

Monthly Newsletter

◆ October 2025

TRI BRIDGES CHESS CLUB

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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 author 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.

In this newsletter
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Player Spotlight



This month, we shine the spotlight on Pranav Srinivasan from Delaware, a dedicated member of Tri Bridges Chess Club. With a current rating of approximately 1700, Pranav is a familiar face at club events, actively participating in tournaments and seminars throughout the season.

In late July, Pranav proudly represented Delaware at the 6th Annual Rockefeller National Tournament of Elementary State Champions—an exclusive, invite-only event. He was the only Tri Bridges member selected to compete, making his participation a notable achievement. Facing a field of highly skilled players from across the country, Pranav scored 2.5 out of 6 rounds, a commendable result in such a competitive environment.

“As expected, there were many strong players representing different states. Before each game, I was calm and ready to play, but my opponents had powerful attacking skills, which allowed me to learn from my mistakes. Overall, I had a good time, and I look forward to playing more tournaments like this.”

Congratulations to Pranav for his performance and sportsmanship! We're excited to see what's next in his chess journey.

Short Book Recommendation



Chess educator **Pete Tamburro** concludes his insightful trilogy with **Theory vs. Practice**, a book that bridges the gap between textbook openings and real-world play. This 3rd volume in the series *Openings for Amateurs* emphasizes a critical truth: you can't always count on your opponent to follow the main line.

Tamburro presents 85 annotated games, ranging from 1750 to 2023, to explore how opening theory unfolds in practice. These examples highlight alternative lines and unexpected responses, helping players adapt and think critically rather than memorize.

This book is **highly recommended for club players rated 1200–1800** who want to improve their opening understanding without diving into rigid, step-by-step theory. If you're looking to strengthen your intuition and flexibility in the opening phase, this book is a practical and engaging resource.



Level 1 puzzle - White to play and win

Can you solve these puzzles? -



Level 2 puzzle - White to play and win

Annotated game

In the following game, Chris Romeril(as white) played against Pranav Srinivasan(as black) during the Sunday Exton game hour, which is also a monthly event that happened on Sunday, October 12th! Sit back and watch this game unfold before you!

1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. f4 Bg7 5. Nf3 O-O 6. Be2

This is one of the more passive lines white can go through in the Pirc Defense, with 6. Bd3 being the more aggressive main line option

6... c5 7. dxc5 Qa5 8. Bd2?!

8. cxd6 is probably too greedy because of the pressure on the pin, for example 8... Nxe4 9. dxe7 Re8

8... Qxc5 9. Rb1?!

9. h3 would be reasonable to stop Ng4, but Rb1 is a hard to explain move. Maybe it is a prophylactic move trying to get out of the diagonal or maybe it is to play b4, either way I (Chris) thought it was slightly inaccurate

9... Ng4 10. Rf1! 10... Ne3

10... Bxc3 is most likely the best move, because if 11. Bxc3?? 11. bxc3 Ne3 12. Bxe3 Qxe3 and black hits a bunch of weak pawns 11... Ne3 is an option, but it seemed unnatural to give up the dark squared bishop

11. Bxe3 Qxe3 12. Qd3??

12. Qd2 is what Chris expected 12... Bxc3 13. bxc3 Qxe4

12. Nd5! A move Pranav found later, and we both missed in the game, the e7 pawn will fall.

12... Qxe4 13. Ng5 Qa4 14. Nxe7+ Kh8 15. Nxc8 Rxc8 16. Nxf7+

12... Qxf4

I forgot my whole idea, I messed up the move order, now the reason why the knight had to be taken is highlighted

13. Nd5! Qg4? 14. Nxe7+

This move is still winning but there's also 14. Nc7 Na6 15. Nxa8 Bd7, maybe Pranav thought I could mobilize fast and did not want to take the exchange

14... Kh8 15. Ne5??

15. Qxd6 is still not easy in my opinion, white only has a pawn but his king is very weak and can never castle, a few wrong moves and black could be back in the game 15... Qxe4

15... Qh4+! 16. g3 Qxe7

and I get the piece! Some may wonder, Chris, my friend, how on earth did you lose here, let him show you

17. Nc4 Bh3 seemed natural, to develop with a tempo

18. Rf2 Rd8 19. Rd1 d5

I thought I was going to lose the pawn so might as well close the file the queen and rook are on 19... Be5?! I thought it was risky

20. Nxe5 Qxe5 21. Rxf7

I guess I am still winning but I was not a fan of the airiness around my king



20. exd5 Nd7

20... Bf5 is more active, if I played this move I might not have lost the game 21. Qb3 Na6

21. Qf3 h5

21... Nf6 easily stops the bishop trap 22. g4 Bxg4 the threat, if I do nothing, is to trap my bishop 21... a6 22. g4

22. d6 Qe6 23. Qxf7 Qxf7 24. Rxf7 Bf5?! 25. Ne3

I missed this, attacks my bishop and defends c2, here I could tell I was cooked, I gave up too many pawns and now he has strong counterplay with the d pawn I gave him



25... Be6?! 26. Re7 Re8 27. Bc4?! 27... Bxc4

27... Nf8 might have been better 28. Bxe6 Nxe6 29. Rxb7

28. Nxc4 Rac8?!

This does not improve my position, I can not even take the knight 28... b6 seems much more stable to me looking back

29. Kf1?! Just sliding out of the pin 29... Rcd8?

It is crazy how the computer here still thinks I have the edge, in my mind I was lost here 30. Na5!

30... Bf6?

30... Nc5 was something I looked out for but dismissed after 31. b4 Rxe7 32. dxe7 Rxd1+ 33. Ke2 and I can not stop the pawn 30... Nf6 this or the rook move are the only moves here for black 30... Rf8+

31. Nxb7 Bxe7? 32. dxe7 Rxe7

I have relieved the pressure of the position but at the cost of being down 2 pawns in this endgame

33. Nxd8 Nc5 34. Nc6 Rf7+ 35. Kg1 Na4 36. Ne5 Rg7

36... Rc7 is the right choice in this losing war, trying to hold everything fails because the rooks get traded off, I should have tried to create queenside counterplay maybe but everything felt losing and I was discouraged from losing this game when I was given a second chance

37. Nxc6+ Kh7 38. Nf4 Nxb2 39. Rd2 Nc4 40. Re2 Na3

37. Rd8+ Kh7 38. Rd7? 38... Nxb2 39. Rxc7+ Kxc7

While I am only down a pawn I am just busted here

40. Nc6 a6 41. Kf2 Kf6? 42. Ke3! 42... Nd1+ 43. Kd4 Nf2 44. Ne5 g5 45. c4 Ke6 46. c5 g4 47. Ng6 Kf5 48. c6!! 48... Ne4 49. Nf4 h4 50. c7 Nd6 51. Kd5 hxg3 52. Kxd6 Kxf4 53. hxg3+ Kxc3 54. c8=Q Kh3?! 55. Qh8+

Overall it was a good game from him. I made some serious mistakes I should not have made, and he offered me a draw at some point in this game when I was worse but I declined because I believed he could convert the position and win. He is a great player who is underrated, and therefore surprises others.

Igor's Seminar

By Azim Julkipli

Recently, Igor Khmelnitsky has been teaching seminars at the Exton Chess Club. Below I share my experience on his first seminar, which I attended:

At the beginning of the seminar, Igor asked all of us to write our strengths and weakness, along with a few positions. In the first session, we went over what our weaknesses were collectively. Then, in the following sessions, we took advantage of this, going over positional and tactical themes.

One of the things we did during these sessions was analyzing positions. Igor would give us a few minutes to study a position, and then he would ask what they thought of the position, and who they thought of as better. Sometimes, the result would surprise us, as it seemed that one side was better, but the opponent could easily gain an advantage or reduce ours to get a better position. This also helped me better understand the difference between long-term and short-term advantages.

Another thing we did was go over tactical puzzles. Igor gave us all sorts of puzzle, from the normal type of puzzle, to a kind where the board is split into 4 quadrants and each one has a puzzle, to puzzles where you must find out whose turn it is and what happened in the past few moves. And of course, we cannot forget about Igor's doubles, which the members quickly realized were quite fun to try to solve and satisfactory once you got the solution. In these puzzles, Igor would start with a position, then make a copy of it except for one minor and seemingly negligible change, which would actually in fact make a combination useless due to an intermediate check or a counterattack at the end of the combination.

Near the end of the seminar, we analyzed one of our classmate's games, and Igor shared a few tips on how to analyze effectively. We had a party at the final session to celebrate the amount of hard work we had done. We had a rated blitz tournament, which was a nice addition for the other members. I had fun too, even though I'm not much of a blitz player. We spent a lot of time, so sadly, we didn't get to the puzzle competition, but we did get the puzzles planned for that day. Igor also kindly gave each of us his book titled *Chess Exam: You vs. Fischer!*

Overall, I had a pretty good experience, and I think this seminar could be helpful for other students as well!

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 perfect, but it definitely makes you better! Here's what's coming up at the Tri Bridges Chess Club.

[Reach for the Sky Tournament](#) on November 9th

Sections: U600, U1000, Open

Time Control: G/25 d5

This is a free event generously funded by the Suresh family!

[Friday Night Tournament](#) on November 14th

Sections: U200, U500, U800, Open

Time Control: G25 d5

[PA Championship G15/d3 \(U1000, U500\) – Scholastic](#) on November 15th

[PA Championship G15/d3 \(Open\)](#), on November 16th

[\\$250 Sunday Game Hour](#) on November 23rd

Sections: U700, U1400, Open

Time Control: G60/d5 for Open and U1400, G25/d5 for U700

[Saturday Afternoon Tournament](#) on November 29th

Sections: U200, U600, U1000

Time Control: G25/d5

57th Annual Atlantic Open

Several members of the Tri Bridges Chess Club participated in the 57th Annual Atlantic Open in Washington, D.C., achieving strong results across multiple sections. Charan Perumalla distinguished himself by winning first place in the U1800 section with an impressive score of 4.5/5. In the U1000 section, the club also performed exceptionally well, with Ridhan Venkatesan securing first place with 4.5/5, Lohith Sri Krishna Enagalla receiving second with 4/5, and Akhil Kapalavayi earning third place, finishing with three wins and two draws for a score of 4/5 as well. In the U2100 section, Vahini Sadhu Venkata narrowly missed a rating of 1800, scoring 3.5/5. Overall, Tri Bridges delivered a commendable performance throughout the tournament, demonstrating both skill and competitive spirit.

Reflecting on his experience, Akhil noted, "My experience was how tough the competitors were and how one loss could send you down multiple boards. With so many strong competitors, earning third place was a significant achievement."

