

# SITWELL 2006

## The Qualifying Tournament for Prestatyn in June

### Under-9 Section

<b>RGS, Newcastle 'A'</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>QEGS, Wakefield 'A'</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>QEGS, Wakefield 'B'</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Ecclesall, Sheffield</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Alcuin, Leeds 'A'</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>RGS, Newcastle 'B'</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Lofthouse Gate, Wakefield</b>	<b>12</b>
Sitwell, Rotherham	11½
Alcuin, Leeda 'B'	11½
Gildersome, Leeds	11
Red Rose, Chester-le-Street	5½
Sitwell ,Rotherham 'B'	5½

### Under-11 Section

<b>Ecclesall, Sheffield 'A'</b>	<b>20½</b>
<b>QEGS, Wakefield</b>	<b>19½</b>
<b>RGS, Newcastle 'A'</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>RGS, Newcastle 'B'</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Lofthouse Gate, Wakefield</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Alcuin, Leeds 'A'</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>RGS, Newcastle 'C'</b>	<b>13</b>
Sitwell, 'A'	12
Gildersome, Leeds	12
Ecclesall, Sheffield 'B'	12
<b>RGS, Newcastle 'D'</b>	<b>9</b>
Red Rose, Chester-le-Street	7
Sitwell, Rotherham 'B'	7
Alcuin, Leeds 'B'	6

A report from an RGS viewpoint!

When we set out from Newcastle at 7.30am I was far from anticipating the success that his day turned out to be. I was most grateful to two extra boys who had heard that I was likely to be several men short on the teams that we were taking, and turned up on the offchance that there would be room for them. In the end we were only one boy short on one of the teams. Red Rose, who shared the coach with us, were less fortunate and were a man short on both their sides and had to concede a point in each match. We all arrived at Sitwell in Rotherham on time to find that the tournament was being run by Tony Corfe, the EPSCA national organiser. The intended arbiter had also succumbed to the 'flu. Tony had had to travel North from his

home in London at 24 hours notice. Our journey time was just the same as his!

Our under-9 'A' dominated their competition, playing quietly and sensibly. Their lead at the end of the penultimate round was such that they could afford to lose 2-3 to QEGS and still win the competition by a massive 3 points. Thomas Aldridge won all his 5 games - a magnificent Gold Medal performance as was that of captain John Abraham and the rest of the team (George Wyatt, Adam Clark, Hugh McGregor and William Kirk). I did not expect the 'B' team to qualify for Prestatyn but they did! Only the top 5 teams were supposed to qualify but a three way tie for fifth place meant we just scraped through. Congratulations to the team (Patrick Ridgway, Thomas Johnston, Oliver Wright, Curtis Jones, Jonathan Kat and Nathan Cummiskey) nobody did brilliantly, but they all did just enough.

At under-11 I did expect our 'A' and 'B' teams to qualify, but they did not have it easy - it was only by scoring well in the last round that they got through. The 'A' team (Gavin Minty, John Brooker, Tom Gholkar, Thomas Langley, Ishan Deshpande and Ollie Bennett) started confidently enough but then lost heavily to Ecclesall and QEGS. A 4-1 victory in the final round gained them Bronze Medals. The 'B' team, (Jack McHugh, Ruben Tadmor, James Lau, Jo Hicks, James Schofield and Will Atkinson) started slowly, but when Will switched to play on board 5 it seemed to give the whole side a lift. The 'C' team, again scraping through in tie for sixth place., were a mixed group of both yr 5 and yr 6. boys Captain, Adam Walker, Andrew Louw and Richard Ridgway had a really rough time on the top boards. But Ben Cull and Eddie Bilclough, playing better than I've seen him play before, scored heavily and it was enough. Ross Ferguson, a last minute replacement, didn't get a lot o do on board 6. The 'D' team (Martin Donohue, George Taylor, Lewis Ford , Thomas Tyler and Vikram Sehgal) were struggling to score many points. But Vikram had other ideas - he won his first 4 games in a row (including a game against Ishan Deshpande) before losing just the once at the end.

Never before have we had 5 teams qualify for Prestatyn. Everybody is to be congratulated. My thanks go to our splendid parents, Mr Johnston, Mr McHugh, Dr Minty and Mr Walker, without whose help the whole thing would not have been possible.