
Tri-Bridges Tribune

◆ March 2026



TRI BRIDGES CHESS CLUB

Address: 666 Exton Commons Exton, PA

Email: Tribridgesmail@gmail.com

Website: Tribridgeschessclub.com

Facebook: [Tri-Bridges Chess Club](https://www.facebook.com/Tri-Bridges-Chess-Club)

Instagram: [tribridgeschessclub](https://www.instagram.com/tribridgeschessclub)

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Introduction

Located in Exton, Pennsylvania, our club meets every Tuesday for friendly games, socializing, and skill-building. In addition to casual play, we host tournaments that give members the chance to compete, learn, and grow as players. We also offer instructional classes to help members expand their chess knowledge and deepen their understanding of the game.

My name is Azim Julkipli, and I am the editor of these monthly newsletters. Having been a proud member of the Tri Bridges Chess Club for many years, I've made lasting friendships and had the opportunity to volunteer within our wonderful community.

This newsletter is designed to keep our members connected and informed. Each issue will feature updates on local events, tournaments, and club news, along with puzzles, book recommendations, and annotated games. Our goal is to celebrate the achievements of our players and foster a welcoming environment that inspires both beginners and experienced players to continue their chess journey with enthusiasm.

Pawn Breaks

By Azim Julkipli

Pawn breaks are pawn moves that challenge other enemy pawns or pawn chains. For example, in the position below, White has strong central pawns that constrict Black's movement, as the pawns attack many squares that would be dedicated for pieces, like a knight on f6. Therefore, a common move for Black is c5. This threatens to destabilize the pawn on d4 and therefore the pawn on e5, since it is defended by the pawn on d4.



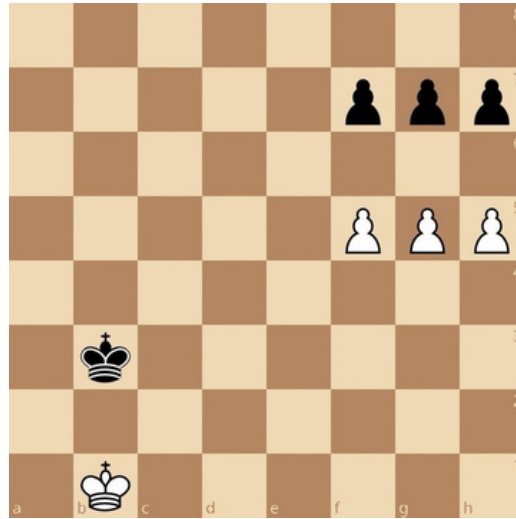
Why are pawn breaks useful?

Pawn breaks allow players to create weaknesses in their opponent's territory, open lines and squares, and activate pieces. For example, in the position above, if White takes Black's pawn with dxc5, Black can now take on c5 and gain a good square for his bishop, while White's e5 pawn could become a weakness.



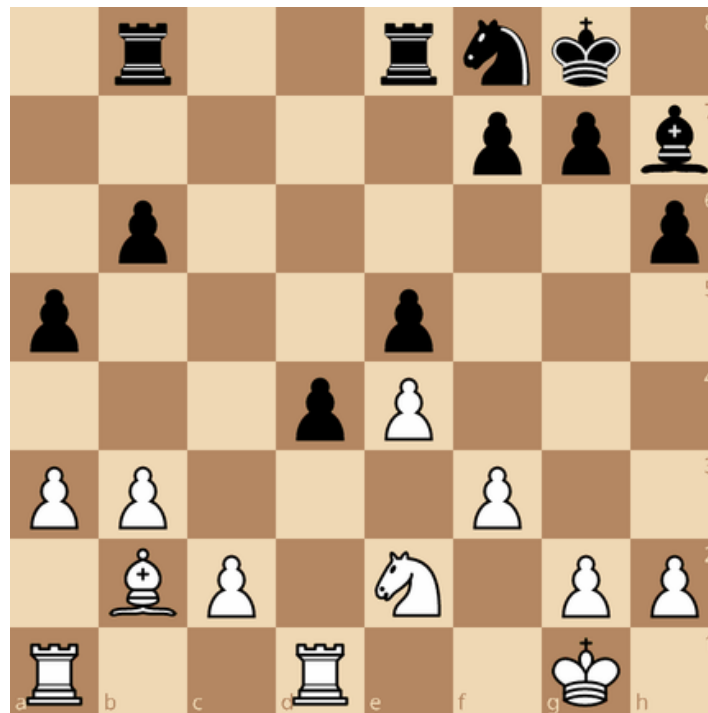
In this position, White has a lot of pieces, but they are obstructed by the black pawns on d5 and e4. However, if White plays c4, the d5 pawn is shaky, which can eventually open up the dark squared diagonal a1-h8. Because of this, it is usually useful to attack the base of a pawn chain. After the d pawn is taken, Black's e pawn also becomes a weakness for Black. An alternative is f3, which, after the pawns are traded, would activate the queen, knight, and rook. However, e3 is a possibility, which makes this less appealing than c4. Keep in mind that pawn breaks work best when the opponent must take or be taken, and if you are executing a pawn break, try to ensure that your opponent can't just decline it.

One final famous example is shown below, where White has reached the endgame and advanced his pawns close to the final rank, but Black's pawns stand as a final obstacle. What can White do to win the game?



White can play 1. g6. If Black plays 1...f6 or 1...h6, White just takes the other pawn. If Black plays 1...fxg6, White can play 2. h6 gxh6 f6, and the pawn will promote. The same thing happens with 1...hxg6.

PRACTICE



In this position, what pawn break can White play to improve his pieces? Similarly, what pawn break can White play to open lines for his pieces?

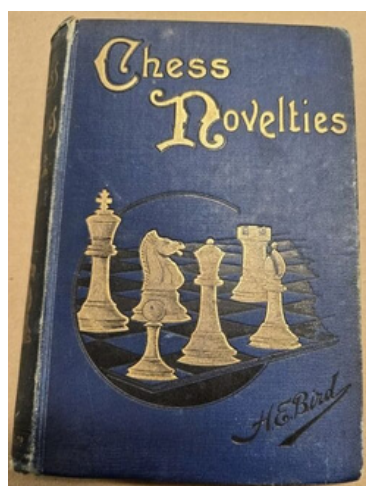
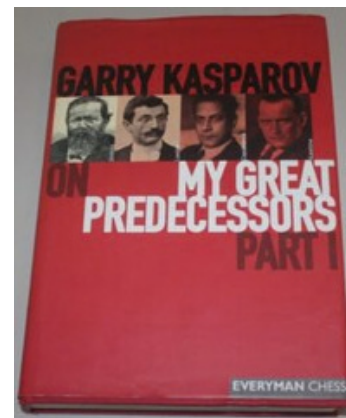
White: c3 tries to open up the bishop, knight, and rook
 Black: f5 to try and open up a diagonal for the Black bishop

Chessbooksandstamps

By Joshua Anderson

Over the last 30 years, I have built up my personal chess library. When our club, became more active post Covid, I made a point to make my personal library our club library. On top of that, there were several opportunities to expand our library to a healthy degree. As such we were able to obtain both a large collection of duplicates as well as some items that are fairly rare, but not particularly useful to our chess players – such as magazines in French from the year 1898, or as Cherry would say, just a few years before I was born!

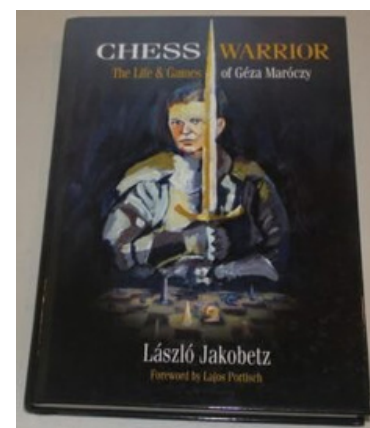
As many of you know I am also the President of the Chess Journalists of America. In this capacity I have worked with several collectors and a wide variety of organizations. In this capacity, I have also visited the Lund auctions. These auctions were designed to allow collectors to collect a variety of rare chess books and paraphernalia while helping to support a chess school in Sweden. It occurred to me that if we did the same, we could work with our chess books, learn more about chess history and literature, provide opportunities for our players/club members, and hopefully earn some income for our club.



Therefore, I had chessbooksandstamps.com built. The site is operational, and we sold a book, though given how much we are all busy, I suspect our next leap forward in activity to be this summer when we are able to have several people take some time to work on this. Though most of the major work to be done, will be this summer, there are some things like putting up some information about various stamps and books on the website, that hopefully can be done in short order. If you are interested in helping with this work, please let me know.

If you would like to check out this website, then head over to <https://chessbooksandstamps.com>.

These books shown are a few of the books in our club library that may soon be auctioned or already have been auctioned on our website.



Games from States

These are multiple games played by our club members from states. You can read through these games to see how they played out. A few of these games will be chosen and will be annotated for the next issue!

Kishore Rainer-Pradhan vs. John Zheng

1. e4 c6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Nf3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nf6 5. Ng3 Bg4 6. h3 Bxf3 7. Qxf3 e6 8. d3 Bd6 9. Ne4 Nxe4 10. Qxe4 O-O 11. Be2 Nd7 12. Bf4 e5 13. Bg3 Qa5+ 14. c3 Kh8 15. O-O f5 16. Qc4 Rae8 17. d4 f4 18. Bh2 e4 19. d5 Ne5 20. Qxe4 f3 21. Bd1 Ng6 22. Qg4 Bxh2+ 23. Kxh2 fvg2 24. Qxg2 Nf4 25. Qg3 Qxd5 26. Rg1 Qe5 27. Bc2 Ne2 28. Qxe5 Rxf2+ 29. Rg2 Rxc2 30. Kxg2 Rxe5 31. Rf1 g6 32. Bb3 Rf5 33. Rxf5 gxf5 34. Bc2 Nf4+ 35. Kh2 Nd5 36. Bxf5 Ne3 37. Bg4 Nxc4+ 38. hxg4 Kg7 39. Kg3 Kg6 40. Kf4 h6 41. a4 b5 42. axb5 cxb5 43. b3 a5 44. Kf3 a4 45. Ke2 a3 46. c4 bxc4 47. bxc4 a2 48. c5 a1=Q 49. c6 Qa6+ 50. Kd2 Qxc6 51. Kd3 Qf3+ 52. Kd4 Qxg4+ 53. Ke5 h5 54. Kd6 h4 55. Ke5 h3 56. Kd6 h2 57. Ke5 h1=Q 58. Kd6 Qhe4 59. Kc7 Qge6 60. Kb8 Q4c6 61. Ka7 Qed7+ 62. Kb8 Qdb7#
0-1

Kevin Li vs. Charan Perumalla

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. c4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Nf3 Bg7 7. c5 O-O 8. Be2 Nbd7 9. O-O Re8 10. Bf4 a6 11. b4 Nh5 12. Be3 f5 13. Nxd5 Nxc5 14. dxc5 Bxa1 15. Nb6 Qxd1 16. Rxd1 Rb8 17. Rxa1 Nf6 18. Bf4 Be6 19. Bxb8 Rxb8 20. Ng5 Bf7 21. Nxf7 Kxf7 22. Bf3 e5 23. Rd1 e4 24. Be2 g5 25. Bc4+ Kg7 26. Kf1 Ng4 27. Rd7+ Kh6 28. Bd5 Nxc2+ 29. Ke2 a5 30. bxa5 Ng4 31. Rxb7 Re8 32. Nc4 Rc8 33. a6 Rxc5 34. a7 Ra5 35. Nxa5
1-0

Samika vs. Sai Avantika Chandar

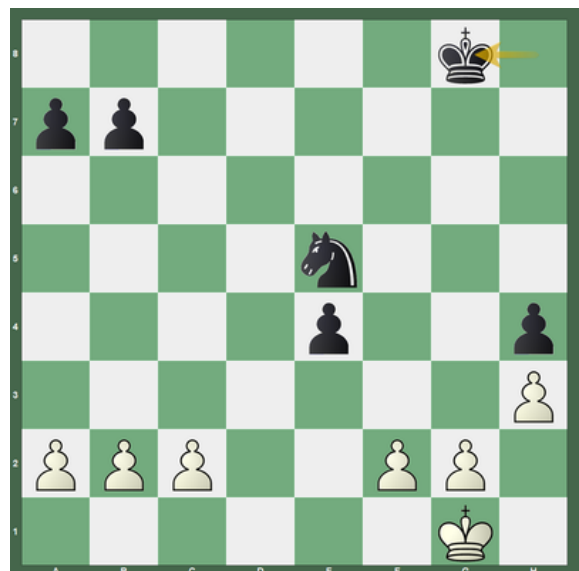
1. d4 d5 2. e3 e6 3. Bd3 Nf6 4. f4 Be7 5. Nf3 O-O 6. Nbd2 b6 7. O-O Bb7 8. Ne5 Nbd7 9. Qf3 c5 10. c3 Rc8 11. g4 Nxe5 12. fxe5 Nd7 13. Qh3 h6 14. Nf3 f6 15. Qh5 Qe8 16. Bg6 Qd8 17. Ne1 fxe5 18. Bf7+ Kh8 19. dxe5 Rc6 20. e4 d4 21. Bxh6 Rxf7 22. Bxg7+ Kxg7 23. Rxf7+ Kg8 24. Qh7#
1-0

Ridhan Venkatesan vs. Lucus Liu

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d4 exd4 6. cxd4 Bb4+ 7. Nc3 Nxe4 8. O-O Nxc3 9. bxc3 Bxc3 10. Ba3 a6 11. Qb3 Qf6 12. Qxc3 d6 13. Rfe1+ Ne7 14. Qe3 b5 15. Bd5 Rb8 16. Ng5 h6 17. Ne4 Qh4 18. Nxd6+ cxd6 19. Bxd6 Be6 20. Bxe6 fxe6 21. Bxb8 Qf6 22. Qxe6 Qxe6 23. Rxe6 Kd7 24. Rae1 Nf5 25. Bf4 Rc8 26. g4 Nh4 27. Re7+ Kd8 28. Re8+ Kd7 29. R1e7+ Kc6 30. Rxc8+ Kd5 31. Rd8+ Kc4 32. Rc7+ Kd3 33. d5 Nf3+ 34. Kf1 Nd2+ 35. Bxd2 Kxd2 36. d6 b4 37. d7 b3 38. Re8 bxa2 39. d8=R#
1-0

James Zheng -Eeshan Kumbharathi

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. d3 d6 5. Nc3 Be7 6. h3 h6 7. Be3 O-O 8. O-O Be6 9. Re1 Nh7 10. Qd2 f5 11. exf5 Bxf5 12. Bc4+ Kh8 13. Qe2 Nf6 14. Rad1 d5 15. d4 e4 16. Nh4 Bh7 17. Bb3 g5 18. Qd2 gxh4 19. Bxh6 Rg8 20. Bg5 Qd7 21. Bxf6+ Bxf6 22. Nxd5 Bg5 23. Qc3 Rgf8 24. Qc5 Be7 25. Nxe7 Qxe7 26. Qc3 Qg5 27. d5+ Ne5 28. d6 cxd6 29. Rxd6 Qg7 30. Red1 Rac8 31. Qxc8 Rxc8 32. Rd8+ Rxd8 33. Rxd8+ Bg8 34. Rxg8+ Qxg8 35. Bxg8 Kxg8 1/2-1/2



John Zheng vs. Subhang Nettem

1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d3 Bc5 5. f4 d6 6. Nf3 h6 7. Na4 Bb6 8. Nxb6 axb6 9. O-O O-O 10. h3 Re8 11. f5 Na5 12. Bb3 Nxb3 13. cxb3 d5 14. Qc2 d4 15. Bd2 Bd7 16. a4 c5 17. Qc1 Kh7 18. g4 Ng8 19. g5 f6 20. gxh6 Nxh6 21. Rf2 Rg8 22. Rg2 Be8 23. Nh4 Bf7 24. Qd1 Qe8 25. Ng6 Rc8 26. Kh2 Rc7 27. Qh5 Bxb3 28. Rg4 Bf7 29. Rag1 Rh8 30. Rh4 Kg8 31. Bxh6 Rxh6 32. Qg4 Bxg6 33. Rxh6 gxh6 34. Qh5 Kh7 35. fxg6+ Kg7 36. b3 Qe6 37. Rf1 Qe8 38. Qf5 Qe7 39. Kg3 Rc6 40. Kh4 Qe6 41. Qf2 Qxb3 42. Qd2 Qe6 43. Rf3 Kxg6 44. Rg3+ Kh7 45. Qe2 Rc7 46. Qh5 Rg7 47. Rf3 Qf7 48. Qf5+ Qg6 49. Qxf6 Qxf6+ 50. Rxf6 Rg6 51. Rf7+ Kg8 52. Rxb7 Rc6 53. Kg4 c4 54. dxc4 Rxc4 55. Rxb6 d3 56. Rd6 Rxe4+ 57. Kf5 Rd4 58. Rg6+ Kf7 59. Rg1 d2 60. Rd1 e4 61. Ke5 e3 62. Rf1+ Ke7 63. Kxd4 e2 64. Rf3 d1=Q+ 0-1

Panav Ezapa vs. John Zheng

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 c5 5. e3 Nc6 6. Be2 cxd4 7. exd4 Bb4 8. O-O O-O 9. Bg5 Bxc3 10. bxc3 h6 11. Bf4 Ne4 12. Qc2 b6 13. cxd5 exd5 14. Bd3 Bf5 15. Nd2 Rc8 16. Bxe4 dxe4 17. Nb3 Nxd4 18. Nxd4 Qxd4 19. cxd4 Rxc2 20. Be3 Rfc8 21. a4 g5 22. a5 b5 23. Rfb1 a6 24. Rc1 Be6 25. h4 gxh4 26. Bxh6 h3 27. gxh3 Bxh3 28. Rxc2 Rxc2 29. Be3 Rc4 30. Kh2 Be6 31. Kg3 f5 32. Kf4 Kf7 33. Ke5 Rc7 34. Rh1 Re7 35. Rh7+ Ke8 36. Rxe7+ Kxe7 37. d5 Bd7 38. Bc5+ Kf7 39. Kd6 Ke8 40. Kc7 f4 41. Kb6 e3 42. fxe3 f3 43. e4 b4 44. Kxa6 b3 45. Kb7 b2 46. a6 b1=Q+ 47. Kc7 Qxe4 48. Kb7 Qxd5+ 49. Kb6 Qb3+ 50. Kc7 Qb5 51. a7 Qxc5+ 52. Kb7 Qc6+ 53. Kb8 Qc8# 0-1

MD Hasan vs. Chris Romeril

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Bc4 O-O 5. O-O Bxc3 6. bxc3 d6 7. Re1 Bg4 8. h3 Bh5 9. g4 Bg6 10. d3 Nbd7 11. a4 c6 12. Be3?! Qc7?! 13. Qc1?! d5 14. exd5 cxd5 15. Bb5? a6 16. Bxd7 Nxd7 17. Bd2? f5! 18. g5 Bh5 19. Kg2 e4?! 20. Nd4 Rae8?! 21. Ne2? Bxe2 22. Rxe2 f4 23. f3 e3 24. Be1 Qe5 25. h4 h6 26. gxh6 Rf6 27. h7+ Kxh7 28. Qb2 b6 29. Bf2 g5 30. h5 g4 31. Rh1 Rg8 32. Qb4?! gxf3+ 33. Kxf3 Qg5 34. Qe7+ Rg7 35. Qxg7+ Qxg7 36. Bh4? Ne5# 0-1

Vahini vs. Ely Feldman

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. Bf4 Bf5 5. Nc3 c6 6. Nge2 Nf6 7. f3 Be7 8. Qd2 O-O 9. g4 Bg6 10. O-O-O b5 11. Ng3 a5 12. h4 h5 13. g5 Ne8 14. Bd3 Bxd3 15. Qxd3 g6 16. Be5 Nd7 17. f4 Nxe5 18. dxe5 Ng7 19. Rdf1 Ne6 20. f5 Nc5 21. Qf3 Qb6 22. Nxh5 a4 23. fxg6 fxg6 24. Nf6+ Bxf6 25. gxf6 Nb3+ 26. cxb3 axb3 27. Qg3 Kf7 *

And here's one final game from our members in Missouri, featuring a rare en passant checkmate

Elijah Kliethermes vs. Mohit Maringanti

1. d4 e6 2. Bf4 f5 3. e3 Nf6 4. Nf3 b6 5. Nc3 Bb4 6. Bg5 h6 7. Bxf6 Qxf6 8. Qd3 Ba6 9. Qd2 Bxf1 10. Rxf1 d5 11. a3 Bd6 12. Nb5 Nd7 13. Qc3 O-O 14. Nxd6 cxd6 15. Qc7 Qe7 16. Qc3 Rac8 17. Qb3 Nf6 18. O-O-O Ne4 19. Nd2 Qh4 20. Nxe4 fxe4 21. h3 Rxf2 22. Rxf2 Qxf2 23. Rd2 Qg1+ 24. Rd1 Qxg2 25. Qa4 b5 26. Qb3 a5 27. Rd2 Qf1+ 28. Rd1 Qe2 29. Rd2 Qe1+ 30. Rd1 Qe2 31. Rd2 Qc4 32. Qxc4 dxc4 33. d5 e5 34. c3 a4 35. Rf2 Rf8 36. Rxf8+ Kxf8 37. Kd2 Ke7 38. Ke2 h5 39. Kf2 h4 40. Kg2 Kf6 41. Kh2 g5 42. Kg2 Kf5 43. Kh2 g4 44. Kg2 gxh3+ 45. Kxh3 Kg5 46. Kh2 Kg4 47. Kg2 h3+ 48. Kf2 Kh4 49. Kg1 Kg3 50. Kf1 h2 51. Ke1 Kf3 52. Kd1 h1=Q+ 53. Kd2 Qa1 54. Kc2 Kxe3 55. b4 axb3# 0-1

Player Spotlight



This month's player spotlight is on not one person, but many of our club members who participated in States and received awards in the top ten!

K-12 Open:

10th place: Tanay Parripati

6-12 U1300:

7th place: Swanik Gandhe

10th: Akhil Kapalavayi

K-8 Open:

4th place: Adhinanth Krishna Karthikeyan

9th place: Kevin Kennedy

K-5 Open:

3rd place: Pranav Srinivasan

4th place: Subhang Nettem

5th place: John Zheng

8th place: Tyler Wang

K-3 Open:

1st place: Ridhan Venkatesan

7th place: Puneeth R Govindu

K-6 U800:

1st place: Andrew Cai

6th place: Vihaan R Jr Kukkala

9th place: Ishaan Kannan

10th place: Niranjana H Nair

K-6 U500:

10th place: Yuvin Srinivasan

Congratulations again to our winners, and a big thank you to all of the club members who participated and helped make States an exciting event!

Short Book Recommendation

Book Review: Fundamental Chess Openings



After reading Fundamental Chess Openings by Grandmaster Paul van der Sterren, I found it to be a very useful and approachable guide to the opening phase of chess. Rather than focusing on a single repertoire, the book provides an overview of virtually every major opening in chess. Each chapter introduces the key ideas behind an opening and presents several important main lines or theoretical variations. This makes the book a broad survey of opening theory and helps readers understand the strategic ideas behind many different systems rather than simply memorizing moves.

One of the strongest aspects of the book is its versatility. Because it covers such a wide range of openings, players can use it to explore almost any system they are interested in. However, the book was designed to be read as a complete work, and many chapters reference ideas discussed elsewhere. Because of that, the coverage of individual openings is sometimes limited, and a single chapter will not include everything a player needs to know about that opening. The lines presented are often solid and instructive, but they are only a starting point rather than a full theoretical guide.

Overall, Fundamental Chess Openings is an excellent resource for beginners who want a broad introduction to opening ideas. I would especially recommend it to players who are just starting to study openings and want to understand the basic plans behind their systems without diving too deeply into complicated theory. While stronger players may eventually need more specialized opening books, this one remains a very strong starting point for understanding the landscape of chess openings.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

One of the best ways to improve at chess isn't just by studying countless books—it's by playing real games! Our upcoming club events offer great opportunities to put your skills into practice, challenge new opponents, and learn from every match. Remember, practice may not make you perfect, but it definitely makes you better! Here's what's coming up at the Tri Bridges Chess Club.

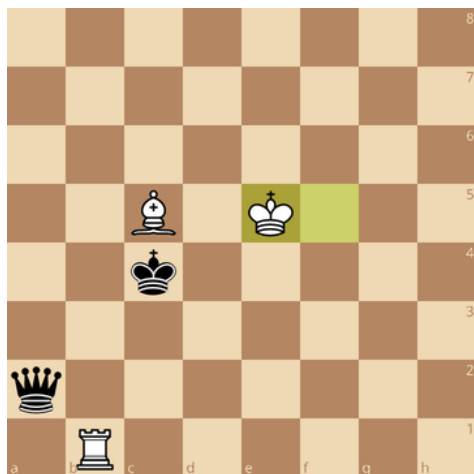
[ECE #122 - Friday Night Tournament](#) on Friday, March 20 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
 Sections: Open, U800, U500, U200
 Time Control: G25 d5

There will also be a **celebratory event on Saturday** for those who attended States; however, anyone is welcome to hop in and relax or participate in the blitz and bughouse tournaments.

[ECE #123 - \\$250 Sunday Game Hour](#) on Sunday, March 22 @ 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
 Sections: Open, U1200, U500
 Time Control: Open & U1200 are G60/d5; U700 is G25/d5

[ECE #124 - Friday Night Tournament](#) on Friday, April 3 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
 Sections: Open, U1200, U700, U300
 Time Control: G25 d5

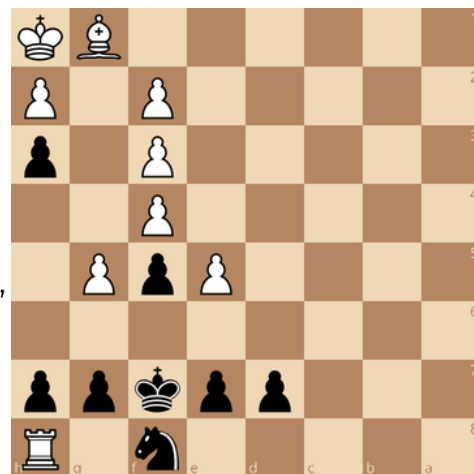
Can you solve these Helpmate puzzles?



Helpmate in 3

A helpmate puzzle is when both white and black try to checkmate black. The move order goes like this (example for helpmate in 2) Black, White, Black, White checkmates Black

Solutions below box



Helpmate in 3.5 moves
 Made by Azim

Specific conditions:
 No promotions allowed
 The move order is like this: White Black White
 Black White Black White
 The king cannot move to the h-file
 2 solutions

Helpmate in 3: 1...Kc3 2. Rh1 Kb2 3. Bg1 Ka1 4. Bd4#
 Helpmate in 3.5: 1.g6 fxg6 2. e6 fx e6 3. Rg8 Kf6 4. Rxf8#
 Another solution: just play e6 before g6