

## Netanya

### Netanya International Chess Tournament series (held from 1961 to 1990, unregular; again 2019)

**1961** (Matulovic on tie-break, Trifunovic, Czerniak), **1964** (Kraidman), **1965** (Czerniak), **1968** (Fischer, three and a half points ahead of the rest, 14 players, none from the USSR), **1969** (Reshevsky), **1971** (Kavalek on tie-break, Parma), **1973** (Kavalek), **1975** (Timman), **1977** (Liberzon on tie-break, Gheorghiu, Dzindzichashvili, Birnboim), **1983** (Quinteros), **1990** (Gofshtein). **Note, this is a selection, there were further closed tournaments at Netanya!**

Prominent players not winning at Netanya: Stahlberg, Pachman, Filip, Gligoric, Matanovic, Ciocaltea, Ree, Stean, Keene, Westerinen, Lombardy, Benkö, Bisguier, Browne, Najdorf, Panno, Yanofsky, Shamkovich, Kagan, Murey, Gutman, amongst others

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netanya\\_chess\\_tournament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netanya_chess_tournament)

### Rapid and Blitz World Elite at Netanya in 2009

Later and independently organised in 2009: The **Richard Riordan Chess Festival** during the **18th Maccabiah Games ("The Jewish Olympics")** with two strong speed chess events:

**Najer** won the Rapid (2. Nepomniachtchi, 3. Beliavsky, 4. Eljanov, 5.= Gelfand, Eljanov, Smirin) **Fridman** the Blitz (2. Gelfand, 3. J. Polgar, 4. P. Eljanov; 5.= M. Rodshtein, M. Roiz); 13 players

<https://theweekinchess.com/html/twic767.html#6>

### Revival in 2019

#### Netanya International Chess Festival 2019 with Masters and Open

The festival consists of two main events:

A crown group, the **Netanya Masters** tournament (10 players), and the **Netanya Open**.

The venue is **The VIP main hall in the Netanya Football Stadium**, Hamaccabiah street.

The International Netanya Chess Festival took part from June 23<sup>rd</sup> – July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019, and had been organised by **The Israeli Chess Federation** and the city of **Netanya**.

Boris Gelfand (born in 1968) won the **<Netanya Masters>** 2019 on tie-break above Leinier Domínguez Pérez. Gelfand was also the only one to go the distance at without a defeat in a field of ten players, including Svidler, Eljanov, Dubov, Leinier McShane, Rodshtein, and Nabaty.

Mikhail Antipov, former World Junior Champion (2015) is clear first in the **<Netanya Open>**.

<http://imt.chess.org.il/about-netanya/>



Boris Gelfand, the winner of 2019 (Official Site)

The **Netanya Masters** was a round robin invitational tournament with 10 players of which five are world class players and the other five are from the Israeli top ones.

The average rating of 2678 formed a category 18 tournament, arguably the strongest classical chess event ever to be held in Israel, **with a total prize fund of 100.000 US dollars**, and 25.000 US dollars reserved for the first place in the Masters.

The time control will be 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from the first move.

List of the 10 players: GM Leinier Dominguez Perez USA –GM Peter Svidler RUS – GM Daniil Dubov RUS – GM Maxim Rodshtein – GM Luke McShane ENG – GM Tamir Nabaty – GM Boris Gelfand – GM Pavel Eljanov UKR – GM Evgeny Postny – GM Ilya Smirin (round robin)

The **Open tournament** was simultaneously held with the Masters' event, at the same venue. The total prize fund of the Open event offered 170 thousand Israeli Shekels, which is more than **40.000 EUR**.

144 players had registered for the Open event, and among them, six of them are rated 2600+: GM Korobov, Anton UKR; GM Kuzubov, Yuriy UKR; GM Moiseenko, Alexander UKR; GM Parligras, Mircea-Emilian ROM; GM Efimenko, Zahar UKR, GM Roiz, Michael ISR, 2603

<http://imt.chess.org.il/participants-masters/>

<https://www.europechess.org/netanya-international-chess-festival-2019/>

## Netanya Stadium



Since its opening on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2012 the stadium with its 13, 610 seats has served as one of the venues for a couple of UEFA European football junior championships. In the end of June 2019 Netanya Stadium is to write a new chapter by hosting the strongest chess tournament in recent time to be held in Israel.

## Netanya –The Riviera of Israel



Netanya (Hebrew for God gave, not to be confused with Netanyahu) is the capital city of the Sharon plain in the central district of the country on the coastal highway between Tel-Aviv and Haifa. It was founded in 1929 and named after Nathan Straus, an American Jewish philanthropist. With a population of 215 thousand inhabitants it is the seventh biggest city in Israel after Ashdod and ahead of **Beersheba**, both leading chess cities as well. The city is known for its large immigrant population (some 30 percents) from former Soviet Union, France and Ethiopia as well as from English speaking countries. Its current (13<sup>th</sup>) mayor since 1998 is Mrs. Miriam Feirberg –Icar.



The 14 kilometres of beautiful beaches have turned the city into a highly popular tourist resort.

## Netanya Tournament history:



Bobby Fischer

It has been quite a while since Netanya last hosted a strong International Chess Tournament.

In fact the city has a long and respectable tradition of grandmaster tournaments. They were initially organized by Hapoel sports organization and the Israel chess federation starting from 1961 on alongside with the popular Shah- Kait festival, founded just 3 years earlier to mark the first decade of the state of Israel. The basic idea was to combine a quality chess event with a decent summer vacation and Netanya as a highly popular holiday resort in the centre of the country, was a natural choice to serve as its host. Over the years various master tournaments were part of the festival in accordance to budget possibilities, while many of its editions showed a round robin gm group.



### First edition

Netanya 1961: [http://netanyachess.com/Topic/ev\\_Netanya1961.en.htm](http://netanyachess.com/Topic/ev_Netanya1961.en.htm)

1.-3. **M. Matulovic** (YUG), **P. Trifunovic** (YUG), **M. Czerniak** 8.5; 4.-5. Y. Kraidman, G. Shapiro 8; 6. Y. Porat 7.5; 7-8. W. Heidenfeld (IRL), R. Persitz 7; 9. I. Aloni 6.5; 10.E. Guti 5.5; 11. J.Durao (POR) 5; 12.W. Potasman 4.5; 13.E. Fischer 4; 14 .S. Shahar 2.5 (Sonnenborn-Berger tie-break: Matulovic 55.5, Trifunovic 52.5, Czerniak 51)



**Netanya 1964:** Cosstable not available

1. **Y. Kraidman** 7.5; 2.-3. Y. Stepak, M. Filip 7 (CSR); 4.-5. G. Stahlberg (SWE), E. Guti 6.5; 6.-9. R. Blumenfeld, T. Ghitescu (ROM), M. Czerniak, K. Langeweg (NLD) 5.5; 10. I. Aloni 5; 11. S. Kagan 3; 12. W. Potasman 1.5



**Netanya 1965:** <http://netnyachess.com/Topic/ev Netanya1965.en.htm>

1 .**M. Czerniak** 10; 2.-4. Matanovic (YUG), Y. Kraidman, S. Gligoric (YUG) 7.5; 5.Z. Domnitz 6.5; 6. V. Ciocaltea (ROM) 5.5; 7.Y. Porat 4.5; 8.-9. B. Soos (ROM) 4; 10. I. Aloni 3.5; 11. L. Bubis 3; 12. E. Fischer 2.5



**Netanya 1968:** <http://netnyachess.com/Topic/ev Netanya1968A.en.htm>

1. **R.J. Fischer** (USA) 11.5; 2.-3. D. Yanofsky (CAN), M.Czerniak 8; 4.-5. S. Hamann (DEN), S. Kagan 7; 6.V. Ciocaltea (ROM) 6.5; 7-10. Y. Porat, Z. Domnitz, Y. Kraidman, U. Geller 6; 11. O. Troianescu (ROM) 5.5; 12.-13.H. Ree (NLD), I. Aloni 5; 14. Y. Bernstein 3.5.



**Netanya 1969:** <http://netnyachess.com/Topic/ev Netanya1969.en.htm>

1. **S. Reshevsky** (USA) 10; 2.-4.M. Damjanovic (YUG), W. Lombardy (USA) , P. Benko (USA) 8; 5-7. L. Kavalek (CSR), D. Yanofsky (CAN), M. Peretz 7.5; 8.Y. Kraidman 7; 9.-10. S. Kagan, U. Geller 5.5; 11.-12. M.Czerniak, H. Westerinen (FIN) 5



**Netanya 1971:** <http://netanyachess.com/Topic/ev Netanya1971.en.htm>

**1.-2. L. Kavalek** (USA), **B. Parma** (YUG) 10; 3.-4. S. Reshevsky (USA), P. Benko (USA) 9; 5.W. Browne (AUS) 8.5; 6. Y. Kraidman 8; 7-8. M. Damjanovic (YUG) , Y. Bleiman 7.5; 9. S. Kagan 7; 10. - 13. H. Westerinen (FIN), A. Bigsuier (USA), M. Peretz 6.5 ; 14.-15. D. Janosevic (YUG), Y. Richter 6; 16. U. Geller 5.5. (Sonneborn-Berger tie-break: Kavalek 71, Parma 70.75)



**Netanya 1973:** <http://netanyachess.com/Topic/ev Netanya1973A.en.htm>

**1. L. Kavalek** (USA) 11; 2. S. Reshevsky (USA) 10; 3. L. Pachman (GER), M. Damjanovic (YUG) 9.5; 5-6. A. Saidy (USA), Y. Kraidman 9; 7. D. Yanofsky (CAN) 8; 8-9. M. Czerniak, S. Friedman 7; 10- 12. Y. Porat, S. Tatai (ITA), M. Peretz 6.5; 13. A.Kaldor 6; 14-15. M. Romm, Z. Domnitz 5.5; 16. H. Camara (BRA) 3.5



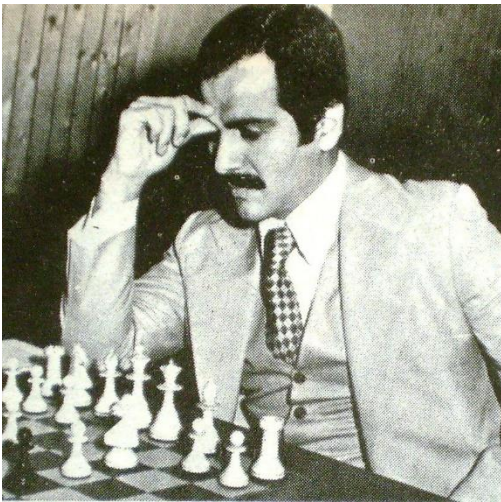
**Netanya 1975:** Cosstable not available

**1. J. Timman** (NLD) 9; 2-3. V. Liberzon, Y. Kraidman 8.5; 4. L. Lederman 7.5; 5.-6. L. Pachman (GER), M. Najdorf (ARG) 7; 7.-9. L. Shamkovich, S. Kagan, I. Radashkovich 6.5 ; 10. O. Panno (ARG) 5.5; 11.-12. D. Yanofsky (CAN), A. Balshan 5; 13. Y. Bleiman 4.5; 14. R. Cardoso (PHI) 4



**Netanya 1977:** Cosstable not available

**1.-4. R. Dzindzichashvili, F. Gheorghiu (ROM), N. Birnboim, V. Liberzon** 7; 5; M. Sharif (IRI) 6.5; 6.-7. Y. Kraidman, S. Kagan 5.5; 8. L. Lederman 5; 9. H. Böhm (NED) 4.5; 10. I. Radashkovich 4; 11-12. R. Keene (ENG), J. Murey 3.5 (Sonneborn-Berger tie-break: Dzindzichashvili 37.25 (5 wins), and Gheorghiu 37.25 (3), Birnboim 36.25, Liberzon 35.25) **The official Website 2019 wrongly stipulates Liberzon as winner**



**Netanya 1983:** <http://netanyachess.com/Topic/ev Netanya1983.en.htm>

**1. M. Quinteros (ARG)** 6; 2. S. Kagan 5.5; 3-4. J. Murey, L. Gutman 5; 5. A. Greenfeld 4.5; 6-8. E. Shvidler, V. Ciocaltea (ROM), M. Pavlov (ROM), 4; 9.-10 L. Pachman (GER), V. Liberzon 3.5



**Netanya 1990:** Cosstable not available

**1. L. Gofshtein** 8; 2.-4. I. Veinger, I. Manor, J. Hickl (GER) 7; 5. V. Alterman 6.5; 6. E. Liss 5; 7.-10. J. Murey, R. Lev, Y. Afek, V. Liberzon 4.5; 11. A. Kogan 4; 12. A. Beider (RUS) 3.5

Summary taken from: <http://imt.chess.org.il/netanya-chess-tournament-history/>

## Netanya (1968), the most famous edition of the series

The fourth international chess tournament organized by the Netanya chess club in the capital city of the Sharon Plain, Israel (a popular seaside resort twenty miles north of Tel Aviv) was held from June 16th to July 1st, 1968. The tournament commemorated the 20th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel.

Two grandmasters (at that time), Fischer and Yanofsky, many international masters, and chess masters were invited to compete in the round robin event. Among the notable foreign participants were Bobby Fischer from the United States, Daniel Yanofsky from Canada, Hans Ree from the Netherlands, and Victor Ciocaltea from Romania. Two of Israel's strongest players, Yair Kraidman and Moshe Czerniak, also participated along with the best and most promising of Israel's chess talent.

Fischer's presence was especially notable because he had turned down participating in the 1968 US Championship (running concurrently with this event) because the organizers had failed to meet his conditions for attendance such as the issues of prize money and playing conditions in the venue. Fischer found better welcome in Israel where, among other things, the tradition of observing the Sabbath from Friday sundown to Saturday sundown was shared by Fischer's faith in the Church of God. Some have speculated that his attendance at this event over the US Championship was intended to show that he was not unreasonable and more than willing to play, so long as his conditions were met beforehand. Whatever his reasons, Fischer blew away the competition in what would become typical fashion for him.

Fischer finished undefeated with ten wins and three draws, three and a half points ahead of the shared seconds. The final standings and crosstable:

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4
<b>1st Fischer</b>	<b>11.5/13</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>½</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>½</b>	<b>½</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
=2nd Yanofsky	8.0/13	½	*	½	0	1	½	1	1	½	½	1	½	½	½
=2nd Czerniak	8.0/13	0	½	*	1	1	½	½	½	0	½	½	1	1	1
=4th Hamann	7.0/13	0	1	0	*	0	1	0	1	½	1	½	0	1	1
=4th Kagan	7.0/13	0	0	0	1	*	½	½	1	½	½	1	1	0	1
6th Ciocaltea	6.5/13	0	½	½	0	½	*	1	½	½	½	½	0	1	1
=7th Kraidman	6.0/13	½	0	½	1	½	0	*	½	½	1	0	0	½	1
=7th Porath	6.0/13	½	0	½	0	0	½	½	*	½	½	½	1	1	½
=7th Aloni	6.0/13	0	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	*	0	0	1	1	0
=7th Domnitz	6.0/13	0	½	½	0	½	½	0	½	1	*	½	1	0	1
11th Troianescu	5.5/13	0	0	½	½	0	½	1	½	1	½	*	0	0	1
=12th Geller, Uzi	5.0/13	0	½	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	*	½	0
=12th Ree	5.0/13	0	½	0	0	1	0	½	0	0	1	1	½	*	½
14th Bernstein	3.5/13	0	½	0	0	0	0	0	½	1	0	0	1	½	*

Special thanks to <jessicafischerqueen> for the finishing touches on the historical content of this collection. Original: [Game Collection: Netanya-A 1968](#), by <User: suenteus po 147>.

Source: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=79945>

The most famous tournament of the series was surely the fourth <Netanya edition in 1968>, with Fischer winning overwhelmingly, but facing not that forceful opposition: The two strongest chess tournaments in that year (1968), according to Sonas, were <Palma de Mallorca 1968> (Korchnoi ahead of joint Larsen and Vice World Champion Spassky, then World Champion Petrosian, Gligoric, Ivkov; 18 players), <Wijk aan Zee 1968> (Korchnoi three full points ahead of joint Portisch, Hort, and Tal, followed by Gheorghiu; 16 players); <Monte Carlo 1968> also showed many world elite players (Larsen won ahead of Botvinnik and joint Hort and Smyslov, followed by R. Byrne; 14 players).



Plus further invitation tournaments of minor strength, ie. 27-05-1975 to 11-06-1975

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	Tot	
1	<a href="#">Kaldor, Avraham</a>	ISR	2370	-	1	½	½	0	1	1	1	½	1	1	1	<b>8½</b>
2	<a href="#">Rooze, Jan</a>	BEL		0	-	1	½	1	0	1	½	½	1	1	1	7½
3	<a href="#">Eslon, Jaan</a>	SWE	2345	½	0	-	½	1	1	½	1	1	½	0	1	<b>7</b>
4	IM <a href="#">Ghițescu, Teodor</a>	ROM	2435	½	½	½	-	½	1	½	½	½	1	1	0	<b>6½</b>
5	Gunsberger, Alexander	ISR		1	0	0	½	-	½	½	½	½	0	½	1	<b>5</b>
6	Domnitz, Zadok	ISR	2335	0	1	0	0	½	-	½	½	1	1	½	0	<b>5</b>
7	IM Porath, Yosef	ISR	2345	0	0	½	½	½	½	-	½	½	½	1	½	<b>5</b>
8	IM <a href="#">Dunkelblum, Arthur</a>	BEL	2240	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	-	½	½	½	1	<b>5</b>
9	Gluzman, Carol	ISR		½	½	0	½	½	0	½	½	-	½	½	½	<b>4½</b>
10	Ein-Dor, Uzi	ISR		0	0	½	0	1	0	½	½	½	-	½	1	<b>4½</b>
11	WM Kushnir, Alla Shulimovna	ISR	2365	0	0	1	0	½	½	0	½	½	½	-	½	<b>4</b>
12	Balinas, Rosendo Carrean	PHI	2355	0	0	0	1	0	1	½	0	½	0	½	-	<b>3½</b>

Cat=II (2299), IM=8½. Rooze did quite well and rather narrowly missed an IM norm.

or in 1976: Kaldor won again: [http://netanyachess.com/Topic/ev\\_Netanya1976.en.htm](http://netanyachess.com/Topic/ev_Netanya1976.en.htm)  
(this tournament is not included in the official survey from 2019, reasons unknown).

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Following a long break a super-tournament was held in Netanya in July 2009 as part of the **18th Maccabiah Games** ("The Jewish Olympics") games. The crown group was the Richard Riordan tournament, cat. 17 (average 2664 Elo), two events comprising a **rapid** and a **blitz tournament** to honour the mayor of Los Angeles in the years 1993-2001, a lifelong chess aficionado and a great supporter of the Maccabiah games.



**Richard Riordan GM Rapid 2009:**

1. E. Najer (RUS) 9.5; 2.J. Nepomniachtchi (RUS) 8.5 ; 3. A. Beliavsky (SLO) 7; 4.-6. B. Gelfand, P. Eljanov (UKR), I. Smirin 6.5; 7.-8. J. Polgar (HUN), M. Rodshtein 6; 9.-10. M. Roiz, B. Avrukh 5.5; 11. V. Golod 5; 12. D. Fridman (GER) 3.5; 13. E. Sutovsky 2.



### **Richard Riordan GM Blitz 2009:**

**1. D. Fridman (GER) 9.5;** B. Gelfand 9; J. Polgar (HUN)8; 4. P. Eljanov (UKR) 7; 5.-6. M. Rodshtein, M. Roiz 6; 7.-8. I. Smirin, I. Nepomniactchi (RUS) 5.5; 9-10. E. Najer (RUS), E. Sutovsky 5; 11-12. A. Beliavsky (SLO), V. Golod 4; 13. B. Avrukh 3.5

Summary taken from: <http://imt.chess.org.il/netanya-chess-tournament-history/>

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### **Netanya Masters 2019:**

Round robin in classical chess of ten players.



Gelfand (Photo: imt.chess.org.il)

Israeli GM **Boris Gelfand** is the winner of the Netanya 2019 Masters tournament, thanks to a better tie-break over GM **Leinier Dominguez**, playing for USA. Both players scored 5.5 /9.

GM **Pavel Eljanov** (UKR), with an amazing 3/3 finish and GM **Daniil Dubov** (RUS) tied for 3rd, half a point behind the winners.

Russian GM **Mikhail Antipov** is the sole winner of the strong **Open** with an impressive 7.5/9 score. GM **Alexander Moiseenko** (UKR) and GM **Tal Baron** (ISR) tied for 2nd place with 7/9.

2019, published in: <http://www.chessdiagonals.ch/>