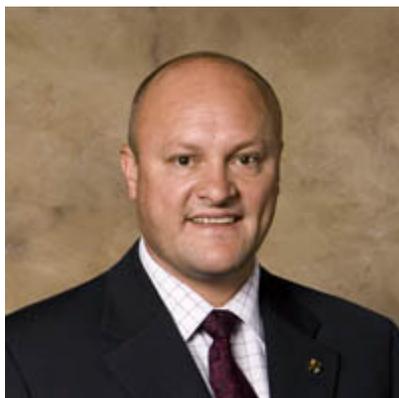




EXTRACT FROM  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

*HANSARD*



*Mr HODGETT*  
*Kilsyth*

*MEMBERS STATEMENTS*

*Croydon Chess Club*

*Wednesday, 12 March 2008*

**Mr HODGETT** (Kilsyth) — I recently had the pleasure of visiting the Croydon Chess Club and left with a much greater knowledge and awareness of the operations of the club and of the game of chess. Two main issues came out of the visit: the first was the need to find a home for the club. This is a matter that the City of MaroonDAH is working on, and I will pursue this with the council to assist the club to find a permanent venue. The second matter was to seek greater recognition of the game of chess and raise the profile of chess within government to gain funding and other support.

Club president Richard Goldsmith pointed out that chess has not the sheen of some of the more traditional types of games, but at a higher level it can be an amazing battle to observe and learn through. Clubs such as the Croydon Chess Club are seeking greater recognition and are somewhat concerned about being pigeonholed as a non-sport-related game.

Stephen Frost from the club provided information documenting the benefits of chess for children. He summarised a number of studies which concluded that chess can help children in the following ways: by raising IQ scores; strengthening problem-solving skills; teaching them how to make difficult and abstract decisions independently; enhancing reading, memory, language and mathematical abilities; fostering critical, creative and original thinking; teaching them how to think logically and efficiently and to select the best choice from a large number of options; demonstrating the importance of flexible planning, concentration and the consequences of decisions; and reaching boys and girls regardless of their natural abilities or socioeconomic backgrounds.

These studies should be sufficient to demonstrate that we ought to be assigning at least some resources to intellectual exercises such as chess, not just to physical exercises, for both young and old people. Chess can also provide practice at making accurate and fast decisions under time pressure, a skill that can help improve exam scores at school.