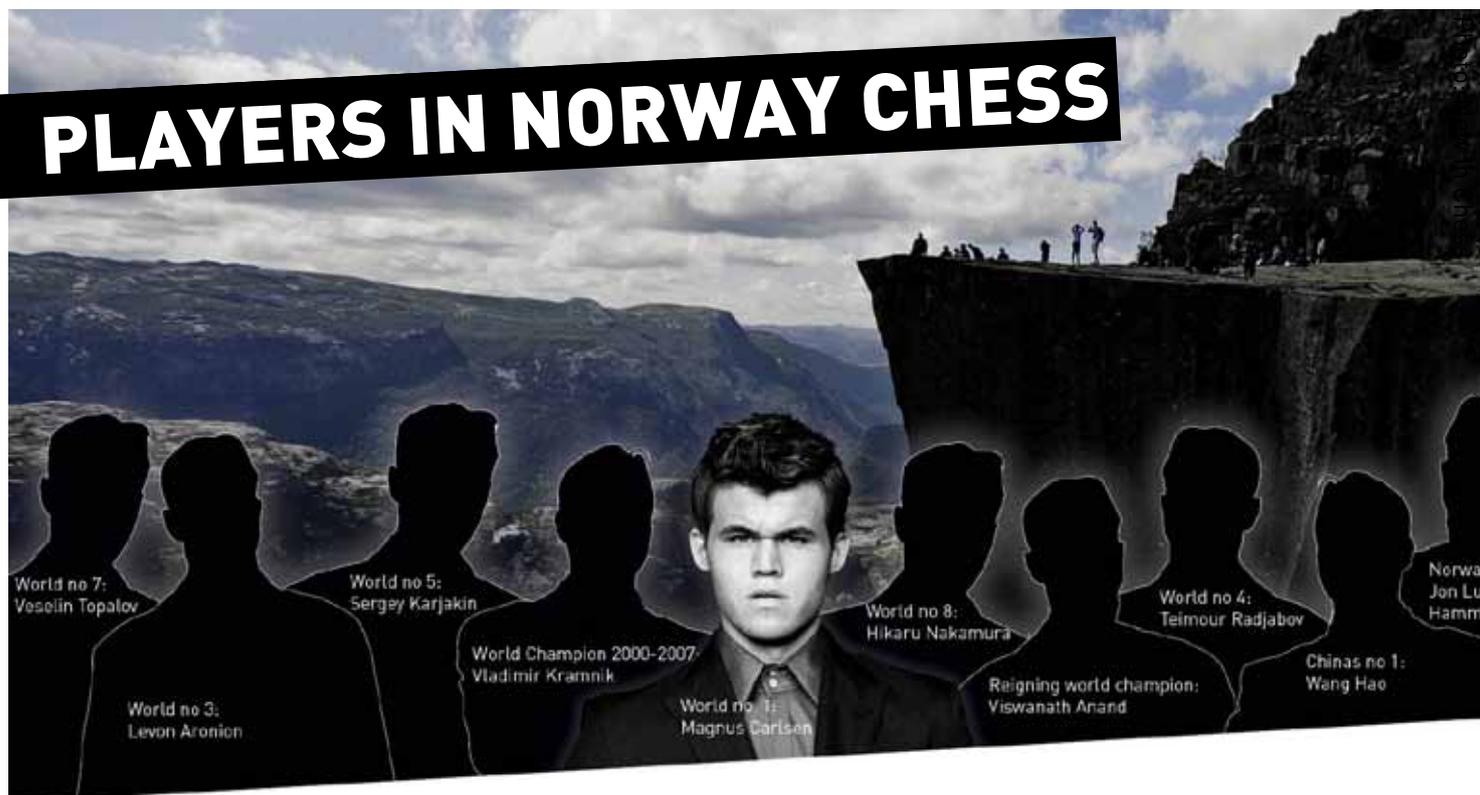


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PLAYERS IN NORWAY CHESS



Player	FIDE-rating: (Feb. 2013)
Magnus Carlsen	2872
Vladimir Kramnik	2810
Levon Aronian	2809
Teimour Radjabov	2793
Sergey Karjakin	2786
Viswanathan Anand	2780
Veselin Topalov	2771
Hikaru Nakamura	2767
Wang Hao	2743
Jon Ludvig Hammer	2629
Average rating:	2776,0

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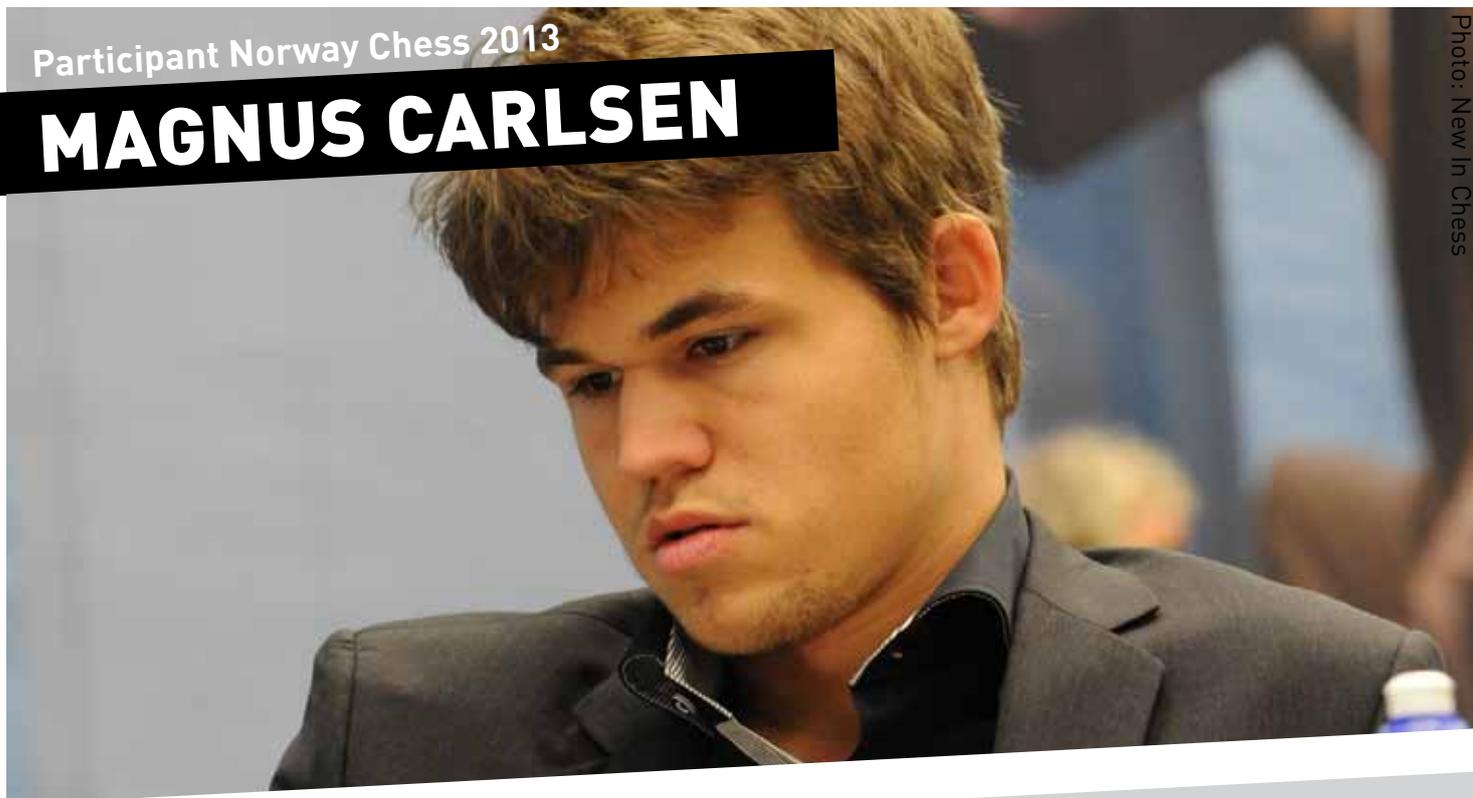
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MAGNUS CARLSEN

Photo: New In Chess



Country: Norway
Born: November 30th, 1990

FIDE rating February 2013: 2872
World ranking: 1st

Since 2010, Magnus Carlsen has dominated the chess world by winning almost every tournament he takes part in. Only 22 years old, the World Number One has already won 15 super tournaments. In the process he has broken Garry Kasparov's legendary all-time high rating record of 2851. Currently rated at 2872, more than 60 rating points ahead of number 2, he makes chess fans wonder about the new heights he will scale.

Having suffered only two losses in 2012, Magnus Carlsen is the clear favourite in this event. Yet, with every tournament the pressure increases and the big question is: Can he handle the pressure in the first classical super tournament in his home country?

More information:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnus_Carlsen

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VLADIMIR KRAMNIK



Photo: New In Chess

Country: Russia
Born: June 25th, 1975

FIDE rating February 2013: 2810
World Ranking: 2nd

The Norwegian chess audience gets a reunion with former World Champion Vladimir Kramnik 21 years after he won at Gausdal in 1992. The 37-year-old Russian, who became a father for the second time at the end of January, claimed the World Championship in 2000 by defeating Garry Kasparov in a match in London. He successfully defended the title against Peter Leko in 2006, but had to relinquish it when he finished behind Viswanathan Anand at the World Championship tournament in 2007 and lost the subsequent World Championship match against the same opponent in 2008.

In the past years he has shown excellent results, including wins in Dortmund (for the tenth time!) and London in 2011, and seen a return to good form. Last December, at the 2012 London Chess Classic he played great chess, but had to settle for second place behind Magnus Carlsen.

More information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir_Kramnik

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LEVON ARONIAN

Photo: New In Chess

Country: Armenia
Born: October 6th, 1982

FIDE Rating February 2013: 2809
World Ranking: 3rd

World number three Levon Aronian is considered one of Magnus Carlsen's toughest rivals. The two have clashed in several tough games since they first met in the 1st round of the FIDE World Championship in Libya in 2004. Aronian came out victorious after the tie break, but since then he has had to suffer on several occasions. Aronian, a major celebrity in his chess-loving home country Armenia, is along with Vladimir Kramnik considered to be Magnus

Carlsen's main competitor in the forthcoming Candidates' tournament in London, where the next challenger for the World Championship will be determined. He is one of six players who have managed to pass the magic 2800 mark.

More information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levon_Aronian

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TEIMOUR RADJABOV

Photo: New In Chess

Country: Azerbaijan
Born: March 12th, 1987

FIDE rating February 2013: 2793
World Ranking: 4th

25-year-old Teimour Radjabov comes from the strong chess nation of Azerbaijan and is one of the world's youngest Grandmasters ever. His international breakthrough came when at the age of 15 he defeated none other than Garry Kasparov in the famous Linares tournament in Spain. Later Radjabov made small but steady steps towards the absolute world top. His first triumph in a major tournament came in 2007 when he won the Corus tournament in Wijk aan

Zee together with Levon Aronian and Veselin Topalov.

Radjabov has been one of the World's top 10 players for quite some time now, but it's only in the last few years that he has managed to climb into the top 5.

More information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teimour_Radjabov

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SERGEY KARJAKIN



Photo: New In Chess

Country: Russia
Born: January 12th, 1990

FIDE rating February 2013: 2786
World Ranking: 5th

Ukrainian-born Sergey Karjakin, who now lives in Moscow and represents Russia, holds the record of the youngest Grandmaster in history. He earned that title in 2002 at the tender age of 12 years and seven months, six months quicker than Carlsen would achieve it in 2003.

His first major tournament win came in 2009 when he topped the Corus tournament in Wijk

aan Zee. In July 2011, he managed to get into the World's top 5 players for the first time.

In 2012 Karjakin became World Rapid Chess Champion, a full point ahead of Norway's own Magnus Carlsen.

More information:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergey_Karjakin

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VISWANATHAN ANAND

Photo: New In Chess

Country: India
Born: December 11th, 1969

FIDE rating February 2013: 2780
World Ranking: 6th

Anand has been one of the world's best players for more than two decades since he first qualified for the Candidates' matches. In 1995 he challenged Garry Kasparov for the PCA World Championship in New York. He lost that match and it was not until 2000 that he became World Champion for the first time.

Since 2007 he has been the reigning World Champion, a title he has won five times. He successfully defended the title against Vladimir Kramnik in 2008, against Veselin Topalov in 2010 and against Boris Gelfand in 2012.

Anand has struggled to keep up with the younger generation in recent years and his last victory in a major tournament dates back to Linares 2008. In Tata Steel Chess at the beginning of this year, however, the Indian saw a return to good form and showed his fans that he still hasn't forgotten how to move the pieces.

More information:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viswanathan_Anand

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VESELIN TOPALOV



Photo: New In Chess

Country: Bulgaria
Born: March 15th, 1975

FIDE rating February 2013: 2771
World Ranking: 7th

Since his early twenties, Topalov has been one of the best players in the world. His major accomplishment is becoming World Champion in 2005 after a crushing victory in the World Championship tournament in San Luis, Argentina. Bursting away with an incredible 6 ½ out of 7, he had pretty much already clinched the title when half of the tournament still had to be played.

Topalov dominated World Chess for a few years being the World Number One, but had to give

up the title as World Champion when he lost a scandal-riddled World Championship match against Kramnik in Elista in 2006.

Topalov has since lost ground in the World Rankings, but last year at the first leg of the FIDE Grand Prix in London, he showed that he is still capable of delivering top performances.

More information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veselin_Topalov

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HIKARU NAKAMURA

Photo: New In Chess

Country: USA

Born: December 9th, 1987

FIDE rating February 2013: 2767

World Ranking: 8th

25-year-old Hikaru Nakamura was born in Japan but moved to the U.S when he was two years old. At the age of 15 years and 79 days, he made history breaking Bobby Fischer's record as the youngest American Grandmaster ever.

The American gained the reputation of perhaps the strongest online blitz player in the world, when as "Smallville" he set several rating records on one of the biggest chess servers, the Internet Chess Club.

Hikaru Nakamura's first and greatest triumph over the board came in the 2011 Wijk aan Zee

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tournament, where he finished ahead of a strong field that included Anand, Carlsen, Aronian and Kramnik.

Known as an aggressive player who is always willing to take risks in order to win, Nakamura is a popular invitee for tournament organizers all over the world. In recent years, the American has visited Norway on three occasions, taking part in rapid and blitz events.

More information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hikaru_Nakamura

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WANG HAO

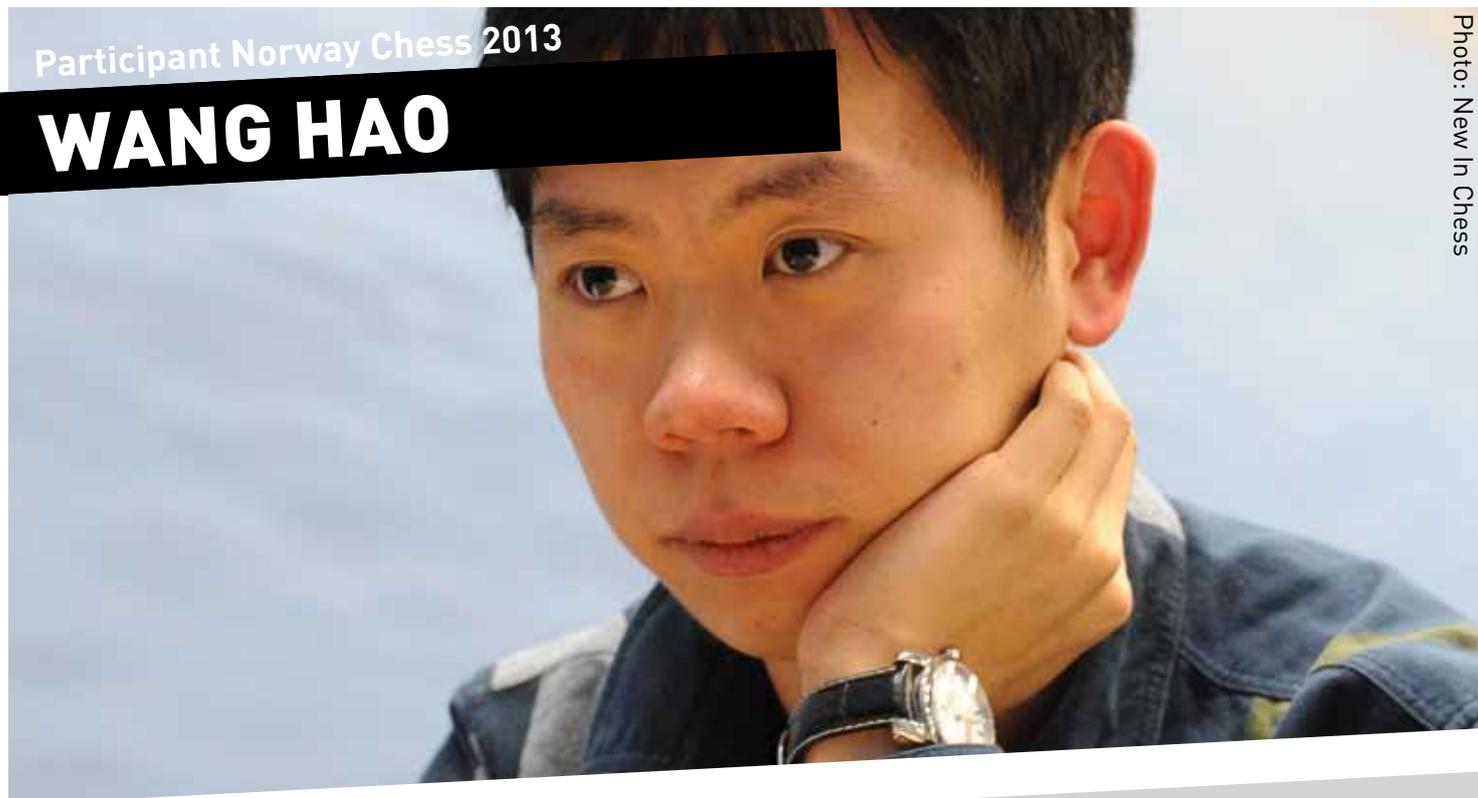


Photo: New In Chess

Country: China
Born: August 4th, 1989

FIDE rating February 2013: 2743
World Ranking: 16th

Wang became a Grandmaster at the age of 16 and rose in the world rankings by winning several strong open tournaments around the world. With an increasing number of strong Chinese players, Wang Hao has taken a step ahead of them with several strong performances to become the highest rated of them all.

Wang Hao won his first title as Chinese champion in 2010, but clearly the biggest

triumph of his career thus far came in Biel last summer where the Chinese number one finished first ahead of Magnus Carlsen.

More information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wang_Hao_%28chess_player%29

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JON LUDVIG HAMMER



Photo: New In Chess

Country: Norway
Born: June 2nd, 1990

FIDE Rating February 2013: 2629
World Ranking: 107th

Despite standing in the shadow of a certain world star, Jon Ludvig Hammer is considered to be one of Norway's greatest chess talents ever. After achieving the GM title in 2009, the student of journalism has had several strong performances. Perhaps his greatest achievement was a 2792 performance on Board 1 for Norway at the European Team Championship in 2009.

Jon Ludvig also defeated none other than Vassily Ivanchuk in the European Club Cup in 2010. At

the Arctic Chess Challenge rapid tournament in 2011, he defeated Magnus Carlsen for the first time in 10 years.

As he is the lowest rated player by far, Norway Chess will be Jon Ludvig's toughest challenge to date.

More information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jon_Ludvig_Hammer

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