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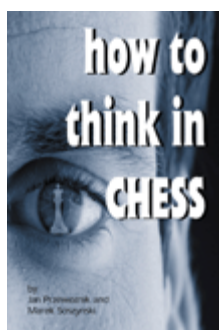
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## COLUMNISTS

*Opening Lanes*

Gary Lane

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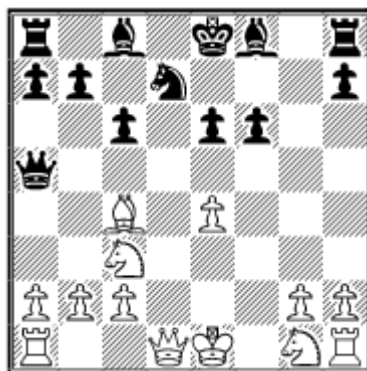
*Opening Lanes* is based in large part on readers' questions. Do you have a question about a particular opening line? Baffled by a branch of the Benoni or Budapest? Submit your questions (with you full name and country of residence please) and perhaps Gary will reply in his next *Chess Cafe* column...

*Yes, I have a question for Gary!*

## Miami Vice

The 1980s is sometimes remembered for flashy television shows featuring pastel coloured clothes, where the villains or boffins would be found in a room with a gigantic computer. It is only now that I realise that those computers were really concentrating on side-lines in the Veresov.

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 Bg5 Nbd7 4 f3 c6 5 e4 dxe4 6 fxe4 e5 7 dxe5 Qa5 8 Bxf6 gxf6 9 e6 fxe6 10 Bc4



This position from the game Rossetto-Gufeld, Camaguey 1974 has been a cause of concern for readers ever since Italian player **Filippo Bianchi** wondered if he was the first person to discover the star move 10...Ba3!.

The short answer is no, but other readers are happy to add to the debate: **Dave Gertler** who describes himself as a semi-retired FM from **Delaware, USA**, writes "I saw your recent mention of 10...Ba3 in a standard Veresov line, sent in by Felipe

Bianchi. This move has been known since the mid-1980s, when it was discovered by one of the early strong computer programs – Bell Labs' "Belle," I believe. I learned of it while working for the U.S. Chess Federation during that era. Lacking any Veresov reference books, I don't know whether 10...Ba3 has entered standard theory. I've managed to play it in some casual games. It's such a nice concept that I've also played it in analogous positions stemming from other openings. I won a tournament game that way as Black in a Nimzovich Defense once.

I hope that Dave sends in that game so we can all take a look. I remember 'Belle' being rather famous and no doubt initially filled a laboratory. If anyone had a chance to play against it then e-mail the game.

If you are in London and want to know anything about the Veresov then catch the underground train to Great Portland Street and visit the London Chess Centre where **James Coleman** is working. During a coffee break he sent the following message:

Regarding the line 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 Bg5 Nbd7 4 f3 c6 5 e4 dxe4 6 fxe4 e5 7 dxe5 Qa5 8 Bxf6 gxf6 9 e6 fxe6 10 Bc4 that you were discussing the move ...Ba3! is a well known improvement, mentioned in most modern sources on the Veresov. I myself have played it as Black on the Internet Chess Club in 3 or 4 games with a 100% score. The move is mentioned by Gufeld himself in his book on the Veresov in the annotations to the game Rosetto-Gufeld. In addition, Nigel Davies in his excellent recent book cites 10...Ba3 as a serious problem for White. White should play 10 Qg4 Ne5 11. Qh5+ instead of Bc4 although even this only offers equality at best.

At this point it is clear that the move is well known but to complete the circle our friend Filippo Bianchi sends another e-mail. "I found two games in which my move 10...Ba3 was played. So I am not the discoverer of it. PS: "Bianchi" in Italian means "white"!"

I thought for a moment he was going to end on a high by saying that Bianchi was Italian for Veresov. Oh well! I have had a closer look at Nigel Davies's recent book 'The Veresov' published by Everyman and he does indeed mention the improvement but gives credit to Volker Jeschonnek, including his 1988 game. I still like to think 'Belle' discovered it or maybe Gufeld himself is the answer. Does anybody know for sure?

In the meantime here is a suggestion of an alternative strategy:

**Jonny Hector- Jan Sprenger  
Hamburg 2003**

**1 d4 d5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 Bg5 Nbd7 4 Qd3**



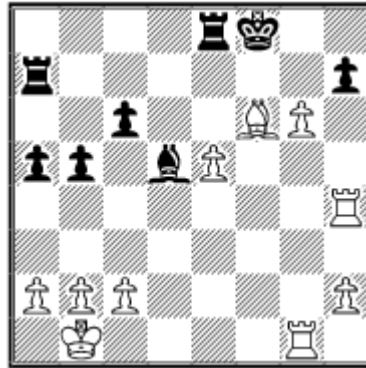
If you are looking for something different I would certainly recommend this move, which has recently been promoted by the Swedish grandmaster Hector. It prepares White to castle queenside in some positions and supports the advance e2-e4. **4...e6 5 e4** This is now like a French Defence which is fine for White who has lots of experience with 1 e4. However, that is not always the case with his opponents who are usually not so aware of the French. **5...dxe4 6 Nxe4 Be7 7 Nxf6+ Nxf6** It is hardly surprising that Black

takes back with the knight because the alternative has suffered some setbacks. For instance: 7...Bxf6 8 Bxf6 Qxf6 9 Nf3 0-0 (9...c5 10 0-0-0 cxd4 11 Qxd4 Qxd4 12 Nxd4 a6 13 g3 b6 14 Bg2 Ra7 15 Nc6 Rc7 16 Rd6 gave White the edge, T.Tolnai-C.Balogh, Budapest 2000) 10 Qe3 c5 11 0-0-0 b6 12 Bb5! cxd4 (12...Qe7 13 d5 Nf6 14 Bc6 Rb8 15 d6 Qd8 16 d7 gave White the advantage in J.Hector-B.Lindberg, Malmo 2003) 13 Rxd4 Qe7 14 Bc6 Rb8 15 Rhd1 Nf6 16 Qe5 Ba6 17 Ra4! Rbc8 (17...Bb7 18 Rxa7 is good news for White) 18 Nd4 Ng4 19 Qf4 h5 20 Rxa6 e5 21 Nf5 Qf6 22 Qf3 Rxc6 23 Qxc6 Qxf5 24 Qf3 when it is time to start counting the pieces so that Black can give up with honour, J.Hector-H.Koneru, Wijk aan Zee 2003. **8 Nf3 0-0 9 0-0-0 b6 10 Ne5** Or 10 Bxf6 Bxf6 11 Qe4 Qd5 is about equal. **10...Bb7 11 Qh3 Ne4 12 Be3 f5?!**



The pawn advance does not secure the knight on e4 and merely serious weakens the e-pawn. **13 f3 Nd6 14 Bd3 Qe8 15 Rhe1** White is content to

improve the position of his pieces before committing himself to pawn breaks. The opening has been a success for White. **15...b5 16 g4 Bd5** It is fair to say that 16...fxg4?? is not the best move possible due to 17 Qxh7 mate. **17 Kb1 a5?!** There is mayhem on the kingside yet Black belatedly is trying to stir up trouble on the queenside. It is well known that an attack often relies on speed and White is about to sprint to victory. **18 gxf5 exf5 19 Rg1! Rf6** 19...Bf6 is an improvement although White is still on top. **20 Bg5 Re6** Also possible is 20...Rf8 when 21 Qh4 Bxg5 22 Qxg5 g6 23 Qh6 intending Nxg6 leaves Black in serious trouble. **21 Bxf5 Nxf5 22 Qxf5** Hector is a pawn up and is still actively attacking. **22...c6 23 f4 Bd6 24 Qg4 Bxe5** If 24...a4 then 25 f5 is embarrassing for Black. **25 dxe5 Ra7 26 Bf6 Qg6** Or 26...g6 27 f5 Rxe5 28 fxg6 leaves Black's position in ruins. **27 f5 Qxg4 28 Rxg4 Re8 29 Rdg1** A simple but very effective way of punishing Black for his inaccurate play. **29...g6 30 fxg6 Kf8 31 Rh4**



**31...Bg8** Black is in trouble: 31...hxg6 32 Rh8+ Kf7 (32...Bg8 33 Rxg6 Kf7 34 Rg7+ wins) 33 Rh7+ Ke6 34 Rxa7 is easily winning. **32 gxh7 Rxh7 33 Rxh7 Bxh7 34 Rg7 Be4 35 h4** White can keep advancing the h-pawn until Black is obliged to sacrifice the bishop to stop it promoting. **35...Re6 36 h5 1-0**

Therefore try out 4 Qd3 next time.

**Michael Allard** from the USA says "My question concerns the Dutch Defense. White seems to conjure up new lines versus the Leningrad variation. One example arose from a correspondence game: Pitter vs. Allard (CCLA Team Ch. XIII) 1 d4 f5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 0-0 0-0 6 d5 (the move in question) 6...c6 7 c4 c6 8 Nd4 c5 9 Nb5 (the other move in question since I never saw this in practice) and Black opts to play the game like a Benko Gambit with 9...a6 10 N5c3 b5 11 cxb5 axb5 12 Nxb5 Bd7 13 N5c3 Qb6 and Black eventually won after mutual middle game errors on move 32.

- Question 1: Does Black have a better move for no. 6
- Question 2: Are there other examples in this specific opening where White plays 9 Nb5?
- Question 3: Is Black's response, as in the game, sound?

It is time to take a closer look at this line:

#### ***Nona Gaprindashvili-Stuart Conquest*** **Groningen 1997**

**1 d4 f5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 0-0 0-0 6 d5**



This is a favourite line of Nona Gaprindashvili who reigned supreme as women's world champion from 1962-78. I think the idea is to tempt Black to play something strange but it transposes to main lines. The only obvious benefit is that Black will spend time wondering what to do and

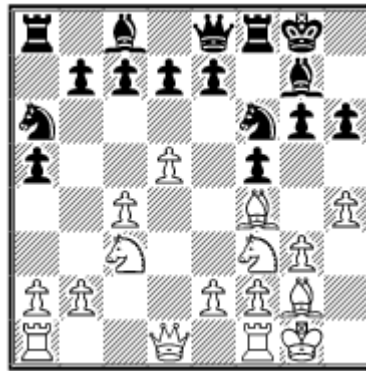
it cuts out lines featuring ...Nc6. **6...a5** The English grandmaster is renowned for his independent spirit in the opening and immediately tries to take advantage of White's slightly unusual move-order. The a-pawn is advanced in order to manoeuvre the queen's knight to c5. The reason why 6...a5 is preferred rather than the obvious 6...Na6 and 7...Nc5 is that in the latter case the knight could be repulsed by b2-b4. This explains Conquest's chosen move.

**a)** 6...d6 there is an argument that Black will simply transpose to standard lines after this move because White cannot do without c2-c4 7 Nd4 Qe8 8 c4 c6 9 Nc3 Bd7 10 Rb1 Na6 11 b3 Rb8 12 Bb2 gave White a slight edge in N.Gaprindashvili-B.Kharashkina, Istanbul 2003;

**b)** 6...e6 7 dxe6 (perhaps 7 c4 should be considered) 7...d5 8 c4 dxc4 9 Qc2 (9 Qxd8 Rxd8 10 e7 Re8 and the place the e-pawn is going is off the board) 9...Qe7 10 Nc3 Bxe6 11 Nd4 c6 12 e4!? Nxe4 13 Nxe6 Qxe6 14 Nxe4 fxe4 15 Re1 b5 16 Rxe4 Qf5 17 Qe2 Nd7 Black has an edge thanks to the extra pawn, T.Gareev-T.Kosintseva, Samara 2002;

**c)** 6...c6 7 c4 d6 8 Nc3 (8 Nd4 this is the move chosen in the reader's correspondence game 8...c5 (8...Ne4 is more in keeping with the Dutch Defence. The king's knight often leaps to e4 when White neglects to develop his queen's knight) 9 Nb5 a6 10 N5c3 b5!? (this seems rather ambitious in the circumstances) 11 cxb5 axb5 12 Nxb5 Bd7 13 N5c3 Qb6 Pitter-Allard, Correspondence) 8...e5 9 dxe6 Bxe6 10 Qd3 this is a well known position and usually occurs upon 6 c4 d6 7 Nc3 c6 8 d5 e5 9 dxe6 Bxe6 10 Qd3. The game continued: 10...Na6 11 Ng5 Qe7 12 Bf4 Rad8 13 Rac1 Ng4 14 Nxe6 Qxe6 15 b3 Nc5 16 Qc2 Qf6 with roughly equal chances, E.Ubilava-M.Knezevic, Trencianske Teplice 1985.

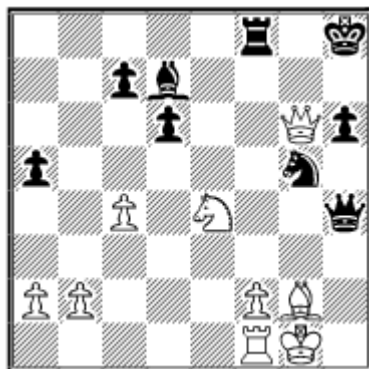
**7 c4 Na6 8 Nc3 Qe8 9 Bf4 h6 10 h4!?**



This seems very sensible to stop Black's usual momentum on the kingside by restricting the advance of the kingside pawns. However, it does weaken White's pawn structure. A few years later 10 Nb5 was the prepared improvement by the former women's champion. However, it is hardly a refutation being designed to stop the knight on a6 from moving and Black should be fine. For instance: 10...d6 11 Nfd4 Bd7 12 Nc3 (12 Rc1 c6 with equal chances) 12...g5 13 Bc1 Nc5 14 e3 Nfe4 Black is a strong player and

his recipe for success is interesting. He has done the standard things of advancing pawns on the kingside and done well to activate the knights. 15 Ncb5 Qd8 16 f3 Nf6 17 Qc2 Nh7 (17...c6!? is also possible) 18 Rd1 c6 19 Nc3 Qe8 20 Nb3 Na6 21 Qe2 Nc7 22 Nd4 Qf7 23 e4 f4 with double-edged play although Black eventually won, N.Gaprindashvili-S.Agrez, Warsaw 2001. **10...d6 11 Nd4 Nh5 12 e3** The retreat of the bishop such as 12 Be3 allows 12...f4 to try and wreck White's defensive barrier which is better for Black. **12 ...Nc5 13 Ncb5 Qd8 14 Qe2 Nf6** The knight has done its job of forcing a compromise from White who had to move the e-pawn so now seems to be heading for the e4-square. **15 Rad1 Bd7 16 Nc3 Nh7!?** The king's knight has been on a mission to annoy White and it seems to be working. Now the threat is ...g6-g5 trapping the bishop. **17 e4 Bxd4!** The start of a pretty, forcing variation. **18 Rxd4 e5** A nice touch that tips the game in favour of Black. **19 dxe6 Nxe6 20 Rd3 fxe4** 20...Nxf4 is not quite so accurate because after 21 gxf4 fxe4 White can decline to take back on e4 and instead play 22 Rg3 with roughly equal play. **21 Bxe4 Rxf4** Also possible: 21...Nxf4 22 gxf4 Qxh4 23 Rg3 Rxf4 24 Rxg6+ Kh8 with the brighter prospects. **22 gxf4 Nxf4 23 Qf3 Nxd3 24 Qxd3 Qxh4 25 Bxb7** 25

Bxg6 Ng5 26 Qg3 Qxg3+ 27 fxg3 Rf8 leaves Black with a very good ending due to the extra pawn. **25...Rf8 26 Qxg6+ Kh8 27 Bg2** Of course 27 Qg3 is met by 27...Rg8 **27...Ng5 28 Ne4?**



White is losing anyway but to trap your own queen is always amusing for the spectators. **28...Bf5 0-1**

**Penny Smith** from the **USA** is not sure about the soundness of a line against the c3-Sicilian that was briefly mentioned in last month's column: 1 e4 c5 2 c3 d6 3 d4 Nf6 4 dxc5 Nc6 5 Bc4 "Why White doesn't play cxd6, leading to Black with an isolated queen pawn and a lost endgame?"

*Alexel Sidorenko-Angelos Vouldis*  
**World Junior Championship 1994**

**1 e4 c5 2 c3 d6 3 d4 Nf6 4 dxc5 Nc6 5 cxd6 Nxe4**



Penny is absolutely right that 5...Qxd6 6 Qxd6 exd6 7 Bd3 leaves White a pawn up with a superior position. This is why Black tends to play something different. **6 dxe7!?** This is the critical move and has come under close scrutiny over the years. The basic summary is that strong players with the White pieces are wary of giving Black an initiative and prefer to seek out alternatives.

For instance: **a)** 6 Nf3 Qxd6 7 Qxd6 (White is happy to head for a draw by exchanging queens at the first

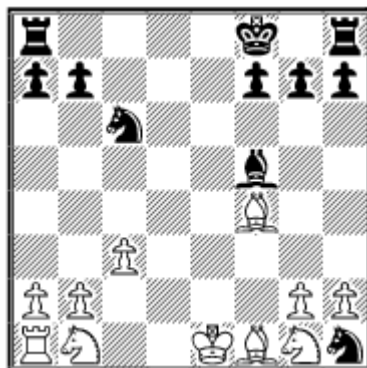
opportunity) 7...Nxd6 8 Bf4 e6 9 Na3 f6 10 Nb5 Nxb5 11 Bxb5 e5 12 Be3 Be6 with equal chances, G.Mufic-M.Cebalo, Makarska 1994;

**b)** 6 Bd3 Nc5 (6...Nxd6 is sensible) 7 Bc4 e6 8 Bf4 e5 9 Qd5 Be6! 10 Qxc5 Bxd6 11 Qb5 a6 12 Qxb7 Na5 13 Bb5+ Kf8 14 Bg5 f6 15 Qf3 axb5 16 Nd2 Kg8 is certainly rather a wild start to a game but Black soon wrapped up the result after 17 Be3 f5 18 Nh3 h6 19 Bb6 Qb8 20 Bxa5 Rxa5 21 Qh5 Ra4! 22 f4 Bc5 23 b3 Ra6 24 Qe2 exf4 25 Nf3 (25 Nf2 is not pretty but White really needs to get the king to safety by castling kingside) 25...Bxb3! with a clear advantage, G.Ligoure-C.Lamoureux, Paris 2001;

**c)** 6 Nd2 Nxd2 7 Qxd2 e5 8 Nf3 Bxd6 9 Qg5 Qxg5 10 Bxg5 Be6 11 Nd2 f5 led to equal chances in the heavyweight encounter, B.Kurajica-Z.Kozul, Split 2000.

**6...Qxd1+ 7 Kxd1 Nxf2+** This line gets the seal of approval from a number of international players. The idea is that even if White does manage to get two pieces for the rook he will have problems defending adequately. **8 Ke1 Nxb1 9 exf8Q+** It is certainly unusual to see White promoting to a queen after only nine moves! **9...Kxf8** Or 9...Rxf8 10 g3 Bg4 11 Bf4 (11 Bg2 is well met by 11...0-0-0! 12 Nd2 (12 Bxh1 Rd1+ wins) 12...Ne5 13 Bxh1 Nd3+ 14 Kf1 Nxc1 15 Rxc1 Rxd2) 11...0-0-0 12 Nd2 Rfe8+ 13 Be2 f6 (13...Rxe2+ 14 Nxe2 Re8 also looks good) 14 Ndf3 g5 15 Bd2 Ne5 16 Nd4 Nd3+ 17 Kd1 Nhf2+ (the knight finally emerges from the corner and White is clearly lost) 18 Kc2 Rxd4 19 Bxd3 Rxd3 20 Rf1 Bf5 21 Kc1 Nh3 0-1 D. Kinnert-M.Baldan, Troisdorf 1999. **10 Bf4** Alternatively: 10 Nf3 Bg4 Black gets the bishop out quickly because he wants to bring the queen's rook into the action 11 Be3 h5 12 Be2 h4 13 Nbd2 (White is catching up

with development but is still the exchange down!) 13...Re8 14 Nc4 h3 15 Kf1 Ng3+ 16 hxg3 h2 that h-pawn has had a charmed life and now we can all see Black cunning plan 17 Nxh2 Bxe2+ 18 Kxe2 Rxh2 with the much better chances, F.Soergel-R.Schroll, Postbauer 1998. **10...Bf5**



The standard practice for Black in this line is to grab the rook and then as soon as possible introduce the queen's rook to the centre. the plan for Black is easy but it is far from clear the best set-up for Black. **11 Be2 Re8 12 Nd2 f6 13 Kf1 g5!** Vouldis rightly responds energetically with a kingside pawn advance to make sure that White's pieces lack harmony. **14 Bd6+ Kg7 15 Bc5 b6 16 g4** Or 16 Ba3 Ne5 17 Ngf3 Bd3 18 Nxe5 Bxe2+ 19 Kxe2 Rxe5+ 20 Kf1 Rhe8 and White is still struggling. **16...Bd7 17 Bd4 Nxd4 18**

**cx d4 h5 19 gxh5 g4** Black makes sure that the white bishop cannot safely reach the f3-square and cut out the defender of the h5-pawn. **20 Bc4 Rxh5 21 Kg2 Nf2** A nice little trick decides things because White cannot win material. **22 Ne2** Or 22 Kxf2 Rxh2+ 23 Kg3 Rxd2 winning. **22...Nh3 23 d5 b5 24 Ng3 Rhe5 25 Bb3 Re2+!** A neat way to win more material. **26 Nxe2 Rxe2+ 27 Kg3 Rxd2 28 Rc1 Rd3+ 29 Kg2 Nf4+ 30 Kf1 Rf3+ 0-1**

I think White would have to be brave to enter this line so it is a viable choice for Black.

**David Frederic** from **France** is very keen on a line in the French Defence. Last month I debated if I had the right position and this time David reminds me that "I put to your attention that Black has not exchanged on d4". After 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 c3 Nc6 5 Nf3 Qb6 6 Be2 Bd7 7 0-0 Nge7 8 Na3 Nf5 "why not 9 g4? Do you think it is an interesting move because I see only 3 lines: a) 10...Ne7?! b) 10...Nh6! c) 10...Nxd4?!. What do you think?"

*Alexy Maly-Erik Azizbekian*  
Krasnodar 2002

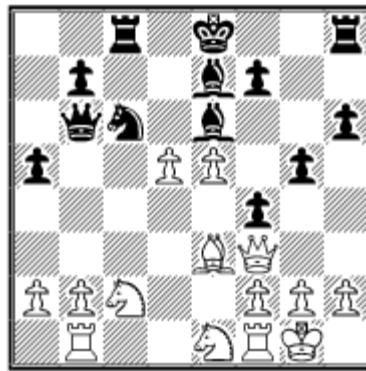
**1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 c3 Nc6 5 Nf3 Qb6 6 Be2 Bd7 7 0-0 Nge7 8 Na3 Nf5?!**



This doesn't seem right because without taking on d4 there is no threat. If Black is looking for something different in the main lines then I would suggest that attention should be paid to the idea of developing the knight to g6. For instance: 8...cxd4 9 cxd4 Ng6!? (Black is one of the best players in the world so it pays to follow his example) 10 Nc2 Be7 11 Bd3 0-0 12 Qe2 a5 13 h4 f6 (the standard response to undermine the pawn centre) 14 exf6 Bxf6 15 h5 Nge7 16 Bg5 Rae8 17 h6 Nf5 with roughly equal chances,

G.Milos-N.Short, Buenos Aires 2001. **9 Nc2** White decides not to enter the unknown and simply allows Black to transpose back into normal lines. I like David's suggestion of 9 g4 because it gives Black immediate problems. a) 9...Nfxd4? 10 cxd4 would merely be Black's way of resigning. Instead 9...

Nge7 is good for White: 10 dxc5! Qxc5 ( 10...Qd8 11 Nb5 Ng6 12 Nd6+ Bxd6 13 exd6 gives White the superior chances) 11 Nb5 (the combined threats of Nc7+ and Nd6+ dictate Black's response) 11...Nxe5 12 Nxe5 Bxb5 13 Qd4! Rc8 14 b4 Qxd4 15 Bxb5+ Nc6 16 cxd4 and White is winning. b) 9...Nh6! and now 10 h3 is the sort of move that has been played in similar positions in order to maintain the tension. The idea is that when Black castles it is difficult to facilitate a future break with ...f6. This is because when White takes on f6 Black knows that gxf6 will leave the knight on h6 hanging while if a piece takes on f6 then g4-g5 forks the pieces. Instead 10 Bxh6 gxf6 11 Qd2 Rg8 12 h3 h5 is better for Black. **9...cxd4 10 cxd4 Be7 11 Rb1 Rc8 12 Be3 h6 13 Bd3 g5 14 Nfe1** It is dangerous for Black to throw his kingside pawns forward because with his king in the centre it is not possible to co-ordinate the rooks to support an attack. **14...a6 15 Qf3 a5** Not 15...Nfxd4? which loses upon 16 Nxd4 Nxd4 17 Qg4 Bc5 18 b4 and White will win material. **16 Bxf5 exf5 17 Qxd5 Be6** 17...g4 to cut off the retreat of the queen is the best bet in the circumstances. **18 Qf3 f4 19 d5!**



White is on top. **19...fxe3 20 dxe6 exf2+ 21 Rxf2 Nxe5** 21...0-0!? seems bizarre but is the only chance: 22 exf7+ Kh8 and then hope! **22 exf7+ Kf8 23 Qf5 Rc5 24 Qe4 Nc6 25 Nf3 Rb5 26 Nfd4 Re5 27 Ne6+! Rxe6 28 Qxe6 1-0**

Finally, **Beat Zaugg, Zürich, Switzerland** has a dilemma against the English, because as all club players know, it is arguably the duller opening possible. He writes "I usually prefer sharp openings (Blackmar-

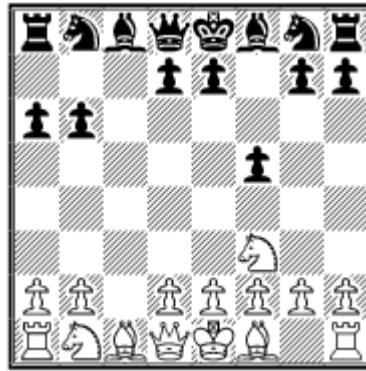
Diemer-Gambit, Budapest Gambit, Wolga-Benkö-Gambit etc., also Scandinavian). Against the English I tried systems with e5 and f5, but it doesn't really suit me. Do you know a rather sharp variation against 1 c4 that is not too weird and gives Black practical chances?"

It is difficult to refute an entire opening in a few sentences but I will give it a go. I have half answered the question by initially finding something weird but I cannot vouch for it being any good!

**Alexandra Pastukh-Nikolay Chernetsk**  
**Odessa 2003**

**1 c4 b5** A move which Black should play accompanied by a smile. Black has a FIDE rating of 2117 and a lot of confidence. **2 cxb5** A free pawn is always worth taking! Then again not everyone is prepared to enter the unknown: 2 d3 Nf6 3 Nf3 Bb7 4 cxb5 (at last White who is a strong player decides it is time to go a pawn up) 4...d5 5 g3 Nbd7 6 d4 e6 7 Bg2 Bd6 8 0-0 Ne4 9 Nbd2 h5 10 Nxe4 dxe4 11 Ng5 h4 12 Nxe4 gave White a clear advantage in V.Bukal-D.Klem, Zagreb 2002. Also possible: 2 e3 bxc4 3 Bxc4 Nf6 4 Nc3 d5 5 Be2 e6 6 a3 c5 7 d4 Bd6 with equal chances although Black eventually won, F.Kempf-M.Auwens, Kleve 1999. **2...a6 3 b6?!** Why not take the pawn? I think White is assuming Black will get some play by thinking of the Benko Gambit, which has a vaguely similar position after 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b6 4 cxb5 a6 and now 5 b6. The big difference is that the pawn on d5 is a target for Black. Or 3 e3 e5 4 d4 e4 5 d5 f5 6 Nc3 Nf6 7 Nh3 Bd6!? an odd looking move but with the light-squared bishop destined to be developed on a6 or b7 it is not critical that the d-pawn is restricted. 8

f4 0-0 9 Be2 Qe8 10 Qb3 Qg6 11 0-0 with a small advantage for White, J.Wintzer-T.Vogler, German Team Championship 2001 **3...cxb6 4 Nf3 f5**



A truly ridiculous looking position, which is just what you wanted! **5 Qb3 e6 6 Nc3 Nf6 7 d3 Bb7 8 Be3 b5 9 a3 Be7 10 g3 0-0** Black is developing smoothly so the opening has been a success. The game concluded: **11 Bg2 Nc6 12 0-0 Qe8 13 Ne5 Na5 14 Qd1 Bxg2 15 Kxg2 Rc8 16 Bd2 d6 17 Nf3 Qh5** Black is playing the position like a Dutch Defence by trying to attack on the kingside. **18 h3 Nc6 19 e4 fxe4 20 dxe4 d5 21 exd5 exd5 22 Be3 Qf5 23 Nd4 Nxd4 24 Bxd4 Ne4 25 Qg4 Qxg4 26 hxg4 Nxc3 27 Bxc3 Bf6 28**

**Rfd1 Bxc3 29 bxc3 Rxc3 30 Rxd5 Rc2!** Black has a superior ending but it will take a long time. **31 Rf1 Ra2 32 Rd3 Rf6 33 Kg1 Kf7 34 f4 Rc6 35 Rd7+ Kg6 36 f5+ Kh6 37 g5+ Kxg5 38 Rxc7+ Kh6 39 Rg8 Rcc2 40 Rd1 Rg2+ 41 Kh1 Rh2+ 42 Kg1 Rag2+ 43 Kf1 Rc2 44 Rd6+ Kh5 45 g4+ Kh4 46 Rh6+ Kg3 47 Rxh2 Rxh2 48 Ke1 Rf2 49 Rg7 Rf3 50 Ke2 Rxa3 51 f6 Rf3 52 g5 Rf5 53 g6 hxg6 54 Rxc6+ Kf4 55 f7 Rxf7 56 Rxa6 Ke4 57 Rb6 Rf5 58 Kd2 Kd4 59 Kc2 Kc4 60 Rc6+ Kb4 61 Rb6 Rf2+ 62 Kd3 Ka4 63 Ra6+ Kb3 64 Rb6 b4 65 Ke3 Rf8 66 Kd2 Rd8+ 67 Kc1 Rc8+ 68 Kd2 Ka3 69 Ra6+ Kb2 70 Rb6 Rd8+ 71 Ke3 b3 72 Rb7 Kc2 73 Rc7+ Kb1 74 Rb7 b2 75 Rb6 Ra8 76 Kd2 Ka2 0-1**

A better idea for those who play an anti-Sicilian after 1 e4 c5 is just to follow what they know, but play it one move down with colours reversed. It sounds daft but if you already know those lines well then the opening will be a breeze. If White stumbles through lack of knowledge then you have regained your tempo and continue to press for victory. I have seen an impressive Kasparov game where he plays the Closed Sicilian with colours reversed. However, this time I would like to remind everyone of a Fischer classic where he plays the Grand Prix Attack with colours reversed.

**Anthony Saidy-Robert Fischer**  
New York 1969

**1 c4 e5** Another example worth noting continued: **1...g6 2 Nc3 Bg7 3 g3 Nc6 4 Bg2 d6 5 Nf3 e5 6 d3 f5 7 0-0 Nf6** (This position will be familiar after 1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 d6 3 g3 Nc6 4 Bg2 g6 5 d3 Bg7 6 f4 Nf6 7 Nf3 0-0) **8 Rb1 h6 9 b4 0-0 10 b5 Ne7 11 a4 Be6!? 12 Ba3 Rc8 13 Nd2 b6 14 e3 g5 15 d4 exd4 16 exd4 f4 17 Re1 Bg4! 18 Nf3 Qd7 19 c5 Rce8 20 Rc1 Nf5 21 Qd3 Kh8 22 cxd6 cxd6 23 Rxe8 Qxe8 24 Rf1 Qh5 25 Ne4 Nxe4 26 Qxe4 Bh3 27 Ne5 Bxg2 28 Kxg2 g4 29 Bxd6 Rf6 30 Bb8 Qh3+ 0-1** L.Psakhis-G.Kasparov, Murcia 1990. **2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3 f5** This is what we call nowadays the reversed Grand Prix Attack. It might be easier to understand it after 1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 f4. **4 Bg2 Nf6 5 e3 5 d3** The opening is still going strong on the evidence on this game where Black is a 2600 grandmaster: **5...Bc5 6 a3** this is not normal but the whole point is that White is out of his depth and does not know what to do **6...d6 7 b4 Bb6 8 e3 0-0 9 Nge2 Qe8** as usual in the Grand Prix the queen prepares to attack on the kingside via g6 or h5. **10 Nd5 Nxd5 11 Bxd5+ Kh8 12 0-0 f4!?** (this sort of sacrifice is familiar in the opening because if the e-pawn takes then the bishop on b6 is strengthened while if the g-pawn attacks then the white king is exposed) **13 Nc3 Bh3 14 exf4 Bd4 15 Bd2 Bxf1 16 Qxf1 exf4 17 gxf4 Qh5 18 b5 Ne5 19 fxe5 Rxf2 20 Qxf2 Bxf2+ 21 Kxf2 Qxh2+ 22 Ke3 Rf8 23 Ra2 Qf2+ 24 Ke4 dxe5 0-1** M.Renaudin-L.Fressinet, Paris 2001. **5...Bc5 6 d3 f4!?**





This is now regarded as a standard attacking ploy in the opening but if your opponent is not an expert on the Sicilian it could still come as a nasty surprise. 7 exf4 0-0 8 Nge2 Qe8 9 0-0 d6 10 Na4 Bd4 11 Nxd4 exd4 12 h3 h5 13 a3 a5 14 b3 Qg6 15 Nb2 Bf5 16 Qc2 Nd7 17 Re1 Nc5 18 Bf1 Ra6! An inspired idea to target the b3-pawn. 19 Bd2 Rb6 20 Bxa5 Rxb3 21 Bd2 Ra8 22 a4 Ra6 23 a5 Kh7 24 Red1 b6 25 Be1 bxa5 26 Na4 Rxd3! I think it is fair to say that this particular English opening has certainly not been dull. 27

Bxd3 Bxd3 28 Qa2 Nb4 29 Qa3 Nc2 30 Qb2 Nxa1 31 Rxa1 Nxa4 32 Rxa4 Qe4 33 Bxa5 Rxa5 34 Rxa5 Qe1+ 35 Kh2 Qxa5 36 Qxd4 0-1

If anyone can think of other openings that have been played with colours reversed then please let me know.

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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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