



AEROFLOT OPEN 2017



EUROPEAN  
WOMEN'S RAPID  
& BLITZ  
CHAMPIONSHIP



EUROPEAN  
SENIOR TEAM  
CHESS  
CHAMPIONSHIP



EUROPEAN  
CORPORATE  
CHESS  
CHAMPIONSHIP

# EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



## THE EFFECTS OF CHESS INSTRUCTION ON PUPILS' COGNITIVE AND ACADEMIC SKILLS: STATE OF THE ART AND THEORETICAL CHALLENGES'

John P. Foley from the Chess in School & Communities, London/UK, who is the member of the ECU Educational Commission, along with Giovanni Sala and Fernand Gobet from the Department of Psychological Sciences, University of Liverpool, Liverpool/UK, wrote an article on

improving research into benefits of chess under the title *'The Effects of Chess Instruction on Pupils' Cognitive and Academic Skills: State of the Art and Theoretical Challenges'*.

We copy the part of the text, with the link for the full article below.



## Introduction

Chess instruction has been claimed to enhance primary and middle school students' mathematical abilities. The “Chess Effect” hypothesis has received some scientific support but it is yet to be convincingly demonstrated. This note briefly reviews the prevailing research, identifies some common pitfalls, and recommends directions for future research.

Mathematics proficiency is seen as a necessary prerequisite for gaining jobs in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines, which underpin our technological future. While the level of the required mathematical skills is increasing, the global educational surveys PISA and TIMSS have documented striking differences in proficiency levels between countries, which have created concern in several countries on their relative performance in mathematics. For example, from the USA perspective, researchers have conducted comparative analyses of performance trends (Hanushek et al., 2012) and also of mathematics pedagogy (Richland et al., 2012). There is a general feeling that novel methods of teaching have to be developed to make mathematics instruction more effective.

Chess instruction in school has been proposed as an intervention to address this objective. The conventional wisdom that chess instruction may enhance pupils' academic performance has stimulated numerous research projects worldwide over the last two decades. Most of the studies have focused on the putative benefits of chess instruction on achievement in mathematics.

## A Meta-Analysis of the Available Evidence

A recent meta-analysis has evaluated the effectiveness of chess instruction (Sala and Gobet, 2016). The meta-analysis, including 24 studies and 40 effect sizes, shows that chess does seem to enhance primary and middle school students' achievement in mathematics ( $d = 0.38$ ) and overall cognitive ability ( $d = 0.34$ ). The effects on achievement in literacy appear to be modest ( $d = 0.25$ ). Moreover, the size of the effects is positively related to the amount of training, suggesting that 25–30 h, equivalent to a lesson per week during the school year, is probably the minimum threshold to obtain meaningful benefits. However, in spite of the promising results, this meta-analysis also points out that almost none of the reviewed studies compared chess-treated groups with active control groups to rule out possible placebo effects. At present, this is the most serious methodological issue in the field.

[Full article](#)

## Tan Zhongyi is the new Women's World Chess Champion

Tan Zhongyi from China won the Women's World Chess Championship 2017, which was held in Tehran/Iran, from 10th February to 4th March, 2017.



The Chinese triumphed after defeating Anna Muzychuk from Ukraine in the finals tie-break with 1.5-0.5.

The final tie-break of the Women's World Chess Championship took place in the Espinas Palace Hotel on March 3rd. Four previous games with classical time control finished with 2:2 score.

In the first rapid game with 25 min+10 sec time control Anna Muzychuk had good chances to win in a better ending, but eventually the game ended in a draw.

In the second game it was Tan Zhongyi who had better chances, but Anna Muzychuk found good counter play which would have been enough to keep the balance. However, Anna made a terrible blunder on move 39, going into mate trap, and had to resign after two moves.

Tan Zhongyi became 16th Women's World Champion and the fifth Chinese player who won the highest title in the chess history.

[Official Website](#)

## Vladimir Fedoseev wins Aeroflot Open 2017

Vladimir Fedoseev became the winner of the 15th Aeroflot Open, which finished on March 1st, in the hotel "Cosmos" in Moscow/Russia.

Fedoseev scored 7 points out of 9 games, and became the clear winner, and he also won the ticket for the super tournament in Dortmund in July this year.



The second place was shared by GMs Evgeny Najer and Nikita Vitiugov, both from Russia, and Vladislav Kovalev from Belarus. According to the tie-breaks, second place went to Najer, and the third to Kovalev.

98 players from 28 countries took part in the main event and fought for the great prize fund of 65.000 EUR.

International Master Gabriel Battaglini (France) triumphed in the B tournament with 7 points, among 118 participants from 19 countries. IM Maxim Lugovskoy (Russia), Valeriy Kazakovskiy (Belarus) and Abhishek Kelkar (India) tied for the second place with the half a point behind.



C Tournament gathered 112 players from 22 countries. The first place with 7.5 points went to German Bazeev (Russia). IM Timofey Iljin (Ukraine) and FIDE Master Gleb Apyrshko (Russia) tied for the second place with half a point behind.

The total prize fund of all 3 tournaments was 120 000 euros.

Organizers of the festival were OJSC "Aeroflot", the Russian Chess Federation and the Association of Chess Federations.



On Thursday 2nd March, the traditional Blitz tournament was held, with the top seed Sergey Karjakin.

The Blitz event was won by Ukrainian Grandmaster Anton Korobov, who scored 15.5 points out of 18 games. Second place went to Rauf Mamedov (Azerbaijan) with 13.5 points, while the third place was tied by Daniil Dubov (Russia), Alejandro Ramirez (USA) and Vladislav Artemiev (Russia), all with 13 points.

[Official Website](#)

Photos by Eteri Kublashvili

## ECU NEWS

### European Amateur Chess Championship 2017

Chess Federation of the City of Nis, in association with the Serbian Chess Federation and under the auspices of the European Chess Union organizes the European Amateur Chess Championship 2017, which will take place in Nis, Serbia, from June 9 (day of arrival) to June 17 (day of departure) 2017.

The tournament will be held in the “Tami Residence” hotel in Congress Hall which will be the official accommodating hotel.



The event will be held in 3 categories: Under-1700, Under-2000 and Under-2300. In each rating section, a separate championship for women shall be organized only if there are at least 10 women entries, otherwise the women’s event will be merged with the men’s (open).

The championship will be played according to the Swiss system in 9 rounds, with 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 total prize fund is 3.000 EUR.

[Official Website](#)

## European Senior Team Chess Championship 2017

The European Chess Union and Serbian Chess Federation are inviting all national chess federations of the ECU to participate at the 17th European Senior Team Championship, which will take place in Novi Sad/Serbia, from June 24 to July 4, 2017.

The official venue of the event will be the congress and the ball halls of the tourist settlement “Ribarsko ostrvo” in Novi Sad.



The Championship will be played according to the Swiss System in 9 rounds, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game, plus 30 seconds increment per move, starting from move one.

There will be two separate championships for categories 50+ and 65+. In each category, a separate championship for women will be organized, if there are at least 8 women teams in each category in order to have a 7-round tournament. Otherwise, the women’s event will be merged with open section. Entitled to participate in the category 50+ are players who were born in the year 1967 or earlier. Entitled to participate in the category 65+ are players who were born in the year 1952 or earlier. All players must be members of the same federation.

Each team shall consist of 4 players in fixed order. Additionally, 1 reserve player can be nominated and that player will only be allowed to play on board 4.

The total prize fund of the event is 6.000 €. Trophies and medals to 3 top winning teams in each category will be awarded, as well as the additional prizes (cups & medals) for individual board winners.

Entry forms must be sent by email to the Organizing Committee not later than Wednesday, May 3, 2017.

[Official Website](#)

## European Union Youth Chess Championship 2017

15th European Union Youth Chess Championship will be held in Kouty nad Desnou/Czech Republic, 18-27 August 2017, in the Cultural Hall of Hotel Dlouhe Strane Kouty nad Desnou.

The organizer of the Championship is Czech Chess Federation, under the auspices of the European Chess Union.

EU member countries, EU candidate countries and their neighbouring countries are allowed to participate in the Championship.



Each Federation can register one player to the tournament, a boy or a girl, in each of the categories – under 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. The player has to be registered as a player by the respective Federation on January 1st, 2017. Boys and girls will play in the same tournament, but with two separate scores. So we will have two European Union Youth Champions, one for the girls and one for the boys. Additional (extra) players can also be registered.

Registration forms must be sent no later than June 30th, 2017 by email.

Registration has to include the surname/s, first name/s, FIDE ID number, FIDE or National rating of each player, as well as the telephone, email/fax number of the delegation head and of the person in charge of the federation.

The tournament will be played according to the Swiss System in 9 rounds, with the rate of play 90 min for the whole game + 30 seconds increment for each move played.

The first three players from each category will receive championship trophies, medals and diplomas. Every player of each category will receive commemorative championship medal and a diploma. Furthermore, players will receive prizes. The winners of each tournament receive a laptop, other medalists will receive a digital clock. Prizes will receive at least the first six players of each category. The total value of the prize fund will be at least 6.000 Euro. Girls in each category will be evaluated separately.

The first 30 boards of each tournament will be broadcast online, and on-line transmission will include at least 120 games. Webcast will be screened in the hall of the hotel. Viewers will be able to watch webcast online at the organizer's website.

The organizer will ensure the rich chess and non-chess entertainment, from which all participants can choose (simultaneous, chess competitions, social evenings, trips, excursions, etc.).

[Official Website](#)

## European Women's Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2017

The European Women's Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2017 will take place in Monaco, from 20th to 24th October, 2017, in the Hotel Novotel, which is the official venue of the events.

The Championships are organized by the Monaco Chess Federation, under the auspices of the European Chess Union.

The first on schedule is European – ACP Women Individual Rapid Chess Championship 2017, which takes place from 21st to 22nd October.



The tournament will be played according to the Swiss system, in 11 rounds, with the time control 15 minutes + 10 seconds per move starting from move one.

The total prize fund of the event is 8.250€ + 5000€ ACP prizes, as well as the category prizes – watch Yves BERTELIN.

The European Women's Blitz Chess Championship will be held after the Rapid competition, on 23rd October, 2017, in the same venue.

The European Individual Blitz Chess Championship will be played according to the Swiss system, in 12 rounds, with the time control 3 minutes game + 2 seconds per move starting from the first move.

The total prize fund for the Blitz event is 5.650€, plus 150€ PACA Prize and special prizes.

Registration for both the events starts after 1st August 2017, and the registration deadline is 20 October 2017.

The accommodation is offered at Novotel Hotel, which is the official venue of the Championships, as well as at Aparthotel Monte Cristo and Adagio Aparthotel Palais Joséphine.

On request, the organizers will provide transfer, (10€ one way, 20€ two ways) from Nice Airport to the official hotels on 20th or 21st October and from the official hotels to Nice Airport on 23rd or 24th October 2017.

## European Corporate Chess Championship 2017

The 1st European Corporate Chess Championship 2017 will take place in the Town Hall of Honour of the City of Asnières, Paris/France, 24 – 25 November 2017.

The tournament will be played as a Swiss Open in 9 rounds, with time control 15 minutes per game + 3 seconds per move starting from move 1.

Each team shall be composed of 4 players + 1 substitute player. The team can't have more than one player over 2400 ELO but should have at least one player below 2000 ELO.

Any corporate entity is allowed to register up to two teams. Chess Clubs, Chess Associations, and Chess Federations are not allowed to participate in the Championship. For each round at least one player of the team shall have a commercial relation with the company with which he is playing for. Players shall be in rating order in team's composition (November ratings).



The registration deadline is Thursday 2nd November 2017.

Schedule of the Championship:

Friday, November 24: Rounds 1 – 4 from 3 pm to 7 pm.

Saturday, November 25: Rounds 5 – 9 from 10 am to 5 pm.

Saturday, November 25 at 7.30 pm: ECU Gala Dinner and award ceremony of the 1st European Corporate Championship.

The total prize fund is 6 000 EUR, including special awards and individual medals. The winning team will be awarded with 3 000 EUR, second team with 2 000 EUR, and the third team with 1 000 EUR.

The organizers have negotiated a special price for the accommodations in the following hotels during the event: Hôtel Residence Europe\*\*\*, Atypik Hôtel\*\*\* and Hôtel Princesse Caroline\*\*\*.

The invitation is addressed directly to corporate entities, but we kindly ask the National Federations to assist us promote the event in order to strengthen our relations with the business community.

[Official Website](#)

# FUN ZONE

In February Fun Zone we prepared 4 quick Mate in 2 positions. How fast can you solve them?



White to play



White to play



White to play



White to play

## Solutions from NL January 2017:

I) 1. gxf7+ Rxf7 2. Bxf7+ Kf8 3. Rh8+ Ke7 4. Nd5+ Kd6 5. Nc4#

II) 1. Qd7+ Bxd7 2. Nd6+ Kd8 3. Nf7+ Kc8 4. Re8+ Bxe8 5. Rd8#

III) 1... Qxb2+ 2. Kxc4 Ba6+ 3. Kxc5 Qb4+ 4. Kc6 Qb5+ 5. Kd6 Qd5#

IV) 1... Bf3 2. gxf3 gxf3 3. Kg1 Qh8 4. Bh4 Rxh4 with inevitable Rh1#

## They told about chess...

“Chess is so inspiring that I do not believe a good player is capable of having an evil thought during the game.”



Wilhelm Steinitz, an Austrian and later American chess Master player, and the first undisputed World Chess Champion from 1886 to 1894.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN MARCH

STOCKHOLM CHESS CHALLENGE 2017	6 - 11 March	Stockholm/Sweden	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
BLED CHESS FESTIVAL 2017	10 - 12 March	Bled/Slovenia	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
GALWAY CHESS CONGRESS 2017	10 - 12 March	Galway/Ireland	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
BUDAPEST SPRING FESTIVAL 2017	18 - 26 March	Budapest/Hungary	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
LOCARNO OPEN 2017	24 - 26 March	Locarno/Switzerland	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
POLAR CAPITAL JERSEY CHESS TOURNAMENT 2017	1 - 8 April	Jersey	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
KARPOS OPEN 2017	1 - 8 April	Skopje/FYRM	<a href="#">Official Website</a>