



JAM CHESS

2nd Quarter 2023 | April-June

MYERS RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE JAMAICA CHESS FEDERATION

National Master (NM) Peter Myers was re-elected as the President of the Jamaica Chess Federation (JCF) at the Annual General Meeting of the JCF held at the Medallion Hotel on Saturday, June 17, 2023. This will be the third term for Myers. He won with 142 votes against his challenger National Arbiter (NA) Terence Lindo who had 48 votes.

Vice President (Cornwall) went to incumbent Candidate Master (CM) Mark Holness who defeated Aubrey Beckford 138-43.

Woman International Master (WIM) Deborah Richards-Porter retained her position as Vice President (Surrey) by beating International Arbiter (IA) Donald Miller 140-47.

In the only other contested election, IM Jomo Pitterson defeated Eton Chin 157-32 to be re-elected as Treasurer.

Howard Wilson and Maxine Brown were re-elected unopposed to Vice President (Middlesex) and Secretary positions, respectively.

The Ordinary Members of the Council are as follows:

- Ian Wilkinson KC
- Richard Shaw
- IA Donald Miller
- FIDE Master (FM) Warren Elliott
- CM Mark Cameron
- NA Clifton Price
- NA, FM Ras Malaku Lorne
- Kent Sutherland

“This is a victory for chess and chess players across Jamaica. We will all work together as a team, even the friends who have contested against us, for the betterment of the sport,” President Myers said.

- CM Mark Cameron



Front row L-R, NA Clifton Price, WIM Deborah Richards-Porter, NM Peter Myers, Maxine Brown, Ian Wilkinson KC
 Back Row L-R, Howard Wilson, NA, FM Ras Malaku Lorne, IM Jomo Pitterson, CM Mark Holness, FM Warren Elliott,
 Richard Shaw. Missing from photo- IA Donald Miller, Kent Sutherland, CM Mark Cameron

SHAW /BROWN CROWNED NATIONAL CHESS CHAMPIONS

Wolmerian Candidate Master (CM) Jaden Shaw was crowned the winner of the Absolute section of the 2023 National Chess Championships, making him the youngest winner in the history of the Nationals, after scoring an impressive 10 points from 11 games. Darren McKennis from Champion College finished a half point short on 9.5 points, with defending champion, FIDE Master (FM) Shreyas Smith rounding out the top three positions with 9 points.

The women's event produced a perfect score with Woman Candidate Master (WCM) Raehanna Brown from Champion College producing a perfect 7 points from 7 games. In second place was defending champion, Gabriella Watson, from Immaculate Conception High School, who finished with 5 points. Arielle McKoy of Champion College was third with 4 points.

Chess prodigy, 15-year-old Shaw continued his string of excellent performances. For 2022, he

attained the Candidate Master chess title at the 2022 Chess Olympiad, the Jamaica National Chess Master title, the Under-16 Absolute Gold Medal at the 2022 Central American and Caribbean Youth Chess Festival, and the 2023 National Under-16 and Under-20 Absolute Champion titles. He is also the 2022 FIDE Chess Olympiad Fair Play Award winner and the 2023 RJR Chess Male athlete of the Year.

In a competitive field in the Absolute section, CM Jaden Shaw's only blemish to his performance was a loss to defending and 4-time Absolute Jamaica Chess Champion FM Shreyas Smith. In a combative game, Smith was forced to work hard in defeating his worthy adversary. FM Smith remarked after the match, "I am very impressed with Jaden Shaw's play. He played extremely well for his young age. I hope he continues to excel." With smart play, Shaw also defeated the other FIDE Master in the event, outstanding Fide Master (FM) Raheem Glaves, many times winner of Jamaica Chess Federation Open monthly tournaments in 2022.

Winning coach International Master (IM) Jomo Pitterson was not surprised by Shaw's victory, he said, after having four entrants in the championships, namely Darren McKennis (2nd), John Stephenson (6th) & Nathan Hare (9th) he expected all four to do well, their preparation was good and he was confident they would execute well. Kudos to all his charges.

Energetic chess was a constant in the women's championship this year, with fighting chess being played on most boards.

Brown, another outstanding junior, and the reigning Under-18 Absolute & Female champion was very impressive in turning back the efforts of the defending champion Gabriella Watson in a hard-fought struggle.

Secretary of the Jamaica Chess Federation and mother of WCM Raehanna Brown commented, "Raehanna's hard work is a true manifestation of the result. She always focuses on effort and participation in chess and has developed strategies over a period of time, that has built resilience when playing the game.

The 2023 National Chess Championships took place from March 25, 2023, through April 8, 2023, to determine the Absolute and Women's chess champions of Jamaica. Both events were held concurrently, with the Absolute section being 12 players over 11 round tournament and the Women's section being 8 players over 7 rounds.

- CM Mark Cameron



NA, IO Terence Lindo presents WCM Raehanna Brown with her winning trophy



NM Ryan Blackwood presents CM Jaden Shaw with his winning trophy

CHESS DEBUTS AT CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN GAMES 2023

Cuba stamped their authority as the reigning regional chess superpower by winning 3 of 4 sections in the inaugural Central America & Caribbean Games Chess Championship in San Salvador, El Salvador from June 20 to July 8, 2023. Chess which was being played at the CAC Games for the first time saw competition in both Rapid and Blitz events for both Absolute and Female participants.

FIDE Master (FM) Joshua Christie excelled in the Absolute Blitz competition placing fourth, just a half point removed from receiving a bronze medal. He finished with an excellent 10.5 points.

Woman Candidate Master (WCM) Raehanna Brown also competed well in the Female Blitz competition scoring 8.5 points for a tie for fifth to seventh place. She placed seventh on tie-break.

In the Absolute Rapid section, Cuba won from Venezuela and Colombia. Jamaica placed 12th overall from 16 participating countries. In the Female Rapid section, Cuba won from Colombia and Puerto Rico. Jamaica also finished 12th overall from 16 participating nations.

The Blitz Absolute section was won by Colombia, followed by Cuba and Mexico. Jamaica finished in

7th place. In the Female Blitz section, Cuba finished first, followed by Colombia and Puerto Rico. Jamaica finished in 12th place.

Team Jamaica was well represented by FM Joshua Christie, FM Shreyas Smith, WCM Raehanna Brown and Emilia-Rose Leake. The Absolute and Female team coaches were International Master (IM) Jomo Pitterson and IM Shane Matthews, respectively. Secretary of the Jamaica Chess Federation (JCF) Maxine Brown led the delegation.

We congratulate all members of the team for their great performance over four days of marathon chess.

Jamaica Olympic Association (JOA) President Mr. Christopher Samuda stated, "Kindly convey my commendation to Team Jamaica on a very credible performance. They are part of the pioneering history of the sport at the CAC Games, and their accomplishment will undoubtedly inspire generations of chess players. Our coaches must be proud, and their work is appreciated."

The JCF thanks the JOA for their ongoing support and sponsorship of Chess in Jamaica.

- CM Mark Cameron/Richard O. Shaw



Front Emilia-Rose Leake Back row L-R, FM Joshua Christie, WCM Raehanna Brown, FM Shreyas Smith, IM Jomo Pitterson, Maxine Brown



FM Shreyas Smith



FM Joshua Christie



WCM Raehanna Brown



Emilia-Rose Leake

R&D Chess Academy Showdown & Invitational Tournament Celebrates Young Chess Champions

The R&D Chess Academy Showdown & Invitational Tournament, an annual event that captivates the hearts and minds of talented young chess players from across Jamaica, took place on June 24 at Champion College. The tournament, sponsored by WATA, Tile City & Home Centre, Tru-Juice, Pringles, BON, Kellogg's, Bigga, Nature Valley, and Whiz Kidz Corner, was a resounding success, providing a platform for young chess enthusiasts to showcase their skills. The tournament, fondly dubbed "Where Every Child is a Winner," brought together over 200 students from across Jamaica, demonstrating their extraordinary talent and determination. It showcased not only their chess skills but also the importance of sportsmanship and fair play.

In the Hunt the King category, Raphael Keen from The Queen's high School claimed first place with a perfect 6 wins from 6 games, while The JCF U-1000 category saw his schoolmate Michael Martin, also emerge as champion with a perfect score.

In the Under 8 section, Rajvir Shergil from Porter Centre for Knowledge claimed top honours with a perfect score in the Invitational Section and Jaydion Campbell from St. Andrew Preparatory secured first place in the Showdown category. Austin Xiang from Hillel Academy triumphed in the Under 10 Invitational section also on perfect score, while Kalani Cowan from The Queen's Preparatory School emerged victorious in the Under 10 Showdown section.

Perfection was the order of the day as Danielle Yankana from Stella Maris Preparatory School claimed the top spot in the Under 12 Invitational section, while Jahvier Smart from Lannaman's Preparatory School emerged as the champion in the Under 12 Showdown category.

In the High School section, Ronak Shergil from Champion College claimed top prize undefeated, while Kaia Gayle from St. Andrew High School for Girls was recognized as the top female player.

Jaheim Smart from Champion College demonstrated his mastery in the Open section, claiming the first-place position and Gabriella Watson from Immaculate Conception High School was recognized as the Best Female player.

Wisynco, a proud key sponsor of the event, recognizes the invaluable qualities that chess fosters in children. Gabrielle Curling, representative for Wisynco, highlighted the importance of critical thinking, problem-solving, and strategic planning, stating, "Chess is a game that develops skills essential for success both on and off the board. We are honored to support the R&D Chess Academy Showdown & Invitational Tournament, as it aligns perfectly with our commitment to empowering and inspiring the youth of Jamaica."

Tile City & Home Centre, known for its dedication to supporting children's activities, sees chess as a valuable tool for nurturing young minds. Melissa

Moses, Director at Tile City, emphasized the benefits of chess, saying, "Chess encourages children to think ahead, analyze possibilities, and make informed decisions. These skills have practical implications in their academic pursuits and future careers. We are thrilled to partner with the R&D Chess Academy Showdown & Invitational Tournament and provide a platform for young chess enthusiasts to showcase their talent. Through this event, we hope to encourage their passion for the game and inspire them to excel academically and become lifelong learners."

The R&D Chess Academy Showdown & Invitational Tournament, organized by WIM Deborah Richards-Porter, celebrates the enduring power of chess to uplift and inspire young minds. With the generous support of sponsors, the tournament creates an environment where every child is celebrated as a winner. The event fosters a love for the game and encourages intellectual growth, empowering young chess enthusiasts to excel both on and off the board.

- WIM Deborah Richards-Porter



Jamaica chess legend Claire Grant presents trophy/gift basket to Jahiem Smart of Campion College



Wide angle view of the playing hall

ABOUT THE JAMAICA CHESS FEDERATION

The Jamaica Chess Federation (JCF) was founded in 1969 and has been affiliated with FIDE, the 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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