

Frodsham Congress 2017

This year's congress (the 14th) took place at Frodsham Community Centre on 3rd-5th February, with 100 players. This year the top section was a FIDE-rated Open, but Mike Surtees (Great Lever) won again anyway, as he did in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2016 (shared). Oliver Jackson had to be content with sharing second place this time, with Piotr Swiech (Wrexham). The numbers in the Open and Under 160 sections were much better balanced than in previous years, possibly because of the attraction of the FIDE rating.

First place in the Under 160 section went to Barry Groves (St Helens), with Curtis Couch (Preston) (Hoylelake) and David Buckell sharing second place. As last year, there was a large entry in this section and an extra grading prize was awarded.

The winner of the Under 120 section was Khalid Khokar (Chorlton). Second place was a three-way tie between Philip Colville (Macclesfield), Julian Hawthorne (Kidsgrove) and William Clinton. Widnes (Damian McCarthy, Steven Jones, Steven Potter and Michael Connor) won the team prize of a DGT 3000 clock, which was generously donated by Gareth Ellis of Wholesale Chess UK.

The Congress was ably controlled by Senior Arbiter Alex Holowczak with help from Jim McPhillips.

Detailed results:

Open (29 players)

1st Mike Surtees (Great Lever) 4.5.

2nd = Oliver Jackson (no club), Piotr Swiech (Wrexham) 4.

Grading Prize: Diego Agejas Garcia (Liverpool) 2.5.

On 3.5: Steven Jones (Widnes).

On 3: Colm Buckley (Chester), Michael McDonagh (Chester), Chris Vassiliou (Chorlton), Steven Potter (Widnes), Jacob Boswell (Cheddleton & Leek).

Under 160 (38 players)

1st Barry Groves (St Helens) 4.5.

2nd = Curtis Couch (Preston), David Buckell 4.

Grading Prize (131-145): Peter Lovatt (Malpas & Oswestry) 3.5.

Grading Prizes (Under 130): Paul Bamford (East Cheshire) and

Timothy Soar (Colwyn Bay) 3.5

Others on 3.5: Mark Cromwell (Frodsham), Geoff Laurence (Macclesfield), John Lambert (Atticus) and Reg Clucas (Altrincham & Hale).

On 3: Robert Clegg (Huddersfield), Michael Connor (Widnes) and Stephen Lloyd (Chester)

Under 120 (33 players)

1st Khalid Khokar (Chorlton) 4.5.

2nd = Philip Colville (Macclesfield), Julian Hawthorne (Kidsgrove) and William Clinton 4.

Grading Prize (Under 90): Alan Kelly (Wallasey) 3.5

On 3.5: Gill Martin (Crewe).

On 3: David Scorer (Barnoldswick), Dewi Jones (Holywell), Gordon Sommerville (Buckley/Mold), Patrick Coleman (Lytham St Annes) and Brian Crompton (Pensby).

.

The Team Prize (a digital clock) was won by Widnes with 9.5/15.

The full cross-tables are at <http://www.kisekigo.com/frodsham.html>.