Check Mate!

Drogheda Chess Club Congress a big success once again

By Gordon Hatch

THERE was a great turnout once again at the Drogheda Chess Club's Annual Congress that took place over the June Bank Holiday Weekend at the Boyne Valley Hotel.

This is the 26th time the club has hosted the congress in Drogheda and this year saw 66 players taking part in three sections.

While many of the match ups looked in favour of the higher seeded players, there were some upsets with 3rd seed Robert Murtagh losing to Sam O'Neill in section B while local player Joe Reid caused a major upset in section A by defeating 3rd seed and former Irish Champion Eamonn Keogh in Round 2. Joe had a bye in round one but stayed calm when he forged an early advantage against Keogh in the opening exchanges and held out for an admirable win.

Elsewhere, in Section C there were early wins for Vinayak Unnithan, Felix Jordan, David Remenyik, Sean Sheehy and Darragh Moran.

Following the second round matches it was all down to the third and final round where in Section A, and following their wins over Diana Mirza and Joe Reid, the top two seeds Colm Daly and Kevin C Butler were both eyeing up the overall glory but on the day it was Colm who came out on top.

The winner of Section B wasn't as clear cut moving into the third round and in the end Gabriel Mirza and Joshua Redmond both finished with five points each with Mirza getting the higher rating of 1508 to Redmond's 1444.

Meanwhile in Section C it was all to play for moving into the final day of matches with both Devano Jose and David Remenyik level on four points each but ending up on top of the table at the end of the day was Vinayak Unnithan

"After a hectic weekend of dramatic chess, it's all over for another year at the 26th Drogheda Chess Congress and isn't it fitting that the final match to finish was a top of the table clash in Section C between Ludmila Podzimkova and David Remenyik. In a nerve biting finish David held out for a draw and deprived Ludmila of a share of 1st place. However, she did pick up a grading prize," said Drogheda Chess Club member Sonia Sima.



■ **Greenhills teacher, John Loughran competing in the chess tournament held in the Boyne Valley Hotel**



■ **Deyna Ferguson one of the young up-coming chess players at the chess tournament in the Boyne Valley Hotel**