



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 05



Federació d'Escacs Valls d'Andorra

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Round 5

Ribera & Berend draw, keeping the Andorran in the lead. Draw between Berend & Andrea allows Zvereva to catch up with them at the top.

Open Category



FIDE Arbiter, Esteve Mateu

The match between the first and second ranked players of the tournament were the highlight of the morning round, being the most interesting game of all those played.

The Andorran player employed a solid French Defence variant to counter his opponent's e4 advance. After the opening, Fred Berend had a slight advantage, but Serni managed to neutralize it and eventually took the initiative. There were moments when it seemed he could fight for the victory, but he chose a variant where he kept a pawn advantage that proved insufficient to tip the scales in his favour, and the game ended in a draw.

With this result, Serni Ribera remains at the top of the standings with 4½ points, and in the afternoon at 16:00 hours, he will face Grandmaster Igor Efimov (MNC), who has the same score as Fred Berend, 4 points.



Ariadna de la Riva and Andrea Henderson (AND)



ROUND 5 RESULTS

5. ROUND 2024/06/26 at 9:00

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

5. ROUND 2024/06/26 at 9:00

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



Nicola D'amico (SMR)

Efimov clearly defeated Renato Frick (LIE) with the white pieces thanks to a combination that exploited the exposed position of the opponent's king in the centre, weaving a decisive mating net.

With 3½ points, the Faroese player Luitjen A. Apol recovered from yesterday's defeat with a clear victory against the San Marino player Nicola D'amico, who has not yet been able to score.

In the other matches of this fifth round, FIDE Master Konstantinos Michaelides defeated CM Colin Pace of Malta.

Meanwhile, the game between Paul A. Carpenter (JCI) and Arita Strade (GCI) seemed favourable to the Guernsey player with the black pieces, who had an advantage but failed to convert on it, ending in a draw. It was the longest game of the day, lasting 5 hours



Fred Berend (LUX) vs Serni Ribera (AND)

Women's Category

As in the open category, the top two players with the same score, $3\frac{1}{2}$ points, faced each other, and the draw allowed a third player to catch up, leaving the leadership shared after this fifth round, with all three having 4 points.

With the white pieces, the Andorran representative, Andrea Henderson, chose an incisive variant against the Najdorf Sicilian Defence posed by her opponent. She chose a dragon-type scheme with a quick central break (d5), leading the game to a complex position where neither of both players took risks, resulting in a draw in the move 23.

Monaco's representative, Marija Zvereva, took advantage of this result with a quick victory against the last-ranked player, Mariane Biordi (SMR), catching up at the top and adding more excitement to the tournament. With $3\frac{1}{2}$ points, Nevska Gerda (GCI) defended the black pieces against the local player, Júlia Muratet. The game gave both players chances, but Júlia missed the best way to continue after the time control, where she could have reached a position with an extra quality. The mistake was convert on by the black pieces, forcing a draw by repetition.

Christiana Markidou, Filipina Thornton, and Ariadna de la Riva are at 50% of the points, $2\frac{1}{2}$ points.

The Cypriot player took advantage of the imprecise play of Andorran Ariadna de la Riva, defeating her in an endgame where she had initially a pawn less. Unfortunately, our player made a wrong game plan, allowing her opponent to take the win.

Meanwhile, the Maltese representative clearly defeated her opponent, Rachel Ruddy of Jersey, taking the initiative with the black pieces and never giving any counterplay chances.

Photo Gallery Round 5



Round 6

Igor Efimov defeats Serni Ribera and shares the lead with Fred Berend. Berend, Zvereva, and Henderson remain at the top.

Open Category



Nerea Pastor & Josep A. Rivero

The game between the two leaders, Serni Ribera (AND) and Igor Efimov (MNC), went in favour of the Monegasque player, taking over from the Andorran player at the top of the standings and leading the tournament with 5 points, the same as international master Fred Berend. Serni has been relegated to third place with 4½ points.

Our player missed a simple tactical theme shortly after the opening, which left him in an inferior position. From there, he had to play defensively with the sole aspiration of trying to save the game with a draw. Unfortunately, his opponent, an experienced grandmaster, did not miss the opportunity and gradually increased his advantage until he secured the victory after more than four hours of playing.

Fred Berend, on his part, did not waste the opportunity and defeated the last-placed player Nicola D'Amico to tie for the lead in the standings.



Tournament Hall, Centre de Congressos d'Andorra la Vella



ROUND 6 RESULTS

6. ROUND 2024/06/26 at 16:00

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

6. ROUND 2024/06/26 at 16:00

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



Filipina Thornton (MLT)

As for the other games of the day, FIDE master Konstantinos Michaelides (CYP) played a very strange game where he let things get complicated despite having a material advantage. In fact, his opponent, Renato Frick (LIE), managed to achieve a decisive advantage, but the winning variation was very difficult to find. The Cypriot player did not miss this opportunity, and once he secured his king's position, he quickly won.

CM Colin Pace (MLT), with the black pieces, defeated Arita Strade (GCI) in a game where he always had the initiative and did not give his opponent any chances.

The last game to finish was the one between Paul A. Carpenter (JCI) and Luitjen A. Apol (FAI). Throughout the game, black had a slight advantage for a long time, but just when it seemed they had overcome the opponent's defences, an imprecise move allowed white to stay in the game with enough counterplay to neutralize the threats. The game should have ended in a draw by perpetual check. Instead, the Faroese player went too far and, in his attempt to win the game, made a move that allowed his opponent to coordinate his pieces against his king and win the game.



Christianna Markidou (CYP) vs Andrea Henderson (AND)

Women's Category

Of the three players tied at the top of the standings, two of them quickly resolved their games this afternoon. Monegasque Marija Zvereva obtained a clear advantage after the opening, and Jersey's WCM Rachel Ruddy could not find a way to reverse the situation. The white pieces continued capturing pawns until the advantage was decisive, and the resulting endgame was a formality to secure the point.

On the other hand, Elvira Berend with the black pieces did not give any chances to San Marino's representative, Mariane Bordi, and after emerging with a superior position from the opening, she used her pair of bishops to break into the enemy's castling and win in thirty moves.

The local player Andrea Henderson, had to win to stay at the top of the standings. With the black pieces, she had a much tougher and longer game against Cypriot Christiana Markidou. She reached an endgame with two rooks per player and an extra pawn, where she had to work hard to overcome her opponent's resistance. Finally, it was not until the fifth hour of play that she could convert her material advantage into a victory.

After this sixth round, the three players share the lead in the standings, tied with 5 points.

Meanwhile, Júlia Muratet won with the black pieces against Maltese player Filipina Thornton. Thornton relied on a piece sacrifice in exchange for initiative in the opening, but it soon became clear that the compensation was insufficient.

Ariadna de la Riva also had a long game this afternoon. After the 40-move control, she reached a technically winning endgame, although the presence of opposite-coloured bishops complicated its execution. The victory took a while to arrive, and Ariadna achieved it when we were in the fifth hour of playing.

Photo Gallery Round 6



THE GAME OF THE DAY



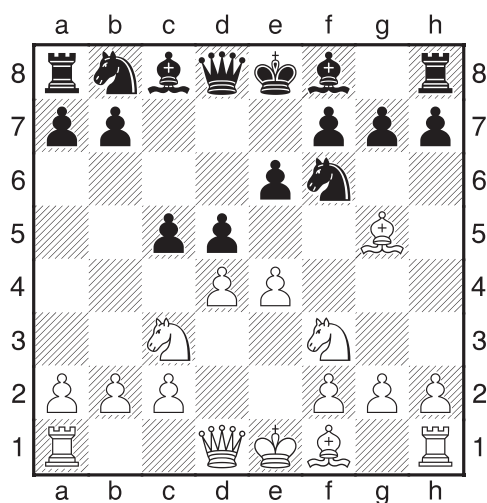
Efimov,Igor (2312) MNC
Frick,Renato (1907) LIE
[A46]

5th ESNA Individual Chess Championship
 Andorra la Vella (5.4), 26.06.2024
[De la Riva Aguado, Oscar]

1.♟f3 ♜f6 2.d4 e6 3.♞g5 c5 4.♜c3!? [4.d5 is the main alternative.] **4...d5?!**

4...cxd4 5.♞xd4 ♜c6 6.♞h4 and now Black has to choose between ♞b4 or h6 with a complicated position. It reminds positions from the Sicilian, but White has the queen on h4!

5.e4!



White has transposed to an improved French. What a flexible variation!

5...dxe4 [5...cxd4 6.♞xd4 ♜c6 7.♞b5±]

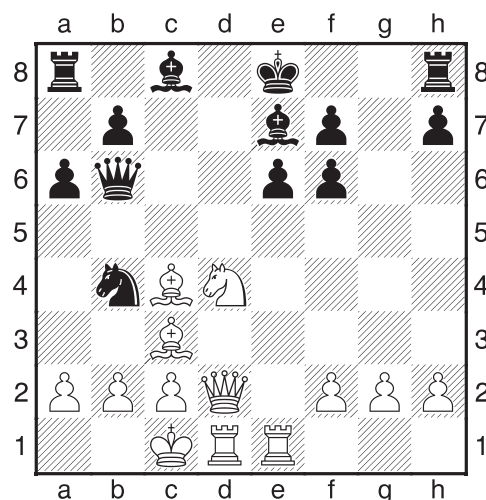
6.♜xe4 ♞a5+ [6...cxd4 7.♞b5+ ♞d7 8.♞xd4!±]

7.♞d2 ♞b6 8.♜xf6+ gxf6 9.♞c3 White has come out of the opening with a clear developmental advantage.

9...♞e7 10.♞d2 ♜c6 11.0-0-0 ♜b4?

11...cxd4 12.♜xd4 ♜xd4 13.♞xd4 ♞c6 seems the strongest, but white still has advantage.

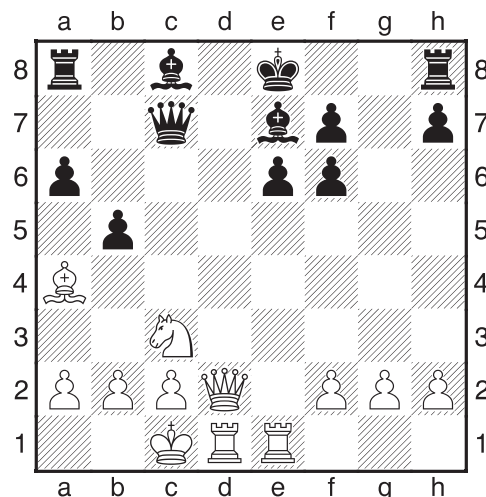
12.♞c4 cxd4 13.♜xd4 a6 14.♞he1



All white pieces are aiming for the black king...

14...♞c5 15.♞b3 ♜d5 16.♜e2 [16.♞xd5 ♞xd5 17.♞b4 ♞xb4 18.♞xb4+-]

16...♜xc3 17.♜xc3 ♞c7 18.♞a4+! b5



19.♜xb5! [The final assault.]

19...axb5 20.♞xb5+ ♜f8 21.♞h6+ ♜g8 22.♞e3! ♞c5 23.♞g3+ ♞g5+ 24.♞xg5+ fxg5 25.a4

1-0



Press Clipping

Escaldes-Engordany

Ribera 'punxa' i perd el lideratge dels Petits Estats d'Europa

En el campionat femení, Henderson, Zvereva i Berend colideren el torneig amb cinc punts

Per El Periódico

Publicat el Dijous, 27 de juny de 2024 | 10:30 h



Instant del torneig. | Federació d'Escacs Valls d'Andorra

El Gran Mestre de Mònaco, Igor Efimov (2312 FIDE), i el Mestre Internacional de Luxemburg, Fred Berend (2235 FIDE), són els nous líders del 5è campionat Individual dels Petits Estats d'Europa. Efimov va vèncer ahir a la tarda al Mestre FIDE andorrà Serni Ribera (2341 FIDE) amb una partida en la qual va aconseguir avantatge i el va mantenir fins al final. Berend, qui va fer taules al matí amb l'andorrà, també va signar victòria contra el jugador de San Marino, Nicola D'Amico (1832 FIDE). Així, ambdós es posicionen al capdavant amb cinc punts, seguits per Ribera amb 4,5.

En el campionat femení, la Mestra FIDE femenina d'Andorra Andrea Henderson (1966 FIDE), la Mestra Internacional monegasca Maria Zvereva (2040 FIDE) i la Gran Mestra de Luxemburg Elvira Berend (2230 FIDE) colideren el torneig amb cinc punts.

Les jugadores tricolor van signar bons resultats en la jornada d'ahir. En aquest sentit, Henderson –que es manté tercera per desempat a la classificació– va fer taules al matí contra la favorita, Elvira Berend, i a la tarda va guanyar a la xipriota Christianna Markidou (1676 FIDE). Ariadna de la Riva (1774 FIDE) va assolir la meitat dels punts, ja que precisament va caure contra la xipriota Christianna Markidou (1676 FIDE), però va vèncer a Gerda Nevskaja (1672 FIDE) i actualment té 3,5 punts. De fet, Nevskaja també va jugar amb una de les representants andorranes al matí, Júlia Muratet (1834 FIDE), amb qui va empatar gràcies a un escac continu que la va salvar de perdre el matí. A la tarda, Muratet va guanyar a la Mestra FIDE femenina de Malta Filipina Thornton (1787 FIDE) i se situa amb tres punts.

La setena ronda es disputa avui a les 15.00 hores, en la qual Ribera s'enfronta al Mestre FIDE xipriota i número dos del torneig Konstantinos Michaelides (2317 FIDE); Henderson a Gerda Nevskaja (Guernsey); de la Riva a la Mestra FIDE femenina maltesa Filipina Thornton i Muratet a la Mestra Internacional de Mònaco, Marija Zvereva.

Escacs

Ribera cedeix taules però manté el lideratge

Redacció

ANDORRA LA VELLA

Serni Ribera manté el lideratge en solitari del Campionat individual de Petits Estats d'escacs tot i cedir taules davant el luxemburguès Fred Berend, segon classificat, en la cinquena ronda de la competició.

L'andorrà va plantejar una sòlida variant de la Defensa Francesa per oposar l'avançament e4 del seu rival, que després de l'obertura disposava d'un lleuger avantatge. Ribera va ser capaç de capgirar la situació i prendre la iniciativa per buscar un triomf que finalment, tot i disposar d'un peó d'avantatge, no va arribar

i va signar taules. Al tancament de l'edició, Ribera, amb 4,5 punts, defensava el lideratge davant el jugador de Mònaco Igor Efimov, tercer a la classificació empatat a 4 punts amb Berend.

Pel que fa al Campionat femení, les taules entre Elvira Berend i Andrea Henderson van permetre Marija Zvereva atrapar-les al capdavant de la taula i situar un triple empat a 4 punts. Per la seva part, Júlia Muratet va fer taules amb la jugadora de Guernsey Gerda Nevskaja en un matx que va tenir l'ocasió de guanyar però no va saber rematar, i Ariadna de la Riva, amb blanques, no va poder superar la jugadora xipriota Christianna Markidou.

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