EUROPEAN CHESS UNION

NEWSLETTER

Wishing you wonderful holidays!
Maksim Vavulin and Sergei Zhigalko winners of European Rapid & Blitz Championship 2017

Maksim Vavulin and Sergei Zhigalko are crowned as the Winners of the last European event for 2017, European Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2017, which took place in Katowice, Poland, from 14th-17th December.

"Spodek" Sport and Entertainment Centre hosted both Championships. Blitz event gathered 1086 players, while rapid championship brought close 1200 competitors coming from 41 European federations. Participants of different ages, professionals, amateurs, around 80 Grand masters and 70 International masters tagged the Championship the strongest and most numerous event ever.

After 22 games played on 15th of December, in 11 paired rounds filled with exhausting fights and tough struggles, the title of European Blitz Chess Champion went to Sergei Zhigalko (BLR, 2586 Blitz rtg) who scored 18 points. McShane Luke J (ENG, 2702 Blitz rtg) finished second and Michalic Peter (CZE, 2598 Blitz rtg) took bronze according to additional criteria since the players had the same score of 17.5 points each.

**Final Standings- European Blitz Chess Championship 2017**

European Rapid Championship took place on 16th and 17th December where IM Vavulin Maksim (RUS, 2485 Rapid rtg) surprised by coming on the top with 10 points which was more than enough to be crowned as the European Rapid Champion for 2017! 5 players tied for the second place, each with score of 9.5 points, but according to additional criteria, silver went to Duda Jan Krzystof (POL, 2678 Rapid rtg) and Ponkratov Pavel (RUS, 2673 Rapid rtg) finished third.

**Final Standings-European Rapid Chess Championship 2017**
The best female player on both events was Zimina Olga (ITA, 2376 Rapid rtg, 2299 Blitz rtg) who scored 15 points on the Blitz event and 82nd place, while on the Rapid competition ended 75th with 8 points.

The President of European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili visited the event, greeted the players and guests at the Opening Ceremony of European Rapid Chess Championship and attended the Closing Ceremony of the event. The closing ceremony attended Mr. Martin Huba, the ECU Treasurer and the president of Polish Chess Federation, Mr. Adam Dzwonkowski.

The event was organized by Silesian Chess Federation, the Polish Chess Federation and City of Katowice, a city of chess, where authorities strongly support chess in many fields and such a great European chess festival as well. The event was organized under the auspices of the ECU.

Official Website

Photographs by: Walusza Fotografia
London Chess Classic 2017

The London Chess Classic was the final leg of Grand Chess Tour 2017 contained of 5 tournaments played over the year and across the globe. London Chess Classic was the second tournament after the Sinquefield Cup played by classical time control, with the total prize fund of 300,000 US dollars.

Fabiano Caruana (USA, 2799) became the Winner of the London Chess Classic 2017 in the very intense finish of the tournament, which came to the tiebreak match which determined the Champion. Caruana triumphed in a playoff match for the top, played against Nepomniiachtchi Ian (RUS, 2729), and was crowned as the London Chess Classic 2017 Champion.

Magnus Carlsen (NOR, 2837) reserved the third place at the event which was enough to achieve 41 GCT points and became the Winner of the Grand Chess Tour 2017.


Official Website- London Chess Classic 2017
Official Website- Grand Chess Tour 2017
London Chess Conference 2017

Simultaneously with London Chess Classic main event, the Olympia Conference Center hosted London Chess Conference, which took place from 2nd-3rd December.

The 5th edition of London Chess Conference comprised of two days of 25 sessions of over 12 hours of interactive presentations, parallel workshops, simultaneous debates and a round table with a main theme- Scholastic Chess. The Conference brought together 80 activists and researchers from 23 countries during the first weekend of the London Chess Classic.

Main conclusions made during the debates and discussions are:

- Most attendees accepted that a distinction must be made between scholastic chess and competitive school chess that is mostly an after-school activity delivered by chess tutors or teachers with the goal of finding and nurturing chess talent. It was noted that whilst most research scarcely details the method and content of chess instruction, future studies must look at precisely how chess is taught and how it is connected to the school curriculum.

- Another flaw with existing research studies is in their design. One cannot prove a causal effect without having both an active and a passive control group: "Chess instruction is not a magic bullet but has a good placebo effect", said Professor Fernand Gobet, who has been warning against this flaw in the study design for 15 years.

- While a centre for scholastic chess research would be a very useful resource, it is not likely to materialise in the near future. More practical would be the establishment of a Journal of Scholastic Chess. The consensus is to start with the creation of an international network of scholars and key activists engaged in networking and project building.

- The next step will be to create a map of knowledge on which to base a future research agenda. Progress on this front as well as on the CHAMPS (Chess and Mathematics in Primary Schools) Erasmus Plus project that was launched at the conference will be reported at our 6th edition during the London Chess Classic in December 2018.

The 5th London Chess Conference was sponsored and organized by Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC) and the European Chess Union, Erasmus Plus and CHAMPS project.
ECU School Chess Teacher training course-Budapest

The 4th ECU School Chess Teacher training course held in Budapest took place in PODIT Educational and Chess Center from 2nd-3rd December.

The course comprised two days of interactive presentations, group discussions and practical exercises with focus on the teaching aspects of chess. Participants, after completing the course, had to pass the online test to reach the ECU School Chess Teacher Certificate awarded by the ECU, as the confirmation for having an adequate level of chess knowledge and didactic methods for the classroom.

The course was led by Ferenc von Maurer, the member of the ECU Educational Commission and the event was organized in cooperation with Hungarian Chess Federation.

After the first very successful training course held in Budapest, where 15 participants achieved the ECU School Chess Teacher Certificate, this course was passed by 16 participants rewarded with this qualification which is recognized by the European national chess federations as a standard of excellence.

The average result on the test taken by the end of the course was 93.23%. The participants who were awarded with the Certificate are: Szep Janos, Jachym Dorina, Bagi Mate, Nagy Janos, Miko Valer, Joone Szepreti Andrea, Maczko Attila, Sandor Csilla Judit, Guba Miklos, Botlik Bela, Lukacs Laszlo, Paksi Gyula, Peszleg Brigitta, Deakne Baranyai Aniko, Kabai Zsuzsanna and Varga Peter.
European Women's Individual Chess Championship 2018

The 19th European Women's Individual Chess Championship 2018 will take place in Vysoke Tatry, Slovakia, from 7th-20th April.

The event will be held in a 4* Hotel Bellevue, located in the national park of Vysoke Tatry, as the official hotel and the playing venue of the Championship.

Event is open to all players who represent the Chess Federations, which are listed as the members of the European Chess Union, regardless on their title and FIDE rating. There is no limit of participants per federation. However, only the National federations shall send the applications.

**Registration deadline is 1st of March 2018.**

The European Women's Individual Chess Championship is a qualification event for the next World Women's Chess Championship. 14 players will qualify.

The total prize fund of the event is 70,000 EUR.

The Championship will be played in 11 rounds, Swiss system, in accordance with the ECU Tournament Rules and FIDE Rules of Chess, 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 the move one.

Official regulations of the Championship can be downloaded below or [here](#).

**European Women's Individual Chess Championship- Official Regulations**
European Senior Team Chess Championship 2018

European Senior Team Chess Championship 2018 will take place from 13th-23rd April 2018, in Walbrzych, Poland.

The official venue of the event will be "Aqua Zdroj" as the official hotel of the Championship.

The event consists of two separated Championships for categories 50+ and 65+. Entitled to participate the category 50+ are players who were born in the year 1968 or earlier, while entitled to participate in the category 65+ are players who were born in the year 1953 or earlier.

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 both sections of the event: 50+ and 65+. All the players must be the members of the same federation which they represent.

The Championship will be played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves+ 30 minutes for the rest of the game +30 seconds increment for every move played starting from the move one.

The total prize fund of the event is 8,000 EUR. Trophies and medals to 3 top winning teams in each category will be awarded, as well as the additional prizes (cups and medals) for individual board winners.

Registration will be done online and must be sent to the Organizing Committee not later than March 13th 2018 which is the registration deadline.

Official website of the Championship will be: http://www.walbrzych2018.eu

Participants may get all the necessary information by contacting the organizer: info@walbrzych2018.eu

The event is organized by Adolf Anderssen Foundation (Fundacja im. Adolfa Anderssena) under the auspices of European Chess Union.

Official Regulations- European Senior Team Chess Championship
Upcoming events in January 2018:

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FUN ZONE

Interesting facts:

During the World Chess Championship in 1935, played between Alexander Alekhine and Max Euwe, Alexander Alekhine used to place his Siamese cat on the chessboard before the start of the game as a good luck charm, and then he would continue to play the game with the cat on his lap. When he was forbidden to play with the cat, Alekhine started to wear the sweater with a picture of his pet on it.
For this edition of the ECU Newsletter we prepared six “mate in two” puzzles! Enjoy!

Solutions from NL November 2017:

**Puzzle #1:**
1. Be4!! Bxe4 2. Bf4# [1...Nxe4 2. Bf4#; 1...Kxe4 2. Re3#; 1...Kd6 2.Qe7#]

**Puzzle #2:**
1. Bh3!! Rxh3 2. Rd5# [1... Rxa5 2. Bf1#]

**Puzzle #3:**
1. Rh5!! h6 2. h4 Kh2 3. Rh3#