

Irish Chess Union Press Release

Garry Kasparov's

visit to Ireland, March 28th-30th, 2014



In October 2013 Garry Kasparov announced his candidacy for President of FIDE (Fédération Internationale des échecs or World Chess Federation). He plans to unseat 18-year incumbent Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, from Kalmykia, in the election that takes place in August 2014 during the Tromsø Chess Olympiad. To this end, the Irish Chess Union is proud to host Garry Kasparov on this historic two-day visit to Dublin from March 28th. Mr. Kasparov's visit shall be focused on meeting Ireland and delegates from neighbouring countries to whom he will give details of his presidential programme as well as listening to issues from their home countries. He will also meet Ireland's chess playing school children and a special meeting of Ireland's finest and most dedicated chess enthusiasts.

During his visit he will greet chess playing children from Gaelscoileanna throughout Leinster for the annual Comórtas Fichille Cúige Laighean which will be held in the Mansion House on Friday, March 28th. During this tournament some of our young junior stars will be honoured. These are the under 12 Bernadette Stokes team who came home triumphant from the annual 4 Nations chess tournament last summer (Ireland, England, Scotland, & Wales); 13 year old Diana Mirza, Irish Women's chess champion; 8 year old Daniel Dwyer, Bunratty Minors Champion and 8 year old Admira Kecskemeti, under 12 chess champion of Northern Ireland. An Tánaiste, Eamon Gilmore will attend, as will the Deputy Lord Mayor Dermot

Lacey to honour chess playing children. This event will be entirely in Irish and we certainly hope for a few "foclaí" from Mr. Kasparov. Irish and Russian will be the only languages spoken in the Mansion House during this event. Fiachra Scallan and Daniel Dwyer will speak in Irish and Russian on behalf of the children. The secretary general of the ECU, Sava Stoisavljevic will meet the FIDE Delegates to discuss their involvement in European chess. Jan Callewaert (Belgium), president of the Kasparov Chess Foundation, Europe and a candidate as FIDE Deputy President in Kasparov's ticket will also attend.

Garry Kasparov will meet with the printed press on Friday and on Friday evening he will leave for RTE studios for an appearance on The Late Late Show.

Early Saturday will be filled with talks with the FIDE delegates from Ireland and neighbouring countries. On Saturday afternoon there will be an invite-only gathering of chess enthusiasts from the 32 counties in a Dublin venue. The Gala Dinner will take place on Saturday evening.

During Garry Kasparov's visit to Dublin, Cork will be awash with chess players battling over the board in what is one of Ireland's most celebrated chess tournaments, The Cork Chess Congress. www.corkchess.com

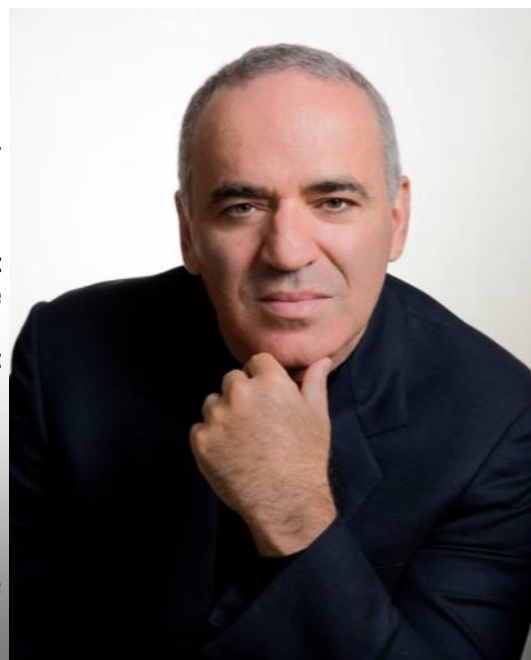
Garry Kasparov's vision: "to elevate the game of chess from grassroots level; to spread the game in education as a cultural touchstone as well as a successful commercial sport."

Do keep an eye on the ICU website for reports on events surrounding this momentous visit to Ireland from March 28th-30th by the legendary World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov.

Contact: For an invite to the press conference on Friday, March 28th or for an interview with Garry Kasparov please contact Irish Chess Union's Public Relations Officer, Úna O Boyle oboyleuna@gmail.com, 087-7964587. This will be for printed press only. For all other information on Garry Kasparov's visit to Dublin please contact Úna O Boyle on the contact details above.

FIDE is an international organisation that connects the various national chess federations around the world and acts as the governing body of international chess competition.

In 1999, FIDE was recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Two years later, it introduced the IOC's anti-drugs rules to chess, as part of its campaign for chess to become part of the Olympic Games.



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Quotes from Garry Kasparov:

"My credibility in supporting elite chess cannot be questioned; but we must build the base or the elite will not prosper".

"Education is not only the future of chess, it is the present. Only FIDE is ignorant of this, missing huge opportunities for FIDE and for chess."

"A strong FIDE means strong federations and that means getting them the financial and organisational support they need."

"Chess is still popular but the interface between potential sponsors and the chess world is badly broken. We will fix it! "

"For most federations the love of chess is there, but the money and infrastructure are not. We know how to bring sponsors and to build organisations."

"Throughout my chess career I sought out new challenges to bring the game of chess to new heights around the world. My mission remains the same as I aim for the presidency of FIDE, the international chess federation. My team and I will revitalise FIDE with a focus on serving the federations and raising the commercial profile of chess worldwide. We will lead with the same energy and fighting spirit I had at the board."



"A strong FIDE means strong federations, and that means getting them the financial and organizational support they need"



"We are reaching out to the federations and their members to hear their problems and ideas. Revitalizing the chess world will be a global effort"



Garry Kasparov's Mission

Garry Kasparov: "Throughout my chess career I sought out new challenges to bring the game of chess to new heights around the world. My mission remains the same as I aim for the presidency of FIDE, the international chess federation. My team and I will revitalise FIDE with a focus on serving the federations and raising the commercial profile of chess worldwide. We will lead with the same energy and fighting spirit I had at the board."

"I am honored to be joined by a remarkable team. Several members have dedicated their lives to chess and are without a doubt some of the most experienced and respected individuals in our sport. Others have entered the chess world to share the expertise and resources they acquired while achieving great success in other fields. It is an ideal combination of perspectives, knowledge, and passion.

Garry Kasparov's Manifesto

- FIDE will be a transparent organisation that serves and supports the national federations. There will be an increase in communication and information shared between FIDE and the federations in order to make the FIDE Secretariat more effective and responsive. There will be constancy in the bidding processes for FIDE events.
- The national federations will prosper as FIDE prospers. FIDE should provide for its members instead of being supported by them.
- Reduce membership fees by 50% immediately.
- 25% reduction per year of all other fees.

FIDE finances:

- Increase the FIDE budget by 100% in the next two years via corporate sponsorship.
- Increase revenues through commercial sponsorship by reorganising FIDE with a professional marketing approach that will make chess and the FIDE brand attractive to corporate and public sponsors.
- Universal rating system and expansion of online services:
- A universal rating system will include every game of chess played on the planet, from world championship matches to online blitz. It will serve as a portal that unites tens of millions of players and will become an attractive advertising and sponsorship asset.
- FIDE must provide benefits to the huge base of chessplayers, not just serve the elite. It can do this by offering services to the federations such as online news and training, a social media platform, direct support for organisers and journalists, and assistance with fundraising and finding sponsorship.
- Chess in education for children:
- Develop the next generation of chessplayers around the world by promoting and establishing chess-in-education programs. Having chess be included in the school curriculum builds a strong foundation for the global development of our sport.
- Create and encourages programs and research on chess in education at every grade level and into adulthood. The many positive benefits of chess, especially for children and seniors, should be documented and promoted.
- The experience of the Kasparov Chess Foundation, which has raised millions of dollars for chess-in-education programs worldwide, has demonstrated the enthusiasm for these programs at both public and private institutions. This expertise will be at the service of FIDE and the international chess federation will take the lead in bringing chess into every classroom.
- Review FIDE regulations to protect the integrity of chess:
- Collaborate with players and organisers on a common-sense implementation of the zero-tolerance rule that will preserve dignity and professionalism.
- Take immediate steps to develop, test, and implement strong anti-cheating measures, including severe penalties for violators.
- Adopt anti-short-draw rules to preserve the integrity of the game and to improve the image of chess as a sport worthy of greater media attention and commercial sponsorship.



"Education is not only the future of chess, it is the present. Only FIDE is ignorant of this, missing huge opportunities for FIDE and for chess"

World Chess Champion and sporting hero

Garry Kasparov



Born **Garik Kimovich Weinstein**, on April 13th 1963 in Baku, Azerbaijan, he has always considered his lucky number to be 13 ! His father died when he was very young after which he changed his name to Russian version of his mother's name. She was from Armenia, he surname was Gasparyan and so Gary became Gary Kasparov.

One of his early coaches was the former World Chess Champion Mikhail Botvinnik, a player who many consider one of the best players of all time. He developed many revolutionary training methods and took the game of Chess to a new level of professionalism, at least in the area of preparation. In 1976, while still only 13, Gary won the Soviet Junior Championship, a remarkable feat for such a young player.

At the age of only 15, he qualified to play in the Soviet Championship itself, one of the toughest Chess events in the world, the youngest player ever to do so. But his big break came in 1979, while still only 16 and relatively unknown in the West, he was allowed to play in a very strong International event in Banja Luka, then part of Yugoslavia. What happened there is remarkable, playing against a field that included former World Chess Champion, Tigran Petrosian and 13 other grandmasters (he himself was not yet a master, at least not officially) Gary won the event by a clear 2 points and was undefeated during the tournament.

A new star was born and by 1980, he was a grandmaster and a member of the powerful Soviet Union Chess team. Within a few years (1983) he'd qualified to play the incumbent World Chess Champion, Anatoly Karpov, in a match for the title. Opinion among the elite Chess world was divided as to who was favourite to win this match but the "Chess Public" were overwhelmingly behind Gary who was seen as a breath of fresh air !

Incidentally, Anatoly Karpov was a true Soviet citizen and had been World Champion since 1975 when the famous Bobby Fischer refused to accept terms to play a match with him. He's defended the honour of the Soviet Union by twice beating the man who'd dared to defect to the west, Victor Korchnoi, the former Soviet grandmaster. It is often said that the powerful Soviet Chess Union did not support Kasparov in his bid to become World Chess Champion because they said "We already have a Soviet World Chess Champion, why do we need another?"

When the Karpov vs Kasparov match did get underway, it started badly for Kasparov. He lost the 3rd, 6th, 7th and 9th games to go 4 games behind, at which point no one was giving him much chance. But he showed his resilience, reserve and pure fighting spirit by all making a draw in all the games from the 10th to the 26th. However, when he lost the 27th game, all hope seemed lost, but that wasn't how Kasparov saw it. He sensed Karpov was weakening and when Gary won the 32nd game, people took notice. By this time, the match was taking its toll on both players but Karpov was showing this more, being the older man that wasn't too surprising.

Many more hard fought draws followed but when Kasparov won the 47th and 48th games, the FIDE (World Chess Organisation) President, Florencio Campomanes suspended the match and announced that a new match, limited to 24 games only, would be played a few months later. Many viewed this as Campomanes stepping in to save his friend, Anatoly Karpov from defeat, others saw it as saving the world from the longest Chess Match for the World Championship in history, but Gary Kasparov certainly wanted the match to continue. It's widely believed that Anatoly Karpov, who'd lost over 8Kg during the match, was already a broken man and would have lost the match.

Gary Kasparov won the return match in 1985 to become the youngest Chess Champion of all time and in winning the 16th game of that match, he won what many players believe was one of the best games ever played ! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8a9gVFXieT0>

He again beat Karpov in three further matches for the World Chess Championship, in 1986, 1987 and again in 1990. He beat the English grandmaster Nigel Short in 1993 in another match for the World Chess Championship, and Vishy Anand in 1995 but he eventually lost the world title in 2000 in London to the Russian Vladimir Kramnik.

Gary Kasparov is also famous for losing a 6 game match to the IBM mainframe computer, "Deep Blue" in 1997 by the narrowest of margins, 3.5 – 2.5. It's often forgotten that he beat the same computer a year earlier by a score of 4 – 2. IBM refused to give Gary another crack at the Silicon Monster and moth-balled Deep Blue after the second match.

As well as being a fantastically successful match player, Gary Kasparov was also one of the most successful tournament players of all time. He has won more "Super Tournaments" than any other player. He retired (still ranked no. 1 in the world) in 2005 and has played only exhibition matches since, he will probably never play another game of professional chess again.

In the opinion of most serious chess players, he is the best player of all time. However, many believe that the current world Chess Champion, the Norwegian Magnus Carlsen, is well on the way to proving that he will be the greatest ever, time will tell.