



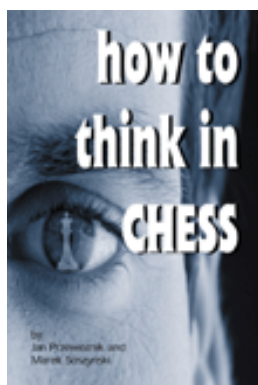
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COLUMNISTS

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!

The T-Factor

One of the mysteries of playing chess on the Internet is when your opponent in a five-minute game has difficulty transmitting his or her move for a couple of minutes.

This has been referred to as time lag, a blip and various other names. It is probably time for the chess world to acknowledge this phenomenon and officially name it the T-Factor.

This term would partly help to explain **Mike Amori's** question from the **USA** after he was inspired to write after reading last month's column: "It seems that Queen g4 line in the symmetrical Vienna is getting a lot of attention. I have played this a number of times on the net and tried it out from the Black side. I played my bishop back to f8 and watched my opponent use 2 minutes to reply. I am not giving the game because of the time control but it seems that White does not have much. Black threatens to move the d pawn against the Queen and also play Knight d4. Both winning back his tempos. Did I find something important or am I missing something obvious?"

It is probably best if I make things a little clearer for



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everybody by revealing that the position occurs after 1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 Qg4 when Mike is proposing 4...Bf8. I am happy to say that the 2 minutes wasted on the clock were due to the T-Factor. This is the name given to describe the moment on Internet chess when your opponent stops moving for no apparent reason. I have made extensive enquires (mainly in the bar) at tournaments and discovered the reason for this bizarre happening. It turns out that 2 minutes is needed to make a cup of tea and I suspect that after 4...Bf8 White would have also cheerfully prepared a plate of biscuits!

Joost Berkvens-Gerald Goossen Leiden1997

1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 Qg4!? Bf8



This is Mike's astounding move, which looks like Black is determined to put his pieces back to their original squares. Mike mentioned that his opponent took 2 minutes to make a move which could be because the move was so amazing that he could not

think of anything to cope with the threat of 4...d5 with a discovered attack against the queen which wins a piece. However, I think it is much more likely it was down to the T-Factor. **5 Qg3** I prefer White's position because the queen is not only actively placed but also safe. Also with the queen on g3 the black knight cannot move because otherwise the e5 pawn can be taken. The thing is if Black kindly asked his opponent to make another move after 3 Bc4 and White suddenly put a queen on g3 you would be impressed. This is effectively what has happened. Instead, 5 Qf3 Qf6 6 Nd5 Qxf3 7 Nxf3 gives White a slight edge. **5...d6** Or 5...Nf6 6 Nf3 Nh5 7 Qg5 Qxg5 8 Nxg5 f6 9 Nf7 Na5 10 Nxh8 (if you are going to

take the rook on 8 then an improved line is 10 Bd5! c6 11 Nxb8 cxd5 12 Nxd5 with advantage to White) 10...Nxc4 11 d3 Nb6 12 g4 Nf4 13 Bxf4 exf4 14 h4 Bb4 15 h5 Kf8 when the black king was slowly moving towards the knight and he will soon have two pieces for a rook, J.Mieses-F.Marshall, Paris 1900. **6 Nf3** Instead H.Lang-A.Frank, Zagan 1997 continued: 6 Nge2 Nf6 7 d3 Be6 8 Bb5 a6 9 Bxc6+ bxc6 10 f4 exf4 (10...Nh5 11 Qf2 exf4 12 Nxf4 Nxf4 13 Bxf4 Be7 14 0-0 offers equal chances) 11 Nxf4 Qd7 12 0-0 gave White the superior chances; 6 d3 Nd4 (Black takes advantage of the fact that White has neglected to develop his king's knight by planting a knight on the influential d4 square) 7 Bb3 Nxb3 8 axb3 Be6 9 Nge2 Nf6 10 0-0 White has a slight edge but I will give the rest of the game because it involves a neat finish 10 ..Nh5 11 Qe3 a6 12 f4 Nxf4 13 Nxf4 exf4 14 Qxf4 Be7 15 Be3 0-0 16 Ne2 Qd7 17 Ng3 d5 18 h3 f6 19 exd5 Bxd5 20 Nf5 Rfe8? 21 Qg4! Bc5 22 Nh6+ and White wins, E.De Kleuver-A.Koster, Dieren 1991. **6...Be6 7 Bb5 a6** White needs no encouragement to take the knight so he would do well to consider 7...Nf6. **8 Bxc6+ bxc6 9 0-0 Ne7 10 d4** Berkvens has a pleasant position with the better chances. **10...exd4 11 Nxd4 Qd7** If 11...g6?! to try to fianchetto on the kingside then 12 Bg5 is very good with the threats 13 Nxc6 or 13 Bf6. **12 f4 f5 13 Re1** White is generating threats on the e-file and Black's congested pieces are no help in the defence. **13...fxe4 14 Nxe4 Bd5 15 Qd3 c5 16 Nf5!**



16...Bb7? 17 Nxd6+! 1-0

Marino Kuper from the **Netherlands** wants to know if it is possible to play the London System against the Slav move order 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 c6.

The short answer is yes. The reason why some books (including my own) do not mention every single move-order is because there are numerous ways to transpose to similar lines. Therefore, at some point the author has to make the lines easy to follow. An obvious example is when someone writes about the Dragon. There will be some games that start with 1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 d6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 d4 cxd4 5 Nxd4 but it is easier to start every main game with 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3. Of course, important move-order ideas should be mentioned.

Orest Gritsak-Timo Lampen Halkidiki 2002

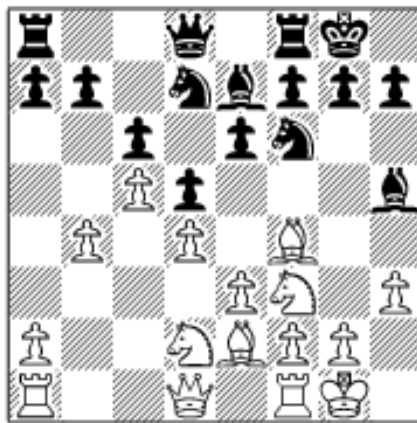
1 Nf3 A good example of how various move-orders can reach the desired position and this one only takes place after 2 moves! **1...d5 2 d4 c6 3 Bf4 Nf6 4 e3**



White has declared his intention to play the London System by developing his queen's bishop and is now preparing Bd3, followed by castling kingside. Or 4 Nbd2 Bf5 5 e3 e6 6 c4 Be7 7 Be2 0-0 8 0-0 h6 9 Qb3 Qb6 10 Qc3 (10 c5 Qxb3 11 axb3 offers equal chances)

10...dxc4 11 Nxc4 Qa6?! 12 Qe1! Qa4 (12...b5 13 Nd6 Bg6 14 a4 is good news for White) 13 Nd6 Bxd6 14 Bxd6 Re8 15 b3 1-0 G.Wijesuriya-H.Al Mutwae, Aden

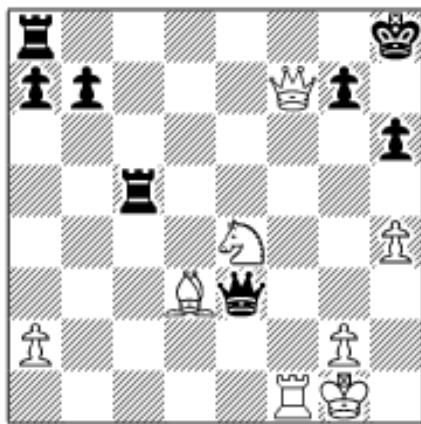
2002. **4...Qb6** Black has a variety of alternatives: 4...h6 is a little slow when Black should be developing his pieces 5 Bd3 e6 6 Nbd2 Bd6 7 Bg3 Qc7 8 c3 Nbd7 9 e4 e5 10 exd5 cxd5 11 dxe5 Nxe5 12 Nxe5 Bxe5 13 Qe2 Kd8 (or 13...Nd7 14 f4 winning) 14 Bxe5 led to an easy win in M.Esposito-S.Desfonds, French Team Championship 2002; 4...Bf5 5 c4 Bxb1 6 Rxb1 e5!? 7 dxe5 Bb4+ 8 Ke2 (8 Nd2?? is awful after 8...Ne4 with a winning advantage) 8...Ne4 9 a3 Be7 10 cxd5 cxd5 11 Nd2 Nc5 12 Nb3 Nc6 gave Black compensation for the pawn because the king on e2 looks silly, C.Crouch-K.Ozeren, British Team Championship 2003; 4...Bg4 5 Be2 e6 6 Nbd2 Bd6 7 Bxd6 (perhaps 7 Bg3 should be considered) 7...Qxd6 8 0-0 Nbd7 9 c4 0-0 10 h3 Bxf3 11 Bxf3 a5 (Black is keen to cut out the option of White smoothly advancing his queenside pawns) 12 b3 e5 13 cxd5 cxd5 14 dxe5 Nxe5 15 Be2 Rfc8 16 Qb1 Qa3 17 Nf3 ½-½ L.Psakhis-A.Baburin, Torshavn 2000. **5 b3 5 Qc1** is also a decent line. **5...Bg4** Also possible: 5...Bf5 6 Bd3 White is prepared to exchange bishops aiming to try to make the most of the small space advantage 6...Bxd3 7 Qxd3 e6 8 0-0 Be7 9 c4 Qa6 10 Nc3 0-0 11 Rfd1 gave White a slight edge in the heavyweight encounter I.Papaioannou-N.Mitkov, Bled Olympiad 2002. **6 Be2 Nbd7 7 h3 Bh5 8 0-0 e6 9 c4 Be7 10 Nbd2 0-0 11 c5 Qd8 12 b4**



This idea of a pawn storm on the queenside often occurs when Black brings his queen out early to the b6 square. The positional combination of c4-c5 followed by b2-b4 is worth remembering for both sides. **12...h6 13 b5 cxb5 14 Bxb5 Ne4 15 Qb3 Nxd2 16 Nxd2 Bg6 17 Rfc1**

e5?! Lampen tries to complicate matters but with accurate play White should emerge with the advantage.

17...Nf6 is the best bet in the circumstances but White still has the better chances. **18 Qxd5** White picks up an extra pawn. I prefer 18 Bxd7! exf4 (18...Qxd7 19 Bxe5 leaves White a pawn up for nothing) 19 Qxb7 fxe3 20 fxe3 Bg5 21 Re1! (21 Nf1 Be4! 22 c6 Rb8 23 Qxa7 Rb2 actually wins for Black) 21...Bh4 22 Qxd5 Bxe1 23 Rxe1 when the passed c and d pawns gives White a winning advantage. **18...exf4 19 Qxd7 fxe3 20 fxe3 Bg5** Black is doing well to conjure up some counterplay. **21 Nf1 Qa5 22 Bc4 Be4 23 h4 Bf6** Of course, 23...Bxh4? is doomed upon 24 Qg4 winning a piece. **24 Qg4 Rfe8 25 Ng3** 25 Rd1 to keep the queen out of d2 only allows 25...Qc3 26 Bb3 Rad8 when Black's active queen is annoying for White. **25...Qd2 26 Nxe4 Qxe3+ 27 Nf2 Bxd4 28 Qf5 Bxa1 29 Rxa1 Re5 30 Qxf7+ Kh8 31 Bd3** After the series of exchanges White has emerged with good, winning chances. **31...Qg3 32 Rf1 Rxc5 33 Ne4 Qe3+**



34 Kh2? 34 Kh1 is a better choice when after 34...Qxd3 35 Nxc5 there is no check for Black to win the knight compared to the actual game. **34...Qxd3 35 Nxc5 Qd6+ 36 g3 Qxc5 37 Qxb7 Re8 38 Qf3 Qe7 39 Rf2 Qe5 1/2-1/2**

Jan Pot from Antwerp,

Belgium has been studying the Alekhine and has come up against a seemingly strange move and wants some answers. He says "I'm wondering about this line 1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 Nf3 Nc6 5 Bb5 following the 'book' Black's (only!) reply is 5...a6 followed in a current game by 6 Bxc6+ bxc6. Both my Fritz8 & Fritz Powerbook 2002 give as the only move a6, whereas I wonder whether (or not!) Bd7 would be a natural reply (as my intuition tells me), instead of doubling my c-pawns. Although Fritz doesn't 'know' 5...Bd7, it gives it

the same slight advantage to White as in the book move 5...a6.

**Waldemar Mueller-Gerhard Mueller Baden
Championship Leimen 2001**

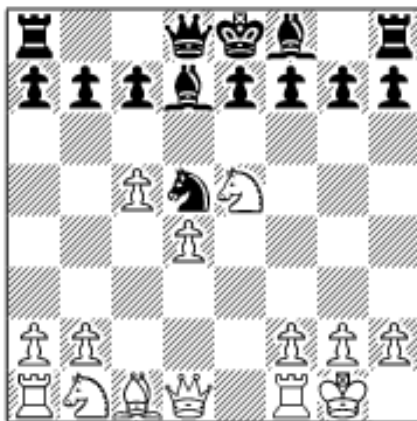
1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 Nf3 Nc6 5 Bb5!?



This is considered a minor side-line and little attention has been given to it. 5 c4 is considered the easiest way to obtain an advantage when 5...Nb6 6 e6!? is the start of an interesting pawn sacrifice designed to give White the initiative. For instance:

6...fxe6 7 Ng5 Qd7? (7...e5 is a better idea) 8 Bd3 g6 9 Nxh7 gave White a clear advantage in G.Rajevic-M.Jovanovic, Belgrade 2003. **5...Bd7** I do not think Black should be bothered about conceding the doubled pawns. It might seem strange when some textbooks preach that doubled pawns are weak but there are plenty of exceptions. An obvious one that springs to mind is the Exchange Ruy Lopez, which occurs after 1 e4 e5 2 Bf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bxc6 dxc6. In that position it is considered about equal and the doubled pawns are the price worth paying to have the bishop pair. In the Alekhine the prospect of doubled pawns is fine because it bolsters the centre and eases congestion. For instance: 5...a6 6 Bxc6+ (6 Ba4 is met by 6...Nb6) 6...bxc6 7 c4 Nb6 8 b3 Bg4 9 O-O e6 10 Be3 Be7 11 h3 Bh5 12 Nbd2 O-O 13 Re1 Nd7 14 exd6 cxd6 with equal chances, P.Marusenko-A.Nosenko, Monmouth 2001. **6 c4 Nb6 7 O-O** 7 e6!? fxe6 8 Ng5 e5 9 Qh5+ g6 10 Qf3 the difference with lines stemming from 5 c4 Nb6 6 e6 is that with the bishop on d7 this extra move means that White is now threatening mate 10...Qc8 11 Qf7+ Kd8 12 Bxc6 Bxc6 (perhaps 12...bxc6!?) 13 Ne6+ Kd7 14 d5 with a clear advantage,

G.Askew-E.McNeill, Internet 1995; 7 Nc3 Na5 8 Bxd7+ (8 e6! fxe6 9 Ng5 looks strong) 8...Qxd7 9 b3 0-0-0 10 0-0 f6 11 Bd2 Nc6 12 e6! gave White the superior chances in F.Zimmermann-F.Eberhardt, St Ingbert 1987. **7...dxe5** 7...a6 8 Bxc6 bxc6 9 b3 Bg4 10 Nbd2 e6 Black sensibly catches up on kingside development 11 Bb2 Be7 12 h3 Bh5 13 Ne4 0-0 led to equal chances in N.Nesterenko-R.Kaskevich, Tomsk 2001. **8 Bxc6 Bxc6** Now 8...bxc6 is a case of having some poor doubled pawns after 9 Nxe5 because without a pawn on d6 the pawn on c6 is particularly weak. **9 Nxe5 Bd7 10 c5** White has a forcing combination that will tip the game in his favour. **10...Nd5**



11 Nxf7! Kxf7 12 Qh5+ g6 12...Ke6 13 Re1+ Ne3 14 Rxe3+ Kf6 15 Rf3+ Bf5 16 Qxf5 mate. **13 Qxd5+ e6 14 Qxb7** White is a couple of pawns up for nothing and is hot favourite to win. **14...Rb8 15 Qf3+ Ke8 16 Nc3 Bg7** It is to his credit that Black has not given up

but it is difficult to see any counterplay. **17 d5 Rf8 18 Qe4 e5 19 f4 Bf5 20 Qe2 e4 21 Nxe4 Qe7 22 Re1 Kd7 23 Qa6 Bd4+ Or 23...Bxe4 24 Qa4+ Kc8 25 Rxe4 Qxc5+ 26 Be3 Qxd5 27 Rd1 Qb5 28 Qxa7 wins. 24 Be3 Qxe4 25 Qa4+ Kc8 26 Bxd4** Black is doomed with his king so exposed to attack. It is just a question of how White will triumph. **26...Qxd5 26...Qxf4** is not much help upon 27 Qa6+ Kd8 28 Bf6+ Kd7 29 Re7+ Kd8 30 Re4+ Rxf6 31 Qxf6+ Kc8 32 Re8+ Kb7 33 Qc6 mate. **27 Re5 Qf7 28 Rae1 Bd7 29 c6 Bf5 30 Bc5 1-0**

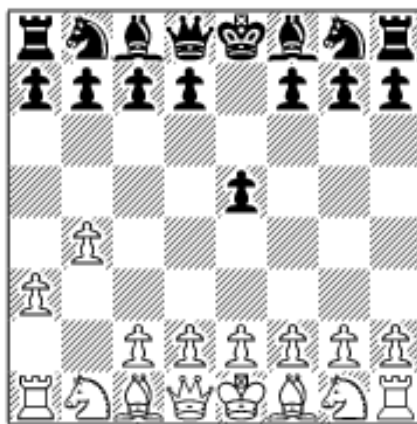
And finally “Hi, my name is **Kevin Gute** and I'm in the **USA**. I've been thinking a lot about how the same openings always occur over and over and over, and if one could come up with a unique and sound opening it

would be very successful, especially in fast games. What do you think about 1 a3 e5 2 b4 d5 3 d3 (or 1 a3 d5 2 b4 e5 3 d3)? I've been playing 1 a3 for a while and I've found that most black players either go with 1 ...d5 or 1 ...e5. I think 1 a3 is a very interesting move in any opening, though, because you can just play out the game as if you are black and your opponent is white, except you have the advantage of a pawn sitting at a3.”

I have to admit that 1 a3 has been played by a number of strong players that I know who wish to play the black side of the opening. The astute idea is try to steer the game to a position where the pawn on a3 is a positive bonus. Kevin's opening strategy seems to be to play what looks like a silly move and then transpose back to the relatively known opening that normally occurs after 1 b4 e5 2 a3. However, with Kevin's move-order you are to be rewarded with a huge smile from your opponent and an extra five minutes on the clock.

Vladimir Poley-Olivier De Marchi Avoine 2003

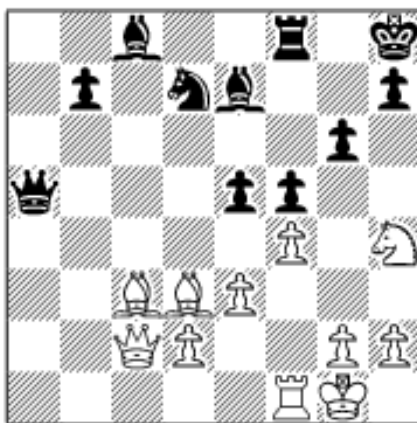
1 b4 e5 2 a3



Of course this position also arises using Kevin's move-order of 1 a3 e5 2 b4. **2...d5 3 Bb2 3 e3 Be6 4 Bb2 f6** (4...Nc6?! allows 5 b5 Na5 6 Bxe5 with advantage to White) 5 c4 dxc4 6 Qc2 b5 7 d3 c5 8 dxc4 bxc4 9 Bxc4 Bxc4 10 Qxc4 cxb4 11 axb4 Ne7 12 Nc3 Nd7? 13 Nb5

1–0 M.Schuett-S.Schulz Streeck, Neumuenster 1997; 3 d3 is less ambitious because White tends to play a system revolving around Bb2, e3 and c4 with the idea that if Black takes on c4 then Bxc4 activates another bishop. Therefore with d3 that option is ruled out. **3...Bd6 4 Nf3 4 e3 Be6 5 f4** (White is determined to put

pressure on the e5 pawn) 5...f6 6 fxe5 fxe5 7 Bxe5? Qh4+ (7...Bxe5? 8 Qh5+ Kd7 9 Qxe5 is better for White) 8 g3 Qe4 9 Nf3 Bg4 10 Bxg7 (or 10 Bg2 Bxe5 leaves Black a piece up) 10...Bxf3 11 Bd3 Qg4 12 Bf5 Bxg3+ 0–1 B.Papp-T.Kulcsar, Budapest 1984. **4...Nd7 5 e3 Ngf6 6 c4 c6 7 Nc3 0–0 8 Qb3?! 8 cxd5!?** is a more accurate continuation when 8...cxd5 9 Qb3 e4 10 Nd4 is about equal. **8...a5** 8...e4 is worth looking at when 9 Nd4 dxc4 10 Bxc4 Ne5 is better for Black. **9 cxd5 axb4 10 axb4 Rxa1+ 11 Bxa1 cxd5 12 Nxd5 Nxd5 13 Qxd5 Bxb4 14 Bb5** After the exchanges White has emerged with a slight initiative. **14...Qa5 15 0–0 Nb6 16 Qd3 f6 17 Qb3+ Kh8 18 Bd3 Nd7** If 18...Qa4 offering an ending then White can try 19 Qb1 trying to engineer some kingside pressure. **19 Qc2 g6 20 Nh4 f5 21 f4 Be7 22 Bc3**



22...Qc7? Black resigned before seeing on the board 23 Bxe5+ Nxe5 24 Qxc7. **1–0**

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