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# Space hopes crash

By EDWARD VALE

EIGHT thousand would-be space travellers came down to earth with a bump yesterday when they learned they had not been chosen as Britain's first astronaut.

A boy of eight burst into tears. A publican poured himself a stiff one. A granny took up her knitting again.

Only 5,000 of the 13,000 who applied are still in with a chance to join the Anglo-Soviet space lab Mir in 1991.

They will receive lengthy application forms. The rest were told "Thanks, but no thanks" on a phone hot line.

## Response

Eventually, candidates will be whittled down to two. They will go to Russia to train but only one will be sent into space.

Wendy Hamilton, who helped search for Britain's highest flyer, said: "The response has been amazing.

"It is a pity so many people will be disappointed."