

Duo represent England at international tournament

# Czech-mate for brainy brothers



by  
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IT was Czech-mate for two young brothers after they jetted off to play chess for England at a major international competition in the Czech Republic.

Windlesham House School pupil Otto Pyper, 10, of West Chiltington Road, near Storrington, competed for the national under-12 squad while his brother Ramsay, 13, made the under-14s.

They took on players from across Europe at the 31st International Annual Tournament of Young Players in Frydek Mistek, from April 1 to 5, after flying out on Monday, March 29.

The prestigious annual event invites the national teams from each country in

Europe who, in turn, select their top players from each age group.

Describing his anticipation before he flew, Otto said: "I'm really excited, I'm also slightly nervous because I've never been away from home that long.

"I'm looking forward to getting to know the other people in the team, because I don't really know them very well."

Older brother Ramsay has already tested his metal abroad on previous occasions, playing in tournaments in Amsterdam and Kiev.

He said: "I'm quite excited, it'll be nice to get some chess in over the holidays and explore a country that I'd probably never have got the chance to go to otherwise."

And Ramsay said that if he could pick his next chess-playing trip, it'd be to New York.

Although he usually has the upper hand when the boys play against each other, they admitted that sibling

rivalry gives them a competitive edge.

Ramsay said: "It's nice, because otherwise I have no one to play against, other than the computer, which always beats me, so Otto's good practice.

"I use him like a punch bag," he joked.

Otto added: "When Ramsay wins it's skill but when I win, apparently it's fluke."

Although his older brother conceded: "Luckily there is no such thing as luck in chess, so I can't really complain when he wins."

Otto, who made it onto the England squad a year early, started playing chess when he was five.

He is also a talented musician, and is about to sit his grade three in piano.

Ramsay, who took up the game at ten, is a keen mathematician.

Despite his tender years the resourceful Eton student is about to venture into the world of web-business with

the launch of a new website with a school-pal.

And the pair had high hopes for the tournament in Frydek Mistek.

Otto said: "I think I'd like to have some good games in this.

"It's all a team thing, it would be really nice to win some games and do as best I can alongside the rest of the team."

And Ramsay added: "I'd like to get a good score, maybe come in the top few of the England players who are going."

● Otto came equal fourth out of 24 players in the competition with a score of 5.5 out of 9.

The countries he faced players from were Ireland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Belarus and Poland.

Ramsay came equal 21st out of 46 players with a score of 4.5 out of 9.

He played against players from all the same countries as Otto plus France.



Ramsay and Otto Pyper both took part in an international chess competition.