E-MAGAZINE JANUARY 2020

European Chess Union



ECU Board Meeting

The 1st Quarter Board Meeting for 2020

Invitations

Invitations for European Youth Team and European Women Chess Championship 2020





JU WENJUN DEFENDS THE TITLE OF FIDE WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPION



Editorial

The European Chess Union 1st quarter Board meeting for 2020, took place on 31st January and 1st February in Larnaca, Cyprus. The Cyprus Chess Federation hosted the Board under excellent conditions and a great hospitality.

Mr. Andreas Christoforou, President of the Committee of Youth and Sports of the Municipality of Larnaca welcomed the Board members in Larnaca. The first session of the ECU Board was attended by the FIDE General Director Mr. Emil Sutovsky and FIDE Chairman of Chess in Education Commission Mr. Smbat Lputian when the matters of mutual interest as the new FIDE World Championship Cycle, new proposed FIDE Charter and CIS programs were discussed.

Main information and decisions in pages 3 & 4.

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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contents



03 **ECU Board Meeting**
Communique of the ECU Board Meeting

05 **Invitations**
Invitations for European Youth Team and European Women's Chess Championships 2020

07 **WWCC 2020**
Final report of FIDE Women's World Chess Championship 2020

09 **Tata Steel Chess**
Final report of Tata Steel Chess

10 **Gibraltar Chess Masters**
Final report of Gibraltar Chess Masters 2020

11 **Porugal Open 2020**
Portugal Open 2020 final report

12 **Arbiters Corner**
Appointment by ECU Arbiters Council for European Championships

14 **Meeting Chess Legends**
10 questions by Adrian Mikhalchishin with GM Elizbar Ubilava

15 **Upcoming events**
Fun zone



COMMUNIQUE OF THE ECU BOARD MEETING

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Mr. Andreas Christoforou, President of the Committee of Youth and Sports of the Municipality of Larnaca welcomed the Board members in Larnaca. The first session of the ECU Board was attended by the FIDE General Director Mr. Emil Sutovsky and FIDE Chairman of Chess in Education Commission Mr. Smbat Lputian when the matters of mutual interest as the new FIDE World Championship Cycle, new proposed FIDE Charter and CIS programs were discussed.



Main desicions and informaiton





Administration

>**ECU celebrates in 2020 the 35th anniversary from its establishment in Graz, Austria.** A special designed anniversary logo will be used in all 2020 European Championships. The ECU Anniversary General Assembly 2020 combined with the European Golden Pawn Award Ceremony will be hosted in the beginning of December in Monaco. Anniversary events will take place throughout the year and will be announced shortly.
>**ECU Board decided to make a statement about the FIDE Charter** as was included in the agenda of the FIDE Extraordinary Assembly in Abu-Dhabi.

Finances – Sponsorship

> **The Board unanimously approved the closing of the year 2019** noticing that the ECU income have reached the 920,000 euros a significant increase from 220,000 euros in 2014.
> **The Chess Evolution sponsorship to ECU in the value of 75,000 euros will be extended to 2020**.
>The Board discussed the projects have been submitted to the FIDE Development fund for the year 2020 and set the priorities according the contract has been signed with FIDE in 2019. The program will be finalized by the conclusion of upcoming FIDE Congress.

European Championships

>ECU Board was informed that the new qualification system for FIDE World Cup 2021 maintains 47 spots for the European Championships 2020 and 2021 **and decided to uphold 40 qualification spots for the best 40 European National Federations through the Olympiad 2020 standings.**
> ECU Board was informed that the new qualification system for FIDE Women's World Cup 2022 will provide about 20 spots for the European Women Championships 2020, 2021 and 2022 due to the 3-years qualification cycle set by FIDE. **ECU decided to uphold 10 qualification spots for the best 10 European National Federations through the Women's Olympiad 2020 standings and redirect more 10 qualification spots for the European Championships. Each European Women's Championship from 2020 to 2022 will award 10 qualification spots for Women's World Cup 2022 (in total 30)**.
>**ECU will support the organization of European Small Nations Championship 2020** which will take place in Monaco from 8th to 16th of November 2020.
>Further regulations for the post-evaluation of the European Championships will be adopted by proposal of the ECU Board to the ECU General Assembly 2020.

ECU_Statement of FIDE Charter

ECU Board Meeting

By the end of the ECU Board Meeting, the farewell dinner was hosted by the President of the Cyprus Chess Federation, Mr Christoforos Tornaritis in his Lounge Bar-Restaurant in Nicosia.

Special thanks to Mr Paris Klerides, Secretary General of the Cyprus Chess Federation for the Board hospitality.

EUROPEAN WOMEN INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



European Women Chess Championship 2020 will take place from 31st of May (arrival day) until 13th of June 2020 (departure day) in Mamaia, Romania.

The event is organized by Romanian Chess Federation, Constanta County Chess Association and Mind Games & Events Sport Association, under the auspices of European Chess Union.

The 21st European Individual Chess Championship for women is open for all players representing the Chess Federations members of the European Chess Union, regardless of their title or rating. Applications shall be sent by national federations. There is no limit of participants per federation.
Registration deadline is 10th April 2020.

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 an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one. Official venue and the Hotel of the Championship will be 4* Ramada Hotel, located in Mamaia, Romania.

The total prize fund of the event is 60.000 EUR, with 10.000 EUR reserved for the Winner of the event.

The 21st European Women Individual Chess Championship is a qualification event for the FIDE Women's World Cup 2022. According to new and recently published FIDE regulations defining for 2022 a 3-years cycle (2020, 2021, 2022), and the ECU Board previous decisions, at least 8 players will qualify. Next ECU Board meeting (end of January 2020) may decide and announce additional spots taking into consideration the new FIDE regulations.

Contact details are available on official website of the event.

Official Website of the event

EUROPEAN YOUTH TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2020 - Invitation

The European Chess Union (ECU) invites all National Chess Federations of ECU to participate in the European Youth Team Chess Championships 2020 organised from 9 July (arrivals) to 17 July (departures). The event will be held in the Conference Hall of the 5-star Lazart Hotel in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The European Youth Team Championship shall be held according to Swiss system in 7 rounds, with two open sections and two sections for the girls teams, considered as separate competitions in categories U12 and u18. According to ECU tournament rules, the time control will be 90 min for 40 moves + 30 min for the rest of the game + 30 sec increment for every move played starting from move 1. Players may only agree to a draw after black's 30th move.

Each national federation member of the European Chess Union has the right to enter unlimited number of teams of four players and one reserve in the open competitions and unlimited number of teams of two 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.



The playing hall and the official hotel of the event is 5-star Lazart Hotel Thessaloniki.

The winning team of competition receives the title "European Youth Champion Team 2020" in its respective category. The first three teams in each competition will receive trophies and medals.

Registration deadline is 9th May 2020.

More details and official regulations are available on the ECU Website



JU WENJUN DEFENDS THE TITLE OF FIDE WORLD WOMEN CHESS CHAMPION

Chinese Grandmaster Ju Wenjun defended the title of FIDE World Women Chess Champion after defeating Aleksandra Goryachkina (RUS, 2578) in the tiebreak match with the result 2.5-1.5.





#WWCC2020

During the 12 games match, both the Challenger and the Defender had their chances and were in a position of the leaders.

After three draws in the first three rounds, Ju Wenjun was the one who made a first victory and took a psychological and score advantage.



But the advantage didn't last long, since Aleksandra Goryachkina striked back already in the round 5, and with the first victory in the match tied a result.

Next two games, games 6 and 7, the last one played in Shanghai and the first one to be played in Vladivostok ended in a peaceful manner, and in the round 8 Goryachkina took another victory and a lead.

It seemed like 21 years old Aleksandra couldn't take a pressure, and lost two games in a row, and entered the final two games of the match as an underdog.

After easy draw in the round 11, Goryachkina took white pieces in the final game and what she must've done she has done! She won the last game and proceeded to tiebreaks.

Ju Wenjun was quite confident in the tiebreak match and scored the first victory in the game three. Goryachkina was again in the must win situation, and even though she had chances, the position went to drawn endgame, and Ju Wenjun hold it to the end.

With final score 2.5-1.5, Ju Wenjun was announced as 2020 World Women Chess Champion.

FIDE World Women Chess Championship Match

FIDE World Women Chess Championship Match took place from 4th-25th January. The first aprt of the match, first six games took place in Shanghai, China, while the final six games took place in Vladivostok, Russia.

The Closing Ceremony of the game took place on 26th January with attendance of FIDE President, Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich, who took part in the awarding ceremony.

More details about the event are available on the Official Website.

Fabiano Caruana wins Tata Steel Masters

Fabiano Caruana (USA, 2822) convincingly won Tata Steel Masters 2020, with score of 10 points out of 13 played games!



Although Caruana Fabiano was the Winner of the event with a round to spare, he entered the last round playing for another victory. After few hours of fights, Caruana defeated Artemiev Vladislav (RUS, 2731) and scored 10 points to be 2 points ahead of the runner-up.

Second place went to reigning World Chess Champion, Magnus Carlsen (NOR, 2872). First 7 rounds of the event ended in a peaceful manner for Magnus, but with three consecutive victories and two draws in last two rounds, Carlsen took second place scoring 8 points.

Wesley So (USA, 2765) took the third place with 7.5 points, after 11 draws and two defeats over former World Chess Champion Anand Viswanathan (IND, 2758) and 16 years old Firouzja Alireza (2723).

Final standings and results of all rounds are available here.

The 82nd edition of the Tata Steel Chess, often called "Wimbledon of Chess" took place from 10th-27th January 2020 in Wijk aan Zee.

5th round of the event was played in Eindhoven, at Philips Stadion of PSV football stadium. On the resting day, international grandmasters of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament played their friendly football match at the Telstar FC stadium. World champion Magnus Carlsen and Loek van Wely (grandmaster and currently a Dutch senator) were the team captains.







R8 Opening

The round 8 was opened by Samunenkov Ihor from Ukraine- the Winner of the event “Future Champions of Europe” organised by Judit Polgar Chess Foundation and European Chess Union.

ABOUT:

GIBRALTAR CHESS FESTIVAL 2020

The 18th edition of Gibraltar Chess Festival took place from 20th-31st January 2020 in Caleta Hotel, Gibraltar.
The event comprised Masters, Challengers and Amateur events with a total prize fund which crossed 170.000 £.



Final tiebreak match: Wang Hao-David Paravyan

This year, the main event participated 250 players coming from 55 federations. Among them, 85 GMs, 62 IMs, and in total 211 titled players!
The first 7 top seeds on the starting rank list were rated 2700+, while 28 players were rated 2600+.



Tradition of Gibraltar Chess Festival: Battle of the Sexes

David Paravyan wins Gibraltar Chess Masters

21 years old Russian Grandmaster, David Paravyan (RUS, 2629), won the Gibraltar Chess Masters 2020 after defeating Esipenko Andrey (RUS, 2654) and Wang Hao (CHN, 2758) in the playoffs.
After 10 played rounds at the event, 7 players tied for the first place: 17 years old Esipenko Andrey, Wang Hao, Yuffa Daniil (RUS, 2566), Paravyan David (RUS, 2629), Vachier-Lagrave Maxime (FRA, 2770), Navara David (CZE, 2717) and Yilmaz Mustafa (TUR, 2607), scoring 7.5 points, each.

Top 4 players according to tiebreaks criteria proceeded to playoffs, where Paravyan David first met Esipenko Andrey. After chances on the both sides, Paravyan won an Armageddon game with White pieces to enter the playoff final match against Wang Hao.

After first two rapid games ended in a draw, Paravyan won the first blitz game, and hold a draw in the second game, to became the Winner of Gibraltar Chess Masters 2020 and take the prize of 30.000 £ !



The Winners of Gibraltar Chess Festival

Photos by: John Saunders and Niki Riga

Tan Zhongyi wins the Women prize

The best ranked Women player was Tan Zhongyi.

Scoring 7 points, Tan Zhongyi (CHN, 2493) was the best ranked Women player. Besides the Winner trophy, Tan Zhongyi took the prize award of 20.000£.
Her compatriot, Lei Tingjie (CHN, 2493) took the second place, with score of 6.5 points, with prize of 10.000£.
Cramling Pia (SWE, 2470) was on the third place as the best women.

The best game prize of £1,000 went to Anna Muzychuk (UKR, 2539) for her last-round win against Ori Kobo (ISR, 2445). With this win, Anna Muzychuk scored 6 points.

The Closing Ceremony of the event was attended by the FIDE President, Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich, who also took part in the prize giving ceremony.

Grigoryan Karen H. wins Portugal Open 2020

Armenian Grandmaster, Grigoryan Karen H. (ARM, 2632) was the sole Winner of the Portugal Open 2020, scoring 7.5 points.

The event took place from 25th January-1st February in Lisbon, Portugal.

With the victory in the last round, Karen Grigoryan came alone on the top of the list. 7 players tied for the second place: Alekseev Evgeny (RUS, 2623), Iturrizaga Eduardo (VEN, 2597), Asadli Vugar (AZE, 2538), Indjic Aleksandar (SRB, 2622), Tari Aryan (NOR, 2635), Motylev Alexander (RUS, 2640), Ghamarian Tigran (FRA, 2603) and Ten Hertog Hugo (NED, 2503), each with score of 7 points.

According to tiebreak criteria, second place went to Alekseev Evgeny and the third place came to Iturrizaga Eduardo.

The event was played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with time control 90 minutes plus 30 seconds per move from the first move. The total prize fund of the event crossed 11.000 EUR and the event gathered 216 players, coming from 33 federations.

More details about the Portugal Chess Open 2020 are available on the Official Website of the event.



Playing venue



GM Karen Grigoryan- the WInner of Portugal Open 2020

Appointment by the ECU Arbiters Council (ECU AC) of arbiters for European Championships.

During the ECU General Assembly 2019 in Batumi (Georgia), the members of the General Assembly approved the proposal of the ECU AC to appoint 20% of the arbiters during the ECU Tournaments.
As per decision, the ECU AC will appoint directly 20% of the arbiters of any ECU official championship, other than the principals mentioned in ECU Tournament Regulations (B.10.2.1).

The principals for each ECU Tournament will still be appointed by the ECU President. The 20% appointed by ECU AC shall be foreign arbiters, not belonging to the hosting federations.

The ECU AC has set up a “System of appointment of arbiters in official ECU Tournaments”. This system contains a system of applications; the composition of an applicants list; a system of grading for all applicants to make the final list of applicants, and finally an appointing procedure.

In the system of grading points are given to the arbiters depending on their grade (IA-A, IA-B, etc...), their experience during the last 3 years, the knowledge of official FIDE languages, the seminars or the workshops they attended (during the last 3 years), etc...

ECU AC also asked what ECU Tournaments in 2020 the arbiters are interested in. From December 10th 2019 until January 10th 2020, ECU Arbiters Council announced a “Call of interest” for the arbiters who are interested to be appointed for ECU Tournaments in 2020.
We received 197 applications, 176 applications were from titled arbiters (IA or FA). They also pasted the necessary conditions. ECU AC is very thankful that so many of the arbiters in ECU participated in our “Call of Interest” for ECU tournaments.

The List of interested arbiters is available our ECU AC website.

According to the “System of appointment of arbiters in official ECU Tournaments” (point 10 and 11), the parent federations of every arbiter can express any objections against any arbiter of their federation until January 26th.

In the near future the ECU AC will give points to each arbiter who has participated in our “Call of interest”, to make a graded list of arbiters for each ECU Tournament.

If anyone should have any questions or remarks about this subject, please don’t hesitate to contact the ECU Arbiters Council.



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Website of the ECU Arbiters Council



GM ELIZBAR UBILAVA
10 questions by Adrian Mikhalchishin



GM Elizbar Ubilava

1) What are You doing in life in the current moment?
I am a coach of Georgian woman team last few years. In my career I trained N. Ioseliani, N. Gaprindashvili, V. Anand, Adhiban, A. Karpov, S.Mamedyarov, Women and Mans teams of India.

2) Your recollections with meetings with World Champions?
I knew personally M.Euwe, M.Botvinnik, V.Smyslov, M.Tal, A.Karpov, V.Kramnik, V.Anand, V.Topalov. With these Champions I communicated ,with some of them played, with some –worked!

3) Your best game. (Chess Informant). Just name.
My memorable game against G Timoshchenko 1974.

4) Which Your achievement You consider to be most important?
I consider as my greatest achievment in chess working during 11 years as a coach of V.Anand, leading him to the title of World Champion.

5) Best and most important chess books.
G.Kasparov- My great predecessors.

6) How did You start Your career?
I started to play chess with 6 years, this i consider as a start of my career. My first trainer was Candidate Master Pavel Khizanishvili. Then I studied philosophy in Tbilisi University. Completed Doctors studies , but it was no time to deal with my doctors thesis, as chess took me fully away!

7) Your favorite openings?
Sicilian, NimzoIndian and Queens Gambit Declined.

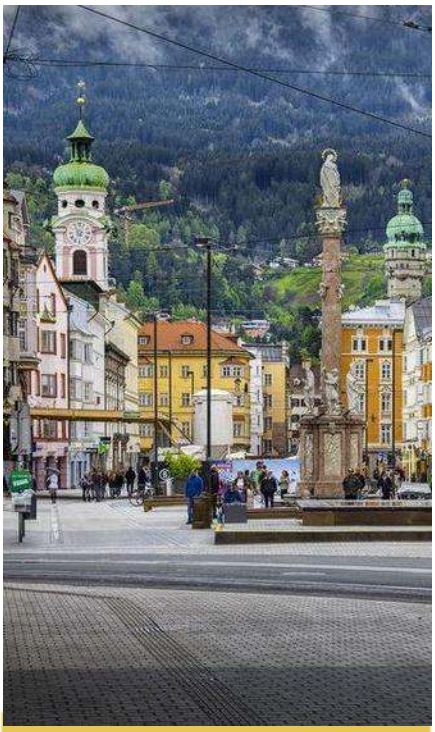
8) Who was the most difficult and easiest opponent during Your career?
i can´place my opponents in the category of very difficult ones ,as i was taking all of them as simply opponents. For my psychological approach in chess it was the best.

9) Non chess –best ,book, film and singer for You?
Book-Tolstoi-War and Peace. Film-Godfather, Music- Gershvin-Summer time

10) Favorite city, food and drink?
Food-Chinkali-Georgian dumplings , Drink-Whiskey.

"I started to play chess with 6 years, this i consider as a start of my career."

EVENTS IN FEBRUARY 2020



2nd Prague International Chess Festival 2020

The second edition of Prague International Chess Festival takes place from 11th-22nd February in Prague, the capital of Czech Republic.

The festival contains 7 events: Masters, Challengers, Open, Futures, Rated, Rapid and Blitz tournaments.

Utrecht Masters 2020

Utrecht Masters 2020 chess event will take place from 13th-27th February 2020, in Utrecht, Netherlands.

Detailed information about the event are available on the Official Website.



Graz Open 2020

Graz Open 2020 takes place from 14th-21st February 2020 in Graz, Austria.

The event will be played in 9 rounds, with time control: 90min for 40 moves + 30min till the end of the game + 30 sec increment per move starting from move 1.

The total prize fund will be 20.000 EUR.

More details on Official Website.



20th Liberec Open 2020

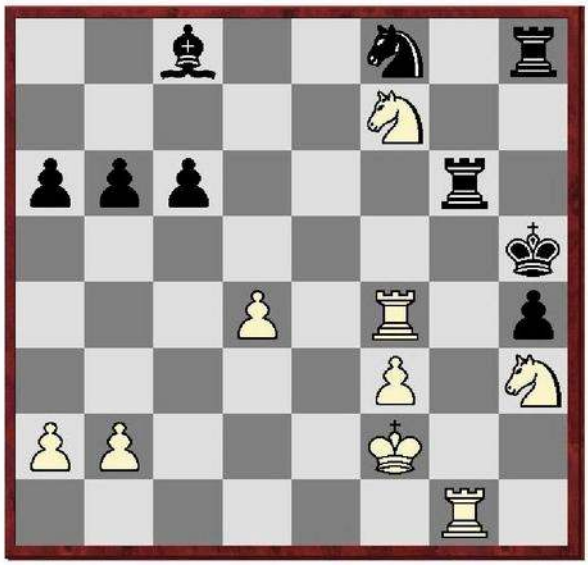
The 20th edition of the Liberec Open 2020 will be held from 22nd-29th February 2020 in Liberec, Czech Republic.

Liberec Open 2020 will be played in 3 different sections: A, B, and C.

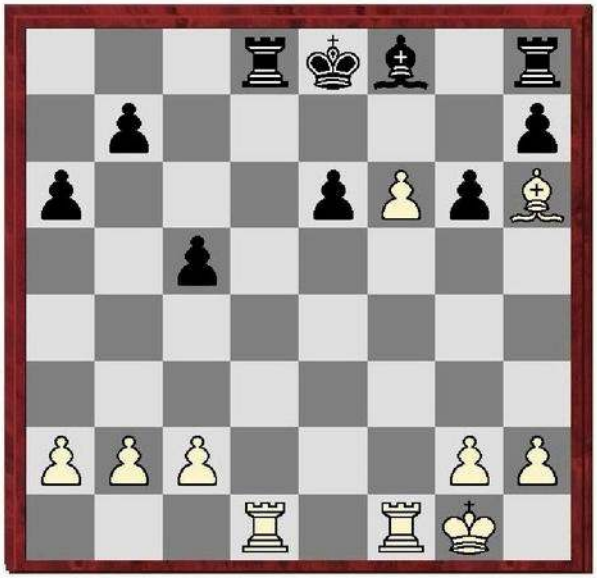
Official regulations and invitation are available on the Official Website.











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

Siegbert Tarrasch said about chess:

>I have always a slight feeling of pity for the man who has no knowledge of chess, just as I would pity the man who has remained ignorant of love. Chess, like love, like music, has the power to make man happy.

>It is not enough to be a good player... You must also play well.

>It cannot be too greatly emphasized that the most important role in pawn endings is played by the king.

>When you see a good move, sit on your hands and see if you can find a better one.

>When you don't know what to do, wait for your opponent to get an idea; it is sure to be bad.

Solutions from December

#Puzzle 1
1.Qe8+ Nxe8 2.Rf8#

#Puzzle 2
1.Nh6+ Kf7 2.Nxe6#

#Puzzle 3
1.Qf6+!! Nxf6 [1...Ne7 2.Qxe7#] 2.Be7#

#Puzzle 4
1.Qc8+ Ke7 2.Re6#

European Chess Union

AiGROUP

4 healthy energetics

Chess Evolution



"Chess makes you smarter!"