

OLOT (International Invitation series 1965 – 1975)

by JAN VAN REEK (1945 – 2015, R.I.P.) <http://www.endgame.nl/olot.html> (inactive)

Ediciones del Torneo de Olot <http://historiadelaajedrezspanol.es/torneos/olot.htm> (new)

Olot lies at the Northeast of Spain near the French border. There are volcanoes and waterfalls in the neighbourhood. A series of ten closed tournaments were organised by the Club de Ajedrez Olot.

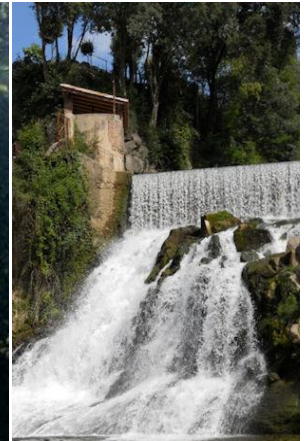
Arturo and Carmen Pomar Salamanca ran a post office in a village near Barcelona. It was 100 km south of Olot. Arturo participated in all events. He never won, but he became second three times.



Hotel Montsacopa, the tournament hall



Volcano near Olot



Waterfall near Olot

Installment one was played by eight persons in Hotel Montsacopa (named after a volcano) from 5 until 12 xii 1965. The Catalan event was won by Pablo Garcia Toledo from Peru ahead of Pomar Salamanca. This Catalan initiative drew the attention of the publisher **Jorge Puig Laborda**. He became the tournament director.

The second event happened in the same hotel during March 1967 (no edition in 1966). O'Kelly de Galway won ahead of Medina Garcia. The third tournament was played in Hotel Montsacopa from 17 until 25 ii 1968. The number of participants increased to ten. Participants were Damjanovic, Lehmann, Tatai, Durao, Pomar Salamanca, Medina Garcia and Fernandez. Local heroes from Olot were Parés, Bru and Bosch. So it had become an international happening. West German IM Heinz Lehmann emerged as tournament winner with stunning 8.5 /9 points (he also won Rome 1964 with Lengyel, Sary Smokovec 1969, plus IBM-B at Amsterdam in 1963 and Hoogovens-B at Beverwijk in 1964. In 1992, Lehmann was awarded the rather rare GM Honoraris title by FIDE): http://www.ajedrecito5.galeon.com/ibero/ti_olot1968.html.

Tournament four and five remained nice international master events. A higher level started in 1971 and 1972. Ulf Andersson played in 1971, but Hans-Joachim "Hajo" Hecht won, then the great talent Ljubomir Ljubojevic triumphed in 1972.

Nona Gaprindashvili participated in 1973 and the number of participants became twelve. Adorjan won in 1974 and hypermodern Csom who already claimed Olot in 1973, shared with Kurajica, took the final tournament at Olot in 1975, too. An Open series followed from 1989 – 1996. L'Obert Internacional d'Escacs Ciutat d'Olot has been played since 2009.



Ulvestad - O'Kelly de Galway 0-1, Olot 1969



Diez del Corral - Ljubojevic draw, Olot 1972



Ulvestad, O'Kelly and Ivkov in front. Young Bellon at the left, Pomar in a hat (Olot 1969)

Winners of Olot (1965 – 1975, without 1966)

<http://historiadelaedrezespanol.es/torneos/olot.htm>

1965 Pedro Garcia Toledo

1967 O'Kelly de Galway and Medina Garcia

1968 Heinz Lehmann (at 8.5/9 points!)

1969 O'Kelly de Galway (**second win**)

1970 Westerinen

1971 Hecht

1972 Ljubojevic

1973 Kurajica and Csom

1974 Adorjan

1975 Csom (**second win**)

Note: *Arturo Pomar Salamanca* participated in all ten tournaments, he never won, but he became second three times. Further prominent players, *not winning* at Olot: *Ivkov, Andersson, Romanishin, Gipslis, Benko, Rogoff, Lombardy, Martz, Quinteros, Torre, Tatai, Mariotti, Pflieger, Robatsch, Filip, Marovic, Bukic, Ostojic, Medina Garcia, Toran Albero, Bellon Lopez,* and *Gaprindashvili*.

→ Olot Open series since 2009 (and part of the “Circuit Català d'Oberts Internacionals d'Escacs”):

https://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obert_Internacional_d%27Escacs_Ciutat_d%27Olot

https://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Club_Escacs_Olot

2016, published in: <http://www.chessdiagonals.ch/>