



Bury St Edmunds
Zac Vane
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MM 029

STRONG TURNOUT: The 29th Bury St Edmunds Chess Congress attracted 151 competitors from all over the country
Pictures: Mecha Morton MBFP-30-10-11 MM 025

Master class is just grand at congress

CHESS

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A HUSHED silence filled The Apex in Bury St Edmunds over the course of the weekend as 151 competitors flocked to the venue to engage in duals of mental agility as the town's annual chess congress commenced.

The popular competition, which is in its 29th consecutive year, attracted participants from as far afield as Sheffield, Falmouth and Liverpool, as well as a number of local players to compete across four graded sections known as the open, major, intermediate and minor in matches lasting up to three-and-a-half hours.

Grandmaster Stephen Gordon, one of only 20 still active in the country, was awarded a £500 prize fund after walking away with the top prize in the strongly-contested open section, beating 42 other entrants.

Bob Jones, congress organiser, was delighted with the overall success of competition and the high level of chess on display.

"This year's congress was very successful with a very good turnout of people from all around the country, which is great for the event," he said.

"The open competition was incredibly strong with a really top level of chess."

"We had one Grandmaster and five international masters in that section

which you don't normally get at a local tournament such as this.

"That shows just how respected the tournament is and it gives a great amount of kudos to the tournament and Bury St Edmunds that players of that level were taking part.

"However, it is not just about having the strongest players at the tournament as it was also fantastic to see a large number of others ranging from our youngest player of 10 to our oldest of 88 all taking a keen interest and getting involved."

A total prize fund of £2,450 was awarded to 38

competitors, with Gordon of Woodbridge claiming the highest stake.

Gordon overcame a strong field of players in the open beating international masters Dagne Ciuksyte and Richard Tozer to claim first prize.

Stowmarket's Richard Lamont claimed victory in the major section, beating David Brady, Dean Hartley and Sam Brennan, who all claimed joint second.

In the intermediate competition, Matthew Wilson claimed first place, while James Bringshaw and Newmarket's Eugene Husbandner's spoils in the minor category.



Edmund Player from Bury St Edmunds
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