

WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2004

Tripoli, Libya

18 June – 13 July 2004

CHIEF ARBITER'S REPORT

The 2004 World Chess Championship was held in ALMAHARY Hotel (5*), in Tripoli, Libya, from 18 June to 13 July 2004.

Schedule:

The games were played according to the schedule, which was published in Internet about 30 days before the start of the event and according to the drawing of colours made during the Opening Ceremony in Tripoli on June 18 2004.

Playing hall:

On June 19 game 1 of Round 1 of the event started with 124 players, in the main hall of ALMAHARY Hotel.

The playing hall was very good, with excellent conditions of light, air conditioning and with enough space to allow spectators inside. A little problem was that the W.C. was far from the playing hall and the players had to walk about 40 meters to reach it.

From Round 3 the organizers put screens on the wall demonstrating the games and the spectators were also able to follow the games (especially tie break games) on these screens.

From Round 5 (8 players) the venue was transferred in the Theater of the Hotel and the playing hall was on the stage, which had been arranged for the needs of the play (new lights, air-condition, carpets on the floor, tables, e.t.c.) and according to the regulations of the WCC.

For the Final two rooms fully equipped (with chairs, tables, fridges with all kind of beverages, e.t.c. and monitors showing games), were created behind the stage, to be used by the players during the games.

Pairings:

The Championship was played, according to the WCC regulations, following the principle: 1-128, 127-2, 3-126, 125-4 e.t.c.

In Round 1 four (4) players didn't show up and were disqualified by losing the games to their opponents without playing. The four (4) players were:

Alexander Morozevich (RUS), Vadim Milov (SUI), Johan Hjartarson (ISL) and Yuri Shulman (USA).

Time control :

a. Normal games:

The time control for the first 40 moves was 1 hour 30 minutes, followed by 15 minutes till the end of the game, with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move 1, for each player.

This time limit didn't cause serious problems, since only two (2) games were decided by flag fall. The players adjusted themselves to this new time control, though some of them expressed the

opinion that the time of 15 minutes is very little for the continuation of the game and the time of 30 minutes (or more) would be preferable.

b. Tiebreaks:

In the tiebreak games there were no problem at all.

The time control for rapid tiebreak games (25 minutes, with an increment of 10 seconds, per player), for blitz tiebreak games (5 minutes, with an increment of 10 seconds, per player) and for sudden death games (6 minutes for white, 5 minutes for black) were very good and the arbiters had no problem to record the moves.

No illegal moves were played during the whole Championship.

Arbiters:

All Arbiters appointed by the World Chess Championship Committee according to the WCC Regulations were very good and I had an excellent cooperation with all of them. They all showed excellent knowledge of the Laws of Chess and of the regulations of the WCC, excellent knowledge in handling the electronic clocks and great responsibility in doing their duties, proving that they are capable to work in such a very high level, as the World Chess Championship.

Congratulations to the 13 Libyan Arbiters who worked as Arbiters in the tie break games. They were very well trained and they did excellent work.

I would like also to mention the excellent work Mr. Jorge Vega did as Deputy Chief Arbiter and very good cooperation we had.

Bulletins:

After each round a bulletin including all the games was published and distributed to all players and principals,

Interviews:

The cooperation of the players was excellent. They were always very eager to appear in conferences and give interviews after their games. The Press Officer did an excellent work.

National TV channels, radio stations and newspapers also covered the event very well.

Games transmission:

There was an excellent cooperation with Mr. Abundo and his team and everything was o.k. from round 1. All gamers were transmitted on Internet and from round 3 the organizers provided screens and the games were shown on them in the playing hall, so that the spectators could watch all games through them.

For the final match cameras and two plasma TVs, showing the faces of the players and the chessboard were additionally provided by the organizers.

Technical equipment:

Electronic clocks and boards from DGT were used for the games. The latest model of DGT clocks was used (DGT XL).

This model is programmable and so we had programmed all time controls for the games (for the normal game and for all tiebreak and sudden death games). This made Arbiters' life much easier, because they didn't have to adjust the clocks every time.

Two (2) of the 70 used clocks had problems and turned off suddenly, during the game. One turned off during the normal game Kasimdzhanov – Almasi in round 3 and one during one normal game of the final match Kasimdzhanov – Adams.

In both cases the Arbiters reinstalled the right time on new clocks immediately.

Accommodation:

All players and principals stayed in ALMAHARY Hotel (5*). The conditions provided by the hotel were very good.

Opening and Closing Ceremony:

The Opening Ceremony, which included the drawing of lots, took place in the theater of ALMAHARY Hotel and the Closing Ceremony, which included the crowning of the new World Champion, were splendid and picturesque events.

Prizes and stipends:

The FIDE Treasurer did excellent work, regarding all payments and there were no complaints at all.

All players and principals were paid on the right time.

Organization:

The Organizing Committee and its Chairman Eng. Mohammad Al Gathafi did an excellent work and showed a great ability in organizing a chess event of such very high level.

All people of the Committee did they best, concerning all details of the event and succeeded to achieve very high standards.

Conclusion:

The 2004 World Chess Championship in Tripoli, Libya, was organized on a very high level and it was a great success.

All requirements mentioned in the FIDE Handbook for organizing a top-level chess tournament were completely fulfilled.

All participants (players, coaches, principals e.t.c.) were satisfied and had only positive comments for the event.

I'd like also to mention the great sportsmanship all players showed during the whole event.

It was a great pleasure for me to work as the Chief Arbiter in this very successful event and I thank the FIDE President for his confidence in appointing me for this high position.

I add as attachments all the relevant information of the event.

Athens 10-8-2004
Respectfully,
Takis Nikolopoulos
Chief Arbiter WCC2004