



ECU BOARD MEETING
PRAGUE 2016



EUROPEAN
SENIOR CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP
2016



EUROPEAN
SCHOOLS CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP
2016



MITROPA CUP
2016

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



ANNA USHENINA NEW EUROPEAN CHAMPION

Ukrainian Grandmaster and former World Champion Anna Ushenina (2450) added another important title to her collection – the title of European Champion!

She triumphed at the recently ended 17th European Individual Women's Chess Championship, which took place in Mamaia, Romania from 26th May to 8th June.

Ushenina took the lead after 7 rounds and maintained the advantage until the end. In the final round she made a draw with Lilit Mkrтчian, and finished the tournament with 6 wins and 5 draws, including amazing series of 5 victories in a row.

Second place went to Sabrina Vega Gutierrez from Spain, who defeated Elisabeth Paehtz from Germany in the last round and actually tied for the first place with Ushenina with 8.5 points, but had a worse tie-break.



The third place went to another ex-World Champion Antoaneta Stefanova (Bulgaria) with 8 points.

[Final Standings](#)

The closing ceremony took place after the final round was over, in the Conference Hall of Hotel Comandor, the official venue of the Championship.



The ceremony was attended by the ECU President Zurab Azmaiparashvili, ECU Deputy President Ion-Serban Dobronauteanu, Tournament Director IO Elena Cristian, Chairman and member of the Appeals Committee of the Championship Johann Poecksteiner and Willy Iclicki, ECU Board Member Adrian Mikhalechishin, Chief Arbiter of the Championship IA Ashot Vardapetyan, many other distinguished guests, participants and media representatives.

The prizes to the winners were awarded by Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili.

[Official Website](#)

Four new European Senior Champions crowned in Yerevan

The European Senior Chess Championship was held from 4th to 14th June in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, the home country of the 9th World Chess Champion Tigran Petrosian.

Precisely in the Chess house after Tigran Petrosian the event was held, following the great chess tradition the Armenians have.



The Championship was played in two categories: Senior 50+ and Senior 65+, and men and women results were counted separately.

In 50+ category GM Zurab Sturua (GEO 2545) defended his title and became the European Senior Champion for the second time.

Second place went to his compatriot GM Giorgi Bagaturov (2393), while the famous Armenian player GM Rafael Vaganian (2577) came third.



WGM Galina Strutinskaya (2237) from Russia became the Champion in 50+ women section, silver medal went to WIM Tsiala Kasoshvili (2176) from Georgia, and third place went to WGM Svetlana Mednikova (2180) from Russia.

[Senior 50+ Final Standings](#)



IM Valentin Bogdanov (UKR 2376) triumphed in 65+ category. Silver medal went to GM Viktor Kupreichik (BLR 2361), and FM Bent Sorensen (DEN 2188) made a nice surprise and came third.



In women 65+ category legendary Grandmaster Nona Gaprindashvili (GEO 2299) continued her domination in Senior categories, winning her third European Senior title.



WFM Luba Kuznetsova (2040) from Russia took the silver medal and bronze went to WGM Tamar Khmiadashvili (GEO 2081).

[Senior 65+ Final Standings](#)

During the 7th round of the Championship, the President of Armenia who doubles as President of the Armenian Chess Federation Mr. Serzh Sargsyan visited Tigran Petrosian Chess House and observed the matches.



[Official Website](#)

Anatoly Borodavkin wins European Amateur Championship 2016

The Ukrainian player Anatoly Borodavkin made a victory in the final round and with 8/9 triumphed at the European Amateur Chess Championship 2016 in Ruzomberok, Slovakia.

Silver medal went to Marek Pniaczek (POL 1870) with 7.5 points, while there was a tie for the third place, as six players scored 6.5 points.



Eventually, thanks to better tie-break bronze medal went to Vladimir Zahradnik (SVK 1920).

The Best ranked female player was Stella Sankova (SVK 1792) with 5.5 points.

[Final Standings](#)



The Championship was played as 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 event took place from 5th to 12th June 2016 in Hotel Kultúra. It was organized by Chess Club Prievidza, Chess Club Ruzomberok, Ruzomberok City, under the auspices of the European Chess Union.

[Official Website](#)

European Schols Chess Championship 2016

The European Schools Chess Championship 2016 took place in Halkidiki, Greece, with participation of more than 250 players from over 20 European federations divided in 6 age categories: U7, U9, U11, U13, U15 and U17.

In Open U17 Trubchaninov Timur (RUS 2183) became the Champion with 7.5 points. Second place went to Turkish player Erdogan Anil Berk (1932) with 7 points, while the female player and one of the most promising Greek young players WFM Avramidou Anastasia (2240) took bronze with 6 points, in the same time becoming the best female player in the group.



Second place went to Tishova Svetlana from Russia (1956) who scored 5 points, while bronze medal went to Micoogullari Lara (TUR 1637) with 4.5 points.

Keinanen Toivo (FIN 2218) triumphed in section Open U15 with 7 points. Second place was tied by two Turkish players with 6.5 points, but according to the tie-breaks silver went to FM Ozen Deniz (TUR 2212) while bronze went to his compatriot Kesgin Halit Kaan (2027).

Martinovici Ilie (MDA 2022) won in Open U13 group with 8.5 points. Second place went to Karaahmetoglu Ege (TUR 1928) with 6.5 points, while Malikov Farid (AZE) came third with 6 points.

Can Isik (TUR 2072) became the Champion in category Open U11 with 8 points. Suleymanli Aydin (AZE 2089) took silver medal with 7.5 points, and bronze medal went to Caberoglu Arda (TUR 1657) with 6.5 points.



In Open U9 category Ozkan Taha (TUR 1523) took victory with 7 points, while his compatriot Saridag Omer Melih (1488) scored the same points, but due to worse tie-break got the silver medal. Bronze went to Polish player Kejna Piotr (1428).

In the youngest Open category Mammadov Ziya (1190) from Azerbaijan triumphed and became the Champion with 8 points. Second place went to Royal Shreyas from England, and the third place went to Vetokhin Savva (1444) from Russia.

WFM Obolentseva Alexandra (RUS 2338) justified the role of the top seed in the Girls U15 category and eventually triumphed with 7.5 points. Silver went to Ayan Bengu Sena (TUR 1733) with 6.5 points, while bronze went to Mammadova Susan (AZE 1768) with 6 points.

Girls in the category U13 played Round Robin tournament, and after 9 rounds Afanasieva Alexandra (RUS 1947) won with 8 points. Second place went to Rzali Sabina (AZE 1727) with 7 points, while Kaygisiz Ilayda (TUR 1548) came third with 6.5 points.



Another top seed in the Girls category won the Championship, this time Zvereva Margarita (1747) from Russia in category Girls U11. She scored 7.5 points, a full point ahead of second and third Bondareva Daria (RUS 1733) and Ince Safiye Oyku (TUR 1513) respectively.

Shvedova Alexandra (RUS 1389) triumphed in Girls U9 section with 8 points. Silver went to Ivanova Dilyana (BUL 1391) and Gadasi Noam (ISR 1346) came third both with 6.5 points.

The only player in the whole Championship who managed to win all the games and make the perfect score is Russian player Svergina Sofya who triumphed in the youngest Girls section with amazing 9/9! Aslan Ezgi Selen from Turkey finished second with 6.5 points, while Kusakina Uliana came third with 6 points.



The closing ceremony was attended by the ECU Secretary General Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou and ECU Educational Commission Secretary Alexander Kostyev.

The Championship took place in Kallithea, Halkidiki/Greece, 16-26 June, 2016, in organization of the European Chess Union and the International School Chess Union.

All the winners in each category got trophies and special prizes, 4-6 place got medals and chess gifts, while the organizers also provided 10 special as well as 3 team prizes.

[Official Website](#)

Czech Republic and Germany win Mitropa Cup 2016

Czech Republic A in Open section and Germany in Women section are the winners of the Mitropa Cup 2016, which took place in Prague/Czech Republic, 19-27 June, 2016.

In the Open section the last round was crucial and decided the Champion. Germany tied the match against Hungary, while Czech Republic A defeated Slovenia, so the both teams finished the competition with 13 match points. Thanks to better tie-breaks, Czech Republic triumphed with total 23.5 points, while Germany scored 22.5 points.

The third place went to the team of Italy with 12 match points and 19.5 points in total.

[Open Section Final Standings](#)



In Women section German team became the Champion after playing 1-1 with the Hungarian team and scoring 15 match points. Silver medal went to Italy with 14 match points, while Hungary took bronze with 12 match points.

[Women Section Final Standings](#)

Ten Chess Federations traditionally participate in this event: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland, and compete in Open and Women sections.



Each team is composed of 4 players + one reserve player in Open section, and 2 women players + one reserve player in Women section.

The tournament was organized by the Czech Chess Federation, in cooperation with AVE-KONTAKT s.r.o. and Hotel Olympik ****.

The tournament was played 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 each move starting from move one.

[Official Website](#)

ECU NEWS

[ECU Board meeting in Prague](#)

The second European Board meeting in 2016, organized in Prague, Czech Republic, took place on 24th and 25th June after the kind invitation of the Czech Chess Federation.



The meeting was held under the excellent conditions in the hotel Olympic during the 2016 Mitropa Cup. The President of the Czech Chess Federation Viktor Novotny opened the meeting and welcomed the ECU Board in Prague.



The Board awarded certain competitions for 2018 and 2019, the ECU Auditor presented the audit report, and the ECU Treasurer and ECU Bookkeeper informed the Board about the financial results and closing of the year 2015. Many other important issues were discussed at the meeting as well.



European Chess Union is today in the best financial situation in its history, with the transparent and trustable financial management.

[Main Information & decisions of the Board](#)

Education through Chess in Schools project in Poland

Over the last few years Polish Chess Federation has put lot of energy in order to develop this social project, and their efforts finally paid off.

On June the 27 Polish Minister of Education Anna Zalewska officially announced, that from September 1, 2017 chess will be in each Polish elementary school in the first class and will be used by pupils as an important tool for learning. It is a great and historical day for Poland and Polish Chess Federation.



On 1st September 2017 the elements of chess game, supplementary, will appear in 13.000 Polish schools. It means each year 400.000 children will be able to play chess.

Let's have a short glance how the situation in the project looks in Poland today and what was done until now.

The project “Education through Chess in School” is organized and guided by Polish Chess Federation in cooperation with the provincial chess unions and local authorities. It is addressed to elementary schools for pupils from classes I-III. The key partners for Polish Chess Federation include Ministry of National Education and Ministry of Sport & Tourism.



The idea to introduce chess in schools as an effective form of supporting education was founded in Polish chess environment many years ago. The direct stimulus for the start of implementation came from the European Parliament in 2012, when declaration calling on all member states of the European Union to introduce education of chess in educational settings was signed.

The project grew out of the need to increase primary mathematical skills. Playing chess improves logical and analytical thinking, problem solving skills, development of spatial orientation, concentration and many others. Through chess we try to support intellectual, social and emotional development of children. Due to the expected positive impact on children’s education process, as well as providing teachers innovative and efficient tools for daily work with students project gained acceptance by the Minister of National Education.



The Polish Chess Federation has developed a coherent program of teaching chess in primary schools:

- 1) Prepared the set of textbooks written by Magdalena Zielińska – “Let’s play chess” for children as well as teaching materials for the teachers.
- 2) Organizes 72-hour courses for teachers preparing them to teach basics of chess in classes I-III (in the vast majority costs are covered by local authorities or schools)
- 3) Organizes additional training courses and methodological conferences.
- 4) Equips schools with fifteen chess sets and demonstration chessboard – all free of charge.
- 5) Offers help in the organization of chess events by schools participating in the project.
- 6) Runs the website (www.szachywszkole.pl) and a group “Education through chess in schools” on Facebook. Provides for informational purposes separate phone number (+48 22 428 23 76) and e-mail: szachywszkole@pzszech.org.pl .
- 7) In “Mat” – journal published by the Polish Chess Federation there is a special insert dedicated to chess in schools.
- 8) Has published a methodical guide for teachers with lesson scenarios inside. The book was written by Ewa Przewdziecka.

- 9) The elaboration of the program to continue learning chess in classes IV-VI.
- 10) Every year we organizes the huge Final Tournament for children participating in the project.
- 11) Project evaluation is conducted by research centers of leading Polish Universities – they study effects of chess classes on general development and school achievement of students.

The first 152 schools joined the project “Education through Chess in School” in 2013.

In the school year 2015/2016 project involved more than 600 schools. In the upcoming 2016/2017 project will cover 1000 schools in all 16 provinces. 2000 teachers will share chess knowledge with at least 35 000 students.



Last year on 20th June the II Final Tournament of the national project “Education through Chess in School” was held at the National Stadium in Warsaw, which was attended by the President of the European Chess Union Zurab Azmaiparashvili and representatives of the Ministry of Sport and Tourism, Polish Chess Federation and the authorities of the City of Warsaw.

The ECU President’s visit had a focus on this event and impacted the further development of the project.

Videos:

[CIS project in Poland](#)

[Final CIS Tournament](#)

[Interview with Tomasz Delega and Krzysztof Gora](#)

In Memoriam Viktor Korchnoi

The legendary Grandmaster Viktor Korchnoi passed away on 6th June 2016 at the age of 85.

Viktor Lvovich Korchnoi was a professional chess player, author and, until recently, the oldest active Grandmaster on the tournament circuit. He is widely considered the strongest player never to have become World Chess Champion.



Korchnoi was born in Leningrad, Soviet Union, and in 1976 he defected to the Netherlands, and has been residing in Switzerland for many years.

Korchnoi played three matches against Anatoly Karpov. In 1974, he lost the Candidates final to Karpov, who was declared world

champion in 1975 when Bobby Fischer refused to defend his title. He then won two consecutive Candidates cycles to qualify for World Championship matches with Karpov in 1978 and 1981, losing both.

Viktor Korchnoi was a candidate for the World Championship on ten occasions (1962, 1968, 1971, 1974, 1977, 1980, 1983, 1985, 1988 and 1991). He was also a four-time USSR chess champion, a five-time member of Soviet teams that won the European championship, and a six-time member of Soviet teams that won the Chess Olympiad. In September 2006, he won the World Senior Chess Championship.

In September 2006 Korchnoi won the 16th World Senior Chess Championship, held in Arvier (Valle d'Aosta, Italy). This was the first world title Korchnoi has won and his only participation in a World Senior Chess Championship.



Korchnoi is noted for his unusual longevity at the chessboard. He has been at or near the top of the game for nearly half a century. He continued to play many tournaments every year, playing more than 15 tournaments in 2006. He won the 2005 Quebec Open in Montreal, and in August 2006 at age 75 he won the Banyoles Open in Spain.

He became possibly the oldest player ever to win a national championship, when he won the 2009 Swiss championship at age 78.

His peak rating reached the highest point of 2695 ELO points in January 1979. On the January 2007 FIDE rating list Korchnoi was ranked number 85 in the world at age 75, by far the oldest player ever to be ranked in the FIDE top 100.

Korchnoi also wrote some notable books, such as King's Gambit (along with V. G. Zak, 1974), Chess is My Life (1977), Practical Rook Endings (2002), My Best Games Vol 1, 2 and 3 (Games with White, Games with Black, Biography), etc.



Viktor Korchnoi made his final journey through his hometown Wohlen in Switzerland, where he was buried on 14th June.

FUN ZONE

In June Fun Zone we prepared 4 Mate in 2 positions. In all 4 diagrams White to move. Enjoy!



Solutions from NL May 2016:

Position #1

1. Qf5+ Nxf5 2. e6#

Position #2

1. Qg6+ hxg6 2. Bxg6#

Position #3

1. Qxh7+ Rxh7 (1... Kf8 2. Ng6#) 2. Ng6#

Position #4

1. Qe4+ Kxe4 2. Nc3#

They told about chess...



“You must take your opponent into a deep dark forest where $2+2=5$, and the path leading out is only wide enough for one.”

Mikhail Tal, Soviet Latvian chess Grandmaster and the eighth World Chess Champion, widely known as a creative genius and the best attacking player of all time

UPCOMING EVENTS IN JULY

ECU EVENTS

EUROPEAN YOUTH TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

Slovenian Chess Federation, under the auspices of the European Chess Union organizes the European Youth U18 Team Chess Championship, which will be held in Celje/Slovenia, 9-17 July, 2016, in Hotel Celeia.



The Championship will be played according to the Swiss system in 7 rounds, with one open section and one section for the girl's teams, considered as separate competitions. According to ECU and FIDE rules, the time control will be 90 min for 40 moves + 30 min for the rest of the game + 30 seconds increment for every move played starting from the first move.

12 teams in Open and 14 teams in Women's section registered so far, including 1 GM, 10 IMs and 2 WIMs.

The top seeds are Hungary (2469 average rating) in Open section, and Ukraine (2316 average rating) in Women's section.

[Official Website](#)

EUROPEAN EVENTS

POLISH CLERGY CHAMPIONSHIP 2016	4 - 9 July	Rzeszow/Poland	Official Website
NAJDORF CHESS FESTIVAL 2016	8 - 16 July	Warsaw /Poland	Official Website
AMSTERDAM SCIENCE PARK OPEN 2016	9 - 17 July	Amsterdam/Netherl ands	Official Website
GIDEON JAPHET OPEN 2016	10 - 15 July	Jerusalem/Israel	Official Website
DORTMUND SPARKASSEN CHESS MEETING 2016	10 - 17 July	Dortmund/German y	Official Website
BILBAO MASTERS 2016	13 - 23 July	Bilbao/Spain	Official Website
PARDUBICE CHESS FESTIVAL 2016	14-31	Pardubice/Czech Republic	Official Website
LAKE SEVAN 2016	18 - 26 July	Martuni/Armenia	Official Website
KARPOV TOURNAMENT 2016	22 July - 3 August	Poikovsky/Russia	Official Website
BIEL CHESS FESTIVAL 2016	23 July - 3 August	Biel/Switzerland	Official Website