

2011 Cambridgeshire Rapidplay, 08/05/11

A record 74 chess players took part in Cambridgeshire's fourth annual Rapidplay on 8 May. Competitors came from as far away as Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Oxfordshire, Sussex and Kent. We were delighted to welcome International Grandmaster Mark Hebden and International Master Richard Tozer. Mark Hebden kindly presented the prizes at the end of a highly enjoyable day.

There were three tournaments to cater for all strengths of player: Open, Major and Challengers. It was very pleasing to see nine junior players (under 13) in the Challengers, one of whom scooped first prize. All tournaments were keenly contested.

As expected Mark Hebden (Leicester) won first prize in the Open, but local players took the honours in the Major and Challengers. John Beck (Warboys) came first equal in the Major, and ten-year old Sailesh Sitaram of the New England club in Peterborough scored 5 / 5 in the Challengers - the only player to win every game.

The full list of prizewinners was as follows:

Open

- 1 Mark Hebden (Leicester) 4½ / 5
- 2 David Cutmore (Wood Green), Christopher Graw (Cambridge University/Germany) 4 / 5

Grading prize

Martin Cutmore (Wood Green) 3½ / 5

Jack Taylor Trophy (highest placed Cambridgeshire player) Richard Tozer (Cambridge)

Major

- 1 John Beck (Warboys), Paul Colburn (Braunstone) 4½ / 5
- 3 Phil Turp (New England, Peterborough) 4 / 5

Grading prize

David Morgan (Ashfield) 3 / 5

Challengers

- 1 Sailesh Sitaram (New England, Peterborough) 5 / 5
- 2 Ishan Ramdewar (New England, Peterborough), Ian Andrews (Kettering), Tim Herring (Oundle) 4 / 5

Grading prize

Bruce Holland (Kenilworth) 3½ / 5

Junior boys prize

Sam Herring (Oundle School) 3 / 5

Junior girls prize

Elizaveta Sheremetyeva (aged 9) (Rye St Anthony, Oxfordshire) 3 / 5

Finally, may I thank the competitors, the PSL Club in Peterborough who hosted the event, and in particular Francis Bowers and Patrick Ribbands for their tremendous work during the day of setting up and packing up, and doing the pairings, and generally ensuring that everything ran smoothly.

Paul Kemp

Tournament Director