

YARM CHESS FESTIVAL 2005

For the past 12 years Yarm School have organised a Chess Festival for schools on the first weekend in October. This year the festival attracted more than 130 children from all over the North-East. Senior Classics master, Andrew Killick, was organiser whilst BCF Arbiter, Sean Marsh, controlled the tournament which was for teams of four players..

In the secondary school tournament, which had 9 team entries, RGS Newcastle, favourites, were defending the trophy that they won last year. The team, Jonathan and Daniel Lai, Theon Rogers and Tom Glover, led from round 2 and finished a comfortable point and a half ahead of the hosts, Yarm, who were second. The RGS 'C' team, led by Jamie Sheerin, had a good day and were only half a point behind Yarm in third place.

Led by Thomas Mavin, a British Junior Champion at Under-8, Yarm had won the Primary Schools Championship for the last two years and were expected to do so again. The RGS Newcastle, Gavin Minty (captain), John Brooker, Tom Gholkar and Thomas Langley, too were a strong team.

Both these teams scored heavily in the opening rounds, but then Yarm started to lose points to the RGS 'C' and 'D' teams. When Yarm met the RGS 'A' team in the final round RGS led the competition by 2½ points and needed only one more clinch the competition. Thomas did manage to beat Gavin but the rest of the Yarm team collapsed and RGS recaptured the trophy. Yarm were overtaken by the RGS 'B' team who came second and the surprise packet of the tournament, Lythe Primary School from near Whitby, who came third in only their second tournament. We'll hope to see more of them!

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

1 st	RGS 'A'	17½
2 nd	Yarm 'A'	16
3 rd	RGS 'C'	14
4 th	Egglescliffe	12
5 th	RGS 'B'	10½
6 th	Yarm 'B'	10
7 th =	RGS 'D'	7
7 th =	Yarm 'C'	7
9 th	Yarm 'D'	5

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

1 st	RGS 'A'	18
2 nd =	RGS 'B'	14
2 nd =	Lythe Primary	14
4 th	RGS 'D'	13½
5 th =	RGS 'C'	12½
5 th =	Yarm 'A'	12½
5 th =	Yarm 'D'	12½
8 th	RGS 'E'	12
9 th	Preston	11½
10 th =	RGS 'F'	10
10 th =	Yarm 'B'	10
12 th =	Red Rose	9
12 th =	Yarm 'C'	9
14 th	Whale Hill 'A'	8½
15 th	Whale Hill 'B'	7
16 th	Yarm 'G'	6½
17 th	Yarm 'E'	6
18 th =	Yarm 'F'	5½
18 th =	Yarm 'H'	5½
20 th	Yarm 'I'	2½