



ECU PRESIDENT IN BRUSSELS



CHESS IN SCHOOL SEMINAR IN ALBANIA



ECU PRIZE COMPETITION AT LONDON CHESS CONFERENCE



IN MEMORIAM MARK TAIMANOV

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



ALKALOID & CERCLE D'ECHECS MONTE-CARLO WIN EUROPEAN CLUB CUP 2016

The teams of Alkaloid from Skopje in the Open section and Cercle d'Echecs Monte Carlo in Women's section are the winners of the European Club Cup 2016, which finished yesterday in Novi Sad, Serbia.



Alkaloid was leading towards the end of the event and tied with SHSM Legacy Square Moscow in the final round, which was enough for the title.

Silver medal went to Russian Mednyi Vsadnik, while Legacy Square Moscow came third.

Final Standings Open Section



In Women's section things were quite clear, as Cercle d'Echecs Monte Carlo secured the title with one round to spare. The Monaco team dominated throughout the event with all 7 wins, led by World Champion Hou Yifan, who made an amazing score of 6/6 and rating performance 3248!

Former World Champion Mariya Muzychuk also made an excellent score on the third board – 6.5/7 with rating performance 2766.

Second place went to last year's Champion Nona Batumi, while Ugra Chess Club finished third.

Final Standings Women's Section



The ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, ECU Secretary General Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, ECU Tournament Director Mr. Petr Pisk and Serbian Chess Federation board member Obren Cetkovic were present at the closing ceremony and awarded the winners.



The European Club Cup 2016 took place in Novi Sad, Serbia, from 5th to 13th November, in hotel Park.

[Final standings](#) / [YouTube Videos](#) / [Photos](#) (by Lennart Ootes)

ECU Arbiters' Refreshment Course in Novi Sad

During the European Club Cup 2016 in Novi Sad/Serbia, the ECU organized the 1st ECU Arbiters' Refreshment Course, which was held from 8th to 10th November.

We can proudly say that the course was a big success, as it was attended by 31 participants from 8 different countries: Serbia, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Denmark, Italy, France, Greece and Croatia.



The agenda of the seminar is as follows:

1. Duties of ECU Arbiters' Council
2. Appointment of arbiters for ECU events
3. ECU Tournament Rules 2016
4. FIDE Laws of Chess 2017
5. Anti-cheating Guidelines
6. Case studies from chess tournaments



Lecturer of the course was IA Tomasz Delega (Poland), ECU Arbiters' Council Secretary and FIDE Rules Commission Secretary.

The ECU Refreshment Course is an advanced course, for titled arbiters. The idea is to organize face-to-face meeting and remind the participants of the current ECU and FIDE rules, and also to introduce the new FIDE Laws of Chess 2017. One of the topics discussed at the course is the Anti-cheating Guidelines, one of the most difficult subjects for the arbiter.

International Chess in Schools Seminar in Tirana

The International Chess in Schools seminar was held in Tirana from 11th to 13th November 2016, in organization of Chess Federation of Albania, the ECU and FIDE.

Albanian Chess Federation provided excellent conditions for the event, making it very successful and fruitful.



Chess in Schools program in Albania made the first steps: very important cooperation agreements with the Ministry of National Education and the Sports Department were signed and teachers' manuals for beginners are written and published.

The first day of the seminar started with a press conference in order to present the taken steps of the Chess in Schools project to the ministry representatives.



After the press conference, the seminar with more than 40 students of different levels of chess understanding started. The attendees of the seminar were in the range of advanced players, as well as the teachers with minimal knowledge of chess. Therefore, the seminar was focused on chess teaching methodology for children, and positive examples of organizing a school chess club or chess clubs in general.

The seminar was held in a very lively atmosphere, with Q&A session on various unresolved issues and barriers the participants were facing in practical situations.



On the second day the exam was sustained, while on the third day several workshops between teachers and chess players were held, with interesting discussions, which were very constructive and helpful for both sides.

The organizing team worked hard to ensure all conditions for the event and we would like to express special thanks to the General Secretary of the Chess Federation of Albania Mrs. Majlinda Pilinci and Mrs. Rozana Gjergji for collaboration.

ECU Prize Competition at London Chess Conference 2016

The 4th edition of the London Chess and Education Conference, which will take place on 10-12th December 2016 at the Hilton Kensington Olympia. As usual it coincides with the first weekend of the London Chess Classic held at the Olympia Conference Centre. The theme of the Conference is “The Didactics of Chess”.

The conference is supported by Chess in Schools and Communities as part of its educational mission. In addition, the European Chess Union is sponsoring the event this year which has enabled the conference to be extended to a third day.



On the third day of the Conference, there will be a competition open to all interested attendees.

The objective of the competition is to devise an original chess exercise involving collaborative problem solving, and the winner of the competition will be the person who submits the best original chess exercise to use during a lesson.

The prize fund will be €1000 comprising a main prize of €500, a second prize €300 and a third prize of €200. See more about the [competition rules](#).

Entries should be submitted to competition@londonchessconference.com.

The deadline for submissions is [Sunday 4 December 2016 at 5pm London time](#).

Registration for the Conference is made through the website which contains all details regarding pricing and waivers. We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

The first [draft of the Conference programme](#) is published on the Official Website of the Conference. A more detailed version and a list of speakers will be available soon.

[Official Website](#)

ECU NEWS

ECU President Zurab Azmaiparashvili in Brussels

The awards ceremony of ACES Europe 2016 took place on 16th November at the European Parliament in Brussels, with more than 30 cities candidates for the awards and Marseille as the main protagonist, which received the award for the European Capital of Sport 2017.

ACES Europe (European Capitals and Cities of Sport federation) is a non-profit association based in Brussels which assigns the recognitions of European Capital, City, Community and Town of Sport, every year since 2001.



The ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili visited Brussels for this occasion, and during ACES award ceremony met the European Commissioner of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Mr. Tibor Navracsics, the President and founder of ACES, Mr. Gian F. Lupattelli, and the Head of the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education MEP Mr. Silvia Costa.

Mr. Azmaiparashvili discussed the new opportunities of chess entering the European programs for the next years with Mr. Navracsics and Mr. Costa, while with Mr. Lupattelli he discussed the possibility of agreement between the ECU and ACES.



The ECU President also met Mrs. Claudia Tapardel, the Romanian MEP, who chaired the [ECU CIS Conference in the European Parliament](#) last February. During their brief meeting they decided to continue to work closely for the further promotion of chess in the European Parliament and European Commission, as well as to make chess eligible as a sport and educational tool for more EU programs.

In Memoriam Mark Taimanov

We have been sadly informed that one of the leading Soviet and Russian chess players Mark Taimanov died on 28th November 2016 at the age of 90.



Bobby Fischer (USA) at the height of his chess powers: ready to play Soviet GM Taimanov, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. This was the quarter-finals to determine who would challenge World Chess Champion Boris Spassky (USSR). Fischer won the match 6-0.

Taimanov was born in Kharkiv, Ukraine. His mother, a piano teacher, introduced him to music, so beside being a chess player, Taimanov was also a concert pianist.

He was awarded the International Grandmaster title in 1952 and played in the Candidates Tournament in Zurich in 1953, where he tied for eighth place. From 1946 to 1956, he was among the world's top ten players. He played in 23 USSR Chess Championships (a record equalled by Efim Geller), tying for first place twice. In 1952 he lost the playoff match to Mikhail Botvinnik, while in 1956, he beat Yuri Averbakh and Boris Spassky for the title.

In 1971, he lost the Candidates Tournament to Bobby Fischer with 6-0. He after considered this match "the culminating point" of his chess career and later wrote a book about the match, titled "How I Became Fischer's Victim".

Taimanov has opening variations named after him in the Sicilian Defence, Modern Benoni and Nimzo-Indian Defence. He has written books on two of his named variations, as well as an autobiographical best games collection.

The European Chess Union expresses most sincere condolences to Mr. Taimanov's family, Russian Chess Federation and the whole chess community on their loss.

Source: [Russian Chess Federation](#)

FUN ZONE

In November edition we prepared 4 interesting positions from recently ended European Club Cup in Novi Sad. Enjoy!



Aronian vs Rapport, Black to play



Yifan vs Dzagnidze, White to play



Lupulescu vs Papp, Black to play



Mihkalevski vs Faizrahmanov, Black to play

Solutions from NL October 2016:

Position #1

1. Bb5 Kxb5 2. Qc4#

Position #2

1. Qh6 Kxh6 2. Bf8#

Position #3

1. Rg8 Kxg8 2. Qg7#

Position #4

1. Qxg7 Qxg7 2. Rxf8#

They told about chess...

“You need to have that edge, you need to have that confidence, you need to have that absolute belief that you’re the best and that you’ll win every time!”

Magnus Carlsen, Norwegian chess grandmaster and the current World Chess Champion.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER

ECU EVENTS

EUROPEAN RAPID AND BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

The European Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships 2016 will take place in Tallinn/Estonia, from 14-18 December, in Park Inn by Radisson Meriton Conference & Spa Hotel, which is the official venue of the Championship.



The Championships will be the main event of the Paul Keres 100 Festival, dedicated to the 100th birth anniversary of Paul Keres, Estonian Sportsman of the 20th century and often referred as “The Eternal Second” in the chess world, one of the greatest players of all time.

The event starts with the European Individual Rapid Chess Championship, which will be held on 15th and 16th December. The Rapid competition will be played according to the Swiss system, in 11 rounds, with the time control 15 min game + 10 sec per move starting from the first move.

The event will continue with the European Blitz Chess Championship, which will take place on 17th and 18th December. The Blitz competition will be played according to the Swiss system, in 13 paired rounds, with the time control 3 min game + 2 sec per move starting from the first move.



Both Championships are open to all players representing Chess Federations which are ECU members (FIDE zones 1.1. to 1.10), regardless of their title and rating.

The total prize fund for the competitions will be €30,100 (€20,000 for the Rapid and €10,100 for the Blitz Championships).

563 players registered for Rapid competition, and 499 for the Blitz event, at the time of publication. The top seed for both events is GM Teimour Radjabov from Azerbaijan (2788 Rapid rtg, 2800 Blitz rtg).

[List of registered players](#)

In order to popularize the event the organizers are offering special accommodating conditions for the top 20 seeds, as well as for the top 3 female players, along with an early registration, providing the highest standards in organizing.



The Estonian Chess Federation, in cooperation with the Republic of Estonia and the Estonian Olympic Committee organizes a year-round International Memorial Festival ‘Paul Keres 100’, which started on December 8 last year, with the International Youth Tournament “Chess Stars of the Baltic Sea Region” in Narva, the birthplace of the Estonian national hero, followed by several Paul Keres Memorial Tournaments in 2016, such as the 25th Keres Memorial – ACP Open, held on 7th January 2016, then Paul Keres 100 Memorial Tournament in Pärnu, 14-17 July, 2016, etc.

The final event of the festival will be the European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship, which concludes the one year circuit.

[Official Website](#)

EUROPEAN YOUTH RAPID AND BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

Serbian Chess Federation and European Chess Union have the honour to invite all European Chess Federations affiliated to FIDE and ECU to participate in the 16th European Youth Rapid & Blitz U-8,10,12,14,16,18 Championship.

The event will be held in Novi Sad, Serbia, from 26th to 30th December. The tournament hall will be Master Centre of Novi Sad Fair or SPENS Sports Centre.



The event consists of 5 separate competitions:

- (1) 16th INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP – RAPID
- (2) 15th EUROPEAN RAPID CUP – RAPID SUPERFINAL
- (3) 16th TEAM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS – RAPID
- (4) 16th INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS – BLITZ, and
- (5) 15th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP IN SOLVING CHESS PROBLEMS

The total prize fund for all events is 8.000 EUR in goods, and 1.300 EUR in cash.

The deadline for registration is **10th December, 2016**. The registration form is posted on the [Official Website of the tournament](#)

EUROPEAN EVENTS

LONDON CHESS CLASSIC 2016	9 - 18 December	London/England	Official Website
ZADAR OPEN 2016	11-17 December	Zadar/Croatia	Official Website
FERROLI OPEN 2016	12 - 18 December	Satu Mare/Romania	Official Website
SUNWAY SITGES CHESS FESTIVAL 2016	16 - 23 December	Sitges/Spain	Official Website
13th INTERNATIONAL CHESS OPEN 2016	17 - 21 December	Vandoeuvre-Les-Nancy /France	Official Website
GRONINGEN CHESS FESTIVAL	21 - 30 December	Groningen/Netherlands	Official Website
WEIHNACHTSOPE N ZURICH 2016	26 - 30 December	Zurich/Switzerland	Official Website
Danube Open 2016	26 - 31 December	Aschach an der Donau/AUT	Official Website
RILTON CUP 2016	27 December - 5 January	Stockholm/Sweden	Official Website