

Torneo de Gijón (1944 – 1965; 12 editions)

Alekhine as World Champion, Euwe, Larsen, Rossolimo (twice), Prins, Luis Bronstein from Argentina, Pomar, Perez, Toran, and surprising Antonio Rico (twice) are the tournament winners.

Amongst further participants: O'Kelly, Donner, Pilnik, Darga, Grob, Wood, and Medina.

Cherchez la femme: Chantal Chaudé de Silans from France played, too!

The French player Chantal Chaudé de Silans, the only female to take part in these events, scored a respectable 3½ points in the tournament of 1950, *beating Prins and Grob*, both! IM Rossolimo won the event with 8½/11, just ahead of Dunkelblum and Pomar with 8, Prins and Torán, playing in his home city with 7 points; Chaudé de Silans finished on 9th/10th place (twelve players).

No.	Year	Champion	Country	Points
I	1944	Alexander Alekhine, reigning World Champion 13 years young Pomar drew reigning World Champion Alekhine: Alexander Alekhine vs Arturo Pomar Salamanca (1944) (Chessgames)	France	7'5 / 8
II	1945	Antonio Rico (2./3. Alekhine (!) and Medina, 4. Pomar; 6. Lupi) Medina beat Alekhine: Antonio Medina vs. Alexander Alekhine (1945)	Spain	8 / 9
III	1946	Francisco J. Pérez (2. Medina, 3. Ribeiro, 4. Rico, 5. Lupi; incl. Pomar)	Spain	8'5 / 11
IV	1947	Lodewijk Prins (best on tie-break), and Francisco J. Pérez (2nd win, one outright, one co-win) (3. Medina, 4. Fuentes, 5. Wood, incl. Pomar)	Netherlands Spain	10'5 / 13
V	1948	Antonio Rico (2nd win) (2. Wood, 3.-5. Pérez, Prins, Toran)	Spain	8 / 10
VI	1949	Nicolás Rossolimo (2. O'Kelly, 3. Prins, 4./5. Medina, Toran)	France	10 / 11
VII	1950	Nicolás Rossolimo (2nd win) (2./3. Dunkelblum, Pomar, 4./5. Prins, Toran, 6. Grob who beat the eventual tournament winner Rossolimo)	France	8'5 / 11
VIII	1951	Max Euwe, former World Champion (2. Pilnik, 3. Rossolimo, 4. Prins, 5./6. Medina, Pomar)	Netherlands	8 / 10
IX	1954	Román Torán (2. Rellstab, 3. Pérez)	Spain	7 / 9
X	1955	Arturo Pomar (2. Orbaan, 3. Rodrigo)	Spain	9 / 10
XI	1956	Bent Larsen (2. Darga, 3./4. Donner, O'Kelly, 5. Diez del Corral, 6. Pérez Pérez, 7. Toran Albero)	Denmark	7'5 / 9
XII	1965	Luis Bronstein (2. Suttles, 3./4. Vidau, Durao)	Argentina	5'5 / 7

Source:

<http://ajedrezdeataque.com/05%20Palmares/Torneos/Espana/Gijon.htm>

by Javier Cordero Fernández

Small international chess tournaments were held there between 1944 and 1951 at Gijon, then between 1954 and 1956, and, finally, in 1965. They were all play all events (single round robin), with between 8 and 12 players: a mixture of visiting masters and local stars, held usually in July.

The strength of the tournaments varied, but some really famous names took part: World Champion **Alexander Alekhine** played in the first two contests, former World Champion **Max Euwe** in 1951. A young **Larsen** played in 1956, while other prominent chess masters such as **Rossolimo**, **O'Kelly**, **Donner**, **Darga**, **Grob**, **Prins**, and of course, **Pomar** also took part, too.

The local player **Antonio Rico** played in every event, with fluctuating fortunes: winning in 1945 ahead of Alekhine and 1948, but also finishing last on several occasions. English interests were represented on three occasions by Mr **CHESS**, **BH Wood**.



Photo: Bidmonfa

Antonio Rico Gonzalez, twice winner at Gijon



Photo: Chessgames

Nicolas Rossolimo, GM 1953, twice winner at Gijon, en simultanée à Paris au club de Caïssa 1951

In the 21st century, Gijon had several tournament series established again, especially:

CERRADO VILLA DE GIJON INVITATION (round robin) or for instance VILLA DE GIJON OPEN (swiss system), both with many local players.



Photo: Facebook, Gukesh D (born in May 2006).

Photo from the first Chessable Sunway Formentera Open in 2022.

Spanish Delight !!!

3 consecutive titles within 3 weeks, all outright and unbeaten, pretty satisfying 😊

1. (48th) La Roda Open in Castilla-La Mancha 8/9 with 7 wins, 2 draws (in April 2022)
1. (1st) Menorca Open 6/7 with 5 wins, 2 draws (in April 2022)
1. (1st) Sunway Formentera Open 8/10 with 6 wins, 4 draws (in April / May 2022)

Earlier, in September 2021, he had already won in Carballo, (4th) edition, at 8/9. Gukesh D then won the (14th) Cerrado Villa De Gijon in July 2022 also at 8/9.



Gukesh D's love-affair with Spain continues!

He won outright at the **Ciudad de Gijon Open**, his **5**th title in Spain in a few months, following **La Roda Open**, **Menorca Open**, **Sunway Formentera Open** and the **Concello de Carballo Open**.

Sources:

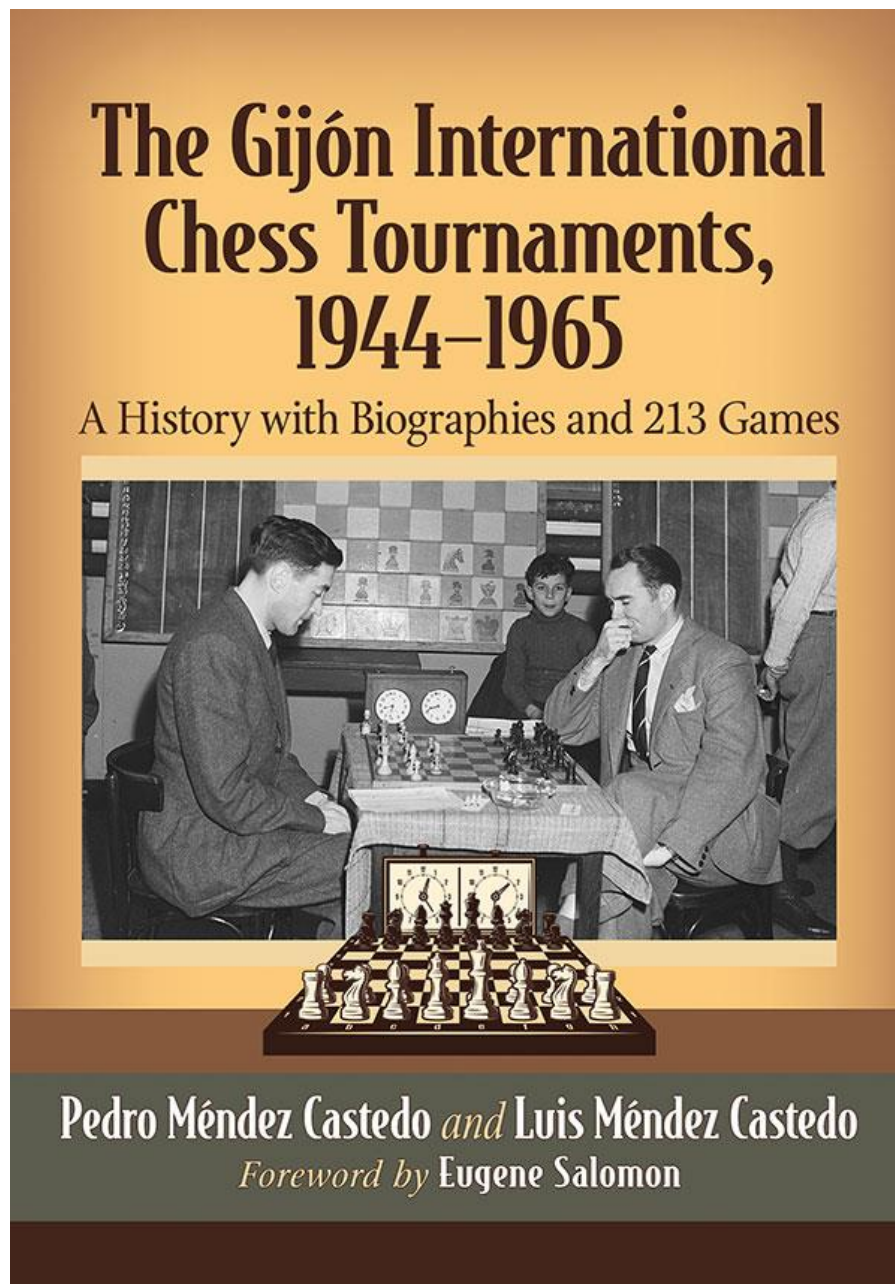
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio_Rico (Wikipedia)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessplayer?pid=13672> (Chessgames)

http://www.bidmonfa.com/rico_antonio.htm (Bidmonfa)

<http://web.archive.org/web/20120621141403/http://www.fapajedrez.es/wordpress/?p=883>

<http://web.archive.org/web/20120621103836/http://www.fapajedrez.es/wordpress/?p=790>



→ Book: New published in 2019! “The Gijon International Chess Tournaments, 1944-1965”, by **Pedro Méndez Castedo** and **Luis Méndez Castedo** (McFarland), 2019

<https://mcfarlandbooks.com/newly-published-the-gijon-international-chess-tournaments-1944-1965/>

→ Year-by-Year survey: <http://historiadelaedrezespanol.es/torneos/gijon.htm>

(note: in 1965, David Bronstein is wrong, the winner is Luis Bronstein from Argentina)

→ Year-by-Year survey in detail with complete standings, games and origin pictures, by Rafael Santander, now inactive

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