

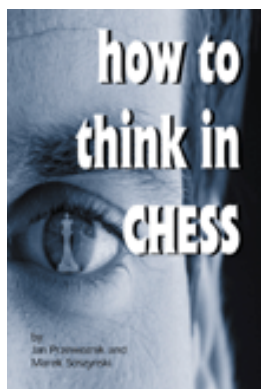
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## COLUMNISTS

*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!*

## How to Win on the Internet

The solution to winning games on the Internet is exclusively revealed this month. The only conditions are that your opponent plays the Dutch, the time-limit is preferably one minute each for the entire game and you have lots of luck. It all sounds so easy! Also if you ever wondered what happened when you sent a letter to a chess publisher then all will soon be revealed if you read on.

In last month's column I answered a question on the Staunton Gambit and this has inspired **Mark Donlan (USA)** to reveal that for years he has had a secret weapon against the Dutch and is now willing to share it with the world. I encouraged him to prove it on the chessboard in hyperspace and this is the latest instalment. He sends this message " I've played my pet line in the Staunton Gambit seven times and I've scored six wins (although the longest time control was 8min+2sec). The latest is below. Someone finally fell for the mate."



**Mark Donlan -Srdjan** 1minute Main Playing Hall 2003  
**1 d4 f5 2 e4 fxe4 3Qh5+ g6 4 Be2!?**



An amusing move which can spell danger for Black in a blitz game when the instinct is to grab the queen. **4...gxh5 5Bxh5 mate 1-0**

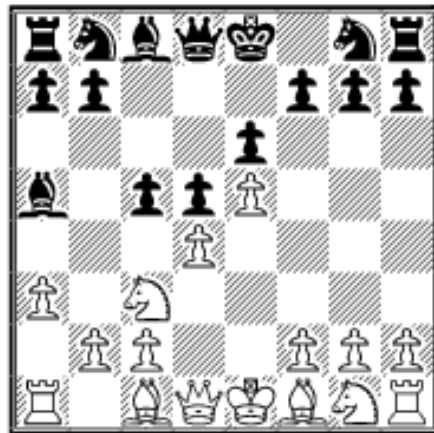
No more explanations are needed but if you play the Dutch then watch out!

It is not every day that a top grandmaster writes to me seeking help on their openings so I was delighted to receive a message from **Murray Chandler (England)**. Alas, it was not a plea to improve his open Sicilian but in his role as managing director of the book publisher Gambit. Apparently, a reader had a question and it seemed the sort of thing I might be interested in solving. **Gaspare Alesi**, a correspondence chess player, from Alcamo, Italy writes, “ Recently I have been reading among others Steffen Pedersen's *The Main Line French: 3 Nc3* and I've a question to pose about a not-so-obvious (for me a mere mortal!) continuation in the Armenian Variation (5...Ba5) analysed on pages 209-212. Well, I'm not a great chess player like others on the scene, but I asked myself what black does if at 16th move white plays h5 after 15...0-0-0 in the variation described at page 202. What about the continuation? I see also that in a game Leko-Vaganian (Istanbul 2000), he first played 16 Rab1 and so on. Is white better after taking on g7? (16 h5 Ne7 17 Qxg7 and now?). Have you some games played with this continuation?

I had to edit the letter slightly but I can see why it was passed on to me. Publishers are busy people and cannot answer every enquiry. Indeed, one chess editor I know revealed he would receive a monthly batch of games from a reader asking for his comments. These were always carefully filed in the rubbish bin. I wondered why thinking it might have something to do with copyright or something? The editor revealed that the writer just sent in games by Morphy and claimed to have played them all! Anyway back to the question and the game you mentioned would help us to try and understand what is going on.

*Peter Leko-Rafael Vaganian Olympiad Istanbul 2000*

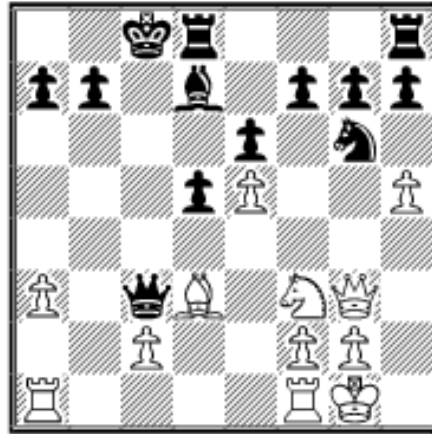
**1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e5 c5 5 a3 Ba5**



The Armenian Variation makes a change from the usual 5...Bxc3+. **6 Qg4 Ne7 7 dxc5 Bxc3+ 8 bxc3 Ng6 9 Nf3 Nd7** At this point there is a difference of opinion on how to proceed: a) 9...Nc6 10 Bd3 Qc7 11 0-0 Nxc5 12 Nxe5 Qxe5

13 Qd4 White wishes to improve his pawn structure 13...Qxd4 14 cxd4 b6 15 Bb5+ Kd8 16 Rb1 G.Sax-A.Cioara, Porto San Giorgio 2002. b) 9...Qa5 10 Bd2 Nd7 11 c4 Qa4 12 Qd4 dxc4 13 Bxc4 0-0 14 Bb4 (14 Bc3 Qxc2 15 Bd3 Qb3 16 Rb1 Qa2 17 0-0 gives White a strong initiative) 14...a5 15 0-0 Qc6 16 Bd2 Nxc5 17 Be3 gave White the superior chances although the game was eventually drawn, J.Rowson-R.Vaganian, Istanbul 2000. **10 Bd3 Qc7 11 0-0 Nxc5 12 Be3** In an earlier round at the same tournament Leko tried 12 a4 against Khalifman when Black

continued 12...0-0 (12...Nxd3 13 cxd3 Qxc3 14 Ba3 stops Black from castling kingside and despite the pawn deficit White is better) 13 Ba3 b6 14 Rfe1 (White supports the e-pawn) 14...f5 15 exf6 Nxd3 16 cxd3 Rxf6 17 Qg3 Qxg3 18 hxg3 Bd7 19 Bd6 gave White the slightly superior ending. **12...Bd7 13 Bxc5 Qxc5 14 h4 Qxc3 15 Qg3 0-0-0 16 Rab1 16 h5**



This is certainly a critical line because it leads to the loss of a pawn. Now it could just be that White was content to draw quietly and not seek complications. A quick glance indicates the line 16...Ne7 17 Qxg7 Nc6 18 Qxf7 Rdf8 19 Qg7

Rhg8 20 Qxh7 Rh8 21 Qg6 Rhg8 with eventually a draw by repetition. But 18 Qf6 gives Black some trouble and I would rather be White in order to see how the semi-open g-file can be exploited to make up for the pawn. Indeed, it is interesting in that nobody has chosen to completely repeat Vaganian's line of play. **16...f6!** Black seeks exchanges and the game fizzles out to a draw. **17 Rfe1 Nxe5 18 Nxe5 fxe5 19 Qxg7 Rdg8 20 Qxe5 Qxe5 21 Rxe5 Kc7 22 c4 1/2-1/2**

**Luciano Amaral** from **São Paulo, Brazil** thought of a good question but he made the mistake of not setting up the position on the board. Confused? Well, writers cannot include everything especially when they lead to a loss after only a couple of moves! He says "Congratulations for your terrific *Vienna Game* book. However, may I have a question? If Black tries to play the Latvian Gambit, lets say after 1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 f5 3 exf5 d5 How should White react?"

For instance: **1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 f5 3 exf5 d5**

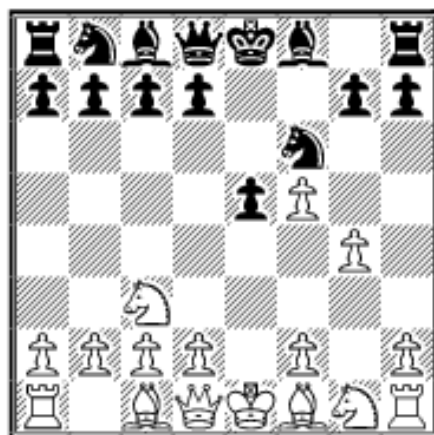


but now **4 Qh5+!** is winning when one amusing line is **4...g6 5 fxg6 Nf6 6 g7+ Nxh5 8 gxh8 Q** and Black can resign. However, to be fair to Mr. Amaral I am sure he really wanted me to take a closer look at 3...Nf6. In such an

obscure line the heavyweight encounters were played a long time ago:

### *William Steinitz-Samuel Loyd Paris 1867*

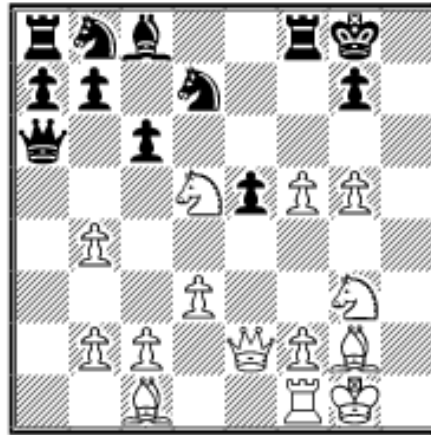
**1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 f5 3 exf5 Nf6 4 g4**



The position just looks like a King's Gambit where White's extra move ensures the advantage. 4 d4 is a reasonable alternative. For instance: 4...e4 5 Bg5 Bb4 6 Nge2 d5 7 Ng3 (White is keen to hang on to his extra pawn) 7...0-0 8 Be2 Nc6

9 a3 Bd6 10 0-0 (10 Nxd5 is actually possible but White failed to see that after 10...Bxg3 that now 11 Bc4! wins) 10...Bxg3 11 fxg3 when the king's rook protects the extra pawn on f5, H.Faeth-M.Newton, Los Angeles 1991. **4...h6 5 Bg2 d5 6 d3 Bc5 7 h3 0-0** Or 7...c6 8 f4 (8 Qe2 0-0 9 Bd2 intending to castle queenside looks good for White) 8...exf4 9 Bxf4 Nh5 10 Qe2+ Kf7 11 Bxb8? (11 Be5 is an improvement when 11...Nf6 12 0-0-0 leaves White on top) 11...Rxb8 12 gxh5 Re8 13 Ne4 Qh4+ 14 Kd1 dxe4 gives Black a strong initiative, P.Donka-

I.Mihut, Budapest 1999. **8 Nge2 c6 9 Ng3 Qc7 10 h4 Qb6 11 Qe2 Bb4 12 a3 Qa5 13 axb4** 13 Bd2 looks like a reasonable alternative and Black is in trouble. **13...Qxa1 14 0-0 Qa6** The black queen meekly runs away but now Steinitz can now demolish the kingside defence. 14...d4 has been suggested although White is still the favourite upon 15 Nce4 Nxe4 16 Nxe4 Qa2 17 Nd6. **15 g5 hxg5 16 hxg5 Nfd7 17 Nxd5!**



**1-0**

“Hello my name is **Boris Senderovich**, from **New York City**. I have a question regarding the Vienna gambit, which I play and have success with it, however I am troubled by some lines: 1

e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 f4 d6 4 Nf3 Nc6 5 Bc4 Bg4 6 0-0 leads to 6...Nd4 and after 7 fxe5 Bxf3 8 gxf3 dxe5 with an uncomfortable position for white. In a Q & A session in the USA I asked FM Fernandez about this line and he suggested on the 5th move to play fxe5 instead of Bc4 and Bb5 but I have yet to find a concrete advantage for white because of sharp lines after 6... Bc5 or Bg4. Do u have any advice on how to play against this?

I agree with you that the main position you are playing is awkward for White although there is some scope for White to make progress.

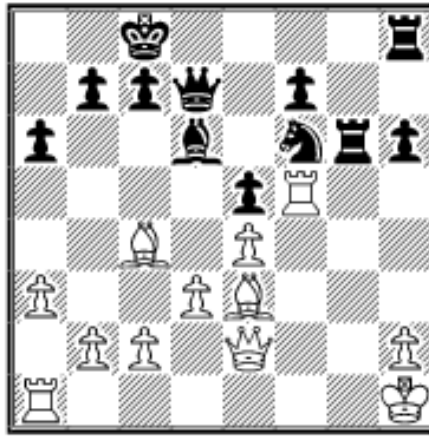
***Svend Pedersen-Poul Frausing Aarhus 1972***

**1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 f4 d6 5 Nf3 Bg4 6 0-0 Nd4 7 fxe5**



**7...Bxf3 7...dxe5?** is a classic mistake where numerous players have stolen the advantage upon **8 Bxf7+** when M.Fussnecker-L.Stock, Gross Gerau 2000, continued **8...Kxf7 9 Nxe5+ Ke8 10 Nxg4 Be7 11 Nxf6+ Bxf6 12**

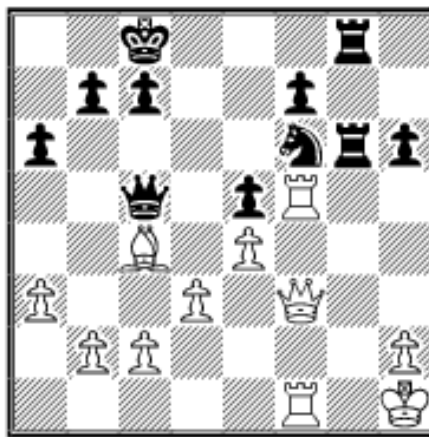
**e5! Be7** (or **12...Bxe5 13 Qh5+** wins) **13 Qg4 Rg8 14 Qe4 h6 15 e6 Qd6 16 Nd5 1-0 8 gxf3 dxe5** This is the position which you are wary of playing. I think you are right to look for a different approach because although the position is playable for White it is far from conclusive. **9 f4** An aggressive approach in keeping with the opening. [9 d3 Qd7 10 Ne2 Bc5 11 Kh1 0-0-0 (11...Nh5!? is worth investigating) 12 c3 Nxe2 13 Qxe2 with roughly equal chances, I.Tomczykowska-A.Jablonska, Brzeg Dolny 1995; 9 Kh1 Qd7 Black prepares to castle queenside so that White cannot take advantage of the open lines on the kingside 10 Ne2 0-0-0 11 c3 Nxe2 12 Qxe2 Nh5 13 Qg2 Nf4 (13...b5! 14 Bb3 Qd3 puts White under pressure because his queenside development is suffering) 14 Qg4 f6 15 d4 gives White an edge, M.Rudnicki-P.Wojciechowski, Zakopane 2001. **9...Bd6 10 d3 Qd7 11 f5** An idea that regularly occurs in this line where White closes the game with this pawn advance. **11...h6 12 Be3 a6 13 Kh1 0-0-0 14 a3 Rdg8** Frausing is eager to start counterattacking on the kingside but any lunge with the pawns runs a risk because White pieces are well placed. **15 Ne2 Nxe2 16 Qxe2 g5 17 fxg6 Rxd6 18 Rf5!**



A nice way to cut the black queen off and simply prepare to double rooks on the f-file.

**18...Qe7 19 Raf1 Rhg8 20 Qf3** A simple but effective plan to bolster the pressure on the f-file. Black now finds a clever resource but White is on

top. **20...Bc5 21 Bxc5 Qxc5**



**22 Qf2 22 Rxf6??** walks into **22...Qg1+ 23 Rxcg1 Rxcg1** mate. **22...Qxf2 23 R5xf2 Ng4 24 Rf3 Nxh2?** A wild choice but otherwise White will emerge on top after the f-pawn is removed from the board. **25 Kxh2 Rg2+ 26 Kh3 Rxc2 27 R3f2** When

a piece up it makes sense to swap off rooks.

**27...Rxf2 28 Rxf2 Rg1 29 Rxf7 b5 30 Be6+ Kb7 31 Bd5+ Kb6 32 Rf6+ Kc5 1-0**

I suspect FM Fernandez has the right idea but it is difficult to explain in an instant the ideas so I will assume he meant to imply that **5 Bb5** is the right move rather than quickly taking on e5 when the tension is released giving Black an easier task in the opening.

*Artur Kogan-Catarina Leite Odivelas 2000*

**1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 f4 d6 4 Nf3 Nf6 5 Bb5**



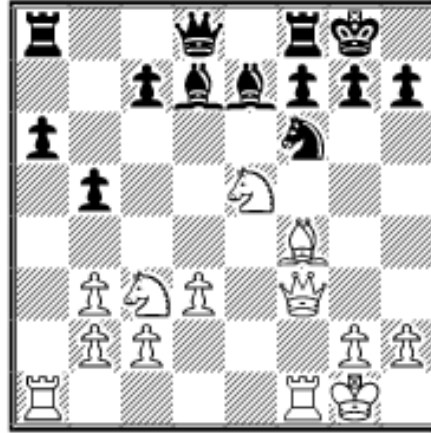


I think this is the right way to handle the opening by immediately putting pressure on the e5 pawn. **5...Bd7** Leite plays the obvious move and blocks the pin. **5...exf4 6 d4** White is happy to take over the centre **6...a6 7 Ba4 b5 8**

**Bb3 Na5** white's light-squared bishop is usually a dangerous attack piece in this line so Black wishes to exchange it **9 Bxf4 Nxb3 10 axb3 Bb7 11 Qe2 Be7 12 e5 Nd5 13 exd6 Nxf4 14 dxe7 Qxe7 15 Qxe7+ Kxe7 16 0-0** led to equal chances in A.Kogan-V.Goswami, Andorra 2000; **5 ...Bg4** this is similar to the lines you were concerned about but with the queen's knight pinned the position is in White's favour after **6 h3 Bxf3 7 Qxf3 Nd7 8 Bxc6 bxc6 9 0-0** White has a lead in development and various attacking ideas such as **Qg3** or **f4-f5**. **9...Be7 10 d3** with the better chances, A.Sergeev-N.Pokazanjev, Tomsk 2002. **6 d3 6 0-0** leads to a similar position to the main game except White creates a lightening attack after **6...Be7 7 d3 0-0 8 Kh1 exf4 9 Bxf4 a6 10 Bc4 Na5 11 Bb3 Nxb3 12 axb3 Bc6 13 Nd4!** (with the black bishop on c6 it makes sense to manoeuvre a knight to the important f5 square) **13...Qd7 14 Nf5 d5? 15 Bg5 Rae8?** (**15...Bd8** is the only way to try and survive) **16 e5** leads to a big advantage, D.Suaibi-A.Aleksovski, Struga 2002. **6...exf4** Even in simultaneous displays Bobby Fischer played very sharply and in this game against Kumro, Cicero 1964, he wins easily after **6...Be7 7 Bxc6 Bxc6 8 fxe5 dxe5 9 Nxe5 0-0 10 Nxc6 bxc6 11 0-0** with a clear advantage. **7 Bxf4 Be7 8 0-0 a6 9 Ba4 b5 10 Bb3 Na5 11 e5 11 Qe1** intending to eventually transfer the queen to kingside in

preparation for an attack looks like a decent plan.

**11...dxe5 12 Nxe5 Nxb3 13 axb3 0-0 14 Qf3**



Kogan has a comfortable space advantage but it is never easy to convert it into a victory. **14...Bd6 15 Nc6 Qe8 16 Na5 Qe6 17 Bxd6 Qxd6 18 Qf4**

The grandmaster is happy to try and enter an ending by assuming that his

lower rated opponent will

not have sufficient technique to hold the position.

**18...Qb6+ 19 Kh1 Be6 20 Qh4 Rad8 21 Rf4 Nd5**

**22 Nxd5 Rxd5 23 b4 Re5 24 c4 bxc4 25 dxc4**

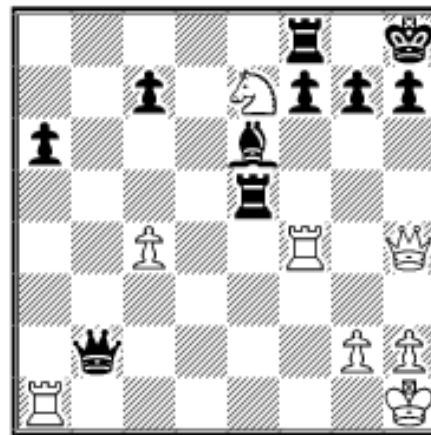
**Qxb4?** Black obvious saw the next move by White

but thought he had everything covered. He was

wrong! **25...c5!** would make White work a lot harder

and it is Black who is fighting for the advantage. **26**

**Nc6 Qxb2 27 Ne7+! Kh8**



**28 Qxh7+!** An absolutely fantastic finale! **1-0**

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