

Adrian Mikhalchishin

Adrian Mikhalchishin is one of the commentators at the World Chess Championship 2008. He is Grandmaster since 1978, Magister of Theoretical Physics and author of several chess books.

What fascinates you personally about chess?

The possibility to solve intellectual problems. The beauty of the technique of legends like Rubinstein and Fischer. The unique experience of communication with such personalities as Tal, Botvinnik, Petrosian, Smyslov and Gelfer. Meeting chess fans as Dr. William Wirt or Vjacheslav Mihailov.

What do you consider to be your greatest success in chess?

The fourth place in Soviet Championship 1984. Winning the European Cup 1984 with TRUD team. Winning the Slovenian and Ukrainian Championships and Soviet Young Masters Championship. Training European Champions and medallists as Zhaoqi Peng, Tea Lanchava, Mateusz Bartel, Kubra Ozturk, Ilya Nyzhnyk as well as Alisa Maric, Arkadij Naiditsch, the national teams

USSR,

Slovenia,

Netherlands and

Turkey.

What do you think: Why is chess so popular and is experiencing a persistent boom world-wide?

Chess is a powerful tool to teach kids how to think logically and how to analyse any situation and how to make logical decisions. And the beauty of a great chess game is really an experience you can share with thousands of chess fans.

In your opinion, which was the most interesting game/duel in chess history?

Spassky – Fischer, both matches. As a single game: Karpov-Kasparov, the 24 game in 1985.

The match between Kramnik and Anand is not only one of the most outstanding duels in chess history, but also a contest between the two best players of our time. Who will, in your opinion, win, and why?

It depends on many factors. The players are so different that any development in the match can be expected. The homework with the trainers is extremely important – and the future World Champion must have support from the God of Luck!

What effect can this Championship have on the chess world in future?

World Champions are examples for thousands of players who will follow their style of play and especially opening repertoire. Second the personality of the chess king is so important for the outside of the chess world and for the image of chess.

As far as chess history is concerned, for whom is, in your opinion, this match of greater importance – Anand or Kramnik?

For Anand: he needs the confirmation as the match player. Kramnik got it by winning against Kasparov and showing fantastic ability to find the weakest point in the opponents style of play. The problem for both is practical, they didn't show good form recently. But it can be a big problem for Anand, who is very vulnerable psychologically.