



ECU GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016



ECU A & SERBIAN MINISTRY OF SPORTS MEETING IN BELGRADE



IN MEMORIAM MARK DVORETSKY



ECU EDUCATION CHESS CONFERENCE IN BATUMI

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION NEWSLETTER



USA AND CHINA WINNERS OF BAKU CHESS OLYMPIAD

Teams of United States of America in Open section and China in Women section are the winners of 42nd Chess Olympiad, which was concluded yesterday in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

In the Open section USA and Ukraine were leading before the end with the same score, and both teams made victories in the final round, USA defeated Canada with minimum

score, while Ukraine outplayed Slovenia with 3.5-0.5. Thanks to better tie-break (Olympiad-Sonneborn-Berger-Tie-Break without lowest result), USA clinched gold medal, the first one after 40 years!

The third place went to the top seed Russia, who scored 18 match points.

[Open Section Final Standings](#)



In Women Section drama continued until the very end, as in the final round Russia played vs China in the top clash for the gold medal. Even though China was in the lead with 18 match points, a victory would have brought the title for Russia.

The match was so tensed, that even after 4 hours of playing all four games were still ongoing! The first victory for Russia was brought by WGM Natalija Pogonina against IM Guo Qi. Former World Champion GM Alexandra Kosteniuk faced reigning World Champion GM Hou Yifan on the top board, and despite the slight advantage for White, the game ended in a draw after 65 moves. Bu the tables have turned, as China made two victories on 2nd and 3rd board, for the spectacular triumph with 20 match points.

Silver medal went to the 7th seed Poland, one of the best surprises of the Olympiad, who fought without compromise and fear, and achieved the biggest success for Polish chess ever! Team of Ukraine won bronze medal, taking home the Gaprindashvili Cup as well, the prize which is given to the best ranked federation, summing both Men and Women scores.

[Women Section Final Standings](#)



The individual prizes for the best players on each boards were also awarded. On the 1st board gold medal went to GM Baadur Jobava (Georgia, 8/10, Rp 2926), silver to GM Leinier Dominguez Perez (Cuba, 7.5/10, Rp 2839), and bronze went to Fabiano Caruana (USA, 7/10, Rp 2838).

The best player on 2nd board was GM Vladimir Kramnik (Russia, 6.5/8, Rp 2903). Silver went to GM Anton Kovalyov (Canada, 8/10, Rp 2852), while bronze went to GM Jorge Cori (Peru, 8/10, Rp 2810).

GM So Wesley (USA, 8.5/10, Rp 2896) was the best player on board 3, silver went to GM Zoltan Almasi (Hungary, 7.5/9, Rp 2845), and bronze went to 64 year-old GM Eugenio Torre (Philippines, Rp 2836) who played his 23rd Olympiad, and scored an amazing score: 10/11, and gained 46.9 rating points.

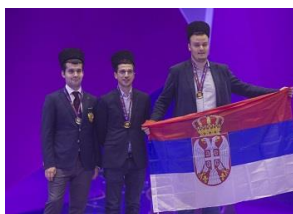
The prize for the best player on 4th board went to GM Laurent Fressinet (France, 7/8, Rp 2809). Silver went to GM Ian Nepomniachtchi (Russia, 8/10, Rp 2804), and bronze went to young GM from Serbia Aleksandar Indjic (8.5/10, Rp 2786).



Best result on board 5 was made by GM Andrei Volokitin (Ukraine, 8.5/9, Rp 2992). Silver went to IM Sami Khader (Jordan, 8/8, 2932), and bronze went to GM Aleksej Aleksandrov (Belarus, 6.5/8, Rp 2760).

In Women section the best player on 1st board was GM Anna Muzychuk (Ukraine, 7.5/10, Rp 2629). Silver went to GM Hou Yifan (China, 5.5/8, Rp 2547), and bronze to GM Pia Cramling (Sweden, 8.5/11, Rp 2537).

GM Valentina Gunina (Russia, Rp 2643) was the best played on 2nd board, scoring 8/10. Silver went to GM Ju Wenjun (China, 7.5/11, Rp 2501), and bronze to IM Deimante Daulyte (Lithuania, 8/10, 2481).



WGM Gulnar Mammadova (Rp 2559), the pride of Azerbaijani team took gold medal for the best player on the 3rd board, scoring 7/9. Silver went to WGM Karina Szczepkowska-Horowska (Poland, 6.5/8, Rp 2547), while WGM Thi Mai Hung Nguyen (Vietnam, 8/11, Rp 2442) took bronze.

The best player on 4th board was WGM Zhongyi Tan (China, 9/11, Rp 2565). Silver went to IM Nino Batsiashvili (Georgia, 9/11, Rp 2565), and bronze medal went to WGM Klaudia Kulon (Poland, 9/11, Rp 2506).

M Qi Guo (China, 5.5/8, Rp 2394) was the best player on board 5. Second place went to WIM Andreea-Cristiana Navrotescu (France, 7/10, Rp 2285) and third place went to IM Anita Gara (Hungary, 5/8, Rp 2277).



List of players who achieved IM/GM norms: [Men](#) and [Women](#)

The closing ceremony was attended by First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Chairman of the Baku Chess Olympiad Organizing Committee Yagub Eyyubov, Minister of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan Azad Rahimov, Minister of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Georgia Tariel Khechikashvili, FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, President of the Azerbaijan Chess Federation Elman Rustamov and other representatives of the organization, world chess champions, government officials, media representatives, participants, etc.



[Official Website](#)

Photos by Maria Emelianova

Below we selected 4 interesting games from the Olympiad with nice combinations.

Krush, Irina (2444) vs. Daulyte, Deimante (2421)

Olympiad Women 2016 | Baku AZE | Round 5.7 | 6 Sep 2016 | ECO: A05 | 0-1



In this position Daulyte, known as a very strong tactical player, finds an amazing sacrifice and plays 19... fxf3 20. hxg3 followed by 20... Rxf3!!

White continued with 21. Kxf3 and then comes Qh3 quiet but killer move which cuts off the White's King

22. Ke2 Bh6 23. Qc2 Ne6 24. Kd1 Nd4 25. Qf2 Rf8 26. Qg1 Rf3 and White resigned

Jobava, Baadur (2665) vs. Ponomariov, Ruslan (2709)

Baku Chess Olympiad | Open | chess24.com | Round 8.1 | 10 Sep 2016 | 1-0



Another amazing combination, this time in the Open section from Georgian

Black's last move was 16... Be6, and the Ukrainian most certainly didn't expect 17. Bh6!! Out of the blue. Black took 17... gxh6?! But probably it was better to continue with 17... Nh5 18. Qg5 Nc6 19. Rxe6 fxe6 20. Be2

18. Qxh6 White is winning in all lines. 18... Rxc3 (18... Bd7 19. Rde1 Qxd4 20. Nxb5! axb5 21. c3 Qb6 22. R1e3) 19. Qg5+ Kf8 20. Qxf6 Rxd3 (20... Rc7 21. Bxf5) 21. cxd3 1-0

Shvayger, Yuliya (2408) vs. Socko, Monika (2437)

Olympiad Women 2016 | Baku AZE | Round 9.2 | 11 Sep 2016 | ECO: B38 | 0-1



Black plays 19...f5! And opens the f-file for the final attack

20. exf5 (20. Rf1 fxe4 21. Nxe4 Nxe4 22. Bxe4 Bxe4 23. fxe4 Qh2#)

20... Nxd3 21. Qxd3 Bxf3 and White resigned

Mastrovasilis, Athanasios (2555) vs. Naiditsch, Arkadij (2696)

Baku Chess Olympiad | Open | Baku | Round 6.3 | 8 Sep 2016 | 1-0



27. Bxe5 Rxe5 28. Qg6+ Kf8 29. Neg3 Rf7 30. Qh6+ Bg7 31. Qc6 Bb7 32. Qd6+ Kg8 33. Nxc7 Rxc7 34. Rxe1 Kxc7 35. Re8 Qd4+ 36. Kh2 Qxd5 37. Nh5+ Kh7 38. Qg3 c3 39. Nf4

ECU General Assembly 2016

The ECU General Assembly was organized in Baku, Azerbaijan on 10th September 2016, during the 42nd Chess Olympiad, as part of 87th FIDE Congress.



The meeting took place under excellent conditions in the Fairmont Hotel.

As is has already been officially announced on the ECU website and by the press release, the ECU General Assembly made the following Decisions:

1. The ECU Board report and accounts for the year 2015 approved unanimously.



2. The European Chess Union discussed and voted for the proposal to suspend the membership of the Bulgarian Chess Federation according to the articles 7(a) and 7(b) of the ECU Memorandum and Articles. The ECU Board motion against the Bulgarian Chess Federation membership was backed by 37 votes from 51 federations in attendance. 11 votes were against, 2 abstained (with blank ballots) and 1 was invalid. By this decision Bulgarian Chess Federation is expelled from the European Chess Union according to the article 7(b) of the ECU Memorandum and Articles.



3. European Club Cup 2018 awarded to Rhodes, Greece.
4. European Individual Women's Chess Championship 2017 awarded to Riga, Latvia.
5. European Youth Chess Championship U8-U18 2018 awarded to Riga, Latvia.
6. European Individual Women's Chess Championship 2018 awarded to Poprad-Tatry, Slovakia.
7. European Youth Chess Championship U8-U18 2019 awarded to Poprad-Tatry, Slovakia.



The ECU President announced the new ECU projects for the year 2017

1. The 1st European Corporate Championship in Paris
2. The 1st European Team School Internet Championship
3. A pilot program for European Zonal Tournaments parallel to the European Championship.
4. The ECU Youth Grand Prix

IN MEMORIAM Mark Dvoretzky

We have been sadly informed that the legendary Russian chess player and trainer Mark Dvoretzky died on 26th September, 2016 at the age of 68.



Mark Dvoretzky was awarded the International Master title in 1975 and for a time, was widely regarded as the strongest IM in the world. However, for personal reasons he opted not to remain an active player and instead followed his urge to become a chess trainer.

He has worked with many top chess players, such as Garry Kasparov, Viswanathan Anand, Veselin Topalov, Evgeny Bareev, Ernesto Inarkiev, Alexander Motylev, Artur Yusupov, Nana Alexandria, etc.

Dvoretzky has written a series of chess training books. The series commenced with *Secrets of Chess Training* which won the British Chess Federation book of the year award in 1991. *Secrets of Chess Tactics*, *Opening Preparation*, *Technique for the Tournament Player* and *Attack and Defence* followed along. Some time later came his 'School of Chess Excellence' books, which were recently revised and re-issued by Edition Olms, a Swiss publishing house. Numbered 1-4, they are in order, *Endgame Analysis*, *Tactical Play*, *Strategic Play* and *Opening Developments*. The books are sometimes co-authored by star pupil Yusupov and many contain contributions from a host of other grandmasters. He wrote Dvoretzky's *Endgame Manual*, published in 2003, a manual on the endgame. A second edition was published in 2006. His latest book was published in 2008: *Dvoretzky's Analytical Manual*.

The European Chess Union expresses most sincere condolences to Mr. Dvoretzky's family, Russian Chess Federation and the whole chess community on their loss.

Source: [Russian Chess Federation](#)

ECU NEWS

ECU and Serbian Ministry of Sports meeting in Belgrade

On Monday 26th September 2016 an important meeting took place at the premises of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia.

Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia Mr. Pedrag Perunicic met ECU Secretary General Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzlogou, the acting President of the Serbian Chess Federation Mr. Obren Cetkovic and the Secretary of the Serbian Chess Federation Mr. Milivoje Milivojevic.



The officials discussed the preparations for the upcoming European Chess Championships scheduled in Serbia as well as a number of issues raised by the ECU, related to the organization of the European Championships and the actions of the regional Serbian unions.

The ECU and Serbian Ministry of Youth and Sports agreed in direct communication and common actions for the best and most transparent conduct of European Championships in Serbia.

ECU Education Chess Conference in Batumi

After the [Chess in School Conference in the European Parliament](#), successfully organized in February 2016 by the ECU in Brussels/Belgium, the first ECU Education Conference will take place in Batumi/Georgia.



The Conference will be held from 24th to 27th October during the World Cadets U8, U10, U12 Championships 2016 in partnership with Ministry of Education of Georgia, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia, Georgian Chess Federation and the European Chess Union.



The purpose of the conference is to raise awareness of the educational role of chess in schools, to provide an overview of international projects, and to inform attendees of the latest developments in school chess.

Program of the conference can be found [here](#).

FUN ZONE

In September Fun Zone we prepared 4 fun positions with ‘Castle into checkmate’ motif. Enjoy!





Solutions from NL August 2016:

Diagram 1

1. Nc7+ Ke7 (1... Rxc7 2. Rxd8 +-) 2. Rxd8 Rxd8 3. Rxd8 Kxd8 4. Ne6+ winning the Bishop!

Diagram 2

1.Nd5 Qxf5 2.Rxb7 Kxb7 (2... Ka8 3.Qa4) 3. Qb4+ Kc8 (3.. Ka8 or Ka6 4. Nc7#) 4. Ne7+ winning the Queen!

Diagram 3

1. Rxh4 Qxh4 2. Qxf8+ Kxf8 3. Ng6+ winning the Queen!

Diagram 4

1.Nb5+ Kb8 2.Qa7+ Kc8 3. Nd6+ winning the Queen!

They told about chess...

“I don’t believe in psychology. I believe in good moves!”

Robert James "Bobby" Fischer, American chess grandmaster, the 11th World Chess Champion, and one of the greatest chess players of all time



UPCOMING EVENTS IN OCTOBER

ISLE OF MAN 2016	1 - 9 October	Douglas/Isle of Man	Official Website
CITTÀ DI ARCO CHESS OPEN 2016	8 - 16 October	Arco/Italy	Official Website
ADMIRAL CUP 2016	9 October	Vilnius/Lithuania	Official Website
CHIGORIN MEMORIAL 2016	15 - 23 October	St.Petersburg/Russia	Official Website
GUERNSEY CHESS FESTIVAL 2016	16 - 22 October	Guernsey	Official Website
CORSICAN CIRCUIT 2016	22 - 27 October	Corsica/France	Official Website
LIMERICK OPEN 2016	29 - 31 October	Limerick/Ireland	Official Website