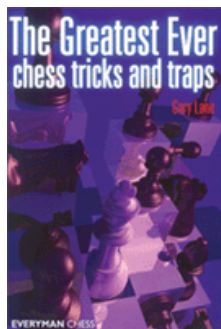




COLUMNISTS

Opening Lanes

Gary Lane



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Independence Day

When elite players show a preference for an opening, then others are sure to follow. In the 1980-90s, 1 d4 d5 2 Bg5 was all the rage, but is now largely forgotten at weekend tournaments. If you want to play something independent and prefer not to have to remember hundreds of moves on the Slav, this could be a good choice.

Adam May from **Wales** writes, "I have your [Foxy Openings DVD](#) on the Pseudo Trompowsky and have tried it a few times in correspondence email games. The most common reply has been 1 d4 d5 2 Bg5 Bf5, but I am more wary of 2...f6. Your line from the video was 1 d4 d5 2 Bg5 f6 3 Bf4 Nc6 4 Nf3 Bg4 5.Bg3 Nh6 6c3 e6 7.Nbd2 Nf5 8.Qb3. However, I've seen some analysis where 2... f6 is declared to be Black's best move giving 3 Bf4 Nc6 4 Nf3 g5 5 Bc1 Bf5 6 c4 e6 7 e3 Qd7 8 a3 Nge7 9 Nc3 a6 10 b4 Bg7. Or 3 Bh4 Nh6 4 e3 Nf5 5 Bg3 h5 6 Be2 h4 7 e4 de 8 Bh5+ Kd7 9 Bf4 g5 10 Bc1 c6 11 Nc3 Kc7 12 d5 e5 as even better for Black. Can you shed some encouraging light from White's point of view on either way to handle 2...f6?"

My thought on 2...f6 is that Black does not deserve to last ten moves, which is convenient looking at the first game:

Milko Popchev (2452) - Jakab Attila (2369)

Subotica 2001

Pseudo Trompowsky [D00]

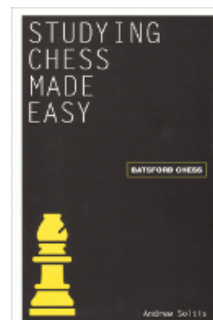
1 d4 d5 2 Bg5



[FEN "rnbqkbnr/ppp1pppp/8/3p2B1/3P4/8/PPPPPPPP/RN1QKBNR b KQkq - 0 2"]

The English grandmaster deserves a lot of credit for promoting this line. His friend Michael Adams soon tried his luck with the line, along with a galaxy of chess stars including Anand. That is why it is so strange that it has been neglected in recent years. It is partly to do with fashion; otherwise, how else explain the rise of the Catalan thanks to the sterling efforts of Kramnik and more recently Anand. **2...f6** Only on the Internet do you see the mouse slip 2...e6??. Usually because Black assumes that the standard move 2 c4 will be played and has "pre-moved" his reply or doesn't notice the difference! **3 Bf4 c5** Black strikes out at the centre. **4 e3 Nc6 5 Nc3** White gets his pieces out and has a slight threat in some lines with dxc5, uncovering an attack on the d5-pawn. **5...c4?** It is said that strong players do not fall for opening tricks, but countless games say otherwise. Black is unfamiliar with the position and goes horribly wrong. I will leave it to others to find the truth in the wacky line: 5...e5 6 dxe5 fxe5 7 Bb5 exf4 8 Qh5+ with the initiative. **6 Qh5+**

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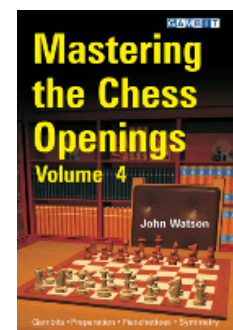
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[FEN "r1bqkbnr/pp2p1pp/2n2p2/3p3Q/2pP1B2/2N1P3/PPP2PPP/R3KBNR b KQkq - 0 6"]

6...g6 7 Qxd5 1-0

Black was so fed up at the prospect of being two pawns down after eight moves, he understandably gave up.

More evidence that this line has potential:

Antonio Fernandes (2410) - Nuno Rodrigues

Lisbon (8), 1996

Pseudo Trompowsky [D00]

1 d4 d5 2 Bg5 f6 Or 2...Nf6 3 Bxf6 is a standard Trompowsky. **3 Bf4 Nc6 4 Nf3 Bg4 5 Bg3 Nh6** A sharp continuation that aims to exchange white's dark-squared bishop. Also possible is 5...e6 6 e3 Nh6 7 h3 Bh5 8 Be2 Bf7 9 c4 Nf5 10 Bh2 a6 11 Nc3 (White is getting on with the job of developing) 11...Be7 12 Rc1 Bd6 13 Bxd6 Nxd6 14 cxd5 exd5 15 0-0 Ne7 16 Na4 0-0 17 Nc5 with a small initiative, I.Nei-R.Sherbakov, Jyvaskyla 1994. **6 c3** Or 6 e3 Nf5 7 c4 e6 8 Nc3 a6 9 cxd5 exd5 10 Qb3 Bb4 11 Bd3 0-0 12 Nd2 Nfxd4? a fancy sacrifice that fails to impress 13 exd4 Qe7+ 14 Kf1 Rad8 15 Re1 with a winning advantage, Nei-Sherbakov, Jyvaskyla 1994. **6...e6 7 Nbd2 Nf5 8 Qb3 Na5 9 Qc2 Qd7 10 e3 h5** Black is playing very aggressively and seeks to undermine White's kingside. **11 h3 Nxg3 12 fxg3 Bf5 13 e4 Bh7 14 Bd3 0-0 15 0-0 16 0-0** White is playing rather adventurously and emerged from the opening with decent chances. **15...Kb8 16 Rhe1 Be7 17 b4** 17 Re2 aiming to double rooks on the e-file is a safe alternative. **17...Nc6 18 Kb1 Bd6 19 g4 hxg4 20 hxg4 Bg6** 20...Bg3 21 Re2 Ne7 leads to a double-edged position where, compared to the actual game, Black's forces are better placed. **21 Nb3 Qc8 22 a3 Ne7?**



[FEN "1kqr3r/ppp1n1p1/3bppb1/3p4/1P1PP1P1/PNPB1N2/2Q3P1/1K1RR3 w - - 0 23"]

Perhaps because of the confines of his position, Black goes astray with fatal consequences. **23 e5 fxe5 24 dxe5 Bf7 25 exd6** White is now a piece up and victory is merely a matter of time. **25...cxd6 26 Ng5 Bg8 27 Nd4 e5 28 Nf5 Qc7 29 Kb2 Rc8 30 Bb5 d4 31 c4 Nd5 32 Ne4 Rh2 33 Nfxd6 Rd8 34 cxd5 1-0**

Well, perhaps Black can last more than ten moves or so. Let's look at the line you fear:

Igor Miladinovic (2570) - Lucian Costin Miron (2479)

1 d4 d5 2 Bg5 f6 3 Bf4 There is a lot of scope in exploring 3 Bh4. For instance, 3...Nh6 4 f3 this might be interesting for the reader because his line focuses on e2-e3 4...Nf5 5 Bf2 e5 6 dxe5 fxe5 7 e4 dxe4 8 Qxd8+ Kxd8 9 fxe4 Nd4 10 Bd3 Nbc6 11 Nc3 Bg4 12 Nd5 Kd7 13 c3 Ne6 14 Nf3 Bxf3 15 gxf3 Bd6 16 Bf1 Raf8 17 Ke2! Ke8 18 Rg1 led to the advantage in C. Depasquale-L.Jackson, Auckland 2010. **3...Nc6 4 Nf3 g5 5 Bg3!? 5 Bc1** is the move mentioned by Mr. May, but the text turns out to be tricky, which should be good for tournament play. Whether it holds up to correspondence games where computers are whirling in the background is another matter. **5...g4** The consistent approach because it is assumed that the knight must retreat to g1. **6 Nfd2** Or 6 Nh4 e5 7 e3 might be worth investigating in correspondence games, because it looks relatively solid. **6...Nxd4** Black is a pawn up against a top grandmaster, so there has to be a catch doesn't there? **7 e3 Nc6 8 h3**



[FEN "r1bqkbnr/ppp1p2p/2n2p2/3p4/6p1/4P1BP/PPPN1PPI/RN1QKB1R b KQkq - 0 8"]

This quiet approach is quite awkward for Black to deal with because of the weakness of the h5-e8 diagonal, which can of course be traced back to move two. White is hoping for 8...gxh3? 9 Qh5+ Kd7 10 Qxd5+ winning. **8...f5** Perhaps 8...Nh6. **9 hxg4 fxg4 10 e4** I quite like 10 Bd3, because the obvious 10...Nf6?! falls victim to 11 Bg6+! Kd7 12 Nc3 with the advantage, since the black king looks silly. **10...Bg7** 10...d4 is met by 11 c3 with roughly equal opportunities. Or 10...dxe4 11 Nc3 with similar play to the main game. **11 Nc3 dxe4?! An alternative line runs 11...d4 12 Nd5 e5 and now 13 Rh5 to stop Black from playing...h7-h5 leads to complicated play, which is what White wants from this opening. 12 Nb5**



[FEN "r1bqk1nr/ppp1p1bp/2n5/1N6/4p1p1/6B1/PPPN1PPI/R2QKB1R b KQkq - 0 12"]

12...Be5 12...Ne5?, to block the attack on the c7-pawn, leads to ruins upon 13 Nc4!, when Black is nudged a lot closer to resignation. **13 Bxe5 Nxe5** The excitement of the opening is over and Miladinovic decided it is time to secure a small edge; no doubt he is up on the clock after Black eventually found a way though the complications. **14 Nxe4 c6?! Or 14...Nf6! 15 Qxd8+ Kxd8 16 0-0-0+ Bd7 with a level position. 15 Qxd8+ Kxd8 16 0-0-0+ Bd7 17 Rh5! Ng6 18 Nc5** The pin on the d-file spells trouble for Black. **18...Nf6 19 Nxd7 Nxd7 20 Be2 Nf4 21 Bxg4** White dominates the position thanks to a clever combination. **21...e6 22 Rg5 Kc8 23 Rg7 Rd8 24 Nd6+ Kc7** White adds a pawn to his collection. **25 Rxh7 Rh8 26 Nb5+ Kb6 27 Rhxd7 Kxb5 28 Rxb7**

+ Now it is two pawns in front. **28...Kc5 29 g3 Rhg8 30 Bf3 Nd5 31 a3 a5 32 Rd3 Raf8 33 b3 Rf5 34 c4 Nb6 35 Rc7 Rc8 36 Ra7 Ra8 37 Rxa8 Nxa8 38 Kd2 a4 39 b4+ Kxc4 40 Bxc6 Nb6 41 Bf3** White is winning easily, but soon becomes careless and pays a big price. The result might be the reason why this line has been overlooked. **41...Kb5 42 Rc3 Nc4+ 43 Ke1?**



[FEN "8/8/4p3/1k3r2/pPn5/P1R2BP1/5P2/4K3 b - - 0 43"]

Amazing stuff, because White throws away the win. 43 Kc1 stills leads to victory in view of 43...Nxa3 44 Rxa3 Kxb4 45 Kb2 and Black can resign. **43...Nxa3!** Black sacrifices a piece to create a passed a-pawn. **44 Rxa3 Kxb4 45 Re3 a3 46 Bd1 a2 47 Rb3+ Ka4 48 Rb2+ Ka3 49 Rb3+ Ka4 50 Re3+ Kb4 51 Rb3+ Ka4 52 Rb2+ Ka3 53 Rb3+ Ka4 1/2-1/2**

Has anyone else played the Pseudo Trompowsky?

The hordes of Blackmar-Diemer Gambit fans are in for a treat, because I received an e-mail from **IM Gerard Welling** from the **Netherlands** who reveals his thoughts on the current status of the Zeigler Defence as well as some history about games where he scored some fine wins.

He writes, "Once in a while, I catch up with chess related articles on the Net, and this is how I bumped on your comments to the Blackmar Diemer Gambit game Nick Larter-Gerard Welling, European Club Cup, Ohrid 2009. The last round of a tough tournament for my club HMC Calder - and for myself, having struggled all the way. We knew the guys from Ennis chess club, because of an earlier match at the European Club Cup, Saint Vincent 2005. A group of nice people, but not the strongest opponents we could have been paired against. So we secretly hoped to repeat our 2005 result, when we were able to whitewash them. At the time I was the one who endangered that result, blundering a pawn in a position that was already close to winning, but after a spectacular king march, things turned out to be all right. This time I decided to play a Scandinavian, hoping to play a quiet positional Caro-Kann structure without having to be aware of tons of modern opening theory. After 1 e4 d5 2 d4, however, it was clear that my opponent meant business, following Simon Webb's advice in [Chess for Tigers](#) trying to stir up complications. I must admit being quite happy with the line we played, a line I have given up myself many years ago for different reasons. Had I known before ...

"First of all I did not invent 8...Bxc2 9 Nxf7 as some seem to think. I first saw it on a forum in the *Schaakbulletin* chess magazine, probably around 1976. Chess playing brothers Maurits and Michiel Wind asked for Langeweg's assessment of their analysis after 9...Kxf7 10 Qg4 and 9...Bxd1 10 Nxd8 Kxd8 11 Rxd1. Later, I became aware of the fact that it has been played before in BDG circles, with 9..Kxf7 10 Qe2 (so 10 Qg4 was the new move), but with little success.

"In the early 1980s, when I had some funny games with the Blackmar Diemer Gambit, my main objection to this line was 8...Bg6!, which I still think is safest and I do not see how White can shake Black's fortified position. Illustrative games in BDG books featuring this move do not help, because these are (invariably) weakly defended. In my opinion, Black is better ...

"During the game with Nick Larter 8...Bxc2 was a highly impractical decision, which I regretted almost immediately, because my opponent very

confidently played 9 Nxf7. Now 9...Kxf7 10 Qg4 Qd6! was the move I feared after Welling-Marzik, Biel 1981, when white's attack does not seem to work any more. This made me give up the line definitively, as I told you after our game in the Belgian league, shortly after appearance of his book, but first Otto Hardy with 10 Bxe6+ Kxe6 11 Qxc2 in a game with Karen Keeling, and then Stefan Bucker in *Kaissiber* with the mind-boggling 10 Qxc2! Qxd4+ 11 Be3!! showed that there are still chances in the position. Otto's idea is an interesting practical try, but might fall short, Stefan's idea however might render the sacrificial idea playable for White.

"Now - back in Ohrid - I feverishly tried to reconstruct Stefan Bucker's idea in my mind, but finally decided to play it safe with 9...Bxd1, a move that I never looked at except after my game with Fred Wrobel, back in the Luxemburg town of Bad Mondorf in 1982. His move 12...Bb4 and the follow up opened lines and files for all my pieces, which lead to a nice finish and we concluded that Black should play 'a solid move' instead. Then White must prove he has enough for a pawn. Twenty-seven years later, I quickly played 12...Kd7, but the longer I looked at the position, the more I regretted my frivolous decision to go into this 8...Bxc2 line. White has very active piece play, and Black's major problem is that he cannot develop his pieces in a normal way, without giving White some point of attack. The computer might still give Black a plus, but during the game it felt like White is already (clearly) better! After the game, I told Nick this whole follow up with 9...Bxd1 is complete rubbish.

"Strangely enough, I was relieved when being down the exchange: the direct danger is gone, and Black is solidly centralised. Besides, this is the kind of position that is hard to play for the lower-rated opponent, because he has to find positionally constructive plans. Nick was not able to do that and eventually outplayed by Black intense centralisation of forces. The weak pawn on e6 grew into a monster and at one point cost White a piece.

"However, not playing accurately, I gave my opponent the chance to combine play against my king and the rather clumsy two knights, which left me unable to consolidate and regroup. In his own notes Nick Larter describes this as 'simple,' but I can assure you it is not and I think this was his best played part of the entire game! He was really tormenting me with his active rooks.

"Giving up the rook finally, for my last remaining pawn, was not necessary and could have lost the game. Tablebases state a win for Black, and I was overjoyed at first because I once studied the process how to win with two knights versus pawn, though with a blocked central pawn. It soon turned out, however, that this version I got is the most complex version you can have, much more complicated than a central pawn and after a few dozen moves I gave up winning attempts. Well deserved result for Nick Larter, he fought like hell."

It is always very hard to find decent Blackmar-Diemer Gambit games because the vast majority are played by casual players at weekend tournaments and those scoresheets rarely make an appearance on a computer database. That is why a game played at the European Team Club Team Championships has a touch of extra glamour, because improving players get the chance to compete against masters:

Nick Larter (1799) - Gerard Welling (2372)

Ohrid 2009

Blackmar-Diemer Gambit [D00]

1 e4 d5 2 d4!? Do not adjust your chess set. This is the world of gambits. 2... dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3 exf3 5 Nxf3 c6 6 Bc4 Bf5 A Scandinavian has turned into a Blackmar-Diemer Gambit and this line with ...c6 is known as the Ziegler Defence. The traditional move order is 1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3 exf3 5 Nxf3 c6 6 Bc4 Bf5. **7 Ne5 e6 8 0-0 Bxc2 9 Nxf7**



[FEN "rn1qkb1r/pp3Npp/2p1pn2/8/2BP4/2N5/PPb3PP/R1BQ1RK1 b kq - 0 9"]

9...Bxd1 After almost three decades, the BDG specialists finally find out Welling's idea of a refutation of the line that he helped to establish. I can't read his mind, but would guess that he rejected 9...Kxf7 because of the line 10 Qxc2 Qxd4+ and now the amazing 11 Be3, which does herald a strong attack and if you have not looked at it recently, the defensive task could be tough. Welling mentions his win with white in this line. That went 9...Kxf7 10 Qg4?! (White pinpoints the e6-pawn as the weak link in Black's defence. 10...Qd7 (Welling mentions he now prefers 10...Qd6) 11 Bg5 Na6 12 Bxf6 gxf6 13 d5 Nc7? (it is understandable to try and defend, but it is not convincing. Instead, 13...cxd5! leads to crazy complications, but is the right idea: 14 Nxd5 Bc5+! (or 14...Be7 15 Nxe7 Qxe7 16 Rxf6+ Qxf6 17 Rf1 is avoided by checking first to shift the king out of the way) 15 Kh1 Be7 when Black looks busted after a casual glance, but I can't see how White wins) 14 dxe6+ Nxe6 15 Rae1 (White maintains pressure on the pinned knight) 15...Re8 16 Ne4 Bxe4 17 Rxe4 Bc5+ 18 Kh1 Re7? (after 18...h5 White has 19 Qf4 with the better chances) 19 Qh5+ 1-0, G.Welling-H.Marzik, Biel 1981. Therefore, against a much lower rated player at the European Club Team Championships, there is a certain amount of logical to dictate that he should play it safe by entering the ending. **10 Nxd8** If you look at the standard computer databases, then you will struggle to find any games that carry on like this. Indeed, I can't find any. Still, dipping into my old book there is a game where White wins the ending and, yes, you guessed it, the victory is by Welling! **10...Kxd8 11 Rxd1 Nd5 12 Re1 Kd7!?** The first new move as far as White was concerned, because he was following the game Welling-Wrobel, Luxembourg 1982, which continued 12...Bb4 13 Rxe6 Nxc3 14 bxc3 Bxc3 15 Bg5+ Kd7 16 Re7+ Kd6 17 Rd1 White has more than enough compensation for the pawn, because the black king is perilously placed 17...h6 18 Re6+ Kd7 19 Bf4 Re8 (or 19...Na6 20 Rd6+ Kc7 21 Bxa6 bxa6 22 Rxb6+ Kd7 23 Rd6+ is just good for White) 20 Rd6+ Ke7 21 Rd3! Bb4 22 Re3+ Kf8 23 Rf6+! and Black resigned before he could be neatly checkmated. **13 Bg5** It makes sense to get another piece into the action. Then again, without the king on e8 maybe 13 Rf1! is worth a look intending to invade the heart of Black's position via the f7-square. 13...Be7 (13...Ke8 14 Bd2 Nd7 15 Rae1 Ke7? Black is worse, but here is how it can go seriously wrong 16 Nxd5+ cxd5 17 Bxd5) 14 Rf7 g6 15 Bh6 favours White. **13...h6 14 Bd2 Be7 15 Ne4**



[FEN "rn5r/pp1kb1p1/2p1p2p/3n4/2BPN3/8/PP1B2PP/R3R1K1 b - - 0 15"]

Black is a pawn up and you think would be better, but Fritz 12 thinks Black is only slightly better, presumably because of White's active piece play. **15...b5**

16 Be2 Nf6 17 Nc5+ 17 Bf3 looks like a decent alternative, when the opportunities are equal. **17...Bxc5 18 dxc5 a5!?** Maybe 18...Nd5 to stop White from activating his bishop via the f4-square. **19 Bf4** I quite like 19 Rad1! to keep the options open of where to put the dark-squared bishop, because 19...Nd5 is well met by 20 Bc3, when an attempt to hang on to the g7-pawn with 20...Rg8 runs into 21 Bg4 and White is clearly on top. **19...Na6 20 Rad1+ Nd5 21 Bd6** In his brief notes to the game, Mr. Larter commented that he played the bishop move "with the idea 22 Rf1," which sounds sensible. **21...Rhe8?! Or 21...Rh8 22 Bxf8 Rxf8** and now 23 a4 is suggested by Larter. **22 Rf1! Re7 23 Bxe7** One can hardly blame White for being delighted to win an exchange against an International Master, but there is no rush. Instead, 23 Bh5! preparing to take on e7 and then deliver a rook to the f7-square is very strong. After 23...Nf6 24 Bg6, I certainly prefer White's chances. **23...Kxe7 24 Rfe1 Nxc5 25 Bxb5 Kd6** Of course, 25...cxb5 allows 26 Rxd5 to regain the piece. **26 Bc4 Rb8 27 b3**



[FEN "1r6/6p1/2pkp2p/p1nn4/2B5/1P6/P5PP/3RR1K1 b - - 0 27"]

White is better, but you can't underestimate the pressure that White is under. He is playing Welling's variation in the BDG and is beating the man himself. **27...Nd7 28 Re3 N7f6 29 Rg3 Rb7 30 Rf3?! Around this point, I get the feeling that White is beginning to drift because no clear plan is emerging. This is a critical point, which needs time devoted to working out the future, so 30 Be2 e5 31 Rc3** is certainly fine for White aiming to eventually double rooks on the c-file, but Black has fighting chances, which count for a lot when you are almost 600 rating points above your opponent. **30...e5 31 h3 e4 32 Rf5 Re7 33 g4 Kc5 34 g5** Maybe 34 a3 to stop the king invading the b4-square, when 34...g6 35 Rf2! e3 36 Rc2 Kb6 37 Kh2 is about equal, because the need to stop the passed e-pawn prevents the white rooks from causing trouble. **34...hgx5 35 Rxxg5 Kb4 36 Be2 Ka3 37 Rd4 Kxa2 38 Ra4+ Kxb3 39 Rxa5 Nc3 40 Kf1 Nfd5 41 Rc5 Ne3+ 42 Kf2 Nc2 43 Bc4+ Kb4 44 Rxc6 e3+ 45 Kg2** After 45 Kf1 Nd4 46 Rc8 (46 Rcc5 Ne4 wins) 46...Nf3 47 Rgc5 Nd2+ 48 Kg1 (48 Ke1 is strongly met by 48...e2!) 48...e2, Black has all the winning chances. **45...Nd4! 46 Rc8 e2**



[FEN "2R5/4r1p1/8/6R1/1kBn4/2n4P/4p1K1/8 w - - 0 47"]

47 Bxe2 Ncxe2? It might seem to make no difference how the piece is captured, but now Black faces tremendous technical difficulties to force a win. Instead, 47...Rxe2+ is very strong because it produces a variety of checkmate tricks: a) 48 Kg1 Nf3+ 49 Kf1 Nxxg5 wins. b) 48 Kh1 Nf3 49 Rg2 Re1+ 50 Rg1 Rxxg1 checkmate. c) 48 Kg3 allows 48...Ne4+ picking up a rook. d) 48 Kf1 Ne4! (I can't see how White survives now) 49 Rxxg7 (or 49

Rb8+ Kc3 50 Rc8+ Kd3 51 Rd5 Nd2+ 52 Kg1 Ke4 and White can put the pieces back into the box) 49...Nd2+ 50 Kg1 N4f3+ 51 Kh1 Rh2 checkmate.
48 Rg4 Rf7 49 Rg8 Nf4+ 50 Kh2 Nfe6 Black has the edge, but White's defence has to be admired when you consider that he is up against an experienced master. **51 Rc8 Kb5 52 Rg2 Nc7 53 Rg8 Nde6 54 Rc2 Nc5 55 Rg2 N7e6 56 Rc8 Kc4 57 Rd2 Rf3 58 Rh8 Kc3 59 Ra2 Kd4 60 Rh4+ Ke3 61 Rg4 Nd3 62 Rg3 Rxg3 63 Kxg3 Ke4 64 Ra8 Ne5 65 Rg8 Kf5 66 h4 Nf7 67 h5 Nh6**



[FEN "6R1/6p1/4n2n/5k1P/8/6K1/8/8 w - - 0 68"]

68 Rxg7! It is at this point that one should consult the specialised endgame software to find out what is going on. Indeed, Welling has done this and declares "Tablebases state a win for black", but it is still difficult in practical play with fast time-limits. Then again, I have in the past won with two knights against a pawn (it took eleven hours of play) and the only thing I remember well is to make sure the opposing pawn is not on the fifth rank. This is basically because Black's plan is to blockade the pawn, force the white king into a corner, and then use the other knight to deliver checkmate while allowing the pawn to queen. If the pawn is too close to the queening square, then there is no time. Oh, and remember, that if the pawn is taken, then two knights versus a lone king is a draw because you cannot force a king into the corner without allowing stalemate. **68...Nxg7 69 Kf3 Ne6 70 Ke3 Ke5 71 Kd3 Kf4 72 Kc3 Ke3 73 Kb2 Nd4 74 Ka2 Kd3 75 Kb2 Kc4 76 Ka3 Kb5 77 Kb2 Kb4 78 Ka2 Kc4 79 Kb1 Kd3 80 Ka2 Kc3 81 Kb1 Ne2 82 Ka2 Kb4 83 Kb2 Nd4 84 Kc1 Kc3 85 Kb1 Ne2 86 Ka2 Nc1+ 87 Kb1 Nb3 88 Ka2 Nd2 89 Ka3 Nb3 90 Ka2 Nd4 91 Kb1 Ne2 92 Ka2 Nf4 93 Kb1 Nxh5**
 1/2-1/2

A fantastic achievement by White and no wonder Welling was full of praise for his opponent for putting up such a good fight. Are there any other players who have scored shock results? If so, send the games to me.

Opening Lanes is based 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 your full name and country of residence please) and perhaps Gary will reply in his next **ChessCafe.com** column...

[Yes, I have a question for Gary!](#)

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