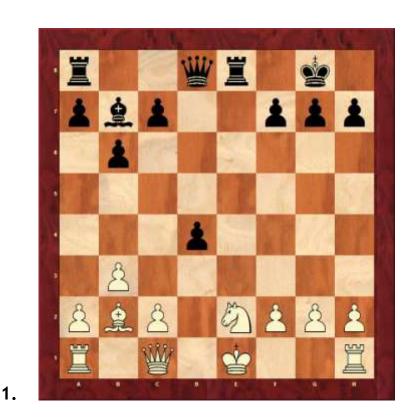
Problem Page 3 April 2012

How well do you know the Laws of Chess?

This month's teaser: Touch and move

- 1. Look at Diagram 1.
- a) White touches his/her knight but then realises the K would then be left in check. What move(s) can White play instead
- b) White moves his/her knight and touches the black P on d4. Obviously the N cannot be moved, else the white K would be in check. What move(s) can White play instead now?
- c) What would happen if the black P was on d5 (and not d4) and White touched that pawn with the N?



Answers further down page <u>here</u>

For Beginners!





- a. The above position occurred in a recent game between two NEJCA players with Black to move - what is the result?
- b. If it were White to play what is the best move?
- a. With black to play what is the result?
- b. With White to play how many checkmates are there?

Answers

a) the position is a stalemate. It is Black's move and the only piece he can move is his K but any move will put the K in check. So the position is stalemate and the game is drawn! So both sides are awarded a half-point. Lucky Black!

Answers

a) again this is stalemate so once again the result is a draw (a half-point each). Please note that although Black also has a P on the board it cannot move. White has been greedy with two Qs and a R attacking the black K. These powerful pieces control so many squares

b) Whites plays 1. Rh5# (checkmate)

TIP: when your opponent can only move his/her K be careful to avoid a position where he/her is not in check but his/her only moves would be into check. If you only have a K left this is a trick worth trying as you may convert a loss to a draw!

that is often easy for Black to create stalemate positions.

TIP: Remember you only need a R or Q plus a K to mate a lone K. Greedy players often do not win the game!

b) I found 16 - can you find any more?

This month's problems - Novice

Problem N5



Problem N6



N5a. Black to play what is the best move?

N6a. Black to play what is the winning move?

N5b. White to play and win!

N6a. White to move and win

This month's problems - Intermediate

Problem 15



I5a. A closely fought game with each side down to one P each. So it is White to play – is 1. a6 the best move? If not what should White play?

N5b. If Black to play first can he/she draw or win the game?

Problem 16



I6a. What is Black's killer move?

Answers to Touch and move

probably reply Q x d4). 1. As the N cannot move legally then white can play any other legal move on the board (including king-side castling).

legal move on the board. 2. As White has touched the black P he must take that pawn if there is a legal move. Obviously the P cannot be taken with the N but can by the B on b2 and so White must play 1. B x d4 (and Black would

3. Obviously the white N cannot take the black P on d5 (for two reasons, first any N move leaves the K in check and, second, the white N cannot reach d5 from e2 in one move). No other white piece can directly capture the P on d5 and so White is free to make any other

Moral: Think twice about before touching your piece and three times before touching one of your opponent's.

Answers to last month's problems - Novice

Problem N3

Problem N4





N3a) Black promotes the pawn next move - what new piece should Black select?

N3b) If Black wants to eventually promote to a queen what move should he/she play first?

answers

N3a To win with immediate promotion Black must select a R or Q but with Q the position is stalemate! So Black must promote to a R

N3b Black should play 1... Kc2 followed by moving the P to c1 next move and promote to Q.

N4a) White to play – find the best move?

N4b) Black to play - suggest a good move

answers

N4a The best move is 1.Nd6#. This mate involves the pin by the White R along the e-file and the fact that the K has no moves as hemmed in by Q, B and pawns.

N4b d6 or e6 stop the immediate check mate but the best move for Black would be 1... Nxe4 then if White replies 2. R x d4 Black plays 2... d5 forking the B and R

Answers to last month's problems - Intermediate

Problem 13



Problem 14



- I3a) White to play what is the best move?
- I3b) Black to play, suggest a good move to prevent White's threat.

answers

I3a White plays 1. Nd6. This threatens the Q (2. Nxe8) and at the same time checkmate by 2. Q x h7#.

I3b Black could play 1... f5 as this blocks the b1-h7 diagonal along which White threatens checkmate. Note that if Black plays 1... Nf6 then White wins with 2. Nxf6+ and then mate with Q x h7#. Another option for Black is 1... g6 but White then plays 2. Bh6 and wins the R on f8 for the B.

- I4a) You are white what is your move
- I4b) Black to play the best move is?

answers

I4a With best play by White the game goes

- 1. Qg8+ Rxg8 (forced)
- 2. Nc7# (this is a smothered mate)

14b Black wins by

- 1... Qa1+
- 2. Bxa1 Rxa1+
- 3. Qd1 Rxd1+
- 4. Bf1 Rxf1#