Hindsight Bias

"Hindsight is a wonderful thing. ~ David Beckham"

His game was played on chess.com

In the position on the right it is Black to move.

Answer below.

Today I would like to talk to you about a cognitive bias that we all have called the "Hindsight Bias".


The hindsight bias is defined as a tendency to change an opinion from an original thought to something different because of newly provided information.

In tests for hindsight bias a person is asked to remember a specific event from the past or recall some descriptive information that they had been tested on earlier.

In between the first test and final test they are given the correct information about the event or knowledge.

At the final test he or she will report that they knew the answer all along when they truly have changed their answer to fit with the correct information they were given after the initial test.

From the website "You Are Not So Smart", http://youarenotsoSMART.com/2010/06/14/hindsight-bias/, which talks about the Hindsight Bias:

The Misconception: After you learn something new, you remember how you were once ignorant or wrong.

The Truth: You often look back on the things you've just learned and assume you knew them or believed them all along.

Very interesting!
So what does this have to do with chess and chess tactics?

Well, basically there is going to be a tendency for you to think "Oh yeah, I knew that", once you see the answer to a chess tactics problem where originally you really didn't know the answer at all!

We all do this, even once we are told about the Hindsight Bias!

So be careful about the "Hindsight Bias" getting in the way of your chess improvement.

Remember the amateur says "I already knew that". The master says "Thanks for the reminder".

Here is the complete game:

[Event "Let's Play!"]
[Site "Chess.com"]
[Date "2009.03.27"]
[Round "?"]
[White "asakar"]
[Black "ooloth"]
[Result "0-1"]
[ECO "B07"]
[WhiteElo "1324"]
[BlackElo "1683"]
[PlyCount "34"]
[TimeControl "1"]


You can play through this game here: http://www.chess.com/echess/game.html?id=17592081.

Answer:

Black ignores the threat to their queen, and has the cute checkmate 16...Bh3+ 17. Kg1 Nxf3#

Happy Tactics!

Your Friend,