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# Exton Open Puzzle Competition

By Azim Julkipli

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As stated in the last issue, the idea for the puzzle competition started from the Malvern Chess Festival, and since then a lot of effort has been put into creating it from a few people. On May 16th, the puzzle competition was held, with quite a few participants, over 20 players. It was designed for the lower sections (U600, U1200), so that the upper sections could play in a more comfortable environment.

The puzzle competition started a little late, as the double-elimination brackets had to be reworked to allow a few late joiners, but we were able to get started soon after that. The room was split into two parts for the separate sections, and the competition was started! Each match consisted of 2 players (who were given buzzers) racing to solve puzzles shown individually on a screen, and whoever got the best out of 3 moved on. We did have a few mishaps: At one point we realized that there were actually two people with the same first name, so we had to have them go against each other! Also, for the top section, we ran out of puzzles to give them, so we used some of the lower section puzzles as well.

After the competition had ended, it was time for the awards. These awards were unusual and consisted of a glass puzzle piece, a bronze king, and a variety of other toys. The kids were very attracted to the squishy dumplings for some odd reasons that some of us will never understand.

Though there were a few mistakes, for our first puzzle competition, it went pretty well. The kids had a good time playing puzzles, watching others, and getting some cool prizes.

Thanks to Joshua for setting up the tournament, helping conduct it and creating some of the puzzles, Samika for the original concept of this type of tournament, Pavana Rajeev for creating some puzzles, Vahini for helping set up the brackets, Riaan's family and Rakhi Gupta for helping conduct the tournament, and Azim for helping plan out the tournament, creating most of the puzzles and conducting the tournament.



credit to Himan Gandhi for the pictures