

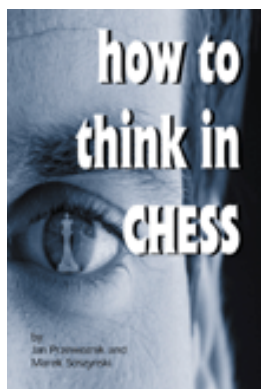
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## COLUMNISTS

*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!*

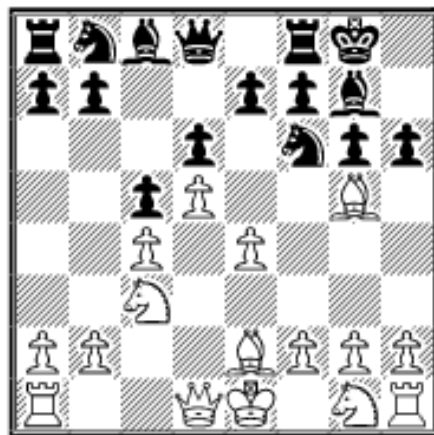
## California Dreaming

Winter is the perfect time for a chess player because when the weather outside is cold and bleak then being confined to a warm, comfortable room is a rather pleasant choice. However, if you are in California and have the option of sun, sea and er, chess what do you choose? **Derek J Price** from **California** has certainly got his priorities right by playing on the Internet and perhaps enjoys the other two during the day! Any way, he gives a game he played, which I have annotated and included his comments. Perhaps we can all sympathise with his summing up of the game. He says "Unfortunately I don't have a chess program on my computer, and I burned up my Kasparov Chess – whatever it was – by plugging the wrong ac-dc converter into it... What do you think?"

Well, the thing is that next time you check your plug sockets carefully! And the game? Well, lets take a look.

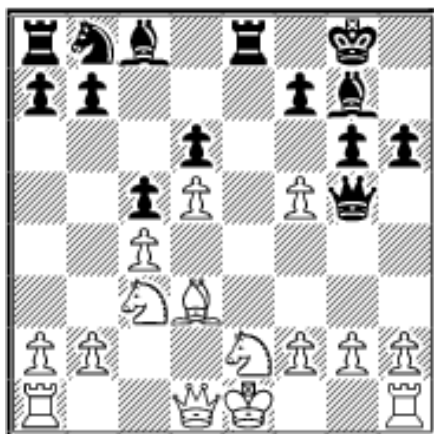
*Anon-Price Internet 2003*

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 g6 3 d4 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Be2 0-0 6 Bg5  
c5 7 d5 h6



**8 Bxf6** “And my jaw fell open. While 8 Bxf6 is the obvious reply. I started wondering about tempos lost if he played 9 Qd2 although 9...Qa5 looks an interesting response to that.” I agree that 8...Bxf6 is perfectly acceptable. I just think

White was trying to spook you by playing a poor move. It makes no sense for White to give up the bishop pair when there is no obvious reason and Black is rewarded with instant equality. **8...exf6** This is Derek’s other suggestion and he supplies some of the moves. **9 Bd3 f5!?** I prefer 9...Re8. **10 exf5 Re8+ 11 Nge2 Qg5**

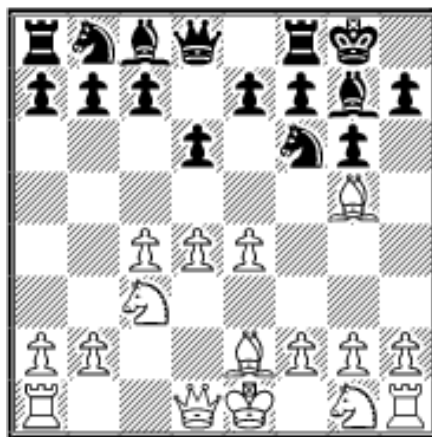


“and who the heck is in worse shape” is the end of the question. I think there are equal chances if White offers to exchange queens. **12 Qd2 Qxg2? 13 0-0-0** and it is White who is better.

Just in case the next time you play the variation your opponent is more knowledgeable then here is a game to inspire you.

*Jose Luis Nieva-Pablo Della Morte Olivos 2002*

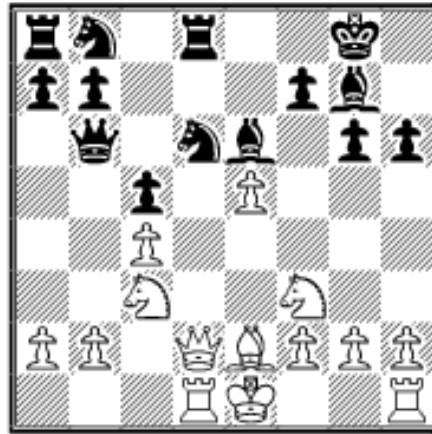
**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Be2 0-0 6 Bg5**



Averbakh's System has been a respected opening for years. If you want to see how to expertly handle the positions that can arise then a look at some old games by Uhlmann and Polugayevsky are recommended **6...c5** This

was the main move in the 50s/60s and 70s but nowadays **6...Na6** is popular. The obvious **6...e5?** still continues to catch people out because it seems to be a standard move but after **7 dxe5 dxe5 8 Qxd8 Rxd8 9 Nd5 Rd6 10 Bxf6 Bxf6 11 c5** Black is busted. **7 d5 h6 8 Bf4** **8 Bd2** is also possible when Z.Kozul-I.Nataf, Halkidiki 2002, continued **8...e6 9 Nf3 exd5 10 exd5 Bf5 11 Nh4 Bd7 12 0-0 Na6 13 Nf3 Bf5 14 Ne1 Re8 15 f3 Nc7 16 a4** (White stops the ...b7-b5 advance but now the b4 square is vacant for a black piece to occupy) **16...Na6 17 g4 Bc8 18 Qc1 h5 19 Bg5 Qd7** led to equal chances. **8...e6 8...b5 9 cxb5 a6** (the Englishman is renowned for his attacking flair and chooses a line designed to give him the initiative at the cost of a pawn) **10 a4 axb5 11 Bxb5 Ba6 12 Nge2 Bxb5 13 axb5 Nbd7 14 0-0 g5?!** (an ambitious approach but in the long-term it merely weakens his kingside) **15 Rxa8 Qxa8 16 Bc1 Qa5 17 Ng3** (the knight heads for the vacant f5 square to take advantage of Black prematurely advancing the g-pawn) **17...Qb4 18 Nf5** gave White a clear advantage although later he was swindled and lost, M.Singleton-G.Kenworthy, British Team Championship 2002. **9 dxe6 Bxe6 10 Qd2** If White is in a dull mood he might embark on a long but drawish series of moves. **10 Bxd6 Re8 11 Nf3 Nc6 12 0-0 Nd4 13 e5 Nd7 14 Nxd4 cxd4 15 Qxd4 Nxe5 16 Bxe5 Qxd4 17 Bxd4 Bxd4 18 Rac1 Rad8 19 b3 Bxc3 20 Rxc3 Rd2 21 Bf3**

Rxa2 22 Bxb7 Rb8 which according to the experts should offer equal chances.] **10...Qb6 11 Bxd6?! A** mistake because with the queen already on b6 then Black can pin the bishop with the rook. 11 Bxh6 is the fun line where there are plenty of tactics available for both sides. For instance: 11...Bxh6 12 Qxh6 Qxb2 13 Rc1 Nc6 14 h4 Nh7 is considered one of the main variations but looks baffling to anyone who chances upon the line in a tournament game; 11 0-0-0 is risky because the black queen is already well placed for an attack. 11...Kh7 12 h4 Nc6 13 Nf3 Nd4 with a double-edged game, U.Kunsztowicz-K.Klundt, German Team Championship 1985.  
**11...Rd8 12 e5 Ne8 13 Nf3 Nxd6 14 Rd1**



**14...Bxe5?! Black's** big plus is that he has his traditionally good King's Indian bishop and he shouldn't exchange it without serious thought. An improvement is 14...Re8! 15 exd6 (15 Qxd6 Nc6 intending ...Rad8 is better for

Black) 15...Bxc4 16 Ng1 Nd7 looks great for Black.

**15 Nxe5 Nc6 16 Nxc6?** Top marks for White wanting to attack but doubt is immediately heaped upon the idea due to lack of reinforcements.

**16...fxg6 16...Nf5** is even better for Della Morte. **17**

**Qxh6 Ne7 18 Qg5 Qc7 19 Qf6 Bf7 20 0-0** An admission of defeat because the initial flurry of activity has burnt out and all that White can do is hope. **20...Ndf5 21 g4 Nd4 22 Rde1 Qd6** The ending is hopeless for White so he keeps the queens on. It was Kramnik who recently said in an interview about his computer match that everyone knows that a piece is worth about 4 pawns. I am not sure everyone does judging by such games! **23 Qg5 Ne6 24 Qh4 g5**

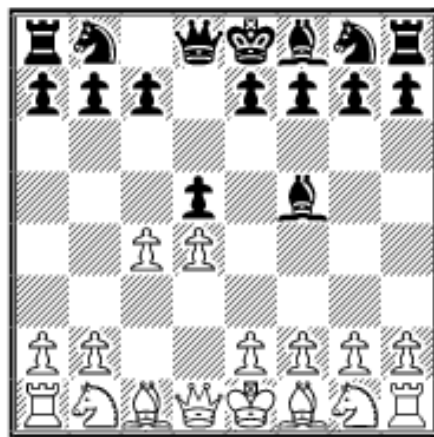
## 25 Qh3 Nf4 0–1

**Paul Willcox, Cardiff, Wales** writes “ Not a question about a particular line, but about a defence in general. After years of playing "fashionable" openings and defences I've been playing the Colle (yes I have your book) and Stonewall attack as white and the Qxd5 variation of the Scandinavian as black against the e-pawn opening, and am having my best and most consistent results ever (I only play on the internet now, but thank god for it). My question is can you recommend a defence to the d-pawn that will suit my style of play?

If I could name the absolute perfect opening for Black at club level and for the Internet then I would write a book on it, sells loads and then retire on the royalties. In the mean time I think quirky defences such as the Baltic Defence 1 d4 d5 c4 Bf5 or the Chigorin 1 d4 d5 2 c4 Nc6 would be suitable. On the other hand if you want an opening that is a decent defence against just about everything then you can't go wrong with the King's Indian Defence. After 1 b3, 1 b4, 1 c4 , 1 d4, 1 e3, 1 f4, 1 Ng3 and 1 g3 then the King's Indian is a good idea. It might require a bit of work to learn but at least that will then be your main defence. In the meantime here is a short game in the Baltic Defence to get you started.

***Kerem Laciner-Igor Miladinovic* Balkan Championship Istanbul 2001**

**1 d4 d5 2 c4 Bf5**



Black declares his intention to play the Baltic Defence It is worth pointing that Black is rated 2495 demonstrating that top international players use it while White is certainly no mug with a rating of 2161. **3 cxd5** 3 e3 e6 4 Nc3 Nc6 5 cxd5

exd5 6 Qb3? White assumes that nothing can go wrong after only a handful of moves 6...Nb4 gave White a comfortable advantage in I.Kibitzis-A.Papastavropoulos, Heraklio 2001; 3 Nc3 e6 4 Nf3 Bb4 5 Bd2 Bxc3 6 Bxc3 dxc4 7 e3 Qd5!? it looks a bit weird but the queen often appears on this square in this line 8 Nd2 Nc6 9 Bxc4 Qxg2 10 Rf1 Qxh2 11 Nf3 Qh5 12 d5 exd5 13 Bxg7 dxc4 14 Bxh8 Bg4 0-1 M.Doetz-T.Hecker, German Junior Championship 1997; 3 Qb3 e5!? (Black is happy to give up the b-pawn in return for a lead in development) 4 Qxb7 Nd7 5 Nc3 exd4 6 Nxd5 Bd6 7 b4 Rb8 (7...Ngf6 looks like a decent move but Black is hoping to trap the white queen) 8 Qxa7 Ne7 9 a3 0-0 10 Nf3 Nxd5 11 cxd5 Nb6 12 Bd2 (or 12 Bb2 Ra8 13 Qb7 Qe7 14 Nxd4 Bxb4+!) 12...Qc8 13 Qa5 Bd7 14 Rc1 Qb7 15 Nxd4 Ra8 0-1 A.Stahlberg-L.Svensson, Rodeby 1998. **3...Bxb1** 3...Qxd5 walks into 4 Nc3 and White gains time developing by attacking the queen. **4 Rxb1 Qxd5 5 Qa4+ Nc6 6 Nf3 e5** This is the positive reply geared to producing tricks and traps in the opening. **7 dxe5 Bb4+ 8 Bd2 Qe4** A sneaky move because the rook on b1 is hit and also the other threat is ...Bxd2+ with a discovered attack against the queen on a4. **9 Qd1 0-0-0**



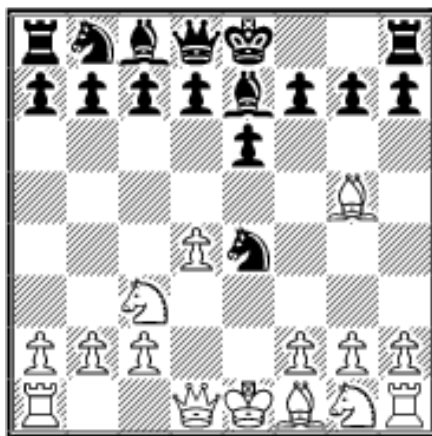
**10 g3??** A nightmare for White and a big laugh for Black. **10...Bxd2+ 0-1**

The next question caught my attention: “ I'm **Gorkem Ozbek** from **Turkey**. My question is; in the Trompovsky attack: 1d4 Nf6 2 Bg5 e6 3 e4

Be7 4 Nc3?! Nxe4!?. Here, black is winning a pawn but I think white has enough compensation. Can you suggest this line? Also, does White have any moves instead of 4 Nc3?

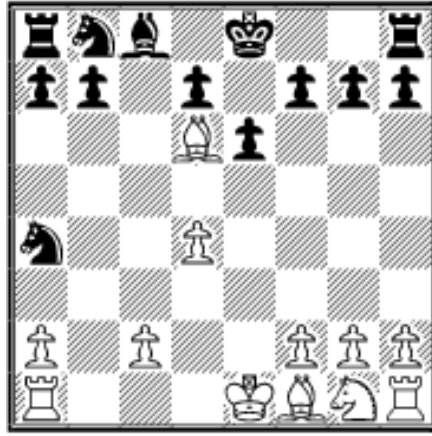
**Julian Hodgson-David Gluckman Lloyds Bank London 1992**

**1 d4 Nf6 2 Bg5 e6 3 e4 Be7 3...h6 4 Bxf6 (4 Bh4? g5 5 Bg3 Nxe4 and Black is better) 4...Qxf6 is considered the main line. 4 Nc3 4 e5; 4 Bd3; 4 Nd2 are the main alternatives. 4...Nxe4**



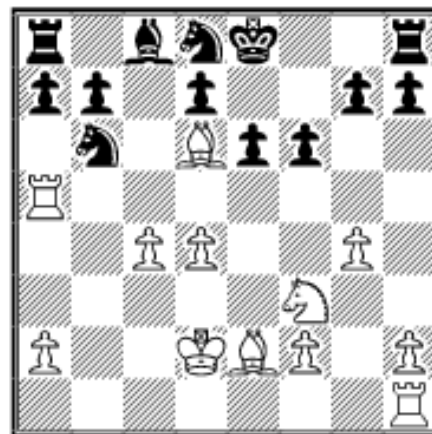
Black embarks on a forcing combination in order to win a pawn. To be honest I don't think Black should allow himself to get into this position because the ending is difficult to handle over the board. **5 Bxe7** Or 5 Nxe4 Bxg5

when White has no compensation for the pawn. **5...Nxc3 6 Bxd8 Nxd1 7 Bxc7 Nxb2 8 Bd6** This is why White is content to lose the pawn because he can temporarily stop Black castling kingside. **8...Na4**



This is probably the critical position because it is a crossroads on how White responds. **9 c4** Julian Hodgson is a star when he plays his favoured 'Tromp' so I can see no reason not to follow his example. The German player Peter

Froehlich tried something different against Fredriksen in Oslo 2002. **9 Bd3 Nc3 10 Kd2 Nd5 11 c4 Nf6 12 Nf3 Nc6 13 d5 Ne7 14 Nd4** and White has the superior chances because Black's pieces lack harmony. **9...Nc6** Perhaps **9...b6** should be considered. **10 Nf3 Ne7 10...f6** has also been tested when F.Berkes-D.Arman, Litohoto 1999, continued **11 Kd2 Nb6 12 a4 a5 13 Bc7! Ra6 14 c5** and White is already winning. **11 Bd3 Nb2 12 Be2 Nf5 13 Ba3 Na4 14 Kd2** White refrains from castling because the king is more useful in the middle of the board. **14...Nb6 15 Rab1 f6 16 g4 Ne7 17 Bd6 Nc6 18 Rb5 Nd8 19 Ra5!**



White wants to play **Bc7** and then take on **b6**. **19...h5** Or **19...Nc6 20 Ra3 Nb8 21 g5 (21 Bxb8 Rxb8 22 Rxa7** is also good) **21...Na6 22 Rg1** looks very strong for White. **20 Rg1 Nc6 21 Ra3 hxg4 22 Rxc4 Kf7**

Black is still suffering from failing to co-ordinate his pieces which all stems from the opening. **23 Bc7 Nxc4+ 24 Bxc4 d5 25 Bb3 b5 26 Rg1 a5 27 Bc2 g5 28 Bd6 Bd7 29 h4!** Just because it is an ending does not mean there are no



opportunities to search for mate. **29...b4 30 Re3 a4 31 hxg5 Na5 32 Bd3 b3 33 gxf6 1-0**

And finally, Martin Pattersson from Britain has been following the games featuring the Staunton Gambit and judging by his game I can only hopes he takes it up! Indeed, perhaps this final question should be titled 'The Great Escape'. He has a British Chess federation grade of 88, which converts to about 1320. He says, " Your column is very interesting and informative. I was particularly interested in the Dutch defence game as I was playing at Crewe chess Congress, I played S. Lewis and he played the Dutch I got off to a bad start with losing my Queen for a Bishop but managed a draw, here is the game for you to look at. I have the white pieces."

Well, having had a good look at your game all I can say is that the only way is up!

### ***M.Patterson-S.Lewis* Crewe 2003**

**1 d4 f5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 e3 e6 4 c4 c6 5 d5 Bd6 6 Nc3 h6 7 g3 0-0 8 h4 Ne4 9 h5 Na6 10 Qc2 Nxc3 11 Qxc3**  
 "This move loses the queen." **11...Bb4 12 Bd2 Bxc3 13 Bxc3 Nc5 14 b3 cxd5 15 cxd5 exd5 16 Rg1 b6 17 g4 f4 18 g5 Qe7 19 gxh6 Rf6**



**20 h7+** "Rook takes check would have been winning for me instead of pushing the h-pawn." In fact I am not so sure because after **20 Rxg7+ Qxg7 21 hxg7** Black does not have to take on g7 but play instead **21...Rh6** and Black is probably still

favourite to win. **20...Kh8 21 Ke2 Ne4 22 Bd4 Bb7**

**23 Nh4 Qe6 24 Nf3 Rc8 25 Ne1** He offered a draw  
and I accepted. 1/2–1/2

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