



NEW TROPHIES FOR
EUROPEAN CLUB CUP
2016



EUROPEAN FAIR
PLAY MOVEMENT
CONFERENCE IN
VIENNA



ECU IN
SWITZERLAND



CHESS IN
SCHOOL
CONFERENCE IN
ARMENIA

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



1ST ECU EDUCATION CHESS CONFERENCE IN BATUMI

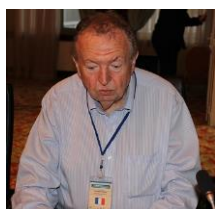
The 1st ECU Education Chess Conference took place on 25-26 October 2016 in Batumi/Georgia, during the FIDE World Cadets Chess Championship.

The ECU expresses great thanks to the Georgian Chess Federation who provided financial support for the Conference and organized it in a professional way at the high level. Special thanks go to the President of Georgian Chess Federation, Mr. Giorgi Giorgadze and the main person responsible for the organization, Mr. Valeriane Gaprindashvili.

During the two days period, the participating representatives of the European chess family were presented by numerous interesting lecturers from all geographical corners of Europe, just to mention Armenia, Belarus, England, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Montenegro, Norway, Russia, Poland, Romania, Sweden and of course the host Georgia.



The ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili was present during the Conference as well as the ECU Treasurer Mr. Martin Huba, which gave the importance to the Conference. Many important names also attended the Conference and brought high interest and value, such as the legendary former Women's World Chess Champion Georgian Grandmaster Ms. Maya Chiburdanidze, the Chairperson of the FIDE CIS Commission Mr. Kevin O'Connell, the Chairperson of the ECU Education Commission Mr. Jesper Hall, and several representatives of the Ministries of Education, Youth and Sport from Georgia, Romania and Poland, who actively participated in the Conference.



The main attraction of the event was the report of Chess in Europe – Survey results. The idea of the survey was to get an overview on how the different federations of the ECU work in general and with Chess in Schools in particular.

One way of making use of the result is to divide the different movements into groups with similarities that could cooperate and inspire each other. During the presentation Mr. Jesper Hall and Mr. John Foley, member of ECU Education Commission, suggested to make archetypes depending on if the movement was teacher centered or child centered, as well as being public funded or private funded.



Chess in Schools is a rapidly growing movement, with a different concept of organizations in charge, from federations down to one man companies. There are difficulties in establishing the

best way to deal with such issues, but understanding how alternative funding models shape the CiS-structure of the country can clarify the situation and bring solutions on the broader field.

The second day of the Conference was reserved for workshops, focused on various issues: what problems the different movements of CiS were facing, discussing Teaching methods, CiS for younger kids, Future routes, CiS and Internet, etc.



As the result of the intense and fruitful discussions during the Conference on follow-up activities in the near future, the ECU teams will focus their efforts on developing the ideas which were presented at the Conference.

Some of them are: preparing the regulations of the European Smart Kids Challenge, having the ambition to become the world's most attended chess contest, drafting the structure of the "Chess Wiki", the place to store and share everything relevant to chess education, seriously thinking about establishing the European Award for chess teachers and preparing specific quality criteria for scholastic chess tools, such as software and methodologies in order to publish them for the wider chess community.



The conference can be considered as unique and a kind of a benchmark for any related meetings in the future, and the conclusion is that it has been accompanied with lot of positive energy and a passion of participants to cooperate within the European chess family for the same common goal.

In the end, we would like to thank everyone for their attendance and contribution, and to welcome more European federations to take part in future ECU events.

Chess in School Conference in Armenia

The International Conference entitled "Theoretical and Practical Issues of Chess Education in Schools" took place from 30th September to 3rd October in Tsaghkadzor/Armenia, at Russia Hotel.

The Minister of Education and Science of Republic of Armenia Mr. Levon Mkrchyan, Vice-President of the Armenian Chess Federation and President of the Chess Academy of Armenia Mr. Smbat Lputian, ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, FIDE CiS Chairman Mr. Kevin O'Connell, a number of honorary guests along with the audience of 50 people from over 20 countries were present at the opening session of the conference, which was held on 1st October.



The above mentioned officials welcomed all the attendees and wished them an effective outcome and productive exchange of new ideas.

Beside the President Azmaiparashvili, the European Chess Union was represented by Mr. Martin Huba, the ECU Treasurer, Mr. Alexander Kostyev, ECU Educational Commission Secretary and Mr. Piotr Murdzia, member of the ECU EDU Commission.



During the first day of the conference the researches of Armenian psychologists, sociologists, methodists and mathematicians as well as chess textbooks' authors were presented on the following main directions:

- Chess education and personal development,
- Social-psychological issues of chess education,
- Training and retraining issues of chess teacher's
- Technological and methodological aspects of chess education,
- Inclusive educational practices and chess

The presentations were followed by a QA session which passed in a tensed atmosphere accompanied by active discussions that lead to fruitful cooperation creating a good platform for the further mutual endeavors and great new beginnings.



On the second day of the Conference the speakers from both Armenia and abroad presented their reports after which all the participants took part in a round table discussion and shared their views about the main problems and obstacles that should be overcome by joint efforts. The discussions proved that all the specialists had the same vision about the development of "Chess in Schools" program.

The second day was full of instructive discussions and exchange of ideas that were followed by a sightseeing tour to Kecharis Monastery situated in the heart of Tsaghkadzor. Finally the last day

of the Conference ended with gala dinner during which the Mayor of Tsaghkadzor city distributed souvenirs to all the guests from abroad and congratulated both the organizers and attendees for the successful accomplishment of the conference.

All the participants expressed hope that soon Armenia will gather specialists from all over the world again to discuss “Chess in Schools” program and to do its best to promote the international cooperation in this field. Thus, this conference is surely considered to be among highly successful conferences from the viewpoint of its effectiveness and worldwide coverage.



The Conference was organized under the auspices of Chess Academy of Armenia and Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia, cooperating with FIDE, ECU, Armenian Chess Federation, and Armenian State Pedagogical University.

[Official Website of the Conference](#)

European Fair Play Movement Conference in Vienna

The ECU Treasurer Mr. Martin Huba attended as the observer the Conference and the General Assembly of the European Fair Play Movement, held in Vienna, Austria, 7-8 October 2016

The event was organized in a professional way with the active participation of mainly European sport organizations' representatives, devoted to the fair play in sport.



During the first day of the conference the delegates and invited guest attended the Conference with topics “Manipulation and Corruption – Quo Vadis Sports?” and “Safeguarding Integrity in Sports – Play Fair Code”, presented by two keynote speakers (both lawyers), Ms. Anja Martin and Mr. Severin Moritzer. Both lectures were afterwards followed by a lively discussion.

In the evening, the Gala Dinner was organized to celebrate the EFPM award winners for 2016. Among the awardees were the sport events, individuals as well as the specific strategic documents and sport events devoted to Fair Play.

On the second day of the Conference the 22nd General Assembly was held, with the elections of the new Executive Committee for the next period of four years. Mr Christian Hinterberger from Austria was re-elected as a President. Five out of eight elected members of the Executive Committee are women and the European Fair Play Movement becomes an extraordinary example of the gender equality in the European sport.



The 2017 European Fair Play Movement General Assembly will be organized in Haifa, Israel.

By its future membership in the EFPM, the ECU will benefit not only by promoting itself as the modern and transparent European sport organization, but also by getting an easy approach to relevant useful Fair Play documents and ideas, as well as by getting wider sport network of contacts for future cooperation in the area of the Fair Play.

The EFPM is a non-governmental association with its Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, while the Secretary General is Ioannis Psilopoulos in Greece. The EFPM is run by the Executive Committee composed of nine members chosen by the General Assembly from among its members and appointed for a term of four years from the Games of the Olympiad.

The main aim of the European Fair Play Movement is to promote Fair Play and Tolerance in the broadest sense (in sports and everyday life) at European level. The EFPM seeks to achieve this goal by supporting its members, by helping to promote Fair Play campaigns where sports organizations take the initiative, by cooperating with the authorities to foster Fair Play themes and by facilitating regular contacts between the various European sports organizations.

[EFPM Official Website](#)

Visit Ireland for ultimate chess experience!

The [Limerick Open](#) takes place from the 29-31 October, 2016 in the luxurious Savoy Hotel, Limerick, Ireland. Past winners include GM Nick Pert, GM Petr Neumann, GM Alex Baburin, and GM Gergely Szabo. In its 11th year, the Limerick Open organisers will look to add to that impressive list of winners next month.



The [40th annual Kilkenny Congress](#) will take place in Butler House, Kilkenny over the weekend of the 25-27 November. The event regularly attracts over 300 players including many top GMs such as past winners GM Michael Adams, GM John Nunn, GM Ivan Cheparinov, GM Luke McShane, GM Stuart Conquest, and most recently GM Bogdan Lalic, GM Sebastien Maze, GM Mark Hebden and GM Gawain Jones. As one of the biggest weekenders in Europe with a prize fund over 5,000 euro, the Kilkenny Congress will look to mark its 40th anniversary in style!



The **15th annual Gonzaga Classic** will take place from 27-29 January and as usual, all the proceeds will go to charity. The event takes place right in the heart of Dublin city with its vibrant night life and tourist friendly attractions. The event has had many strong winners including IM Sam Collins who are part of the club itself and will look to surpass 200 entrants and raise over 3,000 euro for worthy causes.

Finally, the **Bunratty Congress** will take place from February 17-19 in the Bunratty Castle Hotel, Limerick. The largest event on the Irish calendar with over 350 entrants annually and a roll of honour that includes some of the top players in the world. 2016 GM Nigel Short, 2015 GM Wesley So, 2014 (and '11) GM Gawain Jones, 2012-13 GM Michael Adams, 2010 Alex Baburin and 2008-09 Peter Svidler.

4th London Chess Conference – The Didactics of Chess

We are pleased to announce the 4th edition of the London Chess and Education Conference, which will take place on 10-12th December 2016 at the Hilton Kensington Olympia. As usual it coincides with the first weekend of the London Chess Classic held at the Olympia Conference Centre. The theme of the Conference is “The Didactics of Chess”.



The conference is supported by Chess in Schools and Communities as part of its educational mission. In addition, we are pleased to announce that the European Chess Union is sponsoring the event this year which has enabled the conference to be extended to a third day.

In the past years the Conference had different focus: in 2013 Conference was concentrated on the benefits of chess to schools, in second year the relationships between chess and mathematics were explored, in 2015 we outlined the interactions between chess and society. This year we return to the fundamentals of teaching.

The theme “The Didactics of Chess” refers to the practice of teaching chess in the classroom – how to engage and enthuse children, how to work with the whole class and reviewing the best ways to teach chess. We will hear from over 60 leading experts and researchers about tried and tested approaches for children of all ages.

The London Chess Conference is recognised as the leading global event dealing with all aspects of chess in education. We bring together over 150 people from around the world with a keen interest in the subject, whether as teachers, tutors, educationists, journalists or researchers. Everybody with an interest in the use of games in education is welcome. Note that non chess players can benefit from attending the conference.



Attendees at the Conference will also be entitled to visit the London Chess Classic at Kensington Olympia to see the top chess players in the world compete in the Grand Chess Tour.

We are currently developing the Programme for the event and will be posting the details on the website periodically. We are interested to hear from people with practical experience of teaching chess and other strategy games in the classroom or after school who want to share their expertise.

Speakers who have indicated they are attending include Michael Basman, Fernand Gobet, Barry Hymer, Stephen Moss, Leontxo Garcia, Rita Atkins, Sean Marsh, Alison Bexfield, Boris Alterman, Rodrigo Ferriz, Tal Granite, Sophia Rohde, Marisa van der Merwe, Graham Jurgensen, Jinwoo Song, Jesper Hall, Jorge Nuno Silva and a host of others.

There will also be a competition open to all to devise an original chess exercise for use during a lesson. The exercise should involve collaborative problem-solving. The prize fund will be €1000 comprising a main prize of €500, a second prize €300 and a third prize of €200. The regulations for the competition will be published on the website soon. Note it is not necessary to attend the conference in order to enter the Chess Exercise Competition. Entries should be submitted to competition@londonchessconference.com

Registration for the Conference is made through the website which contains all details regarding pricing and waivers. We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

The European Chess Union has 12 entry free tickets for its nominees, so we invite all interested federations to contact us regarding this matter.

[Official Website](#)

ECU NEWS

ECU in Switzerland

On 24th and 25th October, 2016 the ECU Secretary General, Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou visited Switzerland, for a number of business meetings in Lausanne and Zug, regarding financial and administrative matters of the European Chess Union.



From now on the ECU will be in closer co-operation with Swiss authorities and business community in order to promote and protect its interests in a better way as a Swiss company.

In Zug, the city where the ECU headquarters are located, Mr. Tsorbatzoglou met with the President of the Swiss Chess Federation Mr. Peter Wyss and together opened the new “Chess in School” program in a local school.



The program was organized by Mr. Kurt Gretener, the ECU Bookkeeper and President of the Chess Union of Central Switzerland, and will be an example for more similar initiatives within the country.

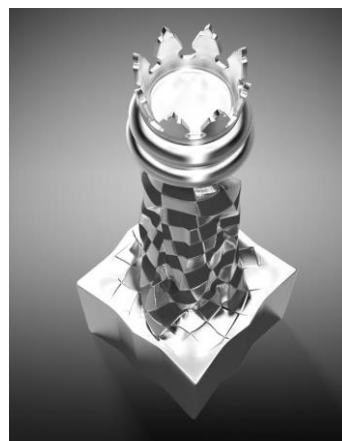
The ECU and Swiss Chess Federation future common activities were discussed later on during the dinner, and as a result of both sides willing the ECU presence in Switzerland will be strengthened.

New Trophies for the European Club Cup 2016

European Club Cup 2016 will start in few days, and we have a big number of participants: 63 teams in Open section and 17 teams in Women section, total 80 clubs!

For the first time and as previously announced, the ECU is presenting new cups specially designed for the European Chess Club Cup 2016 for Men and Women.

The designer of the trophies is Mr. Erekle Purtseladze and he created two versions of the trophies both for the Open and Women section.





More info can be found [here](#).

FUN ZONE

In this edition we prepared 4 Mate in 2 positions, with “Decoy” motif. White to play!



Solutions from NL September 2016:

Diagram 1

1. O-O #

Diagram 2

1... O-O-O #

Diagram 3

1. O-O #

Diagram 4

1. O-O-O #

They told about chess...

“I think that the World Champion should try to defend the quality of play more than anyone else!”

Boris Spassky, Russian chess grandmaster, tenth World Chess Champion (1969-1972), and the oldest surviving former world champion.

**UPCOMING EVENTS IN NOVEMBER****ECU EVENTS****EUROPEAN CHESS CLUB CUP FOR MEN AND WOMEN 2016**

The European Club Cup 2016 will take place from 5th to 13th November in Novi Sad, Serbia. The playing venue will be the 5-star Hotel Park.

Total 80 clubs confirmed their participation at the Championship: 63 teams in Open section and 17 teams in Women section!

The top seed in Open section of the event is the last year's winner Russian Syberia, with average rating of 2744 points and very strong line-up:

GM Vladimir Kramnik (RUS, 2817), GM Anish Giri (NED 2756), GM Alexander Grischuk (RUS 2752), GM Evgeny Tomashevsky (RUS 2724), GM Li Chao (CHN 2728), GM Anton korobov (UKR 2687), GM Sergei Rublevsky (RUS 2689) and GM Dmitry Bocharov (RUS 2611).

In Women's section the top seed is Cercle d'Echecs Monte Carlo from Monaco, 5-times European Club Cup Champion featuring the Women's World Champion GM Hou Yifan (CHN 2649), former Women's World Champion GM Mariya Muzychuk (UKR 2532), former No. 1 woman in the FIDE World Rankings GM Pia Cramling (SWE 2464), older Muzychuk sister Anna (UKR 2561) and 2001 European Women's Chess Champion IM Almira Skripchenko (FRA 2456).



The Championships will be played under the Swiss system in 7 rounds, with the time control 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game, with an increment of 30 seconds per move starting from move one.

The prize fund is 35.500 EUR, including Open (22.500 EUR) and Women (13.000 EUR) prizes, and individual prizes for both sections (500 EUR per board).

[Official Website](#)

EUROPEAN EVENTS

LUGANO CHESS FESTIVAL 2016	4 - 6 November	Lugano/Switzerland	Official Website
SERBIAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP 2016	6 - 13 November	Novi Sad/Serbia	Official Website
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH 2016	11-30 November	New York/USA	Official Website
187TH UNICREDIT RAPID OPEN	12 November	Prague/Czech Republic	Official Website
MALTA OPEN 2016	13 - 19 November	Sliema/Malta	Official Website
KILKENNY 40TH ANNUAL CONGRESS 2016	25 - 27 November	Kilkenny/Ireland	Official Website