

# FIDE GRAND PRIX (2008/9) REPORT *FOR DRESDEN GENERAL ASSEMBLY - November 2008*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The introduction of the FIDE Grand Prix for the top players in the world has proven to be a success. It has not only complemented nicely the chess calendar filling in certain holes we had but secondly, it has given a number of younger "unknown" players the opportunity to play super tournaments and prove their capacity to advance in the world rankings.

The overall ranking on the next page shows the very positive performance of two of these new chess forces GM Wang Yue from China and GM Vugar Gashimov from Azerbaijan. All players taking part have commented favourably on the experience and opportunity to play in the Grand Prix series.

The launch of this series has now led to the development of a similar series for Women who will be given the same opportunity to play in four tournaments over two years (out of six total tournaments).

The challenge in the near future is to now attract overall sponsorship for the series and this can be satisfactorily achieved once the cycle is over and sponsors / organizers can review the media and exposure that was achieved with the current series.

## 2.0 EVENTS AND RESULTS

Two events have so far been held for the FIDE Grand Prix series 2008/9 which sees 21 of the world's top players taking part in a cycle of six tournaments over two years.

The first event was held successfully in Baku, Azerbaijan between the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2008 and 5<sup>th</sup> May 2008. The winners of the tournament were (in alphabetical order) GM Magnus Carlsen, GM Vugar Gashimov and GM Wang Yue. The average rating of the tournament was 2717.

Rank	SNo.	Name	Rtg	FED	Pts	SB.	Rp
1-3	4	Gashimov Vugar	2679	AZE	8	51.50	2807
1-3	12	Wang Yue	2689	CHN	8	50.50	2806
1-3	3	Carlsen Magnus	2765	NOR	8	49.00	2801
4-5	2	Mamedyarov Shakh	2752	AZE	7½	48.75	2772
4-5	9	Grischuk Alexander	2716	RUS	7½	45.75	2774
6-7	10	Adams Michael	2729	ENG	6½	41.00	2716
6-7	13	Svidler Peter	2746	RUS	6½	39.50	2715
8-10	5	Radjabov Teimour	2751	AZE	6	38.50	2686
8-10	14	Kamsky Gata	2726	USA	6	38.00	2688
8-10	7	Karjakin Sergey	2732	UKR	6	37.25	2687
11-12	6	Cheparinov Ivan	2695	BUL	5½	35.75	2662
11-12	8	Navara David	2672	CZE	5½	35.25	2664
13-14	11	Bacrot Etienne	2705	FRA	5	32.50	2631
13-14	1	Inarkiev Ernesto	2684	RUS	5	32.25	2633

The second event was held in Sochi, Russia in August 2008 and was also held with the highest standards possible. The event was won by GM Levon Aronian from Armenia. All players were satisfied with the overall playing and accommodation conditions.

Rank	SNo.	Name	Rtg	FED	Pts	SB.
1	9	GM Aronian Levon	2737	ARM	8½	50,75
2	4	GM Radjabov Teimour	2744	AZE	8	47,50
3	6	GM Wang Yue	2704	CHN	7½	48,50
4	14	GM Kamsky Gata	2723	USA	7½	46,00
5	1	GM Svidler Peter	2738	RUS	7	45,00
6	12	GM Jakovenko Dmitry	2709	RUS	7	44,75
7	10	GM Karjakin Sergey	2727	UKR	7	43,50
8	8	GM Ivanchuk Vassily	2781	UKR	6½	43,50
9	13	GM Gashimov Vugar	2717	AZE	6½	39,25
10	5	GM Grischuk Alexander	2728	RUS	6	38,75
11	2	GM Cheparinov Ivan	2687	BUL	6	37,50
12	3	GM Gelfand Boris	2720	ISR	5½	34,00
13	7	GM Navara David	2646	CZE	4	26,25
14	11	GM Al-Modiahki Mohamad	2556	QAT	4	23,25

The conditions offered by the organizers in both events were excellent and the conditions for future events also look to be very promising.

*Overall standings are now as follows :*

Rk	Surname	Name	Feder ation	Baku GP pts	Sochi GP pts	Doha GP pts	Montre ux GP pts	Elista GP pts	Karlovy Vary GP pts	Total
1	Wang	Yue	CHN	153,3	120					273,3
2	Gashimov	Vugar	AZE	153,3	65					218,3
3	Radjabov	Teimour	AZE	60	150					210
4	Aronian	Levon	ARM	-	180					180
	Kamsky	Gata	USA	60	120					180
6	Svidler	Peter	RUS	85	90					175
7	Carlsen	Magnus	NOR	153,3						153,3
8	Grischuk	Alexander	RUS	105	45					150
	Karjakin	Sergey	UKR	60	90					150
10	Mamedyarov	Shakhriyar	AZE	105	-					105
11	Jakovenko	Dmitry	RUS	-	90					90
12	Adams	Michael	ENG	85	-					85
13	Cheparinov	Ivan	BUL	35	45					80
14	Ivanchuk	Vassily	UKR	-	65					65
15	Navara	David	CZE	35	15					50
16	Gelfand	Boris	ISR	-	30					30
17	Al Modiahki	Mohamad	QTR	-	15					15
	Bacrot	Etienne	FRA	15	-					15
	Inarkiev	Ernesto	RUS	15	-					15
20	Leko	Peter	HUN	-	-					0
21	Pelletier	Yannick	SWZ	-	-					0

### **3.0 FUTURE EVENTS**

Given the recent economic crisis we have been monitoring the situation closely for the remaining events as FIDE has so far come out with flying colours for the Grand Prix.

The Qatar Chess Association confirmed that it will be holding the Grand Prix in Doha in December following visits by the undersigned in September and late October. Meetings have also been held with the Montreux organizer who has confirmed that everything is still on plan as the remaining two cities, Elista and Karlovy Vary have also done.

We will continue to monitor the situation over the next few months to ensure that the Grand Prix events are all organized successfully.

*Geoffrey Borg*