

REPORT

The Marymass Chess Congress took part on the 15th to 17th August 2014 at the Vineburgh Community centre in Irvine.

In a last 24hour spell the total entrants dropped from 90 to 77, 5 of these contacted me but there were 8 silent withdrawals, these players will form the new list for people who have to pay fees before entry will be accepted in future.

Round 1 saw Steve Mannion sack a piece early against Alex Gillies which caused a very enjoyable game which spectators thought Gillies was winning before a draw was agreed in a time scramble, Wins for P Smith against C Allor and R Cochrane against S Robinson went to form but A Dawson of Dundee turned over local young player J Malkin.

Round 2 saw Cochrane destroy Dawson and wins to form for Sreeves, Mannion, D Campbell, Allor and Malkin.

Round 3. Sreeves turned over Cochrane on Board 1 and wins to Mannion, Allor, A Gillies, with S Robinson getting off the mark against J Parks.

Round 4. Sreeves and Mannion fought out a draw which went to the line, whilst Allor, J Edwards, A Roy, Malkin, Dawson, Brockbank and C Sykes all had comfortable wins. The last round saw Mannion beat Allor in a time scramble with Allor chasing the win. Sreeves beat Edwards his travel companion, and Robinson beat Campbell - all the other games being drawn. A Gillies did however win the Grading prize deservedly after some good results.

Major. This turned out to be a one horse race with A Floros of Giffnock showing why he was top seed beating, J Cunningham, N Irving, W Lindsay, and T Gilmour all comfortably then a quick draw with team mate Rosie Giulian in the last round. T Gilmour finished 2nd with 4 out of 5 in front of half the field on 3.5 or 3 all having turned each other over during the 5 rounds. Minor. This was the Gillies show with Craig finishing equal 1st with Bernard Cassidy and Willy Douglas all with 4 out of 5, whilst brother Andrew took a grading prize with 3 out of 5, and David Cubitt taking the 1st grading prize with 3.5 out of 5.

Most players seemed to of enjoyed the facilities and chess over the weekend which all bodes well for the future of the tournament.

Stephen L Clark, Tournament Director