



EUROPEAN
INDIVIDUAL
CHAMPIONSHIP
JERUSALEM 2015



EUROPEAN
RAPID&BLITZ
CHAMPIONSHIP
WROCLAW 2014



ECU PRESIDENT
OFFICIAL VISIT
TO PODGORICA
AND SKOPJE



WORLD YOUTH
CHESS OLYMPIAD
GYOR 2014

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



**HAPPY NEW YEAR
AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

The European chess Union wishes you
a successful and joyful year ahead!

European Blitz & Rapid Chess Championship 2014



The European Blitz & Rapid Championship 2014 was held in Worclaw/Poland 19-21 December, 2014, in the Centennial Hall.

The European Championship in Blitz took place on Friday. It gathered more than 600 players from 31 countries. The best among them was Czech Grandmaster David Navara. He scored 19 points and became the new European Blitz Champion. Jan Krzysztof Duda, a 16-year old Polish player took the second place, and bronze went to Spanish player Ivan Lopez Salgado.

The Rapid competition was held in the next two days, on Saturday and Sunday at the same place, gathering almost 800 players from 32 European Federations. The silver medalist from Blitz, young Polish player Jan Krzysztof Duda triumphed in Rapid Championship by defeating the Blitz Champion David Navara in the last round, and took home two medals. Second place went to GM Andrei Volokitin, and Grzegorz Gajewski came third.



The ECU Secretary General Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou and the President of Polish Chess Federation Mr. Tomasz Delega opened the European Rapid Chess Championship in Wroclaw with a new record of participation. After the opening ceremony ECU and Polish Chess Federation officials visited the grave of the legend German Chess player Dr. Adolf Anderssen. A working lunch took place, in the Polonia Wroclaw chess club where various chess matters were discussed among them the future cooperation with the Polish chess Federation.

The Championship was organized by Polonia Wroclaw Chess Club, under the patronage of the European Chess Union and the Polish Chess Federation. It was held under the auspices of Rafal Dutkiewicz – the President of the city of Wroclaw and will bear the name the 23rd Adolf Anderssen Memorial.

[Official website](#)

World Youth U-16 Olympiad 2014 in Győr/Hungary

The Hungarian Chess Federation organized the World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad in Győr (Hungary) from 12-22 December 2014.

The event gathered 54 teams from 37 countries, and after 10 rounds the best among them became the team of India. Indians scored 18 match points, one point ahead the silver Russia with 17 points. Bronze went to the team of Iran with 16 match points.



Great organization and a very successful youth event was confirmed by the words of Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, Secretary General of the European Chess Union and FIDE Events Commission Delegate at the opening ceremony of the tournament . Mr. Tsorbatzoglou expressed his belief that Hungary and Győr would be an excellent host of the Youth Olympiad.

“A country that gives to chess World Champions, legend players, great teams, Olympic medalists. We are pleased to have today with the us the greatest ever of the women chess players Grand Master Judith Polgar. Győr and Hungary is the right place to host and popularize this event . The participation of 37 countries and more than 50 teams is the evidence on this.

He stated that FIDE and European Chess Union are proud to organize World Youth U16 Olympiad in Győr and they hope that soon there will be more completions of our calendar to take place in Hungary.

Mr. Martin Huba, ECU Treasurer represented the European Chess Union at the closing ceremony and rewarded the winners.



[Official website of the World Youth Olympiad](#)

ECU NEWS

ECU President Zurab Azmaiparashvili in official visit to Podgorica

On 19th and 20th December, 2014 the ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili paid an official visit to Montenegro. Mr. Azmaiparashvili had a meeting with the Director of the Administration of Sport Mr. Igor Vusurovic, the President of the Montenegro Olympic Committee, Mr. Dusan Simonovic and the President of the Montenegro Chess Federation, Mrs. Angelina Vukovic. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Veselin Draskovic, Vice President of MCF, the Secretary of MCF Mr. Boro Miljanic and the MCF Board Member Mr. Nenad Radulovic.



In a friendly atmosphere the current relations between the ECU and Montenegro and its Chess Federation was discussed, as well as the ways of the future cooperation. After the meeting ECU President held a press conference and gave an interview for the Montenegro National Television.



Then Mr. Azmaiparashvili visited the Montenegro Chess Championships 2014 and attended the Championships' awarding ceremony, where he presented the awards to the winners. FIDE President, Mr. Kirsan Ilymzhinov, also arrived in Podgorica and was also present at the closing ceremony of the Championships.

Montenegro Championships were held from 10th till 20th December in the hall of the National Library "Radosav Ljumovic", gathering the members of the Montenegro Olympic team, as well as the promising young players. Grandmaster Nikola Djukic convincingly won the Men's Championship with 8,5/11 points, leaving IM Luka Draskovic a full point behind. This is Djukic's fourth consecutive and fifth overall title. Bronze went to GM Dragisa Blagojevic. The Women's Champion for 2014 is Nina Delevic.



Championships were a part of the “December Days of Chess” in Podgorica which were organized by the Montenegro Chess Federation.

Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili visits Skopje regarding the ECCC 2015

Regarding the organization of the European Chess Club Cup 2015, which will be held next year in Skopje/FYR Macedonia, the President of the European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili paid an official visit to Skopje on 17th and 18th December. He met with the Mayor of Karpos, Mr. Stevco Yakimovski, the President of the National Chess Federation, Mr. Blagoja Bogoevski and the Director of the Agency for Youth and Sports, Mr. Marjan Spaseski.



Chess Federation of FYR Macedonia in cooperation with Chess Club Gambit, and Karpos Municipality, as main supporter, are the organizers of ECCC 2015 and signed the contract for the event with the ECU.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili expressed his satisfaction that Karpos Municipality, the biggest sports municipality in the country will organize this great event which is one of renowned sports activities in Europe.

- Thank you for the support you generously give and all your enthusiasm. I believe that your organization will succeed in achieving a great and unprecedented sporting event. While investing in the players, we all mutually invest in the future of the smart world. Everything is in the training of the fingers and the brain. In the past we had a great confirmation of the organizational capabilities of your country and people. - said Azmaiparashvili.

As organizers of the European Chess Club Cup 2015 the Mayor Yakimovski emphasized that every year the Municipality organizes International Chess Tournament "Open Karpos" and is already experienced in organizing such great chess tournaments.

Mr. Spaseski shared the experiences of investing in sports and sports infrastructure of the country, and informed Mr. Azmaiparashvili that they have been a host to many chess events in history and all of them proved to be excellently organized.

During his visit, president of the ECU was pleased with the quality of preparations for the organization, and underlined that this is real and modern organization of a high-ranking sports event.

The ECU President pays an official visit to Jerusalem, EICC 2015 Prize fund raises to 120.000 euro and may raise more!

”Everyone should visit this special city at least once in his lifetime” says GM Zurab Azmaiparashvili, president of the European Chess Union. “Combining it with a chess event of such standard would make this visit a unique and memorable experience!”

Mr. Azmaiparashvili, accompanied by his wife, ended on 14th December a short visit in Israel to follow closely the intensive preparations for the European Individual Championship. The highly prestigious tournament, open to all, will be staged in hotel Ramada on February 23rd – March 8th 2015 by the municipality of Jerusalem and the Israeli Chess Federation under the auspices of the ECU.

The three days visit included working meetings with Moshe Slav, chairman of the Israeli chess federation, GM Emil Sutovsky, president of the Professional chess association and with Amiram Kaplan, chairman of the organizing committee as well as excursions in Jerusalem and to the Galilee. Himself a former champion of the continent (Istanbul 2003) he was content with the significant progress being made by the organizers in all aspects of the preparations.

In an interview to GM Ram Soffer for the ICF website, he invited all the 54 European federations to encourage the participation of their players in the championship. He added that he had immensely enjoyed his short excursion in the streets and famous historic sites of Jerusalem finding life in the Israeli capital fairly normal and safely run. [Azmaiparashvili interview](#)



140 players have registered so far with leading entries, at the time of writing these lines, being Russian Nikita Vitiugov (ELO 2738) and German Arkadij Naiditsch (ELO 2731), both respectable members of the 2700+ world’s supreme club. All the current entries [here](#)

The championship will be played in 11 Swiss rounds and is open to all players representing the European federations regardless of their title or ratings. A prize-fund of minimum 120, 000 Euros is offered, as well as plenty of opportunities to obtain norms for International titles in each of the last three rounds. The most special attraction is nevertheless the free ticket to the world cup secured to the top 23 players in the final standings.

[Official website of the Championship](#) with all the current entries.

Meeting of the ECU officials with Chess Base and Chess Informant



ECU General Secretary Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou and ECU bookkeeper Kurt Gretener visited on 15th December in Hamburg the ChessBase headquarters and met the CEO Rainer Woisin and the editor of the German Chessbase news Andre Schulz. On 5th December in Thessaloniki a meeting took place with the Director of Chess Informant Josip Asik.

At both meetings the officials discussed the possible ways of co-operation between the ECU and the two historical chess companies. The next ECU Board will examine and decide the various proposals.

London Chess Classic and Chess & Mathematics Conference

The 6th London Chess Classic was organized by the Chess in Schools and Communities and it was held from 6th to 14th December, 2014 at the Olympia Conference Centre in Kensington, London.

The festival consisted of several events, of which the main was the London Chess Classic, The 'Super Six' were the World Top Grandmasters Fabiano Caruana, Viswanathan Anand, Anish Giri, Hikaru Nakamura, Vladimir Kramnik and Michael Adams.

The winner of the 6th London Chess Classic is Viswanathan Anand on tiebreak after defeating Michael Adams with the black pieces in the final round on Sunday.



Final scores in tie-break order: 1 Anand 7, 2 Kramnik 7, 3 Giri 7, 4 Nakamura 6, 5 Adams 4, 6 Caruana 4. Visny Anand has won the London Chess Classic Super-Six Tournament ahead of Vladimir Kramnik and Anish Giri on tiebreak.

[Official website](#)

6-7 December, 2014 at the beginning of the 6th London Chess Classic tournament, 'Chess and Mathematics – Chess and Education Conference' was held. The Conference was organized by the Chess in Schools and Communities and it gathered 130 participants from more than 30 countries.



The conference was organised in a professional manner with the efforts of organisers to establish a regular European forum for exchanging ideas and experiences on different issues important for the chess development. The programme of the Conference was very rich and various, with many interesting lectures given by the leading experts in the fields of scholastic chess and mathematics education, workshops and competitions. The winner of the New Game Design Competition was Tatyana Ogneva from Moscow, with her concept 'Football Chess'. Malcolm Pridmore from England was the Runner Up with 'Middle Game Chess'.

Mr. Jesper Hall (SWE), Chairman of the ECU Educational Commission, Mr. John Foley (ENG), Mr. Walter Raedler (GER), Mr. Kasim Yekeler (TUR), members of the ECU Educational Commission, and Mr. Martin Huba, the ECU Treasurer attended the conference, where they met Mrs. Magdalena Zielinska (POL) one of the Project Leaders of Chess in Schools in Poland and Mr. Kevin O'Connell, Chairman of FIDE CIS. They had an informal meeting where they discussed about the Chess in Schools movement in their countries as well as about the general work of the ECU Commissions.



Some of the suggestions given by the ECU Commissions' members were to make a co-operation between the ECU and the European Universities on higher academic chess education as well as in the area of chess pedagogy. Also, the ECU should take the initiative in the activities reflecting the chess needs within Europe. One of the proposals was to create a project involving all the European federations, which will have interesting research works or studies for mutual benefit of all member federations. London Conference was a source of many interesting ideas and information for the ECU members. The recently established ECU Commissions could play a substantial role in the development of chess, presenting the ECU as a strong and Europe-wide organisation willing to invest in education and raising awareness of the importance of chess and its impact on children's development. [London Chess Conference](#)

FUN ZONE

In December Fun Zone edition we present you some of the best games from the Russian Chess Championship Super Final which was held from 27 November till 8 December in the city of Kazan.

The first position is from the game Sergey Karjakin vs Igor Lysyj. In this position Black already dominates the game, and with White's move 38. Qc2? Black gets the chance to materialize his advantage. Can you find it?

The second position is from the last round of Women's Championship to decide the champion, between Alisa Galliamova and Valentina Gunina. Last move of White was 34. Qb1? as a response to Black's last trick 33...Rd3. Black is a rook down, but in the time trouble everything is possible. Try to find Gunina's winning combination!

The third position from the game Vadim Zvjagintsev vs Igor Lysyj shows how the simple ending with equal material can be tricky. Lysyj played 32... Bd6? and let White exploit bad position of Black's pieces. Find out how.



The last position is mate in 2, White to play.

Solutions from the NL October 2014:

Anton Korobov vs Vassily Ivanchuk, Ukrainian Championship Final 2014, R11, 1/2 - 1/2

28... Qa6!

Great move by Ivanchuk, with the idea Nb6-Nc4 if White takes the Bishop on a4. The position is very complicated and both players are in time trouble.

29. Rc1 cxb4 30. Bxb4 Bxb3 31. Kxb3 Rb8 32. a3 Nc5 33. Ka2 Ne4 34. Qb2 Nc3 35. Bxc3 Qxc4 36. Ka1 Rxb2 37. Bxb2 Qe6 38. Bxd4 Qxe2 39. Rcd1 Bxd4 40. Rxd4 Qxh2 41. Rd8 Kf7 42. R8d7 Kg8 43. Rd8 Kf7 44. R8d7 Kg8 1/2 - 1/2

Stanislav Bogdanovich vs Alexander Moiseenko, Ukrainian Championship Final 2014, R11, 1-0

39. Nf5! gxf5 40. Qf7 Kh6 41. Qf6 Kh7 42. g5 1-0

Problem No. 1

1. Ne4!

They told about chess...

The most intelligent inspection of any number of fine paintings will not make the observer a painter, nor will listening to a number of operas make the hearer a musician, but good judges of music and painting may so be formed. Chess differs from these. The intelligent perusal of fine games cannot fail to make the reader a better player and a better judge of the play of others.

Emanuel Lasker, 2nd World Chess Champion



UPCOMING EVENTS IN JANUARY

EUROPEAN EVENTS

TATA STEEL CHESS TOURNAMENT 2015



The 77th Tata Steel Chess Tournament will take place from 9 - 25 January, 2015 in its traditional location of Wijk aan Zee/Netherlands.

The Tata Steel Chess Tournament is one of the most important events in the chess calendar. The tournament brings together the world's leading chess players and the most passionate amateurs with its grandmaster groups and amateur events.

The world-famous tournament has two main player groups, Tata Steel Masters and the Tata Steel Challengers, each with 14 players. Both groups attract world class players and online spectators from across the globe.

Masters tournament 2015 is of 20th category with four players from Top 10 (December list): World Champion Magnus Carlsen, Fabiano Caruana, Levon Aronian and Anish Giri. [Full list of the participants](#)

[Official Website](#)

CHESS FESTIVAL BASEL 2015

The tournament will be held 1-5 January, 2015 in Basel, Switzerland. It consists of 4 event:

Master Tournament - 7 rounds Swiss system, 100 min. 40 moves + 30 min. 30 sec. per train from start

Amateur Tournament - 7 rounds Swiss system, 100 min. 40 moves + 30 min. 30 sec. per train from start

Blitz Tournament - 9 rounds Swiss system, 5 minutes per player per game

Youth Chess King Tournament – Categories U12 and U16, 7 rounds Swiss system, 15 min

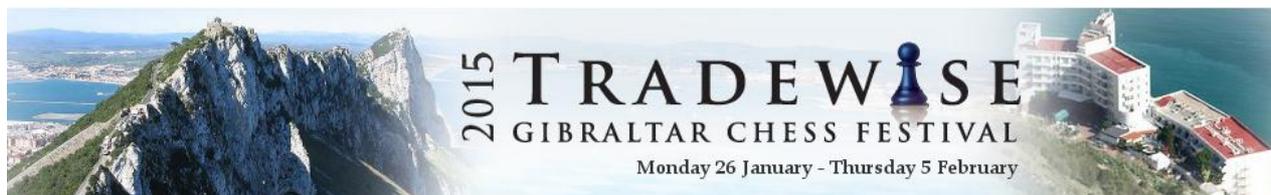
[Official Website](#)

PRAGUE OPEN 2015 & MARIENBAD OPEN 2015

CZECH TOUR Series has been held since 2001. There are international chess festivals, which take place in the Czech Republic from May to February every year. As a part of CZECH TOUR 2014/2015 Series, 14th International Chess Festival Prague Open 2015 & Marienbad Open 2015 will take place in January. Prague Open will be held 9-16 January 2015 in Prague, while Marienbad Open will take place from 17-24 January 2015 Marianske Lazne, Czech Republic.

[Official website of the Czech Tour](#)

TRADEWISE GIBRALTAR CHESS FESTIVAL 2015



This traditional event takes place from 27th January until 5th February, 2015 at Caleta Hotel in Gibraltar. Like every year, the tournament consists of several events, including side events such as the Battle of the Sexes. The Prize Money is 175.000£ including female, amateur, prizes for best relative rating achievement, best game prize, etc.

[Official website](#)