

# GARRY KASPAROV ON GARRY KASPAROV



## PART III: 1993-2005

EVERYMAN CHESS

**GARRY KASPAROV**  
**ON**  
**GARRY KASPAROV**

**PART III: 1993-2005**

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# Foreword

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This concluding volume of my autobiographical trilogy *Garry Kasparov on Garry Kasparov* contains one hundred of the most memorable games and endings played during the 12 years after my withdrawal from FIDE (1993-2005), and also a selection of my best games from simultaneous displays with professionals, as well as from rapid and blitz tournaments.

As regards drama and the intensity of events, this last period of my career was not inferior to all its preceding stages taken together. Whereas earlier the graph of my tournament successes, with slight exceptions, invariably proceeded upwards, now it more resembled a sinusoid. There were various reasons for the slumps in my play, but the chief of these was the psychological discomfort caused by the almost constant opposition with FIDE.

After winning matches under the aegis of the Professional Chess Association (PCA), against Short (1993) and Anand (1995), I remained the 'historic' champion. But Karpov, after winning his match against Timman (1993) became the FIDE version of the champion and then, after defeating Kamsky (1996), he retained his title. The situation at the chess summit became complicated, and I even had to explain to the public: 'I am the world champion. Not a version, but the chess world champion!'

The arguments should finally have been resolved by a unification match, envisaged in a declaration of cooperation between FIDE and the PCA. The guarantor of a sixth (!) Kasparov-Karpov match was the new FIDE president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, who in August 1996 signed a preliminary agreement with the contestants. The chess world was on the verge of unification. But instead of this, breaking with an historic tradition, Ilyumzhinov began staging mass world championships on a knock-out system.

Although at that time I won a number of notable tournaments, including Las Palmas 1996 and Linares 1997, the time had come to again defend my title. After the collapse of the match with Karpov and the departure from chess of the powerful PCA sponsor – the Intel company – I was forced myself to find a worthy match opponent. In February 1998 Senor Rentero, the permanent organiser of the tournaments in Linares, came to the rescue. He suggested hold-

ing an Anand-Kramnik candidates match in the early summer, a world championship match in the autumn, and then setting up a full qualifying cycle. Alas, this plan was also wrecked. First Anand refused to play, and when his replacement Shirov defeated Kramnik, money could not be found for my match with Shirov...

But the intensive preparations for a world championship match were not wasted and led to a new upsurge in my play in 1999-2000. This period became the second peak of my career (the first, I should remind you, was in 1988-1990). I won six super-tournaments in succession and achieved the unprecedented rating of 2851 – despite rating inflation, this world record stood for 13 years.

Early in 2000 English organisers suggested holding a world championship match in the autumn between me and Anand. However, Vishy again declined (it would appear that our 1995 match had traumatised him psychologically), and I chose the most difficult opponent – Kramnik, who shared victory with me in Linares 2000. Kramnik fully exploited this chance opportunity: by winning the match he became the 14th world champion.

After this I scored another four tournament victories, twice finishing ahead of Kramnik (I beat him in Astana 2001), and I established another world record – ten super-tournament victories in succession. In my view, Kramnik was morally obliged to sign an agreement to a return match. But apparently back in November 2000 he decided for himself: he would not play Kasparov again for the world championship!

Particular hopes were raised by a resolution to unite the chess world, signed on 6 May 2002 in Prague by the FIDE president Ilyumzhinov together with the 13th and 14th champions. FIDE became the sole legal holder of the title of world champion and the only organisation that could hold official world championships, and in return it approved a unification plan, according to which Kramnik would play a match with the winner of a qualifying tournament in Dortmund 2002, the FIDE knock-out world champion Ponomarev would play Kasparov, the No.1 in the rating list, and 'the winner of these two matches would meet in a unifying match for the world championship in October-November 2003'.

Alas, these efforts were in vain: first my match with Ponomarev collapsed, and then also with the next knock-out champion Kasimdzhanov. I was left in a suspended state and I lost two years of normal life. But Ilyumzhinov again showed that he keenly perceived the mood of the chess elite and officials, who did not want to give me a chance to regain the title. After losing my goal, I began seriously thinking about giving up professional chess. And I decided on this at the age of 41, after victories in the 2004 Russian Championship Super-Final and Linares 2005.

Since the times of the GMA I had been dreaming of organising tournament life and the world championship far more professionally than it is done by FIDE. But my attempts to unite the leading players failed because their sense of cooperative solidarity always receded in the face of internal disagreements. As a result, despite enormous efforts, I was not in fact able to repair the mistake of 1993.

*I should like to express my gratitude to my long-standing trainer Alexander Shkarov, and also to the chess compilers Vladislav Novikov and Yakov Zusmanovich, for their help in preparing the manuscript for publication.*

# Chapter One

## Short, Anand and Las Palmas

### Match with Short

World Championship Match **Kasparov** – Short (London, 7 September – 21 October 1993) – 12½-7½.

On 23 March 1993 an abrupt zigzag in chess history occurred: the FIDE president Campomanes, after depriving me and Nigel Short of the rights of champion and challenger, announced the urgent staging of a match 'for the world championship' between the finalist and a semi-finalist of the previous qualifying cycle – Jan Timman and Anatoly Karpov.

Of the leading grandmasters, the only one who openly condemned this unprecedented decision was Vassily Ivanchuk: on 9 May he sent a letter to FIDE, in which he emphasised that he considered it unlawful to stage a match for the world title between Timman and Karpov, since in the qualifying cycle they had both lost their matches to Short, and in addition the other semi-finalist in the cycle – Yusupov, who had lost to Timman – had completely equal rights with Karpov. *'The*

*loss of a match to Short should not give the right to participate in a match for the world championship or other privileges'*, declared Ivanchuk, who suggested that the champion's title should be left vacant and a new qualifying cycle held. The 12 winners of the July Interzonal Tournament in Biel should be joined by Karpov and Yusupov, and the seven winners of the matches between them should then be joined by Timman. However, as the press reported, *'Ivanchuk's proposal was rejected by FIDE because it did not want to lose the money from the organisation of the Timman-Karpov match'*.

Meanwhile it became known that in the autumn in London, under the aegis of the PCA and *The Times* newspaper, a Kasparov-Short match for the world title would be held, with a prize fund of 2½ million dollars. I began a period of purposeful preparation, in the course of which I played just four official games – for Auxerre in the French Club Championship (+2=2; May 1993).

For me this was a terribly difficult time: there was the war with FIDE, organizational



problems with the PCA, the future of which still looked very obscure, the split with the Russian Chess Federation, caused by the political crisis in the country, and serious family discords (in the end I separated from my first wife, and she and her parents with our daughter Polina left for the USA). It was impossible to invent a greater number of problems before a match. My nerves were on edge, and my mental state left much to be desired, but I believed that I would be able to beat Short, since the score in our previous meetings with the 'classical' time control was +10-1=4 in my favour.

The first lengthy training session took place in the summer on the Croatian coast, the first time I had been there (and after that I went there every year, trying to recreate the atmosphere of the irretrievably lost Zagulba). Apart from my mother, with me were my chief trainer Sergey Makarychev, Alexander Beliavsky, Zurab Azmaiparashvili and Alexander Shakarov – together with press attaché Vladimir Dvorkovich, it was they who later comprised my team in London, the first two being my official seconds. We worked quite productively, although the greater part of what we found in our opening preparations came in useful to me only after the match.

With White it was planned to alternate 1 e4 and 1 d4. After 1 e4, of course, we studied both of Short's favourite replies – 1...e6 2 d4 d5 (with the variation 3 ♘c3 ♙b4 4 e5 c5 5 a3 ♙xc3+ 6 bxc3 and ♗g4) and 1...e5 2 ♘f3 ♙c6, after which both 3 ♙b5 and 3 d4 were prepared. And after 1 d4 we looked at the Queen's Gambit and the Slav Defence, and less at the Nimzo-Indian, where I had my own preparations in the set-up with 4 ♗c2 (cf. *Game No.4*).

For Black, anticipating 1 e4 and guided by the principle 'leave well alone', we analysed

only the Najdorf Variation of the Sicilian Defence – but not those variations which occurred in the match! Here, unfortunately, I lacked flexibility, as also later in my 2000 match with Kramnik, whereas in the 1995 match with Anand I had in reserve the 'Dragon', which came as an unpleasant surprise for my opponent (*Game No.21*).

At the end of August, now at a training session in Podolsk on the outskirts of Moscow, I looked a little at the French Defence with Lputian (cf. *Game No.10*), at the 7...♗b6 variation in the Najdorf with Magerramov, and I met with Geller, who gave me a number of pieces of valuable opening advice – in particular, how to advantageously avoid the sharp Marshall Attack in the Ruy Lopez which was employed by Short (cf. *Game No.2*).

This match was splendidly organised and was even broadcast on TV. Therefore for the first time in the history of world championship matches the contestants played strictly three times a week, without any time-outs and with a six-hour time control: two hours for 40 moves and an hour for the next 20 (followed by an adjournment, but things did not come to that). Also for the first time, immediately after a game the players were obliged to give a short press conference (although the loser had the right not to take part). The chief arbiters were Yuri Averbakh (Russia) and Carlos Falcon (Spain).

We played in the Savoy Theatre, and my team and I lived ten minutes' drive from there – in a house on Chester Terrace, close to Regent's Park. The opening ceremony and the drawing of lots, together with a charity lunch, took place in the restaurant adjoining the theatre, Simpson's-in-the-Strand, where in 1851 the first international tournament in the history of chess was played. Within these walls Morphy, Steinitz, Chigorin,

Lasker, Capablanca and Alekhine all performed... It was here that the famous 'immortal' Anderssen-Kieseritzky game was played, and 142 years later it was reproduced by grandmasters Keene and Speelman, robed in 19th century costumes (the former was one of the match organisers, and the latter, along with Kavalek, the challenger's official second).

In the first game I drew the white pieces. The symbolic first move in the match – 1 e4 – was made by Peter Stothard, the editor-in-chief of *The Times*. Then he pressed the clock button with his palm, and the game began. Short chose 1...e5, immediately threatening the Marshall Attack. After replying as advised by Geller – 2 a4 (cf. *Game No.2*, note to Black's 8th move), gradually I completely outplayed my opponent, but in a time scramble, with more time on my clock, I missed a win on the 35th and 36th moves. The position became equal, but Black was a pawn up, and to be on the safe side I offered a draw on the 38th move. In the heat of the moment Short declined – and a move later he lost on time! This dramatic start greatly influenced the further course of the match – it was not without reason that at the end I was presented with two elegant chairs, white and black, on the backs of which were carved the final position from the first game.

In the second game Short played 6 ♖g5 against the Najdorf Variation, and to start with I employed a bit of cunning – I transposed into a comparatively rare variation of the Rauzer Attack (cf. *Game No.1*, note to Black's 6th move), confidently neutralised my opponent's slight initiative and in a sharp time-trouble battle I gained a draw. I could have done with more such cunning in the 2000 match with Kramnik.

The third game was again an 'anti-Marshall', again I managed to outplay my

opponent (cf. *Game No.2*, note to Black's 9th move), and again I blundered in his time-trouble – I missed a win on the 27th move, allowing Black equalizing counterplay, and Short almost saved himself, but he stumbled on the 31st move and after desperate resistance he nevertheless lost.

The score became 2½-½ in my favour. But Short, seeing that I was also making mistakes, did not become depressed and was hoping to pull one back in the very next game.

**Game 1**  
**N.Short-G.Kasparov**  
 World Championship Match  
 4th Game, London 14.09.1993  
*Sicilian Defence B97*

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5  
 ♘c3 a6 6 ♖g5



After this game Nigel was to switch exclusively to 6 ♖c4 (*Game Nos.3, 5, 79*), thereby killing all my preparations for his usual 6 ♖e3 or 6 f4 (Short-Kasparov, Belgrade 1989; Debrecen 1992).

**6...e6**

In the second game I deviated with 6...♘c6 7 ♙d2 e6 8 f4 ♘d7 9 O-O-O h6 10 ♖h4

g5 11 fxg5 ♖g4, etc. But now I chose the most critical line, which I had studied together with Magerramov: the so-called 'Poisoned Pawn Variation'.

7 f4 ♖b6 8 ♗d2 ♗xb2



9 ♖b3

Of course, I had analysed more and was expecting 9 ♖b1 (Game No.67 in Part II of *Garry Kasparov on Garry Kasparov*), whereas I had never been afraid of 9 ♖b3.

9...♗a3 10 ♙xf6 gxf6 11 ♙e2 ♖c6

As is well known, if 11...h5 12 0-0 ♖c6 (Spassky-Fischer, 11th match game, Reykjavik 1972) there is the unpleasant 13 ♖b1!. However, 12...♖d7! is quite acceptable: 13 ♖h1 (after 13 ♖b1 ♗a4 the black queen escapes via c6; 13 ♗d4? b5 – Game No.18 in Part I of *Garry Kasparov on Garry Kasparov*) 13...h4 14 h3 (in the event of 14 ♙g4 h3!? 15 ♙xh3 ♗xh3 16 gxh3 b5 Black has excellent compensation for the exchange) 14...♙e7 with very sharp play (Short-Kasparov, Riga 1995).

12 0-0 ♙d7 13 ♖h1

It is premature to play 13 ♙h5?! ♙g7 14 ♗f3 0-0 (Tal-Platonov, Dubna 1973), or 13 f5?! ♖e5 14 fxe6 fxe6 15 ♙h5+ ♖d8! (Tal-Portisch, Varese; Game No.41 in Part III of *My Great Predecessors*).

13...h5

Although 13...♗c8 is also unclear, I preferred to obtain a key position from the Spassky-Fischer game with which I was very familiar. But here Short surprised me.



14 ♖d1

At the centre of attention then was 14 ♖b1 (Spassky) or 14 ♗e3 (Tal), for which I had prepared. The old idea 14 ♖d1 is also logical: after removing his knight from the vulnerable square c3, White prepares either the cramping c2-c4, or c2-c3 and ♖e3-c4.

14...♗c8

This natural continuation turned out to be new, and since then it has become the main move. 14...♗b4 is worse because of 15 c3 or 15 ♗e3 (Platonov-Bukhover, Kiev 1963). But 14...h4!? with the threat of ...h4-h3, which I wrongly criticised in *Informator*, deserves consideration.

15 ♖e3 (not 15 c3?! ♖a5! or 15 c4 ♙e7 16 ♖c3?! ♖a5, Bryson-Pigott, Edinburgh 1996)

15...♗b4 16 c3

An instantaneous reply – the sacrifice of a second pawn! In *Informator* I suggested 16 ♗d3(?), overlooking the unexpected trick 16...♖e5! 17 fxe5 ♗c3, when Black regains the piece with advantage (18 ♗d2 ♗xb3!).

16...♗xe4!

Played without any particular hesitation, since I was not attracted by 16...♗b6 17 ♖c4