Hampshire Chess Congress 2025 Summary

The Hampshire Chess Association 2025 Congress was held at the Lysses Hotel in Fareham on the 7th to the 9th November 2025, with 90 entries playing across three sections.

We were very pleased to have top English IM Harry Grieve playing, who last played as a junior in 2014, where he finished in joint 2nd and won the Len Walters Trophy.

Despite being a big favourite, Dorset junior Finn Schell held Harry to a draw in round 2. With Harry's withdrawal from the last round (when still on 3½ points), this left last year's winner, and the 2nd IM Petr Maruesenko, to finish half a point ahead of 2007 champion Steven Kawuma, and the Isle of Wight's David Collyer (who also finished in joint 2nd place last year).

This year Petr is qualified for the Hampshire Individual titles, and won the Silver Rook, breaking the recent record of juniors winning this title (2022 to 2024).

In the Major section visually impaired player Brandan Read went into the last round half a point ahead of three players. Brandan was held to a draw. and was joined on 4 points by Wiltshire's Rob Coles to share 1st prize.

Neither of these players were eligible for the Peter Marshall Cup, for the best score by a Hampshire player. This went to tie-break, with two Southampton University players only separated by half a point, on sum of progressive scores. Austin Sopocko was the player just ahead of Lewis Jackson. In an act of solidarity, I think they agreed to share the cup between them this year though.

In the Minor section, it was Hastings Peter C Wood, and Brentwood's Prakhar Saxena who shared 1st place with 4½ points, just drawing their paired game. Both players crossed generations, with one of them 13 and the other almost 87!

Again, these players were not eligible for the Parsons Cup, and it was sole 3rd place winner David Lightfoot, who won this. It was only in the last couple of weeks that the Isle of Wight affiliated to the Hampshire Chess Association, which was great timing.

There were seven ladies in the competition, and the winner of the Gillian Moore Cup was shared between Hannah Jane Lyon (Open) and Helen Archer Lock (Major), who both scored 3 points. Even though Hannah is from Luxembourg, she is eligible for the Gillian Moore Cup, as playing for the University Chess club.

The full list of prize winners are:

OPEN

1st (4½ pts) IM Petr Marusenko
2nd = (4 pts) FM Stephen Kawuma & David Collyer

- Under-1950 RP (3½ pts) Paul Janota
- The Silver Rook was won by Petr Marusenko.
- The Len Walters Board was won by Paul Janota.

MAJOR

1st = (4 pts) Brandan Read & Rob Coles
3rd (3½ pts) Austin Sopocko, Lewis Jackson & Peter Williams

- Under-1650 RP (3½ pts) – Austin Sopocko, Lewis Jackson
- The Peter Marshall Cup was awarded to Austin Sopocko as the best placed Hampshire qualified player.

MINOR

1st (4½ pts) Peter C Wood & Prakhar Saxena
3rd (3½ pts) David Lightfoot

- Under-1400 Grading Prize (3 pts) Keven Lamb, Somnath Mitra & Ethan Ricketts
- The Parson's Cup was awarded to David Lightfoot as the best placed Hampshire qualified player.

The Gillian Moore Cup, which is awarded to the highest scoring Hampshire lady in the Congress, was shared by Hannah Jane Lyon (Open), and Helen Archer Lock (Major) who both scored 3 points.

The John Dunleavy Memorial Prize for the best game in any section will be announced later, as will the new Chris Priest best game prizes for just the Major and Minor sections on the Hampshire website – www.HampshireChess.co.uk

We were not able to photo all the winners, but a selection of prize winners from the Congress is below.

President: Peter Eales
Secretary: Graham Stuart
Affiliated: English Chess Federation
and West of England Chess Union

















Results on [Chess Results]

Graham Stuart
Secretary - Hampshire Chess Association