

YARM CHESS FESTIVAL September 29, 2007

This was the 13th Yarm Chess Festival, organised by Andrew Killick, a Classics teacher at the school, with the chess being run by ECF Arbiter Sean Marsh. Guests of honour were Grandmaster Danny King and Cleveland Champion David Smith. On the Friday evening Danny King gave a simultaneous display against 25 opponents. He won 24, but lost to Matthew Cornford, a sixth former at the school.

The main tournament, for school teams of 4, was held on the Saturday. RGS Newcastle took 11 teams down to Yarm, 5 in the Secondary Schools section and 6 at Primary Schools level.

There was a very tense and close competition with 10 teams in the Secondary Tournament. The RGS 'A' team - Jonathan and Daniel Lai, Tom Glover and Asef Zahed - had won the title last year and were favourites. However this year they had to struggle after losing narrowly to QEGS Wakefield in an early round. (Two games lost on time in favourable positions!). However a good win by 3-1 against our hosts in the last round coupled with the fact that Alistair Clark for the RGS 'B' team took an important point off QEGS enabled the RGS 'A' to retain the trophy.

Secondary competition results	1. RGS Newcastle 'A'	16½
	2. QEGS Wakefield	15½
	3. Yarm 'A'	12½

There were 13 teams in the Primary competition. The RGS 'A' team (Adam Clark, George Wyatt, Will Kirk and Tom Aldridge) led throughout after a crushing 4-0 win over Yarm 'A' in Round 3. The only points dropped were in the final two rounds against the RGS 'B' and 'C' teams. Urban Coningham, captain of RGS 'C', won all 5 of his games as did George Wyatt, Will Kirk and Tom Aldridge for the A' team. The real surprise packet in this section was the RGS 'F' team. All 8-year olds, the team (Arjun Anilkumar, Tabitha Burnett, Naman Garg and Abhishek Kamath) surprised everybody by coming third equal. They even had to have a play-off match against Yarm 'B' which was drawn 2-2, after which third place was shared.

Primary competition results	1. RGS Newcastle 'A'	18½
	2. Yarm 'A'	13
	3= RGS Newcastle 'F'	12½
	3= Yarm 'B'	12½

Several of the boys were able to challenge Danny King to a game during the course of the day, and though none were successful, will, one hopes, have learnt from the experience. Yarm School in general and Andrew Killick in particular are to be congratulated on giving us all another excellent days chess.