



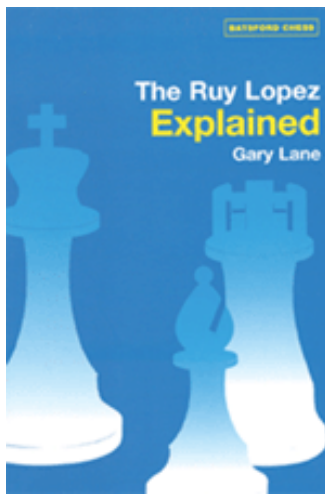
*Opening Lanes* is based in large part on readers' questions. Do you have a question about a particular opening line? Baffled by a branch of the Benoni or Budapest? Submit your questions (with you full name and country of residence please) and perhaps Gary will reply in his next *Chess Cafe* column...

*Yes, I have a question for Gary!*

## COLUMNISTS

### *Opening Lanes*

Gary Lane



### *The Ruy Lopez Explained*

by Gary Lane

## Someone from the Past

There are plenty of people who do not play as much chess as they would like, because those little things like work, family and kids can get in the way. Still, just about everybody glances at the newspaper columns and buys the occasional book in preparation for the comeback tournament that is always next year. **Roland Huylebroeck** from **Belgium** is perhaps one of those people, and he has an intriguing question: "After my active days in the chess world, which brought me to expert level (2150 ELO), I stopped competing because of work and family priorities. However, I have kept in touch with my hobby and I still occasionally play some casual games. Recently, while reading the interesting *Chess for Zebras* by Jonathan Rowson, I ran into the game Radjabov-Rowson, Calvi Olympiad 2004, which featured a rare variation in the Najdorf Poisoned Pawn: 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qb6 8 Qd3!?. After playing through this fascinating fight, I tried to look up other games with this interesting variation, but I could only find a few. I also found out that the game, which seemed like a grandmaster clash of theoretical relevance, did not make it into the *Informator*, nor did any other game in this variation during the last years. So, why is this? Is it just a matter of fashion? Or is there a refutation that Rowson did not know about? I look forward to your opinion."

The last person to tell me about 8 Qd3 was Garry Kasparov. Well, OK not in person, but on his first [DVD](#) about the Najdorf, which I was reviewing, and it is very good. He mentioned it in passing because the emphasis has been on 8 Qd2, so that was his main area of concentration. You are correct that the line has not been widely publicized, but this is probably because it had a burst of popularity in the 1980s. This was partly because the openings innovator **Michel Jadoul** from **Belgium** – who you must have heard of being from the same locality – played it against John Nunn in the capital city Brussels in 1985, and it was mentioned in *Informator 40*. This must have inspired the Englishman, because he tried it against Kasparov a year later in Brussels and then everyone started to analyse it. Maybe one could argue the modern

version of the line is a Belgian opening! Here is a recent example:

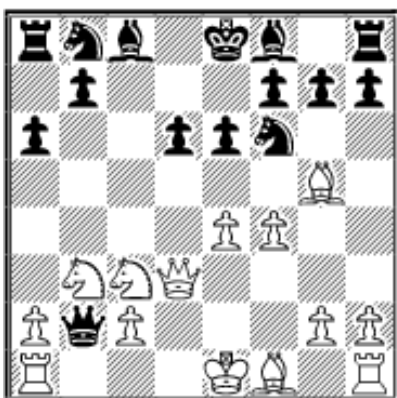
*Istvan Pajzer-Dragan Kojovic* Senta 2006

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6** This is the signature move of the Najdorf variation. **6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qb6 8 Qd3**



This is the mysterious queen move, and the argument in its favour is that the queen can easily shift to the kingside via g3 or h3. 8 Qd2 is by far the most popular move at this juncture: a) 8...Qxb2 9 Rb1 Qa3 10 f5 Nc6 11 fxe6 fxe6 12 Nxc6 bxc6 13 e5 dxe5 14 Bxf6 gxf6 15 Ne4 Qxa2 (15...Be7 is a popular alternative) 16 Rd1 Be7 17 Be2 0-0 18 0-0 Ra7 (18...f5 has also been tested, which demonstrates that you need to know

your openings, because this has all been played before) 19 Rf3! Rd7 20 Qh6 Rxd1+ 21 Bxd1 Rf7 22 Rg3+ Kh8 23 Qh5 Qa5 24 Kf1 (24 Qxf7?? allows 24...Qe1 mate) 24 ..Qd8 25 Qxf7 Qxd1+ 26 Kf2 Qxc2+ 27 Ke3 Qb3+ (maybe 27...Bc5+!? needs to be examined to revive this line) 28 Ke2 Qc4+ 29 Kf3 Qd3+ 30 Kg4! Qxe4+ 31 Kh3 Qf5+ 32 Rg4 Qd3+ 33 Kh4 1-0, M.Hoffmann-D.Morozov, Pardubice 2006. b) 8...Nc6 9 Bxf6 gxf6 10 Nb3 Bd7 11 Be2 h5 12 0-0-0 0-0-0 13 Rhf1 Ne7 14 Qxd6 Qxd6 15 Rxd6 Ng6 16 Rd3?! (16 Rd2 seems best, when 16...Bh6 (16...Nxf4 17 Rxf4 Bh6 18 Rxf6 is fine) 17 g3 e5 18 Nd5 is good for White) 16...Nxf4 17 Rdf3 (17 Rxf4 Bh6 18 g3 e5 is good for Black) 17...Nxe2+ 18 Nxe2 Rg8 19 g3 Be7 20 Ned4 Rg4 21 Re1 Rgg8 22 Ref1 ½-½, I.Nataf-R.Damaso, Evora 2006. **8...Qxb2** There is also a recent trend by grandmasters to avoid the complications by playing 8...Nc6 and responding to 9 0-0-0 with 9...Qxd4, which gives White an edge in the ending because of greater space to manoeuvre. **9 Nb3!?**



This knight manoeuvre does not have a good record, but it is less explored. Also possible: 9 Rb1 Qa3 10 f5 and now: a) 10...Be7 11 Be2 (11 Qc4 is nothing special because Black can get away with 11...0-0!, when 12 fxe6 fxe6 13 Nxe6? b5 wins) play might continue: (a1) 11...Qa5 12 Bd2 Qc7 13 fxe6 fxe6 14 g4 h6 15 e5!? (White sheds another pawn to keep the position ultra sharp) 15...dxe5 16 Qg6+ Kf8 17 Nf3 Bd7 18 g5 Be8 19

Qd3 hxg5 20 Nxg5 Bf7?! (20...Kg8 should be examined) 21 Nxf7 Kxf7 22 Rg1 Bd8 23 Ne4 Nxe4 24 Qxe4 Nc6 25 Qg6+ Kf8 26 Rf1+ Bf6 27 Rxf6+ gxf6 28 Qxf6+ Kg8 29 Rb3 Rh7 30 Bh6 Qa5+ 31 Kf1 1-0, T.Radjabov-J.Rowson, Calvia 2004. a2) 11...Nc6 12 fxe6 fxe6 13 Nxc6 bxc6 14 e5 dxe5 15 Bxf6 gxf6 16 Bh5+ Kf8 17 Qd2 Kg7 18 Rb3 (instead 18 Nd5 seems right, to bring the rook into play via b3, but it is not much good: 18...Rd8! 19 Rb3 Rxd5 20 Rxa3 Rxd2 21 Rg3+ Kh6 22

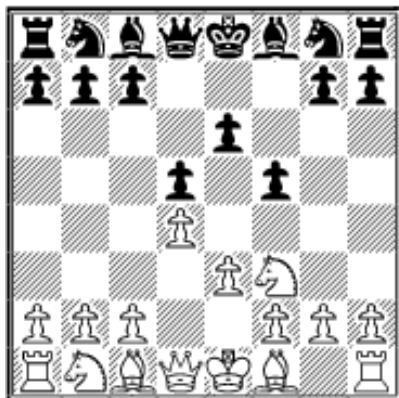
Kxd2 Kxh5 is great for Black) 18...Qa5! 19 0-0 Rg8 20 Kh1 Kh8 21 Qh6 Qd8 22 Ne4 f5 23 Bf7 Qf8 24 Qh5 Rg7 25 Be8 a5 26 Bxc6 Ba6 27 Rf2 Rd8 0-1, J.Nunn-G.Kasparov, Brussels 1986. b) 10...Qa5 11 Qc4 Kd8 12 Bd2 Qc5 13 Na4 (the obvious 13 fxe6! should be tested, when 13...b5 14 Qd3 fxe6 15 Be2 appears good for White) 13...Qxc4 14 Bxc4 Nc6 15 fxe6 (or 15 Nxc6+ bxc6 16 Ba5+ Ke8 17 Nb6 is roughly equal) 15...Nxd4 16 Ba5+ Ke7 17 Nb6 fxe6 18 Nxa8 Nxc2+ 19 Ke2 b5 20 Bd3 Nd4+ 21 Ke3 Nc6 22 Bc3 Bb7 23 Nb6 Kd8 this position was assessed to be in Black's favour by *Informator* 24 Rhc1 (24 a4 looks like an improvement offering equal opportunities) 24...d5 led to level chances in the game M.Jadoul-J.Nunn, Brussels 1985. **9...Nbd7 10 Rd1** 10 Be2 is met by 10...Nc5 11 Qe3 Nxb3 12 Rb1 Qa3 13 Rxb3 Qc5 with a double-edged position. **10...Qa3 11 Be2 Be7 12 0-0 Nc5 13 Qh3** This is in keeping with the whole idea of 10 Qd3, to be able to swing the queen across to the kingside. **13...Ncxe4 14 Nxe4 Nxe4 15 Bxe7 Kxe7** Kojovic has won another pawn, but at the cost of giving up the right to castle. **16 Qh4+ Nf6 17 f5 e5 18 g4 Qb4 19 c4 Qb6+ 20 c5 dxc5 21 Bc4 Qb4 22 g5 b5 23 gxf6+?** Who could resist taking a piece? Pajser misses a glorious chance to make a breakthrough with 23 Qg3!, when play might continue: 23...Qxc4 (or 23...Nd7 24 f6+ gxf6 25 gxf6+ Kd8 26 Bxf7 generates excellent attacking chances to put White clearly on top) 24 Qxe5+ Be6 (if 24...Kf8, then 25 Rd8+ Ne8 26 Rxe8 mate) 25 gxf6+ gxf6 26 Qd6+ Ke8 27 Qc6+ Ke7 28 Qb7+ winning easily. **23...gxf6 24 Rd6!?** An inspired idea to lure the black king into the open, which was probably the focus of White's attention when he failed to spot 23 Qg3. **24...Rg8+ 25 Kf2 Kxd6 26 Qxf6+ Kc7 27 Qxe5+** The star move to save the game at this stage is 27 Bd5!, then 27...Qf4+ (27...Rb8? 28 Qxe5+ wins; 27 ..Ra7 28 Qxf7+ Kb8 29 Qxg8 heavily favours White) 28 Ke2 Qg4+ 29 Bf3 Qc4+ 30 Kf2 Qc2+ 31 Ke3 Qc3+ 32 Kf2 looks a draw, which is certainly better than the game and Black would of had to find the right moves at the board. **27...Kb6 28 Qd6+ Ka7 29 Bd5** Now it is too late to add this important move to the combination. **29...Rb8 30 Nxc5 Qd2+** Black can now smile because the white king is sent on perilous journey. **31 Kf3 Qg2+ 32 Ke3 Re8+ 33 Ne6** Instead, 33 Ne4 blocks the check, but 33...Qxf1 is an easy win. **33...Qc2 34 Rf2 Qc3+ 35 Ke4 fxe6 36 fxe6 Bxe6 37 Bxe6 Rxe6+ 38 Qxe6 Qe1+ 39 Kd5 Rd8+ 0-1**

**Anthony Ragan from Ireland** is another player who cannot resist the lure of the game, but he wants to sort out his openings before playing seriously again: "I've recently returned to chess after many, many years away from the game. To make my re-entry easier, I've decided to limit my opening repertoire to just a couple of openings each for Black and White. I like the Colle and this has been successful. My question concerns what to do when Black responds with a Dutch formation, particularly a Dutch Stonewall. The pawns at f5 and d5 seem to squelch White's thematic e4 advance. How does one handle the Dutch in the Colle? Via a Colle-Zukertort? Or should White play more standard variations against the Dutch?"

I am a big fan of the Colle, but it is difficult to play the same thing against just about anything. If you face 1 d4 f5, then it is best to play your normal line against the Dutch, because, as you rightly say, the black set-up with pawns on d5 and f5 make it very difficult to quickly advance

the e-pawn. However, if you play the Colle-Zukertort it makes sense to incorporate a queenside fianchetto in your system against the Dutch. Then again, there is one move-order where a Colle player can be lured into the Dutch, even though it is fairly unusual:

**Hubert Walkewitz-Gerhard Scheuerlein** Bayern Championship 2005  
**1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 e6 3 e3 f5**

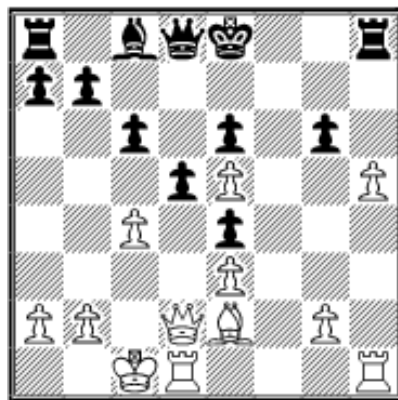


This is the tricky move-order that transposes to the Dutch. Of course, it is strange not to play the Dutch on move 1, so transposing into it means that Black will have to be prepared to take on the Queen's Gambit and a variety of other things. Still, it is possible, so it is best for White to be ready. The normal line starting with 3...Nf6 has recently been tested. For instance: 4 Bd3 and now: a) 4...Nbd7 5 Nbd2 Bd6 6 c4!? b6 7 e4 was an interesting idea explored in T.Hillarp Persson-E.Berg, Gothenburg 2006) b) 4...c5 5 c3 Nc6 6 Nbd2 Bd6 7 0-0 0-0 8 Re1 (or 8 dxc5 Bxc5 9 e4 is also possible with reasonable play) 8...Re8 9 e4 (the standard way to gain space in this line) 9...dxe4 10 Nxe4 Nxe4 11 Bxe4 Bd7 (perhaps 11...cxd4!? can be considered) 12 dxc5 Bxc5 13 b4 Bb6 14 a4 Bc7 15 Be3 h6 16 Qd2 f5 17 Bc2 Ne7 18 Bb3 Ng6 19 Rad1 Bc6 20 Qe2 (or 20 Qa2!? is also a good square for the queen because it targets the e6-pawn 20...Qf6 21 Bd4 Qf7 22 Rxe6 winning) 20...Qc8 21 Nd4 Kh7 22 Nxc6 bxc6 23 Qh5 Ne5 24 Bd4 Ng6 25 Be3 Be5 26 Bd4 (I like 26 Rd3 intending Red1 followed by Rd7 looks promising) 26...Bc7 27 g3 a6 28 Re2 f4? 29 Bc2 1-0, R.Koch-M.Gruenter, Kiel 2006. **4 c4** Instead, 4 Ne5 is an interesting idea and I was amused by the game A.Fitzpatrick-K.Selby, Australian juniors 2000, where Black blindly challenged the central knight with 4...Nd7? and was knocked out by (4...Nf6 can be met by 5 Nd2 intending Ndf3 to help maintain the knight on e5) 5 Qh5+ and White quickly won. **4...c6 5 Nc3** A heavyweight encounter from the old stars, S.Flohr-M.Euwe, Bern 1932, saw 5 Ne5 Nf6 6 Bd3 Bd6 7 0-0 0-0 8 f4 (this advance of the f-pawn to support the knight on e5 is common in the Colle and should be quickly spotted) 8...Nbd7 9 Nc3 Ne4 10 Bd2 Nxd2 11 Qxd2 Nf6 12 c5 Bc7 13 b4 Nd7 14 Ne2 (14 Qf2 intending Kh1, Rg1 and g2-g4 is worth considering) 14...Nxe5 15 dxe5 (instead, 15 fxe5 Bd7 16 a4 looks good for White who a space advantage) 15...Bd7 16 Nd4 Qe7 17 Rfc1 a6 18 a4 Ra7 19 Qc3 Rfa8 20 a5 ½-½. **5...Nf6** It makes sense to see how Edgard Colle handled this line in his time, and the game against Brinckmann, Bad Niendorf 1927, is encouraging: 5...Bd6 6 Bd3 Nd7?! 7 cxd5 cxd5 (7...exd5 is normally preferred to stop a knight coming to b5, but in this case it would allow the f-pawn to be taken with 8 Bxf5) 8 Bd2 (I like 8 Nb5 Bb8 9 Qa4 (this stops Black from co-ordinating his queenside pieces) 9...Ngf6 10 Qa3 Qe7 11 b3! gives White the advantage) 8...a6 9 Qa4 Rb8 10 Rc1 (or 10 Ne2 b5 11 Qb3 Ngf6 12 Bb4 with a slight edge) 10...Nh6, when White should castle kingside with the better chances. **6 Ne5** This is often seen in this line to take advantage of black's pawn moves and follows the

Colle example of supporting the knight with a future f2-f4. This idea can also be delayed to allow White to get the light-squared bishop into the game: 6 Bd3 Bd6 7 0-0 0-0 8 Ne5 Bxe5 Black does not wait for f2-f4 to appear on the board and spots a crafty combination. 9 dxe5 Ng4 10 f4 dxc4 11 Bxc4?! (11 Be2! is the best move in view of 11...Qxd1 12 Rxd1 b5 13 e4 with excellent compensation for the pawn) 11...Qh4! 12 h3 Nxe5 13 Bb3 Nf7?! (13...Rd8! followed by Nd3 is a good idea to give Black the superior chances) 14 e4 with roughly equal chances, L.Szabo-E.Pedersen, Prague 1954. **6...g6 7 f4** This should come as no surprise to any Colle player because the advance of the f-pawn supports the knight. **7...Ne4 8 Nxe4 fxe4 9 Be2 Qa5+ 10 Bd2 Bb4 11 h4!**



This looks outrageous, but it is a perfectly good idea, because it seeks to undermine the black kingside pawn structure and help to introduce white's king's rook into the attack. The point is that Black is behind in development and is vulnerable to a swift onslaught. **11...Nd7 12 h5 Nxe5 13 dxe5** Maybe 13 fxe5 is more promising, in view of 13...g5 14 Rf1 Bd7 15 Bxb4 Qxb4+ 16 Qd2 Qxd2+ 17 Kxd2 Ke7 18 Rf6, with an initiative. **13...g5!?** It seems daft to give away a pawn, but at the moment it is the only way to avoid being swept aside. **14 fxg5 Bxd2+?!** The ending is poor for Black because he is a pawn down, so there is no point encouraging White. It is essential to hide the king away, so 14...Bd7! preparing to castle queenside is a good idea and the pawn deficit is compensated by the weak e5-pawn. **15 Qxd2 Qd8** The ending after 15...Qxd2+ 16 Kxd2 Bd7 17 g6 leaves Black in serious trouble, because of the threat of g7 followed by h5-h6, cementing a passed pawn on the seventh rank. **16 g6!** A sign that White is more than willing to use his extra material to pile up the pressure on Black. **16...hxc6**



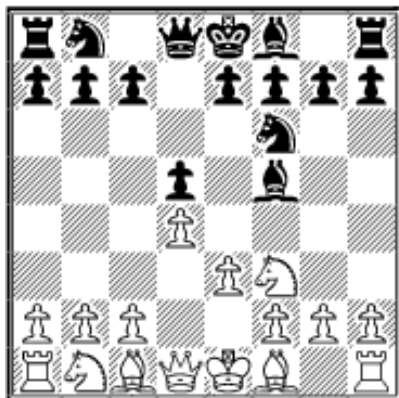
**17 0-0-0!** A smart idea to highlight the disparity in development, because Black has not got a single piece in the action. Sometimes such a simple analysis is enough to make it clear that White must have more attacking chances just because his pieces are active. **17...Qg5** Probably 17...g5 is the best way to prolong the struggle, but 18 Rhf1 Bd7 19 Qc3 Qe7 20 g4 0-0-0? if not, then Black will struggle to connect the rooks 21 cxd5 exd5 22 Rxd5 is very good for White. **18 hxc6 Rxh1 19 Rxh1 Qxe5 20 Qd4** 20 Rh7 is even more deadly because of 20...Bd7 21 Qd4 Qxd4 22 exd4 0-0-0 (22...Kf8 23 Rh8+ wins) 23 g7 Rg8 24 Rh8 and Black can give up. **20...Qxd4 21 exd4 1-0**

On the same topic, **Norm Greenwood** from **Australia** sent in a recent

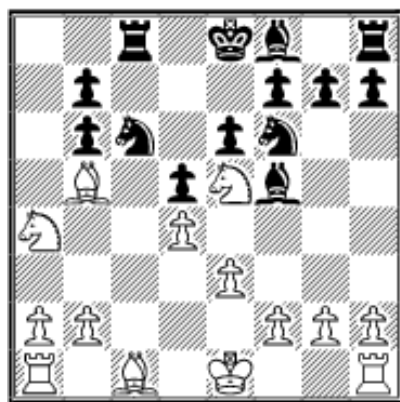
victory with the Colle and wanted my comments on the game. This can be done more easily by taking notice of the remarks to White's tenth move:

*Jerald Times-Arthur Bisguier* Foxwoods Open 2006

**1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 e3 Bf5**

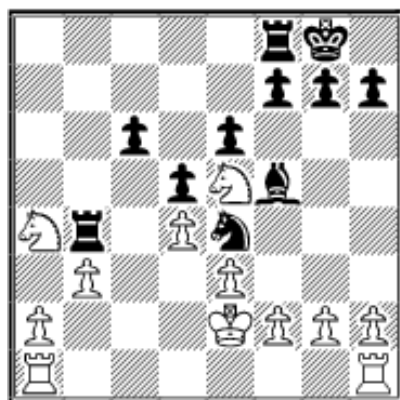


This is designed to annoy Colle lovers because it stops them from creating their basic set-up of Bd3 with ambitions to attack on the kingside. **4 c4** In the Colle, White loves the light-squared bishop, but against this set-up it can be exchanged with confidence: 4 Bd3 Bxd3 5 cxd3. White volunteers to take with pawn because it helps to bolster the pawn centre after an eventual e3-e4 (5 Qxd3 is a matter of taste because it threatens Qb5+ and helps to support a future e3-e4) 5...c6 6 0-0 Nbd7 7 Nc3 e6 8 e4 gave White an edge in N.Lane-V.Velyvis, Toukley 2002. **4...c6 5 cxd5** The exchange in the centre is arguably better now compared to the immediate 5 Qb3, because 5...Qb6 6 Qxb6 axb6 7 cxd5 can now be met by 7...Nxd5, and without the queens on the board Black is less concerned about conceding space with a future e3-e4. **5...cxd5** Instead 5...Nxd5 is not so accurate because it means that White can organise e3-e4 with ease, such as 6 Nbd2 Nf6 to stop e4 7 Nh4 Bg6 8 Qb3 with an edge. **6 Nc3 e6 7 Qb3 Qb6?!** This offer to exchange queens on b6 crops up in a number of 1 d4 d5 lines, but here it allows White to grab an initiative. It might seem strange to play 7...Qc7, when there is a prospect of a white rook coming to c1, but it is probably the best choice in the circumstances: 8 Bd2 Nc6 9 Rc1 Be7 10 Bb5 0-0 11 0-0 Rfc8 12 Ne5 Nd7 (12...Nxe5?! is met by 13 Nxd5! revealing an attack on the queen giving White the advantage) 13 f4 Ndx5 14 fxe5 Bg6 15 Na4 Rab8 16 Nc5 Na5 17 Qa4 Nc4 and now instead of 18 Rxc4 18...dxc4 19 Ba5 b6, which turned out to favour Black, White should try 18 Nd7!, when 18...Ra8 19 b3 (19 Bb4!? is the safe option) 19...Nxd2 20 Rxc7 Rxc7 21 Re1 offers a double-edged game. **8 Qxb6 axb6 9 Bb5+ Nc6?!** This looks like such a natural move that it is bad luck for Black that it leads to a loss of material as part of a combination. 9...Nbd7 is a better bet, when 10 Ne5 Bd6 11 f3 intending Nxd7 followed by e3-e4 gives White the brighter prospects. **10 Ne5 Rc8**



**11 Na4!** This direct action works because the doubled b-pawn is the weak point in Black's structure. Mr Greenwood in his game against Lloyd Fell, chose the sensible 11 0-0, but this does allow Black to equalise. However, after a wild encounter White eventually got lucky and won: 11...Bd6 12 f4 0-0 13 a3 (13 Bd2 intending Rac1 is equal) 13...Na5 14 Ba4 Nc4 15 Nb5 Bb8 16 h3 h5 17 b3 White has shooed away the knight,

but now his own bishop is stuck on the edge of the board on a4 doing very little: 17...Nd6 (17...Bc2! looks useful for Black) 18 Bd2 Rfd8 19 Bb4 Nfe4 20 Rfc1 f6 21 Nf3 (or 21 Nxd6 Rxc1+ 22 Rxc1 Nxd6 23 Nf3 is level) 21...Ng3 22 Rxc8 Nxc8 23 Kh2 Ne4 24 Rc1 g5 25 g3 h4 26 fxc5? (26 g4! would give White excellent play based on the line 26...Bh7, and now 27 Nc7 to block the bishop on b8 gives White the superior chances) 26...Bxc3+ 27 Kg2 fxc5 28 Ne5 Bf2? (after 28...Nf2!, it might be wise for White to call a taxi and go home) 29 Rc7 Bxe3 30 Rxb7 Nf2 it is too late for Black to indulge winning another pawn, when White has a menacing rook on the seventh rank (strangely Black really should think about what White is getting up to and prepare to exchange pieces on e5 with 30...Bf4 to maintain the advantage) 31 Kf3! Nd1 32 Nf7 Re8 33 Nbd6 Nxd6 34 Bxd6 Rc8 35 Nh6+ Kh8 36 Be5 mate 1-0, N.Greenwood-L.Fell, Sydney 2006. **11...Bb4+ 12 Bd2** The exchange of bishops is offered to rule out Black safely playing ...Bb4-a5. **12...0-0** Instead 12...Ba5? falls victim to 13 b4 and the bishop is trapped. **13 Bxc6 Bxd2+ 14 Kxd2 bxc6 15 Nxb6** The opening has been a complete success because White has managed to win a pawn for nothing. **15...Rb8 16 Na4 Rb4 17 b3 Ne4+ 18 Ke2**



**18...Rxa4** This is a tough practical decision, because Black is hoping that the exchange sacrifice will upset White's rhythm. This is understandable given the impending concerns about the weak backward c-pawn. 18...Rc8 is met by 19 Rhc1 with a winning advantage. **19 bxa4 Rb8** This is the reason behind the exchange sacrifice, because Black can seem to cause some problems with the rook invading the second rank. Of

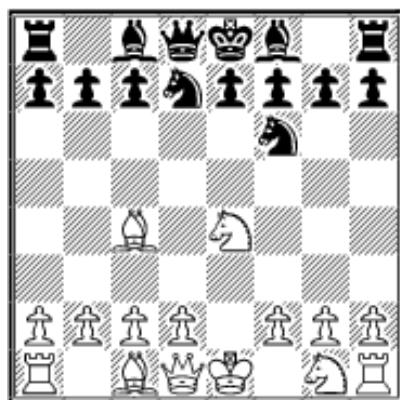
course, 20 Rab1? invites 20...Nc3+ winning. **20 Rhc1 Rb2+ 21 Kf1 f6** After 21...Rxf2+ 22 Kg1, the white king is safe and then Black needs to worry about the passed a-pawn. **22 Nxc6 Rxf2+ 23 Kg1 Kf7 24 a5** Yes, sometimes the obvious moves are the best, and Black has real problems defending. **24...Re2 25 Re1 25 a6** also wins. **25...Rc2 26 Nb4 Rd2 27 Rf1 Nc3 28 Rf2 Ne2+ 29 Kf1 Rb2 30 a6 1-0**

**Mark Nieuweboer** from the **Netherlands** took a keen interest in June's [column](#), which featured a couple of games in the Van Geet opening: 1

Nc3. He writes “I am happy to show you a game of mine, from the lowest regions of Dutch Correspondence chess and played pre-Silicon Age. Winsemius-M.Nieuweboer, corr NBC 1994, 1 Nc3 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nxe4 Nd7 4 Bc4 Ngf6 5 Bxf7+ (I can assure you that I was shocked too. But I was lucky to remember a certain line of the Philidor: 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 Nf6 4 Nc3 Nbd7 5 Bc4 Be7 6 dxe5 (or 6 Bxf7+ at once) 6...dxe5 7 Nxf7+ Kxf7 8 Ng5+ Kg8. So I did not lose courage) 5...Kxf7 6 Ng5+ Kg8 7 Ne6 Qe8 8 Nxc7 Qg6 9 Nxa8 b6 (Later in the Dutch magazine *Schaaknieuws* no one less than Van Geet himself condemned 5 Bxf7 (his suggestion is 5 d3) and suggested 9...b5 here) 10 Nxb6 axb6 11 g3 Bb7 12 f3 e5 13 d3 Bc5 14 Qe2 h5. I am curious as to your conclusions, after comparing this line of the Van Geet and the similar lines of the Philidor.”

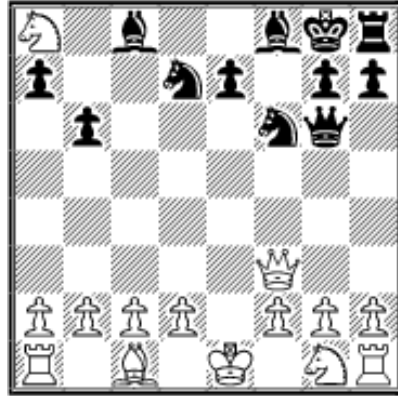
I think the line you mentioned does bring into question whether 5 Bxf7 is a refutation, and I might encourage more tests by correspondence or the Internet. It is just that in tournaments it is rarely played and in the past White has usually triumphed. Hopefully the following game will encourage others to investigate the line:

**Winsemius-Mark Nieuweboer** Correspondence 1994  
**1 Nc3 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nxe4 Nd7 4 Bc4 Ngf6**



There are not many people willing to play this as a winning attempt. However, I concede that it does not deserve a question mark, because Black can wriggle out of the onslaught. **5 Bxf7+** White takes the plunge and sacrifices the bishop for a forcing combination. There are various ways for White to continue, but 5 d3 is certainly reasonable. For example: 5...Ne5 6 Nxf6+ gxf6 7 Bb3 Rg8 8 d4 Ng4 (maybe 8...Nc6 is a sterner test, planning to take on 9 Qh5 with 9...Rg6, offering roughly equal chances) 9 Nf3 (or 9 h3! Nh6 10 Bxh6 Bxh6 11 Qh5 Rg6 12 Nf3 threatening Nh4 is good for White) 9...e5? 10 Qe2 Qe7 11 h3 e4 12 Nh4 Nh6 13 Bf4 Nf5 14 Nxf5 Bxf5 15 Qb5+ with a clear advantage, P.Bischoff-B.Saxer, Bern 2004. **5...Kxf7 6 Ng5+ Kg8!** Instead, 6...Kg6? is a clear mistake and this was the continuation in the previous [column](#), which saw the game Lacrosse-Parodi, Internet 2004, come to an abrupt halt after 7 N1f3 e5 8 Nh4+ 1-0. **7 Ne6** Nieuweboer points out a similar continuation from the Philidor that is an echo of the main game: 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 Nf6 4 Nc3 Nbd7 5 Bc4 Be7 6 dxe5 dxe5 7 Bxf7+ Kxf7 8 Ng5+ Kg8 9 Ne6. **7...Qe8 8 Nxc7 Qg6 9 Nxa8 b6** Van Geet's suggestion of 9...b5 is presumably designed to save a pawn by ruling out the option of Nxb6. **10 Nxb6** White grabs a pawn while he can, but I am not sure White should give away his pieces quite so freely. a) 10 f3 Nd5 (10...Qxg2 11 Qe2 Qxe2+ 12 Nxe2 Ne8, intending ...Bb7 to round up the white knight) 11 Qe2 Bb7 12 Nxb6 Qxb6 with the brighter prospects in view of his active pieces, S. Cade-C.Koch, Internet 2004. b) 10 Nf3 Bb7 (if 10...Qxg2?, then 11 Rg1 Qh3 12 Nc7 is much better for White) 11

Qe2 Bd5 (11 ..Bxa8 12 Qe6+ Qf7 13 Qxf7+ Kxf7 14 Ng5+ with a roughly equal ending) 12 0–0 Qxc2 13 b3 e6 14 Re1 h6 15 Nxb6 (perhaps 15 d4!/? heading for the ending is probably the best chance, when 15...Qxe2 16 Rxe2 Bxa8 17 Rxe6 is about equal) 15...axb6 16 d4 Qxe2 17 Rxe2 Bxf3 18 gxf3 Kf7 19 Rc2 Bd6 gave Black the better game in S.Cade-C.Koch, Internet 2004. c) 10 Qf3!



This is what springs to my mind, to protect the knight on a8 makes sense. It might not be a refutation, but it does seem to give White decent chances. Play might continue: c1) 10...Nc5 (intending ...Bb7) 11 d4 Bb7 12 Qg3 Bxg2 13 Qxg6 hxg6 14 dxc5 Bxh1 15 Nc7 bxc5 16 Ne6! (an important move to restrict black's pieces) 16...Rxh2 17 Be3 with the brighter prospects, because White will get his pawn back and his

queenside pawns will romp to the eighth rank. c2) 10...Ne5 11 Qg3 Qe4+ 12 Ne2 Nh5! (the obvious alternative 12...Bg4 is rebuffed by clever play upon 13 f3 Nxf3+ 14 gxf3 Bxf3 15 0–0! Bxe2 16 Rf4 with the advantage, in view of 16...Qxa8? being met by 17 Rxf6! exf6 18 Qb3+ leading to mate) 13 Qb3+ e6 14 f3 Qxa8 15 d4 Ng6 16 0–0, when the position is difficult to assess, but I slightly prefer White because Black will have his problems getting his pieces into the action. **10...axb6 11 g3?** White avoids the prospect of ...Qxg2, but 11 Nf3 is the positive response, when 11...Qxg2 12 Rg1 Qh3 13 Qe2 leads to a double-edged position. **11...Bb7 12 f3 e5 13 d3 Bc5 14 Qe2 h5** Perhaps 14...Bd4 is also a decent try, to restrict White's queenside development by targeting the b2-pawn, when 15 c3 has the merit of blocking the influence of the bishop, but it does weaken the d3-pawn: 15...Bxg1 16 Rxg1 Nc5 17 Kd2 Kf7 with a tricky position where I favour Black, because his pieces have better co-ordination. **15 Bd2** Intending to castle queenside looks obvious, although the position looks good for Black after **15...h4**



If anybody tries this line out, then let me know.

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