E-MAGAZINE APRIL 2020





ECU Online activities

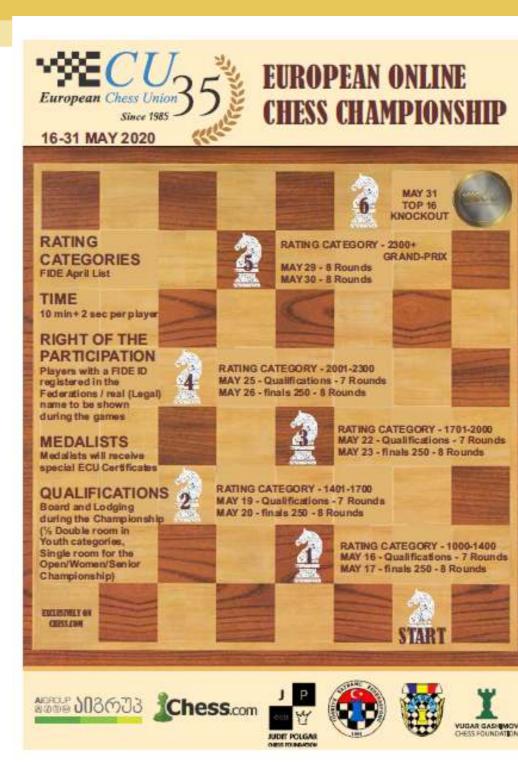
ECU organises several Webinars and Online Courses

Online Nations Cup

FIDE & Chess.com organise the Nations Cup. Garry Kasparov leads Team Europe!







European Online Chess Championship from 16th to 31st of May



ECU e-Governance

The global health crisis boosts the need of effective e-service strategies and roadmaps, re-design of our services and processes, and developing of performance metrics and indicators.

It is a fact and in the pro-crisis period that the rapid pace of the digital transformation of society is raising the need for organizations to urgently change their modus operandi. As the long-standing egovernment goals of making services and data available online have faded, new strategic directions emerged around an open and collaborative government model, based on the principles of effectiveness, efficiency, collaboration, transparency, participation and sustainability.

European Chess Union has its seat in Switzerland, Address: Rainweidstrasse 2, CH-6333, Hunenberg See, Switzerland

European Chess Union is an independent association founded in 1985 in Graz, Austria; European Chess Union has 54 National Federation Members; Every year ECU organizes more than 20 prestigious events and championships.

www.europechess.org ecu.secretary.general@gmail.com European chess union is being prepared for the new era developing the last 2 years a number of e-services. The ECU e-magazine, the ECU Mobile app, the ECU/Chess-`Plus digital newsletter, Chess Google Maps etc. This year, we have established new co-operations for digital meetings and e-voting allowing us to hold Board or wider meetings in a safe environment. The ECU Online Chess Club has been created and grows. ECU opens and operates e-merchant accounts as also events management accounts providing new tools for our accounting system and new sources for our annual budget.

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EUROPEAN ONLINE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2020

European Chess Union in cooperation with Chess.com organises European Online Chess Championship 2020, which will take place from 16th-31st May 2020.

EUROPEAN ONLINE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2020

European Chess Union organises the European Online Chess Championship from 16th-31st of May 2020, through Chess.com

The event will be played in 5 rating categories (according to April 2020 FIDE Rating Rapid list):

>A. 1000 – 1400

>B. 1401 - 1700

>C. 1701 – 2000

>D. 2001 – 2300

>E. 2300+

Any player belonging to one **European National Chess** Federation has the right to participate. Participants without a valid FIDE ID can be issued one through their National Chess Federation and will be registered to play in group A. Registrations for each rating category can be made till two (2) days before the start of the respective qualification group at 17:00 CET. All participants (after the registration) will be allocated to the ECU Online Central Club: and the respective Club for their rating group tournament.



Entry fee is 5 EUR, and has to be paid (via credit or debit card) in the online registration form in Chess.com.

Group only payments (at least 20 players) can also be made directly on the bank account of European Chess Union or through the PayPal account of European Chess Union. In such case a list with the names and Fide IDs of the participants and the receipt shall be sent by email to secretariat@europechess.org.





Schedule of
playing per
rating groups

4. SCHEDU	LE	RATING GROUP		
Saturday	16-May	1000 - 1400 - Qualification	7 rounds	17:00 CEST
Sunday	17-May	1000 - 1400 - Finals	8 rounds	17:00 CEST
Tuesday	19-May	1401 - 1700 - Qualification	7 rounds	18:00 CEST
Wednesday	20-May	1401 - 1700 - Finals	8 rounds	18:00 CEST
Friday	22-May	1701 - 2000 - Qualification	7 rounds	18:00 CEST
Saturday	23-May	1701 - 2000 - Finals	8 rounds	17:00 CEST
Monday	25-May	2001 - 2300 - Qualification	7 rounds	18:00 CEST
Tuesday	26-May	2001 - 2300 - Finals	8 rounds	18:00 CEST
Friday	29-May	2300+ Grand Prix	8 rounds	18:00 CEST
Saturday	30-May	2300+ Grand-Prix	8 rounds	17:00 CEST
Sunday	31-May	Top 16 knockout	Knockout	17:00 CEST

Playing system

EOCC 2020

The system of play will be the Swiss System for all rating groups, with a following schedule: 1st day is a qualification day for the finals, where top 100 players will qualify to play in 2300+ event.

By the end of group events, Knockout Top 16 will take place with 12 qualifiers + 4 invitees by ECU.





Prizes at the European Online Chess Championship 2020

European Online Chess
Championship 2020 feautures more
than 200 prizes, including: free
conditions at European
Championships 2020 or 2021,
Diamond memberships at the
chess.com platform, free
simultaneous exhibition with Top
European Grandmasters and money
prizes for the 2300+ group.

The first 2 Start Grandmasters to be announced who will be playing simultaneous games are Anish Giri and Judit Polgar.

Details about the event are available on ECU Website.

Registration deadline is 2 days before the start of respective event and is available here.

Till 1st of May about 1500 players have beed registered!

Participants Lists here.

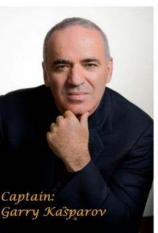




FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup

FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup will take place from 5th-10th May 2020, through a chess.com platform. Six teams will take part in this competition: Russia, USA, Europe, China, India and a team representing the "Rest of the World.".

The total prize fund of the event will be 180.000\$.





TEAM EUROPE

















Rosters of the teams are confirmed by FIDE and compositions are:

TEAM EUROPE:

>Captain: Garry Kasparov

>1- Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (FRA)

>2- Levon Aronian (ARM)

>3- Anish Giri (NED)

>4- Anna Muzychuk (UKR)

>Reserve players: Jan-Krzysztof Duda (POL) and Nana Dzagnidze

(GEO)

Russia:

>Captain: Alexander Motylev

>1- Ian Nepomniachtchi (RUS)

>2- Vladislav Artemiev (RUS)

3- Sergey Karjakin (RUS,)

>4- Aleksandra Goryachkina (RUS) Reserve players: Dmitry Andreikin (RUS) and Olga Girya (RUS)

China:

>Captain: Ye Juangchuan

>1- Ding Liren (CHN,)

>2- Wang Hao (CHN)

3- Wei Yi (CHN)

>4- Hou Yifan (CHN))

>Reserve players: Yu Yangyi (CHN)

and Ju Wenjun (CHN)

USA:

>Captain: John Donaldson

>1- Fabiano Caruana (USA)

>2- Hikaru Nakamura (USA)

>3- Wesley So (USA)

>4- Irina Krush (USA)

>Reserve players: Leinier Dominguez

(USA) and Anna Zatonskih (USA)

India:

>Team advisor: Vladimir Kramnik

>1- Viswanathan Anand (IND)

>2- Vidit Gujrathi (IND)

>3- Pentala Harikrishna (IND)

>4- Humpy Koneru (IND)

>Reserve players: Adhiban Baskaran

(IND) and Harika Dronavalli (IND)

"The rest of the World":

>Captain: Arkady Dvorkovich

>1- Teimour Radjabov (AZE)

>2- Alireza Firouzja (FIDE)

>3- Bassem Amin (EGY)

>4- Mariya Muzychuk (UKR)

>Reserve players: Jorge Cori (PER) and Dinara Saduakassova (KAZ)



FIDE Nations Cup

The event will be played in two stages: the first stage contains 10 rounds, which will be played from 5th-9th May, according to double round-robin system, while the top two teams will then play in a Superfinal on Sunday, May 10.

Time control will be 25 minutes+ 10 seconds increment.

ECU online activities & webinars

April-May 2020



ECU ONLINE ACTIVITIES APRIL-MAY 2020

Within ECU Online activities in period from April-May 2020, European Chess Union organises several Online Seminars, such as:

- >ECU School Chess Teacher Seminar in 6 languages
- >ECU Webinar "How to teach chess online"
- >ECU Webinar "Women's Chess in Europe"
- >ECU FIDE Arbiters Seminar
- >ECU FIDE Trainers Seminar





ECU ONLINE ACTIVITIES April/May 2020

	ECU101 TRAINING COURSES The SMART Method® to Teach C The Basic Didactic Principles Suitable for teachers and chess tuto Course Certificated by the European Ches	hess ors ss Union
Cert	ificate awarded on completion of course and p	assing online test
15-17 April	In ITALIAN – with Alessandro Dominici, Jespe PierLuigi Piscopo and Lexi Ortega. By invitatio Recognised by the Italian Chess Federation.	on from Alfiere Bianco srl.
	Special course price during Covid period.	<u>Registration</u>
16-18 April	In GERMAN – with Boris Bruhn For Hamburg Chess Federation	Registration
21-22 April	In ENGLISH – with Jesper Hall Free entry and title fee (30 seats) for Female from Small Nations and Islands*	participants and Entrants Registration
24-26 April	In GERMAN – with Boris Bruhn For Austrian Chess Federation (<u>link</u>) To register, email:	Hans-Jürgen Koller
23-24 May	In ENGLISH – with Jesper Hall Free entry and title fee (30 seats) for Female from Small Nations and Islands*	participants and Entrants Registration
Now until 30 May	In SPANISH – with Pep Suárez Online course. First 5 women free. Special course price during Covid period.	Registration

• 0	lp to two free places	for entries	from each of the fo	llowing fede	rations
1.	Albania	7.	Ireland	13.	Moldova
2.	Andorra	8.	Jersey	14.	Monaco
3.	Bosnia	9.	Kosovo	15.	N. Macedonia
4.	Cyprus	10.	Liechtenstein	16.	San Marino
5.	Faroe Islands	11.	Luxembourg	17.	Scotland
6.	Guernsey	12.	Malta	18.	Wales

development fund.

The seminars are supported by FIDE

European Chess Union organizes "ECU101 Training Seminar: The **SMART Method to Teach** Chess" in period from 15th April – 24th May.

ECU SCHOOL CHESS TEACHER ONLINE SEMINARS

"ECU101 TRAINING COURSE: The SMART Method to Teach Chess" will cover the basic didactic principles and is suitable for teachers and chess tutors. By completing the course, participants who pass the online test will receive a ECU School Chess Teacher Certificate. Courses will be held in 4 different languages: English, Italian, German, and Spanish and the schedule is available on ECU Website.

European Chess Union in cooperation with FIDE and supported by FIDE Development fund provided free entries for participants members of Small Nations and female participants.

More details about the event and registration links are available in the official invitation or on the ECU Website.

OUR
INSTRUCTORS
ARE WORKING
VERY HARD

HOW TO TEACH CHESS ON THE INTERNET

More information: training@chessplus.net



Lesson Preparation

Scheduling Technology ready Be early Lesson plan Troubleshooting









A clear start and a clear end Speak clearly Comms Channel + Playing/Analysis Platform



Basic Didactics

The Outside-In perspective
Do you want to be a trainer?
The pupils want to feel that you care
Be well-prepared
Step-by-step

The SMART method

- Self learning Motivation
- Adjust to the pupil
 Range of activities
- Technology



ECU WEBINAR "How to teach chess online?"

ECU Webinar with the main theme "How to teach chess online" took place on 15th of April 2020.

The lecturers were: Jesper Hall (FIDE Senior Trainer and Chairman of ECU EDU Commission) and Jop Delemarre (FIDE Senior Trainer).

The event was fulfilled with 100 participants!



Free Webinar



WOMEN'S CHESS IN EUROPE

Alice O'Gorman Report Author

Report Author Member of ECU Women's Comission





Eva Repková

ECU Vice President

Chairman of FIDE

Women's Commission

Friday, 24 April 2020 17.00-19.00 Central European Time

ECU Webinar "Women's chess in Europe"

European Chess Union organised the free Webinar with theme Women's Chess in Europe. The Webinar took place on Friday, 24th April 2020, with 100 participants.

The lecturers were: Eva Repkova (ECU Vice President and Chairman of FIDE Women's Commission) and Alice O'Gorman (Report Author and Member of ECU Women's Comission).

The webinar included discussion on the results of the survey conducted by the ECU Women's Commission into the situation regarding women and girls in Europe and proposed actions.

ONLINE ECU/FIDE ARBITERS SEMINAR

3rd - 7th May 2020







Language: English
Registration fee: 50 €

Lecturer: <u>IA Jirina Prokopova 337994 (CZE)</u> Assistants: <u>IA Geert Bailleul 225185 (BEL)</u>,

Marco Biagioli 841285 (ITA)

ECU Topics: IA Marco Biagioli 841285 (ITA), IA

Geert Bailleul 225185 (BEL)

Observer: IA, IO Tomasz Delega 1108000 (POL)



ECU FIDE Online Arbiters Seminar

European Chess Union organises the ECU/FIDE Online Arbiters Seminar from 3th-7th May 2020. The seminar will follow all the standards required by FIDE and will also provide information for ECU arbiters from the members of ECU Arbiter's Council.

45 participatns registered for the webinar. The lecturer is IA Jirina Prokopova (CZE), assistants: IA Geert Bailleul (BEL), IA Marco Biagioli (ITA), ECU Topics will be discussed by: IA Marco Biagioli (ITA) and IA Geert Bailleul (BEL) and the observer is: IA,IO Tomasz Delega (POL).

FIDE Trainer Online Seminar with ECU



ECU FIDE Trainer Online Seminar

European Chess Union and the International Chess Federation Trainers' Commission organise and ECU/FIDE Trainer Online Seminar from 5th-7th June 2020.

The seminar will be held in English and is open to all participants. Lecturers are: FST & GM Artur Yusupov FST & GM Ivan Sokolov FST & GM Alexander Motylev FST & IM Jesper Hall.

Registration fee for the seminar is 200 EUR for the Title Examination or alternatively 150 EUR for Licenced Trainer Refresher.

Registration: Secretary of FIDE Trainer's Commission, Mr. Peter Long, on the following email address: trainers@fide.com

TEXT BY: Tania Karali

The confusing case of the "virtual opponent"



The current lockdown, however unfortunate it is, could be an opportunity to revise some chess and/or tournament rules.

In chess tournaments, it is often that unplayed games cause various irregularities. These may include a player waiting for his opponent who is not coming, non fulfillment of title norms, alteration of tie-breaks and, thus, prize giving etc.

In an effort to minimize these consequences, the FIDE Handbook indicates how to deal with each case. In round-robin tournaments, for example, handling of the situation depends on whether the player who forfeited has already completed 50% of the total rounds.

In this article, we will focus on Swiss tournaments and the tie-breaks where the "virtual opponent" comes into play. These tie-breaks are Buchholz (sum of the scores of each of the opponents of the player) and Sonneborn-Berger (sum of the scores of each of the opponents of the player multiplied by the player's result against each opponent).

For the sake of clarity, we will only refer to Buchholz.

Calculating the "virtual opponent"'s score for Sonneborn-Berger is a very similar process. (Note: The virtual opponent may also apply in the Progressive Score tie-break, but FIDE no longer advises using it, so it will not be discussed.)

First of all, let's take a look at the relevant articles of the FIDE Handbook:

Art. C.02 13.15.2: For tie-break purposes a player who has no opponent will be considered as having played against a virtual opponent who has the same number of points at the beginning of the round and who draws in all the following rounds. For the round itself the result by forfeit will be considered as a normal result.

This gives the formula:

Svon = SPR + (1 – SfPR) + 0.5 * (n– R) where for player P who did not play in round R:

n = number of completed roundsSvon = score of virtual opponent after round n

SPR = score of P before round R **SfPR**= forfeit score of P in round R

Art. C.02 13.15.3: For tie-break purposes all unplayed games in which players are indirectly involved (results by forfeit of opponents) are considered to have been drawn.

In our first example, player X did not show up for the first round of a 7-round tournament and was, eventually, excluded from the remaining rounds. Player A is the opponent who got stood up. After 7 rounds, player A has a Buchholz tie-break of 28.5 points from the opponents who were not involved in unplayed games. But what will his Buchholz score be for the first round? 0 points?

No, that would be totally unfair. For the first round, we will consider that player A was paired against a "virtual opponent".



This "virtual opponent" had 0 points before the tournament started and made a draw in all the remaining rounds (apart from the first one where he forfeited). So, after 7 rounds his score would be 3 points. Indeed, according to the formula: $\mathbf{Svon} = \mathbf{0} + (\mathbf{1} - \mathbf{1}) + \mathbf{0.5} * (\mathbf{7} - \mathbf{1}) = \mathbf{3}$ So player A's total Buchholz score is 28.5 + 3 = 31.5 points.

In our second example, we will consider player B who played against player A in the second round. At the end of the tournament, the sum of player B's opponents is 26.5. Will this be his Buchholz score?

No, because one of his opponents (player A) has an unplayed game, which is now considered as a draw (Art. C.02 13.15.3). Thus, player B's Buchholz score is 26 points. In our final example, player C started with a score of 3/3, did not play in the fourth round, but played all the remaining rounds. His score from his actual opponents is 25.5.

The score of his "virtual opponent" in the fourth round is:

Svon = 3 + (1 - 0) + 0.5 * (7 - 4) = 5.5so his Buchholz score is 25.5 + 5.5 = 31.

Hopefully, this article has helped in shedding some light on this confusing topic.

A more detailed presentation, written by IA Prof. R Anatharam, can be found on the FIDE website.

Note: For the users of the Swiss-manager pairing program, the "virtual opponent" parameter is selected by default. If the tournament regulations do not follow this option, you need to change it manually.

CONTACT:

Anyone who should have remarks or questions about this article can contact **Geert Bailleul**, the secretary of the ECU Arbiters' Council ecuarbiterscouncil@gmail.com

MEET GM MARGEIR PETURSSON 10 Questions by GM Adrian Mikhalchishin

1. What are You doing in life in the current moment?

I am an investor living in Ukraine where I am the shareholder of a bank and real estate. I work as supervisory board member and advisor. I enjoy very much playing chess when I have time and to discuss chess history with fellow grandmasters.

2. Your recollections with meetings with World Champions?

I met all World Champions since Botvinnik. In 1988 I was in the same press room as Botvinnik during the Belfort 1988 World Cup but I was too shy to approach the elderly gentleman even though there were not so many people in the room. I really regret that. With Smyslov, Tal, Spassky, Karpov, Kasparov, Anand I played a few tournament games with each. The only one I managed to beat was Spassky, albeit with great luck in Reykjavik 1988.

Tal was very nice to me in 1981 as a young foreign player in the Soviet Union, (Keres memorial in Tallinn) he understood that I was a bit isolated and lonely and took me with him to restaurants in the evening. Even though everybody knew him and we got special treatment it still took us 6 hours to have a complete dinner! Tal was and is wildly popular in Iceland for a good reason. Tigran Petrosian was my hero as a very young player and I was lucky enough to meet him personally in Lone Pine 1988 when he participated in the post mortem analysis of my game with Yugoslav grandmaster Sahovic. But I never played him. With Kramnik and Magnus Carlsen I played only a single blitz game with each at their young age (lost to Kramnik but beat Magnus in Reykjavik 2004). I never spoke directly with Bobby Fischer although we lived in he same city of Reykjavik for about three years. But he answered many of my questions at a press conference in Sveti Stefan 1992 before the "revenge match" with Spassky. In Reykjavik I had some possibilities and invitations to meet him but I could not accept his anti semitic and anti American outcries and I chose to admire him as a great chess player from a distance.



GM Margeir Petursson

With Ponomariev and Khalifman who both were world champions after winning knock out tournaments, I have met several times and played some games against the latter. I am on friendly terms with both of them. Kazimdzhanov and Topalov I did not manage to meet yet personally.

3. Your best game .(Chess Informant). Just name.

Petursson – Djurhuus in Chess Informant 64, game no 524. It was the chosen as the 4th best in that Informant. " I enjoy very much playing chess when I have time and to discuss chess history with fellow grandmasters."



GM Margeir Petursson is an investor living in Ukraine where he is a shareholder of a bank and real estate. When he has time, he enjoys playing chess.

"The World
Championship
match in my
home town
Reykjavik 1972
opened my eyes
to chess as a
young boy."

4. Which Your achievement You consider to be most important? I think it is when I won the Hastings International 1985/86 outright and became a grandmaster. I could also mention that in 1989/90 I came first in 6 strong open tournaments in less than a year. I qualified 3 times for the Interzonal tournament from 1985 to 1997.

5. Best and most important chess books.

The complete games of Bobby Fischer I got in 1976. The Chess Struggle in Practice by Bronstein I studied in 1979-80 and My 60 Memorable games by Bobby Fischer I bought in New York 1978 for 1 US dollar. I was offended on behalf of Fischer due to the low price.

6. How did You start Your career? The World Championship match in my home town Reykjavik 1972 opened my eyes to chess as a young boy.

7. Your favorite openings.

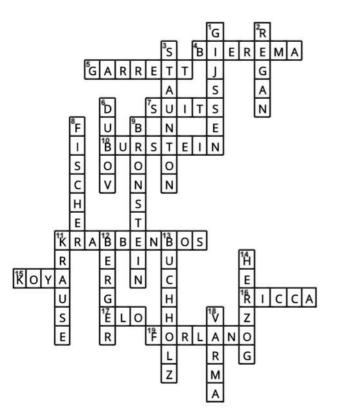
With White I played the English opening from a young age, and still do, because Fischer used it in Reykjavik 1972 and with Black I have always enjoyed playing the Sicilian Accelerated Dragon and the Sicilian Dragon itself. So I have very often used the c pawn for the first move, either with White or Black!

8 Who was the most difficult and easiest opponent during Your career. I had a big plus score against Bent Larsen. With Vasily Ivanchuk I had a big problem.

9 Non chess –best ,book, film and singer for You. Book: The Prague Cemetary by Umberto Eco (fiction) and (professionally) The Alchemy of Finance by George Soros. Film: Blade Runner (1982) directed by Ridley Scott. Singer: Jim Morrison (The Doors).

10 Favorite city, food and drink. City: Prague. Food: Dover Sole or similar flatfish meals. Drink: A Dry Gin Martini and Italian Nebbiolo red wine.

Chess Arbiters' thematic crossword - surnames



Poziomo:

- 4. One of the authors of bbpPairings engine
- **5.** The device used for anti-cheating in chess
- 7. Author of the SwissSys pairing software
- 10. Author of the pairing algorithm based on tie-breaks criteria
 - 11. Software developer of live chess DGT software
- 15. The tie-break system used in round robin tournaments taking into consideration opponents with 50% points or more
 - 16. Author of the javafo pairing engine
 - 17. FIDE rating system
 - 19. Author of the vegachess pairing software

Pionowo:

- 1. Author of the Dutch pairing algorithm
- 2. Author of the FIDE screening tool for anti-cheating
 - 3. One of the standards for chess pieces
 - 6. Author of the pairing algorithm based on ARO
 - 8. Cumulative mode in the chess clock
 - 9. Delayed mode in the chess clocks
- 11. Author of the file format (TRF) used for delivery rating report to FIDE
- 12. One of the most popular tie-break systems for round robin tournaments
 - 13. One of the most popular tie-break system for swiss tournaments
 - 14. Author of the Swiss Manager pairing software
 - 18. Author of the tables for the restricted drawing of lots

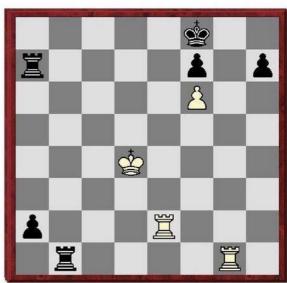
Solutions to Chess Arbiter's thematic crossword from ECU Magazine March edition

Created by: Tomasz Delega, Chairman of the ECU Arbiters Council









Garry **Kasparov has** said about chess:

>When your house is on fire, you can't be bothered with the neighbors. Or, as we say in chess, if your King is under attack, don't worry about losing a pawn on the queen side.

>Attackers may sometimes regret bad moves, but it is much worse to forever regret an opportunity you allowed to pass you by.

>The highest art of the chessplayer lies in not allowing your opponent to show you what he can do.

>Few things are as psychologically brutal as chess.

>If you wish to succeed, you must brave the risk of failure.

For this edition of the ECU monthly magazine, we prepared 4 positions with mate in 2! White is on the move!

Solutions from March

#Puzzle 1

1.Rg7!! Bd6 [`...Bb4 2.Nb6#; 1...Bc5 2.Rb8#] 2.Nxd6#

#Puzzle 2

1.Qg8! Ra4 [1...a5 2.Qg1#; 1...Rxb2 2.Bxb2#] 2.b4#

#Puzzle 3

1.Ne4! Kxe4 [1...Kc4 2.Qf7#; 1...Kc6 2.Qd6#] 2.Qd5# #Puzzle 4

1.Qa2! Nc8 [1..Kxa8 2.c8=Q] 2.d8=N#



EUROPEAN ONLINE CHAMPIONSHIP

Coming in May exclusively on

Chesscom





