

WORCESTERSHIRE CHESS CONGRESS, JULY 2010

The Second Worcestershire Open Chess Congress was held on 24-25 July 2010.

The start of the school holidays notwithstanding, the event attracted 110 players from across the country to spend their weekend battling over the chessboard at the University of Worcester conference centre. This was a huge increase on the 62 entries for the inaugural congress in 2009, which is an encouraging sign for future years.

Each year, the organisers promise to donate profits from the event to a designated charitable cause. This time, the St Mary's Hospice in Birmingham, which provides a life-changing experience for those with life-changing illnesses, benefited to the tune of £600 as a result of the chess congress. As it turned out, the weekend proved helpful to a second hospice, when the discovery of a nearby barbecue and cake sale in aid of the local St Richards Hospice encouraged a steady stream of hungry chess players to support the cause.

The size of the entry, combined with the generosity of volunteers in giving freely of their time and effort and private sponsorship of £250, led to a surplus of over £950. This means that, after deducting the donation to the St Mary's Hospice, over £300 is left as a reserve fund for future congresses.

RESULTS

OPEN

=1st Lawrence Cooper; Derek Pugh; Jane Richmond. (Each won £116.67.)

U180 Grading Prize shared between Claudio Mangione and Vikas Sharma (£12.50 each)

MAJOR

=1st Richard Desmedt and Dean Hartley on 4.5 points (£80 each)

=3rd Wiatt Ropp; Graham Alcock; Chris Smith on 4 (£13.33 each)

U140 Grading Prize shared between Duncan MacArthur and Nathanael Paul on 3.5 (£10 each)

MINOR

=1st 7-way tie with 4 pts between Matthew Trigg; Richard Leaper; Selina Moses; Alan Fraser; Kyle Reed; James Friar; Joseph Friar (£29 each)

U100 Grading Prize shared between Ashwin Kalyana and John Fozard (£10 each)

The Slow Starter prize for best score by a first-round loser was won by Arron Dhesi (£20) in the Minor section.

The prize for Best Score by a Junior was shared by Selina Moses, Kyle Reed, James Friar and Joseph Friar. Each wins free entry into next year's event.

2011 CONGRESS

The 3rd Worcestershire Open will take place on 23-24 July at the University of Worcester. In view of the success of last year's event, the organisers have increased the number of sections to four: Open, U160, U135 and U115.

Please encourage as many Worcestershire players as possible to take part!