

Blue Chevaliers



Life is a game
Chess is serious

3RD Blue Chevaliers International Open

21-27 July 2024

Novotel Phuket Resort, Thailand

Invitation

The Blue Chevaliers invite chess players to our third international open tournament, to be played at Novotel Phuket Resort on Patong Beach, Thailand from 21 to 27 July 2024.

This is the same venue at which our tournament was held in 2023.



Patong Beach

The Tournament

A nine round swiss system tournament will be played over seven days. Each player will be given 90 minutes for all moves, plus a 30 second increment that will be added after each move played. All games will be processed for rating by FIDE.

Excellent Playing Conditions

The Blue Chevaliers strive to provide a high level of player comfort at our tournaments. Our playing room is modern, carpeted and fully air-conditioned. The majority of boards are accommodated on tables dedicated to a single game.



Capacity

The comfortable capacity of the playing room is **120 players**. Entries will be immediately closed should capacity be reached. **Players are therefore encouraged to enter early to secure their place in the tournament.**

Eligibility

Players of any nationality, Thai or foreigner, may enter this “open” tournament.

Entrants must have a FIDE ID number and a minimum standard ELO of 1400. A player with a rating only slightly above 1400 may enter the tournament, but must retain their rating in the FIDE ratings list to be published on 1 July 2024 to maintain eligibility. Only rated players will be admitted to the tournament.

The Blue Chevaliers reserve the right to decline the entry of any player at their own discretion, without necessarily providing a reason.



The 2023 Open Champion Konstantin Sek.

The Venue

Novotel Phuket Resort is nestled in a quiet corner of Patong Beach. The tournament will be played in the “Siam Conference Centre” within the resort. Players staying at the resort will enjoy a delightful relaxing holiday in comfortably appointed rooms. From the resort’s elevated vantage point, views of Patong Beach are spectacular.



Resort guests enjoy a multitude of bars, swimming pools and recreational facilities

Secure the following discounted room rates (which include all taxes and charges, and a full breakfast) by booking directly with the resort via email to suwannee.onsuwan@accor.com and namfon.pattha@accor.com and quoting “Blue Chevaliers International Open Participant.” These rates will apply to our chess players within the period 18 July to 31 July.

Superior Room (double or twin)	3,000 baht per night
Deluxe Seaview Room (double or twin)	4,300 baht per night
Deluxe Family Room with bunk bed	4,900 baht per night

Players booking directly with the resort (not an online booking service) for at least six nights will be entitled to a tournament entry fee discounted by 500 baht.

Tournament Room Shuttle Service

The tournament playing room is accessed by a short walk up a steep hill. Although players are welcome to undertake this climb by foot if they so prefer, a continuous tuk-tuk shuttle service will operate from the base of the hill from 30 minutes before each round.



Guest rooms at Novotel Phuket Resort are quiet and well appointed.

All players, whether staying at Novotel Phuket Resort or elsewhere, will receive a 15% discount on resort spa, food and non-alcoholic beverages during the tournament. If asked to do so, players should identify themselves to resort staff as a player by displaying our “blue knight” logo using their mobile phones.

A range of alternative accommodation is also available in the vicinity of the resort to cater for all budgets. However, the Blue Chevaliers request that players consider supporting our partner resort, knowing that a stay at Novotel Phuket Resort will be a memorable experience for our players.

Schedule

Round 1	3.00pm Sunday 21 July
Round 2	9.30am Monday, 22 July
Round 3	3.00pm Monday, 22 July
Round 4	1.30pm Tuesday, 23 July
Round 5	1.30pm Wednesday, 24 July
Round 6	9.30am Thursday, 25 July
Round 7	3.00pm Thursday, 25 July
Round 8	1.30pm Friday, 26 July
Round 9	9.30am Saturday, 27 July

Presentation of Prizes

Presentation of prizes is scheduled for 3.00pm on 27 July. Any person is most welcome to attend the presentation. The winner of a prize not exceeding 5,000 baht must be present at the presentation ceremony, or it will be forfeited.

Draw Offers

An offer of a draw may be ventured at any time, without requirement for a specific number of moves to have been made.



No need to fight if you don't want to.

Entry Fees

Entries are now open.

- a) the entry fee for players rated 1800 or higher is **3,500 baht**
- b) the entry fee for players rated below 1800 is **4,500 baht**

A discount of **500 baht** off the above entry fees will apply to the entry of any player booked directly into the Novotel Phuket Resort (not through a separate online booking service) for at least six nights.

Entry is **free** for all of the following:

- a) any player with a standard ELO rating of 2400 or higher
- b) any female player with a standard ELO rating of 2300 or higher
- c) any player holding the “GM” or “WGM” Grandmaster title
- d) the 2023 Blue Chevaliers International Open Champion (Konstantin Sek)
- e) the 2023 Blue Chevaliers International Open Female Champion (WCM Jia-Tien Chua)
- f) Thailand’s national open and female champions (to be determined in April 2024)

A 500 baht surcharge will be applicable to entries received after **30 June 2024**.

In the event of cancellation by an entered player, their entry fee will be refunded in full if cancellation is advised by **23 June 2024**.

The absolute closing time for entries is at 2.00pm on 19 July, **or as soon as the capacity of 120 players is reached.**

Dress Code

Intending entrants are advised that Thailand is a conservative society regarding dress, particularly for organized events. We ask that players show respect for the tournament and for our partner resort by observing “smart casual” attire in all public areas of the resort premises, including the playing room. **Players not adhering to the dress code will jeopardise their entry into future Blue Chevaliers events.**

Grandmaster Accommodation Offer



The offer detailed below is conditional on the following:

- a) a minimum standard ELO of 2400 for GM's and 2300 for WGM's.
- b) a limit of 5 rooms being allocated at the tariff rates set out in the offer. These will be allocated on a "first come first served" basis to the first 3 eligible male GM titleholders, and the first 2 eligible female WGM titleholders.

The Offer

- a) The GM or WGM will be accommodated at Novotel Phuket Resort (the venue for the tournament);
- b) The room must be occupied for at least 6 nights within the period 20-28 July;
- c) The discounted tariff for the room will be 2,000 baht per night. This includes a full buffet breakfast, and all taxes and charges;
- d) The GM or WGM will be automatically upgraded upon arrival from a "Superior" room to a "Deluxe Seaview" room.**
- e) The GM or WGM may elect to choose a Deluxe Seaview twin room (subject to availability) and share it with any other person (titleholder or non-titleholder). This option would result in each guest paying just 1,000 baht per night (including full breakfasts and all taxes and charges)

On expressing interest in being allocated a room, a room (if still available) will be allocated to the GM or WGM on a provisional basis for up to 7 days. The allocation will be confirmed upon payment of the applicable invoice by the GM concerned within that 7 day period. In the event of non-payment, the room will be returned to the pool of available rooms.

Any interested Grandmaster is invited to make direct contact with Peter Frost at peter.frost3@yahoo.com.au. All room allocations pursuant to this offer will be handled in the first instance by Peter. Therefore, Grandmasters should proceed directly through Peter, and not initially through Novotel Phuket Resort.

The number of rooms available to Grandmasters pursuant to this offer is limited to 5 (three for GM's and 2 for WGM's). Interested Grandmasters are encouraged to move early should they wish to secure a room on the terms available in this offer.

Any player holding a GM or WGM title who is not eligible to participate in the accommodation offer will be granted free entry into the tournament.



How to Enter

Players can enter the tournament via the following two step procedure:

- a) email peter.frost3@yahoo.com.au to advise of intent to enter. This email must include the player's name, FIDE ID number and date of birth. We will reply within 48 hours to advise whether the entry is able to be accepted.
- b) after receiving our reply, entrants based in Thailand must, within 5 business days, transfer their entry fee into the following Thai bank account:

Kasikorn Bank	026-2-03984-8	Mr Peter David Frost
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The entrant must simultaneously send an email to peter.frost3@yahoo.com.au with an image of their transfer deposit receipt. We will then confirm that the entry has been finalized.

Entrants NOT based in Thailand may, if they prefer, confirm their entry simply by emailing an image of their accommodation and flight bookings. Such entrants will be able to pay their entry fee in cash when registering on the morning of the first round.

The international banking Swift Code for Kasikorn Bank is KASITHBKXXX.

Only players who have fully complied with all these entry requirements, including making their payment, will be paired for round 1.

Fair Play

A player in possession at the board of a mobile phone or other electronic device, or who is judged to have viewed a mobile phone in a bathroom or elsewhere outside the playing room, will forfeit the game. **Players judged to have deliberately cheated will be immediately removed from the tournament and banned from all future Blue Chevaliers events.**

Digital watches will be confiscated and returned to the offending player after play.

Rest rooms will be periodically examined by the arbiters.

All players who enter the tournament accept that they may be subjected to random scanning for electronic devices at any time.

Prizes

Open Category (all players eligible)

1st 50,000 baht 2nd 30,000 baht
3rd 22,000 baht 4th 17,000 baht 5th 13,000 baht 6th 10,000 baht
7th 8,000 baht 8th 7,000 baht 9th 6,000 baht 10th 5,000 baht

Female Category

1st 15,000 baht 2nd 10,000 baht 3rd 7,000 baht 4th 5,000 baht
5th 4,000 baht 6th 3,000 baht



2023 Female Champion WCM Jia-Tien Chua.

Sectional Categories

The top 16 seeds will be deemed to be competing for the open prizes. From the 17th seed, the field will be divided into three further sections of equal numbers, in order of ELO rating. Sectional prizes will be awarded as follows:

1st 5,000 baht 2nd 4,000 baht 3rd 3,000 baht

A player may only win one cash prize. If a player qualifies for a prize in more than one category, the player will receive the highest cash prize to which they are entitled. If such prizes are equivalent, the hierarchy to determine the applicable award shall be open, female, and finally, sectional prizes.

Prizes will not be shared. Ties will be broken by applying the tie breaking procedures indicated on the tournament's page at chess-results.com.

Winners of cash prizes not exceeding 5,000 baht must be present at the presentation ceremony to collect it, or the prize will be forfeited.



Trophies and Medals

Silver cups will be presented to the winners of the open, female, senior (over 50 years of age on 21 July 2024) and junior (under 18 years of age on 21 July 2024) categories. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be presented to the first three placegetters in each of these categories, as well as the sectional categories.

Forfeits

The Blue Chevaliers take very seriously the issue of players not appearing for a game after being paired for the applicable round. The following guidelines are provided in advance of the tournament.

1. A player not present within 1 hour of the scheduled starting time for a game will be forfeited.
2. A player may request via the arbiters not to be paired for any round, so long as such request is made before the pairings for the applicable round are prepared. No score will be allocated to the player for the applicable round.
3. Once paired for a round, a player is expected to take all reasonable steps to ensure their attendance for the game.
4. If a player does not appear for a game after being paired, the player will not be paired for the following round unless a timely and satisfactory explanation for their forfeit is provided to an Arbiter or peter.frost3@yahoo.com.au
5. Any player not providing a timely and satisfactory explanation for a forfeit may be removed from the tournament to minimize the risk of further forfeits and will jeopardise their entry into future Blue Chevaliers events.

Tournament Information

The primary source for information in advance of the tournament, and for reports, photos and videos during the tournament, will be our tournament facebook page “Blue Chevaliers Chess Tournament”, which is now operative. All players and other interested persons are encouraged to “follow” this page to keep abreast of the latest tournament information. However, any key “need to know” information will also be announced in person to players prior to the commencement of each round.

The tournament will also feature a page at ‘chess-results.com’ which will regularly update entries received, and provide full details of the tournament. The games of the top six boards will be viewable on this site within 24 hours of the conclusion of the applicable round.

Our Arbiters

IA Cholatpat Chongstitwattana (Chief Arbiter)



An International Arbiter, Cholatpat is the founder of Big Rook Chess Academy in Bangkok. He is also a renowned concert pianist and instructor. Cholatpat will be reprising his 2023 role as Chief Arbiter of this tournament.

IA Ellie Emira, NA Riste Menkinoski, and NA Loreshyl Cuizon (Deputy Arbiters)



Malaysia's Ellie Emira joins our arbiter team for the first time, having acquired her International Arbiter title after officiating at a variety of tournaments throughout South-East Asia. Ellie is the founder of "Chess Clicks", an online newsletter which informs regional players of all tournaments coming up throughout the region.

A FIDE Master, National Arbiter and renowned coach, Riste Menkinoski is the co-founder of Red Knight Chess Club in Bangkok.

A National Arbiter and co-founder of Red Knight Chess Club, Loreshyl Cuizon is also a strong player in her own right, having represented the Philippines at Chess Olympiads.



Deputy Arbiters Riste and Loreshyl are known to work quite well together

Past Champions

Year	Open Champion	Female Champion	Junior Champion	Senior Champion
2022	FM Jony Habla	WFM Sarocha Chuemsakul	Shin Jingjang	Ric Portugalera
2023	Konstantin Sek	WCM Jia-Tien Chua	Rishi Vijayakumar	IM Torben Sorensen

Registration

Every entrant must register their arrival in person in the playing room between **11.00am and 2.00pm** on the morning of the first round. Foreign based players who have not yet paid their entry fee must do so when registering. **Only entrants who have presented themselves for registration will be paired for the first round.**



Patong Beach sits between ocean and hilly jungle

Appeals

The Appeals Committee will be announced at the tournament. An appeal must be lodged with an Arbiter by not later than ten minutes after the conclusion of the final game of the applicable round. A deposit of 2,000 baht will be required, which may or may not be refunded at the discretion of the Appeals Committee.

Spectators

Spectators will be permitted to remain in the playing room for the first five minutes of a round. Photos may be taken during that period. Players may linger in the playing room to spectate other games after their own has ended, subject to the Chief Arbiter retaining full discretion to clear the room of spectators at any time he sees fit to do so.

Mask Wearing

Mask wearing is optional for all players.

Enquiries

Should any prospective player wish to ask any questions regarding the tournament, do not hesitate to do so via peter.frost3@yahoo.com.au

Appreciations



The Blue Chevaliers wish to acknowledge the Thailand Chess Association, Southside Knights Chess Club, Red Knight Chess Club, Big Rook Chess Academy, Double Bishop Chess Academy, Hua Hin Chess Club and Yedda Blue International School of Phuket for invaluable support in providing chess equipment. We also thank Mr Jeroen Wismeijer of Phuket for undertaking a variety of local tasks associated with the tournament.



Thailand Chess Association



The Blue Chevaliers



The Blue Chevaliers (Bami, David, Jeremi, Matthieu, Nicolas and Peter) are foreign chess players (mostly French) active in South-East Asia.

The Blue Chevaliers aim to be of service primarily to the Thailand chess community, but also to chess players throughout South-East Asia.

We particularly value and are keen to encourage standard (90/30) time controls, and the participation of female players in chess tournaments.

We are excited at the prospect of once again welcoming our chess friends for a great week of chess on the glorious blue Andaman Sea.

See you in Phuket!

