moroni Luca Jr (ITA, 2482 rapid rtg). According to the tiebreak system, the Winner was Popov Valerij, Esipenko Andrey took silver medal, Sanal Vahap was bronze, while Moroni Luca Jr ended on the 4th place.





The event was opened by the President of European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, while the ECU was represented on the closing ceremony by ECU Vice President, Mr. Ivan Sokolov. Technical organizer of the Championship was Chess Club Gambit Asseco See and Chess Federation of FYR of Macedonia, supported by European Chess Union.

Official Website of the Championship

Photographs from the Closing Ceremony by: Patricia Claros Aguilar

# 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, took place from 8th-9th December in Irish Cultural Centre, in London, United Kingdom.







The theme of the conference was the future of chess in education. The Conference gathered 106 attendees, among whom were Bachar Kouatly and Hou Yifan. London Chess Conference comprised presentations and debates led by 50 contributors and speakers, workshop facilitators or demonstrators. Conference speakers explained how schools will be using chess to develop not only intellectual, but also social skills which are vital for future citizens. A keynote speech of the London Chess Conference 2018 was made by a senior UK politician, Baron Price.

The conference also hosted a multiplier event for the Erasmus Plus CHAMPS project on Chess and Mathematics in Primary Schools, which took place as a conference stream on Saturday 8th December. The CHAMPS project explored the connections between chess and mathematics and adapted a number of these into instructive problems suitable for solving by young people.

After the end of the London Chess Conference, venue of Irish Cultural Center hosted ECU School Chess Teacher Training Course, which took 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 received the certificates which certifies that the attendee had achieved a professional level in teaching chess in schools, and are endorsed by the European Chess Union to recognize that the individual has didactical methods for the classroom.






Official Website

# ECU Board Meeting- Skopje 2018

The European Chess Union Board meeting took place on 7th of December in Skopje, FYR of Macedonia. The meeting was held under excellent conditions in the hotel Aleksandar palace during the European Individual Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2018. The President of the National Chess Federation, Mr. Blagoja Bogoevski, opened the meeting and welcomed the ECU Board in Skopje.

The main areas under discussion and decisions made were the following:

**Appointments:**

- Arkadij Naiditsch (AZE) is appointed as the ECU Commercial Director
- Erald Dervishi (ALB) appointed as ECU CEO and Ms. Tea Kipshidze (GEO) as ECU Marketing Director at the Board meeting in Batumi on 4th of October 2018.
- The Chairmen of ECU Commissions appointed by the ECU President at the Board meeting in Batumi
- Educational Commission: Mr. Jesper Hall (SWE)
  Arbiters Council: Mr. Tomek Delega (POL)
  Events Commission: Mr. Blagoja Bogoevski (MKD)
  Women's Commission: Mr. Jean Michel Rapaire (MNC)
- The ECU Board welcomed the expressions of interest by a large number of applicants and appointed the members for the ECU Commissions and the European representatives for the FIDE Commissions. The commissions'' compositions will be announced in a separate press release.





**Program of Support in National and European Level**

It was agreed that ECU in co-operation with the National federations-members will launch a program of communication in the ministerial level with the scope to boost the National chess programs supporting where is possible the members' budgets through the National structures. Main point is to activate all members in chess projects assisting to financially strong, independent and transparent chess institutions.

A working group was created under the supervision of the ECU Vice President Mrs. Dana Reizniece – Ozola to establish contacts with the European Union institutions and submit proposals to the EU annual funding programs. ECU Board noted that EU is already one the biggest supporters of "Chess in Schools" projects approving a number of proposals as the "Castle project" and the "Chess & Mathematics" which results already have been adopted by the ECU Educational Commission. The preliminary work and the key actions for the main project to be submitted has already completed by the ECU Educational Committee.

## Standardization & Information Technology

The ECU Board emphasized the significance of standardization in various areas. Proposals discussed, planned and approved on the following directions:

- The dress code for the ECU Arbiters. Scheduled to be implemented by the European Teams Chess Championships 2019 in Batumi, Georgia.
- The development of special software for the selection and evaluation of the Chess Arbiters for the European Championships.
- The development of special statistical database for the broadcasting of the European Championships.
- The standardization of the TV and online productions for the ECU major Competitions. For that purpose, ECU Board decided to make an open non-binding tender to receive proposals and offers.
- Innovative IT projects approved and will be announced on due time.

## European Championships

- The European Senior Team Chess Championship 2020 is awarded as a sole bid to Wroclaw, Poland.
- The European Youth Team Chess Championship 2020 is awarded as a sole bid to Halkidiki, Greece.
- The option of the 2nd European Corporate Chess Championship is awarded to Minsk, Belarus to be organized from 1st to 4th March 2019. The winner of the event may qualify (with free entry) for the European Business Gala a new event under consideration.
- The European Small Nation Teams Championship 2019 will be organized in San Marino from 23rd to 31stMarch 2019.
- Due to many requests from players the European Club Cup 2019 scheduled to start in Montenegro on 6thNovember 2019, was moved for few days, in order to be enough time for convenient travel from the European Team Championship 2019 scheduled n Batumi, Georgia from 23 October to 3 November 2019. New dates for ECCC2019 are 09-17 November 2019 (Saturday to Sunday).
- ECU Board decided to qualify for the World Chess Cup 2019 both players, who tied, with all tiebreak criteria the same, on the 23rd position of European Individual Chess Championship 2018, GM Anton Guijarro David (ESP) and GM Mircea Emilian Paligras (ROU).

## ECU extraordinary General Assembly

With reference to the decision of the ECU General Assembly 2018 in Batumi, Georgia and the postponement of bids decisions the ECU Board confirmed the ECU extraordinary General Assembly to be held in Skopje, FYR of Macedonia, during the European Individual Championship 2019, on Saturday 23rd of March with the following three (3) items:

- Decisions on the bids for the 2020-2021 events which already have been submitted in April 2018
- Reallocation of the ECU budget 2019
- Amendments on the ECU Tournament rules

# Hikaru Nakamura wins London Chess Classic 2018

American Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura defeated Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in the London Chess Classic and Grand Chess Tour Final in very intense finish of the match for the gold, with slim result of 15-13 and the win of a single blitz game – after a nail-biting sequence of seven draws.








After several rapid and blitz games without many chances for win on the both sides, in Blitz Game 4 Nakamura repeated a line of a hybrid Grunfeld-English they had played earlier in the match. Vachier-Lagrave began to suffer after he unwisely moved his queen to the kingside with, when his position went to be dangerous. Nakamura used the mistake to take control of the centre and cornered the Vachier-Lagrave's queen and eventually forced the winning position.

Both players' match strategy appeared to be aimed at surviving with Black and waiting for the Blitz portion of the match. Nakamura's adoption of the super-solid Berlin Wall defence in London marked a departure from his usual counter-attacking style, but it paid off in the end and he became the London Chess Classic winner and took home $120.000 for winning the Grand Chess Tour. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave won $80.000 as a runner-up.

The Third place playoff match was played between World Championship challenger, Fabiano Caruana, and Levon Aronian. Caruana managed to win the second Rapid game and the final two Blitz games to win the match with result 16-12 and to end as 3rd on the final rankings. Except the prize of $60.000, Caruana reserved the spot in the 2019 Grand Chess Tour.








The London Chess Classic is the final leg of the 2018 Grand Chess Tour. It is the flagship event of Chess in Schools and Communities and includes a range of amateur and age-grade competitions for thousands of children from the charity initiative nationwide.

Official Website of the event

# UPCOMING EVENTS IN JANUARY:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Basel Chess Festival** | Basel, Switzerland | 2nd-6th January | Official Website |
| **30th Roquetas de Mar Open 2019** | Roquetas de Mar, Spain | 2nd-7th January | Official Website |
| **41st White Tower Open** | Thessaloniki, Greece | 2nd-7th January | Official Website |
| **81st Tata Steel Chess** | Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands | 11th-27th January | Official Website |
| **Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival 2019** | Caleta, England | 21st-31st January | Official Website |
| **Gonzaga Classic Master** | Dublin, Ireland | 25th-27th January | Official Website |

# FUN ZONE

## Interesting facts:

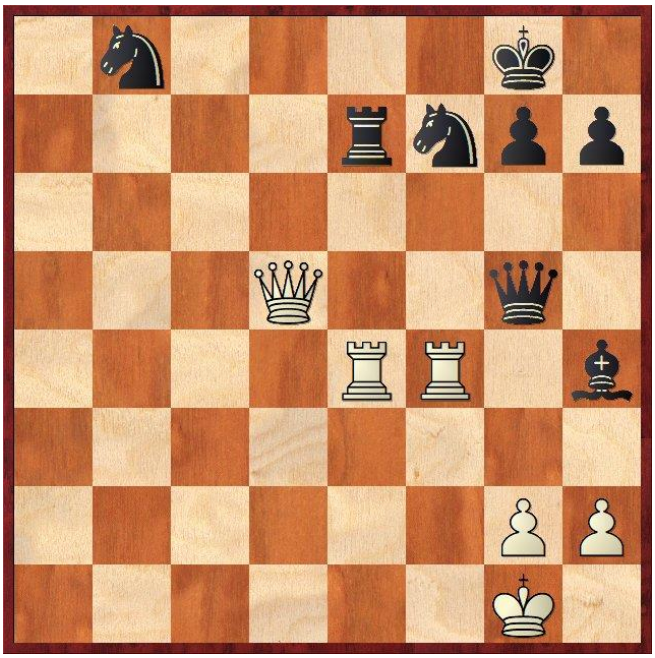
- **The history of chess can be traced back nearly 1500 years, although the earliest origins are uncertain. The earliest predecessor of the game probably originated in India, before the 6th century AD; a minority of historians believe the game originated in China. From India, the game spread to Perisa. When the Arabs conquered Persia, chess subsequently spread to Southern Europe. In Europe, chess evolved into roughly its current form in the 15th century.**

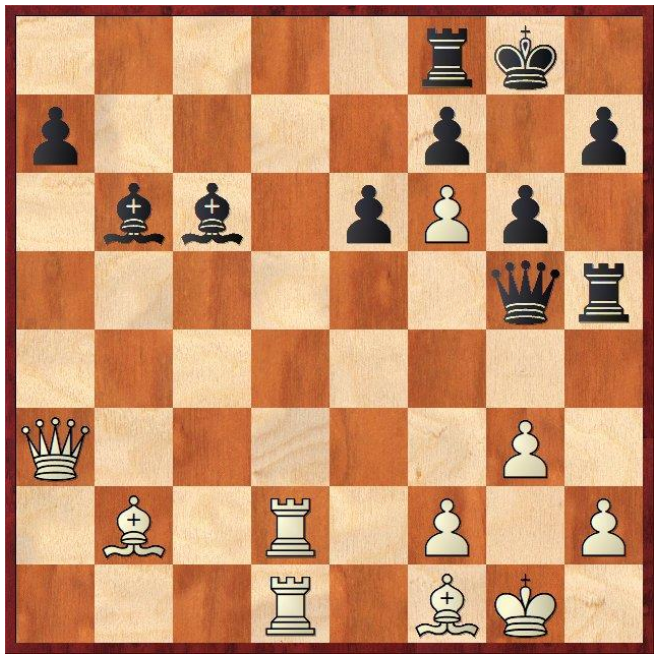
- **Romantic chess was the predominant chess playing style from the late 15th century to the 1880s. Chess games of this period emphasised more on quick, tactical maneuvers rather than long-term strategic planning. The Romantic era of play was followed by the Scientific, Hypermodern, and New Dynamism eras. In the second half of the 19th century, modern chess tournament play began, and the first World Chess Championship was held in 1886. The 20th century saw great leaps forward in chess history and the establishment of the World Chess Federation - FIDE. Developments in the 21st century include use of computers for analysis, which originated in the 1970s with the first programmed chess games on the market. Online gaming appeared in the mid-1990s.**

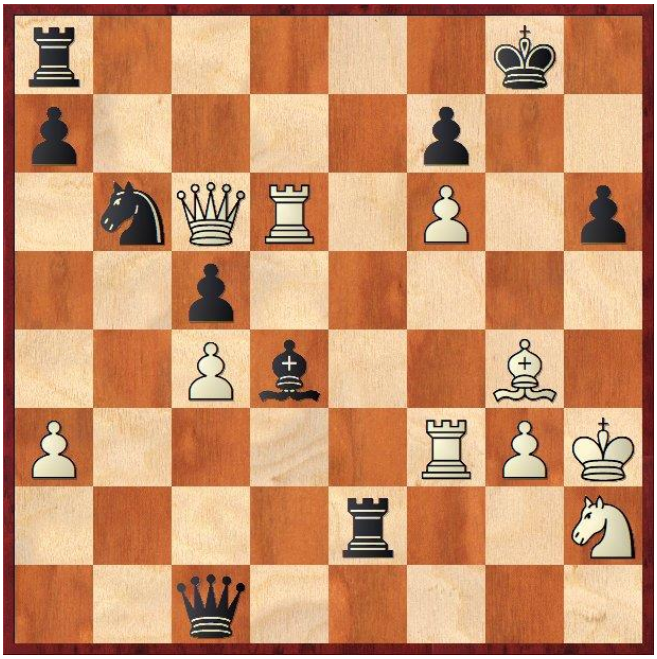


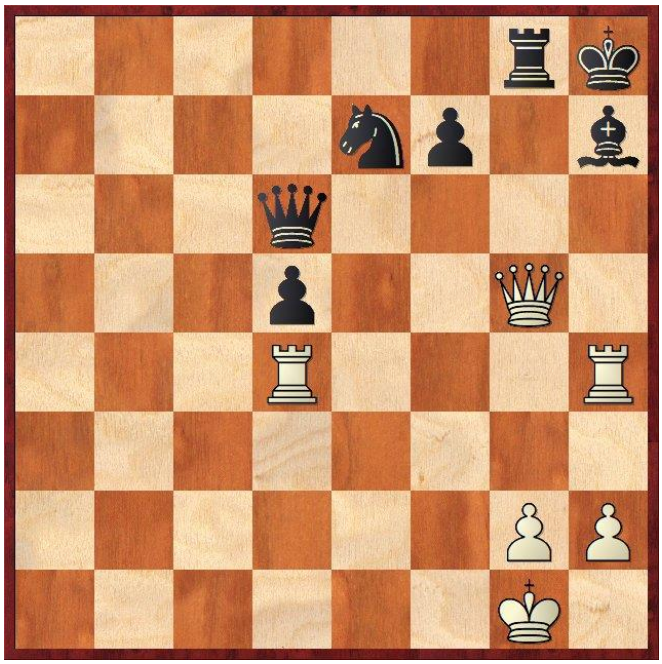


For this edition of the ECU Newsletter we prepared 4 puzzles where white mates in 3!









**Solutions from the ECU Newsletter November 2018:**

**Puzzle 1:**
1. **Ra8! Ke3 (1...Ke2 2. Rd2+ Ke3 3. Re8#; 1...Kg4 2. Rg5 Kh3 3. Rh8#) 2.Rd2! f3 3. Bg5! #**

**Puzzle 2:**
**1. Rd3! Rxd3 2. Bd1!! Rxd1 (2...e4 3. Ng6#) 3. Qf3#**

**Puzzle 3:**
1. **Qe7!! C3 2. Kc2 with following Nh3#**

**Puzzle 4:**
**1. d7!! C2 (1...Rd6 2.Qf8!! c2 3. Rf5#) 2.Rxb5! cxb5 3. Qb6#**