

Brocco Open, San Bernardino (13 editions)

(Original Open Festival, played annually from 1980 – 1992, later relaunched as a local Open)

Location: Hotel Brocco e Posta (Mr & Mrs Ambord)

Sponsors: Möbel Pfister, SKA Crédit Suisse, Küpfer Electronic

Organiser: **Werner Widmer**, longtime editor-in-chief of the Swiss chess weekly «Die Schachwoche»
Tournament director: Beatrice Scherrer, Beat Hodler, Alex Crisovan and others. Bulletin: Jo Zahner

Internationally mixed Open Chess Festival of **San Bernardino at 1'608 metres (!)** in the Swiss Alps, the number of players was restricted to 72-80 to secure comfortable conditions – and enough cheese.

1° 1980 IM **Béla Tóth** (ITA) clear first

2° 1981 **Vlastimil Hort** (CZE, later GER) on tie-break, IM **Wirthensohn** (SUI)

3° 1982 **Vlastimil Hort** (CZE, later GER), sole second IM Böhm

4° 1983 **Viktor Korchnoi** (SUI) winning at 8.5/9 points, sole second Hort

5° 1984 **Vlastimil Hort** (CZE, later GER), 2.-6. (2.) IM Hug, (3.) IM Huss

6° 1985 IM (later GM) **Paul Van der Sterren** (NED), sole second Hulak, shared third IM Dückstein

7° 1986 **John Van der Wiel** (NED), 66 players incl. 6 GM

8° 1987 **Kiril Georgiev** (BUL, then ranked as sole no. 15 of the world) on tie-break in a four-way-tie, **Cebalo** (YUG - CRO), **Dlugy** (USA), **Cvitan** (YUG - CRO), Lobron on 8th place had the best Buchholz score ☺☺☺ all three Polgar sisters, Zszoa, Zsofia & Judit, playing in the same (main and only) open section!

9° 1988 **Miso Cebalo** (YUG - CRO) on tie-break, **Georgiev** (BUL); Rogers (Australia) won the side blitz
10° 1989 **Julian Hodgson** (ENG) on tie-break, **Georgiev** (BUL), **I. Sokolov** (YUG, later NED)

Blitz tournament (closed) with Anatoly Karpov as guest star, won by Kiril Georgiev, ahead of Karpov.

11° 1990 **Alexander Chudinovskikh** (USSR) on tie-break, **Hort** (GER), **Petursson** (ISL), 80 players, among them also Gavrikov, Vaissier, Hellers, Klinger, Vogt, Ciric, Meduna, Nemet, or Flear, 13 GM
Titleless tournament winner! A. N. Chudinovskikh (Elo 2315, later IM), born in 1946, living in Kirov (his journey by train and then by swiss postbus lasted six days!), an electronic engineer by profession, was invited on behalf of Viktor Korchnoi: He had been a pupil of Korchnoi between 1963 and 1965.

12° 1991 **Alexander Chernin** (USSR - RUS), prominent names Sosonko, Gheorghiu, Gavrikov, Hort, Campora, Petursson, Klinger, Daniel King, Glenn Flear, his wife Christine Flear, 76 players, 15 GM

13° 1992 **Julian Hodgson** (ENG) on tie-break, **Hort** (GER), **Spraggett** (CAN), 72 players, 10 GM;
last edition (sadly, Möbel Pfister, the leading swiss furniture company, changed its marketing concept)

Special side event during the 10th Brocco edition in 1989: a closed Blitz tournament with guest star **Anatoly Karpov**, who also gave a simul. Final standings: 1. Kiril Georgiev, 2. Anatoly Karpov, 3. Ivan Sokolov, 4. Miso Cebalo, 5. Anatoly Vaissier, 6. Josef Klinger, 7. / 8. Julian Hodgson, Vlastimil Hort, 9. Margeir Petursson, 10. Stefan Mohr (10 players). Karpov did not take part in the regular Open.

First winner:

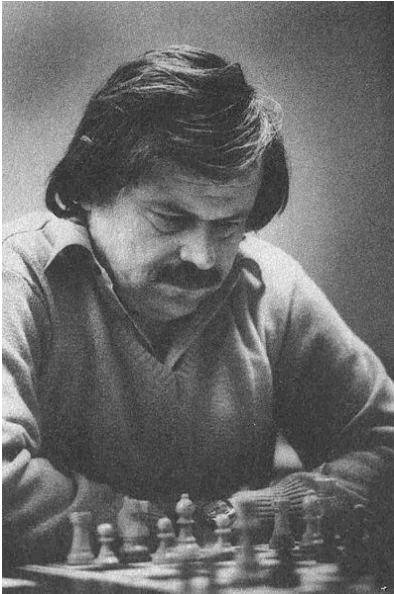
BELA TOTH (born Apr-19-1943) Hungary (federation/nationality Italy)

Béla Tóth was born in Budapest. Awarded the **IM title in 1974** and the IMC title in 1978, he was Italian champion in 1975, 1976, 1981, and 1982. He became a GMC in 2004. Toth has been living and playing in Switzerland for about 25 years now (www.chessgames.com/player/bela_toth.html).

Last winner: **Julian Hodgson** (Portrait in Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_Hodgson)

Record winner: **Vlastimil Hort** 1981, 1982, 1984, plus 1990, 1992 as co-winner and 2nd on tie-break

Hall of Fame (incomplete, missing 1990-1992; and '88 & '89 it is Ivan Sokolov, not Andrei Sokolov):
http://www.swisschesstour.com/1/upload/hall_of_fame_san_bernardino_2017.pdf



Vlastimil Hort in 1986, he is a record five-time (sole or shared) winner of the legendary Brocco-Open



Kiril Georgiev in 2011, thrice (co-) winner at Brocco Open, and winner of the Jubilee Brocco Blitz in 1988 above 2. Anatoly Karpov and 3. Ivan Sokolov

San Bernardino Chess Festival today

http://www.swisschesstour.com/1/san_bernardino_4288685.html; <http://www.broccoeposta.ch/>

Swiss CHess Tour: <http://www.swisschesstour.com/>, organised by **Claudio Boschetti**

San Bernardino Pass (*Italian: [Passo del San Bernardino](#), German: [Bernhardinpass](#)*, 2,066 metres (6,778 ft)) is a high [mountain pass](#) in the [Swiss Alps](#) connecting the [Hinterrhein](#) and the [Mesolcina](#) (Misox) valleys between [Thusis](#) ([canton of Graubünden](#)) and [Bellinzona](#) ([canton of Ticino](#)).

Located in the far eastern side of the Western [Alps](#) it is not to be confused with the [Great St Bernard Pass](#) and the [Little St Bernard Pass](#). The top of the pass represents both the Italo-German language frontier and the [watershed \(drainage divide\)](#) between the [Po basin](#) and the [Rhine basin](#).

The route first became important as a mule track in the fifteenth century when the route between [Thusis](#) and [Splügen](#) was known as the [Via Mala](#). A road for wheeled vehicles was opened in 1770; this road was significantly improved between 1821 and 1823, financed in part by the [Kingdom of Sardinia](#), keen to improve a trade route connecting [Genoa](#) and [Piedmont](#) to the [Graubünden](#) that was not directly controlled by [Austria](#).

Traffic flow was much facilitated when in 1967, the [San Bernardino road tunnel](#) was completed, since then vehicle traffic on the pass has been reduced, benefiting those taking the time to avoid the tunnel. The pass road is only open in summer.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Bernardino_Pass (Wikipedia in english language)

<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/San-Bernardino-Pass> (Wikipedia in german language)

https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passo_del_San_Bernardino (Wikipedia in italian language)



Hospiz San Bernardino in 2010. Photo: [Adrian Michael](#) (Wikipedia)