

ROYAL GAME CONSULTANCY REPORT 2018



1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Working with “*Talent House*” has been phenomenal. During the 6 months of teaching young boys and girls to learn different aspects of life including the art of Playing the Royal Game of chess has concretized the functions of Royal Game Consultancy (*RGC*) in its agenda of spreading the game of Chess in Uganda.

Special thanks to the proprietor of Talent House M/s Karin Lukas for putting together facilities for young children to be able to access informal education and sports outside the day to day formal settings at their schools.

Also, recognition goes to the parents of the children, who have effortlessly provided their children for this activity and have kept the ethics of the program to have the children on time, and very smart for the time they attend this program.

RGC honours and recognizes the endless service of Mr. Tembi Brian, Mr. Mukalazi John Vianney, Mr. Edwin Nuwamanya and M/s Safinah Mugide for sparing time off to indoctrinate the children with the knowledge of Chess as a sport and as an educative tool to shaping the minds of the players.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the students of Talent House who made this demanding time joyful but always efficient.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The whole program of teaching chess at Kalagi, Talent House began with a very strict message from the proprietor M/s Karin to Mr. Nuwamanya as follows;

*On Thu, 7 Sep 2017 at 10:10, Karin Lukas
<karin.lukas@gmx.at> wrote:*

Hi Edwin,

I think our first meeting at Talent house passed off a bit unfortunate for both of us.

I remember that at my call in the afternoon you announced to be in Mukono at 5pm, sharp, sharp.

The kids were informed about your visit and excited.

I felt so sorry for them, that they left without meeting you.

I know, that time is a big issue here in Africa, and I think I will never get used to. In this case I'm too much shaped from my culture and keeping time is also one of my most important values, simply because it shows respect to others.

*Can you imagine to give our meeting a second chance?
And if yes, when?*

*Looking forward to hear from you
Karin*

2.2 This was what Mr. Nuwamanya responded to M/s Karin

Dear Karin

First allow me to apologize for this disappointment and please extend my apologies to the little ones too

I will not make excuses however i do respect this opportunity to visit Talent house and enjoy this shared learning.

*We considering 11th Sep 2017 5:15 in Kayunga.
Kindly advise if this is a good day to visit.*

Thank you again for giving us this opportunity to meet the little ones and visit Talent house

Edwin Nuwamanya

2.3 Persistence, patience and hard work is what RGC is all about. When there was no response from Talent House, Mr. Nuwamanya took upon himself to write again seeking another appointment as shown below;

Dear Karin

Thanks for the follow up, it's wonderful that they were able to watch the movie.

*Could we arrange for 23rd Sep 2017 at 5pm?
Hope this I a favourable date for us all*

Waiting to hear from you.

Edwin Nuwamanya

2.4 On the 24th September 2017, RGC made its inaugural visit to the Talent house with one main theme, which was “**Introduction of chess**” to the young boys and girls so that we could assess what was needed to ensure that the program succeeded.

Day 1 of training was amazing as the photos below will demonstrate;



Fun time for students and Trainers



3.0 ACTIVITIES

We interacted with 25 students with a significant number taking interest in the game. Chess is a valuable tool in the education, growth and mental development of young minds and imparts the below mentioned benefits:

- Chess involves all levels of critical thinking (knowledge, comprehension, analysis, evaluation)
- Chess requires forethought and cultivates visualization skills
- Chess improves problem solving skills
- Chess encourages children to overcome the fear of risk-taking
- Chess teaches concentration, respect and self-discipline
- Chess enables children to assume responsibility for their decisions, and plan. Once you are clear on your goals, take time to consider your goal. Only then are you ready to make the next move! Remember that failing to plan is planning to fail.
- Chess rewards determination and perseverance
- Chess raises self-esteem and promotes good sportsmanship, when you win thank your opponent for the game. When you lose say “good game “, in chess and in life , do good to others.
- Chess encourages socialization skills that extend across cultures and generations

Chess is fun!

3.1 LESSONS

A total of seven lessons were covered from the 3rd of November to the 17th of December 2017. The lesson plans are listed below.

Talent house chess club lesson plan

Lesson 1- week I - 3rd Nov 2017

- Board arrangement
- Piece names, value and movements
- How to capture
- Pawn wars with eventual king addition
- Basic chess rules

Objectives

- Students to learn general chess rules, piece movement and value.
- Emphasis on pawn movement, capture and promotion.
- Emphasis on king movement in regards to checks and defended squares.

Lesson 2- Week II- 12th Nov 2017

- Brief overview of principles learned in week 1.
- How to read and record chess moves
- Pawn wars with gradual introduction of king, rook and bishop

Objective:

- Students learn how to record and properly write down the moves they play, this will help them read and understand chess materials that will come during the following lessons.
- To remind the students that's its equally important to write down their achievements, plans and ideas, just like the great wise men and women of chess and in life did long ago.
- The lesson also aims at improving on their basic reading skills, for them to build their reading culture.

Lesson 3- week III 19th Nov 2017

- Brief overview of lesson 3
- Introduction of chess terms: check, checkmate,
- Emphasise on chess rules

Goal: Students to appreciate the concept of recording and reading materials.

Lesson 4- Week IV- 29th Nov 2017

- Piece movement and coordination.
- Emphasis on understanding how pieces move, their roles in attack, coordination and capture.
- Pawn wars with king and rook

Theme: what comes first "egg or hen"

Goal: students to learn logical thinking and situational analysis

Lesson 5- Week V- 3rd Dec 2017

- Delving deeper into piece movement
- Introduction of castling concept
- Basic rook + king mate

Followed by a 10-minute written plus oral assessment of what's been covered thus far.

Theme: Team work, strength in unity

Objective: Students to learn logical thinking and situational analysis on and off-board.

Lesson 6- Week VI- 10th Dec 2017

- Separate students into 3 groups. Table 1, 2 & 3 as determined by week 5 assessment results.
- Allow friendly play and do a strength and weakness analysis on students.
- Use a chess demonstration board to emphasis mating and attacking scenarios.
- Introduce mating and advantage grabbing puzzles using a demonstration board.

Objectives

To group students according to their strengths and game recognition to better aid the growth of their chess game. To increase observation, concentration and analysis skills through use of puzzles.

Theme: “Stay on task”

Lesson 7- Week VII- 17th Dec 2017

- Briefly review last week’s assignment.
- Target /goal setting
- Piece placement, movement and coordination
- Attacking and piece defence
- Queen + king mates
- Demo board puzzle, mate in two

Objectives

Student should learn to strategize and draw a basic advantage gaining plan.

To identify, defend or attack hanging pieces.

Theme: “looking versus seeing”

Words of the day

Gambit, defend, attack, target

ASSESSMENT

The students were assessed in week five and their strengths and weaknesses probed. It was determined that piece movements and basic chess rules were well understood. However, mating and situational analysis were still a major challenge with 70% of the class failing. Focus was then turned to the stronger players appointing them as group leaders tasked to enlighten their fellow students. The class was also divided into three groups to better cater for each students particular needs at their learning speed. This proved a sound strategy as by week 7, marked improvement in, strategy and mating puzzles was observed.







Below is an example of the puzzles introduced to the students. # Black to play.











3.2 A pictorial of activities carried out during the training sessions. Students interact both with trainers and each other to better understand the game.



3.3 Talent house chess class students register

TALENT HOUSE CHESS CLUB STUDENT REGISTER						
No.	NAME/FIDE ID	DATE OF BIRTH	AGE (YEARS)	SEX	class	IMAGE
1.	MUGABE ALI (10010220)	25/11/2002	15	M	S.1	
2.	SSENKUBUGE ABDUL (74602349)	22/09/2005	10	M	P. 4	
3.	NASSUNA TRACY (10010238)	25/12/2001	16	F	S.2	
5.	KIRYOWA MOSES (74700120)	13/04/2009	9	M	P.2	
6.	NAVUGA MINA (74700138)	5/10/2006	12	F	P.4	
7.	WASSWA HASSAN (74700146)	22/06/2006	12	M	P.1	
8.	KIRABO TRISHER (74700162)	20/05/2003	15	F		
9.	NALUMANSI PROSSY (74700170)	24/12/2001	17	F		

10.	COLINE KYESWA (74700162)		11	M	P.3	
13.	NAMAYANJA SHARON (74700197)		14	F	S.1	
14.	MUHEREZA EDSON (74700189)		18	M	S.4	
15.	NALUNKUMA GERTRUDE		11	F	P.5	
16.	KISALITA ARAFAT (74700200)		16	M	S.2	
17.	SSELU ASHILAF (74700219)		10	M	P3	
18.	KOBUSINGYE IMMACULATE		10	F	P.4	
19.	BUKENYA HASHIM (74700227)		6	M	P. 1	

4.0 ACHIEVEMENTS

4.1 Student moulding chess pieces was an inspiring achievement.



4.2 Students demonstrating ability on the demonstration board for others was also a plus



- 4.3 RGC received a donation of 5 No. Boards from SOM Katwe to boost the efforts of teaching the students with sufficient equipment.
- 4.4 An in-house tournament was held on the 22nd January 2018 and M/s Namayanja Sharon emerged as the best senior player

Prize giving ceremony



- 4.5 RGC team tried to expand scope of training and added some English lessons and Personal hygiene for the students and results were quite impressive.

- 4.6 Applied to FIDE for Basic Students membership for the students to be able to access and receive online materials to boost their chess knowledge vide: **sm.fide.com**

5.0 CHALLENGES

As with every endeavour worth undertaking, challenges are to be expected. The major challenge we faced:

- a) Lack of adequate funding for equipment and transportation of trainers to the venue
- b) Follow up with the kids was not easy as they constantly needed consent from the parents to be able to attend lessons
- c) Organizing lessons was not easy for the trainers as it was first experience
- d) Language barrier was an issue to note as the student's English language was not adequate
- e) Lack of exposure of the students has not enabled us to rank the strengths and see where to put more emphasis
- f) Students not well versed with ICT so online teaching was not a possibility but work in progress.

6.0 WAY FORWARD

Talent house chess class has shown remarkable improvement from students not having ever seen a chess board in week 1 to hosting and playing an in-house tournament by week 7.

- 6.1 *RGC expect the trend to continue to the level of forming a talent house chess club that can participate in different other open tournaments both local and International chess events.*
- 6.2 *RGC wishes to welcome well-wishers, partners, sponsors and other volunteers to this adventure of spreading the game of chess to our young generation.*
- 6.3 *RGC to invest in Trainers programs for the Trainers so that they execute their work with professionalism as per FIDE rules and regulations.*
- 6.4 *RGC to help the students get affiliated to existing clubs in and around Kampala district where they can go train and get more exposure and be able to perform to levels expected of our upcoming chess talents.*

7.0 CONCLUSION

RGC through the spirit of volunteerism ventured out to teach the youth of Kalagi the Art of chess, to empower their minds in logical thinking and quick analysis.

The first phase was successful and it's our hope that these children develop further in the royal game as RGC continues to spread the game of chess to other regions.

