Magnus Carlsen wins Tata Steel Chess 2018

Magnus Carlsen, reigning World Chess Champion, stood on the throne of the Tata Steel Chess for the 6th time to break a record with having the biggest collection of trophies of one of the most prestigious event in the international chess calendar.
Magnus Carlsen (NOR, 2834) and Anish Giri (NED, 2752) tied for the first place after 13 played rounds with score of 9 points each. The determination of the Winner came up to the tie break match which was played in two blitz games. Magnus Carlsen won the playoff match with a result 1.5-0.5 and became the Winner of the Tata Steel Chess 2018.

The third place came to Vladimir Kramnik (RUS, 2787) thanks to the better additional criteria since he tied for the bronze with Mamedyarov Shakhriyar (AZE, 2804) who had the same score of 8.5/13.

**Tata Steel Masters Standings**

Indian Grand master Vidit Santosh Gujrathi (IND, 2704) justified the starting position on the Challenger event as the top seeded player with scoring 9 points out of 13 games and finishing the event as a Winner with the whole point ahead of the runner-ups, which reserved him a seat for the Tata Steel Masters 2019.

The second place went to Korobov Anton (UKR, 2652) with 8 points, while Xiong Jeffery (USA, 2634) ended third thanks to the better tie breaks than others who achieved the same score of 7.5/13.

The Winner of the Top Amateur tournament became Kuipers Stefan (NED, 2444) who at the same time qualified for the next Challengers event.

This year, the Tata Steel Chess, often called as "Wimbledon of Chess" celebrated its 80th anniversary and attracted and gathered together thousands of chess lovers, top world Grandmasters, visitors, 1800 participants of the various tournaments of the Tata Steel events, with a unique opportunity for the amateurs and the youngest to play chess in a same venue as their chess lovers.

The event traditionally took place in coastal village of Wijk aan Zee, North Holland.

**Official Website**

Photo Credits: Tata Steel Chess
Levon Aronian wins Tradewise Gibraltar 2018

Levon Aronian (ARM, 2797) became the Winner of the Tradewise Gibraltar 2018 after passing the long path through the tie breaks.

One of the strongest open tournament over the years didn’t get a sole leader and a Winner after 10 regularly played rounds, since seven players tied for the first place with same score of 7.5 points each. Additional criteria determined four players who continued the fight for the top in the playoffs played by the blitz time control: Rapport Richard (HUN, 2700), Aronian Levon (ARM, 2797), Nakamura Hikaru (USA, 2781) and Vachier-Lagrange Maxime (FRA, 2793).

Aronian Levon won both matches, first one played against Richard Rapport with a result 2-0, and the second and the last one played against Vachier-Lagrange Maxime with a result 2.5-1.5 and was crowned as the Winner of the Tradewise Gibraltar 2018.

The best female player was Cramling Pia (SWE, 2449) who won the prize worth 15.000£ with the same score of 6.5 points, but better tie breaks than Lagno Kateryna (RUS, 2556) who finished as the second women.

**Final Standings- Tradewise Gibraltar Masters 2018**

Traditionally, the Tradewise Gibraltar took place at Caleta Hotel, Gibraltar and consisted of five main events: Masters, Challengers A, Challengers B, Amateurs A and Amateurs B competitions, which gathered 600 players coming from 60 federations. Besides the main events, various evening activities were organized such as Masterclasses with top players, two Blitz events and Battle of Sexes with top women and men players playing against each other.

This year, the organizers increased the total prize fund of the event which reached 200.000£, with 25.000£ reserved for the Winner of the Masters event, and 50.000£ reserved for the best women players.

**Official Website**

**Photos: Sophie Triay and John Saunders**
ECU FILES A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT IN SLOVENIA


On the 11th January 2018, the European Chess Union filed a criminal complaint in Slovenia against anyone responsible for the shadow operation of the offshore company ECU LLC Delaware and the faked ECU Bank account in Slovenia involved, till now, in known transactions of more than 1 million Euros.

All the chronic of the story, court decisions, as also important material will be released the following period in order for the chess public to be fully about the heaviest crime that took place in chess.

Based on the decisions of the ECU Board and the ECU General Assembly, ECU will investigate this case, in the administrative, sport, criminal and civil level of justice till all the persons involved committing or covering criminal actions will be revealed.

The next actions of the European Chess Union will focus in seeking serious financial compensation in various countries from physical persons and entities who caused serious moral & financial damage to ECU, creating shadow operations, using fraud documents, as also published statements and faked material without checking the sources and the European Chess Union position.

Related press releases:

12.06.2017.- CAS AWARD ECU VS BULGARIAN CHESS FEDERATION
12.8.2017.- CAS AWARD FIDE VS Vladimir Sakotic
22.06.2015. -ECU PRESS STATEMENT
21.05.2015.- ECU ANNOUNCEMENT
European ACP Women Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2018- Regulations

European ACP Women Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships 2018 will take place in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 29th March-2nd April.

The European Women's Rapid and Blitz Championships are open to all players representing the Chess Federations, members of the ECU, regardless of their title or rating. There is no limit of participants per federation. However, applications should be sent by the national federations only.

The first on schedule will be the Rapid competition which will be played on 30th and 31st of March. The European ACP Women Rapid Championship will be played according to the Swiss system in 11 rounds, with time control 15 minutes+10 seconds per move starting from the move one.

The event will continue with European ACP Women Blitz Championship which will be played on 1st of April in 13 rounds according to the Swiss system, with the time control 3 minutes+2 seconds per move starting from the move one.

Both events will be held in the 5 stars Hotel Iota as the official venue and the official hotel of the Championships. All players and any kind of accompanying persons, including coaches are invited to stay in the official hotel of the Championship.

The total prize fund of the event will be 20,500 EUR, with 14,500 EUR reserved for the Rapid Championship and 6,000 EUR reserved for the Blitz Championship. Besides the regular prizes, the best Junior and the best Senior players will be rewarded, as well as the best players who are members of the Association of Chess Professionals (ACP).

The European Chess Union and Georgian Chess Federation provided free rooms with breakfast to the 8 highest Rapid ELO rating holders by 1st of January 2018, while ACP and Georgian Chess Federation provided the same for 8 players nominated by the ACP.

The event is organized by government of Georgia, the Tbilisi City Hall, the Georgian Chess Federation and the Association of Chess Professionals (ACP) under the auspices of the European Chess Union.

European ACP Women Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2018- Regulations
European School Chess Championship 2018- Regulations

The Malopolska Chess Association, the Polish Chess Federation, the Community of Krakow, the European Chess Union (ECU), have honour to invite all the Chess Federations, and eligible chess players to take part in the European School Chess Championship 2018 organized in Krakow, Poland from 29th June to 8th July 2018.

European Schools Championship 2018 is played in 6 age categories: Under 7, Under 9, Under 11, Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17, Boys and Girls separately. In case that one girl group has less than 10 participants, it will be merged with the same Open age group.

Every National Federation, School Association, School may enter an unlimited number of players in each of the 12 age groups. Entries (registration forms) must be fully filled and sent from the National Federations, the School Association or the School to the Organization Committee not later than registration deadline- 15th May 2018.

The playing venue of the Championship, as the official hotel of the event, will be 4 stars Galaxy Hotel.

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

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

The organizers provided many side events for the participants and their accompanying persons, such as excursions with professional guides, School Chess Teachers seminar, sports activities and blitz competition.

Registration form

European School Chess Championship 2018- Regulations
European School Chess Championship 2018- Information
Info ECU_European School Chess Championship 2018
European Youth Rapid&Blitz Chess Championships 2018-
Official Regulations

European Chess Union and Romanian Chess Federation have the honour to invite all European Chess Federations affiliated to ECU to participate in the 18th European Youth Rapid&Blitz U-8,10,12,14,16,18 Championship which will be held from 31st July to 5th August 2018 in the city of Oradea, Romania.

The event is open to all players from European Chess Federations. Each ECU member federation can register an unlimited number of players that meet the age requirements of respective sections. Entry form shall be filled in by the national federation on the official website of the championship before the **registration deadline- 4th June 2018.**

The playing venue of the events will be Continental Hotel, one of the official hotels of the event, together with Ramada Hotel and Impero Hotel.

The event consist of 4 separate competitions:

1. **Individual European Championship - RAPID**
   - 9 rounds according to the Swiss System, 15 minutes+10 sec per player
   - Categories: boys and girls separately U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18

2. **Team European Championship - RAPID**
   - Two categories: U12 and U18
   - Teams are composed of 4 players of the same federation
   - 7 rounds played according to the Swiss System, 10 minutes+5sec per player

3. **Individual European Championship - BLITZ**
   - Three categories: under 10, under 14 and under 18, boys and girls separately
   - 9 rounds played according to the Swiss System, 3 minutes+2 sec per player

4. **European Championship in Solving chess problems**
   - Three categories: U10, U14 and U18, boys and girls separately
If some of the categories lack the needed number of participants, the organizer has the right to merge two categories or to change the competition system.

Top 3 ranked players of each category will be awarded with cups and medals, together with special chess prizes and gifts.

The event will be played according to the ECU Tournament regulations published on 1st of January 2018, which includes Anti-Cheating rules.

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

[Image of a river and buildings]

**Official Website of the Championship**

**Official Regulations of the European Youth Rapid&Blitz Chess Championships 2018**

**Contact Information:**

**Tournament office:**
e-mail: ecuoradea2018@yahoo.com

**Tournament Director:**
IO Elena Cristian

Phone: +40 723 309 101

**Romanian Chess Federation/ Constantin Ionescu, General Secretary:**
e-mail: romanianchessfederation@yahoo.com
Upcoming events in February 2018:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portugal Open 2018</td>
<td>Lisbon, Portugal</td>
<td>3rd-9th February</td>
<td>Official Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75th Georgian Women Championship</td>
<td>Tbilisi, Georgia</td>
<td>16th-27th February</td>
<td>Official Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graz Open 2018</td>
<td>Graz, Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aeroflot Open 2018</td>
<td>Moscow, Russia</td>
<td>20th-28th February</td>
<td>Official Website</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FUN ZONE

Interesting facts:

- During the 1972 Fischer-Spassky match in Reykjavik, the Russians linked Spassky’s erratic play with Fischer’s chair. The Icelandic organization put a 24-hour Police guard around the chair while chemical and x-ray tests were performed on the chair. Nothing unusual was found.

With the score 2-0 in Spassky's favor, Fischer refused to play further unless TV Cameras were removed from the playing hall. Only a last minute agreement by Spassky to play away from the cameras permitted the third game to be held. This turned out to be a huge psychological mistake by Spassky since in the 3rd game, held in a small room backstage, Fisher defeated Spassky for the first time in his life.
For January Newsletter 2018 we prepared 4 mate in 5 positions! Enjoy!

Solutions from NL December 2017:

Puzzle #1:
1... Nd4! 2. bxa4 d4#

Puzzle #2:
1. Ne2 Kc4 2. Qb3#

Puzzle #3:
1. Rd5+ Rxd5 2. Nc4#

Puzzle #4
1...Rxc4 2. Rxc4 Nb5#

Puzzle #5
1. Bf6!! Bxf6 [1...Rxf6 2. Nxe5#] 2. Nxf6#

Puzzle #6:
1. Nd3 exd3 2. f4#