

Round 3
13th European Senior Chess Championship
Plovdiv, March 11 to March 22, 2013

The third round of the European Senior Chess Championship went smoothly and the seemingly calm atmosphere could have left a wrong impression about the emotional load of the games today. Although games on top three boards in the open tournament were drawn, there was a long and tough fight before piece was signed.



GM Evgeni Vasiukov (RUS) pushed hard against IM Anatoli Shvedchikov, but could not find a way to convert his material advantage into a full point; GM Nikolai Pushkov (RUS) drew against GM Evgenij Ermenkov (BUL), allowing a perpetual in a four rook and a minor piece ending, while Victor Bojarinov (RUS) and GM Petar Velikov (BUL) agreed to share the point after a threefold repetition in a material imbalanced position.

After round three there are four players with a perfect score – GM Mark Tseitlin (ISR), GM Algimantas Butnorius (LTU), FM Evgeny Iliushkin (RUS) and IM Boris Maryasin (ISR), followed by a cohort of 13 players at 2.5/3.

The first win was scored on board 30 after Helge Theting (NOR) resigned as white against IM Victor Romcovici (MDA) at move 26 after two hours. Some interesting derbies were played in round three as well. Stein Sollid (NOR) against Thor Geir Harestad (NOR) attracted the attention not only of their countrymen, but also of most of the spectators in the playing hall. The game ended in a draw after a dramatic fight. Georgi Popov (Bul) resigned the game against his higher rated GM Ivan Radulov (BUL). The latter was paired against another Bulgarian – GM Petar Velikov for tomorrow's fourth round.



After conceding half a point to GM Radulov in round 2, GM Yuri Balashov (RUS) won convincingly in the third round against FM Petar Orev (BUL).

In the ladies tournament sole leader with a perfect score after three rounds is WGM Margarita Voiska (BUL). She defeated fourth ranked WIM Tatyana Fomina (EST), while top seeds Nona Gaprindashvili (GEO) and WGM Galina Strutinskaya (RUS) shared the point after all resources of the position had been depleted. Tamara Sorokina (RUS) is second at 2.5/3. Sorokina, who saved a lost rook ending against Magdalena Sapareva (BUL) in round 1 was now paired to play against leader Margarita Voiska in the next round.