

**H.M.C. Chess Championship 2008**  
**played at Q.E.G.S., Wakefield on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

Only two teams from the North-East took part in this competition: King's, Tynemouth and R.G.S. We shared a coach for the 2-hours+ journey each way, a useful agreement between team coaches Charlie Storey (King's) and myself.

**Under-11 Section**

1. Q.E.G.S., Wakefield A	103
2. R.G.S.Newcastle	90
3. Yarm School	76
4. Ashville, Harrogate	71
5. Q.E.G.S., Wakefield B	64
6. King's, Tynemouth	57
7. St Olave's, York	54
8. Lyndhurst, Pocklington	43

**Under-9 Section**

1. Q.E.G.S., Wakefield A	99
2. Yarm School	91
3. R.G.S.,Newcastle	86
4= Lyndhurst, Pocklington	65
4= Q.E.G.S.Wakefield B	65
6. Q.E.G.S., Wakefield C	54
7. St Olave's, York	51
8. King's, Tynemouth	49

Everything in the Under-11 Section depended on the Round 3 game between Q.E.G.S.A and R.G.S, who at this stage were sharing the lead. Q.E.G.S. won this match by 15-5 and virtually decided the tournament with this one result. Both Q.E.G.S. A and R.G.S. won all their matches against the other teams, but as Q.E.G.S. dropped no further points they had won the competition with a round to spare,

The Under-9 Section was much closer and Yarm School went into the last round 2 points in the lead. However here they met Q.E.G.S. A and lost massively by 15-5. R.G.S. had only lost narrowly 9-11 to Q.E.G.S., but losing also to Yarm were never really in the hunt for top place. As seems to have become traditional in these events Q.E.G.S., R.G.S. and Yarm occupied the top three places in both competitions.

Individually all the R.G.S. boys scored well. Everybody played 7 games. At Under-11 Urban Coningham scored 5½ points on top board. Chris Wilson, Arjun Anilkumar, Akhil Gupta and Ibrahim Nasser all scored 6 points and Edward Williams scored 5. Under-9 captain, Parth Mannikar had the hardest task of the day, but even he managed 4 wins from his 7 games. Daksh Sharma on board 2 scored 5½ points. The rest of the team, Manav Gupta, Will Murgatroyd, Omkar Dixit and Anthony Lai all scored 6 out of 7.

I haven't got the details for the King's team – they lack the experience of the R.G.S. boys. In both sections King's and R.G.S. met in the last round. R.G.S. won all the games in the U-11 match, but King's board 1 beat Parth Mannikar at U-9, giving King's - a temporary lead before R.G.S. won the other four games. Charlie Storey pointed out that this was the first time one of his King's teams had actually led against R.G.S. A short lived triumph, but maybe a presage of things to come.

This was a very long and hard day. The journey down was difficult as we were held up for half-an-hour by an accident near to Scotch Corner. Our Snaith's driver made up time and we arrived only a few minutes late at Wakefield. Fortunately the others waited for us to arrive. The boys, very tired by the end of the day, behaved impeccably throughout, as did our travel companions from the King's School. I am particularly grateful to Mrs Gupta who helped me with looking after the boys and acting as team manager for the U-9s during the tournament. And we are all, as always, grateful to Graham Crowther of Q.E.G.S., who organised the whole thing in his usual inimitable style and arranged to feed the boys on sausages, beans and chips before the journey home.

*Paul Bielby*