# E-MAGAZINE NOVEMBER 2019

European Chess Union



## EUROPEAN CLUB CUP 2019

**Batumi Chess Club Nona and Obiettivo Risarcimento Padova won European Club Cup Women and Open.**

## EWRBCC 2019

**Alexandra Kosteniuk wins double Gold at European Women Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship.**






# EUROPEAN GOLDEN PAWN AWARD CEREMONY




## *Editorial*

November was the most intense month for the European Chess Union, full of Championships and activities.

European Club Cup took place in Montenegro.
European Women Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship organised in Monaco.
European Internet Team School Championship conluded.
European Youth Rapid & Blitz Champinhsip started in Tallinn.

The 1st European Golden Pawn Award Ceremony took place in Monte-Carlo gathering Chess Legends, Politicians, Sports and Business personalities.

At the 7th edition London Chess Conference with the ECU Support presented the new study for Women's Chess in the European countries.

Two pilot B2B events organised by the ECU Education Commission in Olslo and Stockholm wiith Chess presentation to major co-orporate companies of the financial sector.

ECU Arbiters Council implements the new policy for the selection of Arbiters.

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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# 1st EUROPEAN GOLDEN PAWN AWARD CEREMONY

European Chess Union Board has decided to establish the annual award ceremony – “European Golden Pawn” – that will be held every year on the last Saturday of November in Monaco (Monte-Carlo).
First year of the award ceremony was dedicated to European legends and their achievements and the 1st Golden Pawn Award Ceremony took place on 30th November in historical Hotel de Paris in Monte Carlo.

# GOLDEN PAWN AWARD WINNERS

The Winners of the Awards received a special trophy designed by Zviad Tsikolia, whose inspiration for the prize was the ability of a pawn to be promoted and transformed into a queen.



*GM Garry Kasparov was awarded as Chess legend by Mr. Joel Bouzou representative of, Prince Albert II*

>Best European Book:
Ruben David Gonzalez Gallego- "Chess"

**>Best European Movie:**
"The Chess Game" 1994, Denis Lavant, Pierre Richard, Catherine Deneuve

**>Best European Chess Magazine:**
"New In Chess"

**>Best European Chess Journalist:**
Leontxo Garcia

**>Best European Chess Organizer:**
Bessel Kok

**>Best European Chess Project:**
Frederic Friedel

**>Best European Arbiter:**
Geurt Gijssen

**>European Pioneer of Chess Development in Schools:**
Alexander Kostyev

**>The Youngest European World Chess Champion of all time:**
Maya Chiburdanidze

**>Lifetime Achievement:**
Nona Gaprindashvili

**>European Chess Legend (female):**
Judit Polgar

**>European Chess Legend (male):**
Garry Kasparov






*GM Judit Polgar was awarded as the female Chess legend by FIDE President, Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich*



## Golden Pawn Awards

All the Winners received a special prize- trophy.

The author of the prize is internationally renowned Georgian industrial designer Zviad Tsikolia, who is also famous for his brand TSIKOLIA. Zviad Tsikolia's inspiration for the prize was the ability of a pawn to be promoted and transformed into a queen. The prize is a play, a sort of dance, between a pawn and a queen.








*ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili welcomed all the guests and thanked all those contributed to the organisation of the 1st Golden Pawn Award Ceremony.*

*Golden Pawn Award Ceremony was marked with many art performances.*

*ECU Secretary General, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou awarded European Pioneer of Chess Development in Schools: Mr. Alexander Kostyev*



*Chess legend, Garry Kasparov, on the crowded simultaneous exhibition in Monte Carlo, against 16 kids. All the participants of the simul received special certificates.*




# EUROPEAN GOLDEN PAWN AWARD CEREMONY





The Event was planned and co-ordinated by the ECU PR and Marketing Director Ms.Tea Kipshidze, Event Director: Basa Potskhishvili Art-director: Tamar Potskhishvili Production: Studio 1,2,3. Hosts of the Golden Pawn were the Jamaican-American Grandmaster Maurice Ashley and the Georgian television presenter and singer Helen Kalandadze.
The ceremony was attended by the official representative of His Serene Highness, Prince Albert II of Monaco, President of the World Olympians Association, President and Founder of Pease and Sport, Vice-President of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne – Mr. Joel Bouzou; President of the European Chess Union Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili; Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili; the Minister of Foreigner Affairs of Montenegro Mr.Srdjan Darmanovic;FIDE President Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich; the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the AiGroup Mr. Kakhaber Guledani and the representatives of the Georgian Industrial Holding AiGroup; former and famous footballer Predrag Mijatovic officials of the ECU and FIDE Boards, Federations' Presidents & Representatives, business, sports and art personalities.

Besides the main Award Ceremony event European Golden Pawn comprised also side events: press conference about the Golden Pawn Ceremony by President of ECU Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, Representative o – The Georgian Industrial holding AiGroup, Giorgi Khurodze, President of the Chess Federation of Monaco – Mr. Jean-Michel Rapaire and Chess Legend – World Champion Garry Kasparov.
A simultaneous chess exhibition by the legendary Garry Kasparov, with participation of 16 kids.

Gala dinner and Ceremony was completed with music performances by Composer of the ECU anthem Nikoloz Rachveli; Carmen, Juga, Eliza Cipriani and Luca Condello and artists of NuArt, and special photo corner for all the guests of the Ceremony.

The winners were awarded with prizes designed by famous Georgian designer Zviad Tsikolia.Georgian Industrial Company AiGroup - Diamond sponsor of the event, and its founder were awarded with the Andria Dadiani prize as the best sponsor /outstanding sponsor.
The prize has been passed to Kakha Guledani, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company.

**LIVE broadcast of the Golden Pawn**

The event was LIVE broadcasted, as well as the side events, through the Facebook page of European Golden Pawn.

All the videos are available here.



*Batumi Chess Club Nona won 24th European Women Club Cup 2019*



*Obiettivo Risarcimento Padova won 35th European Club Cup 2019*

# EUROPEAN CLUB CUP 2019 WINNERS

European Club Cup 2019 took place from 9th-17th November 2019 in Ulcinj, Montenegro. The official venue of the event was 4 stars “Holiday Village Montenegro” Hotel, Hotel of KARISMA Hotels of Ulcinj.

**Teams Obiettivo Risarcimento Padova from Italy and Batumi Chess Club Nona from Georgia became the Champions of 35th European Club Cup and 24th European Women Club Cup.**

The event participated 80 teams, 66 teams participated European Club Cup, coming from 29 European federations and 14 teams coming from 12 federations participated European Women Club Cup 2019.



*ECU President, Mr.Zurab Azmaiparashvili opened the event with a first ceremonial move before the start of the 1st round*



*Silver medal of European Club Cup 2019 went to AVE Novy Bor*

# Official Website of the event





In the last round of the event, Obiettivo Risarcimento Padova won the match against top seed Alkaloid, and with a perfect score 7/7 and 14 match points became the first Italian team Winner of European Club Cup in 35 years long history of the event. Second place went to AVE Novy Bor (CZE) with 12 match points, after 4-2 victory against Moscow Chess Club (RUS) in the round 7.

Although Moscow Chess Club finished the event without medals, they made a spectacle with the youngest participant of the event- 13 years old Murzin Volodar (2429), who scored 4.5 points out of 7 played games on the 6th board!

Bronze medals came to Mednyi Vsadnik from Russia, who beat Primorsky District (RUS) in the last round, scoring 11 match points.

Draw in the last round was enough for Georgian team Batumi Chess Club Nona to win the 24th edition of European Women Club Cup with score of 11 match points.

With draws on the all boards against SPB Chess and Draughts Sport School (RUS), Batumi Chess Club Nona took a title of European Women Club Cup Champion for the 4th time in the last 6 years!

After victories in the final round, Kyiv Chess Federation from Ukraine and Cercle d'Echecs Monte Carlo (MNC) tied for silver, but according to tiebreaks, Kyiv Chess Federation came second and Cercle d'Echecs Monte Carlo took bronze.

Final rankings

## About the event

European Club Cup 2019 started on 10th November in Ulcinj, Montenegro. President of European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, made a first ceremonial move before the start of the first round.

The total prize fund of the event was 45.000 EUR.

# EUROPEAN CLUB CUP 2019

Besides the regular prizes of 40.000 EUR, at the Closing Ceremony of the event the best players per board were awarded with money prizes and medals.

The best players per boards were:

**Board 1:**
1.Mamedyarov Shakhriyar (Alkaloid)
2. Rapport Richard (Obiettivo Risarcimento Padova)
3.Mamedov Rauf (Vugar Gashimov)
**Board 2:**
1.Basso Pier Luigi (WorldTradingLab Club64)
2.Matlakov Maxim (Mednyi Vsadnik)
3.Gozzoli Yannick (Asnieres)
**Board 3:**
1. Rakhmanov Aleksandr (Primorsky District)
2.Bosiocic Marin (Valerenga)
3.Leko Peter (Obiettivo Risarcimento Padova)
**Board 4:**
1 Vallejo Pons Francisco (Obiettivo Risarcimento Padova)
2.Popov Ivan (Moscow Chess Team)
3.Nabaty Tamir (SK Joly Lysa nad Labem)
**Board 5:**
1.Jones Gawain C B (Obiettivo Risarcimento Padova)
2.Romanov Evgeny (Valerenga)
3.Kobalia Mikhail (Moscow Chess Team)
**Board 6:**
1. Ponkratov Pavel (Mednyi Vsadnik)
2.Kovalev Vladislav (Alkaloid)
3.Piceu Tom (HWP Sas van Gent)
**Board 7:**
1.Vocaturo Daniele (Obiettivo Risarcimento Padova)
2.Suleymanli Aydin (Vugar Gashimov)
3.Goganov Aleksey (Mednyi Vsadnik)
**Board 8:**
1.Ahmadzada Ahmad (Vugar Gashimov)
2.Brunello Sabino (Obiettivo Risarcimento Padova)
3.Bettalli Francesco (WorldTradingLab Club64)







**Board 1:**
1. Muzychuk Mariya (Kyiv Chess Federation)
2.Dzagnidze Nana (Batumi Club Nona)
3.Mammadzada Gunay (Odlar Yurdu)
**Board 2:**
1.Cramling Pia (Cercle d'Echecs Monte Carlo)
2.Muzychuk Anna (Kyiv Chess Federation)
3.Pogonina Natalija (Ugra)
**Board 3**:
1.Batsiashvili Nino (Nona)
2.Girya Olga (Ugra)
3.Hoang Thanh Board Trang (AVE Novy Bor)
**Board 4:**
1.Khotenashvili Bela (Nona)
2.Guseva Marina (Ugra)
3.Balajayeva Khanim (Odlar Yurdu)
**Board 5:**
1.Skripchenko Almira(Cercle d`Echecs MNC)
2. Mamedjarova Zeinab ( Odlar Yurdu)
3. Kovanova Baira (Ugra)

*ECU President, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili at the Closing ceremony of Eurepean Club Cup 2019*



## Closing ceremony of the event

The Closing ceremony of the event took place yesterday evening, with attendance of: ECU President, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, FIDE Deputy President, Mr. Bachar Kouatly, Mayor of the city of Ulcinj, Mr. Ljoro Nrekic, ECU Vice President, Mr. Johan Poecksteiner, ECU Vice President, Mr. Ivan Sokolov, President of Montenegro Chess Federation, Mr. Jovan Milovic and ECU Honorary Vice President, Mr. Veselin Draskovic.



# ALEXANDRA KOSTENIUK WINS DOUBLE GOLD AT EUROPEAN WOMEN RAPID&BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Alexandra Kosteniuk (RUS, 2521 blitz rtg, 2538 rapid rtg) triumphed at both European Women Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships 2019 and took double gold and two titles at the event which took place in Monaco, from 29th November-2nd December.







# #EWRBCC2019

Closing ceremony of the event took place on 1st December in the evening.

The total prize fund of the blitz event was 6.250 EUR, while the total prize fund of the rapid event was 12.250 EUR.




European Women Blitz Chess Championship 2019 was played on 30th December. Despite a loss in the last 13th round of the Championship, Kosteniuk Alexandra was the sole Winner of the event with score of 10 points.

Five players tied for the second place, each with 9.5 points: Stefanova Antoaneta (ECU, 2452), Gunina Valentina (RUS, 2366), Sebag Marie (FRA, 2467), Zhukova Natalia (UKR, 2239) and Kashlinskaya Alina (RUS, 2282). According to tiebreak criteria, Stefanova Antoaneta took silver medal and Gunina Valentina came third.

European Women Rapid Chess Champion was determined by tiebreaks, since Kosteniuk Alexandra and Girya Olga (RUS, 2365) tied for the first place, each with score of 9 points.

Eventually, Kosteniuk Alexandra took another gold at the event, and Girya Olga came second. Six players tied for bronze: Stefanova Antoaneta (ECU, 2455), Batsiashvili Nino (GEO, 2401), Gunina Valentina (RUS, 2434), Kshlinskaya Alina (RUS, 2350), Cramling Pia (SWE, 2423) and Paehtz Elisabeth (GER, 2381), each scoring 8 points. Eventually, Stefanova Antoaneta came on the third place, thanks to better additional criteria.

**European Women Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2019**

European Women Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2019 took place from 29th November-2nd December in Monaco, with participation of more than 100 players coming from 26 European federations.

Photos by: Chess&Strategy

## Opening European Women Blitz Chess Championship 2019

The European Women's Blitz Chess Championship 2019 opened with welcome speeches by the ECU Secretary General Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, FIDE Deputy President Mr. Bachar Kouatly and the President of Monaco Chess Federation and the Chairman of ECU Women's Commission, Mr. Jean Michel Rapaire.





## Opening of Rapid Event

ECU Vice President, Mr. Adrian Mikhalchishin made the first honorary move and officially opened European Women Rapid Chess Championship on 30th November in Hotel Novotel, in Monaco. He made a move on the first board in the game played between Anna Muzychuk (top seed from Ukraine) and Chigaeva Anastasia, 23 years old Women FIDE Master from Russia.

## Meeting of two chess legends

President of FIDE, Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich made a first ceremonial move in the 6th round of European Women Rapid Chess Championship, in the game played between two chess legend who met on the board in the 6th round of the event: Nona Gaprindashvili and Maia Chiburdanidze. For Maia Chiburdanidze, European Women Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship was the first rated event played after 7 years, when she participated in World Women Rapid Chess Championship 2012.



# EUROPEAN SCHOOL TEAM INTERNET CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

The third edition of ECU School Team Internet Chess Championship 2019 was played on 13th and 20th of November, in two age categories: U11 and U17.



46 teams from 10 federations participated the event which was played on the Chess King Playing Zone platform.

In U11 section, Moscow School No.2101 (Russia) took a convincing victory with 7 victories out of 7 played games and score of 21 match points! Second place went to School 481 (Russia) with 18 match points and bronze went to Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu Seccondary School (Romania) with 17 match points.

In U17 section, School 481 (Russia) and Scoala Gimnaziala Matei Basarab (Romania) tied for the first place, each with 19 match points. According to tiebreaks criteria, School 481 from Russia triumphed the event, while Romanian school ended silver. Team of Eagles 1 (Russia) took bronze with 18 match points.

All teams who participated the event will receive certificates of participation and letters of thanks, while the Winners will receive ECU special Winners diplomas. Due to technical issues, team of Unirea National High School from Tirgu, Mures, Romania (U11) couldn't be paired for respective category and played in the U17 tournament.

The ECU School Team Internet Championship aroused great interest among the participants, and many schools proposed to conduct such competitions more often.





## About the event:

### ECU SCHOOL INTERNET CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

The third edition of ECU School Team Internet Chess Championship 2019 was played on 13th and 20th of November, in two age categories: U11 and U17, with participation of 46 teams.

**Word of Mr. Alexander Kostyev, President of the International School Chess Union and member of ECU EDU Commision:**

Mr. Alexander Kostyev, President of the International School Chess Union and member of the ECU EDU Commission expressed his gratitude to the to the leadership of the European Chess Union, which actively supports this competition.

ECU provided an annual grant for the winners in the form of their participation in the European School Championships as invited players (in this case, Greece, Crete, April 2-12, 2020). Also, he said that in his opinion, there is no doubt that in the future, the ECU School Team Internet Championship will be developed successfully.

# SPONSOR B2B EVENTS

The 5th and 6th November ECU Education Commission in co-operation with Norwegian and Swedish Chess Federations and the FIDE Development Fund organised two large sponsor events targeting the finance sector.

The purpose of the two events was to show how sponsoring chess in schools would strengthen the brand of a company, and to show the great CiS movement in the two countries. In next step the idea is that the concept shaped from the try-outs can be used in other countries of Europe as well.

The main idea of the project was the co-operation with Nordic Brand and Dr Tony Aperia from Stockholm business school. To the events he presented a sustainable finance analyse of the 25 largest companies in each country and their brand. He had also analysed the brand of chess in schools. In the end he analysed what would happen if the companies sponsored chess in school programs, and yes, chess is a very attractive partner as the focus is on the inclusion and developing cognitive skills mainly for the most needed ones.

In Norway the event was held at “The Old Museum” in the centre of Oslo. At this event not only chess in school was presented but the large norweigan project “chess in the society” were chess is established at libraries, jails and institutions in this category. First everyone was welcomed, then Dr Tony Aperia presented his study, Jesper Hall focused on the work of ECU Education as well as the arguments why chess is a pedagogic tool for the future, then the Norweigan chess in school movement was presenting the exploding chess in schools movement as well as the new project chess in the society. Finally the school of Grefsen told about their chess activities.




*.Chairman of ECU Education Commission Mr. Jesper Hall*

Then it was a break with snacks and champagne, and then the participants challenged the worldchampion Magnus Carlsen in a simul. A very successful evening.

In Sweden, the day after, the event was hosted by the sponsor of Swedish Chess in School program, the lawfirm Cederquist in the centre of Stockholm. It was almost the same set-up. But the simul with Magnus was changed to an inspiring talk by the Latvian politian and ECU Vice President Mrs Dana Reizniece-Ozola on how chess has helped her in making strategic decisions in politics.

All in all 19 of the most prestigious finance companies of Norway and Sweden attended the events, and ECU and the both federations have great hope to establish a co-operation with some of them.






*Sponsor event in Oslo.*




## About sponsor events

ECU Education Commission in co-operation with Norwegian and Swedish Chess Federations and the FIDE Development Fund organised two large sponsor events targeting the finance sector, in period of 5th-6th November, with aim to show how sponsoring chess in schools would strengthen the brand of a company, and to show the great CiS movement in Sweden and Norway.








# LONDON CHESS CONFERENCE

London Chess Conference 2019, with the main theme “Chess and Female Empowerment” took place on 30 November and 1st December 2019.

The event is the last 4 years supported by the European Chess Union, and this year additionally through the FIDE Development Fund. The conference opened with the welcome speech of Mr. Malcolm Pein who was supporting the Conference from the 1st year as a part of the London Chess Classic.

Chairman of ECU Education Commission Mr. Jesper Hall presented the main targets of the Conference and the work in progress by the ECU EDU commission.The conference examined the involvement of women and girls in chess and presented insights into how to improve the gender balance.




*Main theme of the conference was "Chess and Female empowerment"*






*Chess legend, GM Judit Polgar on the London Chess Conference*




*Chess legend, GM Judit Polgar on the 7th London Chess Conference*



*The US Chess Federation has shared a short video by Jenny Schweitzer, a New York-based director.*

# "Chess and Female Empowerment"

Primary and secondary school teachers had a chance to learn how to make chess a more engaging activity through its social and collaborative modes. Containing many workshops, presentations, debates, round tables and demonstrations, the Conference provided ideas and initiatives for those striving to improve the engagement of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.




The conference was also dedicated to the recent study developed by ECU EDU Commission and Survey on Women's Chess in Europe. Analyzing the results of the Survey, Ms Alice O'Gorman, member of the ECU Women's Commission presented the state about the Women's Chess throughout European countries and Chess Federations.

The Legend Grandmaster Judit Polgar, after she has been awarded in Monaco on the Golden Pawn Ceremony, flew to London to share her valuable experiences on Women's chess during the 7th London Chess Conference.

A study conducted through the US Chess Federation provided qualitative insights into chess and gender issues, while an analysis of online play in the Netherlands provided details of how boys and girls compare. The US Chess Federation has shared a short video by Jenny Schweitzer, a New York-based director. In this inspiring film, young female chess players explain the emotional and intellectual impact of chess in their lives and the challenges they've faced in the game.

Among more than 40 speakers from around 30 countries of the Conference were also: the Chairman of the FIDE Chess in Education Commission Mr. Smbat Lputian and the Secretary Mr. Kevin O'Connell who took part in sessions and debates.

## ECU SCHOOL CHESS TEACHER COURSES

Immediately by the end of the London Chess Conference, professional teacher training courses certificated by the European Chess Union started in London. The courses cover Teaching Chess in Primary School (ECU101) and Learning Mathematics through Chess (ECU102) and will take place from 2nd-6th December.

**Official Website of the event**

# World Senior Chess Championship 2019

FIDE World Senior Chess Champions 2019 have been announced in Bucharest, Romania. The event was played in 2 age categories: 50+ and 65+, Open and Women section, with participation of 366 players.

In Open 65+ section, after 11 played rounds, Vaganian Rafael (ARM, 2541), Vaisser Anatoli (FRA, 2497) and Balashov Yuri S (RUS, 2457) tied for the top, with 8.5 points, each. According to tiebreaks, Vaganian Rafael took gold, Vaisser Anatoli was silver and Balashov Yuri came third.

In the same age category, Women 65+ section, Nona Gaprindashvili (GEO, 2275) took the title of FIDE World 65+ Senior Chess Champion for the 4th time. With score of 8.5 points, Gaprindashvili Nona was alone on the top of the list. Fatalibekova Elena (RUS, 2152) and Kozlovskaya Valentina (RUS, 2130) tied for the second place, each with 8 points, but according to tiebreaks criteria, Fatalibekova came second and Kozlovskaya took bronze.

In Open section 50+, Shishkin Vadim (UKR, 2428), ranked 17th on the starting rank list, surprised and won the Championship with 9 match points, without a lost game! Nevednichy Vladislav (ROU, 2518) and Morovic Fernandez Ivan (CHI, 2505) were in a tie for the second place, but thanks to better tiebreaks, Nevednichy Vladislav ended second, and Morovic Fernandez Ivan finished on the third place.



*Légende Nemo enim ipsam voluptatem quia voluptas sit aspernatur.*





After 11 played rounds in Women 50+ section, Berend Elvira (LUX, 2349) scored 8.5 points to become World Women 50+ Senior Champion 2019. Bogumil Tatiana (RUS, 2150) was running-up, with 7.5 points, and took silver medal, while Strutinskaia Galina (RUS, 2196) took bronze thanks to better tiebreaks than: Grabuzova Tatiana (RUS, 2289) and Makropoulou Marina (GRE, 2174), who had the same score of 7 points.

Final rankings

Photos by: Mark Livshitz



**World Senior Chess Championship 2019**

The FIDE World Senior Chess Championship took place from 11th-24th November 2019 in Bucharest, Romania, with a total prize fund of 46.000 EUR.

# Vassily Ivanchuk wins Tournament of Peace

After 11 played rounds at historical Tournament of Peace, Vassily Ivanchuk (UKR, 2679) triumphed the event with score of 7 points.

Scoring 7 points, Vassily Ivanchuk was the sole Winner of the event and on the live rating list, crossed 2700 line, having live rating of 2701!

Second place went to Bosiocic Marin (CRO, 2598), with 6.5 points, while 3 players tied for the third place, each with 6 points. According to tiebreaks, Bacrot Etienne (FRA, 2669) took bronze, Ragger Markus (AUT, 2669) was 4th and Melkumyan Hrant (ARM, 2661) ended on the 5th place.

The Opening ceremony of the historical strong GM tournament was attended by: ECU President Zurab Azmaiparashvili, ECU Vice President Ivan Sokolov, and President of the Croatian Olympic Committee, Zlatko Matesa.




*Closing ceremony*





The first Tournament of Peace after the Independence of Republic of Croatia has been established in Zagreb, Croatia, for the first time in 2018. The event attracted and gathered many spectators and received positive feedback.

The second edition of the Tournament of Piece, as well as the first one, was supported by European Chess Union.

*ECU President on the opening ceremony of the Tournament of Peace*




**Tournament of Peace**

**About the event:**

The event was played in 11 rounds, Robin Round system, with time control: 90 minutes for 40 moves + 30 minutes for the rest of the game + 30 seconds increment for every move starting from the first one.

**Official Website of the event**

# GM ALEXANDER BELIAVSKY
# 10 QUESTIONS BY GM ADRIAN MIKHALCHISHIN



*GM ALEXANDER BELIAVSKY at Reykjavik Open 2017. Photo: Alina L'Ami*

**>What are You doing in life in the current moment?**
I am pensioner now. Playing some team competitions plus 1-2 tournaments yearly. I have weekly political-economical blog in Lviv main newspaper Vyskoji Zamok.

**>Your recollections with meetings with World Champions?**
I had fantastic relations with all of them, even trained Karpov and Kasparov! Botvinnik was guru for me. I visited him many times in Moscow and his advises were very important for me. He had very modest apartment and dacha. He tried to do everythig with his hands! Then I worked from 1980-84 with Tigran Petrosian. I studied a lot from him -nobody had seen so much and so fast in the position! He saw too much dangers in every situation , so he played very cautiousely. He played fantastic blitz. He was beating Karpov on 3 minutes and losing on 5! We planned our last camp in December 1983, but he called and told that he refused to play in Wijk aan Zee, as doctors found cancer. After half a year he passed away, as doctors in Germany and USA could not help...

**>Your best game .(Chess Informant).Just name.**
I won against practically all World Champions-Smyslov0great miniature with Black!,Tal ,Petrosian, Spassky , Karpov, Kasparov, Anand, Carlsen. Just did not play against Fischer! But the best games were two very similar wins in Caro Kann against great Bent Larsen.

**>Which Your achievement You consider to be most important.**
I was for times Soviet Champion! Like Tal and Korchnoi!

**>Best and most important chess books.**
The best is Botvinniks Soviet Superchampionship 1941. He was writing it during the war, and he told himself later that it was a lot of time for serious annotations during winter evenings in ecvacuation in city of Perm. Why the best?Because nobody was able to explain plans there with few words.

**>How did You start Your career.**
When I was six, my father taught me to play on Odessa beach, during our holidays. Immediately after that I went in Lviv to Pioneers Palace to chess club and had a luck to meet great Trainer, Father of Lviv School Victor Kart. In the same group were future IMs Oleg Romanishin and Marta Litinska, later came Adrian Mikhalchishin. I remember , when former student great Leonid Stein was playing symuls with us and showed his games from recent tournaments.

**>Your favorite openings.**
Because of my memory , I have chosen classical repertoire with Black-Spanish and Queens Gambit)nowadays I am completing the book on Queens Gambit!) With White I played sharpest 1 e4 with Bg5 against Naidorf. But then II moved to 1 d4 , which was a mistake , as I later realized…

"When I was six, my father taught me to play on Odessa beach, during our holidays. Immediately after that I went in Lviv to Pioneers Palace to chess club and had a luck to meet great Trainer, Father of Lviv School Victor Kart. "




*Beliavsky Alexander vs Karpov Anatloly during the 1975 USSR Team Championship in Riga*




*Beliavsky Alexander vs. Korchnoi Viktor, Wijk aan Zee, 26 January 1984. Photo: Rob Bogaerts, Anefo*

# MEET GM ALEXANDER BELIAVSKY

**>Who was the most difficult and easiest opponent during Your career.**
I played very easy against Geller and Rublevsky, Tseshkovsky. Petrosian once told me about some bad opponents- When You play against Botvinnik or Fischer ,it seemes that fast train is hitting you! The most difficult was Anatoly Karpov. He had everything protected in his positions! Not like train, but still…

**Non chess –best ,book, film and singer for You.**
Music-sax of Fausto Papetti.
Book-Investment by Bernard Graham.
Film-Once upon a time in America.

**>Favorite city, food and drink.**
City-Florence.
Food-really good steak.
Drink –of course French red wine!
It was Bent Larsen . who taught me to drink half a bottle after the game. When I played World Championship in Libya I knew that it is not possible to buy wine there. So, I took a castle of wine in duty free on the way there. But they confiscated it !
So, I could not relax after the games there…



*GM Alexander Beliavsky*

*Photo by:Andreas Kontokanis from Piraeus, Greece*

# USING THE MOVE COUNTER: RIGHT OR WRONG?
## Text by: Geert Bailleul, Secretary of the ECU Arbiters' Council



***Are we, as arbiters, allowed to activate the move counter in the chess clock or not?***

I will compare two different opinions from two very experienced International Arbiters, in particular IA Javier Perez Llera and IA Marco Biagioli. In a next article I will try to make some conclusions by other experienced arbiters.
The relevant articles in "the Laws of Chess" according to this subject which will be discussed are:
**6.3.1** When using a chess clock, each player must complete a minimum number of moves or all moves in an allotted period of time including any additional amount of time with each move. All these must be specified in advance.
**6.3.2** The time saved by a player during one period is added to his time available for the next period, where applicable.
**6.4** Immediately after a flag falls, the requirements of Article 6.3.1 must be checked.
**12.6** The arbiter must not intervene in a game except in cases described by the Laws of Chess. He shall not indicate the number of moves completed, except in applying Article **8.5** when at least one flag has fallen. The arbiter shall refrain from informing a player that his opponent has completed a move or that the player has not pressed his clock.

**First of all I will give the floor to IA Javier Perez Llera, member of the Spanish Arbiters' Commission, who is against the use of the move counter. This is his opinion:**

"The current standard rate of play for FIDE competitions is 90 minutes for the first 40 moves followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an addition of 30 seconds per move starting from move one (FIDE Handbook, C.07)

The program available in the most important electronic clocks has a special characteristic. If the move counter is activated the clock automatically adds the time (30 minutes) available for the second period when a player makes his 40th move .

In my opinion this is a malfunction of the clocks (or wrong setup, as you like). In this article I will explain some reasons supporting my opinion. In the described circumstances we must think about two possibilities.

The first one is that the move made was really the 40th move.

## Opinion of

## IA Javier Perez Llera




# Arbiters' corner






In this case, the player receives the full information that the first control has been fulfilled. This information is against the Laws of chess. The article 12.6 of the Laws of Chess forbids that the higher authority in the game (the arbiter) informs the players about the number of moves completed. Why should the clock inform about it? You must remember that the control isn't the number of moves made, it is the time. The article 6.4 (Laws of Chess) says that we need to do the check of the moves completed when the flag falls (when the time finished…). The control isn't a "number of moves control", it is a "time control".

The second possibility (more complex) occurs when the move made wasn't the 40th move. This may occur by some problems with a bad configuration of the clocks, a wrong initial position of the push buttons, some wrong taps on the clocks and others (every arbiter can give several examples).

In these cases it could be necessary to change the move counter to reflect the correct number of the moves (disturbing the related game and the adjacent games…), but in some cases the arbiter doesn't know the problem and it is only expressed exactly at the moment to add the time. For example, a double pushing of the clocks without moving (to relocate a position or because a player push the adjacent clock or others reasons...) has as consequence on the increment of 30 seconds for both the players (a minor problem) and the increment of the move counter. Especially, we can have more problems in games involving juniors and low-rated players. Usually, the professional players have a correct score sheet and they exactly know the number of moves made. Currently, some colleagues think that the clock (using the move counter) isn't a "time counter", it's a "pushing counter".

## Conclusion by IA Javier Perez Llera

In my opinion, we must not use the move counter to add the time of the 2nd period (doing the manual setup of the clock to add the time when the time of the first control finished)..

Even more I believe that this working way of the clocks should be forbidden, because:
a) it is clearly against the rules
b) the problems can be worse than the advantages."

**However, according to IA Marco Biagioli, member of ECU Arbiters' Council and Secretary of Italian Arbiters' Commission, for sure arbiters can use the move counter. This is his opinion:**



"First of all, I think we should consider that the first reason to say we can use the move counter is that no rule forbids or prevents it. Usually, colleagues who think the use of the move counter is not allowed refer to art. 6.4 which quotes a fallen flag. But the case is very different from the ordinary situation in which the flag doesn't fall at all and the players pass the time control by making the 40th move and just continue to play.

In this normal circumstance, the applicable art. is 6.3 (Laws of Chess) which states exactly the opposite: "the time saved by a player during one period is added to his time available for the next period, where applicable". It is totally obvious that, if the move counter is not in use there's no time saved because the available time for the second period starts to down count only after the main time is totally expired.

Some years ago there was some proposal to introduce a specific use to prevent the use of the move counter, but it was rejected.

Some other colleagues think that the move counter shouldn't be used because of the information given when the additional time is added to the main one, which is supposed to be an "unfair" information to the player about the number of the moves. But in fact, the move counter is eventually a push counter so there's no information in it except the number of time the players pressed the clock.

In case they used the clock properly, this information is the same coming from the score sheet, so no additional "unfair" or forbidden information is added. In case the clock was wrongly used, then no information again is given.

This second opportunity reveals that the arbiters didn't made their job checking the clocks periodically if they didn't realise there were something bad in the score sheet comparing to the displayed time.

And here we come to the last objection: If there is something wrong and the arbiters don't realise it, the use of the move counter make the things more complicated than not using it, or, in other words, the move counter creates problems.

## Opinion of

## IA Marco Biagioli




*Photo from European Team Chess Championship 2019, ECU /FIDE Arbiter*

# ECU Arbiters' Council Webpage

Having it in mind that every problem which is not discovered by the arbiters by checking the clocks periodically reveals a bad job of them, and not by the clocks, in my experience there are more problems without the move counter, starting from the consideration that its use has become something common through the years and then the players expect it to be used. This means they would require the assistance of the arbiters every time they reach the 40th move and the increment is not given. This also means several handling problems for the arbiters, having to rule to such claims exactly in the most critical moment of the games, when their attention may be required elsewhere.
However, as the move counter is not in use, the clocks reaches the finish of the main time and just keeps going to the second period, only displaying a flag for few moves (better, few pressures).

This means that the players can continue to play even if the game is finished (with the loss of the player who didn't fulfil the time control), because they don't notice the flag to have fallen or because they secretly agreed on them, and after few moves no one will be able to find out what happened. Of course, when there is a time trouble the arbiters should check it, but we cannot be sure all the game are controlled, especially if the number of the arbiters is not enough, comparing to the number of the ongoing games. It is really much easier to check periodically the clock and be sure they weren't improperly used than to check all the ongoing games at the same time. For all this reasons I definitely think we can use the move counter and in certain circumstances (for example junior tournaments and championships) we should use it."



## A word by Geert Bailleul

**I would like to thank both colleagues for expressing their opinion regarding this subject. I also would like to open the discussion to all other arbiters. For sure it will be interesting to know what's the opinion of our colleagues in Europe. So feel free to react and express your own opinion. Don't hesitate to send me your opinion by e-mail!**
**geertbailleul@skynet.be**

# EUROPEAN CORPORATE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



European Corporate Chess Championship 2020, organized by CC&O- Chess Communication & Organization, under the auspices of European Chess Union, will take place from 26th-29th June 2020 in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
**The tournament will be played on a luxury cruise ship of Royal Spido (named James Cook), while sailing in the Rotterdam harbour.**

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 main players and 1 optional substitute player.
The team composition:
>May have only one player over 2400 ELO (rapid FIDE rating included – FIDE rating lists April 2020)
>Shall have at least one player below 2000 ELO (rapid FIDE rating included – FIDE rating lists April 2020) playing each round.
>For each round at least two players of the team shall have a commercial relation (employment or similar) with the company with which he is playing for. Players shall be in rating order in the team composition (June FIDE rating lists) in order to play amateurs against amateurs as possible.
>All players must be over 16 years old.

The Team registration fee per team is 600 EUR and includes: the Organizing fee, the ECU entry fee, tea, coffee and water in the playing hall, deluxe sandwich lunch on 28th June, Closing ceremony reception with free drinks and canape.

All players and guests are invited to stay in Bilderberg Parkhotel Rotterdam. Hotel's website:

https://www.bilderberg.nl/rotterdam/parkhotel-rotterdam/

A team may apply for the championship individually or via a National Federation.

The event will be played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with time control of 15 minutes for the whole game, plus 5 seconds of an increment starting from the move one.

The total prize fund of the Championship is 6.000 EUR, with 3.000 EUR reserved for the Winner of the event.

Contact information/e-mail:
rotterdamcorporatechess@aol.com

Official regulations of the event

The registration deadline is 30th April 2020.

## EUROPEAN RAPID&BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

European Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2019 is currently ongoing in Tallin, Estonia, with participation of 469 players in Rapid competition and 462 players in Blitz competition.

Players coming from 33 European federations will compete for the title of European champion and a total prize fund of 30.000 EUR.



## FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championships 2019.

FIDE World Rapid&Blitz Chess Championships 2019 will take place from 26th-30th December in Moscow, Russia.

The event will be played in Open and Women's section, with a total prize fund of 500.000 USD.

Official Website



## 11th London Chess Classic

The 11th edition of London Chess Classic takes place from 29th November- 11th December in London, England.

London Chess Classic this year comprise the final of GCT, with participation of Magnus Carlsen, Ding Liren, Levon Aronian and Maxime-Vachier Lagrave.

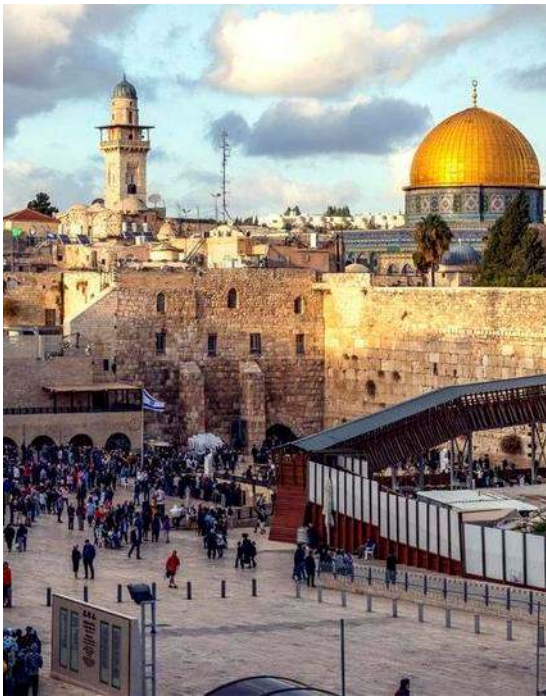
Besides the main GCT final event, London Chess Classic comprises side events. More details on Official Website.

## Jerusalem FIDE Grand Prix 2019

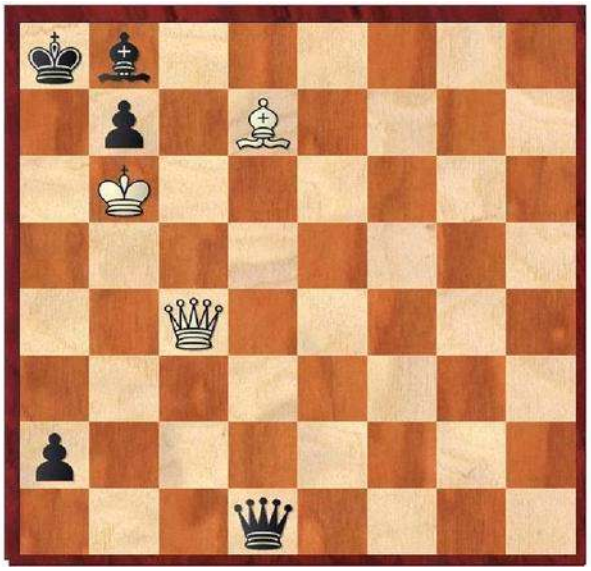
Jerusalem FIDE Grand Prix 2019 will take place from 11th-23rd December in Jerusalem, Israel.

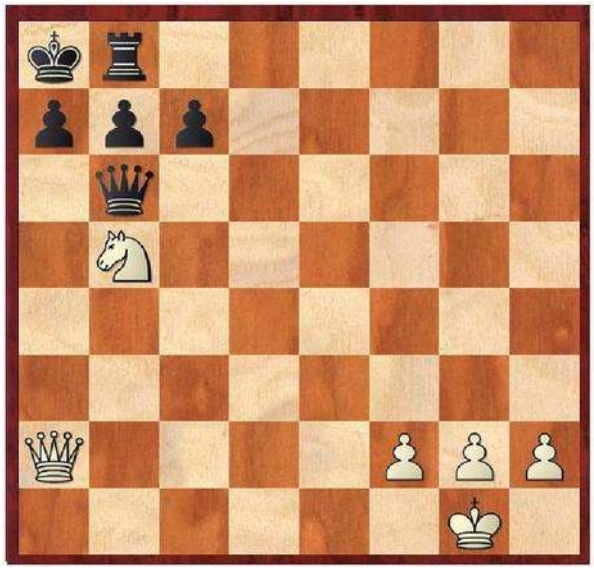
The event will be played in a Knock-out system with participation of 16 players.

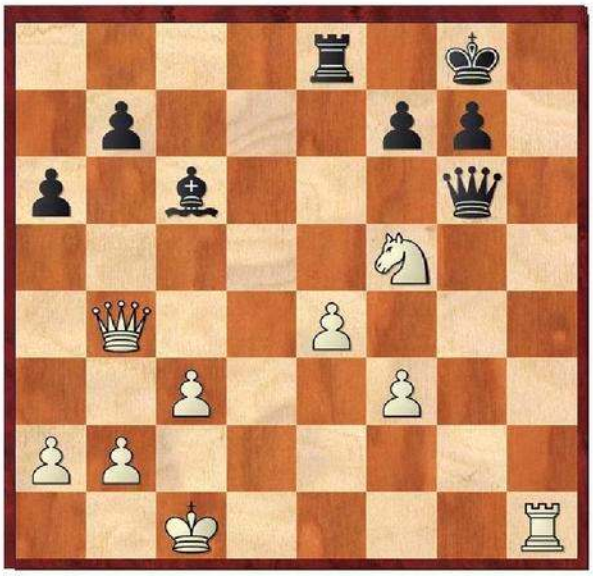
More details on Official website of the event.













# Max Euwe said about chess:

**>Chess is a sport. The main object in the game of chess remains the achievement of victory.**

**>Whoever sees no other aim in the game than that of giving checkmate to one's opponent will never become a good Chess player.**

**>Strategy requires thought, tactics require observation.**

**>Alekhine is a poet who creates a work of art out of something that would hardly inspire another man to send home a picture post card**

**>I honestly feel very humble when I study Capablanca's games.**

**>The essence of Capablanca's greatness is his rare talent for avoiding all that can complicate or confuse the conflict.**

*For this edition of the ECU monthly magazine, we prepared 4 positions with mate in 2!*
*White is on the move!*

**Solutions from October**

**#Puzzle 1**
1.Qxh5 gxh5 2.g6+ fxg6 3.fxg6#

**#Puzzle 2**
1.Nf7 Kg8 2.Rh8+ Nxh8 3.Nh6#

**#Puzzle 3**
1. Qxh7 Kxh7 2.Rh5+ Kg8 3.Rh8#

**#Puzzle 4**
1.Bh5+ Kxg5 2.Rdg1+ Kf4 3.Ne2#

European Chess Union

AiGROUP

4 healthy energetics

Chess Evolution



"Chess makes you smarter!"