



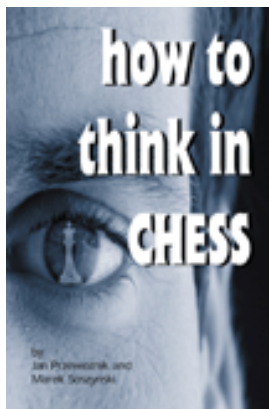
ChessCafe.com



COLUMNISTS

Opening Lanes

Gary Lane



**Orders? Inquiries? You can
now call toll-free:**

1-866-301-CAFE

Opening Lanes is based in large part on readers' questions. Do you have a question about a particular opening line? Baffled by a branch of the Benoni or Budapest? Submit your questions (with you full name and country of residence please) and perhaps Gary will reply in his next **Chess Cafe** column...

Yes, I have a question for Gary!

Crisis in Vienna

A recent book by a respected Russian writer said that one must always lookout for new ideas in the openings and if there are any problems then spend a minimum of weekend finding a solution. This sounds great but most chess players have limited time to study so it makes more sense to simply ask me for help!

Chris Chambers, Atlanta USA sent a series of questions about the Vienna. I selected one that that has baffled a number of players. He writes "I always thought after 1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 d3 d6 that 5 f4 was a blunder due to 5...Ng4 which on the surface seems to win material for Black, as 6 Nh3 would lose to 6...Qh4+. Then I saw your 6 f5! Nf2 7 Qh5 and White has clever winning combinations after either 7...Qd7 or 7...0-0. However, what if Black plays 7...Qe7 instead? I looked at 8 Nd5 Qd7 and 8 Bg5 Qf8 9 Nd5 Kd7!? and even 8 f6, but couldn't find anything conclusive. Am I missing an obvious follow-up for White here? Of course, White needs to find something as he is sacrificing maybe even an entire rook."

It can be worrying to follow the 'book' only to then see your pieces disappear from the board. In this case a new idea can win games quickly but one needs to be confident that a move not mentioned can be punished. I think in your case there is a solution.

1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 d3 d6 5 f4 Ng4



6 f5! This is the move that has won a number of games for White. It seems that the threat of ...Nf2 will force White to try and defend but he simply follows the traditions of the Vienna and goes on the offensive. **6...Nf2 7 Qh5 Qe7**



In practice, 7...Qd7 is preferred in an attempt to defend the threat of mate on f7. Therefore, with the queen on e7 it makes sense to attack it. **8 Nd5 Qd7 9 f6!**



This is the improvement that hands White the advantage. I think the problem is that some computers judge this position as being good for Black because a rook is worth five points and it can't see any further. Thankfully, a few more moves make the position clearer. **9...g6 10 Qh6 Nxh1 11 Qg7 Bf2+** What

else? If 11...Rf8 then 12 Bh6 wins. **12 Kf1 Qg4 13 Qxh8+ Kd7 14 Nf3 Nc6 15 Qf8** and Black is busted.

The tempting tactical idea of 5...Ng4 has led to a number of short, spectacular victories.

John Emms-Adrian Jackson Port Erin 1999 1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 d3 Bc5 4 Nc3 d6 5 f4 Ng4 6 f5 If White panics with 6 Nh3? then he is soon routed. For instance: **6...Qh4+ 7 Kf1 Nf2 8 Qe1 Bxh3 9 gxh3 Qxh3+ 10 Ke2 Qg4+ 11 Kd2 Qxf4+**

12 Ke2 Qg4+ 13 Kd2 Nxb1 when White could resign with honour but struggled on for 52 moves, Arnaud Delanoy-Valerio Di Fonzo, Geneva 1995. **6...Nf2** In practice 6...Bf2+ is also poor upon 7 Kf1 Ne3+ 8 Bxe3 Bxe3 9 Qh5 Qd7 10 Be6! and White wins. **7 Qh5 Qd7 8 Be6 Qe7 9 Nd5 g6**



A crazy position that looks like a scene from a correspondence game where the players have sent the wrong moves. In fact, Black is a strong British player who has been completely caught out in the opening. **10 Qh6 Qf8 11 Bxc8 Nxb1 12 Bxb7 Bxg1 13 Bxa8 Kd7 14 Qxf8 Rxf8 15 Bh6 1-0** Black resigned in view of

15...Rc8 losing material to 16 Kd2.

My thanks to **James C. Matthews of Coral Springs, Florida, USA** who sent a lengthy question: "Over thirty years ago I found a new move in what is now called the Sveshnikov Variation of the Sicilian Defense. I'd like to know two things: Has anyone else ever played it? And do you think it is a worthwhile novelty? I have recently been trying it out in blitz games over the Internet and have scored very well with it. After the moves 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cd4 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Nd5 Nd5 8 ed5 Nb8, I now play 9 Qf3!?N instead of the more positional and "correct" 9 c4. This Queen move actually threatens Qc3!, as seen after 9...Be7 10 Qf3 Na6 11 Be3!, when White wins a pawn, although the position remains difficult and uncharted. Also, 9...Nd7?! (Black plays here anyway, since that's why the knight went to b8 in the first place) 10 Qc3! Nc5 11 b4 Na6 12 Be3 gives Black real problems. So, what is the best response to White's assault on Black's dark queenside squares? After much thought I am still not sure. After 9... Na6 White can try 10 c4 10 Be3 or 10 Qa3 just to name a few reasonable moves. 9...Bd7 just doesn't feel right. And 9...h5?! (suggested by a computer) isn't human enough. That leaves the bizarre variation 9...a6 10Qa3 Be7 11 Bd2 0-0 12 Bb4! ab5! (Black sacs the exchange to hold his center.) 13 Qa8 Na6 with a very unclear position. I've tested 9 Qf3!? against several computer programs and in most cases the computer prefers White."

Nowadays, it is easier to track down whether unusual moves have been played at international level around the world and I

have to report that 9 Qf3 has been tried. Although, it lacks the decent track record of the main move 9 c4 it certainly gives Black the chance to go wrong.

Riku Molander-Erkki Kunnas Helsinki Championship 1995
1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6
7 Nd5 Nxd5 8 exd5 Nb8 9 Qf3



9...g6?! Black is spooked by the unusual queen move and decides to fianchetto on the kingside. Your analysis was examined in P.Guyot-J.De Lagontrie, Cannes 1995, after Black played 9...Be7. There followed: 10 Qc3! Na6 11 Be3 0-0 12 Nxa7 (White has already won a pawn but Black has some compensation based on

chasing the White queen) 12...Nc5 13 Nxc8 Rxc8 14 0-0-0 f5 15 f3 Bf6 16 Qb4 Rf7 17 Kb1 b6 18 Bb5 when White was better. **10 Qa3** Molander keeps an eye on the d6 pawn and consequently preventing 10...Bg7. However, 10 Qc3 seems more direct. **10...b6?** A casual move that is quickly punished. **11 Qc3!** The queen swings across the third rank again and this time it delivers a very strong threat to play Nc7+ or Qc6+. **11...Kd7** This must have been a painful move for Kunnas to play. Black gives up the right to castle after only 11 moves, which is a clear indication that something has seriously gone wrong. Instead, 11...Na6 to cover the c7 square fails to impress upon 12 Qc6+ Bd7 13 Nxd6+ Bxd6 14 Qxd6 when White is a pawn up. **12 Bg5 Be7** The black queen needs to stop White invading on the c7 square because 12...Qxg5 loses quickly after 13 Qc7+ Ke8 14 Qxc8+ Ke7 15 Qb7+. **13 Bxe7 Kxe7 14 Qc7+ Qd7 15 Qc4 Na6 16 0-0-0 Qg4?**

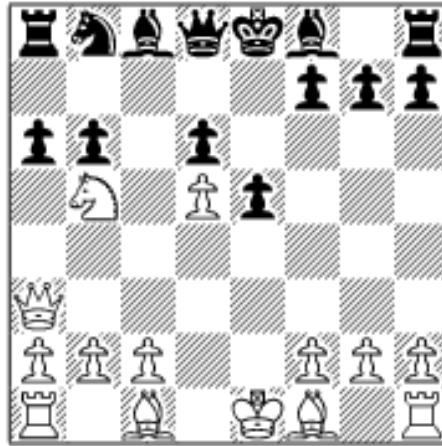


In an attempt to ease the pressure by offering to enter an ending, Black allows his defensive shell to be destroyed. **17 Qc6 Bd7 18 Qxd6+ Kd8 19 Qf6+ 1-0**

I think the best plan for Black is to get rid of the knight on b5 with ...a6 and your ploy of putting the queen on a3 is put to the

test in the following encounter:

David Wise-Luke McShane British Ch 2000 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Nd5 Nxd5 8 exd5 Nb8 8...Ne7 is the main alternative but 8...Nb4!? is worth checking out for its shock value alone. For instance: 9 a3 Na6 10 Be3 f5 11 f3 Kf7 12 b4 Be7 13 Bd3 Bf6 14 Rc1 Nc7 15 Nxa7 Bg5 16 Qd2 Bxe3 17 Qxe3 Nxd5 18 Qf2 Qg5 19 0-0 Nf4 20 Kh1 Rxa7 gave Black a winning advantage in M.Wahls-M. Mrva, European Junior Ch 1988. **9 Qf3 a6 10 Qa3 b6**



This is the improvement on your analysis because now Black will quickly fianchetto forcing the queen's knight to retreat. **11 c4** If 11 Bd2 to put pressure on the d6 pawn then 11...Bb7 threatens ...axb5 when 12 Nc3 Be7 intending to castle kingside is fine for Black. **11...Be7 12 Be2 0-0 13 0-0 f5** The standard way to initiate

counterplay in the Sveshnikov by advancing the f-pawn. **14 f4** A necessary move in such positions otherwise ...f4 can be awkward because it will block White's pieces off from the defence of the kingside. **14...Bb7 15 Nc3 Nd7** At last the queen's knight joins in the action again. **16 Be3 a5!? 17 Qb3 exf4 18 Bxf4 Bc8 19 Nb5 Nc5 20 Qc2 Bd7 21 Nd4 Bg5**



The talented English player has coped well with the difficulties associated with 9 Qf3 and proceeds to grind out a victory. The game concluded: **22 Rad1 Qf6 23 Bxg5 Qxg5 24 Bf3 Rac8 25 Rfe1 Rf6 26 Qd2 Qxd2 27 Rxd2 Kf8 28 b3 g5 29 Bd1 Re8 30 Rxe8+ Kxe8 31 Re2+ Kd8 32 Bc2 h5 33 a3 f4 34 b4 Na6 35 b5 Nc5 36 Kf2 Rf7 37**

Nc6+ Kc8 38 Bg6 Rg7 39 Bxh5 Rh7 40 Be8 Bg4 41 Ra2 Rxh2 42 Kg1 Rh6 43 Bg6 Kc7 44 Bb1 Rh8 45 Nd4 Re8 46 Bf5 Bxf5 47 Nxf5 Re1+ 48 Kf2 Nd3+ 49 Kf3 Ne5+ 50 Kf2 Re4 51 Rd2 g4 52 Rd4 Rxd4 53 Nxd4 Nxc4 54 Ne6+ Kd7 55 a4 Ke7 56 Nxf4 Kf6 57 Nd3 Kf5 58 Kg3 Ne3 59 Nb2 Ke4

60 Kf2 Kd4 0-1

And finally, **Mike Savere, Philadelphia, USA** is yet another player who has been having trouble with a sacrificial line. "I have recently looked at the Budapest Gambit, and have been using a recent book on the subject. In one of the games in response to 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 Ng4 4 e4 Nxe5 5 f4 and now the author suggests 5 ... Nbc6?! I understand that after fxe5 Black gets compensation with Qh4+, but I put this through Fritz 6.0 which indicates that given precise play by White he will come out of it with a clear advantage. Could Fritz be overvaluing material? I find it hard to believe that GM would be wrong, having done so much work on this opening.

Well, you could consider asking for a refund. I suspect the author put the line in to add a bit of excitement and only under closer scrutiny does it look doubtful. I managed to find a recent example where White took one look at the sacrifice and played the safe option.

Ivan Constantineau-Hugh Mahabir Montreal 1998 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 Ng4 4 e4 Nxe5 5 f4 Nbc6?!



This would come as a surprise to White who would probably not be able to avoid smiling broadly. A couple of sounder alternatives are 5...Ng6 when 6 Be3 Bb4+ 7 Nc3 Qe7 8 Bd3 Bxc3+ 9 bxc3 d6 10 Qc2 0-0 11 Ne2 Nd7 12 0-0-0 led to doubled-edged play in A.Pliasunov-M. Zvereva, St Petersburg 2000 or

5...Nec6 can be met by 6 Be3 Bb4+ 7 Nd2 d6 8 Ngf3 Qe7 9 Qc2 Bg4 10 0-0-0 Nd7 11 Nb3 0-0-0 gave Black decent chances in J.Delmont-R. Te Llaemant, Saint-Quentin 2001. **6 Be3** A careful move that avoids allowing Black to have some fun after 6 fxe5 Qh4+ which looks unsound but there is no need to accept the challenge. **6...Ng6 7 a3 a5?!** Black has transposed to an inferior line that can also arise after 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 Ng4 4 e4 Nxe5 5 f4 Ng6 6 Be3 Nc6 7 a3. It is worth seeing the rest of the game, which is fun for White but misery for Black. **8 Nf3 Be7 9 Bd3 Nh4 10 0-0 Nxf3+ 11 Qxf3 b6 12 Nc3 Bb7 13 Nd5 0-0 14 Qh5 g6 15 Qh6 Bf6 16 e5 Bg7 17 Qh3 f5 18 exf6 Bxf6 19 f5 g5 20 Qg3 Bd4 21 f6 Bxe3+ 22 Qxe3 1-0**

Copyright 2001 Gary Lane. All Rights Reserved.

*This column is available in **Chess Cafe Reader** format. Click [here](#) for more information.*

Gary wants your questions on openings!! Send it along and perhaps it will be answered in an upcoming column. Please include your name and country of residence. [Yes, I have a question for Gary!](#)



[\[The Chess Cafe Home Page\]](#) [\[Book Reviews\]](#) [\[Bulletin Board\]](#) [\[Columnists\]](#)

[\[Endgame Studies\]](#) [\[The Skittles Room\]](#) [\[Archives\]](#)

[\[Links\]](#) [\[Online Bookstore\]](#) [\[About The Chess Cafe\]](#) [\[Contact Us\]](#)

Copyright 2001 Russell Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

"The Chess Cafe®" is a registered trademark of Russell Enterprises, Inc.