



PRESS RELEASE Tuesday 24 January 2017

Tradewise 2017 Opening Ceremony

15 Years of Chess in Gibraltar



CAPTION: Miss Gibraltar 2016 Kayley Mifsud, with World No.2 and the top seed at this year's Festival Fabiano Caruana. Miss Gibraltar helped draw the pairings at the opening ceremony for the top boards on the first day. Pic: Sophie Triay.

OPENING night of the Tradewise Gibraltar International Chess Tournament is always hectic – arrival, registration and of course catching up with old friends. This year it somehow felt extra special as the festival prepares to celebrate its 15th birthday!

The Caleta Hotel was buzzing as players, guests, organisers and sponsors gathered for the opening ceremony of the 2017 Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival last night. The proceedings got off to a fine

start as pipers and drummer from the Gibraltar Sea Scout Band left the audience in no doubt that this year will be special and had arrived.



CAPTION: Pipers and drummer of the Gibraltar Sea Scouts opening the proceedings. PIC: Sophie Triay

The first of the pairings was drawn – with the help of Miss Gibraltar 2016 Kayley Mifsud – to first determine who would play the top seed in this year’s tournament, World No. 2, Fabiano Caruana. He will play white against FM Rakesh Kumar Jena.



***CAPTION:** Tournament director, Stuart Conquest, Gibraltar’s Sport, Culture and Heritage Minister Steven Linares, , Miss Gibraltar 2016 Kayley Mifsud, World No.2 Fabiano Caruana, Tradewise Chairman James Humphreys, Organiser Brian Callaghan. Pic: Sophie Triay.*

Gibraltar’s Sport, Culture and Heritage Minister Steven Linares, said he was proud to be celebrating 15 years of chess on the Rock.

Mr Linares commented it was a great honour for him to be back as Minister at the Caleta Hotel to inaugurate for his fifth consecutive year and to celebrate the 15th birthday of the tournament.

“It is a special year and we are really proud to have been here for 15 years.”

“We are one of the biggest open tournaments in the world,” he said.

Mr Linares proudly stated how chess had also taken off on the Rock especially in the schools.

“Children in schools have really engaged in chess. It is becoming a popular game. I know there are many of you who live and work at playing chess professionally, there are many who love it as sport.”

He called on everyone present to take this message back to their countries that chess can be a game played by all... “everybody can play chess.”

He was joined by Miss Gibraltar 2016 Kayley Mifsud who drew the pairings for the top boards in the first day of competition today.

Take note that the Gibraltar Masters starts at 3pm (Gibraltar time) and remember we will be going live once again from our studio here at the Caleta Hotel with Grand Master Simon Williams and International Master and current British Women’s Champion Jovanka Houska.

There are more than 250 chess players in the Tradewise Gibraltar Masters this year with some 400 players as part of the festival. Once again more than 50 countries are represented.

Report in full by John Saunders on our website.

Pairings/Results

Round 1 on 2017/01/24 at 15.00

Bo.	No.		Name	Rtg	Pts.	Result	Pts.		Name	Rtg	No.
1	1	GM	Caruana Fabiano	2827	0		0	FM	Rakesh Kumar Jena	2335	132
2	128	IM	Sodoma Jan	2344	0		0	GM	Vachier-Lagrave Maxime	2796	2
3	3	GM	Nakamura Hikaru	2785	0		0	FM	Gulamali Kazim	2341	130
4	126	WGM	Papp Petra	2352	0		0	GM	Ivanchuk Vassily	2752	4
5	5	GM	Adams Michael	2751	0		0	IM	Vuilleumier Alexandre	2347	127
6	131	GM	Bellon Lopez Juan Manuel	2339	0		0	GM	Svidler Peter	2748	6
7	7	GM	Topalov Veselin	2739	0		0	GM	Paetz Thomas	2365	121
8	123	IM	Sahl Bjarke	2363	0		0	GM	Yu Yangyi	2738	8

9	9	GM	Vitiugov Nikita	2724	0		0	IM	Siva Mahadevan	2356	124
10	125	IM	Bellin Robert	2353	0		0	GM	Gelfand Boris	2721	10

Alice Mascarenhas, John Saunders and Leontxo Garcia, and Sophie Triay - Tradewise Press Chess Officers and Photographers.

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All 2017 Tradewise Festival reports are also on [our Facebook page](#). Follow us on Twitter @GibraltarChess#TGFor @Stuthefox with TD Stuart Conquest.