



POLAR CAPITAL  
INTERNATIONAL  
CHESS TOURNAMENT  
2017



EUROPEAN  
SENIOR CHESS  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
2017



EUROPEAN  
YOUTH CHESS  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
2017



UPCOMING  
TOURNAMENTS  
IN IRELAND

# EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



## EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Riga, Latvia, 10-23 April 2017

*One of the strongest in history with the participation  
of World and European Champions!*

Everything is set for the 18<sup>th</sup> European Individual Women's Chess Championship 2017, which will take place in Riga, Latvia, from 10<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April in the Radisson Blu Latvija Conference & Spa Hotel.

The event will gather the best female chess players from Europe to compete for this prestigious title and the rich prize fund of 75,000 EUR.



So far, 145 players registered for the Championship, including seven former European Women Champions. The top seeds of the tournament are Muzychuk sisters – former World Chess Champion Mariya and 2017 World Chess Championship runner up Anna, followed by double European Champion Kateryna Lagno, 2002 European Chess Champion and former World Champion Antoaneta Stefanova, Georgians Nana Dzagnidze and Nino Batsiashvili, etc.



The championship will be played according to the Swiss system in 11 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 18th Individual European Chess Championship for women is qualification event for the next World Women Championship. According to current FIDE regulations and the decision of the ECU Board, 14 players will qualify.

Riga is a city with long lasting chess traditions, great respect for culture, sports and art and we are delighted to welcome the best women players of Europe to compete here for the title of a champion.

[Official Website](#)

## Upcoming tournaments in Ireland

The [Cork Congress 2017](#) takes place from the 31 March to 2 April in the luxurious Gresham Metropole Hotel, in Cork City, Ireland. Past winners include GM Gawain Jones, GM Simon Williams, GM Alex Baburin, GM Stuart Conquest and GM Dejan Bojkov. The organizers will look to add to that impressive list of winners next month and will be offering an enticing 3,000 EUR prize fund for the weekend's work.



The [Irish Junior Championships 2017](#) will take place in Clayton Hotel, Sligo over the weekend of the 7-9 April. The event regularly attracts over 200 juniors and will look to set a new record this year. On the back of that event, we will be hosting IM and GM norm events from 13-17 April in the Rose Hotel, Tralee, Co Kerry. The [Tralee Classic](#) will feature some of Ireland's best players who will hope to add to their Norm haul. There will also be 2 9-round events designed for those who aren't quite at that level yet.

The [Malahide Millenium Tournament 2017](#) will take place over the May Bank-Holiday weekend from April 29th to May 1st. It is one of Dublin's biggest tournaments and the venue is situated right beside Dublin Airport making it ideal for those traveling from abroad. The 6 Round FIDE rated Masters section features a very generous prize-fund and they expect over 150 entrants over the weekend.

Finally, the [Irish Championships 2017](#) will take place from July 28th to August 6th in the West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare. It is the most prestigious event in the Irish calendar with over 200 entrants expected, a prize fund of over 7.000 EUR and four FIDE rated sections from which to choose.

## Polar Capital International Chess Tournament 2017

Jersey Chess Federation announces the Polar Capital International Chess Tournament 2017, which takes place from 1-8 April 2017 in St Clement Bay in Jersey.

The Open tournament will be played according to the Swiss System in 9 rounds, with time control 90 minutes for the whole game + 30 seconds increment per move.



The Highest ranked players who are not already qualified will qualify for the 2017 British Championship. The first prize at the Open tournament is £1500.

Apart from the main event, the FIDE Holiday Tournament and UBS Jersey Open Blitz Tournament will take place as well.

The FIDE Holiday Tournament is for players with an ELO Rating under 1900 (under ECF 160) and will be played in 9 rounds. The first prize is £400.



The Jersey Open Blitz Tournament 9 round Swiss is sponsored by UBS and will be held on Wednesday 5th April, starting at 7.00 pm.



Strong GMs Jon Speelman, Tiger Hillarp Perrson and Mark Hebden already confirmed their participation, and they are the top seeds of the event.

[List of registered players](#)

[Official Website](#)

## ECU NEWS

### European Senior Chess Championship 2017

The Spanish Chess Federation, Ione Tecno Group and the European Chess Union have the honor to invite all European Chess Federations affiliated to the ECU to participate in the 17th European Senior Chess Championship (50+ and 65+), for Men and Woman.

The European Senior Chess Championship will be held in Sabadell, Spain, from 11th August (arrival) to 21st August (departure) 2017. Organized by Barcelona Chess Projects, the playing hall will be Cal Balsach Pavilion, close to the main hotels and located in the city center.



The Championship is open to all players representing ECU Chess Federations which comprise European Chess Union who have been born in the year 1967 or earlier, regardless of their title or rating. There is also no limit in the number of participants per federation. Applications have to be sent by the National federations or to be approved by the National federations.

In accordance with the ECU tournament rules the Championship will be played in two categories: one for those who shall have reached the age of 50 (category SENIOR 50+), and one for those who shall have reached the age of 65 (category SENIOR 65+).

Women tournament will be played separately. If in total the women participants are less than nine they will play in the Open tournaments with separate prizes.

The championship is organized in 9-round Swiss system in accordance with the ECU Tournament Rules and FIDE Laws of Chess. The rate of play will be 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 of the Championship is 8.000 EUR.

The top 3 players from each category of the European Senior Championship 2017 are qualified with personal rights (free board and lodging in single room) to the World Senior Championship 2018.

[Official Website](#)

## European Youth Chess Championship 2017

Romanian Chess Federation, “Mind Games & Events” Sports Association and the European Chess Union have the honour to invite all European Chess Federations affiliated members of ECU to participate in the European Youth Chess Championship, organised in Mamaia/Romania from 4-15 September 2017.

The Official Venue of the Championship is Mamaia Expozitional Center, where all the tournament halls will be situated.



The Championship will be played in 6 age categories: under 8, under 10, under 12, under 14, under 16 and under 18, boys and girls separately.

Each federation member of the ECU can register one (1) player in each of the following categories, the maximum number of twelve (12) “invited players”, and an unlimited number of extra players.

The entry form must be filled in by the national federation on the official website of the championship no later than 3rd July 2017. This date is the registration deadline. After that, federations will not be able to register or modify any registrations. After this date, all the registrations have to be confirmed by the organizer and the ECU.

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

The first three players in each group will be awarded medals; the first five players in each group will be awarded cups, diplomas and valuable prizes. Each participant will receive presents. The total amount of all prizes and presents will be 40.000 EUR at the minimum.

[Official Website](#)

# FUN ZONE

In March Fun Zone we prepared 4 nice combinations from classical games. In all positions White is to play.



## Solutions from NL February 2017:

I) 1. Qxh6+!! gxh6 (1... Kg8 2. Qxg7#) 2. Nf7#

II) 1. Qxh7+!! Kxh7 2. Rh5#

III) 1. Qxb8+!! Rxb8 (1... Kd7 2. Bb5#) 2. Bb5#

IV) 1. Qc7+!! Nxc7 2. Bxd4#

## They told about chess...

“Chess as a sport requires a lot of mental stamina, and this is what that makes it different from a physical sport. Chess players have a unique ability of taking in a lot of information and remembering relevant bits. So, memory and mental stamina are the key attributes.”

Viswanathan Anand, former World Champion



## UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL

KARPOS OPEN 2017	1 - 8 April	Skopje/FYRM	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
IRISH JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP 2017	7 - 9 April	Sligo/Ireland	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
CHESS TALENTS TOURNAMENTS 2017	13 - 17 April	Frydek-Mistek /CZE	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
ZURICH CHESS CHALLENGE 2017	12 - 17 April	Zurich/Switzerland	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
GRENKE CHESS OPEN 2017	13 - 17 April	Karlsruhe/Germany	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
HERAKLION IT GRAND PRIX 2017	17 - 24 April	Heraklion/Greece	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
POIKOVSKY KARPOV TOURNAMENT 2017	18 - 27 April	Poikovsky/Russia	<a href="#">Official Website</a>
REYKJAVIK OPEN 2017	19 - 27 April	Reykjavik/Iceland	<a href="#">Official Website</a>