

See page 6 for several inspirational items in the article about US schoolteacher Kevin Cripe who is selling his home and taking early retirement in order to teach chess to children in a poor area of Costa Rica with the intention of improving their educational and social outcome. We wish him well, especially in his immediate task



of learning Spanish – buena suerte!

Beginners are often confused by stalemate. There are plenty of things in chess that are perhaps not 100% logical (the pawn!!) and among them stalemate is one of the trickiest.

It has had a very odd history as well. However, it would be a real loss if, as some suggest, we were to go back to treating stalemate as a win for the player administering stalemate. Take a look at the examples of stalemate on p.5 and I'm sure you will agree.

In this issue:

- 2 In the Beginning (325-328)
by Igor Sukhin
- 3 Fun and Games with the
King alone
- 4 History of a Tactic –
Stalemate by FST Kevin
O'Connell
- 6 US Teacher Sells Home to Teach
Chess in Costa Rica
- 8 Puzzles – World Schools Ch.
by FST Kevin O'Connell



France 1974 – Nice Olympiad



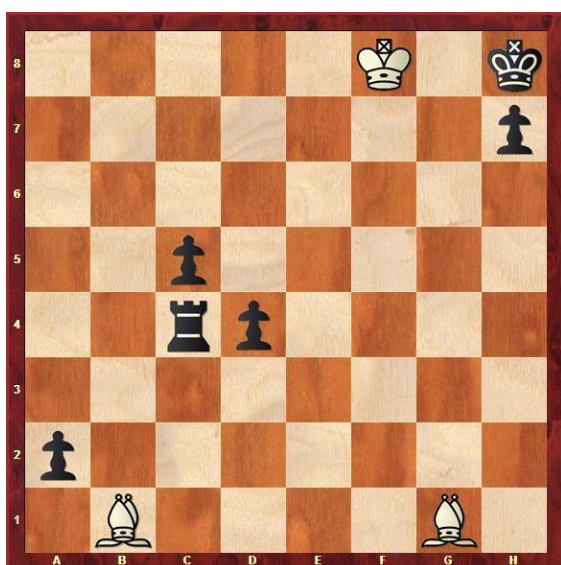
Greece 1983 – Ajax & Achilles

In the Beginning

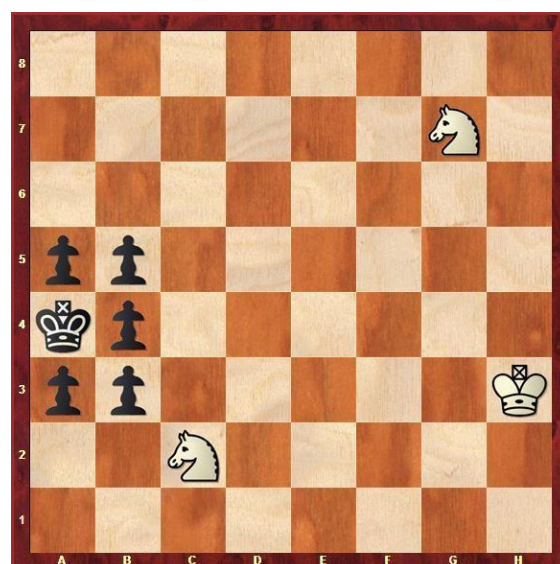
Chess Camp 5 by Igor Sukhin

Checkmate in Two

In the Beginning – 321 (*Chess Camp 5-205*)
White to move.



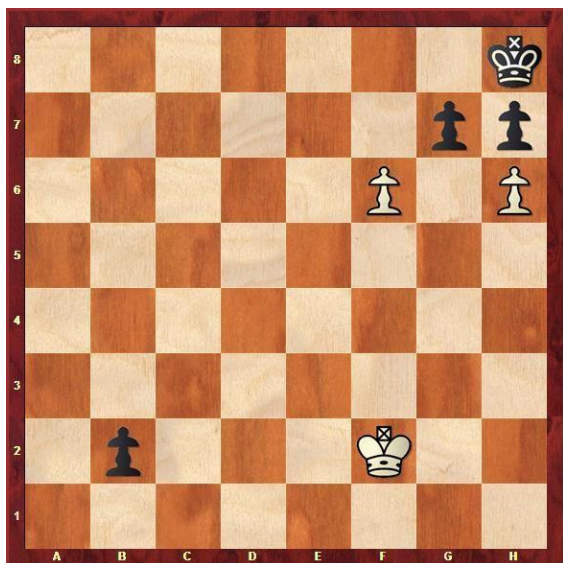
In the Beginning – 322 (*Chess Camp 5-211*)
White to move.



321. 1. ♗g1–h2.

322. 1. ♗g7–e6.

In the Beginning – 323 (*Chess Camp 5-217*)
White to move.

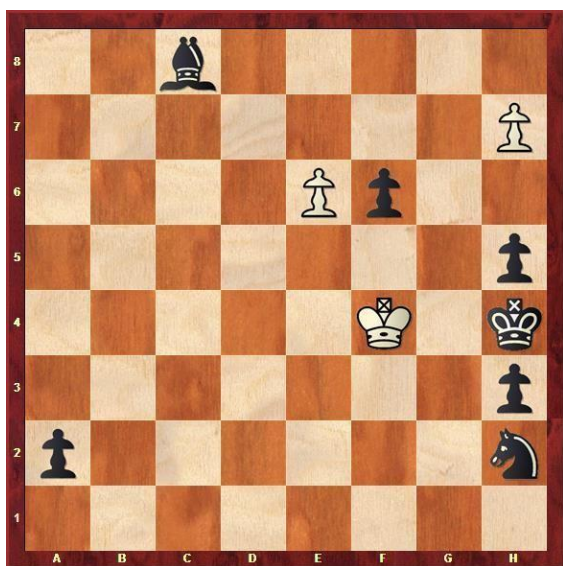


e8. How many moves will it take him to get there? Is there only one way to get there that fast?

Here is another one. It will take the white king 5 moves to go to h8. How many moves does it take the black king to get to h1?

In the Beginning – 324 (Chess Camp 5-228)

White to move.



323. 1.f6–f7.

324. 1.h7–h8♔.

Fun and Games with the King alone

Here is a very simple position. The black king is not feeling well and will shuttle back and forth between a8 and b8, not daring to go anywhere else. It is White's move and the white king wants to go to

Can White move the king to h8 (in 5 moves) in such a way that the black king will need more than 5 moves to get to h1?

1.♔e1–e2 ...♔a8–b8 2.♔e2–e3 ♔b8–a8 3.♔e3–e4 ♔a8–b8 4.♔e4–e5 ♔b8–a8 5.♔e5–e6 ♔a8–b8 6.♔e6–e7 ♔b8–a8 7.♔e7–e8 made it! 7 moves. You can't get there any quicker. True, but there are many other routes that are just as quick. Here are a few examples:

1.♔e1–f2 ♔a8–b8 2.♔f2–g3 ♔b8–a8 3.♔g3–h4 ♔a8–b8 4.♔h4–g5 ♔b8–a8 5.♔g5–f6 ♔a8–b8 6.♔f6–e7 ♔b8–a8 7.♔e7–e8;

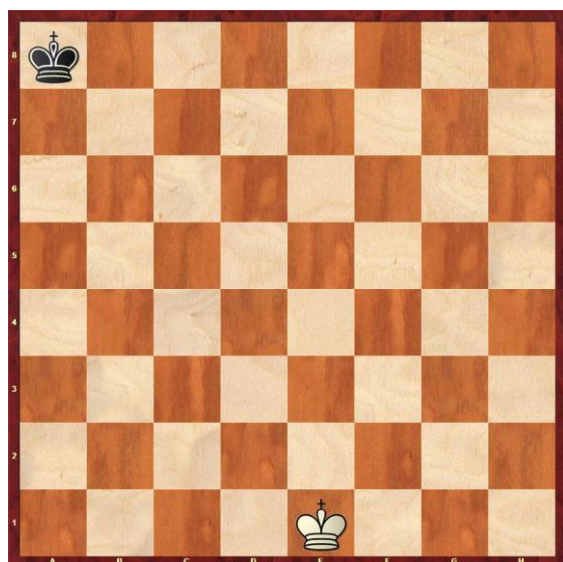
1.♔e1–e2 ♔a8–b8 2.♔e2–d3 ♔b8–a8 3.♔d3–e4 ♔a8–b8

1.♔e1–d2 ♔a8–b8 2.♔d2–c3 ♔b8–a8

3.♔c3–b4 ♔a8–b8 4.♔b4–b5 ♔b8–a8

5.♔b5–c6 ♔a8–b8 6.♔c6–d7 ♔b8–a8

4.♔e4–f5 ♔b8–a8 5.♔f5–g6 ♔a8–b8 6.♔g6–f7 ♔b8–a8



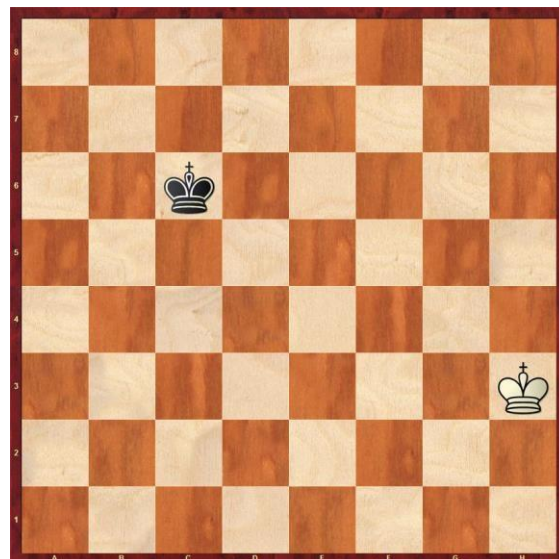
his opponent longer while still getting to h8 in just 5 moves.

1.♔h3–h4 ♔c6–d5 2.♔h4–h5 ♔d5–e4 3.♔h5–h6 ♔e4–f3 4.♔h6–h7 ♔f3–g2 5.♔h7–h8 ♔g2–h1 is 5 each, but White has a cunning plan:

1.♔h3–g4 ♔c6–d5 2.♔g4–f5 ♔d5–d4 3.♔f5–g6

♔d4–e3 4.♔g6–h7 ♔e3–f2 5.♔h7–h8 ♔f2–g2 and Black still needs one more move to get to h1.

That manoeuvre is often called 'heading off' or a 'shoulder' – I think you can see why. It



SOLUTIONS

History of a Tactic – Stalemate

7.♔f7–e8;

7.♔d7–e8 and many more.

If you have a lot of time to spare, you could see how many you can find!

5 moves is the fastest possible for the black king, but White can make sure that it takes

by FST Kevin O'Connell

can often be very useful and make the difference between drawing and winning.

Stalemate is a rather strange animal. The Laws of Chess define it in great detail (the current version is always available at www.fide.com).

A simple definition: The player whose turn it is to move has no legal move to play but

his/her king is not in check. The result of the game is a draw by stalemate.

Currently it counts as a draw, but it has, in the past been:

- Win for White
- Half a win for White
- Win for Black
- Win for player administering stalemate
- Loss for player administering stalemate!
- Not allowed!!

Here are some examples showing it in its modern context.

Here is what Wikipedia says about those categories:

- **A win for White** in 10th century Arabia (Davidson) and parts of medieval Europe (Murray) (McCrary).
- **A half-win for White**; in a game played for stakes, White would win half the stake (18th century Spain) (Davidson).
- **A win for Black** in 9th century India (Murray), 17th century Russia (Davidson), on the Central Plain of Europe in the 17th century (Murray), and 17th-18th century England (Murray). This rule continued to be published in Hoyle's Games Improved as late as 1866 (Sunnucks).
- **Not allowed.** If White made a move that would stalemate Black, he had to retract it and make a different move (Eastern Asia until the early 20th century). Murray likewise wrote that in *Hindustani chess* and *Parsi chess*, two of the three principal forms of chess played in India as

of 1913 (Murray), a player was not allowed to play a move that would stalemate the opponent (Murray). The same was true of Burmese chess, another chess variant, at the time Murray wrote (Murray). Stalemate was not permitted in most of the Eastern Asiatic forms of the game (specifically in Burma, India, Japan, and Siam) until early in the 20th century (Davidson).

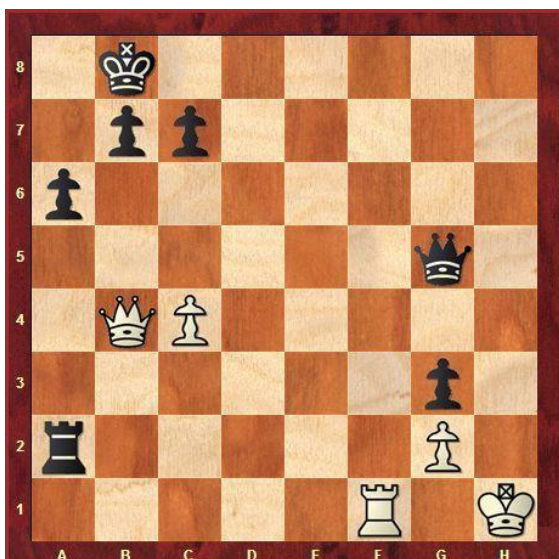
- **The forfeiture of Black's turn to move** (medieval France) (Murray) (Davidson), although other medieval French sources treat stalemate as a draw (Murray).
- **A draw.** This was the rule in 13th century Italy (Murray) and also stated in the German Cracow Poem (1422), which noted however that some players treated stalemate as equivalent to checkmate (Murray). This rule was ultimately adopted throughout Europe, but not in England until the 19th century, after being introduced there by Jacob Sarratt (Murray) (Davidson), (Sunnucks).

References:

Davidson, Henry (1981), *A Short History of Chess* (1949), McKay
McCrary, John (2004), "The Evolution of Special Draw Rules", *Chess Life* (November)
Murray, H. J. R. (1913), *A History of Chess*, Oxford University Press
Sunnucks, Anne (1970), *The Encyclopaedia of Chess*, St. Martin's Press

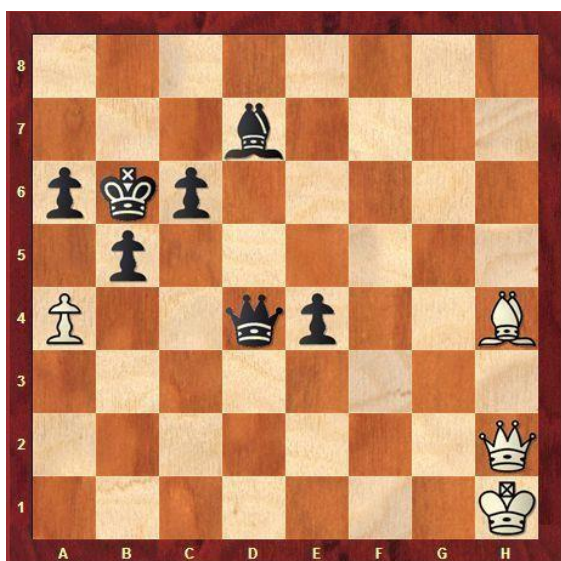
But that's more than enough ancient history, let's see some examples.

The first diagram shows a position from Lolli (1763). It seems that Black will win by checking on the h-file and then mating on h2 or g2, but it's White's move...



1. ♖f1-f8+ ♜b8-a7 2. ♖f8-a8+ ♜a7xa8 3. ♜b4f8+ ♜a8-a7
4. ♜f8-c5+ ♜g5xc5 ½-½.

The next diagram is from Ponziani some six years later. Again, things look bad for White, to move, but there is a way...



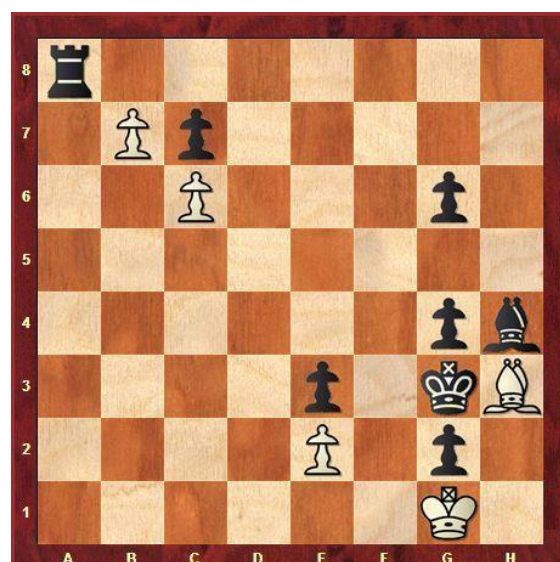
1. ♜h4-f2 e4-e3 2. ♜f2xe3 ♜d4xe3 3. ♜h2-f2 ♜e3xf2 4. a4-a5+ ♜b6xa5 ½-½.

Next we have an 1896 game WalbrodtCharousek (two of the strongest players of the late 19th century). Black's move.



86... ♜c3-e1+ 87. ♜f2-g2 ♜e1-g1+ ½-½.

Finally, here's a really special one, also from the late 19th century!



1. b7xa8 ♜ g4xh3 and there is no answer to the threatened mate on h2. However, leaving the pawn on a8 as a pawn (legal under a British Chess Association rule in the late 1800s that was endorsed by Steinitz) then White draws, since if Black takes on h3, it is stalemate and if not, then White takes on g2 with an easy draw.

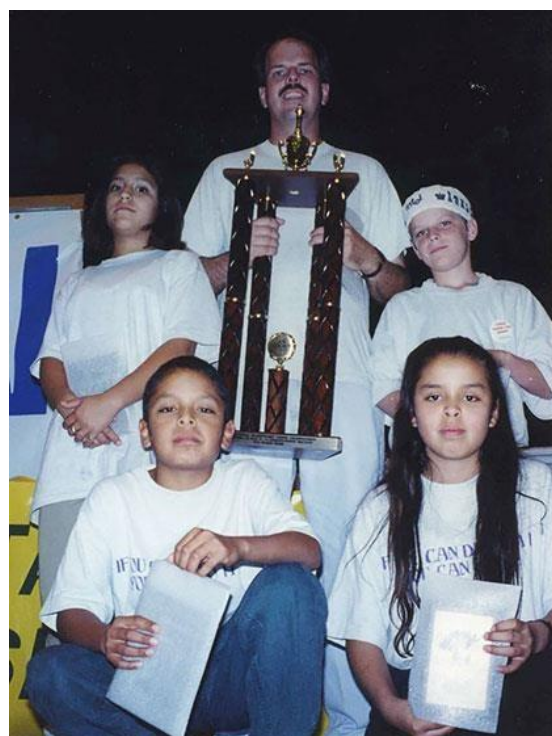
US Teacher Sells Home to Teach Chess in Costa Rica

Few teachers are as dedicated to their teaching, even chess teaching as Kevin Cripe



Kevin has taught at schools there where most of the children are socially deprived, coming from poor homes in difficult areas and with inadequate English language skills.
of Modesto, California.

future. That is something that we applaud since it is the cornerstone of our mission in CiS



(Chess in Schools). Our sister organization TRG (Trainers' Commission) takes care of the development of players into strong players and champions.

Pictured below, Kevin with his team that took fourth place in the 1994 USA K6 (approximate age 11) Championships. There is a fine story attached to that: 'a teacher at my school came up to me and said, "Don't do this, you will only embarrass these children." I have watched countless gut wrenching losses, and seen some amazing wins. I never once watched a student embarrass him or herself or her community.'

Over the years, he has used chess not to create champions (although there have been some), but to help children to have a better

Liliana's story is even more moving and a great example of why chess is usually so good for children.

'Going into the last round of a chess tournament, 10 year old Liliana was in first and all she needed to do was win or draw to get clear first in her section and win a pretty good sized trophy. She was winning and then she played a bad move, the game turned and she lost. The loss was devastating . There were tears....and more tears and it is at moments like these that you wonder, "Was this such a good idea?" Is taking young children and putting them in intensely competitive situations and watching them suffer horrific losses a good idea? What possible value could that be? This was the weekend of the U.S.

Game in 60 and Game in 30 Championships and so, there would be a tournament the next day. I remember telling Liliana's mom , "If she doesn't feel like making up to the tournament tomorrow, just let me know." I felt in my heart, I don't think she will be here tomorrow. Liliana showed up the next day and won all her games and came clear first.



That 10 year old girl had something inside her which told her "Get up and keep moving toward your goal. Life won't be easy." When people ask me, "Why do your students succeed?," part of my answer is this idea: They are as tough as nails.'

Now Kevin plans to teach chess in a poor area of Costa Rica. To be able to do this, he is selling his home and will take early retirement from his teaching job in Modesto.

He believes, as we do, that chess can make an enormous difference in the lives of children, especially those who are impoverished or socially excluded. He hopes that his chess teaching will make a big difference in this part of Central America – it is a region he has a soft spot for (he has adopted three children from Guatemala).



Once he gets to Costa Rica, he will be assisted by CEPIA, a nonprofit organisation which gives food and clothing to the poor and which offers programs for people with disabilities, as well as adult literacy programs and also after school programs for children.



Samuel BEUKES – Enkh-Amgalan AMGALANTENGIS
World Schools Ch u7 Open, Pattaya 2015

2 White to move. Simple?

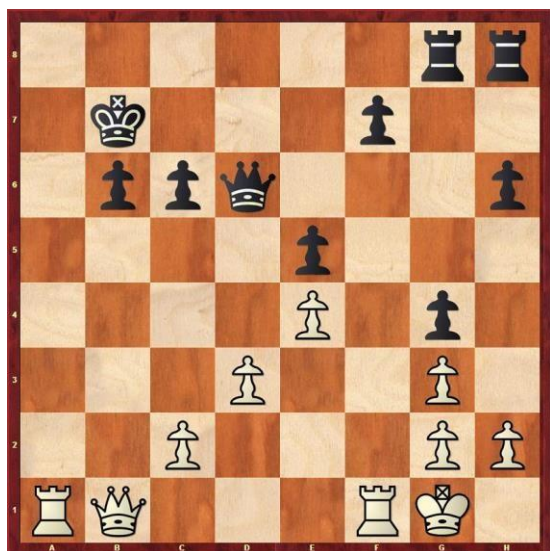


We wish him well and, of course, our Spanish language materials are at his disposal.

Puzzles

selected by **FST & FM Kevin O'Connell** (www.kochess.com)

1 Black to play. Simple technique.



Bagul EZIZOVA – Saif Al-Ali FATIMA
World Schools Ch u9 Girls, Pattaya 2015

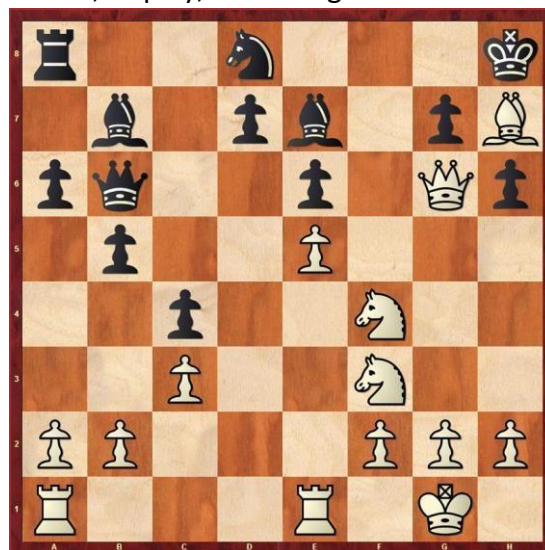
SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLES

3 White to play. A little calculation.



Umid ASLANOV – Benjamin Yune KIM
World Schools Ch u9 Open, Pattaya 2015

4 White, to play, is winning. What's best?



Gupta SARA – Aida AIDARKYZY
World Schools Ch u7 Girls, Pattaya 2015

1. 55...a2-a1 ♖7 ♖7 1/2-1/2
2. 25. ♖f1xf7+ ♖b7-c8 [25... ♖b7-b8 26. ♖b1xb6+ ♖b8-c8 27. ♖a1-a8+ ♖d6-b8 28. ♖a8xb8#; 25... ♖d6-c7 26. ♖f7xc7+ ♖b7xc7 27. ♖a1-a7+ ♖c7-c8 28. ♖b1xb6 -- ♖b8-a8 29. ♖b6-a7#]
3. 12. ♖c4xd5 ♖d4xf2+ [12... ♖e5xd5 13. ♖f3xe4+ ♖d5-e6 14. ♖g1-f1 c7-c5 15. ♖e4-c2 ♖d4-e5 16. ♖c2xc5+ (-16 f2-f4+)] 13. ♖f3xf2 ♖e5xd5 14. ♖b1-c3+ [... 1-0,30]
4. 24. ♖g6-e8+ [+... 1-0,61] 24. ♖f4-h5 25. ♖h7-g8 26. ♖h8xg8 26. ♖h5-f6+ ♖g8-h8 27. ♖g6-h7#