

# Boris Gelfand's Remarkable Comeback

## Yochanan Afek reports back from the star-studded Netanya International Chess Festival

A big International Festival was organised in the coastal Israeli city of Netanya by the Israeli Chess Federation and the local municipality, supported by the generosity of businessman Roman Abramovich, likely best known to the readers as the owner of Chelsea Football Club.

It has been quite a while since Netanya last hosted a strong international chess event, but the city has a long and respectable tradition of grandmaster tournaments. They were initially part of the popular Schach-Kait (Chess & Holiday) festival. Over the years various master tournaments were held as well as many editions of a grandmaster crown group, whose winners included the world-class icons Bobby Fischer (1968), Sammy Reshevsky (1969), Lubomir Kavalek (1971 and 1973), and Jan Timman (1975), as well as local heroes Yair Kraidman (1964) and Moshe Czerniak (1965).

Played in the VIP room of the city's football stadium and consisting of two major sections, this year's edition of the Netanya International Festival was both the biggest and the strongest individual event ever to be held in Israel. The remarkable production was superbly run by an experienced team headed up by organisers Amiram Kaplan and Rami Tal, while GM Alik Gershon did a remarkable job in charge of the smooth live transmission.

In the 'Masters' five world-class grandmasters and Israel's top five players formed a category 18 super-tournament with a prize fund of \$100,000. The powerful field was led by two 2700+ players, the American, formerly Cuban, star Leinier Dominguez Perez and the eight-time Russian Champion Peter Svidler. The youngest player in the field was the 23-year-old Russian Daniil Dubov, the current world champion of rapid chess, while the eldest was the 51-year-old Israeli Ilya Smirin.

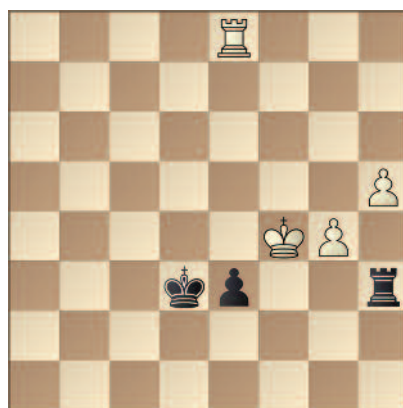
The early leader in the Masters was Luke McShane, who surprisingly defeated both Maxim Rodshtein and Pavel Eljanov in the opening two rounds. The latter was defeated in a long, riveting game, which I'm pleased to report Luke has annotated elsewhere in this issue. In the third round, however, Luke was



*Ilya Smirin might be in his fifties, but still produces plenty of attacking and exciting games.*

beaten in just 25 moves by Tamir Nabaty, who thus claimed the overall lead despite having missed a study-like opportunity in the opening round.

### T.Nabaty-I.Smirin Round 1



Here White missed his last opportunity:

66 g5! ♖h4+ 67 ♕f3 ♜xh5 68 ♜xe3+ ♕d4 69 ♜e4+ ♕d5 70 ♜a4! (this skewer is the tactical device that was missed; naturally, 70 ♜g4 ♕e6 71 g6 ♜h8 is just a draw) 70...♕e6 71 ♕g4 ♜h1 72 ♜f4, cutting off the black king and so winning.

**66 h6? e2 67 g5 ♕d2 68 ♕f5 ♜e3 69 ♜xe3 ♕xe3 70 h7 e1 ♖71 h8 ♖b1+**

Now it's a forced draw.

**72 ♕e6 ♖b6+ 73 ♕f7 ♖b7+ 74 ♕g6 ♖e4+ 75 ♕f7 ♖d5+ 76 ♕g6 ♖e4+ ½-½**

Nabaty held the lead for just one round, being immediately defeated by Dominguez, before in the fifth round Dubov joined the new leader after inflicting on Rodshtein his third defeat. In the meantime a special record had been set in the following game.

### L.McShane-I.Smirin Round 4 *Sicilian Defence*

**1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 e6 3 g3 d5 4 exd5 exd5**

5 d4 ♖c6 6 ♙g2 ♜f6 7 0-0 ♙e7 8 dxc5  
 ♙xc5 9 a3 0-0 10 ♜c3 ♜e8 11 b4 d4  
 12 ♜a4 ♙f8 13 c4 dxc3

Possible too was 13...♙f5 14 ♙b2 d3  
 15 ♜e1 ♜xe1+ 16 ♜xe1 ♜c8 with a roughly  
 level position.

14 ♜xc3 ♙g4 15 ♙e3 ♜c8 16 ♜b3 ♙e6  
 17 ♜b2 ♙h3 18 ♜fd1 ♙xg2 19 ♙xg2  
 ♜f5 20 h3 ♜ac8 21 ♜b3



### 21...♜xe3!?

One! The first of four accepted exchange sacrifices is a speculative attempt to unbalance an even position. A normal approach would see such moves as 21...a5 22 b5 ♜e5 23 ♜xe5 ♜xe5 24 ♜ac1 ♙c5 25 ♙d4, with equality.

22 fxex3 ♜e5 23 ♜xe5 ♜xe5 24 ♜ac1 ♜xe3 25 ♜b2

White could have maintained his slight advantage with 25 ♜c2! ♜e6 26 ♜d3.

25...♜h5 26 ♜e2 ♜e8 27 ♜d2 ♜e4+ 28 ♙h2 g6 29 ♜f1 ♙h6 30 ♜c2 ♜d3 31 ♜a2?



31 ♜g1 ♙e3 32 ♜g2 ♜f6 would have maintained the rough balance.

### 31...♜xe2+!

Two! Black takes advantage of delay of White's careless choice to seize the initiative.

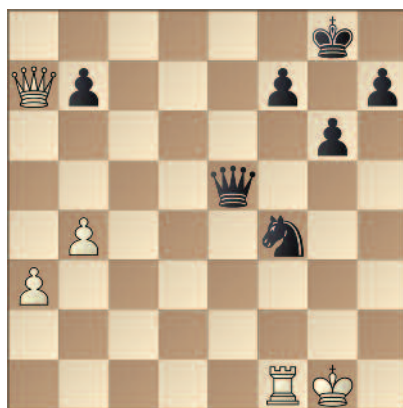
32 ♜xe2 ♜xg3+ 33 ♙h1 ♜xh3+ 34 ♙g1 ♜g3+ 35 ♙h1 ♜h3+ 36 ♙g1 ♙e3+?!

Following 36...♜g4+ 37 ♙h2 ♙f4+ 38 ♜xf4 ♜xf4+ Black is better, whereas after the text it's easier for White to defend.

### 37 ♜xe3!

This forced move takes us to three.

37...♜xe3+ 38 ♜f2 ♜g5+ 39 ♙h2 ♜e7 40 ♜xa7 ♜e5+ 41 ♙g1 ♜f4



### 42 ♜xf4! ♜xf4 43 ♜xb7 h5

In queen endings with passed pawns the distance from promotion is more relevant than the number of pawns.

### 44 b5 h4 45 b6

Forcing Black to give perpetual check.

45...♜e3+ 46 ♙h2 ♜f2+ 47 ♙h1 ♜f1+ 48 ♙h2 ½-½

Meanwhile Boris Gelfand missed a great chance to score his first victory, giving him five consecutive draws, before finally opening his account against Smirin's favourite King's Indian.

## T.Nabaty-B.Gelfand Round 5



The most severe double error in the entire tournament was made here.

### 41 d6?? ♜xd6?

41...fxg4! would have won since 42 ♜xf6? allows 42...♜h2#.

### 42 ♜g2 ♜d3 43 ♜a7 ♜d7

A subtle retreat would have done the trick: 43...♜c7! 44 gxf5 e3! 45 f6+ (or 45 ♜xg6+ ♙f8 46 ♜g2 ♜d2) 45...♙f8 46 ♜a3+ ♜d6, winning.

### 44 ♜e3 f4

44...fxg4! was still the right move.

### 45 ♜xf4 ♜h3? 46 ♜g3

The win has vanished.

46...♜xg3+ 47 ♜xg3 ♜c5+ 48 ♙f1 ♜d6 49 ♙g1 ♜b6+ 50 ♜f2 ♜c7 51 ♜xc7 ♜xc7 52 g5 ♙c8 53 ♜f6 e3 54 ♙f1 ♙g4 55 ♙d5 ♜d7 56 ♙f3 ♙xf3 57 ♜xf3 ♜d5 58 ♜g3 ♜e5 59 ♙e2 ♙f7 60 b3 ♙f8 ½-½

# The Trends in Chess Openings

The top twenty openings as played by International Masters and Grandmasters in July

- 1 = Reti Opening 195 games
- 2 ♗ King's Indian Defence 180 games
- 3 ♘ 1 d4 ♜f6 sidelines 141 games
- 4 ♗ Queen's Gambit Declined 128 games
- 5 ♘ Caro-Kann Defence 119 games
- 6 ♗ Nimzo-Indian Defence 113 games
- 7 = Sicilian, Najdorf variation 101 games
- 8 ♘ Slav Defence 98 games
- 9 = English, 1...e5 86 games
- 10 ♗ Sicilian, 2 ♜f3 d6 sidelines 86 games
- 11 ♗ English, 1...e6 84 games
- 12 ♗ Ruy Lopez, Berlin 84 games
- 13 ♘ English, 1...♜f6 83 games
- 14 ♗ English, 1...c5 80 games
- 15 ♗ Catalan Opening 79 games
- 16 ♘ Queen's Indian Defence 77 games
- 17 ♘ Sicilian, 2 Nf3 sidelines 74 games
- 18 ♗ 1 d4 d5 sidelines 73 games
- 19 = Grünfeld Def., Classical 70 games
- 20 ♗ Petroff Def., 3 ♜xe5 var. 55 games

**3,442 games played between 1-31 July where both players were rated over 2400 Elo**

Source: TWIC.

Compiled by HIARCS 14.



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

The seventh round was perhaps the most significant turning point in the Masters when as many as four of the five games produced a decisive result. McShane was the hero of the hour inflicting on Dominguez, the proud leader, his first and only defeat to open up the battle for first place.

### L. McShane-L. Dominguez Perez

Round 7  
Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♚b5 ♘f6 4 0-0 ♗xe4 5 ♚e1 ♗d6 6 ♗xe5 ♚e7 7 ♚f1 ♗xe5 8 ♚xe5 0-0 9 d4 ♚f6 10 ♚e1 ♚e8 11 ♚f4

Back in the fourth game of the first world championship match, Steinitz-Zukertort, New York 1886, saw instead 11 c3 ♚xe1 12 ♖xe1 ♗f5 13 ♚f4 d6 with equality.

11...♚xe1 12 ♖xe1 ♗e8 13 ♗c3 ♚xd4 14 ♗d5 d6 15 ♚g5 f6 16 ♚h4!? ♚xb2

16...g5!? could have been considered when after 17 c3 ♚e5 18 ♚g3 c6 19 ♗e3 d5 20 ♖d2 ♗d6 21 ♚d3 ♖e7 22 ♚e1 ♚d7 White still needs to prove that he has sufficient compensation for the sacrificed pawn.

17 ♚b1 ♚e5 18 f4 c6 19 fxe5 cxd5 20 exf6 ♗xf6 21 ♚d3 ♚d7 22 ♖g3 ♚c6 23 ♚g5! ♗h8?!

Allowing a dangerous sacrificial follow-up, whereas after, for example, 23...a6 24 ♖h4? h6 25 ♚xh6 gxh6 Black has nothing much to worry about.

24 ♖h4



24...h6?

Playing with fire. The more cautious 24...♖d7 25 ♚xf6 gxf6 26 ♖xf6+ ♖g7 27 ♖xd6 ♚e8 28 ♚f1 seems just a little bit more pleasant to play as White whose king looks the safer.

25 ♚xh6! gxh6 26 ♖xh6+ ♚g8 27 ♖g6+ ♗h8 28 ♚b4!

This rook lift is the most powerful way to exploit the exposed enemy king, as the natural alternative 28 ♚f1 ♖b6+ 29 ♚h1 ♚f8 30 h3 ♖c7 31 ♚xf6 ♚xf6 32 ♖xf6+ ♚g8 33 h4 ♖f7 would allow tougher resistance.

28...♗e4 29 ♚xe4 dxe4 30 ♚b3! E3

30...♖h4 is vigorously met by 31 ♚g3 (31 ♚h3 ♖xh3! 32 ♖f6+ ♗h7 33 gxh3



The moment of the game. Top seed Leinier Dominguez Perez looks resigned to his fate as Luke McShane plays the deadly rook lift 31 ♚b4, spelling disaster for the exposed black king.

♚g8+ 34 ♗f2 d5 is not yet over).

31 ♚b4!



A deadly and decisive switchback, and not 31 ♚xe3? ♖b6 when White has nothing better than perpetual check.

31...♚d7

31...♖e7? loses to 32 ♚g4.

32 ♖h6+ ♚g8 33 ♖g6+ ♗h8 34 ♖h6+ ♗g8

Repeating so is common practice in time pressure and now the lifted rook finally completes its deadly transfer to the kingside.

35 ♚h4 ♖xh4

The skewer following 35...♖e7 36 ♖h8+ ♗f7 37 ♖h7+ ♚e8 38 ♖g8+ ♖f8 39 ♖xf8+ ♗xf8 40 ♚h8+ gives Black no hope.

36 ♖xh4 ♚e8 37 ♗f1!

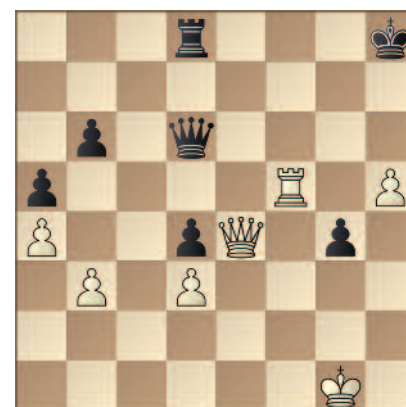
The king neutralises the dangerous advanced e-pawn, allowing a free hand for White's queen and connected passed pawn pair.

37...e2+ 38 ♚e1 ♚e6 39 ♖d8+ ♚e8 40 g4 b5 41 h4 ♗g7 42 h5 ♚f7 43 ♖g5+ ♗h7 44 ♖xb5 1-0

The second unbeaten player to suffer was Dubov at the hands of Eljanov.

### P. Eljanov-D. Dubov

Round 7



50 ♚f7!? 50 ♚f4! maintains winning chances.

50...♖g3+ 51 ♗f1 ♖h3+ 52 ♚e1 ♖h4+??

A decisive error. Instead, 52...♖g3+ 53 ♗d1 ♖g1+ would have secured the draw.

53 ♗d1 ♖xh5 54 ♚f5 ♖h2 55 ♚f1! 1-0

A second switchback of the lifted rook. The threat of 56 ♚h1 is unstoppable.

For the Ukrainian this victory signalled an amazing comeback of three consecutive wins that would lift him from the very bottom of the tournament chart all the way to third place. Meanwhile Rodshtein continued his recovery from a rather slow start, this time at the expense of Nabaty, while Smirin caught Svidler having an unusually weak day at the office. That all meant that at the end of the seventh round Dominguez remained the sole leader with 4½/7, leading a chasing pack of four by just half a point.

Reaching the money time, the overall fighting spirit was very much maintained and Boris Gelfand exploited the advantage of the white pieces to close the gap at the top.

## B.Gelfand-L.McShane

Round 8

King's Indian Defence

1 c4 ♖f6 2 ♗f3 g6 3 ♖c3 ♗g7 4 e4 d6  
5 d4 0-0 6 ♗e2 e5 7 0-0 ♖a6

Not the most fashionable variation of the Classical King's Indian, although it has its point of developing the knight without obstructing the other pieces.

8 ♗e3 c6 9 dxe5 dxe5 10 ♗xd8 ♗xd8  
11 h3 ♖c7 12 ♗fd1 ♗e8 13 b4 ♖h5 14 ♗ac1 ♖f4 15 ♗f1 ♖fe6 16 c5!



Creating a stronghold for a future invasion by both knights. Another promising idea in 16 ♖d5!? should be precisely handled by a subtle switchback to drive back the invading knight, namely 16...♖a6! 17 b5 ♖b8!

16...f6 17 ♖d2

Consistently heading for d6.

17...a5 18 a3 f5 19 exf5 gxf5 20 ♖c4  
axb4 21 axb4 f4 22 ♗d2 ♖d4 23 ♖d6

The first knight to use the stronghold, if, however, definitely not the last.

23...♗f8 24 ♖xc8! ♗axc8 25 ♗c4+ ♖h8  
26 ♖e4 ♖cb5 27 ♖f1 ♗cd8 28 ♗a1 h6  
29 ♗dc1 ♖h7 30 ♗c3 ♖xc3 31 ♗xc3  
♗d7 32 ♗d3 ♖h8 33 ♗ca3 ♗fd8

Even after 33...♖f5!? 34 b5 ♗fd8 35 ♗e2 ♗d4 36 ♗a8 ♗f8 37 bxc6 bxc6 38 ♗f3  
White is better.

34 ♗a8 ♖b3? 35 ♗xd8+ ♗xd8



36 ♖d6!! e4?!

36...♗b8 is obviously met by 37 ♗a7.

37 ♖f7+ ♖h7

After 37...♗g8 38 ♖xd8 ♖xa1 (if  
38...♗xa1 39 ♗c4+) 39 ♗xe4 ♖b3 40 ♖e2



The new Vassily Smyslov or Viktor Korchnoi? Boris Gelfand looks set to be a tough opponent for even the world's leading grandmasters throughout at least his fifties, and possibly beyond.

## The Winner Almost Takes It All!

Victory in the strongest competition ever held in Israel brought the country's best ever player back to the forefront of public consciousness, after a rather long period of inconsistency. With seven draws and two wins Boris Gelfand was the only player to finish undefeated in Netanya, while his result earned him a place in the final leg of the FIDE Grand Prix cycle which will be held in Israel in December. Speaking at the closing ceremony, Boris thanked everyone who had made the Netanya International such a success, while praising the support of both his family and long-time second Alexander Khuzman.

Boris celebrated his 51st birthday on the second day of the tournament, but was not the oldest participant in the Masters, being five months younger than Ilya Smirin. Incidentally, both were born in Minsk in 1968. Ilya emigrated to Israel in 1991, Boris following him seven years later, and ever since they have both been pillars of the Israeli chess community and national team, while in 1999 they jointly won the only ever Israeli 'Super Championship'.

Gelfand's amazing career started when he was just a teenager, winning the Belorussian Championship in 1984 and 1985, as well as the European Junior Championship in 1985. Ever since then Boris has won or shared first in numerous major events: Palma de Mallorca Open 1989; Tilburg 1990; Belgrade 1991; Wijk aan Zee 1992; Rubinstein Memorial, 1998 and 2000; Melody Amber Rapid 1999; Pamplona 2004; Biel 2005; Alekhine Memorial 2013; Tal Memorial 2013.

Boris is a six-time world championship candidate, as well as the winner of the 2009 World Cup. He shared second place with Kramnik at the world championship tournament in Mexico in 2007 and in 2011 won the candidates tournament to challenge Vishy Anand for the world crown. The match ended level at 6-6, but Anand narrowly prevailed in the tie-break. This highlight of Boris's career left an unforgettable impression on the Israeli general public. If you happened to miss this experience at the time, let me make a heartfelt recommendation to watch one of the best chess documentaries ever produced. Read more about it here: [en.chessbase.com/post/album-61-an-intimate-award-winning-documentary](http://en.chessbase.com/post/album-61-an-intimate-award-winning-documentary)

Boris has played in 11 Olympiads, helping the USSR win the gold medals at Novi Sad in 1990, twice for Belarus and then on board one for Israel, who secured team silver at Dresden, 2008 and bronze at Khanty-Mansiysk, 2010. He is a member of the chess club of his hometown, Rishon LeZion, and while his chess career had to appear to be on the way down, Boris's impressive comeback in Netanya seems to suggest otherwise. We write off such fighters at our peril.

the fall of a second pawn is unavoidable.

**38 ♖xe4+ ♗g8 39 ♜xd8 ♙xa1 40 ♖e2 ♜c1+ 41 ♖f3 ♜a2 42 b5 ♜b4 43 b6 ♙d4 44 ♜xb7 ♜a6 45 ♙xc6 ♜xc5 46 ♜xc5 ♙xc5** Pinning his last hopes on the opposite-coloured bishops, but to no avail.

**47 b7 ♙d6 48 ♖e4 ♖f7 49 ♖f5 ♙c7 50 ♙d5+**

The black king is unable to cover both wings.  
**50...♖e7 51 ♖g6 1-0**

**P.Eljanov-T.Nabaty**  
Round 8



White converts his advantage in grand style with a deadly double rook lift.

**34 ♖c6! ♖h7 35 ♖ec1 ♖xb2 36 ♖c7**  
To pin the f7-pawn ahead of the final attack.

**36...♖d8 37 ♖1c6!**  
Doubling the heavy artillery on the sixth rank leaves Black without a good defence.

**37...♖b1+ 38 ♖h2 ♙g8 39 ♖xg6! ♖xg6 40 ♖xf7+ 1-0**

Black resigned in view of the neat follow-up **40...♙g7 41 ♖xg7+ ♖xg7 42 ♜e6+**.

At the same time the leading game of the round between Dubov and Dominguez ended in a draw allowed Gelfand to catch up and join the American in the lead on '+2', half a point ahead of Dubov and Smirin.

All seemed set for a titanic final round, but Dominguez offered to split the point as early as move 14, despite playing with the white pieces against his co-leader. That meant that he and Gelfand each won \$22,500, albeit with the home favourite declared the overall winner on tie-break. Elsewhere Eljanov won the battle for third place, skilfully converting a promising rook endgame against Smirin.

**The Open**

143 players from 8 countries took part in the Open which was held alongside the Masters, including 22 grandmasters and 13 International Masters. The oldest participant was Efim Lazebnikov (85), while the youngest was the Israeli under-8 girls champion Evelina Khairova. The total prize

fund was 170,000 NIS (approximately 43,000 Euros), with 30,000 NIS going to the clear winner, the Russian GM Mikhail Antipov who led the field in the decisive stages of the event and ended undefeated with 7½/9 points. Ukrainian GM Alexander Moiseenko and Israeli Tal Baron (ISR) shared second place, half a point adrift. The best senior was the three-time Israel Champion IM Nathan Birnboim, while the best woman was former Israel champion WFM Michal Lahav, who faced a strong field and made a WGM norm.

**A.Moiseenko-E.Rozentalis**  
Round 9  
*Queen's Indian Defence*

**1 d4 ♜f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♜f3 b6 4 a3 ♙b7 5 ♜c3 ♙g6 6 ♖c2 ♙xf3 7 exf3 ♙g7 8 ♙e3 ♜c6 9 0-0-0 ♜e7 10 g4 d5 11 h4 dxc4 12 h5 ♜fd5 13 ♙xc4 ♜xc3 14 ♖xc3 c6 15 h6!?**

This natural move was apparently well anticipated by Black. As such, **15 ♖b1!?**, maintaining the tension along the h-file, seems to be the preferable option. **15...♙f6! 16 g5 ♜d5! 17 ♙xd5 cxd5 18 ♖c6+**

Black's idea becomes apparent: **18 gxf6??** would now be met by **18...♖c8**.

**18...♖f8 19 ♖b1 ♖c8 20 ♖b7 ♖c7 21 ♖a6 ♙xg5 22 f4!**



White spots new paths for counterplay to justify his pawn sacrifice.

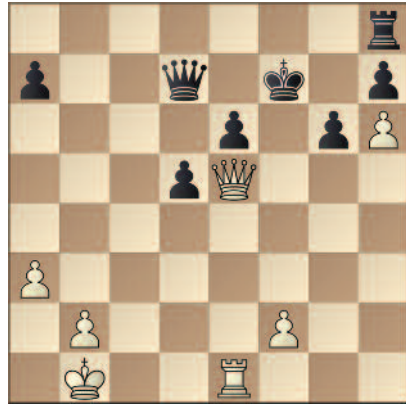
**22...♙f6 23 ♖c1 ♖e7! 24 f5! ♜d7?!**

Boldly rejecting **24...gxf5 25 ♖xc7+ ♖xc7 26 ♖c1 ♖b8 27 ♙f4!! ♖xf4 28 ♖b7+ ♖e8 29 ♖c6+ ♖e7**, with a draw.

**25 ♙d2! ♙xd4 26 ♙b4+ ♖f6 27 ♖d3 ♙c5 28 fxe6 fxe6 29 ♖f3+ ♖e7 30 ♖xc5! bxc5 31 ♙xc5+ ♖e8 32 ♖e1 ♖e7 33 ♖g4 ♖d7?**

The losing move as now the queen obstructs her own king. Essential was **33...♖c8**, though White is still better following **34 ♙xe7 ♖xe7 35 ♖b4+ ♖d7 36 ♖a4+ ♖e7 37 ♖xa7+ ♖d7 38 ♖d4!**.

**34 ♙xe7 ♖xe7 35 ♖g5+ ♖f7 36 ♖f4+ ♖e7 37 ♖g5+ ♖f7 38 ♖e5!**



**38...♖f8**

Alternatively, **38...♖c8 39 ♖g7+ ♖e8 40 ♖f6 ♖c6 41 ♖h8+ ♖e7 42 ♖xh7+ ♖d6 43 ♖xg6** and the advanced passed pawn decides the battle.

**39 ♖c1 ♖g8 40 ♖c7 ♖f5 41 ♖c8+ ♖f8 42 ♖h8+! 1-0**

Not the only way to win, but definitely the shortest one.

One of the most experienced players in the Open was the Russian-Israeli Semen Dvoiryis. At the age of 60 he is still capable of demonstrating exemplary attacking play, even when up against a talented teenager.



Just like the London Chess Classic - which will take place this year from November 29th until December 8th - the Netanya International featured a strong Open alongside the top section.

## S.Dvoirys-O.Globus

Round 6

Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘d2 dxe4 4 ♗xe4 ♙f5  
5 ♖g3 ♙g6 6 h4 h6 7 ♗f3 ♗d7 8 h5  
9 ♙h7 9 ♙d3 ♙xd3 10 ♗xd3 e6 11 ♙d2  
12 ♗g6 12 0-0-0 ♙e7 13 ♗e2 ♗b6 14  
15 ♗e5 ♗d8 15 ♗he1 c5



### 16 ♗f5! cxd4?

16...♗e5 17 dxe5 ♗d5 18 ♗g4! exf5  
19 ♗xg7 ♗f8 20 ♙xh6 ♗e6 was the lesser  
evil, although here White is undoubtedly for  
choice.

### 17 ♗g6!! fxg6 18 ♗xg7+ ♙f7 19 ♗xe6 gxh5

Likewise, after 19...♗f8 20 ♗xd8+ ♙xd8  
21 ♗c4+ ♙g7 22 hxg6 ♗xg6 23 ♗e6 ♗c7  
24 ♗xd4 ♗f7 25 ♗de1 ♙b6 26 ♗c4 White  
should win.

### 20 ♗c4 ♗d8 21 ♗xd4+ ♙f8 22 ♗xe7! ♙xe7 23 ♗e1+ ♙d8 24 ♗e6+ ♙e8 25 ♗c5+ ♙d8 26 ♙a5! 1-0

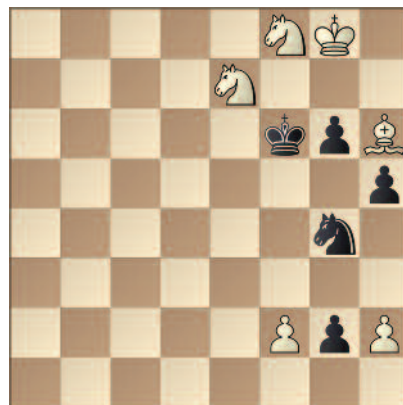
We conclude our coverage with an original  
endgame study, which was dedicated to the  
players and officials of the Netanya International.



Is that all I won? Boris Gelfand looks rather anxious, but whether it was due to a zero missing  
on his cheque or that it had been a while since he balanced on top of a podium we're not  
quite sure. He is flanked by the current world no.10, Dominguez, and a real fighter in Eljanov.

## Amatzia Avni

Variantim 2019



White cannot stop the enemy advanced  
pawn, but where lie his counter-chances?

Ed. – In case you fancy a reward for  
testing your calculation and creativity on this  
fascinating position, there's a copy of  
Yochanan's Extreme Chess Tactics for the first  
correct entry drawn. To enter email  
info@chess.co.uk or send your name and  
address, with the main variations, to Chess &  
Bridge Ltd., 44 Baker Street, London, W1U  
7RT, postmarked no later than 1st October.



### Netanya Masters - Netanya, Israel - 23 June to 2 July 2019 (Category rating 18, average rating = 2677 Elo)

Player	Country	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts	TPR
1 Boris Gelfand	ISR	2676	*	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	½	5½	2757
2 Leinier Dominguez Perez	USA	2760	½	*	½	½	1	½	½	0	1	1	5½	2748
3 Pavel Eljanov	UKR	2655	½	½	*	1	0	½	1	0	1	½	5	2722
4 Daniil Dubov	RUS	2700	½	½	0	*	1	½	½	½	½	1	5	2717
5 Maxim Rodshtein	ISR	2685	½	0	1	0	*	1	½	0	1	½	4½	2676
6 Peter Svidler	RUS	2737	½	½	½	½	0	*	0	1	½	1	4½	2670
7 Ilia Smirin	ISR	2594	0	½	0	½	½	1	*	½	½	1	4½	2686
8 Luke McShane	ENG	2688	0	1	1	½	1	0	½	*	0	0	4	2633
9 Tamir Nabaty	ISR	2678	½	0	0	½	0	½	½	1	*	1	4	2634
10 Evgeny Postny	ISR	2601	½	0	½	0	½	0	0	1	0	*	2½	2519