

PCA – Super Classic (1995)

Umbrella brand for an invitational series in different cities, organized by the PCA, there was no pre-qualification tournament whatsoever; the concept is comparable with the 'Grand Chess Tour' today

Riga (Tal Memorial) // Novgorod // Horgen (CS-Masters)

In 1995, a three tournament series, organized by the PCA was titled the 'Super Classic', covering the following so-called supertournaments (installing a fairly new terminus):

Tal Memorial at Riga, Novgorod, Russia, and the Crédit Suisse Masters at Horgen near Zürich.

Note: The tournaments of Riga and Novgorod have been played before, Horgen just after the PCA World Chess Champion match between Kasparov and Anand, held in New York 1995.

The invited PCA Super Classic players were (ordered by their PCA rating at that time):

Garry Kasparov
Vassily Ivanchuk
Vladimir Kramnik
Artur Jussupow
Jaan Ehlevest
Rafael Vaganian
Boris Gulko
Nigel Short
Jan Timman

and Vishwanathan Anand at Riga

and Veselin Topalov, replacing Anand at Novgorod

and Joël Lautier, replacing Anand at Horgen

Alexei Shirov withdrew at Riga due to a dispute with the Latvian Federation

plus Edvins Kengis with wildcard at Riga (thus eleven participants)

plus Viktor Korchnoi with wildcard (!) at Horgen (thus eleven participants)

Anand dropped out of Novgorod and was replaced by Veselin Topalov. At Horgen, it was Joël Lautier who played instead of Anand who declined again. Kengis and Korchnoi were added to represent the hosting nation of Latvia at Riga and of Switzerland at Horgen, respectively.

Nine of the invited players who started the PCA series finished it. Overall winner: Kasparov.

The 1995 Tal Memorial at Riga remained a one-off event (the Tal Memorial series starting in 2006 in Moscow are independent), the Crédit Suisse Masters at Horgen (with A & B-group) collapsed after the two editions in 1994 and in 1995, Novgorod lasted for four editions from 1994 to 1997.

Winners:

1st PCA Super Classic in Riga, Tal Memorial: **Kasparov**

<http://www.chess.gr/tourn/riga/riga.html>

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chesscollection?cid=1015702>

2nd PCA Super Classic in Novgorod (2nd edition): **Kasparov**

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chesscollection?cid=1015859>

3rd PCA Super Classic in Horgen (2nd edition): **Kramnik** (on tie-break), and **Ivanchuk**

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=79994>

(Chessgames wrongly stipulates Ivanchuk as winner on tie-break)