



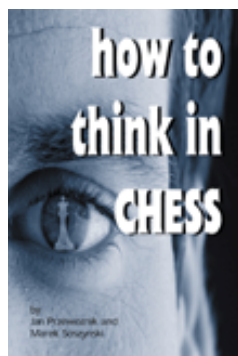
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COLUMNISTS

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!

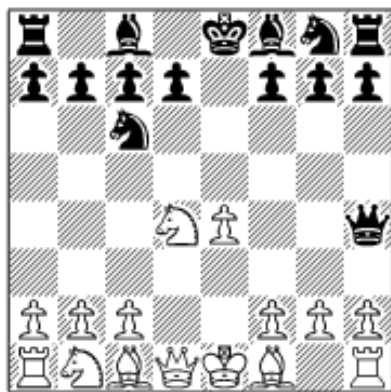
Braveheart

There are some openings where you have to have nerves of steel to play. An obvious one is the Marshall in the Ruy Lopez where current opinion is that Black sacrifices lots of pawns in order to achieve a sensational perpetual check. Then again anyone who plays the King's Gambit has to struggle to control their emotions when they sacrifice a piece and a pawn to achieve what the books call 'a lead in development and a possible attack'. In contrast I would call the Scotch Game a tame opening with some positional nuances and potential for aggression. I was therefore shocked to discover that **Søren Bang** from **Copenhagen, Denmark** seems to think that playing it is the chess equivalent of holding a Sumatran Tiger by the tail when it has a bad headache. He confides in me with these words "Playing the Scotch Game (my rating is 1600) with the white pieces I have several times stumbled into the move 4... Qh4. It looks a little silly, but seems to win a central pawn, nice and easy. Of course white can cover the e-pawn with Nc3, but then follows Bb4 and I can't find a sensible way, if any, to save the pawn. I'm not a gambit player so I find it a little disturbing, if the good, old Scotch Game turns out to be a gambit. I thought that was reserved to the Scotch Gambit. Anyway: What line would you recommend White to play against 4...Qh4? There must be something good, otherwise I suppose we would have seen 4...Qh4 played on regular basis by the game's bigger shots."

There should be nothing to worry about because the whole line is very risky for Black who walks into a lightening attack. In the following encounter a teenage grandmaster is gifted a point with a spectacular win:

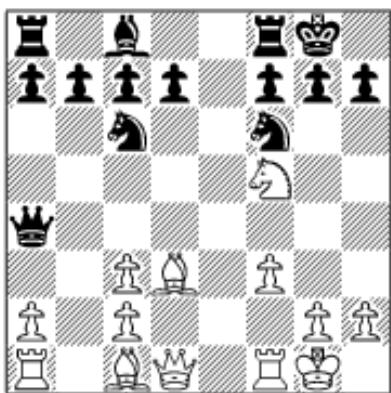
Sergy Karjakin-Vasily Malinin Sudak 2002

1 e4 Nc6 2 d4 e5 3 Nf3 exd4 4 Nxd4 Qh4



Do not adjust your chess set but this is the awesome move. **5 Nc3 5 Nb5** used to be the main move but this has replaced in popularity with the text. **5...Bb4 6 Be2 Nf6** I think 6...Bxc3+ is the standard move. For instance: 7 bxc3 Nxd4 8 Qxd4 Qf6 9 Qc5 (9 Qxf6 Nxf6 is fine for Black due to White's damaged pawn structure) 9...c6 10 0-0 Qe7 11 Qd4 Nf6 12 e5 Nd5 13 a4 b6 14 Ba3 Qg5 15 f4 Qh6 16 c4 gave White a strong initiative,

G.Buchicchio-L.Lain, Bratto 2002 **7 0-0** The general feeling is that nowadays the lead in development in this line is difficult for Black to cope with if he decides to grab the e-pawn. Therefore, White is content to bring the king's rook into the game. **7...Bxc3 8 Nf5 Qxe4 9 Bd3 Qg4 10 f3** White is right to chase the black queen in order to prove its early outing is wrong. **10...Qa4 10...Qb4** does not help after 11 bxc3 Qxc3 12 Nxg7+ Kd8 Black has an extra pawn but it is not enough to cover the future awkwardness of developing the rest of the pieces 13 Rb1 d6 14 Kh1 Ne5 15 Rb3 Qd4 16 Bg5 Ned7 17 Bf5 (White has targeted the weak knight on f6 and is now stripping away the defensive pieces) 17...Qc5 (17...Qxd1 18 Rxd1 Ke7 19 Bxd7 Bxd7 20 Nh5 winning) 18 Qa1 Ke7 19 Bxf6+ Nxf6 20 Re1+ 1-0 S.Prudnikova-J.Bokan., Herceg Novi 2001.] **11 bxc3 0-0**



12 Nxg7! A brilliant move which rips apart Black's position. **12...Kxg7 13 Bh6+ Kxh6** The first new move of the game. The only snag is that Black didn't know that and has been out remembered. A previous encounter had continued: 13...Kh8 14 Bxf8 (White has a material advantage and a much better position) 14...d6 15 Qd2 Qh4 16 Bh6 the threat is Bg5 16 ..Ng8 17 Bg5 Qa4 18 c4 Qa5 19 Qf4 Ne5 20 Bf6+ Nxf6 21 Qxf6+ Kg8 22

Qg5+ 1-0 Z.Vukovic-D.Mozetic, Banja Vrucica 1991. **14 Qd2+ Kh5 15 g4+**



A king chase that is lots of fun for White and horrible for Black. **15...Nxg4 16 fxfg4+ Qxg4+ 17 Kh1 d6 18 Rf6 Qg5 19 Be2+ Bg4 20 Bxg4+ 1-0**

Therefore be strong when playing the Scotch although there is no need to 'go native' by wearing the traditional 'kilt' during games.

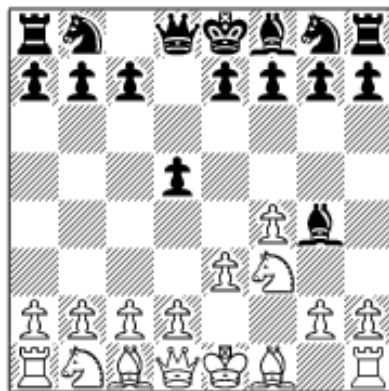
Aaro Jalas from Espoo, Finland felt

so strongly about one opening that he felt compelled to write a hefty e-mail entitled ‘Trompowsky Defence - Good Anti-Bird line?’ He wrote “I’m a Finnish Correspondence player and I have started to employ the Bird Opening as White after studying Oleininkov’s inspiring CD about the opening. I have tested Bird in several blitz games, and my experience is that White has quite good practical chances. However, I think that I have found interesting counter plan for Black, which has got little attention. In my opinion Black’s best option might be “Trompowsky Defence” 1...d5 with 2...Bg4. If white plays after 1 f4 the natural 2 Nf3 then 2...Bg4! immediately looks good: For example after 1 f4 d5 2 Nf3 Bg4 3 e3 f5!? Black can play comfortably Stonewall where he has no problem with the “bad bishop”. So White has to try 1 f4 d5 2.Nf3 Bg4 3 Ne5!? but then 3...Bh5! looks interesting: 4 g4? e6 is good for Black; if we compare this line with Trompowsky 1 d4 Nf6 2 Bg5 Ne4 3. Bh4 g5! It can be seen that the extra move 1 f4 is just causing problems for White. 4 g3 f6 5 Nf3 Bxf3 6 exf3 e5 7.fxe5 fxe5 8.d4!? is suggested by Oleininkov to open the position for two bishops, but I’m not so sure about this. It is also possible for Black to hold both the Bxf3 and -e5 in reserve and develop first pieces: 4 g3 f6 5 Nf3 e6 6 Bg2 Bd6 7 0-0 Nc6 and Qd7,0-0-0 and only then e5 or alternatively Ne7,0-0, c5, Nc6 and then -e5. White could try after 1 f4 d5 2 Nf3 Bg4 3 Ne5 Bh5 moves like 4.d4 or 4.c4, but again I don’t know if the extra move f4 is helpful in reversed Trompowsky positions. So perhaps it is simplest to play 1 f4 d5 2 e3 to avoid 2.-Bg4!?, but then I wonder if the gambit 1 f4 d5 2 e3 g5!? 3 fxg5 e5 is totally silly for Black? If we compare this with Dutch position 1 d4 f5 2 g4?! fxg4 3 e4 d5! 4 e5 Bf5!, Bishop-locking extra-move 2 e3 doesn’t look so helpful for White. His best option might be 1 f4 d5 2 e3 g5 3 fxg5 e5 4 e4!? and getting satisfactory reversed Dutch, but moving the e-pawn twice looks strange and comes hardly to mind when playing over the board.

I think I have spotted a flaw in your argument but it is probably better to get stuck into the line with a look at a high class game:

Dimitri Reinderman-Aleksander Berelovich Hooageveen 1999

1 f4 d5 2 Nf3 Bg4 3 e3



3...Nc6 Also possible: Nf6 a)
3...Nd7 4 Be2 (4 c4 e5 5 fxe5 Nxe5 6 cxd5 Qxd5 7 Be2 Nd3+ 8 Kf1 Nf6 just looks good for Black although he eventually managed to lose the game, K.Pytel-A.Ornstein, Le Havre 1977)
4...e6 5 0-0 Bd6 6 c4 dxc4 7 Na3 Nb6 (if the a-pawns are doubled by 7 ..Bxa3?! then 8 bxa3 gives White decent compensation because the dark-squared bishop will be very influential on b2) 8 Nxc4 Nxc4 9

Bxc4 c6 10 b3 Ne7 11 Bb2 0-0 12 Qe1 Ng6 13 Qg3 Bxf3 14 Qxf3 Qa5 15 Qe4 Rad8 (15...Qxd2 16 Rf2 Qb4 17 f5! exf5 18 Qxf5 Kh8 and now White is better but could even force a draw with 19 Bxg7+ Kxg7 20 Qf6+ Kg8 21 Bxf7+ Rxf7 22 Qxf7+ Kh8 23 Qf6+ Kg8 24 Qf7+) 16 f5?!

(16 d4! is much better idea in order to preserve the d-pawn) 16...exf5 17 Rxf5 Qxd2 when White's attack narrowly fails to convince, B.Larsen-G.Barcza, Zurich 1959. b) 3...f5 is the suggestion by Mr Jalas with the comment "comfortably Stonewall where he has no problem with the bad bishop." But I disagree and think that the line is a poor choice for Black and would like to see some correspondence games where it triumphs. After all with a pawn already on f4 White has control on the important e5 square and combined with a queenside fianchetto White will be fine. Therefore, I think this is the error in your assessment.; 4 Be2 Nbd7 5 0-0 (5 c4 e6 6 0-0 Bd6 7 b3 c6 8 Bb2 dxc4 9 bxc4 Bxf4! a nice combinational to change the status of the position 10 Bxf6 (10 exf4 Bxf3 11 Bxf3 Qb6+ 12 Kh1 Qxb2 regains the piece with the better position) 10 ..Nxf6 11 Qb3 Bd6 12 Qxb7 0-0 13 Nc3 Rc8 14 Rfd1 Qa5 gave Black the initiative in B.Carlier-C.Van Wijgerden, Leeuwarden 1980) 5...Bxf3 6 Bxf3 e5 (this thrust in the centre is the whole point of an early) 6...Bg4 7 d4 e4 8 Be2 Bd6 9 b3 Qe7 10 c4 c6 11 Nc3 0-0 12 c5 Bc7 13 b4 Ne8 14 b5 led to a slight edge in B.Larsen-H.Smailbegovic,Sarajevo 1960. **4 Bb5** This pin is probably the best response. **4...Qd7** The evidence suggests that Black is wary of allowing White to exchange on c6 to double the c-pawns. This is because if White has time to play h2-h3 Black will give up his bishop pair without the compensation of weakening White's pawns structure. If you want to get to know how to handle these sort of positions then I would recommend a look at the games of Bent Larsen who is a genuine expert. In the following example he takes on Van Geet, at Amsterdam 1964: 4...Qd6 5 0-0 a6 6 Be2 (6 Bxc6+?! Qxc6 7 h3 Bxf3 8 Rxf3 e6 gives White nothing from the opening) 6...Nf6 7 d4 Ne4 8 c4 e6 9 Nc3 Rd8 10 c5 Qd7 11 Nxe4 dxe4 12 Ne5 Bxe2 13 Qxe2 Qd5 14 Bd2 f6 15 Nxc6 Qxc6 16 b4! Larsen spots the best chance to make progress by advancing the pawns on the queenside giving him the edge. **5 d4** White clamps down on the e5 square by adopting a Stonewall pawn formation. **5...a6 6 Be2 Bxf3 7 Bxf3 e6 8 0-0 Nf6 9 Nd2 Be7 10 c3** I don't think White would claim an opening advantage but the Dutchman does like to play something different and this is the sort of thing that will persuade Black to waste a lot of time on the clock. **10...0-0 11 e4 dxe4 12 Nxe4 Nxe4** Actually, 12...Nd5!? is the correct response to maintain equality because the text makes it too easy for White to mobilise his pieces. **13 Bxe4 Bf6 14 f5!**



After a few casual moves by Black, Reinderman has found a way to make progress by opening the position to his advantage. **14...e5** If 14...exf5 then 15 Bxf5 Qe7 16 Qd3 g6 17 Be4 gives White the brighter prospects due to the potential influence of his pair of bishops. **15 d5 Ne7 16 c4 Rfd8 17 Be3 Nc8 18 c5** The Dutch grandmaster started off with a quiet opening but how now managed to grab more space and restricted

Berelovich to a passive position. **18...Ne7 19 c6 bxc6 20 dxc6 Qe8 21 Qa4!? 21 Qf3** looks like a reasonable alternative. **21...Nd5 22 Bf2 Bg5 23 Rfd1 Nf6 24 Rd7!? A nice looking tactical idea but there is no obligation for Black to take it. 24 Rxd8 Rxd8 25 Re1 Rd2** allows Black

back into the game. **24...Rab8** 24...Nxd7 25 cxd7 Qe7 26 Bxa8 Rxa8 27 Rd1 looks pretty good for White. **25 Rxc7 Rxb2?** It is not a good idea to allow Black to activate his pieces because it means that White has lost control of the position. **26 Re1 Bd2 27 Re2 Rb4! 28 Qc2 Nxe4 29 a3?** Or 29 Rxe4 Rxe4 30 Qxe4 Ba5 31 Rd7 Rxd7 32 cxd7 Qxd7 gives Black an edge. **29..Nc3 30 Rxd2** 30 axb4 Nxe2+ 31 Kf1 Nc3 and Black is a piece up. **30...Rb1+ 31 Qxb1 Nxb1 32 Rdd7** Well, it is always difficult to resign a game in which you have been doing well. **32...Nxa3 33 Bc5 Nb5 34 Rxd8 Qxd8 35 Rd7 Qa5 36 h3 h5 37 Kh2 h4 38 Be7 Qc3 39 c7 Nxc7 40 Bxh4 f6 0-1**

I hope that helps all those who are worried about the reversed Trompovsky. There must be more than one but you never know!

David.E. Rice from the **USA** has a chess opening question about literature: "I don't know if this would be a more appropriate question for Mr. Hansen, but here we go: I am a big fan of the French Defense for Black, and I want to update my resources on the subject. I am aware that John Watson has just published the third volume of his work on the French while Lev Psakhis has published a three-volume work on the French. Can I get by purchasing the Watson book, or should I go whole hog and buy the three volume work by Psakhis?"

My instinctive response is to buy all the books because chess authors need all the royalties they can get. Another solution might to visit a shop and have a closer look at the books to see which one you prefer but admittedly this is not always possible when general book stores only seem to cater for beginners. Therefore, I would say that the Watson book is appropriate for those who wish to have a repertoire as Black provide them. His job is to suggest various lines to play as Black and then to try and support the lines with games and analysis. The Psakhis books tend to be aimed for players of White or Black who want to know the current state of theory in all the lines. Basically, they are useful reference books and if you favour one particular line it would be useful to check up on what is going on.

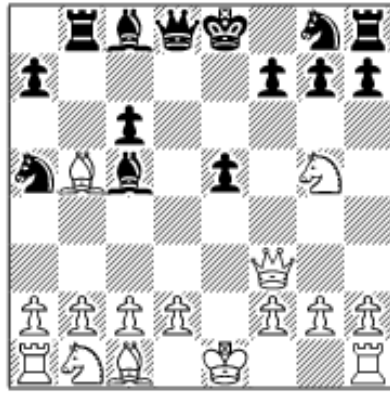
I enjoyed the simplicity of **Winnie Sadje** from the **Philippines** whose question is "What could you advise to improve chess opening skills?"

Well, I would start by reading books featuring annotated games by former world champions such as Alekhine or Kasparov. Then I would play through all the games featured on **ChessCafe** including all those in the archives to guarantee success!

I am pleased to reports that readers have taken note of last month's column and come forward with some ideas.

Mr **Olimpiu Urcan** from **Singapore** wanted some news about the Englishman E.E.Colman who is famous in the chess world for lending his name to this line in the Two knights:

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 Ng5 d5 5 exd5 Na5 6 Bb5+ c6 7 dxc6 bxc6 8 Qf3 and now Colman suggested 8...Rb8.



Ron Simpson from **Raleigh ,NC** was quick to answer “I do have some information on the Coleman Variation that you discussed in your latest contribution. I recall an article on the Coleman Variation that appeared in an issue of the old *Chess Review*. It was fairly extensive and included pictures of Coleman. It was written by a well known (at that time) British chess journalist. I think his name was Bruce (first or last, I'm not

sure). The article definitely appeared between 1954 and 1958 because I was playing this line at the Omaha Chess Club in late 1958 when I was stationed at the local Air Force base there. If your reader wants to contact me, I may be able to find this article if I can find where I've got my old *Chess Reviews* packed away.”

Thanks for your offer.

Last month I finished the article with a brief look at the wild line 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Nc3 and now 3...f5 which produced a lot of mail. Here are some examples:

“In your last **ChessCafe** column you discussed the suggestion 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Nc3 f5 I have been playing 3 Bb5 f5 since that I joined a chess club, back in 1972, and naturally wondered if the thrust 3...f5 is playable against other systems as well. One of my first opening books was a Keres tome of a famous East-German series, and it provided the answer: 3.Nc3 f5 is virtually unplayable. The proof being the line 4 d4 fxe4 5 Nxe5 Nf6 6 Bc4! d5 7 Nxd5 Nxd5 8 Qh5+ g6 9 Nxg6 Nf6 10 Bf7!+ and white wins. In the 32 years that passed by after reading these lines, I have even been able to spring this trap with the white pieces! So unfortunately 6 Bc4 gives black a rough time.” **Gerard Welling, The Netherlands.**

I have to admit that I immediately realised that the whole line is hopeless for Black after that e-mail from such a respected international master but it was soon confirmed by another e-mail. This time from **Theo Jurrius** who also hails from **The Netherlands**.

“In your last column you analysed a line in the Latvian Gambit: 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Nc3 f5 4 d4 fxe4 5 Nxe5 Nf6 and now you give 6 Bg5 or Be2. Tony Kosten gives in his book "The Latvian Gambit Lives" according to me the much stronger 6 Bc4 when after 6...d5 7 Nxd5 Nxd5 8 Qh5+ g6 9 Nxg6 hxg6 10 Qxg6+ with a strong attack, (for example 10...Kd7 11 Bxd5 Nxd4 12 Bg5 Qe8 13 Bf7 Qe5 14Bf6 +- Fritz) and if black wants to play another 6th move only the ugly move Qe7 comes in consideration (for example 7.Bf4 d6 8.Bf7+ Kd8 9.Bb3! and the black king is misplaced as 9...,dxe5 10.dxe5+ Nd7 11 e6 wins back the piece. Did Tony Kosten or I miss something in this line, or is it just bad for black?!”

Let's take a closer look:

George Kramer-Illa Serpik Alexandria 1996

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 f5 (I have used the Latvian move-order to keep all those lovers of the Latvian happy) **3 Nc3 Nc6 4 d4 fxe4** Or 4...exd4 5 Nxd4 fxe4 6 Nxc6 bxc6 (6...dxc6 7 Qh5+ Kd7 looks awful for black) 7 Qh5+ g6 8 Qe5+ Qe7 9 Qxh8 with a completely winning advantage., K.Kiik-L.Linden, Helsinki 1999. **5 Nxe5 Nf6 6 Bc4**



6...d5? It look sensible but is a recipe for disaster. 6...Qe7 is an improvement in the circumstances 7 Bg5 Nxe5 8 dxe5 Qxe5 9 Bxf6 gxf6 10 0-0 Bb4 (10...c6?! 11 Nxe4 d5 12 Nc3 Be6? 13 Re1 Qd6 14 Nxd5! (a nice move which leaves Black's position in ruins) Kf7 15 Qh5+ Kg7 16 Rxe6 Qxe6 17 Ne3 Jensen-Melchor, Correspondence 1992) 11 Nd5 Bd6 12 f4 Qf5 13 Qd4 gave White the better chances in

Z.Milev,Z-T.Florian,Bucharest 1951. **7 Nxd5! Nxd5 8 Qh5+ g6 9 Nxg6 Nf6**



Also possible: 9...hxg6 10 Qxg6+ Kd7 11 Bxd5 Qe8 12 Bf7 Qe7 13 Bg5 Ne5 14 Qf5+ 1-0 G.Breyer-Z.Balla, Bad Pistyan 1912. **10 Bf7+!!** A killer blow which with prior knowledge is easier to find but for Black must be a complete nightmare. **10...Kxf7 11 Ne5+ Ke6 12 Qf7+ Kd6 13 Nc4 mate 1-0**

I can heartily recommend *The Latvian Gambit Lives* by Tony

Kosten who does indeed mention the line in a sub variation when discussing the Three Knights Game.

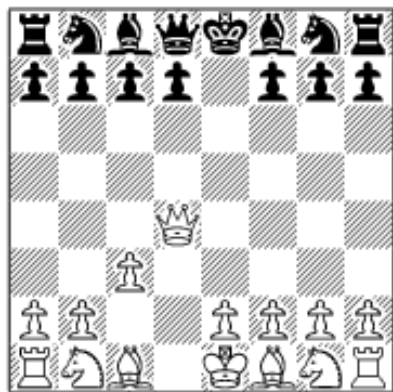
By the way if you are wondering if this will help you then here are a few people who are content to play this line as Black: Humberto Candeias, Reinhold Soelter, Matteo Violla and Nina Bilbija. Therefore if you play and win using the new knowledge just let me know!

And finally, **Arsen Matevossian** from the **USA** has been inspired. He says "As black, I almost exclusively play the Scandinavian Defense against 1. e4. Then it occurred to me, what if I reversed it as white, and play it as the Scandinavian Attack. Surely, I thought, it could only by stronger in white's hands, having the extra tempo. 1 c3 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 Qxd4 Nc6 4 Qa4 looks good to me. However, I could only find one such game in the database, with Emanuel Lasker playing white. Of course, there are other responses to 1. c3, but is there any reason why this opening hasn't seen the light of day? Is it inherently inferior?"

The short answer is yes it is inferior but I suppose you want some more detail. Actually, if you are playing to enjoy chess and to annoy your opponent then it is a good start:

**Jose Luis Rojas Rodriguez-Fernandez Alba Lopez Agudina Padrun
open 2001**

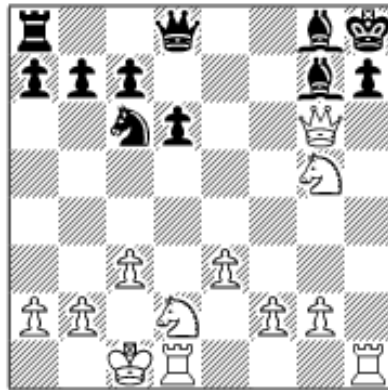
1 c3 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 Qxd4!?



A cheeky move which might be suitable for those who want to play something a bit different. Of course, taking with the queen is not the best move because Black will gain time developing by attacking the queen. Indeed I have seen plenty of games where White plays 3 cxd4 with equal chances. For instance: 3...d5 4 Nc3 c6 5 Nf3 Bd6 6 Bg5 Ne7 7 e3 is level. **3...Nc6 4 Qa4** If you have a lot of faith in the Scandinavian then it

might work for some people. The idea is that with colours reversed the position could arise from 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qa5 with the bonus of ...c7-c6 being played. However, it will be difficult to wrestle an advantage from the position against accurate play. If that doesn't put you off then I might add that another line is similar: 1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 Qxd4 Nc6 4 Qa4 which has been discussed previously and can be found in the archives. 4 Qd3 Nf6 5 Bg5 d5 6 Bxf6 Qxf6 7 Qxd5 White is a pawn up but has to be careful because of his complete lack of development 7 ..Be6 8 Qf3 Qg6 9 e4 (9 Nd2 allows Black to infiltrate with 9 ..Qc2! 10 b4 Rd8 11 Qe3 Bxb4! 12 cxb4 Nxb4 13 Ngf3 Qb2 winning) 9...Ne5 10 Qe3 Ng4 11 Qe2 0-0-0 Black has plenty of pieces ready to play but White just has a queen on an awkward square 12 Nd2 Bc5 13 Nh3 Ne5 14 Nf4 (14 0-0-0 Nd3+ 15 Kb1 Bxh3 16 gxh3 Nxf2 wins) 14...Qh6 15 Nxe6 Nd3+! 16 Qxd3 Rxd3 17 Bxd3 Bxf2+ 18 Kd1 Qxe6 when Black is clearly on top, A.Mitin-S.Singh, FIDE.com 2002. **4...Nf6** Was this intended as an improvement on the old game you mentioned? Well, I suspect not because at this point I guess Lopez Agudina must have been wondering what on earth is going on? Incidentally, 4...d5 was played in the classic game E.Lasker-L.Lopez, Madrid simultaneous 1921, when play continued: 5 Nf3 Bc5 6 Bg5 f6 7 Bf4 Nge7 8 e3 Bd7 9 Qc2 Ng6 10 Bg3 0-0 11 Bd3 Nce5?! (11...Nce7!? Should be tried) 12 Bxe5 fxe5 13 Bxg6 e4 14 Ne5? (The thing with simuls is that in my experience White tends to be kind to selected opponents so I can't say whether the maestro missed 14 Qb3! or decided just to play safe.) 14...Qg5 (14...hxg6 15 Nxg6 Rf6 16 Nf4 c6 is roughly equal because Black has active piece play as compensation for the pawn.) 15 Nxd7 Qxg2 16 Bxe4 dxe4 17 Rf1 and if you count the pieces then it is obvious that White is completely winning. **5 Nf3 Be7** Or 5...d5 6 Bf4 (6 Bg5 Be7 7 e3 0-0 8 Bd3 Ne4 9 Bxe7 Qxe7 10 Qc2 {when I can't help thinking that normally a move like Qd1-c2 would look reasonable but in this case the white queen has already been on an excursion and wasted a few moves} 10...Bg4 11 Nbd2 Bxf3 12 Nxf3 Rfe8 13 0-0 Rad8 14 Rad1 is about level so White has not achieved

much from the opening, A.Rodriguez-J.Fernandez, San Luis 1992) 6 ..Bc5 7 e3 0-0 8 Bd3 Ne7 9 0-0 Ng6 10 Bg3 Qe7 11 Re1 c6 12 Nbd2 Be6 13 Nh4 Rad8 14 Nxg6 hxg6 15 Nf3 led to equal chances in R.Hommel-E.Schulzke, Boeblingen 1997. **6 Bf4 0-0 7 e3 d6** 7...d5 to allow a knight to occupy the e4 at some point is another decent option. **8 Bd3 Bd7 9 Qc2 g6** A concession because it weakens the dark squares around the king and it will take time to transfer the dark-squared bishop to provide cover. 9...h6 should be preferred. **10 Nbd2 Ne8 11 h4!?** You have to give White credit for being happy to reveal that is going all out for an attack. **11...Ng7** Instead 11...h5 12 0-0-0 Ng7 13 Ne4 gives White good attacking opportunities. **12 Bh6 Re8 13 0-0-0** Rojas Rodriguez has completed development allowing him to co-ordinate the rooks for the forthcoming onslaught. **13...Bf6 14 Bxg7 Bxg7 15 h5 Re6?!** It soon transpires that the rook is misplaced on e6 because of the perils of a future Bc4. If 15...Be6!? then 16 Ne4 Ne5 17 Nxe5 Bxe5 18 Nd2 with an edge. **16 hxg6 fxg6** Or 16...hxg6 17 Bc4 Re8 18 Qxg6 and it is time for Black to go home. **17 Bc4** This is the problem with the rook being on e6 because now White wins the exchange. **17...Kh8 18 Bxe6 Bxe6 19 Qxg6 Bg8 20 Ng5**



White sets up a pretty finish ideal for any puzzle book. **20...Qe7 21 Rxb7+ Bxb7 22 Qxb7** mate 1-0

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Gary wants your questions on openings!! Send it along and perhaps it will be answered in an upcoming column. Please include your name and country of residence. [Yes, I have a question for Gary!](#)



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