



5th European Small Nations Individual Championship

2nd European Small Nations Individual Women Chess Championship

CENTRE DE CONGRESSOS D'ANDORRA LA VELLA

From 22nd to 30th June 2024

Newsletter 02



Federació d'Escacs Valls d'Andorra

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Opening Ceremony & Round 1

The Consol Major of Andorra la Vella, Mr. Sergi González welcomed the tournament players saturday at 19:00h.



Chief Arbiter, Alexandra Muratet

The chess tournament commenced with opening remarks. President Rechi of the Andorran Chess Federation (FEVA), along with tournament director Mr. Obregón and chief arbiter Mrs. Muratet, welcomed participants and ensured a punctual start with final technical details.

Prior to the tournament's official launch, players were warmly welcomed by local authorities.

On Saturday evening, Mayor Mr. González addressed players from the ten participating countries at the Council Hall. He encouraged them to explore Andorra la Vella and enjoy their week-long stay.

To further enhance their experience, players were treated to a welcoming reception in a relaxed atmosphere. They enjoyed a toast and received welcome gifts, including a tourist pack, a booklet with the game schedule and activities, and a historical record of past tournaments.



Opening Ceremony. Sala de Consell de Comú

ROUND 1 RESULTS

1. ROUND 2024/06/23 at 15:00

B.	ELO			NAME	RESULT		NAME		ELO
1	2341		FM	Ribera Veganzones, Serni	1 - 0		Strade, Arita		1957
2	1832			D'amico, Nicola	0 - 1		Frick, Renato		1907
3	1969			Carpenter, Paul A	0 - 1	CM	Pace, Colin		2184
4	2251			Apol, Luitjen Akselsson	1 - 0	FM	Michaelides, Konstantinos		2317
5	2235		IM	Berend, Fred	½ - ½	GM	Efimov, Igor		2312

1. ROUND 2024/06/23 at 15:00

B.	ELO			NAME	RESULT		NAME		ELO
1	1872		AFM	Nevska, Gerda	1 - 0		Biordi, Mariane		0
2	1787		WFM	Thornton, Filipina	½ - ½	WFM	Markidou, Christianna		1676
3	2040		WIM	Zvereva, Marija	0 - 1	WGM	Berend, Elvira		2230
4	1719		WCM	Ruddy, Rachel	0 - 1	WFM	Henderson De La Fuente, Andrea		1966
5	1834			Muratet Carmona, Julia	0 - 1		De La Riva Real, Ariadna		1774

Open Category

The first game that finished in this round was between the players of Faroe Islands and Cyprus. The young Faroese player, Luitjen Akselsson Apol, played a very good game, clearly overcoming the FIDE Master Konstantinos Michaelides.

The Cypriot representative did not find the best plan of play by occupying the e4 square with his knight too early in the opening. White was able to take advantage of this detail to end up getting the bishop pair and central control. He then put a lot of pressure on his opponent's castling to provoke weaknesses that he took advantage of with energetic play, taking the victory in just 23 moves.

In the open category, the Andorran representative was the next to get a point against the Jersey champion, the player Arita Strade. Serni came out of the opening with a clear advantage and soon after won a pawn from his opponent. This proved decisive as it allowed him to obtain a central majority that he advanced without his opponent being able to neutralize it.

The other players who won were Renato Frick (LIE) against Nicola D'Amico (SMR), and Colin Pace (MLT), also with the black pieces, against Paul A. Carpenter (JCI).



Tournament Director, Joan A. Obregón (OI)

Finally, the game between International Master Fred Berend (LUX) and Grandmaster Igor Efimov (MNC) ended in a draw when they reached a position where the players repeated moves as they had no plans to fight for victory.



Tournament Hall, Centre de Congressos d'Andorra la Vella

Women's Category

In the women's category, the Jersey representative, Gerda Nevska, defeated Mariane Biordi of San Marino with the white pieces. The opening was somewhat strange, with a pawn sacrifice on the fifth move, but Black did not find the best way to continue, allowing Nevska to take a dangerous initiative. Even so, the game remained complicated until Black made a serious tactical error allowing White to weave a mating net to obtain the victory.

The next who finished was the Principality player Andrea Henderson, defeating the WCM Rachel Ruddy of Guernsey with the black pieces. Andrea came out with a pawn advantage after the opening and gave her opponent no options. She simplified to eventually impose herself in the endgame.

The Andorran match between Júlia Muratet and Ariadna de la Riva was favourable for the latter. Júlia did not find the best attacking plan against her opponent's castling and Ariadna took advantage of this to capture a pawn. Just then a serious mistake by White allowed Ariadna to win quality, a material advantage that was decisive in taking the victory.

The favourite of the women's tournament, Grandmaster Elvira Berend, took nearly five hours to overcome the resistance of the Monegasque representative, International Master Marija Zvereva. Finally, her attack on her opponent's unprotected king proved decisive and she started the tournament on the right foot.

The last game to finish of the day was between Filipina Thornton of Malta versus Christianna Markidou. The Maltese player, with the white pieces, reached a slightly advantageous endgame thanks to her superior pawn structure combined with her active king. The presence of bishops of different colours made it difficult to impose the advantage, and finally, after a few turns and five hours of play, the game ended in a draw.

Photo Gallery Round 1



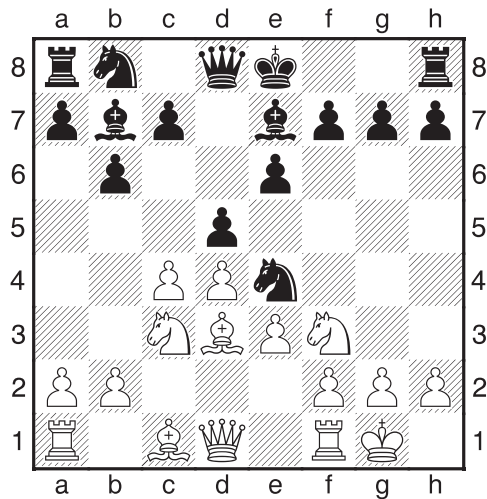
THE GAME OF THE ROUND



Apol, Luitjen Akselsson (2251)
Michaelides, Konstantinos (2317)
[E14]

5th European Small Nations Individual,
 Andorra la Vella (1.4), 23.06.2024
[De la Riva Aguado, Oscar]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗f3 e6 3.e3 b6 4.♙d3 ♙b7 5.0-0
♙e7 6.c4 d5 7.♗c3 ♗e4?



Jumping to e4 is hasty. It was better 7...dxc4 8.♙xc4 a6 to continue with b5 and probably c5.

8.cxd5 exd5 9.♖a4+!

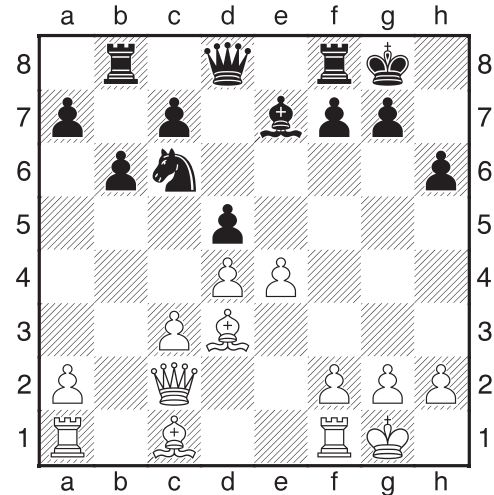
Now Black cannot play c6 because of the placement of his knight on e4.] **9...♙c6** [9...♗d7 10.♗e5±

10.♖c2 ♗xc3 [10...♗f6 11.e4!±] **11.bxc3±** [With a lot of opening advantage as white disposes of the e4 or c4-break.] **11...h6** [11...♗d7 12.♗e1 ♗f6 13.♗e5 ♙d7 14.c4+~] **12.♗e5 0-0** [12...♙b7? 13.♗xf7! ♗xf7 14.♙g6+ ♗g8 15.♖f5+~]

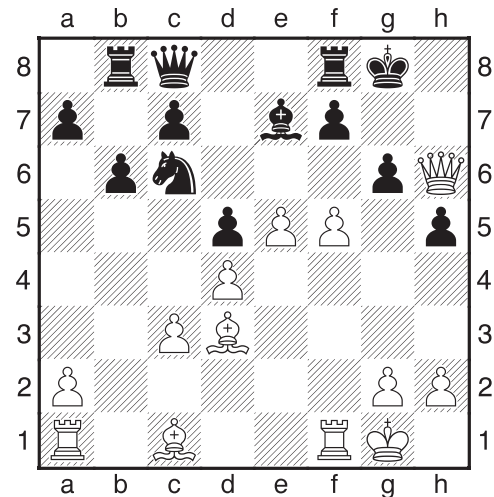
13.♗xc6 ♗xc6 14.e4

And white went from a clear lead to a decisive advantage. Black will not be able to stop the white pawns advance.

14...♗b8



[14...dxe4 15.♙xe4 ♗d6 16.♖a4+~] **15.♖e2! ♙f6**
 [15...♗a5 16.exd5+~] **16.e5 ♙g5 17.f4 ♙e7 18.♖g4!**
 [provoking weaknesses in the opponent's castle.] **18...♗h8 19.♖f5 g6 20.♖h3 h5 21.f5 ♖c8 22.♖e3! ♗g8 23.♖h6**



And Black gave up as he was unable to defend all the threats. Very good game by the faroes player. **1-0**



Press Clipping

Primeres victòries tricolors a l'Europeu de Petits Estats d'escacs

Esports 23 de juny, 2024



Primera jornada de l'Europeu de Petits Estats d'escacs i primeres alegries per a l'equip andorrà. L'actual campió, Serni Ribera, ha guanyat amb comoditat el representant de Guernsey.

En la categoria femenina, Andrea Henderson ha superat la jugadora de Jersey. A més, també s'han enfrontat Ariadna de la Riva i Júlia Muratet, amb victòria per a la primera. Dilluns arribarà el segon dia de competició.

Informa: Joel Romero

Comparteix:



ESCACS PETITS ESTATS

Triomfs de Ribera, Henderson i De la Riva

Serni Ribera, Andrea Henderson i Ariadna de la Riva van estrenar-se amb victòria a l'Europeu de Petits Estats d'escacs que se celebra al Centre de Congressos de la capital. Al torneig masculí, Ribera va derrotar Arita Strade, de Guernsey, mentre que al campionat femení Henderson va imposar-se a Rachel Ruddy, de Jersey, i De la Riva va derrotar Júlia Muratet al duel fratri-cida. Tant el torneig masculí com el femení viuran avui la segona i tercera ronda.

Esports | 29

Campionat Petits Estats d'escacs

M. S.



Muratet i De la Riva es van enfrontar en la primera jornada.

Triomf de Cerni Ribera i avui doble ronda de joc

Redacció

ANDORRA LA VELLA

Serni Ribera va arrencar ahir amb bon peu el Campionat individual de Petits Estats d'escacs que s'està disputant al Centre de Congressos d'Andorra la Vella, i va derrotar jugant amb blanques la representant de l'illa de Guernsey Arita Strade. Avui l'andorrà, que té el rànquing ELO més alt de tots els parti-

cipants, tindrà un doble enfrontament: al matí, també amb blanques, davant el samarinès Nicola d'Amico, i a la tarda, en aquest cas amb negres, contra el representant de Jersey, Pauk Carpenter.

Al tancament de l'edició s'estava disputant encara la primera ronda del Campionat individual de Petits Estats femení, una primera ronda on s'enfrontaven Júlia Muratet i Ariadna De la Riva.

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