## EYCC Classical Tournament is halfway through

After thousands of exciting chess games have been played, EYCC Classical Tournament has only four more rounds to go. The best scoring competitors so far have been mostly the top seeded players with occasional underdogs mixed in the way. In the youngest girl's category **(G8)** Georgian Svanadze Lile has, so far, the perfect score, although tomorrow she will face the ultimate challenge – playing with the black pieces against the Romanian Badescu Eliza-Ioana who got 4,5/5. You can find the complete picture <u>here</u>.

Hanas Markiyan from Ukraine is cruising through the category **O8** with the perfect score, although there are two other players who have lost only half a point so far. One of them, Hu Junyan from England, will face the Ukrainian prodigy on Wednesday. For other pairings and results, please click on the following <u>link</u>.

Both categories under 10 don't have a player who has not conceded at least one draw so far. In the **G10** tournament, the top seeded player, Rosset Anna from France, has struggled so far. The hopes of the French delegation in this category now probably rests on the shoulders of Bakhshi Rana who has played an excellent tournament so far and will face Chen Yuefan from Germany on board <u>one</u>. In the open section (**O10**), Uzdemir Ali Poyraz from Turkey will face Kolodziejczyk Boris from France on the first board with <u>many players</u> breathing down their necks with 4/5, including the top seeded CM Llari Marc (FRA).

Polish Matskevich Varvara is so far dominating the field in the <u>category</u> **G12**. She will face Hangyal Anna from Hungary who, after drawing her first game, defeated all her rivals. Ambartsumian Tyhran, who is representing Armenia, has the perfect score in the open section **(O12)** and will face Nicot Valentin (FRA) tomorrow. As usual, nothing is clear at the moment and many other competitors can rise up and fight for the top <u>spots</u>.

A small anomaly can be found in the category **G14** where two players have 5/5 and will face each other in the sixth round. WFM Kuznecova Marija from Latvia will clash with WFM Mgeladze Kesaria representing Georgia. Top Seeded WFM Vujovic Vera is not far <u>behind</u> with 4,5/5. The local Czech federation is very happy with the results of the open section **(O14)** where two of their players, IM Finek Vaclav and FM Delgerdalai Bayarjavkhlan, will play on the first board on Wednesday. As per the norm, there is a pack of players not far <u>behind</u>.



IM Finek Vaclav (on the left) is the top seed in the category O14

Szczotka Klara (POL) has played a flawless tournament and is leading the category **G16.** She will be no stranger to playing on the first board, as in the fifth round she defeated WFM Shvedova Alexandra on the top board with a showing of a good knight versus a bad <u>bishop</u>. The Polish player will face WCM Tsetskhladze Mariam from Georgia, who is having an excellent tournament so far as well. For other pairings please visit the following <u>link</u>.

Seven players in the category **O16** have 4,5/5, which will no doubt transform into a gripping <u>sixth</u> round. The fifth round already produced some fascinating games including a <u>masterclass</u> in Sicilian defense by IM Materia Marco (FRA).

WFM Orian Noga from Israel is so far confirming why she is the number one seed in the oldest girl's category **(G18)** with her perfect 5/5. In the <u>sixth</u> round she will face an underdog, only 14 years old Alexandri Dimitra from Greece.



WFM Orian Noga is dominating G18 with 5/5 while her rivals have only 4/5.

An extremely balanced field has the oldest group **O18** with only FM Pasztor Balazs from Hungary having 4,5/5 and thus leading the tournament after the fifth round. He will face IM Rozen Eytan from Israel on the top board. GM Sokolovsky Yahli (ISR), only grandmaster in the tournament, is not far behind with 4/5.

It is very hard to predict what the future rounds will deliver, so make sure to follow the live transmission on either <u>lichess</u> or <u>chess.com</u>. Did you know that the tournament has live GM commentary? You can watch it on the official ECU YouTube <u>channel</u>. For more amazing photos, visit the official <u>photo gallery</u>. Do not forget to get in touch with EYCC on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.