E-MAGAZINE APRIL 2021

European Chess Union

European Parliamentary event

GM Victor Bologan wins 1st European Online Parliamentary friendship tournament!
32 MPs participated the event!

European Online Amateur

After 18 days of European Online Amateur Chess Championship, the Winners of groups A,B,C and D have been announced!

#EuropeanAmateur

1000+ players participated in European Online Amateur Chess Championship 2021

IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI WINS FIDE CANDIDATES TOURNAMENT

Briefly..

1st European Online Parliamentary Friendship Chess Tournament with participation of 32 MPs from 15 countries took place on 16th of April 2021. GM Victor Bologan (Republic of Moldova) scoring 6 points won the competition.

1000+ players from 49 federations participated **in European Online Amateur Chess Championship 2021** organised from 10th to 28th of April.

European Small Nations Chess Championship 2021 took place from 17th-25th April 2021 in a hybrid format,(FIDE Zone 1.10). The winner of the event, IM Wiedenkeller Michael (LUX) was granted one of the European spots for the FIDE World Cup 2021.

European Online Hybrid Qualification event for the FIDE World Cup, is schduled from 22nd to 30th May 2021. The guidelines for venues were sent to Naitonal Federations.

ECU announced a number of activities for May 2021.

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
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NEPOMNIACHTCHI WINS CANDIDATES

FIDE Candidates Tournament continued from 19th of April 2021 in Yekaterinburg, after it was stopped due to Covid19 pandemic.

After another 7 rounds were played this year, Ian Nepomniachtchi (RUS) became the Winner of the event with a round to spare! Before the last, 14th round, Nepomniachtchi was full point ahead of the first runner-up Anish Giri, and in direct encounter, Nepomniachtchi has a victory.

A loss in the last round left Nepomniachtchi Ian with score of 8.5 points, but that was enough for the sole first place.

With a victory in the last round Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (FRA) scored 8 points and took second place, while Anish Giri (NED) was third with 7.5. points.

In the Closing and Awarding ceremony of the event ECU Vice-President Dana Reizniece-Ozola took part, awarding Maxime-Vachier Lagrave for the second place.

Total prize fund of the event was 500.000 EUR.

All the details can be found on the Official Website.

Photos ©Lennart Ootes/FIDE

Photos from the Official Website

Candidates Tournament

The World Chess Championship Match 2021 will be held from 24th November – 16th December in Dubai. The battle for the most important title in the sport of chess will be between the reigning champion Magnus Carlsen and his challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi.

European Parliamentary Chess Tournament

1st European Online Parliamentary Friendship Chess Tournament with participation of 32 MPs from 15 countries took place on 16th of April 2021.

The Winner of the event became GM Victor Bologan (Republic of Moldova) scoring 6 points to emerge on the top.

GM Van Wely Loek (the Netherlands) scored 5.5 points to win silver e-medal, while two players tied for the third place: Manukian Artak (Armenia) and Shtepa Sergey (Ukraine), with 5 points each. According to tiebreak criteria, Manukian Artak took the third place, and Shtepa Sergey came fourth.

The event was played individually, but the scores of the top three players from one Parliamentary team were cumulative for the Team rankings.

The team winner of the European Parliamentary Friendship Chess Tournament became Armenia (scoring 13.5 points).

Second place came to European Parliament Team with 12 points and Team of Ukraine.

Three unrated players (no any FIDE rating) tied for the first place in a special category for the best ranked unrated participants, each with 4.5 points. Tiebreak criteria decided that the first place in this special category goes to Hayrapetyan Mkhitar (Armenia) with score of 4.5 points. Second place came to Garcia Del Blanco Iban (Spain) and Mamoulakis Haralabos (Greece) took third place.

Results can be found on the ECU Website.

Some of the participants of the event competed from the Parliament venues!

All the games were LIVE broadcasted together with commentaries by WGM Keti Tsatsalashvili.

European Parliamentary Opening Ceremony

The Opening ceremony of the event took place shortly before the start of the 1st round, where ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, ECU Vice-President Mrs.Dana Reizniece-Ozola, ECU Secretary General Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou and FIDE Executive Director Victor Bologan (participant of the event!) addressed all the participants.

EUROPEAN ONLINE AMATEUR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2021 WINNERS

European Online Amateur Chess Championship 2021 launched on the 10th of April with the event for players rated 1000-1400 (A group). The event was played through Tornelo Online platform till 28th of April within A,B,C and D groups.

The events for A,B and C groups were played within two stages: Qualification and Finals (with participation of top ranked participants from Qualification phase), while D group had only one Final stage that decided the Winners.

More than 400 players from 43 European federations participated in the Qualification event of A group (for players rated 1000-1400) and the best 250 players proceeded to the Finals.
The Winners became:
1.Kovalenko Ivan (UKR), 8/9 points
2.Erarslan Okan (TUR), 8/9 points
3.Huseynova Dinara (AZE), 7.5 points

Full prize list and rankings can be found on the ECU Website.

European Online Amateur Chess Championship 2021 for players rated 1401-1700 (group B) took place with more than 300 players from 45 federations,the Winners are:
1.Erarslan Okan (TUR) 7.5points
2.Celik Ege Yigit (TUR) 7.5 points
3.Kumar Prajit Sai (NED) 7.5 points

European Online Amateur Chess Championship for players rated 1701-2000 (group C) took place from 24th-25th April through Tornelo Online platform. 355 players from 46 European federations participated the Qualification event and top ranked 208 players proceeded to Finals that decided the Winners.
The Winners are:
1.De Winter Arthur (NED) 9/9 points
2.Sahakyan Arman K (ARM) 9/9 points
3.Celik Berkay (TUR) 8 points

Final results, full prize list and Fair Play Panel announcement can be found on the ECU Website.

With the last stage of the European Online Amateur Chess Championship 2021 for players rated 2001-2300 (group D) the European Online Amateur Chess Championship 2021 concluded and the Winners have been decided:
1.Patrelakis Evaggelos (GRE) 9 points
2.Makridis Dimitrios (GRE) 8 points
3.Cofmann Veaceslav (GER) 7.5 points
Final standings can be found here.

European Online Amateur Championship

European Online Amateur Chess Championship took place from 10th-28th of April 2021, through Tornelo Online platform.
The event was played within 4 rating categories (A,B,C and D) within Qualification and Final stages, with 8 and 9 rounds, respectively.
Time control was: 10 min + 2 sec bonus increment

European Small Nations Championship

European Small Nations Hybrid Chess Championship 2021 took place from 17th-25th April 2021 through Tornelo Online platform.

After very intense finish of the event and 6 hours fights in the last round two players tied for the top throughout the event: IM Wiedenkeller Michael (LUX, 2445) and GM Ziska Helgi Dam (FAI, 2532). Both players won their opponents in the round 9 to score 8 points, each, and to tie for the first place.

Tiebreak criteria decided that first place and a ticket to the next FIDE World Cup goes to IM Wiedenkeller Michael (LUX, 2445)!

The winner of the event, IM Wiedenkeller Michael was granted one of the ECU spots in the forthcoming FIDE World Cup 2021.

Second place went to GM Ziska Helgi Dam (FAI, 2532) while GM Efimov Igor (MNC, 2416) was third with 7 points.

All the details about the event and final standings can be found on the ECU Website.

European Small Nations Hybrid event

European Small Nations Championship 2021 was played from 17th-25th April 2021 in a hybrid format. Each ESNA 1.10 Zone member Federation nominated one of its players and the event was held with 10 participants, as a 9 rounds round-robin tournament, with time control 120 minutes for the game for each player, with 30 seconds increment per move from move 1.

European Women Individual Chess Championship - Official Regulations

European Women Individual Chess Championship 2021 will take place from 8th-21st of August 2021, in Iasi, Romania.

The event will be played in 11 rounds, Swiss system, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from /move one.

Place	Prize	Place	Prize
1	10.000	11	1.900
2	8.000	12	1.800
3	6.000	13	1.700
4	4.000	14	1.600
5	3.000	15	1.500
6	2.600	16	1.400
7	2.300	17	1.300
8	2.200	18	1.200
9	2.100	19	1.100
10	2.000	20	1.000

The total prize fund of the event will be 60.000 EUR.

The 21st European Individual Women Chess Championship is a qualification event for the FIDE Women's World Cup 2022 or 2023. According to the FIDE regulations and the ECU Board decision, at least 10 players will qualify. The number of qualification spots may be increased with a decision prior to the start of the Championship.

All players and accompanying persons shall be accommodated in the official ****UNIREA Hotel due to the special sanitary measures for the conduct of the championship. Unirea Hotel is the official playing venue of the event.

The event is open for all players representing the Chess Federations members of the European Chess Union, regardless of their title or rating. Applications should be sent by national federations and there is no limit of participants per federation. **Registration deadline is 20th of June 2021.**

All players and accompanying persons shall be accommodated in the official ****UNIREA Hotel due to the special sanitary measures for the conduct of the championship.
All the players should follow medical protocol which is described in the Official Regulations of the event that can be downloaded down below.

All details and information can be found on the ECU Website.

MITROPA CUP 2021

Mitropa Online Cup 2021 will be played as an Online Hybrid event in a period from 3rd-12th May 2021 through Tornelo Online platform.

The event will be held in two sections, Open and Women, with 9 rounds. Each team, in both sections, will be composed of 4 players plus two reserve players, with one captain per time.

Time control of the event will be 90 minutes for 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes to finish the game, with 30 seconds increment for each move, starting from move one.

The event will be calculated for FIDE ratings.

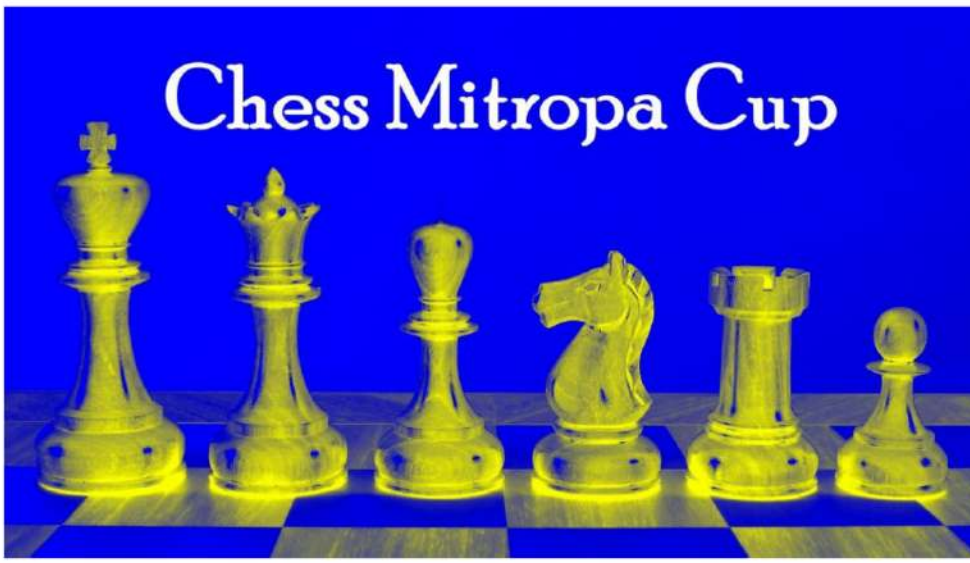
Each Federation of the Mitropa circuit was allowed to nominate one team for the open section and one team for the women section to represent it. List of registered teams and players can be found on the following link.

Every team play from a designated venue, decided by his/her Chess Federation, which cannot change during the Tournament unless major events bind the player or the Federation to do so.

The governing body of the Mitropa Online Cup 2021 is the Organizing Committee nominated by the Swiss Chess Federation, affiliated by ECU. The event will be organized with the kind support of the Swiss Chess Federation.

The Mitropa Cup is the annual team chess tournament for national teams from Central Europe. The traditional team event this year brings together 10 nations competing against each other in an Open and a Women section on 4 boards each. Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland.. The event commenced in 1976 in Innsbruck.

Details about the event can be found on the ECU Website.



European Girls' and Women's Chess Weekend will be marked Online from 15-16 May, with different activities: tournaments, coaching sessions, simultaneous exhibitions, workshops and panel debates open to all girls and women chess players!

EUROPEAN GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S CHESS WEEKEND

To ensure only female players participate in the tournaments, all tournaments are password protected. Passwords have been shared with all participating federations.
Alternatively, participants can send an email with name, date of birth and home country/town to following email address: hahn@deutsche-schachjugend.de.

Tournaments will be played through lichess platform, within a few categories: for beginners, for players rated U1300, for players U1800 and for others.

International girls and women team battle will be organized with national federations. Contact: https://lichess.org/@/Female_Europeans if your federation wants to be part of the battle.

During the weekend, four simultaneous exhibitions will be organised with: WGM Unuk Laura (live commentaries by WIM Lara Janzelj & WIM Teja Vidic), WFM Denise Trippold (live commentary WFM Nikola Mayrhuber), WGM Petra Papp, (live commentary WIM Inna Agrest) and GM Marie Sebag.

There will be 3 blocks of coaching sessions open to everyone and do not require sign up. Sessions will take place over twitch or zoom with WIM Jana Schneider, WIM Lara Janzelj and WIM Teja Vidic (Twitch), GM Marie Sebag, and small groups coaching sessions will take place with WGM Petra Papp and IM Elisabeth Pähtz.

All the information and links can be found here.

1st Online Workshop “Equal Opportunities”

The 1st Online Workshop “Equal Opportunities” will take place from 16th-19th of May 2021.

The main aim of the Workshop is to introduce and explore the most important information about chess players with disabilities. The participants will analyse the situation in chess and reach basic skills for interacting and accommodating people with disabilities acting as Organiser, Trainer and Arbiter.

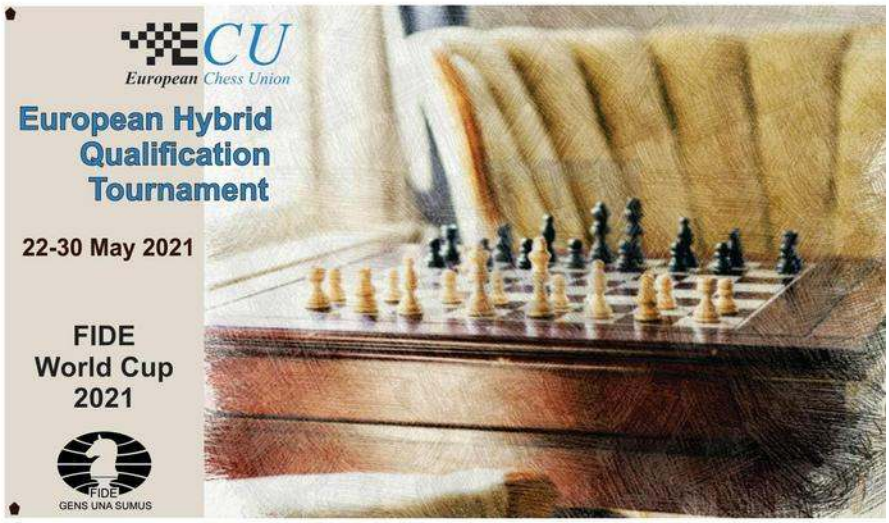
Details and registration form are available in the ECU website, altogether with contact information.

The following are the goals of the workshop:
> Increase participants’ awareness of disability issues and disability culture. > Educate Chess Arbiters, Trainers & Organisers providing special certificates of specialization.
> Inform about European programs and activities related with sports & disability

The lecturers are:
>Trainers: Thomas Luther, GM and FIDE Senior Trainer
>Organizers: Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, FM and International Organizer
>Arbiters: Carolina Muñoz Solis, WIM and International Arbiter

European Hybrid Qualification Tournament

European Hybrid Qualification Tournament for the FIDE World Cup will take place from 22nd-30th May and will be played in several venues, through Tornelo online platform.
36 players will qualify for the FIDE World Cup 2021.



The event will be played in a Knock out system with matches of 2 standard games + tiebreak if needed.

> 1st Round – Preliminary round (Random pairings)
>2nd Round – 288 players
>3rd Round – 144 players
>4th Round – 72 players
>Tiebreaks for Prizes

Rounds 2,3 and 4 will be paired according to regulations of the event which are published on the ECU Website, while the Final phase will be played as a Swiss tournament of 36 players, 9 rounds with a time control of 10 minutes + 3 seconds of an increment.

Time control of the standard games will be 120 minutes for the whole game with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one. Tiebreak matches will consist of 2 games with reverse colour, with a time control of 10 minutes + 3 seconds of an increment per move. If the score is still level after tiebreaks, the winner of the match will be decided in an Armageddon game.

All the players compete from the approved tournament halls per country. Tournament halls shall be selected and installed by federations and local organisers. Each National federation may select up to 2 venues that will be approved by European Chess Union. In exceptional cases, ECU may decide on more venues in one country.

In each playing venue, Zoom calls with screen sharing are mandatory. The event's Chief Arbiter shall be provided with all Zoom recordings. A detailed guide for the venues set up will be sent to National federations.

Hybrid event

REGISTRATIONS

Registration deadline is Monday 10th May 2021.

European National Federation have the right to nominate:
A. European Players rated 2550 and over (according to FIDE Standard rating list from 1st of April 2021)
B. 8 additional players if a national qualification event will take place
C. 5 additional players if a national qualification event will not take place

Registrations are made by the National Federation filling the special registration form and sending it to eocc@europechess.org

Prizes

The total prize fund for the event will be 32.000 euros. Money prizes can not be shared, but will be distributed according to tiebreak criteria which is defined within the regulations of the event.

Prizes are:
1st place- 3000 EUR
2nd place- 2500 EUR
3rd place- 2000 EUR
4th-6th place- 1500 EUR
7th-10th place- 1250 EUR
11th-20th place- 1000 EUR
21st-30th place- 500 EUR

All details about the event, altogether with Official regulations and registration form can be found on the ECU Website.

FRANCOPHONIE CHESS EVENTS

The Francophone Chess Association (AIDEF) organises 1st Francophone Online Chess Team Cup and Francophone Online Chess Team Championship this May. The events will be played online through Tornelo Online platform.

The 1st Francophone Online Chess Team Cup will take place from 15th-16th of May 2021, through Tornelo online platform.
The event will be played as a Team event, with teams consisting of 4 amateur players + 2 reserve players.
In each round, at least one female player shall represent the team.
The event will be played in 11 rounds, Swiss system, with time control: 15 minutes + 5 seconds per move.
In each round, each team shall be composed of one player rated below 2000 (FIDE) and 3 players rated below 1800 (FIDE), according to the FIDE rating list published on May 1st 2021.
The event is open to teams and players representing AIDEF member federations. Registration to the competition shall be done through the AIDEF email address a.i.d.e.f@aol.fr. **The registration deadline is May 12th 2021, 23h59 CEST.**

The 1st Francophone Online Chess Team Championship will take place from 29th-30th May 2021, through Tornelo Online platform.

Teams shall consist of 4 players+2 reserve players, and in each round, at least one female player shall be present in the team composition.

The 1st Francophone Online chess Team Championship will be played in 11 rounds, Swiss system, with time control of 15 minutes + 5 seconds per move.
The event is open to players and teams representing AIDEF member federations. Registrations shall be done through the AIDEF email address: a.i.d.e.f@aol.fr. **Registration deadline is May 26th, 2021, 23h59 CEST.**

All details about events and Official regulations can be found on the ECU Website.

Francophone Chess events 2021

Francophone Chess events in 2021 will take place Online.

The Francophone Chess Association (AIDEF) organises 1st Francophone Online Chess Team Cup and Francophone Online Chess Team Championship this May, and both will be played online through Tornelo Online platform.

Mr.Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou speaks to Chessdom

ECU Secretary General Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou gave an exclusive interview for the popular Chess news portal, which came back with a full redesign.

Among questions about European chess, Mr.Tsorbatzoglou emphasized the big importance of women chess and their successes in other spheres in life.

Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou

The interview of ECU Secretary General by chessdom.com:

"We want to connect ECU with European high profile institutions, European values and sporting heritage"

We are here with the General Secretary of the highest governing body of chess on the old continent. Mr. Tsorbatzoglou. The ECU has just launched a very nice heritage video. It is one of the many ECU initiatives that we see lately. Can you tell us more about it?

The positive thing about this pandemic era of about 2 years is that it gives us the need and the time to further develop our digital and creative services. We have developed in various areas such as online competitions, training, courses, meetings, e-commerce accounts. We have also increased our creative team, coordinated by our PR and marketing manager Ms Tea Kipshidze.

This video is a part of their work, and you will see more in the near future. In the last 2 years we have been working more on repositioning and upgrading ECU in the European Sport Market. The main project in this direction is the Golden Pawn Award Ceremony. A very ambitious event was organized in November 2019 for the first time in Monte Carlo and gave the new image and status of European Chess Union. The event is planned to resume after the pandemic break in 2022. The European Parliamentary Tournament, which ended a few days ago, was also a success for the first event and we are entering a series of European Parliaments. The cooperation in supporting youth chess activities with the European Investment Bank- Institute the funding from Erasmus program are other remarkable examples, on what we want to build on and connect ECU, European high profile institutions, European values and sporting heritage.

IIn the video the success and high standings of European players in the world rankings is mentioned. Just recently Ian Nepomniachtchi qualified through the Candidates for a all-European World Chess Championship 2021 final against Magnus Carlsen.

The strength of European Chess is an obvious fact. It was a great result of Ian Nepomniachtchi, but also in second place was Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (FRA) and in third Anish Giri. They all showed that they are ready to challenge the reigning world champion Magnus Carlsen (NOR) for the world title. In this context, I just want to say that I hope the European federations will not lose any of their great players in the future. Player transfer rules should be harmonized with international standards in major sports federations. The transfer of players between countries should not be treated as a club transfer, but as a process compatible with the representation of a country.

The World Championship is going to be played in Dubai as part of the Dubai Expo. Is this a chance to present the European chess to a wider audience and more international partners?

The last two World Championships in New York and London were great advertisement for Chess. Dubai match is also a very promising venue, linked to the World Expo. I don't think World Championship matches are a place to promote European Chess particularly. FIDE does a very good job in organizing these matches, which are the most valuable chess events in the world, so it's better to follow and support FIDE in this, as the result is beneficial for the whole chess community. Of course I will gladly visit the venue and be part of the historical moment.

ECU Secretary General interwieved by chessdom.com, popular chess-news portal.

You are from Greece and your country has just entered the "green" zone regarding the pandemic situation. Other countries on the continent are resolving the situation step by step too. Is it time for chess to return on the board?
Yes, it is time to resume activities over the board. Step by step, because not all events are the same cases. National events yes, international opens yes with all the rules existing in each country. As for the official European Championships, we are ready with three (3) major championships in August and at least 3-4 more are planned from September to December. Youth/school events, these are among the most difficult cases since there are no vaccines yet for Juniors U18 they are mass events that require large venues and gatherings.

There are also more restrictions and special permissions for federations to send youth squads abroad. But as ECU we will make every effort after the updates for each month to organize as many as possible over the board events in 2021.

Do you believe the events through this difficult year brought permanent changes as to where chess is played? Are they positive changes for the sport – do they bring it to larger audience and make it more accessible?
Yes, aside from the many problems the pandemic has caused for players, events, and chess clubs, associations, there is an upside. Chess continues to be played online and is gaining more audience, even attracting new sponsors who are more interested in digital and distant activities. Online chess platforms have been improved and much better organized to receive millions of players. Twitch and YouTube have opened up a new revenue stream for chess players. Coaches are becoming more adept at remote training and many referees became more diligent than before.
By resuming over the board activities and keeping some online events, we are expanding our services and accessibility. There are some events such as corporate and parliamentary competitions that are more convenient for participants when they are organized online or in hybrid mode. That is, through hybrid events that are better regulated now, we can have better communication and competitions between continents.

Women chess has been gaining popularity on the continent. The movie by Netflix "Queen's gambit" certainly helps. What are the initiatives that ECU plans?
Both ECU and FIDE are very focused in women's chess and through development programs. In the last two years many related activities have been organized. In May we have the European Girls' and Women's Week in collaboration with German Youth Chess Federation and the support of FIDE Women's and FIDE PDC Commission. It is true that the Netflix series "Queen's Gambit" has created a chess trend and more followers for our game. But when we talk about women's chess, we can be proud of the Women chess top players who are very successful and in the mainstream politics. Recently Antoaneta Stefanova was elected in Bulgarian Parliament and she received an honorary mandate to form a government. Our Vice-President Dana Rezience-Ozola was elected the best Minister of Finance in the EU two (2) years in a row and Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen is the Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament! It will be a better world if more women and additionally chess players get more involved in the politics of the states.

We should be proud of Women chess players

"As ECU we will make every effort after the updates for each month to organize as many as possible over the board events in 2021."

Missed translation...

I've always thought that knowing languages helps in life. It's easier to travel, get a job or be an arbiter on chess tournaments.
But ...

I have been a chess arbiter since 1989. During this time, I used mainly two Polish pairing programs, first it was Swiss Perfect and then Chess Arbiter. Both programs were released in English at some point, and since I basically work only for international tournaments, I started using only the English versions. I like both programs very much, but one of them has not been developed for a long time and is only suitable for running friendly tournaments, but the other is used successfully in Poland to this day.

I used the Chess Arbiter in European tournaments until 2013, but then started using the Swiss Manager. But in 2017, for FIDE World Cup 2017 I used Chess Arbiter again, to make the arbiter report (TRF files) faster.

For online events I still prefer to use Chess Arbiter, because is more flexible – for example I can collect all informations needed inside of the program, having not only club/team of the players, but also their nicknames or email addresses.
This software is also very useful for preparing CSV import file with the list of players for Tornelo, because you can easily create html file and then just copy-paste data from a browser into the CSV template from Tornelo, and then everything is ready.

However, for the results calculations I use Swiss Manager.

Text by:
IA Tomasz Delega

Chairman of the ECU Arbiters Council

Recently, I was pleased to agree to run Jan Macieja Memorial – an OTB blitz tournament in memory of the great visionary and organizer of many spectacular chess events in Poland, starting from the Millennium Blitz World Cup in 2000 thorough several European Championships. I received the draft of regulations and I told my colleagues that I have some doubts regarding tiebreaks, mainly because Chess Arbiter hasn't implemented virtual opponent method for Buchholz calculation in case of unplayed games.

Tournament's name:
World Cup 2017 - standard games

Main informations:	
Start date:	2017-09-03
End date:	2017-09-26
Place:	Georgia, Tbilisi
Rate of play:	40/90, 30 + 30
Arbiter:	IA Tomasz Delega
Organizer:	FIDE & Georgian Chess Federation

Missed translation...

They replied that many Polish arbiters checked these calculations and everything works as it should, and they ask me to check again, if possible, because maybe they are not right.
So I opened Chess Arbiter and checked. Only one FIDE method for tiebreaks is available **“FIDE system (for Buchholz and S-Berger – unplayed games counted as a draw against the player himself)”.**

It is what FIDE rules said before. But if several people telling you that virtual opponent method works here …

I made manual calculations and they are right, it works! So how it is possible that I didn't know about it? I changed the language version into polish and saw the same place in polish language **“FIDE method 2012 (virtual opponent for unplayed games)”.**

Everything is clear now, knowing languages is not always works ;-)

MEET CHESS LEGEND GM Michal Krasenkow
10 questions by GM Adrian Mikhalchishin

1) What are You doing in life in the current moment?
Waiting for the end of the current coronavirus disaster.

2) Your recollections with meetings with the World Champions?
I told about them in detail in the following interview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JoP3SMxGUo

3) Your best game?
It is impossible to name one. Nowadays computers find mistakes in every game. My best combination - from the game against Alexander Lagunow (Dnepropetrovsk 1985).

4) Which Your achievement You consider to be the most important?
Advance to the fifth round of the FIDE World Championship (Groningen 1997) and Top 10 in the world rating list in 2000.

5) Best and most important chess books?
Hard to name a few in every area of chess knowledge. I would recommend Kasparov's "My great predecessors" series for the history of chess ideas and Dvoretzky's "Endgame manual" for endgames.

6) How did You start Your career?
My grandfather brought me to the Moscow Palace of Pioneers in 1972, where I instantly got the 3rd category, started playing in tournaments, and was coached by the famous chess educator, Evgeny Penchko.

7) Your favourite openings?
I am devoted to some opening systems like the Sveshnikov system of the Sicilian defence, The Bagirov system in the Kings Indian defence etc. although generally I don't like today's extensively grown opening theory, based on computer analyses.

MEET CHESS LEGEND GM Krasenkow Michal

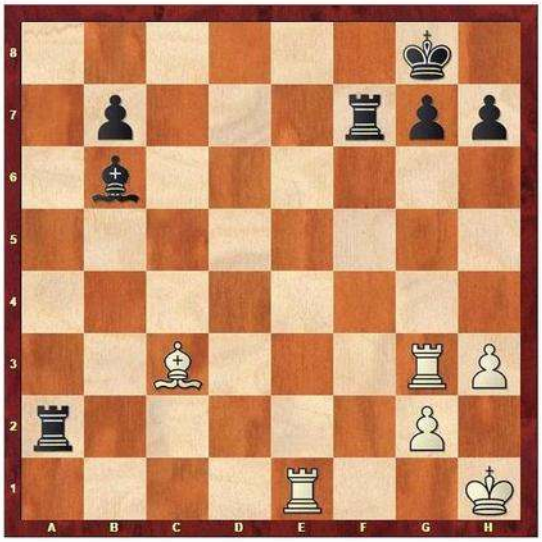
Photo by: Przemysław Jahr

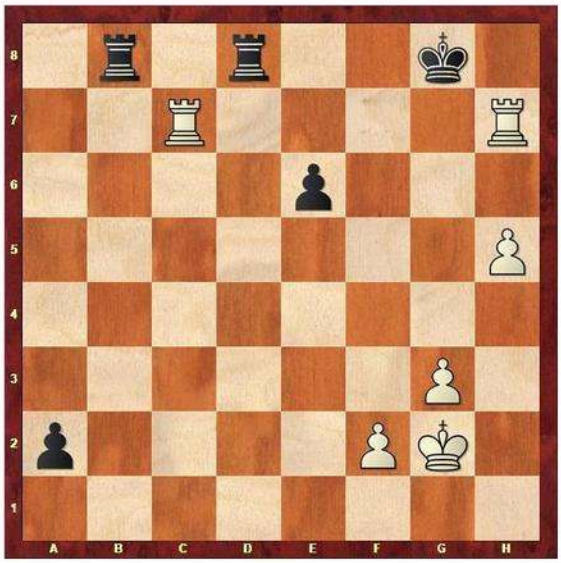
8) Who was the most difficult and the easiest opponent in Your career?
There are GMs against whom I had a very good score, e.g. the late Aloyzas Kveinys. Of difficult opponents, against whom I have a poor score, I can name Igor Khenkin.

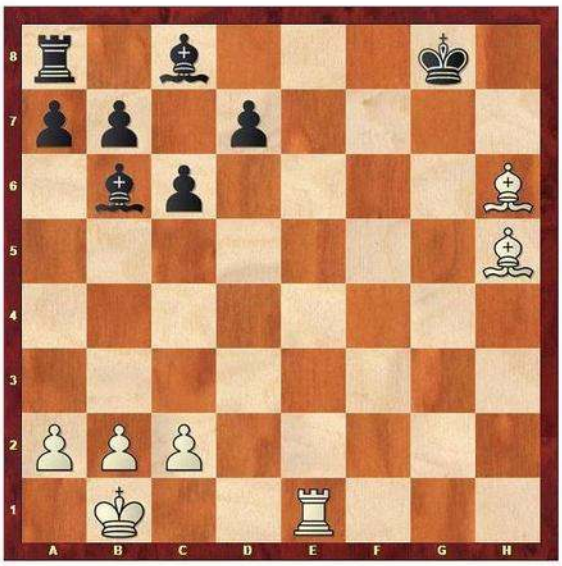
9) Non chess best book, film and singer for You.
I can't name a single book or film. Singer - definitely Vladimir Vysotsky, the great Russian singer-songwriter.

10) Favourite city, food and drink.
It is hard to name a single city. Maybe Tromso in Norway, due to fantastic nature and landscapes. Of food - hm... probably dumplings.

Interview by
GM Krasenkow Michal







Johannes Zukertort said about chess:

Johannes Hermann Zukertort (1842 - 1888) was one of the leading world players for most of the 1870s and 1880s. He was Polish-German-British who lost to Wilhelm Steinitz in the 1st World Chess Championship in 1886. In an unofficial Championship he was defeated by Steinitz in 1872.

Zukertort preferred closed or semi-closed openings such as 1.Nf3 or 1.c4 and in fact, in the early 1880s 1. Nf3 was known as "Zukertort's Opening", 40 years before it became known as the Reti Opening.

Best chess quote by Johannes Zukertort:
>**Chess is the struggle against error**

For this edition of the ECU E-Magazine we prepared for you 4 positions where White mates in 3 moves!

Solutions from March Magazine

#Puzzle 1:
1.Rf8!!+ Kh7 [1...Kxf8 2.Ng6#]
2.Bg8!+ Kh8 3.Ng6#
#Puzzle 2:
1.Na7+! Bxa7 2.Qxc6+ bxc6
3.Ba6#
#Puzzle 3:
1.Ne7 Kh8 2.Qh7!+ Kxh7
3.Rh3#
Puzzle 4:
1.Qg7!+ Kxg7 2.Nf5+ Kg8
3.Nh6#

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