

 **Kotronias Vasilios** (25.08.1964)



Greek GM (1990). He is a record ten-time national Greek champion in 1986, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 2006, 2010, and 2014.

In team chess, he has participated in many [Chess Olympiads](#) since 1984, including eight on top board, with a healthy overall plus score including two in 2000 & 2002 under the banner of Cyprus.

At the [European Team Chess Championships](#) in [León](#) 2001, he earned an individual silver medal on board one. He also earned a bronze medal for his performance on the second board at the Dresden Olympiad 2008 and a gold medal for his performance on the reserve board at the Warsaw European Team Championship 2013. He has participated in the 1997, 1999 and 2004 World Championships.

**Won or shared first places:** Nikaia (Open) 1984, **Athens Acropolis (Invitational, 12th) 1988**, Kavala (Open) 1991, Gausdal Troll Masters 1992 (among others, alongside with young Kramnik), Wijk aan Zee, Sonnevanck Master 1992 (closed invitation, ahead of joint Van Wely and Nijboer), Gausdal Troll Masters 1993, Komotini GP (Open) 1993, Corfu Open 1993, Gausdal International (Open) 1995, Ankara Zonal 1995 (shared), **Rishon Le Zion GM 1996** (with Alterman, ahead of Yudasin, 10 players), Korinthos Open 1997, Panormo Zonal 1998 (shared), Glifada Open 2001, **Gausdal Classics GM 2002** (with Kualots, best on tie-break, and Lie; 7./8. very young Carlsen), Thessaloniki, White Tower Open 2002, **Gibraltar Open 2003** (the inaugural edition of the series, with Short who lost to Kotronias in their direct game), **Athens Acropolis (Invitational, 18th) 2003**, Kavala Open 2003, **Hastings 2003/2004** (the last edition which has been played as a round robin, with Rowson, best on tie-break, ahead of Epishin, ten players), Korinthos Open 2004, Thessaloniki, Kalamaria Open 2005 and 2007, **Capelle-la-Grande-Open 2008** (shared with seven other players, Gashimov best on tie-break), Nikaia (Open) 2014, Vasilios Kotronias first at a **clean score of 9/9**, Ikaros Open (Aegean Op Ch) 2016. *Hellas rapid match in Athens 1997 vs. Karpov (+1-2=1).*

Best ELO rating: 2628 in 2008. Highest ELO ranking: no. 44= in FIDE list July – December 1996.

Famous games: → [Kotronias vs Short, 2003](#) 1-0 (Replay in Chessgames)

Vasilios Kotronias, at that time playing for Cyprus, won the very first [<Gibraltar Masters>](#) (Open, 59 players, 10 rounds): <http://theweekinchess.com/html/twic431.html#3> on tie-break over Nigel Short, beating his co-winner in the fifth round.

Of course, the Festival field in 2003 at Gibraltar's inaugural edition wasn't that large and that strong compared with today, but already pretty good mixed, and it's always nice to be the first name in the winner list of a traditional tournament series ☺

**Kotronias, Vasilios (2545) - Georgiev, Krum (2470)**, Karditsa Karditsa (1), 1994

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e6 6.g4 a6 7.g5 Nfd7 8.Be3 b5 9.a3 Bb7 10.h4 Nb6 11.h5 N8d7 12.g6 hxg6 13.hxg6 Rxh1 14.gxf7+ Ke7 15.Qg4 Qc8 16.Qxe6+ Kd8 17.Qe8+ Kc7 18.Ne6+ Kc6 19.Nd5 Rxf1+ 20.Kxf1 Nxd5 21.exd5+ Kxd5 22.Nxf8 Ne5 23.Rd1+ Ke4 24.Rd4+ Kf5 25.Rf4+ **1-0** → Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1084879>



Photo: Organizer

### **Vasilios Kotronias, Petra and Viktor Korchnoi at Gibraltar, La Caleta, in 2011**

→ Biggest successes: **Gibraltar Chess Congress 2003**, and **Hastings Chess Congress 2003/04**

### **Publications**

- *Kotronias, Vassilios (1994). Beating the Caro-Kann. Batsford Chess Library. [ISBN 978-0805032840](#).*
- *Kotronias, Vassilios (1996). Beating the Flank Openings. Batsford Chess Library. [ISBN 978-0805047318](#).*
- *Kotronias, Vassilios; Tzermiadianos, Andreas (2004). Beating the Petroff. Batsford. [ISBN 978-0713489194](#).*
- *Kotronias, Vassilios (2011). The Grandmaster Battle Manual. Quality Chess. [ISBN 978-1906552527](#).*
- *Kotronias, Vassilios (2013). Kotronias on the King's Indian. Fianchetto Systems. Quality Chess. [ISBN 978-1906552503](#).*
- *Kotronias, Vassilios; Logothetis, Sotiris (2013). Carlsen's Assault on the Throne. Quality Chess. [ISBN 978-1906552220](#). The principal book on the Anand vs. Carlsen match 2013.*
- *Kotronias, Vassilios (2014). The Sicilian Sveshnikov. Quality Chess. [ISBN 978-1907982927](#).*
- *Kotronias, Vassilios (2015). Kotronias on the King's Indian. Mar del Plata I. Quality Chess. [ISBN 978-1907982552](#).*
- *Kotronias, Vassilios (2015). Kotronias on the King's Indian. Mar del Plata II. Quality Chess. [ISBN 978-1907982569](#).*
- *Kotronias, Vassilios. Beating the Anti-Sicilians. Quality Chess. [ISBN 978-1-907982-63-7](#).*

### **Sources:**

<http://www.chessnc.com/biography/person-878.html> (CNC)  
[http://www.chessgames.com/player/vasilios\\_kotronias.html](http://www.chessgames.com/player/vasilios_kotronias.html) (Chessgames)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasilios\\_Kotronias](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasilios_Kotronias) (Wikipedia)  
<http://www.chessdom.com/gm-kotronias-perfect-in-nikaia/> (Chessdom)  
<https://kevinspraggettonchess.wordpress.com/2016/07/18/kotronias-wins-ikaros-international/>  
(Blog by Kevin Spraggett)  
<http://theweekinchess.com/html/twic431.html#3> (1st Gibraltar Chess Congress 2003)  
<http://theweekinchess.com/html/twic478.html#3> (79th Hastings Chess Congress, Premier 2003/04)