

DAN DOES IT AGAIN !

Northern Counties Chess Union Under-18 Championship, 2007

The NCCU Junior Championships were held at Blackpool on Saturday, 18 August, as part of Bill O'Rourke's annual Chess Festival. There was an unfortunate clash of dates with the UKCC Terafinal, which reduced the size of the entry with several leading contenders missing. In the Under-18 section there were four entries who played a double round rapidplay All-Play-All tournament.

In spite of the small number of entries this produced a very competitive event, the issue being in doubt up to the very last round. Daniel Lai's first round win against Liam Rabbitte proved crucial in the end. as he was able to keep a very narrow lead throughout. Jonny Lai lost his first two games and was never in the hunt. However the two half-points he took off Liam were enough to give his brother the title. Dan drew his last round game with Thomas Fielding, agreeing a draw in an advantageous position after Jonny and Liam had drawn.

Dan last won an NCCU junior title back in 2001 at Under-11! (Both Liam and Jonny have also won NCCU titles at lower age-groups in the past).

| | Gd | DL | LR | JL | TF | Tot |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Daniel Lai (Jesmond) | 122 | *** | 1 0 | 1 1 | 1 ½ | 4½ |
| Liam Rabbitte (Heywood) | 151 | 0 1 | *** | ½½ | 1 1 | 4 |
| Jonathan Lai (Jesmond)) | 159 | 0 0 | ½½ | *** | 0 1 | 2 |
| Thomas Fielding (Preston) | 80 | 0 ½ | 0 0 | 1 0 | *** | 1½ |