

TATA STEEL CHESS TOURNAMENT

2025 is seeing the 87th edition of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament. The world's best chess grandmasters and greatest emerging talents, hundreds of amateur players and thousands of spectators gather in Wijk aan Zee every January for one of the most prestigious events on the international chess calendar: the 'Wimbledon of chess'.



28
top chess players (14 Masters
and 14 Challengers)

1.700
entrants in amateur
tournaments

18.000
spectators at games at
De Moriaan and 'Chess on Tour'

4.000
visitors to 'Chess Festival'

12,3 million
livestream viewers

Background

The Tata Steel Chess Tournament is a world-famous annual chess tournament held in January at the De Mondriaan community centre in Wijk aan Zee. It is one of the world's biggest tournaments with the best players, and it attracts visitors from across the globe. The combined Dutch Olympic Committee and Sports Federation, NOC*NSF, has qualified the event as an elite sports event.

A rich history

The Tata Steel Chess Tournament has a long history. What began in 1938 as an employee tournament of the steel company has grown into a world-class international tournament. Grandmasters and amateurs alike are keen to note this event in their calendars every year. Since 2010, the tournament (formerly named Hoogovens and Corus) has been named after Tata Steel.

The tournament's masters group is known as one of the strongest tournaments on the chess

calendar. In recent decades, the Tata Steel Chess Tournament has attracted the biggest names in chess history and even helped them make great. Visitors to the tournament have witnessed the rise and dominance of players such as Viswanathan Anand of India, Anatoly Karpov and Gary Kasparov of Russia and Magnus Carlsen of Norway. And after Jan Timman in 1985, with Jorden van Foreest winning in 2021 and Anish Giri winning in 2023, there have also been recent Dutch successes.



8-TIME CHAMPION

Chess legend Magnus Carlsen of Norway has many records to his name. At the Tata Steel Chess Tournament too, he is a record holder in terms of the number of tournament victories. In 2022, he won the tournament for no less than the 8th time.

Creativity and innovation

Tata Steel chooses chess because chess focuses on strategic thinking and on finding creative solutions to complex issues. Tata Steel has that same focus.

Making steel is a high-tech process where innovation plays a crucial role. Tata Steel employees continuously try to come up with smart solutions to further improve processes and products.

Chess and the community

The local community is very important to Tata Steel. In January every year, during the usually quiet winter months, the tournament draws chess enthusiasts to the coastal village of Wijk aan Zee. It is a boost for the local economy, besides the cosy chess atmosphere that takes over the village.

The game of chess connects people from across the world, which is now more important than ever before. Through #ChessConnects, Tata Steel organises various projects together with its partners to get people to connect around chess, with a special focus on connecting young people. For example, the tournament is not complete without the annual Tata Steel Chess Festival.

During this two-day family festival, people get a chance to visit Tata Steel's site and children can take part in the Tata-Kids of Steel® games.



At Tata Steel, we endorse the philosophy that chess, exercise and creativity are key elements in the development and growth of children's brains.



AMATEURS ALONGSIDE GRANDMASTERS

The combination of grandmasters and amateurs playing at the same time in the same location is one of the unique features of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament. This combination symbolises the human connection that the tournament traditionally creates and is praised by grandmasters and amateurs alike. Combined with the thousands of spectators, this made the chess party complete.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

A fine example of creativity and innovation is the use of artificial intelligence (AI). Chess is one of the areas where this technology has already proven itself.

Tata Steel also uses AI in various of its innovation programmes for the continuous improvement of processes and the quality of steel products.

Check out the explanation of what AI can do within chess, for example in terms of fair play:

<https://tatasteelchess.com/video/anti-cheating-and-artificial-intelligence-tata-steel-chess/>

During the Chess Festival weekend, a wide range of activities are offered for children in a fun way: from ball sports, face painting, scavenger hunts and technical crafts to – of course – chess, at which they can win a real Tata-Kids of Steel medal.

Traditionally, the Tata-Kids of Steel® Youth Simultaneous Chess programme is also part of the chess tournament. This event sees youngsters from across the region play against a number of high-profile chess players in a simultaneous match.



87TH EDITION

At the 87th edition, we expect 28 world-class chess players and some 1700 amateur chess players. Of course, we also offer spectators the opportunity to attend the event, both live at De Moriaan in Wijk aan Zee and online.

The 87th edition of Tata Steel Chess Tournament will be held from 17 January to 2 February 2025. More details can be found at www.tatasteelchess.com

Want to find out more? Visit our website: tatasteelchess.com

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