

2014 World Chess Championship Round 1 – John Duncan



Perhaps more famous for hosting the 2014 Winter Olympics the black sea resort of Sochi, Russia will be hosting the 2014 World Chess Championship. The current Champion (and youngest ever Grand Master) Magnus Carlsen of Norway will face off against five time World Chess Champion, winner of the Candidates Tournament and India's first grandmaster, Viswanathan Anand.

The first round was sure to draw the attention of the press with much of that attention lavished on the youngest ever grandmaster. Magnus Carlsen, who has been hailed as the 'Mozart of Chess' by many in the chess world, is defending his title for the first time.

Much has been made of Carlsen's opponent, the Indian Grand Master Viswanathan Anand, who is considered to be one of the most versatile chess players in the world. Oh yes and he knows a thing or two about winning the biggest prize in world chess. The five time World Chess Champion is 21 years senior to the current World Champion and the clash between the two has been labelled as a clash of the chess generations.



For those who like to make predictions based upon statistics, here are the facts. The two have met across the board more than 80 times, in all formats. However, in the classical time format the two have met a total of 40 times and the outcomes are not as one sided as many may think. Carlsen has won six of the encounters (including three in the 2013 World Championship match, Anand has also won six and the remaining games have been drawn.

So, what can we conclude from the statistics? It will be a close championship with a lot of shared points and few wins on each side. The winner will be the first player to reach 6.5 so a win here and there amongst a series of draws will likely win the championship. Expect a cautious few opening games as the two test each other's determination.



On the 8th November, the first round of the 2014 World Chess Championship got underway and as expected it was a cautious opening from both players. Anand was playing white and dominated the early game, however, Carlsen is famed for his end game and soon found his feet. Inevitably the game was drawn after 49 moves both players displaying a defensive attitude with counter play opportunities shut down. The second game will give us a better idea of Carlsen's white game and Sunday's second round clash will make for fascinating viewing.