

# chess

by richard shorman



## QUEEN'S GAMBIT ACCEPTED

Many players who regularly accept the Queen's Gambit (1 P-Q4 P-Q4 2 P-QB4 PxP) respond automatically to White's premature 3 P-K4 with 3 . . . P-K4, trusting in the standard book line, 4 PxP QxQch 5 KxQ, to defeat White's aggressive intentions. Recent advances in opening theory, however, have shown that this simplified view must be modified to include sharper variations for both sides.

In 1953 former world champion Max Euwe wrote in his authoritative publication, "Chess Archives," that Black is ill advised to play 3 . . . P-K4 because White possesses a dangerous 5 to 3 K-side pawn majority after the exchange of Queens. Tournament practice then disclosed that, the pawn majority notwithstanding, Black gains the initiative through a combination of better development and timely thrusts at White's center (5 . . . N-QB3 6 P-B4 B-N5ch 7 N-B3 0-0-0ch and 8 . . . P-B3).

Convinced that 4 PxP yields no advantage, White cast about for improvements on his fourth move. In the 1959 Ukrainian Championship, Stein tried 4 N-KB3 against Kvyatkovsky and worked up a successful attack after 4 . . . PxP 5 BxP N-QB3 6 0 0 B-QB4 7 N-N5 R-R3 8 NxBP NxN 9 BxNch KxB 10 Q-R5ch P-N3 11 QxB Q-K2 12 Q-B2 B-K3 13 P-B4. But grandmaster Vasily Panov strengthened Black's play here with 5 . . . B-N5ch! 6 QN-Q2 N-Q B3 7 P-QR3 B-K2 8 P-QN4 N-B3 (V. Panov, "Kurs Debyutov," Moscow, 1961, p. 231). The Capablanca — Reti treatment of this line for White (4 N-KB3 PxP QxP QxQ 6 NxQ B-Q2 7 BxP P-QR3 has long since been abandoned as affording no real winning chances.

Again, on 4 P-Q5 Black equalizes easily with 4 . . . P-KB4 5 BxP N-KB3 6 N-KB3 B-Q3. By process of elimination, therefore, White arrives at the enterprising line suggested by I. A. Horowitz in "Chess Openings" (New York, 1964, p. 467, note 48). 4 BxP PxP 5 Q-N3! This sharp move, at last, contains enough venom to make Black think twice before answering 3 P-K4 with the usuals 3 . . . P-K4, although even here a fierce fight is in prospect.

Now it was Black's turn to find a more incisive way of meeting 3 P-K4. Suetin experimented with 3 . . . N-KB3 against Korchnoi (Budva, 1967) and was outplayed after 4 P-K5 N-Q4 5 BxP N-QB3 6 N-K2 N-N3 7 B-Q3 B-K3. (Better is 7 . . . P-K3, but White still has the edge.) 8 QN-B3 Q-Q2 9 N-K4!

Fortunately for Black the thematic 3 . . . P-QB4! has long been available to cross White's plan. Several decades ago Russian champion Efim Bogoljubov produced the analysis that today serves as a model for Black's conduct in this opening variation. After 3 . . . P-QB4! White has nothing better than 4 P-Q5, which allows Black to chop away at White's center and effectively develop his pieces at the same time by 4 . . . P-K3 5 N-KB3 PxP 6 PxP N-KB3 7 BxP B-Q3 8 0-0 0-0 9 N-B3 P-QR3 10 P-QR4 B-N5 11 B-KN5 QN-Q2 12 N-K4 B-K4.

White can also play differently, of course, as the game below illustrates, but Black has sufficient reserves on hand to continually check enemy advances.

White: John Mecorney.

Black: James Ulrich.

Berkeley YMCA Club Championship, Oct. 12, 1966.

Queen's Gambit Accepted

1 P-Q4	P-Q4	21 B-Q3	P-N3(f)
2 P-QB4	PxP	22 B-R6	KR-K1
3 P-K4	P-QB4	23 B-K4	B-B3
4 P-Q5	N-KB3	24 KR-Q1	RxB(g)
5 Q-R4ch	B-Q2	25 QxR	N-B6
6 QxBP	P-K3	26 Q-Q3	NxR
7 N-QB3	PxP	27 QxN	R-Q1
8 PxP	B-Q3	28 Q-K2	B-B5(h)
9 N-B3	0-0	29 BxB	QxB
10 B-K2	P-QR3	30 QxP	BxN
11 P-QR4	P-QN4	31 PxB	QxP
12 Q-R4 (a)	P-N3	32 Q-N6	R-Q4
13 N-K4	NxN	33 Q-N8ch	K-N2
14 QxN	Q-B1(b)	34 P-R4(i)	P-R3(j)
15 0-0	B-B4	35 P-R6	R-Q5
16 Q-QB4	N-Q2	36 Q-K5ch	K-R2
17 P-R5(c)	Q-B4	37 Q-R2	R-N5ch
18 B-K3	N-B3	38 K-B1	Q-Q6ch
19 P-R3	B-Q2(d)	39 K-K1	R-K5mate
20 Q-R4(a)	NxP		

(a) And not 12 PxP? PxP, with a double attack on White's Queen and Rook.

(b) An excellent move that helps protect the QBP, readies 15 . . . B-B4, and prepares to develop the QN.

(c) Preventing 17 . . . N-N3.

(d) Intending to play 20 . . . B-N4 and advance the backward QBP.

(e) Giving up a Pawn for some attacking chances, but 20 KR-Q1 B-N4 21 Q-B2 BxB 22 QxB KR-K1 23 Q-B2 is sounder (if 23 . . . P-B5, then 24 B-N6).

(f) Forced.

(g) The only move, but a good one that stops White's attack cold and returns the initiative to Black.

(h) Vigorously exploiting his advantage, Black foresees that his K-side sortie will be worth more than Black's passed QRP.

(i) Immediately 34 Q-R2 lasts longer.

(j) A final finesse prior to 35 . . . R-Q5.