

Chess-Tennis Masters in Vienna: 41 participants from 8 nations set a new record for participation.

Newcomer Alexander Gschiel dominates the 2023 Chess-Tennis Masters held at the WAC ahead of Brazilian Ricardo Schutt, while International Chess Champion Veronika Exler wins the women's event.

From August 12-14, the ChessSports Association hosted the International Chess-Tennis Masters at the Wiener Athletiksport Club for the second time.

This combined competition of chess and tennis is becoming more and more popular not only in Austria. This is also reflected by the field of participants from 8 nations. With Canada and Brazil even two overseas nations were present.

On Saturday and Sunday, two preliminary tournaments were played in both chess and tennis, each with 7 rounds according to the Swiss system. The chess tournament was won by FIDE Master Alexander Gschiel ahead of Tobias Mayrhuber.

In the tennis tournament Niki Petschnig, ÖTV young talent Alexander Gschiel and Raphael Smekal achieved 6 victories each.

For the first 8 players* the KO quarterfinal pairings for the second phase of the tournament then followed from the overall ranking of both preliminary tournaments.

"The big goal of all participants* is to reach the co-phase of the tournament" tournament organizer Wolfgang Moser sums it up. "This is pure tactics and thrills! Tennis and chess are played alternately against the same opponent from then on. Even if you excel in chess or tennis, you can't afford any more weaknesses in the second discipline now!"

The men's final featured an Austrian-Brazilian pairing. Here Alexander Gschiel was able to show his strengths in both tennis and chess against Ricardo Schutt.

In the women's final, Annette Waaijbergen from Switzerland and Veronika Exler met in the final. Veronika Exler, with her international chess experience was able to successfully compensate for the still existing weaknesses in tennis. In a heartbeat final, she decided the chess match in her favour just seconds before another switch to tennis. ""I never imagined that I could decide the women's competition in my favour, so I am overjoyed" reads a beaming winner. "Next year I'll be back for sure and will take some coaching lessons in the winter and have the most important racket grips explained to me."

On Monday, the event was concluded with a chess-tennis doubles competition. "Already twelve teams participated this year." event organizer Wolfgang Moser is pleased. "This is an increase of almost 100% and shows that we have hit the mark with this format!" In all the matches, the teams played both chess and tennis against each other. "In this format, you have the extra kick in all matches because, unlike the individual competition, you always play both chess and tennis against the same team," Annette Waaijbergen and her partner Markus Regez summed it up. Superior winners were the Austrians Harald Schneider-Zinner /Nicolas Moser with 9 out of 10 possible points.

CSA President Harald Schneider-Zinner was also satisfied with the course of the event. "Over three days we had an excellent atmosphere among the participants* as well as the spectators," Schneider-Zinner sums up. "The enthusiastic members of the Vienna Athletics Club, who not only gave us a warm welcome but also followed the individual competitions with great interest, deserve special mention. The social side event for the accompanying persons of our participants was also great this year. With the support of BIG BUS TOURS VIENNA, they were able to get to know Vienna in one of the hop-on hop-off buses on Saturday afternoon. The social highlight was certainly the gala dinner with over 50 guests on Sunday. During the dinner the award ceremony of the individual competitions took place and additionally three one-week stays for 2 persons each in the Frangipani Apartments on Curaçao were raffled among all participants*."

Driven by the enthusiasm of all participants* we have already decided to set the date for the 3rd International Chess-Tennis Masters 2024 as **10.08. -12.08.2024.**

So, please save the date!

