



COLUMNISTS

*From the
Archives*

Hosted by
Mark Donlan



Chess Mazes
by Bruce Alberston

From the Archives...

Since it came online over eight years ago, **ChessCafe.com** has presented literally thousands of articles, reviews, columns and the like for the enjoyment of its worldwide readership. The good news is that almost all of this high quality material remains available in the [Archives](#). The bad news is that this great collection of chess literature is now so large and extensive – and growing each week – that it is becoming increasingly difficult to navigate it effectively. We decided that the occasional selection from the archives posted publicly online might be a welcomed addition to the regular fare.

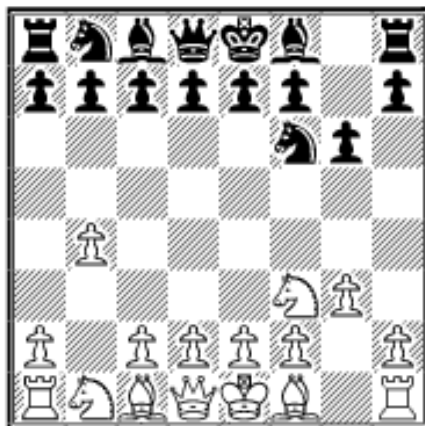
Watch for an item to be posted online at least once each week, usually on Thursday or Friday. We will update the **ChessCafe** home page whenever there has been a “new” item posted here. We hope you enjoy *From the Archives*...

Opening Lanes by Gary Lane

Flexible Fianchettoes

Mark Jones from **England** asks “What is the refutation of 1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 g6 3 b4 which I have never seen before? I tried 3...a5 when after 4 b5 Bg7 I eventually lost.”

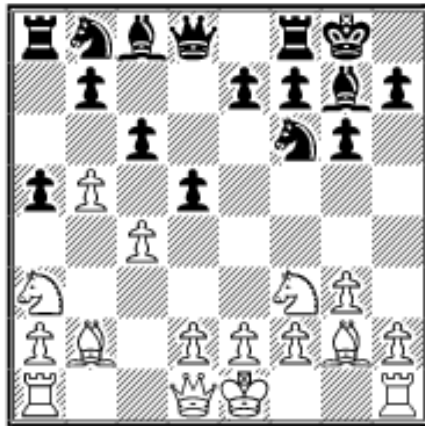
It might seem strange but the line 1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 g6 3 b4



has actually been played by Bronstein, Petrosian and Smyslov. The advance of the b-pawn has the dual purpose of gaining space on the queenside and avoiding lots of King’s Indian theory after just three moves. The plan for White can consist of planting a knight on the c4-square, having already played e4, or even to play a type of English Opening with c4. A good idea of White’s possibilities is presented in this game where Smyslov gives a model example of how to deal with 3...a5.

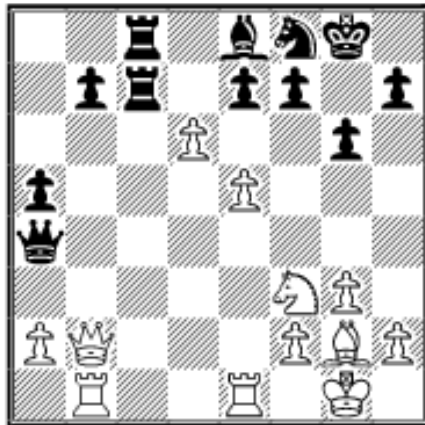
Smyslov-Ader Tel Aviv OL 1964

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 g6 3 b4 a5 4 b5 c6 5 Na3 This is the move which usually surprises Black. The knight on the edge of the board does a good job of holding the position together. **5...d5** Black played 5...Bg7 in the game Smyslov - Alvarez del Monte, Havana 1962. Although this is fairly sound White used the double fianchetto to seize the advantage. The game continued: 6 Rb1 d5 7 c4 Nbd7 8 Bg2 Ne4 9 Bb2 Ndf6 10 0-0 Nd6 11 bxc6 bxc6 12 Ne5 Bd7, when White refuted Black's play with a clever combination with 13 cxd5 cxd5 14 Nxd7 Qxd7 15 Bxd5! and Smyslov won a pawn with a clear advantage. **6 Bg2 Bg7 7 Bb2 0-0 8 c4**



8...dxc4?! This allows White to take steer his queen's knight towards the centre. 8...Bg4 or 8...Bf5 have been suggested as possible improvements. **9 bxc6 Nxc6 10 Nxc4 Be6 11 Nce5 Nxe5 12 Bxe5 Qd7 13 0-0 Rfc8** Black has the benefit of a queenside pawn majority but it takes time to safely mobilize them. **14 Qb1 Bd5 15 d3 Qa4 16 e4** The first obvious sign that White's long-term plan is to control the centre with his pawns. **16...Bc6 17 Re1 Nd7 18 Bxg7 Kxg7 19 Qb2+ Kg8 20 Rab1 Rc7 21 d4!** The

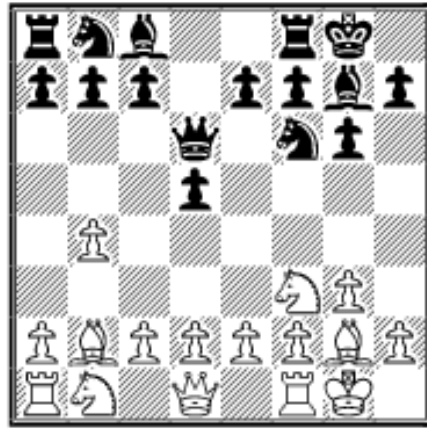
best way to prevent ...Nc5 and now the threat is d5 when the bishop will have no escape squares. **22...Nf8 22 d5 Be8 23 e5 Rac8 24 d6**



24...Rd7 If 24...exd6 then White is better after 25 exd6 Rd7 26 Bh3 f5 27 Re7. **25 Ng5 Rc2 26 Qb6 f6 27 Bd5+ Kg7 28 dxe7 1-0**

A popular way to handle this opening is to try an early ...d5. I tried this approach against GM Nigel Davies at Wrexham in 1997.

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 g6 3 b4 Bg7 4 Bb2 0-0 5 Bg2 d5 6 0-0 Qd6 (see next diagram)



It's probably premature to move the queen because it is difficult to successfully undermine the b-pawn. **7 a3 a5 8 Be5! Qb6 9 Nc3 c6** The offer of a pawn is not very tempting. For instance **9...axb4 10 axb4 Rxa1 11 Qxa1 Qxb4 12 Nxd5** restores material equality and gives White a promising initiative. **10 Na4 Qb5 11 Nc5 Nfd7 12 Bxg7 Kxg7 13 Nd3 Re8 14 Re1 e5 15 e4** when the position was fairly equal and ended in a draw after 40 moves.

The correct way to conduct the Black pieces was given in a solid display by the old maestro himself.

R. Moor-Smyslov, Zurich 1998

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 d5 3 Bg2 g6 4 b4 Bg7 5 Bb2 0-0 6 0-0 c6 This is the difference compared to my game in the previous note. Smyslov sensibly supports the d-pawn and proceeds to concentrate on development. **7 d3 Bg4 8 Nbd2 a5 9 a3 Na6 10 Qb1 axb4 11 axb4 Qb6 12 Bc3 Nh5 13 Bxg7 Nxg7 14 c3 Bxf3 15 Bxf3 Ne6 16 Qb2 Nac7 17 e3 Rxa1 18 Rxa1 Ra8**

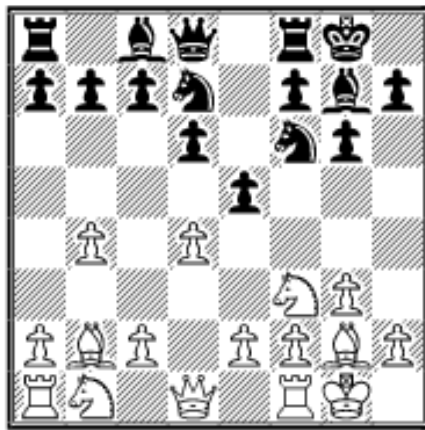


The game is level and ended in a draw after 49 moves.

However, such positions are playable for Black but are more likely to appeal to Grünfeld players who will happy to push their pawn to d5. Therefore, I will also recommend a King's Indian Defence set-up which is easy to learn but difficult to beat.

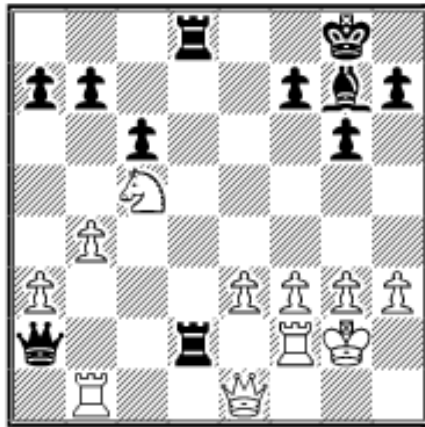
G. Ottolini-M. Lanzani Vanzaghello 1997

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 g6 3 b4 Bg7 4 Bb2 0-0 5 Bg2 d6 6 d4 Nbd7 7 0-0 e5



A classic King's Indian set-up has arisen which is usually played against the main line g3 systems. Black has fianchettoed, the queen's knight has come to d7 to support the e5 advance and Lanzani strikes quickly to try and take advantage of the b4 thrust. **8 dxe5 Ng4** A standard trick that takes advantage of the pin. **9 Nbd2 Ngxe5 10 Nxe5 Nxe5 11 Rb1 Be6 12 c4 c6** If **12...Nxc4?** Black will soon lose after **13 Bxg7 Kxg7 14 Nxc4 Bxc4 15 Qd4+.** **13 h3 d5 14 cxd5 Bxd5 15 Bxd5?!** This allows

the black queen to dominate the centre. **15 f4** should be considered. **15...Qxd5 16 Nb3 Qc4 17 a3 Rad8 18 Qe1 Rfe8 19 Bxe5 Rxe5 20 e3 Rh5** Lanzani is intent on exposing the defensive problems associated with White exchanging the light-squared bishop. **21 Kg2 Qe4+ 22 f3 Qe6 23 Rh1 Rhd5 24 Rf1 Rd3 25 Nc5 Rd2+ 26 Rf2 Qa2**



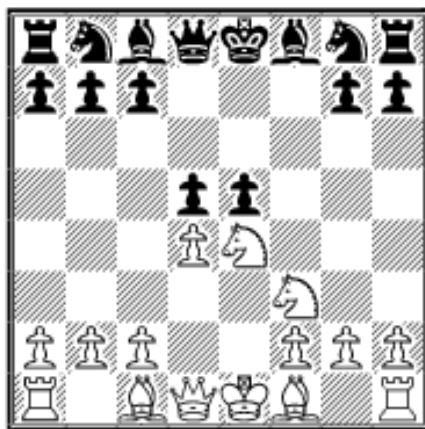
The queen infiltrates on the queenside and is poised to grab a few pawns. **27 Ne4 Rxf2+ 28 Nxf2 Qxa3 29 Ne4 Qa2+ 30 Kg1 f5 31 Nf2 Rd2 32 Rc1 Re2 0-1**

Francois Morsa from **Belgium** has sent an attractive game with the Philidor and asks about the latest developments.

S. Mohammad-M. Orr Erevan OL 1996

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 f5 4 Nc3 fxe4 5 Nxe4

d5

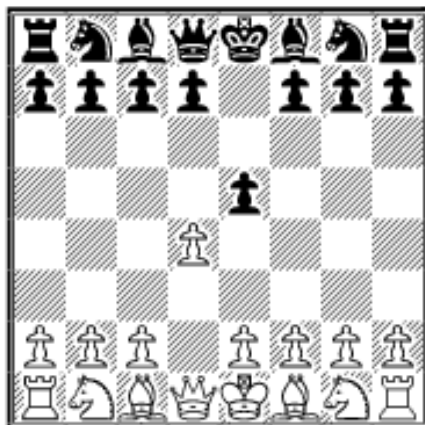


The opening certainly ensures Black a very sharp game but a suggestion by Motwani casts down on the whole variation. **6 Ng3 6 Neg5!** White accepts the challenge and goes on the offensive. If **6...e4 7 Ne5 Nh6 8 Nxh7!** intending **9 Qh5+** is good while **6...h6** is met by the surprising **7 Nf7 Kxf7 8 Nxe5+** with a strong attack. **6...e4 7 Ne5 Nf6 8 Nh5 g6 9 Nxf6+ Qxf6 10 Be2 Bd6 11 f4 0-0 12 0-0 Nc6 13 Be3 Ne7 14 g4 Be6 15 Qe1 Kh8 16 Kh1 Rg8 17 Qg3 Rac8 18 b3 Rg7 19 c4 c5 20 Rac1 b6 21 f5 gxf5 22 g5**

Qf8 23 Bf4 cxd4 24 Nf7+ Qxf7 25 Bxd6 d3 26 Bd1 dxc4 27 Be5 b5 28 bxc4 bxc4 29 Bh5 Qxh5 30 Bxg7+ Kxg7 31 Qe5+ Kf7 32 Qf6+ Ke8 33 Qxe6 Qg6 34 Qe5 Qc6 35 Rxf5 e3+ 36 Kg1 e2 37 Rb1 Qc5+ 0-1

Brian Wilson from **England** wants to know: "What is the Englund Gambit?"

Nowadays, it is sometimes difficult to keep up with the names of obscure openings because the name seems to change from country to country. I assume you are referring to 1 d4 e5



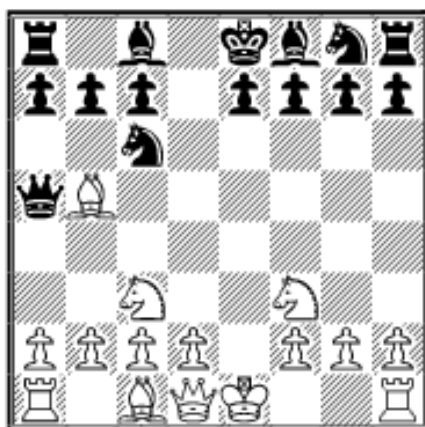
It is not without its supporters and a few players have fallen for the following line: 2 dxe5 Nc6 3 Nf3 Qe7 4 Bf4 Qb4+ 5 Bd2 Qxb2 6 Bc3?? Bb4 7 Qd2 Bxc3 8 Qxc3 Qc1 mate. An obvious improvement is 4 Qd5 when Black will have a tough job justifying the loss of a pawn.

Paul Bentley from **England** asks, "I play the Nimzovitch 1 e4 Nc6 but lots of boring opponents play 2 Nf3 rather than 2 d4. I have tried 2...d6 and 2...e5 but the latter resulted in having to contend with 15 moves of Ruy Lopez theory. Is 2...d5 good?"

It sounds like a good idea because Black has an interesting game if it transposes to a position which can come about after 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qa5 4 Nf3 Nc6 5 d4 Bg4 6 Bb5 0-0-0 7 Bxc6 bxc6 when Black has play against the d-pawn. The correct way for White to handle the opening is revealed in the following game.

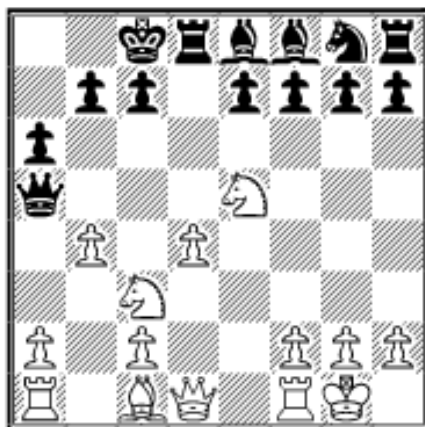
Emms-Kristensen, Esbjerg 1996

1 e4 Nc6 2 Nf3 d5 Your question about what happens after 2...d5 is very reasonable. Well, in simple terms, Black has transposed into a poor line of the Scandinavian (Center-Counter). **3 exd5 Qxd5 4 Nc3 Qa5 5 Bb5**



5 d4 is possible but the key to this transposition is to avoid playing it! The point is that with ...Nc6 Black tends to target the pawn on d4 and if there isn't one there it looks a waste of time. That is bad because Black usually plays ...c6 to provide an escape route for the queen. **5...Bd7** Or **5...Bg4 6 h3! Bh5 7 g4 Bh5 8 Ne5** when the pin on the knight gives White a big advantage. Therefore, the black bishop is obliged to develop on a passive square. **6 0-0 a6** This makes sense to secure the bishop

pair as compensation for the lack of development. If 6...0-0-0 White should avoid 7 d4, preferring 7 Qe2. **7 Bxc6 Bxc6 8 d4 0-0-0 9 Ne5 Be8** It looks odd but Black is determined to hang on to the bishop pair. **9...Bd5? 10 b4 Qxb4 11 Nxd5 Rxd5 12 Nxf7+-.** **10 b4!**



A new move at the time, as only 10 Qf3 or 10 Be3 used to be played. **10...Qb6** On 10...Qxb4 White soon gets a tremendous attack after 11 Qf3 c6 12 Rb1 Qxd4 13 Bf4. **11 Be3 e6 12 Rb1 f6 13 Nc4 Qc6 14 Na5! Qxc3** Giving up the queen, but 14...Qd7 15 b5 is excellent for White. **15 Rb3** After the text move everything is simple. The game concluded: **15...Bxb4 16 Rxc3 Bxc3 17 Nxb7! Kxb7 18 Qb1+ Ka8 19 Qb3 Bxd4** (19...Ba5 20 Qa3 Bb6 21 Qf8! wins) **20 Bxd4 Bb5 21 c4 Bc6 22 Qa3 Bb7 23 Qc5**

Kb8 24 Rb1 Kc8 25 Qa7 1-0

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!



[TOP OF PAGE](#)



[HOME](#)



[COLUMNS](#)



[LINKS](#)



[ARCHIVES](#)



[ABOUT THE
CHESS CAFE](#)

[\[ChessCafe Home Page\]](#) [\[Book Review\]](#) [\[Columnists\]](#)
[\[Endgame Study\]](#) [\[Skittles Room\]](#) [\[Archives\]](#)
[\[Links\]](#) [\[Online Bookstore\]](#) [\[About ChessCafe\]](#) [\[Contact Us\]](#)

Copyright 2005 CyberCafes, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

"The Chess Cafe®" is a registered trademark of Russell Enterprises, Inc.