Upcoming: European Women's Rapid& Blitz Chess

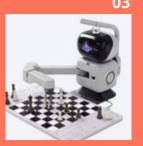
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SenseRobot special offer through ECUHub









ECU E-Magazine November 2025



European Rapid & Blitz Chess Champions 2025 crowned in #Pristina!

















Chess Makes You Smarter.

In November 2025 edition of the ECU E-Magazine you may read about:

- European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2025
- European Amateur Chess championship 2025
- European Small Nations Chess Championship 2025
- London Chess Classic 2025
- Upcoming ECU events
- Activities of ECU Commissions

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

Contents:



In brief...

European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships 2025 took place from 27 November - 1 December in Pristina, Kosovo. The event gathered nearly 400 players coming from 38 European federations. GM Paulius Pultinevicius (LTU) emerged as the Winner of the European Rapid Chess Championship 2025, while GM Jorden Van Foreest (NED) clinched the European Blitz Chess Champion 2025 title and defended the title from last year. European Amateur Chess Championship 2025 took place from 25 November - 5 December in Mallieha,Malta, and it was played in 3 rating categories: U1700, U2000, and U2300. Europea crowned new Champions and the best-ranked female players clinched Women's titles.

European Small Nations Team Chess Championship 2025 was held from 13-24 November in Larnaca, Cyprus. After 9 round-robin rounds, Faroe Islands won the event.

European Rapid & Blitz Chess Champions 2025 crowned in Pristina, Kosovo

The 2025 European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships took place from 27 November - 1 December in Pristina, Kosovo.

Nearly 400 players coming from 38 European federations competed in the event which had the total prize fund of 65.000 EUR.

The event commenced with the European Rapid Chess Championship 2025 which took place from 28-29 November at the Emerald Hotel in Pristina.

The Rapid Championship was played in 11 rounds, swiss system, with the time control of 15 min + 10 sec increment, and GM Paulius Pultinevicius (LTU) emerged as the Winner.

European Blitz Chess Championship 2025 followed on 30th of November in the same venue, and was played in 13 rounds, swiss system, with the time control of 3 min + 2 sec increment. GM Jorden Van Foreest (NED) triumphed in the event and defended his 2024 title.



#ERBCC2025

European Rapid Chess Championship 2025 took place from 28-29 November at the Emerald Hotel.

GM Paulius Pultinevicius (LTU, 2566) emerged as the sole Winner of the European Rapid Chess Championship 2025 with the score of 10 points. Playing for gold in the final round, Pultinevicius defeated GM Vasyl Ivanchuk on time, in the intense direct encounter for the first place. He finished full point ahead of GM Levan Pantsulaia (GEO, 2518) and GM Daniel Dardha (BEL, 2583) who tied for the second place scoring 9 points each. Having better tiebreak criteria, Levan Pantsulaia won silver and Daniel Dardha claimed bronze medal.

WGM Beloslava Krasteva (BUL, 2153) was the best-rated woman player in the event with the score of 7 points, WFM Kler Caku (ALB, 2095) was second with the same score but lower tiebreaks, and FM Johanna Paasikangas (FIN, 2064) finished third, ahead of WFM Elise Tomasi (FRA, 2132) who had the same score of 6.5 points but lower tiebreak criteria.

European Blitz Chess Championship 2025 was played on 30th of November.

GM Jorden Van Foreest (NED, 2646) emerged as the sole Winner of the European Blitz Chess Championship 2025 with the score of 11/13 points and defended his 2024 title. He scored important win in the final round against the top-seeded GM Baadur Jobava (GEO, 2649), to win the event and defend the title. Van Foreest finished half a point ahead of GM Eduardo Bonelli Iturrizaga (ESP, 2630) and GM Vojtech Plat (CZE, 2562) who scored 10.5 points each. Having better tiebreaks, Eduardo Bonelli Iturrizaga claimed silver and Vojtech Plat won bronze medal.







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The best-ranked woman player in the event was FM Johanna Paasikangas (FIN, 2013) with the score of 8 points and better tiebreaks than WFM Evangelia Siskou (GRE, 1866). WFM Kata Karacsonyi (HUN, 2070) was third with the score of 7.5 points.

The spectacular Closing ceremony of the European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships 2025 took place after the Blitz tournament, with the attendance of the President of the Kosovo Chess Federation Mr. Armend Budima and ECU Vice President Mr. Alojzije Jankovic. The Chief Arbiter of the event Mr. Panagiotis Nikolopoulos read the results and announced the Winners.

The ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili attended the Opening ceremony of the event, together with Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of Kosovo Mr. Hajrullah Çeku, Deputy Minister of Sports of North Macedonia Ms. Safije Sadiku Shahini, ECU CEO and President of Albanian Chess Federation Mr. Erald Dervishi, President of Kosovo Chess Federation Mr. Armend Budima, and other distinguished guests.

Detailed information about the event can be found on the <u>ECU Website</u> or

Official Website of the event.

During the European Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship in #Pristina, the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, received the ECU President, Zurab Azmaiparashvili, and the ECU CEO, Erald Dervishi, in the presence of the President of the Kosovo Chess Federation, Armend Budima.

The Prime Minister of Kosovo was informed about the ongoing European Chess Championships in Pristina and the rapid development of the Kosovo Chess Federation. He told the ECU delegation that he is himself a chess player and often plays chess on online platforms in his free time!









Faroe Islands wins European Small Nations Team Chess Championship 2025

The 9th edition of the European Small Nations Team Chess Championship took place from 15-22 November in Larnaca, Cyprus.

After nine played rounds, two teams tied for the top scoring 16 match points each: Faroe Islands and Andorra. With the higher score of the game points, Faroe Islands emerged as the Winner of the event and clinched the title. Andorra claimed silver medal, and Cyprus won bronze with the score of 15 match points.

The Closing Ceremony of the event took place with the attendance of the ECU Secretary General Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou and the President of the European Small Nations Association Mr. Paris Klerides who addressed the players and joined the Awarding ceremony. The ECU President, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili attended the Opening of the event and inaugurated the Championship with the first ceremonial move in the Round 1.

Final rankings and detailed information about the event can be found through the <u>ECU Website</u>.







European Small Nations Association meeting



On the morning of Saturday, 22 November 2025, the annual meeting of the European Small Nations Association (ESNA) was held in Larnaca, Cyprus, within the framework of the 9th European Small Nations Team Championship.

Delegates who were present in Cyprus and Team Captains attended the meeting in person, while presidents of other member federations joined online. The meeting was also honored by the presence of the General Secretary of the European Chess Union (ECU), Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou.

During the session, participants discussed a range of topics, including the future direction of ESNA regarding membership and tournaments, upcoming ESNA events, and several additional matters, accompanied by an open exchange of views.

The next meeting, during which final decisions will be taken, is scheduled to be held in Uzbekistan, within the framework of the 2026 Chess Olympiad.

The European Chess Union (ECU), in partnership with Sense Robot Chess, successfully completed the donation of 10 Sense Robots to the European Small Nations chess federations.

The donation ceremony took place in Larnaca, Cyprus, during the European Small Nations Team Championship and was officially presented by the ECU Secretary General, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou.

This initiative underscores the shared commitment of the ECU and Sense Robot Chess to fostering the growth and development of chess within smaller federations and communities across Europe.



Detailed information about the European Small Nations Team Chess Championship 2025, ESNA (European Small Nations Association) annual meeting, information about side events, and photo galleries can be found on the official ESNA website.



ECU President Mr.
Zurab
Azmaiparashvili
visited the European
Small Nations Team
Chess Championship
2025 at the
beginning of the
event and
inaugurated the first
round with the first
ceremonial move.

European Amateur Chess Championship 2025 concluded in Malta

The 2025 European Amateur Chess Championship took place from 26th of November to 4th of December in Mellieha, Malta.

CM Stefan-Emilian Prisacaru (ROU, 2216) emerged as the sole Winner of the U2300 championship, scoring 7.5 points. He was half a point ahead of Matthew Portelli (MLT, 2064) who won silver medal, while CM Habil Javadov (AZE, 2241) scored 6.5 points and clinched bronze. The best-ranked women players in the U2300 section were: WFM Olga Yushko (UKR, 2020), WFM Patricie Naymanova (BUL, 2034) and WFM Filipina Thornton (MLT, 1764).

Mher Sargsyan (ARM, 1826) triumphed in the U2000 section with the score of 7 points and half a point edge over the runner ups who tied for second place scoring 6.5 points. Mate Todashvili (GEO, 1815) had better tiebreaks to claim silver, while Anastasiia Osadchuk (UKR, 1810) came third. The best-ranked women players in the U2000 tournament were: Anastasiia Osadchuk (UKR, 1810), Alice Lampard (SCO, 1860) and Elena Ghitza (MLT, 1841).

Two players tied for the top of the U1700 category, scoring 8 points each: Roman Kifliuk (UKR) and Natalia Toczynska (POL, 1537) and the direct



encounter tiebreak criteria determined the Winner. Roman Kifliuk (UKR) was victorious against Natalia Toczynska (POL, 1537) in the 4th round thus clinched the gold medal, while Natalia Toczynska (POL, 1537) won silver medal. Varvara Sigacheva (GER, 1576) scored 7 points and finished the event in the third place.Natalia Toczynska (POL,1537) was the best-ranked woman player in the U1700 championship, Varvara Sigacheva (GER, 1576) was second, and Iraida Casadevall Mainau (ESP, 1695) was third.

The event was played in three rating categories: U1700, U2000, and U2300, each championship with 9-swiss rounds and time control of 90 minutes for 40 moves, plus 30 minutes until the end of the game, with an increment of 30 seconds for each move starting from move one.

Final rankings and detailed information about the event can be found through the <u>ECU</u> <u>Website</u>.





European Amateur Chess Championship 2025









Closing ceremony of the event

The Awards Ceremony and the closing party of the event took place at the 4-star Riviera Spa & Conference Resort with the attendance of the Chairman of Sport Malta Mr Matthew Pisani, the President of Malta Chess Federation Mr. Duncan Vella, the General Manager of Riviera Spa Resort Mr Tonio Aquilina, the General Secretary of the Malta Chess Federation Mr Robert Novak, the Chief Arbiter of the event Mr Noel Grima and the International Organisers Mr George Mastrokoukos and Mr Nikos Kalesis.

Romanian Chess Federation celebrated its 100th-year anniversary

ECU Secretary General Mr Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou was among the special guests of the evening, representing the European Chess Union. Mr Tsorbatzoglou presented the special ECU award for the 100th anniversary to the President of the Romanian Chess Federation, Mr Vlad Ardeleanu. In a short greeting, Mr Tsorbatzoglou emphasised that the "Romanian Chess Federation has a great history, a successful present and a bright future." We are glad that we are working close to develop further Chess in Europe".

The ceremony was also attended by:

- The Governor of the National Bank of Romania – Mugur Isărescu
- HRH Prince Consort of Romania Prince Radu of Romania
- President of the Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee – Mihai Covaliu
- President of the National Agency for Sport of Romania – Constantin-Bogdan Matei
- Director General of the State Mint of Romania – Octavian Schen
- ECU Treasurer Mr. Dobronauteanu Ion and Chairman of ECU Trainers Commission Mr. Ivan Sokolov.

European Chess Union warmly congratulates the Romanian Chess Federation, President of the Romanian Chess Federation Mr. Vlad Ardeleanu and the Superbet Foundation - the biggest supporter of chess in Romania and Europe.



















Slovenian Chess Federation celebrated its 90th anniversary

Slovenian Chess Federation celebrated its 90th anniversary with a remarkable ceremony which took place on Saturday, 6th of December in Ljubljana. The ceremony brought together the rich history of Slovenian Chess Federation, present achievements, and bright future of Slovenian chess. The event began with speech by the President of the Slovenian Chess Federation Mr. Dusan Mes, video overview of nine decades of chess in Slovenia, speeches by the Secretary General of the Slovenian Olympic Committee Mr. Uros Mohoric. and the Minister of Economy, Tourism and Sports of Slovenia Mr. Matjaz Han.

The ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili sent a video message and congratulated the Slovenian Chess Federation on the anniversary and remarkable achievements in past years. Former President of the European Chess Union, Mr. Boris Kutin, attended the ceremony and was honoured with an award for his special contributions to the Slovenian Chess Federation.

The celebration ceremony was marked by the presentation of awards to Slovenian outstanding players and longstanding contributors of chess in Slovenia. The celebration was accompanied with variety of chess events, including the traditional final Chess Tournament, VIP tournament, and simultaneous exhibition by GM Luka Lenic.

More information can be found on Slovenian Chess Federation Website.



















Jerusalem Chess Masters 2025





The ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparshvili visited the tournament and inaugurated it by playing the first ceremonial move in the game between GM Maxim Rodshtein (ISR) and Ian Nepomniachtchi (FIDE).

international GMs, and the top two from the 2025 Jerusalem Open, which



<u>Photos from Jerusalem Chess Masters - official website</u>



The total prize fund of the event was 170,000 USD.

After 11 played rounds in the Jerusalem Chess Masters 2025, the top four finishers advanced to the Knockout final.

was played on November 26-27.

The round-robin portion of the event was topped by GM Peter Svidler (FIDE) who scored 8 points. GM Ian Nepomniachtchi (FIDE), GM Viswanathan Anand (IND) and GM Arjun Erigaisi (IND) scored 7.5 points each, tying from 2-4 place.

GM Arjun Erigiaisi (IND) emerged as the Winner of the tournament after defeating GM Peter Svidler (FIDE) in the semifinals with the score of 1.5-0.5. Erigaisi played the finals against legendary Indian Grandmaster and former World Champon GM Viswanathan Anand (IND), and won the match with the final score of 2.5-1.5 since the first two games of the match finished in draws.

GM Viswanatan Anand (IND) finished the event in the second place, while GM Peter Svidler (FIDE) came third after defeating GM Ian Nepomniachtchi (FIDE) in the match for the third place, with a score of 2.5-1.5

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

London Chess Classic 2025

The 2025 XTX Markets London Chess Classic took place between 26th November and 7th December 2025 at two London venues - the Emirates Stadium, home to Arsenal Football Club, and London Novotel West, a hotel in Hammersmith. The event featured Elite tournament with 10 super grandmasters, FIDE Open, Super Rapid, U2100 Round Robins, two Weekend Rapidplays, six evening Blitz tournaments, Team blitz, Bughouse tournament, master sessions etc.

GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov (UZB, 2750) emerged as the convincing winner of the Elite London Chess Classic 2025 and won the tournament with a round to spare. Abdusattorov's final score was outstanding 7.5/9 points, and he finished two points ahead of GM Alireza Firouzja (FRA, 2762) who came second with the score of 5.5 points. GM Nikita Vitiugov (ENG, 2657) scored 5 points and finished the event in the third place. GM Michael Adams (ENG, 2635) and GM Luce McShane (ENG, 2615) scored 4.5 points, GM Nikolas Theodorou (GRE, 2656) and GM Pavel Eljanov (UKR, 2656) had 4 points, GM Gawain Jones Maroroa (ENG, 2655) and GM Abhimanyu Mishra (USA, 2642) scored 3.5 points, and GM Sam Shankland (USA, 2649) finished the tournament with the score of 3 points.



The SuperRapid play tournament followed with the participation of more than 300 players, including the players from the Elite competition.

GM Nikolas Theodorou (GRE) won the tournament with impressive score of 9/10 points. GM Alireza Firouzja (FRA) finished the event in the second place with 8.5 points, while six players tied for third place scoreing 8 points each.

Detailed information about the event and final results can be found <u>here</u>.

Photos by London Chess Classic/ John Saunders







UPCOMING

European Women's Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2025, Monaco

The 2025 European Women's Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship is set to take place from 8-12 January in Monte-Carlo, Monaco.

The first event on the schedule will be the European Women's Blitz Chess Championship 2025 which will be played on 9th of January 2026. The event will be played according to the Swiss system, in 13 rounds, with the time control 3 minutes game + 2 seconds per move starting from the first move.

European Women's Rapid Chess Championship 2025 will take place on 10-11 January in the same venue. The event will be played in 11 rounds, Swiss system, with the time control 15 minutes game + 10 seconds per move starting from the first move.

The total prize fund of the events will be 46.500 EUR, with 15.200 euros in prizes for the Blitz Championship, and 31.300 euros of prizes in the Rapid Championship.

More than 130 players from 30 European federations registered for the event, including 7 GMs, 20 IMs, 17 WGMs, and 17 WIMs. The provisional starting list is headlined by GM Alexandra Kosteniuk (SUI) who will defend both Rapid and Blitz titles, IM Eline Roebers (NED), IM Irina Bulmaga (ROU), GM Antoaneta Stefanova (BUL), GM Anna Ushenina (UKR), GM Bella Khotenashvili (GEO), IM Teodora Injac (SRB), and other top European players.

Starting list of players can be found <u>here</u>. Detailed information can be found on <u>official website</u>.



ECU Chess in Education Ambassador - Austria

The European Chess Union has launched the ECU Chess in Education Partnership with National Chess Federations to help promote chess as an educational tool in schools and institutions across Europe and beyond, strengthening the

connection amongst National Federations and the broader educational community.

ECU EDU's goal is to increase the visibility of the National Chess in **Education initiatives** through our dedicated online platforms to create

opportunities for knowledge sharing, networking and collaboration to inspire each other.

Read more





CHESS IN EDUCATION AMBASSADOR



Austria





Lothar Handrich

Frank Große, a German Chess Trainer volunteering journey in Kazakhstan

There is a remarkable German volunteering organisation that empowers retired professionals and those taking time off work to share their expertise around the world. Since 1983, the Senior Expert Service (SES) has enabled experts in their field to make a meaningful impact by supporting local communities around the world and passing on valuable knowledge across all sectors. It is a rewarding experience for participants to stay active, travel to places they never would have thought of and share their knowledge. Volunteering feeds your mind, body and spirit, where you feel enriched and appreciated, while leaving a positive mark on the world.

Read more



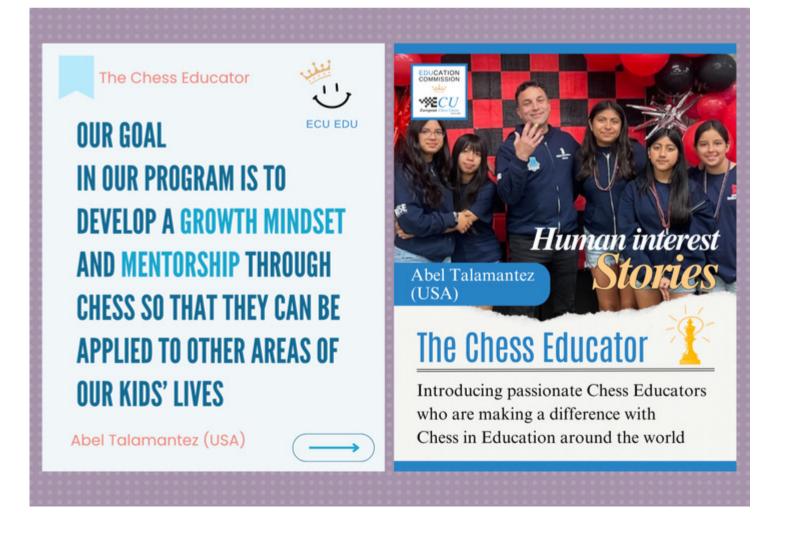
The Chess Educator – Abel Talamantez (USA)

I first met Abel during the ECU101 training course, and it was immediately clear how deeply he understands both chess and education. As the Chess Program Director at Hamilton K-8 School, Novato, California, USA, affiliated with RISE

Scholars, Inc. he has built a strong and positive chess culture throughout the years that uses chess as an educational and mentorship tool. His expertise, combined with his genuine care for the children, makes the program a happy place to

belong and thrive, where students feel supported and grow together as a proud community.

Read his story



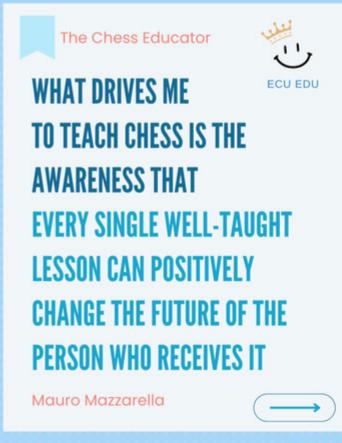
The Chess Educator – Mauro Mazzarella (Italy)

Throughout the years, we have met many educators from all over the world in our Training Courses and Discussion Group Meetings who are doing a great job with Chess in Education. We want to introduce their unique perspectives and share

their stories that might be of interest and inspiration to others.

Mauro is from the city of Palermo in Sicily and is an active member of its vibrant and very lively chess community at Palermo Scacchi. Just take a look at their latest Grandparents' Day event, and you'll immediately want to join in the fun. See also their amazing results at the latest Italian Youth Championships.

Read his story





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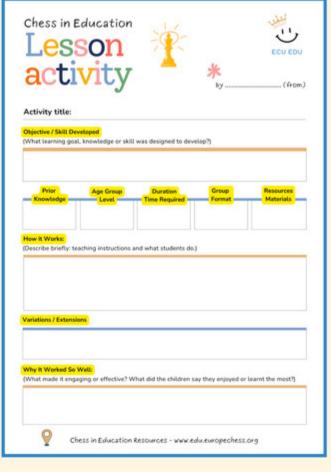
the world to help us build a free, open-access resource bank of fun and engaging Chess in Education classroom activities.

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FUN ZONE

Back in time...

About legendary chess player - Paul Morphy

Paul Morphy (June 22, 2837 - July 10, 1884) was an American chess player from New Orleans, Louisiana, US.

Sources differ about when and how Morphy learned to play chess. His uncle, Ernest Morphy explained that no one formally taught Paul how to play chess; but that he simply learned by watching others. By 1846, the nine-year-old Morphy was considered one of the best players in New Orleans. During 1848 and 1849, Morphy successfully competed against the leading players in New Orleans. From 1850 to 1857, Morphy focused on his education and received a bachelor's degree in 1854 from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. He went on to study law at the University of Louisiana (now Tulane University), receiving an LL.B. degree on April 7, 1857. It has been claimed that Morphy memorized the complete Louisiana Civil Code during the course of his studies.

That year, Morphy was invited to participate in the First American Chess Congress and won the tournament after defeating Louis Paulsen in the finals and earned the title of US Chess Champion. In 1858, Morphy traveled to Europe and defeated most of the world's leading players, earning recognition as the unofficial world champion.



Paul Morphy says about chess:

- The ability to play chess is the sign of a gentleman. The ability to play chess well is the sign of a wasted life.
- Help your pieces so they can help you!
- Chess is eminently and emphatically the philospher's game.
- Chess never has been and never can be aught but a recreation.

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 September & November 2025

#Puzzle 1: 1.Qh6!, followed by 2.Qg7# #Puzzle 2: 1.Bxe6+!! Kxe6 2.Qf7# #Puzzle 3: 1.Qf8+!! Bxf8 2.Nc7#









