



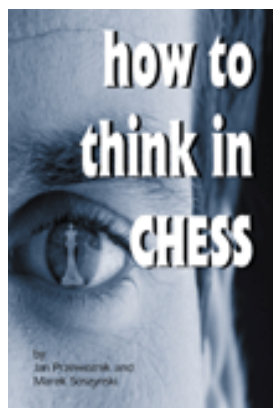
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COLUMNISTS

Opening Lanes

Gary Lane



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***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!

New Year Resolutions

It is natural for chess players at this time of year to make New Year Resolutions to improve their play. A friend of mine a few years ago noted that F.I.D.E had banned smoking at the board and properly vowed to give up his cigarettes. It must have been successful because apparently he has now given up nine times. There are some people who declare that they will beat the latest prodigy in the next tournament but are destined to lose to a 10-year old who will barely look at the board and checkmates you after 22 moves. A far better choice is to change your opening, which is what I recommend to **Yen Peeren** from **Belgium** who is having problems with his line against 1 d4.

He writes "I have a very specific question on



the Chigorin defence. After the moves 1 d4 d5 2 c4 Nc6 3 Nc3 Nf6 !? (3...dxc4 is 'normal') 4 Nf3 Bg4 5 cxd5 Bxf3! (5...Nxd5 has a very bad reputation and probably is also bad) 6 gxf3 Nxd5 7 e4 Nxc3 8 bxc3 an interesting position arises. Now I wonder if black has the possibility of both e6 and e5, but white threatens to attack the b-pawn with Rb1 and also threatens to give an unpleasant pin with Bb5. My question: is this position positionally lost for black or can black still reach an approximately equal game (and how??). I am a 2100 player and played this position a few times, but it seems rather hopeless to me. If it is hopeless, can I reject the whole plan with 3...Nf6?"

I think the entire line you suggested is better for White but Black has good practical chances if the opponent is not well prepared. However, I have managed to find a game to give you confidence.

***Angelos Sismanis-C.Adontaki* Greek Team
Championships 2000
1 d4 d5 2 c4 Nc6**



Nxc3 8 bxc3 e6

In the Chigorin Defence Black ignores the offered gambit and gets on with the job of attacking the centre. A useful opening at club level to catch White out, it is also enjoying success at the highest level thanks to the Russian Alexander Morozovich. **3 Nf3 Bg4 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 cxd5 Bxf3 6 gxf3 Nxd5 7 e4**



Adontaki prepares to activate his bishop. The position represents a critical crossroads for the line with Black trying various ideas:
 a) 8...Qd7 9 Rb1 Nd8 10 f4 e6 11 Bg2 Be7 12 c4 0-0 13 0-0

c6 14 Be3 Kh8 15 Qb3 Qe8 16 e5 gave White a pleasant space advantage in J.Howell-Lin Weiguo, Frunze 1989. b) 8...e5 (the best of the bunch) 9 Rb1. And now there are four tries: a) 9...Bd6 10 d5 Nb8 (or 10...Ne7 11 Qa4+ Qd7 12 Qxd7+ Kxd7 13 Bh3+ Kd8 14 Rxb7 gives White a winning ending) 11 Rg1! (White finds time to weaken the kingside because 11...0-0 runs into 12 Bh6) 11...g6 12 Rxb7 Nd7 13 Bg5 f6 14. Bh6!? Ke7 15 h4 Nc5 16 Rb5! a6 (16...Qd7? 17 Be3 Na6 18 Ra5 Nb8 is hardly a sign of active play by Black and he is left with a poor position) 17 Rb1 when White was better in Z.Ribli-W.Wittmann, Dubai Olympiad 1986. b) 9...exd4 10 Qa4! When the greedy 10...dxc3 allows the continuation 11 Rxb7 Qd7 12 Bb5 Kd7 13 0-0 and Black can go home. c) 9...Rb8 10 Qa4! intending 11 Rxb7 is good for White. d) 9...Na5? 10 Rb5! b6 11 Qa4 (the threat of discovered check is deadly) 11...Qd7 12 Rxa5 1-0 P.Burkart-G.Haubt, German Team Championship 1989. **9 Rb1 Rb8 10 Be3 Bd6 11 Rg1** The position is easier for White to play so it is not a great advert for Black. **11...g6 12 f4 0-0 13 Qf3 Re8 14 Qg3 Be7 15 Rb5** You have to admire White's persistence in bringing more

pieces into the attack. **15...f5 16 Bc4 Bh4** If 16...Bf6 a curious position arises upon 17 exf5 when the worth of pins is clearly illustrated. **17 Qh3 Kh8 18 exf5!? exf5 19 d5 a6 20 Rb1 Na5 21 Be2 Kg8 22 d6?**



White begins to go astray with a faulty idea. A better choice in the circumstances is 22 Kf1 to avoid the pin.

22...cxd6 23 Qxf5? Rxe3

Black picks up a piece, which prompts White to play desperate chess. **24 Rxg6+ hxg6 25 Qxg6+ Kf8 26 Qh6+ Ke8 27 Kf1 Rxe2 28 Kxe2 Qe7+** White should resign at this point but is probably motivated by a chance to trick the opponent in time-trouble or avoid having the game published. It fails completely! The game concluded: **29 Kf1 Kd7 30 Re1 Qf6 31 Qh7+ Kc6 32 Qe4+ Kc7 33 Qe3 Rg8 34 Qf3 Qg6 35 Re3 Qb1+ 36 Ke2 Rg1 37 Qd5 Re1+ 38 Kf3 Rxe3+ 39 Kxe3 Qe1+ 40 Kd3 Qd1+ 41 Ke4 Qh1+ 42 Kd4 Bxf2+ 0-1**

I think you have to consider changing your opening slightly by adding 4...dxc4, which is the best chance to play something fairly solid with chances of an attack.

Hans Hecht-Dietmar Heilinger Salzburg 2001
1 d4 d5 2 c4 Nc6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Nf3 dxc4



This is my recommendation to revive your line. **5 e4 Bg4 6 Be3 e6** There are still some books they try to advance the cause of a bad line so White could win an easy game if Black plays

6...Bxf3. For example: 7 gxf3 e5 8 d5 Ne7 (or 8...Na5? 9 Qa4+! c6 10 b4 cxb3 11 axb3 b6 12 b4 wins) 9 Qa4+! Nd7 (or 9...c6 10 Bxc4 b5 11 Bxb5 cxb5 12 Nxb5 intending Nc7 mate is very good for White) 10 d6! (a significant improvement on the old move 10 0-0-0) 10...cxd6 (if Black declines the pawn sacrifice with 10...Nc6 then 11 dxc7 Qxc7 12 Bh3 followed by castling queenside gives White a good game) 11 Bxc4 d5 12 Nxd5 Nc6 13 Rg1! a6 14 0-0-0 Bd6 15 Nc3 Nd4 16 Bxd4 exd4 17 Rxd4 Bf4+ 18 Kb1 b5 19 Bxf7+! Kxf7 20 Qb3+ Kf8 21 Qe6 Ra7 22 e5 g5 23 Qf5+ 1-0

G.Ligterink-H.Bartels, Netherlands Team Ch 1995. **7 Bxc4 Bb4 8 Qc2 0-0** Sometimes Black cannot resist the lure of a 'free' pawn and tries his luck with 8...Bxf3 9 gxf3 Nxd4 10 Bxd4 Qxd4 and now 11 Qa4+ allows White to win a piece. **9 Rd1** 9 a3 is tempting but it runs into 9...Bxf3 10 gxf3 Nxd4 11 Bxd4 Qxd4 with an attack against the bishop on c4 leading to a clear advantage. **9...Qe7 10 Be2**



10...Rfe8!? An unusual move but it works out well in the game. The main alternative is 10...e5 when the game J. Vigus-T.Bromann, Witley 2001

continued 11 d5 (11 dxe5 Nxe5 12 Nxe5

Qxe5 13 f3 Be6 14 0-0 Bc5 with equal chances)

11...Nd4 12 Nxd4 exd4 13 Rxd4 Bxe2 14 Kxe2

Bc5 15 Rd2! Bxe3 16 Kxe3 Ng4+ 17 Ke2 Qg5

18 Kd1! (other replies are good for Black: 18 h3

Ne3! 19 fxe3 Qxg2+; 18 h4 Qf4 19 f3 Qg3; 18

Kf1 f5 19 h4 Qh6) 18...f5 19 exf5 Rxf5

(19...Rae8!? is a reasonable alternative) 20 Ne4

Qf4 (20...Qh5!? is worth considering) 21 h3

Nf6 22 Nxf6+ Rxf6 23 Re1 Qd6 24 g3 gave

White the better chances due to the extra pawn.

11 0-0 e5 12 d5 Nd4 13 Nxd4 exd4 14 Rxd4

Bxe2 15 Qxe2 Or 15 Nxe2 Nxe4 wins back the

pawn. **15...Bxc3 16 bxc3 Nxe4 17 c4** 17 Re1 is

met by 17...Qd7 to avoid the possibility of a pin

on the e-file. **17...b6 18 Qf3 g6 19 Bc1 f5 20 g4**

fxg4 21 Qxg4 Nc3! 22 Be3 Ne4 22...a5

intending ...Nxa2 is Black's best winning

chance. **23 Kh1 Nd6 24 Rf4 Rf8 25 Bd2** 1/2-1/2

I am delighted to reveal that readers of

Chesscafe.com are some of the most astute chess players in the world! This is because they responded superbly to a plea from **Rik van der Heiden** of **Amsterdam, The Netherlands** who saw a brilliant miniature but was clueless as to whether it was actually played or not. Not only

did I find out the names but also apparently Black sportingly played on after the queen sacrifice to allow mate.

Alex Yermolinsky-Emory Tate Western States Open, Reno 2001

1 d4 c5 2 d5 e6 3 Nc3 exd5 4 Nxd5 Ne7 5 Bg5 h6 6 Bh4 Qa5+ 7 c3 Nf5 8 Qa4!



**8...Qxa4 9 Nc7
mate 1-0**

When you consider that Tate is a respected master then White's victory is even more impressive. The roll of honour for correct

answers includes the following: John Langreck, Sacramento, CA, USA; Ching Kim Lye, Malaysia; Ingvar Þór Jóhannesson, Reykjavík, Iceland; David Vigorito, USA; Edwin Straver, USA; and Dennis Leong USA.

Tom Zuppa from N. Billerica, MA, USA

added some extra information on the subject of the opening. "I'm not surprised that Yermo found the trap, but that Tate, one of the U.S.'s most imaginative tacticians, would miss it. I've won two blitz games on FICS with a similar tactic. Here's the first:

Tomz-TARZZZ, FICS, 10/3/97

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 c5 3 d5 e6 4 Bg5 ed 5 Nxd5 Qa5+ 6 c3 Ne4 7 Qa4! Nc6 8 Qxa5 1-0 If anyone else has played this trick or something

similar then please let me know.

Last month I answered a question about how good Harry Potter is at chess and had a big response from fans of the boy wizard. I also saw this message posted on the bulletin board by **Jonathan O'Connor** from the **Republic of Ireland**. He wrote, "Just saw Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Sorcerer's Stone for you Yanks out there). There is a game of wizard chess played towards the end. And Ron Weasley plays the Scandinavian! Apart from this first move, it's difficult to tell anything more. For what it's worth, the film is great, but the book is better."

The only thing I can add for film fanatics is that the normal sized 'wizard chess set' used by Harry and Ron is a replica of the famous 'Isle of Lewis Chessmen'.

Evan Kreider, USA says, "I have a question regarding the Advance variation of the Caro-Kann. After 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 Bf5 4 g4 most books recommend 4...Bd7, since after 4...Bg6 or 4...Be4 5 f3 Bg6 White can play e6!?, which, after ...fxe6, sacrifices a pawn in return for ruining Black's kingside pawn structure and making Black's development very difficult. But what is wrong with playing ...Qd6!? instead of ...fxe6? For example: 1.e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 Bf5 4 g4 Be4 5 f3 Bg6 6 e6!? Qd6!? Now 7 exf7+ looks like White's only move, and after 7...Bxf7, Black has no serious structural or development problems, and Black's queen threatens an eventual invasion into White's weak kingside. Black can also think about playing a

quick ...e5 (perhaps placing his dark-squared bishop in fianchetto first), instead of, or in addition to, the more usual ...c5. I'm almost positive I remember Seirawan suggesting ...Qd6!? somewhere, yet I can't seem to find this move in any of my opening books. What do you think?"

I think you have got the wrong position! I suspect you are thinking of the line 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 Bf5 and now 4 h4 which can be met by 4...h6 (4...h5!) 5 g4 Be4 6 f3 Bh7 that is good for White and ...Qd6 has been suggested. See the note in the main game White's fourth move. The line you suggested should be harmless for Black because as you rightly comment the bishop can drop back to g6 where it can safeguard the f7 pawn. For instance:

Miha Gomboc-Igor Sitnik Bled 2000

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 The Advance variation of the Caro-Kann is one of the most dangerous ways to meet Black's reliable opening. It has attracted the attention of leading players such as Adams, Shirov, and Short. **3...Bf5 4 g4!?** The game I think you are referring to in your question refers to the heavily published game R.Forster-M. Chiburdanidze, Biel 1994. There followed: 4 h4 h6 5 g4 Be4 6 f3 Bh7 (6...Bg6 7 h5 does not help the Black cause) 7 e6 Qd6 8 exf7+ Kxf7 9 Bd3 e5 when Kortchnoi stated that he thought Black was already better. White's ninth move is a mistake and after the superior 9 f4 it is Black who is worse. **4...Be4 5 f3 Bg6 6 e6!?** In the old game E.Hahn-Alekhine, Poland 1941, White tried the more familiar 6 h4 to oust

the bishop from g6 but Black replied with 6...h5 when 7 e6 Qd6 (now you know where the idea of the queen move comes from) 8 exf7+ Bxf7 9 g5 Qg3+ 10 Ke2 Nd7 gave Black the better chances although the game was finally drawn after 41 moves. **6...Qd6**



This is the idea that you mentioned in your question. Basically, Black is already getting ready for when White takes on f7 by preparing to castle queenside and play ...e7-e5. Also possible: 6...fxe6 7

Bd3 Bxd3 8 Qxd3 Qd6 9 Nh3?! (9 f4 looks logical to cut out ...e7-e5) 9...e5 10 0-0 Nd7 11 dxe5 Qxe5 12 Qb3 0-0-0 13 Qa4 e6! 14 Nc3 (not 14 Qxa7 that falls for 14...Bc5+ and the game is over for White) 14...Bc5+ gave Black the better chances in S.Anghel-Z. Stircz, Tusnad 2000. **7 exf7+ Bxf7** This position is regarded as being roughly equal. **8 Bd3 Nd7 9 f4** A key idea for White to restrict Black's activity by ruling out the possibility of ...e7-e5. **9...0-0-0 10 Nf3 Ngf6 11 Ne5 Be8 12 Qe2 c5** 12...e6!? should also be considered. **13 dxc5 Nxc5 14 Be3 d4 15 Bf2 Nxd3+ 16 Qxd3 Qd5 17 Rg1** 17 0-0 seems to be a clever reply but after 17...Nxc4! Black will be laughing all the way to the top of the tournament upon 18 Nxc4 Bc6 when the threat of mate on g2 is decisive. **17...Bb5 18 c4 dxc3 19 Qxd5 Nxd5 20 Nxc3 Nxc3 21 bxc3 Rg8 22 Bxa7 g5** Black is a pawn down but has compensation in the form of active queenside

pieces especially if he can use his bishop pair.

23 Nf7 Rd3 24 Nxg5 Rxc3 25 Bd4 Rc2 26

Nxh7 e5 27 Bxe5?! It was essential to play 27

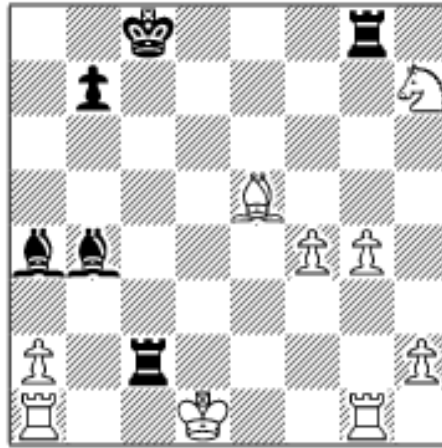
Nxf8 although Black has the powerful line

28...exd4 29 Nh7 (29 Ne6 Re2+ wins)

29...Re8+ 30 Kd1 Rxb2 31 Nf6 Ba4+ 32 Kc1

Ree2 and mate is inevitable. **27...Bb4+ 28 Kd1**

Ba4



0-1

And finally **William B. Witherspoon** from

Murfreesboro, Tennessee, USA has found a way to beat some chess

computers. He says “

Lately I’ve been playing a rather strange opening innovation against many powerful chess programs and have gathered a few points and draws against the beast! Well, the question at hand is whether this strange opening is sound or rather a bust? You make the call: White 1 Nf3,

Black any move, 2 Rg1! We call it "The Chuck!" or rather the "Charles Silk Offense!"

I can honestly say that I failed to track any games down featuring your idea! This is hardly a surprise but I am sure other readers will be interested in anti-computer openings as long as they have been proved to be successful. If anybody has any good ideas just e-mail some examples to me.

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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!](#)



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