

Megafinal XXXIII Northumbria

160 youngsters from Northumberland and Durham took part in a very enjoyable event at Sunderland University on Saturday, 29th April.. The reduced numbers this year – last year we had 200 taking part – was largely due to the new Megafinal being held at York on the same day which took the Teesside contingent away from us. This had the advantage that we were much more comfortably fitted into the playing hall; the sun shone brightly outside and between games the children were able to play outside. We had sufficient parents to keep an eye on them and nobody fell into the river. I am as always grateful to our strong team of controllers. They were, Alex McFarlane, John Turnock and Lara Barnes, (All International Arbiters) Tim and Abi Adams, Vince Hakansson, John Harrison, Stan Johnson, Rob Perry, Paul Richardson, and Fred Stobbart whilst Gerry Beldon managed the computer. We used a new program, Sevilla, which is easier to use than Protos. We were able to treat ourselves to a leisurely and relaxed lunch break and still get everything comfortably finished by half past four.

We only used nine sections – insufficient girls this time to allow a separate girls section. The U-18s, 17s, 16s shared one section as did the U-7s and 8s. The two senior sections used clocks throughout. The top sections felt that cutting the time limit from 25 minutes to 20 this year was not a good thing, but accepted it with grace. The U-14s, when asked, voted unanimously not to use clocks. We ‘put clocks on to’ about 6 individual games during the day, but the time schedule was so generous there was little need.

Nobody else seemed to notice least of all the youngest ones! Three boys shared top place in the U-7, 8 Section. Jack Hughes comfortably won at U-7, but Mark Rowden had to win a play off to gain his U-8 supreme title.. Zaima Hussain was Suprema. Adam Clark narrowly beat schoolmate George Wyatt to win at U-9, but again a play-off was needed to give Sophie Gatenby her Suprema title. Ben Cull triumphed in an RGS dominated U-10 section (nobody from RGS lost to anybody from any other school at this age group) Catherine Pattie was top girl. Tom Gholkar, Aaron Bate and Gavin Minty shared top place at U-11; tie break gave Gavin the narrowest of wins. Maria Vincentelli was Suprema with a half-point margin.

Allistair Clark made it a family double with a 100% score at U-12. Aine Beldon repeated last years success to take the Suprema title. Andrew Douglas quietly and competently won all his games at U-13; Judith kelsy won her first 4 games and this was sufficient to become Suprema. At under-14 Martin Ho did even better winning his first 5 games. This was sufficient to give him a tie-break win against Youeyang Chao who had recovered after a poor start. Ellen Fisher won Dyke House School’s second Suprema title. Much improved Tom Glover overturned the form book by beating Dan Lai to the U-15 title. The U-18, 17, 16 tournaments, not surprisingly, provided some of the best chess. Jonny Lai managed to split the Egglestons at the top of their section in winning the U-16 title. David Eggleston, U-18, took revenge for the family in winning the U-18 title. Three further titles went to sole entries. Katie Laidler took the U-16 suprema title. At U-17 it was nice to see Sophie Seeber, Suprema, managing to score more points than Mark Regan, Supremo, the reverse of the usual order.

Paul Bielby

MEGAFINAL XXXIII Northumbria
Held Sunderland University on 29 April 20006

ALL THE GIGAFINAL QUALIFIERS

B	Under-7	Supremo	Jack Hughes (St Teresa's)	4 ½
B	Under-8	Supremo	Mark Rowden (Tynemouth)	4 ½ **
G	Under-8	Suprema	Zaima Hussain (St Teresa's)	4
B	Under-8		Andrew Thompson (Collingwood)	4½
B	Under-8		Liam Turner (Collingwood)	4
B	Under-9	Supremo	Adam Clark (RGS)	5½
G	Under-9	Suprema	Sophie Gatenby (Red Rose)	1½ **
B	Under-9		George Wyatt (RGS)	5
B	Under-9		Darren Jopling (Red Rose)	4
B	Under-9		DavidMacLeod (Collingwood)	4
B	Under-9		John Abraham (RGS)	4
B	Under-10	Supremo	Ben Cull (RGS)	6
G	Under-10	Suprema	Catherine Pattie (Tynemouth)	2½
B	Under-10		Ruben Tadmor (RGS)	5
B	Under-10		Jack McHugh (RGS)	5
B	Under-10		James Schofield (RGS)	4
B	Under-10		James Lau (RGS)	4
B	Under-10		Kieran Atkinson (St Cuthbert's)	4
B	Under-10		William Atkinson (RGS)	4
B	Under-11	Supremo	Gavin Minty (RGS)	5*
G	Under-11	Suprema	Maria Vincentelli (Hexham St Joseph's)	2½
B	Under-11		Tom Gholkar (RGS)	5
B	Under-11		Aaron Bate (Hetton)	5
B	Under-11		Matthew Harding (Hexham St Joseph's)	4
B	Under-11		Thomas Langley (RGS)	4
B	Under-11		Thomas Wilson (Abbey)	4
B	Under-11		Dominic Byrne (St Teresa's)	4
B	Under-12	Supremo	Alistair Clark (RGS)	6
G	Under-12	Suprema	Aine Beldon (Tynemouth)	4
B	Under-12		Christopher Johnston (Belmont)	5
B	Under-12		Matthew Turnbull (Hetton)	4
B	Under-12		Daniel White (Framwellgate)	4
B	Under-13	Supremo	Andrew Douglas (RGS)	6
G	Under-13	Suprema	Judith Kelsey (Dyke House)	4
B	Under-13		Jake Smith (Dyke House)	5
B	Under-13		Andrew Dodds (Hetton)	5
B	Under-13		Bede Porter (St Joseph's Hebburn)	4
B	Under-13		Jack Taylor (Hetton)	4
B	Under-13		Adam Eales (Allendale)	4
B	Under-13		Michael Elliott (Hermitage)	4
B	Under-13		Sanial McCormick (Dyke House)	4
B	Under-14	Supremo	Martin Ho (Belmont)	5*
G	Under-14	Suprema	Ellen Fisher (Dyke House)	3
B	Under-14		Yueyang Chao (RGS)	5
B	Under-14		David Griffin (Hetton)	4½
B	Under-14		Daniel Laverick (Framwellgate)	4
B	Under-14		Austin Spinks (Belmont)	4
B	Under-15	Supremo	Thomas Glover (RGS)	5
B	Under-15		Daniel Lai (RGS)	4½
B	Under-15		Simon Love (Astley)	4
B	Under-15		Samuel Beldon (Tynemouth)	4
B	Under-16	Supremo	Jonathan Lai (RGS)	4½
G	Under-16	Suprema	Katie Laidler (Astley)	1½
B	Under-17	Supremo	Mark Regan (Astley)	3
G	Under-17	Suprema	Sophie Seeber (Tynemouth)	3.5
B	Under-18	Supremo	David Eggleston (Hetton)	5
B	Under-18		Thomas Eggleston (Hetton)	4
B	Under-18		Steven Aitchison (Tynemouth)	4

* on tiebreak

**after playoff