

## The Lithuanian Chess Challenge

Members of Radcliffe & Bingham Chess Club organised a unique event on Saturday 26 April 2025, when a visiting junior team from Lithuania competed with children from the South and East of Nottinghamshire over the chess board. The event took place at Carnarvon Primary School, Bingham, which generously provided accommodation for the European visitors as well as the tournament venue and administrative support and refreshments.

The format of the event an informal individual swiss system, but with scores for each team member cumulated and proportioned to find a winning team as well as best performers in each age group. The eight competing teams came from primary schools and chess clubs in the local area.

The team winners were, predictably, the visiting team from Taurage, Lithuania, who were accompanied by their coach and some parents. The team from Pierrepont Gamston School came second. There were also gold, silver and bronze medals for best boy and best girl in each school year group.

The event was the brainchild of RBCC member Julius Vasiliauskas, who contacted his former school chess coach with the idea of bringing a team to Nottinghamshire to challenge our own local talent. Chess is highly regarded in Lithuania and features regularly on the school curriculum – hence the unsurprising result. Our local chess enthusiasts greatly enjoyed the contest and the challenge of taking on the visitors in individual battles over the board

Thanks are due to Julius and family for making this happen, to team captains and parents, and to the staff of Carnarvon Primary School. The event was also supported by Nottinghamshire Chess Foundation, Nottinghamshire Primary Schools Chess Association and Chess in Schools & Communities.



Three proud Lithuanian medal winners!

