



## **MINKS PLAYS CHESS**

**European Corporate Chess  
Championship 2019**

## **SURVEY ON WOMEN'S CHESS**

**ECU conducts a survey on  
Women's Chess throughout  
the Europe**



**EUROPEAN YOUTH CHESS  
CHAMPIONS 2019  
ANNOUNCED IN BRATISLAVA**



## New Challenges to the Next Level

by Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, ECU Secretary General

By the end of summer, European Chess Union is entering in an intensive period, presenting new events and projects. The #Development Seminars in Trieste, Italy (1-7 Sept.) supported for female participants and the 1st Workshop "Equal Opportunities" in Thessaloniki, Greece are the autumn's first challenges. On 12th October the "Future Champions of Europe" in Budapest, as a part of the annual Global Chess Festival, and our main event the European Team Championship in Batumi, Georgia (23 Oct.-3 Nov.) and at the same time and venue (23-27 Oct.) the 3rd ECU Congress. November starts with the ECU Business Forums in Oslo and Stockholm (5 & 6 Nov.) continues with the European Club Cup with a massive participation in Ulcinj, Montenegro (9-17 Nov.) the European Women's Rapid & Blitz Championship in Monaco (28 Nov.) and on 30th, the grandiose awarding event in Monte Carlo the "European Golden Pawn". London Chess Conference (30 Nov. to 1 Dec.) has this year the theme "Chess and Female Empowerment". December will find us in Tallinn, Estonia (1-8 Dec.) for the European Rapid & Blitz Championships in open and youth categories.

European Chess Union has its seat in Switzerland,  
Address: Rainweidstrasse 2, CH-6333, Hunenberg  
See, Switzerland

European Chess Union is an independent  
association founded in 1985 in Graz, Austria;  
European Chess Union has 54 National Federation  
Members; Every year ECU organizes more than 20  
prestigious events and championships.

[www.europechess.org](http://www.europechess.org)  
[ecu.secretary.general@gmail.com](mailto:ecu.secretary.general@gmail.com)

Last but not least soon we will present statistical information about the ECU growth the last 4 years. The results exceed our expectations and confirm the European Chess Union as one of the fastest developing European Sports federations.

# contents



- 03 EYCC 2019**  
European Youth Chess  
Championship 2019 final  
report
- 07 EUYCC 2019**  
European Union Youth Chess  
Championship 2019 final  
report
- 09 European Corporate**  
Final report of 2nd edition of  
European Corporate Chess  
Championship 2019

- 10 Global Chess Festival**  
"Future Champions of  
Europe" and "International  
Youth Chess Challenge"
- 12 Survey on Women's chess**  
ECU conducts a survey on  
women's chess

- 13 3rd ECU Congress**

- 14 Meeting Chess Legends**  
Training lesson  
Arbiters corner
- 18 Upcoming events**
- 19 Fun zone**



## European Youth Chess Champions 2019 announced

European Youth Chess Championship 2019 concluded on 10th of August in Bratislava, Slovakia.

12 players out of 1306 participants coming from 48 European federations awarded the title of European Youth Chess Champion.



## EYCC 2019 CLOSING CEREMONY

The Closing Ceremony of the event took place on Saturday, 10th of August, at 17:00, where the Winners were awarded with trophies and medals, and the event was officially declared closed.

On the Closing ceremony of the event, European Chess Union was represented by: the European Chess Union President, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili the ECU Secretary General, Mr. Theodoros Tsobatzoglou and the ECU Vice President and Tournament Director of European Youth Chess Championship 2019 Ms. Eva Repkova. FIDE was represented by its Vice President Mr. Turlej, Lukasz and the Slovakian Chess Federation by its President Mr. Gregor, Zdenek.

The President of European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, addressed the participants and congratulated to all on the fair-play, with special congrats to the Winners. He declared the Championship closed, and afterwards took part in the awarding ceremony for the best ranked players.



*ECU President on the Closing ceremony of EYCC2019*



In Girls section U18, Sliwicka Alicja (POL, 2259) took gold with score of 8 points. Second place came to Badelka Olga (BLR, 2402) with 7.5 points, while Muetsch Annmarie (GER, 2233) came on the third place thanks to the best tiebreaks, since she tied for the bronze with 3 players scoring 6.5 points, each.

Gold medal in section Girls U16 went to Waszczuk Patrycja (POL, 2139), who scored 7.5 points to be alone on the top of the list. Three players tied for the medals, each with score of 7 points, and according to additional criteria, Getman Tatyana (RUS, 2204) took silver and bronze came to Hryzloa Sofija (UKR, 1928).

In category Girls U14, Allahverdiyeva Ayan (AZE, 2114) and Nur-Mukhametova Alisa (RUS, 2132) tied for the top, each with 7.5 points. Eventually, thanks to slightly better value of tiebreaks, Allahverdiyeva Ayan took gold and Nur-Mukhametova Alisa came second. Hrebenshchikova Yelizaveta (UKR, 1879) took bronze medal with 7.

Shvedova Alexandra (RUS, 1932) became the Winner of Girls U12 section scoring 8 points. Zhapova Yana (RUS, 1809) took silver medal with score of 7.5 points, while Vlasova Olesia (RUS, 1799) came on the third place thanks to the best tiebreaks, since she tied for the bronze with 2 girls scoring 7 points, each.

Shukhman Anna (RUS, 1806) was convincing in Girls U10 section, with final score of 8.5 points. Hnatyshyn Anastasija (UKR, 1405) was second with 7.5 points, while Kirtadze Anastasia (GEO, 1532) and Kusakina Uliana (RUS, 1448) tied for the bronze medal, each with 7 points. Eventually Kirtadze Anastasia came third thanks to better tiebreaks criteria.

In the girls section for the youngest, Girls U8, gold medal and the trophy went to Huseynova Dinara (AZE, 1207) with score of 8 points. Bashirli Saadat (AZE, 1292) took silver with 7.5 points, while Preobrazhenskaya Diana (RUS, 1361) took bronze with score of 7 points.

## EYCC 2019

European Youth Chess Championship 2019 was played in 6 age categories, open and girls separately.

The event was played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves, plus 30 minutes until the end of the game, with an increment of 30 seconds, starting from the move one.



Official  
Website of the  
event



In Open U18 section, the Winner became Nguyen Thai Dai Van (CZE, 2535) with score of 7.5 points. He was half a point ahead of Salemgareev Tagir (RUS, 2444) who took silver with 7 points, while Vrolijk Liam (NED, 2478) took bronze medal thanks to the best tiebreaks, since he tied for the third place with 5 players scoring 6.5 points, each.

Barseghyan Armen Ar. (ARM, 2313) took the victory in Open U16 section with 7.5 points. Group of 5 players followed him, each with score of 7 points, but according to the additional criteria Van Dael Siem (NED, 2264) came on the second place and Pogosyan Stefan (RUS, 2334) ended on the third place.

Kostolansky Sebastian Lukas (SVK, 2406) and Tsvetkov Andrey (RUS, 2346) tied for the top of Open U14 section, each with score of 7.5 points. Kostolansky Sebastian Lukas took gold thanks to slightly better tiebreaks and Tsvetkov Andrey went second. Six players were in a tie for the bronze, but eventually, additional criteria decided it was Mitusov Semen (UKR, 2184) who took the bronze medal with score of 7 points.

Maurizzi Marc Andria (FRA, 2419) defended his No.1 starting rank position, and triumphed in Open U12 section scoring 8 points. Piliposyan Robert (ARM, 2156) and Vagman Roy (ISR, 1935) tied for the second place, each with 7.5 points, but thanks to the better tiebreak criteria, Piliposyan Robert took silver and Vagman Roy finished the event on the third place.

In Open U10 section, after 9 played rounds, Vetokhin Savva (RUS, 2016) emerged on the top with score of 8 points. Finek Vaclav (CZE, 2038) and Azadaliyev Jahandar (AZE, 1905) are the runner-ups with the same score of 7.5 points, each, but according to tiebreaks, Finek Vaclav was second and Azadaliyev Jahandar took bronze.

Erdogmus Yagiz Kaan (TUR, 1745) convincingly took the victory in Open U8 section, with score of 8.5 points, and only one draw, which he made in the last round of the event. Erdogmus Yagiz Kaan was a point and a half ahead of the group of 5 players tying for the silver, each with 7 points. According to additional criteria, Temirbekov Taimaz (RUS, 1366) and Karimli Yusif (AZE, 1658) took silver and bronze medals, respectively.

## EYCC 2019

European Youth Chess Championship 2019 took place from 1st-11th of August in Bratislava, Slovakia, with participation of 1306 players coming from 48 European federations.

# European Union Youth Chess Championship 2019

European Union Youth Chess Championship 2019 concluded in Kouty nad Desnou, Czech Republic. The Winners of the event have been announced on 24th of August at the Closing ceremony.

In category Open U8, Ochedzan Filip (POL) took the first place, the second place came to Karaszewski Gabriel (POL) and the bronze medal went to Negrean Andrei (ROU).

In category Girls U8 the Winner became Barteckova Nikol (CZE), Bako Isabella (GER) took the second place and the third place came to Arshinkova Ralitsa (ECU).

Grabs Peter (GER) became the Champion of Open U10 section, Roubal Matyas (CZE) took silver medal and the third place went to Vana Jan (CZE).

Haasova Timea (SVK) triumphed in Girls section U10, second place came to Andries Alexia (ROU) and Bako Evelin (GER) took the third place.

In category Open U12 Finek Vaclav (CZE) took gold, Magold Filip (ROU) won silver and the third place went to Kanov Nikola (ECU).

Champion of section Girls U12 became Lazniewska Zofia (POL), the second place took Zelbova Lada (CZE) and Maria Lia-Alexandra (ROU) ended on the third place.

Turski Bartlomiej (POL) became the Winner in Open U14 section, Gnojek Petr (CZE) was on the second place and Ochedzan Tymon (POL) took bronze medal.

In category Girls U14, Nadzamova Viktoria (SVK) won gold, second place went to Matasaru Stephanie (ROU) and Reuter Elisa (GER) was third.



Players who took first three places in each of categories got a cup and diploma. Every participant of EUYCC got a medal. All eight European Union Youth Chess Champions are leaving Kouty nad Desnou with a notebook! The next five players in each category also got valuable prizes thanks the cooperation with the ECU Sponsot Chess -Evolution! Every player got a T-Shirt with logo of EUYCC.

Young players have been pleased by awarding the best games of each round. For all participants and accompanying persons organizers had prepared chess and non-chess leisure time activities (simultaneous games with IM Pisk, blitz tournament, trips).



**EU Youth Chess Championship 2019 participated 96 players from 10 federations and all the games were on-line transmitted.**

## EU YOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

On the closing ceremony, the prizes were given by director of the event Mr. Zdenek Fiala together with the tournament director of ECU Mr. Petr Pisk and director of the hotel Dlouhe Strane Ms. Irena Svedova. EU Youth Chess Championship 2019, under the patronage of the ECU, was organized by Sachovy klub Svetla nad Sazavou in cooperation with the Czech Chess Federation. Boys and girls have played in the same tournament. Eventually boys and girls were evaluated separately.

On Friday, 23rd of August, in the morning, the simultaneous game with IM Petr Pisk took place with the participation of 20 players.

The participants and IM Petr Pisk had 60 minutes on their clocks. The result was 18,5 : 1,5 for IM Pisk (Vainikka Toni (FIN) won and draw was made by Rempe Jonas (GER).



# MINSK PLAYS CHESS

The capital of Belarus simultaneously hosted FIDE World Cadets Rapid and Blitz Championship 2019 and Viktor Kupreichik Memorial with the participation of 720 cadets coming from 35 countries and 92 players who participated the Viktor Kupreichik Memorial. The events took place from 15th-19th of August, in Minsk, Belarus.

Winners of Rapid World Cadets Chess Championship became:

- Open U8: 1. Bouska Jiri (CZE)
- Girls U8: 1. Matskevich Varvara (BLR)
- Open U10: 1. Koshulyan Egor (RUS)
- Girls U10: 1. Nurgaliyeva Zarina (KAZ)
- Open U12: 1. Strybuk Artsiom (BLR)
- Girls U12: 1. Shubenkova Veronika

The Blitz World Cadets Chess Champions are:

- Girls U8: Preobrazhenskaya Diana (RUS)
- Open U8: Yeganegi Barad (IRI)
- Girls U10: Khamdamova Afruza (UZB)
- Open U10: Usov Aleksandr E. (RUS)
- Girls U12: Zhapova Yana (RUS)
- Open U12: Khubukshanov Erdem (RUS)



## Viktor Kupreichik Memorial 2019

At the same time, 12 Grandmasters and 9 International masters competed for the title of Viktor Kupreichik Memorial. After 10 played rounds in Rapid time control, GM Zhigalko Sergei (BLR, 2702) took the victory scoring 8 points. Three players tied for the second place, each with 7.5 points: GM Tiviakov Sergei (NED, 2666), 14 years old Tsaruk Maksim (BLR, 2148) and GM Balashov Yuri (RUS, 2420). According to the tiebreaks, Tiviakov Sergei took silver and Tsaruk Maksim finished on the third place.

# SBERBANK WINS 2<sup>nd</sup> EUROPEAN CORPORATE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

After nine played rounds at 2nd edition of European Corporate Chess Championship 2019, team of Sberbank from Russia triumphed the event with all the victories and perfect score of 18 match points.

Composition of the Winning team:

1. GM Esipenko Andrey (RUS, 2623, score of 7 points)
2. Sviridov Valery (RUS, 2489, score of 7 points)
3. IM Lavrov Maxim (RUS, 2367, score of 6 points)
4. Yarashenka Uladzimir (BLR, score of 8.5 points)
5. Vorozheikin Vladimir (RUS, 2141, score of 1 point)

Belarus Naftan took the second place, with score of 13 match points, while Belarus "Belaruskalii", BAM (BLR) and Georgian Khareba tied for the bronze, each with 12 match points. According to the additional criteria, "Belaruskalii" took third place, BAM came 4th and team of Khareba ended on the 5th place.

The 2nd European Corporate Chess Championship 2019 took place from 30th August-1st September in Minsk, Belarus.

The event was played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with time control 15 minutes + 3 seconds of an increment, starting from the move one.

The total prize fund of the event was 6.000 EUR, with 3.000 EUR reserved for the Winner of the event.

The Opening Ceremony of the event was attended by President of European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, Georgian Ambassador in the Republic of Belarus, Mr. Valery Kvaratskhelia, and FIDE Vice-President, Mrs. Anastasia Sorokina.



President of ECU,  
Mr. Zurab  
Azmaiparashvili at  
the Opening  
ceremony of the  
event





## Future Champions of Europe & International Youth Chess Challenge at Global Chess Festival 2019

European Chess Union and Judit Polgar Chess Foundation partner to organise the tournament **"Future Champions of Europe"** as a part of the annual Global Chess Festival. The event will take place on 12th October 2019 in Hungarian National Gallery, in Budapest, Hungary.

The pre-event of Global Chess Festival will be **"International Youth Chess Challenge"**, which will take place on 5th and 6th of October, in Budapest.



So far, 23 players coming from 12 countries registered for the "Future Champions of Europe" event dedicated to chess players born 1st January 2007 or later with a FIDE rating of 1800 or higher (on the 1st July FIDE rating list). Registration deadline is 15th September 2019, and registrations may be done online through the official website of the festival.

The event will be played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with time control: 10 minutes for each player plus 2 seconds of an increment per each move, starting from the move one.

The winner of the event will be invited to visit the 82nd edition of the world-famous Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2020 in Wijk aan Zee, The Netherlands. This prize includes 2 round-trip tickets from his/her home country (winner and accompanying person) + a double room for 2 nights on the weekend of the 18th and 19th January in Wijk aan Zee. This includes entrance to the playing area and 'behind the scenes' access as well as an opportunity to make the first move for one of the rounds!

The runner up will receive a very special and unique opportunity to meet top chess Grandmasters and compete at one of the biggest European chess opens in 2020. The sponsor, Flashpoint, is looking forward to giving a once in a lifetime experience to the winner of this prize which includes 2 round-trip tickets (player and accompanying person), lodging in a double room and entry-fee. The third prize winner will receive a wooden chess set and board signed by the Legend GM Judit Polgar herself. All participants will receive a Global Chess Festival souvenir.

As a pre-event of the Global Chess Festival the Judit Polgar Chess Foundation provides for young players the opportunity to compete in an international environment at the venue of the Hungarian Chess Federation. **The International Youth Chess Challenge** event will take place on 5th and 6th October, for players born in 2006 or later, with a FIDE rating starting from 1001 up to 1600. **Registration deadline is 15th of September.**

## GLOBAL CHESS FESTIVAL Official Website

### GLOBAL CHESS FESTIVAL

The 5th Global Chess Festival will be held with the spirit of Polgar's personal motto, **"#Chess Connects Us"**. Chess, the world's oldest board game, will be able to show it's many faces during the event – including competitive sports, art and education – proving that chess truly does not have any boundaries.

To: European Chess Federations

# Survey on Women's Chess

European Chess Union conducts two surveys collecting data on women's chess throughout the Europe.

Dear Chess Friends,

I kindly ask you to complete the attached surveys on behalf of your federation to the best of your ability. These surveys are being conducted by the European Chess Union to collect data on women's chess throughout Europe and being sent to representatives of all the federations in Europe. There are two surveys. One survey focuses on the policies implemented by federations regarding women's chess while the other focuses on the standard and number of women playing.

Surveys can be downloaded in PDF or Word format on the following link: <http://www.europechess.org/survey-on-womens-chess/>

Please note your response is private and confidential. Individual respondents will not be named in any data or reports. Participation in this survey is highly valued. If you are happy to receive follow up questions please provide your details at the end of the survey in the boxes provided.

If you have any questions about the surveys or would like more information e-mail: [survey@chessplus.net](mailto:survey@chessplus.net).

Thank you for your involvement in the survey,

Yours Sincerely,  
Alice O'Gorman  
On behalf of the ECU's Women's Commission



The Survey is funded by the FIDE Development fund.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> ECU CONGRESS

The 3rd ECU Congress will be held in Batumi Georgia from 24th to 26th of October 2019.

The full working schedule is as follows:

## 24th October

10.00- 19.00- ECU Board Meeting  
18:00 ECU Educational Commission info meeting

## 25th October

09.30 – 13.00 ECU Arbiters Council  
16.30 – 19.30 ECU Events Commission to be scheduled - ECU Women's Commission Meeting

## 26th October

09.30 – 17.00 ECU Annual General Assembly

**All the meetings will take place in Hotel Hilton in Batumi.**

Contact Information:  
ECU: [ecu.secretariat@gmail.com](mailto:ecu.secretariat@gmail.com)  
Organising Committee:  
[eurobatumi2019@gmail.com](mailto:eurobatumi2019@gmail.com)

All the details can be found on the following link:  
<http://www.europechess.org/3rd-ecu-congress-program/>



## MEETING CHESS LEGENDS The 10 questions by Andrian Michalchishin

Question 1: **What are You doing in life in the current moment?**

"Coaching and writing chess books "

Question 2: **Your recollections with meetings with World Champions?**

"I couldn't know the first four official world champions by technical reasons but I knew personally all the others. Moreover I've met eight of them over the board. What to say about them? They all are humans. "

Question 3: **Your best game .(Chess Informant).Just name.**

" It's very difficult question. I will name Tukmakov – Kortschnoj, URS- ch38, Riga 1970 as the most memorable"

Question 4: **Which Your achievement You consider to be most important?**

"As a player - 50 URSS championship (Moscow, 1983), 2nd place. As a coach – gold medals for Ukraine team in 2004 and 2010 Olympiads; Coaching of Anish Giri and Wesley So"

Question 5: **Best and most important chess books?**

"The book of David Bronstein about Candidates tournament 1953 and 100 games of Paul Keres."

Question 6: **How did You start Your career?**

"Accidentally as the most professionals I believe. My childhood friend showed me the moves when I was 7 years old. "

Question 7: **Your favorite openings?**

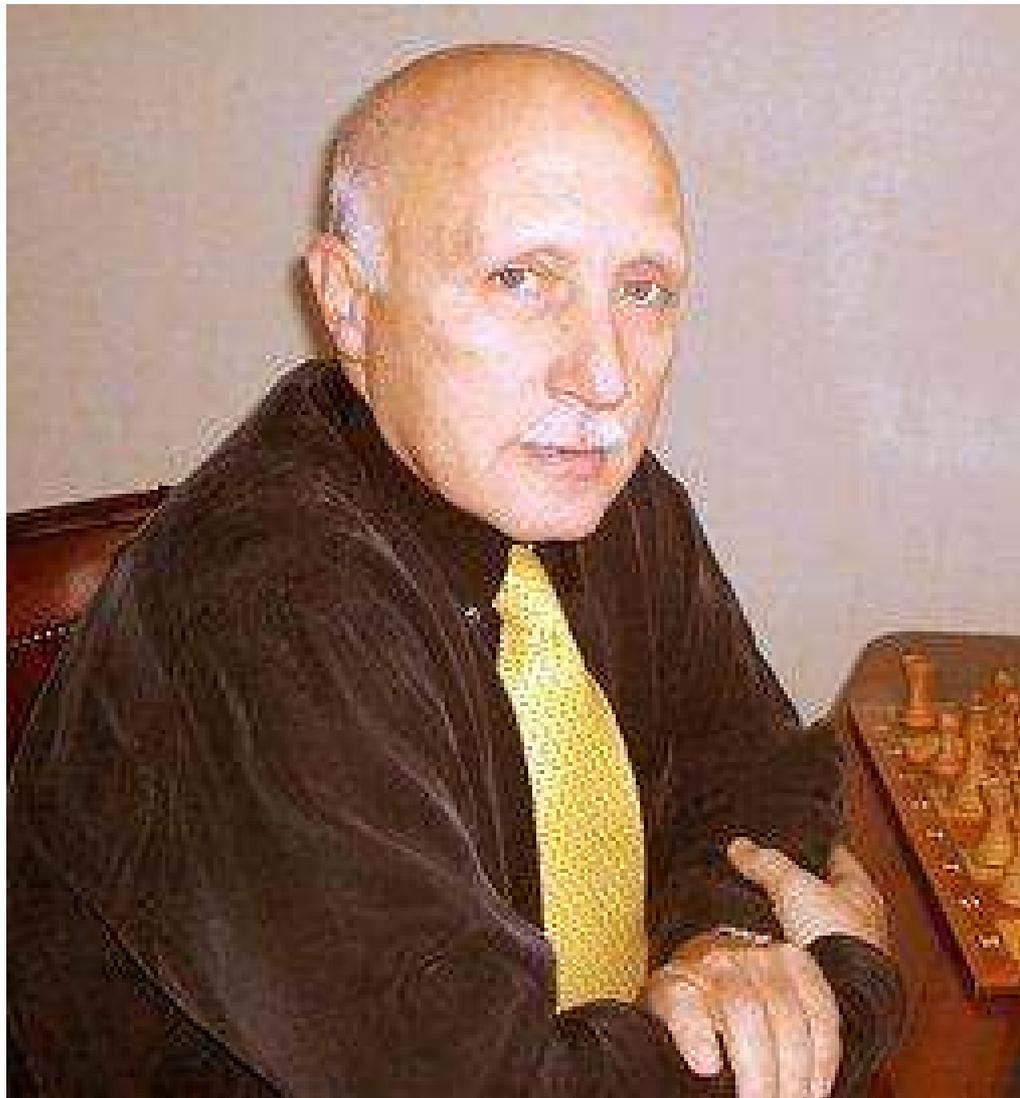
"Grunfeld defence"

Question 8: **Who was the most difficult and easiest opponent during Your career?**

"Mikhail Tal was by far the most difficult. The easiest doesn't exist. "

Question 9: **Non chess –best ,book, film and singer for You?**

"I can name few authors: Ilya Ilf and Yevgeny Petrov, Mikhail Bulgakov, William Faulkner. Godfather as the film. Vladimir Vysotsky as the singer "



*GM Vladimir  
Tukmakov*

Question 10: **Favorite city, food and drink.**

Odessa, Rome, Barcelona. Good food with good wine.

**ANALYZED GAME:**

**Kortschnoj Viktor- Vladimir Tukmakov  
Reggio Emilia, Italy, 1987**

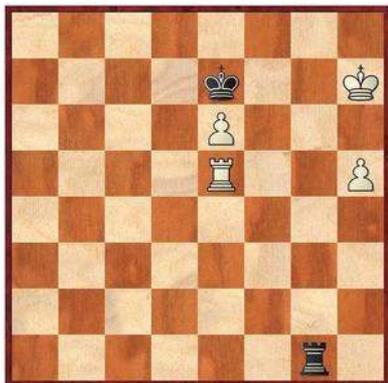
"The easiest  
opponent  
doesn't exist."

# TRAINING LESSON BY GM ADRIAN MIKHALCHISHIN

## Position 2

Mestel A Jonathan- Flear  
Glenn 1/2-1/2

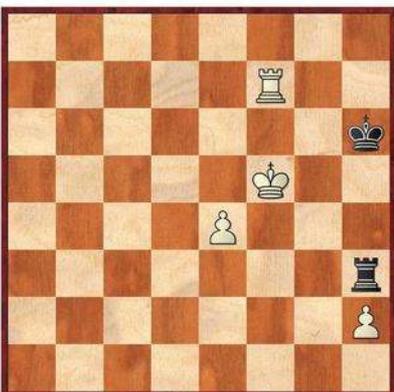
I was terribly surprised and even somehow satisfied ,that I was not alone on the Planet of Mistakes! **67.h6?** Now pushing is wrong, correct was to fight for g line. [67.Kh6 Kf6 (67...Rg2 68.Rg5 Rh2 69.Kg7 Kxe6 70.h6 Rf2 71.h2 Rf7+ 72.Kh6 Rf8 73.Rg8) **68.e7 Rg7 69.Re6**]. **67...Rg2 68.Kh8 Rg1 69.h7 Rg2 70.Re1 Rg3 71.Rf1 Kxe6 72.Rf8 Ra3 Or other few moves on the third rank and 73.Rf7. Draw.1/2-1/2**



## Position 3

Svidler Peter- Pelletier  
Yannick 1/2-1/2

**50.e5 Rxh2 51.Kf6?** [51.Ra7! Rf2+ 52.Ke6 Kg6 53.Kd6 Rb2 54.e6 Rb6+55.Kd7 Rb8 56.Ra1 Rb7+ 57.Kc6 Rb8 58.Rf1 Ra8 59.e7 Kg7 60.Kd7 (60.Kd7 Ra7+ 61.Kd6 Ra6+ 62.Kc7 Ra7+; 60.Rd1 Kf7 61.Rd8 Ra6+ 62.Kb7 Re6; 60.Ra1 Rb8 61.Kc7 Re8 62.Kd7 Kf7 63.Rf1] **51...Rf2+ 52.Ke7 Ra2 53.Rf1 Kg6 54.Rd1 Ra7 55.Rd7 Ra8 56.Rc7 Kg7 57.e6 Kg6 58.Kd6 Ra6+ 59.Kd7 Ra8 1/2-1/2**



Rook endgames are the most common among others –there are 60 to 70-% of Rook endgames. Endgames with two pawns are usually easy winning for stronger side ,except classical f and h pawns. But there are always options for classical and instructive mistakes. I had my own bad, but memorable experience in similar case. Bat later I discovered, that other great players had such problems either. Recently I published in Chess Evolution three volumes on Rook ends. I think ,that new approach there must be very interesting for practical plyers!

First position came out from the game Mikhalchishin Adrian-Kluger Gyula and ended in a draw.

As we know theory and practice of Rook ends,positions with the pawns f and h are very difficult to win. But if we have other pawn on e file ,it seems top be much easier job ,as pawns are not so closed to each other.But on practice there are many instructive cases,as author was convinced himself.



Position 1.

**18. Rf2?** -I played it lightheartedly,but win was complicated and long!  
[18. h7!! Rg1 19. Rf2 Kxe5 [19...Ke7 20.e6 (20.Ra2 Rg6 21.Ra7+ Kf8 22.Ra8+ Kf7 23.Rg8 Re6 (23...Ra6 24.Rg7+ Kf8 25.Rg1 Kf7 26.Rf1+ Kg6 27.Kg8 Ra8+ 28.Rf8 Rxf8+ 29.Kxf8 Kxh7 30.e6) 24.Rg7+ Kf8 25.Rg5! Kf7 26.Rf5+ Kg6 27.Rf8 (Here it was last trap possibility 27.Rf6?? Rxf6 28.exf6 Kf7!) Re7 28.Rf6+ Kg5 29.Kg8+-

The game continued:

**18...Kxe5 19.Rf8 Ke6 20.h7** Here I was completely convinced ,that I reached classical book position and there is no defence against Rf8-g8,but oppo0nent suddenly went away from important g file! **Rh3!** After the game I realized that is not the only move that practically every move with rook on the third rank keeps draw!

But, instead, the game went on:  
**21.Kg7 [if 21.Rg8 Kf7 22.Rg1 Rf3] Rg3+ 22. Kh6 Rh3+ 23.Kg6 Rg3+ 24.Kh5 Rh3+**

And the game finished in a draw.

[20...Rg1 (20...Rb3; 20...Rd3; 20...Ra3)  
21. Rg8 (21. Re8+) Rh1 (21...Ra1  
22.Kg7 Rg1+ 23.Kf8 Rf1+ 24.Ke8 Ra1  
25.Rg6+ Kf5 26.Rf6+) 22.Kg7 Rg1  
23.Kf8 Rf1+ 24.Ke8 Ra1 25.Rg6+ Kf5  
26.Rf6+ Ke5 27.Rh6 Ra8+ 28.Kf7 Rh8  
29.Kg7]

Download the pgn file of the training lesson here.

Text by:

**Marco Biagioli IA -  
ECU Arbiters'  
Council**



## TO BE OR NOT TO BE (ILLEGAL)? THAT IS THE QUESTION!

Some of the changes in FIDE Laws of Chess occurred in the last two years, brought big news for us Arbiters.

# F

irst, since July 2017, moving a piece with two hands is considered and penalised as an illegal move; and second, since January 2018, illegal moves in Rapid and Blitz games are penalised as in a standard games (with the only difference that in Blitz that the penalty is reduced to one minute). These two changes, which seem to be not so relevant, bring some funny events during games, especially during Rapid and Blitz games, always the ones in which strange things might happen.

Let us now focus on two facts really happened during the European Rapid and Blitz Championship 2018 in Skopje and the European Youth Rapid and Blitz Championship 2018 in Oradea. In Skopje, in a game between two 2600+ grandmasters, one made a move (a capture) with two hands, but did not complete it. Although they were both going short of time, the player realised the move, if completed, would have been penalised hence he did not stop the clock and passed few seconds to find a solution. Then he took back his move, reinstating the previous position, and eventually captured the same piece as before acting regularly with only one hand and stopped the clock.

His opponent protested because of breaching of art. 7.5.4 and claimed one minute (it was running the Blitz) for the illegal move, plus some penalty for the actions taken by the player who took back the move and made it again thus "disturbing" him. Now the question is: was that legal or illegal?

Of course it was legal! In fact it is clear that, if the player stopped the clock, it would result in an illegal move according to 7.5.4, but actually, he did not. Hence the move was not completed. The player found the only solution to avoid the penalty: since no one can be compelled to complete an illegal move which can always be taken back to make a legal one, he reinstated the position and then made the only possible legal move, the one respecting articles 4.1 and 4.3, the capture of the touched opponent's piece with his touched piece. In Oradea, this time in Rapid, but in the final stage, at a certain point a player made and completed an illegal move. I was ready to stop the game and I also was already moving my arm to do that, but his opponent was really quicker than me: he made a move, stopped the clock hence completing his move and the game continued.

### Arbiters' doubts

International Arbiter and member of ECU Arbiters' Council, Marco Biagioli, gives the opinion on practical situations Arbiters are facing during the events.

What is legal and what is illegal?



## ARBITERS CORNER

Again, what to do? Was that move legal or illegal? No doubt it was illegal, but... Remember article A.4.2!

A.4.2 states "if the arbiter observes an action taken under Article 7.5.1, 7.5.2, 7.5.3 or 7.5.4, he shall act according to Article 7.5.5, provided the opponent has not made his next move... If the opponent does not claim and the arbiter does not intervene, the illegal move shall stand and the game shall continue".

This statement follows the old Rapid rule "no claim, no illegal move", but according to the new obligation for the Arbiter to penalise illegal moves without any claim if he sees them.

However, still he can make it only if no subsequent move has been made. Therefore there is yet the opportunity that a player, moving quicker than the can Arbiter intervene and not claiming for an illegal move, let that illegal move stand as it happened in this case.

In fact, the fast reaction of the opponent prevented me to make anything (it was really fast!), hence the game continued and the move did stand.

These two funny episodes show us that Rapid/Blitz games are eventually the real benchmark of the working of a rule: if it is consistent to whatever might happen in a Blitz game, then it works!

## EUROPEAN SENIOR TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

European Senior Team Chess Championship 2019 will take place from 17th-27th September in Mali Losinj, Croatia.

The event will be played in two age categories: 65+ and 50+, women's and open separately. Separate Women's competition will be organized if there are at least 8 teams per category.



## 1st WORKSHOP "EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES"

The 1st Workshop named "Equal opportunities" will take place from 19th-22nd September in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The purpose of this workshop is to introduce and explore important information about chess players with disabilities.



## FIDE WORLD CUP

The FIDE World Chess Cup will take place from 9th September- 4th October 2019, in Khanty Mansiysk, in Russia.

The participants of the first round of this knock-out system tournament are already known.

Official website

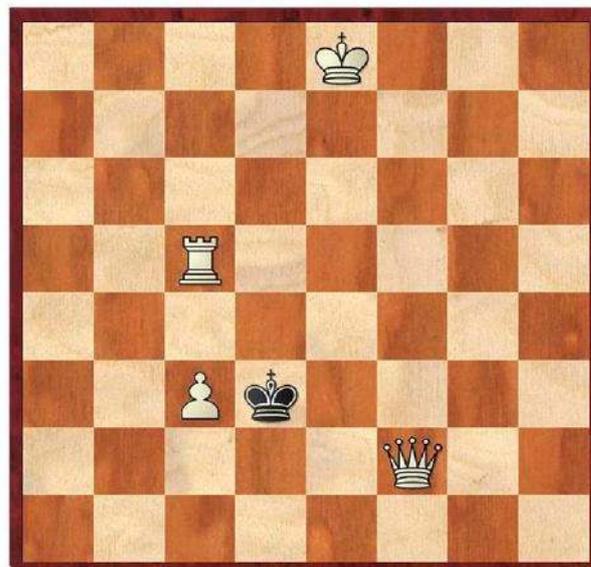
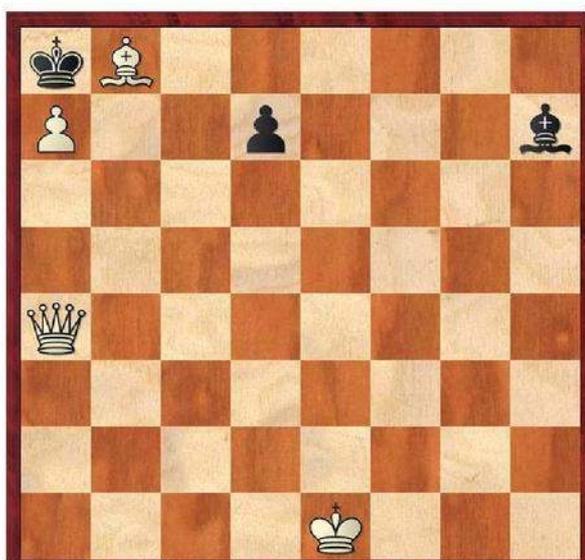
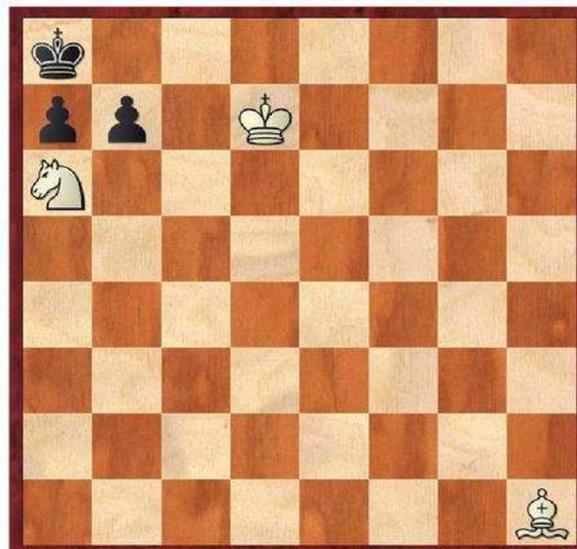
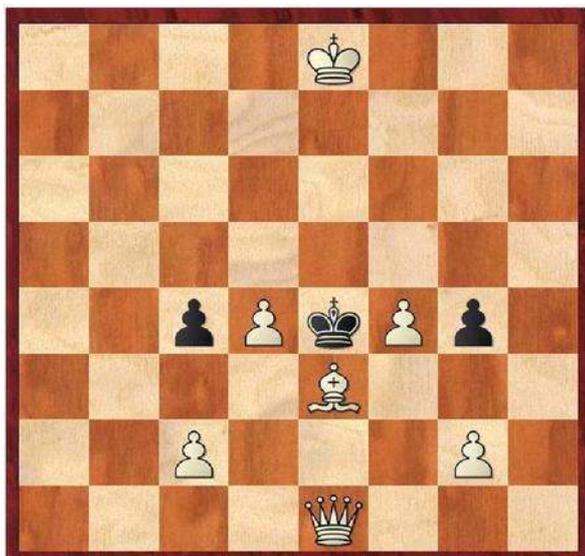


## #Development IO & FA SEMINARS IN TRIESTE

Development FA and IO Seminars, especially dedicated to female participants, will take place from 1st-7th September, in Trieste, Italy.

The main aim of the Seminars is to develop women's activity in Chess as per the priorities set by the European Chess Union for the available FIDE Development Fund for Europe.





# VIKTOR KORCHNOI SAID ABOUT CHESS:

> Those who think that it is easy to play chess are mistaken. During a game a player lives on his nerves, and at the same time he must be perfectly composed.

>It is a gross overstatement, but in chess, it can be said I play against my opponent over the board and against myself on the clock.

>As a rule, the more mistakes there are in a game, the more memorable it remains, because you have suffered and worried over each mistake at the board.

>Every time I win a tournament I have to think that there is something wrong with modern chess.

>Chess you don't learn, chess you understand.

*For this edition of the ECU monthly magazine, we prepared 4 mate in 3 positions! White is on the move!*

## Solutions from July

### > Puzzle #1:

1.e8=B+ !! Kc4 2.Ba4! bxc3 [2...b3 3.Bb5#] 3.Nb6#

### >Puzzle #2:

1.g8=R! Rxd3 [1...Ka2 2.Rxd2 e5 3.Ra8#; 1...e5 2.Rd2 Ka2 3.Ra8#] 2.Bd3+ Kc1 3.Rg1#

### >Puzzle #3:

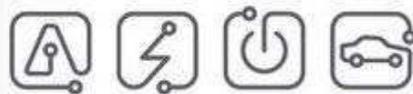
1.Nf4 h3 [1...Kxf5 2.Qc2+ Kg4 3.Qg6#; 1...Kg3 2.Qg8+ Kh2 3.Qg2#] 2.Qg8 Kxf5 3.Qg6#

### >Puzzle #4:

1.Be1 Bxg5 2.Bc3+ Kd5 3.bxc4#



**Ai**GROUP



*4 healthy energetics*



**Chess  
Evolution**



*"Chess makes you smarter!"*