

The latest Chipping Sodbury rapidplay was held last Sunday on April 29th.

There was an excellent turn out with 48 players in attendance. It was decided quite late on, due to lack of numbers in the open, and some know shows, that it would be best to merge the open and major as one group. This in fact worked very well, and resulted in 29 players in this new combined section.

There was still to be prizes for the top 1st, 2nd, 3rd players overall, and also the best 3 U155 players. It was also decided to have one prize for the best 135 and under. As it happened the first three prizes still went to players originally entered for the open.

In the U125 Minor section there was a healthy entry of 19 players, with 8 juniors who had travelled from Gloucestershire, Somerset, Cornwall and Wiltshire.

With 4 junior Bristol league players also in the Open (Oliver, Max, Toby and Fedor), there were 12 young guns in total, ranging from 7 to 15 years of age

As usual, several players travelled a fair distance to come to the rapidplay. A special mention must go to Barry Edgar travelling from County Durham, and also Stuart Lee and Gabriel Rusalowicz travelling from Liskeard. It is great for our rapidplay to have a wide mix of players, and we hope very much to see all of the new players again.

There was plenty of tea and coffee to drink, and lovely food on offer from Taniya, which was beautifully presented and just as tasty. I have soon learnt the chess players need plenty of fuel on board to play their best chess. Many thanks to Taniya, who also looked after the parents and made them welcome

Open/ Major section



Young Guns Oli & Max take on the the two top seeds

It was rather a hectic start with repairing and having to combine sections with only ten minutes to the scheduled start. Geoff Gammon was our resident Arbiter and as usual handled it all with great aplomb.

There were some excellent match ups at the top, as well as 200's and 130's going head to head. A tough task for the Juniors and lower graded, but a good opportunity to take down a top player. On this occasion it didn't quite happen, but me thinks it will not be too long !

All the games were played with good spirit, but nonetheless extremely competitive, and we wouldn't want it any other way. The final placings were not clear until the end of the sixth round. In fact, not until the last game of the day was finished and drawn between Oliver and Patryk.

In the end there was a three way tie at the top, with Richard Savory, Patryk Kryzanowski and George Miller, all finishing on a fine score of 5/6.

In the U155's 1st place went to Chris Strong on 4/6 (even after losing his first two rounds !). 2nd place, on tiebreak, was shared by Max Walker and Tony Shaw on 4/6

The 135 and under prize was won by Toby Kan on tiebreak, with a very good score (Toby is 11) of 3.5/6.

Minor section



Alex Vaughan v Rob Skeen - Rd 6 Minor



Mayank Palav V Aron Saunders - Rd 3 Minor

As with the open/major this section was very competitive. The final positions were also still in question right up to the end of round six.

The juniors acquitted themselves with great skill, and determination, against both themselves and the adults.... and don't the adults know this !

One of the best match ups was in round two, with Ian Brooke (from Kidlington, Oxford) taking on Mayank Palav (from "moonrakers" Swindon), a mere 82 years difference between them. On this occasion experienced told, and this win for Ian may well be one for him to remember as 7 year old Mayank undoubtedly shoots up the rankings.

In the end, the winner of the U125 section was Bristol University student Alex Vaughan with a fine unbeaten score of 5/6

In 2nd place was Alastair Drummond on 4.5/6, again unbeaten on the day.

3rd place and the junior prize, was shared by three juniors; Sasha Kamotskiy, Matthew Timbrell and Aron Saunders. They all scored 4/6, and Matthew was another player unbeaten on the day.

To sum up, I think it was another successful Chipping Sodbury rapidplay, and I would like to pay special thanks to Geoff Gammon (my mentor and friend), as well as Dave Tipper and Tim Jones for all their invaluable help and support.

Also, a big thank you to all the players and parents for being such good sports, and most importantly helping in the kitchen and with tidying up at the end of the day !

I would also like to thank the following for their kind cash donation to the event: Tony Shaw, Ben Graff, Mark Jones, Andrei Gromic, Alastair Drummond, Ian Brooke, Aron Saunders and Martyn Maber.

Finally a special mention has to go to 9 year old Tashika Arora, the only female in the event ! Many thanks to her parents for bringing Tashika. By the way, she scored a solid 3/6.

The next Chipping Sodbury Rapidplay will be in October 2018. The date is not fixed yet, but hopefully on a Sunday again. The planned date will be posted on the ECF website and Chessit website as soon as finalised

John Stubbs