



ECU PRESIDENT MEETING WITH CORATIAN CHESS FEDERATION



EUROPEAN YOUTH GRAND PRIX 2017 IN KRISHI



INTERNATIONAL METHODOICAL CIS CONFERENCE IN WARSAW



POLISH-HUNGARIAN FRIENDSHIP TOURNAMENT

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2017 STARTED

European Individual Chess Championship 2017 officially started on Tuesday, 30th May in Minsk, the capital of Belarus.

The 18th edition of one of the biggest tournaments in the ECU calendar takes place in the Sports Palace in Minsk, with the participation of 400 players, who will be competing for the prestigious title of the European Chess Champion and one of the 22 seats – tickets to the World Chess Cup 2018.



Chess fans all over the world are delighted to be able to follow live broadcast of 100 boards, along with professional commentary in English and Russian, done by Evgeniy Miroshnichenko and Sergey Shipov.

The organizers provided a rich prize fund of 100 000 EUR, which attracted all the best European players, and many women players as well.



The championship is 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 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 opening ceremony of the Championship took place on Monday 29th May, with the attendance of many distinguished guests, players and media representatives. The ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili addressed to the audience, welcomed all the present and officially opened the Championship.

Before the 1st round started, Mr. Azmaiparashvili made the first symbolic move in the game of the top seed David Navara and officially started the tournament.

[Official Website](#)

Kirill Shubin winner of the European Youth Grand Prix 1st stage

FM Kirill Shubin from Russia (ELO 2287) triumphed at the first stage of the European Youth Grand Prix, held in Krishi/Russia, 16-28 May, under the name "World`s Youth Stars" Vanya Somov's Memorial.

The young Russian scored 7.5 points out of 11 games, the same as the second ranked Sergei Lobanov (Russia, ELO 2429), but with better tie-break.

The third place went to Armenian IM Aram Hakobyan (ELO 2449).

Final Standings



The tournament was a 12-player single Round Robin event with the time control of 90 minutes for the end of the game for each player plus 30 seconds per move starting from move one.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners were awarded with diplomas and prizes.



The Tournament Director and the creator of the idea to gather young chess talents, Mr. Genady Nesis celebrated his 70th birthday on 22nd May during the tournament. The anniversary congratulations by the ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili can be found [here](#).



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 2nd series will be held in Dzermuk, Armenia in October 2017, and the 3rd will take place again in Kirishi in May 2018.

Official Website

Polish-Hungarian Friendship Chess Tournament 2017

One of the biggest chess events in Poland – the 5th Polish-Hungarian Friendship Chess Tournament took place on the weekend of 20-21 May in the International Congress Center in Katowice, Poland.



The tournament was opened and closed by the initiator of the tournament and promoter of the Polish-Hungarian friendship, the former vice-president of the City of Katowice, Mr. Michal Luty. At the closing ceremony he awarded the winners together with the ECU Treasurer, Mr. Martin Huba and the Vice President of Polish Chess Federation, Mr. Adam Dzwonkowski.



638 players competed at the event. In the strongest OPEN group 251 players participated, including 9 grandmasters and the Olympic Vice-Champions GM Monika Socko and WGM Jolanta Zawadzka. The top seed was GM Sergei Azarov from Belarus. In youth groups the B group was the biggest, with 107 children aged 12 or younger.

The winner of the Open event was GM Aleksander Mista with 8.5 points, and the runner-ups GM Bartłomiej Heberla and GM Sergei Azarov from Belarus, both with 7.5 points. The best women player was WGM Jolanta Zawadzka (7.5 points), ahead of GM Monika Socko (6.5 points) and Andzelika Dziodzio (6 points).



Final Standings

The organizers provided live broadcast from 40 chessboards with live commentary made by GM Marcin Tazbir and WCM Maria Leks. Broadcast was transmitted through YouTube channel KochamSzachy and chess24.com website.

5th Polish-Hungarian Friendship Chess Tournament will remain in participants memory for a long time and this is also due to the special event. On the first day of the competition an exceptional meeting of the participants in the competition with two Silver Medalists of Women Chess Olympiad in Baku and the coach of the Women National Team IM Marek Matlak took

place. It was an opportunity to get to know the Polish Women Team, to ask a lot of questions and to get autographs.

The event was already the fifth tournament organized jointly by the City of Katowice, City of Miskolc and Silesian Chess Federation. Every year it enjoys very high attendance. We hope that in 2018 this event will raise a similar interest among chess players, but before that, we invite you the European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship, which will take place on 14-17 December in Katowice Sports Hall Spodek.

Photos by Karol Bartnik

[Official Website](#)

Czech Tour 2017/2018

The 17th International Chess Festival Series Czech Tour 2017/2018 consists of 11 chess tournaments to be held in various cities in Czech Republic.

The main organizer of the series is AVE-KONTAKT s.r.o.



The events within the tour are:

[28th Czech Open](#) (13-30 July 2017)

[4th Summer Prague Open](#) (4-11 August 2017)

[20th Olomouc Chess Summer](#) (12-19 August 2017)

[16th Sunny Beach Open](#) (5-13 September 2017)

[11th Highlands Open](#) (23-30 September 2017)

[8th Hradec Karlove Open](#) (1-8 October 2017)

[7th Brno Open](#) (11-18 November 2017)

[9th Pilsen Open](#) (19-25 November 2017)

[17th Prague Open](#) (12-19 January 2018)

[17th Marienbad Open](#) (20-27 January 2018)

[18th Liberec Open](#) (24 February – 3 March 2018)

[Official Website](#)

ECU NEWS

ECU President met Croatian Chess Federation delegation in Zagreb

ECU President, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili visited Zagreb on Friday, 26th May, 2017, where he met with the Croatian Chess Federation President, Mr. Roland Tomasic and the Croatian Olympic Committee President, Mr. Zlatko Matesa.



Afterwards, the delegations of the ECU and the Croatian Chess Federation met with the Mayor of Zagreb, Mr. Milan Bandic and had a constructive talk.

International Methodical Chess in School Conference in Warsaw

Each year in Poland the Methodical Conference for teachers “Chess in School” takes place. This year Polish Chess Federation decided to broaden the program of it and invited many guests from different countries.

The event held from May 18th to May 21st was attended by more than 150 teachers, head teachers and many others involved into CIS movement.



The Conference was opened by Włodzimierz Paszyński – Deputy President of Warsaw. Mirosław Sielatycki – Deputy Director of the Warsaw Education Office – presented a development of the project in Warsaw primary schools.

Jesper Hall – the Chairman of the ECU Educational Commission, welcomed all participants on behalf of the ECU with a short presentation of the CIS movement in Europe. It can't be missed to mention Mr. Edgar Ghazaryan, Ambassador of Republic of Armenia visited the opening ceremony and made the event more notable.



The list of the lecturers was quite long and included presentations by Martin Huba, Luis Blasco, Jonathan Bryant, Jerry Nash, Pep Suarez, Mirosław Baum, Joanna Zbronic, Anna Harazińska, Anna Świć, Bartosz Tracz, Dawid Marszalek, Beata Piotrowska, Jacek Przybylski, Adam Bukojemski.

According to the visitors the Conference in Warsaw was very successful and gave all participants an excellent opportunity to share with the ideas and get a new experience. The organizer had provided for the visitors the tour to the Copernicus Science Centre.



Those who want to feel the climate of the event please have a look at the [photo gallery](#) from the event.

The Conference was co-financed by The Ministry of Sport and Tourism and The Education of Office of Warsaw.

European Club Cup 2017 Official Regulations

Turkish Chess Federation invites all European Chess Federations members of ECU to participate in the 33rd European Club Cup and the 22nd European Club Cup for Women. The events will be held in Antalya, Turkey. The dates are 7th October (arrival and opening) to 15th October 2017 (departure).

The event will be held in the Ballroom of the 5* Avantgarde Hotel, Antalya, which is the official hotel and venue.



Both championships will be held in 7 rounds, played under the Swiss system, in accordance with the ECU Tournament Rules. The time control 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 teams shall be composed of six (6) players and two (2) reserves in Men's competition, and four (4) players and (1) reserve in Women's competition.



Each federation intending to participate, with one or more clubs, must inform the Organizing Committee before August 15, 2017 of its acceptance of the invitation, specifying the exact number of its clubs participating.

Afterwards, entry forms must be completed and returned to the Tournament Office, email: clubcup2017@tsf.org.tr, no later than 1 September 2017, by fax or mail stamped by the Federation or by official email. The date of 1 September 2017 is the registration deadline. In the entry form, the basic team composition must be included.

The total prize fund is 34.000 EUR (24.000 EUR for Men's event and 10.000 EUR for Women's).

[Official Website](#)

European Team Chess Championship 2017 Official Regulations

The European Team Chess Championship will be held from October 27th (day of arrival) until November 7th (day of departure) 2017 in Hersonissos, Crete, Greece. The official venue of the Championship will be the Conference Center of Creta Maris Beach Resort (*****) in Hersonissos – Crete – Greece.



Each national federation member of the European Chess Union (ECU) has the right to enter one team of four (4) players and one (1) reserve in the open competition and one team of four (4) female players and one (1) reserve in the women's competition.

The European Team Championship shall be played according to the Swiss System in 9 rounds, with one open section and one section for the women's teams, each considered as separate competitions. According to ECU and FIDE rules, the time control will be 90 minutes for 40 moves

+ 30 minutes for the rest of the game, with a 30 seconds increment for every move played starting from the move one.

The registration deadline is [Monday, August 28th 2017](#).



There will be plenty parallel activities during the Championship, such as excursions on the free day to Knossos – Heraklion and Agios Nikolaos – Spinaloga.

The International Open Chess Tournament will be held in the same venue as a 9-round Swiss, from October 28th to November 5th. Also, Fide Trainers Seminar will take place from 29th October to 5th November.

The 2nd ECU Congress and the ECU General Assembly 2017 will be held from 1st to 5th November 2017 in the Conference Center of Creta Maris. More details and the invitation will be published by the European Chess Union.

In Memoriam Viktor Kupreichik

The legendary Grandmaster Viktor Kupreichik passed away on 22nd May, 2017, at the age of 67.

The famous Belarusian chess player won the individual gold medal at the 15th World Student Team Chess Championship in Ybbs an der Donau in 1968, and obtained his Grandmaster title in 1980. He won the Belarusian Chess Championship in 1972 and 2003.



He also won major events such as Wijk aan Zee (Masters' tournament) in 1977, Kirovakan in 1978, Reykjavik, Plovdiv 1980 and Medina del Campo in 1980, and Hastings International Chess Congress in 1981/82.

In 2002 Kupreichik won the Group B of the first edition of the Aeroflot Open. In 2010, he won the European Seniors' Rapid Championship.

The ECU expresses its sincere condolences to Mr. Viktor Kupreichik's family, Belarus Chess Federation and the whole chess community on their loss.

FUN ZONE

In May Fun Zone we prepared some of the hardest Mate-in-three chess puzzles. Enjoy!



Solutions from NL April 2017:

Puzzle #1

1. Qg6+ Nxc6 2. fxg6#

Puzzle #2

1... Qxh2+ 2. Kxh2 Rh5#

Puzzle #3

1... Rxc1+2. Qxc1 Qxg2#

Puzzle #4

1. Qh7+ Nxb7 2. Bxb7#

They told about chess...

“Life is like a game of chess. To win you have to make a move. Knowing which move to make comes with in-sight and knowledge and by learning the lessons that are accumulated along the way. We become each and every piece within the game called life.”

Allan Rufus



UPCOMING EVENTS IN JUNE

ECU EVENTS

EUROPEAN AMATEUR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

Chess Federation of the City of Nis, in association with the Serbian Chess Federation and under the auspices of the European Chess Union organizes the European Amateur Chess Championship 2017, which will take place in Nis, Serbia, from June 9 (day of arrival) to June 17 (day of departure) 2017.



The tournament will be held in the “Tami Residence” hotel in Congress Hall (Durmitorska street, Nis, Serbia), which will be the official accommodating hotel.

The event will be held in 3 categories: Under-1700, Under-2000 and under-2300. 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 the men’s (open).

The championship will be played according to the Swiss system in 9 rounds, with 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 total prize fund is 3.000 EUR.

[Official Website](#)

EUROPEAN SCHOOL & EUROPEAN YOUTH RAPID & BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

Montenegro Chess Federation announced the official invitations for the European School Chess Championship and the 17th European Youth Rapid & Blitz U-8,10,12,14,16,18 Championship, both to be organized in June 2017 in Budva, Montenegro.



Schools Championship will take place from 10 June (arrival) to 20 June (departure), while the Rapid & Blitz competition follows from 19 June (arrival) to 23 June (departure).

European Schools Championship 2017 is played in 6 age categories: Under 7, Under 9, Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15, Boys and Girls separately. In case that one girl group has less than 10 participants, it will be merged with the same Open age group category.

The tournament will be played according to the Swiss System in 9 rounds, with 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 1. Default time will be 15 minutes for each round.

The organizers provided many side events for the participants and their accompanying persons, such as excursions, chess solving competition, seminars and sport activities.

[European School Chess Championship 2017 Official Website](#)



As for the European Youth Rapid & Blitz Championship, it starts right after the Schools competition, and it consists of 4 events:

1) 17th INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP – RAPID

(2) 16th EUROPEAN RAPID CUP – RAPID SUPERFINAL

(3) 17th TEAM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS – RAPID

(4) 17th INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS – BLITZ

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

[European Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2017 Official Website](#)

EUROPEAN SENIOR TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

The European Chess Union and Serbian Chess Federation are inviting all national chess federations of the ECU to participate at the 17th European Senior Team Championship, which will take place in Novi Sad/Serbia, from June 24 to July 4, 2017.

The official venue of the event will be the congress and the ball halls of the tourist settlement “Ribarsko ostrvo” in Novi Sad.

The Championship will be played according to the Swiss System in 9 rounds, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game + 30 seconds increment for every move starting from move one.



There will be two separate championships for categories 50+ and 65+. In each category, a separate championship for women will be organized only if there are at least 8 women teams in each category in order to have a 7-round tournament. Otherwise, the women’s event will be merged with open section. Entitled to participate in the category 50+ are players who were born in the year 1967 or earlier. Entitled to participate in the category 65+ are players who were born in the year 1952 or earlier. All players must be members of the same federation.

Each team shall consist of 4 players in fixed order. Additionally, 1 reserve player can be nominated and that player will only be allowed to play on board 4.

The total prize fund of the event is 6.000 €. Trophies and medals to 3 top winning teams in each category, will be awarded, as well as the additional prizes (cups & medals) for individual board winners.

[Official Website](#)

EUROPEAN EVENTS

ALTIBOX NORWAY CHESS 2017	5 - 17 June	Stavanger/Norway	Official Website
VORONEZH INTERNATIONAL CHESS FESTIVAL	10 - 21 June	Voronezh/Russia	Official Website
EMANUEL LASKER MEMORIAL	11 - 20 June	Gorzow Wielkopolski/Poland	Official Website
SILVER LAKE CHESS FESTIVAL 2017	18 - 25 June	Veliko Gradiste/Serbia	Official Website
PARIS GRAND CHESS TOUR	21 - 25 June	Paris/France	Official Website
FISCA 2017	23 June - 2 July	Cap Aurora/Romania	Official Website
YOUR NEXT MOVE GRAND CHESS TOUR	26 June - 3 July	Leuven/Belgium	Official Website