



## THE JAMAICA CHESS FEDERATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 15, 2021

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### PRESS RELEASE – JAMAICAN PLAYERS SHINE AT CHESS SUB-ZONAL 2.3.5 IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Kingston, Jamaica – In their long-awaited return to chess over the board, the Jamaican representatives of FIDE Master (FM) Joshua Christie, Woman International Master (WIM) and Candidate Master (CM) Rachel Miller and Darren McKennis excelled at the Subzonal 2.3.5 held last week in the Dominican Republic.

National Junior Chess Champion, FM Christie closed out a successful tournament, as he beat the Dominican Republic's International Master (IM) Manuel Dominguez in the final round. This allowed FM Christie to finish in third place overall, an outstanding performance providing an anticipated IM norm consideration. He finished tied with Puerto Rico's Jaime Rodriguez Santiago on 6.5/9 points, finishing higher on tie break. Christie commented, "It's a very good feeling to get an International Master norm in this very tough tournament, where I faced strong players in every round."

After starting out as the 64th ranked player, Darren McKennis, the youngest member of the Jamaican contingent, finished on 6/9 points, ending up tied for fifth place, and in 13th place on tie break. This came after incurring only one loss in the entire event, and drawing his final game against Trinidadian FM Joshua Johnson. McKennis netted 190 rating points after starting out with a 1735 FIDE rating. His amazing performance qualifies him to become Jamaica's latest FM-elect subject to passing the 2100 rating bar. McKennis commented that it was a very competitive tournament but thankfully there was room for a few draws to enable him to attain his goal of FIDE Master Elect.

As the sole female player in the Absolute section of this Sub-Zonal, WIM and CM Rachel Miller finished on a very respectable 5/9 points. She added 15 rating points to her international rating, gained a wealth of experience, and truly enjoyed getting back to over the board chess on the international stage. Miller said, "It was really nice to play in-person chess again. I was so happy to be able to actually move the pieces again, and the tournament was a lot of fun!"

The Sub-Zonal is the first step in the qualification cycle leading up to identification of the next World Championship Challenger. Seventy-three (73) participants, representing more than 10 countries, played in this 9-round event in the Dominican Republic. Jamaica Chess Federation President Peter Myers stated, "Well done Jamaica! And well done to our Caribbean neighbours!"



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David Rose, NM Ryan Blackwood, Richard Shaw,  
FM Warren Elliott, IA Donald Miller IO, CM Mark Cameron

In the Absolute section, the Dominican Republic's International Master (IM) Jose Lisandro Munoz Santana claimed first place on tiebreak, over IM Orlando Husbands, from Barbados after both ended with 7.5/9 points. They both drew with each other in their eighth round encounter. Trinidad and Tobago's FIDE Master (FM) Joshua Johnson and Barbados' FM Justin Blackman also performed well, finishing with 6/9 points and 5.5/9 points, respectively.

In the Women's section, Dominican Republic's Woman Candidate Master (WCM) Patricia Evarista Castilla Pena claimed first with 7.5 points. Raydily Rosario Almanzar and Karen Libell Coronado Paulino were second and third on 7/9 and 6/9 points respectively, while Bahamian WCM Polina Karelina and Franchesa Ramirez Luzon, also from the Dominican Republic, were the next highest finishers.

Written by David Rose & Rowena Coe

Photo 1 – FM Joshua Christie

Photo 2 - WIM Rachel Miller

Photo 2 – FM Elect Darren McKennis

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#### 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 Jamaican society.

For more information about the Jamaica Chess Federation, please visit [www.jamchess.com](http://www.jamchess.com) or contact Mark Cameron, cell: 713-591-1153 at [jamchessfed.public.relations@gmail.com](mailto:jamchessfed.public.relations@gmail.com) or Richard Shaw, cell:876-819-9490 at [jamchessfed.publications@gmail.com](mailto:jamchessfed.publications@gmail.com)



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