



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 06



Federació d'Escacs Valls d'Andorra

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Round 7

Igor Efimov and Fred Berend secure another victory. Results favour Elvira Berend, who remains leader with 6 points.

Open Category



Visit to "Casa de la Vall"

The two players leading the standings, Igor Efimov and Fred Berend, haven't let up and have secured another victory in this seventh round, thus remaining at the top, now with 6 points.

The Monegasque Grandmaster played a positional game, clearly out-playing his opponent, San Marino's Nicola D'amore. The black pieces gave up a bishop too quickly, and Efimov capitalized on his pair in the middle game to secure a swift victory.

Luxembourg IM Fred Berend also remained unfaltering. His opponent, Paul A. Carpenter from Jersey, playing black, chose a secondary variation to surprise him. However, it backfired as Berend's white pieces quickly gained the initiative in the middle game, thanks to a strong center and superior space. Berend then maneuvered on both flanks until he capitalized on a tactical error by his opponent, leading to victory.



Tournament Hall, Centre de Congressos d'Andorra la Vella



ROUND 7 RESULTS

7. ROUND 2024/06/27 at 15:00

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

7. ROUND 2024/06/27 at 15:00

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



Guided Walking Tour through Andorra la Vella

Andorran representative FIDE Master Serni Ribera was surpassed today by his opponent, fellow FIDE Master Konstantinos Michaelides from Cyprus. Ribera, playing white, chose the solid London system and maintained a slight initiative throughout. Despite equalizing at one point, Ribera failed to adopt a solid plan to neutralize Michaelides' passed pawn at a critical moment. This allowed Michaelides to seize the advantage and secure the victory. With this result, Ribera and Michaelides both have 4½ points. Although they trail the leaders, they still have a chance to make it to the podium.

Another player with 4½ points is Luitjen A. Apol. The Faroese player defeated Arita Strade from Guernsey in a complex game typical of the open Sicilian. Both players had opportunities, but Apol ultimately capitalized on his chances more effectively.

The last game of the day to finish was between Colin Pace and Renato Frick. The Maltese player took more than four hours to overcome Frick's resistance, despite holding a material advantage for much of the game. Ultimately, this advantage was enough to secure the point.



Júlia Muratet (AND) vs Marija Zvereva (MNC)

Women's Category

The day was very beneficial for the Luxembourg player, as she was the only one of the three tied for first place to secure another victory.

Playing with the white pieces, Berend had a solid game against the Cypriot Christianna Markidou. With a tactical strike in the center, she won a pawn, which was enough to convert the game into a victory due to her solid structure. Despite resistance, the resulting rook endgame did not pose many complications, and she now has 6 points.

Marija Zvereva (MNC), playing with the black pieces, couldn't achieve the same result against Júlia Muratet from the Principality. Zvereva had chances in a strategically complicated game, but gradual exchanges equalized the position, leading to a draw in a rook endgame. Zvereva is now in second place with $5\frac{1}{2}$ points, while Muratet has $3\frac{1}{2}$ points.

The third contender, Andrea Henderson from the Principality, did not have her best day. In a complicated game where she held the initiative for a long time, she made a grave error that handed the game to her opponent, Gerda Nevska. With this defeat, Henderson drops to third place with 5 points, while Nevska from Guernsey moves to fourth with $4\frac{1}{2}$ points.

It was also not a good day for another Andorran player, Ariadna de la Riva, who lost to Filipina Thornton (MLT). De la Riva's kingside pawn advance weakened her position, allowing the black pieces to launch a faster attack along the h-file. Both players now have $3\frac{1}{2}$ points.

The last game of the round saw Rachel Ruddy (JSI) win with the white pieces against Mariane Biordi (SMR).

Photo Gallery Round 7



THE GAME OF THE ROUND

Apol, Luitjen Akselsson (2251) Strade, Arita (1957) Sicilian Defense [B66]

5th ESNA Individual Chess Championship
Andorra la Vella (7.1), 27.06.2024
[De la Riva Aguado, Oscar]

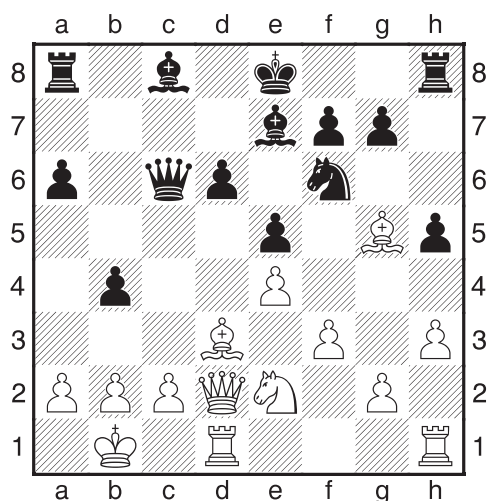
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♙g5 e6 7.♚d2 ♙e7 8.0-0-0 a6 9.f3 [9.f4 It is the main line.] **9...♚c7 10.♙b1 h5N**

A thematic idea to stop the g4 advance, but in this case it is not the best plan. 10...♘xd4 11.♚xd4 b5 to follow with ♙b7 is the most played.

11.h3 [11.f4!± seems a good alternative to take advantage of g5 square.]

11...b5 12.♘xc6 ♚xc6 13.♙d3 [The thematic plan, enabling the knight to take the e2 square without disturbing the other pieces.]

13...b4 14.♘e2 e5?



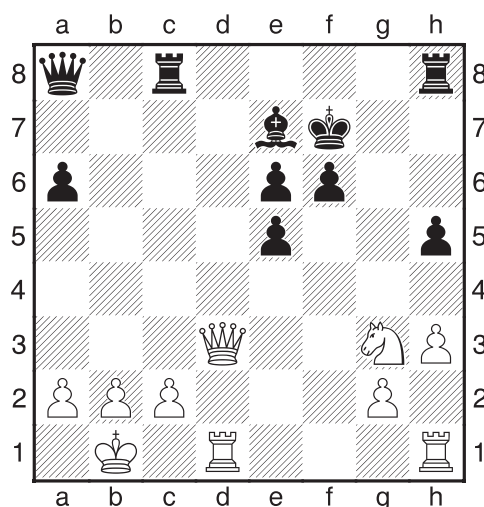
An over-optimistic pawn sacrifice. 14...♙b8 15.g4 and White has the advantage, but the game goes on. **15.♚xb4! ♙e6** [15...d5? 16.exd5+-] **16.f4 ♙c8** [16...d5 17.♚c3+-]

17.♙xf6 gxf6 [17...♙xf6 18.f5+- followed by ♘c3.] **18.f5 d5** [trying to complicate the game. 18...♙d7 19.♘c3+-] **19.♚c3 ♚a8 20.♚d2?** [20.♚a5! dxe4 21.♚a4+ ♙d7 (21...♙f8 22.♙xe4+-) 22.♚xd7+ ♙xd7 23.♙xe4+-]

20...dxe4

Black gets back into the game thanks to white's mistake!

21.fxe6 fxe6! 22.♘g3?! [22.♘c1 exd3 23.♚xd3∞] 22...exd3 23.♚xd3 [23.cxd3 h4↑] 23...♙f7!



And the game has turned around. Black is better!

24.♚e2 h4 25.♘e4 f5? [Throwing away black's options. It was necessary to control the jump to d6. 25...♚c6! 26.♙hf1 f5±]

26.♘d6+ ♙xd6 27.♙xd6 [White has regained the advantage and is not going to waste it. Black's position, with the king exposed, is very difficult to defend.]

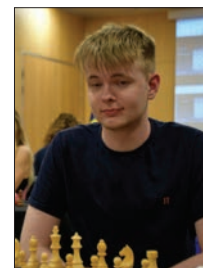
27...♙c6?! [27...e4 28.♙hd1 ♙c7 29.♚e3+-] 28.♚xe5 ♙xd6 29.♚xd6 ♚xg2 30.♙d7+ ♙f6 31.♙d4+! ♙f7 [31...e5 32.♚b6+ ♙f7 33.♙g1+-]

32.♚a7+ ♙f6 33.♙g1+- ♙d8 34.a3 ♙d7 35.♚e3?! [Is better 35.♚c5]

35...♚d2 36.♚c5 ♙d4?? [36...♙d6 and white still needs to put in effort to secure a win.]

37.♚f8+! ♙e5 38.♚h8+ ♙e4 [38...♙d5 39.♚xd4+ ♙xd4 40.♙d1+-] 39.♚xh4+ f4 40.♙e1+ ♙d5 41.♚h5+ ♙c6 42.♙xe6+ ♙d6 43.♚e8+ ♙d5 44.c4+! ♙c5 [44...♚xc4 45.♙e5+-]

45.♙e5+ ♙xc4 46.♚a4+ ♙d3 47.♚c2# 1-0





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Gir de guió a l'Europeu de Petits Estats d'escacs

Esports 27 de juny, 2024



Canvi de líder a l'Europeu de Petits Estats d'escacs. L'andorrà Serni Ribera va perdre en sisena ronda contra el monegasc Igor Efimov, que ara encapçala la classificació amb 5 punts, empatat amb el luxemburguès Fred Berend. Ribera és tercer, amb 4,5 punts.

I en la classificació femenina es manté el triple empat en el lideratge, amb l'andorrana Andrea Henderson, la monegasca Marija Zvereva i Elvira Berend, de Luxemburg. Sumen 5 punts. Aquesta tarda de dijous tindrà lloc la setena ronda al Centre de Congressos.

Informa: Sergi Cano

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