

Once again the Bournemouth sun shone for the well supported 2011 Dorset Open congress (46th).

With 86 entries including 5 ladies and 2 juniors the sections were very manageable and competitive giving us a particularly strong open section.

The only maximum score (5/5) of the weekend was achieved by veteran Alan Fraser from Beckenham in the minor, well done Alan. Second equal in the minor were 10 year old H. Grieve from Yateley, Jennifer Goldsmith from Harrow and Wimborne's Phil Holden all on 3.5. The minor grading prize was shared between Greg Webb of Wimborne and Christine Roberts of Poole both on 3/5.

With 4.5/5 N.Dicker (Glastonbury) had the second highest individual score of the congress and won the Intermediate. This closely fought high scoring section saw the prizes being shared between almost half the entries. 2nd place went to T.S. Allen from Battersea with 4/5. Equal third with 3.5 came T.J. Crouch (Kings Head club), K.P. Englebrecht (no club) and Tim Joyce after a thrilling 5th round derby with Wimborne team mates David Cornes in which David lost his battle with the clock. Grading prizes go to the 6 under 132 grades on 2.5 C. Gardiner, R. Hunt, P. Gordon, Rob Davenport, M. Plum & L. Boztas. A special mention for Steve Crisp (2.5) who hasn't played for many years and didn't lose any games but is ungraded entrant.

First place in the major was shared between D. Helsby (Lewisham) and M. Wilson (Basingstoke) with 4/5. Equal third with 3.5/5 came B. O'Gorman (DHSS) and J. Wright (London). The grading prize was shared between R. Spence (Malvern) and D. Lawrence (Kings Head) both on 3/5.

A Very strong Open section was won by Southborne's Martin Simons with 3 wins and 2 draws, 4/5, and on 3.5/5 second was shared between P. Tozer (highest graded player at 197) from the Athenaeum club, M. Lyell from West London and Dorchester's Mike Waddington. Grading prizes go to M. Gregoryan (West London) and D. Butcher (Winchester) with 3/5. With a grade of 127 Julian May from Bridport was brave enough to enter the open and after 4 tough losing games gained his half point in a thrilling 5th round game. Well done Julian

Next years dates are Friday 12th – Sunday 14th October.

Thank you to arbiter Ewart Smith, John & Christine Constable and everyone who helped over the weekend.

Norman Mackie.