Chess in Schools succeed the largest funding. ECU EDU main contributor in the program.

**CORPORATE EVENT**

European Online Corporate Chess Championship takes place on 3-4 October.
What was said about the #EOYCC2020

“To the wider chess community, I can highly recommend the example of hybrid European Youth Champs using Tornelo.com for how to play safely according to Covid-19 regulations, under arbiter and video conference supervision, while enabling players to meet in a socially distanced way and enjoy the experience of something close to an OTB tournament.”

Tim Wall, Captain of English Team

“I think that such practice will be implemented in all major online tournaments, and we should create more such authorized centres, and we are planning to have more of them in the future.”

Mikhail Kobalia, Captain of Russian Team

“After all live events were canceled, the European Chess Union (ECU) launched the idea of an online youth event. Each country was allowed to nominate 24 players U12 to U18, gather at a maximum of three locations and have them play under referee supervision and camera observation. The double observation should make cheating difficult or even impossible. In my opinion, this approach has succeeded”.

Bernd Vökler, Captain of German Team
EUROPEAN YOUTH ONLINE CHESS CHAMPIONS ANNOUNCED

The first European Online Youth Team and Individual Chess Championship took place from 18th-20th September through Torneolo Online platform with participation of more than 700 players from 40 federations, who played the event through around 60 venues chosen by National federations.
After 9 played rounds in Girls U18 section, two Russian players WGM Maltsevskaya Aleksandra and WIM Solozhenkina Elizaveta tied for the first place scoring 8 points, each. Tiebreaks decided that Maltsevskaya Aleksandra takes gold, Solozhenkina Elizaveta silver medal, while Hajiyeva Laman from Azerbaijan took third place with 7 points.

In Open U18 section, Esipenko Andrey (RUS) concluded the event with 8 points and trophy, while three players were in a tie for the second place each with score of 7 points: GM Schoppen Casper (NED), Nesterov Arseniy (RUS) and GM Sargsyan Shant (ARM). According to tiebreaks criteria, Schoppen Casper won silver medal and Nesterov Arseniy took bronze.

In the section for Girls U16, Kirchei Viktoriia and Nur-Mukhametova Alisa, both from Russia, emerged on the top with the same score of 8 points, but according to tiebreaks, Kirchei Viktoriia is announced as the Winner of the event, Nur-Mukhametova Alisa came second, while Ruzic Pia Marie (SLO) won the bronze medal scoring 7 points and having the best tiebreaks in the group of 3 girls tying for the third place.

International master Makarian Rudik (RUS) and Svane Frederik (GER) scored 8 points each and tied for the top of Open U16 section, but eventually Makarian Rudik became European Online Youth Champion U16 thanks to better tiebreaks, Svane Frederik was second and Dudin Gleb (RUS) with 7.5 points came third.

Tiebreaks criteria also decided the Winner in Girls U14 group, where Tarasenka Aliaksandra (BLR) and Aydin Gulenay (TUR) shared the top with 7.5 points each. Tarasenka Aliaksandra won the event, Aydin Gulenay won silver medal and Roebers Eline (NED) came third since she had better tiebreaks than two girls with the same score of 7 points.
Final results and standings

All the results, as well as the final standings of the event can be found on the following link.

The event was played in 9 rounds, with time control 25 minutes plus 5 seconds of an increment per each move, starting from the move one.
All the games were daily followed in ECU Live studio with WGM Keti Tsatsiashvili and her special guests: GM Adrian Mikhalchishin, ECU Vice President WGM Dana Reizniece-Ozola, ECU President GM Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili and ECU Vice President GM Ivan Sokolov.
The guests of the ECU Live studio spoke about the event and future ECU projects, but also commented the games of the young chess talents participating in the European Online Youth Chess Championship.

CLOSING CEREMONY

European Youth Online Chess Championship concluded with Closing Ceremony which took place on Monday 21st September and was broadcasted LIVE through ECU Facebook page and ECU Twitch channel. The ceremony was attended by the winners of the event, ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, ECU Deputy President Mr. Gunnar Bronjsson, Secretary General Mr. Theodoros Tzorbatzoglou ECU Vice Presidents Dana Reizniece Ozola, Johann Poecksteiner, ECU Tournament Director Petr Pisk, FIDE representative Mr. Lukasz Turlej, Tornelo CEO Mr. David Cordover and other distinguished guests.

Opening Ceremony

The 1st European Online Youth Chess Championship was opened from National University of Georgia by ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili and Georgian Chess Legend GM Nona Gaprindashvili.
Intercontinental Online Youth Team Chess Cup

Judit Polgar Chess Foundation & European Chess Union, within the 6th Global Chess Festival which will be going online this year, organise the 1st Intercontinental Online Youth Team Chess Cup on 10th of October 2020, supported by the FIDE Development Fund.

Each FIDE Continent, Africa, America, Asia and Europe have the right to nominate one team of 16 players. And each team consists of 16 boards (age categories): boys – (2 of each U12-U14-U16-U18 categories) girls – (2 of each U12-U14-U16-U18 categories)

Participants will be selected by each Continental Chess Association and each Continent will appoint one captain/representative for the technical meeting and all communications during the event. Registrations shall be made by the Continents filling the special registration form and sending it to eocc@europechess.org.

The event will be played in 6 rounds, Round Robin double matches, with time control: 10 minutes + 2 seconds. The tournament server will be announced. No other person and no any electronic device allowed in playing room, except the player’s PC/Laptop. Players have to download and install ZOOM Client for Meetings and agree to turn on the “Share my Screen” function during all games. If a player is not logged in ZOOM chat at the published start time or turns OFF the webcam could result in a loss of the game.

The first Team is the Winner of the event and will receive the Gold medal certificate.

All the 64 players will receive a Masterclass (1.5 hour) by GM Judit Polgar in two Groups of 32 players. Date and Time will be announced.

Global Chess Festival Certificates will be available for all participants of the event.

Intercontinental Online Youth Team Chess Cup Official Regulations of the event can be downloaded from the ECU Website.

Players of the Team Europe will be selected by the results of European Online Youth Chess Championship. First two players of each group will be invited to play for team Europe, while the bronze medalists will be invited as the substitute.
ECU & CIS Program in Erasmus+

ECU partners with the C.S.E.N. the largest Sports Promotion Body in Italy, with sports division dedicated to chess for educational purposes, for the CGS project that has been approved by Erasmus+ program (European Union) with a € 420.000 grant.

“CHESS: A GAME TO SPREAD AT SCHOOL” (CGS), is a project aimed at primary school teachers and in part to early childhood, to give them a pedagogical training tool, capable of addressing the educational needs of their pupils, to obtain – thanks to the game of chess introduced in the classroom – the development of key competences, functional to counteracting the poor results of the students, in particular in the scientific subjects.

By the end of the project, hundreds of teachers will have successfully peer trained with the CGS method.

They should capable of training other colleagues with the Peer Education Method. 6,500 children will have learned chess at school, with significant benefits in overall social and academic performance.

The main role of ECU and its Educational Commission is to create and provide to EU the best practise and guidelines for chess in classrooms and a final training model for school teachers across Europe. Additionally to collaborate for the creation of a chess distance learning platform.

The project submitted in April and approved in September 2020.
Communique of the ECU Board Meeting

The 4th ECU Board Meeting in 2020 took place on Saturday 12th of September 2020 through teleconference, with full house and special guests including FIDE Deputy President Mr. Bachar Kouatly and Mrs Laura Barnaba representative of C.S.E.N. the largest Sports Promotion Body in Italy, which partners with ECU for Erasmus+ projects.
The main areas under discussion and decisions were the following:

1. European Championships of 2020
   The official forecast by World Health Organization (WHO) warns that Europe must prepare for a rise in daily COVID-19 cases in October and November. New restrictions imposed by states, borders reclosing and extended quarantine guidelines are announced again. Under these conditions the free access of all European federations and players, especially to qualification mass events is not guaranteed while organisers express their concern about the instability of their events. ECU Board decided to postpone all European Competitions for 2020, with the exception of the European Rapid and Blitz Championship 2020 in Katowice, Poland (3-6 December 2020) which last only 3 days and will be organised not as an open event but in an invitational format.

2. European Championship 2021/2022
   The bidding procedure for the year 2022 is canceled and the European Calendar for coming years is rescheduled:
   - European Women's Individual Chess Championship 2021 - European Youth Chess Championship 2022 - Romania
   - European Women's Individual Chess Championship 2022 - European Youth Chess Championship 2023 - Czech Republic:
   - European Individual Chess Championship 2022 - Slovenia
   - European Club Cup Open and Women 2022 - Austria
   The European School (Greece), Senior (Poland), Senior Teams (Poland), Youth Teams (Greece), Corporate (Holland) and Amateur Championship (Croatia) scheduled in 2020 are moved to 2021 and the respective Championships of 2021 to 2022. For the European Youth Rapid & Blitz in Novisad, Serbia will be a later information.

3. ECU General Assembly 2020
   Due to the travel restrictions, ECU Board decided, under special circumstances, to conduct of the 2020 ECU General Assembly through teleconference on Saturday 19 December 2020. Due to cancelation of the bidding procedure for 2022 the GA will not include in its agenda the selection of venues for 2022. Proposals for items to be included in the agenda, from National Chess Federations, can reach ECU Secretariat till Monday 19th of October 2020.

4. European Online Championships
   - The 1st European Online Women’s Club Cup will be held on 20th-22nd of November 2020 in co-operation with Monte Carlo Chess Club, under the High Patronage of H.S.H Prince Albert of Monaco.
   - The 1st Intercontinental Youth Team Matches will be organised with Judit Polgar Chess Foundation under the aegis of Global Festival and the support of FIDE Development fund on 10th of October 2020. All participants will have a free master class with legend GM Judit Polgar.

5. Training Programs and Camps
   Two online Youth Camps will be organised with top worldwide trainers for the winners of the European Online Youth Chess Championship. A 8 months training program has been approved under the command of the European Chess Academy. More details will be announced.

6. Educational Programs
   A presentation was made for Erasmus program CGS project that has been approved by Erasmus+ program (European Union) with a € 420.000 grant.
ECU ONLINE TRAINING SERIES VOL2 CONCLUDED

ECU and European Chess Academy organised 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 were held twice a week every Monday and Thursday.
The Trainers who participated in the event are: GM Ubilava Elizbar, GM Miguel Illescas, GM Alojzije Jankovic, GM Artur Jussupow, GM Gabor Kalai, GM Margeir Petursson, GM Vladimir Chuchelov, GM Mikhail Kobalia, GM Iossif Dorfman and GM Dragan Solak.

The event concluded with a lecture of GM Dragan Solak, who spoke about problems in calculation technique during the lesson.
European Online Corporate Chess Championship

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

The event was opened to all business, entities & organisations – regardless of their size. Each entity registers one team and had the right to nominate unlimited number of players: Companies, organisations, clubs involved with chess are excluded.

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.

The best 3 players, of each entity, cumulative results decide the Team standings for each day. According the standings of each day the first 20 teams receiving the Team following points. The 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 (f.e 18 points (1st day) + 10 points (2nd day) = 28 total Team points).

Prizes for the Team Winners:
- 1st Winner Company– Three (3) Full package Invitation Golden Pawn Award Ceremony
- 2nd Winner Company– Two (2) Full package Invitation Golden Pawn Award Ceremony
- 3rd Winner Company– 1 Full package Invitation Golden Pawn Award Ceremony

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

Besides that, individual winners will be awarded with money prizes.

Participants
European Online Corporate Chess!

Following companies will take part in the event: Sberbank, Kaspersky, PROBIT Sp. z o.o., European Investment Bank (LUX), UE “Information and Computing Center”, Khareba (GEO), OTP Bank Ukraine, Rambler Group, Ohrdiska Banka, Ceylanpinar Gencilik ve Spor Kulubu, Wood Mackenzie Ltd, GPD Advisory Services Ltd, The Bucharest University of Economi, PTC Israel....
Top Grandmasters Tournament Altibox Norway 2020 will take place from 5th-16th October 2020 in Stavanger, Norway.

**ALTIBOX NORWAY 2020**

The event will be played as double round robin event, with following participants:

> Magnus Carlsen- Norway,
> Fabiano Caruana- USA,
> Levon Aronian- Armenia
> Duda Jan-Krzysztof Duda- Poland
> Alireza Firouzja- FIDE
> Aryan Tari- Norway

The first round starts October 5 and ends on October 16. There are two free days (Oct. 9 and 14).

The event will be live broadcasted through chess24.com and on TV 2 Sport/Sumo.

Official Website of the event
1. What are You doing in life in the current moment?
I am preparing for a program of a Haydn-Mozart-Beethoven recital in autumn. However, I am not sure, if it can be organized under the circumstances.

2. Your recollections with meetings with World Champions?
With Bobby Fischer I met more than once a week while he was staying at Budapest. Very often we went to a cinema, he was a movie lover just like me. Once I even took him to an opera performance, but he was more interested of the caviar in the buffet than to the music.

With Smyslov we sung together the famous aria (Epitalama) of Rubinstein (Anton! Not Akiba!?) from the opera Nero at a meeting with participants and organizers of the Petrosian Memorial Tournament in Moscow 1999.

Upon my arrival in Jerevan at 1965, Petrosian immediately took my luggage (as a ruling world champion!) and carried over four floors, since in the hotel there was no elevator. As a much younger grandmaster I obviously didn't want to allow this, but as one of the hosts he perhaps thought it was duly.

Chess players are thought to have good memory although I never had. Kasparov certainly has it as I heard him to enumerate all the states of USA after a tiring meeting of the Grandmaster’s Association when the discussion already turned into a more friendly chat. But then probably not too seriously suddenly he stated that he knew the Moscow telephone-book by heart! I thought he was making a joke so I also tried to crack a joke saying"Garry! There are still so few telephones in Moscow as earlier?" However, his sense of humour is not as good as his memory!

As Karpov's second in his last match against Kasparov I enjoyed myself not only in analyses, but I was able to go to the Metropolitian Opera too. In New York the organizers supplied us with four tickets on each Sunday. Sunday was free of the match, Anatoly obviously wanted to rest, the others were not interested in classical music. I had a dilemma what to do with the tickets. Fortunately my goddaughter and her parents—my very good friends—lived near to New York City, so I had a company.

"With Bobby Fischer I met more than once a week while he was staying at Budapest. Very often we went to a cinema, he was a movie lover just like me."
3. Your best game (chess informant). Just name. There are many. I cannot name just one.

4. Which achievement do you consider to be the most important? Winning the Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires at 1978. I played in all the fourteen rounds and made a fantastic score: 10 points out of 14!


8. Who was the most difficult and easiest opponent during your career? Spassky. Easiest: Probably my two years younger brother Ferenc. Although we didn’t play too many serious games, all ended with my victory all drawn.


10. Your favourite city, food and drink? Budapest, pancake, tea.
The ECU Arbiters' Council took into consideration suggestions and requests mentioned during the ECU Arbiters Seminar in May and here are few new features you can find on our website.

The first wish of ECU arbiters was to have an archive of articles from the Arbiters Corner of the ECU E-magazine. So a new page was created – see Articles. And you can find there all the articles from the past two years as well as links to the all E-magazine issues. Every article published in the E-magazine is always also published on our website. And if you don't want to miss any of them in the future and if you are also interested in other announcements and events of the ECU arbiters world, you can now subscribe to our website here. And if you do, we will always be in touch with you.

Other changes were related for our reporting procedure. You can check out the new version here.

We responded to comments of Chief Arbiters of the ECU events 2019 and we wanted to make it more user friendly, less tedious and easier. We switched from paper (doc) versions of Tournament reports and Evaluation forms and created online ones, which should be much quicker to fill in and also overall more efficient. New Evaluation forms also include different questions for different positions of arbiters which makes it more personalized and also logical.

We want to ask for your suggestions for improvement to the above or any other. There is no reason the evaluation forms and other parts couldn't further evolve, since our ultimate goal is to have nice and complete concise system, which will be useful and effective. We would also be more than happy to work together with FIDE towards joined reporting procedure, which could benefit us both and contribute to the professionalization of our craft in the future.

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

Solutions from July

#Puzzle 1
1. Qh6!! Qf1 2. Rxf1 Bxh6 3 Nxh6#

#Puzzle 2
1. Rh6!! Bd6 [1...gxh6 2.g7#]
2. Rh7#

#Puzzle 3
1. Nfd4!! Qxd3 [1...exd4 2.Qd6#]
2. Ne6#

#Puzzle 4
1. Nd4!! Nxf2 2.Re6#

Samuel Reshevsky said about chess:

> Chess sharpens the mind, stimulates concentration, improves the memory and promotes visualization.

> What is a weak pawn? A pawn that is exposed to attack and also difficult to defend is a weak pawn.

> The knight is renowned for, among other things, its suitability as a blockader. Because its strength lies in short-range operations it is not uncomfortable standing in a single spot for long periods, as Bishop is.

> We often hear the terms ‘positional’ and ‘tactical’ used as opposites. But this is as wrong as to consider a painting’s composition unrelated to its subject. Just as there is no such thing as ‘artistic’ art, so there is no such thing as ‘positional’ chess.

> Good players develop a tactical instinct, a sense of what is possible and what is not worth calculating.