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## **Candidates Tournament 2016**

### **11 to 29 March 2016, Moscow**

#### **Chief Arbiters' report**

The FIDE Candidates Tournament to determine the challenger for the World Champion Magnus Carlsen, Norway, was organised by AGON Limited and took place in Moscow's historic Central Telegraph building. Tournament Director was Ilya Merenzon.

8 players played a double round robin tournament with 14 rounds.

#### **1. Participants**

GM Viswanathan Anand, India, 2762 - finalist of World Championship Match 2014  
GM Sergey Karjakin, Russia, 2760 - World Cup winner 2015  
GM Peter Svidler, Russia, 2757 - World Cup runner-up 2015  
GM Fabiano Caruana, USA, 2794 - winner of 2014-15 FIDE Grand Prix  
GM Hikaru Nakamura, USA, 2790 - winner of 2014-15 FIDE Grand Prix  
GM Veselin Topalov, Bulgaria, 2780 - qualified by rating  
GM Anish Giri, Netherlands, 2793 - qualified by rating  
GM Levon Aronian, Armenia, 2786 - nominated by the organizers.

The pairing had been made one month prior to the start, in such a way that players representing the same federation (Russia and USA) play each other in rounds 1 and 8. To avoid that any player will have the same colour three times in a row the rounds 6 and 7 had been exchanged.

## 2. Schedule

Players Meeting	10 March 2016	13.00
Opening Ceremony	10 March 2016	19.00
Round 1	11 March 2016	15.00
Round 2	12 March 2016	15.00
Round 3	13 March 2016	15.00
Free day	14 March 2016	
Round 4	15 March 2016	15.00
Round 5	16 March 2016	15.00
Round 6	17 March 2016	15.00
Free day	18 March 2016	
Round 7	19 March 2016	15.00
Round 8	20 March 2016	15.00
Round 9	21 March 2016	15.00
Free day	22 March 2016	
Round 10	23 March 2016	15.00
Round 11	24 March 2016	15.00
Round 12	25 March 2016	15.00
Free day	26 March 2016	
Round 13	27 March 2016	15.00
Round 14	28 March 2016	15.00
Closing ceremony	29 March 2016	18.00

## 3. Playing Conditions

The tournament took place in the fifth floor of Central Telegraph building of Moscow, a historical building. The players mainly had good conditions for their games and the organiser provided coffee, tea, water and snacks during the rounds. The four tables for players and one table for the arbiters had been placed on a stage. In front of the stage, up to 60 spectators could take place. They saw the players and could follow the games on screens.

For the players there was a special entrance at the backstage area. There they had been checked by a security group for any technical device. Players had their own toilet upstairs. As the way to toilets for players and the way to toilets for spectators were crossing each other, the security had to take care that no spectator could pass as long as players were on their way.

The VIP area was placed directly behind the spectators. The behaviour of the people inside was good but too close to the stage for noise protection. As well we faced crowd noise daily in the open area, mobiles ringing, interviews. Again, it was not a bad behaviour of the people outside the playing hall, there were just no sound proofing furnishings.

As the space on the stage was slightly small, in the first two rounds the players' chairs would sometimes collide when they stood up, creating some disturbance. From round 3 the table configuration was changed to a staggered placement to solve this problem.

Sunny days caused periods of disturbance on boards 2, 3 and 4 from 5 pm. to 6.30 pm. Beside the playing hall was on the fifth floor the players had been disturbed by the traffic noise from the streets. If possible in future the Chief Arbiter should have the possibility to inspect the playing area at least two days prior to the start of the tournament and try to avoid such disturbances.

## 4. Technical Meeting

At the day before start of the first round a Technical Meeting was held in the official restaurant "Aragvi Moscow". Beside GM Veselin Topalov, who announced his arrival for the evening of 10 March 2016, all players participated in the meeting. The Chief Arbiter together with FIDE Supervisor Zurab Azmaiparashvili informed all players about the main items in the regulations and about their obligations towards media and press. It was unanimously

decided that live transmission of all games should be organized without any delay. Ilya Merenzon, CEO of Agon Limited welcomed all players and their assistants.

## 5. FIDE Officials

IA Werner Stubenvoll, Austria – Chief Arbiter

IA Hal Bond, Canada – Deputy Chief Arbiter

Zurab Azmaiparashvili, Georgia – FIDE Supervisor

Jorge Vega, Mexico – Chairman of Appeals Committee

Lewis Ncube, Zambia – Member of Appeals Committee

Boris Kutin, Slovenia – Member of Appeals Committee

## 6. Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony took place on 10 March 2016 at Moscow's Pashkov House. Ilya Merenzon, CEO of Agon Limited, welcomed the guests. After opening speeches by the Russian Deputy Prime-Minister Arkady Dvorkovich, FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan, President of the Russian Chess Federation Andrey Filatov, and Dmitry Peskov, Chairman of the RCF Board of Trustees and press spokesman for the President of Russia the tournament was officially opened.

## 7. Time Control

For the games electronic DGT chess boards and electronic clocks DGT 3000 had been used. The playing time was 40 moves in 100 minutes, then 20 moves in 50 minutes, and finally 15 minutes to finish the game, additionally 30 seconds per move starting from move 1.

## 8. Results round by round

### Round 1 on 2016/03/11 at 15.00

SNo.		Name	Rtg	Res.		Name	Rtg	SNo.
1	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2760	½ - ½	GM	Svidler Peter	2757	8
2	GM	Nakamura Hikaru	2790	½ - ½	GM	Caruana Fabiano	2794	7
3	GM	Giri Anish	2793	½ - ½	GM	Aronian Levon	2786	6
4	GM	Anand Viswanathan	2762	1 - 0	GM	Topalov Veselin	2780	5

### Round 2 on 2016/03/12 at 15.00

SNo.		Name	Rtg	Res.		Name	Rtg	SNo.
8	GM	Svidler Peter	2757	½ - ½	GM	Topalov Veselin	2780	5
6	GM	Aronian Levon	2786	½ - ½	GM	Anand Viswanathan	2762	4
7	GM	Caruana Fabiano	2794	½ - ½	GM	Giri Anish	2793	3
1	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2760	1 - 0	GM	Nakamura Hikaru	2790	2

### Round 3 on 2016/03/13 at 15.00

SNo.		Name	Rtg	Res.		Name	Rtg	SNo.
2	GM	Nakamura Hikaru	2790	½ - ½	GM	Svidler Peter	2757	8
3	GM	Giri Anish	2793	½ - ½	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2760	1
4	GM	Anand Viswanathan	2762	½ - ½	GM	Caruana Fabiano	2794	7
5	GM	Topalov Veselin	2780	0 - 1	GM	Aronian Levon	2786	6

**Round 4 on 2016/03/15 at 15.00**

SNo.		Name	Rtg	Res.		Name	Rtg	SNo.
8	GM	Svidler Peter	2757	½ - ½	GM	Aronian Levon	2786	6
7	GM	Caruana Fabiano	2794	½ - ½	GM	Topalov Veselin	2780	5
1	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2760	1 - 0	GM	Anand Viswanathan	2762	4
2	GM	Nakamura Hikaru	2790	½ - ½	GM	Giri Anish	2793	3

**Round 5 on 2016/03/16 at 15.00**

SNo.		Name	Rtg	Res.		Name	Rtg	SNo.
3	GM	Giri Anish	2793	½ - ½	GM	Svidler Peter	2757	8
4	GM	Anand Viswanathan	2762	½ - ½	GM	Nakamura Hikaru	2790	2
5	GM	Topalov Veselin	2780	½ - ½	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2760	1
6	GM	Aronian Levon	2786	½ - ½	GM	Caruana Fabiano	2794	7

**Round 6 on 2016/03/17 at 15.00**

SNo.		Name	Rtg	Res.		Name	Rtg	SNo.
4	GM	Anand Viswanathan	2762	1 - 0	GM	Svidler Peter	2757	8
5	GM	Topalov Veselin	2780	½ - ½	GM	Giri Anish	2793	3
6	GM	Aronian Levon	2786	1 - 0	GM	Nakamura Hikaru	2790	2
7	GM	Caruana Fabiano	2794	½ - ½	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2760	1

**Round 7 on 2016/03/19 at 15.00**

SNo.		Name	Rtg	Res.		Name	Rtg	SNo.
8	GM	Svidler Peter	2757	½ - ½	GM	Caruana Fabiano	2794	7
1	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2760	½ - ½	GM	Aronian Levon	2786	6
2	GM	Nakamura Hikaru	2790	1 - 0	GM	Topalov Veselin	2780	5
3	GM	Giri Anish	2793	½ - ½	GM	Anand Viswanathan	2762	4

**Round 8 on 2016/03/20 at 15.00**

SNo.		Name	Rtg	Res.		Name	Rtg	SNo.
8	GM	Svidler Peter	2757	½ - ½	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2760	1
7	GM	Caruana Fabiano	2794	1 - 0	GM	Nakamura Hikaru	2790	2
6	GM	Aronian Levon	2786	½ - ½	GM	Giri Anish	2793	3
5	GM	Topalov Veselin	2780	½ - ½	GM	Anand Viswanathan	2762	4

**Round 9 on 2016/03/21 at 15.00**

SNo.		Name	Rtg	Res.		Name	Rtg	SNo.
5	GM	Topalov Veselin	2780	½ - ½	GM	Svidler Peter	2757	8
4	GM	Anand Viswanathan	2762	1 - 0	GM	Aronian Levon	2786	6
3	GM	Giri Anish	2793	½ - ½	GM	Caruana Fabiano	2794	7
2	GM	Nakamura Hikaru	2790	½ - ½	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2760	1

**Round 10 on 2016/03/23 at 15.00**

SNo.		Name	Rtg	Res.		Name	Rtg	SNo.
8	GM	Svidler Peter	2757	½ - ½	GM	Nakamura Hikaru	2790	2
1	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2760	½ - ½	GM	Giri Anish	2793	3
7	GM	Caruana Fabiano	2794	1 - 0	GM	Anand Viswanathan	2762	4
6	GM	Aronian Levon	2786	½ - ½	GM	Topalov Veselin	2780	5

**Round 11 on 2016/03/24 at 15.00**

SNo.		Name	Rtg	Res.		Name	Rtg	SNo.
6	GM	Aronian Levon	2786	0 - 1	GM	Svidler Peter	2757	8
5	GM	Topalov Veselin	2780	½ - ½	GM	Caruana Fabiano	2794	7
4	GM	Anand Viswanathan	2762	1 - 0	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2760	1
3	GM	Giri Anish	2793	½ - ½	GM	Nakamura Hikaru	2790	2

**Round 12 on 2016/03/25 at 15.00**

SNo.		Name	Rtg	Res.		Name	Rtg	SNo.
8	GM	Svidler Peter	2757	½ - ½	GM	Giri Anish	2793	3
2	GM	Nakamura Hikaru	2790	1 - 0	GM	Anand Viswanathan	2762	4
1	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2760	1 - 0	GM	Topalov Veselin	2780	5
7	GM	Caruana Fabiano	2794	½ - ½	GM	Aronian Levon	2786	6

**Round 13 on 2016/03/27 at 15.00**

SNo.		Name	Rtg	Res.		Name	Rtg	SNo.
7	GM	Caruana Fabiano	2794	½ - ½	GM	Svidler Peter	2757	8
6	GM	Aronian Levon	2786	½ - ½	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2760	1
5	GM	Topalov Veselin	2780	0 - 1	GM	Nakamura Hikaru	2790	2
4	GM	Anand Viswanathan	2762	½ - ½	GM	Giri Anish	2793	3

## Round 14 on 2016/03/28 at 15.00

SNo.		Name	Rtg	Res.		Name	Rtg	SNo.
8	GM	Svidler Peter	2757	½ - ½	GM	Anand Viswanathan	2762	4
3	GM	Giri Anish	2793	½ - ½	GM	Topalov Veselin	2780	5
2	GM	Nakamura Hikaru	2790	½ - ½	GM	Aronian Levon	2786	6
1	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2760	-	GM	Caruana Fabiano	2794	7

### 9. The final ranking

Rank		Name	Rtg	FED	Pts	Res.	Vict	SB	Rp
1	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2760	RUS	8½	0	4	57,00	2860
2	GM	Caruana Fabiano	2794	USA	7½	1½	2	51,50	2804
3	GM	Anand Viswanathan	2762	IND	7½	½	4	50,50	2809
4	GM	Svidler Peter	2757	RUS	7	3½	1	48,75	2781
5	GM	Aronian Levon	2786	ARM	7	3	2	47,50	2777
6	GM	Giri Anish	2793	NED	7	3	0	49,00	2776
7	GM	Nakamura Hikaru	2790	USA	7	2½	3	45,75	2776
8	GM	Topalov Veselin	2780	BUL	4½	0	0	33,00	2644

### 10. Incidents

In round 6 I had to advise Hikaru Nakamura, that he must move with his touched king. Then he lost the game against Levon Aronian within a few moves. After signing the scoresheets Mr. Nakamura left immediately the playing hall and did not show up for the press conference.

In round 9, after approximately 1 hour after start, the games had been disturbed by some workers in the building by drilling into the wall. As the disturbance stopped within less than 1 minute I did not stop the games.

### 11. Doping Control

There was no doping control during the tournament.

### 12. Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony took place in the tournament hall. After speeches by Igor Levitin, assistant to the president of the Russian Federation, Ilya Merenzon, president of the World Chess by Agon Limited, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov President of FIDE, Aleksandr Zhukov, President of the Russian Olympic Committee, Pavel Kolobkov, Deputy Minister of Sport, and Andrey Filatov, FIDE Vice President and President of the Russian Chess Federation, the chief arbiter announced the final ranking and the organizers gave to all participants a gifts to remember the tournament.

### 13. Organizing and Technical Staff

The Organizing Committee prepared an excellent accommodation in the "Four Seasons Hotel". Lunch and dinner was prepared in the official restaurant "Aragvi Moscow", about 15 minutes walking distance from the hotel. The quality and quantity of the food was not on a high level and therefore we had some criticism by players and officials.

The whole organizing staff did their best to work. Their work was highly appreciated by all the players of the competition.

Vladimir Kukaev from Elista office was responsible for the live transmission of games in the playing venue and on internet and did his job without any problems.

#### **14. Miscellaneous**

At the start of round 3, after the respective players agreed, as award for its qualification for the final of Moscows championship under 9 years, the clock of one game was started by the 7 years old Teymour Asimov. Once more at the start of the final round two clocks had been started by young chess talents. Arthur Magomedov, a student of the President school in Moscow, and Elisaveta Akvardar, Moscow champion of girls -9.

In my view it was a very good idea to honour a talented young chess player for special achievements.

Finally, I want to thank my Deputy Chief Arbiter, Mr. Hal Bond from Canada, for his excellent work. We had a very good cooperation and had not been faced any major problem during the whole tournament.



Werner Stubenvoll  
Chief Arbiter