

## CONGRESS MEAL AND SPEAKER

The Kings and Queens of Chess Dinners at the Imperial.

A Saturday night celebration dinner on Saturday 8th February at 8 pm in the Louis Room at the Imperial with guest speaker, some quiet music and lots of fun.

Tickets only £65 per head. It's likely to be sold out with only 90 places, so be sure to book when you book the Congress.

### JUNIOR PRIZES

The highest scoring junior in each section (under 18 at commencement of congress) will receive £30.

### VETERAN PRIZES

The highest scoring Veteran in each section will receive £100.  
(at or over 60 years of age at the start of the competition)

## CATERING OPTIONS FOR THE CONGRESS

To make life easier all round regarding ordering lunches, the Imperial will have a few lunch options available, one of which will be packed lunches.

The Hotel will have an order point at reception at which the players can place their orders in advance. So, order Friday for Saturday and on Saturday for Sunday – no problem if a player wants to order Friday for both days.

The Hotel will take payments from the players at the time of ordering.

**IMPORTANT: No food or drink  
to be taken into the premises.**

# 48th Blackpool Chess Conference

The Imperial Hotel, Blackpool  
North Promenade, Blackpool FY1 2HB  
Tel. 01253 623971

Friday 7th - Sunday 9th February 2025

## £6700 in Prizes

### Five Sections

Congress Director: Bill O'Rourke  
Chief Controller: Alex McFarlane, ECF Arbiter  
email: [blackpoolchessconference@virginmedia.com](mailto:blackpoolchessconference@virginmedia.com)

Enter and pay on line via:

**[www.blackpoolchess.org.uk](http://www.blackpoolchess.org.uk)**

**In all cases the congress director's decision is final**

**See inside front cover for conditions of entry.**

**For your comfort entry will be limited to 400 players**



## RATE OF PLAY

In all sections. All moves in 110 minutes with 10 second increment added with each move.

## RATINGS

The January 2025 ECF rating list will be used for determining section entry. The February 2025 rating list will be used for pairing.

The Open section will be FIDE rated, Gold membership is required for English players, non-English players must have a FIN. Highest of ECF or FIDE rating will be used. The highest published grade must be used for Non-English players.

Grading history and other sources may be used to place a player in a higher section. Players without a current grade must give their last published grade and the year of publication. Failure to disclose will result in disqualification.

Adult players (over 18 years of age) without a grade/history may only enter the Open section. Ungraded Juniors must give a full indication of their strength.

Players with grades/ratings that are not in the public domain must supply a signed photo-copy of their grading/rating. The Director reserves the right to place any entry whose grade cannot be verified into the section of his choice.

It is a condition of entry that players agree to their grading information being published on the ECF Website. Players not wishing to have their details published on the ECF Website should contact the ECF Office directly. All results will be sent to the ECF for grading in the ECF Grading List.

**The last date for entry is Wednesday February 5th 2025.** Players should check the website to confirm entry. No entries accepted after this date. No telephone entries accepted at any time.

## REFUNDS

Players who withdraw and request a refund must do so in writing before 1st February 2025. If a refund is approved by the organiser, the entry fee may be returned less a £5 administration fee. Withdrawals after this date will not be eligible for a refund.

## ENTRY FEES

**ECF Gold Members may claim a £15.00 discount.**

## LATE ENTRIES

A late entry fee of £5 will be charged on entries received after 3/2/2025

## INTERNET ENTRIES

**[www.blackpoolchess.org.uk](http://www.blackpoolchess.org.uk)**

TELEPHONE ENTRIES ARE NOT ACCEPTED. NO ENTRIES ON THE DAY.

## Lancashire Open -FIDE RATED

**1st Prize £700**

**2nd Prize £400**

**3rd Prize £200**

**3 Grading Prizes of £100**

**Best Veteran £100, Best Junior £30**

Entry Fee £60 (less £15 if gold member).

## The Intermediate

For players graded below 1850

**1st Prize £500**

**2nd Prize £200**

**4 Grading Prizes of £100**

**Best Veteran £100, Best Junior £30**

Entry Fee £53 (less £15 if gold member).

## The Standard

For players graded below 1550

**1st Prize £400**

**2nd Prize £200**

**3rd Prize £100**

**4 Grading Prizes of £50**

**Best Veteran £100, Best Junior £30**

Entry Fee £45 (less £15 if gold member).

## The Imperial Major

For players graded below 2050

**1st Prize £500**

**2nd Prize £300**

**5 Grading Prizes of £100**

**Best Veteran £100, Best Junior £30**

Entry Fee £55 (less £15 if gold member).

## The Minor

For players graded below 1700

**1st Prize £500**

**2nd Prize £200**

**4 Grading Prizes of £100**

**Best Veteran £100, Best Junior £30**

Entry Fee £53 (less £15 if gold member).

## The Admin Team

**Arbiters: Alex McFarlane, Peter Purland, Fiona Green, Matt Carr**

**Backroom: David Clayton  
Setup Help: Con and others -  
thank you one and all  
Bookstall: Chess Essentials**

**All Prizes will be paid via bank transfer after the tournament and must be claimed within 6 months from the end of the tournament**

## TIMETABLE

**Friday: Opening Ceremony - 6.55 p.m.**

**Round 1 - 7.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.**

**Saturday & Sunday: Rounds 2 & 4 - 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.**

**Rounds 3 & 5 - 2.15 p.m. to 6.15 p.m.**

30 minutes after the start of each round, a new pairing may be made for any player whose opponent has not arrived or for any player who was initially awarded a bye. Missing players will be defaulted after 30 minutes. Swiss Manager will be used to pair the rounds using February 2025 published ratings.

## DATA PROTECTION POLICY

Your contact details will be held on a computer database for future mailing purposes for a period of three years. This mailing list will ONLY be used for the distribution of chess activities and promotional material associated with Blackpool Chess Congress. The entry form will be destroyed within 6 months of the congress. Data will not be supplied to any third party.

## DONATIONS

We thank you for previous year's donations which have been used to fund veteran prizes. All donations from this year's event will be used to provide veteran prizes at the next Blackpool Chess Conference.

## IN ALL CASES THE CONGRESS DIRECTOR'S DECISION IS FINAL

The organiser reserves the right to refuse any entry without stating a reason or to transfer any entry from one section to another. They also reserve the right to re-distribute in whole or in part any other prize won by a competitor who has won or shared a main prize. The organiser reserves the right to reduce the prize fund or cancel the event in the event of a low number of entries.

*No food or drink to be taken into the premises.*

*The Imperial is offering special reduced prices on food and drink for entrants.*

**Note: There is a £9.00 a day car parking charge for using the Imperial Car Park for people not staying at the Imperial.**

## ENTRY FEES

**Open Section £60 (less £15 for Gold members)**

**Major Section £55 (less £15 for Gold members)**

**Inter/Minor Section £53 (less £15 for Gold members)**

**Standard Section £50 (less £15 for Gold members)**

**No entries on the day!**

## The Imperial Hotel

Rates for the 2024 Blackpool Chess Conference, VAT inclusive.

### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Bed & Breakfast Single £102.50 pp per night

Bed & Breakfast Double / Twin Occupancy at £112.50 per room per night.

### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Bed & Breakfast Single £91.00 pp per night

Bed & Breakfast Double /Twin Occupancy at £101.00 per room per night

Add £25.00 per person per night to include Dinner.

Packed Lunch box can be booked at reception = £12.50

**PLEASE BOOK EARLY – LIMITED ROOMS**

**Car Parking complimentary for people staying at the Imperial.  
Parking for people not staying at the Imperial is £9 per day.**

To book your room at the Imperial please preferably do so online via the congress website front page:

**[www.blackpoolchess.org.uk](http://www.blackpoolchess.org.uk)**

If you do not have internet access, please dial **01253 623971** and follow Option 1 to speak to the Reservations Team. You MUST state that you are attending at the Blackpool Chess Conference to obtain the special reduced rates agreed with the hotel

Lines are open 9.00am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday  
and 9.00am to 5.30pm at weekends.

To qualify for the £10.00 Blackpool Entry Discount you must be staying at the Imperial Hotel for two nights. No one night reservations will be accepted. The discount is per room and not per person. Bookings via other websites do not qualify for the discount. To claim your £10.00 Blackpool Entry Discount note your Booking Reference and enter this on the Blackpool Entry Form.

## ENTRY FORM FOR THE PERSON BOOKING A ROOM AT THE IMPERIAL - \*\*SPECIAL RATES APPLY

Surname: ..... First Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

..... Postcode: .....

Section: ..... ECF FIDE Grade: ..... Grade No. ....

Other (please specify): .....

Clubs: .....

Email address: ..... Tel: .....

ECF Membership No. .... (Expiry Date.....)

Date of Birth if Under 18 on 1/9/24 or Veteran (on or over 60 at start of congress): .....

BYE REQUIRED? If so, Round 1 2 3 4 Female? Y / N

Disabled? Y/N Special Requirements .....

A late entry fee of £5 will be charged on entries received after Monday 3/2/25.

A £10.00 discount can be claimed - one discount per room booked at the Imperial Hotel.  
When stopping for 2 nights **The Imperial Hotel - Tel. 01253 623971**

Imperial Hotel Booking Reference. 2 .....

Name of person booking room .....

Entry Fee with Imperial Discount £ .....

Gold £15 discount £ .....

Saturday night meal (£65) £ .....

Donation £ .....

Late Entry Fee £5 After Monday 3/2/25 £ .....

TOTAL £ .....

Cheque/PO made payable to Blackpool Chess Congress please

Please tick this box ☐ if you have read our Data Protection Policy and do not wish your address to be stored on a computer database. Please note that if you tick the box you will not receive next year's Blackpool Chess Conference entry form.

Entry Form Address:

Blackpool Chess Congress, 101 Queens Park Road, Heywood, Lancashire OL10 4JR

## ENTRY FORM – if NOT booking a room at the Imperial

Surname: ..... First Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

..... Postcode: .....

Section: ..... ECF FIDE Grade: ..... Grade No. ....

Other (please specify): .....

Clubs: .....

Email address: ..... Tel: .....

ECF Membership No. .... (Expiry Date.....)

Date of Birth if Under 18 on 1/9/24 or Veteran (on or over 60 at start of congress): .....

BYE REQUIRED? If so, Round 1 2 3 4 Female? Y / N

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Entry Fee £ .....

Gold £15 discount £ .....

Saturday night meal (£65) £ .....

Donation £ .....

Late Fee £5 After Monday 3/2/25 £ .....

TOTAL £ .....

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