

E-MAGAZINE MARCH 2020



Zurab Azmaiparashvili
President of ECU

ECU President's message

ECU President's message about the new ECU online activities and World's crisis

FIDE Candidates 2020

FIDE Candidates Tournament 2020 stopped on a halfway



APRIL-MAY ONLINE ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS



- April 15. 2020 - Digitisation of Meetings
- April 16. 2020 - Distance Learning & Coaching
- April 21-22. 2020 - ECU Teachers Training Course
- April 24. 2020 - SURVEY: Women's Chess in Europe

- May 3-7. 2020 - ECU/FIDE Arbiters Seminar
- May 16-31. 2020 - European Online Chess Championship
- May 23-24. 2020 - ECU Teachers Training Course

PARTNERS:   



APRIL-MAY - Chess promotion videos/talks shows on ECU YouTube Channel

#StayAtHome

#BeSafe

#PlayChessonline

Chess makes you smarter...

European Online Chess Championship 16-31 May



Editorial

We experience a global health crisis and as a consequence a financial crisis. That times, we will be as much creative, showing social responsibility and respect in the current situation.

On Saturday 28th of March ECU Board had a teleconference meeting. Many actions were discussed, new co-operations launched and a number of decisions were made. More details in the next pages.

The two-months online program of the European Chess Union has been announced. Includes seminars, capacity building webinars for federations & chess coaches, promo actions & talk shows for the wide audience and a huge European Online Championship in a new format. Stay tuned for its event's details

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
ecu.secretary.general@gmail.com

contents



03 ECU Board meeting
Communique of the 2nd ECU
Board meeting 2020

08 FIDE Candidates 2020
FIDE Candidates 2020
stopped on a halfway

12 Arbiters corner
Call of interest. How does it
work. 2nd part

06 Rescheduled events
European School, European
Individual and Senior Chess
Championships rescheduled

10 Women's GP Laussane
Final report on FIDE Women's
Grand Prix in Lausanne

14 Thematic crossword
Arbiters' Thematic crossword

07 Condolences to Aronian
ECU expresses its deepest
condolences to Levon Aronian

11 WSTCC 2020
World Senior Team Chess
Champions 2020 announced
after 7 played rounds

15 Fun zone



*#Chessonline
VS COVID-19
#Stayathome
#Playchess online &
keep in touch
with the world
#Besafe & win!*

ECU Online Activities

*April-May
2020*

Communique of the 2nd ECU Board Meeting 2020

The European Chess Union 2nd Board meeting for 2020, took place on the 28th of March through teleconference.

ECU BOARD MEETING- Communique

The main areas under discussion and decisions made were the following:



Funding – Partnerships

1. ECU announces its Partnership with the London Based Company “**Azeus Convene UK**” Azeus Convene is a multi-awarded and leading board management software that is used by directors and executives in more than 100 countries. Designed specifically for organisational leaders, it gives its users complete control over the entire meeting process – from pre-meeting preparation to post-meeting document distribution, distribution reducing the costs of administration. “**Azeus Convene UK**” will be an official supporter of European Chess Union for the year 2020.

2. ECU Board appointed **Mr. Sarkhan Hashimov (AZE) as the ECU Global Strategy Director (GSD)**. Mr. Hashimov has background and experience in Business Management, Strategy Development, Start-up creation as well as creation of business propositions for sponsoring. He has an established network and relations with the business community, and he worked and working for leading worldwide brands. ECU GSD responsibilities includes: Analysis of the International Business Environment for supporting sports activities Advocating key strategic priorities and translating them into a comprehensive strategic plan. Designing, Communicating and implementing a company’s strategy in sponsoring, business and IT projects. Creating and communicating sponsorship packages and B2B partnerships.

3. ECU Board decided to make the necessary temporarily adjustments in 2020 budget due to the International crisis conditions.

European Championships- Tournaments

1. The ECU Board decided to prolong the deadline for bids for the 2022 events till 30th of October 2020. Bidding procedure can be seen here.

2. The European Women’s Chess Championship 2020 scheduled in Mamaia, Romania from 1st to 13th of June was postponed to 31st October – 12th November. The invitation will be updated in a due time.

3. The European Golden Pawn Award Ceremony was postponed for the year 2021.

ECU Online activities

ECU Board approved a special program for online activities, the next 2 months. The program includes:

1. The European Internet Championship 2020 from 15TH to 30TH May in co-operation with the leading online platform Chess.com.

2. Online Webinars for School Chess Teachers and Arbiters

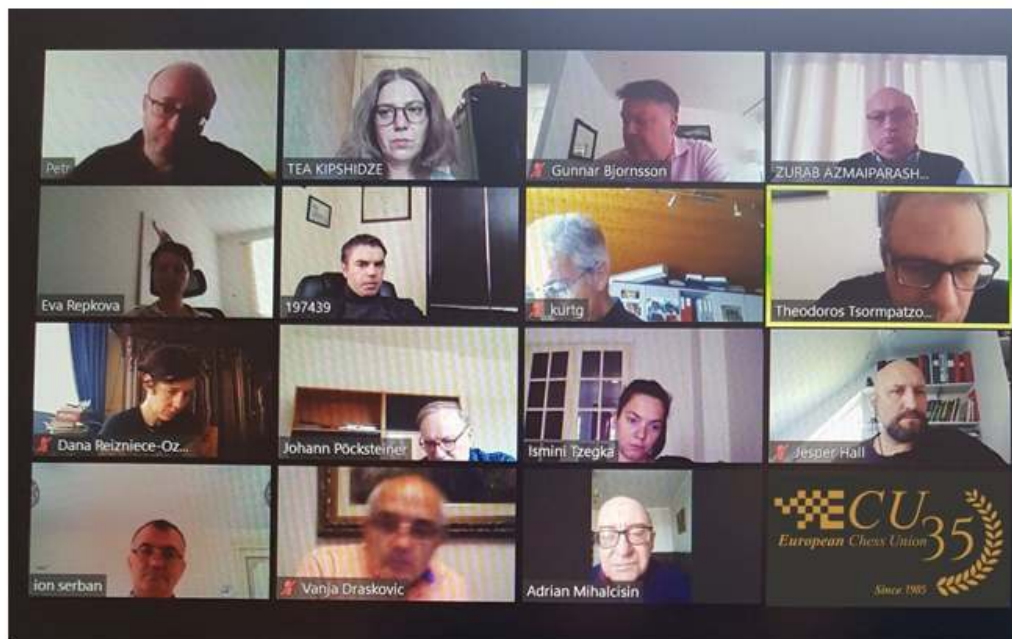
3. Webinars for Distance Learning & Coaching

4. Webinars of digitalisation of Sports Administration for European Chess federations

5. Initiatives for the further popularization of Chess to the wide population.

6. Co-operation with the FIDE Trainers Commission for targeted trainers’ seminars in Europe

2nd ECU Board Meeting held through teleconference.



ECU President Zurab Azmaiparashvili's message:



EUROPEAN SCHOOL, INDIVIDUAL AND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020 POSTPONED

Due to outbreak of new corona-virus COVID-19 and enhanced prevention measures by many countries, European Chess Union decided to postpone and reschedule some of the events.

Slovenian Chess Federation and European Chess Union have decided to reschedule European Individual Chess Championship for 8-21 December 2020, in the same venue, Terme Olimia in Slovenia.

On 6th March 2020, FIDE and ECU published a joint statement and decided to reschedule following events for dates after the 15th of June:

1. World Cadet & Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships 2020
2. World Amateur Championship 2020
3. European School Championships 2020

The joint statement of FIDE and ECU is available here.

6 days later, on 12th of March, Polish Chess Federation and Adolf Anderssen Foundation after consultation with ECU have decided to postpone European Senior Chess Championship 2020. The event is rescheduled for 16th-26th October 2020, in the same venue, Jastrzebia Gora, Poland.

Also, Romanian Chess Federation and ECU decided to reschedule European Women's Individual Chess Championship for 31st October- 12th November 2020, in the same venue.

Bookings have been already made and deposits will be transferred to the new dates and in case that participants will not be able to attend will be fully refunded for their hotel bookings and registration fees.

We would like to note that due to the fact that the reason for the postponement is force majeure due to pandemic, ECU can not be responsible for other expenses incurred by participants, including travel expenses and air tickets. Many companies have decided to redirect to new dates/destinations or refund tickets that canceled due to the global threat of (COVID-19).



European Chess Union expresses its sincere condolences to Levon Aronian and the family of tragically passed Arianne Caoili.



May she rest in peace...

Dear Levon,

There are no right words to truly express our deepest regrets over the loss of Arianne. When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.

Our deepest condolences.

European Chess Union





On a half way, after seven played rounds at FIDE Candidates Tournament 2020, due to enhanced prevention measures by Government of Russia, International Chess Federation (FIDE) decided to stop the tournament.

Today, the government of the Russian Federation announced that starting March 27, 2020, Russia interrupts air traffic with other countries without indicating any time frames.

FIDE can not continue the tournament without guarantees for the players' and officials' safe and timely return home. In this situation and on the basis of clause 1.5. Rules of Candidates Tournament, the FIDE President decided to stop the tournament. It will be continued later, with the exact dates to be announced as soon, as the global situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic will allow. As it was stipulated by the special rules agreed with the players before the start of the event, the results of the 7 rounds played remain valid, and the tournament will be resumed in the same composition starting with the games of the 8th round. FIDE is grateful to the players, officials, volunteers and the entire team of organizers, including the Chess Federation of Russia and the main partner of the tournament - SIMA-Land.

Sincerely,
Arkady Dvorkovich,
FIDE President

FIDE CANDIDATES TOURNAMENT 2020

T

he event will be continued in the same composition, and results for the first 7 rounds will be valid. The exact dates for the second part of the tournament will be announced soon.

Maxime Vachier Lagrave (FRA, 2767) defeated Ian Nepomniachtchi (RUS, 2774) in the R7, and joined him in a lead. Scoring 4.5 points, they are a full point ahead of the runner-ups.

They are followed by group of 4 players with 3.5 points each: Fabiano Caruana (USA, 2842), Anish Giri (NED, 2763), Wang Hao (CHN, 2762) and Alexander Grischuk (RUS, 2777).

Ding Liren (CHN, 2805) and Alekseenko Kirill (RUS, 2698) hold the 7th and 8th position, with score of 2.5 points.

Official Website of the event

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Ian Nepomniachtchi against each other in the R7 of FIDE Candidates Tournament 2020



Crossing table of the FIDE Candidates 2020 after 7 played rounds

Rank	Country	Name	Rating	Maxime ...	Ian Nep...	Fabiano ...	Anish Gi...	Wang H...	Alexand...	Ding Lir...	Kirill Ale...	Score
1-2		Maxime Vachier-Lagrave	2767	█	1	½	½	½	½	1	½	4½
1-2		Ian Nepomniachtchi	2774	0	█	½	1	1	½	1	½	4½
3-6		Fabiano Caruana	2842	½	½	█	½	½	½	0	1	3½
3-6		Anish Giri	2763	½	0	½	█	½	½	½	1	3½
3-6		Wang Hao	2762	½	0	½	½	█	½	1	½	3½
3-6		Alexander Grischuk	2777	½	½	½	½	½	█	½	½	3½
7-8		Ding Liren	2805	0	0	1	½	0	½	█	½	2½
7-8		Kirill Alekseenko	2698	½	½	0	0	½	½	½	█	2½



NANA DZAGNIDZE WINS FIDE WOMEN'S GRAND PRIX - Lausanne

After very intense finish of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix Lausanne in Switzerland, Nana Dzagnidze (GEO) claimed the title of the Winner, thanks to better tiebreaks than Aleksandra Goryachkina (RUS), who won silver medal.

The Winner was decided in the last 11th round of the event, since leaders of the 10th round, Nana Dzagnidze and Aleksandra Goryachkina, played against each other for the top. The game ended in a draw, and with score of 7 points each, the Winner was decided by tiebreaks criteria.

Abdumalik Zhansaya (KAZ) had a chance to join the leading duo if she had won the last game, but with a draw, she scored 6.5 points and took bronze.

The last event of the Women's Grand Prix Series will be played from 2nd-15th May in Sardinia.

Standings after 3 played Women Grand Prix events can be found [here](#).

Rank	Country	Name	Skolkovo	Monaco	Lausanne	Sardinia	Points
1		Goryachkina, Aleksandra	120	133	145	—	398
2		Koneru, Humpy	160	133	—	✓	293
3		Kosteniuk, Alexandra	45	133	15	—	193
4		Dzagnidze, Nana	—	35	145	✓	180
5-6		Lagno, Kateryna	90	90	—	✓	180
5-6		Harika, Dronavalli	60	60	60	—	180
7		Muzychuk, Anna	—	80	85	✓	165
8		Ju, Wenjun	120	—	35	✓	155
9		Kashlinskaya, Alina	45	—	85	✓	130
10		Muzychuk, Mariya	—	60	60	✓	120
11		Abdumalik, Zhansaya	—	—	110	✓	110
12		Cramling, Pia	10	60	35	—	105
13-14		Paehtz, Elisabeth	75	20	—	✓	95
13-14		Gunina, Valentina	75	10	—	✓	85
15-16		Stefanova, Antoaneta	25	—	60	✓	85
15-16		Sebag, Marie	25	—	15	✓	40
17		Zhao, Xue	—	35	—	✓	35

World Senior Team Chess Championship 2020

USA and Russia became the Winners of World Senior Team Chess Championship 2020!

Teams of USA and Russia are announced as the Winners of 50+ and 65+ (respectively) sections of FIDE World Senior Team Chess Championship 2020 after 7 played rounds, due to the situation of expansion of corona virus, COVID-19.

During the tournament, the government of the Czech Republic and the National Security Council have declared preventive measures against the spread of the coronavirus and banned all cultural, sport, and social events with above 30 participants.

With this circumstances, FIDE announced the Winners of the event after 7 played rounds.

In 50+ section, team of USA scored 12 match points to be alone on the top of the list. Four teams tied for the second place, scoring 11 match points, each: Lasker Schachstiftung GK (Germany), Czech Republic 1 and Island. According to tiebreaks criteria, Lasker Schachstiftung GK from Germany took silver and Czech Republic 1 came third.

Final standings can be found [here](#).



Teams of Russia and France tied for the first place in 65+ category, scoring 12 match points, each. According to tiebreaks, Russia became the World Senior Team Chess Champion 2020, and France won silver medals. Two teams from Germany: Schachfreunde Leipzig and Germany 1 tied for bronze, but tiebreaks decided that medals go to Schachfreunde Leipzig, while Germany 1 finished on the 4th place.

List of the best players per boards can be found [here](#).



World Senior Team Chess Championship

FIDE World Senior Team Chess Championship 2020 took place from 5th-13th March 2020, in Prague, Czech Republic.

Due to expansion of new virus, covid19, FIDE decided to announce the Winners after 7 played rounds.

Text by: Jirina Prokopova and Marco Biagioli

Continuation of the text from previous ECU Magazine edition

Call of interest: How does it work?



What else is there?

To show interest in lectures by more experienced arbiters at seminars and refreshing courses surely deserves some points. Those who were there probably learned something. In the same time, they could have just sit there and do nothing so we add extra points for successful passing on some tests. Hardly seems fair for the lecturer who is giving the lecture or even preparing the test to get less points for “attending” the same seminar, so we grant him or her the same number of points. They are not lecturing at the tournament where we would appoint them, that is true, but it is another indication that they are suitable candidates. One can also argue that in order to be fair, there would have to be some seminar at every ECU Event, so everyone has an opportunity to attend it, not only those who were luckily appointed to the event when some seminar takes place. The list of pros and cons goes on and on but we need to stop somewhere and make some decision.

If we stopped here, we wouldn't have much to separate candidates from one to another. Lot of people would end up with the same number of points and we would just have to come up with some official tie-break criteria.

So we decided that it is better to have people who know the job from all sides and different angles and who have experience with pairing and anti-cheating and live games.

We are not necessarily appointing them to do this of course, so it is not directly relevant (and, at the end, the amount of points awarded for these skills is very small compared to other chapters).

However, the knowledge in these areas says something about their overall experience and nobody can deny a skilled arbiter in a tournament can be useful in many ways, as to help the 3 pairings officer, or to be in charge to the live transmission (where an arbiter must supervise the team, as stated in ECU Tournament Rules), or join the anti-cheating staff.

In order to resolve any situation an arbiter has to be able to communicate to players. So it is better to have an arbiter who knows many languages and can calmly and clearly solve more situations. But some people were born in countries where they understand several of them, some speak only one. Also you don't really require a Czech speaker, if you don't have any Czech players at your event. One can also argue that at any adult event, you only need to speak English and nothing else. Some arbiters are native speakers and some had to learn the language. But does it matter to the player?



Mrs. Jirina Prokopova- Member of the ECU Arbiters Council



Mr. Marco Biagioli- Member of the ECU Arbiters Council

After a thorough discussion we decided to only award people for their knowledge of the official Congress languages and German, since there are always players from these countries at any ECU Event. Not to give points for native speakers, but take points from those who don't speak English at all as we see that as a big disadvantage.

From the text above it is clear that it will never be fair, if for no other reason, then just because of the simple fact that we are from different countries. We have different backgrounds and finances and different opportunities to learn and to get experience, different levels of chess and events and so on. But the system we created is a product of many compromises and we believe that in the current situation, it is a good one and fair enough. Nobody is meant to get 100 % of the points, all the sections are just opportunities to show us your strong sides and to get some idea about every person.

Since what we created is a point system it is transparent for everyone. Sometimes there are people with the same number of points interested in the same event and we have to find something based on which we make a decision, but most of the times it is just automatic process at this stage. We will be happy to improve the system if we get good arguments and ideas which everybody is warmly welcome to propose one event. But as much as we would like to, we will not be able to make everyone happy.



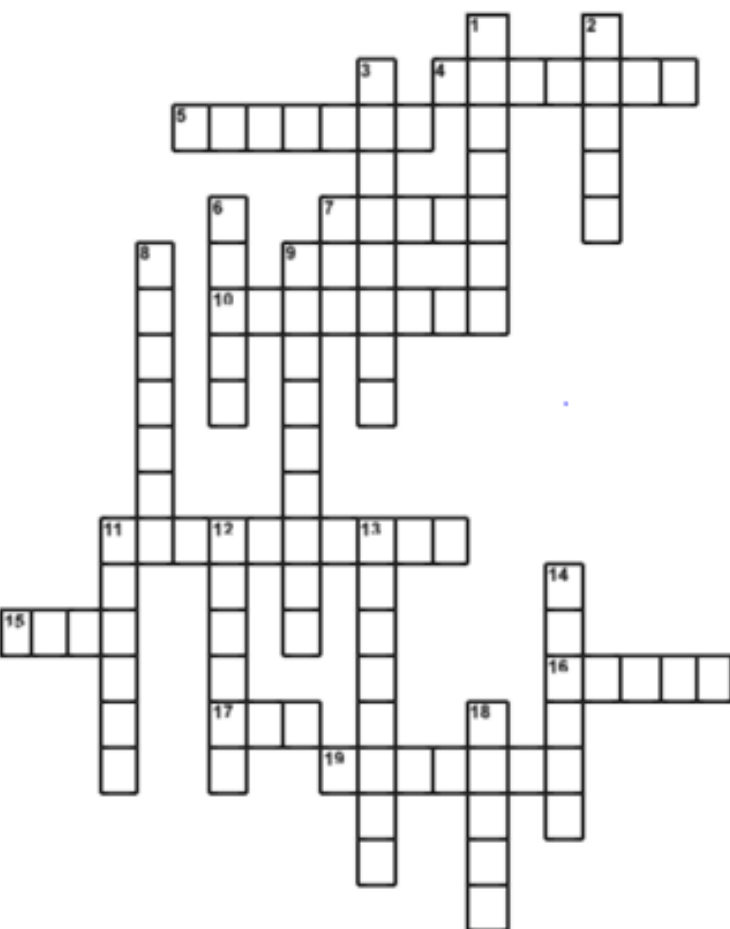
Conclusion

In any case we strongly believe that this is a step in the right direction and it will lead to more positive changes. It may not be perfect but it is already successfully working and first arbiters who applied already booked their flight tickets.

We wish them good luck and hope they will do great!

On behalf on the ECU Arbiters' Council,
Jirina Prokopova and Marco Biagioli

Chess Arbiters' thematic crossword surnames connected with the arbiters job



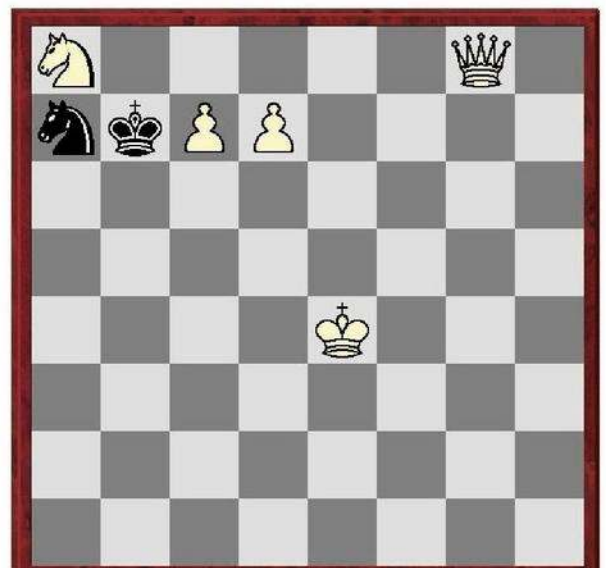
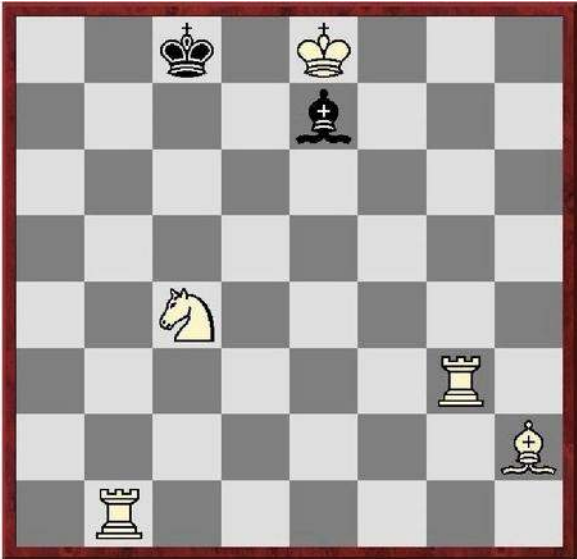
- 4. One of the authors of bbpPairings engine
- 5. The device used for anti-cheating in chess
- 7. Author of the SwissSys pairing software
- 10. Author of the pairing algorithm based on tie-breaks criteria
- 11. Software developer of live chess DGT software
- 15. The tie-break system used in round robin tournaments taking into consideration opponents with 50% points or more
- 16. Author of the javafo pairing engine
- 17. FIDE rating system
- 19. Author of the vegachess pairing software

- 1. Author of the Dutch pairing algorithm
- 2. Author of the FIDE screening tool for anti-cheating
- 3. One of the standards for chess pieces
- 6. Author of the pairing algorithm based on ARO
- 8. Cumulative mode in the chess clock
- 9. Delayed mode in the chess clocks
- 11. Author of the file format (TRF) used for delivery rating report to FIDE
- 12. One of the most popular tie-break systems for round robin tournaments
- 13. One of the most popular tie-break system for swiss tournaments
- 14. Author of the Swiss Manager pairing software
- 18. Author of the tables for the restricted drawing of lots

Chess Arbiters' thematic crossword

Created by Tomasz Delega,
Chairman of the ECU Arbiters Council

Solutions will be published in April 2020 edition of the
ECU E-Magazine.



Bent Larsen said about chess:

>Chess is a beautiful mistress.

>Lack of patience is probably the most common reason for losing a game, or drawing games that should have been won.

>All chess masters have on occasion played a magnificent game and then lost it by a stupid mistake, perhaps in time pressure and it may perhaps seem unjust that all their beautiful ideas get no other recognition than a zero on the tournament table.

>For me, chess is at the same time a game, a sport, a science and an art. And perhaps even more than that,. There is something hard to explain to those who do not know the game well. One must first learn to play it correctly in order to savor its richness.

*For this edition of the ECU monthly magazine, we prepared 4 positions with mate in 2!
White is on the move!*

Solutions from February

#Puzzle 1

1.Qh7+ Nxh7 2.Bh7#

#Puzzle 2

1.Qh8!! Kf4 [1...Kh4 2.Bf5#;
1...Kh5 2.Bf5#] 2.Qd4#

#Puzzle 3

1.Qe3!! g5 [1...h5 2.Qf4#;
1...Kh5 2. Rh3#] 2.Rf4#

#Puzzle 4

1.Rd3!! e1=!! [1...e1=N 2.Rd2#;
1...Ne3 2.Qg3#] 2.Rf3#



EUROPEAN ONLINE CHAMPIONSHIP

Coming in May
exclusively on



AiGROUP



4 healthy energetics



Chess
Evolution

"Chess makes you smarter!"