



## Team England sets sights on debate title

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By Peter Townson/Staff Reporter

**Few of the 57 teams taking part in the World Schools Debating Championships (WSDC) this week have as strong a reputation to live up to as Team England.**

Representing a country associated with the art of debating throughout its long history, many other countries expect Team England to offer them particularly strong opposition.

And so far, it seems as if such expectations are well-founded, as England have won all four of debates so far, only dropping one judge in the process. Having beaten Lithuania, Sweden and the Netherlands 3-0 and beating Indonesia by 2-1, the team are feeling understandably confident about the rest of the tournament in Qatar, and are looking forward to seeing how far they can advance.

"We are hoping to win," said 16-year-old Greg Farquhar, the youngest member of England's team.

"Before I came I was looking forward to meeting people from so many different countries, and debating on such a high level," he said, adding that he had been amazed by the combination of the traditional and the modern that Qatar represents.

Matt Handley, 17, said he was "really enjoying" his experience so far: "It's not just about the debating, but meeting so many people is great, and the hospitality has been amazing."

"I have enjoyed the choice of motions so far, especially the debate on Somalia," he said, describing the topic as a "meaty issue" and a very interesting subject to discuss.

As to the rest of the tournament, Hasan Dindjer, 18, said he and his team were looking forward to debating against Scotland, and that they would also like to get the chance to meet Team Qatar at some point in the competition.

Describing his experience so far as "intense," he claimed that the WSDC has been fun, educationally stimulating and a really great opportunity to meet new people.

Edward Schwitzer was particularly positive about the team's performance so far, and claimed that although they definitely want to have fun throughout the WSDC, they are definitely gunning to win the tournament.

The 17-year-old said that debating had affected his student life in various ways, claiming that his experience has led to a compulsion to point out weaknesses in people's arguments, whilst on the other hand allowing him to meet lots of new people such as his teammates, who are now "the best of friends!"

"I have been to four of these WSDC events now, and this year the competition has been phenomenal," claimed the team's coach, Nick Pacheco.

"The organisation, the hospitality and the people have been unbelievable," he said, adding "we are all really looking forward to the rest of it."

"So far we have been really happy with how the team have been going, and we couldn't really have asked for much more," he added.



**Team England, hoping to go all the way in what they describe as a "phenomenal" tournament**

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