

E-MAGAZINE DECEMBER 2020



Women's Club Cup

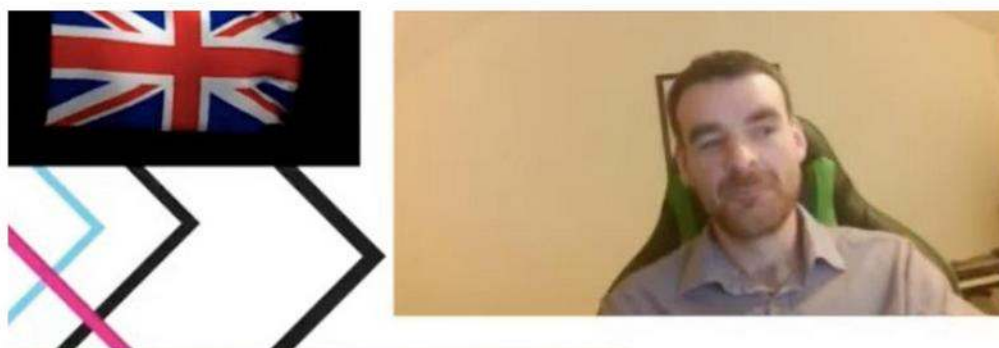
Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo wins European Online Women's Club Cup!

ECU General Assembly

ECU Annual Meeting took place on 19.12.2020



9:47:05 ROUND 3: GM JONES - GM SHIROV



GM JONES GAWAIN WINS EUROPEAN ONLINE BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP!



2021, new Year, new Challenges...

ECU Board & Officers wishing you and yours a safe, healthy, and prosperous new year!

The Annual ECU General Assembly took place online on Saturday 19th of December 2020 with the presence of 40 National Federations.

European Blitz #Chess Championship and European Women's Club Cup were organised successfully online. Full reports.

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.

www.europechess.org
ecu.secretary.general@gmail.com

European Chess Union and ECU Arbiters Council launch **the special courses for Chess Arbiters Online**

8th London Chess Conference – ChessTech2020 took place online this year, on 5th and 6th December 2020.

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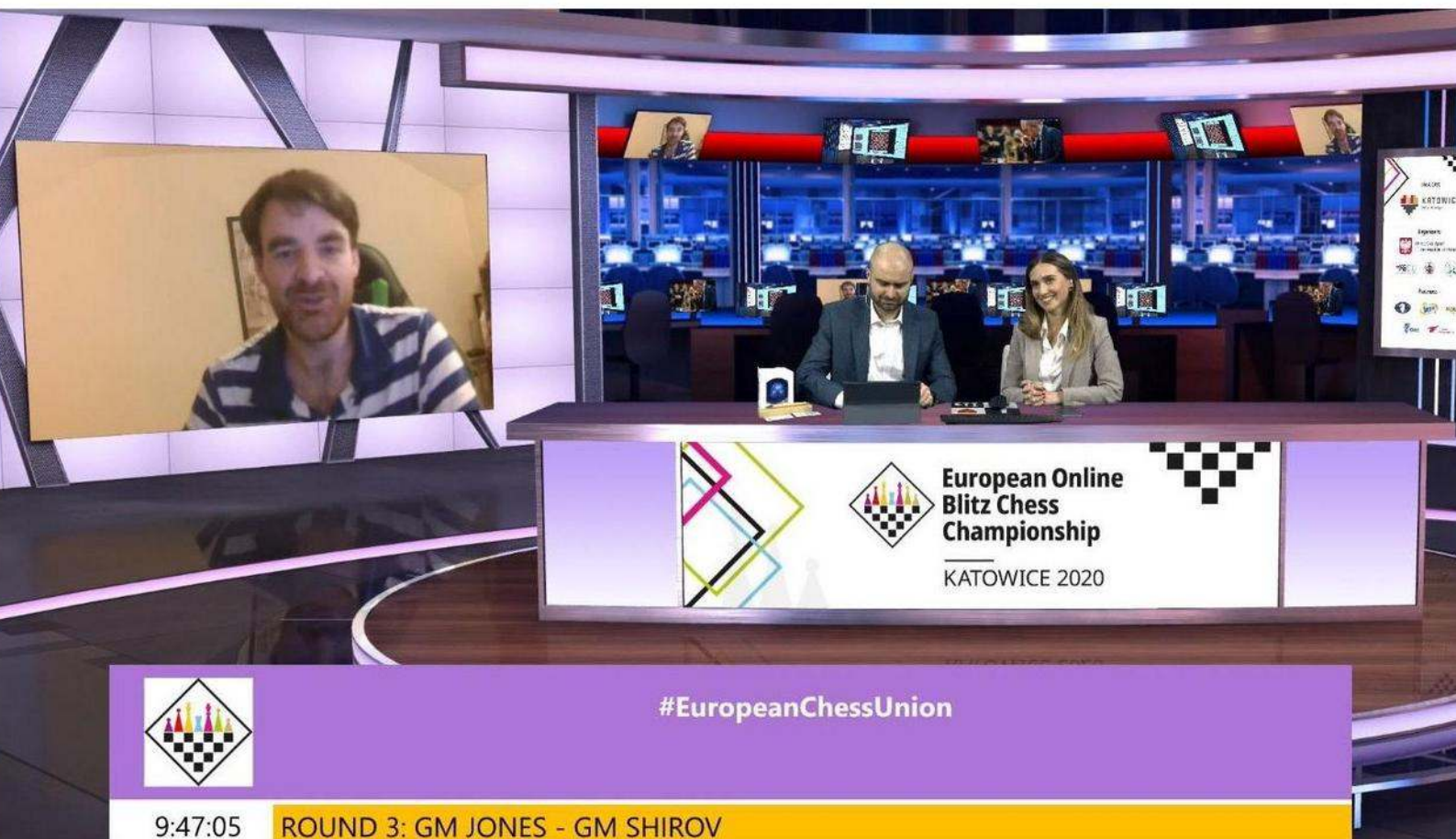
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JONES GAWAIN WINS EUROPEAN ONLINE BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2020

European Online Blitz Chess Championship 2020 took place from 18th-20th of December, and was played through Tornelo online platform with participation of more than 300 players from 40 different European federations. The event was played within two stages: Qualification and Top 16 knock out phase.

British Chess Champion (2012, 2017) **Jones C B Gawain** (ENG, 2670) won the event after he convincingly defeated Shirov Alexei (ESP, 2662) in the Final match of Top 16 phase, with result 2.5-0.5.

The match for the third place was played between Bluebaum Matthias (GER, 2670) and Navara David (CZE, 2697) and concluded after three games in favour for Top German Grandmaster with result 2.5-0.5.

Top 16 players won money prizes according to the Top16 Final standings:

- 1) Jones Gawain (ENG, 2670)
- 2) Shirov Alexei (ESP, 2662)
- 3) Bluebaum Matthias (GER, 2670)
- 4) Navara David (CZE, 2697)
- 5) Petrosyan Manuel (ARM, 2628)
- 6) Indjic Aleksandar (SRB, 2604)
- 7) Meier Georg (GER, 2628)
- 8) Yilmaz Mustafa (TUR, 2630)
- 9) Hovhannisyan Robert (ARM, 2642)
- 10) Safarli Eltaj (AZE, 2598)
- 11) Pantsulaia Levan (GEO, 2553)
- 12) Demidov Mikhail (RUS, 2523)
- 13) Wojtaszek Radoslaw (POL, 2705)
- 14) Deac Bogdan-Daniel (ROU, 2625)
- 15) Onischuk Vladimir (UKR, 2662)
- 16) Ozen Deniz (TUR, 2397)

Final lists and list of prizes can be found on the ECU Website.

Players ranked on 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th place were awarded with invitation for European Blitz and Rapid Chess Championship in Katowice, December 2021 (free of charge for 4* B&B and entry fee): Steinberg Nitzan (ISR, 2553), Theodorou Nikolas (GRE, 2554), Hakobyan Aram (ARM, 2598) and Sanal Vahap (TUR, 2563).

The event was LIVE broadcasted from ECU studio, with LIVE commentaries by: WGM Ketii Tsatsalashvili, GM Marcin Tazbir and WFM Maria Leks.



Top Women players European Online Blitz Chess Championship

Top three Women players of the event were:

Stefanova Antoaneta (BUL, 2466) with a score of 7/11 points in the Swiss stage,
Sargsyan Anna M. (ARM, 2402) with 6.5/11 points and
Socko Monika (POL, 2421) with 6 points.

Special prizes

The best ranked Senior players are awarded with an invitation for European Blitz and Rapid Chess Championship in Katowice 2021: Bykhovsky Avigdor (RUS, 2400) with 5.5 points, Efimov Igor (MNC, 2416) and Mazi Leon (SLO, 2340), each with 5 points.

Sarana Alexey (RUS, 2640) was the best-ranked U20 player with 7.5 points, while Mammadzada Gunay (AZE, 2443) was the best ranked Girl U20 with 6.5 points.

Garayev Kanan (AZE, 2331) was the best ranked U18 player with 8 points, and Kacharava Nikoloz (GEO, 2443) was the best ranked U16 player.

All of them will be awarded an invitation for European Blitz and Rapid Chess Championship 2021 which will take place in Katowice, Poland.



Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo wins European Women's Online Club Cup 2020

European Online Women's Club Cup took place from 19th-22nd December 2020 and was played through Tornelo online platform with the participation of 42 teams.

The event was played within Qualification stage played within 5 groups and final stage which consisted of 10 teams- the best two of each group.

Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo (Monaco) convincingly won the event and the prestigious European Cup with a round to spare, and despite the draw in the last round, scored 14 match points.

The last round decided the medalists: UGRA (Russia) with a score of 11 match points but better board points than GAMBIT Volgograd (Russia) who took the bronze medal.

Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo (Monaco) will receive the “**Coupe Princesse Charlène**” during the opening ceremony of the 2021 European Women's Club Cup.

The second and third team win the silver and bronze e-medals – Final Group. Top-ranked four teams will be awarded also with money prizes:

1st Winner Team- Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo (Monaco) 2500 euros,
2nd Winner Team-UGRA (Russia) 2000 euros,

3rd Winner Team– GAMBIT Volgograd (Russia) 1500 euros and
4th Winner Team– Poland Hussars (Poland) 1000 euros.

European Online Women's Club Cup was LIVE broadcasted from ECU live studio, together with live commentaries by GM Marcin Tazbir and WGM Ketj Tsatsalashvili.

Final results can be found here.



European Online Women's Club Cup was played within two stages: Qualification and Final.

Qualifications Groups were played on 19th and 20th of December, as Round Robin events and the first two teams of each qualification group qualified for Final Group which consisted of 10 teams.

The time control was: 15min + 5 sec per player. The event was organised by European Chess Union and Monte Carlo Chess Club, under the high patronage of his serene highness Prince Albert II of Monaco.



Participants

European Online Women's Club Cup

Top European female chess players will participate the event, such as: Aleksandra Goryachkina (RUS, 2593) playing for team Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo, Muzychuk Maria (UKR, 2544) and Muzychuk Anna (UKR, 2535) representing Kyiv Chess Federation – Greco, Dzagnidze Nana (GEO, 2524) Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo, Kashlinskaya Alina (RUS, 2494) playing for Clichy-Echecs-92, Kosteniuk Alexandra (RUS, 2471) with team Clichy-Echecs-92 ...

The best individual players per boards:

Individual e- Medals are won by 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place of each board of final Group. The first winner of each Board will receive 200 euros (5 x 200).

The best players of the 1st board:

1st place- Gunina Valentina 7/9
2nd place- Zawadzka Jolanta 6.5/9
3rd place Mammadzada Gunay 5.5/9

The best players of the 2nd board:

1st place- Kashlinskaya Alina 6.5/9
2nd place- Girya Olga 5/8
3rd place- Dzagnidze Nana 5/8

The best players of the 3rd board:

1st place- Papp Petra 4/7
2nd place- Dauletova Gulmir 5/9
3rd place- Badelka Olga 4/7

Players with the best score of the 4th board:

1st place- Dordzhieva Dinara 7/9
2nd place- Antolak Julia 4.5/7
3rd place- Paetz Elisabeth 4.5/7

The best reserve players (board 5):

1st place- Buksa Nataliya 5.5/8
2nd place- Ambartsumova Karina 5/7
3rd place- Fataliyeva Ulviyya 2.5/5



The Winners of European Online Blitz Championship



The Winners of European Women's Club Cup- Cercle d'Echecs de Monte Carlo



ECU Secretary General, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou

ONLINE AWARDING CEREMONIES

The Closing ceremony for European Online Blitz and Online Women's Club Cup took place on 23rd December 2020, online.

The Closing ceremony has started with the welcome speech of ECU President, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, who addressed all the participants and congratulated to all the Winners. The Closing ceremony was hosted by WGM Ketj Tsatsalashvili.

The attendees of the Closing ceremony were also: ECU Secretary General Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, FIDE Vice President Mr. Lukasz Turlej and other distinguished guests,

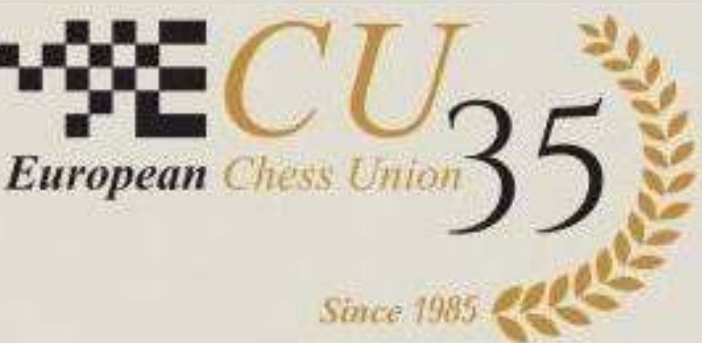


FIDE Vice President Mr. Lukasz Turlej at the Closing Ceremony of ECU Online events



ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili

ECU Women's Commission Chairman, Mr. Jean Michel Rapaire



ECU GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2020

**SATURDAY
19TH DECEMBER
10.00 CET**

THROUGH ZOOM PLATFORM

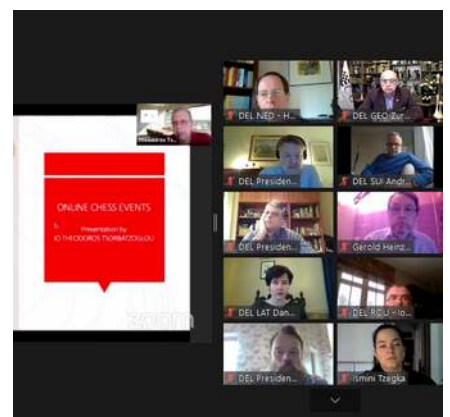
COMMUNIQUE OF THE ECU GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020

The annual ECU General Assembly 2020 took place online on 19th of December with representatives and officials from 40 European Chess Federations. The meeting was interactive with video presentations and productive discussion.

FIDE President, Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich joined the ECU General Assembly and congratulated ECU for the good work organizing online activities and for the fruitful cooperation in the common FIDE-ECU projects.



ECU GENERAL ASSEMBLY



A detailed video-report of activities of the past year was presented by the ECU Board. Delegates and participants had the opportunity to comment on the report and make suggestions for future activities.

Main information and decisions:

- >The closing of the year 2019 was unanimously approved and the Board was discharged for the year 2019.
- >The ECU Treasurer and Auditor confirmed that ECU is healthy financially, regardless of the past year's difficulties and is prepared to face any new challenges.
- >The budget for the year 2021 was unanimously approved. Due to the ongoing situation with Pandemic the ECU Board will proceed to any necessary adjustments, during the year.
- >The Educational Commission presented the report on the 2020 activities and the next steps on the running projects connected with the FIDE development fund and Erasmus+.

- >The Arbiters' Council presented an overview of the activities of the year 2020 and future plans.
- >The achievements of the ECU Women's Commission were presented and included webinars online training and events like the European Women's Cub Cup.
- >The Icelandic Chess Federation that will host the European Individual Chess Championship 2021 in Reykjavik, will search the option of moving the event in May 2021.
- >ECU Vice President Mr. Johann Pöcksteiner read the message of one of the founders and President of European Chess Union (1986-1999) Professor Kurt Jungwirth. Mr. Jungwirth presented a small chronicle of ECU from its foundation till this day and congratulated all those who contributed to its successful course.
- >The next ECU General Assembly is scheduled for November 2021 in Slovenia, during the European Team Chess Championship 2021.
- >The next edition of European Golden Pawn announced for February 2022.

ECU General Assembly 2020

All the details together with materials of the ECU General Assembly can be found on ECU website,

Austrian Chess Federation - 100 years anniversary!

Austrian Chess Federation (ACF) was founded in Vienna on December 12, 1920, and on the occasion of the 100th anniversary, the ACF presents an exclusive chess magazine.

Austria's current Number 1 Markus Ragger was voted Austria's Player of the Century by the readers of 'Schach aktiv' magazine.

Shortly after the turmoil of World War I, the Austrian Chess Federation was founded in December 1920 in the Hotel Palace in the chess metropolis of Vienna.

The ACF started with 22 clubs. Josef Krejcik, who was also one of the strongest players at that time, was elected the first president. Krejcik was followed by Josef Hanacik and Franz Cejka, and from 1971 long-term president **Prof. Kurt Jungwirth** shaped Austrian's chess life for 46 years. He achieved the recognition of chess as a sport, was founder and president of the ECU and vice-president of the FIDE. Christian Hursky is heading the ÖSB since 2017.

The magazine "100 Years of ACF" takes a journey back in time (Wilhelm Steinitz conquered the chess world from Vienna, Carl Schlechter and Rudolf Spielmann were world-class players) and presents the currently strongest German-speaking GM Markus Ragger as Austria's player of the century.



Légende Nemo enim ipsam voluptatem quia voluptas sit aspernatur.

Managers, artists and politicians like Arnold Schwarzenegger talk about why chess plays an essential role in their lives.

Further contributions to the magazine are dedicated to the successful work with young talents, the growing female chess scene and the future development of the sport of chess.

Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen, ECU President Zurab Azmaiparashvili and FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich congratulated the historic #Chess Federation and are convinced that chess in Austria has a bright future ahead of it in the next hundred years.



*From the left to right:
Johan Poecksteiner (ECU Vice President), Prof. Kurt Jungwirth, Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou (ECU Secretary General)*



Austrian Chess Federation

ECU Website page of the Austrian Chess Federation:
<https://www.europechess.org/federations/austria/>

Official Website of Austrian Chess Federation

BELGIAN CHESS FEDERATION - 100 YEARS YOUNG

Chess tradition in Belgium started long before the creation of the national chess association. Like all the major cities, Brussels already had a chess café in the 19th century, the Café de l'Europe, which housed a chess club in 1815, and the chess enthusiast will have analysed the games played during the several tournaments of Ostend at the beginning of the 20th century.

The foundation of the Belgian Chess Federation in 1920 also proved beneficial for the inception of FIDE four years later. The Belgian representative Léon Weltjens became a co-signatory of the FIDE Statute in Paris 1924, and the Belgian chess champion, Edgard Colle, impressed with a third place in the first amateur world championship.

Colle would also become a regular fixture in international professional tournaments, but his premature death in 1932 prevented him from putting Belgium among the leading chess nations in Europe.

For those wanting to know more about our history, we recommend the book written by Frank Hoffmeister at the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the federation. It is available in Dutch, French and German, and it can be ordered by writing to info@frbe-kbsb-ksb.be.

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oughly a hundred years ago, on 17 December 1920, representatives of the leading clubs in the country, namely from Antwerp, Ghent, Liège, and Brussels gathered in the 'Cercle des Échecs Bruxelles' for a special occasion. They signed the statute establishing the Belgian Chess Federation!

The first secretary of the newly born chess federation, Edmond Lancel, would later publish the famous Belgian chess magazine 'L'Échiquier' with regular contributions from Alekhine, Réti and Tartakower (1925–1939).



*Frank Hoffmeister
tells us the history
of Belgian chess.*

*Edgard Colle
(right) against
Alekhine in
1925*



Daniel Dardha

Source: *Schaakwonder*
Daniel Dardha – *Gazet van Antwerpen*
(gva.be)



Belgian chess history has been characterized by three main aspects:

The national chess federation has always had to demonstrate enormous flexibility and adaptability. In our small country, the political situation has never been simple and when the country was split into three language communities in 1970, this naturally also had an impact on chess. Three regional federations were founded under the national federation, each of which must abide by regional rules and decisions.

Chess is for example only recognized as a sport in the German-speaking community, not in the other ones. The large proportion of German-speaking teams in the first division of the national team competition is therefore quite normal. For some years now, the Ministry of Education in the French-speaking community has allocated a considerable amount of money to the development of school chess, but again, not the Ministries of Education in the other communities.

Belgians also have an entrepreneurial spirit, so that it is no surprise that Belgians are also keen to make an international contribution, such as Willy Icklicki (Chief Operating Officer at FIDE), Patrick Van Hoolandt (president of the A.I.D.E.F., the international French-speaking chess association) and other Belgians who promote chess in the various commissions of FIDE and ECU. And what about other Belgian 'products': Houdini, the chess program, and Thinkers Publishing, one of the best chess editors in the world. Is it therefore a surprise that – even without having real top players – we also manage to organize big tournaments. Spa 1926, Liège 1930, Antwerp 1932 and Ostend, again, in 1936–1937. In a less distant past, the top elite in chess came to play in the Lost Boys (Antwerp), the Swift tournaments (Brussels) and the Grand Chess Tour (Leuven). And even the youth can play in ideal conditions: the organizers of the Belgian Youth Chess Champions make use of about 120 electronic chess boards.

Our Burgundian lifestyle is also reflected in the world of chess. The habit of offering something to drink before a game (and more than one drink after it) is something that surprises players coming from abroad.

And our tournaments are not only for chess lovers, but also for life lovers. Why not play the tournament of Ghent during the festivities in the city, Bruges with its beautiful decor, Charleroi with its relaxed atmosphere, Brasschaat with its conviviality or Liège with its warm hospitality?

Is it our lifestyle that made a lot of players settle in Belgium? Victor Soultanbeieff and Georges Lalevitch, the unfortunate Akiba Rubinstein and later, top trainer Vladimir Chuchelov and Michael Gurevitch came to Belgium and even Magnus Carlsen went to an international school in Belgium when he was 7. Did he learn some valuable skills to become World Champion in Belgium?

Our contribution at the chess board may not be underestimated neither: we mentioned Colle already, who gave his name to a rock-solid opening, and Jadoul gave his name to a variation in the Scandinavian, but Belgians are also known for their problemists. And did you know we even have a world champion? Indeed, in 2017 Daniel Dardha has become U14 world champion blitz and two years later, he even became the youngest national champion at the age of 13 years...

In short, the Belgian chess federation is 100 years old, but still alive and kicking.

TEXT BY:
Philippe Vukojevic

> Board Member of the
Belgian Chess Federation
> Member of ECU
Educational Commission .



Gunter Delhaes- honorary president of the Belgian Chess Federation

At the last general assembly of the Royal Belgian Chess Federation, Gunter Delhaes no longer stood for the chairmanship of the national federation.
The end of an era.

Indeed, Gunter Delhaes wouldn't break the record of the longest presidency in Belgian chess history. He was at the head of the national federation for no less than eleven years. Only one chairman held that post longer than he did. Gunter's long chairmanship was not at all self-evident, because during his term of office, the Belgian Chess Federation went through one of its most serious crises, when a member of the board had robbed the savings account.

Today, the federation is doing well again, and that is largely thanks to Gunter, who always put the development of chess first. By the way, that was not only the case in the national chess federation. He had already developed his own club, Rochade Eupen, into one of the most important clubs in the country.

He also made every effort in the international organisations, ECU and FIDE, whether it was in the event commission or in the ethics commission. Moreover he supported and advised members of the BCF in their goal to realize an international career in ECU as well as in FIDE.

For that reason Gunter became a respected person in the international chess world as well as in the Belgian Chess Federation.

It is therefore not surprising that the BCF governing body decided to include him in the list of **Honorary Presidents?**

The fact that this is not an end point for Gunter characterizes him entirely, because even before that honorary title was voted, he said that the federation could still contact him if he could still be of any use with his expertise.

The development of chess first. That is how we know Gunter Delhaes, our latest honorary president.

For sure Gunter will always be an important support in the Belgian Chess Federation.

The board of the BCF wishes to thank Gunter for his many years of dedication for chess in general and for chess in the BCF in particular!

TEXT BY:
Philippe Vukojevic

> Board member of the
Belgian Chess Federation
> Member of ECU
Educational Commission

CHESSTECH 2020 CONFERENCE

Running parallel to the FIDE Congress was ChessTech2020, the online conference on chess and technology, which drew 526 registrations from more than 70 countries.



Following a welcome to the two-day-meeting from Zurab Azmaiparashvili, President of ECU, the FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich gave a keynote address Chess: Driving Technological Innovations in the 21st Century and answered a wide range of questions afterwards. The event, the 8th in the sequence of the London Chess Conferences, was directed by John Foley from ChessPlus Limited, a London-based training and education company, with a programme developed by Stefan Löffler of ChesstechNews.

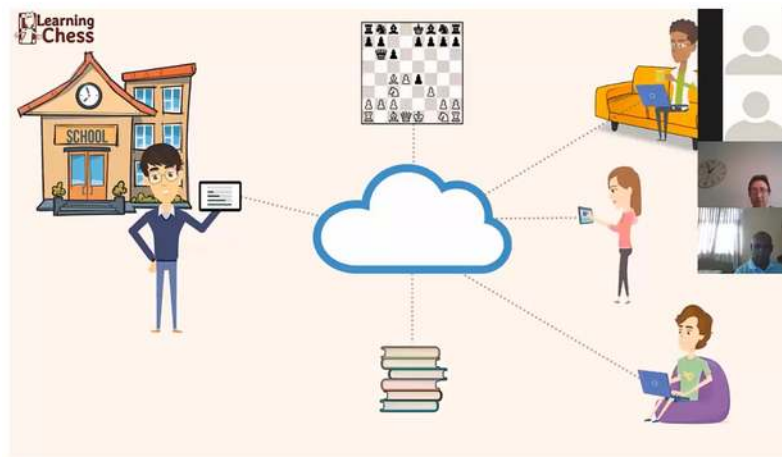
FIDE was a foundation sponsor through its continental funding of the ECU.

Commercial sponsors of the event included Tornelo, Chessable, DGT, LearningChess, ChessKid, ChessLang, SzuperChess, GameAhead Consulting and ChessStars.

The Zoom-based conference comprised 44 sessions with 122 contributors. The conference was very well received with an average satisfaction star rating of 4.3/5. According to the post-conference survey, the three most frequent descriptions of the conference were "interesting", "informative" and "inspiring".

*ECU President
Mr. Zurab
Azmaiparashvili
sent a welcome
message
#ChessTech*





There were many memorable sessions.

- One of the most important topics was anti-cheating on which there were three in-depth sessions examining different perspectives.
 - Many attendees were impressed by Chris Callahan's overview of the free platform Lichess.
 - The book presentations from David Smerdon (The Complete Chess Swindler) and Noam Manella (Think Like a Machine) provided deep insights into cognitive psychology.
 - Daniel King's honest account of how he built up his YouTube channel PowerPlayChess attracted many admirers. Another session on streaming chess gave advice from setting up Twitch to running a successful channel.
 - The clear presentation by Shohreh Bayat and Judit Sztaray on online arbitration was praised by the arbiter community.
 - Many chess teachers valued the presentations from a range of education companies including LearningChess, ChessKid, Chess, AcornChess, and ChessLang

- The session on sponsorship was excellent.
- The gender issues from the previous conference were revisited in a lively international forum.
 - There were three sessions on Erasmus projects: Castle, CGS and 8by8; and one session featuring the European Research Council funded Digital Ludeme Project.
 - There were several panels such as "Is Chess an Esport?" and "How to Make Chess Greener?"
 - Many people praised the session on new formats for chess journalism.
 - There was a competition for the best chess startup 2020. This was won by Chessvision.ai by Pawel Kacprzak from Poland.
- In addition to the above sessions in English, there were also segments of the conference conducted in French, Spanish and German which were reported to be highly satisfactory. The conference also comprised a social networking "Chess Café" where it was possible to meet with other attendees in an informal atmosphere.

ChessTech2020 Recordings

For those who did not attend the conference, these are available in three categories. Some are available to the general public and are being released one-by-one with social media notifications. A second category is for those people who registered for the conference and may not have been able to get into some popular sessions. The third category is reserved for those with professional tickets. Access to categories two and three is available for a modest fee.

TRAINING COURSE REPORT

Date

07-08
DEC
2020

Course N°

109

Location

ONLINE

Language

ENGLISH

Satisfied

100%



RITA ATKINS
COURSE
INSTRUCTOR

This was the first time the two-day *Teaching Mathematics through Chess* Training Course (ECU102) was given online. The course was well received and all attendees would recommend the course to their fellow teachers.

All the participants successfully passed the online test for the ECU Chess and Mathematics Teacher Certificate.

Rated
50%

Participants
chess level

Beginner
25%

Experienced
25%

FEEDBACK



Thank you Rita for this training. I will use what I learned for my math and chess lessons. Everything was very clear and you gave us a lot of time so that we could understand the material and use the exercises.



As a nonmathematician, I had some qualms about taking the course at first, but I learned a lot and have gained confidence in presenting more math strategies to my students



I had been looking for ways to teach kids math concepts through chess and it was clarified.



See all the graduates and upcoming courses at: www.chessplus.net

4

Graduates



0

Female



4

Male

ECU FIDE ARBITERS SEMINAR FOR FEMALE PARTICIPANTS

From 7 to 12 December 2020 a FIDE Arbiters' Seminar was organized on the Internet, by the FIDE Commission for Women's Chess and the European Chess Union by the support of FIDE Development fund.

5. The Regulations for the Titles of the Arbiters.
6. The FIDE Fair Play regulations and guidelines for Arbiters.

Seventeen (17) women from eleven (11) Federations (RUS (1), CYP (1), IRL (1), ISL (1), ROU (5), GRE (2), ENG (1), SVK (2), MKD (1), NED (1), LAT (1)) participated in the Seminar.

Many examples and cases from tournaments were presented and the participant showed great interest, asking questions and participating in the discussions.

Fourteen (14) of them took part in the examination test, which was held after the end of the lectures, and which, according to the FIDE Arbiters' Commission guidelines, lasted for four (4) hours and covered all the topics of the seminar.

Report by: IA Takis Nikolopoulos (GRE) FIDE Lecturer and IA Ilaha Kadimova (AZE) Assistant Lecturer

Details can be found on the ECU Website.

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he Seminar was held in the Zoom platform. The Technical Organizer was IA Mihail Prevenios (GRE).

The Lecturer was IA Takis Nikolopoulos (GRE), FIDE Arbiters' Commission Honorary Chairman and FIDE Lecturer and the Assistant Lecturer were IA Ilaha Kadimova (AZE).

The language of the Seminar was English.

The lectures lasted in total for 20 hours with the following subjects:

1. The Laws of Chess (including Rapid, Blitz and Appendices) and the duties of the Arbiters in the Tournaments.
2. The FIDE Competition Rules and tie-breaks.
3. The systems of games, the Swiss system and the pairing rules.
4. The FIDE Titles and Ratings Regulations.

SURNAME	FIRST NAME
RENDI	EVA
LAUTERBACH	INGRID
IONICA	IULIA
FIRARU	ROXANA-MARIA
TSEDENOVA	POLINA
ROMANOVA	EMA
PTACNIKOVA	LENKA
NADZAMOVA	REBEKA

The following participants succeeded in the test and will be awarded a norm for the FIDE Arbiter title, after the approval of the next FIDE Congress/ Council



ONLINE ECU ARBITERS CERTIFICATION COURSE

ECU Arbiters Council organises two Online ECU Arbiters Certification course for the FIDE and International arbiters in period from 16-19 and 27-30 January 2021.

For the European arbiters, the OA certification will be required to work as an arbiter during the ECU online tournaments.

The course is open also to all arbiters around the world, who wish to have a special education and certification.

The cost for certification is 30 Euro for the seminar and 20 Euro for the exam- in total 50 Euro together, with possibility for experienced online chess arbiters to only take the test without participation in the seminar.

The application deadline for the second course is 25th January

More information can be found on ECU Arbiters Council Website.

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The webinars are open to all FIDE and International arbiters.

For the 1st Webinar all the 30 seats have been booked in one day, and ECU Arbiters council announced the dates for the next course.

The second Online ECU Arbiters Certification Course will take place from 27-30 January.



ECU AC, the strange and unbelievable story of 2020.



Allow me to quote mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, the secretary general of ECU, in his small reaction on Facebook: "It was an epic and historical year 2020 for the whole world!". I fully agree! In many ways, maybe it was a year we should forget as soon as possible. Or maybe not?

Compared with 2019, 2020 was a totally different year! No one doubt that Covid 19 was the biggest cause.

In 2019 ECU organized 13 OTB tournaments during which 168 arbiters were appointed. However in 2020 no OTB tournaments were organized! They were all postponed and after a few month they were even cancelled.

It was a year in which ECU had to adopt in the new global situation digitizing all services and events.

The internet became an even more important tool then the previous years, not only for the organization of tournaments but also to organize meetings and seminars.

This was a huge challenge for ECU as well as for the ECU AC.

With great proud and pleasure ECU announced the birth of "the European Online Chess Championships".

It offered the possibility to all chess players to still practice their favourite hobby.

Five championships were organized in close cooperation with the ECU AC and a few national federations: The European Online Individual Chess Championship 2020, The European Online Youth Chess Championship 2020, The European Online Corporate Chess Championship 2020, The European Online Women's Club Cup 2020 and the European Online Blitz Championship 2020.

To guide these championships in the right direction and to make sure everything went smoothly, many arbiters (97) were appointed for these online championships.

At that time, ECU AC realised that there was a strong need for the training of arbiters to be active during online tournaments. ECU AC realized that what we ask to an online arbiter is not what we need from an arbiter who is active in a standard tournament. ECU AC has learned along the tournaments that being an arbiter in one online competition is by far different from being an arbiter in an over the board event. For that reason, and with the approval of ECU Board, ECU AC has set up an online training program for "Online Arbiter".

This certification, which will be mandatory to serve as an arbiter in European Online Championships, will certify that a particular arbiter has some special skills for online tournaments and confirm the ability of an arbiter to work in online events.

The first online training will be organized in the second half of January. Further information can be found on the ECU AC website.

ECU AC also organized a FIDE Arbiters Seminar which was, also forced by Covid 19, held online.

The FA seminar started on Monday May 4th with 41 participants out of 27 federations. For the first time the test which was used for the exam, was a standardized test in close cooperation with FIDE ARB, which should be a norm in the future for other FA Seminars. 9 participants passed the test.

Text by:

**IA Geert Bailleul,
Secretary of the ECU
Arbiters Council**

Text by:
IA Geert Bailleul
Secretary of ECU AC



Prior to the FA seminar, on Sunday May 3rd, there was also a workshop for all ECU arbiters, organized by the ECU Arbiters' Council. During this workshop the members of the ECU Arbiters' Council explained what they have been doing during the 2 years since they have been appointed.

The large number of participants (77!) shows that there was a need to organize such a workshop.

The attending arbiters received a clear overview of the system of appointment, the evaluation of arbiters during ECU Events, an extensive chapter about GDPR, the reporting procedure, all kind of reports etc... Also the necessary information was given about the ECU Arbiters' Council website; what can be found on the website and where this information can be found.

Based on the comments and suggestions which were given during this online workshop, ECU AC made some changes on their website.

A new page was created where everyone can find all the articles from the past two years as well as links to the all E-magazine issues.

Every month there is an article in the ECU Magazine, written by one of the members of the ECU AC.

Also other arbiters are invited to write an article if they feel the need to do so.

They can send their article to the secretary of the ECU AC.

Even fun was provided with a riddle and a crossword.

Also the possibility is created to the arbiters to subscribe to our website.

In that way, every arbiter doesn't have to miss any of the articles in the future, He/ she will also be informed of other announcements and events of the ECU Arbiters' world.

The ECU AC can always be in touch with them.

Other changes on our website were related to our reporting procedure. All forms for reporting procedure and for evaluation are now available online.

Other online workshops were also organized such as an ECU Arbiters' Council Online workshop for Arbiters in Online Chess, which was organized together with FIDE Arbiters' Commission.

Chairman Tomek Delega (ECU AC) and chairman Laurent Freyd (FIDE ARB) were the hosts.

More than 500 arbiters attended. The video on Youtube was watched for more than several 1000 times.

In addition a webinar about cheating in online chess tournaments was organized in cooperation with David Cordover, the founder of Tornelo, and a FIDE Arbiters Seminar for ladies.

And last but certainly not least the ECU AC decided during their online meeting on December 7th that the list of arbiters which was made after the "Call of Interest" at the beginning of this year, will be used for the appointment of arbiters in ECU Events in 2021. The arbiters which were appointed by ECU AC to be active during the first (cancelled) OTB tournaments of 2020 will be appointed first for the OTB tournaments in 2021.

When you are reading this article, 2020 will already be a bad memory, for most people to be forgotten as soon as possible.

Therefore, on behalf of the ECU AC, I would like to wish all our colleagues and chess friends a prosperous, healthy and happy New Year!

Stay safe, stay happy, stay healthy!

ECU Arbiters Council

IA Geert Bailleul, the author of the text is the Secretary of ECU Arbiters Council.

More articles can be found on ECU Arbiters Council Website.

IA-A Sabrina de San Vicente



The move counter, to use or not to use?

A few weeks ago I received an email from IA-A Sabrina de San Vicente (a colleague from Uruguay) with her opinion about the move counter after an article about that subject has been published in the ECU Magazine. I quote her complete mail below.

“I am not a European Arbiter, but many of them are my friends, my oldest daughter is living there, and also I love reading your Magazine each month. So I feel free to give you my opinion regarding move counter.

Despite players like to see all the time available at any time, and you don't have half of the players in the first two rounds asking why their time was not added, cons of using move counter are more decisive.

When players forget to press their clocks, the flag falls after 40 moves were completed and you have to correct the clocks and disturb them.

The worst situation is created by players pressing the clock twice, the 30 minutes are given before 40 moves. They have to stop the clock and call the arbiter. The arbiter has to go to the board, examine the situation, and adjust the clocks. Meanwhile, players eventually find winning ideas. This could also be used to cheat, a player can press twice the clock when the opponent goes to the toilet and make his opponent lose on time while he thinks that 40 moves were completed.

That's why I prefer not to use it. Having to intervene in a game at that moment should be avoided as much as you can.”

TEXT BY:

**IA Geert Bailleul
Secretary of ECU AC**

If anyone would feel the need to react on this subject, please don't hesitate to do so!

You can always contact the ECU AC (arbiterscouncil@gmail.com or geertbailleul@skynet.be).



TATA STEEL CHESS 2021

The 83rd edition of the prestigious chess tournament, often called "Wimbledon of Chess"- Tata Steel Chess 2021 - this year will comprise only Masters event, which will take place from 15-31 January in Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands.

Fourteen top Grandmasters will participate the event which will be played in 13 rounds, Round Robin system of play.

Reigning World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen (NOR, 2862) will participate the event for the 17th time in his chess career.

Among the players are also: Fabiano Caruana (USA, 2823), Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (FRA, 2784), Anish Giri (NED, 2764), Alireza Firouzja (FIDE, 2749), Jan-Krzysztof Duda (POL, 2743), Pentala Harikrishna (IND, 2732), Daniil Dubov (RUS, 2710), Radoslaw Wojtaszek (POL, 2705), David Anton Guijarro (ESP, 2679), Andrey Esipenko (RUS, 2677), Jorden Van Foreest (NED, 2671), Nils Grandelius (SWE, 2663) and Aryan Tari (NOR, 2625).

More details about the event can be found on the Official website.



Ambassador of the Tata Steel 2021 - GM Anish Giri



WHO WAS VERA MENCHIK (1906-1944)?

Vera Frantsevna Menchik (1906 – 1944) was the 1st World Women Chess Champion.

>Vera learned chess in 1915, taught to her by her father. The family moved to England in 1921, when Vera was 15. In that year she won the British girls' championship.

>In 1923 she began participating in men's international tournaments.

>In 1926 Vera won the First British Girls' Open Championship.

>In 1927 she won the London ladies championship with a perfect 5-0 score.

>FIDE established the 1st world championship for women in July, 1927, which Vera won at the age of 21 in London (with 10 wins and 1 draw in the last round).

>She won every Women's World Championship after that: Hamburg 1930, Prague 1931, Folkestone 1933, Warsaw 1935, Stockholm 1937 and Buenos Aires 1939.

In this edition of the ECU E-Magazine we prepared for you three winning positions by 1st World Women Chess Champion- Vera Menchik!

Solutions from November 2020

#Puzzle 1

1.Kd2!! Bg7 [1...Kg7 2.Ns6 Kh6
3.Nxf5#] 2.Nd6 Bf8 3.Ne8#

#Puzzle 2

1.Qxg6!! Kxg6 2.R1f6 Kg5
3.Rf5+ Kg6 4.R7f6+ Kh7
5.Rh5+ Kg7 6.Rg5+ Kh7 7.Bf5#

#Puzzle 3

1.Qxf6 gxf6 2.Rxf6 Qh5 3.Rf8+
Kg7 4.e8=Q Re2+ 5.Kf1 Qxh3+
6.Kxe2 Qg2+ 7.Rf2 Qe4+ 8.Kd2



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