

CCO PRESS RELEASE

***Kingswood Oxford Hosts State Scholastic Blitz Championship***

On December 11, 2016, 43 players competed in the 2016-17 Connecticut State Scholastic Blitz Chess Championships. The tournament was held at the Kingswood Oxford School, West Hartford, Connecticut.

The event was co-sponsored by the Kingswood Oxford School, Camp KO, the Connecticut Chess Organization, the Farmington Libraries, allClubs Chess, and the University of Connecticut Chess Club.

The placement winners were:

**Individual Prizes/Awards:**

Elementary

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Jack Clayton, Webster Hill (West Hartford)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Carter Clayton, Webster Hill (West Hartford)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Jake Lumelsky, Bugbee (West Hartford)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – Punyavrat Upadhyay, West District (Farmington)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place – Joshua Fernandes, Duffy (West Hartford)

Middle

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Samuel Lumelsky, King Philip (West Hartford)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Beatrice Low, Greenwich Academy
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Danny Hoffman, Addams (Guilford)

High

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Jithu Sajeevan, Bristol Central
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Jonathan Aiyathurai, Simsbury
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Eric Hilhorst, Simsbury

**Team Prizes/Awards:**

Elementary

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Bugbee Elementary School (West Hartford)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Webster Hill Elementary School (West Hartford)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Aiken Elementary School (West Hartford)

Middle

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – King Philip Middle School (West Hartford)

High

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Simsbury High School

Congratulations to all!

The Blitz Championships were attended by players from 15 towns and 24 schools. Competition was directed by IM Jan van de Mortel, assisted by University of Connecticut Chess Club's Wissam Afyouni.

The tournament was organized as a non-profit fundraiser for scholastic chess programs by the Connecticut Chess Organization and raised about \$500 for Connecticut chess programs.

Also, the self-titled "Dutch Families"—Hilhorst and Kollen families—treated all players to pizza. Special thanks to Gert Hilhorst and Bart Kollen for their efforts and generosity!

CCO is organizing the 2017 Connecticut Girls' Scholastic Chess Championship on January 21, 2017 at the Farmington Main Library.