

## Cheshire and North Wales Junior Chess Championships 2009

Well done and thanks to everyone who supported our Junior Chess Championships !

This was the second year that the championships have been run in this format, and, building on last year's success, attendance at the tournament increased by over 30%.

Again, a large number of children were playing in a chess event for the first time, and it was great to see such good behaviour and such a wide variety of ages and levels all keenly contesting their own section.

King's School, Chester was the venue this year – a great name for a chess venue, and the school more than matched up to it. The size of the hall was ample for all the competitors in the main sections, and with the canteen in use for the parents, two additional classrooms for Quick Start and training, and a lovely lecture theatre just a short walk away for the presentations, we had all the facilities necessary for the makings of a great tournament.

The Wirral peninsula were well represented with a good turnout from Ladymount and several other neighbouring schools, and both Alun school in Mold and Kings of Chester turned out healthy-sized teams who all played good competitive chess. Lyndon Prep school sent a good team of youngsters over from Colwyn Bay. We had a broad spectrum of standard – a British champion, a British girls champion and an ECF girls champion along with English and Welsh Junior Squad members at one end of the scale, and also some keen young learners in the 'Quick Start' section learning to play chess for the first time.

We had 4 main tournaments (Under 9, Under 11, Under 14 and Under 21), which could only have one winner, but each age group within the tournament was split into 2 sections 'S' and 'C', giving everyone a realistic chance of winning a prize. Also, a 'Quick Start' tournament was held for junior learners.

In addition there was a trophy for the best School, best Primary School and best Secondary School, so everyone started on one point and contributed to their school's score.

The **Quick Start** section was a new section this year, and Matt Battersby coached the children with his usual enthusiasm and flair, and all of them thoroughly enjoyed their day - including Matt of course !

Thomas Carroll just managed to hold off Riyaan Yesudian for first place with Kieran Rosof-Williams and Olivia McCrave finishing equal third.

The **Under 9** tournament saw Seth Collinson take an early lead when Carmel Barwick and Imogen Turvey-Cross drew with each other. However, both Carmel and Imogen won the rest of their games and so, with scores equal, sum of progressives equal, and head-to-head equal, there was no other way to settle it than the 'Armageddon' play-off.

The two young players both showed a level of calmness and resolve under pressure that's not always demonstrated in adult chess tournaments ! In the end, Carmel squeezed home to take the tournament trophy, and Imogen claimed the Under 9 County prize, with Seth claiming the Under 8 County title.

The School level prizes were fiercely contested, with Jacob Gilroy and Lewis Ng sharing the Under 9 category, and Jack Nolan winning the Under 8 category with an excellent 5 and a half points. The only section not to be split, the Under 7's , was won by Savanna Dickens.

The **Under 11** tournament was won in convincing fashion by Tim Chatys of Flowery Field, with 7 out of 7. The other County titles were shared, with Phillip Powell and Patrick Barwick taking the Under 11 title and Johann Power and Owen Edwards sharing the Under 10 title.

Laura O'leary and George Tipton shared the Under 11 School title with a very good score of 5 points, with James Evans taking the School award in the Under 10 age group.

The **Under 14** tournament was also a large and competitive section deservedly won by England Junior Squad member Conrad Green with 7 out of 7.

Robert Cater took the County Under 14 title, Joseph McCrave and Robert Warrington the County Under 13 title, and Alex Poyner claimed the Under 12 title with an excellent 6 out of 7 points.

Matthew Kelly competed well against County players to take the school title in the Under 14 section, with Hugh Kinnear claiming the Under 13 School level title.

The Under 12's was shared by Oliver Hollins and George Reid.

The **Under 21** section, again the smallest but increasing in size from last year, was a competitive event and a chance for players to test themselves against some of the top Junior County players.

Martin Brown, currently British Under 16 champion, won every game to retain his Cheshire and North Wales Under 21 championship title.

County titles went to Marvin Hayes (16C) for his excellent score of 5.5, Steven Jones (17C) and Davin Menon (15C).

The school titles were won by James Carr (18S), Charles Bragg (17S) and Nathan Leigh (15S).

The **School trophy** was deservedly won by Lyndon Prep, who brought a strong team of 20 youngsters over from Colwyn Bay.

Ladymount claimed the Primary School prize, and , after all the maths had been done, and scores calculated, King's (Chester) and Alun School (Mold) still couldn't be separated, so the two schools shared the High School award.

Four additional, annual trophies were presented by George Davison :-

Imogen Turvey-Cross won the Thomas & Williams Cambrian Safety Lamp for the best performance by a Welsh player.

Robert Warrington won the Duncan Addison Shield on behalf of Llandudno Chess club, for the best performance by a player from the Llandudno area.

Marvin Hayes won the Cheshire and North Wales Under 16 trophy.

Martin Brown won the Cheshire and North Wales Under 18 trophy.

Many thanks to the control team :-

Back for the second year running were Chief Arbiter Ian Campbell, John Gorman (Under 11) and Tony McCrave (Under 9) who ran their sections as efficiently as ever. Jon Maybery stepped in very competently with the large Under 14 section, and Matt Bettersby undoubtedly inspired his pupils in the 'Quick Start'.

Dave Warrington did a great job with the prize draw and collating the School trophy results.

George Davison was again master of the coaching room, where it was great to see so many youngsters using their spare time between rounds to learn some more chess skills.

Gareth Ellis generously trusted us with 70 + chess sets and chess clocks for a day. A great supporter of events, his equipment held up well under stress, and his stall complimented the event extremely well.

Thanks also to Sabine Power for running the refreshments stall, along with Wendy Williams, Cathy Harrington, Jill Savidge, Karen and Steve Poyner, and Rebecca Laird.

In addition, Dilip Menon, Martin Hayes, Eliot Green, Paul Barwick and Brendan Harrington all provided excellent additional support with the running of the chess tournament.

Hopefully, our objective of providing a challenging tournament which is enjoyed by all who participate, has been achieved for a second year.

Our current intention for next year is that the tournament will follow British Summertime and go back one week to the week-end of 16<sup>th</sup> /17<sup>th</sup> October. More information will be posted on this website in the spring.

Well done and congratulations to all.

*Judy Brown October 2009*