
Tri-Bridges Tribune

◆ June 2026

TRI BRIDGES CHESS CLUB

Address: 666 Exton Commons Exton, PA

Email: Tribridgesmail@gmail.com

Website: Tribbridgeschessclub.com

Facebook: Tri-Bridges Chess Club

Instagram: tribbridgeschessclub



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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.

List of Summer Projects

By Joshua Anderson

When Tri-Bridges was first formed in 2013, we didn't really think about anything other than simply getting together to play a few games and yes, the stories about me going home early because no one showed up in the first 90 minutes are true. Around 2020, we wanted to expand from our once a week meeting and first look into becoming a 501(c)3, but COVID. We have had some minor discussions, etc., since then, but this spring finally became a 501(c)3.

There are many various financial ramifications, and the Board of Directors is working through all of that. For the students, there becomes much more freedom to count hours that help us on various projects to help them complete graduation project hours, compete for various scholarships, boost applications for colleges, etc. Below is a list of 33 projects that students can work on, the 501(c)3 being one of them (completed!). Many can have multiple people. Please reach out if you have questions or anything you are interested in.

Archive site needs AI bots:

Cherry has put these on for three of the 4 sites. If you want to help or take over some/all, I suspect Cherry will be happy to work with you as you see fit. There are four sites; you might each pick 2 or work on 4 together.

Books and stamps site:

Needs updating, but definitely need lots of work and set up this summer so it can go through the school year as opposed to this year where it has largely languished

Book for class:

This is already done, minus the layout. The kids have tried, and now it is my turn to fix layout

501(c)3:

Completed!

Illustrations for Martin:

Cherry is working on illustrations for these two kids' books with Sudi.

Publication of Martin:

This isn't like the other books we have talked about. These are little kid books, so someone, probably me, needs to figure out how to set it up so we can have some to sell at the club.

Fix Four Move Checkmate story:

I believe I have a couple of minor edits I need to do to this

Illustrations for the Four-Move Checkmate story:

Cherry is working on illustrations for these two kids' books with Sudi.

Publication of the Four-Move Checkmate Story:

These are not instructional books; these are little kid books, so someone, probably me, needs to figure out how to set it up so we can have some to sell at club

chess.com affiliate program:

Talk with their club people about the program, that is Dr. Sztaray,

mailing list better under control:

We need someone to decide that they are going to sit and learn and learn how to do

figure out better system for photos:

We need someone to decide they are going to sit and learn and learn how to do it.

Bots need to be updated for TBCC, Books, and CJA site:

So Cherry put the bots in, but then hasn't updated Cherry would likely be happy for the help

The Tribridges Tribune(what you're reading right now!):

This is a collaborative effort, and I know Subhang wants to write for it and many others should as well

2nd tactics book for class:

This project is based off the one that we can't get printed out properly. Many children can complete

one or two chapters of the project thanks to its design, and then they can edit, combine, and print them. Azim will edit. The idea is to have each kid basically do a chapter, so as they apply to schools, programs, scholarships, etc., you can say you have worked on all these various scholarships, helped create all these books, etc.

Zaria

This is the famous comic from Chess Life Kids. The owner of it wants to expand into cartoons. This is more theoretical and discussion-based at first, and then if something can be done with it, we will do something with it. At first, it just needs some thinking and planning. With the older kids, in terms of how to create; with the younger kids, more of a discussion on what is fun and interesting.

Library

Sort, catalogue the library and then set up the scanning coder for it, etc.

Cap/AP/EE - formation/book

This is one of those projects where we are just laying out ideas, some basic thinking, nothing specific, more in the design phase

TCJ/CL/NIC rating evaluation piece

This is a math project based on the Glickman analysis. He is a Harvard mathematician with a new rating system. These kinds of projects can be tricky to share if "double dipping" with AP/EE/Capstone.

TCJ/CL/NIC plateauing piece

This is a math project based on plateauing and some thoughts of Jon Edwards, etc. These kinds of projects can be tricky to share if "double dipping" with AP/EE/Capstone.

Robotics

This is Cherry's baby. He recognized we could do robotics much more cheaply and better by bringing it in-house to help our kids. We can offer more practice time and a much lower price for equipment (some costs are set and even we can't make it lower), setup, tools, etc. Since the art Cherry/Samika/Vahini create doesn't need a dedicated space, we will redesign their art section. Working on field setup, etc., but the basic idea is to help chess players who want to do robotics do so cheaply, efficiently, and well.

Comparative Politics

The only AP class I can teach that is NOT offered at any of the local schools. Basically, just a way to earn cheap/easy credits for college. Not to be confused with the study guides/aids we have for AP/IB classes, which people can borrow from us and use as they see fit. Small groups are almost always best for classes involving philosophical discussion. This way, enough opinions will be present to spark debate and prevent "groupthink," but not so many that not everyone can speak.

Congresses 1st - 9th book

This is a much more advanced version of the next two, designed to take advantage of work with Elk and Ruby (book publisher) and their interest in helping with on-demand publishing, as well as a chance for actual historical scholarship, along with an opportunity to learn from games of great players. It is basically a one-volume encyclopedia for the 9 congresses, think tournaments, played between 1857 and 1923. Much like the next two it allows many kids to contribute, and all have a small project that becomes a larger and more impressive project once all put together.

Pawn Power course book

This project is based on the one that we can't get printed out properly. Many children can effectively complete one or two chapters with the design before we edit, assemble, and print the work. Azim has agreed to edit. The idea is to have each kid basically do a chapter, so as they apply to schools,

programs, scholarships, etc., you can say you have worked on all these various scholarships, helped create all these books, etc.

Piece Play course book

This project is based on the one that we can't get printed out properly. Many children can effectively complete one or two chapters with the design before we edit, assemble, and print the work. Azim has agreed to edit. The idea is to have each kid basically do a chapter, so as they apply to schools, programs, scholarships, etc., you can say you have worked on all these various scholarships, helped create all these books, etc.

Banner ad for various chess sites I am involved in

I would like to set up banner ads for all 4 sites. The same person, or different people, can create them more of a "Oh, I have an idea, let's give this a try" rather than any set situation.

Update walls etc with pics, etc.

Pick a day or two and just do a bunch of work on building, probably have pizza, be as "partyish" about it as we can be

Anyone may submit a chess project

The "heart on fire" project - that project that excites you when you wake up in the morning and you think about when you go to sleep. This project may not exist, and that is fine, but if it does, I will consider helping to underwrite it.

set up DGT board

We need someone to decide that they are going to sit and learn and learn how to do

Scoring site for CJA

Not sure how the programmers did this, but inevitably this site needs tweaking and so forth, and I believe this is where the programmers did more programming of things. It is also inevitably the time when there is a bit of rushing around in May and June. One can not judge until one is 15.

American Chess Archive

The project is to build a US Chess version of newspapers.com. Basic correspondence has begun. Assigning various materials to people for OCR will allow a small group to develop and post them. I would suggest anyone for OCRing, including Subhang, and then for posting more like Samika, Vahini, Chris, Cherry, probably Azim"

Podcast

just an idea, not much going on with it yet

Instagram

Well... it's instagram

Puzzles

We can use puzzles made by some of our club members for things like social media, this newsletter, or puzzle competitions like the Exton Open Puzzle competition we had in May (see the next page for more details on how it went!)

Exton Open Review

By Joshua Anderson



Picture By
Joshua Anderson

This is the coolest thing I think I have ever seen built. Here is the story of how it came about and why I love it so.

A few weeks ago, a bunch of Tri-Bridges Chess Club kids went to National Elementary School Championships (we had kids win two sections.) This included a young lady who was there because of her younger brother (though she is around top 50 in the country for her age, but as an 8th grader can not play.) We had the pleasure of helping Robin Ramson and Kimberly Doo McVay set up and then take down the Girls Room run by the US Chess Woman's committee.

The young lady felt that we should have such a cool and wonderful display at our Exton Open. She went through and ordered a bunch of stuff, figured out what we needed, helped take down the original (thanks Sobha Nalluri who helped as well), and helped think about how the room should look. (As we all know, I have NO sense of color or design at all, so basically none of this comes from me.) The young woman in question also helped design an incredibly cool puzzle competition (aided by tweaks and much puzzle help from a few others.) Plus, she had to deal with some state testing. Despite all this, we started building this on Thursday. One thing led to another, and despite help from me and her mother, we could not finish before the event.

Step in the Tumulus. This is a family that used to come to our club all the time, but the older kid just graduated UNC and younger brother has largely drifted from chess. They and Mom stayed for roughly an extra 90 minutes and helped get this ready for Saturday morning.

Now, I am incredibly impressed that the young woman even thought about our club having such a magnificent structure at our event, and I am more impressed by all the work she put in. Knowing her, she is likely is disappointed that she didn't get to finish it herself.

While I understand her perspective, I think it was an even greater thing because she didn't get to finish. It gave me a chance to work again with the Tumulus and to them, "I forget how much I love working with you all!" It also allowed people from the first years of Tri-Bridges Chess Club to work on this as well, so essentially the entire 13 years of Tri-Bridges Chess Club is involved in creating this. As for the event that had this beautiful structure, it was a great success. The puzzle competition, which will be tweaked further, but not by much, was lots of fun, thanks particularly to this young woman and young man who did a great job with the puzzle creation. But the coolest thing about this event (and something I realized last year when I had the joy of working with Igor Khmel'nitsky's kids) is that it gives me the opportunity to work with people who were involved with the club when it began 13 years ago and those who are so active with the club now. This realization always fills my eyes with wetness and my heart with joy.

Exton Open Puzzle Competition

By Azim Julkipli



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

GM Annotated games

Annotated By GM Bryan Smith

GM Bryan Smith has annotated 4 games for this edition of the Tribridges Tribune: two from his simul, one from the Exton Open, and one between two of our club members. Enjoy these educational comments and analysis given by a Grandmaster.

Shivam Wagh vs. GM Bryan Smith

21.Qe2

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Bd6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Bg5

...f6 is normally part of Black's setup, so this move tends to help Black.

6...f6 7.Qe2+?

The queen check only loses time and exposes the white queen.

7...Nge7 8.Bd2?!

Now White loses more time since d4 has to be protected next move. Better was to go immediately to e3.

8...Bg4 9.Be3 Qd7 10.Nbd2 Nb4

Black takes the opportunity to grab the two bishops.

11.a3?! Nxd3+ 12.Qxd3 Bf5 13.Qc3

The queen also has to occupy an awkward square to avoid losing the c-pawn.

13...Bg6

White's position is really wretched and Black's main problem is deciding on which side of the board to carry out the attack. I wanted to wait for White to castle so I could go the opposite way.

14.Nb3 b6 15.0-0-0?!

White complies with my wishes, "castling into it", which I was naturally happy to see.

15...0-0 16.Rhg1

This counterplay with g2-g4 should be much too slow.

16...a5 17.g4 a4 18.Nbd2 c5

With the bishop aimed at c2 and the c-file opening up, the white king in sight of all of Black's pieces, the game should be quickly decided. I confess I somewhat "wrote this game off".

19.Nb1 Rfc8 20.Qd2 Be4

The immediate 20...Bxc2 would decide the game, for example 21.Kxc2 (21.Qxc2 cxd4 is also losing.)

21...cxd4+

and if 22.Kd3 then 22...Qb5+ 23.Kxd4 Qc4#



21...Nc6?

A careless move which I regretted before I had walked to the next board. Again 21...Bxc2 was winning, although many other reasonable moves would also keep a winning advantage.

22.Nc3 Bg6!?

I couldn't bear to give up the bishop and just guessed that I would have enough compensation after White grabs the d-pawn.

23.h4

This gives Black a chance to restart things. 23.dxc5 would keep the c-file closed and was much better. 23...bxc5 24.Rxd5

Black has enough compensation for the pawn, although it is not that easy to demonstrate.

23...cxd4 24.Bxd4

24.Nxd4 was better.

24...Bxa3!

Black is able to carry out a tactic to win a pawn, although the game is not yet over.

25.bxa3 Nxd4 26.Nxd4 Rxc3 27.h5



27...Bxc2!

Black cannot count on his extra pawn alone and needs to play concretely. For example, 27...Bf7 28.g5 would give White strong counterplay, while the knight on d4 dominates the bishop.

28.Nxc2 Re8!

This was the point - driving the queen away. Not the immediate 28...Rec8 29.Rd2, when White holds everything.

29.Qd2

The queen has few squares - if for example 29.Qf1 then after Qc6 30.Rd2 Rxa3 Black has a winning attack.

29...Rec8

Now with d2 blocked, Black can pile up on the knight.

30.Qxd5+

White goes into the rook ending, since otherwise Black is winning after ...Rxc2+, whether White gives up the queen for the rooks or not.

30...Qxd5 31.Rxd5 Rxc2+ 32.Kb1 Rxf2 33.g5

I remember I was pessimistic here and quite annoyed after making a mess of such an overwhelming position. I think I was also under the illusion that I was only up one pawn. In fact, the ending is fairly easily won for Black.

33...f5?!

Locking the position like this was not the most accurate. 33...Rf8 would have been good, among other moves.

34.g6

34.h6 would have been even more annoying.

34...h6?

This was a terrible move that I knew was not good at the time, although I did it anyway because I wanted to maintain the chance of attacking h5 later. Now the pawn on g6 is a

permanent thorn in Black's side.

34...hxg6 35.hxg6 Rf8 is still a pretty easy win for Black. Black just pushes the f-pawn, with support of the rook behind it. White's one rook cannot create sufficient threats, and if the g1-rook tries to join (as in the game) then Black can attack g6 by ...Rg2.

35.Rgd1 Re2

35...Kf8 36.Rd7 looked too dangerous, so I had to give back one of my pawns.

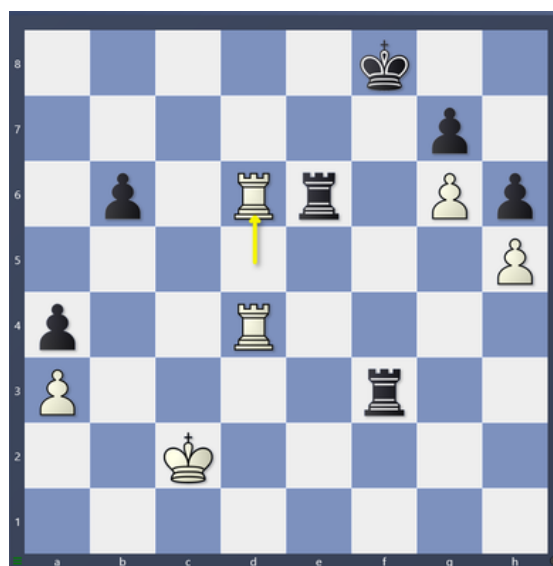
36.Rxf5 Rf8 37.Rb5

Somewhere around here, White made a pretty reasonable draw offer, and indeed I considered there was some danger in playing on. However, I saw that I could avoid real problems and keep the game going, so I declined. White's rooks are active enough that Black has no real winning chances, despite the extra pawn.

37...Re6 38.Rd4 Rf1+ 39.Kc2 Kf8 40.Rbd5

40.Rxa4 is also possible and the position is drawish.

40...Rf3 41.Rd6



The game did not end here, but went on for many moves. Unfortunately I do not have the rest. Ultimately I ended up managing to get a position with a rook and pawn against a rook, albeit a completely drawn one. In the end, despite posing some problems, Shivam's defense held firm. Bravo! 1/2-1/2

Riaan Gandhi - Subhang Nettem

ECE #126, 25.05.2026

**1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.0-0 e6 5.d3 Be7
6.Nbd2 0-0 7.e4 b6**

This simple setup with the queenside fianchetto is probably what White wants to see, but it is not really that bad. Still, surely it is better to play ...b5, since normally the b-pawn will play a role in Black's counterplay.

8.e5 Nfd7 9.Re1 Bb7 10.Nf1 Nc6 11.h4

White knows his standard attacking plan very well.

11...h6 12.h5 Rc8 13.N1h2 Re8 14.Ng4 f6?!

Despite not making the most purposeful moves, up to now Black's position was still pretty solid. But this move justifies White's "overprotection" of the strong e5-point. By trading off that pawn, Black opens the e-file and the e5 square while weakening his king. White's pieces are well placed to make use of the new structure.

15.exf6 Nxf6 16.Bh3

Taking aim at the now-weak e6-pawn.

16...Bd6



17.Rxe6!?

This move may not be the absolute best, but the attack that it initiates confuses Black and takes the game out of the realm of the "normal" - something that can often bring practical

success. At the same time, it is not a complete bluff - even after the best defense, White is still in the game. I am not sure I either would be able to resist making this sacrifice.

17.Nh4 would maintain a nice advantage with no complications.

17...Rxe6 18.Nxh6+ gxh6 19.Bxe6+ Kg7 20.Bxh6+!

This is the point - not to take the exchange, which would leave Black's minor pieces in control of the game.

20...Kxh6 21.Qd2+ Kg7

Not 21...Kh7 22.Ng5+ Kg7 23.Nf7

22.Qg5+ Kf8??

Black's play has been very forced until here, but now he has a choice, and as is often the case, makes the wrong one. White can now force checkmate.

22...Kh8 was necessary, and White struggles to justify the sacrifice. Nevertheless, after 23.h6 Rc7 24.Re1 the position remains very complicated and Black will have great trouble unraveling his position despite his extra two minor pieces.

23.Qh6+ Ke7



24.Qg7+!

White sacrifices a third piece and the game becomes a king hunt.

24...Kxe6 25.Ng5+ Kf5

25...Ke5 26.Re1+ Kd4 27.Nf3# Doesn't help matters.

**26.Qg6+ Kg4 27.Ne4+ Kf3 28.Qf5+ Ke2 29.Nc3+ 9...Nf6
Kd2 30.Qf3!**

This "quiet move" is the fastest checkmate.

30...Bxg3 31.Qd1#



Shall we call it the "Exton Immortal" ?

1-0

Matthew O'Brien – Bryan Smith

2nd Exton Open (4), 17.05.2026

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5

I've played Matt a lot of times (although not since 2019). This was one opening that I hadn't yet played against him. One of my favorites, the beautiful Kalashnikov.

5.Nb5 d6 6.N1c3 a6 7.Na3 Be6 8.Nc4 Rb8

I've already played this mysterious rook move five times before (as have many other people). It takes some explaining. Black does not want to hurry with ...Nf6, allowing the pin Bg5. Meanwhile he should prepare for Be3, meeting ...b5 with Nb6-d5. The natural move is 8...b5, but this move leads to a significant weakening on the queenside, which can eventually be exploited by an a2-a4 advance. Hence this waiting move, which allows Black to play ...b5 only after Be3 (then the knight cannot go to b6 and has to retreat to d2).]

9.Bd3

White has a number of options and I don't think this is really the most critical.

Now that the d-file is blocked, White's Bg5 can be met by ...Be7, when the bishop can recapture on f6 without dropping d6.

10.0-0 Be7 11.Kh1

White signals that he is planning f2-f4. But I don't think this is a very good plan here. White doesn't get any real pressure against d6 or kingside attacking chances, while he gives Black the e5-square for the knight. I expected moves like 11.Bg5 or 11.Ne3, both which were played before here, with a roughly equal position arising.

11...0-0 12.f4 b5

Only now Black makes this advance, forcing the knight into the way of the bishop recapturing on f4.

13.Ne3

Trying to insert 13.fxe5 bxc4 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Be2 Be5 leads to a horrible position for White. The bishop on e5 is a monster, Black controls the center and has attacking prospects on both sides of the board.

13...exf4 14.Rxf4 Ne5 15.Ne2?!

This move struck me as very odd. Surely the knight was better on c3? I expected some other moves like 15.Rf1 or 15.a4, but Black stands a bit better in any case thanks to the strong knight on e5.

15...Qb6

I spent a long time here and ultimately decided to retain the tension. I knew I should make the pawn break 15...d5 and that would have indeed been objectively better, although 15...Qb6 also gives Black a better position.

15...d5 16.exd5 Nxd5 and Black has a clear advantage due to his superior activity, the two bishops he will soon have, and the safer king. 17.Rd4? fails to 17...Bc5! 18.Rxd5 Bxd5 19.Nxd5 Ng4!

16.Nf5

This allows Black to gain a powerful initiative with forcing moves. Better was the consolidating move 16.Rf1, although Black has a long-term

advantage thanks to the strong knight on e5.

16...Bxf5 17.Rxf5

17.exf5 d5 leaves White unable to complete his development and deal with threats along the e-file and ...Ng4.

17...g6!

It's very concrete - this was an important precursor to prevent White from defending f2 comfortably by Qf1.

18.Rf1 Ng4 19.Qe1

White's play has been forced.



19...d5!

This move releases the dynamism of Black's position.

20.exd5?!

I was definitely happy to see this move, since now Black can continue with a quick attack. 20.e5 was better, although after 20...Nxe5 White is down a pawn for no compensation. Or if 20.h3 dxe4 is very bad for White.

20...Bc5 21.h3

Giving up the exchange would have been hopeless, so White has to clear a square for the king.

21...Nf2+ 22.Kh2 Rfe8!

White's position looks terrible, but it is not time to be careless. This accurate move keeps White from freeing himself while also creating new threats on the e-file. Meanwhile, this rook can be used since there is no need to worry about White capturing the rook on b8 with the bishop.

22...Nxd5 is obvious, but allows White the chance to play 23.Nf4 Surely White's position is also not satisfactory here, but he does get a little freedom.

23.Bf4

There is little else that White can do, since Black is planning to take d5 as well as ...Bd6+, which can no longer be met by Bf4.

23...Nh5!

The important bishop is driven away from the key diagonal.



24.Bxb8

24.b4 Bd4 was the main point that had to be calculated when I played 22...Rfe8.

24...Qxb8+

I wished that Matt had allowed me to conclude the game with 25.g3 Rxe2! rather than resigning.

0-1

Samika Nettem – Bryan Smith

Exton Simul, 20.04.2026

1.d4 Nf6 2.e3 g6 3.Bd3 Bg7 4.f4

Miss Nettem goes for a Stonewall setup against the King's Indian - certainly not a critical option, but a methodical one where White's moves will be easy and her position has a certain solidity.

4...0-0 5.Nf3 c5 6.c3 b6

Holding back the d-pawn from going to d5 for the time being is a better strategy, denying White the use of an outpost on e5.]

7.0-0 Bb7 8.Nbd2 Nc6

The knight is brought quickly to c6 to counteract White's potential e3-e4.

9.Qe1

White sends the queen to the kingside in a rather direct way, but it is not very effective here. Black has permitted the advance 9.e4, but will get very strong pressure on White's center. The knight on d2 is not really placed well for this. As an example, 9...cxd4 10.cxd4 Nh5 11.Nb3 a5 and White is under considerable pressure.

9...Rc8 10.Qg3 d6

It's a simul, so I am really just tossing out natural moves in a couple of seconds. It was better here to consider what White might do. The advance f4-f5 would actually give White some attacking chances while also later freeing the dark-squared bishop. This could easily have been prevented with 10...e6! Now White has no plan and her position is under constant pressure. It is hard to complete her development since the knight on d2 cannot really move, and things like ...Ne7-f5 are coming.

11.Ne4??

A tactical blunder which loses right away.

11.f5! would have been a strong move. White is not exactly better here, but does stand perfectly fine and has some attacking chances in a sharp position.

11...Nxe4

Move order is important - if first 11...Nxd4?? then White can insert 12.Nxf6+ with check.

12.Bxe4



12...Nxd4!

The bishop on e4 was unguarded, which is always a sign of danger

13.Nxd4

Of course, capturing the bishop on b7 would be met by the fork 13...Ne2+.

13...Bxe4 14.Nf3

Black has won "only" a pawn, but this position can be assessed as totally won. Not only is Black up a healthy pawn, but he also has two strong bishops and a better structure.

14...b5

To get some action going, Black begins to open lines on the queenside.

15.a3 a5 16.Qe1 Qb6 17.Kh1 b4

The pawn break will bring the black rooks into cooperation with the monster bishop on e4.

18.axb4 axb4 19.cxb4 cxb4 20.Ra4 Rc2

It's not necessary to cling to the extra pawn - Black transforms it into a winning positional advantage.

21.Rxb4 Qc6 22.Rg1

This move loses right away, but White's position was hopeless. Her pieces cannot move and once the second black rook appears on either the c-file or the back rank, White will quickly shed a lot of material.

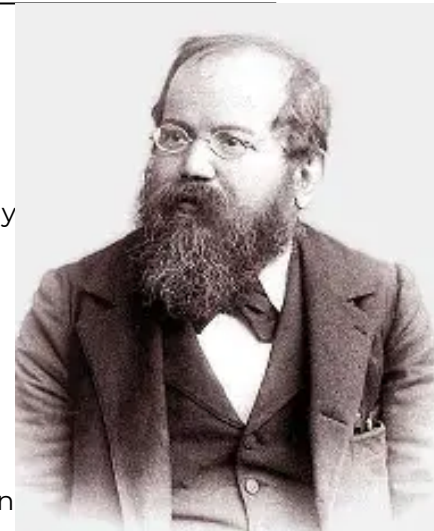
22...Bxf3

0-1

Chess Master in History

By Azim Julkipli

Wilhelm Steinitz, born on May 14, 1836, would lead a life filled with chess, receiving the 1st official world champion title, and bringing an end to the Romantic era of chess by introducing a new way of playing chess, which would soon be one of the main tools used by top players.



Steinitz learned how to play chess at the age of 12, but he only started to play in tournaments and take chess more seriously when he was in his twenties. He quickly improved his play, from getting 3rd in the Vienna City Championship in 1859 to getting first in 1861 with a score of 30/31. This convinced him to become a professional player.

After his performance, he was sent to the London 1862 tournament to represent Austria. Though he received 6th place, one of his games was awarded the Brilliancy Award. Steinitz immediately challenged the person in 5th place, against whom he won. This supports the idea that Steinitz was a bold and ambitious person. Following this, he played and came victorious from a series of matches against top players in the UK. These victories led to him being recognized as one of the top players in the world at the time. Steinitz challenged Adolf Anderssen, who was thought to be the strongest player at the time. The games were close, with a tie score of 6-6 after twelve games, but Steinitz secured the win by winning the last two games. Following this, Steinitz continued to defeat stronger players.

Though he was doing fine in matches against top players, it took more time for him to improve his play in tournaments. However, he eventually became an expert in tournaments as well, receiving his first win in a strong tournament in 1872.

Up to this point, Steinitz (and for that matter, practically everyone else) had been playing in the Romantic fashion, through going all in for attacks on the king. However, Steinitz introduced the idea of positional play, which focuses on building up smaller advantages by improving pieces and taking control of the opponent's weaknesses. He strongly defended his ideas, which were eventually taken up by other masters.

From 1873 to 1882, Steinitz did not take part in competitive chess. Instead, he became a chess journalist during this period of time. As a journalist, he made some disruptive comments, creating a few ruthless debates, especially with Zukertort, known as the "Ink War"

Steinitz came back to serious chess starting from the London 1882 tournament. He soon moved and later settled in America, where he played multiple matches and simultaneous exhibitions (simuls). Steinitz

eventually had a "World Championship" match with Zukertort, which was based on who won 10 games first. Steinitz started off shaky, with Zukertort leading 4-1, but he eventually won 12.5-7.5. He also played Russian Mikhail Chigorin twice, winning both times.

At this time, Steinitz was talking about retiring, but changed his mind when he was challenged by Emmanuel Lasker, a rising chess player. Because of the age gap of over 30 years, the chess world was shocked when Lasker won the first game. However, Steinitz was able to win the second game, and it went back and forth until after the 6th game, won by Steinitz, where Lasker took on a series of wins till the 11th game. Steinitz requested a break from the match, and after that



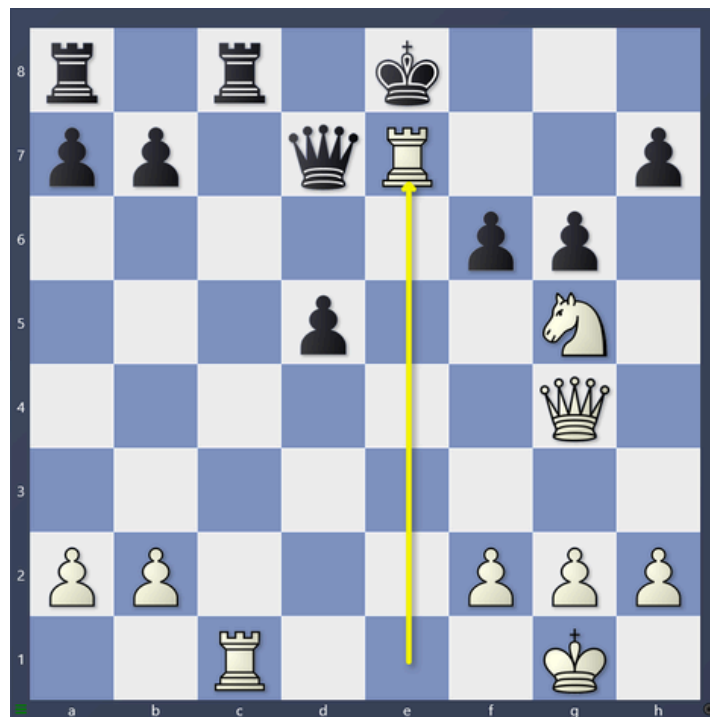
he was able to win the 13th and 14th games. However, the 15th and 16th games were won by Lasker, which ultimately decided the match. Lasker won with 10 wins, 5 losses, and 4 draws.

After losing the title of World Chess Champion, Steinitz played in more tournaments, though his play started to decline. He later challenged Lasker again, but lost worse, with only 2 wins, drawing 5, and losing 10. Steinitz lived off the profits from chess, so he died without much money on August 12, 1900, while his legacy as the first World Chess Champion lives on.

Below is a game played by Steinitz against Curt von Bardeleben, which is commonly known as "The Battle of Hastings"

Wilhelm Steinitz vs. Curt von Bardeleben

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nc3 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.O-O Be6 10. Bg5 Be7 11. Bxd5 Bxd5 12. Nxd5 Qxd5 13. Bxe7 Nxe7 14. Re1 f6 15. Qe2 Qd7 16. Rac1 c6 17. d5 cxd5 18. Nd4 Kf7 19. Ne6 Rhc8 20. Qg4 g6 21. Ng5+ Ke8 22. Rxe7!!



Kf8 23. Rf7+ Kg8 24. Rg7+ Kh8 25. Rxh7+

After only 25 moves, Black resigned.

1-0

Player Spotlight

This month's player spotlight goes to a person who has been with our club for some time, and he has played in many of our events, while also helping out around the club: Swamik Gandhe!

For the past three years, I have been a member of Tribridges Chess Club, an experience that has helped me grow both as a chess player and as a person. I first joined after hearing about the club from my friends. At the time, I was simply looking for a place to play chess and improve my skills, but I quickly discovered that the club offered much more than that.

Throughout my time at Tribridges, I have participated in tournaments, attended club nights, taken lessons, and enjoyed club events and parties. Each of these activities helped me develop my understanding of chess while also allowing me to build friendships with people who share the same passion for the game.

One of my proudest achievements was becoming the State Champion in the Under-1100 division. This accomplishment did not happen overnight. It was the result of consistent practice, learning from my mistakes, and applying the lessons I learned through the club. The support of coaches, club members, and friends played an important role in helping me reach this goal.

Beyond chess, Tribridges taught me an important

life lesson: if you put your mind to what you want to achieve and are willing to work for it, you can accomplish great things. Whether preparing for a tournament or overcoming a difficult challenge, determination and effort can make a significant difference.



Looking back on my three years with Tribridges Chess Club, I am grateful for the opportunities, experiences, and friendships it has given me. The club has helped shape me into a stronger chess player and has taught me lessons that I will carry with me long after my final game.

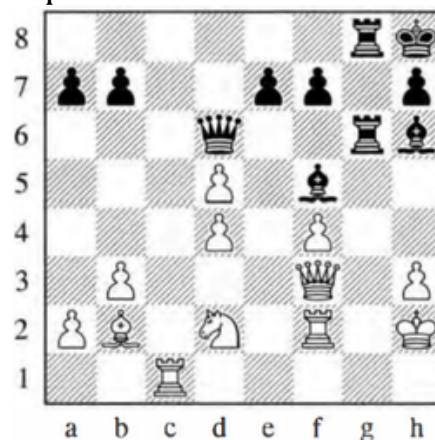
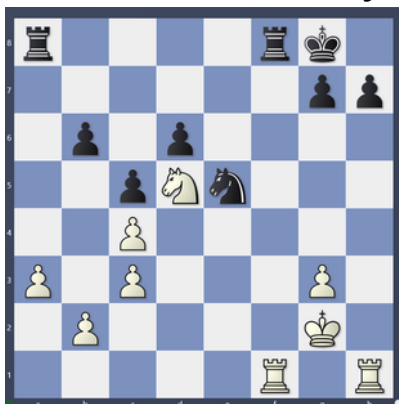
Errata

This section notes the errors in previous editions of the Tribridges Tribune.

1. May Newsletter: The colors for Shivam Wagh vs. Bryan Smith are reversed: Shivam played as White, while Bryan played as Black
2. March Newsletter: The book review on the Fundamental Chess Openings was written by Riaan Gandhi

Can you solve these puzzles?

White to play and checkmate in 3 moves



Black to play and win
From the book "Boost Your Chess 2" Solutions on Page ____

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.

[2026 Haring PA Tournament – Haring Qualifier](#)

Date and Time: Saturday, June 13 @ 8:00 am - June 14 @ 5:00 pm

Sections: Open with section prizes

Time Control: G/90 d5

[ECE#130 – Friday Night Tournament](#)

Date and Time: Friday, June 19 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Sections: U1200, U800, U500, U200

Time Control: G/25 d5

[Wild Wednesday Blitz Event](#)

Date and Time: Sunday, June 21 @ 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Section: Open, U1400, U700

Time Control: G/60 d5

[ECE #132 – Saturday Tournament](#)

Date and Time: Saturday, June 27 @ 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Sections: Open, U1000, U500

Time Control: G/25 d5

There are also going to be a few summer camps and possibly some seminars that people can attend and sign up for on the Tribridge website:

<https://tribridgeschessclub.com/events/category/class/>

