

# Baltic Summer Chess Camp 2014

## Riga - Latvia

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August

**The Baltic Summer Chess Camp 2014 (BSCC2014) is an event in which children from different countries assemble together for chess training and competition and have fun. Participants are expected from the Baltics, UK and other European countries. It is an opportunity not only to play chess, but also have a family holiday in the European Capital of Culture for 2014. The training will take place over four days and will be conducted in English. Participants will learn a great deal and their enthusiasm for chess will be encouraged. There is an option to stay three more days for the RTU weekend tournament. There is a separate chess programme for adults.**

### Riga and Latvia

Latvia is a small country in northern Europe with a strong chess tradition. The famous world chess champion, [Mikhail Tal](#), was from Riga and the former world championship candidate [Alexei Shirov](#) lives in Riga.

Latvia, lightly populated and green, is a member of the EU and its currency is the Euro. Riga, located at the Baltic seaside, is the capital as well as the [European Capital of Culture for 2014](#).

### Programme

The BSCC2014 programme includes training from Wednesday until Saturday, guest speakers, a Riga sightseeing tour, a visit to a health recreation centre and entry to the RTU (Riga Technical University) [Blitz tournament](#) on Friday evening.

The Programme may be extended by three days to the evening of Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August by optional participation in the RTU [weekend tournament "C"](#). Games played at the RTU event receive a FIDE rating.

### Dates, location and timing

Participants should arrive for the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> August for the induction meeting. The training begins on the following morning. The training ends on the evening of Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August.

The training takes place in the "Royal Biograph" chess club (Vecrīga, Doma laukums, Šķūņu iela 13-1.), located in the charming historical Old Riga. The morning training sessions for children are from 10:00 – 12:00 and the afternoon from 13:00 – 15:00 with a break for lunch.

Training for adults takes place in the mornings only 10:00-13:00 with the afternoons for practice. Venues for training include the Riga Chess School and the Riga Chess Federation Club. Evening play is available at the latter upon payment of a small fee. Personal coaching can also be provided for adults if required.

### Organisation

The BSCC2014 event is supported by the Latvian Chess Federation in co-operation with the RTU Open. The Event Directors are Dr. Yuri Agafonov (Latvia) and John Foley, (UK).

## Participant profile

The training is suitable for chess improvers subject to the following restrictions: minimum age is 10 years; maximum number of children from one country is limited; maximum FIDE rating of any participant is ELO 2014.

## Training

Participants are placed in groups according to ability, age, gender and social factors. The composition of the groups will be flexible. Training comprises lectures, practice, puzzles, competition, game analysis and individual assessment. The trainers work with the children in small groups. Snacks and refreshments will be provided throughout the day. There will be a daily guest speaker. Some grandmasters coming to the RTU Open from the Tromsø Chess Olympiad will also attend. The timing is described here: [BSCC 2014 Schedule](#).

The trainers are Verners Putka, Ms Liga Ungure (Latvia) and Andrew Martin (England). All are very experienced and have been formally checked in respect of suitability for working with children.

## Preparation

The participants should email to the organisers, by 31<sup>st</sup> July, THREE recent games as follows: favourite game, a win against a relatively strong player and a loss. The games should ideally be submitted as a .pgn file with the player's own comments.

## Accommodation and meals

Inexpensive accommodation is available at the RTU hostel located in the centre of Riga on an island in the Daugava River. There is a choice of a studio (2/3 persons) or a three- bedroom apartment comprising either all single rooms or all double rooms (the most economical). All apartments have an integral WC and shower. There is also a shared kitchen for self-catering available, see [photos](#). Breakfast is not included in the price. However, there are several cafés and restaurants within a short distance where meals can be obtained. Alternatively, families may choose to stay at one of the many fine hotels in and around Riga.

## Applications

Applications should be submitted via [Registration to BSCC 2014](#). Entries received after 12<sup>th</sup> July 2014 may be too late for inclusion. Full financial details are set out in: [BSCC 2014 Costs](#).

## Cancellation

Cancellations made prior to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014 may recover 50% of the tuition payment. Unfortunately, no refund can be made for cancellations made after 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014. If the tournament is cancelled due to *force majeure* then all tuition fees received will be reimbursed.