European Online Corporate Chess Championship
3-4 October 2020

#EOCC2020
European Online Corporate Championships announced for 3 & 4 of October

European Online Youth Chess Championship announced for 18-20 September.

#EOYCC2020

International Chess Day recognised by United Nations & UNESCO celebrated all over the World
On, 20th of July, World celebrates the #InternationalChessDay. The International Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded, 96 years ago on 20th July 1924.

The idea to celebrate this day as the International Chess Day was proposed by UNESCO, and it has been celebrated as such since 1966. On December 12, 2019, the UN General Assembly unanimously approved a resolution recognising the World Chess Day.

On the occasion of the International Chess Day, a tele-meeting between the United Nations and FIDE was held on 20th of July 2020. Top chess personalities and representatives of the U.N. gathered to exchange views and insights to strengthen the productive collaboration.

ECU decided to make a special promotional #Chess video. Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili visited the Georgian most popular Musical Competition Show “Big stage”. ECU President taught the judges of show, famous artists, how to play chess and then played a game with them!

Federations, clubs, players and chess lovers took part in the celebration all over the world.
CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHESS DAY

The World have been celebrating the International Chess Day on the 20th of July.

FIDE President, Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich has invited the chess enthusiasts and lovers to participate in the celebration of the International Chess Day by learning someone to play chess.
INTERNATIONAL CHESS DAY- ECU President in Georgian Mega Show

For the occasion of International Chess Day ECU decided to make a special promotional #Chess video.

ECU President, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili visited the Georgian most popular Musical Competition Show “Big stage” at Rustavi 2 Georgian TV Cable and Satellite Channel!

Zurab Azmaiparashvili teached the judges of show, famous artists, how to play chess and then played a game with them: the Georgian Composer, Conductor, author of the European Chess Union’s anthem- Nikoloz Rachveli, the violist Giorgi Zagareli and the singer Nato Metonidze. The special video madeby ECU is dedicated to the #InternationalChessDay and thousands of the TV Show fans followed the lessons and games with their favourites stars! How many will learn to play Chess? A lot (!) since the show is one of the most popular in Georgia!
FIDE and United Nations meeting: "Chess for recovering better"

On the occasion of the International Chess Day, a tele-meeting between the United Nations and FIDE was held on 20th of July 2020.

Top chess personalities and representatives of the U.N. gathered to exchange views and insights to strengthen the productive collaboration.

In his welcoming speech, H.E. Mr. Mher Margaryan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations, nodded to the chess movement’s success in Armenia where the game is a part of the schools’ curriculum. “Lessons offered by chess are important in teaching such values as respect for rules and players, fairness, equality, and discipline. Chess is essentially about progress and continuous quest for improvement with effort and decency,” he said.

FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich thanked the United Nations for their support and noted that “together, we can make chess a tool to improve the world and create better societies.”

Melissa Ruth Fleming, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, was very positive about the opportunities that chess brings to communities and individuals. “Today is the celebration of the intellectual game that for centuries has also managed to entertain, to stimulate and sometimes even to confound billions of us over the world,” she said.

Top chess grandmasters present at the meeting, Viswanathan Anand, Hou Yifan, Vladimir Kramnik and Levon Aronian, shared the valuable insights into the abilities and life lessons that chess taught them. Anand dived into the history of chess, while Hou Yifan concentrated on the psychological aspects of the game and women empowerment issues. Kramnik mentioned that scientific studies had proved the benefits of the game for kids. “No matter how good you are at chess, you are going to lose games. The ability to cope with negative emotions is one of the best things I learned from chess,” said Levon Aronian.

Details can be found on the FIDE Website.
European Chess Union organised a FIDE International Organizers Webinar, from 27th to 30th of July, in cooperation with FIDE Events Commission, FIDE Women’s Commission, co-funded by FIDE Development Fund.
With 31 participants, among whom were 16 females this Webinar was one of the largest IO Seminar organised in the last years.

The lecturers of the Webinar were International Organisers: Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou and Mr. Ozgur Solakoglou with the assistance of Chairperson of FIDE Women's Commission Eva Repkova.

The Topics of the Webinar were:
- Regulations FIDE Events (General Regulations, Specific Regulations, Bid Procedure)
- Events’ Management
- Ratings and Titles – Tournament Conditions
- Titles applications and Tournament experience

The special additional theme of the webinar “Organisation of the Online chess events” was streamed LIVE through the ECU Facebook page and can be seen through the ECU Youtube Channel, while the presentation can be downloaded from ECU Website. The official results will be published by the FIDE Events Commission.
FIDE ONLINE OLYMPIAD
22nd July - 30th August

International Chess Federation FIDE organises the Online Olympiad in period from 22nd July to 30th August 2020.

FIDE Online Olympiad has started and is played within 5 divisions ranked from "Base division" to "Top division" in accordance with the final standings of the Gaprindashvili Cup of the Chess Olympiad 2018.

Each team consists of six main players and possible six reserve players. The main players must include at least 2 women players, at least one player U-20 (born in 2000 or later) and at least one girl U-20 (born in 2000 or later): A (open) – boards 1 and 2, B (women) – boards 3 and 4, C (open U-20) – board 5, D (girl U-20) – board 6.

FIDE Online Olympiad has
strated and is played within 5 divisions ranked from "Base division" to "Top division" in accordance with the final standings of the Gaprindashvili Cup.

BASE DIVISION unifies registered teams placed in the bottom part of the final standings of the Gaprindashvili Cup.

DIVISION 4 is composed of 35 seeded registered teams ranked higher than teams of base division in Gaprindashvili Cup and 15 teams qualified from base division, divided in 5 pools.

DIVISION 3 is composed of 35 seeded registered teams ranked higher than teams of division 4 in Gaprindashvili Cup and 15 teams qualified from division 4, divided in 5 pools.

DIVISION 2 is composed of 35 seeded registered teams ranked higher than teams of division 3 in Gaprindashvili Cup and 15 teams qualified from division 3, divided in 5 pools.

TOP DIVISION is composed of 5 seeded registered teams placed on the top of Gaprindashvili Cup, 5 teams nominated by each of the four Continent and 15 teams qualified from division 2, divided in 4 pools.

FIDE Online Olympiad - LIVE Coverage

FIDE Online Olympiad games are LIVE transmitted and can be followed through the official website of the event.

Time control of the event is: 15 minutes + 5 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.
**Radoslaw Wojtaszek triumphs Biel Chess Festival 2020**

Radoslaw Wojtaszek (POL) wins the 53rd edition of the Biel Chess Festival having the best cumulative result of the Biel Grandmaster Triathlon!
Second place went to Pentala Harikrishna (IND) and Michael Adams (ENG) took the third place on the overall triathlon standings.

Photos, results and more details are available on the Official Website of the event.

**Kacper Piorun wins Polish Chess Championship 2020**

The 77th Polish Individual Chess Championship took place in Warsaw from 21st to 28th of July.
For the first time in its history, the championship was held in a knock-out format
In the final match between Kacper Piorun and Daniel Sadzikowski, four first games were drawn and it went into a blitz match. After equal result, the decision came to an Armageddon game where Piorun confidently won the Polish Championship title for the second time in his career.

Photo@Krzysztof Ćwik

**Nino Batsiashvili claims Georgian Championship**

The 77th Georgian Women Chess Championship concluded on 30th of July 2020!
Nino Batsiashvili won the Georgian Women's Champion title for a third time scoring 7 points out of 9 games. Two months earlier, Batsiashvili was announced as the Women Champion of the 1st European Online Chess Championship!
2nd place at Georgian Championship came to Arabidze Meri (6.5/9) in a tiebreak with Khotenashvili Bela (6.5/9) who took the bronze medal.

Full results.
The 4th event of the Magnus Carlsen Tour - Legends of Chess has launched on 21st of July and takes place till 5th of August.

The event is played as 10-Player Round-Robin in 9 rounds, and each round consists of four 15+10 rapid games.

The event was played within two phases, Preliminaries and Knock out.

The participants of the Preliminaries phase were: Magnus Carlsen, Vladimir Kramnik, Anish Giri, Ian Nepomniachtchi, Anand Viswanathan, Boris Gelfand, Leko Peter, Ivanchuk Vasyl and Ding Liren.

Top four players proceeded to the Semi-Finals: Magnus Carlsen, Anish Giri, Nepomniachtchi Ian and Peter Svidler.

Semifinals were played between Svidler Peter and Magnus Carlsen and Anish Giri against Nepomniachtchi Ian.

In the first match, Carlsen defeated Svidler with score 2.5-1.5, while Nepomniachtchi won against Giri with the same score 2.5-1.5.

In the second match, Magnus Carlsen outplayed Peter Svidler again with the score 2.5-1.5, while Giri Anish won against Nepomniachtchi Ian 4-3.

With score 1-1, Nepomniachtchi and Giri played a decisive match to determine who goes to the finals.

In the third match Nepomniachtchi won in the Blitz 6th game with white, and final score was 3.5-2.5.

Finalists of the Legends of Chess event are: Magnus Carlsen and Nepomniachtchi Ian.

More details about the event, as well as the LIVE transmission of the game are available through chess.24.com.
European Online Youth Chess Championship 2020

European Chess Union organises European Online Youth Individual and Team Chess Championship in four age categories: U12, U14, U16 and U18 (open and girls separately) in period from 18th-20th September 2020.

European National federations have the right to nominate players and teams. Each Federation has the right to nominate up to 3 players per category: Open U18, U16, U14, U12 and Girls U18, U16, U14, U12, one team in open and one team in girls’ section. Each Open and Girls Team consist of at least 4 players and maximum 12, competing in all the 4 age Categories in open or girls’ section. In case a federation cannot consist a team in the Open or Girls section the players can still compete individually and win individual titles and prizes.

ECU has the right to accept and direct entries in case a National federation does not register players or in special cases. The event will be played in Swiss System 9 rounds, with time control: 25min + 5 sec per player. Each of the 8 categories will be played individually with category winners. The best 4 collective results (one player per category with the highest score) decide the team winners in open and girls’ section. Players from the same federation and age group shall not be paired together the last round. Each National federation will appoint one captain/representative for the technical meeting and any communication during the event.

All the players compete from the approved tournament halls per country. Tournament halls are selected and installed by federations and local organisers. Each National federation may select up to 3 venues in 3 different cities which will be approved by the European Chess Union. The venues shall be camera monitored and connected with local Arbiters’ PC/laptop and central Arbiters Panel and the venues shall be observed by local licensed FIDE arbiters who shall be able to communicate in English language.

The playing server of the event will be announced by the end of July.

5. SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>16-Sep</td>
<td>Arbiters Meeting</td>
<td>18:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>17-Sep</td>
<td>Technical Meeting</td>
<td>18:00</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
<td>14:00</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>Rounds 1</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>Rounds 2</td>
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<td>Rounds 3</td>
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<td>Rounds 6</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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<td>Rounds 7</td>
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<td>Rounds 8</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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<td>Rounds 9</td>
<td>18:00</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>20-Sep</td>
<td>Closing Ceremony</td>
<td>20:00</td>
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EOYCC2020- Registrations

European Online Youth Chess Championship

Registrations are made by the National Federation filling the special registration form and sent it to eocc@europechess.org. The players who register for the event will be ranked by the FIDE rapid rating and in case they don’t have then the FIDE Classic or Blitz Rating.

Registration deadline is 4th of September 2020.
The event is open to all business, entities & organisations – regardless of their size. Each entity registers one team and has the right to nominate unlimited number of players: Companies, organisations, clubs involved with chess are excluded.

The participants shall have a valid relation with the Company at least since 1st June 2020 (stakeholders, members of the Board, managers, employees). Each Team, consists of at least 3 players, competing individually, and the best 3 individual results of the team members count for the Team score. In case a company cannot consist a team, players can still compete individually and win individual medals and prizes. Each Team will appoint one captain/representative for the technical meeting and communication during the event.

Team entry fee is 300 euros for a team with 3 to 6 players and 500 euros for more than 6 players. Entry fee for the players competing only individually is 50 euros. Registrations are made by the companies through an online entry form. Registration opens on 1st August and will close on 25th September.

The registered players will be ranked on the starting list according to their FIDE rapid rating, and if they don't have FIDE rapid rating, FIDE Classical and then FIDE blitz rating will be considered.

System of play and schedule
European Online Corporate Chess Championship 2020

The event will be played with the following schedule and system of play:
- 1st Day (Saturday, 3rd October): Swiss System 7 rounds, 10min + 2 sec per player.
- 2nd Day (Sunday, 4th October): Swiss System 9 rounds, 5min + 2 sec per player.

Detailed information about the event can be found in the Official regulations of the event.

Prizes:
Prizes for the Team Winners:
- 1st Winner Company: 3 Full packages Invitations for Golden Pawn Ceremony
- 2nd Winner Company: 2 Full packages Invitations for Golden Pawn Ceremony
- 3rd Winner Company: 1 Full package Invitation Golden Pawn Ceremony

The Chess for Life Grand Award is presented to the Organisation entering the most participants. It recognizes the achievement of a very special Organisation whose management and staff have responded to the challenge of team spirit and morale in the workplace.

Prizes for the Individuals:
Individual Medals are won by 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in three sections: over 2000 ELO rating, less than 2000 rating and no rated/no FIDE id participants, to recognize personal achievement.

The best players receive the following:
- 1st Place: 1000 EUR
- 2nd Place: 700 EUR
- 3rd Place: 500 EUR
- 4th Place: 300 EUR

EOCCC2020

Prizes:
The Chess for Life Grand Award is presented to the Organisation entering the most participants. It recognizes the achievement of a very special Organisation whose management and staff have responded to the challenge of team spirit and morale in the workplace.

EUROPEAN ONLINE CORPORATE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

European Online Corporate Chess Championship 2020 will take place from 3rd-4th October 2020.

The best 3 players, of each entity, cumulative results will decide the Team standings for each day. According the standings of each day, the first 20 teams receive the Team following points.

1st team 20 points, the 2nd team 19 points and respectively the 20th team 1 point. The points of Teams from 1st and 2nd Day are added and decide the Team Winners (e.g. 18 points (1st day) + 10 points (2nd day) = 28 total Team points).

The individual winners are decided adding the final results of each player for both days. (e.g. 5 points (1st day) + 6 points (2nd day) = 11 points.

Registration for the event are available on the ECU Website.

The first 8 Companies in the final ranking qualify for the Online Invitational Grand Team event that will be organised by ECU in November 2020.

The first 20 companies in the standings can nominate one player for an online simultaneous exhibition game with a Top Grandmaster.

Individual Medals are won by 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in three sections: over 2000 ELO rating, less than 2000 rating and no rated/no FIDE id participants, to recognize personal achievement.

The first 3 individual players in the overall standings win money prizes: 1st 700EUR, 2nd 500 EUR & 3rd 300 EUR.
ECU Online Training Series – V2
27th August - 28th September

ECU and European Chess Academy organise the second volume of the Lectures program “Improve Your Chess” with leading Chess Trainers worldwide from 27th of August to 28th of September.

The lectures will be held twice a week every Monday and Thursday. You can follow from min 5 lecturers (entry fee 50 euros), 6, 7 or all 10 lecturers (entry fee 90 euros - 10% discount) selecting your preferred lecturers/dates. The lectures are open for all but recommended for players over 1500 rating. All the program and the registration form as well as the entry fee payment details are available on the ECU Website.
ONLINE CHESS CAMP

Chess Plus the ECU EDU partner organises Online Chess Camp for children aged from 9-16 years within two groups. The first group is for children rated below 1600- The Chess Challenge, and the second group is for children who are rated above 1800. The Camps will take place on 8th and 9th of August with GM Judit Polgar, IM Jesper Hall and IM Jop Delemarre as the lecturers of the lessons. Registrations and details are available here.

ECU101 SEMINAR- SMART METHOD TO TEACH CHESS

Online ECU101 Seminar for the School Chess Teachers will take place on 24th and 25th of August. The participants will learn about methods to teach chess in Schools and by the end of the course will need to pass the Online test to achieve the ECU School Chess Teacher Certificate.

Registrations for the event are available on the following link: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ecu101-the-smart-method-to-teach-chess-chess-didactics-tickets-114948062750

Online Seminar Improve your chess teaching skills

Online Seminar on the theme of the Instructive methods for chess teaching will be held in 5 different languages within 5 different dates.

Dates for the Webinars which will be held in German, French, Dutch and Spanish language will be announced soon.

Registrations and pre-registrations are available through the following link, as well as details of the events.
**Summer Prague Festival 2020**

As the part of the Czech Tour 2020/2021 Summer Prague Chess Festival will take place from 8th-15th of August in the capital of Czech Republic.

The event will be played in 9 rounds, Swiss System, with a total prize fund of 50.000 CZK.

Details about the event can be found on the official website of the event.

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**Slovak Chess Championship - Saris Open**

The Slovak Chess Championship 2020, Saris Open, will take place from 7th-15th of August, as the Open Tournament, in Drienica, Slovakia.

The event will be played in 9 rounds, Swiss System, with rate of play: 90 minutes per 40 moves + 30 seconds per move + 30 minutes for a rest of the game + 30 seconds per move.

Details about the event can be found on the Official Website of the event.

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**4th International Irena Warakomska Memorial**

The 4th edition of the International Irena Warakomska Memorial will take place from 6th-13th of August in Suwalki, Poland.

The event will be played in 9 rounds, Swiss System with time control: 90 min/40 moves + 30 min/rest of the game + 30 sec increment.

Details about the event can be found on Official Website.

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**Magnus Carlsen Tour Grand Final**

The Magnus Carlsen Tour Grand Final event will take place from 9th-20th August 2020 as the last event of the Magnus Carlsen Tour played on chess24.com.

The Tour comprised 4 events played from April to August and will conclude with the Grand Final.

More details and results of the events can be found on the chess24 Website, as the playground of the event.
A few thoughts on how to implement the health protocol

With the over-the-board activities gradually resuming organisers and arbiters are taking on new duties and responsibilities. Cleaning, sanitising, keeping distances are just a few of them. We would like to share some thoughts from our recent experiences:

- Before the start of the tournament it is necessary to make a safety and health protocol based on the FIDE- and ECU Protocols, as well as on the local health legislation. You can send a copy of this health protocol to each participant of the tournament before the start of the first round. One person should be responsible for everything which has to do with this protocol. The contact details of a medical doctor must be available.

- The first thing to remember is that players don’t only need to be safe but also to feel safe. If necessary you can post the health protocol in a place where everyone can see it, for example, near the entrance or next to the results’ table. However try to prevent that too much players gather together around this place to read the protocol!

- The temperature of each player has to be checked before entering the playing venue. A player with fever cannot enter the playing venue. A thermal camera can be used. Ask them to write down their names in case this is required by local authorities.

- Before the start of the first round, announce the most important measures you are going to follow.

- Before and after each round the chessboards, pieces, clocks, tables and chairs should be cleaned and sanitized. Choose carefully the product you are going to use based on the material that they are made from. Take special care if there are electronic boards.

- Urge the players to wear their masks at all time, also covering their noses. Remind them constantly to create a good habit. Needless to say that arbiters should pose as an example! Ask everyone to bring their own masks but also have some extra in case they are needed.

- Cloth masks can be used. Additional benefit of a cloth mask is that it can be washed and used repetitively. If players are using disposable masks, advice them to use another one every day.

- Place antiseptics solutions in every playing hall preferably near the entrance/exit. Encourage the players to use them as often as possible. Make sure that there is hand soap and disposable towels in the toilets.

- Gloves should be avoided because they are not washed and can transfer bacteria. They can also give a false sense of security. However, if a player has an allergy or intolerance in the cleaning products and would prefer to not touch the pieces directly you should allow him to do so.

- Should a player complain of a health issue, try to persuade him/her to see a doctor. Players, especially young ones, may underestimate the symptoms and the situation. If they are not feeling well or have a fever, they cannot be allowed to play and should seek medical help.
No visitors should be allowed in the playing halls in order to avoid crowding. Politely ask the players to leave when they finish their games. If there are more than one playing halls you should explain to them that they are not allowed to move from one hall to another.

Walking between the tables during the rounds is not allowed. Only necessary displacements are allowed: going to the toilet, fetch drinks. Providing clear direction guides and signs to and from the toilet, exits, bar etc...

An analysing room cannot be used. Analysing should not be allowed.

Regarding food and beverages you can provide packed snacks and bottled water or soda for the players. The use of disposable materials is highly recommended.

When preparing the playing hall remember that the tables should be at a certain distance from each other (minimum one and a half meter). The playing halls should be very well ventilated preferably with windows in opposite sides. In case there are air-conditions make sure that their filters have been cleaned.

The players should be reminded before each round to not shake hands. It is counter-intuitive so chances are that they will forget and you need to remind them often.

After a few rounds players will most probably get tired of the masks and will want to take them off. Make sure to thank them for cooperating and congratulate them for understanding the severity of the matter. It will make them feel good and willing to continue on the same track!

The competition for Arbiters riddle is extended till 31st of August. All the details on ECU Arbiters Council page.

Once again this article reflects our personal recommendations on implementing the protocol in a practical way. Also make sure to read carefully the FIDE medical security policy and protocol which can be found on the FIDE Website.
1 What are You doing in life in the current moment?
I am still recovering from a serious illness. I also take part in the training of chess coaches and play chess online.
I spend most of my time with my family.

2 Your recollections with meetings with World Champions?
I especially remember the games with Tal, Petrosjan, Smyslov and Karpov.
After a very exciting game, Michael Tal once told me: you played an excellent knight sacrifice, only you shouldn’t have thought about it for 45 minutes but only 10 minutes. Michael Tal visited us at home several times. He greatly inspired me in my youth.

3 Your best game .(Chess Informant).Just name.
Boensch vs Chekhov, Halle 1987

4 Which Your achievement You consider to be most important.
Happily married for 32 years

5 Best & most important chess books

6 How did You start Your career.
My father taught me how to play chess when I was 5 and when I was 10 I started playing actively in a club

7 Your favorite openings.
Queens gambit and Sicilian

8 Who was the most difficult and easiest opponent during Your career. There are no easy opponents and as Sunzi said in the “Art of War” over 2500 years ago - “Analyze your opponent to find out his plans, his successful as well as his failed ones.” The disease was the most difficult to defeat.

Book: Theodore Dreiser - “The Titan”, Film: Especially now after the death of Ennio Morricone - “Once Upon a Time in the West” Song: Bruce Springsteen - “The River”

10 Favourite city, food and drink
Berlin, Japanese, good wine
Siegbert Tarrasch said about chess:

> I have always had a slight feeling of pity for man who has no knowledge of chess.

> Before the endgame, the Gods have placed the middle game.

> Chess is a terrible game. If you have no center, your opponent has a freer position. If you do have a center, then you really have something to worry about!

> Intellectual activity is perhaps the greatest pleasure of life; chess is one of the forms of intellectual activity.

> Chess is a form of intellectual productiveness, therein lies its peculiar charm. Chess, like love, like music, has the power to make men happy.

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

Solutions from June

#Puzzle 1
1. Qxf7+! Rxf7 2. Re8#

#Puzzle 2
1. Qxd8+! Nxd8 2. Re8#

#Puzzle 3
1. Qxh6+! gxh6 2. Be5#

#Puzzle 4
1. Rxg6+! hxg6 2. Qh6#