# EUROPEAN RAPID CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

# AMPLICO AIG Life VIII AMPLICO AIG LIFE INTERNATIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT

27 th Memorial of Stanisław Gawlikowski Under the auspices of the President of the City of Warsaw Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz





Stanisław Gawlikowski 1920-1981

#### 27th Memorial of Stanisław Gawlikowski

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 thristing for both more and less serious tales of a man who probably knew everything about the kings' game.

It is not difficult do display courage nowadays but during the post-war Stalinizm, 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 "Swiatelko" 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  $\tilde{n}$  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 Ponomariov (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 Bareyev, Alexei Shirov, Peter Swidler, Look van Welly, Alexander Beliavsky, Viktor Bologan, Kiril Georgiev, Sergei Movsesian, Jaan Ehlvest, 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 triumphants anymore.

We should wish ourselves that this second life of Stanisław Gawlikowski, achieved thanks to his own creativity and the tourament 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.

### **WINNERS OF THE AMPLICO LIFE TOURNAMENTS**



Yuri Drozdovsky



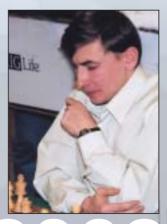
Zoltan Gyimesi



Sergei Movsesian



Vasyl Ivanchuk



Evgeny Bareev



Adrian Mikhalchishin

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Amplico Life S.A. Pierwsze Amerykańsko-Polskie TU na Życie i Reasekuracji S.A.

uhonorowane tytułem "Perły Polskiej Gospodarki 2008" w kategorii "Perły Wielkie" sektora ubezpieczeń i bankowości. Jest to kolejne przyznane przez Polską Akademię Nauk (INE PAN) wyróżnienie dla Amplico Life S.A.









European Rapid Chess Championship - 7th Amplico AIG Life International Chess Tournament, Torwar, Warsaw, 2007





Former Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek was a honorary guest of the Championship. On the photo: Mr. Buzek talking to Anna Gasik (European U18 Champion) and Jan Macieja (Chairman of the Foundation Council).



Emilka Kaniewska



Winners of the 2007 tournament GMs Alexey Aleksandrov, Tomasz Markowski, and Fernando Peralta, with Izabela Ptaszyńska, Director of the Marketing Department of Amplico Life S.A.



Chess is a sport without age bars.







#### **CHESS POLONIA...**

The Chess Club "Polonia Warsaw" in co-operation with the City Sports Club "Polonia" and the Warsaw Foundation for Chess Development have been recently the main organizers of chess life in Poland.

#### The most important successes of Chess Polonia in competitions and organization

#### Successes of the Grandmaster team:

- 5 times finishing second (1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005) and once third (2002) in the European Chess Club Cup:
- our team won Polish Team Championships 8 times in a row (1999-2006);
- our players have won 27 medals in Polish Individual Championships, including 9 gold, 12 silver, 6 bronze medals;
- GM Bartlomiej Macieja became the Champion of Europe in 2002 (the greatest individual success in the history of Polish chess since the Second World War);
- players of Polonia Plus GSM Warsaw: Michał Krasenkow and Bartlomiej Macieja (6 times), Robert Kempiński and Mateusz Bartel (twice), Bartosz Soćko, Jacek Gdański, and Paweł Blehm (once), Monika Soćko (3 times) qualified for World Championships/Cups.

#### Successes of juniors:

- in 2006-2007 players of the City Sports Club "Polonia" won the all-Polish overall classification for juniors;
- in 2006 Anna Gasik won the European Championship U18, in 2007 Hanna Leks was the runner-up in the European Championship U18, and in 2008 Eva Harazińska won the bronze medal in the European Championship U10;
- In 2006-2007 juniors of "Polonia Trade Trans" won 10 medals in Polish Individual Championships, including 2 gold, 2 silver, and 6 bronze medals;
- the "Polonia Trade Trans" team won a silver (in 2006) and a bronze medal (in 2007) in Polish Junior Team Championships (Extraleague).

#### • The Club and the Foundation have organized the following events recently:

- Plus GSM World Chess Cup 2000 (535 participants);
- 4 Polish Individual Championship finals (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 Stanislaw Gawlikowski 24 rapid tournaments, 1981-2007, including European Rapid Championships of 2005 (411 participants), 2006 (483 participants), and 2007 (583 participants). The European Championships were organized in co-operation with the Polish Chess Federation. Among the participants of the Memorial in 2000-2007 there were chess stars like Victor Korchnoi (the greatest chess legend and World Vice-Champion), Ruslan Ponomariov (World Champion), Vasyl Ivanchuk (World Vice-Champion and European Champion), Nigel Short (World Vice-Champion), Vladimir Akopian (World Vice Champion), Levon Aronian (World Cup winner), Evgeny Bareev, Alexey Shirov, Peter Svidler, Loek Van Wely, Alexander Beliavsky, Victor Bologan, Kiril Georgiev, Sergei Movsesian, Jaan Ehlvest, Peter Heine Nielsen, as well as all top Polish GMs and WGMs;
- between 1999 and 2008 dozens of rapid tournaments "Plus GSM cellphone Grand Prix", "Warsaw Mayor Grand Prix", and "PKO BP Grand Prix";
- Mazovian Chess Festival in 2007-2008 (together with the Mazovian Chess Federation).



### ... AND ITS GRANDMASTERS





The Warsaw – Buenos-Aires – Kolkata match. The Warsaw team: Bartosz Soćko, Bartlomiej Macieja, Robert Kempiński, Mateusz Bartel.



www.e-warsaw.pl



Warsaw Youth team: Monika Soćko, Michał Olszewski, Maciej Brzeski, Arkadiusz Leniart.



The playing hall in Novotel.



GM Barttomiej Macieja simul during the S.C. Polonia Warsaw 95th anniversary picnic.



Participants of the 2005 European Championship on a sightseeing tour in Warsaw.



GM Bartosz Soćko simul, Saski Garden, Warsaw 2006.

Simul to mark the 86th anniversary of the Warsaw Battle 1920, Saski Garden, Warsaw 2006.







Warsaw Youth Olympiad, Olympic Centre, Warsaw 2008.

The youngest prize-winners of the Warsaw Youth Olympiad.



GM Mateusz Bartel simul, Castle Square, Warsaw 2004



Mazovian Chess Festival, OSIR Polna, Warsaw 2008



Closing Ceremony of the 2007 European Rapid Championship. The youngest participants with Christmas gifts handed by Wojciech Bartelski, mayor of the Warsaw Central District.



can be called a cultural and recreational heart of the capital. Situated on the left bank of the Vistula River, in the very center of Warsaw and is possibly the most important district in Warsaw and probably is the most important district in Poland. The word, "śródmieście", in English means the "center of town". Many cultural and sport events of local, national and international importance are held there. The biggest number of museums, galleries, theaters and cinemas are located there. Śródmieście district also hosts a complex of monumental parks. These are, among others, Royal Łazienki (Łazienki Królewskie), Ujazdowski Park, Botanical Garden and Saski Garden.



We would like to invite you to Warsaw of numerous historic buildings and reminders of its glorious past, the capital that is changing rapidly into a modern metropolis, as young as the people who live here, and becoming more beautiful by the day.

http://e-warsaw.pl

The youngest prize-winners of PKO BP Grand Prix and Dr. Agnieszka Fornal-Urban, representative of the European Chess Union.
Olympic Centre, Warsaw 2008.





PKO BP Grand Prix, Olympic Centre, Warsaw 2008.





Mazovian Chess Festival, OSIR Polna, Warsaw 2008.



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successes
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many more

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- Anna Gasik European Champion until 18
- Hanna Leks European Runner-up until 18
- Ewa Harazińska Polish Champion until 10 and bronze medallist of Junior European Championship until 10
- Hanna Leks double Gold Medallist of Polish Championship until 18
- Wioletta Sobierska Gold Medallist of Polish Championship in fast chess (P:30)
- Michał Janczarski Gold Medallist of Polish Championship in fast chess (P:30)
- victory in Warsaw Youth Olympic Games



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Od niemał 40-lat Centralny Ośrodek Sportu jest podstawowym miejscem rozwoju wysokokwalifikowanego sportu w Polsce. Na obiektach COS szkolona była znakomita większość naszych medalistów olimpijskich. Sześć, świetnie zlokalizowanych, specjalistycznych Ośrodków Przygotowań Olimpijskich dysponuje bogatą infrastrukturą pozwalającą na realizację programów szkoleniowych w większości dyscyplin olimpijskich. Wysokospecjalistyczne obiekty i urządzenia sportowe, doskonała baza noclegowa, najnowsze rozwiązania w zakresie odnowy biologicznej, indywidualne programy żywieniowe tworzą podstawową bazę szkoleniową dla Kadr Narodowych. Na nowe inwestycje i modernizacje istniejących obiektów zaplanowano do roku 2015 prawie 500 mln złotych.





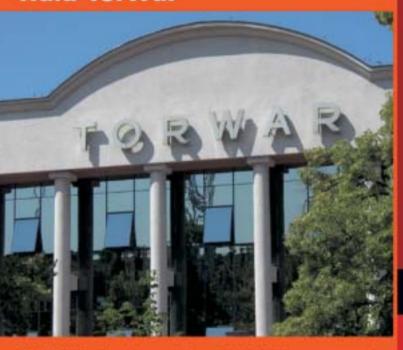








## **Hala Torwar**



COS TORWAR jest jedną z największych hal widowiskowo - sportowych w Warszawie, usytuowaną niedaleko ścislego centrum u zbiegu głównych tras komunikacyjnych. Należąca do Centralnego Ośrodka Sportu hala została w pełni zmodemizowana w 1999 roku i jest dziś idealnym miejscem do organizacji różnego typu zawodów sportowych, koncertów, wystaw, targów, konferencji, bankietów czy toż imprez firmowych. W skład kompleksu sportowogo TORWAR wchodni także w pełni wymiarowe, profesjonalne lodowisko znajdujące się w obiekcie TORWAR 2.





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COS wydaje wysokospecjalistyczną sportową literaturę dla trenerów i instruktorów







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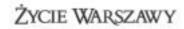














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