

HMC Junior Schools Chess Championships

held at QEGS, Wakefield, on 28th November

Two schools from the North-East, RGS, Newcastle and King's School, Tynemouth, took part in this competition for the junior schools of Head Masters Conference in the North of England. Paul Bielby and Charlie Storey, the coaches for the respective teams, arranged to share a coach (and the expenses) for the trip. From the RGS point of view this worked well, though the journey down to Wakefield was both long and tedious. At the end we were all given a very good meal by QEGS at Wakefield before the return journey. This report is very much from an RGS angle. King's drew the short straw and had an even longer journey - for their point of view ask Charlie.

Under-9 Competition

1 st QEGS 'A'	100
2 nd RGS, Newcastle	84
3 rd Ranby House	78
4 th Lyndhurst	70
5 th Yarm	69
6 th Bootham, York	59
7 th =QEGS 'B'	50
7 th =King's, Tynemouth	50

Note that in HMC competitions 3 points are awarded for a win, 2 for a draw and 1 for a loss. Each team played 7 matches over 5 boards against each of the others. The maximum score would have been 105 and the minimum 35. Thus the QEGS 'A' score of 100/105 was remarkably good one

The RGS Under-9s were thrown into the fray, almost as they arrived after the long journey down to Wakefield. They lost their first match narrowly to Ranby House (from Worksop) but then scored heavily until the very last round when they could still have caught up with QEGS. However it was not to be; QEGS beat us by 14-6, though several of the games were quite close. Nonetheless RGS improved on last year when they were third behind QEGS and Yarm.

Under-11 Competition

1 st RGS, Newcastle	102
2 nd QEGS, Wakefield	95
3 rd Yarm	84
4 th King's, Tynemouth	64
5 th Ranby House	58
6 th Bootham, York	57
7 th Ashville, Harrogate	50
8 th Lyndhurst	47

If the QEGS score of 100/105 at Under-9 was good then our score of 102/105 here was even better. Everything hinged on the RGS v. QEGS match in round three. RGS only dropped 1 point and QEGS only 2 in the other 6 matches. RGS scored a crushing victory, beating QEGS 13-7 in the critical match. John, Will and Tom quickly gave us a winning advantage. On the top two boards QEGS fought harder and Adam had to concede to their top board. But George restored our advantage in a very long hard game. In the rest of the matches we simply had to take care not to give anything away. We didn't!

RGS U9 Individual Scores

	P	W	D	L	%
Arjun Anilkumar	7	2	1	4	36
Tabitha Burnett	7	4	1	2	64
Naman Garg	7	5	0	2	70
Abhishek Kamath	7	6	0	1	86
Ikenna Obonna	7	6	1	0	93
James Ferrier	7	4	2	1	70

RGS U11 Individual Scores

Adam Clark	7	6	0	1	86
George Wyatt	7	7	0	0	100
John Abraham	7	7	0	0	100
William Kirk	7	6	1	0	93
Thomas Aldridge	7	7	0	0	100
Edward Langley	7	6	0	1	86