

2025-10-04

## **Seville 1987 – Kasparov v. Karpov**

[\\_ Frank Hoffmeister](#)

The final lecture on Saturday 6 September, in Valencia, Spain, was given by the president of the Chess History and Literature Society, Frank Hoffmeister.

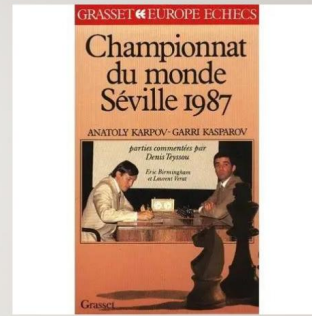
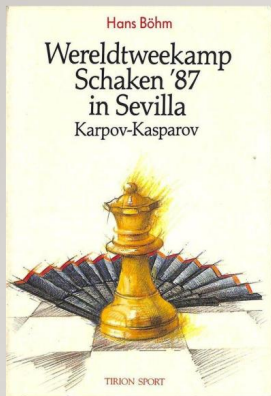
He recounted the World Chess Championship played in Seville in 1987 between Kasparov and Karpov.

### **Frank Hoffmeister: Sevilla 1987 World Chess Championship**



# SEVILLA 1987 WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

THE GREATEST MATCH BETWEEN KASPAROV AND KARPOV



## THE MAIN SOURCES

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## TABLE OF CONTENT

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- I. From Moscow 1984 to Seville 1987
- II. Why Seville?
- III. The Three Acts of the Match
- IV. The political aftermath
- V. Conclusion



## FROM MOSCOW TO SEVILLE

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- After the interrupted match (September 1983-February 1984), Kasparov won the WCh 1984 in Moscow (13-11)
- He defended his title in the rematch (September 1984-November 1984)



## FROM MOSCOW TO SEVILLE (II)

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- FIDE organised a new cycle 1985-1987
- 3 Interzonal tournaments, Montpellier candidates tournament, 4 candidates
- Andrej Sokolov won the candidates matches (against Vaganjan and Yusupov)
- However, in Linares (February 1987) Karpov outclassed him (7.5-3.5)
- So Karpov became another time the challenger



## FROM MOSCOW TO SEVILLE (III)

- Before the match, the two met another time in the 1987 SWIFT Tournament in Brussels in April 1987
- Their 100<sup>th</sup> game ends in a draw
- However, Kasparov finishes 1.5 points ahead of Karpov, sharing victory with Ljubojevic.

Place	Player	Score	W	L	D
1.	<a href="#">Garry Kasparov</a>	8.5 / 11	6	0	5
1.	<a href="#">Ljubomir Ljubojevic</a>	8.5 / 11	6	0	5
3.	<a href="#">Anatoly Karpov</a>	7.0 / 11	3	0	8
4.	<a href="#">Viktor Korchnoi</a>	6.5 / 11	5	3	3
4.	<a href="#">Jan H Timman</a>	6.5 / 11	3	1	7
6.	<a href="#">Mikhail Tal</a>	6.0 / 11	2	1	8
7.	<a href="#">Bent Larsen</a>	5.5 / 11	4	4	3
8.	<a href="#">Eugenio Torre</a>	5.0 / 11	1	2	8
8.	<a href="#">John T.H. Van der Wiel</a>	5.0 / 11	1	2	8
10.	<a href="#">Luc Winants</a>	3.5 / 11	2	6	3
11.	<a href="#">Nigel D Short</a>	3.0 / 11	1	6	4
12.	<a href="#">Richard Meulders</a>	1.0 / 11	0	9	2

## WHY SEVILLE ?

- According to FIDE Rules, the players decide about the venue from volunteering cities; if they do not agree, the FIDE President decides
- Sochi (1 Mio. FS); Seattle (1 Mio. FS); Madrid (2 Mio. FS), Abu Dhabi (2.250 FS), Seville (3.150 FS) offer a bid
- Kasparov prefers Seattle, Karpov Abu Dhabi, Campomanes decides for Seville (which had treated him with heavy "wining and dining" during the campaign).



## WHY SEVILLE ? (II)

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- In Seville, the money was organised by Rafael Cid Perez (1904-2012). He was the President of the Chess Federation of Andalucia.
- He was supported by Alfonso Gurra (Vice-PM of the Spanish Government)

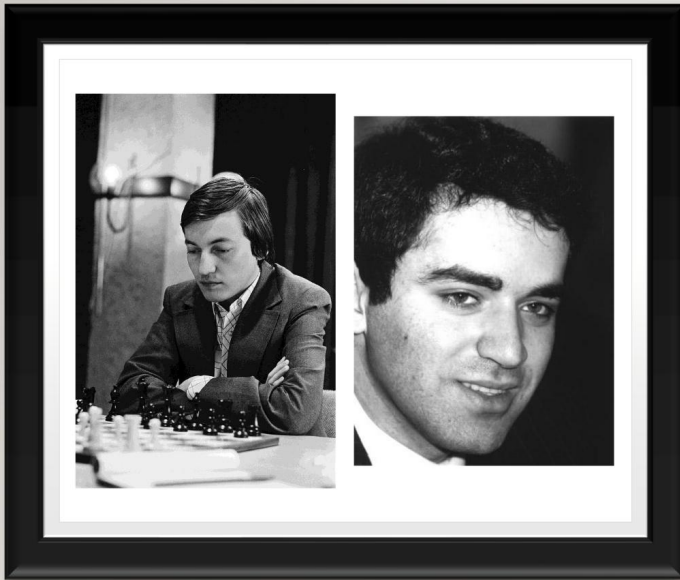


## WHY SEVILLE (III)

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- The location was the prestigious theater Lope de Vega
- However, the start was only short of disaster: in the first round, smell of works was still very present
- In the second round, the sound of one (or two) cats from the theater ground could be heard.
- However, players did not complain!





## THE TEAMS

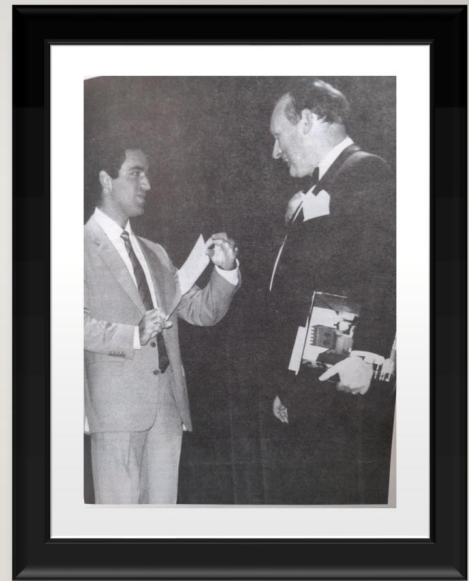
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- Karpov plus Zaitsev, Ubilava, Lerner, and Podgajec (and his second wife)
- Kasparov plus Dorfman, Nikitin, Dolmatov, Azmaiparashvili (and his mother)

## THE ARBITER

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- Chief Arbiter Abiter Geurt Gijssen (NL)
- Known from the Brussels SWIFT Open
- Played an important role in Games 23 and 24



## THE MATCH: GAMES 1-4

- After a draw in the first game, where Kasparov chose the Grünfeld-Defence, Karpov won the second game with Black!
- The novelty 9... e3! was a preparation for the match.... against Korchnoi in Meran 1981
- After another draw in Game 3, Karpov plays 9... exf3, though in Game 4 .... and lost!

### (2) Kasparov,Garry - Karpov,Anatoly (A29)

1.c4 Nf6 [1...e6 would offer a Queen's Gambit of Queen's Indian. Karpov thought for 6 minutes. 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 Bb4 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 e4 7.Ng5 Bxc3 8.bxc3 Re8 9.f3



9...e3! [A novelty, which caused Kasparov to spend 82(!) minutes of his time.]

Etc 0-1

## THE GAMES 5-22

- In Game 5 Karpov surprises with a new weapon against the Grünfeld Defense!
- Kasparov equalises in Game 8 and takes the lead in Game 13
- Karpov strikes back with Black in Game 16, followed by 6 draws.
- 11:11 after 22 Games!

### (5) Karpov,Anatoly - Kasparov,Garry [D87]

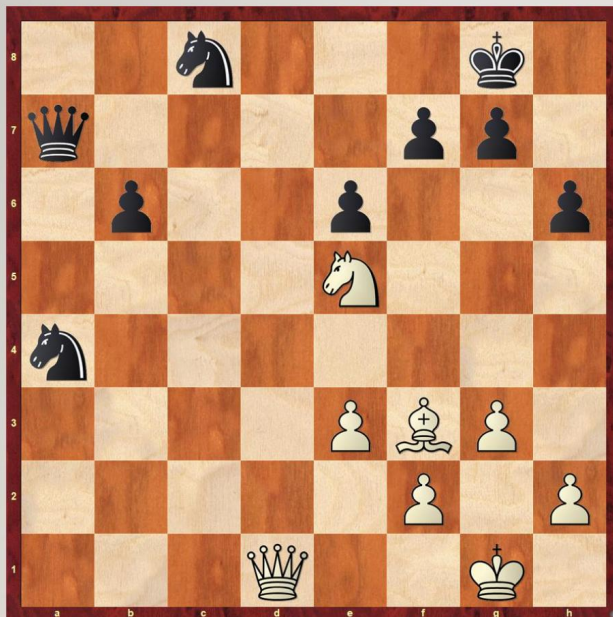
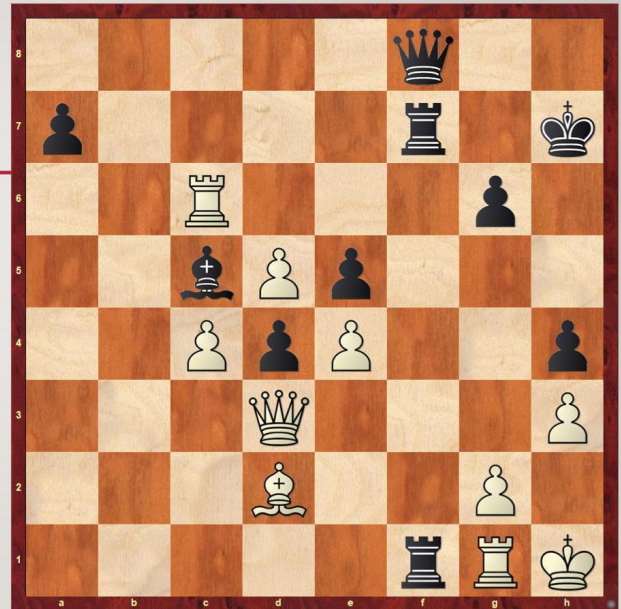
1. d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2 Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.0-0 Bg4 [10...b6 is the main alternative.] 11.f3 Na5



12.Bxf7+ [Karpov plays for the first time the main variation and uncorks another surprise!] 12...Rxf7 13.fxg4 Rxf1+ 14.Kxf1 Qd6 [Another 64 minutes from Kasparov!] 15.e5 Qd5 16.Bf2! Rf8 17.Kg1 Bh6 [with equality.] etc 1-0

## GAME 23

- Karpov's last White game
- Kasparov plays 50. ... R7f3, but overlooks 51. gxf3 Rxf3 52. Rc7+ Kg8 53. Bxh6!!
- And resigned after 53. ... Rxd3 54. Bxf8 Rxh3+ 55. Kg2 Rg3+ 56. Rh2 Rxf1 57. Bxc5!
- A complete shock for the champion!



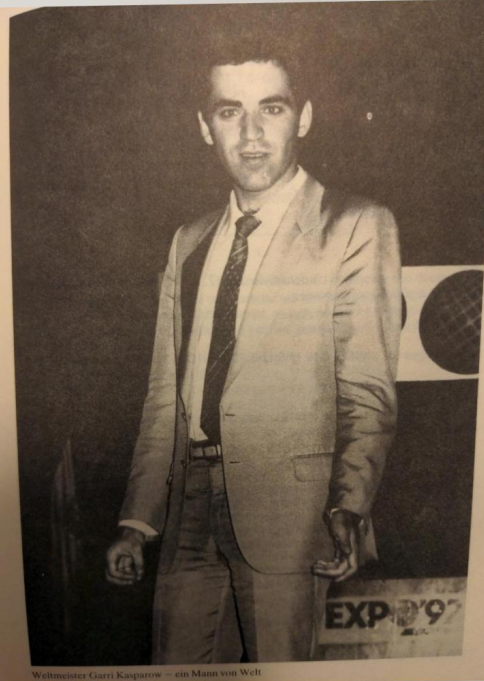
## GAME 24

- Kasparov just played 33. Qd1 and threatens 34. Qd8.
- With one minute on the clock Karpov responds 33. ... Ne7? 34. Qd8+ Kh7 35. Nxf7 Ng6, but runs into trouble after 36. Qe8! Qe7 37. Qxa4 Qxf7 38. Be4!
- Kasparov wins the adjourned game and remains champion.

## KASPAROV'S EXPLANATION

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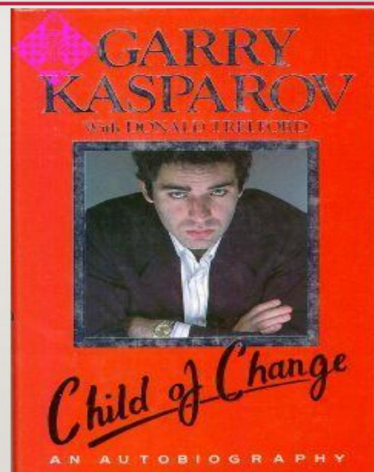
- In an interview, recorded by Willy Icklicki, Kasparov claims that he the Chief Arbiter had irritated him in Game 24 by insisting to note down the moves;
- In reality, both players had already forgotten to note down the moves in Game 23, and the arbiter's intervention was correct.



## POLITICAL AFTERMATH

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- After the successful defence, Kasparov continued to challenge the Soviet Chess bureaucracy („Child of Change“)
- He also founded the „Grandmaster Association“ (with Karpov as Vice-President) and used the the World Championship to make publicity
- This prepared the „breakaway“ match 1993 with Short (after another K-K match in 1990).



## CONCLUSION

- The match popularised chess further in Spain (very little spectators in the beginning – full run in the end)
- However, no lasting memories to be found (stamps are from Suriname ...)
- Seville could not establish a long-lasting super-tournament (such as Linares)



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