

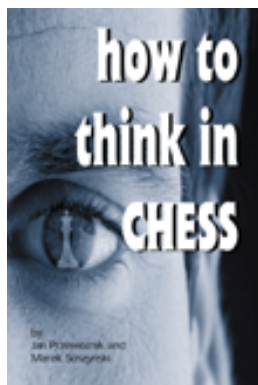
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## COLUMNISTS

*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!*

## Identity

One of the biggest problems in the opening is happily playing your beloved line on the board only for an opponent to sneakily steer the game into something completely different. The problem of transposition continues to catch people out and here is the latest example:

**Anbu Damodaran** from **Marlborough, Massachusetts** says, "I am having problems with the anti-Colle line 1 d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3 e3 f5. Which is the best approach here? To play the mainline Dutch with 4 c4 or to counter the Stonewall with 4 Ne5 and 5 f4?

Well, it takes a brave player to play 1...d5 only then to change his mind and slip into a Dutch Defence. I suspect not that many people are well armed with such a varied repertoire to respond to the Colle. After all, if a club player wants to play the Dutch then it is easier to play 1...f5. However, I understand your concerns and have obviously come up against this defence. I hope the following game points you in the right direction:



## **Csaba Nagy-Balazs Molnar Hajduboszormeny 2001**

**1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 e6 3 e3 f5 4 Bd3** White could just transpose into the main Stonewall Dutch lines by playing c4 and employing a kingside fianchetto. However, that would allow Black to get away with a cheeky offer to switch openings after just 3 moves. A better choice is to allow the Dutch pawn structure but to play something a little different. It is worth noting that **4 c4 Nf6 5 Bd3** simply transposes. **4...Nf6 5 c4 c6 6 0-0 Bd6 7 Ne5**



The advantage of White's set-up is that he is able to employ a sort of Colle system which will at least be familiar territory. If nothing else there is no danger of Black springing a tactical surprise in the opening.

**7...0-0 8 b3** The queenside fianchetto will be good news to followers of the Colle-Zukertort. In this case a bishop on b2 can help to strengthen the hold on e5 or even introduce the option of Ba3 to exchange the influential bishop on d6. The old game S.Flohr-M.Euwe, Berne 1932, saw White continue with **8 f4 Nbd7 9 Nc3 Ne4** (9...Bxe5 is less convincing when 10 fxe5 Ne4 11 Qh5 is promising for White) **10 Bd2 Nxd2 11 Qxd2 Nf6 12 c5 Bc7 13 b4** with a slight edge thanks to the possibility of play on the queenside. **8...Qe7 8...Nbd7 9 f4** (for experienced Colle players it is an instinctive reaction to push the f-pawn to protect the knight on e5) **9...Qe7 10 a4 Ne4 11 Ba3 Bxa3 12 Nxa3 Nef6 13 Nxd7 Bxd7 14 c5 Be8 15 b4** with roughly equal chances, A. Gronn-R.Skytte, Oslo 1999. **9 Bb2 Bd7 10 Nd2 Be8 11 f3 Bh5 12 Qe1 c5 13 Qh4 Nc6** Finally Black catches up on development but now White has arranged to breakout with a timely e3-e4. **14 Nxc6 bxc6 15 e4**



**15...Bg6?** Black goes astray. 15...fxe4 It is necessary to first play 16 fxe4 and only then 16...Bg6 to pin the e-pawn. **16 e5 Nd7 17 Qf2** I hope nobody thought of 17 exd6?? when 17...Qxh4 is embarrassing. **17...Bc7 18 Ba3 Rfd8 19 f4 Ba5 20 cxd5 cxd5 21 dxc5** White is a safe pawn up and in control of the position. **21...Bc3 22 Rac1 d4 23 Nc4 a5? 24 c6 1-0**

My name is **Andy Voss** (USA USCF-1548) and I have an opening question. I play the Nimzowitsch Defense (1e4 Nc6) and have been troubled by the 2 Nf3 variation...the declined variation. The main lines haven't given me much trouble, just a side variation not mentioned in my book by Tim Harding.

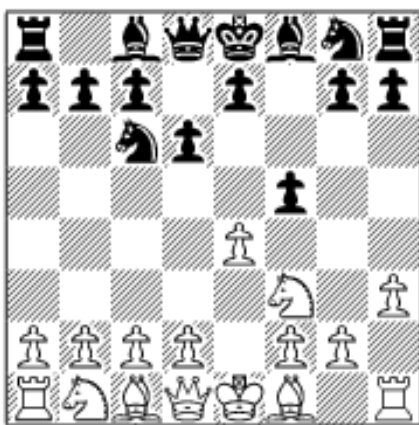
The variation goes: 1 e4 Nc6 2 Nf3 d6 3 h3!? One of the good things about playing ...d6 is that you can pin the knight with ...Bg4. In speed chess I can get away with 3...a6, but in the two longer rated games that I have played with it I have been beaten, because I was developing too slowly. So lately I have been looking at two other options; 3...e5 and 3...f5!? I would say that ...e5 is good because there is not a move that doesn't transpose to an open game where white has wasted a move with h3 and black has played a fairly solid ...d6. The reason that I don't like ...e5 is because of 4 Bc4 when if I want to play 4...Nf6, 5 Ng5 gains white the move back, so then I balk at 3...e5, though admittedly maybe for no good reason. Then I take a look at 3...f5, which I believe is a stronger move. The idea is to get a tempo for development; obviously this is not always possible with things like 4.Nc3, but it does trade the center pawn for the side pawn (albeit the f-pawn). My question is; should I play for the initiative with 3...f5 or

should I go with the more structural 3...e5?

I thought that 3 h3 would be played a handful of times but was surprised to discovered that numerous strong players have tried it. Therefore, I think your idea of trying to breakout with 3...f5 is rather premature. There are times when you have the Black pieces where a little patience is required. If you are not convinced try to spot how Black can improve in the next example:

***Vladimir Sergeev-Marian Kantorik Sala 1995***

**1 e4 Nc6 2 Nf3 d6 3 h3** I assume the idea for pushing forward the f-pawn comes from the line 3 d4 f5 4 exf5 Bxf5 However, this mini-disaster for Black is further evidence of its limited appeal. The game continued: 5 d5 Nb4 (5...Ne5 6 Nd4 Qc8 7 Nc3 is better for White) 6 Nd4 Qd7 7 Qf3 e6? (7...c6 is probably the best in the circumstances but White is already on top) 8 Qb3 Nxc2+ 9 Nxc2 Bxc2 10 Qxb7 1-0 J.Aldrete Lobo-A. Dunne, Correspondence 1987. **3...f5**



**4 exf5 Bxf5 5 d4 e5** Black has to act quickly before White has the chance to play d4-d5 and then Nd4. Or 5...e6 6 Bd3 Bxd3 7 Qxd3 Qd7 8 Nc3 Nf6 9 Bg5 Be7 10 0-0-0 gave White the slightly better chances in E.Wagenmakers-O.Rubingh, Leeuwarden 1995. **6 Bb5 e4 7 d5 exf3 8 dxc6 Qe7+ 9 Be3 b6 10 g4 Be4 11 Nc3 0-0-0** It certainly looks reckless to castle queenside when his light-squares have already been severely weakened. **12 Qd4 Bxc2? 13 Ba4! Bg6 13...Bxa4 14 Qxa4 a5 15 Qc4** when the threat of mate will force resignation. **14 Qc4 Re8 15 Qa6+ Kd8 16 Qxa7**



It is fair to say the opening has been a complete success for White and a nightmare for Black. **16...Qe6 17 0-0-0 Nf6 18 Bxb6** Sergeev is now just showing off! **18...Qc8** Or **18...cxb6 19 c7+ Kc8 20 Qb8 mate. 19 Nb5 Re2 20 Nxc7 Nxg4 21 hxg4** 21

Ne6+! leads to quick victory

upon **21...Ke8 22 Qd7+ Qxd7 23 cxd7+ Kf7 24 Ng5+ Kf6 25 d8Q+ winning. 21...Be7 22 Nd5+ Ke8 23 Qd7+ Kf7 24 Nxe7 1-0**

I think a better idea is to enter a Pirc, which offers a certain amount of security. It also means that because White has already played h3 there are fewer lines to learn.

### ***Tomislav Lukic-Zvonimir Mestrovic Zadar 1997***

**1 e4 Nc6 2 Nf3 d6 3 h3 Nf6 4 Nc3 g6** Black is happy to enter the Pirc knowing that an early h3 has restricted White's options. Or **4...e5 5 d4 exd4 6 Nxd4 g6** (a line that can occur in the Scotch and tends to transpose to the Pirc) **7 Bb5 Bd7 8 0-0 Bg7 9 Bxc6 bxc6 10 Bf4 0-0 11 Qd2 Re8** with equal chances, A.Payen-A.Shchekachev, Cannes 1995. **5 d4 Bg7 6 Be2**



This position can arise from a Pirc move-order after **1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Be2 0-0 6 h3**. Also possible: **6 Bg5 h6 7 Be3 a6 8 Qd2 b5 9 a3** with a slight edge, M.Finster-J.Uschold, Bayern 2002. **6...0-0 7 Bg5** In 1972 the Danish GM Bent Larsen was considered one

of the strongest players in the West after a certain Mr.

Fischer. Therefore, it is interesting to see how he handles the Black pieces against Allan Savage at the USA open. That game went: 7 0-0 b6 8 Be3 Bb7 9 a4 e6 10 Re1 Nb4 11 Bd3 Nxd3 12 Qxd3 d5 13 e5 Ne4 14 Nd2!? (14 a5 should be considered) 14...c5 15 Qe2 Nxc3 16 bxc3 Qc7 17 Qg4 Rae8 (Black is just making sure he makes no mistakes and keeps his options open) 18 Nf3 f5 19 Qf4 h6 20 h4 Rf7 21 Ra2 Bf8 22 Raa1 Bc6 23 Reb1 Rc8 24 Rb2 Be8 25 Nd2 Be7 26 Nf3 Rh7 27 g3 Qd8 28 Kg2 cxd4 29 Bxd4 g5 0-1. **7...h6 8 Be3 e5 9 Qd2?! 9 d5** looks like a reasonable alternative. **9...exd4 10 Nxd4 Nxd4 11 Bxd4 Re8 12 f3**



Although f2-f3 is played in these sort of lines it looks a bit odd when combined with a pawn already on h3.

**12...Nh5** Mestrovic is rated 2430 so can be expected to seize the chance to exploit the weak dark square on g3.

**13 0-0-0 Bxd4 14 Qxd4 Qg5+ 15 Kb1 Be6 16 g4**

**Nf4** The knight has a strong outpost on f4 which will mean that the White attack will be blunted. **17 Bc4?** Oops!



**17... c5 0-1**

**Oddvar Raugstad** writes from **Norway**, "I am a student and very interested in chess. I guess my playing strength is about 1500+ in over the board chess and between 2000 and 2500 in correspondence chess. I am

very interested in opening theory and have made my own analysis of an opening. If it is not played before I

would like to call it Kings Gambit: Raugstad Variation against 6...Nxe4 in the Fischer Defence. 1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 d6 4 Bc4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Be7 6 d4 Nxe4 7 Bxf7+! Kxe7 8 Nxe4.

The Fischer Defence in the king's Gambit has been accepted as a critical test of the King's Gambit ever since the former world champion gave it his seal of approval by recommending 3...d6 in the 1960s. The line when Black plays 6...Nxe4 is a little bit obscure but certainly worth a look:

**1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 d6 4 Bc4 Be7 5 d4 Nf6 6 Nc3 Nxe4**



**7 Bxf7+!?** The attraction of the move is to force Black to give up the right to castle and thus expose the black king to the traditional attack associated with the Kings Gambit. **7...Kxf7 8 Nxe4 Rf8!** This is the point of Black's play. It is possible to rapidly move the king to

safety with a simple manoeuvre. **9 Bxf4** Or 9 0-0 Kg8 gives Black the initiative because White has to find a way to win the pawn on f4. **9...Kg8 10 Qd2** The position is about equal. However, I slightly favour Black due to his pair of bishops and the fact that he has managed to safely defend his king.

The Raugstad Variation needs to be tested further perhaps by Oddvar in some correspondence games! In the meantime a quick look at alternatives to 7 Bxf7+ produced the following game which has been printed before and been given as a way for White to quickly win. However, that is good news for Black because there are flaws in the game that might gift someone an easy

point.

***Josef Mittermeier-Christoph Lex Berlin 1992***

**1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 d6 4 Bc4 Nf6** 4...Be6 has the merit of reducing the influence of White's traditionally aggressive light-squared bishop. The only thing is that after **5 Bxe6 fxe6 6 d4** Black needs to play positively with 6...Nf6 or 6...Qf6. Instead the game A.Loginov-E.Pribylnova, St Petersburg 2002, continued 6...Nh6?! **7 Bxf4 Nf7 8 c3 Be7 9 Qb3 Qc8 10 0-0 0-0 11 Nbd2** with more space and the brighter prospects. **5 Nc3 Be7 6 d4 6 0-0** is the main alternative. **6...Nxe4** Black is keen to break up the central pawns at the earliest opportunity. **7 Nxe4 d5 8 Bb3** This is certainly played in the spirit of the King's Gambit by keeping the bishop on the a2-g8 diagonal. However, shedding another pawn is pointless unless a forcing line brings dividends for White. **8 Bd3** is the sensible reply to regain the pawn when **8...dxe4 9 Bxe4 Bd6 10 Qd3** temporarily stopping Black from castling which gave White a slight plus in D.Smerdon-T.Rej, Canberra 2003. **8...dxe4 9 Ne5 0-0 10 Qh5 Be6 10...Qe8** is less impressive because the queen no longer targets the d4 pawn. For instance: **11 Bxf4 Nd7 12 0-0** offers equal chances. **11 Bxe6 fxe6 12 Qg4 Rf6!?** **12...Rf5!** is a much sterner defence because it blocks the white queen access to the e6 pawn and in some variations will increase the pressure on the knight. Play might continue: **13 Bxf4 Qxd4 14 c3 Qd5** with a clear advantage. **13 Bxf4 Qxd4 14 c3 Qb6 15 0-0-0 Bd6 16 Rhf1**





**16...Bxe5??** One casual move and the position shatters into pieces. White can now contemplate a forced mate while Black can just watch in despair. Instead 16...Qa6! is an excellent idea to keep an eye on the rook f1 and threaten to wreck havoc by taking the a-pawn.

For instance 17 Kb1 Nc6 18 Nxc6 bxc6 is better for White. **17 Rd8+ Kf7** If 17...Rf8 then 18 Bxe5 wins. **18 Qh5+ Rg6 19 Bxe5+ Ke7 20 Qh4+ 1-0**

**Garth Sylbing** from **Amsterdam, Holland** e-mailed to say “My question is about the Vienna Game especially the line: 1e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 Qg4! and you state in your book that this is an excellent move but Fritz just plays 4...Nd4 and what to do next? 5 Qxg7 Qf6 and White does not seem to have anything better than take on f6 and black is very ok in my opinion. Is 4...Nd4 the refutation of 4 Qg4? A refutation of an old established line? It can't be true or can it?

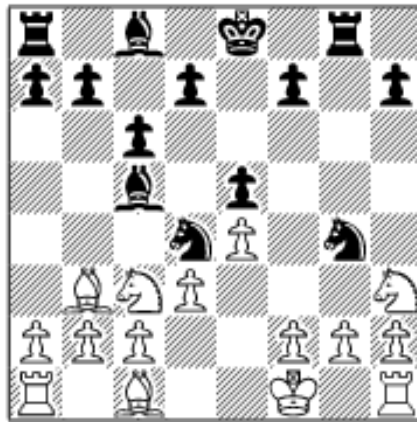
**1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 Qg4 Nd4!?**



I have to admit when I first saw this move mentioned I thought it has to be hopeless but now it is not so clear. I have a lot of literature about the Vienna and the usual computer databases but I have yet to find anyone brave another to give up a pawn. In the past this

position has been defended by great players who have generally chosen 5...g6 or 5 ...Kf8 to hang on to the g-pawn. **5 Qxg7** Instead 5 Nd5 is the cautious response

when 5...Nxc2+? (5...g6! 6 Qd1 intending c2-c3 is another option offering equal chances) 6 Kd1 Nxa1 7 Qxg7 wins. **5...Qf6 6 Qxf6 Nxf6 7 Bb3 Rg8** Black is relying on active piece play to compensate for the pawn. In the short-term it looks a decent idea but I suspect that careful defence by White will simply triumph. **8 Kf1 Ng4 9 Nh3 c6 10 d3**



White is a pawn up but still has to do some work to get his pieces active. On the other hand Black has to play at a high level to maintain the initiative. I would not be surprised to see this line tried out sometime soon. I suspect there are a few of you who are still wondering about this

line from the Vienna Game so here is an entertaining example:

***Nguyen Hoang Hiep -Benjamin Hooi Ming Yew Asian Junior Championships Singapore 2002***

**1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 Qg4!** It certainly looks odd but this is a special case where a queen can be developed early in the game. **4...Qf6?!** This is known as a classic mistake but it might change with Garth's suggestion. Black defends the g7 pawn and threatens to start his own attack with ...Qxf2+ but the only problem is that a well read player with the White pieces will be ready to strike. **4...g6 5 Qf3 Nf6** (5...Qf6 is also possible) **6 Nge2 d6 7 d3 h6 8 Na4 Na5 9 Nxc5 Nxc4 10 dxc4 dxc5 11 Be3 Qe7? 12 Bxc5** with a clear advantage, R.Jossien-A.Houriez, Bethune 2002. **5 Nd5!**



The start of a brilliant attack that has been known for years but still continues to catch people out. **5...Qxf2+ 6 Kd1 Kf8 6...Nf6** has been tried and failed. For instance: 7 Qxg7 Rg8? (or 7...Nxd5 8 Qxh8+ Bf8 9 exd5 Qxg2 10 dxc6 d6 11 cxb7 Bg4+ 12 Ke1 is winning for White,

Fidelity-Shirazi, Somerset 1986) 8 Nxf6+ Kd8 9 Qxg8+ Ke7 10 Qxf7+ Kd6 11 Ne8 mate 1-0 S.Swiercz-N.Guille, La Fere 2003. Also possible: 6...g6 7 Nh3 Qd4 8 d3 Bd6 9 c3 Qc5 10 b4 when White is winning, C. Milla de Marco-S.Rodriguez Alvarez, Orense 2002. **7 Nh3 Qd4 8 d3 d6** Basically Black is in big trouble whatever he does. In the game V.Ip-L.Benassayag, Brie Comte 2002, Black continued 8...Bb6 when White came out on top upon 9 Qf3 f6 10 c3 (as usual White gains time by chasing the queen around the board) 10...Qc5 11 b4 Qd6 12 a4 a5 13 Nxb6 cxb6 14 bxa5 bxa5 15 Ba3 with a winning pin. **9 Qf3 Bxh3 10 Rf1!**



The rook comes across to the f-file and it finally dawns on Black that he is busted! The threat now is mate on f7 and the sly c2-c3 trapping the black queen in the middle of the board. **10...Bg4** I had some experience in this line and I can tell you only White is smiling. For instance:

10...Be6 11 c3 Qg1 12 Rxcg1 Bxcg1 13 Nxc7 1-0 G.Lane-S.Lack, Brussels rapidplay 2000. **11 Qxg4 Bb6 12 c3 Qc5 13 Be3 Qa5 14 Nxb6 Nf6 14...axb6** allows 15 Rxf7+ Ke8 16 Qd7 mate. **15 Rxf6 1-0**

Has anyone else found a new improved line with the

computer? If so send them to me!

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