European School Chess Championship 2018 took place from 29th June - 8th July in Krakow, Poland, with participation of more than 300 players from over 20 European federations, divided in 6 age categories (open and girls): U7, U9, U11, U13, U15 and U17.
After 9 played rounds in each category, 12 competitors received the title of European School Chess Champion 2018.

The Winners of the European School Chess Championship 2018 are:

- **Open U7**: Buyuk Eymen Eren (TUR, 1263) 8.5 points
- **Girls U7**: Levitan Liel (ISR) 6 points
- **Open U9**: Samunenkov Igor (UKR, 1799) 8.5 points
- **Girls U9**: Zavivaeva Evelina (RUS, 1390) 7.5 points
- **Open U11**: Kolesov Gordey (RUS, 1742) 7.5 points
- **Girls U11**: Mellor Jessica (ENG, 1477) 7.5 points
- **Open U13**: Efremov Vladislav (RUS, 1968) 7 points
- **Girls U13**: Kasaeva Sofiia (RUS, 1805) 7 points
- **Open U15**: Ozdemir Serhan Bernat (TUR, 1919) 6.5 points
- **Girls U15**: Zvereva Margarita (RUS, 1838) 5.5 points
- **Open U17**: Psyk Radoslaw (POL, 2300) 7 points
- **Girls U17**: Kaczmarska Joanna (POL, 2002) 8 points

The best 3 ranked players were awarded with trophies and medals, while the best six players were awarded with special prizes. The winners of the competition have the right to participate free board and lodging to the World School Chess Championship 2019. Maloposka Chess Association provided for the new European School Chess Champion of each category free accommodation for the 29th International Chess Festival "Cracovia 2018" which will be held from 27th December 2018- 4th January in Krakow, Poland.

[Official Website of the Championship]
European Youth Team Chess Championship 2018

European Youth Team Chess Championship 2018 was played in 2 age categories (Open and girls section): Under 12 and U18, and took place from 11th-19th July in Bad Blankenburg, Germany, with participation of 44 teams.

In Open section U18, team of Romania won the Championship with 5 victories and 2 draws, and in total, 12 match points. Austria, Germany 1 and Belarus tied for the second place, but according to the tiebreaks, Austria took silver medal, Germany 1 finished the event with bronze, while Belarus ended on the 4th place.

In Girls section U18, top seeders suffered many upsets in the first rounds of the event. After 7 played rounds, Poland became the Winner with 12 match points. Three teams tied for the second and third place, among whom the team of Romania had the best tiebreaks to finish the event as second, Germany 1 ended third, while Czech Republic left without medals.

Teams who participated the Open section U12 had played 9 rounds according to the Robin round system. After harsh struggles, Israel triumphed the event with score of 13 match points. France lagged behind for only one match point and took the second place with 12 match points, while Belarus and Turkey tied for the third place, each with 11 match points. Eventually, Belarus had slightly better tiebreak points and won the third place.

Things were more clear in Girls section U12, where the event was played in 10 rounds, Robin double-round system. The first team of Germany won the event with amazing 9 victories and only one match ended in a peaceful manner - draw. The team of Hungary secured the second place a long time before the end of the Championship, and after 10 played rounds scored 16 match points. The third place went to France with 9 match points.

Official Website of the Championship
ECU BOARD MEETING, BUCHAREST 2018

The 2nd European Chess Union Board meeting in 2018 took place on the 7th of July in Bucharest, Romania. The meeting was held under excellent conditions in the Marshal Garden Hotel. The President of the Romanian Chess Federation, Mr. Sorin-Avram Iacoban and the ECU Deputy President Mr. Ion Dobronauteanu welcomed the ECU Board members to Bucharest for the second time during the last four years.

Main information and decisions:

1. The accounting report for the year 2017 was presented to the ECU Board and will be included in the ECU GA agenda
2. The ECU Board decided to set as final deadline for the deposit fees for the 2019 events, the 31st December 2018
3. ECU Board was informed that the criminal complaint submitted in Slovenia, concerning the shadow financial operations misusing the ECU identity, is in the phase of investigation and the Slovenian Police has already confirmed and informed officially ECU, that bank certificates were forged. ECU requests to the police authorities to complete the investigation the soonest and proceed with the necessary legal actions against the individuals involved.
4. ECU Board was informed about the new opportunities after the meetings with the European Chess Union officials and a number of actions are scheduled for the coming period
5. European Chess Union and European Chess Academy arranged a hearing in Brussels, European Parliament on 6th March 2019 about Seniors’ Chess and also the positive effect of chess in various diseases (Alzheimer, dementia...)
6. ECU Board approved the candidacies for the ECU elections 2018 and discussed the details about the organization of the ECU General Assembly scheduled for the 2nd and 3rd of October 2018 in Batumi, Georgia.

ECU Board awarded the following championships:

1. European Individual Chess Championship 2020 was awarded to the city of Maribor, Slovenia
2. European Team Chess Championship 2021 was awarded to the city of Bled, Slovenia
3. European Amateur Chess Championship 2020 was awarded to the city of Durres, Albania
4. The option to organize European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships 2020 was given to the city of Katowice, Poland, until the 31st December 2018
Ian Nepomniachtchi won Dortmund Sparkassen

The 46th Sparkassen Chess Meeting took place from 14th-22nd July 2018, for the 5th time in the "Orchesterzentrum NRW" in Dortmund, Germany.

The event participated six international gradmasters, among whom: world #5 Vladimir Kramnik, world #6 Anish Giri, world #15 Nepomniachtchi Ian, world #21 Jan-Krzysztof Duda, world #24 Wojtaszek Radoslaw and world #97 Vladislav Kovalev, together with two top players of the German chess national team: Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu and Georg Meier.

After 7 played rounds, Ian Nepomniachtchi convincingly triumphed the event by winning in the last round against Georg Meier. Nepomniachtchi collected 3 victories and 4 draws to reach 5 points in total and to be the full point ahead of the runner-ups.

Anish Giri, Kovalev Vladislav and Duda Jan-Krzysztof tied for the second place, each with 4 points, but according to the tiebreaks, Giri finished the event as second, Kovalev ended third, while Duda was fourth.

Official Website of the Championship
Shakhriyar Mamedyarov won Biel Chess Festival 2018

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (AZE, 2801) convincingly won the main event of the Biel Chess Festival 2018- Biel ACCENTUS Grandmaster tournament.

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov defeated world number one, Magnus Carlsen, in the 9th round of the Championship, to triumph the event with a round to spare. With draw in the last round, Mamedyarov finished the event on the top of the list with amazing score of 7.5 points, 5 victories and 5 draws, a point and a half ahead of the runner-ups!

Second place went to World Chess Champion, Magnus Carlsen, who reached 6 points, while Vachier-Lagrange Maxime and Svidler Peter tied for the third place, each with 5.5 points. Vachier-Lagrange Maxim took the bronze medal thanks to the better tiebreak criteria and Svidler Peter was 4th. David Navara took the 5th place with 4 points, while Georgiadis Nico finished the event as 6th with 1.5 points.

Final rankings

The event took place from 22nd July- 1st August and was played in 10 rounds double Robin-round system, with time control 100 minutes for the first 40 moves+50 minutes for the next 20 moves+15 minutes for the rest of the game, with an addition of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one.

The Biel Chess Festival is the event of the long tradition, containing 10 tournaments, 2 closed and 8 open. Besides the Accentus Grandmaster tournament and Accentus Youth Simul event, young chess players, amateurs, but also professionals, had the opportunity to participate one of the many events of Biel Chess Festival, such as: Master tournament, Main tournament, Rapid Championship, Blitz Championship, Fischer Random Championship, youth tournament, physicians tournament or simultaneous tournament, and to play in the same venue with their chess idols, and world top players.

Official Website of the Championship
Upcoming events in August 2018:

European Youth Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2018

European Youth Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2018 takes place from 31st July- 5th August in Oradea, Romania.

The first on the schedule will be European Youth Rapid Individual Chess Championship 2018 which will be played on 1st and 2nd of August with participation of 340 players coming from more than 20 European federations. The Rapid event will be played in 6 age categories (open and girls sections): U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18, in 9 rounds by Swiss system, with time control 15 minutes + 10 seconds of increment per move, starting from the move one.

Starting lists Open section & Starting lists Girls section

After the end of the Rapid Individual Championships, the Championship in Solving Problems will take place on 2nd of August with start at 6pm (local time).

European Youth Rapid Team Chess Championship 2018 will be played on Friday, 3rd of August. The event will be played in two age categories U12 and U18, with teams composed of 4 players from the same federation. The rate of play will be 10 minutes + 2 seconds of an increment per move, starting from the move one, and the event will be played in 7 rounds.

The event will be finished with the European Youth Blitz Championship which will be played in 3 age categories (open and girls sections): U10, U14 and U18. 283 players coming from around 20 European federations have already registered for the Blitz Championships. The starting lists of the girls sections are available here, while the starting lists of the open sections can be seen here.

The organizers provided the live transmission of the top boards of each competition. The live broadcast of games can be followed through the official website of the Championship.

Besides the chess activities, ECU and FIDE seminars for trainers and for chess in schools will be organized during the championship.

Official Website of the Championship
**ECU and FIDE events:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Official Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Youth Rapid&amp;Blitz Chess Championship 2018</td>
<td>Mamaia, Romania</td>
<td>31st July-5th August</td>
<td><a href="#">Official Website</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Senior Chess Championship 2018</td>
<td>Drammen, Norway</td>
<td>3rd-13th August</td>
<td><a href="#">Official Website</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Youth Chess Championship 2018</td>
<td>Riga, Latvia</td>
<td>19th-30th August</td>
<td><a href="#">Official Website</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled</td>
<td>Cherry Hills, N.J. USA</td>
<td>8th-12th August</td>
<td><a href="#">Official Website</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other events:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Official Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th Prague Summer Open</td>
<td>Prague, Czech Republic</td>
<td>3rd-10th August</td>
<td><a href="#">Official Website</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgrade Summer Open 2018</td>
<td>Belgrade, Serbia</td>
<td>4th-12th August</td>
<td><a href="#">Official Website</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th Kavala Open</td>
<td>Kavala, Greece</td>
<td>5th-11th August</td>
<td><a href="#">Official Website</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riga Technical University Open 2018</td>
<td>Riga, Latvia</td>
<td>6th-12th August</td>
<td><a href="#">Official Website</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCT Saint Louis Rapid&amp;Blitz 2018</td>
<td>Saint Louis, USA</td>
<td>9th-16th August</td>
<td><a href="#">Official Website</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Split Open</td>
<td>Split, Croatia</td>
<td>12th-19th August</td>
<td><a href="#">Official Website</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Sinquefield Cup</td>
<td>Saint Louis, USA</td>
<td>16th-29th August</td>
<td><a href="#">Official Website</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Interesting facts:**

- There’s a version of chess called “quantum chess” where the pieces are in a state of superposition; the player doesn’t know what a piece will be until it is selected for play. Once selected, it behaves as any one of the conventional pieces and returns to its state of superposition after the move.

- *The Morals of Chess* is an essay on chess by the American intellectual Benjamin Franklin, which was first published in *The Columbian Magazine* in December 1786. Franklin, who was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, played chess from at least 1733. Evidence suggests that he was an above-average player, who, however, did not reach the top level.

While he was on the revolutionary mission in France, Benjamin Franklin played chess with the old Duchess of Bourbon. In one of the games, Dr. Franklin took his opponent’s King after she inadvertently put it in check. When she said, “Ah, we don’t take kings so” Franklin replied, “We do in America.”
For this edition of the ECU Newsletter we prepared four very interesting positions where **white mates in 2!**

**Solutions from the ECU Newsletter June 2018:**

**Puzzle #1:**
1. Rh5 Qxe3 2. Bh6+ Kxd4 3. Bxd3#

**Puzzle #2:**
1. Qa2! Ke4 2. Nf2+ Kxf5 3. Qf7#

**Puzzle #3:**
1. Bh6 Kh8 2. Bxg6 b1-Q 3. f8-Q#

**Puzzle #4:**
1. Rc4! Rc2 (1... Bb4 2. Na7+ Kb8 3. Rc8#) 2. Rg4!! with unstoppable mate!