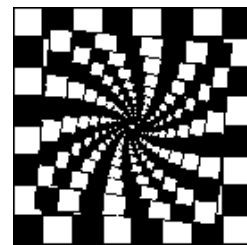


Chess Newsletter

Chess Ideas Australia

Term 1, 2009



Australian Finals 2008, World Finals 2008



Happy new year and welcome back to all our chess players. We hope you had a happy and safe holiday and are ready to play some great moves in 2009.

Congratulations to Greythorn Primary, which won the Victorian State final and competed in South Australia in the Australian final. They placed third, a very creditable result.



Also congratulations to those of our students who competed in the World Junior Chess Championships as part of the Australian Junior team. This year the championship was held in Vietnam, an amazing and wonderful experience for all.

**First tournament Brighton Grammar
Friday March 27th.**

admin@chessideas.com.au to enroll.

Want to join our 'Kids Knight Class' on a Wednesday 5.30—6.30 in our offices in Ripponlea? Taught by Ross Neumann, term 1 starts on February 11th and runs for 8 weeks, until the 1st April. (Casuals welcome)
To find out more phone us on 9532 - 8370 or email admin@chessideas.com.au



An Amazing White Win



Black has a passed 'f' pawn that can't be stopped from becoming a queen. How did white create a winning counter attack?



White to play and Checkmate in 7 moves. Solution Page 4.

Chess Ideas
established in 1994

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Did you know???



Before chess found its way to Europe in the 10th or 11th century, it was played in India and Persia. The Persian name for the king was Shah and **Shah mat** was the chess term meaning the **King is defeated**. This has come down to us in English as **checkmate**. Say these two words one after each other and see the similarity!



Today standard chess pieces are known as the **Staunton design**. Introduced into general play by the English chess player Howard Staunton in the 19th century, (and thought to be designed by the English artist Nathaniel Cook in 1849) they are the design which most chess players like and use, and the design is reproduced in chess sets all over the world. How many chess sets do you think are made each year?





There have been many rule changes in this very old game.

When Chess was introduced into Europe from Persia about 1000 year ago a number of significant changes occurred in the game.

Imagine playing a game on a board or mat which had 64 squares ALL the same colour! That's the way chess used to be played, in fact if there was no board or mat 64 squares could be drawn in the sand or in the earth! (Think about those bishop moves!)

By about 1100 A.D., boards with alternating light and dark squares were used and by 1300 A.D. the chequered board as we know it was in general use.

Over the centuries there have been many rule changes. Two of the most important changes were:

- (1) ***under the old rules a game was won when all the enemies pieces had been taken!***
- (2) ***stalemate used to be a win for the forces hemming in the beleaguered king, now of course stalemate results in a draw.***

These and many other rule changes occurred as the game evolved over the centuries and became dispersed and widely played around the world.

By the 15th century the queen (which had initially only been able to move one diagonal square at a time in any direction) developed into the most powerful piece on the board with her wide ranging moves. The bishops also increased their power and the game began to look like the game we play today.

At about the same time the opening of the games altered dramatically when another of the old rules was scrapped. There used to be strict rules about the opening which made the start of the game rather dull, but towards the end of the 15th century this changed.

Now either side could be subjected to quick attacks in the opening and a wrong move could prove fatal.

Suddenly making the right moves in the beginning of a game became vital and chess saw the development of opening theory. Books devoted to the beginning of the game were published as the recognition dawned about how important the first few moves were to a chess game.

Look at the puzzle below. It is an example of an opening going very wrong. The game is hardly started when it is won!

Checkmate in 5 moves exploiting the h4 –e1 diagonal.

1. d4 Nf6
2. Nd2 (A poor move blocking in the black squared bishop and the queen.)
- e5!
3. de5 Ng4
4. h3?? Ne3!! (winning the queen or mating in 2—see diagram below.)



White to play and lose!!

(Solution on page 4.)



**Play chess against the computer. Go to
www.chessideas.com.au/play_chess.
 It's safe and fun.**

*Answers:***Page 1.**

1. $Kf8$ $f4 - f3$
2. $f5 - f6$ $e7xf6$
3. $g5 - g6$
the stage is set, now both sides push pawns
..... $f3 - f2$
4. $h4 - h5$ $f2 - f1 = Q$
It looks as if black is winning but the problem is that black's queen is on a useless square.
5. $h5 - h6$ $g7xh6$
6. $g6 - g7+$ $Kh8 - h7$
7. $g7 - g8 = Q\#$ *checkmate*

Page 2.

5. $fe3$ $Qh4+$
6. $g3$ $Qg3\#$ *checkmate*

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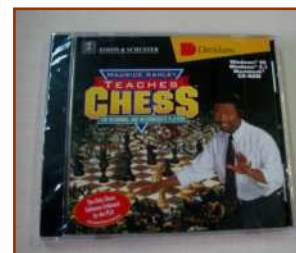


new

New DGT digital clock \$59.00



Analogue clock \$45.00



Brush up your chess skills. Choose from our wide range of teaching CDs. Two popular titles are 'Chessmaster' 10th edition \$25.00, and 'Maurice Ashley teaches chess' \$55.00. Many other titles are available.

We also have a range of chess sets, chess boards, starter chess kits, an 'intern pack' which includes board, set and clock. And many other items.