

JAMCHESS

Q4 | Oct - Dec 2024



SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

**To the Jamaica Chess Federation
Family,**

As we celebrate this joyous season and come to the end of another year, we take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared throughout 2024. Your unwavering support and dedication to our community have been the cornerstone of our progress in 2024.

To our players, thank you for your commitment to improving your skills, participating in local events and representing your country with pride overseas. To the parents, we deeply appreciate your encouragement and the sacrifices that make it possible for the next generation of chess champions to thrive.

This year, we achieved significant milestones together, from hosting several tournaments to advancing our mission of growing chess across Jamaica.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you in the new year as we aim to make 2025 even more successful for the Federation and all its members.

May this Christmas season bring you joy, peace and cherished moments with your loved ones.

We wish you and your families all the best for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Warm regards.

Peter Myers
President Jamaica Chess Federation

TWO "PERFECT" JAMAICA CHESS CHAMPIONS!!!

After the smoke cleared following the final Round of the 2024 National & Women's Chess Championships on Sunday, November 3, 2024, two former champions created more local Chess history with "perfect" victories, defeating every opponent they faced.

WATSON DOMINATES THE OPPOSITION!

Woman Candidate Master (WCM) **Gabriella Watson**, still basking in her excellent, title-earning performance at the recent World Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary, won all eight games she played in the nine-player field to notch her second National Women's title. Her eight points



Champions WCM Gabriella Watson & FM Shreyas Smith

were one more than Kaia Gayle's seven, the runner-up's sole loss being to Watson. Third place went to Glory Murphy on 4.5 points.

SMITH EQUALS ELLIOTT'S RECORD!

In the Absolute section with ten players, the irrepressible **FIDE Master (FM) Shreyas Smith**, added a fifth title to his already impressive record by sweeping the field which included three of his team-mates at the recent Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary - FMs Joshua Christie (the rating favourite), Jaden Shaw (defending Champion) and Raheem Glaves. Smith's maximum 9 points were far ahead of second place Christie's 6.5. Shaw recovered from a sluggish start and placed third on 6 points.

Smith's nine wins equalled the feat achieved by FM Warren Elliott in August 2001. Indeed, Elliott who holds the record for the most national Absolute titles (eight) was present as the Chief Arbiter for the Championships, to witness Smith's superb performance. The Championships were played between October 26 and November 3, 2024 at Christar Villas Hotel one of the sponsors, the others being the World Chess Federation - FIDE, the Sports Development Foundation and the Magnificent Chess Foundation.

Ian G. Wilkinson KC

FM SHREYAS SMITH REGAINS CHAN TITLE WITH NEAR-PERFECT PERFORMANCE

FIDE Master (FM) Shreyas Smith, the number two ranked player in Jamaica, easily won the NM Dr Harold Chan Open Chess Tournament, staged October 5 and 6, with a near-perfect 5.5 points from 6 games. With the victory, FM Smith ended a six-year drought, having last won the event in 2018.

Second place went to the fast-rising Nathaniel Hope, who ended on an impressive 5 points, and third on tiebreak went to FM Raheem Graves, who finished with 4.5 points ahead of Candidate Master (CM) Akeem Brown and Jjustice-Dimonte Mcdonald respectively, who each also ended on 4.5 points. The top female player in the Open Section was Arielle McKoy, who ended on 2.5 points.

The exciting Under 1700 Intermediate Section was won by journeyman James Bauman, who travelled all the way from the United States for the event. Notwithstanding passing the age of 70 many years ago, Bauman was still able to upstage his younger opponents, scoring a solid 5 points, the same as Vaishnav Gali, with the latter being relegated to second place on tiebreak. Third place went to Krishmar Smith who ended on 4.5, the same as John Robinson and Emelia-Rose Leake, who were awarded 4th and 5th respectively. Leake took the prize for being the top female player in the Under 1700 section.

The Under 1400 Section was won on tiebreak by Nyah Wood who ended on 4.5 points ahead of Jonathan Brown, who also ended with 4.5 points. Three players ended on 4 points, however when tiebreaks were used, third went to Jevughney Oliver, 4th was Jordan Mantock and 5th was David Jones.

The Under 1400 female section was won by Rhea Gardner who ended on a perfect 5 points from her five games, while second place went to Tisha Rhone with 4 points. Tiebreaks had to again be used to separate three players who were next with 3 points each, resulting in 3rd

going to Saanvi Paladugu, 4th to Yeney Terry Gordon and 5th to Jhennyssa Trowers.

The tournament featuring over 90 participants, is named in honour of a Jamaican chess pioneer and one of our greatest chess champions, Dr Harold Chan. He was a five-time Jamaica chess champion and one of the country's first National Masters. Originally from Guyana, he settled in Jamaica and studied to become a pathologist at the University of the West Indies.

Funding for the tournament was provided by the World Chess Federation (FIDE) and the Sports Development Foundation.

NM Peter Myers



FIDE Master Shreyas Smith

PERFECT PERFORMANCES HIGHLIGHT WIM DEBORAH RICHARDS-PORTER LADIES TOURNAMENT

December 07, 2024, marked another successful staging of the WIM Deborah Richards-Porter Ladies Tournament (DRP), showcasing the growth in popularity of the sport amongst girls in Jamaica.

Nyah Wood dominated the Under 10 section, also achieving a perfect score of 6/6, ahead of Emilia-Rose Leake (5/6), Carissa Chin (4/6), Jhennyssa Trowers (4/6) and Leah Logan (3.5/6).

Elisha Patel emerged victorious in the Under 12 category, likewise with a perfect score (6/6), ahead of Yoney Terry Gordon, Natalya Hinds, Saanvi Paladugu and Kalie Cummings, who all ended on 4/6 points.

In the High School/Open section, Kaia Gayle of St. Andrew High School for Girls, secured top honours with the fourth flawless performance (6/6) on the day, followed by Glory Murphy and Danielle Yankana 2nd and 3rd respectively on tiebreak, after each ended on 4.5/6 and Kaity Gayle and Cordelia Wilson were 4th and 5th on tiebreak, after each secured 4 points.

Trophies were awarded from first to fifth place in each section, while Creative Kids Learning Academy copped the coveted prize for top school.

The WIM Deborah Richards-Porter Ladies Tournament provides a platform for girls to develop skills, build confidence and forge friendships. Tournament organizer and the person in whose honour the tournament is named, WIM Deborah Richards-Porter, praised the participants, parents and sponsors for their support, emphasizing the significance of fostering a community that encourages girls to pursue their passion in chess and beyond.

The sponsors of the event included FIDE (the World Chess Federation), the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, the Sports Development Foundation and the Magnificent Chess Foundation.

-Stacey-Ann Robinson



Kaia Gayle, winner High school/ Open section

The DRP, which is staged to foster the empowerment of girls on and off the chessboard, drew just over 90 talented young ladies across four sections: Under 8, Under 10, Under 12 and High School/Open.

Rhea Gardener was crowned as the Under 8 champion with a perfect score (6/6), followed closely by Kundana Gollamudi (5/6) and Gracy Patel (4.5/6). Izabel Misir and Kaelyn Mullings were 4th and 5th respectively on tiebreak, both ending on 4/6 points.



HYLTON SHOWS RESILIENCE AT FIDE WORLD CADET CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Jamaica was represented at the World Cadet Chess Championship in Montesilvano, Italy, from November 17-25, 2024, by the young and talented Jayden Hylton in the U8 Open Category.



Jayden Hilton- World Cadet

The tournament presented a significant challenge for Jayden, who unluckily fell ill on the opening day, leading to his temporary withdrawal for the first five (5) rounds. Despite this setback, Jayden showed significant fortitude and commitment, when he rejoined the Championship at the sixth round and proceeded to secure four points from the final six (6) rounds of the eleven-round event.

Beyond his results, Jayden achieved other personal goals that would have advanced his growth and development. Most importantly, he gained invaluable experience having competed at a world-level event and fostered meaningful relationships with other young players worldwide.

Jayden Hylton's journey at the Championship is a testament to his potential and an inspiration for aspiring chess players across Jamaica and the region, as he was the only participant from the English-speaking Caribbean. His efforts will set a foundation for future successes, as he grows and competes locally and internationally.

The U8 category was contested by 122 participants, while the overall competition saw 710 participants from 77 countries vying for top honors in U8, U10 & U12, Open & Female categories.

- Natoya Anderson/Richard O. Shaw

Congratulations!

The following person has earned a FIDE title in Q4, 2024

Cliffon Pryce - School Instructor



Jayden Hilton- World Cadet

RONAK TAKES CAYMAN ISLANDS PRESIDENT'S INVITATIONAL MASTERS 2024



Ronak Shergil wins President Invitational Masters 2024

Thirteen-year old chess standout, Ronak Shergil of Campion College, overcame significant odds, most notably a strong field that included top seed FM Ras Malaku Lorne and 4 other Candidate Masters, to capture the 2nd staging of the Presidents Invitational International Chess Championships in the Cayman Islands, from November 9-10, 2024. Shergil scored 4 points from 5 games, inclusive of two draws.

Second and third place on tiebreak went to Jay-Ar Laulhati and Chinake Kudakwashe respectively, of the Cayman Islands, with the next best Jamaican in CM Akeem Brown, finishing tied for 2nd but 4th on tiebreak. All three players ended on 3.5 points.

Speaking about his victory after the event, young Shergil shared how excited he was to win his first International Chess event on foreign soil, plus how happy he was to achieve such a victory for his mom who accompanied him and was celebrating her birthday on the weekend.

In the Presidents Invitational Junior section held alongside the Masters Event, Campion College's Liam Logan finish tied for 2nd, 5th overall while Rajvir Shergil (Ronak's brother), was 6th. Dez Graham of the Cayman Islands won the Junior section ahead of Israel Martin and Abbie Mcclenaghan.

In the Novice section, Leah Logan of St Andrew Prep was the only Jamaican in the field and she finished 10th overall. The novice winners were Atry Clark 1st, Kylan McLean 2nd & Lia Dimitrova 3rd. 43 persons contested all 3 sections.

Richard O. Shaw



Open winner Ronak Shergil alongside his coach IM Jomo Pitterson, Cayman Islands President, Shaun Tracey, board members Fayad Majid and NM Ryan Blackwood

FREDERICK CAMERON CHESS OPEN 2024

FIDE Master (FM) Raheem Glaves convincingly won the 21st staging of the Frederick Cameron Open Chess Tournament played December 14 and 15 at Calabar High School. The six-round event was played in four sections: Open, Under 1700, Under 1400 Open and Under 1400 Female. The annual event is named in honour of Jamaica Chess Federation Hall of Fame inductee, Calabar Old-Boy and former Jamaican International player and Jamaica Chess Federation (JCF) Treasurer and President, Frederick Cameron.



**FM Raheem Glaves wins Fred Cameron Open
Chess 2024**

FM Glaves won the Open section with a perfect six (6) points from six games, which included a famous victory over reigning National Champion FM Shreyas Smith. Smith had to settle for second place on tiebreak ahead of University of the West Indies standout Jjustice-Dimonte McDonald, after both players ended on 4.5 points.

The top female player in the Open section was Kaia Gayle, who ended on an impressive 4 points from her six games, losing only to the eventual winner Glaves.

The best U1700 player was Liam Logan who won on tiebreak over David Jones after both players ended with 5 points. Third went to Krishmar Smith on tiebreak over Jovani Spence, after both players ended on 4.5 points. The top female player in the Under 1700 section was Kayla Moses, who ended on 4 points from her six games, losing only to the eventual winner Logan.

The U1400 Open section was won by Luke Wright on tiebreak over Nyah Wood, after both players ended on 4.5 points from their five games. Five players ended tied on 4 points each, however when tiebreaks were employed, third place was awarded to Javin Li, followed by Kamar Davidson, Kareem Ankle, Josh-Anthony James and Leiquon Smith.

Kathryn Okpiavbe finished with 4.5 points out of five games to win the U1400 Female section. Terry Gordon Yoney came second on tiebreak over Mais Je'Nasiya after both players ended on 4 points.

Approximately 97 entrants took part in the event.

Commenting on the continued growth of the event since the COVID-19 Pandemic, JCF President National Master Peter Myers stated that he was glad to see the number of entrants returning to its pre-COVID 19 levels. Fred Cameron is an icon of chess in Jamaica and to see the number of youngsters coming out is befitting of the man who was there in 1969 when the JCF was established.

The Frederick Cameron Open was sponsored by the Sports Development Foundation, FIDE (the World Chess Federation) and Calabar High School.

The first open tournament for 2025 will be the IA FM John Powell Memorial Open Chess Tournament, currently scheduled to be held 1st week of February 2025. This event will honour another icon of Jamaican Chess, former President, International Arbiter and International Representative John Powell.

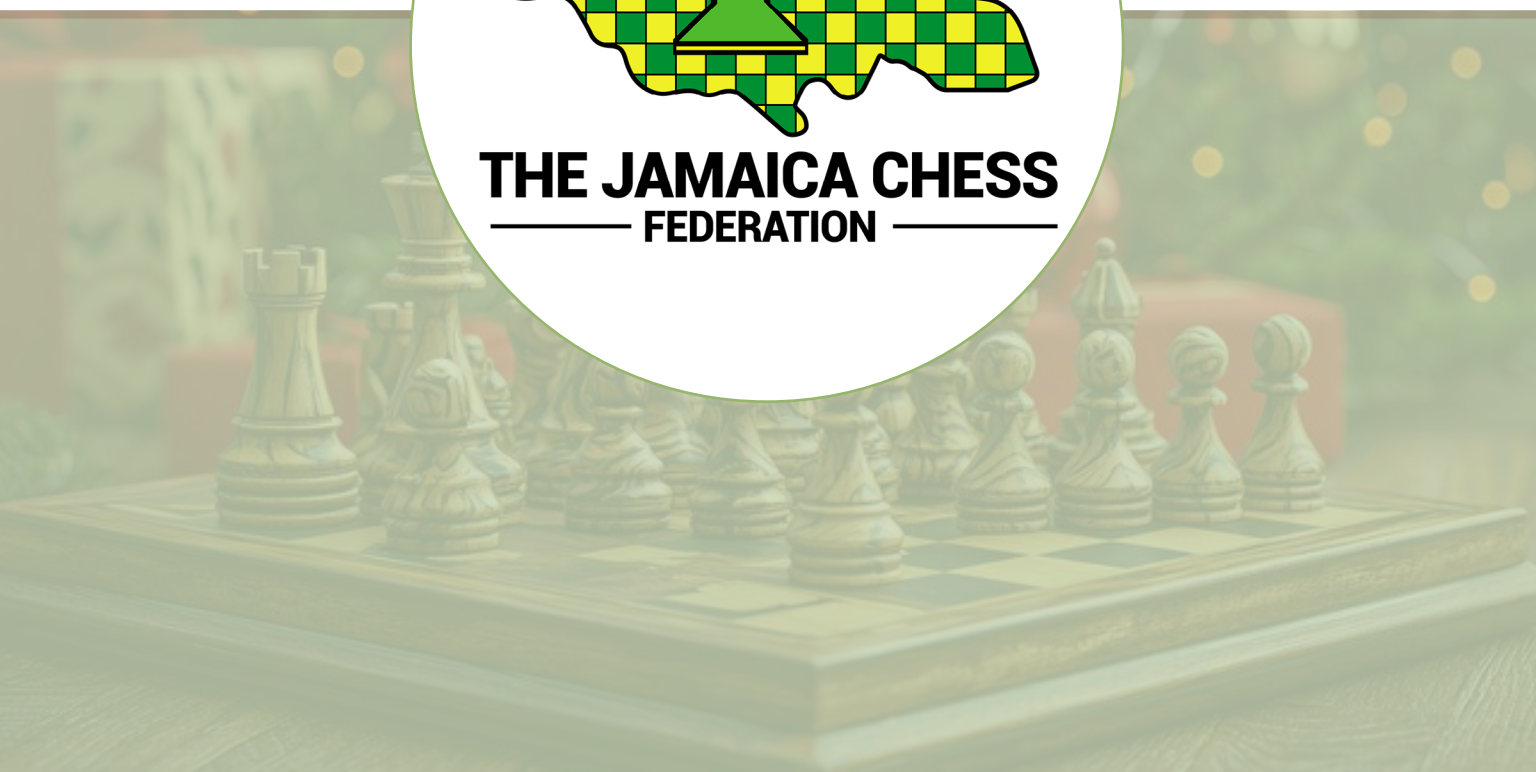
NM PETER MYERS



Jamaica Chess
Federation

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS (NHSCC) PRELIMINARIES REPORT

- 2024 / 2025 -

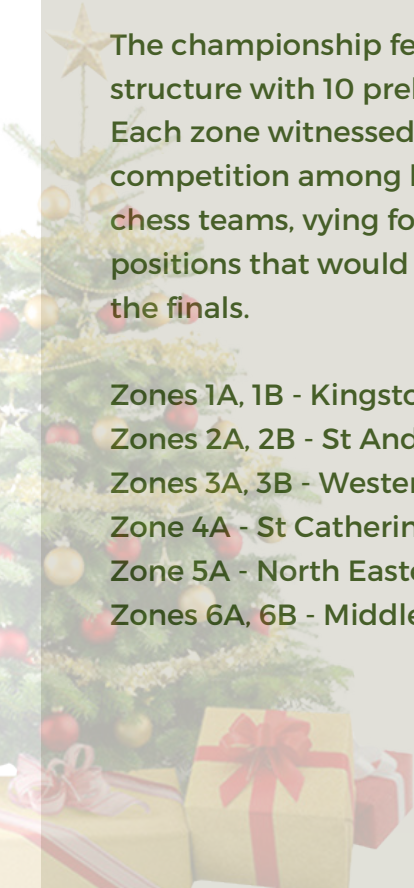




ABOUT THE NHSCC

The High School Chess Championship is an annual event that brings together high school chess teams to compete in a spirited tournament. The championship aims to foster strategic thinking, sportsmanship, and a love for the game among young minds. The High School Chess Championship 2024/25, under the guidance of NA Clifton Pryce has successfully concluded its preliminary rounds, marking a milestone in the journey towards finding this year's chess champions. The championship, a battle of strategic minds and tactical brilliance, saw participation from schools across the region.

Tournament Structure



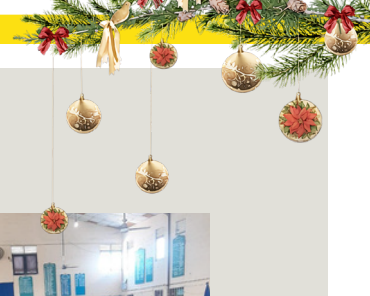
The championship featured a robust structure with 10 preliminary zones. Each zone witnessed intense competition among high school chess teams, vying for the coveted positions that would lead them to the finals.

Zones 1A, 1B - Kingston
Zones 2A, 2B - St Andrew
Zones 3A, 3B - Western
Zone 4A - St Catherine
Zone 5A - North Eastern
Zones 6A, 6B - Middlesex

Qualification Criterion

The teams that clinched 1st place in their respective zones will proceed directly to the finals, where they will face off for the ultimate title. Meanwhile, the 2nd and 3rd place teams from each zone will engage in the playoffs, setting the stage for fierce battles and determining the additional finalists.

Seventy-nine teams have entered the competition, schools participating in this tournament for the first time includes José Martí Technical High School, The Heinz Simonitsch School and Mona High School. The girls' teams in the event include Immaculate Conception High School's A & B teams, Wolmer's Girls, Maggotty High School, Mount Alvernia High School, St Andrews High School for Girls and, St Jago Girls.



Zones 1A, 1B , 2A, 2B, 3A & 3B

THE PRELIMINARY ZONES (1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A & 3B) HIGHLIGHTS

The preliminary rounds were marked by strategic brilliance, tactical manoeuvres, and spirited sportsmanship. It was impressive to witness the depth of talent and dedication among the participating high school chess teams. The competition served as a platform for young minds to showcase their analytical skills and strategic prowess.

1A & 1B QUALIFYING TEAMS

- Finals:
Wolmer's Boy's School A
St. Georges College A
- Playoffs:
Kingston College A
Camperdown High School A
Kingston College B
Wolmer's Boy's School B

2A & 2B QUALIFYING TEAMS

- Finals:
Campion College A
Ardenne High School A
- Playoffs:
Campion College C
Campion College B
Jamaica College A
Campion College D
Calabar High School A

3A & 3B QUALIFYING TEAMS

- Finals:
Green Island High A
Mannings A
- Playoffs:
Manning's School B
Cornwall College A
Green Island High B
Cornwall College B
Holland High A



THE PRELIMINARY ZONES (4A, 5A, 6A & 6B) HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the championship, the participants exhibited exemplary sportsmanship and adherence to fair play principles. It was heartening to see competitors not only striving for victory but also fostering a spirit of camaraderie and mutual respect on and off the chessboard.



4A QUALIFYING TEAMS

- Finals:
St. Jago High School A
St. Jago High School B

- Playoffs:
St. Catherine High School A
St. Catherine High School B
St. Jago High School Girls
Jose Marti Technical High School A

5A QUALIFYING TEAMS

- Finals:
Titchfield High School A
Morant Bay A

- Playoffs:
Titchfield High School B
Titchfield High School C

6A & 6B QUALIFYING TEAMS

- Finals:
Glenmuir High School A
deCarteret College A

- Playoffs:
Denbigh High School B
Denbigh High School A
Glenmuir High School C
Glenmuir High School B

NA, SI CLIFFON PRYCE

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

