



EUROPEAN
INDIVIDUAL
WOMEN'S CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP 2016



EUROPEAN
SENIOR CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP
2016



EUROPEAN
AMATEUR CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP
2016



EUROPEAN
SCHOOL CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP
2016

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



ERNESTO INARKIEV NEW EUROPEAN CHAMPION

Ernesto Inarkiev (RUS 2686) won the European Individual Chess Championship which was held in Gjakova/Kosovo*.

Inarkiev draw the last game against Polish GM Kacper Piorun (2681) and triumphed with 9/11. The Russian had a great tournament, leading from the second half, not losing a single game and playing with the performance of 2882!

Silver medal went to Latvian GM Igor Kovalenko (2644) who consolidated after the loss against Inarkiev in the 9th round and made 2/2 in the final rounds, which secured him a second position.

Bronze went to GM Baadur Jobava (Geo 2661) who beat GM Radoslaw Wojtaszek (POL 2722) and emerged as third with the best tie-break.

Final Standings



The closing ceremony was held last night in the Hotel Pashtriku in Gjakova, with the presence of players and many distinguished guests.

The present were addressed by the ECU President Zurab Azmaiparashvili, Tournament Director Nysret Avdiu, President of the Organizing Committee, Gjakova Mayor Mimoza Kusari - Lila, and eventually the new European Champion Ernesto Inarkiev.



Here is a small preview of some interesting games from the Championship.

Aleksey Goganov (2600) vs Igor Kovalenko (2644)

EICC 2016 | Gjakova | Round 11 | 23 May 2016 | 0-1

Game from the last round which brought Kovalenko the silver medal. The position on the diagram looks draw, but there are still some tricks for White, and considering it was the final decisive round, the pressure was very high.



White proceeded with 74. Bc6?

Instead 74. Bg2! or Bh1! was better. Looks strange, but it was the only way to make a draw. The plan is if 74... Ra2+ 75. Kf3 and White holds a position with this fortress.

74... Ra7? Black misses the immediate 74... Ra2+! to force White's Bishop from the long diagonal and make Zugzwang

75. Ke2? White again fails to make a draw with 75. Bg2!

Finally Black finds the right idea with 75... Ra2+ 76. Kf3 Ra6 77. Bb7 Ra7 78. Bc6 Kc5! 79. Be8 Ra3+ 80. Kf2 Kd5 0-1

Igor Kovalenko (2644) vs Ernesto Inarkiev (2686)

EICC 2016 | Gjakova | Round 9 | 21 May 2016 | 0-1



The decisive game which more or less determined the Champion.

Inarkiev played 49... Ne3! 50. Nb6 (if 50. Nxe3 dxe3 51. Kxe3 Rc4)

50... Ra5 51. Bb4 Rh5 52. a4 Rxh2 53. a5 Ra2 54. Na8

(if 54. Kxd4 Nc2+ 55. Kc3 Nxb4 56. Kxb4 Ke6)

54... Ke6 55. Ke4 Ra4 56. Nc7+ Kd7 57. Na6 Kc6 58. Bf8 Rxa5 59. Nb4+ Kb5 60. Nd3 Kc4 61. Bxg7

(if 61. Ne5+ Rxe5+! 62. fxe5 Ng4 63. Ba3 d3 64. Bc1 Kc3 65. e6 Kc2 66. Bf4 g5)

61... Nf5 62. Ne5+ Rxe5+ 63. Bxe5 d3 64. Kxf5 d2 65. Kf6 d1=Q 66. f5 Kd5 67. Bf4 Qh5 0-1

Ernesto Inarkiev (2686) vs Ivan Saric (2650)

EICC 2016 | Gjakova | Round 7 | 19 May 2016 | 1-0



Blunder by Ivan Saric, who was the leader of the tournament before this round bounced Inarkiev to the top.

45... Nf1? 46. Bb5 Nd2 47. Bd3 Ra8 48. Qf6 Ra1 49. Kh2 1-0

David Navara (2735) vs Ernesto Inarkiev (2686)

EICC 2016 | Gjakova | Round 8 | 20 May 2016 | 0-1

Very important victory against the top seed of the tournament. Navara chose a wrong plan and gave Inarkiev chances to maintain the lead with the second win in a row.

19. g4? Start of a wrong plan 19... Ne5 20. g5 d4 21. f3 dxc3 22. gxf6 c4 23. Bc2 Nxf3+ 24. Kf2 cxb2 25. Qg3 Qb8 26. Nc3 Ne5 27. h4 Rd7 28. h5 Qd8 29. hxg6 fxg6 30. Rxd7 Qxd7 31. Kg1 Kf7 32. Ne4 Bh6 33. Qh4 Bxe4 34. Bxe4 Qg4+ 35. Qxg4 Nxc4 36. Bd5+ Kxf6 37. Nxc4+ Kg5 0-1



[Official Website](#)

[ECU Photo Gallery](#)

*According to the ECU Statues any mention of Kosovo followed with an asterisk with reference to UN Resolution 1244, without prejudice of status

Photos by Tomasz Delega

European Individual Women's Championship 2016 started

17th European Individual Women's Chess Championship 2016 started on 27th May in Mamaia, beautiful Romanian resort in Constanta district.

The Championship gathers many top female chess players, who will compete for the prestigious title of European Women's Champion and one of the 14 seats for the 2017 Women's World Cup.



The Championship was officially opened before the start of the 1st round, with the presence of players, many distinguished guests and media representatives.

After addressing to the participants, the ECU President Zurab Azmaiparashvili made the first symbolic move in the top board game Stefanova vs Rudolf and officially started the tournament.



The Championship kicked-off with upsets and surprises, and the exciting start promises great games and fighting spirit throughout the next 11 days!

[Official Website](#)

[ECU Photo Gallery](#)

ECU NEWS

Busy June for the ECU competitions

Summer is usually a busy chess season, as during holidays many tournaments are organized and players have more time to enjoy playing chess.

Summer fever struck the ECU calendar, as in June we have three big competitions for all generations and chess levels – European Schools, Senior and Amateur Chess Championships!

The first to come is **European Senior Chess Championship 2016** which is taking place in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, country with long and rich chess culture and tradition. The event is held from 4th to 14th June in Chess House after Tigran Petrosian.



The Championship will be played in two categories: Senior 50+ and Senior 65+, with the total prize fund of 10.000 EUR. Women tournaments will be played separately, unless the total women participants are less than nine.

[Registered players](#) [More info](#) [Armenian Chess Federation website](#)

A day later **European Amateur Chess Championship 2016** will begin in Ruzomberok, Slovakia, organized by Chess Club Prievidza, Chess Club Ruzomberok, Ruzomberok City, under the auspices of the ECU.



The Championship is open to all players representing Chess Federations, which comprise the European Chess Union (FIDE zones 1.1 to 1.10), who have no FIDE title and no FIDE rating above 2000 at the start of the tournament (5 June 2016), nor have had such a rating for at least two years prior to the start of the event (that is 5 June 2014 and on). There is no limit of the number of participants per federation.

The tournament is played in a 9-round Swiss system, with the prize fund is 2 500 EUR.

[Registered players](#) [Official Website](#)

The last but not the least is **European School Chess Championship 2016** which takes place from 16th to 26th June in beautiful Kassandra on Halkidiki peninsula in Greece.

The Championship is organized in 12 different age categories: U7, U9, U11, U13, U15 and U17, Boys and Girls separately, who will play 9 rounds according to the Swiss System.

Parallel with the tournament, from 21 to 23 June the meeting of the ECU Educational Commission will take place, so prepare for another constructive and interesting chess gathering!

[Registered players](#) [Official Website](#)

We would like to remind you that the European Chess Union introduced a new feature on the official website – **live games**, which is available on the official ECU website, section [LIVE](#) .

All chess fans will be able to follow the broadcast of the games through the ECU website, so don't miss whole lot of chess fun in June!

FUN ZONE

In May Fun Zone we prepared 4 Mate in 2 positions with Queen sacrifice theme.

In all 4 diagrams White to move. Enjoy!



Solutions from NL April 2016:**Pavel Eljanov (2765) vs. Li Chao (2755)****Norway Chess 2016 | Stavanger | Round 8 | 28 Apr 2016 | 0-1**

34. Rd5? (better was 34. Qc4+! Qe6 35. Qc5 e2 36. Qxg5+ Qg6 37. Qd5+ Qe6 38. Rg1+ Kf8 39. Qa8+ Re8 40. Qf3+ Qf7 41. Qg3 Qg6 42. Qf2+ Qf7 43. Qc5+ Qe7 44. Qxe7+ Rxe7 45. Re1)

34... e2! 35. Rxe5 Rxe5 36. Qa8+ Kf7 37. Qa7+ Re7 38. Qf2+ Ke8 39. Qe1 g4 40. Kc1 g3 41. Kd2 g2 42. c3 Re6 43. b4 Kd7 44. b5 Rd6+ 45. Kc2 Rg6 46. Qd2+ Kc8 47. Qxe2 g1=Q 48. Qe8+ Kb7 49. Qe7+ Kb6 50. Qd8+ Kc5 51. Qf8+ Kd5 52. Qf5+ Kd6 53. Qf4+ Ke7 54. Qe4+ Re6 55. Qxh7+ Ke8 56. Qh8+ Kd7 57. Qh7+ Kc8 0-1

Carlsen, Magnus (2851) vs. Grandelius, Nils (2649)**Norway Chess 2016 | Round 3.3 | 21 Apr 2016 | 1-0**

24. Bg3 was the move which Carlsen played in the game, stating after at the press conference "this was just stupid", and suggesting there was an easier win. We present it below:

24. Bxc6! bxc6 25. Bg3 e5 26. Rxe5 and on 26... Bd2+ 27. Ke2 defends the queen and wins

Carlsen won the game eventually, the longer way!

Giri, A. (2790) vs. Vachier Lagrave, M. (2788)**4th Norway Chess 2016 | Stavanger | Round 2 | 20 Apr 2016 | 0-1**

25... Ned3+! was played in the game, a nice combination to crown the end of the game.

26. Kd2 [26. cxd3 Bxa3+ 27. Kd2 Bb4+ 28. Ke2 (28. Nc3 dxc3+) 28... f3+29. Kxf3Qg3+30. Ke2Qe3#] 26... Nxe1 27. Qxf2 (27. Qxe1d3!) 27... d3! 28. Qxe1 Be3+ 0-1

Harikrishna Pentala (2763) vs. Li Chao (2755)**Norway Chess 2016 | Stavanger | Round 5 | 24 Apr 2016 | 1-0**

Li Chao played 23... g5? missing very strong response 24. f4! White activates the pieces and

24... exf4 25. e5! Qf5 26. e6 f3 27. Qh2 Bxe6 28. dxe6 Qxe6 29. Nf2 Qe3 30. Ng4 Qf4 31. Qxf4 Rxf4 32. Nxf3! bxc4 33. Ngh2 Ne6 34. Rxd6 Nd4 35. Rd7+ Kh8 36. Ne5 Nf8 37. Rf7 Re4 38. Rxc5 Rd8 39. Rxf8+ Rxf8 40. Ng6+ Kg7 41. Nxf8+ Kxf8 42. Rxc5 1-0

They told about chess...

“Chess cannot be taught. Chess can only be learned.”

Mikhail Moiseyevich Botvinnik, Soviet and Russian International Grandmaster and three-time World Chess Champion (1948–57, 1958–60, 1961–63)



UPCOMING EVENTS IN JUNE

ČEZ CHESS TROPHY 2016	5 - 8 June	Prague/Czech Republic	Official Website
PARIS GRAND CHESS TOUR 2016	9 - 12 June	Paris/France	Official Website
CITY OF LEÓN MASTERS 2016	10 - 12 June	Leon/Spain	Official Website
VORONEZH CHESS FESTIVAL 2016	10 - 21 June	Voronezh/Russia	Official Website
YOUR NEXT MOVE GRAND CHESS TOUR 2016	17 - 20 June	Leuven/Belgium	Official Website
SILVER LAKE OPEN 2016	19 - 26 June	Veliko Gradiste/Serbia	Official Website
FISCA 2016	24 June - 3 July	Cap Aurora/Romania	Official Website