



IQ Chess is here!

Beautiful tropical Queensland... I've been here less than two months and I'm already hooked! But it's not just the reef, rainforest and relaxed lifestyle that will be keeping me in Cairns for a while. The growth of the chess scene here in the Far North is exciting and I think that IQ Chess has arrived at just the right time. Our business launch on February 15 went well and the record turnout at the FNQ Inter-School Championships on March 1 is a sign of great things to come. Read on for more about all things chess in this very first edition of TropiChess. I look forward to writing many more, and to seeing you on the chess board!

Yours in chess,

David Cowland-Cooper
IQ Chess FNQ Director



Cairns Chess Club

The Cairns Chess Club is up and running! It's a great venue for adults and children alike to play against new opponents and improve their play, in a very casual atmosphere. Here are the details, hope to see you there!

Weekly on Thursday nights
6pm to 8:30pm

@ The Coffee Bean
Stockland Shopping Centre, Earlville

FREE first attendance
then a small annual fee
\$40 for adults
\$20 for juniors and concession

Champion Children Challenge Chess Master

The Far North's champion chess team from Trinity Anglican School and visiting students from Innisfail's Good Counsel College took on chess master IM Peter Froehlich in a simultaneous exhibition on Thursday 15th February, as part of the official launch of IQ Chess Far North Queensland. Playing in the appropriately named Bishop Centre at TAS White Rock, the kids thought their chances were pretty good – not only did they have home court advantage, it was more than 40 kids versus the lone chess master, all at the same time!



But Mr Froehlich hasn't earned the title International Master for nothing. He went home undefeated, with a final score of 43-0. Truly a master class! Despite the scoreline, though, the students took home a once-in-a-lifetime memory and inspiration to improve their chess. One day soon, it might be one of the students taking on all comers!

Thanks to all the parents and teachers who attended, especially to David Long of TAS, for helping to make the launch such a success.

FNQ Inter-Schools Competition Round 1 Results

This first round of Queensland's inter-school chess competitions for 2007, hosted on March 1 at Trinity Anglican School's Bishop Centre, set a new attendance record for such tournaments outside the south-east corner, with 113 participants in the primary schools section and 93 participants in the high schools section. Thanks must go to the teachers from each participating school for working so hard at a hectic time of the year to get teams together.

Summary of Results

Primary Schools Open

Teams Champion

Trinity Anglican School (White Rock)
Team Jackson

Teams Runners-Up

St Andrew's Catholic College
Team Fischer

Teams Third Place

Trinity Anglican School (White Rock)
Team Herman

Individual Champion

Zackary Jackson (TAS White Rock)

Individual Runner-Up

Nick Jones (TAS White Rock)

Individual Minor Placings

Sidharth Mantha (TAS White Rock)
Jesse Herman (TAS White Rock)
Anton Rafferty (St Andrew's)

High Schools Open

Teams Champion

Smithfield State High School

Teams Runners-Up

Good Counsel College
Team 1

Teams Third Place

Trinity Anglican School (White Rock)
Team Lavender

Individual Champion

Oskar Rafferty (St Andrew's)

Individual Runner-Up

Michael Gray (TAS White Rock)

Individual Minor Placings

Voua Vue (Good Counsel College)
Miles Devlin (TAS White Rock)
Jaymin Desabbata (Innisfail SHS)

High Schools Premier

Teams Champion

St Mary's Catholic College
Team 1

Teams Runners-Up

Trinity Anglican School (White Rock)
Team Hartigan

Teams Third Place

Innisfail State High School
Team Kasparov's Killers

Board 1 Champion

Daniel Salier (St Mary's)

Board 2 Champion

Henry Harding (TAS White Rock)

Board 3 Champion

Bastien Baumeister (St Mary's)

Board 4 Champion

Oliver Baumeister (St Mary's)

Detailed results can be found on the IQ Chess website. Competition in August's second round will be fierce, so get back on the boards and keep practicing everyone! Congratulations to all the champion teams and players, and to everyone who competed—you all did well!



Chess? Great! But...

So you've heard about this chess thing and you're interested in getting something going at your school. But you don't know much about chess? Where would you start? Don't be daunted! It's easy when you know how. Let's draw upon the experience of other schools to see how it can be done.

THE DRIVER – First thing's first. If you're going to have chess as an activity at your school, just like sports or music or drama, someone needs to be in charge.

SMALL STEPS – Let people know that you're starting a chess club. Put a notice in the school newsletter to get feedback from parents. Hold a lunchtime meeting to gauge interest from the students. Get the school to buy some chess sets, or you can ask for families to donate old sets, or for kids to bring their own on chess club days. Maybe the library can also pitch in by purchasing a couple of chess books. Nominate a particular day of the week for a casual lunchtime chess café, and what do you know, you've got a chess club!

THE COACH – Time for something a bit more structured than the chess café? Whether it's for beginners or budding grandmasters, firstly, you need someone to do the coaching. The coach needs to be confident with the basics of chess and have access to the right resources. If you don't have these human and material resources available in your school community, that's what IQ Chess is here for!

THE COACHING – The most common situation is group coaching, before school, after school, or at lunch time if the break is long enough. Other possibilities include chess in the classroom – Grades 3 and 4 are good for this sort of cognitive development activity, and chess as part of a maths extension or gifted and talented programme is also popular. Particularly keen students could take chess as a co-curricula activity, in the same way that other students do for music or drama lessons. There are plenty of good options to suit almost any school. Then it's just a matter of time and place. And of course...

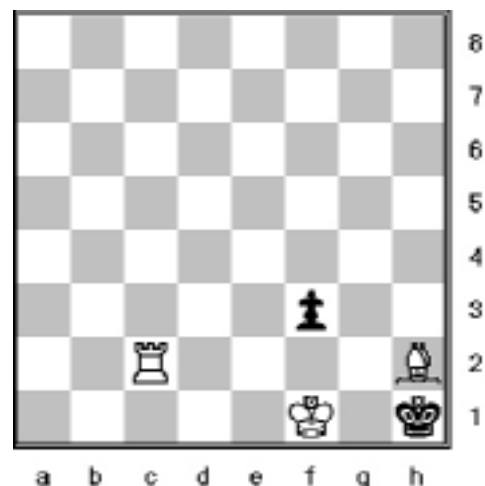
THE MONEY – If you do decide that getting an IQ Chess professional to come into the school is the best way to go, there is going to be a cost involved. Most schools can't afford to simply pay outright for outsourced teaching like this, so the most common option is some sort of user pays system.

For example, in a group coaching situation of between 12 and 20 students, each student might pay \$5 per one hour session. If there are 8 coaching weeks per term, then that's only \$40 per term for each child. The school might choose to simply forward all payments to IQ Chess, or it might instead pay the coach a standard rate per hour and then put any excess funds back into paying for chess equipment and participation in chess tournaments (very good idea!).

In short, the exercise of getting a professional chess coach into the school need not be an expensive one for the school or for families. If you have any questions about getting a chess programme going at your school, just get in touch! Good luck!

Check it out, mate!

Our first chess puzzle is one of my favourites. I liked it so much that I put it on my business card! White to play and mate in 3 moves. The solution in our next edition!



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