



ARTEMIEV VLADISLAV  
WINS GIBRALTAR  
CHESS MASTERS 2019



EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL  
CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP  
2019 REGULATIONS



EUROPEAN WOMEN  
CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP  
2019- REGULATIONS



VLADIMIR KRAMNIK  
RETIREES FROM  
PROFFESIONAL CHESS

## EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



### Magnus Carlsen wins Tata Steel Chess 2019

Reigning World Chess Champion, Magnus Carlsen (NOR, 2835), wins the Tata Steel Chess 2019. Repeating his success of the last year, Carlsen made the record as the only player who became the Winner of Wimbledon of chess for the 7th time.

Tata Steel Masters 2019 got the clash of the leaders in the last round, when Magnus Carlsen and Anish Giri (NED, 2783) played for the first place. Carlsen needed a draw in the last round to become the sole Winner of the event, and that is what happened after good defense and slightly better position with black pieces in Sveshnikov variation. Even though Carlsen had opportunity to play for a win, the draw was claimed in the 29th move.

Magnus Carlsen reached 9 points, without a lost game, and stood on the throne of the event, while the second place went to Anish Giri with score of 8.5 points. Three players tied for the third place, each with 7.5 points: Nepomniachtchi Ian (RUS, 2763), Ding Liren (CHN, 2813) and Anand Viswanathan (IND, 2773), but according to additional criteria, Nepomniachtchi ended on the third place.



Simultaneously with the Masters event, the Challenger event got its winner who is also a qualified player for the next Tata Steel Masters- Kovalev Vladislav (BLR, 2687). Kovalev scored impressive 10 points, out of 13 games, without a single lost. Esipenko Andrey (RUS, 2584), Gledura Benjamin (HUN, 2615) and Chigaev Maksim (RUS, 2604) reached the same score of 8.5 points each, but according to the tiebreaks, Esipenko was second, Gledura ended third, and Chigaev took the 4th place.

Besides the main events, Tata Steel Amateur events took place at the same venue, which was a unique opportunity for amateurs and chess lovers to play chess next to their chess idols and world top players. Around 1800 players were competing on the various tournaments of Tata Steel Amateur tour which gave youngsters the chance to develop and improve their skills in a fun environment.



Also, Tata Kids of Steel Chess events were organized with idea to inspire children of all ages, while coming face-to-face with their peers. This year, there were around 1000 children participating in simultaneous chess games throughout the event. @photos from the [Official Website of the event](#)



## Artemiev Vladislav wins Gibraltar Chess Masters 2019

Young rising chess star Artemiev Vladislav (RUS, 2709), reigning European Blitz Chess Champion, became the Winner of one of the strongest open tournaments, Gibraltar Chess Masters, with score of 8.5 points out of 10 played rounds.

Artemiev had been on the top of the list from the 4th round, but in the round nine and ten, he maintained the sole leadership with half a point ahead of the runner-ups to keep the first place and take a check of 25.000£. The second place went to Karthikeyan Murali (IND, 2570) with 8 points, while three players tied for the third place, each with 7.5 points. According to tiebreaks, Vitiugov Nikita (RUS, 2720) came third, Howell David WL (ENG, 2685) was 4th and Anton Guijarro David (ESP, 2642) ended on the 5th place.



The best ranked women player was Chinese Grandmaster Tan Zhongyi (CHN, 2502) who took home 15.000£ prize, scoring 7 points. The second place went to Muzychuk Mariya (UKR, 2540) with 6.5 points, and the third place came to reigning Women's World Chess Champion, Ju Wenjun (CHN, 2575).

The very strong line-up of this high leveled competition composed: top seeded Vachier Maxime- Lagrave (FRA, 2780), Levon Aronian (ARM, 2767)- the winner of the previous edition of the event, So Wesley (USA, 2765), Yu Yangyi (CHN, 2764), Nakamura Hikaru (USA, 2749), Navara David (CZE, 2738), Naiditsch Arkadij (AZE, 2734), Vitiugov Nikita (RUS, 2720), Le Quang Liem (VIE, 2714), Ivanchuk Vassily (UKR, 2713), Mamedov Rauf (AZE, 2703), Adams Michael (ENG, 2701) and Matlakov Maksim (RUS, 2700).



Traditionally, Gibraltar Chess Festival took place at Caleta Hotel, and consisted of five main events: Masters, Challengers A, Challengers B, Amateurs A and Amateurs B competitions, which gathered 600 players coming from 60 federations. Besides the main events, various evening activities were organized, such as Masterclasses with top players, two Blitz events, and Battle of Sexes with top women and men players playing against each other.

@photos from the [Official Website of the event](#)

## European Individual Chess Championship- Regulations

The European Individual Chess Championship 2019 will take place from 17th March (Arrival day)-30th March (Departure day) in newly constructed 5\* hotel "Double Tree by HILTON" in Skopje, FYR of Macedonia.



The European Individual Chess Championship is open to all players representing the Chess Federations that are members of the European Chess Union, regardless of their title or rating. There is no limit to participants per federation. However, only national federations are permitted to send applications.

Registrations shall be done online by filling the registration form and sending it to the organizers committee. **Registration deadline is February 17, 2019.** After registration deadline, the organizers keep the right to reject the registration or charge a penalty for late registration. Before the registration deadline, each registered player is obligated to pay the registration fee of 100 EUR. According to ECU regulations, GM, IM, FM, WGM, WIM and WFM are required to pay a fee of 65€ to European Chess Union, and other players are required to pay 130€ as the entry fee to European Chess Union.

All the players and Accompanying persons are invited to stay in one of the Official Hotels of the Championship: 5\* Hotel "Double Tree by HILTON", 5\* Hotel "Stone Bridge" 4\* Hotel "Russia&Spa" and 4\*Hotel "Continental", all located in Skopje. The official playing venue will be located in Hotel "Double Tree by HILTON".

The European Individual Chess Championship 2019 is a qualification event for the FIDE World Cup 2019. According to FIDE regulations and the decision of the ECU Board, 22 players will qualify.

Total prize fund of the event will be 100.000 EUR, with 20.000 EUR reserved for the Winner of the event. Together with 20 regular prizes, organizers provided special prizes for the best male and female junior players, best senior players and best women players.

The Championship will be played according to the Swiss system in accordance with the ECU Tournament Rules and FIDE Rules of Chess. The playing time will be 90 minutes for 40 moves + 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one.

[Official Website of the Championship](#)

[Official Regulations of the Championship](#)

## European Women's Individual Chess Championship 2019-Regulations

The European Women Individual Chess Championship 2019 will take place from 10th April-23rd April in Antalya, Turkey. The official venue and Hotel of the 20th edition of European Women Individual Chess Championship will be 5\* Aska Lara Resort&Spa Hotel, located in Antalya.



The event is open to all players representing the Chess Federations members of the European Chess Union, regardless of their title or rating. There is no limit of participants per federation. However, only the National federations shall send the applications. Applications shall be sent to the organizers before **the registration deadline 10th of March 2019.**

The Championship will be played in 11 rounds, Swiss system, in accordance with ECU Tournament Rules and FIDE Rules of Chess, 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 one.

The European Women Individual Chess Championship 2018 is qualification event for the next FIDE Women World Chess Cup. According to the current FIDE regulations, and decision of the ECU Board, 14 players will qualify.

The total prize fund of the event will be 60.000 EUR together with 6.000 EUR reserved for the best Junior players, the best Turkish players and the best Turkish Junior players, while the Association of Chess Professionals (ACP) reserved 4.000 EUR for the best ranked ACP players who did not received the regular prize.



[Official Regulations of the Championship](#)



## 1<sup>st</sup> Schengen Youth Championship Chess for Peace

The 1<sup>st</sup> Schengen Youth Championship Chess for Peace will be held from 8th-12th May in Luxembourg City. The event will be played in 8 age categories: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18, open and girls separately, for players coming from countries without Visa requirements to EU. The event is registered for the worldwide system Smart Kids.



The Championship will be played in Youth Hostel Luxembourg City, modern hostel, located in old town of Luxembourg. The 1<sup>st</sup> Schengen Youth Championship Chess for Peace will be played in 7 rounds, according to Swiss system, with time control 25 minutes+10 seconds of an increment, starting from move one. Each participant of the event will receive the diplomas and special gifts, while the best individual players and teams of each category will be awarded with medals and trophies.

**Registration deadline is 10th of March 2019**, and registrations shall be sent to the organizers on the following e-mail address: [info@schachzentrum.com](mailto:info@schachzentrum.com).

[Official Regulations of the event](#)

## ECU sings Memorandum of co-operation with the AESAN Chess Confederation

European Chess Union signed a Memorandum of co-operation with the ASEAN Chess Confederation representing 10 federations members in the south-east Asia.

The scope of the cooperation between the Parties includes:

- Sharing of knowledge and experience in developing chess academies and chess in education
- Technical cooperation including best practices in the organization of chess events
- The organization of a periodic chess match between Europe and the ASEAN member nations

[More information about ASEAN Chess Confederation](#)

[More information about European Chess Union](#)



## Vladimir Kramnik announced his retirement as a professional chess player

Former World Chess Championship, Vladimir Kramnik (RUS, 2777) announced his retirement after Tata Steel Masters 2019 tournament, where he participated. Kramnik explained that he has already decided to finish his professional chess career a couple of months ago but announced it publicly after having played his last top tournament.



Vladimir Kramnik got the title of the Classical World Chess Champion after defeating Garry Kasparov in the Match organized in London in 2000, with result 8.5-6.5, without a lost game in the match. However, this title has not been recognized by FIDE. In 2006 Kramnik won Topalov in the reunification match, remaining an undisputed World Champion till 2007 when he lost from Anand who dethroned him.

From 1990 until 2019, Kramnik has participated many high leveled professional and elite chess tournaments and had been a Winner of many of them, such as: World Youth (U18) Chess Championship 1991, PCA Intel Grand Prix 1994, Dortmund (1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2006, 2009, 2011), Tilburg 1997, Wijk aan Zee 1998, Linares (2000, 2003, 2004), Tal Memorial (2007, 2009), President's Cup in Baku 2010, London Chess Classic 2011, Chess World Cup 2013 etc.

Besides his individual chess career, Vladimir Kramnik has won three team gold medals with Russian representation on Chess Olympiads and three medals for the individual performance on the Olympiad. One of them was gold medal at Turin Olympiad 2006, when Kramnik achieved overall best performance with score of 7 points out of 10 played games.

Kramnik's contribution in chess was unquestionable. He has significantly shaped opening theory, by inventing various ideas in countless number of variations. He revived the Catalan opening, with his play against the King's Indian defense made Kasparov to drop this opening from his repertoire, caused it to disappear from top-level play for many years, and his usage of the Berlin Defense in his match against Kasparov in 2000, led to a massive increase in popularity of this opening. Kramnik was also the author and co-author of many chess books. By his announcement of retirement, he pointed his intention to focus on projects he was developing during the last months, especially in the field of chess for children and education.

## Upcoming events in February 2019:

<b>Portugal Open 2019</b>	Lisbon, Portugal	3rd-9th February	<a href="#"><u>Official Website</u></a>
<b>Graz Open 2019</b>	Graz, Austria	17th-24rd February	<a href="#"><u>Official Website</u></a>
<b>Aeroflot Open 2019</b>	Moscow, Russia	19th-28th February	<a href="#"><u>Official Website</u></a>
<b>19th Liberec Open 2019</b>	Liberec, Czech Republic	23rd February- 2nd March	<a href="#"><u>Official Website</u></a>

## FUN ZONE

### Vladimir Kramnik has said about chess:

*Chess is like body-building. If you train every day, you stay in top shape. It is the same with your brain – chess is a matter of daily training.*

*For me art and chess are closely related, both are forms in which the self finds beauty and expression.*

*In chess one cannot control everything. Sometimes a game takes an unexpected turn, in which beauty begins to emerge. Both players are always instrumental in this.*

*Every month I look through some ten thousand games, so not as to miss any new ideas and trends.*

*Even if you play perfectly, a fault of your opponent's can destroy the entire beauty of the game.*

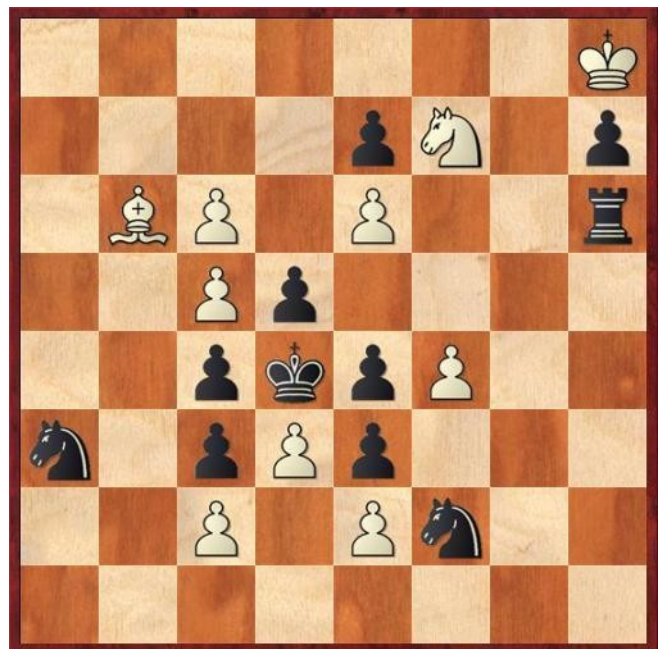
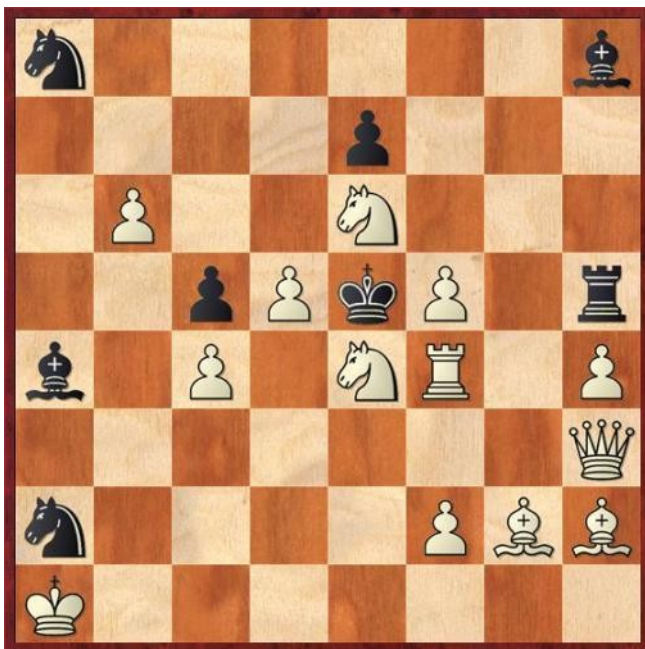
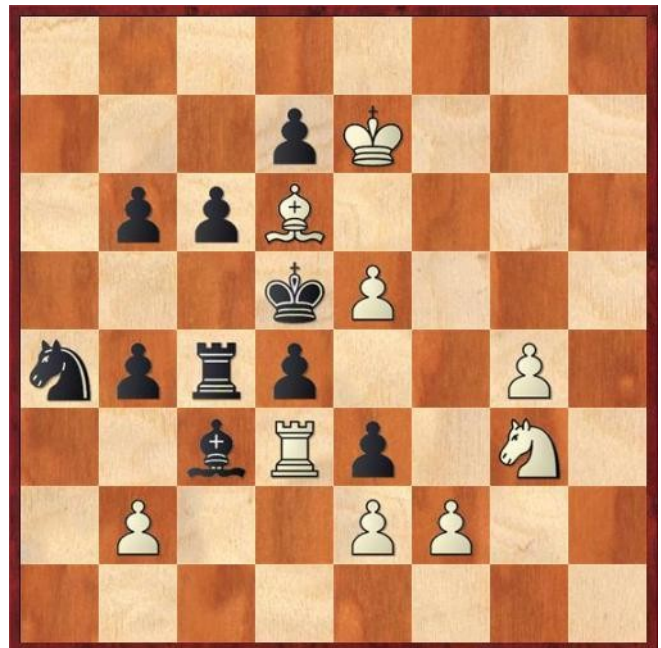
*Playing blindfold, like it or not, you have to make your body work at full power, otherwise you risk losing your orientation at the board.*

*On the whole, the life of chess professional is not as easy as it appears at first sight. One needs to devote some ten hours a day to chess and to everything connected with it – physical and psychological preparation.*

*I am convinced, the way one plays chess always reflects the player's personality. If something defines his character, then it will also define his way of playing.*



For January Newsletter 2019 we prepared 4 mate puzzles in 3 moves! Enjoy!



### Solutions from NL December 2018:

#### Puzzle #1:

1. Qf7+! Rxf7 2. Re8+ Rf8 3. Rxf8#

#### Puzzle #2:

1. Qf8+!! Kxf8 2. Rd8+ Bxd8 3. Rxd8+ Be8 4. Ba3+ Qc5 5. Ba4!! Kg8 6. Rxe8 Qf8 7. Rxf8#

#### Puzzle #3:

1. Qxa8!+ Nxa8 2. Rd8+! Re8 3. Rxe8+ Kh7 4. Bf5#

#### Puzzle #4

1. Rxh7+! Kxh7 2. Rh4+ Qh6 3. Rxh6#