Hampshire Chess Congress 2026 Summary

The Hampshire Chess Association 2026 Congress including the Individual Championship, was held at the Lysses Hotel in Fareham on the 23rd to the 25th October 2026, with 85 entries, playing across three sections.

In a close competition in the Open, three players finished on 4 points to share 1st place. Reigning Champion IM Petr Marusenko was successful in defending his Hampshire Individual Championship, winning on tie-break, ahead of David Pye. The other 1st place winner was WFM Audrey Kueh.

Southampton University's and Luxembourg international player, Hannah Jane Lyon won the Len Walters Trophy and under 1950 rating prize.

Full results for the Open on Chess Results.

In the Major section Chandler's Ford Philip Tarrant-Edwards started with four wins, but had a tough last round game against Portsmouth's improving junior Itmam Ekram. Itman initially turned down a draw offer, but the game was eventually drawn, when Philip had the better position.

This meant Philip won the Major section, and the Peter Marshall Cup with 4½ points, whilst Itman secured sole 2nd place with 4 points. 3rd place was shared by five players on 3½ points, two of who also shared the U1700 rating prize.

These were Ringwood's Graham Willetts, Isle of Wight Richard Edney, Bournemouth's Rashad Rahimil, Southampton's Alexander Short and Emsworth's Iulia Poama-Covaci. With the last two being the rating prize winners.

Full results for the Major on Chess Results.

In the Minor section, a player from the Isle of Wight again won the competition. But, unlike last year this was not David Lightfoot, but Michael Plowden-Roberts who scored 4½ points.

Michael went into the last round half a point behind Southampton's Sam Aaron Peter Lawrence, but managed to beat him to take the Parson's Cup. Michael has David Lightfoot to thank for being eligible for the title, as David once again paid for the Isle of Wight's Hampshire affiliation.

Sam Aaron Peter Lawrence took 2nd place with Salisbury's Graeme Ford on 4 points, whilst the U1450 rating prize was shared by 5 players on 3 points (see below for prize winners).

Full results for Minor on Chess Results.

There were seven ladies in the Congress, all who had a chance of winning the £50 prize for best score by a lady. WFM Audrey Kueh score of 4 points in the Open, secured her this additional prize.

As Audrey was not eligible for the Gillian Moore trophy, as a non Hampshire player, this was shared by Hannah Jane Lyon and Iulia Poama-Covaci for their scores of 3½ in the Open and Major respectively.

It was great to see the success of female players at the Congress, as the HCA have been trying to encourage more female players into chess, with this prize, and the separate HCA Women's Individual Championship, which enters its third year this season.

The full list of prize winners are:

OPEN

1st = (4 pts) WFM Audrey Kueh, IM Petr Marusenko, David Pye

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

MAJOR

1st= (4½ pts) Philip Tarrant-Edwards
2nd (4 pts) Itmam Ekram
3rd = (3½ pts) Graham Willetts, Richard Edney, Rashad Rahimil, Alexander Short and Iulia Poama-Covaci.

- Under-1650 RP (3½ pts) – Alexander Short and Iulia Poama-Covaci.
- The Peter Marshall Cup was won by Philip Tarrant-Edwards.

MINOR

1st (4½ pts) Michael Plowden-Roberts
2nd= (4 pts) Sam Aaron Peter Lawrence and Graeme Ford

- Under-1450 Grading Prize (3 pts) Somnath Mitra, Jianli Zhong, Keven Lamb, Yuqi Liu and Ethan Ricketts
- The Parson's Cup was awarded to Michael Plowden-Roberts

The Gillian Moore Cup, which is awarded to the highest scoring Hampshire lady in the Congress, was shared by Hannah Jane Lyon (Open), and Iulia Poama-Covaci (Major) who both scored 3½ points.

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

I would also like to thank the Arbiters Lance Leslie-Smith and Theo Horne, the tournament Director Peter Eales and helpers Andy Mills and Lucas Piecha. In addition, Gillian Moore for her co-ordination work before the Congress, and those who helped with the setting up and packing away. As anyone who has run a Congress knows, there is a lot of work involved in running one, and despite a few pre congress issues with the hotel the feedback has proved positive.

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

Graham Stuart
Secretary - Hampshire Chess Association

President: Lucas Piecha
Secretary: Graham Stuart
Affiliated: English Chess Federation
and West of England Chess Union









