

Chešs KIDS KNIGHT TIMES

Chess World Australia Pty. Ltd. ABN 41 118 087 862



Message from The Guru

Term 1 is over already and it feels like we've barely started the year! Maybe because I took a month away from Melbourne to explore the European chess scene. I'm pleased to report back that while Australia isn't the strongest country in the world for chess, we certainly are right up there in terms of numbers of kids playing in schools. Particularly our coaching system, interschool events and RJ Shield are equal to anything else I saw. And our ratings system is probably the best in the world!

I hope by now that everyone has settled in to new schools, new classes and new routines. With the weather getting wetter and colder it is the time to get back on the chessboard.

One thing that you can do to help us is to LET US KNOW if you are at a new school, of if you are a teacher, then let us know which kids have moved on to new schools. You can do this by clicking:

UPDATE YOUR PROFILE from any emails or from the website view of your Rating. Or for teaches; click MY PLAYERS on the interschool website



David Cordover,
Managing Director,
Chess Group of
Companies

RJ SHIELD X 3!

**Thumula Gamage and Anthony Hain
receive their trophies at the Ormond
RJ Shield**



Chess Kids Contacts:

www.chesskids.com.au

Coaching:

info@chesskids.com.au

Retail:

info@chessworld.com.au

Interschool:

interschool@chesskids.com.au

Newsletter:

rj@chesskids.com.au

1300-424-377




RJ SHIELD

The February RJ Shield Tournaments were played at 3 venues, Melbourne, Frankston and Ormond.

The Ormond event attracted 28 players and was won by Anthony Hain with 7/7. Frankston attracted 21 players and was won by Rhys Hopkins with a perfect score also. Melbourne had 12 players with Eddie Han scoring 6.5/7

ORMOND SCORES

Player Standings

| Place | Name | Rating | Score |
|-------|-------------------------|-----------|-------|
| ★ 1 | Anthony Hain | 1228 ↑ 27 | 7 |
| ★ 2 | Thumula Gamage | 1062 ↑ 47 | 6 |
| ★ 3 | Sasha Parsons | 1144 ↓ 8 | 5 |
| 4 | Jimmy Ying | 1000 ↑ 6 | 5 |
| 5 | Isaac Zhao | 1055 ↓ 11 | 4½ |
| 6 | Max Ruan | 974 ↑ 17 | 4½ |
| 7 | Carter Kulikovskis | 847 ☆ | 4½ |
| 8 | Jason Chew | 926 ↑ 8 | 4 |
| 9 | Tyler Proud | 825 ↑ 38 | 4 |
| 10 | Jeremy Emrose | 857 ↑ 14 | 4 |
| 11 | Maiyurentheran Srikumar | 938 ↓ 5 | 4 |
| 12 | Alexia Padayachee | 731 ↑ 26 | 4 |
| 13 | Liam Wigney | 764 ↑ 32 | 4 |
| 14 | Joshua Lipp | 869 ↑ 1 | 4 |
| 15 | Nicole Chin | 701 ☆ | 3½ |
| 16 | Liam Sotos | 811 ↓ 11 | 3 |
| 17 | Haran Salasan | 745 ↑ 13 | 3 |
| 18 | Rahul Lobo | 861 ↓ 43 | 3 |
| 19 | Ayden Khalil | 725 ↓ 5 | 3 |
| 20 | Chris Fu | 637 ↑ 4 | 3 |
| 21 | Dulhara Ranatunga | 565 ↑ 4 | 2½ |
| 22 | Abhaya Peiris | 570 ↓ 17 | 2½ |
| 23 | Kiran Rasaratnam | 599 ☆ | 2½ |
| 24 | Isaac Lee | 904 ↓ 56 | 2 |
| 25 | Sankha Peiris | 644 ↓ 10 | 2 |
| 26 | Bobby Zhang | 701 ↓ 34 | 2 |
| 27 | Philip Wang | 375 ☆ | 1 |
| 28 | Roshane Wickramatunge | 388 ☆ | ½ |

FRANKSTON SCORES

Player Standings

| Place | Name | Rating | Score |
|-------|----------------------|-----------|-------|
| ★ 1 | Rhys Hopkins | 1402 ☆ | 7 |
| ★ 2 | Baris Girgin | 1068 ↑ 32 | 5 |
| ★ 3 | Luke Bailey | 1014 ↑ 26 | 5 |
| 4 | Daniel Gerreyn | 1035 ↑ 20 | 5 |
| 5 | Rhett Dempsey-Taylor | 1096 ☆ | 5 |
| 6 | Deo Yap | 1062 ☆ | 4½ |
| 7 | Ege Girgin | 1132 ↓ 9 | 4 |
| 8 | Riley Lenard | 960 ☆ | 4 |
| 9 | Dean Martini | 1026 ↓ 5 | 4 |
| 10 | Ashwin Kumar | 844 ☆ | 4 |
| 11 | Antonius Bennett | 879 ↓ 3 | 3½ |
| 12 | Rebecca Strickland | 728 ↑ 17 | 3½ |
| 13 | Derek Xiao | 876 ☆ | 3 |
| 14 | Mae Salazar | 959 ↓ 30 | 3 |
| 15 | Jarrod Yong | 841 ↓ 27 | 3 |
| 16 | Evan Inavolu | 849 ↓ 31 | 3 |
| 17 | Nicholas Baker | 773 ☆ | 3 |
| 18 | Nicholas Lesjak | 745 ↓ 13 | 2½ |
| 19 | Kyle Pearson | 524 ☆ | 2 |
| 20 | Joseph Melhem | 511 ☆ | 2 |
| 21 | Jaiden Rhodes | 417 ↓ 23 | 1 |

MELBOURNE SCORES

Player Standings

| Place | Name | Rating | Score |
|-------|--------------------------|-----------|-------|
| ★ 1 | Eddie Han | 1078 ↑ 33 | 6½ |
| ★ 2 | Ruben Nowak | 1088 ☆ | 6 |
| ★ 3 | Michael van Zyl Smit | 896 ↑ 14 | 4 |
| 4 | Rafael Pecori | 904 ↓ 8 | 4 |
| 5 | Denny Han | 973 ↓ 17 | 4 |
| 6 | Alex van Zyl Smit | 875 ↓ 4 | 4 |
| 7 | Bill Yuan | 806 ☆ | 3½ |
| 8 | Emmanuel Wong | 723 ☆ | 3 |
| 9 | Tremayne Johnstone-Bevan | 897 ↓ 20 | 3 |
| 10 | Nathan Chan | 790 ↓ 21 | 2 |
| 11 | Christian Callick | 411 ↑ 26 | 2 |
| 12 | Lachlan Heaysman | 458 ☆ | 0 |

CHESS KIDS RATINGS

Here are the latest Ratings Lists.

Check the Chess Kids website for more details and be sure to check/update your own player details.

TOP BOYS.

| | | |
|-----|-------------------|------------|
| 1. | Jason Tang | 1649 ↑ 7 |
| 2. | James Morris | 1640 ★ |
| 3. | Bobby Cheng | 1579 ↑ 132 |
| 4. | Laurence Matheson | 1561 ↑ 28 |
| 5. | Alastair Dyer | 1529 ↑ 3 |
| 6. | Nicholas Liu | 1501 ↓ 21 |
| 7. | Kozo Simutanyi | 1496 ↑ 2 |
| 8. | Justin Hood | 1472 ↑ 7 |
| 9. | Allen Setiabudi | 1446 ↑ 1 |
| 10. | Joshua Bishop | 1440 ↓ 36 |

TOP GIRLS.

| | | |
|-----|---------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Verity Williams | 1344 ↑ 15 |
| 2. | Veronica Williams | 1325 ↓ 18 |
| 3. | Amy Brown | 1313 ↓ 6 |
| 4. | Anlee Khuu | 1257 ★ |
| 5. | Alina Krasnicki | 1206 ↓ 16 |
| 6. | Sarah Moritz | 1183 ↓ 12 |
| 7. | Cara Ferguson | 1126 ↑ 7 |
| 8. | Stephanie Soediarso | 1116 ↓ 16 |
| 9. | Melanie Chow | 1110 ★ |
| 10. | Ella Thain | 1108 ↑ 24 |

<http://chesskids.com.au/ratings/>

RJ SHIELD

A fun, social **Chess Tournament** open to all players ... ages 5 to adult.

Held on the **LAST SUNDAY** of each month from 1pm – 5pm.

2010 dates: Feb 28, Mar 28, May 30, Jun 27, Jul 25, Aug 29, Oct 31, Nov 28

Check the website for dates and locations closest to you:

www.chesskids.com.au/events

Multiple venues to choose from each RJ Shield Day: Fitzroy, Oakleigh, Frankston, Bentleigh, Doncaster, Castlemaine or Mildura – there's one near you!

Run in age-divisions, ensuring all players play 7 games against opponents of similar age and ability. Win a prize and get promoted next event; always a challenge!

Opportunity to improve your rating!

Trophy Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each group (Under 8, 10, 12, 14 & Open; numbers permitting) Plus your score goes towards great end-of-year prizes (Best U12, U14, U18 and Girl) Entry fee **still just \$20** per event (online credit-card option or cash on the day)

Win an RJ Shield event and qualify for the RJ Finals "Premier Division" – last Sunday of November (28th) – all welcome -- Great prizes to be won!

Call 1300 4-CHESS (1300 424 377) or visit the website

Please register before the event from www.chesskids.com.au/events



CHESS

THE BASICS IN 10 MINUTES

By IM Robert Jamieson

If I had 10 minutes in which to explain to a beginner what chess was all about here is what I'd tell them.

To play chess well you need to understand the basic principles which underly the game.

1. Material

Chess is a war game and, just as in war, a bigger army will probably beat a smaller army. This means that we should try to reduce the size of the opponent's forces relative to our own. If we can win material for nothing that is good. If we can exchange a piece (such as a N or B both worth 3 pawns) for a more powerful piece (such as a R worth 5 pawns or a Q worth 9 pawns) then that is good.

If we are ahead on material then keep swapping pieces and thus the relative size of our material advantage will increase. For example, if we are a pawn ahead in the opening then that is a very small advantage, but a pawn ahead in the endgame where both sides may only have a couple of pawns is a huge advantage.

2. Build-Up

Being ahead on material is important, but it is more important to be ahead in material in the critical area of the board. If, for instance, you are attacking your opponent's K and he has one defender and you have 4 attackers around the K then you will probably win, even if your opponent is ahead on material overall. More troops are of no use if they are still in the barracks or away out of the action.

3. Time and Space

Space is important as having a space advantage enables you to more easily transfer your pieces (build-up) to the critical area.



In this position White controls the centre, so if he wants to attack the black K then it will be easy for him to move his pieces from the queenside to the kingside to help in the attack. Black on the other hand is cramped and cannot readily move his pieces to the kingside to help with the defence.

In similar vein, if we have more pieces developed than our opponent then we have

a “time” advantage and we can deploy our forces to advantage before the opponent has time to develop the rest of his pieces.

4. The Centre

In the opening we should try to seize the centre as this will give us an advantage in space as noted above. This is why 1.e4 and 1.d4 are the most popular moves as they help to control the vital centre squares.

5. Development

One of the main aims of the opening is to develop your pieces - if possible move each piece only once and place it on its best square. An army is of no use if it is still in the barracks so develop your pieces to get them into the battle.

If you can get 4 pieces developed and your opponent has only 2 developed then the odds are on your side.

Something like the position below would be an ideal starting position for White.



All the pieces are on good squares (controlling the centre), the rooks are connected and the King is safe.

6. King Safety

It doesn't matter if you win the battle if in the process you lose your K. The best plan therefor is to tuck him away safely in a corner (by castling) with a couple of defenders and a wall of pawns to protect him. Do this early in the game.

It also helps to bring your two rooks together on the back rank so that they can get into the action.

7. Piece Co-Operation

It's very important that you try to get your pieces co-operating towards a common goal and that you “build-up” your attacks rather than just launch into an attack with only 1 or 2 pieces.

Once your pieces are all “in position” if necessary you can sacrifice material to “open lines” for the attack. For instance you could let your opponent take your “g” pawn if you could then put your rooks on the now half-open “g” file to help attack the enemy K on g8.

The ancient Chinese General Sun Tsu in the 6th Century BC said:

**THE ART OF WAR CONSISTS
OF APPLYING STRENGTH
AGAINST WEAKNESS.**

This advice applies equally to chess.

If you understand the above principles and apply them in your own games then you have taken the first step to becoming a good chess player.

In the next issue we will take a few more steps



BOOK REVIEW

Chess Exam: You vs. Bobby Fischer

by Igor Khmel'nitsky \$21.95

Reviewed by IM Robert Jamieson

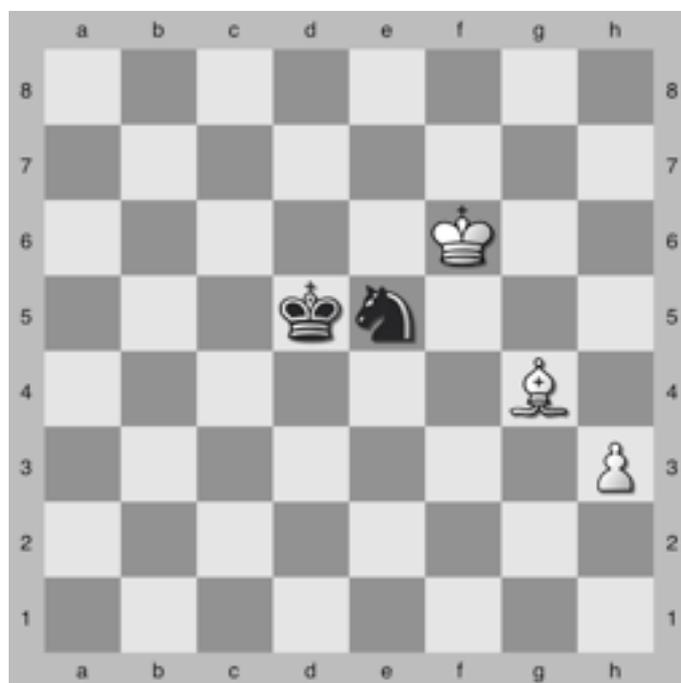
In this book the author, a famous chess coach in the USA, pits you against Bobby Fischer in 60 examples taken from Fischer's games. He gives you a choice of moves from which to select then scores you points depending upon the move that you choose. Add up your points and determine your rating! You also get to compare your chosen moves with the moves chosen by other students.

Bobby Fischer of course is the most famous chess player of all time and also possibly the strongest. He won the US Championship at the age of 14 years and in 1972 became world chess champion after defeating Spassky in a match in Iceland that received world-wide publicity and made Fischer a household name. From then however it was all downhill and Fischer became a recluse, eventually living in Iceland where he died in 2008.

At his peak in 1972 his rating zoomed to 2780 which was around 60 points higher than anyone-else, so when you pit your wits against Bobby Fischer you are playing the best.

This is an excellent book and would be helpful even for players up to master level. At only \$21.95 it's also a bargain!

Fischer v Taimanov 1971



Black to move.

Should Black play 1...Nd3 or 1...Ke4 to draw?

The answer is at the bottom of the page.

Answer:
After 1...Ke4 (played by Taimanov) Fischer replied 2.Bc8! so that 2...Nf3 is answered by 3.Bb7+ winning.
Taimanov should have played 1...Nd3 2.h4 Nf4 3.Kf5 Kd6! 4.Kxf5 Ke7 and Black's king makes it to h8 forcing a draw as White can't get him out of the corner.



CHESS COACHING GOES ON-LINE

A survey of students in the Chess Kids Elite Programme showed that the activity that they enjoyed the most was to play against the coach.

With this in mind I challenged the squad to an on-line game at our session on 15th February, and here is what happened.

Robert Jamieson

Nathan Hibberd + 20 helpers!

Chess Kids Elite On-Line Challenge

Feb 15, 2010

King's Indian Attack

1.Nf3

Most junior games start with 1.e4, so I wanted to get my opponent into less familiar territory.

1...d5

2.g3 Nf6

3.Bg2 Bg4

4.O-O e6

5.d3

I've decided to adopt a King's Indian Attack formation so Black has a free hand to choose his own set-up.

5...c6

This sets up a solid "Colle System" position for Black but 5...c5 was probably better, or even 5...h6 to give the white-squared bishop a retreat.

6.h3 Bxf3

7.Bxf3 Bd6

Slightly more accurate is 7...Nbd7 as we are sure that is where the N is going but the B has several possible squares to choose from.

Preserve your options.

8.c3 Nbd7

9.e4 O-O

10.Re1 Qb6

11.Kg2

Black now has the typical "Colle" set-up and his pieces complement each other nicely ... but what to do now?



11...Rfe8

This implies that Black is going to play e5 (with the rook now behind the pawn. Perhaps Rad8 was better, putting the R on the same file as the white Q as this is likely to be the file that is opened after Black plays d5 x e4. An alternative was 11...a5 gaining space on the queenside.

12.Qc2 Rac8?

The wrong file for the R as it is unlikely that the "c" file will be opened. White does not intend to play e4xd5.

13.Bg5

I wanted to catch up in development and so decided that the simplest way was to exchange the B (which doesn't have a good square) for the f6 N.

13...h6

An interesting idea to open the "g" file and start an attack against g3. The alternative was 13...Ne5.

14.Bxf6 gxf6

15.Nd2 Kh8

16.Bh5

White has now caught up in development and after 16...Re7, 17.Re2 he can just double on the "e" file then work out what he wants to do.

16...Qc7!?

Black is staking everything on attack against g3.

17.exd5

If 17.Bxf7 Re7 18.Bh5 Rg8 19.Nf1 Rg5 and Black has a strong initiative for the pawn.

17...Rg8?

Black can play 17...cxd5 as 18.Bxf7 Re7 19.Bxe6 is a mistake as Black has 19...Rce8

18.Ne4

If 18.Bxf7 Bxg3 19.Bxg8 Rxg8 20.Kf1 Bxf2 with a strong attack.

19...Bf4

This doesn't really threaten anything. Better was 19...exd5 20.Nxd6 Qxd6 21.Qd2

19.Bxf7?

Better was 19.d6! Bxd6 20.Bxf7.

19...exd5**20.Bxg8 Rxg8****21.Kf1 dxe4****22.Rxe4?**

White is OK after 22.gxf4 Qxf4 23.Rxe4 Qf3 24.Rd1 Qh3+ 25.Ke2 Ne5 but I wasn't sure that the attack wouldn't break through.

22... Bxg3?

After 22...Bd6 23.d4 White is slightly better.

23.d4?

Played to keep the N out but better was 23.Qd2 Rg6 24.Rg4 Rxg4 25.Qxh6+ Kg8 26.hxg4 Qf4 27.Qxf4 Bxf4 and White is better.

23...Bd6

Missing 23...f5! 24.Re7 Qf4 and if 24.Rxd7 Qf3 threatens ...Bh2

24.Rae1 c5?

Trying to generate play on the wrong side of the board. The simple defensive 24...Nf8! covers everything and Black is fine.

25.Rh4

25.Re7 Bxe7 26.Rxe7 Rg7 27.Re8+ Rg8 draws.

25...Bf8**26.Re8 cxd4****27.Rxd4 Ne5****28.Qf5 Qg7?**

Better was 28...Qc6! for example 29.Rc8 Qb5+ 30.c4 Qb6 31.Rdd8 Ng6 and Black is fine.

29.Ke2 Qf7

(See Diagram)

30.Rxe5??

Played instantly for surprise value and under the impression that Black had blundered. 30.Re6 was necessary.



White to play his 30th move.

30...Qxa2?

Black was now immediately criticised by the other team members for blundering a piece and for not making the moves that they had suggested instead. How wrong they were! With a bit of composure Black would have seen 30...Rg5! winning material. Instead, under pressure, he grabs a pawn.

31.Rb5

Black is still on the defensive and down in material so his position is hopeless.

31...Qa6**32.Rd7 Bg7****33.Rxb7 Re8+****34.Kf3 Qc6+****35.Qd5 Qc8****36.Qd7 Qxd7****37.Rxd7 1-0****SUMMARY**

An interesting game which ebbed and flowed. White played the opening too passively and Black staked everything on an attack down the "g" file. White did not accept the sacrifices but instead tried to complete his development and blunt the attack. As White was slowly getting the upper hand Black missed a couple of better defensive moves then appeared to blunder a piece. White took the piece without looking deeper and gave Black a chance to turn the tables, but in shock from his "blunder" he missed it. After that it was easy for White to mop up.



BASIC PRINCIPLES AT WORK

With IM Robert Jamieson

If you have read the article on “Chess - The Basics” then all that remains is for you to put these basic principles into use in your own games.

An understanding of such things as “time”, “space” and “material” will help you find the best move, but the most important concept to understand is to “build up” your forces for an attack.

Let's go back 160 years, when players were very good at attacking, and see how chess prodigy Paul Morphy (aged 12) built up an attack against his father Alonzo.

Springhill 1849

Paul Morphy

Alonzo Morphy

Evans Gambit

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4

This is the Evans Gambit where White gives up a pawn to gain control of the centre.

4...Bxb4 5.c3 Bc5 6.d4 exd4 7.cxd4 Bb6 8.O-O Na5

Moving a piece twice in the opening and from a good square to a bad square is probably the wrong idea. 8...d6 was better.

9.Bd3 d5?

Opening up the position when he is behind in development. Better was 9...Ne7.

10.exd5 Qxd5 11.Ba3

With the idea of stopping Black from castling.

11...Be6 12.Nc3 Qd7

(see diagram)



13.d5!

White must not give Black the time to castle queenside.

13... Bxd5 14.Nxd5 Qxd5 15.Bb5+?

Morphy was famous for his brilliancies, and this concept is very pretty, but the simplest way to win was 15.Re1+ Kd8 16.Be4! Qxd1 17.Raxd1+ Kc8 18.Bf5+ Kb8 19.Rd8#

15...Qxb5 16.Re1+ Ne7 17.Rb1?

17.Rxe7+ first was best.

18...Qa6??

Missing the best defence of 17. ... Qd7 18.Rxe7+ Qxe7 19.Bxe7 Kxe7 20.Qd5 Rhd8 21.Qe4+ Kf8 22.Qxh7 f6 23.Nh4 Kf7 and White will eventually win. After 18...Qa6 all Black's pieces are on the queenside and he has no defenders around his King.

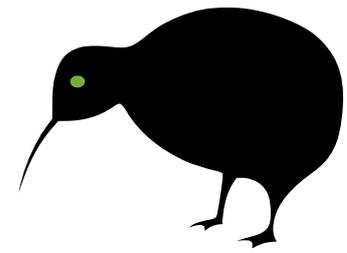
18.Rxe7+ Kf8 19.Qd5

Or 19.Rxf7+ Kxf7 20.Qd7+ Kf6 21.Be7+ Kf7 22.Ne5+ Kg8 23.Qe6#.

19... Qc4 20.Rxf7+ Kg8 21.Rf8#.

THE KIWIS ARE COMING (AGAIN)!

BY CHRIS DEPASQUALE



November and the National Interschool finals seem a long way away in March, but the first warning shots have been fired to let the Aussies know there will be another major Kiwi challenge in 2010. The first

New Zealand Interschool event of the year was played at Bucklands Beach Intermediate School (Howick Zone) on Thursday 11 March, and winners of the Intermediate division will be well-known to Aussie hopefuls: Somerville Intermediate School took the gold medals. Last December Somerville took on the top Australian schools in Melbourne, and finished in second place. This year they have vowed to go one better. Team captain Leo Zhu has a particular point to prove. In Melbourne he was unwell on the first day, and the points he dropped cost his team the gold medals. He made a big statement at the Howick Zone, racking up a perfect 7/7. With team-mate Luke Li also achieving that perfect score, Somerville's 4-man team proved too strong for the host school, whose two teams took silver and bronze.

Last year Milford Primary won the right to represent New Zealand in the Primary Division in Melbourne, and they will get their chance to show what they can do in the North Shore zone later this month. In the meantime they face a major challenge to their status as New Zealand's top Primary School, with Pigeon Mountain Primary School putting in a superb performance at

the Howick Zone. Not only did they finish 6.5 points clear of silver medalists Botany Downs School, and a massive 9.5 points clear of the other Primary teams, they went very close to finishing ahead of Somerville Intermediate as well! With the lead waxing and waning throughout the day, in the end Pigeon Mountain, with 21.5 points, finished just half a point behind Somerville. They have put the pressure squarely on Milford now to show what they can do.

Whoever gets through to Melbourne in November, the Kiwis have a great chance of achieving in Middle Years and Primary competition what Auckland Grammar did in the Secondary competition last year, and snatch the gold medals from the Aussies on their home turf.



GM Murray Chandler

ROBERT WHO?

In Australia they have the RJ Shield, named in honour of Robert Jamieson, Knight Times editor, Chess Guru and all-round great guy. Although RJ was the first Australian to achieve a Grandmaster norm, he was not the first player from this part of the world to

do so. That honour belongs to Murray Chandler, who grew up in New Zealand. In 1975 Murray went to Hobart and won the Australian Junior Championship, ahead of such luminaries and household names as Ian Rogers and Darryl Johansen, and other leading juniors of the day like David Dick (NSW) and Murray Smith (Vic). From Hobart Murray never looked back, and soon based himself in England where he became a Grandmaster and represented England at top level chess.

Now back in Auckland, Murray Chandler plays less often, and spends much of his time as the Principal of Gambit Books, where he has written best-sellers like "How to Beat Your Dad at Chess", "Chess Tactics for Kids" and "Chess for Children" (co-authored by Helen Milligan).

So, in New Zealand, they don't have the RJ Shield, they have the MC Cup. The first MC Cup event for the year will be held at Howick Recreation Centre on Sunday 28 March from 1 - 5 pm. Like the RJ Shield it has trophies and other prizes in all categories from Under 8 to Under 18, and is a great way for anybody to start their tournament career. Don't forget, even though they are legends now, both RJ and MC played their first tournament once!

"THERE WILL BE ANOTHER MAJOR KIWI CHALLENGE IN 2010."



Somerville P.S. Team



Pidgeon Mountain P.S. Team.



LOOK FOR DANGER SIGNS

With IM Robert Jamieson

There are usually several occasions in any chess game where our opponent makes a move that we did not expect. Our immediate reaction should be to ask ourselves “why did he do that”?

Sometimes we conclude that our opponent has just played a bad move and usually we are right. If, however, he is a strong player we should not just dismiss the surprise move as a “blunder” as it may instead be a clever trap.

All too often young players just assume “BLUNDER” when they should be exercising more care and checking for “TRAP”.

Here is the perfect example.

Moscow 1907

Alexander Alekhine

Vladimir Nenarokov

Chigorin Defence

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6

This is a little unusual as it does not help Black to castle kingside and it blocks the “c” pawn which usually goes to c6 or c5. Looks like Black is aiming for rapid piece development and casting queenside.

3.Nf3 Bg4 4.cxd5 Qxd5 5.Nc3 Qa5 6.d5 O-O-O 7.Bd2 Bxf3 8.exf3

(see diagram)

8...Nb4?

Better was 8. ... Nd4 9.Rc1 e5.

9.a3

Now something funny is going on here. Black’s last move threatened ...Nxd5 and



yet White plays a3 allowing him to execute the threat. Has White just wasted a move ... or should our suspicions be aroused and Black needs to check for traps?

9... Nxd5??

Better was 9... Na6 10.Be3 when White threatens b4 and as clearly winning.

10.Na4! 1-0

Black’s Q is lost for a piece or he can play 10...Nc3 losing a piece for nothing. Serves him right for bringing his Q out so early in the game and for not being suspicious about 9.a3.

Nenarokov however learnt from the experience and went on to win the Moscow Championship the following year and was awarded the IM title in 1950.

Alekhine went on to become World Chess Champion but choked on a piece of meat in Portugal in 1946 and died whilst still holding the title. The only player ever to do so.