

MORONS KNOW THE 'IMPROVED SQUARE'

by James Martin and Mike Peters

Rare is the Chess Club not blessed with a generous complement of wags, zanies, screwballs, and pompous idiots who, naturally enough, spout omniscience on any and all subjects and on Chess in particular.

A wag in a leading New York City Chess Club chose a propitious moment to spring his trap on Mr. Omniscient, in the presence of a sizable audience.

"Tell me, Mr. O," Mr. W.

asked, "what is an improved square? I have been trying to find out, and I don't find anything on it in any Chess text."

"Well, Sir....." Mr. O. began with some hesitancy, and gaining momentum, went on and on and on, "explaining" how and under what circumstances a square on the board is improved in a game of Chess

Mr. W. thanked Mr. O. profusely and waited until the latter took his departure.

He then turned to the forewarned listeners - all doubled up with laughter. "Didn't I tell you? Nothing is hidden the mind of this moron."

The wag had informed his co-conspirators that on his way to the Club he had seen an advertisement in the subway, setting forth proudly the matzoh (unleavened rectangular biscuit used in certain Jewish rituals) of latest vintage as an "improved square."

NOTE

Anyone wishing to play games of Chess or learn how the game is played can contact Jim Martin at 892-4534 or Mike Peters at 894-8317. If we cannot provide enough practise or strong enough competition then we will try to find someone who can give it to you. I know there are some good players around so how about it? Give us a try to test out your Chess Powers.

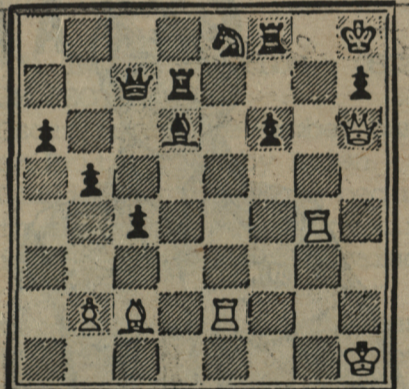
PROBLEMS

- #1. White to mate in 3
- #2. White to mate in 2
- #3. White to mate in 3

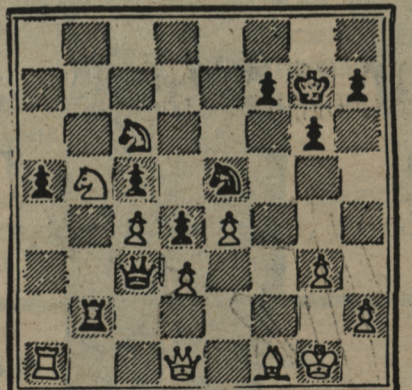
#1.



#2.



#3.



SOLUTIONS

- #1. 1. Q x R K x Q
- 2. R - R3 K - N3
- 3. N x B mate
- #2. 1. R - K7 ...
- 2. Q x R3 mate or
- 2. R x N mate
- 3. 1. ... - K8
- 2. Q x Q (forced)
- 2. ... N - B6
- 3. K - R1 R x P mate

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