



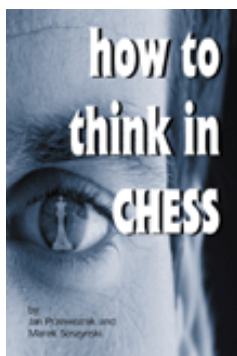
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COLUMNISTS

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!

School Disco

The great thing about remembering your school days is that as the years' progress you fondly remember the social life and forget the horror of delivering homework late and, even worse, the stress of exams.

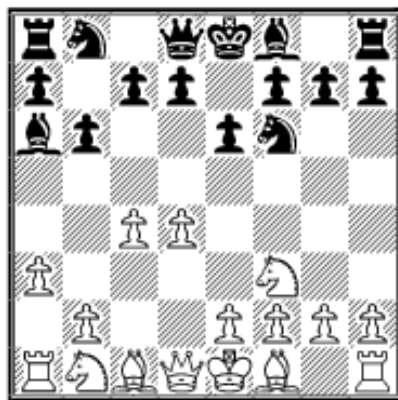
Therefore, no one really wants to study if they don't have to and this is the problem facing **Dominick DiMantova** from the **USA**.

His short essay says "I'm a 1700 player and I have been looking for a good black repertoire against d4 and I think I've found it: the Nimzo-Indian. However, I am finding that white almost always responds with Nf3: d4 Nf6 c4 e6 Nf3, from which I conclude that I should learn the Queen's Indian. So, shall I study the Queen's Indian as well as the Nimzo-Indian? It seems that I will be doing a lot of studying!

It is certainly true that the Queen's Indian can be as exciting as watching paint dry but there is no need to routinely try to remember loads of dull lines. Instead, find a variation which is fun and then it will be a pleasure to play through a few games in your pet opening. I will try to point you in the right direction:

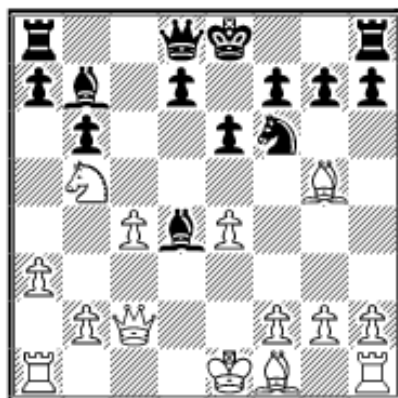
Pierre Toulzac- Mladen Palac Cap d'Agde 2003

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 b6 4 a3 Ba6



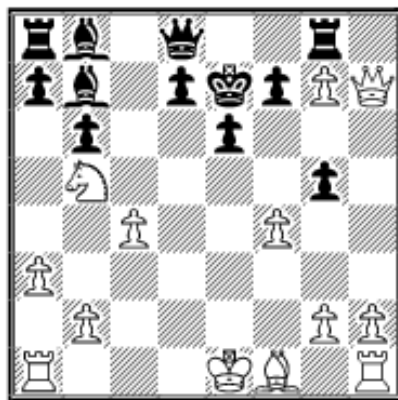
I think this idea is difficult to understand at first. Black wants to make White change his normal development plan by attacking the c-pawn before going to the b7-square. For instance, if 5 Nbd2 defending the pawn, then the usual choice of Nc3 has been avoided. **5 Qc2 Bb7** The job has been completed of persuading White to move to a square that is deemed not as good as d1 in this line. It sounds tough but just rely on the

mass of grandmasters who employ it that it is worth playing. **6 Nc3 c5 7 e4 cxd4 8 Nxd4 Bc5** It is worth considering 8...Nc6. **9 Nb3 Nc6 10 Bg5** White pins the knight and hopes to increase the pressure on the king's knight. **10...Nd4!?** For future reference 10...h6 11 Bh4 Nd4 is the usual continuation. **11 Nxd4 Bxd4 12 Nb5!?**



A wild position has emerged but it has all been played before. **12...Be5** 12...Bc5 was all the rage a few years ago after the world class encounter E.Bacrot-M.Adams, Cannes 2001. That game went 13 e5 h6 14 exf6 (I think 14 Be3! is the reason why Black has backed away from this line which might catch a few people trying to emulate someone on the world's top ten 14...Ne4 15 Bxc5 Nxc5 16 Nd6+ Kf8 17 b4 (17 Qe2 a5

18 Rd1 Bc6 19 b4 is good news for White) 17...Qg5) 14...hxg5 15 fxg7 Rg8 16 Qh7 Ke7 17 b4 a6 18 bxc5 axb5 19 Qh6 f6 20 Bd3 Bxg2 21 Rg1 Qc7 22 cxb5 Qxc5 23 Qh7 Bf3 24 Rb1 Rxa3, 0-1. **13 f4** This position could hardly be described as boring. After 13 Bd3 a6 14 Nc3 Qc7 the threat against h2 is minor compared to the real desire of stopping f2-f4. 15 h3 0-0 16 0-0 Nh5 17 Ne2 f5 18 exf5 exf5 19 Bxf5 Qc6 (19...g6 20 Bd3 Qc6 21 f3 is roughly equal.) 20 f3 Qc5+ 21 Kh1 Bc7 22 Bxh7+ A risky venture because Black pieces are brilliantly coordinated. 22...Kh8 23 f4 Rae8 24 b4 (24 Rae1 Rxe2 25 Rxe2 Ng3+ 26 Kh2 Nxf1+ winning.) 24...Qe3 25 Ng1 (25 Rae1 Qxh3+ 26 Kg1 Qxg2 mate) 25...Ng3+ 0-1, I.Naumkin-V.Tukmakov, Riga 1988. **13...Bb8 14 e5 h6 15 exf6** The major alternative is 15 Bh4 g5! (This is a key pawn move.) 16 fxg5 hxg5 17 Bxg5 Bxe5 is fine for Black with level chances. Also possible: 15 Bxf6 gxf6 16 Nd6+ Bxd6 17 exd6 f5 (Black blocks the advance f4-f5 and at the same time secures e4 as an outpost for his bishop.) 18 Qc3 Rg8 19 h4 Kf8 20 0-0-0 Rc8 21 Rh2 Be4 with roughly equal chances, I.Khenkin-S.Skembris, Lido Estensi 2003. **15...hxg5 16 fxg7 Rg8 17 Qh7 Ke7**



I am not sure what is going on, without studying the position for a weekend, however; Black is an experienced grandmaster so if it is good enough for him, it should prove useful for any club player brave enough to attempt such a continuation. **18 Be2!? Bxf4 19 0-0 a6 20 Nc3 Be5** The position has calmed down from Black's point of view and now he intends to take the troublesome passed pawn on the

seventh rank. **21 Bh5 f5** Now White must do something drastic, otherwise Black will simply capture on g7 with a winning position. **22 Rxf5!** A masterstroke or complete bluff? Or **22 Rae1 Rxd7 23 Qh6 Bd4+ 24 Kh1 Qh8** is much better for Black. **22...exf5 23 Qxf5 Bxc3** I think **23...Bd4+ 24 Kh1 Bxc3** might be an improvement on the game because it introduces bank rank mating possibilities and enhances the bishop on b7. **24 Re1+ Kd6** If **24...Bxe1** then **25 Qe5** mate. **25 c5+ Kc7 26 bxc3 Bc6 27 Bf7 Kb7** Black just tucks his king away before trying to make progress. Of course **27...Rxd7** allows **28 Qe5+** with an advantage. **28 Bxg8 Qxg8 29 Qxg5 Qc4 30 h4 Qxc3** Perhaps **30...Rg8** is more accurate, when **31 h5?! is met by 31...Qxc3 32 Re5 Qxa3 33 h6 Qd3** with complications favouring Black. **31 Re7 Qd4+ 32 Kh2 bxc5 33 h5 Qd6+ 34 Kg1 Qd4+ 35 Kh2 Qd6+ 36 Kg1 Bb5 37 h6 Bd3 38 Qe5?** White can secure a draw with **38 g8Q! Rxd7 39 Qxg8 Qd4+** the point is that (**39...Qxe7 40 Qd5+ Kb6 41 Qxd3 Qe1+ 42 Kh2 Qh4+ 43 Qh3 Qf4+ 44 Kg1 Qd4+** leads to a draw.) **40 Kh2 Qh4+ 41 Kg1 Qd4+** and it is time to shake hands. **38...Qxe5 39 Rxe5 c4 40 Rd5** White might have two connected passed pawns but the bishop stops h6-h7 and effectively ends resistance. A last try is to take the rook but Palac is too canny for that. **40...Bh7 41 Rxd7+ Kc6 42 Re7 c3 43 Kf2 c2 44 Re1 Kd5 45 Kf3 Kd4 46 g4 Kd3 47 g5 Kd2 48 Ra1 c1Q 49 Rxc1 Kxc1 50 Kg4 Bg6 0-1**

The nice thing about writing chess books is that you get plenty of feedback at tournaments from people who have tried out the recommended lines. There are also a few who claim to have found improvements for the second edition and even a few more who point out the spelling mistakes!

Spanish FIDE Master Juan Carlos Sanchez Jimenez has been reading *The Ultimate Colle* and wants some more information on a line against a Queen's Indian system featuring **6...Be7** followed by **...0-0**, **...d6**, and **...Nbd7**. He adds, "Are you planning an update on **6...Be7** at ChessCafe.com?"

I have to admit that I answered a number of questions about the Colle on this site and a quick look at the [ChessCafe Archives](http://ChessCafe.com) will reveal a lot more games on this opening. The Colle has a reputation as being suitable for club players but this apparently has not filtered through to White who is a grandmaster rated 2538 at the time of the game.

Vladimir Burmakin-Peter Rahls Seefeld 2000

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 e3 b6 4 Bd3 Bb7 5 Nbd2 c5 6 c3 Be7 I have changed the original move-order to make it easier to follow, but the game started 1 d4 c5 2 c3 e6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 e3 b6 5 Nbd2 Bb7 6 Bd3 Be7 and we can return to the game. **7 0-0 d6**



This is the line that interests the reader. However, the idea of ...d7-d6 followed by ...Nbd7 can also happen after 7...cxd4 which is examined in the next main game. In the game Foudzi-M.Lee, Kuala Lumpur 2002, Black chose 7...0-0 when in an echo of the main game White carried on with the standard plan of preparing e3-e4-e5. 8 Qe2 Qc7 9 Re1 d6 10 e4 Nbd7 11 e5 dxe5 12 dxe5 Nd5 13 Nf1 (13 Qe4!? also looks good.)

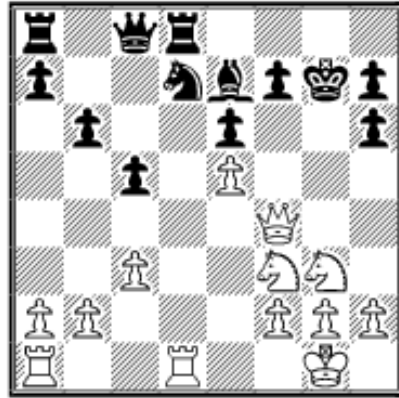
13...Rfd8 14 a3 Bf8 15 c4 Ne7 16 Bxh7+! (The classic tactical trick is the Greek Gift which once again is the key to victory.) 16...Kh8 17 Ng5 g6 18 Qg4 Kg7 19 Qh3 1-0 **8 Qe2** Or 8 Re1 Nbd7 9 Qe2 a6 10 e4 (The best thing about this line for White is that the plan is easy to follow because it simply involves advancing the e-pawn to dislodge the king's knight.) 10...cxd4 11 cxd4 0-0 12 Nb3 Re8 13 Bd2 Bf8 14 e5 gave White good attacking chances in K.Schneider-I.Revyakin, Email 2002. **8...Nbd7 9 e4** This is the familiar plan of advancing the e-pawn to oust the knight from f6 in order to enhance the power of the bishop aiming at the h7-pawn. **9...0-0 10 e5 dxe5 11 dxe5**



11...Ng4 There is some debate about the best square for the knight: 11...Nd5 12 Ne4 the knight leaps out to the centralised square partly to allow the dark-squared bishop to come into the game and cover the f4-square. It is fitting that I managed to find a suitable game by Edgar Colle. In this encounter played at Nice 1930 he takes on Marcel Duchamp. In fact, Duchamp is a famous artist whose works now sell for hundreds of

thousands of dollars. However, his biographies are baffled why he constantly neglected his art to study chess! That game went 12...Re8 13 a3 f5?! Black is worried about his kingside safety and prematurely tries to knock the centralised knight out of the action 14 exf6 N7xf6 (14...gxf6 is a better idea but after 15 Rd1 White has some tactical chances.) 15 Bb5 Rf8 16 Neg5 Nc7 17 Nxe6 Nxe6 18 Qxe6+ Kh8 19 Ne5 when the extra pawn gave White a clear advantage. Also possible: 12...Qc7 13 Ng3 Rac8 (13...Rfe8 14 a3 – it looks odd but White is just depriving the black knight of the b4-square before playing c3-c4 – 14...Qc8 15 c4 Nc7 16 Ng5 Nf8 17 Be3 Bc6 18 Qc2 (I think 18 Qh5! g6 19 Qh6 is very good for White.) 18...Ng6 19 h4 (Perhaps 19 f4!? is also good.) 19...Nxh4 20 Bxh7+ Kf8 21 Be4 gave White all the chances thanks to his superior coordinated pieces, P.Roberts-Palo, Cappelle la

Grande 2003.) 14 Re1 g6?! (Black should refrain from weakening his kingside pawns unless he has no choice.) 15 h4 c4 16 Bc2 Nc5 17 Bh6 Nd3 (Or 17...Rfd8 allows 18 Qxc4 with the better position.) 18 Bxd3 cxd3 19 Qxd3 Rfd8 20 Qe2 Qc4 21 Ne4 the extra pawn and the initiative was sufficient to quickly wrap up the game in A.Alawieh-D.Dumitrache, Guichen 1993. **12 Be4** It is true that White usually wants to preserve the light-squared bishop but the change of circumstances on the board can lead to other plans. **12...Bxe4 13 Qxe4 Nh6** The point of White's play is revealed because the knight is obliged to retreat to the edge of the board where it will have less influence. **14 Rd1 Qc8 15 Nf1 Rd8** Or 15...Nf5 16 g4 Nh6 17 Bxh6 gxh6 leaves Black with a wrecked kingside. **16 Bxh6 gxh6 17 Qg4+ Kh8 18 Qf4 Kg7 19 Ng3**

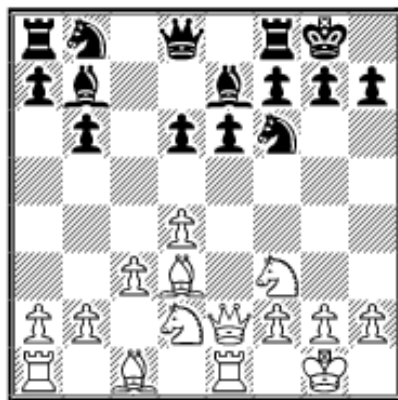


The knight joins in the attack which is curtains for Black, because it is difficult for him to quickly transfer his pieces to the kingside to set-up a defensive blockade. **19...f5 20 Nh5+ Kg6 21 Nh4+ 21 Qg3+** might lead to a pretty finish upon 21...Kxh5 22 Qg7 Bf8 (22...Nf8 23 Qxe7 wins.) 23 g4+ fxg4 24 Qf7 mate. **21...Bxh4** Black gets into trouble upon 21...Kxh5 when play might continue: 22 Nxf5 exf5 23 Qxf5+ Bg5 24 Rd3 with mate to follow. **22 Qxh4 Nxe5 23 Nf4+ Kf7 24 Qxh6** It is only a matter of time before Black gives up, now that the white queen is a monster. **24...Rg8 25 Rd6 Nf3+ 26 Kh1 Ng5 27 Rad1** The grandmaster shows his class by calmly adding another piece to the attack. **27...Ke7 28 h4** The key defensive piece is dislodged and the end is nigh. **28...Ne4 29 Rxe6+ Kf7 30 Qxh7+ 1-0**

I think it is more likely that Black will exchange pawns on d4 and then try the plan of ...d6, ...Nbd7 and ...0-0. Once again, a grandmaster marshals the white pieces:

Ralf Lau-Martin Borriss German Team Championship 2003

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 e3 b6 4 Bd3 Bb7 5 0-0 c5 6 Nbd2 Be7 7 c3 It is also possible for White to create a Colle-Zukertort set-up by employing a queenside fianchetto. For instance: 7 b3 cxd4 was tried in a heavyweight grandmaster game that went (7...0-0 8 Bb2 Nc6 9 a3 Re8 10 Qe2 d6 11 Rfd1 (11 dxc5 bxc5 12 e4 is worth testing.) 11...Bf8 left Black with a cramped position, C.Dimitrov-H.Hamdouchi, Nice 2002.) 8 exd4 Nd5 9 Bb2 Nf4 10 Bc4 as usual White is reluctant to trade his usually influential bishop for a knight 10...d5 11 Bb5+ Bc6 12 a4 a6 13 Bxc6+ Nxc6 14 Ne5 the knight clears the path for the queen to transfer to the kingside 14...Nxe5 15 dxe5 0-0 16 Qg4 Ng6 17 Nf3 Rc8 18 Rac1 Rc7 19 Rfe1 Re8 20 g3 ½-½, A.Jussupov-L.Portisch, Bugojno 1986. **7...cxd4 8 exd4 0-0 9 Re1 d6 10 Qe2**



This is a key idea in this line, to help coordinate the rooks and in some cases support Ne4. It would nice for Colle players to think that every game ends like A.Huss-G.Franzoni, Basel 1986: 10 Nf1 Nbd7 11 Ng3 Re8 12 Ng5 Bf8 13 Qc2 h6?? (This sort of mistake happens surprisingly often because Black just plays casually and assumes the knight will retreat.) 14 Bh7+ 1-0. **10...Re8** Or 10...Nbd7 11 Ng5 Qc7 (11...h6 is all

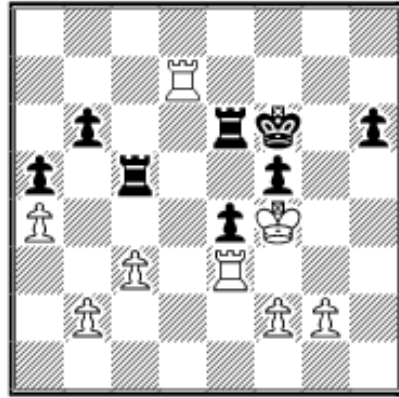
the encouragement White needs to sacrifice on e6: 12 Nxe6 fxe6 13 Qxe6+ Rf7 14 Bg6 Qf8 15 Bxf7+ Qxf7 16 Qxe7 wins.) 12 Ndf3 Rae8 13 Bf4 h6 14 Nxe6! (This looks like it shouldn't work but White has calculated accurately and can win back his material.) 14...fxe6 15 Qxe6+ Rf7 (15...Kh8 is met by 16 Nh4! with a fantastic attack.) 16 Bg6 Ref8 17 Nh4 Qc6 18 f3 d5? 19 Nf5! Qxe6 20 Rxe6 Re8 21 Rae1 1-0, E. Limp-C.Sega, Americana 2000. **11 a4** In a recent game the veteran player Franklin drew comfortably with the strong English youngster Des Tan in the British Team Championship 2004. That game went 11 Ne4 Nxe4 12 Bxe4 Bxe4 (Exchanging pieces is not very ambitious by Black.) 13 Qxe4 Nd7 14 h3 Nf6 15 Qc2 Qc7 16 Bf4 Rac8 17 Qb3 h6 18 Rac1 ½-½. Another move to consider is 11 Nf1, C.Hoi-B.Gulko, Thessaloniki Olympiad, 1988, continued: 11... Nbd7 12 Ng3 Bf8 13 Bg5 (13 Ng5 is interesting when 13...Rc8 14 Qc2 h6?? allows 15 Bh7+ Kh8 16 Nxf7 mate.) 13...h6 14 Bd2 Qc7 15 Bc2 Bd5 16 b3 Qb7 17 Nh4 b5 18 Qd3 with roughly equal chances although White won after 31 moves. **11...a6 12 Nc4 Nbd7 13 Bg5** The German grandmaster is happy to activate his pieces and wait to make progress in the middlegame. **13...Qc7 14 Nfd2 e5** Borriß has to do something otherwise he will eventually be swamped because he has less space to manoeuvre. **15 dxe5 dxe5 16 Ne3**



If White is given time he will install a knight on the influential f5-square. **16...e4! 17 Bc2 Bd6** Black is doing well to give White something to worry about by targeting the h2-pawn. **18 Ndf1 a5 19 Rad1 Ba6 20 Qd2 Be5 21 Ng3** The chances are level but Black has to be cautious in his defence of the e4-pawn. 21 Nf5!? should be considered. **21...h6 22 Bxf6 Nxf6 23 Nd5 Nxd5 24 Qxd5 Bxg3 25 hxg3 Bb7** After the series of

exchange Black still has to contend with threats against the e4-pawn so his slight initiative has evaporated. **26 Qd7 Rac8 27 Bb3 Re7 28 Qxc7 Rxc7 29 Bd5** The ending seems to be heading towards a draw but White is banking on a way to either put pressure on e4, or use the three versus two advantage on the queenside to create a passed pawn. Well, at least that is the ideal world for White! **29...Bxd5 30 Rxd5 Re6 31 Re3 g6 32 g4!** A little ploy to stop Black from supporting the e-pawn with ...f7-f5 and make room for the king to add pressure via h2-g3-f4. **32...Kg7 33 Kh2 Rc5 34 Rd4 f5 35 Kg3 Kf6 36 gxf5 gxf5** I prefer

36...Kxf5 in order to keep the white king away from the e4-pawn. **37 Kf4 Rc7 38 Rd5! Rc5 39 Rd7**



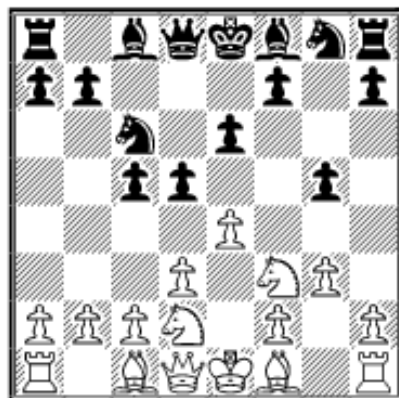
Lau has contrived to allow his rook to enter the seventh rank which is bad news for Black because White can target the h6-pawn. **39...b5** Or **39...Rc4 40 b3 Rc8 41 Rh3 Rh8 42 c4** with excellent prospects. **40 Rh3 Kg6 41 Rg3+ Kf6 42 Rdg7 1-0**

Jeff O'Connor from the USA sends the e-mail: "Help! I usually play the King's Indian attack against the e6-Sicilian, but recently I've run into a

move that has given me some difficulties. In a number of rapid games after 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d3 I get a rude awakening when my opponent plays 3...h6!?. Black's idea seems relatively simple – he wants to play g5 followed by Bg7, Ne7, O-O, d5, and then f5 – when he is the one attacking me! I have fianchettoed my bishop in all of the games where I have played the white side against this, and out of 5 games I have 1 draw and 4 losses! I cannot find any games with 3...h6. I am not sure if I should just put the light-squared bishop on e2 or maybe even play 4 d4?! and argue that black's h6 just weakens his kingside. What do you think about this 3...h6 move?"

I have to admit I could not find any decent games with 3...h6 because Black usually develops a piece. However, I then spent some time trying to find it being played later in the game. I think now that that Bg5 has been ruled out it makes sense to play lines associated with a quick Nbd2. Thankfully, I finally found a game that involves the idea of a pawn set-up consisting of ...g5 andh6:

Valery Loginov-Genrikh Chepukaitis St Petersburg 2004
1 e4 e6 2 d3 d5 3 Nd2 c5 4 Ngf3 Nc6 5 g3 g5?!



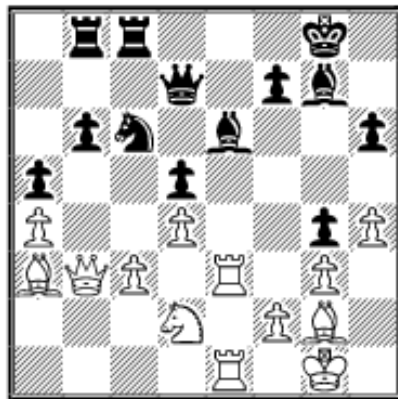
A move even more bizarre looking than 3...h6. It is designed as a way to use a kingside fianchetto and keep in reserve the option of ...g5-g4. In the long-term it might be a problem because when he castles kingside his pawn cover will have been weakened. The sensible alternatives include A) 5...Bd6 6 Bg2 Nge7 7 0-0 0-0 8 Re1 b6 9 Nf1 Bb7 10 c3 with equal chances, D.Johansen-T.Reilly, Auckland 2004. B) 5...g6

6 Bg2 Bg7 7 0-0 Nge7 8 Re1 0-0 9 c3 b6 10 h4 (The advance of the h-pawn is designed to weaken Black's kingside by provoking weaknesses.) 10...Ba6 11 exd5 Nxd5 12 Nc4 Qc7 13 h5 with double-edged play, J.Van Mil-K.Schulz, Belgium Team championship 2004. C) 5...Nf6 6 Bg2 Be7 7 0-0 0-0 8 e5 (The advance of the e-pawn is crucial in these

lines to get rid of the king's knight from its defensive post. One plan then is to play h2-h4 followed by Re1, Nd2-f1-h2-g4 with a possible kingside attack.) 8...Nd7 9 Re1 Qc7 10 Qe2 b5 11 Nf1 a5 12 h4 b4 13 Bf4 Ba6 14 Ne3 Nb6 (Black is concentrating on making progress on the queenside but crucially his king is on the other side of the board!) 15 Ng4 c4 16 Nf6+! Kh8 (16...gxf6 allows a wonderful attack 17 exf6 Bd6 18 Ng5! (The threat is simply Qh5.) 18...h6 19 Bxd6 Qxd6 20 Ne4 dxe4 21 Qg4+ Kh8 22 Qg7 mate.) 17 Ng5 g6 18 Ngxh7 Nd4 19 Qg4 cxd3 20 Qg5 Nf5 21 g4 1-0, M.Herndlbauer-J.Granabetter, Vienna 2003. **6 Bg2 h6** Well, Black has played ...h6 so it is possible this is a line you might face against 3...h6. **7 0-0 Bg7 8 exd5 exd5 9 Re1+ Nge7 10 Nb3 b6 11 c3** Loginov is an experienced grandmaster and takes time to secure control of the b4/d4 squares before Black can occupy them with a knight. **11...a5 12 a4 Bf5 12...0-0!? is possible. 13 d4 c4 14 Nbd2 0-0 15 h4**



Rae1 Rab8? (see next diagram)



Charge! An obvious way to challenge Black's defensive pawn structure.

15...g4 16 Nh2 Qd7 17 b3 White tries to stir up some action by opening lines on the queenside. Perhaps 17 Ndf1 intending Ne3 is another option. **17...cxb3 18 Qxb3 Rfb8 19 Ba3** White makes it clear that he wishes to undermine the defence of the d5-pawn by targeting the knight on e7. **19...Be6 20 Nhf1 Nf5 21 Ne3 Nxe3 22 Rxe3 Rc8 23**

Black is oblivious of the danger and falls for a smart tactic. **24 Rxe6! fxe6 25 Rxe6 Qxe6** Or 25...Rd8 26 Rd6 Qc7 27 Bxd5+ Kh8 28 Rxc6 and Black can go home. **26 Bxd5 Qxd5 27 Qxd5+** White is clearly winning and now victory is just a matter of time. **27...Kh8 28 Ne4 Nd8 29 Be7 Nc6 30 Bf6 Bxf6 31 Nxf6 Kg7 32 Nh5+ 1-0**

Finally, **Neil Spencer** from **England** is wondering whether anybody has recently won with the reversed Evan's Gambit. This apparently can be reached via 1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 and now 2...b5 followed by 3 Bxb5 c6 4 Bc4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Bc5.



Let's have a look: 1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 b5?
3 Bxb5 c6 4 Bc4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Bc5

Well, the answer is no.

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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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