



*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** column...

*Yes, I have a question for Gary!*

## COLUMNISTS

### *Opening Lanes*

Gary Lane



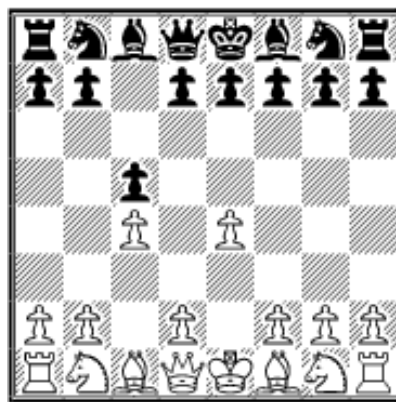
### *The Scotch Game Explained*

by Gary Lane

## Sparkling Cyanide

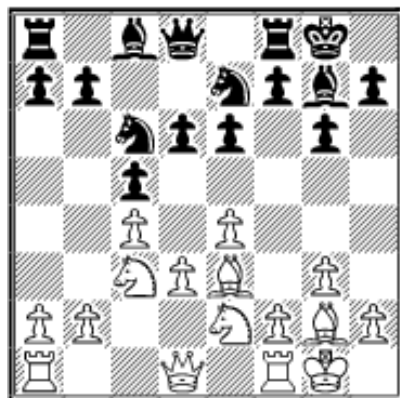
It is always enjoyable to play something different in the opening that adds a bit of venom to your game. A sideline will circumvent your opponent's preparation and likely gain time on the clock. This is the logic motivating **Alessandro Agustoni** from **Italy** who says, "I am thinking about trying 2 c4 against the Sicilian as a surprise weapon, with the idea to play a queenside Stonewall, or in the fashion of a Closed Sicilian, or to prepare an early d4-break. Is this a viable approach or I would be crushed by any decent opponent exploiting my weak d4-square?"

*Manuel Granados Gomez-David Recuero Guerra* Abierto Leon 2006  
1 e4 c5 2 c4



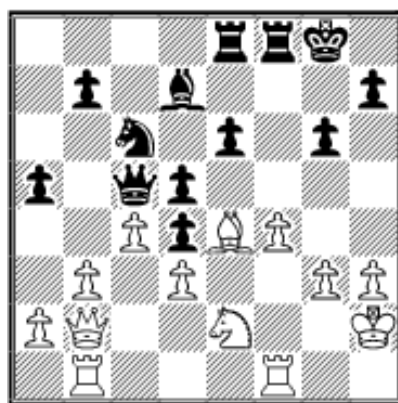
This is the star move to annoy a Sicilian player with something completely different. I can understand why you want to play similarly to a Closed Sicilian, because the break with ...d7-d5 is customary at some point. Therefore, the extra protection of the d5-square has some merit, but the thing you really have to remember is that you are now playing an English opening! If the game had started 1 c4 c5 2 e4 nobody would be surprised, but the different move-order makes it seem unfamiliar. It is an intriguing idea to trick people out of their comfort zone. **2...Nc6 3 Nc3 g6 4 g3** The kingside fianchetto is in keeping with a Closed Sicilian, i.e. 1 e5 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3. **4...Bg7 5 Bg2 d6 6 d3 e6** Also possible: 6...Nf6 7 Nge2 0-0 8 Bg5 (it is a matter of taste as to where to put the bishop, but e3 is the standard square before playing Qd2 and Bh6. The text has the same aim and the bishop on g5 has the merit of putting some doubt in Black's mind as to White's true intentions) 8...a6 9 Qd2 Rb8 10 Bh6 (the

idea of exchanging Black's important defensive piece, the dark-squared bishop, is typical in the Closed Sicilian, and obviously the English) 10...Bxh6 11 Qxh6 b5 12 b3 Nd4 13 0-0 Ng4 14 Qd2 Qa5 15 Rac1 Ne5 16 f4 Bg4 17 Nxd4 cxd4 18 fxe5 dxc3 19 Qg5 Be2 20 Rf2 Qb6? (instead, 20...Bxd3 looks wrong upon 21 exd6 exd6 22 Qd5 to trap the bishop, but 22...Qa3! tips the position in Black's favour: 23 Rxc3 bxc4 24 h3 and White is struggling) 21 exd6 bxc4 (or 21...exd6 allows 22 c5 to block the pin and allow White to take the bishop on e2) 22 dxc4 Qd4 23 dxe7 1-0, Bohm-Langeweg, Amsterdam 1976. **7 Nge2** White prepares to castle kingside before declaring any attacking ambitions. I enjoyed the game Anastasovski-Bailey, Toronto 2006, where Black conceived of a clever way to avoid the standard plan of Be3-h6 and ended up being the victim of a brilliancy: 7 Be3 Nge7 8 Nge2 Nd4 9 Qd2 Nec6 10 0-0 (10 Bh6? is not yet possible in view of 10...Bxh6 11 Qxh6 Nc2+ winning) 10...h5!? (this is the crafty way of avoiding the exchange of bishops, but the drawback is that the kingside is weakened) 11 h3 a6 12 f4 Qa5 13 Rae1 Bd7 14 f5! (an adventurous idea to target the black king in the middle of the board by opening lines of attack) 14...Be5 (14...gxf5 might be an improvement, when 15 Bg5!? carries on the attack) 15 fxg6 fxg6 16 Bg5 Nd8 17 Nd5!! a fantastic move that makes Black look silly and victory was soon sealed. **7...Nge7 8 0-0 0-0 9 Be3**

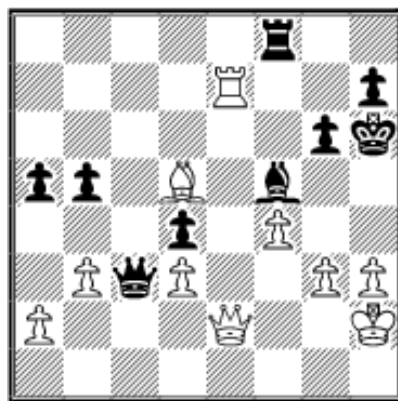


Some of you may still wonder how the English connects to the Closed Sicilian, but the following move-order reveals all: 1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 d3 d6 6 Be3 e6 7 Nge2 Nge7 8 0-0 0-0 9 Be3. **9...Nd4 10 Qd2 Nec6** Black decides to reinforce the knight on d4, which is logical because 2 c4 effectively ceded control of the d4-square, so it makes sense to exploit it. Also possible: a) 10...Re8 (this is a positional idea to avoid the exchange of bishops by allowing the bishop on g7 to retreat) 11 Bh6 Bh8 12 Nxd4 Bxd4 13 Ne2 Bh8 14 Rab1 Nc6 15 a3, intending b2-b4, gives White the initiative, Fos Santacreu-Jordan Arenas, Pobla de Vallbona 2004. b) 10...Rb8 11 Bh6 Bd7 12 Bxg7 Kxg7 13 f4 Qa5 14 g4 (14 e5!? should be considered) 14...f5 (Black understandably blockades the f5-square before White can engineer a break with f4-f5) 15 exf5 exf5 16 g5 Rfe8 17 Nxd4 cxd4 18 Ne4 Qxd2 19 Nxd2 led to equal chances in Logdahl-Timman, Sweden 2002. **11 Bh6** This is consistent with the usual plan of exchanging dark-squared bishops to deprive Black of his important defensive piece. 11 Rab1 and now: a) 11...a6 12 Bh6 Bxh6 13 Qxh6 b5 14 Nxd4 Nxd4 15 e5 (the advance of the pawns reveals an attack against the rook on a8 and also allows a knight to occupy the e4-square) 15...Ra7 16 Ne4 dxe5 17 Nxc5 a5 18 Qe3?! (18 cxb5! Nxb5 19 Rfe1 with promising play for White) 18...Rc7 19 Nb3 bxc4 20 dxc4 with roughly equal chances, Scholz Solis-Ree, Paris 1983. b) 11...Bd7 12 a3 in the English the idea of instigating b2-b4 is a promising plan: 12...a5 (Black takes steps to stop a smooth advance of the white b-pawn, but now White can occupy the b5-square without fearing ...a7-a6) 13 Nb5 Qe7 14 Nexd4 cxd4 15 Bh6 Rfc8 16 Bxg7 Kxg7 17 Bh3 (17 f4 intending

f4-f5 looks promising) 17...a4 18 f4 e5 19 Bxd7 Qxd7 20 f5 Rf8 21 f6+ Kh8 22 Qh6 Rg8 23 Rf3 (one can see the idea of finding a safe way to play g3-g4 aiming for Qxh7+ and Rh3 mate) 23...g5 24 g4? (24 Qh5 is sensible to preserve a slight edge) 24...Rg6 (24...Qxg4+ 25 Rg3 Qh4 26 Qxh4 gxh4 27 Nxd6! is good for White) 25 Qh5 Nd8 26 Rbf1 Ne6 with a big advantage, as the knight is heading for the important f4-square, De Eccher-Morozevich, Cappelle la Grande 1992. **11...Ne5** Or 11...Rb8 12 Bxg7 Kxg7 13 Nxd4 (13 f4 is the aggressive choice to try and kickstart some kingside activity) 13...Nxd4 14 Ne2 Nxe2+ 15 Qxe2 Qf6 led to equal chances in Malaniuk-Donchenko, Moscow 2000. **12 Nxd4 Bxh6 13 Qxh6 cxd4 14 Ne2 Qb6** The pawn on d4 is safeguarded, while the b2-pawn comes under attack. 14...Nxd3 does not win a pawn because of 15 Qd2 Ne5 16 Qxd4 Qc7 17 b3 b6 18 Rad1, when White has good play against the d6-pawn. **15 Qd2** 15 b3 to safeguard the b-pawn is a decent alternative. **15...a5 16 b3 Bd7 17 h3** There is a sense that both players are steadily improving their position before seeking an advantage in the middlegame. **17...Nc6 18 Rab1 Qc5 19 f4 Rae8 20 Kh2 f5 21 Qb2** White's kingside ambitions have been temporarily halted by the pawn blockade on f5, so he aims to undermine the d-pawn. **21...fxe4 22 Bxe4 d5?**



It is understandable that Recuero Guerra wishes to play actively and force the knight to retreat. Then again, it is a mistake because the d5-pawn gives White a target and an exchange on c4 would allow White to open the b-file for the benefit of his queen and rook. **23 Bg2 b5** Or 23...dxc4 24 bxc4 Rb8 25 Bxc6 Bxc6 26 Nxd4 is excellent news for Black. **24 cxd5 exd5 25 Rfc1 Qd6 26 Nxd4** The result of Black's advance of the d-pawn has been to create problems for himself. Now White has moved ahead by winning a pawn. **26...Nxd4 27 Qxd4 Re2 28 Rb2 Rxb2** An attempt to reinforce the rook on e2 is met by 28...Rfe8 29 Rcc2, when 29...Rxc2 30 Rxc2 Be6 (30...Bc6 runs into 31 Rxc6! and Black can go home) 31 Rc5 with a winning advantage. **29 Qxb2 d4 30 Re1 Bf5 31 Re5! Qb4** 31...Bxd3 allows 32 Bd5+ Kh8 33 Qxd4 winning comfortably. **32 Qe2 Qc3 33 Bd5+ Kg7 34 Re7+ Kh6**



**35 Rxh7+!** Bravo! White conjures up a mating attack with a little bit of magic on the board. **35...Kxh7 36 Qe7+ Rf7 37 Qxf7+ Kh6 38 Qf8+ 1-0**

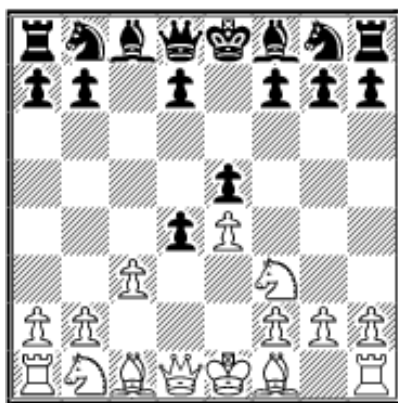
Neil Dickenson from England writes, "During a casual game, after 1 d4 c5, my opponent played 2 e4 cxd4 3 Nf3, and I found myself in an Open Sicilian (not the plan), so I tried 3...e5, which turned out to be

extremely dubious. I considered 3...d5 and 3...Nf6. What should I have done?"

My initial reaction is that you cannot avoid an Open Sicilian, which explains why people prefer the move-order 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 and now 2...c5 to ensure you have your opening on the board. I have tried to avoid an Open Sicilian by selecting a decent alternative, but first a closer look at 3...e5:

*Roy Saptarshi-Rishipal Singh* Dhaka 2005

1 d4 c5 2 e4 cxd4 3 Nf3 e5!? 4 c3



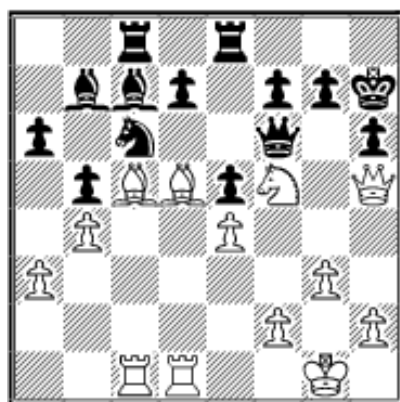
This is a popular way to counter 3...e5. The argument is that White is rewarded with a superior [Smith-Morra Gambit](#), which normally occurs after 1 e4 c5 2 d4 cxd4 3 c3, when a move such as ...e5 is usually avoided. The classic mistake would be to naively take the pawn with 4 Nxe5? and then suffer the consequences after 4...Qa5+, which picks up the knight. Instead, 4 Bc4 is the other possibility, waiting for the

right moment to gambit with c2-c3. **4...dxc3 5 Nxc3** Also possible: 5 Bc4 cxb2 6 Bxb2 d6 (6...Bb4+ is necessary to secure equal chances) 7 Nxe5! Nh6 8 Bb5+ (of course 8 Qd5 is met by 8...dxe5 and White has little to show for the piece deficit) 8...Nd7 9 Nxd7 Bxd7 10 Bxd7+ Qxd7 11 0-0 with excellent chances, because Black will struggle to develop his pieces. If the bishop on f8 moves, then g7 is lost. **5...Nc6** After 5...d6 6 Bc4, play might proceed: a) 6...Nc6 and now: a1) 7 Qb3 Qd7 8 Ng5 Nh6 9 Bd5 (or 9 0-0 Na5 10 Qb4 Nxc4 11 Qxc4 Be7 12 Nd5 0-0 13 h3 with equal chances) 9...Nd4 10 Qd1 Be7 11 Nf3 Nxf3+ 12 Qxf3 Qg4 13 Nb5 0-0 14 Be3 Qg6 15 Bxa7? Be6 (15...Bd7! is the right choice in view of 16 a4 Rxa7! 17 Nxa7 Ra8 18 Nb5 Bxb5, when the a-pawn is pinned) 16 Bxb7 Bc4 17 a4 d5! the threat of ...Bb4+ is now dangerous 18 b3 Bb4+ 19 Kd1 Rxa7 (19...Qg5! is a winner) 20 Nxa7 Qb6 21 bxc4 Qxa7 22 Bxd5 (22 Ke2 is essential) 22...Qd4+ and now White is mated 23 Kc2 Qd2+ 24 Kb3 Bc3 0-1, Gallagher-Plaskett, London 1986. a2) 7 Ng5! (the best bet in the circumstances) 7...Nh6 8 0-0 (maybe the direct approach with 8 Qd5 is worth considering) 8...Bg4? 9 Bxf7+ Nxf7 10 Qxg4 led to an easy win in Bondarevsky-Kasparian, Tbilisi 1937.) b) 6...Be7 7 0-0 Bg4? (an understandable mistake, but you only get one chance in this line) 8 Qb3! Bh5 9 Qxb7 Nd7 10 Bb5 Bxf3? (10...Nngf6 is necessary, but White is still on top) 11 Bxd7+ Kf8 12 gxf3 led to an easy win in J. Walker-T. Hay, Teignmouth Championship 1981. **6 Bc4 Bb4** It is natural just to carry on developing with 6...Be7?, but Black is just embarrassed upon 7 Qd5! threatening mate on f7, when the game soon finished after 7...Qa5 8 Qxf7+ Kd8 9 Qxg7 Bf6 10 Bg5 1-0, Murta-Camara, Goiania 1982. **7 0-0 Nf6**



**8 Qb3** The queen often comes to b3 in this line, because with the pawn on e5 the f7-pawn is a likely target. 8 Nd5! is a superior choice: a) 8...0-0 9 Nxb4 Nxb4 10 Nxe5 Nxe4? (or 10...Qe7 11 Bf4 d6 12 Nf3 Nxe4 13 Re1 Bg4 14 a3!, when White is better because of the tactical chances via the pin on the e-file) 11 Nxf7 Rxf7 12 Bxf7+ Kxf7 13 Qb3+ wins. b) 8...Be7 9 Ng5 0-0 (not 9...Nxd5? 10 Qxd5) 10 Nxf6+ Bxf6 11 Qh5 Bxg5

12 Bxg5 Qb6 13 Rad1 (13 Be3! Qxb2 14 Bc5 is good because if the rook moves, then the f7-pawn falls) 13...Qc5 14 Bd5 Nd4 15 Rd3 Qb5 16 Rxd4! 1-0, Wians-Tomorhuyag, Novi Sad Olympiad 1990. **8...Qe7?! A cautious approach protecting the bishop, but the queen is not well-placed on e7. Instead, 8...Bxc3 9 Qxc3 d6 aiming to castle kingside is roughly equal despite Black's extra pawn, because White has active play. 9 Nd5 Nxd5 10 Bxd5** 10 exd5 is tempting, although after 10...Na5, White has little to show for his efforts: 11 Qc2 Nxc4 12 Qxc4 0-0 (12...Ba5 13 Rd1 is about equal because 13...d6? allows 14 Qb5+) 13 Nxe5 Qxe5 14 Qxb4 Qxd5 15 Bf4 b6 16 Rfd1 Qf5 gives Black the better prospects because of the possibility of a bishop going to b7 in order to attack the white king. **10...h6 11 Be3** Saptarshi is relying on rapid development to increase his attacking options. **11...0-0 12 Rac1 b6 13 Rfd1** White declines the chance to recoup his pawn investment and maintains the tension by adding another rook to the action. 13 Bxc6 dxc6 14 Rxc6 Bb7 15 Rc4 Bd6 offers level chances. **13...Bb7 14 a3 Bd6 15 Qd3** Spot the threat! This is a bit obvious by preparing to take on c6 to reveal an attack on the d6-bishop. **15...Bc7 16 b4 a6 17 g3** This may well create an escape square for the king in case of back rank mate, but the seasoned player will recognise that it facilitates a knight to come to h4. **17...Rac8 18 Nh4 Qf6** A sign of Black's problems is that the natural 18...g6 is obliterated by 19 Nxc6, when Black can resign. **19 Nf5 b5 20 Qe2** Saptarshi is doing well to find a way to increase the pressure by transferring the queen to the kingside. In contrast Black is stifled and has no clear course for counterplay. **20...Kh7 21 Bc5 Rfe8 22 Qh5**



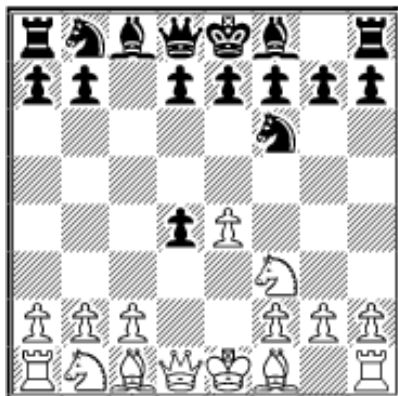
**22...Qg6?** This is a mistake, but Black is already in trouble from the relentless pressure. If 22...Kg8, then 23 Rc3, intending Rf3, piles up the pressure. **23 Bxf7 Qxh5 24 Bxh5 Red8 25 Bg4** There is no need to do anything clever because Black has a very passive position and the d7-pawn is weak. **25...Ba8 26 Ne7 Rb8 27 Nd5 d6 28 Be3 1-0** White will now win significant material, so Black gave up.

Well, that should be enough to convince you that 3...e5 is interesting, but the practical difficulties at the board are immense because Black

seems to be constantly defending. The other way to try something different is with 3...Nf6.

**Remi Marineau- Hua Lefong** Montreal, 1998

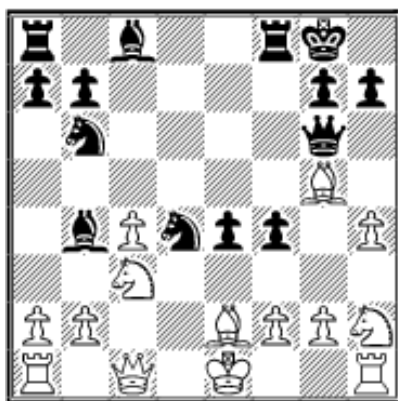
**1 e4 c5 2 d4 cxd4 3 Nf3 Nf6**



I think you could get away with occasionally playing this line as a surprise weapon, because White will have little experience facing it. It won't end the game after just three moves, but people with White become frustrated if they cannot copy something they have learned from their books. **4 e5 Nd5 5 Qxd4** This is probably an improvement on the c3 Sicilian after 1 e4 c5 2 c3 Nf6 3 e5 Nd4 4 d4 cxd4 5 Qxd4, because the

c3-square is available for white's queen's knight, which is usually the best square. 5 Bc4 is a serious alternative that will appeal to aggressive players: 5...Nb6 6 Bb3 Nc6 7 c3 (the offer of another pawn is natural to someone who wants to achieve rapid development and attack) 7...dxc3 8 Nxc3 e6 9 Ne4 h6?! (the pawn is advanced to stop Bg5, but it slows down Black's development so 9...Bb4+! is the right choice, when 10 Bd2 d5 offers equal chances) 10 0-0 Be7 11 Be3 0-0 12 Qd2 Kh7? (maybe 12...f6!? is a better idea) 13 Bc2 (the bishops steps back to threaten a discovered check and just as importantly adds another piece to the attack) 13...Kg8 14 Bxh6 (I suspect that 14 Qd3! threatening Nf6+ and Qh7 mate is hard to meet adequately) 14...Nc4 (or 14...gxh6 allowing White a glorious finish upon 15 Nf6+ Bxf6 16 Qxh6 Re8 17 Bh7+ Kh8 18 Bg6+ Kg8 19 Qh7+ Kf8 20 Qxf7 mate) 15 Qf4 (15 Qd3! threatening Nf6+ is very strong) 15...N4xe5 16 Nxe5 Nxe5 17 Bxg7 Ng6 18 Qh6 Qe8 19 Bc3 (19 Bf6 forces mate) 19...f6 20 Ng5 1-0, J. Walker-Brownbill, Teignmouth 1984. **5...e6 6 c4** Marineau pushes the knight away, but this is not the ideal move. I think a bishop move is preferable: a) 6 Bc4 Nc6 7 Qe4 d6 a typical idea to contest the pawn on e5 8 exd6 Nf6 9 Qh4 Bxd6 10 0-0 Qc7?! (there is no need to move the queen, so 10...0-0 is a sensible alternative with equal chances) 11 Be3 a6 12 Nbd2 b5 13 Bb3 (13 Bh6! is worth considering and even 13 Bd3 to make Black think twice about castling kingside) 13...Ne7 14 Ne4 Nxe4 15 Qxe4 Bb7 gave Black the better chances thanks to the influential bishop-pair and he eventually won in Friedrich-Bogdanovich, Leutersdorf 2001. b) I also like 6 Bd3, when the game Schmelzeisen-Ezzidin, German Team Championship 1994, continued: 6...Nc6 7 Qe4 d6 8 exd6 Bxd6 9 0-0 b6? (9...f5! intending to castle kingside offers equal chances) 10 Nc3 f5 11 Qa4 Bd7 12 Nxd5 Nb4 (or 12...exd5 13 Re1+ Ne7 14 Qd4 0-0 15 Bg5 with tremendous pressure) 13 Qa3 exd5 14 Re1+ Kf8 15 c3 and Black can fetch his coat, Schmelzeisen-Ezzidin, German Team Championship 1994. c) 6 Nc3?! (a dubious experiment) 6...Nc6 7 Qe4 Nxc3 8 bxc3 d5 (or 8...Qa5! 9 Bd2 d6 10 exd6 Bxd6 11 Bd3 f5 gives Black the superior chances) 9 exd6 Bxd6 with a level position, Alekhine-Kolarzik, simultaneous Graz 1936. **6...Nc6 7 Qd1 Nb6 8 Bf4** Or 8 Nc3 Bb4 9 Bd3, which is better for White because Black will not be keen to

exchange on c3, as then the dark square on d6 will be weak. **8...Bb4+ 9 Nc3 f6 10 Nh4?** A rather obvious ploy to threaten Qh5+, which is easily rebuffed. 10 Bd3 is a good alternative to give White an edge. **10...0-0 11 Bd3 f5** Black blocks the influential d3-h7 diagonal to stamp out any hint of an attack. However, an enterprising idea is to try 11...Nxe5, when the game might continue 12 Bxe5 fxe5 13 Qh5 g6 14 Bxg6 Qe7! (the only way to keep the game going as a contest and it promises Black a slight plus) 14...hxg6 15 Qxg6+ Kh8 16 Qh6+ Kg8 17 Qg6+ fades to a draw) 15 Bd3 Na4! with the advantage. **12 Nf3 d5 13 exd6 e5!** This is what White missed. The e-pawn advances menacingly and if White grabs it, then he will suffer a pin on the e-file. **14 Bg5** Or 14 Nxe5 Re8 15 Qe2 Bxd6 winning, and 14 Bxe5 Re8 15 Qe2 Bxd6 also wins. **14...Qxd6 15 Be2 Qg6** Black is attacking so he hardly wants to exchange queens. Instead, the pressure increases because of the threat of e5-e4 to take away the defender of the bishop on g5. **16 Qc1 f4 17 h4** If 17 0-0, then 17...e4 simply wins material. **17...e4 18 Nh2 Nd4 0-1**



It might be premature to resign, but the numerous threats such as ...f4-f3 makes the outlook for White rather bleak.

Yes, if you are brave, then 3...Nf6 is the way to go, but as I said 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 is the correct move-order for you.

**Brad Amen** from the **USA** needs help in selecting the right opening book. He writes, “After 1 e4, I am fairly comfortable facing openings such as the Ruy Lopez, or the Giuoco Piano, but I don’t know what to do when Black responds with other opening moves. This is especially true of the Sicilian Defense. Would you be so kind as to recommend a book to overcome this problem?”

Well, it is difficult to recommend a line against an opening such as the Sicilian without knowing your style of play and what sort of positions you like. A positional player might be interested in 2 c4, as outlined above, while the aggressive player will prefer the Open Sicilian with 2 Nf3 and 3 d4. Your best option is to look at a collection of games by a famous player and then adopt a line that impresses you. Given that it is the holiday season, I recommend that you treat yourself to something like [The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal](#) or [Najdorf: Life and Games](#) or [Vishy Anand: My Best Games of Chess](#).

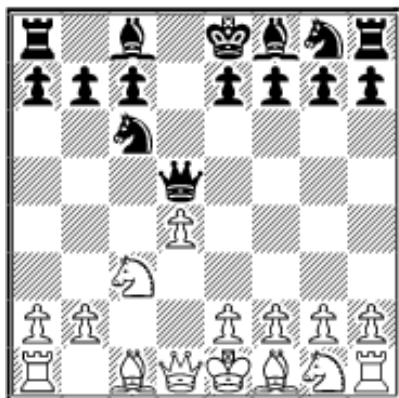
Finally, **Paul Lowry** from the **USA** made me think and then smile! “After 1 d4 d5 2 c4 Nc6 3 cxd5 Qxd5, is 4 Nc3 an outright blunder or a mad gambit? What is the name of this opening?”

Not every mistake in the opening has a name apart from “blunder.” It is possible that someone may play it consistently on the Internet to try and have it named after them, especially if they beat someone good. However, anyone who plays it frequently in normal tournaments needs

to buy some chess books and improve.

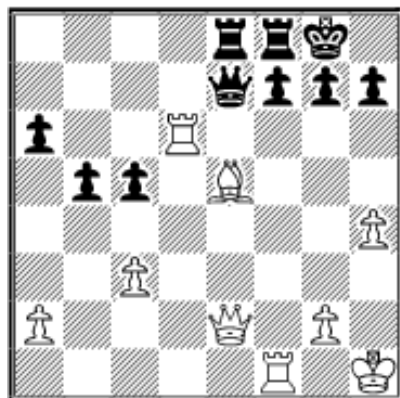
*Bartholomew O'Sullivan-Vincenzo Castaldi* Hilversum 1947

**1 d4 d5 2 c4 Nc6** The [Chigorin](#) is a respected opening. **3 cxd5 Qxd5 4 Nc3?**



This is officially known as a mistake. I can understand that White's instinct is to attack the black queen, and if you play too quickly, then things can go wrong. **4...Qxd4 5 Bd2** After such a gaffe, it makes sense to keep the queens on the board in the vague hope of creating an attack. Also possible: a) **5 Nf3 Qxd1+ 6 Nxd1 Bg4 7 Bf4 0-0-0 8 Rc1 Bxf3 9 exf3 e5** with a better position thanks to the extra pawn, Pepper-Strain, Oklahoma

2004. b) **5 Qxd4 Nxd4 6 Kd1 Bd7** this simple idea of developing the light-squared bishop in preparation for castling queenside is an easy one to copy **7 e3 Nc6 8 Nf3 0-0-0 9 Bb5** (9 Bd2 to stop the discovered check should be tested) **9...a6 10 Ba4 b5 11 Bb3 Bh3+** gave Black a winning game in Cheng-Team C, Simultaneous Vancouver 2003. c) The game Kovar-Kriz,Plzen 2000, is worth seeing because White concedes the pawn, but ends up on top: **5 e3 Qxd1+ 6 Nxd1 Nf6 7 Nc3 e5 8 Bd2 Bb4 9 Bb5 Bg4** (9...Bd7 is the safe choice to stop the pin and prepare to castle queenside) **10 f3 Bd7 11 a3 Bxc3 12 Bxc3 0-0-0 13 e4 Rhe8** (13...Nd4! looks good for Black) **14 Ne2 h5 15 0-0 g5** this ambitious assault on the kingside is the wrong approach and lets the advantage slip **16 Rfd1 g4 17 Bxc6 Bxc6 18 Rxd8+ Kxd8 19 f4 Nxe4 20 Bxe5 h4 21 Nd4** to his credit White never gives up and that is the key to being a strong player **21...g3? 22 hxg3 Nxg3 23 Rd1 Kc8** (perhaps **23...Bd7** maintains a slight edge) **24 Bf6 Re4** (or **24...Bd7 25 Bxh4 Bg4 26 Rc1 Ne4** is equal) **25 Bxh4 Nh5??** (must be time-trouble as **25...Rxd4!** means White can resign because of **26 Rxd4 Ne2+ 27 Kf2 Nxd4**) **26 Ne6 Bd7? 27 Nf8 Rxf4 28 Be7 1-0.**  
**5...Qd8** Or **5...a6 6 e3 Qf6 7 Nf3 e5 8 Be2 Bd6 9 a3 Bf5** (9...Nge7 preparing to castle kingside is also good) **10 Nd5 Qd8 11 0-0? e4 12 Ne1 Bxh2+ 13 Kxh2 Qxd5** led to a big advantage in Toral Navarro-Melekhina, Oropesa del Mar 2000. **6 e4 e6 7 Nf3 Bc5** Black is a pawn up, but now needs to catch up on development before he can make the most of it. **8 Bb5 Nge7 9 0-0 0-0 10 Qe2** The queen gets out of the way and coordinates the rooks, but he is still a pawn down. **10...a6 11 Ba4 b5 12 Bb3 Nd4 13 Nxd4 Bxd4 14 Rad1 c5 15 Kh1** **15 Be3** is met by **15...Bb7** with the advantage. **15...Qb6 16 Bc2 e5 17 f4 exf4 18 Bxf4 Be6** I prefer **18...Qg6** intending **...Bg4** to make White nervous. **19 e5 Bxc3** As the bishop on c2 is directed towards the black king, exchanging bishops by **19...Bc4 20 Bd3 Bxd3 21 Rxd3 Ng6** effectively snuffs out any potential attack by White. **20 bxc3 Bf5 21 Rd6 Qb7 22 Bxf5 Nxf5 23 Rf6** I can understand Castaldi resisting the urge to steal the rook, as his king is exposed. However, upon closer examination, he should be fine: **23...gxf6 24 Qg4+ Kh8 25 Qxf5 Qc6 26 exf6 Rg8** with a clear advantage. **23...Nh4 24 Rd6 Rae8 25 Bg3 Ng6 26 h4 Nxe5! 27 Bxe5 Qe7**



28 Qe4? Oops. 28...Qxd6 29 Bxd6  
0-1

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