

## Simultaneous Display by GM Shreyas Royal

Guildford Chess Club was proud to stage a Simultaneous display by Britain's youngest-ever Grandmaster, Shreyas Royal, at the Guildford Institute from 2-5pm on Saturday 28th February.



Shreyas was welcomed by Guildford Chess Club President, Nigel Povah, before taking on 31 opponents, all from Guildford and 27 of whom were juniors. It was notable how well everyone fought to give Shreyas a real challenge, and it took him over 1½ hours to register his first win. It was also very impressive to observe the high levels of concentration and focus on show throughout the session, with the room so quiet, that you could hear a pin drop!

However, Shreyas' talent and professionalism shone through, and he managed to win 29 games, conceding a draw by repetition to Kurtis Lo and succumbing to his top board opponent Adam Sefton (see games below).



*Adam Sefton*



*Kurtis Lo*



*Shreyas taking on his 31 opponents*

Shreyas nominated the following five players (all juniors) for awards, to reflect their impressive play:

- Adam Sefton (win)
- Kurtis Lo (draw)
- Alistair Jennis
- Liubava Maksak
- Elijah de Lange

Photos of all the players can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/bmkeaprmobx7q3c6xamr9/ADYrQmj-v1MXcL-L2afyLMw?rlkey=qissbm3nxcqrz5bzec7njy0vb&st=7hqi91bm&dl=0>

Guildford Chess Club would like to thank Shreyas for kindly giving up his time to visit Guildford and take on some of our club members and he was charming and gracious towards all his opponents and those staging the event.

The Club would like to thank Helen Frostick for acting as the administrator to co-ordinate all the entries and she also helped throughout the day with setting up and liaising with players and parents. Thanks to Andrew Martin, Trevor Jones, James Toon, Clive Frostick and Mike Gunn for contributing to the organisation of the event and thanks also to James Toon for the photos. Thanks of course also to Guildford Institute's caretaker, Mark Finn, for assisting with setting up and providing a refreshment service throughout the event.

## Shreyas Royal - Adam Sefton 0-1

Guildford Chess Club simul, 2026.02.28

D35: QGD, Exchange, positional line

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 O-O 7.Bd3 c6 8.h3 Re8

My theory ends here

9.Nf3 Ne4

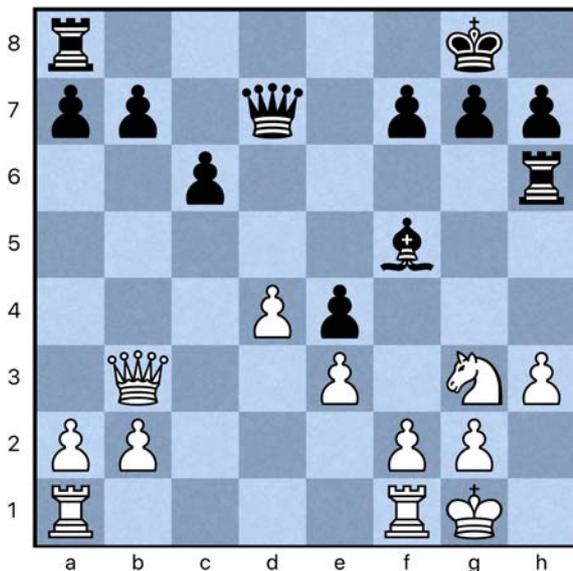
Common idea in these positions

10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.O-O Bf5 12.Ne5 Nd7 13.Bxe4 dxe4?!

Inaccuracy. Bxe4 was best. I knew Bxe4 was objectively better but thought I had more winning chances if I played this

13...Bxe4 14.Nxe4 Nxe5 15.Nd2 Nd7 16.a4 a5 17.Qb3 Nf6 18.Rfb1 g6 19.Qa3

14.Nxd7 Qxd7 15.Ne2 Re6 16.Ng3 Rh6 17.Qb3??



Blunder. Nxf5 was best. I'm not really sure what he missed as Bh3 is winning for black.

17.Nxf5 Qxf5 18.Rc1 Rg6 19.Kh2 Qg5 20.Rg1 Qf6 21.Qe2 Rg5 22.Rc4 h5

17...Bxh3 18.gxh3 Qxh3 19.Rfc1

The square doesn't matter

19...Qh2+ 20.Kf1 Rf6 21.Nxe4 Qh1+ 22.Ke2 Qxe4

I am up a pawn with a strong attack and h-pawn

23.Rc2?!

Inaccuracy. Rf1 was best.

23.Rf1 Qf3+ 24.Ke1 Re8 25.Rd1 h5 26.Qd3 g6 27.Qe2 Qe4 28.Rd3 Rf3

23...h5

I didn't want any back rank tactics

24.Rf1

Stopping Qf3+ and Qf2

24...Qf3+ 25.Ke1 h4

He can't easily stop this h-pawn.

26.Qxb7 Re8 27.Rc3 Rd6

Threatening Rd4.

28.Qb4 Ree6 29.Qc4 h3 30.Qe2 Qe4

Setting up rd4 ideas

31.f3 Qh4+ 32.Kd2

If Qf2, then Qd4 wins.

32...Rg6

The threat is rg2

33.Rf2 Rg1 34.Rc1 Rdg6 35.Rxg1 Rxg1 36.f4 Qg3 37.d5?!

37.Rf3 Qxf3 38.Qxf3 h2 39.Qxc6 h1=Q 40.Qc8+ Kh7 41.Qf5+ Kh6 42.Kc3 Rc1+  
37...Rg2

I can ignore this pawn

38.Rxg2 hxg2 39.d6 g1=Q 40.d7 Qh4 0-1

## D32

□ Royal, Shreyas

■ Lo, Kurtis

Simultaneous Display 28.02.2026

[Nigel Povah]

The following is an excellent game by Kurtis Lo, who plays the opening well and then exploits a mistake by Shreyas on move 20 to secure a draw by perpetual check. **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 c5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 Be6 7.e3 Nc6 8.Be2 Be7 9.dxc5 0-0 10.0-0 Bxc5 11.Rc1 Be7 12.Nb5 h6 13.Bh4 Ne4 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Nbd4 Bd7!**

[ 15...Rac8 16.Nxc6 Rxc6 17.Rxc6 bxc6= 1-0 (116) Gavilan Diaz, M (2274)-Mohammed, Z (2210) Titled Tuesday intern op 29th Aug Early Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (11) ]

[ 15...Rad8? 16.Rxc6 bxc6 17.Nxc6+- 1-0 (43) Taboas Rodriguez, D (2330)-Khalifah, K (2062) Titled Tuesday intern op 17th Sep Late Chess.com INT blitz 2024 (1) ]

**16.Re1 Rac8 17.Qb3 Be6 18.Red1 Rfe8 19.h3 Nxd4 20.Nxd4?**

a natural move which proves to be a serious mistake, as it leaves the White king more vulnerable

[ 20.exd4= ]

**20...Qh4!**

(Diagram)

White now struggles to defend f2 **21.g3**

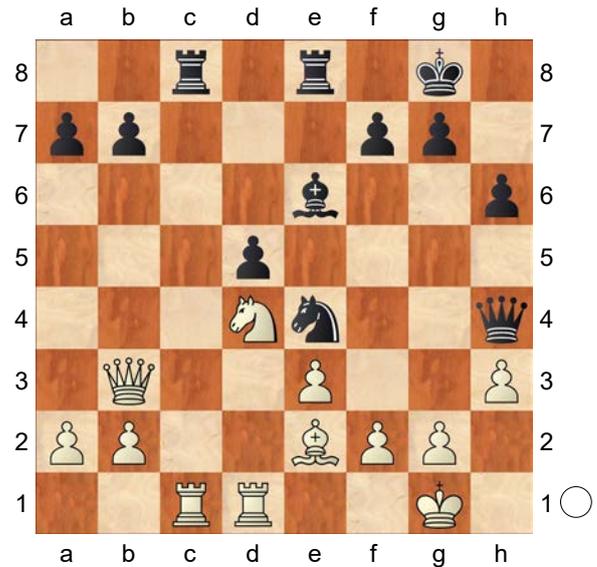
[ 21.Rf1 allows Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Qxf2+ 23.Kh1 Bxh3 24.gxh3 Ng3# ]

**21...Nxc3! 22.fxc3 Qxc3+ 23.Kh1**

[ 23.Kf1 Bxh3# ]

**23...Qxh3+ 24.Kg1 Qg3+ 25.Kh1**

1/2-1/2 Kurtis decides to take a perpetual check, which was probably a



good decision against his illustrious opponent. If he had decided to play on, he would have had good winning chances, but it would've taken some accurate play, for example... **25...Rxc1 26.Rxc1 Qh4+ 27.Kg1 Bh3 28.Qxd5 Re4! 29.Bf1**

[ 29.Bf3 Qg3+ 30.Kh1 Rh4 31.Qd8+ Kh7 32.Qxh4 Qxh4-+ ] **29...Rg4+ 30.Bg2 Bxg2 31.Qxg2 Rxc1+ 32.Kxc1** is winning for Black, although there is still work to do.

1/2-1/2