

# World Cities Chess Team Championship

*For the Sheikh Zayed Cup*



Because of the predictable pairings system, teams fought fiercely until the last round of the Preliminaries even if they were sure of qualification into the Knockout phase. They fought hard to avoid being paired against the strongest teams of the other groups since the Round-of-16 pits the champion against runner-up or third placed team.

Eliminated were fourth placed teams Al Ain, Chennai, India, Canberra, Australia, Timisoara, Romania, Kampala,

Uganda and Cairo, Egypt. Also eliminated were third placed Istanbul, Turkey and Tehran, Iran. The four best 3rd placed teams joined the top two of each group in the next phase of matches below.

The final cross tables in the next page tell the story of each group. Above, Lviv beat Riga to win group C by game points, so every point counts.

|         |                     | White         | Result | Black          |                     |
|---------|---------------------|---------------|--------|----------------|---------------------|
| Match 1 | Runner-up Group C   | Athens, GRE   | :      | London, ENG    | Runner-up Group A   |
| Match 2 | 3rd Group B / E / F | Tashkent, UZB | :      | Astana, KAZ    | Winner Group D      |
| Match 3 | 3rd Group A / C / D | Dhaka, BAN    | :      | Saratov, RUS   | Winner Group B      |
| Match 4 | Runner-up Group E   | Chicago, USA  | :      | Hoogeveen, NED | Winner Group F      |
| Match 5 | Runner-up Group D   | Baku, AZE     | :      | Paris, FRA     | Winner Group E      |
| Match 6 | Winner Group C      | Lviv, UKR     | :      | Wu Xi, CHN     | 3rd Group A / B / F |
| Match 7 | 3rd Group C / D / E | Riga, LAT     | :      | Lund, SWE      | Winner Group A      |
| Match 8 | Runner-up Group B   | Ptuj, SLO     | :      | Novi Sad, SRB  | Runner-up Group F   |

Four of the 12 rays of tables shall be removed to leave only 8 matches in the Round-of-16.

Some 26 players from the eliminated 8 countries join Al Ain Classic individual Swiss carrying over their points from the team tournament.

Below is the chart of the knockout phase of the World Cities Chess Team Championship.

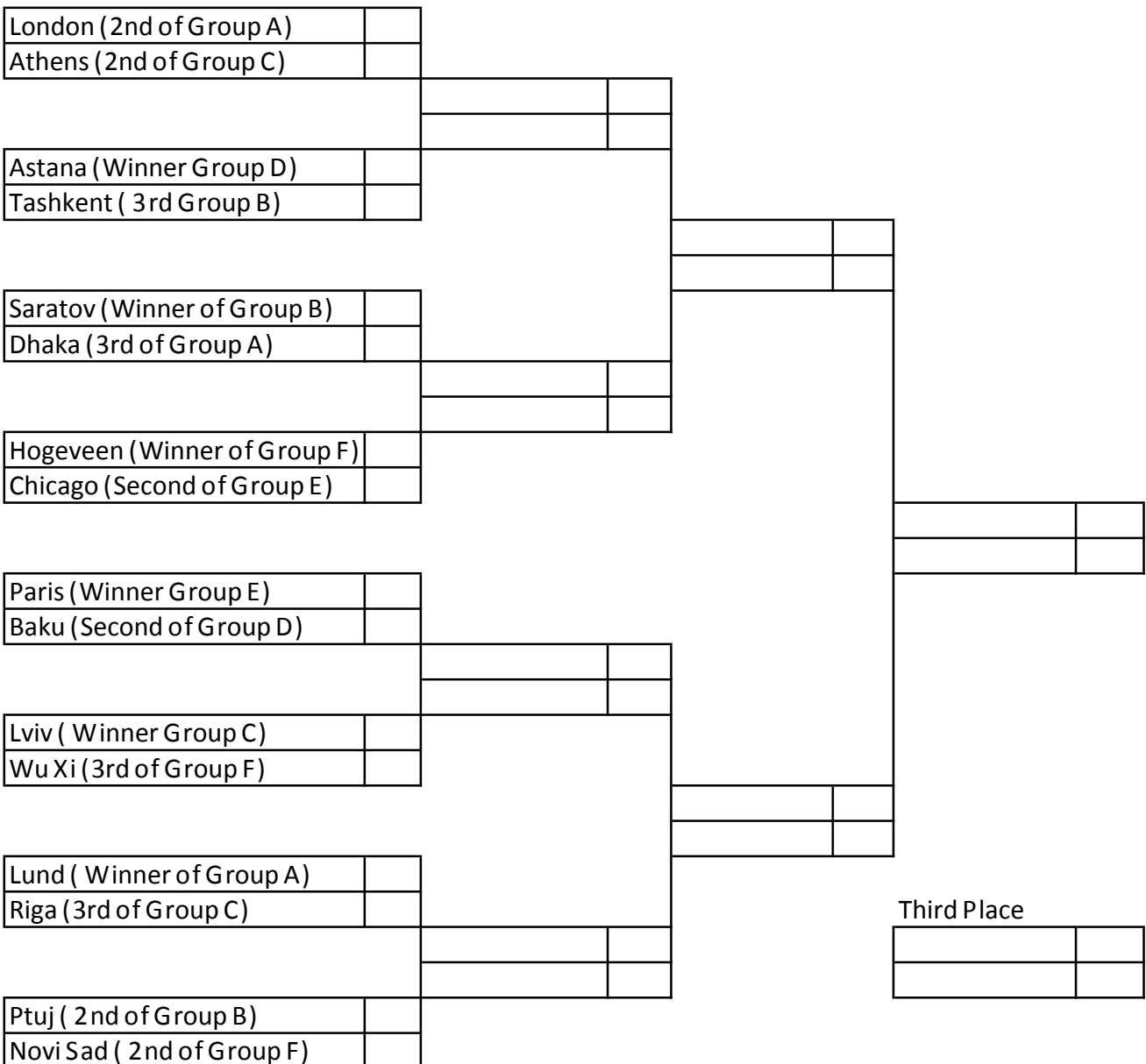


Round of 16

Quarter-Finals

Semi Finals

Final



## RR3

## Group A

## Group B

## Group C

## Group D

## Group E

## Group F

|            |          |                        |      |              |          |                           |      |
|------------|----------|------------------------|------|--------------|----------|---------------------------|------|
| <b>3.1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>Lund - Sweden</b>   |      | <b>2 - 2</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>Dhaka - Bangladesh</b> |      |
| 1          | GM       | Grandelius Nils        | 2583 | 0 : 1        | GM       | Murshed Niaz              | 2464 |
| 2          | GM       | Tikkanen Hans          | 2575 | ½ : ½        | GM       | Rahman Ziaur              | 2518 |
| 3          | GM       | Carlsson Pontus        | 2518 | ½ : ½        | IM       | Minhazuddin Ahmed         | 2401 |
| 4          | IM       | Smith Axel             | 2484 | 1 : 0        | IM       | Abu Sufian Shakil         | 2364 |
| <b>3.2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>London - UK</b>     |      | <b>3½ ½</b>  | <b>1</b> | <b>Al Ain - UAE</b>       |      |
| 1          | GM       | Short Nigel D          | 2692 | 1 : 0        | GM       | Salem A.R. Saleh          | 2536 |
| 2          | GM       | Howell David W L       | 2634 | ½ : ½        | IM       | Hassan Abdullah           | 2378 |
| 3          | GM       | Williams Simon K       | 2515 | 1 : 0        | CM       | Faisal Abdulla            | 2255 |
| 4          | IM       | Zhou Yang-Fan          | 2419 | 1 : 0        | FM       | Khoury Ibrahim Mohamed    | 2252 |
| <b>3.1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>Saratov - RUS</b>   |      | <b>2½ 1½</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>Tashkent - UZB</b>     |      |
| 1          | GM       | Lysyj Igor             | 2617 | 1 : 0        | GM       | Dzhumaev Marat            | 2530 |
| 2          | GM       | Romanov Evgeny         | 2616 | 0 : 1        | IM       | Kvon Andrey               | 2501 |
| 3          | GM       | Shaposhnikov Evgeny    | 2544 | 1 : 0        | GM       | Barsov Alexei             | 2510 |
| 4          | GM       | Iljushin Alexei        | 2505 | ½ : ½        | GM       | Iuldachev Saidali         | 2455 |
| <b>3.2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>Ptuj - SLO</b>      |      | <b>2 - 2</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>Chennai - IND</b>      |      |
| 1          | GM       | Lenic Luka             | 2637 | 0 : 1        | IM       | Shyam Nikil P.            | 2431 |
| 2          | GM       | Beliavsky Alexandre    | 2630 | 1 : 0        | FM       | Rajesh V A V              | 2370 |
| 3          | GM       | Borisek Jure           | 2560 | ½ : ½        |          | Navalgund Niranjan        | 2169 |
| 4          | GM       | Skoberne Jure          | 2549 | ½ : ½        |          | Karthikeyan Murali        | 2315 |
| <b>3.1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>Lviv - UKR</b>      |      | <b>3 - 1</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>Riga - LAT</b>         |      |
| 1          | GM       | Moiseenko Alexandr     | 2710 | 1 : 0        | GM       | Miezis Normunds           | 2596 |
| 2          | GM       | Kryvoruchko Yuriy      | 2671 | ½ : ½        | GM       | Neiksans Arturs           | 2534 |
| 3          | GM       | Fedorchuk Sergey A     | 2661 | ½ : ½        | GM       | Starostits Ilmars         | 2468 |
| 4          | GM       | Kravtsiv Martyn        | 2593 | 1 : 0        | FM       | Lavendelis Egons          | 2340 |
| <b>3.2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>Canberra - AUS</b>  |      | <b>1 - 3</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>Athens - GRE</b>       |      |
| 1          | FM       | Wallis Christopher     | 2283 | 0 : 1        | GM       | Papaioannou Ioannis       | 2618 |
| 2          | IM       | Feldman Vladimir       | 2230 | 0 : 1        | GM       | Banikas Hristos           | 2620 |
| 3          |          | Schon Eugene           | 2175 | 0 : 1        | GM       | Halkias Stelios           | 2561 |
| 4          |          | Zelesco Karl           | 2154 | 1 : 0        |          | Stathopoulos Ioannis      | 2228 |
| <b>3.1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>Astana - KAZ</b>    |      | <b>3½ ½</b>  | <b>4</b> | <b>Istanbul - TUR</b>     |      |
| 1          | GM       | Kazhgaleyev Murtas     | 2596 | 1 : 0        | GM       | Esen Baris                | 2576 |
| 2          | GM       | Jumabayev Rinat        | 2567 | ½ : ½        | GM       | Can Emre                  | 2448 |
| 3          | GM       | Kotsur Pavel           | 2550 | 1 : 0        | FM       | Sanal Vahap               | 2382 |
| 4          | IM       | Kuderinov Kirill       | 2452 | 1 : 0        | FM       | Ali Marandi Cemil Can     | 2354 |
| <b>3.2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>Timisoara - ROM</b> |      | <b>1½ 2½</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>Baku - AZE</b>         |      |
| 1          | GM       | Lupulescu Constant     | 2618 | ½ : ½        | GM       | Safarli Eltaj             | 2626 |
| 2          | GM       | Parligras Mircea-En    | 2628 | ½ : ½        | GM       | Guseinov Gadir            | 2628 |
| 3          | GM       | Nevednichy Vladisl     | 2545 | ½ : ½        | GM       | Mamedov Rauf              | 2647 |
| 4          | GM       | Manolache Marius       | 2541 | 0 : 1        | GM       | Mamedov Nidjat            | 2602 |
| <b>3.1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>Teheran - IRI</b>   |      | <b>3½ ½</b>  | <b>4</b> | <b>Kampala - UGA</b>      |      |
| 1          | GM       | Ghaem Maghami El       | 2572 | ½ : ½        |          | Ssegwanyi Arthur          | 2222 |
| 2          | GM       | Golizadeh Asghar       | 2476 | 1 : 0        | CM       | Kawuma Patrick            | 2245 |
| 3          | GM       | Mahjoob Morteza        | 2426 | 1 : 0        | FM       | Wanyama Harold            | 2252 |
| 4          | FM       | Javanbakht Nima        | 2406 | 1 : 0        | CM       | Bibasa Bob                | 2218 |
| <b>3.2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>Paris - FRA</b>     |      | <b>3 - 1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>Chicago - USA</b>      |      |
| 1          | GM       | Vachier-Lagrave Ma     | 2711 | 1 : 0        | GM       | Akobian Varuzhan          | 2622 |
| 2          | GM       | Fressinet Laurent      | 2700 | ½ : ½        | GM       | Ehlvest Jaan              | 2603 |
| 3          | GM       | Edouard Romain         | 2686 | 1 : 0        | IM       | Hungaski Robert Andrew    | 2469 |
| 4          | GM       | Hamdouchi Hicham       | 2610 | ½ : ½        | GM       | Finegold Benjamin         | 2498 |
| <b>3.1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>Hoogeveen - NED</b> |      | <b>2 - 2</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>Wu Xi - CHN</b>        |      |
| 1          | GM       | Giri Anish             | 2720 | ½ : ½        | GM       | Wang Yue                  | 2696 |
| 2          | GM       | Sokolov Ivan           | 2667 | ½ : ½        |          | Ji Dan                    | 2341 |
| 3          | GM       | Tiviakov Sergei        | 2663 | ½ : ½        | IM       | Li Wenliang               | 2424 |
| 4          | GM       | Smeets Jan             | 2614 | ½ : ½        |          | Fang Yuxiang              | 2103 |
| <b>3.2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>Cairo - EGY</b>     |      | <b>1 - 3</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>Novi Sad - SRB</b>     |      |
| 1          | GM       | El Gindy Essam         | 2486 | 0 : 1        | GM       | Ivanisevic Ivan           | 2633 |
| 2          | IM       | Shoker Samy            | 2490 | ½ : ½        | GM       | Markus Robert             | 2619 |
| 3          | IM       | Ezat Mohamed           | 2450 | 0 : 1        | GM       | Perunovic Milos           | 2614 |
| 4          | IM       | Labib Ibrahim Hasa     | 2432 | ½ : ½        | GM       | Sedlak Nikola             | 2572 |





Bangladesh team members, from left, IM Abu Sufian Shakil, IM Minhazuddin Ahmed, GM Niaz Murshed, Md. Saif Uddin (Captain), FM Debaraj Chatterjee and GM Ziaur Rahman

The Dhaka team placed among the best 3rd teams. Ranking was based on Match Points with Game Points as first tie break.

Tehran and China were tied by both Match Points and Game Points and the tie had to be broken by Sonnenborn Berger system calculated as weight (1, ½, 0 \* total Game Points of opponents).



Asian Chess Federation Treasurer Mehrdad Pahlavanzadeh, left, with GM Nigel Short of the London, England team.

| Rank | Group A            | 1  | 2  | 3 | 4  | MP | Pts. |
|------|--------------------|----|----|---|----|----|------|
| 1    | Lund - Sweden      | *  | 2½ | 2 | 2½ | 5  | 7    |
| 2    | London - UK        | 1½ | *  | 3 | 3½ | 4  | 8    |
| 3    | Dhaka - Bangladesh | 2  | 1  | * | 3  | 3  | 6    |
| 4    | Al Ain - UAE       | 1½ | ½  | 1 | *  | 0  | 3    |

| Rank | Group B        | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | MP | Pts. |
|------|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| 1    | Saratov - RUS  | *  | 2½ | 2½ | 3  | 6  | 8    |
| 2    | Ptuj - SLO     | 1½ | *  | 2½ | 2  | 3  | 6    |
| 3    | Tashkent - UZB | 1½ | 1½ | *  | 3½ | 2  | 6½   |
| 4    | Chennai - IND  | 1  | 2  | ½  | *  | 1  | 3½   |

| Rank | Group C        | 1 | 2  | 3  | 4  | MP | Pts. |
|------|----------------|---|----|----|----|----|------|
| 1    | Lviv - UKR     | * | 1  | 3  | 4  | 4  | 8    |
| 2    | Athens - GRE   | 3 | *  | 1½ | 3  | 4  | 7½   |
| 3    | Riga - LAT     | 1 | 2½ | *  | 3½ | 4  | 7    |
| 4    | Canberra - AUS | 0 | 1  | ½  | *  | 0  | 1½   |

| Rank | Group D         | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | MP | Pts. |
|------|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| 1    | Astana - KAZ    | *  | 2  | 3½ | 2½ | 5  | 8    |
| 2    | Baku - AZE      | 2  | *  | 3  | 2½ | 5  | 7½   |
| 3    | Istanbul - TUR  | ½  | 1  | *  | 3  | 2  | 4½   |
| 4    | Timisoara - ROM | 1½ | 1½ | 1  | *  | 0  | 4    |

| Rank | Group E       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4  | MP | Pts. | SB |
|------|---------------|---|---|---|----|----|------|----|
| 1    | Paris - FRA   | * | 3 | 3 | 4  | 6  | 10   |    |
| 2    | Chicago - USA | 1 | * | 3 | 3½ | 4  | 7½   |    |
| 3    | Teheran - IRI | 1 | 1 | * | 3½ | 2  | 5½   | 1  |
| 4    | Kampala - UGA | 0 | ½ | ½ | *  | 0  | 1    |    |

| Rank | Group F        | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4 | MP | Pts. | SB |
|------|----------------|----|----|----|---|----|------|----|
| 1    | Hoogeveen NED  | *  | 2½ | 2  | 4 | 5  | 8½   |    |
| 2    | Novi Sad - SRB | 1½ | *  | 2½ | 3 | 4  | 7    |    |
| 3    | Wu Xi - CHN    | 2  | 1½ | *  | 2 | 2  | 5½   | 3  |
| 4    | Cairo - EGY    | 0  | 1  | 2  | * | 1  | 3    |    |





## Interview with Laurent Fressinet

### It's good to play in Al Ain after tough chess in Beijing

*Laurent Fressinet, the second board of Paris team (FRA), represents one of the favorites of the World Cities Team Chess Championship 2012. Having done well in two first rounds, he decided to rest in the third and made a draw against the Chicago player Jaan Ehvest. Let's see what his impressions on the tournament are.*

*- At the beginning of any tournament organizers usually are interested in whether all the participants are happy with the organization, hotel, food, etc. Plus, we guess that for your strong team the first three rounds of this format were easy to go. That is why our first question is almost traditional: how do you like playing here in Al Ain?*

*- You are right, the serious chess starts tomorrow. As for the organization, everything is very good. Accommodation is nice, we are located very close to the playing venue. I like the food very much. Probably it is kind of late to start playing at 6 in the evening but it can be still accepted. Though I came from Beijing now and still have this jet lag but it's not a big problem. Plus, to play in a place where it is plus 30 while in my city it is cold and windy, it is very good. I did not swim in the pool on 24th of December before in my life. Also, after the tough battles against very strong professionals in Sport Accord tournament, it is pleasant to relax a bit.*

*- The championship format is new to almost all participants. We need to know the opinion of all chess players, especially strong professionals like you. So, what do you think?*

*- The format is fantastic. I always like to play Knock outs. In addition it is great that if you are not lucky at the main*

*tournament you have two choices: you can go home or continue playing in the Open. Isn't it great?*

*- As you said the serious tournament will start from Round 4. What do you expect from further performance of your team? Are you ready to go till the end?*

*- Yes, we are ready to go till the end. Though there are teams that we have to be careful with. Lviv, Hoogeveen, Greek guys have good chances: they defeated Lviv the other day. Generally there are 7 or 8 teams that have the same goals as we do. Anything can happen. As I said before, serious chess starts tomorrow.*

*- Let the strongest win. You have a very strong team composition. Tell us about your teammates? You have a new member Hicham Hamdouchi. How did you welcome him to your French chess family?*

*- Hicham is a very good person. By the way we are here thanks to him. Frankly speaking we were not qualified to the championship, we finished 27th in the Olympiad. But thanks to Hicham's good relations with the UAE Federation and Al Ain chess club and the fact that some teams could not come due to this or that reason, we are here.*

*- What about your other activities? What do you do apart from playing chess?*

*- Well, I like to play tennis, poker, all kinds of card games. Chess is a priority, but there are many other things I like to do in life.*