

i) Most important TOURNAMENTS in 1946:

**18 International Invitation Tournaments equivalent of a 'Formula 1 Grand Prix class' (F1 - GP)**

<< The aim is to build a comparable survey of all major International Invitation Chess Tournaments since WWII >>

→ Groningen (Staunton Memorial) as a world class tournament, nowadays called supertournament,  
→ Prague (Treybal Memorial), Barcelona (Anniversary Club Ajedrez de Barcelona), Mar del Plata, London I + London II, Victory), Hastings (21<sup>th</sup>, 1945/46), as significant international top tournaments,  
→ Ljubljana (Liberation), Regensburg (Junge Memorial), Augsburg, Beverwijk (8<sup>th</sup> Hoogovens series growing – but not yet internationally mixed), Maastricht, Zaanstreek/Zaandam + Zaandam 2, Helsinki, Leningrad, Rio de Janeiro, and Arbon (SASB) = 18 major international invitation chess tournaments, in analogy to the Automobiles, Formula One, **retrospectively classed as historical F1-GP in 1946.**

ii) Most busy PLAYERS in the circuit 1946, at least four “F1-GP” entries:

5: Miguel Najdorf, Argentina (*Barcelona, Prague, Mar del Plata, Rio de Janeiro*, Groningen)  
5: Max Euwe, Netherlands (*London II, Maastricht, Zaanstreek/Zaandam*, Groningen, Hastings)  
5: Martin Christoffel, Switzerland (Arbon, Groningen, Hastings, London II, Zaanstreek/Zaandam)  
5: Gösta Stoltz, Sweden (Beverwijk, Groningen, Prague, Zaanstreek/Zaandam, Zaandam 2)  
4: Alberic O'Kelly de Galway, Belgium (*Beverwijk*, Arbon, Barcelona, Groningen)  
4: Carlos Guimard, Argentina (Barcelona, Groningen, Mar del Plata, Prague)  
3+1: Savielly Tartakower, France (*Hastings 1945/46*, Groningen, London I; plus Hastings 1946/47)  
3+1: Lodewijk Prins, The Netherlands (Hastings, London I, Maastricht; plus Hasting 1946/47)  
3+1: Daniel Yanofsky, Canada (*Arbon*, Barcelona, Groningen; plus Hastings 1946/47)  
3+1: Daniel Wood, England (Barcelona, London II, Zaanstreek/Zaandam; plus Hasting 1946/47)

Historical Chess Oscar as Tournament player of the year in 1946: Miguel Najdorf



**The Fangio of Chess:** Miguel (Mieczyslaw) Najdorf playing at Wijk aan Zee, Hoogovens  
Photo 1973-01-24 Bert Verhoeff, Anefo

The most prestigious (in status and strength) International Invitation Tournaments in the year 1946 **Groningen**, **Prague**, **Barcelona**, **London I+II**, **Mar del Plata** and the **Hastings** series as elite events. Memorial Tournaments: *Howard Staunton Memorial* (at Groningen), *Karel Treybal / Vera Menchik Memorial* (at Prague), plus *Klaus Junge Memorial* (at Regensburg), and *Alexander Alekhine Memorial* (at Rio de Janeiro).

- 1945/46 **Hastings (21<sup>th</sup> Chess Congress\*)** **Tartakower** 2. F. Ekström 3.-5. Euwe, H. Steiner, Denker (12 players, incl. Mieses, born in 1865), [www.365chess.com/tournaments/Hastings\\_4546\\_1945/28807](http://www.365chess.com/tournaments/Hastings_4546_1945/28807)
  - 1945/46 **Ljubljana (Liberation)** **Gligoric**, 2./3. Vidmar sr. & Vidmar jr. (10 players, Pachman only Non-Yugoslavian player), <http://storiascacchi.altervista.org/storiascacchi/tornei/1900-49/194546ljubljan.htm>
  - 1946 **Beverwijk (8<sup>th</sup> Hoogovens\*)** **O'Kelly de Galway**, 2. Stoltz (10 players, eight Dutchman, but for the first time foreign participants were invited), [www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=83325](http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=83325)
  - 1946 **Helsinki** **Ragozin**, 2. Lisitsin (10 players, eight from Finland, but two strong Soviet players in the field, thus making it worth highlighting), [www.365chess.com/tournaments/Helsinki\\_1946/28829](http://www.365chess.com/tournaments/Helsinki_1946/28829)
  - 1946 **Leningrad** **Tolush** (12 players, nine from the hosting Soviet Union including 2.= Taimanov, and three from Finland, including 2.= Böök), <http://al20102007.narod.ru/it/1946/lening46.html>
  - 1946 **Mar del Plata** **Najdorf**, 2. Stahlberg, 3./4. P. Michel, C.J. Corte, 5. Guimard (19 players!, a.o. Pilnik, Bolbochan, Sanguinetti, and Letelier), [www.thechesslibrary.com/files/1946MardelPlata.htm](http://www.thechesslibrary.com/files/1946MardelPlata.htm)
  - 1946 **Rio de Janeiro** **Najdorf**, 2. Eliskases, 3. Cruz (10 players), [www.brasilbase.pro.br/tb1946rj.htm](http://www.brasilbase.pro.br/tb1946rj.htm)
  - 1946 **Maastricht (Easter)** **Euwe** (10 players), [www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=79962](http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=79962)
  - 1946 **Regensburg (Klaus Junge Memorial)** **Bogatyrchuk** (also: Bohatirchuk), 2. Zemgalis, 3./4. Wotkowsky (Wolk), Unzicker (10 players); Bogatyrchuk and many others as DP (Displaced Person)
  - 1946 **Augsburg** **Unzicker**, 2. Zemgalis, 3./4. Tautvaišas, Sämisch, 5. Endzelins, 6. Rankis, 7. Arlauskas, 8.= Tröger (17 players); Skema won a minor. Various DP camps and chess clubs
  - 1946 **Arbon (SASB, Switzerland)** **Opocensky** (best on tie-break), **Yanovsky**, **Pachman**, 4. O'Kelly (8 players), <http://www.belgianchesshistory.be/tournament/international-tournament-arbon/>
  - 1946 **Zaanstreek/Zaandam** **Euwe** (12 players, incl. Znosko-Borovsky), **Zaandam 2** **Szabo** (6 pl.), [www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=79969](http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=79969) and [www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=79970](http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=79970)  
Travelling in Europe was difficult at the time, Kottbauer arrived too late to play in the Zaanstreek, a smaller second event was organized for him as compensation immediately after the first event!
  - 1946 **London I** **H. Steiner**, 2. Bernstein, 3. Tartakower, [www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=81949](http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=81949)
  - 1946 **London II** **Euwe**, 2. Christoffel, 3. Denker, [www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=81950](http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=81950)
- At London in 1946 (Victory Tournament, sponsored by the Sunday Chronicle), the players were divided into two supposedly equally strong sections (sometimes referred as A and B) of 12 each!
- 1946 **Prague (Karel Treybal Memorial)** **Najdorf**, 2./3. Stoltz, Trifunovic, 4./5. Gligoric, Foltys (14 players, Soviet players were invited, but declined), [www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=86855](http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=86855)
  - 1946 **Barcelona (25<sup>th</sup> Anniv of the Club Ajedrez Barcelona)** **Najdorf**, 2. Yanofsky, 3. Guimard (14 players, incl. prodigy Pomar, born in 1931), [www.thechesslibrary.com/files/1946Barcelona.htm](http://www.thechesslibrary.com/files/1946Barcelona.htm)
  - 1946 **Groningen (Howard Staunton Memorial)** **Botvinnik** (ahead of 2. Euwe, 3. Smyslov, 4./5. Najdorf, Szabo, 6./7. Boleslavsky, Flohr; Swiss Martin Christoffel finishing last, but still beating Kotov, Vidmar and Bernstein, 20 players!). Note: Najdorf beat Botvinnik in their individual game... [www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=79918](http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=79918), 1946 Groningen (Wikipedia in English, see below)

Plus mostly national and / or minor closed tournaments, **Leiden A + B** (won by Euwe, and by Prins; not to mix with the Noteboom Memorial, not held in 1946), **3<sup>rd</sup> Gijon** (semi-national, Pérez Pérez won), **Bad Harzburg** (strong but national, Ahues won), **Gyor** (national, Barcza won), **Budapest KAOSZ** (national, Szabo won), **Rome**, **Nottingham**, **Yankton** in South Dakota (Planas Garcia, Cuba won, Berliner played), **Buenos Aires** (Circulo La Regence, Letelier and Skalicka joint winners, 3. Feigins, 4. Pelikán), **Rio de Janeiro** (first ever held **Alekhine Memorial**, Eliskases won), **Paraná** in Brazil (Stahlberg won ahead of Pilnik) or **Santiago de Chile** (Stahlberg, the only foreigner, won), selection.

Leningrad City Champion 1946: Alexander Tolush. Moscow City Champion 1946: David Bronstein. No USSR national championship played! US champion is Arnold Denker (defending his title in a match), later Samuel Reshevsky (tournament). Herman Steiner won the **47<sup>th</sup> U.S. Open\***, at Pittsburgh (for the first time using the swiss system to determine different final sections in round robin). No official FIDE chess tournaments played. By definition, (radio) team matches between countries, cities or clubs are not part of this summary of major *international invitation tournament in classical chess*. Neither pure Open Festivals, friendly matches (eg. Lisbon or Estoril by World Champion Alekhine who died in March 1946), nor rapid, blitz, or simul events.

Oldest active player of note was [Jacques Mieses](#) at age of **81**; child prodigy [Arturo Pomar Salamanca](#) the novice, **15** years young. Pomar won in 1946 for the first time the Spanish national championship.

The busiest players on *international* chess circuit in 1946 are Najdorf (who took four clear major caps: Barcelona, Prague, Rio and Mar del Plata), Euwe, O'Kelly, Stoltz, Guimard, and Martin Christoffel.

\* = series still existing (Hastings, today as an Open, Beverwijk / Wijk aan Zee, and U.S. Open)

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## Groningen (Staunton Memorial)

	Player	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Total	Place
01	 Mikhail Botvinnik (USSR)	*	½	1	0	1	1	½	1	1	½	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	14½	1
02	 Max Euwe (NED)	½	*	0	½	1	1	½	½	½	1	0	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14	2
03	 Vasily Smyslov (USSR)	0	1	*	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	12½	3
04	 Miguel Najdorf (ARG)	1	½	½	*	1	1	½	0	½	½	½	½	0	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	11½	4–5
05	 László Szabó (HUN)	0	0	½	0	*	1	½	0	1	0	1	½	1	1	½	1	½	1	1	1	11½	4–5
06	 Isaac Boleslavsky (USSR)	0	0	0	0	0	*	½	1	1	1	1	1	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	11	6–7
07	 Salo Flohr (USSR)	½	½	½	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	0	½	½	1	½	1	½	½	1	1	11	6–7
08	 Erik Lundin (SWE)	0	½	½	1	1	0	½	*	½	0	½	1	0	1	0	½	½	1	1	1	10½	8–9
09	 Gösta Stoltz (SWE)	0	½	½	½	0	0	½	½	*	1	½	½	1	½	1	1	0	½	1	1	10½	8–9
10	 Arnold Denker (USA)	½	0	½	½	1	0	½	1	0	*	0	½	0	½	1	½	½	1	1	½	9½	10
11	 Alexander Kotov (USSR)	1	1	½	½	0	0	1	½	½	1	*	½	0	½	0	1	½	0	1	0	9½	10
12	 Savielly Tartakower (FRA)	0	½	½	½	½	0	½	0	½	½	½	*	1	½	½	1	1	½	½	½	9½	10
13	 Čeněk Kottbauer (CSK)	0	0	0	1	0	½	½	1	0	1	1	0	*	1	1	0	½	½	0	1	9	
14	 Daniel Yanofsky (CAN)	1	0	½	0	0	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	0	*	½	1	1	1	½	½	8½	
15	 Ossip Bernstein (FRA)	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	1	0	0	1	½	0	½	*	½	½	½	0	0	7	
16	 Carlos Guimard (ARG)	0	0	½	½	0	½	0	½	0	½	0	0	1	0	½	*	1	½	½	1	7	
17	 Milan Vidmar (YUG)	0	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	0	½	0	½	0	*	½	½	0	6½	
18	 Herman Steiner (USA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	0	1	½	½	0	½	½	½	*	1	½	6	
19	 Albéric O'Kelly de Galway (BEL)	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	1	½	1	½	½	0	*	1	5½	
20	 Martin Christoffel (SUI)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	1	½	0	½	1	0	1	½	0	*	5	

Notes: The brilliancy prize at Groningen was won by Yanofsky (at age of 21) for his game, defeating Botvinnik. // Mikhail Botvinnik wins at Groningen (Staunton Memorial), held in August and September 1946, it was certainly the strongest tournament of the year. Although the field was impressive (note: only one player from the hosting nation), three top players were not present: From the United States [Samuel Reshevsky](#) and [Reuben Fine](#) were missing, from the Soviet Union [Paul Keres](#) was absent as the Soviet authorities did not let him play outside the country during this period, in other words: Both the winners of AVRO 1938 (Keres & Fine), did not play at Groningen!!

## The World Tournament, Groningen "Staunton Memorial" (VIII-IX, 1946)

## Preliminaries

Hastings 1945-6 and London 1946 had tried in vain to get some of the top Soviets to play in their events. To organise a truly World class event they had to be on board. Only two weeks before the tournament was due to start it still wasn't certain that the Soviets would send anyone, and there was a threat that an upcoming USSR vs. USA match would clash taking even more players away. However then suddenly the Russians announced that they would send 5 or 6 players, everything suddenly came together and the event was on.



In retrospect there were a number of elite players missing: **Keres**, **Reshevsky** and **Fine** being the most prominent. Fine declined the invitation and the Russians forbid Keres to travel for some time after annexing Estonia. However this was a very strong event and one that was used to finally establish the invitees to the FIDE World Championship Tournament in 1948 (they used a combination of the results from this event and those from AVRO 1938).

As the organisers were promised five or six "Russian players" they assumed the smaller number but they thought that if six did come they could expand the event to a 22 round event!

Only five Russians arrived but they insisted that there be 19 rounds as advertised. This unfortunately meant that 21 invited players turned up at the opening ceremony for only 20 places ☹.

The unlucky man was Prins from The Netherlands (Euwe considered pulling out but the Russians definitely wanted him to play). He was promised an invitation to the big International Tournament in Russia the following year, but this didn't materialise in the end.



The players at Groningen 1946 tournament. Photo unknown, Wikipedia

Some player portraits  
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**Vassily Smyslov**, born in 1921, died in 2010. In the radio match of the previous year he beat Reshevsky twice. His result in this event, it was his first individual international Tournament, gained him an invitation to the 1948 Match Tournament, the only player who emerged after the AVRO 1938 tournament to be invited.

**Miguel Najdorf**, born in Poland in 1910, died in 1997. Najdorf's international career was halted by the war. He moved from Poland to Buenos Aires in 1939 and was maybe already much a businessman first and a chessplayer second. Criticised at the time for his lack of concentration he played speed chess between rounds, especially for money, his loud and open character made him popular with the crowds, something which has not changed his lifetime.

**Laszlo Szabo**, born in 1917, died in 1998, was just achieving a large reputation as a great attacking player before the outbreak of the second World War. He emerged as a strong player in the Olympiads of 1935 and 1937. He won Hastings 1938-9 above Euwe and came second equal with Stahlberg in the Kemerli-Riga tournament of 1939. As a Jew he was called up for forced labour service in September of that year. His weight fell to 7 stones and several times was on the front line (unarmed). He only arrived home on 17th October 1945. Szabo immediately returned to Professional Chess. Given the privations from which he was lucky to survive, he scored a good result. Szabo was expected to become one of the great players in the future.

**Arnold Denker**, born in 1914, died in 2005. This tournament was played at the height of Denker's strength. He was US Champion in 1944 and retained it in a match in 1946. At Groningen he started well to share 3rd until a bad blunder in round 11 against Euwe spoilt his mood. He simply had a mental blackout (he claims he received a telephone call during the game telling him that he would be only board 3 behind Fine and Reshevsky for the upcoming match against the Russians. As reigning US Champion, Denker thought he should have board one). Denker scored only 2.5/8 in spite of having played most of the leaders, in the remaining rounds to subside to only a 50% score.

**Daniel Yanofsky**, born in Poland in 1925, died in 2000. Moved almost immediately to Canada and at the age of 14 became a star at the Buenos Aires Olympiad where he scored 14.5/16 on board 2. This tournament and the Interzonal in 1948 and in 1962 were the strongest events he played in. He was expected to become one of the World's great chess players, instead he turned his attention to being a lawyer, his results in his exams towards the end of the decade were outstanding. At the time of this event was studying medicine.

**Martin Christoffel**, born in 1922, died in 2001, had been champion of Switzerland in 1945. In retrospective, he is the only player in the Groningen field, never to become a GM (he was awarded the IM title in 1952). Some unfortunate opening preparation, and later flu (from which several players suffered), condemned him to finishing last at 5/19, only half a point behind O'Kelly - still beating as an amateur player well reputed competitors such as Kotov, Vidmar, and Bernstein in their individual games at Groningen.

The Tournament

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The event was dominated by Botvinnik in the early rounds. After 8 rounds it seemed quite clear he would just run away with the tournament. He was a point and a half clear and continued in style.

Botvinnik was playing uncompromising chess and his only troubles came when he got into time pressure. However then he lost two games in a row in round 14 to Kotov and in round 15 to Yanofsky.

Euwe created a good impression he was especially hard on the tail end of the tournament. Many were quite hopeful that he might regain the World Title.

He doggedly pursued Botvinnik catching and overtaking him after his losses in rounds 14 and 15. However having reached this position he was content to draw. Botvinnik picked himself up and started winning again. Going into the final round after winning rounds 16, 17 and 18 whilst Euwe drew, left Botvinnik half a point up. What happened was a major surprise. Both players lost: Botvinnik was outplayed by Najdorf, but Euwe blundered to lose in an even position against Kotov. Thus after falling over the line, Botvinnik took the event.

Smyslov was a solid sole 3rd. He revealed some of his new ideas in the Gruenfeld in this event.

The two future World Champions and the one past Champion finished 1st to 3rd in the event. For Botvinnik, it was his first outright victory outside the Soviet Union, on his road to the World Chess Championship; for Euwe, it was his last big international success.

As mentioned, the winners of AVRO 1938, *Keres & Fine*, they both did not participate at Groningen 1946, neither did *Reshevsky*, meaning actually, three (out of five) players from the forthcoming 1948 FIDE World Championship Tournament, were **not present at Groningen!**

<http://www.theweekinchess.com/html/twic98.html> report by Marc Crowther (plus own additions)

Prague (Karel Treybal Memorial, aka Karel Treybal / Vera Menchik Memorial)

## Prague 1946

**Dates:** October 2 - 22  
**Note:** Treybal Memorial  
**Source:** Di Felice p.285, C. Sericano file, Chess Library archive file

Opp																
Player	Naj	Sto	Tri	Gli	Fol	Gol	Pac	Saj	Kat	Kot	Zit	Gui	Opo	Roh	Grand Total	
Najdorf, Miguel	xxx	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10.5	
Stoltz, Goesta	0.5 xxx		1	1	0.5	1	0	1	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.5	9	
Trifunovic, Petar	0.5	0 xxx		0.5	0	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	
Glorigic, Svetozar	1	0	0.5 xxx		0.5	1	1	1	0.5	1	0	1	0.5	0.5	8.5	
Foltys, Jan	0.5	0.5	1	0.5 xxx		1	0	1	1	0.5	0	0.5	1	1	8.5	
Golombek, Harry	0	0	0.5	0	0 xxx		0.5	0.5	0	1	1	1	1	1	6.5	
Pachman, Ludek	0	1	0.5	0	1	0.5 xxx		1	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	1	6	
Sajtar, Jaroslav	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	0 xxx		0.5	1	1	1	1	1	6	
Katetov, Miroslav	0	0.5	0	0.5	0	1	0.5	0.5 xxx		0.5	1	0	0	1	5.5	
Kottnauer, Cenek	0	1	0	0	0.5	0	0.5	0	0.5 xxx		1	0.5	0.5	1	5.5	
Zita, Frantisek	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0 xxx		0.5	1	0	4.5	
Guimard, Carlos	0	0	0	0	0.5	0	1	0	1	0.5	0.5 xxx		1	0	4.5	
Opocensky, Karel	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	1	0	1	0.5	0	0 xxx		0.5	3.5	
Rohacek, Ivan	0	0.5	0	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.5 xxx		3.5	
Grand Total	2.5	4	4	4.5	4.5	6.5	7	7	7.5	7.5	8.5	8.5	9.5	9.5	91	

Verified: 2/2/2011

Confidence level: 3

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Minev, Chess Library, [www.thechesslibrary.com/files/1946Prague.htm](http://www.thechesslibrary.com/files/1946Prague.htm), print screen by Mark Weeks

## Barcelona 1946

**Najdorf** wins in Barcelona (ahead of Yanofsky, incl. Guimard, Medina, O'Kelly, Wade, and Pomar)

nº	Jugadores	País	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Punt	Clas
1	O'Kelly	Bélgica		1	0	1	1	1	0	0,5	0,5	1	0	0	0,5	0	6,5	6º
2	Golmayo	España	0		0,5	0,5	1	0,5	0,5	1	0	0	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5	6	9º
3	Guimard	Argentina	1	0,5		1	1	0,5	0	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5	1	1	1	9	3º
4	Vilardebó	España	0	0,5	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1,5	14º
5	Pomar	España	0	0	0	1		0	0,5	0	0	0	0,5	1	0	0	3	13º
6	Wood	Inglaterra	0	0,5	0,5	1	1		1	0,5	0	0	0	1	0,5	0	6	10º
7	Albareda	España	1	0,5	1	1	0,5	0		0,5	0	0,5	1	1	1	0,5	8,5	5º
8	F.J.Pérez	España	0,5	0	0,5	1	1	0,5	0,5		0	0	1	0,5	1	0	6,5	8º
9	Najdorf	Argentina	0,5	1	0,5	1	1	1	1	1		1	0,5	1	1	1	11,5	1º
10	Medina	España	0	1	0,5	1	1	1	0,5	1	0		1	1	1	0	9	4º
11	Llorens	España	1	0,5	0,5	1	0,5	1	0	0	0,5	0		1	0,5	0	6,5	7º
12	Wade	N.Zelanda	1	0,5	0	0	0	0	0	0,5	0	0	0		1	0	3	12º
13	Cherta	España	0,5	0,5	0	1	1	0,5	0	0	0	0	0,5	0		0,5	4,5	11º
14	Yanofsky	Canadá	1	0,5	0	1	1	1	0,5	1	0	1	1	1	0,5		9,5	2º

<http://krugercwb.blogspot.ch/2012/07/ajedrez-torneo-internacional-de-ajedrez.html> (no longer existing)

## Mar del Plata 1946

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1	Najdorf, Miguel	ARG	*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	½	½	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	16.0
2	Stahlberg, Gideon	SUE	0	*	1	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	½	½	1	1	13.0
3	Michel, Paul	ARG	0	0	*	½	½	½	1	0	½	½	1	0	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	11.0
4	Guimard, Carlos	ARG	0	½	½	*	½	½	½	1	½	0	½	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	½	10.5
5	Bolbochan, Jacobo	ARG	0	½	½	½	*	0	1	½	½	1	½	½	1	½	½	½	1	½	½	10.0
6	Luckis, Marcos	ARG	0	½	½	½	1	*	0	½	0	1	1	½	0	½	½	½	1	1	1	10.0
7	Corte, Cesar	ARG	0	½	0	½	0	1	*	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	10.0
8	Hounie F., Carlos	URU	0	0	1	0	½	½	0	*	½	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	½	1	1	10.0
9	Pilnik, Herman	ARG	½	0	½	½	½	1	1	½	*	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	9.5
10	Reinhardt, Enrique	ARG	½	½	½	1	0	0	0	0	1	*	½	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	9.0
11	Letelier, Rene	CHI	0	½	0	½	½	0	1	1	1	½	*	1	0	0	0	1	0	½	1	8.5
12	Maderna, Carlos H.	ARG	1	0	1	0	½	½	0	1	0	1	0	*	0	½	½	0	0	1	1	8.0
13	Iliesco, Juan	ARG	0	0	0	½	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	*	1	1	½	0	0	0	8.0
14	Souza Mendes, Joao	BRA	0	0	½	½	½	½	1	0	1	0	1	½	0	*	0	½	½	½	1	8.0
15	Sanguinetti, Renato	ARG	0	0	0	½	½	½	1	0	0	0	1	½	0	1	*	½	½	1	1	8.0
16	Rocas, Orlando	BRA	0	½	0	0	½	½	0	0	0	0	0	1	½	½	½	*	1	1	½	6.5
17	Garcia Vera, Romeo	ARG	0	½	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	1	1	1	½	½	0	*	½	0	5.5
18	Maccioni, Alejandro	CHI	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	1	1	½	0	1	½	0	0	½	*	0	5.0
19	Bauza, Lorenzo	URU	0	0	0	½	½	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	½	1	1	*	4.5

<http://storiascacchi.altervista.org/storiascacchi/tornei/1900-49/1946mplata.htm>

[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tournoi\\_de\\_Mar\\_del\\_Plata](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tournoi_de_Mar_del_Plata) (tournament survey and winner statistics)

[www.endgame.nl/Argentina.html](http://www.endgame.nl/Argentina.html) (survey of Mar del Plata & Buenos Aires tournament, Jan van Reek)



## Rio de Janeiro 1946

### Torneio Internacional (16 dez / 29 dez)

C	Jogador	P	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	Pts
1	Miguel Najdorf	ARG	*	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8.5
2	Erich Eliskases	AUT	½	*	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	7.5
3	Walter Oswaldo Cruz	BRA	0	0	*	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	6.0
4	Thomás Accioly Borges	BRA	0	1	0	*	½	0	½	½	1	1	4.5
5	João de Souza Mendes	BRA	0	0	1	½	*	1	0	0	½	1	4.0
6	Teotônio Vasconcellos	BRA	0	0	0	1	0	*	½	½	1	1	4.0
7	Jayme Schreibman Moses	BRA	0	0	0	½	1	½	*	1	½	0	3.5
8	José Thiago Mangini	BRA	0	0	0	½	1	½	0	*	0	1	3.0
9	Oswaldo Cruz Filho	BRA	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	1	*	½	2.5
10	Heitor Ribas	BRA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	½	*	1.5

[www.brasilbase.pro.br/tb1946rj.htm](http://www.brasilbase.pro.br/tb1946rj.htm). For the *Alekhine Memorial* at Rio de Janeiro in the same year, played without Najdorf, soon after Alekhine's death, see <http://www.brasilbase.pro.br/erjt46rj.htm>.

## Hastings 1946

 Hastings International Chess Congress 1945/46

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	
1	<b>Tartakower, Xavier (FRA)</b>	*	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	½	1	9.5/11
2	Ekstrom, Folke (SWE)	0	*	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9.0/11
3	Euwe, Max (NED)	1	0	*	½	½	1	½	0	1	½	1	1	7.0/11
4	Steiner, Herman (USA)	0	1	½	*	0	1	½	1	0	1	1	1	7.0/11
5	Denker, Arnold (USA)	0	0	½	1	*	½	1	½	½	1	1	1	7.0/11
6	Aitken, James (SCO)	0	0	0	0	½	*	½	1	1	1	1	1	6.0/11
7	Prins, Lodewijk (NED)	0	0	½	½	0	½	*	1	1	½	0	1	5.0/11
8	Thomas, George (ENG)	0	0	1	0	½	0	0	*	0	1	1	½	4.0/11
9	Christoffel, Martin (SUI)	0	0	0	1	½	0	0	1	*	0	1	0	3.5/11
10	Mieses, Jacques (ENG)	0	0	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	*	½	½	3.0/11
11	Devos, Paul (BEL)	½	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	½	*	½	2.5/11
12	Sergeant, Edward (ENG)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	1	½	½	*	2.5/11

➔ Inception of the FIDE GM and IM titles in 1950. Hastings traditionally invited many national champions:  
 Max Euwe, World Chess Champion, GM at its inauguration, national career record: 13-times Dutch champion  
 James Aitken, national career record: 10-times Scottish champion  
 Paul Devos, national career record: 7-times Belgian champion  
 Martin Christoffel, IM in 1952, national career record: 4-times Swiss champion  
 Savielly Tartakower, GM at its title inauguration; career record: 2-times Polish plus French champion  
 George Alan Thomas, IM at its title inauguration, national career record: 2-times British champion  
 Folke Ekström, IM at its title inauguration, national career record: 2-times Swedish champion  
 Arnold Denker, IM at its title inauguration, GM Hon. later; national career record: 2-times US champion  
 Herman Steiner, IM at its title inauguration; national career record: 1-time US champion  
 Lodewijk Prins, IM at its title inauguration, GM Hon. later; national career record: 1-time Dutch champion  
 Jacques Mieses, GM at its title inauguration; national career record: Berlin city champion  
 Edward Sergeant, national career record: London city champion as possibly best achievement

Source: La grande storia degli scacchi

<http://storiascacchi.altervista.org/storiascacchi/tornei/1900-49/194546hastings.htm>

**Hastings has been going on for three different centuries!!!** [www.chessdiagonals.ch/402840520](http://www.chessdiagonals.ch/402840520)



## London 1946 (Victory Tournament, aka Sunday Chronicle Tournament)

In January 1946, less than one week after [Hastings \(1945/46\)](#), the newspaper *Sunday Chronicle* sponsored a Victory Tournament in Farringdon-street Memorial Hall, London, with Walter Hatton-Ward as director. The idea was to celebrate the end of the war, with attendance of masters from all over the world. Things had been lined up for the biggest of events, but eventually it became clear that the Russians (incl. [Mikhail Botvinnik](#)) would not turn up. Moreover, the participation of the invited World Champion [Alexander Alekhine](#) had been protested against by [Max Euwe](#) and the Dutch Chess Federation and by [Arnold Denker](#) and the USCF because of alleged Nazi sympathies. In November 1945, Hatton-Ward wrote to Alekhine and cancelled the invitation.

The participation of 14-year-old Arturito Pomar (born September 1, 1931 in Palma de Mallorca) attracted public attention, especially when he was pitted against older players.

As a curiosity, the players were divided into two supposedly equally strong groups, labelled "A" and "B" !!

Herman Steiner won the A Group ahead of Ossip Bernstein and third Savielly Tartakower, and garnered one of the two silver cups given by (James) Gomer Berry, 1st Viscount Kemsely. The second cup went to the winner of the parallel section (that time called B group), Max Euwe, ahead of surprising Swiss master Martin Christoffel as sole second followed by Arnold Denker as clear third. (text taken from chessgames.com, source see below)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=81949>

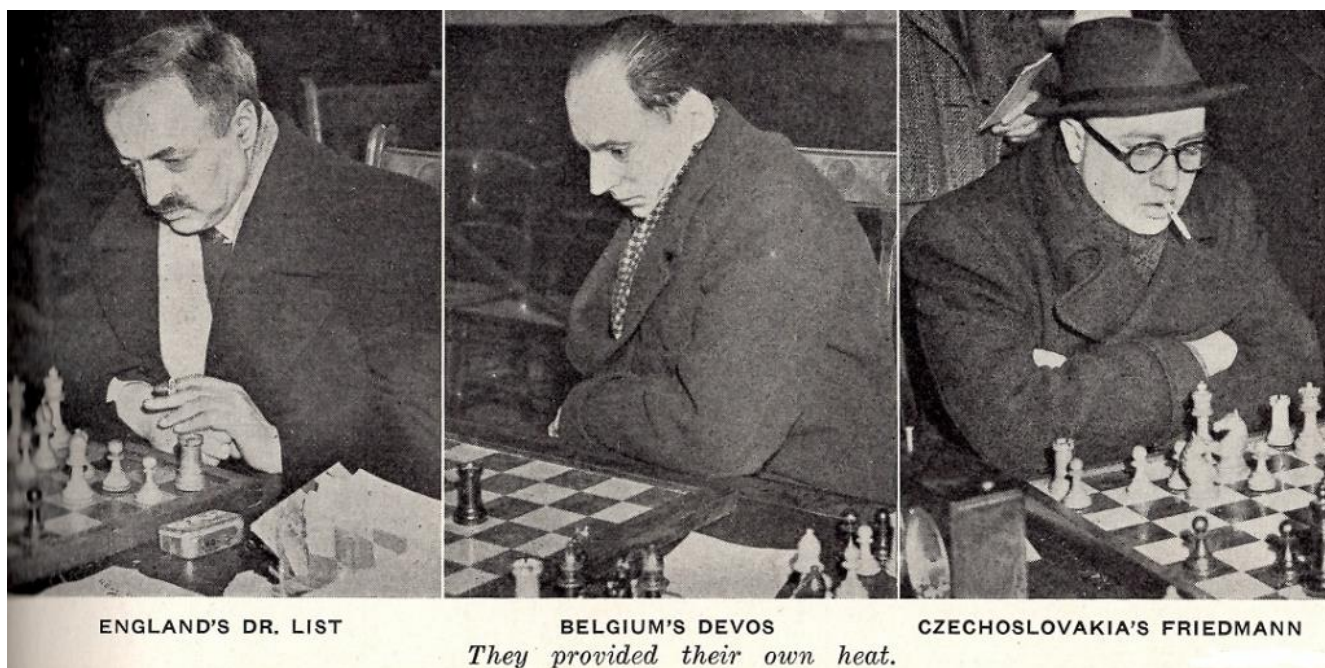
<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=81950>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London\\_Victory\\_Celebrations\\_of\\_1946](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_Victory_Celebrations_of_1946)

## Winter Was Coming

'Tournament conditions at London (1946) were difficult. We played in a large room in Memorial Hall. The ventilation was magnificent, but there was no fuel for heating! To keep warm, each player bundled up in his coat, hat, scarf and gloves!'

Herman Steiner  
*Chess Review* (March 1946)



<http://www.kingpinchess.net/2016/03/winter-was-coming/>

Note. Paul List (1887-1954), a Russian Jewish chess player, born in Odessa, Ukraine (then [Russian Empire](#)) who drew a match (+4 -4 =1) with [Grigory Levenfish](#) in 1910. List went later to Germany, and emigrated to Britain in 1937 but never took British citizenship.

Notable chess games in the year 1946, a selection including matches and team events:

**Botvinnik vs. Yanofsky 0-1** (Brilliancy prize at Groningen 1946)

**The most famous game in Canadian chess history!**

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1032134>

<http://www.canadianchess.info/articles/CanadianChessNewsletter86GC.html>

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1946&dat=19460904&id=rX4tAAAAIBAJ&sjid=CJkFAAIAIBAJ&pg=5685,497871&hl=de>

**Christoffel vs. Mieses 0-1** (Brilliancy prize at Hastings 1945/46)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1155597>

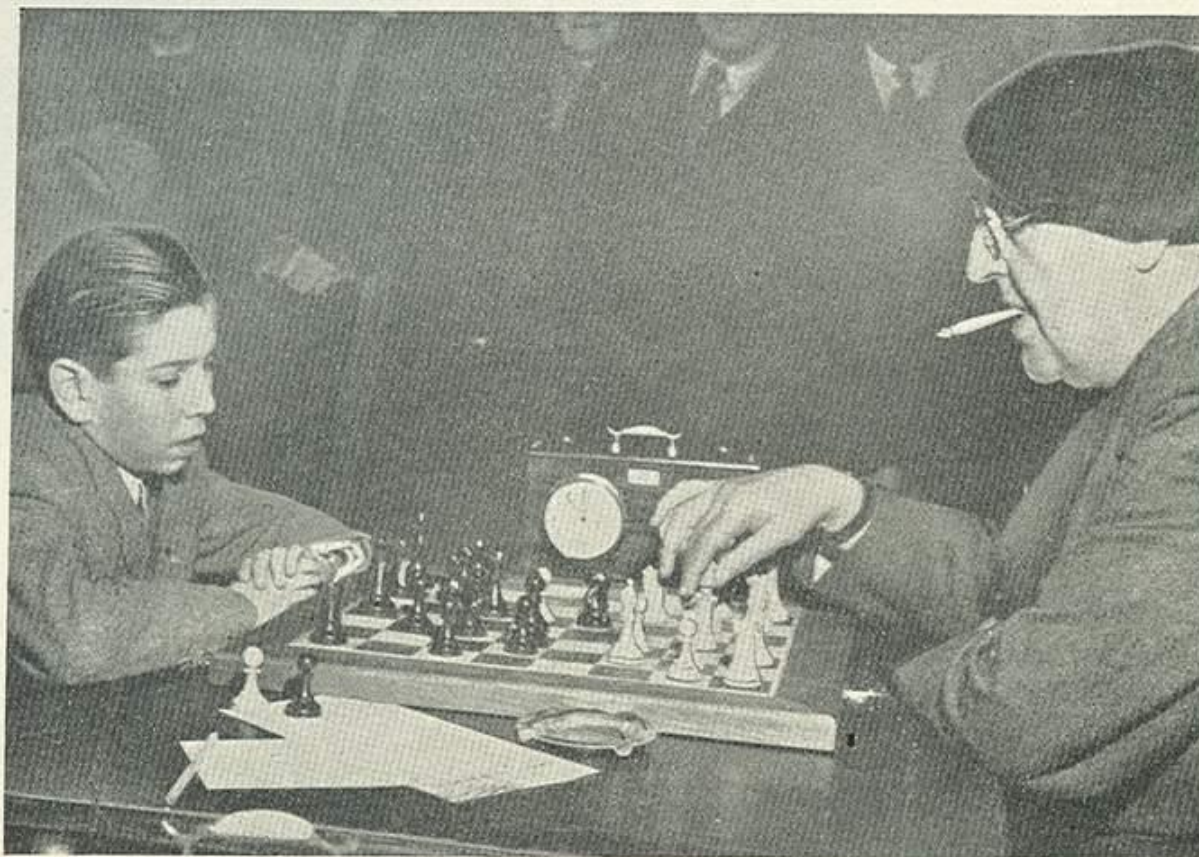
<http://www.ajedrezdeataque.com/04%20Articulos/13%20Mieses/Christoffel-Mieses.htm>

**van Scheltinga vs. Euwe 0-1** (Brilliancy prize at Maastricht 1946)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1042622>

**Pomar (\*1931) vs. Bernstein (\*1882) 1½– ½** (The clash of generations: London 1946)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1723518>



Boy prodigy Arturito Pomar drew his game in the first round of the London Victory Tournament against seasoned veteran Dr. Bernstein. Now 14, Arturito has been playing for 11 years.

Picture is from London 1946, but shows apparently not the official game (Pomar with white!?)

<http://www.chesshistory.com/winter/winter70.html> (cp. Edward Winter's Chess Notes 6573)

Some footage of Pomar playing in London in 1946:

<http://www.britishpathe.com/video/wot-no-thrills-version-2>

**Lupi vs. Alekhine 0-1** (Estoril match (4), the last game played (recorded) by Alexander Alekhine)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1013634>

**Botvinnik vs. Euwe ½-½** (Groningen, a crucial rook ending between two World Champions)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1032141>



**Boleslavsky vs. Smyslov 0-1** (Groningen 1946, an excellent game by young Smyslov)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1125505>

This game was part of [Groningen \(1946\)](#), the first great post-World War II international chess congress. This was also the first major individual event, Smyslov played in outside of the USSR.

**Lundin vs. Botvinnik 0-1** (Groningen 1946, great strategical game from Botvinnik)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1032130>

**Najdorf vs. Botvinnik 1-0** (Groningen, last round)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1100951>

**Kotov vs. Euwe 1-0** (Groningen, last round)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1042595>

**Bronstein vs. Katetov 1-0** (Prague vs. Moscow city match in Prague)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1033630>

Some people view Bronstein's games in the Prague-Moscow Match, 1946 as the inauguration of modern chess. Bronstein scored +4 -1 =1 in Prague (draw with Opocensky, loss to Katetov), and +6 -0 =0 in Moscow. It was in this match that Bronstein made KID a fierce weapon. Czechs were impressed by Bronstein's play and, when Soviets failed nominate Bronstein for the first Interzonal (Salsjobaden, 1948), Czech used one of their own slots to rectify the omission.

**C.H.O'D. Alexander vs. Botvinnik 1-0** (England vs. USSR match in London)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1032147>

**Keres vs. Fine 1-0** (USSR vs. USA match in Moscow)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1043952>

There were a series of matches played by the Soviets after the world war II when their collective strength became fully apparent:

1945 (September), USA-USSR *Radio match*, won by the USSR by 15.5 to 4.5

<http://al20102007.narod.ru/matches/1945/ursusa45.html>

**1946**, GB-USSR *Radio match*, won by the USSR 18-6

<http://al20102007.narod.ru/matches/1946/urseng46.html>

**1946**, Moscow, USSR-USA match, won by the USSR 12.5-7.5

<http://al20102007.narod.ru/matches/1946/ursusa46.html>

1947, London, GB-USSR match, won by the USSR 15-5

<http://www.olimbase.org/> (click on friendly matches)

**Robert Byrne vs. Hans Berliner 1-0** (47<sup>th</sup> U.S. Open 1946)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1080022>

Over-the-board chess before Hans Berliner was switching to correspondence chess, most notably remembered for his clear victory in the 5th World Correspondence Chess Championship in 1965.

**O'Kelly de Galway vs. Rubinstein 0-1** (Brussels 1946)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1329059>

The Belgians O'Kelly and Devos were students of legendary Akiba Rubinstein.

**Ossip Bernstein in Paris vs. Lajos Steiner in Sydney 1-0** (Australia vs. France radio match 1946)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1666769>

Moves were communicated by wireless ☺

**Herman Steiner vs. Savielly Tartakower 0-1** (Hastings 1945/46)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1325249&kpage=1#kibitzing>

**Grigory Levenfish vs. Georgy Lisitsin 1-0** (Leningrad 1946)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1090737>

**Ragozin vs. Bondarevsky 1-0** (Moscow 1946)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1283536&kpage=1>

[http://al20102007.narod.ru/matches/1946/ra\\_bo\\_46.html](http://al20102007.narod.ru/matches/1946/ra_bo_46.html) (friendly match, Ragozin won with 8-4)



**Petrosian vs. Korchnoi 1-0** (Leningrad 1946, Petrosian seventeen, Korchnoi fifteen years young)  
<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1080836>

**Korchnoi vs. Razov 1-0** (Leningrad 1946)  
<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1080836>

This game was played in the **1946 Leningrad Junior Championship**. From this tournament, Korchnoi qualified for the USSR Junior Chess Championship 1946, which Petrosian won with 13 wins and 2 draws. Korchnoi was in the bottom half with 4 wins, 1 draw, and 9 losses. The next year, Viktor Korchnoi won the 1947 USSR Junior Championship with 8 wins and 7 draws.