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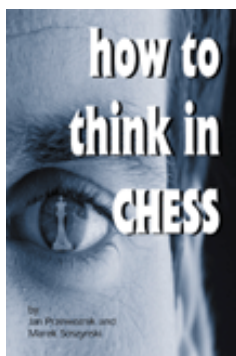
*Opening Lanes* is based in large part on readers' questions. Do you have a question about a particular opening line? Baffled by a branch of the Benoni or Budapest? Submit your questions (with you full name and country of residence please) and perhaps Gary will reply in his next *Chess Cafe* column...

*Yes, I have a question for Gary!*

## COLUMNISTS

### Opening Lanes

Gary Lane



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## We are Family

I think the majority of chess players can remember when their mum or dad taught them the basics of the game. Naturally, the young are taught by parents so they can be beaten over the board and if the kids become strong then they can appreciate the tattered scorebook the parent have been keeping in a cardboard box for years. Yes, the true motivation for parents to teach chess is a chance to show off. However, there are some people who have a more sympathetic reason to pass on their knowledge of the game and merely want someone else to share the thrill of winning. I assume this is the case for **Ric Kasper** from **Australia** who writes, "I have a question; my sister is a beginner she knows all the basics and is moving on to openings. What openings do you recommend I teach her?"

This is an easy question to answer because someone once told me all beginners should move their queen at the earliest opportunity and try to checkmate within four moves. In the following example a 2450 player demonstrates the fearsome 2 Qh5 line:

**Heikki Westerinen-Jon Kristinsson, Oslo 1973**

**1 e4 e5 2 Qh5**



This will bring back memories for all players. **2...d6** Well, sometimes you might be delighted to find **2...g6** **3 Qxe5+ Be7** **4 Qh8** but not everyone will fall for it. Also possible: **2...Nc6** **3 Bc4** and now: **a)** I think it is fair to warn your sister try something else if she plays world number one Garry Kasparov. This is because the surprise value will be minimal after former tennis star Boris Becker tried his luck with it in an exhibition game played in New York 2000: **3 Qf3 Nd4** **4 Qc3** (4 Qd1 at least keeps the

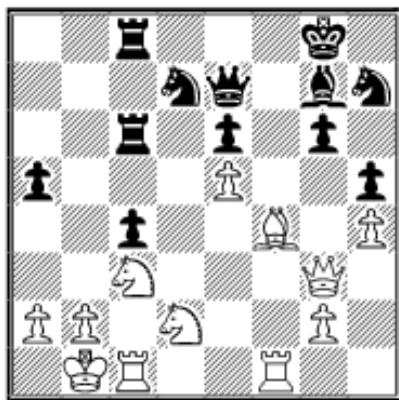
queen out of the way) 4...Nf6 5 f3 g6 6 Ne2 c5 7 Nxd4 cxd4 8 Qb3 Bg7 9 Bc4 0-0 (Kasparov spots the threat and Becker's strong backhand won't help here) 10 c3 d5 11 Be2 d3! 12 Bxd3 dxe4 13 Bxe4 Nxe4 14 fxe4 Qh4+ 15 Kd1 Qxe4 16 Re1 Bg4+ 17 Re2 Qxe2+ 18 Kc2 0-1 **b)** 3...g6 4 Qf3 Nf6 (4...Nd4 did not impress after 5 Qxf7 mate, J.Amillano-A.Loeffler, Mar del Plata 1972) 5 Ne2 Bg7 (5...d6 6 h3 Be6 7 d3 Bg7 8 Nbc3 Nd4 9 Nxd4 exd4 10 Bxe6 fxe6 11 Ne2 Nd7 12 0-0 led to equal chances although Black eventually won in J.Rouleau-P.Minear, Philadelphia 2003) 6 d3 Na5 7 Nbc3 Nxc4 8 dxc4 d6 9 h3 Be6 10 b3 when the chances are level, J.Rouleau-T.Rogalski, Washington 2003. **3 Bc4** On the third move mate is promised which should get any junior excited at winning in style. **3...g6 4 Qf3** So far Black has been rather canny at avoiding a tactical disaster but now White tries again by threatening mate in one. **4...Qe7** I suspect if you are showing this game to your sister this is where you would stop and offer the essential advice "offer a draw." This will delight both players and avoid any heartache. It will also annoy parents and teachers who try for years not to reveal to their young talents that you can agree a draw to avoid them doing it in every game. **5 d3 Bg7 6 Nc3 Nf6** A waiting move such as 6...a6? allows 7 Nd5 Qd8? 8 Nb6! which wins due to the threat of Qxf7 mate. **7 Bg5 c6 8 h4**



One must admit that White has not given up registering a knockout blow because he continues to play aggressively by preparing h4-h5.

**8...h5** A simple but effective move to cut out White's pawn advance and now ...Bg4 is an option. **9 Nge2 Be6 10 0-0-0** The Finnish player continues to try to create complications by castling queenside intending to make progress on the kingside. **10...Nbd7 11 Rd2 0-0 12**

**Rhd1** White seems to have lost his faith in constructing a kingside attack which is understandable. Exchanging on c4 is less desirable for Black because the doubled rooks would apply pressure to the d6-pawn. **12...b5 13 Bxe6 fxe6** I think 13...Qxe6!? is worth a try because at least then the g6-pawn is well protected. **14 Qg3 b4 15 Nb1 Qf7 16 Rf1** If given the chance Westerinen will play f2-f4 to get his rooks into the action. **16...d5 17 f3** It is not so easy to play 17 f4 comfortably because 17...exf4 18 Rxf4 e5 19 Rf1 dxe4 20 dxe4 Nc5 is good for Black because the e4-pawn is a big weakness. **17...c5 18 Rdd1 Nh7 19 Be3 Rac8** I think 19...a5 as part of a queenside avalanche of pawns is a decent practical try in such a position. **20 Nd2 c4 21 dxc4 dxc4 22 c3 a5 23 Kb1** The white defence is fairly sturdy mainly because Black is trying to attack with a single rook aided by a few pawns. **23...Rc6 24 Rc1** This ploy of setting up a position where it seems you have castled strangely on the queenside is particularly good when the c-pawn needs to be reinforced. **24...Rfc8 25 f4 bxc3 26 Nxc3 exf4 27 Bxf4 Qe7 28 e5!**



good. **32 Bf6 Bh6 33 Ka1 Rb8 34 Nd6 Rc7 35 Bg5 Bg7 36 Bf6** A little shuffle to indicate that White is happy to have a draw and reserve the option of 2 Qh5 for another day. **36...Bh6 37 Bg5 Bg7 1/2-1/2**

I have just remembered that the person who recommended 2 Qh5 to me actually gave up chess at age 11, so perhaps we should look at another opening. I would suggest a good opening for juniors is the Danish Gambit because White rapidly develops his pieces and sacrifices some pawns for the attack.

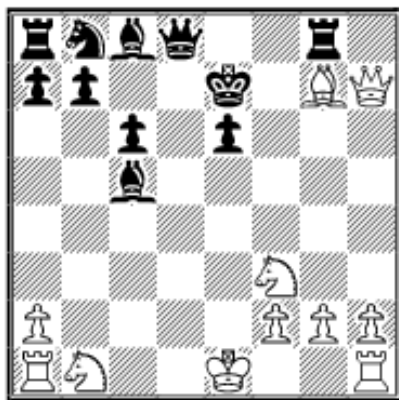
### ***Christian Lissan-Michael Gladilow, German Junior Championships Oberhof 1998***

**1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 c3 dxc3 4 Bc4**



I think this line is great for juniors because Black will usually take all the material on offer. **4...cxb2 5 Bxb2 Nf6** (5...d5 6 Bxd5 Nf6 7 Nc3 Nxd5 (7...c6 8 Bxf7+ Ke7 9 Ba3+ Kxf7 10 Qxd8 and Black can give up) 8 Nxd5 c6 9 Nf6+ 1-0, A.Frank-F.Westphal, Griesheim 2002. **6 e5 Ne4** It is also possible to temporarily pin the e-pawn with 6 ...Qe7 when White will simply prepare to castle in order to renew the threat. For

instance: 7 Nf3 d6 8 0-0 dxe5 9 Nxe5 White threatens the f7-pawn forcing Black on the defensive 9...Be6 10 Bxe6 Qxe6 11 Re1 Be7? (11...Bb4 is necessary for Black to survive the opening) 12 Ng6 Qb6 13 Rxe7 mate 1-0, I.Simonsen-I.Henriksen, Oslo 1998. **7 Bxf7+!** A nice little trick to expose the black king and regain a pawn. **7...Kxf7 8 Qd5+ Ke8 9 Qxe4** White is already better because Black has no development and has been forced to give up the right to castle. **9...Bc5 10 Nf3 c6 11 e6 dxe6** This is consistent with Black's choices in the opening because given a chance the average junior will always choose to capture what seems to be a free pawn. I think 11...d5 is the sensible reply. **12 Bxg7 Rg8 13 Qxh7 Ke7**



The king advances so that the queen will now protect the rook on g8, but it merely encourages White go on a king hunt. **14 Bd4+ Kd6** Gladilow protects the bishop on c5 and walks into a mating net. **15 Be5+ Kd5 16 Qd3+ Bd4 17 Qxd4 mate 1-0**

I hope one day Ric reports back on his progress in teaching his sister.

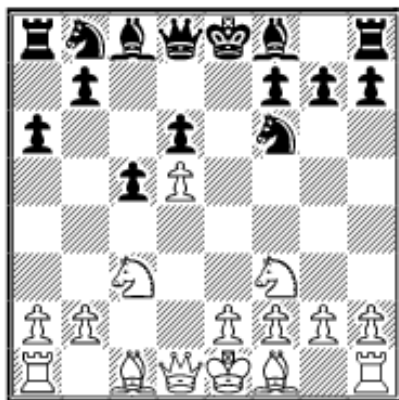
The French Fide Master **Damian**

**Justo** from **Paris** has been playing his opening strategy but has suddenly found a problem. "Hi Gary, Straight to the point; I'm planning to play the Bf4 line against the Modern Benoni (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 Nc3 ed5 5 cd5 d6 6 Nf3 g6 7Bf4, which is interesting because of the line 7...Bg7 8 Qa4!), where 7...a6 8 e4 b5 9 Qe2! leads to a kind of game, with clear plans, in which I feel at home. However, while playing casually with the pieces, I asked myself: What would I play against 6...a6! (a move order that I have never seen in theoretical monographs - It is not considered at all in ECO, for example)? The problem is that the move ...a6 will be useful in about every variation for Black, and I don't see how White can exploit it, while it threatens 7...b5 right away. If White plays the natural 7 a4, then 7...g6 and there isn't Qa4 available anymore. Even worse, now 8 e4 allows for 8...Bg4, which is comfortable for Black. And the same goes for 8 h3 Qe7! Of course, I'm not saying that Black is better after 6...a6. But it seems very annoying for someone who has 7 Bf4 as the main weapon (he has to study a whole new system!). If you find a weak point in 6...a6, I would be grateful."

I think that Black has already realised that the Bf4 system can be awkward, which is why 6...a6 has been played a lot. It seems the best bet is to play 7 a4 to stop Black from advancing his queenside pawns and yes you will have to learn a lot of moves!

**Alexander Chernin-Istvan Bilek, Hungarian Team Championship 1995**

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 c5 4 d5 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 Nc3 a6**



This is the annoying move that has given you so much anxiety. **7 a4 g6 8 h3** I think this move might be suitable for you if you desire to cut out learning the main lines. It stops any piece occupying g4 and also provides an escape square if Bf4 is played. **a)** 8 Bf4 Bg7 9 h3 this could also transpose from the main game 9...0-0 10 e3 Nh5 11 Bh2 f5 12 Be2 f4 13 exf4 Nxf4 14 0-0 Nd7 15 Qd2 g5?! 16 Ne4 gave White the initiative

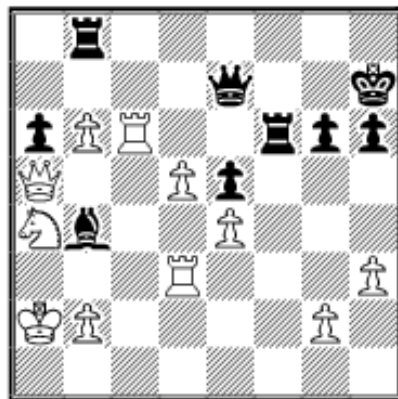
in S.Lputian-K.Spraggett, Bled 2002. **b)** 8 g3 Bg7 9 Bg2 0-0 10 0-0 Re8 (these are all standard moves) 11 Nd2 Nbd7 12 h3 Nh5 13 Nce4 Ndf6 14

Nxf6+ Nxf6 15 Nc4 Bf5 16 Bf4 Bf8 17 a5 gave White a space advantage in L.Winants-J.Degraeve, Cappelle la Grande 2002. **c) 8 Nd2** (White prepares to support the advance e2-e4) **8...Nbd7 9 e4 Bg7 10 Nc4 Nb6 11 Ne3 Qe7 12 Bd3 0-0 13 0-0 Rb8 14 f4** with a level position, B.Lalic-M.Marin, Stockholm 2002. **8...Qe7 9 Bg5 Bg7** Or **9...h6 10 Bh4** (10 Bf4 is also possible which is similar to the main game) **10...Nbd7 11 e3 Bg7 12 Be2 g5 13 Bg3 0-0 14 0-0 Ne8 15 e4** with a slightly edge for White, G.Miniboeck-R.Lendwai, Hartberg 2004. **10 Nd2 10 e3** intending Be2 is perfectly acceptable with roughly equal chances. **10...h6 11 Bf4** The bishop targets the d6-pawn **11...Nbd7** It is worth noting that **11...Nh5** is met by **12 Bh2** to preserve the bishop. **12 Nc4 Ne5 13 Bxe5 dxe5 14 e4**



White has the long-term advantage of having a passed d-pawn. However, it should be comfortably blocked by Black so the pressure needs to divert such pieces. **14...0-0 15 a5 Bd7 16 Qb3 Bb5!?** Black offers the bishop in a bid to open the position. The alternative line **16...Rab8 17 Qb6 Rfd8** is rather passive but White still has to prove his advantage. **17 Nb6** Chernin rightly prefers to keep the position closed to maintain the

pressure on Black. **17 Nxb5 axb5 18 Qxb5 Nxe4** intending ...f7-f5 gives Black some kingside counterplay. **17...Bxf1 18 Rxf1 Rad8 19 Nc4 Ne8 20 Qb6 Kh7 21 0-0-0** Now White adds the queen's rook to the d-file in order to lend support to the advance of the d-pawn. **21...Nd6 22 Nxd6 Rxd6** Or **22...Qxd6 23 Qxd6 Rxd6 24 Na4 Rc8 25 Kc2** is a good ending for White mainly due to the power of the passed d-pawn. **23 Qxc5** White has won a pawn but Black is still putting up a decent resistance. **23...Rb8** Instead **23...Qd7** with the intention of swinging the king's rook to the c-file should be considered. **24 Na4 Bf8 25 Kb1 b6 26 axb6 Qe8 27 Qa5** Chernin needs to preserve the knight on a4 to make sure that the black rooks cannot be easily activated. **27...Be7 28 Rd3 f5 29 f3** White takes his time to support his pawn structure. The drawback for Black is that the desire to create counterplay does mean that his king is now more exposed. **29...Rf6 30 Rc1 Bd6 31 Rc6 fxe4 32 fxe4 Qe7 33 Ka2 Bb4?**



**34 Rc7 1-0**

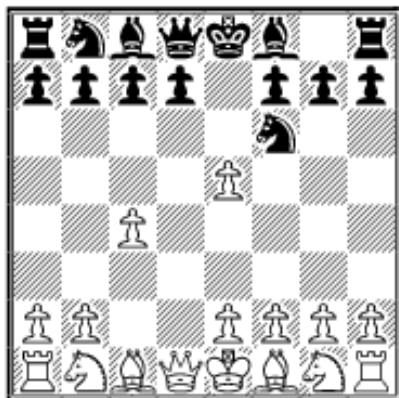
**Madhusudan Iyer** from the USA cannot decide who in his life he prefers: "I was thinking of adopting Benoni or Grunfeld against 1 d4. However, I read somewhere on the net that the theory for both has been exhausted and that they are obsolete. Is it true? If not, can you suggest as to which one of the two is better? I am 1900 ELO player. There is

another problem; my playing style much depends on my mood. Sometimes I want to play solidly and sometimes aggressively. Is something wrong?"

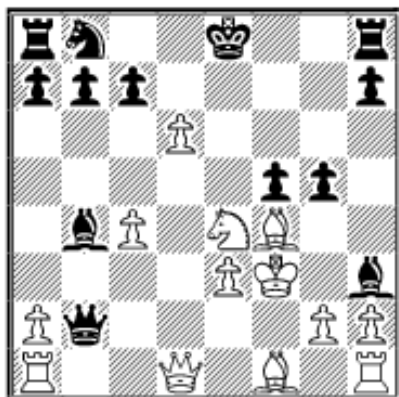
Well, as usual I would suggest looking at games by the top players and then finding someone who you admire. I think every line still has room for improvement although the main lines of the Benoni and Grunfeld do extend to at least 20 moves. Then again, you could just take up something else such as the Budapest:

**Peter Lukacs-Peter Horvath, Budapest 2002**

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5**



White can decline the sacrifice with 3 d5 but after 3...Bc5 Black has already equalised in the opening: 4 Bg5? Bxf2+ 5 Kxf2 Ne4+ 6 Ke1 Qxg5 7 Nf3 when White resigned before Black could play 7...Qe3, F. Nardin-V.Grosar, Nova Gorica 2004. **3...Ng4 3...Ne4 4 a3** (it is difficult to imagine that four moves later White who was rated 2425 would resign!) 4...Nc6 5 Nf3 d6 6 exd6 Bxd6 7 g3? Nxf2 8 Kxf2 only now did White see the future of 8...Bc5+ 9 Ke1 Bf2+ 10 Kxf1 Qxd1 so he resigned, 0-1 T. Marinelli-S.Osmanbegovic, Cannes 1995. **4 Bf4 Bb4+ 5 Nd2 d6 6 exd6 Qf6 7 Nh3 Nxf2 8 Kxf2 Bxh3 9 e3?** 9 g3!? is considered the main line. **9...g5 10 Ne4 Qxb2+ 11 Kf3? f5!**



...Re8+ signalling defeat for White.

This game links up to another question which might also be of interest to Madhusudan Iyer if he wishes to avoid the main lines. **Peter Hoek** from **The Netherlands** sent an intriguing e-mail "I'm a modest club player, rated 1721, who likes to play chess the way it's meant; attacking!!!! As Black I hate face 1 d4, so I decided to play the Budapest. Unfortunately, many White players answer 1...Nf6 with 2 Nf3. That means no Budapest for me. So I started to look on the internet for an aggressive reply, and I found one. Not necessarily aggressive, but surprising: after 2. Nf3, I want to play 2...Ne4. This is the so called Döry or Doery Defence. The

only problem is that I can't seem to find any theory about this Opening. Apparently it is very obscure!!"

I have to admit that the idea of moving the knight twice is a bit bizarre but then I found a collection of games on this remarkable opening:

**Natalia Zhukova-Antoaneta Stefanova, European Junior  
Championship Rimavska Sobota 1992**  
**1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 Ne4**



I like this move which is designed to shock White into making an error. Apparently the Austrian Ladislaus Dory pioneered it in 1923. **3 c4** I noticed that in Vienna, 1937 there was a theme tournament that explored this line and was won by the famous player Paul Keres. It seems to have contributed a lot of the games bolstering the line and I hope some enterprising player will start employing it again on a regular basis.

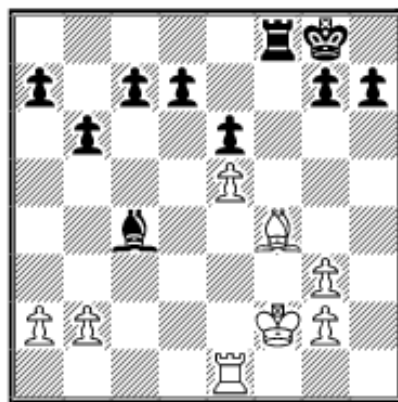
**a)** 3 Nbd2 d5 4 g3 c5 5 dxc5 Nxc5 6 Bg2 Nc6 7 0-0 e5 Black creates a pawn centre so White will try to undermine it 8 c4 d4 9 b4 Nd7 10 b5 Na5 11 Ne1 Be7 led to equal chances in D.Podhorzer-P.Keres, Vienna 1937. **b)** 3 Nfd2 d5 4 Nxe4 dxe4 5 Nc3 Bf5 6 g4!? (6 g3 is the safe reply aiming for a kingside fianchetto followed by castling kingside) 6...Bxg4 7 Bg2 f5 8 Bf4 e6 9 f3 exf3 10 exf3 Bh5 11 Nb5 (11 Qe2! puts pressure on the weak e6-square and threatens d4-d5 promising White the slightly better chances) 11...Bd6 12 Nxd6+ cxd6 13 Qe2 Bf7 14 Rg1? (14 0-0-0 leads to a double-edged position with sufficient compensation for the pawn) 14...Qh4+ 15 Bg3 Qxd4 Black wins another pawn and just as importantly prevents White from castling queenside. 16 Bf2 Qxb2 17 Qc4 Qxa1+ 18 Kd2 Qf6 0-1, A.Becker-D.Podhorzer, Vienna 1937. **3...e6** Or 3...d5 4 Nc3 Nxc3 5 bxc3 e6 6 g3 (even though Black has played a wacky knight move the position is level) 6...c5 7 cxd5 Qxd5 8 Bg2 cxd4 9 cxd4 Bb4+ 10 Bd2 Bxd2+ 11 Qxd2 Nc6 12 0-0 Qa5 13 Qb2 0-0 14 Rfc1 Rb8? (it is not a good idea to offer an experienced grandmaster a tactical opportunity) 15 Rxc6! 1-0, K.Aseev-B.Bartsch, Neu Isenburg 1992. **4 e3 b6 5 Bd3 Bb7 6 0-0** I suspect White is assuming that this is an unusual position after the shocking second move. In fact, it has now transposed to a fairly respectable opening which usually arises after 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 e3 b6 4 c4 Bb7 5 Bd3 Ne4 6 0-0. **6...Be7** The alternative 6... f5 to support the knight is a well know idea in the Nimzo-Indian and has proved successful for grandmaster Sax: 7 Nbd2 Bd6 8 Qc2 Also possible: **a)** 8 Ne5 Bxe5 9 dxe5 Nc5 10 Be2 Nc6 11 f4 Qe7 this is the merit of not castling early because now Black has the option of safely putting his king on the queenside in order to attack freely on the kingside 12 Bh5+ g6 13 Bf3 a5 14 Nb1 0-0-0 15 Nc3 g5 16 Nb5 g4 17 Be2 Ne4 18 a3 Rdg8 19 Bd3 g3 20 Bxe4? (20 h3 Nf2 21 Qe2 Qh4 is good for Black) 20...gxh2+ 21 Kxh2 Qh4+ 22 Kg1 fxe4 23 Rf2 Rg6 24 b3 Rhg8 25 Raa2 Rg3 0-1, T.Straeter-G.Sax, Senden 1998. **b)** 8 Qc2 Nxd2 9 Nxd2 Qg5 (it is always good to threaten

mate) 10 d5 Na6 11 a3 Nc5 12 Be2 exd5 13 Bf3 Qh6 (if at first you don't succeed threaten mate again) 14 g3 Qe6 15 cxd5 Bxd5 16 Bxd5 Qxd5 (the point of the black queen's manoeuvres are revealed because he won a pawn and managed to make White compromise his kingside pawn structure) 17 Rd1 0-0 18 Nc4 Qf3 19 Nxd6 cxd6 20 b4?! (it can hardly be wise to encourage Black to bring another piece into the attack) 20...Ne4 21 Bb2 Rac8 (Black wishes to stop the white queen from defending the f2-pawn) 22 Qb3+ Rf7 23 Rf1 Ng5 24 h4 Nh3+ 25 Kh2 Nxf2 26 Rad1 f4! 27 Rg1 (there is no escape from the crisis because 27 gxf4 Qh3+ 28 Kg1 Qg3 mate or 27 exf4 Qxb3 wins) 27...Nxd1 0-1, M.Scekic-G.Sax, Athens 1999. **7 Qc2 f5 8 Nfd2 Nd6 9 e4** It is better to bring the rest of the pieces into the game before advancing the e-pawn so 9 Nc3 deserves consideration. **9...Nc6 10 e5 Nxd4 11 Qc3**



A quick glance indicates that Black must lose a knight and I suspect that White was happily awaiting resignation. **11...Ne4!** An excellent idea which refutes White's tactical scheme. **12 Nxe4** 12 Qxd4 allows 12...Bc5 trapping the white queen. **12...fxe4 13 Qxd4 Bc5 14 Qc3 exd3 15 Qxd3 Qh4** Black has excellent practical chances because the pair of bishops are aimed at the white king which is a sure sign that an attack is

imminent. **16 Nd2** 16 Be3 to reduce the effectiveness of the bishop on c5 is the best defence. **16...0-0** A simple but effective move that heaps the pressure upon the f2-pawn. **17 Qg3** Or 17 Qe2 is met by 17...Rf5! when 18 Nb3 Bf3! 19 gxf3 Rh5 leads to mate. **17...Qxg3 18 hxg3 Rxf2 19 Rxf2 Rf8** The pin on the rook means that Black will have a material advantage. **20 Nf3 Bxf3 21 Bf4 Be2 22 Re1 Bxf2+ 23 Kxf2 Bxc4**



Now Black is two pawns up and has a winning advantage. There are plenty of players who might still think of a draw due to the opposite-coloured bishops, but because the rooks are on the board it is of little help. **24 Ke3 Bd5 25 Rd1 h5 26 b3 Rf5 27 Kd4 Bxg2 28 Re1 Bd5 29 Re2 h4** A nice nuance to create a passed pawn. **30 Rh2** Of course 30 gxh4 allows 30...Rxf4+. **30...g5 31 Be3 hxg3 32 Rh3 g2 33 Rg3 c5+ 34**

**Kd3 Kh7 35 Bxg5 Rf3+ 36 Rxf3 g1Q 0-1**

Finally **Massimo Carbone** from **Italy** writes "I have the so-called \$1,000,000 question for you. I am somewhat new to chess, and I've experimented with several different defences to e4, but now I think it's time to delve deeply into one. I like closed strategic games so I'd like to learn the French or Caro-Kann defence. From what I know both are solid enough, and in the French it is easier to organize the central break (...c5),



while the Caro-Kann is a bit more passive. Yet the French can become very sharp, while the sharpest line in the Caro-Kann (3...Bf5) can be avoided by black. The French seems more theoretical, while the Caro-Kann is easy to learn. I don't know... So, what are the main differences between these two defences? Which is the easiest to play?"

The answer is there is no answer! It sounds to me that only you can tell which system is suitable. I personally would go for the French because it is solid, but there is room for aggressive lines. However, I think there would be a queue of other people who would just as easily vote for the Caro. The best idea as usual is to look at the games of the great players and see how they treat the openings. For example the French is often used by Short and Bareev so that is a good start, while the Caro has been expertly exploited by Karpov and Speelman. Good luck.

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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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