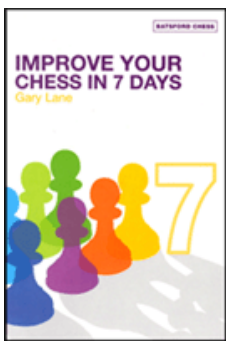




COLUMNISTS

Opening Lanes

Gary Lane



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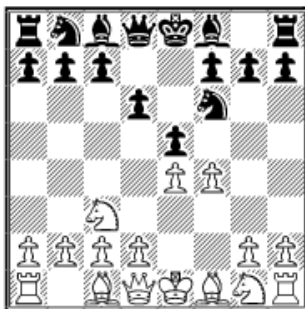
The Rough Guide to Vienna

**Ronald Ortner** from **Austria** asks an interesting question: “In the Vienna Game people invariably play 1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 f4 and now 3...d6 instead of the theoretical move 3...d5. Do you have any recommendations?”

I must say that this move is neglected in the books, but it is played frequently and you need to be prepared to meet it as white. It seems to be mainly popular with players who are not so confident with their opening knowledge and merely wish to defend the e5-pawn. It has admittedly been chosen by a few masters who wanted to confuse their opponents, but the results for Black are not encouraging. Just to cheer you here is a recent thrashing to allow us all to dream of winning quickly:

*Carlos Permy Lorenzo-Fernando Alonso Gonzalez* Pontevedra 2008

**1 e4 e5 2 Nc3** This is the starting point of the Vienna Game. The name comes from the work put into the opening by players from the city in Austria, but arguably Carl Hamppe (1814-76) deserves the praise. He was a Swiss government official in Vienna and played it extensively. In fact, for a while the Vienna was known as the Hamppe Opening. **2...Nf6 3 f4 d6**



advance e4-e5) 8 Bd3 Nc6 9 0-0 h6 10 Qd2 b6 11 Rae1 a5 12 d5 Nb4 13 Bb5+ Bd7 14 a3 Bxb5 15 Nxb5 Na6 16 Nbd4 Qd7 17 Nc6 g5 18 e5! Nxd5 19 Qxd5 dxe5 (19...gxf4 20 exd6 cxd6 21 Rxe7+ wins) 20 Qxe5 1-0. **5 Bc4 c6 6 fxe5 dxe5?**



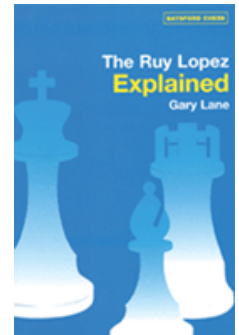
up as well. **8 Nxe5+ 1-0**

This is the move that is causing such angst to Mr. Ortner. **4 Nf3 Bg4** Instead, 4...exf4 is answered by 5 d4. For example, in the game T.Johansson-M. Coveney, Cork 2005, Black tried pinning the king’s knight with 5...Bg4 It continued 6 Bxf4 Be7 7 h3 Bc8 (7... Bxf3 8 Qxf3 c6 9 0-0-0 is very agreeable for White, who has a strong lead in development and can look to exploit this by quickly preparing the

At this early stage of the game, I suspect Black is more worried about where to buy a bar of chocolate to help boost his energy levels for the forthcoming middlegame. Alternatively 6...Bxf3 7 Qxf3 dxe5 8 Qg3 is good for White because of the initiative. **7 Bxf7+!** A classic opening trap that Black will not forget in the future. **7...Kxf7 7...Ke7** is met by 8 Bb3 and the black king just looks silly, while White remains a pawn

A thrilling eight move win might not always be possible, but White really should be on top after the modest 3...d6. I think the best way to handle the opening is to follow the path laid down by one of the strongest players

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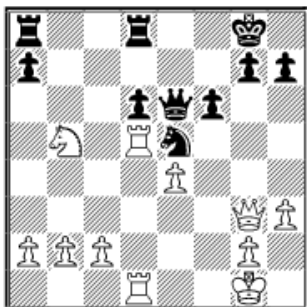
### Robert Fischer-T. Kumro Simultaneous Cicero 1964

**1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 f4 d6** This is the quiet move and against Fischer who would want to take on the great man with the latest theory? Instead, 3...d5 is the standard move, but the text is understandable because it merely protects the e-pawn. I think White should be able to extract an advantage from the opening by putting pressure on the e5-pawn in the knowledge that if Black takes on f4, then d4 is good. **4 Nf3 Nc6 5 Bb5** The pin of the knight seems to be the right thing to do because it threatens the e5-pawn. There has also been interest in 5 Bc4, but I am happy to follow Fischer's lead and promote this line. **5...Bd7** Also possible is 5...Bg4 6 0-0 Be7 7 d3 0-0 8 Bxc6 bxc6 9 Qe1 (9 fxe5 dxe5 10 Be3 also looks good) 9...exf4 10 Bxf4 d5 11 Qg3 Rc8 12 e5! Bxf3 13 exf6 Bxf6 14 Qxf3 when it is time for Black to count the pieces and resign, Guerrero Olmos-Blanco Estebanez, Aviles 2003. **6 d3 Be7?**



A mistake that eases White's task. After 6...exf4 7 Bxf4, Black can easily suffer. For instance a) 7...h6 8 Qd2 Qe7 9 0-0 0-0 10 Rae1 g5 11 Nd5! Qe6 (if 11... Nxd5, then 12 exd5 is very strong because of the discovered attack on the black queen) 12 Bxc6 Bxc6 13 Nd4 Qg4 14 Nxf6 1-0, S.Swanson-L.Suzuki, British Team Championship (4NCL) 1999. b) 7...Be7 8 0-0 0-0 9 Qd2 (White connects the rooks and is better

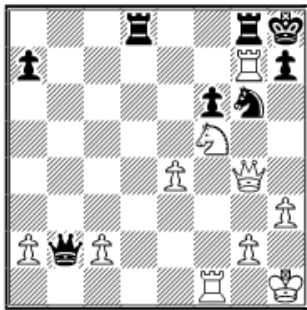
especially because Black's pieces are rather cramped) 9...a6 10 Ba4 b5 11 Bb3 Na5 12 Rae1 gave White the initiative in S.Joachim-M.Vieten, Dresden 2005. c) 6...Nd4 7 Bxd7+ Qxd7 8 0-0 Nxf3+ 9 Qxf3 c6 10 h3! (a little timid, but the motivation is to stop a piece occupying the g4-square, yet 10 fxe5 dxe5 11 Bg5 Be7 12 Rae1 seems promising) 10...0-0 11 Qf2 Kb8 12 Be3 b6 13 a4 Qc7 14 a5 b5 15 Bb6! axb6 16 axb6 Qb7 17 Ra7 Nd7 (17...Qc8 allows 18 Rfa1 winning) 18 Rxb7+ Kxb7 19 d4 wining, M.Bosboom-E.Gavin Roche, Amsterdam 2004. **7 Bxc6 Bxc6 8 fxe5 dxe5 9 Nxe5** Bobby is a pawn up for nothing. For some defending such a position is just the beginning of a long struggle, but when you are facing a genius, you are in for a chess lesson on how to convert the advantage into victory. **9...0-0 10 Nxc6 bxc6 11 0-0 Qd7 12 Qf3** White is a pawn up and now seeks to activate the rest of his pieces. **12...Ng4 13 h3 Ne5 14 Qg3** The queen on g3 is handily placed to attack the e5-knight and contemplate snaring the black king. **14...Bd6 15 Bf4 f6 16 d4 Ng6 17 Bxd6 cxd6** After 17...Qxd6 18 Qxd6 cxd6 19 b4, the ending is very much in White's favour thanks to the extra pawn. **18 Rad1 Qe6 19 d5 cxd5 20 Rxd5 Rfd8 21 Rfd1 Ne5 22 Nb5**



Yes, sometimes it is that basic. The weak d6-pawn is targeted and Black cannot adequately defend with...Nf7 because of the threat of a tremendous fork on c7. **22...Rab8 23 Nxd6 Rf8** Instead, 23...Rxb2 is routed by 24 Nf5 when the threats of Qxg7 checkmate and Rxd8+ are immense. **24 Nf5 Ng6** Not 24...Rf7 in view of 25 Rd8+ Rxd8 26 Rxd8+ Rf8 27 Qxg7 checkmate. If 24...g6, then 25 b3 maintains the two pawns

advantage when Black is in big trouble. **25 Rd7 Qb6+** Hands up, all those who could see nothing wrong with 25...Rf7 in this position? Well 26 Qxb8+ is embarrassing even in a simultaneous display. **26 Kh1 Rbd8 27 Rxd8+ Kh8 28 Rf1** White just tucks the rook out the way before looking to see how to make the most of his threats against the h7-pawn. 28 Qg4 might well be a quicker win, but

the result is not in doubt. 28...Qxb2 29 Qg4 Rg8



30 Rxb7+! 1-0

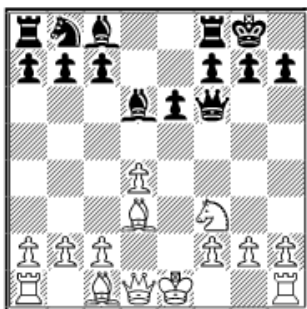
**David MacDonald** from the **United Kingdom** shares an opening trick he uses successfully on the Internet: “With reference to the question in your September [column](#) regarding winning the queen in the opening, I’ve had plenty of online blitz opponents play the black side of this: 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nf6 5 Nxf6 Qxf6 6 Nf3 Bd6 7

Bd3 0-0 8 Bg5 (Black may play other moves at 6 and 7 not preventing 8 Bg5). I should add that most of my games in this line transpose from the Veresov (e.g. via 1 d4 d5 2 Nc3 e6 3 e4), so Black can be excused from being unfamiliar with the Rubinstein French.”

I think his last point about transposing to a different opening is the main reason why he seems to be catching out so many people. Still, just in case you ever play Mr. MacDonald on the Internet, here is a game that you should remember:

**Massimo Bettini-Syrja Pepa** Robecchetto 2005

**1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nf6** Instead, 4...Nd7, intending Ngf6, should be preferred. **5 Nxf6+ Qxf6** It is also possible to volunteer to double the f-pawns with 5...gxf6 in a bid to try and take White out of the standard opening books: 6 Bd3 c5 7 Nf3 Nc6 8 dxc5 Bxc5 9 c3 Qb6 10 0-0 Bd7 11 Bh6 Bf8 12 Bxf8 Kxf8 13 Nd2 Ke7 14 Nc4 Qc5 15 b4 Qd5 16 Ne3 Qd6 17 Qe2 (yes, even grandmasters like to threaten obvious tricks such as Nf5+) 17...Ne5 18 Rad1 Qc6 19 Bb1 Qxc3? 20 f4! (if the knight moves, then Nd5+ wins the black queen thanks to the pin on the e-file) 20...Bc6 21 fxe5 with a massive advantage, G.Jones-S.Akstinat, Maastricht 2008. **6 Nf3 Bd6** If you are going to play this line as black, then look after the queen with 6...h6. It might look basic, but in the encounter J.Aagaard-D.De Vreugt, Porto Mannu 2008, it turned out fine for Black upon 7 Bd3 Nd7 8 Qe2 a6 9 Be3 b5 10 Be4! Rb8 11 0-0-0 Bd6 12 Kb1 (a quiet wait-and-see move, but White really needs to make the most of his lead in development, so 12 g4 might be good, intending g4-g5) 12...Bb7 13 Bxb7 Rxb7 14 Ne5 Nb6 15 f4 Nd5 16 Bc1 with equal chances. **7 Bd3** This is the stage of the game where you promise not to do anything bad in the future as long as fate allows you to win the queen. **7...0-0??**



Whoops! 8 Bg5 1-0

**David Mills** from **England** has been having success with an opening that has a long history, but is often ignored by the major works on the openings: “I am relatively new to using a computer for storing chess analysis, so my apologies if you have had this question in the past. As a Blackmar-Diemer enthusiast who started playing this opening four years

ago with the aid of your 1995 book, I would be interested in your comments that the Ziegler Variation is a refutation with reference to 8...Bg6. I have obtained some excellent results with it, especially against stronger opponents – say 1800-2000. One of them graded 2000+ said after a drawn game that there was no chance of him accepting the gambit pawn at the time control used in our local league! My Blackmar-Diemer/Alapin Diemer results since starting playing these systems in 2004 are +11, =9, -1.”

After reading such great statistics, you might wonder why Vladimir

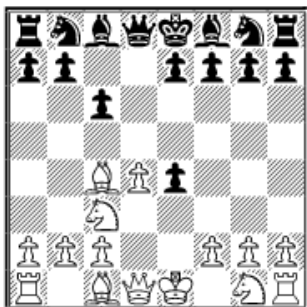
Kramnik and Vishy Anand did not include the opening in their world championship match. Well, I have to declare an interest in this line because it was all the rage when I was a teenager and I had to defend against it at my local club in numerous blitz games. It is still a favourite for social players who want to play something different, but it has never really caught on at international level, probably because there are other ways to create an attack without giving up a pawn in the opening.

Strangely, I recently came across a champion of the opening and his name is John Watson, the established chess author. I pointed out to him during an interview that it was a shame that chess software has almost obliterated the opening from correspondence chess because computers grab the pawn and never give it back. It turned out that he liked the opening inasmuch as he thought it was a good choice for improvers. This is because it helps to teach the merits of development; the semi-open f-file is an aid to the attack and of course it is a fun opening. Naturally, he did not advocate it against very strong players, but if you are just getting into the game or want to have the chance to play spectacular chess, then it might be the right opening.

The Blackmar-Diemer Opening tends to happen after 1 d4, but I have noticed that the particular line Mr. Mills is concerned about often arises from the Caro-Kann. Just to demonstrate what White is hoping to achieve, I am happy to present an entertaining miniature:

*John Carleton-Trevor Jones* British U21 Championship 1967

**1 e4** A more conventional start is 1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3 exf3 5 Nxf3 when I have some experience of the line 5...g6 6 Bd3 (6 Bc4 is also popular, but I prefer this approach to keep the options open) 6...Bg7 7 0-0 0-0 8 Qe1 Nbd7 9 Qh4 c5 10 d5 b6 11 Bh6 Bb7 12 Ng5 (this attacking structure is well known to fans of the opening when faced by a kingside fianchetto) 12...Qc7 13 Nce4 Qe5 14 Bxg7 Kxg7 15 Nxf6 Nxf6 16 Rxf6! Qxd5 17 Rxf7+ Rxf7 18 Qxh7+ Kf6 19 Qxg6+ Ke5 20 Nxf7+ Kd4 21 Qg4+ Ke3 22 Qe2+ Kf4 23 g3# 1-0, G.Lane-T.Dutton, Dartington 1995.  
**1...c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Bc4**



The first big surprise if you are a Caro-Kann expert, because normally the main lines with 4 Nxe4 can easily last up to twenty moves or more. In this case it is possible that Black already has to think for himself. **4...Bf5 5 f3 exf3 6 Nxf3**

This is a Blackmar-Diemer Gambit with a pawn given away in return for speedy development and a potential attack. **6...e6 7 0-0 Qc7?! A careless reply, but understandable when you start off**

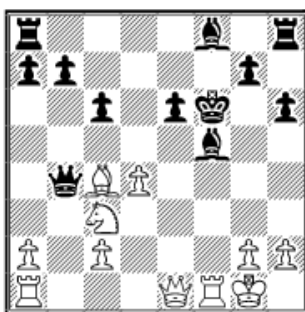
playing the Caro-Kann and end up in the twilight world of the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit. **8 Ng5!** Already White has been able to create a situation that plunges Black into trouble because of the threat of Rxf5. **8...h6** Instead, 8...Bg6 9 Bxe6 fxe6 10 Rxf8+ Kxf8 11 Nxe6+ Ke7 12 Nxc7 wins easily. **9 Bf4! Qb6?**



The queen gets out of the way, but it allows a typical combination that delights fans of the opening who love swashbuckling play. After 9...Qd7, then 10 Nf3 heading for the e5-square gives White a strong initiative. **10 Nxf7 Kxf7 11 Bxb8 Nf6** If 11...Rxb8, then 12 Rxf5 + wins because the black e-pawn is pinned. **12 Be5** The immediate threat is Rxf5. **12...Ke7 13 Qe2 Qxb2 14 Qe1** This is good because the black queen is

poorly placed, but the best continuation

has to be 14 Rab1, when 14...Qxc3 runs into 15 Rxf5 exf5 16 d5 and the black queen will soon be taken. **14...Qb4 15 Bxf6+ Kxf6**

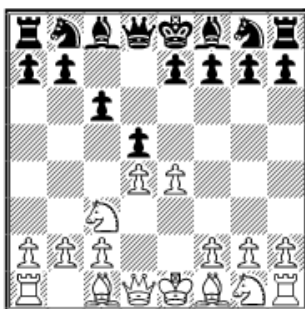


Or 15...gxf6 16 Nd5+ cxd5 17 Qxb4+.  
**16 Qxe6+ Kg5 17 Qxf5+ 1-0**

The next game discusses Mr. Mills's feared line and in particular the move 8...Bg6, which apparently is a cause for concern:

**Lawrence Trent-Alket Tarifa** British Team Championship (4NCL) 2000

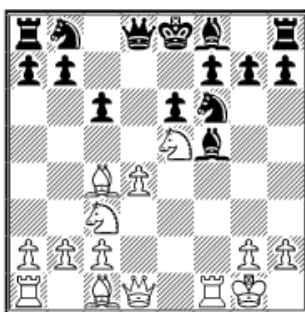
**1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3**



The opening is so-named because of the influence of two players who advocated the queen's pawn opening where f2-f3 helped to facilitate an attack. It was the American player Armand Blackmar (1826-1888) who helped popularise the line in the 1880s although he preferred 3 f3, but eventually 3...e5 was viewed as a good reply. It was left to the German enthusiast Emil Josif Diemer (1908-1990) to really make gambit players take

notice by introducing 3 Nc3, followed

by f2-f3, with publication of a book on the opening and a fanatical dedication to the cause. Nowadays, his games do not always stand up to close scrutiny, but his numerous brilliant checkmate finishes charmed many club players who liked to avoid the mainlines. **3...Nf6 4 f3 exf3 5 Nxf3 c6** This line is known to connoisseurs of the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit as the Ziegler Defence. **6 Bc4 Bf5 7 0-0 e6 8 Ne5**

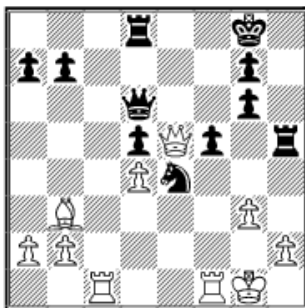


**8...Bg6!?** A solid reliable line that aims to clamp down on White's attacking ambitions, and, more importantly, the move that Mr. Mills is concerned about in the variation. 8...Nbd7? allows 9 Rxf5! exf5 10 Nxf7 winning. **9 Bg5** This is a good practical decision; aiming to carry on developing and wait for Black to make a mistake because of the cramped nature of the position. Trent has since become an international master,

but at the time of the game was still

rated just over 2200. In the past a lot of attention was made to an analysis by Studier that went 9 g4 Nbd7 10 Nxc6 hxc6 11 g5 Qc7 12 Bf4 Bd6 13 gxf6 Bxf4 14 fxg7 Rg8 and eventually White did well, but the big hole in the line is 14...Be3+!, which incredibly leads to a forced checkmate. **9...Be7 10 Qd2** A sensible place to develop the queen and allow the queen's rook to join in the action. White needs to be patient in such a position and rely on Black not coping with being in an unfamiliar opening. Or 10 Kh1 Nbd7 11 Qe2 (White just gets the queen out of the way so the rooks can be coordinated) 11...Nb6 12 Bb3 Nbd5 13 Nxd5 Nxd5 14 c4 Nf6?! (14...Nb6 leads to roughly equal opportunities) 15 d5 exd5 16 Nxc6 hxc6 17 Rxf6 Rh5? 18 Rf3 (18 Rf5! is the star move, when Black should resign) 18...Rxc6 19 cxd5 cxd5 20 Raf1 f6 21 Rh3 gave White the advantage in P. Lapeyre-D.Laurain, Creon 1998. **10...Nbd7 11 Nxc6 hxc6 12 Rae1** Trent is doing all the right things by transferring his rooks to the centre. The more active pieces at his disposal, the more chance he will be well placed if Black goes astray. **12...Nb6 13 Bb3 Nbd5 14 Nxd5 cxd5 15 Ba4+ Kf8** A small concession to give up the right to castle, but 15...Nd7?! runs into 16 Qf4! 0-0 17 Bxe7 Qxe7 18 Qc7 Rfd8 19 Qxb7 Rab8 20 Qc7 Rxb2 21 Bb3 with the advantage. **16 c3** There is no rush to pursue the attack, so

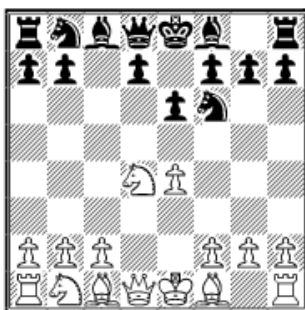
White takes his time by protecting the d4-pawn and making sure his bishop can retreat along the a4-d1 diagonal. **16...Ne4 17 Bxe7+ Qxe7 18 Qf4 f5 19 Bc2** The threat is **20 Bxe4 dxe4 21 Rxe4** with the much better chances. **19...Rh4 20 Qe5 Kg8 21 g3 Rh5 22 Bb3 Qf6 23 Qc7 Qf7 24 Qe5 Qd7** After dancing around with the queen, White applies more pressure on the d5-pawn. **25 c4 Rd8** Or **25...dxc4 26 Bxc4 Re8?** **27 Bb5** winning. **26 cxd5 exd5 27 Rc1 Qd6**



**28 Qxd6?!** White misses a golden chance to grab the advantage with **28 Rfd1!** to deter a queen exchange and set up the prospect of **Rc7**. For instance **28...Ng5** (**28...Qxe5 29 dxe5** is very strong because Black cannot adequately defend the d-pawn and his pieces are poorly placed to defend the other queenside pawns) **29 Rd3** to stop the fork on **f3** and renew the threat of **Rc7**) **29...Rd7** when a sample line runs **30 Qe8+ Kh7 31 Rc8**

**Kh6 32 Bd1 Rh3 33 Kg2 Re7 34 Qh8+ Nh7 35 Kxh3** winning. **28...Rxd6 29 Rc8+ Kh7 30 Rfc1 g5 31 Rb8 31 R1c7** is more to the point with roughly equal chances. **31...Rdh6** is met by **32 Rc2**, when Black still has to worry about his d-pawn. **31...Rd7 32 Rcc8 Nf6 33 Bc2 Kg6 34 Rf8 g4** Black is now on top and White to his credit keeps fighting until the end. **35 Ra8 Re7 36 Bd3 Re1+ 37 Bf1 Rb1 38 Rxa7 Rxb2 39 Rb8 Rhxh2 40 a4 Rhd2 41 Rxb7 Rxb7 42 Rxb7 Rxd4 43 a5 Ra4 44 a6 Ne4 45 a7 Kh7 46 Kh2 Ra2+ 47 Bg2 Ng5 48 Kg1 Nf3+ 49 Kf1 d4 50 Bxf3 gxf3 51 Rd7 Kh6 52 Rxd4 Rxa7 53 Kf2 Ra3 54 Rh4+ Kg5 55 Rb4 g6 56 Rc4 Kh6 57 Rc6 Kh5 58 Rc5 g5 59 Rxf5 Kg4 60 Rc5 Ra2+ 61 Kg1 Rg2+ 62 Kh1 Rxc3 63 Rc4+ Kf5 64 Kh2 Rg2+ 65 Kh1 Ra2 66 Kg1 g4 67 Kf1 g3 68 Rc1 Kg4 0-1**

And finally, **Joe Kuchta** from the USA has an intriguing question “I have seen the following opening given different names: **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6**



“One Internet site calls it B40: Sicilian Defense: French Variation, Normal and some others B40: Sicilian, Anderssen Variation. Which one is correct?”

I believe the official name is the Sicilian, Anderssen Variation. The name comes from the match Kolisch-Anderssen, London 1861, where that opening sequence was played three times. Adolf Anderssen (1818-79) was regarded as one of the world’s leading players and is perhaps best known for winning the London tournament of 1851 and losing a celebrated match against Morphy in 1858.

The variation can then go on to transpose to other openings, but it is the historical name at that point in the game. I am sure that Mr. Kuchta knows why B40 is added, but for others it can be confusing. Basically that is just a code that has been developed so all the openings can be identified by letters and numbers. I believe it stems from the Yugoslav publisher *Informator* who created languageless chess books to sell around the world. Then again, I might be wrong and if so, then please let me know.

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**Opening Lanes** is based in large part on readers’ questions. Do you have a question about a particular opening line? Baffled by a branch of the Benoni or Budapest? Submit your questions (with your full name and country of residence please) and perhaps Gary will reply in his next [ChessCafe.com](http://ChessCafe.com) column...

*Yes, I have a question for Gary!*

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