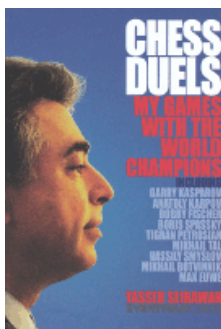




## COLUMNISTS

## Inside Chess

Yasser Seirawan

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## Inside Chess, 1988/4

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

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

Part Two 9...Bd6



[FEN "r1bqk2r/p4pp1/2pb1n1p/n3p3/8/7N/  
PPPPBPPP/RNBQK2R w KQkq - 0 10"]

From this basic position White has two options: 2A - the defensive 10.d3, and  
2B - the controversial 10.d4!?

2A) 10.d3 0-0

11.Nc3

11.0-0 was tried successfully in the forgotten game Veinger-G.Zuravlev,  
Volgograd 1964: 11...Qc7?! 12.Nc3 Bxh3 13.gxh3 e4 14.Nxe4 Bxh2+ 15.Kh1  
Nd5 16.Bf3 Rad8 17.Bd2 (It is obvious that Black has not sufficient  
compensation for the pawn.) 17...Be5 18.d4 Bf4 19.b3 Bxd2 20.Qxd2 Nf4 21.  
Rg1! Kh8 (If 21...Nxb3 22.Qxh6 Nxb3 23.Nf6+! and wins) 22.Rg3 c5 23.  
Rag1 g5 (If 23...Rxd4 24.Rxg7! Rxd2 25.Nf6 and 26.Rh7 mate) 24.Nxg5  
hxg5 25.Rxg5 Rxd4 (Or 25...f5 26.Qxf4!) 26.Rh5+! 1-0

ECO suggests 11...Nd5 (instead of 11...Qc7?!). 12.Nc3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Qh4,  
which is untested.

11...Nd5



[FEN "r1bq1rk1/p4pp1/2pb3p/n2np3/8/  
2NP3N/PPP1BPPP/R1BQK2R w KQ - 0 12"]

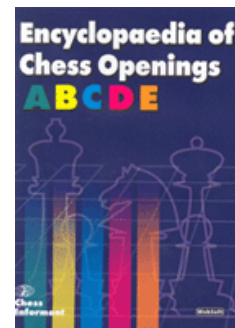
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*My Best Games*  
by Yasser Seirawan



*Two Knights Defence*  
by Lawrence Trent



*ECO A - E CD*

by Chess Informant

Black often prefer this move instead of 11...Bxh3 12.gxh3 Nb7 13.Bf3 Qd7 14.Bg2 Nd8 15.0-0 Ne6 16.Kh1 Rab8 17.Ne2 Nd5 18.b3 f5 as in Lombardy-Rubinetti, Nice (ol) 1974, here assessed by *ECO* as unclear. For the rest of the game, my feeling is White's chances are slightly better: 19.c4 Ne7 20.d4 e4 21.f3 exf3 22.Bxf3 Rbd8 23.Rg1 Rf6 24.Qf1 Bc7 25.Be3 f4 26.Bf2 Nf5 27.h4 Nxd4 28.Nxd4 Nxd4 29.Rd1 Be5 30.c5 Qf7 31.Qc4 Qxc4 32.bxc4 R6f8 33.Be4 f3 34.Rd3 Ne2 35.Rgd1 Rxd3 36.Rxd3 Rb8 37.Rb3 (37.Rxf3) 37...Rxb3 38.axb3 Bd4 39.Bxf3 (39.Bxd4!? Nxd4 40.b4) Bxf2 40.Bxe2 Bxc5 41.Bf3 Be7 42.Bxc6 Bxh4 ½-½.

After 11...Nd5, the basic position is reached. The following examples show a double-edged struggle:

**Bobkov-Korelov**, corr. 1975

**12.Bd2 Rb8 13.Qc1 Bxh3 14.gxh3 Nf4 15.Rg1 f5 16.Bf1 c5 17.Bg2 Nxg2+ 18.Rxg2**



[FEN "1r1q1rk1/p5p1/3b3p/n1p1pp2/8/2NP3P/PPPB1PRP/R1Q1K3 b Q - 0 18"]

An inconclusive game, quoted in *ECO* as unclear. In my opinion, in the final position it is White who has difficulties. On the trail of improvement White may try 13.Bf3!? or 13.b3!?, instead of the dubious 13.Qc1?!.

**Tringov-Geller**, Havana 1971

**12.Bf3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Qh4 14.Ng1 f5 15.g3 Qf6 16.Ne2 e4** (Matanovic recommends 16...f4!?.) **17.Bg2 Ba6 18.0-0 Rad8** (Black has an advantage - Matanovic. In my opinion, Black has compensation for the pawn is the more exact assessment.) **19.Be3 c5 20.c4 Rfe8 21.Qe1 Nc6 22.Nc3 Nb4 23.Rc1 Be5 24.Nd5 Nxd5 25.cxd5 Rxd5** (According to Matanovic, 25...Bc3 gives Black an advantage, but 26.Bd2 Bxd2 27.Qxd2 Rxd5 28.Qe3 looks equal, 26...Bb2 27.Rb1 Rxd5 28.c3 Ba3 29.Rb3 is unclear.) **26.Qa5 Bc3 27.Qa4** ½-½, probably in time trouble, because already Black's compensation is questionable.

**Siero-Nogueiras**, Cuba (ch) 1982

**12.Bf3 Bc7** (A new idea to keep the knight in the center.) **13.Ng1 f5 14.Nge2 g5 15.h4 Nxc3** (If 15...g4 16.Bxd5 cxd5 17.Bxh6) **16.Nxc3 g4** ½-½



[FEN "r1bq1rk1/p1b5/2p4p/n3pp2/6pP/"]

Draw!? Both players are unwilling to take risks. It is possible that this final extremely interesting position is critical for the variation 10.d3.

## 2B) 10.d4!?



[FEN "r1bqk2r/p4pp1/2pb1n1p/n3p3/3P4/7N/PPP1BPPP/RNBQK2R b KQkq d3 0 10"]

Opinions: by Steinitz and Chigorin, best for White; by Fischer, after 10...e4 Black stands well; by Gligoric, unclear.

## 10...e4

Recommended by Fischer. The alternatives are as follows:

a) 10...Qc7?! 11.dxe5 Bxe5 12.f4 Bd6 13.0-0 Be6 14.Nf2 0-0-0 15.Nd3 g5 16.Qe1 Nd5 17.Nc3 (White has an advantage - *ECO*) 17...Nxf4 18.Bxf4 Bxf4 19.Nxf4 gxf4 20.Qf2 Nc4 21.Qxf4 Qxf4 22.Rxf4, Steinitz-Blackburne, Vienna 1898. The final result of this game is a draw in ninety-three moves, but the ending was winning for White.

b) 10...exd4



[FEN "r1bqk2r/p4pp1/2pb1n1p/n7/3p4/7N/PPP1BPPP/RNBQK2R w KQkq - 0 11"]

An untested idea. Gligoric presents this continuation (with an exclamation) as Fischer's recommendation. As far as I know, Bobby never mentioned this move! My feeling is that here White has more opportunities than in the main line; for instance, 11.Qxd4 0-0, and now 12.Bf4, 12.Nc3, or 12.Qh4 Re8 13.Be3.

## 11.Nf4

If 11.0-0 Qc7!.

11...Qc7 12.g3 0-0 13.c4 g5 14.Ng2 Bh3 15.0-0 Rfd8 16.Be3



[FEN "3r1rk1/p1q2p2/2pb1n1p/n5p1/2PPp3/4B1Pb/PP2BPNP/RN1Q1RK1 b - - 0 16"]

We follow **Dolmatov-Ziatdinov**, USSR (team championship) 1983

**16...Nh7 17.Nd2 f5 18.c5 Be7 19.b4 Nb7 20.f4 Nf6 21.Bc4+ (21.fxg5!?) 21...Kh8 22.Nb3 Ng4 23.Qe2 a5 24.a4 (24.bxa5!?) 24...axb4 25.a5 Ra8 26.a6 Nd8 27.Bd2 Qd7 28.Bxb4 Bf6 29.Rad1 Rb8 30.Bc3 Ne6 31.d5? (31.Kh1!) 31...Nxc5 32.Bxf6+ Rxf6 33.fxg5 hxg5 34.Nd4 (34.Nxc5 Qa7) 34...cxd5 35.Rxf5 Rxf5 36.a7 Ra8 37.Nxf5 Qxf5 38.Rxd5 Qf6 39.Qf1 Qb6 40.Qa1+ Kh7 41.Qd4 Qb1+ 42.Bf1 (42.Qd1 Qxd1+ 43.Rxd1 Bxg2 and wins) 43...Rf8 43.Rd7+ Nxd7 44.Qxd7+ Kg6 45.Qd6+ Rf6 0-1**



[FEN "8/P7/3Q1rk1/6p1/4p1n1/6Pb/6NP/1q3BK1 w - - 0 46"]

If 46.Qxf6+ Kxf6 47.a8=Q Qb6+ 48.Kh1 Bxg2+ 49.Kxg2 Qf2+ 50.Kh3 Qxf1+ 51.Kxg4 Qf5+ 52.Kh5 Qh3 mate.

It is hard to judge 10.d4!? without any other practical tests. For the present, our choice is only: unclear with 10...e4 (Fischer!), and less convincing looks 10...exd4 (Gligoric).

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