



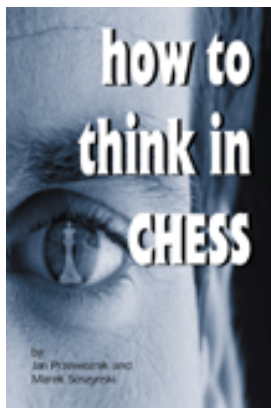
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COLUMNISTS

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!

Men in Black

This month it is time to look at openings for Black. There are some people who argue that White is always favourite because he can dictate the style of the game in the same way a tennis player always prefers to serve. This is certainly due if you are Kasparov or Sampras but what happens to the club player? The truth is that anyone has a chance to win as Black and it helps if you have a decent opening.

Matthieu Freeke from **Holland** sends an SOS message concerning his favourite opening. He writes, "Quite recently I saw a beautiful game in the Icelandic Gambit 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 c4 e6 4 dxe6 4 Bxe6 5 d4 Bb4 6 Bd2 Bxd2 7 Qxd2 Qe7 8 Qe2 0-0-0 9 d5 Rhe8 0-1 So I started playing this defense but now I stumbled on 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 Bb5+ and don't know what to do! I have seen 3...Nbd7 and 3...Bd7. After 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3



Bb5+ Nbd7 4 c4 a6, I can live with uncertain complications such as 5 Ba4 but 5 Bxd7 seems much stronger to me! It seems a bit odd but you are my last hope for survival, for the Scandinavian anyway.”

I think first of all we should look at a game featuring the Icelandic Gambit to see what all the fuss is about.

***Jack Rudd-Martin Simons* British Championships 2000**

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 c4 e6!?

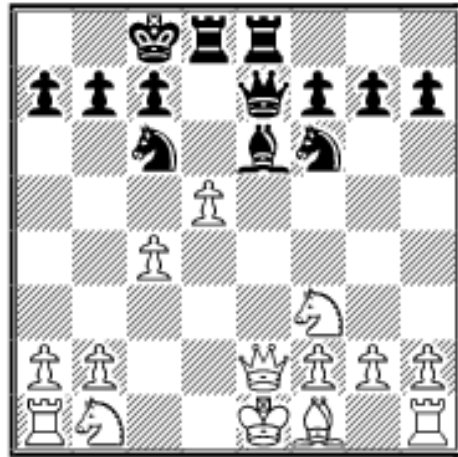


The Icelandic Gambit was developed by Scandinavian players who wanted to play something different to the other gambit line 3...c6. This is because few people were willing to take the pawn with 4 dxc6 and

instead played 4 d4 cxd5 5 Nc3 transposing to the Panov variation of the Caro-Kann. Such a position is usually reached via 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 c4 Nf6 5 Nc3. **4 dxe6** White accepts the gambit although 4 d4 transposes to the French Defence after 4...exd5 5 Nc3 which can also arise from 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 exd5 4 c4 Nf6 5 Nc3.

4...Bxe6 5 d4 An understandable reaction to control the centre and introduce the possibility of d4-d5. It might be better to stifle Black's ambitions by adopting a quiet approach with 5 Nf3 when 5...Nc6 6 Be2 Bc5 7 0-0 Qd7 8 d3 gives White a

passive position but he is still a pawn up. **5...Bb4+ 6 Bd2 Bxd2+ 7 Qxd2 Qe7 8 Qe2?! 8 Qe3** is the right way to block the e-file so that the white-squared bishop can still move. For instance: **8...Nc6 9 Be2 0-0-0 10 d5 Qb4+ 11 Qc3 Ne4 12 Qxb4 Nxb4 13 Na3** gave White the better chances in Onischuk-Voss, Bad Zwesten 1997. **8...Nc6 9 Nf3 0-0-0 10 d5 Rhe8!!**



A tremendous move, which brings another piece into the action and can be justified by tactical means. This is the position Mr Freeke refers to in the question as being winning for Black although a lot of players glancing at the

position might assume it is white who is winning because of the pawn fork. **11 Kd1** An instinctive move to avoid the pin on the e-file but it is merely proof that White is already in trouble. If **11 dxe6** then **11...Qb4+ 12 Nc3 Rxe6** wins. Instead **11 Nc3** was tested in the game Fiedler-Linn, North Bay 1996, there followed **11...Bxd5 12 0-0-0 (12 cxd5 Qb4 13 dxc6 Qxb2 wins; 12 Nxd5 Nxd5 13 0-0-0 Nc3 14 Rxd8+ Qxd8 15 Qd3 Nxa2+ 16 Kb1 Nab4 with a winning advantage) 12...Qc5 13 Qd3 Be4 14 Qe2 Bd3 0-1. 11...Nxd5** A great sacrifice to open lines against the white king and try to maximise the advantage of having a big lead in development. Black has another decent option in the form of **11...Qc5 12 Qe3 Nxd5 13 cxd5 (13 Qxc5 Ne3+ 14 Ke2 Bxc4+ is winning for Black. For example: 15 Qxc4 Nxc4+ 16 Ne5 Rxe5+ 17**

Kf3 Re1 18 g3 Nd4+ 19 Kf4 Ne6+ (19...Nc2 20 Bh3+ Kb8 21 Rxe1 Nxe1 22 Nc3 is White's best chance and he is still lost!) 20 Kf3 Rdd1 winning) 13...Bxd5 14 Qxc5 Bb3+ 15 Kc1 Rd1mate 0-1 Finn-Heasman, Bucks 1993. **12 cxd5 Bxd5 13 Nfd2** If 13 Qxe7 to try and reduce Black's attacking options then 13...Bb3+! 14 Ke2 (14 Kc1 Rd1 mate) 14...Rxe7+ 15 Ne5 Rxe5+ 16 Kf3 Bd1+ leading to mate. **13...Qf6 14 Qd3 Bxg2** It is time for Simons to start collecting material. **15 Qg3 Bxh1 16 Nc3 Bf3+ 17 Kc1 Re1+ 18 Kc2** White is being crushed but he sporting allows Black to finish in style. **18...Nd4+ 19 Kd3 Nb3+ 20 Kc2 Nxa1** mate 0-1

It sounds like your biggest problem is 3 Bb5+ when White tries to hang on to the extra pawn.

Martine Dubois-Pierre Kuntz Hyeres 1992

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 Bb5+ Bd7 I think this is the right way for Black to combat White's direct approach. **4 Bc4** At junior level I have seen countless games in this variation and White simply remains a pawn up with the much brighter prospects. This is probably because the next by Black has to be known otherwise it would take some time to find at the board. **4...Bg4**



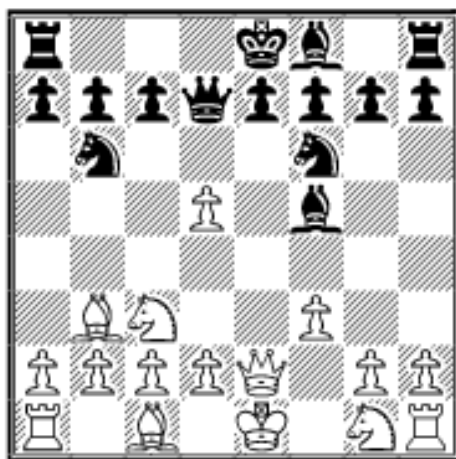
Black attacks the queen and uncovers an attack on the d5 pawn. **5 f3**

The standard response to make it awkward as possible for Black to restore the material balance. **5...Bf5**

Actually, 5...Bc8 is also worth thinking

now that White has compromised his kingside pawn structure which has stopped White from smoothly developing his king's knight to f3. 6 Nc3 Nbd7 7 d4 Nb6 8 Bb3 Nfxd5 and Black has won his pawn back with roughly equal chances. **6 Nc3** White can chase the bishop with 6 g4 but it is a risky business to advance the pawns in front of the king. 6 ..Bg6 7 Nc3 c6!? Black offers a pawn to get another piece into the action 8 dxc6 Nxc6 9 Nge2 Qb6 10 g5 Ne5 11 Bb5+ Nfd7 12 Nf4 0-0-0 13 Qe2 e6 14 d4 Nc6 15 Bxc6 (15 Be3 is a possible improvement when White can hope for 15...Nxd4? 16 Nxc6 hxg6 17 Qc4+ winning) 15...bxc6 16 Bd2 Qxd4 17 0-0-0 Qb6 18 Nxc6 hxg6 19 Ne4 Qb5 20 Qg2 Nb6 21 Bc3 Rd5 22 Rxd5 Qxd5 23 Rd1? (White misses the threat) 23...Qxa2 with advantage to Black, Suetin-Kortschnoi, Moscow 1960. **6...Nbd7 7 Qe2 7 d4** is a sensible choice to clear the way for the dark-squared bishop to operate. It is only appropriate considering the nationality of the reader to select a game for Black played in Dieren, Holland between Erwich-Peek. The game continued: 7...Nb6 8 Qe2 (8 Bb5+ Bd7 9 Bd3 Nfxd5 regains the pawn) 8...a6 (Black covers the b5 square to avoid the line 8...Nfxd5 9 Bxd5 Nxd5 10 Qb5+ c6 11 Qxb7 with

advantage to White) 9 Bb3 Nbx d5 10 Nxd5 Nxd5 11 Bd2 Qd6 12 0-0-0 e6 13 g4 Bg6 14 Nh3 h5 (Black rightly takes steps to undermine the kingside pawns) 15 Bxd5 Qxd5 16 c4 (or 16 Kb1? hxg4 is very good for Black.) 16...Qd7 17 Nf4 Bh7 18 g5 Bf5 (18...0-0-0 allows White to cancel out the influence of the light-squared bishop after 19 g6 Bxg6 20 Nxg6 fxg6 21 Rhg1) 19 Bc3 0-0-0 20 b3 Ba3+ 21 Bb2 Bd6 22 Nd3 Bxd3 23 Rxd3 Bf4+ gave Black an extra pawn and eventually won. **7...Nb6 8 Bb3 Qd7**

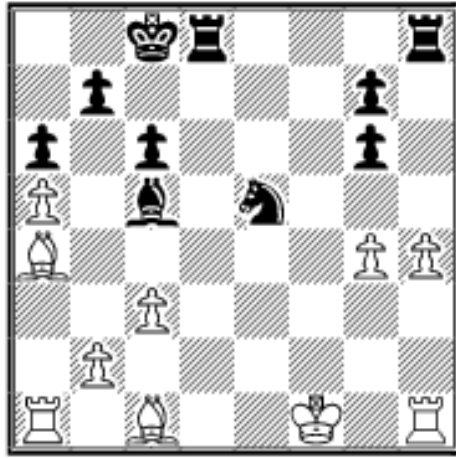


Black wishes to rule out a future check on b5 after he takes on d5. For example:

8...Nfxd5 9 Nxd5 Nxd5 10 Qb5+ c6 11 Qxb7 winning a pawn. **9 d6** The pawn cannot be defended so White wishes to open the a2-

g8 diagonal. **9...Qxd6 10 a4 a6 11 a5 Nbd5 12 Nxd5 Nxd5 13 d4 e6** Black prepares to get the dark-squared bishop into the game. **14 Ba4+ c6 15 Qc4 Qb4+** The ending is good for Black because he can use pressure against the c2 pawn to make sure the white king has to forfeit castling rights. **16 Qxb4 Nxb4 17 c3** If White defends the pawn with 17 Kd1 then 17...0-0-0 18 c3 Nd3 19 Ke2 e5 will open the position and favour Black whose pieces are better co-ordinated. **17...Nd3+ 18 Kf1 0-0-0 19 g4 Bg6 20 h4 h5 21 Ne2 e5** A nice move to persuade White to open the d-file for the benefit of Black's queen's rook. **22 dxe5?! 22 Bb3** is relatively best but Black is still on top after 22

...exd4 23 Nxd4 Bc5. **22...Nxe5 23 Nf4** It is difficult to find a good move for White because 23 Kg2 to keep guard on the f3 pawn allows 23...hxg4. **23...hxg4 24 Nxc6 fxg6 25 fxg4 Bc5**



The easiest way to win a game is to go directly for checkmate!

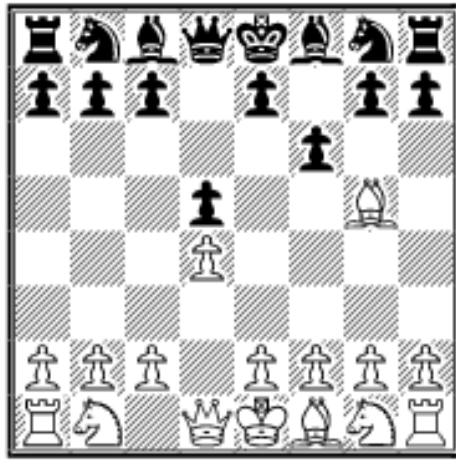
25...Nxc6 picks up a pawn but is not that convincing upon 26 Bb3 threatening Be6+ when 26...Re8 27 Bf7 allows White to restore the material balance.

26 Kg2 Rdf8 27 Bd1 Rf2+ 28 Kg3 Rd8 The black rooks are poised to make sure White's position is in meltdown mode. **29 Re1 Rd3+ 30 Be3 Rf8 31 Bc2 Rf3+ 32 Kg2 Rdx3 0-1**

Don Mason from **Birmingham, England** has a problem a Black with the Pseudo-Trompovsky. He wants to know what to against 1 d4 d5 2 Bg5 which as been favoured by such players as Adams, Anand and Hodgson. He has ruled out 2...Nf6 because he rightly believes this is exactly what a Tromp player wants because it transposes to 1 d4 Nf6 2 Bg5 d5. I think you should try something different and give White something to think about on move 2.

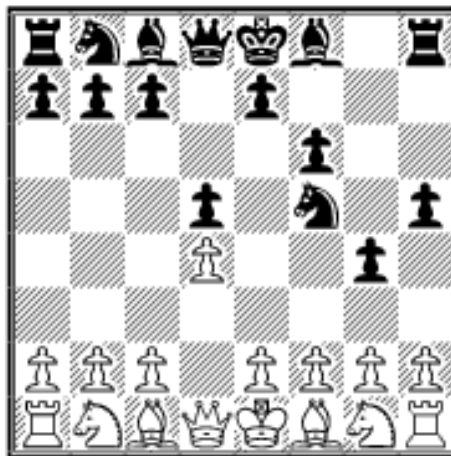
Josko Mukic-Zoltan Ribli Kastav 2002

1 d4 d5 2 Bg5 f6



Black poses White the question where to put the bishop and prepares to create a pawn centre. **3 Bh4 3 Bc1?! has** been tested but it looks a little bit silly after **3...c5 3...Nh6** Black prepares to chase the bishop around the

board. **4 Nf3!?** Or **4 e3 Nf5 5 Bg3 g6 6 c4 e6 7 Nc3 Bg7** (perhaps **7...Nc6** should be considered) **8 cxd5 exd5 9 Qa4+ c6 10 Bxb8 Rxb8 11 Qxa7** with an advantage for White, Hodgson-Shaw, East Kilbridge 1996. **4...Nf5 5 Bg3 h5** Black is playing very adventurously putting instant pressure on White. **6 Bf4** Or **6 Qd3 h4 7 Bf4 g5 8 Bd2 g4 9 Ng1** an odd looking position has arisen which favours Black. **9...c5 10 dxc5 e5 11 e4 Nd4 12 Nc3 Na6! 13 Nxd5 Nxc5 14 Qc4 b5 15 Qc3 Nxe4** when white can put the pieces back into the box, Berg Jensen-Johansen, Gausdal 2001. **6...g5 7 Bc1 g4 8 Ng1**



White is a strong player with a FIDE rating of 2379 but he is made to look like a beginner by grandmaster Ribli! After eight moves White has developed nothing. **8...c5 9 e4** In the circumstances

White has no choice but to play positively by aiming to gambit a pawn. **9...dxe4 10 d5 e6** Black

offers White to enter an ending by taking on e6 which is hardly surprising considering he is already a pawn up. **11 Nc3 exd5 12 Qxd5 Nd4 13 Qxe4+ Qe7 14 Bd3** 14 Qxe7+ has the merit of avoiding any quick, tactical tricks ensuring roughly equal chances. For instance: 14...Bxe7 15 Bd3 and now 15...c4!? is met by 16 Bg6+. **14...Nbc6 15 Be3 Be6** Ribli prepares to castle queenside with an edge. **16 Nd5 Bxd5 17 Qxd5 Ne5!**



18 Bxd4?? It is the end of the world for White!
18...Nf3+ 0-1

And finally, **Clyde Nakumra** from **Honolulu, Hawaii** always seems busy thinking up wild gambits and has

thought of another entertaining idea. He says "I was looking at one of my old email messages and found an interesting idea against a Caro-Kann pawn set-up. What if you could play a Noch Gambit type of set-up against a Caro-Kann Defense. The Noch Gambit is: 1 e4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 d3 dxe4 4 Bg5 and white offers the gambit pawn. In this new gambit you have the following moves: 1 e4 c6 2 Nc3 d5 3 d3 dxe4 4 Bg5 and now white offers the gambit pawn at d3. The Noch Gambit is really a reversed form of the Blackburne-Hartlaub Gambit (1 d4 e5 2 dxe5 d6) and the gambit could continue with 3 exd6 Bxd6. I have checked my chess databases and found that after the move 3...dxe4 the 2 moves played were 4 Nxe4 or

4.dxe4. No one has played 4 Bg5 or 4 Bf4 treating this opening as a gambit. I started to think about a new name for this gambit and thought about the documentary I saw on “The Real Scorpion King” on the History channel. At the turn of the last century a number of new tombs were discovered buried in the sands of Egypt. On one of those tombs a sign of the scorpion was inscribed on a vase from the tomb. Also found were the symbol of Horus (a bird like figure). The symbol of Horus means the sign of kingship. This means that the tomb was the final resting place for a king called Scorpion. According to the documentary King Scorpion invented the earliest known form of writing, predating even the Sumerians. Anyway I decided to call this new gambit the Scorpion-Horus Gambit. Currently I have no actual games played with this gambit, but I did start a preliminary analysis of the lines.

I suppose one could argue that the opening is for White and not in keeping with the theme of this month’s column. However, after **1 e4 c6 2 Nc3 d5 3 d3 dxe4 4 Bg5**



it is fairly clear that after **4...exd3 5 Bxd3 Qb6** Black is the favourite to win with the extra pawn. However, White’s active piece play is great for Blitz games so if anyone plays this line on the net then

please let me know.

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