

YARM CHESS FESTIVAL 2006

Yarm School has held an annual Chess Festival at the start of the Autumn term for each of the past ten years. This year the organiser, Andrew Killick, himself a strong player as well as a teacher of Classics in the school, invited International Master Bill Hartston, three times British Champion and Chess Journalist was invited as guest of honour. On the Friday evening Bill gave simultaneous display for the Cleveland locals. Then on Saturday he was present at the main event of the weekend – a schools team tournament, held this year in a large marquee in the school grounds on the banks of the River Tees.

Over 100 youngsters took part in the two competitions, for Secondary and for Primary Schools most efficiently run by arbiter Sean Marsh. The main challengers to the home school were teams from the Newcastle Royal Grammar School. It was good to see, for the first time, a team from QEGS Wakefield. It was a young team and will do better as they get more experience.

In the Senior Section the RGS A team (Jonathan Lai; Daniel Lai; Tom Glover and Ross Mills) won every match, comfortably, ahead of their hosts. The RGS C team were placed third but never seriously challenged the two leaders.

SECONDARY SCHOOL RESULTS

1 st	RGS, Newcastle A	16½
2 nd	YARM A	14½
3 rd	RGS B	12½
4 th	Queen Elizabeth's, Wakefield	12
5 th	YARM B	11
6 th	RGS C	9½
7 th	YARM C	8
8 th	YARM D	0

Things were much closer in a desperately exciting Junior Section. At the start of the last round the Yarm A team (Led by Junior champion Thomas Mavin) were just half a point ahead of RGS A. The Yarm boys met the RGS B team (An under-10 team) and lost by 1½ - 2½. This gave the RGS A team a good chance. However they lost in turn by the same score to their own C team leaving Yarm to take the trophy in a real photo-finish.

JUNIOR RESULTS

1 st .	YARM A	15
2 ND	RGS, Newcastle B	14½
3 RD =	RGS A	14
	RGS C	14
	RGS E	14
6 th	RGS D	11½
7 th	YARM D	10½
6 th	YARM C	10
9 th =	WHALE HILL, Middlesbrough A	9½
	RGS F	9½
	PRESTON, Middlesbrough	9½
12 ^h =	RED ROSE, Chester-le-Street	9
	YARM B	9
14 th	LYTHE, Whitby	8½

15 th	WHALE HILL B	8
15 th	YARM E	6½
17 th	YARM F	5
18 th	WHALE HILL C	3½

The Junior event was completed well before the Seniors and Bill Hartston gave a further simultaneous display with much helpful advice to those children who were prepared to stay on till the end of the senior event. Nobody beat the master, but 9-year old Matthew Haynes from RGS won a commendation for playing the most interesting game.