

Colourful Chess

Yochanan Afek reports on a most impressive festival of chess in Jerusalem



Simultaneous exhibitions are certainly popular events in the Israeli capital and in them a government minister and a 9 year old shone.

In the first two weeks of July the city of Jerusalem witnessed a big and colourful chess festival, a series of major events which successfully combined quality chess with a mass happening that attracted chess lovers of all ages and levels.

Jerusalem has enjoyed almost a century long chess legacy starting from 1918, when its first military governor on behalf of the British mandate, Sir Ronald Storrs, himself a keen chess lover, founded the International Chess Club to help promote peace and understanding between Jews and Arabs in the city. He even helped to organise the first City Championship in 1919. During the British mandate three distinguished players visited the city to give simultaneous exhibitions against the local enthusiasts: Akiba Rubinstein (1931), Salo Flohr (1934), and Jacques Mieses (1936).

Following the war of independence and the establishment of the Israeli state, new clubs were opened and numerous tournaments were organised in the city, notably the World Junior Championship in 1967 won by Julio Kaplan ahead of Raymond Keene, the protest tournament against the exclusion of Israel from the Dubai Olympiad in 1986, and arguably the main highlight, the 2015 European Individual Championship.

The first sign of this year's summer chess festivities occurred on the first day of July when the traditional Israeli Cup was hosted for the first time by the Israeli capital, being held in the city's first railway station that has since become a leisure and catering centre. 38 of the country's top teams and some 200 players, of

whom 22 were grandmasters, competed for the prestigious title in a five-round rapid tournament. The favourites were the reigning Israeli champions from Beer-Sheva, as well as the defending Cup holders, Ashdod, but the eventual winner was the talented, young team from the Kfar-Saba club, with Beer-Sheva and Ashdod having to settle for the silver and bronze medals respectively.

O.Kobo-E.Sutovsky Israeli Cup (rapid), Jerusalem 2016



Sutovsky is well known for his fearless style. Earlier in the game he sacrificed a piece for complications. He was actually lost at one stage, but here he could have escaped with a draw:

18...f5??

The fantastic invisible move remains behind the scenes: 18...♙xb2!! 19 ♖xb2 (Black is fine after 19 ♗g5 ♖xe2 20 ♙xe2

♙xa1 21 ♗xa1 ♗xg5 22 ♙xg5 ♖fd8 and obviously not 19 ♙xb2?? ♗f4 when Black even wins) 19...♖xf3+ 20 ♗h2 ♗g5 21 ♙xg5 ♖h5+ 22 ♗g2 ♖xg5+ and it's perpetual check, since 23 ♗f3?? loses to 23...♗e5+ 24 ♗e2 a6! 25 ♙d3 ♖g4+ 26 f3 ♖g2+ 27 ♖f2 ♖xf2+! 28 ♗xf2 ♗xd3+.

19 e5 f4 20 ♗h2 ♖h4 21 ♙xc6 bxc6 22 ♗d4 ♖ad8 23 ♗df3 ♖h5 24 ♖c4+ ♗h8 25 ♖e6

And White eventually converted his material advantage if not without some difficulties.

Outside the old station a variety of attractions were put on for the large crowd with chess used as the leitmotif. There was a a craft and creativity area, a make-up corner with balloons for children, acrobats and giant chess sets. Even a more serious chess experience was presented: a simultaneous exhibition by IM Sasha Kaplan. Just one participant managed to draw his game against the master: Zeev Elkin, the minister for Jerusalem affairs in the Israeli Government.

The next major outdoor event was a massive simultaneous exhibition at the foot of King David Tower in the historic old city, given by three young grandmasters: Michael Roiz, Tamir Nabaty (both members of the Israeli Olympiad team), and Dani Raznikov. Nabaty and Raznikov each drew a single game out of 20, while Roiz lost one game out of 30 to 9-year-old talent Max Pevzner. "How does it feel to beat a grandmaster?" Pevzner was asked afterwards on the podium by organiser Alon Cohen Revivo, the brain and the soul behind the rich contemporary chess scene in the capital. "It was actually pretty easy!" he

confidently replied to the amusement of the crowd and even of Roiz himself who predicted that Pevzner has a bright future.

The highlight of the chess festivities was the third edition of the Japhet Memorial, a tournament named after the attorney Gideon Japhet (1928-2013), an avid and prominent chess and sports enthusiast in Jerusalem. This 7-round Swiss attracted 227 players to its four categories, with 50 in the top section. Four world champions were among the participants: the new European Women's Champion and former Women's World Champion, the Ukrainian Anna Ushenina; the 3-time World Senior Champion Anatoly Vaisser from France; and rising stars Alexander Bortnyk from Ukraine, the former Under-18 World Champion, and Russian GM Mikhail Antipov, the then reigning World Junior Champion (Under-20).

Top seed Arkadij Naiditsch was eventually the outright winner, finishing some one and a half points ahead of the runners-up.

Leading Scores: 1 Arkadij Naiditsch (AZE) 6½/7, 2-8 Daniil Yoffa, Tamir Nabaty, Tal Baron, Alexander Huzman (all ISR), Olexandr Bortnyk (UKR), Avital Boruchovsky, Nimrod Weinberg (ISR) 5, 9-13 Mikhail Antipov (RUS), Ori Kobo, Uriel Arlinski, Michael Vaisberg, Jonathan Bakalchuk (all ISR) 4½.

There was plenty of fighting chess in the tournament and very few draws. To encourage this trend, a special prize was awarded each round for the most brilliant game of the day. Your author, the official jury, offers you, the dear reader, a selection of those exceptionally creative games.

T.Nabaty-A.Vaisser

Round 3

London System

1 d4 ♟f6 2 ♟f4 d5 3 e3 c5 4 ♟c3 a6 5 dxc5 ♟c6 6 a3 e5 7 ♟g5 ♟e6 8 ♟xf6 gxf6 9 b4 ♟g7 10 e4 d4 11 ♟c2 f5 12 exf5 ♟xf5 13 ♟g3 ♟g6 14 ♟d3 0-0 15 h4!?

White shows that he means business.

15...e4 16 h5! exd3 17 cxd3 ♟e8+ 18 ♟f1 ♟xd3+ 19 ♟xd3 ♟e5 20 ♟f5 d3 21 h6! ♟c4?!

Correct was 21...♟f3! 22 ♟xf3 ♟xa1 23 ♟e4 ♟e7 24 ♟h4 ♟e6! with mutual chances. After the text White enjoys the upper hand as he now impressively demonstrates. **22 ♟d1 ♟e7?**



GM Tamir Nabaty, a former Israeli champion and member of the Israeli Olympiad team in Baku, gave one of the simuls, impressively conceding but a single draw from 20 games.

Already the losing mistake. **22...♟f6 23 ♟xf6 ♟xf6 24 ♟xd3 ♟ad8 25 ♟xd8 ♟xd8 26 ♟f3 ♟xa3** still allows Black to stay in the game.

23 ♟f3!!

Black had the devious threat of 23 hxg7? ♟e1+! 24 ♟xe1 ♟d2#. Nabaty comes up with a powerful refutation

23...♟e2+!

Has White overlooked this counter blow? Apparently he had prepared one of his own!

24 ♟g1!!

A lot stronger than 24 ♟xe2 dxe2+ 25 ♟e1 ♟c3+ 26 ♟d2 ♟xd2 27 ♟xd2 ♟ad8 28 ♟c2 ♟xd2+ 29 ♟xd2 ♟xd2 30 ♟xd2 ♟e4, which while still clearly favouring White, enables Black to fight on in the rook ending.

24...♟xd1+ 25 ♟h2



25...♟xh1+

The alternative is even worse: 25...♟c2 26 ♟g5 ♟e5 27 ♟xh7+ ♟f8 28 ♟xg7+ ♟e7 29 ♟xe5+ and wins.

26 ♟xh1 ♟xh6 27 ♟g4+ ♟f8 28 ♟xc4 d2 29 ♟xd2 ♟xd2 30 ♟f5

Though Black has obtained two rooks for the queen, the deadly white queen and knight pair will give the weak black monarch no chance whatsoever.

30...♟ad8 31 ♟d6 ♟e6 32 ♟xb7 ♟de8

33 g3 ♟e2 34 ♟d6 ♟e6 35 ♟d4 ♟e1 36 ♟f5 f6 37 ♟d8+ ♟f7 38 ♟d7+ ♟g6 39 ♟d4 1-0

In our next game Black fails to implement the basics. As Tartakower put it so well: "First castle and then philosophise."

D.Yuffa-T.Baron

Round 4

Queen's Gambit Vienna

1 d4 ♟f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♟f3 d5 4 ♟g5 dxc4 5 ♟a4+ ♟bd7 6 e3 a6 7 ♟xc4 ♟b8 8 ♟e2 c5 9 0-0 b5 10 ♟b3 ♟b7 11 ♟d1 ♟d6 12 a4 ♟d5 13 ♟c2 bxa4 14 ♟bd2 cxd4 15 e4 ♟b3 16 ♟xb3 axb3 17 ♟c4 e5 18 ♟xa6 ♟e7



White has won the battle over the queenside and Black still refuses to sense the danger. Now he is going to pay for it.

19 ♟xf6! ♟xf6 20 ♟d5! ♟c8!?

Realising that 20...♟c7 is met by the pinning 21 ♟b5 and that 20...0-0 loses to another pin, 21 ♟d6!.

21 ♟a7

The third pinning move. The black knight is

pinned to the f7-square. Both 22 ♖c4 and 22 ♖b5 are threatened, and Black cannot avoid losing a piece.

21...0-0 22 ♖xd7 ♖c2 23 ♖f1 ♖xb2
24 ♖xe5 d3 25 ♖xd3 ♖c2 26 ♖e1 1-0

N.Veinberg-D.Poleg

Round 4



White was working the whole evening to prepare the upcoming breakthrough and there is no more symbolic moment than the 64th move to effect it.

64 d5! cxd5 65 exd5 e5

The alternative is 65...♖xd5 66 ♖c5+ ♖f7 67 ♖xe6 ♖g8 68 ♖e7 ♖h7 69 ♖xd7 ♖xd7 70 ♖xa7 and with a powerful bishop-pair and extra pawn, White is likely to win.

66 ♖c5+ ♖e8 67 ♖xe5+! fxe5 68 ♖xe5+ ♖e6

Alternatively, 68...♖f7 69 d6+ ♖f6 70 ♖d4 and mates.

69 ♖xe6+ ♖f7 70 ♖xa7

White's material and positional superiority leaves no doubt as to the outcome of the battle.

70...♖g8 71 d6 ♖f8 72 g5! ♖e8 73 ♖c5 ♖xe6 74 ♖xe6 ♖d8 75 a5 ♖e8 76 ♖xg8 ♖d7 77 ♖d5 1-0

R.Soffer-P.Gokhvat

Round 5



White has won the strategic battle and now finds a beautiful quiet move to accelerate the inevitable end.



In the heat of battle at rapid chess - GM Evgeny Postny (left) tackles FM Nimrod Weinberg in a frantic finish to the delight of the crowd waiting for the round to conclude in the Israeli Cup.

36 ♖c8!! ♖xc8 37 ♖e7+ ♖f8 38 ♖xc8

The d6 point is about to fall and the black position will soon collapse.

38...f5 39 gxf5 ♖f7 40 ♖xd6 ♖xd6 41 ♖xd6+ ♖e7 42 f6+ gxf6 43 ♖f5+ ♖f7 44 ♖xh6+ ♖g6 45 ♖g4 ♖d7 46 ♖e2 ♖g5 47 ♖e3 a5 48 f4+ ♖f5 49 ♖f3 ♖b6 50 ♖e3+ ♖g6 51 ♖e4 ♖f7 52 h4 ♖c8 53 ♖f5 ♖b6 54 h5 a4 55 bxa4 ♖xa4 56 ♖d6+ ♖g7 57 ♖c8 ♖f7 58 h6 ♖c3+ 59 ♖f3 1-0

The following miniature won the daily prize for its graphic illustration of a nasty surprise.

D.Gershkowich-V.Pravdivetz

Round 7

French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♖c3 ♖f6 4 ♖g5 dxe4 5 ♖xe4 ♖e7 6 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 7 ♖f3 ♖d7 8 ♖d2 0-0 9 0-0 b6 10 h4 ♖b7 11 ♖d3 ♖e7 12 ♖f4 ♖f6 13 ♖xf6+ ♖xf6 14 ♖g5 g6 15 ♖e4! ♖xg5??

Correct was 15...♖d5. Opening the f-file will soon prove disastrous.

16 hxg5 ♖xe4



What else?

17 ♖xh7!! All of a sudden the black king is trapped in a mate net.

17...♖xh7 18 ♖h4+ 1-0

And Black didn't wait for 18...♖g7 19 ♖h6+ ♖g8 20 ♖h1.

Just like in any Swiss tournament with an intensive schedule, hair-raising errors along with brilliant missed opportunities were not missing in the Gideon Japhet Memorial, even at grandmaster level.

Y.Zilberman-M.Antipov

Round 2



51...♖b6??

Fatally abandoning the eighth rank.

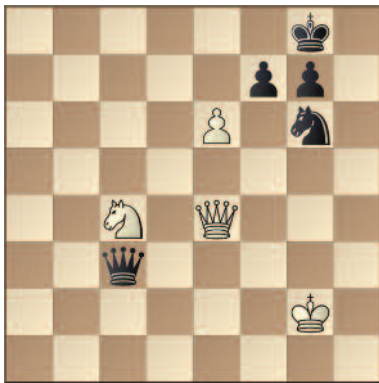
52 ♖fg4??

Missing a fantastic opportunity to beat a reigning world champion: 52 ♖a8+ ♖h7 53 g6+! fxe6 (53...♖h6 54 ♖h8#) 54 ♖h3! when avoiding being mated will clearly cost Black dearly.

52...♖xe5 53 fxe5 ♖f5 54 ♖e4 ♖e7 55 ♖e3 ♖g6 56 ♖g2 ♖d8 57 ♖c4? ♖xg5+ 58 ♖f2 ♖e7 59 ♖g3 ♖xb4 60 e6 ♖c3+ 61 ♖g2



Sponsor Gilad Japhet (left) presents the Gideon Japhet Memorial trophy to Arkadij Naiditsch, who was the clear favourite and delivered in some style, finishing a point and a half clear!



61...f5!

Following a series of time pressure blunders it seems that tables have turned and that it is White who is now in serious trouble. Luckily he manages to pull himself together and find the only way out.

62 e7! ♟xe7 63 ♖xe7 ♗xc4 ½-½

And a draw was agreed in view of the forthcoming perpetual check.

Curiously the key moves in the Nabaty-Vaisser game above are identical to those in a very famous game, played in Jerusalem just last year, albeit in an entirely different position.

D.Khismatullin-P.Eljanov
European Individual Ch., Jerusalem 2015



44 ♖g1!!

This unbelievable move was unofficially crowned as 'The Move of the Year.'

44...♗xd1+ 45 ♖h2 ♖xc6 46 ♗e7+ ♖h6 47 ♗f8+ ♖g5

Perpetual check? No way! Repeating moves is but a common practice to save some time for the later stages of the game.

48 ♗xf7!

All of a sudden the black king is in a mating net.

48...♗f6 49 f4+ ♖h6 50 ♗xf6 ♗e2

To pin the pawn or else 50...d2 51 ♗f8+ ♖h5 52 g4+ occurs.

51 ♗f8+ ♖h5 52 ♗g7 h6 53 ♗e5+ ♖h4 54 ♗f6+ ♖h5 55 f5! gxf5 56 ♗xf5+ ♖h4 57 ♗g6! 1-0

The second and final quiet queen move, after which the black king will soon be mated.

65th
Herts Congress
12 – 13 November

County Suite, County Hall
Hertford, SG13 8DQ

4 sections:
Open, U170, U140, U110

£2000 + Prize Fund

For further information and to
enter online, visit:
www.hertschesscongress.com

The Trends in Chess Openings

THE TOP TWENTY OPENINGS AS PLAYED BY INTERNATIONAL MASTERS AND GRANDMASTERS IN AUGUST

- 1 = Reti Opening 116 games
- 2 = King's Indian Defence 95 games
- 3 = Slav Defence 85 games
- 4 ↑ 1 d4 ♗f6 sidelines 68 games
- 5 ↑ Sicilian, Najdorf 66 games
- 6 ↓ Queen's Gambit Declined 61 games
- 7 ↑ Caro-Kann Defence 60 games
- 8 ↓ Nimzo-Indian Defence 59 games
- 9 = Queen's Indian Defence 51 games
- 10 ↑ English, 1...c5 48 games
- 11 ↓ Sicilian, 2 ♗f3 d6 sidelines 48 games
- 12 ↓ Ruy Lopez, Berlin Def. 46 games
- 13 ↑ English, 1...♗f6 45 games
- 14 ↑ English, 1...e5 44 games
- 15 ↑ Semi-Slav Defence 43 games
- 16 ↓ Sicilian, Kan Variation 40 games
- 17 ↑ Grünfeld Def., Classical 40 games
- 18 ↓ 1 d4 d5 sidelines 37 games
- 19 ↑ Catalan Opening 36 games
- 20 ↓ Sicilian, Taimanov 35 games

1,874 games played between 1-31 August where both players were rated over 2400 Elo.

Source: TWIC. Compiled by HIARCS 14.



In association with HIARCS Chess Explorer - www.hiarcs.com and The Week in Chess - www.theweekinchess.com