

Gausdal Classics, 2001 – 2008 in Gausdal, Norway (GM + IM group(s), two editions in 2003!!) Chess Open since 1970, eg. [Troll Masters](#), [Peer Gynt](#), [Eikrem Memorial](#), and [Arnold Cup](#)

The Gausdal Chess Festival was founded by the norwegian player and organizer **Arnold J. Eikrem** (1932 – 1996). In the beginning of this century, historian, politician, crime writer and master player, [Hans Olav Lahlum](#), started out to relaunch the **Gausdal Festivals** with a fresh and original style of organizing chess tournaments. The eccentric multi-talent proved to be dedicated and passionate about his Gausdal Classics invitational series highlighted here.

Magnus Carlsen had his entry in an invitation tournament at the international level in a closed IM-group of Gausdal Classics in April of 2001, when Hans Olav Lahlum decided to invite him despite being unknown in the chess world at that time with an ELO rating of just 2064! **Carlsen played in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and won the Gausdal Classics in 2007.**

<http://www.bergensjakk.no/kausdal/kausdal2001> (Début Gausdal Classics Masters, three groups: one GM-group and two IM-groups, child prodigy Magnus Carlsen playing in the closed IM-group A)
<http://www.bergensjakk.no/kausdal/kausdal2002> (on 8th place (GM-group): Carlsen, ELO of 2163)
<http://www.bergensjakk.no/kausdal/kausdal2003> (Carlsen coming in co-last in the GM-group)
<http://www.bergensjakk.no/kausdal/kausdal2003-2> (second closed Gausdal in the same year 2003)
<http://www.bergensjakk.no/kausdal/kausdal2004> (on 5th place: Carlsen with highest ELO rating)
<http://www.bergensjakk.no/kausdal/kausdal2005> (on 7th place: Carlsen still waiting for the triumph)
<http://theweekinchess.com/html/twic599.html#7> (in the year 2006 without Magnus Carlsen)
<http://www.bergensjakk.no/kausdal/classics2007> (clear first at the tender age of 16½: Carlsen)
<http://en.chessbase.com/post/greg-kaidanov-wins-kausdal-claic> (Dernière closed GM edition)

9 Gausdal Classics (GM-A Invitational) 2001 – 2008

Year	Winner	Country	Points
2001	Ralf Åkesson	Sweden	8 / 9
2002	Kaido Kulaots on tie-break, Kjetil A. Lie (Nor) (IM-norm), and Vasilios Kotronias (Cyp)	Estonia	6.5 / 9
2003 I (April)	Nick de Firmian	USA	7.5 / 11
2003 II (October)	Kaido Kulaots (second win)	Estonia	9.5 / 11
2004	Erwin L'Ami (as IM, making a GM norm)	The Netherlands	6.5 / 9
2005	Sergei Tiviakov	The Netherlands	8.5 / 9 (!)
2006	Eduardas Rozentalis	Lithuania	6 / 9
2007	Magnus Carlsen (2.-4. Rozentalis, Krasenkow, and legendary Lajos Portisch)	Norway	7 / 9
2008	Gregory Kaidanov (2. Gopal, 3. Kotronias)	USA	6.5 / 9

Record winner: Kaido Kulaots (2x)

Further winners: Åkesson, de Firmian, L'Ami, Tiviakov, Rozentalis, Carlsen, Kaidanov

Prominent players not winning: *Romanishin, Dreev, Korneev, Jones, Williams, Westerinen, Berg, Sandipan, Macieja, Halkias, Krush, Pähz, and bracketed Portisch, Krasenkow, Gopal*

In 2004/05, Lahlum also organised the **Drammen Smartfish Chess Masters** at Drammen, Norway, it was the first big international invitation tournament for GM Magnus Carlsen.

Smartfish Masters 2004

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0			
1	Shirov,A	2726	-19	*	½	½	½	1	1	½	1	0	1	6.0 / 9	26.00
2	Nielsen,PH	2663	+50	½	*	½	1	½	1	½	½	1	½	6.0 / 9	25.50
3	McShane,L	2629	+46	½	½	*	½	½	0	1	1	½	1	5.5 / 9	
4	Lie,K	2474	+139	½	0	½	*	1	1	½	½	½	0	4.5 / 9	20.25
5	Korchnoi,V	2601	-1	0	½	½	0	*	½	½	½	1	1	4.5 / 9	18.00
6	Macieja,B	2613	-14	0	0	1	0	½	*	½	½	1	1	4.5 / 9	17.75
7	Khalifman,A	2669	-115	½	½	0	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	4.0 / 9	17.75
8	Johannessen,LE	2519	+51	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	*	1	½	4.0 / 9	16.25
9	Carlsen,M	2581	-99	1	0	½	½	0	0	½	0	*	½	3.0 / 9	14.50
10	Stefanova,A	2523	-35	0	½	0	1	0	0	½	½	½	*	3.0 / 9	13.00

Average Elo: 2599 <=> Cat: 14 gm = 4.77 m = 2.97



Photo: Organizer / Rune Elven

Carlsen, already a GM, sensationally beat Shirov, then a top ten player, but lost his game to 'Grandfather' Grandmaster Korchnoi, and drew the reigning Women's World Championne, Antoaneta Stefanova. Source: <https://en.chessbase.com/post/shirov-nielsen-win-drammen/6>

Aug-29-16 **diagonal**: Handshake GM Stefanova and GM Carlsen (scroll down):



<http://es.chessbase.com/post/drammen-carlsen-derrota-a-shirov>.

Highlight for Stefanova, an entry in an elite closed round robin tournament, at Drammen, Norway (SmartFish Masters), year-end 2004/2005: [SmartFish Chess Masters \(2004\)](#). She scored 3/9, sharing places with young Carlsen. Peter Heine Nielsen and top-seeded top ten player Alexei Shirov won at 6/9.

Carlsen beat Shirov, Shirov beat Korchnoi, Korchnoi beat Carlsen.

An international invitation tournament not only based on ELO and category average with almost always the same top ten players, but also on the Narrative: ages, gender, different styles (don't mention Khalifman), and promising players from the hosting nation. **Chess careers can again have a narrative and all sports need this.**

Stefanova: Women's World Chess Champion 2004-2006, number 2 ranked woman in January, April, July 2003 behind Judit Polgar (then quarterly published ELO lists). In 1992 Stefanova played at the age of 13 in her first Chess Olympiad in Manila. Majestic picture: http://files.chessblog.com/uploaded_images/Stefanova-721368.jpg.

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