

## **Hampshire Chess Association 2017 Congress.**

(Eastleigh, 3-5 Nov, 2017)

We have a new county champion. 18-year old Southampton University student Michael Fernandez is the new county champion and holder of the Silver Rook. Michael finished 1 point behind the joint winners of the Open Section, Mike Waddington and Peter Anderson, but he was the highest-placed qualified Hampshire player, beating Matt Chapman on tie-break. Phil Stimpson won the Under-175 grading prize.

In the Major Section, Geoffrey Brown swept away the opposition to win with a magnificent score of 6/6. Lukasz Piecha was in clear 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 4½, but there was a 6-way tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place on 3½ pts. John Carter finished with 4 points, and wisely chose the Grading prize, which was better value than a 6<sup>th</sup> share of 3<sup>rd</sup> prize.

The Minor Section was almost a repeat of last year, in that 1<sup>st</sup> place was share by four players with 4½ pts – but they were a completely different four – Chris Priest, John Belinger, Ivor Kelly and Steven Kitley. Chris Priest won the Hampshire title and trophy on tie-break. David Jerome won the Under-100 Grading prize with 3½ pts.

The Ladies prize found 4 ladies vying for the prize this year – a record for us, but still scope for improvement. Amanda Jones, Maha Chandar, Mansa Chandar and Gillian Moore all had 3 points, and have agreed to share the trophy between them.

Here are the full results:

### Open

1<sup>st</sup> = (5 pts) Mike Waddington (Dorchester) and Peter Anderson (Ringwood)

2<sup>nd</sup>= (4 pts) Michael Fernandez (So'ton Uni) and Matt Chapman (Fareham)

Under-175 Grading Prize (3½ pts) Phil Stimpson (Emsworth)

14 started, 13 finished.

### Major

1<sup>st</sup> (6 pts) Geoffrey Brown (Folkestone)

2<sup>nd</sup> (4½ pts) Lukasz Piecha (Winchester) winning the Peter Marshall trophy.

3<sup>rd</sup>= (3½ pts) Dave Agostinelli (Southampton), Tristan Dray-Pearce (Combined Services ), Phil Foley (Upminster), Jeremy Hudson (Hastings), Chris Smith (Fareham), and Simon Venables (Portsmouth).

Under-140 Grading Prize (4 pts) John Carter (Newbury)

23 started, 21 finished.

### Minor

1<sup>st</sup>= (4½ pts) Chris Priest (Hamble), John Belinger (New Milton), Ivor Kelly (Camberley) and Steven Kitley (Winchester)

Under-100 Grading Prize (3½ pts) David Jerome (Emsworth)

28 started, 26 finished.

The John Dunleavy Memorial Prize for the best game in any section will be announced later, on the Hampshire website – [www.HampshireChess.co.uk](http://www.HampshireChess.co.uk)