

# Chešs KIDS KNIGHT TIMES

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Photo Courtesy Thomas Kozlowski

Some of the action from the Chess Kids Lightning Event

## Message from the Guru,

For the first time in over 30 years the Australian Junior Chess Championships is to be held in Tasmania. I recently visited the tournament venue (and accommodation) and spoke with the organisers. It looks like this will be one of the best events of the past decade. The venue is spacious, the accommodation has amazing views over the water and in January the weather will be beautiful! Not to mention that the cost of participation is about half of what it was in Sydney.

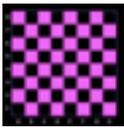
Chess Kids will be taking a team of maximum 18 players. Should you apply? Anyone who has a rating of 100x their age should consider applying. While you are unlikely to win the event it will be one of the best chess experiences of your life. It took me 5 attempts before I managed to win the Australian Junior Championships....the first two events I played I won hardly any games (my rating was only about 800 at age 14), but I kept playing and improving and in my 3rd attempt finished 3rd then the following year 2nd and eventually won the title.



Your first step working towards this goal might be to read Knight Times and follow the advice of my chess coach (Robert Jamieson) by studying the articles and playing in the next RJ Shield!

Get moving!

*David Cordover*, Managing Director, Chess Group of Companies



## CHESS KIDS LIGHTNING



*It's never too young to start! 6 year-old Jimmy Sui takes on his opponent at the Lightning Event.*

**A Chess Kids Lightning tournament was held on 16th March at Caulfield Grammar as part of the school's Open Day.**

The event was opened by International Master Robert Jamieson who noted that lightning chess improved your hand/eye co-ordination and taught you how to balance different factors such as what was happening on the board and what was happening on the clock. Thanks to George Yotov who was arbiter for the event.

### **Full Scores (1st Event):**

6 Jack Saunders, 5.5 Jonathan Tissa, 5 Ege Girgin, James Despotellis, Baris Girgin, 4.5 Pearce Jackson, 4 James Moffatt, Sebastian Saunders, Brenton Levin, Max Ruan, 3 Jeremy Emrose, Alexander Rigby, Scott Stanisic, Alistair Saunders, Mitchell Stenning, 3 Serak Belasurya, 2 Eric Stanisic, Thomas Kozlowski, 1 Jimmy Sui

### **Full Scores (2nd Event):**

7 Pearce Jackson, 6 Ege Girgin, 5 Jack Saunders, 4 Jeremy Emrose, Brenton Levin, Baris Girgin, David Moad, Ben Lucas, Mitchell Stenning, 3 Jorge-Paul Kanavos, Max Ruan, Andrew Tao, Joanna Tissa, Serak Belasuriya, Pranesh De Mel, Richard Tao, 1 Amirah Haque, Vinuri Peiris, 0 Thomas Kozlowski.

## Special Offer!

If you play in the next RJ Shield Tournament on 31st May and pay the normal \$20 entry fee, then you may bring a friend (who has not played so far in an RJ Shield event in 2009) for FREE!

International Master Robert Jamieson will be attending the tournament to talk to the players and present the prizes.

**BRING A  
FRIEND FOR  
FREE**

**Coming Up ...**

### **RJ Shield Chess Tournament**

**Sunday 31st May**

Doncaster Gardens Primary School

Dehnert St, Doncaster East

1.00 pm to 5.00 pm

\$20 per player.

Enrol at [www.chesskids.com.au](http://www.chesskids.com.au)



### **Chess Quotes:**

**"I KEEP ON FIGHTING AS LONG AS MY OPPONENT CAN MAKE A MISTAKE."**

**(EMANUEL LASKER)**

### **Chess Quotes:**

**"THAT'S WHAT CHESS IS ALL ABOUT. ONE DAY YOU GIVE YOUR OPPONENT A LESSON, THE NEXT DAY HE GIVES YOU ONE."**

**(BOBBY FISCHER)**



## NOVICES CORNER

By IM Robert Jamieson

### What is he Threatening?



We tried an experiment at a recent RJ Shield Tournament, namely using a electronic board on board one so that the computer would automatically record the moves being played.

The time control is 15 minutes per game so there isn't time for the players to record their own moves. Unfortunately this robs chess coaches of a most valuable coaching resource - the player's own games - which we can then replay with the player and show him his mistakes.

Here is a typical (but short!) game.

**RJ Shield 29/3/09**

**Dalal Rounak - Max Scott**

**1.e4 d5 2.exd5 e5?**

This just leaves Black a pawn down. He should have played 2...Qxd5 or 2...Nf6.

**3.Qe2**

This allows 3...Qxd5 so 3.Nc3 was better.

**3...Bf5**

Black seems to be oblivious to the fact that his "e" pawn can be captured ... with check! If he had asked himself the simple question "why did White play Qe2" perhaps he would have noticed.

**4.Nf3**

This is a good developing move but there is a free pawn available on e5.

**4...Qd7**

It looks like Black is moving without paying any attention to what his opponent is doing. 4...f6 was best.

**5.Nc3**

Did I say Black was ignoring his opponent's moves? Looks like White is doing the same, but at least he is making good developing moves.

**5...Qe7**

Black finally realises that his pawn on e5 is unprotected so moves his queen a second time to protect it.

**6.d3 g6?**

Looks like Black wants to develop his KB but the Q is in the way so he prepares to fianchetto it on g7. Only trouble is that this still doesn't protect e5. 6...Nd7 was better.

**7.Bg5**

Develops a piece with an attack but if Black just replies 7...f6 then we must move the B and we've allowed him to protect e5 at last.



**7...Qd7??**

Black realises that his Q is attacked but has neglected to look at all the ways of blunting the attack. 7...f6 with a counter-attack on the B was obvious and necessary.

**8.Qxe5+ 1-0**

White wins the R on h8 and still has a strong attack.

What can we learn from this?

If you are a beginner all your games will be decided by blunders, so after your opponent has made his move just ask yourself "what is he threatening?" That is the first step to avoiding mistakes.

## PLAYER PROFILE - ISAAC ZHAO



Isaac Zhao and Robert Jamieson

lives in Glen Waverley and already is the Victorian Youth U/8 champion. His name is Isaac Zhao and his dad bought five raffle tickets at the Box Hill Chess Club one night. Isaac plays at Box Hill, goes to Wesley College, and plays in the RJ Shield tournaments. His Chess Kids rating is 875 (very good for a 7 year old) and he told me that he wants to become the best chess player in Australia.

### By IM Robert Jamieson

**Deep in the heart of Fitzroy there lives a very old, dowdy lady who has been a bit down on her luck lately. She is 143 years old and her name is the Melbourne Chess Club. A couple of months ago I received a phone call from Grant Szuveges, a member of the Melbourne Chess Club, seeking my support for his bid to become Club President and for his ideas to reform and rejuvenate the club.**

Grant was successful in his bid to become Club President, and one of the first things that he did was to organise a raffle for the MCC Building fund. The raffle raised \$2589 and the first prize was an hour's chess coaching from eleven of Melbourne's top chess players - Darryl Johansen, Guy West, Nick Speck, Grant Szuveges, Carl Gorka, Bill Jordan, Michael Baron, Marcus Raine, Leonid Sandler, Malcolm Pyke and Robert Jamieson.

Fortunately this prize was not won by some old chap who was never going to be a chess champion, but by a seven year old boy who

I went to his house to do my hour's coaching one Friday night in April and we had a good time. I used an old coaching technique where you show a position to the player and ask him if he'd like to play White or Black. Isaac decided that White was winning so he chose White. I then played a surprise move for Black (which he had not analysed) and Isaac decided that it was Black who was winning after-all. I offered to change sides with him and made a surprise move for White (which he had not analysed) and he decided that White was now winning. I offered to swap sides again and at this stage he was very suspicious and kept bursting into fits of giggles each time I tricked him. We did this a few more times until we had exhausted the possibilities of the position. The lesson of course was that it sometimes pays to look at "silly" moves and that if you are not happy with your analysis then you need to either look at more candidate moves or analyse deeper.

On the next weekend Isaac was off to the MCC to receive lessons from Grant and Nick so he is indeed one lucky little boy. I hope that all this coaching inspires him to become a good chess player and to emulate his namesake, Zong-Yuan Zhao, the current Australian Chess Champion.

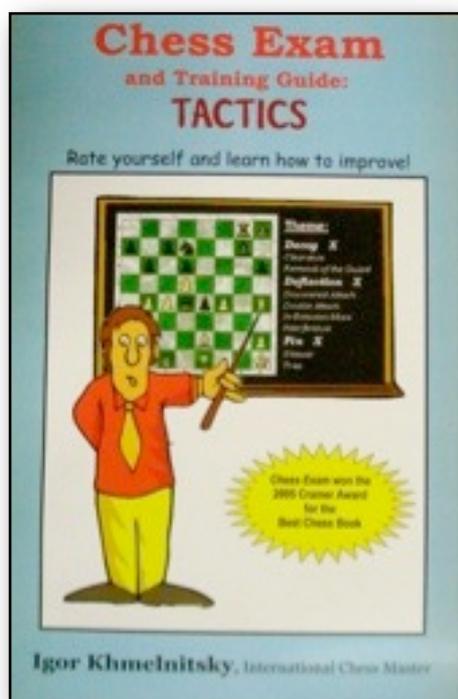


## BOOK REVIEW

### Chess Exam and Training Guide: TACTICS

by Igor Khmel'nitsky

\$39.95



No-one likes exams. I think it has something to do with fear of failure ... but I have found an exam which is fun!

I stumbled across this cute little book by IM Igor Khmel'nitsky in the shelves at Chess World. It has a puzzle on each page and asks you to choose between four statements about the position. When you have decided upon your answer you turn over the page and there is a table of responses from players in six ratings categories showing the percentage relating to each answer. For instance 80% of players rated <1000 may say "Black wins" whereas 100% of

players rated >2400 may say it's a draw. You can then compare your own answer with the statistics on the table and see which rating group you fall into.

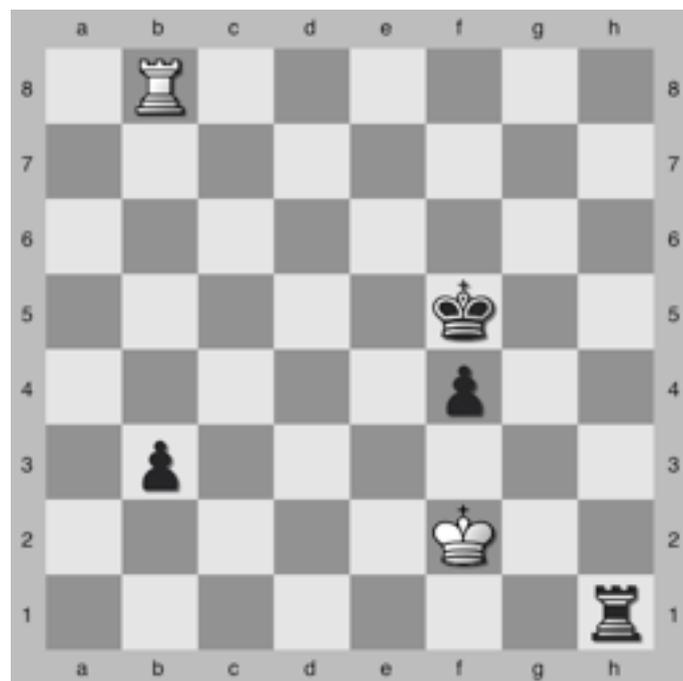
The positions that Khmel'nitsky has chosen are not your normal boring tactics (knight fork, double check, etc) but many are a little quirky and your first impression is invariably shown to be incorrect after deeper analysis.

Here is one that I liked that is not too hard.

#### See Diagram

Which is NOT a good move for Black?

- a) Rb1
- b) Rh2+
- c) Rh3
- d) b2



**Answer:** 1...b2 is a mistake as after 2.Rxb2 Rh2+ 3.Kf3 Rxb2 its stalemate!

## THE PLAYER PATHWAY

by IM Robert Jamieson

**In years gone by Australia has produced a number of junior chess who have been competitive in the world arena.**

I can remember back to 1976 when Ian Rogers was leading the World Junior Championships with 3 rounds to go, and since then many Australians have competed in the various under-age championships run by the World Chess Federation. Charles Pizzato from Queensland and Michelle Lee from Glen Waverley, who were both once ranked in the top 3 or 4 players in their age-group in the world, are two others who spring to mind. They enjoyed some overseas trips courtesy of their ability at chess.

### SO HOW DO PROMISING PLAYERS PROGRESS THEIR CHESS ABILITIES?

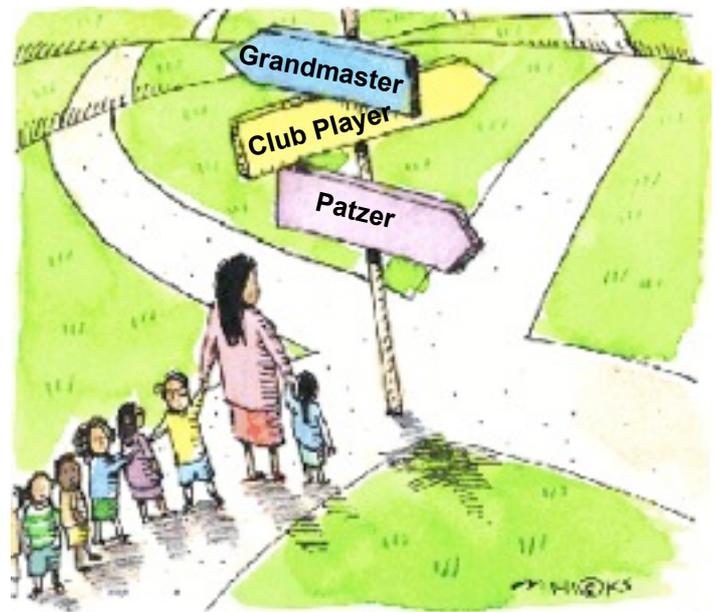
**I think that the four keys to success are:**

1. Study hard (read books or do chess puzzles on-line).
2. Play a lot against good opposition.
3. Have your coach go over your games.
4. Place yourself in a competitive environment where you have rivals of a similar standard.

Perhaps you play at your school chess club and once a week receive your Chess Kids Coaching at school. If you are in the top few players for your age at your school then you should start playing in the RJ Shield Tournaments. These are held on the last Sunday in each month and give you a chance to play games against players from other schools with chess clocks at a 15 minute time limit.

The next step is to move on to playing in the Interschool Competition and if your team does well then there are State Finals and National Finals to aspire to. These National events require you to record your moves as well as handle a chess clock.

Now for the really bad news. Not only juniors play chess! Somewhere out there there are



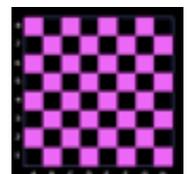
players called “adults” and some of them are quite good players. They even have “adult” or “open” events in which juniors can play. The next step is to join a good local club which has a number of junior members playing in their club tournaments and a high standard of adult members.

Once you have played in a few club events you can tackle an Open Weekender - usually held on the public holiday long weekends. The biggest weekender in Australia is the Doeberl Cup held in Canberra over Easter. In 2009 this event attracted 252 players including a large number of overseas Master players.

Playing in these sort of events should give you enough experience to compete in the Australian Junior Championships, and if you finish top in your age-group then you have a good chance of being selected to play for Australia in a world championship for your age-group.

I had my lucky break back in 1971 when I was selected to represent Australia at the World Junior Championships in Athens. I did OK and even played a Russian Grandmaster in the first round. It was very exciting.

So, if you want to be a good chess player then take the first step, enter the next RJ Shield, and one day you too could have a shield named after you!



# BEST FINISH EVER!

By IM Robert Jamieson

Cecil Purdy stated that “the finish of the following game is probably the most beautiful in the whole history of chess, and it was only played in a minor tournament in Germany. Even the “Immortal Game” won by Anderssen against Kieseritsky at London in 1851 pales besides this”.

Hussong gives up Queen and both Rooks and mates with his last remaining piece - a Knight - against a whole army.” Unfortunately my chess computer, which has no eye for beauty even at the best of times, thinks white had a better defence and could have ruined this “masterpiece.”

Frankfurt Congress

**F.Hermann**

**H.Hussong**

C68 - Ruy Lopez

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.d3 Bc5?**

This makes it a Giuoco Piano opening with the loss of a move.

**6.Be3 d6 7.Nbd2 Be6**

Dashing! Black gets two doubled pawns but open files for attack.

**8.Bxe6 fxe6 9.Nc4 Nd7 10.a4 Qf6 11.c3 O-O 12.O-O Rae8 13.a5**

Methodically fixing Black’s weak “b” pawn.

**13...Ne7 14.Qb3 Ng6!**

Staking all on an attack.

**15.Qxb7 Nf4 16.Ne1**

Black threatened Nxg2.

**16...Qg5 17.Kh1**

White could have weathered the storm by 17.Bxf4 Qxf4 18.Nf3.

**17...Rf6 18.Bxc5 dxc5 19.Ne3 Ref8 20.Qxc7 R8f7 21.Qc8+ Nf8 22.Qxc5 Qh5 23.Rg1 ?**

23.g3 was necessary. Now begins a glorious finale. (See Diagram)

**23...Qxh2+!! 24.Kxh2 Rh6+ 25.Kg3 Ne2+**

**26.Kg4 Rf4+ 27.Kg5 Rh2?**

(My computer gives mate in 4 after 27...Rff6

28.Qxf8+ Kxf8 29.Kg4 Rfg6+ 30.Kf3 Nxg1#

which is faster but less pretty! -RJ)

**28.Qxf8+**



A must to avoid mate by h6.

**28...Kxf8 29.Nf3?**

(Missing 29.Nf5! and there is no immediate mate -RJ)

**29...h6+ 30.Kg6**

White had seen these 8 moves ahead and thought he was home and dry. But...

**30...Kg8!! 31.Nxh2 Rf5!! 32.exf5**

If 32.g3 Rg5#. A breath-taking coup.

**32...Nf4# 0-1**



The final position is worthy of a diagram.

Notes by Cecil Purdy

## CHESS KIDS RATINGS

The eagerly anticipated ratings system is now up and running and all of last year's events have been rated to start the system off.

A rating is a number which indicates, based on your past performance, how good you are at chess. The higher the number the better you are.

### What is a good rating?

As at January 2009 the highest rated player in the world was Veselin Topalov with a rating of 2796.

The highest rating ever was Garry Kasparov reaching 2849 in July 2000.

The best players in the world have ratings as follows:

World Champion	2800
GrandMaster	2500
International Master	2400
National Master	2300

For juniors in Australia (ranked around #60th best chess-playing country in the world) the easy way to gauge if you are on track to becoming a Champion is to take **your age and multiply by 100**.

Eg. Age 9, good target to have a rating in the 900's

Age x 100 =	You should be playing in State Championships
Age x 100 (+100) =	You will qualify for National Championships
Age x 100 (+200) =	You may be selected to play in a World Championships

This formula only works for juniors (until age 18).

Any ratings lower than 150 will be discarded and the opportunity given to that player in the next tournament to 'start fresh'.



### How does my rating compare with other Ratings; eg FIDE (International) Rating?

The ratings are calculated using the same scale as international ratings. See <http://ratings.fide.com/toplist.phtml> for FIDE ratings.

There are lots of different ratings. Many websites have their own rating system. Some chess clubs or associations have a ratings system. All of them try to maintain their systems as being comparable to the FIDE system. With each system there will be some variation, but good system administrators try to keep this variation from FIDE ratings to a minimum.

### Can I beat someone with a better rating?

Ratings are simply an indication of past performance. On any day, in any given game, anything can happen!

Statistically speaking your chances of winning a game against a higher rated opponent are as follows:

Your opponent's rating	Your chance of winning
50 points higher	43%
100 points higher	36%
200 points higher	24%
400 points higher	8%

### How do I get a rating?

Every chess tournament you play will count towards your rating (provided you perform at a minimum level of 150).

Any one event may be an uncharacteristically good or bad day, so your first Official Rating is the average of your performance over your first 3 tournaments.

- 1 After your first tournament you will have an Estimated Rating.
- 2 After your second tournament this will be a Provisional Rating.
- 3 After your third tournament you will receive an Official Rating.

Your Official Rating will then increase or decrease based on your performance in each tournament. If you play better than expected (expectation based on how you played in your first 3 events) then you will increase your rating.

If you play below expectation, your rating will decrease. Any ratings lower than 150 will be discarded and the opportunity given to that player in the next tournament to 'start fresh'. In this case it may take more than 3 events to achieve an Official Rating. The maximum rating gain/loss from any one game will depend on the seriousness of the tournament:

School Chess Tournament	±5 points
Interschool Chess	±15 points
RJ Shield	±20 points
State Level Event	±25 points
National Event	±30 points

### Top Girls

1.	Luthien Russell	1348	NEW!
2.	Verity Williams	1344	↑ 15
3.	Veronica Williams	1325	↓ 18
4.	Amy Brown	1321	↑ 6
5.	Alina Krasnicki	1206	↓ 16
6.	Anlee Khuu	1204	↓ 6
7.	Miranda Webb Liddle	1187	NEW!
8.	Isabella Gawin	1185	NEW!
9.	Sarah Moritz	1184	NEW!
10.	Denise Lim	1175	NEW!

### Top Primary Schools

1.	Carey Grammar (Kew)	5168
2.	Greythorn Primary	4953
3.	Mount View Primary	4911
4.	Curtin Primary	4643
5.	Wollongong Public	4635
6.	St Marys District High	4536
7.	Mitcham Primary School	4528
8.	Doncaster Gardens Primary	4427
9.	Brighton Grammar - Junior	4397
10.	Stanmore Public	4372

### Top Boys

1.	Laurence Matheson	1635	NEW!
2.	Jason Tang	1611	↑ 19
3.	Paul Taylor	1528	NEW!
4.	Andrew Buckley	1526	NEW!
5.	Nicholas Liu	1522	↑ 7
6.	Samuel Chan	1521	NEW!
7.	Kozo Simutanyi	1496	↑ 2
8.	Alastair Dyer	1489	NEW!
9.	Kit Ming Foo	1476	NEW!
10.	Cedric Antolis	1473	NEW!

### Top Secondary Schools

1.	Melbourne High	5753
2.	Applecross Senior High	5725
3.	Scotch - Senior School	5685
4.	Alfred Deakin High	5605
5.	Mazenod	5502
6.	Northcote High	5436
7.	Brighton Grammar - Middle	5247
8.	Seton Catholic	5200
9.	Penrhos College	5194
10.	Brunswick Secondary	5173

## THERE'S NONE SO BLIND AS THOSE WHO WILL NOT SEE....

By IM Robert Jamieson

We all like the easy life. When playing chess we look at all the “normal looking” moves. If you have been reading my articles you may also look at all checks and captures just in case you find a tactic that you may otherwise have missed. We can't be expected to look at every move - that's something that computers do.

If I showed you a routine position (such as that in the diagram) - White is a rook down but has Black in check and will soon win the rook back, you would probably analyse 1...Kf8 2.Rxd7 Qxd7 3.Qxc3 and be content that White is a pawn up with winning chances.



Black to Play

If however I showed you this position and told you that it was a puzzle “White to

play and win” you would begin analysing all sorts of threatening moves hoping to find the solution.

Maybe you can't find any improvement for White, but if I tell you that after 1...Kf8 White forces resignation in one move (!) then I'm sure that many of you would find 2.Qf6!! 1-0 (If 2...Qxe7 3.Qh8 mate). Black could play 2...Qe8 but after 3.Rxe8+ Kxe8 4.Qxc3 resigns is still the best move.

**THIS IS A VERY PRETTY FINISH .... BUT WHY DIDN'T WE SEE IT THE FIRST TIME?**

There are two reasons.

Firstly, our instinct is not to look at “silly” moves (such as leaving a rook on e7 to be taken for nothing). Those who do look at silly moves are described as “imaginative” players as they often find combinations that the rest of us miss.

Secondly, in the diagrammed position Black's King has many squares to move to so “locking him in” and mating him with Qh8 is just not a theme in the position. Our chess memory has been trained to recognise patterns and in this position no pattern jumps out at us and says “I know this position .... I can trap his King and play Qh8 mate”.

So next time you play try to use your imagination by looking at “silly” moves and if you find a good move look for an even better one!



# PAWN STRUCTURE

By IM Robert Jamieson

Philidor, the strongest player in the world in the late 18th century, said "Pawns are the soul of the game. They alone create attack and defense, the way they are deployed decides the fate of the game." He was perhaps the first player to understand the importance of pawns in playing chess.

It is true that most games are decided by tactics, but it is equally true that to be a good player you need to understand how pawns dictate the way a game should be played.

Let us look at pawn structure for example.

In the following position material is equal but Black has four pawn "islands" whereas White has only "two pawn islands".



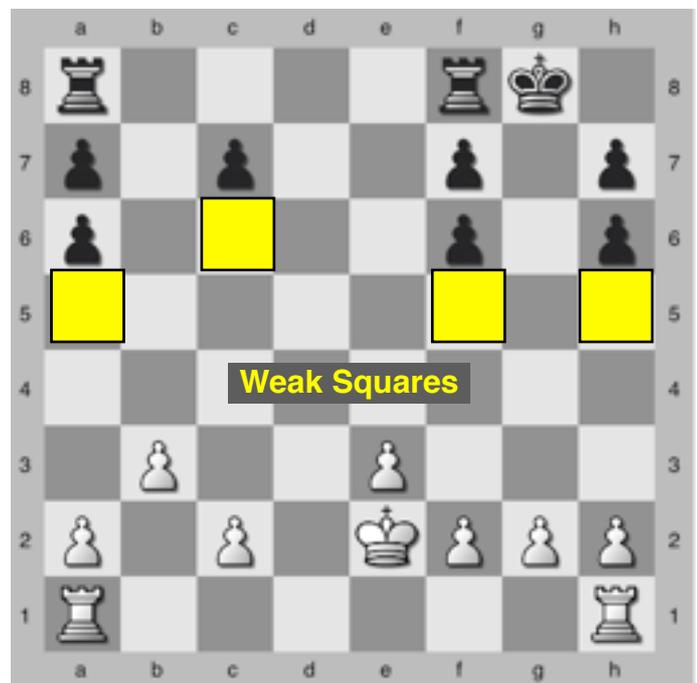
The fewer the islands the better! Why? Because together the pawns can protect each other and support their advance, whereas separated they cannot.

Another problem is mobility. Look at Black's pawns on a6 and a7. The a7 pawn cannot move and the only function it is serving is to control one square (b6). If Black wished to protect his a6 pawn with a rook, or support it's

advance from behind with a rook he cannot do so as the a7 pawn is in the way.

The pawns on a6 and a7 are called "isolated pawns" as they have no pawn on the adjoining file(s) and they are also "doubled pawns", i.e. two pawns on the same file. This makes them doubly weak and difficult to defend.

Another problem with isolated pawns is that the square in front of the isolated pawn is weak as it cannot be challenged by a pawn on an adjoining file. With the pawn structure in the position below (in the middle game) for instance White could establish a piece on f5 and Black would be unable to challenge it with his pawns because they are isolated. On the other hand if Black wanted to establish a piece on (say) e4, then White can just play f3 to chase it away.



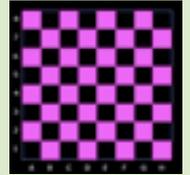
Pawn structure usually becomes more important the closer that you get to the endgame. In the middle game for instance Black may be very happy to have an open "g" file as he could double rooks on it and start attacking White's K on g1. Players sometimes sacrifice pawns just to get open lines for the attack.

In summary, when making your decisions about which move to play, just be aware of the effect on your pawn structure, and don't weaken your pawns unnecessarily. We must keep Philidor happy!



# CHESS WORLD

FOR ALL YOUR CHESS REQUISITES



451 North Rd, Ormond www.chessworld.com.au Ph. 1300 424 377

## FIND THE CHECKMATE



A: White to play



B: White to play

## Chess Coaches Wanted!

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Full chess curriculum provided.  
More important to have a passion for chess than be a Grandmaster!

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June 12 and 13.

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Australian Junior Championship

### AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Hobart, Jan 13-25, 2010**

at Hutchins School,  
Sandy Bay, Hobart, TAS.

Applications now open for the  
Chess Kids Team (max. 18 places).

Ring **1300 424 477** for details.

Answers to "Find the Checkmate":  
A: 1.Rxg6+ Kxg6 2.Re6#  
B: 1.Qxh6+ Kxh6 2.Rh5+ gxh5 3.g5#