



## ECU Arbiters Council - New members, new goals

In this article, we wish to present the newly appointed members of the ECU Arbiters' Council, as well as the "old" members that find themselves in new positions. In our first meeting, we set our goals for the following years, which we will present at the next ECU Board meeting. These goals include strengthening our bonds with the European arbiters, ensuring strong female presence in European events, working with organisers to ensure a high level of arbiters in all events, launching and improving the procedure of the next Calls of Interest and, of course, keep the tradition of the "Arbiter's Corner" in the ECU Magazine.

### IA/A Geert Bailleul (BEL), Chairman

I am a young man of 65 years young. I became a chess arbiter in 1992. In 2007 I became an IA. 2 years later the board of the Belgian Chess Federation (BCF) appointed me as the chairman of its Arbiters Commission. Today I still have this position. Ever since that year I was a member of the board of BCF. My international career as IA started in 2016 when I was appointed as match arbiter during the Olympiad in Baku. Since that year I was appointed in various principal positions during numerous major ECU and FIDE events. In 2017 I was appointed as member of the ECU Arbiters Council for 1 year to replace an inactive member. One year later I became secretary of the council for 4 years. Meanwhile I promoted to become IA-A. During the ECU board meeting in Prague (August this year) I have been appointed as chairman of the council. And last but certainly not least I was elected president of the BCF in 2021.

### IA/B Tania Karali (GRE), Secretary

I have been an arbiter since 2010 and got my IA title in 2016. I have been appointed as Pairing Officer in various events (most important were the World Rapid&Blitz Championships in Riyadh 2017 and Warsaw 2021), with multiple appointments as Deputy Chief Arbiter and Fair Play Officer in other events. During the pandemic, I worked as CA, DCA or PO in many World and European online events that were hosted on tornelo. Currently, I work for chess24 and I am the CA of the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour.

In June 2020, I wrote a manual for one of the most popular pairing softwares, Swiss-Manager, which has been translated in several languages (Greek, Spanish, Catalan, Dutch, Italian, French, Portuguese, Czech, Arabic, Persian) and received praise from arbiters all over the world. I speak English, Spanish, French and basic Russian.

### IA/A Sokolski Aleksander (POL), Councilor

I have been an international arbiter since 2013. I have acted as arbiter during many international and national events, including many times Polish individual and team championships, as well as European and World championships. I have been the chairman of Arbiters Commission of the Polish Chess Federation since 2021. Before that, I was a member of Arbiters Commission in Poland for eight years. I am an IT specialist by education. Since 2017, I am a Board Member of the Polish Chess Federation, acting as Treasurer. In addition, I have acted as organizer of many national and international events, e.g. Director of the Team European Senior Championships in Walbrzych 2018 and Individual European Senior Championships Lublin 2022.

### ECU Arbiters Commission members:

- >Geert Bailleul (BEL), Chairperson
- >Tania Karali (GRE), Secretary
- >Alon Shulman (ISR), Councilor
- >Alexander Sokolski (POL), Councilor
- >Tamas Gyomber (HUN), Councilor
- >Marco Biagioli (ITA) – ECU Legal Advisor, Data protectionAd, -hoc member



# Arbiters corner

## IA/B Alon Shulman (ISR), Councilor

I am 54 years old. In my civil life I have been a lawyer for the last 25 years. I have been an arbiter since 1983 and an International Arbiter since 2001. I am currently the Israel delegate to ECU. I am honoured to be appointed to the council. I wish to sustain dialog between the council and arbiters and organizers in order for ECU tournaments to be a joyful experience for all involved. My dear arbiter colleagues and dear organizers; I wish to be an ear to listen and a mouth to voice your valued opinions. We have a great assortment of members in our council open minded with fresh ideas and outlook. You are encouraged to write to me. I do not promise to agree, but I promise to read everything.

## IA/C Tamas Gyomber (HUN), Councilor

I'm a 37 years old International Arbiter, born and living in Budapest, Hungary. In my younger years I was a hobby player and reached a stable rating between 2000 and 2100. I've first become an arbiter almost accidentally in 2008. I fell in love immediately with this side of the table, and in the following years my arbiter career replaced my player one completely. I've started to work for the Budapest Chess Federation in 2012, first as office manager and two years later as general secretary. Since 2019 I'm also the tournament director of the Hungarian Chess Federation. I'm part of the BUD Arbiters' Committee since 2015, the National one since 2018, currently head of both. In the meantime I was also co-manager of a club for 2 years.

I've become International Arbiter in 2019, currently I'm at category C. Besides the hundreds of local tournaments in different levels as an arbiter I have continental and world experience as match arbiter, online/hybrid arbiter, fair play team member, deputy chief arbiter and unofficial sector arbiter. Next to my native Hungarian I'm (of course) fluent in English and I know a basic, but constantly improving level of French.

## IA/A Marco Biagioli, ECU Legal Advisor

I was born in Venice in 1986 and entered the chess community at 4, under the guidance of my father. Until I was 18 I was just a player but then I started to undergo any possible role in chess: I am an arbiter since 2005, I was a director of the Club since 2006 and a Chess Federation officer since 2013. In Italy I was chairman of the local union, Secretary of the Arbiters' Commission for two terms and I am now Chairman of the Calendar Commission and External Relations Manager. In 2018 I became International Arbiter (A' from 2019) and started to work in world and continental championships where I was Chief Arbiter, Deputy, Pairings Officer, Match Arbiter, live boards operator, Fair Play officer, Technical Delegate and also Appeals' Committee member this covering any possible role in a chess tournament. From 2019 I am also FIDE and ECU Officer and from 2021 Mitropa President. Aside Chess, I am a lawyer and this expertise always gave me some extra skills to perform my role



## ECU Arbiters Council

For detailed information about the ECU Arbiters Council activities visit the webpage of the council.

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