

10 year old Polina Major wins

Bahamas Junior Chess Championship 2011



The Bahamas Junior Chess Championship (BJC) 2011 started on August 13th and was held at the C.W. Sawyer Primary School. The BJC is the tournament held once every year to crown the best junior, male or female, under 20 years of age. This was an invitation only tournament where the top rated, active Juniors, were invited to fight for the title of Bahamas Junior Champion 2011.



After 3 rounds, 2 of which were held on August 20th, there was a clear winner with 3 points. Undeclared and proud, Polina Major earned herself the title and was crowned the Bahamas Junior Champion, 2011. Major is certainly one of the youngest players ever to win this prestigious title and only the second female to ever win this event. It was only after 3 hard-fought rounds that she was able to take the

title by defeating Sandeep Gali (*seen above in the foreground*) during the last round to capture the title! A very exciting game where Sandeep took the young Polina into an endgame relatively quickly where he believed he would prevail. Unfortunately for him, it proved to be a grave mistake as Polina also showed her strength in the endgame and made a decisive bishop move that sealed the game!



Tournament Director Warren Seymour is seen here reminding players of the rules and code of conduct before the 1st round of play.

As the rounds progressed, there were many terrific games played in this tournament, showing improvements in their play gained from the training they received from the Federation for their recent participation in the North American Youth

Championship 2011 held in Tarry Town, New York this July. Some of the matches were both exciting and very impressive! In some games both players played exceptionally well and in some cases the games ended with only a few seconds left on their clocks.



Defending champion David Bullard (*far left*) came a close second with 2.5 points out of 3 followed by Nelissa Thomas (*3rd from left*) and Sandeep Gali (*front right*) who tied for third, but Sandeep won the 3rd place trophy in a 20 minute playoff game.

Others in this photo include: The new BJC 2011 Champion Polina Major (*front left*), Warren Seymour (*2nd from left*), the Federation's 2nd Vice President/President and National Master Byron Small (*back center*), Kelsie Thomas (*4th from left – mid center*), Akini Morris (*2nd from right – mid center*), and 2nd Vice President and 2010 National Champion Ken Gibson (*far right*). Missing from photo, but also competed in this event, are brothers Seth and Aaron Rollins.