

Delancey star pupils

By Malcolm Pein

THE 26th edition of the Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge reached its final stage after months of competition with the Terafinal, staged at Blenheim Palace on October 9-10. Sixty players, who had qualified from the earlier rounds, competed in five age group sections; under 8s, 10s, 12s, 14s and 18s.

The journey to the Terafinal continued online during the summer with more than 2,250 students, representing over 800 schools and chess clubs, competing in the Megafinals and Gigafinals.

It was particularly nice to see Elis Dicen of Coventry winning the Open under 10, having won the girls' competition last year. Frederick Gordon, Scotland's most exciting junior chess talent, who already has a GM scalp, won the under 12s. The under 18s was decided in favour of Aaravamudhan Balaji in the last round:

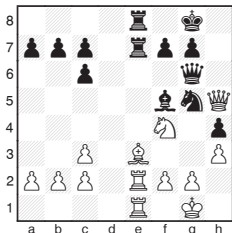
T. Chopra - A. Balaji

Four Knights

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Bb4 5.0-0 0-0 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.Nxe5 Re8 8.Nd3 Bxc3 9.dxc3 Nxe4 10.Bf4 Bf5 11.Qf3 Qf6 12.Rfel

(White was half a point ahead and needed just a draw to win the title. His opening has certainly been a success, but the tension was high) **12...Nd6** (12...Re7! avoids exchanges) **13.Qg3** (13.Bxd6 cxd6 14.g4! Bg6 15.Qxf6 would have taken White closer to his objective) **13...Ne4 14.Qf3 Re7! 15.Re2 Rae8 16.Rael Qg6 17.h3 h5! 18.Be3 h4 19.Nf4** (19.Kh2!? Re6 or 19.Bcl!?) **19...Ng5 20.Qh5??** (20.Qg4! was possible and if 20...Qf6 21.Qh5. If 20.Nxg6 Nxf3+ 21.gxf3 Bxg6 Black can play for a win)

Black to play and win:

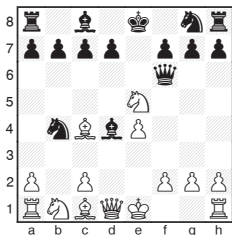


Fun and games from the under 8s:

A. Keerthi Kumar - A. Bryant

Evans Gambit

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Nxb4?! 5.Nxe5? (A losing move 5.c3 Nc6 6.d4!) 5...Qf6! 6.d4 Bxd4!



7.Bxf7+ (7.Qxd4 Nxc2+) 7...Kd8? (7...Ke7! 8.Ba3 Qxf2#, or 8.Nf3 Kxf7 9.Nxd4 Qxd4!) 8.Nf3 Bxal?? 9.Bg5 (And that was that) 9...Qxg5 10.Nxg5 Nf6 11.0-0 Rf8 12.Ne6+ Ke7 13.Nxf8 Kxf7 14.c3 Nc6 15.Nd2 Bxc3 16.Qb3+ Kxf8 17.Qxc3 d6 18.f4 Bd7 19.e5 Nd5 20.Qf3 Be6 21.Qe4 Nc3 22.Qxh7 Ne2+ 23.Kh1 Bf7 24.f5 Nxe5 25.f6 Re8 26.Qxg7# 1-0

Answer:

20...Nxf3+ 21.gxf3 Bxg6 Black can play for a win.