

# E-MAGAZINE FEBRUARY 2021



## Parliamentary Chess Tour

European Parliamentary  
Online Chess Tournament will  
take place on 17th of April.

## European Amateur Event

European Online Amateur  
Chess Championship 2021  
announced in period from  
10-28th April 2021.



Source gallica.bnf.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France

## FRENCH CHESS FEDERATION CELEBRATES 100 YEARS ANNIVERSARY



European Chess Union has finalised its competitions schedule from March till May 2021 and announced four Online events to be held from March-May 2021.

> **European Online Club Cup 2021, 27th-31st March**

The event will be played Online through Tornelo online platform. The event comprises the total prize fund of 14.000 EUR and already 22 teams represented by world top Grandmasters registered for the event. Registration are open.

> **European Online Amateur Chess Championship, 10th-28th April**

The event will be played through Tornelo Online platform within 4 categories (A, B, C and D), in a Swiss system, with two days of Qualification and Final events for the each category. Total prize fund of the event is more than 5.000 EUR.

> **European Online Parliamentary Chess Tournament, 16th April**

The event will be played through Tornelo online platform. Players, members of the Parliaments of the European countries and members of the European Union Parliament will play individually, but the cumulative results of the best 3 players of each national Parliament or EU Parliament, will decide the Team standings.

> **European Online Hybrid Qualification event for the FIDE World Cup, 22nd-31st May 2021. Details will be announced.**

European Chess Union has its seat in Switzerland, Address: Rainweidstrasse 2, CH-6333, Hunenberg See, Switzerland .  
European Chess Union is an independent association founded in 1985 in Graz, Austria;  
European Chess Union has 54 National Federation Members;  
Every year ECU organizes more than 20 prestigious events and championships;

www.europechess.org  
ecu.secretary.general@gmail.com

# contents



**03 ECU Board meeting**  
Communique of the 2nd ECU Board meeting

**06 Opera Euro Rapid**  
Wesley So wins Opera Euro Rapid

**07 #EOACC**  
European Online Amateur Chess Championship 2021 announced

**09 #EOPCC**  
European Online Parliamentary Chess Championship

**10 #EOCCC**  
Upcoming European Online Chess Club Cup

**11 FFE celebrates 100 years**  
French Chess Federation celebrates 100 years anniversary!

**13 Arbiters corner**  
"Forced moves in arbiters practise", text by: IA Prodromos Gerontopoulos

**14 Legends Questions**  
Meet Chess Legend, GM Alexander Khalifman

**15 Fun Zone**

# ECU BOARD MEETING



## COMMUNIQUE OF THE ECU BOARD MEETING

The 2nd ECU Board meeting in 2021 took place on Saturday 20h of February 2021 through teleconference with main item the European Qualification system for the World Championship Cycle.

The main areas under discussion and decisions are published on the ECU website and presented in the monthly E-magazine.

## Main information and decisions of the ECU Board:



**1. Icelandic Chess Federation confirmed that cannot organize the European Open Championship in Reykjavik till May 2021** due to travel restrictions and quarantine measures still existing in Iceland and all Europe. European Chess Union exhausted all limits to organize the event in Reykjavik within the time limits set by the regulations for the FIDE World Cup 2021. Even, as expected, the health conditions could be much better in Europe till mid of May this competition and any qualification event cannot be organized with a few weeks' notice taking in account the venue, hotels, travel and visas arrangements.

2. ECU and Icelandic Chess federation persist to organize (subject to better travel conditions and an official invitation by May) the **European Championship 2021 in Reykjavik between August and September 2021**, being a part of the next World Championship Cycle (FIDE World Cup 2023). Exact dates will be announced by the Icelandic Chess Federation the following days.

**3. The European Open Chess Championship 2022** will be organized in Podčetrtek, Slovenia from March 27th (arrival) to April 9th (departure) 2022 and is a part of World Championship cycle. .

**4. The Romanian Chess Federation confirmed the European Women Chess Championship 2021 in Iasi, Romania.** The event is schedule for the first half of June but may rescheduled for later in the summer with a new announcement in March.

Concerning the qualification stage for FIDE World Cup 2021, the European Chess Union Board taking in account:

a) The existing health conditions, and travel restrictions in Europe

b) The re-confirmation by FIDE that World Cup 2021 will be organized in Russia starting in the first half of July <https://www.fide.com/news/879> and so the continentals qualification stages shall be completed by May 2021.

c) The quality of the European representation

d) The main principle that qualification to FIDE World Cup shall not be restricted by any criteria of nominations or further geographical distribution that will exclude in advance a big number of European players made the following decisions:

1. Forty (40) additional spots were set for the European players for FIDE World Cup 2021. ECU Board on its meeting on January 2020 in Larnaca, Cyprus decided not to keep 50% of these additional spots for the European qualification stages but to be distributed to forty (40) European federations. This decision ensured the wide geographical federations representation to FIDE World Cup. Additionally, one (1) spot was awarded to the 10 federations of European Small nations (Zone 10.1) that do not get any of these 40 spots. **This decision ensures the wide geographical federations representation to FIDE World Cup.**

2. Ten (10) spots will be awarded to the highest European rated players (average rating 1st July 2020- 1st June 2021) after the 13 top FIDE rated players, World Champion and World Cup 2019 four (4) finalists spots will be calculated and announced by FIDE.

## Main information and decisions of the ECU Board:



**The second decision ensures the participation to at least 20 top European rated players and the quality of European representation. .**

3. Thirty-six (36) spots will be awarded through a European Hybrid Qualification event that will be organized in 9 rounds from 22nd to 30th of May. **This decision ensures, under the current conditions the access to qualification to hundreds of players and many more through the national pre-qualification events.**

The exact regulations for the European Hybrid Qualification event will be finalized and announced by the mid of March but the main organizational terms are the following:

**A. Participation:**

>European Players with 2600+ Rating (January 2021 rating list)  
> 5 players per federation or 8 players per federation if the federation organize a national qualification event on a format selected by the federation. In this case shall be provided to ECU the standings with the players registration.

**B.** The venues will follow the rules of all over the board chess events, including scanning of players in entrance to the playing hall and moving in the area.

**C.** Federations that will take part will **propose the assistant local arbiter(s) and 1 International ECU Qualified on Online events Arbiter per venue** that will be the Chief Arbiter in another county's venue taking in account the distances. Details will be announced but the rule is a foreigner Chief Arbiter on each venue.

**D.** ECU will appoint the central arbiters panel that will monitor and co-ordinate all event. All the decisions will be made by arbiters. The system of transmission of moves between the venues will foresee a backup solution.

**E.** Each federation can nominate up to two (2) venues. ECU will examine exceptional cases but, in any case, a request for a venue shall accommodate at least 5 players and the appointment and accommodation of extra arbiters. Players can play in the most convenient county/venue avoiding traveling to its own country. **F.** The hybrid event will have a 30,000 euros prize fund supported by the FIDE Continental Development fund.

Sincerely,  
Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou  
ECU Secretary General

Main information and decisions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ECU Board meeting can be also found on the ECU Website.

# WESLEY SO WINS OPERA EURO RAPID

Wesley So wins the third event of the Champions Chess Tour, Opera Euro Rapid, after defeating the reigning World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen.

Wesley So and Magnus Carlsen played a two-match Final, and after a 2-2 tie in the first match, So took the lead with a victory in the first round of the second match.

The rest of three games ended in a draw and Wesley So was announced as the Winner of Opera Euro Rapid.

Magnus Carlsen as a runner up won the 2nd place the 15.000\$ prize.

Teimour Radjabov was convincing in the matches for the third place played against Vachier-Lagrave Maxime, and won both matches to win the third prize.



The event was LIVE broadcasted together with LIVE commentaries by GM David Howell and IM Jovanka Houska, hosted by Kaja Snare.

Details can be found on the Official Website of the event.



## Opera Euro Rapid

Opera Euro Rapid as the third event of the Champions Chess Tour, took place from 3rd-14th of February 2021, with a total prize fund of 100.000\$.

The next major event is scheduled for 13th-21st March, with a total prize fund of 200.000\$.



**RATING GROUPS**

- A. 1000 - 1400
- B. 1401 - 1700
- C. 1701 - 2000
- D. 2001 - 2300

**EUROPEAN AMATEUR ONLINE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP**

**10- 28 April 2021**

Tournament Server  
**tornelo**

# European Online Amateur Chess Championship 2021

European Online Amateur Chess  
Championship will take place from  
10th-28th April 2021, on the Tornelo playing  
platform.

#### 4. SCHEDULE || RATING GROUP

##### EAOCC2201 Main Schedule

Saturday	10 - April	Qualification / 1000 - 1400	8 rounds	16:00 CET
Sunday	11 - April	Finals / 1000 - 1400	9 rounds	16:00 CET
Saturday	17 - April	Qualification / 1401 - 1700	8 rounds	16:00 CET
Sunday	18 - April	Finals / 1401 - 1700	9 rounds	16:00 CET
Saturday	24 - April	Qualification / 1701 - 2000	8 rounds	16:00 CET
Sunday	25 - April	Finals / 1701 - 2000	9 rounds	16:00 CET
Tuesday	27 - April	Qualification / 2001 - 2300	8 rounds	16:00 CET
Wednesday	28 - April	Finals / 2001 - 2300	9 rounds	16:00 CET

## European Online Amateur Chess Championship *schedule*

The event will be played in 4 rating categories:

- A – For players rated 1000-1400
- B – For players rated 1401-1700
- C – For players rated 1701-2000
- D – For players rated 2001-2300

FIDE Standard ratings from April 2021 rating list will be considered.

The event will be played according to the Swiss System for all rating groups with time Control: 10 min + 2 sec bonus increment

**Day – 1** All groups: Qualification Stage, 8 rounds, minimum 250 qualifiers to the final stage.

**Day – 2** Final Stage, 9 rounds, 250 players. Any player belonging to one European National Chess Federation has the right to participate. Participants without a valid FIDE ID can issue one through their National Chess Federation (is a fast procedure).

The tournament(s) is not valid for FIDE Rating.

The entry fee is fifteen (15,00) euros for each participant or twenty (20,00) euros for any participant who wishes to start from the upper rating category.

Registrations and entry fee payments are available online per category:

Group: 1000 – 1400:  
<https://tornelo.com/chess/orgs/europechess/events/eaocc-2021-1000-1400> Group: 1401 – 1700: <https://tornelo.com/chess/orgs/europechess/events/eaocc-2021-1401-1700> Group: 1701 – 2000: <https://tornelo.com/chess/orgs/europechess/events/eaocc-2021-1701-2000> Group: 2001 – 2300: <https://tornelo.com/chess/orgs/europechess/events/eaocc-2021-2001-2300>

Prizes: In each rating category the Winner is awarded the “European Online Chess Champion” title and the 1st Woman the “European Online Women’s Chess Champion” title in the respective category.

European Online Champions, Silver and Bronze medallists will receive a special ECU e-Certificate.

Every day, the names of the Qualifiers, Champions and prize-winners will be announced by the European Chess Union in chess-results.com and in the official ECU website: europechess.org. All participants will receive an ECU e-certificate of Participation.

The full prize list can be found on the



### #EOACC2021

The prize list of European Online Amateur Chess Championship 2021 includes money prizes for the best ranked players and Women players, as well as special prizes for the best ranked Youth players of categories for boys and girls U12, U14, U16 and U18, and special prizes for the best ranked players rated U1200, U1550, U1800 and U2150.



# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ONLINE CHESS TOURNAMENT

European Parliamentary Friendship Online Chess Tournament will take place on Friday 16th April 2021, starting from 15.30 CET, through Tornelo online playing platform.

## Prizes:

- > The first Team is the European Parliament Chess Champion 2021.
- > The second and third teams win the silver and bronze medals.

## Prizes for Team Winners:

- 1st Winner Team – Special ECU Trophy
- 2nd Winner Team – Special ECU Trophy
- 3rd Winner Team – Special ECU Trophy

>Individual winners: The first 3 winners of individual standings win e-medals, certificates and 3 wooden chess set with board and 3 special chess books.

>The first 3 players without FIDE Rating win e-medals and 3 wooden chess set with board and 3 special chess books.

>E-Certificates will be offered to all participants in the tournament.

# T

he event will be played in 7 rounds, Swiss system, with time control: 10 min + 2 seconds per player. The event will be played as individual Championship, but the cumulative results of the best 3 players of each national Parliament or EU Parliament, will decide the Team standings.

The event is open to all members of the Parliaments of the European countries and to members of the European Union Parliament.

Registrations are made by the players or their representatives via official email and through the online entry form. Participation is free of any fees.

**Registration was opened on 15th February and will close on 11th April.**

Official regulations and invitation for the event can be found on the ECU Website.



# EUROPEAN ONLINE CHESS CLUB CUP

European Online Chess Club Cup will be played from 27th-31st of March 2021, through Tornelo online platform.

The event is open to all European Chess Club.

1st European Online Chess Club Cup will be played within three stages:

>**Qualification phase** (27th-28th of March) – Groups consisting of 8 or 10 teams, each, play the Robin round event of 7 or 9 rounds.

Groups will be divided according to the average rating of the four (4) basic players, with FIDE March 1st, 2021 list taken in account. Two at least teams of each group qualify for Play-offs.

> **Play-offs** (29th of March) – The qualifiers from the 1st phase. Best ranked 9 teams proceed to the Finals.

>**The final group** (30th-31st of March) – 10 teams play Robin round tournament of 9 rounds. The 10th team is invited by ECU, the Winner of European Women's Online Chess Club Cup- Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo.

Time control of the event will be 15 minutes + 5 seconds of an increment.



Each team consist of 4 basic players, and up to two (2) reserve players. The average FIDE standard rating of 4 basic players shall be at least 2000. Composition of teams is open without any restriction for players belonging to any FIDE federation member.

**Registration deadline is Friday 19th March 2021 till 15:00 CET .**

The event is organised by European Chess Union and Monte-Carlo Chess Club, under the high patronage of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco. Details on the ECU Website.



## EOCCC participants

### European Online Chess Club Cup 2021

For now, already 22 teams with participants from 25 countries registered for the event. World known Grandmasters will take part in the European Online Chess Club Cup, such as: Duda Jan-Krzysztof, Adams Michael, Amin Bassem, Maghsoodloo Parham, Mcshane Luke J, Van Foreest Jordan, Jones Gawain C B, Cheparinov Ivan, Grandelius Nils, Howell David W L, Mamedov Rauf and others.

## Prizes

**The total prize fund of the event will be 14.000 EUR.**

The first ranked team of the Final group will become the European Online Chess Club Cup Winner and will receive the " Coupe de Monte Carlo". The second and third team from the final group will win the silver and bronze e-medals.

The best game of the tournament will be awarded 500 euros.

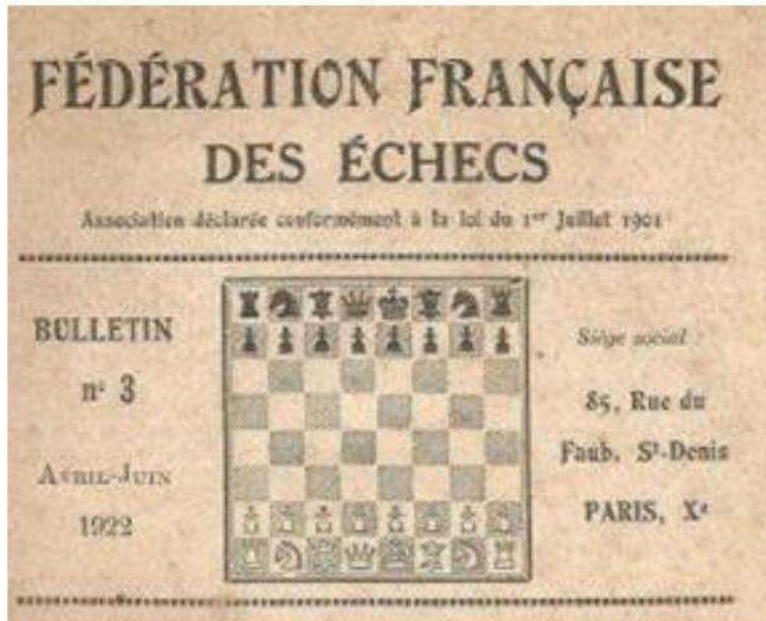
ECU Certificates will be available for all Teams.

Money Prizes for Team Winners (11,500 euros) of the Final Group:

- 1st Team Winner- 4000EUR
- 2nd Team Winner- 3000EUR
- 3rd Team Winner- 2000EUR
- 4th Team Winner- 1500EUR
- 5th Team Winner- 1000EUR

Individual e-Medals are won by 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place of each board of final Group. The first winner of each Board of the final group will receive 400 euros (5 x 400).

Reserve players are calculated on the 5th Board.



## French Chess Federation celebrates 100 years anniversary

For the occasion of 100 years anniversary of the French Chess Federation, the International Conference "The significance of France for the development of Chess in other European countries" will take place on the 20th of March 2021.



Source gallica.bnf.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France

The French Chess Federation was founded on 19 March 1921.



The Conference wishes to contribute to the celebration of its 100th birthday by exploring the significance of France as a chess nation for the development of chess in other European countries. To this effect, renowned chess historians from France, Germany, England, Spain, Poland and the Czech Republic are invited to present their research on the topic.

The Conference will be held online via ZOOM on Saturday, 20 March 2020. Speakers will give their speeches before their screen at home, supported by a PowerPoint Presentation of around 20 minutes. All participants can follow the conference at the screen at home, by dialing into the specific Zoom-Link. Each presentation will be followed by a session with Questions and Answers with the participants.

Program of the Conference is the following:

- 9.00 Welcome by a representative of the French Chess Federation (Yves Marek, President ad interim)
- 9.15 The Chapais Manuscript: Origin, Author and Significance for Chess Theory (Herbert Bastian)
- 10.00 Deschappelles – Mythes et Réalités (Pierre Baudrier)
- 10.30 Coffee break

- 11.00 L'organisation des échecs en France avant la création de la Fédération nationale en 1921 (Jean-Olivier Leconte)
- 11.45 Kieseritzky, Harrwitz, Rosenthal – the first foreign chess professionals in France (Frank Hoffmeister, confirmed)
- 12.30 Sleeping amidst their visions: Polish chessplayers – students, emigrants, refugees and professionals in France in the second half of the XIX century (Tomasz Lissowski)
- Lunch Break
- 14.00 Chess Connections between Spain and France (José Garçon)
- 14.45 The Role of Philidor and his successors for British Chess (Richard Eales)
- 15.30 Coffee Break
- 16.00 Alexander Petroff – The northern Philidor (Vlastimil Fiala)
- 16.45 Alekhine en France (Dennis Teysou)
- 17.30 Conclusions and Future Research (Jean-Olivier Leconte, Herbert Bastian, Frank Hoffmeister)

Details and official invitation for the Conference can be found on the ECU Website.

### Registration for the Conference:

Participation is open to the public free of charge. Anyone who wishes to register can send an e-mail to either **Herbert Bastian** ([herbertbastian@freenet.de](mailto:herbertbastian@freenet.de)), **Frank Hoffmeister** ([69.frank.hoffmeister@gmail.com](mailto:69.frank.hoffmeister@gmail.com)) or **Jean-Olivier Leconte** ([lecafedelaregence@free.fr](mailto:lecafedelaregence@free.fr)).

# Forced moves in arbiters practice

In a **standard game** (90 minutes for the first 40 moves followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an addition of 30 seconds per move starting from move one), the following position (diagram 1) occurred in the presence of the arbiter after white's 46th move.



Text prepared by:  
IA Prodromos  
Gerontopoulos  
(GRE)

The player with the black pieces played 46. ...Rc1+ but his flag fell before he had the chance to stop his time. The player with the white pieces immediately called the Arbiter and claimed a win. What should the Arbiter's decision be?

**ANSWER:**

In this position all moves are forced. Thus, if black's flag had not fallen, the sequence of moves would have been: 47. QxRc1, QxQc1, 48. KxQc1, leading to a stalemate position.

Taking into consideration article 5 (completion of a game) and in particular point 5.2.2 which states: "The game is drawn when a position has arisen in which neither player can checkmate the opponent's king with any series of legal moves. The game is said to end in a 'dead position'. This immediately ends the game, provided that the move producing the position was in accordance with Article 3 and Articles 4.2 – 4.7." (FIDE Laws of Chess, 2018, 5.2.2) the correct decision on the part of the Arbiter would be to **declare the game drawn**.



Diagram 1: Position after white's 46th move.

### MEET CHESS LEGEND GM ALEXANDER KHALIFMAN 10 questions by GM Adrian Mikalchishin

"Necessary disclaimer: I believe that these questions were sent to me mistakenly. I'm no legend at all, just an average level player. Some reputable experts insist even that my level was far below average. Maybe they're right, but I'm not sure." has written us as an introduction to his answers.

**1) What are You doing in life in the current moment?**  
Trying to survive somehow.  
Results are moderate so far.

**2) Your recollections with meetings with the World Champions?**

I was lucky to play some draws with them. Not many, of course.

**3) Your best game?**

Never managed to play a single good game as I see it now. I tried hard but...

**4) Which Your achievement You consider to be the most important?**

None. All so-called "achievements" of mine are quite ridiculous.

**5) Best and most important chess books?**

"My system" by Nimzowitsch.

**6) How did You start Your career?**

My father has shown me how the pieces move.

**7) Your favourite openings?**

Sicilian for Black, Catalan for White



**8) Who was the most difficult and the easiest opponent in Your career?**

All strong players were difficult to play. If I have to name one – Anand.

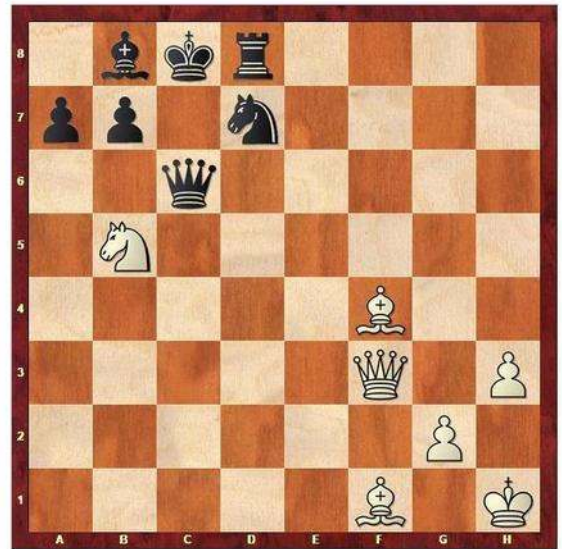
**9) Non chess best book, film and singer for You.**

Book: "Idiot" by Dostoevsky.  
Film-"Leaving Las Vegas"  
Singer---Jim Morrison

**10) Favourite city, food and drink.**

City-St.Petersburg.

What about food and drinks – really long time passed since I used to think in such gourmet-style categories. Now I eat and drink what is available at the moment.



## About Efim Bogoljubov:

Efim Dmitriyevich Bogoljubov (April 14, 1889 – June 18, 1952) was a Russian-born German chess player who played two matches against Alexander Alekhine for the world championship.

He was granted the title of grandmaster by FIDE in 1951.

The opening known as the Bogoljubov Defence (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+) is named after Bogoljubov.

**Efim Bogoljubov said about chess:**

*>When I am White, I win because I am White. When I am Black, I win because I am Bogolyubov.*

*>The young people have read my book. Now I have no chance.*

*For this edition of the ECU E-Magazine we prepared for you 4 positions where White mates in 3 moves!*

### Solutions from January Magazine

**#Puzzle 1:**

1.Rxh7!+ Kxh7 2.Qh1!+ Kg6 3.Qh5#

**#Puzzle 2:**

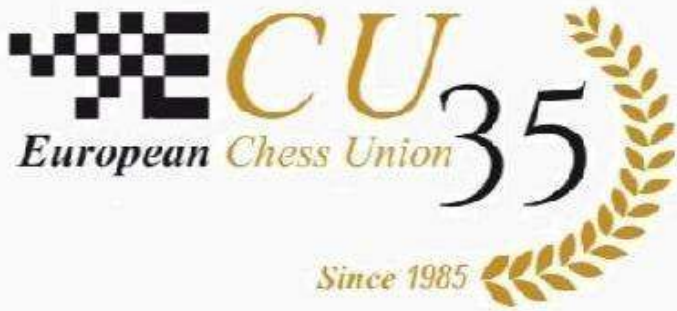
1.Qh5!! h6 2.Qg6 hg6 3.Qh5#

**#Puzzle 3:**

1.Ne7+ Kh8 2.Ng6+ hxg6 3.Rh1#

**Puzzle 4:**

1.Qxc8!+ Bxc8 2.Re8+ Kg7 3.Rg8#



**Ai**GROUP



*4 healthy energetics*



*"Chess makes you smarter!"*