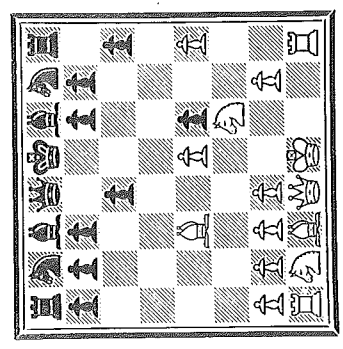


A reinforcement for the King's Gambit? Montana analysts Ken Shinn, Howard Hoene and Joseph Hennessey throw a few spanners in the works.

Bobby Fischer recommended a defense to the King's Gambit when he vigorously defended it in "A Bust To The King's Gambit," in the *American Chess Quarterly* (1962-63). We propose to equalise the position with playable lines attacking the defense known as the Berlin Defense Deferred.

It runs 1 P-K4 P-K4 2 P-KB4 PxP 3 N-KB3 P-Q3 Black's third move, ... P-Q3, is called by Fischer "a high-class waiting move."

Although ... P-Q3 is known from games played during the eighteen hundreds, Fischer discovered that by playing it earlier than it had been, Black could better coordinate his defense. His analysis ran from the above opening and goes 4 B-B4 P-KR3 5 P-Q4 with the evident object of securing a superior centre. Later joint analysis by international grand master Larry Evans and Fischer published in *M.C.O.* // led to an apparent equal position after quite a lengthy demonstration. The result is a chaotic, open position in which both kings are left stripped of protection. We sought a more natural line of development to avoid leaving the fate of the kings up for grabs, and suggest that White should play 5 P-KR4.

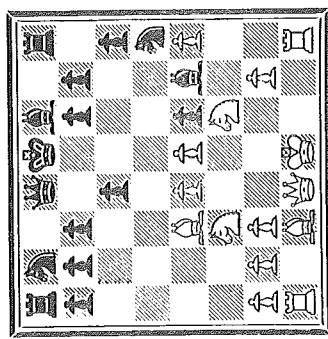


By moving 5 P-KR4, White goes to stem the tide of black pawns on the king's side, particularly Black pushing ... P-KN4 to strengthen his pawn position. Following 5 P-KR4 White must prepare to meet 5 ... B-K2. 5 ... N-KB3 or a variety of other reprisals. If 5 ... B-K2 6 P-Q4

QN-Q2 (if 12 ... Q-Q2 13 N-Q5ch NxN 14 QxKPch Q-K3 15 QxQch PxQ 16 Pxn and wins) 13 QxNP R-Q1 14 N-Q5ch NxN 15 QxN. The position is approximately even.

If Black chooses instead the more conservative (5 ... N-KB3 6 N-B3 B-N5 7 P-Q4) 7 ... B-K2 one equitable way to continue would be 8 P-K5 N-R4 9 Q-Q3 after which the opening demands further analysis. One line tentatively explored is 9 ... N-QB3 10 P-K6 N-N5 11 PxPch K-Q2. See below.

A more comfortable approach to the opening has been outlined by Australian Master Trevor Hay in his book *The King's Gambit*, published by Chess Digest. Hay has discovered perhaps the soundest strategy for the average over-the-board player with the sixth move 6 ... B-K2, instead of the continuation 6 ... B-N5 given above which leads to very great complications. Hay's solid positional defense is based on the idea that White will continue with 7 P-Q4 but White can do better it seems with 7 P-K5 challenging the black knight. Black must react immediately to this threat and does well to play 7 ... N-R4, protecting the pawn on his KB5. White reinforces the centre with 8 P-Q4 and Black can simply develop with 8 ... N-QB3 and play might continue 9 P-Q5 NxP (9 ... N-N5? 10 P-K6 Pxp 11 Pxp P-B3 12 N-Q4 with an edge) 10 NxN N-N6 11 B-N5ch P-B3 12 NxP(B6) Pxn 13 BxBPch B-Q2 14 Bxp



Latest analysis now appears to end in a fragile equality: 8 N-K5! (a move noticed by Ken Shinn of Billings, Montana that imitates the pseudo-sacrifice known as Legal's Legacy—8 ... BxQ? 9 BxP(B7)ch leading to mate). Further analysis gives 8 ... Pxn 9 QxB N-KB3 10 Q-B8 (10 ... N-B3 11 Pxp N-Q5 12 QxP NxBPch 13 K-K2 Q-Q5 14 B-N3 NxR 15 R-Q1 NxR 16 Pxn QxRch 17 NxQ N-R4 18 Q-N4 P-KN3 19 P-K6 won for White in *Escott v Harding*, postal play 1973, White's attack proving decisive) 10 ... QxP 11 Q-B8ch K-K2 (of course not 11 ... Q-Q1 12 Bxpch and wins) 12 QxBPch (Also 12 N-Q5ch or 12 B-Q5 but not 12 BxP(B7) KxB 13 QxNP N-N5!) 12 ...

K-Q2 12 N-K5ch Pxn 13 Pxpdis ch K-B1 14 QxQch RxQ 15 Pxn Bxp 16 O-O with a slight advantage.

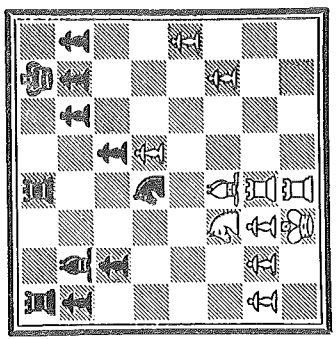
Still another move, played by Bill Lynch, may be the strongest positional continuation for Black after 7 P-K5 in this variation. Lynch played 7 ... N-N5 and showed that it adds to a sound strategic game because it steps up pressure on Black's K4 and can't easily be removed by White due to the fact it rests in the hole at N5. If 8 P-Q4, presumably best here, 8 ... Pxp 9 NxP NxN 10 Pxn QxQch 11 NxQ P-KN4 12 Pxp Bxp 13 O-O is an even game. Also 8 ... B-K3 9 BxB PxB 10 Bxp O-O is even.

U.S. TRIUMPH IN PORTUGAL

A bright Evans win in the Algarve (see overleaf).

Sicilian

Evans White Santos Black
1 P-K4 P-QB4 2 N-KB3 N-QB3
3 P-Q4 Pxp 4 NxP N-B3 5 N-QB3
P-Q3 6 B-KN5 P-K3 7 Q-Q2 B-K2
8 O-O O-O 9 P-B4 NxN 10 QxN
Q-R4 11 P-K5 Pxp 12 Qxp QxQ 13 PxQ
N-Q4 14 BxB NxB 15 B-N5 N-N3
16 KR-K1 P-QN3 17 P-KN3 B-N2
18 R-Q7 B-N7 19 R-Q2 B-N2 20
P-KR4 KR-Q1 21 B-Q3 N-K2 22
R(K1)-Q1 N-Q4



23 B-K4 K-B1 24 NxN Pxn 25 BxQp
BxB 26 RxR RxR 27 RxR K-K2 28 K-Q2
R-QB1 29 K-Q3 R-B3 30 P-KN4 R-R3
31 P-R5 R-QB3 32 P-B4 P-N3 33
P-R6 P-N4 34 R-Q6 R-B4 35 K-Q4
R-R4 36 P-R3 R-R5 37 R-QB6 P-N4
38 K-Q5 Pxp 39 R-B7ch K-K1 40 K-Q6
R-R3ch 41 R-B6 RxRch 42 KxR K-K2
43 K-Q5 P-B3 44 Kxp Resigns.

Oregon analysts add a postscript

A reinforcement for the King's Gambit? Howard F. Hoene and his colleagues add more fascinating analysis to the article in last month's CHESS.

Experimentation with new lines in the King's Gambit has centred on the improvement of the line running 1 P-K4 P-K4 2 P-KB4 PxP 3 N-KB3 P-Q3 4 B-B4 P-KR3 5 P-KR4 B-K2.

Instead of other moves, 6 N-B3(!) seems stronger than previously tried variations. This development of the queen's knight is more natural and sound than development of the piece at Q2 in the line 6 P-Q4 B-N5 7 BxP(B4) BxRPch 8 P-KN3 as first presented by Larry Evans.

In the event Black develops 6... N-KB3 in reply to 6 N-B3 the position may reach the theoretical continuation stemming from 5... N-KB3 6 N-B3 B-N5 7 P-Q4 B-K2 8 BxP(B4) N-R4 with White having positional gain for a pawn.

More complications of a tactical type arise immediately with the basic line mentioned after 6 N-B3 B-N5 7 P-Q4 BxRPch 8 K-B1!

This is the best square for the king and more in the spirit of the game.

8 K-Q2 looks doubtful after 8... N-QB3! when Black has the superior development and can play for... O-O-O unless White surrenders the two bishops after 9 B-N5 P-QR3!

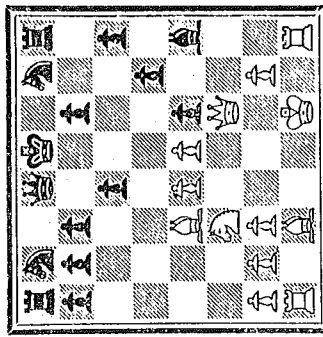
Other interesting lines would include an early retreat by Black's bishop at KR5 in response to the move 8 K-Q2! in this line. Here White must make strong efforts to sustain the attack and suffer the loss of the pawn instead of striving to regain it.

The ultimate perseverance of the attacking potential with White is better served by 8 K-B1! and for best rewards this move stands out. White secures his king's side against passed pawns in the endgame.

If Black should avoid the retreat of the bishop and play in the spirit of the King's Gambit he will cry 8... P-KN4! How is White to proceed?

White immediately loosens the pin with 9 Q-Q3(!) and now threatened is the break-up in the pawn structure by 10 NxB.

Therefore Black must exchange 9... BxN to be answered by 10 GxB. Now several plans can be tried.



(a) With 10... KN-B3 Black seeks a freeing action for his pieces. 11 P-K5 PxP 12 PxP is practically mandatory. Now 12... Q-Q5? 13 B-N5ch P-B3 14 PxN PxP 15 NxB is likely with 15... Q-B5ch 16 Q-K2ch QxQch 17 KxQ N-R3 18 BxP to be the sequel in practical play. White has a fine game.

(b) More positional is the conservative reply 10... P-QB3! 11 Q-R5 R-R2 12 BxP(B4) now 12... PxB? 13 RxB N-Q2 14 RxB Q-Q2 looks like a won game for White.

If instead 12... N-KB3 13 Q-B3 PxB 14 RxB N-Q4 15 R-N4 N-B3 16 RxB and White should win. If instead Black tries 13... P-N5! 14 Q-K2 N-R4 15 QxNP NxB can be considered equal. More hazards arise however if 15 P-KN3 Q-S3! is played.

(c) To avoid the previous ramifications Black can play the move 10... N-Q2 and allow 11 N-Q5 which generates two main variations. The first stems from the move 11... KN-B3? letting White disrupt the pawn position of the king's side: 12 NxP(B4) P-N5 13 Q-QN3 NxP 14 BxPch K-K2 (14... K-B1 15 N-K6ch) 15 RxB and White wins.

Another option at the eleventh move for Black in this line runs 11... P-QB3 12 NxP PxN 13 Q-R5 Q-K2 14 RxB N(N1)-B3 15 Q-R5 O-O-O and Black gets his king into safety, an unusual achievement among these lines of play.

(d) The sharpest move from a positional

In this line, White can also try 13 PxN. A sample continuation is 13... Q-B3 14 N-Q5 QxQP 15 NxPch K-Q2 16 NxB QxBch 17 Q-K2 QxQch 18 KxQ N-B3 when Black should win.

(The authors consider 8... B-K2 instead of 8... P-KN4 which does seem to leave this bishop out on a limb. After 9 BxP(B4) they examine 9... P-KN4 10 B-N3 P-KB4 but this last does seem a poor move. Better, surely, 8... B-N4 e.g. 9 N-Q5 N-Q2 with... N-N3 and... Q-K2 or Q2 to follow. White has two pawns to recover.

After 14 P-K5, Q-B4 seems the only reply not to lose at once. Black is walking a tightrope but has useful threats against of... P-KN5, of mate on KB7 etc.)

The Evening Standard London Congress Stewart Reuben describes...

Some activities in life seem to dominate the person rather than the other way round. Certainly the Evening Standard Congress appears to have had this effect on me and I can see little escape from its thralls. The weekend congress took place this year, December 12-14 and 19-21, at Islington Green School as usual. There were 1470 players, about 100 more than last year, and it is possible here and now to announce that the 1976 congress will take place the last two weekends before Christmas in the same venue.

There were four tournaments on the first weekend, three of which had the same format of three games on Saturday and two on Sunday. S. Hug won the Beginners' Championship, which had 176 competitors, with 5/5. The 2-day Minor Championship (for players under 130 grade) was won by R. Hesmondhalgh with the same score from 172 players. D. Carr, C. Rose and T. Simpkinson all achieved 5/5 in the Major Championship (for players graded under 160), showing the inadequacy of an ordinary Swiss for dealing with a tournament with 204 entrants.

But the main attraction was the record-shattering National Bank of Dubai Open Championship. 264 players competed in this event for a £700 first prize and £1600 total prize fund. These European records

brought in about a third of the English players graded over 200, a number of Europeans and grand master Bojan Kurajica of Yugoslavia. The event wasn't quite as strong as in 1973, when a master tournament together with an Elo rated masters' reserves immediately following and greater advance publicity in the foreign press, resulted in an overwhelmingly strong foreign entry. Still, who wanted the £700 to go abroad?

They're off, and it was immediately clear that a most dour struggle was in progress. Not only the main prizes were at stake, but also it was the final of the 1975 Cutty Sark Grand Prix. If Gerald Bennett could score 5½/6 or Robert Bellin 6, then they could oust Tony Miles from the £1,000 Grand Prix prize. So big a carrot did this seem that Richard O'Brien made Robert favourite at 7/1, Tony Miles 8/1, Gerald and Bojan both 12/1. I quickly had £1 on the grand master and lay awake that night regretting that it wasn't a thousand!

With accelerated playing rules, nobody has it easy and no fewer than 11 of the top 32 players drew in the first round. None lost—but already international masters Tony Miles and Michael Stean were lagging behind. Robert Bellin was bet down to 5/2, quite absurd odds, just before he had his come-uppance and lost to ex-British Champion Alan Phillips. In round 2 Michael