



The 2nd WELLS CHESS CONGRESS

March 6th - 8th 2026

Venue

The Town Hall, Market Place, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2RB

This is a wonderful setting for a Congress. The entire building will be in use for the Congress so the Open Section will have its own room, and the Minor section will have its own room downstairs

Tournament Sections

Section	Grade Limit	Entry Fee*	Prizes
Open (FIDE-rated) **	None	£40	First = £600, Second = £300, Third = £150
Major (FIDE-rated) **	Under 1950	£40	First = £400, Second = £200, Third = £100
Intermediate (FIDE-rated) **	Under 1750	£30	First = £300, Second = £150, Third = £75
Minor	Under 1550	£30	First = £200 Second = £100 Third = £50

* For late entries after 1st March add £5 (no Entries after 5th March 2026)

** FIDE registration needs to be done before entry otherwise will be done as ENG

Unrated players will be requested to provide evidence of their playing strength/past grade or rating to enter them in the suitable section - The organiser reserves the right to change the section of player/s or withdraw them.

ECF Fees

In the **Open, Major and Intermediate** sections there is no charge for Gold or Platinum ECF members.

Otherwise:

FIDE registered players with a non-English affiliation £1.50. All other players £12

In **Minor** section there is no charge for Gold or Platinum ECF members. Otherwise, a £9 ECF grading fee applies.

Junior Discount

There will be a £5 discount for juniors this year.

Cash Prizes

Dependent on entry, there will be at least one grading prize in each section.

There is a team prize of £50 awarded to the highest scoring (genuine club) team of 4 players.

Except in the Open tournament, no ungraded player will be awarded a cash prize greater than £50.

Playing Schedule

Friday	18.40 Opening 18.45 Round 1
Saturday	10.00 Round 2 15.00 Round 3
Sunday	10.00 Round 4 15.00 Round 5

Players will be defaulted if not present within 30 minutes of the start of a round.

Rate of Play

All Sections: 90 minutes plus 30 seconds per move from the start each game.

Byes

A half-point bye may be requested in any one of rounds 1,2,3 or 4 (prior to the start of the round).

Refreshments

Catering is easily available in the Market Square, but the organising committee are committed to ensuring that hot and cold drinks are available for purchase.

Rating Information

The January 2025 FIDE and/or ECF standard play published ratings (Original) will be used to determine eligibility for a section. In the Open, the ECF rating will take precedence.

The organisers reserve the right to transfer players to another section at their discretion.

It is a condition of entry that all entrants agree that their game results will be forwarded to the ECF for grading.

Refunds

Refunds will be processed on the following basis:

- Before 1st March £5 admin fee deducted; 100% refund on remaining money paid
- 1st – 5th March £5 admin fee deducted; 50% refund on remaining money paid
- 6th March No refund

The Organiser reserves the right to refuse an entry, or transfer an entry to another section, without explanation. In the event of a dispute, the decisions of the Organiser and/or Chief Arbiter will be final in all matters.

Fair Play Regulations

To comply with FIDE regulations - All mobile phones and electronic devices, including smart watches, must be switched-off at all times in the Playing Hall. They should be put either face-down on the playing table, in the players coat on the back of the chair, or in a bag under the desk that must not be moved whilst games are in play. If it is evident that during play, a player's device is not turned off or a player has such a device on their person or has had access to any such device, the player shall be defaulted & will lose the game.

Any spectators (Players are classified as spectators after finishing their games), parents and others who may enter the Playing Hall must also have their mobile phones / electronic devices switched off at all times

Photographs

Photographs may be taken on the day by the organiser for publicity purposes. Photos could be taken for use on the Somerset Chess League website, the Wells Congress

Facebook page & website, or the FIDE website. If you don't want your photo published, please inform the Organisers.

Conditions of Entry and Competition Rules

Players accept as a condition of entry that the Organiser's and Arbiter's decision on any aspect of the tournament is final, and that the information provided on the entry form may be recorded and used for congress administration, mailing lists and rating purposes.

The Organiser reserves the right to refuse entry or to transfer players to another section without giving a reason. Under exceptional circumstances, at the Organiser's discretion, the prize fund can be reduced. Adverse weather conditions or other reasons beyond the Organiser's control may necessitate the cancellation of the congress. The Organiser will try to refund at least part of the entry fee, but no guarantees are made.

The Organiser accepts no responsibility for any damage, theft or accident to the person or property of anyone attending this event. Parents or guardians are responsible for their children during the tournament. The organisers and helpers are not able to act "in loco parentis" and are not able to take responsibility for any child's actions, or for the actions of anyone that may affect your child.