



A triumphant Nigel serves up a Great British Menu

We all know the North has great taste. And now Nigel Haworth is about to prove it again as he represents this part of the world in the finals of BBC2's Great British Menu. For the second year running, Nigel has seen off his regional opposition to win through to the public voting stage of this hugely popular TV event.

This year, Nigel faced stiff opposition as he battled, head to head over five nights, against Aiden Byrne of Church Green in Lymm, finally winning out when the panel of celebrity judges unanimously put him through to the live finals in June.

"Cooking against Aiden was a real challenge and a privilege", says Nigel. "He's one of the rising stars in the North and after a long spell at the Dorchester it was good to see him getting back to his roots. I was really impressed by his confidence and the way he put his dishes together."

This year's Great British Menu decides the dishes which will welcome home some of the British troops who have been serving in Afghanistan. They're the guests of honour at a huge banquet to be held at Halton House, the magnificent Rothschild Country Residence and RAF Officers' Mess. So 'Best of British' is very much the order of the day.



The dishes that have seen Nigel sail into the next round include Duck Pie with Reg Johnson's Goosnargh Duck 'scratchings', Muncaster Crab Salad and Summer Pudding with Mrs Kirkham's Lancashire Cheese Ice-Cream. But the real star of the show is a special Lancashire Hotpot made with local carrots and leeks and with roasted Lonk Lamb from Rod Spence's Burholme Farm in Whitewell.

"With the warmer summer months in mind, I've made this a lighter dish than usual", commented Nigel. "But to me it remains a perfect homecoming dish. It's a classic regional favourite, full of heritage and local provenance. Part of the backbone of Britain."

Nigel's dishes are on the menu from Friday 22nd May at the Michelin Starred Northcote where he is co-patron. But as for whether they'll feature at Halton House, that's down to the public at large when BBC2 screens the next rounds live throughout the week of 25th May. Every night, one of his creations will be up against dishes presented by the other seven top chefs who have won the right to represent their part of the country.

So for Nigel, it's all about votes...and more votes...and proof at last that the North is, without question, the food capital of Great Britain!

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