



Deutscher
Fernschachbund

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Das unten abgebildete Interview wurde am 16.11.2013 auf schriftlichem Wege mit GM Sergey Kasparow geführt. Den Anlass gab eine Rezension über sein Werk „Steamrolling the Sicilian“.

([http://www.bdf-fernschachbund.de/service/rezensionen/2013/rezens2013.htm#Steamrolling the Sicilian](http://www.bdf-fernschachbund.de/service/rezensionen/2013/rezens2013.htm#Steamrolling%20the%20Sicilian))

Besonderer Aufhänger war ein Hinweis von Sergey Kasparov auf die Schwierigkeiten, die er als außerhalb der EU lebender Europäer hat, an Turnieren in der EU teilnehmen zu können.

Das Interview wurde in englischer Sprache geführt, die Antworten sind rot gekennzeichnet.

Interview:

Are you pleased with the present reactions on your book “Steamrolling the Sicilian”?

The reactions I have seen are mostly positive. But the most objective evaluation for me is how the books are sold. On the web-site of the publisher www.newinchess.com one can see TOP-10, and “Steamrolling the Sicilian” is keeping within 1-6 places for about two months already which is better than it was with my first book (“The Dynamic Benko Gambit”).

What do you think when you read that the German publicity has taken notice of your kind of joke “Let me dream a little and assume that this book is read by some European consulate office worker...” (page 24)?

I hope that the Germans will pity the people from the former USSR and what concerns officials, maybe sometime in future regulations will be moderated. But I feel quite pessimistic about it, as there are many talks about the matter being held for years, but no result, unfortunately.

Can you describe exactly your dream, in which way the situation should be changed, so that you could join tournaments in the EU without your current problems?

Of course, I can. For instance, the EU could implement one-side free-visa regime for Belarusian citizens... The population of our country is just about 9.5 mln and those who wish to have possibility to visit the EU (so to say, 2 mln) are quite normal European people who would hardly make real problems for the EU.

Please tell us: How many tournaments do you play this year in EU countries and how many days and money do you have to spend in order to do so, only caused by VISA problems.

Up to now I have participated in seven tournaments in the EU and I am going to play in two more till the end of the year. This year exactly visa matters took not so much, but still. Many nerves, about 1 month spent for applying for visas, waiting for the decisions and taking the documents (Schengen visas, Romanian visa additionally), ~200 euro... Besides, we also lose money because can't book tickets in advance and make plans as we don't know for sure whether the visa will be provided.

Which are the most important differences between tournaments in the EU and Belarus, Russia and more?

As you understand, I can participate in Belarusian and Russian tournaments extempore as I don't need a visa to go there. But on the other hand, it is more difficult to have special conditions (accommodation, tickets, for instance). In our countries chess players are a little bit stronger. In the EU the organizers are more accurate. We also feel safer in the EU than in Russia, you know :)

Which is your first thought when I begin my next question with the words "Let us talk about tournaments in Germany"?

Absolute punctuality, relatively big interest to chess, and cheap prices for many things with good quality. :)

Please tell us – which success in your tournament career is your biggest desire for the future?

Unfortunately, as the practice shows, while getting older as a rule we don't play stronger, so I just try to raise ELO-rating at a modest extent I can manage. The bigger desire for my career is to work as a good trainer and as a successful author. 😊

Can we hope to see you again as a highly competent author of opening books? Which are your current or next projects, if they don't are secret?

Definitely, I like this job. I am fond of writing and not only for opening themes. But it depends not only on me. Demand sets supply. I can't reveal my future projects but I am always open to any new suggestions.

What do you think – is it an advantage or a disadvantage for you, having the same name as the former world champion Garry Kasparov?

Frankly speaking, I consider it an advantage. Maybe, some organizers invite me also for eye-catching name, it can be so. At the same time, I assume that not everybody likes Garry, so it can be ambiguous.

And now the last question: What do you think about correspondence chess and the players?

Correspondence chess is interesting. But it seems to have been more topical earlier, as nowadays the temptation to use computer assistance is rather high.