

MEDIGAMES 2022 WORLD MEDICAL & HEALTH GAMES

Medigames 2022 – World Medical & Health Games (www.medigames.com) took place in Vila Real de Santo António in the first week of July, combining twenty two sports, chess among them.



Yellow Praia de Monte Gordo Hotel was the venue for the chess competition.

Played in a six round swiss system tournament, with 30 minutes per player with 5 seconds increment per move, the Tournament Director, Thibault Pagnier, was appointed by Corporate Sport Organization (<http://cso-events.fr>), the entity responsible for Medigames.

Loulé ++ Clube de Xadrez (www.torresdeloule.pt), a local chess club chose the chess boards, chess pieces, clocks and appointed one of his certified arbiters members as Chief Arbiter.



Marco Muccini (Medigames raising star) vs Sergio Pescio (Medigames veteran)

Thirteen players from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Spain, France, Italy, Norway and Poland registered to the competition. Among them there were some familiar faces from Medigames 2019, such as Sergio Pescio, chilean nephrologist, runner-up in the previous edition; Maurício Rebord, argentinian forensic pathologist, ranked third in the Medigames 2019; or Maurizio Muccini, an italian dentist, who had also competed in Budva, Montenegro, in 2019.

This year, in Portugal, the top seed was the italian odontologist Marco Muccini, with an official FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs) Rapid Chess Rating of 1848 points.

Tuesday, 5th July, was Chess competition Day 1.

After the first round it was clear that fair play and friendship would not affect the athletes' sporting performance, as all the games ended with a decisive results: there was not a single draw.

Second round was also played in Day 1 and more decisive results were seen.



First round games

After two games, four players had two victories: Marco Muccini, Sérgio Pescio, Maurício Rebord and Luís Flores (Chile). This platoon of leaders has only one point difference to Maurizio Muccini, Alexandre Abreu (Brazil), António Rabasco (Spain), Hampus Helle (Norway), Oscar Ystehede (Norway) and Ismet Bekhechi (France). Then came a third group of competitors composed by Belen Canizares (Spain), Jacques Vantomme (France) and Maciej Michalak (Poland).



Round 2: Luis Flores vs Belen Canizares

With one third of the tournament completed, it was predictable that the competition would be played until the last move of the last round, as it actually happened.

On Wednesday, Chess day 2, the competition had several moments of high level chess and games between some of the favorites began to happen.

In the third round, Marco Muccini beat Luís Flores and due to the draw in Board 2 between Sergio Pescio and Maurício Rebord, Marco became the only leader of the tournament. In the remaining games, all players with white pieces managed to take full advantage of the first move and Alexandre Abreu, António Rabasco and Ismet Bekhechi were all positioned in the first half of the standings table.

In that Chess Day 2 the tournament entered began its second half with the fourth round being played. Here, players with similar performances faced each other, and this was the round with the highest number of draws: Maurício Rebord drew in Board 1 with Marco Muccini...

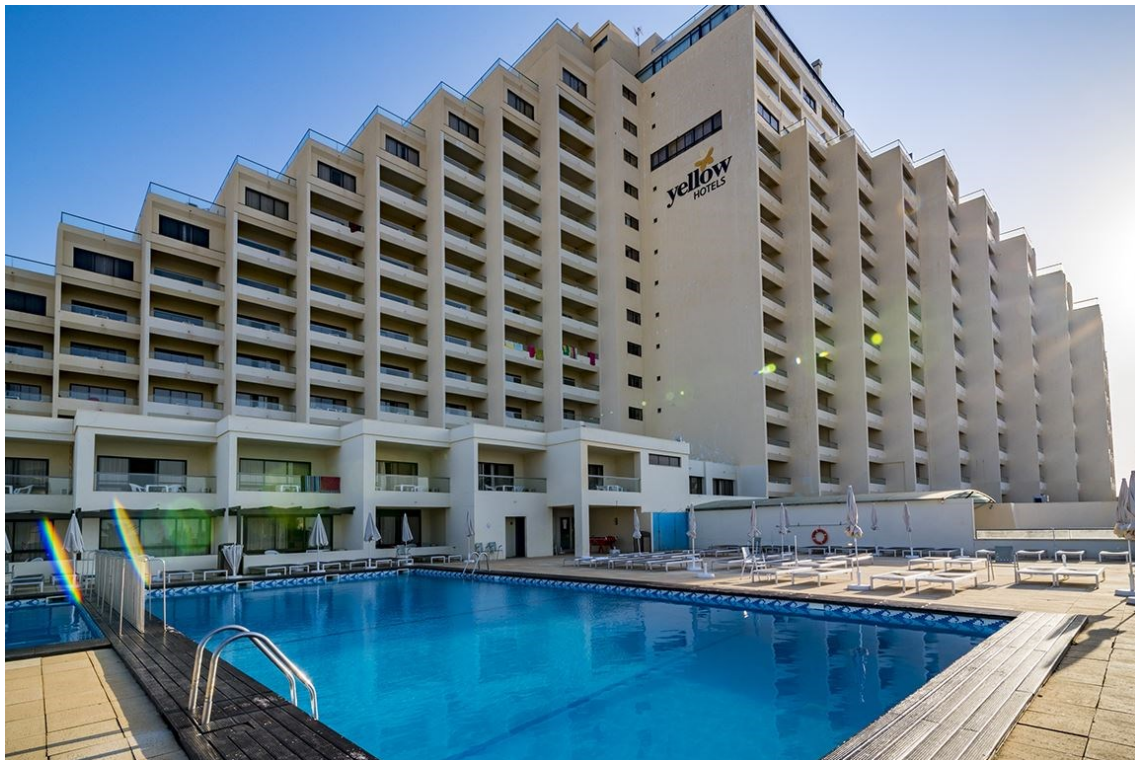


... and António Rabasco, in Board 2, interfered in the fight for medals when he managed to draw with Sérgio Pescio.

In Board 3, Ismet Bekhechi, with an inferior position in a Knight vs Bishop ending beat Luís Flores dramatically, as he forfeited on time.

In Board 4, Alexandre Abreu won against Hampus Helle, what catapulted the Brazilian player into the fight for the top spots.

In Board 5, Maurizio Muccini saw the victory slip through his fingers when he blundered an extra Rook and entered an opposite coloured Bishops endgame that Oscar Ystehede, although being a pawn down, managed to draw.



Between Day 2 and Day 3 we had a rest day.

Friday, 8th July, was Day 3 and the last day of the tournament. In round 5, Marco Muccini beat Sergio Pescio in Board 1, and Maurício Rebord beat Alexandre Abreu in Board 2, while in the third, Ismet Bekhechi and António Rabasco, showing great respect for the potential of each other's position, went for a draw by repetition of moves. Maurizio Muccini beat Luís Flores and in the Norwegian derby Oscar Ystehede beat Hampus Helle.

In Round 6, the last one, anything could still happen. Marco Muccini led with 4.5 points, just half a point ahead of Maurício Rebord, with the particularity of both players being undefeated. One point behind the leader, in third position, was Ismet Bekhechi. Expecting a slip from the top players and fighting for a place in the podium, there were three players with three points: Sergio Pescio, António Rabasco and Alexandre Abreu. Then there were two chess players with 50% of the points: Maurizio Muccini and Oscar Ystehede. The last segment of the league table was led by Luís Flores (2 points) who had a drop in performance on the second day, followed by Hampus Helle, Belen Canizares, Maciej Michalak and Jacques Vantomme.



On the last round, the final standings accountability was very close to being shuffled when, in Board 1, Ismet Bekhechi managed to take the favorite Marco Muccini to a Rook ending and the four Kingside pawns against Rook and the four pawns of the same wing, with the peculiarity that two of Ismet's pawns are doubled. The position was quite balanced and tending towards a draw. Meanwhile, in Board 2, Maurício Rebord's attack seemed to lose strength and a transition to an equal position was foreseen. But António Rabasco's King ventured in the sixth row and the argentine chess player launched a combination...



... that culminated in a decisive way.



Undeclared, with 5 points corresponding to 4 wins and 2 draws, Maurício Rebord was waiting for Marco Muccini's result, who would end up with the same 5 points at the top of the

classification if he drew his rook ending. However, in this decisive moment, Marco Muccini's experience stood out when he managed to convert the equal Rook ending in a victorious King and Pawns ending, achieving the victory and isolating himself in the first position with 5.5 points.



In board 3, Sérgio Pescio beat Maurizio Muccini in a nice attacking game, reaching 4 points.



As did Alexandre Abreu who, in Board 4, beat Oscar Ystehede.

On table 5, Luís Flores, a player who in a future edition has the potencial to reach a higher level, returned to triumphs finishing with three well-deserved points.

After Round 6, Alexandre Azevedo, from <https://sports-ventures.com>, consecrated the medalists, awarding:



Gold medal to Marco Muccini (Italy, 5.5 points)



Silver medal to Maurício Rebord (Argentina, 5 points)



and Bronze medals to Sergio Pescio (Chile) and Alexandre Abreu (Brazil), both with 4 points.



Medigames 2022 | Chess Medalists

Standings and Results: <https://chess-results.com/tnr653077.aspx?lan=1&art=4&turdet=YES>

Photos by António Rabasco and Tiago B. Pinho: <https://tinyurl.com/medigames2022>

It was a pleasure to be your arbiter. Gens una sumus.

Medigames 2022 (41st World Medical & Health Games)

Organizador : Corporate Sport Organisation - <http://www.medigames.com>
 Diretor do Torneio : Thibault Pagnier
 Árbitro Principal : Tiago Pinho | www.torresdeloule.pt
 Local : Hotel Yellow Praia - Monte Gordo
 Rating médio : 1159
 Data : 05.07.2022 A 08.07.2022

Classificação Final

Pos.	SNo.	Nome	Elo	FED	1.Rd.	2.Rd.	3.Rd.	4.Rd.	5.Rd.	6.Rd.	Pts	Res.
1	1	Marco Muccini	1848	ITA	6 w 1	10 b 1	7 w 1	2 b ½	3 w 1	5 b 1	5½	0
2	13	Maurício Rebord	0	ARG	- - 1	8 w 1	3 b ½	1 w ½	4 b 1	6 w 1	5	0
3	2	Sérgio Pescio	1700	CHI	11 b 1	4 w 1	2 w ½	6 b ½	1 b 0	8 w 1	4	1
4	6	Alexandre Abreu	0	BRA	12 - +	3 b 0	8 w 1	10 b 1	2 w 0	9 b 1	4	0
5	9	Ismet Bekhechi	0	FRA	8 b 0	- - 1	9 w 1	7 b 1	6 w ½	1 w 0	3½	0
6	7	António Rabasco	0	ESP	1 b 0	12 - +	10 w 1	3 w ½	5 b ½	2 b 0	3	0
7	11	Luís Flores	0	ARG	9 b 1	11 w 1	1 b 0	5 w 0	8 b 0	10 - +	3	0
8	3	Maurizio Muccini	1347	ITA	5 w 1	2 b 0	4 b 0	9 w ½	7 w 1	3 b 0	2½	½
9	5	Oscar Dirdal Ystehede	970	NOR	7 w 0	13 - +	5 b 0	8 b ½	10 w 1	4 w 0	2½	½
10	4	Hampus Helle	1200	NOR	13 - +	1 w 0	6 b 0	4 w 0	9 b 0	7 - -	1	0
11	8	Belen Canizares Baos	0	ESP	3 w 0	7 b 0	- - 1	- - 0	- - 0	- - 0	1	0
12	12	Maciej Michalak	0	POL	4 - -	6 - -	- - 0	- - 0	- - 0	- - 0	0	0
13	10	Jacques Vantomme	0	FRA	10 - -	9 - -	- - 0	- - 0	- - 0	- - 0	0	0

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 Encontrará todos os detalhes do torneio no site da <http://chess-results.com>