

JAM CHESS

February 2024

SECRETARY'S ADVISORY FEBRUARY 2024

Members,

This is an advisory from the Desk of the Secretary of the Jamaica Chess Federation (JCF). The busy period of the Chess Calendar has commenced, and we need everyone's cooperation and assistance to ensure the effective execution of all the JCF tasks.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

The JCF National Executive Council meetings are held the last Saturday of each month at 4:00 p.m. via zoom platform.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

All those members who have been successful in their studies (special mention of the following junior members who have obtained distinctions in subjects taken at the CAPE and CSEC levels as well as outstanding performances at the regional level:

1. Aayush Zain (CAPE)
2. WCM Raehanna Brown (CAPE)
3. Arielle McKoy (CSEC)
4. Jaden Shaw (CSEC)

We also acknowledged the excellent CAPE performances of,

1. Darren McKennis
2. John Stephenson
3. Amy Stephenson
4. Kaity Gayle

JAIN WINS JOHN POWELL CHESS OPEN



*Aayush Jain, Open winner accepting his trophy
from Janine Chen*

Ardenne High's Aayush Jain, convincingly won the IA FM John Powell Memorial Open Chess Tournament, played on February 3rd and 4th at the Liguanea Chess Club. The six-round event was played in four sections: Open, Under1600 Absolute, Under1300 Absolute and Under1300 Female. This annual event is named in honour of Jamaica's Hall of Fame inductee, former Jamaican International player, Jamaica Chess Federation Secretary and President, International Arbiter (IA) and FIDE Master (FM) John Powell.

Jain won the Open section with 5.5 points from 6 games, the only blemish being a draw with second place finisher Nathan Belinfante, who finished with 4.5 points. J-Loy Chin (St. Jago High School) finished third on tie-break with 4 points, ahead of John Stephenson (Wolmer's Boys High School), Aaron McKoy (Campion College) and Gabriella Watson (Immaculate Conception High School for Girls), who all also finished with 4 points.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have outstanding membership dues, please plan to settle same as soon as possible.

Payments can be deposited to the Jamaica Chess Federation bank Account as follows:

Bank of Nova Scotia
New Kingston Branch
Account #:10315516
Transit #:50575

You can also contact Treasurer IM Jomo Pitterson or myself directly should you have any questions or concerns.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

We welcome our new Fundraising Chairperson, Mrs. Sheryl Haye. There will be planned JCF fundraisers in the coming weeks/months and we are earnestly seeking your support to help us raise the needed funds to assist with our development programmes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Annual National High Schools Chess Championship finals - (Glenmuir High School - May Pen-Clarendon)
2. Annual National Age Group Chess Championships (Summit New Kingston)
3. National Juniors U20 Championships (venue tbd)
4. National Absolute/Women's Championships (venue tbd)

REMINDERS

We welcome your feedback about the JCF's website (jamchess.com), Social Media platforms. Your ideas, suggestions, comments are important to improving the operations of the JCF. Please inform the JCF Secretary/Membership Chairperson of any change of address or telephone numbers. We need to update the membership list and keep in touch with all our members.

Maxine Brown
SECRETARY
Jamchessfed.secretary@gmail.com

Watson also walked away with the prize for best female player in the Open Section.

The best U1600 Absolute player was Sajay McIntosh who won on tie-break from Jayden Foreshaw (St. Jago High School), after both finished with 5 points from 6 games. Third place went to Ronak Shergil (Campion College), who had 4.5 points, edging out Tashane Bailey who finished with 4 points. The U1300 Absolute section was a five (5) rounds event with Maurice Gayle from Jamaica College emerging victorious with a perfect 5 points. On tie break, Liam Logan (St. Andrew Prep. School) finished ahead of Dedipya Sunkara and Jevaughny Oliver (St. Jago High School), all of whom had 4 points.

Tsahai Clarke (St. Jago High School) also finished with a perfect 5 points from 5 games to win the U1300 Female section. Elisha Patel came second on tie-break, ahead of Kayla Moses, after both players ended on 4 points. JCF Chair of Publications, Richard Shaw expressed, "This is an incredible feat for Aayush, as he also closed out the JCF 2023 calendar year, with a win in the Frederick Cameron Open Chess Tournament. He is moving from strength to strength, and we are expecting big things from him in 2024. This tournament had the participation of numerous juniors who love the sport and enjoy playing chess. We look forward to an exciting 2024."

Approximately, seventy-six (76) participants took part in this event, which was part funded by the World Chess Federation (FIDE) and the Sports Development Foundation.

The next tournament on the calendar will be the National Age Group Chess Championships, which are scheduled for 9-10 March. The Championships will identify the Top Player and Female Player for 2024 in the various junior age groups.

- CM Mark Cameron



Gabriella Watson receiving her 1st place female in the Open section from Chess legend Claire Grant



Elisha Patel and Kayla Moses enjoying the taste of success, winners on the day



JC Maurice Gayle receives his trophy from FM Warren Elliott after winning the U1300 Absolute section

- GLIGORIC TROPHY 2024: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS -



GM Svetozar Gligoric

Svetozar Gligoric Trophy is an award given by FIDE to the individual who display exemplary behaviour promoting the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship in chess. Candidates to win the Svetozar Gligoric Trophy 2024 shall have demonstrated the following accomplishments during the period August 10, 2022 to August 10, 2024:

- Outstanding gesture or action of sportsmanship during the sport event.
- Outstanding contribution to the popularization of values and principles of Fair Play.
- Outstanding initiatives on enforcement of integrity and high ethical values.

The Svetozar Gligoric Trophy is a recognition of sportsmen who exercise the fundamental values of Fair Play both during and beyond the game. It is a way of thinking rather than a mere behaviour and is based on the concepts of:

Fairness - To enjoy the victory is not enough. Triumph must include fairness and honesty.

Respect - Written rules are mandatory. Unwritten rules of respect to all are obligatory.

Friendship - Rivalry in sports does not exclude friendship

Team Spirit - A genuine consideration for team-mates

Equality - Competing on equal terms is essential

Tolerance - The willingness and ability to accept what you may not agree with

Care - True champions care about each other

Nomination Procedures

The winner of the Svetozar Gligoric Trophy is selected annually by the FIDE Award Commission, comprised of Mr Mahir Mammedov (chairman) and members of the Commission GM Mrs Judit Polgar and GM Mr Eugenio Torre. Proposals for Nominations (Nomination Letter) from

Continental Federations, National Federations, and FIDE Commissions shall be submitted to the Gligoric Trophy Award Commission of FIDE (gligorictrophy@fide.com) no later than August 10, 2024.

Nominations from individuals, including self-nominations, are also allowed, but they should be channelled through the Federation associated with the nominee.

Please note that this award is for the nominee's accomplishments during the preceding year, NOT a recognition of a lifelong career.

The Commission's decision is final and not open to discussion. The members of the Commission shall not give justification unless they wish so.

The Award Ceremony will be held during the 45th FIDE Olympiad in Budapest in September 2024.

About the award

The Fair Play Award, named after Svetozar Gligoric, was established by FIDE in 2019.

It honors the figure of Svetozar Gligoric, one of the top players in the world in the 1950s and 1960s and also one of the most prominent, owing to his particularly engaging personality. At the chessboard, Gligoric was an uncompromising fighter and, at the same time, a symbol of gentlemanhood and correctness. His impeccable reputation has been a deserved result of his success in chess games and fair-play manners. Gligoric's trademark was high respect for his chess opponents. His main principle was: "It's chess pieces, not a man I play against!" It is no coincidence that the book of Gligoric's selected games is titled "I play against pieces!"



GM Magnus Carlsen

The first recipient of the Svetozar Gligoric Award was the world champion Magnus Carlsen, who received the trophy just minutes before his debut game at the FIDE World Cup 2021 in Sochi.

In 2020, when all chess activities and competitions were moved to the online arena, **Magnus Carlsen** reached the semi-finals in the \$150,000 online “Chessable Masters” against **Ding Liren**. Ding, playing from China, struggled with connection problems throughout the whole event, and in the final moments of his first game against Carlsen, he suffered an unfortunate disconnection at a vital moment. Unable to reconnect on time, the Chinese Grandmaster lost the game.

Minutes later, in the second game between them, the World Champion gave up his queen and resigned after just four moves to restore parity in the match. Despite the high stakes and being a ruthless competitor, Magnus Carlsen demonstrated that winning fairly was far more important to him than winning at any cost.

Next year, 2021, the Svetozar Gligoric trophy went to **GM Jerguš Pechác** for his exemplary behaviour and fair play spirit.



GM Jerguš Pechac

The 21-year-old Slovak GM made the headlines in the second round of the European Qualification Tournament when his over-the-board rival Boris Gelfand, Israel, blundered the queen due to a mouse slip. That game was a qualifier for the FIDE World Cup in Sochi. Despite the high risk of failing to reach the next round, Pechác graciously offered a draw to his opponent, not taking advantage of Gelfand’s unfortunate mistake. With his action, Jerguš risked not reaching the third round, but luckily for him, he advanced anyway by winning the Armageddon.

The Slovak GM again demonstrated that winning at all costs is not a priority - a noble gesture that Svetozar Gligoric himself would have undoubtedly applauded.

Jerguš Pechác was awarded Gligoric Prize during the 44th World Chess Olympiad in Chennai, India, in 2022, and, symbolically enough, the award was handed out right before his game against the first winner of the Trophy, Magnus Carlsen.



FM Jaden Shaw

The third awardee of the Gligoric Trophy is **Jaden Shaw**, 15, Jamaica’s Absolute Junior Champion (U20), and FIDE Candidate Master (CM). Jaden received the prize during the closing ceremony of the 44th World Chess Olympiad in Chennai, India, 2022. His opponent, GM Meelis Kanep from Estonia, got sick during the Jamaica - Estonia match and thus could not finish the game.

Jaden, who debuted at the Chess Olympiad, could have rightfully insisted on such a landmark victory but agreed to a draw. This act of true sportsmanship, lauded by many, including the president of FIDE and the chief minister of Chennai, compelled the FIDE Award Commission to make an exception to the rules and to hand out the second, off-the-schedule award in the same year.

- FIDE

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



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