

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 07



Federació d'Escacs Valls d'Andorra

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Round 8

After round 8 Igor Efimov is the solo leader of the tournament. In the women's category Elvira Berend and Marija Zvereva with 6½.

Open Category



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The first game to finish in this eighth round was between FIDE master Konstantinos Michaelides and San Marino player Nicola d'Amico. The white pieces chose the solid exchange variation against the French Defence. The result was an equal position in the middle game where the Cypriot player with the black pieces gradually improved the placement of his pieces and took advantage of his opponent's inaccuracies to score a new victory, thus reaching 5.5 points.

Grandmaster Igor Efimov secured another victory, consolidating his lead in the standings with 7 points out of 8. Today, he won with the black pieces against Paul A. Carpenter in a game where the Jersey player could have capitalized on a calculation and evaluation error by his opponent. In fact, the Monegasque player had a clear advantage in the middle game, but a mistaken advance (16...f5?) would have allowed the white pieces to exploit it with 19.Cf4!, causing many problems for



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ROUND 8 RESULTS

8. ROUND 2024/06/28 at 15:00

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

8. ROUND 2024/06/28 at 15:00

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



GM Igor Efimov (MNC)

Efimov. The white pieces missed this opportunity and lost the game shortly after.

With this result, Fred Berend, who started the round tied with Efimov, needed to win to catch up and maintain chances. With the black pieces, he played a solid game against young Faroese Luitjen A. Apol.

The strategy worked, and in the middle game, he gained a pawn advantage, which allowed him to reach an endgame with good winning chances. However, his young opponent managed to position his pieces well, pressuring the opponent's position to neutralize the material disadvantage. Despite trying until exhaustion in a knight endgame, the Luxembourgish international master could not unbalance the game, signing a draw after four and a half hours of playing.

Another long game where a favorable endgame had to be imposed was by the Andorran FIDE master Serni Ribera. With the white pieces, he broke a losing streak of two consecutive defeats and scored the point with the white pieces against Maltese CM

Colin Pace. With this result, Serni is at 5½ points before the final round, tied for third place with Konstantinos Michaelides.

The other game of the day between Arita Strade (GCI) and Renato Frick (LIE) went in favor of the latter, as with the black pieces, he managed to impose his two-pawn advantage in a rook endgame where it seemed that activity compensated for material and the Guernsey player could achieve a draw.



Women's Category

The Principality player Júlia Muratet won with the black pieces against Jersey's player Rachel Ruddy in what was the fastest game to finish in the women's category. In the middle game, Júlia exploited the weaknesses in her opponent's position to apply pressure until she gained a material advantage and won a few moves later. With this new victory, our player has 4½ points.

Unfortunately, the next to finish was also Andorran, Ariadna de la Riva, but in this case, the result was not favorable, and she lost to Monegasque international female master Marija Zvereva. With the black pieces, Ariadna had a solid position in the middle game, where she could play calmly to improve her piece placement having more space. Instead, she chose a plan involving a direct attack on the opposing king, which led to numerous weaknesses that the Monegasque player exploited to secure the victory and, thanks to the leader Elvira Berend's result, catch up to her in first place with 6½ points.

The Luxembourg grandmaster could not break the resistance of Guernsey's representative Gerda Nevska. The white pieces played an original opening and obtained an interesting and solid position. With simplifications, heavy pieces and bishops of opposite colors remained on the board, favoring the game's simplification until a draw was agreed upon.

With both players tied, Berend and Zvereva, tomorrow's round in the afternoon will be decisive to determine the new female champion of the tournament.

Andrea Henderson also resolved her match today against Maltese Filipina Thornton with a victory, staying in third place with 6 points. Tomorrow, she will have the white pieces against Marija Zvereva, making it another decisive game for the championship podium as she is only half a point behind the two tournament leaders.

To conclude the women's category report, Cypriot player Christiana Markidou won with the black pieces against Mariane Biordi of San Marino in a game that was very complicated, and where Mariane had a decisive advantage.

Photo Gallery Round 8



1st Blitz Women European Small Nations

WGM Elvira Berend has become the winner of the 1st edition. Arita Strade and Gerda Nevska complete the podium.

13 players in the first edition



Jana de la Riva, the youngest player!

The tournament was held in the same hall where the individual championships of classical rhythm take place, the Congress Center of Andorra la Vella. The start was at 10:00 p.m. and lasted an hour and a half, with seven rounds played at 3+2.

13 players took part of the event, specifically 8 from Andorra, two from Guernsey, one from Jersey, one from Malta and one from Luxembourg. Unfortunately, the number of countries could not be completed, but we hope that in future editions the commitment of the players will help to grow the tournament since this will help in the development of women's chess in the small European states.

As for the tournament, this one had a clear dominator, the Luxembourg women's grandmaster Elvira Berend, number one in the ranking and who, without any difficulties, achieved six consecutive victories. With 6



Family photo with the 13 players!



FINAL STANDINGS

Rk.	No.Ini.		Nombre	FED	Elo	Pts.	Des 1	Des 2	Des 3
1	1		WGM Berend, Elvira	LUX	2241	6,5	20	26,75	27,5
2	3		Strade, Arita	GCI	1908	5	21	18,00	28
3	4		AFM Nevska, Gerda	GCI	1891	4,5	20	16,25	28
4	6		De la Riva Real, Ariadna	AND	1830	4,5	19,5	16,75	27,5
5	9		Muratet Carmona, Alexandra	AND	1757	4,5	14,5	11,25	20
6	2		WFM Henderson de la Fuente, Andrea	AND	1911	4	19	14,00	28
	5		Muratet Carmona, Julia	AND	1875	4	19	14,00	28
8	11		WCM Ruddy, Rachel	JCI	1632	4	17	11,00	24
9	10		Galera Serra, Maria	AND	1638	3	16,5	7,50	21,5
10	8		WCM Real Puigdollers, Silvia	AND	1802	3	14	7,50	19
11	7		WFM Thornton, Filipina	MLT	1824	3	12,5	6,50	19,5
12	12		De la Riva Real, Jana	AND	1494	2	17,5	6,50	24
13	13		Pastor Jorda, Nerea	AND	1441	1	16	3,50	23,5

out of 6, some draws in the last round awarded her the first place alone, and in fact, she achieved this result against the Andorran player Ariadna de la Riva, who was the only one who could score against the champion.

The fight for second place was fiercer, but Arita Strade from Guernsey was slightly ahead of the other players with 5 points, despite the defeat in the last round against her compatriot Gerda Nevska. Three players tied for third place, Gerda Nevska and the Andorrans Ariadna de la Riva and Alexandra Muratet.

The best tie-break coefficient gave the Guernsey player third place on the podium, relegating Ariadna to fourth place and Alexandra to fifth place. Let's remember that Alexandra is the chief arbiter of the tournament that started a week ago, but yesterday she was dressed as a player and that's how the other participants got to know her on the sports side!

The tournament developed in good harmony and without any incident, it was under controlled by the chief arbiter, AF Esteve Mateu. In fact, in a much more relaxed atmosphere than in the main tournament, the players took the opportunity to talk and interact, which helped the tournament to run very smoothly.



Arita Strade (GCI)

THE GAME OF THE ROUND

**Thornton, Filipina (1787) MLT
Henderson, Andrea (1966) AND
[A41]**

2nd ESNA Womens Chess Championship
Andorra la Vella (8.3), 28.06.2024
[De la Riva Aguado, Oscar]

1.d4 d6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 [Not the best decision.
f3 is more flexible and gives White more
options.]

3...dxe5 4.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 5.♗c3 c6 6.♕g5+?
[Help Black with his development. [6.g3]

**6...f6 7.0-0-0+ ♔c7 8.♖e3 ♖e6 9.b3 ♖a3+
10.♗b1 ♗a6** [10...♖f5+!? 11.♗a1 ♗a6]

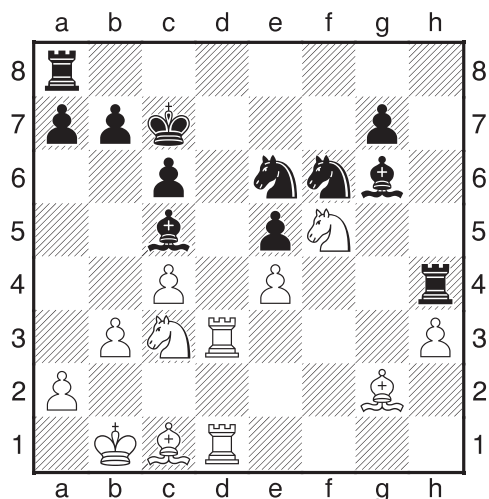
11.♖c1 ♖c5 12.f3 h5 [12...♗h6!? 13.e4 (13.♖xh6
gxh6) 13...♗f7]

13.e4 ♗b8 [13...♗h6! and Black has a stable
advantage.] **14.♗ge2 h4 15.f4 ♖g4** [15...♗d7!]

16.h3 ♖h5 17.fxe5 [The only plan to seek
counterplay was 17.♗d3! ♗d7 18.g4 hxg3
19.♗xg3]

17...fxe5 18.♗d3 ♗f6 19.g3 [19.g4 ♖g6 20.♖g2
♗bd7 21.♗hd1 ♗f8] **19...♖g6** [19...♗bd7]

20.♖g2 ♗bd7 21.gxh4 ♖xh4 22.♗hd1 ♗f8
[22...♖f2! followed by ♗c5 and White is in big
trouble.] **23.♗g3 ♗e6 24.♗f5**



24...♗xe4?

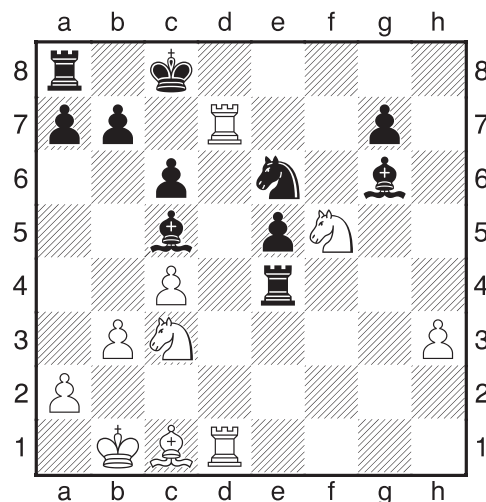
Apparently a winning combination, but it
is a serious mistake. There are too many
intermediate moves for White! **24...♖xf5**
25.exf5 ♗f4 26.♗g3 (26.♖xf4 ♖xf4) **26...♗g8.**

25.♗d7+!

This check is the key. **25.♗d7+ ♖e7** (25.♗d7+ ♖e7
♖xe4 26.♗xg7!! ♗f8 (26...♗xg7 27.♗d7+ ♖c8
(27...♗b6 28.♗a4+!) 28.♖xg7+)) **27.♗d7+ ♖e7**
28.♗d7+ ♖e7 (28.♗d7+ ♖e7 29.♗d7+ ♖e7
28.♗b2 ♖xd3 29.♖xd3)

25...♖c8 [25...♗b6? 26.♗a4+ ♖a6 27.♗xh4
♗c3+ 28.♗a1 ♗xd1 29.♗xg6+]

26.♖xe4 ♖xe4

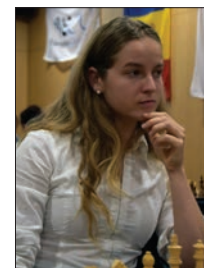


27.♗d6+??

Returns the mistake. White has **27.♗e7+ ♖xe7**
28.♖xe7 and now there are no dangerous
overdrafts **28...♖e1+ 29.♗b2 ♖xd1 30.♗xd1**
Suddenly the black pieces are not well
positioned and the white rook has several
threats. **30...♖f5 31.♖e8+ ♗d8 32.♖g5 ♖c7**
33.♖xe5+—

27...♖xd7 28.♗dxe4+ ♖d4 29.♗b2 ♖xe4
30.♖xd4+ exd4+— [and with advantage
material the game is of no more interest.]

31.♗xe4 ♖h8 32.♗f2 ♖d6 33.♗c2 ♖e5 34.♗d3
c5 35.♖d2 ♗f4+ 36.♗c2 ♗xh3 37.♗d3+ ♖d6
38.b4 b6 39.b5 ♖f8 40.a4 g5 41.a5 g4 42.♖e1
♖f3 0-1





Press Clipping

Escacs: Efimov encapçala l'Open dels Petits Estats d'Europa i Zvereva atrapa Berend al femení

PER: REDACCIÓ / EL 28/06/24 21:31 / A: ESPORTS



A l'esquerra, el Gran Mestre Igor Efimov, líder en solitari del torneig (FEVA)

El Gran Mestre de Mònaco, **Igor Efimov** (2313 FIDE), s'ha quedat sol al capdavant del **5è campionat individual dels Petits Estats d'Europa** d'escacs amb 7 punts. El monegasch ha guanyat aquest divendres al jugador de Jersey Paul A. Carpenter (1969 FIDE) mentre que el Mestre Internacional de Luxemburg amb qui compartia lideratge, **Fred Berend** (2235 FIDE), ha fet taules amb el jove d'Illes Feroe Luitjen Akselsson Apol (2251 FIDE) i es manté segon amb 6,5 punts. Així, la partida de dissabte, la darrera, serà decisiva per a assignar el campió, ja que el Gran Mestre de Mònaco juga amb Apol i Berend ho farà amb l'escaquista de Guernsey, Arita Strade (1957 FIDE).

Victòria dels primers taulers andorrans per somiar en la darrera jornada

Esports 28 de juny, 2024



Reacció dels primers taulers andorrans en la penúltima jornada de l'Europeu de petits estats d'escacs. Tant Andrea Henderson com Serni Ribera han aconseguit la victòria i lluitaran fins al final per les posicions de privilegi.

Amb la victòria ja a la butxaca, Andrea Henderson esperava la partida de Serni Ribera amb l'esperança d'aconseguir el doblat. Ella s'ha pogut imposar a Filipina Thornton de Malta en una partida on sempre ha tingut la iniciativa. Queda tercera a només mig punt de les co-líders, Elvira Berend de Luxemburg i Marija Zvereva de Mònaco.

"Aquest dissabte necessitaria que perdi la primera i jo jugo contra la que va segona. Està a les meves mans acabar segona però és molt dura així que no se com anirà"
Andrea Henderson, jugadora Andorra

Si l'Andrea ha tingut la partida sempre controlada, Serni Ribera tot el contrari, duel molt llarg per acabar guanyant capgirant una situació de desavantatge.

"La victòria d'avui té un bon sabor perquè els dos darrers dies no m'havia anat bé. He guanyat el jugador de Malta, ell de l'apertura ha sortit millor i, una petita avantatge d'ell l'he pogut convertir i guanyar la partida"
Serni Ribera, jugador Andorra

El Serni queda quart a un punt i mig del líder, el monegasch Igor Efimov. En la darrera jornada lluitarà per assolir la tercera plaça.

Informa: Cesc Sanjuan
Imatges: David Moreno

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