



EUROPEAN SENIOR  
CHESS  
CHAMPIONSHIP 2015



ECU OFFICE  
OPENED IN  
TBILISI



CARUANA WINS  
KHANTY-  
MANSIYSK GP



EUROPEAN  
SCHOOLS  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
2015

# EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



## NATALIA ZHUKOVA IS THE NEW EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION!

Ukrainian Grandmaster Natalia Zhukova (2456) became the 16th European Women's Champion, after she defeated GM Elina Danielian (ARM 2458) in the final round of the European Individual Women's Chess Championship 2015 in Chakvi.

After a loss in the 2nd round from IM Lilit Galojan (2275) Zhukova made an amazing performance: 8.5 out of 9, with 3 wins, 1 draw and then 5 victories in a row. Eventually she triumphed alone, with 9.5 points out of 11 games.

This is the second title for Zhukova, as she won the 1st European Individual Women's Championship in 2000, also held in Georgia.

Silver medal went to Georgian hero IM Nino Batsiashvili (2473) who was leading until the very end of the tournament, and was stopped by the winner herself. Batsiashvili finished the tournament with a victory against WGM Aleksandra Goryachkina (RUS 2474) to become sole second with 9 points.



Bronze went to IM Alina Kashlinskaya (RUS 2423) with 8 points. She was one of the players from the group with 7 points, as well as GM Monika Socko (POL 2467), WGM Olga Girya (RUS 2479), IM Marina Guseva (RUS 2391) and IM Inna Gaponenko (UKR 2391). Kashlinskaya defeated 2013 European Champion GM Hoang Thanh Trang (HUN 2472) in the final round and jumped to the third place thanks to the draws of her colleagues.

The 16th European Individual Women's Chess Championship was held in Chakvi/Georgia, 18th to 30th May, 2015, in the hotel "Oasis Palace Chakvi".

The Championship was organized by the government of Georgia, government of Adjarian Autonomous Republic and Georgian Chess Federation under the auspices of European Chess Union.

98 players from 19 countries took part in the event, among whom 9 GMs, 18 WGMs and 26 IMs.



[Final Standings](#)

[Official Website](#)

The ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili was present at both opening and closing ceremony of the event. He also made a first symbolic move in the game on the top board between the first seed Georgian GM Nana Dzagnidze and WIM Sabina Ibrahimova from Azerbaijan and officially opened the Championship.



Below we present the crucial game from the 10th round which decided the Champion.

Batsiashvili, Nino (2473) vs. Zhukova, Natalia (2456)

European Individual Women’s Chess Championship 2015 | Round 10 | 29 May 2015 | 0-1



Diagram 1



Diagram 2

Zhukova decided to play aggressively and chose Benko Gambit, and it seemed Batsiashvili didn’t expect it, as she made couple mistakes and got into bad position. First inaccuracy from White came already on move ten when she played 10. Rb1, which is considered an inferior move in this line. In few moves she made another mistake (see diagram 1)

13. Bb2? Directly loses a pawn. White should have played 13. Qd2

13... Rxa2 14. O-O Bg7 15. e4 Nb4 16. Re1 O-O 17. e5 Ng4 18. h3 Nxe5 19. Nxe5 dxe5 20. Bxe5 Nd3 21. Bxg7 Kxg7 22. Re2? Final mistake (See diagram 2)

22... Nc1! 23. Qxc1 Rxe2 24. Qxc5 Qd3 25. Qc1 Qf5 26. Qc3+ e5 27. Rf1 Rc8 28. Qa5 Rcc2 29. Qb6 e4 30. b4 Qf6 31. Qxf6+ Kxf6 32. Ra1 Ke5 33. Ra5+ Kd4 34. b5 Re1+ 35. Kh2 Rxf2 36. b6 Ree2 37. Ra4+ Kc5 38. b7 Rxc2+ 39. Kh1 Rh2+ 40. Kg1 Reg2+ 41. Kf1 Rb2 0-1

## Four new European Senior Champions crowned in Eretria

GM Zurab Sturua from Georgia and IM Jan Rooze from Belgium are the new European Senior Champions in Open 50 and Open 65 respectively, while WGM Svetlana Mednikova from Russia and the legendary Georgian GM Nona Gaprindashvili are the new European Women Senior Champions in Open 50 and Open 65 respectively.

In the Open 50 section, GM Zurab Sturua won the title convincingly by scoring 7.5 points in 9 rounds, one full point ahead of the famous English GM John Nunn. The local Greek player Spiros Ilandzis also performed very well and tied for 3rd place with 6 points.



In the Open 65 group, IM Jan Rooze scored 7.5 points and had better tie-breaks over GM Viktor Kupreichik who secured the 2nd place.

In the women categories Open 50 and Open 65, WGM Svetlana Mednikova and GM Nona Gaprindashvili (both with 5.5 points) convincingly won their European titles.

The European Chess Union Secretary General, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou was present at the closing ceremony of the Championship on behalf of the ECU and awarded the winners.



The 15th European Senior Championships took place from 27th April until 7th May, in Greece, at the 4-star Eretria Village Conference Resort, with the participation of 87 players from 27 countries and a prize fund of €8.000 for the winners. [Official Website](#)

## Caruana and Nakamura qualify for Candidates 2016

In the final 11th round of the FIDE Grand Prix in Khanty-Mansiysk Fabiano Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura drew their respective games to take the top two spots in the overall Grand Prix standings and qualify for the 2016 FIDE Candidates Tournament.



The Ugra nominee Dmitry Jakovenko was in position to fight for qualification in the direct duel against Nakamura, but he couldn't achieve more than a draw with Black pieces.

Eventually, Caruana, Jakovenko and Nakamura shared the first place in the last Grand Prix tournament with 6.5 points each.

### [Final Standings](#)

Ugra Governor Natalia Komarova and FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov were present at the closing ceremony and rewarded the winners.

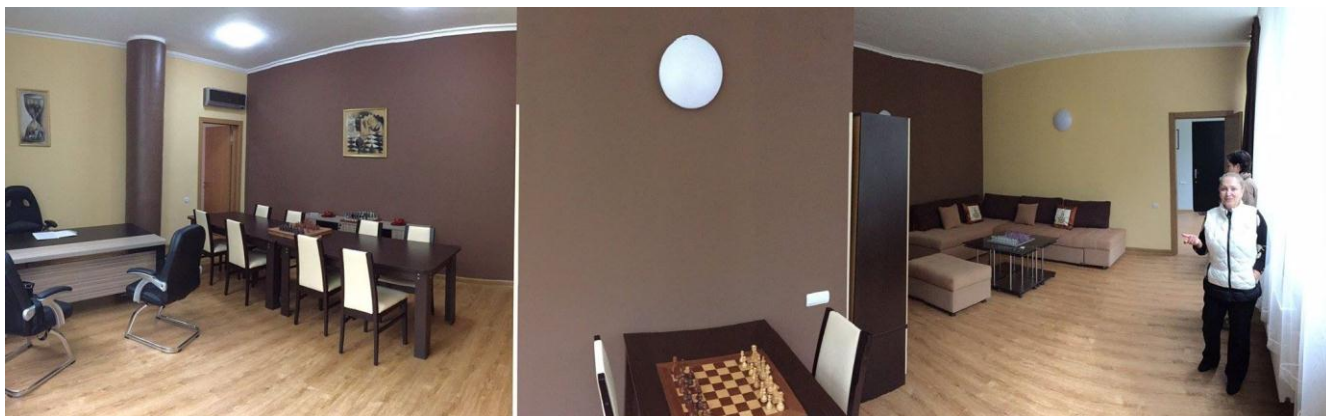


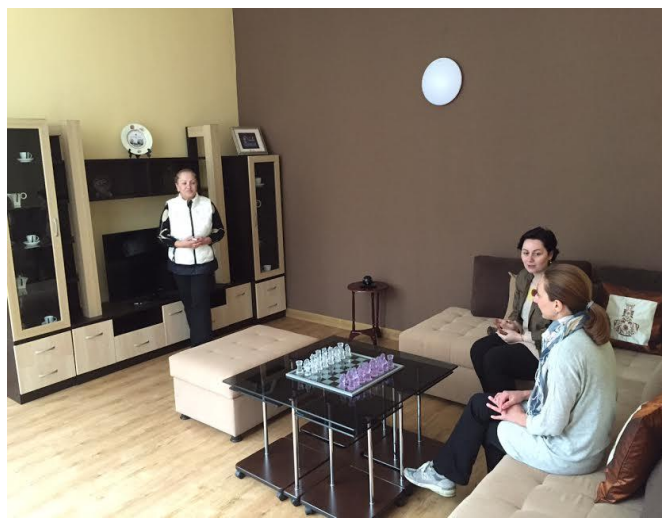
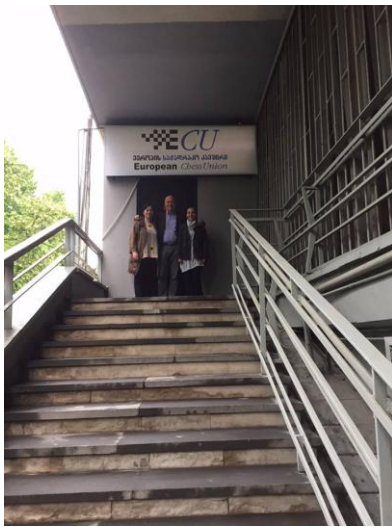
### [Official Website](#)

## ECU NEWS

### ECU office opened in Tbilisi

The ECU Presidential office was officially opened in May, in the capital of Georgia Tbilisi. The ECU office is located in Chess Palace and has a floor size of 120 m2. The office is annually free, and it is renovated and furnished without any cost for the European Chess Union!





## In Memoriam Joaquim Durão

We have been sadly informed that Portuguese International Master Joaquim Durão passed away today, at the age of 84.



Mr. Durão was the first Portuguese player to win the title of International Master in 1975 and represented the country in 10 Chess Olympiads. He was 13 times Portuguese Chess Champion and President of the Portuguese Federation of Chess for nearly 20 years (1968-1973, 1988 -1997

and 2005-2007). He was also a member of the Executive Committee of FIDE for 14 years (1982-1996) and Vice-President in the last two years in office.

Joaquim Durão received the Order of Merit from the President of Portugal Mr. Jorge Sampaio.

His contribute to Portuguese Chess was immense and he was widely recognized as one of the ambassadors of Portuguese Chess Worldwide.

The European Chess Union expresses most sincere condolences to Mr. Durão's family, Portuguese Chess Federation and the whole chess community on their loss.

## In Memoriam Nusret Causevic

Nusret Causevic, a chess official and businessman tragically died on 19th May, 2015 at the age of 60.

He was born on 26th June, 1955. He donated more than 4 decades of fruitful work to Bosnian chess and the chess club "Bosna".



During that time he was the Secretary General of Chess Club "Bosnia", the Secretary General of Bosnian Chess Federation, the President of Bosnian Chess Federation, and death befell him as the President of Chess Club "Bosna".

The organizational, financial and moral contribution that Nusret gave during the most brilliant years of Bosnian chess was immeasurable, when the national team of Bosnia and Herzegovina won the silver Olympic medal and when the Chess Club "Bosna" won 4 titles of European Club Chess Champion.

As a successful businessman he actively assisted, advised and directed chess collectives within whole Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Chess players in Bosnia and Herzegovina lost a sincere friend, and his Chess Club "Bosna" has suffered an irreparable loss.

The European Chess Union expresses the most sincere condolences to Mr. Causevic's family, Bosnian Chess Federation and chess community on their loss.

# FUN ZONE

In May Fun Zone we present you the nice combinations of the authors from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

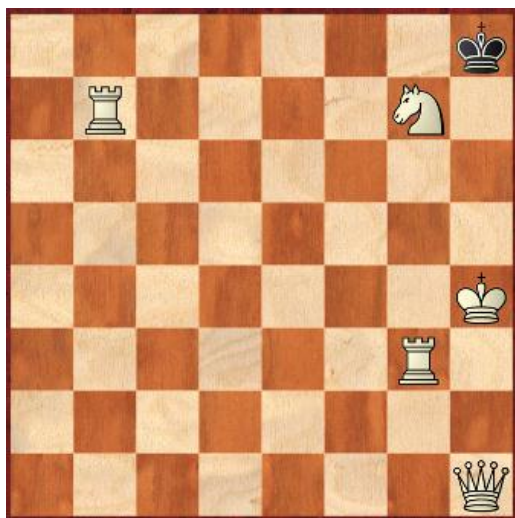
All positions are Mate in 2, White to play.



A. d'Orville, 1842



S. Loyd, 1859



E. B. Cook, 1868



S. Gold, 1871

**Solutions from the NL April 2015:**

Paul Morphy vs Thomas Jefferson Bryan

New York (USA) (1859) | Italian Game: Evans Gambit. Lasker Defense (000) | 1-0

17. e5 Qg5 18. h4 Qg4 19. Qa3 Kg8 20. Ne7 Kf8 21. Ng6 Kg8 22. Qf8 Rf8 23. Ne7#

Alexander Steinkuehler vs Joseph Henry Blackburne

Manchester - (1863) | Italian Game: Classical Variation. Greco Gambit Traditional Line (C54) | 0-1

19... Qf2 20. Kh1 Qg1 21. Rg1 Nf2 22. Kg2 Bh3#

Johannes Zukertort vs Joseph Henry Blackburne

London (1883) | English Opening: Agincourt Defense (A13) | 1-0

28. Qb4 R8c5 29. Rf8 Kh7 30. Qe4 Kg7 31. Be5 Kf8 32. Bg7 Kg8 33. Qe7 1-0

Edward Mackenzie Jackson vs Frank James Marshall

London (1899) | Bishop's Opening: Berlin Defense (C24) | 0-1

30... Rf4

## They told about chess...

“Chess is a matter of delicate judgement, knowing when to punch and how to duck.”

Robert James Fischer, American Grandmaster, the 11th World Chess Champion, and one of the greatest chess players of all time.



# UPCOMING EVENTS IN JUNE

## ECU EVENTS

### EUROPEAN SCHOOLS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2015

The European Chess Union and Turkish Chess Federation have the honour of inviting all National Chess Federations of the ECU and eligible players to the European School Championships 2015 organised in Konya, Turkey from 24th June to 3rd July.

The official hote and venue will be the Rixos Konya Hotel (5 star).

The tournament will be played according to the Swiss System in 9 rounds.

The winners will be awarded with trophies and special diplomas. The 12 Champions in Open and Girls section will play as invited players in the 2016 World School Chess Championships in Tunisia.

Organizer has prepared the side events for coaches, accompanying persons and all other interested players: Blitz tournament for coaches and accompanying persons; Seminar for FIDE Arbiters; and Seminar for FIDE Trainers.



[Official Website](#)

## EUROPEAN EVENTS

GOLDEN SANDS 2015	8 - 16 June	Golden Sands/Bulgaria	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
INTERNATIONAL OPEN TEPLICE 2015	13 - 21 June	Teplice/Czech Republic	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
PULA OPEN 2015	13 - 20 June	Pula/Croatia	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
NORWAY CHESS 2015	15 - 26 June	Stavanger/Norway	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
ALBENA OPEN 2015	17 - 25 June	Albena/Bulgaria	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
CUP AURORA	19 - 28 June	Jupiter/Romania	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
SILVER LAKE OPEN 2015	20 - 28 June	Veliko Gradiste/Serbia	<a href="#">Official Website</a>