

JAM CHESS

Oct-Dec 25 | 4th Quarter

NEW JAMAICA CHESS FEDERATION NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTED (2025-27)



Contributed

Ian Wilkinson KC.

The Jamaica Chess Federation (JCF) held its Annual General Meeting on November 22, 2025, when a new National Executive Council was elected. Ian Wilkinson, KC, was

elected President, with the other officers being Maxine Brown, Secretary, IM Jomo Pitterson, Treasurer, CM Mark Holness, VP Cornwall, NM Mikhail Solomon, VP Middlesex and WIM Deborah Richards-Porter, VP Surrey.

The eight ordinary members elected were FM Warren Elliott, Richard Shaw, Dr. Claire Grant, Monique Batchelor, Tanesha Brown, CM Mark Cameron, Judian Daniels & Troy Leachman.

In responding to members after the election results were announced, President Wilkinson thanked them for the confidence placed in him to lead once more. He also thanked past president NM Peter Myers for his leadership over the past six (6) years and also reaffirmed his commitment to the further development of all aspects of chess in Jamaica, while exploring strategic partnerships internationally on behalf of the JCF.

- Richard O. Shaw

FIDE DECLARES 2026 AS THE YEAR OF CHESS IN EDUCATION



The tournaments will unfold in two stages:

1. Continental Championships for Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe.
2. Grand Final featuring the winners of respective Continental Championships.

The parties expressed their intent to draft an action plan for additional events alongside each WSTCL 2026 tournament, aiming to expand scholastic chess and promote chess as an educational tool. The memorandum was signed by FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich and Timur Turlov, President of the ISCF.

“Education is the foundation for a good and successful life, and chess is a proven and powerful tool to underpin that goal,” said FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich.

“Investment in chess education, youth and school events has been one of the goals of my team since taking the helm of FIDE. I am delighted that after a successful Year of Social Chess, we are continuing with the Year of Chess in Education, launching new projects and initiatives and getting more schools and educational facilities involved in chess.”

The memorandum will serve as a foundation for implementing initiatives aimed at developing school chess and popularising intellectual sports in school education.

“Inclusion and equal opportunities have always been close to my heart. With the backing of our Freedom Shapagat Foundation, we have consistently supported social initiatives that help children and promote a more compassionate and humane society. That is why hosting these initiatives within the framework of the FIDE Olympiad for People with Disabilities feels especially meaningful,” said Timur Turlov.

Following the Year of Social Chess which was observed in 2025, the year 2026 will be dedicated to Chess in Education, underscoring FIDE’s focus on the facilitation of the integration of chess into school curricula worldwide.

On 20 October 2025, at NGS School in Astana, Kazakhstan, FIDE and the International School Chess Federation (ISCF) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to jointly promote scholastic chess globally. The initiative builds upon the successful 2025 Year of Social Chess and aligns with FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich’s proposal – made at the recent Smart Moves Summit in Washington, D.C. – to make Chess in Education a focus area for 2026.

Under the agreement – which will guide future cooperation – ISCF will work closely with FIDE to organise a series of international school team tournaments under the name “World Schools Team Championship League 2026” (WSTCL), which will serve as a flagship event of the “Chess in Education 2026” programme.

“It is only natural that in this year – declared by FIDE as the Year of Social Chess – together with the International School Chess Federation, we take the next step and announce 2026 as the Year of Chess in Education. From early childhood, it is through learning that we build a society grounded in respect, empathy and support for every child,” he added.

The “Chess in Education 2026” initiative marks a major milestone in FIDE’s global efforts to promote chess as a valuable component of learning, supporting both cognitive and social development among students worldwide.

- FIDE

About ISCF:

The International School Chess Federation (ISCF) is dedicated to the global promotion and integration of chess within the educational system. Launched in September 2024 as a FIDE-affiliated organization, the ISCF operates as a main institutional platform for advancing chess in schools – developing educational programs, supporting national federations and fostering cognitive and social growth among students through the sport of chess.

JAMAICANS REPRESENT AT CAYMAN ISLAND CHESS CLASSIC

In a strong field of twenty-three (23) chess talents, including multiple Grandmasters (GMs), Jamaicans FIDE Master (FM) Jaden Shaw and Candidate Master (CM) Akeem Brown performed creditably in the Open Section of the three-day six-round event from November 8-10, 2025.

CM Brown finished in 4th position on 4 points and also won the rating prize for U2200 while FM Jaden Shaw tied for 5th place with six others on 3.5 points, finishing 6th overall on tiebreak.

The tournament was won by GM Aryan Tari from Norway on 5.5 points from GM Vladimir Georgiev from North Macedonia on 5 points and International Master (IM) Michael Song from Canada 3rd on 4.5 points.

Cayman Island Chess Federation president CM Shaun Tracey, at the closing ceremony, while thanking all the participants across the three sections contested, stressed the importance of bringing top talent to the Caribbean region which will aid in the greater development and exposure of the region’s chess playing community.

-Richard O. Shaw



CM Akeem Brown



FM Jaden Shaw



MAIS, HOPE SHINE AT CAC YOUTH CHESS FESTIVAL

Rising stars Je’Nasiya Mais & Candidate Master (CM) Nathaniel Hope took home gold at the end of the 20th Caribbean & Central American Youth Chess Festival, held in Dorado, Puerto Rico from December 14-21, 2025.

In the main event, which was played under the classical chess format, forty-one (41) Jamaican juniors participated across all 12 sections, inclusive of Absolute and Female. Mais, competing in the Under 8 (U8) Female category, finished atop the category standings, followed by compatriots Kelani Crosdale 6th, Izabel Misir 7th, Rhia Garcia 8th and Jahleen Coke 11th. In the Absolute U8 category, Rushawn Henry placed 5th, Arena Candidate Master (ACM) Jayden Hylton 6th, Jonathan Cherian 17th and Thomas Kristian 19th.

In the U10 Female section, the Jamaican standings were Rhea Gardener 3rd with Samakhya Singh 5th and Noelle Noble 7th, while on the Absolute side, Rajvir Shergil was 5th, Khalel Davy 6th, Jotham Mais 19th and Jehmari Johnson 21st.

In the U12 Female section, Emilia-Rose Leake was Jamaica’s top finisher, placing 2nd, followed by Nyah Wood 4th, Ariana Marie Daniels 8th and Natalya Hinds 10th, while in the Absolute category, Jamaica’s best placing was Luke Wright 8th from Dejaun Williams 21st, Javin Li 26th, Nathan Cherian 27th, Austin Xaing 30th Zaire Quest 35th and Kaie Imani Stephen Chambers 43rd.

In the U14 Female section, Jamaica’s top finisher was Victoria Aung 6th followed by Kayla Moses 12th, while on the Absolute side, Ronak Shergil 9th was the highest placed Jamaican ahead of Vaishnav Gali 15th, Liam Logan 23rd, Josh-Anthony James 25th and Nathaniel Green 28th.





In the U16 Female section, Woman Candidate Master (WCM) Kaia Gayle was 2nd while on the Absolute side, Corbin Harvey was 6th from Cameron Coe 16th and Jayden Foreshaw 17th.



In the U18 Female section, WCM Gabriella Watson in her final "Age Group" event was 5th while on the Absolute side, FIDE Master (FM) Jaden Shaw, also in his final "Age Group" event was 4th overall.



The Classical Event saw 268 participants from 21 countries competing over nine rounds, where the top 5 in each section was awarded medals in addition to electronic DGT boards to the winners only.



In the Blitz competition held during a break in the main event, boys and girls played alongside each other in each Age Group Category. CM Hope was Jamaica's sole 1st place finisher after topping the U18 section. In the U14 category, Vaishnav Gali was 8th and Nathaniel Green 18th, in U12 Kaie Imani Stephen Chambers ended 22nd, followed by Zaire Quest 25th, ACM Jayden Hylton 27th and Natalya Hinds 32nd. The U10 category saw Khalel Davy taking 6th, with Jotham Mais 9th, Noelle Noble 12th, Rhea Gardener 19th and Samakhya Singh 22nd. In the U8 section, Rushawn Henry ended in 4th, Je'Nasiya Mais placed 11th and Kelani Crosdale was 12th.



The Blitz section saw 148 participants including 15 Jamaicans, across 5 merged sections and seven rounds, where medals were awarded to the top 5 Female & Absolute players. In the overall team competition, the awardees were Puerto Rico 3rd, Panama 2nd and Guatemala 1st.



Head of delegation, International Master (IM) Jomo Pitterson indicated his satisfaction with the overall team performance and was adamant team Jamaica would come back even stronger in 2026, at the next edition slated for Costa Rica.

-Richard O. Shaw



CM BROWN TAKES ENOS GRANT MEMORIAL BLITZ CHESS TOURNAMENT 2025

Twenty-two persons played in the Enos Grant Blitz Chess event on November 22, 2025, which was won by CM Akeem Brown, ahead of FM Joshua Christie 2nd, with FM Shreyas Smith 3rd, John Stephenson 4th & CM Jjustice-Dimonte McDonald 5th completing the top five places. Bella Reid was the top female player followed by Dayna-Simone Swasey & Abigail Jones in 3rd position.

The tournament is held each year in honour of Attorney-at-law Enos Grant, the founder of the Jamaica Chess Federation in 1969. Grant served as the JCF's first president for nineteen straight years.

- Richard O. Shaw



CM Akeem Brown

FM GLAVES REPEATS AT CLARENDON CHESS OPEN 2025



FM Raheem Glaves

The annual JCF Clarendon Chess Open Tournament, title sponsored by National Self-Serve Wholesale, was held November 15-16, 2025. Over 134 players participated, while 6 parents played for charity in the parent section.

Fide Master Raheem Glaves retained his title with a perfect score 6/6, dispatching some of Jamaica's strongest chess masters in the process. Second went to FM Shreyas Smith while third was FM Joshua Christie.

WFM Adani Clarke was the top female player, securing 3.5 points from 6 games. The winner of the parent section went to Kent Sutherland.

Along with National Self-Serve Wholesale, co-sponsors for the event were Bookzilla, Far-More Pharmacy & Clarendon Hireage.

- Howard Wilson

FM SMITH COPS FREDERICK CAMERON OPEN 2025



FM Shreyas Smith

FM Shreyas Smith emerging the winner of the Open section of the Frederick Cameron Chess Open, which was held from December 20-21, 2025. Second place went

to CM Jhustice-Dimonte McDonald and CM Paul Brooks took third. WFM Raehanna Brown was the top female participant in the Open section.

In the U1500 section, Aundrea Chang Jr won from Aiden Brown with Isaiah Rowe 3rd. Abigail Jones was the top female participant from Cordelia Wilson with Kara Reid in 3rd position.

The Frederick Cameron Open was formerly called the Christmas Open, but renamed in 2003 in honour of Mr. Frederick Cameron who served as Treasurer for 25 years, and was elected as President in 1994. Over the years he served in different administrative capacities including being an arbiter for numerous tournaments and playing an integral role in enabling Jamaica to become a member of World Chess Federation (FIDE) in 1972. Mr. Cameron, a Calabar High School Old Boy, represented his country on Jamaica's first ever National team and on subsequent teams over the years. He was inducted into the Jamaica Chess Federation Hall of Fame in 2017.

- Richard O. Shaw



FM SHREYAS SMITH WINS HAROLD CHAN OPEN 2025

FM Shreyas Smith won the Harold Chan Chess Open contested from October 18-19, 2025. Smith won on 5/6 points with his only defeat coming in round 3 from Nathan Belinfante (3.5pts), CM Akeem Brown was also on 5 points but 2nd overall on tiebreak, CM Jjustice-Dimonte McDonald 3rd, Angelus-Seren McDonald 4th & Ronak Shergil rounding out the top 5 Open places all on 4.5pts with tiebreak again determining the final placements. WCM Nickaylah Curwin ended the top female in the Open section.

In the U1800 Section, Kamari Stephens (5.5pts) won from David Lam (5pts), Xavier Grossett (4.5pts) Nathaniel Green 4th on tiebreak (4pts) from Vaishnav Gali (4pts) rounding the top 5 places. Noelle Noble 10th place (3.5pts) was the top female in this section.

In the U1500 Absolute Section, Garcio Gayle won on perfect score (5/5pts) from Pranav Sunkara and Rhea Gardener both on (4.5pts), Aundrae Chang Jnr and Ariana-Marie Daniels both on (4pts) 4th & 5th, second to fifth places determined by tiebreaks.

In the U1500 Female Section, Chandana Jampany won on perfect score (5/5pts) from Brea Johnson 2nd (4pts), Kundana Gollamudi & Bella Reid tied on (3.5pts) 3rd & 4th on tiebreaks, Esther Mullings 5th on (3pts).



FM Ras Malaku Lorne presenting the winning Open trophy to FM Shreyas Smith

Jamaica Chess Federation Council member Richard Shaw shared 113 persons participated in four sections over two days in the Harold Chan Open which is a Jamaica Chess Federation event.

- Richard O. Shaw

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.

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