

Milov, Vadim (biography)



Courtesy of CNC

Born in Ufa, Russia, then USSR (1.8.1972). Became an Israeli citizen in 1991, living in Tel Aviv, later moving to Switzerland, he got a Swiss passport finally. GM since 1993, **all three GM norms made within one year**: Biel Open 1993, Berlin Summer Open 1993, Budapest First Saturday 9/93.

- **Russian Junior Champion in 1988 and 1989**
- **Silver Medalist at World Junior Championship in Buenos Aires 1992** (joint with Pablo Zarnicki who won on tie-break, 1.5 points ahead of a shared third crowd)
- **Swiss Champion in 2015** and Bronze Medalist at National Swiss Championship in 2014 (then Milov's first participation)

Major achievements (selection):

Won or shared first at **Biel Open 1993** (playing for Israel, clear first as IM, achieving GM norm), **Zürcher Weihnachtsopen** (Nova-Park Open) **1993** (1.-6. and first on tie-break, winning as a GM), Bad Ragaz 'Grand-Prix Suisse Final' (closed round robin) 1994, **Biel GM Invitation 1996 (joint with then Fide World Champion Anatoly Karpov)**, above Ehlvest, Andersson, Almasi, Lautier, Glek, Portisch, Tukmakov, Romanishin, Onischuk, and Miles, who was sole last of twelve players), *Isle of Man (Monarch Assurance) Open 1995* (1./5., as 4. on tie-break behind winner Julian Hodgson, Miles, and Sadler), **Groningen GM Invitation 1998 (joint with Sergei Tiviakov)**, **Australia Open Championship 1999** (clear first), **Biel Open 1999** for the second time (1-0 vs. Yehuda Grünfeld in the k.o.-final, normal time, modus according to System Swiss Chess Tour), **Aeroflot Open, Moscow 2002** (as shared 1./5. finally on fifth position, Gregory Kaidanov won this first edition of the Aeroflot after an extra play-off battle), Santo Domingo Open (Great Nazir Atallah Cup) 2003 (Milov won the event after making the highest progressive score, nine players finished on 7.5/10), **North American Open in Las Vegas 2003** (1.-6. (3.), Alexander Shabalov won on tie-break), *First Ashdod Chess Festival / Israel International Open Chess Championship 2003* (1.4., Alexander Huzman best on tie-break), Dos Hermanas Open 2004 (clear first), the traditional **U.S. Open Chess Championship** played in Phoenix, Arizona **2005** (shared with Joel Benjamin, over 500 players), **Corsica Masters (Rapid), Bastia and Ajaccio 2005** (swiss system in the preliminaries, followed by knock-out modus, mix of players invited and qualified from the Open, **Vadim Milov beating Vishy Anand in the final; Anand had won this event previously five times in a row**), **Chicago Open 2005** (1./4., with Igor Novikov winning the title on a speed playoff game over Milov), **Chicago Open 2006** (1./4., this time as first, defeating Kamil Miton in a speed playoff game), **Chicago Open 2007** (1./2., again as first, defeating Yuri Shulman in an Armageddon tiebreaker), *World Open in Philadelphia 2006* (1./9. nine players tied for first place, among them Gata Kamsky who was winning after play-off), San Marino Open 2006 (won on tie-break from Varuzhan Akobian), **Morelia Open 2007** (winning on tie-break, shared with Ivan Cheparinov), **Gibraltar (then Gibtelecom) Festival 2009** (shared 1./2. with Peter Svidler, who won the play-off).

Vadim Milov also won many Festivals in Switzerland (eg. in Geneva, Lausanne, the Winterthurer Schachwoche (Open) 2001 (1./2., shared with Normunds Miezis who won on tie-break) or at Baden Stadtcasino (Open) 1998 (1./2. ex-aequo with Igor Khenkin, both with the same tie-break score).

Biggest success: Biel in 1996 co-winning with Anatoly Karpov
<http://www.chessfocus.com/tournament-results/1996-ska-masters>

Rapid: Corsica Masters in 2005, beating Vishy Anand in the final



Courtesy of ChessBase

Corsica Masters 2008: Vadim Milov (won Qualification Open), Garri Kasparov, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (won the final of the k.o. stage) and Sergey Tiviakov (runner-up, lost that final).

A participant in the FIDE World Championships in 1999, 2001 and 2005.
A participant in the 1994 Olympiad for Israel and in 2000 for Switzerland.

Milov is currently the only Swiss player with an ELO rating above 2600 (as of 2015).

Best ELO rating: 2705 in 2008 (list of July)

Best ELO ranking: 22th in 2004 (list of July and list of October)

Vadim Milov peaked as no. 22 of the world and was also a member of the magic ELO 2700+ club, but soon afterwards disappeared from the radar of the very best, dropped out later narrowly of the top hundred (there are plenty strong players today with a rating constantly higher than 2600 but lower than 2700), still a very busy Open participant: A chess professional - who has to win prizes to eat and pay mortgages or rent.

The gap / loss of a few dozen rating points can make the difference between regular invitations to closed (super)tournaments and 'banishment' to the chancier and less rewarding world of the Open circuit, the fate of so many professional chess players just one step beyond the very best.

Milov is to some extent an example of a strong grandmaster who could claim at the absolute highest level only for a few years, but remains a powerful player, winner or co-winner of a couple of the strongest Chess Open Festivals of the World.

Note: Player not to mix with GM *Leonid* Milov

Sources:

CNC – Chess Network Company: <http://www.chessnc.com/biography/person-255.html>

Chessgames: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessplayer?pid=21410>

Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vadim_Milov