



*2010 International Sants Chess Open: Spanish record with more than 600 participants*

### **CHESS REACHES THE MAJORITY**

**In its opening day, the 12th edition of International Sants Chess Open has beaten his own record. If some time it was, here and now chess has stopped being a smaller sport**

It's around the middle of August in Barcelona at four o'clock in the afternoon. Nobody in the street, not even in places usually crowded as the Sants Station. However, a little further an increasing crowd piles up in the entrance of the community centre Cotxeres of Sants to consult the pairings lists for today.

Nothing about one of those *speed meetings* for singles as usual in our days. These couples are going to be more than 5 or 10 face-to-face minutes, in fact they will share the next four or five hours together in front of a chess board.

Almost all couples leave finding little by little. They avert their eyes, any gesture able to betray the most minimum intention. A short handshake it's enough. Half past four, white pieces start in most of chess boards, except for few exceptions that already have a willing relay for the second round in the waiting lists.

Events as these one deny the popular belief that chess is a minority sport. There are chemist congresses and even music concerts with less assistance, but notwithstanding are considered minority, isn't it?

Until 29th August, the audience of this tournament will be able to follow breaking clichés, as "beauty is fallen out with intelligence", when there is much people pleasing to the eye in this place, or as chess is an static sport, when many players aren't able to remain seated more than two consecutive moves.

This first day of the most multitudinous Spain chess open and one of the five essential meeting of Europe, closes up with an artist collective exhibition's opening. The world of chess inspires all the works of this exhibition. "Don't forget –remembers Toni Ayza, the Open's director, in his speech– that artists as Duchamp were also great masters of chess".

Yesterday there were no surprises in the games results, at least in the tables of the stand. The great masters won, whereas they rivals could find consolation in the town festival that, one more time, coincide whit the championship.

**You can follow the directly broadcast and the live results in [www.directefcde.org/Sants2010/tfds.html](http://www.directefcde.org/Sants2010/tfds.html)**