

## English Primary Schools Chess Association Zonal Tournament at RGS, Newcastle, on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Each year EPSCA runs tournaments for school teams of 6 players at the Under-11 and Under-9 levels. The tournament has three levels; the first round is the Zonal tournament held in the Spring term. Some 40% of the teams involved in the zonal qualify to play in semi-final tournaments - 3 of them - held at Pontin's Holiday Camps in early June. Schools from the North usually play in a semi-final at Prestatyn. The top 8 teams in each age group then play in the final, again at a Pontin's holiday camp, this year at Brean Sands in Somerset.

This year the Northern Zonal was held at RGS Newcastle on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Organiser, Paul Bielby, was disappointed that, despite extensive advertising, only 6 schools entered and even more disappointed that, in the event, only 3 of those schools turned up to play. Between them RGS, Newcastle (6 teams); King's, Tynemouth and St Teresa's, Heaton (2 teams each) took part in a single 5 round Swiss tournament, organised by arbiters Lara Barnes and Alex McFarlane.

The arbiters arranged that the three U-9 teams should play each other in the course of the competition, as well as each playing three of the older teams.

The RGS teams dominated the tournament in that no member of one of the top three RGS teams lost, except to another RGS player. All these three teams qualify for the Prestatyn semi-final at U-11. The RGS "A" team at U-9 was in fact 4<sup>th</sup> in the overall competition and was the only semifinalist in that age-group.

Here are the final scores - I have given full names and scores for those teams who have qualified for Prestatyn. All team scores are out of 25.

### Under-11 Section

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> RGS "A"</b>   | <b>24</b>  |
| Adam Clark (4/5); George Wyatt (5/5); John Abraham (5/5); William Kirk (5/5); Thomas Aldridge (5/5); Edward Langley (5/5)     |            |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> RGS "B"</b>   | <b>17</b>  |
| Urban Coningham (4/5); Ben Parker (3/5); Eashan Patel (3/5); Edward Williams (3/5); Harry Jones (4/5); Finlay Gerrand (3/5)   |            |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> RGS "C"</b>   | <b>16½</b> |
| Hugh McGregor (3½/5); Rahul Bhagwat (4/5); Ryan Dalvand (4/5); Ramit Saksena (2/5); Chris Wilson (3/5); Jasper Williams (2/5) |            |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> King's "A"  | 12         |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> St Teresa's   | 10½        |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> RGS "D"   | 9          |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> King's "B"  | 7          |

### Under-9 Section

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> RGS "A"</b>  | <b>13</b> |
| Arjun Anilkumar (2/5); Tabitha Burnett (2½/5); Abhishek Klamath (2/5); Naman Garg (4/5); Ikenna Obonna (2½/5); James Ferrier (2/5) |           |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> RGS "B"  | 9         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> St Teresa's  | 7         |