



COLUMNISTS

Opening Lanes

Gary Lane

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Don't Blink

The application of instant pressure in the opening can make all the difference. An improving player needs to learn how to defend such positions by avoiding being the first to blink and thereby make a mistake.

Then again it is also useful for an attacker to have a few offbeat openings available to catch people out, and **Benoist Busson** from **France** has been doing some home analysis. He writes, "Because I have always been interested in gambit play, the Danish/Goring has always been one of my preferred lines. Of course, the Capablanca Defence has been one of my traditional nightmares. So, Davies, in his *Gambiteer I*, suggested to play **1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 c3 d5 4 exd5 Qxd5 5 cxd5 Nc6 6 Be3!?** to try to play something new. For example, **6...b4+ 7 Nc3 Nf6** And now **8 Ne2!?** seems to be an acceptable way to play. However, if White returns to the original way with **8 Nf3 Bg4 9 Be2 Bxf3 10 Bxf3 Qc4** we have the Capablanca Defence with the supplementary moves **Be3** for White and **...Nf6** for Black. This seems to be in White's favour, because it is possible to play in at least two ways: a) **11 Qe2!?** **Qxe2 12 Kxe2** and the semi-ending is slightly better for White, because of the bishop-pair and the "poor" position of the black/Nf6, which is on e7 in the traditional Capablanca line, a much better square! b) **11 Rc1!?** inviting some complications along the h1-a8 diagonal. The **...Nc6** seems to be under pressure! The computers give at least += for these two plans. What do you think about it?"

I am glad to hear that my fellow [ChessCafe.com](#) columnist Nigel Davies has inspired you to unravel the secrets of a fairly obscure line. It is probably best if I start off by explaining what exactly is the Capablanca Defence and then examine your suggestions.

Stefan Berza (2373) – Thomas Schwetlick (2398)

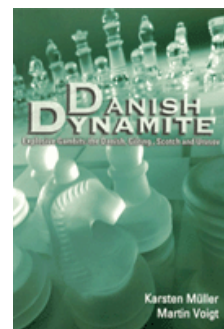
Correspondence 2004
Scotch Gambit [C44]

1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 c3 d5 The Danish Gambit with **3...dxc3** and now **4 Bc4** has an aggressive reputation, so Black often opts to avoid it. **4 exd5** If **4 e5**, Black can take the risk of grabbing a pawn with **4...dxc3**, because of the line **5 Nxc3 d4 6 Nb5 Nc6** with advantage. **4...Qxd5 5 cxd4 Nc6 6 Nf3 Bg4** This variation is known as the Goring Gambit Declined. The knight is pinned and leads to a forcing variation where, with best play, a draw should be the final result and it usually happens within twenty-five moves. **7 Be2 Bb4+ 8 Nc3** The standard reply to block the check, which is understandable considering that **8 Bd2?! runs into the line 8...Bxd2+ 9 Qxd2 Bxf3 10 Bxf3 Qe6+! 11 Be2 0-0-0 with advantage. 8...Bxf3 9 Bxf3 Qc4!**



[FEN "r3k1nr/ppp2ppp/2n5/8/1bqP4/2N2B2/PP3PPP/R1BQK2R w KQkq - 0 10"]

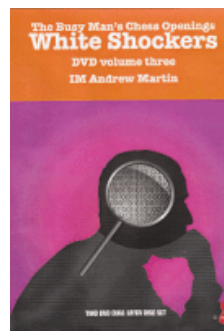
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Danish Dynamite
by Karsten Müller
& Martin Voigt



The Scandinavian
by John Emms



White Shockers
by Andrew Martin

This is the key move that forces equality and has largely made the line redundant for White as a winning attempt. The point is that pressure is applied to the knight on c3 and White temporarily cannot legally castle kingside. **10 Bxc6+** Also possible is 10 Qb3 Qxb3 11 axb3 Nge7 12 0-0 a6 13 Bg5 0-0 14 Rfd1 Rfe8 15 Kf1 Nf5 16 Ra4 Bd6 17 Bg4 Nfe7 ½-½, D.Bisby-L.Trent, Sunningdale 2009. Of course 10 Qe2+? is too early, because 10...Qxe2+ 11 Bxe2 allows 11...Nxd4 and Black is just a pawn up for nothing. **10...bxc6** Black is content to allow his c-pawns to be doubled in return for stopping White from castling kingside. 10...Qxc6 is a little less accurate because 11 0-0 is now possible, when 11...Bxc3 (11...Ne7 is roughly equal) 12 bxc3 Qxc3? 13 Re1+ Ne7 14 Rb1 with excellent play. **11 Qe2+ Qxe2+ 12 Kxe2 0-0 13 Be3 Ne7 14 Kd3** Or 14 Rhd1 Rhe8 15 Rd3 Ba5 16 Rad1 Bb6 (I am trying to conjure up play against the d4-pawn, but it is hard work) 17 g3 Rd7 18 d5! (the simplest way to trade material) 18...cxd5 19 Nxd5 Nxd5 20 Rxd5 Rxd5 21 Rxd5 ½-½, G.Kenworthy-G.Lane, British Championships 1982. **14...c5 15 Kc4 cxd4 16 Bxd4 Nc6 17 Rad1** At least 17 Be3 keeps the pieces on the board. **17...Rxd4+ 18 Rxd4 Bxc3 19 Kxc3 Nxd4 20 Kxd4 Re8 21 Kd3 Re6** ½-½

It is worth mentioning an old pet line of mine that results in the Goring Gambit Declined with colours reversed:

Gary Lane – John Nunn
 Stroud 1980
 Closed Sicilian [B23]

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 John Nunn was already a grandmaster when the game was played and was well known for his writings on the Open Sicilian after 2 Nf3, so I opted for something less complicated by employing the Closed Sicilian. **2...e6 3 g3 d5** Black strikes at the centre at the earliest opportunity to stop White from getting on with his usual strategy of a kingside fianchetto and a gradual kingside attack. **4 exd5 exd5 5 d4 cxd4 6 Qxd4** I am happy to exchange pawns in the centre, because already the position is clear enough for me to avoid a trick in the opening. Then again, Black now has to find a way to generate activity; otherwise, I will have an obvious plan of piling up on the isolated d-pawn. **6...Nf6 7 Bg5 Be7 8 Bb5+ Nc6 9 Bxf6 Bxf6 10 Qc5**



[FEN"r1bqk2r/pp3ppp/2n2b2/1BQp4/8/2N3P1/PPP2P1P/R3K1NR b KQkq - 0 10"]

A quick look at the diagram from the previous main game will see a distinct similarity. When I played this move I could see from Nunn's expression he was not impressed, because he knew I was happily heading for an equal ending. The snag for Black is that as the much better player he is obliged to win in a weekend tournament to make sure he secures first place; therefore, a draw has to be avoided. The reality is that with few pieces on the board it is a hard task and risks have to be taken to unbalance the position. **10...Bxc3+ 11 bxc3 Qe7+ 12 Qxe7+ Kxe7 13 0-0-0** The queens have been exchanged, which will seriously diminish the attacking possibilities for Nunn who is renowned for that aspect of play. I have to keep an eye on the doubled c-pawn in the long-term, but this is made up for by the isolated d5-pawn ensuring equal chances. **13...Be6 14 Ne2 Kd6** The king takes up residence on d6, which is sensible enough to help protect the d5-pawn. However, that would be not enough to win and soon turns out to be an inventive idea to activate the king. **15 Rhe1 Kc5 16 c4 dxc4 17 Bxc6 bxc6** After 17...Kxc6, I can steer the game towards a likely draw upon 18 Nd4+ Kc7 19 Nxe6+ fxe6 20 Rxe6. **18**

Nf4 Bg4 19 Re5+ Kb4? Black has no desire to allow me to get my way and tries to complicate matters. He later revealed that the hope was to plonk the king on c3 and hope to create his own mate threats. It is a sign that Black has lost patience and is frustrated by having to avoid an equal position and is going astray. **20 Rd4!** Suddenly, Black is struggling, because the threat is 21 Nd3+ when the bishop on g4 can be taken, and Black is on the verge of being mated. **20...Be6**



[FEN"r6r/p4ppp/2p1b3/4R3/1kpR1N2/6P1/P1P2P1P/2K5 w - - 0 21"]

Or 20...Rae8 21 Nd3+ Kc3 22 Rxc4 is poor for Black, because 22...cxd3 allows 23 Rc5 checkmate. **21 a3+!** I spotted that the black king was in a perilous situation, but this pawn nudge really gives Black something to worry about. The ingredients as to why such a combination works is clearly because I have managed to activate all my pieces, while the black king's stroll is a lone mission that requires the rest of the pieces to act as reinforcements. **21...Kxa3** There is no hope in view of 21...Kc3 22 Ne2 checkmate and 21...Ka4 22 Nxe6 fxe6 23 Rxc4+ Kxa3 24 Ra5 checkmate. **22 Nxe6 Kb4** What else? The alternative 22...fxe6 is met by 23 Rxc4 a5 to prevent Ra5+ 24 Re3+ Ka2 25 Ra4 checkmate. **23 Rc5 1-0**

I hope that might inspire some Closed Sicilian players; otherwise, people might think I am just showing off my teenage games. Back to the line that intrigues Mr. Busson:

Zlatko Klaric (2425) – Tomislav Mihalincic (2143)

Zagreb 1999

Danish Gambit [C21]

1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 c3 d5 4 exd5 Qxd5 5 cxd4 Nc6 6 Be3



[FEN"r1b1kbnr/ppp2ppp/2n5/3q4/3P4/4B3/PP3PPP/RN1QKBNR b KQkq - 0 6"]

It is worth quoting Davies at this point: "I don't think White forces an advantage with 6 Be3 but it has the virtue of novelty. Black will be at least on his own resources." There is a lot to be said for having a surprise weapon to confuse an opponent at club level and this line has the merit of playing for a win and not having to worry about any wild tactics. **6...Bb4+** There is some dispute how best Black should respond, because the line with 6 Be3 has not been consistently played by masters, so it is less analysed than other variations. After the standard moves 6...Nf6 7 Nc3 Bb4 play might continue a) 8 Nf3 Bg4 (the reader Mr. Busson was keen to have a look at this line in case Black tries to copy the Capablanca Defence (I suspect that 8...Qa5!? is a

more robust defence) 9 Be2 Bxf3 10 Bxf3 Qc4 and now: a1) 11 Rc1 was also mentioned by our correspondent when Black can achieve equality, but it helps if he plays like Kramnik when finding the star move 11...0-0-0!, which is prelude to very clever play where I needed a computer to guide me. For example, 12 a3 Rxd4 13 Bxd4 Nxd4 14 axb4 Re8+ 15 Ne2 Nxf3+ 16 gxf3 Rxe2+ 17 Kf1! Rd2+ 18 Rxc4 Rxd1+ 19 Kg2 Rd2 when Black has enough compensation to earn a draw. Still, it would require top-level play, so most players with White would be happy here. a2) 11 Qe2 Qxe2+ 12 Kxe2 and while it is true that White has the bishop-pair, the position is level. However, White is bound to have more experience with the line, so that tips the odds in his favour. b) 8 Nge2 and now: b1) 8...Ng4 (I managed to track down a game by the reader who is playing white) 9 a3 Bxc3+ 10 Nxc3 Qd8 11 Bb5 (I prefer 11 Bc4) 11...0-0 12 Bxc6 bxc6 13 Qf3 Rb8 14 b4 f5 15 0-0 f4 16 Bc1 Qxd4 17 Bb2 Ne5 18 Qe4 Qxe4 19 Nxe4 Nc4 (19...Nd3! presents White with a few more problems. For instance, 20 Bd4 Rd8 21 Bxa7 Ra8 22 Bc5 Bf5) 20 Bd4 Bf5 21 Rfc1 Bxe4?! (instead 21...Nb6 maintains the tension) 22 Rxc4 Bd5 23 Rc3 a6 24 f3 Rbe8 ½-½, B.Busson-F.Janier, Salon de Provence 2009. b2) 8...Bg4 9 Qd2 (the curious 9 h3!? has been suggested as an improvement, because of the line 9...Bxe2 10 Bxe2 Qxg2 11 Bf3 Qg6 12 Qb3, although I would like to see Black test ...Bxc3+, followed by castling kingside, before making a definite judgement) 9...0-0-0 10 f3 Bf5 11 a3 Qa5 12 Rc1 Bxc3 13 Nxc3 Rhe8 14 Kf2 Nd5 15 Nxd5 Qxd2+ 16 Bxd2 Rxd5 17 Bc3 led to a level position in M.Chapman-S.Solomon, Melbourne 2002, because if Black had played 17...Nxd4, White can swiftly regain the material upon 18 Bc4 Rd7 19 Rhd1 Red8 20 Bxf7 with equal opportunities. **7 Nc3 Qa5** The game G. Grichkevitch-N.Mitkov, Las Palmas 1995, saw a different approach by Black with 7...Nge7, which was soon rewarded. That went 8 a3?! (Davies rightly concentrates his research on the superior 8 Nf3) 8...Bxc3+ 9 bxc3 0-0 10 Nf3 Bg4 11 Be2 Nf5 12 0-0 Rae8 13 Bd2 Rxe2 14 Qxe2 Nh4 15 Qe3 Bxf3 16 g3 Qf5 0-1 **8 Rc1?!.** Apparently 8 Nge2 is the recommended move. **8...Nf6** 8...Qxa2 must have been tempting, when White would argue the queen is misplaced, but it is a risky business by Klaric. **9 Bc4 0-0 10 Nge2 Bg4 11 f3 Rfe8 12 Bf2 Bh5** I prefer 12...Be6 to exchange White's vaguely dangerous looking bishop. **13 0-0 Rad8 14 Bb5 Re6** Maybe 14...Bg6!? is more solid. **15 Qb3 Ne7 16 Bc4**



[FEN"3r2k1/ppp1nppp/4rn2/q6b/1bBP4/1QN2P2/PP2NBPP/2R2RK1 b - - 0 16"]

16...Red6? Black is oblivious of the potential danger in the position; otherwise, he would have surely considered 16...Rb6 when chances are about level. **17 Bg3 R6d7** The difference compared to the previous notice is rather obvious, but 17...Rb6 fails to 18 Bxc7, so Black is obliged to compromise the position of the threatened rook. While 17...Rc6 18 Bb5 Re6 19 Nf4 is bad news for Black. **18 Be5** Suddenly it is White who has the strong initiative and Black soon buckles under the pressure. **18...Bxc3 19 bxc3 c6 20 Ng3 Bg6 21 Bxf6** Klaric is happy to double the f-pawns because it simply weakens the defence of the black king. **21...gxf6 22 Ne4 Kg7**



[FEN"3r4/pp1mpkp/2p2pb1/q7/2BPN3/1QP2P2/P5PP/2R2RK1 w - - 0 23"]

23 Nc5! b5 Or 23...Rc7 24 Nxb7 wins. **24 Nxd7 bxc4 25 Qb7** A neat combination has left the black position in tatters. **25...Bd3 26 Rfe1 Ng6 27 Nc5** The sneaky threat is Ne6+, because the f-pawn is pinned by the queen. **27...Rd6 28 g3 Qxa2 29 Qc7 Be2 30 Rf1 Bxf1 31 Rxf1 Rd5 32 Ne6+ Kh6 33 Qxf7 1-0**

Kristen Clark from **Australia** has had a good think about how all improving players can reach the next level. Here is his e-mail: "As Black I figure I start "a move behind" and "on the back foot." So I decided early on that I would take a lot of chances as black, aggressively trade off pieces and try and bluff White. As such, I play the Scandinavian **1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5**. It is confrontational because my queen is out, while he hasn't developed any pieces. The opening is perhaps is a bit gimmicky. Material is even, but I hope I've rattled his cage and maybe that's not a bad start as black. Of course, he plays **3 Nc3** and I normally play **3...Qa5** to keep the queen developed (a risk?), rather than return to the starting square (lost tempo). What are your thoughts on playing the Scandinavian? Given my very aggressive outlook as black, is there any other non-traditional opening I might look at to shock White?"

Regular readers of this column will know that I think it is a good idea for club players to get their opening on the board as soon as possible. The Scandinavian gets a big tick for doing this after move one. Now the experts might frown and suggest main lines, which is probably right if you have lots of spare time, no job, have left school, and live in a cave. However, the rest of us have limited hours for chess study, so while a line in the Sicilian Dragon might be nice starting on move sixteen, you will have to wait ages to play it because so many people play the c3 Sicilian, the Closed Sicilian, and the list goes on.

I will try to inspire you by selecting three games where Black proves that the opening contains a certain amount of venom if White is careless.

Kevin Terrieux (2437) – Eric Prie (2529)

Belfort 2010

Scandinavian Defence [B01]

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 2...Nf6 is largely ignored at the highest level at the moment, but it has its supporters and I reckon it will gather more interest in the future. **3 Nc3 Qa5**



[FEN"rnb1kbnr/ppp1pppp/8/q7/8/2N5/1QP2P2/P5PP/2R2RK1 w - - 0 3"]

In recent years 3...Qd6 has also become popular. 4 d4 Nf6 5 Nf3 a6 this is the twist in the 3...Qd6 variation that has helped to revive interest, because the advance of the a-pawn stops Bb5 upon ...Nc6. It also prepares ...b7-b5 in some lines with the emphasis being on queenside castling as a way to challenge the d4-pawn 6 g3 b5 7 Bg2 Bb7 8 0-0 e6 9 Bf4 Qb6 10 a4 Bd6 11 Ne5 (maybe 11 Be3) 11...Bxg2 12 Kxg2 Qb7+ 13 Qf3 Qxf3+ 14 Kxf3 b4 15 Ne2 Nd5 16 Nc4 with roughly equal chances, R.Mainka-A.Braun, Nuremberg 2010. **4 d4 Nf6 5 Bd2** This is increasing in popularity because White is trying to use a move-order to grab the advantage. The thinking is that by delaying the development of the king's knight White wants to play Bc4, Qe2 and then try d4-d5. **5...Bg4** This is considered the right response by a tried and tested formula of examining older games. **6 Nf3!?** A bit unusual, but the idea is to transpose to more familiar lines if Black plays it safe with 6...c6. Also possible is 6 Be2, which is regarded as a move that makes it easy for Black to equalise, but in reality there is still plenty of play for both sides: 6...Bxe2 7 Ncxe2 (7 Qxe2 Nc6 8 Nf3 Qf5 9 Qb5 Qxb5 10 Nxb5 Rc8 offered equal opportunities in the game, B.Borsos-S.Azarov, Alushta 2009) 7...Qb6 8 Nf3 Nbd7 9 0-0 e6 10 c4! Be7 (or 10...Qxb2 11 Nc3 is unclear) 11 b4!? 0-0 12 a4 c6 (12...Bxb4? is met by 13 a5, when 13...Qd6 runs into 14 c5 and after 14...Bxc5 15 dxc5 Nxc5 16 Bb4, White is on top) 13 Qc2 Qc7 14 Rfe1 b6 (if 14...e5?!, then 15 Ng3! is strong exposing the strength of the rook on the e-file and the bonus is that a knight is heading to the useful f5-square) 15 a5 Rfb8 with a slight edge, A. Karpov-B.Larsen, Montreal 1979. It is worth noting that 6 f3 is generally considered the main alternative. For instance, 6...Bf5 7 g4 Bg6 8 f4 (8 h4 might be worth a closer look) 8...e6 9 f5 exf5 10 Qe2 + Kd8 11 g5 Nfd7 12 0-0-0 f4 13 Bg2 Nc6 14 Re1 (14 Bxf4 seems to be promising for White) 14...Bd6 15 Qb5 led to roughly equal chances in S. Houard-E.Prie, Saint Affrique 2007. **6...Qf5**



[FEN"r2kb1r/ppp1pppp/5n2/5q2/3P2b1/2N2N2/PPPB1PPP/R2QKB1R w KQkq - 0 7"]

This is a bit usual, but crops up in other similar lines, so there is a certain amount of logic about the move. This is because he wants to threaten to double pawns on f3 while keeping an eye on the d4-pawn, which he plans to attack with ...Nc6 and ...0-0-0. Also possible are more traditional moves: a) 6...e6 7 h3 Bh5 8 g4 Bg6 9 Ne5 Qb6 10 Qe2 Nc6 (Black should resist 10...Bxc2 because it gives White strong attacking chances. For instance, 11 Rc1 Bg6 12 g5 Nfd7 13 Nd5! exd5 14 Nxg6+ Qe6 15 Nxh8 winning) 11 Nc4 Qa6 12 Nb5 0-0-0 (naturally 12...Qxb5 is not seriously considered in view of 13 Nd6+ Bxd6 14 Qxb5 when White is the big favourite to win) 13 c3 Nd5 14 Bg2 Kb8 15 a4 led to equal chances in N.Kosintseva-C.Bauer, Biel 2010 and the game was eventually drawn. b) 6...Nbd7 7 Be2 e6 8 0-0 h5!? (an ambitious move, but more likely to be part of the mind games involved in winning such a game where Black is much higher rated. After all, it looks dangerous and invites White to worry about a forthcoming kingside onslaught) 9 Ne4 (the simple 9 h3 looks good, because 9...Bd6 is well met by 10 Nb5!) 9...Qb6 10 Nxf6+ gxf6 11 Bc3?! (11 a4 to harass the black queen with a4-a5 seems more to the point) 11...0-0-0 12 Nd2 Bh6 13 Nc4 Qc6 14 Qe1?! (this does nothing to improve the position so 14 Na5 Qd5 15 Bc4 Qd6 16 Qd3 is worth a try, but Black still has the initiative) 14...Rdg8 15 f3 Bf5 16 Bd2 Nb6 17 Nxb6+ Qxb6 18 Qf2? (Oh dear!) 18...Bxd2 0-1, C.Padrosa Baro-E.Prie, Figueres 2008. **7 Bd3 Qd7 8 h3 Bh5** A safe and steady response to maintain the pin and wait for the right moment to exchange on f3. Instead, 8...Bxf3 9 Qxf3 allows White to grab the initiative: 9...Nc6 10 0-0-0! and 10...

Qxd4 is exposed as a futile gesture in view of 11 Bb5, when 11...Qb6 12 Be3 wins easily. **9 Bf4 Nc6 10 g4 Bg6 11 Bb5** White is going all out to defend the d-pawn and the pin on the queen's knight at least secures equality. **11...0-0-0 12 0-0 e6 13 Ne5?**



[FEN"2kr1b1r/pppq1ppp/2n1pnb1/1B2N3/3P1BP1/2N4P/PPP2P2/R2Q1RK1 b - - 0 13"]

Terrieux spots his chance to weaken the pawn barrier on the queenside. However, Prie has it covered, because there will be no time for White to pursue an attack once the queens are traded. I prefer 13 Qe2 with about equal chances. **13...Qxd4 14 Nxc6 bxc6 15 Qxd4** Naturally 15 Bxc6? is ruled out, because of 15...Qxf4 and White can resign. **15...Rxd4 16 Be3 Rd6** It is around this point that White needs to count the pawns and start worrying. **17 Ba6+ Kb8 18 Bf4 Rd8** Black has doubled c-pawns, but White cannot exploit them instantly; even so the struggle should continue for some time. **19 Be5 Bd6** Black gets another piece into the action and offers to exchange White's active dark-squared bishop. Instead, 19...Bxc2?! is a risky venture allowing White to fight back upon 20 Rac1 Bg6 21 Nb5! Bd6 (21...cxb5 22 Bxc7+ Ka8 23 Bxd8 wins) 22 Nxd6 cxd6 23 Bxf6 gxf6 24 Rxc6 is still better for Black, but White is back in the game and can create some obstacles to prolong the fight. **20 f4 Bc5+ 21 Kg2** 21 Kh1 Bxc2 22 Rac1 Rd2 looks bleak for White. **21...Rd2+ 22 Kf3? h5 23 g5 Ng4! 0-1**



[FEN"1k5r/p1p2pp1/B1p1p1b1/2b1B1Pp/5Pn1/2N2K1P/PPPr4/R4R2 w - - 0 24"]

This idea of putting a queen on f5 in the opening to cause maximum alarm for White made me look for a similar example.

Werner Schweitzer (2089) – Aljosa Tomazini (2234)

Graz 2010

Scandinavian Defence [B01]

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qa5 4 d4 Nf6 5 Bc4 Bg4 The aggressive response to try and stop White from smoothly developing. Instead, 5...c6 to provide an escape square for the queen is another idea. **6 Nf3 Qf5!?**



[FEN"rn2kb1r/ppp1pppp/5n2/5q2/2BP2b1/2N2N2/PPP2PPP/R1BQK2R w KQkq - 0 7"]

An echo of the previous game, when the queen on f5 poses some unusual problems for White after only a handful of moves. Black wants to double White's f-pawn by exchanging on f3. This is an unusual continuation that is likely to make White think a little longer at the board. I suspect that attention will still concentrate on 6...Nc6 with the intention of castling queenside to up the pressure against the d4-pawn. For instance, a) 7 Bb5 Nd5 8 Qd3 Ndb4 9 Qe4 Bxf3 (9...f5!? looks interesting to test White's resolve) 10 Bxc6+ bxc6 11 gxf3 e6 12 Bd2 Qa6 13 Ne2 Nd5 14 b3 led to equal chances in H. Nakamura-C.Bauer, Le Port Marly 2009. b) 7 d5 0-0-0 8 Bd2 Ne5 9 Bb3 Qa6 (9...Nxf3+ 10 gxf3 Bh3 looks decent, but 11 Qe2 is a smart reply intending to castle queenside with a small edge) 10 Qe2 Qxe2+ 11 Kxe2 a6 12 Bf4 Nxf3 13 gxf3 Bh5 14 Rhd1 h6 with a level position, R.Edouard-H. Hamdouchi, Sestao 2010. **7 Bd3 Qh5 8 Be2 Ne6** The knight is ready to strike at the d4-pawn and Black clearly wants to continue with ...0-0-0, which is tricky for White. **9 Ng5?! White** wants to force matters, but this just seems to favour Black, so a quieter continuation is required. I prefer 9 Be3 when 9...0-0 10 h3 is about level. **9...Bxe2 10 Nxe2** If 10 Qxe2, then 10...Nxd4 is heavily in Black's favour. **10...h6 11 Nf3 g5!?** An interesting idea to make White think by preparing ...g5-g4 to oust the knight from the defence of the d4-pawn. Instead, 11...0-0-0! to increase the pressure on the d4-pawn is worth considering. **12 Ng3 Qg6 13 Qe2 0-0-0 14 c3 e6** Tomazini carries on with the job of developing the kingside by freeing the dark-squared bishop. **15 Be3 Nd5 16 0-0-0 Bd6 17 Ne5?** Schweitzer wants to set some problems, but overlooks a tactical response. **17...Nxe5**



[FEN"2kr3r/ppp2p2/3bp1qp/3nP1p1/8/2P1B1N1/PP2QPPP/2KR3R b - - 0 18"]

18 dxe5 Nxc3! 0-1 The idea was originally to meet 18...Bxe5 with 19 Bxa7 to maintain the material level, but White missed the tactic.

Finally, here is a game that once again gives White something to worry about within the first ten moves.

Maria Rodrigo Yanguas (2092) – David Larino Nieto (2461)

Vecindario 2010

Scandinavian Defence [B01]

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qa5 4 d4 Nf6 5 Nf3 Nc6 There will be a few people tempted by this knight move to target the d4-pawn, because it is similar to other lines that feature ...Bg4. **6 Bb5!** This is the reason why Black tends to avoid developing the queen's knight too early, since the pin is quite

awkward for Black, as White is poised to shatter the queenside pawns. **6... Ne4**



[FEN"r1b1kb1r/ppp1pppp/2n5/qB6/3Pn3/2N2N2/PPP2PPP/R1BQK2R w KQkq - 0 7"]

This is the fashionable move that has done a lot to help revive the line. As usual, Black tries to exert pressure in the opening and this time it is by attacking the queen's knight. **6...Bg4** is the old move, but **7 h3** or **7 Qd3** are good replies, giving White the edge. **7 Bd2** The impulsive reply to block the pin, but a little more time spent on the move might have encouraged White to try one of the alternatives: a) **7 Rb1!**? this seems to be popular in the Netherlands, but has not really caught on elsewhere, presumably because of the imminent loss of a pawn **7...Nxc3 8 bxc3** and now: a1) **8...a6 9 Bxc6+ bxc6 10 0-0** seems fine for White. a2) **8...Qxc3+** is very tempting, but should lead to a quick loss upon **9 Bd2 Qa3 10 Ne5 a6 11 Bb4 Qxa2 12 Bc4** and White is clearly on top. a3) **8...Qxa2** has to be the critical reply, but after **9 Rb2 Qd5 10 0-0** I prefer White's practical chances because of his lead in development. a4) **8...Bf5 9 0-0 0-0 10 Bd2** (maybe **10 Bxc6 bxc6 11 Qe2** is a possible improvement, because the black king is horribly exposed) **10...Qxa2 11 Bxc6 bxc6 12 Ne5 f6 (12...Bxc2** is the obvious choice, but **13 Ra1! Bxd1 14 Rxa2** is good, when the threats of **Nxf7** and **Rxd1** give White a commanding position) **13 Nxc6 Rd6 14 Qf3 (14 Rb8+ Kd7 15 Nb4 Qc4 16 Qf3** also looks good) **14...Qxc2 15 Rb8+ Kd7 16 d5 (16 Nb4 Qe4 17 Qd1!** aiming for the a4-square knocks Black out) **16...Rxc6 17 dxc6+ Ke6 18 Rb5 Be4 19 Re1 Kf7 20 Qxe4 Qxd2 21 Qe6+ Kg6 22 Rb7 1-0, F.Nijboer-R.Mol, Haarlem 1992. b) 7 a4** this move currently seems to be the favourite of the elite players: **7...a6** (the ploy of winning a pawn with the line **7...Nxc3 8 bxc3 Qxc3+** fails to convince as is usual in these sort of positions, in view of **9 Bd2 Qb2 10 Rb1 Qa3 11 Ne5** with strong play) **8 Bxc6+ bxc6 9 0-0 Nxc3 10 bxc3 Bg4** (or **10...Bf5 11 Bd2 Qd5 12 Qb1 Be4 13 Re1 Bxf3 14 Re5 Qd8 15 gxf3** led to roughly equal play in A.Grischuk-L.Milov, Mainz 2003) **11 Qd3!** (11 h3 runs into **11...Qxc3!**, when **12 Ra3 Bxf3 13 Rxc3 Bxd1 14 Rxd1 e6 15 Rxc6 Bd6** is level) **11...Bf5 12 Qd2 e6 13 Ne5 Qd5 14 c4 Qe4 15 c3** led to a promising position in Lu Shanglei-Wang Chen Shanghai 2010. c) I also quite like **7 Qd3. 7...Nxc3 8 Bxc6+ bxc6 9 Bxc3 Qd5** I would suggest that Black has already achieved equality and because White doesn't play the normal replies, it is a good guess that Black will be up in time. **10 0-0 Bg4 11 Re1 Bxf3 12 Qxf3 Qxf3 13 gxf3**



[FEN"r3kb1r/p1p1pppp/2p5/8/3P4/2B2P2/PPP2P1P/R3R1K1 b kq - 0 13"]

One would surmise that the result would end in a peaceful draw, but as Black is rated much higher, he is ready to grind out a positive result by patiently

looking to improve his position. **13...e6 14 f4 0-0 15 Kg2 Rd5** I like this move because it makes the rook active and introduces some interesting play, since White has to think about which side of the board will the rook swing to next. **16 Kf3 Bd6 17 Re4 Rd8 18 Rg1 g6 19 b4** White is wary of allowing a timely ...c6-c5 to get rid of the doubled c-pawns. The thing is to win the game Black might be reluctant to do this because he might improve his pawn structure, but then White's bishop will no longer be shut in behind the d-pawn. **19...Rh5**



[FEN"2kr4/p1p2p1p/2pbp1p1/7r/1P1PRP2/2B2K2/P1P2P1P/6R1 w - - 0 20"]

20 Rg2? The wrong way to defend the h-pawn and a sign that even in harmless-looking endings there are still tricks and traps. **20 Kg2** is necessary. **20...Rh3+ 21 Rg3 Rxh2** Black wins a pawn and is suddenly presented with a passed h-pawn and is clearly favourite to win. **22 Bd2 Be7 23 Be3 Kd7 24 c3 a5 25 a3 axb4 26 axb4 Ra8 27 Rg1 Ra3 28 Rc1** Or **28 Bd2**, but **28...Bxb4** is a killer move. **28...Bd6 29 Bd2?** Now it really is all over as a competitive game, because Black is the stronger player and he has a couple of extra pawns. **29...Bxb4 30 Kg3 Rh5 31 Ree1 Bd6 32 Rb1 c5 33 dxc5 Rxc5 34 Rh2 Rc4 35 Rh1 h5 36 Kf3 Raa4 37 Rd1 Kc6 0-1**

Mr. Clarke also enquires for knowledge on a "non-traditional opening I might look at to shock White," so I would suggest readers should send in their suggestions.

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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