Chess in libraries...

For a long time I’ve been concerned that there is nowhere for adults to learn how to play chess. Traditional chess clubs are great for those who are already around 1200 - but what about those hundreds of adults under 1200 who want to play?

About a year ago it struck me that your local library would be the perfect place for novices to learn and play socially.

So this month ChessClub.com.au organised to donate a chess set to every library in Victoria (thanks to Chess Kids for sponsoring the sets). We strongly urge you to get to your local library and play a game on that set to prove to the libraries that this is a good concept.

So far the response is mostly positive, but there are always the few who have no experience with chess and need to be shown this great game.

Response from Libraries

"I just wanted to thank you for this initiative, we have found that chess and libraries certainly go together and also engage young people that you might not expect would be. So congratulations to Chess Kids! and thanks for the chess sets.

Christine Mackenzie
CEO - Yarra Plenty Regional Library"

"Thank you for the chess set that you sent through to our Library, we had a smaller set available for the public but I have replaced it with the much larger one. It’s a great thing to have in a public space as it encourages interaction.

Jenny Maggs - Central Highlands Regional Library Corporation"

David Cordover
Chess Guru
The Victorian Championships this year was a very exciting event with a strong field comprising the “veteran IMs” Rujevic, Sandler and Goldenberg, the “young guns” Wallis and Stojic and the “up and coming juniors” Cheng and Morris as the leading contenders.

Mirko Rujevic shot to an early lead and looking like winning easily but he stumbled in the final rounds. Wallis and Stojic overtook him in the final round to share first place. There will be a play-off later this year to decide the title.

IM I.Goldenberg v IM M.Rujevic

1.Nxd6 Bxb1 2.Nxb5 Qc5 3.Qxa4?

3. ... Bd3!
If now 4.Rxd3 Qxf2+ 5.Kh1 Qd1+ 6.Kg2 Qe2+ 7.Kh3 Nf4+!
4.Nb3??
Best was 4.Nd4 Qc1+ 5.Kg2 Qxd2 6.Nf3 Qc3 --
4. ... Qc2 0-1

The following game from the tournament is very strange and will appeal to people who like tactics. White soldiers on with R for Q for many moves and even misses a draw near the end!

VictorianChess Championship 2010
IM James Morris 2262
Dusan Stojic 2238
Kings Indian Defence
White to Play
I enjoyed the following game where Bobby sacrifices the exchange for a bind and eventually breaks through.

Victorian Chess Championship 2010
FM Bobby Cheng 2332
IM James Morris 2262
Slav Defence

White to Play
44.Bxf5 exf5 45.Kd4? Qxe5+?
Missing his chance to turn the tables with 45...Qd8!
46.fxe5 Re8 47.Bd2 Re6 48.Bg5 Rd7 49.Bf6 Rb7 50.Ke3 Rd7 51.Kf4 Rb7 52.Kg5 1-0
I showed this position to some of my students who thought that it is drawn as Black has set up a blockade. Unfortunately after 52...R(b)d7 53.Rd1 it's zugzwang!

FINAL SCORES:
8.5 C.Wallis & D.Stojic
8 M.Rujevic & I.Goldenberg
6.5 B.Cheng
5 L.Sandler
4.5 J.Morris, C.Gorka & D.Hamilton
3.5 D.Hacche & E.Levi
1 D.Beaumont

The Reserves Tournament was won by Silvester Urban with 8 points.

The Championships were ably directed by the amiable International Arbiter Gary Bekker.
Chess nearly solved -
But the threat was eliminated

(An anecdote from Jose Capablanca - World Champion 1921-27)

"I was playing in a tournament in Germany one year when a man approached me. Thinking he just wanted an autograph, I reached for my pen, when the man made a startling announcement. 'I've solved chess!' I sensibly started to back away, in case the man was dangerous as well as insane, but the man continued: 'I'll bet you 50 marks that if you come back to my hotel room I can prove it to you.' Well, 50 marks was 50 marks, so I humored the fellow and accompanied him to his room."

"Back at the room, we sat down at his chess board. 'I've worked it all out, white mates in 12 no matter what.' I played black with perhaps a bit incautiously, but I found to my horror that white's pieces coordinated very strangely, and that I was going to be mated on the 12th move!"

"I tried again, and I played a completely different opening that couldn't possibly result in such a position, but after a series of very queer-looking moves, once again I found my king surrounded, with mate to fall on the 12th move. I asked the man to wait while I ran downstairs and fetched Emmanuel Lasker, who was world champion before me. He was extremely skeptical, but agreed to at least come and play. Along the way we snagged Alekhine, who was then world champion, and the three of us ran back up to the room."

"Lasker took no chances, but played as cautiously as could be, yet after a bizarre, pointless-looking series of maneuvers, found himself hemmed in a mating net from which there was no escape. Alekhine tried his hand, too, but all to no avail."

"It was awful! Here we were, the finest players in the world, men who had devoted our very lives to the game, and it was all over! The tournaments, the matches, everything - chess had been solved, white wins."

About this time Capa’s friends would break in, saying "Wait a minute, I never heard anything about all this! What happened?"

"Why, we killed him, of course."
Karlis Ozols Remembered

By IM Robert Jamieson

Chess is littered with colourful and controversial characters. 1956 Australian Co-Champion and nine times Victorian Chess Champion falls into the latter category.

He was born in Latvia in 1912 and represented Latvia in two chess olympiads as well as playing against some of the world’s leading players in tournaments in the late 1930s. During the Second World War he was a member of the Latvian Security Police and rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He migrated to Australia in 1949 and become one of the country’s leading players but in 1992 accusations of war crimes were leveled against Ozols, claiming that he was “the highest ranking alleged war criminal living in Australia,” but he was never prosecuted. He died in Melbourne in 2001.

I first played Ozols in the 1970 Victorian Open and remember my impression that he had a funny accent and huge hands (I believe that he worked on the railways). At the Karlis Lidums Open in 1971 Ozols gave an impromptu speech at the end of the tournament on behalf of the players. It was an amusing speech rendered in stilted English and sounded like he had forgotten to put his teeth in!

A few years later in 1974 when (as an up-and-coming player) I won the Australian Championship in Cooma, after the tournament Ozols and some other Latvians came up to me and challenge me to some lightning games. I toweled them up and one of them asked Ozols “So Karlis, did you play this well when you were young”? Ozols smiled and gave a puzzled look as if to say “Maybe yes ... maybe no.”

Thereafter I played Ozols once each year in the Winter Interclub Competition where he was top board for the powerful Venta (Latvian) team. He had a liking for knights and blocked positions and always playing the English Opening and the French Defence. It was interesting mixing with players from different backgrounds and cultures.

Sometimes after our game Ozols would come up to me and say “Robert, I have a position to show you.” We would discuss the position. Afterwards it dawned on me that I was inadvertently helping him with his correspondence chess games. Ozols became a correspondence chess International Master in 1972.

“He was “the highest ranking alleged war criminal living in Australia”
Here is a complicated tactical game where Ozols defeats New Zealand’s top player Ortvin Sarapu (also a refugee but from Estonia - next door to Latvia).

Melbourne 1957
IM O.Sarapu (NZ)
K.Ozols (Aus)
C02 - French/Advance Variation

Ozols scored a notable scalp in 1963 when the Russian Grandmaster Alexander Kotov toured Australia. Ozols won the tournament in front of his famous opponent. Kotov’s book “Think Like a Grandmaster” is one of the best ever chess books.

Melbourne 1963
K.Ozols
GM A.Kotov
English Opening

Here is one of my Interclub games against Ozols which I like to think is a
good example of exploiting your opponent’s positional mistakes.

Interclub 1979
IM R.Jamieson
K.Ozols
French Defence 2 d3
1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 Nc6
5.g3 Nf6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.O-O
dxe4 8.dxe4 e5 This move concedes
White the d5 square and the rest of the
game revolves around White's attempts
to establish a pieces there.
9.c3 O-O 10.Qe2 Bg4? Exchanging the
B for the N on f3 is positional suicide as
Black weakens his control of the light
squares.
11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 12.Ncf3 may seem
more logical to speed up White’s
development, but from f3 the N cannot
readily go to d5.
12...Qd7 13.Re1 Ne8 14.Nc4 Rd8 15.a4
Nd6 16.Nxd6 Qxd6 17.Be3 Qe6 18.a5
Qc8 19.Bf1 Heading for d5! Qc7 20.a6
23.Qe2 Qe7 Black now "threatens" Bg5
to exchange off his bad bishop. My

25.Bxg5 Qxg5 26.Rad1 Rfd8 The
obvious move which has the
disadvantage of losing. If 26...Qf6
27.Bxc6 Rxc6 28.Rd7 and White will
control the open "d" file.
27.Bxc6 Rxc6 28.Qg4 Those
of you who know the famous
game Adams v Torre may be
tempted by 28.Qh5 winning a
pawn after 28...Qe7 29.Rxd8+ Qxd8 30.Qxe5 but after
30...Rd6 Black suddenly has
some play for the pawn.
28. ... Qe7 29.Rxd8+ Qxd8
30.Rd1 Qf6 31.Qd7 h5
32.Qxa7 Now White's "a" pawn
will be hard to stop.
Kh7 33.Qb7 Qg6 34.Re1 h4
35.g4 Rf6 36.Qd5 Qg5 37.Qd3
b5 38.Ra1 c4 39.Qe3 Rf4
40.a7 1-0

Latvians at the Melbourne Chess Club -
Ozols is seated (centre)
LOCAL NEWS

Box Hill Club Championship

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Best in the West
21-22 August, Cat#1 GP Event

Leading Scores: (22 players)

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<td></td>
<td>E.Teichmann</td>
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E.Teichmann v G.West

Black plays 62...Rf2. What should White reply?

After 62..Rf2 White played 63.Ne3?? 63. ...
Rf3! 64.Rxh2 Rxe3 65.Rg2 =
He should have played 63.Rh6+
Kf7 64.Ne3 Kg7 65.Rh3 Kg6 66.Ng4 1-0

Guy West Classic

A smiling Bobby Cheng!

Congratulations to FM Bobby Cheng who scored 5/5 to win the Guy West Classic tournament held 2nd-3rd October at Croydon Chess Club. The strongest field ever assembled in a Croydon tournament included two IMs (West and Rujevic) and two FMs (Cheng and Teichmann).

Leading Scores: (38 players)

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<td>4</td>
<td>M.Rujevic, E.Teichman, I.Birchall &amp; K.Zelesco</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>G.West, A.Grkow, Z.Loh &amp; M.Addamo</td>
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Victorian Country Championship
Held in Castlemaine Oct 2-3 with a field on 17 players.

Open:
= 1st, Stewart Booth & Russell Murray,
=3rd, Patrick Cook, Leigh Healey & Nigel Barrow.

Reserves:
=1st, Kevin Perrin & Ken Czuczman, =3rd
Max Mollard, Alexander Malejewicz, Geoff Davis.

EVENTS COMING UP....

MCC Cup Weekender
29th Oct - 2nd Nov.
Melbourne Chess Club
66 Leicester Street, Fitzroy.
grantszuveges@gmail.com
The 39th Chess Olympiad took place in Khanty-Mansiysk, Siberia with Australia fielding teams in both the Chess Olympiad and the Women's Chess Olympiad.

The Ukraine took the Gold Medal in the Men's (Open) and Russia I took the gold in the Women's with a round to spare.

The Australian team finished 55th out of 149 teams with all team members performing up to their rating. The Women's team finished 46th out of 115 teams with Nguyen Thu Giang scoring best with 6.5/10 on board two. The Olympiad is a great chance for our players to mingle with and observe the best players in the world and I'm sure that they all valued the experience.

I followed the live games each evening with interest. Here is one of the strangest games I have ever seen. After 12 moves White has no pieces developed and Black has only one! White then develops the plan of doubling his Bishops on c1 and d1 and the game concludes when Black gets his Queen trapped on c1 surrounded by a bevy of white pieces! See if you can understand it.

Chess Olympiad 2010
GM V.Ivanchuk
GM B.Jobava
B12 - Anti-Caro-Kann/Necchi Attack


The Australian Men came home strongly in the last round to record a 4-0 win over Nigeria but Darryl had to work hard for 132 moves to subdue his unrated opponent.
Black to Play

1. ... Kf3 2.Kg1 Nxe3! 3.fxe3
   If 3.Ng3 Nd1 4.Nh1 Nc3 5.Kf1 Ne2 6.Ke1 Kg2 0-1

Chess Olympiad 2010
IM G.Xie 2478 (Aus)
GM Voltava 2579 (Cze)
Sicilian Defence
Rxb2 30.Rc7 Ba4 31.Kf2 b6 32.axb6 Rxb6 33.c4 Be8 34.c5 Rf6+ 35.Ke3 a5 36.Ra7 a4
44.c6 Ra2+ 45.Rc2 Rxc2+ 46.Kxc2 Kf8 47.c7 Bb7 48.Nd7+ Ke7 49.Nb6 g5 50.Kd2 g4
51.Ke3 h4 52.c8=Q Qxc8 53.Nxc8+ Ke6 54.Nb6 Kf5 55.Na4! g3 56.hxg3 hxg3 57.Nc3
1-0

I’ve recently found a new chess app for my iPad called “ChessDB HD” which contains heaps of great games and combinations. A great resource for a budding chess coach.

Here is one game from the section “1000 short games” and features as nice a finish to a game of chess as you will ever see. Cover up White’s 12th move and see if you can find the winning combination.

Berlin 1932
Nadel - Margulies
D17 - Slav Queen's Gambit/Czech Variation
8...cxd4 9.Qxf5 Nd6 10.Bxc4 e6 11.Bb5+ Ke7?

www.chessclub.com.au
The Most Entertaining Game Ever Played?

By Tim Broome

In any primary-age tournament, you see a few games in which the white player tries the “4-move” checkmate on f7. Sometimes mate is threatened more than once, usually by moving the queen first to h5, and later to f3. And sometimes it works. But once we learn how to defend this mate, we see that bringing the queen out too early can help black to gain a lead in development. So surely top adult players don’t still try for the early mate on f7?

In this game between two Danish internationals, White tries the f7 mate threat not once, not twice, but five times in the first 9 moves, and actually gets a good position! Afterwards, although neither player plays perfectly, the tactics never stop lighting up the chessboard. There is an amazing series of “windmill” checks, and a remarkable imprisonment of the black king and rook. One chess writer called it the most entertaining game ever played!

Danish Championship, 1953

A.Kupferstich

J.Andreassen

Bishop’s Opening


6...g6; 7.Qf3. Again threatening mate in 2 with Nxd6+. 7...Nf5? Not the best way to block the threat. Since this game was played, it has been shown that Black can get a good development advantage by 7...f5! 8.Qd5, Qf6 9.Nxc7+, Kd8; 10.Nxa8, b6. 8.Qd5

White is obsessed with that f7 pawn! 8...Nh6; 9.d4. White threatens mate for the 5th time, by Bxh6 and then Qxf7! This time Black cannot escape without loss of material. 9...d6; 10.Bxh6, Be6; 11.Qf3, Bxb3; 12.Bxf8, Ba4; 13.Bg7, Rg8; 14.Bf6, Qd7; 15.Na3, Nxd4; 16.Qh3

The dust has settled and White now has an extra Knight for 2 pawns. Black wants to collect more pawns as compensation. 16...Qxh3; 17.Nxh3, Nxc2+; 18.Nxc2, Bxc2; 19.Rc1, Be4; 20.Ng5, Bxg2? 20...Bc6, stopping the White rook from coming to the 7th rank, is necessary. Understandably though, Black wants another pawn, and he now expects 21.Rg1, leaving time for Bc6. He didn’t expect White to let him capture the rook. 21.Rxc7!, Bxh1.

(See Diagram next page)

22.Nxf7? After this move, White still has a great position, but he missed a forced win with 22.Re7+!, Kd8 (or Kf8, Nh7 mate); 23.Nxf7+, Kc8; 24.Nxd6+ Kb8 (or Kd8; 25. Rxh7 with discovered mate) 25.Bxe5++. 22...Bd5. To prevent 23.Nd6+, Kf8; 24.Rf7mate. 23.Nxd6+, Kf8; 24.Bg5 24.Be7+ was even stronger. 24...Rh8. Bh6+ is threatened and the king
needs an escape square. 25.Bh6+, Kg8, 26.Rg7+, Kf8; 27.Rxb7+, Kg8; 28.Rg7+. This is known as a “windmill check” or a “seesaw check”. The rook is able freely to pick off any pieces in its path, each time returning like the sails of a windmill! 28...Kf8; 29.Rxa7+, Kg8; 30.Rxa8! Bxa8. Why on earth would White exchange his destructive seesawing rook for the passive Black rook that has not yet moved from its starting square? Let’s have a look at the position.

A closer look shows us that, with the rooks off the board, Black is helpless. A unique “prison” has been set up in the corner of the board on g8 and h8, where the Black king and rook are completely and permanently locked up. The White knight and bishop are the prison guards, controlling all the exits! As both pieces stand on dark squares, there is nothing the only free Black piece, the bishop on a8, can do about it! White now has to be careful of just one thing – Stalemate! If he were to try to use his king to support the advance of his a and b pawns towards the 8th rank, Black could try advancing and sacrificing his e and g pawns, and then try to sacrifice his bishop for the a or b pawn to get stalemate! But White has a much quicker and prettier way to win. He doesn’t even bother trying to get a new queen! Instead, he simply marches his king up the dark squares to e7, where it can take over the knight’s prison guard duties. 31.Kd2, Bc6; 32.Kc3, e4; 33.Kd4, g5; 34.Kc5, Ba8; 35. Kb6, g4; 36.Kc7, g3; 37.hxg3, e3; 38.fxe3, Bc6; 39.Kd8! White must not carelessly take the bishop, giving stalemate. 39...Ba8; 40.Ke7. With the new prison guard in position, the knight is free to deliver checkmate on f6, which it can reach via either e4 or e8. 40...Bc6.

c6 is the only square from which the Black bishop can stop the knight from going to both e4 and e8. Any pawn move now wins for white. 41.a3. Black is in “zugzwang”. His bishop will have to leave c6. 41...Be8; 42.Ne4!, Bc6; 43.Nf6 mate A beautiful and unusual finish to an amazing game!
Twelve years ago Sam Low was one of Australia’s better juniors. His rating was around 2000 and he had represented Australia in one of the World Under-age Championships in Brazil.

Since then he has retired from chess and become a successful accountant now living in Collingwood within walking distance of the Melbourne Chess Club. Sam’s making a come-back by playing in the recent City of Melbourne Open. He comments: “I think it is not that much different from when I last played at the MCC. The main difference is the people who seem to be organising it and bringing much more energy to the place. The place is neat enough but freezing cold!”

I asked what other changes he noted:

“The first thing is those new digital clocks. The time control 40 in 90 is now gone. I lost on time twice even with the new increments!

I’m enjoying my games but I don’t particularly care whether I win or lose. I’m so poor tactically now!

I was shocked at my seeding of 5th and proceeded to lose in the first round.”

Sam played 9.Bh6?? instead of something sensible like 9.h4 or 9.0-0-0. Rujevic replied 9...Nxe4! 10.fxe4 Qh4+ picking up the B oh h6 and dominating the dark squares. White resigned after a bit of token resistance. “Maybe I need to change chess coaches,” Sam commented.
WARM-UP PUZZLES

I love a good puzzle, particularly when I can solve it! These aren’t too hard and should be ideal to warm up your brain for your next tournament.

Position 1

Position 2

Position 3

Position 4

Answers below:

1. Qd5+ Qxd5 2. Nxe7+ 1-0

1...Qc5+!! 2. Qxc5 g1=Q+ 0-1

1.Ka2 zugzwang e.g. 1...Rf2 Rf7+ 1-0

1.Qf4+! 1-0

ANSWERS:

www.chessclub.com.au
Something for us all to enjoy!

Find the one move “killer” in each diagram.

Djordjevic v Kovacevic 1984
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 c6 3.e3

Shirazi v Peters 1986
1.e4 c5 2.b4 cxb4 3.a3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.axb4

Vaughan v Purdy 1945 (Correspondence!)
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.e3 c5 6.dxc5 Qa5 7.cxd5

Christiansen v Karpov 1993

ANSWERS:
1. 3...Qa5+ 0-1
2. 5...Qd5+ 0-1
3. 7...Nx d5 1-0
4. 12.Qd1 1-0
11.Be3 Bd6
A SENSE OF DANGER!

by IM Robert Jamieson

Have a look at the diagram opposite. How would you assess the position? What would you play as Black?

If you look at the Kingside Black’s King looks very lonely but Black is certainly winning on the Queenside and is surely better. Black can now choose between 1...Qd2 and 1...Nd2.

Bobby Cheng chose 1...Qd2 and play continued 2.Qa3 Qxe3+ 3.Kh1 Qxd4 4.Qe7 Now White threatens both Qxb7 and Qe6+ followed by Nf7+ and smothered mate.

4...Nc5 5.f5 Qe3 6.f6 gxf6 7.Qf7+ Kh8 8.Qxf6+ Kg8 9.Rf4 1-0. What went wrong?

To be a good practical player you need to develop a “sense of danger” so that you play safe and kill off any counter-chances when you have a won game. It’s nice to win quickly or with a brilliant sacrifice but sometimes this can involve a risk. Rather than thinking “how can I finish him off quickly?” it’s better to think “how can I tie him down and kill off any counter-play?”

Clearly then Black should have chosen 1...Nd2 2.Ra1 c3 3.Qc2 Qb4 4.Rfc1 a5 5.Qd1 Ba6 6.Rc2 and White has no time or opportunity to attack Black’s lonely King.