E-MAGAZINE JANUARY 2023

European Chess Union

Tata Steel Chess 2023

Anish Giri wins Tata Steel Chess Masters 2023

FIDE Olympiad for PwD

Poland wins the 1st FIDE Olympiad for People with Disabilities

European Cities & Towns Chess Champions 2023 announced

In brief..

The 1st European Cities & Towns Chess Championship was played on Sunday, January 29th, through Tornelo online platform from hybrid cities & towns venues. 50 teams from 30 cities participated in the event, and the Winners are:
Open section - Prague, Czech Republic
Women's section - Ljubljana, Slovenia
Senior section - Prague, Czech Republic
Youth U12 section - Istanbul, Turkey

The 1st FIDE Olympiad for People with Disabilities took place from January 30 to February 4 in Belgrade, Serbia. Poland won the event with perfect score of 12 match points.

The 85th jubilee edition of the **Tata Steel Chess 2023** - the "Wimbledon of Chess" took place from 14th-29th January in Wijk aan Zee. Anish Giri won the Masters event and Alexander Donchenko became the winner of the Challengers tournament, winning the spot for the next 2024 Tata Steel Masters.

European Individual Chess Championship 2023 will be held from 2nd-14th March in Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia with participation of more than 500 players from 41 European federations. The event broke the participation record previously set in Rijeka 2010 with 408 participants.

European Women's Chess Championship 2023 will take place from 17th-30th March 2023 in Petrovac, Montenegro. More than 100 players from 31 European federations have already registered for the event.

European Chess Union has its seat in Switzerland, Address: Rainweidstrasse 2, CH-6333, Hunenberg See, Switzerland .
European Chess Union is an independent association founded in 1985 in Graz, Austria;
European Chess Union has 54 National Federation Members;
Every year ECU organizes more than 20 prestigious events and championships;

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ecu.secretary.general@gmail.com

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European Cities & Towns Chess Champions 2023 announced

The 1st European Cities & Towns Chess Championship was played on Sunday, January 29th with participation of 50 teams from 30 European cities.

The Winners are:
Open section - Prague, Czech Republic
Women's section - Ljubljana, Slovenia
Senior section - Prague, Czech Republic
Youth section - Istanbul, Turkey

The event was played from hybrid cities & towns venues, through Tornelo online platform and consisted of three categories: Open/ Seniors, Women's, and Youth U12. Each section featured 9 rounds played in swiss system, with the time control of 10 min + 3 sec.

Team **Prague** (Czech Republic) emerged as the sole Winner of the Open/Seniors section scoring 17 match points. **Thessaloniki** (Greece) came second with 15 match points, while **Kallithea Athens** (Greece) claimed bronze with 14 match points.
The Open and Seniors sections were merged in one, and the best-ranked city/town was crowned as European Cities & Towns Senior Chess Champions. **Prague Senior** (Czech Republic) team scored 9 match points and 19 board points to emerge as the best-ranked Senior team. **Istanbul Senior** (Turkey) had the same score of 9 match points but 15 board points and claimed silver, while **Monte-Carlo** (Monaco) won bronze scoring 7 match points.

Ljubljana Women's team (Slovenia) emerged as the Winner of the European Cities & Towns Women's Championship with the score of 16 match points. **Thessaloniki** (Greece) won silver with 14 match points, and **London** (England) clinched bronze with 13 match points.

Photos of: Team Prague (above), Ljubljana and Istanbul playing venues (right)

Team **Istanbul** (Turkey) won the European Cities & Towns Youth U12 Chess Championship with the perfect score of 18 match points. Three teams tied for silver scoring 12 match points, each: **Lviv Chess Federation** (Ukraine), **Iasi Region** (Romania) and **CSM Galati** (Romania) and the board points of teams determined the medalists. Lviv Chess Federation won silver with 22.5 board points, Iasi Region claimed bronze with 20.5 board points and CSM Galati came fourth with 20 board points.

Final rankings and final report can be found on the ECU Website.

The event was broadcasted through 4 different channels with the number of individual viewers exceeding 100.000.

#ECTCC2023

1st European Cities & Towns Chess Championship

The event was broadcasted through 4 different channels: European Chess TV – Youtube, European Chess Union – Twitch channel, Chess.com TV Channel, European Chess TV – Twitch channel, with commentaries by WGM Keti Tsatsalashvili and GM Arturs Neiksans. According to the total statistics, the number of individual viewers exceeded 100.000, the same as the last day of the Tata Steel Chess.

Kuldiga, Latvia

Lviv Chess Federation, Ukraine

Stockholm, Sweden

1st European Cities & Towns Chess Championship - playing venues

The 1st European Cities & Towns Chess Championship was played on Sunday, January 29th.

The event was played from hybrid cities & towns venues, through Tornelo Online platform. 50 teams from 30 European cities participated in the event which was played in 4 sections: Open, Women's, Seniors, and Youth U12.

The event attracted many strong players: GM Papaioannou Ioannis (Thessaloniki), GM Rodshtein Maxim (Prague), GM Movsesian Sergei (Prague), GM Mastrovasilis Dimitrios (Thessaloniki), legendary GM Pia Cramling (Stockholm)...

Iasi, Romania

Tirana, Albania

London, England

Photo:
Mark Livshitz

Poland wins the 1st FIDE Olympiad for People with Disabilities

The inaugural FIDE Olympiad for People with Disabilities took place from 30 January to 4 February in Belgrade, Serbia.

The event was played in 6 rounds, swiss system, with participation of more than 100 players from 33 countries. Poland emerged as the Winner of the event, scoring perfect 12 match points.

Team Poland scored perfect 12/12 match pointsto confidently win the 1st FIDE Olympiad for People with Disabilities.

Team Poland - composition:
1.GM Tazbir Marcin (2507)
2.Molenda Marcin (2381)
3.Piekielny Pawel (2230)
4.IM Dukaczewski Piotr (2131)
5.IM Stachanczyk Jacek (2189)

IPCA (Team of Physically disabled chess players) clinched silver with 10 match points as they suffered only one loss in the event, and it was against the winners.

Team IPCA - composition:
1.IM Mikheev Stanislav (2300)
2.FM Sargissyan Sargis (2226)
3.IM Campos Eugenio (2227)
4.Andriienko Artom (1693)
5.Kudainazarova Dariia

Four teams were in a tie for bronze with 8 match points each: Philippines, India, Serbia 1 and Uzbekistan, but the tiebreak criteria determined Philippines as the bronze medalists.

Team Philippines - composition:
1.FM Severino Sander (2364)
2.Lopez Henry (2102)
3.Infiesto James (1930)
4.Bernardo Darry (2070)
5.Mendoza Cheyzer Crystal (1639)

The Closing ceremony of the event took place after the last round, with the attendance of the high-ranking officials of the City of Belgrade, Deputy Chairperson of the FIDE Management Board & ECU Deputy President Ms. Dana Reizniece-Ozola, and FIDE Special Tasks Director Mr. Akaki Iashvili.

Detailed information can be found on the Official website of the event.

Photos by: Mark Livshitz

1st FIDE Olympiad for People with Disabilities

The 1st FIDE Olympiad for People with Disabilities took place in Belgrade, Serbia, from January 30 to February 4. The inaugural event celebrated diversity and competition and it's been a milestone moment for chess. 26 teams with more than 100 participants from 33 countries competed for the title, and Poland won the historical gold medal.

Tata Steel Chess 2023

The 85th jubilee edition of the Tata Steel Chess took place from 14th-29th January 2023 in Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands. The “Wimbledon of Chess” featured Masters, Challengers, and Amateur events simultaneously played at the same venue.

GM Anish Giri (NED, 2764) won the Masters event after a thrilling final round. Giri defeated Richard Rapport (ROU, 2740) to score 8.5/13 points and leaped on the top in front of Nodirbek Abdusatorov (UZB, 2713).

Abdusattorov was in the sole lead throughout the tournament, but suffered a loss against Jorden Van Foreest (NED, 2681) in the last game and finished the event tying for second place with Magnus Carlsen (NOR, 2859) who had the same score of 8/13 points.

Final rankings - Masters:
1.Anish Giri, 8½ points
2.Nodirbek Abdusattorov, 8 points
3.Magnus Carlsen, 8 points
4.Wesley So, 7½ points
5.Fabiano Caruana, 7 points
6.Parham Maghsoodloo, 7 points
7.Levon Aronian, 6½ points
8.Richard Rapport 6½ points
9.Praggnanandhaa, 6 points
10.Jorden Van Foreest, 6 points
11.Ding Liren, 5½ points
12.Gukesh D 5½ points
13.Vincent Keymer, 5 points
14.Arjun Erigaisi, 4 points

Final rankings and detailed information about the event can be found on the Official website.

Photos from Tata Steel Chess Facebook & Lennart Ootes

Alexander Donchenko (GER, 2627) won the Challengers event with a round to spare, scoring 10/13 points.

Final rankings - Challengers:
1.Alexander Donchenko, 10 points
2.Mustafa Yilmaz, 9 points
3.Javokhir Sindarov, 8½ points
4.Amin Tabatabaei, 7½ points
5.Max Warmerdam, 7 points
6.Adhiban, B., 7 points
7.Luis Paulo Supi, 7 points
8.Velimir Ivic, 7 points
9.Erwin L'Ami, 6½ points
10.Thomas Beerdsen, 6 points
11.Abhimanyu Mishra, 5 points
12.Vaishali R, 4½ points
13.Jergus Pechac, 3 points
14.Eline Roebers, 3 points

Alexander Doncheko won Tata Steel Challengers 2023 and earned a starting ticket for the Masters of the Tata Steel Chess in 2024.

Tata Steel Chess 2023

85th jubilee edition

The Tata Steel Chess Tournament is one of the most prestigious events in the international chess calendar. The “Wimbledon of Chess” attracts the very best chess grandmasters in the world, along with thousands of amateur players, live event visitors and online visitors from around the world. In 2023, the Tata Steel Chess Tournament celebrated its 85th year.

The 2nd leg of the FIDE Women Grand Prix 2022/23 started in Munich

The second leg of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix 2022/23 series takes place in Munich, Germany, from 1st to 14th of February 2023.

The event is played in 11 rounds, round-robin system, with time control of 90 minutes for 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes to the end of the game, plus a 30-second increment starting from move one.

The prize fund is 80,000 euros, with 15,000 euros and 160 Grand Prix points for the winner. No draw offers are allowed before move 30.

The Women's Grand Prix Series 2022-23 features a total of 16 players, and each one of them will participate in three out of four WGP tournaments. The two (2) players who score more cumulative points in the WGP series qualify for the FIDE Women Candidates Tournament 2023-24.

The participants of the FIDE Women Grand Prix Munich are:
>GM Elisabeth Paehtz (Germany),
>GM Alexandra Kosteniuk (FIDE),
>GM Tan Zhongyi (China),
>GM Harika Dronavalli (India),
>GM Zhansaya Abdumalik (Kazakhstan),
>GM Mariya Muzychuk (Ukraine),
>GM Anna Muzychuk (Ukraine),
>GM Nana Dzagnidze (Georgia),
>GM Humpy Koneru (India),
>WGM Zhu Jiner (China),
>IM Alina Kashlinskaya (Poland), and
>WGM Dinara Wagner (Germany).

Detailed information about the event can be found on the Official website.

Ms. Dana Reizniece-Ozola FIDE Board Management Deputy and ECU Deputy President welcomed the participants at the Opening ceremony of the event

FIDE Women Grand Prix Munich participants

Photos by David Llada

European Senior Team Chess Championship 2023 – Official invitation

The City of Świdnica, the Polish Chess Federation, the Adolf Anderssen Foundation, and the European Chess Union (ECU) have the great honour to invite you to participate in European Senior Team Chess Championship 2023 which will take place from 11th to 21st July 2023 in Swidnica, Poland.

Photo pinterest

The event will be played in two age categories: 50+ and 65+, Open and Women sections separately. A separate Women's Championship will be held if there are at least 8 teams in the respective category. Otherwise, the Women's Championship shall be merged with the respective Open category.

The Championships will be played in a 9-round Swiss system. The time control is 90 minutes for 40 moves + 30 minutes for the rest of the game + 30 seconds increment for every move played.

In the 50+ category, players born in 1973 or earlier are entitled to participate. In the 65+ category, players born in 1958 or earlier are entitled to participate.

Each National Federation of the European Chess Union has the right to register an unlimited number of teams in both categories: Open and Women 50+ & 65+. Each team should consist of four (4) players and optionally one (1) reserve player. The teams may represent a National Federation or any regional structure of a National Federation (club teams, city teams, regional teams, national teams, or simply friends, etc. – there is no limitation), but all players must be members of the same federation.

The Winners of the European Open and Women's Senior Team Championships 50+ and 65+ will be awarded the title of the European Senior Team Champion 2023 of the respective category. The total prize fund of the event is 6.000 EUR.

Official regulations and the invitation for European Senior Team Chess Championship 2023 can be found on the ECU Website.

Photo Wikipedia

The European Individual Chess Championship 2023, organised by Serbian Chess Federation under the auspices of European Chess Union, will take place from 2nd – 14th March 2023 in Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia.

European Individual Chess Championship 2023

More than 500 players from 41 federations registered for the Championship, with the event breaking the participation record of 408 players set in Rijeka in 2010.

The event features 138 Grandmasters, 108 International masters, and a total of 394 titled players. The top seeded players are: GM Gabriel Sargissian (ARM, 2699), GM Haik Martirosyan (ARM, 2686), GM Radoslaw Wojtaszek (POL, 2686), GM David Navara (CZE, 2685), GM Jules Moussard (FRA, 2684), GM Alexandr Predke (FIDE, 2684), GM Anton David Guijarro (ESP, 2679), GM Andrey Esipenko (FIDE, 2675), GM Boris Gelfand (ISR, 2670), GM Alexey Sarana (FIDE, 2668), GM Evgeniy Najer (FIDE, 2666), GM Vasyl Ivanchuk (UKR, 2664).

The championship will be played in 11 rounds, swiss system, with time control of 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 European Individual Chess Championship 2023 is a qualifying event for the FIDE World Cup 2023. According to the FIDE regulations for World Cup and the ECU Board decision, 23 players* will qualify. The total prize fund of the tournament is 100.000 EUR with 20.000 EUR reserved for the Winner of the event.

Official regulations and detailed information about the event can be found on the Official website.

European Women's Chess Championship 2023

European Individual Women's Chess Championship 2023 will take place from 17th-30th March in Hotel "Palas" Petrovac, Montenegro.

The Championship will be played according to the Swiss System, 11 rounds. The rate of play is 90 minutes for 40 moves + 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds for every move starting from move 1.

The 23rd European Women's Championship implies qualification for the next World Women's Cup. According to FIDE regulations and the decision of the ECU Board, 9 players will qualify.

The total prize fund of the event is 60.000 EUR, with 10.000 EUR reserved for the Winner of the event.

The event is open for all women players from National Chess Federations members of the European Chess Union (ECU) without rating or title limitations and according to the decisions of the ECU Board and General Assembly.

Already more than 100 players from 31 European federations registered for the event.

The list of registered players can be found here.

Detailed information and official regulations of the Championship can be found on the ECU Website.

Hotel "Palas" Petrovac, Montenegro

The 9th edition of the London Chess Conference will take place from 17-19 March.

The Conference is organised by ChessPlus Limited working in partnership with the core sponsors the International Chess Federation (FIDE), the European Chess Union (ECU) and Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC).

London Chess Conference

The theme of the 9th annual London Chess Conference is Chess and STEM – exploring the ways in which chess relates to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The conference covers the education needed to lay the intellectual foundations for life and work in the 21st Century. The public associate chess with higher-order thinking but do not always see the relevance to education. The conference seeks to set out the unique contributions that chess can make to developing children's thinking skills.

According to the UK Commission for Employment & Skills, 43% of science, technology, engineering and mathematics vacancies are hard to fill due to a shortage of applicants with the required skills and experience.

This skills gap must be addressed within the education system starting in schools. Chess brings many of the analytical skills required for STEM and can be part of any educational plan to make STEM subjects more attractive.

The Conference is organised by ChessPlus Limited working in partnership with the core sponsors the International Chess Federation (FIDE), the European Chess Union (ECU) and Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC).

Detailed information and programme of the Conference can be found on the official website.

INFO+

Did you heard about...?
...the Schack4an project?

Schack4an is a social project run by the Swedish Chess Federation for grade 4. The goal is to include EVERYONE in the class, as everyone is important for success. Inclusion is the keyword, not chess, and this is something every school and teacher is fighting with, and that they understand. Chess is only the tool to create it.

Schack4an (2022)
Photo credit: Lars OA Hedlund

Why Schack4an is special?
The tournament set-up

- a class team tournament for grade 4
- all points go to the class.
- the 1-2-3-point system is used for each game, which makes every child important for the success of the class.
- everyone participating receives a medal at all stages. No other individual prizes, or class prizes, are given out.

Click here for more informations.

EDUCATION COMMISSION

ECU European Chess Union Since 1985

#ECUeducational

SOCIAL MEDIA ATTACK! a new "opening" in chess

by Jesper Bergmark Hall

Jesper Bergmark Hall has been the chairman of ECU Education since the start 2014 and was just re-elected for the following four years. In this article he looks back on work that has been done, as well as looking into the future.

In 2014, ECU launched a new commission, ECU Education. The background was that around Europe it had been discovered that chess was not only a mental sport but could also develop social and intellectual skills for children and adults, and now there was a need to gather experiences. The first years were spent trying to get an overview of how chess as an educational tool worked in the 54 countries of the ECU. This proved to be difficult, because not only does Europe have different school systems and pedagogical styles, but the instructors had different goals in their chess activities depending on whether they were regular teachers, or were sent by federations, clubs, organisations or private individuals that was there on their own initiative. In addition, the activities were shaped depending on where the money came from: the school, the ministry of education, the municipality, or the parents.

It's time to recognise the grassroot movement as an important educational tool!

Jesper Bergmark Hall

In 2016, the ECU EDU presented a major survey of chess in schools in Europe

Click here to acces the document about the survey

The survey can be summarized by saying that chess as an educational tool has an important position in many countries' schools, but that it is "a grassroots movement with beautiful wild flowers that grow in all different directions depending on the soil in which they stand". Moreover, we realised that nearly 6 million children have chess in school in European countries!
One thing was clear, however, and that was that what everyone was struggling with was the question: "How do you teach chess, when the goal is not primarily to develop chess skills but intellectual and social abilities?"

Since then, the ECU EDU has focused on continuously developing a range of courses to meet the demand, in line with school curricula and in tune with the latest pedagogical methods.

A two-day basic course on "how to teach chess?" (Course ECU101) is complemented by targeted courses for those working with younger children, mathematics, logic, and coding. In addition, networking and support to the chess in schools activities of the different European countries has been the focus.

“The secret of getting ahead is getting started.“ Mark Twain

The ECU EDU has been behind the London Chess Conference, the annual chess in schools conference, a newsletter is published on the first of each month: "First Rank" and translated into five languages.

On the last Wednesday of each month there are lectures and experiences are on the last Wednesday of each month there are lectures and experiences are shared online between teachers, instructors and other chess in schools interested people.
ECU EDU has also held countless workshops with federations and organisations to develop their chess in school’s activities, we have applied for funding for, participated in and run, several projects, not least through Erasmus+. Most importantly, however, we have tried to be a source of strength that supports all those who carry out chess activities with the aim of developing social and intellectual skills. So much has happened in the last eight years, yet we are waiting for the big breakthrough, and that is for chess to be recognised at the highest level as an important educational tool. This is also the goal of the four years ahead for ECU Education, which is why we have developed the following focus areas to achieve this:

- If we are to achieve higher status, we need to **be more visible**, not least **in social media**.The grassroot movement simply must come out of its shadow, and we must highlight all the good we do.
- We need to **collaborate** with, and be in line with, the latest research.

School Chess United (2022)

- We need to get **certification from the EU**, and from countries' ministries of education, for the models and methods of chess in schools that we know work both according to school curricula and in practice.
- We need to **highlight and refine** the best practices that we know work and that there is interest in the school world.
- We need to create a **European school competition** based on the basic ideas of chess as a socially integrative method
- We must **continue to cooperate**, not least with FIDE EDU but also with other global organisations, sharing experiences and pursuing joint projects.
- Finally, all this should then be **implemented in the countries of Europe.**

For the above reasons we have developed action plans, and we will do what we can, within our financial and human resources, to reach as far as we can.

Jesper Bergmark Hall

EDUCATION COMMISSION

ECU European Chess Union Since 1985

Summary

The activity of the ECU EDU
PAST AND FUTURE

Past activity:
- educational conference
- teacher courses
- the commission applied for funds for projects and for Erasmus+
- support for countries who tried to implement chess in schools

Future activity:
- improve visibility
- certification from the EU
- highlight and refine the best practices, continue to cooperate
- European School Competition
- implement in the countries of EU

Contact us!

- Are you intrested in CiS?

- Do you have an ideea?

- Is there anything you want to tell us?

- Do you have informations about a CiS event in your country?

Send an email to:

- edu@europechess.org
- ECUeducational@gmail.com

Follow us!

- The promotion of chess is very important.

- So if you think that what we do is useful, help us.

- Any like, comment or share matters. Is free!

Follow us on social media!

#ECUeducational
#Chessinschool

INFO+

Mădălina,

who are you?

I am in charge of Chess in Education in Romania. I was a chess player and a national master, but I started to study pedagogy and got a master's degree. At the same time, I started to teach chess on different levels, and this is what I do full time now. Step, by step I have been more and more working with chess in schools.

Photo credit: George Necula

Tell us about

Chess in Education in Romania and your role in it.

I am currently manager of the "Chess in Education" program, whose first objective was to offer a course for teachers, called "Education through chess". In December 2022, it was accredited by the Ministry of Education, so we are ready to move to the next stage of the project.

"Education through chess" program is accredited for at least four years

Mădălina leads ECU EDU's social media drive

Social media is about maintaining relationships.

Success requires efficiency communication. We must therefore post on social media to maintain a good relationship with educational chess enthusiasts.

In 2014 Chess in Schools became optional in schools of Romania, due to the declaration from EU. But there was a lack of training programs, so things were not going forward.

We decided to promote CiS in January 2022, according to the plan of our new president Vlad Ardeleanu. He asked me if I wanted to work for the project and I started to prepare a teachers course for the ministry of education.

We started a cooperation with ECU Education to find the best set-up and get advice on how proceed together with the minister of education. I prepared a plan for them, a document of 600 pages with instructions on how implement chess in Romanian schools.

In the end of December 2022, the ministry accepted our course and the set-up and now we are ready to go.

How shall ECU EDU reach out with what we do?

These days it is very important to have visibility on social media. If you are not there it is like you do not exist. Like this we can publish our actions and maybe at one point they will want to join us or just use the materials that we will share.

Our commission has done a social media plan and we will from now on be active on Facebook, Instagram and linked-in, and we will promote our commission in a new and active way on daily bases.

Who is the target group of the things ECU EDU is preparing?

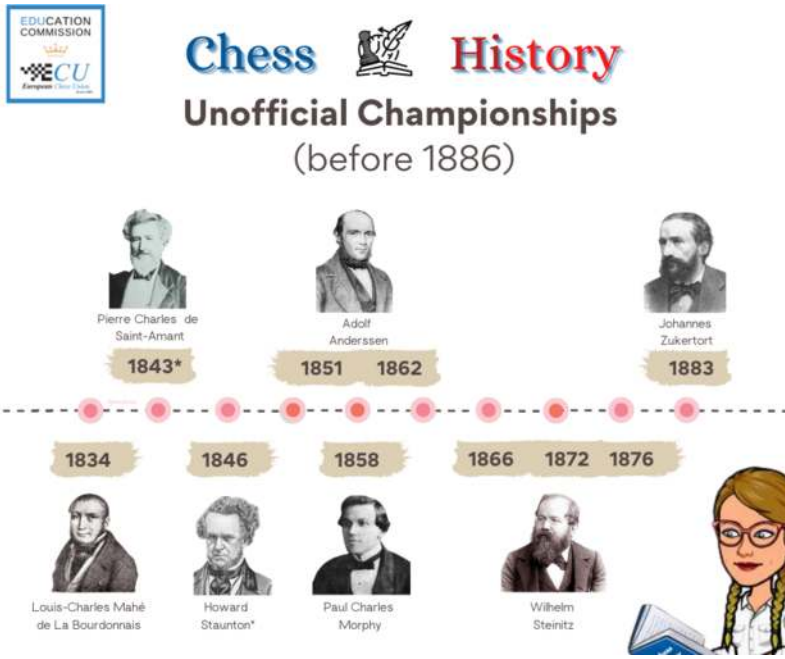
Our target group is teachers and parents, but all people interested in teaching chess with the purpose of developing social and intellectual skills should have something.

Important links

- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ECUeducationalCommission
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/EcuEducational
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/EcuEducational

#ECUeducational

#ChessDEX
A new notion explained in each post.
This will be followed by related activities.



#ChessHistory
Informations about great chess players or notable events

FUN FACTS about Mădălina

Mădălina's Abilities & Anxieties

What are the skills you are proud of?
I think that the most important skill that I have is that I can make kids enjoy chess, because I invest a lot of time and energy to improve my teaching skills.

What is your biggest fear?
I am a hard worker and I am pretty proud of this skill, but my biggest fear is that it is hard to find a balance between work and free time. And to be productive is also important to have some personal time.

Mădălina's Future

Who would you like to meet?
There are many chess personalities that I would like to meet. But regarding my projects, I would love to meet more people (chess players or pedagogs) interested in implementing chess in education in their country.

What would you like to learn?
I would like to learn more about how to share the beauty of chess to everyone, so any person regardless of their age or social status can enjoy the benefits of this wonderful game.

What would you like to be known for?
I hope to be known as a promoter of educational chess.

Lejean-Anușca Mădălina-Maria

EDUCATION COMMISSION ECU European Chess Union

Place: any place with sea, (board) games or animals
Book: ''Non-Chess'' books I guess? The Magus by John Fowles, any psychology or mystery book.
Author: Mihai Eminescu, Agatha Christie
Actor: Robert De Niro, Simon Baker
Actress: Anya Taylor-Joy, Blake Lively
Song: Dans les yeux D'Émilie, Adoro, Chopin: Nocturne
Colour: blue
Movie: Les Choristes
Serie: The Queen's Gambit
Anime: Hikaru no Go
Sport: Basket-ball

Mădălina-Maria Lejean-Anușca

ECU ChessPlus Discussion Group

Every last Wednesday of the month ChessPlus holds a Discussion Group meeting for chess educators to share and discuss their experiences, ideas, and knowledge on different topics. The event is supported by the European Chess Union.

ECU ChessPlus Discussion Group

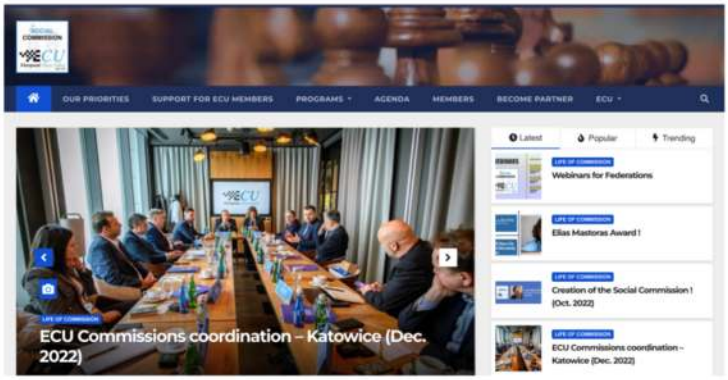
The event is held online through Zoom Online platform. The event is Open and Free and the free tickets can be reserved here.

ECU Social Commission Webinars

ECU Social Commission planned three webinars for federations in the next months. Webinars will be organized under three separate headings:
– ECU Social Commission: Presentation, How we can help you!
– Why and How to create a Social Commission?
– Chess for inclusion: Success Stories

Registration form for the Webinars can be found on ECU Social Commission website.

The French Chess Federation benefits from the support of the ECU for the website of its “Social” Commission

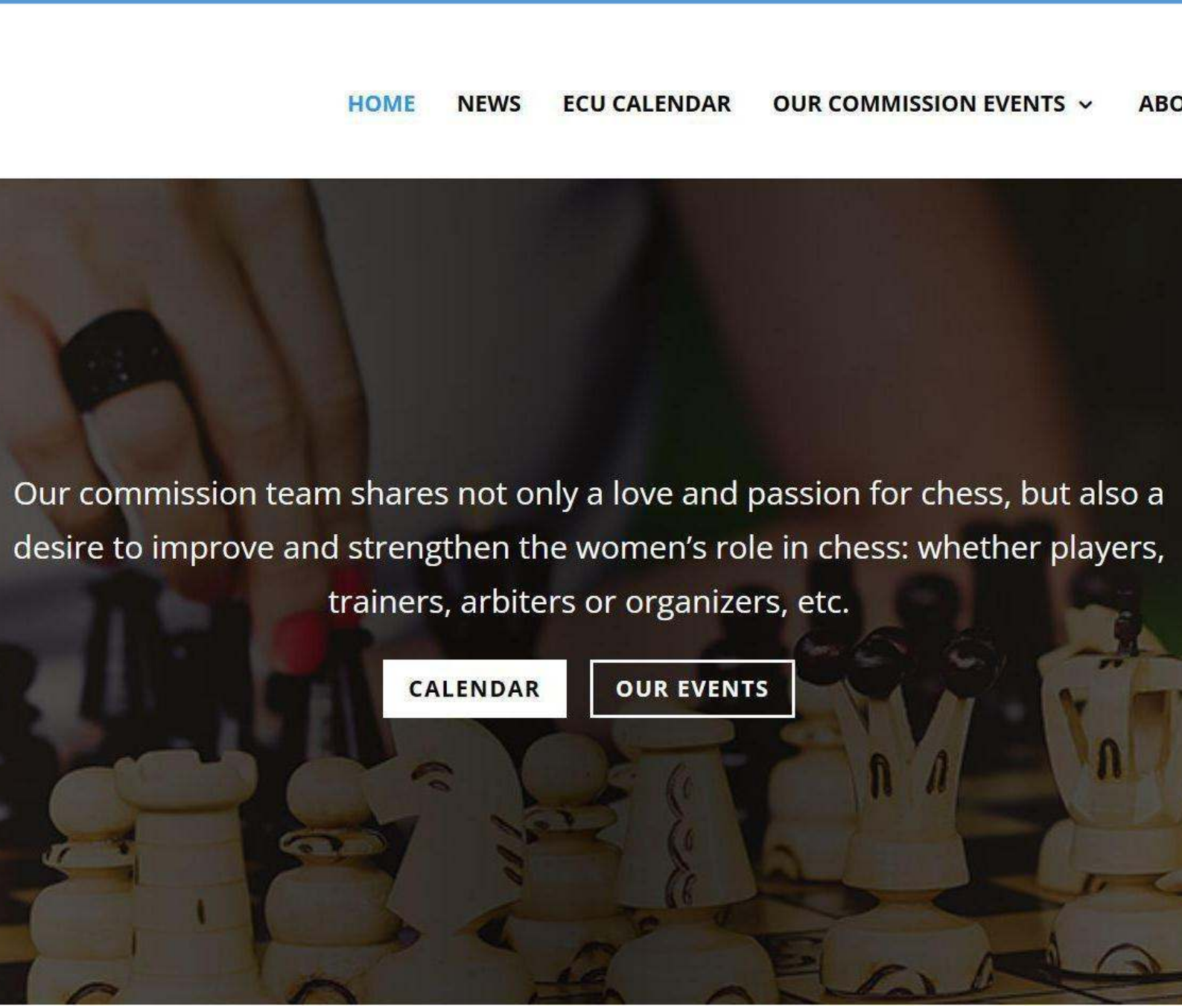


The French Chess Federation adopted the same model for its site of the “Santé Social Handicap” Commission

The French Chess Federation has decided to adopt the same model for its site of the “Santé Social Handicap” Commission. https://ssh.ffechecs.fr/

This decision was motivated by saving time (and money!) and by the desire to participate and thus contribute to a shared vision of the Social Chess State of Mind across Europe.

The French Chess Federation warmly thanked the European Chess Union for this concrete and beneficial action! ECU member federations: several countries are considering or have decided to join in the process of creating a Social Commission! Do not hesitate to contact Franck Droin, Chairman or Melih CIcek, Secretary to consider this concretely! Post navigation



Our Women's Commission Website has been launched

We are pleased to introduce you our commission website, where you can find a calendar and information about our planned events. We will update it regularly, so save it to your favourite list so that you're up to date and don't miss anything. We always welcome your feedback and inputs, please share them with us.

Website Link: https://wom.europechess.org/

We would like to invite all female chess players to **"2nd Edition of the European Girls' and Women's Chess Weekend"** that will take place on the weekend **25. – 26.02.2023**

"2nd Edition of the European Girls' and Women's Chess Weekend"

All events are **online** and is open to all ECU Federations, who would like to participate with a team. The event consists of a **team battle, a rapid tournament, and various seminars.** Participants can either join all events or attend individual events they are interested in. There are various prizes to win over the course of the weekend, such as coaching sessions with a top female chess player.

You can find the detailed timetable and the sign-up information on our website, under the link: https://wom.europechess.org/our-commission-events/other-events/

SCHEDULE

Saturday, 25.02.2023 11.00 CET:
Seminar: The Journey of becoming a Chess arbiter with Jirina Prokopova
(registration required) You've a unique opportunity to hear more about what the role of arbiters is in chess, what the benefits are of being a chess arbiter and what the journey of becoming a chess arbiter looks like. Open to everyone. Sign up via email to womenchess@europechess.org

14.00 CET: Individual Rapid Arena
19.00 CET: Battle of the Federations

Sunday, 26.02.2023 14.00 CET:
Seminar: Online Motivation Training with GM Elina Danielian
(registration required)

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S TOURNAMENTS

One of our goals is to support organizers of **female norm tournaments in Europe** in order to increase the number of female players with FIDE titles. We offer a **financial support to organizers** who are ECU member federations. Please reach to our website for more information and requirements: https://wom.europechess.org/our-commission-events/support-for-womens-tournament/

« Females Working Behind The Scene" with Ofelia Thörnqvist from the Swedish Chess Federation

In our new section **"Spotlight - Females Working Behind The Scene"** we would like to introduce you passionate members of the European Chess Federations that are engaged in promoting and supporting Women's Chess.

My name is ***Ofelia Thörnqvist*** and I work for the ***Swedish Chess Federation*** since 2014. Mostly I have worked with Chess in Schools and administration but I am now also in charge of Women´s chess in Sweden. I am also a chess player on average club level (1700-player) and vice president of the local chess club in my hometown. I played chess my entire childhood but quit when I was 17. I found my way back to chess 10 years ago and I will never quit chess again!

What is the % of female chess players in Sweden and how many professional female chess players do you have?
It differs a lot in different categories, in our school chess club it is around 40% female members but on the rating list there is only 3,7%. More and more women are starting to play chess now since the Queen´s Gambit/ pandemic boom, so hopefully the number will rise. The legendary GM Pia Cramling is of course our best female player by far, and her daughter Anna is a professional chess streamer. They are the only Swedish female players who makes a living out of chess.

What are the main projects and areas of responsibility of the Sveriges Schackförbund (Swedish Chess Federation) Women's Commission?
We don´t have a women´s commission but I feel that this model where I as an employee at our office have this responsibility, instead of someone doing it in their free time, is working well. We have free online training every month and we are now making tournaments that we started up last year during the Year of the Woman in Chess that we are now making permanent. We also try to support local initiative as for example girl´s training for all girls in Stockholm arranged by the local club Wasa SK.

Photo: Ofelia Thörnqvist

What events and initiatives have you planned for this year?
We have Girl´s National Championships, a Girl´s Weekend for girls up to 16, National Team Championships for Women and National Championships in Blitz and Speed Chess for Women.

Do you have any tips on how to get more females involved in chess?
To build up a network and just always have women in mind when you are looking for trainers, arbiters, board members etc. Make sure that the female players get the information about for example all educations your federation is arranging. I find our monthly newsletter about everything that is going on in Women´s Chess helpful.

« To build up a network and just always have women in mind when you are looking for trainers, arbiters, board members etc. »

Text by: IA Tamas Gyomber

THE FIFTY SHADES OF DRAW

Although it should be well-known for everyone, as these situations appear over and over again during all kinds of events, most players – and unfortunately, many inexperienced arbiters – don't know how to handle three- or fivefold repetitions and 50/75 moves draw properly. The primary aim of this article is to shed light to these areas through some field examples. First of all, let's see what our bread & butter, the FIDE Handbook says about threefold repetitions:

9.2 The game is drawn, upon a correct claim by a player having the move, when the same position for at least the third time (not necessarily by a repetition of moves):
9.2.1 is about to appear, if he/she first indicates his/her move, which cannot be changed, by writing it on the paper scoresheet or entering it on the electronic scoresheet and declares to the arbiter his/her intention to make this move, or
9.2.2 has just appeared, and the player claiming the draw has the move.
9.2.3 Positions are considered the same if and only if the same player has the move, pieces of the same kind and colour occupy the same squares and the possible moves of all the pieces of both players are the same. (…)
9.3 The game is drawn, upon a correct claim by a player having the move, if:
9.3.1 he/she indicates his/her move, which cannot be changed, by writing it on the paper scoresheet or entering it on the electronic scoresheet and declares to the arbiter his/her intention to make this move which will result in the last 50 moves by each player having been made without the movement of any pawn and without any capture, or 9.3.2 the last 50 moves by each player have been completed without the movement of any pawn and without any capture.

In the following section TFR (threefold repetition) can also be understood as 50-moves rule as the general handling ways are identical for them.

So let's begin! There are two different ways to claim a TFR, in the player's own move:
1) The same position is already on the board third time, caused by the last move of the claimant's opponent. The explanation in parenthesis at the end of 9.2 is very important – I've just met a player who firmly believed that threefold repetition can only be claimed if it appeared in the latest moves, with both players making the same moves (repetition).
2) With the claimant's NEXT MOVE, the TFR comes to be. It's a bit trickier as there are a few things the claimant can do to make the claim invalid. We'll soon take a look at these cases.

Way (1) is simple: the claimant may pause the chessclock and call the arbiter, claiming the draw based on the position on the board. Arbiters, please don't forget to stop the clock if the player didn't do it before summoning you! In way (2) however, there are a few things that can go wrong. First of all: many players just forget to write down their next move on their scoresheet. Without this the claim is not valid.

The second one should also be obvious, but I had 2 cases in the recent past where title holders weren't aware of this – and on an arbiters' test many gave the wrong answer to this question. According to article 9.4, if the player touches a piece as in Article 4.3, he/she loses the right to claim a draw under Article 9.2 or 9.3 on that move.

I had 2 cases, also in the recent past, when I had to declare claims invalid due to this. In the first one, the player already made the move on the board when he summoned me to claim the draw. In the second one, he didn't make it, but when I arrived at the board, he picked up his knight and showed me that he's about to make this move and it will be a TFR after this. I had to decline both claims because of their actions.

In situations where the claim is invalid due to some formal error, I tell the player 'sorry, but this is not the correct way to claim a draw on threefold repetition'. At this point most players usually ask back: what is it then? And you're allowed to explain them, as art. 11.9 says: A player shall have the right to request from the arbiter an explanation of particular points in the Laws of Chess.

In case of a valid claim however, there are a few things you can do to make your life easier. First of all ask the opponent if he agrees that there's indeed a TFR. If he does, there's nothing more to do than registering the result. If he doesn't agree, you can still remind him that the claim itself is considered also as an offer of a draw. It happened to me multiple times that after this the opponent agreed and they shook hands. (*If Sofia rules apply and they haven't reached the required number of moves, you need to check the claim in any case).

If the opponent wants to play on however, as it was written in an earlier article by IA Tomasz Delega, make sure that both players go with you either to the computer assigned to broadcasting the games, or to a separate board, reconstructing the game together under your supervision. A player shouldn't be allowed to just sit at the board and analyse the position when the clock is stopped.

In case the claim was incorrect, don't forget to give 2 minutes of extra time to the claimant's opponent (it's mandatory), and if the claim was based on an intended move, ask the player to make it (assuming that it's legal of course).

I hope that I could help a bit in understanding these crucial parts of the regulations. In a future article a few examples will be presented to shed more light on them.

Text by: IA Tamas Gyomber, ECU AC Councilor

"In case of a valid claim however, there are a few things you can do to make your life easier.
First of all ask the opponent if he agrees that there's indeed a TFR"

In January 2023 edition of the ECU Magazine, we present four positions where White mates in two moves!

RICHARD RETI SAID ABOUT CHESS:

>The majority of people imagine a chess master as being a townsman who passes his life in an atmosphere of smoke and play in cafes and clubs: a neurasthenic individual, whose nerves and brains are continually working at tension: a one-sided person who has given up his whole soul to chess.

>A knowledge of tactics is the foundation of positional play. This is a rule which has stood its test in chess history and one which we cannot impress forcibly enough upon the young chess player. A beginner should avoid Queen's Gambit and French Defence and play open games instead! While he may not win as many games at first, he will in the long run be amply compensated by acquiring a thorough knowledge of the game

>Chess is a fighting game which is purely intellectual and includes chance.

Solutions from December Magazine

#Puzzle 1:
1.Qh8!!+ Kxh8 2.Rf8#

#Puzzle 2:
1.Rxb8!!+ Kxb8 2.Rd8#

#Puzzle 3:
1.Kc7+ Rb7 2.Bxb7#

#Puzzle 4:
1.Bg7!! d1=Q 2.h7#

ECU
European Chess Union

"Chess makes you smarter!"