



23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2016

## ***FAIRY TALE ENDING FOR THE DELANCEY CHESS CHALLENGE!***

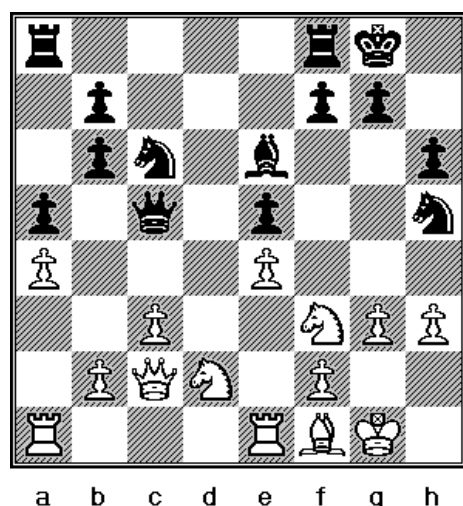
There were several fairy tale endings in the 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the Chess Challenge, where Joseph McPhillips, who has competed in the Chess Challenge since the age of 7, signed off in emphatic style, winning the STRAT title, the cup and £2,000 first prize.

Joseph won the first five games on the trot, and come the last round, the only player who could overtake him was Daniel Varney. However, facing a 60-point grading difference, Daniel did not want to try conclusions and a quiet draw ensued.

Joseph McPhillips did not have it all his own way in the Terafinal. After going like an express train on the first day, he had a tough fourth round game against Jonah Willow, and an even harder fight in round 5 against Dominic Klingher.



***Winning smile***



8 White: Dominic Klingher Black: J McPhillips

7 Position after 18 ... Qc5

6 Two questions for Malcolm Pein's and Ray Keene's articles in the  
5 Telegraph and Times!

4 1. Black is threatening 19 ... Nxg3 here, winning a pawn. What  
3 would happen if white  
2 played the natural 19 Kg2?

1 2. White actually played  
19 Qb1. Why didn't black  
carry on with 19 ... Nxg3?  
(answers at the end of this  
article).

The actual game continued 19 ... Rfd8, after which white seized the initiative by 20 Rc1 Ne7 21 b4! However, expert defence by McPhillips eventually reeled in the victory.



***Daniel Varney - 2nd place  
Lifetime best and £1,000!***

For Daniel Varney, the result led to a fairy tale ending, since the draw gave him clear second place and a prize of £1,000 – a career best performance. For once he eclipsed his more famous sister, Zoe Varney, who, playing in the Challengers “B” section, went for broke by trying to win the first prize of £500 outright. She lost, and saw her prize diminished by £485 – but she gained admiration for her fighting qualities.

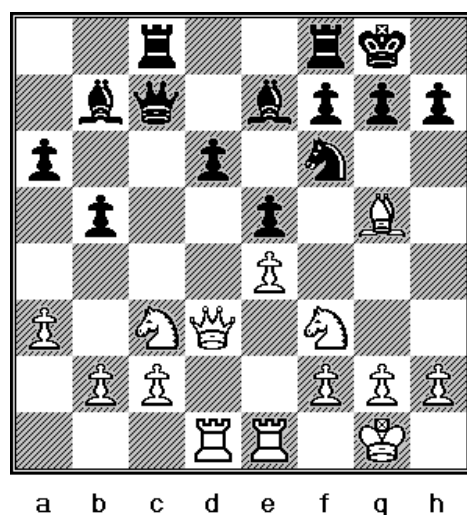
## HISTORY IN THE MAKING – BUT NOT AS WE EXPECTED!

Another sensational result was that of Susie Wang of West Nottingham Junior Chess Club. For the first time in the 20 year history of the Chess Challenge, a girl won the Patrick Rebello Under 11 Cup; and there are many famous names on that Cup – GM David Howell, IM Yang-Fan Zhou, IM Felix Ynojosa, Joseph McPhillips, William Claridge Hansen, Alex Golding and Koby Kalavannan, to name but a few.



**Susie Wang**

An analysis of Susie’s games to leads to a surprising conclusion: *Making waves – and making history!* instead of “getting lucky” because of the imprecision of Swiss system pairings, Susie in fact won the hard way. Most of her opponents were graded far above her own grade of 134, and she made a tournament grade of 160. She only lost one game to second placed Daniel Varney (in 88 moves), and in nearly all her games she showed surprising maturity for an 11 year old: good positional skills, excellent tactics and the ability to maintain a high level of play for long periods of time. Here is her last round win against Armaan Gogia which clinched the Under 11 prize for her.



8 White: Susie Wang Black: Armaan Gogia

7

6 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 e5 7 Nf3  
5 Be7 8 0-0 b5 9 a3 0-0 10 Bg5 Nbd7 11 Qd2 Bb7 12 Bd3 Nc5 13  
4 Rfe1 Nxd3 14 Qxd3 Rc8 15 Rad1 Qc7 (diag)

3

2 Susie now breaks up black’s kingside with an important exchange.  
1 16 Bxf6 gxf6 17 Nh4 Kh8 18 Nf5 Rcd8 19 Re3 Rg8 20 Nh6 Rg7 21  
Rh3 Rf8 22 Nf5 Rg6 23 Nxd6 Bxd6 24 Qxd6 Qc8 25 Rf3 Rfg8 26 g3  
Qg4 27 Rxf6 Rg5 28 Rxf7  
h5?? 29 Qh6++

The two top girls, Louise Head and Akshaya Kalaiyalahan fought each other to a standstill; in round 5 they drew their game, and this gave an opportunity to Lucy Bennet-Stevens to join them in a winning trio. The three girls shared the top girl prize of £1,000.



**Big hitters Louise and Akshaya – and Lucy joins the club!**



This year the Under 9 prize of £300 went to Solomon Mitchell from Sussex. In recognition of the increasing strength of under 9 players, next year a winner's cup will be awarded, plus the prize money will be increased to £500.

In the Challengers "A" Section, 13 year old Max Turner was a worthy winner, coming home with five wins and one draw. The Challengers "B" section featured an unprecedented 5-way tie between Anshu Ramaiya, Robert Ashworth, Callum Brewer, Pranay Chauhan and Emily Green. Finally, the Challengers "C" was won by top seed Andrew Horton, closely followed by Jonathan Fowler.



*Solomon Mitchell – mini Strat*



*Max Turner.  
Success for the younger  
generation"*



*Fin and Win.  
Andrew Horton dominated Challengers "C"*



*Challengers "B". The Famous Five!  
(left to right: Anshu, Pranay, Emily, Callum and Robert plus  
Toby Balouka-Myers (second right) the under 11 winner, making six!*

Relax Major (the Nicola Hood Cup) was shared by Egor Latypova and Rohan Bansal; Relax Minor was won by Radu Tatar.

## CAKE OR WAKE?



*Craig Whitfield was a popular commentator*

The most popular part of the tournament was the magnificent cake presented by sponsors Delancey. Dozens of pieces were given out to hungry children at the prize giving.

Sadly, the cake may mark the end of this magnificent event, which has served the junior chess playing community for so many years, because Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs has thought fit to send in a demand for £300,000 (for VAT fees), at the same time bankrupting organiser Mike Basman.

But we have a petition up on our website [www.ukchesschallenge.com](http://www.ukchesschallenge.com) which we hope you will sign, asking for chess to be exempted from VAT (Value Added Tax). Over one hundred physical sports do not charge VAT and it seems rather unfair that the premier mental activity, chess, is not on the list. As all success is based on a mixture of physical, mental and emotional factors the important role of chess ought to be recognised by the government.

We would also urge you to write to your local MP to say how much you support the Chess Challenge; they will be bound to take an interest because all MPs are closely linked to their constituents. A draft letter is also on our website.

The Chess Challenge is in check, but it is certainly not check mate, so WE CAN STILL WIN! Please help to keep the tournament going for next year!

Mike Basman, August 2016.  
[www.ukchesschallenge.com](http://www.ukchesschallenge.com) Mobile: 07715 041320

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*Traci Whitfield, representing the ECF, made an impassioned plea on behalf of the Chess Challenge*



*Anuurai Sainbayar set up a petition on the internet*

Answers to puzzle: (1) 19 Kg2? Bxh3+! 20 Kxh3 Qxf2 and mates. (2) Probably because white would play 20 b4! axb4 21 cxb4 Nxb4 22 Rc1 breaking the pin and allowing a subsequent fxg3 by white.