



## COLUMNISTS

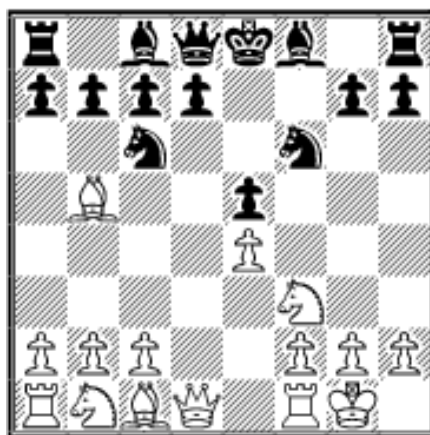
*From the Sidelines*

Hannes Langrock

*The Modern  
Morra Gambit*by  
Hannes Langrock

## The Poisonous 4.d3 against the Schliemann Gambit

The Schliemann Gambit can be rather unpleasant for White from a practical point of view. After **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5**, if White chooses the objectively strong mainline with **4.Nc3**, he needs to have some theoretical knowledge. For example, in case of **4...fxe4 5.Nxe4**, he must be ready for the tactical lines after **5...d5 6.Nxe5 dxe4**. He also has to know how to get an advantage against the popular **5...Nf6**. Even if you study those lines carefully, you may not remember them when you actually encounter the Schliemann Gambit at the board, because it occurs so rarely. In seeking an alternative to **4.Nc3**, I found an interesting set-up that has been successfully employed by a number of grandmasters. **4.d3**. This is the second most popular move, but it is generally considered harmless. **4...fxe4** This useful exchange is the mainline, as it opens the f-file and gives Black the preferable pawn structure with one more central pawn. **5.dxe4 Nf6 6.0-0**



It's no surprise that Black scores about 50% in this position. It is quite difficult for White to attack the center with pawns (though we will see that White's only way to do that – by **f2-f4** – plays a role). If both sides play normal developing moves, it is Black who can hope for an advantage, using the semi-open f-file to build a kingside attack. Therefore, it is clear that White's only chance to obtain an opening advantage is by *immediate active piece play*. After either **6...Bc5** and **6...d6**, the plan that has proved to be the most troublesome for Black is the surprising **7.Qd3!**?, with the idea **Qc4**. For example **6...Bc5 7.Qd3 d6 8.Qc4**.



The placement of White's queen is rather annoying for Black. It controls the a2-g8 diagonal, prevents Black from castling kingside, and attacks c5 and c6 (indirectly). The immediate threat is **9.Nxe5**. Black can play **8...Qe7**, protecting e5 and c5; however, after **9.Nc3**, he has to be concerned about **Nd5**.

This position is actually quite dangerous for Black, as the game [L.Dominguez – F.Gomez, Holguin City 2002](#) demonstrates. It is notable that in subsequent games the international master from Cuba preferred **7...Qe7** to prevent the **8.Qc4**-plan.

Compared to **6...Bc5**, the alternative **6...d6** appears more solid. The dark-squared bishop is less active than on c5, but it performs defensive duties on e7. Now White can play **7.Nc3 Be7 8.Qd3**, but we will concentrate on the immediate **7.Qd3**. Here Black has several options: **7...Be7**, along with other moves, will be investigated in [L.Dominguez – F.](#)

[Gomez, Santa Clara 1999](#) and 7...Bg4 will be discussed in the game [P.Zarnicki - I. Seitaj](#).

**L.Dominguez (2594) – F.Gomez (2406)**

CUB-ch Holguin City, 2002

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.d3 fxe4 5.dxe4 Nf6 6.0–0 Bc5**

This popular move is indeed a pawn sacrifice as White could now play 7.Bxc6 bxc6 8.Nxe5, when the question is if Black has enough compensation after 8...0–0. We will focus on another plan by which White tries to gain the initiative instead of a pawn.

**7.Qd3!?**

Every chess player learns not to develop the queen too early, but this is one of the exceptions. The queen is headed for c4, where it controls the a2–g8 diagonal, prevents Black from castling kingside, and attacks c5 and c6 (indirectly).

**7...d6**

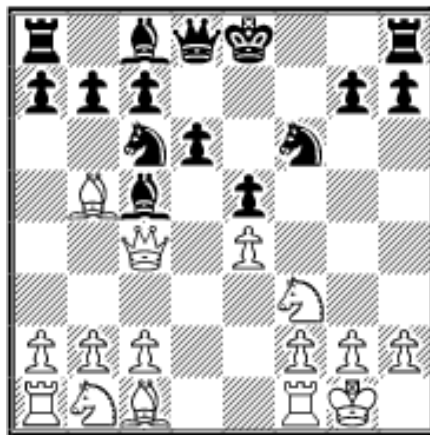
As 7...0–0?? loses to 8.Qc4+, this logical developing move is usually played almost automatically. After this game Gomez was twice confronted with 7.Qd3!? in the same tournament, upon which he decided to experiment with the rare 7...Qe7. Now 8.Qc4 is pointless, so best is 8.Nc3, when 8...0–0 9.Bg5 would give White some pressure. Instead, he has tried three different knight moves:

A) 8...Nd8 9.Na4 Bb6 10.Nxb6 axb6 11.Nh4 g6 12.Bc4 Ne6 13.Bxe6 Qxe6 14.f4 exf4 15.Bxf4 d6 16.e5 dxe5 17.Bxe5 0–0 18.Nxg6!+– L.Herrera-F.Gomez, Havana 2001.

B) 8...Nd4 9.Nxd4 exd4 10.Bg5!? Qe5 (10...dxc3? 11.e5) 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Ne2 c6 13.Bc4 f5 14.Rae1 fxe4 15.Ng3 d5 16.Nxe4 Be7 17.Bb3 0–0 18.Ng3 Qg7 19.Nh5 Qf7 20.Qg3+ Kh8 21.Qe5+ Bf6 22.Nxf6 Qxf6 23.Qxf6+ Rxf6 24.Re8+ Kg7 25.Rd1± L.Bruzon Bautista-F.Gomez, Holguin City 2002.

C) 8...Nb4 His latest and most successful try. 9.Qe2 0–0 10.Bg5 (10.Na4!?) 10...c6 11.Bc4+ Kh8 12.Bb3 d6= M.Gongora-F.Gomez, Holguin City 2002.

**8.Qc4**



then:

In P.Bazant-B.Dauth, CZE 2004, Black now played 8...Bg4?, and after 9.Nxe5, he was a pawn down.

**8...Qe7**

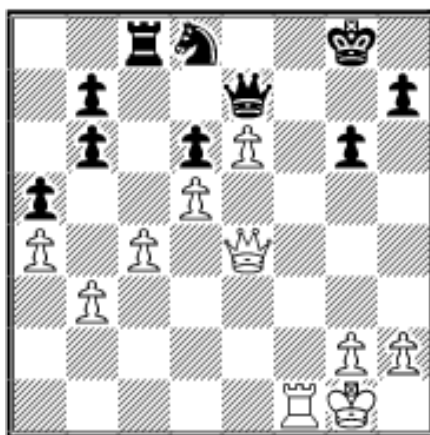
The alternative is 8...Bd7, when 9.Bxc6 only leads to drawish simplifications: 9...Bxc6 10.Nxe5 Bxf2+ 11.Rxf2 dxe5 12.Nc3 Qe7 13.Be3 Qf7 14.Qc5 Qe7 15.Qc4 Qf7 16.Qc5 Qe7 17.Re1 Qxc5 18.Bxc5 b6 19.Ba3 Rd8 20.Rf5 Kf7 21.Rxe5 Rhe8 22.Rxe8 ½–½, V.Yandemirov-J. Geller, St. Petersburg 2001. Critical is 9.Nc3, and

A) For 9...Qe7, see 8...Qe7 9.Nc3 Bd7.

B) 9...a6 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.Nxe5 Bxf2+ 12.Rxf2 dxe5 (P.Jaracz-W.Szyszkina, Krakow 1998) 13.Bh6!± and White wins at least a pawn in all lines.

C) 9...Na5 10.Qe6+ Kf8 (But not 10...Qe7?? 11.Bxd7+ Nxd7 12.Qxe7+ Kxe7 13.b4+– C. Delizia-P.Gambardella, ITA 2003.) 11.Bxd7 Qxd7 12.Qxd7 Nxd7 13.Nd5 Bb6 (13...c6? 14.Nc7 Rc8 15.Ne6+± P.Garbett-H.Terrie, Kona 1998) 14.Be3 c6 15.Nxb6 Nxb6 16.Rad1 += A.Wikner-E.Beukenhorst, Hamburg 1993.

D) 9...Bb6 10.Ng5 White's whole set-up is based on direct and aggressive play. 10...Qe7 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Nd8 (12...Nd4 13.Bxd7+ Qxd7 14.c3 Nf5 15.Ne6± Wedberg) 13.Bxd7+ Qxd7 14.Qe4 g6 15.a4 a5 16.Be3 0–0 (16...Bxe3 17.fxe3± Wedberg) 17.Bxb6 cxb6 18.f4± White is clearly better, as Black has too many weak points. 18...Qf5 19.fxe5 Qxg5 20.Rxf8+ Kxf8 21.Rf1+ Kg8 22.e6 Qe7 23.c4 Rc8 24.b3



24...Rc7 25.Qd4 Nxe6 26.dxe6 Qxe6 27.Qxb6 and White went on to win the endgame in J. Geller-G.Kuzmin, Moscow 2002.

Back to 8...Qe7.

### 9.Nc3

Now 10.Nd5 is very unpleasant for Black, as is 10.b4 Be6 11.Nd5.

The immediate 9.b4 can also be investigated if the mainline turns out to be insufficient: 9...Be6 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Qa6 Bb6 (11...Bxb4? 12.Qb7 0–0 13.Qxb4+– N.Fercec-M.Zelic, Rabac 2003.) 12.a4 Nxe4 13.a5 Bxf2+ 14.Rxf2 Nxf2 15.Qxc6+ Kf7 16.Kxf2 Rhf8 This all seems more or less forced. 17.Bg5 Qd7 18.Qxd7+ Bxd7 19.Nbd2 White has two knights against a rook and a pawn, which is usually not a bad thing. On the other hand, Black has center pawns and the value of the rook has risen as the queens are off the board. The question is whether White is somewhat better or not. Of the two practical examples, both sides have managed to win one game from this position.

### 9...a6

9...Bd7 is an important alternative. 10.Nd5! White continues to play direct chess. 10...Nxd5 11.exd5 Nd4 (Not 11...Nb8? 12.Bg5 Bxb5 (12...Qf8 13.Rae1! and the threat of 14.Nxe5 leaves Black defenseless. 13...Qf5 14.Rxe5+ dxe5 15.Qxc5 Qf8 16.Qxc7+– L. Ptacnikova-S.Agrest, Vammala 2005.) 13.Qxb5+ c6 14.dxc6 bxc6 15.Qxc5 dxc5 16.Bxe7 Kxe7 17.Nxe5+– P.Paronen-E.Auvinen, Helsinki 2005.) 12.Bxd7+



12...Qxd7 Black decides to sacrifice the e5-pawn. (Instead, 12...Kxd7 is dangerous: 13.Nxd4 Bxd4 14.c3 (I once played 14.Be3 Bxe3 15.Qg4+ Ke8 16.fxe3 with a difficult position for Black, because of his weak king position.) 14...Bb6 15.a4 a5 16.Be3 Bxe3 17.fxe3 Raf8 18.Qb5+ Kc8 19.Qxa5± F.Schoenthier-M.Hermann, Bad Neuenahr 1984) 13.Nxe5 Qf5 14.Nd3 Now Black



doesn't obtain sufficient compensation for the pawn:

A) Black can indeed win back the pawn with 14...b5 15.Re1+ Kf7 16.Qc3 Qxd5, but then 17.Be3 is promising for White, Z.Racz-I.Semenova, Budapest 1996.

B) 14...Qe4 15.Kh1± A.Wikner-P.Thoren, Stockholm 1994.

C) 14...Qg4 15.Kh1 b5 16.Re1+ Kf7 17.Qxc5 1–0, Z.Racz-V.Asztalos, Nyiregyhaza 1996.

D) After 14...0–0–0, White can consider the materialistic 15.a4. Instead, in S.Melia-M.Shukurova, Kusadasi 2006 he gave back the pawn with 15.Kh1 b5 16.Qc3 Qxd5 hoping to make use of Black's weakened king position, which is probably a good approach as well.

E) 14...0–0 This move leads to an endgame in which Black normally only plays for two results. 15.Nxc5 dxc5 16.Be3 Nxc2 17.Rac1 (17.Rad1!? may be more precise. The difference is that after 17...Nxe3 18.fxe3 Qe5 19.Qxc5 b6 White can play 20.Rxf8+ Rxf8 21.Qd4 and recapture on d4 with the rook.) 17...Nxe3 18.fxe3 Qe5 19.Qxc5 b6 20.Qxc7?? Black receives a nice present. The fact that White can't take this pawn is another argument for 17.Rad1. 20...Rxf1+ 21.Kxf1 Qxe3 22.g3 Rf8+ 23.Kg2 Rf2+ 24.Kh3 Qh6+ 25.Kg4 Qg6+ 0–1, J.Jackova-M.Shukurova, Elista 1998.

### 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Be3!



#### 11...Nd7

In case of 11...Be6 12.Qa4, Black has to sacrifice a pawn to avoid a positional disaster: 12...Bxe3 (12...Bd7? 13.Bxc5 dxc5 14.Ne1! 0–0 15.Nd3+– V.Yandemirov-A.Abrosimov, Kstovo 1994) 13.Qxc6+ Kf7 14.fxe3 Rhc8 (14...Qd7!? 15.Qxd7+ Bxd7 reduces White's advantage.) 15.Nd5± Palma Macias-Garcia Ramos, ESP 2002.

#### 12.Na4

Perhaps stronger is 12.Bxc5 Nxc5 13.Na4 Be6 (The exchange sacrifice 13...Nxa4 14.Qxc6+ Qd7 15.Qxa8 Nb6 16.Qa7 0–0 looks scary at first sight. Black threatens ...Qc6, ...Bb7 and ...Ra8 trapping the queen, and obviously ...Rxf3 is an option. However, 17.a4! seems to be a strong reply. This threatens a4–a5, freeing the queen, and it also gives the rook the option of defending via a3. Black can still trap the queen, but after 17...Qc6 18.a5 Bb7 19.axb6 Ra8 20.Qxa8+ Bxa8 21.bxc7 Qxc7 22.Rfe1, two rooks and a pawn are more than enough compensation.) 14.Qc3 Nd7 15.Qxc6 0–0 Black has some compensation for the pawn, but it is probably insufficient. 16.Ne1 Nf6 17.Nc3 Qf7 18.Nd3 Nh5 19.Ne2 Rab8 20.f4± V.Yandemirov-A.Yashtylov, St. Petersburg 2002.

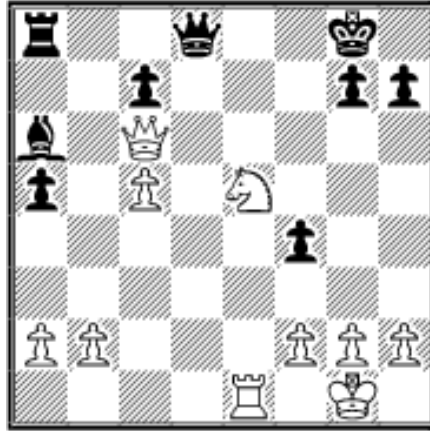
#### 12...a5?

This is a serious mistake. Critical is 12...Bxe3 13.Qxc6 Bxf2+ 14.Rxf2 Ra7 15.Nd2 (15.Nb6!?) 15...Rf8 16.Raf1 Rxf2 17.Rxf2 Kd8! A strong defensive move; the king steps out of the pin and protects c7. Black can continue with ...Nf6 as in N.Bojkovic-I.Kulish, Rostov on Don 1995.

13.Nxc5 Nxc5 14.Qc3 Ba6 15.Rfe1±

Now Black loses a pawn and his position is almost hopeless.

15...Ne6 16.Qxc6+ Kf7 17.Rad1 Rhd8 18.c4 Kg8 19.c5 Nf4 20.Bxf4 exf4 21.e5 dxe5 22. Rxd8+ Qxd8 23.Nxe5+–



23...h6 24.Qe6+ Kh7 25.Qf5+ Kg8 26.Qf7+ Kh7 27.Qxf4 Qd5 28.h4 Rd8 29.Re3 Kg8 30. Ng4 Bb7 31.Rg3 Kh7 32.Qxc7 Rd7 33.Qxa5 Qh5 34.Ne3 Qxh4 35.c6 Bxc6 36.Qf5+ 1–0

*L.Dominguez* (2479) – *F.Gomez* (2463)  
Santa Clara, 1999

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.d3 fxe4 5.dxe4 Nf6 6.0–0 d6 7.Qd3!? Be7

The rare 7...Bd7 looks like a solid option for Black. By protecting c6, Black takes the sting out of Qc4, which would now simply be met by 8...a6 9.Bxc6 Bxc6. Instead, White has:

A) 8.Bd2 looks unnatural, the idea is to control the a5-square, and thus prepare Bc4. 8... Be7 9.Bc4 Qc8 10.b4 with a complicated position in B.Jeran-A.Plani, Nova Gorica 2006.

B) 8.Nc3 a6!? (8...Be7) 9.Bc4 b5 10.Bb3 Na5 After the exchange on b3, White will have his plusses, but Black should be OK with the bishop-pair. 11.Nd5 Nxd5? A serious tactical oversight. (11...Nxb3 or 11...c6 are critical.) 12.Qxd5 Nxb3 13.Ng5! Black certainly overlooked this *zwischenzug*. The shock now produces another mistake. 13...Qc8? (13... Qb8±) 14.Qf7+ Kd8 15.Ne6+ 1–0, B.Van Gaalen-J.Boey,Gent 1992.

C) 8.a3!? White wants to play Bc4, to prevent Black from castling, without running into ... Na5. 8...Be7 9.Bc4 Qc8 10.Nc3 Nd8 (10...Be6 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Bf5 13.Qe2 Nd8 Black is ready to castle, as the a2-g8 diagonal is now closed, but the change of pawn structure allows White to place a minor piece on e4. 14.Re1!? Here 14...0–0? fails to 15. Nxe5 dxe5 16.d6+. 14...Nf7 15.Nd4 0–0 16.Nxf5 Qxf5 M.Geenen-W.Bor, Belgium 2005 17.Bd3+=) 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.Bxd5 Changing the pawn structure with 12.exd5 deserved attention. 12...Ne6 13.Be3 0–0 and Black's position was still somewhat passive, but also very solid in J.Banas-L.Szell, Budapest 1981; 7...a6 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Qc4 Bd7 10.Nc3 Now 10...Be7 would transpose to 7...Be7 8.Qc4 a6 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.Nc3! Bd7. Instead, Black decides to fianchetto the bishop: 10...g6 11.Rd1 Bg7 12.Bg5 Qe7 13.Qb3! A nice move, the idea is to meet 13...Qe6 with 14.Qb7, winning a pawn. 13...a5 14.h3 Qe6 15. Qb7 Rc8 16.Qa6 0–0 17.Qxa5 Nh5 18.Rd3 and White went on to win in Comp Mephisto 68030–D.Bronstein, The Hague 1991; the important alternative 7...Bg4 will be discussed in the next game.

8.Qc4



Black has difficulty solving his opening problems here.

8...Nd7



This move has been played by Gomez on a few occasions. Other options are:

A) 8...Qd7 is met by 9.Rd1, when the threat of 10.Nxe5 forces 9...Kf8. Now White should look to open the position with f2-f4, which is best achieved by 10.Ng5! Qe8 11.Nc3! The immediate 11.f4 was well met by 11...Qh5!,

attacking the rook on d1 and threatening ...Nd4, in I.Gazik-L.Dobrovolsky, CSR 1991. Here, d1 and e4 are protected, and Black can't prevent both Ne6+ and f2-f4.

B) 8...a6 This gains the bishop-pair. 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 Recapturing on c6 is not recommended, as after 10.Qxc6+ Bd7, Black wins back the material.

B1) 10.Rd1?! This is pointless, especially as f2-f4 is one of White's most dangerous plans (see 10.Nc3!). 10...Bd7 11.Nc3 Qc8 12.Ng5 (The only justification for 10.Rd1 would be to build a new front on the queenside via a2-a4, b2-b4, Rb1, and maybe b4-b5 at the right moment. However, there is no promising way to accomplish that. Upon 12.a4, both 12...c5 and 12...a5 are good enough. 12.b4 a5! 13.bxa5 Rxa5 is fine for Black, while on 13.b5 the easiest solution is 13...c5. Finally, if White tries 12.a3, Black can play 12...a5!?, for example, 13.Rb1 Qa6 14.Qa2 Qc8 (with the idea ...Be6) 15.Qc4 Qa6=) 12...Rf8 13.Rd3 (13.f4 exf4 14.Bxf4 (Rosen-Mason, Paris 1900) 14...Qb7! and Black has better tactical chances than White, who would prefer his rook on f1 instead of d1.) 13...Rb8 14.a3 h6 15.Nf3 c5! 16.Rd1 Be6 17.Qe2 Kf7 18.Nd2 Kg8 and Black was better in E.Berdiugina-A. Karlovich, Kharkov 2001.

B2) 10.Nbd2?! can't be right. If White plays passively, he can easily obtain a worse position: 10...Bd7 11.Re1 Nh5 12.Nf1 Rf8 13.Qd3 Kf7 14.c4 Kg8=+ J.Padilla Liceaga-J. Midjord, Haifa 1976.

B3) Only 10.Nc3! offers good chances of an advantage: 10...Bd7 11.Ng5! Rf8



Now 12.f4 or 12.Ne6 Bxe6 13.Qxe6 Qd7 14.Qb3 (14...d5 15.Bg5).

C) 8...Bd7 9.Ng5 Rf8 10.Nc3 Nd4 11.Bxd7+ Qxd7 12.Be3 h6 13.Bxd4 hxd4 14.Be3+= G. Fischdick-T.Leu, Luzern 1982.

Back to 8...Nd7.

**9.Nc3**

Of course, the computer prefers 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.Qxc6, although the position after 10...Rb8 looks

difficult to play for humans.

**9...Nb6**

9...Na5 10.Qe2 c6 11.Bd3 b5 12.b4 Nb7 13.a4 bxa4 14.Bc4 Nb6 15.Ba2 a5 16.b5 Nc5 17.Rd1 Qc7 18.Be3 cxb5 19.Nxb5 Qc6 20.Nxe5!+- dxe5 21.Qh5+ Qg6 22.Nc7+ Kf8 23.Qf3 + Qf6 24.Qxf6+ 1-0, M.Gongora Reyes-F.Gomez, Havana 2004.

**10.Qb3 Bd7 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Na5 13.Bxd7+ Qxd7 14.Qd3**

After the favorable change of pawn structure, White has the better bishop and he can easily bring his knight to the e4-square.

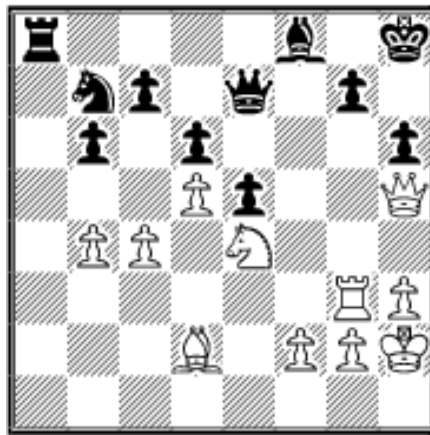
**14...b6 15.Be3 0-0 16.Nd2 Nb7 17.b4**

The knight must stay in the stall.

**7...a5 18.a3 h6 19.Ne4**

White has a nice advantage.

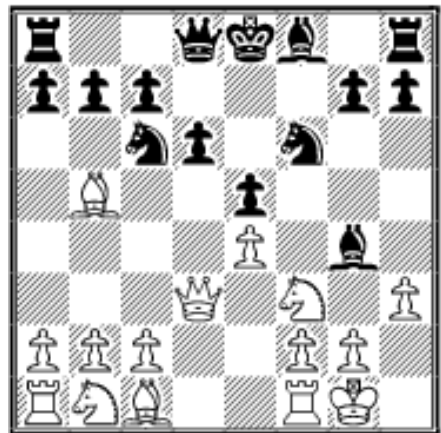
**19...Rf7 20.Rfc1 Bf8 21.c3 Qc8 22.Ra2 Qd8 23.Qb5 Qc8 24.Rac2 Qd8 25.Qe2 Qc8 26.c4 Qf5 27.Bd2 axb4 28.axb4 Qd7 29.Rc3 Kh8 30.Rg3 Qf5 31.h3 Qd7 32.Kh2 Qf5 33.Rcc3 Qd7 34.Rcf3 Rxf3 35.Qxf3 Qe7 36.Qh5 1-0**



Black resigned, as he is totally helpless against the coming attack! For example 36...Qe8 37.Rg6! (with the idea 38.Bxh6) 37...Kh7 38.Rxh6+ gxh6 39.Nf6+ or 36...Nd8 37.Rf3! (with the idea 38.Bg5) 37...Kg8 38.Qg6+.

*P.Zarnicki (2535) – I.Seitaj (2406)*  
Bled ol, 2002

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.d3 fxe4 5.dxe4 Nf6 6.0-0 d6 7.Qd3 Bg4 8.h3**



This is the

independent continuation for the 7.Qd3-line. An important alternative is 8.Nc3, which is usually reached by 7.Nc3 Bg4 8.Qd3.

**8...Bh5**

In principal, keeping the bishop is the most ambitious plan. In case of the solid 8...Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Be7 10.Nc3 0-0 11.Qd1 Kh8 12.Be3+,, we reach a position that usually arises after 7.Nc3. Praxis has shown that White's bishop-pair gives him better chances.

**9.Nc3 Qd7**



9...a6 10.Ba4 Now, in F.Sanz Alonso-D.Bronstein, Tbilisi 1980, Black achieved a good position with 10...Nd7!?. However, White should have considered 11.Bxc6!? The idea is that after 11...bxc6 12.Qc4, Black can't play ...Qd7, and 12...Nc5 is strongly met by 13.Na4!. So 12...Bxf3!? 13.gxf3 c5 14.f4 looks critical.

### 10.Nd5

The most direct continuation. The calmer alternative is 10.a3, followed by Bc4.

### 10...a6

After 10...Be7, 11.Bg5!? gives White some pressure, while expanding on the kingside with 11.Ng5 0-0 12.f4 Kh8 13.f5 is risky, as shown in M.Godena-I.Seitaj, Saint Vincent 2005: 13...a6 14.Ba4 b5 15.Nxe7 Qxe7 16.Bb3 Nd4 17.g4 Be8 18.Ne6 Nxb3 19.axb3 Rg8 20.Bd2 c5 21.Rae1 Ra7 22.Rf2 Bd7 23.Ng5 Bc6 24.c4 Rb7 25.Bc1 Rgb8 (0-1/55).

### 11.Ba4 Be7 12.Ng5

12.Bg5 is a solid attempt to develop pressure. The blitz game A.David-I.Ivanisevic, Cannes 2006 went 12...b5 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Bb3 Rf8 15.a4 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Nd4 17.Qd3 b4 18.Bc4±.

### 12...Bd8



### 13.f4

White is taking many risks. Instead, 13.Nb4!? deserved attention.

### 13...b5 14.Bb3 Nd4 15.g4 Nxb3?

Black had to keep his central knight in the game. The immediate 15...Nxg4! is much stronger and critical.

### 16.axb3 Nxg4 17.hxg4 Qxg4+ 18.Kh2 0-0 19.Nh3 exf4 20.Rxf4 Rxf4 21.Bxf4±

Now White is on top with a piece for two pawns and no attack for Black.

21...Bf7 22.Rg1 Qe6 23.Qd4 Bg6 24.Bg5 c5 25.Nhf4 Qe8 26.Qc3 Qxe4 27.Re1 Qxc2+ 28.Qxc2 Bxc2 29.Re8+ Kf7 30.Rxd8 Rxd8 31.Bxd8 Bxb3 32.Nc7 h6 33.Nxa6 Ke8 34.Ba5 g5 35.Nd3 Bc4 36.Nf2 b4 37.Nxb4 cxb4 38.Bxb4 Kf7 39.Bxd6 Ke6 40.Bf8 h5 41.Ne4 Kf7 42.Bh6 Kg6 43.Bxg5 Bd5 44.Nc3 Bb3 45.Be3 Kf5 46.Kg3 1-0

### Conclusion

The plan of 4.d3, connected with Qd3-c4, is very poisonous against the Schliemann Gambit. White's main idea is to gain the initiative with direct piece play. The practical advantage over the main move 4.Nc3 is that the lines are less studied and easier to remember. Black should be well-prepared against this set-up; to adherents of the Schliemann Gambit I recommend investigating the rare but solid 6...d6 7.Qd3 Bd7!?.  

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