

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.**

ENTRY FEES

Open Section £63 (less £16 for Gold members)

Major Section £58 (less £16 for Gold members)

Inter/Minor Section £56 (less £16 for Gold members)

Standard Section £53 (less £16 for Gold members)

No entries on the day!

49th Blackpool Chess Conference

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

Friday 13th - Sunday 15th February 2026

Over £7000 in Prizes

Five Sections

Congress Director: Bill O'Rourke
Chief Arbiter: Alex McFarlane, IA and ECF Senior Arbiter
email: blackpoolchessconference@virginmedia.com

Enter and pay on line via:

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 February 2026 ECF rating list will be used for determining section entry. The February 2026 rating list will be used for pairing. For pairings and rating prizes the displayed figures will be used.

Open / Major sections 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 rating must be used for Non-English players.

Rating history and other sources may be used to place a player in a higher section.

Players without a current rating must give their last published rating and the year of publication. Failure to disclose will result in disqualification.

Adult players (over 18 years of age) without a Rating history may only enter the Open section. Non-rated Juniors must give a full indication of their strength.

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

It is a condition of entry that players agree to their rating 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 rating in the ECF rating List.

The last date for entry is Wednesday February 11th 2026. Players should check the website to confirm entry. No entries accepted after this date.

REFUNDS

Players who withdraw and request a refund must do so in writing before 7th February 2026. 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 9/2/2026

INTERNET ENTRIES

www.blackpoolchess.org.uk

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

Lancashire Open -FIDE RATED

1st Prize £800

2nd Prize £400

3rd Prize £200

3 Rating Prizes of £100

Best Veteran £100

Entry Fee £63 (less £16 if gold member).

The Intermediate

For players rated below 1850

1st Prize £500

2nd Prize £200

4 Rating Prizes of £100

Best Veteran £100

Entry Fee £56 (less £16 if gold member).

The Standard

For players rated below 1550

1st Prize £400

2nd Prize £200

3rd Prize £100

4 Rating Prizes of £50

Best Veteran £100

Entry Fee £53 (less £16 if gold member).

Imperial Major – FIDE RATED

For Players FIDE&ECF rated below 2050

1st Prize £600

2nd Prize £300

5 Rating Prizes of £100

Best Veteran £100

Entry Fee £58 (less £16 if gold member).

The Minor

For players rated below 1700

1st Prize £500

2nd Prize £200

4 Rating Prizes of £100

Best Veteran £100

Entry Fee £56 (less £16 if gold member).

The Admin Team

Arbiters: Alex McFarlane, Peter Purland, Fiona Green, Matt Carr, Ruairidh McKay, Hambel Willow.

Backroom: David Clayton
Setup Help: Con and others.

Website: Pete Hurn

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 2026 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 £10.00 a day car parking charge for using the Imperial Car Park for people not staying at the Imperial.

The Imperial Hotel

Rates for the 2026 Blackpool Chess Conference, VAT inclusive.

Friday 13th & Saturday 14th February 2026

Bed & Breakfast Single £102.50 pp per night

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

Thursday 12th & Sunday 15th February 2026

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. If fully booked, please contact organizer by email for alternatives.

Car Parking complimentary for people staying at the Imperial.

Parking for people not staying at the Imperial is £10 per day.

To book your room at the Imperial, full details at:

www.blackpoolchess.org.uk

To book your room, 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, and obtain a code from the hotel to use when entering, either on line or via entry form. Phone 9.00 to 6.30pm Monday - Friday, 9.00 to 5.30pm 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 Entry Form/on-line.

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

Surname: First Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Section: ECF FIDE Rating: Rating No.

Other (please specify):

Clubs:

Email address: Tel:

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

Date of Birth if Veteran (on or over 60 at start of congress):

BYE REQUIRED? If so, Round 1 2 3 4

Disabled? Y/N Special Requirements

A late entry fee of £5 will be charged on entries received after Monday 9/2/26.

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 £16 discount £ _____

Donation £

Late Entry Fee £5 After Monday 9/2/26 £

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 if not entering on-line:
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 Rating: Rating No.

Other (please specify):

Clubs:

Email address: Tel:

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

Date of Birth if Veteran (on or over 60 at start of congress):

BYE REQUIRED? If so, Round 1 2 3 4

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A late entry fee of £5 will be charged on entries received after Monday 9/2/26.

Entry Fee £

Gold £16 discount £

Donation £

Late Fee £5 After Monday 9/2/26 £

TOTAL £

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