

E-MAGAZINE MARCH 2019



ECU meetings in Skopje

ECU BOARD MEETING AND
ECU EXTRAORDINARY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



ANDORRA WINS
EUROPEAN SMALL
NATIONS TEAM CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP 2019



ARTEMIEV VLADISLAV IS
THE EUROPEAN CHESS
CHAMPION 2019



**ECU Secretary General
Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou**

European Chess Union has its seat in Switzerland,
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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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WHY SPORTING BODIES SHOULD MAINTAIN AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY AND DISCRIMINATORY FREE ENVIRONMENT

The latest ECU General Assembly discuss a case of racial discrimination occurred in a tournament in Sweden and took a unanimous resolution.

Unfortunately, the denial of a player to play a game was not the only negative in the story. The action was promoted at the highest level, the player becomes an example who fulfilled his dream to meet the country leader and the message of hate was sent through chess is clear enough.

There is a view till now with many supporters, even in official positions, that tolerating these actions, we protect and give the chance to more people to play chess as also more states to support financially our sport.

But is this our role in chess? When we adjust in silence our rules, we do not the same time justify and these policies? We do not encourage, political leaders or chief priests of any religion or extreme groups to apply more rules for us and promote their hate policies through sports?

If we wish a "fair play" in chess, is not enough to strengthen our anti-cheating measures. We should maintain an equal opportunities policy and discriminatory free environment, adopting related policies.

contents



02 EICC 2019

Final report of European
Individual Chess
Championship 2019

05 FIDE World Team

Report of FIDE World Team
Chess Championship 2019
held in Astana, Kazakhstan

06 ESNA Team 2019

European Small Nations Team
Chess Championship 2019

07 ECU MEETINGS

ECU Board meeting and ECU
Extraordinary General
Assembly

11 Invitation for bids

ECU invitation for bids for
European Championships
2021&2022

14 Shamkir Chess 2019

Brief preview of the Shamkir
Chess tournament 2019 in
memory of Vugar Gashimov

15 Upcoming events

Upcoming events in April
2019

19 Reykjavik Open 2019

Preview of Reykjavik Open
2019

22 FUN ZONE



Vladislav Artemiev is the European Chess Champion 2019

Artemiev Vladislav (RUS, 2736) became the Winner of European Individual Chess Championship 2019 with a score of 8.5 points.

Artemiev tied for the first place with Nils Grandelius (SWE, 2694), who had the same score, but the average rating of the opponents decided that Artemiev is the new European Individual Chess Champion

Artemiev Vladislav held a draw in the last round in a slightly worse position, with black pieces, against Rodshtein Maxim (ISR, 2673). The draw was enough for Artemiev to become the European Individual Chess Champion 2019.

In the last, 11th round, Grandelius took a victory against Gledura Benjamin (HUN, 2630) with black pieces, after Gledura made an unsound sacrifice of an exchange. With this victory, Grandelius took the silver medal.

Nine players tied for the third place: Piorun Kacper (POL, 2631), Rodshtein Maxim (ISR, 2673), Berkes Ferenc (HUN, 2666), Anton Guijarro David (ESP, 2643), Nisipeanu Liviu-Dieter (GER, 2670), Movsesian Sergei (ARM, 2627), Huschenbeth Niclas (GER, 2594), Oparin Grigoriy (RUS, 2613) and Safarli Eltaj (AZE, 2662), each with 8 points.

According to the tiebreak criteria, Piorun Kacper (POL, 2631) took the bronze medal.

The best-ranked women player was Goryachkina Aleksandra (RUS, 2504) with 6.5 points, while Protopopova Anastasiya (RUS, 2263) and Osmak Iulija (UKR, 2399) tied for the second place, each with 5.5 points. According to the average rating of the opponents, Protopopova took the silver, while Osmak Iulija took the third place.



Légende Nemo enim ipsam tatem quia voluptas sit aspernatur.

The best Senior player was Gelfand Boris (ISR, 2655) with 7.5 points, while the second place came to Georgiev Kiril (MKD, 2595) with a score of 7 points.

Besides the special prizes for the best-ranked Women player, Junior, and Senior, the best ranked six players, members of the Association of Chess Professionals took the special ACP prizes: Rakhmanov Aleksandr (RUS, 2629), Bartel Mateusz (POL, 2600), Lupulescu Constantin (ROU, 2611), Dreev Aleksey (RUS, 2662), Fridman Daniel (GER, 2633) and Vallejo Pons Francisco (ESP, 2698).



EICC 2019

22 players qualified for the next FIDE World Cup

The European Individual Chess Championship 2019 was a qualification event for the FIDE World Cup 2019.

According to FIDE regulations and the decision of the ECU Board, 22 best ranked players, excluding them qualified in 2018 or from ratings, qualified for the next FIDE World Cup.

Closing ceremony of the event

The Closing ceremony of the event took place on 29th March in the official hotel -Double Tree by Hilton. The ceremony has started with the speech of the President of the Chess Federation of North Macedonia, Mr. Blagoja Bogoevski, who greeted the attendees and thanked the European Chess Union for the organization of the event.

After the awarding ceremony, the President of European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, officially declared the event closed.

Total prize fund of the event was 100.000 EUR with 20.000 EUR reserved for the Winner of the event.

For the throne of the most prestigious event in the ECU calendar, fought 359 players coming from 43 European federations.

A very strong line-up of the event was completed with 305 titled players, among whom 144 Grandmasters and 79 International masters, including 6 players rated over 2700 and 67 players rated over 2600.

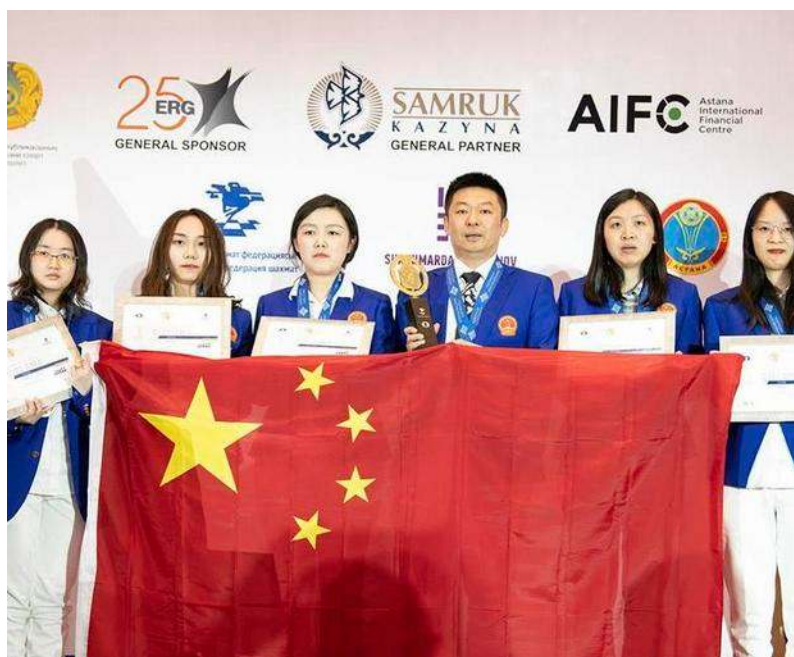


The European Individual Chess Championship 2019 took place from 17th March - 30th March in newly constructed 5 hotel "DoubleTree by HILTON" in Skopje, FYR of Macedonia.*



The President of ECU, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili officially declared the European Individual Chess Championship 2019 closed.





photos by: David Llada

Russia and China won FIDE World Team Chess Championship 2019

After 10 played rounds at the Open section, which gathered the strong national teams of Azerbaijan, China, Egypt, England, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, Sweden and United States of America, the team of Russia won the event scoring 16 match points, without losing a match. The second place went to England with 13 match points, and bronze went to China with 12 match points.

In Women's section, team of China dominated the event with all victories and 18 match points. Second place won by the Russian team who scored 14 match points, while third place came to Georgia with 12 match points.

The prizes for the best individual performance of each board came to: Adhiban B. (India, 1st board-Open section), Mcshane Luke J (England, 2nd board-Open section), Ganguly Surya Shekhar (India, 3rd board- Open section), Firouzja Alireza (Iran, 4th board- Open section), Artemiev Vladislav (Russia, 5th board- Open section), Tan Zhongyi (China, 1st board-Women's section), Kosteniuk Alexandra (Russia, 2nd board- Women's section), Huang Qian (China, 3rd board-Women's section), Goryachkina Aleksandra (Russia, 4th board-Women's section) and Melia Salome (Georgia, 5th board- Women's section).



FIDE World Team Chess Championship took place from March 4th -15th, 2019 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Andorra wins European Small Nations Team Chess Championship 2019

The team of Andorra convincingly won the 6th edition of European Small Nations Team Chess Championship, with a perfect score of 18 match points, and 9 victories out of 9 games!

The Closing ceremony of the Championship took place on 30th of March in the evening, with attendance of ECU Secretary-General, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou the Vice President of the Italian Chess Federation Mr. Roberto Rivello, the FIDE Zone 1.10 President Mr. Paris Klerides and the San Marino Chess Federation President Mr. Ivan Tabarini. Mr. Tsorbatzoglou underlined the ECU satisfaction for the well-organized event and the ECU intention to continue supporting the Small Nations chess program.

Team composition of the team of Andorra, the Winner of the event, was:
GM De la Riva Aguado (AND, 2459)
IM Fluvia Poyatos Jordi (AND, 2463)
IM Aloma Vidal Robert (AND, 2427)
FM Gomez Anadon Daniel (AND, 2271)
FM Garcia Paolicchi Raul (AND, 2144)

The second place came to Monaco, with a score of 16 match points:
Ribbegren Karl Johan (MNC, 2248)
GM Efimov Igor (MNC, 2427)
FM Van Hoolandt Patrick (MNC, 2061)
WGM Dornbusch Tatiana (MNC, 2282)
WCM Jose Polanco Kenia (MNC, 1865)



The bronze medal came to Faroe Islands with 14 match points:
GM Ziska Helgi Dam (FAI, 2538)
IM Rodgaard John (FAI, 2281)
Thorsteinsson Sjurdur (FAI, 2222)
FM Simonsen Hans Kristian (FAI, 2147)
Apol Luitjen Akselsson (FAI, 1906)



The 6th European Small Nations Team Championship took place from 23rd March to 31st March in the Republic of San Marino.



ECU Secretary General, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou attended the Closing Ceremony of the event.



About the event

The event participated 10 teams (Andorra, Cyprus, Faroe Islands, Guernsey, Jersey, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco and San Marino), who were playing a 9 rounds Robin round event, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game, plus 30 seconds increment for every move played starting from the first move.



Communique of the ECU Board meeting in Skopje, March 2019

The **European Chess Union Board meeting** took place on the 22nd of March in Skopje, North Macedonia. The meeting was held under excellent conditions in the hotel Hilton during the European Individual Chess Championship 2019. The President of the National Chess Federation, Mr. Blagoja Bogoevski, opened the meeting and welcomed the ECU Board in Skopje.

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he main areas under discussion and decisions made were the following:

Funding – Sponsorship

- >ECU Board approved an annual sponsorship from the company "Chess Evolution".
- >The agreement and annexes for the FIDE development fund were approved and so were the first pilot projects.
- >ECU Board was informed about the new and the already running Erasmus projects submitted to EU with the ECU partnership.

European Championships-Tournaments

- >After the request of the Estonian Chess Federation, the European Youth Rapid & Blitz Championship 2019 will be organized in Tallinn from 30th November to 4th December and will follow the European Rapid & Blitz Championship 2019 from 4th to 8th December 2019. >ECU Board approved the new dates. A special resolution was decided for the players competing in the 3rd leg of FIDE Grand Prix in Hamburg, which partly coincides with the European Club Cup 2019. The resolution will be included in the tournament invitation.
- >The option to organise the European Open Club Cup 2021 was awarded to North Macedonia Chess Federation and the proposal shall be submitted till the 1st of July 2019 to the ECU Board.
- >European Chess Union will be a supporter of the Global Chess Festival 2019 (Budapest, Hungary) and of the Tournament of Peace 2019 (Zagreb, Croatia).
- >The proposal and regulations for the European Women Rapid & Blitz Championship 2019 in Monaco were approved.

Standardization & Information Technology

- >The first pieces of the ECU branded clothing were presented and gifted to the organisers of the EICC 2019
- >The new project "Chess Google Maps", which is under construction, was presented to the Board and to the General Assembly.
- >The ECU Board confirmed the "European Chess TV" as a strategic partner in live-transmissions.
- >The "ECU Brand book" was approved and is in the final stage of the process to be published and distributed.
- >The draft version of the "Chess in Schools Promotion Video", produced by the ECU EDU Commission was approved and was decided to be translated in as many languages as possible.
- >An adviser was hired for the implementation of the (GDPR) within the organisation.

Appointments-Awards

- >The ECU Vice President Johann Poecksteiner was appointed as the ECU Data Protection officer.
- >Ashot Vardapetyan (ARM) was appointed in the ECU Board of Trustees as an appreciation to the Armenian Chess Federation and his valuable experience.
- >FIDE Trainer Valeri Gaprindashvili (GEO) was appointed as the European representative in the FIDE Trainers Commission. Jop Delamarre (NED) is proposed additionally for the FIDE TRG.
- >The ECU Board decided to award Alexander Kostyev, President of the International School Chess Union (ISCU) with the ECU Honorary Award for the 20 years of the Union establishment and their high contribution to the development of the Chess in School programs and championships.
- >The ECU Board decided to propose the city of Vienna as the European Chess Capital for the year 2020, on the occasion of the 100 years of the Austrian Chess Federation.

ECU Board meeting

The European Chess Union Board meeting took place on the 22nd of March in Skopje, North Macedonia. The meeting was held under excellent conditions in the hotel Hilton during the European Individual Chess Championship 2019.

The first pieces of the ECU branded clothing were presented and gifted to the organisers of the European Individual Chess Championship 2019.



The new project "Chess Google Maps", which is under construction, was presented to the Board and to the General Assembly.





Communique of the ECU Extraordinary General Assembly

The European Chess Union Extra Ordinary Assembly meeting took place on the 23rd of March in Skopje, North Macedonia with the representation of 42 federations members.

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he decisions of the meeting:

>The ECU budget of 2019 was amended and reallocated. The total budget voted is 510,000 euros. This amount is not including possible income from the FIDE Development Fund and EU Programs.

>The proposed amendments in the ECU regulations were accepted with main changes in the pairing system for the team events and the adoption of the ECU brand dress code for Arbiters.

>A resolution against individual boycotts from players was adopted unanimously. Additionally, ECU General Assembly is asking FIDE to ban the practice of "special pairings" at the Chess Olympiads, FIDE tournaments and all FIDE rated events, when players from certain countries are discreetly kept apart by adjusting the pairing software.

European Championships – Meetings

>The European Club Cup Open & Women 2020 is awarded as to Mayrhofen, Austria.

>The European Individual Senior Chess Championship 2020 is awarded to Jastrzębia Góra, Poland

>The European Individual Women Chess Championship 2020 is awarded to Mamaia, Romania.

>The European Youth Chess Championship 2021 is awarded as a combined bid to Mamaia, Romania.

>The European School Chess Championship 2020 is awarded to Halkidiki, Greece.

>The European Youth Chess Rapid & Blitz Championship 2020 is awarded as to Novisad, Serbia.

>The option of the European Women Rapid & Blitz Championship 2020 is awarded to Lviv, Ukraine till the 30th of May 2019.

ECU Extraordinary General Assembly

The European Chess Union Extra Ordinary Assembly meeting took place on the 23rd of March in Skopje, simultaneously with European Individual Chess Championship 2019, in hotel Double Tree by Hilton, under the excellent conditions.

European Chess Union
Extraordinary General
Assembly took place on
23rd March in Skopje,
North Macedonia.





INVITATION FOR BIDS EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021 & 2022

The European Chess Union invites the National federations members to submit bids for the organization of the official European Chess Championships in 2021 & 2022.

T

he 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 31st of May 2019. by 4 PM CET. All the bids must reach the European Chess Union office in one of the following ways:

- >By e-mail
secretary.general@gmail.com
- >Personally, in a sealed envelope, in the ECU office in Tbilisi.
- >By postal service or express postal service (DHL, Fedex, TNT...) to the address: European Chess Union, Kostava Str. 37a, Chess Palace, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia.

Visit the ECU Website for detailed information about the bidding procedure;
<http://www.europechess.org/events/bidding-procedure/bids-2021-2022/>

A. The bidding procedure is open for the following ECU chess championships in 2021:

- >European Individual Open Championship (estimated number of players: 350)
- >European Individual Women Championship (estimated number of players: 150)
- >European Club Cup for Women (estimated number of players: 80 – 20 teams)
- >European Senior Individual Championship (estimated 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 Youth Rapid and Blitz Championships (estimated number of players: 300)
- >European Amateur Championship (estimated number of players: 200)
- >European Corporate Championship (estimated number of players 200)

Deadline

The deadline for bids to reach the European Chess Union office is the Friday 31st of May 2019. by 4 PM CET.



ECU, FIDE AND FFE EDU MEETING IN PARIS.

On the 8th of March 2019, the European Chess Union and FIDE representatives had a meeting at the headquarters of the French Chess Federation.

The agenda included items about the co-operation of FIDE and ECU in Chess in Schools programs and Educational matters. FIDE represented by its Deputy President Bachar Kouatly, the Chairman of FIDE EDU Commission Mr. Liputijan and Secretary Kevin O'Connell. ECU represented by its Treasurer Ion Dobronauteanu, the Chairman of the EDU Commission Mr. Jesper Hall and Secretary John Foley.



ECU ARBITERS REFRESHING COURSE, SKOPJE 2019

ECU Arbiters refreshing course took place on 26th and 27th of March in Skopje.

The course was held simultaneously with European Individual Chess Championship 2019 and the lecturer was the chairman of the ECU Arbiters Council, Mr. Tomasz Delega.

Participants discussed and were informed about the activities of ECU Arbiters Council, Tie-break system of the events, General Regulations for Competitions 2019. They have also watched case studies from chess tournaments and spoke about anti-cheating measures which are being applied and developed.





The event features participation of World top grandmasters: World Chess Champion, Magnus Carlsen (NOR, 2843), world #3 Ding Liren (CHN, 2809), #4 Giri Anish (NED, 2797), #5 Mamedyarov Shakhriyar (AZE, 2793), #6 Anand Viswanathan (IND, 2774), #9 Grischuk Alexander (RUS, 2771), #12 Radjabov Teimour (AZE, 2756), #17 Karjakin Sergey (RUS, 2743), #18 Topalov Veselin (BUL, 2740) and #21 Navara David (CZE, 2733).

Shamkir Chess 2019

The 6th edition of Shamkir Chess tournament, in memory of Vugar Gashimov, launched yesterday and takes place from 30th March-9th April in Shamkir, Azerbaijan.

The Gala Opening Ceremony of the event took place on Saturday, 30th of March, with attendance of the executive chief of Shamkir region, Alimpasha Mammadov, the Minister of the Youth and Sports, Azad Rahimov, the vice-president of FIDE and SOCAR, the sponsor of the event, Mahir Mammadov, the father of Vugar Gashimov, Gasim Gashimov, and Azerbaijan Chess Federation representatives. After the ceremony, the drawing of lots took place in the same venue.



Shamkir chess 2019

The event is as 9 rounds in Robin round system, with time control 120 minutes for the first 40 moves, 60 minutes for the next 20 moves and then each player shall be allotted 15 minutes after the second time control; an increment of 30 seconds per move shall be allowed from move 61 onwards. The total prize fund of the event is 100.000 EUR with 30.000 EUR reserved for the Winner of the event.

European Senior Chess Championship 2019

European Senior Chess Championship 2019, will take place from 5th-15th April 2019 in Rhodes, Greece.

The event will be played in two age categories 50+ and 65+, open and women's section separately, with total prize fund of 10.000 EUR.



FIDE Senior World Team Chess Championship

FIDE Senior World Team Chess Championship 2019 will take place from 15th-25th April 2019, in Rhodes, Greece.

Total prize fund of the event is 10.000 EUR.



European Women's Chess Championship

European Women's Individual Chess Championship 2019 will be held in Antalya, Turkey from 10 th-23rd of April 2019.

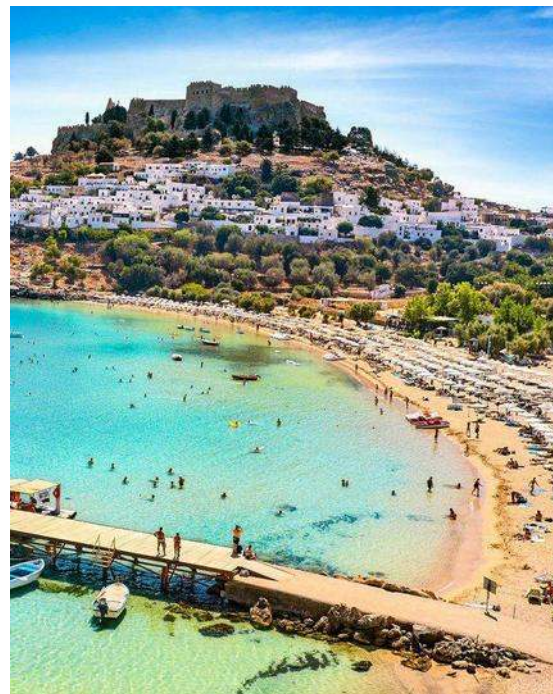
The event is a qualification event for the next FIDE Women's World Cup and 14 players will qualify.

The total prize fund of the event is

European Amateur Chess Championship 2019

European Amateur Chess Championship 2019 will take place from 5th-15th April 2019 in Rhodes, Greece.

The event will be played in three rating categories, U2300, U2000 and U1700 with a total prize fund of



European Amateur Chess Championship 2019

The European Amateur Chess Championship 2019 will be held in the island of Rhodes, Greece, from 5th-15th April, simultaneously with European Senior Chess Championship 2019. The events will be held in the Conference center of Olympic Palace Hotel, as the official hotel of the Championship.

The Championship is open tournament for players registered or approved by their federation. ECU member federations shall have the right to send as many players as they wish. All players must not hold any title above CM (or WCM for women) in the sections Under-1700 and Under-2000. All players must not hold any title above FM (or WFM for women) in the section Under-2300.

There will be separate championships for categories Under-2300, Under-2000 and Under-1700. In each rating section, a separate championship for women shall be organized only if there are at least 10 women entries otherwise the women's event will be merged with men (open). The championship is organized in a 9-round Swiss system, in accordance with FIDE Laws of Chess and the ECU Tournament Rules. The rate of play will be 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.

The total prize fund of the event is 4.000 EUR and the winners of each category receive the relevant title: European Amateur Chess Champion under 1700 under 2000 and 2300.

80 players representing 14 European federations (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Roumania, Russia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Turkey) registered for the event in all three rating categories.



The Rhodes Chess Festival which contains three events: European Amateur Chess Championship 2019, European Senior Chess Championship 2019 and World Senior Team Chess Championship 2019 will be held in the five star Hotel Olympic Palace, from April 5th – April 25th 2019.

The live transmission of the top boards of each round will be available through the official website of the organizer; <https://rodoschess2019.com/>

Rhodes Chess Festival 2019

European Senior Chess Championship 2019

The European Senior Chess Championship 2019 will be held in the island of Rhodes, Greece, from 5th-15th April, simultaneously with European Amateur Chess Championship 2019. The events will be held in the Conference center of Olympic Palace Hotel, as the official hotel of the Championship.

The European Senior Chess Championship is open to all players representing ECU Chess Federations who have been born in the year 1969 or earlier, regardless of their title or rating. There is also no limit in the number of participants per federation.

In accordance with the ECU tournament rule the Championship will be played in two categories: one for those who shall have reached the age of 50 (category SENIOR 50+), and one for those who shall have reached the age of 65 (category SENIOR 65+) by the end of the year 2019. Players who have reached the age of 65 by the 31st December 2019 are allowed to participate in the category SENIOR 50+ if they request it. In each age category an Open and a Women's competition is organized.

The Championship is based on Swiss system in accordance with the ECU Tournament Rules and FIDE Rules of Chess. The playing time will be 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.

Women tournament will be played separately. If in total the women participants are less than nine they will play in the Open tournaments with separate prizes.

The total prize fund of the event will be 10.000 EUR.

The live transmission of the top boards of each round will be available through the official website of the organizer; <https://rodoschess2019.com/>



The Rhodes Chess Festival which contains three events: European Amateur Chess Championship 2019, European Senior Chess Championship 2019 and World Senior Team Chess Championship 2019 will be held in the five star Hotel Olympic Palace, from April 5th – April 25th 2019.

130 players registered in all categories. 68 players coming from 22 European federations registered for the 65+ European Senior Chess Championship 2019. There are 10 women players registered for the women's section of the same age category.

In 50+ Open category, 41 players from 17 federations will participate, while there are 8 women players whose category will be merged with Open section.

Rhodes Chess Festival 2019

European Individual Women's Chess Championship

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 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 the decision of the ECU Board, 14 players will qualify.

The total prize fund of event will be 60.000 EUR, together with 6.000 EUR reserved for the best Junior players, the best Turkish players and 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.

128 players coming from 30 different European federations registered for the event.

The top seeders are: GM Goryachkina Aleksandra (RUS, 2504), former World Chess Champion, GM Antoaneta Stefanova (ECU, 2493), WIM Shuvalova Polina (RUS, 2471), IM Kashlinskaya Alina (RUS, 2470), GM Sebag Marie (FRA, 2461), GM Cramlin Pia (SWE, 2460), IM Cornette Deimante (LTU, 2457), WGM Girya Olga (RUS, 2456), WGM Pogonina Natalija (RUS, 2455), GM Hoang Thanh Trang (HUN, 2454) etc,



The opening ceremony of the event will take place on the 11th of April, 45 minutes before the start of the first round, in the playing venue of the Championship.

The live transmission of the top boards can be followed through the official website of the Championship <http://eiwcc2019.tsf.org.tr/>

Along with the event, the FIDE Seminar for International organizers will take place simultaneously, from 19th-21st April 2019,

128 players
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Reykjavik Open 2019

The annual Reykjavik Open is set to start on April 8th. This will be the 34th edition of the Reykjavik Open sponsored by GAMMA. This tournament is always the flagship of Icelandic chess and attracts close to 300 players every year.

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s usual, there will be plenty of special events that have become traditional in recent years. These events include the Golden circle tour, Harpa blitz, Reykjavik Open pub quiz and now for the second time there will be a Fischer Random tournament on the free day! The ECU has generously sponsored this event! The 2019 GAMMA Reykjavik Open will be dedicated to the memory of Icelandic Grandmaster Stefan Kristjansson who sadly passed away last year at the age of 35. The new FIDE president, Arkady Dvorkovich, will visit the tournament. The new leadership of FIDE is already looking good and surely the possibility of a World Championship match in Iceland in 2022 to commemorate the 50 year anniversary of the match of the century in 1972 will be discussed! In any case, the organisers of the Reykjavik Open are honored to welcome the president to the tournament. Smbat Lputian the chairman of the FIDE Education commission will also be visiting during the tournament.

As in recent years, the playing venue is a spectacular one as the open will once again be in Harpa which is a big conference center and concert hall with glass windows with a nice harbor view.

The playing field is shaping up to be interesting and strong just like in recent years. The players' list is still being filled with GM's and chess players of all levels. Gawain Jones from England and Nils Grandelius from Sweden are both tournament regulars and they come into the tournament with their ratings closing in on the magical 2700-barrier. The players' list also includes several former winners such as Erwin I'Ami, Abhijeet Gupta and Hannes Stefansson.

The 2019 edition is very glad to keep up with the tradition of previous editions which have always featured young and talented players. In 2018 we had the Indians Praggnanandhaa and Nihal Sarin and also Nodirbek Abdusattorov from Uzbekistan. In the past top players such as Magnus Carlsen, Fabiano Caruana, Levon Aronian and Hikaru Nakamura have also played in Reykjavik. In 2019 we are very happy to welcome the 2018 World Junior Champion Parham Maghsoodloo from Iran and also his countryman Alireza Firouzja. Both have been turning eyes recently. Parham had a fantastic performance when he won the World Junior Championship and played board 1 at the 2018 Batumi Olympiad. Alireza made a strong showing at the recent World Rapid & Blitz championship in St. Petersburg and has been increasing his rating with stellar performances in 2019.

**GAMMA
Reykjavik Open
2019 takes
place from
8th-16th April
in Reykjavik,
Iceland.**



The youth movement doesn't end there and D Gukesh the young prodigy from India will be playing in the Reykjavik Open as well. Gukesh made headlines in January 2019 when he became the 2nd youngest GM in history (after Sergey Karjakin) and of course current youngest GM in the world. The young Indian will officially get his GM title at the first quarter PB meeting of FIDE but until then he is a GM elect. Fellow Indian Praggnanandhaa is also back for another outing in the Reykjavik Open.

Despite the Reykjavik Open dates clashing with some strong women's tournaments, there is still a strong field of female players. The German #1 Elisabeth Paehtz leads the field and is followed closely by Dinara Saduakassova. Tania Sachdev is also back to the Reykjavik Open having already played in Reykjavik several times and is one of a number of returning familiar faces. R Vaishali the sister of Indian prodigy Praggnanandhaa is also back.

On the free day just like last year, there will be a Fischer Random tournament. The tournament was very well received last year and hopefully this is will become a traditional event. The total prize fund of the Fischer Random tournament will be 3.000 EUR and is sponsored by the ECU. The winner of this Fischer Random tournament will be invited to one of the biggest chess tournaments of 2019 the details of which will be revealed later. As every year there will be plenty of special events. The Golden Circle tour is always popular. The tour goes to the south of Iceland to look at waterfalls and geysers as well as going to Bobby Fischer's final resting place. Saturday will have a blitz tournament as usual and on the free day there will be a big Fischer Random tournament. The tournament was very well received last year and we even have some players coming over just for the Fischer Random! Other special events that are always included are the ever popular Pub Quiz where 30 questions about chess and chess history are asked.

Reykjavik Open 2019 Pub Quiz competition

Past winner of the Pub Quiz competition include Magnus Carlsen!

The opening party will still be before the tournament and you will get a chance to play football in one of Iceland's indoor football halls.

"Current state and development trends of chess education" conference in Armenia

FIDE Chess in education commission (EDU), Chess academy of Armenia and "Chess" Scientific Research Institute of Armenia are organizing an International Conference.

In the section of Guidelines you can find all the requirements that your articles must meet. All presenters should submit the article together with the filled in registration form.

The articles must be sent by 15th of April 2019. The authors will be informed about the decision of the Academic Board by 30th of April 2019.

All attendees, except the authors of approved articles, should pay the entry fee in the amount of €50 which includes transportation in the following directions: Zvartnots Airport-Yerevan-Tsaghkadzor and back and coffee breaks during sessions.

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he conference is entitled "Current state and development trends of chess education", and will be held at "Multi rest house" hotel in Tsaghkadzor, Republic of Armenia, from 6th of May (arrival day) to 9th of May (departure day) 2019.

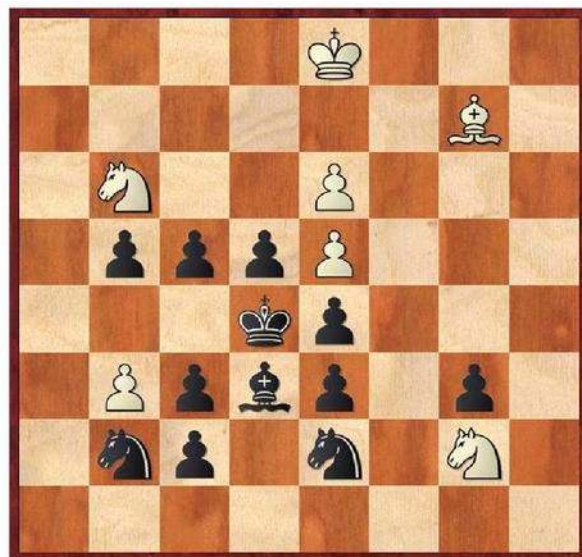
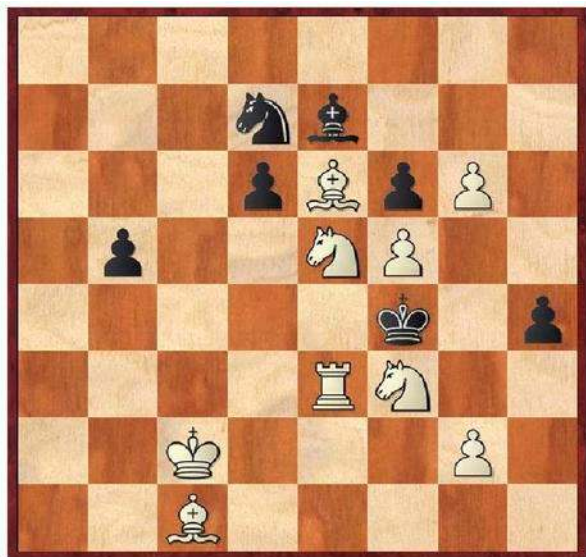
Working language of the conference is English.

All attendees are required to register for the conference online through the Conference website. On the Official website of the conference you can find detailed information about the Conference and its directions, venue and accommodation, as well as get acquainted with the members of Academic Board.



CURRENT STATE AND
DEVELOPMENT TRENDS
OF CHESS EDUCATION





JUDIT POLGAR SAID ABOUT CHESS:

>In chess the most unbelievable thing for me is that it's a game for everybody: rich, poor, girl, boy, old, young. It's a fantastic game which can unite people and generations! It's a language which you'll find people "speak" in every country. If you reach a certain level you find a very rich world! Art, sport, logic, psychology, a battlefield, imagination, creativity not only in practical games but don't forget either how amazing a feeling it is to compose a study, for example (unfortunately that's not appreciated these days but it's a fantastic part of chess!).

>Playing chess has many aspects that can be useful in everyday situations like planning, concentration and combinations. You learn to win but also to lose and to be creative.

For this edition of the ECU monthly magazine, we prepared 4 mate in 3 positions! White is on the move!

Solutions from February

> Puzzle #1:

1.Nf8 Bxd3 (1...Ndxc3 2.Nf5 Nd1 3.Ne7#) 2.Rd4+ Kxc5 3.Nxd7#

>Puzzle #2:

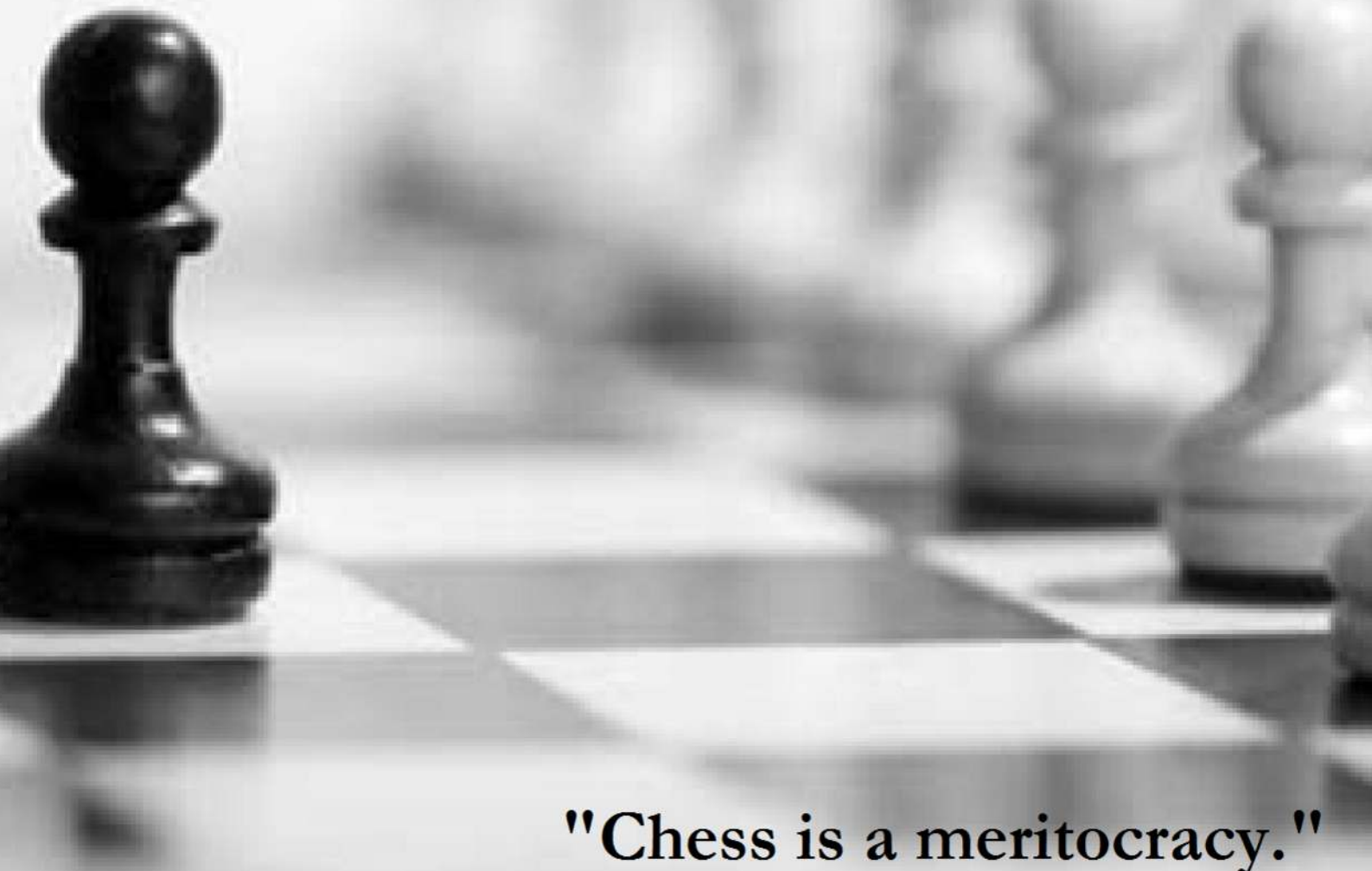
1. Nd4 Nc3 (1...Nc5 2. Nc2 Nb3 3.Ne3#) 2. Nc6 Nxd1 3. Nxe5#

>Puzzle #3:

1.hxg5 Be3 (1...g1=Q 2. Qh4+ 2. Qh4+ Kf3 3. Qe5#) Ke5 3. Qe4#

>Puzzle #4:

1. Qf7 exf3 (1...Bg8 2. Qf6+ Kh7 3. Ng5#) 2. Kf6 f2 3. Qg7#



"Chess is a meritocracy."