

## R.G.S. AT PRESTATYN, June 2009

We took eight teams of 6 to Prestatyn; together with families, parents, siblings and supporters this made a party of more than 80. Socially this proved a most enjoyable and worthwhile weekend – but chesswise, our results were not as good as I had hoped. The awards, Silver at U-11 (We got Gold last year; this year we missed it by ½ a point) and Bronze at U-9 (Last year we got Silver; this year again we missed it by ½ a point) were a bit disappointing. There were some outstanding individual performances. Both Harry Jones and Sukhdeep Srar Singh won every game they played and Urban Coningham and Naman Garg both won prizes in the Saturday Blitz tournament. The Plate teams were very much our D and E-teams this year and, in fact, the younger Plate 'B's did better than the 'A's.

It was a delight to see four more teams from Newcastle also taking part this year. The teams from St Teresa's (especially at U-9) and NPS (especially at U-11) did very well indeed and seemed to enjoy things too. Anyway a total of 12 teams from Newcastle meant that the North-East was very well represented.

For the record, RGS team positions were as follows .

Under-11 A-team 8<sup>th</sup>, B-team 26<sup>th</sup>, C-team 28<sup>th</sup> , out of 36 teams.

Under-9 A-team 12<sup>th</sup> , C-team 20<sup>th</sup> , B-team 22<sup>nd</sup> , out of 24 teams.

Plate teams B-team 10<sup>th</sup>, A-team 11<sup>th</sup> , out of 20 teams.

I found this a very tiring weekend and it was only made possible by the efforts of Mr Craig, Dr Spencer and, as always, the hard work and encouragement of the marvellous RGS parents. A new culinary departure this year (and one that I hope we'll see again) was that of Dr David Lai who provided all and sundry with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of Chinese cooking. I am grateful to them all and am also grateful for the marvellous birthday gift of classical music CDs that I received from the children. Bless them.