

Dear Dragons,

Welcome to Edition 3 of the Weekly St George Club Champs newsletter! In the top division, despite playing his first game as Black, Arthur Huynh continued his winning ways to maintain his lead on 3/3; while Daniel Melamed and Ian Stalker played a thrilling double bishop ending... Division 2 had two adjourned games, but another victory to Nick Kordahi saw him stay at the top on 3/3; while Netra Bhatt's third straight win left him leading Division 3 on 3/3. In Division 4, Tibor Lendvai won again, claiming the lead on 2.5/3 after a shock loss by Ashton Li; but with four players breathing down his neck on 2/3, that division looks like it will be a thriller! Boris Paceskoski maintained his outright lead in Division 5 on 3.3 with another win; while James Yossef and Nihal Scammell both did likewise in Division 6 to share the lead on 3/3. Finally, Mark Boan's first loss left Evgeny Glukhikh alone in the lead on 3/3 in Division 7 after his convincing win. All good fun; so let's see how it all happened!

## Division 6

**Ethan Currie 0.5-0.5 Peter Swinton:** Poor Peter beat himself up after letting slip half a point here! After an even opening, he had the edge by Move 10; this gradually got bigger as his knight got to the beautiful square c4. Ethan managed to equalise, but a c5 pawn break gave Peter the advantage again. He won a pawn and seemed well on the way to victory; but then he had an optical illusion and thought he had blundered! So he offered a draw, gratefully accepted – the final position was –3 for Peter...

**Ralph Mitchell 0-1 James McQueen:** Ralph seems to be playing marathons lately; but he is coming out on the wrong side... Here a faulty tactic on Move 6 left him a whole piece down by Move 10. He then scrapped and fought forever, sacrificing more material to try to attack the enemy king, but it was all in vain: James gave it all back to force a winning ending, which he duly converted on Move 61.

**Marshall Scott – Trilok Shenoy:** This game was postponed by Marshall.

**Nihal Scammell 1-0 Aaron Hu:** Nihal has been playing more aggressively in this event, but not in the opening – here Aaron even had a slight edge by Move 10. But he missed a chance to be aggressive himself with 12...f5, and Nihal took over! She won a pawn, then gave it right back to get a bishop and queen battery on the long diagonal against the enemy king. Aaron tried to defend, but to no avail, as both his king and queen were chased! Eventually he had to give up his queen, but this only delayed the inevitable; he resigned a move before his king was about to be checkmated on g7. See game below.

### Scammell, Nihal (1297) - Hu, Aaron (1246), St George Club Champs Div 6 Round 3, 18/03/2025

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.a3 Bc5 4.h3 0-0 5.g3 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Bg2 Be6 8.Nf3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 e4 10.Nh2 Bd5 11.e3 Nc6 12.Qc2 Re8 13.c4 Be6 14.Bxe4 g6 15.g4 Qh4 16.Nf3 Qh6 17.Bb2 Bxg4 18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.Qc3 Kf8 20.Qh8+ Ke7 21.Qf6+ Kf8 22.hxg4 Qxh1+ 23.Ke2 Qh6 24.Ng5 Qxg5 25.Qxg5 Be7 26.Qh6+ 1-0

**James Yossef 1-0 William Liu:** James joined Nihal on 3/3 with an equally convincing win! In a Bb5+ Sicilian, play was even for the first dozen moves; then James blundered his e4 pawn to a tactic based on a pin and removing the guard. But William did not see it; and he was worse five moves later when he moved his rook to the wrong square. Then he let his knight get trapped in the middle of the board! It did not last long after that; he resigned when a knight fork would have left him a whole rook down.

## Division 2

**Vincent Qiang 0-1 Ted Power:** Showing the force of his name, Ted gradually ground down his rival here! After early simplifications, they settled into a positional manoeuvring contest. Ted got a big edge via a nice pseudo sacrifice of the exchange, winding up with him a pawn up in a rook ending. From there he slowly ground Vincent down, finishing with three connected passed pawns against an a-pawn. This was winning, and Ted made no mistake, wrapping up victory in 60 moves. See game next page.

**Qiang, Vincent (1849) - Power, Ted (1822), St George Club Champs Div 2 Round 3, 18/03/2025**

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2 c5 6.d5 exd5 7.Nxd5 Nxd5 8.Qxd5 Qxd5 9.Bxd5 Nd7 10.Bxc4 Nb6 11.Bd3 Be6 12.Bd2 Be7 13.Bc3 0-0 14.b3 Rac8 15.Rc1 c4 16.bxc4 Bxc4 17.Bxc4 Rxc4 18.e3 Rxc3 19.Rxc3 Bb4 20.Ne2 Na4 21.Kd2 Rd8+ 22.Kc2 Bxc3 23.Nxc3 Rc8 24.Kb3 Rxc3+ 25.Kxa4 Rc2 26.Kb3 Rxf2 27.Rc1 g6 28.Rc7 Rxh2 29.Rxb7 Kf8 30.Rxa7 Re2 31.a4 Rxe3+ 32.Kb4 Rxg3 33.Rc7 Re3 34.Kb5 h5 35.a5 h4 36.a6 g5 37.a7 Ra3 38.Kb4 Rxa7 39.Rxa7 h3 40.Ra8+ Kg7 41.Kc3 h2 42.Ra1 g4 43.Rh1 g3 44.Kd3 g2 45.Rxh2 g1Q 46.Re2 f5 47.Kd2 f4 48.Re1 Qd4+ 49.Ke2 Qe3+ 50.Kf1 Qf3+ 51.Kg1 Qg3+ 52.Kf1 f3 53.Re7+ Kf6 54.Re6+ Kf5 55.Rf6+ Ke5 56.Rf5+ Ke4 57.Rf4+ Qxf4 58.Kg1 Qg3+ 59.Kf1 Qg2+ 60.Ke1 Qe2# 0-1

**Michael Babic – Jim Mavroidis:** This game was postponed by an unwell Jim.

**Sarwat Rewais 1-0 Jose Escribano:** Our ex-President's first victory was typically solid, despite being slightly worse from the opening. But he gradually fought back, gaining the edge via a powerful knight on c5 and a backward enemy d-pawn. Then Jose blundered a pawn to a tactic, and from there Sarwat was never headed; it took a while, but he won a second pawn then a piece and prevailed on Move 58.

**George Morgan – Fady Gerges:** This game was postponed by George.

**Nick Kordahi 1-0 Ertan John Huseyin:** The outright leader was aggressive with White, sacrificing a piece early for two pawns and an attack. He was actually losing with best play; but his opponent failed to play a crucial queen check. Then they were level after Nick won a third pawn for the piece. Play seesawed, then Nick got an edge via a pin and an e6 pawn push. The end came two moves later: Black blundered on Move 29 (trading queens was correct), and Nick was winning by force. See game below.

**Kordahi, Nick (1804) - Huseyin, Ertan John (1840), St George Club Champs Div 2 Rd 3, 18/03/25**

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f3 Bg7 5.Be3 c6 6.Qd2 Nbd7 7.Bh6 Bxh6 8.Qxh6 e5 9.0-0-0 b5 10.Bxb5 cxb5 11.Nxb5 Qb6 12.dxe5 Qxb5 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.Nh3 Bxh3 15.Qxh3 Rb8 16.b3 0-0 17.Rxd6 Qe5 18.Rhd1 Rfc8 19.Kb1 Qc3 20.R1d2 a5 21.R6d3 Qc5 22.Qh4 Kg7 23.Qf2 Qb5 24.Rd6 Rc4 25.Qe2 Qb4 26.e5 Ne8 27.Rd8 Rcc8 28.R8d7 Qb5 29.e6 Rc7 30.Qxb5 Rxb5 31.exf7 1-0

**Division 5**

**Ken Eldridge 0.5-0.5 Michael Punzet:** The one that got away for Ken! Equal early on after queens were traded, he got a positional advantage when Michael recaptured the wrong way on Move 12. This eventually led to the win of a backward c-pawn, then a second and third pawn. It should then have been all over; but he gave Black counterplay on the queenside! Forced to deal with a passed a-pawn, the result was all pawns ended up traded off; so a draw by liquidation of material was the final result.

**Boris Paceskoski 1-0 Dimitrios Stathos:** An off night for Dimitrios! He was actually much better from the opening after White's errant sixth move, then winning when a queen foray won him a pawn on g2. But instead of winning the exchange on Move 11 for an easy win, he took a pawn on h2 instead, and they were level! Then he dropped a rook to a queen fork... It lasted another 15 moves, but it was curtains for Dimitrios after that; and Boris, still a whole rook up, went on to win on Move 30.

**Huey Teng 1-0 Maan Beydoun:** Maan's first game of the event went fine in the opening, with a slight advantage by Move 10. But after another dozen moves of equal play, Maan saddled himself with a backward d-pawn by allowing an en passant capture! Huey won it immediately, then soon won another pawn. After that, so fearful was Maan for his king that he kept trading anyway! But to no avail: he resigned three moves later when his king was about to get checkmated.

**Stephen Elliott 0.5-0.5 Chris Brown:** There was nothing much doing for either player in this one! White had two pawn islands to Black's three; but any tiny advantage resided with Black. Still, it was nowhere near enough; the final evaluation was 0.00 when they agreed a draw on Move 28.

**Ralph Shaw 1-0 Sam Sharkawy:** Ralph's first win came when Sam broke a golden rule: never take the queen knight pawn with your queen! To avoid it being trapped, Sam had to lose a rook to a knight fork. Ralph had no trouble from there, trading queens and winning in 32 moves; see game below.

**Shaw, Ralph (1320) - Sharkawy, Sam (1338), St George Club Champs Div 5 Round 3, 18/03/2025**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.d4 Bd7 5.dxe5 Nxe5 6.Bxd7+ Nxd7 7.0-0 h6 8.Bf4 Qf6 9.Qd2 Qxb2 10.Nc3 Nc5 11.Rab1 Qa3 12.Nb5 Qa4 13.Nxc7+ Kd7 14.Nxa8 Nf6 15.e5 Nfe4 16.Qd4 Qxd4 17.Nxd4 g5 18.Bg3 Nd2 19.exd6 Nxf1 20.Kxf1 Bg7 21.Nf5 Bf6 22.Nc7 b6 23.Nd5 Ke6 24.Nxf6 Kxf5 25.Re1 Ne6 26.Nd5 Kg6 27.Ne7+ Kh7 28.Nc6 a5 29.Rxe6 fxe6 30.d7 Rf8 31.d8Q Rf5 32.Qd7+ 1-0

## Division 7

**Dhyan Shenoy 0.5-0.5 Reno Sciberras:** Unfortunately, both scoresheets were incomprehensible here! All I know is that the first nine moves were level; and they played a very long game that ended up in a draw. I think it was by liquidation of material; in any case, off the mark for both of them as a result...

**Tom England 1-0 Dimitrios Gourlas:** An easy game for Tom! Dimitrios made an error on Move 13, and Tom won a piece via a pin (and traded queens) four moves later. After that, it was all plain sailing: Tom won a rook, then a second via queening, finishing with mate with two rooks on Move 41.

**Matthew Waugh 1-0 Mark Boan:** Mark's first loss was a very well-played game by Matthew! When Mark failed to break a pin with g5, Matthew was already much better; and this advantage only grew when he won a pawn then a rook via a different pin. After that, Matthew simply traded down to a dead won endgame; and Mark resigned on Move 35 when his king was about to be checkmated.

**Evgeny Glukhikh 1-0 Mena Soliman:** The easy wins in this division continue! Mind you, Mena was the one winning early here, after Evgeny blundered a piece for two pawns. But after Mena blundered his queen, it was all downhill from there; and in the end, Evgeny won by checkmate on Move 30.

**Samuel Slingo 0-1 John Matson:** An aggressive Samuel held the edge early, winning a pawn; but by Move 13, Black had won it back and equalised. Then John ate Samuel's queenside pawns for dinner! Two pawns up, he won easily after that; winning a piece, the end came via checkmate on Move 50.

## Division 4

**Emmanuel Vardakis 1-0 Ashton Li:** This upset win by Emmanuel was a topsy-turvy, intriguing game! After a sharp opening where he sacrificed two pawns and a piece but won all this material back by force, Emmanuel was level till a subtle mistake by Ashton on Move 10. Then he missed a brilliant win with 12.Qh5! – he was worried about 12...g6, but failed to spot 13.Qg5 winning... From there Ashton slowly equalised, then gained the edge when Emmanuel blundered a pawn to a back rank mate trick on Move 24. Opposite coloured bishops unbalanced the position as Emmanuel won his pawn back; then before Ashton knew it, another blunder and he was being checkmated! See game below.

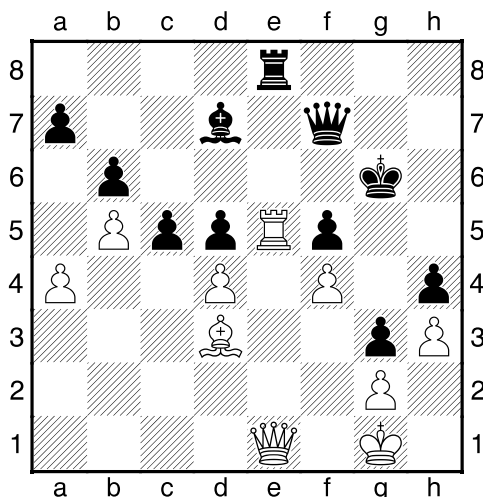
**Vardakis, Emmanuel (1438) - Li, Ashton (1558), St George Club Champs Div 4 Rd 3, 18/03/2025**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.Re1 d5 7.Bxd5 Qxd5 8.Nc3 Qa5 9.Rxe4+ Be7 10.Nxd4 Bf5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Re1 Be6 13.Qf3 Qc5 14.Be3 Qc4 15.Qg3 Bf6 16.Qxc7 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Qxc3 18.Bxa7 0-0 19.a3 Qxc2 20.Rec1 Qa4 21.Bc5 Rfe8 22.Qg3 Qb3 23.Rc3 Qd5 24.a4 Rxa4 25.Rac1 Rd8 26.h3 Qd7 27.Bb6 Rda8 28.Rd3 Qe7 29.Rxc6 Ra1+ 30.Kh2 Bf5 31.Bd4 g6 32.Re3 Qb7 33.Qe5 1-0

**Pieter Stoltz 0.5-0.5 Paul Jovanovski:** A fascinating 59 move drawn struggle! A quiet opening saw not too much happening for the first 30 or so moves, with the evaluation hovering between level and a slight advantage to Black. Then on Move 31 Black blundered, allowing a winning Qg6 forking two rooks! But Pieter missed it, and play was level again as they traded to a drawish rook ending. But in yet another twist, Pieter won a pawn and reached a winning position. However, he did not know it, and miscalculating the position he offered a draw; he was +7 when he did so...

**John Parissis 0-1 Abhishek Anand:** Yet another lengthy (58 move) battle! Even for much of the first few moves, John allowed a decisive sacrifice on g3 on Move 17; he did not get checkmated, but he had to lose two pawns to avoid mate! They ended up in an opposite coloured bishop ending which was nontrivial; but Black's two extra connected passed pawns were decisive, and he got there in the end.

**John Nichas 0-1 Tibor Lendvai:** Chess is an unforgiving game, as John has been finding out lately to his infinite chagrin... Here he first could have won a pawn with a big advantage, but missed it and was slightly worse; then Tibor blundered into a skewer, so John won the exchange for nothing! Seemingly well on the road to victory, he instead walked into a knight fork and gave the exchange right back. A pawn up, Tibor was now better; but then he allowed John too much counterplay! The critical position below was finally reached after Tibor's error with 33...Re8.



Here John missed a chance, with 34.Bxf5+!, to win his pawn back and be equal again! If 34...Bxf5, then 35.Rxe8 wins; and if 34...Qxf5, then 35.Rxe8 (taking the queen allows back rank mate) Bxe8 36.Qxe8+ with equality. Instead John played 34.c5, and the chance was gone; he won his pawn back, but then found himself in a lost bishop ending and went down in 44 moves.

**Ramu Srinivasa 1-0 Darren Curtis:** The only relatively straightforward game in this division! Mind you, Darren was equal for the first 16 moves; but then an errant knight move on Move 17 gave White the edge. This got worse after Darren allowed a superior en passant capture. He lost a pawn, then he blundered his knight to a bishop fork! After that, the end was nigh; he resigned three moves later.

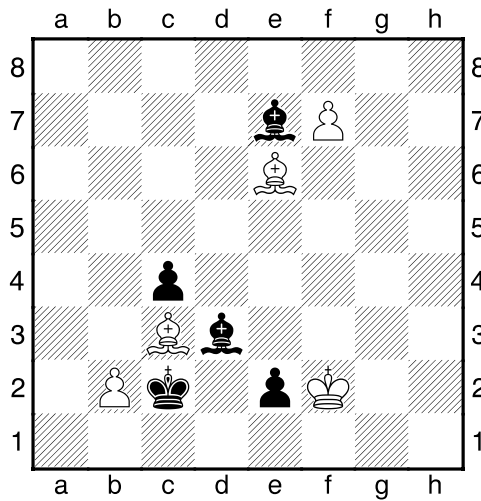
### Division 1

**Stevo Acevski 0-1 Jeremy Plunkett:** Not too much happened for the first 30 or so moves here, Stevo moving as fast as ever but remaining mostly equal. Then he let the enemy queen in to check his king on g3! Jeremy won a pawn, then gradually built up a winning attack; and Stevo resigned on Move 44 when Black's decisive queen check was forcing mate or winning huge amounts of material.

**John Stuart Plant 1-0 Mario Falchoni:** This longish encounter was one where JSP was never really in danger, but not better till Mario sacrificed a pawn on Move 23. Initially this was fine, as Mario had compensation; but he did not conduct his attack with maximum accuracy, and JSP always defends well! Soon he won two more pawns, and the Black king was on g6... So Mario had to trade queens to try and save it. The ending was then hopeless; JSP eventually won a pinned piece and the game.

**Geoff Barker 0.5-0.5 Frank Tefanis:** A battle of contrasting styles, as drawing master Geoff is rock solid while Frank wants to attack! Here Frank gradually built up a slightly superior position, but was thrown by Geoff's solid defence. He forced a locked position, and Frank did not feel like grinding for many more moves; so he offered a draw on Move 25, which Geoff accepted.

**Ian Stalker 0-1 Daniel Melamed:** Chess is such an amazing game – you never know when interesting things will happen... This one looked drawish for so long, as queens came off and they kept trading pieces. But after endless manoeuvring, a double bishop ending reached the fascinating position below.



After a few repetitions, this is still drawn even after Black's last try, 51...Kd1. But when White played 52.b4, it seemed both players were still trying to win! After 52...Kc2 53.Be1 Bh4+, a critical position was reached. Chess is such a hard game – White has only one drawing move, 54.Kf3, even though he may have to sacrifice a bishop for the c4 pawn. But instead he played 54.Ke3, which loses: 54...Bxe1 55.f8Q Bd2+ 56.Kd4 e1Q (White has no checks!) 57.Bg8 Bxb4 58.Qf7 Qe4# 0–1

**Vu Ky Anh Nguyen 0-1 Arthur Huynh:** A solid opening from both players saw mostly equality until Vu Ky Anh's premature 14.e4 pawn break! Arthur refuted it by taking it, then getting a knight to e5 threatening a knight fork. And there was no good way for White to defend this... He dropped the exchange, with nowhere near enough compensation. With near perfect technique, Arthur then wrapped up victory in 27 moves to remain undefeated and outright leader on 3/3!

### Division 3

**Brian Allison 0-1 Nikola Vujasin:** Opening 1.f4, Brian found himself equal for the first 20 moves or so, then a bit worse when Nik began to attack! A half open h-file was his vehicle; and Brian soon blundered the exchange, then a pawn trying to defend. Then Nik gave it all back trying to safeguard his own king! They simplified, but then Brian gave up another pawn in an ending where he had rook and bishop against rook and knight. Before too long, Black's passed d-pawn was decisive; and finally Brian resigned in a lost king and pawn ending on Move 45.

**Celina Wu 0-1 Netra Bhatt:** Netra reached 3/3 with a rather nice victory here, in a typically attacking game where he did not really allow Celina to breathe! After play was even early on, he got an edge by Move 15 with his potent knight on e5. Celina equalised very briefly, but then Netra went after her king! His exchange sacrifice was unwisely accepted, and he got a totally crushing attack. Poor Celina found her king ending up on f4, where it had no hope of survival; she resigned on Move 27 a couple of moves before mate. See game below.

**Wu, Celina (1629) - Bhatt, Netra (1704), St George Club Champs Division 3, Round 3 18/03/2025**  
 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 a6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.Qe3 g6 8.Be2 Nb4 9.Bd3 Bh6 10.Qe2 Bg7 11.0–0 0–0 12.Rd1 Bg4 13.a3 Nc6 14.Be3 Ne5 15.Rac1 Nfd7 16.Bb1 Rc8 17.Ba2 Rc6 18.Nd5 Kh8 19.Bd4 e6 20.Nb4 Bxf3 21.gxf3 Qg5+ 22.Kh1 Qh5 23.Nxc6 Nxf3 24.Bxg7+ Kxg7 25.Kg2 Qxh2+ 26.Kxf3 Qh3+ 27.Kf4 e5+ 0–1

**Ghassan Beydoun – Malachi O'Donoghue:** This game was postponed by Ghassan.

**Graham Saint 0.5-0.5 John Karabatsos:** A shorter game – only 21 moves – which was still equal after 15 moves each! Then Black had a tiny edge, then White a much bigger one when he missed a knight sacrifice on d5 based on a pin. The advantage oscillated for three more moves, until it was level again after 18; and it stayed that way until Graham was happy to agree to a draw in an equal position.

**Christian Lagarez 0-1 Andres Perez:** A far longer game – nearly 50 moves – but one where White was struggling for the majority of it... Andres had equalised by Move 5, then developed and started pushing on the queenside. He had a small advantage when Christian let him double White's g-pawns, then a bigger one when he obtained a strong knight on c4. His positional advantage grew larger and larger until he won a weak a-pawn. Then Christian blundered the exchange, and it was all over; he kept fighting for several more moves, but in the end it was all in vain.

So there you have it – another exciting rounds of thrills and spills before the first catch-up night next week! Outright leaders are Artful Arthur; Kingly Kordahi; Noble Netra; Terrific Tibor; Brilliant Boris and Excellent Evgeny. Sharing the lead in their division after classy wins are Calm All His Men and Fess Same Joy. Meanwhile Manny Vard had a special win; but Proudness Fading could only draw in the same division. As usual, all good fun; for more enthralling pleasure, tune in to the next newsletter!