

## **GREEK CHESS FEDERATION**

### **PRESS RELEASE 9**

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Israeli Grandmaster Ilija Smirin was the winner of the "Acropolis" international tournament for the second consecutive year. This time he tied for first place with Romanian GM Mircea Parligras, but had superior tie-breaks (average rating of opponents). In the games of the 9<sup>th</sup> and final round Smirin preferred not to take any chances against Bulgarian GM Atanas Kolev, while Parligras played a very double-edged game against Moldavian GM Dmitry Svetushkin, which eventually ended in a draw after many adventures.

Half a point behind the leaders were Kolev, German GM Alexander Graf (who beat Zubarev) and two female players, Georgian IM Nana Dzagnidze and Armenian IM Elina Danielian, who beat Maric and Kotanjian respectively. Dzagnidze finished third on tie-breaks, while her victory today secured her a Grandmaster norm!

Further down the standings, at 6 points out of 9 games, one finds the top junior of the tournament, 17-year-old Spanish GM Ivan Salgado Lopez, as well as top Greek player GM Hristos Banikas. First Greek woman was IM Yelena Dembo and top girl honors were won by Zoe Iordanidou. The top Greek juniors were Tasos Pavlidis, Antonis Pavlidis and Paminos Kourousis.

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

The event was held at President Hotel (43 Kifissias Avenue, "Europa" Hall) from August 9<sup>th</sup> until August 17<sup>th</sup>, and was covered by the GCF website ([www.chessfed.gr/acropolis2008](http://www.chessfed.gr/acropolis2008)) with results, standings, games, photos as well as live transmission of the most important games of each round.