

Report from the British Rapidplay Championships

North Bridge Leisure Centre, Halifax 20-21 November 2010

(<http://www.british-rapidplay.org.uk>)

On Saturday, Zheming Zhang played at the England U11 Trial Qualifier and won with 5.5 out of 6. He drew the last round because he was running out of time. He had a queen and his opponent had only king left so the arbiter declared the game was a draw. His opponent also had about less than one minute left. Zheming was a bit disappointed as he just needed perhaps less than half a minute to checkmate. Zheming managed to record over 60 moves while his opponent stopped recording after about 30 moves. If Zheming had stopped recording a bit earlier, then he would have had time to checkmate. Zheming won a trophy, a medal, £15, and a book. The trophy was only for photo and presentation and was taken away immediately after the prize giving. The organiser said that they will have Zheming's name engraved on it and they will keep it for next year's presentation. The book was signed by ECF president, CJ de Mooi. Zheming gained a full norm for qualifying the England U11 Trial, but he will not be allowed to play in the Trial as he is still U9.

On Sunday, he played in Junior Rapidplay Championship (combined U12/U10 section). He won the first 4 rounds and in round 5 played the only other person, Stephen Whatley from Gibraltar, who also scored 4. Zheming said that the game was quite even and his opponent asked for a draw and Zheming refused. Zheming then made a wrong calculation attempting to win and lost. Zheming scored 4 out of 5, and was 2= in U12 and 1st in U10. Zheming was very disappointed about the loss and cried a bit. Anyway, it was a good experience for Zheming. Zheming had beaten Stephen Whatley before at the British U9 in Torquay. At the final prize giving, the ECF president, CJ, presented Zheming with a special prize, a book signed by CJ and all the GMs (7 I think) who played at Halifax. Zheming likes this special prize best.

Report from Jie Zhang.