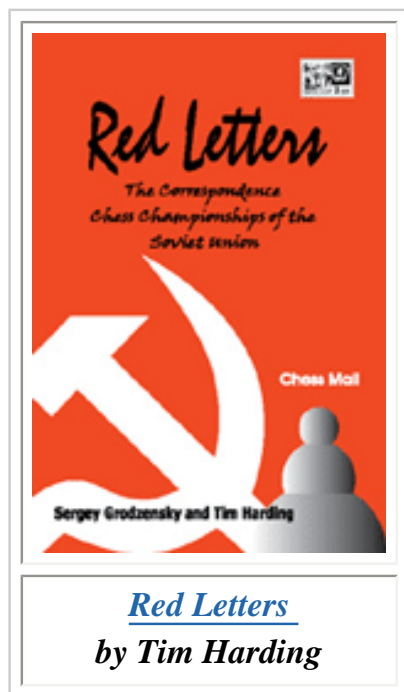




COLUMNISTS

The Kibitzer

Tim Harding



The Center Game takes Center Stage

This month the Kibitzer column takes a break from historical matters and looks at a chess opening. However, I want to tie up a couple of loose ends first.

Earlier this year I wrote two columns about the Pierce Gambit (in the Vienna) and promised to return to the topic. I have decided to defer this for a few months because I am still collecting more information about the Pierces and taking another look at the gambit.

With respect to the tournament organised at London in 1893 by the newspaper Black and White, Andy Ansel sent me some information after the first (September) column appeared. By this stage I had already written and delivered the October article and I forgot to send in an appendix to Hanon Russell, but better late than never.

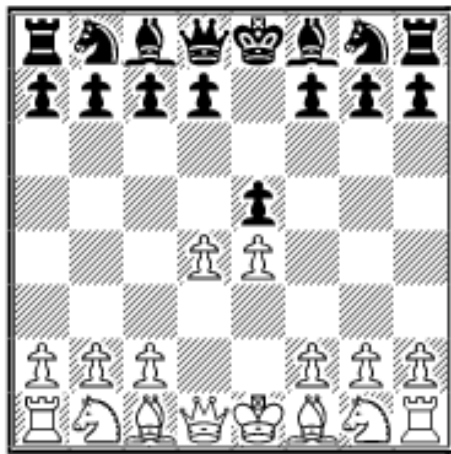
Unbeknownst to me, Mr. Ansel informs, the various writings by Hoffer on the tournament were collected some years ago by Dale Brandreth who published a booklet about it. I have never seen this; maybe copies did not come to Europe but you may be able to pick it up in a second-hand shop. Also the complete games with notes are available on my new chess culture CD *The Wonderful World of Chess*, which is available from www.chessmail.com, price 30 Euro. There is more information about that on my website.

Now to the “meat” of this column:

An Opening Surprise

As regular readers know, I recently went back to university to research chess history. Naturally I joined the University of Dublin Chess Club, which is one of the oldest in Ireland and I played a local league match for them. To my surprise, my opponent played an opening that I have never encountered during a serious game – in a chess career of over 40 years. It’s hard to believe but his second move was the surprise!

1 e4 e5 2 d4



This is code C22 in ECO/Informator. What is Black to do? There is not really much choice; the pawn must be taken.

2...exd4 3 Qxd4

In this article I don't intend to examine offshoots of the Center Game. I will concentrate on the form of the opening that my opponent played. So I will just mention briefly that the alternatives are:

a) 3 c3, the Danish Gambit – for which I refer you to a book published last year by Russell Enterprises, namely *Danish Dynamite* by Karsten Müller and Martin Voigt.

b) 3 Nf3 (virtually never seen) when 3...Nc6 is a straight transposition to the Scotch Game or 3...Nf6 to the Petroff Defence. White is of course hoping for the materialistic reply 3...c5, which leaves a big hole on d5 that White can try to exploit by 4 Bc4 followed by 5 c3 (Keres). If Black wants to try to refute 3 Nf3, he can play Alekhine's suggestion 3...Bc5 4 Nxd4 Nf6, e.g. 5 Nc3 (5 e5 Qe7 or 5 Nb3 Nxe4 6 Bd3 Qh4!) 5...d5! 6 exd5 0-0 7 Bg5 (Keres said White should play the safer 7 Be2 Nxd5 8 Ne4 with equality.) 7...Qd6 8 Bxf6 Qxf6 9 Nf3 Bg4 with advantage to Black in a consultation game involving Alekhine, Moscow 1920.

There is no such game in Skinner & Verhoeven's large collection of Alekhine's games; does anyone have any more details about this?

c) 3 f4, which is nowadays often called the Halasz Gambit because it was revived by the Hungarian correspondence chess master Dr György Halasz. This variation (1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 f4?!) has in fact already been covered in this series. The Kibitzer 39 (August 1999) was entitled [*The Vampire Gambit: Can We Bury It Now?*](#).

As I wrote then, "Strictly speaking, the modern name Halasz Gambit is not right since why give the name of a modern Hungarian postal player to a gambit that has been around since the 1840s, if not earlier? However, no name seems previously to have stuck to this bizarre idea 3 f4, and Halasz has played numerous games with it over the past few decades, and has even experimented with an analogous idea against the Sicilian Defence: 1 e4 c5 2 d4 exd4 3 f4!?"

For more information, read the earlier article.

However the characteristic move of the Center Game is the recapture with

the queen, as my recent Irish opponent played.

In my combined OTB and CC databases I found just over 3000 games with 2 d4 exd4 3 Qxd4, of which more than 2300 were played “over the board,” so this opening has been played relatively little by correspondence. Statistics show that the vast majority of the few hundred games in the latter category were played in the Internet era, mostly in low-level email and web server events: precisely the kind of events which formerly were not preserved but are now readily available.

I don’t have rating data on all the games but searching those games for which player ratings are available, only 239 featured one player over 2400 and just 59 had both players over 2400 (FIDE, ICCF or historical estimated ratings).

Between the First World War and the early 1990s, the Center Game was very rarely seen in master tournaments. Then in 1991, Ivan Morovic Fernandez and Julio Granda Zuniga had some success with it. In 1992, another Spanish master, Alfonso Romero Holmes even dared to play it against Anatoly Karpov but he lost: the likely result whatever opening he adopted.

In 1994 Alexander Shabalov lost with it against some computers but did beat at last one human opponent: GM Alexander Ivanov in the US Championship. Michael Adams used it against Vishy Anand in their PCA Candidates match and drew; Morozevich won the game below against an English grandmaster. Ordinary players started to take notice.

In 1995 Shirov lost to Karpov with at Dos Hermanas (didn’t he see what had happened to Romero Holmes?) but Judit Polgar was successful against the veteran Vlastimil Hort.

In the days, roughly from the mid-1960s to late 1970s when I played competitive games every week – and sometimes several games a day – the Center Game was scorned. Books scoffed at it, or barely mentioned it; chess coaches pooh-poohed it and most of all, masters never played it. Why is fairly obvious given the dogmas of the period.

There are two obvious objections to White’s opening:

- It brings out the queen before the minor pieces.
- It presents Black with a free tempo, since after the obvious reply the white queen must move again.

3...Nc6 4 Qe3

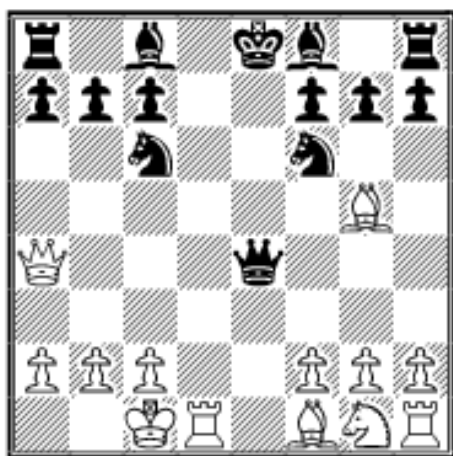
On the other hand, there are some potential advantages to the opening, apart from its surprise value, namely:

a) The white queen, going to e3, can make Black's freeing advance ...d5 hard to achieve, and later she can go to g3 and target g7, with Bh6 ideas in the air if Black castles.

b) The back rank is cleared for an early queenside castling by White, which can lead to unbalanced situations and early snap attacks.

The e3-square is probably the best retreat for White's lady, although alternatives are (very) occasionally seen. The alternative is a reversed Scandinavian (Center Counter) by 4 Qa4 which was played in a few postal games in the 1960s by the Polish correspondence master J. Sokolow. (Sometimes his name has been written 'Sokotow' – but this must have been because the Polish letter that looks like an l with a slash through it was printed as a 't' in the short article by K.Pytel in e.g. in *Chess Player Volume* 9.)

Note the following trap, which was apparently a game won by David Bronstein (in a USSR simultaneous in Sochi, 1959): 1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 Qxd4 Nc6 4 Qa4 Nf6 (There is nothing wrong with this but 4...d5 is to be avoided because of 5 Bb5.) 5 Nc3 (5 Bg5 is more popular.) 5...d5? (5...Bc5 should be preferred.) 6 Bg5 dxe4 7 Nxe4 Qe7 8 0-0-0 Qxe4??



9 Rd8+ Kxd8 10 Qxe4 1-0

I have about 220 games with 4 Qa4 in my database but they are not an impressive lot; 4 Qe3 is definitely the critical move. Dutch correspondence GM Ger van Perlo tried 4 Qa4 in a postal master tournament not so long ago, but without success. We can look at the first few moves of Van Perlo-M.Schroeder from the Dick Smit Memorial 2000 postal event:

4 Qa4 Nf6 (4...Bc5 5 Nf3 Nf6 6 Bg5 can transpose, but in another game Van Perlo tried 6 Bd3.) 5 Bg5 Bc5 6 Ngf3 h6 7 Bh4 d6 8 Nc3 Bd7 9 0-0-0 (or 9 Bb5 a6 10 Bxc6 Bxc6 11 Qc4 g5 12 Bg3 b5 13 Qd3 when the known line is 13...b4 but Schroeder planned 13...Nxe4!?) 9...0-0 10 Nd5!? g5 11 Bg3 Re8 12 Nxf6+ Qxf6 13 e5 Qe6 14 exd6 (14 Bc4? Nxe5!) 14...cxd6 15 Bc4 (15 Re1? Qxe1+) 15...Qf6! (Black stands well.) 16 Re1?! (White dreams of 16...Rad8 17 Nd2 Nd4 18 Qxd7! but Black answers...) 16...Rxe1 17 Rxe1? (17 Nxe1 was the lesser evil.) 17...h5! and White is probably already lost.

4...Nf6

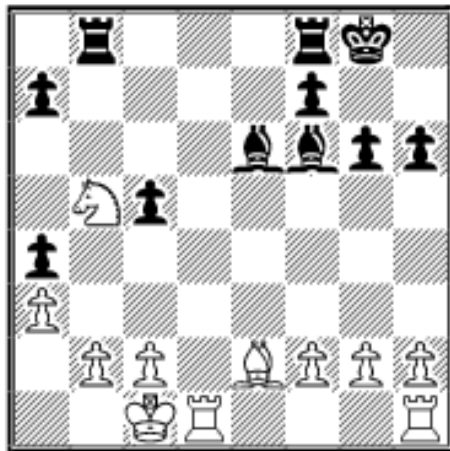
This is another fairly obvious move, since 5 e5 would be premature. It does not gain a tempo because Black's reply 5...Ng4 makes the white queen go on her travels once more and the pawn on e5 is easily attacked or exchanged.

With 4...Nf6, Black is trying to develop rapidly and then target the e-pawn; sometimes White will be willing to gambit the pawn.

Black can also play 4...Bb4+ 5 Nc3 Nf6, which transposes back to the main line.

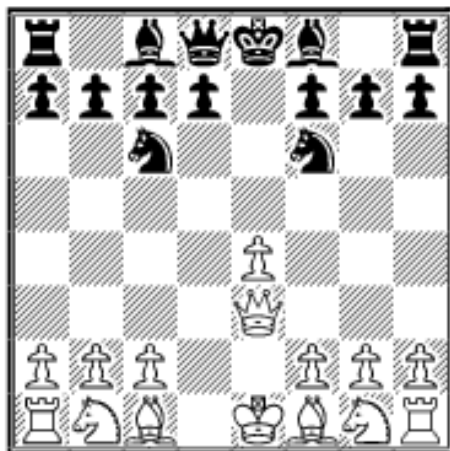
However, Black may prefer to fianchetto his king's bishop by 4...g6, which also means that the potential weakness g7 is shielded from the white queen. That is really a whole different story and I won't deal with it in this article as I have no experience of the move at all. For completeness, I just offer the following example.

1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 Qxd4 Nc6 4 Qe3 g6 5 Nc3 Bg7 6 Bd2 Nf6 7 0-0-0 0-0 8 Bc4 (If 8 Bd3 d5! but 8 h4!? has also been tried.) 8...Re8 9 Nf3 Na5 10 Bd3 d5!? 11 Nxd5 Nxd5 12 Qg5 Qxg5 13 Nxg5 Nf6 14 Bxa5 h6 15 Nf3 b6 16 Bb5 bxa5 17 e5 Rf8 18 exf6 Bxf6 19 Nd4 (Better 19 Bc6=) 19...Rb8 20 Bc4 c5 21 Nb5 Be6 22 Be2 a4 23 a3



23...Bxb2+! 24 Kxb2 a6 25 c4 axb5 26 cxb5 c4 27 Rc1 Rxb5+ 28 Ka1 Rb3 29 Bd1? Rxa3+ 30 Kb2 Rd3 31 Re1 Rb8+ 32 Ka2 c3+ 0-1 L.Mikhaletz - S. Ovsejevitsch, Ukraine Ch 2001 It seems White also has problems to prove he can get anything against 4...g6.

Now back to the main line.



White has to decide whether to allow ...Bb4 or not, so there are two main variations:

A: 5 Nc3 Bb4

B: 5 Bd2

Before we go any further into the theory, let us look at two examples of the

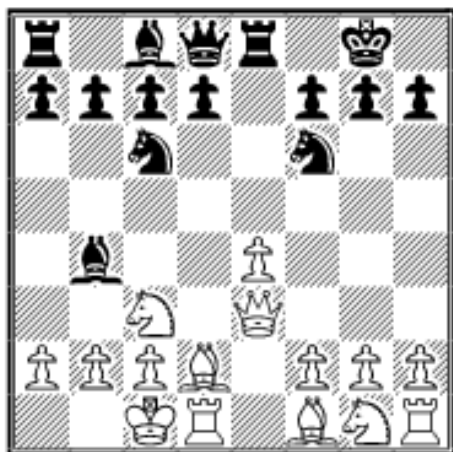
opening succeeding. They illustrate these two possibilities.

A. The following game, from early in the revival of the opening, shows what can go wrong for Black.

Alexander Morozevich – Mark Hebden

London Lloyds Bank, 1994

1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 Qxd4 Nc6 4 Qe3 Nf6 5 Nc3 Bb4 6 Bd2 0–0 7 0–0–0 Re8



In this position White has many possible moves, including 8 f3 (to shore up the e-pawn) and 8 Bc4 seeking sharp piece play. With his actual choice, Morozevich offers the e-pawn.

8 Qg3 d6

Maybe better are 8...Nxe4, 8...Rxe4 (usually recommended, although it may involve an exchange sacrifice in some lines) or 8...Ne5. We shall see later.

However, Karpov has been successful with the modest 8...d6 so it cannot be bad, can it? Black aims to prove his position is sound and invite White to over-extend himself with attacking tries.

9 f3 Ne5 10 h4 c6

Hebden tries to make something happen in the center but instead Karpov preferred prophylaxis with 10...Kh8 against Shirov – yet although most defenders who adopt 8...d6 now follow his example, Hebden's move may be OK.

After 10...Kh8 11 Nh3 Nh5 Shirov played 12 Qh2?!, but 12 Qf2 was suggested afterwards and may be critical.

For example, Mark Paragua – Carlo D'Amore, Bled ol 2002, continued: 12 Qf2 Bc5 13 Qe1 c6 14 Be2 b5 15 g4 Nf6 16 g5 Nfd7 17 h5 Nb6 18 g6 Bxh3 19 h6 fxg6 20 hxg7+ Kg8 21 Rxh3 Nbc4 22 f4 Nxd2 23 Qxd2 Nf7 24 Rdh1 h6 25 Rg3 Qf6 26 Bd3 Qxg7 27 e5 g5 28 Ne4 Nxe5 29 fxe5 Rxe5 30 Rgh3 Re6 31 Qh2 Bd4 32 Rxh6 Bxb2+ 33 Kd1 Be5 34 Qh3 Rxh6 35 Qxh6 Qxh6 36 Rxh6; White has a piece for two pawns and eventually won the ending.

11 h5 d5

Hjartarson won a game in the 1996 Icelandic Championship playing 10...Qe7 here.

12 Nge2 Nc4 13 h6 g6 14 Bg5 Qb6 15 Na4!

Not 15 Bxf6? Bd6.

15...Qa5 16 Bxf6 Qxa4 17 Nc3 Bxc3 18 Bxc3 Ne3 19 b3 Qxa2 20 Rd2 Qa3+ 21 Bb2 Qe7 22 Be2! dxe4 23 fxe4 Qxe4 24 Qg5 Nd5 25 Rxd5! Qxd5 26 Qf6 Kf8 27 Bc4 1-0

B. Sometimes White can win positionally, if Black allows weaknesses in his position. Here is an example where Black isn't allowed to play ...Bb4.

Throstur Thorhallsson – Peter Heine Nielsen

Peer Gynt open, Gausdal 1995

1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 Qxd4 Nc6 4 Qe3 Nf6 5 Bd2

White gets on with preparing queenside castling and now Black has to find another square for his king's bishop.

5...Be7 6 Nc3



This is an important position for the Center Game theory because it can arise in so many ways. For example, also after 4...Nf6 5 Nc3 Black doesn't have to go...Bb4; he can also play 5...Be7 or even 4...Be7 (as Alekhine played against Mieses at Scheveningen 1913), which is quite likely to lead to this position.

6...d5!?

Black adopts the sharpest possibility. The alternative is to castle and if White then castles on the opposite wing (i.e. 6...0-0 7 0-0-0) Black has 7...d5 (as Alekhine played), 7...Re8 (as Chigorin played against Mason, Paris 1900) or 7...d6, the conservative option.

7 exd5 Nxd5 8 Qg3

This is the reason why Black's 6th might be premature; exchanging on d5 just leads to equality.

8...Nxc3

After 9...Bd6 10 Qxg7 (Kupchik tried 10 f4 here.) 10...Be5 11 Qh6 Nxc3 11 Bxc3 Bxc3 12 bxc3 Qe7+ 13 Qe3 Qxe3+ White's doubled extra pawn proved of no value in Mieses-Janowski, Scheveningen 1913.

9 Bxc3 Bf6

The old books such as the one by Keres thought Black had the more comfortable game here.

10 Bxf6 Qxf6 11 0-0-0 0-0 12 Nf3

Introduced in the 1990s instead of 12 Bd3?! (old theory) or 12 Qxc7 Qxf2.

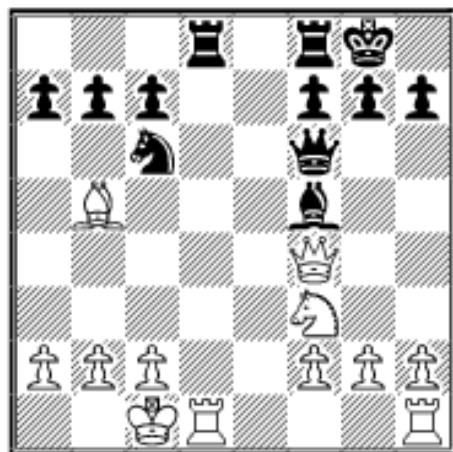
12...Bf5

Possibly 12...Be6 is the best move.

13 Qf4! Rad8!?

Adams-Anand has gone 13...Rae8 14 Bd3 Bxd3 15 Qxf6 gxf6 16 Rxd3 Re2 17 Rd2 Rxd2 18 Kxd2 Rd8+ 19 Kc3 with a draw, although maybe White had a very slight edge.

14 Bb5!



Suddenly Black has a problem with his pawn structure. Here Tisdall has suggested Black should play 14...Ne7? 15 Nd4 (not 15 Rxd8 Rxd8 16 Qxc7? Rc8 17 Rd1 Ng6) 15...c6 16 Bc4 saying it: "looks slightly better for White, but I would greatly prefer to avoid the damage that occurs in the game."

14...Be6? 15 Qxf6 gxf6 16 Bxc6 bxc6 17 Nd4 Rd6 18 b3 f5 19 Rhe1 Bd7 20 Re5 Rd8 21 Rd3 Rd5 22 Rxd5 cxd5 23 Rc3

Rc8 24 Nc6 1-0

Black could have played on, but his position is in ruins.

Time for some theory

Now it is time to see what a few books say about the opening.

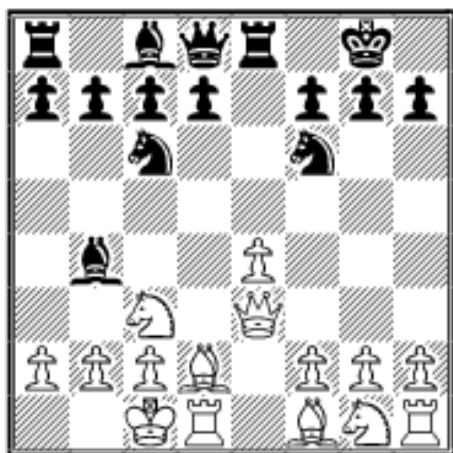
There is no modern monograph that I am aware of on the Center Game, as opposed to the Danish Gambit. Many years ago there was a book entitled *Center Game and Gambits* but it was just columns of variations and not compiled by a known master. It dealt with all sorts of openings that could be reached via 2 d4 including the Scotch.

GM Paul Keres gave it some serious attention in the 1971 East German edition of his theory work, *Dreispringerspiel bis Königsgambit*.

I found a small amount on the Center Game (pages 41-43) in *Tactics in the Chess Opening 2* by A.C. van der Tak and Friso Nijboer, published this year by New In Chess. They just give two games with light notes.

Let's go back to the position after **1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 Qxd4 Nc6 4 Qe3 Nf6 5 Nc3 Bb4 6 Bd2 0-0 7 0-0-0 Re8**

This is really the main line.



As we saw with Morozevich-Hebden, the revival of the Center Game in the 1990s had a lot to do with the option 8 Qg3 here, but is that really the best move? I will look at 8 Qg3 again later in this article, when I show my own game. I found however that in the book by Keres, he gave a different move as the main line.

8 Bc4!?

Keres himself had to meet this in a postal game in 1930s where he played Black against Baron von Feilitzsch and this is in fact one of the two games with the opening in the Van der Tak/Nijboer book. 8 Bc4 has a long pedigree, going back to Winawer-Steinitz, Nuremberg 1896, if not earlier. Steinitz ate the pawn by 8...Bxc3!? 9 Bxc3 Nxe4 but after 10 Qf4! he had a few problems, though they should perhaps not be insurmountable. For example, Van der Tak and Nijboer say Black can equalize by 10...Re7 11 Bxf7+ Rxf7 12 Qxe4 Qg5+ 13 Rd2 d5 14 Qxd5 Qxd5 15 Rxd5 Rxf2= (this is actually following Granda Zuniga-J.L.Fernandez Garcia, Pamplona 1991). Even in the game, it was only move 17 where Steinitz made his fatal error.

The young Keres preferred a more cautious defence, however, in the game M. Von Feilitzsch – Keres, *Deutsche Schachzeitung* international corr tourney-1 1932-33.

8...d6

This was possibly played first in a Czech postal game before World War I, which Jan Kalendovsky's researches unearthed. Probably Keres did not know it: 9 h3 Be6 10 Bd3 Ne5 11 Qg3? Nxd3+ 12 Qxd3 d5! 13 Nxd5 Bxd2+ 14 Rxd2 Nxe4!! 15 Qxe4 Bxd5 16 Qg4 Re1+ 0-1 Julius Brach-J.Kulisan, Narodnich listu corr tourney-4 Czechoslovakia 1911-12 (17 Rd1 Rxd1+ 18 Qxd1 Qg5+ and ...Qxg2).

Keres also gives 8...Na5 as possibly Black's safest way to get a good game and this is in fact the most popular defence to 8 Bc4 in recent times.

9 f3?!

According to Van der Tak and Nijboer, 9 Nf3 is a better move and this seems to be borne out by some recent correspondence games. Keres's book gives the continuation 9...Be6 10 Bxe6 Rxe6 11 Ng5 Re8 12 f4 h6 13 h4 Qc8 as somewhat better for Black (Tartkower-Reshevsky, Kemer 1937) but White can do better with 12 f3 or 12 a3 so this line deserves more attention.

9...Na5! 10 Bd3

Romero Holmes-Karpov, Madrid 1992, was also good for Black, with 10 Bb3 Nxb3+ 11 axb3 a5!.

10...d5

In his book, Keres observes that the tempo loss ...d6 followed by ...d5 is justified by the fact that White's move f3 has prevented the queen from going to g3. So Black already has the advantage because his queenside possibilities are more real than White's on the kingside.

11 Qg5

Or 11 Nce2 Qe7 Keres.

11...h6 12 Qh4

If 12 Qg3 d4 13 Bxh6? Nh5.

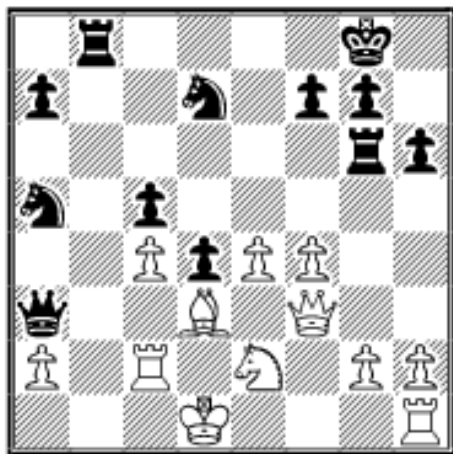
12...d4 13 Nce2 Bxd2+ 14 Rxd2 c5

Keres claimed that Black already has a decisive attack. The game ended:

15 c4 Be6 16 b3 b5! 17 Nf4

If 17 cxb5 Bxb3! 18 axb3 Nxb3+ 19 Kc2 Nxd2 20 Kxd2 Nxe4+ and Black wins, according to E. Marchisotti in his book *Joyas del Ajedrez Postal*.

17...bxc4 18 Nxe6 Rxe6 19 bxc4 Rb8 20 Ne2 Qb6! 21 Kd1 Qb4 22 Qg3 Nd7! 23 Rc2 Qa3! 24 f4 Rg6 25 Qf3



Rxd6 Re1+.) After 11 Nh3 Black may well be OK, but White has more options than in the 8...Rxe4 line.

In *Modern Chess Openings* (14th edition, 2000), GM De Firmian gives a different line for White. After 8...Nxe4 9 Nxe4 Rxe4 he has 10 c3 Bf8 11 Bd3 Re8 12 Nf3 “and White has compensation for the pawn.”

9 Bd3

This was a surprise. 9 a3 or 9 Be2 must be critical, I think. I wasn't too worried about 9 Bg5, when Keres gave 9...Bxc3 10 Qxc3 h6 11 f3 Re8 12 Bh4 d6 as giving Black a safe advantage.

I am not altogether convinced by what I have seen in this line, either games or computer analysis. Anyone thinking of playing the Center Game really has to look very deeply into the 9 a3 line and practical examples and try to find new ideas for White.

If 9 a3 Rg4 there are two possibilities:

a) 10 Qe3, when Van der Tak and Nijboer say Black's position isn't easy. He can choose between 10...Bf8 (as in their example game Xie Jun-G.Flear, Hastings 1996) or 10...Ba5, which computers prefer (e.g. GM Shabalov – Socrates, 1994, a game you can probably find in your database). This is all messy as De Firmian says.

b) The virtually unknown 10 Qf3 (Melgosa-Castro Rojas, Barranquilla 1999) may need more attention. Chances seem about equal after 10...Nd4 (not the only move, of course; Castro played 10...Bf8.) 11 Qh3 Ba5 11 f3 Rg6.

9...Bd6 as in Shabalov-A.Ivanov, USA 1994, is also critical. I don't think this 8...Rxe4 line is analysed out by any means yet.

9...Rg4

Of course the rook could go back to e8 but it likes traveling.

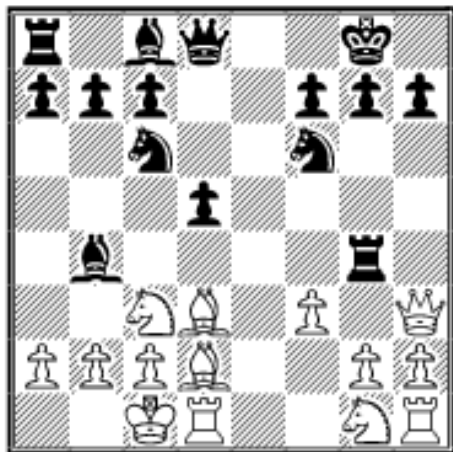
10 Qh3

The white queen is short of squares; if 10 Qe3 d5.

10...d5

This looks the most active move but it is not forced and as the sequel shows, there is some risk involved.

11 f3!



11...Rd4?!

Black gets a bit careless. It is possible to “put the boot in” by 11...d4 12 fxg4 Bxg4 13 Qh4 dxc3 14 Bxc3 Bxd1 15 Bxf6 Qxf6 16 Qxf6 gxf6 but after this heavy simplification, the extra doubled isolated pawn is not much to show for Black’s earlier initiative.

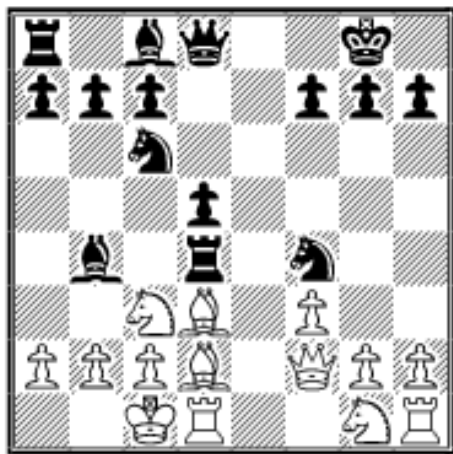
Computers suggest 11...Bxc3 12 Bxc3 Ra4 but I wasn’t keen on giving White an

unopposed dark-square bishop.

12 Qg3 Nh5

This move is in itself playable but is based on an oversight, due to my ring-rustiness. I have not played many games (except correspondence games) in the last 2-3 years. 12...Bd6 is wiser, intending the thematic exchange sacrifice 13 Qf2 Rxd3 14 cxd3 Nb4.

13 Qf2 Nf4?



Again 13...Rxd3 14 cxd3 d4 or 13...Be6 14 a3 Rxd3 is called for. The move I so confidently played was a blunder.

14 Bb5?

At first sight this is strong but Black has a powerful answer to it. We both missed that 14 Bxf4 Rxf4 15 Nxd5 would have been extremely awkward for Black in view of 15...Qxd5?? 16 Bxh7+ Kxh7 17 Rxd5.

14...Qd6!

14...Qf6 would be weaker because the d-pawn is unprotected and White could play 15 g3. Now the knight can retreat if necessary. In view of the next note, everything is again now in order for Black; in fact, he is almost certainly winning.

15 Bxc6 Bxc3 16 Bxc3

The justification of Black's 14th move is that 16 bxc3 leads to a position where the black queen is stronger than the white rook pair because of the weaknesses around the white king: 16...Qa3+ 17 Kb1 bxc6 18 Qxd4 Rb8+ 19 Qb4 Rxb4+ 20 cxb4 Bf5 and Black has a winning attack.

16...Rxd1+ 17 Kxd1 bxc6!?

Of course there is nothing wrong with recapturing with the queen.

18 g3 Ne6 19 Ne2 c5 20 Bd2 Rb8

Black is a pawn ahead and will crack open the white king position after some preparation; the rest needs no comment.

21 Bc1 Ba6 22 Nf4 Nd4 23 c3 Nc6 24 Kc2 d4 25 Rd1 g5 26 Ng2 Qg6+ 27 Kd2 Qd3+ 28 Ke1 Re8+ 29 Be3 dxe3 0-1

To conclude, do readers have any feedback? Has anyone played any interesting Center Games with either colour? Send them in and I may return to this opening in another column next year.

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