



REPORTS FROM ZURICH, GRENKE, REYKJAVIK, SHAMKIR



EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP



C.A.S.T.L.E. CONFERENCE IN TURIN



EUROPEAN YOUTH GRAND PRIX 2017/2018

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



NANA DZAGNIDZE IS THE NEW EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CHESS CHAMPION

Georgian Grandmaster Nana Dzagnidze is the winner of the 18th European Individual Women's Chess Championship, which was held in Riga/Latvia, from 10th to 23rd April in the Radisson Blu Latvija Conference & Spa Hotel.

In the final decisive round she drew with Russian Natalija Pogonina, and triumphed as a sole leader with 8.5 points.

Second place was shared between two Russian players Aleksandra Goryachkina and Alisa Galliamova, who both scored 8 points. According to the tie-breaks, silver went to the young Russian, while the bronze went to her older colleague, who defeated Alina Kashlinskaya in the final round.



[Final Standings](#)

The event gathered the best female chess players from Europe who competed for this prestigious title and the rich prize fund of 75.000 EUR. Also, the Championship was the qualification event for the next World Women Championship, and 14 players qualified.



The qualifiers are: Kateryna Lagno (Russia), Mariya Muzychuk (Ukraine), Monika Socko (Poland), Elina Danielian (Armenia), Elisabeth Paehtz (Germany), Marina Nechaeva (Russia), Bela Khotenashvili (Georgia), Natalia Zhukova (Ukraine), Natalija Pogonina (Russia), Hoang Thanh Trang (Hungary) and Anita Gara (Hungary).



The championship was played according to the Swiss system in 11 rounds, with the time control 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.

[Official Website](#)

Hikaru Nakamura wins Kortchnoi Zurich Challenge

American Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura made a hat trick and became the winner of the Kortchnoi Zurich Chess Challenge for the third time in a row.

The event consisted of the New Classical tournament (45 minutes per game with additional 30 seconds for each move) and the Blitz competition (10 minutes per game with additional 5 seconds for each move) which was held on the last day. In the overall standings with combined results Nakamura scored 15 points.

The second place went to Ian Nepomniachtchi (Russia) with 14 points, while Viswanathan Anand (India) came third with 13.5 points.



The event was held in Zurich/Switzerland, 12-17 April, 2017 at the Kongresshaus Zürich, Gartensaal. Both Classical and the Blitz event were played as 7-round Round Robin tournaments.

[Official Website](#)

Photos by Georg Krandolfer

Levon Aronian winner of Grenke Chess Classic 2017

Levon Aronian became the winners of the 4th Grenke Chess Classic 2017 which took place from 15-22 April 2017 in Germany.



The Armenian seized the victory with one round to spare, after defeating Hou Yifan in the 6th round. Second place went to Magnus Carlsen, and the third to Fabiano Caruana.



The event was held in Germany, with two playing venues: Schwarzwaldhalle Karlsruhe (Rounds 1 to 3) and Event-Akademie Baden-Baden (Rounds 4 to 7).

The time control was 100 min for 40 moves, followed by 50 min for 20 moves + 15 min for the rest of the game, with a 30 sec increment from move one.

Photos by Georgios Souleidis

[Official Website](#)

Anish Giri wins Reykjavik Open 2017

Dutch Grandmaster Anish Giri won this year's edition of Reykjavik Open, which was held in Reykjavik, Iceland, 18-28 April, in Harpa, Reykjavik's spectacular new music hall on the harbour.



Giri defeated his countryman Erwin I'Ami in the final round and triumphed with half a point ahead. The second place was shared by four players who scored 8 points: Jorden Van Foreest (NED), Sergei Movsesian (ARM), Abhijeet Gupta (IND) and Gata Kamsky (USA). Thanks to better tie-breaks, medals went to Van Foreest and Movsesian.

Best ranked female players were Harika Dronavalli from India and Tatev Abrahamyan from USA, both with 7 points, and Batchimeg Tuvshintugs from Mongolia with 6.5 points.



Final Standings

ECU President Zurab Azmaiparashvili was present during the event in Reykjavik, after a kind invitation of the Iceland Chess Federation. Mr. Azmaiparashvili addressed to the present at the closing ceremony and congratulated the winners.



The event was played according to the Swiss System in 10 rounds, with time control 90 min for 40 moves + 30 minutes after move 40. Increment of 30 sec. for every move starting from move one.

Official Website

Photos by Maria Emelianova

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov winner of Shamkir Chess 2017

Grandmaster Shakhriyar Mamedyarov won Shamkir Chess 2017, tournament held in the memory of Vugar Gashimov, which took place in Shamkir/Azerbaijan, 20-30 April, 2017.

The Azeri Grandmaster triumphed in Shamkir for the second time, as he won the title last year as well.



Second place was tied by Vladimir Kramnik, Wesley So and Veselin Topalov, all three with 5 points, half a point behind Mamedyarov.

The winner was awarded by Mr. Farid Huseynov, Chairman of Shamkir Chess 2017 Organizing Committee. Additionally, the fair play prize was awarded by Vugar Gashimov's brother - Sarkhan Gashimov, to Indian player Harikrishna Pentala.

[Final Standings](#)



The tournament was played in a Round Robin system in 9 rounds, with time control 120 minutes for the first 40 moves, 60 minutes for the next 20 moves and then each player will be allotted 15 minutes after the second time control; an increment of 30 seconds per move will be allotted from move 61 onwards.

The event was organized by the Azerbaijan Chess Federation and the “Synergy Group”.

[Official Website](#)

Photos by Shamkir Chess

ECU NEWS

ECU Board meeting in Riga – main information and decisions

The second ECU Board meeting in 2017 took place in Riga/ Latvia on 21st and 22nd April, during the European Individual Women’s Chess Championship 2017.

The Latvian Chess Federation hosted the meeting at Radisson Blu hotel under the excellent conditions. ECU is especially thankful to the Latvian Chess Federation for the successful organization of the European Women’s Championship 2017 and is committed for further cooperation with Latvia and the rest of the Baltic countries.



Main information and decisions:

- The Board unanimously approved the closing and the auditing for the year 2016. ECU President informed about new funds have secured for the organization though the Batumi 2018 Chess Olympiad development fund.
- The Board decided to update the ECU tournament regulations and propose amendments of the Statutes for the ECU Congress that will be held in Crete, in November 2017.
- A minimum appointment of 25% women arbiters in the European Championships will be applied with the ECU Tournament Regulations.
- The European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2018 was awarded to the city of Skopje, FYR Macedonia.
- ECU Board decided to support CIS programs in Europe and approved new development projects in co-operation with National Chess Federations.
- **ECU signed a Memorandum of understanding with the European Fair Play Movement.**

Brief info about the European Fair Play Movement

Under the Patronage of the European Olympic Committee

The EFPM is a non-governmental association with its Headquarters in Vienna, Austria and with the General Secretary and Administration in Luxembourg. The EFPM promotes and develops Fair Play in sport, education and everyday life, primarily in Europe. The EFPM reflects a philosophy of life, abiding by universal ethical values, seeking to create, in the spirit of Fair Play and based on the educational value of good example through sport, a better world, pleasure found in sport with tolerance and respect for competitors. <http://www.fairplayeur.com>



Joint Venture Items

The ECU and the EFPM herewith declare a joint venture in matters of sports, tolerance and fair play. This joint venture includes the following items:

1. Try to establish and to coordinate common activities of fair play, tolerance, peace and understanding.
2. Strive, step by step, to have a close cooperation by supporting the aims and goals of both organizations, for example with common activities, seminars and workshops on several topics of sports and fair play, etc.
3. Enable each other to publish articles and information in their respective official publications, webpages and papers.
4. Nominate a member of its Executive Committee as regular contact persons. The representatives will meet preferably at the General Assembly and/or Congresses of the two organizations with the possibility of short presentations about each organization and their annual work. The foreseen activities of the ECU and the EFPM will be discussed at the above-mentioned meetings.
5. The EFPM will support the ECU to sensitize its members for the importance of the ethical values and fair play principles of sports.
6. The ECU will help to promote the strengthening of fair play, tolerance, peace and understanding through and within sports.
 - ECU signed an Agreement of Cooperation with ACES-EUROPE

Brief info for ACES EUROPE - European Capitals & Cities Sports Federation

ACES EUROPE works with the European Commission, and above all on the initiatives presented in the "White Paper on Sport", thanks to the activation of the structured relationships with the most important European people practicing a sport, through the collaboration with the EU Members States and through the promotion of relations in the field of sport. The Commission itself will support the future development of the initiative related to the European Capitals of Sport, which is the subject of ACES' activities. So the action point 50 of the White Paper recognizes ACES Europe, its activities and the award of European Capital of Sport. <http://www.aceseurope.eu>



Main scope of the cooperation

With this Protocol, the Parties commit to the diffusion of sports culture and sports practice in Europe (the interest of athletes, European citizens, local communities and the whole sports environment).

The Parties will be in charge – directly or through their national organizations – of all the necessary activities in order to:

- a. Promote the knowledge, the image and the practice of the sport of chess, with its cultural aspects, through the involvement of European Institutions and Municipalities.
- b. Develop the project and operational synergies with National and European Institutions, to spread and promote chess in schools as an investment in quality of life and citizens' well-being.
- c. Ensure that the young are able to develop their activity in a free way, in suitable environments, where they are treated in a civilized manner by qualified persons, without sex, racial, cultural or religious discrimination.
- d. Promote chess discipline through the appointment and development of best practices to be spread throughout the whole of the European Union, in full synergy with the European Commission's policy, that of the European Parliament and of the Regions Committee (CO.R.)

C.A.S.T.L.E. Conference in Turin

The C.A.S.T.L.E. project – a “Chess curriculum to Advance Students’ Thinking and Learning skills in primary Education” (this acronym reminds of the castling move) was born from the idea of creating a strong partnership in the field of chess in schools, under the initial thrust of three partners with considerable experience in teaching chess in schools: Alfiere Bianco (White Bishop) in Italy, Deutsche Schulschachstiftung (the German school chess foundation) in Germany, Club Ajedrez 64 Villalba in Spain.



The project, funded by the EU's Erasmus+ program (€ 246.300) for the three-year period 2015-2017 included the Ministry of Education bodies in Piedmont and Madrid, the University of Turin and three leading schools: IC “B. Muzzone “ in Racconigi, Grundschule Hammerschmiede Ausburg (Munich) and Ceip San Miguel Arcangel Madrid. In addition to the partner school and as stakeholder, has been added FIDE (the International Chess Federation, supporting the creation of the video course: “Psychomotor Development Classes on a Giant Chessboard”) and six more schools in the three countries.



The Conference will be held in Turin/Italy, on 26 May 2017, in Hotel Royal. More than 250 people are expected to come to listen to the keynote speakers and lecturers. The simultaneous

translation from English to Italian and vice versa will be provided. The registration for the Conference is free and can be done [here](#).

[Official Website](#)

FUN ZONE

In April Fun Zone we prepared 4 easy Mate-in-two combinations. Enjoy and test your speed!



White to play



Black to play



Black to play



White to play

Solutions from NL March 2017:

Keres vs Lewenfisch, Moscow 1949

1. Qb4 Rxb4 2. Rc8+ Nxc8 3. Re8# 1-0

Alekhine vs Potemkin, Paris Blind, 1928

1. Ra6 Qd8 2. Raxe6+ fxe6 3. Rxe6+ Kf7 4. Re7+ Qxe7 5. Nxe7 Kxe7 6. Qe2+ Kf7 7. Qh5+ Kf6 8. Qxc5 Rhd8 9. g4 1-0

Tartacover vs Wolf, Bad Pistyan 1922

1. Nd7+ Qxd7 2. Rxd7 Bxd7 3. Qd5 Ke8 4. Qg8+ 1-0

Balogh vs Gromer, Chess Olympiad 1931

Qa8+ Nb8 2. Qxb7+ Kxb7 3. Bxd7+ Ka8 4. Rxb8+ Kxb8 5. Rb1+ Ka8 6. Bc6# 1-0

They told about chess...

“We cannot resist the fascination of sacrifice, since a passion for sacrifices is part of a Chessplayer’s nature”

Rudolf Spielman, Austrian-Jewish chess player of the romantic school and a chess writer



UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY

ECU EVENTS

EUROPEAN YOUTH GRAND PRIX 2017/2018

The European Youth Grand Prix is a series of three tournaments held over two calendar years 2017 and 2018. The event is held under the patronage of the ECU and gathers the best young and talented youth players within Europe.



The 1st leg of the Series will be held in Kirishi, Russia from 16th to 28th May 2017, under the name XV World's Youth Stars – Vanya Somov's Memorial, while the 2nd leg will be held in Dzermuk, Armenia in October 2017, and the 3rd will take place again in Kirishi in May 2018.

Each tournament will have 12 players. The selection criteria for the Grand Prix Series is as follows:

Wild cards: World and European Chess Champions U16 of the year 2016;

Age of the rest of participants: Born 2001 or after;

By rating: five European players with the highest rating by 1st January 2017;

ECU nominees: 2 players will be nominated by the ECU President;

Host city nominees: 2 players will be announced by the organizers (Kirishi and Dzermuk).

Each participant shall play 2 (two) tournaments to be calculated for the final standings.

The time control of the events will be 90 minutes for the whole game, plus 20 seconds increment per move, from move one.



The participants of the European Youth Grand Prix first stage in Krishi are:

1. Shevchenko Kirill, 2491 (ID 14129574), IM, 2002, Ukraine
2. Hakobyan Aram, 2452 (ID 13306677), IM, 2001, Armenia
3. Lobanov Sergei, 2429 (ID 24183750), 2001, Russia
4. Kaasen Tor Fredrik, 2410 (ID 1516647), FM, 2002, Norway
5. Nikitenko Mihail, 2408 (ID 13506862), IM, 2000, Belarus
6. Sargsyan Shant, 2406 (ID 13306766), IM, 2002, Armenia

7. Pultinevicius Paulius, 2389 (ID 12809390), IM, 2001, Lithuania
8. Giannoulakis Lampros, 2335 (ID 4247019), FM, 2001, Greece
9. Zarubitski Viachaslau, 2325 (ID 13509373), FM, 2002, Belarus
10. Shubin Kirill, 2287 (ID 34119962), FM, 2003, Russia
11. Kacharava Nikolozi, 2180 (ID 13611860), FM, 2004, Georgia
12. Shchetkin Kirill, 1594 (ID 34196134), 2005, Russia.

[Official Website](#)

EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

The European Individual Chess Championship 2017 will take place in Minsk/Belarus, from 29th May to 11th June 2017, in the Sports Palace, which will be the official venue of the Championship.

The event is organized by the National Olympic Committee of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Belarus, Minsk City Executive Committee and Belarus Chess Federation under the auspices of the ECU.



The Championship is open to all players representing Chess Federations which are ECU members, regardless of their title and rating, and there is no limit to the number of participants per federation.

The championship will be played in 11-round Swiss system, with the time control 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 European Individual Championship 2017 is also a qualification event for the next World Cup. According to FIDE regulations and the decision of the ECU Board, 22 players will qualify.

The total prize fund is 100 000 EUR, including the special prizes.

[Official Website](#)

EUROPEAN EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL OPEN DE BALAGNE 2017	6 - 7 May	Calvi, Corsica/France	Official Website
LVIV CUP 2017	8 - 9 May	Lviv/Ukraine	Official Website
TEPE SIGEMAN CHESS 2017	10 - 14 May	Malmö/Sweden	Official Website
MOSCOW FIDE GRAND PRIX	11 - 22 May	Moscow/Russia	Official Website
ENNIS CONGRESS 2017	12 - 14 May	Ennis/Ireland	Official Website
FRENCH TOP 12 TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP	18 - 28 May	Chartres/France	Official Website
NEZHMETDINOV CUP 2017	29 May - 8 June	Kazan/Russia	Official Website