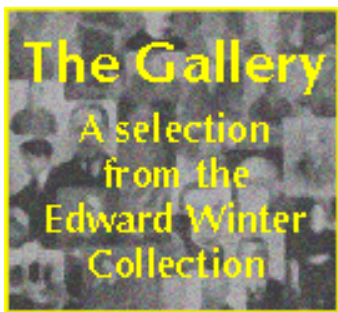




## COLUMNISTS

*Opening Lanes*

Gary Lane



*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 you full name and country of residence please) and perhaps Gary will reply in his next *Chess Cafe* column...

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

## The Five Pawns Attack

The search for new and exciting openings is one of the reasons why players dream of winning quickly. After all, why bother learning 21 moves of the Queen's gambit Declined when a new variation might win the game after a handful of moves? In my experience nobody will be afraid of something called the two pawns attack but five is a different matter!

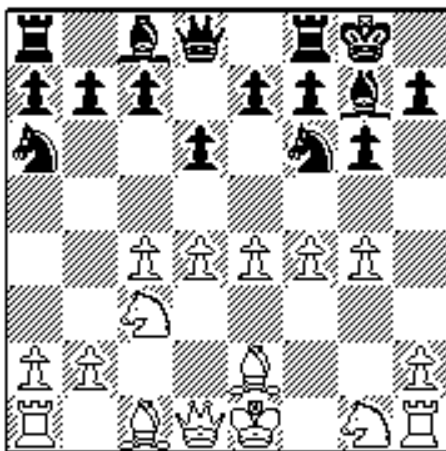
**Travis Chua** writes from the **Philippines**: "I was working on my repertoire in the King's Indian when I stumbled upon the following possible variation, a sort of 'Five Pawns Attack':

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f4 0-0 6 Be2 Na6 7 g4!? e5 8 g5 Nd7 9 fxe5 dxe5 10 d5 f6 11 Nf3 Ndc5 12 gxf6 Bxf6 13 Bd2?? Bh4+ 14 Kf1 Bh3+ 15 Kg1 Rxf3 16 Bxf3 Nd3 17 Be3 Qg5+ 18 Bxg5 Bf2 0-1 Has it already been refuted?"

It is certainly an entertaining variation with a nice finish. I presumed that no one had the courage to play such a wonderful opening at international level but I was wrong.

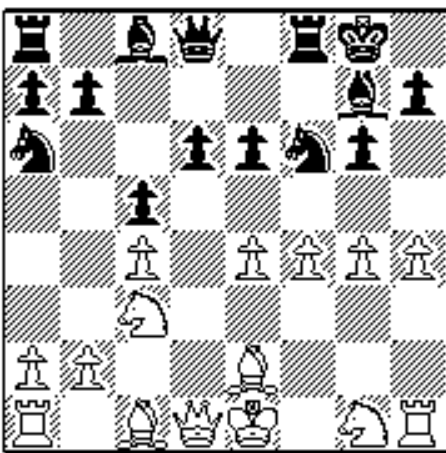
**A. Cooley-William Paschall Las Vegas 1997**

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f4** The Four Pawns Attack is known to be tricky but there are various ways to handle the opening. **5...0-0 6 Be2 Na6 7 g4!?** (See Diagram)



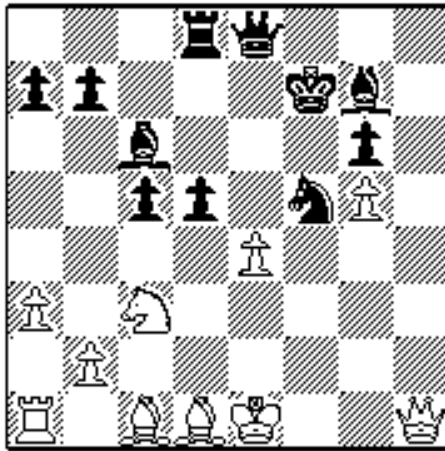
The starting point of the aptly named Five Pawns Attack! In the game Bosboom Lanchava-M. Solleveld, Dutch Team Ch 2000, White played the standard 7 Be2 when Black played the enterprising pawn sacrifice 7...e5. That game went 8 fxe5 dxe5 9 dxe5 (White grabs the pawn although 9 d5!? should be considered) 9...Qxd1+ 10 Bxd1 Ng4 11 Bf4 Nc5 12 Bc2 Ne6

13 Bd2 (13 Bg3?! Is an attempt to hold on to the e-pawn but it runs into 13...Ne3! And Black is better) 13...c6 14 Ne2 a5 15 Rd1 Nxe5 16 b3 a4 and Black had an initiative. **7...c5** Paschell rightly avoids panicking at the spectacular opening and responds in accepted fashion. The move ...c5 is often play against the Four Pawns to challenge the centre and tends to lead to Benoni-type positions. It is also worth investigating 7...e5 hoping for play similar to the note to White's seventh move. **8 d5 e6 9 dxe6 fxe6 10 h4** (See Diagram)



One has to admire Cooley for his consistency in advancing his pawns in pursuit of an attack. The drawback is that he has not yet developed the rest of his pieces, which means that Black can fairly easily fend off the pawn avalanche. **10...Nb4!?** An adventurous manoeuvre to bring the queen's Knight into the action. **11 a3 Nc6 12 h5 Nd4 13 hxg6 hxg6 14 Qd3 Qe8 15 g5 Nh5 16 Bd1 Bd7**

Black is not willing to encourage White to attack and simply activates the rest of his queenside. Instead, 16...Nxf4 17 Bxf4 Rxf4 18 Qh3 presents Black with a material advantage but does give White some attacking chances in compensation. **17 Qh3 Bc6 18 Nge2 Rd8 19 Ng3** White is determined to open up access to the h-file for the Queen and Rook. However, without the benefit of the dormant queenside pieces it is difficult to add reinforcements to the onslaught. **19...Nxg3 20 Qxg3 d5 21 Qh3 Kf7** The King steps away from the attention of the white Queen. **22 cxd5 exd5 23 f5 Rh8 24 Qg2 Rxd1+ 25 Qxd1 Nxf5** (See Diagram)



Black is clearly on top. He has won a pawn because the e4 pawn is pinned and his King is relatively safer. **26 Bg4 d4 27 Bxf5 gxf5 28 g6+ Kxg6 29 Qg2+ Kf7 30 Ne2 Qxe4 31 Bg5 d3 32 0-0-0 dxe2 0-1**

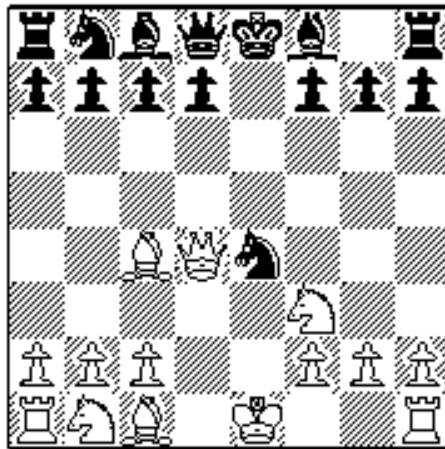
**Doug Schwetke**, from Arlington, Texas, USA says he is developing a repertoire for White using the Bishop's Opening and the Urusoff

Gambit in particular. He wants to know if there are any holes or possible weaknesses in these lines?

I think that that the Bishop's Opening (1 e4 e5 2 Bc4) has been proved to be a sound choice at the highest level. It is usually used as a prelude to enter the Closed Giuoco Piano, which happens after 2...Nf6 3 d3 Nc6 4 Nf3. However, Doug prefers the aggressive move-order 2...Nf6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nf3. Now after 4...Nc6 the opening has transposed to the Scotch Gambit. Instead, 4...Nxe4 is a critical test of the opening preparation.

**Andrew Footner-Gary White Shropshire 1999**

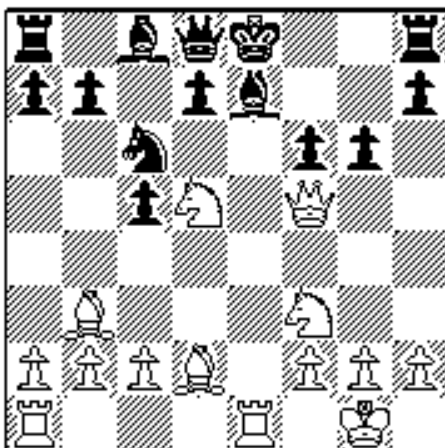
**1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nf3 Nxe4 5 Qxd4** (See Diagram)



The Urusoff Gambit is a favourite at club level because for the sake of a pawn White is presented with attacking chances. White will have a lead in development and once he castles will bring a Rook to the open e-file. **5...Nd6?! This is a typical mistake by someone who is not familiar with the various lines of the gambit. It seems that that it gains time by threatening to exchange the**

Bishop, which can be followed up by ...Nc6 to put pressure on the centralised Queen. 5...d5 has been tried a few times but White is better after 6 Bxd5 Nf6 7 Bxf7+! Kxf7 8 Qxd8 Bb4+ 9 Qd2. **6 0-0 f6** An admission that things have gone wrong. Black is worried about the prospect of Re1+ when Be7 to block the check will allow Qxg7. For instance: the problem with 6...Nxc4? is that it is crushed by 7 Re1+ Be7 8 Qxg7 Rf8 9 Bh6 when the threat of 10 Qxf8 mate will persuade Black to resign. **7 Re1+ Be7 8 Qg4 g6 9 Bb3 c5 10**

**Bf4 Nf5 11 Nc3** Footner has developed his pieces with ease while Black still has his King marooned in the centre. **11...Nc6 12 Nd5 Qa5 13 Bd2 Qd8 14 Qxf5!** (See Diagram)

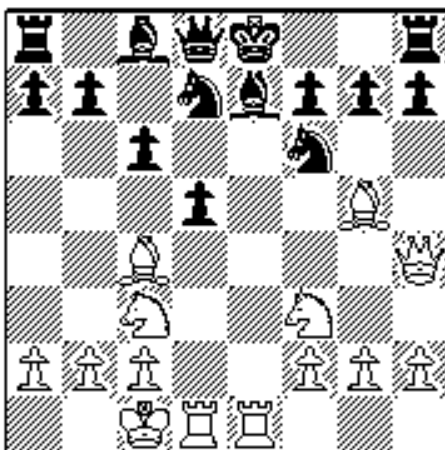


A wonderful move that is a suitable finish to such an aggressive opening. If the Queen is taken with 14...gxf5 then 15 Nxf6+ Kf8 16 Bh6 mate. **14...Rf8 15 Qxf6 1-0**

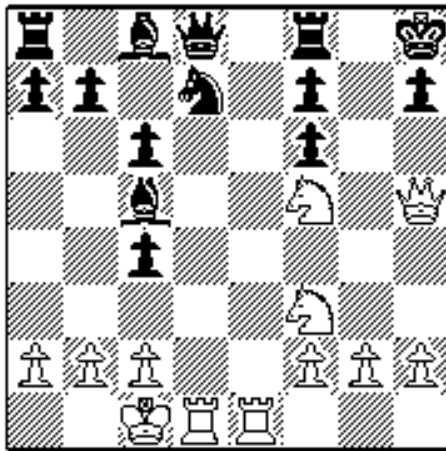
Naturally, playing a gambit can be a risky business but it can catch out even strong players. In a recent game the opening had the seal of approval from a highly rated gm.

**Boris Avrukh-Almira Skripchenko Anibal 2001**

**1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nf3 Nxe4 5 Qxd4 Nf6 6 Nc3 c6 7 Bg5 d5 8 0-0-0 Be7 9 Qh4** This line has been fairly well documented but it has received additional attention even since the top player Fedorov started playing the opening. Also possible is the usual 9 Rhe1 that maintains the pressure. The game Tseitlin-Lev, Tel Aviv 1990, saw Black try the accepted formula of blocking the e-file with 9...Be6. There followed 10 Qh4 Nbd7 11 Nd4 Nc5 12 f4 0-0 (12...dxc4? 13 Nxe6 with a revealed attack on the Queen) 13 Bd3 Re8 14 Bf5 Bxf5 15 Nxf5 Ncd7 16 Rd3 g6 17 Nxe7+ Rxe7 18 Rf1 b5 19 f5 and White had a strong attack. **9...Nbd7 10 Rhe1** (See Diagram)



**10...dxc4** Black cannot resist the offer of a Bishop. In return Avrukh rips apart the kingside and is well placed to continuously improve the position of his pieces. **11 Bxf6 gxf6 12 Ne4!** The centralised Rooks means that the threat of Nxf6+ is strong. **12...0-0 13 Ng3 Kh8 14 Nf5 Bc5 15 Qh5** (See Diagram)



It is remarkable how White is able to gradually improve his attacking chances without worrying about the material deficit. **15...c3** If 15...Re8 to stop Re4 then 16 Nh6! is good for White upon 16...Rf8 17 Nxf7+ Rxf7 18 Qxf7. **16 Re4 Qb6 17 b3 Rg8** The makes room for the possibility of ...Nf8 to protect h7. Having coped with one attacking idea there now appears on the board

another way for White to increase the pressure. **18 Qxf7 Qa5 19 Rxd7! Ba3+** Of course 19...Bxd7 allows 20 Qxf6+ with mate to follow. **20 Kb1 Qxf5 21 Re8 1-0**

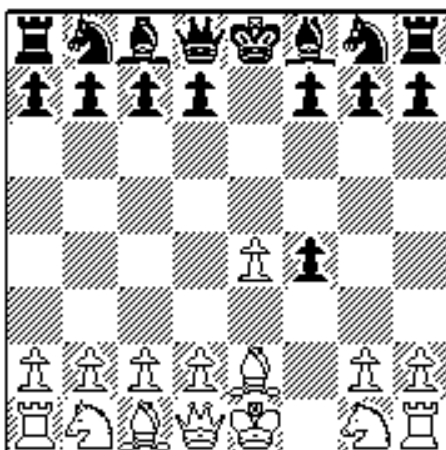
**Eric C. Johnson** from the USA says, "My question concerns the 3. Be2 line in the King's Gambit (1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Be2). Tartakower played this three times at New York 1924, and we have a high expert/low master player at our club who favors it. He's played it often over many years and although we try to tell him that it really doesn't lead to anything, he stubbornly clings to it. You might think this would be good news for his fellow high experts/low masters...but playing against obscure stuff all the time tends to be boring and not helpful for preparing for other events...and the really frustrating part of all this is our (plural - more than one player) tendency to get good positions from the opening, only to squander them in the time pressure of our g/40 club chess events. Of course, this simply reinforces the player's view that 3 Be2 is actually good for White!!"

Johnson-Mongilutz Allentown 2001

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Be2 d5 4 exd5 Nf6 5 Nf3 Nxd5 6 c4 Ne7 7 d4 Ng6 8 Nc3 c5 9 d5 Bd6 10 0-0 0-0 11 Nb5 Bg4 12 Nxd6 Qxd6 13 Ne1 Bxe2 14 Qxe2 b5 15 b3 bxc4 16 bxc4 Nd7 17 Nd3 Qa6 18 Nxf4 Nge5 19 Bb2 Qxc4 20 Qh5 f6 21 Rad1 Rab8 22 Bxe5 fxe5 23 Ne6 Rf6 24 Rxf6 gxf6 25 h3 Qe4 26 Kh2 Qg6 27 Qe2 f5 28 Rd3 f4 29 Rf3 Rb6 30 g3 Qb1 31 Rf2 fxg3+ 32 Kxg3 Rb4 33 Kh2 Qe4 34 Rg2+ Kh8 35 Qh5 Rb8 36 Qf7 1-0

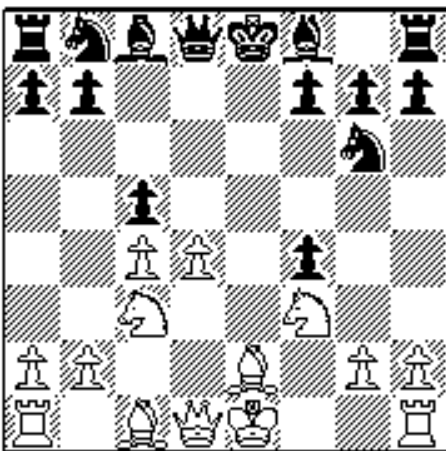
The opening is certainly not bad and the perception that White is not joining in the fun by playing a main line King's Gambit sounds like a good psychological ploy. Of course, a good player can make the most of almost any opening and in this case Johnson demonstrates that is it possible to conjure up attacking possibilities in a quiet position. In his notes to the game Eric is particularly interested in whether 9 d5 was critical? The following example sheds light on another approach to the position.

*James Cobb-Mark Ferguson British Ch 1995*  
**1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Be2** (See Diagram)



Apparently, this is known as the Petroff Gambit. It should be relatively harmless for Black compared to other aggressive lines. The reason is that on e2 the Bishop is passively placed allowing Black to easily challenge the centre with ...d5, which is the traditional idea in these lines. **3...d5** In the game S.Tartakower-F.Yates, New York, 1924, Black delayed contest the centre with 3...Nc6.

There followed 4 d4 d5 5 exd5 Qxd5 6 Nf3 Bg4 7 Nc3 (the centralised Queen is an obvious target for White) 7...Bb4 8 0-0 Bxc3 9 bxc3 Nge7 10 Bxf4 Qe4? 11 Bxc7 and White was a pawn up for nothing. **4 exd5 Nf6 5 Nf3** It is worth noting that this position can also arise from the move-order 1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 d5 4 exd5 Nf6 5 Be2. **5...Nxd5** If Black wishes to play more adventurously then 5...Bd6 is worth a try with the intention of offering a pawn for active play. For instance: 6 c4 c6 7 d4 (White declines to take the pawn and concentrates on establishing a pawn wedge on the queenside) 7...cxd5 8 c5 Bc7 9 0-0 Nc6 10 a3 0-0 11 b4 a6 12 Nc3 Re8 13 Bd3 Bg4 (the simple threat of 14...Nxd4 gives White problems) 14 Ne2 Ne4 15 h3 Bxf3 16 Rxf3 Ng5 17 Rxf4 Bxf4 18 Bxf4 Qf6 19 Qd2 Nxd4! 20 Rf1 (20 Bxg5? fails to 20...Nxe2+ 21 Bxe2 Qxa1+) 20...Ne4 21 Qe3 Nxe2+ 22 Qxe2 Nxc5 and Black was winning, R.Djurhuus-Balashov, Biel 1989. **6 c4 Ne7 7 d4 Ng6 8 Nc3 c5** (See Diagram)



**9 dxc5** Cobb is content to enter an ending where he has a three versus two pawn majority on the queenside. However, it is a risky strategy considering Black has four versus two pawns on the kingside! In the Johnson game 9 d5 was preferred which is probably the best idea considering that keeping the Queens on the board means that the King's Gambit player can continue to

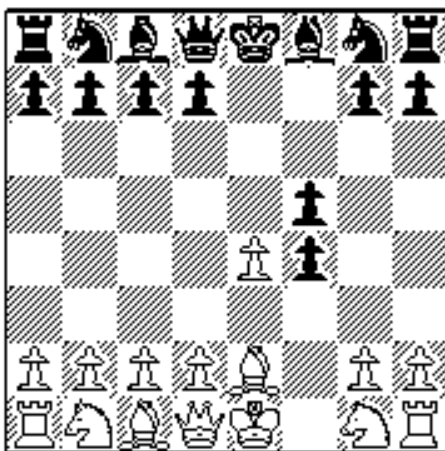
issue threats against the black King. **9...Qxd1+ 10 Bxd1 Bxc5 11 Nd5 Na6 12 a3 0-0 13 b4 Re8+ 14 Be2 Bd6 15 Kf2 Nc7 16 Nc3**

**b6 17 Rd1 Be7 18 Bb2** Cobb has managed to develop his pieces and advance his queenside pawns but it should not be enough compensation for the pawn. **18...a5?! 19 Nd5 Nxd5 20 cxd5** The passed d-pawn suddenly gives White excellent chances. The game concluded: **20...Bd6 21 Bb5 Re4 22 Nd2 f5 23 Nc4 Bc7 24 d6 Bd8 25 Bc6 Rb8 26 d7 Bb7 27 Bxb7 Rxb7 28 Nd6 Rc7 29 Nxe4 fxe4 30 Rac1 Rxc1 31 Rxc1 Kf7 32 Bxg7 Ke6 33 Rd1 axb4 34 axb4 Ne7 35 b5 Nf5 36 Bd4 Nd6 37 Kf1 Nxb5 38 Bxb6 Nc3 39 Rc1 Bxb6 40 Rxc3 Kxd7 41 Rc4 f3 42 Rxe4 fxg2+ 43 Kxg2 Bd8 44 Kf3 Be7 45 Kg4 Ke8 46 Rf4 Bd6 47 Rf2 Bf8 48 Kh5 Bg7 49 Kg5 Ke7 50 Rf3 Ke6 51 Rh3 h6+ 52 Kg6 Bf8 53 Re3+ Kd7 54 Kf7 Bd6 55 Rd3 Kc6 56 h4 Bf4 57 h5 Kc7 58 Kg7 Kc6 59 Rd8 Kc7 60 Rd1 Kc6 61 Rf1 Bg5 62 Rg1 1-0**

If you are looking for something different against 3 Be2 in the King's Gambit then the next game might well be useful.

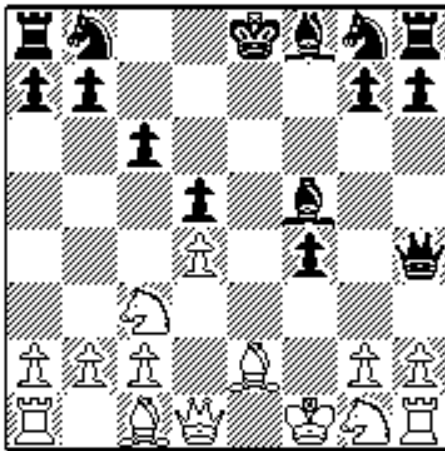
***Paulus Thoeng-Jonny Hector Antwerp 1994***

**1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Be2 f5!?** (*See Diagram*)



This move has been known for some time but has gone out of fashion. It looks a good practical try to me and the Swedish GM is renowned for playing active lines. **4 exf5** It is possible to try to stop Black's ambitions of swift development by nudging the pawn forward with 4 e5. In the old game H.Bird-L.Weiss, Bradford, 1888, Black continued with 4...d6 in the hope that

exchanging pawns would help development. There followed 5 Nf3 dxe5 6 Nxe5 Qh4+ 7 Kf1 (in these lines White often forfeits the right to castle but this is compensated by the chance to chase the black Queen) 7...Bd6 8 Nf3 Qf6 9 d4 Ne7 10 c4 c6 11 Nc3 Nd7 12 Bd2 Qh6? (perhaps 12...0-0!? should be considered) 13 c5! Bc7 14 Qb3 (the black King is now stuck in the centre allowing White to create a dangerous attack) 14...Nf6 15 Bc4 Ne4 16 Re1 Nxd2+ 17 Nxd2 Kd8 18 Nf3 b5 19 Be6 b4 20 d5 bxc3 21 d6 Rb8 22 dxe7+ Kxe7 and now 23 Bd7+? was played and White won after 29 moves. The joy of computer programmes is that it is much easier to improve on the play of old masters, so I can add that 23 Bg8+! is more precise. **4...Qh4+ 5 Kf1 d5 6 Nc3 c6 7 d4 Bxf5** (*See Diagram*)



It can already be said that opening has been a success for Hector. He has activated his white-squared Bishop, the pawn on d5 restricts White's pieces and White can no longer castle. **8 Nf3 Qh6** Black is determined to hang on to the extra pawn on f4. **9 Bd3 Bxd3+ 10 Qxd3 Bd6 11 h4 Ne7 12 g4** An enterprising way to create threats against the black Queen but without piece

reinforcements is lacks bite. **12...Nd7 13 Bd2** If **13 g5** then **13...Qh5** is better for Black. **13...0-0-0** The black King is safe on the queenside which is not exactly what White wants in the King's Gambit. **14 Re1 Qf6 15 h5 h6 16 Rh2 g6 17 hxg6 Qxg6 18 Qxg6 Nxc6** The ending is pleasant for Black who has an extra pawn. **19 Re6 Ndf8 20 Rf6 Be7 21 Rf7 Ne6 22 Na4 Rde8 23 b4 Rhf8 24 Rxf8 Bxf8** The active white Rook is finally exchanged and Hector can now continuously improve his position. **25 b5 Ng5 26 Nxc6 hxg5 27 bxc6 bxc6 28 Rh5 Be7 29 Rh6 Rg8 30 Nb2 c5 31 dxc5 Bxc5 32 Nd3 Bd4 33 Nb4 Ne5 34 Nxd5 Rd8 35 Ne7+ Kb7 36 Nf5 Bc5 37 Rh7+ 0-1**

Finally, **Ingvar Johannesson** from **Iceland** writes to solve a mystery outlined in the January column. He writes "The victim of that beautiful attack in the Spanish Exchange against Matthias Wahls, was the Icelandic IM Bjarnason, Saevar. I'm 98% sure of this, played in Malmo 85/86." Well, I think this is probably the case after another reader wrote "I am Gunnar Finnlaugsson, Icelandic but living in Lund, Sweden. The game played in Malmo 1985/1986 was not between Wahls and Bjerring. The Icelandic IM Saevar Bjarnason was playing Black." At the moment I can't lay my hands on the original bulletin but it sounds safe to change your database or cross out the name in your book on the Spanish.

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***Gary wants your questions on openings!! Send it along and perhaps it will be answered in an upcoming column. Please include your name and country of residence. [Yes, I have a question for Gary!](#)***



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