

Tri-State Chess Moves to the Big Apple! The Chess Exchange Store Moves to Manhattan

BY MARK KURTZMAN and DANIEL TAUBENBLAT

Tri-State Chess is pleased to announce it has moved its store, The Chess Exchange, from Park Slope Brooklyn to the Upper East Side: 325 East 88th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues. It will be the first time a chess store will be located in Manhattan, north of Houston Street! Mark Kurtzman, President of Tri-State Chess explains "We always wanted to be closer to where our students and their families live. Now students and their families have easier access to a one-stop shopping chess experience."



The Chess Exchange

TRI-STATE MOVES TO NYC pg. 1 THE LEWIS CHESS PIECE MYSTERY pg. 1 HA, HA, CHESS pg. 3 CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS DEFENSE pq. 4 CHESS TERMS CROSSWORD pq. 5 **GIANT CHESS** pg. 6 PUZZLERS pq. 8 **PUZZLER SOLUTIONS** pg. 9 **CLASSIFIEDS** pg. 10 TOURNAMENT/GRAND PRIX RESULTS pg. 11 TOURNAMENT CHESS CALENDAR pg. 12

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The Lewis Mystery: Who Owns the Ancient Pieces and Where Did They Come From? BY DANIEL TAUBENBLAT

One of the most famous chess sets in the world is a mystery. The "Lewis" chessmen, a collection of 93 walrus tusk 12th century pieces from 5 sets, were discovered on the Island of Lewis, part of Scotland around 1831.

The Chess Exchange

Their true origin is believed to have been Norway and how they got to Scotland is still unknown. Warrior princes often exchanged gifts in the area to maintain bonds and peace in the region. One theory is that they were a present, held together in a bag with a beautiful carved buckle that was found with the pieces. ----*CONTINUED ON PAGE 2----*



3 of the 93 Lewis Chessmen

Tri-State Moves to NYC (--- Continued From Page 1 ---)

"The Chess Exchange will offer high and low end chess pieces and boards, the latest software for kids and adults, as well as hundreds of book titles for players of all levels. Many different types of magnetic sets will be available along with a wide selection of chess clocks. We also will carry a full line of chessrelated items such as key chains, holographic pencils, and t-shirts.

In addition, one-on-one private lessons will be offered at a discounted rate of \$60/hr! Having coaches come to your home for a private lesson will remain at \$80/hour."

The store is set up to be the new home of Majestic Trophies, offering a huge selection of trophies, plaques, awards and medals for chess tournaments and other occasions. Mark explains "With Majestic we complete the one stop shopping experience."

The Chess Exchange will be open from 11-7pm Mon.-Fri. We will be offering weekend hours as well. Feel free to slide by anytime to "check" us out!



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The CHESS EXCHANGE publishes quarterly. Single copies are available by mail for \$4.95 + \$1.00 postage/delivery. One year subscriptions are \$19.95 including postage & delivery.

Lewis Chess Pieces (--- Continued From Page 1 ---)

The pieces' age and unusual expressions have made them a part of Scottish national pride. After all, claiming your ancestors played chess hundreds of years before other cultures is a good thing.

The Scots also believe that they know how the pieces were found. Many say a man named Malcolm Mcleod, from the town of Uig found them on the beach. According to this legend he sold them to a man for £30, a small fortune back then.

Many of the pieces were then sold to dealers and over the years 82 of them were bought by the British Museum in London. The remaining 11 were bought by the National Museum of Scotland in 1888.

But the Scottish want the other 82 pieces back. They are claiming that the pieces were found in Scotland and must be returned there.

Even politicians have become involved. Angus MacNeil the Scottish national Party Prime Minister for the Western Islands which includes Lewis, says "We want them back on Lewis. They are a . . . part of our culture." MacNeil also claims that the money the chessmen would bring to the islands by charging admission to museums and other related events would help the islands which are having a tough time with not enough jobs for those living there.

Right now, the British Museum is helping the Scottish by loaning them 23 pieces for a special exhibit at the National Museum of Scotland called *The Lewis Chessmen: Unmasked*.

Most of the pieces will probably stay in London at the British Museum. Their beautifully carved designs and the unusual faces and expressions of the characters will insure that wherever they are shown the Lewis Chess pieces will continue to draw crowds of people. They will remind us of the close connection that chess can have with history and that history can effect politics and other areas of our lives today.

"Ha, Ha, Chess"; How Joke Chess Problems Teach Us To

Win BY DANIEL TAUBENBLAT

When students begin to move to a higher level they often start learning through chess puzzles or diagrams with problems that require ending the game in a short number of moves (The Chess Exchange's PUZZLERS section for example has these types of Mate problems).

Chess problems have a long and colorful history with some players becoming famous authors and puzzle composers known for their unusual puzzle creations. One such composer was Sam Loyd (1841-1911) who was known for creating unusual logical puzzles some of them very beautiful and funny. He put together a book called the "Compendium" which contained 5000 puzzles, many of them mathematical based on simple logic and algebra such as the "mother's age problem shown below.



On the right is one of Loyd's famous chess puzzles, this one with a standard white to move, mate in three logic. It looks simple but "don't judge a book by its cover." In reality it is a bit complex in testing the solver's knowledge of both pawns and mate/stalemate possibilities.

----CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 ----



The ages of the three amount to 70 years and the father is just six times as old as the boy. When their combined ages amount to twice 70 years the father will be only twice as old as the boy. What is the age of the mother?

(Answer to this problem and the one below in Next Issue)



The Cambridge Springs Defense: Moving Beyond the King Pawn

BY MARK KURTZMAN Everyone is familiar with the opening moves 1. e4 e5. These are usually the first moves we learn to play and then all the openings we learn afterwards start with 1. e4 e5. Some examples of these openings are the Fried

Liver Attack (Two Knights Defense), Giuoco Piano, Ruy Lopez, etc. However, when an opponent begins the game with 1. d4 instead of e4, we often don't know what to do!?

One of my favorite ways to play against 1.d4 is to use the Cambridge Springs defense. It sounds like a big deal, but it really is very easy to learn and play. Aside from being easy to play, the opening is super cool because it has many tricks and traps. As an introduction to this opening for black, I will show you a basic

trick that many players of the white pieces will fall for. d5

- **1.** d4
- **2**. c4

This is the starting point where white's choice of moves is called the Queen's Gambit.

2. ...e6 (DIAGRAM 1)

Black chooses not to accept the gambit (Queen's Gambit Declined). Taking the pawn leads to another opening entirely (The Queen's Gambit Accepted), which would be the subject of another lesson.

- **3**. Nc3 Nf6
- **4.** Bg5 Nbd7

Black's last move seems kind of weak considering it does not break the pin of black's knight which is defending the pawn on d5. After closer examination, we notice the black queen is also blocked by this knight move and black's d5 pawn appears to be in big trouble and might be lost. But really it is black setting a trap! Can you see it? It will require you to look many moves ahead.

5. cxd5 exd5



- **6.** Nxd5 white goes for the bait. (DIAGRAM 2) It looks like white has won the d5 pawn because black cannot take the white knight without losing his queen.
- **6.** ...Nxd5! Black takes it anyway
- 7. Bxd8 Black has lost the queen...

(4)

- 7. ... Bb4+ (DIAGRAM 3) But gets it right back with this neat tactic.
- **8.** Qd2 This is the only way out of check 8. \dots Bxd2 +
- **9.** Kxd2 Kxd8 White was totally fooled into thinking he was winning, yet black ends up with an extra piece! Δ



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- 4) A column on the board
- 8) System for writing down chess moves
- 9) Basic Opening with a knight in each corner
- 11) Cuban world champ (1921-1927)
- 15) Highest title in chess besides WC
- 16) The only move where you mover more than one piece in one turn
- 18) How many queens you could have
- 19) Pawn weakness with two to a file
- 22) It stays on only one color square the whole game
- 23) Number of squares on a chess board
- 24) How you win
- 26) Attacking 2+ pieces at the same time
- 30) Insuring pieces are centered on board squares
- 32) The King is not in check but you can't move it or any other piece.
- 33) Moves in straight line any number of squares
- 34) A piece can't move there is a King behind it

- 3) 4 moves and it's over
- 4) Strong defence with a Bishop surrounded by 3 pawns

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- 5) Former world champ 1985-1993
- 6) First and only US world champ
- 7) Number of points each side starts with
- 10) The jumping piece
- 12) Attacking the king
- 13) What happens to a pawn when it reaches the other side
- 14) Smallest piece(it never moves backwards)
- 17) A mistake
- 20) Ending the game with 2 rooks
- 21) Little Sammy
- 22) A way out of check
- 24) Strong slanted line of pawns
- 25) Tie game
- 27) A row on the board
- 28) This color moves second
- 29) Number of boards for 20 players
- 31) Only the knight can do it

Giant Chess: Playing the Game with Bigger Pieces: Outside!

BY DANIEL TAUBENBLAT

Chess pieces come in all shapes and sizes. From traditional Staunton sets with 3.5" Kings to Mario Bros. theme sets, chess set design has changed over the years to fit the needs of every type of player and situation, including miniature chess sets for travel and chess software on ipods, iphones, and even Nintendo and other game systems.

In tournaments students are sometimes surprised when other players bring along weighted or heavier chess sets or sets with larger knights "Big Knight" or just larger 4 or 4.5" King chess sets. But it is all relative as these larger sets don't even compare in size to the largest chess sets produced. These are made for "Garden" or "Giant" chess sets designed to be played outside.

Some outdoor chess sets have pieces that are several feet tall!. These giant sets are placed on an immense board and the game begins with the same rules as a typical chess game. Players take turns but in outdoor chess they physically must pick up the piece with two hands and move to the desired square which can be several feet away.

Besides giving the players a workout, outdoor chess requires players to see the board in a different way. When planning or putting in place a strategy, players must look over the whole board which might be 100 times as large as a typical chess board. This makes moves slightly slower and often the pace of the game is more relaxed. As giant sets are increasingly purchased by resorts and hotels, players are often tourists or on vacation. So for them and for you, playing a game of outdoor chess can be fun without the pressure of indoor chess or certainly without the stress of a tournament atmosphere.

Outdoor chess can also be a great learning experience. After all, if you can plan and execute a complicated strategy with a two foot tall queen and knight, imagine how much easier regular size chess will be.

Outdoor chess can be fun, and a great way to learn the game. Many players first get interested in the game after seeing an outdoor game being played. It is hard to forget what a ladder mate looks like after seeing 3 foot rooks attacking a 4 foot king!



Playing Outdoor Chess in Leeds, UK.

(6)

Joke Chess (--- Continued From Page 3 ---)

Another interesting, well known, puzzle composer was Otto Blathy. As a very successful engineer and inventor, he was known for his unusual puzzles which were exaggerated often to teach an important idea. In the diagram below, white's superior position allows it to win though white has only 1 pawn.



The problem calls for mate in 6 if white moves first. Here the problem is self-solving. White and Black moves are both forced and white MUST mate black. The brilliant position always requires it. If only this could ever occur for white in a real chessgame ... it would mean a dream situation, where all moves are forced or an instant automatic forced win for white.



This type of problem is also known as "Grotesque" or Gross Chess because of the extreme starting position and unlikelihood of it happening in a real game. Gross chess gives us some important ideas. Here Blathy emphasizes that points or the values assigned to pieces, are so much less important in the endgame.

A similar group of problems that are really fun to look at and solve and are known as Joke Chess. The problem below is a good example:



(7)





(9)





PS 116 Tournament September 19, 2010 105 players		Hunter Tournament September 26, 2010 104 Players		PS 110 Octob 119 pl	6 Tournament er 10, 2010 ayers		Hunter Tournament October 17, 2010 123 Players	
<u>K-1</u> GREY THRASHER CAROL CHEN IAMES Y LEE	3.0 3.0 3.0	<u>Quad</u> BRANDON NYDICK	3.0	<u>K-1</u> JAMES Primar	<u>Y LEE</u>	4.0	<u>FM (future masters)</u> NICOLAS VUCELIC	3.0
COOPER GUZY	3.0	MARCUS MIYASAKA	2.5	ANDRE	EI KLEPATCH	4.0	<u>Championship</u> ROHAN SURYAWANSHI	4.0
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<u>Reserve</u> Kevin Pechersky	3.5	Reserve George Chachkes Stephan Jelenkovic Kyle Miller	4.0 3.5 3.5	OMRI E <u>Open</u> NICHO	BERGNER-PHILLIPS	4.0 4.0	ALIX SHONDRA <u>Booster</u> CHLOE BERG	4.0
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<u>Open</u> LIAM GLASS NICOLE ZLOTCHEVSKY	3.5 3.5	CHLOE BERG	4.0		TRI-	ST	ATE CHES	S

<u>Championship</u> RAVEN M STURT

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	5.5	DAVID BRODSKY	4.0

GRAND PRIX PRIZES:

Huge Prizes (\$1,350 TOTAL) for Top

Tournament Winners Top 25 Grand Prix point leaders will be listed in each newsletter. Grand Prix Point Standings can always be found online at our website. At the end of the season, the top five players with the most Grand Prix points will be presented with:

GIANT \$\$-CASH-\$\$ certificates to be used at Tri-State stores in the amounts of:

1st \$500 BONUS Certificate • 2nd \$350 BONUS Certificate 3rd \$250 BONUS Certificate • 4th \$150 BONUS Certificate 5th \$100 BONUS Certificate PLUS:

A special personalized **Grand Prix engraved plaque** Plaques and a book prize of the players choice also will be awarded for 6th - 10th place finishers These awards will be presented at the first 2010-11 tournament



STANDING	NAME	PRIZE	PTS
1st Place	BENJAMIN COLE	\$500	26.00
2nd Place	JAMARI LEE	\$350	18.53
3rd-4th Place	ADAM CROMAN	\$200	18.00
3rd-4th Place	ZACHARY YU	\$200	18.00
5th-6th Place	VANESSA CARRASQUILLO	\$50	16.00
5th-6th Place	ERICBERN MARTINEZ	\$50	16.00
7th Place	LEROY RIGBY	PLAQUE+	13.68
		BOOK	
8th Place	SHARIKA HASAN	PLAQUE+	12.33
		BOOK	
9th Place	ANGEL MEJIA	PLAQUE+	10.43
		BOOK	
10th Place	MAX KOHN	PLAQUE+	10.20
		BOOK	

(11)

2010 SCHOLASTIC T	OURNAMENT SCHEDULE
NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
5 NATIONAL YOUTH ACTION LONG BRANCH, NJ NOVEMBER 5-7	5 HUNTER COLLEGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 71 East 94th Street (between Park & Madison)
HUNTER COLLEGE ELEMENTARY	Sunil Weeramanthy
SCHOOL 71 East 94th Street (between Park & Madison) Sunil Weeramanthy	GRADE SCHOOL NATIONALS National Scholastic K-12 Championship Lake Buena Vista , Florida
14 SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2010 (SEE DETAILS BELOW)	19 SUNDAY DECEMBER 19, 2010 (SEE DETAILS BELOW)
PS 77-LOWER LAB SCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENTS 1700 3RD AVENUE (between E95th &E96th) Saudin Robovic www.NYChesskids.com (315) 849-3332	PS 116 CHESS TOURNAMENTS 210 EAST 33rd STREET (between 2nd and 3rd Aves.) Saudin Robovic www.NYChesskids.com (315) 849-3332
21 PS6 CHESS TOURNAMENTS 45 EAST 81ST STREET (between Park & Madison) Michael Poukchanski Michael@chesskingdom.com	

OUR UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS PS 1 58 CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP XIII CHAMPIONSHIP IV

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2010

1458 York Ave (between 77th & 78th) New York, NY

PS 9 CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP II

SUNDAY DECEMBER 19, 2010

100 West 84th Street (between Columbus & Amsterdam) New York, NY

SAR ACADEMY CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP X

SUNDAY JANUARY 23, 2011

655 West 254th Street Riverdale, NY

PARK EAST CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2011

163 East 67th Street New York, NY

SUNDAY MARCH 13, 2011

7 West 83rd Street (between Central Park West & Columbus) New York, NY

PS 9 CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP III

SUNDAY APRIL 10, 2011

100 West 84th Street (between Columbus & Amsterdam) New York, NY

PS 158 CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP XIV

SUNDAY MAY 15, 2011

1458 York Ave (between 77th & 78th) New York, NY

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