

Speelman Jonathan Simon (02.10.1956)



English Grandmaster in 1980 who became a professional player after graduating from Worcester College Oxford where he read mathematics. Esteemed author and journalist.

British national Champion in 1978, 1985 and 1986, Vice Champion in 1981, 1982 and 1984. A participant in **14 Olympiads in a row between 1980 and 2006** where he collected **5 medals**.

Won: Brighton 1979, **Dortmund 1981** (joint with Gennadi Kuzmin, who won on tie-break, and Lubomir Ftacnik), **Banja Luka 1983** (joint with Krunoslav Hulak who won on tie-break, and Andras Adorjan), **twice in Hastings: 1983-84** (joint with Lars Karlsson) and **1986-87** (joint with Bent Larsen, Smbat Lputian, and Murray Chandler), Brighton (Zonal) 1984 (joint with Nigel Short ahead of Jonathan Mestel), Bath (Zonal) 1987 (ahead of Glenn Flear), **Beersheva 1987** (joint with Viktor Korchnoi), **Moscow GMA World Cup Final Open 1990** (best on tie-break, **one of the strongest swiss system ever, with 26 players of Elo Top 50!**, including Tal, Polugaevsky, Beliavsky, Ivanchuk, Gelfand, Portisch, Sax, Seirawan, Miles), **twice the London Lloyds Open: 1992** (best on tie-break) and **1993** (outright, ahead of 2./3. Tony Miles, John Nunn), **Katrineholm (Sweden) 1999** (joint with Viktor Gavrikov, ahead of Ulf Andersson), **three times in a row at Staunton Memorial, London: 2003** (also called **London Simpsons 175th**, Quadrangular) as clear first, **2004** (joint with Daniel King, again a Quadrangular) and **2005** (joint with Jonathan Levitt, six players). Speelman played the traditional Hoogovens tournament in Wijk aan Zee once in 1983, but was out of form.

Co-Winner of the 1987 Subotica Interzonal (alongside with Sax and Short), **maybe his biggest tournament success:** <http://www.mark-weeks.com/chess/88901ix.htm>. Speelman qualified thus for the Candidates' matches of 1988-89 where he **beat Yasser Seirawan** (+3=2-0), **defeated Nigel Short** (+2=3-0), but lost the semi-final to Jan Timman narrowly (+1=5-2). In the next Candidates cycle of 1991, he drew Short (+2=4-2) - but lost the rapid play-off (45' first 60 moves) 0.5-1.5. Short won the cycle, advancing to challenge Kasparov (the notorious split title championship 1993). In 1989, he beat Kasparov in a televised speed chess tournament, and then went on to win the event. Speelman has been a second at the world championship for Nigel Short and Viswanathan Anand against Garry Kasparov in London 1993 and New York 1995 respectively.

Speelman has a highly original chess style often playing less obvious moves and a wide opening repertoire. He likes puzzles especially cryptic crosswords and killer sudokus. He was voted BCF's Player of the Year in 1987 and 1989.

A chess author, Speelman is known to be an excellent analyst especially on endgames: *Best Chess Games 1970-1980*, *Endgame Preparation* (1981), *Developments in the Caro-Kann* (1984), *Analysing the Endgame* (1988), and *Jon Speelman's Best Games* (1997). He has been *The Observer* chess correspondent since 1993 and an *Independent* chess correspondent since 1998.

His highest ever FIDE ranking was joint 4th in 1989 (January-June at ELO 2640, with Beliavsky). Best rating: **ELO 2645** in 1988 (July-December, Jonathan Speelman was then ranked sole 5th).

Chandler, Murray G (2525) - Speelman, Jonathan S (2530), BCF-ch Edinburgh (5), 1985

→ Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1095595>

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5 5.c4 dxc4 6.Bxc4 e6 7.Nc3 Nd7 8.Nge2 Be7 9.Ng3 Bg6 10.Nce4 Nh6 11.Ng5 Qa5+ 12.Bd2 Bb4 13.N3e4 Bxe4 14.Nxe4 Nf5 15.Bc3 Bxc3+ 16.bxc3 Rd8 17.Bd3 Nxd4 18.Nd6+ Ke7 19.O-O Nf3+ 20.gxf3 Nxe5 21.Nxb7 Qc7 22.Nxd8 Rxd8 23.f4 Rxd3 24.Qxh5 Nf3+ 25.Kg2 Qxf4 26.Rfd1 Rxc3 27.Rab1 Qh2+ 28.Kf1 Qh3+ 29.Ke2 Rc2+ 30.Ke3 Nxb4+ **0-1**



(Photo: ChessBase)

Jonathan Speelman wurde 1956 geboren und entschied sich 1977 nach einem erfolgreichen Abschluss des Mathematikstudium am Worcester College in Oxford zu einer Laufbahn als Schachprofi. 1977 wurde er Internationaler Meister, 1980 folgte der Großmeistertitel. Von 1980 bis 2006 war er ununterbrochen Mitglied der englischen Olympiamannschaft.

Er wurde dreimal Britischer Meister und qualifizierte sich zweifach auch für die Kandidatenturniere, die damals noch im k.o.-System ausgetragen wurden. 1989 kam Speelman ins Halbfinale des Kandidatenturniers, unterlag dort knapp 3,5:4,5 gegen Jan Timman.

1993 arbeitete Speelman als Sekundant von Nigel Short beim Weltmeisterschaftskampf Shorts gegen Garry Kasparov und 1995 arbeitete er als Sekundant von Viswanathan Anand bei dessen WM-Kampf gegen Garry Kasparov in New York 1995.

Seit 1993 schreibt er eine wöchentliche Schachkolumne für den "Observer" und seit 1998 schreibt er für den "Independent". Speelman bietet Online-Training an, puzzelt gerne und liebt schwierige Kreuzworträtsel und Killer-Sudokus.

Werke (Auswahl):

- *Analysing the Endgame* (Batsford, 1981)
- *Endgame Preparation* (Batsford, 1981)
- *Batsford Chess Endings* (Batsford, 1993), zus. mit Jon Tisdall und Robert Wade
- *Jon Speelman's Best Games* (Batsford, 1997)
- *Jon Speelman's Chess Puzzle Book* (Gambit, 2008)

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jon_Speelman (Wikipedia)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessplayer?pid=27451> (Chessgames)

<http://www.chessnc.com/biography/person-422.html> (CNC - Chess Network Company)

<https://en.chessbase.com/post/jonathan-speelman-pays-tribute-to-viktor-korchnoi> (ChessBase)