

Other Information

The venue does not have its own car park, but there are a number of free car parks nearby. A list can be found at [Town Centre Car Parks in Thetford | OneThetford](#)

A half-point bye may be claimed in one of rounds 1-4, if requested on the entry form.

If you have no current FIDE or ECF rating, please provide an indication of your approximate current playing strength in a separate email or piece of paper. This should include your most recent rating or grade, if any, and the year it was achieved, and any rating either currently or previously held with a body other than FIDE or the ECF.

For determining eligibility to enter the Major and Minor sections, ECF ratings and FIDE ratings used will be those as at April 2026. FIDE ratings may be ignored if no eligible games played in the last 5 years. Unrated players will be allowed to play in these sections, provided the Congress Organisers are satisfied that their current playing strength meets the relevant limit.

The Open and Major sections will be both FIDE and ECF rated. The Minor section will be ECF rated only.

No player may win more than one monetary prize, and in the event of ties, all monetary prizes will be shared equally. Players who are unrated may not win a rating prize. Any monetary prize won by such a player in the Major and Minor sections will be subject to a 50% deduction.

Anyone wishing to take photographs should agree this in advance with the Chief Organiser. Photographs taken at the event may be used for publicity purposes by the EACU. Personal information provided on the entry form will be used for the purposes of running and administering the Congress, and for notification of future EACU events. Some game scores may also be published on the EACU and other websites.

Please note that players are not allowed to bring any drinks into the playing venue with the exception of bottled water. Other drinks will be available to purchase.

Enquiries, Entries & Payment

If you have any questions, or have any impairment that may require special circumstances, please contact Adrian Elwin on 01908-644355 or 07778-178671, or by email at adrian_elwin@hotmail.com

Entry may be made online via www.eacu.org.uk, by post to Adrian Elwin at 3 Lilac Close, Newton Longville, Milton Keynes, MK17 0DQ, or by email at adrian_elwin@hotmail.com. If entering by email, please either attach a completed entry form, or include all the information requested on the entry form.

If enclosing payment with a posted entry form, please make cheques payable to 'East Anglian Chess Union'.

Payment may be made through online banking to the East Anglian Chess Union bank account number 80334499, sort code 20-17-19. If using this method, please quote your name as the payment reference.

All entries postmarked on or before 9th May 2026, or received electronically on or before that date, will be entitled to a £3.00 Early Entry Discount.

Entrants in the Open and the Major sections who are not previously registered with FIDE will be registered as English on completion of the tournament. These and all other entrants in the Open and the Major sections who are registered with FIDE as English and are not either Gold or Platinum members of the ECF must pay a surcharge of £16.00.

All entrants in the Minor section who are ECF Bronze Members or non-ECF Members must pay a £16.00 surcharge. This upgrades Bronze membership to Gold membership, and for non-members represents the ECF's 'pay to play' fee.

Juniors in all sections (born on or after 1 January 2008) who are not ECF members are encouraged to take out Junior Gold ECF membership for £14.00 (or free for their first year). The ECF's Junior 'pay to play' fee is £6.50 and is also payable by Junior Bronze members (this will upgrade their membership to Junior Gold).

THE EAST ANGLIAN CHESS UNION'S SIXTH FIDE-RATED CHESS CONGRESS

**Friday 29th May -
Sunday 31st May 2026**

at

**The Carnegie, Main Hall, Cage Lane,
Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2DS**

**A Five-Round Swiss Tournament with three
sections:**

**Open (FIDE-Rated, open to all)
Major (FIDE-Rated, Under-1950)
Minor (Under-1650)**

**The FIDE-rated Open is part of the 2026
British Championship Qualifying Grand Prix
All three sections are part of the 2025-26
EACU Marcus Misson Memorial Grand Prix**

**Chief Controller – Adrian Elwin, IA
Arbiter – John Wickham, FA**

Sections, Prizes & Entry Fees

FIDE-Rated Open – open to all players.

Entry fee: £40.00

Prizes: 1st £200; 2nd £150; 3rd £100.

FIDE-Rated Under-1950 – open to players rated below 1950 in both the April 2026 ECF and FIDE lists

Entry fee: £35.00

Prizes: 1st £160; 2nd £120; 3rd £80.

Under-1650 – open to players rated below 1650 in the April 2026 ECF list.

Entry fee: £30.00

Prizes: 1st £120; 2nd £90; 3rd £60.

An early entry discount is available, and surcharges are payable by players not meeting minimum ECF membership requirements – see the Enquiries, Entries & Payment section for details.

Subject to entries, other prizes may be added, and will be announced prior to the start of the second round.

Times and Rates of Play

Round 1 Friday 29 May 2026 start 7:00 pm
Round 2 Saturday 30 May 2026 start 10:00 am
Round 3 Saturday 30 May 2026 start 2:45 pm
Round 4 Sunday 31 May 2026 start 10:00 am
Round 5 Sunday 31 May 2026 start 2:45 pm

Rate of play: 40 moves in 90 minutes, followed by 15 minutes to finish the game, with an increment of 15 seconds per move from move 1.

All events are Swiss competitions, not knockouts.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

In all matters, the Chief Controller's decision shall be final.

It is a condition of entry that players agree to their rating information being published on the English Chess Federation (ECF) Website.

The Organisers reserve the right to transfer players from one section to another or to refuse entry to any player without giving any reason, and to merge sections and/or to increase or reduce the prize fund and its distribution depending upon entries.

Any player arriving more than 30 minutes later than the scheduled start time for any round will be defaulted that game, and their opponent re-paired if possible.

Mobile phones must be switched off in the playing area, and must not be on a player's person at any time during their game. Any player whose mobile phone makes any sound during play, or who is found to be using or consulting any device capable of suggesting chess moves, will be immediately defaulted that game.

ENTRY FORM

I wish to enter the following section:

Open / Under-1950 / Under-1650

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone

Email

Club.....

Date of birth (required)

ECF Membership Number

Membership Level

Federation (if not ECF)

ECF Rating (Apr 2026)

ECF Rating Code

FIDE Rating.....

FIDE Rating Code.....

Bye required in round 1/ 2/ 3/ 4 (please circle)

Entry fee £

Early Entry Discount £ ()

Surcharge £

Donation (thank you) £

Total £

