



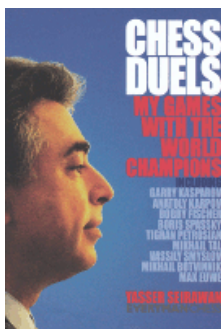
COLUMNISTS

Inside Chess

Yasser Seirawan

[\[Find us on Facebook.\]](#)

[Translate this page](#)



CHESSTHEATRE
 Play through and download
 the games from
[ChessCafe.com](#) in the
[DGT Game Viewer](#).

Free Shipping!
On all Orders
More than \$75!

UPS GROUND Only.

Inside Chess, 1988/3

Two Knights Defense, Part One
 Steinitz-Fischer Variation [C59]
 by Nikolay Mineev

Twenty-five years ago, Fischer surprised the chess world with a long forgotten experiment by Steinitz:

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5 c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Be2 h6 9.Nh3



[FEN "r1bqkb1r/p4pp1/2p2n1p/n3p3/8/7N/PPPPBPPP/RNBQK2R b KQkq - 0 9"]

My guess is that Bobby was not attracted to the bizarre looking move 9.Nh3 by its appearance, but by the original strategic idea behind it. White agrees to return the extra pawn and to allow his pawn structure to be destroyed in order to obtain the two bishops and an unbalanced middlegame. Mr. Steinitz had modern ideas!

I tried to collect all the material on this variation. You will find many continuations not mentioned in the books and many controversial assessments, which is usually the case when an opening variation is evolving. There is still plenty of scope for independent investigation. The material is divided as follows:

Part One - 9...Bc5

Part Two - 9...Bd6

Part Three - 9...g5

Various – 9...Bxh3; 9...Bf5, 9...Be6; 9...Be7; 9...Qd4; 9...Rb8

Part One

9...Bc5

The most common move in practice. There are two sub-variations: 1A: 10.0-0 and 1B:10.d3.

An unsuccessful experiment is 10.c3? Bxh3 11.gxh3 Ne4 12.Qa4? and now 12...Nxf2 with advantage to Black (*ECO*) or 12...Bxf2+ 13.Kf1 (13.Kd1!?) 13...Qh4 14.Kg2 Bg1! 15.Rxg1 Qf2+ 16.Kh1 Qxe2 0-1, Antonov-Bakhman, USSR 1976.

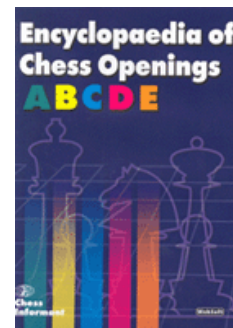
Purchases from our
[chess shop](#) help keep
[ChessCafe.com](#) freely
 accessible:



My Best Games
 by Yasser Seirawan



Two Knights Defence
 by Jan Pinski



ECO A – E CD
 by Chess Informant

The other possibility 10.Nc3 0-0 (or 10...Qd4) 11.0-0, transposes into our main line.

1A

10.0-0 0-0

It is interesting that the sharpest move, 10...g5, is regarded as inferior and is almost never played. Here's all the material I have found on 10...g5.



[FEN "r1bq1rk1/p4pp1/2p2n1p/n1b1p3/8/7N/PPPPBPPP/RNBQ1RK1 w - - 0 11"]

11.Kh1 g4 12.Ng1 Ne4 13.Bxg4!

If 13.Qe1? Qd4 14.Bd1 Nxf2+ 15.Rxf2 Qxf2 16.Qxe5+ Be6 and White is lost.

Or 13.b4? Bxf2 14.d3 Qh4 15.dxe4 Bg3 16.Nh3 (16.h3 gxh3 17.gxh3 Rg8!) 16...Bxh2 17.Kxh2 g3+ 18.Kg1 Bxh3 and Black wins - Gotschall. In his book, Fischer adds another possibility to this convincing variation: 13...Nxf2+ 14.Rxf2 Bxf2 15.bxa5 Qh4 16.Qf1 Bg3 17.h3 Rg8 with a crushing attack, but it seems that 15.Bb2 (instead of 15.bxa5) is not so clear.

13...Nxf2+ 14.Rxf2 Bxf2 15.Bxc8

Gligoric claims in *ECO* that all this is Fischer's analysis, with the assessment: White has compensation. Bobby (as always) is extraordinarily honest. He stops after 14...Bxf2 and quotes Gottschall, *Deutsche Schachzeitung*, 1892: "Although Black has won the Exchange, White's practical chances are preferable." It appears that 15.Bxc8 is *ECO*'s suggestion.

15...Qxc8 16.Qe2

We follow the only practical example available to us: Herbrechtsmeyer-Raty, corr 1984.

16...Qf5 17.Nf3 0-0-0 18.Nc3

(18.Qxf2?! e4 19.d3 (19.Qa7? exf3 is suicide) 19...exf3 20.gxf3 (20.Qxf3? Qxf3 21.gxf3 Rde8!) 20...Rhg8 gives Black attacking chances.)

18...Bd4 19.d3 Rde8 20.Be3 Nb7 21.Ne4

In this double-edged position, it is Black who has difficulties.

11.d3



[FEN "r1bq1rk1/p4pp1/2p2n1p/n1b1p3/8/3P3N/PPPP1BPPP/RNBQ1RK1 b - - 0 11"]

Alternatives

a) Steinitz-Chigorin, Havana (m) 1892

11.c3? Nb7 12.Qa4 Bxh3 13.gxh3 Qd6 14.d3 Nd5

Assessed by *ECO* as favoring Black. We shall see the whole game with the original annotations by Steinitz (S) and Chigorin (C).

15.Bf3

A feeble move. Much better was 15.Rd1 followed by 16.Nd2 (S); if 15.Rd1, then 15...f5! and 16.Nd2 is a blunder because of 16.Nf4 (C).

15...Bb6 16.Qh4 Bc7 17.Rd1 f5 18.Bxd5

Forced. If 18.Na3 e4! 19.Bg2 Qxh2+ 20.Kf1 Nf4 with a clear advantage for Black (S); instead of 20...Nf4 much more decisive is 20...f4 21.Bxe4 Ne3+ 22.Bxe3 fxe3+ and Black wins (C).

18...cxd5 19.Nd2 Rf6 20.Kf1

20.Nf1 offers more defensive chances (S); if 20.Nf1 f4! 21.f3 Rg6+ 22.Kh1 e4! 23.dxe4 Bb6 24.Nd2 dxe4 25.fxe4 Nc5 and White is hopeless (C).

20...e4 21.d4

Or 21.Nb3 Qxh2 22.dxe4 fxe4 23.Be3 Bg3! and wins (C).

21...Rg6! 22.Qh5 Rg5! 23.Qh4

If 23.Qe2 Rg1+ and mate in two.

23...Qa6+ 24.c4 dxc4 25.f4 c3+ 26.Kf2 e3+ 0-1

b) Kuindzi-Klovan, USSR 1973

11.Nc3 Qd4

An original try. 11...Nd5 12.d3 transposes into our main line 11.d3.

12.d3 Qh4 13.Kh1 Bxh3 14.gxh3 Rad8?!

Polugaevsky and *ECO* suggest 14...Bxf2 as unclear, which is untested. It seems that after 15.Bf3 Bd4 16.Bg2 and a further Ne2 White stands well in view of his two bishops.

15.f4! exf4

Or 15...e4 16.Qe1!.

16.Rxf4 Qxh3 17.Rxf6! gxf6 18.Ne4 Bd4 19.Bg4 Qh4 20.Bd2

Threatening Be1.

20...f5 21.Bxf5 Rd5

21...Nb7!? - Polugaevsky.

22.Qf3 Nb7 23.Be1 Qe7 24.Qg4+ Kh8 25.Qh5 Qe6 26.Ng3 Nd6

If 26...Qf6 27.Bd2.

27.Bxe6 Rxe6 28.Nxe6 fxe6 29.Bg3 Nf5 30.Re1 Nxe3+ 31.Nxe3 Rf6 32.b3 Kh7 33.Rf1 Kg6 34.Kg2 Rxf1 35.Nxf1 Kf5 36.Kf3 Ke5 37.Ne3 h5 38.Ng2 Bg1 39.h3 Kd4 40.Nf4 1-0

11...Nb7



[FEN "r1bq1rk1/pn3pp1/2p2n1p/2b1p3/8/3P3N/PPP1BPPP/RNBQ1RK1 w - - 0 12"]

Other moves

a) 11...Bxh3 12.gxh3

This line is in White's favor, as shown by the following games:

Fischer-Bisguier, New York State Open Championship 1963

I will not repeat Bobby's annotations from his book, [*My 60 Memorable Games*](#), but it is worth noting the contradiction between his opinion and the assessment given by Gligoric in *ECO*:

12...Qd7 13.Bf3 Qxh3 14.Nd2 Rad8 15.Bg2 Qf5 16.Qe1

16.Qf3!? - Fischer

16...Rfe8 17.Ne4

Here Gligoric claims an advantage for White. According to Fischer, the critical position is on White's next move.

17...Bb6 18.Nxf6+

Sharper is 18.b4 Nb7 19.b5 according to Fischer. A cautious assessment. I think White has an advantage. The rest of the game features sharp play, decided by Bisguier's blunder on move twenty-six.

18...Qxf6 19.Kh1 c5 20.Qc3 Nc6 21.f4 Nd4 22.Qc4 Qg6 23.c3 Nf5 24.fxe5 Rxe5 25.Bf4 Re2 26.Be4 Rxb2??

26...Re8! - Fischer

27.Be5! Re8 28.Rxf5 Rxe5 29.Rxe5 1-0

Ghizdavu-Breazu, Rumania 1973

11...Bxh3 12.gxh3 Nd5 13.Bf3 Qd7 14.Bg2 Nb7 15.Nc3 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Nd8 17.Kh1 Ne6 18.Qg4

With advantage to White - Ghizdavu.

18...Bd6

If 18...f5 19.Qc4 - Ghizdavu.

19.Rg1! Kh8 20.Qf5 Qe7 21.Bxh6! Qh4

If 21...gxh6 22.Be4 f6 23.Rg6 Ng5 24.Rxh6+ Kg8 25.Rg1 intending h4 and White wins - Ghizdavu.

22.Be3 Nf4 23.Bxc6 Rac8 24.Be4 Rxc3 25.Rg4 Qh6 26.Rag1 Rb8 27.Bxf4 exf4 28.Rxg7! 1-0

28...Qxg7 29.Qh5 Kg8 30.Qh7 and wins.

b) 11...Nd5

These days White usually transposes with 12.Nc3 into variation 1B.

An independent idea is **12.c4**



[FEN "r1bq1rk1/p4pp1/2p4p/n1bnp3/8/3P3N/PPP1BPPP/RNBQ1RK1 w - - 0 12"]

There is nothing new here and two games mentioned in *ECO* are the only available practical examples:

Steinitz-Chigorin, Havana (m) 1892

12...Ne7?! 13.Kh1 Bxh3 14.gxh3 Nf5 (14...Ng6!?) 15.f4! exf4 16.Bxf4 Ne3 17.Bxe3 Bxe3 18.Nc3 (with advantage to White - *ECO*) 18...Rb8 19.Rb1 Qd7 20.b4 Nb7 21.b5 Nd8 22.Bg4 Qd6 23.Rb3 cxb5 24.Nxb5 Qc5 25.Rf5 Qe7 26.Nc3 Rxb3 27.axb3 Bd4 28.Nd5 Qd6 29.b4 g6 30.Rf1 Nc6 31.Qd2 Kg7 32.Bf3 Rd8 33.Bg2 Be5 34.Qe3 Rd7 35.Re1 f6 36.b5 Nd4 37.Qf2 Qb8 38.Be4 Ne6 39.Rf1 Rf7 40.Bxg6! Kxg6 41.Qf5+ Kg7 42.Qxe6 Qb7 43.d4 Bb8 44.Rg1 Kf8 45.Qf5 Bd6 46.c5 Be7 47.c6 1-0

Veinger-Ritum, corr. 1971

This game is mistakenly given in *ECO* as Veinger-Rytov, USSR 1972.

12...Nc7 13.Kh1 Bxh3 14.gxh3 Ne6 15.Be3 Bd4 16.Nc3

(*ECO* stops here with an advantage for White.)

16...Rb8 17.Rb1 Nb7 18.Bf3 Qd7 19.Ne2 Nbc5 20.Nxd4 Nxd4 21.Bg2 f5 22.b4

(Or 22.f4 exf4 23.Bxf4 Rbd8 with sufficient compensation for the pawn.)

22...Nce6 23.Rg1 f4 24.Bxd4 Nxd4 25.Be4 f3 26.Rg6 Rf4 27.Qa4 Ne2 28.Qxc6 Qxh3 29.Qe6 Qxe6 30.Rxe6 Nc3 31.Rb3 Nxe4 32.dxe4 Rxe4 33.Rxf3

Rxb4 ½-½

11...Nh7!? is suggested by *ECO* but it has not been tried.

12.Nc3



[FEN "r1bq1rk1/pn3pp1/2p2n1p/2b1p3/8/2NP3N/PPP1BPPP/R1BQ1RK1 b - - 0 12"]

Perhaps weaker, but also possible, is **12.Kh1**. Here *ECO* shows a very inconclusive game:

Makovetz-Charousek, Budapest 1896: 12...g5 13.c3? Bb6 14.Be3 Nd5 15. Bxb6 Qxb6 16.Qd2 Bxh3 17.gxh3 f4 and Black won.

The correct thematic continuations for White are 13.Nc3 or 13.Ng1.

From the diagrammed position after 12.Nc3, Black has tried 12...Nd5 and 12...Bb6.

Nunn-Hardicsay, Budapest 1978

12...Nd5 13.Bf3 Bb6

(13...f5? 14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.d4 exd4 16.c3 +- Hardicsay.)

14.Qe2

(Maybe better is 14.Kh1 Nc5 15.Be3 Rb8, as in Ciocaltea-J.Szabo, Sinaia 1964, and now 16.d4!? - *ECO*.)

14...Re8 15.Re1 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Bd7 17.Ba3 Rb8 18.Rab1 Qc7

(Black has compensation for the sacrificed pawn - *ECO*.)

19.Kh1 Nd6 20.Ng1 Nb5 21.Bb2 Ba5 22.Qd2 Qd6 23.Ba1 Na3 (23...f5!?) 24.Rxb8 Rxb8 25.Ne2 Be6 26.Nc1 Nb1 27.Qe3 Bc7 28.g3 Na3 29.Qe2 Rb1 30.Nb3 Rxe1 31.Qxe1 Nxc2 32.Qd1 Nxa1 33.Nxa1 Qa3 34.c4 Qxa2 35.Kg2 Bb6 36.Nc2 Qa4? 37.Qe2 f6 38.Ne3 Bxe3? 39.Qxe3 Kf7 40.Qc5 Qa6 41. Bxc6 g5 42.Qd6 Qc8 43.c5 h5 44.f3 Qf8 45.Qc7 Qe7 46.Qa5 f5 47.h3 Kf6? 48.Kf2 Qf8? 49.f4! exf4 50.gxf4 gxf4 51.Qc3 Kf7 52.Qe5 Qc8 53.Bf3 Ke7 54.d4 Kd8 55.c6 Bf7 56.Qf6+ Kc7 57.Qxf7 1-0

Basanta-Bisguier, Las Vegas (National Open) 1987

12...Nd5 13.Ne4!? (A novelty!) 13...Bb6 14.c4 Nc7 15.Be3 Bxh3 16.gxh3 Ne6 17.b4 Qh4 18.c5 Bc7 19.Bf3 f5? 20.Qb3 Rae8 21.Nd6! Bxd6 22.cxd6 e4 23.dxe4 Nxd6 24.Bc5 fxe4 25.Bg4+-



[FEN "4rrk1/p5p1/2pnn2p/2B5/1P2p1Bq/1Q5P/P4P1P/R4RK1 b - - 0 25"]

25...Rf3 26.Bxf3 exf3 27.Qxf3 Nxc5 28.bxc5 Ne4 29.Qg4 Qf6 30.Rae1 Re5 31.f4 Re7 32.Kg2 Nd2 33.Rxe7 Qxe7 34.Rd1! Qe4+ 35.Kf2 Qd3 36.Qe6+ Kh7 37.Qe2 Ne4+ 38.Ke1 Qc3 39.Kf1 Qxh3+ 40.Kg1 Qf5 41.Re1 Nxc5 42.Qe3 a5 43.h3 Nd3 44.Qe4 Qg6+ 45.Qxg6+ Kxg6 46.Re6+ and White won in six more moves.

Kuindzi-Klovan, USSR 1973

12...Bb6 13.Kh1 Nc5 14.Bf3 Nd5 15.Ng1 f5 16.Nge2 Ba6 17.Re1 e4 18.dxe4 fxe4 19.Bxe4 Nxe4 20.Nxe4 Qh4

(According to *ECO*, Black has compensation for the two pawns. As we shall see, White's defensive resources are considerable and it is possible that White's position is preferable!?)

21.N2g3 Rad8

(Polugaevsky suggests 21...Bxf2, but after 22.Nxf2 Rxf2 23.Be3, White solves his major problems and still holds an extra pawn.)

22.c3! Ne3

(22...Nxc3? 23.Qb3+ Nd5 24.Be3 favors White - Polugaevsky.)

23.Bxe3! Rxd1 24.Raxd1 Rd8 25.Bxb6

(25.Bc5!? maintains a slight edge for White - Polugaevsky.)

25...axb6 26.Nd6 Qf4 27.Nge4 Bc4 28.Nxc4 Rxd1 29.Rxd1 Qxe4 30.Ne3 Qe6 31.a3 Qa2 32.Rd2 Qb1 33.Nd1 Kf7 34.h3 Qc1 35.Rd4 c5 36.Rd3 Qc2 37.Rd8 Ke7 38.Rd5 Qe4 39.c4?? (39.Ne3=) 39...Qxc4 40.Rd2 Qc1 41.Re2+ Kd6 42.Re1 Qd2 43.Rf1 Ke5 44.Ne3 Ke4 45.b4 cxb4 46.axb4 Qxb4 47.Rd1 Qb2 48.Kg1 b5 49.Rd7 b4 50.Re7+ Kd3 51.Rd7+ Ke2 52.Re7 Qb1+ 53.Nf1+ Kd3 54.Rxg7 b3 55.Rd7+ Kc3 56.Rc7+ Kd3 57.Rd7+ Kc3 58.Rc7+ Kd4 59.Rd7 Kc5 60.Rc7+ Kd6 61.Rb7 b2 62.Kh2 Qc1 0-1

Hammann-Geller, Kislovodsk 1966 12...Bb6 13.Kh1 Nc5 14.f4 e4 15.Nf2 (Maybe 15.f5!?) **15...exd3 16.Nxd3 Bf5 17.Nxc5 Bxc5**

(with compensation - *ECO*.)

18.Na4 Qa5 19.Nxc5 Qxc5 20.Bd3 Rad8 32.h3 Rfe8 22.Kh2 Be4 23.a4 Qf5 24.Ra3 c5 25.Rc3 Qg6 26.Qd2 c4 27.Rxc4 Bxd3 28.cxd3 Rxd3 29.Qc2 Red8 30.Rc8 Rxc8 31.Qxc8+ Kh7 32.f5 Qg3+ 33.Kg1 Qd6 34.Qc4 Rxh3 35.gxh3 Qg3+ 36.Kh1 Qxh3+ 1/2-1/2

Dolmatov-Ivkov, Moscow 1985 12...Bb6 13.Kh1 Re8 14.f4 Bc7 15.fxe5 Bxe5 16.Bf4 (16.Bf3!?) **16...Bxh3 17.gxh3 Bxf4 18.Rxf4 Nc5 19.Rc4** (19.Qf1!?) **19...Ne6 20.Bf3 c5 21.Qf1**

(If 21.Bxa8? Qxa8+? 22.Kg1 Ng5.)

21...Rb8 22.Na4 Qd6 23.Qf2 Nd7 24.Bg2 Re7 25.Re4 Nf6 26.Re2 Rb4 27.

**b3 Rf4 28.Qg3 Nh5 29.Qe3 Rf5 30.Rae1 Nhf4 31.Rf2 Nxc2 32.Rxc2 Ng5
33.Qxe7 Rf1+ 34.Rg1 Qd5+ 35.Re4 Qf5 36.Re3 Qf2 37.Qxc5 hxc5 38.
Reg3 Rxc1+ 39.Rxc1 Qf3+ 40.Rg2 Qd1+ 41.Rg1 Qxc2 42.Rxc5 Qxd3 43.
Rg3 0-1**

I don't think that these few games are enough for a final theoretical conclusion. There is great scope for further investigation in these double-edged positions.

1B

10.d3

According to Fischer, this move order is White's best.

10...0-0



[FEN "r1bq1rk1/p4pp1/2p2n1p/n1b1p3/8/
3P3N/PPP1BP/PP/RNBQK2R w KQ - 0 11"]

The aggressive 10...g5!?, completely omitted by theory, certainly warrants investigation since it stops White's 0-0. It could be the refutation of the whole move order!

The only game with 10...g5 is Ernst-Kluger, Kecskemet 1980, which continued

11.Nc3

(11.Ng1!? *a la* Steinitz)

11...Bf5!?

(A forgotten novelty. 11...g4 12.Ng1 transposes into Part Three of this series, 9...g5.)

12.Be3 Bd4 13.Qd2?!

(Probably 13.g4 followed by 14.Bf3 deserves attention.)

13...Rb8 14.0-0-0?! c5 15.Rde1 Kf8 16.Ng1 Kg7 17.f3?

(17.Nd1 or 17.b3)

17...Rxb2!! 18.Kxb2 Qb6+ 19.Kc1 Rb8 20.Kd1 Qb2 21.Qc1

(If 21.Na4 Qb1+ 22.Qc1 Bxe3 and mate.)

21...Bxc3 22.Bd2 Qb4 23.a3 Qd4 24.Bxc3 Qxc3 25.Bf1 Ne4! 26.dxc4 Bxc2 + 27.Ke2 Rb1 28.Qxb1

(Or 28.Qd2 Bd3+! and wins)

**28...Bxb1 29.Kf2 Qd4+ 30.Re3 e4 31.Be2 Qd2 32.Nh3 Bc2 33.Ra1 exf3 34.
gxf3 Qd4 35.Rc1 Ba4 36.Ng1? Qf4! 37.h3 Ne4+ 38.Rxe4 Qxc1 39.Re7 a5
40.Ra7 Qc3 0-1**

11.Nc3



[FEN "r1bq1rk1/p4pp1/2p2n1p/n1b1p3/8/2NP3N/PPPP1BPPP/R1BQK2R b KQ - 0 11"]

11...Nd5

In case of 11...Re8 12.0-0 Bxh3 13.gxh3 Qd7 14.Bg4 Nxg4 15.hxg4, Black has nothing to show for the pawn, Fischer-Radoicic, New York State Open Championship, 1963. 11...Nb7 12.0-0 will transpose into the previously examined 1A, but White could also continue with 12.Bf3!?

12.0-0

An alternative is

12.Na4 Bd6 13.Ng1

Used in Steinitz-Chigorin (match by telegraph) 1890-91 this continuation gives too many tempi to Black. From today's point of view, this is an unacceptable continuation and is not even considered by theory. Nevertheless, the game is of historical interest and is given below.

13...f5 14.c3 Bd7 15.d4

(If 15.Nf3 e4 16.Nd4 c5 17.dxe4 cxd4! 18.exd5 Qe8! or 18...Re8, threatening Bb5 with a powerful attack - Chigorin.)

15...e4 16.c4 Ne7 17.Nc3

(17.b3!? is better - Steinitz.)

17...Be6 18.b3 Bb4 19.Bb2 f4 20.Qc2 Qxd4 21.Kf1 f3! 22.gxf3

(If 22.Nxe4 fxe2+ 23.Qxe2 Qb6 24.Nf6+ Kf7! - Chigorin.)

22...exf3 23.Bxf3 Bf5 24.Ne4

(After 24.Rd1 Qh4 25.Ne4 Rad8, Black has an excellent game - Chigorin.)

24...Bxe4! 25.Qe2 Bxf3 26.Qe6+ Kh7 27.Bxd4 Bxh1 28.Qh3 Nf5 29.Be5 Rae8 30.Bf4 Nd4! 31.Qd3 Be4 32.Qxd4 Rxf4 33.f3 Ref8 34.Qxa7 c5 35.Qc7 Nc6 36.a3 Rxf3! 37.Nxf3 Rxf3 38.Kg1 Bd2 0-1

In the basic position (after 12.0-0), 12...Nb7 again transposes into the previous variation 1A, but into a line that has not had satisfactory results in practice. Two alternatives, still in the experimental stages, are shown below.

Platonov-Geller, USSR (ch) 1969 12...Nxc3 13.bxc3 Qh4



[FEN "r1b2rk1/p4pp1/2p4p/n1b1p3/7q/2PP3N/P1P1BPPP/R1BQ1RK1 w - - 0 14"]

(*ECO* stops here and gives 13...Nb7! as unclear. This means that Geller's 13...Qh4 is assessed as wrong and their advice is a return to variation 1A. But in 1A Black almost always tries to keep his knight on d5! I think Black's difficulties stem from the questionable exchange 12...Nxc3 or the whole line with 9...Bc5 is insufficient.)

14.Kh1 Bxh3 15.gxh3 Qxh3

(Black regains the pawn, but White enjoys the better prospects in view of the two powerful bishops.)

16.Bf3 Bd6 17.Bg2 Qh4 18.Qf3 e4 19.Qh3 Qxh3 20.Bxh3 exd3 21.cxd3 Rfd8 22.Rg1 Kh8 23.Rb1 Bf8 24.d4 Bd6 (24...Rab8 25.Bf4!) 25.Be3 Rab8 26.Bg2 Rb6 27.Be4 Rdb8 28.h3 Rxb1 29.Rxb1 Rxb1 30.Bxb1 Nc4 31.Kg2 Nxe3 32.fxe3 g6 33.Kf3 Kg7 34.c4 c5

(Otherwise 35.c5.)

35.Ke4 Kf8 36.Kd5 Ke7 37.Kc6! f5 38.a4 f4 39.dxc5 Be5 40.exf4 Bxf4 41.Kb7 g5 42.a5 a6 43.Kxa6 Bc7 44.Kb5 Kd8 45.a6 1-0

Mednis-Westerinen, Budapest 1976 12...Qh4 13.Bd2 Bb6 14.Bf3 Bxh3 15.gxh3 Rad8 16.Bg2 (16.Qe1!?) 16...f5 17.Qe1 e4

(Unclear according to *ECO*, but the remainder of the game shows a clear advantage for White.)

18.Nxd5 Rxd5 19.dxe4 fxe4 20.Bxa5 Rxa5 21.Qxe4 Rf4 22.Qc6 Rc5 23.Qa8 + Kh7 24.Rae1 Rxc2 25.Be4 g6 26.Bxc2 Rxf2 27.Kh1 1-0

Comment on this month's column via our [Contact Page](#)! Pertinent responses will be posted below daily.

 [TOP OF PAGE](#)

 [HOME](#)

 [COLUMNS](#)

 [LINKS](#)

 [ARCHIVES](#)

 [ABOUT THE CHESS CAFE](#)

[\[ChessCafe Home Page\]](#) [\[Book Review\]](#) [\[Columnists\]](#)
[\[Endgame Study\]](#) [\[The Skittles Room\]](#) [\[ChessCafe Archives\]](#)
[\[ChessCafe Links\]](#) [\[Online Bookstore\]](#) [\[About ChessCafe.com\]](#)
[\[Contact ChessCafe.com\]](#)

© 2010 BrainGamz, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
 "ChessCafe.com®" is a registered trademark of BrainGamz, Inc.