

Press Release – 1st August 2024

GB are the World Champions!

Not at the Olympics, but at chess solving. The British team has won the 2024 World Chess Solving Championship. John Nunn, David Hodge, and Jonathan Mestel, the British team, won the gold medals, ahead of Poland. It was a cliff-hanger: going into the final round, GB lead by a slim four points, but the Polish team caught up and finished on the same score. The tie-break, total time taken, was in GB's favour and they become the World Champions.

The World Chess Solving Championship took place in Jurmala, Latvia at the end of July. This was the first British win in the WCSC since 2007; since then, the Poles have dominated this annual event, winning 13 times, so they were the heavy favourites to grab the gold.

There's an individual World Championship too, and it was won by Kacper Piorun from Poland, with John Nunn taking the silver medal. Recently John has had an extraordinary run of successes, winning multiple world and European senior titles in over-the-board chess, and indeed he also took the senior title in the WCSC. The team World Chess Solving Championship, however, is for all ages, so many of the competitors are much younger. Both John Nunn and Jonathan Mestel are former individual World Chess Solving Champions, and both are seniors - GB's win proves that youth is not essential.

The full results can be found at: <https://wccc2024.wfcc.ch/47-wcsc-final-results/> and click on 'Teams'.

In chess solving events, competitors try to solve chess problems, such as White to play and force mate in three moves, against the clock. You can find all the problems from the WCSC, and their solutions, on the same site: <https://wccc2024.wfcc.ch/47-wcsc-final-results/> and click on 'Problems' or 'Solutions'.

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