

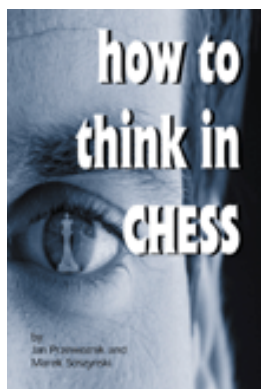
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COLUMNISTS

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!

Fan Clubs

The great thing about chess is that it can make you passionate. There are some people who collect literature associated with the game and have special libraries devoted to antique books. Karpov is known to collect stamps with a chess theme and others buy designer chess sets. Then there are historians who want to know what happened at Hastings 1895 and anything about Fischer. However, there is one passion that seems to be popular amongst all players and that is having a favourite opening. The more obscure the line the better it seems and gambits are high on the list of most people. There is an exception to this rule provided by **Jack Scheible** from the **USA**. He writes "I'd like to respond to your comment in last month's column that the Petrov (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6) '*tends to be used as a drawing weapon by Black, which didn't seem appropriate to a 1500 rated player*' I am a 1500-rated player who has been playing the Petrov for many years. A 1700-rated friend disparaged my use of the Petrov, say, "Black cannot win." I responded, "True, but White can sure lose." As Tarrasch pointed out many years ago

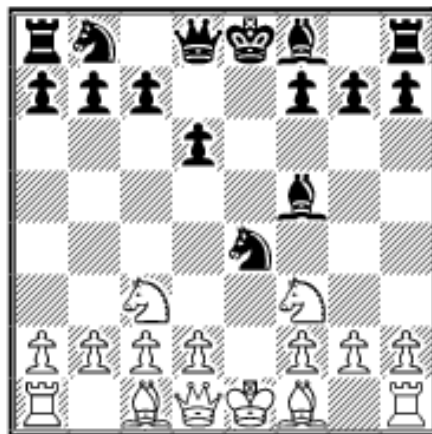


after 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nf3 Nxe4 5 d4 d5, Black has equality! What more could a 1500-rated player want as Black after five moves? Furthermore, Black directs the course of the game, can castle earlier than after playing 2...Nc6, and avoids the vast theory of the Ruy Lopez and Sicilian defense. I have particularly found the Petrov useful when White must win. Not content with the draw, White will overreach, and lose.”

Sadly, Jack did not send in any games he had drawn but I am happy to take his word for such achievements. In a bid to encourage anyone who thinks that the Petrov/Petroff is the way forward here is advance warning of a trap.

Alonso Zapata-Viswanathan Anand Biel 1988

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nf3 Nxe4 5 Nc3 Bf5?



At the time of the game Anand was rated 2555 and was already regarded as a future world champion. His only flaw was that he played games as quickly as possible, which directly led to his downfall in this game.

6 Qe2! 1-0 White simply pins the knight and must

win material. How could such a strong player make such a trivial mistake? The answer is that Anand had seen published the game Miles-Christensen, San Francisco 1987, where a draw had allegedly been prearranged. Indeed, a smiling Miles had been seen polishing the e2 square on the sixth move before keeping his side of the bargain. That game went: 6 Nxe4 Bxe4 7 d3 Bg6 8 Bg5 Be7 9 Bxe7 Qxe7+ 10 Be2 Nc6 11 0-0 0-0 12 Re1 Rae8 13 Qd2 Ne5 14 d4 Nxf3+ 15 Bxf3 Qd7 16 c3 b6 17 Rxe8 Rxe8 18 Re1 Rxe1+ 19

Qxe1 Kf8 20 g3 $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$. I suspect that 20 move draw still lures others into losing material. For example 6 Qe2 Qe7 (6...Be7 7 Nxe4 1–0 A.Zukerfeld-J.Neme, Buenos Aires 1991) 7 Nd5 (I assume this is what Anand missed until it was too late) 7...Qd7 8 d3 1–0 L.Becker-A.Markowski, USA open 1993 or 7...Qd8 8 d3 1–0 B.Farhat-K.Markova, St Lorenzo 1995.

The Blackmar Diemer Gambit (1d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3 or 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 e4 dxe4 4 f3) is named after the American player Armand Blackmar (1826-1888) and the German Emil Josif Diemer (1908-1990). It provokes fascination and dedication from its supporters. One of the people who have done so much to promote the opening in recent times is **Christian Lundmark Jensen** from **Copenhagen, Denmark**. He says "I have a question, which I hope will interest you on the Blackmar-Diemer - in the line 3...Bf5. My question is inspired by an article in *Kaissiber* #5 of 1998 (a German magazine –Lane), where Stefan Bucker citing "Micheal Morlos guter tip" claims that after 1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Bf5 then 4 f3 is bad due to 4...e5 given an "!" by Bucker. My question is: Do you agree? I don't. I think white seems to have quite satisfactory prospects after 4...e5 - and in some lines even very promising attacking potential. However, I haven't seen any further analysis on it in literature. Buckers/Morlos reasoning is that after 5 fxe4 Bg6 6 Nf3 Bb4 then pawn e4 is hanging. It is also claimed that 6...Nd7 should be slightly better for black. I've studied the first line at some length and the second only briefly. Let's take the two options in order: A. 6...Bb4 This is the most challenging line to play, and indeed the most fun line. To put it short, my conclusion on this line is: Yes, e4 is hanging - and so what? 7.Nxe5! Options:

A1. 7...Qh4+ 8 g3 Qxe4+ 9 Kf2! Despite the odd

placed king I have found that white now has very promising attacking potential. For instance if 9...Qxc2+ 10 Qxc2 Bxc2 11 Bc4! and I would say +=. At least white has a good attacking potential in an unclear position here. Options: 11...Bg6 12 Nd5 (12 Bf4!?) 12...Bd6 (12...Ba5 13 Bf4) 13 Re1 += (13 Bf4!?); 11...Nf6 12 Bxf7+ +=/= (12 Nxf7 Rf8 13 Re1 unclear); 11...f6? 12 Nf7 +-. Black can exchange on c3 first, but that only makes white's position even better: 9...Bxc3 10 bxc3 Qxc2+ 11 Qxc2 Bxc2 12.Bc4! Then what? 12...Bg6?! 13 Re1!+-; 12...Ne7 13 Re1 f5 (13...0-0/Rf8 14 Ba3! +-) 14 Nf7 Rf8 15 Ng5 +-.

A2) 7...Bxe4 8 Bb5+ c6 9 O-O! This is a tricky line with a lot of risks and attacking potentials on both sides. But certainly, as far as I can see, white has the upper hand here. For instance 9...Bxc2? 10 Qxc2 Qxd4+ 11 Rf2! +-. 9...cxb5? can't be good either: 10 Nxf7 +- and if 9...f6 10.Nxe4 +- (threatening Qh5+). After 9...Bxc3 10.bxc3 black has various options, but I haven't found any good ones. : 10...Bd5 11Bc4 Bxc4 12 Nxc4 and white seems perfectly fine (for example 12...f6 13. Re1+!), 10...f6 11 Bc4 += (11...fxe5 12.Bf7+; 11...Bd5 12 Qh5+; 11...Bg6 12 Nxg6); 10...Nf6 11 Bc4 Bd5 (11...0-0? 12 Ba3! +-) 12 cxd5 cxd5 13 Rb1 (13 Ba3!?); 10...Bg6 11 Bc4 f6 12 Nxg6 hxg6 13 Bxg8 Rxg8 14 Rb1. However, these latter lines seems quite long, and perhaps I've overlooked some better tries for black...

A3) 7...Bxc3 8 bxc3 gives a more simple position, but the same type of complications and possibilities seems to remain. I haven't analysed this much, but it seems to me to be += if not even better for white.

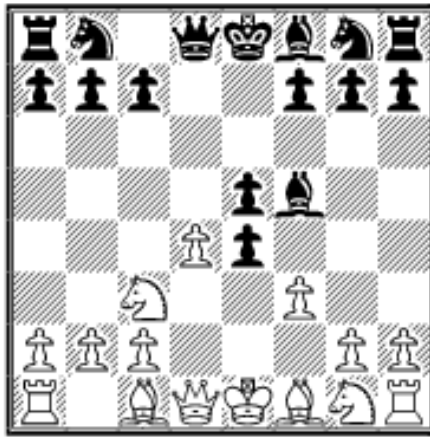
B 6...Nd7 This seems more boring, and I don't see anything to be afraid of for white. For instance the simple recapture 7.dxe5 seems pretty much OK to me. Then if 7... Bb4 8.Bd2 and what has black now? Grapping the e-pawn can't be good: 8...Bxc3 9. Bxc3 Bxe4 10.e6! +=. What else then? 8...Ne7 9.Bc4 0-0?! 10.e6! +=. Others? 7...c6 may be an option. I can't assess this position, but it looks rather even to me. One possible continuation given by Rebel Decade is 8 Bg5 Qc7 9 Qd2 Nxe5 10 Nxe5 Qxe5 11 0-0-0 = (Rebel).

All in all, so far my conclusion is that after 3...Bf5 4 f3 I would be happier than scared to see black respond 4...e5. And thus I believe 4 f3 to be quite satisfactory for white, perhaps even more satisfactory than in most others of the more well known and more popular lines of the BDG. Is 1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Bf5 4 f3 good or bad - in light of 4...e5?

Well, a hand up who thinks that huge amount of analysis is a sign of a true gambit player? I should probably add some background at this point to explain why I receive so many questions about the legendary Blackmar-Diemer Gambit. When I had just begun playing competitively the opening had seized the imagination of everyone at my local chess club, which usually involved games with wild sacrifices and spectacular king hunts. In 1995 I even wrote a book about it for Batsford but it proved to be hard work. A lot of the old games were flawed with Black missing chances to defend so I omitted a number of examples by Diemer and other notable gambit players. Nowadays, computer software is enough to destroy some cherished lines in the Blackmar Diemer Gambit but can also be used to shed new light on other variations and inject some brilliant resources. I found your analysis very interesting and it should persuade others to investigate some of the attacking lines you have mentioned. Indeed, 5 fxe4 seems to be the best way for White to fight for an advantage. I found an old game to make any BDG expert smile because White quickly reaches a strange position and still wins with ease due to a lightening attack.

Christian Mariette-Paul Blin Maromme 1994

1 d4 d5 2 Nc3 Bf5 3 e4 dxe4 4 f3 e5



This is the move that has been proclaimed as the refutation of the BDG! **5 fxe4 exd4!?** The alternative **5...Bg6** is examined closely by Jensen. For instance: **6 Nf3 Bb4 7 Nxe5 Qh4+ 8 g3 Qxe4+ 9 Kf2** (I bet a few people might grab the rook with **9...Qxh1** only to be

shocked by **10 Bb5+** winning the black queen)

9...Qxc2+ 10 Qxc2 Bxc2 11 Bc4 with an edge. (See Diagram) **6 exf5 dxc3 7 Qf3 Nc6** Or **7...cxb2 8 Bxb2** gives White some compensation for the pawn in view of his extra development. **8 bxc3** A weird position but one that will delight BDG players who are happy to force Black to think to think for himself. **8...Bd6** **8...Qf6** intending to castle queenside should be considered. **9 Bb5 Nge7 10 f6!** Mariette jumps at the chance to weaken Black's kingside pawn barrier. **10...gxf6 11 Qxf6 Rg8 12 Nf3**



12...Rxc2? A greedy move when the emphasis should be on developing the rest of his pieces. **13 Ng5 Qd7** What else? **13...Rxc5** is not much help after **14 Bxc5**, which is very good for White **14 Qxf7+ Kd8 15 Ne6+ Kc8 16 Qf8+ 1-0**

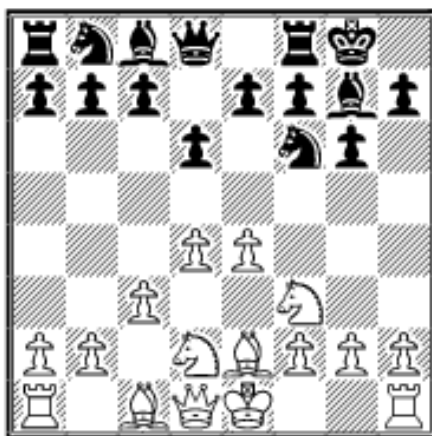
Lemaro Thompson from the **Bahamas** has an intriguing question: "I bought your book *The Ultimate Colle* its pretty good but since I am a attacker I was wondering whether should I play e4 (I also have the book *Startling Chess Repertoire* - Chris Baker) or the Colle, I have ok results with the Colle but am having a

hard time against the King's Indian set-up. Any recommendation? The fianchetto variation is ok but really drawish so do you have any recommendation?"

If you have the time then playing 1 d4 and 1 e4 will really upset your opponents who will have great difficulty in preparing a defence. The Colle's advantage is that the basic plan of development is simple thus reducing the amount of moves that have to be remembered and it rapidly gets the pieces out. This means there is little chance of being shocked by a new move in the opening. If you wish to attack with the Colle then I recommend the lines associated with the Colle-Zukertort, which arises after 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 e3 e6 4 Bd3 c5 5 b3. It seems your main problem is against the King's Indian Defence, although I think the line in the book is fine, but here is a game to inspire you with the difference that White plays a quick e4.

Eduardo Limp-Martin Crosa Coll Curitiba 1999

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 Nbd2 The idea is that White prepares to play e4 leading Black into a Pirc, which is likely to be an alien opening for Black. If Black now plays 3...d5 then White can play 4 e3 and employ a Colle set-up. **3...Bg7 4 c3** It is possible to play 4 e4 but I like this move-order which uses the Colle pawn structure and gives Black another chance to play ...d5. **4...0-0 5 e4 d6 6 Be2**



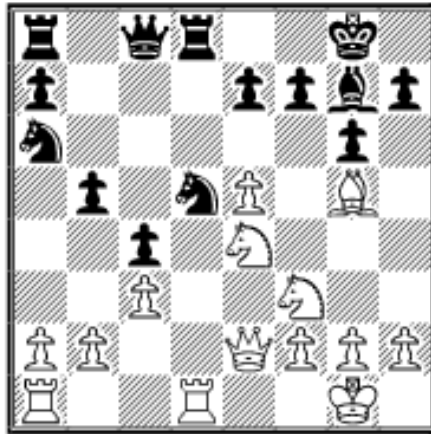
The position is now a Pirc which can also happen after the move-order 1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nd2 g6 4 Ngf3 Bg7 5 c3 0-0 6 Be2. I think this will be of benefit to the Colle player because after a few games with this line White will be familiar with the ideas and plans.

However, it could be the first time Black has ever played the Pirc and this inexperience could make a big difference. I also like lines with 6 Bc4. For example: 6...Nc6 7 0-0 e5 8 dxe5 Nxe5 9 Nxe5 dxe5 10 a4 (a

bid for more space and a good way of putting off Black's usual plan of ...c7-c6 and ...b7-b5) 10...Ne8 11 a5 Nd6 12 Bb3 Qh4 13 f3 Bh6 14 Nc4 Nxc4 15 Bxh6 Nxb2? (ambitious and even courageous but incorrect) 16 Qd2 Rd8 17 Bd5 Nc4 18 Qc1 (the dual threats of Bxc4 and Bg5 spell disaster for Black) 18...Qe7 19 Bxc4 Qc5+ 20 Kh1 Qxc4 21 Qg5 Rd6 22 Qxe5 1-0 S.Kasparov-P.Karnik, Tatry 2000. It is also perfectly acceptable to treat the position like a Colle and play 6 Bd3. In the Scottish Championships played a few weeks ago the game I.Robertson-A. Grant, continued: 6...c5 7 0-0 a6 8 Re1 b6 9 Nf1 cxd4 10 cxd4 Bb7 11 Ng3 with the slightly better chances.

6...c5 Black takes the opportunity to try and undermine the centre. It is also possible to aim for the same goal by preparing ...e7-e5. For instance: 6...Nbd7 7 0-0 e5 8 dxe5 dxe5 9 Qc2 Qe7 10 Re1 b6 11 Bf1 Bb7 12 a4 a5 13 b3 Rfd8 14 Ba3 Qe8 15 Ng5 Ba6 16 Bxa6 Rxa6 17 Nc4 gave White an edge in E.Limp-J.Chaves, Sao Paulo 1999. Kramnik is just one of the star names to have employed the line and in this game against A.Schchekachev, Sochi 1990, it results in a solid encounter: 6...Nc6 7 0-0 e5 (or 7...Re8 8 Re1 e5 9 Bb5!? exd4 10 cxd4 Bd7 11 h3 h6 12 a3 when White has more space but Black can try to attack the centre, K.Langeweg-J.Van der Wiel, Nederland Ch 1989) 8 dxe5 dxe5 9 Bb5 Qe7 10 Bxc6 bxc6 11 Qa4 Qc5 12 Qb4 Qb5 13 Qxb5 cxb5 14 a4 with equal chances. **7 dxc5 dxc5 8 0-0 b6** Black prepares to fianchetto his light-squared bishop in order to exert some pressure on white's e4 pawn. Also possible: 8...Nc6 9 Qc2 Qc7 10 Re1 h6 11 a4 Na5 12 Nc4 Be6 13 Nxa5 Qxa5 14 Bf4 gave White a small advantage in E.Vladimirov-Z.Almasi, New Delhi 2000. **9 Qc2** The queen often ends up on c2 to reinforce the e4 pawn and make way for a rook to eventually occupy the d-file. **9...Ba6 10 Bxa6 Nxa6 11 e5 Nd5 12 Ne4** White has a small but comfortable space advantage making it easier for him

to manoeuvre his pieces. **12...Qc8 13 Rd1 Rd8 14 Qe2 c4 15 Bg5** Limp is content to get his pieces out into the action and prepare a sneaky trick! **15...b5**



16 Nd6! A star move, which at a stroke plunges Black into a crisis. **16...Qc6** If the sacrifice is accepted then White is still on top after 16...exd6 17 Rxd5 (17 Bxd8?! Nf4 18 Qe3 Qg4 19 Ne1 Bh6 20 Kh1 Rxd8 and it is Black who has the initiative) 17...Rd7 18

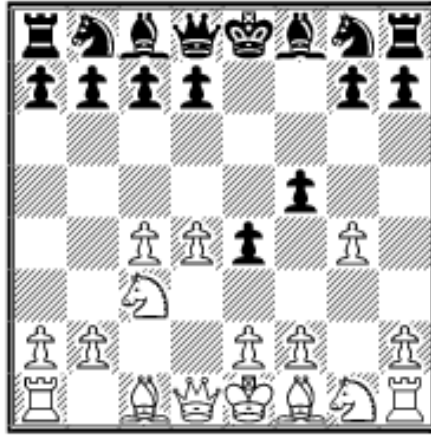
Rxb5 with a clear advantage. **17 Nd4 Qc5** 17...Qb6 is met by 18 N4xb5 is good news for White. **18 Nb7** The fork wins the exchange and ultimately the game. **18...Qb6 19 Nxd8 Rxd8 20 a4 b4 21 Qxc4 bxc3 22 Nc6 1-0**

And finally **Jay Hains** from **New York, USA** states “Last month you featured an opening line that develops right at the second move (1 e4 c5 2 c3 Qa5) In this day and age, this is quite rare. I have another one for you, however! There seems to be very little material on the moves 1 c4 e5 2 Nc3 f5. Obviously, Black will seek to continue with ...Nf6, ...Be7, and to castle quickly on the Kingside. Why is this plan seen so infrequently? Is it a valid way to avoid the standard English Opening theory?”

Dean Hergott-Brian Hartman Toronto 1992

1 c4 e5 2 Nc3 f5 3 d4 This is the critical move to try and exploit Black's move-order. I think a lot of games just tend to transpose back into main-lines, which might be why you have difficulty finding much information on the line. For example: [3 g3 Nf6 4 Bg2 Nc6 5 d3 d6 6 Nf3 g6 7 0-0 Bg7 8 Rb1 0-0 9 b4. **3...e4** Or 3...exd4

is the standard move when 4 Qxd4 Nf6 (4...Nc6 5 Qd2 Nf6 6 g3 is the alternative set-up) 5 Nd5 Be7 6 Nxe7 Qxe7 7 Bg5 0-0 8 0-0-0 Nc6 9 Qc3 a5 gave Black the better chances in G.Schwartzman-P.Svidler, Duisburg 1992. **4 g4!?**



The Canadian has a flair for attacking chess and seizes the chance to create problems for Black. 4 g3 Nf6 5 f3?! Bb4 6 Bd2 Qe7 7 e3 0-0 when Black already has at least equality, P.Stuart-A.Ker, Wanganui 2003. **4...Qh4?!** Hartman tries to punish White for his

cheeky looking opening but the queen is misplaced. Black can also support the pawn with 4...g6 when D.Cramling-J.Malmstig, Stockholm 1993, continued: 5 gxf5 gxf5 6 Nh3 Nf6 7 Bg5 Be7 8 Qd2 h6 9 Bh4 d6 10 Nf4 threatening Ng6 with an edge. The capture with 4...fxg4 can be met by 5 Nxe4 or 5 Bg2 **5 gxf5 d6 6 Nh3 Bxf5 7 Qb3!** White targets the pawn on b7 to take advantage of the absence of black's light-squared bishop on c8. **7...Nd7** Also possible: 7 ...Bxh3 8 Qxb7 is an easy win and 7...b6 8 Bg5 Qh5 9 Nd5 Qf7 10 Qa4+ c6 11 Nxb6 is much better for White. **8 Bg5 Qh5 9 Nd5 Bxh3** If 9...Rc8 then 10 Qxb7 gives White an excellent game. **10 Nxc7+ Kf7 11 Qxh3 1-0** Black did not wait to see 11...Qxh3 12 Bxh3 Rc8 13 Be6+! Kg6 14 Rg1 winning.

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