

E-MAGAZINE AUGUST 2020

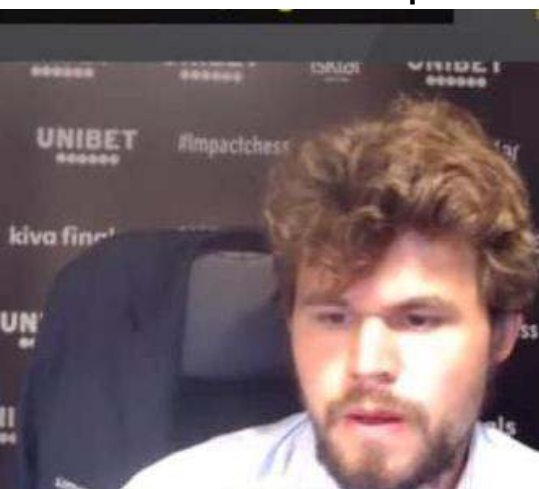


FIDE ONLINE OLYMPIAD

India and Russia shared Gold medal after technical issues in the final.

MAGNUS TOUR

Magnus Carlsen claims the "Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour" defeating Hikaru Nakamura in a sharp final.



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EUROPEAN ONLINE CORPORATE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

3-4 OCTOBER
2020



Chess Makes You Smarter...

European Chess Union

EUROPEAN ONLINE CORPORATE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 3-4 OCTOBER



Editorial

Summer is behind us, with the chess "over the board" activities returning in a number of European countries mostly in National level.

Few International chess events have been organised also, but with limited foreigner participants comparing with their previous editions. However with the entry of fall states reimposing restrictions in borders as presecution measures.

European Chess Union is prepared to organise a new type of hybrid Chess competitions aiming in socialisation of distanced events and Fair Play.

The ECU Board meeting, scheduled on 12th of September, will decide about the rest "over the board program" for 2020 and will reschedule the European #Chess calendar for years 2021 and 2022.

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

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PRESS RELEASE

European Online Youth Chess Championship (18-20 September)

European Online Corporate Chess Championship (3-4 October)

EUROPEAN HYBRID CHESS EVENTS

European Chess Union is delighted to announce “Chess24” as Media Partner and Live Broadcaster and the Online Platform “Tornelo” specialized in Event Management as the Tournaments server.

The technical guide of the new type hybrid chess events is available on the ECU Website.

EUROPEAN ONLINE YOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

18-20 September 2020

Open / Girls U12, U14

Open / Girls U16, U18

European Chess Union 35

Venues: selected tournament halls per country

Individual & Team Titles and Prizes

EUROPEAN ONLINE CORPORATE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

3-4 OCTOBER 2020

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PRIZE ONLINE YOUTH CAMP

AGE - 15-18

PERIOD OCTOBER NOVEMBER 2020

24 winners of the European Online Youth Championship
6 first winners of categories - U18, GU18, U16, GU16
Number of lecturing hours - 24 hours

Trainers:
GM Ivan Sokolov
GM Artur Yussupov
GM Alojzije Jankovic
GM Antoaneta Stefanova

Training Themes

Endgame:
1. Standard "must know" rook endgames
2. Non-standard rook endgames
3. Fortress and zugzwang positions in the endgames
4. Opposite colour bishop endings
5. General strategic play in endgames

Middlegame:
1. Mastering favourable exchanges - "what to trade what to keep" (2 hours)
2. Non-"direct play" middlegames - "improving pieces" (2 hours) (Adams)
3. Pawn majority in centre (2 hours)
4. Hanging pawns in centre (2 hours)
5. Understanding Saemisch type (double c-pawns) Nimzo positions (2 hours)
6. Building attack/learning attacking patterns (2 hours)
7. Typical sacrificial ideas (in often played openings) (2 hours)

Opening:
1. Efficient way of learning a complicated opening (Rauzer Sicilian) (2 hours)
2. Understanding ensuing middlegames connected to your opening choice (Rauzer double f-pawns Sicilian) (2 hours)

PRIZE ONLINE YOUTH CAMP

AGE - 10-14

PERIOD OCTOBER NOVEMBER 2020

24 winners of the European Online Youth Championship
6 first winners of categories - U14, GU14, U12, GU12
Number of lecturing hours - 24 hours

Trainers:
GM Adrian, Mikhailchishin
GM Iossif Dorfman,
GM Miguel Iliescas
GM Lasha Jangjghava,
GM Georg Mohr

Training Themes

- How to study classical games.
- Tactics and its role in planning.
- Dorfman method.
- Critical moments in middlegame.
- Role of prophylaxis in chess.
- Center, its role and how to fight it.
- Basics of Rook ends.
- Exchange strategy Rubinstein way.
- Control pawn structures and typical plans.
- How to fight in Morozcy and Hedgehog structures.
- Power of opposite color Bishops.
- Technique of exchange sacrifice.
- Technique of variation calculation.
- Technique of weakness exploitation (square, pawn and complex of col

Information about the EYOCC2020:

Deadline for registrations by National #Chess Federations is the 4th of September. A number of European Chess Federation have already confirmed their participation with their champions.

The initial information about the two training camps that included in the prize list of the European Online Youth Chess Championship can be found on the ECU Website.

Additionally, through the EYOCC will be made the selection of European Youth Team (16 players, 2 per age group) that will play matches with continental teams from Africa, America and Asia on 10th October under the frame of 6th Global Chess Festival organised by the Judit Polgar Chess Foundation.

Information about the ECOCC2020 can be found on the ECU Website together with the registration form. Registration deadline is 25th of September.

EUROPEAN HYBRID EVENTS

European Chess Union organises two Online Chess events through the Tornelo Online Platform, which will be LIVE Covered by Chess24.com:

European Online Youth Individual and Team Chess Championship & European Online Corporate Chess Championship.

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.



Schedule of the European Online Youth Team and Individual Chess Championship 2020

5. SCHEDULE

Wednesday	16-Sep	Arbiters Meeting	18:00 CEST
Thursday	17-Sep	Technical Meeting	18:00 CEST
Friday	18-Sep	Opening Ceremony	14:00 CEST
Friday	18-Sep	Rounds 1	15:00 CEST
Friday	18-Sep	Rounds 2	17:00 CEST
Friday	18-Sep	Rounds 3	19:00 CEST
Saturday	19-Sep	Rounds 4	14:00 CEST
Saturday	19-Sep	Rounds 5	16:00 CEST
Saturday	19-Sep	Rounds 6	18:00 CEST
Sunday	20-Sep	Rounds 7	14:00 CEST
Sunday	20-Sep	Rounds 8	16:00 CEST
Sunday	20-Sep	Rounds 9	18:00 CEST
Sunday	20-Sep	Closing Ceremony	20:00 CEST

EYOCC2020- 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.



RUSSIA AND INDIA JOINT WINNERS OF THE FIDE ONLINE OLYMPIAD

FIDE Online Olympiad concluded took place from 22nd July to 30th August 2020 through online chess platform chess.com.

Finalists of the event India and Russia played a two matches to determine the Winner of the 1st Online Olympiad.



Teams of India and Russia were the finalists of the 1st FIDE Online Olympiad

After the first match ended in a tie with score 3-3 and draws on all the boards, the second match started again in peaceful manner with three draws.

Two of the Indian players, Nihal Sarin and Divya Deshmukh, lost connection towards the end of the game, subsequently losing on time against Esipenko Andrey and Shuvalova Polina. According to regulations of the event, Russia was announced as the winner of the match with a victory 4.5-1.5.

Appeal of India's Team

As soon as the last game of the match has ended, India appealed the match result on the grounds that their players (along with hundreds of other users) were logged out of Chess.com as a consequence of a massive internet outage at the time of the games.

The Appeals Committee examined all the evidence provided by Chess.com, as well as information gathered from other sources about the Cloudflare crash that caused the outage. After being informed of their considerations and in absence of a unanimous verdict, **the FIDE President made the decision to award Gold Medals to both teams.**



LIVE Broadcast

The event was LIVE transmitted together with live commentaries of Top World Chess players such as: Vladimir Kramnik, Anish Giri and Teimour Radjabov.

Official Website of the event



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VOLUME 2



27th August – 28th September

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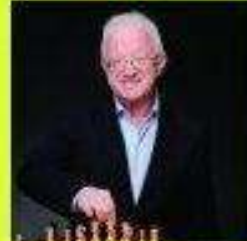
Thursday – August 27
„The way of Visly Anand
to become World Champion“
GM ELIZBAR UBILAVA

Monday – August 31
„Exchanging a good Bishop
for a Knight“
GM MIGUEL ILLESCAS CORDOBA

Thursday – September 3
„Modern dynamic play“
GM ALOJZIJE
JANKOVIC

Monday – September 7
„My games against Kasparov,
learning from the world champion“
GM ARTUR JUSSUPOW

Thursday – September 10
„Isolani in Middlegame,
Plans for both sides“
GM GABOR KALLAI



Monday – September 14
„Icelandic Chess school –
how to become Grandmaster“
GM MARGEIR PETURSSON

Thursday – September 17
„How young talents
shall train & improve“
GM VLADIMIR CHUCHELOV

Monday – September 21
„Improving our bad pieces
(bad Bishop)“
GM MIKHAIL KOBALIA

Thursday - September 24
„Middlegame –
play on both flanks“
GM IOSSIF DORFMAN

Monday – September 28
„Problems in
calculation technique“
GM DRAGAN SOLAK

Online Registrations:
www.europechess.org/ecu-online-training-series--v2/

Contact: Tadej Sakelšek
tadejsakelsek@gmail.com

Entry fee

5 lectures = 50€
6 lectures = 60€
7 lectures = 70€
10 lectures = 90€

Venue: Zoom Platform

ECU Online Training Series – V2

27th August - 28th September

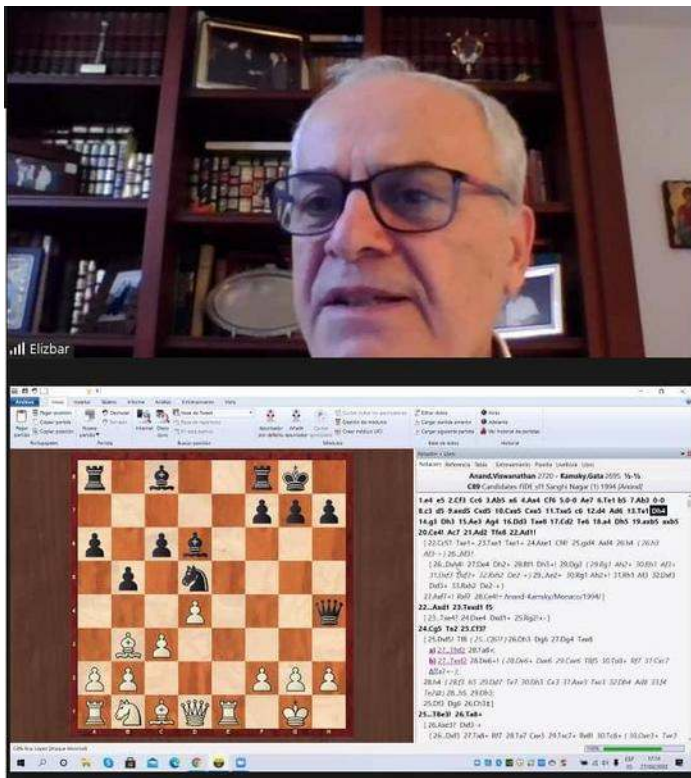
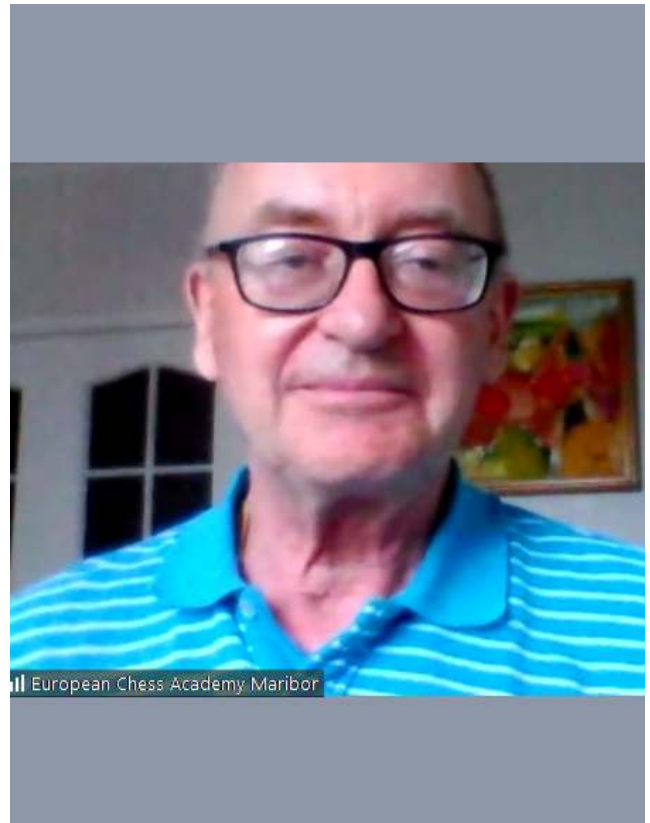
ECU and European Chess Academy organise the second volume of the Lectures program “Improve Your Chess” with leading Chess Trainers worldwide from 27th of August to 28th of September.

The lectures are being held twice a week every Monday and Thursday. The lectures are open for all but recommended for players over 1500 rating.

Opening of Training series "Improve Your Chess" vol2

Training Series "Improve Your Chess" Vol2 organised by ECU and European Chess Academy launched on Thursday 27th of August.

ECU Vice President, Mr. Adrian Mikhalchishin welcomed all the participants and opened the event.



LECTURE OF GM ELIZBAR UBILAVA

Famous Chess Trainer GM Elizbar Ubilava was the first lecturer of the program. As one of the trainers of World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand, Ubilava was analysing Anand's games during the class.

LECTURE OF GM MIGUEL ILLESCAS

The famous Spanish Grandmaster and top Trainer Miguel Illescas was the ECU guest in the second lecture of the Training series. Themes of the lecture were:
When to trade a bishop for a knight? In which type of position a knight is better than a bishop?



Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour Finals benefiting Kiva

The Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour Finals benefiting Kiva took place from 9-20 August 2020 on chess24 with participation of four players playing for a prize fund of 300.000\$.

The final match has started intensively, with a narrow victory of Nakamura Hikaru 2.5-1.5 in the first match. Magnus turned back tomorrow, and won the blitz match after a tie in the regular part of the set.

The finalists were taking the victories in the matches one after another, Nakamura won the third set, but Magnus Carlsen struck back in the fourth. After Hikaru won again the 5th match, Magnus was forced to once again tie the score before the last round, and that is what has happened.

After 3-3 result, the World Chess Champion has started the final match sharply with a victory. After a draw in the second round it seemed that Nakamura can not be back in the last two games of the match, but with the white pieces in the 3rd game, he took a full point and the match proceeded to blitz.

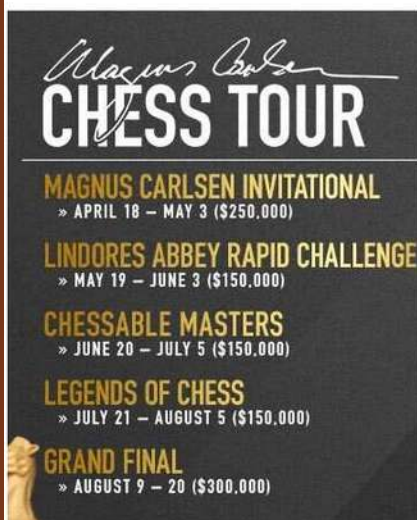
The tie result of the blitz brought the match to an Armageddon, where World Chess Champion held a draw and was announced as the Winner of the Finals!

Official Website of the event

The participants of the event were: Magnus Carlsen, Daniil Dubov (who won previous Tour events), Hikaru Nakamura and Ding Liren (who qualified as the best performing players).

Magnus Carlsen played in a semifinals against Ding Liren, and after 4 sets played qualified for the finals with result 3.5-0.5. Nakamura Hikaru qualified for the Super Final after defeating Daniil Dubov, with three consecutive match victories.

The Finals were played in seven sets/matches through the chess24.com Online platform.



Gudmundur Kjartansson wins Icelandic Chess Championship 2020

The Icelandic Chess Championship took place from 22nd August to 30th August and concluded this Sunday in the town of Gardabaer.

In the intense finish of the event, IM Kjartansson Gudmundur emerged on the top with 6.5 points. Second place came to GM Bragi Thorfinnsson (2427) with 6 points but better tiebreaks than GM Hjorvar Steinn Gretarsson (2579) who had the same score but finished with the bronze medal.

The event took place following all the national health protocols.



David Navara wins National Czech Chess Championship 2020

National Czech Chess Championship 2020 concluded yesterday in Plzen. Congratulations to GM David Navara (2719) on becoming the Czech Chess Champion for the 10th time with score 7.5/9! Láznička Viktor took the second place scoring 7 points, while Hráček Zbyněk won the bronze medal thanks to the best tiebreaks and score 6.5.

[Official Website of the event](#)

Greek Youth Chess Championship

Greek Chess Federation organises the National Youth Championship 2020 from 26th August to 3rd of September. 300+ players are competing in two geographical groups in Athens and Thessaloniki due to the precaution health measures. The winners of the groups Open 08, Open 10, Open 12, Open 14, Girls 12, Girls 14 have been announced in Thessaloniki, while the winners of the rest of the groups will be announced in Athens on 3rd of September.

[Official Website of the event](#)



Text by: IA Geert Bailleul, secretary of the ECU Arbiters' Council

The “Bruges Masters Tournament” organized as the Belgian Chess Championship.

Impressions after the first over the board tournament in Belgium since the start of Corona pandemic.



Every year around August 15th the Royal Chess Club of Bruges organizes the international tournament “Bruges Masters”.

Around 220 players are participating every year. Due to corona pandemic which started in the first week of March, all other big tournaments in Belgium which are organised in April, May, June, July and August were cancelled. Among them the Belgian Chess Championship 2020 which would have been organised by the chess club of Brasschaat at the beginning of July.

For that reason the Belgian Chess Federation asked the organizers of the “Bruges Masters” to organize the tournament as Belgian Chess Championship 2020.

I would like to sum up some impression about the influence of the Corona pandemic on the organisation of an over the board tournament, more specifically.

There is no doubt that the Corona pandemic has an enormous influence worldwide on the organization of chess tournaments.

Every country has imposed his own rules which has to be implemented by the organizers of chess tournaments.

The organizers of “the Bruges Masters” had to take in account several measures to ensure the safety of the players, the arbiters and the volunteers.

In the article, written by Tania Karali and edited by myself, which was published in July ECU Magazine, we summed up all measures that can be taken.

All measures which were mentioned in the article were implemented during the tournament. Special attention was paid to players belonging to a risk group. We gave them the possibility to play on two boards.

I will give you a brief summary of the most important measures which we implemented for the organisation of “the Bruges Masters” (Belgian Chess Championship 2020):

- when entering the playing venue every player had to disinfect his hands thoroughly.
- there was a heat camera which measured the temperature upon entering. (photo on the page 13)
- every player had to wear a mouth mask during the entire duration of the games.
- they had to remain seated throughout the game
- leaving the table was only allowed to go to the toilet or to get something to drink or to eat. It was not allowed to leave the table for smoking.
- it was not allowed to walk between the table to have a quick look at other chess boards.
- shaking hands before the start of the game was not allowed
- players belonging to the risk group could play on 2 separate boards (photo on the page 13)
- all boards, clocks, tables and pieces were thoroughly disinfected after the game.
- 1,5 meter between the tables.
- analysing the game was not allowed, no analysis room was provided; after the game the players had to leave the building
- No visitors were allowed in the playing venue.

The players were very pleased that, after more than 5 months, they could finally play on a chessboard instead of behind a computer. A lot of them seemed to be desperate to play on a chessboard again. They longed greatly to play standard games again!

Because of the Corona pandemic the number of players who could participate was limited, also depending on the size of the playing venue. After a small number of days, from the moment the organizers announced the start of registrations, all available places were taken.

The players were eager to participate at an over the board tournament again. For sure it is obvious that online tournaments will never replace on the board tournaments. Chess players have to be able to touch pieces; they have to be in a playing venue together with other chess players; they have to feel the tension of time trouble again; at home, behind a computer, they miss the social contact with other people; they have to feel and to endure the tension and the special atmosphere of an chess tournament. I have to admit that all players followed the measures very well. They were well aware that all these measures were necessary for their own health and for the health of the other participants. It needs discipline from all the players to follow the agreements which has been made, especially when this agreements are going against human automatisms. The most common complaint was that it is not comfortable at all to wear the mouth mask during several hours. Breathing seems to be more difficult; warm air is constantly being breathed out causing fumes on the glasses. Sometimes it is more difficult to understand each other which makes communication less good. Some players even told me that it was more difficult to recognize the players and to see expressions on their faces.



Players belonging to the risk group could play on 2 separate boards and there was a heat camera

Despite all that it happened rarely that the arbiters had to make a remark to the players for not wearing their mouth mask.

The fact that walking around and having a quick look at other chess boards was not allowed, was difficult for some players to comply with. I can assume that it may be difficult to have to sit in a chair for several hours without being allowed to stretch the legs every now and then.

Also when your opponent is not after the board when the game starts, is annoying because the player who is present has to stay sitting after his board.



Shaking hands

Also the not-shaking of hands before the start of the round was for most of the players a big change. Chess players are so used to shake hands, it has become some kind of an automatism. Sometimes they shook hands, realising to late that it was not allowed.

Organisation:

At the end of the tournament the organizers were very often congratulated on the organization of the tournament especially by the players themselves.

Even the press gave us more attention than usual because it was a "Corona-Belgian-Chess-Championship-edition". Summary: playing chess online is fun, playing chess over the board is heavenly!

Special thanks to IA Luc Cornet, who is responsible for the national tournaments in the Belgian Chess Federation, for rereading the article before publishing.

Finally...

ECU Arbiters Council is very interested in your experience with organizing an over the board chess tournament during this Corona pandemic.

Please feel free to send us a brief report. IA Geert Bailleul
Secretary of the ECU Arbiters Council.
Chief Arbiter of "the Bruges Masters"/Belgian Chess Championship 2020.

Contact: geertbailleul@skynet.be ;
ecuarbiterscouncil@gmail.com

Short explanation of the Arbiters' Riddle (IA Tania Karali)

Arbiters' Riddle made by IA Tania Karali was published in the June 2020 edition of the ECU E-Magazine, as well as on the ECU Arbiters' Council Website.

And the winner is...

ECU Arbiters Council received correct solutions from 14 arbiters. They were all given a number from 1 to 14. During a video call Geert Bailleul, Secretary of ECU Arbiters' Council and Tania Karali, author of the riddle, used the random number generator of this website: https://www.mathgoodies.com/calculators/random_no_custom to choose a winning number.

The lucky winner was No 3. This number corresponds to *David Gonzalez Gandara* from Spain. Congratulations! David will receive an electronic chess clock.

IA Geert Bailleul, Secretary of ECU Arbiters' Council.

IA Tania Karali, author of the riddle.

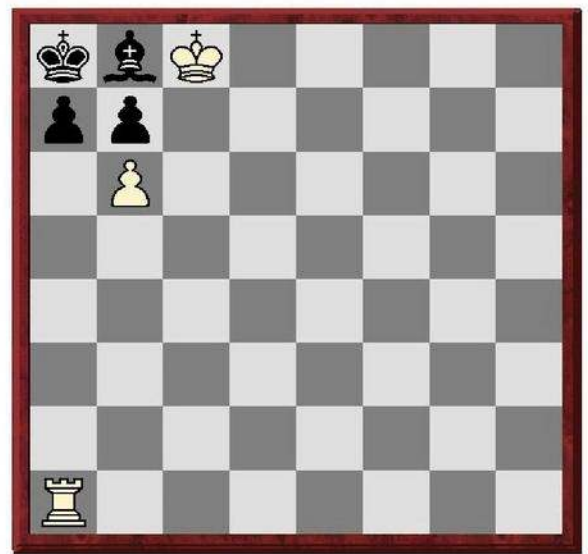
Explanation of the clues:

- 1) A male player's flag fell on board 42 ("him"/"he"), but not Bill or Steve (clue No 6). So, it was Bob.
- 2) Kate was on board 18 or 37 (clues No 2, 3, 6). The number should be higher than Bill's (who is not on No 11), so it is 37.
- 3) Mary had a 3-fold repetition request on board 18 or 23 (clues No 1, 2, 6). But it was during the 7th round (see previous hint), so it's board 18.
- 4) The flag fall could only happen during round 1, so Bill's incident happened during round 3 (clue No 2) and Steve's during round 9.
- 5) The incident of the 3rd round on board 23 was not an illegal move (clue No 3), so it was a "dead" position.



The solution.

ROUND	PLAYER	INCIDENT	<u>B.No.</u>
1	Bob	Flag fall	42
3	Bill	Dead position	23
5	Kate	Illegal move	37
7	Mary	3-fold	18
9	Steve	disturbance	11



In memory of Wolfgang Uhlmann (1935-2020)

Wolfgang Uhlmann was the greatest player of former GDR. He spent all his life in his hometown Dresden, where he luckily survived terrible Alliance bombing in 1945. His chess talent was shown quite early, even that he learned chess just at 11 from his father. He was 11 times country Champion. Uhlmann best years were in the middle of 60s, when he won first places in Sarajevo 1964, Havana 1964, Zagreb 1964 and Berlin Lasker Memorial 1967. He was great team player, winning gold medal on the first board of Chess Olympiad in Tel Aviv in 1964 and bronze medal in Havana 1966. He qualified to FIDE Candidates Tournament in 1970 Later he participated successfully in World Seniors and became the oldest German Bundesliga player, 81 years old. He wrote many theoretical articles. Uhlmann was known as leading world expert in Kings Indian Defence and, especially in French defence, where he had beaten nobody else, but Robert Fischer. His Chess knowledge was widely recognised and he was invited by World Champion Anatoly Karpov to be his second in his 70s. Uhlmann was extremely respected all over the chess world for his sportsmanship and good will.

R.I.P Great French Warrior!

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

Solutions from July

#Puzzle 1

1.Qxh6!+ gxh6 2.Rxh6+ Rh7
3.Bxf6#

#Puzzle 2

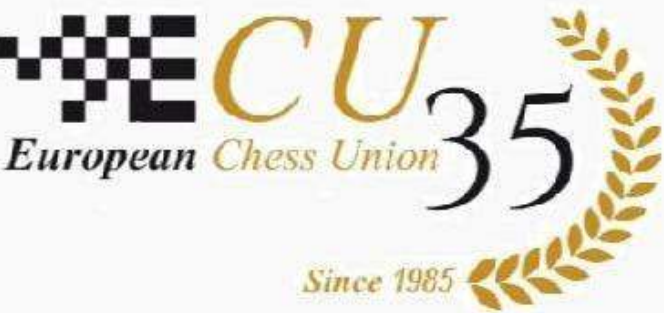
1.Rxh7!+ Kxh7 2.Qg6+ Kh8 3.Qh6#

#Puzzle 3

1.Rh8!+ Kxh8 2.Qh3+ Kg8 3.Qh7#

#Puzzle 4

1.Qxh7!!+ Kxh7 2.hxg6 Kxg6
3.Rh6#



"Chess makes you smarter!"