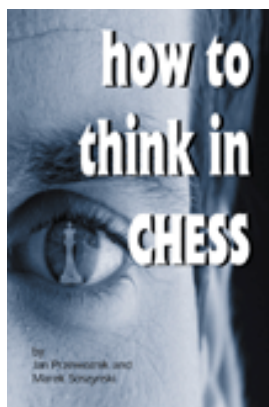




COLUMNISTS

Opening Lanes

Gary Lane



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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 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!

Murder on the Orient Express

In a recent poll the most famous Belgian was declared to be Hercule Poirot the detective created by the writer Agatha Christie. In the chess world we could think of a few Belgians who have actually existed and near the top of every list would be Edgard Colle. The opening that bears his name continues to be played at all levels and in particular amongst club players who like the simple-set up that can lead to kingside attacks. I mentioned the opening in my last column and it certainly created a lot of interest. My thanks to **W. Henderson (USA)**. And **Peter Jolly** from the **Isle of Wight, UK** amongst others who wanted to know more about the Colle. I start with a recent example of the Colle that shows how it can be tricky for Black.

Marc Narciso Dublan-Laslo Barczay Budapest 2001
1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 e3 c5 4 Bd3 d5 5 c3 Nc6 6 Nbd2



This is the tradition position of the Colle that has been played for years. Basically, whatever Black does White puts his pawns on c3, d4 and e3. The knights are developed on d2 and f3 while the light-squared bishop on d3 is well placed for an attack where it controls the b1-h7 diagonal. After castling kingside, White, thanks to the support of the knight on d2 and bishop on d3, can play



e3-e4 opening the position. Colle's Belgian compatriot George Koltanowski wrote extensively about the opening and played it frequently as a tribute to his friend who died young. It is Kolty's influence that has made it so popular in his adopted homeland the USA where it is sometimes known as the Koltanowski. **6...Bd6 7 0-0 0-0 8 dxc5**



White wishes to play e4 and takes on c5 first to avoid an isolated pawn on d4. For instance: 8 e4 cxd4 9 cxd4 Nb4 10 Bb1 dxe4 11 Nxe4 with equal chances. **8...Bxc5 9 e4 e5 10 exd5 Qxd5 11 Qc2!?** This is unusual because 11 Qe2 is the standard move. **11...Bg4** In the game S.Savova-G.Stanciu,Blatonfured 1987, Black was concerned

about the potential threat to h7 and tried 11...h6. There followed: 12 Ne4 Nxe4 13 Bxe4 Qd6 14 Re1 (a more energetic approach is 14 Rd1 Qf6 15 b4 with an edge) 14...Re8 15 Be3 Bxe3 16 Rxe3 Bg4 17 h3 Bxf3 18 Rxf3 Qe6 19 Bf5 when White had the better chances. **12 Ne4 Bxf3 13 gxf3**



One would think Black would be happy at wrecking the kingside pawn structure but things are not easy. The problem is that 13...Nxe4 14 Bxe4 wins a pawn thanks to the twin threats to the queen and the h7 pawn. There is also another threat that the international master fails to spot! **13...Kh8? 14 c4!**

The Colle-Zukertort has a number of tricks and traps in the opening and this is one of them. It might seem incredible but Black is already lost because he cannot adequately defend the bishop on c5. **14...Qd7** If 14...Qd4 then 15 Be3 is a winner. **15 Nxc5 Qh3 16 Bf5 Qxf3 17 Qd3 1-0**

I have also had the chance to employ the opening. In my new book *The Ultimate Colle* I devoted a large chunk of it to the Colle-Zukertort and jumped at the chance of playing it in an internet game.

Gary Lane-Gold Coast Chess Club 2001

1 d4 d5 1...c5 can be met by 2 e3 rather than the usual 2 d5, which is in keeping with the Colle pawn formation. Instead reader **Peter Held (Germany)** tried a different move-order to trick his opponent Peter Rahls in the Berlin Championship 2001. That game went 1 Nf3 c5 2 b3 Nc6 3 Bb2 Nf6 4 e3 d5 5 d4 e6 6 Bd3 and the position transposed to a Colle-Zukertort.
2 Nf3 Nf6 3 e3 e6 4 Bd3 c5 5 b3



At this point I asked my eleven opponents at the chess club if they knew the name of the opening? Not a single person could think of a title! This is not unusual because it is a line that has been unfairly neglected in the past by opening books. However, it has been played by numerous top players such as Conquest, Khalifman

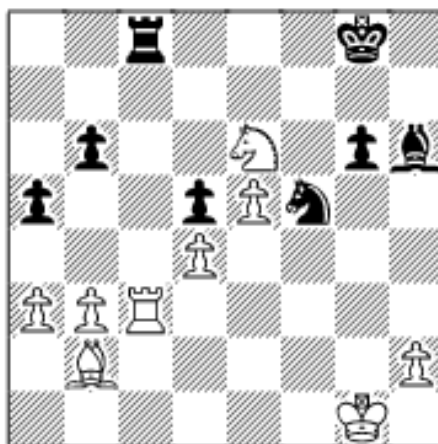
and Yusupov. It is known as the Colle-Zukertort and the obvious difference is that White can quickly develop his dark-squared bishop. On b2 the bishop helps to control the e5 square, when a normal attacking idea is to castle kingside followed by Ne5 and f2-f4. **5...Nc6 6 0-0 cxd4 7 exd4 Be7 8 Bb2 0-0 9 Nbd2** The threat of ...Nb4 prompted 9 a3 in S.Brown-M.Roth, Turnkey 1998. There followed: 9...Bd7 10 Nbd2 Rc8 11 Ne5 Ne8 12 f4 (the plan of Ne5 followed by f4 is an obvious theme for Colle-Zukertort players) 12...f6 13 Nxd7 Qxd7 14 Qe2 Nc7 15 Rae1 Rfe8 16 Kh1 Bd6 17 c4 e5 18 fxe5 fxe5 19 Bf5 Qd8 20 Qh5 and Black can resign. **9...b6** 9...Nb4 is possible when 10 Be2 is necessary to preserve the bishop when White continues with a2-a3 and then places the bishop back on d3. **10 a3 Re8 11 Ne5 Bb7 12 f4** This plan of Ne5 and f4 is a regular occurrence in the line. The problem for Black is that although his position might be fairly solid in practical experience the confined position is awkward to handle. **12...g6 13 Qe2 Bf8 14 Rae1 Bg7 15 Qf2 a5 16 g4**



I have more space and it seems logical to put pressure on Black by advancing the g-pawn. It does make my king look exposed but with the centre closed there should be little short-term danger.

16...Qc7 17 Qh4 Ba6 18 Bxa6 Rxa6 19 c4 Raa8 20 g5 Nd7 21 cxd5 exd5 22 Rc1 Ndx5 23 fxe5 Qd7 24 Rf3 Ne7 25 Rh3 h5 26

gxh6 Nf5 27 Qg4 Bf8 (the defence with 27...Bxh6? fails upon 28 Rxh6 when the knight is pinned) **28 Nf3 Rac8 29 Rxc8 Qxc8 30 h7+ Kh8 31 Ng5 Nh6 32 Qxc8 Rxc8 33 Rf3 Nf5 34 Nxf7+ Kxh7 35 Ng5+ Kg8 36 Ne6 Bh6 37 Rc3 1/2-1/2**



At this point I made a draw offer in a won position due to the ultimate excuse offered by Black that it was late and the chess club was about to close.

Niki Mullins (Ireland) has been playing the Alekhine but has a few problems with the opening. "My question concerns the Four Pawns Attack in the

Alekhine Defense. I have split it into two parts. 1) After the moves 1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 c4 Nb6 5 f4 dxe5 6 fxe5 Nc6 7 Be3 Bf5 8 Nc3 e6 9 Nf3 black has several choices for his ninth move 9...Bg4/Bb4/Be7 to mention but a few. Which move is most favorable to black? 2) Assuming the game now continues 9...Bg4 10 Be2 Bxf3 11 gxf3 Qh4+ 12 Bf2 Qf4 13 c5 Nd7 14 Bb5 is there any hope for black in the sacrifice of 14...Nxe5 15 dxe5 Qxe5+ or even if white's 14th move is Qd3 or another such move can black swap for the two pawns and hope to get a third by pressurising the 'f' or 'c' pawns e.g. 14 Qd3 then 14 ...Nxe5 15 dxe5 Nxe5."

The first task is to see how the proposed knight sacrifice works and whether there is a reasonable alternative. And if you happen to be Chris Bird then look at the note to move six!

Alexy Suetin-Martin Forchert Lenk 1999

1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 c4 Nb6 5 f4



The Four Pawns attack is the critical line of the Alekine. White creates a large pawn centre guaranteeing a space advantage. Black tends to spend the opening restraining the pawns and finding ways to weaken the pawn chain. **5...dxe5 6 fxe5 Nc6** Reader Chris Bird from Las Vegas is intrigued by the line **6...c5**

which might also be an interesting alternative for Niki. **7 d5 e6 8 d6?** (8 Nc3 is normal) and now he wonders why that though **8...Qh4+** is supposed to win, his queen keeps getting trapped after **9 g3 Qe4+ 10 Qe2 Qxh1?** I think Black is definitely winning for example: **11 Nf3 Nc6 12 Be3** (12 Nbd2 Nd7 13 Qf2 Ndx5!) **12...Nxc4** (a key idea because **13 Qxc4 Qxf3** wins) **13 Bxc5 b6 14 Qe4 Bd7 15 Nc3 N4xe5** and black is clearly better. **7 Be3** The best way to guard the pawn on d4 because **7 Nf3** allows **7...Bg4** gaining a tempo on the main game. Perhaps White should then try something different with **8 e6**. For instance **8...fxe6 9 c5 Bxf3** (9...Nd5!?) **10 Bb5 Qd7 11 0-0 g6** is also possible) **10 Qxf3 Nxd4 11 Qh5+ g6 12 Qe5 Nc2+ 13 Kf2 Qd5 14 Bf4 Bg7 15 Qxg7 Rf8 16 Kg3 Rxf4** (the start of a sequence that leads to a dramatic draw but **16...Qxc5** is simple and good for Black) **17 Kxf4 Qf5+ 18 Kg3 Qg5+ 19 Kh3 Qh5+ 20 Kg3 Qg5+ 21 Kh3 Qh5+ 22 Kg3 Qg5+ 1/2-1/2** Vetemaa-Franssila, Jyvaskyla 1998. **7...Bf5 8 Nc3 e6 9 Nf3 Bg4** Black loses a tempo but there are sound reasons behind the move to put pressure on the d4 pawn and disrupt White's kingside. **10 Be2 Bxf3** It is necessary for Black to take quickly to allow the queen to enter the action because now **11 Bxf3?!** is ruled out due to **11...Nxc4**. **11 gxf3 Qh4+ 12 Bf2 Qf4 13 c5 Nd7** If **13...Nd5?!** then **14 Nxd5 exd5 15 Qd2** is fine for White. **14 Bb5**



White decides to exchange on c6 to double the pawns. You mentioned 14 Qd3 as a possible move but the proposed solution 14...Ndx5 15 dxe5 Nxe5 is not convincing if only by judging that black has only two pieces developed for the attack. Indeed, after 16 Qb5+ c6 17 Qxb7 White is winning. A better idea is 14...f6 to undermine the

extended pawn centre. R.Anderson-Alburt, New York 1993, continued 15 Be3 Qh4+ 16 Bf2 Qh6 17 Be3 Qh3 18 exf6 Nxf6 19 0-0-0 0-0-0 20 Qc4 Nd5 and Black has neutralised White's initiative giving him a slight edge. **14...Be7** This is the standard reply to activate the kingside. I don't recommend giving up a piece for a couple of pawns with 14...Ncxe5 (14...Ndx5 is harmless after 15 dxe5 Qxe5+ 16 Qe2 when Black cannot even win the c-pawn to make up for the piece deficit) because Black's pieces are not well placed upon 15 dxe5 Qxe5+ 16 Qe2 Qxe2+ 17 Bxe2 Bxc5 (17...Nxc5 18 Nb5! is better for White) 18 Bxc5 Nxc5 19 Nb5! Na6 20 Rc1 gives White excellent play while Black's extra pawns are a long way from promotion. **15 0-0 Rd8 16 Bxc6 bxc6 17 Qe2 Bh4 18 Bxh4 Qxh4 19 Qe4**



Suetin opts to head into the ending where he will have a space advantage. If this is the best Black can do then he is in trouble. The game concluded: **19...Qxe4 20 fxe4 f6 21 exf6 Nxf6 22 Rad1 Ke7 23 Rf3 Rhf8 24 e5 Nd5 25 Nxd5+ cxd5 26 Ra3 Ra8 27 Rf1 Rxf1+ 28 Kxf1 Rf8+ 29 Kg2 Rf4 30 Rxa7 Kd7 31 Ra4** White is a pawn up but he is tied

to the defence of the d4 pawn. **31...g5 32 Rb4 h5 33 a4 Rg4+ 34 Kh1 Re4 35 h4 Re1+ 36 Kg2 Rd1 37 b3 Rd2+ 38 Kg1 Rd1+ 39 Kg2 Rd2+ 1/2-1/2**

If you want to play 9...Bg4 then I would suggest you should add a twist in the form of 11...Qd7. It did very well in the following high-class encounter.

John Van der Wiel-Rafael Vaganian Ter Apel 1993

1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 c4 Nb6 5 f4 Bf5 6 Nc3 dxe5 7 fxe5 e6 8 Be3 Nc6 9 Nf3 Bg4 The alternative 9...Be7 was played by gm Djuric against the junior player Justin Tan at Canberra 2001 but the surprise opening backfired after 10 Be2 (10 d5 exd5 11 cxd5 Nb4 12 Nd4 Bd7 13 e6 leads to complications where Black should be fine) 10...0-0 11 0-0 Bg6 (perhaps 11...f6!? should be considered) 12 Rc1 Na5 13 Na4 Nc6 14 a3 Bh5 15 Nxb6 axb6 16 Qd3 Bg6 17 Qc3 Be4 18 Bd3 Bxd3 19 Qxd3 Ra5 20 Rfd1 when White was better although the game was eventually drawn. **10 Be2 Bxf3 11 gxf3 Qd7**



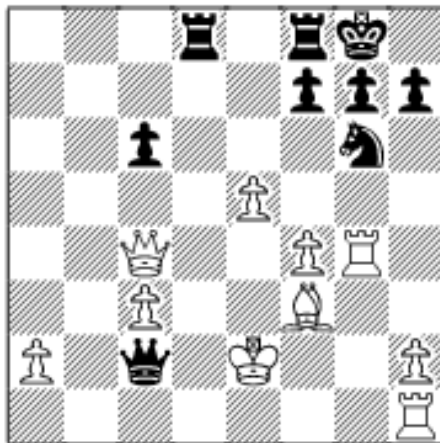
This is the difference and a possible alternative to what you normally play. The idea is to put pressure on the d4 pawn with ...Rd8. **12 f4?! Van der Wiel** is not afraid to advance his pawns but in the circumstances 12 Qd2 is a sensible alternative when play might continue 12...Bb4 13 a3 Be7 14 b4?! (14 Ne4 needs to be tested) 14...Bh4+ 15 Kf1 0-0-0 16 Rd1 f6 and Black will seek to exploit the exposed white king. **12...Rd8 13 d5 Bb4! 14 Bxb6** 14 dxc6? runs into 14...Qxc6 when the queen on d1 and the rook on h1 are under attack. **14...axb6 15 Bf3** Or 15 Rg1 intending to take on c6 or g7 is possible although 15...exd5 16 cxd5 Qh3 17 Rxg7 Qh4+ 18 Rg3 Qxh2 is good news for Black. **15...exd5 16 cxd5 Qh3 17 Ke2**



It looks terrible for White and it is. Then again 17 Qe2 Nd4 and 17 Kd2 Qf5 are also winning for Black. **17...0-0 18 Qd3** It is difficult for White to construct a decent defence because 18 Ne4 Bc5! intending ...Nd4+ is very strong. 18 Nb5 has been suggested but 18...Rfe8! is a prelude to a lightning attack upon 19 Nxc7 Nxe5

20 fxe5 Rxe5+ 21 Kd3 Rxd5+ and White can resign.

18...Ne7 19 Qc4 Bxc3 20 bxc3 b5 21 Qxb5 c6 22 dxc6 After 22 Qxb7 Black can play 22...Nxd5 and start chasing the king. For instance: 23 Qxc6 Nxf4+ 24 Ke3 Rd3+ 25 Kxf4 g5+ wins. **22...bxc6 23 Qc4 Ng6 24 Rag1 Qf5 25 Rg4 Qc2+**



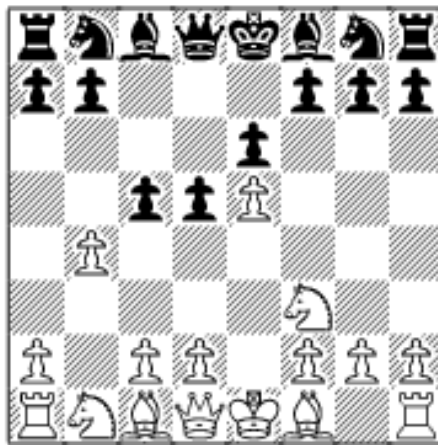
26 Ke3 26 Kf1 is no better upon 26...Rd1+ 27 Bxd1 Qxd1+ 28 Kg2 Qxg4+. **26...Qd2+ 27 Ke4 Rd5 0-1**

And finally, **Mike Welch (England)** has a cunning plan " My next league opponent is David Spence I am white and wanting a good line against the French as that is what he

plays. The line I am thinking of is as follows 1 e4 e6 2 Nf3 d5 3 e5 c5 4 b4!? is it sound ,could you publish some info on this gambit please?"

If David Spence is reading this then please turn away from your screen. Here is a quick look at the requested opening, which gives a demonstration of the attacking possibilities.

Grzegorz Gajewski-M. Maslowski Zakopane 2001
1 e4 e6 2 Nf3 d5 3 e5 c5 4 b4

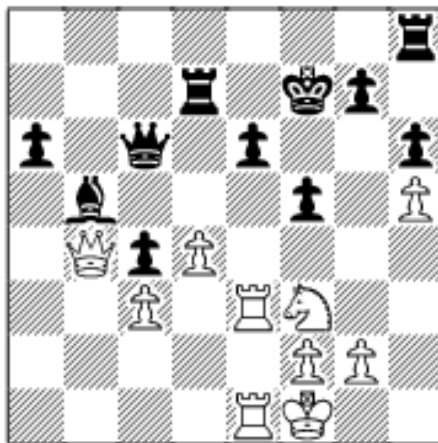


c3 Bd7 7 d4 Nc6 8 Bd3



I can't help thinking that you could save yourself a pawn by just playing the Advance French. **8...h6** In the game H.Mertens-J. Budczies, German Team Ch 1997, Black tried **8...Nge7** and White went on to demonstrate the possible attacking chances after **9 Nxa3 Nc8 10 Ng5 g6 (10...h6 comes up against 11 Qh5! Qe7 12 Nxf7 Qxf7 13 Bg6 wins) 11 Qf3 Qe7 12 Nb5 Rb8 13 Nd6+ Nxd6 14 exd6 Qxd6 15 Qxf7+ Kd8 16 Qf6+ gives White a winning advantage. 9 h4 a6 10 Bxa3 b5 11 Bxf8 Kxf8 12 h5 Na5 13 Nh4 Nc4 14 Qf3** The immediate threat is **15 Ng6+**. **14...Ne7 15 Rh3** It might look odd but this idea borrowed from the Advance French allows White to activate the king's rook to reinforce the attack. **15...Nf5 16 Nxf5 exf5 17 Qxd5 Qc8 18 Bxc4 bxc4 19 Nd2 Bb5 20 Re3 Ra7 21 Qd6+ Ke8 22 Kf1 Rd7 23 Qb4 Qc6 24 e6 fxe6 25 Rae1 Kf7 26 Nf3**

The French Wing Gambit is designed to help White create a strong centre by diverting Black's c-pawn. It is certainly dangerous for Black and it has a fairly good record. Although, any gambit is played with a certain amount of risk so it should be used with caution. **4...cxb4 5 a3 bxa3 5...d4 and 5...Nc6** are the main alternatives. **6**



The knight can greedily contemplate a major fork on e5. 26...Qd6 27 Ne5+ Kf6 28 Nxd7+ Qxd7 29 Qc5 Re8 30 d5 e5 31 Rxe5 1-0

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