E-MAGAZINE FEBRUARY 2019

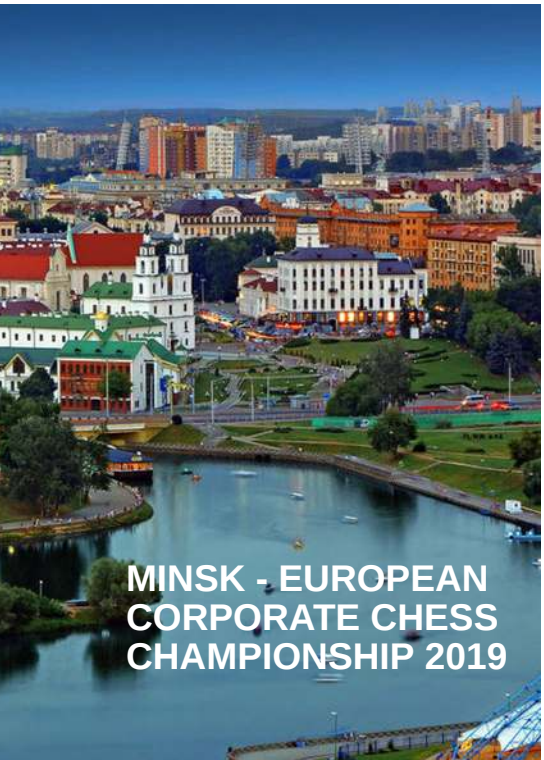
European Chess Union



EICC 2019 - SKOPJE

Over 370 players from 43 federations registered for the European Individual Chess Championship 2019





MINSK - EUROPEAN CORPORATE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

ECU IN LISBON, PORTUGAL

#Europe #Support #Chess

Editorial



ECU Secretary General
Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou

Dear Colleagues & Chess Friends,

Recently the ECU Board emphasized the significance of upgrading our profile and standardization in various areas.

We present you here the first edition of the ECU monthly Digital Magazine which is the continuation of our monthly Newsletter. ECU Digital Magazine includes information about our championships and our activities as also articles for European events and meetings.

The ECU's management will create a portfolio of marketing products & tools to help organisers attract sponsors, players and audiences to their events. A number of innovative projects and actions are in the phase of construction or planning and we will soon introduce them.

ECU's social media strategy already includes operating accounts in all the main social media; Facebook, Twitter Instagram and YouTube. In our YouTube Channel (European Chess Union) recently have been added plenty of videos from the ECU Competitions.

We are working to have more synergies & commmon projects with FIDE, European Union and other International Institutions.

ECU is dedicated to providing the best Quality services to its members.

European Chess Union has its seat in Switzerland, Address: Rainweidstrasse 2, CH-6333, Hunenberg See, Switzerland

European Chess Union is an independent association founded in 1985 in Graz, Austria; European Chess Union has 54 National Federation Members; Every year ECU organizes more than 20 prestigious events and championships.

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ECU IN LISBON, PORTUGAL

The President of the ECU, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili and the Vice President, Mrs. Dana Reizniece Ozola, paid an official visit to Lisbon.

The President of European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili and the Vice-President of European Chess Union, Mrs. Dana Reizniece Ozola, were invited by the Portuguese Chess Federation to visit Portugal during the annual International Portugal Chess Open.

The visit and the meetings were part of the program which have been announced by the ECU Board “Europe Support Chess”.

Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili and Mrs. Dana Reizniece Ozola, accompanied by the President of Portuguese Chess Federation, Mr. Dominic Cross, and the Director of the Portuguese Chess Federation, Mr. Antonio Bravo, had a working meeting at the Ministry of Education of Portugal on 8th of February, where they discussed about promotion of chess in schools with the Portuguese national coordinator of School Sports programs, Mr. Rui de Carvalho and his cabinet.

The outcome of the meeting, open the door for an important development for chess in an international level. The discussions are in progress.



ECU President and Vice-President visiting the Ministry of Education



After the Ministry of Education, the President and Vice-President of ECU have visited the new premises of Portuguese Chess Federation (PCF), which have been recently opened in Lisbon on the occasion of the 92nd anniversary of PCF.

Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili and Mrs. Dana Reizniece Ozola then visited the Portugal Open 2019 following the games of the 8th round. The Vice President of ECU, Mrs. Dana Reiznece Ozola marked the start of the 8th round by making the first move on the first board.



The next day and by the end of the competition, the ECU officials attended the Closing Ceremony of the event and awarded the prizes to the winners.



PORTUGAL OPEN 2019

The Portugal Chess Open 2019 took place from 2nd-9th February 2019 in Lisbon, Portugal, with participation of more than 250 players coming from 39 federations.

After 9 played rounds of the Open Portugal 2019, Iturrizaga Bonelli Eduardo (VEN, 2640) triumphed with 7.5 points to be the sole Winner of the event. Eight players tied for the second place, each with 7 points, but according to the tiebreaks, top seeded Motylev Alexander (RUS, 2644) took the second place, while Petrov Nikita (RUS, 2585) came third.



President of ECU, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, and Vice President of ECU Mrs. Dana Reizniece Ozola at the Closing Ceremony of Portugal Chess Open 2019







5 Hotel Double Tree by HIlton- official hotel and the playing venue of European Individual Chess Championship 2019*

EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

> European Individual Chess Championship 2019 will take place from 17th-30th March 109, in Skopje, FYR of Macedonia.

>The official hotel and the playing venue of the event will be newly constructed 5* Hotel Double Tree by Hilton.

>The total prize fund of the event will be 100.000 EUR, with 20.000 EUR reserved for the Winner.

370 players coming from 43 European federations registered for the event. Among the registered players are 4 players rated over 2700, 70 players rated over 2600, and in total 146 Grandmasters, 82 International masters, 3 Women Grand Masters, 5 Women International Masters, and 309 titled players.



EICC 2019

qualification event for the next World Cup

European Individual Chess Championship 2019 is a qualification event for the FIDE World Cup 2019. According to decision of the ECU Board and FIDE regulations, 22 players will qualify.

The event will be played in 11 rounds, Swiss system, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves, plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game, with increment of 30 seconds per move.



European Youth Team Chess Championship 2019 will take place in Pardubice, Czech Republic.

EUROPEAN YOUTH TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2019 - Invitation

European Youth Team Chess Championship 2019 will take place from 10th July to 18th July 2019 in Pardubice, Czech Republic.

European Youth Team Chess Championship (EYTCC) will include four separate competitions, an open competition and a girls competition, both in the categories U12 and U18. Each national federation member of the European Chess Union (ECU) has the right to enter unlimited number of teams of four (4) players and one (1) reserve in the open competitions and unlimited number of teams of two (2) female players and one (1) reserve in the girls competitions. These teams may represent the national federation, a region, a city, a club or a school.

Entry forms must be filled in and sent to the Tournament office before the **registration deadline May 31st 2019**. A complete registration form must include surname/s, first name/s, FIDE ID number, FIDE rating and title, and passport number or identity card number of each player, captain and each accompanying person. It also must include the name and telephone/e-mail/ of the chief of delegation.

The playing venue of the event will be “CSOB Pojistovna Arena”.

The European Youth Team Championship will be held according to Swiss system in 7 rounds, with time control 90 min for 40 moves + 30 min for the rest of the game + 30 sec increment for every move played starting from the first move.

Players may only agree to a draw after the 30th move has been made by black. Players violating this rule will be forfeited. If a player is offered a draw before the 30th move has been made by black, he should call an arbiter. His opponent shall be punished for distracting, according to the FIDE Laws of Chess.

The first three teams in each competition will receive trophies. Each member of the winning team (players, reserve and captain) will receive a gold medal. The members of the second and third placed teams will each receive a silver and bronze medal respectively. Additionally, all medalists receive in-kind prizes.

Contact information:

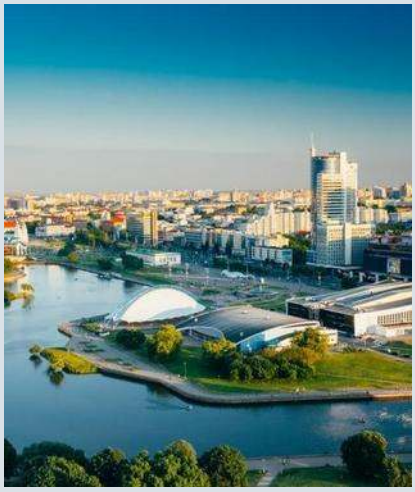
AVE-KONTAKT s.r.o.,
Strossova 239, 530 03
Pardubice, Czech Republic

Tournament Director:
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MINSK HOSTS EUROPEAN CORPORATE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

System and rate of play

The 2nd European Corporate Chess Championship will be played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with time control 15 minutes + 3 seconds of an increment, starting from the move one.



Prize fund

The total prize fund of the European Corporate Chess Championship 2019 will be 6.000 EUR, with 3.000 EUR reserved for the Winner of the Championship.





The 2nd European Corporate Chess Championship 2019 will be played in Marriott Hotel, in Minsk, Belarus.

Any corporate entity is allowed to register up to two teams. Chess Clubs, Chess Associations, and Chess Federations are not allowed to participate in the championship.

A team is composed of 4 players main players and 1 optional substitute player. The team composition may have only one player over 2400 ELO (rapid FIDE rating included, – FIDE list March 2019) and shall have at least one player below 2000 ELO (rapid FIDE rating included, -FIDE list March 2019) playing each round. Also, for each round at least one player of the team shall have a commercial relation with the company with which he is playing for. Players shall be in rating order in teams composition (August FIDE list ratings) in order to play amateurs against amateurs as possible. All players must be over 16 years old. Each team shall wear a t-shirt where the logo and/or the name of the company will be printed.

A team may apply for the championship individually or via a National Federation. The registration fee is 600 euros per team and includes: organising fee, transfers from Minsk airport to hotel and from hotel to the airport, a Minsk city tour for all members of the team, tea and coffee in the playing venue the ECU entry fee of 100 EUR.

The registration deadline is Monday, 12 of August 2019.

After the registration deadline, the Organizing Committee reserves the right to refuse or decline late registrations or may impose a penalty of double Entrance Fee for each late registration.

Contact information

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

Tournament Director: Zarubitski Mikalai
Mobile: + 375 (29) 713 61 62
Email: nik_zar@tut.by Maria Tamkovich
Mobile: + 375 (29) 199-97-57
Email: blr_chess@tut.by



SUMMER CHESS CAMP IN MARIBOR, SLOVENIA





European Chess Academy, in cooperation with European Chess Union and Kasparov Chess Foundation, organize the 2nd Summer Chess Camp from 22nd-29th June in Maribor, Slovenia.

Summer Chess Camp contains many various chess and sports events for the participants, such as: simultaneous game against former Women's World Chess Champion, Antoaneta Stefanova, Rapid Tournament Lent 2019, morning chess lessons, sports fun, excursion to Zagreb, Croatia for visiting the Grand Chess Tournament and meeting former World Champion Garry Kasparov.

The Summer Chess Camp is open for everybody, after the registration deadline, groups of the same level will be created.

The registration deadline is 10th June 2019, and after the registration deadline, registration may be possible, but the penalties for late registration will be charged.

Entry fee for the event is 200 EUR (including all chess, fun and sports program, T-Shirt for every participant, finger food and drinks during the breaks, 6X lunch (June 23. – 28.), registration fee for the rapid tournament Lent 2019, printed and C Base form materials), and excursion to Zagreb.

Lecturers are:

>Arshak Petrosian (references: Peter Leko, Armenian National team –3 times Olympic Champions!)
>Alexandr Beliavsky (references: Garry Kasparov, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Alexandr Morozevic, sisters Muzychuk …)
>Adrian Mikhalchishin (references: Anatoly Karpov, Polgar sisters, Maya Ciburdanidze …)
>Olexandr Sulypa (references: Vasily Ivanchuk, Ukrainian team …) + trainers asistents (the best Slovenian trainers)

Summer Chess Camp in Maribor, Slovenia

Medalists of the European Youth Chess Championship in groups (open & girls) U12 and U14, the best players of Kasparov Chess Foundation and Slovenian National Champions will have the special invitation for the event, without entry fee.





ECU Vice-President Dana Reizniece-Ozola gave a charity simultaneous chess exhibition in London

The simultaneous charity exhibition took place in the London Latvian House on 15th February.

Playing against 15 opponents she achieved a final score of 14:1 (with 13 wins and 2 draws).



European Chess Union Arbiters' Council 2019-2022

Last year, on December 19th , ECU announced the new ECU Commissions 2019-2022, among which the composition of the Arbiters' Council.

ECU
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ARBITERS COUNCIL

Members of the Arbiters' Council announced: • IA Tomasz Delega (POL): chairman. • IA Geert Bailleul (BEL): secretary. • IA Jirina Prokopova (CZE). • IA Marco Biaglioli (ITA). • IA Burhanudin Misini (KOS).

The working plan contains 4 major goals. Apart of these 4 goals, the ECU Arbiters Council will continue permanent work to have the ECU Tournament Rules updated. Taking care about fair play in chess will be one of the ECU priorities.

>1. Call of interest for arbiters. We will collect applications from arbiters who are interested to work on ECU tournaments. We will ask about their qualification languages skill, preferences regarding position etc... Based on this ECU shall create an ECU arbiters' database.

>2. System of nominations. The ECU Tournament Rules precisely described the nomination system we should follow. However we also need to build an evaluation system, how the arbiters fullfil their duties. For this matter we need also an official observer who is able to judge the arbiters' work.

>3. Training. ECU Arbiters Council firmly believes that refreshing courses and workshop are very important for the quality of the arbiters. For that reason we would like to built a system of nominations for ECU events based on qualifications of arbiters, evaluations of their work and with some preferences for those who are attending courses.

>4. Reporting. The ECU Arbiters' Council will publish the Chief Arbiters reports directly after the tournament. Once a year an annual report will also be published.





ECU Educational Commission

Hou Yifan and Lord Mark Price at the London Chess Conference 2018





The sixth edition of the prestigious London Chess Conference was held in December 2018 with major sponsorship from CSC (the UK Chess in Schools and Communities charity) and the European Chess Union. This year the theme of the conference was The Future of Chess in Education. 106 participants engaged in interactive presentations, debates and discussions with 50 speakers and contributors from 25 countries. The main idea of the conference is meet people, encourage each other and learn from others involved in Chess in Schools projects from around the world. Attendees reported that they enjoyed the social and interactive nature of the event which enabled them to learn so much - just like chess should be in the classroom. The main talks have been recorded and are available to those who were unable to attend.

My favourite comment after the London Chess Conference is “I learned so much.” This justifies the effort that goes into organising such an intensive event each year. The conference brings together people with a shared goal to use chess for education. Some participants are trying to reinvent the wheel and are grateful to find their particular issue has already been solved by someone else. My least favourite comment is “there are too many simultaneous sessions” because it misunderstands the purpose of the event – it’s not a training course. We want people to prioritise their interests, to select the most relevant sessions for them. The purpose is to share ideas, exchange best practice, network and develop joint projects. Life is about making choices – just like chess and chess conferences. "

John Foley, Director of the London Chess Conference

ECU Education Calendar 2019

ECU School Chess Teacher Training Courses:

>Hamburg, Germany 16-17 February
>Innsbruck, Austria 2-3 March
>Galicia, Spain 8-10 March
>Barcelona, Spain 29-31 March
>London, England 6-7 April

ECU Chess and Mathematics Teacher Training Course:

>London, England 13 April

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MARCH 2019

FIDE World Team Championship 2019

FIDE World Team Championship 2019 will take place from 4th-15th March in Astana, Kazakhstan, in which the strongest national teams of 14 countries whose chess federations dominated their continent will participate in the championship.



1st Prague International Chess Festival 2019

The 1st Prague International Chess Festival 2019 will take place from 5th-13th March in Prague, Czech Republic.

The event contains Master and Challener tournament with participation of world and Europe top Grandmasters.



European Individual Chess Championship

The 20th European Individual Chess Championship 2019 will take place from 17th-30th March in Skopje, FYR of Macedonia.

The event is a qualification event for the next FIDE World Cup 2019, and 22 players will qualify.

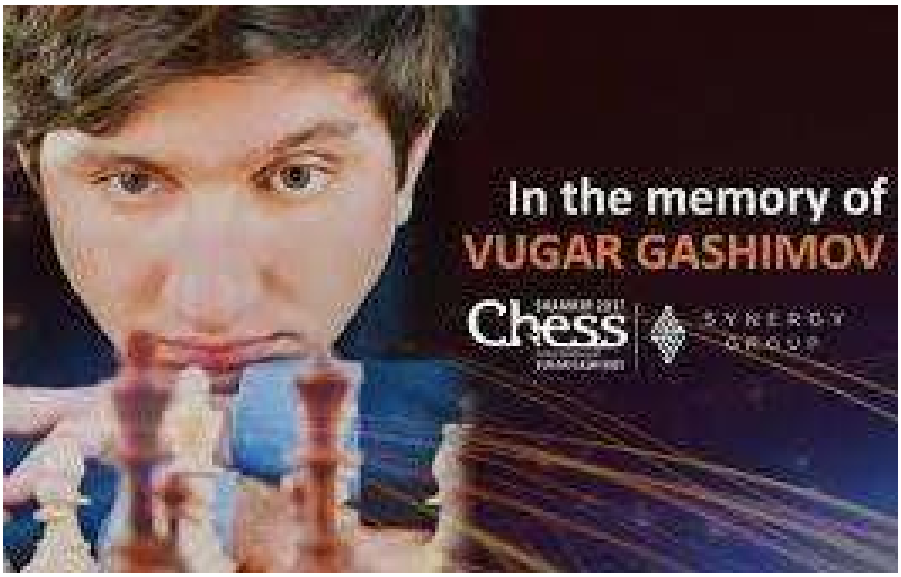
The total prize fund of the event is 100.000 EUR.



6th Vugar Gashimov Memorial

The 6th edition of Vugar Gashimov Memorial will take place from 30th March- 10th April 2019, in Shamkir, Azerbaijan.

This year, World Chess Champion, Magnus Carlsen will participate the event, together with: Mamedyarov, Ding Liren, Anish Giri, Karjakin, Topalov, Radjabov, Navara, Anand and Gris





9th RIGA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OPEN

Riga Technical University and Latvian Chess Federation are honoured to invite all chess friends to participate in the 9th international chess festival „Riga Technical University Open 2019", which will take place on August 3rd – 11th in Riga – hometown of 8th World Chess champion Mikhail Tal.

Playing hall of festival will be the international exhibition centre "Kipsala", the largest specialized exhibition venue in the Baltics, located across the bridge from the famous historical centre of Riga.
Previous 8 years festival gathered world famous grandmasters and the strongest players of Europe and world. The 1st Riga Technical Open was held in August 2011 and won by GM Alberto David (ITA). Since then many top grandmasters have participated and won the festival – GM Jan Markos (SLO) in 2012, GM Bartosz Socko (POL) in 2013, GM Hrant Melkumyan (ARM) in 2014, GM Alexei Shirov (ESP) in 2015, GM Martyn Kravtsiv (UKR) in 2016, GM Vladimir Onischuk (UKR) in 2017 and GM Robert Hovhannisyan (ARM) in 2018. Other than winners the biggest names of the previous festivals were GMs Ilja Smirin, Daniel Fridman, Igor Kovalenko, Richard Rapport, Vladislav Kovalev, Eduardo Iturrizaga Bonelli, Daniel Naroditsky, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, Andrey Esipenko and many others.

Over the years many players have gained their FIDE title norms at the festival festival as there are many titled players from various countries participating each year.

Last year the main tournament gathered 260 participants from 37 countries including 24 GMs and 127 titled players. The 9th edition of festival will become the most interesting and entertaining. This year we have introduced three new tournaments so festival will last 2 days longer – 9 days in total. The total prize fund of the festival is planned to be a record breaking 26 000 EUR with the 1st of 2500 EUR prize in the Tournament A. In 2019 the program of the festival will feature 6 classical chess tournaments, 2 blitz tournaments and 1 rapid tournament, so any chess player starting from an internationally known top class GM to a beginner is welcome to find an appropriate tournament for him or her.

The event features:

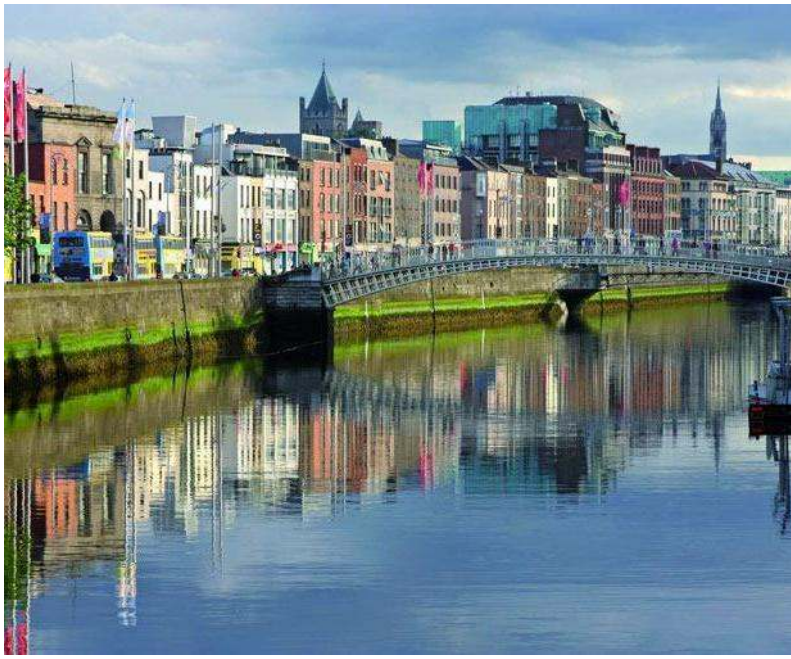
>(A) Grandmaster Tournament
>(B) – Amateur ELO Tournament
>NEW: (Y) – Youth ELO Tournament
>(C) – Weekend Amateur Tournament
>(D) – Weekend Amateur Tournament
>(E) – Weekend Amateur Tournament
> NEW: (F) – Opening Blitz Tournament
>NEW: (G) – Open Rapid Tournament
>(H) – Open Closing Blitz Tournament

Contact information

More detailed information about schedule, accommodation and registration can be found in the official homepage of the tournament.

Contact information:
chess@rtu.lv





IRISH INTERNATIONAL CHESS OPEN 2019

The Irish International Chess Open 2019, organized by Irish Chess Federation, will take place from 17th-22nd April 2019, in Dublin, Ireland.

The playing venue of the event will be Gonzaga College SJ. The event will be played in 9 Swiss rounds, with time control 90 minutes+ 30 seconds of an increment, starting from the move one. The registration deadline is 1st of April, and the entry fee is 100 EUR. After the registration deadline, organizer may accept the registration, but will charge the penalty of 25 EUR for late registrations.

The total prize fund of the event will be 10.000 EUR. Besides the main event, the players would be able to play Blitz and Rapid event. The Blitz Championship will be played in 11 rounds by 3min+2sec time control, and will take place on 19th of April, with prize fund of 750 EUR. The Rapid Championship will take place on 22nd of April, and will be played in 7 rounds, with time control 10 minutes+ 5 seconds of an increment, with a prize fund of 750EUR.



36 players coming from 15 federations have already registered for the event.









BOBBY FISCHER SAID ABOUT CHESS:

>My opponents make good moves too. Sometimes I don't take these things into consideration.

>All that matters on the chessboard is good moves.

>Chess is war over the board. The object is to crush the opponent's mind.

>In chess so much depends on opening theory, so the champions before the last century did not know as much as I do and other players do about opening theory. So if you just brought them back from the dead they wouldn't do well. They'd get bad openings.

>All I ever want to do is just play chess.

>Chess is life.

Solutions from January

> Puzzle #1:
1. Qxf6+ Kxd5 2. Qf7 Ke4 [2...Ne6 3. Qxe6#] 3. Qf5#

>Puzzle #2:
1. fxe3 Nc5 2. Nh5 Nxd3 3. Nxf6#

>Puzzle #3:
1. b7 Rxh4 2.b8=Q Nc7 3.Qxc7#

>Puzzle #4:
1. c7 Ne5 2. dxe2 3.c6#

European Chess Union



"Chess is a meritocracy."