

GREEK CHESS FEDERATION

PRESS RELEASE 2

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The international chess tournament "Acropolis 2008" continued today with the matches of the 2nd round. The top seeds of the tournament (Smirin, Graf, Gelashvili, Parligras) doubled their victories, but further down the pairing list several upsets occurred. Overall, today's round was very combative and kept the spectators at their toes for several hours.

Some notable results were the win of Turkish international master Umut Atakisi against the Greek grandmaster Dimitris Mastrovasilis, as well as the victory of youngster Nikos Aggelis against the French IM Hugo Tirard. Aggelis has made a very promising start and is well on his way to achieve an IM norm in this event, provided he keeps playing well!

It is not easy to select the most interesting games of the round - there were several such. As a sample, one could take a look at the games Smirin-Melia, D'Costa-Parligras, Georgiadis-Salgado Lopez and the game between the veteran Hrisanthos Pountzas and youngster Giannis Goumas (separated in age by 45 years!): after great complications and mutual tactical strokes, neither player could turn the tide in his favor and in the end both had to acquiesce to a draw.

After the 2nd round there are 14 players tied for 1st place, among them two of the 23 female participants: Natalia Zhukova (Ukraine) and Yelena Dembo (Greece). Naturally, it is still too early for predictions - a more substantial evaluation can be made after the 6th or 7th round. In the meantime, tomorrow's 3rd round sees the first all-grandmaster battles at the top.

The organizers have catered for the live transmission of the games, not only on the Internet but also on a projection screen in a specially arranged area inside the playing hall. At the same time, a daily bulletin is issued, containing results and all the games of the previous round.

"Acropolis 2008" is organized by the Greek Chess Federation and the Prefecture of Athens, which actively supports the event for the second consecutive year. The Hellenic Post Bank is the sponsor of the tournament.

The event is held at President Hotel (43 Kifissias Avenue, "Europa" Hall) and will last until August 17th. Starting time everyday is 17.00' (14.00' at 17/8). Admittance for spectators is free. The event is covered by the GCF website (www.chessfed.gr/acropolis2008) with results, standings, games, photos as well as live transmission of the most important games of each round.