

**GENEVA-GENEVE**



Major city of Switzerland on the bank of the Lac Léman ([Lake Geneva](#)).

*Alekhine, Pachman, Korchnoi, Ivkov, Larsen, Spassky, Portisch, Hort, Torre, Timman, Miles, Kasparov, Short, Gelfand, Anand, Adams, Topalov, Kramnik, Svidler, Judit Polgar, Aronian, Bacrot, Grischuk, Eljanov, Alexandra Kosteniuk, Mamedyarov, Radjabov, Nakamura, or Hou Yifan (listed by order of birth) engaged in various events:*

Simul, Candidate's match, GP, Invitation tournament, Open series, Women, Youth, Rapid, Blitz, Team

The Geneva chess history starts with **simultaneous chess displays of Alexander Alekhine in 1925, 1928 and 1933:**



Tribune de Genève, 27-28 September 1925. Alekhine 48 parties simultanées (courtesy of Edward Winter, Chess Notes 6613): <https://en.chessbase.com/post/edward-winter-s-che-explorations-69->

\*\*\*

In 1977, Geneva was organizing the FIDE Candidate's semi-final match Boris Spassky (USSR) vs. Lajos Portisch (Hun) 8½-6½ <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=84495>

The same year in 1977, Geneva hosted an international invitation tournament (‘**Méditerranée**’): **Bent Larsen** won: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chesscollection?cid=1028672>

- **1977 Méditerranée-Turnier in Genf**

Sieger Larsen, vor 2. Andersson, 3./4. Sosonko, Dzindzichashvili, 5./6. Pachman, Torre, ferner ua. Ivkov, Timman, F. Olafsson, Westerinen, Werner Hug (14 Spieler).

Als Chefschiedsrichter wurde der legendäre belgisch-amerikanische Schachspieler und Turnierorganisator **George Koltanowski** verpflichtet, zu Turnierzeitpunkt auch amtierender Präsident der USCF (US Chess Federation), der britische Schachspieler und Schiedsrichter (und im Zweiten Weltkrieg Codeknacker Enigma-Entschlüsseler) **Harry Golombek** amtierte als sein Assistent. Im Turniersaal herrschte eine beinahe religiöse Andacht.

Da sich der Kandidaten-Viertelfinal Kortschnoi gegen Petrosian zeitlich hinzog, konnte Viktor Kortschnoi nicht wie ursprünglich geplant mitspielen, er spielte anschliessend in Montreux.

**Montreux**, located on Lake Geneva hosted another international invitational in 1977 (‘**Palace**’), **Viktor Korchnoi** won.

- **1977 Palace-Turnier in Montreux**

Sieger Kortschnoj. Weitere Spieler Ciric, Flesch, Keene, Robatsch, Partos, Bhend, Keller, Wirthensohn, Schaufelberger (10 Spieler).

\*\*\*

In 1996, Geneva was venue of a very strong **PCA Blitz knock-out competition** (including Kasparov, Anand, Kramnik, Topalov, Short, Speelman, Bareev, Dreev, Gavrikov, Judit Polgar, and Korchnoi), the **Crédit Suisse Rapid Chess Grand Prix**, where **Vishy Anand** beat Champion Garry Kasparov in the final; watch out this video, Great Gazza grimassing:

- i) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xZDm670Zoc> (Kasparov blunder to Anand)
- ii) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o\\_h8XtaH8y0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_h8XtaH8y0) (Kasparov blunder to Anand, replay)
- iii) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DxbMzZ5a2Zg> (full game with commentary by Daniel King and Glenn Flear)
- iv) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snfmpui3w> (Amazing Instructive Blunder, Vishy Anand vs Garry Kasparov, Geneva 1996, Blitz Game – Sicilian 1-0)

\*\*\*

In 2012, five players from the **Club d’Echecs de Genève (CEG)** played against five Legends (namely Korchnoi, Hort, Andersson, Ribli, and Spraggett) in a **team event**, Scheveningen: **Viktor Korchnoi** won the individual ranking. → for more, see next pages.

\*\*\*

In 2013, an international **Rapid knock-out** competition, the **Geneva Chess Masters**, took place: **Shakhriyar Mamedyarov** defeated Vladimir Kramnik in the final 1.5-0.5. Further participants: Judit Polgar, Alexandra Kosteniuk, Hikaru Nakamura, Etienne Bacrot, Romain Édouard, and Yannick Pelletier: <http://theweekinchess.com/chessnews/events/1st-geneva-chess-masters>

\*\*\*

In 2013, **Bela Khotenashvili** became the winner of Neva Foundation **Women FIDE Grand Prix**:

<http://geneva2013.fide.com/en/component/turnuva/?task=fileview&kid=2>

[http://www.neva-fondation.org/index.php?m1=projets&search\\_type=1&cat=sports&sCat=intro&pId=neva](http://www.neva-fondation.org/index.php?m1=projets&search_type=1&cat=sports&sCat=intro&pId=neva)

\*\*\*

In 2017, 5-16 July, Geneva hosted a **Men FIDE Grand Prix** tournament:

The FIDE Grand Prix format will change for the 2017 Grand Prix with 24 players taking part in the cycle. Four events in classical chess take place with 18 players in competing in each nine-round Swiss tournament!

The schedule of the four FIDE Grand-Prix 2017, is the following: 17 - 28 February 2017: Sharjah, UAE, 11 - 22 May 2017: Moscow, Russia, **5 - 16 July 2017: Geneva, Switzerland**, 15 - 26 November 2017: Palma de Mallorca, Spain

<http://www.fide.com/component/content/article/1-fide-news/9980-fide-grand-prix-2017-announcement.html> (FIDE)

<https://worldchess.com/gp2017/> (Official Site)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=90592&crosstable=1> (Chessgames, Geneva GP)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIDE\\_Grand\\_Prix\\_2017](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIDE_Grand_Prix_2017) (Wikipedia, overall GP standings)

**Teimour Radjabov**, Azerbaijan, clear first, ahead of joint Russians Nepomniachtchi and Grischuk

\*\*\*

The city is also hosting the **Geneva Open series**, annually numbered since 1986 (the 1<sup>st</sup> edition in the Hotel Intercontinental was won by then IM (GM in 1990) Anthony Kosten, a British born, later French player) up to a 32<sup>nd</sup> edition in 2015: <http://theweekinchess.com/html/twic1083.html#32>, ...

Perhaps the most memorable tournament triumph of **Anthony Kosten** was at the 1st Geneva Open Festival of 1986 (170 participants, including several strong grandmasters, among them Anthony Miles, Miguel Quinteros, or Armenian Smbat Lputian from the Soviet Union).

The event was nine rounds and Kosten won all of his first eight games. This was sufficient to already guarantee him first place ahead of a strong international field. In the final round game, Anthony Kosten accepted an offer of a draw from his British compatriot, (then IM, later GM) Glenn Flear. He agreed after some half an hour's deliberation, for the position was lost for Flear. That acceptance prevented Kosten from achieving a perfect 9/9 score.


Then IM Kosten won the first Geneva Open, "Championnat internationale d'échecs de Genève" (FIDE president Florencio Campomanes was member of the Comité de Patronage; Anatoly Karpov visited the event for a private dinner with the organizers), outright a full point ahead of sole second GM Lars Karlsson.

Note: As a Prequel, already in 1985, the city championship of Geneva has been internationally labelled ("Championnat internationale de Genève"), it was IM (GM in 1989) Miodrag Todorovic from Yugoslavia who won on tie-break (122 participants, among them one GM, Ivan Nemet).

Wikipedia, and DIE SCHACHWOCHE, no.4, 5, 6 in 1986 & no.4, 5 in 1985 respectively

\*\*\*

Geneva organized several youth tournaments (“**Jungmeisterturniere**”), too, for instance in 1990:

 Geneve 1990 (5th Jungmeisterturnier), with reigning Women’s World Champion Maia Chiburdanidze

Date	Type	Elo Average	Games	Rounds
Nov, 1990	Tourn	2507	30	10

[http://www.365chess.com/tournaments/Geneve\\_1990/19486](http://www.365chess.com/tournaments/Geneve_1990/19486)



Daniel King, today a leading chess commentator, played many times in Switzerland (photo: hunonchess)

	Name	ELO	Points
	<b>GM <a href="#">King, Daniel J</a></b>	<b>2560</b>	<b>6.5</b>
	<b>GM <a href="#">Rogers, Ian</a></b>	<b>2535</b>	<b>6.5</b>
	GM <a href="#">Kotronias, Vasilios</a>	2510	5.5
	GM <a href="#">Chiburdanidze, Maia</a>	2500	5.0
	(then) IM <a href="#">Brunner, Lucas</a>	2475	3.5
	(then) IM <a href="#">Miralles, Gilles</a>	2460	3.0

In an additional Scheveningen team match (Switzerland Youth vs. Mixed Rest of the World), young **WGM Ketevan Arachamia**, USSR, was individual best.

Occasionally, some further closed invitation tournaments (in a mix of international GM and mostly swiss or french IM) have been played as a side event during a Geneva Festival, for instance in 1993: **Zigurds Lanka**, best tie-break, and **Yuri Razuvaev** (1945 – 2012 R.I.P.) won.

\*\*\*

Driving force behind many of these Geneva Chess Festivals is **Stéphane Batchinsky**, who plays himself for the Geneva chess club. *Geneva* is English, *Genève* is the French spelling. For research, try both!

See also: [http://www.chessnc.com/p\\_tournaments/item-94.html](http://www.chessnc.com/p_tournaments/item-94.html) (CNC)

Website: **Fédération Genevoise d'échecs**: <http://www.fge-echecs.ch/>



# Korchnoi wins at Geneva 2012

## Viktor Korchnoi wins the CEG versus Legendaries chess tournament in Geneva

Five players from the Club d'Echecs de Genève (CEG) played against five legendary chess grandmasters:

The team of these Legendaries was formed with Viktor Korchnoi, Ulf Andersson, Vlastimil Hort, Zoltan Ribli and Kevin Spraggett (with the Canadian, youngest player of the legends, having the highest ELO rating, and Hort currently the lowest).

For the Chess Club of Geneva (CEG) were competing its members Richard Gerber, former Swiss Champion, Alexandre Domont, Bastien Dubessay from France, Alexandre Vuilleumier - and **Lars Rindlisbacher** (born in 1996, then FIDE number 57 worldwide of U-16).

Modus was a double round Scheveningen system with 40 moves in 90 minutes, then 30 minutes for the rest, plus 30 seconds increment from the beginning.

The legends claimed the win as expected and sure with 33 to 17 (team-averages Elo 2351 vs. 2544). CEG-team-youngster FM Lars Rindlisbacher, coming as his brother from Worb near Berne, achieved an IM-norm (with 4 out of 10 points), congratulation! He later did not make a professional chess career.

From the beginning, the organisers also published an individual scoring list, which Viktor Korchnoi finally won on a better Sonneborn-Berger tie-break. Spraggett finished second (shared) and Ribli third (shared), all with 7/10 pts. Age difference between Viktor Korchnoi and Lars Rindlisbacher: 65 years.

Viktor Korchnoi was sitting in a wheelchair, did / could not walk around to watch the other games in progress. The tournament schedule was incredible though with three double rounds, even two double round days in a row (playing at 10 am and 16.30 pm, is this still sound planning?) In fact, 81 years aged Korchnoi played four games of a total of more than 16 hours within 36 hours!

Just a few weeks after he had a series of losses at the Swiss Championship due to health handicaps, Korchnoi also took his personal revenge on IM Richard Gerber and IM Richard Domont, against whom both he then lost, now beating them with 3.5 out of 4 points.

In total Korchnoi scored six wins, two draws and two losses, Korchnoi played for a win in every game, no short draws as it sometimes happened on other boards.

The links below present more details from the initial tournament, games in pgn and some nice videos:

Especially the **video from round nine** (in french: Vidéo de la ronde 9 avec interviews de Lars Rindlisbacher et du GM Vlastimil Hort - Visite de Kramnik), with the unannounced visit of **Vladimir Kramnik**, former World Chess Champion and in this moment number three of the world, and the **video from round ten** (in french: La cérémonie de clôture et la remise des prix une belle Ode à la légende des légendes, le GM Viktor Korchnoi) with a sensitive homage to Petra and Victor Korchnoi, and his love for the game.

<https://schach.chess.com/news/viktor-korchnoi-wins-in-geneva-4452?page=1>

(with games to replay)

<http://www.europe-echecs.com/art/ceg-vs.-legendes-4418.html>

(with games to replay and videos, text written in french language)

<http://whychess.com/en/node/2677>

(with videos and analysis)

<https://kevinspraggettonchess.wordpress.com/2012/12/30/korchnois-health-suffers-setback/>

(Korchnoi's health suffers setback: Kevin Spraggett on Viktor Korchnoi in general, anecdotes and a specific analysis of the game Korchnoi vs. Lars Rindlisbacher, sixty-five years younger, born in 1996)

<http://en.chessbase.com/post/korchnoi-in-a-clinic-recovering-from-a-stroke>

(Korchnoi in a clinic recovering from a stroke, article by ChessBase with photos from Geneva 2012, made by **Frits Agterdenbos**, unfortunately, his ChessVista doesn't exist any longer)



Photos by Frits Agterdenbos

2017, published in: <http://www.chessdiagonals.ch/>