

Chess, the Greasy Pole and the Ultimate Challenge

“I have climbed to the top of the greasy pole”, was the comment of the 19th Century politician Benjamin Disraeli on his elevation to Prime Minister. By all accounts, there is no pole more slippery than The British Land UK Chess Challenge Gigafinal, which makes it an ideal training ground for the leaders of the future!

After two weekends of head to head, piece to piece warfare, the 62 champions arose from the smoking ruins of their chess positions and took their places on the Terafinalist podium.

When even last year's Strat, the redoubtable Felix Ynojosa did not qualify with ease, having to endure two play-off games plus the toss of a coin, before finally securing his place, no one in the championship could feel completely safe. Of course, from uncompromising events such as these, true champions will arise, and many of those who did not reach the Terafinal, still secured a place in the Challengers' sections, by coming second or third.

Altogether 1,800 players took part in two Gigafinals. In the South, one thousand played at Wellington College in Berkshire, and in the North, 800 played in the north at Dukinfield Town Hall in Tameside, Cheshire. The weekends went with a buzz, the weather was fine and every child who took part realised that he was involved in an outstanding contest. Just to have reached this stage, the Gigafinalists had to emerge from an original field of 70,000 children.

As to the individual venues, Wellington College proved excellent, and a welcome addition was the use of the new Munro Pavilion to house the strongest and oldest players: Dukinfield Town Hall was also a brilliant selection, magnificently upholstered and truly a dignified venue for this vital junior chess event. The only drawback was that it would have been more suitable for hosting about 300 players a day, rather than the 400 who participated, so we may well have a different venue for next year.

In all, 252 players have acquired the right to play in the last stage of the competition at Warwick School on August 21st and 22nd. It will be a two day event with a 2½ hour time limit for each of the 6 games. The prizes are substantial. The total prize fund for the weekend is over £10,000. In the Terafinal over £7,000 will be won as each of the 62 players will receive an appearance fee of £30. The top prize is £2,000 plus the title of STRAT and top girl prize is £1,000 (specifically this is a reciprocal prize because if a girl wins the £2,000 top prize, the top boy would then receive £1,000). There will be £1,000 for the top under 11 player and £300 to the top under 9 player. In the two Challengers sections, each has a prize fund of £1,500 with £500 for the individual winners.

However, the greatest advantage of these events is that hundreds of children take part in a stretching battle at the very pinnacles of mental achievement.

Our thanks go also to The British Land Company PLC, who have supported this event since the year 2000, and as a result, have more than tripled the number of players in the top echelons of British junior chess, as well as bringing chess to hundreds of thousands of children throughout the land.

Mike Basman
July, 2010

ULTIMI

The roll of honour for this year is as follows:-

No	First Name	Last Name	Age	School	County	Sex
1	Claudia	Bazyk	7	Cambridge JC&G	Cambs	G
2	William	Cleeves	7	Lethbridge	Wilts	B
3	Meytal	Cohen	7	Brookland Infants	Middx	G
4	Aditya	Verma	7	Chingford Chess Set	Essex	B
5	Jonah	Willow	7	West Nottingham CC	Notts	B
6	Joseph	Allin	8	Broadwater CofE	Sussex	B
7	Jacob C	Boswell	8	St Thomas Aquinas	Staffs	B
8	Hannah	Mackenzie	8	Nottingham Girls High	Notts	G
9	Dylan	Hung	8	Brookland Junior	Middx	B
10	Hannah	Sutton	8	Great Walstead	Sussex	G
11	Zheming	Zhang	8	Jesmond JCC	N'land	B
12	Sam	Allison	9	James Gillespies Primary	Midlothian	B
13	Carmel	Barwick	9	Grappenhall CC	Cheshire	G
14	Cassie	Graham	9	Broadwater CofE	Sussex	G
15	Arul	Gupta	9	Eltham College	Kent	B
16	Tharshan	Kuhendiran	9	Burlington	Surrey	B
17	Ibraheem	Malik	9	Tony Miles Check Mate	Worcs	B
18	Theo	Slade	9	Marhamchurch	Cornwall	B
19	Amber	Carter	10	Brocks Hill	Leics	G
20	William	Claridge-Hansen	10	Aylesbury CC/Great Missenden CE	Bucks	B
21	Mark	Kenyon	10	Ravenshead/West Notts	Notts	B
22	Beatrice	Steele	10	Raleigh/Guildford JCC	Surrey	G
23	Prashast	Vir	10	Homefield	Surrey	B
24	Matthew	Wadsworth	10	Maidenhead JCC	Berks	B
25	Stephen	Whatley	10	Gibraltar	Rest of World	B
26	Peter	Andreev	11	Hall/Richmond JCC	Middx	B
27	Yousuf	Chowdhury	11	Garden Suburb Junior	Middx	B
28	Jordan	Lewis	11	Cleveleys Chess Club	Lancs	B
29	Olivia	Mackenzie	11	Nottingham Girls High	Notts	G
30	David	Redman	11	Cambridge JC&G	Cambs	B
31	Jake	Ruse	11	Denmead	Middx	B
32	Fergus	Skillen	11	South Morningside Primary	Midlothian	B
33	Anna	Wang	11	Oxford High School	Oxon	G
34	Natalie	Cass	12	Aughton St Michaels CE Primary	Lancs	G
35	William	Foo	12	Reading	Berks	B
36	Joseph	McPhillips	12	Bolton	Lancashire	B
37	Katherine	Shepherd	12	Ashted JCC	Surrey	G
38	James	Walsh	12	Clitheroe Grammar	Lancs	B
39	Nathasha	Bogoda	13	Basildon JCC	Essex	G
40	Miles	Edwards-Wright	13	SASCA	Yorks	B
41	Phoebe	Price	13	3Cs	Lancashire	G
42	Adam	Taylor	13	Wilson's	Surrey	B
43	Brandon	Clarke	14	Lutterworth High	Leics	B
44	Amy	Milson	14	King Edward VI, Louth	Lincs	G
45	Maria	Wang	14	Oxford High School	Oxon	G
46	Felix	Ynojosa	14	Wellington	Berks	B
47	Evie	Hollingworth	15	SASCA	Yorks	G
48	Megan	Owens	15	Millfield	Soms	G
49	Craig M	Whitfield	15	Newcastle School	Staffs	B
50	Yang-Fan	Zhou	15	Whitgift	Surrey	B
51	Rebecca	Grattage	16	Sandown High	IOW	G
52	Akash	Jain	16	Wellington College	Middx	B
53	Karina	Kruk	16	Ulidia Integrated College	Co Antrim	G
54	Samuel	Milson	16	King Edward VI, Louth	Lincs	B
55	James	Adair	17	Reading	Berks	B
56	Martin	Brown	17	Grappenhall JCC	Cheshire	B
57	Angelica	Ynojosa	17	Reading Girls	Berks	G
58	Anna	York-Andersen	17	Woodbridge	Suffolk	G
59	Amanda	Hipshon	18	Leeds JCC	Yorks	G
60	Kaiser	Malik	18	King Edward's Grammar, Warks	Warks	B
61	Lateefah	Messam-Sparks	18	Wellington	Berks	G
62	David	Saunders	18	RGS High Wycombe	Bucks	B

CHALLENGERS

TN	First Name	Last Name	Age	Sex	School	County
1	Liam	Briscoe	7	B	Yateley Manor	Hants
2	Tess	Weaver	7	G	Wimbledon High	Surrey
3	Sebastian	Cross	7	B	Kempshott Infants	Hants
4	Adam	Vogel	7	B	Fitzjohn's PS	Middx
5	Omeet	Atara	7	B	Yateley Manor	Hants
6	Eleanor	Evans	7	G	Lawn	Wilts
7	Amalia	Finnegan	7	G	Copthorne Prep School	Sussex
8	Isabelle	Gilbert	7	G	St Finian's	Berks
9	Savanna	Dickens	7	G	Rydal Penrhos Prep School	Denbighshire
10	Ieysaa	Bin-Suhayl	7	B	Wisbech	Cambs
11	Vagif	Ramazanov	7	B	Ferryhill	Aberdeenshire
12	Ellie	Wright	7	G	Worsley	Lancashire
13	Gautam	Jain	8	B	Heathside	Middx
14	Devon	Connor	8	B	Radlett Prep	Herts
15	Jacob	Pattison	8	B	Emmanuel Christian School	Oxon
16	Luke	Remus-Elliott	8	B	Heathside Prep	Middx
17	Haotian	Wu	8	B	John Betts	Middx
18	Anthony	Zhang	8	B	St Paul's	Berks
19	Amaani	Ahmad	8	G	Bute House	Middx
20	Jemima	Bird	8	G	Ankur CC/Walker	Middx
21	Emma	Buckley	8	G	St Dunstan's	Surrey
22	Chloë	D'Souza-Eva	8	G	Oxford High School	Oxon
23	Frederick	Coleman	8	B	St Lawrence School	Sussex
24	Alexander	Davies	8	B	Homefield	Surrey
25	Pooja	Murali	8	G	Castle's JCC	Surrey
26	Lauren	Cornwell	8	G	Aughton St Michaels CE Primary	Lancs
27	Seth	Collinson	8	B	Woodfall Primary School	Cheshire
28	John	Croasdale	8	B	Nottingham High Junior	Notts
29	Ashwin	Krishna	8	B	SASCA	Yorks
30	Andrew	Fergusson	8	B	Hallfield/Tony Miles Check Mate	Worcs
31	Karanvir	Lutchman-Singh	8	B	Cathedral	Glam
32	Kyle	Sharpe	8	B	Huddersfield	Yorks
33	Matthew	Shipway	8	B	Bramcote Hills	Notts
34	Hannah	Mew-McAdam	8	G	Rydal Penrhos Prep School	Denbighshire
35	Akshaya	Kalaiyalahan	9	G	Christ Church, NM	Surrey
36	Keir	Maclean	9	B	The Hall	Middx
37	Anish	Ramakrishnan	9	B	The Hall	Middx
38	Aditya	Yanamandra	9	B	Homefield	Surrey
39	Callum	Brewer	9	B	Downs Junior	Sussex
40	Liam	Reed	9	B	North Bridge House	Middx
41	Richard	Chappell	9	B	Turnfurlong Junior	Bucks
42	Thomas	Koyla	9	B	Broadclyst	Devon
43	Joe	Lindsay	9	B	Hazelwood	Middx
44	Brian	Tarhon	9	B	Forest Row C of E	Sussex
45	Jackson	Wen	9	B	Sutton Valence	Kent
46	Asha	Jina	9	G	Wood End School (Herts)	Herts
47	Anna	Purvis	9	G	Rowan	Surrey
48	Sophie	Spencer	9	G	St John's Gravesend	Kent
49	Skye	Wiggins	9	G	St Wulstan's RC Primary	Staffs
50	Dillon	Makhecha	9	B	West Nottingham CC	Notts
51	Clement	Wallace	9	B	Bury Knights	Suffolk
52	James	Xu	9	B	Milton Road	Cambs
53	Sam	Hayman	9	B	Didsbury Dynamos	Lancashire
54	Sailesh	Sitaram	9	B	Stamford JS	Lincs
55	Imogen	Turvey-Cross	9	G	Rydal Penrhos Prep School	Denbighshire
56	Sadie	Barr	10	G	Brookland Junior	Middx
57	Sebastian	Larsson	10	B	Lochinver House	Middx
58	Billy	Twigge-Molecey	10	B	St Lawrence School	Sussex
59	Ryan	Wong	10	B	Gorse Ride	Berks
60	Yang-Jian	Zhou	10	B	Richmond JCC/Cumnor House	Surrey
61	Joe	Thorley	10	B	Balcombe JCC	Sussex
62	Alex	Valint	10	B	St Mary's, Old Basing	Hants
63	Ned	Ashcroft	10	B	Hall	Middx
64	Taran	Jina	10	B	Wood End School Herts	Herts
65	Gwilym	Price	10	B	Aldro	Surrey
66	Alexander	Selway	10	B	Eltham College	Kent
67	Katherine	Du	10	G	Devonshire House	Middx
68	Sophie	Robinson	10	G	Broadclyst	Devon
69	Lauren	Weaver	10	G	Wimbledon High	Surrey
70	Michael	Fletcher	10	B	Nottingham High Junior	Notts
71	Natalia	Chatys	10	G	Flowery Field Junior	Cheshire
72	Matthew	Fergusson	10	B	Hallfield/Tony Miles Check Mate	Worcs
73	Ashwin	Kalyana	10	B	Hallfield	Warks
74	Seth	Tsang	10	B	Redwell	Northants
75	Joseph	Wood	10	B	Highfield Priory	Lancs
76	Alyssa	Wang	10	G	Howells	Glam
77	Lucas	Casey	10	B	Hulme Court	Lancashire
78	Aloysius	Lip	10	B	Solihull Checkmate	Warks
79	Johann	Power	10	B	Grappenhall JCC	Cheshire
80	Jake	Simms	11	B	Brackbury Primary	Middx
81	Alex	Cross	11	B	Kempshott Junior	Hants
82	Cosima	Keen	11	G	Ashdown House	Sussex
83	Ananthanareyanan	Balaji	11	B	Harrow CC/Longfield Middle	Middx
84	Adam	Dickinson	11	B	Millfield	Soms
85	Gyu-Won	Kim	11	B	Emmanuel Christian School	Oxon
86	Adam	Routledge	11	B	Pixmore Junior	Herts
87	Jessica	Wen	11	G	Sutton Valence	Kent
88	Thomas	Moss	11	B	Brookland Junior	Middx
89	Ben	Simpson	11	B	St Margarets Angmering	Sussex
90	Joe	Benton	11	B	John Betts	Middx
91	Edward	Howard-Jones	11	B	Kempshott Junior	Hants
92	Jamie	Macdonald	11	B	Abbey, Shaftesbury	Dorset
93	Evan	Wang	11	B	Homefield	Surrey

94	Ben	Ward	11	B	Ridgeway	Berks
95	Owen	Robinson	11	B	Studfall	Northants
96	Harry	Croasdale	11	B	Nottingham High Junior	Notts
97	Alex	Kitshoff	11	B	Grappenhall	Lancashire
98	Akito	Oyama	11	B	Tough Chess, Cambs	Cambs
99	Nicholas	Evans	11	B	Craig-y-Nos	Glam
100	Joseph	Friar	11	B	Worcester JCA	Worcs
101	Sonia	Bennett	11	G	Bramcote Hills	Notts
102	Karina	Chan	11	G	Norwich HS	Norfolk
103	Michael	Ashworth	11	B	Upton St Leonards	Glos
104	Tim	Chatys	11	B	Flowery Field Junior	Cheshire
105	Hari	Nijjar	11	B	Hallfield	Warks
106	Alec	Watson	11	B	St Andrews Cromhall	Glos
107	Jonathan	Pein	12	B	Mathilda Marks-Kennedy	Middx
108	Louise	Head	12	G	Abbey	Berks
109	Jake	Breindel	12	B	Barnet Knights/QE Boys	Herts
110	Paul	Waddingham	12	B	Bishopshalt	Middx
111	Annabel	Godwin	12	G	Hillbourne	Dorset
112	Helen	Mazalon	12	G	Guildford JCC	Surrey
113	Rachel	Onunain	12	G	Worthing Chess Club	Sussex
114	Zoe	Strong	12	G	Churchill	Soms
115	Harriet	Tomlin	12	G	Bishop Bell	Sussex
116	Kevin	Robbin	12	B	Children's Chess Club	Co Antrim
117	Eric	Che	12	B	Arnold Senior	Lancs
118	Wesley	McGough	12	B	Heckmondwike	Yorks
119	Russell	O'Brien	12	B	West Nottingham CC	Notts
120	Leo	Tsoi	12	B	Bishop Vesey	Warks
121	Matthew	Walsh	12	B	Clitheroe Grammar	Lancs
122	Lara	Buckley	12	G	3 C's	Lancashire
123	Jennifer	Neil	12	G	Parklands	Lancashire
124	Sohum	Dhir	12	B	Nottingham High	Notts
125	Andrew	Horton	12	B	MGS	Lancashire
126	Jake	Manton	12	B	3Cs/Manchester Grammar	Lancashire
127	Robert	Oxley	12	B	Churwell	Yorks
128	Radha	Jain	13	G	Cheltenham Ladies	Middx
129	Roy	Zhang	13	B	Reading	Berks
130	Aidan	McGiff	13	B	Barnet Knights/Latimer	Middx
131	Raunak	Rao	13	B	St Olave's	Kent
132	Daniel	Sutton	13	B	Great Walstead	Sussex
133	Max	Wood-Robinson	13	B	Hampton	Middx
134	Chantelle	Foster	13	G	Aylesbury High School	Oxon
135	Amy	Hoare	13	G	Farlington School	Sussex
136	Alannah	Keogh	13	G	High School for Girls	Glos
137	James	Bowler	13	B	QEGS Wakefield	Yorks
138	Alex J	Cartlidge	13	B	Cheddleton CC/St Joseph's College	Staffs
139	James	Friar	13	B	Worcester JCA	Worcs
140	Athar	Mehmood	13	B	Wrekin College	Shropshire
141	Felicity	Parker	13	G	King Edward VI Five Ways	Worcs
142	Marcus	Harvey	14	B	The Marlborough School	Oxon
143	Jennifer	Ehr	14	G	St Paul's Girls	Middx
144	Charlie	Nettleton	14	B	Abbotsfield	Middx
145	Kavitha	Appulingam	14	G	Ashtead JCC	Surrey
146	Iona	Rose	14	G	Stanford Junior School	Sussex
147	Francesca	Fozard	14	G	Wakefield Girls High	Yorks
148	Jamie	Horton	14	B	3 C's	Lancashire
149	Pierre	Weller	14	B	York RI JCC	Yorks
150	Philomena	Lip	14	G	King Edward's High	Warks
151	Georgs	Vikanis	15	B	Last Chance Saloon, Ealing/Hanwell	Oxon
152	Laura	Hankins	15	G	Kendrick	Berks
153	Florence	Mitchell	15	G	St James Girls	Bucks
154	Caspian	Heeler	15	B	Sutton Grammar	Surrey
155	Jean-Luc	Weller	15	B	York RI JCC	Yorks
156	Rachel	Cass	15	G	Aughton St Michaels CE Primary	Lancs
157	Philip	Purcell	15	B	King Edward VI Five Ways	Worcs
158	Katherine	Smith	15	G	King Edward VI Five Ways	Worcs
159	Tabitha	Haller	16	G	Churchill	Soms
160	Sam	Walker	16	B	Dr Challoners Grammar	Bucks
161	Holly	Clark	16	G	Haygrove	Soms
162	Duncan	Bell	16	B	St Olave's	Kent
163	Anand	Krishnan	16	B	Wilson's	Surrey
164	Shyamal	Patel	16	B	Haberdashers	Herts
165	Robert	Starley	16	B	Reading	Berks
166	Jeffrey	Yu	16	B	Abingdon	Berks
167	Abigail	Pritchard	16	G	Cleveleys Chess Club	Lancs
168	Louis	Brijmuhon	16	B	SASCA	Yorks
169	Amarvansh	Wadhwa	16	B	Jesmond JCC	N'land
170	Astghik	Stepanyan	16	G	Sutton Coldfield	Warks
171	Sheila	Dines	17	G	Old Palace	Surrey
172	Jasper	Tambini	17	B	Claremont	Surrey
173	Robert	Thompson	17	B	Torquay BGS	Devon
174	Linqing	Shi	17	G	Dauntseys	Wilts
175	Nicola	Wood	17	G	Didsbury CC	Lancashire
176	Steven	Jones	17	B	Grappenhall JCC	Cheshire
177	Sean	McDonald	17	B	Hall Cross	Yorks
178	Michael	Rabbitte	17	B	Tameside/Eccles College	Lancashire
179	Catherine	Ramsay	17	G	Cleveleys Chess Club	Lancs
180	Hannah	Mitten	18	G	Sandwich Tech	Kent
181	Jerrick	Athappilly	18	B	St Bernard's Grammar	Bucks
182	Thomas	Dymott	18	B	Sandwich Tech	Kent
183	Jack	Goodyear	18	B	Chingford Foundation	Essex
184	Karl	Howlett	18	B	Brooklands	Middx
185	Nicholas	Thomas	18	B	Sir Roger Manwood	Kent
186	Sophia	Emanuel	18	G	Tony Miles Check Mate	Worcs
187	Robert	Cressey	18	B	Whitcliffe Mount	Yorks
188	Ieuan	Fenton	18	B	Shrewsbury Junior Chess club	Shropshire
189	Andrew P	Smith	18	B	Wilnecote	Staffs
190	Christopher	Smith	18	B	King Edward VI Five Ways	Worcs