



C O L U M N I S T S

*From the
Archives*

Hosted by
Mark Donlan



From the Archives...

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Opening Lanes by Gary Lane

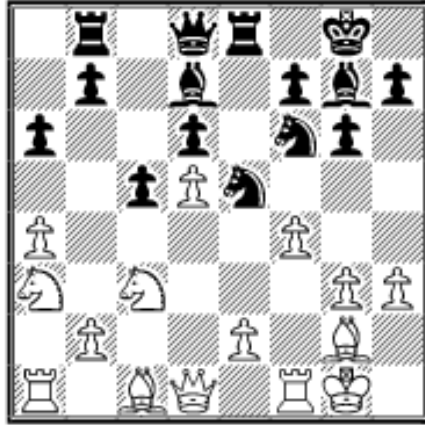
The Latest Fashion

Jonty Wolff from **South Africa** wants to know the truth about a controversial piece sacrifice. “I find it irritating, in some books or magazine articles, when the author comments on a position, where White or Black has played aggressively by sacrificing a piece for a fair amount of compensation, by saying: ‘this may not be sound but who cares, this position is fun to play!’ Fair enough, but quite an artificial statement’s on the master’s behalf. One such position arises from the Fianchetto Variation of the Benoni. 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 g3 c5 4 d5 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 Nc3 g6 7 Bg2 Bg7 8 Nf3 0-0 9 0-0 a6 10 a4 Re8 11 Nd2 Nbd7 12 h3 Rb8 13 Nc4 Ne5 14 Na3. A famous position, in which Kasparov played 14...Nh5 in Lucerne 1982. David Norwood though, came up with 14...Bd7. An interesting attempt, but is it really sound? Surely, after 15 f4, there is a way for White to consolidate his advantage. Both the games Saeed-Norwood and Ginting-Antonio were, in my opinion, played very poorly by White. Do you know of an antidote?”

The line with 14...Bd7 was successfully used by a young David Norwood several times in the 1980s, although it had much to do with being a surprise weapon. A good example is the next game, which was quoted by Jonty.

S.Saeed-D.Norwood, London 1984

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 c5 4 d5 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 Nc3 g6 7 g3 Bg7 8 Bg2 0-0 9 0-0 a6 10 a4 Nbd7 11 Nd2 Re8 12 h3 Rb8 13 Nc4 Ne5 14 Na3 Bd7 An adventurous move that steers the game towards complications. It's certainly not recommended for those who want a quick draw. In the game Korchnoi-Kasparov, Lucerne Ol 1982, Black played the mainline 14...Nh5, and produced a masterpiece after 15 e4 Rf8 16 Kh2 f5 17 f4 b5 18 axb5 axb5 19 Naxb5 fxe4 20 Bxe4 Bd7 21 Qe2 Qb6 22 Na3 Rbe8 23 Bd2 Qxb2 24 fxe5 Bxe5 25 Nc4 Nxc3 26 Rxf8+ Rxf8 27 Qe1 Nxe4+ 28 Kg2 Qc2 29 Nxe5 Rf2+ 30 Qxf2 Nxf2 31 Ra2 Qf5 32 Nxd7 Nd3 33 Bh6 Qxd7 34 Ra8+ Kf7 35 Rh8 Kf6 36 Kf3 Qxh3+ 0-1. **15 f4**



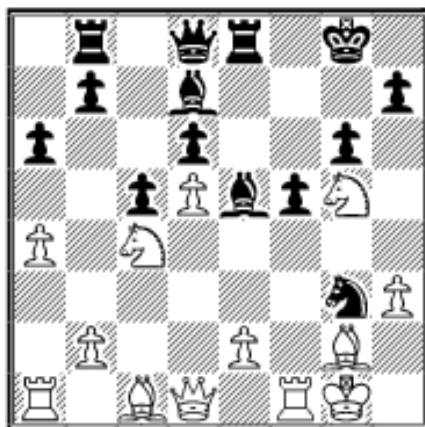
Black has allowed his knight to be trapped for no apparent reason. In reality, White spent plenty of time trying to work out the various tactical possibilities. **15...Nh5 16 fxe5 Bxe5 17 g4 Ng3 18 Nc4?** Black now crashes through on the kingside. **18...Bxc3 19 bxc3 Bxg4 20 Qd3 Nxe2+ 21 Kh2 Nxc1 22 Qc2 Be2 23 Rf4 Nd3 24 Re4 Rxe4 25 Bxe4 Nf4 0-1**

The key moment in this game is 18 Nc4, which simply loses. I think a marked improvement is 18 Rf3, when Black may continue 18...b5 19 axb5 axb5 20 Rb1 b4 21 Nc4, threatening to take on e5, followed by capturing the knight on g3, which is good for White. Psakhis prefers 18 Rf2, when he considers White's chances to be preferable, after 18...b5 19 axb5 axb5 20 Nc4 b4 21 Nb1.

The other game mentioned is worth a look, in order to demonstrate Black's chances of surviving while a piece down:

N.Ginting-R.Antonio Thessaloniki OL 1988

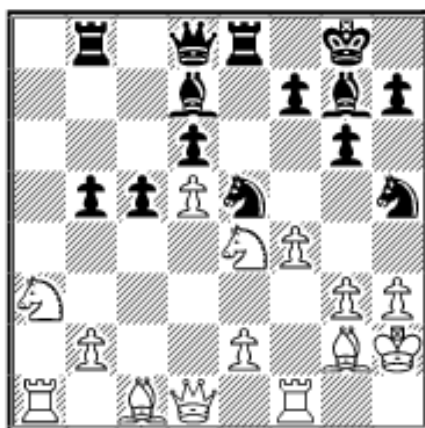
1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 g3 c5 4 d5 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 Nc3 g6 7 Bg2 Bg7 8 Nf3 0-0 9 0-0 a6 10 a4 Re8 11 Nd2 Nbd7 12 h3 Rb8 13 Nc4 Ne5 14 Na3 Bd7 15 f4 Nh5 16 fxe5 Bxe5 17 Ne4 This is the difference with the previous game, but it is not particularly impressive. **17...f5 18 Ng5 Nxc3 19 Nc4**



19...Nxe2+! 20 Kh1 If 20 Qxe2, then 20...Bh2+ 21 Kxh2 Rxe2—+. 20...Ng3+ 21 Kg1 Bd4+ 22 Kh2 Nxf1+ 23 Qxf1 b5 24 axb5 axb5 25 Na5 Ra8 26 Ne6 Be5+ 27 Kh1 Rxa5 28 Nxd8 Rxa1 29 Nc6 Bg3 30 Qxb5 Rxc1+ 31 Bf1 f4 32 Kg2 Rc2+ 33 Kg1 f3 34 Qd3 Bf5 35 Qb3 0-1

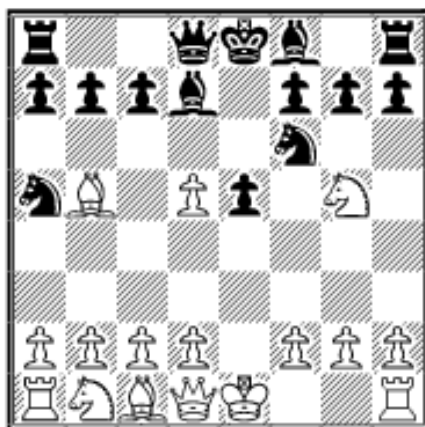
I suspect that the best idea is to accept the material and try one of the improvements mentioned on the 18th move of the Norwood game. If you are still not satisfied, then I suggest adopting a line favoured by the classy Uzbekistan player *Safin*, who tried it against *Dowden*, in the Asian team championships held in 1995.

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 Nc3 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 Nf3 g6 7 g3 Bg7 8 Bg2 0-0 9 0-0 Re8 10 Nd2 a6 11 a4 Nbd7 12 h3 Rb8 13 Nc4 Ne5 14 Na3 Bd7 15 f4 Nh5 16 Kh2 b5 17 axb5 axb5 At this point, the position is usually assessed as unclear; White's play in the rest of the game looks likely to change that assessment. 18 Ne4



18...Bf5 19 Nd2 Nc4 20 Naxc4 bxc4 21 Nxc4 Rb4 22 Na5 Rd4 23 Qe1 Qe7 24 e3 Bd7 25 Nc6 Bxc6 26 exd4 Bxd5 27 Qxe7 Rxe7 28 Bxd5 Re2+ 29 Bg2 Bxd4 1-0

John Hartman from the USA writes: "I noticed you've been looking at some 'offbeat' Two Knights variations. Let me ask you about my favorite! 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Ng5 d5 5 ed5 Na5 6 Bb5+ Bd7!?.



Some time ago, I asked about this on rec.games.chess.misc, and received some information, including some lines that Euwe offers in his *Schachpartie* (or something to that extent). But what I'd really like is some top-notch games and opinions!"

The idea of 6...Bd7, followed by 7 Qe2, is generally considered a recent side-line, but amazingly it was first considered by Polerio around 1590, according to Murray's *History of Chess*. It's dismissed in opening reference books, mainly because of the

following game:

V.Ciocaltea-Reicher, Bucharest 1953

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Ng5 d5 5 exd5 Na5 6 Bb5+ Bd7 7 Qe2 Bd6
 The temptation to exchange pieces with 7...Bxb5+ is seriously flawed after 8 Qxb5+ c6 9 dxc6 Nxc6 10 Qxb7+-. An important alternative is 7...Be7, which gives White the option of snatching the e-pawn, when Black has active play. In the game C.Herbrechtsmeier-J.Nunn, 1985, White accepted the challenge and held on to the extra material: 8 Nc3 0-0 9 0-0 Bg4 (9...c6 should also be considered, with a similar set-up to the illustrative game Marusenko-Hebden) 10 Qxe5 Bd6 11 Qe3 a6 12 Be2 Re8 13 Qd3 Bxe2 14 Nxe2 Bxh2+ 15 Kxh2 Ng4+ 16 Kg1 Qxg5 17 Nc3 Qf4 18 Qg3 Qxg3 19 fxg3 Nc4 20 b3 Nb6 21 Ba3 Red8 22 Rf4 h5 23 d6 Rac8 24 Re1 cxd6 25 Re7 f6 26 Rxb7 Rc6 27 Ra7 Re8 28 Rf1 Nc8 29 Rd7 Kh7 ½-½. **8 Bxd7+** 8 Nc3 tends to transpose to the main game after 8...0-0 9 Bxd7, but Black can fight for the initiative following the routine 9 0-0. For example: 9...Nxd5! 10 Bxd7 (10 Nxd5 Bxb5 11 Qxb5 c6=) 10...Nf4 11 Qg4 h5 12 Qf3 (12 Qh4 Be7!) 12...Qxg5, when Black has restored the material balance. **8...Qxd7 9 0-0 0-0 10 Nc3 c6 11 dxc6 Nxc6 12 Nge4 Nxe4 13 Qxe4 Rad8 14 Nd5 Bb8 15 c4 f5**



In this position, White has hung on to the extra pawn, but he still has considerable difficulties in activating his pieces.

Ciocaltea is strong enough to the make the rest of the game look easy: **16 Qh4 Nd4 17 d3 f4 18 f3 Rde8 19 Bd2 Re6 20 Qf2 a6 21 Bb4 Rf5 22 Bc5 Nc6 23 Rfe1 Rg6 24 d4 Nxd4 (24...Rfg5 looks a sterner test) 25 Bxd4 exd4 26 Ne7+ Kf7 27 Nxf5 Qxf5 28 Qxd4 Rd6 29 Qf2 Rc6 30 Kh1 Bd6 31 Qe2 Bc5 32 Qe8+ Kf6 33 Rad1 Be3 34 Rd7 1-0**

It is worth noting that *Beliavsky* has given the line featuring 7...Bd6 his seal of approval. In a game against *Sulskis*, at Koszalin in Poland 1998, he finally ground down his opponent.

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Ng5 d5 5 exd5 Na5 6 Bb5+ Bd7 7 Qe2 Bd6 8 Nc3 0-0 9 Bxd7 Qxd7 10 0-0 c6 11 dxc6 Nxc6 12 d3 Ciocaltea preferred 11 Nge4, but this looks more natural. **12...Nd4 13 Qd1 Rac8 14 Be3 Ba3**

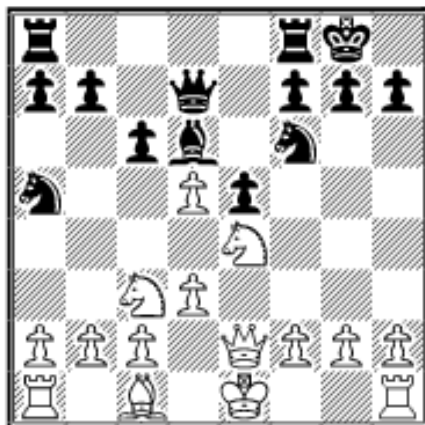


A nice way to exploit the power of the rook on the c-file. **15 Bxd4 exd4 16 Nge4 Nxe4 17 Nxe4 Bxb2 18 Rb1 Ba3** Black stands better. The superior pawn structure is a plus, and White has to compromise his position to secure the knight outpost on e4. The game concluded: **19 g4 Be7 20 f4 f5 21 gxf5 Rxf5 22 Qf3 b6 23 Rf2 Rcf8 24 Rbf1 Qe6 25 Re2 Qf7 26 Ng3 Ra5 27 Qe4 Bf6 28 a4 Rxa4 29 c4 Ra5 30 Kg2 Rc5 31 Ra1 Rc7 32 Qe6 Rb8 33 Nf5 Rd8 34 Kf3 Kf8 35 Qxf7+ Kxf7 36 Ra6 Rdd7 37 h3 Rc5 38**

Ng3 Be7 39 Ne4 Rcc7 40 f5 Rb7 41 Rb2 Ke8 42 Rb5 Kd8 43 Rb1 Kc8 44 h4 Rbc7 45 h5 Rc6 46 Ra2 a5 47 Rg1 Bf8 48 Kf4 Kb7 49 Ng5 g6 50 hxg6 hxg6 51 Ne6 Bd6+ 52 Kf3 gxf5 53 Nxd4 Rc8 54 Nb5 Bb4 55 Kf4 Rxd3 56 Rg7+ Kb8 57 Rh2 Rxc4+ 58 Ke5 Bc3+ 59 Nxc3 Rdxc3 60 Kxf5 Rc7 0-1

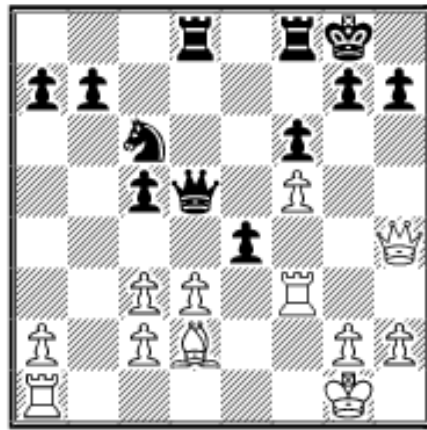
A further confirmation that 6...Bd7 is ready for a revival is the fact that **Mark Hebden**, the 'king' of the weekend tournaments in Britain, has used it with success. After the international Hastings tournament this year, a strong weekend tournament was held, with Mark scoring 6/6, and one of his wins caught my eye. The player of the white pieces was the Ukranian **P. Marusenko**.

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Ng5 d5 5 exd5 Na5 6 Bb5+ Bd7 7 Qe2 Bd6 8 Nc3 0-0 9 Bxd7 Qxd7 10 d3 c6 11 Nge4



This gives Black an easy game, and the critical test must be acceptance of the sacrifice with **11 dxc6 Nxc6**, transposing to the Beliaevsky example.

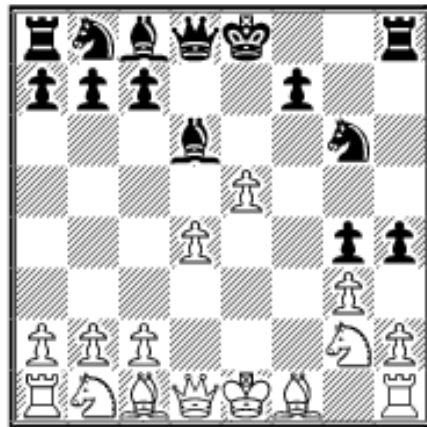
11...Nxd5 12 Nxd6 Nxc3 13 bxc3 Qxd6 14 0-0 Rae8 15 Bd2 c5 In view of the threat **16 c4**, Hebden makes room for his knight to return to c6. **16 f4 Nc6 17 f5 f6 18 Qe4 Rd8 19 Rf3 Qd5 20 Qh4 e4!**



White is obliged to lose a pawn and ultimately the game. 21 Rh3 Qxf5 22 Rf1 g5 23 Rxf5 gxh4 24 Bh6 exd3 25 cxd3 Rfe8 26 Rxh4 Kf7 27 Rg4 b6 28 Rg7+ Ke6 29 Rf3 Ne5 30 Rfg3 Rxd3 31 Rxd3 Nxd3 32 Rxa7 Kf5 33 g3 Kg6 34 Bf4 Re1+ 35 Kg2 Nxf4+ 36 gxf4 Re2+ 37 Kf3 Rxh2 38 Ke4 Re2+ 39 Kd5 h5 40 a4 h4 41 a5 bxa5 42 Rxa5 h3 43 Ra8 Kf5 44 Rh8 Kg4 45 Kxc5 h2 46 Rh6 f5 47 Kd4 Kxf4 48 Kd3 Ra2 49 c4 Kg3 50 c5 Kg2 51 Rg6+ Kf1 0-1

If you play 6...Bd7 with success, remember to dismiss your opponent's questions about the latest fashionable opening, and just casually mention you improved on an analysis published 400 years ago.

An intriguing enquiry from **Pablo Iglesias** from **Mexico**: "I've a question regarding the From Gambit in Bird's Opening. In a recent e-mail game, playing with White, the game went: 1 f4 e5 2 fxe5 d6 3 exd6 Bxd6 4 Nf3 g5 5 g3 g4 6 Nh4 Ne7 7 e4 Ng6 8 Ng2 h5 9 d4 h4 10 e5.



A book suggested Black's only resource was to sacrifice the bishop at e5, but my opponent simply played 10...Be7, and I couldn't find any creative path for White. Can you assess the position? How can White follow up against 10...Be7?"

My first reaction would be to make sure that you have remembered the right position, because 10...Be7 is a normal move. However, I think White has the better chances. To avoid the immediate threat of

...hxc3, then 11 Rg1 should be played. There is no problem that White has forfeited the right to castle kingside, because such a decision would be pretty risky, considering Black has already a strong attack. The idea is for White to whisk the king to safety by castling queenside. White might consider the plan c3, Be3, Nd2 and Qe2 before finally castling. In compensation for being a pawn down, Black has just about nothing apart from a potential open h-file.

Finally, a word of warning to those who prefer to meet 1 f4 with 1...e5. A friend of mine, who is fairly experienced, was rather bored by the reversed Dutch positions he got against an opponent, when he played 1...d5 against 1 f4. Therefore, as a confirmed Sicilian Dragon player, he decided to spice up the position by playing aggressively with 1...e5. After studying it for some time, he had the opportunity to play it with a flourish at a local tournament. His opponent pondered for a minute, before playing 2 e4, transposing to the King's Gambit. My heartbroken friend later bitterly proclaimed that his 17 move defeat

was because of the fact he was out of his opening knowledge after just two moves!

If you have had a similar experience then let me know!



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