

2008 WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

CHIEF ARBITER' S REPORT

Dear Mr. President,

I submit my report about the 2008 World Championship Match between Viswanathan Anand and Vladimir Kramnik, which was held in Bonn, Germany, from October 13 to October 30 2008.

I arrived in Bonn on October 10. According to the regulations of the Match (Art. 3.2), on 11 October the inspection of the playing hall by the players took place, in the presence of the Chief Arbiter, the representatives of the Appeals Committee and the representatives of FIDE and UEP (Organizers).

During the inspection all facilities that the Organizers provided were tested and found perfect (the playing hall, the chessboard with pieces, the chairs of the players, the curtain between the players and the audience, the lighting on the stage, the ventilation and the air conditioning, the restrooms of the players, etc) and according to the contracts both players had signed. Both players expressed their satisfaction for the whole set up.

During the Players' Meeting that took place after the inspection, there was a discussion regarding the change of the regulations for the sudden death game (in case that the match reached the tie breaks), but both players agreed that no change of the regulations should be applied.

48 hours before the start of the match a Press conference took place in the playing venue, where both players answered questions from journalists.

On Monday October 13 the Opening Ceremony took place in the Bonn Town Hall.

The Lady Mayor of Bonn Mrs.Barbel Dieckmann welcomed the players, the FIDE Officials, the representatives of the Organizers and many journalists, and then the players signed the Golden Book of the city of Bonn.

During the banquet that followed, the drawing of colors was done. The players had to choose between two cones having beneath them one white and one black head of Beethoven. Vladimir Kramnik chose the white head and started game 1 of the match with white pieces.

The playing hall of the match was the Forum of the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany. The capacity of the hall was approximately 400 persons. The spectators had to pay a ticket of 35 euros and for several days the hall sold out.

The behaviour of the audience in general was quite good and there was no disturbance for the players during the games.

The playing hall and its environs met the requirements of the FIDE Regulations for the Organisation of Top Level Tournaments (FIDE Handbook C.01).

They were no objections from the participants concerning the tournament hall, facilities, accommodations and meals, transportation, telecommunication, ceremonies, etc.

The organizers provided, free of charge, coffee, tea and soft drinks, fruit and sandwiches for the players and principals.

The time control for each game was 2 hours for the first 40 moves, 1 hour for the next 20 moves and then 15 minutes for the rest of the game, with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move 61.

The games were played using electronic clocks and boards approved by FIDE.

The match was played over eleven (11) games, since the result after the eleventh game became 6.5 – 4.5, and according Art. 3.6.1 of the regulations of the match, there was a winner.

The individual results were:

Game 1 : V. Kramnik - V. Anand :	½ - ½
Game 2 : V. Anand - V. Kramnik :	½ - ½
Game 3 : V. Kramnik - V. Anand :	0 - 1
Game 4 : V. Anand - V. Kramnik :	½ - ½
Game 5 : V. Kramnik - V. Anand :	0 - 1
Game 6 : V. Anand - V. Kramnik :	1 - 0
Game 7 : V. Anand - V. Kramnik :	½ - ½
Game 8 : V. Kramnik - V. Anand :	½ - ½
Game 9 : V. Anand - V. Kramnik :	½ - ½
Game 10 : V. Kramnik - V. Anand :	1 - 0
Game 11 : V. Anand - V. Kramnik :	½ - ½

The final result of the match was: **V. Anand – V. Kramnik : 6.5 - 4.5**
No tie-break games were played.

According to this result GM Viswanathan Anand (IND) became the World Chess Champion, retaining his previous title.

The members of the Appeals Committee were:

F. Campomanes (FIDE Honorary President) as Chairman

I. Gelfer (FIDE Vice President) as member

N. Freeman (FIDE Treasurer) as member.

No appeal was submitted during the match.

FIDE Deputy President G. Makropoulos (GRE) was the FIDE Supervisor for the match.

The 3 Arbiters of the match were:

Chief Arbiter : IA Panagiotis Nikolopoulos (GRE)

Deputy Arbiter : IA Werner Stubenvoll (AUT)

Deputy Arbiter : IA Hall Bond (CAN)

During the match, beyond their usual duties regarding the controlling of the game, the Arbiters had some extra duties, concerning the obligation to prevent any manner of cheating or unfair advantage to either player.

During the playing session the players were allowed to go to their restrooms, which were behind the playing area (the Forum's stage) and have some rest, while there were following the game through a live monitor that was in each room. In order to avoid any contact with other people, an Arbiter always was following each player in his way to the restroom and back to the playing hall.

While the player was remaining in his restroom, the Arbiter was staying in the Arbiters' room (which was next to the restrooms), and he could observe both players' restrooms through a monitor.

During the game at least one Arbiter was always present in the playing hall.

Every day prior to start of each game the Arbiters were searching thoroughly both players' restrooms and were checking both players as well, with the use of metal detectors, in order to avoid any use of electronic devices or similar broadcasting technique of this kind.

No indication of such use or technique by either player was found during the whole match.

No incident happened during the games.

I would like to express my thanks to my colleagues IA W. Stubenvoll and IA H. Bond, because they did a very good job and we had an excellent cooperation during the whole match.

The Organizers provided score sheets according to the specifications provided by FIDE.

At the end of each game the players' original score sheets were given to me.

After the players had signed the score sheets I countersigned to confirm the results.

The score sheets have been delivered to Athens FIDE Office.

There was no printed bulletin provided by the Organizers.

The players attended the Players' Meeting on the day of the venue inspection.

There was no need to call any additional Players' Meeting during the match.

After Game 5 there was a doping control of both players.

Immediately after the end of the game the Arbiters escorted both players to the room where the control took place.

Dr. Bellin was in charge and there were no problems during the procedure.

The players attended the Opening and Closing Ceremony, the official receptions and press conferences.

Both players were available for post-game press conferences, of not more than 20 minutes duration, immediately after each game.

Both players noted the requirements of FIDE Regulations C.01 (Article 8.1) in respect of their appearance at all times during the match.

Only photographers and camera crew expressly authorized by the Press Officer worked in the playing venue.

Flash was used only during the first five (5) minutes.

Two television cameras were permanently close to the stage, with no disturbance for the players.

It was a very good cooperation between Press Officer, photographers and television crews with the Organizing Committee and the Arbiters.

The Opening Ceremony took place on October 13, according to the regulations, one day prior to the first round of the match and both players took part.

The program of the Opening Ceremony was according to the regulations (article 3.17.2).

The Closing Ceremony took place on October 30, according to the regulations, one day after the end of the event and both players took part.

The program of the Opening Ceremony was according to the regulations (article 3.17.3).

Final remarks:

The 2008 World Chess Championship Match was a great success in all aspects.

The event attracted a huge attention and interest, not only in Germany but also in all over the world.

Congratulations belong to all who worked for the success of this big event and especially to the UEP Company, who succeeded to organize this match in an excellent way and to satisfy everybody, proving that it is a very experienced organizer.

Mr. Josef Resch, Chairman of UEP and Executive Director of the Organizing Committee, and his staff did an excellent work, showing great competence and efficiency and producing very high-level standards for organizing such events.

Congratulations belong to both players as well, because they showed a really great sportsmanship and an absolute fair play, so that all attention and concentration of the match were given only on what was going on the chessboard, and not to other non-chess issues.

Mr. President, I also would like to use this opportunity and thank you for my appointment as Chief Arbiter of this wonderful chess event as it was a great pleasure for me to co-operate with UEP and two outstanding chess personalities, Viswanathan Anand and Vladimir Kramnik.

Respectfully,

IA Panagiotis Nikolopoulos

Chief Arbiter of the 2008 World Chess Championship Match.