Report on Wood Green Invitational 16th - 20th July 2026

2026 was the sixth in the series of all-play-alls that I've organised since the pandemic. 2021 produced three title norms and two titles with Marcus Harvey gaining his third International Master norm and title, Aga Milewska gaining her final FIDE Arbiter norm and title and Ravi Haria his 2nd Grandmaster norm (the third followed in his very next tournament!) In 2022 David Fitzsimons missed a GM norm by half a point, in 2023 Ameet Ghasi made his second GM norm and in 2025 Dimitris Alexakis made a GM norm. All three of the players to make GM norms are now fully ratified GMs.

The focus in 2026 was inviting young English players to give them valuable experience and aim for (albeit very difficult) title norms.

The three grandmasters were the nine times British champion Michael Adams, England's youngest GM Shreyas Royal & the Ukrainian Alexander Kovchan, who had a peak rating of 2605 but is now in the mid-2400s.

Alongside them were seven norm seekers; IMs Jonah Willow and India's Siva Mahadevan, FMs Supratit Banerjee, Stanley Badacsonyi & Jude Shearsby from England, Lorenzo Fava from Italy and Rishi Vijaykumar from Scotland. That totals six players under the age of 20, two in their mid-20s and two very experienced GMs.

The norm requirements were 7/9 for a GM norm and 5/9 for an IM norm.

Round 1 on 2026/07/16 at 1000								
Bo.	Rtg		White	Result		Black	Rtg	PGN
1	2307	FM	Vijayakumar, Rishi	½ - ½	FM	Badacsonyi, Stanley	2312	PGN
2	2347	FM	Banerjee, Supratit	1 - 0	FM	Shearsby, Jude	2243	PGN
3	2450	IM	Willow, Jonah B	0 - 1	IM	Mahadevan, Siva	2448	PGN
4	2502	GM	Royal, Shreyas	1 - 0	FM	Fava, Lorenzo	2343	PGN
5	2622	GM	Adams, Michael	½ - ½	GM	Kovchan, Alexander	2445	PGN

The tournament started with three decisive results. Jonah-Siva was a big game with both aiming for 7/9, black prevailed after taking the initiative in the middle game and converted to a winning ending. Shreyas offered a piece sacrifice when barely out of the opening, black took the piece but soon returned it allowing white an extra pawn which was enough to win. Jude got into difficulty in the opening, fought hard but was unable to salvage the position. Both Mickey & Rishi seemed well on their way to wins but one imprecise move cost Mickey his advantage. Stanley worked wonders to keep his game going and salvage a draw.

Round 2 on 2026/07/16 at 1500								
Bo.	Rtg		White	Result		Black	Rtg	PGN
1	2312	FM	Badacsonyi, Stanley	½ - ½	GM	Kovchan, Alexander	2445	PGN
2	2343	FM	Fava, Lorenzo	1 – 0	GM	Adams, Michael	2622	PGN
3	2448	IM	Mahadevan, Siva	0 – 1	GM	Royal, Shreyas	2502	PGN
4	2243	FM	Shearsby, Jude	0 – 1	IM	Willow, Jonah B	2450	PGN

5	2307	FM	Vijayakumar, Rishi	1 – 0	FM	Banerjee, Supratit	2347	PGN

In round 2 we witnessed the biggest shock of the tournament. Under the impression that the round started an hour later Lorenzo was sound asleep as the game started but frantic messages got through to him and he was able to get to the board about 25 minutes late. A very equal looking queenless Scotch middle game appeared but one slip from Mickey allowed Lorenzo to win a pawn which he was able to convert. Shreyas equalised against Siva before a slip from white allowed black a winning endgame. Jude had a very promising middlegame against Jonah but the game subsequently turned in Jonah's favour. Rishi won a long ending against Supratit whilst Stanley & Alexander agreed an early draw.

Round 3 on 2026/07/17 at 1000								
Bo.	**Rtg**		**White**	**Result**		**Black**	**Rtg**	**PGN**
1	2347	FM	Banerjee, Supratit	½ - ½	FM	Badacsonyi, Stanley	2312	PGN
2	2450	IM	Willow, Jonah B	1 - 0	FM	Vijayakumar, Rishi	2307	PGN
3	2502	GM	Royal, Shreyas	1 - 0	FM	Shearsby, Jude	2243	PGN
4	2622	GM	Adams, Michael	½ - ½	IM	Mahadevan, Siva	2448	PGN
5	2445	GM	Kovchan, Alexander	1 - 0	FM	Fava, Lorenzo	2343	PGN

Shreyas won a nice attacking game against Jude who played sharply in the opening but came under a big attack. Alexander-Lorenzo was a theoretical line leading to a marginally better ending for white. One slip from black and the position quickly became lost. Jonah's game transposed into a King's Indian Attack and his attack broke through on the kingside winning material. Mickey had a big advantage from the opening saddling black with triple, isolated pawns. Siva managed to confuse the issue though and white felt compelled to take perpetual. Stanley had a very promising position in the early middle game but white created enough counterplay to hold the balance.

Round 4 on 2026/07/17 at 1500								
Bo.	**Rtg**		**White**	**Result**		**Black**	**Rtg**	**PGN**
1	2312	FM	Badacsonyi, Stanley	0 - 1	FM	Fava, Lorenzo	2343	PGN
2	2448	IM	Mahadevan, Siva	0 - 1	GM	Kovchan, Alexander	2445	PGN
3	2243	FM	Shearsby, Jude	0 - 1	GM	Adams, Michael	2622	PGN
4	2307	FM	Vijayakumar, Rishi	0 - 1	GM	Royal, Shreyas	2502	PGN
5	2347	FM	Banerjee, Supratit	0 - 1	IM	Willow, Jonah B	2450	PGN

Black won all five games in round 4. Siva-Alexander was a sharp main line Najdorf where Siva seemed to be having all the fun. Black found a sneaky tactic though which turned the tables and black won, ending Siva's norm chance. Shreyas kept his 100% run going after finding a way to complicate a Four Knights game. He didn't find the right path though and the game became equal. Shreyas then allowed Rishi a winning tactic which was missed and the game then turned decisively in Shreyas's favour. Mickey got his first win after a slightly dubious opening turned in his favour. Jonah equalised and then won a pawn which he was able to convert. Lorenzo took the initiative with black and went on to win.

Round 5 on 2026/07/18 at 1100								
Bo.	Rtg		White	Result		Black	Rtg	PGN
1	2450	IM	Willow, Jonah B	½ - ½	FM	Badacsonyi, Stanley	2312	PGN
2	2502	GM	Royal, Shreyas	1 - 0	FM	Banerjee, Supratit	2347	PGN
3	2622	GM	Adams, Michael	½ - ½	FM	Vijayakumar, Rishi	2307	PGN
4	2445	GM	Kovchan, Alexander	1 - 0	FM	Shearsby, Jude	2243	PGN
5	2343	FM	Fava, Lorenzo	0 - 1	IM	Mahadevan, Siva	2448	PGN

For the third white game in a row Mickey had what would normally have been a big enough advantage to convert to a win. Again, though, black was able to escape and hold the draw. Shreyas won a pawn in a QGD and converted to take his score to 5/5. Jude sacrificed a pawn for some compensation in a queenless middle game but white was able to consolidate and then convert the extra pawn. Siva took the initiative in the middle game and won material and then the game. Jonah had the better of a sharp Kings Indian but his exchange sacrifice allowed Stanley enough counterplay leading to a repetition.

Round 6 on 2026/07/19 at 1000								
Bo.	Rtg		White	Result		Black	Rtg	PGN
1	2312	FM	Badacsonyi, Stanley	0 - 1	IM	Mahadevan, Siva	2448	PGN
2	2243	FM	Shearsby, Jude	½ - ½	FM	Fava, Lorenzo	2343	PGN
3	2307	FM	Vijayakumar, Rishi	½ - ½	GM	Kovchan, Alexander	2445	PGN
4	2347	FM	Banerjee, Supratit	½ - ½	GM	Adams, Michael	2622	PGN
5	2450	IM	Willow, Jonah B	1 - 0	GM	Royal, Shreyas	2502	PGN

Jonah kept his norm chances alive with a win against Shreyas, the tournament leader. After a tactical sequence Jonah gained the advantage but Shreyas missed a counter shot that would have given him good chances to save the game. Siva got an advantage from the opening and white's position soon fell apart. Jude-Lorenzo and Rishi-Alexander were drawn without much happening but Supratit showed good prep, won a pawn and was close to winning before allowing Mickey a chance to save the game

Round 7 on 2026/07/19 at 1500								
Bo.	Rtg		White	Result		Black	Rtg	PGN
1	2502	GM	Royal, Shreyas	1 - 0	FM	Badacsonyi, Stanley	2312	PGN
2	2622	GM	Adams, Michael	½ - ½	IM	Willow, Jonah B	2450	PGN
3	2445	GM	Kovchan, Alexander	1 - 0	FM	Banerjee, Supratit	2347	PGN
4	2343	FM	Fava, Lorenzo	½ - ½	FM	Vijayakumar, Rishi	2307	PGN
5	2448	IM	Mahadevan, Siva	0 - 1	FM	Shearsby, Jude	2243	PGN

Shreyas played an attacking game with a pawn sacrifice against Stanley and his initiative won a pawn which was converted in a rook ending. Alexander gained a strong initiative from a seemingly harmless queenless Petrov and broke through winning material. Siva had Jude on the verge of resignation but a hasty move resulted in a point swing and a very welcome first win for Jude. Mickey & Jonah ended in an

early draw by repetition whilst Lorenzo-Rishi also ended in a repetition where black's extra pawn was balanced by isolated doubled pawns.

Round 8 on 2026/07/20 at 1000								
Bo.	Rtg		White	Result		Black	Rtg	PGN
1	2312	FM	Badacsonyi, Stanley	½ - ½	FM	Shearsby, Jude	2243	PGN
2	2307	FM	Vijayakumar, Rishi	0 - 1	IM	Mahadevan, Siva	2448	PGN
3	2347	FM	Banerjee, Supratit	½ - ½	FM	Fava, Lorenzo	2343	PGN
4	2450	IM	Willow, Jonah B	½ - ½	GM	Kovchan, Alexander	2445	PGN
5	2502	GM	Royal, Shreyas	½ - ½	GM	Adams, Michael	2622	PGN

Round 9 on 2026/07/20 at 1500								
Bo.	Rtg		White	Result		Black	Rtg	PGN
1	2622	GM	Adams, Michael	½ - ½	FM	Badacsonyi, Stanley	2312	PGN
2	2445	GM	Kovchan, Alexander	½ - ½	GM	Royal, Shreyas	2502	PGN
3	2343	FM	Fava, Lorenzo	½ - ½	IM	Willow, Jonah B	2450	PGN
4	2448	IM	Mahadevan, Siva	½ - ½	FM	Banerjee, Supratit	2347	PGN
5	2243	FM	Shearsby, Jude	½ - ½	FM	Vijayakumar, Rishi	2307	PGN

Decisive games were hard to come by on the final day. Jonah needed 2/2 for a GM norm but after a promising opening chose the wrong plan and was much, much worse when his opponent offered a draw. Rishi & Lorenzo both needed 2/2 for an IM norm but Rishi ended up worse, missed a tactic and then had little chance to save the game. Lorenzo did have the advantage but the game simplified into a drawn ending that did, somehow, end up with rook & knight v rook but Supratit held without any problems. Shreyas and Mickey repeated the line which Mickey had faced in round 6 with him varying on move 12. Black equalised and was a bit better when the draw was agreed. Stanley & Jude was drawn without anything of note happening.

In round 9 Alexander-Shreyas was a quick draw meaning that Shreyas won the tournament with 7/9. Alexander finished second on 6,5 with Jonah also drawing quickly against Lorenzo to finish on 6. Jude-Rishi was drawn in 17 moves but the game was an interesting tactical skirmish. Siva looked on course to win against Supratit but the game ended in a draw. Mickey and Stanley played the longest game of the round. Stanley won two pieces for a rook and looked to have good chances to win but lost his queenside pawns and the game ended in a draw.

Final Ranking after 9 Rounds

Rk.	SNo		Name	FED	Rtg	Club/City	TB1	K	rtg+/-
1	4	GM	Royal, Shreyas	ENG	2502	West London	7	10	11,9
2	6	GM	Kovchan, Alexander	UKR	2445	Ukraine	6,5	10	14,2
3	3	IM	Willow, Jonah B	ENG	2450	4ncl Wood Green	6	10	8,5
4	8	IM	Mahadevan, Siva	IND	2448	Solihull	5	10	-1
5	5	GM	Adams, Michael	ENG	2622	4ncl Guildford	4,5	10	-26,5
6	7	FM	Fava, Lorenzo	ITA	2343	Cambridgeshire Junior	4	20	5,2

7	1	FM	Vijayakumar, Rishi	SCO	2307	Scotland	3,5	20	4,2
8	2	FM	Banerjee, Supratit	ENG	2347	Coulsdon Chess Club	3	20	-16,2
	10	FM	Badacsonyi, Stanley	ENG	2312	Muswell Hill	3	20	-7,2
10	9	FM	Shearsby, Jude	ENG	2243	Kenilworth	2,5	20	-0,2

No report is complete without thanking all those who helped make the event possible. It is no exaggeration to say that without the support of the organisations listed below that I wouldn't be able to organise annual tournaments. One might appear once every five or ten years but along with other organisers we are incredibly grateful for any contribution that they are able to provide.

The John Robinson Youth Chess Trust was established in 2006 following the passing of John Robinson. The trust is an independent grant making charity. The charitable objects are to advance education by assisting the teaching development and supervision of playing chess by making grants to support junior chess evets, organisations and individuals England players under 21.More information is available on their website: https://johnrobinsonchess.org

The Chess Trust was established in 2015 helped by a significant bequest from Richard Haddrell. It has the support of the English Chess Federation and aims to provide support to amateur chess in England both in terms of playing and teaching. Their support has played a big part in allowing my tournaments to continue. For more information, please viewhttps://chesstrust.co.uk

The English Chess Federation has benefitted from support from DCMS in 2026-27 and Malcolm Pein, the ECF International Director, was able to offer sufficient financial support to ensure the organiser limited his losses to three figures.

Matthew Carr was Chief Arbiter and live board operator, ably assisted by Chun Chiu who qualified for an International Arbiter norm in the process. We were very happy with the Oddfellows Hall and its location in the town centre of Stafford. I would also like to thank the ten players for providing the organiser with a hassle free tournament.

To view more information on the tournament feel free to explore these links:
https://s2.chess-results.com/tnr1423195.aspx?lan=1&art=2&flag=30&SNode=S0
https://lichess.org/broadcast/wood-green-invitational-2026/round-9/Gl0A3TLt
https://s3.chess-results.com/tnr1457705.aspx?lan=1&art=1&flag=30&SNode=S0

Final Ranking after 9 Rounds

Rk.	SNo		Name	FED	Rtg	TB1	TB2	TB3	TB4	TB5	TB6
1	1		Badacsonyi, Stanley	ENG	2452	7	1	33	47	5	4
2	10		Fava, Lorenzo	ITA	1925	7	2	33	39,5	4	3
3	4		Banerjee, Supratit	ENG	2278	6,5	0	32	41,5	4	2,5
4	2		Willow, Jonah B	ENG	2301	6	1	30	46	4	3
5	5		Bowcott-Terry, Finlay	ENG	2234	6	2	31	43	4	3
6	3		Vijayakumar, Rishi	SCO	2293	5,5	0	28	38,5	5	1,5
7	8		Dicen, Elis Denele	ENG	2021	5	0	23	40,5	5	2

8	6		Shearsby, Jude	ENG	2147	4	0	21	39,5	5	0
9	12		Whatmore, Steve	ENG	1791	3	0	18	40	5	0
10	9		Richardson, Alex	ENG	1956	2	1	12	40	4	0
11	11		Hilditch-Love, Daniel	ENG	1850	2	2	14	35,5	4	0,5
12	13		Sullivan, Luke	ENG	1580	1	0	4	41	4	0,5