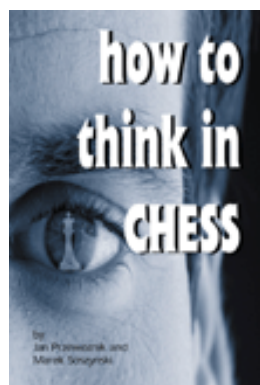




## COLUMNISTS

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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 Greek Gift

The books say we should look at the games of the great players and learn from them by absorbing the many lessons of each dynamic encounter. **Dimitris**

**Skyrianoglou** from **Athens, Greece** has done that with the heavyweight grandmaster encounter Radjabov-Naiditsch in Dortmund and his conclusion is that Black played like a club player!

He says "I have a question regarding the so called Torre Attack, i.e., the position occurring after 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 Bg5. I play the black side of this position and a couple of times that I encountered it in my games I had a difficult time. What bothers me more with these openings (e.g., Colle system, London System, Torre Attack) is that I consider them somewhat artificial. Regardless of what Black does, White will always develop his pieces in the same manner with the same standard manoeuvres and the standard attacking plans! This is not very creative I think! In any case, my question is: what is your suggestion against the Torre? I believe that plans including ...d5, Nbd7, Be7, 0-0 are not quite adequate for equality (especially ...0-0 looks very dangerous for Black). I saw a plan with 3...c5 and



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4...Qb6 that seems interesting but is quite tactical for my liking. I also saw the lines with 3...h6 which are somewhat more positional.

Is there any quiet road to equality for black in this opening? I know that there might not be a concrete answer to my question but I have to admit that the game Radjabov-Naiditsch in Dortmund somewhat rang me a bell! My personal opinion is that black lost almost without a battle in a game that could have been played in a friendly game between two club players rated around 2000! It appeared that the black position collapsed very easy in this opening (OK, Naiditsch seemed to be somewhat unaware of the position! Even I know that 11...0-0 in that position was almost suicide!) So, please is there any advice?"

It is true that the openings you mentioned are fairly easy for White to play. Indeed, it does seem that White just gets his pieces out and then attacks. It is certainly the case in the game you mentioned so lets take a closer look at that victory for White.

#### ***Teimour Radjabov-Arkadij Naiditsch Dortmund 2003***

**1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 Bg5 c5 4 e3 Be7** The alternative 4...Qb6 can be met by 5 Nbd2 or 5 Qc1. **5 Nbd2** It is also possible to delay developing the queen's knight in order to bring it out on c3. For example: 5 Bd3 b6 6 0-0 Bb7 7 c4 (7 c3 is still a reasonable choice) 7...0-0 8 Nc3 cxd4 9 exd4 h6 10 Bh4 d5 led to equal chances, N.Legky-C.Lutz, Clermont-Ferrand 2003. **5...d5 6 c3 Nbd7 7 Bd3 b6!? 8 Ne5**



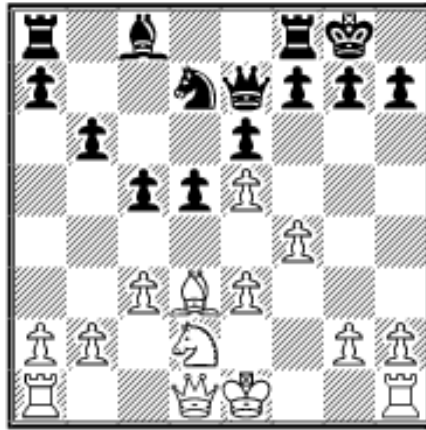
8 0-0 Bb7 9 Ne5 (9 Qa4 is the start of a sneaky trick which has caught out a number of players after 9...0-0 10 Ne5 cxd4 11 exd4 Nxe5? 12 dxe5 Nd7 13 Qh4! 1-0 L.Guidarelli-K.Steenkiste, Montlucon 1997. 9...Nxe5 10 dxe5 Nd7 11 Bxe7 Qxe7 12 f4 0-0-0

13 Nf3 f6 14 Bb5 a6 (14...fxe5 15 Bxd7+ Qxd7 16 Nxe5 Qe7 17 a4 gives White good chances due to the dominant knight on and opportunities to attack on the queenside) 15 Bxd7+ Rxd7 16 b4 d4?! 17 exd4 cxb4 18 Rb1 bxc3 19 Rxb6 Rc7 20 Qb3 Bxf3 21 gxf3 Rb7 22 Qxc3+ Kb8 23 Rfb1 1-0 M.Hebden-J.Simpson,Torquay 2002; 8 Qa4 0-0 9 Ne5 Nxe5? once again Black walks into a standard Torre opening trick 10 dxe5 Nd7 11 Qh4 1-0 J.Haenisch-J.Ellen, Recklinghausen 2000. **8...Nxe5** After 8 ..Bb7 9 f4 the pawn structure of c3,d4,e3,and f4 is generally known as the Stonewall pawn formation. It reminds me of numerous positions which arise in the Colle but the big difference is that the queen's bishop is not locked in behind the pawn structure on c1.

Therefore, this position must give White excellent attacking chances. 9...0-0 10 Qf3 h6 11 h4!? (11 Bh4 is also possible but the temptation to attack is difficult to resist ) 11 ..Ne8 12 Bxh6 gxh6 13 Qh5 f5 (13...Kg7 is met by 14 Rh3 when the black king is in trouble) 14 g4 Ng7 (14...Rf6 15 Rg1 Ng7 16 gxf5 is messy but over the board I would favour White's chances) 15 Qxh6 Rf6 16 Ng6 Rxd6 17 Qxd6 Nf8 18 Qh6 fxg4 19 0-0-0

White wishes to co-ordinate the rooks in order to step up the attack. 19 ..Nf5 20 Qh5 Nxe3 21 Rde1 cxd4 22 Rxe3 dxe3 23 Qxg4+ Kf7 24 Qh5+ Kf6 25 Qe5+ (25 Nf3! but White was probably in time-trouble because in those days Anand played his games at such speed you always suspected he was late for a train) 25...Kf7 26 Qh5+ Kf6

27 Nf3 Bd6 28 Qh6+ Ke7 29 Qg7+ Ke8 30 Bb5+ Nd7  
 31 Ng5 Qe7 32 Qg8+ 1-0 G.Mohr-V.Anand, Belgrade  
 1988. **9 dxe5 Nd7 10 Bxe7 Qxe7 11 f4 0-0**



I can see why Dimitris thought Black was castling into the attack. However, a lot of the credit has to go to Radjabov for his ability to pursue the black king. Even in a simultaneous game Kasparov-F.De la Fuente Gonzalez, Galicia 1991, the world number one is a joy to

watch because he hates losing! For instance: 11...Bb7 12 Qe2 f6 Black wisely takes steps to undermine the pawn centre 13 exf6 gxf6 This looks the right thing to do but it means that castling kingside is no longer attractive for Black because his would be too exposed. (I prefer 13...Qxf6 intending to castle kingside.) 14 e4 0-0-0 15 exd5 Bxd5 16 Be4 Qd6 17 0-0 Kasparov accepts the challenge by castling kingside in anticipation of a queenside attack. 17...Qc6 18 b4 Rhg8 19 b5 Qb7 20 c4 Bxe4 21 Nxe4 Kb8 22 Rad1 Rg6 23 g3 Rdg8 24 Rd3 f5 25 Nd6 Qc7 26 Rfd1 Nf6? 27 Qxe6 gave White a winning advantage. **12 Nf3 f5** 12 ..f6 looks like a reasonable choice. **13 Rg1!** The closed nature of the position allows White to continuously improve his pieces in preparation for an onslaught. **13 ..Kh8 14 g4 g6 15 h4**



Charge! White advances his pawns in order to probe for weaknesses. **15...Bb7 16 h5 fxg4 17 Rxc4 g5** Or **17...gxh5 18 Rg5 Rg8 19 Rxh5 Rg7 20 Ng5 Nf8 21 Qe2** intending to castle queenside to bring the rook into the action with a winning position. **18 Nxc5 d4** Black

is seeking complications but his kingside is in tatters. **19 exd4 cxd4 20 cxd4 h6** Naiditsch nudges the knight away but Black's position is full of holes. **21 Ne4 Rg8 22 Nd6** It is amusing that White can now think about trying to distract the black queen so he can play Nf7 mate! **22...Nf6 23 Rg6** If 23 exf6 then Black can walk into an amusing mate upon 23...Qxd6 24 Rg6 Qxf4 25 Qg4 Qxg4?? 26 Rxh6 mate. **23...Rxc6 24 hxc6 Nd5 25 Qh5 Kg7 26 f5 1-0**

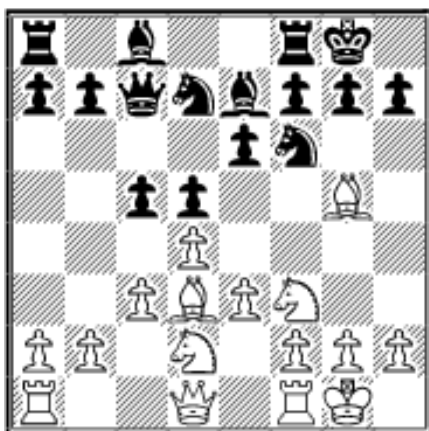
It seems to me that Black could not cope with the solid, stonewall pawn formation after a knight is established on the e5 square. Therefore, I suggest you should put a stop to that idea with 7...Qc7 to cover the e5 square. I have noticed that the 2600 GM Tiviakov has been using such a system for some time so it must be worth investigating.

***Joost Van Ruitenburg-Sergei Tiviakov Dieren 2003***  
**1 d4 Nf6 2 Bg5 d5 3 Nd2 Nbd7 4 Ngf3 c5 5 e3 e6 6 c3 Be7 7 Bd3 Qc7!?**



This is Tiviakov's pet line which he has used with success on a number of occasions. The main thing compared to the Radjabov game is that the queen covers the e5 square to stop the white knight occupying it. **8 0-0** 8 Ne5 cxd4 (actually 8...Nxe5 9 dxe5 Qxe5 10

Bf4 Qh5 just looks good for Black) 9 cxd4 Nxe5 10 dxe5 Nd7 11 Bxe7 Nxe5 12 Ba3? (12 Bb5+ Kxe7 13 0-0 gives White some compensation for the pawn because the black king is stuck in the centre) 12...Nxd3+ 13 Ke2 Bd7 14 Qb3 Nc5 15 Qc3 Na6 16 Qxg7 0-0-0 17 Qxf7 Bb5+ 0-1 L.Moss-E.Wenaas, Trois Rivieres 1999. **8...0-0**



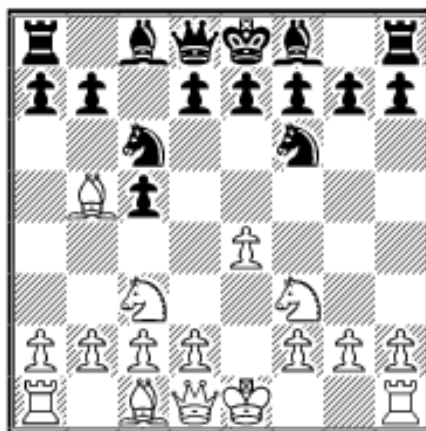
**9 Re1** There is a major crossroads at this junction: 9 e4 cxd4 10 cxd4 dxe4 11 Nxe4 and now: b6 12 Rc1 Qd8 13 Qe2 (13 Ne5!? Bb7 14 Nxd7 Nxd7 15 Bxe7 Qxe7 16 Rc7 is promising for White) 13...Bb7 14 Nc3 Re8 15 Rfd1 Nd5 16 Bxe7 Rxe7 17 Nxd5 Bxd5 18 b3

Nf6 19 Ne5 with equal chances although Black is good enough to exploit the long-term problem of an isolated pawn, P.Kalisvaart-S.Tiviakov, Vlissingen 2003. 11...h6 has also been tested when 12 Bh4 b6 13 Rc1 Qd8 14 Bg3 Nd5 15 Nd6 N7f6 16 Nxc8 Rxc8 17 Ne5 led to equal chances although Black eventually won, A.Dreev-S.Tiviakov, Moscow 1993.; 9 Qe2 b6 10 e4 White releases the tension in the centre but accurate play by Black is needed to fend off any suggestion of an attack. 10...dxe4 11 Nxe4 Bb7 12 dxc5 bxc5 13 c4 Rfe8 14 Rad1 h6 15 Bc1 Rad8 16 Nc3 a6 17 Rfe1 Bd6 18 Ne4

Bxe4 19 Bxe4 Ne5 when Black is happy to have a solid if equal position, P.Parfjonov-S.Tiviakov, Malaga 2003. **9...b6 10 Bf4 Bd6 11 Bxd6 Qxd6** Black is happy to allow exchanges and if he gets the chance will play a timely ...e5. **12 e4 dxe4 13 Nxe4 Qe7 14 Ne5 Bb7 15 Nxd7 Nxd7 16 Qh5 cxd4** Black is content to make sure his opponent is burdened with an isolated d-pawn. **17 cxd4** 17 Nf6+ is amusing for those are a bit too keen to search for mate because Black can simply play **17...Nxf6. 17...g6 18 Qh6 Bxe4 19 Rxe4 Nf6 20 Rh4 Rfd8** As usual Tiviakov pinpoints the isolated d4 pawn. **21 a3 Rd6 22 Rd1 Rad8 23 Bc4 Qf8 24 Qg5 Qg7 25 g3 h6!** See Diagram **26 Rxh6** 26 Qxh6 allows 26...g5! Which embarrasses the white rook. **26 ..Ne4 27 Qh4 g5 28 Qxe4** After 28 Qh5 Black has time to play 28...Rxd4 with a clear advantage. **28...Qxh6** White is the exchange down and against someone of Tiviakov's class it is a nightmare. **29 d5 Qf6 30 Rd3 exd5 31 Bxd5 Qxb2 32 Qf5 Qg7 33 Kg2 Kf8 34 Qe4 Qg6 35 Qc4 b5 36 Qxb5 Rxd5 0-1**

**Niall Murphy** from **Galway, Republic of Ireland** has been trying to improve by reading about the latest ideas in the opening and it has left him confused. He writes “I read somewhere that GMs were playing 1e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 and now Nc3 to avoid the 4...e5 line. What difference does 3 Nc3 make?”

Black wants to play the Kalashnikov 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 e5 when after 5 Nb5 Black can avoid transposing into the Sveshnikov by playing a later ...Nge7. The idea is that by playing 3 Nc3 Black will have to make a move which is not suitable for the Kalashnikov and will probably transpose into something else. It is also possible to use the move order to lure Black into the line 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Nc3 Nf6 and now 4 Bb5. Lets take a look at game which indicates some of the possibilities for White:

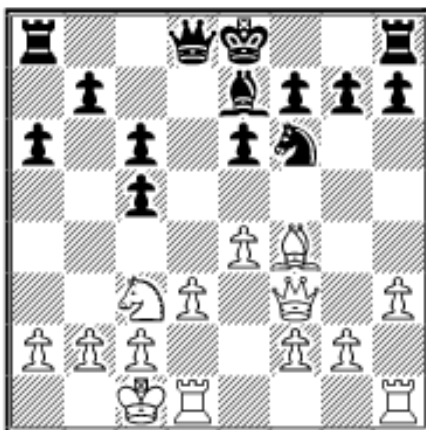
**Mihail Golubev-Jean Louis Guilbert Bethune 2002****1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bb5**

This is the opening that is currently the latest fashion. **4...a6** White is quite happy to take the knight so there is no need to waste a move encouraging him. Other moves: 4...Nd4 5 a4 e6 6 e5 Nxb5 7 axb5 Ng4 8 h3 (the opening has been a success for White who has the better

development) 8...Nh6 9 d4 Nf5 10 dxc5 Bxc5 11 g4! Nh4 12 Nxh4 Qxh4 13 Ne4 Be7 14 Ra4! (the Canadian has a knack of finding such clever moves) 14...g5 (14...0-0 15 g5 Kh8 16 Nc5 winning easily) 15 Nd6+ Bxd6 16 Qxd6 h5 17 Bd2 f5 18 Bb4 1-0 K.Spraggett-D.Agrachov, Columbus 1977: 4 ..Qc7 5 0-0 e5 6 Bc4 Be7 7 d3 0-0 8 Ng5 h6 9 f4!? d6 10 Nf3 exf4 11 Bxf4 Be6 12 Qd2 Qd7 13 Rae1 d5!? 14 exd5 Nxd5 15 Bxd5 Bxd5 16 Bxh6 (16 Ne5 Nxe5 17 Nxd5 Qxd5 18 Rxe5 Qd7 19 Re3 with a roughly equal position) 16...gxh6 17 Qxh6 f6? (17...Be6 18 Ne4 Rfe8 is a tougher defence although White has good attacking chances after 19 Re3) 18 Qg6+ Kh8 19 Qh5+ Kg7 20 Qxd5 1-0 P.Svidler-L.McShane, Brussels Abihome 2000; 4...g6 5 h3 Nd4 6 e5 Nxb5 7 Nxb5 Nd5 8 0-0 Nc7 9 Nxc7+ Qxc7 10 d4 cxd4 11 Qxd4 Bg7 12 Bg5 White wants to make it difficult for Black to castle 12 ..d6 13 exd6 Bxd4 (13...Qxd6 14 Qxg7 is the end of the game as a contest) 14 dxc7 Bc5 15 Rad1 Be6 16 Nd4 Bd7 17 Rfe1 e6 18 Bf6 Rf8 (18...0-0 loses after 19 Nb3 when both bishops are attacked) 19 Nb5 Rc8 20 Rd6 a6 21 Red1 1-0 R.Forster-T.Nedev, Pula 2000. **5 Bxc6 dxc6 6 d3 Bg4 7 h3 Bxf3 8 Qxf3** White has given up the bishop pair to buckle the queenside pawns but in return Black has meekly given up his bishop. This should favour White who can continue to smoothly develop. **8...e6 9 Bf4 Be7**



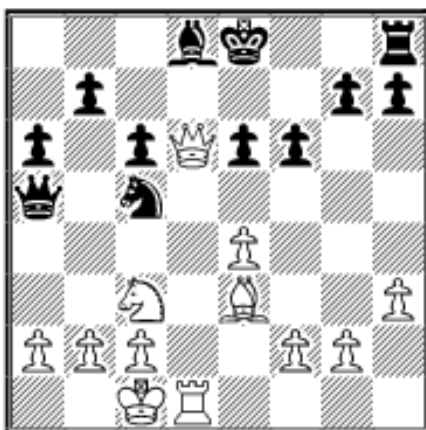
10 0-0-0



A signal that Golubev has aggressive intentions. Now Black has to worry about what happens if he castles on the kingside. **10...Nd7** 10...b5 11 Kb1 0-0 is probably the best bet for Black in the circumstances.

**11 d4 cxd4 12 Rxd4 Qa5** At first glance 12...e5 looks

good but 13 Bxe5 exploits the pin on the d-file. **13 Rhd1 Rd8** 13...0-0-0 is worth considering to get the king to safety and co-ordinate the rooks. **14 Qd3 Nc5?! 15 Rxd8+ Bxd8 16 Qd6** The queen is rather menacing on d6 indicating that Black is in big trouble. **16...f6? 17 Be3**



1-0

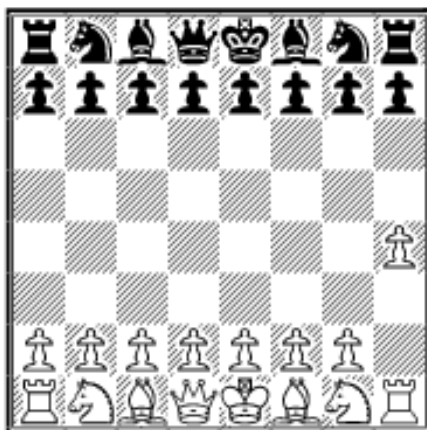
Finally, **Jack Rogers** from **San Francisco, USA** asks “Has anyone played 1 h4 as a top level game?”

I have to report at age 8 it was my favourite move because I could quickly

activate my rook via h3. Such innocence was crushed when someone introduced me to an edition of MCO. Of course, anything is playable especially if your opponent with the black pieces is much weaker than you. Still, a few decent players have played the first move with a smile on their face.

**Andrey Kirillov-Julla Grinjko Tomsk 1999**

**1 h4**



It is intriguing that the Belgian Fabrice Wantiez is nowadays renown for playing main lines but in his early days he had a sense of adventure because against J.Hardy, Huy 1992, the game continued: 1...d5 2 h5 Nf6 3 h6 (words fail me!) 3...e5 4 d4 Nc6 5 dxe5 Nxe5 6 Nf3

Neg4 7 hxg7 Bxg7 8 Nc3 c6 9 e3 Qc7 10 Bd3 Ne5 11 Nxe5 Qxe5 12 Qe2 Bg4 13 f3 Be6 14 Bd2 Nh5? 15 f4 1-0. The way a lot of games finish in this line at international level is due to a pre-arranged draw: 1...c6 2 f4 ½-½ E.Hossain-I.Datu, Istanbul Olympiad 2000. **2 h5** Or 2 d3 d5 3 f4 Bd6 4 e3 Qe7 5 Be2 Nf6 6 Nc3 c6 7 Bd2 exf4 8 exf4 d4 when Black is already much better, X.Chua-Koh Kum Hong, Singapore 2001. **2...h6 3 c3 d5 4 d4 Bd6 5 dxe5 Bxe5 6 Nf3 Bf6 7 g3** At the time of the game White was rated 2367 so he now decides to play sensibly in order to make sure he wins. **7...Ne7 8 Bg2 c6 9 Bf4 Nd7 10 Nbd2 Nc5 11 Nb3 Ne4 12 Nfd2 Ng5** An improvement is 12...Nxd2 13 Qxd2 0-0 with equal chances. **13 e4 dxe4 14 Bxg5 Bxg5 15 Nxe4 Qxd1+?! Black** mistakenly thinks his troubles will be over if he exchanges queens. Perhaps 15...Nd5!? **16 Rxd1 Nf5 17 f4 Be7 18 Kf2 g6** I prefer 18...0-0. **19 Rhe1 Be6 20 Nbc5 Ng7 21 hxg6 fxg6 22 Nxe6 Nxe6 23 Nd6+ 1-0**

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