

HMC Chess at Wakefield, on Wednesday, 17th November 2010

Normally RGS have taken two teams, one at Under-11 and one at Under-9 to this event, organised by Richard Thompson at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in, Wakefield. For the first time this year they were allowed to take a 'B' team to play in the Under-9 section. As a result RGS took 18 boys down to Wakefield, sharing a coach with a party from the King's School in Tynemouth, led by Charlie Storey.

As is usual in this event, only the hosts, QEGS, Wakefield; and Yarm School were expected to offer the RGS teams any serious opposition. The RGS U-11 team, **Anthony Lai, William Wilkinson, Daksh Sharma, Joseph Dalton, Parth Mannikar and Manav Gupta** won every match with some ease. Both Daksh and Manav scored 100% and only two individual games were lost all day. As four of the team are year 5s, things look good for next year too! The King's team, (with **Hugo Meecham** scoring 5½/7 on top board) came in third – breaking into the top three for the first time – well done to them!

The RGS U-9 'A' team, **Keshav Krishnan, Eashan Ragbir, Arif Alam, Nathan Byatt, Ethan Heardman and William Slater**, did even better. Arif, Nathan and William won all their 7 games and only one game was lost all day. (I didn't tell them, and they hadn't realised it, but the tournament was won with a round to spare). Yarm came second, but the real delight of the day for me came when the RGS 'B' team (**Jonathan Scott, Dan Clarke, James Moreby, Liam Hide, Fred and Theo Hault**) beat the QEGS team in the final round to take third place! With 4 year 3 boys in the team this was a remarkable performance; James did best for this team scoring 5½/7, but they all did far better than I could have dreamt of.

It was a very cheerful coach load of boys who returned to the North-East at the end of the day

Final standings:

<u>U-11</u>			<u>U-9</u>		
1 st	RGS, Newcastle	101	1 st	RGS 'A'	101
2 nd	QEGS, Wakefield	94	2 nd	Yarm	88
3 rd	King's, Tynemouth	77	3 rd	RGS 'B'	80
4 th	Yarm	69	4 th	QEGS	76
5 th	St Olave's, York	62	5 th	Lyndhurst	60
6 th	Lyndhurst	56	6 th	Bootham	57
7 th	Ashville, Harrogate	54	7 th	St Olave's	54
8 th	Bootham	47	8 th	Kings	44

Paul Bielby