

NORTHUMBRIA AT THE GIGAFINAL (2010)

This year's UK Chess Challenge Gigafinal was held at Dukinfield Town Hall near Stockport. It was held over the weekend 10th-11th July. Several of our schools were already on holiday and this meant that a number of Gigafinal qualifiers were unable to take part. I hope that I include everybody's score who did take part in the Gigafinal.

Under-17 We had no U-18s taking part. Ismail Essa (RGS) scored 2½ points from his 5 games.

Under-16 Amarvansh Singh (Jesmond) scored 4½/6 and came 2nd in this section. He qualifies for the Challengers Tournament in the Terafinal in August.

Under-14 Again no U-15s; James Schofield (RGS) would have been a bit disappointed with his score of 2/6 – he has done better than this in each of the three previous years.

Under-13 Sophie Gatenby (Park View, Chester-le-Street) scored 2½/6 in the girls tournament. Slightly better than the two boys, Owen Aipedale (Richard Coates, Ponteland) and Mauro Ambelez (St Mary's)

Nobody from Northumberland played at U-12. Our 'Supremo', Niall Garner (Teesside H.S.), scored 3½ /6.

Under-11 No fewer than 4 of our boys scored half-marks, 3/6; they were George Molina-Stubbs (Our Lady & St Anne's), Rahim Neal-Yakoob (NPS), Akhil Gupta and Sam Whitehurst (both RGS). Eamon Banerjee (NPS) scored 2/6.

Under-10 4 of our children did even better; Aaranya Nodiyal and Lottie Gill (both NPS) scored 3½/6 in the girls tournament. Parth Mannikar and Daksh Sharma (both RGS) also scored 3½/6. Daniel Bell (St Teresa's) won 3/6; Omkar Dixit (RGS) and Louis McBride (Bede Academy) managed 2/6; Darina Andryichenko (St Teresa's) and Will Murgatroyd (RGS) both scored 1½/6.

Under-9 4½/6, scored by Manav Gupta and William Wilkinson (both RGS), fell just half a point short of taking them to the Terafinal Challengers. Anthony Lai (RGS) scored a creditable 4/6 and Mark Broughton, a much improved player this year, scored a very sound 3/6.

Under-8 Zhemng Zhang (Jesmond) had things all too easy in this age-group winning the 'Ultimo' title and qualifying for the Terafinal for the second year in succession with 6 wins out of 6. Eashan Ragbir (RGS) scored 4/6 and Keshav Krishnan 3/6.

Our U-9 'Supremo', James Vincent (Our Lady & St Anne's), finished on 2/6.

Paul Bielby