

Cheshire and North Wales Junior Chess Championships 2013

Well done and thanks to everyone who attended the Cheshire and North Wales Junior Chess Championships at the King's School, Chester.

The tournament was well attended with over 120 keen players taking part.

The sections were well distributed from a healthy 18 players in the Under 18 section up to 30 players competing in the Under 9 event.

The Under 9 tournament was extremely competitive, with 9 players who'd represented Cheshire and North Wales or Wirral last year, competing for the County award.

Finn Aierstock from Sandycroft and Jack Yang from Lache both scored an excellent 6 out of 7 to win the Under 9 School and Under 8 County titles, but were pipped at the post to the Championship title by Amrit Bolina (Rydal Penrhos). After beating Finn in round 4, Amrit went on to win his next 2 games. A loss to Inya Anand (Queens Chester) in the final round still meant Amrit claimed the Under 9 Championship title on the sum of progressives tie-breaker, with Inya picking up the Under 9 County title.

Advait Bavicatte and Greg Harkanyi both shared the Under 8 School level title with an impressive 5 points.

The **Under 10** tournament was also close and competitive with 8 County level players all battling it out for the title

Anton Petkov (Rydal) lost to Tameside's Bobby Doherty early on but then won his next 4 games including his final match against the previously unbeaten Ali Al-Rawi. Both players finished on 6 points, but Anton's earlier loss meant that Ali was the Under 10 Champion on the sum of progressives rule, with Anton taking the Under 10 County title. Joseph Endacott, representing Belgrave Primary in Chester, won the Under 10 School and club title with an excellent score of 5 and a half points.

The **Under 11** tournament was won in fine style by Jake Williams (Ysgol Cynndelw), winning 6 out of his 7 games, the remaining result being a draw against Danny Rajapandian from King's, the runner up for the Under 11 School and Club title, who finished on an excellent score of 5 and a half points.

Billy Hart from Sandycroft took the School level title with a really impressive score of 6 points, with David Walker of Dawpool claiming the Under 11 County title.

The **Under 14** tournament was very strong again this year, as last season's Cheshire and North Wales Under 12 team finished in 2nd place in the NYCA National County Final – an outstanding result. Also competing well were our players who had finished in a very creditable 8th place in the Under 11 EPSCA National final, and have now moved up to play in the Under 12 section of this tournament.

Daniel Savidge (King's) won his first five games, and secured a draw in his final match to win the tournament by half a point from Thomas Carroll (Wirral

Grammar), last year's Under 11 champion, Thomas claiming the Under 12 County title. Imogen Camp (Rydal Penrhos), last year's Tournament Champion, recovered from an earlier defeat against Daniel to win her final game and claim the Under 13 County title.

In the School and Club section of this tournament, pride of place goes to Alex Forrester (King's), who played against County players in every match and won the Under 13 title with an impressive score of 4 and a half points. Joshua White (Hammond School) and Alexander Knight (County High) both achieved good scores of 4 points to share the Under 14 title, with Jodie Foxton (King's Macclesfield) winning the Under 12 award.

The **Under 18** tournament was a healthy sized competition of 18 competitors, split evenly between School level and County level players.

With one round to go, Robert Warrington (Rydal), disappointed last year to lose out in an Armageddon play-off, found himself in a tie for first place with County player Alex Kitshoff and the relatively unknown Volodymyr Krasovskyy, also from Rydal.

Robert won his match and claimed the trophy, following Volodymyr's loss to Robbie Cater (Grappenhall), who claimed the Under 18 County trophy.

The Under 17 County title was won by Conrad Green (Hassell), who drew with Robert earlier in the tournament. Grappenhall players Alex Kitshoff and Isaac Hutt claimed the Under 15 and Under 16 County titles respectively.

In the School and Club section, Vladislav Verminskyi (Rydal), another relative unknown, won his final game against Scott Parker (Cheadle Hulme), to share the Under 18 title with Volodymyr, Scott's consolation being the Under 15 title. Animesh Anand (King's) claimed the Under 17 award.

The **Quick Start** was fun for all who entered it, with Matt Battersby giving his expert instruction to 8 young players. Hiya Ray claimed the Quick Start trophy in what was surely an event where all the players were winners !

The Schools trophy saw the hosts, King's School, narrowly winning the title by just 5 points from Rydal Penrhos. Interestingly, whilst the two schools were again Best Primary and Best Secondary, this year, they were the other way round from last year, with Kings now taking the Primary title and Rydal the Secondary title ! Sandycroft again finished in third place, from St Bridgets, Our Lady of Pity and Upton Heath Primary, who all increased their totals from last year.

The presentations, taking place in the school's amazing Vanbrugh theatre, brought the event to a fitting conclusion.

A big thanks, as ever, goes to all our helpers :-

Arbiters Ian Campbell, Eliot Green, Jan Kitshoff, Dave Warrington, and Pat Ridley , who controlled their sections superbly, with fine support from John Gorman and George Davison.

Matt Battersby for his excellent work with the Quick Start, and Graham Bromley for helping the juniors enjoy extra Chess between rounds in the coaching room.

Also to Gareth Ellis (equipment supply), and to Paul Barwick for his assistance with the complex prize-giving, which enabled it to run as smoothly as possible.

Thanks to Action Trophies, who have supplied the trophies for the tournament every year, and again got our complicated order spot on !

A big thank you is also owed to King's School, Chester, for allowing us to use this fantastic school as our venue for the fifth year in a row, and to Peter Wilcock and the caretakers who helped us on the day.

Well done and congratulations to all.

Judy Brown - Tournament Organiser

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