WIGHTLINK
ISLE OF WIGHT FERRIES

2025 OVERVIEW

ISLE OF WIGHT INTERNATIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT



OVERVIEW

The **Wightlink Isle of Wight Chess Tournament 2025**, held during the February half-term, featured:

- A 9-round Masters Tournament
- A 5-round Weekend Congress
- A 6-round U2000 Tournament
- Three FIDE-rated Blitz Tournaments

The event attracted over 300 individual players and an estimated 450 attendees in total, establishing its position as **a premier chess competition in the UK.** With 55 titled players competing in the Masters Tournament, the tournament surpassed the British Championships and became the strongest chess event held in the UK in recent times.

The Masters Tournament was won by **Australia's No. 1, Grandmaster Bobby Cheng**, following a week of intense competition featuring some of the World's strongest players.

Thanks to the Chess Trust and other sponsors, the tournament is now a firm fixture in the calendar. We are currently planning the 2026 event with hopes to grow it larger still.




CHESS
CT
TRUST
ISLE OF WIGHT
INTERNATIONAL
CHESS TOURNAMENT
WIGHTLINK
RYDE SCHOOL
WITH UPPER CHINE
CHESS & BRIDGE








ISLE OF
INTERNAT
CHESS TOUR
HTLINK
ERRIES
WIGHTLINK
ISLE OF WIGHT
INTERNATIONAL
CHESS TOURNAMENT
RYDE SCHOOL


ISLE OF WIGHT
INTERNATIONAL
CHESS TOURNAMENT
Isle of
Wight
WIGHTLINK
ISLE OF WIGHT FERRIES
DGT
DIGITAL GAME TECHNOLOGY
WIGHTLINK
ISLE OF WIGHT FERRIES


ISLE OF WIGHT
INTERNATIONAL
CHESS TOURNAME
5

STREAMING

Twitch Viewership Stats:

Total Live Views: 949,165

- **Unique Viewers: 171,889+**
- **Peak Concurrent Viewers: 3,670**
- **Total Minutes Watched: 2.19M+**

The 2025 Wightlink Isle of Wight Chess Tournament saw **unprecedented reach**, with nearly **1 million total live views** across multiple streaming channels. The event's broad international reach and high viewership figures solidify its status as one of the **largest and most-watched chess events in Europe.**

The tournament was also live broadcast on Chess TV - Chess.com's own live TV Channel. This is not just online and is available on any smart television and live on LG channels. We are unable to access the viewing figures from this at this time but hope to for 2026 and work with them more closely for an enhanced production.



Isle Of Wight Masters ROUND 9 with @...
lularobs
Chess



Isle Of Wight Masters ROUND 8 with @...
lularobs
Chess



Isle Of Wight Masters ROUND 4 with @...
lularobs
Chess



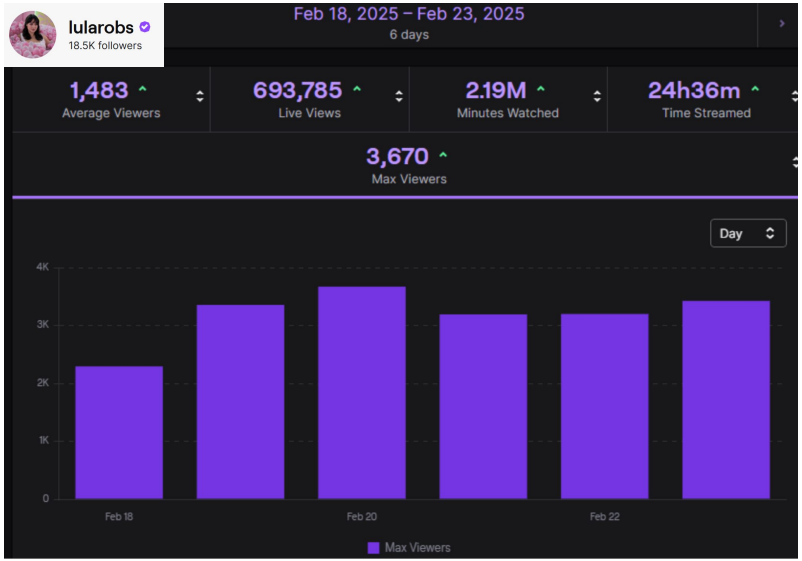
Isle Of Wight Masters ROUND 3 with @...
lularobs
Chess

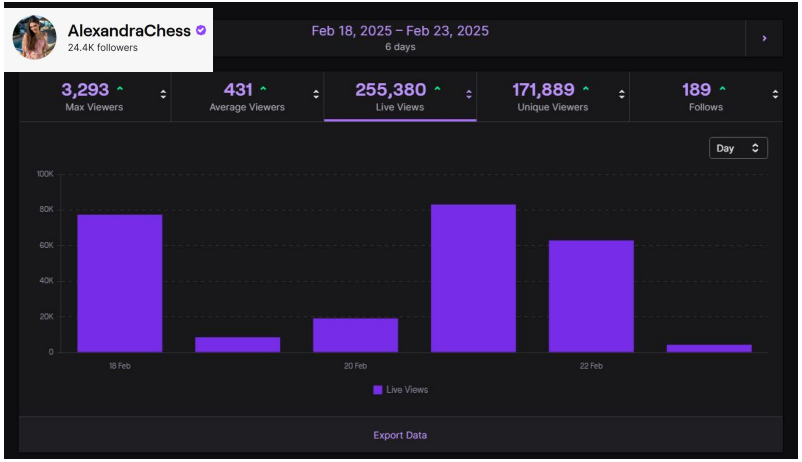


Isle of Wight International Round 7
AlexandraChess
Chess



Isle of Wight International Chess Tourn...
AlexandraChess
Chess





Chess & Social Media Engagement

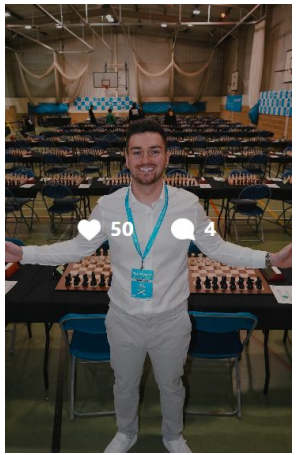
We embraced the **power of chess content creators**, reaching an **enormous online audience** and significantly expanding the tournament's digital footprint.

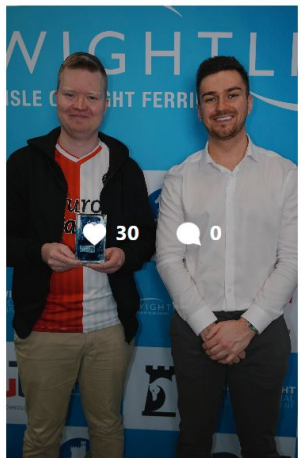
- **Lula Roberts (Currently on the BBC's Chess Masters)**, a titled player and expert commentator, led an engaging female-led broadcast, featuring special guests including Women's Grandmasters.
- **Alexandra Prado**, also a **titled player, li**ve-streamed her games directly from the venue, with real-time analysis and commentary from chess experts.

By collaborating with influential chess streamers and content creators, we amplified our reach, driving record-breaking engagement and establishing the Wightlink Isle of Wight Chess Tournament 2025 as one of the most digitally impactful chess events in the UK.

Our on-site team also produced social content, including player interviews, game recaps, and short clips. While the content provided a professional output, it was somewhat over-produced and ultimately less timely and effective in engaging audiences.

Looking ahead, we plan to bring in well-known chess personalities on-site to create more spontaneous, quick, and engaging content. This approach not only adds authenticity but also helps broaden our reach by tapping into their existing followings.





INSTAGRAM

90 Day look back from March 17th 2025

Isle of Wight Chess Instagram Insights

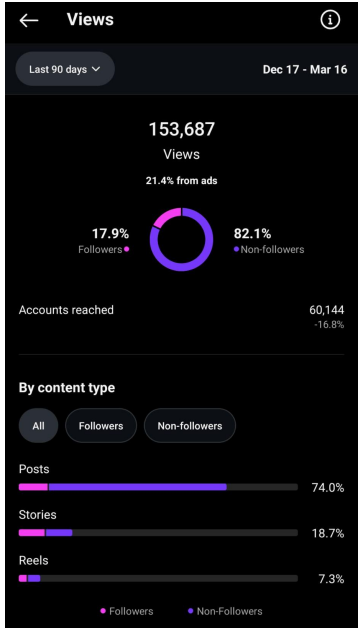
📊 **Overall Performance:**

- **Total Views:** 153,687
- **Accounts Reached:** 60,144
- **Interactions:** 1,937

🚀 **Most Viewed Post:**

- A tournament-related post received **41,365 views**, reaching **23,526 accounts**.

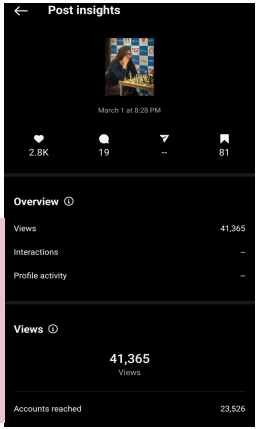
Key Takeaway:
The involvement of Chess content creators led to a significant boost in reach on instagram. This is something we will look to expand on in 2026.

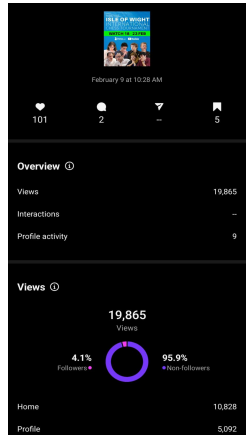












NATIONAL PRESS

The Tournament received significant media coverage in both national and local press. Renowned British chess journalist Leonard Barden reported on the event for both *The Financial Times* and *The Guardian*, highlighting the competition and key moments from the tournament. His coverage can be found in the following articles:

- *The Financial Times*: Read the article here
- *The Guardian*: Read the article here
- *The Telegraph,* on x2 occasions

Full page coverage is also planned the March edition of Chess Magazine along with the Chess Moves newsletter.

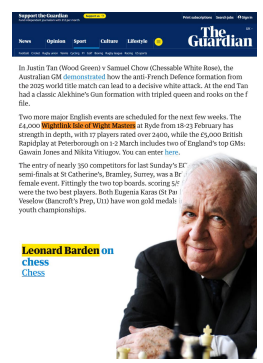

Chess: England's Matthew Wadsworth edges closer to grandmaster title

Puzzle: find White's hidden win

Leonard Barden

Published FEB 24 2025

England's Matthew Wadsworth, 24, has taken a step closer to the grandmaster title after another strong performance yesterday in the newly launched Wightlink Isle of Wight international at Ryde.


The Guardian

In Justin Tan (Wood Green) v Samuel Chow (Chessable White Rose), the Australian GM demonstrated how the anti-French Defence formation from the 2025 world title match can lead to a decisive white attack. At the end Tan had a classic Alekhine's Gun formation with tripled queen and rooks on the f file.

Two more major English events are scheduled for the next few weeks. The £4,000 Wightlink Isle of Wight Masters at Ryde from 18-23 February has strength in depth, with 17 players rated over 2400, while the £5,000 British Rapidplay at Peterborough on 1-2 March includes two of England's top GMs: Gawain Jones and Nikita Vitiugov. You can enter here.

The entry of nearly 350 competitors for last Sunday's Bl semi-finals at St Catherine's, Bramley, Surrey, was a Br female event. Fittingly the two top boards, scoring 5/ were the two best players. Both Eugenia Karas (St Pa Veselow (Bancroft's Prep, U11) have won gold medals youth championships.

Leonard Barden on chess

Chess

An Island First

IMs Jose & Marcos Camacho Collados enjoyed their time on the Isle of Wight

The Wightlink Isle of Wight international was a new event designed to coincide with the February half-term school holiday. We are two brothers from Spain, and have currently being living in Barcelona. Wightlink was the first visa island for the first time to play in the tournament. Here we share some instructive positions from Marcos's games (Marcos was looking for his final GM norm and ended his tournament fifth ahead of several GMs), and the key game overall on board one.

It was a very well-organised tournament by Dave Lightfoot and his team, with over 100 players including many titled ones. Nor less important, the tournament featured many side and social activities in addition to the main event, including a weekend congress and a simultaneous display. For us it was a very enjoyable festival, one of the few currently happening in the UK. Perhaps there may be some improvement in the future with the scheduling of the final rounds, but overall it's a tournament and festival to be included in everyone's calendar!

And here are the games. The first two analysed by Marcos himself, featuring both a strategic battle and a tactical combination.

Play is set to get underway in the UK's newest international, which took place at Ryde School

M.Camacho Collados-E.Kreken
Round 7

25 f5! White was much better, completely neutralising Black's bishop and won on move 46.

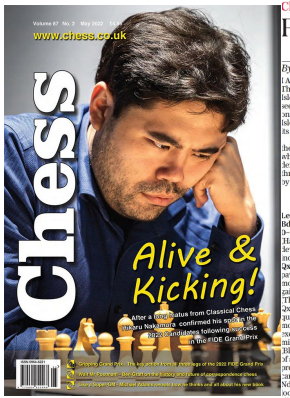
M.Camacho Collados-A.Golding
Round 9


This was a critical position in the final round of the tournament after some inaccuracies on my part, which left me in time trouble and a difficult position. After 32...Ec6!?! I found the only way to avoid being practically lost – sacrificing a whole rook.

33 Dh3 Bf5 34 Axh6!
The key is that after 34...Bxe4, White responds with 35 &xg7!. However, accepting the rook sacrifice was Black's only salvation, continuing with 35...f6!.

In the game my opponent played 34...Ed3? to create counterplay along the d-file, but after 35 Dh4! White obtained a decisive advantage and I went on to win:
35...Exd6 36 Bg5 Bg6 37 Exg6 Wxg5 38 Axg5 f5 39 exf6 Dh7 40 Ah6 c5 41 Axg7 Cf7 42 Dh4 Cd7+ 43 Ch2 Ed8 44 Eh7 Cc6 45 f7 Cxf7 46 Axe5+ Ce6 47 Ec7 Dh6 48 Exd4 Exd4 49 Axh6 Exc4 50 Axc5 1-0

The tournament trophy was won on tiebreak by Australian GM Bobby Cheng. This was his last exciting round against IM (and surely soon-to-be GM) Matthew Wadsworth that decided the Final standings.



Chess

Power of impetus

By **Michael Adams**

I AM playing a simultaneous in The Royal Esplanade Hotel on the Isle of Wight this afternoon. So, it seems a good moment to look back on some games from the Wightlink Isle of Wight Masters, which held its first edition in February.

These sharp encounters show the key importance of momentum when building an attack, as the defender is kept busy with direct threats before being overwhelmed by a larger attacking army.

M Sooraj – M Turner
Isle of Wight Masters 2025

1.e4 c6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 e5 4.Ngf3 Bd6 5.d4 exd4 6.Bd3 Ne7 7.0–0 0–0 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Nxd4 Bxh2+ Hard to resist, but simple development with 9...Nd7 was indicated) **10.Bxh2 Qh4+ 11.Kg1 Qxd4+ 12.Nf3!** (Black has snaffled a pawn, but now White's pieces will mobilise remarkably quickly with gain of time) **12...Qg4 13.Be1 Bf5** (The alternative 13...Nf4 14.Bxf4 Qxf4 15.Re4 Qf6 16.Qd2 also looks quite dangerous, and it seems more logical to swap bishops than exchange Black's only developed minor piece) **14.Bxf5 Qxf5 15.Nh4!** (Black's queen is surprisingly short of squares) **15...Qf6** (15...Qd7 16.Qf3! prepares Ne5) **16.Qg4! Na6** (Black can hang on with 16...h5 17.Qxh5 Nd7, or 16...Nd7 17.Bg5 Qe6) but both look very tenuous. However, now all his pieces are driven far away from his king) **17.c4! Nb6** (17...Ndb4 18.Bg5 Qxb2 19.Ra1 is similar, 18...Qc2 20.Nf5 g6 21.Nh6+ Kg7 22.Qd4+ f6 23.Re7+ mates soon) **18.Bg5 Qxb2 19.Ra1 Qc3 20.Rhe1 h5** (Desperation, as 20...Qb2 21.Nf5 is very potent) **21.Qxh5 g6** 21...Qd3 22.Qg4 planning Nf5, is also very tough, Black's knights are spectators) **22.Rxc3!** (22.Qg4 Qg7 is less clear) **22...gxh5**



23.Bf6! (Closing a mating net) **23...Kh7** (23...Rfe8 24.Rg3+ Kf8 25.Rg7+ Rg8 26.Be5+ Kh7 (26...Kf8 27.Bd6+) 27.Rg7+ Kh8 28.Rxf7+ Rxe5 29.Rxe5 wins) **24.Re3** (24.Rg3 Rg8 25.Re5 also works) **24...Kh6 25.Rg3! Rg8 26.Nf5+ Kh7 27.Ng7!** (27.Ne7! is an alternative solution) **27...Nd7** (Or 27...Rxg7 28.Rxh5+ Kg8 29.Rxg7+ Kf8 30.Rh8 mate) **28.Rxh5 mate.**

K Venkatesan – J Willow
Isle of Wight Masters 2025

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 c5 5.d5 d6 6.e4 b5 7.Nge2 bxc4 8.Nf4 g5 (A very ambitious move, driving White's knight backwards) **9.Nfe2 exd5 10.exd5 Qe7!** (10...h6 11.Ng3 followed by aiming for kingside castling is good for White. By pinning the knight, impeding White's development, both players will end up with their kings stranded in the middle for some time to come) **11.Bxg5 Nbd7** (11...Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Nbd7 was more accurate) **12.Qc2 Rg8** (Stronger than 12...Nes 13.0–0–0 Nd5–14.Rxd5 cxd5 15.Qxd3 Rg8 16.Bh4 Qe5 17.g4, it is important to bring more pieces into play) **13.Bxf6** (13.h4! was stronger, the valuable bishop should be retained, now the weak dark squares become an issue) **13...Nxf6 14.Kf2** (14.0–0–0 Qe3+ 15.Kb1 Rb8 also leaves White's king in some discomfort) **14...Kf8** (A decent hiding place for the king) **15.a3 Ba5!** (Hanging on to the bishop.) **16.Ng3 Qe5 17.Bd1 Rb8!** (Activating the other rook) **18.Be2**



18...Qf4 (18...h5 was also good, but now Ng4+ is threatened) **19.Qd2 Ng4+ 20.Kg1 Ne3 21.Bf1** (21.Rf2 Nxd1- is also hopeless) **21...Qd4!** (Very powerful) **22.Nge2** (22.Qxd4 cxd4 23.Rxd4 Bb6 24.Nge2 Nf5 is a brutal pin) **22...Bxc3 23.Nxc3** (23.bxc3 Qxf2 24.Rxf2 Nxf1 25.Kxf1 Rb1+ also wins material) **23...Nxd1-** (23...Rxb2? 24.Qxd4 c4 25.Qxb2 Nxd1-24...Rbxg2+ 25.Bxg2 Rxg2 mate was a prettier conclusion) **24.Qxd4 cxd4 25.Nxd1 c3** White resigned, due to 26.bxc3 Rb1! 27.Be2 dxc3.

Chess

Ticket to Ryde

By **Malcolm Pein**

THE inaugural Wightlink Isle of Wight Chess International attracted more than 300 players across the Masters, U-2000, and weekend Congress sections, while three separate FIDE-rated Blitz tournaments involved 106 players. Supported by local sponsors Wightlink and Visit Isle of Wight, as well as a DCMS-funded grant from the English Chess Federation and funds from the Chess Trust, the tournament brought more than 400 visitors to the Isle of Wight outside the main tourist season.

A dramatic final-round encounter between Australian GM Bobby Cheng and IM Matthew Wadsworth proved to be the defining moment in the Masters. Despite dropping below 60 seconds on move 28, Cheng found a series of brilliant defensive resources to hold the draw, and the pair shared first on 7/9 with GMs Sebastian Bogner and Boris Chatalbashev. Cheng was declared the Wightlink Isle of Wight Chess Masters 2025 champion on tie-break.

Wadsworth's strong showing brought him close to the required 2500 threshold to secure the GM title. There were excellent performances from Stanley Badacsonyi, 15, and Billy Fellowes, 13, who scored 5.5/9, with Fellowes earning the CM title.

B Cheng – B Derakhshani
QGD

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4 Be7 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bf4 0–0 7.e3 Bf5 8.Qb3 Nc6 9.a3 Na5 10.Qa2 Be6 (10...c5?! 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.b4 Bb6 looks critical when 13.bxa5? Bxa5 14.Rc1 Ne4 would be a very bad idea) **11.Ng5 Bf5** (11...Nb5 must come into consideration when after 12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.Be5 c5 14.dxc5 Nc6 Black is very active) **12.Be2 c6 13.0–0 h5 14.h3** (Restricting Black's poorly placed knight, but now **14...h4** 15.Nf3 Nh5 16.Be5 f6 17.Bg3 Nxg3 was a plan) **14...Rc8 15.b3! Re8 16.Nf3 Ne4 17.Rfc1** (White has the edge) **17...Bd6 18.Bxd6 Qxd6 19.Qb2 Qh6?! 20.Ne5 f6 21.Nd3 Nb7?!** (Logical but mistimed, better 21...Nd6)



22.Nxe4! Bxe4 (If 22...dxe4 23.Nf4 g5 24.Nh5 threatens d4–d5!) **23.a4! Qg5 24.Nf4 bxa4 25.Rxa4 a5** (Black has been outmaneuvered and it's time to cash in) **26.Ba6 Rc7 27.Rxb7 Rxb7 28.Rxa5 Re8+ 29.Rxc6 Rxb3** White to play and win:



Answer:
30.Qxh7+ 1–0 ...Bxh7 31.Rh5+ Kf7 32.Rh7#.

The Telegraph theguardian FT FINANCIAL TIMES

LOCAL PRESS

The event received extensive pre and post coverage, in local press and the islands leading publications. The Country press ran a full page picture spread on Friday 21st Feb.



Weekender

Chess greats locked in combat

Sanjit S Kumar

Grandmaster Thomas Beerdsen

Competitors at the International Chess Tournament

CHESS WORLD HEADING TO RYDE AS ISLE OF WIGHT TO HOST ELITE TOURNAMENT

by Warren Whitmore - Community and Sports Reporter – 6th February 2025

in Chess Sport





Chess tournament scored 9 out of 10

Some of the world's top players took part in the Isle of Wight International Chess Tournament, at Ryde School, over the weekend.

Grandmaster (GM) Bobby Cheng claimed the title on tie-break, finishing with a score of 7/9, alongside GM Sebastian Bogner, GM Boris Chatalbashev, and International Master (IM) Matthew Wadsworth.

The competition for second place was fiercely contested, with five players tying on 6.5 points: IM Marcos Camacho Collados, GM Vojtěch Plát, GM Arnuv K Ghasi, GM Thomas Beerdsen, and GM Matthew J Turner.



GM Sebastian Bogner (Swi) playing IM Vladyslav Larkin (Ukr)



GM Bobby Cheng (Aus) in a nervous final round decider against IM Matthew Wadsworth (Eng) pics: Satish Gaekwad

In the women's category, Woman Grandmaster (WGM) Viktoria Radeva secured the Best Woman prize, with IM Jovanka Houska taking second place.

Local players also made their mark on the prize table. Clive Bowley claimed second place in the Under 2,000-rated Tournament, while Harry Vernon picked up a rating prize in the same section.

Veteran local chess players, Dave Williams and Charles Charalambous, also earned prizes in the weekend Congress.

The tournament has received widespread acclaim from the chess community. Grandmaster Daniel Gormally rated the event nine out of 10, and even suggested that the British Chess Championships should be hosted on the Island.

The tournament brought an influx of more than 400 visitors to Ryde and organisers are hopeful it will become an annual event.

Watch Grandmasters at Isle of Wight Che live

21ST FEBRUARY CHESS SPORT RYDE



By Zach Saunders
Reporter
zsaundersjourno

Share 0 Comments

ON THE WIGHT

CULTURE WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NEWS TRAVEL | ADVERTISE |

17, MARCH 2025



3 min read

Top grandmasters set to compete in Isle of Wight's star-studded chess tournament

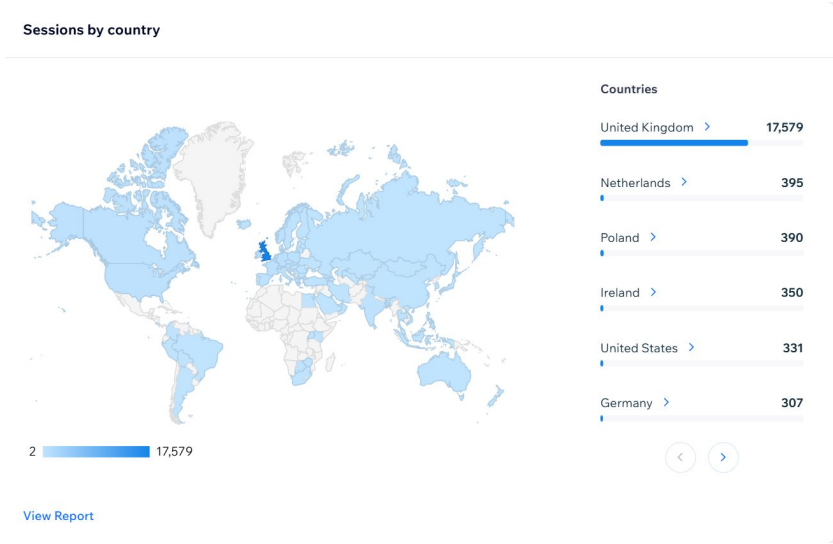
David Lightfoot – 20, October 2025

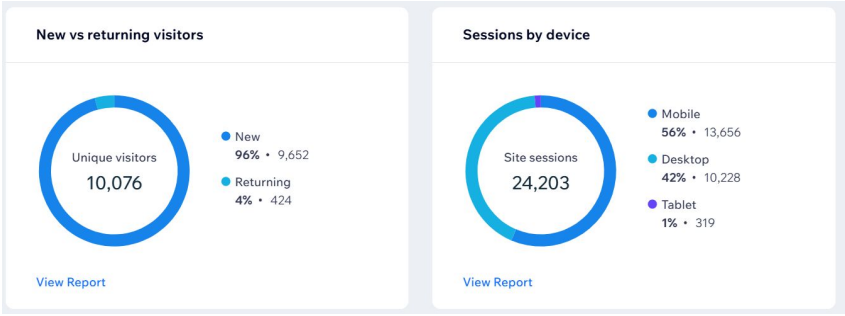
The Isle of Wight is set to become the epicentre of the chess world in February 2025 as it hosts the highly anticipated Wightlink Isle of Wight Chess Masters.

This premier tournament will bring together some of the finest chess players from across the World, showcasing a level of competition that promises to captivate both seasoned enthusiasts and newcomers alike.

DIRECT WEB TRAFFIC





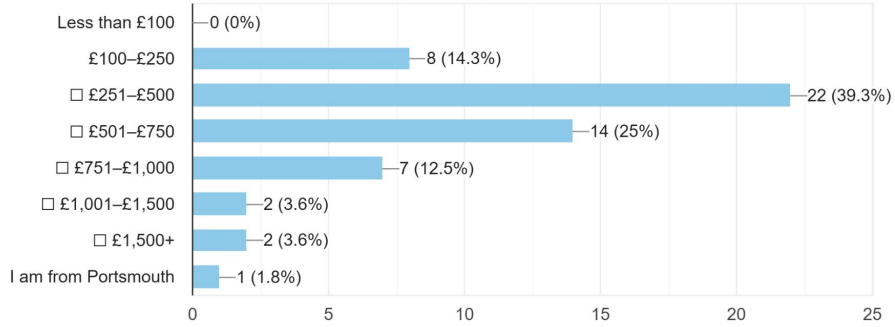


The Isle of Wight Chess Tournament was announced in July 2024, attracting significant online interest. By the end of February 2025, the event website had been visited by over 10,000 unique users, which is over 9,500 new visitors and a highly engaged audience actively seeking tournament details. This figure does not include additional tournament reach through secondary platforms such as Chess.com, the FIDE calendar, and other chess event listings, further amplifying the tournament's visibility.

IMPACT ON LOCAL BUSINESS

Including accommodation, How much do you estimate you spent on the island during the event? (Excluding at the event and the entry fee.)

56 responses



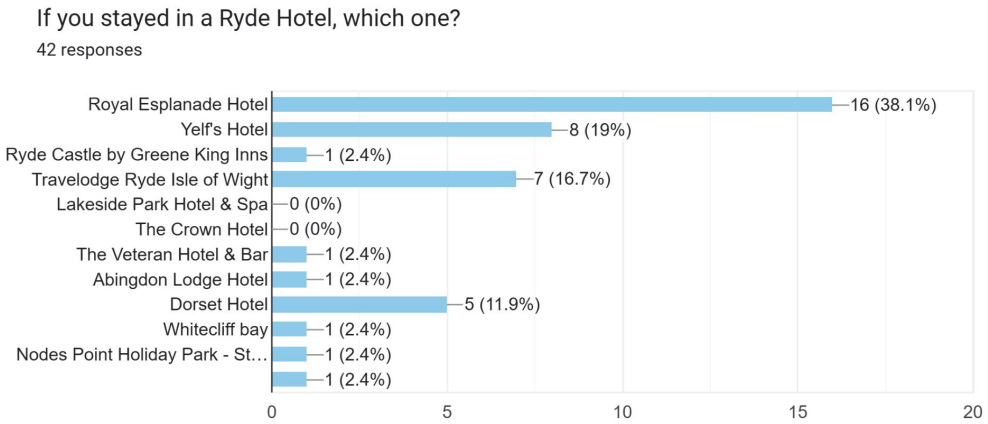
💸 Average Spend

£397.21 – On average, players or families spent nearly **£400** on the Isle of Wight during the tournament. This indicates the tournament's significant economic benefit to local accommodation and hospitality providers.

If this is multiplied by the 300 unique players that's £119,100 spend locally in Ryde.



ACCOMMODATION



Accommodation Choices

The vast majority of visitors stayed in **Ryde**, reinforcing the boost to local businesses, shops, cafes bars.

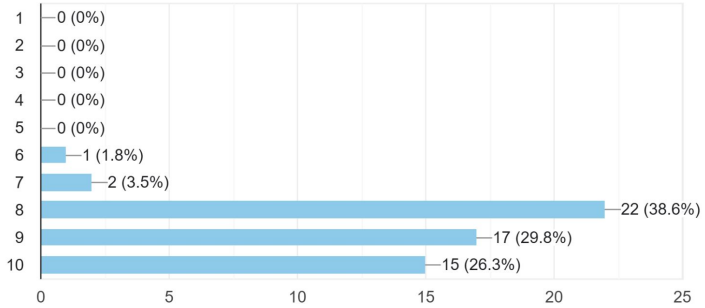
In 2026 we would expect more local bars and restaurants to actively engage with the event and promote side events and player discounts to their own benefit.



PLAYER FEEDBACK

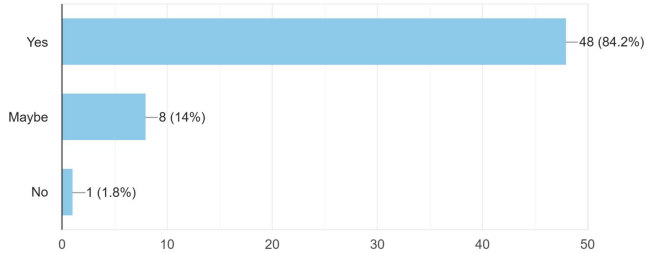
How would you rate the event out of 10?

57 responses



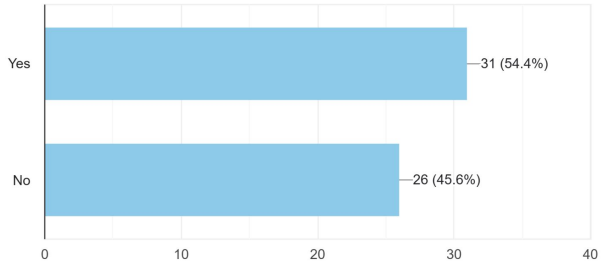
Would you (or your child) play the Isle of Wight tournament again?

57 responses



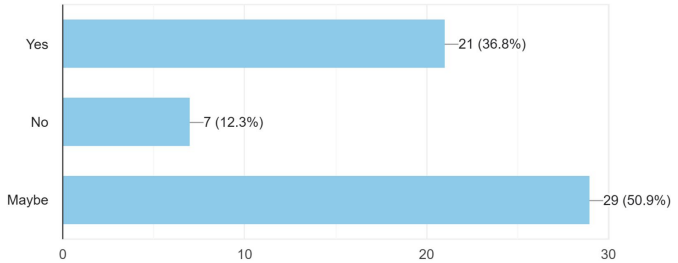
Was this your first visit to the Isle of Wight?

57 responses



Would you visit the island again, not for chess?

57 responses



SUMMARY

The inaugural **Wightlink Isle of Wight Chess International Tournament** was met with an overwhelmingly positive reception from the chess community, even garnering a coveted GM Gormally rating of 8/9 out of 10. More than 300 unique players competed across the Masters, U2000, and weekend Congress sections, while three separate FIDE-rated Blitz tournaments saw up to 106 players competing exclusively on DGT boards. The event attracted significant interest, and organisers are now considering whether to bring the tournament back in 2026 or establish it as a biennial fixture on the chess circuit.

Supported by local tourism sponsors Wightlink and Visit Isle of Wight, as well as the English Chess Federation (ECF), the Chess Trust, and Chess & Bridge, **the tournament brought over 400 visitors to the Isle of Wight outside the main tourist season.** Hotels were fully booked, and local bars and restaurants thrived throughout the week, reinforcing the competition's positive impact on the island's economy.

A dramatic final-round encounter between GM Bobby Cheng (AUS) and IM Matthew Wadsworth (ENG) proved to be one of the tournament's defining moments. With both players tied on points, the game would determine who would take home the first-place prize money. As the engines swung wildly in evaluation, both players rejected multiple drawing opportunities, choosing instead to fight for an outright victory.

Cheng dropped below 60 seconds on move 28, playing the remainder of the game in severe time trouble. At times, it appeared that Wadsworth might clinch the win, especially as Cheng's clock continued to run dangerously low. Yet, under immense pressure, Cheng found a series of brilliant defensive resources to hold his position, and after a tense struggle, the game ended in a hard-fought draw. With 7/9 points, Cheng secured first place on tie-breaks, cementing his status as the Wightlink Isle of Wight Chess Masters 2025 champion.

Wadsworth's strong showing also brings him tantalisingly close to the Grandmaster title, as he now needs only a slight increase in his FIDE rating to reach the required 2500 threshold.

Cheng hoisted the trophy but was joined on the same score and split the prize pool by GM Sebastian Bogner (SUI), GM Boris Chatalbashev (DEN), and IM Matthew J. Wadsworth (ENG), all of whom delivered captivating performances throughout the week. The race for second place was fiercely contested, with five players finishing on 6.5 points: IM Marcos Camacho Collados (ESP), GM Vojtěch Plát (CZE), GM Ameet K. Ghasi (ENG), GM Thomas Beerdsen (NED), and GM Matthew J. Turner (SCO).

In the women's category, WGM Viktoria Radeva (BUL) claimed the Best Woman prize, with her only loss coming as Black against joint first-place finisher GM Sebastian Bogner (SUI). Also scoring 5.5, IM Jovanka Houska (ENG) secured the second-place women's prize on tie-break, delivering a notable performance in Round 3, where she held GM Bobby Cheng (AUS), rated 250 points higher, to a draw on Board 1.

Several young players made a lasting impression. 15-year-old Stanley Badacsonyi (ENG) and 13-year-old Billy Fellowes (ENG) both scored 5.5/9 against higher-rated opponents, with Fellowes earning the Candidate Master title and a junior rating prize.

SUMMARY

Badacsonyi produced some incredible chess beyond his years, including a notable win against Norwegian IM Mads Vestby-Ellingsen, and secured two draws against Grandmasters—Bogner (SUI), who finished joint first, and Turner (SCO), who placed 2nd in the chasing pack. However, his bid for an IM norm fell just short after a clinical Round 7 clash with Wadsworth (ENG). He bounced back impressively with a draw against an in-form GM Turner but ultimately fell to GM Ameet Ghasi (ENG) in the final round.

One of the tournament's most remarkable breakthroughs came from Southbourne's Finn Schell (ENG), a relative newcomer who gained 134 rating points and secured draws and wins against titled players, including a notable result against IM Jovanka Houska in Round 8. His highly accurate play and rapid improvement were among the standout stories of the event and earned a rating prize.

The Masters tournament was live-streamed on YouTube and Twitch, with WCM Tallulah Roberts (JCI) (now of BBC fame) hosting commentary alongside special guests including WGM Keti Tsatsalashvili (GEO), IM Lawrence Cooper (ENG), and WFM Diana Mirza (IRL). The feed was broadcast live on Chess TV and attracted over 1 million viewers throughout the week. This level of engagement is unprecedented in modern era English chess and sets an exciting new standard for future events, with hopes that it will attract larger sponsors to domestic chess. Roberts did an exceptional job live editing the broadcast and also leading the commentary, we hope to see more of her in English Chess broadcasts in the future.

The U2000 tournament was won outright by teenager Anuhas Gamage (ENG), another standout player from Southbourne Chess Club. He dominated the section, dropping only half a point in Round 2 to promising junior Advik Saxena (ENG). Clive Walley (ENG) from Bath secured second place, while local Isle of Wight player Clive Bowley (ENG) put in a strong performance to take third. Visiting Dutch player Max Hoekstra (NED) completed the podium in fourth place.

The Congress was a lively affair with the majority of play on DGT smartboards, with players in the Open section getting the opportunity to play on the top tables during the R1. Top seed Allan Pleasants (WLS) from Weymouth Chess Club, clinched victory on tie-break, emerging ahead in a four-way tie on 4/5 points. Polish visitor Piotr Mikolajczyk (POL) finished second, while FM Oliver Jackson (ENG), from Cheshire & North Walescc, claimed third place.

In the U1850 section, three players finished on 4.5 points, with Ted Ronald (ENG) from Loughborough securing the title on tie-breaks. Isle of Wight player Richard Edney (ENG) finished second, and Norwegian Jørgen Grøndal (NOR) took third place.

The U1550 tournament saw another victory for Southbourne Chess Club, as Samuel Hooks (ENG) won the section outright. Junior player Tiara Khanna (ENG) from Epsom finished second, while Isaac McHugh (ENG) from Cambridgeshire picked up third place.

The organizers of the event plan to confirm the date for the next event during the August British Chess Championships. Follow iowchess.com for more information.