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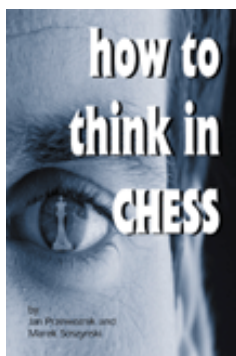
Opening Lanes is based in large part on readers' questions. Do you have a question about a particular opening line? Baffled by a branch of the Benoni or Budapest? Submit your questions (with you full name and country of residence please) and perhaps Gary will reply in his next *Chess Cafe* column...

Yes, I have a question for Gary!

COLUMNISTS

Opening Lanes

Gary Lane



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A Spanish Stroll

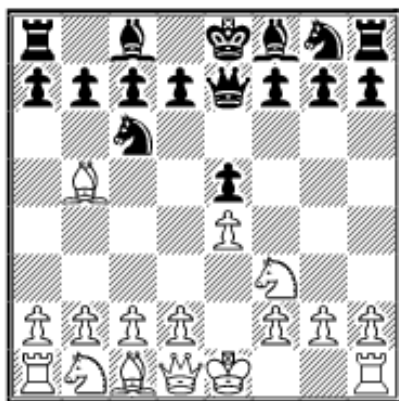
The Ruy Lopez also known as the Spanish Opening has been played for centuries and still performs consistently at the highest level. Therefore, it is not surprising that Black is keen to avoid the prospect of 'Spanish Torture' and play something different. **Marcin Tymrakiewicz** from **Poland** wants to take a stroll on the wild side and know how to handle something a little bit different:

"I played several games with an opponent who used quite a unique system of the Ruy Lopez: 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Qe7 and now 4...Nd8, 5...c6, next ...d6, ...g6 or even ...f6 etc. It was very tempting to punish his unusual play from the very start, but unfortunately it didn't work. Did you ever play against such a system?"

I think the right way to handle the opening is to discover the aim of Black's opening strategy:

Peter Markland-Peter Biyiasas Skopje Olympiad final-B 1972

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Qe7!?



This is a quirky move that is designed to annoy and frustrate White. The positional idea seems a bit slow; to move the queen's knight back to d8 and then play ...c6. However, White could consume a lot of time dealing with the problem of how to react to a slightly different approach. **4 0-0** 4 Nc3 Nd8 5 d3 c6 6 Bc4 d6 (Black's argument is that he has time to slowly develop the kingside) 7 Be3 Nf6 8 h3 Qc7 9 d4 b5 10 Bd3 Be7 11 0-0 0-0 led to equal chances in A.Bachtiar-K.Shirazi,

Jakarta 1978. **4...Nd8 5 d4 c6 6 Bc4** The bishop can also retreat to 6 Ba4 when A.Deutsch-J.Berry, Boston 1970, continued 6...d6 7 c4 f6 8 Nc3 g6 9 b4 Bd7 10 d5 Nh6 11 dxc6 bxc6 12 b5! (a neat positional idea to strip away Black's cover of the d5-square, which allows a white knight to hop there without restriction) 12...Rc8 13 bxc6 Bxc6 14 Nd5 is better for White because Black has poor development. **6...d6 7 b3** Markland adopts a careful strategy to try and exploit the queen on e7. A queenside fianchetto allows him to put pressure on the e5-pawn. 7 a4 g6 (a standard idea in this line to fianchetto on the kingside that certainly makes sense with a queen on e7) 8 Nc3 Bg7 9 dxe5 dxe5 10 b3 Be6 11 Ba3 (White has done well to work out how to contend with Black's strategy and present a fresh set of problems) 11...Qd7 12 Qe2 Bxc4 13 Qxc4 Qe6 14 Qe2 Bf8 15 Bxf8 Kxf8 16 Rad1 gave White an edge but Black eventually won in A.Bogda-H.Rossetto, Asuncion 1983. **7...Nf6 8 dxe5 dxe5 9 Bb2 9 Ba3** to dislodge the black queen is met by 9...Qc7 10 Bxf8 Rxf8 11 Nbd2 Bg4 and is roughly equal. **9...Nd7 10 a4 Qf6 11 Nbd2 Bc5 12 Be2 Qe7** If 12...0-0 then 13 Nc4 causes distress to the e5-pawn when 13...Re8 allows 14 Ncxe5! Nxe5 15 Nxe5 Rxe5? 16 Bxe5 Qxe5 17 Qxd8+ winning. **13 a5 f6 14 c3 a6 15 b4 Bd6 16 Nc4 Nf7**



17 Ba3 17 Nh4 would maintain the pressure when 17...g6 18 Nxd6+ Nxd6 19 Qd3 0-0 20 Rad1 gives White a decent initiative. **17...Nf8 18 Nxd6+ Qxd6 19 Qc2 Qc7 20 Rfd1 Be6 21 c4 Nd7 22 c5 0-0** Biyiasas has finally managed to castle kingside, which is hardly something to be proud of during the game. Then again if White is about to run out of time on the clock then it is a job well done. **23 Bc1 Rfd8 24 Be3 Nf8 25**

Rxd8 Rxd8 26 Rd1 Rxd1+ 1/2-1/2

I saw the opening being played by a number of strong players during the 1980s in open tournaments when Black wanted to confuse their lower rated opponents. It worked well, but interest in the line stopped almost overnight after the following game where a strong French master was humiliated:

Lothar Vogt-Emmanuel Bricard Bad Wildbad 1990

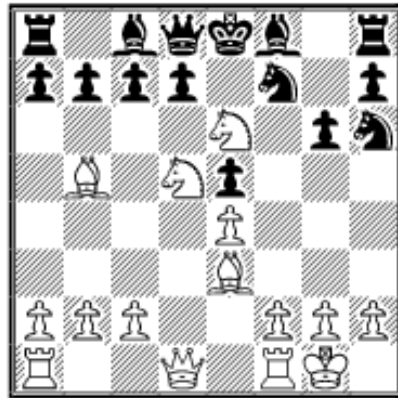
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Qe7 4 0-0 Nd8 Also possible: 4...Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bc4 h6 7 Nd5 (this is the right way to treat Black's opening by trying to instigate problems instantly) 7...Nxd5 8 exd5 Na5 9 Nxe5 Kd8? (Black is eager to shift the king away from the e-file to avoid a pin but it merely encourages White. Instead 9...d6!? is the best bet but 10 b4 maintains White's advantage) 10 Re1 Qf6 11 Qf3 Qxf3 12 gxf3 Nxc4 13 Nxf7 mate 1-0 J.Jenal-H.Kersting, Bad Ragaz 1991. **5 d4 f6 6 Nc3 Nf7?! It** has to be noted that 6...c6 is more in keeping with the Black plan of action to cover the d5-square. **7 Be3 g6?** Bricard prepares a kingside fianchetto expecting a slow, manoeuvring game. However, the vital difference compared to previous example is that he has allowed a

white knight to occupy d5 to harass the black queen which proves fatal.

8 dxe5 fxe5 9 Nd5 Qd8 10 Ng5! Ngh6 Or 10...Nxc5 11 Bxc5 a)

11...Qxg5 12 Nxc7+ Kf7 (12...Kd8 13 Ne6+) 13 Nxa8 wins b) 11...Be7

12 Nxe7 Nxe7 13 Bf6 Rf8 14 Bxe5 with a winning advantage. **11 Ne6!**



1-0

I hope this game will inspire Marcin to win in similar fashion.

Bob Taylor from **England** is a member of the White Rose and Preston chess clubs. He claims to have a sensational discovery in the Ponziani, which occurs after 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 c3 d5: "Recent opinion on the sharp line has shifted, with

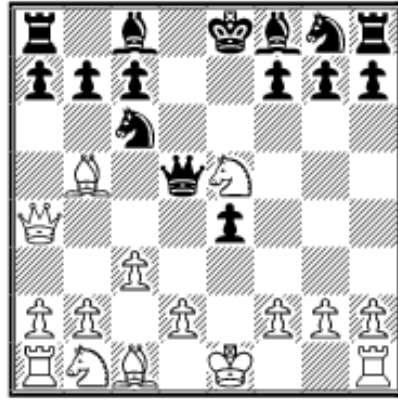
some authorities saying that 4 Qa4 is necessary and 4 Bb5 is refuted. Do you have an opinion? I have corresponded with American authority Dave Taylor on the matter and his next book will recommend 4 Qa4 (his last Ponz book went more for 4 Bb5). Published analysis, in the last five years or so, has thrown doubt on 4 Bb5 and it's incomplete in my view! In fact I've produced analysis to rehabilitate 4 Bb5, however; I am not suggesting that it is anything more than equal. I based this on a game from 1998 when I was defeated by GM Mark Hebden at a congress in Liverpool (at Aintree racecourse in fact). I have gone back to it and spent many hours refining it."

After such a tantalizing introduction I could not wait to see the Hebden game and all the new analysis. The only problem is that Bob did not send any supporting material! However, I will wait and see. In the meantime here is a sneak preview of the possibilities attached to 4 Bb5 in the Ponziani.

Alexander Lastin-Denis Belotelov Moscow Championship 1994

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 c3 d5 4 Bb5 dxe4 Also possible: a) 4...f6!? 5 Qa4 Nge7 6 d3 Be6 7 0-0 a6 8 Bxc6+ Nxc6 9 Be3 Bd6 10 Nbd2 0-0 11 Qb3 Qe8 12 exd5 Na5 13 Qc2 Bxd5 14 c4 with equal chances, K.Bhatia-H.Lang, British Team Championship 1999 b) 4...a6 5 Bxc6+ bxc6 6 Qa4 Bd6 7 d4 (7 Qxc6+ Bd7 8 Qxd5 Nf6 9 Qc4 Bb5 is better for Black due to the lead in development and the fact that the white king is stuck in the centre) 7...dxe4 8 Qxc6+ Bd7 9 Qxe4 Nf6 10 Qe2 e4 11 Ne5 0-0 12 Bg5 Bf5 13 Nd2 c5 14 0-0 with an edge, M.Kantorik-M.Castiglione, Slovak team Championship 2000. **5 Nxe5 Qd5** This move comes in and out of fashion but has the merit of avoiding main line theory. Probably 5...Qg5 is the critical test but Black needs to be prepared otherwise he can walk into trouble. For instance: 6 Qa4 Qxg2 7 Bxc6+ bxc6 8 Qxc6+ Kd8 9 Rf1 Bh3 10 Qxa8+ Ke7 11 Kd1 Qxf1+ 12 Kc2 (this is all well known and a Ponziani player is likely to spend ages becoming an expert on the position whilst Black will play it hardly ever) 12...f6 13 b3 Nh6 14 Ba3+ Ke6 15 Qe8+ Kf5 16 Bxf8 fxe5 17 Qd7+ Kf4 18 Qxg7 Ng4 19 Qxh8 Nxf2 20 Qf6+ Kg4 21 Qg7+ Kf4 22 Qf7+ Bf5 23 Bh6+ Kg4 24

h3+ Nxh3 25 Qc4 Qxc4 26 bxc4 e3+ 27 Kd1 1–0 J.Pcola-J.Kratochvil,
Marianske Lazne 2003. **6 Qa4**



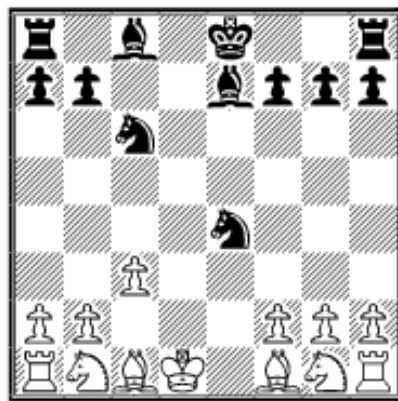
6...Bd7?! Black defends the knight, but 6...Nge7 is the solid response. **7 Nxd7 Kxd7** If 7...Qxd7 then 8 Qxe4+ is simply better for White who is a pawn up. **8 d4 Bd6 9 Bc4 Qh5?** Of course 9...Qa5 is the only way to keep the game competitive although 10 Qb3 maintains White's advantage. **10 d5** The knight is pinned and Lastin will enjoy a big advantage. Black just carries on so it will look better in the tournament

bulletin. **10...Nf6 11 dxc6+ bxc6 12 Be3 Ng4 13 Be2 f5 14 h3 Qg6 15 hxg4 f4 16 Bxf4 Bxf4 17 Nd2 Rhe8 18 Qd4+ Ke7 19 Qxe4+ 1–0**

Ronald Breedveld from **France** wrote: "I read your *Opening Lanes* today and have a question: 1 e4 c5 2 c3 d6 3 d4 Nf6 4 dxc5 Nc6 5 cxd6 Nxe4 6 dxe7!? Qxd1 7 Kxd1 and now you recommend Nxf2+. However, I believe Khalifman recommended 7...Bxe7!? with good compensation for the pawn. This has been played three times, according to one chess site, with two black wins and one draw as result. What is your opinion?"

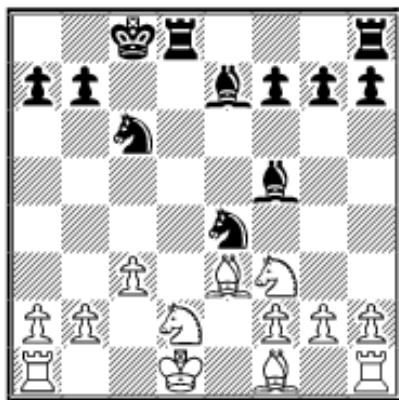
Carlos Vargas Drechsler-David Garcia Ilundain Barcelona 2000

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d6 3 d4 Nf6 4 dxc5 Nc6 5 cxd6 Nxe4 6 dxe7 Qxd1+ 7 Kxd1 Bxe7



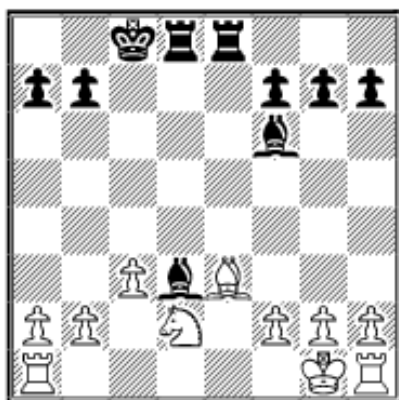
This simple move is the safe alternative to 7...Nxf2+ if that looks too complicated. Black is claiming that his pieces can be employed more actively than White, who had to give up the right to castle. It is debatable whether it is worth Black giving up a pawn but in practice the results have been fairly encouraging. **8 Be3 Bf5 9 Nf3** Also possible: 9 Bb5 0–0–0+ 10 Ke2 Ne5 11 Nf3 Nxf3 12 Kxf3 Nd6 13 Bf1 (it seems a defensive measure

but already Black has a decent initiative. For instance: 13 Be2 Be4+ 14 Kg3 Nf5+ 15 Kf4 Bxg2 Black restores the material level and can now turn his attention to chasing the white king 16 Rg1 Nxe3 17 Kxe3 Bg5+ 18 f4 Rhe8+ 19 Kf2 Bh4+ 20 Kxg2 Rxe2+ is good news for Black) 13...Be4+ 14 Ke2 Nc4 15 Nd2 Bd3+! 16 Ke1 Nxb2 gave Black the better chances due to his superior co-coordinated pieces, I.Viksni-A.Yermolinsky, Leningrad 1988. **9...0–0–0+ 10 Nbd2**



10...Bf6 Garcia Ilundain was rated over 2500 at the time this game was played so his move demands some respect. The idea is simply to clear the e-file for his king's rook. The main alternative is 10...Bc5 when after 11 Bxc5 Nxc5 White has struggled to find a decent continuation: a) 12 Be2 Nd3 13 Bxd3 Rxd3 14 Re1 Rhd8 15 Re3 R3d7 16 Ke1 Bg4 17 Nb3 Bxf3 18 Rxf3 Ne5 gave Black decent

compensation for the pawn, H.Sauveniere-H.Winants,Huy 1993. By the way, before anyone writes in to point out I have made a clerical mistake by not noticing a game played by the Belgium grandmaster Luc Winants, I have to say in my defence that it was played by his father! b) 12 Kc1 Rhe8 and now: b1) 13 b3 g5 14 Bc4 (14 Nxc5?? invites disaster upon 14...Re1+ 15 Kb2 Rxd2+ 16 Ka3 Rxa1 followed by mate) 14...g4 15 Nh4 Bd3 16 Rd1 (16 Bxf7 Re2 17 Rf1? Ne5 18 Bh5 Bc2! with a winning advantage) 16...Re2 17 b4 Bxc4 18 bxc5 Be6 Black is better but I give the rest of the game as a demonstration of how to smoothly convert the advantage into victory 19 f4 Rf2 20 f5 Bxf5 21 Nxf5 Rxf5 22 Rf1 Rxc5 23 Rxf7 Rxc3+ 24 Kb2 Re3 25 Nc4 Re2+ 26 Kc3 b5 27 Nb2 Re3+ 0-1 P.Buchniecek-V.Vodicka, Mlada Boleslav 1992; b2) 13 Bb5 a6 14 b4 Nd3+ 15 Bxd3 Rxd3 16 Ne1 Rdd8 17 Nc4 Re2 (the rook takes up residence on the second rank and underlines the passivity of White's position) 18 Rf1 Be6 19 Ne3 Ne5 20 a4 Rdd2 with the superior position, M.Robertson-C.Pizzato, Brisbane 1996. **11 Ke1 Nxd2 12 Nxd2 Rhe8** This is a standard procedure to bring the king's rook into the action. I think the plan of action for Black is fairly straightforward; it consists of castling queenside and then adding the king's rook to the centre. In contrast, White is a pawn up but has problems in developing his pieces, which can be critical if he is not accurate. **13 Be2 Ne5 14 Kf1 Nd3 15 Bxd3** 15 Rb1 can also be considered. **15...Bxd3+ 16 Kg1**



Dreschsler has managed to hang on to his extra pawn but with a rook marooned on h1 he has a long-term problem. **16...Be2 17 Nb3 Bc4 18 Nd4 a6 19 h4 h6 20 Re1?** This is a careless move that simply allows Black to win a pawn a pawn for nothing. 20 a3!? is ugly but at least protects the a-pawn from attack. **20...Bxa2 21 b3?** Another gift for Black because now the b-pawn will leave the board. **21...Bxd4 22 cxd4**

Bxb3 23 Rc1+ It is possible that White misguidedly thought that opposite coloured bishops might facilitate superior drawing chances but that would be a mistake. As long as at least one rook is on the board it shouldn't really matter. In this case the connected passed pawns on the queenside spell oblivion for White. **23...Kd7 24 Kh2 Rc8 25 Rb1 Rc3 26 Kg1** Or 26 Rhe1 Re4 27 g3 Bd5 is winning for Black. **26...Rd3 27 Kf1 Rd1+ 28 Rxd1 Bxd1 29 Ke1 Bb3 30 Kd2 Bd5 31 f3 a5** The

queenside pawns begin to roll and White will see he is in serious trouble.
32 Kc3 0-1

The Blackmar-Diemer Gambit continues to inspire lots of interest: “My name is **Jan Van Gils** from **Belgium**. I haven’t played chess for more than twenty years, but I am preparing to return to the chess-battlefield. As I used to play the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit, my intention is to collect all the information that is available. In your last column you talked about a problem in the Huebsch Gambit: 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 e4 Nxe4 4 Nxe4 dxe4 5 Bc4 Nc6 6 c3 e5 7 d5 Ne7 8 f3 Nf5. I found an interesting game from the *Fernschachmeisterschaft*, USA 1965 between Nastopka and Marchetti. The only difference is that White didn’t continue with 8.f3, but played 8 Qa4+! I give you the rest of the game.”

I dutifully keyed in all the moves supplied and although I soon recognised it as a classic it deserves a wider audience:

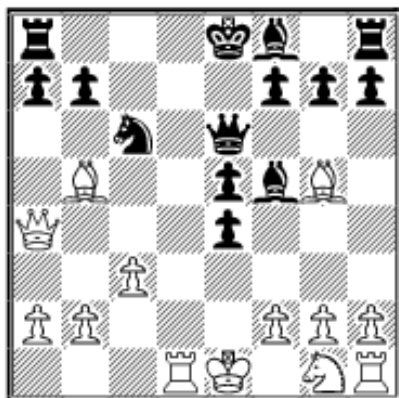
Nastopka-Marchetti Correspondence 1965

1 d4 Nf6 Instead 1...d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3 is the standard way to enter the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit. **2 Nc3 d5 3 e4 Nxe4 4 Nxe4 dxe4 5 Bc4 Nc6 6 c3 e5 7 d5 Ne7 8 Qa4+**



In last month's column I did indeed discuss 8 f3 when 8...Nf5 was suggested, which is apparently an idea by French grandmaster Eric Prie. **Tommy J. Curry** from the **USA** asked the original question and I gave the line 9 Bb5+ Bd7 10 Bxd7+ Qxd7 11 fxe4 Nd6 12 Qe2 with equal chances. However, Mr Curry has since written to say that Black is better after 12...Qa4 and mentioned various software packages as

witnesses. However, I still think 13 Nf3! attacking the e5-pawn is fine for White and would be delighted to hear about any further analysis in this line. **8...c6** Or 8...Bd7 is met by 9 Qb3 with some compensation for the pawn but 9...Nf5 looks like a decent chance for Black to free his pieces. **9 dxc6 Nxc6 10 Bb5 Qd5 11 Bg5 Bf5 12 Rd1 Qe6**



13 Qxa7! A wonderful move, which is a dream come true for any gambit player who wants to win in style. **13...Qc8 14 Rd8+ Qxd8 15 Qxb7** This is an accurate continuation to continue the pressure by aiming to snare the black king. Not 15 Bxd8?? because 15...Rxa7 means it is time to count the pieces. **15...Qxg5 16 Bxc6+ Kd8 17 Qxa8+ Kc7 18 Qb7+ Kd6 19 Ne2** There are times when a good player resists the urge to keep

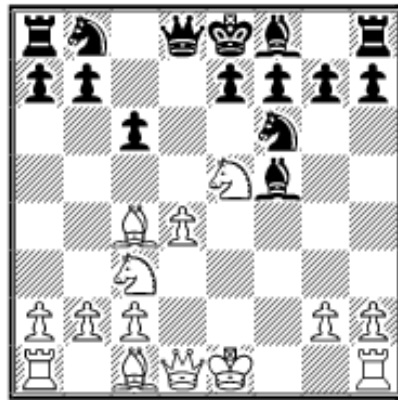
checking and find time to get the rest of the pieces into the game. **19...e3 20 f4 Qe7 21 Qb6 Ke6 22 fxe5 Qc5 23 Qc7 1-0**

Finally, it is difficult enough to play a game – but surely it is even worse when you have to confront a team of players! **Tim Goodspeed** from the **USA** was on the winning side and writes: “I have recently completed a correspondence game that I think you will find of interest. It involves your favourite Blackmar Diemer Gambit. We have a small group of friends that get together to play an informal tournament. One of the regulars, Larry Ball, challenged all comers to a correspondence game via email. A small group of us took up the challenge. At the critical sixth move for Black, which really dictates the direction of the game, I lobbied our group for the Ziegler Defence. This line is not often played and I only found three games in my database: one win, one loss, and one draw. In the game that Black lost he did not play the best tenth move. This is a critical variation and I would like to know your opinion regarding the Black move 10...Qd6 in this line. Although the game we played did not follow this line, I think you will enjoy it.”

I took the liberty of annotating the game myself and any notes by Tim are indicated:

Larry Ball-2nd Wednesday Chess (Bill Gagnon, (1685) / Chuck Schulien, (2358) / Tony Midson, (1430) / Tim Goodspeed, (1655) E-mail 2004

1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3 exf3 5 Nxf3 c6 6 Bc4 Bf5 7 Ne5



This is standard for Blackmar-Diemer players, which is great for quick games on the internet, but when Black has time to think then the defence can be accurately played.

7...e6 8 0-0 White has also experimented with 8 g4 when J.Fletcher-P.Kemp, Jersey 2004, continued: 8...Bg6 9 g5 Nfd7 10 Nxc3 hxc3 11 0-0 Qc7 (perhaps 11...Nb6 is worth considering) 12 Bf4 Bd6 13 Qg4 Bxf4 14 Rxf4 Nb6

15 Bxe6! fxe6 16 Qxe6+ Kd8 17 Raf1 N8d7 18 Qxg6 Nd5 19 Nxd5?! (19 Qxg7! is much better for White. For instance: 19...Re8 20 Re4 Nxc3 21 Rxe8+ Kxe8 22 Re1+ Kd8 23 Qg8+ wins) 19...cxd5 20 Qxg7 Re8 21 Rf7 Qd6 22 R1f3 Qe6 23 h4 ½-½. **8...Bxc2 9 Qxc2** The team playing Black were expecting 9 Nxf7 when they wanted the position arising from 9...Kxf7 10 Qg4 Qd6 and White is struggling to justify his sacrifice. **9...Qxd4+ 10 Kh1 Qxe5 11 Bf4**



Tim comments: "Larry plays in typical BDG style getting his pieces out quickly and with threats. White's pieces begin to swarm all over the board, and Black is having difficulty developing and bringing the king to safety. This is a critical position in the game." **11...Qa5 12 Bxe6 fxe6 13 Qb3 Nbd7 14 Qxe6+ Be7** If 14...Kd8 then 15 Rad1 gives White decent attacking chances. **15 Rae1 0-0-0 16 Qxe7 Rde8 17 Qxg7 Qb4**

18 Be5 Reg8 19 Qf7 Nxe5 20 Rxe5 Or 20 Qxf6 Qxb2 21 Re2 Qxc3 22 Rxe5 transposes to the main game. **20...Qxb2 21 Re2 Qxc3 22 Rxf6 Rf8 23 Qe6+** After 23 Qxf8+ Rxf8 24 Rxf8+ Kc7 25 h3 I prefer Black who can try to advance his pawns on the queenside. **23...Kc7 24 Rf7+ Kb6 0-1** White did the honourable thing and resigned. However, I think White can carry on with h3 ensuring decent chances of a draw because the black king is poorly placed.

Mr Goodspeed concludes: "Overall, after playing the Ziegler Defence, I can see why it is not played often by Black. The defence is by no means a refutation of the BDG for Black. White gets strong play for the sacrificed pawns in the opening. Had this not been a correspondence game, and a team effort at that, I am not sure how well Black would fair. The defence must be played very precisely; White's pieces develop with ease and the attack almost plays itself."

There are certainly encouraging words for gambit players or is it just a ruse by Tim to constantly be a pawn up?

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