

European Championship Proposal

(by A. Cieplý)

The basic idea of the system (*details can be tuned accordingly*):

- first week, 16 (or 24) top European players play in 2 groups, A and B, each group 8 (or 12) players, seeded according to ratings, swiss system, 4 rounds
- the top 4 players from both groups qualify for knockout to decide the European Champion
- the knockout quarterfinal is played on Friday, the semifinal and final (and a game for a 3rd place) on Saturday and Sunday, aside the EGC weekend tournament
- the pairing for the quarterfinal is A1-B4, B1-A4, A2-B3, B2-A3, so the players from the A group play with opponents from the B group
- the group games and quarterfinal count for the EGC Open, the weekend games don't

Reasoning (*with references to other proposals/systems*):

- the European champion will be known on Sunday, after EGC first week
- the EC participants can decide either to leave or continue playing the EGC Open the second week, so the system is friendly to those who can play only one week at the EGC
- the top Europeans will play against the top nonEuropeans in the second week of EGC Open and the EC winner can win the EGC Open as well; this is a big advantage over systems that exclude the top Europeans from playing nonEuropean opponents
- in the group stage the players with all wins and only one loss are guaranteed to get a place in the final knockout, the players with two losses will qualify on the basis of tiebreaker criteria (Modified Median used standardly at chess tournaments seems to suit best the Swiss system, see tie-breaking in Swiss-system tournaments at wikipedia, then rating and lottery); anyway, the players with 2 losses in the group stage are not expected to win the EC, so it is not so important what additional criteria are used for selecting who of them qualifies for the knockout
- under the current system the quarterfinal pairings are done in a way to avoid double pairing of the players who already played each other in earlier EGC rounds; it often means that the strongest players do not meet the weakest players as it should be in a proper knockout phase; the proposed system does not suffer from this issue due to separation of players in two groups at the first stage
- it is ok to have two Europeans on 5 points after the first week who will compete with the top nonEuropeans in the second week

- the EGC Open final standings will not be affected much by the first week in which the top Europeans and top nonEuropeans are paired separately; on the other hand, the EC system currently in use may strongly affect the final EGC Open standings
- the option with a larger number (24 in total, 12 in each group) of the EC participants accommodates more players, but then not all of them would be in the EGC Open supergroup, so the SOS of some players continuing the EGC Open in the second week would be affected