

It's fun to play at the....

by a Village Person

We went to the Y.M.C.A.
On an August Thursday
For we'd arranged then to play
A team from the Y.M.C.A.

It was a twenty board match
And we took a determined batch
From the S & B patch
And some spectators to watch
(well ...it's spelt the same !)

Streatham - don't you dare arrive late
I say Streatham - our friendly rivals can't wait
And oh Streatham - you must all get checkmate
Ready, Go... now they've started.

Streatham - what's this... Povah has lost?!
I say Streatham - and six more to our cost.
Ah, but Streatham's lower boards are the MOST
And we might - could - yes - HAVE - won it !

So it's thanks to the Y.M.C.A.
For arranging this friendly affray
It was so nearly your day
But we won at the Y.M.C.A.!!

S & B

1. N. Povah	0
2. J. Nicholson	0
3. G. Flear	0
4. D. King	0
5. K. Coates	$\frac{1}{2}$
6. B. Cheal	$\frac{1}{2}$
7. M. Singleton	1
8. M. Davis	$\frac{1}{2}$
9. A. King	0
10. R. Haldane	1
11. N. Rose	1
12. A. Westwood	$\frac{1}{2}$
13. C. Jones	1
14. D. Randall	1
15. S. Triggs	1
16. D. Feinstein	1
17. G. Dormand	0
18. M.F. Kent	0
19. B.P. Floyd	1
20. B. Higgins	1
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	$10\frac{1}{2}$

Y.M.C.A.

A. Martin	1
C. Cooley	1
W. Watson	1
P. Sowray	1
G. Kenworthy	$\frac{1}{2}$
J. Adams	$\frac{1}{2}$
R. Granat	0
C. Hill	$\frac{1}{2}$
D. Taylor	1
G. Stevens	0
S. Perez	0
N. Carr	$\frac{1}{2}$
A. Rose	0
D. Eustace	0
M. Crewdson	0
S. Dickinson	0
J. McClusky	1
S. Goodlife	1
A. Kenaway	0
J. Moore	0
	<hr/>
	$9\frac{1}{2}$

Club Championship

by Simon Gillam

Before this year's championship could be held, several problems had to be overcome. No one started to organise the event until the middle of May, and it was found that the cost of any venue for a whole weekend would be prohibitive. The chosen solution was to play at the club on Sundays (cheaper than Saturdays) and on Monday evenings. Surprisingly two consecutive weekends in June were found in which there were no local congresses to cream off the best players, so it was decided to hold the championship as a 6 - round Swiss with a week's break in the middle.

Although the prize fund was not very large (£20 for the winner, £10 for second, and six grading or age prizes of £7.50) a field of 26 players was attracted including three of the club's strongest members (Nigel Povah, Roger Emerson and Julian Hodgson) and six other regular first team players.

Full details are given in the table at the end of this article. The rest of this report picks out the highlights and selected games round-by-round.

ROUND 1

On Sunday 10th June play was advertised to begin at the ungodly hour of 9am. (the other rounds were scheduled for 2pm. on Sunday and 7pm. on Monday). Controller Bruce Floyd's first round draw, which paired together the eight highest graded players, dashed the favourites' hopes of starting with a couple of easy games.

Julian Hodgson was the only player among the top three to record a full point. Although he caused some consternation by his failure to appear until nearly an hour after the advertised start, he was saved from serious time pressure (the rate of play was 40 moves in 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours with a further 15 minutes to finish) by the customary delay before the first round got under way. He caught up on the clock by playing 1...Nc6 in reply to 1. e4 and transposing to an unusual variation of the French in which his opponent (Robin Haldane) struggled without success to find a reasonable plan.

The round's biggest surprise was the ease with which Mike Singleton overcame Roger Emerson's Slav Defence, using a little-known line of the Anti-Meran Gambit (see game).

Nigel Povah found himself in the unusual position of playing an opening about which he knew very little, and never looked like getting more than a draw (see game).

Mike Davis won against Alan Westwood in his own inimitable style. He seems to approach the pre-game chit-chat and the opening moves with the sole purpose of giving an impression of total cluelessness. This lures the opponent into adopting a lackadaisical approach to the middle game, in which Mike's accurate play rewards him with a bewildering series of wins.

On the lower boards the most interesting game featured Daniel Feinstein's enterprising piece sacrifice, which may be of theoretical interest (see game).

Leaders (all on 1 point) : Hodgson, Singleton, Davis, Dormand, Feinstein, Cowley, Linden, Rich, Henry, A. Walden.

White : M.P.F. Singleton Black : R. Emerson Semi-Slav Defence Anti-Meran Gambit.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c6 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. Bg5 dc 6. a4 (more usual is 6. e4 b5
7. e5 h6 8. Bh4 g5 9. Ng5 with complications) ...Bb4 7. e4 Bc3 8. bc Qa5 9. e5
Nd5 10. Bd2 Nb6 (Black has adopted the wrong strategy. White now exploits his
black square pressure) 11. Ng5 ! h6 12. Ne4 N1d7 13. Qg4 Kf8 14. Nd6 g6
15. Qf4 Rh7 16. Be2 Nd5 17. Qf3 b5 18. 0-0 Qb6 19. Bh6 Kg8 20. Bg5 a6 21. Rfb1
Qa5 22. Bd2 ba 23. Nc4 Qd8 24. Nd6 c5 25. g3 cd 26. cd N2b6 27. Ba5 Bd7
28. Bb6 Nb6 29. Rb6 1 - 0.

White : N.E. Povah Black : S.R. Gillam Leningrad Dutch

1. c4 (to avoid 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 f5) ...f5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. d4
d6 6. Nh3 (the Karlsbad variation) ...0-0 7. 0-0 (7. d5 is more aggressive) ...e5
8. de de 9. Qb3 ? (giving Black an easy game. Better is 9. Qd8 Rd8 10. Nd5)
...c6 10. Be3 Qe7 11. Rfd1 h6 12. a3 Be6 13. Qb4 Qb4 ? (although this grabs a
pawn, the ending is only drawn. Black should try for more with 13...Qf7) 14. ab4 Bc4
15. Ra7 Ra7 16. Ba7 Nbd7 17. b5 cb 18. Bb7 b4 19. Nd5 Be2 20. Rd2 Bg4 21. Kg2
Nd5 22. Bd5 Kh7 23. Be6 Nf6 24. Ng1 f4 ! (trying to hold on to the extra pawn is
very risky) 25. Bg4 Ng4 26. Bc5 Rb8 27. Bd6 Rb7 28. h3 Nf6 29. Be5 fg 30. fg Nc4
31. Rd5 Be5 32. Re5 Nd2 33. Nf3 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$

White : D.R. Feinstein Black : C.N.J. Rose Sicilian Najdorf

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cd 4. Nd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 Be7
8. Qf3 Qc7 9. Bd3 Nbd7 10. 0-0-0 h6 11. Qh3 Nb6 (all this is theory)
12. Bf6 !? (a new move played to prepare his sacrifice) ...Bf6 (if 12...gf6 13.f5 !
is strong) 13. Bb5 !? (although this may not be absolutely sound, it is certain to
give good practical chances) ...ab5 (it would be safer to decline the sacrifice by
13...Ke7, but not by 13...Bd7 or 13...Nd7 because of 14. Ne6 !) 14. Ndb5 Qc5
15. Nd6 Kf8 16. e5 Be7 17. Nce4 (White had seen this far ahead on move 12
and had judged that he had at least enough compensation for the piece) ...Qa5
18. a3 g6 19. g4 Kg7 (Black's last two moves may look intuitively bad, since they create
a weakness on f6 and expose the King, but there seems to be nothing better) 20. Rhf1
(if 20. f5 Qe5 21. f6 Bf6 22. Nf6 Qf6 23. Rhf1 Rf8 24. Qc3 Kg8 25. Ne4 Qa5 !
looks all right for Black) ...Bd7 21. f5 ef 22. gf Bd6 23. Rd6 Qe5 ? (the decisive
error. White's attack is probably enough to draw after 23...Bf5 ! 24. e6 !! Rhd8
25. Qh4 g5 26. Qh5 fe6 27. Ng5 Rd6 28. Qf7 Kh8 29. Qf6 Kg8 30. Qf7 with
perpetual check) 24. Rb6 Qe4 25. Qc3 ! (the move Black had under-estimated)
...Kg8 26. fg Rc8 (if 26...fg 27. Qb3) 27. gf Kh7 28. Qd2 Bc6 29. Rb4 Qg6
30. Rbf4 Be4 ? (a time-trouble blunder. 30...Rhf8 holds on for longer) 31. f8 =N
1 - 0 on time. The position is hopeless eg. 31...Rhf8 32. Rf8 Rc2 33. Qc2 Bc2
34. R1f7 wins.

ROUND 2

With most of the top players knocked back in round 1, interest centred on the battle at the top between Julian Hodgson and Mike Singleton. Julian played 1. Nc3, trying to transpose into his previous game with a move in hand, but the plan went badly wrong, and he was extremely lucky to salvage a win.

The other selected game is Nigel Rose's convincing demonstration that he had recovered from his surprise loss in round 1.

Leading scores : 2 Hodgson, Davis, Cowley, Rich. 1½ Povah, Gillam, Feinstein, A. Walden.

White : J.M. Hodgson Black : M.P.F. Singleton Reverse French

1. Nc3 d5 2. e3 e5 3. d4 e4 4. Be2 Nf6 5. h4 h5 6. Nh3 c6 7. Nf4 Bd6
8. g3 Bg4 9. Bd2 Nbd7 10. Rc1 b5 11. a4 b4 12. Na2 Qb6 13. 0-0 Rb8

14. c4 Bf4 15. c5 Be2 16. Qe2 Qa5 17. ef Qa4 18. Ra1 Qc2 19. Rfd1 Rb5
20. Nc1 a5? (20...Qb2 ! and the Queen will escape with a clear advantage)
21. b3 ! e3 (forced, to save the Queen) 22. Qe3 Kd8 23. Re1 Re8 24. Qd3 Re1
25. Be1 Qd3 26. Nd3 (the ending should be drawn, but there is still a lot of play
in it) ...Ne4? 27. Rc1 Nef6 28. f3 Ne8 29. f5 Rb7? 30. Ra1 Rb5 31. Kf2 Nef6
 (now that Black has wasted 6 moves, White's winning chances have greatly improved)
32. Ke3 Ke7 33. Kf4 Nh7 34. Bd2 f6? (fatally weakening the squares e6 and g6)
35. Ke3 Kf7 36. Nf4 Nc5?! (desperation) 37. dc Rc5 38. Ne6 Rc2 39. Ra5
 1 - 0

White : C.N.J. Rose Black : R.W. Haldane von Hennig-Schara (Tarrasch) Gambit
1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c5 4. cd cd?! 5. Qd4 Nc6 6. Qd1 ed 7. Qd5 Bd7
8. Nf3 Nf6 9. Qd1 Bc5 10. e3 Qe7 11. Be2 g5?! 12. 0-0 g4 13. Nd4 Ne5
14. Bd2 0-0-0?! 15. Rc1 Kb8 16. Na4 Bd6 17. Qb3 Ne4 18. Ba5 Qh4 19. Ba6!
b5 20. Qd5 ! Nf3 21. Nf3 1 - 0

ROUND 3

Most of the third round pairings looked very one-sided. This was reflected in the games, in which all the highly-graded players won, with the exception of Mike Singleton, who was beaten by Gary Dormand's excellent play on the Black side of the King's Indian Four Pawns attack.

Simon Gillam took advantage of his only chance to play his beloved Latvian Gambit, with which he scored an instructive win over Daniel Feinstein.

Leading scores : 3 Hodgson, Davis 2½ Povah, Gillam 2 Emerson, Rose, Dormand, Wilkinson, Cowley, Rich.

White : M.P.F. Singleton G.W. Dormand King's Indian 4 pawns attack.
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Be2 0-0 6. f4 c5 7. d5 e6 8. Nf3 ed
9. e5 de 10. fe Ng4 11. Bg5 Qa5 !? (11...Qb6 is more usual) 12. cd Ne5 13. 0-0
c4 14. Ne5 ? (14. Kh1 is better) ...Be5 15. Be7 Re8 16. d6 Be6 17. Bf3 Qb6
18. Kh1 Qb2 19. Nd5 Qa1 20. Qa1 Ba1 21. Nc7 Nc6 22. Na8 Ra8 23. Bc6 bc
24. Ra1 f5 25. Rc1 Rb8 26. Bf6 Kf7 27. Be5 Rb5 28. Re1 Ke8 29. h4 Kd7 30. Kh2
c3 31. Bc3 Kd6 32. Re2 Rd5 33. Rb2 Rd3 34. Bg7 Bd5 35. Bh6 c5 36. Rb8 Ra3
37. Bf8 Kc7 38. Rb2 Ra2 39. Ra2 Ba2 40. Bc5 a5 41. g3 Kc6 42. Bf8 Kb5 43. Kg2
Kc4 44. Kf3 Kc3 45. Kf4 Bb3 46. Kg5 Bd1 0 - 1.

White : D.R. Feinstein Black : S.R. Gillam Latvian Gambit

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 f5 3. Bc4 ?! fe 4. Ne5 d5 5. Qh5 g6 6. Ng6 Nf6 7. Qe5 Be7
8. Bb5 ! c6 9. Ne7 Qe7 10. Qe7 Ke7 11. Be2 Rg8 12. g3 (this is all book. Black
has about enough compensation for the sacrificed pawn : see also 'The Positional Latvian')
...c5 13. d3 Nc6 14. c3 ed ! 15. Bd3 Bh3 16. Nd2 ? Kd7 17. f3 ? (White's last
two moves have seriously weakened his position) ...Rae8 18. Kd1 (if 18. Kf2 Rgf8
intending ...Ng4, which was played in A.W. Sharp v S.R. Gillam, Scottish Open 1977)
...c4 19. Bc2 b5 20. g4 ?! Kc7 (threatening 20...Ng4) 21. Bf5 h5 22. Rg1 hg
23. Nf1 Bf1 24. Rf1 gf 25. Bf4 Kb7 26. Rc1 d4 ! 27. Rf3 d3 (ensuring that the
White Queen Rook will remain trapped until the game is decided) 28. Rf2 Nd5 !
29. Bd7 ? (Black has a winning bind, but this move gives up a piece) ...Re2 !
30. Re2 de2 31. Ke2 Nf4 32. Kf3 Nd3 33. Bc6 Kc6 34. Rb1 Kd5 and Black won
easily with his extra piece 0 - 1 in 59 moves.

ROUND 4

The early start on Sunday proved to be too much for Nigel Povah, who lost by default when he slept in. The week's rest seemed to have given everyone a greater will to win, as not a single game was drawn, although some of the victors needed a large slice of luck. Julian Hodgson took an outright lead when his vigorous attack persuaded Mike Davis to resign rather prematurely, and Simon Gillam moved into second place when his opponent adopted the wrong sacrificial plan in a winning position. On one of the lower boards Daniel Feinstein produced a neat combination (a temporary double piece sac.) to net himself two pawns.

Leading scores : 4 Hodgson $3\frac{1}{2}$ Gillam 3 Emerson, Davis, Rose, Dormand
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ Povah, Feinstein, Moore.

White : A. Sim Black : D.R. Feinstein Queens Pawn, Colle System

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. e3 c5 4. c3 a6 ?! 5. Nbd2 d5 6. Bd3 b5 7. dc ? Bc5
8. Nb3 ? Bd6 9. Nbd2 ? (White has contrived in the last 3 moves to give himself
a very passive position) ...e5 10. e4 Nbd7 11. ed Nc5 12. Be2 e4 13. Nd4 Nd5
14. Qc2 e3 15. Ne4 ef 16. Nf2 Qe7 ? (rather pointless) 17. 0-0 0-0 18. b4 Na4 !
(subtle) 19. Ne4 Nac3 !! 20. Nc3 Bh2 21. Kh2 Qh4 22. Kg1 Qd4 23. Rf2 Nc3
24. Bb2 Ne2 25. Qe2 Qg4 and Black converted his two-pawn advantage into an
easy win 0 - 1 in 44 moves.

ROUND 5

All three top games were rather odd. Julian Hodgson tried out a Basman-style opening with the black pieces, and the game rapidly petered out into a draw. On board two Roger Emerson soon won a pawn, but shepherded it into a drawn Rook and pawn endgame. However the weirdest happenings were on board 3. Mike Davis recovered from a terrible position to win a piece, but was surprised on move 40 by Nigel Rose's desperate sacrifice. Panic set in: he declined the offered material and gave up his Queen.

Leading scores : $4\frac{1}{2}$ Hodgson 4 Gillam, Rose $3\frac{1}{2}$ Povah, Emerson, Dormand 3 Westwood, Davis, Haldane, Feinstein.

White S.R. Gillam Black J.M. Hodgson Irregular

1. d4 e6 2. e3 ?! a6 ?! 3. Bd3 b5 4. Nf3 Bb7 5. 0-0 f5 6. a4 b4 7. c4 Nf6
8. Nbd2 Be7 9. Qe1 0-0 10. e4 fe 11. Ne4 c5 12. dc Qc7 13. Nf6 Bf6 14. Be4
Be4 15. Qe4 Qc6 16. Qc6 Nc6 17. Rd1 Rf7 18. Ng5 Bg5 19. Bg5 Na5 20. Rac1
Nb3 21. Rc2 Nc5 22. Be3 Rc8 23. Bc5 Rc5 24. Rd6 ! a5 25. b3 Kf8 26. f3 Ke7
27. Rcd2 Rc7 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$.

White : G.W. Dormand Black : R. Emerson Kings Indian

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 g6 3. Bg2 Bg7 4. 0-0 0-0 5. d4 d6 6. c4 Nc6 7. Nc3 Bg4
8. e4 e5 9. d5 Nd4 10. Be3 Re8 11. Re1 c5 12. h3 ? Nf3 13. Bf3 Bh3 14. Bg2 Bg2
15. Kg2 Qd7 16. f3 Rf8 17. Rh1 Ne8 18. f3 Rf8 19. Rh2 Rf7 20. Rahl Bf8 21. g4
a6 22. Bh6 Bh6 23. Qh6 Rg7 24. a4 Rb8 25. Rh3 Nc7 26. Qd2 b5 27. cb ab 28. b3
ba 29. ba Rb4 30. Ral Qc8 31. Rhh1 f5 32. gf gf 33. Kf2 f4 34. Rg1 Qb8 35. Rg7
Kg7 36. Ra2 Qd8 37. Kf1 Qh4 38. Qg2 Kf7 39. Qh2 Qh2 40. Rh2 Kg7 41. Rg2
Kf8 42. Rh2 Rb3 43. Rh7 Rc3 44. Rc7 Rf3 45. Kg2 Ra3 46. Ra7 c4 47. a5 c3
48. a6 c2 49. Rc7 Ra6 50. Rc2 Ra3 51. Rc4 Rd3 52. Rc6 Re3 53. Rd6 Re4 54. Re6
Kf7 55. Kf2 Re3 56. Kf1 e4 57. Kf2 Rf3 58. Ke2 Re3 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$

White : M. Davis Black : C.N.J. Rose English

1. c4 e6 2. e4 c5 3. Nc3 Nc6 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. Qe2 d6 6. d3 Be7 7. g3 0-0
8. Bg2 a6 9. 0-0 Rb8 10. b3 b5 11. h3 Qb6 12. Be3 Nd4 13. Bd4 cd4 14. Nb1
Bb7 15. Nbd2 Nd7 16. Nh2 e5 17. f4 (despite his rather eccentric handling of the
opening, White has drifted into quite a good position) ...ef 18. gf Rfe8 19. Qf2 ?
(this plan looks wrong. Better would be 19. Kh1 intending Rgl) ...Nc5 20. Qg3
Qa5 21. Rfd1 Qc3 22. Ndf1 bc 23. bc Bc6 (Black's Queen-side counter-play has

got in first) 24. Rac1 Qa3 25. Ng4 Kh8 26. f5 Bf8 27. Re1 ? (giving up the d-pawn for nothing) ...Rb2 ? (the d-pawn is more important than the a-pawn, so 27...Qd3 should be played) 28. Nf2 Qa2 29. Ra1 Qb3 30. Bf3 ! (tempting Black with the d-pawn again) ...Nd3 ?? (Black grabs it, missing White's simple one move trap) 31. Bd1 Qc4 32. Nd3 Rb7 33. Rc1 (White's extra piece is worth a lot more than the three pawns, since all the pieces can develop with gain of tempo) ...Qb5 34. Nd2 Rbe7 35. Rb1 Qa5 36. Nc4 Qc7 37. Qd6 Qc8 38. Nb6 Qb7 39. Nc5 (all the pieces are now well-placed : White's position is overwhelming) ...Re4 ?!! (a good psychological blow when both players have less than a minute left to reach move 40) 40. Qf8 ?? (after 40. Re4 Be4 41. Nb7 Bd6 42. Nd6 White should win the unusual ending of 3 pieces and 1 pawn against 1 piece and 5 pawns) ...Rf8 41. Re4 Qc7 ! (the watching multitudes expected 41...Be4 42. Nb7 Bb1 with a won ending. On first sight, the move played appears to throw away the win) 42. Rg4 (otherwise 42...Qg3 would be strong) ...Rb8 (this confused the crowd even more : Black must have overlooked 43. Na6, winning material. However they were totally bewildered when White, after very little thought, resigned. The point is that after 43. Na6, which is the only move to save the threatened piece, Black has 43...Qe5 44. Nb8 Qe1 45. Kh2 Qf2 mating, although it is doubtful whether either player had seen this. Black if he had seen this mating plan, could have played 42...Qe5, since the extra defensive Knight is of no use : eg. 43. Nd3 Qe3 44. Nf2 Qe1 45. Kh2 Qf2 still mates. White no doubt stunned by his blunder on move 40, may even have failed to see 43. Na6 !!) 0 - 1

ROUND 6

With everything still to play for, hard fought games were likely on the top three boards. Julian Hodgson played his favourite 2. f4 system against the Sicilian to great effect. The resulting bind encouraged Nigel Rose to sacrifice a pawn unsoundly, after which Julian mopped up very efficiently.

Roger Emerson played 2. Bc4 to avoid the Latvian, and was allowed to transpose into the Giuoco Piano. Although the middle game looked double-edged, he managed to secure an advantageous endgame, but then missed his way and allowed Simon Gillam to escape with a draw.

On the third board Gary Dornand surprised Nigel Povah in the opening with an unexpected pawn sacrifice, and by move 14 had gained a slight advantage. However

he soon missed his way in the complications, and Nigel was able to capture enough pawns for him still to win when he gave up his Queen for Rook and Bishop.

Final leading scores : $5\frac{1}{2}$ Hodgson $4\frac{1}{2}$ Povah, Gillam 4 Emerson, Davis, Rose $3\frac{1}{2}$ Westwood, Haldane, Randall, Dormand, Wilkinson.

White : J.M. Hodgson Black : C.N.J. Rose Closed Sicilian

1. e4 c5 2. f4 Nc6 3. Nf3 g6 4. Nc3 Bg7 5. Bc4 e6 6. f5 Nge7 7. fe fe
8. 0-0 0-0 9. d3 d5 10. Bb3 b5 ?! 11. Nb5 Qd6 12. c4 Bd7 13. Nc3 ! Nd4
14. Bg5 ! Nf3 15. Rf3 Rf3 16. Qf3 Rf8 17. Qe2 Bd4 18. Kh1 Rf2 19. Qe1 ! dc
20. Ne2 ! cb3 21. Nd4 Rb2 22. Nb3 c4 23. dc Nc6 24. Rd1 Bc8 25. c5 Qb5 ?
26. Bh6 ! Qe2 27. Qe2 Re2 28. Rf1 1 - 0

White : R. Emerson Black : S.R. Gillam Giuoco Piano

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Bc5 (this is not the point in a tournament to play my usual move, the Calabrese Counter-Gambit $2...f5$, which is rather unsound) 3. Nf3 Nc6 ?!
 (I suppose this isn't bad objectively, but it is rather foolhardy to enter a main line which you have never played before) 4. c3 Nf6 5. d3 ?! (why not $5. d4$? Roger must know more about it than I do) $...d6$ 6. b4 Bb6 7. a4 a5 ($7...a6$ is also playable)
8. b5 Ne7 ($8...Nb8$ intending to go to d7 and then c5 is another possibility) 9. h3 Ng6
10. 0-0 0-0 11. Na3 c6 12. bc bc 13. Bb3 d5 14. ed cd 15. Bg5 Bb7
16. d4 ! Re8 17. de Ne5 18. Re1 Ned7 19. Nb5 Re1 20. Qe1 Nc5 21. Bc2 h6
22. Be3 Nce4 ?! 23. Nfd4 Rc8 24. f3 Nd6 25. Nd6 Qd6 26. Nf5 Be3 27. Qe3 Qc5
28. Rb1 Qe3 29. Ne3 Rc3 30. Rb7 Re3 31. Kf2 Re8 32. Ra7 (the ending is good for White because of his Bishop and distant a-pawn) $...Kf8$ 33. Ra5 Ke7
34. Ra7 Ke6 35. a5 Rc8 36. Bd3 Rc3 37. Ke3 Nd7 38. Kd4 Ra3 39. Bb5 Ne5
40. f4 ?! (starting to go astray. Simpler is $40. a6$) $...Ng6$ 41. f5 Kf5 42. Rf7 Ke6
43. Rg7 Ne7 44. Bd3 ? (the last possibility of keeping winning chances is $44. Rh7$)
 $...Ra5$ 45. Rh7 Ra4 46. Ke3 Rh4 47. Kf3 Rh5 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$

White : G.W. Dormand Black : N.E. Povah Queens pawn (reverse Veresov)

1. Nf3 Nc6 2. d4 d5 3. g3 Bg4 4. Bg2 Qd7 5. c4 dc ?! 6. d5 0-0-0 7. Nc3 Bf3
8. Bf3 Ne5 9. Bg2 e6 10. Bf4 Ng6 11. Be3 Nf6 12. Qc2 Nd5 13. Nd5 ed 14. 0-0 Kb8 ?!
15. Rad1 (better is $15. Bd5 !$ with a slight advantage) $...c6$ 16. Qa4 b5 !?
17. Qc2 Bd6 18. b3 Ne5 19. Bd4 f5 20. a4 cb 21. Qb3 a6 22. ab ab 23. Ra1 Nc4

24. Ra7 ? (better 24. Ra6 !) ...Qa7 25. Ba7 Ka7 26. Ra1 !? (26. Bd5 !? cd
 27. Qb5 Nb6 and Black is all right) ...Kb6 27. Rb1 Rhe8 28. Qd3 g6 29. Bd5 cd
 30. Qd5 Bb4 31. Qf7 Re7 32. Qf6 Bd6 33. Qd4 Kc6 34. Ra1 Rb8 35. Ra6 Rb6
 36. Ra8 Re2 37. Rc8 Kb7 38. Rh8 Re7 39. Qd5 Kc7 40. Qa8 Rb7 41. Kg2 Kb6
 42. Qd8 Kc5 43. Qc8 Rec7 44. Qe6 b4 0 - 1.

FINAL TABLE

		Rd. 1		Rd. 2		Rd. 3		Rd. 4		Rd. 5		Rd. 6		Tot. Prize	
1. J.M. Hodgson	204J	1	8	1	4	1	15	1	7	$\frac{1}{2}$	5	1	9	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1st
2. N.E. Povah	208	$\frac{1}{2}$	5	1	13	1	21	0	def	1	17	1	11	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2nd
3. R. Emerson	204	0	4	1	6	1	14	1	18	$\frac{1}{2}$	11	$\frac{1}{2}$	5	4	
4. M. Singleton	191	1	3	0	1	0	11	0	6	1	20	1	23	3	
5. S.R. Gillam	189	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	1	24	1	12	1	13	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	3	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	U-190
6. A. Westwood	186	0	7	0	3	1	25	1	4	1	14	$\frac{1}{2}$	8	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
7. M.C. Davis	185	1	6	1	20	1	18	0	1	0	9	1	12	4	
8. R. Haldane	181	0	1	0	9	1	22	1	25	1	15	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
9. C.N.J. Rose	177	0	12	1	8	1	16	1	15	1	7	0	1	4	
10. D. Randall	170E	0	def	0	def	$\frac{1}{2}$	23	1	22	1	18	1	def	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
11. G. Dormand	147J	1	14	0	15	1	4	1	25	$\frac{1}{2}$	3	0	2	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	U-18 Jnr
12. D. Feinstein	142J	1	9	$\frac{1}{2}$	bye	0	5	1	19	$\frac{1}{2}$	13	0	7	3	
13. S. Wilkinson	150E	1	def	0	2	1	20	0	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	12	1	19	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	U-170
14. P. Turner	150E	0	11	1	25	0	3	0	20	0	6	1	bye	2	
15. M. Cowley	140	1	26	1	11	0	1	0	9	0	8	$\frac{1}{2}$	18	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	U-150
16. M. Linden	133	1	17	0	18	0	9	withdrawn					1		
17. T.C. Moore	133	0	16	1	23	$\frac{1}{2}$	19	1	21	0	2	0	def	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
18. B. Rich	115J	1	25	1	16	0	7	0	3	0	10	$\frac{1}{2}$	15	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	U-130
19. A. Sim	120E	$\frac{1}{2}$	24	$\frac{1}{2}$	26	$\frac{1}{2}$	17	0	12	1	21	0	13	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
20. A. Henry	115E	1	23	0	7	0	13	1	14	0	4	$\frac{1}{2}$	24	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
21. A. Walden	100JE	1	22	$\frac{1}{2}$	bye	0	2	0	17	0	19	1	26	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
22. P. Walden	100E	0	21	$\frac{1}{2}$	bye	0	8	0	10	0	26	0	25	$\frac{1}{2}$	
23. I Sim	100JE	0	20	0	17	$\frac{1}{2}$	10	1	26	$\frac{1}{2}$	24	0	4	2	
24. A. McElligott	84J	$\frac{1}{2}$	19	0	5	1	26	0	8	$\frac{1}{2}$	23	$\frac{1}{2}$	20	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	U-14 Jnr
25. C. McElligott	76J	0	18	0	14	0	6	0	11	1	bye	1	22	2	
26. A. Webster	75JE	0	15	$\frac{1}{2}$	19	0	24	0	23	1	22	0	21	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	

The first hundred years

by C.E. Williams

Although I cannot verify the accuracy of this rather pretentious heading, the fact that the Brixton half of the partnership won the Surrey Trophy in 1884/5 which was only the second year of that competition's existence, and repeated this success in each of the following two seasons, is a fair indication that it was already an established chess club. Before the end of the Century, they won this trophy four more times '89, '96, '98 and '99.

In 1887 the secretaries of the Metropolitan Clubs appointed a committee of 9 to form a league, now the London Chess League, one of whom, I. Sargent, represented the Brixton Club.

About that time, however, the club struck a bad patch and their first few years in the league were unproductive and after 4 years they dropped out, rejoining the 2nd Division in '94/5. Then in '97/8, they returned to the 1st Division and won it. Then, after another good year in '98/9 - equal second - came a sudden collapse, the reason for which is not recorded but in '99/00 no team was entered and in the following year they finished equal bottom out of 11 with $\frac{1}{2}$ match point. From this point until the 1st War, results in the league were uneven and undistinguished, the best being in 1908/9 - 3rd equal out of 15 and in the following year they enjoyed a solitary win of the Surrey Trophy.

After the first war, in the twenties the club enjoyed a further run of success winning the league in '21/22, '23/24 and '32/33 and finishing 2nd or 3rd in 5 of the intervening years. They also won the Eastman in each of the first 3 years of its existence, '29/30, '30/31 and '31/32, the Surrey Trophy in 5 consecutive years from '19/20 to '23/24 and again in '29/30 and the Alexander in '22/23 - its first year - and in '29/30 and '30/31.

It was during this period that we first hear of Streatham, who in 1920 won the Beaumont Cup but who never entered the London League.

It is interesting to note that in 1930/1 Brixton with 51 members was the second largest club in this country, exceeded only by Battersea with 69. Streatham at this time had 24 members.

In 1931/2 Brixton entered a second team in the league but it was not very successful and only lasted 3 seasons.

The remaining years leading up to the 2nd war were very lean for both clubs, particularly for Brixton whose league team suffered heavily from defaults - 44 in one season. This was explained by the fact that a large proportion of the membership was "of mature age" and found attendance at matches difficult!

After the war, when the clubs were amalgamated, and the system of promotion and relegation was introduced into the league, the lean period continued.

The League team, after missing the first post war season, joined the 2nd Division in 1946/7, were relegated to the 3rd in '49/50 and to the newly formed 4th in '54/5. Meanwhile in Surrey, the team persisted in the Surrey Trophy although in ten seasons they only amassed a total of $2\frac{1}{2}$ match points! There were however signs of increasing membership, as in '54/5 they introduced a 2nd team which survived for 3 seasons in the Minor Trophy competition. Then at last in '56/7 under the leadership of Dick Boxell, the tide began to turn. S&B won the 4th Division and followed this up with a further promotion to the 2nd in '57/8, during which season the second team was restarted and is still with us.

Recovery in Surrey was slower and did not really show until 1960/1. In that year the league team won promotion to the 1st Division and the Surrey team took 2nd place in the Surrey Trophy and reached the final of the Alexander Cup. There was an immediate slight recession as in '61/2 the league team was relegated. In '63/4 they were again promoted and won the Eastman Cup.

The 1st team held a place in the 1st Division for 6 years during which time a 3rd team was started - 1965/6 and the 2nd won promotion to the 3rd Division in 1967/8. Details of activities in Surrey during this period are sparse, but in 1960/1, S&B were second in the Surrey Trophy and reached the final of the Alexander and in 1963/4, the 2nd team were runners-up in the Minor Trophy.

In 1968/9, disaster struck. In the league, the 1st and 2nd teams were both relegated and the 3rd team was withdrawn. After this season they also gave up entering for the National Club in which they had competed with Senior and Junior teams since 1962/3 with singular lack of success only once getting past Round 2, despite byes through Round 1. Worse was to come. In 1972/3, both teams again suffered relegation in the league to the

3rd and 6th respectively. That was the darkest hour which proverbially precedes the dawn.

In '73/4 the 1st team won the Centenary and returned to the Beaumont and in Surrey the 2nd won the Minor. After a "consolidating" year in '74/5, things really began to happen. In '75/6, both league teams won promotion, the 1st won the Surrey Trophy, the 2nd the Beaumont and the 3rd the Centenary and in the National Club which S&B re-entered the previous year, they won the Plate.

1976/7 may justly be described as Annus Mirabilis. In this season, the 1st team won the League, the 2nd won the 5th Division and the 3rd was also promoted. In Surrey, the 2nd team won the Trophy ahead of the 1st, the 3rd won the Ellam and the 4th the Centenary. In the National Club the 1st reached the Semi Final of the main competition and the 2nd the Final of the Plate and only lost both matches on board count.

Since then the success story has continued though not quite so dramatically. In the league the 1st team has had to be content with 2nd place but won the Eastman Cup in '78/9. The 2nd team gained promotion to the 3rd Division in '77/8 and the 3rd team to the 5th Division in '78/9 and there is now a 4th team in the 7th Division.

In Surrey, the club is rapidly acquiring a complete monopoly of the Surrey Trophy and now has 3 teams competing in it. The Alexander Cup, strangely elusive since 1931, has at last also been won this season.

It has been a long, and at times desperately uphill struggle but I feel that now the original founders of the two parent clubs, whoever they may have been, can look down from the Elysian fields and see that their labours were not in vain.

Opening section

c3 FEVER

by Paul Spiller

Upon arriving at the Streatham and Brixton club last November, I was immediately force-fed with a copy of Knightmare II. Whilst flipping through the pages I came across an article by Chris Jones on 2.c3 as a reply to 1.e4 c5.

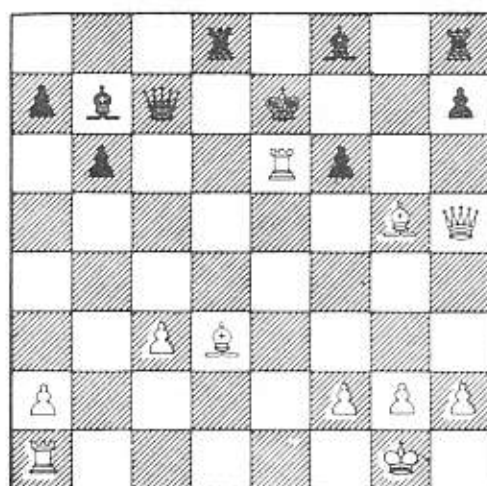
After having witnessed a horrible defeat inflicted on a New Zealand player at the Buenos Aires Olympiad with this move, this article prompted me to take it up. After all, how many players know how to meet this system effectively, I reasoned.

In fact, this move has now become tremendously popular amongst English players, probably because Hort employed it to beat Miles during the 1979 B.B.C. Mastergame series.

The first game was played in a Surrey League match and shows how quickly Black can be destroyed!

White: P. Spiller Black: J.A. Lawrence

1. e4 c5 2. c3 Nf6 (2...d5 is the surest way to equality) 3. e5 Nd5 4. d4 e6
5. Nf3 cd 6. cd b6 (with the possibility of Ba6 swapping white squared Bishops
or Bb7 to control d5) 7. Bd3 d6 ? ! (7...Bb7, 7...Ba6 ! ?, 7...Be7, or 7...Nc6
seem more consistent at this stage) 8. 0-0 Nbd7 ? (Black embarks on a faulty
plan of exchanging pawns on e5 and playing Nc5) 9. Nc3 Nc3 10. bc de ?
(continuing with the plan; 10...Bb7 looks necessary) 11. Ng5 ! (threatens
12. Nf7 and / or 12. Qf3) ...Bb7 (on 11...Qf6 or 11...Qe7, 12. f4 is killing)
12. Ne6 ! (the point) ...fe 13. Qh5 Ke7 (13...g6 14. Bg6 Ke7 15. Bg5 Nf6
16. de ; 14...hg 15. Qg5 Ke7 16. Bg5) 14. de Qc7 (14...g6 ! ? 15. Bg6 hg
16. Qh8 (16.Qg6 ?? Ne5 !) ; 14...Qe8 15. Bg5 Nf6 16. Qh4) 15. Bg5 Nf6
16. Rfe1 ! Rd8 17. ef gf 18. Re6 !!



18...Ke6 19. Re1 Kd7 20. Qg4 Kc6 21. Qa4 Kd5 22. Qe4 Kd6 23. Qe6
1 - 0.

The second game was played at the Buenos Aires Olympiad, and is a classic example of how White can build up a crushing Kingside attack.

White : Seidler (Argentina) Black : P. Stuart (New Zealand)

1. e4 c5 2. c3 Nf6 3. e5 Nd5 4. d4 cd 5. cd e6 6. Nc3 Nc3 7. bc d6
8. ed Bd6 (8. Bd3 could also have been played, allowing Black to recapture on e5, when this pawn has a cramping effect on Black's game) 9. Nf3 Nc6 10. Bd3
Be7 (keeping control of g5) 11. 0-0 0-0 12. Qe2 Qc7 13. Re1 Bd7 14. Bd2
Rac8 15. Rab1 Rfe8 16. Rb5! (inducing Black to weaken his Kingside in order to prevent Rh5) ...g6 17. h4 a6 18. Rbb1 Bf8 (White now concentrates all his forces in a direct Kingside assault) 19. Ng5 Nd8 20. h5! Bc6 21. Nh7!
(crushing) ...Kh7 22. hg fg 23. Qh5 Kg8 24. Bg6 Qg7 25. Bg5 Re7 26. Re3
Qh8 27. Qg4 Qg7 28. Be7 (the mop-up campaign begins) ...Qe7 29. Bf5 Bg7
30. Re6! Qf8 31. Rh6 Rc7 32. Bh7 Kh8 33. Rh3 Bh6 34. Rh6 Rh7 35. Rh7 Kh7
36. d5! (the sting at the end) ...Bb5 37. a4 (Black must lose a piece) 1 - 0.

The last game really belongs in a ' How bad is your end game ' section, but since the opening is relevant to this article, I have included it here. It was played during the 1979 Aaronson Masters tournament, at Harrow.

White : P. Spiller (New Zealand) Black : M.J. Bulford (England)

1. e4 c5 2. c3 Nf6 3. e5 Nd5 4. d4 cd 5. Nf3 e6 6. cd Be7 7. Nc3 Nc3
8. bc d6 9. ed (as already mentioned, 9. Bd3 is a good alternative) ... Qd5!?

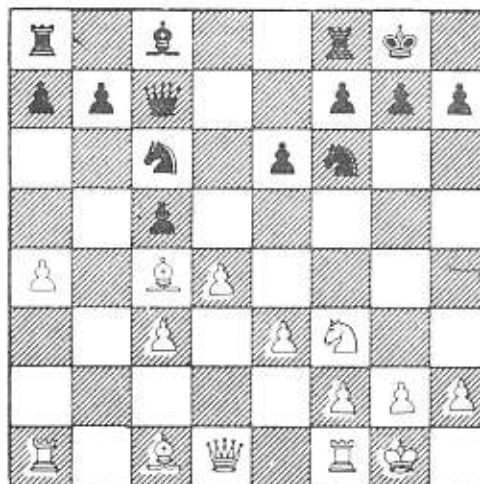
10. Bd3 0-0 11. 0-0 Nc6 12. Qc2 !? g6 13. Bh6 Rd8 14. Rfe1 (to prevent
14...e5) ...b6 15. h4 (logical and strong; if now 15...Bb7, 16. h5 is very
strong) ...Bf8 16. Bg5 Be7 17. h5 Bg5 18. Ng5 Qf4 !? 19. Nh3 (the sacrifice
on h7 looks good, but I couldn't find any concrete winning lines) ... Qf6 20. Re3
Bb7 21. Rf3 Qg7 22. hg hg 23. Rg3 Rac8?! (23...Ne7 24. Nf4 Nf5 may hold)
24. Bg6 ! Nd4 ! 25. cd ?! (with practically no time left, I played the next 20
moves badly. It seemed to be infectious and my opponent obliged by donating a
piece just before time control. 25.Bf7 should win.) ...fg ! 26. Qe2 ? (26. Qg6
is still better for White) ...Qf6 27. Re1 Rd4 28. Qe6 Qe6 29. Re6 Be4 30. Ng5
Bf5 31. Re7 Rh4 32. Rge3 Rc1 33. Re1 Re1 34. Re1 Ra4 35. Re2 Bb1 36. g3 Ba2
37. Re7 Kf8 38. Rc7 Bd5 ?? (with seconds to spare, all White saw was the threatened
mate in two, so..) 39. f4 ?? a5 ?? 40. Kf2 ?? Rc4 ?? (why the double question
marks ? well..) 41. Nh7 ! Ke8 42. Nf6 Kd3 43. Rd7 Kc8 44. Rd5 (44. Nd5 ??
Rc2) ...a4 45. Rd3 b5 (time control reached; now White, having won a piece,
sets about demonstrating the loss) 46. Nd5 Kb7 47. Ke3 Kc6 48. Ne7 Kc5
49. Ng6 b4 50. f5 (here we come, cried the passed pawns) ...Rg4 51. Kd2 b3
52. Ne5 (first mistake; 52. Nf4! blocking the Rook was necessary) ...Re4 53. Nd7
Kb5 54. f6 b2 55. Kc2 Re2 56. Kb1 Rf2 57. Rd1 (second mistake; resorting to
passive play) ...a3 58. g4 Kb4 59. Ka2 Kc3 60. g5 Rc2 61. Rb1 (otherwise
Rc1 might be very embarrassing) ...Rc1 62. Nb6 Rb1 63. Na4?? (third mistake;
63. Nd5 still draws at least, but not 63. Kb1?? because 63...Kb3 leads to mate
in one) ...Kc2 0 - 1.

A most depressing game!

NIMZO - INDIAN DEFENCE (RUBINSTEIN VARIATION) MAIN LINE WITH 11. a4

by M.P.F. Singleton

The variation examined in this article arises after the moves :- 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6
3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 0-0 5. Bd3 d5 6. Nf3 c5 7. 0-0 Nc6 8. a3 Bc3 9. bc3 dc
10. Bc4 Qc7 11. a4



11. a4 is one of the least popular of the many moves at White's disposal after move 10 (the main alternatives being 11. Bd3, 11. Bb2, 11. Re1, 11. Bb5, 11. Qe2, 11. Ba2) and it has even been strongly criticised by Bronstein in his excellent book " The chess struggle in practice ", as being "one of the least logical moves at White's disposal because it only solves one part of White's problem - the development of his black squared Bishop, and then to a poor location. Moreover, the pawn on a4 does not enhance White's position ". Personally I feel this is an over harsh assessment of the move, particularly as this quote comes in the context of a game Najdorf - Reshevsky, in which White clearly got his opening strategy wrong

11...b6 12. Ba3 Bb7 13. Be2 (?) (I feel this Bishop belongs on a2, for reasons which will become apparent. Anyway there was no need to commit the piece yet. I would prefer 13. Rc1 ! or 13. Qe2) ...Rfd8 14. Qc2 Na5 15. dc ? (this can't be right. Taking a pawn away from the centre, relinquishing hold on e5. 15. Ne5 was surely better.) ...bc 16. c4 (the wrong idea altogether) ...Be4 ! 17. Qc3 Rb8 ! (now White is very weak on b3, as a direct result of 13. Be2 ? Compare with the games given below ...)

However, the fact that the move is 'not fashionable' makes it more attractive to many players, provided it can be justified, and this the reader must judge for himself.

Of course the main idea is to develop the white queens Bishop at a3, exerting pressure along the a3 - f8 diagonal. This puts Black in a dilemma, because if he moves away the Rook on f8, then the thematic advance ...e5 is hindered because of the possibility of Ng5 hitting at the weakened f pawn. (Provided that the other Bishop stays on the a2 - g8 diagonal). In some variations White may even threaten to win the pinned c5 pawn (see game A1 below). Of course it is not in keeping with the position for Black to play ...cd? as after 12. cd White will have free play for his Bishops, and the open c file for his Rook. Black nearly always fortifies the c pawn with ...b6, and then either plays the thematic freeing move ...e5 (Section A below), or plays for queenside expansion (Section B below).

Section A. Black plays ...e5

A1. White : M.P.F. Singleton Black : J.J. Carleton British Correspondence

Chess Championship 1979.

11...b6 12. Ba3 Bb7 (?) (Black does not need to commit this Bishop yet. He can play 12...e5 straight away, and the Bishop can then threaten to go to g4. Note that White is not yet threatening to take on c5 (after 12...e5 or 12...Bb7) because 13. dc? bc 14. Bc5? Rd8 15. Q any Na5 wins a Bishop) 13. Rcl e5 14. Ba2 Rad8 (it would be more natural to play 14...Rfd8 here but note that if it had been played, then 15. Ng5! was awkward to deal with) 15. Qe2 Rd7 16. dc !? (White decides to snatch the pawn on c5, at the risk of some dangerous counterplay for Black) ...bc 17. Bc5 !? Rfd8 18. Rfd1 e4?! (18...Rd1 19. Rd1 Ne4! looked stronger, (but not 18...Ne4? 19. Rd7 Rd7 20. Ba3) but after 20. Rd8 Qd8 (20...Nd8? 21. Bb4 a5 (21...Nc3?? 22. Qc2) 22. Qb5!) 21. Bb4 a5! (21...Nb4 22. cb4 Nc3 23. Bf7! Kf7 24. Qc4 Nd5 25. e4 Qc7 26. ed5! Qc4 27. Ne5 etc. wins) 22. Ba3 Nc3 23. Bf7! Kf7 24. Qc4 still should win. Nor can Black win after 18...Rd1 19. Rd1 Rd1 20. Qd1 Ne4 21. Bb4 a5 22. Qd3! Nb4 (22...ab4? 23. Qe4 bc 24. Ng5!) 23. cb4 ab 24. Ne5!) 19. Ne1 Ne5 20. Rd7! Rd7 21. Bd4 Nfg4 22. f4! ef 23. gf Qc6 24. Rb1! (the move Black must have missed at move 18. Now of course the f pawn is taboo as after the exchanges on f3 Black would be mated on b8) ...h5 25. Rb7 Rb7 26. fg4 Ng4 27. h3 Nh6 28. Qh5 Rb2 29. Qg5 Nf5 30. Qd8 Kh7 31. Bf7 1 - 0

A2. White : M.P.F. Singleton (Streatham) Black : J. Hart (Macc - Icicals plus)
British Postal Chess Team Championship Board 4 1979 .

11...e5 (!) (if Black is going to play this move, it is best to play it immediately)

12. Ba3 b6 13. Qc2 Bg4 ?! (13...Bb7 !? or 13...e4 !? are better) 14. Ng5 Na5

15. Ba2 Bh5 16. dc ! (this is an improvement given in ECO . The older line(MCO) was

16. f4 ef 17. Rf4 Bg6 equal) ...bc 17. f3 ! (the point ; shutting out the black Bishop

for the time being . (Compare with game B2 below) Black now has to seriously weaken

the white squares around his King in order to get his Bishop back into play) ...Bg6

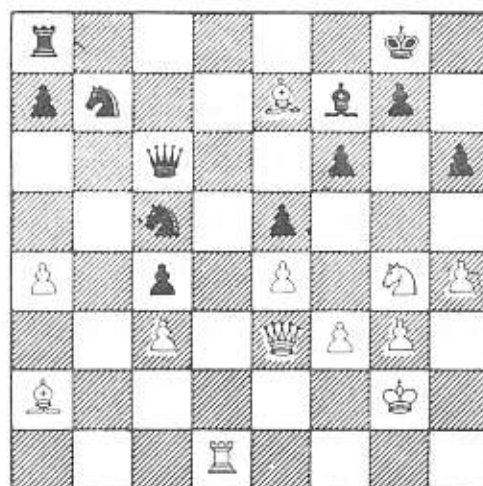
18. e4 h6 19. Nh3 Rfd8 20. Nf2 c4 21. Rfd1 Nd5 22. Rd2 f6 23. Rad1 Nf4 (of course

not 23...Ne3 ? 24. Rd8 Rd8 25. Rd8 Qd8 26. Qe2 Qb6 27. Bc1 wins a piece)

24. g3 Ne6 25. Bd6 Qc6 26. Be7 Rd2 27. Qd2 Ng5 28. Kg2 Bf7 29. h4 Ne6 ?

(strangely enough the hideous looking 29...Nh7 was better as it seems to prevent the coming sacrifices . White's pieces now gang up on the pawns around Black's King, which cannot be adequately guarded by Black's own pieces, and so are vulnerable ...) 30. Ng4

Nc5 31. Qe3 Nab7



WHITE TO PLAY

32. Bf6 ! (one gone ! Now if 32...gf6 33. Qh6 Be6 34. Qg6 Kf8 35. Qf6 Kg8

36. Bc4 !) ...Qh4 33. Rd2 Nb3 (33...gf6 still loses after 34. Qh6 Be6 (34...Be6

35. Nf6 Kf7 36. Nd5 !) 35. Qg6 Kf8 36. Qf6 Kg8 37. Ne5 etc.) 34. Bb3 cb3

35. Bg7 ! (two gone ! This time of course the Bishop cannot be taken) ...Rd8 ? (Black is lost anyway) 36. Rd8 Nd8 37. Qh6 (all gone !) ...Bc4 38. Qh8 Kf7 39. Ne5

1 - 0 as mate is forced .. (39...Ke6 40. Qh6 ! Ke7 41. Qf6 Ke8 42. Qf8 mate or 39...Ke7 40. Qf8 Ke6 41. Qf6 mate)

Section B. Black omits ...e5

B1. White : M.P.F. Singleton Black : B. Green British Correspondence

Chess Championship 1977/78

11...Rd8 12. Ba3 b6 13. Rc1 Bb7 14. Ba2 Na5!? 15. Ne5 Nd7 16. f4 Ne5
17. fe5 Qc6 18. Rf3 Rac8 19. Rg3 g6 20. h4 !? (the game becomes very complicated
with chances about even) ...Qe4 21. Qh5 !? cd 22. Bb1 !? (I had planned to play
22. Be7 here, intending to reply to 22...Rc3 23. Rf1 (of course not 23. Rc3 dc3
24. Bd8 c2 ! or 24. Bf6 Rd2 !) ...Re3 with the brilliant 24. Rf7 !! as 24...Kf7
25. Qh7 Ke8 26. Qg8 ! mates and 24...Re1 25. Kh2 Rh1 ! 26. Kh1 Qe1 27. Kh2
Qg3 28. Kg3 gh5 29. Be6 ! still wins, but unfortunately the whole idea (of 23. Rf1)
fails to 23...Rc2 !) ...d3 23. Be7 Qa4 ! 24. Rf1 Qe8 25. Bd8 Rd8 26. Rd1 Be4
27. Qg5 Nb7 28. h5 Nc5 29. Rg4 Bf5 30. hg fg ! 31. Rc4 h5 32. Ba2 d2 33. e4 !
Ne4 34. Re4 Be4 35. Be6 Kh7 36. Bb3 Bf5 37. Rf1 Rd7 38. Rf5 ! d1 = Q (38...gf5
leads to a draw by perpetual check) 39. Bd1 Rd1 40. Rf1 Rf1 41. Kf1 Qe6 42. Kg1 a5
43. Qf4 b5 44. Qd4 a4 45. Qc5 Qa6 46. Qe7 Kh6 47. g4 ! $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$
(after 47...hg White can force perpetual check)

B2. White : M.P.F. Singleton Black : R.W. Giddins Surrey v Kent 1978.

11...b6 12. Ba3 Rd8 13. Qe2 !? (I can't find this move given anywhere, but it
seems a good alternative to the ' book ' moves 13. Ba2 Ba6 14. Re1 h6 equal, or
13. Re1 Bb7 14. Ba2 Ne4 equal) ...h6 14. Rfd1 ! (preventing 14...e5 because of
15. de etc.) ...Bb7 15. Ba2 Na5 ? (doesn't seem right here. Black should probably
play 15...e5 and if White snatches the pawn on c5, hope for some counterplay comparable
to that analysed in game A1.) 16. Ne5 Be4 ? (wrong. Black voluntarily shuts his
Bishop out of the game. Compare with game A2.) 17. f3 Bh7 18. e4 Nc6 19. Nc6 Qc6
20. Qb5 ! Qb5 21. ab5 cd 22. cd a6 23. ba Ra6 24. Bc4 Ra4 25. Bb5 Rad4 26. Rd4 Rd4
27. Bc5 ! Rd8 28. Bb6 Rb8 29. Bc7 Rc8 30. Ra7 Ne8 31. Bg3 g5 32. Be5 Bg6 33. Bd7
Rd8 34. Kf2 Kf8 35. Kg3 Kg8 36. h4 gh 37. Kh4 Kf8 38. Bf4 h5 39. Kg5 Ke7
40. Bc8 Kf8 1 - 0. Black resigned upon seeing 41. Be6.

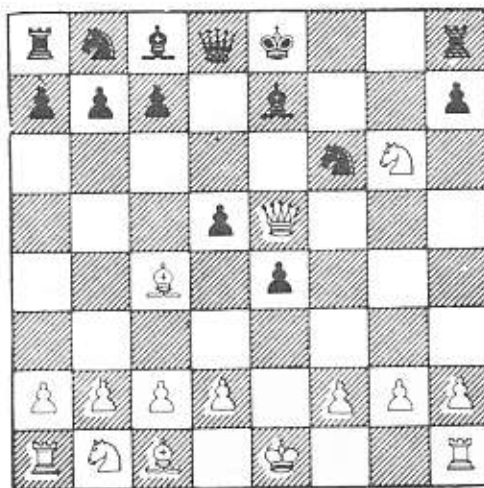
I hope that these few games of mine have helped to show that this lesser known variation still contains some pitfalls for the unwary. I think Black's best lines are given in Section A, particularly in game 2 if he plays 13...Bb7 (!) although White still maintains pressure with his black squared Bishop developed at a3, giving more scope to that piece than in some of the other lines.

THE POSITIONAL LATVIAN

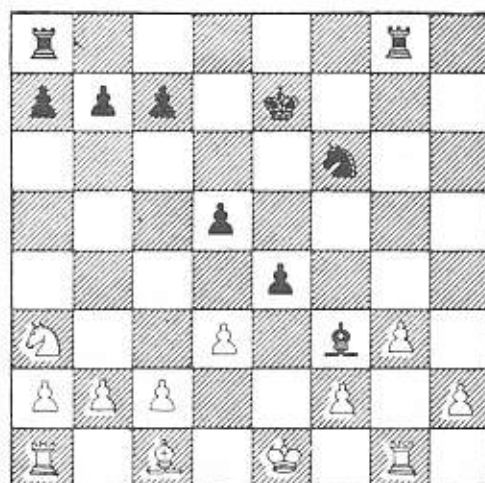
by Simon Gillam

Greco's brainchild the Latvian Gambit (1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 f5) has a bad reputation. Everywhere its unsound tactical nature is emphasised in such terms as 'wild anti-positional thrust' (T.D. Harding in Counter-Gambits) or 'after a series of hair-raising moves, both sides emerge with a position which looks hopelessly lost' (games editor of Scottish Chess). I believe that this characterisation is wrong: Black's considerations are almost entirely positional. On move 2 he starts to undermine the white square e4. He then single-mindedly pursues the positional goal of white square control. I have selected four examples to demonstrate the great power of this white square bind.

The best illustration of the positional themes in the Latvian is the Swedenborg variation: 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 f5 3. Bc4 fe 4. Ne5 d5 5. Qh5 g6 6. Ng6 Nf6 7. Qe5 Be7 (a spectator might think this position to be hopeless for Black. White has the choice of ending his attack, content with his one pawn booty (e.g. 8. Ne7 Qe7 9. Qe7) or of playing for more with 8. Nh8. We will look at each possibility in turn).



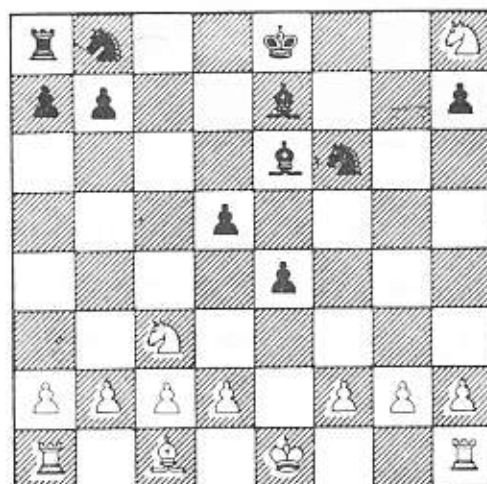
In the first variation, after 8. Ne7 Qe7 9. Qe7 Ke7 10. Be2 Black is already well on the way to white square control because of his pawns on e4 and d5. He intensifies this control by 10...Rg8 11. g3 Nc6 12. d3 Nd4 13. Na3 Ne2 14. Ke2 Bg4 15. Ke1 Bf3 16. Rg1



The bind is so strong that Black has a definite advantage despite his pawn minus and the overall scarcity of material. One example of how the game can be finished off is : D. Finnie v S.R. Gillam Glasgow Herald 1976. 16...Kd7 17. Nb5 ed 18. cd c5 19. Bf4 Rge8 20. Kd2 Re2 21. Kc3 Kc6 22. a4 d4 23. Kb3 a6 24. Nd6 Bd5 25. Ka3 b5 26. a5 b4 27. Ka4 Rb2 28. Nc4 Bc4 29. dc Ne4 30. Rgc1 Nc3 etc. 0 - 1.

The second variation (8. Nh8) is slightly more difficult to understand. The Knight on h8 will never escape, so after 8...dc and White's eventual capture of the pawn on c4 Black will have two pieces for the Rook and two pawns. Positions of this sort in the Latvian are almost always extremely favourable for Black. If all the pieces stay on the board he develops a very strong attack, while if White tries to exchange off (as is usual with Rook against pieces) he has to face the power of white square control, as illustrated below :

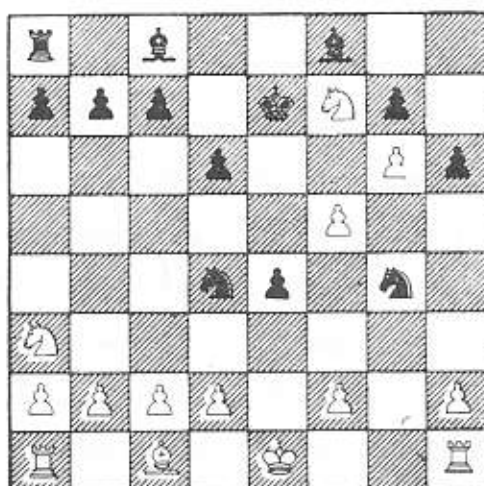
8. Nh8 dc 9. Qb5 c6 10. Qc4 Qd5 11. Qd5 cd 12. Nc3 Be6!



White's problems are becoming evident. The Knight on h8 will soon be lost, the pawns on e4 and d5 cramp the White centre, and White's extra pawns just block in his Rooks. One possible continuation is demonstrated in T. Hutton v S.R. Gillam Grangemouth 1977. 13. b3 Nc6 14. Bb2 Kd7 15. 0-0-0 Rh8 16. Nb5 Rg8 17. g3 Bg4 18. Rde1 Bf3 19. Rhg1 Ng4 and White's position is about to fall to pieces. In the game he blundered with 20. Bd4 a6 0-1.

When White plays a slightly less crude move than 3. Bc4 it takes Black rather longer to establish a white square bind. An example is one of the main lines where White plays 3. ef :

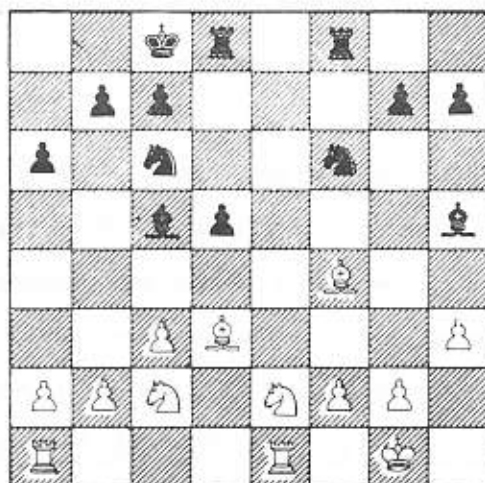
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 f5 3. ef e4 4. Ne5 Nf6 5. Be2 Nc6 6. Bh5 Ke7 7. Nf7 Qe8 8. Nh8 Qh5 9. Qh5 Nh5. In this variation Black does not always win the Knight on h8 but he has won the white square Bishop, which is a major step toward white square control. Chances are evenly balanced, but if White does not form a clear, consistent plan his position can fall apart, e.g. G.B. Stanway v S.R. Gillam London League October 1978. 10. g4 Nf6 11. g5?! Ng4 12. g6 h6 13. Nf7 Nd4 14. Na3 d6

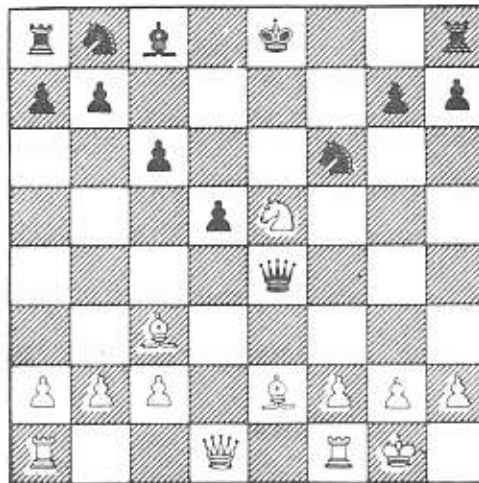


The position is now ready to collapse : 15. h3 Nf6 16. b3 Bf5 17. Bb2 Nf3 18. Ke2 Bg6 19. Nh6 (desperation) ...gh 20. d3 Re8 21. Nb5 Nd5 22. de Be4 23. c4 a6 24. cd ab 25. Rhd1 Kd7 26. Kf1 Bc2! 27. Rdc1 Bd3 28. Kg2 Nh4 29. Kg1 Be7 (development at last) 30. Rd1 Rg8 0-1.

One of White's most highly-esteemed lines is the Leonhardt variation. 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 f5 3. Ne5 Qf6! 4. Nc4 fe 5. Nc3. In this variation White usually plays an early d2-d3 to open lines for his pieces, and then tries to use his lead in development to inflict some weakness in the Black position. If White does not play actively, the position

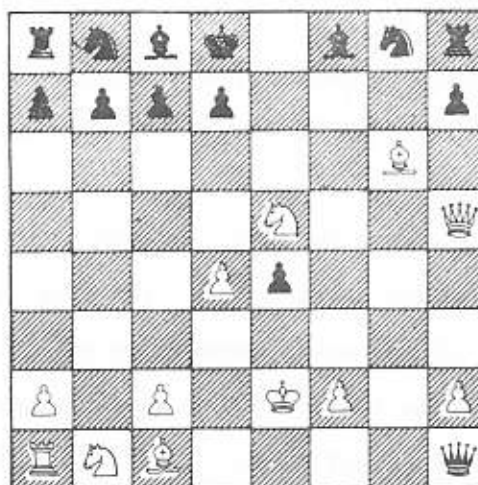
is good for Black because of his extra centre pawn (on a white square). An example of passive play leading to a white square bind is : B. Ratcliff v S.R. Gillam Edinburgh Christmas 1977. 5...Qe6 (5...c6 is also good, but 5...Qg6 is not - see later)
6. Qe2? (too slow; either 6. Ne3 or the pawn sacrifice 6. d3 ed 7. Ne3 is better)
...Nf6 7. d3 d5 8. Na3 ed 9. Qe6 Be6 10. Bd3 Nc6 11. 0-0 0-0-0 12. Re1 Bg4
13. Bf4 a6 14. h3 Bh5 15. Ne2 Bc5 16. c3 Rhf8 17. Nc2





Black is one move short of securing good middle-game prospects with his extra centre pawn, part of the secure white square chain. If only he wasn't getting mated... 13. Bh5! (if Black had played 12...0-0 to avoid this he would have lost a pawn to 13. Bf3 Qf5 14. Bd5) ...Kf8 14. Re1 Qh4 15. Bg6! and Black's position is hopeless since he cannot prevent the threatened invasion down the e-file. The concluding moves were 15...Na6 16. Qe2 Bh3 17. Nf3 1-0.

An illustration of what can happen when Black mixes it occurs in the 3. Bc4 variation. If, after 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 f5 3. Bc4 fe 4. Ne5 Black chooses not to play the solid Swedenborg 4...d5, but goes instead for 4...Qg5, very wild play can result. The best continuation is 5. d4 Qg2 6. Qh5 g6 7. Bf7 Kd8 8. Bg6! Qh1 9. Ke2



A well-known game in this variation is Purins v Eglitis Correspondence 1970 - 71, which continued 9...c6! 10. Nc3! Nf6? (best is 10...e3!, which is probably good enough for a draw) 11. Qh4?! (the most accurate is 11. Qg5) ...Be7 12. Bg5 Qa1

13. Bf6 Bf6? (13...b6! is still unclear; e.g. 14. Be7 Kc7 15. Nf7 d5 16. Qg3 Kb7 17. Nd6 Ka6 18. Nd5 Bg4! and Black is on top) 14. Qf6 Kc7 15. Nc4 b6 16. Qe5 d6 17. Nb5! 1 - 0 (White mates in four moves)

In conclusion, when you next sit down and face an exponent of 'the over-eager f pawn' bear this thought in mind - once you have finished 'smashing him off the board' in the first 15 moves, he may come tiptoeing down the white squares and slowly squeeze you to death.

ENGLISH EXPLOITS

by Nigel Povah

I decided to write this particular article for several reasons. Firstly I am currently in the process of writing a book for Batsfords on the Four Knights Variation of the English (1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nc6 etc.). Secondly I feel I should share some of my success with the Black pieces against the English, with the readers of 'Knightmare'. In the last five years I have met the English about 40 times, losing only twice to Andrew Whiteley and Bob Wade, but on neither occasion could I attribute the loss to my opening play.

I am going to try to give the reader as thorough a grasp of the systems that I advocate as I possibly can. So here we go ...

1. c4 e5

I am a firm believer of treating the English as a reversed Sicilian, however one must be guarded against an absolute duplication of Sicilian positions.

2. Nc3

The most popular move and probably the best, although other moves such as 2. e4, 2. d3, 2. b3, 2. Nf3 and 2. g3 are also playable - the latter being the most respectable : viz 2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2 (3. Nc3 Bb4 would transpose to the column) ...c6 4. Nf3 (4. Nc3 d5 would transpose to the Keres variation which is quite promising for Black; Bob Wade actually played 4. e4 against me but I don't really think this move should cause Black too many worries, although I did lose that game.) ...e4 5. Nd4 d5 (notice the similarity between this position and the c3 variation of the Sicilian) 6. 0-0 (an interesting move - more normal is 6. cd Qd5 7. Nb3 Qh5 8. h3 Qg6 as in numerous games

such as Larsen - Korchnoi, Leningrad 1973 and Petrosian - Pytel, Bath 1973 etc.)

...dc 7. Nc2 Bc5 8. Nc3 Bf5 9. b4!? (a clever pawn sacrifice to activate the White Queen) ...cb3 10. Ne3 Bg6 11. Qb3 Qe7 12. Na4 Bd6 13. Nc4 b5 14. Nd6 Qd6 15. Nc3 b4 16. d3 ed?! (very risky, but I never could resist material. Safer was 16...Qe7! staying a good pawn ahead.) 17. Bf4 Qc5 18. Na4 Qb5 19. Bd6 Na6 20. ed? (20. Rfc1! would leave White better) ...0-0-0! 21. Bf4 Rd3 22. Rfc1 Rb3 23. Bc6 Qa4! 24. ab (if 24. Ba4 Rc3 wins easily) ...Qa1 25. Ra1 Nb8 and Black eventually won in F. Borm v Povah, Wijk aan Zee 111, 1977

2...Nf6

3. Nf3

In my opinion White's best move.

A very popular alternative is 3. g3 when Black can choose between Keres' 3...c6 or Smyslov's 3...Bb4. I prefer the latter : viz 3...Bb4 4. Bg2 (R. Sammut v Povah, Malta 1979 went 4. Qb3 Nc6 5. Nd5?! Nd5 6. cd Nd4 7. Qd1 0-0?! (7...Qe7 was probably best) 8. e3 Re8 9. Bd3? (White should play 9. ed ed 10. Be2 d3 11. Qb3 de 12. Qb4 Qf6 13. Qc3 Qf5 14. Qf3 Qc2 15. Ne2 b6! 16. 0-0 Ba6 17. Nf4 Bf1 18. Kf1 d6 with complications) 9...e4 10. Bb1 Nf5 with advantage to Black 0 - 1 , 16 moves) 4...0-0 5. Nf3 (Dr. E.N. Bramley v Povah, Inter County 1977 continued 5. e3?! Bc3 6. bc e4! (theory gives 6...Re8 but I think this move is stronger) 7. f3 Re8 8. Qc2?! d5! 9. cd Bf5! with advantage to Black 10. fe Ne4 11. d3 Nc5 12. e4 Qd5 13. Kf1 Qd3 14. Qd3 Nd3 15. Ba3 Be6 16. Ke2 Bc4 17. Ke3 Nd7 18. Rd1 N7e5 19. Nh3?! Rad8 20. Bf1 Ng4 0 - 1) 5...Re8 6. Qc2?! (White should play 6. 0-0 e4 7. Ne1 Bc3 when we have a position similar to the main text but Black has the option of developing his QN to d7 instead of c6) 6...Nc6 7. Nd5? e4 with advantage to Black 8. Nh4 Nd4 9. Qb1 Nd5 10. cd g5! 11. e3 gh 12. ed d6 13. a3 h3! 14. Be4 Bf5 15. f3 Qf6! 16. ab Be4 17. fe Qf3 0 - 1 S. Wilkinson v Povah, S&B Club Championship 1979.

3...Nc6

4. g3

This is the most popular move here, although there are various very respectable alternatives; namely 4. e3 (perhaps the best !?), 4. d4, 4. d3, 4. e4, 4. a3.

I give some examples of these alternatives :

4. e4 Bb4 (4...Bc5 5. Ne5 Ne5 6. d4 Bb4 7. de Ne4 8. Qd4! Nc3 9. bc is interesting and theory doesn't seem to have decided on whether White's initiative is enough for his weak pawns.) 5. d3 d6 6. g3 0-0 7. Bg2 Ne8 8. 0-0 Bc3 9. bc f5 10. ef (D. Friedgood v Povah, S&B v Charlton, National Club Championships 1979 went 10. Bg5!? Nf6?! (best was 10...Qd7! 11. Bh3 Qf7) 11. ef Bf5 12. Nh4 Be6 13. Rb1 Rb8 14. f4! advantage to White although 0 - 1 , 33 moves) 10...Bf5 11. Nh4 Be6 12. Rb1 Rb8 13. Qe2?! (correct was 13. f4! when I think 13...g6 to stop 14. f5 may be best, although White is still slightly better) 13...Nf6 14. f4 Bg4 15. Qf2 ef 16. gf?! (both 16. Bf4 and 16. Qf4 would be met by 16...Ne5 but the move played creates unnecessary weaknesses.) 16...Qd7 17. f5 Ne5 18. Qa7?! Nd3 19. Rb7 Rb7 20. Qb7 Be2 0 - 1 A.A. Smith v Povah, British Postal Chess Team Championship 1979.

4. d4 e4 (the main alternative is 4...ed 5. Nd4 Bb4 6. Bg5 etc.) 5. Nd2 Nd4 6. Nde4 Ne4 7. Qd4 Nc3 8. Qc3?! (8. bc maintaining central domination is better, although Black should be able to equalise) 8...d5! 9. cd Qd5 10. Bf4 Be6 11. Rd1 Qa2 12. Bc7 Rc8 13. e3 a6 14. Qd4 Be7! 15. Qg7 Bb4 16. Ke2 Rf8 17. Be5 Bd5 18. Qh7 Qb3! 19. Bc3 Bc3 20. bc Rc3 21. Ke1 Qb4 22. Be2 Bg2 0 - 1 J.P. Knee v Povah, Hereford 1978.

4. d3 Bb4 5. Bd2 0-0 6. g3 Bc3!? (conceding the Bishop pair, but establishing dominance in the centre.) 7. Bc3 e4 8. Nh4 (8. de Ne4 would allow Black to rid White of his dark squared Bishop) 8...d6 9. Qd2 Re8 10. Bg2 ed 11. Qd3 Bg4 12. Nf3 Ne4 13. e3 Bf5 14. Nh4 Qd7 15. Nf5 Qf5 16. Be4 Re4 17. 0-0 Qf3 18. b3 Rae8 and Black had fully equalised. R. Delnon v Povah, London League 1978 ($\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$, 29 moves)

4. a3 (this move more or less invites Black to play some form of Sicilian a tempo behind, and on this occasion I picked up the gauntlet.) 4...d5 5. cd Nd5 6. d3 Bc5 7. e3 (White is playing the four knights Sicilian, so I chose to play the Sozin) 7...Be6 8. Qc2 Bb6 9. b4 Qe7 10. Na4 f6!? (in the equivalent position with colours reversed the correct sequence would be 0-0-0 followed by either g5, or Rhg8 and then g5, but being a tempo behind I must play less ambitiously) 11. Be2 g5

12. Nc5?! (12. 0-0 was more consistent e.g. 12...0-0-0 13. Nb6 ab 14. Bb2
slight advantage to White) 12...0-0-0 13. Bd2 (13. Ne6 Qe6 isn't to be feared as
Black enjoys a clear spatial advantage) 13...Bf7!? (Preserving the Bishop, although
13...g4 was also good) 14. Rc1 Be8 (White threatened 15. Nb7 and 16. Qc6) 15. h3
h5 16. g3 Qd6 17. Qb2 Bg6 18. a4 a5 19. Ne4? (White short of time, misses his
chance to stay in the game 19. Nb7! Kb7 20. ba Ndb4 21. ab cd with complications)
19...Be4 20. de Ndb4 (advantage to Black) 21. Bc3 Nd3 22. Bd3 Qd3 23. Nd2?
(23. Qc2 was better) 23...Bc5! 24. Qc2 Qa6 25. Be5? Ne5 0 - 1 L.S. Blackstock
v Povah, Eastman Cup 1978.

4. e3 Bb4 5. Qc2 0-0 (5...Bc3 and 5...d6 are the alternatives) 6. Nd5 Re8
(6...Bc5 or 6...a5 are both possibilities; this is one of the most interesting positions
in the four knights 'English' in current theory.) 7. Bd3 (the popular alternative is
7. Qf5!? d6 8. Nf6 gf 9. Qh5 with a fascinating position in which Black's lead in
development compensates for his weakened King position.) 7...g6 (Miles v Olafsson,
Reykjavik 1978 continued 7...h6?! 8. a3 Bf8 9. h4 Nd5 10. cd Nd4!? 11. Bh7 Kh8
12. ed ed 13. Kd1 g6 14. Bg6 fg 15. Qg6 with advantage to White although Black
managed to draw.) 8. a3 Bf8 9. Nf6 Qf6 10. Be4 d6 11. b4 a5 (11...Qe7 led to
equality in Miles v Nikolac, Wijk aan Zee 1977) 12. b5 Nd8 13. Bb2 Ne6 14. d4 ed
15. 0-0! (not 15. Nd4? Nd4 16. Bd4 Qh4! winning for Black) 15...Qe7?! (15...Nc5!
was better) 16. ed Bg7 17. Rae1 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$ B. Cafferty v Povah, Aaronson Masters 1978.

4...Bb4

5. Bg2

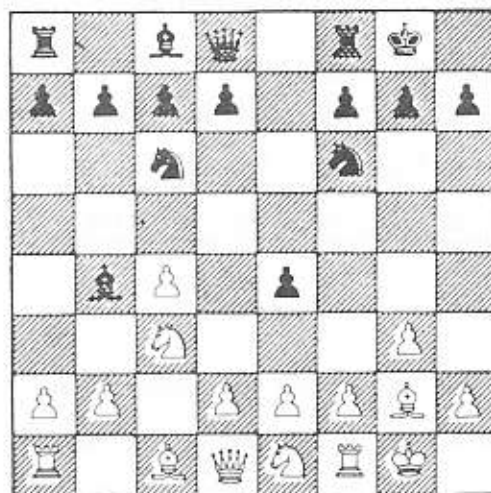
The main alternative is 5. Nd5 e4 6. Nb4 Nb4 7. Nd4 Nc6 8. Nb5 (8. Nc2 d5
9. cd Qd5 was played in C.S. Crouch v Povah which resulted in a Black win) 8...a6?
(the Knight is misplaced on b5 and should therefore be ignored, but I had analysed
the line 9. Nc3 Ne5 10. b3 Qe7 11. Bg2 Nf3 12. Kf1 with an unclear position.
However I soon realised that 10. Bg2 was better for White) 9. Nc3 0-0 10. Bg2 Re8
11. 0-0 d6 12. d3 ed 13. Qd3! (not 13. ed Bg4 with a slight advantage to Black)
13...Ne5 14. Qd4 c5 15. Qf4 Nh5 16. Qg5 Qg5 17. Bg5 h6 18. Bc1 Nc4 19. Nd5
Re2? (19...Rb8 was best with unclear prospects) 20. Bf3 and White soon won,
A.J. Whiteley v Povah , London League 1978.

5...0-0

6. 0-0 e4!

In my opinion the best move, although 6...Re8 is almost equally popular.

7. Ne1



It should be pointed out that a similar position can be achieved via the 3. g3 Bb4 Smyslov system viz. 4. Bg2 0-0 5. Nf3 Re8 6. 0-0 e4 7. Nd4 Nc6 (considered best since 8. Nc6 d6 is very good for Black) 8. Nc2 when we reach the same position more or less as on move 8 of the text.

The other Knight move 7. Ng5 is also playable e.g.

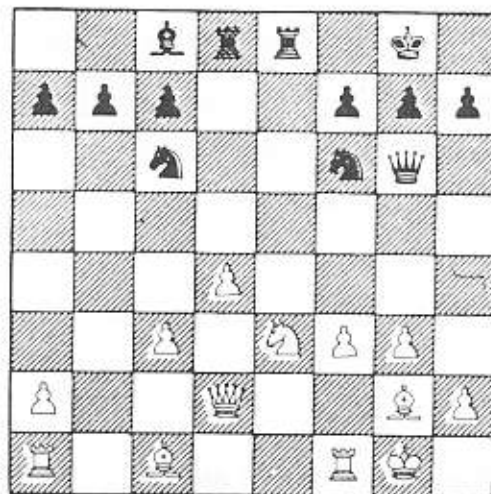
7...Bc3 8. bc (8. dc Re8 9. Nh3 h6 10. Nf4 b6 11. Be3 d6 12. Bd4 Ne5! with slight advantage to Black occurred in G.W. Wheeler v Povah, Evening Standard 1977 - see 'Knightmare 1'.) 8...Re8 (J. Lauri v Povah, Malta 1976 went 8...h6 9. Nh3 d6 10. f3 ef 11. ef Bf5 12. Nf2 Re8 13. f4 Qd7 14. d3 Rad8 15. Qf3 d5 16. cd Nd5 17. d4 Na5 with advantage to Black 0 - 1, 30 moves) 9. d3 ed 10. ed d6 11. Rb1 Ne5! 12. f4! (12. Ne4? Bg4! 13. f3 Ne4 14. de Bc8! 15. Qb3 Be6! 16. Qb7 Bc4 17. Rf2 Nd3 winning for Black 18. Rd2 Qf6 19. Bb2 Qg5 20. f4 Qc5 21. Kh1 Rab8 0 - 1. White loses his Queen, A.T. Ludgate v Povah, Y.M.C.A. Elo Tournament 1976) 12...Neg4 (Ree v Benko, Wijk aan Zee 1972 went 12...Ned7 13. Ba3 Rb8 14. Qd2 b6 15. Rbe1 Bb7 16. Re8 Qe8 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$) 13. Bb7! Rb8 14. Bc8 Qc8 (if 14...Rb1 15. Bg4 with advantage to White) 15. Rb8 Qb8 16. Qf3?! (16. Re1 Re1 17. Qe1 Qb1 18. Qd2 with advantage to White) 16...Qb6 17. d4 Qa6 18. h3 Nh6 19. Qd3 Qa2 20. Be3 Nf5 21. Bf2 Ne7 22. Re1 h6 23. Ne4 Ne4 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$ D. Williams v Povah Surrey League 1976.

7...Bc3

It is important to play this capture now before White gets a chance to play 8. Nd5 or defend his Knight with 8. Qb3.

8. dc

The more logical capture, although 8. bc is also seen viz : 8...d5 9. cd Qd5 10. d3 (10. Nc2 Re8 11. Ne3 Qh5 12. d4 Bh3 Black has a ready made attack on the white squares. 13. Qc2 Rad8 14. Bb2 Ne7! (the Knight on e3 must be removed to allow Ng4) 15. Rfd1 Nf5! 16. Nf5 Bf5 17. e3 Bg4 18. Rdc1 Bf3 19. c4 Re6 20. Qc3? (if 20. d5 Ng4! 21. h3 Rh6 22. Qc3 f6 with advantage to Black) 20...Bg2 21. Kg2 Qf3 22. Kg1 Ng4 23. Qe1 Nh2! 24. Qd1 Qf5! 0 - 1 G. Kapsenberg v Povah, Evening Standard Open 1977.) 10...Bg4! 11. Qc2 (not 11. h3? Qh5! 12. hg Ng4 winning for Black) 11...Qh5 12. f3 ef 13. ef Bd7! (Black dominates the light squares again, but he doesn't want to exchange off White's poor Bishop on g2, nor does he want to block the e file with ...Be6, and ...Bf5 loses to 14. g4, so 13...Bd7 was best by default.) 14. Qd2 Rfe8 15. Nc2 (15. Qg5 allows ...Re2) 15...Qg6! (this forces 16. Ne3 because of the threats of ...Bf5 e.g. 16. Bb2? Bf5 17. Rad1 Rad8 with advantage to Black) 16. Ne3 (now White cannot exchange Rooks on the e file to ease his plight) 16...Rad8 17. d4 Bc8!



(This Bishop is Black's only misplaced piece, but not for long !) 18. Bb2 b6 19. Rfe1 Ne5! 20. Rad1 Ba6 (Black has a superb position) 21. c4 (desperation !) 21...Nc4 22. Nc4 Bc4 23. Qc3 b5 24. f4 Nd5 25. Re8?! (unnecessarily conceding the e file)

26. Re1 f6! 27. Re8 Qe8 28. Bd5 Bd5 (White is hoping to gain salvation from the Bishops of opposite colour, but now his position is even worse) 29. Kf2 (not 29. Qc7?? Qe1 mate) 29...c6 30. a3 (now all five pawns are on black squares and his Bishop is a mere spectator of the events to come) 30...Qe4 31. Qe3 Qg2 32. Ke1 Qh1 33. Kd2 Qh2 34. Kc3 h6 35. f5 Qh5 36. g4 Qg4 0 - 1 P.V. Byway v Povah, SCCU Championship 1976.

8...h6

Black must not allow White to rid himself of his 'bad' Bishop with 9. Bg5 etc.

9. Nc2 b6!?

P. Littlewood v Povah, Robert Silk 1976 went 9...Re8 10. Ne3 (this re-routing of the Knight is very logical since the beast is very powerful on both the e3 and d5 squares) 10...d6 (10...b6 is also possible) 11. f4 (White has also tried 11. Qc2 and 11. b3 in this position) 11...ef3! (11...Ne7 is given an ! by John Watson in his new book on the English. 12. h3 Nf5 13. g4 Ne3 14. Be3 h5! which worked out well in Holmov v Vaganian, Moscow 1975. However I believe my move order to be even stronger.) 12. ef Ne7! 13. Qc2 (John Watson reckons that White should play for central control and f4, but the immediate 13. f4 holds no fear for Black after 13...c6! intending either ...Qb6, ...Nf5 or ...d5 as is appropriate) 13...c6 14. Bd2 d5 15. cd Ned5 16. Nd5 Qd5 (with a slight advantage to Black) 17. Rfe1 Qc5 18. Kh1 Bf5 19. Qc1 Re1?! (correct was 19...Nd5! 20. c4 Nb4 21. Bb4 Qb4 22. b3 Rad8 when Black maintains his advantage) 20. Be1 Re8 21. Qd2 Qb5 22. b3 Qe5? (22...Qe2! 23. Qe2 Re2 with slight advantage to Black) 23. Bf2 Qa5 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$

10. Ne3 Bb7

11. Nd5

Botvinnik has suggested 11. b3 intending 12. a4 13. Ra2 and 14. f4! but Black will not remain idle.

11...Ne5

This indirectly protects the e pawn so that after 12. Nf6 Qf6 leaves the Bishop guarding e4.

12. b3 Re8

13. f4!?

Korchnoi v Karpov (9) 1974 went 13. a4 d6 14. Ra2 (Botvinnik again suggested 14. f4! so the column has important theoretical implications) 14...Ned7 15. h3 a5

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. g3 Bb4

5. Bg2 00 6. 00 e4 7. Ne1 Bc3 8. dc3 h6

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. g3 Bb4 5. Bg2 00 6. 00 e4

7. Ne1 Bc3 8. dc3 h6 9. Nc2

8. bc d5 9. Qd1 Qd5, d3 Bb4 11. Qc2 Qh5 12. f3 e4

(John Watson suggests 15...a6! intending ...b5 attacking the white pawn mass)

16. Be3 Nd5 17. cd Qf6 18. c4 Qg6 19. Qb1 Bc8 20. Bd4 Nc5 21. Kh2 Bd7

22. Rg1 h5 with balanced chances.

13...Ng6!

(Botvinnik's note on move 14 to the above game failed to consider this move, but gave 13...ef3 14. ef with a slight advantage to White ; 13...Nd5 14. cd and 14. Nd7, but as ...d6 hasn't been played yet, this option is removed. So maybe 13. f4 is an improvement on Korchnoi v Karpov ?)

14. Nf6

Winning a pawn, but perhaps 14. a4 d6 transposing back to positions similar to the Korchnoi v Karpov game was wiser.

14...Qf6

15. Qd7 Qc3

16. Rb1

If 16. Bd2 Qb2! 17. Qc7 (17. Rfb1 Qa3 18. Qc7? Re7 wins the White Queen) 17...Qd4! 18. e3 (18. Kh1? Re7 winning for Black) 18...Qd2 19. Qb7 Qe3 with advantage to Black.

16...Rad8

17. Qg4

If 17. Qc7 Qd4 18. e3 Qd3 19. Qb7 Qb1 20. Qa7 with an unclear position.

17...Kh7

18. Kh1 Qa5!

Black is intending to play 19...f5 with the better game, hence...

19. f5 Ne5

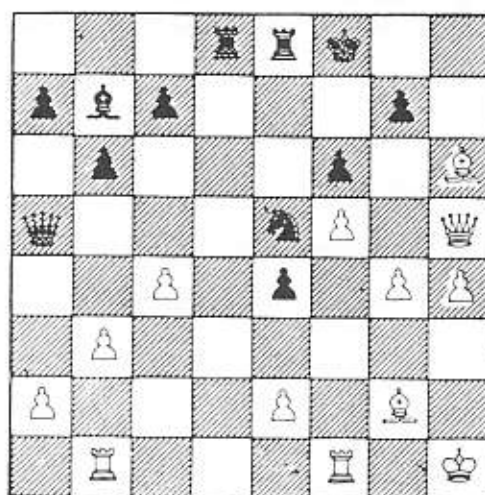
20. Qh5 f6

All Black's pieces are well placed, and if White does not act quickly Black takes a firm initiative with 21...Re7 and ...Red7.

21. g4 Kg8

22. h4 Kf8!

23. Bh6?



Black's King march has scared White from playing the logical 23. g5! hg and now White can get dangerous attacking prospects with 24. Bg5! (not 24. hg? Ke7! 25. gf gf intending ...Rh8 with advantage to Black) 24...Ke7 (24...fg 25. hg is very powerful now) 25. Qh7 Rg8 with an unclear position.

23...gh

24. Qh6 Ke7

25. Qg7 Nf7

26. g5 Qe5!

Black simply returns the piece with a good game.

27. g6 Rf8

28. h5

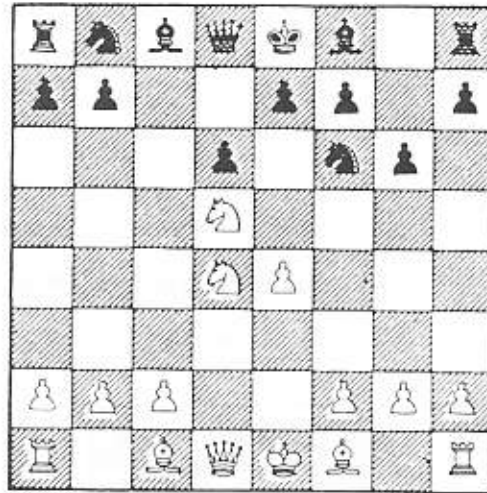
Better was 28. Rbd1 Rd1 29. Rd1 Qf5 with advantage to Black. The game Lunquist v Povah, Wijk aan Zee II 1979 now continued 28...Rd2 29. Rbd1 Rd1 30. Rd1 Qf5 31. Rd8? Qh5 32. Kg1 Qc5 33. Kh2 Kd8 0 - 1

SICILIAN DRAGON : ESTRIN VARIATION

by Ken Coates

The variation arises after the moves :

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cd 4. Nd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Nd5



This move first seems to have been played by Estrin in 1939. The object is to put immediate pressure on f6, remove the defending Knight and by doing so reach a position with which the Black player will be unfamiliar. Black is therefore given every chance to make positional and tactical mistakes. Generally it is bad to move the same piece twice in the opening before developing the other pieces and the violation of that principle is the only objection that can be made to this move which otherwise has everything to recommend it.

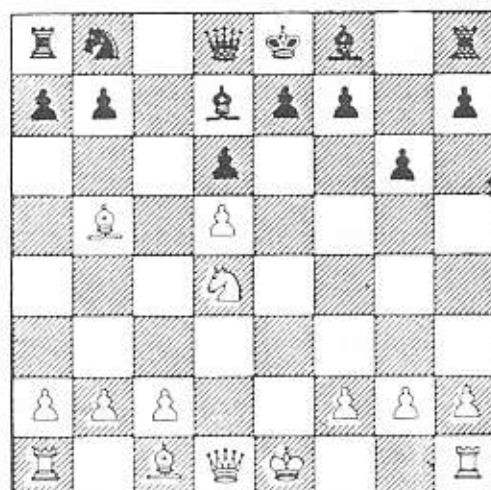
There are four moves now for Black, the latter two being more important A: 6...Qa5, B: 6...Ne4, C: 6...Nd5, D: 6...Bg7.

A. 6...Qa5?? A move vomited by a Chess Computer in a quick game. That continued 7. Bd2 Qc5? 8. Bb4 Nd5 9. Bc5 dc 10. Nb5 Nf4 11. Nc7 which only goes to prove how badly they can play when having a short time to 'think'.

B. 6...Ne4? This greedy move gets justly punished. 7. Bb5 Bd7 8. Qe2 f5 (8...Nc5 9. Nf6 1 - 0, Coates v Stimson, Guildford 1979) 9. Ne6! (Estrin recommends 9. f3 when either (i) 9...Nc6 10. Nb3 Nc5 11. Nc5 dc 12. Bf4 Rc8 13. 0-0-0 Kf7 14. Bc4 e6 15. Nc7 and White is winning. Estrin v Hoffbinder, USSR 1943 or (ii) 9...Nc5 10. b4 Nca6 11. Ne6 Bb5 12. Qb5 Qd7 13. Nec7 wins.) 9...Qa5 10. b4 Bb5 11. c4! Bc4 (11...Nc3 is refuted prettily by 12. Qb2! Found by a Boris chess computer on a six hour time search.) 12. Qc4 Qa4 13. Qc8 (13. Ndc7) ...Kf7 14. Nd8 Kg7 15. Qe6 winning. (Analysis.) The forcing nature of this line means that White has

very little to learn in order to refute 6...Ne4

C. 6...Nd5 The popular choice since 7. ed Qa5 wins the d pawn. 7. Bb5 Bd7 8. ed Black has two moves : 8...Bb5 and 8...Bg7 but before continuing our analysis it is a good idea to outline the salient features of the position.



The white d pawn has a severe cramping effect on the black position. White will gang up on the e file and play Bg5 to hit e7, Black will then have to concede positional weaknesses to avoid immediate loss. Black's most usual course of action is to play e5 at some stage and the later he leaves it, the worse it will be for him. After the capture en passant and recapture by the f pawn White will have good play by fixing the hanging pawns and then attacking them. White however must not allow them to advance too far. Now returning to the position.

C1. 8...Bb5 9. Nb5 Qa5 (9...Bg7 10. 0-0 0-0 11. Re1 Nd7 12. Bg5 Nf6
13. Nc3 Rc8 14. Ne4 White stands better - Estrin) 10. Nc3 Bg7 11. 0-0 0-0
12. Bg5 Re8 13. Re1 Qc7 14. Qd2 Na6 15. Re3 (15. Re2) ...h6 relieving the
 pressure on e7 but weakening the Kingside. 16. Bf4 g5 17. Bg3 Rc8 18. Rae1 Nc5
19. Qe2 Bf6 often in these positions Ne4 hitting f6 is the winning move, but here the
 Knight is destined for greater things. 20. Nb5 Qd7 21. Nd6 winning easily. K. Coates
 v A. Stobo, Rhyl 1977 1 - 0 in 34 moves.

C2. 8...Bg7 9. 0-0 0-0 10. a4 this is the move that I think gives Black most problems and I have employed it exclusively. As there appear to be no other games with this position, I can only offer some of my own games. 10...Bb5 there are two alternatives 10...a6 and 10...Na6.

(i) 10...a6 11. Be2 Qc7 12. Bf3 e5 (what else since Black has nowhere for his pieces, and no good plan ?) 13. de fe 14. Re1 Re8 16. Ra3 Nc6 17. Rae3 Be5 18. c3 Rad8 19. Bg4 (the hanging pawns come under fire) 19...Qf7 20. g3 Bd5 21. Qe2 Rc8 22. f4 Bc4 23. Qd1 Bg7 24. b3 Bd5 25. c4 wins. K. Coates v I.D. Wells Cumbria 1977 1 - 0 in 37 moves.

(ii) 10...Na6 11. Ba6 (better is 11. c4 Nc7 12. Bg5 a6 13. Bd7 Qd7 14. Re1 Re8 15. Ra3) 11...ba 12. Be3 a5 13. b3 Qc7 14. c4 a6 15. Qd2 Rfb8 16. Rab1 Rb4 17. Nc2 Rb7 18. Bd4 Bf5 19. Bg7 Kg7 20. Rb2 (White's weakness on b3 is more important than Black's on e7) 20...Bc2 21. Qc2 Qc5 22. Qc3 Kg8 23. Rfe1 Qb4 24. Qb4 ab 25. Rbe2 White now stands better. K. Coates v J. Swain, Manchester 1978 1 - 0 in 48 moves.

11. ab (I once tried 11. Nb5 Na6 12. Re1 Qd7 13. Ra3 Rfe8 14. Rae3 Nc5 15. b3? (15. c4) ...a6 16. Nd4 e5 17. de Ne6 18. Ne6 Re6 19. Re6 fe when now 20. c4 fixing the d pawn before Ba3 or Bf4 would give White a small advantage. K. Coates v S. Hughes, Southend 1978 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$ in 41 moves) 11...Nd7 12. Re1 (12. c4) ...Nb6 13. Nf3 Re8 14. c3 Qc7 15. Be3 Nc4 16. Qb3 Ne3 17. Re3 Qc5 18. Rae1. White has some pressure but Black has done much to ease his troubles. K. Coates v W. Broome, London 1978 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$ in 60 moves.

D. 6...Bg7 Black's best move 7. Bb5 Bd7 8. 0-0 Nc6 ((i) 8...a6 9. Bc4 Nc6 10. Bg5 e5 11. Ne2 h6 12. Bf6 Bf6 13. Nf6 Qf6 14. Qd2 Rd8 15. f4 Be6 16. Be6 fe 17. fe Qe5 18. Qf4 Qg7 19. Qf6 Rd7 20. Qe6 winning. K. Coates v D. Faldon, London 1978 1 - 0 in 41 moves. (ii) 8...0-0 9. Bg5 is not quite sound ie. 9...Nd5 10. ed Bd4 11. Bd7 Bf2 while 11. Qd4 Bb5 12. c4 Be8 13. Bh6 f6 with advantage K. Coates v J. Hall, 5 minute game, Leeds 1976. (iii) 8...Ne4 9. Re1 wins) 9. Nf6 (9. Nb3 0-0 10. Re1 a6 11. Bf1 Rc8 12. Be3 Nd5 13. ed Ne5 14. Bd3 Bf5 15. c3 g5 is a little better for Black. Estrin v Averbakh, USSR 1939) 9...Bf6 10. c3 (10. Nb3) (According to the Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings the position is equal) 10...Nd4

11. Bd7 Qd7 12. ed 0-0 13. Be3 Rac8 14. Qd2 Rc7 15. Rac1 Rfc8 16. b3 a6
17. f3? Bg7 18. Qd3 Rc2 19. Rc2 Rc2 20. Bc2 Qb5! 21. Qc3 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$. K. Coates
 v M. Prizant, London 1978.

Perhaps 17. Qd3 is better.

SUMMARY

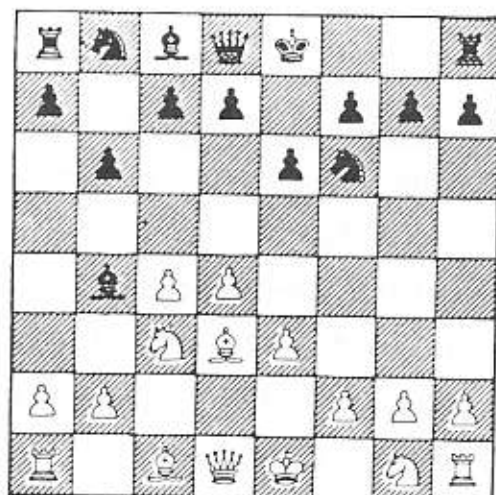
6...Bg7 is Black's best but does not promise him more than equality since White maintains a slight space advantage. 6...Nd5 is popular but leads Black into a passive inferior position not suiting the typical Dragon player. 6...Qa5 and 6...Ne4 meet with refutation. I hope that this article has given you some ideas and perhaps added a little known line to your opening theory. I should be pleased to hear if anyone should play a game in this line, perhaps it may get published in the next 'Knightmare'!

NIMZOINDIAN DEFENCE : RUBINSTEIN VARIATION

with 4...b6 5. Bd3

Recent developments in this line are analysed by Glenn Flear.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 (in my opinion best. Ambitious is 4. Bg5 but after a subsequent h6 (and Bh4 to follow of course) the black squares on the Queenside inevitably suffer, recent games have illustrated several satisfactory ways of countering the Leningrad system.) 4...b6 (popular, but Black must be prepared to meet the critical 5. Ne2 as well as 5. Bd3) 5. Bd3



5...Bb7 6. Nf3 Ne4 (6...d5 7. 0-0 0-0 has been successful against me as well.

(a) 8. a3 Bc3 (or 8...Bd6!) 9. bc Nbd7 10. cd ed 11. Bb2 c5 12. c4 Rc8

13. Rc1 cd 14. Bd4 Qe7 15. cd Bd5 16. Be2 Ba8 17. Rc8 Rc8 18. Qa1 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$

Flear v Borm, Lloyds Bank 1978.

(b) 8. a3 Bc3 9. bc dc 10. Bc4 Nbd7 11. Bd3 Re8 12. Bb2 e5 13. Ne5 Ne5

14. de Re5 15. c4 Rg5 16. f3 Qd6 17. Be2 Qe7 18. Qd2 Rd8 19. Qc3 Re8 20. Rad1
h5 Flear v Enklaar, Hastings Championship 1978 / 79. Black won a complicated game.)

7. 0-0 (7. Qc2 is not likely to achieve much e.g. 7...Bc3 8. bc f5 with equality.

Instead, Flear v Fuller, British Championship 1977 continued 7...f5 8. Bd2 Nd2

9. Nd2 Bg2 10. Rg1 Bb7 11. Rg7 Qh4 12. 0-0-0 Qf2 13. d5 Bf8! 14. Rgg1 Na6

15. de de 16. Rgf1 Qh2 17. Bf5 0-0-0 18. Be6 Kb8 with an edge to Black. This
game astounded me at the time - how could Black get away with such risky play ?

The answer was that White's pieces, clumped together in the centre were unable to
exploit Black's lagging development.)

Now (1) 7...Nc3 (2) 7...Bc3 (3) 7...f5

(1) 7...Nc3 8. bc Bc3 (8...Be7 9. e4 d6 10. Be3 Nd7 11. Nd2 0-0 12. Qg4

was Flear v Reuben, Jersey 1978 and also Farago v Romanishin, Kiev 1978. The former,
after 12...e5 13. f4 Bf6 14. Rae1, and the latter, after 12...Nf6 13. Qe2 Ne8
14. a4 g6 15. a5 were both better for White - but Black's position is very solid.)

9. Rb1 (White has more than sufficient compensation for the pawn, if only because
Black's King Bishop is invariably out of the game on a5, -

9...d6 10. Ba3 Nd7 11. c5 dc 12. dc Bf6 13. Qc2 Smetanin v Barstasis, USSR
1967 (an exception !)

9...Ba5 10. Ba3 d6 11. c5 0-0 12. cd cd 13. e4 Denker v Fine, USA 1944

9...Nc6 10. Rb3 Ba5 11. e4 h6 (11...Ne7 12. d5 Ng6 13. Nd4 with advantage,
Gligoric v Larsen, Lugano 1970) 12. d5 Ne7 13. Bb2 0-0 14. Ne5 Ng6 15. Ng4
Qe7 16. f4 f5 17. ef ef 18. Nh6 gh 19. Qh5 Kh7 20. Bf5 Rf5 21. Qf5 Rf8

22. Qc2 Qc5 23. Kh1 Bd5 24. Rg3 Rg8 25. f5 Nf8 26. f6 Rg6 27. Rg6 Ng6 28. f7
1 - 0 Balashov v Romanishin, Lvov 1978.

These examples illustrate White's attacking chances.)

(2) 7...Bc3 8. bc f5 (8...Nc3 9. Qc2 Bf3 10. gf Qg5 11. Kh1 Qh5 12. Rg1 Qf3 13. Rg2 f5 14. Ba3! Ne4 15. Rf1 Rg8 16. Be2 Qh3 17. f3 Nd6 18. d5 Keres v Spassky, 1965. White has a powerful attack.) 9. Ne1 (9. d5 transposes to (3)) 9...0-0 (9...Nc3 10. Qh5 g6 11. Qh6 Qf6 12. f3 Bronstein v Deli, Szombathely 1966. Black has problems with his wayward Knight.) 10. f3 Nd6 (10...Ng5 11. a4 (11. Qe2 Qf6 12. Ba3 d6 13. Nc2 Antoshin v Tscheshkovsky, USSR Championship 1967 where White is a little better was preferable) 11...c5 12. Nc2 d6 13. h4?! Nf7 14. Qe1 Nd7 Flear v Van der Sterran, Hastings 1978 /79 where White already has the worst of it as 15. e4 fe 16. fe cd 17. cd e5! although complicated, proved better for Black.) 11. Ba3 (Bannik v Tarassov, USSR Championship 1961 and White is better. White has more options as the black Knight on d6 is slightly more in Black's way than White's.)

(3) 7...f5 8. d5!? (the 'book' move, supposedly advantageous to White. 8. Ne5 has been played a few times. I have managed 0 / 2 with it, but it's probably better than the impression that this score gives. 8...0-0 9. Be4 fe 10. f4 ef 11. Nf3 (11. gf!? may be a move) 11...Bc3! 12. bc d6 Flear v Cafferty, Islington 1978 with a difficult position which I don't really understand (I lost in about 23 moves). or 8...0-0 9. Ne4 fe 10. Bc2 Qf6 (10...d6 11. Ng4 h5 doesn't win a bit after 12. a3 (or 11. a3)) 11. f4 Be7 12. b3 d6 13. Ng4 Qg6 14. Bb2 Nd7 which was about equal in Flear v I. Wells, London 1979. I lasted longer this time but was just as comprehensively outplayed). 8...Bc3 (8...Nc3 9. bc Bc3 10. Rb1 is given by theory as clearly better for White as in Gligoric v Hecht, Beograd 1969 e.g. 10...Bf6 (10...0-0 is better) 11. e4 0-0 12. Re1 ed 13. ed. "clearly better for White " E.C.O., but I don't think it's that good for White who I think has sufficient compensation for the pawn, but perhaps no more.) 9. bc Nc5 10. Ba3 Nba6 (10...Nd3 11. Qd3 allows White to follow up with a quick e4.) 11. Bc2 0-0 12. Nd4 (a position given as good for White based on Gligoric v Cafferty, Teeside 1972 where 12...Rf6 was played. That game continued 12...Rf6 13. f3 Rh6?! (13...Qe7 with equality, E.C.O. is worth consideration) 14. Qe2 Qf6 15. Rae1 Re8 16. Bc1 where the black Rook is embarrassed and White soon won.) 12...g6!

(Black now threatens to play ...e5 at leisure, so Flear v Botterill, Lara 1978 continued 13. f4 Qe7 14. Qd2 d6 15. Rae1 Qd7 16. Nf3 Rae8 and White has achieved nothing - Black soon obtained a powerful position.

The recent game Woodhams v Monier, Buenos Aires 1978 illustrates a reasonable White plan and continued (12...g6!) 13. f4 Qf6 14. Qf3 d6 15. g4 Kh8 16. h3 Rae8 17. Rad1 Ba8 18. Kh2 Ne4 19. g5 Qg7 20. Be4 fe 21. Qe2 Qd7 22. Ne6 Re6 23. de Qe6. White was better but only drew.)

I hope these rather incomplete lines give the reader something to chew over. I also hope you reach your own opinions on the various lines but I feel Black has satisfactory play after 5. Bd3.

I've shed a lot of points reaching this opinion and even when I (as White) have got the better of the struggle, Black's position has proved a hard nut to crack.

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