



ECU BOARD MEETING
IN ANTALYA



TRADEWISE
GIBRALTAR
CHESS FESTIVAL
2017



INTERNATIONAL
RSSU CUP -
MOSCOW OPEN
2017



EUROPEAN
YOUTH GRAND
PRIX 2017-2018

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



WESLEY SO WINS TATA STEEL CHESS 2017

American Grandmaster Wesley So (USA) became the winner of the 79th edition of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament.

He defeated Russian Grandmaster Ian Nepomniatchi with Black pieces, and became clear winner of the Masters group, leaving behind the five time champion Magnus Carlsen and four time winner Levon Aronian.

World Champion Magnus Carlsen came second, while the third place was shared by Adhiban Baskaran (IND), Levon Aronian (ARM) and Yi Wei (CHN).

Wesley So remains unbeaten for 56 games in a row, and is now the World’s number two in live ratings. “Winning this prestigious tournament has been a goal for a long time”, said So after his victory.



[Tata Steel Chess Masters Standings](#)

English Grandmaster Gawain Jones managed to win the Tata Steel Challengers, as he saved the draw against Chinese Lu Shanglei in the final round, and will participate in the Tata Steel Masters 2018.

The English triumphed thanks to better tie-break than Markus Ragger of Austria, who also scored 9 points and tied for the first place. 16-year-old American Jeffery Xiong came third, and also won the special 'Professor Van Hulst Young Talent Award', which he received from the 106-year-old Johan van Hulst himself.

[Tata Steel Challengers Standings](#)



The top amateur group was won by Lucas van Foreest (15), and he will participate in the Tata Steel Challengers next year.

The closing ceremony was held in Tata Steel plant in Velsen, with presence of all the Masters and Challengers players, many distinguished guests, tournament officials and members of the organizing team.



The present were addressed by Mrs. Myra Rooselaar, Chairwoman of Tata Steel Chess Tournament, Mr. Freek Ossel, Mayor of Beverwijk, Mr. Jeroen van den Berg, Tournament Director, Mr. Freek Dales, Mayor of velsen, who awarded Tata Steel Challengers winner, Mr. Sarkhan Gashimov, who awarded the special 'Vugar Gashimov Fairplay Award' prize to Adhiban Baskaran (Masters) and Eric Hansen (Challengers), Professor Johan van Hulst, Mr. Anatoly Karpov, the 12th World Chess Champion, and finally Mr. Theo Henrar, Tata Steel Chairman, who awarded the Masters winner Wesley So.



Mr. Henrar announced that the 80th edition of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament will take place in Wijk aan Zee from 12 – 28 January 2018.

The ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili paid a visit to the Netherlands during the Tata Steel Chess Tournament. Mr. Azmaiparashvili visited the Max Euwe Centrum where he has been welcomed by its President, Mr. Jan van Run.



The next day, the ECU President was the guest of honor in the playing hall of the Tata Steel in Wijk aan Zee along with the President of Dutch Chess Federation, Mrs. Marleen van Amerongen, where he officially started the 9th round by traditional hit of the gong.



Mr. Azmaiparashvili was also guest at the live coverage of the event, hosted by GM Yasser Seirawan, where he talked about the upcoming FIDE World Cup, the Chess Olympiad 2018, European Chess Union activities and analyzed the ongoing games of the 9th round.

The video of the Tata Steel Chess round 9 live coverage can be seen [here](#) (Mr. Azmaiparashvili's appearance from 1:36 – 2:25).

[Official Website](#)

Photo credits: Tata Steel Chess

Hikaru Nakamura wins Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival 2017

Hikaru Nakamura (USA) became the winner of the Tradewise Gibraltar Masters 2017 for the third consecutive year, after defeating GM David Anton Guijarro (ESP) in the tie-breaks.

Nakamura won against Eduard Romain (FRA) in the final round, and secured his place in the play-off, where he first defeated Chinese Grandmaster Yu Yangyi, and then the Spaniard for the Gibraltar hat-trick.



Second and third place were shared by Guijjaro and Yangyi with 8 points, while Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Michael Adams, Emil Sutovsky, Ivan Cheparinov, Veselin Topalov and Boris Gelfand tied for the 4th place with 7.5 points.

The best female player was Ju Wenjun from China who won the Women's prize worth £15,000.

Final Standings



This traditional event took place from 23rd January to 2nd February 2017 at Caleta Hotel in Gibraltar.

This year, the festival marked the 15th anniversary, and consisted of five main events, as well as a variety of evening activities, such as Battle of Sexes, Masterclass, Tandem Simul, Team Blitz, etc.

The 15th Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival was one of the strongest Open ever held, with players of all standards and from 54 countries competing for a total prize fund of £190,000.



The top players who were competing in Gibraltar Festival are World #2 Fabiano Caruana (USA), World #4 Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France), World #9 Hikaru Nakamura (USA), World #15 and former World Champion Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria), World #17 Peter Svidler (Russia), World #19 Mickey Adams (England), World #20 Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine), World Women's Champion Hou Yifan (China), etc.

Official Website

Photos by Sophie Traiy and John Saunders

Gordievsky and Gritsayeva win Moscow Open 2017

Dmitry Gordievsky (Moscow) and Oksana Gritsayeva (Feodosia) became the winners of the XIII International RSSU Cup, 2017 Moscow Open, which was held in Moscow from January 26 to February 6, 2017.

Gordievsky shared the first place with Vladislav Artemiev (Kazan), as both grandmasters scored 7.5 points. Higher tie-breaks were better for the chess player from Moscow, which allowed him to take the gold medal. The third place was shared between Boris Grachev (Moscow), Denis Khismatullin (Neftekamsk), Gata Kamsky (USA), Maksat Atabayev (Turkmenia) and Evgeny Levin (St. Petersburg), but thanks to better tie-breaks, Grachev took the bronze.



The 2017 Moscow Open Men's Cup Of Russia gathered 221 chess players from 16 countries, who were competing for the victory.

[Men's Cup Of Russia Final Standings](#)

In the Women's Cup of Russia Grandmaster Oksana Gritsayeva triumphed with an impressive score - 8.5 points out of 9 games! Second place went to Alina Kashlinskaya (Moscow), who was the only one to draw with Gritsayeva. Dina Belenkaya (St. Petersburg) came third with 7 points.

[Women's Cup of Russia Final Standings](#)



This year the RSSU Men's Veteran Cup gathered more than 170 participants. According to the final results the Grandmaster Evgeny Sveshnikov (Chelyabinsk) and the International Master Alexander Filipenko (Izhevsk) scored 7.5 points, but Sveshnikov won a gold medal thanks to better tie-breaks.

Galina Strutinskaia (Moscow) triumphed at the RSSU Women's Veteran Cup with 8.5/9. Elena Sazonova (Tyumen) came second with 6.5 point, while Ludmila Saunina (Sverdlov region), Elena Fatalitbekova and Elena Krasenkova (both from Moscow) tied for the third place with 6 points. Thanks to the tie-breaks Saunina became the bronze medalist.



18-year old Sergey Tunik (Kemerov region) became the winner of the RSSU Amateur Chess Cup, finishing the tournament with 8 of 9 points.

The RSSU Blind and Visually Impaired Fast Chess Cup finished with the victory of international grandmaster Yury Meshkov (Smolensk), who scored 7.5 points.

World Chess Champion Challenger, RSSU graduator Sergey Karyakin took part in the Award Ceremony of the winners and medalists of the School Champions' and Student tournaments, held within the frames of the XIII International RSSU Chess Cup, 2017 Moscow Open.

Play chess - it's great!", Sergey wished to the audience.



The Award Ceremony of winners and medalists of the RSSU Chess Cup, 2017 Moscow Open was held on Sunday evening, February 5 in the assembly hall of the RSSU main building. The Russian State Social University Rector Mrs. Natalya Borisovna Pochinok, the Russian Blind Sports Federation President and the International Blind Sports Federation member Mrs. Lidia Pavlovna Abramova, the Moscow Chess Federation first Vice-President Mr. Nikita Vladimirovich Kim and the sports society Lokomotiv Chairman Mr. Ilya Andreevich Vdovin came to congratulate participants of the competitions.

In conclusion Natalya Borisovna once again thanked everybody for the participation in the festival and announced the XIII RSSU Cup, 2017 Moscow Open closed.

Photos by Galina Popova

[Official Website](#)

Turkish Cadets and Youth Championships 2017 break the record

2017 Turkish Cadet, Youth and Senior Chess Championships simultaneously took place from 22nd to 27th January 2017 in Antalya.



The Championships hosted over 2.500 players and more than 6000 people in total (players, parents, arbiters, trainers and officials) from all 81 provinces of Turkey and made this event yet another record breaker: the largest chess event in Turkey and even one of the biggest in the world.



Turkish Cadet and Youth Championships had a special format: the separate tournaments for all age groups from U7 to U18 were held, adding up to 24 different tournaments in total at the same time.



The events were opened by Mrs. Gulkiz Tulay, President of Turkish Chess Federation, who made the first symbolic move and officially started the Championships.



The ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, ECU Secretary General Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou and ECU Board members were the guests of honor at the closing ceremony of the event, and got the opportunity to award the young winners of the Cadets and Youth Championships.

The organization of the Championships also attracted a great attention from Turkish media.

[Cadets Championship](#)

[Youth Championship](#)

[Senior Championship](#)

Photos: Turkish Chess Federation

ECU NEWS

ECU Board meeting in Antalya

The first ECU Board meeting in 2017 took place on 27th and 28th January in Antalya, Turkey. The Turkish Chess Federation hosted the Board members under the excellent conditions at Mardan Palace, during the Turkish Youth Championship 2017.



The ECU Board members had the chance to make the first ceremonial moves at the last rounds of the Championship, as well as to give the awards to the young Turkish champions!



Main information and decisions:

The closing for the year 2016 was approved. The financial results of the organization are improving each year and the ECU is becoming a sustainable and reliable sports federation, trustable by the sports market and a wider audience.

ECU Board, upgrading the ECU presence in international bodies, decided to sign Memorandums of cooperation with the [European Fair Play Movement](#) and the [European Capital and Cities of Sports Federation “ACES”](#).

The Board confirmed the organization of the [1st European Corporate Chess Championship 2017](#) in Paris from 24th to 25th November 2017.

ECU Board confirmed that the Montenegro Chess Federation will organize the [European Chess Amateur Championship 2018](#).

The [2nd ECU Congress](#) will take place from 1st to 5th November 2017 in Creta Maris hotel, in Crete/Greece.

The [next ECU Board meeting](#) will take place in Riga/Latvia, during the European Individual Women’s Chess Championship 2017.



ECU FILES A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT IN SWITZERLAND

After the ECU General Assembly in Baku/Azerbaijan, all the investigation’s reports and materials from Bulgaria, Montenegro and FIDE Ethics Commission, as well related with the case press items & letters from the above countries, including Serbia, were sent to the major legal office in Zug/Switzerland for further evaluation.

Additionally were forwarded to Switzerland a number of threatening emails which were sent to ECU President and Board members blackmailing them to stop any investigation about specific individuals. The threatening emails were followed, systematically, with release of defaming material in specific sources as a product of the criminal offence of blackmail.

As the result of the material evaluation and as the commitment to the ECU members to make any effort to enlighten the case, the ECU Board gave the final approval for filing a criminal complaint in Zug, Switzerland for various criminal offences related to the operation of the shadow company ECU LLC Delaware and fraud against the organization.

Due to the complexity of the case and the number of countries involved, as well as depending on the decision of the Swiss authorities regarding the jurisdiction of the case, it may be decided that the legal actions will be continued in other countries as well.

Portugal Open 2017

The Portuguese Chess Federation celebrates its 90th anniversary with an International Chess Open. The tournament will held in a 9-round Swiss system, FIDE rated, and valid for title norms.



The tournament takes place in Altis Park Hotel **** in Lisbon/Portugal from 4th to 11th February 2017.

The total prize fund is 8.200 EUR, plus wooden board and chess pieces for the best Youth players Under 16, 14, 12, 10 and 8. The first prize is 2000 EUR.

The first seed is Latvian Grandmaster Igor Kovalenko (ELO 2684), followed by GMs Eduardo Iturrizaga Bonelli (VEN, 2652), Tigran Gharamian (FRA 2624), Milos Perunovic (SRB 2608), Mladen Palac (CRO 2600), etc.

The top female player registered for the tournament is IM Dorsa Derakhshani (Iran, ELO 2373), followed by followed by WGM Ana Filipa Baptista (Portugal, ELO 2094), and

WCM Arda Cagil Irmak (Turkey, ELO 2021).

Results and pairings

The Portuguese Chess Federation (Federação Portuguesa de Xadrez, FPX), founded on 22 January of 1927, is a Sports Federation with Sports Public Utility Statue that has fulfilled all requirements defined by the legislation in force, the FPX has about 3000 (three thousand) registered players for a total of 120 (one hundred and twenty) active clubs and 20 (twenty) territorial associations.

In Portugal there are about of 150 official competitions, between national, regional and private tournaments, being most of them valid for FIDE rating. FPX attributes annually around 65 national titles in national competitions, within the rhythms (Classic chess, Rapid chess and Blitz chess) and for all the ages.

The function of FPX is the representation of the chess in Portugal, which has the support and supervision of the Sports and Youth Institute of Portugal, within the national sports promotion and development and participation in international organizations.

[Official Website](#)

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 Series will be held in Kirishi, Russia from 17th to 29th May 2017, under the name 'XV World's Youth Stars' - Vanya Somov's Memorial.

The 2nd series will be held in Dzermuk, Armenia in Oktober 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:

1. Wild cards: World and European Chess Champions U16 of the year 2016;
2. Age of the rest of participants: Born 2001 or after;
3. By rating: five European players with the highest rating by 1st January 2017;
4. ECU nominees: 2 players will be nominated by the ECU President;
5. Host city nominees: 2 players will be announced by the organizers (Kirishi and Dzermuk).

So far, the known players are:

Wild cards: European Chess Champion U16 for 2016 Timur Fakhрутdinov (RUS, ELO 2430, born 2001) and World Chess Champion U16 for 2016 Haik M. Martirosyan (ARM, ELO 2529, born 2000).

Five European players with the highest rating by 1st January 2017:

1. Bogdan-Daniel Deac (ROU, ELO 2572, born 2001)
2. Andrey Esipenko (RUS, ELO 2497, born 2002)
3. Tor Fredrik Kaasen (NOR, ELO 2475, born 2002)
4. Kirill Shevchenko (UKR, ELO 2453, born 2002)
5. Semen Lomasov (RUS, ELO 2441, born 2002)

In case of any cancelations, the following players will be the substitutes:

1. Thai Dai Van Nguyen (CZE, ELO 2429, born 2001)
2. Sergei Lobanov (RUS, ELO 2429, born 2001)
3. Vincent Keymer (GER, ELO 2428, born 2004)
4. Jergus Pechac (SVK, ELO 2427, born 2001)
5. Vugar Asadli (AZE, ELO 2427, born 2001)



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

Participants of the European Youth Grand Prix have to confirm the participation in the GP series before 15th March, 2017.

The organizers guarantee the full board and lodging for 12 players. The accompanying person will have free breakfast if he/she shares a room with the invited player. All players and coaches have to pay 100 € registration fee.



The total prize fund of the Grand Prix is 7200 EUR, and is accumulated:

1 place – 3.000 €; 2 – 2.000 €; 3 – 1.000 €; 4 -700 €; 5 - 500 €.

Each leg of the Grand Prix will have the following prizes:

1 - 3 places get laptop computer with chess software included, and 4 – 12 places will be awarded with the latest Chessbase database.

The European Youth Grand Prix Director is Mr. Gennady Nesis, baskov26@yahoo.com

In Memoriam Cristina Adela Foisor

The Romanian chess is in mourning: one of its greatest players, IM Cristina Adela Foisor (nee Badulescu) passed away on 21st January, at the age of 49 years.

Started playing chess in official tournaments at the age of 13, Cristina made quick progresses, winning the bronze medal at the European Chess Championship in 1985, in the Romanian resort Baile Herculane.

In short time, she became the main member of the Romanian Olympic team, with 14 presences between 1988 and 2016 (13 of them at the first two boards), missing only the edition of 2008, with 7th place as best individual board result (1990) and 4th place in general standing (1994).

As team performances, she won silver and bronze with Romania (1997, 2001) at the European Team Championship, as well as gold and two silvers (1998, 2000, 2001) with the club AEM Luxten Timisoara at the European Club Cup.



In the continental field, it is worth of mentioning the 5th place at the individual edition of 2001 and the title of European Union Champion, gained at Arvier in 2007.

At the World Women Championships, her highest performances were the qualification at the Candidate Tournament in Tilburg (1994) and playing in the quarter finals in Moscow (2001). Sadly, the last qualification (for Tehran 2017) will no more be honored by her presence.

She was five time Individual Champion of Romania (from 1989 to 2013), and had many gold medals within the National Team Championships.

It is important to remember her involving into chess developing and popularization, as President of the Romanian Committee for Women Chess, and also grace to her blog foisorchess.wordpress.com.

As trainer (alongside with her husband IM Ovidiu Foisor, National Champion in 1982), she managed to launch in the top chess, her two daughters WGM Sabina-Francesca (now playing for USA) and WIM Mihaela-Veronica (resident in Great Britain).

With her sudden disappearance, Cristina-Adela Foisor left a huge empty place in the National team, but also, a spiritual heritage which has to always be a landmark for the whole Romanian chess movement.

FUN ZONE

In January Fun Zone we prepared 4 Mate in 5 positions. Enjoy!



White to play



White to play



Black to play



Black to play

Solutions from NL December 2016:

I) Pal Benko Chess Life 1975

1. Qc5!

II) Don French, First Christmas Tree 1996

1. Nxc4 dxc4 (1... Rxe3 2 Qxe3#; 1... Rxe3 2 Qxe3#; 1... Re5 2 Rxe5#; 1... fxg4 2 Qxg4#) 2. Qxc4#

III) Don French, Another Christmas Tree

1. f8=N+ Kxf6 2. dxe8=N#

IV) T.R, Dawson Falkirk Herald 1914

1. g5xf6 e.p.!

The crucial question to solve this problem is: What was Black's last move?

By retro-analysis we come to the conclusion that the White pawns must have made at least ten captures to reach their present positions, and so they have taken all of the missing Black pieces, including the c8 bishop.

Thus the last move could not have been d7-d5 since that would mean that the c8 bishop had been captured on its original square by something other than a pawn. So finally, Black's last move was f7-f5 on which White replies by g5xf6 en passant!

They told about chess...

“Chess is eminently and emphatically the philosopher’s game.”

Paul Morphy, was an American chess player, chess prodigy, considered to have been the greatest chess master of his era and an unofficial World Chess Champion.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

PORTUGAL OPEN 2017	4 - 10 February	Lisbon/Portugal	Official Website
BURGDORFER OPEN 2017	10 - 12 February	Burgdorf/Switzerland	Official Website
BUNRATTY CHESS FESTIVAL 2017	17 - 19 February	Limerick/Ireland	Official Website
NANCY CHESS FESTIVAL 2017	18 - 19 February	Nancy/France	Official Website
GRAZ OPEN 2017	20 - 22 February	Graz/Austria	Official Website
VARDARIS CHESS OPEN 2017	23 - 27 February	Thessaloniki/Greece	Official Website