

MetLife AmplicoSM

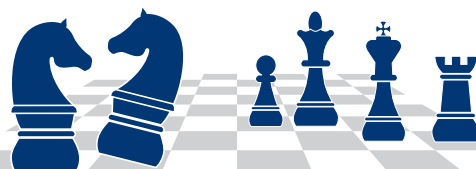


European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship Warsaw 2013

The European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship took place in Warsaw for the ninth time in a row. This great event has been strongly supported by the titular sponsor, MetLife Amplico, and also by the local government, especially by Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz – the President of the city of Warsaw. The whole event was efficiently organized by the Gen. Kazimierz Sosnkowski Chess Foundation in cooperation with the Polish Chess Federation, under the auspices of the European Chess Union.



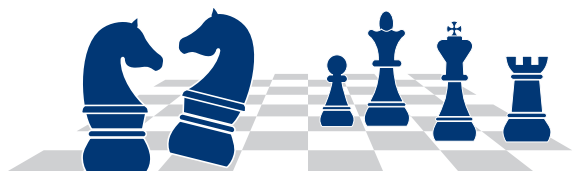
Medallists of the ERCC:
Tigran Petrosjan (bronze medal),
Richard Rapport (gold medal),
Vladimir Malakhov (silver
medal), the best woman in both
tournaments Monika Soćko
and medallist of the EBCC:
Bartosz Soćko (bronze medal),
Vladislav Tkachiev (silver medal),
Antono Korobov (gold medal).





Opening ceremony of the ERCC:
Mr. Tomasz Sielicki – deputy president of the ECU,
Mr. Tomasz Delega – president of the PCF,
Mrs. Agnieszka Fornal Urban – ERCC & EBCC deputy director,
Mr. Jan Macieja – president of the Board of Founders in Gen. Kazimierz Sosnkowski Chess Foundation,
Mrs. Agnieszka Brustman – deputy of the main arbiter,
Mrs. Maria Macieja – ERCC & EBCC director,
Mr. Piotr Twardokęs – director in MetLife Amplico,
translators: im Stanisław Zawadzki and gm Michał Krasenkow

14-15th of December 2013,
The Palace of Culture and Science,
Warsaw, Poland



European Blitz Chess Championship 2013 – Warsaw, Poland

Each year hundreds of chess players from the whole Europe decide to spend their last weekend before Christmas in Warsaw to take part in the international chess festival containing the European Rapid and Blitz Championship. Plenty of world class players consider the Warsaw festival as an obligatory point in their sport schedules, just to mention that the Polish capital hosted the European Rapid and Blitz championship for the 9th time in a row. Both tournaments took place in the Palace of Culture and Science, which is situated the very heart of Warsaw. The blitz tournament consisting of 11 double rounds gathered 437 players, among them 39 with the Grandmaster title. The fight for the final victory was very tough, and the medals were decided in the last game. The gold medal went to GM Anton Korobov of Ukraine, who gained 18,5 points in 22 games. Interestingly, he lost points only in his games against Polish players as he lost 1,5-0,5 to GM Radoslaw Wojtaszek and scored draws 1-1 against GM Bartosz Socko and GM Michał Olszewski. The silver medal was won by GM Vladislav Tkachiev of France, which means a progress for this player as last year he won a bronze. This year the bronze medal went to GM Bartosz Socko from Poland, who defeated GM Dreev in the last round.

Socko's wife – GM Monika finished first in the women's classification with 14 points, overtaking WGM Irina Sudakova of Russia and WGM Karina Szczepkowska-Horowska.

The championship proved that the chess game doesn't have any limits and is a game for everyone regardless their culture, nationality or age.

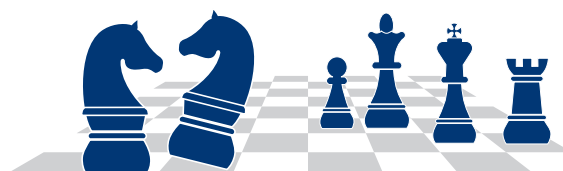
As a proof we will just mention that in the 7th round a 9-year-old David Ness of Norway defeated 1,5-0,5 a 76-year-old Bronislav Jefimow.

Results:

1.	Anton Korobov	18,5	UKR
2.	Vladislav Tkachiev	17,0	FRA
3.	Bartosz Socko	17,0	POL
4.	Richard Rapport	16,5	HUN
5.	Daniil Dubov	16,5	RUS
6.	Gabriel Sargissian	16,5	ARM

Women:

1.	Monika Socko	14,0	POL
2.	Irina Sudakova	13,5	RUS
3.	Karina Szczepkowska-Horowska	13,0	POL



European Rapid Chess Championship 2013 – Warsaw, Poland

The European Rapid Chess Championship took place in Warsaw for the 9th time in a row as a part of the MetLife Amplico International Chess Festival. Everyone who has competed in this event at least once can confirm that it is very tough and challenging for all players. There are a lot of participants, plenty of strong players and only 11 rounds so each point loss shrinks chances for the desired medal. Therefore, this 2-day event requires not only extraordinary chess skills but also physical strength. This year's edition of the tournament gathered 42 Grandmasters and 602 players with international FIDE ratings. A strong competition but there can be only one winner. Surprisingly, the gold medal went to Richard Rapport, just a 17-year-old Grandmaster from Hungary who, not for the first time, proved to be one of the greatest young talents in the world. Rapport was leading after the first day, being the only one to win all 7 games. The Hungarian did not lose a single game and managed to outplay such strong Grandmasters as Wojtaszek and Korobov with black pieces in a very convincing way. We should certainly remember this name as it is more than probable that Rapport will join the world elite within a few years. The silver medal was won by Vladimir Malakhov of Russia, who also gained 9,5 points but was classified in the 2nd place due to the lower average rating of his opponents. The bronze medal was taken by Tigran Petrosian of Armenia, who also scored 9,5 points winning his last 5 games. However, he had to face much weaker opponents than Rapport and Malakhov and therefore was only 3rd, regardless the fantastic result. His case shows how upsetting point losses in the first half of the tournament might be.

The best Polish player – Bartosz Socko was classified in the 7th place. The best woman player was his wife, GM Monika Socko with 8 points and the 38th place in the general classification.

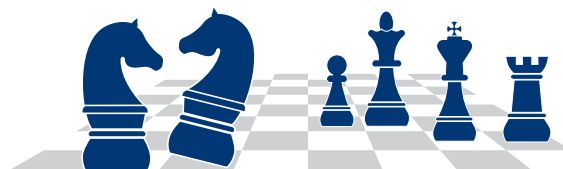
This year's edition of the European Blitz and Rapid Chess Championship was the last one held in Warsaw.

Results:

1.	Richard Rapport	9,5	HUN
2.	Vladimir Malakhov	9,5	RUS
3.	Tigran Petrosian	9,5	ARM
4.	Alexander Moiseenko	9,0	UKR
5.	Anton Korobov	9,0	UKR
6.	Baadur Jobava	9,0	GEO

Women:

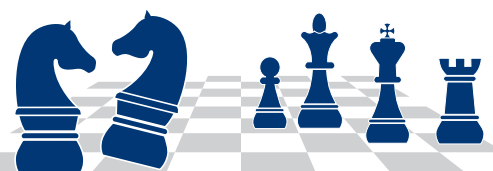
1.	Monika Socko	8,0	POL
2.	Karina Szczepkowska-Horowska	8,0	POL
3.	Aleksandra Lach	7,5	POL

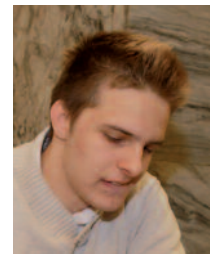


The whole festival could not be organized without the help of many people and the support of sponsors – not only MetLife Amplico, but also the City Office of Warsaw, the Marshal's Office of the Mazovian Voivodeship, the Ministry of Sport and Tourism, IBM Polska Sp. z o.o.; ATM S.A. and ChessBase



All players U-14 became extra souvenirs from Central District of Warsaw.





Interview with Richard Rapport, chess prodigy and the winner of Rapid tournament

Stanislaw Zawadzki – Congratulations on winning the tournament! You were a sole leader after the first day – did you feel any pressure in these circumstances or were you just playing as usual, trying to play the best games?

Richard Rapport – Ok, 7 out of 7 is a very lucky to start with, but I just wanted to win every game. I made some draws because of opponents' play, but tried to win each game.

SZ – Which game of this tournament did you like the most? Wins against Korobov, Wojtaszek or something else?

RR – Against Korobov I played a very sharp opening – white probably should be able to defend himself, but in a rapid tournament it is very difficult to play correctly. Against Wojtaszek I was worse after the opening and was lucky to turn the game around. So yes, probably the game against Korobov was my best in this tournament.

SZ – It's your second tournament in Warsaw. How do you like the city and the tournaments here?

RR – I like both the place and the tournament. Ok, I had some personal, non-related issues with the city and the city now owed me a favour *(laugh)*

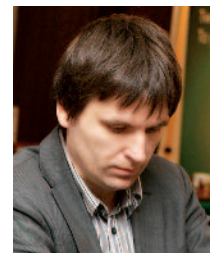
SZ – Next year the tournament will be moved to another city in Poland. Will you play there?

RR – Yes, probably I will play there, too.

SZ – And what are your plans for the year 2014?

RR – Probably I'll play the Wijk Aan Zee A tournament, then maybe I'll play in Gibraltar and Reykjavik

SZ – Thanks a lot for the conversation and we wish you luck at these tournaments.



Interview with the best Polish player in both tournaments: GM Bartosz Socko

Stanislaw Zawadzki – I'll start with the question that many chess supporters are eager to ask. Is it better to play chess with or without your family? *(not only his wife, GM Monika Socko, but also his children – Weronika, Szymon and Julia – took part in the festival)*

Bartosz Socko – Definitely with my family! It's more pleasure, the kids are around all the time and you can smile even after a bad game.

SZ – Does it affect your results?

BS – Not really. If I'm in a good form I make a good score no matter what.

SZ – While playing are you more concerned about your wife's or your children's positions?

BS – Rather about Monika's. Our children treat chess as fun and we don't expect them to bind their future to this game.

SZ – Going back to results. You won three medals in 2013 – a gold in the Polish Championship, a gold in the Polish Team Championship, and a bronze now. Do you consider this year a good for your career?

BS – Definitely! I won a lot of rapid tournaments and a strong open in Riga. Combined with the Polish Championship, it was a good year.

SZ – And what are your plans for 2014?

BS – First of all I'm going Moscow Open together with GM Mateusz Bartel, then I'll be defending my title in the Polish Championship.

SZ - Good luck then in the rapid tournament and in future events!

