



# JAMCHESS

October 2023 edition



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*President - NM Peter Myers*

I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Publications Committee of the Jamaica Chess Federation (JCF) for their bold and forward-thinking decision to transition our widely celebrated Jamchess Newsletter from a quarterly to a monthly publication. This significant milestone is a testament to your unwavering dedication and hard work, and it marks a pivotal moment in the JCF's journey to significant global impact.

As we embark on this exciting new chapter, I have every confidence that the monthly Jamchess Newsletter will become a beacon of information, knowledge, and inspiration for chess enthusiasts and supporters not only here in Jamaica but around the world.

The expanded frequency of this newsletter will help to bridge the gap between us and our members, the providers of Government grants, our sponsors, the World Chess Federation (FIDE), and the general public. Through Jamchess, we will keep everyone well-informed about the latest developments within the JCF, providing a more dynamic platform for us to

share news, updates, and valuable insights with our global community of chess enthusiasts.

Furthermore, Jamchess will play a vital role in building and reinforcing our brand identity. It will serve as a window into our mission, values, and achievements, showcasing the dedication and passion of our members and the growing excellence of our organization. By doing so, it will contribute to the strengthening of our reputation and recognition, not only within the world of chess but also within the wider arenas of sports and entertainment.

One of the most crucial aspects of this transition to a monthly newsletter is the sense of community that Jamchess will foster among its readers. We believe that the heart of chess lies in the people who play, support, and cherish the game. Jamchess, in its new form, will predominantly feature our members, spotlighting their activities, achievements, and the endeavors they are passionate about. It will be a platform for our readers to engage, share their stories and inspire each other.

In addition to celebrating our community, Jamchess will also serve as a means to keep our valued funders informed of the impact of their contributions. We will showcase how their support is making a tangible difference, not only in the growth of chess but also in the positive influence it has on the lives of the citizens of Jamaica.

This transition to a monthly Jamchess Newsletter represents a significant step forward for the JCF. We are excited about the opportunities it presents to engage our community, build our brand, and connect with our stakeholders. Together, we are taking chess to new heights, and I am proud to be a part of this journey.

- NM PETER MYERS -

## WOMAN CANDIDATE MASTER RAEHANNA BROWN WINS NM DR. HAROLD CHAN CHESS OPEN 2023



WCM Raehanna Brown

One of Jamaica's leading players, Woman Candidate Master (WCM) Raehanna Brown, handily won the NM Dr. Harold Chan Open Chess Tournament on the weekend of September 30 to October 1, with a near perfect 5.5 points from six games. Jjustice-Dimonte McDonald finished in second place on tie-break with an impressive 4.5 points, over John Stephenson, who also finished with 4.5 points. Fourth and fifth places went to FIDE Master (FM) Raheem Glaves and Geordan Sinclair respectively, after both players ended on 4 points and had to be separated by tiebreaks.

In the Open section, Brown's only setback was a draw in the final round with second-place finisher, McDonald. The section provided several hotly contested matches, with a few upsets.

The exciting U1600 Intermediate Section was won by Zuberi Edwards with 5.5 points. Second place went to Terence Lindo on tie break with 4 points, followed by Kaia Gayle and Arena Candidate Master (ACM) Christopher Davis, who both also finished with 4 points.

The U1300 Absolute section was very competitive, with Maurice Gayle emerging victorious with a perfect 5 points from 5 games. Ajani McClean was second with 4.5 points. Third place on tie break went to Brian Thompson, who finished with 4 points, followed by Alwyn Sterling, Simon Lamm and Nathan Smith, who all finished with 4 points.

The U1300 Female Section, played over 5 rounds had the following results:

- **1st place: Victoria Aung – 4.5 points**
- **2nd place: Elisha Patel – 4 points**
- **3rd place: Tsahai Clarke – 4 points**
- **4th place: Emilia-Rose Leake - 3.5 points**

This tournament with approximately 100 participants is named in honour of one of Jamaica's greatest champions, Dr. Harold Chan, who was a five (5) time National Chess Champion and one of Jamaica's first National Masters. Originally from Guyana, he settled in Jamaica and studied to become a Pathologist at the University of the West Indies. Jamaica Chess Federation Chair of the Tournament Committee, FM Warren Elliott commented, "It was a great event. Congratulations to the winners. Special thanks to the Tournament Committee, Arbiters, and other JCF Executive members who offered support and assistance in different ways, to ensure a successful tournament."

- CM MARK CAMERON -

# JHUSTICE-DIMONTE MCDONALD TOPS JAMAICA OPEN CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2023



Jhustice Dimonte-McDonald

One of Jamaica's rising chess talents, Jhustice-Dimonte McDonald won the 2023 Jamaica Open Chess Championship which took place on the weekend of October 28-29, with 5.5 points. The six round event saw Jaheim Smart finishing second on 5 points, third went to John Stephenson on tie-break over Aayush Jain, after both players ended on 4.5 points.

The exciting U-1600 Intermediate section was won by Joshua Powell on tiebreak with 5 points. Also, finishing with 5 points was Sajay

McIntosh. Third went to Ronak Shergil with 4.5 points, followed by Kaia Gayle, who scored 4 points.

The U-1300 Absolute section played over 5 rounds was won on tiebreak by Rushawn Robinson who scored a perfect 5 points. Liam Logan also scored a perfect 5 points for second place. Jaydar Mitchell came third on tiebreak with 4 points, followed by Maurice Gayle who also accumulated 4 points.

The hotly contested U-1300 Female section was won by Emilia-Rose Leake who won with 4.5 points from 5 games. Second went to Elisha Patel on tiebreak over Abigail Taylor, after both players ended on points. Celine Mohammed finished fourth with 3.5 points.

Jamaica Chess Federation Executive member Richard Shaw commented, "This annual event, the Jamaica Open National Chess Championships, is a prestigious event, where international participation is encouraged to test the skills of local participants. Congratulations to all the participants and special congratulations to all the winners."

Over 100 chess players participated across four sections, Open, U1600, U1300 Absolute & U1300 Female.

The next event on the Jamaica Chess Federation Calendar, will be the CM Robert Wheeler Memorial Tournament, to be played on November 25th and 26th 2023.

- CM MARK CAMERON/RICHARD SHAW -

# SHAW AND STEPHENSON EXCEL AT WORLD JUNIOR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

Kingston, Jamaica – Jamaica’s Under 20 Junior Champions, 16-year-old newly crowned FIDE Master (FM) Jaden Shaw and 17-year-old Amy Stephenson, gave credible performances at the recently concluded International Chess Federation (FIDE) World Junior Chess Championships in Mexico City, which was held from September 21 through October 1, 2023.

In a very strong event, 16-year-old Marc’Andria Maurizzi of France and 17-year-old Candela Francisco of Argentina won the Open and Female titles, respectively, on tie break with scores of 8.5 points. They were both unbeaten in the world class event and became the youngest winners in the history of the tournament.

With two rounds to go, Jamaica’s Stephenson was on 2.5 points from 9 rounds, but battled back with two impressive wins to finish with a credible 4.5 points from 11 games.

Shaw was in the mix throughout the event, playing strong FMs and International Masters (IMs), to finish with 5.5 points from 11 games. His best performance was a hard-fought draw versus highly rated FM from Italy, Gabriele Lumachi.

National coach IM Jomo Pitterson travelled with the players and provided needed support during this long and gruelling tournament, which saw 150 Absolute participants from 53 countries and 85 female players from 42 countries competing for the FIDE World Juniors (U20) chess titles and prize monies on offer.

The World Junior Chess Championship is one of the most prestigious events on FIDE’s calendar and Jamaica has had good performances over the years. In 1976, National Master (NM) Sheldon Wong won the brilliancy prize at the World Junior Chess Championship in Groningen, the Netherlands, for his win against Israeli Junior Champion Nir Grinberg. After winning his first three games, Wong was co-lead of the tournament, before, eventually finishing with 5.5 points. In 1990 in Chile, IM Jomo Pitterson performed credibility in the event, amassing 5.0 points.

Jamaica Chess Federation Chair of Strategic Planning, Candidate Master Mark Cameron, commented, “For youngsters, the World Junior Chess Championship is the preeminent event where we can calibrate our juniors. In this tournament, our players can really learn to play high level chess and to understand the rigors and commitment of top-level competition. This invaluable experience has helped to create numerous strong players over the years, and I am confident that both Amy and Jaden will over time become even more accomplished players.”

- CM MARK CAMERON -



Photo by David Llada ( FENAMAC Ajedrez 2023)

FM JADEN R. SHAW



Photo by David Llada ( FENAMAC Ajedrez 2023)

AMY STEPHENSON

# CLUB HAPPENINGS

## CHESS WHIZ KIDS ACADEMY MAKE THEIR MARK AT THE 2023 US NATIONAL JUNIOR CHESS CONGRESS



US National junior Chess Congress

Led by coach and founder, NM Ryan Blackwood, Chess Whiz Kids Academy displayed their skills at the 2023 US National Junior Chess Congress, held at the SeaWorld Renaissance Hotel in Orlando, Florida this past summer. The team had an impressive haul of 22 trophies, which signaled that they were a force to be reckoned with at the Junior Chess Congress.

After two months of intense training, shepherded by coaches NM Ryan Blackwood, FM Malaku Lorne and Crissia Graham, the team delivered. The delegation included Justin Mantock, Jordan Mantock, Isaac Gordon, Hayden Duncan, Nathaniel Green, Jaydion Campbell, Aundrae Chang Jr., Caitlyn Grant, Zachary Wong, Michael Graham, and other young chess talents.

Among the standout players, Aundrae Chang Jr. earned the highly coveted Most Valuable Player (MVP) award. Aundrae also made the podium in

two of his events, winning one of them with a perfect score. Isaac Gordon and Michael Graham also displayed remarkable performances, making notable contributions to the team's success, with Isaac winning one of his sections and Michael finishing second. Jordan Mantock showcased his problem-solving skills by securing a podium finish in the Puzzle Solving Competition after almost three hours of intense calculations.

The organisers were impressed with Zachary Wong's demeanor throughout the tournament which landed him the fair play award. In addition to the players' exceptional performances, Chess Whiz Kids Academy proudly acknowledges Gillian Jackson's participation in the parents' event. Gillian's exemplary play and dedication earned her the Top Mom prize, tying with Michelle Majid, a parent from the Cayman Islands contingent.

Head Coach FM Malaku Lorne shared, his pride with the team's performances and achievements. Chess Whiz Kids Academy has been nurturing young talents since its inception in 2009 and their participation in the Junior Chess Congress should serve as an inspiration to young chess enthusiasts across the region. Their achievements signify a bright future for chess in the region and highlight the Academy's commitment to fostering excellence in the sport.



Chess Whiz Kidz Academy delegation at the US National Junior Chess Championships

# JAMAICA CHESS FEDERATION WELCOME NEW MEMBERS FOR OCTOBER 2023

## INDIVIDUALS

- Shawn Eubanks
- Marcus Glaves
- Shaun Gopaul
- Dante Burrell
- Treyvaugh Allison
- Tahir Grant
- Rayneer Douglas
- Lenworth Hassel
- Rushawn Robinson
- Thorington Dennis
- Jaydar Mitchell

## NEW SCHOOL

### Lennon High School

The Jamaica Chess Federation is thrilled to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to each new member of our growing community. Your decision to join us is an exciting milestone for our chess family, and we're delighted to feature you in our Jamchess Newsletter.

In the world of chess, every individual contributes to the larger tapestry, and we believe that you are about to embark on an incredible journey with us. Whether you are a seasoned chess player or a beginner, an official, fan or school, you bring unique strengths and perspectives to our community, and we can't wait to see how you will enhance our shared love for chess.

In the coming months and years, you will have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of chess activities. Our goal is to help you

develop your skills, foster camaraderie, and create lasting memories both on and off the chess board.

Stay tuned for exciting updates, inspiring stories, and important announcements in our Jamchess newsletter. Your achievements and contributions will undoubtedly be a source of pride for all of us.

- Maxine Brown/NM Peter Myers -

**THE JAMAICA CHESS FEDERATION**

## SUMMER'S OVER, TOURNAMENTS ARE BACK!

**NOTE THE DATES...**

**SEPT 30**  
TO OCT 1

**HAROLD CHAN OPEN**  
A two day tournament with 3 sections (U1300 1 day). Named after our legendary player DR. Harold Chan. (Nations Master)

**OCT 28**  
TO OCT 29

**JAMAICA CHAN OPEN 2023**  
The premiere Open tournament with international participation and a new online section.

**25**  
NOVEMBER

**ROBERT WHEELER OPEN**  
The highly anticipated postponed event in honour of our past International Arbiter, CM, secretary and many times champion.

**02**  
DECEMBER

**DEBORAH RICHARDS-PORTER CHESS FESTIVAL**  
An all female tournament named after the 10 times champion WIM Deborah Richards-Porter!

**16**  
DECEMBER

**FREDERICK CAMERON OPEN**  
End the year in a bang, by participating in this timely event named after past president Frederick Cameron.

**CHESS**  
END OF YEAR SCHEDULE

Jamaica Chess Federation tournaments for the remainder of 2023 - Get ready!

**MORE INFO**  
+ 876 470 8340  
[WWW.JAMCHESS.COM](http://WWW.JAMCHESS.COM)

## ABOUT THE JAMAICA CHESS FEDERATION

The Jamaica Chess Federation (JCF) was founded in 1969 and has been affiliated with FIDE, the world governing body for chess, since 1972. In its capacity as the governing body for chess in Jamaica, the JCF is devoted to extending the role of chess in the Jamaican society.

## JAMAICA CHESS FEDERATION



Jamaica Chess Federation



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