

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.

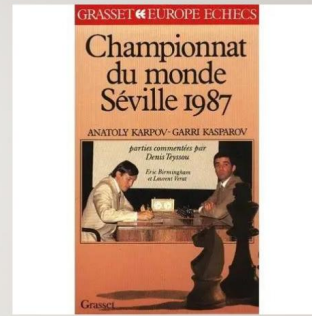
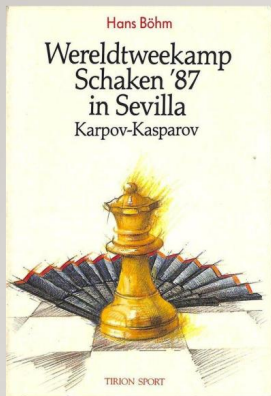
He recounted the World Chess Championship played in Seville in 1987 between Kasparov and Karpov.

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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FROM MOSCOW TO SEVILLE

- 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)

- 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 100th 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.	Garry Kasparov	8.5 / 11	6	0	5
1.	Ljubomir Ljubojevic	8.5 / 11	6	0	5
3.	Anatoly Karpov	7.0 / 11	3	0	8
4.	Viktor Korchnoi	6.5 / 11	5	3	3
4.	Jan H Timman	6.5 / 11	3	1	7
6.	Mikhail Tal	6.0 / 11	2	1	8
7.	Bent Larsen	5.5 / 11	4	4	3
8.	Eugenio Torre	5.0 / 11	1	2	8
8.	John T.H. Van der Wiel	5.0 / 11	1	2	8
10.	Luc Winants	3.5 / 11	2	6	3
11.	Nigel D Short	3.0 / 11	1	6	4
12.	Richard Meulders	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)

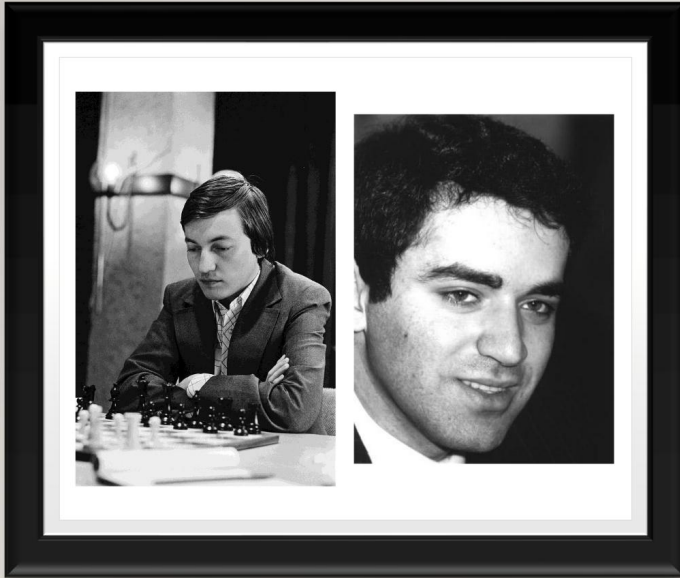
- In Seville, the money was organised by Rafael Cid Perez (1904-2012). He was the President of the Chess Federation of Andalusia.
- He was supported by Alfonso Gurra (Vice-PM of the Spanish Government)



WHY SEVILLE (III)

- 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!



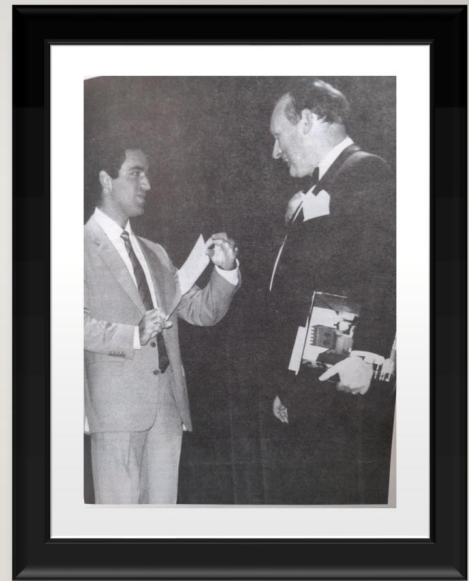


THE TEAMS

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

THE ARBITER

- 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]

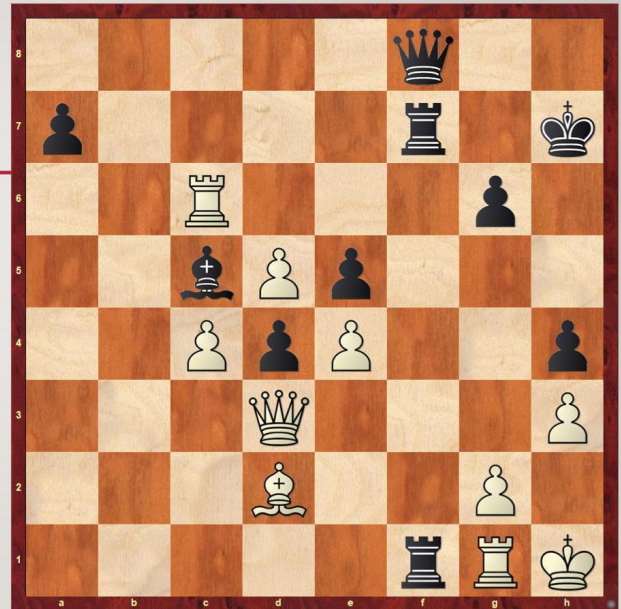
1. d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2 Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.0-0 Bg4 [10...b6 is the main alternative.] 11.f3 Na5



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

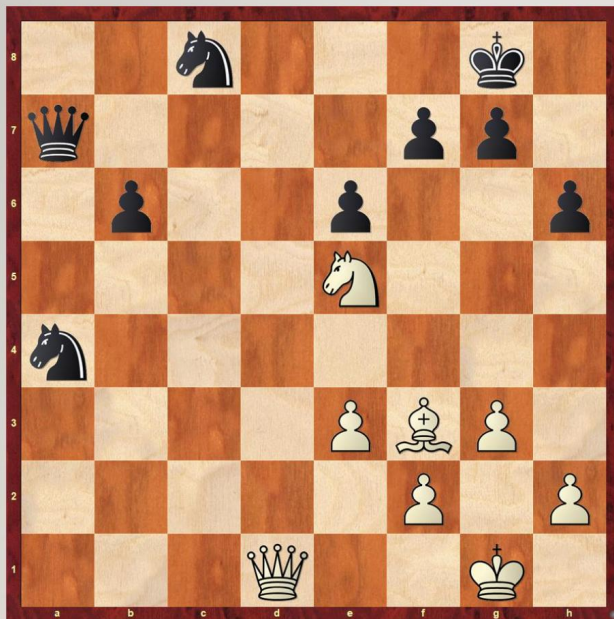
GAME 23

- 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!



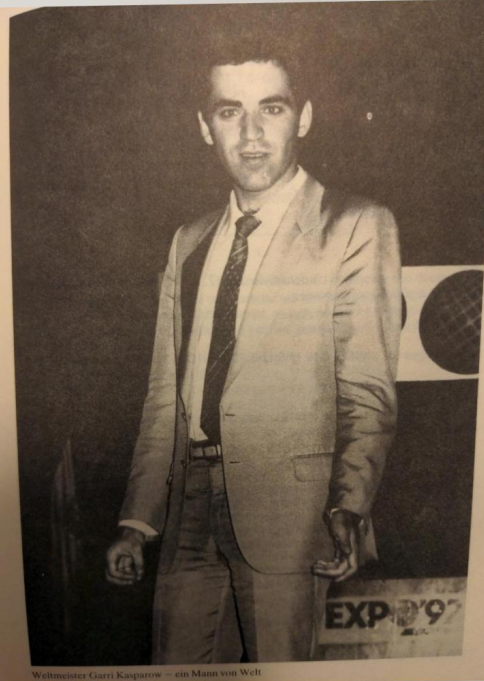
GAME 24

- 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.



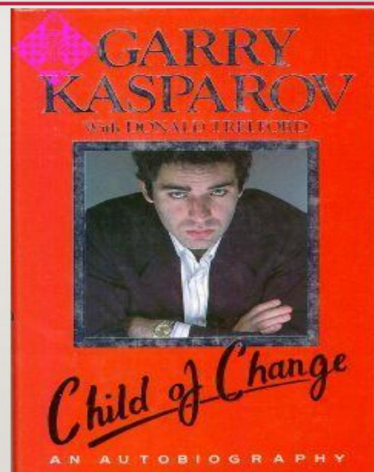
KASPAROV'S EXPLANATION

- 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

- 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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