Tri-Bridges Tribune

✦ October 2026



Jessica and Jonathan Nguyen are the first two winners of our new quads!

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.

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In this newsletter you can expect:

Item	Page
Writer Statistics	2
Chess **Writer** in History	3
Elevate Your Game: Fall Classes at Tri-Bridges Chess Club	4
Annotated Games	5
Pennsylvania State Championship	7
Player Spotlight	8
Short Book Recommendation	8
Puzzles	8
Upcoming Events	9

Writer Statistics

By Azim Julkipli

For this edition, we have a special article on the statistics of our writers. Some additional information: The average number of pages of all the past papers is 11, starting off with 7 pages in the very first edition to 16 pages in a few articles like the one in June. Thanks to all of those who have written for the newsletter and keep writing!

Player Name	# of Games
Chris Romeril	8
Mohit Maringanti	6
Charan Perumalla	5
Ashrith Maringati	4
Shivam Wagh, Samika Nettem, Subhang Nettem, Hyindhav Murugesh, John Zheng	3
Riaan Gandhi, Tanay Parripati	2
Azim Julkipli, Swanik Gandhe, Ridhan Venkatesan, Sudiksha Kottha, Pranav Srinivasan, James Zheng, Vahini Sadhu Venkata, Justin Migueis	2

Player Spotlights:
October 2025: Pranav Srinivasan
December 2025: Aarush Vudathu
January 2026: Aayan Bhowmik
February 2026: Lily Neilson
March 2026: State Championship top-ten finishers (a group spotlight)
April 2026: Ridhan Venkatesan
May 2026: Riaan Gandhi
June 2026: Swanik Gandhe
July 2026: Sudiksha Kottha
August 2026: Jai Advik Perumalla
September 2026: Hyindhav Murugesh

Writer Name	# of Reviews
Riaan Gandhi	3
Azim Julkipli	2
Swanik Gandhe, Aarush Vudathu, Tyler Wang, Pranav Srinivasula, Shourya Singh	1

Writer Name	# of Pieces
Azim Julkipli	19
Joshua Anderson	17
Chris Romeril	6
Riaan Gandhi	5
Charan Perumalla	4
Shivam Wagh, Swanik Gandhe	3
Samika Nettem, Aarush Vudathu, Akhil Kapalavayi, Pallavi Rajeev	2

Chess Writer in History

By Azim Julkipli



For this newsletter's anniversary, I have introduced the Chess Writer In History column (CWIH) as a special edition of the CMIH column. This column will be talking about a famous chess writer in history, starting off with a person who was very influential during the 19th century in writing and after whom many classic chess sets have been named: Howard Staunton.

Howard Staunton was a great chess player, and was considered the best of his time from 1843 to 1851. During this time, Staunton also pursued writing. He started a chess column titled, "The Illustrated London News", which would end up to be one of the most influential chess columns and which he would keep writing till his death. Most of the over 1400 weekly articles Staunton wrote focused on over-the-board games, while some of them considered correspondence chess as well.



In 1847, Staunton published his most famous book, "The Chess Player's Handbook", featuring more than 300 pages of analysis on the opening, and nearly 100 pages of endgame analysis. The book contains ideas from previously published books, but expands heavily with many of his own thoughts. It was followed by another book called "The Chess Player's Companion".

In 1849, a person named Nathaniel Cooke made a chess set design, and Staunton had advertised for them in his chess column. Due to this, Staunton signed each of the boxes of the sets that went out, and he collected a royalty on them. This led to them being known as the Staunton chess set, a standard and popular choice for all chess players.

In 1851, Staunton also started the very first international tournament, known as the London 1851 chess tournament. Staunton and his coworkers wished to use this tournament to complete many objectives, one of them being creating a "Chess Parliament" to standardize the rules of chess and to write articles about it. In this knockout tournament, Staunton did not do so well, but Adolf Anderssen won the tournament. He later wrote a book about the chess tournament and the details of hosting one.

Later, Staunton continued to write, eventually helping to edit a Shakespeare text, but he publicly announced he would not be a professional chess player anymore, but he would still continue to write chess articles, including his chess column. He published "the Chess Praxis", a supplement to the Chess Player's Handbook. He also published another book 5 years afterward, titled, "Great Schools of England", which mostly covered the history of public schools in England, but it also has other ideas, such as the idea that the student must be interested to learn something, and that physical punishments should not be used.

Most of Staunton's life continued with writing related to Shakespeare. When Staunton died on June 22, 1874, he was working on one of these papers at his desks, and he was also working on the "Chess: Theory and Practice" which was designed to be the last book in the series including the Chess Player's Handbook. Staunton is remembered as a great chess player, writer and influential figure who made contributions to the world of chess that still show up to this day.

Elevate Your Game: Fall Classes at Tri-Bridges Chess Club

By Joshua Anderson





This fall, Tri-Bridges Chess Club invites players of all ages and skill levels to strengthen their strategy, tactical vision, and competitive confidence. Hosted at 666 Exton Commons, Exton, Pennsylvania, our fall instructional session features a comprehensive curriculum designed to help every student reach their full potential at the board.

Comprehensive Fall Class Lineup

Starting the week of September 14th, our 10-week courses cover every dimension of the game:

Queens in Training (Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 PM): A dedicated, empowering all-girls class designed to build confidence, tactical proficiency, and sportsmanship in a fun and encouraging environment.

Pawn Power (Mondays, 6:00–7:00 PM): Pawn structures are the skeleton of every chess game. This course teaches students how pawn structures dictate piece placement, plan creation, and positional advantages.

Basic Tactics / Tactics 101 (Mondays, 6:00–7:00 PM): Designed to sharpen tactical acuity. Students solve thematic puzzles and practice essential themes like forks, pins, skewers, and discovered attacks to capitalize on opponent blunders.

Let's Learn Chess (Wednesdays, 6:00–7:00 PM): The ideal starting point for beginners to learn piece movement, special rules, and essential checkmating patterns.

Join Us This Fall

All 10-week courses are $100 and offer prorated registration for late sign-ups. In addition to structured classes, players can practice their skills at our free Tuesday night casual club sessions from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Register online today at tribridgeschessclub.com to secure your spot!

Most of the classes are taught by Ram Singh who has taught roughly 100 classes and camps. Vahini Sadhu Venkata, a 15-year-old, is one of the top 50 girls in the country based on age, and is teaching the Queens in Training class. Finally, Azim Julkipli is teaching the Basic Tactics course.

Annotated Games

These are 3 games played by our club members, with Chris's games being played at the Exton Sunday Game Hour and Riaan's game played at the Automn Open tournament.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 Nc6 5. Nf3 d6 6. e4 O-O 7. Bd3 e5 8. d5 Ne7 9. a3 Bxc3+ 10. Qxc3 Ng6 11. g3?
I didn't want the knight to land on f4 and trade my good bishop for his knight, but O-O is good because if the knight lands on f4 black loses central space which would benefit me more than losing the bishop pair, g3 is a mistake because it creates many light square weaknesses.
11. O-O Nf4 12. Bxf4 exf4
11... Bg4
Bg4 or 11... Bh3 are good, taking advantage of the light squares. It also stops the h-pawn advance threatening to kick out the g6 knight in the future
12. Bc2 h6 13. h3 Bd7 14. Be3 c6 15. O-O-O
quite dubious with an open c-file, I can't castle kingside because I lose
the h3 pawn
15... cxd5 16. exd5 a6? 17. Bxg6 fxg6 18. Nh4 g5 19. Ng6??
This gets the knight trapped, I saw this but I thought I could open the king side with f4, and I would have compensation, unfortunately I missed Ne4
19... Rf7 20. f4 Ne4!
This gains tempo on my queen, hits g3, opens the rook to the f file so it is a great move for black
21. Qb4 Bf5 22. Nxe5
The knight is trapped so I sacrificed it for two central pawns
22... dxe5 23. fxe5 Rc8 24. g4 Bg6 25. Bb6 Qf8?
So now we get to the main part of the game I want to focus on. When we are taught chess, we are always taught to trade when we are up material right? Most of the time that is true but this is a rare instance where the more black trades, the harder the game gets to win because the white pawns are passed, connected, and far up the board. Trading the queens cuts blacks' advantage in half. Instead of trading down into an endgame I believe black should try and use his extra material to try and checkmate my weak king among the exposed/weak c file and weak h7 to b1 diagonal
26. Qxf8+ Rfxf8 27. b3 Nf2 28. Bxf2 Rxf2 29.Rd2 Rxd2?? 30. Kxd2
the computer evaluates this close to equal, black has less than -1.0 advantage, I definitely felt like I was getting back into the game, I could make three passed pawns
30... Kf8? 31. Ke3 b5?
This makes it easier to connect my pawns together
31... Bc2 is best because I can't defend that pawn and if I move it c4 hangs, it weakens my central pawn chain
32. Rf1+ (32. b4?? Rxc4)
32. Kd4 Ke7 33. c5 Rf8 34. c6 Rf4+ 35. Kc5 Be8 36. Rd1 Re4 37. d6+ Kd8 38. d7 Bxd7 39. Rxd7+
I went on to easily win this endgame with two passed pawns and a very active king
39... Ke8
I wanted to share this game because I think it is important to show how even if one is down a piece against a strong player, if you are resilient and try to hold on sometimes you can turn a loss into a win. Connected passed pawns can be enough compensation for a piece and
trading isn't always the best way to convert your material advantage

Pratheek M vs. Christopher Romeril

1. Nf3 c5 2. g3 Nc6 3. Bg2 g6 4. d3 Bg7 5. Nbd2 d6 6. O-O Nf6 7. e4 e5 8. c3 O-O 9. a4 h6 10. Nc4 Be6 11. Ne3 Re8 12. Ne1 d5 13. Qe2 d4 14. N3c2 Qd7 15. c4 b6 16. Bd2 Rab8 17. f4 a6??
This move loses a piece to the following variation in the game, I should have played something like 17... Ne7 guarding f5 and getting out of the discoveries
18. f5 gxf5 19. exf5 Bxf5 20. Bxc6! Bxd3
loses to Qf3 which is the correct refutation to the computer, attacking the bishop on d3, defending the c6 bishop as well who is skewering me
21. Bxd7?
21. Qf3

21... Bxe2 22. Bxe8 Bxf1
22... Nxe8 is best according to the computer, its not clear to me because I am down material, it makes sense though because you are trading less "pieces" and with more pieces they can aid the pawns better and white's pieces are less coordinated than black
23. Bxf7+ Kxf7 24. Kxf1 e4 25. Bf4 Re8 26. Ng2 Ng4 27. h3 Ne5 28. Bxe5 Bxe5 29. g4 Bg3 30. Nce1 Ke6 31. Ra3 Rf8+ 32. Kg1 Bf2+ 33. Kh2 d3?
33... Ke5 makes the most sense just bringing the king to aid the pawns, but I was still mentally recovering from blundering earlier this game, I was happy if he sacrificed on d3 because then I would equalize and not lose
34. Nxd3!! exd3 35. Rxd3 Bd4 36. b3 Ke5 37. h4 Ke4 38. Rd1 Be5+ 39. Kg1 Bc3 40. g5 hxg5 41. hxg5 Bd4+ 42. Kh2 Rg8
After I played this move I offered a draw and he agreed, this is realistically not an acceptable place to offer or agree to a draw but I was so shaken up from not losing this game which I thought I was. There is still a lot of play here and black might have a slight edge with a more active king. In this game after white was up the piece and got hit with Bxd3, he shouldn't simplify and trade things down as he loses his advantage. With more pieces, he can attack me better but two pawns, central, far up the board can be enough compensation in an endgame and you will most likely have to sacrifice your extra piece back to sustain equality

2nd Exton Autumn Open
Thomas Bartell (2466) vs. **Riaan Gandhi** (1439)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Be3 Nbd7 7.Nf3 c6 8.0-0 a6
Preparing b5-b4.

9.h3 b5 10.Qc2 Re8??
Blunder which loses a knight after the following combination.

11.e5 dxe5 12.dxe5 Nh5 13.Ng5?
13.g4 was the move to win the knight, but my opponent played differently.

13...Nxe5! 14.Bxh5 Bf5! 15.Nge4 gxh5 16.cxb5 cxb5 17.Nf6+! exf6 18.Qxf5 Nc4 19.Bf4 Nxb2 20.Nd5??-+ Rc8?+-
20...Re5!! 21.Bxe5 Qxd5 Missed opportunity from me here to be in a winning position.

21.Rfe1?=
21.Rae1!

21...Rxe1+?+-
21...Rc6! 22.Bc7 (22.Rxe8+ Qxe8=) 22...Rxe1+

22.Rxe1 Rc5
Attempting to stop Ne7+.

23.Ne7+!! Qxe7 24.Rxe7 Rxf5 25.Re8++-

1-0

Pennsylvania State Championship

By Joshua Anderson



This event has drawn 50 people for each day in other years. Unfortunately, this time, this event drew poorly, around 20 people each day. Why is unclear, since there's really no reason that players shouldn't come out for it? But unfortunately, that was the case.

In the Saturday sections, the scholastic day, the under 500 was a two-way tie between Reyaansh Kakkerla and Ahaana Karthikeyan. The two of them both won three games, with Karthikeyan losing to Jonas Jesuroy in the last round. Jesuroy came in third with 2.5, followed by Arjun Bheema with 2. In the under 1000 section, Justin Migueis with a perfect 4 and 0. In second place was Sarvesh Saravanan with three out of four, and in third place was Roshini Sadhu Venkata with two and a half.

The second day was the open and under 1600, which combined, had 27 players. It is certainly not a great turnout, but not too bad. The open section had three players that scored three points, Christopher Romeril, Pratik Madhusa, and Kevin Andrew John Francis Kennedy, all three of whom:

1) Went 3 and 1
2) Drew each other
3) Won 2 games against lower rated players.

In the under 1600 section, the first place was Kieran Visvanathan, who had a 1381 rating after that event. He played in all four rounds. He won the first three and in the fourth played Darice Joyner Jr. with draw odds. Joyner could only draw him and Viswanathan became the under-1600 champion. Tha Dun, Sai Reyaansh Nagisetty, Nicolas Moises Young, and Joyner, all finished half a point back.

Though the event did not draw well, everyone seemed to have a good time and get in lots of good games.

Player Spotlight

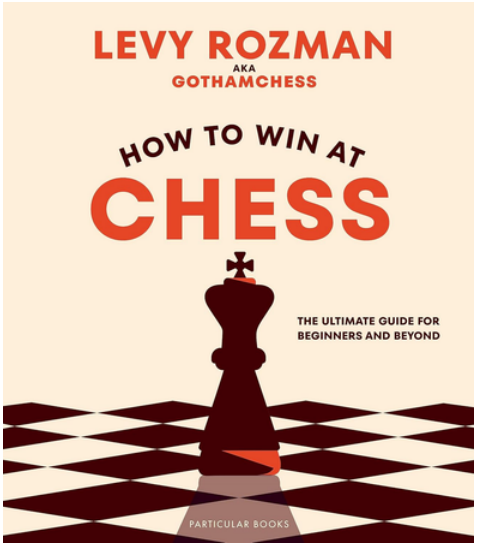


I am honored to introduce our player spotlight for this month. This player is one of 3 players who played with us regularly before COVID and who still play with us now (Tanay Parripati and Vahini Sadhu Venkata are the other two.). Though he doesn't play in many of our tournaments, he is one of our most active members, involved as a teacher, problemist, and, most famously, the editor of this newsletter - Azim Julkipli! (By Josh)

When I started this newsletter, I didn't really have much experience. It took some time getting used to using Canva, and the first edition was only 7 pages and was nearly completely written by me or Josh. However, as the months went on, I better understood more details about the newsletter and how to do it. With feedback from many people, I learned many skills I needed to help make the newsletter that you are reading right now, such as getting the editions in by the deadline, asking others to write articles, organizing all the articles, and handling unusual cases like extremely long or short articles. Now, I've been able to write this newsletter for over a year, thanks to all the people who have written for, gave advice on, and brought new ideas for the newsletter!

Short Book Recommendation

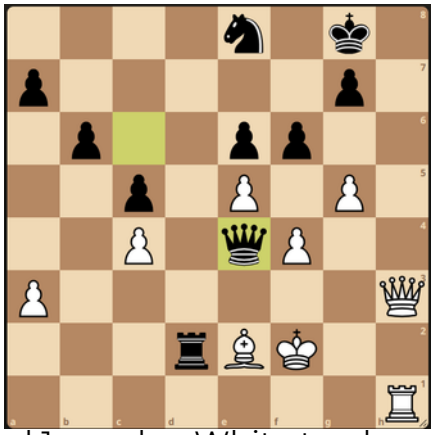
Written by: Aarush Vudathu



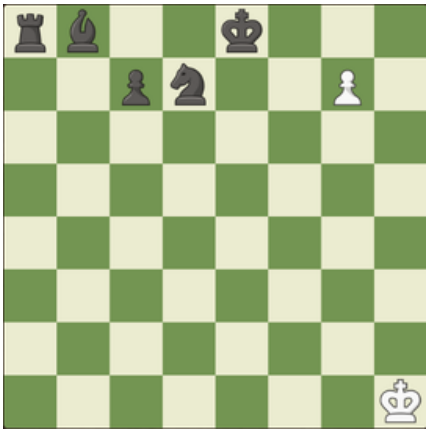
I heard mixed opinions before I read the book "How to Win at Chess", written by Levy Rozman (Also known as Gotham Chess). In the eyes of many chess players, it is a great stepping stone; however, for others, it seems too basic. That is why I thought it would be great to share my thoughts on the book. It consists of six sections. The intro, the ways to win a game, white openings, black openings, and two chapters of endgames. I read this book when my rating was 600 and I learned the most from the opening portions. This book is not a puzzle book or game book that most players are used to, but a book that describes positions and fundamentals. The first half of the book is listed for players rated 0-800 and the second half is for 800-1300. To me, I felt it is more appropriate for rising players rated under 800 and a great resource that teaches fundamentals. I would say the parts that could be improved are the skill level, making the book more challenging. In conclusion, "How to Win at Chess" is a great book for those who are improving people under 800.

Can you solve these puzzles? -

Solutions at the last page



Level 1 puzzle - White to play and mate in 2



Level 3 puzzle - White to play and selfmate in 3

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 #145 – Friday Night Tournament
DATE AND TIME: October 9 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
SECTIONS: Open, U1200, U700, U300
TIME CONTROL: G/25 d5

Morning Quads ECE-146
DATE AND TIME: October 11 @ 10:00 am - 1:30 pm
SECTIONS: Based on who plays
TIME CONTROL: G/25, d5

Whole Day Quads ECE-148
DATE AND TIME: October 11 @ 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
SECTIONS: Based on who plays
TIME CONTROL: G/85, d5

Afternoon Quads ECE-147
DATE AND TIME: October 11 @ 1:30 pm - 6:00 pm
SECTIONS: Based on who plays
TIME CONTROL: G/40, d5

TITLE: ECE #149 – Sunday Game Hour
DATE AND TIME: October 18 @ 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
SECTIONS: Open, U1400, U700
TIME CONTROL: G/60, d5

ECE #150 – Saturday Tournament
DATE AND TIME: October 31 @ 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
SECTIONS: Open U1200, U800, U400
TIME CONTROL: G25 d5

Morning Quads ECE-151
DATE AND TIME: November 1 @ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
SECTIONS: Based on who plays
TIME CONTROL: G/25, d5

Whole Day Quads ECE-153
DATE AND TIME: November 1 @ 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
SECTIONS: Based on who plays
TIME CONTROL: G/85, d5

Afternoon Quads ECE-152
DATE AND TIME: November 1 @ 1:30 pm - 6:00 pm
SECTIONS: Based on who plays
TIME CONTROL: G/40, d5

Puzzle solutions:
1.Qxe6+ Kf8 2. Rh8
1...Bh7 2. g8=B 0-0-0 3. Bc4 Bb8 4. Ba6