

**Michael Adams**



## Read, view and hone your game

Although there is no shortage of opening manuals, it is harder to find educational material for chess players starting out in the game. In case you are on the lookout for a last-minute Christmas present of this type, *Chess Puzzles for Kids* by Murray Chandler's [www.gambitbooks.com](http://www.gambitbooks.com) is as instructive as it is enjoyable.

Young players can improve quickly, as they grasp tactical ideas rapidly, and the many examples and exercises in this book will sharpen the skills of players of any age.

Here are some neat examples from the book, the first one blending two tactical themes:



**A. Lenderman - S. Zierk**  
Las Vegas 2012

### 17.Bg5-f6

The bishop sacrifice, opening up Black's king, is not unusual, but the devil is in the detail in the upcoming variations.

**17...** **g7xf6**  
**18.Re5-e3** **e6-e5**

The other defences are easier to dispatch,

18...Kg8-h8 19.Re3-h3, and 18...Rf8-d8 19.Qh5-h6 are decisive.

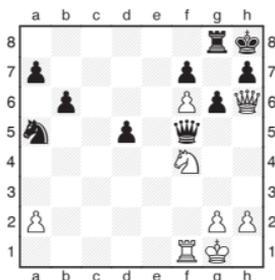
**19.Qh5-h6** **Kg8-h8**

Black seems to have everything covered, as 20.Re3-g3 Rf8-g8 saves the day, but now trouble arrives from a different direction.

**20.d4xe5** **Qd6-d8**

**21.Re3-d3**

Black resigned, as his queen can't hold things together in the variations 21...Qd8-e7 22.e5xf6 winning, and 21...Qd8xd3 22.Qh6xf8 is mate. The alternative 21...Bc8-d7 22.Ra1-d1 f6xe5 23.Rd1xd7 is no better.



**D. Berczes - S. Widmer**  
Biel 2005

**26.Nf4-h3** **Qf5-h5**

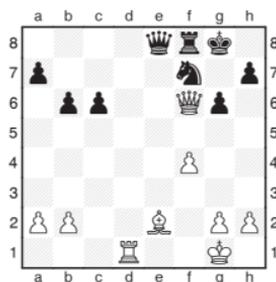
Necessary, as 26...Qf5-d7 is met by 27.Nh3-g5 when mate on h7 is menaced.

**27.Nh3-g5**

Black resigned, as the fatal blow arrives from another direction. 27...Qh5xh6 28.Ng5xf7 mate is a pretty finale.

Another product that gives a lot of useful general guidance at a lower playing level is the DVD *Chess For Novices* by Sabrina Chevannes [www.chessbase.com](http://www.chessbase.com) (it requires a computer and chessbase reader, available for free download on the site). She has established an excellent reputation as a coach, with a very clear presenting style. There is a lot of material covered - the

running time is over four hours and there are some exercises to finish.



**S. Chevannes - Aay, Aisyah Anisa**  
Women's Olympiad 2012

One of Sabrina's wins from the Olympiad demonstrates the power of pins she discusses on the DVD. A calm bishop move keeps Black's remaining pieces in a hopeless huddle.

**28.Be2-c4** **b6-b5**

**29.Bc4-b3**

29.Bc4-e6 was slightly more accurate, but as long as the bishop stays on that diagonal there is no way for Black to untangle.

**29...** **a7-a5**

**30.h2-h3**

Avoiding any back-rank mishaps before putting Black out of her misery.

**30...** **c6-c5**

**31.Bb3-e6** **c5-c4**

32.Rd1-d8 Black resigns, as her queen is lost after 32...Qe8xd8 33.Be6xf7+ Rf8xf7 34.Qf6xd8+.

If you prefer to focus on the opening stage of the game, the DVD *The Scotch Gambit* by Lorin D'Costa and Nick Murphy, from [www.chessontost.com](http://www.chessontost.com), brought back fond memories of my early playing days when I essayed this system regularly.

Other titles from the double act on the *Giuoco Piano* and the *Scotch Four Knights* are good ways for inexperienced players to expand and refine their opening repertoire.