European Amateur Chess Champions 2018 crowned!

European Amateur Chess Championship 2018 took place from 13th-21st June in Niksic, Montenegro, with participation of more than 180 players from 18 European federations, which is the new participation record of the event. The event was played in 3 different rating categories (Open and Women section): U2300, U2000 and U1700.
In category U2300, Sahin Ozgun (TUR, 2166), 15th on the starting rank list, made a big surprise and became the European Amateur Chess Champion 2018 for section U2300 with score of 8 points. Second place went to top seeded Olcum Ahmet (TUR, 2281), while the third place came to Iskos Alexandros (GRE, 2152) with 6.5 points.

Women section of U2300 category was merged with the open tournament. At the end of the event, the best women player was WFM Zherebtsova Alexandra (RUS, 2195), who reached 6 points, and 9th place to be crowned as the European Women Amateur Chess Champion 2018. Acarbay Algi (TUR, 1892) took silver medal with 4.5 points and Koljevic Nikolina (MNE, 1832) took bronze with 4 points.

**Final ranking U2300**

The throne of the category U2000 was conquered by two young women players. 17 years old Krzysztnska Anna (POL, 1752) and 13 years old Ince Safiye Oyku (TUR, 1762) tied for the first place, each with 7.5 points, but according to the tiebreaks Krzysztnska Anna won the Championship, while Safiye Oyku took silver. Third place came to Bozinovic Boban (AUT, 1930) with 6.5 points.

Besides the girls who won the Open event, the best ranked women players were: Fransson Pia (SWE, 1486) with 4 points, Ruzic Pia Marie (SLO, 1737) and Rakic Tijana (MNE, 1554) with 3.5 points each.

**Final ranking U2000**

In Open section U1700, after tough struggles for the top, the Winner was decided according to the tiebreak criteria. Ruzic Milos (SLO, 1653) and Kanev Evgeny (RUS, 1618) tied for the first place, each with 7 points. Eventually, gold went to Ruzic Milos, second place to Miheiyazgan Can and the third place came to Kanev Evgeny.

**Final ranking U1700- Open section**

In Women section U1700, Meremyanina Kseniya (RUS, 1581) triumphed the event with 7.5 points. Koc Azra Ece (TUR, 1508) ended second with 7 points and Grishina Zhanna (RUS, 1585) finished the event with bronze medal and 6.5 points.

**Final ranking U1700- Women section**

The total prize fund of the event which was played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, was 5000 EUR. Top three players of each category were awarded with cups and medals, while Women players were awarded separately.

**Official Website of the Championship**
ECU President, Zurab Azmaiparashvili, paid a working visit to Skopje

The President of the European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, paid an official 2-days working visit to Skopje, where he met with the Prime Minister of the North Macedonia, Mr. Zoran Zaev, the President of the National Chess Federation Mr. Blagoja Bogoevski and the Director of Agency of Youth and Sports, Mr. Darko Kaevski.

Besides the very constructive discussion about the chess development in Europe as also future European competitions in the country, the President of ECU and the President of the National Chess Federation Mr. Blagoja Bogoevski signed the contract for organization for the European Individual Chess Championship 2019, one of the most prestigious events in the ECU Calendar and qualification stage for the World Championship. The European Individual Chess Championship 2019 will take place from 16th-29th March, in Skopje.

Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili also used the opportunity to invite Mr. Zoran Zaev to attend the Opening Ceremony of the 43rd Chess Olympiad, which will take place from 23rd September-6th October 2018 in Batumi, Georgia.
European School Chess Championship 2018 has started

The European School Chess Championship 2018 which takes place from 29th June-8th July in Krakow, Poland has started. The Championship participate more than 300 players from more than 20 European federations.

The event is played in 6 age categories (open and girls): Under 7, Under 9, Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17, in 9 rounds, Swiss system, 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 move one.

The playing venue of the event is 4 stars Galaxy hotel.

Starting rank list

All the pairings, results and standings after each round can be seen on the official website of the Championship, as well as the live transmission of 24 games of different categories.

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 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 European School Chess Champions 2018 free accommodation for the 29th International Chess Festival "Cracovia 2018", which will be held from 27th December 2018-4th January 2019 in Krakow, Poland.

Official Website of the Championship
Teams of Italy and Germany won Mitropa Cup 2018

Teams of Italy and Germany won Open and Women section of the 36th edition of Mitropa Cup, respectively. The event took place from 30th May-9th June in the La Castella Resort- Calabria, in Isola Capo Rizzuto, Italy.

The Winner in the open section was already known by the 8th round and Italy would stand on the throne no matter of the result in the last round. Convincingly, with 16 match points, after finishing the last round in a peaceful manner- draw against Hungary, Italy took the gold medal and the title of the Mitropa Cup winner 2018. Hungary and Germany tied for the second place, each with 13 match points, but according to the tiebreaks, Hungary was silver, while team of Germany took bronze.

The Women section featured fights until the very last minutes of the event. After 7 rounds, Germany took the first place with 13 match points. Austria came second with 11 match points, and the third place went to Italy.

That year, Mitropa Cup, the team event with long tradition, brought together 18 teams from 10 European federation. The Open section was participated by: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Hungary and Italy, while the teams of Women section were: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Slovakia, Italy and Slovenia.

The event was played as a single Round Robin event, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes to finish the game, with 30 seconds of increment for each move, starting from the move one.

Official Website of the Championship

The Mitropa Cup is the annual team chess tournament for national teams from Central Europe. The word Mitropa is derivative of German Mittel Europe (Central Europe). The idea of the Mitropa Cup came from Gertrude Wanger, who wanted to create a chess team tournament after the example of respective football competition. Together with her husband Karl and the president of the Austrian Chess Federation Kurt Jungwith, they were the founders and organizers of the tournament. The event commenced in 1976 and Gertrude Wagner will organize the next twenty editions of the event.
Grand Chess Tour 2018

The 2018 Grand Chess Tour, a series of five chess tournaments held throughout the year and across the globe, kicked off with event "Your next move", which took place from 12th-16th June, in Leuven, Belgium.

The 1st leg of the Grand Chess Tour was played in 9 games played by Rapid time control and 18 games played by Blitz time control. The event participated ten top world grandmasters: Alexander Grischuk, Fabiano Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura, Levon Aronian, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, Sergey Karjakin, Viswanathan Anand, Wesley So and Anish Giri.

Wesley So convincingly won the Rapid event, with impressive score of 7 points, which brought him also the first place on the final standings of the 1st leg of the tour. Even though Karjakin Sergey triumphed at the Blitz competition, on the final standings, Wesley So reached the top with 22 combined points, while Karjakin Sergey and Vachier Maxime- Lagrave tied for the second place, each with 21.5 combined points.

Official Website

Only a few days after the 1st stage, the Grand Chess Tour continued with the 2nd stage in Paris, France, which took place from 20th-24th June. The event which was played in the same combined Rapid and Blitz competitions as the "Your next move", was participated by: Alexander Grischuk, Fabiano Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura, Levon Aronian, Maxime Vachier- Lagrave, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, Sergey Karjakin, Viswanathan Anand, Wesley So and Vladimir Kramnik.
After all 27 played games, Hikaru Nakamura triumphed at the second leg of Grand Chess Tour, with final score of 23 combined points. Wesley So was the Winner of the rapid event, but Hikaru Nakamura took the first place on the final standings of the Paris GCT thanks to the best score at the blitz competition and the second place on the rapid event, where he had the same score of 11 points, as Sergey Karjakin.

The second place of the Paris GCT came to Sergey Karjakin with 21.5 combined points, while the third place went to Wesley So with 21 points.

The event was closed with the closing ceremony and a pro-biz event, where chess professionals were paired with prominent guests, among whom was the Minister of finance of Latvia, Mrs. Dana Reizniece-Ozola. Team of Etienne Bacrot and Dana Reizniece-Ozola got into the finals of pro-biz event and played the final bughouse match against Garry Kasparov and his teammate - 10 years old talent Marc Andria Maurizzi.

Besides the pro-biz event, the participants of the Grand Chess Tour played simultaneous games with the visitors.
Upcoming events in July 2018:

- **ECU and FIDE events:**

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Official Website</th>
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<td>European Youth Team Chess Championship 2018</td>
<td>Bad Blankeburg, Germany</td>
<td>11th-19th June</td>
<td>Official Website</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Youth Rapid&amp;Blitz Chess Championship 2018</td>
<td>Oradea, Romania</td>
<td>31st July- 5th August</td>
<td>Official Website</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Senior Team Chess Championship 2018</td>
<td>Radebeul, Germany</td>
<td>7th-15th July</td>
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- **Other events:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>4th Gideon Japhet Memorial</td>
<td>Jerusalem, Israel</td>
<td>1st-6th July</td>
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<td>Match: Hou Yifan vs Ruslan Ponomariov</td>
<td>Shenzhen, China</td>
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<td>Minsk Open 2018</td>
<td>Minsk, Belarus</td>
<td>3rd-13th July</td>
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<td>18th Warsaw Najdorf Chess Festival</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland</td>
<td>7th-16th July</td>
<td>Official Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polugaevsky Memorial</td>
<td>Samara, Russia</td>
<td>9th-19th July</td>
<td>Official Website</td>
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FUN ZONE

Interesting facts:

- The New York Police once arrested World Chess Champion Wilhelm Steinitz on a charge of espionage during the game against Mikhail Chigorin. They played this game via correspondence, telegraph, to be precise. Police did not realize it was a chess notation and decided Steinitz was a spy.

- The first chess game “Space vs. Earth” was played on June 9, 1970. A spaceship Soyuz-9 team and Cosmonaut Training Center representatives played this game and it was a draw. Sounds boring from today’s perspective, right? Just imagine though what it was like back then! There were a number of games between cosmonauts and a team on the ground after that first draw.
For this edition of the ECU Newsletter we prepared 4 positions where White mates in 4!

Solutions from the ECU Newsletter May 2018:

**Puzzle #1:**

**Puzzle #2:**
1.Nd5+ cxd5 2. Rc7!! Re7 3. Rc6+ Re6 4. Rxe6#

**Puzzle #3:**
1. Bc8!! c6 2. Ba6 cxb5 3.Qxb5!! Kxf3 4.Qe2#

**Puzzle #4:**
1. Bg2 (with unstoppable mate with Bf1) f3 2. Bf1 Re2 3. Nxe2 fxe2 4.Be2#