

26th MEMORIAL
of STANISŁAW
GAWLIKOWSKI

UNDER THE AUSPICES

OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY OF WARSAW
HANNA GRONKIEWICZ-WALTZ

AND

THE MARSHAL OF THE MAZOWIECKIE VOIVODESHIP
ADAM STRUZIK



VII AMPLICO AIG LIFE
INTERNATIONAL
CHESS TOURNAMENT
EUROPEAN RAPID CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP

INTERNATIONAL
WARSAW
BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

WARSAW • 14th–16th December 2007

7th AMPLICO AIG LIFE
INTERNATIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT
EUROPEAN RAPID CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

WARSAW
15th-16th DEC 2007



Chess Club Polonia Warsaw, MKS Polonia Warsaw and the Warsaw Foundation for Chess Development are one of the most significant organizers of chess life in Poland and in Europe.

The most important achievements of "Polonia Chess":

• **Successes of the grandmasters representing Polonia:**

- 5 times finishing second (1997, 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2005) and once third (2002) in the European Chess Club Cup;
- 8 times in a row (1999-2006) team championship of Poland;
- our players have won 24 medals in Polish Individual Championships, including 7 gold, 11 silver and 4 bronze medals;
- GM Bartłomiej Macieja became European Champion in 2002 (the greatest individual success in the history of Polish chess after the Second World War);
- WGM Beata Kadziolka won the bronze medal at the World Championship 2005;
- the players of Polonia have had qualified for the World Championships and World Cups: Michał Krasenkow and Bartłomiej Macieja (six times), Monika Soćko (three times), Robert Kempański and Mateusz Bartel (twice), Bartosz Soćko, Jacek Gdański and Paweł Blehm (once).

• **Successes of our junior players:**

- in 2006, the juniors of MKS Polonia Warsaw won the Polish Sport Competition;
- in 2006, Anna Gasik became European Champion under 18, in 2007, Hanna Leks finished second in the European Championship under 18;
- in 2006-2007, the juniors of Polonia Trade Trans Warsaw won 10 medals in the Individual Poland Championship, including 2 gold, 2 silver and 6 bronze medals;
- in 2006, Polonia Trade Trans Warsaw finished second, and in 2007 third, in the Junior Chess Extra League.

• **Sport Club Polonia Warsaw and the Warsaw Foundation for Chess Development have organized the following events recently:**

- Plus GSM World Chess Cup 2000 (535 participants);
- 4 Polish Championships (2001-2004) with the total prize fund of around 125.000 Euros, including around 120.000 Euros in money prizes;
- Match Karpov – Macieja 2003;
- European Individual Championship 2005 with the prize fund of 120.000 Euros (229 participants);
- Memorial of Stanisław Gawlikowski – 25 rapid tournaments (1981-2005), including the European Rapid Championship 2005 (411 participants) and 2006 (483 participants). At the Memorial we hosted, among others, world stars of chess, such as Viktor Korchnoi (legend of chess and runner-up in World Championship), Ruslan Ponomarev (world champion), Vassily Ivanchuk (European champion and runner-up in World Championship), Nigel Short (second in the world), Vladimir Akopyan (second in the world), Levon Aronian (World Cup winner), Evgeny Bareev, Alexei Shirov, Peter Swidler, Look van Wely, Alexander Beliavsky, Viktor Bologan, Kiril Georgiev, Sergei Movsesian, Jaan Ehvest, Peter Heine Nielsen as well as all the leaders of Polish chess, Grandmasters and Woman Grandmasters;
- Between 1999 and 2006 we organized dozens of rapid chess tournaments and other events in Warsaw, helping in promotion of chess;
- Mazovian Chess Festival 2007 (together with Mazovian Chess Federation and Chess Club Grodzisk Mazowiecki).

HANNA GRONKIEWICZ-WALTZ
THE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY OF WARSAW
and
ADAM STRUZIK
THE MARSHAL OF THE MAZOWIECKIE VOIVODESHIP



UNDER THE AUSPICES OF:



Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very glad that leading European players have arrived in Warsaw to fight an exciting battle for the honour to be the best rapid chess player of our continent.

My fascination of chess comes from the fact that it underlines the decisive role of the intellect and diligence in the development of a human and today's world. The other reason of fascination is my observation that chess is a sport in which, from its very root, the rival is always respected and fair play rules are applied, which is the ground of good relations between people.

I wish you a pleasant stay in Warsaw and satisfaction with the games played.

Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz

The President of the city of Warsaw

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Dear chessplayers,

The European Chess Union is very happy that the European Rapid Chess Championship will be hosted in Warsaw once more.

Rapid Chess has developed tremendously in the past decade. Its importance has increased as a serious kind of sport and as a decisive means of the tie breaks ñ even in World Championships.

Chess tradition in Poland is well known. ECU appreciates all efforts of the Polish Chess Federation and the Warsaw foundation for chess development to continue with this tradition and to show that Chess has become an important issue here in Poland.

I'm convinced that much more players than before will find their way to this year's European Rapid Championship. On behalf of the ECU I welcome all the participants to the hospitable city of Warsaw.

Boris Kutin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Kutin'.

ECU President

HANNA GRONKIEWICZ-WALTZ
THE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY OF WARSAW
and
ADAM STRUZIK
THE MARSHAL OF THE MAZOWIECKIE VOIVODESHIP



UNDER THE AUSPICES OF:



MARSHAL
OF THE MAZOWIECKIE VOIVODESHIP

Dear Participants,

Chess is a strategic game, perfectly developing intellect, ability of logical thinking and prediction. Legends indicate, that at first, chess appeared in ancient Mesopotamia. As some researchers think, terracotta figurine, which were found there, were used as pick-up sticks. Rules close to these used today were elaborated in the 5th century AD in India, what was proven by excavations and scripts.

I would like to thank everyone for their contribution in this extraordinary mental game. First of all I thank admirable competitors – for your involvement and achievements.

I wish that XXVI Chess´ Memorial of Stanislaw Gawlikowski will provide You with amazing emotions rich of surprising situations on the chess board. Let the best win!

I congratulate all the participants and wish the best luck.

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ADAM STRUZIK
THE MARSHAL OF THE MAZOWIECKIE VOIVODESHIP



AMPICO AIG Life



Ladies and gentlemen,

This is the 7th time Amplico Life is sponsoring this International Rapid Chess Tournament. We are glad that for the third time it has got a high rank of the European Championship.

We appreciate the efforts of the organizers to secure a high level of the event. A lot of outstanding players are meeting in Warsaw, so young Polish prodigies get an opportunity to face chess stars.

Amplico Life attaches great importance to the support of sports and useful hobbies, especially among young people. We hope that the tournament will contribute to the popularization of “the game of kings”, as well as the values it promotes: logic of conduct, considered activity and fair rivalry.

We wish all the participants a lot of emotions and victories.

Jacek Pastuszka

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Pastuszka', written in a cursive style.

Chairman of Board, Amplico Life S.A.



STANISŁAW GAWLIKOWSKI 1920-1981

Tournaments in memory of Stanisław Gawlikowski have been held in Warsaw for quarter of a century already. A chessplayer, journalist, author of many excellent chess books, for his friends he was just unforgettable Staś, pouring out jokes, gathering around him crowds of adherents, those thirsting for both more and less serious tales of a man who probably knew everything about the kings' game.

It is not difficult to display courage nowadays but during the post-war Stalinism, when "Trybuna Ludu", the party's organ, called him an enemy of the people, it was far from easy to voice views contradicting to those "only correct" and display internal freedom. Staś enjoyed his freedom and didn't allow party apparatchiks to break him up. Yes, they fired him from the "Szachy" monthly, which he and his friends founded after the war. But he loved to write about chess, so he conducted dozens of chess corners. The most precious for him was the small one in the "Światelko" monthly, published for blind children.

When he died in 1981, all those who came to his funeral, both friends and chess rivals, unanimously stated that an important period of the history of the Polish chess had ended. But life hates vacuum. Not later than 1982, thanks to Staś' friend and great activist of Warsaw chess, Tadeusz Justyna, the first Stanisław Gawlikowski Memorial was held at the Warsaw Central railway station. That chamber tournament was an important milestone, first in the history of the Warsaw chess, and now also European chess as it started a series of tournaments, whose rank has been steadily rising. Today it is an event of global importance, with high prizes and brilliant galaxy of leading players fighting for prizes and titles. The tournament is held in the most important venues in Poland's capital city – either in the Culture Palace, as it was several years ago, or in the Olympic Centre, or at the Torwar Show Hall, as this year.

Thanks to the financial support of the City of Warsaw and the Mazovian Voivodeship, as well as various sponsors (Profus Management, Bank Współpracy Europejskiej, ComputerLand and Amplico Life nowadays) we have had in Warsaw worldwide chess stars as guests, such as: Viktor Korchnoi – a legend of chess and runner-up in World Championship, Ruslan Ponomarev (world champion), Vassily Ivanchuk (European champion and runner-up in World Championship), Nigel Short (second in the world), Vladimir Akopyan (second in the world), Levon Aronian (World Cup winner), Evgeny Bareev, Alexei Shirov, Peter Swidler, Loek van Wely, Alexander Beliavsky, Viktor Bologan, Kiril Georgiev, Sergei Movsesian, Jaan Ehvest, Peter Heine Nielsen as well as all the leaders of Polish chess, Grandmasters and Woman Grandmasters.

A honorary guest, Zofia Gawlikowska, Stanisław's widow, participated in all Memorials until 2003. Unfortunately, she died in February, 2005 and will not hand prizes to tournament triumphanters anymore.

We should wish ourselves that this second life of Stanisław Gawlikowski, achieved thanks to his own creativity and the tournament memorizing his activities, continue as long as possible and contribute to further development of chess in Poland, chess, to which Staś was faithful throughout his life.

Stefan Gawlikowski



WINNERS OF AMPLICO LIFE TOURNAMENTS

Adrian Mihkhalchishin – winner of the 2001 tournament

Mikhalchishin was born in Lvov, Ukraine in 1954. In 1977 he was the winner of the Soviet Young Masters tournament. He successfully took part in several Soviet Championships (his best result was 4th place in 1984). He won many tournaments in the 1970s and 1980s as well as has achieved high results later until recently. Now he is one of the leading chess players in Slovenia. He is a well-known author of many chess books and an excellent chess trainer (in this capacity he visited Poland many times).

2001



Evgeny Bareev – winner of the 2002 tournament

For many years until recently he had been among the best ten in the international rating list (at one moment he was third). He participated in all FIDE Knockout World Chess Championship in the years 1999-2004 (he reached the quarterfinal stages in 2000 and 2001) and was 5th in 2005 FIDE World Cup (qualifying to candidates matches being elimination stage to 2005/07 FIDE World Championship). He was 2nd in the Russian Championship in 1995. His major tournament wins include 1990/91, 1991/92 and 1992/93 Hastings, 1994 Pardubice, 1996 Belgrade, 2002 Wijk aan Zee, 2003 Enghien-les-Bains. He was 2nd in FIDE World Cup in 2000 (after Anand) and in World Cup of Rapid Chess in 2001 (after Kasparov). He was many times a member of Russian teams at Chess Olympiads and World Team Championships. In 2005 Superfinals of Russian Championship was 4th ahead of Kramnik and Svidler.

2002



Vassily Ivanchuk – winner of the 2003 tournament

He is one of the chess superstars. He is currently ranked 2nd in the world (rating 2787). For the last 18 years he has been among the best ten in the international rating list (at one moment he was second after Kasparov). He was a finalist of the 2001/02 FIDE Knockout World Chess Championship and European Champion in 2004. His major tournament wins include Linares in 1989, 1991 (ahead of Kasparov and Karpov) and 1995, equal 1st at 1990 Manila Interzonal (qualifying to candidates matches), Wijk aan Zee in 1996 and 2001. In 2005 obtained the best result among all participants of European Club Cup (his result was equivalent to rating 2940) and won the Capablanca Memorial (equivalent to rating 2829). In 2006 he shared 3rd in Wijk aan Zee (behind Topalov and Anand), won the Capablanca and Keres memorials, was 2nd in Aerosvit tournament (Yalta, Ukraine). In 2007 he won several prestigious international tournaments: in Habana (Capablanca Memorial), Montreal and the Aerosvit tournament in Yalta, as well as the World Blitz Championship in Moscow.

2003



Sergei Movsesian – winner of the 2004 tournament

Movsesian was born in Georgia in 1978. Now he is the leading chessplayer of Slovakia. He is 41th in the October 2007 international rating list with 2670. He won the following tournaments: 1993 Dresden, 1993 Berlin, 1995 Pardubice, 1996 Lazne Bohdanec, 1996 Bad Woerishofen, 1998 Ubeda, 1998 Czech Championship, 2002 Sarajevo (Category 16). He was 2nd in Sarajevo in 2003 and 2004, 3rd in 2004 Bermuda, 5th in 2005 Sarajevo. He participated in all FIDE Knockout World Chess Championship in the years 1999-2004 (reaching the quarterfinal stage in 1999). In 2007 he won the Slovakian Championship and strong tournaments in Sarajevo and Karlovy Vary.

2004



Zoltan Gyimesi – winner of the 2005 tournament

He is one of the leading Hungarian chessplayers. Bronze medalist of World Junior Championship under 20. In 2005 Gyimesi won the Hungarian Championship and next year finished only half point behind the winner Zoltan Almasi. He was many times a member of Hungarian teams at Chess Olympiads and World Team Championships as well as European Team Championships. In 2006 Olympiad he played at the second board and obtained the best result among his teammates (8 out of 12). In 2005 became the champion of the European Union. This year he shared 4th in the strong open tournament Gibtelecom Chess Festival in Gibraltar.

2005



Yuri Drozdovskij – winner of the 2006 tournament

Born 22.05.1984 in Odessa, Ukraine. Still living in Odessa. Master of psychology (graduated from Odessa National University in 2006). European Champion under 12 (1996) and under 14 (1997). International Master since 2000, Grandmaster since 2004. Tied for the 1st place in Aeroflot Open A2 (2006) and Cappelle-la-Grande Open (2007). Runner-up in the Ukrainian Championship-2006. And of course, European Rapid Champion-2006!

2006



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Jan Macieja – Board chairman of the Warsaw Foundation for Chess Development and Łukasz Kalinowski – President of Amplico Life – First American-Polish Life Insurance & Reinsurance Company, Warsaw 2002.



GM Viktor Korchnoi and GM Mateusz Bartel.

Winners of the Amplico AIG Life
Tournament 2003:
GM Vassily Ivanchuk
GM Vladimir Akopian
GM Levon Aronian



The youngest participants of the Amplico AIG Life Tournament 2004.

Olympic Center in Warsaw
– venue of the Amplico AIG Life Tournament
2005.



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Playing hall of the 6th Amplico AIG Life International Chess Tournament -
European Rapid Chess Championship, Warsaw (Torwar Show Hall) 2006.

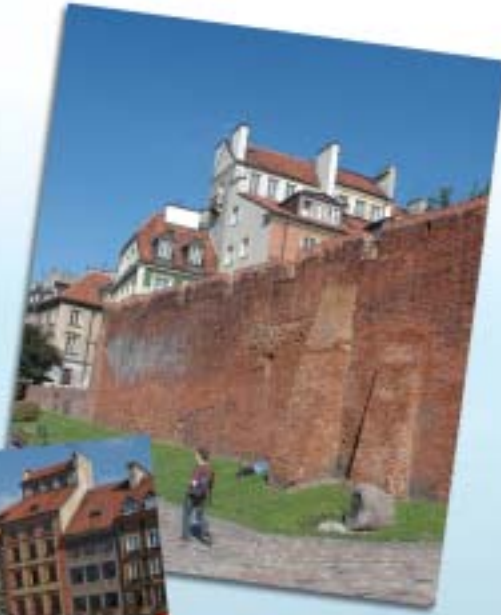


Chess is a sport for all generations



GM Yuri Drozdovsky, winner of the 6th Amplico AIG Life International
Chess Tournament – European Rapid Chess Championship,
with the first prize handed in by Łukasz Kalinowski –
President of AIG PTE, Warsaw 2006.





European chess players
are visiting Warsaw
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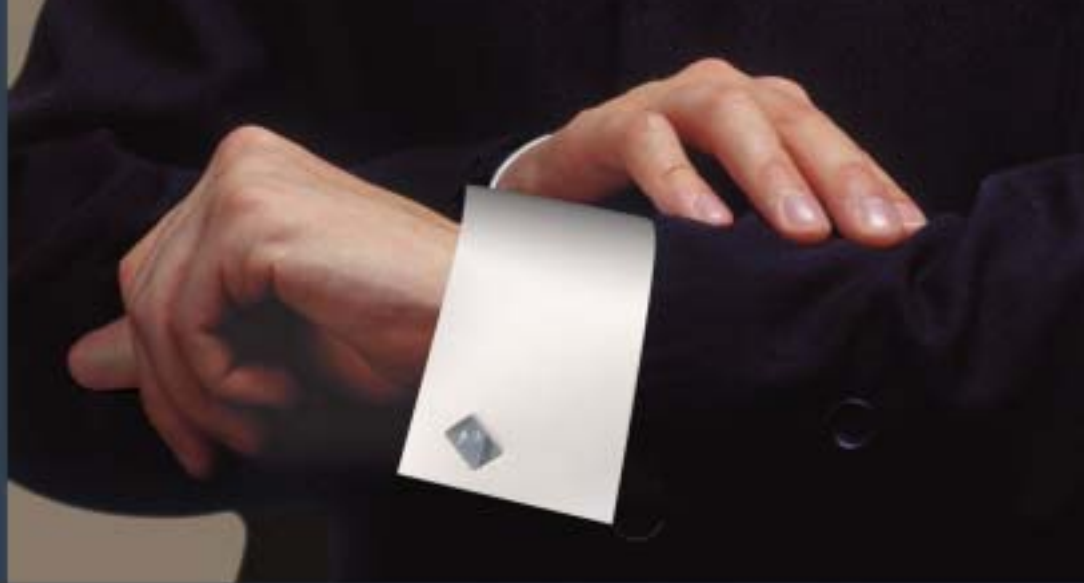
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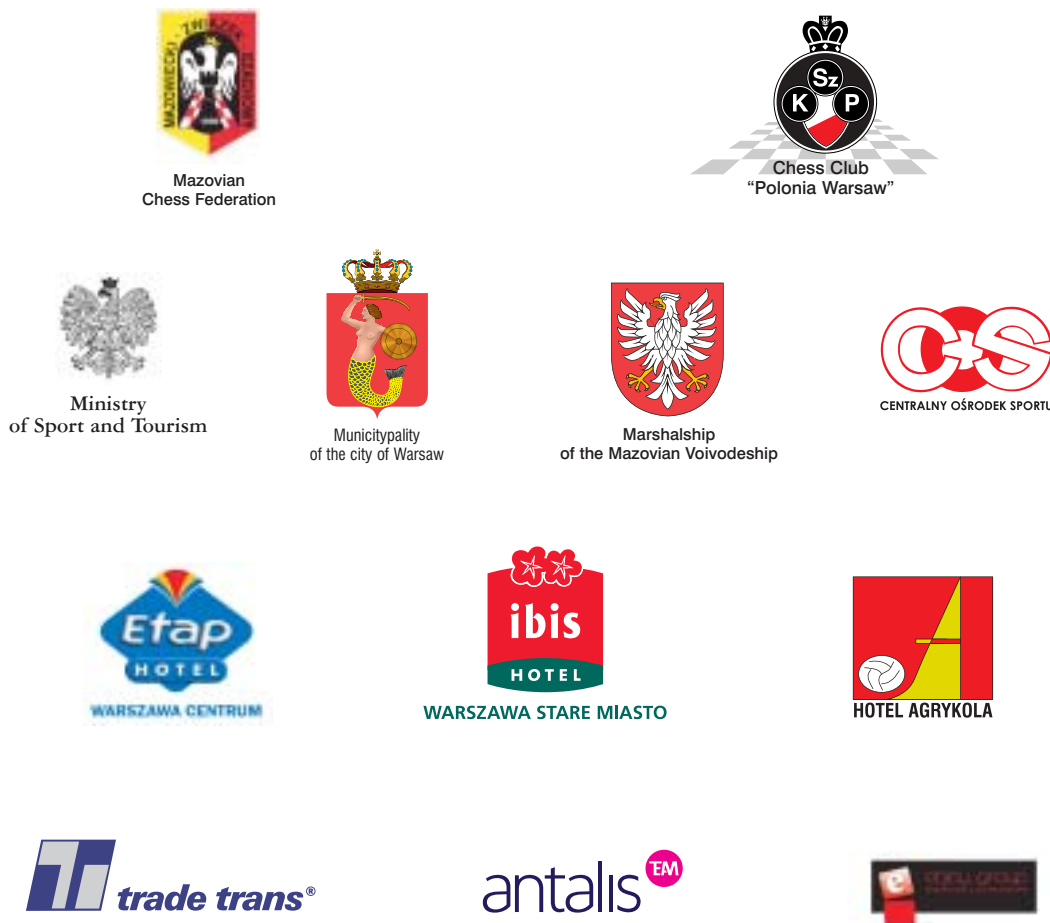


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