



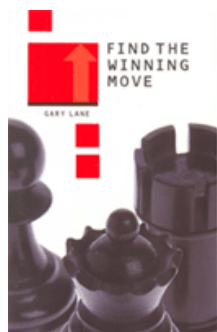
COLUMNISTS

Opening Lanes

Gary Lane

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It's A Wonderful Life

There is room for everyone to improve their chess education. So do you know the Motzko Attack?

I like to think that I have a good knowledge of my openings, but even I was wondering about this one, and I suspect a few others are about to Google it. However, I will save you the time, because it has been known for a while. Perhaps I am not keeping up with the Open Ruy Lopez.

Hernani Donato from **Brazil** e-mailed to ask about the variation: "I have 214 games, between the years 1871-2010, where the Motzko Attack was played. I want to improve my game against the Open Ruy Lopez. What are the ideas behind the Motzko Attack: **1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Nxe4 6 d4 b5 7 Bb3 d5 8 dxe5 Be6 9 c3 Bc5 10 Qd3**? Is this variation covered in any books?"

I have to confess I have not had a serious look at the Motzko Attack before, but it certainly has to be respected. It is rather difficult to sum up 214 games with a couple of examples, but I hope to give a general idea of what is going on. The aim is to take a broad approach and hopefully encourage more players to give 10 Qd3 a whirl. In modern tournament chess, the obvious candidate to turn to is Andrei Sokolov who has adopted the line. The Russian grandmaster, who now resides in France, can be an exceptional player and in the 1980s was ranked third in the world behind Kasparov and Karpov. His opponent in the following encounter is an Englishman who has written books on the Open Lopez, so a tense struggle seems to be likely.

Andrei Sokolov - Glenn Flear
European Team Championship, Plovdiv 2003

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Nxe4



[FEN "r1bqkb1r/1ppp1ppp/p1n5/4p3/B3n3/5N2/PPPP1PPP/RNBQ1RK1 w kq - 0 6"]

This is the starting point of the Open Defence, which in the past has been favoured by top players such as Victor Korchnoi and Vishy Anand. **6 d4 b5** A standard move that is automatically played by Black. Instead, **6...exd4** is met by **7 Re1** when **7...d5 8 Nxd4** is known to be slightly better for White. **7 Bb3 d5** Black supports the knight on e4 and makes it easier to develop the light-squared bishop. A careless continuation is **7...exd4**!, because White can seize the initiative with **8 Re1 d5** when **9 Nc3** looks good news for White. **8 dxe5 Be6** Black defends the d-pawn. The long-term idea for Black is to try to advance the backward c-pawn, while White hopes that the pawn on e5 will help a kingside attack by splitting Black's defensive pieces. **9 c3 9 Nbd2** is the main alternative. **9...Bc5 10 Qd3**

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Open Ruy Lopez
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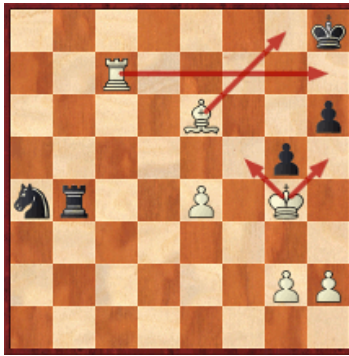
[FEN "r2qk2r/2p2ppp/p1n1b3/1pbpP3/4n3/1BPQ1N2/PP3PPP/RNB2RK1 b kq - 0 10"]

A relatively unusual move in modern play, but it still has some bite if Black is not careful. Apparently, the line was tested by the correspondence player Franz Motzko in 1910 and it was soon afterwards played by masters. It is certainly always interesting to do something a little different, especially because the main alternative 10 Nbd2 has been heavily analysed. An exciting line for Black is the Dilworth Variation, named after an English amateur: 10 Nbd2 0-0 11 Bc2 Nxf2 12 Rxf2 f6 when lots of time and effort has been applied to determine who is better, but it seems players are still unsure! **10... 0-0 11 Nbd2 f5** A critical continuation that invites complications. Perhaps a safer reply is 11...Nxd2 12 Bxd2 when play might continue a) 12...Ne7 13 Nd4 Bb6 14 a4 Ng6 15 Bc2 with a slight edge, as the e5-pawn is immune because the threat of checkmate on h7. b) 12...Qd7 13 a4 Ne7 14 Be3 Bxe3 15 Qxe3 Nf5 16 Qf4 c5 17 Bc2 h6 18 b4 gave White a slight edge, but the game was eventually drawn in I.Smirin-B.Amin, Bursa 2010. **12 exf6 Nxf6 13 a4** This move has been something of a favourite for Sokolov. The idea is to open the a-file for White's rook, which is deemed to be an improvement on lines that feature 13 Ng5. For example, a) 13...Bf7 14 Nxf7 Rxf7 15 Nf3 (White is well placed to attack the d5-pawn, while the knight controls the e5-square and can also contemplate a timely Ng5) 15...Qd6 16 Bg5 Rd8 17 Rae1 Re7 18 Bh4 Kh8 19 a4 looks promising for White, M. Vachier Lagrave-T. Heinz, French Team Championship 2005. b) 13...Ne5! 14 Qg3 Qd6 15 Bc2 (or 15 Ndf3 Nxf3+ 16 Nxf3 Qxg3 17 hxg3 Ne4 18 Nd4 offers roughly equal chances) 15...Bd7 16 Nb3 Bb6 17 Nd4 Rae8 18 Bf4 Nh5! 19 Bxe5 Rxe5 20 Bxh7+ Kh8 21 Qh4 g6 22 f4 Bxd4+ 23 cxd4 Ref5 24 g3 Kg7 led to wild complications in the game A.Khalifman-G.Kaidanov, Kujbyshev 1986, with an eventual draw. **13...Rb8** Almost an automatic move amongst the masters, but I can't help thinking that 13...Bf7 needs another test at tournament level. **14 axb5 axb5 15 Ra6!?** A direct approach taking advantage of the open a-file. 15 Ng5 and now 15...Qd6?! 16 Nxe6 (the line with 15...Qd6 grew in stature because of the following draw, but it is wrong: 16 Bc2?! g6 17 Nxe6 Ng4 18 Qg3 Qxe6 19 Nf3 Rbe8 20 Bd2 Bd6 ½-½, A.Sokolov-S.Skembris, Bar 1997) 16...Qxe6 17 Ne4! (the star move that changed opinions about the line) 17...Bb6 (or 17...Qxe4 18 Qxe4 Nxe4 19 Bxd5+ Kh8 20 Bxe4 favours White) 18 Nxf6+ Qxf6 19 Be3 Ne5 20 Qxd5+ Kh8 21 Bxb6 Rxb6 22 Rae1 gave White a terrific position thanks to the extra pawn, F. Corrales Jimenez-J. Baron Rodriguez, Havana 2007. b) 15...Ne5 16 Qg3 Qd6 17 Bc2 Bd7 18 Ndf3!? (I prefer 18 Nb3) 18...Nxf3+ 19 Nxf3 Ne4 20 Qxd6 ½-½, S.Zjukin-M.Rytshagov, Tallinn 2006. **15...Qd7 16 Ng5 Bb6** Or 16...Bf5 17 Nde4 (17 Nge4!? is worth a closer look) 17...Ne7 (17...Bb6? is a natural response, but it causes a disaster 18 Nxf6+ Rxf6 19 Qxd5+ Qxd5 20 Bxd5+ gave White a great position in V.Ivanchuk-G.Kamsky, Monte Carlo 1995) 18 Nxc5 Bxd3 19 Nxd7 Nxd7 20 Re1 Ne5 offered equal chances in B. Gorokhovskiy-J. Wiesinger, Internet 1996. **17 Nxe6 Qxe6 18 Ne4 Qxe4?**



[FEN "1r3rk1/2p3pp/Rbn2n2/1p1p4/4q3/1BPQ4/1P3PPP/2B2RK1 w - - 0 19"]

A clear blunder, which is surprising from such an expert on the line. He might have just forgotten the book move or did a finger slip, but it is certainly no good. Arguably the best move is 18...Kh8! when play continues 19 Nxf6 Qxf6 20 Bc2 Qh4 21 g3 and now 21...Qh3 (21...Qh5 22 Bd1 Qe8 23 Bf4 Ne7 24 Be3 gave White the better opportunities in L.Dominguez Perez-L. Bruzon Bautista, Santa Clara 2007) 22 Qxd5 Ne5 23 Bf4 Rxf4 24 Rxb6 cxb6 25 Qxe5 Rff8 26 Qxb5 ½-½, J.Van der Wiel-V.Mikhalevski, Leeuwarden 1995. **19 Qxe4 Nxe4 20 Bxd5+ Kh8 21 Bxe4** At the end of the combination White has emerged with a clear extra pawn. Probably not what you want against a Russian grandmaster. It is to his credit that Flear continues to put up a fight, but White is always the favourite. **21...Ne5 22 Be3** It might seem strange to volunteer to have an isolated pawn, but White can put up with that if it means cancelling the last sign of counterplay, which was based on attacking the f2-pawn. **22...Bxe3 23 fxe3 Rxf1+ 24 Kxf1 Nc4 25 Ke2 Nxb2** Instead, 25...Re8 suddenly looks the way to go, but White can even try 26 b3, because 26...Rxe4? allows 27 Ra8+ Re8 28 Rxe8#. **26 Rc6 g6 27 Rxc7 b4 28 cxb4 Rxb4 29 Bd5** Sokolov is still in charge; his passed pawn is ready to roll, while Black is suffering, in particular because his king is cut off on the back rank. **29...Na4 30 e4 Nb6 31 Ke3 g5** Or 31...Nxd5+ 32 exd5 with a won rook and pawn ending. **32 Be6 h6 33 Kf3 Na4 34 Kg4 1-0**



[FEN "7k/2R5/4B2p/6p1/nr2P1K1/8/6PP/8 b - - 0 34"]

Here is another heavyweight encounter that is another great advertisement for the Motzko Attack:

Farrukh Amonatov - Anton Filippov
Tashkent 2009

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Nxe4 6 d4 b5 7 Bb3 d5 8 dxe5 Be6 9 c3 Be5 10 Qd3 The Motzko Attack is once again employed by a highly-rated Russian grandmaster. **10...Ne7** This move is the start of the Nenarokov Variation and is clearly a serious alternative. 10...0-0 was analysed in the previous main game. **11 Be3**



[FEN "r2qk2r/2p1nppp/p3b3/1pbpP3/4n3/1BPQBN2/PP3PPP/RN3RK1 b kq - 0 11"]

A reliable reply aiming to cancel out Black's traditional counterplay against the f2-pawn. At a high level it is a good practical decision, while at club level it might even strike a psychological blow, because so many of the tactics revolve around the might of the bishop on c5. So exchanging it will force Black to adopt a different style of game. Also possible is a) 11 Nbd2 Bf5 12 Nd4!? (12 Qe2 is another idea that needs further tests) 12...Bg6 (or 12...Qd7 13 Nxf5 Qxf5 14 Bxd5 favours White) 13 Nxe4 Bxe4 14 Qg3 0-0 15 Bg5 (the attractive-looking 15 Bh6 is not much of a threat upon 15...Ng6) 15...Qe8 16 Bxe7 Qxe7 17 Bxd5! Bxd4 (if 17...Bxd5, then 18 Nf5 targets the black queen and helps to threaten checkmate on g7) 18 Bxa8 Bxe5 19 f4 Bxf4 20 Qxf4 Rxa8 21 Rae1 Qc5+ 22 Qe3 Qxe3+ 23 Rxe3 when White was on top in the game A.Lastin-E.Romanov, Ulan Ude 2009. b) 11 Nd4 Bb6 12 Nd2 Nxd2 (perhaps 12...Nc5!?) 13 Bxd2 0-0 (not 13...c5? 14 Nxe6 fxe6 15 Bc2 when Black has problems castling kingside, because of the threat against the h7-pawn, and 15...c4 16 Qf3 Qd7 17 a4 is just better for White, because Black has no safe place for the king) 14 Bc2 is worth investigating, because White seems to be doing well. **11...Nf5** The main alternative is 11...0-0!?. For example, 12 Nbd2 (12 Nd4?! Bb6 13 Bc2 Ng6 gives Black some play against the e5-pawn) 12...Bxe3 (12...Bf5 seems to be a reasonable reply if Black is looking for something different) 13 Qxe3 Nxd2 (13...Nf5 14 Qe2 Nxd2 15 Qxd2 c5 16 Rfd1 is a typical Open Lopez where Black looks like he is doing well, but White has some trumps, such as the pressure against the d5-pawn, which will prompt a compromise by Black. So I prefer White.) 14 Qxd2 c5 (if 14...Bg4, then I reckon that 15 Nh4! is slightly better for White) 15 Rad1 ½-½, V.Gashimov-A.Yussupov, Moscow 2007. The critical line has to be 11...Bxe3 12 Qxe3 and now a) 12...c5 13 Rd1 Qc7 14 Nbd2 Bf5 15 Nxe4 dxe4 (15...Bxe4 is also met by 16 Ng5 with good play) 16 Ng5 c4 17 Bc2 Qxe5 18 f4 Qc7 19 Bxe4 Bxe4 20 Qxe4 gave White the initiative, J. Enevoldsen-B.Larsen, Copenhagen 1953. b) 12...0-0 13 Rd1!? (the idea is to delay the normal Nb1-d2, so that if Black exchanges on d2, then White can take back with the rook and accelerate the pressure against the d5-pawn by preparing to double rooks on the d-file) 13...h6 14 Nbd2 Bf5 (14...Nxd2 15 Rxd2 is better for White) 15 a4 with a slight edge, N.Short-A.Yussupov, Linares 1990. **12 Bxc5** Or 12 Nd4 Nxe3 13 Qxe3 Bb6 14 Bc2 with a slight plus. **12...Nxc5** **13 Qe2** Or 13 Qd2 0-0 14 Nd4 (14 Bc2 is met with 14...f6 and Black has no worries) 14...Nxb3 15 axb3 c5 16 Nxf5 Bxf5 17 Qf4 delivers an equal position. **13...d4!?** A typical move in this opening that seeks exchanges to ensure equality. Maybe next time 13...0-0 will come under closer scrutiny. **14 Bxe6 fxe6** After 14...Nxe6, then 15 Qe4 is a dangerous move because it ruins the harmony of black pieces 15...g6 (15...Ne7 16 cxd4 0-0 17 Rd1 with the brighter prospects) 16 g4 is good for White. **15 cxd4 Nxd4 16 Nxd4 Qxd4 17 Rd1** After the exchanges on d4, White's job is to shoo away the queen from the decent d4-square. **17...Qf4 18 g3 Qe4 19 Nc3 Qxe2 20 Nxe2**



[FEN "r3k2r/2p3pp/p3p3/1pn1P3/8/6P1/PP2NP1P/R2R2K1 b kq - 0 20"]

The majority of players might dismiss the position as being a dull draw, but there is plenty of play if White is clinical in his decision-making. The point is that Black has not had time to coordinate his rooks and the knight on c5 cannot be maintained on that square. These factors allow Amonatov to step up the pressure. **20...Nd7** Of course, 20...0-0 allows 21 Rac1, which will soon win the c7-pawn. **21 Nf4 Ke7 22 Rac1 Rhc8** Or 22...c5 23 Rd6 g5 24 Rcd1! Nf8 25 Nh5 gives White an excellent ending. **23 Rc6 Nf8 24 h4** The h-pawn is advanced to stop ...g7-g5, which means that the knight can safely remain on f4 and exert influence on the e6-pawn. **24...Ra7 25 Kg2** White has the luxury of being able to improve his king position by heading it towards the centre. **25...Rd8 26 Rdc1 Rd7 27 Kf3 Kf7 28 Ke4**



[FEN "5n2/r1pr1kpp/p1R1p3/1p2P3/4KN1P/6P1/PP3P2/2R5 b - - 0 28"]

This position gives White all the fun. He has the active pieces and has even had time to centralise the king, while Black is just hanging on in a passive position hoping that the final outcome will be a draw. **28...Re7 29 R1c3 a5** Filippov had to something to avoid the queenside pawns snapped up by Ra3. **30 Ne2** The weakening of the black queenside pawns prompts White to transfer the knight to where it can provoke more concessions. **30...b4 31 Rd3 a4 32 Nd4 Ra5 33 f4 h6 34 h5 Rd7?** It is hardly surprising that Black finally cracks under the pressure and allows White a simple combinations that wins a pawn. **35 Nc2 Rb5 36 Rxd7+ Nxd7 37 Rxc7 Ke8 38 Nd4 Rb6 39 g4 b3 40 a3 Kd8 41 Ra7 1-0**

Jacinto Ramírez from **Spain** got me thinking with an interesting question: "I'm starting to work rather seriously in the **3...Qa5** Scandinavian. My main reference is [Emms's book](#) (2004). Versus the annoying **4 Bc4**, he suggests among others **4...c6 5 d3 Bf5** and suggests that it is interesting to delay the development of the Ng8. For example, **6 g4 Bg6 7 Nge2 e6 8 h4 h5 9 Nf4 Ne7!**. But a twenty-year old FM friend of mine played **7 f4 e6 8 Qe2 Be7** (perhaps 8...Ne7) **9 h4 h5 10 f5 exf5 11 g5** and White has compensation, mainly because of the big pawn on g6. Recently, I found the game, Bronstein-Beliavsky, Erevan 1975 (a Caro-Kann, but the position is very close). In his commentary to the game in [Informator](#), Zlotnik gives +/- after 11 g5. Do you think that White is better in the Scandinavian line? Black looks a little passive, but rather solid. Perhaps White has the best of a balanced position? Is the normal 5...Nf6 a better try? I "asked" Rybka, but it doesn't think much of the pawn sacrifice, although Rybka has a decent understanding of positional sacrifices in general. I haven't found any Scandinavian games with 6 g4 in my database. In Muzychuk-Repkova, 2008 Olympiad, White played the idea, but

first she allowed ...Be7-h4+ and lost the game."

I am not sure you should be that worried by 4 Bc4, but in the future we may need to find a serious alternative line for you. However, there should be no need to worry too much about the g4 line, as long as you note my improvement on the key game in the note to White's ninth move, especially if that FM is still causing you trouble in the opening. I give you ten out of ten for spotting the positional motif in the game of Bronstein's, which I have added to the notes for the keen student. Yet, the position is different, because in the old game Beliavsky has a much more passive position. Still, it is open to discussion.

In the following game I take a closer look at a game that features the positional idea that concerns the reader:

Anna Muzychuk - Eva Repkova

Dresden Olympiad 2008

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qa5 4 Bc4 c6



[FEN "rnb1kbnr/pp2pppp/2p5/q7/2B5/2N5/PPPP1PPP/R1BQK1NR w KQkq - 0 5"]

The idea of the mysterious pawn move is to give the queen an escape square and, more importantly, to wait for White to play Nf3, so it can be pinned by ...Bg4. **5 d3 Bf5 6 Qe2** The reader points out the line 6 g4 Bg6 7 Nge2 e6 8 h4 h5 9 Nf4 Ne7 is assessed as about equal, which I agree with after some thought. Still, hardly anyone has taken up the gauntlet of playing 6 g4, preferring the text to keep Black guessing his true intentions. **6...e6 7 g4** I like 7 Bd2 to break the pin on the knight and shoo away the black queen. For instance, 7...Qc7 8 g4 Bg6 9 f4 Ne7 (perhaps 9...Be7!?) 10 Nf3 Nd7 11 0-0 0-0 12 Qf2 Nb6 13 Ne5 Nxc4?! (surely 13...Ned5 offers equal opportunities) 14 dxc4 Kb8 15 f5! Rxd2 (if 15...exf5, then 16 Bf4, intending Nd7+ or even Nxg6 is a deadly riposte) 16 Rxd2 exf5 17 Qf4 Ka8 18 Nxg6 1-0, E.Poenisch-T.Puls, German Team Championship 2008. **7...Bg6 8 f4**



[FEN "rn2kbnr/pp3ppp/2p1p1b1/q7/2B2PP1/2NP4/PPP1Q2P/R1B1K1NR b KQkq f3 0 8"]

This is the critical position that troubles our reader. It is hardly surprising, because the threat of f4-f5 to take advantage of the pin on the e-file looks ominous. **8...Be7** I suspect that 8...Ne7 just gets in the way of the kingside pieces when 9 Bd2, intending the pawn sacrifice f4-f5, gives White the superior chances. **9 Nf3** The FM who played Ramirez tried the line 9 h4 h5 10 f5!? exf5 11 g5, but I think there is a big difference with the Bronstein-

Beliavsky game, because White had a much more attacking stance with a knight well placed on c5. Just to complete the picture, here is the full game: 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Nc5 Qb6 6 g4 Bg6 7 f4 e6 8 Qe2 Be7 9 h4 h5 10 f5 exf5 11 g5 Nd7



[FEN "r3k1nr/pp1nbpp1/1qp3b1/2N2pPp/3P3P/8/PPP1Q3/R1B1KBNR w KQkq - 0 12"]

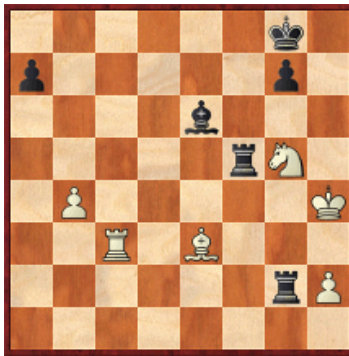
12 Nb3 Qc7 13 Nh3 0–0–0 14 Bf4 Bd6 15 Qh2 Nf8 16 0–0–0 Ne6 17 Bxd6 Rxd6 18 Bc4 Ne7 19 Nf4 Nxf4 20 Qxf4 Rdd8 21 Qxc7+ Kxc7 22 c3 Rhe8 23 Nc5 Nc8 24 Nd3 Nd6 25 Bb3 Re3 26 Nf4 Rde8 27 Rhg1 R8e7 28 Rdf1 Ne4 29 Bd1 Kd6 30 Bf3 c5 31 dxc5+ Kxc5 32 Ng2 Rd3 33 Nf4 Rd8 34 Rd1 Red7 35 Rxd7 Rxd7 36 Rd1 Rxd1+ 37 Kxd1 Nd6 38 Kc2 a5 39 a4 Kb6 40 Kd3 Kc7 41 Kd4 Nc8 42 b4 axb4 43 cxb4 Ne7 44 a5 f6 45 gxf6 gxf6 46 Kc5 Bf7 47 b5 Kc8 48 b6 1–0, D.Bronstein-A.Beliavsky, Erevan 1975. **9...h5?!** Perhaps 9...Nf6 is a better choice, rather than trying to refute White's opening. **10 Ne5! Bh4+** Black is in trouble, because 10...Bh7 allows the tactical trick 11 Nxf7! when 11...Kxf7 12 Qxe6+ Ke8 13 Qf7+ Kd8 14 Qxg7 is close to an outright win, as 14...Bf6 is met by 15 Qxb7. **11 Kf1** The king looks safer on the queenside, so 11 Kd1 should be preferred. **11...Ne7 12 f5!?** Muzychuk is going for a quick knock-out with such aggressive play. It is also worth giving some thought to 12 Bd2. **12...exf5 13 g5**



[FEN "rn2k2r/pp2npp1/2p3b1/q3NpPp/2B4b/2NP4/PPP1Q2P/R1B2K1R b kq - 0 13"]

Our reader will recognise this idea to entomb the black bishop. **13...b5 14 Bb3 b4 15 Na4 f4** A sign that Repkova knows she is in trouble and hence the desire to give back the extra pawn just to get his light-squared bishop back in the game. However, it means that White has gained, because now she has more influence on the open e-file. **16 Bxf4 0–0–0 17 Kg2** The rooks are coordinated and the king is relatively safe on g2. **17...Nd5 18 Qf3?!** 18 Qd2! looks like a good choice to protect the queen and prepare Nf3 to trap the bishop on h4. **18...Qd8 19 Nc5 Bf5?!** **20 Bxd5 cxd5 21 Qxh5** I would like to be able to report that White won after such power play in the opening, but Black is a fighter and finds counterplay in trying circumstances. **21...Qc8 22 d4 Bxg5 23 Bxg5 f6 24 Qf3?!** Surely 24 Bxf6! Rxf6 25 Rhf1 is excellent for White. **24...fxe5 25 Qxd5+ Kh8 26 Rhg1?!** White begins to lose her way, which is not such a good idea when your king is exposed. 26 h3 is hardly perfect, but it gives the king another escape square. **26...Nd7 27 Rae1 Nb6 28 Qb7** Instead, 28 Qxe5 Qc6+ 29 Kg3 Nc4 might be playable if you have a computer by your side, but in the midst of the Olympiad it just looks scary for White. **28...exd4 29 Be7 Rf7 30 Qf3 Bg6 31 Qh3+ Kg8 32 Qe6 Bf5 33 Qd6 Nc4 34 Qd5 Ne3+ 35 Rxe3 dxe3 36 Re1 Rb8 37 Rxe3 Rb6 38 Bg5 Qc6 39 c4 bxc3 40 Qxc6 Rxc6 41 Rxc3 Bb1 42 b4 Bxa2 43 Kg3 Rf5 44 Be3 Rg6+**

45 Kh4 Rg2 46 Ne4 Be6 47 Ng5



[FEN "6k1/p5p1/4b3/5rN1/1P5K/2R1B3/6rP/8 b - - 0 47"]

47...Rfxg5! 0–1 White resigned in view of 48 Bxg5 Rxh2+ 49 Kg3 Rh3+ 50 Kf2 Rxc3 winning.

And finally, **Guido De Bouver** from **Belgium** has brought to our attention an outrageous gambit in a well-known position. He writes, "In the Sokolsky, there is a very interesting line that might interest your readers: **1 b4 e5 2 Bb2 Bxb4** (3 Bxe5 Nf6 is now the most popular) **3 f4!!** (The Kucharkowski-Meybohm gambit) **3...exf4 4 Bxg7 Qxh4+ 5 g3 fxg3 6 Bg2!! gxh2+ 7 Kf1 hxg1=Q+ 8 Kxg1**. A very original position has occurred, after only eight moves. White is likely to win as his preparation in the complicated position will pay off big. Any ideas or comments on this fascinating line?"

My first reaction was astonishment that someone could play something so amazing on move three in a familiar position. I then became incredulous that so many keen gambit players had given it a go. Here is one of them:

Clement Bouvier - Antoine Kassis
French Team Championship 2009

1 b4 e5 2 Bb2 Bxb4 3 f4!?



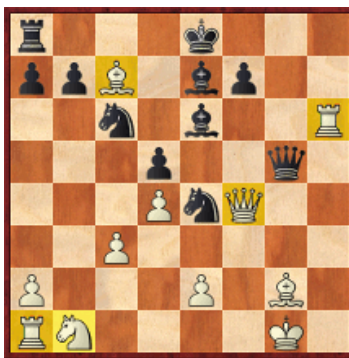
[FEN "rnbqk1nr/pppp1ppp/8/4p3/1b3P2/8/PBPPP1PP/RN1QKBNR b KQkq f3 0 3"]

Please do not adjust your chess set. This is a genuine move that has been played in tournaments, though I suspect Black has giggled rather often. If you wish to conduct further research, the line is known as the Kucharkowski-Meybohm Gambit. Instead, the sensible 3 Bxe5 Nf6 is considered the main line. **3...exf4** A safe line is 3...d6, when 4 fxe5 dxe5 5 Bxe5 Nf6 is fine for Black, who is certainly not joining in the fun of the gambit line. **4 Bxg7 Qh4+ 5 g3 fxg3 6 Bg2** White has to avoid 6 Nf3? in view of 6...g2+! 7 Nxh4 gxh1Q winning. **6...gxh2+ 7 Kf1 hxg1Q+ 8 Kxg1**



[FEN "rnb1k1nr/pppp1pBp/8/8/1b5q/8/P1PPP1B1/RN1Q2KR b kq - 0 8"]

I have to agree with Mr. De Bouver that this is an original position. Other words that come to mind are wild, wacky, and bizarre. **8...Qg5** This square has emerged as the best choice over the years, because there are plenty of lower-rated players prepared to give the line a try. Strangely, there is a lack of master strength players indulging in such fun, but maybe they reserve such inventive play solely for the Internet. **9 Bxh8 h6** Black preserves the h-pawn. It is at this point that there is debate on the best way to continue: a) **9...b6** **10 Rxh7 Bb7** **11 Qf1 Nh6** **12 Rg7** (12 Bf6! looks like a killer move) **12...Bc5+** **13 Kh2??** (13 e3 is a sensible reply) **13...Ng4+** **14 Kg3 Bd6+** 0-1, W.Von Otte-H.Alber, German Team Championship. b) **9...h5?!** **10 e3** (the threat is Rxh5, so Black has no time to develop the queenside) **10...h4** **11 Qf3 Nc6** **12 Nc3 Qh6** **13 Rf1 Qg6** **14 Rxh4 d6** **15 Nd5** 1-0, J.Pietrzak-D.Wodecki, Karvina 2006. c) Perhaps **9...d5** **10 Rxh7 Nf6** is the best that Black can go for, in which case I would rather be white. **10 c3** A modest continuation, when White needs to surge his pieces forward before Black can set-up adequate defences, so **10 Nc3!** looks like a good choice. **10...Be7** **11 d4 d5** **12 Be5 Nf6** **13 Qd2 Ne4** **14 Qf4** Instead, **14 Qxg5 Bxg5** **15 Bxe4 dxe4** **16 Kf2** is roughly equal. **14...Nc6** **15 Bxc7** Bouvier picks up a pawn, but after such a wild opening it matters little if Black can finally get all his pieces into play. **15...Be6** **16 Rxh6**



[FEN "r3k3/ppB1bp2/2n1b2R/3p2q1/3PnQ2/2P5/P3P1B1/RN4K1 b q - 0 16"]

White grabs another pawn, but even a cursory glance indicates that the pieces are not working together. **16...Qg7!** The threat of ...Bg5 is immense and add the prospect of ...Kd7 to let the queen's rook join the g-file to increase the attacking chances. **17 Qh2 Nxd4** **18 Rh8+** The acceptance of the knight leads directly to checkmate: **18 cxd4 Qxd4+** **19 Kh1 Nf2+** **20 Kg1 Nh3+** **21 Kh1 Qd1+** **22 Bf1 Qxf1+** **23 Qg1 Qxg1#**. **18...Kd7** **19 Rxa8 Qg5** The quickest win occurs upon **19...Nxe2+** **20 Kf1** (20 Kh1 Nf2#) **20...Qf6+** **21 Kxe2 Bg4+** **22 Kd3 Qa6+** **23 Kc2 Qe2+** **24 Kb3 Nc5+** **25 Ka3 Na4+** **26 Kb3 Qd1#**. **20 Qh8** **20 Nd2** is the last desperate move to prolong the game. **20...Nxe2+** **21 Kh2 Kxc7** **22 Qb8+** **Kc6** **23 Qe8+** Another spite check, but it is the white king that is in a perilous state. **23...Kb6** **24 Bxe4 Qg1#** 0-1

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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