



Hoogovens Top Seed in World Cities Team Championship

Al Ain, 2 Dec. 2012 - The Hoogovens team of the Netherlands is top seed in the World Cities Chess Team Championship starting 21st December in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates. Twenty four teams shall vie for the Sheikh Zayed Cup and a total of \$150,000 in cash prizes at stake in the knock out competition.

Led by GM Anish Giri, the Hoogovens team has an average rating of 2666 with only four players in the squad together with GMs Ivan Sokolov, Sergey Tiviakov and Jan Smeets. The Lviv team of Ukraine is second seed with an average of 2659, composed of GMs Alexander Moiseenko, Yuriy Kryvorucko, Sergey Fedorchuk and Martyn Kravtsiv.

The other seeding based on the average ratings of the four strongest players are: Baku, Azerbaijan (2626); Saratov, Russia (2626); Novi Sad, Serbia (2611); Ptuj, Slovenia (2594); Timisoara, Romania (2589); Stockholm, Sweden (2540); Riga, Latvia (2528); Astana, Kazakhstan (2520); Tehran, Iran (2511); Tashkent, Uzbekistan (2499); Cairo, Egypt (2465); Manila, Philippines (2448); Dhaka, Bangladesh (2437); Wu Xi, China (2391); Chennai, India (2321); Kampala, Uganda (2234); Canberra, Australia (2220); Buenos Aires, Argentina (2210) and Lagos, Nigeria (1899). Other teams are expected to complete their composition soon.

The host city is seeded into Class A among the top 6 teams. Next 6 teams (7-12) form Class B, teams 13 to 18 form Class C and teams 19 to 24 form Class D. At the opening ceremony the night before the round, teams shall be drawn by lot such that there will be four classes of teams (A,B,C,D) in one group.

After the round robin stage, the top two from each group advance to the next stage. The four best third placed teams shall complete the Round-of-16. They shall play a knock out match which shall be followed by Quarterfinals, Semifinals and the exciting Final match.

Concurrently, an individual open tournament shall be organized, the Al Ain Chess Classic, to which players eliminated from the knock out team competition can join. The \$30,000 tournament is open to all FIDE rated players. In the unique Al Ain System format, players from the knock-out team event carry over their points to the individual Swiss. Visit the [FIDE site](#) to download regulations and registration form.

The Al Ain Chess Classic will be a 9-round combined Swiss Al Ain System wherein players eliminated from the first three stages of the World Cities Team Championship, namely Preliminaries, Round-of-16 and Quarterfinal, join the individual tournament and carry over their points from the team event.

Players will also have a chance to attend a FIDE Trainers Seminar from 22-26 December 2012 at the Al Ain Chess Club. The lecturers will be GM & FST Efstratios Grivas and GM & FST Adrian Mikhalchishin. Visit the [FIDE site](#) for details.