

Richard Shorman

Chess

BLACKBURNE ON THE OPENINGS

The Sicilian Defense

In the early 1850s, and even up to the beginning of my own career in chess (1861), the Sicilian was a favorite answer of Black's. Subsequently, when there came into favor the theory of "accumulating minute advantages" the "bogey" or isolated pawn was considered a defect, and the opening fell out of favor.

Within the past few years, however, a great tendency to revive it has been manifested, and it is freely played by many of the young masters of the day—Janowski, for instance, Maroczy, and even Pillsbury.

As far as one can see, its popularity is likely to extend in the future, as it presents so excellent a substitute for the duller French Defense and offers a convenient means of escape from the Ruy Lopez, or indeed any other opening affected by the first player.

The Queen's Gambit

It is generally admitted now that the soundest of all openings are those on the queen side.

The Queen's Gambit is safe, and often becomes a very close game. It does not give rise to any direct attack on the king's position, but usually both players maneuver for the end game. The two objects to be arrived at are, first, a strong center and, second, a preponderance of pawns on the queen side.

It is usual for experts to decline the pawn offered at the beginning, but there is no good reason for the refusal. As a matter of fact, in a vast majority of games the pawn is actually taken sooner or later, and the position resembles what it might have been had the gambit been accepted. But when taken it can under very few circumstances be with safety retained or defended, the loss of development counterbalancing the gain in material.

Irregular Openings

There is not much to be said about the irregular openings. Classification is so far advanced that it is difficult to hit upon anything that at the same time is new and good, and the young player will be well advised to keep to the trodden path.

No feature is more characteristic of modern chess than the value it sets on time. The loss of a move often means the loss of the game, a proof perhaps of the great nicety to which play has been brought.

★ ★ ★

White: Blackburne.
 London, 1875.

Black: Philp.

King's Gambit Accepted

1 P-K4	P-K4	13 NxP!!(c)	Q-Q2
2 P-KB4	PxP	14 N-B6	QxPch
3 N-KB3	P-KN4	15 K-R1	NxN(d)
4 P-KR4	P-N5	16 PxNch	QxP
5 N-N5	P-KR3	17 B-N3!	Q-K2
6 NxP	KxN	18 B-K5ch	K-N1
7 P-Q4	P-Q4	19 B-B6	Q-Q3
8 BxP(a)	N-KB3	20 B-B4!!	BxB
9 P-K5	Q-K1	21 QxPch	K-R2
10 B-Q3	N-R4	22 Q-B5ch	K-N1
11 O-O	K-N2	23 Q-N6ch	Resigns
12 N-B3	B-K3(b)		

(Notes by J. H. Blackburne in "Mr. Blackburne's Games at Chess", edited by P. Anderson Graham, London, 1899, pp. 154-55)

(a) When this game was played this line of attack was considered a novelty. The same position, however, occurs in a game published in 1842, brought about as follows: 1 P-K4 P-K2 2 P-KB4 PxP 3 N-KB3 P-KN4 4 P-KR4 P-N5 5 N-N5 P-Q4 6 P-Q4 P-KR3 7 NxP KxN 8 BxP, and the positions are identical.

(b) Safer would have been 12...P-B3.

(c) The Rev. G. A. Macdonnell says this is "an admirable move, and one evidently played for"; he adds that "the concluding part of the game is beautifully played."

(d) If 15...NxB, then 16 RxN! QxKP 17 N-K8ch K-N1 18 R-K4! Q-KB4 19 RxPch QxR 20 N-B6ch, winning easily.

U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP DRAWS TO CLOSE

Senior master **John Grefe** of Berkeley seems well on his way toward capturing the 1973 US chess championship at El Paso, Texas. With only three rounds to go, he has scored seven points out of eight and will probably win his adjourned game to make a total of eight out of nine.

His closest rivals, all of whom trail by at least a point and a half, are international grandmasters **Lubomir Kavalek** (Washington, D.C.), **Walter Browne** (Berkeley) and **Larry Evans** (Reno, Nev.).

Tournament director **George Koltanowski** of San Francisco aptly described Grefe's striking eighth round win as beating Browne at his own game of ultra-sharp attack.

The game is recorded in USCF endorsed coordinate chess notation (files lettered "a" to "h", ranks numbered "1" to "8", always counting from White's lower left corner regardless of whose turn to move; pawn captures designated by file letters only).

White: John Grefe. Black: Walter Browne. El Paso, 1973 US Championship. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 h6 8 Bh4 Be7 9 Qf3 Nbd7 10 0-0-0 Qc7 11 Be2 Rb8 12 Qg3 Rg8 (So far, all well known modern opening theory.) **13 Rhf1!** (Even stronger than 13 Rhe1, played in the Tarjan-Browne game from the fifth round, which continued 13...g5 14 fg Ne5 15 Nf3 Nh5 16 Qf2 Ng4 17 Qd4 hg 18 Bg5 Bg5 19 Ng5 Rg5 20 Qh8 Ke7 21 Bg4 Rg4. And now, instead of drawing after 22 Qh5, Tarjan could have won with 22 Nd5! ed 23 ed Be6 24 Qh5 Rg2 25 Qh7! Rh8 26 Re6 Kd7 27 Qf7 Kc8 28 Re8 Re8 29 Qe8 Qd8 30 Qd8 Kd8 31 Rh1.) **g5** (On 13...b5 Grefe had prepared the devastating 14 f5 e5 15 Ne6!) **14 fg Ne5 15 Nf3 b5?** (The losing move. Evans suggested 15...Nfd7, in order to refute 16 Ne5 Ne5 17 gh Rg3 18 h7 with 18...Ng6 19 Bh5 Rg4! If 15...Nh5, then 16 Qe1! Nf4 17 gh points out Grefe's improvement over Tarjan's 13 Rhe1.) **16 Ne5 b4** (The answer to 16...de would be 17 gf!, while 16...hg would probably be met by 17 Nf7 as in the game.) **17 Nf7! bc** (After 17...Kf7 White pushes through with 18 gh!) **18 gf!! Rg3 19 fe Rg5** (Sheer desperation, but nothing can save him now.) **20 Bg5 hg 21 Nd6! Resigns** (Notes based on a telephone report by John Grefe from the tournament site).

1973 LERA SUNNYVALE CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The ninth annual LERA Sunnyvale Class Chess Championships will take place at the LERA Main Auditorium (corner of Mathilda Ave. and Java St., seven blocks north of Hwy 101, opposite Sunnyvale; take North Mathilda off-ramp), Sept. 29-30.

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski will direct the five-round, USCF-rated Swiss system event in six playing categories. Prizes, based on 30 entries in each of the top three sections and 50 each in each of the lower classes, are \$240, 1st, \$120, 2nd, \$60, 3rd and \$40, 4th, in the Open Division, with \$200, \$100, \$60 and \$40 awarded in each of the remaining divisions.

Advance entry fee, if mailed by Sept. 26, is \$15 for the Open, A and B divisions, and \$10 for classes C, D-E and Unrated. After Sept. 26 all entry fees are \$5 more. Send check or money order to LERA Chess Club, P.O. Box 451, Sunnyvale, Calif. 94088, stating which division you wish to play in. Be sure to include your USCF expiration date or an additional amount (adults \$8, juniors \$4) for USCF membership.

Registration is scheduled for 8-9 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 29, with round one getting under way at 10 a.m. All games will be played at a time control of 45 moves in 90 minutes. Please bring sets and clocks.