

FIDE CHALLENGERS MATCH 2009 : TOPALOV vs KAMSKY
Report by Chief Arbiter Ignatius Leong

1 General Information

Dates: 16th to 28th February 2009

Venue: Sofia, Bulgaria

Appeals Committee: Nigel Freeman (BER) – Chairman;

Boris Kutin (MNE) & Vanik Zakarian (ARM)

Match Supervisor: Hal Bond (CAN)

Chief Arbiter: Ignatius Leong (SIN); Deputy Arbiter: Ashot Vardapetian (ARM)

Players' Official Representatives: Silvio Danailov (Topalov); Emil Sutovsky (Kamsky)

Press Officer: Berik Balgabaev (RUS)

2 Agreement, Final Inspection, Players' Meeting and Draw of Colours

2.1 The Agreement between FIDE and the Organiser was signed in November 2008.

2.2 All matters relating to the playing venue were resolved before the start of the First Game.

2.3 The Players' Meeting lasted less than 30 minutes. Prior agreement to two amendments were made to the Match Regulations but these were not reflected on the official website; Article 3.4: that colours would not be reversed after Game 4 (meaning the Player getting White in Game 1 shall play Game 5 with White) and Article 3.7.2 that drawing of colours shall be done for Game 1 for the Blitz Tie-Break Match 1 and the sequence will follow for subsequent Blitz Matches where necessary.

2.4 The Draw of Colours took place during the Opening Ceremony. Topalov drew White.

3 Result of Games

Game 1	Topalov drew Kamsky	36 moves
Game 2	Kamsky lost to Topalov	32 moves (time)
Game 3	Topalov drew Kamsky	37 moves
Game 4	Kamsky beat Topalov	73 moves
Game 5	Topalov beat Kamsky	55 moves
Game 6	Kamsky drew Topalov	42 moves
Game 7	Topalov beat Kamsky	45 moves

4 Special Measures and Incidents

4.1 Both Players respected the Agreement and the Match Regulations; coming to the venue early for security check, seated at the playing table several minutes before the start of each game; attending all the post game press conferences and giving very polite and diplomatic answers to the journalists; both Players behaved as exemplary models at the Closing Ceremony.

4.2 While there were occasional demands from Sutovsky, the Match Supervisor and the Organiser did their utmost best.

4.3 During the Games, there was absolutely no special incident arising which required special attention of the Arbiters. The Appeals Committee was not called upon to function other than assisting the Arbiters to take turns to "guard" the access area between the playing area and the toilet.

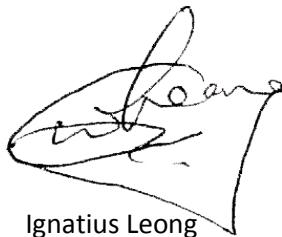
4.4 Despite the pre-match rivalry, there was no special incident.

5 Final Remarks

5.1 The Organiser did an excellent job ensuring that the Match proceeded without any hiccup.

5.2 Minor "problems" concerning the playing venue and security were ably handled by the Match Supervisor.

- 5.3 The roles of the World Championship Committee, the Appeals Committee, the Match Supervisor and the Arbiters were very well co-ordinated and their cohesion was one of the best I have ever witnessed in a major FIDE event.
- 5.4 This was the first time I presided as Chief Arbiter for a match in the cycle of a World (Men's) Championship. I would like to specially thank my Deputy Arbiter for sharing his previous experiences and guidance. I would also like to thank the FIDE President and FIDE Deputy President for entrusting me this task. This had been a fruitful working experience which provided me a greater depth to better understand the overall organisation of such top-level matches and the World Championship. More importantly, the two weeks gave the chance for all the FIDE Principals to create a stronger bonding and irrespective of our roles, we were there as Team FIDE.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ignatius Leong', enclosed within a hand-drawn, irregular rectangular border.

Ignatius Leong
Chief Arbiter