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Finally, ECU Arbiters Council can appoint arbiters for OTB Events!



March 2020 will always be remembered as the start of a global and disastrous pandemic. At that time, nobody realised what dramatic consequences this would have all over the world in general and in chess in particular.

All ECU Events had to be cancelled or postponed. During almost one and a half year only online and hybrid chess events were organized. For that reason ECU Arbiters Council could not appoint arbiters for OTB events based on the "Call of Interest"- list of the January 2020.

Now that it is possible to organize OTB ECU Events again, ECU Arbiters Council is very happy to be able to appoint arbiters for those events as approved by ECU General Assembly. As mentioned, the appointment is based on the list that was made after the "Call of Interest" in 2020.

ECU Arbiters Council decided to use the same list for 2021 without any adjustments. Adjustments and upgrades on the list were not necessary because no OTB tournaments were organized in 2020 since, at the beginning of 2020, we finalized the list.

The procedure of appointment remains the same for all ECU Events this year.

The arbiters who we appoint receive an email with all information concerning the tournament. The arbiters who are the highest on the list are appointed first. They are asked to reply within a few days.

However, unfortunately, quite a lot of the arbiters (16!) refused the appointment for several reasons!

The ECU Arbiters Council decided that arbiters who declined twice will not be appointed anymore.

Some of the arbiters (6) do not even bother to reply, not even after the second appointment! Obviously these arbiters are removed from the list.

Some arbiters were already appointed for ECU Events at the beginning of last year. They even bought already their flight tickets. Unfortunately, as mentioned before, due to Covid 19 these tournaments were canceled. ECU Arbiters Council decided to invite these arbiters first for the tournaments in 2021.

A few colleagues already have been appointed. They were all approved by the organizer as well as by ECU:

- >European Individual Chess Championship in Reykjavic (Iceland): Argiris Kitharidis (GRE) and Donatas Vaznonis (LTU).
- >European Senior Team Chess Championship in Prague (Czech Republic): Arild Rimestad (DEN).
- >European Chess Club Cup in Ohrid (North Macedonia): Almog Burstein (ISR) and Olexandre Prohorov (UKR).
- >European Senior Chess Championship in Budoni (Italy): Alon Shulman (ISR).

ECU Arbiters Council appointed also one arbiter for the European Individual Women Championship in Iasi (Romania). However, due to the ECU Covid 19 protocol, this arbiter wasn't able to go to Romania. Because this was the first OTB tournament in more than one and a half year, ECU didn't want to take any risks concerning the health of the players. So, at the very last moment (the tournament had already started) the arbiter had to decline.

Soon, we will start the appointments for European Team Chess Championship (Terme Catez, Slovenia).

If you have any questions about the appointment of arbiters by the ECU Arbiters Council, please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the members of the council.

*Geert Bailleul
Secretary of the ECU Arbiters
Council*