**Nottingham Rapidplay Sunday 2 February 2025**

We welcomed a record capacity (180) entry to the 34th Nottingham Rapidplay, held as usual at Nottingham High School. This was ECF-rated as normal and also FIDE-rated for the first time (but bear in mind that FIDE only now publishes ratings above 1400). We also used the congress.org site for the first time, enabling online payments rather than cheques in the post and cash on the day.

We are very grateful to the Nottinghamshire Chess Foundation for providing the finance to pay for prizes for an Improvers’ section, which attracted 47 players, many new to over-the-board chess, and also for underwriting any financial losses (thankfully, not required).

Thanks are due to: the players who turned up early and helped us to set up and those who stayed behind after the last round and helped to put away the equipment and rearrange some tables and chairs; the control team of Phill Beckett, Stephen Humphreys, Simon Scott, John Swain and Hambel Willow; NCA Treasurer, Stuart Humphreys, who combined playing in the Major with various administrative tasks and who undertook the not inconsiderable job of paying the prize-winners after the event; finally, the parents who staffed the provision of hot drinks - Mr and Mrs Gunarathne, Mr Richmond and Mr and Mrs Sykes – enabling £150 to be raised for Ukraine humanitarian relief.

The results were:

**Open**

<https://chess-results.com/tnr1093059.aspx?lan=1&art=4>

1st: Simon Schweizer - £200

2nd= GM Mark Hebden, IM Jonah Willow - £75 each

Under 1950 Rating: Giannis Ter-Govorkian, Edouardis Ter-Gevorkian - £15 each

Slow starters (no more than one point from the first three games): Julian Cast, Matthew Connor - £12.50 each

**Major (under 1900)**

<https://chess-results.com/tnr1093060.aspx?lan=1&art=4>

1st: Joseph Greco - £200

2nd= Daniel Broughton, Matthew Inglis, Barnaby Paul, Frank Richmond - £37.50 each

Under 1750 Rating: Daniel Jones - £30

Slow starter: David Flynn - £25

**Intermediate (under 1700)**

<https://chess-results.com/tnr1093061.aspx?lan=1&art=4>

1st: Cai Owen - £200

2nd: Sebastian Griffin-Young - £100

3rd/ Under 1550 Rating: Joseph Hurst, Phil Watkinson, Marcus Atherton, Ted Ronald, Engam Harshavardham - £20 each (due to a pile-up, £20 was added to the prize fund for third and rating)

Slow starters: Martyn Winn, Maksim Krasnov

**Minor (under 1500)**

<https://chess-results.com/tnr1093062.aspx?lan=1&art=4>

1st: Ufuk Kachak - £200

2nd/3rd= Christopher Benjamin, Luke Gaul, Ives Lau, Seb Walker - £37.50 each

Under 1350 Rating: Alan Shaw, Miheli Gunarathne - £15 each

Slow starter: Albert Biermann - £25

**Improvers (under 1300)**

<https://chess-results.com/tnr1093066.aspx?lan=1&art=4>

1st: Ambrose Lam - £200

2nd: Amudhavel Aadharshini - £100

3rd= William Shelley, Catherine Keetley, Mohanaditya Poluru, Leo Orehhov - £12.50 each

Under 1100 Rating: Nadia Prokofjeva - £30

Slow starter: Harry Stanley - £25