



ECU SCHOOL CHESS
TEACHER TRAINING
COURSE-BUDAPEST



5TH EUROPEAN SMALL
NATIONS TEAM CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP



1ST EUROPEAN
CORPORATE CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP



1ST ECU SCHOOLS
INTERNET
CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



AZERBAIJAN AND RUSSIA EUROPEAN TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONS 2017

Teams of Azerbaijan and Russia became the European Team Chess Champions for 2017 in Open and Women's section respectively. The event took place in beautiful Creta Maris beach resort, in Crete/ Greece from 27th October- 7th November.

The rush for gold in Open section was very intense until the end of the last game of the Championship since the determination of the top came to the tiebreaks.

Azerbaijan won the 3rd gold at the European Team Chess Championship as they had better tie-breaks than the first runner-up Russia, who finished the race for the crown with silver in their hands. The third place of this prestigious event went to Ukraine who had better tiebreak criteria than fourth Croatia.



In Women's section, the Winner wasn't questioned in the last round. Russian ladies secured the first place already by the 8th round with a round more to spare. Nevertheless, Russia affirmed the domination by taking a victory in the last round, and triumphed the Championship with three match points ahead of the runner-up Georgia. Georgia finished second with 14 match points, while bronze went to Ukraine.

Final Standings



The Organizer rewarded the individual prizes to the three best players of each board. The final list for Open section is available [here](#), and the list for Women's section can be seen [here](#).



The Closing Ceremony of the Championship took place on 6th of November in Creta Maris Conference center with attendance of the President of European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, Secretary General of the ECU, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, Deputy President of FIDE, Mr. Georgios Makropoulos, Continental President of Americdas, Mr. Jorge Vega, FIDE Vice President Mr. Boris Kutin, Torunament Director, Mr. Nikos Kalesis, Region Governor of Crete Mr. Arnaoutakis Stavros, Vice region Governor of Crete Mr. Koukiadakis Evripidis, Mayor of Hersonissos Mr. Mastorakis Giannis, Consulnt advisor of the athletic department Mr. Sirigonakis and Mrs. Plevraki Despina.

The President of the ECU, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili has been awarded with a ECU plaque and the book "The Thinkers". He also granted the ECU plaques to dignitaries of Crete region and Hersonissos municipality.



[Official Website of the Championship](#)

[Short video review of the Championship](#)

2nd ECU Congress

The 2nd ECU Congress took place in Creta Maris Conference Center, Hersonissos, Crete/Greece, simultaneously with European Team Chess Championship 2017, from 2nd-4th November.

The ECU Board started with Commissions' meetings (Events Commission, Educational Commission, Arbiters Council) followed by the ECU Board meeting where all the necessary preparations for the ECU General Assembly were made.

ECU Board main information and decisions:

- The ECU Board approved the budget for the year 2018, which focuses mostly on development projects.
- ECU will support the Reykjavik Open 2018-Fischer Memorial and will organize together with the Icelandic Federation the **1st European Fischer-Random Cup**. The festivities are dedicated to the 75th anniversary of Bobby Fischer.
- ECU Board approved the proposal from the International School Chess Union and the Montenegro Chess Federation for the organization of the **European School Chess Cup** for three years as a test event.
- ECU Board approved changes in the ECU Commissions as also the 5-year plan for the organization of the **School Chess Teachers Training Courses**.
- The ECU Board decided to file a criminal complaint in Slovenia for criminal offences connecting with the opening and use of the Bank account belonging to the company ECU Delaware LCC and alleged ECU activities and invoices.

ECU Board awarded the following championships:

- **European Senior Team Championship 2019** awarded to the city of Sveti Martin na Muri, Croatia.
- **European Senior Championship 2019** awarded to Halkidiki, Greece
- **European Youth Rapid and Blitz Championships 2019** awarded to Tallinn, Estonia
- **European Amateur Championship 2019** awarded to Halkidiki, Greece
- **European Individual Championship 2019**, the option granted conditionally to the Israeli Chess Federation.
- **European Women's Rapid and Blitz Championship 2019**, the option granted to the Monaco Chess Federation.



General Assembly of the European Chess Union took place on 4th of November. The Assembly was opened with presentation of the new ECU anthem composed by Georgian composer/conductor, UNICEF's National Ambassador in Georgia, Nikoloz Rachveli.

After the presentation of the new composed ECU anthem, the President of the ECU, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili and Secretary General of the ECU, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou reported about the activities and the Assembly continued with the rest agenda.



The most important information and decisions of the ECU General Assembly 2017 on 4th November 2017:

1. The new composed ECU Anthem was presented and approved by the ECU GA [You can download the ECU Anthem here.](#)
2. The ECU Medal of Honor awarded to the former (1998-2010) President of ECU, Mr. Boris Kutin.
3. The ECU Board reports and accounts for 2016 were unanimously approved as also the budget for the year 2018.
4. The proposals of the ECU Board for changes on the Articles 13, 14, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34 and 35 of the ECU Memorandum and Articles of Association were approved by the General Assembly with few amendments and wording corrections. In [Annex 1](#) is the amended ECU Statutes valid from 5th November 2017.
5. The new ECU Tournament regulations valid from 1st January 2018 were approved. [Annex 2](#)
6. The ECU General Assembly voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Erald Dervishi (ALB) as a representative of Europe for the FIDE Electoral Committee 2018.

ECU General Assembly awarded the following championships:

- **European Club Cup & European Club cup for Women 2019** awarded to Budva, Montenegro.
- **European Youth Team Championship 2019** awarded to Pardubice, Czech Republic.
- **European School Championship 2019** awarded to Mamaia, Romania.
- **European Youth Rapid and Blitz Championships 2019** awarded to Tallinn, Estonia.
- **European Women's Championship 2019** and European Youth Chess Championship 2020 awarded to Antalya, Turkey.

[The full report from the 2nd ECU Congress can be read here.](#)

5th European Small Nations Team Chess Championship

5th European Small Nations Team Chess Championship took place in Andorra la Vella, from 11th-19th November.

In very exciting finish of the Championship, the last round determined the Champion of the event. Faroe Islands took a narrow victory in the direct match for the first place played against Andorra, and became the European Small Nations Team Chess Champion for 2017.

Second place went to Monaco, while the third place came to Andorra.

[Final Standings](#)



The President of European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, visited the event, observed games of the final round and attended the Closing Ceremony which took place on 18th of November.

Together with regular prizes, the best players of each board were awarded with special prizes. The special prizes were awarded to: Board 1- Helgi Dam Ziska (FRA), Board 2- Tom Weber (LUX), Board 3- Robert Aloma (AND) and Board 4- Pierre Gengler (LUX).

European Small Nations annual meeting took place on 18th of November with attendance of all 10 nations. The President of the ECU, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, presented work and results of European Chess Union from the last few years, as well as the future plans for further chess development in Europe.



The Chess Federation of Andorra under the auspices of the ECU organized the event.

[Official Website of the Championship](#)

1st European Corporate Chess Championship

The 1st European Corporate Chess Champion became the team of RZD from Russia (Russian Railways) who scored 26 match points in nine rounds (3 for a win) and stayed undefeated to be crowned as the Winner.

The runner-up of the Champion was the team of Sberbank, from Russia, who finished the Championship as second with 25 match points. The third place went to A'labri from France, thanks to the better tiebreaks than fourth Echesspedia from Belgium, since both teams had the same score of 21 match points.



The Closing Ceremony of the event took place on Saturday 25th November evening, where the President of the European Chess Union, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, awarded the Winners with main prizes and trophies, while five special prizes were awarded by the President of the French Chess Federation (FFE), Mr. Bachar Kouatly.

The mayor of the city of Asnieres, Mr. Manual Aechlimann addressed all the players and guests, and Mr. Franck Droin, the President of KAISSA, declared the Championship closed.

During the Closing Ceremony Mr. Azmaiparashvili announced that he accepts the proposal from Mr. Kouatly and the 2nd European Corporate Championship in 2018 will take place again in Paris, the city where the event can develop further.



33 team participated this innovative European event, the 1st European Corporate Chess Championship, which brought closer the Business community with Chess and with European Chess Union. Well known world brands and institutions were among the teams, together with top chess players who represented their companies, GMs, IMs etc.

[Official Website of the Championship](#)

1ST European Schools Internet Chess Championship

The 1st European Schools Internet Chess Championship was played from 16th to 23rd November 2017 in two categories: U11 and U17.

In U11 section, 22 teams from 7 federations participated the Championship, which was played on 16th November. After 7 played rounds, and tough struggles, the first place went to the team of the 2nd Gymnasium of Saint Petersburg from Russia, who won all the matches and achieved the perfect result with 14 match points. Second place came to School 2101 Moscow, also from Russia, thanks to the better tiebreaks than third Lyceum MT Novorossiysk from Russia who had the same score of 11 match points.

[Category U11 Final Standings](#)



2nd Gymnasium of Saint Petersburg from Russia took another crown in the category U17, with a result of 12 match points and better tiebreaks than School of Poykovsky, who achieved the same score, but finished the event as the first runner-up. Third place went to Classical Lyceum of Kemerovo, from Russia, with score of 10 match points.

[Category U17 Final Standings](#)

The Winners of the each category are invited to European School Chess Championship 2018 where they will be free of charge of accommodation.

Each team consisted of 4 players, 2 boys and 2 girls. The Championship was played online, on 16th November for the U11 category and on 23rd November for section U17.



European Chess Union and ECU Educational Commission launched for the first time the European Schools Internet Chess Championship as the first online team tournament under the ECU patronage and organization. The main idea of the Championship is to promote chess in schools and to expand area of playing chess and bring the official ECU tournaments more accessible to all the youngest chess lovers.

[Presentation of the 1st ECU Schools Internet Chess Championship](#)

ECU School Chess Teacher training course- Budapest

The 3rd ECU School Chess Teacher training course took place in PODIT Educational and Chess Center in Budapest, from 25th-26th November.

The course comprised two days of interactive presentations, group discussions and practical exercises with focus on the teaching aspects of chess. Participants, after completing the course, had to pass the online test to reach the ECU School Chess Teacher Certificate awarded by the ECU, as the confirmation for having an adequate level of chess knowledge and didactic methods for the classroom.



This qualification is recognized by the European national chess federations, as a standard of excellence. The course qualify towards Continuing Professional Development and helps in building the teaching skills in chess with idea to improve the general educational attainment of children.

The ECU School Chess Teacher training course held in Budapest was led by Jesper Hall, and organized by Ferenc Maurer together with Hungarian Chess Federation.

15 chess teachers were rewarded with ECU School Chess Teacher Certificate in Budapest at the 25-26th November course: Lajos Ambrus, Bertina Antal-Berenyi, David Budai, Ferenc Csorsz, Zoltan Eberth, Jozsef Herpai, Zoltan Horvath, Jozsef Jeszenszky, Tamas Kis-Bank, Vilmos Nogrady, Miklos Tarsi, Zsombor Rozsa, Regina Tokes, Ildiko Zadeczki and Anita Burjan, a professor of mathematics, the first and the only one who passed the test with a result of 100%, without a single mistake.



ECU School Chess Teacher training courses came to a huge interest of chess trainers to participate the courses and very positive feedbacks by the attendees which confirms the importance and necessity of a course which focuses on didactics.

[Interview with Judit Polgar about importance of Chess in Schools](#)

[Interview with Ferenc Maurer about the training course held in Budapest](#)

[Interview with Ferenc Maurer about Chess in Schools program](#)

European Individual Chess Championship 2018-Regulations

The European Individual Chess Championship for 2018 will take place in Batumi, Georgia, from 16th-29th March, in the 5 stars [Hotel "Sheraton Batumi"](#), which will be the official venue of the Championship.



The Championship is open to all players representing the Chess Federations, which are the ECU members, regardless of their title or rating, and without a limit of participants per federation.

The European Individual Chess Championship will be played in 11 rounds according to the Swiss system, in accordance with ECU and FIDE Tournament Rules and Rules of Chess, 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 the move one.

The Championship is a qualification event for the next World Cup. According to the FIDE regulations and the decision of the ECU Board, 23 players will qualify. In a case of equal score, the qualification will be determined according to the tie-break system (Article 11 of European Individual Chess Championship 2018 regulations).

The total prize fund of the event will be 100.000 EUR, including the special prizes for the best Juniors, and ACP Special prizes for the 6 highest placed ACP Premium Members.

The registration of participants will be done online. Entry form of the Championship which can be found on the Official Website, must be fully filled out and sent before the **registration deadline- not later than 1st February 2018**. After the registration deadline, organizers reserve the right (according to the FIDE regulations) to refuse or decline late registrations or, if there is availability, a penalty of 100 Euro for each late registration will be charged.

The Participants can get all the necessary information on the [Official Website of the Championship](#) or by contacting the Tournament office.

Contact Person: Akaki Iashvili

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Official Regulations of the Championship can be downloaded bellow or [here](#).

[European Individual Chess Championship 2018- Official Regulations](#)

Upcoming events in December

ECU events:

European Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2017	Katowice, Poland	14th-18th December	<u>Official Website</u>
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Other events:

World Youth U16 Chess Olympiad 2017	Ahmedabad, India	10th-20th December	<u>Regulations</u>
World Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2017	Rhiad, Saudy Arabia	26th-30th December	<u>Official Website</u>
70th ch-RUS 2017	Saint Petersburg, Russia	2nd-15th December	<u>Official Website</u>
Zadar Open 2017	Zadar, Croatia	9th-16th December	<u>Official Website</u>
Sunway Sitges Festival 2017	Stiges, Spain	15th-23rd December	<u>Official Website</u>
55th Groningen Chess Festival 2017	Groningen, Netherlands	22nd-30th December	<u>Official Website</u>

FUN ZONE

Interesting facts:

- The new pawn move, where pawns were allowed to advance two squares on its first move instead of one, was first introduced in Spain in 1280.
- The current version of castling was established in France in 1620 and England in 1640.
- Viktor Korchnoi, in his 1974 Candidates final match with Anatoly Karpov, famously asked the arbiter if castling was legal when the castling rook was under attack. The arbiter answered in the affirmative, Korchnoi executed the move, and Karpov resigned shortly after.

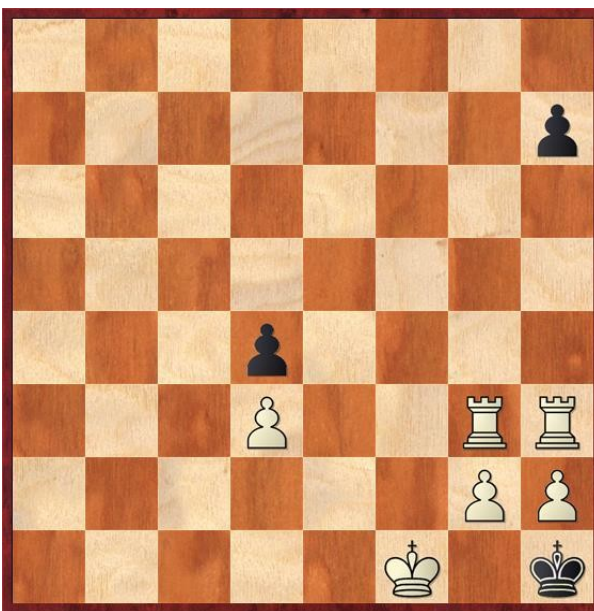
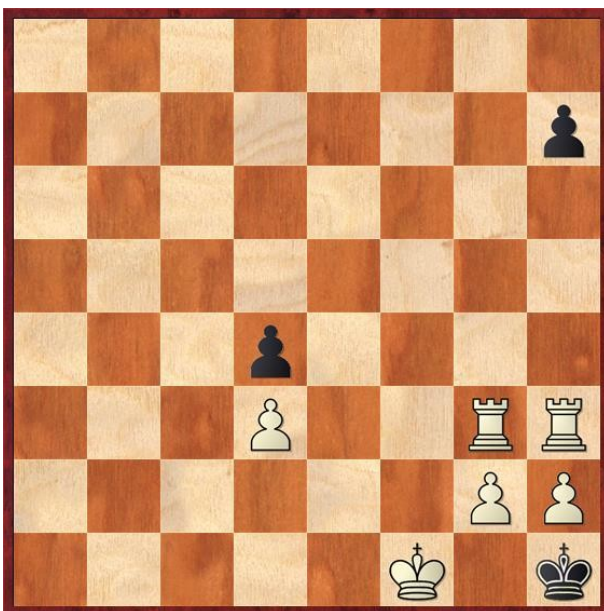
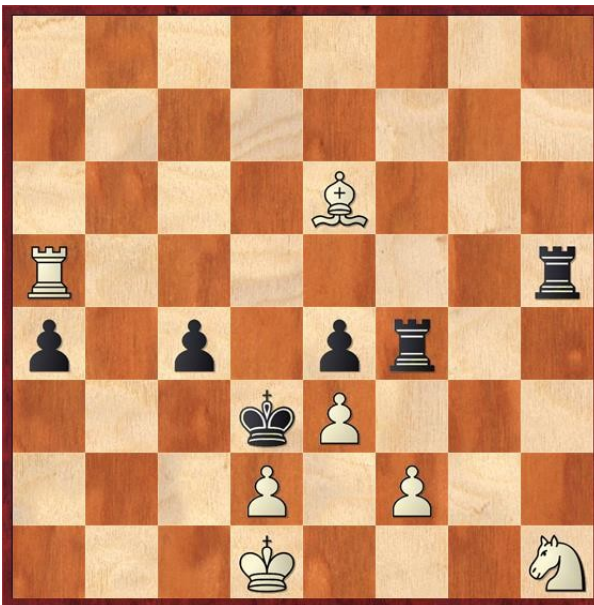


- The longest tournament chess game (in terms of moves) ever to be played was between Nikolic Ivan and Arsovic Goran, played in 1989 Belgrade, Serbia. The marathon lasted for 269 moves and was played for 20 hours and 15 minutes when it ended in a draw.

They said about chess:

"The most interesting thing to me in chess are not the gambits. Or the moves. It's the mental toughness." - Edward Zwick

In this edition of the ECU Newsletter we prepared some nice chess puzzles. Enjoy!



Solutions from NL October 2017:

Puzzle #1:

1...Bd5+! 2. f3 Bxf3+ 3. Rxf3 Qg1#

Puzzle #2:

1...Nd4+ 2.Kd1 Ne3+ 3. Kc1 Ne2#

Puzzle #3:

1. Rf6+ Kxg5 2. g3 [2.h4! Kxh4 3.Rf4+! Kg4 4.Rg4! Kxh5 5.Rg7 Kh4 6.g3! Kh3 7. Bf1#] Qc5 3.Kh1!! Qg1 4.Kxg1 and unstoppable mate with h4.

Puzzle #4:

1.Re8+ Bf8 2. Bh6!! Qxd5 3.Rxf8#