

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eger, Hungary - Monday 29th September 2025

Briton triumphs at the 2025 World Puzzle Championships



(Original digital photography available on request - credit Tom Collyer 2025)

Freddie Hand, 22, has been named the World Puzzle Champion for 2025, becoming the first person from Britain to achieve this in the competition's 32 year history.

Held in Eger, Hungary between 25-27 September 2025, the World Puzzle Championship involves a wide range of complex logic puzzles, designed to challenge the top solvers from around the world.

Among the field of over 200 competitors was Japan's Ken Endo, the reigning five-time champion, who this year came second behind Mr Hand.

Mr Hand, who is based in Tonbridge and works in quantitative finance, said of his victory:

"It came as a bit of a shock. Considering this was only my second time competing, I had no real expectations - the plan was simply to sit down and solve puzzles as quickly and accurately as I could."

"Everyone is really gracious and supportive. Things can get competitive near the top, but overwhelmingly people are excited to see others performing at their best."

The championship required competitors to earn as many points as possible under exam conditions by solving a wide variety of logic puzzles including Kakuro, Slitherlink and Battleships.

The puzzles were grouped into 14 individual rounds prepared by Hungarian puzzle authors, with many creative themes such as Fish and Ships, The Casino and The Siege of Eger Castle.

Liane Robinson, the UK puzzle team captain said:

“Freddie has accomplished a phenomenal achievement. It is wonderful to see such a kind and modest young man see the fruits of his labour on the world stage.”

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UK Puzzle Association:

www.ukpuzzles.org

The UK Puzzle Association is the UK member of the World Puzzle Federation - an international organisation which follows the Olympic standard. It brings together puzzlers from around the world for the annual World Puzzle Championships and World Sudoku Championships. The UK Puzzle Association last hosted the world championships in London, 2014.

The purpose of the UK Puzzle Association is to develop and support international standard puzzle and sudoku solving in the UK. We are a self-funded not for profit association formed and run by the leading UK solvers.

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Notes to Editors:

- In the team competition, Mr Hand also led the UK team (Tom Collyer, Freddie Hand, James McGowan, Neil Zussman) to their highest ever finish of 4th place. The team champions this year are USA (Walker Anderson, Thomas Luo, Thomas Snyder, Kevin Zhou).
- Appropriately, the UK team were collectively the highest scorers on the Fish and Ships round.
- There was further British success earlier in the week as David McNeill of Belfast claimed his fifth over 50's title at the World Sudoku Championships. These were also

held in Eger, Hungary during 22nd-23rd September. The world sudoku champion this year is Tantan Dai of China.

- Full details of results can be found on the competition website:
<https://www.wspc2025.hu>