



A Chess Board for All

ECU launches the campaign "A Chess Board for All".

Meet GM Pia Cramling

10 questions by GM Adrian Mikhalchishin



ECU Board meets in #Thessaloniki
Main information & Decisions



The ECU Board Meeting took place in Thessaloniki, Greece on the 4th and 5th of February 2022. The main session took place in Thessaloniki City Council Hall.

The European Chess Union launches the campaign “A Chess Board for All” with the aim of donating specially made chessboards to blind or visually impaired children and young people throughout Europe..

The European Women's Chess Gala will take place from 26th-27th February in Monaco. The event will feature various activities marking the 2022 as the Year of the Woman in Chess.

The European School Chess Championship 2022 will take place from 20 April (arrival day) to 30 April in Rhodes island, Greece.

The European Universities Games, will take place in Lodz, Poland from 14 to 30 July 2022.

European Corporate Chess Championship 2022 will take place in Rotterdam, Netherlands on 18 & 19 June.

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;

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ecu.secretary.general@gmail.com

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Communique of the ECU Board Meeting - CL No1/2022

The ECU Board Meeting took place in Thessaloniki, Greece on the 4th and 5th of February 2022. The main session took place in Thessaloniki City Council Hall on 4th of February. The Board was welcomed by the Deputy Mayor Mr. Nikolaos Zeimpekis and the President of the Greek Chess Federation Mr. Stathis Efsthopoulos.



Main information and decisions:

>The accounts for the year 2021 was approved.

>ECU program for the FIDE Development Fund 2022 was finalized. The activities include educational projects, Youth Training Programs, activities dedicated on Women's Chess, Seminars, innovative events, social projects, and Institutional development.

>The Board of ECU discussed the European Qualifiers for FIDE World Cup 2023. Due to the pandemic postponements, the qualification pathway of the European Championships for the Open and Women's competitions has been changed to a 3-year cycle. ECU Board strongly believes that qualification under equal conditions via Open Championships is the fairest procedure for all players.

Thus, it was confirmed that the 2022 European Chess Championship in Terme Catez Slovenia and the 2023 European Chess Championship in Moscow Russia will have 20 qualifying places each. We note that the 2021 European Chess Championship in Reykjavik has already allocated 23 qualification places.

>For the 2023 Women's World Championship, 28 qualifying places will be awarded through the European Chess Championship. 10 places have already been awarded at the 2021 European Chess Championship in Mamaia, Romania. The 2022 European Women's Championship in Prague, Czech Republic, and the 2023 European Women's Chess Championship in Budva, Montenegro, will each have 9 qualifying spots.

1st quarter ECU Board Meeting

The ECU Board Meeting took place in Thessaloniki, Greece on the 4th and 5th of February 2022. The main session took place in Thessaloniki City Council Hall on 4th of February.



ECU Board Meeting main information and decisions:



European Championships

- >European Corporate Chess Championship 2022 was confirmed in Rotterdam, Netherlands on 18 & 19 June.
- >European Chess Club Cup 2023 is awarded to Dures, Albania.
- >European Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2023 is awarded to Trebinje, Bosnia.
- >European Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2024 is awarded to Prague Czech Republic
- >European Corporate Chess Championship 2024 is awarded to Paris, France

A Chess Board for All

The European Chess Union launched the campaign "A Chessboard for All" with the aim of donating special chessboards to blind or visually impaired children and young people throughout Europe at first stage. The program is inspired by the "A Ball for All" campaign supported by UEFA and other major international organisations. ECU Board donated the first custom-made boards to the Thessaloniki School of Visual Impairment. The Chess Boards were delivered to the director of the School, Mr. Vasilis Messaritakis.

Additionally boards donated to National #Chess Federations to distribute in their countries. The delivery to National Chess Federations will be continued. More information can be found on the ECU Website.

The Board of ECU has also decided to coordinate more social projects with Elias Mastoras, Chairman of IBSA Blind Football, who has developed the programme "A Ball for All" and has also initiated a number of social chess projects.

Hybrid Match ECU – Berlin Chess Association

A Hybrid match was played on the 5th of February ECU Board vs Berlin Chess Association using the new technology of Millennium-55 boards. The match ended in a tie 2-2.

1. GM Adrian Mikhalchishin (ECU) won against FM Joachim Dr. Wintzer (BCA) 1-0, Ralf Schnabel (BCA) won the game against Sarkhan Gashimov (ECU). 1-0, Gunnar Bjornsson (ECU) lost to Juergen Brustkern (BCA) and Ralf Gebert-Vangeel (BCA) lost to IM Eva Repkova (ECU) 0-1

A Chess Board for All

The European Chess Union launched the campaign "A Chessboard for All" with the aim of donating special chessboards to blind or visually impaired children and young people throughout Europe at first stage.

Details about the program and delivery of the special boards can be found on the ECU Website and upcoming pages.

A Chess Board for All!

The European Chess Union launches the campaign “A Chess Board for All” with the aim of donating specially made chessboards to blind or visually impaired children and young people throughout Europe.

The donation will also be distributed to general schools and special schools for inclusive educational activities. Distribution started in February 2022.

The programme is inspired by the “One Ball for All” campaign launched by UEFA and other major international organisations. ECU will solicit donations from various organisations to distribute as many chessboards as possible and asks for any possible cooperation in the campaign.

The first 4 special boards were donated on 4th of February to the Thessaloniki School of Visual Impairment. ECU Secretary General Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, ECU Vice President and FIDE CEO Ms. Dana Reizniece-Ozola together with the Director of the Thessaloniki School of Visual Impairment delivered the special chess boards.

More details about "A Chess Board for All" campaign can be found on the ECU Website.





Hybrid Match ECU Board vs Berlin Chess Association



The Hybrid Chess Match on 4 four boards between the ECU Board Members and Berlin Chess Association representatives took place on 5th February 2022.

The match was played on the specially designed Millennium-55 boards, which allow players to play the moves without using PC or laptop.

After 1 hour of play and intense games, the match ended in a tied result 2-2.

Results per boards:
1. GM Adrian Mikhalchishin (ECU) won against FM Joachim Dr. Wintzer (BCA), on the board 2 Ralf Schnabel (BCA) won against Sarkhan Gashimov (ECU), on the board 3. Gunnar Bjornsson (ECU) lost against Juergen Brustkern (BCA) and on the board 4 Ralf Gebert-Vangeel (BCA) lost the game against IM Eva Repkova (ECU).

The match was played through Tornelo, and it was streamed live through the ECU Youtube channel.



TATA STEEL CHESS 2022

The 84th edition of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament took place in Wijk aan Zee from 14 – 30 January 2022.

Both Tata Steel Master and Tata Steel Challengers Winners were known before the start of the last round!

Reigning World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen won the Masters event for the 8th time in his career, scoring 9.5 points out of 13 rounds. Magnus Carlsen won the event with the round to spare, as in the last round he got the full point from the game against Daniil Dubov, who was tested positive for Covid19 and needed to leave the tournament a few days before its ending.

Mamedyarov Shakhriyar and Richard Rapport tied for the second place, scoring 8 points, each, but tiebreaks decided that Mamedyarov takes the second place and Rapport came third.

Final results of the Tata Steel Masters 2022 can be found through the Official website of the event.



*Photos from Official website of the event
(by Jurriaan Hoefsmit and Lennart Ootes)*

19 years old Erigaisi Arjun convincingly won the Challengers event with the final score of 10.5 points. With 8 victories, 5 draws and no loss Erigaisi conquered the top of Challengers section and qualified for the next year Tata Steel Masters.



Nguyen Thai Dai Van and Bjerre Jonas Buhl tied for the second place with 8.5 points, each, but eventually Nguyen Thai Dai Van came second and Bjerre Jonas Buhl was third.



Tata Steel Chess 2022

The 84th edition of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament took place 14th-30th January in Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands. The event with long tradition gathered top World Grandmasters and chess enthusiast in the same venue. This year, the event featured only challengers and masters event, while the amateurs events were cancelled. The children event took place online from 23rd-24th January.

FIDE Grand Prix 2022 started in Berlin

FIDE Grand Prix 2022 series of three tournaments opened in Berlin. The first tournament takes place from 3rd-17th February 2022, with participation of 16 players divided in 4 pools. The Winners of each pool will advance to the Knockout stage of the event.

After 4 played rounds rankings of each pool are:

Pool A:

1. Hikaru Nakamura 2.5/4 points
2. Alexander Grischuk 2/4 points
3. Andrey Esipenko 2/4 points
4. Etienne Bacrot 1.5/4 points

Pool B:

1. Vladimir Fedoseev 2.5/4 points
2. Radoslaw Wojtaszek 2.5/4 points
3. Richard Rapport 2/4 points
4. Grigoriy Oparin 1/4 points

Pool C:

1. Levon Aronian 3/4 points
2. Vidit Santosh Gujrathi 2/4 points
3. Daniil Duboc 2/4 points
4. Vincent Keymer 1/4 points

Pool D:

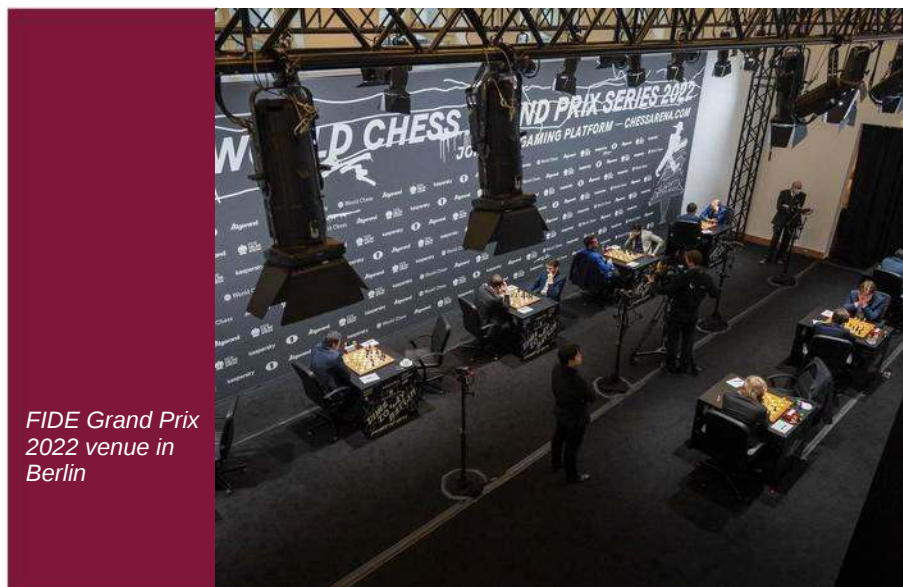
1. Wesley So 3/4 points
2. Leinier Dominguez Perez 2/4 points
3. Pentala Harikrishna 2/4 points
4. Alexei Shirov 1/4 points

Standings and more details can be found on the Official website of the event.



Players receive Grand Prix points according to their finishing position in each tournament. The two players with the most Grand Prix points across the two tournaments they play qualify for the Candidates Tournament 2022.

The second FIDE Grand Prix 2022 tournament will be held in Belgrade, from 28th February - 14th March, and the third and the last event will take place from 21st March - 4th April in Berlin.



FIDE Grand Prix 2022 venue in Berlin

FIDE Grand Prix 2022

Format of the events

Each 16-player Grand Prix 2022 event will consist of a group stage followed by a knockout semi-final and final. At the group stage, participants will compete in four double-round-robin tournaments, with only the winners of each pool advancing. Both semi-finals and the final will consist of 2 regular time limit games, plus tiebreaks if needed. The Winner and the runner-up qualify for the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2022.

Gibraltar Chess Festival 2022

The 2022 Gibraltar Chess Festival took place from 23rd January - 3rd February 2022 in the Gibraltar Garrison Library.

This year the Gibraltar Chess Festival featured the Battle of the Sexes event, with 10 rounds played between men and women teams. Each team had 10 players and one reserve player.

The representatives of Women's team were: Pia Cramling (SWE, 2452) - Captain, Mariya Muzychuk (UKR, 2539), Zhansaya Abdumalik (KAZ, 2491), Gunay Mammadzada (AZE, 2470), Antoaneta Stefanova (BUL, 2469), Marie Sebag (FRA, 2460),

Marsel Efoimski (ISR, 2437), Irene Kharisma Sukandar (IDN, 2407), Olga Girya (RUS, 2405), Jovanka Houska (ENG, 2365), and reserve player Nino Batsiashvili (GEO, 2491).

Representatives of the Men team were: Sabino Brunello (ITA, 2503), Bobby Cheng (AUS, 2550), Leandro Krysa (ARG, 2531), Bilel Bellahcene (ALG, 2508), Ravi Haria (ENG, 2490), Balazs Csonka (HUN, 2474), Joe Gallagher (SUI, 2447), Gillan Bwalya (ZMB, 2410), Husain Aziz Nezaad (QAT, 2379), Eric Rosen (USA, 2356), and reserve player Andrés Merario Alarcón (ESP, 2408).



Photos by: John Saunders Photography 2022

After 10 played rounds, the team Sabino (Men team named after their captain) won the event and the prize of 75.000€ as they defeated Women team with final score 53-47. As the runner-ups, Pia's (Women) team won the prize of 25.000€.



Final results can be found on the Official website of the event as well as the photo gallery and detailed reports per rounds.



The Winner team of the 2022 Battle of the Sexes Gibraltar

Gibraltar Chess Festival 2022

The Gibraltar Chess Festival 2022 took place from 23rd January - 3rd February 2022 in the Gibraltar Garrison Library. This year the event consisted of the Battle of the Sexes event, with 10 rounds played between men and women teams. Each team had 10 players and one reserve player.

European Women's Chess Gala

The European Women's Chess Gala will take place from 26th-27th February in Monaco. The event will feature various activities marking the 2022 as the Year of Women in Chess.

The European Women's Chess Gala includes:

A. Simultaneous Exhibitions with GM Pia Cramling and IM Almira Scripchenko, with awards ceremony and gala cocktail party

B. Special live stream debate and show for the promotion of Women's chess with many special guests

C. Youth Blitz Chess Tournament with special prizes for Girls participants.

D. Chess Team Rapid Matches with special guests and VIP persons.



Photo of Le Casino Monaco from Cedric Biscay twitter

FEDERATION MONÉGASQUE DES ÉCHECS

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CHESS GALA

26 FEBRUARY 2022

ATRIUM CASINO DE MONTE-CARLO

10:00 - 13:00
Simultaneous Prince Albert Ier

GM PIA CRAMLING - 16 players
 IM ALMIRA SKRIPCHENKO - 16 players

AWARDS CEREMONY & COCKTAIL PARTY
 Special Award to GM Pia Cramling

18.00 - 20:00
Monte Carlo Chess Club / Salon Trianon Hotel Hermitage
 Spécial Live Stream Debate / Show for the promotion of Women's Chess

MONTE-CARLO SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER

LE CASINO

FIDE
 GENS UNA SUMUS

ECUCU
 European Chess Union Since 1985

27 FEBRUARY 2022

11.00.
Salon Trianon Hotel Hermitage
Youth Blitz Tournament
 Special prizes for Girls participants

16.00.
Salon Trianon Hotel Hermitage
Rapid Team Tournament
 with participation of special guests and VIPs

THE ART NEWSPAPER **THE ARTExchange**

European School Chess Championship 2022

The European School Chess Championship 2022 will take place from 20 April (arrival day) to 30 April (departure day) in 5 stars "Rodos Palace" conference resort, located in Rhodes island, Greece.

The European School Chess Championships are part of the "Rhodes Chess Festival 2022", together with the Rhodes Spring Open (also 20 – 30 April 2022) and the FIDE World Youth/Cadet Blitz & Rapid Championships (30 April – 4 May 2022).

The event will be played in 6 age categories: U7, U9, U11, U13, U15 and U17, open and girls sections separately. System of play will be Swiss system, 9 rounds, with time control: 90 minutes for 40 moves + 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move starting from move 1. If, in any age group, there are 11 to 15 participants only 7 rounds will be played. If in any age group there are 10 or fewer participants a round-robin tournament will be played.

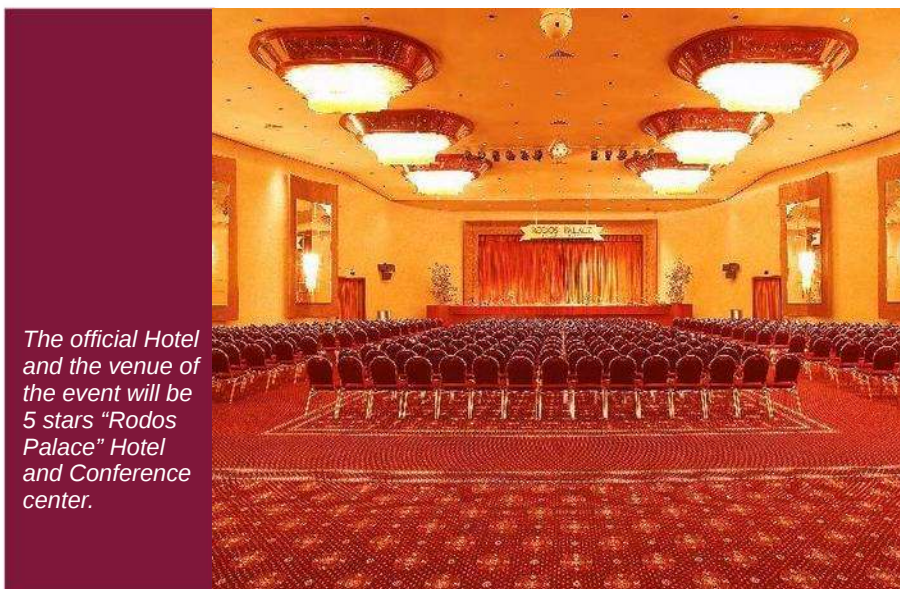
The official Hotel and the venue of the event will be 5 stars "Rodos Palace" Hotel and Conference center.

Official regulations and invitation for the event can be found through the ECU Website or through the Official Website of the event.



Prizes

All the players will receive a certificate of participation. The 3 best ranked players of each category will be awarded with trophies and medals. The best 3 teams-federations of the Championship. For the team standings, the best 6 individual results (points) per federation in all categories will be calculated. The 1st winner of each European School Championship category shall have the personal right to participate as an invited player in the World School Championship of the corresponding or of a higher age category if the relevant stipulation of the FIDE Tournament Regulation is met.



The official Hotel and the venue of the event will be 5 stars "Rodos Palace" Hotel and Conference center.

European School Chess Championship

The European School Chess Championship 2022 will take place from 20th-30th April (departure day) in Rhodes island, Greece.

The event will be played in 6 age categories: U7, U9, U11, U13, U15 and U17, open and girls sections separately. System of play will be Swiss system, 9 rounds.



The European Universities Games, will take place in Lodz, Poland from 14 to 30 July 2022. Student-athletes will compete in as many as 20 disciplines. This means that up to 6,000 players from all over Europe will take part in the Polish edition of the European Universities Games (EUG).

European Universities Chess Championship 2022

Students will compete in the largest academic sport event in Europe, from around 400 European universities, from at least 40 countries.

The European Universities Chess Championship 2022 part of European Universities Games will take place from 14th-20th July in Lodz, Poland.

The Championship will be played within two team events: Blitz and Rapid. Teams shall be composed of two players each, with one Man and one Woman player. Participants should be athletes aged 17-30 and be enrolled in higher education studies. The registration is conducted by the national university sport bodies in Europe. Please contact them if you wish to register your teams.

The second General Entry deadline for registrations is set for February 15 and the third deadline for late registrations on March 15.

The format of the tournaments will be Swiss system, with time Control of Rapid: 25 min + 10 sec and time Control of Blitz: 3 min + 2 sec.

The team with the best (accumulative) results in Blitz and Rapid events will become the European Universities Chess Champion. Second and third-ranked teams will receive medals. The best individual players of each tournament will be awarded with medals.

Details about the regulations can be found on the official website of the games.

10 HIGH QUALITY LECTURES



10 HIGH QUALITY LECTURERS

www.europechess.org
European Chess Union

IMPROVE YOUR CHESS

February 28th - March 31st 2022, every Monday and Thursday



GM Dorfman Iossif

"Static play"
Monday, February 28th 2022, 5pm CET



GM Cheparinov Ivan

"Fighting for the initiative"
Thursday, March 17th 2022, 5pm CET



GM Prusikin Michael

"Strategy of the attack on the king"
Thursday, March 3rd 2022, 5pm CET



GM Sokolov Ivan

"Material imbalance"
Monday, March 21st 2022, 5pm CET



GM Jankovic Alojzije

"King walking through the fire"
Monday, March 7th 2022, 5pm CET



GM Mikhachishin Adrian

"Isolated pawn in the endgame"
Thursday, March 24th 2022, 5pm CET



GM Kogan Arthur

"Make all your pieces smile: How to achieve harmony"
Thursday, March 10th 2022, 5pm CET



GM Nielsen Peter Heine

"Training of top players"
Monday, March 28th 2022, 5pm CET



GM Papaioannou Ioannis

"Attack with opposite-colored bishops"
Monday, March 14th 2022, 5pm CET



GM Sulypa Oleksandr

"Dynamic defense in Ivanchuk's games"
Thursday, March 31st 2022, 5pm CET

CONTACT:

IM Tadej Sakelsek
tadejsakelsek@gmail.com
info.zavod.esa@gmail.com

ENTRY FEE:

5 lectures - 50 €
6 lectures - 60 €
7 lectures - 70 €
8 lectures - 80 €
10 lectures - 90 €
Special discount for clubs and federations: Option 3-1, Option 5-2

ONLINE REGISTRATIONS:

www.european-chessacademy.com
TIME: 5pm - 7pm CET
VENUE: Zoom platform

European chess Union and European Chess Academy organise the fourth volume of the Lectures program "Improve Your Chess" with leading Chess Trainers worldwide from 28th of February to 31st of March 2022.

"Improve Your Chess" Training program volume 4

The lectures will be held twice a week, every Monday and Thursday, from 5pm – 7pm CET.

Full program of the high quality lectures with top trainers will feature 10 lessons.

The lecturers are: GM Iossif Dorman, GM Prusikin Michael, GM Alojzije Jankovic, GM Kogan Arthur, GM Papaioannou Ioannis, GM Cheparinov Ivan, GM Sokolov Ivan, GM Adrian Mikhachishin, GM Nielsen Peter Heine, and GM Sulypa Oleksandr.

Participants can select your preferred lecturers/dates for the following prices:

>5 lecturers (entry fee 50 €),
>6 lecturers (entry fee 60 €),
>7 lecturers (entry fee 70 €),
>10 lecturers (entry fee 90 €).

More details about the registration and additional group offers can be found on the official website of the European Chess Academy.

IA Tomasz Delega
together with
IA Marika Japaridze,
IA Shohreh Bayat and
IA Tania Karali
during the
World Rapid & Blitz
2021 in Warsaw



The difference between a good arbiter and not the best one – episode 2

As the first article under this somewhat provocative title aroused great interest, and more importantly suggestions included there are being implemented by arbiters in practice, I decided to continue the series. This time it will be about the difference in competences of arbiters, which comes from arbiter's own experiences as a chess player. Being a practising player definitely helps to understand what is happening in the chess game and to understand emotions of the players that accompany it.

Imagine a situation, where in a standard game one of the player is not recording some moves on his scoresheet. Both are in time trouble having about one minute on the clock plus 30 second increment, one player started skipping writing moves after move 43, and after move 47 the difference on the scoresheets was four moves, two whites and two black. An arbiter being present at the chessboard the whole time and seeing the difference between scoresheets did nothing for the next twenty moves. On move 67 the player writing correctly blundered a rook and then, annoyed made a claim that the opponent didn't write all moves. The arbiter said to the opponent "please complete the scoresheet on your time". The offending player said to the arbiter that his scoresheet is correct, so the arbiter started comparing moves on the scoresheets and explained exactly the offending player where he started skipping moves. Then the arbiter gave both scoresheets to the offender, started the clock and violating player completed his scoresheet based on the opponent scoresheet, and made his next move. For the arbiter the case was over, but from the perspective of the claimant, you can imagine how he felt. Finally, the player writing correctly resigned.

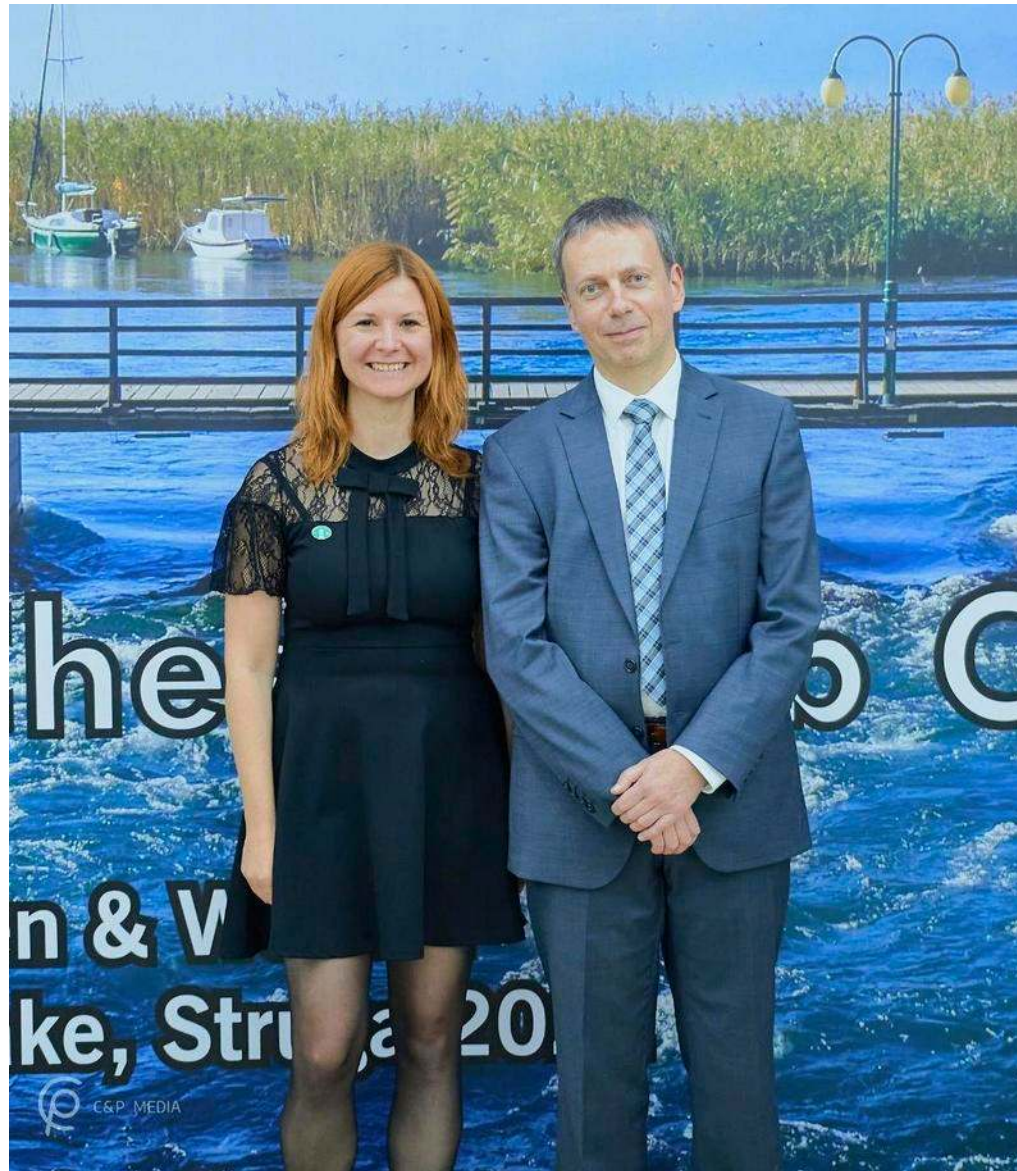
Two things seem to be obvious. First, the arbiter was completely passive. According to Laws of Chess 12.1 *The arbiter shall see that the Laws of Chess are observed* 12.2.1 *The arbiter shall ensure fair play* 12.3 *The arbiter shall observe the games, especially when the players are short of time, enforce decisions he has made, and impose penalties on players where appropriate.* Second, the player writing correctly could have made a claim earlier, before he blundered the rook, but he didn't. A more interesting for us is why this happened. The player was waiting for the arbiter to intervene, because he had seen the arbiter present at the chessboard. The arbiter didn't react because, according to him, he was not sure if the claimant scoresheet was correct and he didn't consider the violation as something important for the player. But every experienced player knows, that not recording the moves may give an advantage, especially in case of playing in time trouble, when the players have about one minute on the clock, plus increment. Writing moves takes time and causes the player turn away from thinking for a while, not writing saves time and does not cause loss of concentration and it can be a decisive in some situations.

Text by:

**IA Tomasz Delega
Chairman of ECU AC**

"The difference between not the best arbiter and a good one is that good one is able, based on his experience as a player, catch all nuances that may affect the chess game."

IA Tomasz Delega
together with
IA Ana Srebrnic
during the
European Club Cup
in North Macedonia
Lake Ohrid 2021



Text by:
IA Tomasz Delega
Chairman of ECU
Arbiters' Council

The difference between a good arbiter and not the best one – episode 2

Continuing, why the arbiter, after the claim, ordered the opponent to complete the scoresheet, giving him the scoresheet of the player? Probably he intended to follow 8.5.2 *If only one player has not kept score under Article 8.4, he must, as soon as either flag has fallen, update his scoresheet completely before moving a piece on the chessboard. Provided it is that player's move, he may use his opponent's scoresheet, but must return it before making a move.* But the mentioned article is about the case, where the player is allowed not to write, in case of no increment is given, but not a general rule for completion of the scoresheet. Moreover, showing the offender the exact places, where he skipped the moves, the arbiter helped him to correct and complete the scoresheet.

So how the correct procedure should look like in such case? Seeing a difference of four moves between both scoresheets, the arbiter should immediately order the offender to keep writing the moves and should give him at least a warning, as a first penalty form article 12.9 (depending on the stage of the game and importance of violation). It is not the matter of arbiter to help the offender to complete the scoresheet. If the offender is not able to have a correct scoresheet, the arbiter should use next, more strict penalty form article 12.9 and finally should declare the game lost by the offending player based on article 12.9.6. The difference between not the best arbiter and a good one is that good one is able, based on his experience as a player, catch all nuances that may affect the chess game.

MEET GM PIA CRAMLING

10 questions by GM Adrian Mikhalchishin

1) What are you doing in life at the current moment?

I am still playing chess after all these years!

2) Your recollections of meetings with the World Champions?

I played against Anatolij Karpov twice in The Spanish team Championship 1995 and 1996. I drew 1995 and 1996 I lost against him.

Vassily Smyslov we played 15 times. First time was in Dortmund 1986 closed GM-tournament, it was a draw, 2nd time was in Haninge Sweden 1989 also a closed GM-tournament and it was a draw. Then I played with Vassily in 6 matches between Veterans and Ladies during the years 1992-1999 and each time with black and white so that is 12 more games. I lost one of the games and won 2 of them and the remaining nine were draws, then we also played once 1997 in Sigeman Malmö and that was also a draw. In total 15 games: 2 wins for me, one lost game and 12 draws.

Boris Spassky 11 games. Five matches Veterans against ladies between 1995 and 1999 so that is 10 games: 8 draws, one win and one lost for me. Then we also played in Sigeman in Malmö 1998 and that was a draw.

Michail Tal one game in a closed tournament in Tel Aviv 1990 a draw. Viswanathan Anand Open Lugano 1988 a draw and Biel-B GM-tournament 1989 also a draw but that was before he became World Champion. We also played in Villarobledo 2006 but that is rapid and it was also a draw.

Ruslan Ponomarev I beat him 1996 in a closed tournament in Pamplona Spain and I lost to him in the Spanish team Championship 2006. Alexander Khalifman a draw in Hamburg GM closed tournament 1991. Veselin Topalov I only played him in rapid now in Salamanca 2021 and I lost.

3) Your best game?

I am sorry but I do not know. My most memorable game is my first encounter with Viktor Kortchnoi, who for long time was my idol. We played in Lloyds Bank 1982 on the podium where the topboards were played and the game



Photo from European Team Chess Championship 2021, Terme Catez, Slovenia

Afterwards there was a huge crowd around our table and Kortchnoi (and also Stean) analyzed the game for a long with me. I had an easy win just in the end but made a mistake but was anyway so happy that I got to play against my chesshero who was also at that time the world nr 2.

4) Which Your achievement You consider to be most important?

To become a Grandmaster

5) Best and most important chess book?

Best and most important chess books. For a very long time of course Informator. The 100 endgames you must know. New In Chess Yearbooks



Pia Cramling with her family in Baku Chess Olympiad 2016

6) How did You start Your career?

I have a brother Dan who is 4 years older. As a kid I did everything he did, like football and tabletennis. 1973 there was a Chessclub "Passanten" starting in our suburb. Dan who already played chess at home and with friends joined the club the first day. I who did not know anything about chess hesitated but after half a year I followed Dan to the club. From the very first day I loved chess and have never stopped playing since then.

7) Who was the most difficult and easiest opponent during Your career?

The easiest is Juan as we always agree a draw. Though we have played a long game a long time ago in Lugano Open 1984. It was adjourned but also finished in a draw. When I was young, I was not happy when I had to play against Lars Karlsson - a Swedish Grandmaster.

8)Your favorite openings?

Different Sicilian Openings.

9) Non chess –best ,book, film and a singer for You?

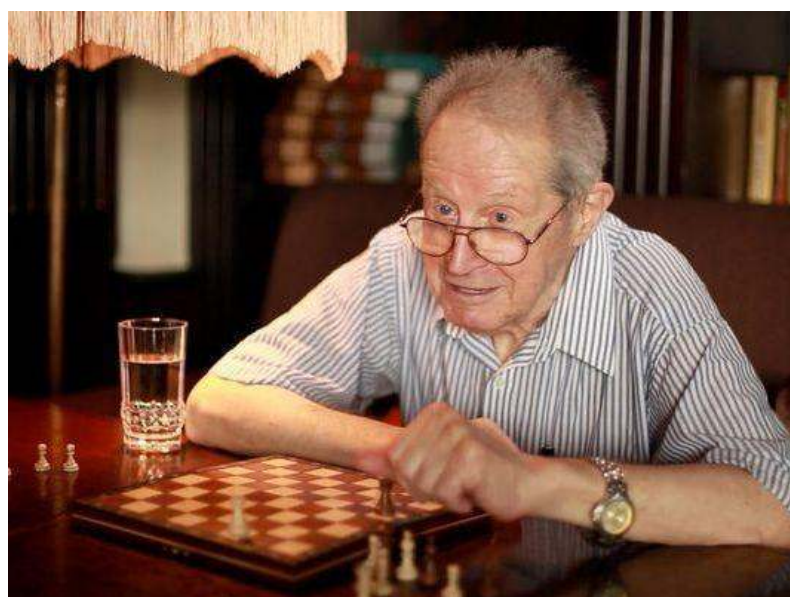
The Book is "Thieves Market" of the Swedish author Jan Guillou. Movie: "The godfather" and the singer is Freddie Mercury.

10) Favorite city, food and drink?

My hometown Stockholm, Juan´s salad with avocado. Green tea

Meet Pia Cramling

Pia Cramling became the 5th Women to earn the GM title in 1992. Since the early 1980s, she has been one of the strongest female players in the world as well as having been the highest rated woman on 3 occasions.



**GM YURI
AVERBAKH
CELEBRATES
100TH
BIRTHDAY
ANNIVERSARY!
Congratulations!**

>Yuri Averbakh celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary on February 8. He was born in 1922 in USSR. Yuri Averbakh is a Russian chess grandmaster and author. He was chairman of the USSR Chess Federation from 1973 to 1978.

>His first major success was the first place in the Moscow Championship of 1949, ahead of players including Andor Lilienthal, Yakov Estrin and Vladimir Simagin. He became an international grandmaster in 1952. In 1954 he won the USSR Championship ahead of players including Mark Taimanov, Viktor Korchnoi, Tigran Petrosian, Efim Geller and Salo Flohr. Averbakh's other major tournament victories included Vienna 1961 and Moscow 1962. He qualified for the 1953 Candidates' Tournament. He also qualified for the 1958 Interzonal tournament at Portorož, by finishing in fourth place at the 1958 USSR Championship at Riga.

January 2022 edition of the ECU Magazine is dedicated to the oldest living Grandmaster in the World Yuri Averbakh. We present three positions where Averbakh made combination to win as White!

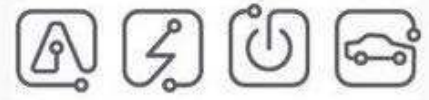
Photo by: Russian Chess Federation

**Solutions from
December Magazine**

- #Puzzle 1:**
1...Qxf2!!+ 2.Rxf2 Re1+ 3.Bxe1 Rxe1#
- #Puzzle 2:**
1...Bf2+ 2.Ke2 Nd4+ 3.Kd3 Nc5#
- #Puzzle 3:**
1...Qxf1!+ 2.Kxf1 Bd3+ 3.Ke1 Rf1#
- #Puzzle 4:**
1...Qxh2!+ 2.Kxh2 Bxf2+ 3.Bh5 Rxh5#



AiGROUP



4 healthy energetics



"Chess makes you smarter!"