



## SCOTS TRIUMPH at Rubik's UK Open Speedcubing Championship



Two Scottish teenagers took first and second places in the 'headline' 3x3x3 solving event at the UK Rubik's Open Speedcubing Championship, held in Manchester at the weekend.

BREANDAN VALLANCE (centre - from Beith, Ayrshire) won the competition with an average solving time of **11.17 seconds**, with CHRISTOPHER NESS (right - from Fort William – **12.83 seconds**) in second place. In third position was ROWAN KINNEAVY (from Sheffield – **13.92 seconds**).

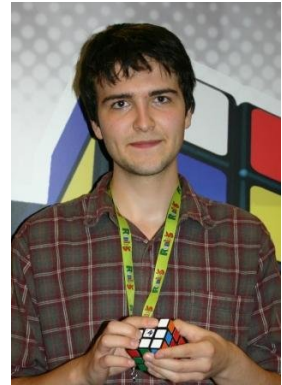


17-year-old Breandan Vallance is the current Rubik's Speedcubing World Champion, having acquired the title just a month ago at the Rubik's World Championship held in Dusseldorf, Germany – where he achieved an astounding average solving time of 10.74 seconds. He is currently taking a year out to travel (and compete in further international championships) before taking up a place at Glasgow University, to study Chemical Physics.

"I have to practise a lot to keep on top form", he says, "And I am, of course, a bit nervous before each major event in which I take part. But there is now a huge Rubik's community spanning the entire globe, and meeting up with people from so many countries all around the world is probably the most important aspect of the Speedcubing scene. I am lucky to be part of it."

19-year-old Christopher Ness (studying Natural Sciences at Cambridge) is more casual about competing: "I'm doing it because I am good at it, and it's a way of stretching myself" he says.

Rowan Kinneavy (right), from Crookes, Sheffield, is 18 years of age and not quite so self-effacing: "I reckon I'm 'up there' with the top UK Speedcubers," he says. "I am very fast, in fact my personal average solving time (12 solves) is just 10.75 seconds – so I reckon next time we meet up, I will be able to give both Breandan and Chris a good run for their money!"



Joey Gooly from Leeds (now studying at Manchester University) also did extremely well at the Championship, winning the Blindfolded event with a time of one minute, 58.11 seconds, taking third place behind Breandan and Christopher in the 5x5x5 event, and coming third to Ben Whitmore (left) and Rowan in the 2x2x2 event. Ben, from Knutton, Staffs, is just 13 years of age and is taking his Speedcubing very seriously: "I can also solve The Cube one-handed in about a minute, and am now tackling blindfolded cubing. I really enjoy the challenge – especially when I do well against people who are so much older than I am" he says.

## All-round sensation!

An unexpected star of the day's proceedings was Martin Smith (16), who also hails from Sheffield. In a new international event featuring the recently launched Rubik's 360 puzzle, Martin completed his in just 37.02 seconds – a 'world class' result!

"I have never seen anybody solve the Rubik's 360, on the Internet or otherwise, faster than me" says Martin. "I am able to complete it in less than 40 seconds consistently, and I have a 31.93 second solve on video. I'd love to know if anyone out there (anywhere in the world) can do better than me!"

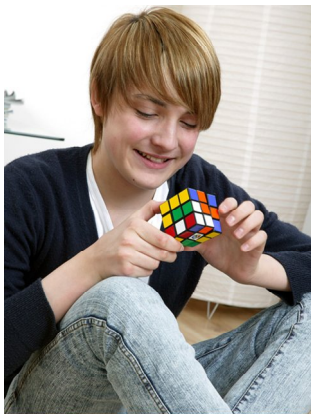
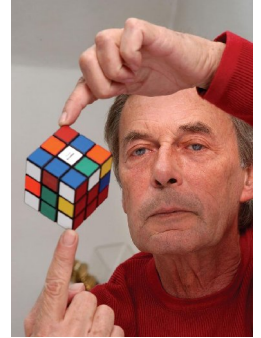


Largely organised by another of the UK's second-fastest Speedcubers, 24-year-old ex-UK Champion Dan Harris from Stowemarket, the Rubik's UK Open is one of more than a hundred competitions held globally each year by the official Rubik's Speedcubing body, the World Cube Association – to be found at [www.worldcubeassociation.org](http://www.worldcubeassociation.org).

Full results of all Saturday's events can also be viewed on this site.

**It's Cool to Cube...** The fiendishly difficult, but entrancing Rubik's Cube (over 350 million have been sold since its launch in 1980) may have 43,252,003,274,489,856,000 possible combinations on its six coloured faces – but it has only ONE solution. Once it has been 'scrambled' you solve The Cube by twisting its fifty-four squares around the ingenious central axis - until all six faces consist of solid blocks of colour.

**'Come-back' Cube:** Now once again enjoying enormous popularity worldwide (sales for 2008 were 15 million, and it was the UK's best-selling game – in both volume and value terms), the iconic Rubik's Cube's fascination and fun factor is undiminished. Rather, it is magnified by the power of the web's social networking possibilities, providing super-celebrity status for the 'wonder boy' Speedcubers – as they have been dubbed by The Cube's Hungarian inventor, Erno Rubik (pictured right).



Rubik's Cube got under your skin, as it has for hundreds of thousands of others from all walks of life? Many, many hints and tips – along with a plethora of information on all things Cubist – can be found at the official Rubik's website – [www.rubiks.com](http://www.rubiks.com).

**Everybody featured in this release is prepared to be interviewed if you are interested:**

JOEY GOULY <a href="#">Leeds/Manchester University</a>	07792 610890	<a href="mailto:cardologift@gmail.com">cardologift@gmail.com</a>
DAN HARRIS <a href="#">Stowemarket</a>	07810 108824	<a href="mailto:dan@cubestation.co.uk">dan@cubestation.co.uk</a>
ROWAN KINNEAVY <a href="#">Sheffield, S. Yorks</a>	07546 933636	<a href="mailto:rporowan@googlemail.com">rporowan@googlemail.com</a>
CHRISTOPHER NESS <a href="#">Fort William, Scotland/Cambridge University</a>		<a href="mailto:cjn34@cam.ac.uk">cjn34@cam.ac.uk</a>
MARTIN SMITH <a href="#">Sheffield</a>	07525 131430	<a href="mailto:damn-them-emos-into-hell@hotmail.com">damn-them-emos-into-hell@hotmail.com</a>
BREANDAN VALLANCE <a href="#">Beith, Ayrshire</a>	07974 858067	<a href="mailto:fshark@hotmail.co.uk">fshark@hotmail.co.uk</a>
BEN WHITMORE <a href="#">Knutton, Staffs</a>		<a href="mailto:ben.whitmore1@ntlworld.com">ben.whitmore1@ntlworld.com</a>



## NOTES FOR JOURNALISTS/BROADCASTERS

Drumond Park Ltd is the UK distributor of the Rubik's Cube, which is available in toy and games outlets everywhere, including Hamleys, Toymaster and Toys R Us, plus many chain stores such as Asda, Debenhams, Tesco and WH Smith, catalogues such as Argos... and online traders such as Amazon.

For stockists, call 01506 855576 or visit [www.drumondpark.com](http://www.drumondpark.com)

For more information on any of Drumond Park's Adult or Children's games, action games, magic sets and puzzles... For review copies - or high res pics of the Rubik's Cube (cut-outs or lifestyle) or any of Drumond Park's other great products...

Please contact **RAY HODGES**  
at HPS-PR: 01628 894793  
Email: [r.hodges@hpsgroup.co.uk](mailto:r.hodges@hpsgroup.co.uk)



### WE HAVE A PRIZES BUDGET FOR RUBIK'S PRODUCTS

For editorial promotions and giveaways, subscription offers etc. (these could be Rubik's Fun Boxes, worth £43 each – one each of the original Rubik's Cube, the light-flashing, button bashing REVO, and the new, spherical Rubik's 360 puzzle – or any of the three, individually), please contact:

**JO RAYMENT** at HPS-PR: 01628 894767  
Email: [j.rayment@hpsgroup.co.uk](mailto:j.rayment@hpsgroup.co.uk)