



## European Women's Gala

European Women's Chess Gala, a special multi-event dedicated to Women's Chess, took place on 26-27 February in Monaco.

## FIDE GRAND PRIX 2022

Soon after the 1st FIDE Grand Prix event finished in Berlin, the 2nd leg kicked off in Belgrade.



CU  
European Chess Union  
Since 1985

# HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!

DEDICATED  
TO  
UKRAINE



## FOR PEACE! FOR FREEDOM!



#SupportUkraineChess



**The Board of the European Chess Union** met in extraordinary session on Thursday 3rd of March to discuss the situation in Ukraine and appropriate measures.

**European Women's Chess Gala**, a special multi-event dedicated to Women's Chess, took place on 26-27 February in Monaco. The event was supported by Monaco State, European Chess Union and FIDE Development fund.

The European Chess Union **invites the National federations members to submit bids** for the organization of the official European Chess Championships in 2024 including combined bids for next years.

**FIDE Grand Prix 2022** series of three tournaments opened in Berlin. The first tournament of the series took place from 3rd-17th February 2022.

**The FIDE Grand Prix 2022 series** continued with the second leg in Belgrade, taking place from 28th February - 14th March.

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](http://www.europechess.org)

[ecu.secretary.general@gmail.com](mailto:ecu.secretary.general@gmail.com)

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## ECU suspends the Russian and Belarusian Chess Federations

The Board of the European Chess Union met in extraordinary session on Thursday 3rd of March to discuss the situation in Ukraine and appropriate measures.

The European Chess Union strongly condemns the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the involvement of Belarus and expresses its solidarity and support for the Ukrainian people. We feel deep sorrow for all the victims of the war and their families.



## Decisions and main information from the ECU Board extraordinary meeting:

The ECU condemns the members of the chess community who have expressed their support for the brutal and unacceptable invasion of Ukraine. The ECU is setting up a special communication channel for any person or entity willing to assist the Ukrainian #Chess Community. For this purpose, the special hashtag #supportUkraineChess has been established. Already several offers of assistance have been received from European federations.

The ECU Board, taking in consideration the recent decisions of FIDE Council, the recommendations of the IOC and acting within its constitutional powers declares:

1. The ECU is committed to the ECU General Assembly 2014 unanimous resolution respecting sports jurisdiction according to the IOC rules and territorial integrity according to the UN maps and resolutions.

2. Since the participation of Ukrainian Chess players in the forthcoming European Championships and thus their qualification to the World Championship cycle is constrained, ECU will initiate a qualification event to be organized in 2023 with special zonal qualification spots allocated for the respective Ukraine's zone.

3. With immediate effect, ECU suspends the Russian and Belarusian Chess Federations. The consequences include, but are not limited to:

>A) ECU suspends all competitions/ events/seminars to be held in both Russia and Belarus and prohibits the display and use of both countries' flags, anthems, colors, and symbols.

>B) With immediate effect Russian and Belarusian national teams and clubs will be excluded from all events on the ECU calendar. The decision shall be ratified by the ECU General Assembly. ECU notes that the major European team events are scheduled for October and November 2022.

>C) Individual players representing Russian or Belarusian federations shall be excluded from all ECU competitions unless they change federation or by their expressed will represent the FIDE flag. in the rating list.

>D) No trainer, arbiter or official from Russia or Belarus will perform any duty during the forthcoming European Chess Championships or in any subsequent ECU events.

4. The ECU Board notes the proposal of the Ukrainian Chess Federation to expel the Russian Chess Federation, and this matter together with the above ECU Board decisions shall be considered by the following ECU General Assembly. With a strong concern the ECU Board emphasizes that the Supervisory Board and Board of Trustees of the Russian Chess Federation include several sanctioned individuals, including the Russian Minister of Defence. The ECU Board recommends that the matter

### ECU Board extraordinary session

The Board of European Chess Union met in extraordinary session to discuss the situation in Ukraine and appropriate measures. With immediate effect, ECU suspends the Russian and Belarussian Chess Federations.

For further questions and information contact the ECU Secretariat.

# #SupportUkraineChess

ECU sets up a special communication channel between any person or entity willing to help the Ukrainian Chess Federation or the players.

For this purpose, the special hashtag #supportUkraineChess has been established. Please contact ECU through its secretariat or social media.

We are pleased to announce and forward the first very kind offers (reaching to us) of support and solidarity to Ukrainian Chess friends:

**GIJON 64 CHESS CLUB**, situated in the north of Spain is ready to receive a Chess family from Ukraine in Gijon, offering hospitality and training with the assistance of GMs. Please contact: Francisco Javier Iglesias Leon GATITO1972@hotmail.com

**UPPSALA SWEDEN CHESS ACADEMY** offers to Ukrainian players/families training for young people, arranging tournaments in Uppsala or just offering a place to stay until the war will end. Please contact: Carl Fredrik Johansson cfj@gambit.se

**FRENCH CHESS FEDERATION** is setting up a specific call to help for Ukrainian Chess friends and not only. Please contact solidariteukraine@ffechechs.fr, the Fédération Française des Echecs will do everything in its power to help those in need. Press release.



The ECU is setting up a special communication channel between any person or entity willing to help and the Ukrainian Chess Federation or the players.

## #SupportUkraineChess

Please contact the ECU through its secretariat or social media.



### PORTUGUESE CHESS FEDERATION

Federação Portuguesa de Xadrez is ready to welcome and accommodate young players, trainers from Ukraine and assist them play tournaments or coaching. Please contact: fpx@fpx.pt

### THE CHESS COMMUNITY IN VIENNA

can accommodate some refugees, alone, as a couple or with family. Ukrainian speakers are there to assist. Please contact Stefan Loffer on sl@chesstech.org

### GERMAN CHESS FEDERATION

supports Ukrainian chess players fleeing to Germany. Write an email to ukrainehilfe@schachbund.de for more information.



#Solidarity  
WithUkraine

## #SupportUkraineChess

For the purpose of setting up a special communication channel between Ukraine Chess Federation and players, and people who are willing to help, ECU established hashtag #SupportUkraineChess.

For more information contact ECU Secretariat.

# European Women's Chess Gala

European Women's Chess Gala, a special multi-event dedicated to Women's Chess, took place on 26-27 February in Monaco. The event was supported by Monaco State, European Chess Union and FIDE Development fund.

The activities started on Saturday, 26th of February. IM Almira Skripchenko and GM Pia Cramling had the simultaneous exhibition, playing a simul on 16 boards. The Prince Albert II of Monaco participated in the event, following the games.

The chess legend GM Pia Cramling was awarded with the Special Prize for her contribution to chess. The Prince Albert II of Monaco took part in the ceremony and distributed the special prize to GM Pia Cramling.

The special LIVE Stream Debate Show for the promotion of Women's Chess was held on Saturday afternoon, and it was broadcasted through ECU Facebook page and ECU Twitch channel.

The second day of the event opened with a tournament for youth. The best ranked players got prizes, and the best girl player was awarded with the special prize.

On Sunday afternoon, the Blitz Gala Tournament with participation of special guests and VIP persons took place in Hotel Hermitage.



After 5 played rounds, GM Socko Bartosz won the event with the perfect score, IM Paetz Elisabeth was second with 4 points, and GM Bagheri Amir took third place with 3.5.

Among the participants were ECU Secretary General, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, and Chairperson of FIDE Planning and Development Commission Mrs. Sonja Johnson.

Rankings and results can be found through the ECU Website.



*Prince Albert II of Monaco awarded GM Pia Cramling with the special award for her contribution for Women's Chess.*



## European Women's Chess Gala

As FIDE declared the 2022 as the Year of Women in Chess, European Chess Union hold the European Women's Chess Gala, a special multi-event dedicated to Women's Chess.

The event took place on 26-27 February in Monaco, and it was supported by Monaco State, European Chess Union and FIDE Development fund.



The special LIVE Stream Debate Show for the promotion of Women's Chess was held on Saturday afternoon, and it was broadcasted through ECU Facebook page and ECU Twitch channel.

Sonja Johnson, Chairperson of FIDE Planning and Development Commission, moderated the debate. ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili and ECU Vice President and FIDE CEO Mrs. Dana Reizniece-Ozola were first to join the live studio and discussed the impact of Women in Chess, as well as the impact on Chess by Women. They also explained what are the steps to improve Women's position in chess society.

Sonja Johnson then hosted IM Eva Repkova – ECU Vice President and the Chairperson of FIDE Women in Chess Commission, together with Jean Michel Rapaire - Chairman of ECU Women's Commission and President of Monaco Chess Club. They spoke about the importance of FIDE decision to declare year 2022 as Year of Women in Chess.

Shortly after, GM Pia Cramling and IM Paehtz Elisabeth joined the ECU studio with Sonja Johnson and spoke about their chess careers and personal experiences and thoughts about women position in chess.

The famous chess couple WGM Monika Socko and GM Bartosz Socko joined the studio and spoke how the everyday life looks in the house of two chess players.

Women's Chess Champion of Monaco WGM Dornbusch Tatiana and 14 years old chess talent from Monaco Berezovsky Fiorina were the last to participate in the debate. They expressed their feelings about the European Women's Chess Gala taking place in Monaco.

The debate can be replayed through the ECU twitch channel.

## Debate Show for the Women's Chess

The special LIVE Stream Debate Show for the promotion of Women's Chess was held on Saturday afternoon, and it was broadcasted through ECU Facebook page and ECU Twitch channel.



*ECU Secretary-General participated in Gala tournament*



*Prince Albert II of Monaco at the simultaneous exhibition*



*WGM Dornbusch Tatiana and 14 years old chess talent from Monaco Berezovsky Fiorina at the LIVE debate*

# European Women's Chess Gala

After the European Chess Union launched the European Golden Pawn project which took place in Monaco in 2019, the ECU decided to this year change the format of the event and dedicate it to Women's Chess.

European Women's Chess Gala, was a special multi-event with simultaneous exhibitions, chess tournaments, debates and live program that could have been followed throughout the Europea and wider.

The event was organized by European Chess Union and supported by Monaco State, Prince Albert II of Monaco and FIDE Development Fund.

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



*The best ranked girl player of the youth event was awarded with the special prize.*



*ECU President Azmaiparashvili Zurab and ECU Vice President Dana Reizniece-Ozola opened youth event.*

# FIDE Grand Prix 2022, Berlin

FIDE Grand Prix 2022 series of three tournaments opened in Berlin. The first tournament of the series took place from 3rd-17th February 2022.

The participants of the first Grand Prix event were: Hikaru Nakamura, Alexander Grischuk, Andrey Esipenko, Etienne Bacrot, Vladimir Fedoseev, Radoslaw Wojtaszek, Richard Rapport, Grigoriy Oparin, Levon Aronian, Vidit Santosh Gujrathi, Daniil Dubov, Vincent Keymer, Wesley So, Leinier Dominguez Perez, Pentala Harikrishna and Alexei Shirov.

After the group phase of the event where 16 players were divided into 4 pools, Hikaru Nakamura, Richard Rapport, Levon Aronian and Leinier Dominguez Perez qualified for the final knock-out phase as they emerged as the winners of their pools.

The semi-finals were played between Hikaru Nakamura and Richard Rapport, and Levon Aronian faced Leinier Dominguez.

Both Hikaru Nakamura and Levon Aronian won their first games of the semi-finals and then hold the draw in the game 2 to secure their seats for the final match.



The final match between two USA players started peacefully, with two draws and the tiebreaks were required to decide the Winner of the first FIDE Grand Prix event of 2022.

Nakamura won the first tiebreak game, and Aronian needed a win to come back into play. Aronian tried to force the victory, but eventually lost the second game and Hikaru Nakamura won the event.

Details and results can be found on the Official Website of the event.



Photos by  
Official Photo  
FIDE Grand Prix  
Berlin Press Kit

## 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.



*FIDE Vice-President Mr. Lukasz Turlej at the Opening ceremony*



*Minister of Youth and Sports of Serbia opened the 1st round of the event*

# FIDE Grand Prix 2022, Belgrade



The FIDE Grand Prix 2022 series continued with the second leg in Belgrade, taking place from 28th February - 14th March.

The event opened with welcoming speeches of President of Serbian Chess Federation Mr. Dragan Lazic, and FIDE Vice President Mr. Lukasz Turlej.

They addressed all the guests and participants, wishing them good stay in Serbia.

Among the attendees were: most celebrated Serbian Chess player Mrs. Alisa Maric, President of National Assembly of Serbia, Mr. Ivica Dacic and other distinguished guests.

*WGM Alisa Maric gave an interview to FIDE discussing women's participation in chess events.*

*Watch the interview through the FIDE Youtube.*



*FIDE Grand Prix in Belgrade attracted many visitors and spectators, as well as the youngest chess players.*



Photos by: Mark Livshitz and SCF

The participants of the 2nd FIDE Grand Prix leg are: Andreikin Dmitry, Giri Anish, Vidit Santosh Gujrathi, Vachier-Lagrave Maxime, Shankland Sam, Vitiugov Nikita, Rapport Richard, Yu Yangyi, Bacrot Etienne, Harikrishna Pentala, Fedoseev Vladimir, Mamedyarov Shakhriyar, Grischuk Alexander, Tabatabaei M. Amin, Shirov Alexei, and Predke Alexandr.

As in the previous event, 16 players are separated in 4 groups: A, B, C and D and only the Winners of the groups stay at the competition, proceeding to knock-out final stage.

After 6 played rounds at the group stage of the event, four players emerged as sole winners of their respective groups.

Dmitry Andreikin became the Winner of group A, after dramatical last round of the pool phase. With score of 4 points, he was half a point ahead of Shankland Sam.

Anish Giri maintained the leadership of group B throughout the event and with score of 4 points he was a full point ahead of the runner-ups Vitiugov Nikita and Tabatabaei Amin.

Richard Rapport was first in the group C, with 4 points, while Vidit Santosh Gujrathi came second with 3 points.

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave won the D group, being ahead of Mamedyarov Shakhriyar and Predke Alexandr who tie for the 2nd place with 3 points, each.

Results and games can be followed through the official website.

### FIDE Grand Prix 2022, Belgrade

The second leg of the FIDE Grand Prix 2022 takes place from 28th February - 14th March in Belgrade, Serbia.

16 players fight to score their best and qualify for the Candidates Tournament 2022.



## BIDDING PROCEDURE

**Deadline: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

# INVITATION FOR BIDS – EUROPEAN CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

The European Chess Union invites the National federations members to submit bids for the organization of the official European Chess Championships in 2024 including combined bids for next years.

The bids must be submitted exclusively in the Bid form regulated by the ECU (in the attachment). For any additional documents delivered separately from the bid form, it must be stated in the bid form what they relate to. Any document that reaches the ECU office after the official deadline will not be taken into consideration.

**The deadline for bids to reach the European Chess Union office is the Friday 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2022, by 4 PM CET.** All the bids must reach the European Chess Union office by e-mail [ecu.secretary.general@gmail.com](mailto:ecu.secretary.general@gmail.com)

A. The bidding procedure is open for the following ECU Chess Championships in 2024 (including combined bids for European Individual Championships for next years):

>European Individual Open Championship (estimated number of players: 350)  
>European Open & Women Team Championship 2025 (est. number of players 350 – teams 70)  
*\*Bids for No1 and No2 events are accepted as a combined bid (dates are different as also, venues can be different)*

>European Individual Women Championship (est. number of players: 150) *\*Bids for European Individual Women Championships can be combined with European Youth Championship 2026 or another ECU Championship for the year 2025*  
>European Senior Individual Championship (est. number of players: 200)  
>European Senior Team Championship (estimated number of players: 200 – 50 teams)  
>European Youth Team Championship (estimated number of players: 200 – 50 teams)  
>European Rapid & Blitz Championship (estimated number of players: 700)  
>European Women's Rapid & Blitz Championship (estimated number of players: 100)  
>European School Championship (estimated number of players: 400)  
>European Amateur Championship (estimated number of players: 200)

More details about bid fees and capacity of the Playing Halls can be found on the ECU Website.

### Invitation for BIDS

The European Chess Union invites the National federations members to submit bids for the organization of the official European Chess Championships in 2024 including combined bids for next years.

Deadline for submitting bids is **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2022.**

Details can be found on the ECU Website.

Text by:  
IA Tania Karali



## Let's talk Hybrid – Moving further

We have written before about Hybrid chess being the closest solution to OTB conditions, when travelling is not an option. In this article we will move one step further and speak about the Millennium chess boards, which are especially designed to eliminate the use of a virtual chessboard during a game.

On February 5th, an exhibition team match was organised between members of the ECU Board and players from the Berlin Chess Association, where every team had 4 players. The purpose of this match was to try the Millennium boards that their manufacturer, Millennium 2000 GmbH, had donated to ECU.

The ECU Board was represented by GM Adrian Mikhalchishin, Sarkhan Gashimov, Gunnar Bjornsson and IM Eva Repkova and the Berlin Chess Association by FM Dr. Joachim Wintzer, Ralf Schnabel, Juergen Brustkern and Ralf Gebert-Vangeel.

Every player had in front of them a Millennium board, a laptop and a ChessLink module. A module is a small device that serves to connect the board and the player's laptop via a USB cable and needs to be connected to a power source at all time. The set up is individual for each player, meaning that the boards are not connected to each other or the arbiter's computer, as in OTB events.

The idea behind these boards is simple:

- the match (or individual game) is set on an online platform (tornelo was chosen for this match)
- the player makes a move only on the physical board
- the move is transmitted via the platform and indicated on the opponent's board by LEDs

- the opponent sees the initial and final square of the piece the player moved
- the opponent copies the move on his physical board
- the opponents continues with making his own move

The simplicity of this way of playing is that the players only need to use the physical board for playing and not a virtual one, whereas in a "classic" hybrid match they would need to move on the virtual board first and then copy the moves to the physical one. Thus, they avoid confusion and can focus on their game on the physical board only. Of course, the computer is still needed as it provides the clocks and the controls to start the game, offer a draw or resign.

The Millennium chess boards also offer various settings for the brightness of the LEDs and the speed of transmission. A disadvantage that we noticed during the match is that each player needs a sufficient amount of time to copy the opponent's move, before they can make their own (making a move before transferring the opponent's move is considered illegal by the board). An increment of at least 30 seconds after each move is recommended for that purpose. Overall, it was an interesting experience for both teams.

### Text by: IA Tania Karali

In this article, international chess arbiter Tania Karali speaks about the Millennium chess boards, which are especially designed to eliminate the use of a virtual chessboard during a game.

The boards were used in the match between ECU Board members and representatives of Berlin Chess Association in early February.



**Mikhalchishin, Adrian**  
**vs**  
**Dr. Wintzer, Joachim**  
**[D38] ECU-Berlin,**  
**05.02.2022**

Analysis by GM Adrian  
Mikhalchishin

GM Adrian Mikhalchishin's game ended with a beautiful mating tactic, which you can see here with Mikhalchishin's analysis.

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bb4 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Nf3 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 Qa5 9.Qc2 c4 10.Bf5 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3** [it was possible to play endgame with Bishop pair 11...Qxc3 Qxc3+ 12.bxc3]

**11...g6?** [Better was 11...0-0 12.0-0 Re8 13.Nd2 g6 14.Bxd7 Nxd7 15.Rae1 (15.f3 Kg7 16.Bf4 Nb6 17.e4 Be6 18.Rae1 Qa4 19.Qb2 Qc6 20.Be5+ f6 21.Bg3 Na4 22.Qa3 b5 1-0 Panchenko,A-Gonzalez,L/C. Villalba op 1995 (37)) 15...Nb6 16.f3 preparing e3-e4, Bacrot,E (2500)-Rogers,I (2600) Linz 1997]

**12.Bxd7+ Nxd7** [[#]]

**13.e4!** [It was possible to stop castling with 13.Bh6]

**13...0-0 14.0-0 f6** [There would be very weak Black squares after 14...Nb6 15.e5]

**15.Bh6 Re8 16.Rfe1 Nb6 17.e5** [fighting for Black squares]

**17...Bf5 18.Qd2 Nd7 19.Qf4!?** [Risky and aggressive. After the game I would prefer a calmer approach] [19.Nh4] **19...fxe5 20.Nxe5 Qa6** [It was necessary to accept pawn sacrifice 20...Qxc3]

**21.g4 Nxe5 22.Rxe5 Be4 23.Rxe8+** [Some counterplay was possible after 23.f3 Rf8 24.Bxf8 Rxf8]

**23...Rxe8 24.Re1 Qc6** [Only chance was pawn sacrifice 24...g5]

**25.f3 Bd3 26.Re7!** [Classical mating trick!]

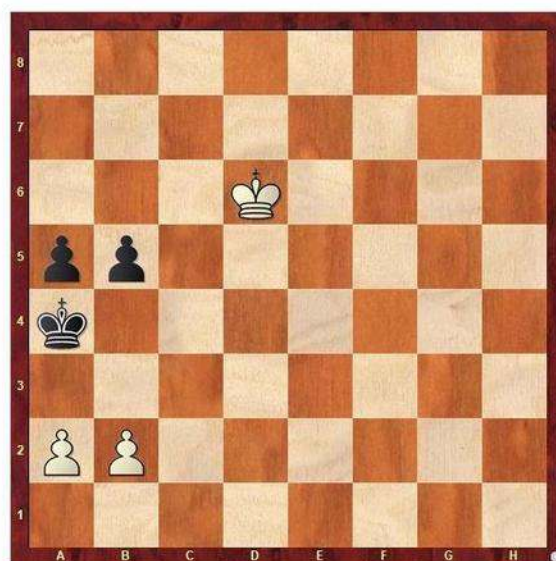
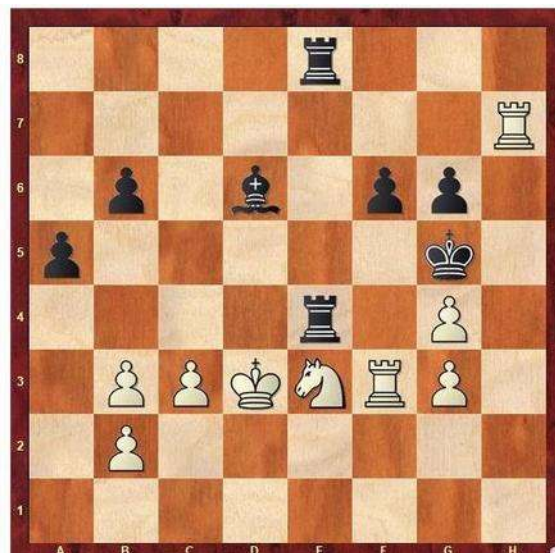
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### ECU Board vs Berlin Chess Association

On February 5th, an exhibition team match was organised between members of the ECU Board and players from the Berlin Chess Association, where every team had 4 players.

GM Adrian Mikhalchishin's game ended with a beautiful mating tactic, which you can see here with Mikhalchishin's analysis.



>Under no circumstances should you play fast if you have a winning position. Forget the clock, use all your time and make good moves.

*In February 2022 edition of the ECU Magazine, we present three positions where White mates in three moves!*

# PAL BENKO SAID ABOUT CHESS

>Errors have nothing to do with luck; they are caused by time pressure, discomfort or unfamiliarity with a position, distractions, feelings of intimidation, nervous tension, overambition, excessive caution, and dozens of other psychological factors.

>Sometimes players need to gain time on the clock by repeating the position, but most often its purpose is to wear down the opponent psychologically.

>Patience is the most valuable trait of the endgame player.

>Typically, in the last round of open tournaments the level of play is markedly lower, the number of blunders higher.

## Solutions from January Magazine

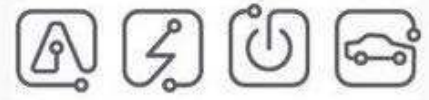
**#Puzzle 1:**  
1.Nf6+! gxf6 [1...Kh8 or 1...Kf8 2.Re8#] 2.Re8#

**#Puzzle 2:**  
1.Nxe5!! dxe5 2.Bxe5 Kf8 3.Bxc7 +-

**#Puzzle 3:**  
1.Rxd6 Bxd6 2.Ng6+ Kh7 3.Bxd6 +-



**Ai**GROUP



*4 healthy energetics*



*"Chess makes you smarter!"*