

NOVGOROD



This Russian municipality sponsored and hosted four consecutive chess super-tournaments between 1994 and 1997, mostly in a six players double round robin which included near all the best players of that time.

Veliky Novgorod ([Russian](#): Великий Новгород, IPA: [vʲɪˈlʲikʲɪj ˈnɒvɡərət]), also known as **Novgorod the Great**, or **Novgorod Veliky**, or just **Novgorod**, is one of the most important historic [cities](#) in [Russia](#), which serves as the [administrative center](#) of [Novgorod Oblast](#).

It is situated on the [M10 federal highway](#) connecting [Moscow](#) and [St.Petersburg](#). The city lies along the [Volkhov River](#) just downstream from its outflow from [Lake Ilmen](#). The population of Novgorod: 220,000. [UNESCO](#) recognized Novgorod as a [World Heritage Site](#) in 1992.

At its peak during the 14th century, the city was the capital of the [Novgorod Republic](#) and one of Europe's largest cities. *Not to be confused with [Nizhny Novgorod](#).*

The winners were: 1994 (cat. 19, six players) **Garry Kasparov** and **Vassily Ivanchuk** joint, 1995 (cat. 18, ten players, part of the PCA Super Classic* umbrella brand) **Garry Kasparov**, 1996 (cat. 19, six players) **Veselin Topalov** (Garry Kasparov did not take part in this edition), 1997 (cat 19, six players) **Garry Kasparov**.



Great Gazza, by **Oliver Schopf**

Source: http://www.oliverschopf.com/html/d_archiv/schach/schach_allgemein/schach_garri_kasparow_02.html

Today the town is named **Veliky Novgorod**. Its 1994 edition was also the first cat. XIX event (however, the two participants Kasparov and Short had been expelled from the then FIDE Elo rating list). **Record winner at Novgorod is Kasparov**: three participations, and three wins.

Further prominent players at Novgorod: **Kramnik** (invited in all four editions!), Gelfand, Shirov, Bareev, Ehlvest, Gulko, Vaganian, Jussupow, Short, Timman, and Judit Polgar.

Anand (invited for 1995, but he declined), *Karpov*, *Korchnoi*, or *Svidler* never did take part at Novgorod although they were better (known) than let's say players like Gulko or Vaganian.

Excursus: PCA Super Classic 1995

*** In 1995, a three tournament series, organized by the PCA was titled the "Super Classic"**, installing a fairly new terminus, covering the following so-called supertournaments: **Tal Memorial at Riga, Novgorod, Russia**, and the **Crédit Suisse Masters at Horgen near Zürich**. Note: The tournaments of Riga and of Novgorod have been played before, Horgen just after the PCA World Chess Champion match between Kasparov and Anand, held in New York 1995. The nominated PCA Super Classic players:

Garry Kasparov
Vassily Ivanchuk
Vladimir Kramnik
Artur Jussupow
Jaan Ehlvest
Rafael Vaganian
Boris Gulko
Nigel Short
Jan Timman
and Vishwanathan Anand at Riga (Tal Memorial)

with 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)

Nine of the original top ten PCA rated grandmasters who started the series finished it.

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.

→ 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.

Note: There was no other PCA Super Classic cycle (neither before 1995, nor afterwards).

Novgorod 1995

Compiled by [suenteus po 147](#)



The second international tournament to be organized by the PCA in Novgorod, Russia was part of a **three tournament series titled the "Super Classic"**. It was held from May 26th to June 9th, 1995, just a month after the first installment of the "Super Classic" with the Tal Memorial in Riga, Latvia. *The top ten rated grandmasters from the PCA participated in all three events.* Here, the tournament was a category XVIII round robin event, with nine of the ten original participants from Riga in attendance.

The participants, including the world champion, were (in order ELO): Garry Kasparov (2805), Vladimir Kramnik (2715), Vassily Ivanchuk (2700), Artur Yusupov (2660), Nigel Short (2655), Rafael Vaganian (2640), Jan Timman (2635), Veselin Topalov (2630), Jaan Ehvest (2615), and Boris Gulko (2595).

Vishwanathan Anand, who had been the tenth participant at Riga was replaced by Topalov.

Rounds were played on consecutive days from May 27th to June 4th with one rest day on June 1st. The prize fund for the tournament (as it was for each of the three installments of the "Super Classic") was \$122,000. The prize money was divided up accordingly: 1st=\$30,000; 2nd=\$20,000; 3rd=\$15,000; 4th=\$12,000; 5th=\$10,000; 6th=\$9,000; 7th=\$8,000; 8th=\$7,000; 9th=\$6,000; and 10th=\$5,000. In the case of ties, the prize money from the tied places were combined and divided evenly among the players.

There was also a grand prize of \$150,000 to be distributed among the players at the end of the "Super Classic" series to be held in Horgen at the end of the year. Each player's results would be summed up from the three tournaments and a final standings would determine the distribution of the grand prize. Kasparov went a long way to securing his top place at the end of the year with his second consecutive "Super Classic" win here, going undefeated with 6.5/9 at the final.

While Anand prepared for his PCA world championship match against Kasparov later in the year, his replacement distinguished himself by tying for second along with Short, Ivanchuk, and Ehvest. The final standings and crosstable are as follows:

01 Kasparov 6.5/9 * 1 = = = = 1 1 1

02 Topalov 5.5/9 0 * = 1 = = = = 1 1

03 Short 5.5/9 = = * 0 = 1 = 1 1 =

04 Ivanchuk 5.5/9 = 0 1 * = = = = 1 1

05 Ehvest 5.5/9 = = = = * 1 = = = 1

06 Kramnik 5/9 = = 0 = 0 * 1 1 = 1

07 Timman 4/9 = = = = = 0 * = = =

08 Gulko 3/9 0 = 0 = = 0 = * = =

09 Yusupov 2.5/9 0 0 0 0 = = = = * =

10 Vaganian 2/9 0 0 = 0 0 0 = = = *

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



CNC

Novgorod 1994: Garry Kasparov, Nigel Short, Vladimir Kramnik, Evgeny Bareev, Vassily Ivanchuk.

1994 Novgorod

January 01, 1994 to January 01, 1994

Category XIX (average rating 2701 - 2725)

10 rounds. Double round robin tournament

Place	Player	Score	W	L	D
1.	Vassily Ivanchuk	7.0 / 10	4	0	6
1.	Garry Kasparov	7.0 / 10	4	0	6
3.	Vladimir Kramnik	5.0 / 10	3	3	4
4.	Alexei Shirov	4.0 / 10	1	3	6
4.	Nigel D Short	4.0 / 10	0	2	8
6.	Evgeny Bareev	3.0 / 10	1	5	4

1995 Novgorod

May 26, 1995 to June 09, 1995

Category XVIII (average rating 2676 - 2700)

9 rounds. Round robin tournament

Place	Player	Score	W	L	D
1.	Garry Kasparov	6.5 / 9	4	0	5
2.	Jaan Ehlovest	5.5 / 9	2	0	7
2.	Vassily Ivanchuk	5.5 / 9	3	1	5
2.	Nigel D Short	5.5 / 9	3	1	5
2.	Veselin Topalov	5.5 / 9	3	1	5
6.	Vladimir Kramnik	5.0 / 9	3	2	4
7.	Jan H Timman	4.0 / 9	0	1	8
8.	Boris F Gulko	3.0 / 9	0	3	6
9.	Artur Jussupow	2.5 / 9	0	4	5
10.	Rafael A Vaganian	2.0 / 9	0	5	4

1996 Novgorod

July 19, 1996 to July 31, 1996

Category XIX (average rating 2701 - 2725)

10 rounds. Double round robin tournament

Place	Player	Score	W	L	D
1.	Veselin Topalov	6.0 / 10	3	1	6
2.	Vassily Ivanchuk	5.5 / 10	3	2	5
3.	Nigel D Short	5.0 / 10	1	1	8
4.	Boris Gelfand	4.5 / 10	1	2	7
4.	Vladimir Kramnik	4.5 / 10	2	3	5
4.	Judit Polgar	4.5 / 10	3	4	3

1997 Novgorod

June 10, 1997 to June 23, 1997

Category XIX (average rating 2701 - 2725)

10 rounds. Double round robin tournament

Place	Player	Score	W	L	D
1.	Garry Kasparov	6.5 / 10	4	1	5
2.	Vladimir Kramnik	6.0 / 10	3	1	6
3.	Nigel D Short	5.0 / 10	4	4	2
4.	Evgeny Bareev	4.5 / 10	1	2	7
5.	Boris Gelfand	4.0 / 10	2	4	4
5.	Veselin Topalov	4.0 / 10	2	4	4

→ This was the fourth and final of a series of international tournaments held in Novgorod



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(More: http://www.oliverschopf.com/html/d_archiv/schach/schach_ueb30.html)

Sources: <http://www.chessfocus.com/tournament-series/novgorod> (ChessFocus)
<http://www.thechesspedia.com/blog-post/novgorod/> (Chesspedia, former CNC)

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