



MAGNUS CARLSEN
RETAINS THE TITLE OF
FIDE WORLD CHESS
CHAMPION



JU WENJUN DEFENDS
THE FIDE WOMEN'S
WORLD CHESS
CHAMPION TITLE

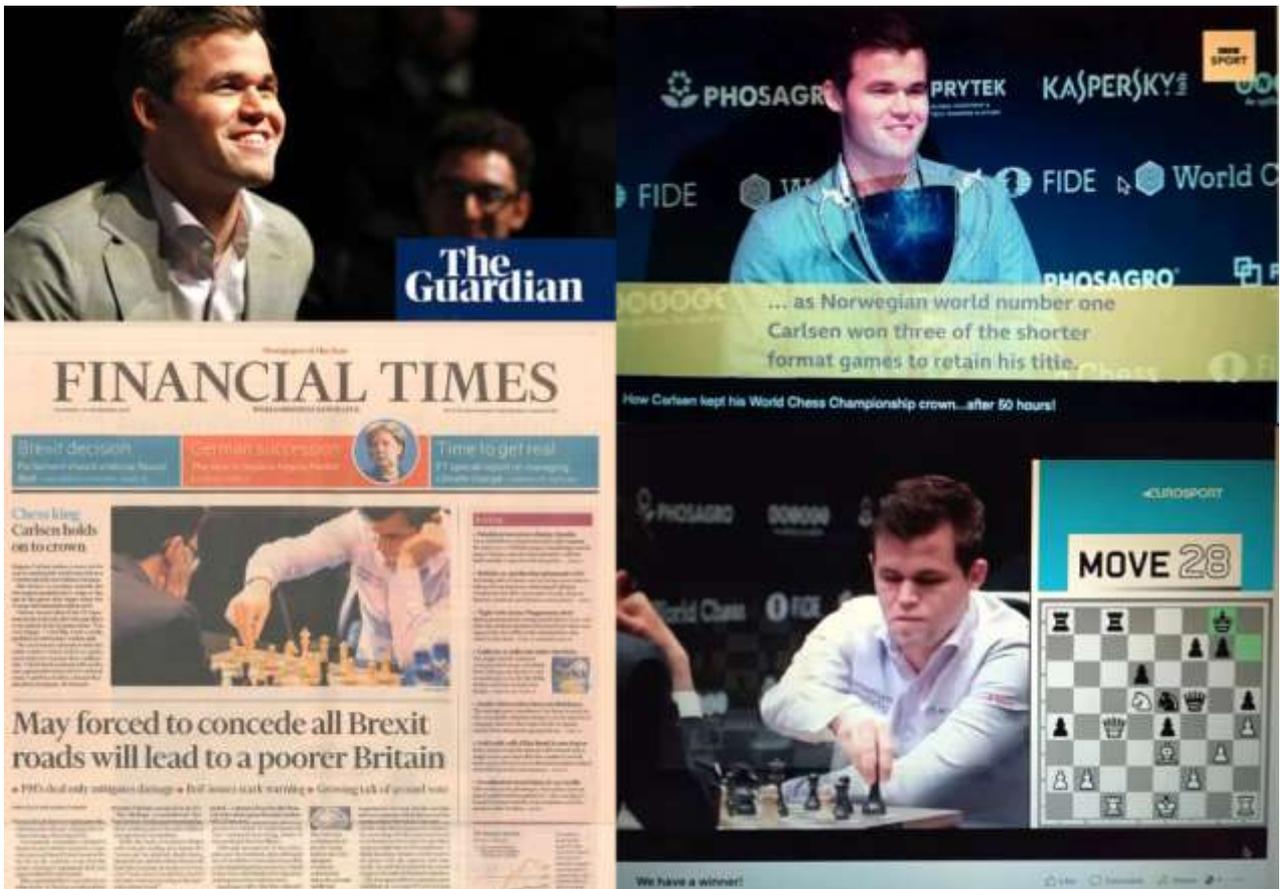


2ND ECU SCHOOL TEAM
INTERNET CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP
CONCLUDED



PRESIDENT OF ECU OPENS
WORLD YOUTH U16 CHESS
OLYMPIAD

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



CHESS IS BACK!

Magnus Carlsen retains the title of FIDE World Chess Champion

Magnus Carlsen defended the FIDE World Chess Champion title after defeating the challenger Fabiano Caruana in the tiebreak match with three consecutive victories and result 3-0.

After all twelve games of the regular part of the Championship ended in a draw, Carlsen and Caruana proceeded to a 4 rapid-games tiebreak match. Magnus Carlsen had the white pieces in the first game of the tiebreaks and picked to play the English opening. Carlsen gained the small advantage already in the opening, but after the middlegame, Caruana equalized the position and the players entered the rooks endgame with Carlsen having the pawn up. Although the position was drawish, Caruana missed right moves order for draw, and Carlsen used that opportunity to get the lead already in the first round.



Caruana started sharply in the game two, and the players repeated the Sveshnikov variation, when Carlsen surprised his opponent in the opening, and took advantage very shortly after. Fabiano tried to keep the position sharp, but eventually blundered in the move 26th, and already two moves after, resigned.

Magnus Carlsen needed a draw in the last game to remain the World Chess Champion position. He picked to play 1.e4, and Caruana answered with Sicilian with trying to find any possibility to prolong the fight. After a lot of exchanges, the position was equal, but it wasn't enough for Caruana to stay in the match, and he tried to break the position of whites. Magnus used a few suspicious moves made by Caruana to take the huge advantage, and eventually won the third game and became FIDE World Chess Champion 2018.



FIDE World Chess Championship Match 2018 took place from 9th-28th November in spectacular The College venue which hosted 400 guests each day, who were able to follow the match for the World Chess Championship live. The long anticipated match was live transmitted, together with live commentary done by GM Judit Polgar and IM Anna Rudolf.

[Official Website](#)

Photographs by: Niki Riga

Ju Wenjun defends the title of FIDE Women's World Chess Champion

Ju Wenjun defended the title of FIDE Women's World Chess Champion when defeated Lagno Kateryna in the tiebreak match which ended with result 3-1 in favor of Chinese player who became the only one who managed to defend the title of the World Champion by winning the knockout system of the World Chess Championship cycle.



The final four regular games match for the title started very sharply and leading of Lagno Kateryna who took a victory in the second round of the match. After that, the third game was very intense, but ended in a draw, while Lagno missed the tactics in the round 4, and Ju Wenjun managed to tie the result, and fought the tiebreaks.

The tiebreak match started with two draws, but in the game 3, Ju Wenjun took a win with black pieces. After the rally in the game four, the finalist got in an endgame when Lagno blundered a Queen and immediately resigned.

With a final result of 5-3, Ju Wenjun became the FIDE Women's World Chess Champion and wrote the history by being the first one to defend the title winning the knockout FIDE Women's World Chess Championship.



The semifinalists of the Championship: Alexandra Kosteniuk, Mariya Muzychuk and Kateryna Lagno, qualified for the 2019 Women's Candidates Tournament.

FIDE Women's World Chess Championship 2018 took place from 1st-23rd November in Khanty Mansiysk, Russia, in the venue of Ugra Chess Academy.

[Official Website of the Championship](#)

2nd ECU School Team Internet Chess Championship concluded

The final stage, 2nd ECU School Team Internet Chess Championship, took place from 14th-21st November, with participation of 26 teams who competed in two age categories: U11 and U17 and represented nine European federations.



After seven played rounds, according to the Swiss system, the Winner of the second edition of ECU School Internet Chess Championship in category U11 became the team GBOU 2101 from Moscow, Russia, with all the victories and maximum score of 21 match points. The second place went to another Russian team, MBOU Zaozernaya SOC 16 with score of 19 match points, while bronze medal went to GBOU Sankt Peterburgskaya Gimazia 2, also from Russia, who scored 16 match points, and tied for the first place with Scoala Gimnazia ED Tulcea from Romania and OS Stampar Makarije from Montenegro.

[Final rankings-U11](#)

In section U17, after 7 played rounds, teams of GBOU Sankt-Peterburg Gimnazium 2 from Russia and Oktoih chess from Montenegro tied for the first place, each with 19 match points. According to the additional criteria, Russians took gold, while Montenegro team took silver medal. The third place went to Njegos Podgorica, also from Montenegro, who reached 18 match points.

[Final rankings- U17](#)



The ECU School Team Internet Chess Championship was established in 2017 with aim to promote chess in schools and to expand area of playing chess and bring the official ECU tournaments more accessible to all the youngest chess lovers. With that idea, European Chess Union brought the decision to waive the entry fee for participation in the 2nd European School Team Chess Open Internet Championship.

[Official Website of the Championship](#)

President of ECU opens World Youth U16 Chess Olympiad

The President of European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, together with the president of the Turkish Chess Federation, Mrs. Gulkiz Tulay, opened the World Youth U16 Chess Olympiad 2018, which takes place from 24th November-3rd December in Konya, Turkey.



The event participate 46 teams coming from 39 federations, who compete for the top. The event is played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with time control 90 minutes for the whole game, plus 30 seconds of an increment for each move, starting from the move one.

[Official Website of the Championship](#)

European players conquered the top of FIDE World Youth Chess Championship

European players conquered the top of the World Youth U18, U16 and U14 Chess Championship 2018, which took place from 19th-31st October in Porto Carras, Greece.

The young talented chess players from Europe took 5 out of 6 gold medals, 5 out of 6 silver medals and 3 bronze medals, which makes in total 13 out of 18 medals. The only category without a European medalist was Girls U14 section.



The Closing Ceremony of the event took place on 30th October, where FIDE was represented by the Vice President, Ms. Anastasia Sorokina, and the European Chess Union was represented by the President of ECU, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, and ECU Secretary General, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou.

[Official Website of the Championship](#)

Grand Prix de Monaco AEPA chess tournament

Monaco Chess Federation celebrated the 60+1 anniversary of AEPA (French Chess Association for visually impaired players) by organizing the Grand Prix de Monaco chess tournament. The event took place from 31st October-4th November in Stadium Lous II playing venue.



The event participated 33 visually impaired chess players, coming from 7 European federations: Monaco, France, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Canada, Tunisia. Among the participants were also seven U8 and U10 youth players.

After 7 played rounds, the Winner became Olivier Deville (French champion 2017 and 2018), with impressive score of 6.5 points. Hugo Roman (BEL) took silver medal thanks to the better tiebreaks than Tufek Absaba (FRA), since they tied for the thirteenth place, each with 5.5 points. The best women player was Clementine Kruk with score of 5 points.



The event was opened by Colonel Luc Fringant (Aide de Camp Prince Albert II) who made the honorary first move, in the presence of Stephane Valeri, President of the Monaco Parliament.

The event was organized by Monaco Chess Federation and AEPA, with support of Monaco GVT, Societe des Bains de Mer and European Chess Union.



Adhiban B. wins the Tournament of Piece- Zagreb 2018

After eleven played rounds at the historical event "Tournament of Piece", which took place from 12th-23rd November in Zagreb, Croatia, Indian Grandmaster, Adhiban B. became the Winner of the event which aims to show the chessboard as a symbol of piece all over the world.



The Tournament of Piece is renewed after 33 years and gathered well known chess names: Vassily Ivanchuk, former World Champion challenger and rapid chess World Champion of 2016; Bacrot Etienne- candidates tournaments competitor; Ivan Saric- Croatian and current European Champion; Zdenko Kozul, former European Champion, Adhiban B., Cheparinov Ivan, Amin Bassem, Zelcic Robert, Stevic Hrvoje, Palac Mladen and Jovanovic Zoran.



After 11 played rounds of great games, the winner of the event became Adhiban B. (IND, 2682) who reached 7.5 points to be alone on the top of the list. The second place went to Bacrot Etienne (FRA, 2677) who tied for silver medal with Ivanchuk Vassily (UKR, 2714), but according to tiebreaks, Bacrot was second, and Ivanchuk finished with bronze medal. The reigning European Chess Champion Ivan Saric (CRO, 2692) took the 4th place with the same score of 6.5 points as Cheparinov Ivan (GEO, 2711) who ended 5th.

The Opening Ceremony of "Tournament of Piece" was attended by ECU President Zurab Azmaiparashvili, ECU Vice President Ivan Sokolov, President of the Croatian Olympic Committee, Zlatko Matesa. The event was sponsored by the city of Zagreb and its Mayor- Milan Bandic.

[Official Website of the Championship](#)



European School Chess Championship 2019- Regulations

European Chess Union and Romanian Chess Federation have the honour to invite all European Chess Federations affiliated to FIDE and ECU to participate in the European School Championship under 7,9,11,13,15 and 17, open and girls, separately, which will take place from 30th May-9th June 2019 in the Mamaia resort, Constanta municipality, Romania.



The Championship 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. In case that one age (girls) section has less than 10 players, it will be merged with the same age open group.

All players have to register through their national federations before the registration deadline. The entry form should be filled in by the national federation on the official website of the championship. The deadline for registration and for all payments is 15th of April 2019.

All the players and Accompanying persons are invited to stay in one of the official hotels of the championship: 4* hotel Amiral Comandor Complex and 3* hotel Orfeu. The organizers provided the transfer from the airport Constanta, while the transfer may be organized also from airports in Varna (Bulgaria) and Bucharest for prize in two ways of 80e and 60e, respectively.

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.

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

[European School Chess Championship 2019- Official Regulations](#)

[Official Website of the Championship](#)

European Amateur Chess Championship 2019- Regulations

The European Amateur Chess Championship 2019 will be held in the island of Rhodes, Greece, from 5th-15th April, simultaneously with European Senior Chess Championship 2019. The events will be held in the Conference center of Olympic Palace Hotel, as the official hotel of the event.



The Championships are open tournaments for players registered or approved by their federation. ECU member federations shall have the right to send as many players as they wish. All players must not hold any title above CM (or WCM for women) in the sections Under-1700 and Under 2000. All players must not hold any title above FM (or WFM) in the section under 2300.

A player must not have a published FIDE rating of 2300 or greater for at least one year prior to the registration deadline of the event. For the Under-2000 section, a player must not have a published FIDE rating of 2000 or greater for at least one year prior to the start of the Championship. For the Under-1700 section, a player must not have a published FIDE rating of 1700 or greater for at least one year prior to the start of the Championship. In case a player exceeds the rating of 1700 or 2000 after the registration deadline, he/she will play the upper rating category.

There will be separate championships for categories Under-2300, Under-2000 and Under-1700. In each rating section, a separate championship for women shall be organized only if there are at least 10 women entries otherwise the women's event will be merged with men (open). The Championship is organized in a 9-round Swiss System, in accordance with FIDE laws of Chess and the ECU Tournament Rules. The rate of play will be 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game, with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one.

The registration for the event shall be done online by filling the entry form and sending it fulfilled to the organizers. Entries must be sent by the registration deadline 20 February 2019 by email to: chess.at.holidays@gmail.com.

The total prize fund of the event is 4.000 EUR and the winners of each category will receive the relevant title: European Amateur Chess Champion under 1700, under 2000 and under 2300.

[Entry \(registration\) forms](#)

[European Amateur Chess Championship 2019- Official Regulations](#)

European Senior Chess Championship 2019- Regulations

The European Senior Chess Championship 2019 will be held in the island of Rhodes, Greece, from 5th-15th April, simultaneously with European Amateur Chess Championship 2019. The events will be held in the Conference center of Olympic Palace Hotel, as the official hotel of the Championship.

The European Senior Chess Championship is open to all players representing ECU Chess Federations who have been born in the year 1969 or earlier, regardless of their title of rating. There is also no limit in the number of participants per federation. Applications have to be sent by the National federations or to be approved by the National federations.

The registration for the event shall be done online by filling the entry form and sending it fulfilled to the organizers. Entries must be sent by the registration deadline 20 February 2019, by email to: chess.at.holidays@gmail.com.



In accordance with the ECU tournament rules, the Championship will be played in two categories: one for those who shall have reached the age of 50 (category Senior 50+), and one for those who shall have reached the age of 65 (category Senior 65+). Players who have reached the age of 65 by the 31st December 2018 are allowed to participate in the category Senior 65+ if they request it. In each age category an Open and Women's competition is organized. There is also no limit of participants per federation.

The Championship is based on Swiss system in accordance with the ECU Tournament Rules and FIDE Rules of Chess. The playing time will be 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one.

Women tournament will be played separately. If in total, the women participants are less than nine, they will play in the Open tournament with separate prizes. The total prize fund of the event will be 10.000 EUR.

[Entry form](#)

[European Senior Chess Championship - Official Regulations](#)

London Chess Conference 2018

The sixth edition of the annual London Chess Conference, supported by Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC), European Chess Union (ECU) and Erasmus Plus, will take place from 8th-9th December in Irish Cultural Centre, in London, United Kingdom.

The theme of the conference this year will be the future of chess in education. The question arises because there are many developments in the world of chess and also many challenges facing our education systems. In the UK, the head of the schools inspection body, OFSTED, recently announced that they would switch their attention from looking at how children perform in exams to looking at how they learn in the classroom. The new idea, "quality of education", is a reversion to a time before league tables forced schools to narrow the range of education. The likely consequence of the revived approach is that schools should make time for arts, music, sports and, we may hope, activities such as chess.



A strong argument for chess in schools is that it prepares children for the digital future. Chess is about the manipulation of abstract ideas- the raw material of the digital age. Citizens need to be able to navigate a range of logic-rich performing any task. The chess playing child goes deep into the logical relationship between the elements. At its essence, chess becomes a series of if-then conditions. If you move your bishop, then I will checkmate you. Once you begin to think in this structured way, you can overcome a wider range of problems that one meets in everyday life. Conference speakers will explain how schools will be using chess to develop not only intellectual, but also social skills which are vital for future citizens.

The conference will also host a multiplier event for the Erasmus Plus CHAMPS project on Chess and Mathematics in Primary Schools, which takes place as a conference stream on Saturday 8th December. Attendance at the CHAMPS sessions is free, but is subject to registration. The CHAMPS project explores the connections between chess and mathematics and adapts a number of these into instructive problems suitable for solving by young people.

After the end of the London Chess Conference, venue of Irish Cultural Center will host ECU School Chess Teacher Training Course, which will take place on 10th and 11th December, and on 12th December, new course accredited by European Chess Union, ECU Chess and Mathematics Teacher Training Course.

By passing each of the courses, and the online test, participants will receive the certificates which certifies that the attendee has achieved a professional level in teaching chess in schools, and are endorsed by the European Chess Union to recognise that the individual has didactical methods for the classroom.

[Official Website](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER:

- **ECU events:**

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|---|
| European Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2018 | Skopje, FYR of Macedonia | 5th-9th December | <u>Official Website</u> |
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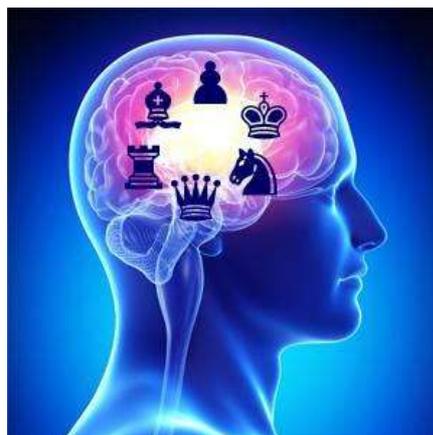
- **Other events:**

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|---|
| London Chess Conference | London, England | 8th-9th December | <u>Official Website</u> |
| 10th London Chess Classic | London, England | 10th-21st December | <u>Official Website</u> |
| Sunway Sitges Festival 2018 | Sitges, Spain | 14th-23rd December | <u>Official Website</u> |
| 25th Zadar Open 2018 | Zadar, Croatia | 15th-22nd December | <u>Official Website</u> |

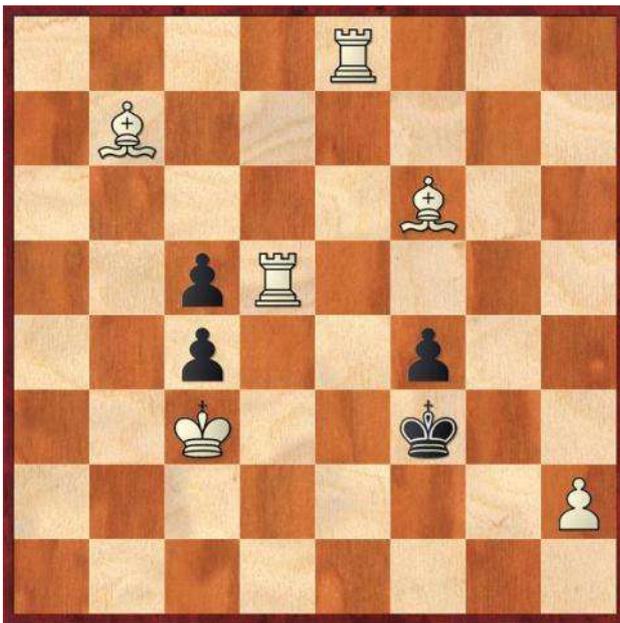
FUN ZONE

Interesting facts:

- Chess is often cited by psychologists as an effective way to improve memory function. Also allowing the mind to solve complex problems and work through ideas, it is no wonder that chess is recommended in the fight against Alzheimer's. Some contend that it can increase one's intelligence, though that is a more complex topic. The effects of chess on young individuals had led to chess being introduced in school districts and various countries. It has been shown to improve children's grades and other positive effects as well.
- Studies show that playing chess as a kid has a high positive correlation with academic achievement. In one study, researchers found that students who were taught how to play chess were more academically advanced overall, especially in math, spatial analysis and nonverbal reasoning ability.
- In a study where researchers scanned the brains of elite chess players, they found that these players actually had smaller brains than the non-elite players – and that's not a bad thing. As Christian Jarrett writes in *Wired*, their research suggests that areas of brain shrinkage "can be a sign of neural efficiency and a reflection of behavioral expertise" as opposed to a negative result. Bigger is not always better.
- Scientists analyzed patterns of the brains of elite chess players and found that more advanced chess players used both sides of the brain while making decisions during games. By exercising both sides of the brain, players are using the more visually focused right side to recognize patterns from games past and the analytical left side to decide what is the best logical move. This exercise strengthens both sides of the brain, making the player a more advanced and adept thinker.



For this edition of the ECU Newsletter we prepared 4 puzzles where white mates in 3!



Solutions from the ECU Newsletter October 2018:

Puzzle 1:

1.Nd4 Kxe5 [1...Rxb7 2. Re6+ Kc7 3. Rc6#; 1...h5 2. Rd5+ Kc7 3. Rg7#] 2. Rg5+ Kf4 3. Ne6#

Puzzle 2:

1. Kd2 Nd4 [1...e3+ 2. Kd3 Nc7 3. Qc4#; 1...g5 2. Rxf6+ Ke5 3. Rf5#] 2. Re5+ Kxe5 3. Qb8#

Puzzle 3:

1.Bd2+ Kb5 2.b7 Kb6 [2...c4 3. Qa5#] 3.b8=Q#

Puzzle 4:

1.Kc7 dxe2 [1...d2 2. Qe3+ Kxd5 (2...Ke5 3.Qxe4#) 3. Qxe4#; 1...Bxd5 2. Rxe4+ Bxe4+ 3. Qc5#] 2. Qf6+ Kd3 3. Qc3#