

14th December 2016

LONDON CHESS CLASSIC 'REST DAY' ROUND-UP

The rest day in the main event provided the participants with a unique opportunity: to attend an event at the House of Lords, the second chamber of UK Parliament. Meanwhile the chess action continued back at Olympia, where Nigel Short drew first blood in the British Knockout Championship Final and Aravindh continues dominating the FIDE Open. The London Chess Classic action resumes at 4pm GMT on Thursday and with only four rounds to go, promises to get more and more exciting.



The players, politicians and CSC officials posing for a souvenir shot (Photo: Lennart Ootes) Erwin l'Ami, Toby Manning (British Go) Lotis Key, Wesley So, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Anish Giri, Maurice Ashley, Michael Adams.
Front row: Dominic Lawson ECF President, Yasmin Qureshi MP, Lord Lyndon Harrison, Chris Fegan and Malcolm Pein

Earlier this afternoon some of the players of the GCT as well as a few selected guests arrived at the prestigious River Room at the House of Lords. It was a truly astounding venue for the re-establishment of an old tradition: a House of Lords versus House of Commons chess match, the last edition of which took place in 1999. After being welcomed by the Lord Speaker, Lord Fowler, the match started in a friendly yet serious atmosphere, while on other boards the visiting Grandmasters teamed up with those not involved in the match for some fun consultation chess games. After an hour, the match was decided in favour of the House of Commons thanks to a victory by MP Rachel Reeves, incidentally a former UK Under-14 girl's chess champion. There will be a fuller report on this historic occasion tomorrow. You can find all of Lennart Ootes' stunning shots of this memorable day in the following [photo gallery](#).



The event was a perfect blend of chess and fun (Photo: Lennart Ootes)

Back at Olympia, Nigel Short drew first blood in the British Knockout Championship Final as he convincingly outplayed David Howell to take the lead with two games to go.



Nigel Short scored an important win in Game 4 (Photo: Lennart Ootes)

In the FIDE Open 17-year old GM Aravindh (2566) continues his incredible run as he took out 4th seed Ilya Smirin (2669) in a spectacular game. The only two players able to keep up with the Indian's pace were Etienne Bacrot and Hrant Melkumyan, who beat Bogner and Karthikeyan respectively. With two rounds to go Aravindh is still the sole leader on 6.5/7, followed by Bacrot and Melkumyan on 6/7, and a big pack of 11 players on 5.5/7, including English GM Mark Hebden.



The top board battle saw Aravindh storm to 6.5/7 (Photo: Lennart Ootes)

You can find all the photos from the festival, taken by Lennart Ootes, on the [following page](#). The results and tournament details are all on the [LCC website](#) and you can also download the PGN files of the games by clicking on the following links:

- London Chess Classic: <http://live.londonchessclassic.com/pgn/lcc2016/lcc05/games.pgn>
- British KO Ch'ship: <http://live.londonchessclassic.com/pgn/bco2016/round12/games.pgn>
- FIDE Open: <http://live.londonchessclassic.com/pgn/fide/round7/games.pgn>

All the live games will be broadcast at: <http://live.londonchessclassic.com/>

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