

Lucerne (International Invitation Christmas Tournament)

1947/8 – 1953/4 **Jährliches internationales Einladungsturnier in Luzern**

Siegerliste: Serge Tordion (1947); Wolfgang Unzicker (1948 und 1951); Max Blau (1949, vor 2.-3. Braslav Rabar, Wolfgang Unzicker, 4. Henry Grob, ferner 6./7. Eugène Snosko-Borowsky!); Max Euwe (1950 nach Feinwertung, geteilt mit Herman Pilnik); Čeněk Kottnauer (1952); Peter Leepin (1953).

The international invitation Lucerne series lasted annually from 1947/8 to 1953/4, most prominent winner was former World Champion Max Euwe in 1950 on tie-break, joint with Herman Pilnik, Argentina. The first and the last edition was clearly inferior.

Further prominent players at Lucerne, amongst others: Kottnauer (who won in 1952, after that tournament, Kottnauer did not return to the CSSR, and moved to England), Sämisch, Rabar, Paoli, Barden, Prameshuber, Madame *Chantal Chaudé de Silans*, and from Switzerland Max Blau (winner 1949, see below), Henry Grob, Martin Christoffel, Josef Kupper, Edwin Bhend, Peter Leepin (winner 1953), Serge Tordion (winner 1947) Erwin Nievergelt, or Alex Crisovan.

Lucerne 1949/50 – International Invitation Tournament, a pretty strong field:

1. Max Blau 5/7

(His biggest international tournament cap)

2.-3. Braslav Rabar 4.5

(Yugoslavia hosted the first Olympiad after WW II in Dubrovnik 1950. The host team finished first, and Rabar, scoring eight wins and two draws, no loss (=90%), won an individual board Gold medal)

2.-3. Wolfgang Unzicker 4.5

(Rapidly rising German, an elite player for decades, Lucerne tournament title defender from 1948, and again winner at Lucerne in 1948 and 1951)

4. Henry Grob 4

(Winner at Ostende 1937 as best on tie-break, together with Fine and Keres; first Swiss player to be awarded as an IM – together with Hans Johner – at its title inauguration by FIDE in the year 1950; today remembered for popularizing "Grob's Attack" 1.g4, ... well, 1.g3 seems perfectly sound)

5. Hans Müller 3.5

(Austrian Author and multiple player at the Olympiads between 1928 and 1950)

6.-7. Haije Kramer 3

(Back then a strong Dutchman, regular player for The Netherlands at the Olympiads between 1950 and 1962; today best known perhaps for co-authoring 'The Middle Game' with Max Euwe)

6.-7. Eugène Znosko-Borovsky 3

(The last major tournament of legendary Znosko-Borovsky, then playing for France)

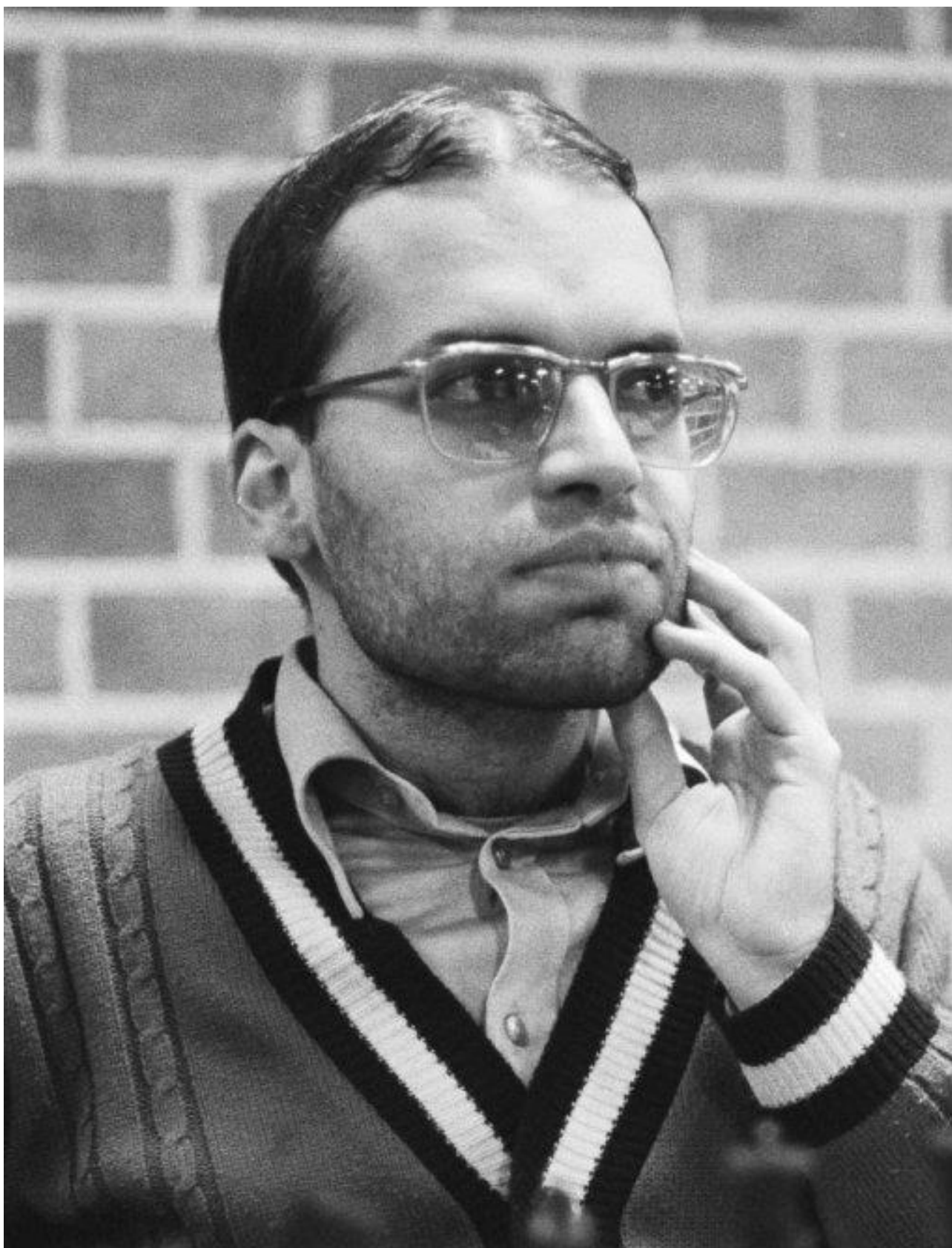
8. Serge Tordion 0.5

(Swiss Champion that year 1949)

A notable game from that tournament to replay: **Rabar vs. Znosko-Borovsky (Lucerne 1949) 1-0**
<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1152012&kpage=1#kibitzing> (Chessgames)

Later, in the year 1977, on initiative of Mr. **Fugi M. Fuchs**, Lucerne was organizing the FIDE Candidate's quarter-final match **Lev Polugaevsky (USSR) - Henrique Mecking (Bra) 6½-5½**.

Watch out this brilliant and enlightening write-up by chessgames historian **Tabanus** from Norway:
<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=84217>



Prodigy Henrique Mecking (he was no. =3 of the world in 1978, behind only Karpov and Korchnoi)

His opponent, Lev Polugaevsky, who then advanced to the semi-finals versus Viktor Korchnoi, played at Buenos Aires:



Polugaevsky was a frequent contender for the world chess championship (eliminated in 1974 by Karpov, and then twice in a row 1977 and 1980 in the semi-finals by Korchnoi) and one of the strongest players in the world from the mid 1960s until the mid 1980s, ranking third shared of the world in the (then yearly) ELO list of 1972 and again third shared in 1976. He was a distinguished author and opening theorist whose contributions in this field remain important to the present day.

1979 **FIDE Zonal** (final group) 1. Robert Hübner, 2. Yehuda Grünfeld, 3. Shimon Kagan, etc.

1989 **Invitation**, side event 1. Wahls, 2. Klinger, 3.-5. King, Cebalo, Franco Ocampos, etc.

For the second time after [Lugano 1968](#) (Men), Switzerland was the hosting nation of a FIDE Chess Olympiad in 1982, Lucerne organized the 25th Man (open section) and Woman Chess Olympiad in the [Allmend Festhalle Luzern](#):

25th Chess Olympiad, Lucerne 1982

<http://www.olimbase.org/1982/1982in.html> (Olimbase)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/25th_Chess_Olympiad (Wikipedia)

plus hosted the first four World Team Chess Championships (WTCC) in the [Grand Casino Luzern](#):

1st World Team Chess Championship: Lucerne 1985

<http://www.olimbase.org/1985t/1985in.html>

2nd World Team Chess Championship: Lucerne 1989

<http://www.olimbase.org/1989t/1989in.html>

3rd World Team Chess Championship: Lucerne 1993

<http://www.olimbase.org/1993t/1993in.html>

4th World Team Chess Championship: Lucerne 1997

<http://www.olimbase.org/1997t/1997in.html>

2016, published in: <http://www.chessdiagonals.ch/>