

Lost Boys Festival 1993 – 2002

Ten annually played Open, three times parallel with a Invitation tournament as well, the first edition in 1993 (with an Invitation and an Open) under the label of Volmac; initial and common venue was **Antwerp**, Belgium. For the final years, the series later moved then to **Amsterdam**.

The Lost **Boys Festival** have been played in ten editions from 1993 to 2002, consisting of an Open, sometimes crowned with an additional Invitation tournament (in the years 1993, 1997, and 1999). **The Open sections offered different groups of strength, including a Junior event.**

The first event of the series was sponsored by and called «Volmac», then switching in 1994 to the mythical and fancy label «Lost Boys», the name of the sponsoring software company, as well as characters from the famous child novel **Peter Pan, the Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up**.

In 1993, Antwerp was designated as European Capital of Culture: The first (Volmac) tournament, with a closed and an open event, was part of these celebrations. **Viktor Korchnoi and Jeroen Piket** won in the invitation tournament, ahead of Larry Christiansen.

*The **European Capital of Culture** is a city designated by the European Union (EU) for a period of one calendar year during which it organizes a series of cultural events with a strong European dimension to bring Europeans closer together by highlighting the richness and diversity of European cultures and raising awareness of their common history and values.*

For the 5th edition in 1997, still played in Antwerp, an additional invitation tournament was held again, **Veselin Topalov** won half a point ahead of Viktor Korchnoi, followed by Ye Rongguang.

In 1999, the Lost Boys series visited for the first time Amsterdam, with an invitation tournament (meanwhile the Open still took part in Antwerp): **Ivan Sokolov** won that third closed event ahead of Jan Timman and Predrag Nikolic on shared second place (eight players). It turned out to be the last round robin competition.

Subsequently, the following and last Open events (2000-2002) had been played in Amsterdam

Initiator **Joop Van Oosterom**: <https://www.revolvvy.com/topic/Joop%20van%20Oosterom&uid=1575>

List of winners at Lost Boys Festival:

i) Lost Boys Invitation tournaments in Antwerp (1993 & 1997) and in Amsterdam (1999)

1993 (1st) **Volmac**, in Antwerp, **European Capital of Culture celebration**:

1./2. **Korchnoi, Piket**, 3. Christiansen (10 players, including Speelman, Polugaevsky who got ill, and M. Gurevich, a top ten ranked player from 1989–1991, playing then for Belgium)

1997 (5th) Lost Boys Festival, in Antwerp:

1. **Topalov**, 2. **Korchnoi**, 3. Ye Rongguang (in 1990, China's first Grandmaster ever), 4.= Piket. Invited were all the winners from the previous Lost Boys Open Festivals (1994 – 1996), plus Korchnoi and Piket as the winner of the closed inaugural tournament from (1993), plus Topalov, already number four of the world (8 players)

1999 (7th) Lost Boys Festival, in Amsterdam:

1. **I. Sokolov**, 2./3. Timman, Nikolic (8 players, including Ljubojevic who finished shared last)

Other years: No invitation tournaments played, but from 1993 to 2002 always an Open Festival.

ii) Lost Boys Open tournaments in Antwerp (1993-1999) and in Amsterdam (2000-2002)

1993 (1st) **Volmac**, in Antwerp, **European Capital of Culture celebration**:

1.-3. IM (GM in 1994) Peter Wells, Lembit Oll, Igor Novikov → Parallel Invitation Lost Boys: Viktor Korchnoi and Jeroen Piket won ahead of Christiansen, see above

1994 (2nd) in Antwerp 1. Paul Van der Sterren, clear 2. Korchnoi (87 players, among them 12 Grandmasters, including Ljubojevic, DeFirmian, Hort, Hector, Smirin, M. Gurevich, or Oll)

1995 (3rd) in Antwerp 1.-2. Ivan Sokolov, Igor Novikov, =3. Korchnoi (including Van der Sterren, Van Wely, Christiansen, or Khenkin, 105 players in the main group):

<http://theweekinchess.com/html/twic45.html>

1996 (4th) in Antwerp 1.-3. Jeroen Piket, Loek Van Wely, Ye Rongguang (188 players including M. Gurevich, I. Sokolov, Oll, Suba, Lobron, Van der Sterren, or Vaganian who lost in the second round against Steve Giddins: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1146205>)

1997 (5th) in Antwerp 1. Mikhail Gurevich (104 players in the main open group, including Nikolic, Ljubojevic, Georgiev, Vaganian, Lobron, or WGM Stefanova who achieved a male IM norm, young Dutch IM Erik van der Doel finished shared second and achieved a GM norm) → Parallel Invitation Lost Boys, Veselin Topalov won: <http://theweekinchess.com/html/twic144.html#Lost>

1998 (6th) in Antwerp 1. Hannes Stefansson, clear first, ahead of 2.-4. Asmajparashvili, Leitao, and Piket (120 players in the main open group, including Van Wely, I. Sokolov, M. Gurevich, or Almira Skripchenko-Lautier; 453 players overall): <http://theweekinchess.com/html/twic196.html#4>

1999 (7th) in Antwerp: 1.-4. Boris Avrukh (best on tie-break), Alexandre Dgebuadze, Mikhail Gurevich, Victor Mikhalevski (139 players) → Parallel Invitation Lost Boys, Ivan Sokolov won: <http://theweekinchess.com/html/twic248.html#6>

2000 (8th) in Amsterdam: 1.-3. Mikhail Gurevich (best on tie-break), Pavel Tregubov, Ivan Sokolov; further players include Milov, Epishin, Timman, Piket, Van der Sterren, and Van der Wiel (82 players): <http://theweekinchess.com/html/twic302.html#4>

2001 (9th) in Amsterdam: 1. Loek Van Wely; 2.-5. Sutovsky, Ivan Sokolov, Piket and Timman (79 players, including Mikhail Gurevich): <http://theweekinchess.com/html/twic354.html#2>

2002 (10th) in Amsterdam: 1. Loek Van Wely

The 2002 Lost Boys Open took place in Amsterdam 26th July - 4th August 2002. Loek Van Wely conceded just one draw (to Florian Handke) on the way to a crushing 8.5/9 score. He was 1.5 points clear of Ivan Sokolov, Florian Handke and Friso Nijboer (99 players):

<http://theweekinchess.com/html/twic404.html#3>

Viktor Korchnoi played four times at Lost Boys Festival (twice in the Open, twice in the Invitation), winning with Jeroen Piket the Volmac Invitation edition in 1993, finishing in the Open clear second in 1994, and joint third in 1995, and clear second behind Topalov in the Lost Boys Invitation 1997.

Overall record winners are *Ivan Sokolov*, in total three (co-) wins, one from a closed and two from an open tournament, and *Mikhail Gurevich*, with three (co-)wins in the Open Festival. Both players were regular contestants at Lost Boys Festival.

In total, ten consecutive annual Volmac / Lost Boys Open tournaments (from 1993 to 2002); and three Volmac / Lost Boys Invitation tournaments (1993, 1997, 1999).

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