

**Richard Shorman****Chess****GAMBIT PLAY VS. THE ENGLISH**

**Gary Pickler**, now a student at U.C. Berkeley, makes "refuting" the English Opening look easy: surrender a pawn for the initiative, mobilize, centralize and aim straight for the king. Of course, finding an opponent to go along with Black's "gambit psychology" can present a problem...

The game is given in USCF approved 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: Eriks Leitis (2016). Black: Gary Pickler (1950). XIII Davis Open, Nov. 6, 1967. English Opening (Boehnke Gambit) 16c4 d5 2 cd e6 3 de Be6 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 Nf3 Nc6 6 d36 Bc5 7 Bg5 h6 8 Bd2** (White's passive play after accepting the pawn identifies him as an ideal candidate for roughshod tactics.) **0-0 9 e3 Re8 10 Be2 Qe7 11 0-0 Rad8 12 Qa4 Bf5** (Development complete, Black will now march through the center over to the king side.) **13 d4 Bd6 14 a3 a5 15 Nb5 Ne4 16 Nd6 Rd6 17 Rfd1 Rg6 18 Qb5 Qd7 19 g3** (The fatal weakening of squares in front of the king, which ought to have been avoided by 19 Ne1, although White's position slowly disintegrates in any case. Black's last move incidentally guards against 19 Qb7? as 19...Rg2! would follow like a shot, e.g., 20 Kg2 Bh3 21 Kh1 Qg4 22 Rg1 Nf2mate.) **Nd6 20 Qc5 b6 21 Qc1 Be4 22 Nh4 Qh3! 23 f3 Qh4 24 fe Rg3! 25 hg Qg3 26 Kh1** (Expected was 26 Kf1, with a probable finish of 26...Ne4 27 Be1 Qh3 28 Kg1 Re6.) **Re4 27 Resigns.**

**GELLER'S "SICILIAN" RUY LOPEZ**

When opening theory in 1966 temporarily favored the Black side of the Marshall Attack, Efim Geller took full advantage of the happenstance to demolish the Ruy Lopez of then USSR champion Leonid Stein in Sicilian Defense style.

Winning this tension-filled battle in the penultimate round guaranteed Geller first place, ahead of Stein (second), Lutikov (third), Kholmov (fourth), Fuchs (fifth), Tal, Taimanov and five lesser lights.

**White: Leonid Stein.**  
**Kislovodsk, 1966.**

**Black: Efim Geller.**

1 P-K4	P-K4	18 PxP(g)	P-K5
2 N-KB3	N-QB3	19 NxP(h)	PxN
3 B-N5	P-QR3	20 QxP	N-QN6
4 B-R4	N-B3	21 RxP(i)	NxB
5 0-0	B-K2	22 RxN(j)	B-R5
6 R-K1	P-QN4	23 R-B2	R-QB2!(k)
7 B-N3	0-0	24 P-KN3	BxP(l)
8 P-Q4(a)	P-Q3	25 PxB	Q-N4(m)
9 P-B3	B-N5	26 P-KN4	R-K2
10 P-Q5	N-QR4	27 Q-Q4	Q-R5
11 B-B2	P-B3	28 R-R1	R-K8ch
12 P-KR3(b)	BxN	29 RxR	QxRch
13 QxB	PxP	30 K-R2	Q-N6ch
14 PxP(c)	R-B1(d)	31 K-R1	QxPch
15 N-Q2	P-N3(e)	32 K-N1(n)	N-N6
16 B-Q3(f)	N-R4	33 Resigns	
17 P-QR4	P-B4		



(Annotations by international grandmaster Efim Geller, translated from "Byulleten tsentralnovo kluba SSSR", No. 8, 1966, pp. 13-14)

(a) Black's success with the Marshall Attack has been so considerable in recent competitions that even such adherents of the Ruy Lopez as Tal and Stein are looking for ways to avoid this variation.

(b) His standing in the tournament made the USSR champion feel obliged to play for a win. This game would have a lot to say about who would win the event. Thus, Stein apparently wants his opponent to enter comparatively unknown territory. The usual continuation is 12 PxP Q-B2, etc.

(c) A curious opening transformation, quite common in modern tournament practice. This position might easily have arisen out of a variation of the Sicilian Defense.

(d) In a way this move provokes White into attacking Black's weak queen-side pawns, and I played it "reluctantly". After the more "normal" 14...Q-B2 comes the distasteful 15 B-N5.

(e) Pushing 15...P-N5 leads nowhere in view of 16 B-B5 PxP 17 BxR PxN 18 BxQP N-B5 19 B-N5 QxB 20 QR-B1, and Black will be unable to save his knight. Black therefore works toward the creation of a pawn center.

(f) White is consistent in his actions, but it should be noted that he has no other choice. Attempting to weaken Black's QNP by 16 P-QN4 N-B5 17 NxN RxN 18 P-QR4 would prove even less attractive.

(g) Stein made this move, offering the sacrifice of a piece, instantaneously. He probably considered 18 B-B1 insufficient and so decided upon radical measures. It seems to me that his decision is wrong and does not flow from the needs of the position.

(h) Stein played this move only after 50 minutes' thought. After the game he opined that it would have been better to retain the knight with 19 BxP PxB 20 QxP B-N4 21 PxP Q-N3 22 N-B3 BxB 23 QRxB. However, the continuation 23...N-QN6 24 QR-Q1 N-B4 25 Q-K2 N-B5 clearly favors Black. Stein must have understood during the game that giving up the bishop would have hurt his chances on the queen side, and thus his only hope to win.

(i) Sacrificing the rook with 21 QxB QxQ 22 RxQ NxR is obviously groundless.

(j) A preliminary assessment of White's sacrifice may now be made. Of course, White has not suffered with respect to material, and should he succeed in carrying the game to an ending his winning chances would be excellent indeed. But there are kings in chess! They cannot be exchanged, and the death of a king signifies defeat. Now Black utilizes his "extra" piece for an assault on the enemy king side, while the presence of opposite colored bishops merely strengthens the attack.

(k) Black's last piece decisively shifts over to an aggressive position.

(l) White once gave up a piece for four pawns; Black lets his go for only one!

(m) White can no longer cope with Black's threats, e.g., 26 R-N2 R-K2 27 Q-Q4 R-K8ch 28 K-R2 Q-B8, and White falls under a mating attack.

(n) On 32 R-R2 Black concludes with 32...N-N6ch 33 K-N1 R-B8ch 34 BxR QxBmate.

### TOURNAMENT IN LOS ALTOS

The Los Altos Winter Open will take place at Los Altos High School, 201 Almond Ave., Jan. 5-6. Overall first prize in the five-round, USCF Swiss system event is \$100, with \$90, \$60 and \$30 (based on 150 entries) awarded in divisions A B C D and Unrated. Advance entry fee is \$10 (under 21, \$7) if received by Jennie Kiesling, 322 University Ave., Los Altos, Calif. 94022 by Jan. 2; otherwise add \$3. Round one begins at 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 5. **James Locke** directing. For further information, please phone **Jennie Kiesling**, 941-3173, or **Robert Adams**, 948-5412.

### CCCA REGIONAL ONE-DAY ROUND ROBIN

A three-round, round-robin tourney in four-man sections will be held at Heather Farm Community Center (Rotary Room), 301 Sheppard Rd., Walnut Creek (take Ygnacio Valley Rd. to Sheppard Rd., near John Muir Hospital), Sunday, Jan. 6. Cash prizes in each four-man section will be \$6 and \$4. Entry fee is \$4 plus USCF membership. Players must register at the tournament site between 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Round one starts at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 6. Please bring sets and clocks.

### WHERE TO PLAY CHESS

The Hayward Chess Club, Palma Ceia Park (corner of Miami Ave. and Decatur Way). Monday and Friday, 8-12 p.m.

Cherryland Cafe, 22472 Meekland Ave., Hayward (corner of A St. and Meekland Ave.). Evenings, 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.