



## COLUMNISTS

*Opening Lanes*

Gary Lane

*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!](#)

## The Grinch

**AT THIS TIME OF YEAR** there is a traditional story that the Grinch tried to steal Christmas. He would have been more successfully trying to steal pawns on the chessboard if his opponent played the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit.

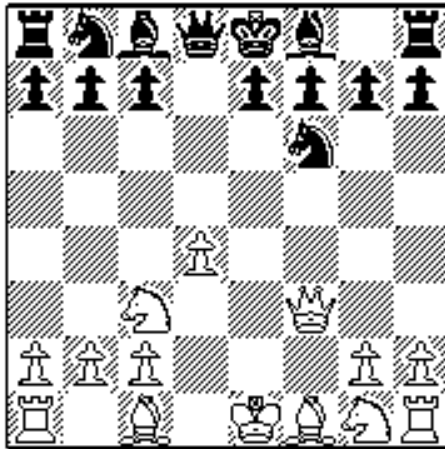
**Hans Muller**, from the Rooty Hill chess club, **Sydney Australia** writes 'I often play the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit and especially the Ryder Gambit. I get some fantastic complications here and the games are great fun. Black can throw a spanner in the works, though and after 1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3 exf3 5 Qxf3 Qxd5 6 Be3 Qg4 7 Qf2. Black's strongest reply seems to be 7...e5, do you have a suggestion how White can best continue the attack?'

There will be players who have never heard of this romantic, swashbuckling opening so there is a need for some background information. Personally, I have always taken an interest in the tricky opening, which is very popular at club level. Indeed, I have even written a book on it so I know of its vast appeal to those who prefer gambits. It initially became popular when the American player Armand Blackmar (1826-1888) popularised the continuation 1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 f3 by playing it with success. He achieved increased status with a contribution to the 1884 edition of Cook's *Synopsis of Chess Openings* in a section called "American Inventions in the Chess Openings". The gambit was later refined by the German master Emil Diemer (1908-1990) who proposed 3 Nc3 followed by 4 f3. Nowadays, it is fairly unusual for White to meet 4...exf3 with 5 Qxf3 entering the Ryder Gambit. Admittedly, it has produced some marvellous attacking games but for example in this age of computers there are few correspondence players who fall for the

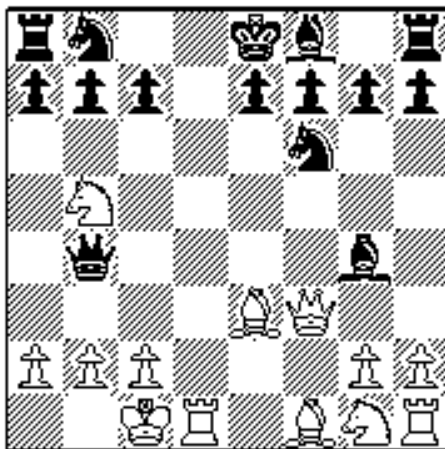
obvious tactics. Here is the main reason why White carries on playing such an outrageous gambit.

### ***Stefan Paschman-Kurschat Correspondence 1986***

**1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3 exf3 5 Qxf3** (*See Diagram*)



The starting point of the Ryder Gambit. **5...Qxd4 6 Be3 Qb4 7 0-0-0 Bg4? 8 Nb5!** (*See Diagram*)



Do not adjust your chess set because this astounding move has won numerous games. It first appeared in the game Diemer-Halosar, Baden-Baden 1934. **8...Nbd7 9 Qxb7 Rb8 10 Qxb8+ Nxb8 11 Nxc7 mate 1-0.**

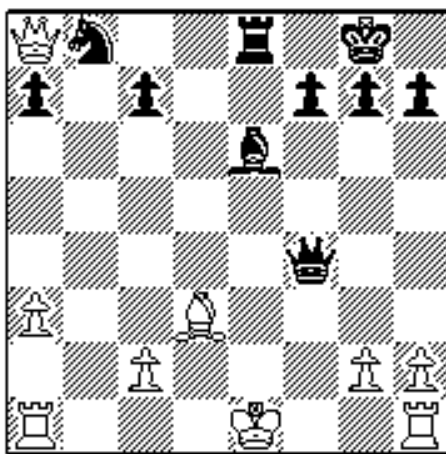
This example confirms Han's thoughts that 7...e5 gives White a difficult task

***Lagland-Roos***

### **Correspondence 1968**

**1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3 exf3 5 Qxf3 Qxd4** Instead Todor-Deak, Bratislava 2000, played it safe with 5...e6 and after 6 Bd3 Be7 7 Nge2 Nbd7 8 0-0 0-0 9 Bg5 c5 10 Ne4 Nxe4 11 Qxe4 when White didn't have enough compensation for the pawn although the game was eventually drawn. There is also not much encouragement for White judging from the game Ali-Asylguzhin, Abu Dhabi 1999, which continued 5...c6 6 Bd3 Qxd4 7 Be3 Qb4 8 Nge2 Bg4 9 Qf1 Bxe2 10 Kxe2 Nbd7 11 a3 Qg4+ 12 Kd2 Ne5 13 Bf5 Nc4+ 0-1. **6 Be3 Qg4 7 Qf2 e5** Black stakes a claim for control of the centre. The pressure direct from the opening can sometimes help Black to go drastically wrong: 7...Nc6 8 h3 Qb4 9 0-0-0 e6 10 Nb5 Nd5? 11 Rxd5 wins, T.Purser-J.Shirley, Ramstein rapidplay 1979 and 7...Bf5 8 h3 Qg6 9 0-0-0 e5 10 Nf3 Nbd7? 11 Nh4 T.Purser-D.Bratcher, Correspondence 1978) **8 a3 Bd6 9 Nf3 Qf5 10 Bd3** Or 10 0-0-0 Ng4 11 Qe1 Nxe3 12 Qxe3 Nc6 13 Nb5

Qd7 and the extra material ensures Black's advantage. **10...e4 11 Nxe4 Nxe4 12 Qh4 Qa5+** Black avoids the pin and is already better. It might be of interest that this game is given as having been played in 1980 according to some books. However, it was played in the First BDG World Correspondence Championship where all games had to play the opening. I can only guess that the postal service was good enough to avoid a twelve-year game! **13 b4 Bxb4+ 14 Kf1 Nd2+ 15 Nxd2 Bxd2 16 Qe4+ Be6** In a dream White can hope for the continuation **16...Kf8 17 Bxd2 Qxd2 18 Re1 Be6 19 Qxb7 Qf4+ 20 Kg1 Qd4+ 21 Kf1 Bd5?? 22 Qc8 mate. 17 Bxd2 Qxd2 18 Qxb7 Qf4+ 19 Ke1 0-0 20 Qxa8 Re8 0-1** (See Diagram)



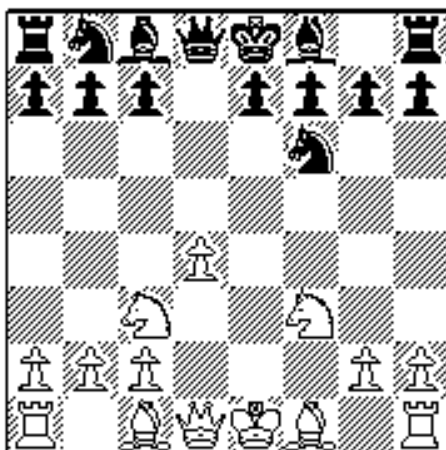
A classy finish and White resigned in view of the threat of a discovered check on the e-file.

I think the best way to handle the opening is to play 5 Nxf3. For the sake of a pawn White has a half-open f-file for his rook when he castles kingside and has a lead in development. Of course, it is debatable whether it is enough

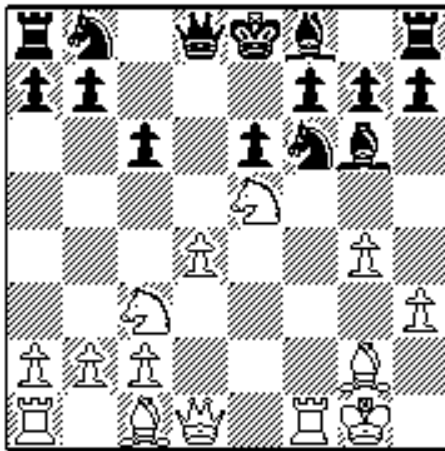
compensation for a pawn but it does promise to help create some brilliant attacking games. The recent chess Olympiad demonstrated that occasionally it is seen at the premier international events.

### ***Hasan Abbasifar-Samir Mohammad Istanbul OL 2000***

**1 d4 Nf6 2 f3** A peculiar move-order but it soon transposes to the Blackmar-Diemer. **2...d5 3 e4 dxe4 4 Nc3 exf3 5 Nxf3** (See Diagram)



**5...Bg4** The king's Knight usually features in White's attack so it makes sense to pin it. This line is called The Teichmann Defence. **6 h3 Bh5 7 g4 Bg6 8 Ne5 e6 9 Bg2 c6 10 0-0** (See Diagram)



10 Bg5 should also be considered. **10...Be7** It is not often that a grandmaster essays the gambit so it is worth noting that Velimirovic-Andrijevic, Yugoslav Ch 1984, continued 10...Bd6 11 Qe2 Qb6 12 Nc4 Qc7 13 Bf3 h6 14 Be3 Nbd7 15 d5 0-0 16 dxe6 fxe6 17 Bxb6! Bg3 18 Bg5 Ra8 19 Ne4 Nd5 20 Nxc3 Qxc3+ 21 Bg2 and White had the brighter prospects. **11 h4 Nfd7?** Black

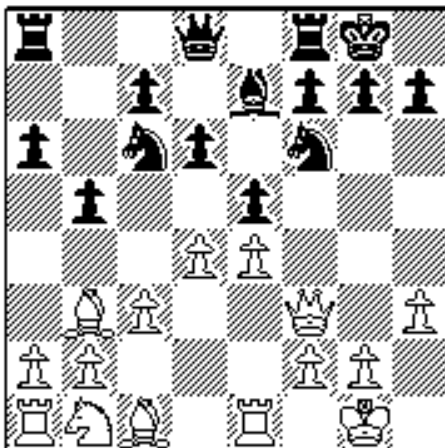
was probably unfamiliar with the opening and goes astray. Sosa Trani-A. Murillo, San Salvador 1998, saw the superior 11... Nbd7 when White self-destructed after 12 h5? (12 Nxd7 Qxd7 13 h5? Bxc2 14 Qxc2 Qxd4+ 15 Qf2 Qxg4 and Black has too many pawns for the piece) 12...Nxe5 13 dxe5 Bc5+ 14 Kh2 Qxd1 15 Rxd1 Nxc4+ 16 Kg3 Bxh5 17 Kh4 g6 with a bizarre looking position which is hugely in Black's favour. **12 Nxd7 Nxd7 13 h5** The bishop is trapped and although Black resists White is always on course to victory. The game concluded: **13...Qc7 14 hxc6 hxc6 15 Bf4 e5 16 Bg3 Qb6 17 Bf2 Qc7 18 Re1 0-0-0 19 dxe5 Nxe5 20 Qe2 f6 21 Bxa7 Qa5 22 Be3 Rh4 23 Rad1 g5 24 Rxd8+ Bxd8 25 Ne4 Rxc4 26 Rd1 Bb6 27 Nf2 Rh4 28 a3 g4 29 Kf1 Bxe3 30 Qxe3 Qb5+ 31 Nd3 Rh8 32 a4 Qc4 33 Qe2 Re8 34 b3 Qc3 35 Nxe5 Rxe5 36 Qxc4+ f5 37 Qd4 Qxd4 38 Rxd4 Kc7 39 Kf2 g5 40 Bf1 1-0**

Next, a letter from **America** by **Anthony Daniel**: "I'm only about 1100, but I've come up with a new move in the Spanish. In the line 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 d6 8 c3 0-0 9 d4 Bg4 10 h3 (Bronstein's innovation with which he won a famous game against Paul Keres) 10...Bxf3 11 Qxf3 exd4 12 Qg3!?. Bronnstein played Qd1 and went on to win after Keres missed several chances for a better defence. Has anyone else played 12.Qg3 before? I couldn't find it in my ChessMaster 6000 database. This move seems satisfactory, if it is I hereby want it to be christened the Bronstein-Daniel attack. Thanks in advance for your help".

I am impressed that you know of the classic game Bronstein-Keres and for those who are not so well read I repeat it for their benefit. The move 12 Qg3 is fairly unusual but it has been played before. Perhaps it might be known as the Bronstein-Daniel and Others Attack!

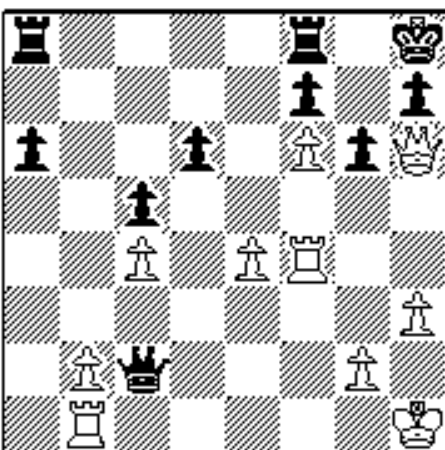
**David Bronstein-Paul Keres Candidates Tournament Budapest 1950**

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 0-0 8 d4 d6 9 c3 Bg4 10 h3 Bxf3 11 Qxf3 (See Diagram)**



In customary manner Bronstein plays the most enterprising move. Previous to this game 11gxf3 had been tried a few times. For instance: 11...Na5 12 Bc2 Nh5 13 f4 Nxf4 14 Bxf4 exf4 15 Qg4 Bh4 16 Qxf4 Qg5+ 17 Qxg5 Bxg5 18 Rd1 ½-½ Boleslavsky-Flohr, Moscow 1949. **11...exd4 12 Qd1 dxc3 13 Nxc3 Na5 14 Bc2 Re8 15 f4 b4 16 Nd5** H.Westerinen-R.Wade, Varna

OL 1962, saw White try to improve with 16 Ne2. There followed: 16...d5 17 e5 Ne4 18 Nd4 Bc5 19 Be3 Nc4 20 Qe2 Nxe3 21 Qxe3 f6! 22 Kh1 fxe5 23 Bxe4 Bxd4 24 Qb3 c6 25 fxe5 Bxe5 26 Rad1 Kh8 27 Bb1 Qh4 and Black was winning. **16...Nxd5 17 Qxd5 c6 18 Qd3 g6 19 Kh1 Bf8 20 Rf1 Bg7 21 Bd2 c5 22 Ba4 Rf8 23 Rab1 Qb6 24 f5 Bd4 25 Qg3 Nc4 26 Bh6 Bg7 27 Bxg7 Kxg7 28 f6+ Kh8 29 Qg5 b3 30 axb3 Qb4 31 bxc4 Qxa4 32 Rf4 Qc2 33 Qh6! 1-0 (See Diagram)**

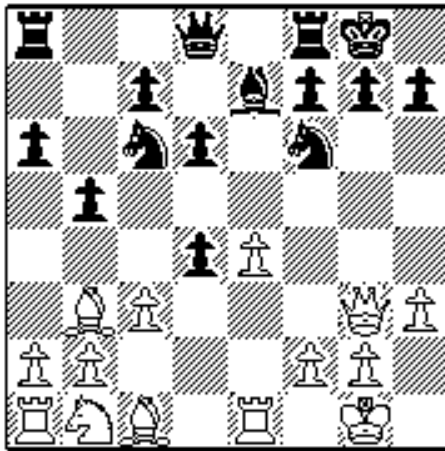


Black resigned in view of 33...Qxb1+ 34 Kh2 Rg8 35 Qxh7+! Kxh7 36 Rh4 mate.

I don't have any examples from Daniel but this quick victory for Black is a warning that 12 Qg3 is less threatening than Bronstein's 12 Qd1.

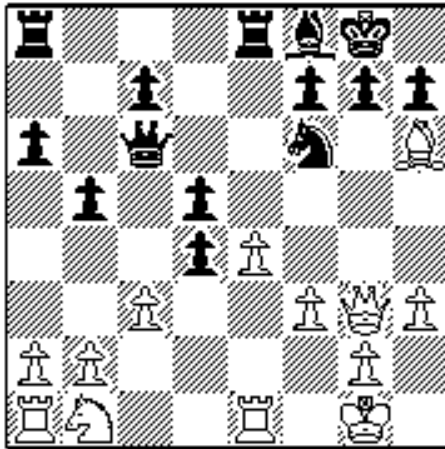
**Martin Kovac-Ziga Zvan**  
**Maribor 1997**

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 d6 8 c3 0-0 9 d4 Bg4 10 h3 Bxf3 11 Qxf3 exd4 12 Qg3 (See Diagram)**



White has ambitions of using the pin on the g-file to play Bh6 and make sure the queen is active. **12...Re8!?** Zven finds it easy to defend and could also consider 12...dxc3 13 Nxc3 Nd4 14 Bh6 Ne8 and Black has the better chances. This is the crucial difference compared to the Bronstein game. After 12 Qd1 White is poised to take back with 13 cxd4, which encourages 12...dxc3 when 13

Nxc3 gives White reasonable chances and there is no chance of ...Nd4. **13 Bd5 Qd7 14 Bh6 Bf8 15 Bxc6 Qxc6 16 f3 d5!** (See Diagram)



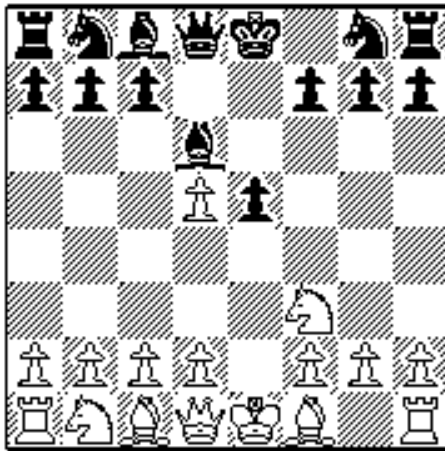
A consistent choice to exploit the pin on the e-file. **17 Bg5 dxe4 18 Bxf6 Qxf6 19 fxe4 dxc3 20 Nxc3 Bc5+ 21 Kh1 Bf2 22 Qxc7 Bxe1 23 Rxe1 Rad8 24 Qg3 Rd2 25 e5 Qf2 0-1**

**Hayden Lewis** from **Birmingham, England** wants to see an example of the Elephant Gambit because he knows the name but not the

opening moves. Well, it is very popular in England mainly due to efforts of Jonathan Rogers who plays it at every opportunity and even sometimes wins with it.

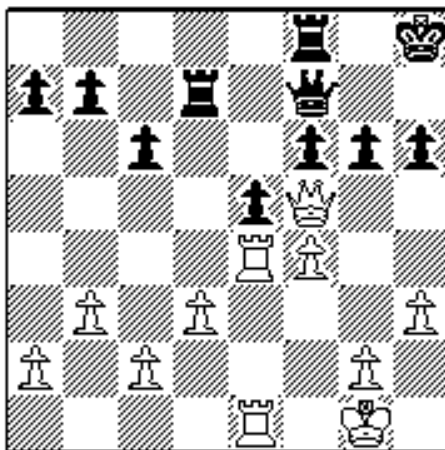
**John Nicholson-David Sedgwick Port Erin 1998**

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d5 3 exd5 Bd6** (See Diagram)



The modern version of the Elephant Gambit. The alternative 3...e4 is harmless if White knows what to do. 4 Qe2! Nf6 5 Nc3 Be7 6 Nxe4 0-0 7 d3 Nxd5 8 Qd1 Nc6 9 Be2 f5 10 Ng3 Bf6 11 0-0 g5 12 h3 h6 13 c3 Qd6 14 d4 Bd7 15 Bd2 Nf4 16 Bxf4 gxf4 17 Nh5 Bg5 18 h4 Be8 19 Nxcg5 hxg5 20 hxg5 Bxh5 21 Bxh5 Qe7 22 Qb3+ Kg7 23 Qxb7 Qxg5 24 Qxc6 winning,

G.Molina-P.De Kaey, Bulgaria 2000. **4 Nc3** Or 4 d4 e4 5 Ne5 Nf6 6 c4 0-0 7 Nc3 Re8 8 Be2 c5 9 dxc6 Nxc6 10 Nxc6 bxc6 11 Bg5 h6 12 Bh4 Bf4 13 0-0 Rb8 14 b3 e3 15 fxe3 Bxe3+ 16 Bf2 Qa5 17 Qc2 Bg4 18 Bd3 Rbd8 19 Bxe3 Rxe3 20 Qd2 and White was better in G.Wall-J.Rogers, British Team Ch 2000. Elephant fans will be more impressed with what happened to 4 Bc4 in A.Lam-K. Kuan-Kuan, Sydney 1998. That game went 4...e4 5 Nd4 Nf6 6 0-0 Bxh2+! 7 Kh1 0-0 8 d3 Be5 9 dxe4 Nxe4 10 Nf3 Bg4 11 Nbd2 Nxd2 12 Bxd2 Bxf3 13 Qxf3 Qh4+ 14 Qh3 Qxc4 and White can put the pieces back into the box. **4...Nf6 5 Bb5+ Bd7** The controversial gambit line 5...c6?! was tried in Gutierrez Minguenza-Gimeno Oteo, San Jose 1998, where White eventually blundered presumably from delayed shock. That game went 6 dxc6 bxc6 7 Bc4 0-0 8 d3 Bg4 9 Bg5 Nbd7 10 Ne4 Be7 11 0-0 Nd5 12 Bxe7 Qxe7 13 Nc3 Nf4 14 Re1 Qf6 15 Ne4 Qh6 16 Ng3 Kh8 17 Qc1? Bxf3 18 gxf3 Qh3 0-1. **6 Bxd7+ Nbx7 7 d3 h6 8 0-0 0-0 9 h3 Nb6 10 Re1 Re8 11 Nh4 Nbx7 12 Nxd5 Nxd5 13 Nf5 Qf6 14 Qf3 c6 15 Qg4 Kh8 16 Re4 Bf8 17 Bd2 Qe6 18 Qf3 Ne7 19 Nxe7 Rxe7 20 Bc3 Qd5 21 Rae1 Rae8 22 Qf5 f6 23 b3 Qf7 24 Bb4 Rd7 25 Bxf8 Rxf8 26 f4? g6** (See Diagram)



Proof that luck favours the brave. 27 Qg4 f5 28 Qh4 fxe4 29 Qxh6+ Kg8 30 Rxe4 Rd4 31 Rxe5 Rxf4 32 Rg5 Rf1+ 33 Kh2 Qf4+ 0-1

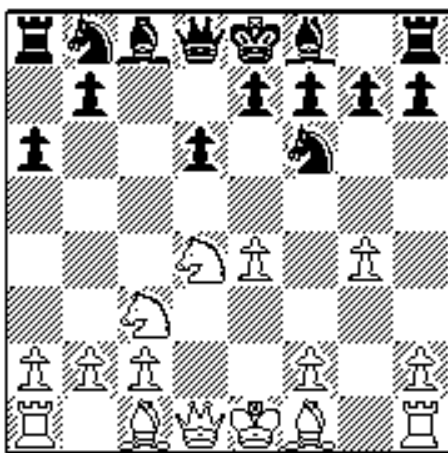
Finally, we have a welcome claim to an opening that is so bad nobody plays it! **Alain Dekker** from **Manchester, England** (previously Pretoria, South Africa) joins in the fun by writing "I have been

fortunate to get one of my own ideas the narcissistically named Dekker Gambit published in a magazine. The idea is 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 g4!? I have played this opening at least 20 times since February 1998, with generally good results. It seems as if White has "simply" sacrificed a pawn, but he does get great compensation for it. Do you know if anyone has played it before myself? Why has it not been played before? Granted, White has other ways to aggressively attack, but the Dekker gambit is quite logical in any case. Why have no IMs or GMs played it?"

It is certainly an entertaining idea but White should not get enough compensation for the pawn. I suspect you win with White despite your opening. However, I did decide to have a look to see if any masters had played the line. I had no luck in finding anyone on my computer database who had given up a pawn but after reading various magazines I did find one game where White played the 6 g4 gambit. It was played by Alain Dekker!

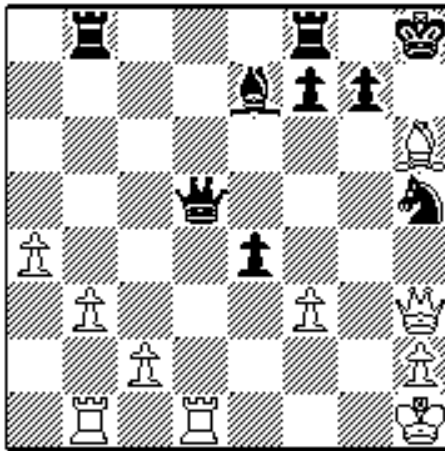
***Alain Dekker–Robert Mills Pretoria 1999***

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6** This move-order is favoured by Kasparov because 5...e6 allows the Keres Attack with 6 g4. **6 g4?** (See Diagram)



The Dekker Gambit is certainly a shock and one way to win time in a blitz game. Then again, it would interesting to see Kasparov's expression if anyone had the nerve to play this against him. **6...Bxg4 7 f3 Bd7** Black is a pawn up and although White can put a rook on the half-open g-file it is not enough compensation. **8 Bg5 Nc6 9 Nxc6 bxc6 10 Qd4 e5 11 Qf2 Rb8 12 Rb1 Be6** A

better idea is 12...Qa5 threatening ...Rxb2 followed by ...Qxc3 which maintains Black's advantage. **13 Bd3** 13 Bxa6 runs into 13...Qa5 when 14 Bd3 allows the spectacular 14...Qxc3+ 15 bxc3 Rxb1+ 16 Ke2 Rxh1 and Black can gleefully start counting the pieces. **13...Be7 14 0-0 h6 15 Bd2 Nh5** Black has such a pleasant choice of alternatives it is difficult to find the right one. For instance 15...a5 maintains the material advantage while 15...d5 16 cxd5 cxd5 17 Bxa6 d4 is also good. **16 Bxa6 Bh3 17 Rfd1 Bh4 18 Qa7 0-0 19 Bf1 Qc8 20 Qa6 Qd7 21 Bxh3 Qxh3 22 Qf1 Qe6 23 b3 Kh8 24 Kh1 Be7 25 a4 d5 26 exd5 cxd5 27 Nxd5 Qxd5 28 Qh3 e4 29 Bxh6!** (See Diagram)



29...Qe6 Or 29...Qa5 30 Bd2  
Qe5 31 f4 Qc5 32 b4 wins. 30  
Bxg7+! Kxg7 31 Qxh5 Qh6  
32 Rg1+ Kh7 33 Qf5+ Kh8 34  
Rg3 1-0

I would welcome any more  
contributions concerning  
unusual openings.

Copyright 2000 Gary Lane. All Rights Reserved.

***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!***

 [TOP OF PAGE](#)

 [HOME](#)

 [COLUMNS](#)

 [LINKS](#)

 [ARCHIVES](#)

 [ABOUT THE  
CHESS CAFE](#)

[\[The Chess Cafe Home Page\]](#) [\[Book Reviews\]](#) [\[Bulletin Board\]](#) [\[Columnists\]](#)  
[\[Endgame Studies\]](#) [\[The Ninth File\]](#) [\[The Skittles Room\]](#) [\[Archives\]](#)  
[\[Links\]](#) [\[Online Bookstore\]](#) [\[About The Chess Cafe\]](#) [\[Contact Us\]](#)

Copyright 1999 Russell Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved.  
"The Chess Cafe®" is a registered trademark of Russell Enterprises, Inc.