

# European Schools Chess Championship

## Report 3

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### G7

We left round 2 with the news that Romanian top seed Maria-loana could go clear at the top as the only other player on 2/2 had the bye (a 0 point bye, as it's a round-robin tournament so there's no need to give a point for the bye). Instead, she found herself in a five-way tie for the lead after going down to defeat, hanging a piece after getting a good position out of the early middlegame, allowing her opponent, Kumsal Islek, join her on 2/3.

The key moment was this one -



Maria-loana, playing white, played 1.Nb5, presumably intending to deflect the queen from the defence of the knight on e5 - but after the reply 1...Qd7, her own knight is hanging too. But white's pawn centre does have lots of targets - white can continue 1.d6! NxN+ 2.BxN Bxd6 and now 3.Nb5 works; black can't prevent e5, winning a piece. If 3...Qd7 4.NxB QxB 5.e5 forks two pieces all the same.

The two Icelandic derbies were unfortunately settled when one player forgot to recapture in an exchange - Ingiborg Loa Hedinsdottir is now on 2/2 (and has already had her day off). And Goksu Yildiz is also on 2/3 after a straightforward win today - meaning more than half the field lead the way! Round 4 sees the last of the derbies.

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### O7

The open under 7's saw a battle between the two tournament leaders, Omer Taha and Samuel Redmond in which Omer managed a win using the Jobava London system. It was a difficult day for the Icelandic delegation who lost both of their non-derby games. On the plus side they gave the only Irish player in the section his first victory so far with a scholar's mate of all things. The other Icelandic loss came at the hands of Amandeep Singh who will play Omer Taha as the two tournament leaders tomorrow.

There was a great game between Bugra Gurbuz of Turkey and David-Christian Talaba of Romania. David advanced his pawns slowly in the opening and white settled in with nice piece placement however neglected to castle which led to following position

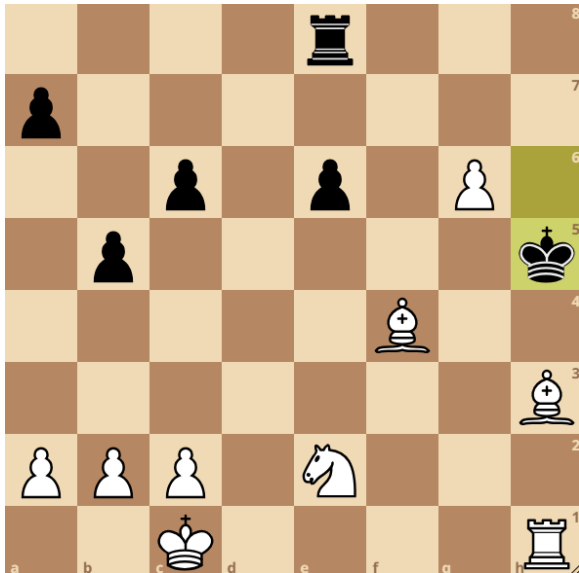


Black missed the move

1...Qb1+ which when followed by Nd3+ leads to the capture of the rook on c2. Instead the game went to a rook and pawn endgame where black was finally able to convert.

## G9

Top seed Anne-Sophie Constantin-Ciuntu made up for missing a win in a tricky rook and pawn ending in round 2 with a clinical win over the Bulgarian Maria Pavlova, who had entered the game on 2/2. In the space of eight carnage-filled moves, she won a rook, took a protected knight with her queen - the recapture allowed her to win the queen back for a rook - then take a loose piece, which pinned a knight to rook and threatened to win it with a pawn push (which would have forked the only way the knight could have been defended). When the dust had settled, she had won three pieces and the game was effectively over, though there was still time for a discovered checkmate to crown things off. Those sort of moves are always well worth recording, so here it is - white to play and mate in 1?



1.Bf5# ends things on the spot - not a difficult one to find, but a lovely one to play!

That left second seed Irmak Keser as the only player on a 100% record, and she made it 3/3 when pointing various heavy pieces at her opponent's king; her opponent gave up queen for rook and knight, but her position was much worse too, and soon more material started falling to forks and the game was gone.

Eslem Tolan got off the mark with her first win of the tournament when her opponent, Romania's Melanie-Cristina Grigore, unfortunately hung mate in one in an interesting position, while Ireland's Khushi Maddu similarly benefitted against Iceland's Aria Bjork Danielsdottir. The Polish player Helena Taradajko is also well in the running, after her Ukrainian opponent made an injudicious pawn push in front of her king when both players had castled opposite sides, and Helena could win material and swap off to a won rook and pawn ending.

## O9

Turkey's Ata Peray has taken sole lead in the Under 9s - he had a good win over Sreeyan Andhurthi, and though as the tournament goes on any win is a good win, he could have sealed this one a lot earlier than he did. Here, as black -



- he missed the nice 1...Nd4!, threatening not just the obvious NxQ, but also Nxc2+ winning a rook, and - and white can't actually stop this latter as 2.Qd1?? Qh4#, or if 2.Qd3 Qh4+ 3.Qg3 (3.Kd1 Bxg4+ 4.Be2 BxB+ wins the queen anyway, or 4.Kc1 Qe1#) QxQ+ 4.PxQ Nxc2+

The other player on 2/2, Lucas Zheng, had to settle for a rook and pawn ending draw against Murray Liu of Ireland, leaving Ata half a point clear of Lucas and also Efe Aynaoglu, another of the large Turkish contingent, who beat compatriot Onur Hisir after an interesting tussle where Onur got into a tangle about 30 moves in, missed an exchange fork, and opted to go for an all-out attack which unfortunately didn't work out.

A pack of seven players, including top seed Sreeyan, are lurking on 2/3; there's plenty of play left in this section yet!

## G11

The girl's under 11 saw the super-derby round in which every player played against a member of their own team! This had to happen eventually as it is an all-play-all tournament and better to not have derby matches later on in the tournament where strategic results may be more likely.

Lorena Putar of Ireland won a game in the exchange french after her opponent, Jana souralova of the Czech Republic, overextended on the queenside attacking the h-pawn leading to her losing a knight.



Lorena Putar

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## O11

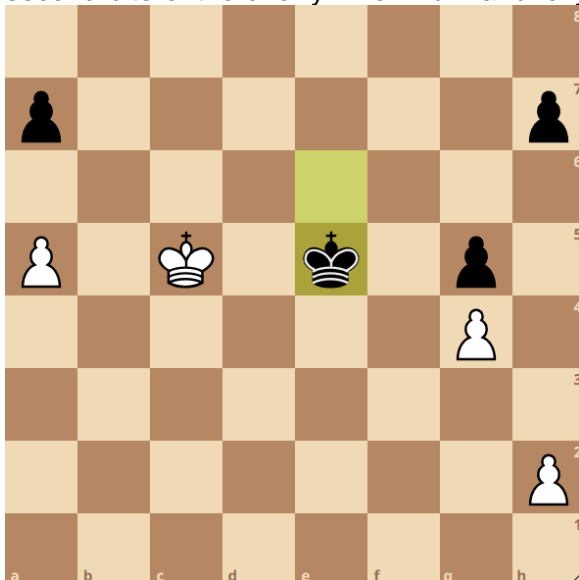
There were a lot more endgames seen in the open under 11's. Two players ended the round on 3/3 with Konstantinos Ioannidis claiming a victory against the current favourite from Romania, Razvan-George Parvu who was the highest rated player on 2/2 coming out of the last round but had an unfortunate error in a drawn same-coloured bishop endgame. On the second board both Dary Kelbas and Omer Koyungulyu had opportunities to win in a rook and knight endgame ultimately ending in a draw.



Dary Kelbas

## G13

It's a familiar story in the Girls' U13 section - Turkey on top. That was always going to be the case after round 3 given they had the first five places after round 2 - the only question was who was going to occupy that top spot. It's Zumral Yazici who holds the outright lead on 3/3 after a close game which was decided when her opponent, Kayla Nil Zeybek, miscalculated the king and pawn ending she was swapping off into - and indeed, was given a second bite of the cherry when Zumral briefly went wrong. In this position -



- white has to be careful to avoid entering what is effectively a rook's pawn ending where her king is trapped; the g and h pawns add nothing as both sides have one spare tempo

there. So white's move here, 1.a6?? Is a blunder - black can let the white king into a7 and, so long as black can immediately play Kc7, the white king is trapped and it's a draw. The game continued 1.a6 Kf4 (which is still a draw) 2.Kc6 KxP??, and now it's a white win again; black can't get back to c7 in time, and in the event was one tempo short in the ensuing pawn race.

The Board 1 pairing between Cagla Yudum Sahin and Ipek Dogan ended in a draw - frustration for white, who was a pawn up in a B+4 v N+3 ending but couldn't convert, though she forced the win of knight for pawn, she also allowed her opponent's king in to mop up the last of her own pawns, and the B v 2P ending was drawn.

Bedhdh Doolin is at present the only one putting it up to the Turks; she won two pieces early on in her round 3 game against Nina Babiczuk of Poland and is now on 2/3. It's now Turks in the top four places only...

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## O13

There was a draw on the top boards of the open under 13's between Umut Anil Dogan and Pengxiao Zhu. At the end of round Gorkem Unal and Rock Yu both beat Irish players to attain a score of 3/3 and will play each other tomorrow.

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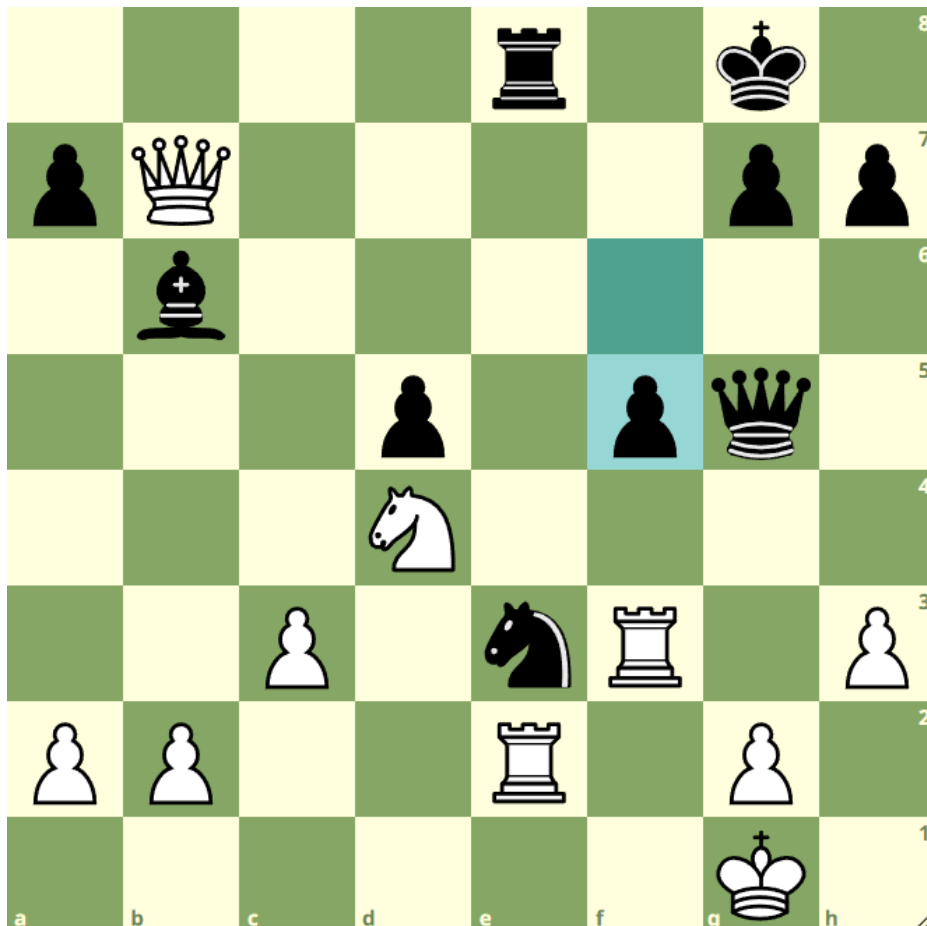
## G15

After three rounds Peylin Seyhan had a perfect score of 2/2 as she already took here 0-point bye. Eylul Ceren Gedik also stands on two points having lost only to Peylin in round 1.

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## O15




The open under 15's remains contentious and open as ever. In this round we saw two draws on the top boards allowing Efe Yalcinkaya to claim the top spot on 3/3. After his opponent sacrificed the exchange for an attack which Efe held off he was able to end in style with the following position



In this position White to move played 1.Rxf4 and after 1...Qxf4 2.Nxf4 Nxf4+ 3.Qxb6 axb6 4.Re8+ Kf7 Rb8 White has a winning endgame.

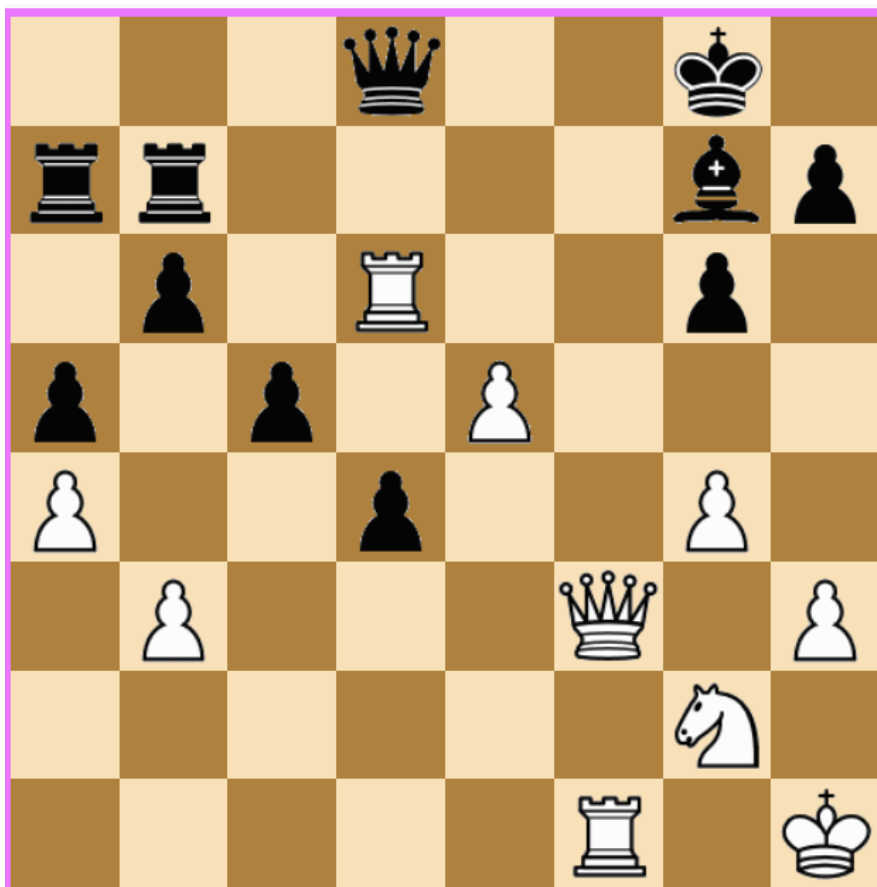
## G17

Today's result for round 3 of the Under 17 Girls event can be seen below.

Round 3 on 2024/06/02 at 15:00									
Bo. No.	Rtg		Name	Result	Name		Rtg	No.	
9	2	1925	 Mustu, Hatice Asli	1 - 0	Engel, Ecrin Tuana		1576	10	
10	3	0	 Sinkevich, Maryia	0 - 1	WCM Buyuk, Ecrin Efsa		1891	1	
11	4	1557	 Souralova, Jana	0 - 1	Putar, Lara		1983	9	
12	5	1692	 Dumitrache, Elisa-Andreea	0 - 1	Krzysztynska, Maria		1481	8	
13	6	1461	 Toculet, Erika-Andreea	0 - 1	Fileru, Maria		1837	7	

The all Turkish clash on top board featured a tough game where White had a 350 point rating advantage, but when the following position was reached at move 41, the game had been keenly contested with neither player gaining any significant advantage.





Position after White's 41.Rd6.

Black was probably in time trouble here and played the blunder 41.....Qe8? Which loses immediately to 42. Qd5+. However, 41.....Rd7! and, if anyone's better, it's Black, as 42.Qd5+ is well answered by 42.....Kh8. This left Mutsu leading the event going into tomorrow's double round.

Lara Putar was had a win today, you can see her game here. Her opponent blocked her check on move 23 with the wrong piece and was punished severely. Had she blocked with 23. Qf2 instead of 23. Nc5, the game would have been pretty even.

Tomorrow's pairing will look like this;

Round 4 on 2024/06/03 at 10:00							
Bo. No.	Rtg		Name	Result	Name		Rtg No.
9	10	1576	Engel, Ecrin Tuana		Fileru, Maria		1837 7
10	8	1481	Krzysztynska, Maria		Toculet, Erika-Andreea		1461 6
11	9	1983	Putar, Lara		Dumitrache, Elisa-Andreea		1692 5
12	1	1891	WCM Buyuk, Ecrin Efsa		Souralova, Jana		1557 4
13	2	1925	Mustu, Hatice Asli		Sinkevich, Maryia		0 3
Round 5 on 2024/06/03 at 15:00							

Of course, we know this because this event is an all play all!

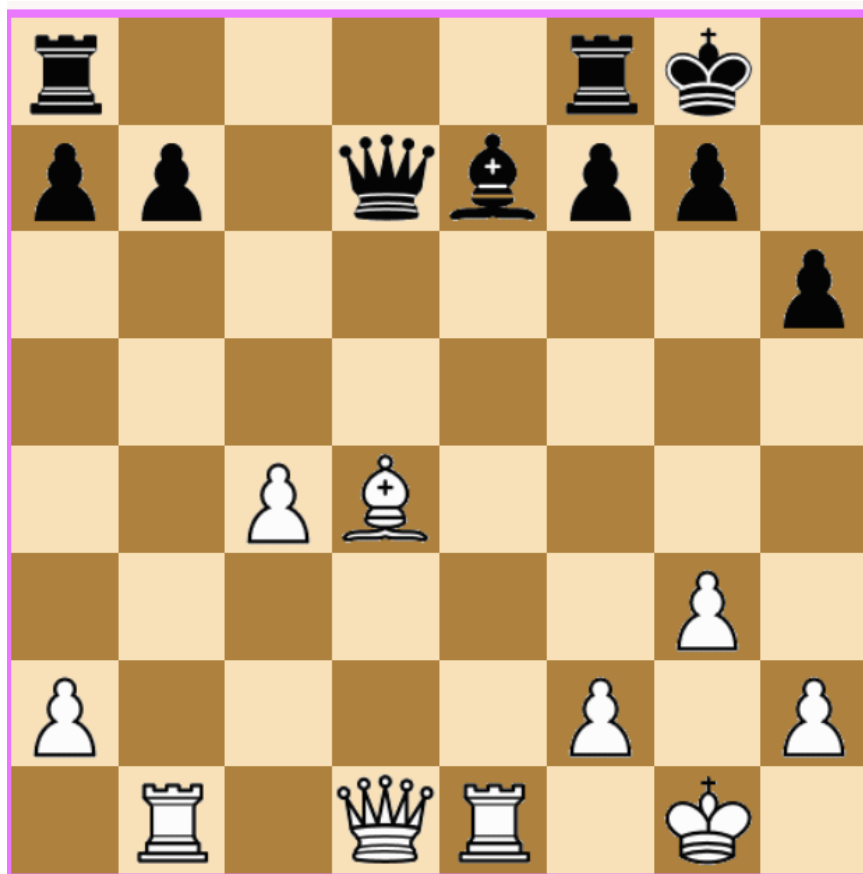
## O17

Today's round 3 draw in the Open Under 17 looked like this;

Round 3 on 2024/06/02 at 15:00

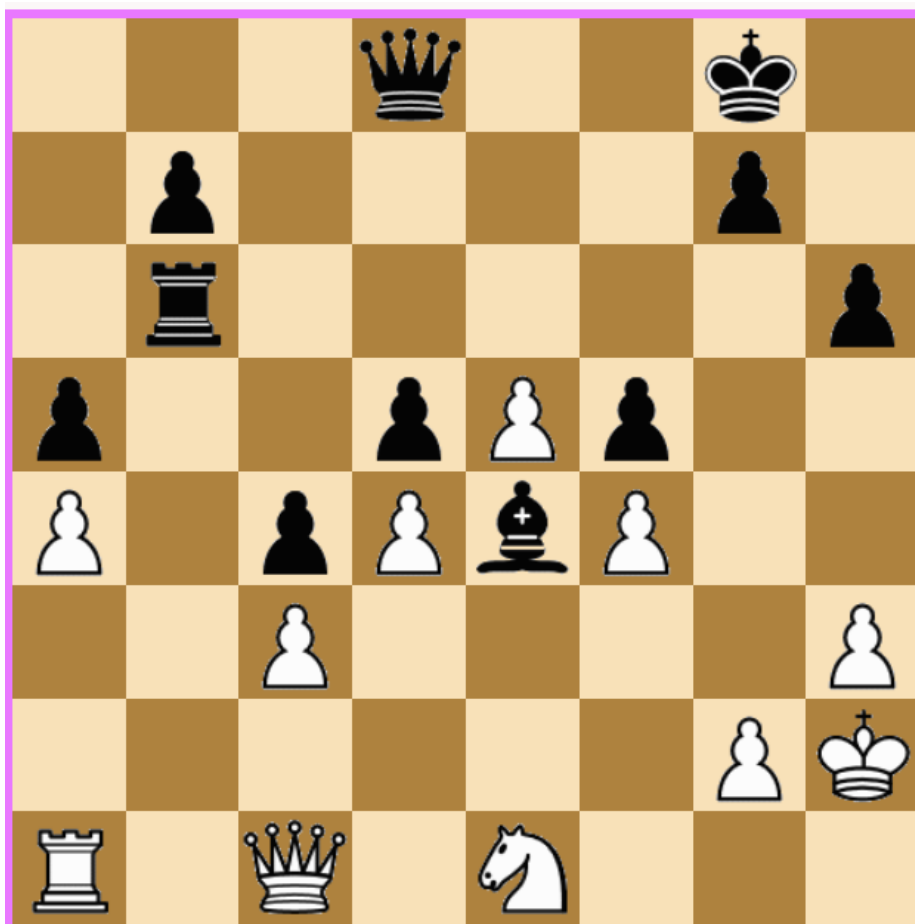
Bo. No.		Name	Rtg	Pts.	Result	Pts.	Name	Rtg	No.
1	1	 IM Tarhan, Adar	2457	2	1 - 0	2	Topuz, Mirac Melih	2065	 4
2	3	 Sheahan, Ben	2080	2	0 - 1	1½	IM Kilic, Eray	2433	 2
3	5	 Yilmaz, Kerem Tuna	2039	1½	1 - 0	1	Starosciak, Szymon	1983	 6
4	7	 Ulian, Andrei-Octavian	1896	1	1 - 0	1	Devine, Luca	1414	 9
5	12	 Crkon, Oliver	0	1	0 - 1	1	Yildiz, Yunus	1883	 8
6	16	 Loos, Ejnar-Enki	0	½	1 - 0	1	Grzelecka, Zuzanna	0	 13
7	10	 Adam, Benno	0	0	0 - 1	½	Comley, Jamie	0	 11
8	14	 Hohenschurz, Eric	0	0	1 - 0	0	Karlioiva, Fabian	0	 15

In the top board clash, Adar Tarhan IM from Turkey, unleashed a nice 20th move from this position.



Here White played 20. Bxg7! And even after Black exchanges queens, he emerges a pawn down as well as facing far more active white rooks. White finished off well from here and you can watch the whole game [here](#).

Ben Sheahan lost on board 2 to the other IM from Turkey, Eray Kilic ( 2433 ) but up until move 37, it was close.



Here, Ben played the unfortunate 37.Nc2 but the refutation of this is not so easy to foresee. Had he played 37.Nf3, Black may be able to double White's f pawns but at the cost of his powerful bishop. But, after 37.Nc2, Black played the powerful 37.....Qh4 threatening to infiltrate on f2, and if 38.Qc2, then Rb2! pins the unfortunate knight.

Tomorrow we should see the "clash of the titans" as the two IMs should be playing each other.

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