ECU #Chess Teacher Seminars expanding...

Europe supports #Budapest2024 #Chess Olympiad bid

European Women's Online Club Cup
19-22 December

40 teams, top players on board!
European Online Women’s Club Cup, under the high patronage of his serene highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, will take place online from 19th-22nd December 2020 with 40 teams registered and the majority of the top female Chess players.

The Annual ECU General Assembly 2020 to be held online on Saturday 19th of December 2020 at 10.00 CET.

European Chess Union supports #Budapest and Hungary to host the 2024 #Chess Olympiad and we are confident for a great event in history.

European Chess Union and European Chess Academy, supported by FIDE Development Fund, organise the annual training program in period from December 5th 2020 to June 5th 2021 with 140 participants from 40 countries!

8th London Chess Conference – ChessTech2020 will take place online this year, on 5th and 6th December 2020.
Poland1 wins FIDE Online Olympiad for Disabled

Team Poland1 became the Winner of FIDE Online Olympiad for People with Disabilities after defeating team of Russia1 in the Final match of the event. Finals were played on 1st and 2nd of December.

In the first match for the Winner, Russia1 took a narrow 2.5-1.5 victory, but Poland1 stoke back and won the 2nd match with result 3-1, which was enough to win the event.

The match for the third place was played between Ukraine3 and Poland3. Ukraine3 convincingly won both matches and claimed the bronze medal.

The Winner of the 1st FIDE Online Olympiad for People with Disabilities was announced on 3rd of December- International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

FIDE Online Olympiad for People with Disabilities took place from 20th November - 3rd December 2020, through Tornelo Online Platform.

61 teams representing 45 different federations, and in total -almost 400 players took part in the event, which was played with time control of 25 minutes + 10 seconds of increment.

The event consisted of two stages. The first one was a 7-round Swiss tournament, from which the best 4 teams qualified to play a double-round semifinals, which took place on November 29-30. The best two- Russia1 and Poland1 proceeded to Finals which determined the Winner of the event.

Live broadcast

1st FIDE Online Olympiad for People with Disabilities was broadcasted LIVE, with special guests who commented the games, but also shared their impressions about the event.

Official partners of the event were Gazprom- a global energy company, Sozidanie - a charity foundation and Pengcheng chess club - one of the leading chess clubs in China since 2005.

Poland wins the 1st FIDE Online Olympiad for People with Disabilities
Wesley So wins Skilling Open

The first event on the $1.5 million Champions Chess Tour, the Skilling Open, took place from 22nd-30th November 2020, with participation of 16 top GMs.

The 16 participants: reigning World Chess Champion, Magnus Carlsen (NOR), Vachier-Lagrave Maxime, Ding Liren, Nakamura Hikaru, Nepomniachtchi Ian, Aronian Levon, Duda, Jan-Krzysztof, Radjabov, Teimour, Le Quang Liem, Svidler Peter, Wesley So, Anish Giri, Karjakin Sergey, Firouzja Alireza, Anton Guijarro David and Vidit Santosh Gujrathi competed in a single round-robin tournament from 22nd-24th November, to rank among the first 8 spots and qualify for the knockout phase. Wesley So and reigning World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen reached the Finals which consisted of two days with 4 matches.

The first day of the Finals concluded in a tie 2-2, after all decisive results in favour of whites, and after the second day tie, the finalists entered the blitz tiebreaks which decided the Winner of the event.

Wesley So won the first game with White pieces and hold a draw as black in the second tiebreak game to become the Winner of the first event on Champions Chess Tour!

The Final Day of the event was also the Carlsen’s birthday anniversary: “I have to apologize to Magnus for semi-ruining his birthday!” said Wesley So after winning a blitz playoff and the $30,000 top prize in the Skilling Open.

**Skilling Open Broadcasts**

All the games were live transmitted through chess24.com, with special live coverage of the event with broadcasts in 8 languages, 4 in English, and separate ones in Spanish, French, German, Italian, Russian, Turkish and Portuguese.

One of the broadcasts includes a state-of-the-art live studio in Oslo with GM David Howell and IM Jovanka Houska, hosted by Kaja Snare.
EU High Level Virtual Conference

European Union organised the High Level Virtual Conference with the main theme "The recovery of the sports sector after the COVID-19 crises: The way ahead".

The Conference brought together representatives of different European sports movements, EU institutions and EU member states. Senior officials of International Olympic Committee (IOC), European Olympic Committee (EOC), Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), European Parliament, European Commission, Council of EU and EU member states, sports industry and athletes and sports events’ organisers shared their views and discussed about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the sport.

The participants were able to ask the questions and to hear advices and opinions on COVID-19 impact to different sport activities.

European Chess Union actively took part in the conference, represented by its Secretary-General, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou.

The conference took place on Tuesday, November 17th.

The conference brings together representatives of sport movement, EU institutions and EU member states. Senior officials from IOC, EOC, UEFA, European Parliament, European Commission, Council of EU and EU member states, sport industry and athletes and sport events’ organisers share their views and discuss on the impact of the COVID-19 to sport.

Newsletter November 2020
European Chess Union & Hungarian Chess Federation organised for the European Federations representatives a special presentation with Q&A session for the bid of 2024 Chess Olympiad on Tuesday 1st December.

The President of the Hungarian Chess Federation Mr. Laszlo, presented the bid of Budapest for 2024 Chess Olympiad and answered the questions of European National Federation representatives.

Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, the President of European Chess Union, welcomed all the participants of the meeting and expressed his pleasure to hear the details about the bid and supported Hungarian Chess Federation in the will to introduce it to European National Federations.

The representatives of Hungarian Chess Federation announced the final presentation to be made during the FIDE General Assembly, which will be held on 6th December 2020, and when the final decision will be made.

European Chess Union supports Budapest and Hungary to host the 2024 Chess Olympiad and we are confident for a great event in history.
On behalf of ECU President Zurab Azmaiparashvili, we herewith invite all ECU members federations to attend the Annual ECU General Assembly 2020 to be held online on Saturday 19th of December 2020 at 10.00 CET.

Each National federation member can be represented by its Delegate or President. Representatives of Member Federations can be assisted by one counsellor each during the online meeting.

Agenda of the ECU General Assembly 2020 and Activity report can be downloaded from the ECU Website.
European Online Women’s Club Cup is organised by European Chess Union and Monte Carlo Chess Club, under the high patronage of his serene highness Prince Albert II of Monaco. It will take place online from 19th-22nd December 2020 through playing platform Tornelo.

The event was open to all European Chess Clubs, and 40 Clubs registered for the event. List of the registered teams can be found here. Among the participants are well known Grandmasters: Goryachkina Aleksandra, Anna Muzychuk, Maria Muzychuk, Alexandra Kosteniuk, Cramling Pia, Gunina Valentina and others.

Each team consists of 4 basic players and one reserve player. All the teams and players are recommended to play with a club branded attire and background visible for the event’s livestream coverage. The event will be played within Qualification groups of 8 teams, Round Robin 7 rounds and the first two teams of each qualification group will qualify for Final Group which will consist of 8 teams. Time control: 15min + 5 sec per player.

Groups will be divided according the average classic rating of 4 basic players according to FIDE December 1st, 2020 list. The first Team will become European Women’s Club Cup Champion 2020 and will receive the “Coupe Princesse Charlène” during the opening ceremony of the 2021 European Women’s Club Cup. The second and third team will receive silver and bronze e-medals. Top ranked four teams will be awarded also with money prizes: 1st Winner Team 2500 euros, 2nd Winner Team 2000 euros, 3rd Winner Team 1500 euros and 4th Winner Team 1000 euros. Individual e-Medals are won by 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place of each board of final Group. The first winner of each Board of final group will receive 200 euros (5 x 200).

ECU Certificates will be available for all Teams and players.

System and rate of play European Online Women’s Club Cup
The event will be played within four Qualification groups of 8 teams, Round Robin 7 rounds and the first two teams of each qualification group will qualify for Final Group which will consist of 8 teams. Groups will be divided according the average classic rating of basic players.

Time control: 15min + 5 sec per player.
ECU ANNUAL TRAINING PROGRAM-
Develop practical way of thinking!

European Chess Union and European Chess Academy, supported by FIDE Development Fund, organise the annual training program in period from December 5th 2020 to June 5th 2021.

CU annual training program is open for all ages and levels and will be organised within four levels:
> LEVEL 1 – for players below 1300 ELO
> LEVEL 2 – for players between 1300 and 1600 ELO
>LEVEL 3 – for players between 1600 and 1900 ELO
>LEVEL 4 – for players above 1900 ELO

The lectures will be held every Saturday at 10:00 am CET time (for level 1 and 3) and every Saturday at 12:00 pm CET time (for level 2 and 4).

Two nominees per European Chess Federation were supported by the European Chess Union (55 spots) and FIDE Development Fund (55 spots).

The lecturers are:
>GM, FST Adrian Mikhalchishin – More than 40 years of coaching experiences
>GM, FST Georg Mohr – More than 35 years of coaching experiences
>IM, FT Tadej Sakelsek – More than 15 year of coaching experiences

Detailed information about the event can be found in invitation down bellow or on the European Chess Academy website.
The London Chess Conference is the premier chess-related conference in the world. As part of the London Chess Classic in early December, international education and games experts gather for a weekend to discuss new research, current projects and practical knowledge on teaching, organising and communicating chess.

This year our theme is Chess and Technology with special regard to online learning, teaching and training. We are planning a hybrid conference with the core of the speakers and audience at our London venue and satellite gatherings in various cities. The conference stream will also be accessible online from everywhere in the world.

8th London Chess Conference – ChessTech2020 will take place online this year, on 5th and 6th December 2020.

T

he Conference is supported by the European Chess Union and keeps up with the theme Chess and Technology. The conference will focus on playing and teaching chess online, using sophisticated self-learning systems and will bring together the world’s leading experts in Chess & Technology. Expectations are that more than 400 decision-makers, technologists and multipliers, businesses representatives will attend the event.

Main themes under discussion will be: >Online Chess & Cheating Streaming >Hybrid events >Digital Strategy >Digital Formats >Online Learning Systems >Integrated hardware >Clubs and Teams >Time Controls >Playing Platforms

More details about the event and details about registrations for the event can be found on the official website of the conference.
Festival of Chess

December 28, 2020 - January 3, 2021

- Cash prizes
- Variants Chess960 and Take-me Chess
- Thematic and Handicap tournaments
- Battle of the Ages
- Blitz teams and Marathon events
- Webinars and lectures

Annual fundraising event

We are a fledgling platform for managing online and hybrid events. You’ll find a full schedule of awesome Arbiter-Led events with a small entry fee for each. Every entry supports the development of great new features for all our users!

home.tornelo.com/festival

SUPPORTED BY

European Chess Union
International Chess Federation

TORNELO FESTIVAL OF CHESS

Tornelo Online Platform for playing chess organises the Festival of Chess in period from 27th December 2020 - 3rd January 2021. The festival includes several events with many choices for the participants: 2021 Tornelo Open, Battle of the ages, Chess960, Skittles Handicap Event, Thematic Grades Tournament, Blitz Marathon (NYE), Teams Blitz, Take-me Chess, Lectures and Webinars.

All the details about the event and registrations can be found on Tornelo’s Website.
Chess - a game to be spread in schools

The first meeting for the implementation of the Erasmus project "Chess - a game to be spread in schools" took place Online on Friday 20th of November.

The meeting was attended by the co-ordinators and the partners of the program.

European Chess Union partners with the C.S.E.N. - the largest Sports Promotion Body in Italy, for the huge Chess in Schools Program, with a 424,000 EUR grant.

The main theme of the meeting was defining of the target of the program - developing certified #chess training programs in schools at classrooms, but also online.

Additionally matters to be discussed for the launch of the project.

a) Administrative management: rules to follow, documentation to produce, financing flows,

b) Organizational management: selection and three-year teacher/teacher placement plan, relations with schools, data collection, organization of mobility

c) Communication management: sharing the ways of contact between Partners, general project communication,

d) Intellectual production: details of output creation, identification of the figures, work plan, project objectives.
The very first online Spanish course ECU102 - Teaching Mathematics through Chess was well received by the attendees who have met their personal objectives and all of them would recommend the course to others.

All the participants successfully passed the online test for the ECU Chess and Mathematics Teacher Certificate.

**Feedback**

"The course met my personal objectives by linking the teaching of mathematics using Chess as the main tool."

"A very complete course to be prepared in this matter. I self-fulfill my expectations."

"Fully good topics and interesting exercises. I learned very interesting methods of approaching mathematics."

See all the graduates and upcoming courses at: www.chessplus.net
Twenty people took part, both primary school teachers who begin to teach chess lessons and extracurricular chess lessons, and experienced teachers with extensive experience in teaching chess in schools. There were teachers from Sakhalin, Siberia, Central Russia, big cities and small villages.

All the participants successfully passed the online test for the ECU School Chess Teacher Certificate.

FEEDBACK

"I was able to take a fresh look at some aspects of my work, as well as receive confirmation of many of my ideas on teaching chess."

"The seminar introduced the European model of teaching chess in schools, I really liked the didactic model and the SMART method."

"The course confirmed my interest, introduced me to the topic, understanding of the processes, the main vectors of development, the desire to study further."

See all the graduates and upcoming courses at: www.chessplus.net

**ECU101**
The SMART Method to Teach Chess

**TRAINING COURSE REPORT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course N°</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Language</th>
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<td>31 October 2020</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
<td>RUSSIAN</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
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ALEXANDER KOSTYEV

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Participants chess level:
- Beginner 21.1%
- Rated 36.8%
- Experienced 42.1%

20 Graduates
16 Female
4 Male
1 What are You doing in life in the current moment?
Wow! It is a difficult time! Right now, seems that it is perfect: friends, many free times, my husband and my children, my family. However, there are so many terrible cases with awful Covid-19. It is sad but we too often have been thinking and reading about that.

2 Your recollections with meetings with World Champions?
It is very interesting question. I know many World Champions: Tal, Smyslov, Petrosyan, Botvinnik, Kasparov, Anand, Topalov, Karpov, Spassky, Kramnik, Carlsen and all FIDE Champions. We made a lot of movies and programs about them for TV. Many times I made interviews with them and I love them all very much.

3 Your best game
I don’t remember. I did not play chess for long time, I made programs and reported on chess on TV and newspapers. Wow! I won two games with Yuri Averbakh and Andre Lilienthal!

4 Which Your achievement You consider to be most important.
I twenty years worked on TV. We have got a highest ratings at all sport’s channels. Together with my husband we got many prestigious Russian press awards.

5 Best and most important chess books.
David Bronstein -Zurich 1953

6 How did You start Your career.
I started chess at ten. The chess school of famous IGM Evgeny Vasukov opened near my home and I went to study there.

7 Your favorite openings.
French defense

8 Who was the most difficult and easiest opponent during Your career.
I am on my own

In several times and even different moments of life we like certain books, paintings and movies. I love Balzac, Maupassant, Zola, Remarque, Chekhov, Kuprin, Bulgakov… Now I try to watch only good light films.

10 Favourite city, food and drink.
Life is wonderful. I love to travel around the world. I love Linares, Paris, Chicago, Rome, New York and San Francisco…! I love all fruits! And fruit drinks!
Corona-virus times have shown us that chess can still be played also in unfortunate times of closed borders and restrictions to travellers. Several events have been run online since the beginning of the pandemic, using different platforms.

Four main international platforms have been broadly used over the past year to run online events: Chess.com, Tornelo, Lichess and, in a smaller way, Playchess.com. Each one of them has shown different qualities and point of strength, as well as different weak spots, but among them Tornelo gave some specific extra feature which enabled some events to get closer to OTB events than other platforms.

Let’s consider some common features of the platforms for online chess:
- They normally award a threefold repetition automatically when the same position has come up three times in the board.
- As well as the previous point, they normally award a draw for fifty moves automatically once the fiftieth move has been done.
- There’s no way to stop the clocks or ask the arbiter (check our previous article on the online arbiters) to intervene.
- Once a player disconnects, the platform automatically forfeits him.

Albeit as you know, these features, which are normal in the common practice of online events, they are clearly against the laws of chess. In fact, in the laws of chess a draw can be determined for threefold repetition or fifty moves only upon a correct claim of the player and not automatically.

Although this probably doesn’t constitute a very big issue in case of common friendly game, it is less acceptable in some official chess events, where a full respect of the laws of chess is more convenient as these events should be as more similar as possible to an over the board event, just played on the screen instead if the board.

And here comes up a feature which is currently available only in Tornelo, which lets the administrator of a tournament decide if the threefold repetition or fifty moves draw shall be automatically awarded or not. In a second case, in fact, exactly as in a regular over the board event, the player will have to summon an arbiter and ask him to check the game and determine the result accordingly.

How to do that?

With the second very important feature available in Tornelo (and not in other platforms) namely the “call the arbiter” button. This button, once clicked, immediately stops the clock of the game and rings a bell in the arbiter dashboard which notifies him his assistance is required (and who is requiring it).

Text by: IA Marco Biagioli - Attorney at Law, ITA Arbiters’ Commission, ECU Arbiters’ Council
This button, once clicked, immediately stops the clock of the game and rings a bell in the arbiter dashboard which notifies him his assistance is required (and who is requiring it).

When the arbiter clicks on the call, he is then taken into the particular game and a chat box with the players opens up, hence the arbiter can talk to the player and ask why he rang the bell, exactly as he would do in an over the board game with a player rising his hand.

Of course, this button can be abused, and some player may decide to click it just to stop the time and gain some extra seconds in an unfair way. But, if you think about it, isn’t it precisely the same that might happen in one regular event, having a player who unnecessarily stops the time to call the arbiter for a trivial reason? The answer is: yes, it is.

So, even in this scenario, Tornelo brings one online events closer to over the board chess, and as well the arbiter will have to act accordingly, giving a penalty to the player who abused the possibility to stop a clock.

And finally, let’s see another feature: generally, the platforms for online chess act in two ways once a player disconnects. They either forfeit him at once, either they suspend a game until the player comes back.

Both these solutions are unsatisfactory: forfeiting a player just because he lost his connection, maybe for just few seconds, looks like too harsh and suspending a game for good isn’t consistent with a tournament format.

And here we have another very interesting feature in Tornelo: once a player disconnects his time just continues to flow and he may come back, but only if he still has time in his clock, and continue his game, and this is also similar to any over the board tournament, where a player can just stand up from his board, and come back until he has time in his clock.

With this short summary of these innovative features in Tornelo, we don’t want to say it’s better or worse than other platforms for online chess, but just that it makes online chess closer to over the board events and is more consistent to the laws of chess.

Of course, to handle these features, there is also the need of having more arbiters than a normal online event, which can easily be run by a smaller number of people, or even by one, but for sure, this is also something getting us closer to over the board events!
After publishing an article about fair play and good manners in chess in the ECU Magazine last month, the ECU Arbiters’ Council received two comments from colleagues.

The first comments came from NA André Harding (USA). Regarding the first case, in his opinion, the white player didn’t do anything unfair when he benefitted from gaining an unexpected queen. He compares it with a player who has moved but forgotten to press his clock. The opponent can keep silent.

In the second case, according to André, the black player is deliberately not playing fairly. The white player was careless, but the black player was deceptive. He (André) would have ruled a win for the white player. If the black player really wanted to offer a draw, he should have properly done so after replying to the move of the white player.

The second comments came from IA-A Almog Burstein (ISR). In his opinion, it is obvious that the white player, in the first case, will not receive the “Green Card of Fairness”, but a player is allowed to legally exploit the opponent’s mistakes. In the second case, according to Almog, it seems that something is missing in the description of the facts. Did the arbiter ask the white player: “Did you offer a draw?”. If white’s answer was “yes”, it is clear that the result of the game is a draw. But if he replied in the negative, and the arbiter has no proof or reason to think he was lying, he should have ruled a win for the white player.

Almog ends his comments with a proposal: in case of a draw both players have to inform the arbiter about it.

Author of the article clarifies the 2nd case:

IA Tomek Delega, the author of the article, clarifies that the arbiter indeed asked the white player if he offered a draw. The white player denied it.

If someone feels the need to respond, please don’t hesitate to send your comments to ECU Arbiters’ Council (ecuarbiterscouncil@gmail.com).
Max Euwe said about chess:

> Whoever sees no other aim in the game than that of giving checkmate to one’s opponent will never become a good Chess player.

> Chess is a sport. The main object in the game of chess remains the achievement of victory.

> Strategy requires thought, tactics require observation.

Machgielis Max Euwe (May 20, 1901 – November 26, 1981) was a Dutch chess grandmaster, mathematician, author, and chess administrator. He was the fifth player to become World Chess Champion (1935–37). Euwe served as President of FIDE, the World Chess Federation, from 1970 to 1978.

In this edition of the ECU E-Magazine we prepared for you three winning positions by Beth Harmon.

White is on the move!

Solutions from October

Positions of Beth Harmon

#Puzzle 1
1. Kd2!! Bg7  [1... Kg7 2. Ns6 Kh6 3. Nxf5#] 2. Nd6 Bf8 3. Ne8#

#Puzzle 2
1. Qxg6!! Kg6 2. R1f6 Kg5 3. Rf5+ Kg6 4. Rf6+ Kh7 5. Rh5+ Kg7 6. Rg5+ Kh7 7. Bf5#

#Puzzle 3
"Chess makes you smarter!"