

Information Bulletin

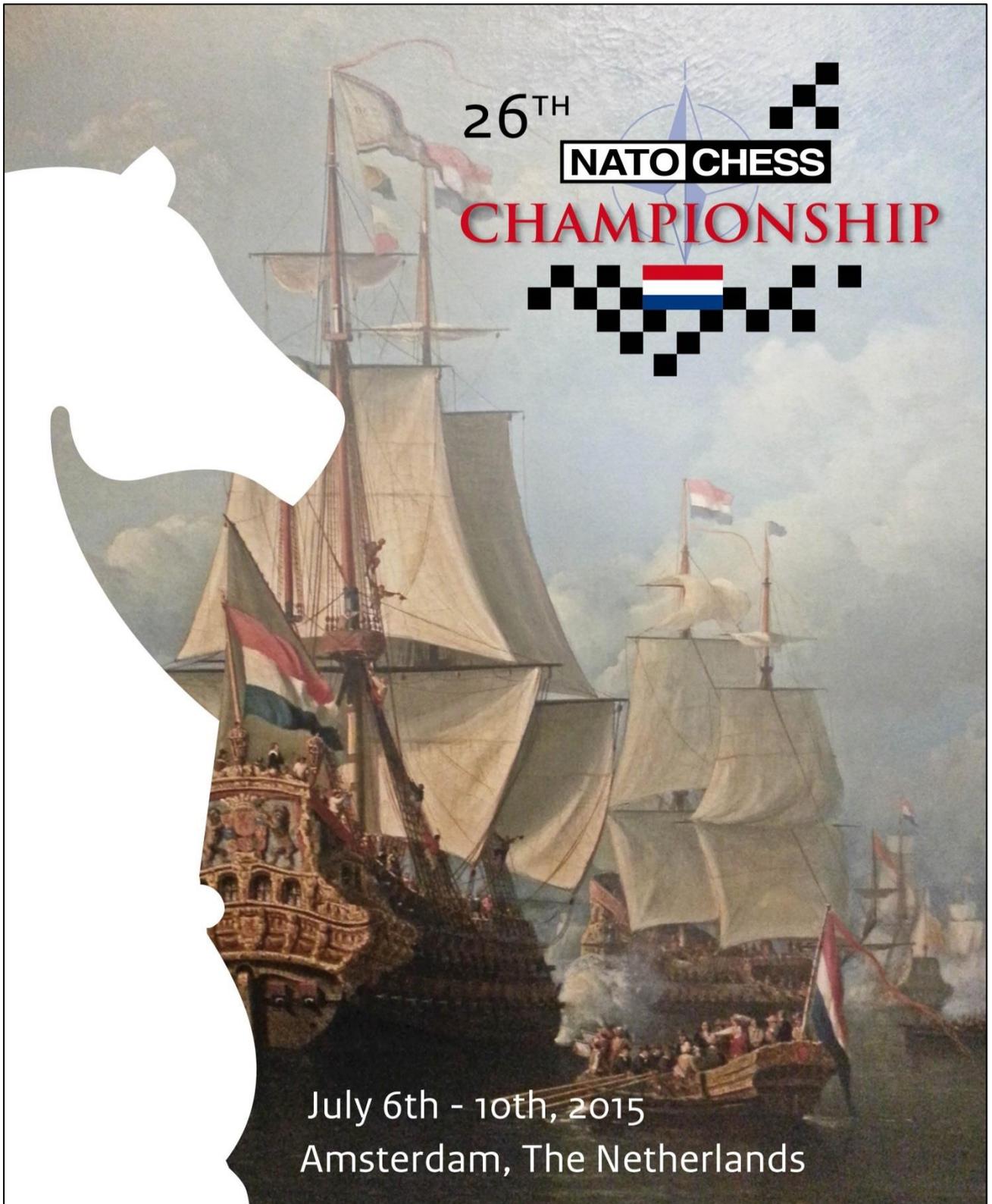


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Welcome by military host

Dear guests,

As Principal Director of Business Management of the Defense Staff, and appointed military host of the ministry of Defense for this event, I would like to welcome you very warmly in my home town. I also speak to you on behalf of the International Military Sports Desk (BIMS), the National representative to CISM. With only 5 people, BIMS supports military sports competition in the Netherlands and abroad. Military chess in the Netherlands is not formally part of BIMS, but every once and a while, BIMS is willing to organize a NATO Chess Championship as a European CISM activity.

Founded on 18 February 1948, "Conseil International du Sport Militaire" (CISM), the International Military Sports Council is one of the largest multidisciplinary organizations in the world. They organize various sporting events for the Armed Forces of their 134 member countries, with the ultimate goal to contribute to world peace by uniting Armed Forces through sports. The motto under which CISM operates is «Friendship through Sport».

The Netherlands organized this tournament before in Breda 1994 at the Royal Military Academy, followed by The Hague 2004 at the Staff College Ypenburg, near the Netherlands' center of government, and now here in Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands, on a historical location.

In the Golden Age of Holland (the Dutch Republic), Amsterdam was the staple market of Europe and the center of world trade. Naval squadrons protected Dutch commerce and shipping. The naval defense of Holland was divided between five admiralties, which were responsible for shipbuilding, armament and manpower. The Amsterdam Admiralty, which had been installed in 1589, was the richest and most powerful one.

In 1654 the Admiralty bought a stretch of shore on the artificial island "Kattenburg" to build additional capacity for the naval base, which flourished over the years. But in 1915 this shipyard was shut down. Naval shipbuilding was left to private firms and the ship maintenance facilities were transferred to the naval base at Den Helder in the North of the Netherlands. After the closure of the yard the Navy continued to use the emplacement for storage, distribution and schooling. Nowadays the Navy Barracks, where the tournament will be held, is used by different Ministries. It is therefore a historical place in the heart of Amsterdam. It was the home base of Michiel de Ruyter, one of our great naval heroes, who was honored this year with an extensive exposition about his life in the "Scheepvaartmuseum", next to the Navy Barracks. That's why the logo of this tournament is based on a painting of Koster of a ship from that period.

It is very rewarding to notice that the 26th NATO Chess Championship can be organized in the city of Amsterdam, in this historical location, with over a hundred chess players from 18 NATO countries, the biggest tournament ever in its history.

I wish you all fair games and good competition, and I hope you will enjoy Amsterdam very much.

Principal Director of Business Management
Rear Admiral Arie-Jan de Waard



Rear Admiral Arie Jan de Waard was born in Leeuwarden (Netherlands) on 16 September 1961. After completing his naval officers' training at the Royal Naval College (KIM), he became an officer in 1985. He obtained his PhD at the University of Twente on 29 January 1999.

On 1 January 2008 he was appointed General Director of the Naval Maintenance and Services Agency and promoted to Commodore. As of the same date he was also appointed Flag Officer of the Naval Engineering Service. On 4 June 2012 he was transferred to the Defence Staff to become Deputy Director Operational Readiness. De Waard was appointed Principal Director of Business Management on 17 February 2014 and promoted to Rear Admiral on the same date.

In his spare time Rear Admiral de Waard is member of the Board of the Foundation Sail Amsterdam. In 2011 he became chairman of this board.



Welcome by Alderperson Sport of the City Council of Amsterdam

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honor to welcome all participants to the 26th NATO Chess Championship to Amsterdam.

This week is all about Chess in The Royal Netherlands Navy Barracks Amsterdam. With more than a hundred players competing, this is a major Chess event of which I am very proud to host this year.

A well-known Dutch scientist, Dr. D.F. Swaab, advocates that one should continue to use the brain actively. When we stimulate our brain with new information and various difficult tasks, the brain stays active and fit. His life motto is: "Use it or lose it". Apart from being challenging and fun, playing chess is considered to be good for the brain and therefore very useful for work and everyday life. A healthy brain contributes to lifelong fitness, and that is a motto we stand for in Amsterdam.

In Amsterdam we take a keen interest in sports. Our brain is stimulated by body activity as well, as advocated by another Dutch scientist, Professor Eric Scherder. Being a good chess player and certainly being in the military, as almost all of you are, requires a very good mental and physical condition. And, the other way around, if you are in a healthy condition, life, work and playing chess are certainly a lot easier.

The City of Amsterdam will present itself with a reception for you in our City Hall. That will also be the start of this beautiful chess tournament. I hope to welcome you there. If not, then allow me to wish all of you a lot of fun and success in this Championship. Hopefully you will also have the opportunity to see more of the beautiful things that this city has to offer.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to Amsterdam!

Eric van der Burg
Vice Mayor of Sports



Eric van der Burg (born 9 October 1965 in Amsterdam) has been active in Amsterdam's politics since 1987 – initially as local council member and a portfolio holder in the District of "Zuidoost", then served as a city councilor between 2001 and 2010. In July 2014, Van der Burg began his second term as alderperson. He is responsible for the portfolios of Health and Welfare, the Elderly, **Sport and Recreation**, Spatial Planning, Land Management and the District of Zuid.



Welcome by the President of Max Euwe Center

Dear all,

It is a great honor welcoming you to Amsterdam. As Max Euwe Center (MEC) our goal is to popularize chess, in Amsterdam specifically, and the Netherlands in general. Events like the NATO Chess Championship therefore fit very well to the Amsterdam chess community. It shows the great diversity of chess lovers. Two weeks ago we started off the Amsterdam chess summer with the traditional Max Euwe square festival, the upcoming NATO tournament will be the second stop, followed by both the Dutch male and female championship as well as the Science Park Amsterdam tournament.

It is in summers like these that we feel extra proud serving the chess community, not just with our chess museum, chess library and trainings. But also with bringing to the eye of the public the great number of chess events being held within the Amsterdam region.

This year we will be celebrating the eightieth birthday of Professor Doctor Max Euwe's world championship. There will be publications, film evenings and a special Max Euwe drink towards the end of the year.

Should any of you wish to visit our museum, don't hesitate and come on over, it's free and fun!

I do hope you will have a wonderful and successful tournament.

Best regards,

Jan van Run
President of the Max Euwe Center



Welcome by Chairman of International Military Chess Committee

Dear Chess friends!

It is a big honor and pleasure for me, as the Chairman of International Military Chess Committee, to welcome all of you here in Amsterdam, one of the most watery cities in the world and famous for its numerous canals. However, for us, enthusiasts of chess, the visit to the Max Euwe Center will be of most interest. I guess everyone knows that the Dutch grandmaster was not only the 5th World Chess Champion from 1935 to 1937, but also served as President of FIDE, the World Chess Federation, from 1970 to 1978. Historians say that his influence on developing chess in the Netherlands was enormous. Perhaps it was a reason why IMCC was led by this nation so successfully for many years.

Saying that I am very glad that so many countries, despite various difficulties, again managed to take part in this tournament, would be too little. In fact, we have the largest Championship ever with almost 110 players and additional 35 accompanying guests and family members. This shows how strong our community is. I should also emphasize that for the first time in history we managed to have the three Baltic States together. It is truly a good sign of NATO unity at the time when we witness rapid and significant changes in the international security environment.

I hope that this championship will contribute to further development of chess as a sport in Amsterdam and the number of players and amateurs here will increase. I would like to invite local fighters to participate in the open blitz tournament.

Once again the strongest NATO chess players came here in order to prove the right of possessing the main trophy "King Canut". We look forward to a fascinating and an uncompromising struggle in a nice atmosphere.

I would like to thank LCol Johan Engelen and his staff who made this tournament possible. As we know the close cooperation with CISM, the International Military Sports Council, played here a very important role. I wish some other host countries will possibly develop similar support. I think that the announced presence this week of the Secretary General of CISM, Col Dorah Mamby Koita, should help in that matter.

Last but certainly not least: a warm thank you to the Commanding Officer of the Navy Barracks, LtCdr Nico Vermaire, for providing the logistical arrangements for the tournament. We really appreciate that!

It is now up to you, the players, to make the 26th NATO Chess Championship in the Netherlands a memorable tournament. Good luck and brilliant performance to all and may the best team and man or woman win!

Chairman of IMCC
Colonel Tomasz Malinowski



Welcome by Brigadier General (ret.) Drs. H. Steffers

The venue of the 26th NATO Chess Championship has a rich maritime history. From here, since the 17th century the Royal Netherlands Navy defended the autonomy of the Republic, later the Kingdom, of the Netherlands. On this very spot, Navy and merchant ships were built and trading activities were originated.

After this tournament this unique piece of Amsterdam will have a change of use. What that will be is still not entirely sure. Various plans and themes, however, provide a solid base to build on.

For playing the game of chess within NATO, the International Military Chess Committee (IMCC) provides this solid base as well. The IMCC is responsible for creating the conditions for the yearly Championships, stimulates new activities and supports new chess related initiatives within the NATO countries, all with respect to FIDE regulations.

The Dutch organizing committee, led by Lieutenant-Colonel Johan Engelen and Mr. Ard Dekker, will do their utmost for you players, officials and guests to create an unforgettable chess festival. This unique venue and the beautiful, magnificent city of Amsterdam, capital of the Netherlands, are ingredients to make that happen.

I wish for you all exciting games of chess, a very pleasant stay in Amsterdam and a lot of beautiful memories of this 26th NATO Chess Championship.

Drs. H. Steffers
Brigadier General (ret.)
Honorary Chairman of IMCC



Welcome by the Organizing Committee

Dear participants,

I was a little bit surprised to learn in 2013 that we would be able to organize a NATO Chess Championship again, this time in Amsterdam in 2015, because BIMS had budget for that year. The UK had already opted for 2015, so we discussed the matter with the David Ross. He managed to shift his tournament to 2016, and we agreed to switch years. I was very pleased with that gesture, because we could use the allocated budget for another tournament in the Netherlands, and it would be a perfect project to conclude my military job just before my retirement. Because of this I have made the choice to go for a tournament with old friends and as much regular participants as possible, bringing together more NATO chess teams than ever before. But first I had to go on a mission to Israel in 2014 for a year, which complicated things a little bit.

We therefore really started the work beginning 2015. With the financial support of BIMS, we could keep the entry fee very low and attract many participants. With a small organizing team, and a lot of help of the Chairman of IMCC and his secretary, we have invited former team captains to play in a veteran team captains team, additional to the regular veterans who could already apply for participation and play in a veteran team. Apart from that, every NATO country could participate with 6 players and 2 officials. This way we managed to get together more than 110 chess players coming from 18 different NATO countries. I am really proud of this result, and I welcome all the countries who were able to apply. I regret a little bit the 5 countries who were willing to come, but couldn't make it due to lack of support. But let us be fair, looking at the hotel capacity at MEA, we couldn't have hosted any additional participants at all.

I hope we have paved the way this year for all those countries to be able to participate in the coming years, to start with the UK in 2016.

I hope we did our job well and provide you with a very pleasant stay in Amsterdam. Let it be a great tournament with many good games and building new relationships.

I want to conclude my introduction with a short résumé on one of the greatest chess players we ever had in the Netherland, Max Euwe, who was instrumental for the development of chess in the former century.

Enjoy your stay in Amsterdam!

Chairman of the Organizing Committee
Lieutenant-Colonel Johan Engelen



MAX EUWE – A DUTCH LEGEND

Max Euwe was born in Amsterdam on May 20th, 1901. He learned chess from his mother at the age of 4 and played his first tournament in 1911. At the age of 20 he became chess champion of the Netherlands for the first time.

Euwe studied Mathematics and achieved his doctoral Cum Laude in 1922, He became doctor in mathematics and physics in 1924, again Cum Laude. After his study, he worked most of the time as a mathematics teacher until 1956, at different schools. However,



during the years of the Second World War, he became Director of 'Van Amerongen' (a chain of food stores) and provided food for the underground resistance in Amsterdam.

In 1924 in Paris, together with Alexander Rueb, Pierre Vincent, Ion Gudju and some others, he founded the Fédération Internationale des Echecs (World Chess Federation or FIDE).

He married Caro Bergman in 1926 and together they had three daughters.

Euwe was the strongest chess player in the Netherlands from 1921 until the fifties, but stayed an amateur chess player all his life, with a small break during the period 1947 - 1949. In that short period of time he got sponsored to study full time, trying to make a comeback amongst the strong Grandmasters of his time, but without much success. During his lifetime he became national chess champion 12 times.

In 1926 he played his first match against Alexander Alekhine (10 games) and lost only with a little margin. In 1928 he became Amateur Chess World Champion. In the early thirties he decided to stop playing demanding top chess tournaments, because he wanted to completely focus on his daily job and a further study in mathematics. He also lacked good results in top chess tournaments at that time. Therefore he surprised everyone when, in 1935, he decided, to challenge then reigning World Champion Alekhine, who was at the height of his career and had stated many times he couldn't imagine Euwe as World Champion.

Completely against all odds the amateur Euwe defeated the professional Alekhine over 30 games with 15½-14½ and, with that accomplishment, showed the world his huge potential on the chess board. He donated the title of World Champion to FIDE, and hence broke with the habit of challenging the World Champion only when one could organize the match with a sufficient amount of money.

Euwe became a role model for chess players in the Netherlands, and the amount of organized chess players grew substantially because of this title. Euwe lost his title in 1937 in the rematch against Alekhine, but he had already achieved his goals. Euwe remains the only ever amateur World Chess Champion.

After 1937 Euwe occasionally took part in top tournaments (notably Groningen 1946, the World Championship Tournament in Amsterdam and Moscow in 1948 and Neuhausen/Zurich 1953) with varying results. He kept on playing first board for the Netherlands at various Chess Olympiads. Gradually, during the fifties, Euwe lost his position as top player of the Netherlands to Jan Hein Donner. Euwe focused more on teaching mathematics again and started working on the implementation of mathematics in computer applications. Here he reached many important academic achievements as well.

In 1970 he was elected as president of FIDE, and his primary goal was to spread chess around the world, build national chess federations in every country and affiliate them with FIDE. He had a substantial role in saving the famous match between Spassky and Fischer in Reykjavik in 1972. When he stepped down as president in 1978, he had raised the amount of affiliated national chess federations from 70 to 120, and was awarded Honorary President of FIDE.

He was a famous writer of many books and articles on many aspects of the game of chess. These are still read all over the world. Besides playing chess, he had many hobbies like boxing, swimming, table tennis and flying (he even had a flight license).

Euwe died in Amsterdam on November 26th, 1981, at the age of 80.

In 1982, in his commemoration, the Max Euwe Center was founded in Amsterdam.



Time Schedule and General information

1. Time Schedule

Time	Activity	Remarks
Sunday 5 July		
	Arrival delegations	Reception + lodging
18.00		All delegations present
18.00-19.30	Diner	Restaurant Building 030
19.30-21.00	Team leaders meeting	Building 030 'Keizerzaal', dress free Participants: Chairman + secretary IMCC, team leaders, arbiters, organizing team Purpose: Providing general information + definitive list of participants
19.30-24.00	Bar open	Building 025
21.00	Pairing round 1	Distribution via Facebook and website
Monday 6 July		
07.00-07.45	Breakfast	Restaurant Building 030
08.00-09.00	Photo session	All participants in uniform at Scheepvaart Museum
09.30-10.00	Transport to City Hall	By bus, in uniform
10.00-12.00	Opening + Reception	City Hall, all participants + special guests
12.00-12.30	Transport back to MEA	By bus
12.30-14.00	Lunch	Restaurant Building 030
14.00-19.00	Round 1	Building 030 'Amstelzaal', free clothing!
15.00-17.00	Tour "Around Mokum"	14.15 gathering
18.30-20.00	Diner	Restaurant Building 030
20.00-24.00	Bar open	Building 025
Tuesday 7 July		
07.00-08.00	Breakfast	Restaurant Building 030
08.00-13.00	Round 2	Amstelzaal
09.00-17.30	Tour "Zaanse Schans + Marken"	08.45 gathering
12.30-14.00	Lunch	Restaurant Building 030
14.00-19.00	Round 3	Amstelzaal
18.30-20.00	Diner	Restaurant Building 030
20.00-24.00	Bar open	Building 025
Wednesday 8 July		
07.00-08.00	Breakfast	Restaurant Building 030
08.00-13.00	Round 4	Amstelzaal
12.30-13.00	Providing lunch packets	At arrival place boats
13.00-14.30	Social program	Boat trip with guide in canals Amsterdam.
14.30-?	Visiting Amsterdam, no guidance	Embarking on Rokin.
18.30-19.30	Diner	Only for those who applied for diner
19.30-24.00	Bar open	Building 025



Thursday 9 July		
07.00-08.00	Breakfast	Restaurant Building 030
08.00-13.00	Round 5	Amstelzaal
08.15-17.00	Tour "Center of Utrecht"	08.15 gathering
12.30-14.00	Lunch	Restaurant Building 030
14.00-19.00	Round 6	Amstelzaal
18.30-20.00	Diner	Restaurant Building 030
20.00-24.00	Bar open	Building 025
20.30-23.00	Team leaders meeting	Keizerzaal, Service dress! Participants: IMCC-members, organizers
Friday 10 July		
07.00-08.00	Breakfast	Restaurant Building 030
08.00-13.00	Round 7	Amstelzaal
12.30-14.00	Lunch	Restaurant Building 030
14.30-17.00	Blitz tournament	Amstelzaal
19.00-20.00	Prize giving ceremony	Aperitif in Foyer 030, Service dress! All participants + special guests
20.10-24.00	Closing Banquet	Restaurant Building 030
Saturday 11 July		
07.00-09.00	Breakfast	Restaurant Building 030
	Departure delegations	

2. General Information

1. **Reception.** At your check-in you will receive a batch and all information about your accommodation.
2. **Rooms.** Participants have to keep their room tidy and have to make their own bed. If necessary, new sheets can be obtained via HID, WO Henk Isarin. **No towels available!!**
3. **Smoking.** According to the Dutch law it is prohibited to smoke in all buildings. A special smoking area is available in building 030, on the first floor.
4. **Water.** Water in the rooms is suitable for drinking.
5. **Voltage.** Voltage in the rooms is 230V.
6. **WIFI.** Wireless connection is available.
7. **Playing hall.** Next to the playing hall, free coffee, tea and water will be available. Furthermore soft drinks and fruit (once per day) can be obtained here.
8. **POC.** For all questions, call HID, WO Henk Isarin: +31 6 2036 5356.



List of participants

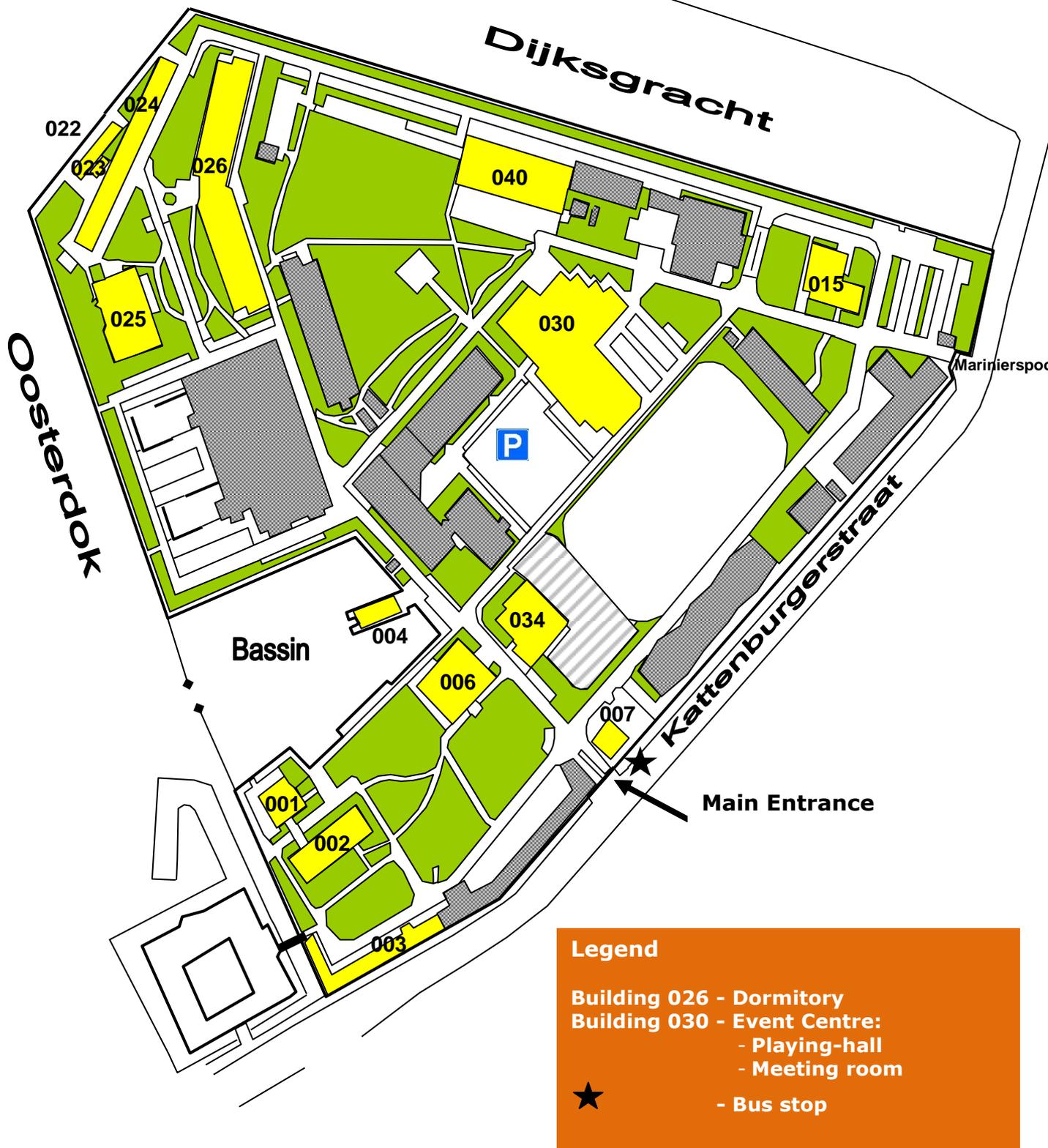
No.	Country	Team	Name	Title	FIDE ELO
1	BEL	BEL	De Cat Ben		1899
2	BEL	BEL	Rosseel Kimball		1819
3	BEL	BEL	Wantiez Fabrice	FM	2320
4	BEL	BEL	Windey Luc		0
5	BEL	BEL	Cappon Kaan		1837
6	BEL	BEL	Deneyer Frank		1693
7	BEL	VET	Maes Patrick		1949
8	BEL	VET	Geerts Luc		1646
9	BEL	VET	Vercauteren Daniël		1629
10	BEL	VETC	Gooris Jan		2133
11	CAN	CAN	Jimenez Samuel		0
12	CAN	CAN	Simard François		1894
13	CAN	CAN	Tremblay Mario		1679
14	CAN	CAN	Coulon Dominic		0
15	CAN	CAN	Echavarría-Hidalgo Fernando		1813
16	CAN	CAN	Felix Chris		0
17	CAN	NATO	Leveillé Philippe		0
18	CAN	NATO	Bellemare Régis		1791
19	CAN	VET	Langer Herb		1813
20	CAN	VET	Ghiacy Jelani		0
21	CAN	VET	Murray Brian		1531
22	DEN	DEN	Nilsson Erik		2085
23	DEN	DEN	Hansen Stefan		2091
24	DEN	DEN	Nielsen Jan Mose		2074
25	DEN	DEN	Pedersen Finn	FM	2247
26	DEN	DEN	Rosenkilde Alexander		2225
27	DEN	DEN	Nielsen Morten		2004
28	DEN	NATO	Stuhr Finn		1796
29	EST	EST	Allmann Lauri		0
30	EST	EST	Rahusalu Riho		0
31	EST	EST	Reinup Hannes		0
32	EST	EST	Volodin Aleksandr	GM	2490
33	FRA	FRA	Mottais François		2013
34	FRA	FRA	Patron Pascal		1944
35	FRA	FRA	Picart Laurent		2142
36	FRA	FRA	Petat Yannick		1938
37	GER	GER	Andersen Hans-Christoph		2228
38	GER	GER	Bohn Ulrich		2126
39	GER	GER	Drabke Lorenz	IM	2471
40	GER	GER	Helbig Mark	FM	2284
41	GER	GER	Fichtner Ewald		2091
42	GER	GER	Nill Oliver		2188
43	GER	NATO	Koopmeiners Karl		2023
44	GER	NATO	Marquardt Christian		2089
45	HUN	HUN	Csizmadia Csaba		1863
46	HUN	HUN	Demjen Attila		1991
47	HUN	HUN	Oltean Gusztav		2077
48	HUN	HUN	Papista Akos		2139
49	ISL	NATO	Einarsson Oskar Long		1679
50	ITA	ITA	Almonti Allesandro		2012
51	ITA	ITA	Crapulli Giuseppe		1862
52	ITA	ITA	Tommasini Enzo		2159
53	ITA	ITA	Tocco Paolo		2129
54	ITA	VETC	Molin Fabio		0
55	LAT	LAT	Jakovlevs Aleksandrs		0



56	LAT	LAT	Rzihs Valerijs		1761
57	LAT	LAT	Dumins Edgars		0
58	LAT	LAT	Noviks Maris		0
59	LAT	LAT	Meiers Gundars		1745
60	LAT	LAT	Slaidins Janis		0
61	LTU	LTU	Voroblievas Arturas		1920
62	LTU	LTU	Bublys Vaidotas		1847
63	LTU	LTU	Giedraitis Mingaudas		1775
64	LTU	LTU	Muzas Kestutis		1557
65	LTU	LTU	Pazeriene Diana		2009
66	LTU	LTU	Girdziusas Kestutis		0
67	LUX	LUX	Christen Pierre		1998
68	NED	NED	Wagenaar Harm Theo		2003
69	NED	NED	Cheung Jan		2056
70	NED	NED	Ludden Gert-Jan		2279
71	NED	NED	Kruit Erik		2009
72	NED	NED	Smit Jan		0
73	NED	NED	Van den Heuvel Tonnie		1885
74	NED	NATO	Casteleijn Diederick		0
75	NED	NATO	Pos Nicolaas		1896
76	NED	VETC	Steffers Hendrik		1957
77	POL	POL	Pietruszewski Marcin		2153
78	POL	POL	Graczyk Damian		2065
79	POL	POL	Karbowiak Adam		2139
80	POL	POL	Krainski Slawomir		2089
81	POL	POL	Sycz Dariusz		2122
82	POL	POL	Sypien Mateusz		2250
83	POL	NATO	Kedzierski Slawomir		2031
84	POL	NATO	Michalski Daniel		2112
85	POL	VETC	Bieluszewski Piotr		2062
86	SLO	SLO	Dusak Aljaz		1995
87	SLO	SLO	Kersic Matej		2149
88	SLO	SLO	Mestek Igor		2095
89	SLO	SLO	Lazar Ales		2140
90	TUR	NATO	Ulusoy Mustafa		1624
91	UK	UK	Fielding Michael		0
92	UK	UK	Chwieseni Edward		1739
93	UK	UK	Onley David		2120
94	UK	UK	Ward James		0
95	UK	UK	Tucker David		2042
96	UK	UK	Morrison Munroe		1844
97	UK	NATO	Ross David		1583
98	UK	VET	O'Byrne Daniel		0
99	USA	USA	Bucholtz Robert		2106
100	USA	USA	Balmaceda Enrico		2054
101	USA	USA	Farrell John		2054
102	USA	USA	Keough Robert		2082
103	USA	USA	Hernandez Albert		1971
104	USA	USA	Duren Andrew		0
105	USA	NATO	Musselman Charles		1995
106	USA	VET	Middaugh Jon		1767
107	USA	VET	Oblak Nicholas		0
108	USA	VETC	Hater David		2034



Map Navy Barracks Amsterdam



About The Netherlands

The Netherlands are located in north-west Europe. The Netherlands borders the North Sea (north and west), Belgium to the south, and Germany to the east. With 17 million people and a population density of 488 people per km², the Netherlands is the most densely populated country in Europe.

Dutch culture



The Netherlands are often referred to as Holland, actually the older northern part of the country (the so-called 7 Provinces). The word *Dutch* refers to the people and language. It is hard to describe the Dutch culture in a few words. In general, Dutch people are open minded, rather direct and honest in their dealing with others. The Netherlands may be a small country, but it's packed with world famous icons. However, contrary to what many people believe, Dutch people don't regularly wear wooden shoes, live in windmills or wear old-fashioned clothing.

Dutch Cuisine

The Dutch don't really have a specific cuisine, but "poffertjes" (small pancakes with butter and powdered sugar), "stroopwafels" (round biscuits with syrup in between) and "kroketten" (a roll of ragout, encased in breadcrumbs and deep-fried in oil) are popular Dutch snacks.

Landscape

The Netherlands are geographically a low situated country and the landscape is dominated by water. About 20% of its land is located below sea level. Because of that, the Dutch constructed a water system consisting of dikes and polders to prevent flood. The Netherlands have a moderate maritime climate, with cool summers and mild winters. Average temperature in July is about 22 degrees Celsius.

Orange

The Dutch Royal Family is called 'van Oranje', after a 13th century county in France. Translated this means orange and therefore it still represents the national identity of the Netherlands. For that reason Dutch people dress up in orange during national holidays and sport events.

The Dutch Military

The Netherlands have the oldest standing army in Europe. It was established by Maurice of Nassau. The Netherlands remained neutral in European wars, until the Netherlands were invaded in WWII and quickly conquered by Germany in May 1940.

After WWII, the Netherlands dropped their neutrality, and the Armed Force became part of NATO. In 1996 military service was suspended, and the Armed Forces transformed into a professional army. Since the 1990s the Dutch Armed Forces have been involved in the Bosnian War, the Kosovo War, Iraq and Afghanistan.



The Armed Force are composed of four branches, all of which carry the prefix *Koninklijk* (Royal):

- *Koninklijke Landmacht* (KL), the Royal Netherlands Army
- *Koninklijke Marine* (KM), the Royal Netherlands Navy, including the Marine Corps
- *Koninklijke Luchtmacht* (KLu), the Royal Netherlands Air Force
- *Koninklijke Marechaussee* (KMar), the Royal Military Police, tasks include military police and border control

