

## 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?

1.



**Answers  
further down  
page here**

# 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?

## 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!



- a. With black to play what is the result?
- b. With White to play how many checkmates are there?

## 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*



**N5a. Black to play what is the best move?**

**N5b. White to play and win!**

### *Problem N6*



**N6a. Black to play what is the winning move?**

**N6a. White to move and win**

## This month's problems - Intermediate

### Problem 15



15a. 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?

15b. If Black to play first can he/she draw or win the game?

### Problem 16



16a. What is Black's killer move?

Answers to **Touch and move**

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 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 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).

**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**



**13a) White to play – what is the best move?**

**13b) Black to play, suggest a good move to prevent White's threat.**

**answers**

***13a White plays 1. Nd6. This threatens the Q (2. Nxe8) and at the same time checkmate by 2. Q x h7#.***

***13b 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.***

**14a) You are white what is your move**

**14b) Black to play – the best move is?**

**answers**

***14a With best play by White the game goes***

- 1. Qg8+ Rxc8 (forced)***
- 2. Nc7# (this is a smothered mate)***

***14b Black wins by***

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