



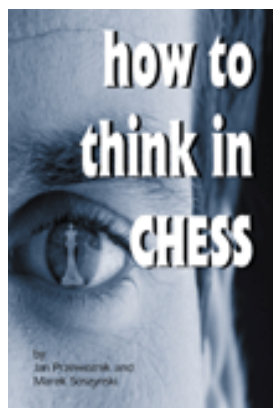
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## COLUMNISTS

### *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!***

## A Beautiful Mind

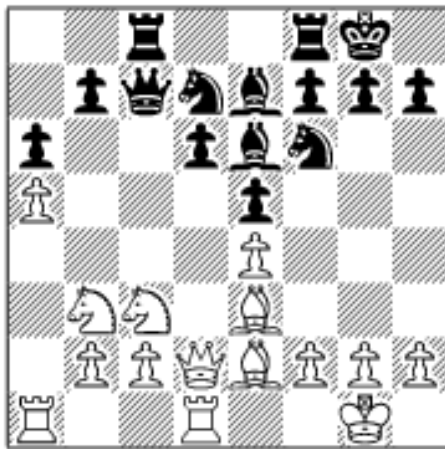
The evolution of an opening is generally acknowledged as a slow process with a master finding a new idea and then testing it out at international level. Polugayevsky wrote extensively how the opening variation that bears his name in the Sicilian took years to perfect and others are still finding improvements. Perhaps the key point is that players over the years have devoted time and energy trying to solve opening problems with usually 99% perspiration and 1% inspiration. However, the computer is slowly taking over the process if you believe the comments of modern players who let the silicon monster do all the work. I am just as guilty having once said to the great Bronstein that we could both save a lot of time studying a famous tactical position by running it though the laptop. He looked somewhat shocked at such a suggestion and kindly pointed out that the human mind can still use creativity to find original ideas.

**Andy Voss** from the **United States** will probably agree because he has been spending his spare time trying to justify an idea in the Najdorf and having the courage to play it. He writes “ I have been a fan of chess for about 12 years now. I have loved to play the Sicilian-Najdorf but find that the books



give me slow lines that can create aggressive natured positions but some are just boring. One such position I have looked at recently is this: 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 e5 7 Nb3 Be7 8 0-0 0-0 9 Be3 Be6 10 Qd2 Nbd7 11 a4 Rc8 12 a5 Qc7 13 Rfd1 Now all the books say strictly 13 ... Qc6. It gives other lines Like ...Rfe8 and such, bad marks. What I was wondering about is this...13 ... Nxe4!? with a continuation 14 Nxe4 Qxc2 15 Qxc2 Rxc2 16 Nc1 d5 17 Ng5 d4 18 Nxe6 fxe6 19 Bd2 Rxb2 20 Bg4 Rf6 This comes out to be roughly equal to me. Black's Knight for White's three pawns and a Rook on the second rank seems like more than enough compensation for me as White's pieces are looking unused. There are other continuations, but I have concluded that the best that White can do is be a pawn down. I feel that this could be a real threat, as a 1900 couldn't beat me as White when I played this. As I am only 1300 I feel this is a good addition to the Najdorf Line, but I want to know what you think.

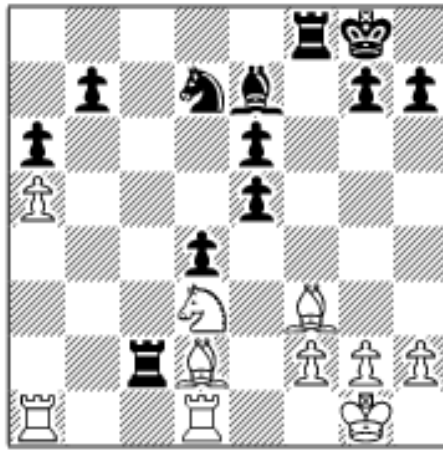
It is certainly worth a closer look and I admire your determination to find a new line in an old position. **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 e5 7 Nb3 Be7 8 0-0 0-0 9 Be3 Be6 10 Qd2 Nbd7 11 a4 Rc8 12 a5 Qc7 13 Rfd1**



This is a standard position in one of the main lines, so I assumed somebody had tried your idea. A quick look in the books did me no good so I can't tell you if anyone else has tried your idea.

**13...Nxe4!?** The

knight is sacrificed as a way to win three pawns for the piece. My intuition tells me that it cannot be completely correct. This is because the extra piece is more important at an early stage of the game because the pawns are far from the eighth rank and consequently as they gradually advance they can be picked off one by one. **14 Nxe4 Qxc2 15 Qxc2 Rxc2 16 Nc1** I tried to improve on your analysis with 16 Nbd2 but found nothing significant. **16...d5 17 Ng5** At first I tried to make 17 Bd3 work but the sample line ran 17...Rxb2 18 Nc3 Rd8 (18...Rc8? 19 Nxd5 Bxd5 20 Bf5 wins) 19 Na4 Rb4 when Black has decent chances. **17...d4 18 Nxe6 fxe6 19 Bd2 Rxb2 20 Nd3!** I like this move, which I think is a significant improvement on your suggestion of 20 Bg4 Rf6 that does promise Black some chances in the ending as you point out. The difference now is that after **20...Rc2** White has **21 Bf3**



attacking the b7 pawn making Black turn to defensive duties and the bishop also helps to stop the advance of the central pawns. I think White is better and should be victorious.

**Slovenia** has a rich tradition for chess and is host for the next chess Olympiad. Therefore, I am happy to hear from **Damijan Marolt** who asked the following question: “Recently I played the following variation in the Colle: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 c5 3 e3 e6 4 c3 Nc6 5 Bd3 Nf6 6 Nbd2 Bd6 7 0-0 0-0 8 dxc5 Bxc5 9 e4 e5 10 exd5. Now, my opponent played 10...Nxd5 instead of the more frequent Qxd5. His move makes sense: he is not exposing his Queen and makes room for a potential f5 and Nf4. The game continued: 11 Ne4 Be7 12 Re1 Bg4 and Black enjoyed an easy game. What is the correct plan for White after 10...Nxd5?

I think 10...Nxd5 is playable but White should experience few problems. The best way to demonstrate this is to look at the next game.

### ***Lawyer Times-Kevin Croxen Boston 2001***

**1 d4 e6 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 e3 d5** It is also possible to play as though it is a Queen’s Indian with 3...b6 but White can ignore it and carry on playing the Colle. For example: 4 Bd3 Bb7 5 Nbd2 d5 6 Ne5 Bd6 7 f4 c6?! (this proves to be a wasted move so 7...c5 is the right answer) 8 Qf3 Nbd7 9 0-0 c5 10 c3 gave White a slight initiative in L.Times-J.

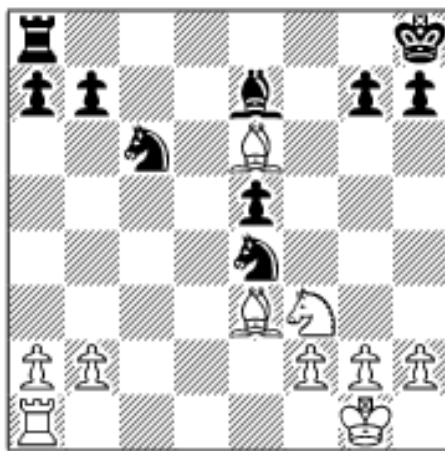
Gonzales, Boston 2001. **4 Bd3 Be7 5 Nbd2 0-0 6 0-0 c5 7 c3 Nc6 8 dxc5 Bxc5 9 e4 e5** Black has various moves here but Heckoetter-Ziemek, Dortmund 2001, caught my eye because Black plays the standard 9...dxe4 but quickly gets into trouble upon 10 Nxe4 Nxe4 11 Bxe4 Qc7 12 Qe2 b6? (a fianchetto on the queenside looks plausible so it will probably not be the last time that this mistake is played) 13 b4 Bd6 14 b5 and White wins. **10 exd5 Nxd5**



This is the position that you are concerned about. The main line is considered to be 10...Qxd5 although I rather like how White handled the variation in the game Narciso Dublan-Barczay, Budapest 2001, where

11 Qc2 was tested. There followed: 11...Bg4?! (this is the usual move against 11 Qe2 but in this position it is less effective) 12 Ne4! Bxf3 13 gxf3 Kh8? (13...Nxe4 14 Bxe4 Qe6 15 Bxh7+ Kh8 16 Bf5 when the extra pawn gave White the advantage) 14 c4 Qd7 15 Nxc5 Qh3 16 Bf5 Qxf3 17 Qd3 1-0 **11 Ne4 Be7** Or 11...Bb6 12 Bc4 Be6 (perhaps 12...Nf4!? Should be considered) 13 Nfg5 Qd7 14 Nxe6 fxe6 15 Qg4 (White already has a lot of pressure by attacking the weak e6-pawn) 15...Rad8 16 Bg5 Nce7 17 Rad1 Rf5 (a casual move such as 17...a6? falls foul of 18 Bb3! threatening c3-c4 when Black is in trouble. For instance: 18...Qc6 19 Bxe7 Nxe7 20 Rxd8 Bxd8 21 Ng5 winning) 18 Bxe7 Qc6 19 Bxd8 Rf4 20

Qxe6+ Qxe6 21 Bxd5 1-0 Gehring-Dawid,  
 Badenweiler 1995. **12 Qe2** It is worth looking at  
 what the originator of the line would do here and I  
 found a game played by the Belgian Edgard Colle  
 against Max Euwe in Amsterdam 1928. That game  
 went 12 Ng3 f5 (otherwise White might be  
 tempted to occupy f5 with the knight) 13 Bc4 Be6  
 14 Re1 (the central pawns represent a target for  
 White who can seek to undermine them) 14...e4  
 15 Bg5 Kh8 16 Bxe7 Ncxe7 17 Nd4 Qb6 18 Qb3  
 Bg8 19 Rad1 gave White a slight edge although  
 the game was eventually drawn. **12...f5** It is also  
 possible to add support to the e5 pawn with  
 12...Qc7. For example: 13 Ng3 Nf6 (13...f5 14  
 Bc4 Be6 15 Re1 e4? 16 Nxe4! fxe4 17 Qxe4 Qd7  
 18 Qxe6+ winning) 14 Re1 Bg4 15 Bg5 g6?! (it is  
 not yet necessary to compromise the kingside) 16  
 h3 Bxf3 17 Qxf3 when he weak dark squares  
 round the black King gives White the advantage,  
 Martensson-Bernhardsson, Jonkoping 1987. **13**  
**Bc4 fxe4?!** Who could refuse the offer of the  
 Knight? However, it might be more prudent to  
 play 13...Na5 to exchange the light-squared  
 bishop although after 14 Rd1 Nxc4 15 Qxc4 Be6  
 16 Neg5 Bxg5 17 Bxg5 I prefer White's chances.  
**14 Qxe4 Be6 15 Rd1 Nxc3** Otherwise White will  
 win a pawn for nothing. **16 Bxe6+ Kh8 17 Rxd8**  
**Nxe4 18 Rxa8 Rxa8 19 Be3**



The ending is favourable for White who has a useful pair of bishops and a long-term plan of attacking the isolated e-pawn  
**19...Bc5 20 Bd5 Bxe3 21 fxe3 Nf6 22 Bxc6 bxc6 23 Nxe5 Rc8**

23...Rd8 brings the rook to the open file but 24 Nf7+ is embarrassing for Black. **24 Rc1 c5 25 b4** Times wins another pawn and victory is in sight. The game concluded: **25...Nd5** If 25...Ne4 then 26 Rc4 is good. **26 Rxc5 Rxc5 27 bxc5 Nxe3 28 Kf2 Nd5 29 Kf3 Kg8 30 Ke4 Nc7 31 Nc6 a6 32 Ke5 Kf8 33 Kd6 Ne8+ 34 Kd7 Nf6+ 35 Kc7 Ne4 36 Kb6 Ke8 37 Ne5 a5 38 a4 Nc3 39 Kxa5 Kd8 40 Kb4 Nd5+ 41 Kb5 Kc7 42 a5 Ne7 43 a6 Nc8 44 Nc6 g6 45 h4 h6 46 g4 g5 47 h5 1-0**

**Sigve Dyrhovden** from **Norway** learned to play chess at the age of 13 and five years later has a very respectable rating of 2148 via the Internet. He says "My question is about a line I am playing with Black in a correspondence game against Kjetil Stokke (ELO about 2100) After 1 c4 c6 2 g3 d5 3 Bg2 Nf6 4 Nf3 I played 4...a6!? (normal is Bg4, Bf5 or dxc4. I don't like 4...Bf5 because of 5 cxd5 cxd5 6 Qb3) The game continues 5 0-0 dxc4 6 Qc2 b5 7 Rd1 Bb7 8 d3 exd3 9 Rxd3 Qc8 10 Nc3 c5. My question is: Is 4...a6!? a good or bad move, is it possible to play the move and why or why not?

The reason you play 4...a6 is to present White

problems by aiming to take on c4 followed by ...b7-b5 to hang on to the extra pawn. However, if you follow this flawed plan White can use his lead in development to create tactical chances. The following game is a star example of how Black can suffer.

***Nino Kirov-Krzysztof Pytel Metz 1991***

**1 Nf3 d5 2 g3 c6 3 c4 Nf6 4 Bg2 a6!?**

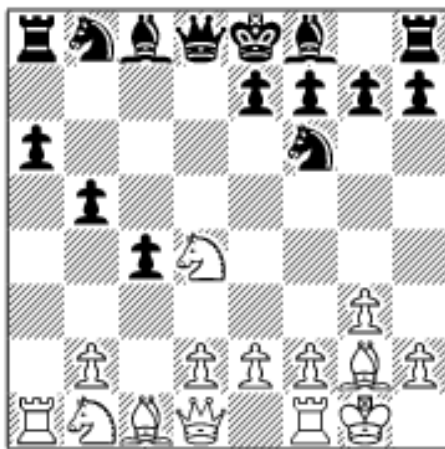


The Polish master now spends his time in France playing tournaments with reasonable success. I suspect that this is one of those diversions that can catch people out but fails against classy opposition. If you are

looking for a solid system to replace your line then you would do well to investigate 4...g6. For example: 5 0-0 Bg7 6 d4 0-0 7 Qb3 b6 8 Nc3 Bb7 9 Rd1 Nbd7 10 Bf4 e6 when White has a small advantage but there is still plenty of chances for both sides, A.Anastasian-M. Rivas Pastor, Ubeda 2001. **5 0-0** Simple and good. Instead 5 b3 to support the c-pawn was tried in A.Notten-G.De Wit, Heerlen 1999. That game continued 5...Bf5 6 Bb2 e6 7 0-0 Be7 8 d3 h6 9 Nbd2 0-0 10 Re1 Bc5 11 e4 when White has an initiative. Or 5 cxd5 cxd5 6 d4 e6 7 0-0 Be7 8 Nc3 b5 9 a3 Bb7 10 Bg5 with a slight edge for White, A.Pahor-V.Macek, Rijeka 2002. **5...dxc4 6 a4!** A better idea than the obvious 6 Qc2 that the alert reader will recognise from the game Dyrhovden-Stokke, that so far has



continued 6...b5 7 Rd1 Bb7 8 d3 cxd3 9 Rxd3 Qc8 10 Nc3 c5 when Black has the better chances thanks to the extra pawn. Perhaps Sigve will send on the completed game when he eventually wins! **6...b5** Pytel keeps faith with the plan of protecting the c-pawn otherwise he cannot justify wasting a move with 4...a6. **7 axb5 cxb5 8 Nd4!**



The key move that unravels Black's position in dramatic style. A discovered attack by the bishop on g2 is revealed and White can also contemplate Nxb5. **8...Ra7** Or **8...Bh3** 9 Bxa8 Bxf1? 10 Nc6

wins. **9 Nxb5** White wins back the pawn and continues to chase the black Rook. **9...Rd7** Of course 9...axb5 is met by 10 Rxa7. **10 N5c3 Rc7 11 d4 cxd3 12 Bf4 e5 13 Bxe5 Bd6 14 Bxf6 gxf6** 14...Qxf6 runs into 15 Qxd3 intending Nd5 or Ne4. **15 Qxd3 Be6 16 Nd5 Rd7 17 Nbc3 Be5 18 Rfd1 f5 19 Qe3 Bg7 20 Nf4 Qe7 21 Nh5 0-0 22 Rxd7 Nxd7** 22...Qxd7 allows White to attack upon 23 Rd1. For instance: Qc7 24 Nxg7 Kxg7 25 Qg5+ Kh8 26 Qf6+ Kg8 27 Nd5 Bxd5 28 Bxd5 when White has a winning advantage. **23 Nd5 Qd8** If 23...Qd6 White can shorten the game considerably with 24 Qg5 Qe5 25 Ndf6+! Qxf6 (25...Nxf6 26 Qxg7 mate) 26 Nxf6+ winning. **24 Nxg7 Kxg7 25 Rxa6 Re8 26 Qc3+ Nf6 27 Ra8!**



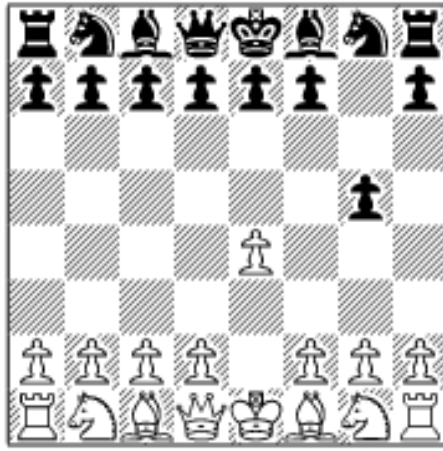
Kirov finds a clever way to divert the Queen away from the defence of the Knight. **27...Bxd5** Or **27...Qxa8** **28 Qxf6+ Kg8** **29 Ne7+ Rxe7** **30 Bxa8** wins. The game concluded: **28 Rxd8 Rxd8** **29 Bxd5 Rxd5**

**30 b4 Kg6** **31 Qc6 Re5** **32 e3 Re6** **33 Qc8 Re8** **34 Qc7 Re6** **35 b5 h6** **36 Qd8 Re8** **37 Qd6 Re6** **38 Qd4 Re4** **39 Qb2 Nd7** **40 b6 Nxb6** **41 Qxb6+ Re6** **42 Qd8 Kg7** **43 Kg2 Re4** **44 Kf3 Ra4** **45 Qd5** **1-0**

And finally, a message about a fun but obscure opening: “My name is **Stefanos Kaouras** from **Greece** and I play chess only in Internet sites. I admire a lot Basman's play and I love to play the Basmaniac Defence (1 e4 g5!?). After my recommendation a friend of mine used it in one of his games and after few moves in the opening is totally lost, so I want to ask you if Basmaniac Defence is refuted: 1 e4 g5 2 d4 Bg7 3 Bxg5 c5 4 Be3 (new move I think) Qb6, 5 Nc3 and now the knight will go on d5 with tempo and if he takes on b2 then it can help to expose the position of the black queen. Any suggestions?

I think the best thing to do is examine the ‘refutation’ of the line.

**Vladimir Petrienko-Jan Svatos Pardubice 1992**  
**1 e4 g5**



Yes, it looks crazy and is rather weird but it has been played numerous times by people who like to play off-beat openings. I should add it is not as bad as it looks. **2 d4 Bg7 3**

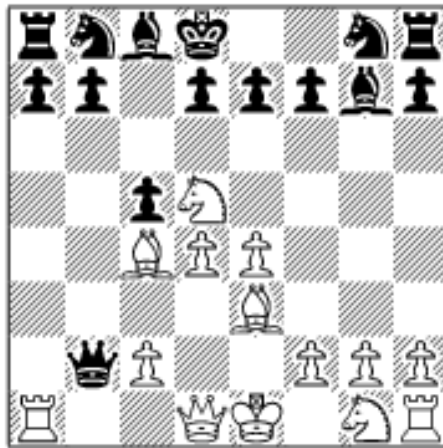
**Bxg5 c5** This idea is borrowed from the 'Grob' where a similar position with colours reversed is reached upon 1 g4 d5 2 Bg2 Bxg4 3 c4 but White's extra move of e2-e4 makes a significant difference because he can develop quickly and consequently set some traps. **4 Be3 Qb6 5 Nc3!**



I agree that this move could severely the reputation of this particular variation. White seeks to chase the black Queen in order to punish the opening choice. Less impressive is 5 Nd2 that allows Black to

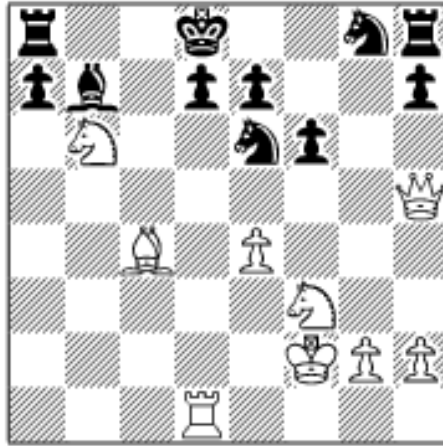
take on d4 and defend it easily with the queen. For instance: 5...cxd4 6 Nc4 Qc5 7 Bf4 e5 8 Qg4 Kf8! (threatening ...exf4 and ...d7-d5 with a revealed attack on the queen) 9 Qh5 Nc6 10 Bd2 Nf6 11 Qh4 Nb4 12 a3 Nxc2+ 13 Kd1 b5 (13...Nxa1 14 Bb4 pins the queen) 14 Rc1 bxc4 15 Rxc2 c3 16 bxc3 Rb8 with excellent attacking chances, P.Parmentier-F.Wantiez, Huy 1993. **5...Qxb2 6 Nd5!** I suspect that a lot of people had been

frightened off challenging Black's adventurous idea to the catastrophic game H.Guennewig-H.Alber, Schoeneck 1988 that continued with the tame 6 Na4 that allowed Black to keep his queen dangerously placed after 6...Qa3. There followed: 7 c3 cxd4 8 Bxd4 Bxd4 9 Qxd4 Nf6 10 Nc5? (10 Nf3 Nc6 11 Qc4 d6 gives Black a slight plus) 10...Nc6 11 Qe3 Ng4 0-1. **6...Kd8?** It is rarely a good idea to move the King in the opening and here it covers the c7 square but in the long-term will be a liability when it comes to developing the rest of the pieces. The other major snag is that now the black Queen will have difficulty retreating. A critical response must be 6...cxd4 when play might continue 7 Bf4 (7 Nc7+? Kd8 8 Bf4 Qc3+ 9 Ke2 b6 with a clear advantage) 7...Kd8 (7...d3!? 8 Rc1! is probably fine for White) 8 Bc7+ Ke8 9 Bf4 (White repeats the position but the added advantage is that Black has been forced to forfeit the right to castle) 9...Kd8 10 Bd3 (10 Bc7+ is a novel way to seek a draw by repetition) 10...d6 11 Nf3 when despite White's lead in development he will have to act quickly to justify sacrificing two pawns. **7 Rb1 Qxa2 8 Ra1 Qb2 9 Bc4**



The black Queen cannot retreat so White finds a way to corner it. **9...cxd4 10 Ra2 dxe3 11 Rxb2 exf2+ 12 Kxf2 Bxb2 13 c3** You could count the material and claim it is level but in this position White's roving Queen is very powerful against Black's sleeping

pieces. **13...Nc6 14 Qd2 Ba3?** 14...e6 is essential so that 15 Qg5+ can be met by 15...Nge7. An improvement is 15 Qxb2 when 15...exd5 16 Bxd5 Nf6 17 Nf3 is good for White. **15 Qg5** The simple threat of Qg7 cuts short the length of the game as a contest **15...Bc5+ 16 Ke2 Bd4 17 cxd4 Nxd4+ 18 Kf2 Ne6 19 Qh5 f6 20 Nf3 b6 21 Rd1 Bb7 22 Nxb6!**



**1-0**

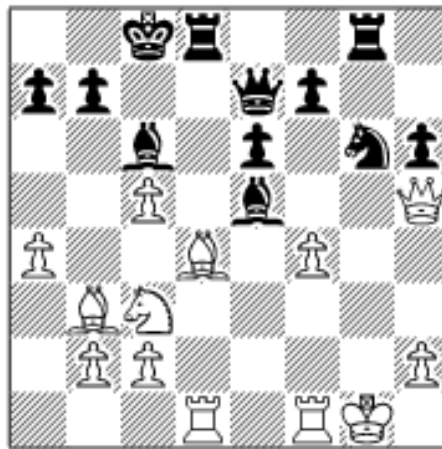
I thought it might be a good idea to see how Michael Basman handles the opening considering that most people name it after him. It is interesting that he is less inclined

to enter the complications of the previous game and prefers a more sedate approach. I understand that he feels the opening to be fairly solid and that everyone will try to refute the line with something equally wild.

### ***Jonathon Mutton-Michael Basman British Championship 1998***

**1 e4 g5 2 d4 h6** This is Basman's preferred response and it is the best way to try and maintain some stability in the position. **3 Nc3** Or 3 c4 d6 4 Nc3 Nc6 5 h4 gxh4 6 d5 Ne5 7 f4 Ng6 8 Nf3 Bg7 9 Bd3 Bg4 10 Qa4+ Kf8 11 Nxh4 Nxh4 12 Rxh4 h5 13 Rh1 c5 14 Be3 with equal chances although Black eventually won, M.Ginsburg-M.Basman, London 1979. 3 h4 is the obvious way to refute the opening but it has not had much practical success

for White. For instance: 3...gxh4 (perhaps 3...g4 is the best way to handle the position when 4 Qxg4 d5 5 Qf4 dxe4 6 Nc3 Bg7 7 Bc4 e6 8 Nge2 Nf6 9 Nb5 Na6 10 b3 Bd7 led to roughly equal chances in M.Osborne-M.Basman, Torquay 1998) 4 Rxh4 d5 5 exd5 e6 6 Rh5 Nf6 7 dxe6 Bxe6 8 Nc3? (8 Rh4 is sensible and good) 8...Nhx5 9 Qxh5 Bb4 10 Nge2 Nc6 11 Be3 Qd7 gave Black the superior chances in J.Speelman-M.Basman, British championship 1980. **3...d6** 3...Bg7 is an interesting way to play a sort of Modern opening when P.Ostojic-M.Basman, Liege 1981, continued 4 Bc4 Nc6 5 Be3 e6 6 Nge2 f5? (a typical wacky idea in the opening by Basman but not totally correct is the polite way to describe it) 7 exf5 d5 8 Bb3 exf5 9 Bxd5 Nf6 10 Bb3 f4 11 Qd3! when the threat of Qg6+ gives White a clear advantage. 4 **Be3 Bg7 5 Bc4 c6 6 a4 Nf6** Basman handles these sorts of positions very well. After the first couple of moves White expects an easy victory but then Black has played sensible moves borrowed from the Pirc to lessen the disadvantage. **7 Nge2 Nbd7 8 Bb3 Nf8** A logical continuation to try and make the most of Black's initial move by transferring the queen's Knight to g6. **9 Ng3 Ng6 10 Nh5 Nhx5 11 Qxh5 e6 12 0-0 Bd7 13 Rad1 Qe7 14 g3 0-0-0** With the white Queen on the kingside and a weakened pawn structure, then castling on the other side is a safer choice. **15 f4 d5 16 e5 gxf4 17 gxf4 Rhg8** The Rook is put on the g-file to initiate a kingside attack. **18 Kh1 c5 19 dxc5 d4! 20 Bxd4 Bc6+ 21 Kg1 Bxe5!**



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