



# 4 Nations Chess League Junior Championship Report

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, my teammates and I (Wellington College) went to play in the Junior 4NCL, in Wokefield Park. After a brief journey, we arrived at the venue, which we found to surpass all of our expectations of a chess venue. There was ample space for relaxing after the game and also free Internet access.

We arrived with about 30 minutes to spare, so after knocking the pieces around for a little, we got down to the business of why we came here. After a tough first match, we emerged winners 3-1. During the match, we saw that the tournament had attached a fair amount of (younger) junior talent, with British Championship titleholders present.

After the games, we had a quick packed lunch, relaxed a little, making use of the fantastic facilities around us by having some warm cups of tea and playing some blitz games amongst ourselves.

The next match was also quite tight, despite the score of 4-0 to us. After this match, we returned back to school, ready for the next day and match.

Sunday, we arrived at the venue in good time at around 9:30, so we had enough time to get a good night's sleep, and we were refreshed for the day ahead. After a (now typically) smooth start from the organisers, we got going with our match, which we won 3.5-0.5, with the draw coming from our board one, after which we went straight back to school.

My one regret is that we didn't get time for any coaching, because the coaches on offer were very good (I'm speaking from personal experience!), and if you are looking to improve your game, I thoroughly recommend their services. From what I heard from other people, and from the attendance at their sessions, this was another positive point about the tournament.

In conclusion, I think this was a very well-run tournament, which catered well for all ages, as well as strengths. I would advocate this tournament to any group of juniors who can find four people to field a team with (you don't necessarily have to go to the same school).

*Akash Jain*

