



NEWSLETTER

September  
2014

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## Facts about Bilbao:

- A huge number of chess fans from all over the world followed the Bilbao Chess 2014 on the internet
- Teams in both groups won with perfect score
- The Bilbao Chess 2014 gathered the world chess elite
- 7 of current top 10 players in the world and most of the world's best grandmasters, divided in 60 teams coming from 30 European countries participated at ECC 2014

## HISTORY MADE IN BILBAO

Domination of SOCAR (Azerbaijan) and Batumi Chess Club Nona (Georgia) was one of the things that marked this year's edition of the European Chess Club Cup in Bilbao.

SOCAR as the top seed confirmed its role of the big favorite to win gold, while Batumi surprised those present by winning the women's European title, even though they were not initially regarded as a strong candidate.

Nevertheless, both clubs finished the tournament with all 7 wins and convincingly triumphed.



SOCAR winner in Open section



Batumi Chess Club Nona, winner in Women Section

### European Club Cup Open final standings:

1. Socar (Azerbaijan) 14 MP
2. G-Team Novy Bor (Czech Republic) 12 MP
3. Malakhite (Russia) 11 MP

### Women's European Club Cup final standings:

1. Batumi Chess Club Nona (Georgia) 14 MP
2. CE Monte Carlo (Monaco) 10 MP
3. SHSM Nashe Nasledie (Russia) 9 MP

Amazing individual achievements also marked this competition. Italian Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana had the best individual result on the 1st board (RP 2896) and is now 2nd player in the world. Former World Champion Veselin Topalov won gold on the 2nd board (RP 2922), broke 2800 points and jumped on position #3 in live rating (source <http://www.2700chess.com/>).

**Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, on behalf of the ECU, he congratulated the organizers for having 52 teams in the open section. "But 8 women's teams is not enough!", he continued, and then he officially announced a women's commission to be founded within his organization.**

**"I am very proud. We were clearly the best in this tournament. We were favorites before, but this year we won very convincingly. Everybody played well, without any exception", said Vladimir Tukmakov, captain of SOCAR.**

Medals were also awarded for the best individual performances to Pentala Harikrishna (board 3), Anish Giri (board 4), Teimour Radjabov (board 5) and Mateusz Bartel (board 6). In the women's section best players were: Hou Yifan (board 1), Alexandra Kosteniuk (board 2), Anastasia Savina (board 3) and Marina Guseva (board 4)

Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, President of the European Chess Union attended the opening ceremony and addressed to the participants and the audience. He also made the first symbolic move in the first round of the competition. Mr. Martin Huba, Treasurer of the ECU was present in Bilbao as well. The opening and closing ceremony were attended by the officials Mr. Ibon Areso, Bilbao Mayor, and Mr. Javier Ochoa de Echagüen, President of the Spanish Chess Federation.



The high competitive level displayed in Bilbao these days drew spectacular attention from the world chess sphere and broke the audience ratings which Bilbao's organization had been increasing edition after edition. The record number of chess fans followed Bilbao Chess 2014 during the 7 days the competition lasted for. Most people followed the event on the tournament's official sites, as well as the world's main chess portals. Masses of people went into the Euskalduna Congress Centre every day to watch the games on site. Videos from Bilbao can be seen at

[the Bilbao Chess YouTube channel](#)

Beautiful games and high level of chess, amazing scores, great organization – all this the spectators and chess fans witnessed in Bilbao this year. Congratulations to the winners and the organizers for their efforts to provide all the competing delegations with the best possible service.

[Official website of the tournament](#)

## ECU NEWS

### ECU President in Bilbao and Paris

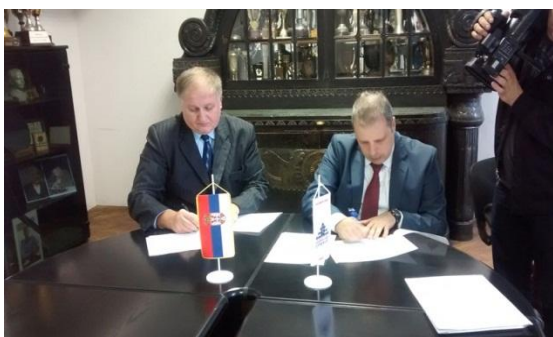
At the opening ceremony of the European Club Cup in Bilbao, the ECU President Zurab Azmaiparashvili announced that the Women's Commission will be founded within European Chess Union. The composition of the new ECU Commissions will be approved at the ECU Board meeting on 24th October in Batumi/Georgia. The Extraordinary General Assembly of the European Chess Union will be held on 25th October, 2014 in Batumi/Georgia. On 18th September, 2014 President of the European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili met with President of the French Chess Federation Mr. Diego Salazar in the premises of the French Chess Federation in Paris. They discussed the matters of cooperation in marketing and sponsorship field. Well-known Grandmaster, Mr. Bachar Kouatly was also present at the meeting.



### ECU and Serbian Chess Federation – New era of cooperation

On Tuesday 23rd September, 2014 Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, Secretary General of the European Chess Union visited Serbian Chess Federation where he met the President, Mr. Miroslav Kopanja, the member of the Executive Board, Mr. Danko Bokan, and the Secretary Mr. Milivoje Milivojevic.

Tsorbatzoglou and Kopanja signed a donation agreement between European Chess Union and Serbian Chess Federation regarding the donation of ECU property from ECU office in Belgrade. During the meeting the development of chess in Serbia, the ECU matters and the possibilities for the future cooperation between FIDE, ECU and Serbian Chess Federation was also discussed. It was agreed that the next meeting will take place during the European Youth Chess Championship in Batumi, Mr. Kopanja announced that in the near future there will be a meeting with Mr. Vlade Divac, President of the Olympic Committee of Serbia, which will be held in Belgrade. [TV Report](#)



## EU Youth Chess Championship

The ECU Tournament Director, Mr. Peter Pisk awarded the winner at the recently finished EU Youth Chess Championship 2014, which was held in Kouty nad Desnou (CZE), from 26<sup>th</sup> August till 4<sup>th</sup> September. The final round was visited by the president of Slovakian Chess Federation and the ECU Treasurer, Mr. Martin Huba, who also helped us by prize-giving.



## Chess Museum In Moscow

The first Russian Chess Museum was opened on 25th September in the renovated halls of the historic mansion on Gogol Boulevard in Moscow. The new capital Museum will be the successor to the chess Museum facilities, which were situated at the Central House of Chess in the 80s of the 20th century. The basic collection of the new Museum includes rare chess sets of different cultures and eras. Collection consists of personal belongings of the great Grandmasters: Mikhail Chigorin, Alexander Alekhine, Mikhail Botvinnik, Tigran Petrosian: old books, posters, paintings, gifts of chess fans and celebrity guests, trophies of the Soviet and Russian Champions. It also has on display rare chess sets of the 17th-21st centuries, including the artworks of world level, some of them the envy of the big art museums.



More information [here](#)

## FUN ZONE

We present you three interesting positions from recently ended European Club Cup in Bilbao and one study. Try your luck!

*Position No. 1 is from game Alexei Shirov vs Henk Vadder from round 1. Try to find a nice combination by Shirov!*

*Position 2 is from game Aron Greenfeld vs Etienne Bacrot from the 4th round. Bacrot found a nice mate combination. Can you find it?*

*Position 3 is from last round, the game between Veselin Topalov and Peter Svidler which brought victory for SOCAR. Svidler made a mistake with Black, can you find the right way to the draw?*

*Study No. 1 was made by M. Markovic. White plays and...draws! Difficult but amazing study by the Serbian author.*

*Solutions in the next ECU Newsletter*



Shirov-Vadder, ECC Bilbao 2014



Greenfeld-Bacrot, ECC Bilbao 2014



Topalov-Svidler, ECC Bilbao 2014



Study No. 1

## THEY TOLD ABOUT CHESS...

"The Game of Chess is not merely an idle amusement; several very valuable qualities of the mind, useful in the course of human life, are to be acquired and strengthened by it, so as to become habits ready on all occasions; for life is a kind of Chess, in which we have often points to gain, and competitors or adversaries to contend with, and in which there is a vast variety of good and ill events, that are, in some degree, the effect of prudence, or the want of it." Benjamin Franklin, The morals of chess, 1779.



# UPCOMING EVENTS IN OCTOBER

## ECU EVENTS

Traditionally the most numerous ECU competition, the European Youth Chess Championship will take place in Batumi/Georgia, 18-29 October, 2014. The Championship will be held in 12 age groups: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18, Boys and Girls separately.



The tournament will be played according to the Swiss system in 9 rounds. The time control will be 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.

The organizers have provided accommodation in the top hotels, as well as the valuable prizes for the winners - laptop computers, cameras and mobile phones. [Official web page](#)

## EUROPEAN EVENTS

Two European leagues start in October: **Icelandic Team Championship Season 2014/2015** and **Chess Bundesliga Season 2014/2015**. Icelandic Team begins on the 3rd October, and only first 5 rounds will be played in October. [The official website](#)

Bundesliga officially starts on the third weekend of October (18-19), when the first 2 games will be played. Baden-Baden defends the title, and this year they perform with the team of 2740 ELO points average rating. [Official Website](#)

[Chess Train 2014](#) Prague Chess Society and Czech Railways prepare another year of the train tournament associated with a journey around beautiful Central European cities. Chess Train 2014 will ride on the route Prague (Czech Republic) – Vienna (Austria) – Budapest (Hungary) – Trenčin (Slovakia) – Krakow (Poland) – Prague from 10th to 14th of October 2014. From Friday to Tuesday again, you will have the possibility to play 12-rounds 5 days rapid chess tournament in a specially launched train and explore five beautiful cities.



With the prize fund of 21.000 pounds and the strong list of participants, **Pokerstars Isle of Man International Chess Tournament 2014** is certainly very attractive for the spectators and chess fans. The tournament will be held in Isle of Man, small island located in the Irish Sea, from 4th till 12th October, 2014. It consists of three tournaments: Masters, Major and Minor. Some of the important names playing there are: Maxim Vachier Lagrave, Michael Adams, Laurent Fressinet, etc. [Official website](#)

**Chigorin Memorial 2014** – Traditional tournament which takes place in Russian city of Sankt Petersburg. This year it will be held 17-26 October, and it consists of 2 tournaments: Blitz Tournament and Classic chess tournament – Russian Cup Stage. Blitz is played on 17th October, in 13 rounds, and the main tournament will be played from 18th till 26th October, in 9 rounds. [Official Website](#)

One more traditional tournament, **40th Guernsey International Chess Festival 2014**, will be held 19-25 October 2014 at the Peninsula Hotel in Guernsey. The highest placed eligible player in the Open tournament will receive entry into the British Chess Championship 2015!

[Official web page](#)

**If there is any important tournament within your federation please inform us.**

## ECU CONTACTS

After the elections in Tromso Norway European Chess Union administration is re-organized. You can find here the official ECU contacts and info sites.

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**Website:** [www.ecuonline.net](http://www.ecuonline.net)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/europeanchessunion](http://www.facebook.com/europeanchessunion)

**Twitter:** @ECUonline

**Phone directory:** <http://www.ecuonline.net/com/organization/office/>

*After the ECU Board meeting in Batumi will be announced the co-operative offices with the ECU headquarters in Switzerland.*

If you do not wish to receive the ECU Newsletter, we kindly ask you to inform us:

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