

Watson, Farley, Williams Tournament (WFW)

The inaugural Watson, Farley, Williams tournament was staged in their offices in Minories in the City of London in 1988, and won by the Scottish (then IM, later GM) Paul Motwani (ahead of shared Sadler, Levitt, and Arkell; twelve players including Hodgson, Hebden, King, Evans, Fedorowicz, and Westerinen from Finland).

The 1989 and 1990 editions (always with a bunch of brits and some guest stars from abroad) both saw the Danish Dynamite Bent Larsen carry off sole first prize, a feat he repeated for a third time the same year 1990 in an additional WFW held at New York, the strongest of the series so far.

An important curtain raiser to the New York section of the World Chess Championship 1990 match between Garry Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov which was split, with the first 12 games to be played in New York, USA, and the final 12 in Lyon, France, was a Watson, Farley and Williams tournament (played in their offices in Madison Avenue, Manhattan) to be held in New York:

Watson, Farley & Williams International Chess Challenge, New York 1990, final standings:

1 Larsen (Den) 2 Kotronias (Greece) 3 Speelman (Eng) 4 Fishbein (USA) 5 Frias (USA) 6 King (Eng)
7 Hodgson (Eng) 8 Mednis (USA) 9 Wolff (USA) 10 Averbakh (USSR)

The London-based firm of solicitors also has offices in Oslo, Paris and Athens, so there is clearly scope for a new chess circuit here, Raymond Keene stipulated then (unfortunately, it wasn't realized).

In the WFW 1991 at London again, Alexander Khalifman and William Watson won jointly, triple WFW winner Bent Larsen tied this time for sixth to eight with Mihai Suba and Robert Byrne.



Larsen in Buenos Aires, 2010. Photo Peter Heine Nielsen

Source: <http://archive.spectator.co.uk/article/24th-november-1990/60/chess> (by Raymond Keene)

Sponsor: <http://www.wfw.com/>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watson_Farley_%26_Williams

Tournament History:

http://www.365chess.com/tournaments/London_WFW_1988/20929 (London 1988, Motwani)

http://www.365chess.com/tournaments/London_WFW_1989/21568 (London 1989, → Larsen)

http://www.365chess.com/tournaments/London_WFW_1990/19379 (London 1990, → Larsen)

http://www.365chess.com/tournaments/New_York_WFW_1990/19467 (New York 1990, → Larsen)

http://www.365chess.com/tournaments/London_WFW_1991/18709 (London 1991, Khalifman, W. Watson)