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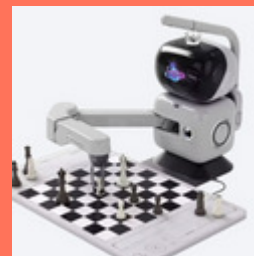
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ECU E-Magazine September & October



Europe crowns:

- European Team Chess Champions 2025 in Batumi, Georgia
- European Club Cup Champions 2025 in Rhodes, Greece
- European Youth Chess Champions 2025 in Budva, Montenegro
- European Corporate Chess Champions 2025 in Paris, France
- European Senior Chess Champions 2025 in Rabac, Croatia



In this edition of the ECU Magazine you may read about European Team Chess Championship 2025, European Club Cup 2025, European Youth Championship 2025, European Senior Championship 2025, European Corporate Chess Championship and more...





Chess Makes You Smarter.

In September & October 2025 edition of the ECU E-Magazine you may read about:

- European Team Chess Championship 2025
- European Club Cup 2025
- European Youth Chess Championship 2025
- European Corporate Chess Championship 2025
- European Senior Chess Championship 2025
- ECU Congress 2025

European Chess Union has its seat in Switzerland.
European Chess Union is an independent association founded in 1985 in Graz, Austria. European Chess Union has 54 National federations members, and each year organises more than 20 prestigious events.
Website: europechess.org

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In brief...

European Team Chess Championship 2025 took place from 4-15 October in Batumi, Georgia, with Ukraine and Poland winning the Open and Women's tournaments, respectively.

European Chess Club Cup 2025 took place from 18-26 October in Rhodes, Greece. The event broke the participation record with 122 teams participating in both events, and SuperChess and Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo won the Open and Women's Club Cups respectively.

European Youth Chess Championship 2025 was held from 28 October - 8 November in Budva, Montenegro, with participation of nearly 1200 children and 12 new European Champions were crowned.

Greco (Ukraine) became the Winner of the **European Corporate Chess Championship 2025** which took place from 7-9 November in Paris, France.

European Senior Chess Championship 2025 took place from 26 September - 6 October in Rabac, Croatia, and new Champions were crowned.

Ukraine and Poland clinch European Team Chess Championships 2025!

European Team Chess Championship 2025 took place from 4-15 October in Batumi, Georgia.

76 teams participated in the Championship, with 40 teams in Open section and 36 teams in Women's competition, and very strong fields in both tournaments.

Each Championship was played in 9 rounds, swiss system, with the time control of 90 minutes for 40 move + 30 minutes until the end of the game, with 30-second increment for each move starting from move one.

Throughout the event, numerous matches were decided by the narrowest of margins, demonstrating the overall balance and competitive spirit of the field.

After a series of hard-fought matches and impressive displays of fighting spirit, Ukraine claimed the title in the Open section, while Poland emerged as the winner of the European Team Women's Chess Championship 2025.



#ETCC2025

Intense final round determined the Winners and Medalists in the Open section, as Ukraine and Azerbaijan headed into the last with a joint lead. Azerbaijan played against Serbia on the top board, while Ukraine faced England.

Higher-rated team of Azerbaijan was the favourite in the match against Serbia, but Serbians took a convincing 3-1 victory with GM Alexey Sarana (SRB, 2661) defeating GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (AZE, 2742), GM Aleksandar Indjic (SRB, 2618) outplayed GM Rauf Mamedov (AZE, 2655), and GM Robert Markus (SRB, 2535) scored against GM Aydin Suleymanli (AZE, 2614). GM Eltaj Safarli (AZE, 2630) was the only one to bring Azerbaijan the point as he won the game against GM Velimir Ivic (SRB, 2638), but Serbia won the match and secured themselves a medal.

After seeing the result on the top board, Ukraine needed only 2-2 in the match against England. But they already had advantage on the boards, as GM Ihor Samunenkov (UKR, 2568) had decisive advantage against GM Luke McShane (ENG, 2614), while GM Anton Korobov (UKR, 2596) and GM Igor Kovalenko (UKR, 2669) had material advantage in drawish Rooks endgames. The game on the first board between GM Ruslan Ponomariov (UKR, 2633) and GM Nikita Vitiugov (ENG, 2654) was already finished in a draw. Samunenkov eventually converted the edge into a win, while the other two games finished in draws, and Ukraine emerged as the sole Winner of the event with the score of 15 match points.

That left Azerbaijan and Serbia tying for the second place with the score of 13 match points, but Azerbaijan had better tiebreak criteria to win silver medal, and Serbia came third.



Composition of golden Ukrainian team:

1. GM Ruslan Ponomariov
2. GM Andrei Volokitin
3. GM Anton Korobov
4. GM Igor Kovalenko
5. GM Ihor Samunenkov



Medalists of the Women's section / Photos by ECU

European Team Chess Championship 2025



Composition of golden Polish team:

1. IM Alina Kashlinskaya
2. IM Aleksandra Maltsevskaya
3. IM Oliwia Kiolbasa
4. GM Monika Socko
5. IM Klaudia Kulon

Poland won the European Women's Team Chess Championship 2025, after defeating Azerbaijan in the final round. IM Oliwia Kiolbasa (POL, 2388) outplayed IM Gulnar Mammadova (AZE, 2323), IM Alina Kashinskaya (POL, 2450) and IM Klaudia Kulon (POL, 2336) played a very solid games which finished in draws against IM Khanim Balajayeva (AZE, 2351) and WIM Ayan Allahverdiyeva (AZE, 2220), while IM Aleksandra Maltsevskaya (POL, 2394) drew a Rooks endgame with a pawn up when she saw that her team wins the match.

With the final score of 16 match points, Poland emerged as the sole Winner of the Championship. Ukraine won silver medal with the score of 14 match points, after playing 2-2 against Armenia in the final round, and Germany clinched bronze medal with the score of 13 match points, since they suffered a loss against Bulgaria.

The Closing ceremony of the event was attended by the ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, Head of Adjarian Autonomous Republic Sport Department Ms. Irma Nizharadze, ECU Vice Presidents Mr. Malcolm Pein, Mr. Gunnar Bjornsson, and Mr. Alojzije Jankovic, ECU Commercial Chief Adviser Mr. Moshe Slav, President of the Azerbaijan Chess Federation and FIDE Vice President Mr. Mahir Mamedov, President of the Georgian Chess Federation and FIDE Special Task Director Mr. Akaki Iashvili, and other distinguished guests.





Best individual players per boards #ETCC

The best individual players according to their tournament performance are:

Board 1 (Open):

- 1.GM Richard Rapport;
- 2.GM Vincent Keymer,
- 3.GM Anish Giri

Board 2 (Open):

- 1.GM Alexey Sarana;
- 2.GM Jorden Van Foreest;
- 3.GM Laurent Fressinet

Board 3 (Open):

- 1.GM Eltaj Safarli;
- 2.GM Aleksandar Indjic;
- 3.GM Jones Gawain Maroroa

Board 4 (Open):

- 1.GM Igor Kovalenko;
- 2.GM Lorenzo Lodici;
- 3.GM Dimitrios Mastrovasilis

Board 5 (Open):

- 1.GM Ihor Samunenkov;
- 2.GM Isik Can;
- 3.GM Frederik Svane

The best individual players in the Women's section were:

Board 1 (Women):

- 1.IM Mai Narva;
- 2.IM Stavroula Tsolakidou;
- 3.GM Alexandra Kosteniuk

Board 2 (Women):

- 1.GM Anna Ushenina;
- 2.IM Sabrina Vega Guterrez;
- 3.WGM Hanna Marie Klek

Board 3 (Women):

- 1.IM Oliwia Kiolbasa;
- 2.IM Lela Javakhishvili;
- 3.IM Ann Matnadze Bujiashvili

Board 4 (Women):

- 1.GM Bella Khotenashvili;
- 2.GM Natalia Zhukova;
- 3.IM Gulnar Mammadova

Board 5 (Women):

- 1.WGM Kateryna Dolzhykova;
- 2.WFM Bozhena Piddubna;
- 3.WIM Silvia-Raluca Sgircea

Final rankings, board lists, detailed final report and more information about the event can be found on the [ECU Website](#).



Best individual players Board 1 (Women's section)



Best individual players Board 1 (Open section)



Best individual players Board 3 (Open section)



Best individual players Board 4 (Open section)



Best individual players Board 4 (Women's section) / Photos by ECU

ECU Congress 2025 and General Assembly

During the European Team Chess Championship 2025, Batumi hosted the ECU Congress 2025 and the annual ECU General Assembly. The Congress took place from 9-11 October, with ECU Events Commission meeting taking place on 9th of October, ECU Women's Commission meeting taking place on 9th of October, ECU Arbiters Council Meeting taking place on 10th of October, ECU Board Meeting taking place on 10th of October, and ECU General Assembly taking place on 11th of October.

Marking the European Chess Union's 40-year anniversary, the General Assembly was followed by the Celebration Gala evening which took place on 11th of October with spectacular musical programme and Awards for all those who contributed to chess development within Europe. The ECU President opened the night, welcomed distinguished guests and presented the Awards.



Communique of the ECU General Assembly

Main information and decisions

- The ECU annual report development plan was presented. ECU has secured new sponsors for 2025, which will provide benefits for the organisation and its members.
- Tommy Tang, CEO of SenseRobot, introduced the next-gen chess robot at the ECU General Assembly 2025, showing how AI is bringing chess to a new generation of players.
- ECU has launched more than 30 webinars with over 500 participants through the innovative ECU Training Hub in the first six months of its operation.
- ECU TV began operating in October 2024 and has since covered eight major European Chess Championships, reaching a total of 200,000 unique viewers.
- The ECU Board was unanimously discharged for the year 2024.
- The ECU GA decided to create a task committee to develop regulations for Associate Member and the application of the Isle of Man or any other interest organisation will be discussed at the General Assembly.

Tournament Rules

1.The General Assembly decided to add one more day to the schedule of the European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship and to make the European Team Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship an official event. For the year 2026, it is up to the Polish Chess



Federation to decide whether to include the additional day.

2.The European Team Championship Regulations will be amended to allow the organisers to add a second team, and a third team only if there is an ECU decision, in case the number of teams is odd.

3.The European Junior (U20) Chess Championship will be included in the official ECU Programme from 2027 as a separate championship, with direct titles and qualifications for the FIDE World Junior Chess Championship. The championship may also be organised in 2026 if time and calendar permits.

European Chess Championships

- The European Senior Chess Championship 2027 was awarded to Chotowa, Poland, following resignation of Terme Catez, Slovenia. The bids of Chotowa for European School Chess Championship 2027 and European Youth Team Chess Championship 2027 were rejected by the ECU Board due to the rooms capacity of the proposed hosting hotels.
- The ECU General Assembly authorized the ECU Board to make the final decisions about the following tournaments: the European School Chess Championship 2027 and the European Youth Team Chess Championship 2027 with consultation and recognition to all proposed venues.

ECU Commissions

1. ECU Arbiters' Council: Chair Takis Nikolopoulos submitted the report of activities
2. ECU Educational Commission: Chair Jesper Hall reported successful activities of the commission
3. ECU Events Commission: Chair Paris Klerides highlighted improvements in event quality, standardization, and youth engagement.
4. ECU Trainers Commission: Chair Ivan Sokolov reported on Commission's projects and upcoming plans
5. ECU Women's Commission: Chair Antoaneta Stefanova reported on the Commission's activities

The next ECU General Assembly will take place in July 2026 according to the ECU rules.

Detailed information about the ECU Congress 2025 and the ECU General Assembly can be found on the ECU Website.

ECU 40-year Anniversary and Gala Celebration

The European Chess Union was founded on August 30th 1985, in Kongresshalle, Graz, Austria, and this year, the ECU celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Celebration Gala evening took place on 11th of October in Batumi, Georgia, during the ECU Congress 2025, with spectacular musical programme and Awards for all those who contributed to chess development within Europe.

The evening has started with the Opening words of the ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili who welcomed the distinguished guests and presented the following awards:

- ECU Founding Contribution Award – Presented to the Chess Federations of Sweden and Austria
- ECU Historic Legacy Acknowledgement – Presented to the Chess Federation of the Netherlands
- ECU Outstanding Hosting Legacy Award – Presented to the Chess Federation of Greece
- ECU Distinguished Contribution Award – Presented to the Chess Federation of Georgia
- ECU Resilience and Commitment Award – Presented to the Chess Federation of Iceland
- ECU Legacy Award – Presented to Mr. Boris Kutin
- ECU Pillar of Service Award – Presented to Mr. Kurt Gretener
- ECU Honorary Contribution Award – Presented to Mr. Malcolm Pein
- ECU Advancement of Women's Chess Award – Presented to Jean-Michel Rapaire
- ECU Corporate Outreach Award – Presented to Mr. Jean-Claude Moingt
- ECU Special Recognition Award – Presented to Mr. Erald Dervishi
- ECU Special Recognition Award – Presented to Mr. Moshe Slav
- ECU Commission Excellence Award – Presented to Mr. Tomasz Delega



ECU 40-year anniversary Gala Celebration took place on 11th of October in Batumi, Georgia



- ECU Commission Excellence Award – Presented to Ms. Tania Karali
- ECU Commission Excellence Award – Presented to Mr. Jesper Begmark Hall
- ECU Commission Excellence Award – Presented to Mr. Ivan Sokolov
- ECU Commission Excellence Award – Presented to Mr. Adrian Mikhachishin
- ECU Commission Excellence Award – Presented to Ms. Regina Pokorna
- ECU Commission Excellence Award – Presented to Mr. Paris Klerides
- ECU Commission Excellence Award – Presented to Ms. Nina Rob
- ECU Chess Excellence Patron Award – Presented to the Superbet Chess Foundation and the Romanian Chess Federation
- ECU Golden Patron Award – Presented to Mr. Dimitri Abdushelishvili
- ECU Digital Innovation Award – Presented to the platform of Tornelo
- ECU Partnership Excellence Award – Presented to Ms. Inna Bazhenova
- ECU Connectivity and Support Award – Presented to GlobalCell
- ECU Innovation and Partnership Award – Presented to SenseRobot
- ECU Academic Partnership Award – Presented to Aegean University

The distinguished guests enjoyed the "Broadway night" musical performances. The Show was directed by Zaal Chikobava, and scripted by Tea Kipshidze and Nikoloz Jibuti. The hosts of the show were famous Georgian actors Ana Kurtubadza and Andria Gvelesiani.

Highlights from the ECU Gala and video recap of the spectacular event can be found and played through the [ECU YouTube channel](#).

European Chess Club Cup 2025

The 40th European Chess Club Cup and the 29th European Women's Chess Club Cup took place from 18-26 November in Rhodes, Greece.

SuperChess clinched its maiden title in the Open tournament, while Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo won its 8th gold in the Women's section.

Heading into the final round of the event, SuperChess (Romania) had a perfect score and 1 match point edge over Tuxera Aquaprofit Nagykanizsai Sakk klub (Hungary). The last round was marked with the direct encounter between the two teams, fighting for the top, but SuperChess needed only a draw to secure the trophy. The match finished with the final score of 3.5-2.5 for SuperChess, and they finished the event with perfect score of 14 match points!

Scoring 12 match points each, Alkaloid (North Macedonia) and Novy Bor (Czech Republic) tied for the second place, but Alkaloid won silver medal thanks to the better tiebreak criteria, and Novy Bor (Czech Republic) finished the event in the third place.

Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo (Monaco) clinched their 8th gold in the European Women's Chess Club Cup! Entering the final round with the perfect score, Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo almost secured gold regardless of the yesterday's result. They played against Turkish Airlines sports club, and drew the match after long and intense fight. Scoring 13 match points, Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo finished 3 match points ahead of the runner-up!

Sirmium Sremska Mitrovica (Serbia) claimed silver medal with the score of 10 match points, while as many as three teams scored 9 match points each to tie for bronze: Tajfun SK Ljubljana (Slovenia), SuperChess (Romania) and CE Gambit Bonnevoie (Luxembourg).

Having the best tiebreak criteria, Tajfun SK Ljubljana came third and clinched bronze.

The Closing Ceremony of the event took place on 26th of November in the evening, at the Amalfi Club and Restaurant. The was attended by the ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparshvili, ECU Vice Presidents Mr. Jean Michel Rapaire, Mr. Alojzije Jankovic, ECU Tournament Director Mr. Petr Pisk, ECU Secretary General Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, Vice Governor of South Aegean Region Mr. Zisimos Vasileios Delaportas, Vice Mayor of the city of Rhodes Mr. Mixalis Pligos, Vice Mayor of Rhodes Mr. Georgios Patas, Vice President of the Ippotis Chess Club Mr. Kambouropoulos, and other distinguished guests who took part in the Awarding ceremonies.

During the Closing Ceremony, the Special Awards were presented to:

- South Aegean Region – for supporting Chess and European Chess Championships
- City of Rhodes – for supporting Chess and European Chess Championships
- Chess Club Ippotis – For outstanding organisation of European Chess Championships in Rhodes
- Hotel Rhodes Palace – For outstanding hospitality and hosting of European Chess Championships in Rhodes
- Aegean University – ECU Academic Partnership Award
- ECU Fair Play Award – IM Sebastian Poltorak – Offering a draw to his opponent who needed medical assistance

Detailed information about the event and Final results and rankings can be found on the [ECU Website](#).



European Chess Club Cups 2025 took place from 18-26 November in Rhodes, Greece, with record-breaking participation of 122 teams (102 teams participated in the Open section, and 20 teams took part in Women's event).



Photos by ECU/ Jim Laga and Patricia Claros Aguilar

#ClubCup2025

The best individual players in both sections were awarded according to their tournament performance on each board.

The best individual players are:

Board 1 (Open): 1. GM Gukesh D; 2.GM Vincent Keymer; 3.GM Anish Giri

Board 2 (Open): 1.GM Xiao Tong; 2.GM Wei Yi; 3.GM Ido Gorshtein

Board 3 (Open): 1.GM Benjamin Gledura; 2.GM Richard Rapport; 3.GM Parham Maghsoodloo

Board 4 (Open): 1.GM Nihal Sarin; 2.GM Alexey Sarana; 3.GM Aravindh Chithambaram

Board 5 (Open): 1.GM Nils Grandelius; 2.GM Bogdan-Daniel Deac; 3.GM Daniil Yuffa

Board 6 (Open): 1.GM David Anton Guijarro; 2.GM Puranik Abhimanyu; 3.GM Daniel Dardha;

The best individual players in the Women's section were:

Board 1 (Women's): 1.GM Zhu Jiner; 2.GM Aleksandra Goryachkina; 3.GM Anna Ushenina

Board 2 (Women's): 1.GM Divya Deshmukh; 2.IM Leya Garifullina; 3.GM Nana Dzagnidze

Board 3 (Women's): 1.IM Stavroula Tsolakidou; 2.IM Nurgul Salimova; 3.GM Alexandra Kosteniuk

Board 4 (Women's): 1.FM Liwia Jaroeka; IM Alina Kashlinskaya; 3.IM Lu Miaoyi

Final standings, board lists, and detailed statistics and results can be found through the [ECU Website](#).





Video from the Opening ceremony



The Opening ceremony took place at historical Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes

European Youth Chess Championship 2025

European Youth Chess Championship 2025 took place from 28 October to 8 November in Budva, Montenegro.

Nearly 1200 players from 48 European federations competed in the event, and attended the Awarding ceremony to applaud and congratulate to the Winners. Five best-ranked players of each category were awarded at the Closing ceremony which was marked with the festive and cheerful atmosphere.

The Winners are:

Open U8 section:

1. Myron Netrebka (UKR), 9/9 pts
2. Iskander Zhakupov (FRA), 7 pts
3. Maks Levacic (SLO), 7 pts

Girls U8 section:

1. Stealla Zhu (FIN), 8 pts
2. Ada Zeynep Koken (TUR), 7.5 pts
3. Wiktoria Trzcinska (POL), 7 pts

Open U10 section:

1. CM Luca Protopopescu (FRA), 7.5 pts
2. CM Dam Bram Ten (NED), 7.5 pts
3. Leonid Ivanovic (SRB), 7.5 pts

Girls U10 section:

1. Daria Kravchuk (UKR), 8 pts
2. WCM Mehriban Ahmadli (AZE), 7.5 pts
3. WCM Eliza-Ioana Badescu (ROU), 7 pts

Open U12 section:

1. Eren Elci (TUR), 8 pts
2. Ali Aras Yildiz (TUR), 7.5 pts
3. Mustafa Demirkan (TUR), 7 pts

Girls U12 section:

1. Alona Tolmaceva (LAT), 7.5 pts
2. Tea Rusitashvili (GEO), 7.5 pts
3. Alicja Gruszecka (POL), 7 pts

Open U14 section:

1. IM Khagan Ahmad (AZE), 7.5 pts
2. FM Tyhran Ambartsumian (ARM), 7.5pt
3. CM Rahav Eliran Shilon (ISR), 7 pts





Girls U14 section:

- 1.WFM Vera Vujovic (SRB), 8 pts
- 2.WFM Blanka Ejsymont (POL), 7.5 pts
- 3.WFM Evangelia Siskou (GRE), 7 pts

Open U16 section:

- 1.FM Mykola Korchynskyi (GER), 7.5 pts
- 2.FM Jernej Kozlovic (SLO), 7 pts
- 3.IM Lukas Dotzer (AUT), 7 pts

Girls U16 section:

- 1.Lucia Stoll (FRA), 7.5 pts
- 2.WFM Lara Zagorac (CRO), 7 pts
- 3.WCM Maryam Aghaverdiyeva (AZE), 7

Open U18 section:

- 1.FM Vahe A. Sukiasyan (ARM), 7 pts
- 2.FM Vladimir-Alexandru Cnejev (ROU), 7
- 3.IM Laurenz Borrmann (AUT), 7 pts



Girls U18 section:

- 1.WFM Maria Siekanska (POL), 8 pts
- 2.WFM Klara Szczotka (POL), 7.5 pts
- 3.WFM Lia-Alexandra Maria (ROU), 7 pts

The top five players of each section were invited to the Podium and awarded with prizes, trophies and medals.

Final rankings and detailed information about the event can be found on the [ECU Website](#).



The Closing ceremony of the event took place in the playing venue with the attendance of ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, President of the Montenegro Chess Federation Mr. Jovan Milovic, ECU Honorary Vice President Mr. Veselin Draskovic, Secretary of the ECU Events Commission Ms. Nina Rob, Secretary of the ECU Arbiters Council Mr. Geert Bailleul and other distinguished guests.

Photos by ECU/ Mark Livshitz

European Senior Chess Champions 2025 crowned in Croatia

European Senior Chess Championship 2025 took place from 26 September to 6 October in Rabac, Croatia.

GM Jean-Marc Degraeve (FRA, 2478) emerged as the sole Winner of the Open 50+ category. With the score of 7/9 points, he clinched the title of the European Senior 50+ Chess Champion for 2025. Three players scored 6.5 points each and tied for the second place. IM Josep Anton Lacasa Diaz (ESP, 2301) had the best tiebreaks to win silver, GM Frank Holzke (GER, 2409) claimed bronze, and GM Throstur Thorhallsson (ISL, 2391) finished the event in the fourth place.

Two players tied for the top of the Open 65+ section, scoring 7/9 points each: GM Zurab Sturua (GEO, 2491) and GM John Nunn (ENG, 2521). Having better tiebreak criteria, GM Zurab Sturua won gold, while GM John Nunn came second. Scoring 6.5 points each, GM Lubomir Ftacnik (SVK, 2431) and IM John Pigott (ENG, 2293) tied for bronze, but GM Lubomir Ftacnik had better tiebreaks to clinch the medal.

WIM Gundula Heinatz (SUI, 2056) and WFM Margit Brokko (EST, 1985) scored 7/9 points (each) in the Women's 50+ section to tie for the first place. WIM Gundula Heinatz had better tiebreaks



and won the title, and WFM Margit Brokko came second. WFM Petra Fink-Nunn (ENG, 1983) claimed bronze with the score of 6 points.

Seven rounds were played in the Women's 65+ category, and WIM Ligia-Letitia Jicman (ROU, 2091) won the event with the score of 5.5 points. WFM Margarita Baliuniene (LTU, 1915) came second with the score of 5 points, and WFM Elzbieta Sosnowska (POL, 1780) won bronze with 4.5 points.

Photos by Chess Federation of Croatia

Detailed information about the event and final rankings can be found through the [ECU Website](#).



European Corporate Chess Championship 2025



Magna labore ipsum sint exercitation non tempor culpa qui id velit qui do.

European Corporate Chess Championship 2025 took place from 7-8 November in Paris, France.

Ukrainian Greco clinched the Championship with the score of 24 match points and better tiebreaks than Bulgarian Agrofert which had the same score of match points.

Greco (Ukraine) played in very strong composition with: GM Igor Kovalenko, IM Roman Dehtiarov, IM Valeriy Grinev, IM Alexey Maly, and Pavlo Kuftyrev.

Agrofert (Bulgaria) scored 24 match points (6 wins, 3 draws, 0 losses)

but had lower tiebreak criteria and claimed silver medal. The composition of the team featured former FIDE World Champion on the top board GM Veselin Topalov, followed by GM Krasimir Rusev, FM Valentin Mitev, Ivelina Hristova, and Elena Sanchez.

Two teams tied for the third place scoring 22 match points, but PROBIT Sp (Poland) had better tiebreaks and won bronze medal. PROBIT Sp played in the following composition: GM Dimitrios Mastrovasilis, WGM Jolanta Zawadzka, FM Michal Mirosław, and CM Tomasz Jankowiak.



European Corporate Chess Championship 2025 took place from 7-8 November at the Espace Francis Delage, with the participation of 53 teams that competed over 9 swiss rounds with rapid time control.

The Closing ceremony of the event took place with Awarding of the Medalists and special Awards for following sectors of activity: Banking & Insurance, Energy, Digital, Consulting, Industry, Sport & Tourism and Special.

PwC (Greece) finished the event as the best Consulting company, Redia A/S (Denmark) was the best-ranked Digital company, Global Ramblers (Czech Republic) was top ranked Sport&Tourism company, DOLE (France) was the best-ranked Industry company, Enedis (France) was first Energy company, Societe Generale (France) finished as the top ranked Banking&Insurance company, and the special prize went to SUDINOX Smart Industry.



The Closing Ceremony was attended by Mr. Manuel Aeschlimann, Mayor of Asnières-sur-Seine, Senator Ms. Marie-Do Aeschliemann, Deputy Mayor Mr. Frederic Sitbon and other distinguished guests. The ECU Vice President Mr. Malcolm Pein attended the Opening ceremony of the event.

The event brought together top-level chess and business minds from leading companies across Europe. Among the participants was Demis Hassabis, co-founder and CEO of Google DeepMind, and 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Demis Hassabis played third board for Google DeepMind team.

European Small Nations Team Chess Championship 2025 started in Cyprus

The 9th edition of the European Small Nations Team Chess Championship commenced in Larnaca, Cyprus, and takes place from 14th-23rd November in the Sun Hall Hotel.

The event gathers 10 teams from Andorra, Cyprus, Faroe Islands, Guernsey, Jersey, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco and San Marino, and each team consists of four players + one reserve player. The Championship is played in 9 rounds, round-robin system, with the time control of 90 minutes for 40 moves, plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game, with 30-second increment for each move starting from the move one.

The top-seeded teams are Faroe Islands (average rating of players 2339), Luxembourg (average rating of players 2269) and Andorra (average rating of players 2267). The top-rated players in the field are GM Helfi Dam Ziska (FAI, 2543), GM Oscar De La Riva Aguado (AND, 2439), IM Hogni Egilstoft Nielsen (FAI, 2389), IM Michael Wiedenkiller (LUX, 2388), GM Amir Bagheri (MNC, 2356) and GM Igor Efimov (MNC, 2331).

All results, rankings and pairings can be found [here](#).



The event was opened by the ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili and the President of the European Small Nations Association Mr. Paris Klerides, who addressed the players at the Opening ceremony and then made the first ceremonial move to inaugurate the first round. The first ceremonial move was played on the top board of Cyprus-Luxembourg match.



Upcoming

European Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2025 to take place in Pristina, Kosovo



The 2025 European Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships will take place from November 27th to December 1st at Hotel Emerald in Pristina, Kosovo.

More than 300 players coming from 38 European federations registered for the event which features the increased prize fund of 65.000 EUR.

European Rapid Chess Championship 2025 will be the first on the schedule, taking place on 28th and 29th of November. The Championship will be played according to the Swiss system, in 11 rounds with the time control 15 minutes game + 10 seconds per move starting from the first move. The prize fund for the Rapid event is 40.000 EUR, with 6.000 EUR reserved for the Winner of the event. Along with 20 prizes for the best-ranked players, the organisers provided special prizes for different categories.

The Blitz Championship 2025 will be played on 30th of November, with 13 single rounds, swiss system, and time control of 3 minutes + 2 seconds increment for each move, starting from the move one. The prize fund of the European Blitz Chess Championship 2025 is 25.000 EUR, and the Winner of the event will clinch 4.000 EUR. There will be 20 regular prizes, and additional prizes for special categories for the best ranked women, junior, senior, local players etc.



The official venue of the event is *****Hotel Emerald Pristina, Kosovo.



Official regulations of the event and detailed information can be found on the [Official website](#).

Among the registered players, the best-rated are: GM Jaime Santos Latasa (ESP), GM Radoslaw Wojtaszek (POL), GM Baadur Jobava (GEO), GM Jorden Van Foreest (NED), GM Vasyl Ivanchuk (UKR), GM David Anton Guijarro (ESP), GM Rasmus Svane (GER), GM Eduardo Iturrizaga Bonelli (ESP), GM Zaven Andriasian (ARM), GM Alexander Motylev (ROU) and others.

The provisional starting list of players can be found [here](#).

ECU Annual Academy training programme

The ECU Annual Academy training programme commences on 17th of November 2025 and will run until the 28th of April 2026 with the support of the FIDE Development Fund.

The lecturers are the world-renowned chess coaches, and the trainings are organised in two groups: A – for players rated 1900+, and B – for players rated U1900. Each group will have 24 live sessions for a total of 48 hours of instruction. Participants will have the opportunity to watch the lectures and recordings for a limited time if they are unable to watch all the live sessions.

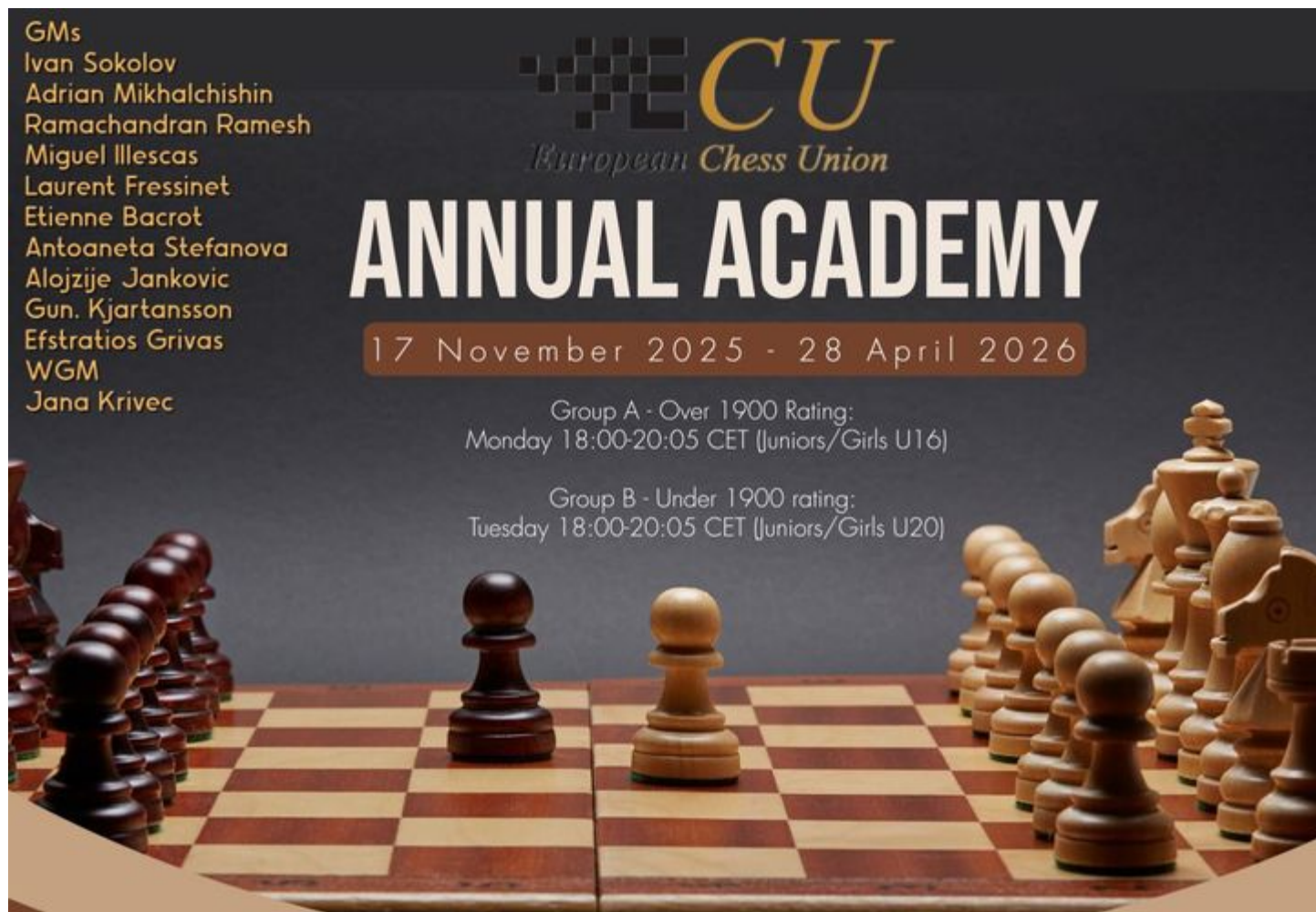
The program is based on the new ECU-ETC Trainers' Syllabuses and aims to systematically develop chess talents.

The lecturers are: GM Ivan Sokolov, GM Adrian Mikhachishin, GM Miguel Illescas, GM Efstratios Grivas, GM Antoaneta Stefanova, GM Laurent Fressinet, GM Etienne Bacrot, GM Ramachandran Ramesh, GM Alojzije Jankovic, GM Gudmundur Kjartansson, and WGM Jana Krivec.

Each European National Chess Federations is entitled to register free of charge 2 Girls; one on each group.

Each participant will receive an ECU-ETC official Certificate for the respective group upon completion of the programme.

Detailed information can be found on the [ECU Website](#).

The poster features a dark background with a chessboard and chess pieces in the foreground. The ECU logo is at the top center, followed by the text 'European Chess Union'. Below this, 'ANNUAL ACADEMY' is written in large, bold, white letters. A brown banner contains the dates '17 November 2025 - 28 April 2026'. Below the banner, the details for Group A and Group B are listed. On the left side, a list of GMs and WGMs is provided.

GMs
Ivan Sokolov
Adrian Mikhachishin
Ramachandran Ramesh
Miguel Illescas
Laurent Fressinet
Etienne Bacrot
Antoaneta Stefanova
Alojzije Jankovic
Gun. Kjartansson
Efstratios Grivas
WGM
Jana Krivec

ECU
European Chess Union

ANNUAL ACADEMY

17 November 2025 - 28 April 2026

Group A - Over 1900 Rating:
Monday 18:00-20:05 CET (Juniors/Girls U16)

Group B - Under 1900 rating:
Tuesday 18:00-20:05 CET (Juniors/Girls U20)

Invitation

European Senior Chess Championship 2026 - Official invitation

The 2026 European Individual Senior Chess Championship will take place from 1st-11th June 2026 in Acqui Terme, Italy.

The event will be played in two age categories: 50+ and 65+, Open and Women's sections separately. Each championship shall be played in 9 rounds, swiss system, with the time control of 90 minutes for 40 moves, plus 30 minutes until the end of the game, with 30-second increment for each move starting from move one. In case that less than 9 players are registered in Women's sections, the Women's events will be merged with the respective open category.

The event is open to all players representing National chess federations listed as the members of the ECU, and all the players shall fulfill the age requirement that they have reached the age of 50 or 65 by December 31st of the year in which the tournament commences.



The official venue of the tournament is the conference centre of Acqui Terme.

Detailed information about the venue, official hotels, tournament rules, can be found in the Official invitation of the event which is published on the [ECU Website](#).

Increased prize fund



The total prize fund of the event is 18.000 EUR, with the financial support of the European Chess Union (8000 euros). The donation to ECU is made by Mr. Evren Uçok and Monaco Chess Federation.

The list of prizes for each section is shown in the Official invitation of the event.

The Winners of each tournament will be awarded with trophies and medals, and the Winners of respective categories will clinch European Senior Chess Champion 2025 titles for the respective tournament section.

According to FIDE regulations, the best-ranked three players from each category will qualify with personal rights to the World Senior Chess Championship 2027.

The Chess Educator - Vitali Baranouski (Ireland)

Meet Vitali Baranouski from Ireland

I've known Vitali for many years, from the ECU training courses and monthly Discussion Group Meetings. What has always stood out to me is his passion for teaching. As the founder of EQ Chess

School in Dublin, he has built a welcoming space where children and adults can discover the joy of learning through chess. What also makes Vitali unique is his habit of self-reflection and his dedication to lifelong learning, qualities that

continually enrich him as an educator and inspire those around him.

[Read his story, read more.](#)

Human interest Stories

Vitali Baranouski
(Ireland)

The Chess Educator

Introducing passionate Chess Educators
who are making a difference with
Chess in Education around the world

ECU Education Commission

FIDE & ECU Presenters from the MasterClasses in Chess in Education



11-12 October 2025
London

In collaboration with the FIDE Chess in Education Commission, we organised a very well-received event and brought together teachers, tutors, and education specialists to explore how chess can support building skills for life.

ECU Education Commission

Every Lesson Counts: Master-Classes in Chess in Education



A well-deserved dinner for the presenters.

The sessions were highly valuable for educators with inspiring presentations, fresh ideas and jam-packed with practical classroom resources. We covered so many different areas of how chess can be used as an educational tool. The energy and curiosity of participants

made the days truly special, and they took away plenty of shared teaching ideas and resources from the expert presenters. We learned so much from each other and left inspired to bring new activities and strategies to our students.



A huge thank you to everyone who joined us!

Feedback

I really enjoyed the event and it was a real pleasure meeting you all. The event was well run, inspiring and gave us a lot of food for thought! Thanks to all the presenters - the lectures were great and I took a lot away from them to use in my own lessons. I will most definitely join in future events.



Feedback

It was nice meeting the team. Thank you for the weekend and for sharing the resources. I will definitely look out for future events and developments.

PLAY - LEARN - TEACH

Let's explore what the chessboard offers for education. No experience needed, just bring your curiosity and playfulness.

Join us in Bruxelles for a day of ideas, inspiration and practical tools for the classroom to enrich your teaching practice and

engage students in new ways. No prior chess experience is needed. If you care about helping children learn and grow and love to teach through play, this Saturday MasterClass is for you.

This interactive in-person MasterClass is led by

members of the Education Commission of the European Chess Union and provides hands-on tools that educators can use immediately.

[More info and Registration](#)

**STRATEGY
GAMES
MASTERCLASS
Bruxelles
SATURDAY
08 November, 2025**

European Chess Union chessconsult

KBSB • FRBE • KSB

Rue des Champs, 69
1040 Bruxelles
Piscine Espadon,
Salle Orca, 2e étage

Time: 11:00 - 16:00
Language: English
Fee: €40
Students: €25

Info and Registration

CHES ECU EDU

Chess and Strategy Games in the Classroom

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOLS, TRAINING COURSE FOR EDUCATORS

Who is the course for?

The course is available for schools with teachers and staff involved in the programme, as well as for individual teachers,

educators, and chess tutors who wish to introduce more variety into the classroom.

What will you learn?

✓You will have a deeper understanding of the educational benefits of simple strategy games and

puzzles.

✓You will expand your teaching repertoire to make your lessons more engaging in the classroom.
✓You will learn how to improve your students' thinking skills by using a variety of games.

[More info and Registration](#)

FIDE Certified course

Discover new games and puzzles the chessboard offers for education



The course certificate of attendance meets the licence renewal requirements for educators who hold a title from the FIDE Education Commission

Course instructors



**Join the next
training course on the
15-16 November 2025**

17th German School Chess Congress Dormagen, 07-09 November 2025

The German Chess Youth Association and the German School Chess Foundation invite you to the 17th School Chess Congress at the Norbert-Gymnasium Knechtsteden (NRW).

An important annual event for German School Chess.

The event offers different workshop sessions on various topics, panel discussions, courses, "*The German Teachers' Championships*", meetings with school chess representatives and socialising with fellow educators and many more.

Among many other amazing speakers, ECU Chess in Education Ambassadors, Walter Radler and Lothar Handrick, will be presenting and running workshops there.

[More info about the programme](#)



DEUTSCHE
SCHACH
JUGEND e.V.

17. Deutscher Schulschachkongress



schulschachstiftung.de



Registration is open for the next academic course starting on the **19th of January 2026**

The purpose of the Academic Course is to meet the growing demand for qualified educators in the field of Chess in Education.

As chess is increasingly recognised as a valuable tool in education, there is a clear need for well-

trained teachers and tutors who use chess for educational purposes in the classroom.

Offering a university-level course dedicated to Chess in Primary Education not only validates the efforts of the ECU Education Commission's mission but

also opens doors for more widespread adoption of chess in schools across Europe and beyond.

[Read more, download the course brochure and register here](#)

CHESS IN PRIMARY EDUCATION

Academic Training Course



ECU Education Commission

Join our *Chess in Education* community at our events

We are incredibly proud to provide a collaborative platform through our training courses, discussion group meetings and various projects where educators can exchange ideas, resources and support each other with their expertise. This

vibrant community has tremendous knowledge, experience and willingness to learn from each other.

We offer [FIDE-certified training courses](#) for professional development and monthly [Discussion Group Meetings](#) to connect chess educators

from around the world.

[Visit our website for more info, dates & times.](#)

We hope to see you at our events.



UPCOMING COURSES & EVENTS

Chess in Education



www.edu.europechess.org

ECU Safe Play Advocate Seminar with Women in Chess Foundation

On October 5th, in partnership with the Women in Chess Foundation, the ECU Commission For Women's Chess trained 10 new ECU-WICF Advocates. The Advocates Initiative of the Women In Chess Foundation aims to provide independent advocates at chess tournaments to create a safer environment and support any players who may need it. The ECU Women's Commission enables these seminars to be free of charge for participants.

Advocates are trained to identify and respond to potential safety issues, as well as provide emotional support and resources to players who may be experiencing harassment, discrimination, or other forms of mistreatment.

The Advocacy training was a half-day online seminar where participants learned about of topics, such as:

- Introduction to Advocacy
- Understanding Trauma and Misconduct in Chess
- Sexual Misconduct Awareness and



Education

- Physical and Emotional Misconduct
- Power Imbalances and Misconduct
- Safety Planning for Tournaments and Federations
- Crisis Intervention during or after Tournaments
- Advocacy Skills
- Self-care and Burnout for Advocates

Advocates also got an in-depth review of the [European Fair Play and Safe Play Policies](#) so that they understand what the process is of reporting and supporting those who have experienced misconduct at ECU events.. The newly trained advocates will now be available to support players across Europe, helping to foster a more inclusive and respectful chess community. Their presence marks an important step toward ensuring player safety and well-being at all levels of competition.

The ECU and Women in Chess Foundation hope to continue expanding the program, training more advocates and promoting best practices for safeguarding in chess worldwide. To date, we have trained over 40 advocates from across just under 20 different federations.

You can find more about ECU-WICF Advocates on our [Safer Play Initiative page](#).



WOMEN IN CHESS FOUNDATION

Detailed information about the Mission of Women in Chess Foundation can be found on the [official website of the Foundation](#).

Chess history in Belgium

Text by IA Geert Bailleul, ECU Arbiters Council Secretary

On Monday June 9th, chess club Karpov Deinze from Belgium organized a very special chess event on the occasion of their 50th anniversary: An attempt to break the world record clock simultaneous play. The record attempt received a lot of media attention both from the written press and the audio visual press.

The best Belgian chess player of the moment, GM Daniel Dardha (age 19; rating 2646) from Mortsel, set a special world record in chess, that of the discipline of clock simultaneous play. GM Dardha simultaneously played against 50 players with an average rating of 1834. He achieved 40 wins and 7 draws. Thus, he scored 43.5/50 games, achieving an impressive 87% percentage over all games. The previous world record was achieved in November 2022 by Dutch grandmaster Sipke Ernst. Grandmaster Ernst then played against 47 chess players. He achieved a score of 74% (35 points from 47 games). However, I do not know under what circumstances in terms of regulations and agreements this record attempt took place.

The system that was used for this world record attempt was the Karpov Deinze system, named after the organising chess club in Belgium. This system was thoroughly discussed with Daniel Dardha beforehand. The participating players were extensively briefed in advance about these agreements and playing conditions by the chief arbiter. The supervising arbiters where: chief arbiter IA Geert Bailleul and match arbiter NA Tom Piceu.

Terms and conditions for this attempt:

- All clocks were started same time & Rate of play is 2h KO.
- No draw agreement before move 40.
- Every opponent must have a FIDE rating (or a national rating) & Average rating of the opponents must be 1800+.
- Number of opponents from the organising club must be strictly limited to 10%.
- Final score must be more than 80%.
- The arrangement of the tables may be chosen by the player so that he/she can easily navigate between the tables and keep walking distances short: Daniel chose to place the tables in a large outer square and a small inner square. He could also move diagonally between the tables.
- At least one FA or IA must supervise the attempt.
- An official member of the Belgian Chess Federation was present to supervise the attempt.
- The participants did not have to wait to make their move until Daniel came to the board.
- Participants were asked not to continue playing in lost positions.
- To ensure fairness: audience must be allowed & People were asked to be very quiet.
- PGN files of all games played must be sent to Fide.
- To ensure fairness: a set of photos as well as footage must be sent to Fide to substantiate fairness.
- FIDE regulations about fair play are applied: No cell phones, no watches, hand held metal detector, no communication between players, no communication with the audience.





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SenseRobot Chess is the European Chess Union's official AI training partner and the first home robot that plays, teaches and speaks—now offered on ECUHub for a crystal-clear \$ 999 final price (delivery, taxes & VAT already inside).

Buy now — \$ 999



ECUHub special offer for SenseRobot

Exclusively through the ECU Hub - you can now get your AI Chess Robot for a special price of \$999 without extra costs! The price includes shipping, taxes, and VAT, with no hidden fees!

Why Sense Robot Chess is a Game-Changer?

- It is Official ECU Partner - Trusted by European Chess Union

- AI-powered board that moves pieces automatically
- Perfect for training, analysis, and playing against world-class engines

- Connects seamlessly with online platforms

- Ideal for chess clubs, schools, and serious players

The SenseRobot is a perfect tool for Chess academies and training centers, Chess players wanting to elevate their games, Kids learning and daily training, Chess clubs looking for cutting-edge technology.

Don't miss the offer and get your AI Chess Robot now through the [ECUHub platform!](#)

STAY CONNECTED ACROSS THE BOARD



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Back in time...

About FIDE World Chess Champion - **Alexander Khalifman**

Alexander Khalifman (born January 18, 1966, in Leningrad, Russia) became the FIDE World Chess Champion in 1999 and held it until the next year.

Khalifman learned chess at age six, showing early promise by winning the USSR Youth Championship twice (1982, 1984) and the European Under-20 Championship in 1985. He earned the International Master title in 1986 and became a Grandmaster in 1990, after emerging as the Winner of the New York Open ahead of a host of strong players.

In 1996, he won the Russian Championship, and his greatest achievement came in 1999 when he won the FIDE World Chess Championship in Las Vegas, defeating Vladimir Akopian in the final of a knockout format tournament. At his peak in October 2001, his FIDE rating was 2702.

Beyond playing, Khalifman is a respected coach and chess theoretician. He is also a prolific author. Among his works, Botvinnik's Best Games stands out, in which he annotates more than fifty of Mikhail Botvinnik's finest games.



Alexander Khalifman says about chess:

- Never play for the win, never play for the draw, just play chess!
- Rating systems work perfectly for players who play only in round robin closed events. I think most of them are overrated. Organizers invite same people over and over because they have the same rating and their rating stays high.
- One should respect a defeated opponent!

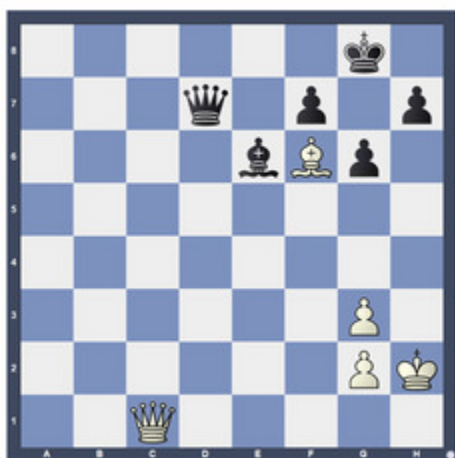
In this edition of the ECU E-Magazine we prepared three positions where white mates in two. Solutions will be published in the next edition.

Solutions from ECU E-Magazine July 2025

#Puzzle 1: 1.Qxh6+!! Kxh6 [1...Kh8 2.Qxh7#] 2.Ne6#

#Puzzle 2: 1.Qxh6+!! Kxh6 2.Bf6#

#Puzzle 3: 1.Qg8+!! Kxg8 2.Nf7#





"Chess makes you smarter!"