

The UK Chess Challenge Northern Gigafinal, 2009

This year's Gigafinal took place at Failsworth School, Manchester on 19th-20th July. The Juniors – up to school Year 5 – played on the Saturday and the older ones on the Sunday. 34 youngsters from the NJCA area took part and here are their results (All scores out of 6):

Saturday Scores

U-7 Boys	Zheming Zhang	(Cragside)	6	ULTIMO
	Rory Bell	(St Teresa's)	0	
U-8 Boys	William Wilkinson	(RGS)	5	Second
	Joseph Dalton	(RGS)	4	
U-9 Boys	Daniel Bell	(St Teresa's)	3	
	Amadeus Biernat	(Christchurch)	3	
	George Jones	(RGS)	2	
	Parth Mannikar	(RGS)	2	
U-10 Boys	Jonathan Slack	(NPS)	3½	
	Andrew Gatenby	(Red Rose)	3	
	Sam Lord	(NPS)	2	
	Eamon Banerjee	(NPS)	1½	
	James Ferrier	(RGS)	1	
U-8 Girls	Darina Andriychenko	(St Teresa's)	3	
	Lottie Gill	(NPS)	3	
	Aranya Nodiyal	(NPS)	3	
U-9 Girls	Sabrina Nzumbu	(St Teresa's)	3	
	Stephanie Black	(St Teresa's)	1	
U-10 Girls	Kate Garrett	(St Teresa's)	1	

Sunday Scores

U-11 Boys	Christopher Wilson	(RGS)	4	
	Urban Coningham	(RGS)	3	
	Ibrahim Nasser	(RGS)	3	

	Eashan Patel	(RGS)	3
	Nicholas Byrne	(St Teresa's)	2
	Edward Williams	(RGS)	2
U-12 Boys	Joshua Hansell	(Gosforth)	2
	Ryan Dack	(John Spence)	1
	Jake Tyne	(Gosforth)	1
U-13 Boys	James Schofield	(RGS)	3
	Jack Martin	(John Spence)	1½
U-14 Boys	Adam Hall	(Bedlington)	2
U-15 Boys	Daniel White	(Fram'gate Moor)	2½
U-12 Girls	Sophie Gatenby	(Park View)	1½

Of course everybody who played in Manchester did extremely well even to get there. Some of the scores, even from our better players, may be a bit low, but they were up against the very best players of their age from all over the country.

Zheming Zhang's performance in scoring 100% at Under-7 is quite remarkable – and he'll enjoy the £100 he won for doing it! We'll all be looking to see how well he does in the British U-8 and U-9 Championships at Torquay, as well as in the UKCC Terafinal. In both these tournaments he'll be meeting older opponents and may find things a bit harder.

The only other qualifier from our area is William Wilkinson at U-8. He will be playing in the Terafinal 'Challengers' tournament – a really tough assignment as he'll probably have to play much older children too.

Tough luck on Joseph Dalton (U-8) and Chris Wilson (U-11) who only missed out on qualifying by a point. But really everybody who scored half marks, 3 out of 6, should feel pleased with themselves. Less than that, do better next year!