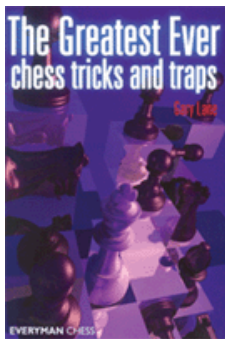




COLUMNISTS

Opening Lanes

Gary Lane



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Knowing

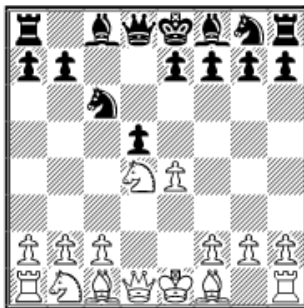
There are some variations that can come as a complete surprise at the board. Just a little knowledge goes a long way, because what might once have been thought of as good can soon become a victim of the test of time. You just need to know what to do.

Josua Novak from Germany e-mailed "An opponent played the following line, which I didn't know. I had white and played an open Sicilian: 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 d5. This early d5 is unusual and should have some drawback. I think I took the pawn and exchanged the knight, but I saw that 5 exd5 Qxd5 Be3 would have been better. It would be nice if you could explain this opening."

Actually, I have looked at this quirky line when coaching a junior. They had faced it for the first time and failed to adapt to something completely different after four moves. It was only when I had a closer look on your behalf that I discovered hundreds of games on it. Nowadays, I get the impression that masters use it as a surprise weapon, but certainly for the casual player it could cut out a lot of opening theory. The only snag occurs if your opponent is familiar with the following variation.

Aleksandar Kovacevic-Plinio Pazos Gambarrotti Dresden Olympiad 2008

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 d5



This would be the perfect way to equalise, but it just falls short if White knows what to do. **5 Bb5!?** I have always thought that this is the move that Black hates. It can be tricky for Black to defend, but if he opts for the ending as in the game, then only White has serious winning chances. Or 5 exd5 Qxd5 6 Be3 this line was suggested by Mr. Novak and it is a reasonable alternative. The only difference is that Black is not put under immediate pressure and can simply develop. Still, not everyone likes to play endings, so it is worth serious consideration: 6...Nxd4 7 Nc3! Qe5 8 Qxd4 Qxd4 9 Bxd4 is good for White because the threats of Nb5 or Nd5 are tough to meet. b) 6...e6 b1) 7 Nb5! Qxd1+ (7...Qe5? 8 Nd2! is great for White; 7...Bb4+ 8 N1c3 Qe5 9 a3 Be7 seems to offer equal opportunities) 8 Kxd1 Kd8 9 Bc4! intending Ke2 and Rd1 is interesting. b2) 7 Nc3 Bb4 8 Ndb5 Qe5 9 a3 and now b21) 9...Be7 10 Be2 a6 11 Nd4 Bd7 12 Bf3 Qc7 13 Nxc6 (13 0-0 Nf6 is equal) 13...Bxc6 14 Qd4?! Bxf3 15 gxf3 Bf6 slightly favoured Black because of White's double-f-pawns, J. Friedel-J.Rizzitano, Peabody 2007. b22) 9...Bxc3+ 10 bxc3 a6 11 Nd6+ Ke7 12 Nc4 Qxc3+ 13 Bd2 Qd4 14 Bd3 (14 c3 Qe4+ 15 Be2 looks good

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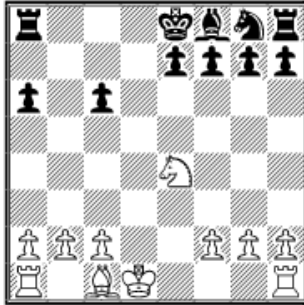
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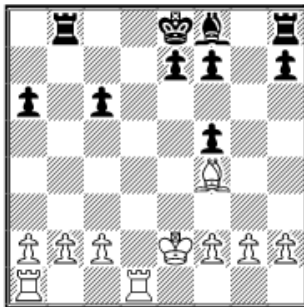


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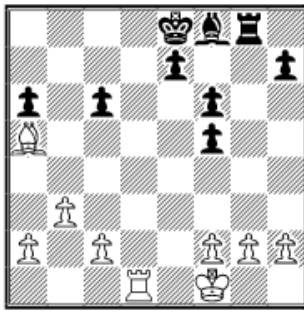
for White) 14...b5 15 Na5 Qe5+ 16 Be2 Nxa5 17 Bxa5 Bb7 led to equal chances in the classic clash A.Rubinstein-A.Nimzowitsch, Karlsbad 1923. It is worth mentioning that 5 Nc3 dxe4 6 Nxc6 Qxd1+ 7 Kxd1 bxc6 8 Nxe4 is about level. **5...dxe4** An instinctive move is 5...Qd6?, but it is still lousy: 6 exd5! (surprisingly this easy route to victory is sometimes missed) 6...Qxd5 7 Nxc6 bxc6 8 Qxd5 1-0, A.Kadlec-L.Svec, Klatovy 2004. **6 Nxc6 Qxd1+ 7 Kxd1 a6** This is a well known way to avoid a disaster in the opening. It is possible to panic when 7...Bg4+ is a prime example: 8 f3 Bd7 (8...exf3? fails because of 9 Ne5+ Kd8 10 Nxg4) 9 Nd4 when the extra piece ensured victory, A.Bisguier-J.Mc Cord, Pittsburgh 1946. **8 Ba4 Bd7** This is the point because the knight is pinned and Black is able to restore material equality. **9 Nc3 Bxc6 10 Bxc6+ bxc6 11 Nxe4**



The first phase of the game is over and now we have to contend with an ending. The argument for White is that his better pawn structure tips the balance in his favour while Black will say “draw please.” **11...Nf6** The main alternative is 11...e6 when play might continue a) 12 Ke2 (the move played by a young Bobby Fischer) 12...Rd8 13 Be3 Nf6 14 Nxf6+ gxf6 15 Rhd1 Be7 16 c4 e5 17 g4 h5 18 h3 with roughly equal chances and the game was eventually drawn, R. Fischer-K.Vine, New York 1956. b) 12 Be3 Nf6 13 Nxf6+ gxf6 14 Ke2 0-0-0 15 Rhd1 Bd6 16 Rd3 Bc7 17 Rad1 Rxd3 18 Rxd3 Rd8 19 Ra3 Kb7 20 c4 Rg8 21 g3 Rg4 22 Kd3 f5 23 h3 Rg6 24 Ke2 e5 25 Rb3+ Kc8 26 Bb6 gave White a slight initiative, D. Campora-E.Olof, Dieren 1985. Instead 11...e5 has also been tested. 12 Ke2 it should be obvious by now that the king comes to this square in order to unite the rooks: 12...Nf6 13 Nxf6+ gxf6 14 Be3 Kd7 15 Rhd1+ Ke6 16 Rd3 Be7 17 Rc3 Rhb8 18 Rb1 Rc8 19 Bc5 Bxc5 20 Rxc5 Rc7 21 Rd1 Rg8 22 g3 Rb8 23 b3 f5 24 Rd3 f6 25 a4 when White’s position is solid with some chances to win thanks to the superior pawn structure, M. Meszaros-G.Borgo, Brno 2006. **12 Nxf6+ gxf6 13 Ke2 Rb8 14 Rd1 f5 15 Bf4!**



It is easier for White to handle this position because Black still has to catch up on development and make sure his a- and c-pawns are safeguarded from the white rooks. **15...Rb4** Of course 15...Rxb2? is met by 16 Be5 winning a rook. **16 Bc7** The ending might have seemed simple, but the grandmaster is already beginning to make it look easy for White. It is always good to threaten checkmate! **16...f6 17 Rd8+ Kf7 18 b3 Rb7** If 18...Bg7, then 19 Rad1 maintains the initiative; for instance, 19...Rb7 20 Rxh8 Bxh8 21 Rd8 Rxc7? 22 Rxh8 Kg7 23 Ra8 winning. **19 Ba5 Rb5 20 Be1 Rg8 21 Kf1 Rd5 22 Rd1 Rxd1 23 Rxd1 Ke8 24 Ba5**



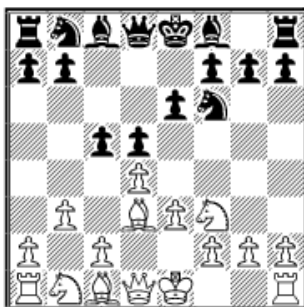
This trick of getting the white rook into the heart of Black's position is difficult to meet adequately. **24...Bh6 25 Rd8+ Kf7 26 Rd7 f4 27 Bb4** A master class on how to handle the position for White. Kovacevic forces Black to constantly defend before trying to sweep up the loose black pawns on the queenside. **27...Bf8 28 Rc7 f3 29 gxf3 Rg5 30 Rxc6** White is two pawns up and the game is effectively over as a contest. **30...a5 31 Bd2 Rd5 32 Bf4 a4 33 Ke2 a3 34 c4 Rh5 35 c5 e5 36 Bg3 e4 37 b4 exf3 + 38 Kxf3 Rd5 39 Ra6 Rd4 40 c6 1-0**

Johan Verduyck from **Belgium** is having some problems with his opening repertoire as white. "For years I have played the Colle-Zuckertort or London System. The problem I now have is that people are well prepared against me, since I have such a narrow repertoire. So which openings do you recommend that I should study that are close in style to the ones I play, so that people don't have an advantage to be (over) prepared against my opening?"

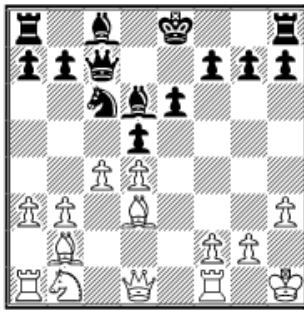
It is difficult to make a judgement when I have not seen your games. If I was your coach, then I would urge you to have a deeper look at the openings. After all the Colle-Zukertort is played by top grandmasters such as Yusspov, so it must be playable and there is bound to be room for improvement. It might mean a twist in the opening by playing a slightly different variation. The London System can also be very interesting, so there are sure to be more twists and turns to be explored and played in your own games. However, the most common reason for players wanting to give up an opening is because they become stale. If you play something for a long time, you tend to trot out the same old moves and it can become a little boring. I have a soft spot for the Colle, having written a book on the opening some years ago, and I recently updated it for the Italian publisher Caissa Italia. Therefore, I urge you to give the opening another chance.

Attila Czebe-Thomas Willemze European Championship Plovdiv 2008

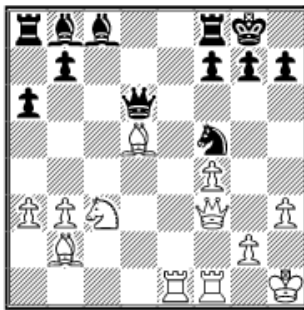
1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 Or 2...d5 3 Bf4 is known as the London System and is the alternative opening for Mr. Verduyck. **3 e3 d5 4 Bd3** The opening is named after Edgar Colle (1897-1932) who successfully played the system. The Belgian used it extensively in the 1920s and it has been fairly popular ever since. It is a reliable opening for club players who want something solid that offers attacking opportunities. Then again, in this game white is a grandmaster rated more than 2500 who is obviously happy to play it, which means that there is no hidden refutation. **4...c5 5 b3**



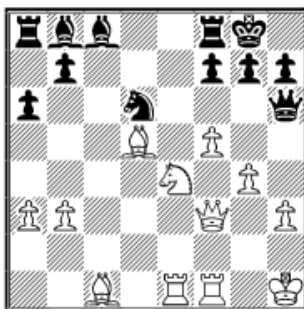
This line is known as the Colle-Zukertort variation and is probably regarded as the best line because it develops the bishop. The old, established line 5 c3 is sometimes dismissed as being too solid, yet it is very similar to the Semi-Slav with colours reversed and that opening is always being praised. **5...Nc6 6 Bb2 cxd4** This is a crossroads for the variation. Also possible is a) 6...Be7 7 Nbd2 0-0 8 0-0 b6 9 Ne5 (the good thing about the Colle-Zukertort is that lots of the plans are easy to embrace and putting a knight on e5 is a common idea) 9...Bb7 10 f4 Nxe5 (10...cxd4 11 exd4 Nb4 12 Be2 Rc8 13 c3 Na6 14 Bd3 g6 15 Rf3 gave White excellent attacking chances, N.Lane-J.Yamalay, Sydney 2004) 11 fxe5 Ne4 12 Bxe4 dxe4 13 Qg4 Rc8 14 c4 cxd4 15 Bxd4 Bc5 16 Bxc5 Rxc5 17 Nxe4 Rxe5 18 Nf6+! (the start of a tactical line that favours White) 18...Kh8 19 Rad1 Qe7 20 Rd7 Qc5 21 Qd4 Bxg2 22 Ng4 Qxd4 23 exd4 Rg5 24 Rxf7 Kg8 (not 24 ..Rxf7?!, which allows 25 Rd8+ Rf8 26 Rxf8 checkmate) 25 Rxf8+ Kxf8 26 Kxg2 Rxg4+ 27 Kf3 Rh4 28 c5 Rh3 + 29 Ke4 Rc3 30 b4 bxc5 31 bxc5 Rc2 32 Rxa7 Rxh2 33 Ke5 1-0, V. Smyslov-S.Mariotti, Venice 1974. b) 6...Bd6 7 Nbd2 0-0 8 0-0 Qe7 9 Ne5 (once again in the Colle the knight hops to the e5-square, where the plan is f2-f4 followed by rook or queen to f3 in preparation for an attack) 9...Nd7 10 f4 f5 11 Rf3 Nf6 12 Rh3 Bd7 13 a3 Rac8 14 Ndf3 Be8 15 Qe1 Bh5 16 Qh4 h6 17 c4 (White could have speeded up the winning process by seeking to exchange the knight on f6, which is defending the light-squared bishop: 17 Nxc6! Rxc6 18 dxc5 Bxc5 19 Bxf6 Qxf6 20 Qxf6 Rxf6 21 Rxh5 winning) 17...Bxf3 18 gxf3 dxc4 19 bxc4 Bxe5 20 fxe5 Nd7 21 Qh5 cxd4 22 exd4 Rfd8 23 f4 with the better chances, A.Kogan-M.Kravtsiv, Warsaw 2007. I think White has few problems when Black eases the tension, because White can help support a knight occupying the e5-square by playing Re1 or Qe2. **7 exd4 Bd6** Instead 7...Rb8!? is an unusual plan by Black to try and get his opponent out of the normal lines. The idea is to play a quick ...b7-b5 to stop White from successfully playing c2-c4, which is a feature in some lines. 8 Nbd2 In the standard Colle tradition White puts his knight on d2 and ignores Black's attempt to upset the position. The usual plan of Nf3-e5 and castling kingside means that White has a ready made set-up against anything unusual. 8...b5 9 a4 b4 10 Ne5 (this is a practical decision because the knight occupying the e5-square is a standard idea and if Black avoids an exchange of pieces it can be supported by f2-f4 or Ndf3) 10...Nxe5?! 11 dxe5 Nd7 12 Qg4! an excellent move that exploits the absence of a knight on f6 to try and stop Black from routinely developing the kingside. The point is that the bishop on f8 cannot move without giving up the g-pawn, D.Kosic-N.Nikcevic, Cetinje 2007. **8 0-0 Qc7 9 a3** You might wonder about the need to stop the knight coming to b4 now. Well, before if ...Nb4, then it would be answered by Be2 followed by a3 or even c3 to shoo away the knight. Now with a queen on c7 the threat is ...Nb4 to exchange the useful attacking piece on d3, as it cannot safely retreat because of the threat against the pawn on c2. **9...Ng4** This idea of launching a knight against White's kingside has some merit, but is hardly a difficult problem for White to contain. Also possible is 9...0-0 10 Re1 Ng4!? 11 h3 Nxf2 12 Kxf2 Bg3+ 13 Kg1 Bxe1 14 Qxe1 Qf4 15 Bc1 Qc7 16 Bxh7+ Kxh7 17 Qh4+ Kg8 18 Ng5 Rd8 (and 18...Re8 19 Qh7+ Kf8 20 Qh8+ Ke7 21 Qxg7 Rf8 22 Nh7! Rd8 23 Bg5+ Kd6 24 c4 dxc4 25 Bf4+ e5 26 Bxe5+ Nxe5 27 Qxe5 + 1-0, V.Pozdnjakov-F.Gaillieue, Champs sur Marne 2006. **10 h3 Nh2** I can't help think that 10...Nf6 might be best, when 11 c4 leads to a middlegame with equal opportunities. **11 Nxh2 Bxh2+ 12 Kh1 Bd6 13 c4!?**



Colle players should make a note of this idea to put pressure on the d5-pawn. In my experience lots of players get distracted by traditional ideas and try the usual Nd2-f3-e5. That is fine, but in this situation the advance of the c-pawn can cause Black some problems, because the queen is not on d8 where it usually supports the d5-pawn and it also means a timely Rc1 could be awkward for Black since the queen is on c7. **13...Ne7 14 Nc3 Qd8 15 Qh5** This is good stuff. Black would obviously like to evacuate the king by castling kingside, but would now run into Qxh7 checkmate. If ...g6 to stem the influence of the bishop on d3, then the dark squares around his king would be weak. **15...Bb8** I reckon 15...g6 16 Qh6 Ng8 17 Qe3 is just good for White thanks to Black's poor development. **16 Rae1** Czebe steadily increases the pressure by threatening to exchange pawns on d5 where the pin on the e-file will allow White to win material. **16...dxc4 17 Bxc4** After 17 bxc4?, it is not clear if White has enough for the pawn on 17...Qxd4. **17...0-0 18 d5** Black has managed to find time to castle, but at the cost of allowing White to continue with a strong initiative. **18...Qd6** After 18...exd5 19 Nxd5 Nxd5 20 Bxd5, it is the white bishop-pair that have more influence, because his pieces are better coordinated, unlike Black whose queen's rook cannot move. For example, 20...Qc7 21 f4 Bd7 22 Qg5 (simple, but good) 22...g6 23 Qf6 with checkmate to follow. **19 f4 Nf5** Or 19...exd5 20 Nxd5 Nf5 21 Qg5 Qg6 22 Qxf5 Qxf5 23 Ne7+ Kh8 24 Nxf5 Bxf5 25 Re7 with an excellent endgame. **20 Qf3 exd5 21 Bxd5 a6**



22 Ne4! A neat trick to harass the queen based on the tactic 22...Qxd5 23 Nf6+ gxf6 24 Qxd5 winning easily. **22...Qg6** After 22...Qd8, White can soon create a formidable attack: 23 g4 Nd6 (23...Nh4 24 Qc3 leads directly to checkmate) 24 Ng5 h6? 25 Qc3 winning. **23 g4 Nd6 24 f5 Qh6 25 Bc1 1-0**

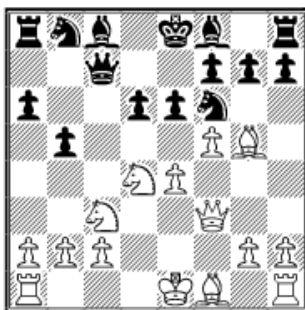


Will Denayer is a Belgian living in **Southern Ireland** who wants some comments on an email correspondence game where he played a Najdorf.

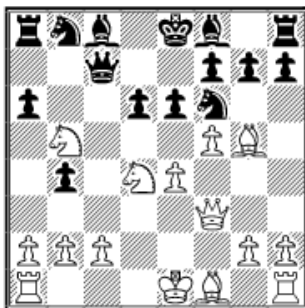
He helpfully provided some extensive analysis and his game is quite interesting. It should be pointed out that a correspondence e-mail game allows a few days for each move. This means that it gives both players a chance to look in their books or databases to make sure the openings are spot on.

Nicolas Giurgiu-Will Denayer Internet 2007

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 This has always been one of the main lines against the Najdorf Sicilian. **6...e6 7 f4 Qc7** This is regarded as a solid reply and keeps an eye on the advance e4-e5. Instead **7...Qb6** is known as the Poisoned Pawn Variation. It is so incredibly complicated that Garry Kasparov, on [his DVD](#) dealing with the line, suggested that people should use the computer to try and work out the best line available. If arguably the best player in the world cannot keep up with the latest moves, then club players should try and avoid it. **8 Qf3** This looks aggressive and is a sign that White wants to be positive. It is still debateable who is better, but there are plenty of options to attack for both sides. **8 Bxf6 gxf6 9 Qf3** is also possible. **8...b5 9 f5!?**



This is a tricky line to face over-the-board because it steers the game towards a double-edged position. White embarks on a wild attack featuring a piece sacrifice, but with plenty of time to study the defence can be sturdy. **9...b4** A little pawn nudge that pushes White into making a big decision in the opening. **10 Ncb5**

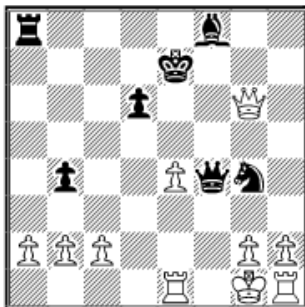


It looks sensational, but this knight sacrifice has been tried and tested. The alternative **10 fxe6?** is just wrong in view of **10...bxc3! 11 Bxf6 cxb2! 12 Rb1 gxf6 13 Qxf6 Qc3+! 14 Kf2 Bxe6 15 Qxh8 Nc6** winning the knight with a big advantage. Or **10 Nce2 e5 11 Nb3 Nbd7** intending ... **Bb7** with equal chances. Maybe **10 Nd1** might make a return in the limelight. For instance, **10...Nc6 11 Nxc6 Qxc6 12 fxe6 fxe6 13 Bd3 Be7 14 0-0 0-0 15 Nf2 (15 Ne3!?)** is a reasonable alternative) **15...Nd7 16 Qg3 Bxg5 17 Qxg5 Bb7 18 a3 bxa3 19 Rxa3 Ne5 20 Rc3 Qb6 21 Bc4 Rf6 (21...Rae8! favours Black) 22 Rg3 Rg6 23 Bxe6+ 1/2-1/2, D.Bronstein-M. Tal, Tbilisi 1982. 10...axb5 11 Bxb5+ 11 fxe6!?** is worth a go and now a) **11...fxe6?! 12 Bxf6 (12 Bxb5+ Kf7 13 0-0 is sharp) 12...gxf6 13 Qxf6 Qg7 14 Bxb5+ Nd7 15 Qxe6+ Be7 16 0-0-0 Qg6 17 Qd5 Qg5+ 18 Kb1 Qxd5 19 exd5 0-0** with roughly equal chances. b) **11...Be7 12 Nf5 0-0 13 e5 Bb7 14 Qg3 Ne4 Nxe7+ Kh8 16 Bd3 dxe5 17 Bxe4 Bxe4 18 0-0 f6?** (it looks logical, but allows White to wallop Black's kingside; instead **18...Qb6+!** is best when **19 Qe3 Qxe3+ 20 Bxe3 f6 21 Rfd1** leads to level chances) **19 Rxf6! Qxe7 20 Rf7 Qe8 21 Raf1 Rg8 22 Bh6 Bg6 23 Bxg7+**

1-0, U.Atakisi-B.Gundavaa, Turin Olympiad 2006. **11...Bd7 12 fxe6 Bxb5** Instead 12...fxe6? allows White to storm ahead: 13 Bxf6 gxf6 14 Qxf6 Bxb5 15 Nxb5 Qc4 16 Nxd6+ Bxd6 17 Qxh8+ Kd7 18 0-0-0 with a great position. **13 Nxb5 Qc5 14 Bxf6 fxe6** This is currently regarded as the best reply. I happened to find another move that was played against Mr. Denayer: 14...gxf6 15 Qxf6 fxe6 16 0-0-0 (I presume 16 Qxh8 is the critical test) 16...Qxb5 17 Qxe6+ Be7 18 Qc8+ ½-½, M.Sobirey-W. Denayer, Internet 2007. **15 Nd4** 15 Rf1 is the latest try to revive the line: 15...Qxb5! 16 Bxg7 Bxg7! 17 Qf7+ Kd8 18 Qxg7 Re8 Black has an extra piece, but still has some work to do. 19 0-0-0 Nd7 (19...Rxa2!? might be worth testing 20 Rxd6+ Kc8 21 Rf8 Rxf8 22 Qxf8+ Kb7 and the black king can escape) 20 Rf7 Kc7 21 Qd4 Qc6 22 Kb1 Ra4 23 b3 Rxa2! 24 Qxd6+ (24 Kxa2 runs into 24...Qxc2+ 25 Ka1 Ra8+ 26 Qa7+ Rxa7 checkmate) 24...Qxd6 25 Rxd6 Kxd6 26 Kxa2 Nc5 27 Rxh7 Nxe4 and Black won easily, M.Makropoulou-J.Dworakowska, St. Petersburg 2009. **15...gxf6 16 Nxe6** 16 Qxf6 might look good, but 16...Qe5 stops White from making progress. **16...Qc4** By keeping an eye on the knight on e6, the queen on c4 is very influential. **17 Qxf6** The position looks incredibly interesting and White is still trying to improve his chances. In the game J. Arosemena-M.Erdogdu, Dresden Olympiad 2008, White tried 17 Qf5, but 17...Nd7 holds the position together for Black. That game continued 18 Rf1 Rxa2 19 Rxa2 Qxa2 20 Qh5+ Ke7 21 Nc7 Kd8 22 Nd5 Qxb2 23 Qe2 Qa1+ 24 Kf2 Qd4+ 25 Kg3 Rg8+ 26 Kh3 Rg6 27 g3 Nc5 28 Re1 Ke8 29 Qh5 Qe5 30 Qe2 Kf7 31 Qc4 Kg7 32 Nf4 Qc3 33 Nh5+ Kh6 34 Qe2 Rg5 35 Nf4 Qe5 36 Qe3 f5 37 exf5 Qxe3 38 Rxe3 Rxf5 39 Kg4 Rg5+ 40 Kh4 Re5 41 Rf3 Be7+ 42 Kh3 Ne4 0-1. **17...Nd7 18 Nc7+** Another big test has to be 18 Qxh8, but 18...Qxe4+ looks good: 19 Kd1 Qg4+ (19...Qxe6 20 Re1 Ne5 21 Qxh7 is the sort of dangerous position that White wants) 20 Kc1 Qxe6 21 Qxh7 Nc5 which is interesting, but Black went on to win in the game U.Atakisi-E.Berg, Kemer 2007. **18...Qxc7 19 Qxh8 Qc5! 20 Qxh7 Qe3+**



21 Kf1 This is supposed to be an improvement on the game R.Molander-J. Moreno Carnero, Port Erin 2003, but I think Black is always the favourite. 21 Kd1 b3 (21...Bh6 looks good) 22 Qh5+ Ke7 23 Qf3 (if 23 cxb3, then 23...Qd4+ is the key move when R.Hungaski-J.Bittencourt, Guarapari 2006, continued 24 Ke2 Qxb2+ 25 Kf3 Ne5+ 26 Kg3 Qc3+ 27 Kh4 Bg7 28 Rac1 Bf6+ 0-1) 23...Qd4+ 24 Ke2 Ne5 25 Qxb3 Qxe4+ 26 Kf2 Bh6 27 Rae1 Qd4+ 28 Ke2 Rf8 29 Qb7+ Ke6 30 Qb3+ d5 31 Qh3+ Ng4 0-1, R.Molander-J.Moreno Carnero, Port Erin 2003. **21...Nf6 22 Qg6 + Ke7 23 Re1 Qf4+ 24 Kg1 Ng4!**



Denayer suggests that this is the move that busts White. **25 Qh7+ Kd8 26 Qf5 Qd2! 27 Qxf8+** 27 Kf1 might be worth testing. **27...Kc7 28 Qf7+**

Kb6 29 Kf1 29 Qf1?? is a horror upon 29...Qd4+ 30 Re3 Qxe3+ 31 Qf2 Qxf2 checkmate. **29...Qh6 30 Qf3 Rf8 31 h3 Rxf3+ 32 gxf3 Ne3+ 33 Kf2 Nxc2 34 Re2 34 Rd1** puts up tougher resistance. **34...Nd4 35 Rd1 Nxe2 36 Kxe2 Kc5 37 a3 b3 38 Rd3 Qc1 39 Rd5+ Kc4 40 Rd2 Qh1 41 a4 Qxh3 42 a5 Qg2+ 43 Ke3 Qg1+ 44 Ke2 Qa1 45 a6 Qxa6 0-1**

It seems this line is still in crisis for White.

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** column...

[Yes, I have a question for Gary!](#)

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