

# Tri-Bridges Tribune

## Tri-Bridges Wins 1<sup>st</sup> Mid-Atlantic Online League

1st Season 2019-2020 Final Team Scores

Team Name	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4	RD 5	Total	Rank
Tribridge	1	0.5	1	1	0.5	4	1
Innovators	0	1	0.5	1	1	3.5	2
Innovators II	0.5	1	0.25	1	0.5	3.25	3
Wayne Maters	0.5	0.5	1	0	0	2	4
Rowan Chess	0.5	0	0	0	0.5	1	5

### Good Deeds and Kind Acts lead to Tri-Bridges Win in 1<sup>st</sup> Mid-Atlantic Online Chess League

The 2019 Holly Heisman Memorial Tournament was hosted by the Innovation Center in South Jersey, owned and run by a FIDE Master (FM) Dov Gorman. While participating in this event, Sid Suresh saw a flyer advertising the first Mid-Atlantic Online Chess League Tournament and wanted to gather a team

(Continued on Page 3)

**Greetings & Salutations:**

I hope you enjoy the premiere issue of the *Tri-Bridges Tribune*. It is my hope that future issues will have less work by me and more by “members of the club” (with that being very loosely defined in this case.) I intend to continue as editor, hopefully providing useful feedback for those wishing to enter items, into the Tribune. The material’s focus is to educate and entertain club members (and hopefully others as well.) We have numerous teachers and strong players who are receiving this, if they would like to write something for players to learn from, I would be happy to include it. The material would be unpaid, but you would be able to promote your event or organization, as I did in this issue for Vasishta and Yajat, with a Crescent Knight advertisement.

For now, this is a pdf online only newsletter.

Were we to publish, we would also likely go to black and white pictures and single spacing.

Contact Joshua Anderson, at  
joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com with any  
comments.

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(Continued from Cover)

Sid's father, Natarajan, contacted me a few days later for help finding Tri-Bridges club members who might also be interested. He kindly offered to be the team captain and provide a gathering space for each round of play. With such a generous offer, we quickly had a team of six: Siddhant Suresh, Vasishta Tumuluri, Yajat Gupta, Steve Conner, River-Travis Lawson, and Anthony Gold.

The first round took place during the club's annual Birthday tournament (the yearly Feters – White event with pizza and cake to celebrate the large number of member birthdays in mid – September). We missed these friends at our event, so it was a nice surprise when several of them stopped in to check out the last round of our tournament and report that the team won their first round and had great fun getting together to visit, eat, and play.

The second round was draw with a win for both teams and draws on boards 3 and 4. The third round was an upset win over the league hosts; Steve drew Dov, and Vasishta and Sid both scored upset wins. The fourth round was postponed due to holiday hustle.

Round five was so much fun it was played twice! The team split their results in the fifth rounds, losing a rematch with the Innovators and beating Wayne Maters, 3-1. Tragically, Sid passed before the rescheduled fourth round. With heavy hearts Vasishta's family kindly offered to host the team for the rescheduled fourth round – a 3 to 1 victory. The team

finished with a 15.5 points (including 1 forfeit win) and a +4-1=1 (4 wins, 1 loss,, 1 draw - +4-1=1 is chess hand that you will see scattered throughout) record.

A natural question remains, why were there 2 fifth rounds? When organizers put together events intended to encourage playing chess, there are frequently a few bumps that need to be smoothed. The league started the tournament with 4 teams but then another team wanted to join in the fun. Dov and Anand did not want to exclude anyone and so they developed an even, but odd solution: everyone played 5 rounds, with one of the rounds having 2 matches. Unique solutions are often required to achieve the goal of being inclusive and welcoming everyone who wants to play.

Much thanks to Anand Mishra and Dov Gorman who set up the league. As of this writing, May 8<sup>th</sup>, the second season will end this evening. Please check out the June issue of *Tri-Bridges Tribune* for a detailed story on the event. A third season of the league is being planned for June and July.

## Individual Results

Name	Wins	Losses	Draws	Points	Percentage
Steve Conner	3	1	1	3.5	70.0%
Vasishta Tumuluri	3	0	2	4	80.0%
Siddhant Suresh	2	1	2	3	60.0%
Anthony Gold	1	2	0	1	33.3%
Yajat Gupta	1	0	2	2	66.7%
River-Travis Lawson	1(FW)	1	0	1	50.0%

(FW) – Forfeit Win

## Result Table for Tri-Bridges Chess Club

Round 1				Round 2			
Innovators	Result	TriBridge	Result	TriBridge	Result	Wayne maters	Result
Ben Lauer	0	Stephen J. Conner	1	Stephen J. Conner	0	Sean Finn	1
Maxwell Wang	0.5	Vasishta Tumuluri	0.5	Anthony C. Gold	1	Ed Knesevitch	0
Noah Xu	1	Siddhant Suresh	0	Vasishta Tumuluri	0.5	Mike Somers	0.5
Jonah Kutikov	0	River-Travis Lawson	1	Siddhant Suresh	0.5	Rob Bernard	0.5
Total	1.5	Total	2.5	Total	2	Total	2
Team Score	0		1	Team Score	0.5		0.5

Round 3				Round 4			
Board at Innovations	Result	TriBridge	Result	Rowan	Result	TriBridge	Result
Dov Gorman	0.5	Steve Conner	0.5	Stanimir Genov	0	Steven Conner	1
Luke Brennan	0	Vasishta Tumuluri	1	Josh Wible	1	Anthony Gold	0
Anand Mishra	0	Siddhant Suresh	1	Kari Thornton	0	Vasishta Tumuluri	1
Forfeit Loss	0	Forfeit Win	1	Matt Iacoviello	0	Yajat Gupta	1
Total	0.5	Total	3.5	Total	1	Total	3
Team Score	0		1	Team Score	0		1

Round 5a				Round 5b			
Wanye Maters	Result	TriBridge	Result	TriBridge	Result	Innovators	Result
Sean Finn	0	Steve Conner	1	Anthony Gold	0	Ben Lauer	1
Mike Somers	0	Vasishta Tumuluri	1	Yajat Gupta	0.5	Maxwell Wang	0.5
George Phoenix	0.5	Yajat Gupta	0.5	Siddhant Suresh	1	Noah Xu	0
Roger Inglis	0.5	Siddhant Suresh	0.5	River-Travis Lawson	0	Jonah Kutikov	1
Total	1	Total	3	Total	1.5	Total	2.5
Team Score	0		1	Team Score	0		1

As a tribute to Sid, I wanted to provide his games from the league with light annotations.

In his first game, Sid's opponent was Noah Xu. Noah's is an up and coming young player with a rating at USChess of 1897. Noah was white.

Dragonz007 – SiddhantSuresh.

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.0-0 d6 5.h3 Nf6 6.Re1 0-0 7.c3 Bd7 8.Ba4 Re8**

**9.Bc2 h6 10.d4 exd4** Black should just play Bb6 and keep tension in the center.

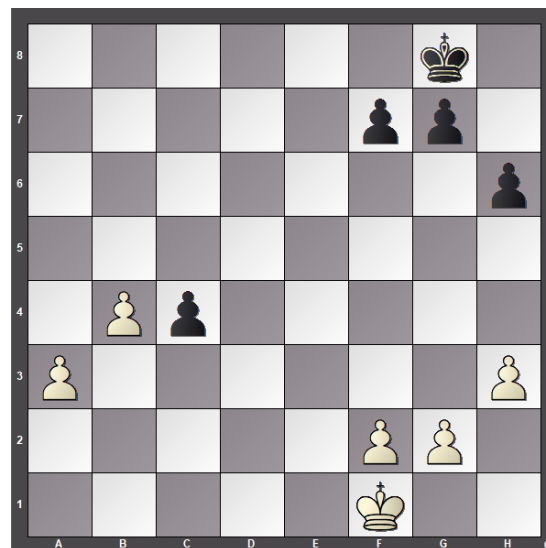
**11.cxd4 Bb6 12.a3 a5 13.Qd3 Ne7 14.Nc3 c5 15.Be3 cxd4 16.Bxd4 Bxd4 17.Nxd4**

**Nc6 18.Ndb5 Ne5 19.Qxd6 Re6 20.Qd4 Bxb5 21.Nxb5 Qxd4 22.Nxd4 Rd6 23.Nf5**

**Rd2 24.Ne3 Nc4 25.Nxc4 Rxc2 26.Rac1 Rxc1 27.Rxc1 Nxe4 28.Re1 Re8 - Nf6 is a**

better choice, but White will have much more activity. **29.Nxa5 b6 30.Nc4 b5 31.Nd2**

**Nf6 32.Rxe8+ Nxe8 33.b4 Nd6 34.Kf1 Nc4 35.Nxc4 bxc4**



Unfortunately, with the King on f1, he is “inside the box,” so it is easy for white to stop the black pawn and then advance his queen side pawns.

**36.Ke2 Kf8 37.Kd2 Ke7 38.Kc3 Kd6 39.Kxc4 Kc6 40.a4 Kd6 41.f3 Kc6 42.g3 Kd6**

**43.b5 Kc7 44.Kc5 Kd7 45.b6 Kc8 46.Kc6 g5 47.g4 Kb8 48.a5 Kc8 49.a6 Kb8**

**50.a7+ Ka8 51.Kc7** and Black resigns.

In the second round, Sid had black in a game with Rob Bernard. Rob is an occasional tournament player rated about 1650.

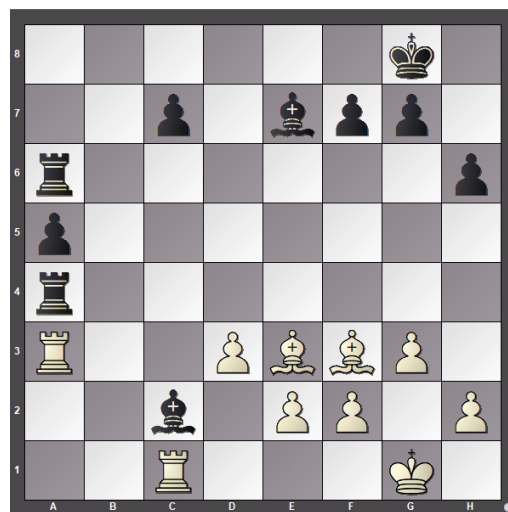
**1.c4 e5 2.g3 d6 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.d3 h6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.0–0 0–0 8.a3 Be6 9.b3**

**d5 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Bb2** Black can trade off knights on c3 for an equal game.

Instead, Sid played **11....Qd7 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.Nxe5 Qxb3 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Qxb3**

**Bxb3 16.Bxc6 Rab8 17.Bd4 a5 18.Ba7 Rbd8 19.a4 Rd6 20.Bf3 Ra6 21.Be3 Rb8**

**22.Rfb1 Rb4 23.Ra3 Bc2 24.Rc1 Rxa4**



This was a mistake for Black. However, White immediately returns the favor by not playing 25. Rc3 when Sid's bishop gets trapped. **25.Rxa4 Bxa4 26.Rxc7 Bb4**

**27.Rc8+ Kh7 28.Be4+ Rg6** Sid could have played g6, and then f6 if necessary.

**29.Bxg6+ Kxg6 30.Bb6 Bd7 31.Rc7 Bb5 32.Bxa5 Bxa5 33.Rc5 Bxd3 34.exd3 Bd8**

**35.Kg2 Bf6 36.Rc6 Kf5 37.Rxf6+ Kxf6** After a tough fight, Sid is hanging around and making things difficult, so his opponent tries to trade down into a won ending. **38.Kf3**

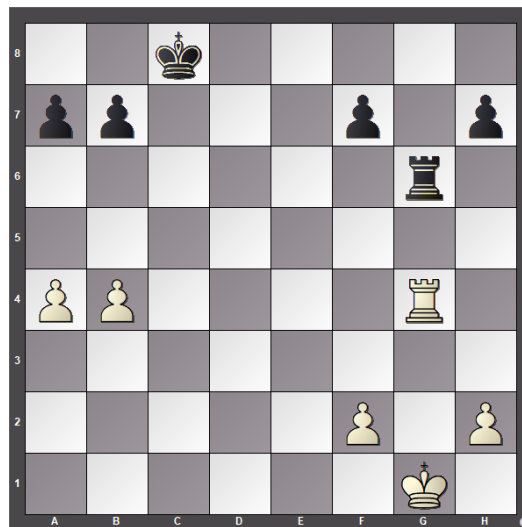
**Ke5 39.Ke3 Kd5 40.f4 f5 41.h3 h5 42.h4 g6** After g6 it is all about the king position.

**43.Ke2 Kc5 44.Kd2 Kb4** After dancing around the pawn, this is the key spot. White can either move his king to e3 and try to push the d pawn down the board or he can

move his king to c2 and when Black has to retreat his king and white will eventually be able to drive black back. Fortunately for Sid - **45.Ke3 Kc3 46.d4 Kc4 47.d5 Kxd5 48.Kd3 Kc5 49.Kc3 Kd5 50.Kd3 Kc5 51.Kc3 Kd5**  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$

Next, Sid got Black against Anand Mishra, the league president. Anand's rating on chess.com, is in the 1100s, but his US Chess rating is over 1900.

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.c3 d5 5.0-0 Bg4 6.Re1 Nf6 7.exd5 Qxd5 8.d4 0-0 9.c4 Qd6 10.Bxc6 Qxc6 11.d5 Qb6 12.Qc2 Bxf3 13.gxf3 Rhe8 14.Nc3 g5 15.Na4 Qd6 16.Nxc5 Qxc5 17.Be3 Qd6 18.Qf5+ Nd7 19.Red1 Kb8 20.a3 Rg8 21.b4 g4 22.f4 exf4 23.Bxf4 Qf6 24.Qxf6 Nxf6 25.d6 Ne8 26.dxc7+ Nxc7 27.c5 Kc8 28.Rd6 Ne6 29.Bg3 Rxd6 30.Bxd6 Rd8 31.Re1 Nd4 32.Re4 Nb5 33.a4 Nxd6 34.cxd6 Rxd6 35.Rxg4 Rg6**



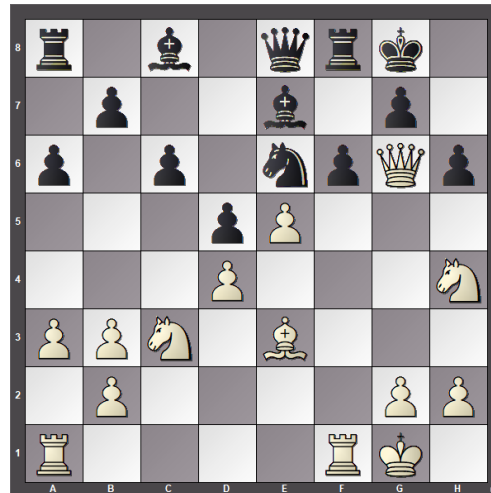
The first 35 moves have been a closely contested affair with white generally being a little better. Over the next few moves, black has two basic plans, he can trade off the rooks, moving his king to b6 and then push the pawn to a5. Instead, we see him bring his king to d6 - **36.f3 Kc7 37.Kf2 Rxg4 38.fxg4 Kd6** – Kd6 looks logical



because it moves the king to the center, where you generally want your king in the endgame. **39.Ke3 Kd5 40.Kd3 a6 41.h4 f6 42.a5 h6 43.h5 Ke5 44.Ke3 f5** If white now takes and plays Kd4, he will have good chances due to king being centralized. **45.Kf3 fxg4+ 46.Kxg4 Ke4 47.Kg3 Kf5 48.Kh4 Kf4 49.Kh3 Kg5 50.Kg3 Kxh5 51.Kh3 Kg5 52.Kg3 h5 53.Kh3 Kf4 54.Kh4 Ke4 55.Kxh5 Kd4** The black king will get back to the queenside several moves late and so the President resigns.

In Sid's fourth game he played (the first of the round five games) white against Roger Inglis. This game again went into an ending. The reader may note that all these games go into endings and this is a fine example of why people in the 1000 to 2000 range are often told to study endings. It is not that endgames are bad for sub 1000 players, but there is a great need to learn tactical ideas so that you can last long enough to get to the endgame.

**1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 d5 4.fxe5 Nxe4 5.Nf3 Nc5 6.d4 Ne6 7.Bd3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 Nc6 10.Bb5 f6 11.Qd2 a6 12.Ba4 Na5 13.Bb3 c6 14.a3 Nxb3 15.cxb3 h6 16.Nh4** White eyes g6 and wants to get an attack. Nh4 shows up in many games, usually where black has a knight on f6 and queen on d8. Black then takes on e4 with the knight and white is stuck either taking the knight on e4 or defending the unprotected h4 knight. That exact position is not here of course, but Black would still do well to take on e5 with the f6 pawn and have attacks on the "loose" knight on h4. **16. ...Kh7 17.Qd3+ Kg8 18.Qg6** Sid likely figured between the queen on g6, knight on f5, and bishop aimed at h6 would give him a strong attack, but the knight should go on such a weak square. **18.... Qe8**



Black should play fxe5, but it is understandable to try to trade off all those scary looking attacking pieces. **19.Bxh6** now it is white who should take f6. If Bxf6, white takes Rxf6 and black's rook is overworked. If 19. Rxf6 white happily pockets the queen. **19. ... Qxg6 20.Nxg6 gxh6 21.Nxe7+ Kh7** Now white should continue his attack with Na4 followed by Nb6 if Black takes on d4. **22.Rad1 fxe5** White should take the unprotected e pawn. **23.Rxf8 Nxf8 24.Nxc8 Rxc8 25.dxe5 Ne6 26.Kf2 Rf8+ 27.Kg1 b5 28.Rf1 Rxf1+ 29.Kxf1 Kg6 30.Na2 c5 31.Nc1 c4 32.bxc4 dxc4 33.Na2 Kf5 34.Nb4 Nc5 35.Nc6 Nd3 36.g4+ Ke6 37.h4 Nxe5 38.Nxe5 Kxe5 39.g5 Kf5** Black survived the attack and has had a small to minute advantage for the last 17 moves. **40.Ke2** Here white plays a natural looking move, after all black has an advantage on the queenside and can make a passed pawn if white doesn't get his king over quickly. However, had he taken on f6, he would have forced the black king to stay longer on the kingside and not get over before white could create a passed pawn and eventually win the game. **40. ... hxg5 41.hxg5 Kxg5 42.Kd2 Kf5 43.Kc3 Ke5 44.Kb4 Kd4 45.Ka5 c3 46.bxc3+ Kxc3 47.Kxa6 Kb3 48.Kxb5 Kxa3**

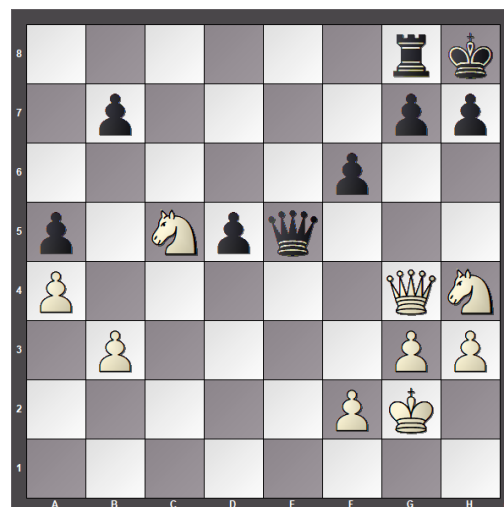
In the second 5<sup>th</sup> round (a combination of words I don't think I have ever used

before), Sid got to rematch with, Noah Xu. Sid was white.

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nc3 c6 5.Nf3 Bd6 6.Be2 Ne7 7.0–0 Bf5 8.h3 Nd7 9.Bd3 0–0 10.Bg5 f6 11.Be3 Qc7 12.Re1 Rae8 13.Qd2 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 Nb6 15.Rad1 Ng6 16.Bd2 Nc4**

After some good opening play, Sid missed the fork on b2, playing - **17.b3 Nb2 18.Qf1 Nxd1 19.Rxd1 Re7 20.a4 Rfe8 21.Rb1 a5 22.Qd3 Nf4 23.Bxf4 Bxf4** Though down an exchange, Sid hangs tough. Both players missed a Bishop sacrifice on g3, opening the king, something along the lines of – 24. g3 Bxg3 25. fxg3 Qxg3 26. Kf1 Re3 and the party should be over shortly.

Instead, we see - **24.g3 Bd6 25.Na2 Qb6 26.c4 dxc4 27.Qxc4+ Kh8 28.Nc3 Qc7 29.d5 Qd7 30.Kg2 Rc8 31.Qd3 Bb4 32.Rc1 cxd5 33.Ne2 Rxc1 34.Nxc1 Qc6 35.Ne2 Qd6 36.Ned4 Rd7 37.Qf5 Rd8 38.Qg4 Bc5 39.Ne6 Rg8 40. Nh4 ...**



As was typical of him, Sid kept fighting. In this case Noah missed g6 or g5 and played **40....Qe5 41. Nxc5** not 41.Ng6+ because of 41....hxg6 42. Qh4+ Qh5. **41. ...Qc3** The Black queen cannot get to h5, white plays **42.Ng6+ hxg6 43.Qh4#**

All of these games, show Sid's smart play and tremendous fighting spirit!

# YAJAT'S TRAVELS

By Yajat Gupta

## **World Disable Championships**

I once played in the same room as the World Disabled Championships. I was there participating in a tournament. The event drew players from around the world. I drew a very high rated player from China in the open section. I played for a draw in that game, knowing that otherwise I would lose. I traded everything off and I barely held down the endgame. Due to this draw and also an upset of a much higher rated player being defeated, a tournament director (TD) offered me a free FIDE membership, that was very lucky for me, as I was not playing in many FIDE tournaments and purchasing a membership of my own expense would perhaps not be the most cost efficient idea. It was kind of this TD to do this, and I am forever in debt to this helpful person.

Between two of the rounds, I met a player from Nigeria who did not have any arms. I asked him if he wanted to play chess and he agreed. He was really good and he moved the pieces using his mouth. It turned out my opponent was about 2300 strength. I managed a draw or two out of dozens of games. It was a great chance to get to play people from different countries and to embrace different cultures. This was an amazing opportunity that I got, when I was able to have a great experience during this tournament.

## **Tournament Trials & Tribulations**

Once, the worst thing happened! After a difficult round, in which I drew, the person sitting beside me knocked over my chess bag as I was cleaning up. The pieces fell out, bounced on

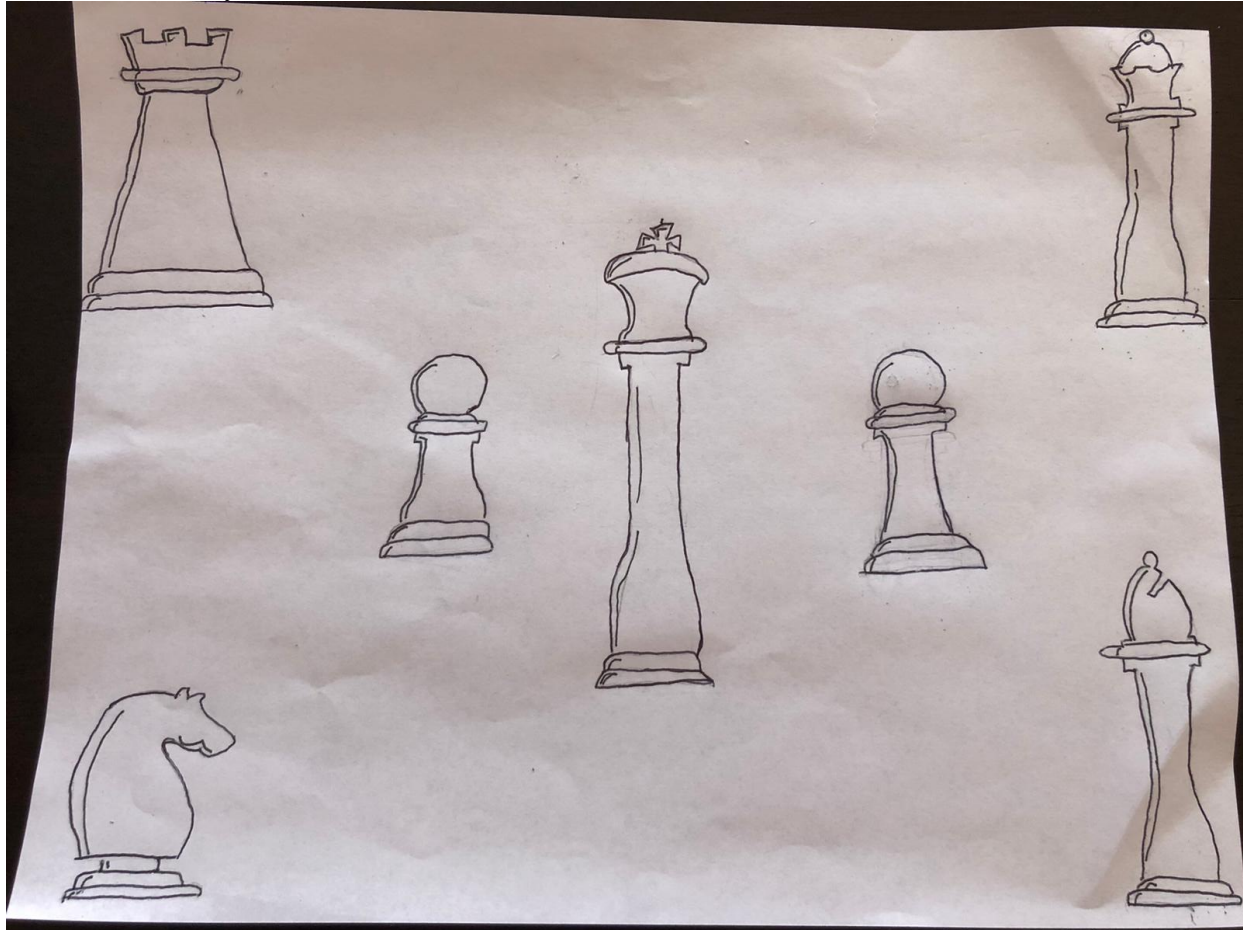
the floor and rolled everywhere I picked them all up in a hurry and put them back in my bag as the person apologized.

This was not the worst thing ever by the way! I was running late to the next round later because I was coming back from lunch, not sure if I was going to make it. There was only a minute left until my next round, yet it would take a few minutes to reach the room. I rushed and broke into a full sprint and barely made it just as the round was beginning. Still not the worst part! My opponent was at the board waiting, but he did not bring his own set. I took out mine to set up, but then I made a horrible realization. A pawn and two queens were missing! My opponent had started the clock (Editor's Note: You are not supposed to start the clock until, at the least, the board and set are set up) and I didn't know what to do. I ran out of the room to where I had kept my stuff, grabbed my wallet, and ran to the chess store. I quickly bought the pieces that I needed and rushed back to the board. I had lost some time and had just about 24 minutes left out of 30. It was an incredibly tough game, as I was under time pressure and losing. It turned out ok at the end because I did end up winning the game, but I struggled a lot throughout that time.

#### Word Search by Yajat Gupta



“Chess Pieces” by Vahini Sadhu Venkata



# Chess Humor

by Vasishta Tumuluri

Q: Why should you buy a wooden chessboard?

A: Because then if you can't beat your opponent ON the board, then you can beat them WITH the board!

Moments when you should feel danger at chess:

1. There has been a change in the pawn structure: your opponent has 8 and you don't have any.
2. Your opponent begins to throw pawns at your eyes.
3. You have a won position, but your opponent has a gun.
4. The Director tells you not to bother turning in your score sheet after the game.
5. Before game begins you notice your opponent's 1st initials are 'GM'.
6. Your draw offer sends all the people watching your game into uncontrollable laughter.
7. Your opponent has 3 bishops.
8. If you subtract your rating from your opponent's rating the difference is still more than your rating



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Those who came to Tri-Bridges the Tuesday after the state event (Photo by Srini Vadiguri)

## Tri-Bridges Chess Club Celebrates After a Successful States

### Tri-Bridges at PSCF Scholastic Championship

Hundreds of Pennsylvania students converged on the Gettysburg area for the Pennsylvania State Scholastic Chess Championships on March 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. As has been the case for the last few years, Tri-Bridges had a significant presence at the event.

I always tell people to play in the event best for them and as such, we sometimes have only three players, or even two players in a section and yes, if we grouped kids differently we would likely win more club trophies, but the idea is for the club to serve the chess players not the other



way around.

This event begins on Friday night when the state blitz championship takes place. This event tends to have more adults and older kids and so we rarely have any representatives in this any of the three sections. This year, however, Yajat Gupta (see his articles elsewhere in the newsletter) won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Under 1500 section. He scored 5/6, +4=2 (5 out of 6, 4 wins and 2 draws), with victories over players coming in 11<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>, while drawing those who came in 9<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. When asked about his fine result weeks later he texted, “I wasn't sure how I would do at this blitz tournament, the big one, states! ... I have to thank my good friends Vasishta Tumuluri, Nwang Legden, and Bineet Roy for playing lots of chess with me and allowing me to get back up to speed in time for the tournament to start. It was tough and very stressful but I managed to pull out a successful tournament!”

The next day, Saturday, the two-day sections started with 3 rounds (2 rounds on Sunday) and the one-day sections started with the K-3 championship, the K-6 Under 500, and the K-6 Under 800 sections. In the K-3 championship section, we had only one player, Tanay Parripati, who had a fantastic performance, losing only to Mason Li, United States Grade 1 School Champion and finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a +4-1 (4 wins, 1 loss) score.

The K-6 Under 500 section (K6U500) was the first to exhibit one of the quirks and oddities of club chess. Unlike schools where people can only belong to one school, it is possible, especially in this area, to attend more than one club. Rules for states allow you to only represent one club, so numerous kids who routinely attend our events, had signed up to represent the Exton Chess Academy. Since most of them regularly come to club events I included them in the report (one of the perks of being author and editor!).

In this case, none of the four had their best tournament, but all gave a solid performance

with Om Shah and Ethan Wang, both scoring +3-2. Om's performance was particularly impressive as he is only a first grader and his two losses were to players who finished in the top 10. The club finished 8<sup>th</sup>, but with just two more kids also scoring 3 points, the club would have finished 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In the K-6 Under 800 section, Tri-Bridges had six kids, but only the top 4 scores count for club and school scores. There were also two sets of siblings representing Exton Chess Academy. One set would play for Tri-Bridges the next day (presumably this is legal as long as the players meet the attendance requirement for both clubs.) The results can be grouped as follows:

- 1) Aniruth Satish scoring 3.5 (+3-1=1) and finishing 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) Albert Wang (13<sup>th</sup>), Nidhi Nagumalla (14<sup>th</sup>), and Nihas Nagumalla (17<sup>th</sup>) winning 2<sup>nd</sup> Under 700, Top Girl, and 1<sup>st</sup> place Under 600, respectively.
- 3) Shrey Hulage (24<sup>th</sup>) and Avaneesh Ramamurthy (25<sup>th</sup>) finishing with a +3-2 score.
- 4) Saharsh Hulage (34<sup>th</sup>), Haasya Putumbaka (35<sup>th</sup>), Rachel Davies (48<sup>th</sup>), Yuwan Putumbaka (51<sup>st</sup>) all won games.

The club finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> with 12.5 points.

On Sunday, there are two one day events, the K-9 Under 1100 and the K-9 Under 600. In the K-9 Under 600 section, Albert Wang and Nihas Nagumalla finished 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> respectively with scores of 4-1. Nihas's lost game was to Albert when the two were unfortunately paired in round 3. The event tries to not pair club players the first two rounds, but after that sometimes players from the same club are paired. Ah, well, such is life! The instructive game is next

Nihas Nagumalla – Albert Wang

*Editor's note: While it is tremendously fun to show of one's wins, displaying one's losses is far less enjoyable. So that everyone may feel included, I will show off one of my losses in the next issue, so that we may all see that it happens to everyone.*

**1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Bc5 3.d3 h6 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.0–0 Nf6 6.Nc3 d6** Though the move order is slightly unusual, we have reached a very common position.

**7.Nh4 Ng4** Na4 or Bd2 is called for instead of Nh4. The common move to take advantage of Nh4, is Nxe4, winning a pawn after dxe4 and Qxh4. However, in this position, because Black hasn't castled, Nxe4 is met with Qh5, threatening mate on f7 and protecting the knight on h4.

**8.Nf5 Bxf5 9.exf5 Qh4 10.Re1** Before this move, it is unclear how black is going to win. He now has several mates that he misses. Such as 10. ...Qxf2 + 11.Kh1 Qg1+ 12.Rxg1 Nf2#



Albert with his Saturday trophy.



Albert with his Sunday trophy.



**10. ... Bxf2+ 11.Kf1 Nd4** This is not as strong as the mate in 4 started with Nxh2, but does a good job of getting the knight into the game and limiting escape squares for the king.

**12.Bd2 h5** Missing Nxh2# **13.Nd5 Kf8**

**14.c3 Nxf5** Now Nh2 is not mate, but White weakens g3, by pushing the h pawn, and Albert makes use of the weak g3 square.



White to move and checkmate in 4! This position is made up, but inspired from analysis of Albert's game.

The other two players in this section were Sanjitha Krishnan who finished 17<sup>th</sup> and won the 3<sup>rd</sup> place girl medal and Ethan Wang who finished 44<sup>th</sup>. Unlike everyone else on the team, Ethan was over 200 points from the top of the section, but performed well, scoring +2-3. The team finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 13.5 points, a half point back of Thinks Like a King and a full point back of Esperanza Queens.

In the K-9 Under 1100 section, Nidhi Nagumallu and Sid Prabhudesai finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively. Both went +3=2 (3 wins and 2 draws), with Nidhi scoring 2.5 out of 3 against players who finished in the top 10 and Sid drawing both his top 10 opponents. This difference undoubtedly was the cause for her winning second place on tie-breaks especially since she had a

forfeit win in the 1<sup>st</sup> round opponent, Evan Zhang. (Evan, who is a student of mine from State College, had gone undefeated at states each of the last two years, but his parents, like quite a few others, decided to skip the event due Covid19 concerns.) Both Sid and Nidhi represented the Marsh Creek Sixth Grade Center and their fine performance won them a 5<sup>th</sup> place school trophy even though they only had 2 players and the top 4 scores for each team are counted!! What is more, they were only 3.5 points away from 1<sup>st</sup> place!



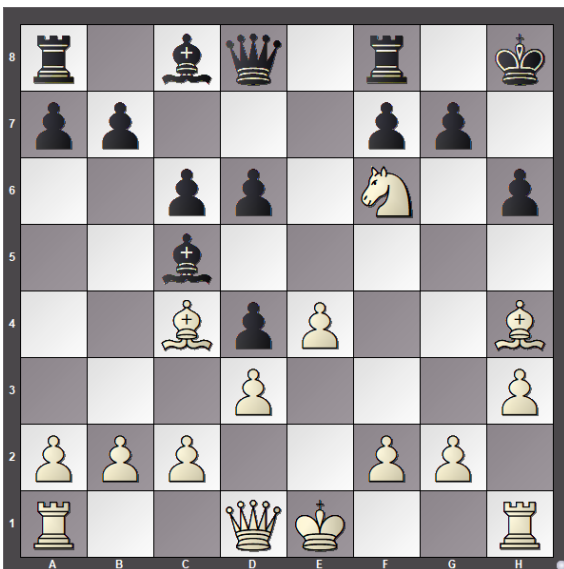
Pete Minear &amp; Co.



Sid Prabhudesai – Sophia Kuan

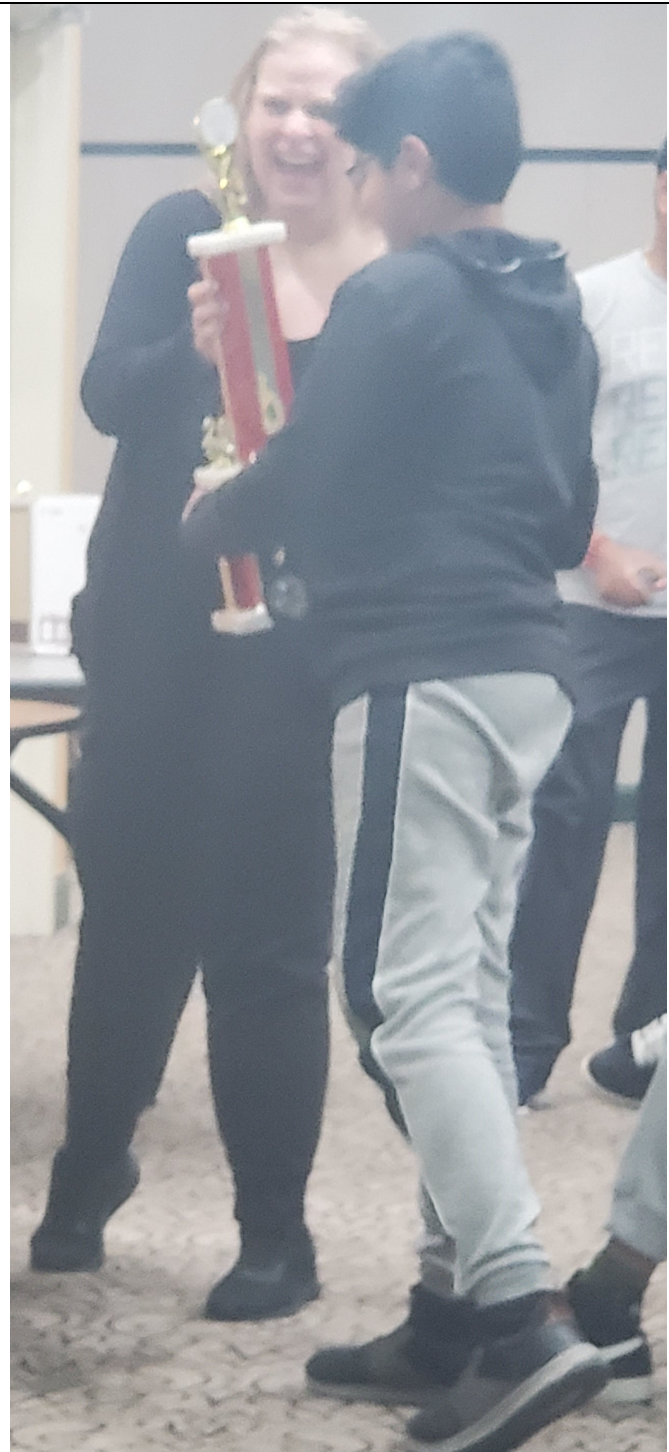
**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6 5.Bg5 d6 6.h3 h6 7.Bh4 Nd4 8.Nc3 0–0 9.Nd5 c6. 9...g5** and black has a slight advantage.

**10.Nxf6+ Kh8** White can get a large advantage. **11.Nxd4 Bxd4** Sid correctly trades the knights. **12. Qh5** should now be played. This would cause many problems as the g7 pawn becomes an overworked piece trying to support h6 and attack the knight on f6.



**12.c3 Bc5 13. Ng4 Qh5** is still superior here. **13. ...Qxh4 14.0–0 b5** Black's best chance is **14. ...f5** with something of an attack on the white kingside.

**15.Bb3 Bd7 16.Qf3 Be6 17.Rad1 Bxg4 18.Qxg4 Qf6 19.Rd2 Qg5 20.Qxg5 hxg5 21.d4 Bb6 22.f3 g4**



Sid making Sarah Street (Tournament Director Leteef Street's wife) laugh.

**23.hxg4 g6 24.Kh2 Kg7 25.Kg3 Rh8**

**26.Rdd1 exd4 27.cxd4 d5 28.exd5**

**cx d5 29.Bxd5 Rad8 30.Bc6 Bxd4**

**31.Bxb5 Be5+ 32.f4 Rb8 32. ...Rxb2**

and white maintains his slight

advantage. **33.fxe5 Rxb5 34.Rd2**

White misses Rd7 which would give him great pressure against f7. **34. ....**

**Rxe5 35.Rd7 Re3+ 36.Rf3 Rxf3+**

**37.gxf3 a5 38.Ra7 Rb8 39.b3 Rb5**

**40.Kf4 a4 41.Rxa4 g5+ 42.Kg3** At this

point the last few moves of the notation are inaccurate. White has a solid lead.

His plan for the next few moves will be as follows: Try to advance the

queenside pawns. If black allows this,

fine, if black brings his king over to help his rook, white will move his king to

take the pawns on the kingside. Then,

white will have his king helping the

kingside pawns and with the help of the

rook and the black king being far away,

he should have no trouble moving them

down to queen.



Sid and Nidhi with school trophy!



Nidhi Nagamulla – Jeremy Li

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.0–0**

**0–0 6.d3 h6 7.b3 d6 8.h3 Be6 9.Bxe6 fxe6**

**10.Nh4** There is that Nh4 move again. This time Nxe4 can be played with good success, though even stronger is likely Bd4.

**10. ....Kh7 11.Qf3** Looking to be aggressive is good and even asking the important question – Is this safe, won't help White in this case, as the queen move traps the knight.

**11. ...g5 12.Qg3 gxh4 13.Qxh4 Ng8 14.Qg4**

**Bd4 15.Bb2 Bxc3 16.Bxc3 Qe7 17.Rfd1 Rf4**

**18.Qg3 Nf6 19.f3 Rg8 20.Qf2 d5 21.exd5 exd5**

**22.Re1 d4** Black should be looking for how to breakthrough on the kingside in this position. Play where your advantages are Placing the knight on f4 after relocating the rook that is there certainly makes sense.

**23.Bd2 Rf5 24.Qh4 Rh5 25.Qf2** Now both sides miss the threat of Rxh3 for several moves. Worse, Black now chooses to ignore his kingside advantages to play on the queenside.

**25. ...Nb4 26.Bc1 Qc5 27.c4 b5 28.Qd2 Nd7**

**29.Ba3 a5 30.f4 Qe7 31.Qe2** Black's new found interest on the queenside now causes



Sid, Mihir, and Nidhi hold on to the trophy with Abhi standing in for Tanay who had to leave.



him to miss the attack on the Rook on h5.

**31. ... c5 32.Qxh5 Nc2 33.Bb2 Nxa1 34.Bxa1**

**Nf6 35.Qxe5** Black now gives up his e5 pawn. Qg7 before Nf6 would help black straighten out his pieces.

**35. ... Qg7 36.Qf5+ Kh8 37.Re2 bxc4 38.dxc4 Rd8 39.Qxc5 d3 40.Rd2 Qg6 41.Qc6 Kg7.**

Black has dropped a couple of pawns, but now speeds up the end by walking into a fork.

**42.Qc7+ Rd7 43.Qxd7+ Kf8 44.Qc7 Nh5 45.g4**

**Ng3 46.f5 Qg5 47.Qd6+ Ke8 48.Qxd3 Kf7**

**49.Qd7+ Kf8** Black has just walked into a mate in 5 - **50.Bg7+ Kg8 51.Qe8+ Kxg7 52.Rd7+ Qe7 53.Qxe7+ Kg8 54.Rd8#**

**50.Rd5** should give away half a point, after

**50.... Qe3+ 51.Kg2** and Black could have a perpetual check with something like **51...Qe4+**

**52.Kh2 Qe2+ 53.Kxg3 Qe3+ 54.Kg2 Qe2+ ,**

but instead Jeremy played **51. ... Ne2**

**52.Bg7+ Kg8 53.Qd8+ Kxg7 54.Rd7+ 1-0**



I try to hide behind the club trophy as Sid, Mihir, Abhi, and Nidhi hold their trophies. I have lost a bit of weight, but I don't think I am successfully hiding from anybody! (Photo by Srini Vadiguri)



Abhi getting his trophy from NTD Sam Shoyket

Tanay Parripati, fresh off his 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the K-3 Championship section, scored +3-2 (3 wins 2 losses.) Mihir Pewekar was entered as an Unrated (he had played in a couple events

before states, but only weeks before states and the events had not affected his rating), and since he was listed as an Unrated, he could have played in the K-9 Under 600, but since his rating after the event was in the 700s, he chose to play in the harder section. He still won two games. These 4 players combined to give the club 13 points and a tie with Paul Robeson club for first place in the section. Our tiebreakers were not as good and we earned the second place trophy.

The three players making up the club team, all had something unusual about their performance and combined for  $6\frac{1}{2}$  points for the club, good enough for fifth place. Fifteen rating points kept Kasyap Tumuluri from being able to play in the K-6 Under 800 section, and so rather than play in two one day sections, he played in one two-day section, the K-6 Championship. Still, he finished with 2 points.

Patrick McGlaughlin was not even at the event and he scored a point! He was supposed to play in the K-6 Championship section, but a variety of factors, including his mom being 8 months pregnant with Patrick's fifth sibling (Congratulations to the McGlaughlin family on a happy healthy little girl, Moira, who was born a few weeks ago, and is now probably the youngest player ever mentioned in a tournament report) led to Patrick's not attending. He was awarded a full point bye in the first round and no one noticed he was not at the event, so he was paired in the second round and only after that forfeit loss was Patrick withdrawn from the event. His free point did not alter our place in this section. Though it is a great opportunity to remind you all that if you are going to miss an event, PLEASE tell your tournament director/organizer!

The most noteworthy performance in this section was by Abhiram Vadiguri, rated 1173. He scored  $3\frac{1}{2}$  points,  $+3-1=1$  (3 wins, 1 loss and 1 draw). This score allowed him to finish in 7<sup>th</sup> place and 5<sup>th</sup> grade co-champion. He was the lowest rated player in the top 7. Key to his performance was his last round game against top ranked, 1900+, fellow 5<sup>th</sup> grader Andrew Feng.

His hard-fought draw against a player approximately 750 points higher rated is below.

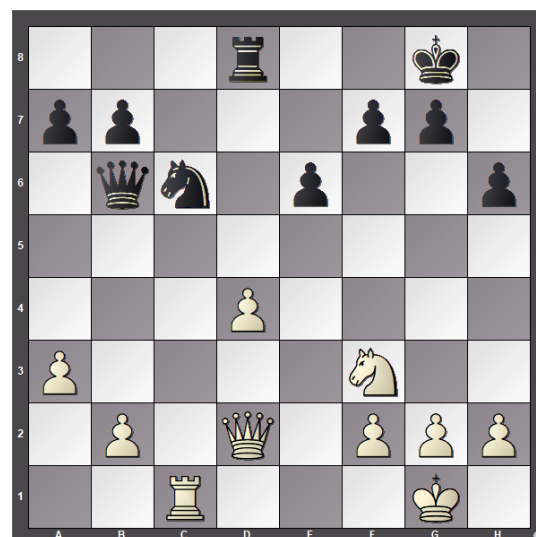


Abhi with his trophy



While Avaneesh was in playing his game, his parents looked much more relaxed than he did!

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bf5 4.Bf4 e6 5.e3 c6 6.Bd3 Bxd3  
7.Qxd3 Nbd7 8.0-0 Be7 9.Rfe1 0-0 10.e4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 c5  
12.c3 Qb6 Chessbase 15 gives this move an N meaning novelty.  
In that database the only move listed is 12...Nxe4 followed by  
13.Qxe4 b6 14.Rab1 Nf6 15.Qe2 Qd5 16.a3 Rac8 17.h3 Rfd8  
18.Bh2 Qb3 and an eventual draw in Hadler,J (1996)-Maister,D  
(1851) Playchess.com INT 2020  
13.Rab1 Rfd8 14.Nfd2 cxd4 15.cxd4 Nd5 16.Bg5 Bxg5 17.Nxg5  
N7f6 18.Nde4 h6 19.Nf3 Rac8 20.Nxf6+ Nxf6 While neither play  
a huge advantage, Abhi has developed a little bit of pressure by  
blockading the d4 pawn and preventing black from using c5 and e  
outpost squares for White's knights. 21.Qd2 Nd5 22.Rec1 Rxc1+  
23.Rxc1 Nb4 24.a3 Nc6!



My Fritz 13 engine gives this move an exclamation mark. d5 is





Tanay – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – K-3 Open!

a natural looking square for the knight, but Abhi correctly recognizes that he can be a little more aggressive by placing the knight on c6 and attacking the d4 pawn. **25.Rd1 Rd5**

Unfortunately, Abhi now misses the continuation Nxd4 26. Nxd4 e5 where black will recoup his material and have a nice passed pawn. **26.h3 e5 27.b4 exd4 28.Qe2** White comes up with a nice threat – Qe8+ followed by Kh7 and Qe4+ with a **28. ... Qd8** Abhi parries nicely – blocking the threat while centralizing his queen and over-protecting his d pawn. **29.Qe4 a6 30.Ne1 Ne5** This looks natural, but Black is better off playing Re5, then 31. Qf3 a5, and black can keep up the pressure. **31.Nd3 Nc4 32.a4 Nb6** Again ...a5 gives black some counter play. **33.Nc5** and draw in an equal position.  $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$

As we are a club of mostly young players, we rarely have many players in the high school sections, but this year we had a player in the 7-12 Under 1300 section. Sandeep Senthilkumar, who regularly plays with us, but not quite enough to technically represent the club, scored 3-2. His fine result included a tough loss to the winner of the section.

We “sort of” had four players in the K-12 Open Championship, 2 regular players and 2 players who

are “alumni.” Anyone of any age is welcome at the club. However, we have a variety of players who have essentially, aged out – they get busy doing other things as they get older and just do not come back to play very often. Ram Singh and Jack Lieberman used to play at the club, but both are older now. Ram still drops in occasionally, but Jack lives a bit farther away and does not attend. As far as the state of Pennsylvania is concerned, neither attends anywhere near frequently enough to be considered part of the club and both quite correctly are not mentioned as club members. Still I wanted to take a moment to recognize them and their solid +1 performances (3 wins, 2 losses,)

The two players who come to club frequently enough are Vasishta Tumuluri and Yajat Gupta, both of whom have submitted work for you to enjoy and are part of the group with the Crescent Knight advertisement. They both had a solid, even result (2 wins, 2 losses, 1 draw) with Vasishta drawing Peter Jackson, who finished 8<sup>th</sup>. The team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with 5 points, but if the “alumni” we would have finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, just a half point back of the Amity Chess Club.

It was not just the kids getting to play, as Steve Conner, who teaches many of the kids mentioned in this report, and who helps me run club, finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the Under 1800 section of the Gettysburgh Open.

While all of this was going on, the annual coaches meeting had significant turnout as there was much discussion about getting rid of club trophies. Pennsylvania is either the only, or one of very few, states that gives out club trophies at their state scholastic tournament. After much good discussion, no official action was taken. When I recently reached out to Brad Crable, chair of the Pennsylvania Scholastic Committee, he wrote that at least as of now “clubs will be allowed.”

Full results of the event can be found at - <http://www.pscfchess.org/results/>

Much thanks to all the organizers and tournament directors who made this a fun event!

# Tri-Bridges Chess Club in the Digital Age

The club has been active online during the Covid19 epidemic. We will have a website up by the next issue (beginning of June), with some social media components. Currently, we have a Facebook page at - <https://www.facebook.com/Tri-Bridges-Chess-Club-112545807062599> and the club page at chess.com - <https://www.chess.com/club/tri-bridges-chess-club>. My name on chess.com is TRoosevelt1858 if you have any questions, feel free to message me.

1. Sign in to Chess.com through your computer. (With the app, but is more difficult.)
2. On the left is a column of terms click on play and then on the next column of terms, Live Chess.
3. On the right, the screen will have tabs for Play and Tournament.
4. Click on the tournament tab and then the Upcoming tab, unless the event has started, then use the In Progress tab.
5. Upcoming should list many tournaments, those run by clubs you are a member of will be listed first. Most of our events take place at 7 PM on weekdays, 1 PM on weekends. Monday and Friday are usually beginner events.

List of Tournament Winners from online events through 5/1/2020

<https://www.chess.com/club/tri-bridges-chess-club>

## Arena Events

Event	Date	# Participants	Winner	Score
TBCC Arena #1	3/31/20	20	MadLad42	53
Weekly Arena ...	4/7/20	39	MadLad42	57
Arena #3	4/14/20	30	MadLad42	69
Beginner Arena	4/15/20	18	Avaneeshramamurthy	21
Beginner Event	4/20/20	6	Gamers1	20
Arena #4	4/21/20	35	MadLad42	35
Beginner Arena#3	4/27/20	15	Gamers1	37
Arena #5	4/28/20	39	MadLad42	41

## Tournament Events

Event	Date	# Participants	Winner	Score
TBCC Online #1	4/1/20	19	MadLad42	3/3
Saturday G/25 ...	4/11/20	23	TeeTeeTimbo	3/3
Thursday Blitz	4/16/20	5	MadLad42	3/3
Blitz at 8	4/16/20	12	MadLad42	3/3
Beginner Swiss	4/17/20	7	Avaneeshramamurthy	3/3
Crazyhouse #1	4/18/20	6	Multiple Winners	2/3
Sunday Swiss – Open	4/19/20	5	MadLad42	3/3
Sunday Swiss – U1200	4/19/20	9	Multiple Winners	2.5/3
Blitz #2	4/22/20	8	The FinalEndgame	3/3
Under 1000 – Beginner	4/24/20	10	Charizard2812	3/3
25 5 Tnmt	4/26/20	9	Multiple Winners	2.5/3
960 Tnmt	4/29/20	9	TRoosevelt1858	5/5
Bughouse	4/30/20	16	Multiple Winners	3/3

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Season of Mid-Atlantic Online League

Due to Covid-19 there has been a 2<sup>nd</sup> season of the Mid-Atlantic Online League. Unlike the first season when Tri-Bridges had one team and the league had 5, we now have three teams in a 12-team league. Much like the first season, teams have come on as the league has gone one and this season two weeks were even added on, so that we have a 7-week season. The website for the league is <https://njscf.org/results/> and it is updated fairly regularly thanks to Anand Mishra and Dov Gorman who are in charge of the league.

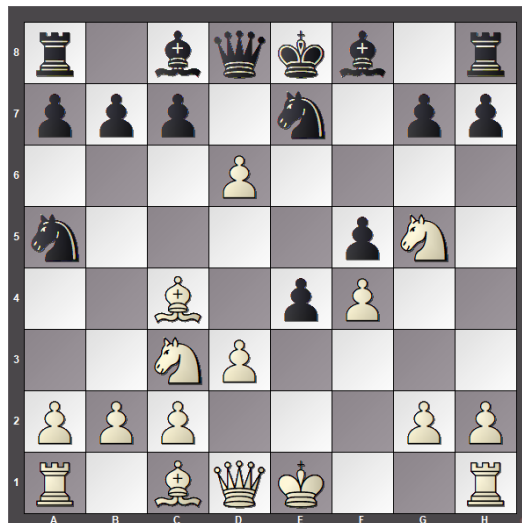
After 4 rounds of the 7-round season, TBCC (Tri-Bridges Chess Club) 1 and TBCC 2 are both 2 and 2 with team 1 being led by Jack Lieberman and followed by Ram Singh, Steve Conner, and Vasishta Tumuluri. The second team is made up of (including alternates) Anthony Gold, Yajat Gupta, River-Travis Lawson, Rahul Narayanan, and Tanay Parripati. and Tanay Parripati. Both teams are in the top 4 at the moment, particular good as team 1 is the 6<sup>th</sup> highest rated team and team 2 is the 9<sup>th</sup> highest rated team. TBCC 3 consists of Sriram Marni, Haasya and Yuvan Putumbaka, Warrin John, Azim Julkipli, and Rithik Rao. This is a much younger team, but they are getting in some good practice.

### Vasishta Tumuluri (MadLad42) (1686) - Roger Inglis (rwij) (1198)

Mid-Atlantic Chess League Chess.com (1), 27.03.2020

**1.e4 e5 2.Nc3** Going into the Vienna, an offbeat approach to the King's Pawn Game **2...Nc6** The Vienna Max Lange **3.f4** Continuing with the normal ideas in the Vienna **3...d6** Supporting the pawn on e5 **4.Nf3** Building more pressure on e5 **4...f5?! 5.Bc4** Preparing 6. Ng5 to attack on f7. **5...Nge7?** Doing nothing to stop the threat **6.Ng5** Now white has a threat that Black is forced to address. If nothing is done, White will play Bf7+ and then Ne6, winning Black's queen. **6...d5** The only move that doesn't immediately result in a

relatively lost position, but White still has the advantage] **7.exd5** Accepting Black's (forced) gift of a pawn, and after moving the pawn on d5, Bf7+ and Ne6 is once again a winning threat **7...Na5** Saving the knight and attacking the bishop, as is commonly done in the Italian Two Knights defense after White makes similar threats involving Ng5 and then exd5. However, there are some important differences: Black's kingside is wide open, and White's overwhelming advantages in piece activity and space threaten to suffocate Black. **8.d3** Giving up the bishop for the knight, but it does not matter. The knight on a5 is the closes thing that Black has to an active piece and taking the bishop on c4 leaves White with all the activity, and Black with nothing. **8...e4** Challenging the defender of the bishop on c4. But White can take no notice and continue with his threats on the kingside **9.d6!** Giving up a pawn to threaten the f7 square



**9...Nxc4** The only way for Black to avoid significant material loss as well as kingside destruction, but it is not enough. Black still loses a piece and most likely the game. **10.dxe7** Winning a piece **10...Bxe7** The only reply. **11.dxc4 Qxd1+** **12.Nxd1 h6** **13.Nh3 Bc5** **14.Be3 Bxe3** **15.Nxe3 g5?** Losing another pawn, which White will take happily. **16.fxg5 hxg5** **17.Nxg5 f4** **18.Nd5 Kd7** **19.Nxf4** Black accepts defeat and resigns. **1-0**

Vasishta's analysis provides us with a great bridge from the close of this issue, which sadly must come to an end, and to the next issue, which regardless of our results will undoubtedly focus on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Season of the League as well as an invitation to partake in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Season.