Round 5
13th European Senior Chess Championship
Plovdiv, March 11 to March 22, 2013

GM Mark Tseitlin (ISR) and WGM Margarita Voiska (BUL) remain sole leaders with 4.5 points after Round-5 at the 13th European Senior Chess Championship in Plovdiv.

There is a common perception among chess players that at Swiss System events leaders usually slowdown in the middle of the tournament to save some more energy for the final rounds. Followers, on the other hand, push harder for a comeback. This pattern was observed at the European Senior Chess Championship as well.

Leader GM Mark Tseitlin (ISR) drew against GM Evgeny Sveshnikov (LAT). At the same time five other top board games ended in a draw, too.

The first win of the round turned into a miniature after GM Yuri Balashov 2481 (RUS) underestimated the tactics in his position against IM Craig Pritchett (SCO), blundered on move 21 and then resigned immediately on the next move. On the adjacent board GM Evgeni Vasiukov (RUS) took a full point against FM Iliushkin Evgeny (RUS) after 74 moves in a game that happened to be the longest in the open section. GM Petar Velikov (BUL) won as black against FM Boris Gruzmann (RUS) and IM Mark Berkovich (ISR) defeated his countryman IM Leon Lederman (ISR) in 27 moves.

Thus, nine players are currently standing at 4.0/5, by half a point behind leader GM Mark Tseitlin (ISR).

In the women's tournament leader WGM Margarita Voiska (BUL) drew against World Senior Chess Champion WGM Galina Strutinskaya (RUS). Both players exchanged one draw offer each before peace was finally signed. Russian WFM Luba Kuznetsova won against Larisa Khropova WFM and emerged second after round five. Voiska and Kuznetsova have been paired to play against each other in round six.