

Postal Chess

by Mike Singleton

So, you write your move down on a scoresheet, neatly write the date beside it, and send it to a faceless name at an address that you were sent when you joined the Postal Chess Club for an exorbitant fee. You reflect that the game will probably take about nine months, cost about £3.50, and will most likely be a draw. What's the point? Why play Postal Chess?

If thoughts like this even occurred to the 'Postal Chess Fan' they would be dismissed as heresy, for he is a distinct species - a special kind of Chess addict.

The PC Fan revels in the challenge offered by an unknown opponent, who has almost unlimited time to make his moves (usual rules allow a cumulative time of two days to make each move, once it has been received) and who can use any book or magazine at his disposal. But he knows that to win such a game will bring even greater satisfaction because of this challenge, and that there will be no excuse or distraction like time - trouble, tiredness, noise, unfamiliar surroundings, psychological ploys, etc., just pure, deep, Chess.

What OTB players often don't realise is that PC is not any more mechanical or any less exciting than OTB Chess, they are often surprised to learn that there are just as many (if not more) gambits, unorthodox openings, miniatures, amazing escapes etc., as in OTB Chess - for although you have more time, resources, to find the best defences, so do you to find the best attacks. Thus the balance is unaltered, but the Chess is deeper, particularly tactically.

To illustrate this point, here is the first gem(!) A quick win of mine against R.M.V. Hall, who although graded over 200 at the time of the game, fell in 18 moves to an opening deemed unplayable by some experts.

M.P.F. Singleton v R.M.V. Hall. Staunton Gambit Deferred.

1. d4 e6 2. c4 f5 3. e4 fxe 4. Nc3 Nf6 5. f3 Bb4 (!?)
6. Bg5 c5 7. d5 exd 8. cxd o-o 9. Qc2 exf 10. Nx~~f~~3 Qe8 ch
11. Be2 Nxd5 ? 12. 0-0! Bxc3 13. Bc4 Bf6 14. Bxd5ch Kh8
15. Rael Qd8 16. Bxf6 gxf 17. Ng5! f5 18. Rx~~f~~5 Resigns
(No doubt black was losing after he had taken the second pawn (move 11) but was the original gambit sound? Who knows?)

Very bad mistakes do sometimes occur in PC and to prove it here's the shortest game that I've ever lost - which also illustrates that well known Chess fact that one loses a game by a series of inexplicable blunders but wins by sheer brilliance!

M.P.F. Singleton v G. Katz. 1971. Queen's Gambit Accepted.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. e3 e6 5. Bxc4 c5
6. 0-0 a6 7. a4 Nc6 8. Qe2 Qc7 9. Rdl Bd6 10. Nc3 0-0
11. dxc Bxc5 12. e4? (Completely overlooking the coming trap that I'm sure all beginners will recognise!) Ng4
13. Rf1?? Nd4! Resigns

How do you start PC?

There are two main clubs in England; the POSTAL CHESS CLUB run by CHESS LTD. Sutton Coldfield, (Annual Sub. £3.50 or £2.75 if you already subscribe to CHESS magazine, which is £4.50 p.a., where the club results are published) or the BRITISH CORRESPONDENCE CHESS ASSOCIATION; Enquiries Officer J.F.R. Gale, 51 Tudor Drive, Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 5QR, (Annual Sub. £3.50 which includes the quarterly magazine CORRESPONDENCE CHESS, and a free entry to one of their tournaments straight away). The BCCA run the official British Correspondence Chess Championship. (Current champion is J.K. Footner).

One particular feature of PC is the high standard of opening play that is possible, though it does tend to be bookish, and one is presented with an ideal opportunity to carefully try out one's pet lines or 'improvements'. A favourite opening of mine a few years ago was the 4 Pawn Attack against the King's Indian Defence. I used to play the 'Wild Line' where white takes on d5 with his c pawn, and I have always thought that the move 9. b5!? against this line was unsound, though a lot of players used it (and still do; e.g. The King's Indian Defence, W. Hartston, p. 133-134) in preference to 9. Re8 which I think is much better, and probably refutes White's opening. I was able to prove this successfully when F. Boyd played the 9. b5 line in a postal game against me as long ago as 1968! Victory in this particular theoretical battle was all the sweeter, since Mr. Boyd was the editor, at the time, of that excellent but now defunct magazine 'Chessman Quarterly', which of course specialised in opening theory...

M.P.F. Singleton v F. Boyd. PCC 1968. 4 Pawn Attack.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. Nc3 exd 5. cxd d6
6. e4 g6 7. f4 Bg7 8. Be2 0-0 9. Nf3 b5!? 10. e5 dxe
11. fxe Ng4 12. Bg5 (Bf4 is also playable) f6!? (Qb6 is the main alternative, though quoted as risky, since White will castle and then play Be7, d6 and Nd5....) 13. exf Bxf6
14. Bxf6 Qxf6 15. Qd2 b4 16. Ne4 Qe7 17. N3g5! (The 'King's Indian Defence' gives 17. N4g5 Qe3=. It looks as though N3g5 is not playable at first sight, due to the threat of h6. But White's threats of d6, Qd5, Bc4, etc seem to be enough....) Bf5 (Declining to try and win the knight

by 17...h6 because of 18. d6 Qe5 19. Bc4ch followed by Bd5.) 18. d6 Qe5 19. 0-0-0! (Of course he still can't win the knight by 19...Bxe4 20. Nxe4 Qxe4 because of 21. Bf3!)Nc6 20. h3 Nf6 21. Nxf6ch Qxf6 (If 21....Rxf6, the back rank is too weak and the black queen is too exposed; viz; 22. Bf3 Bd7 23. Rhel Qd4 (23...Qf4? 24. Bd5ch Kh8 25. Qxf4 Rxf4 26. Bxc6 Bxc6 27. d7++) 24. Bd5ch Kh8 25. Ne4! R3f8 26. Qxd4 cxd4 27. Nc5 winning material) 22. g4 Bd7 23. Qd5ch Kg7 24. Rhf1 Qe5 25. Rf7ch Rxf7 (25...Kh6 26. Rxh7ch Kxg5 27. h4ch Kf6 28. Rflch Bf5 29. g5 mate.) 26. Qxf7ch Kh6 27. h4! (Threatening mate on h7) ...Qg7 28. Ne6! Resigns (since g5 next move will be mate, even if White's queen is taken)

(I think this game refutes 9...b5, the move 17. N3g5 (!) being better than 17. N4g5 as suggested in 'The King's Indian Defence'. What do you think?)

S & B GO POSTAL

This season, for the first time for many years, Streatham Chess Club entered an eight board team in the British Correspondence Chess League. We were considered strong enough to be placed in the Premier Division (highest possible division one can enter by application). Our main aim this season was to be promoted to the Championship Section of the BCCL by coming in the top two places of the Premier. At the time of writing it looks as though we have succeeded, with 12½ points out of 16. Each player played two games against his opponent. Contact between the team members throughout the tournament was maintained by a circulating notebook in which players recorded their moves so far, so that each could see how other team mates were getting along.

The team results were as follows:

Streatham

Board 1. N.E. Povah	2	H. Sparling (North Circular League)	0
2. R. Emerson	1	R. Roberts (Sheffield 'A')	1
3. R.J. Sams	2	E. Sparke (Exeter 'A')	0
4. M.P.F. Singleton	2	M.J. Hughes (Hunts/Peterborough)	0
5. D.L. Massie	1½	D. Willmets (Civil 'B')	½
6. R. Haldane	2	A. Ryder (Droyls)	0
7. M.C. Davis	2	M.J. Cook (Woking)	0
8. J. Bennett	0	B. Byrne (Scholars)	2

To demonstrate the versatility of some of our top players, here are some postal games from the event, annotated by the players themselves.

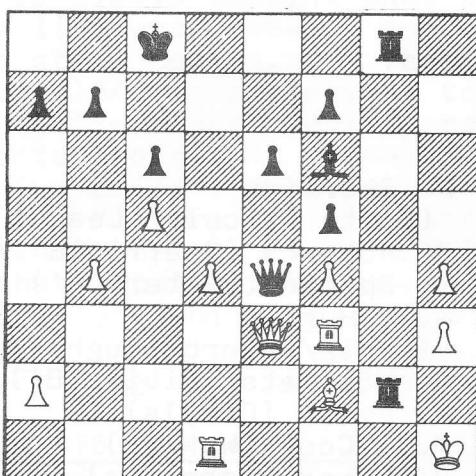
Roger Emerson v R. Roberts. Board 2. Ruy Lopez

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 d6 5. 0-0 Bg4
6. h3 h5 7. d4 b5 8. Bb3 Qf3? (I was expecting 8...Nxd4

9. hxg hgx 10. Ng5 Nh6 11. Bd5 Be2 12. c3 Bxg5
 13. cxd4 Rc8 Olafson v Marjan where White got smashed -
 but I think I've got an improvement 14. Bc6+ Kf8
 15. g3! 9. hxg hgx 10. Ng5 Nh6 11. Bd5 Kd7 12. dxe Qxe5
 13. Nxf7! (After this superb move White has completely
 smashed through) ...Nxf7 14. Qxg4+ Kd8 15. Bf4 Qe8
 16. Qg6 Nce5 17. Bxe5 Qxe5 18. g3 Ng5 19. Bxa8 Nf3+
 20. Kg2 Nd4 21. Nd2 Resign

E. Sparke v Richard Sams. Board 3. Caro-Kann.

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe 4. Nxe4 Nf6 (4...Nf6 is too
 risky for a postal game) 5. Nxf6 gxf 6. Bc4 Bf5 7. Be3 Nd7
 8. Ne2 Qc7 9. Ng3 Bg6 10. f4 e6 11. O-O (Not 11. f5
 because of 11...Bxf5 12. Nxf5 Qa5+) ...Bd6 12. Bd3 f5
 (I don't know why I played this move 12...Bxd3 13. Qxd3
 looks much more reasonable. Many would suggest that I have
 given myself a bad bishop, but I expect this game to be a
 tribute to my imagination and insight!) 13. Qe1 Nf6
 14. Bd2 O-O-O (Tempting was 14...Nd5 but after 15. Nxf5 Bxf4
 16. Bxf4 Nxf4 17. Ng7+ (Not 17. Qg3 Bxf5!) Kd7 18. d5!
 Black is in trouble) 15. b4(?) (I had expected 15. c4, and
 had looked at the following strange variation: 15...h5
 16. Ba5 b6 17. Bc3 h4 18. Ne2 h3 19. g3 c5# 15.b4? was
 not accurate - now Black gains a strong initiative because
 the bishop on g6 suddenly becomes useful.) ...Nd5
 16. Ne2 Bh5 17. g3 Rhg8 18. Kh1 Nf6 19. Be3 Bxe2
 20. Bxe2 h5 21. c4 h4 22. gxh Ng4 23. Bxg4 Rxg4 24. h3 Rg6
 25. c5 (This is also weak, giving Black complete control of
 the White squares and a commanding position for his queen.)
 ...Be7 26. Rf3 Qd7 27. Bf2 Qd5 28. Qe2 Rdg8 (Black's
 position is overwhelming) 29. Qe3 Rg2 30. Qb3 Qe4
 31. Qe3 (Not 31. Rel? because of 31...Qxe1+ and mates)
 ...Bf6 32. Rd1



BLACK: R. SAMS

TO PLAY

WHITE: E. SPARKE

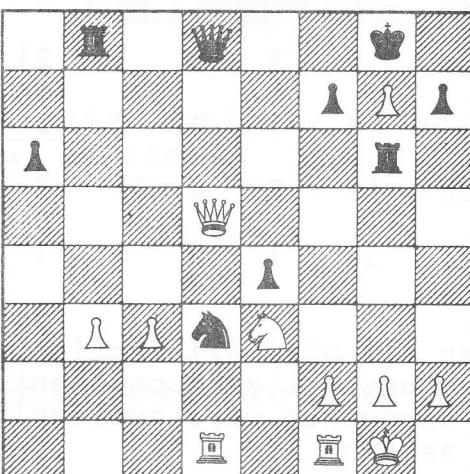
...Bxh4! 33. Rf1 (If 33. Bxh4 Qc2 wins) ...Rxf2!
 34. Resigns. Black wins a piece.

giantchess.com

Dave Massie had a good game with the Pelikan which may be of theoretical interest:

D. Willmets v Dave Massie. Board 5.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5
 6. Ndb5 d6 7. Bg5 a6 8. Na3 b5 (This critical variation is championed by several S & B players) 9. Bxf6 gxf6
 10. Nd5 f5 11. Bd3 Be6 12. Qh5 Bg7 13. c3 0-0
 14. exf5 Bxd5 15. f6 e4 16. fxg7 Re8 17. Be2 Re5
 18. Qh6 Rg5 (18...Rg5 is an improvement first played in Tumakov - Svesnikov in 1975. That game continued 19. Rd1 Qe7 20. Nc2 Rg6 21. Qf4 Bxa2 22. Ne3 Qe5! and Black went on to win the ending.) 19. Nc2 (This is the suggested improvement on Rd1, and I believe we're in unchartered territory) ...Ne5 20. Nd3 Bc4 21. Bxc4 bxc4
 22. 0-0 d5 23. Rad1 Nd3 24. c3 cxb 25. axb Rg6
 26. Qh5 Rb8 27. Qxd5



BLACK: D. MASSIE

TO PLAY

WHITE: D. WILLMETS

...Rxg2+! 28. Kh1 Qxd5 29. Nxd5 Rxf2 30. Nf6+ Kxg7
 31. Nxe4 Rxf1+ 32. Rxf1 Rxb3 33. Rg1+ Kf8 34. h4 Ne5
 35. Ra1 Nf3 36. Rxa6? Rb2! 0 - 1.



"But helpless pieces of the game he plays,
 upon this chequer-board of nights and days,
 Hither and thither moves, and checks, and slays,
 And one by one back in the closet lays."

E. Fitzgerald.

Junior Championship

(UNDER 14)

1976 - 77.

by Mike Singleton

		P.	W.	D.	L.	PTS.
1st.	John Flanagan	7	7	0	0	7
2nd.	David Reuben	6	5	1	0	5½
3rd.	Daniel Feinstein	8	4	2	2	5
	Gary Flanagan	7	4	2	1	5
5th	Marc Hudson	5	2	1	1	2½
6th	Russell Widmer	6	1	2	3	2
	Christopher McElligott	12	2	0	10	2
8th	Andrew McElligott	10	1	0	9	1

The tournament was run as an all play all section where each player played two games against each opponent. These games were played as opponents were available, on club nights throughout the season.

It was no surprise that the section was dominated by two youngsters who also had outstanding results in their team games for the club this season. John Flanagan and David Reuben, neither of whom were defeated.

John was the eventual winner, and received an engraved silver cup to keep.

A special prize for good clubmanship was awarded to Christopher and Andrew McElligott, two comparatively new members, who set an excellent example by getting most of their games played.

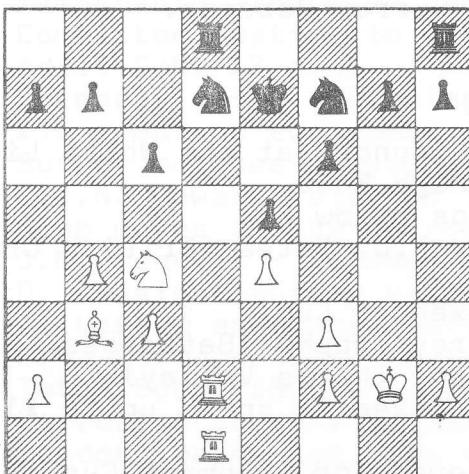
Here is a short, sharp game by the Champion who, after struggling through a difficult opening, plays a winning move that seems to come out of nowhere.

John Flanagan (White) v Marc Hudson. Ruy Lopez, Old Steinitz Defence.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 d6 4. 0-0 (4. d4 Bd7
5. Nc3 is more aggressive) ...Nf6 5. Rel Bg4 6. c3 d5
7. d3 (White seems to have lost his opening initiative)

... "Inseas" n3

... dxe 8. dxe Qxd1 9. Rxd1 Bd6 10. Rel Bxf3 11
11. gxf3 Ke7 12. Be3 Nd8 13. Nd2 Ne6 14. Rad1 Bc5
15. Bxc5+ Nxc5 16. b4 Ne6 17. Ba4 c6 18. Bb3 Nd7
19. Nc4 f6 20. Rd2 Ng5 21. Kg2 Rad8 22. Red1 Nf7?



WHITE TO
PLAY AND
WIN

23. Na5! Resigns. Black loses the exchange and a pawn at least.

"What shall we do tomorrow? What ever shall we do?
The hot water at ten.
And if it rains, a closed car at four.
And we shall play a game of chess,
Pressing lidless eyes and waiting for a knock upon
the door."

T.S. Eliot.

'En Passant'...

The following are extracts from our old Minute Books,
+ the London League and Surrey Records.

From the Minutes

- 1918 Streatham Club founded at the White Lion Hotel
232 Streatham High Road.
1921/2 Membership drops below 27.
1924 Simultaneous by F.D. Yates (British Champion)
over 26 boards.
1928 Re-entered Alexander Cup.
1929 4 teams in Surrey Trophy (Battersea, Thornton
Heath, Sutton and Thames Valley)
Secretary authorised to spend up to £1 on
advertising.
1930 Team to be entered for Beaumont Cup at
South London League.
1933 Kingston and Clapham Common enter Surrey Trophy.
1935 Club Funds total 11/10d
Cost of room £18.15s per annum.
1936 Subscription increased to 15s.
1937 Friendly v Dunroaming Sports and Social Club
(we won 9 - 1)
1946 W. Povah (Nigel's grandfather) elected
temporary Secretary and Treasurer.
Club affiliates to the Surrey County Chess
Association.
Streatham and Brixton Chess Clubs merge.
1947 Club Championship limited to 10 players
(Entry Fee 2/6d.)
1st prize £1, 2nd prize 10/-, 3rd prize 5/-
24 moves per hour then 12 per hour thereafter
(clocks must be used!!)
1950 W. Povah elected President.
1953 Cost of room £1 per night.
Subscription £1-5-0 (Total Membership - 39)
Teams 1 in London League Div. "c"
1 in Surrey Trophy
1 in Alexander Cup.
1954 Membership fees increased to: Men £1-10-0
Women £1- 5-0
Juniors 12-6d.
Total club expenses £70 p.a.
1955 Said unless membership increased club would
have to close.
1956 Club moves to Streatham Baths (Rent 15/- per week)
- Subscription 30/-
Certain Battersea Grammer School pupils granted
free membership.

1960 F.C. Manning elected 2nd Team Captain.
 Suggested that junior attendance be limited to 2 evenings per month.
 Membership - Adults 31 - Juniors 13.
 Separate Junior Club proposed - membership 2/6d p.a. and 6d per week.
 1/6/61 Committee meeting to decide date of A.G.M.
 1963 Adult Sub. £2 p.a.
 Friendly match v Hastings (we lost 16½ - 13½)
 1965 £12 spent on equipment.
 1967 Surrey matches played at Bedford Arms.
 P.J.N. Howarth elected Tournament Secretary.
 1970 Club moves to the Bedford Park.
 J.M. Bennett - Surrey U-16 Champion.
 D. Massie - Surrey U-14 Champion.
 M. Lester appointed Surrey Trophy Captain.
 1972 B.P. Floyd elected as Secretary.
 Total Subs. £58.29p
 Current Account £10. (Deficit)
 London League 1st Team narrowly escaped relegation.
 Surrey Trophy - Lost 8 - Drew 2 - Won 0.
 General dissatisfaction about the running of the club at A.G.M.
 1973 M. Lester appointed Treasurer.
 Current Account deficit still £10 but expenditure £100 plus.
 Subs increased to Adults £3
 OAP's £1.50.
 Students £1
 U-16 50p
 1974 N.E. Povah elected President
 S.A. White takes over Ellam Trophy team
 P.J.N. Howarth takes over London League 1st team.
 1975 Subscriptions increased to £6.00.
 Agreed Club Championship should be run as a weekend Swiss.
 1976 R. Emerson elected Treasurer.
 Rent £2.50 per week for 2 venues.

LONDON CHESS LEAGUE

Brixton

Founder member of League in 1887.
 1st Division winners 1897/8, 1923/4 and 1932/3
 Eastman Cup Winners 1929/30, 1930/31, 1931/32.

Streatham

1946/7 Streatham and Brixton appeared for the first time in "B" (2nd) Division (3rd out of 10).
 1949/50 Relegated to C Division.
 1950/51 Bottom of C Division - Section A
 1951/52 2nd C Division - Section A
 1954/55 4th out of 9 in D Division.

1956/57 Won D Division and promoted.
1957/58 2nd in C Division and promoted - 2nd team entered in D Division.
1960/61 2nd in B Division and promoted.
1961/62 Relegated from A Division.
1963/64 Won B Division
Won Eastman Cup.
1965/66 3rd Team entered in E Division.
1967/68 1st Team finished 3rd in A Division -
2nd team won D Division, and promoted.
1968/69 1st team relegated from A Division.
2nd team relegated from C Division.
3rd team withdrawn.
1971/72 2nd team relegated from 4th Division.
3rd team entered 6th but withdrew after 6 matches.
1972/73 1st team relegated from 2nd Division.
2nd team relegated from 5th Division.
1973/74 1st team won 3rd Division and promoted.
1974/75 1st team 3rd in Division 2.
1975/76 1st team won 2nd Division and promoted.
2nd team promoted from 6th Division.
1976/77 1st team wins 1st Division.
2nd team wins 5th Division.
3rd team is promoted from 7th Division.

SURREY

Brixton

Surrey Trophy winners 1885/6/7 1889 1896 -
1910/20/21/22/23/24 and
1930.

Alexander Cup winners 1923/30 and 31.

Streatham

Surrey Trophy winners 1975/6 and 1976/7
Beaumont Cup winners 1920/1 and 1975/6
Ellam Trophy winners 1974/5 and 1976/7
Centenary Trophy winners 1975/6 and 1976/7
Minor Trophy winners 1970/71 and 1973/74

- 1930/31 Golombek (Brixton) wins individual championship -
Quote from year book "Mr. Golombek is the
youngest champion in the history of the Association
and his win from a field stronger than usual
without loss of a game is a very fine performance.
He is obviously a player with a future." (He was
20 at the time.)
- 1935/6 H.G. Felce (Brixton) Surrey Champion.
Neither Streatham nor Brixton entered inter-club
competitions during the war.
- 1953/54 2nd team entered in Minor Trophy
1957/58 2nd team withdrawn from Minor Trophy.

1959/60 Ever since the war the first team struggled along at the bottom of the Surrey Trophy but this year lifted themselves to 7th out of 10.
1960/61 2nd in Surrey Trophy, -
Losing finalists in Alexander Cup.
1963/64 2nd team runners up in Minor Trophy.

1965 to date - see above.

My thanks are due to C.E. Williams for his valuable research.

"O Thou, whose cynic sneers express
the censure of our favourite chess
Know that its skill is science 'self
Its play distraction from distress
It soothes the anxious lover's care,
It weans the drunkard from excess;
It counsels warriors in their art,
When dangers threat and perils press,
And yields us, when we need them most,
Companions in our loneliness."

Al Mutazz circa 1038.

Roots

Streatham Chess Club FOUNDED 1918.

The Committee of the Streatham Chess Club beg to announce that they are open to receive applications for membership from chess players in Streatham and the surrounding districts.

Applications should be made to the Hon. Secretary, CLUB ROOM, WHITE LION RESTAURANT, 232-4 Streatham High Road, S.W.16.

NOTE.—Personal application may be made at the above address on any Thursday evening.

Streatham Chess Club

STREATHAM CHESS CLUB.

The Streatham Chess Club held their ninth annual general meeting at the White Lion Restaurant on Monday. During the evening the President announced that owing to the interest now being taken in the game, the Streatham Chess Club were arranging special facilities for the coaching of beginners by some of the leading players. Mr. Yates, the British champion, has promised to give a simultaneous exhibition on October 27.

It is evident, from the Secretary's Report, that the club is in a very satisfactory position, and chess players in the district will find the Streatham Chess Club room in the White Lion Restaurant, 232-234 Streatham High-road.

STREATHAM CHESS CLUB

(Founded 1918.)

THE STREATHAM CHESS CLUB has now re-opened for the eleventh season.

All interested in the game of Chess are cordially invited to become members.

Annual subscription .. 10s. 6d.

Apply at the Club Room:
The White Lion Restaurant,
232-4, High Road, Streatham,
on any Thursday evening.

STREATHAM CHESS CLUB

Chess Mates

STREATHAM'S chess enthusiasts are meeting regularly again each week at the White Lion—during the war they gave up their weekly meetings, although some of them were to be seen daily at a certain well-known cafe "battling" with each other over a tea table. One of the most enthusiastic is Mr. Carus Colliver, Downton-avenue, Streatham Hill, no mean exponent. In 1919 and 1925 he took part in simultaneous displays against J. R. Capablanca, then world champion, the result in each case being a draw, and in 1927 he beat F. D. Yates, champion of Great Britain, in a simultaneous display at Streatham.

NEWSMAN

CHESS

BRITISH CHAMPION TO VISIT STREATHAM

The Streatham Chess Club held their thirteenth annual general meeting at the White Lion Restaurant, Streatham, last (Thursday) evening, and during the course of the evening the hon. secretary (Mr. L. L. Poynter) announced that he had been able to arrange for the British champion, Mr. F. D. Yates, to visit the club on Thursday, October 15. Mr. Yates will give a simultaneous exhibition, playing all the members of the club. A very interesting evening is promised.

The hon. secretary and committee will always welcome ladies or gentlemen interested in the game who care to visit the club room, at the White Lion Restaurant, 232-4, Streatham High-road, S.W.16, on any Thursday evening.

The Streatham Chess Club has again entered for the Surrey Trophy and Alexander Cup.

STREATHAM CHESS CLUB.

Streatham Chess Club has re-opened for the eleventh season and is extending an invitation of membership to all interested in the game. Inexperienced players can be coached by some of the leading players.

Mr. F. D. Yates is expected at the club as soon as he returns to this country. Applications should be made at the club room at the White Lion Restaurant, 232-4 Streatham High-road, on any Thursday evening.

The re-opening took place on Thursday of last week, and there is every sign of a successful season in store.

The club has entered again for the Surrey Trophy and also for the Alexander Cup, having pleasant memories of finishing second in the latter competition last year.

STREATHAM CHESS CLUB

Re-opens 5th Oct., 1933

(18th Season.)

All enquiries regarding Membership should be addressed to the Hon. Sec., CLUB ROOM, WHITE LION RESTAURANT,

232-4, Streatham High Road, S.W.16.

STREATHAM CHESS CLUB

Chess Clubs Have Amalgamated

Streatham Chess Club has amalgamated with the Brixton Club and will in future be known as the Streatham and Brixton Chess Club. It will re-open on Thursday, September 26, at the "White Lion," Streatham High-road, at 7 o'clock, and will meet there every Thursday evening from 7 to 10.30. New members will be welcomed.

The club has entered in the "B" Division of the London Chess League, and will arrange other matches.

STREATHAM MEETS 17/1952

Streatham And Brixton Chess Club

The Royal game has few supporters more constant and enthusiastic than the members of Streatham's own chess club, for every Thursday evening during the past 35 years the Streatham and Brixton Chess Club, which was founded in 1918, has met in the White Lion Restaurant to teach, learn, play and discuss the game of chess.

Its policy has been not only to produce first-class players, but also to study the needs of the younger, up-and-coming beginner. Octogenarians and schoolboys meet on equal terms in its friendly atmosphere. Exhibition games by such high-ranking masters as A. D. Yates and Koenig, both British champions, have on many occasions been given in the clubroom for the benefit of members, and plans are in hand for further simultaneous displays during the coming season.

In the world of chess the name of Felce is a household word, and Streatham is fortunate in that the three famous Felces (F. C., G. A. and H. G.) are all active members of the Streatham Chess Club. The Felce Cup is indeed one of the glittering prizes for which dogged and doughty but silent teams battle year after year across the board in the Surrey tournaments.

As in other spheres of sports, rising costs have had effect in chess circles, and Streatham Club members, at an extraordinary general meeting, recently increased the annual subscription to 25s., a modest sum withal for 48 evenings of pleasant recreation in what is considered to be the most comfortable chess room in London.

Streatham chess players, beginners and advanced, are invited to enrol for the coming season, either personally at the clubroom, or by application to the secretary, Mr. J. Bradshaw, 2 Rydal-rd., Streatham.

In one of their last games of the season, the Streatham and Brixton Chess Club were just beaten by the odd point after a hard-fought tussle with Battersea, winners of the Surrey Trophy Cup for 1952.

STREATHAM & BRIXTON CHESS CLUB

WHITE LION RESTAURANT
232 STREATHAM HIGH ROAD, S.W.16

Affiliated to
The Surrey County Chess Association

Season 1949-1950

President

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Opening Surveys

THE BISHOP'S OPENING

by Chris Jones

The 20th century hasn't seen any significant changes in the Bishop's Opening. It has continued on its way without gaining any great deal of popularity.

Over the last two decades Keres, Bronstein, Larsen and Estrin have all done a lot to refine the opening, yet it is still considered a specialist's opening and as such only a few significant games are published each year. The most recent of these was played between Hartston - Petrosian, 1977 European Team Championships, Moscow. 1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d3 (other moves available here are (a) Nc3 Vienna Game (b) Nf3 Petroff's Defence (c) d4 main line Ouroussoff Gambit (d) f4?! with a delayed King's Gambit, which isn't to be recommended) ...c6 (Paulsen's Defence considered Black's complete defence to the Bishop's Opening, Black aims to set up a pawn centre, thus gaining time by pushing back the King's Bishop) 4. Bb3 (Unusual, normal here is 4. Nf3 d5 5. Bb3 Bd6 6. Nc3 Be6 7. Bg5 Qa5 8. 0-0 etc., Hartston avoids the main line but Petrosian could have transposed if he had wished) ...Bc5 5. Nf3 d6 6. Nc3 0-0 7. 0-0?! Nfd7 8. Ne2 Bb6! (threatening Nc5 to exchange the bishop, White must waste more time so to preserve the piece.) 9. c3 Nc5 10. Bc2 Bg4 11. Ng3 Nh5 12. d4 with an equal game, eventually drawn after 38 moves.

These days Larsen is considered the leading exponent of the Bishop's Opening. It came as a great surprise to everybody when he played it in the Amsterdam World Championship Interzonal 1964, although he also played it in the Danish Championships that same year. Here is a game from the Interzonal Tournament.

Larsen v Berger

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d3 d5?! (an unusual system, Black intends sacrificing a pawn in order to weaken White's King side.) 4. exd5 Nxd5 5. Nf3 Nc6 (if 5...Bg4 6. h3 Bxf3 7. Qxf3 f6 8. 0-0 Nc6 9. Re1 Bd6 10. d4 (with advantage to White) 6. 0-0 Bg4 7. Re1 Be7 8. h3 Bxf3 9. Qxf3 Nd4 10. Qg4 0-0 11. Rxe5 (at last White gets the pawn but now has to soak up the pressure) ...Nf6 12. Qd1 Bd6 13. Re1 Re8 14. Be3 c5 15. Nd2 Bc7 16. Nf3 Qd6 17. Bxd4 cxd4 18. Rxe8+ Rxe8 19. c3 dxс3 20. bxc3 Nh5 21. Qa4 Re7 22. Qxa7 Nf4 23. Qxb7 h5 24. Qc8+ Kh7 25. h4 Resigns.

As the game showed the possibilities to experiment are endless. It is certainly sound, and yet flexible enough to suit most styles positionally or tactically.

Larsen tends to steer towards a favourable endgame, hence the patient buildup without committing White's forces too soon.

The main line, named after the Russian Ouroussoff, Gambits a pawn with 3. d4, White hopes to obtain an advantage in time and space in order to achieve pressure on the uncastled King. The game Timoshenko - Karpov, 1969 USSR Junior Championships, clearly illustrates this.

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nf3! (Ouroussoff's improvement, now Black must decide his fate, Nc6 transposes into the Two Knight's Defence, while other lines offer little chance of equalizing. The game A. Martin v D. Duncan, Glasgow Herald 1977 continued 4...Bb4+? 5. c3 dxc3 6. 0-0 (or bxc3 intending e5 with a strong position) and White won this game in 15 moves.) ...Nxe4 (main line) 5. Qxd4 Nf6 6. Bg5 Be7 7. Nc3 c6 8. 0-0-0 d5 (White's advantage is clear, instead of holding the pawn the general opinion is that he should return it in order to obtain equal chances) 9. Rhei! Be6 10. Bd3 (such is Black's position that it is very dangerous for him to castle, this is a common situation for Black to be in, and why so many games go into the Two Knight's; he lasts longer that way!) ...Nbd7 11. Qh4 c5 (Karpov's own try to improve the main line, normal here is Nc5) 12. Ne5 Nxe5 13. Rxe5 d4 14. f4 Nd7 15. Bb5 Bxg5 16. fxg5 Qc7 17. Bxd7+ Kxd7 18. Qe4 Qc6 19. Rxc5!! a winning move, the rest is just technique.

The Ouroussoff Gambit has certainly been proved sound, and has now been developed, as the previous game indicates, into a lethal attacking weapon for the tactical player. It's only drawback, if it is one, is that Black can easily decline the Gambit, here are a few more 4th move alternatives, besides the main line available.

A) 4...d5 5. exd5 Bb4+ (5...Nxd5 6. 0-0 Nc6 7. Rel Be7 8. Nd4 Nb6 9. Bb5) 6. c3 Qe7+ 7. Kf1 = Chances.

B) 4...Bc5 5. 0-0 d6 (if 5...Nc6 Black goes into the Two Knight's Defence) 6. c3 dxc3 7. Nxc3 0-0 8. Bg5 Be6 9. Bxe6 fxe6 10. Qb3 Qc8 11. e5 with advantage to White

So back to the main line and a few games from club members.

A.D. Martin v R.J. Webb. Woollacombe 1976.

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. 0-0 Bc5 (a common position, Black has transposed into the Max Lange Attack) 6. e5 Ng4 7. Bf4 (best as now the Black Knight is badly placed. Other moves here are 7. c3 d5 8. Bb5 dxc 9. Qa4 0-0 10. Bxc6 bxc6 11. Qxc6 cxb2 12. Bxb2 Rb8 13. Qxc5 Rxb2 14. Qxa7 f6 15. Qd4 Rb8 with equal chances, but certainly not 7. Bxf7+? as Black gets a clear advantage after 7...Kxf7 8. Qxg4 d5 9. e6 Qf6 10. Rel Nd8 11. Bf4 h6) ...0-0 8. h3 Nh6

9. Nbd2 (or 9. Bg5 Be7 10. Bxh6 gxh6 11. Bd5!) ...d5
 10. Bb5 Bd7 11. Nb3 Bb6 12. Rel Nxe5 13. Nxe5 Bxb5
 14. a4 Bc4 15. a5 Bxb3 16. axb6 Bc4 17. bxc7 Qd6
 18. Qxd4 Qf6 19. Qd2 Bb5 20. Bg5 Qd6 21. c4 f6
 22. Bf4 fxе5 23. Bxf Qb6 24. cxb5 Qxb5 25. Ra5 Qb6
 26. Rxd5 Nf5 27. Rd1 Ne7 28. Rd7 Rfe8 29. Qc3 1-0

J. Beadle (129) v J.A. Johnson (191!)

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nf3 Bc5 5. c3??
 (better is 0-0 i.e. d6 6. c3 dxc3 7. Nxc3 0-0
 8. Bg5 with advantage to White) ...d5 6. exd5 Nxd5
 7. Nxd4 Nb6 (a pointless move, the Black Knight goes
 out of play and will stay there for the rest of the
 game) 8. Bb3 (keeping control of the long diagonal)...0-0
 9. 0-0 Qh4 (a hopeful move, and it meets with the
 contempt it deserves) 10. Nf3 Qh5 11. Bf4 Na6 (now
 the other Knight goes to a terrible square, Black has
 clearly underestimated the position) 12. Rel Bg4
 13. Nbd2 Rfe8 14. h3 Bf5 15. Ng5! (not 15. g4 Bxg4
 16. hxg Qxg4+ 17. Bg3 Qxg3+ ...Bg6 (maintains the
 Queen, but not for long, better was Qd1 when White's
 advantage is not so great.) 16. Ndf3! (the net closes)
 ...Red8 17. Qcl Bd6 18. g4 Qh6 (Black could have
 resigned here, the only other move was 18...Bxf4
 19. Qxf4 Qh3 20. Bxf7+ wins) 19. Nxf7 Resigns.

C. Jones v F.C. Manning. Streatham v Wimbledon 1976.

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nf3 Nxe4 5. Qxd4 Nf6
 (other moves are inferior i.e. 5...Nc5 6. Bg5 f6
 7. Be3 c6 8. Nc3 d5 9. 0-0-0- Be7 10. Qh4 Nd7 ±
 or 5...d5 6. Bxd5 Nf6 7. Bxf7+ Kxf7 8. Qxd8 Bb4+
 9. Qd2 ±
 and finally 5...Nd6? 6. 0-0 Nxc5 (6.Nc6 7. Rel+ Ne7
 8. Bb3 f6 9. Qd5! Jones v Harries, Richmond Cup '74.)
 7. Rel+ Be7 8. Qxg7 Rf8 9. Bh6! winning the exchange.)
 6. Bg5 Be7 (if 6...Nc6: 7. Qh4 Be7 transposing)
 7. Nc3 Nc6 8. Qh4 d6 9. 0-0-0 Be6 10. Bxe6?! (incorrect,
 best here is Bd3 which maintains pressure on the King side)
 ...fxe6 11. Rhel e5 12. g4 Nd7 13. Nd5 Bxg5+ 14. Nxg5 Nb6
 15. Nf4! Qf6 16. Nh5 (the Knights are causing havoc)
 ...Qe7 17. f4 h6 18. Ng3 0-0 19. Nf5 Rxf5 (Black is
 committed, he must try and escape the stranglehold of the
 Knights.) 20. gxf5 hxg5 21. fxg5 Rf8 22. f6 Qf7
 23. Rd3 Qc4! (giving Black a chance to counter attack)
 24. Re4 Nd4 25. Rxd4 exd4 26. b3 Qf7? (blocking his own
 escape) 27. Rh3 Qg6 28. Qh8+ Kf7 29. fxg7 Qxg7
 30. Rf3+ Resigns.

A. Martin v R. Lobo. Bristol 1977.

Although Andrew eventually loses this game he had a clear plus initand with best play should have won. The opening still shows the potential so part of the game is included.

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. 0-0 Bc5
6. c3! (an interesting alternative to the normal e5)
...d3 (not a very bright move) 7. b4 Bb6 8. a4 a6
9. e5 d5 10. exf6 (an ambitious move, stronger here
would be 10. exd6 Qxd6 11. Ba3± or 10. Bd3 Ne4
11. Qc2 Bf5 12. Ba6 Bb6 13. Nbd2±) ...dxc4 11. Rel+ Be6
12. fxg7 Rg8 13. Bg5 Qd5 14. Nbd2 Rxg7 15. Ne4 Qf5
16. b5!? (again interesting yet probably not the
strongest, better was Ra2! maintaining his bind,
Andrew went on to lose in 49 moves but Lobo can think
himself lucky because up to here he hadn't had a look-in.

C. Jones v J. Simpson. Major Open - Portsmouth 1976.

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nc6 (this lad doesn't want to come
out and play, this line is very passive but that was
soon changed) 3. Nf3 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d4 (at last
some life) ...exd4 6. 0-0! (now the Max Lange, see
A. Martin - R. Lobo as a previous example) ...Ne4
7. cxd4 Bb6 8. Nc3 Nxc3 9. Rel+ Ne7 10. bxc3 0-0
(blind as a bat, his downfall is now swift, better was
10...d5 11. Bd3 h6 12. Ne5 0-0 13. Bg3 Be6 14. Nxg7 Kxf7
15. Qh5+±) 11. Bg5 Re8 12. Qb3 Resigns.

Here is a short game on how not to play against the
Bishops Opening, or Black to play and lose.

C. Jones v J. Hirons. Woollacombe 1976.

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. Ng5 Bb4+
6. c3 d5 7. exd5 Bg4 8. f3 0-0 9. 0-0 Ne5 10. Qxd4
and White won very quickly.

C. Jones v A. Hall. Major Open Portsmouth 1976.

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. Ng5 d5
6. exd5 Qe7+ 7. Kf1!? (an unusual continuation and one
that must come as a shock to the system) ...Ne5 8. Qxd4 h6
9. Ne4 Nxc4 10. Nxf6+ Qxf6 11. Qxc4 Bd6 12. Nc3 0-0 13. Ne4 Qe5
14. f4 and White won after a hard fought 36 moves.

I've given a lot of incomplete games but then the idea
was to show the potential of the opening, so to make up
here are 2 of Larsen's games, just for a change it's not
the Ouroussoff Gambit but a few obscure lines.

Larsen v F. Peterson. Danish Championship 1964.

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. Nc3 Bc5 4. d3 d6 5. Qf3 (not
the most common continuation, that's probably why it's
so good, at least it makes you think a while) ...Nc6
6. Nge2 h6 7. Be3 Bxe3 8. fxe3 Na5 9. Bb3 Nxb3
10. axb3 c6 11. 0-0 0-0 12. Ng3 a5 13. exd5 cxd5
14. d4 exd4 15. cxd4 Be6 16. Rae1 Rc8 17. Re5 b5
18. Qd3 a6 19. Nf5 Rc6 20. h3 Kh8 21. b4 Ng8 22. Qg3 g6
23. Nh4 Kh7 24. Ne2 Rc2? 25. Re6 Winning Outright.

Larsen v Gligoric

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. Nc3 Nc6 4. d3 Bb4 5. Nf3 d6
6. 0-0 Bxc3 7. bxc3 Na5 8. Bb3 Nxb3 9. axb3 0-0
10. c4 b6 11. Qe2 Nd7 12. Bg5 f6 13. Be3 Re8
14. Nd2 Nf8 15. f4 exf4 16. Bxf4 Ng6 17. Bg3 Ne5
18. h3 Bd7 19. d4 Ng6 20. h4 Nh8 21. b4 Nf7
22. Qd3 c5 23. bxc5 bxc5 24. dxc5 dxc5 25. Nb3 Qe7
26. Ra5 Rec8 27. Qe3 Be6 28. Nxc5 Bxc4 29. Rb1 Bd5
30. Rel Bc6 31. Nd3 Re8 32. e5 fxe5 33. Nxe5 Qb7
34. Qb3 and a draw was agreed.

FURTHER MONKEY BUSINESS!

by Nigel Povah

As some of you may know there is a variation against the Modern Defence which runs 1. e4 g6 2. Bc4 Bg7 3. Qf3 e6 4. d4 etc. which has been christened "The Monkey's Bum". However, you may not know that this variation and its name are closely linked with S & B. The reason for this, is that Charlie Kennaugh and I were responsible for inventing the variation, and Ken Coates (soon destined to join S & B) was responsible for naming it, when the three of us were at Leeds University from 1971 - 1974.

I will not attempt to give a historical explanation as to how the variation and its name arose (for that purpose I refer readers to my article "Some Monkey Business" in the August edition of BCM), but I would like to outline some of the interesting features of this obscure and little known variation.

For a start, it should be pointed out that the variation provides the White player with a psychological advantage as do many surprise lines, especially when you play your third move 3. Qf3 - you can almost hear your opponent thinking "He must be a real patzer probably hasn't been playing the game for long."

However, various players including Charlie Kennaugh, Julian Hodgson, Dave Massie and myself (all from S & B) have had a reasonable degree of success with the line.

The variation can be classified as follows,

1. e4 g6
2. Bc4!?...

Quite often a "clock winner", in that your opponent sometimes squanders a few minutes trying to guess your intentions - some chance of that!

2. ... Bg7

This move must be played for White's strategy to be successful. The alternative 2...d6 allows White to steer the game into the Pirc Defence, thereby avoiding the more flexible Modern e.g. 3. d4 Bg7 4. Nc3 Nf6, when White can choose between several variations of the Holmov i.e. 5. Nf3 or 5. Qe2 - the former being the most reliable.

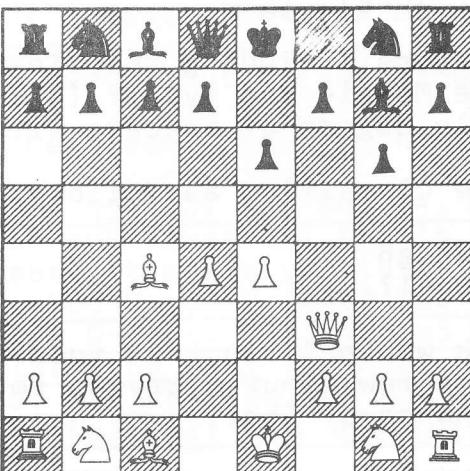
If Black tries to refrain from playing ...Nf6 (which is the raison d'etre of the Modern) then White can often initiate an effective King Side attack e.g. 3. d4 Bg7 4. Nc3 Nc6 (4...c6 5.Qf3! e6 6.Nge2 Ne7 7. Bg5! 0-0 8. h4 f6 9. Be3 d5 10. Bb3 Nd7 11. h5 g5 12. h6 Bh8 13. Qg3 Nb6 14. 0-0-0 dxe 15. Nxe4 Nf5 16. Qf3 Nxe3 17. fxe3 Nd5 18. Rh5! Bd7 19. Nc5 b6 20. Nxd7 Qxd7 21. e4 Nc7 22. d5 and White won easily in Nigel Short v A. Ludgate, British Qualifiers 1977) 5. Be3 Nf6 (5...e5 6. Nge2 Nf6 7. f3 0-0 8. Qd2 also offers White good chances) 6. f3 e6 7. Bb3(!) 0-0 8. Qd2 Na5 9. Nge2 Bd7 10. h4 b5 11. 0-0-0 b4 12. Nbl Nx b3+ 13. axb3 a5 14. h5 a4 15. bxa4 Rxa4 16. Bh6 Ra5 17. Bxg7 Kxg7 18. hxg6 fxg6 19. Qxb4 and White, with an extra pawn and the better attacking chances, went on to win in N. Povah v J.G. Nicholson, Charlton, 1974.

3. Qf3 e6

This move is almost forced, although in the game G.D. Lee v I. Yedlin, London League, 1977 Black tried 3...d5? 4. Bxd5 Nf6 5. Bb3 (5. Nc3!?) Nc6 6. Nc3 Nd4 7. Qd1 0-0 8. d3 e5 9. Nge2 Ng4 10. Nxd4 exd4 11. Nd5 c6 12. Nf4 Kh8 13. h3 Ne5 14. h4! h5 15. Bd2 and it soon became apparent that Black had nothing for his pawn.

It should be pointed out that 3...Nh6?! also runs into trouble e.g. 4. d4! 0-0 (4...e6 is advisable but then the Knight on h6 may become vulnerable) 5. h4! d6 6. h5 Bg4 7. Qg3 Bxh5? 8. Rxh5 wins at least a piece.

4. d4! ?...



This is the interesting gambit variation suggested by Charlie Kennaugh. However, there is an alternative method of play which Charlie now advocates himself namely, 4. Ne2, when he has met three different replies:-

C.W. Kennaugh v B.A. Cheal, Surrey University 1975.

4...Ne7 5. Nbc3 Nbc6 6. d4 h6 7. Bf4 a6 8. 0-0-0 b5
9. Bb3 Na5 10. d5 e5 11. Be3 d6 (More like a Closed Lopez!) 12. g4 Bd7 13. Ng3 Qc8 14. h3 Rf8 15. Rhg1 Qb7
16. Qe2 Rb8 17. Kb1 Nc4 18. Bxc4 bxc 19. Bc1 Qb4
20. Ka1 Bb5 21. a3 Qa5 22. Be3 Nc8 23. Qd2 Rh8
24. h4 Bd7 25. f3 Nb6 26. Nge2 Na4 27. Nxa4 Qxd2
28. Rxd2 Bxa4 29. Nc3 Bd7 30. Ka2 Ke7 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$

C.W. Kennaugh v M.D. Smith. Manchester 1974.

4...Nc6 5. d4 a6 (If 5...Nxd4 6. Nxd4 Bxd4 7. Nc3 when White's position resembles the 4. d4 line, but he has managed to retain his Black-squared Bishop) 6. Nbc3 b5
7. Bb3 Bb7 8. d5 Na5 9. Bf4 Nxb3 10. cxb3 (CWK obviously feels he can attack down the C-file) ...d6
11. dxe6 fxe6 12. 0-0-0 Qf6?? 13. e5! Bxf3 14. exf6 Nxg6
15. gxf3 with an easy win, although 1 - 0 in 42 moves!

C.W. Kennaugh v J.R. Holland. Morecambe 1975.

4...c5 5. c3 Nc6 6. d4 cxd 7. cxd Nxd4 8. Nxd4 Bxd4
(This position can be reached after 4.d4!? c5 5. c3 Nc6
6. Ne2 etc, and it resembles the main line except that the open C-file and the weak d6 square probably enhance White's chances.) 9. Nc3 Qf6 10. Qg3 Qe5 11. Nb5! Qxg3 (If 11...Qxe4+ 12. Be3 Be5 13. Nd6+ Bxd6 14. Qxd6 Qxc4
15. Bc5 with a crushing attack OR 11...Bxb2 12. Bxb2 Qxb2
13. 0-0+-) 12. hxg3 Be5 13. Bf4 (13. f4 Bb8 14. e5
also gives White the advantage.) ...Bxf4 14. gxf4 Kf8
15. Rd1 Nf6 16. e5 Ne8 17. g4 a6 18. Nd6 Nxd6
19. Rxd6 b5 20. Bb3 Bb7 21. Rh3 Bc6 22. f5 Ke7
23. f6+ Kd8 24. g5 Kc7 25. Kd2 a5 26. a3 h5 27. gxh5 Rh7
28. Rd4 Rah8 29. Rdh4 d6 30. f4 Be4 31. Ke3 Bf5
32. Rh1 dxe5 33. fxe5 Rd8 34. Rd4 Rxd4 35. Kxd4 and
White won in a further 22 moves.

Now after 4. d4!? Black can consider five alternatives:-

- A) 4...Bxd4
- B) 4...Ne7
- C) 4...c5
- D) 4...Nc6
- E) 4...Qf6

A

4...Bxd4

This may be considered as the main line, as it is certainly the most popular way for Black to continue.

5. Ne2 Bg7

The natural response; however A. Westwood v A. Bernfield, Surrey Open 1977, saw a new move in 5...Qf6? 6. Nxd4 Qxd4 7. Bd3 Nc6 8. Nc3 Ne5 9. Qe2 Nxd3 10. cxd3 d6 11. Be3 Qb4 12. 0-0 c6 13. Rac1 Qa5 14. Bd4 f6 15. f4 Qd8 and White had an overwhelming position.

6. Nbc3 Nc6

Black has alternatives at this stage, although most games transpose since Black will invariably play ...Nc6, ...d6, and ...Ne7 etc. However, the following two games have some independent value:-

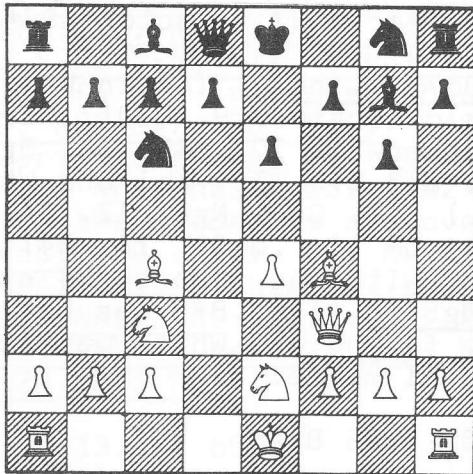
K.J. Wicker v Batchinsky

6...c6!? 7. Bf4 Qe7 (7...d5 8. 0-0-0) 8. 0-0-0
(White's game looks superb!) ...e5 9. Be3 b6 (To prevent
10. Bc5 etc.) 10. g4 Na6 11. h4 Nc7 12. h5 Qf6
13. Qg3 g5 14. h6! Bxh6 15. Nd4! Ne6 16. Nf3 (16. Nf5
looks strong.) ...Nf4? 17. Nxe5 Ne6 18. Bxe6 Qxe6
19. Nxc6!? dxc6 20. Rd6 Qe7 21. Bd4 Bf8! (If 21...f6
22. Rxh6!) 22. Rxc6 Bd7 23. Rc7 f6 24. e5! Qe6
25. exf6 Nxg6 (If 25...Bd6 26. f7+!) 26. Qf3 Rc8
27. Rxc8+ Bxc8 28. Bxf6 Rg8 29. Nd5 and after all the
complications White has emerged with an extra pawn and
a clearly superior position - however 0 - 1 (40)??

N.E. Povah v A.C. Ashby London 1974

6...d6 7. Bf4 Ne7 (7...Nc6 transposes to the main text)
8. 0-0-0 0-0? (Asking for trouble; better was ...Nbc6 etc.)
9. g4 (If 9. h4 then h5 slows White down.) ...a6 10. h4!?
(Perhaps the prophylactic 10. a4 was wiser.) ...Nec6? (Too
slow; 10. ...b5 was best) 11. Qe3! (Not 11. h5? g5!
12. Bxg5 Ne5 -+) ...b5 12. Bb3 a5!? 13. Nxb5 a4
14. Bc4 Na5 15. Bd3 Nbc6 16. h5 Nb4 17. Bh6 Nxd3+
18. cxd3 (Not 18. Rxd3? Bxb2+ OR 18...Nc4) ...Bxh6
19. Qxh6 g5 20. f4 c6 21. Nxd6! f6 (Not 21...Qxd6?
22. Qxg5+ Kh8 23. Qf6+ Kg8 24. h6 mates) 22. Nc4 Rb8
23. fxg5 Nxc4 24. g6! Qe7 25. dxc4 with an easy win 1 - 0
(36).

7. Bf4...



This is played to prevent ...Ne5 which would win the White-squared bishop, although there is an alternative in 7. Qg3 which aims at exerting pressure on c7 whilst facilitating the advance of White's f-pawn.

Kagan suggested 7. Qg3 to me, after our game at Birmingham, and Julian Hodgson has actually played it:-

J.M. Hodgson v Abayasekera. S & B v Wimbledon 1976.

7. Qg3 Nge7 (7...d6 8. Bg5 Nge7 9. 0-0-0 a6 10. f4 Bd7
 11. f5 gxf5 12. Nf4 Be5 13. Qf3 Rg8 14. h4 Qb8
 15. Nh5 b5 16. Bb3 b4 17. Ne2 fxe 18. Qxe4 f5 19. Qf3
 with a complex position J.M. Hodgson - K.W. Spurgeon,
 London 1976 1 - 0 (27)) 8. Bf4 d6 9. 0-0-0 e5
 10. Be3 Na5 11. Bd3 Be6 12. f4 f5 13. fxe Bxe5
 14. Bf4 Nac6 15. h4 Qd7 16. Bb5 Bf4 17. Nx~~f~~₄ 0-0-0
 18. Ncd5 Rdf8 19. Qc3 fxe 20. Nf6! Nd5 21. N4xd5 Qd8
 22. Bxc6 bxc6 23. Qxc6 Bxd5 24. Nxd5 Rf7 25. Rh3 Qe8
 26. Qa6+ 1 - 0

7. ...Ne5

Black need not play this immediately but can consider the obvious alternatives 7...d6 OR 7...Nge7 e.g.:-

N.E. Povah v B.A. Jones. Leeds 1972.

7. ...Nge7 8. 0-0-0 a6 (If 8...d6 9. Nb5 with the idea of sacrificing on d6 is possible) 9. a4 0-0 10. g4?
 (10. Qe3!? was possible or perhaps 10. h4! h5 11. g4 hxg
 12. Qe3 ▲ Bh6, h5 etc.) ...g5! 11. Bg3 Ng6 12. Bb3 b5?!
 (12...Nce5 13. Bxe5 Bxe5 leaves Black in charge of the
 Black squares and the game.) 13. axb axb 14. Nxb5 with
 an unclear position, although 1 - 0 (36).

N. Povah v R.S. McFarland. Clacton 1974.

7...d6 8. 0-0-0 Bd7 9. h4?! (Again White has some problems, and should consider 9. Qe3!?, or perhaps this time 9. g4!? g5 (otherwise 10. h4±) 10. Bg3 Nge7 (10...Ne5 11. Bxe5 Bxe5 12. Qe3 Qf6 13. Kbl and White must play for h4 and f4 etc.) 11. Qe3! Ng6 12. f4 gxf4 13. Nxf4 Nce5 (13...Bh6 14. h4±, OR 13...Qg5? 14. h4! Qxg4?? 15. Be2 +-) 14. Be2 with the idea of h4 etc.) ...h5 10. Qe3 a6! 11. Bg5 f6 (11...Bf6 was better) 12. Bf4 Qe7 13. Bg3 0-0-0 14. f4 Nh6 and White was struggling, but managed to draw in 51 moves.

8. Bxe5 Bxe5

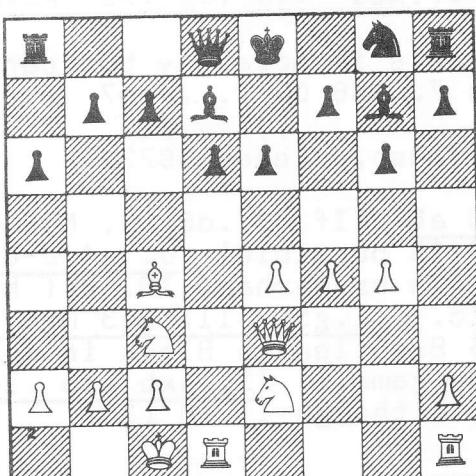
Although Black is a pawn to the good, and has the advantage of the two Bishops, he is still well behind in development and must be prepared to face a King Side pawn-storm.

9. Qe3!...

This move-order is an improvement on 9. 0-0-0 which allows Black the following resource seen in D.L. Massie v A. Kitchlew 9...c6 10. Qe3 (The normal method of continuing, with the idea of f4, g4, h4 etc.) ...Qb6! (The point of 9...c6 - now White cannot play 11. f4, and must either lose time moving his Queen or allow the exchange of Queens into a poor ending.) 0 - 1 ().

Hence, the new move-order of 9. Qe3! allows White to meet 9...c6 with 10. f4 Bg7 11. 0-0-0 (11. e5 Qb6 12. Qxb6 axb6 13. Ne4 with a bind.) ...Qb6 12. Qg3 and White still has good attacking prospects.

9. ...d6
10. 0-0-0 Bd7
11. f4 Bg7
12. g4 a6!



In N. Povah v K.L. Escott, Clacton 1974 Black played more slowly with 12...Ne7?! 13. h4 h5 14. Ng3! hxg 15. h5 e5 16. hxg6 Nxg6 17. Rxh8+ Bxh8 (17...Nxh8 18. Rh1 Ng6 19. f5 Nf4 transposes back to the game). 18. f5 Nf4 19. Rh1 Bg7 20. Nd5?! (20. Rh7! wins for White in all variations e.g. 20...Qg5!? 21. Nd5! Rc8 (21...O-O-O? 22. Rh5! Ne2+ 23. Bxe2+-) 22. Nh5+- and I leave it up to the reader to discover the rest for himself) ...Nxd5? (20...c6! 21. Nxf4 exf4 22. Qxf4 Qf6 23. c3 O-O-O 24. Qxg4 with equal chances) 21. Bxd5 c6 22. Rh7 Kf8 23. Nh5 cxd5 (23...Qh4 24. f6!+-) 24. Nxg7 Qb6 25. Rh8+! Ke7 26. f6+ Kxf6 27. Nh5+ Ke7 28. Qg5+ Ke6 29. Qf6 Mate.

13. h4 b5
 14. Bb3 a5
 15. a4 bxa
 16. Nxa4 h5
 17. e5!...

The only move, if White is to have sufficient play for his pawn e.g. 17. f5 hxg Δ Bh6 and Black stands better, or 17. g5 Ne7 and White cannot make further progress.

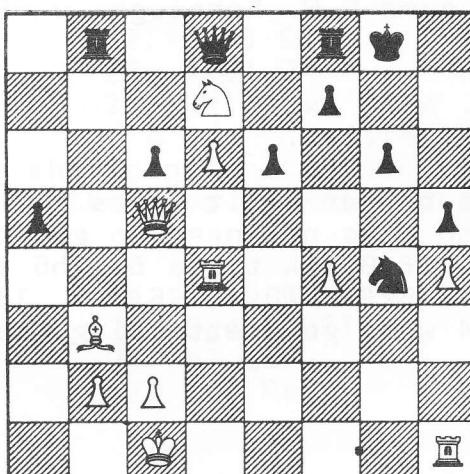
17. ...Nh6??

The best move, and the move that worried me most was 17. ...Bc6 however White seems to have quite a lot of play after 18. Rg1 hxg 19. Nd4 Bb7 (19...Qd7?
 20. Nxc6 Qxc6 21. cxd cxd 22. Nb6! a4 23. Bd5 \ddagger)
 20. exd cxd 21. Bxe6 fxe6 22. Nxe6 Qe7 23. Nxg7+ Kf7
 24. Qc3 with favourable complications or alternatively
 24. Qxe7+ Nxe7 25. Rg1 which is unclear.

18. exd Nxg4
 19. Qc5 c6

If 19... cxd6 20. Qxd6 Nf2 (20...Bf8 21. Qd4 Rg8 22. Nb6 Ra7 23. Nxd7 Rxd7 24. Ba4 with a clear advantage). 21. Nb6 Nxdl 22. Rxdl+-

20. Nd4 Bxd4
 21. Rxd4 O-O
 22. Nb6 Rb8
 23. Nxd7?...



This exchange of "good" knight for "bad" bishop is a clear mistake, after which White is struggling to justify his pawn deficit.

Correct was 23. Nc4! Rb5 (24...Ra8 25. Ba4 with the idea of Ne5 or Nb6 etc.) 24. Qa7 Rd5 25. Rhd1 with play for the pawn.

23...Qxd7
24. Ba4 Qb7!
25. b3 Qb6
26. Qxb6 Rxb6
27. Rc4?...

This is the decisive blunder; the last hope was 27. d7! Rd8 28. Rd6 Nf6 29. Rhd1 Kf8 30. Rxc6 Rxc6 31. Bxc6 Ke7 32. c3! Nxd7 33. Bxd7 Rxd7 34. Rxd7+ Kxd7 35. b4 axb 36. cxb Kc6 37. Kc2 Kb5 38. Kb3 f6 39. Kc3=; However 36...e5! still wins.

27...Rd8
28. Bxc6...

The point of White's 27th move was now to play 28. Rd1 which is, of course, a blunder due to 28...Ne3++. The game finished as follows:- 28...Rxd6 29. Bf3 Ne3 30. Ra4 Rb4 31. Rxa5 Rxf4 32. Bb7 Rb6 33. Ba8 Nf5 34. Kb2 Nxh4 35. Ka3 Nf5 36. c4 Nd4 37. Rb1 Nc2+ 38. Ka2 Nb4+ 39. Kb2 Rb8 40. c5 Nd3+ Resigns. N. Povah v S. Kagan. Birmingham 1977.

B

4...Ne7
5. Nc3!...

Of course White can consider 5. c3 or 5. Nge2 but they both allow 5...d5. The text move is an attempt to transpose back into variation A.

5...Nbc6
6. Nge2 Nxd4

For 6...h6 see the game C.W. Kennaugh v B.A. Cheal given earlier.

7. Nxd4 Bxd4
8. Bf4!?...

8. Bg5! may well be better as it saves a tempo on the game, and the Bishop does not need to guard against ...Ne5 in this position. If Black tries 8...h6 then White can continue with 9. Bf6 Bxf6 10. Qxf6 0-0 11. h4 Nc6 12. Qf4 Kg7 13. g4 with good attacking chances for the pawn.

8...Bg7
9. 0-0-0...

Worthy of consideration is 9. e5!?

9...d6
10. h4...

Perhaps 10. g4 (intending h4, h5 etc.) ...h5 11. Bg5 hxg (11...Bh6 12. Bxh6 Rxh6 13. Qf4 Rh7 14. e5! d5 15. Ne4 Ng8 16. Ng5 Rg7 17. h4 with a promising position) 12. Qxg4 with the idea of h4 - h5 etc. opening the h-file.

10...h5
11. Bg5 Bd7
12. g4 Qb8
13. gxh5 Rxh5
14. Be2!?...

It may have been better to play 14. Ne2 b5 15. Bd3 c5 16. Ng3 Rh8 17. h5 c4 18. Be2 when White's breakthrough on the King side should be more dangerous.

14...b5
15. Qg3 Rh8
16. h5 b4
17. Nb1...

The Knight is out of play here, hence the suggestion on move 14.

17...Bb5!
18. Bg4 Qb6
19. hxg6 Nxg6
20. Rxh8+...

It is worth noting the similarity of White's strategy in this game, and the Povah v Escott game in variation A.

20...Bxh8
21. Be3?! Qa6?!

Black misses the promising 21...Be5! 22. Qg1 (22. f4? Qxe3+ 23. Qxe3 Bxf4+) ...Bf4 23. Bxe6 Bxe3+ 24. fxe3 fxe6 25. Qxg6+ Kd7 with balanced chances.

22. Bxe6 Bc4
23. Bxc4 Qxc4
24. Rh1?!...

Maybe White should prevent Black from castling with 24. Qg4 (with the idea of Rh1 etc.) ...Qxa2 25. Bd4 unclear.

24...0-0-0
25. Qg4+ Kb7?!
26. b3 Qc6
27. Rd1 Re8

28. e5! a5
 29. exd6 cxd6
 30. Qf5 Ne5
 31. Nd2 Re6
 32. Ne4 Kc7?!

Better was 32...Nd3+ 33. Rxd3 Qxe4 unclear.

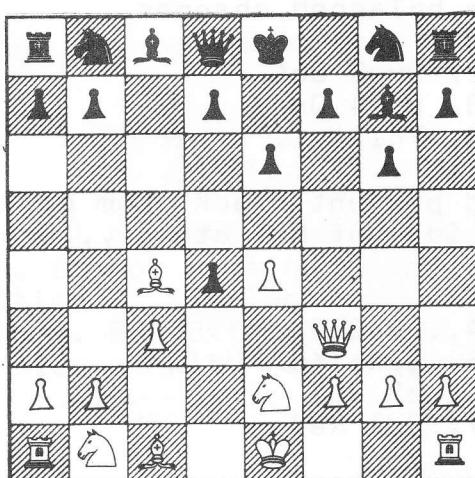
33. Kb1 Qa6
 34. Ng5 Rf6
 35. Qh7 Qe2
 36. Rcl Ng6
 37. Nxf7 Nf8
 38. Qg8! Qh5
 39. Nxh8 Nd7
 40. Bd4 Resigns.

N. Povah v F. Parr, National Plate (S & B v Sutton) 1976.

- 4...c5
 5. Ne2...

5. c3! is also quite playable e.g. 5...cxd 6. cxd (6. Ne2 would transpose to the text.) ...Bxd4 (6...Nc6 7. Ne2 Nxd4 8. Nxd4 Bxd4 9. Nc3 transposes to C.W. Kennaugh v J.R. Holland - see 4. Ne2 etc.) 7. Ne2 Bg7 8. Nbc3 when we get a position similar to variation A except that the c-pawns are absent. This position has yet to be tested in practice, but the obvious features are the open c-file and the weak d6 square which should enhance White's attacking chances on the Queen side; however this is probably counter-balanced by the fact that Queen-side castling is obviously less appealing, while if White seeks shelter for his King on the King-side, then he can hardly launch his King-side pawn storm. We await a practical assessment!

- 5...cxd
 6. c3...



This is another interesting method of gambiting the pawn, with a strong resemblance to the Morra Gambit, with the additional features that White has his Queen on f3 and Knight on e2 (instead of the other way round), whilst Black has fianchettoed his King's Bishop, which is considered dubious against the Morra.

6...d3?!

Critical was 6...dxc3 7. Nbxc3 when we have reached the position referred to, in the note on move 5, with the difference that both players have saved a move.

7. Qxd3 Ne7
8. Bf4 d5

Black opts for an lQP rather than allow White to maintain control of d6.

9. exd5 exd5
10. Bb3 Nbc6
11. 0-0 0-0
12. Na3 a6
13. Nc2

When the weakness of Black's lQP guarantees White a lasting initiative.

D

4...Nc6
5. c3!??...

I think 5. Ne2! is probably stronger, since White can then follow up with Nc3 thereby restraining ...d5 e.g. 5. Ne2 Ne7 (5...a6 6. Nbc3 b5 7. Bb3 transposes to C.W. Kennaugh v M.D. Smith given earlier.) 6. Nbc3 (To prevent 6...d5) and now 6...Nxd4 7. Nxd4 Bxd4 would transpose to the N. Povah v F. Parr game given in variation B, when White should continue with the suggested improvement 8. Bg5! etc.

5...Ng e7

5...Nce7?! was played in N. Povah v D. Rowson, Hammersmith 1974 6. Bg5 ("Bishops before Knights".) ...h6 7. Be3 d5 8. Bd3 Nf6? (Black should play 8...dxe 9. Bxe4 c6 10. Nd2 when White's initiative is only slight.) 9. e5 Nd7 10. Nh3 c5 (In this "French" position Black's fianchetto simply weakens his dark squares.) 11. 0-0 Rb8? (Too slow; 11...Qb6 was more consistent, although White still stands well after 12. b3 cxd (12...Nc6 13. Na3) 13. cxd Nc6 14. Nc3! a6 (14...Nxd4 15. Bxd4 Qxd4 16. Nb5 Qxe5 17. Rfe1 Qb8 18. Bxg6!+-) 15. Ne2±) 12. Nd2 b6 13. Nf4 Bb7 14. Qg3 and White's advantage is very clear. 1 - 0 (23).

6. Bg5 0-0
 7. Nd2 f6
 8. Be3 d5
 9. exd exd
 10. Bb3 Na5
 11. Bc2 Bf5
 Better was 3...
 12. 0-0-0 Qd7
 13. h3 Rae8
 14. Ne2 Bxc2
 15. Kxc2 Qf5+
 16. Qxf5 Nxf5
 17. Kd3 Nxe3
 18. fxe3 Bh6
 19. Nf4 c6
 20. Rde1 b5

and Black had at least equality in N. Povah v F. Parr, Alexander Cup Final, 1977. $\frac{1}{2}$ (31)

E

4...Qf6

Black attempts to exchange Queens, however White's central control and spatial advantage give him the initiative.

5. c3...

Bob Wade has suggested 5. Be3

5...Qxf3
6. Nxf3 d6
7. Bg5...

Trying to provoke a pawn weakness.

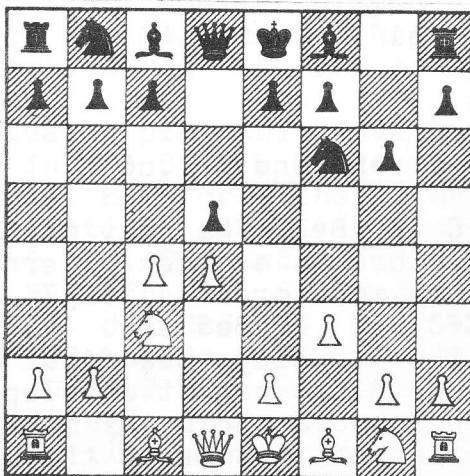
7...Nbd7
8. Nbd2 Ne7
9. 0-0-0 Nb6
10. Bb3 Bd7
11. Rhel±

White stands slightly better. N. Povah v N.S. Cooper, Eastbourne, 1973 continued: 11...f6? (Black "kicks" the Bishop, however this is what White was hoping for.)
 12. Bh4 g5 13. Bg3 h6 14. h4 g4 15. Ng1! (Δ Ne2-f4±)
 ...h5 16. e5 fxe 17. dxe d5 (To prevent 18. Ne4)
 18. c4 Ba4 19. Bxa4 Nxa4 20. cxd5 Nxd5 21. Ne4 0-0-0
 22. Ne2 Nb4 23. Kbl Nd3 24. Nd6+! Rxd6 25. exd6 Nxel
 26. d7+! Kd8 27. Nf4 Nxb2 (27...Rh6? 28. Nxe6+ Rxe6
 29. Bxc7+ Wins.) 28. Nxe6+ Ke7 29. Rxel Bc3 30. Re3 Nd1
 31. Rd3 Kxe6 32. d8=Q Rxd8 33. Rxd8 Bf6? (33...Nb2 was forced but White still wins). 34. Rxel Resigns.

4. f3 AGAINST THE GRUNFELD

by M.P.F. Singleton

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. f3!?



This surprising variation is, I believe, very much underrated having received quite inadequate treatment from opening manuals hitherto.

Its first attribute is its shock value, as with any unusual variation this early in the game. It violently challenges the whole idea behind Black's third move, i.e. that of preventing White from setting up a triple pawn centre, while still enjoying the luxury of his own fianchettoed King side development. 4. f3 simply contradicts this by virtually ensuring 5. e4 on the next move instead.

Underlying this are the lasting advantages that White hopes to achieve similar to those achieved in the Sister Averbakh variation of the King's Indian (1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Be2 0-0 6. Bg5) i.e. hinderance of Black's white-squared Bishop development, battle for control of c1 - h6 diagonal, with the added bonus of the open f-file, and in many variations with the later advantage of a passed pawn on d5.

I have used this system for some years now in postal and OTB play against respectable opposition and have had considerably favourable results. Below I will attempt to examine the main variations that have developed in Black's play within my own experience.

MAIN LINES (after 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 2. Nc3 d5 4. f3 Bg7 5. e4 dx_e 6. fx_e)

- A. When Black plays ...e5 and ...c6
- B. When Black plays ...c5 and ...e6
- C. Black blocks the middle with ...e5 and ...c5
- D. Piece attack upon the centre with ...Nc6
- E. The Sacrificial 4...c5!?
- F. Other Lines.

A. Black plays ...e5 and ...c6

6...e4 7. d5 0-0 8. Be2 (The only mention of this line in MCO 11 is described as a 'meek alternative' (Note (e) Page 318) after the move order 4...Bg7 5. e4 dx_e 6. fx_e 0-0 7. Nf3 Bg4 8. Be3 e5=). 7. Nf3 is the meek move, and if White plays Be2 first (as in the Sister Averbakh variation) Black cannot develop his Queen's Bishop and has an awkward choice of moves to make instead as will become apparent in some of the lines below.)

8...c6 (8...Nbd7 9. Bg5 Qe8 10. Nh3! The White King's Knight can often develop very usefully at f2 in lines where Black has played Nd7. ...Nc5 11. Nf2 and White has more space, MPFS v N. Nazir, Enfield '73. 1 - 0 (29). 8...Ne8 was played twice against me by P.C. Griffin, once when I played 9. Nf3 f5 10. Bg5 Qd3? 11. Qd2 1 - 0 (30) and then again when I played the aggressive 9. h4!? 1 - 0 (26).)

9. Bg5! (9. Nf3? is a careless move ...Qa5! 10. Bd2 Qb6! 11. Qc1 Ng4! and White is in trouble, MPFS v J. Ripley, Folkestone '72.)

9...Qa5 10. Qd2 and everything is going according to plan.

B. Black plays ...c5 and ...e6

This by now standard method of undermining White's central pawns has surprisingly only been played twice against me, in two postal games.

6...c5 7. d5 e6 (7...0-0 8. Be2 Qd3!? 9. Bg5 Nbd7 10. Nh3 Ne5 11. Nf2 Bd7 12. 0-0 h5 13. h3! and White controls a lot of space - in MPFS v A. Topham, British Postal Candidates Section '74, I played 13. Qd2 thinking that after ...Nf g4 14. h3 would simply grab control of g4 but I suddenly saw that 14...Nf3+! wins the game, and shakily played 14. Nxg4 Bxg4 15. h3 and Black had made some useful exchanges, although I went on to win in 34 moves.) 8. Bg5 h6 9. Bh4 Qa5 10. Qd2 0-0 11. Be2 exd 12. exd Bf5 13. Nf3 Re8= and Black completed his development satisfactorily MPFS v C. Brown, Postal Chess Club Championship '71.

C. Black blocks the middle with ...e5 and ...c5

This line is favourable for White because it allows White the same advantage as outlined in Variations A and B without challenging White's centre in any way.

6...e5 7. d5 c5 8. Be2 0-0 9. Bg5 h6 (In the Marlow Masters Section '73 A. Hollis played 9...a6 against me. Play went 10. a4 Qd6(?) 11. Qd2 Ne8 12. Nf3 f6 13. Be3 Qc7 14. 0-0 Nd6 15. a5± $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (26).)

10. Bh4 (I usually play this move, but against A.J. Stebbings in S & B II v Upminster National Plate match I played 10. Be3 for a change which turned out well in an exciting tactical game, the rest of which is worth giving, 10...Na6 11. Qd2 Ne8 12. h4 h5 13. g4!? hxg 14. h5 f5 15. Bg5 Bf6 16. Bh6 Ng7 17. hxg f4 18. 0-0-0 Qe8 19. d6! Be6 20. Bxg7 Bxg7 21. Nd5 Bf6 22. Bxg4! Bxg4 23. Nxf6+ Rxf6 24. Rh8+! Kg7 25. Rxe8 Rxe8 26. Ne2 Rd8 27. Qd5 Bxe2 28. Qxb7+ Kxg6 29. Rg1+ Kh6 30. Qg7+ Resigns) ...Qb6 (Alternatives I've had are 10...Qd7 11. Nf3 Ne8 12. Bg3 Qe7 13. 0-0 MPFS v A.J. Stebbings, London League '73. $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (28).)

11. Qd2 Nbd7 12. Nh3! g5 (12...Nh7? 13. Nf2 a6?)
14. Be7 Re8 15. d6 Nh6 16. Ng4! MPFS v J.M. Davies Postal Chess Club Championship '70. 1 - 0 (24).)
13. Bg3 Ne8 14. Nf2 Qg6 15. h4! and White won in 30 moves - MPFS v P.C. Doye, British Postal Chess Championship '71-72.

D. Piece attack against the centre with ...Nc6.

6...0-0 (If 6...Nc6 before castling, 7. e5! and the King's Knight has an awkward choice and not 7. Nf3? e5! 8. d5 Ne2.)
7. Be2 Nc6 8. e5 Ne8 9. Be3 (9. Nf3 Bg4 simply helps Black's development) ...f6 10. e6 Nd6 (10...f5 11. Nf3! and White has the advantage viz 11...Nd6 12. d5 Na5 13. Bd4!) 11. Nf3 b6! 12. Bf2(?) Na5 13. b4 Naxc4 14. Qb3 b5 15. Nxb5 with complications - was MPFS v R. de Coverly SCCU Championships '75. $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (36). Better may have been 12. d5 Na5 13. b3.

E. The Sacrificial 4...c5!?

If this line is sound then it represents Black's best chance against 4. f3. Since White cannot answer c5 with d5 and e3 obviously contradicts the idea of 4. f3, White has no option but to try for material gain.

5. dxc d4 6. Nb5 Nc6 7. e3!? (7. Bf4 is apparently recommended in 'The Grunfeld Defence' by W.R. Hartston, but after 7...e5 8. Bg5 Bxc5!? 9. Bxf6 Bb4+ 10. Kf2 Qxf6 11. Nc7+ Kf8 12. Nxa8 e4! Black has a terrific attack.

I had this in a postal game v E.E. Wright, Middlesex Correspondence Chess Championship '72, which contained

13. g3! e3+ 14. Kg2 Bd6 15. c5 Bb8 16. Qe1 g5
 17. b4 Ne7 18. b5 Nd4 19. b6 Rg8 20. h3 Nf4+
 21. gxf4 Bxf4 22. Rh2 Qe5 23. bxa g4 24. hxg Bxh2
 25. Nb6 Bxg4 26. Kh1 Bxg1 27. a8=Q+ Kg7 28. Qxg8+ Kxg8
 29. Kxg1 d3 30. fxe4 d2 31. Qd1 h5 32. Bg2 Resigns.

I had no wish to repeat this experience so I had to look around for a better line. I had the chance to play 7. e3 against D.H. Powell in a Surrey Trophy match for S & B I v Wimbledon '76, which continued) 7...e5 8. exd exd
 9. Bf4 Bxc5 10. Nc7+ Ke7 11. Nxa8 Nh5 12. Bc7 Qe8
 13. g4 Kf6+ 14. Qe2 d3 15. Qxe8 Rxе8+ 16. Kd2 Be3+
 17. Kc3 Nf4 18. Nh3 Bd4+ 19. Kb3 b6 20. Nxf4 Na5+
 21. Ka3 Nxc4+ 22. Kb4 Nd2 23. Bxd3 and inertia carried Black on until move 29 before resigning.

Obviously there are a great many possibilities in this important line, but 7.e3 looks better than 7.Bf4.

F. Other Lines

1. 4...Nc6!? 5. cxd Nxd5 6. e4 Nxc3 7. bxc3 Bg7 transposing to the exchange variation where Black has omitted ...c5, and this should be good for White.
2. 4...Bg7 5. e4 dxc should set White no problems.
 6. Bxc4 0-0 7. Nge2 Nfd7 8. Be3 Nb6 9. Bb3 Nc6 10. Rcl (10. 0-0 e5! 11. d5 Na5 12. Bc2 c6 13. dxc Nxc6 14. Bc5 Re8 15. Qcl Be6 and Black stands well MPFS v G. Varty, Islington Amateur '72, 0 - 1 (37).) ...Na5 11. Na4 Nxb3 12. Qxb3 Nxa4 13. Qxa4 c6 14. 0-0 e5 15. Rfd1= MPFS v J. Brogden, Surrey Championship '75 0 - 1 (28).

In the following article Andrew Martin suggests how this theme might be further developed with startling effect!!

THE SYSTEM THAT REFUTES CHESS!

by A. Martin

It has been my privilege this season to play a certain Wimbledon player a number of times (not mentioning any names). The games between us have been remarkable in that a completely new opening system has developed and I feel it is my duty and indeed upon my honour to set down in print the logistics of this wonderful new attack which this man, through his incessant efforts, has done so much to promote. Basically what happens is this:-

At the outset of the game you take the sixth pawn from the lefthand side of the board and propel it forward one square. If Black, the third from the left. This alone should be sufficient to win you the game. If

however your opponent shows few signs of resigning you go to the pub and come back approximately one hour later. Then you can move the pieces in any direction, in any order, and you will win. This is an absolute guarantee!

So what of chess....well until someone comes up with something it has no future because White will win every game. Here are two examples showing the remarkable power of this system for Black or White.

White: A. Martin Black: G.K. Sandiford. Streatham v Wimbledon 1977.

1. f3 e5? (To the pub!) 2. g3 d5? 3. Nh3 Nc6 4. Nf2 Bc5
5. e3 Nf6 6. Bg2 Be6 7. d3 h5? (Probably the decisive mistake. Compare Black's over extended position with White's compact formation.) 8. c3 Qd7 9. 0-0 0-0-0 (The Black pieces are now nicely placed...for White to attack!) 10. d4! (The first blow)...Bd6 11. e4! dx_e 12. fxe exd 13. cxd Bg4 14. Qa4 h4 15. e5 (Whoops!) ...hxg 16. hxg Be7 17. exf6 Bxf6 18. d5! Nd4 19. Qxd7+ Rxd7 20. Nxg4! 1 - 0 (Whoops! Sandiford thought ...Ne2+ was mate!)

White: G.K. Sandiford Black: A. Martin
Somebody v Wimbledon 1977.

1. b3 f6! 2. g3 e5 3. Bg2 d5 4. Bb2 Nc6 5. d3 Be6
6. Nd2 Qd7 7. e4 d4 8. f4 Bd6 9. Ne2 Nh6 10. f5 Bf7
11. h3 0-0-0 12. g4 g6 13. Ng3 Ne7 14. Rf1 gxf
15. Nxf5 Nhxf5 16. gxf Rdg8 17. Qe2 Rg3 18. 0-0-0 Rhg8
19. Rf2 Re3 20. Qf1 Nc6 21. Kbl Qe7 22. Nc4 Bxc4
23. dxc Bb4 24. Rcl Rgg3 25. Rf3 Qg7 26. Rxg3 Qxg3
27. a3 Bf8 28. Rdl Na5 29. Bcl Rc3 30. Bb2 Rxc2!
31. Kxc2 Qxb3+ 32. Kbl Nxc4 33. Qe2 Nxb2. 1 - 0.

SICILIAN DRAGON - YUGOSLAV ATTACK

by R. Haldane.

The purpose of this article is to analyse a speculative move which gives rise to some interesting possibilities in one of the main lines of the Yugoslav Attack. The opening moves are as follows:-

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6
6. Be3 Bg7 7. f3 Nc6 8. Qd2 0-0 9. Bc4 Bd7 10. 0-0-0 R_c8
11. Bb3 Ne5 12. h4 Nc4 13. Bxc4 Rxc4 14. h5 Nxh5
15. g4 Nf6 16. Bh6 (The most popular line recently has been 16. Nde2 as played in the 1974 Karpov - Korchnoy match) ...Nxe4 17. Qe3 Rxc3 18. bxc3 Nf6 19. Bxg7 Kxg7
20. Qh6+ Kh8 (The alternative 20...Kg8 loses to 21. g5 Nh5
22. Rxh5 gxh5 23. Rh1 e5 24. Rxh5 Re8 25. Qxh7+ Kf8
26. Qh6+ Ke7 27. Qf6 Mate, 23...f6 24. g6 also wins for White.) 21. Nf5 (This is the new move that is the starting

point for the analysis that follows. I first played the move in a match in 1973, but I have not had the opportunity to repeat it.) ...Bxf5 (This move is forced. After 21...gxf5? 22. g5 wins, 21...Nh5? 22. Rxh5 is also deadly for Black. Black's other reply 21...Rg8? allows a beautiful finish by means of 22. Qxh7+! Nxh7 23. Rxh7+! Kxh7 24. Rh1 Mate.) 22. gxf5 Rg8 Black has four other ways of meeting White's threat to win a pawn,

A.....Kg8 B.....Qe8 C.....Nh5 D.....gxf5

- A. 22...Kg8 23. Rhg1 Qe8 24. Rdel e6 (Other moves allow White to play 25. Re6) 25. Qh3 e5 (25...Qc6 26. fxg6 wins for White as 26...hxg6 27. Rh1 Nh5 28. Qxh5! smashes Black) 26. Qh6 Qd7 27. Rg5 looks bad for Black.
- B. 22...Qe8 23. Rdel Rg8 (23...e6? 24. fxe6 fxe6 25. Rxe6 wins a pawn with a superior endgame, 23...a6 24. Qe3 Nd5 25. Qe4 Qc6 26. c4 wins a pawn and the game. Black can try and improve by 24...Ng8 but this is met by 25. f6! Nxf6 26. Qxe7 with what should be a won position) 24. Qe3 Nd5 25. f6! Nxf6 (25...Nxe3 26. Rxh7+ Kxh7 27. Rh1 is Mate, 25...Rf8 26. Rxh7+ Kxh7 27. Rh1+ Kg8 28. Rh8+ Kxh8 29. Qh6+ Kg8 30. Qg7+ also meets the same fate) 26. Qxe7 with an advantageous end game as in 'A' Note above.
- C. 22...Nh5 23. Rdel a6 (23...Rg8 transposes to a line analysed later. 23...Qe8 24. Qg5 Nf6 25. Qe3 is good for White; and Black cannot play 24...e6? because of 25. Rxh5 or 24...f6? because of 25. Qh6 followed by fxg6 winning the Knight, also bad for Black is 23...Re8 24. Re6! Rg8 25. fxg6 fxg6 26. Qe3. 24...fxe6 25. fxg6 Nf6 26. Rg1 Qb6 27. Rg2 leads to mate in a few moves.) 24. Re6! Rg8 (Both 24...Kg8 25. fxg6 fxg6 26. Rxg6+ hxg6 27. Qxg6+ Ng7 28. Rh7 Rf7 29. Qh6 and 24...Qe8 25. fxg6 fxg6 26. Rxg6 lose instantly) 25. fxg6 fxg6 26. Qe3 Rg7 27. Rel should be good enough for White.
- D. 22...gxf5 23. Rdg1 Rg8 24. Rxg8+ Qxg8 25. Qe3 Qf8 (25...Nd5 26. Qd4+ f6 27. Rg1 Qe6 28. Qxa7 Qe3+ 29. Qxe3 Nxe3 gives White a slight edge in the endgame, a possible continuation is 30. Kd2 Nc4+ 31. Kd3 Ne5 32. Ke3 Nd7 33. Kd4 e6 34. Rb1 b6 35. Rel Nc5 36. Kc4 with a won position.) 26. Qxa7 Qc8 27. Qe3 Ng8 (27...Qc7? 28. Rg1 27...e6? 28. Qd4 Qd8 29. Rh6 Kg1 30. Qh4 and 27...e4? 28. Qh6 are all quick ways to end the game. 27...Qf8 is met by 28. Qg5 winning a pawn and finally 27...Nd5 28. Qd4+ Nf6 29. Rg1 Qf8 30. Qb6 Qc8 31. Qe3 Qf8 32. Kd2 followed by Rb1 should win) 28. Kd2 should give White the advantage as he can build up pressure on the Q-side.)

23. Rdel gxf5 Black has four other plausible ways of defending against the threat of Qe3.

- A. 23...Qa5 B. 23...a6 C. 23...Rg7 D. 23...Nh5
- A. 23...Qa5 24. f_xg6 R_xg6 25. Qf8+ Rg8 26. Qxe7 Qxc3 27. Qxb7 Rg2 28. Qb2 Q_xf3 29. Qd4 leads to a double-edged position which should favour White. There may be other lines against 23...Qa5 which turn out more clear-cut for White.
- B. 23...a6 24. Qe3 Re8 (24...Nd5 is met by 25. f6! Black is forced to play 25...N_xf6 which leads to a bad endgame for him.) 25. f_xg6 f_xg6 26. Qe6 Kg7 (otherwise White can play 27. Qc7 with the threat of Rxh7+ followed by Rh1) 27. f4 Qd7 28. Rxh7+ Kxh7 29. Qf7+ Kh6 30. Rh1+ Nh5 31. Rg1 Qf5 (31...N_xf4 loses to 32. Qxf4+ Kh7 33. Qh4+ Kg7 34. Qe4) 32. Qxe8 Q_xf4+ 33. Kb2 Qf6 34. Qc8 is an interesting position which is unclear. White tries to create a passed pawn on the Queen side while Black tries to force his passed pawns home on the King side.
- C. 23...Rg7 does not turn out well for Black because of 24. Qe3 Nd5 (24...Ng8 25. f6 exf6 26. Qxa7 must be good for White.) 25. Qd4 Nf3 (25...Nb6 26. f6 exf6 27. Re4 Rg8 28. Rf4 Kg7 29. Rx_xf6! is not quite good enough for Black. If Black does not play 27...Rg8 White can play Rh1 followed by Re7. Also favouring White is 25...Qa5 26. Rx_xe7 Nx_xe7 27. f6 Nf5 28. f_xg7+ Kg8 29. Qf6 Nx_xg7 30. Qxd6. If Black plays 27...Qe5 28. Qxe5 dx_xe5 29. fx_xe7 Rg8 30. Rd1 finishes the game). 26. Qxa7 Qc7 27. Qe3 Nd5 (27...Ng8 allows White to play 28. f6 exf6 29. Qd4 Qc5. (Attempting to stop White's Rooks occupying the eighth rank by 29...Ne7 loses to 30. Qxf6 Ng8 31. Rxh7+ Kxh7 32. Rh1+ Nh6 33. Rxh6+ Kg8 34. Qh4 f5 35. Qf6) 30. Qxc5 dx_xc5 31. Re8 f5 32. Kd2 and White should be able to create a passed pawn.) 28. Qd4 Nf6 29. f_xg6 followed by doubling Rooks on the e file should give White the advantage. Black cannot play 28...Nx_xc3 because of f6 winning.
- D. 23...Nh5 24. Rh3 a6 (24...Rg7 25. Qe3 f6 26. f_xg6 hx_xg6 27. Qh6+ Kg8 28. Rg1 Qf8 29. Rx_xg6 looks good for White, so does 24...Nf6 25. Qe3 Nd5 26. f6 or 25...Re8 26. Qxa7) 25. Qe3 Re8 26. Qd4+ Nf6 (26...Kg8 27. Rxh5 wins. 26...f6 27. f_xg6 hx_xg6 28. Qg4 Rg8 29. Rxh5+ gxh5 30. Qxh5+ Kg7 31. Rg1+ Kf8 32. Qh6+ Kf7 33. Qh7+ also wins for White. 26...Ng7 27. Reh1 h5 28. f_xg6 f_xg6 29. Qe4 Kh7 30. Rxh5+ Nxh5 31. Rxh5+ Kg7 32. Rg5 is no better for Black. 26...e5 27. fx_xe6 Qf6 28. Qxf6+ Nx_xf6 29. exf7 Rx_xe1+ 30. Kd2 Kg7 31. Kxe1 Kxf7 32. Rh4 gives White an advantageous endgame.) 27. Reh1 Kg8 (27...h5? 28. Rxh5+ gxh5 29. Rxh5 Kg8 30. Qg1+ wins for White.) 28. Rxh7 Nxh7 29. Qh4 e5 30. Qxh7+ Kf8 31. Qh6+ Ke7 32. f_xg6 f_xg6 33. Qg7+ Ke6 34. Rh6 Re7 35. Qxg6+ Kd7 36. Qxd6+ Kc8 37. Qc5+ Kb8 38. Rh5 b6 (38...Qe8 39. Qd6+ Ka7 40. Rh6 looks dangerous for Black.)

39. Qe3 Qd6 40. Rh6 Re6 41. Rxe6 Qxe6 42. f4 e4
43. f5 Qc6 44. Qf4+ Kc8 45. Qe5 gives White a won position.

24. Reg1 a6 (Black has three other moves that do not transpose into other lines,

A. 24...b6 B. 24...Qb6 C. 24...Rg6

A. 24...b6 25. Rxg8+ Qxg8 26. Rel Nd5 27. c4 Nf6
28. Rxe7 Qgl+ 29. Kb2 Ng8 30. Re8 Qd4+ 31. c3 Qf2+
32. Kb3 Qgl 33. Qf6+ Qg7 34. Qxg7+ Kxg7 35. Ra8
gives White a won ending yet again.

B. 24...Qb6 also gives White a won ending after
25. Rxg8+ Kxg8 26. Rel Nd5 27. c4 Qf2 28. Qd2 Qxd2+
29. Kxd2.

C. 24...Rg6 25. Rxg6 fxg6 26. Qxg6 Qg8 (otherwise White can play Qf7) 27. Qxf5 Qxa2 28. Qc8 Ng8 29. Rel gives chances to both sides, but White's pieces are better placed.)

25. Rxg8+ Qxg8 26. Qe3 Nd5 (26...e6 is bad because of 27. Qd4. while 26...e5 gives White a good position after 27. Rg1 Qf8 28. Qg5 Ng8 29. Qxf5 b5 30. Qd7. 26...Qf8 27. Qg5 Qc8 28. Rg1 Qg8 29. Qe3 Qf8 30. Qc4 allows White to gain a pawn as 30...e6 31. Qd4 Qe7 32. c4 followed by Qh4 is fatal for Black.)

27. Qd4+ Nf6 28. Rel Qd8 29. Qc4 (regaining the pawn as 29...e6 30. Qg5 and 29...Qd7 30. Rg1 both lose.

The position reached is difficult to assess. White's best course is to attack Black's pawn on the b file.

Although Black has three or four lines which cannot be immediately refuted it appears that even in those lines White has the better chances. White has, at worst, a draw in those positions.)

"My little love, do you remember
'Ere we were grown so sadly wise,
Those evenings in the bleak December
Curtain'd warm from snowy weather
When you and I played chess together,
Check-mated by each others eyes?"

O. Meredith