

♔ **Le Roi - NTUA Chess Club**

Athens, January 17, 2018

Press release: “Chess returns in NTUA”

In October 2016, two members of our team living in the New NTUA Residence Halls, took an initiative. Noticing on the one hand the interest of the academic community in chess, but on the other hand the absence of any related activities, we decided to form a club in the New Residence Halls. The club started its operation by holding weekly meetings and chess lessons, while in December 2016 we organized the **1st NTUA Chess Tournament** in the New Residence Halls. Thirty-two players participated in the swiss-system tournament and **Markos Vlachos**, student of the NTUA School of Architecture, won the championship.

The success of the 1st Tournament motivated us to expand our visions, by moving in to the NTUA Central Library and holding once again chess lessons in spring 2017. We directed an open call to students with chess skills, who would be interested in undertaking the running of a series of chess lessons as volunteers. We also encouraged the student community to participate in the series. Both our calls were met with significant support.

With the arrival of November 2017, the Organizing Committee got expanded and we decided to pursue better cooperation with the administrative authorities of NTUA and any outside bodies for the purpose of organizing the **2nd NTUA Chess Tournament**. Our goal was to take advantage of the university halls and equipment, which in recent years had been mainly unused, in order to bring NTUA students closer through chess. Indeed, to our great pleasure the NTUA Central Library accepted to host the 2nd Tournament in its building, while also the Culture and Sports public law entity of the Zografou municipality helped us to a great extent by providing us with chess sets.

We also desired to incorporate some ideas which could be possibly considered innovative for a tournament of this range. One of those was the creation of an online database where we would upload every rapid game of the tournament, so that anybody would be able to examine the games of each round. Another one was the adoption of several statistical categories, like the highest quality match or the most correct player, which were published after the end of each round and for which we used our own algorithmic system.

The tournament qualification round started on Saturday, November 25, 2017 with 48 participants and continuing with knock-out matches every Saturday, we ended up with the two finalists who would compete for the championship.

The Grand Final of the 2nd NTUA Chess Tournament was held at the Lecture Hall 1 of the NTUA School of Electrical and Computer Engineering on **Wednesday, January 17, 2018**. With the help of the School’s deanery we managed to present a laudable event both organizationally and technically, since the final was broadcasted online with live footage

and live transmission of the games through a chess web platform. The honorable presence of the university administrative authorities, of the students who attended the event, and the quality of the games between the two finalists as well, brought an ideal completion to the tournament and encouraged us to keep going.

Anastasis Koukas, student of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, was named winner of the final and champion of the tournament for the academic year 2017-2018, whereas **Konstantinos Mourogiannis**, student of the same School, occupied the 2nd place and was named runner-up. Initially there was a 1-1 tie between the two players in the rapid games, but eventually Anastasis Koukas won the title with a 2-0 victory (3-1 on aggregate) on the blitz games.