

EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2017



EUROPEAN AMATEUR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2017



EUROPEAN SCHOOL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2017



EUROPEAN YOUTH RAPID&BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



MAXIM MATLAKOV WON EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

European Individual Chess Championship 2017 took place from 29th May to 11th June in Minsk, the capital of Belarus. The 18th edition of one of the biggest tournaments in the ECU calendar took place in the Sports Palace in Minsk, with the participation of 400 players, who competed for the

prestigious title of the European Chess Champion and one of the 22 seats – tickets to the World Chess Cup 2018.

The winner became Grandmaster Maxim Matlakov (RUS, 2714) who triumphed with 8.5 points. The Russian scored the same points as Baadur Jobava (GEO, 2713) and Vladimir Fedoseev (RUS, 2690), but thanks to better tiebreak criteria he became the new European Chess Champion, while the other two won silver and bronze respectively.



The prize fund of 100 000 EUR, attracted the majority of the best European players including and many women players as well.

The best ranked women players were WGM Olga Girya (RUS, 2476) and IM Elisabeth Paehtz (GER, 2474) with 6.5 points, and WGM Aleksandra Goryachkina (RUS, 2470) with 6 points.

The best senior player was GM Zurab Sturua (GEO, 2555), the 2014 World and 2015 European Senior Chess Champion. The best players U18 were IM Haik M. Martirosyan (ARM, 2516), IM Aram Hakobyan (ARM, 2449), IM Kirill Shevchenko (UKR, 2491) and IM Alexey Sarana (RUS, 2472), all with 7 points.



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.

The event was 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 European Chess Union.

European Amateur Chess Champions 2017 announced

<u>European Amateur Chess Championship 2017</u> took place in Nis, Serbia from 9th-17th June. The event consisted of 3 different rating categories: 0-1699, 1700-1999 and 2000-2299.

The winner of the strongest category (2000-2299) is Buyukasik Diyap (TUR, 2261) with 7.5 points. He was the sole winner and the whole point ahead of Biljanic Ljubomir (SRB, 2231) who took the second place with 6.5 points and Livaja Mario (SRB, 2254) who took the third place with 6 points in the tiebreak since there were 4 more players with the same score.

The title of European Woman Amateur Champion in the strongest category went to Okuyaz Duru (TUR, 2017) who finished the Championship with 5 points.





In category 1700-1999 another Turkish player took the first place. Karaoglan Doruk (TUR, 1929) finished sole on the top of the list with 7.5 points. Stojkovic Zoran (SRB, 1956) finished second with 7 points, and the third place took Nagy Laszlo (GER, 1923) with 6.5 points. The first woman in this category is Acarbay Algi (TUR, 1785) with 6 points.





In category 0-1699 five players tied for the first place all with score of 6.5 points, but according to the tiebreak criteria the title of European Amateur Champion went to Ciric Pavle (SRB, 1605), second place took Alumert Orkun Efe (TUR, 1454) and the bronze came to Stevanovic Jovan (SRB, 1566). Two women shared the first place in this category, each with 6 points, but thanks to the better tie-breaks, Dimitrijevic Andjela (SRB, 1624) finished first and Grabcheva Natalia (ECX, 1599) second. The third place went to Mikheeve Galina (RUS, 1545) with 5 points.





European School Chess Championship 2017

The European School Chess Championship 2017 took place in Budva, Montenegro, with the participation of 343 players from over 20 European federations divided in 6 age categories (open and girls)- U7, U9, U11, U13, U15 and U17. The Opening and the Closing Ceremony was attended by the President of European Chess Union Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili.





The winners are:

Open U7: Yonal Timur (RUS, 1318) 8 points

Girls U7: Zubkovskaya Ekaterina (BLR) 8.5 points

Open U9: Erten Kerem (TUR, 1636) 7.5 points

Girls U9: Yildiz Elif Zeren (TUR, 1204) 6 points

Open U11: Caputcuoglu Zeki Berke (TUR, 1704) 7.5 points

Girls U11: Cherepanova Evita (RUS, 1583) 7 points

Open U13: Zhukov Maksim (RUS, 1950) 7 points

Girls U13: Duran Esma Doga (TUR, 1926) 6.5 points

Open U15: Petriashvili Nikoloz (GEO, 2257) 6.5 points

Girls U15: Katkov Michelle (ISR, 1751) 6.5 points

Open U17: Trubchaninov Timur (RUS, 2181) 6 points

Girls U17: Ayan Bengu Sena (TUR, 1788) 5.5 points





Players from Russian federation have dominated on the Championship and won 16 medals in total, 4 golds, 3 silvers and 8 bronze. Turkish players followed them with 5 gold medals, 3 silvers and 1 bronze. Players from Azerbaijan were also successful with 2 second places and 3 bronze medals.

European Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2017

The 17th European Youth Rapid & Blitz U-8,10,12,14,16,18 Championship took place in Budva, Montenegro, right after the European School Chess Championship 2017. The event was held from 19-23rd June and was organized by Montenegro Chess Federation under the auspices of European Chess Union.

The event consisted of 4 separated competitions:

- (1) 17th Individual European Championship-RAPID
- (2) 16th European Rapid Cup-RAPID SUPERFINAL
- (3) 17th Team European Championship-RAPID
- (4) 17th Individual European Championship- BLITZ

The winners of 17th Individual European Championship-RAPID are:

Open U8: Morozov Savely (RUS) 7.5 points

Girls U8: Zubkovskaya Ekaterina (BLR, 1338) 7 points

Open U10: Maneluk Daniil (RUS, 1870) 8 points

Girls U10: Mikheeva Galina (RUS, 1430) 8 points

Open U12: Dardha Daniel (BEL, 2154) 7.5 points

Girls U12: Cherepanova Evita (RUS, 1736) 7.5 points

Open U14: Subelj Jan (SLO, 1948) 8 points

Girls U14: Strukova Ksenia (RUS, 1818) 7 points

Open U16: Zarubitski Viachaslau (BLR, 2244) 7.5 points

Girls U16: Radeva Viktoria (ECX, 1926) 6 points

Open U18: Mesaros Florian (AUT, 2203) 7.5 points

Girls U18: Hrescak Ivana (SLO, 1961) 8 points











(2) Winners of 16th European Rapid Cup-RAPID SUPERFINAL:

Open section:

- 1. Kazakovskiy Valeriy (BLR, 2488) 6 points
- 2. Livaic Leon (CRO, 2474) 5.5 points
- 3. Blohberger Felix (AUT, 2281) 4 points

Girls section:

- 1. Badelka Olga (BLR, 2162) 6.5 points
- 2. Radeva Viktoria (ECX, 1926) 6 points
- 3. Strukova Ksenia (RUS, 1818) 4.5 points



(3) Winners of 17th European Rapid Team Championship- played in 3 categories: U10, U14 and U18:

Category U10:

- 1. Belarus 1 (14 match points)
- 2. Russia (12 match points)
- 3. Ural Chess Academy (9 match points)

Category U14:

- 1. Black & White (11 match points)
- 2. Belarus 2 (10 match points)
- 3. Roubepol (10 match points)

Category U18:

- 1. Belarus 3 (12 match points)
- 2. Romania (12 match points)
- 3. Warm up Team (11 match points)



(4) The winners of 17th European Youth Blitz Chess Championship 2017:

Open U10: Maneluk Daniil (RUS, 2000) 8 points

Girls U10: Zavivaeva Evelina (RUS, 1244) 8 points

Open U14: Subelj Jan (SLO, 2191) 7 points

Girls U14: Shuqja Klean (ALB, 1556) 7.5 points

Open U18: Mesaros Florian (AUT) 7 points

Girls U18: Badelka Olga (BLR, 2046) 7.5 points



Official Tournament Website

European Senior Team Chess Championship 2017

European Senior Team Chess Champioship 2017 is currently on-going in Novi Sad, Serbia. The Championship started on 24th of June and will be held until 4th July. 18 teams coming from 10 different federations are competeng in two categories: 50+ (for players born in the year 1967 or earlier) and 65+ (for players born in the year 1952 or earlier).

The event takes place in the tourist settlement "Ribarsko ostrvo" in Novi Sad.





After 8 rounds played, the leaders are Serbia (in 50+ category) and Russia (in 65+ category) both with the perfect score of 7 victories out of 7 played games.

The Championship is played in both categories in 9 rounds according to the Round-Robin System with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves+ 30 min.for the rest of the game + 30 seconds increment for every move starting from move one.

The total prize fund is 6000 euros.

The event is organized by Serbian Chess Federation, under the auspices of the ECU.

1st European Corporate Chess Championship 2017

Opening evening of the 1st <u>European Corporate Chess Championship</u> took place in the City Hall of <u>Asnieres</u>, on Wednesday, June 28th. The opening evening attended Mr. Manuel Aeschlimann, Mayor of Asnieres and Vice-President of Paris Metropole, Mr. Martin Huba, Treasurer of the ECU and representatives from official partners of the Championship: <u>KAISSA Consulting</u>, <u>EMERIGE</u>, HP BTP, ENGIE.







The Championship will be held in the Asnières Hall of Honor on November 24th and 25th. Until today, about ten teams have completed the pre-registration or registration process: Sberbank (Russia), Abyss Propreté (France), Leonard (France), KAISSA (France), Corsisa Flash, Les Pyramides (France), The city of Asnières (France), Kids Up (France)...

The organizers had the pleasure of welcoming through this opening evening, several great champions of our discipline: Alexandra Kosteniuk, Almira Skripchenko, Anatoli Vaisser, Pavel Tregubov.







The following day Martin Huba, Willy Iclicki and Jean-Claude Moingt visited the Castle of Asnières where the closing ceremony of the Championship and the gala evening would take place on Saturday, November 25th.

The official invitation can be downloaded <u>here</u>.

Official Website of the Championship

Meeting with Bulgarian Minister of Youth and Sports

FIDE Deputy President, Georgios Makropoulos, together with ECU President, Zurab Azmaiparashvili and ECU General Secretary, Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, after an official invitation received, met with the Bulgarian Minister of Youth and Sports, Krasen Kralev in Sofia on Monday, 19th of June, to discuss the situation of the Bulgarian Chess Federation.



The purpose of the meeting was to clarify the scale and nature of the violations of the Bulgarian Chess Federation and to discuss the possibilities for restoring the membership and the position of Bulgarian chess in the world.

Afterwards they held a Press Conference, during which the Minister advised that there are two important aspects in the CAS Lausanne judgment. The first is that the court accepts that the competitions in the resort, Albena / Golden Sands are not legitimate competitions in the ECU calendar. The second, the money, which was translated as a fee from the Bulgarian state, was transferred to an account in Slovenia to an offshore company registered in Delaware, called "European Chess Union." He reported that, according to the documents submitted by Bulgarian Chess Federation to the Ministry for the period 2011-2014, a total of € 1,070,140 was paid into the counterfeit account in question. Minister Kralev was categorical that he would turn to the Chief Prosecutor of the Republic of Bulgaria to help establish the scale of the abuse. "The president of the Bulgarian Chess Federation has consciously included this account in the contracts between the Federation and the Ministry. We do not know what the invoice is, and we do not know if other amounts have been transferred there, for example from sponsors of the Federation," said Minister Kralev. He confirmed that the Ministry will seek the full amount allocated for the competitions in the resort. Albena / Golden Sands resort, not just a part of it, as the Inspectorate's latest inspection. According to him, until it becomes clear with what amount the Bulgarian Chess Federation has cost the state, the Ministry can not rule on the license of the federation, which expired on 4 June 2017.

"The Bulgarian Chess Federation, ruled by Silvio Danailov, has misled the Ministry by asking for a false league levy and has transferred the money to a false account and not to the ECU account," FIDE Deputy President Georgios Makropoulos confirmed. In his words, the court in Lausanne has accepted that Silvio Danailov does know about this falsification, because at the same time he was President, both of Bulgarian Chess Federation and of the ECU. Such actions by Silvio Danailov, as well as his refusal to provide any official information and documents to the ECU have also led to the exclusion of Bulgarian Chess Federation from the ECU and it is currently undergoing a case in the FIDE Ethics Commission.

The whole text can be read here.

Levon Aronian the winner of Altibox Norway Chess 2017

Levon Aronian became the winner of Altibox Norway Chess 2017 which was held in Stavagner, Norway from 5th-17th June. Aronian showed that he is in a great form having already won two tournaments this year (Grenke Chess Classic and now Altibox Norway Chess) and crossing again the 2800 line.

Aronian was among the 10 of the top 12 world players participated this prestigious tournament. With 6 points he finished a whole point ahead of his followers Nakamura and Kramnik who shared the second place with 5 points each.



Photo by: Lennart Ootes

Final standings:

1.	Aronian	Levon	ARM (2793)	6 points
2.	Nakamura	Hikaru	USA (2785)	5 points
3.	Kramnik	Vladimir	RUS (2808)	5 points
4.	Caruana	Fabiano	USA (2808)	4.5 points
5.	So	Wesley	USA (2812)	4.5 points
6.	Giri	Anish	NED (2771)	4.5 points
7.	Vachier-Lagrave	Maxime	FRA (2796)	4 points
8.	Anand	Viswanathan	IND (2786)	4 points
9.	Carlsen	Magnus	NOR (2832)	4 points
10.	. Karjakin	Sergey	RUS (2781)	3.5 points







Photos by Joachim Goa Steinbru

Grand Chess Tour 2017

The 2017 Grand Chess Tour is a series of five chess tournaments held throughout the year and across the globe.

The event is conceived of two classic events and three rapid and blitz events. Every result will count toward, a player's final GCT standing. In total the Grand Chess Tour boasts an impressive \$1.2 million prize fund. Two tournaments have already been played: Paris GCT (21-25 June) and Your Next Move (28 June-2nd July).

Paris GCT

The first tournament of the Grand Chess Tour 2017 took place in "Place du Spectacle" in Paris from 21st-25th June. Participants have played 9 rapid rounds and 18 blitz rounds. The total prize fund of the event was 150.000\$.

Selected participants for the first event of the Grand Chess Tour 2017 were:

#1 Magnus Carlsen (NOR, 2822),), #3 Wesley So (USA, 2810), #5 Fabiano Caruana (USA, 2807), #6 Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (AZE, 2800)- wild card, #7 Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 2792), #8 Maxime Vachier- Lagrave (FRA, 2791), #12 Sergey Karjakin (RUS, 2773), #13 Alexander Grischuk (RUS, 2761)- wild card, #16 Veselin Topalov (BUL, 2749)- wild card and #35 Etienne Bacrot (FRA, 2715)- wild card.





Magnus Carlsen became the winner of the tournament after taking a victory in a playoff against Maxime Vachier-Lagrave.

PARIS GRAND CHESS	•	GRAND CHES		2017 GR	AND CHESS TOUR
1001		STANDINGS AFTE	R PARIS GCT		
	POS.	PLAYER	GCT POINTS	PRIZE MONEY	
4	1	# GM MAGNUS CARLSEN	12	\$31,250	
	2	GM MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE	10	\$31,250	
	3	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA	8	\$20,000	
	4	GM ALEX GRISCHUK*	7	\$15,000	
	5	GM SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV*	6	\$12,500	
	6	GM SERGEY KARJAKIN	5	\$10,000	
	7	GM WESLEY SO	4	\$7,500	
	8	GM FABIANO CARUANA	3	\$7,500	
3 8	9	GM VESELIN TOPALOV*	2	\$7,500	
	10	GM ETIENNE BACROT*	1	\$7,500	

GTC Leuven, Belgium

Second tournament of the Grand Chess Tour was held in Leuven, Belgium from June 28th to 2nd July. The tournament was conceived as the first one, participants have played 9 rounds with rapid time control and 18 blitz rounds. The total prize fund of the event was 150.000\$.

Selected participants of the GTC Leuven were:

#1 Magnus Carlsen (NOR, 2822), #8 Maxime Vachier- Lagrave (FRA, 2791), #9 Viswanathan Anand (IND, 2783), #3 Wesley So (USA, 2810), #17 Ian Nepomniachtchi (RUS, 2742), #4 Levon Aronian (ARM, 2809), #2 Vladimir Kramnik (RUS, 2812)- wild card, #11 Anish Giri (NED, 2775)- wild card, #27 Vassily Ivanchuk (UKR, 2729)- wild card and #36 Baadur Jobava (GEO, 2714)- wild card.





Magnus Carlsen won the Competition and established his leading position with 25 GTC points in total.

UR NEXT MOVE						
POS		PLAYER	RATING (URS)	RAPID SCORE	BLITZ SCORE	COMBINED SCORE
1	#	GM MAGNUS CAR	LSEN 2850	11	14.5	25.5
2	=	GM WESLEY SO	2781	14	8.5	22.5
3		GM MAXIME VACHII	ER-LAGRAVE 2789	12	10	22
4		GM ANISH GIRI"	2760	10	10	20
T-5		BM VLADIMIR KRA	AMNIK* 2790	9	9.5	18.5
T-5	=	GM LEVON ARONIA	AN 2787	9	9.5	18.5
7		GM IAN NEPOMNIA	ACHTCHI 2767	9	9	18
8		GM VISWANATHA	N ANAND 2771	8	8	16
9		GM VASSILY IVAN	CHUK* 2755	7	8.5	15.5
10	00	GM BAADUR JOBA	AVA* 2706	1	2.5	3.5

Standings after two tournaments played:

			STANDINGS AFTER PARIS & YO	TOUR 2	
POS.		PLA	YER	GCT POINTS	PRIZE MONEY
1	#	GM	MAGNUS CARLSEN	25	\$68,750
2		GM	MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE	18	\$51,250
3	202	GM	WESLEY SO	14	\$32,500
4	=	GM	HIKARU NAKAMURA	8	\$20,000
5		GM	LEVON ARONIAN	5.5	\$11,250
6		GM	SERGEY KARJAKIN	5	\$10,000
7		GM	IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI	4	\$7,500
T-8	23=	GM	FABIANO CARUANA	3	\$7,500
T-8		GM	VISWANATHAN ANAND	3	\$7,500

Official Tournament Website

ECU NEWS

CASTLE Conference in Turin, Italy

The CASTLE project – a "Chess curriculum to Advance Students' Thinking and Learning skills in primary Education" (this acronym reminds of the casteling 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 was funded by the ERASMUS + European Program, with 246.300 euros and it was realizing from 2014 to 2017 in Italy, Spain and Germany.



The main purpose of the project was to train primary school teachers to give school chess lessons and enable them to bring all of these activities to the classroom autonomously, without any intervention by chess experts. The main subjects of the lessons were the Giant Chessboard (visible here), chess in class and on the web with Victor's Chess House (an old demo visible <a href=here). The CASTLE conference showed the results of the project and took a place on 26th May in conference room of Hotel Royal in Turin, Italy.

The results of the scientific study made by the University of Turin (Prof. Trincero) showed that chess teaching, through appropriate methods, increases children's school performance, even if lessons were given by teachers who initially had no chess knowledge.

The data presented at the CASTLE conference concerned the activities of pupils' learning (Prof. Trinchero of the University of Turin) and the evaluation of the Ministries of Education in Italy and Spain, in terms of the utility of chess activities to the professionalism of teachers (Dr. Damiani of Italian Ministry of Education).

The conference included representatives of the main partners, such as Club Deportivo Elemental 64 Villalba Madrid (Luis Blasco de La Cruz), Deutsche Schulschachstiftung Munich (from Simone Raedler) and some of the stakeholders, including FIDE (Chairman of the CIS Commission Mr. Kevin O'Connell), Piedmont FSI Committee (by Marco Venturino and Roberto Rivello, (the latter also as Vice President of FSI), sponsor: Le Due Torri chess store.

The CASTLE conference also attended Exceptional Guests, for the presentation of other "Chess in Schools" programs and studies. Exceptional Guests were: the Educational Commission of the ECU, represented by its Chairman Jesper Hall, the ECU Treasurer Martin Huba, Alexander Kostiev and John Foley. Present were also Roberto Messa and Mariateresa Mearini (The Chess Game), Carlo Alberto Cavazzoni (The Little Knight of the King of Chess), Alessandro Pompa

(Special Chess and Little Children), Sebastiano Paulesu (The Ideographic Method) and Leo Battesti (Chess in Schools in Corsica).

The final scientific report will be published soon with integral data and will be visible on the <u>website of CASTLE project</u>.

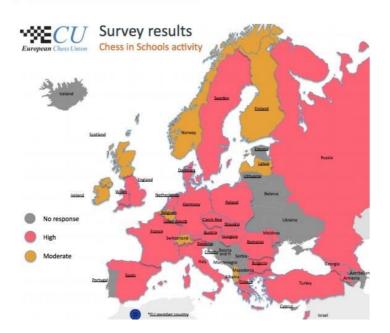
ECU Advisory Board- ECU School Chess Teacher Certificate

The ECU Education Commission launched its activities in late 2014. The main reason was a need of an organization representing the growing movement of **using chess as a pedagogic tool to develop social and intellectual skills to children.**



Since then ECU Education has worked hard to get a grip of what the "Chess in School" movement of Europe look like and what needs these organizations have. In 2015 a survey was initiated and it could be made the conclusion from it that there is a need of an active international organization developing CiS in the terms of research, modern didactic principles, and funding.

8. Chess in Schools Activity



The ECU Education is now ready to actively respond to this. The ECU Advisory Board was created as the first step and we are proud to announce its composition:

Dr. Agnieszka Bron, Sweden, Professor in Education at Stockholm University

Dr. Fernand Gobet, Switzerland, Professor in Psychological Science at Liverpool University

Dr. Alexander Khoroshilov, Russia, Professor of ICT in Education and innovative pedagogy and former Head a.i. of the UNESCO IITE

Dr. Seyhan Nisel, Turkey, Professor in Statistics at Istanbul University

Dr. Roberto Trinchero, Italy, Associate Professor in experimental pedagogic at Turin University

The board members are internationally renowned professors of different academic disciplines and the board will help making strategic decisions, and to coach and validate different projects.

More details and brief CVs here





The commission is also about to introduce **The ECU School Chess Teacher Certificate**. The certificate is received either through participating in a chess camp or in on-line courses. The courses are shaped by the best school chess instructors in Europe, and they are in line with the latest research and validated by scientists. The ECU Teacher Certificate courses will be monitored and evaluated by the Academics in the ECU Advisory Board.

Our hope is to put a new standard of teaching chess in the schools of Europe. The first test of a chess camp will be held this summer. During 2018 the on-line courses will be introduced.

The further target of the ECU Teacher Certificate is to establish cooperation with main European universities, and to give academic points to the participants of the courses

Each ECU Teacher Certificate will have one unique number and its authenticity will be checked through an online database.

More information:
Chairman of ECU EDU Commission
Mr. Jesper Hall <u>jesper.hall@schack.se</u>
Representing video of the ECU Education Chess Conference

FUN ZONE

For June Newsletter we prepared some interesting mate positions. Enjoy!









Solutions from NL May 2017:

Puzzle #1:

- 1. Qg7
- 1... Kc4 2. Qd4 Kb3 3. Qb4#
- 1... Kc6 2. c5 Kc5 3. Qc7#
- 1... Kb6 2. Nb5 Kc6 3. Qc7
- 1... Kd6 2. Nb5 Ke6 3. Nbd4#

Puzzle #2:

1. Bf6 gf6 2. Kf8 f5 3. Nf7#

Puzzle #3:

- 1. Be3
- 1... Bxg3 2. Bg5 Bf2 3. g4#
- 1... Bc3 2. g4 Kh4 3. Bxf2#

Puzzle #4

- 1. Rh1
- 1... Kd4 2. Re1 Kc4 3. Re4#
- 1... Ke4 2. Qg3 Kxd4 3. Rh4#
- 1... Kf6 2. Qh8 Kf7 or Ke7 (2... Kg5 3. Qh4#) 3. Rh7#