

# UON 42

September 2024



*Unorthodox Openings Newsletter #42 (September 2024)*

“Dedicated to Gambiteers and Players of the Unorthodox”

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Previous issues can be found at <https://www.unorthodoxchessopenings.com/>

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## From the Editor-in-Chief

Dear Readers,

Time flies fast. As the old saying goes, time waits for no man. So here we are, with September 2024 here. After many delays and unforeseen obstacles, *Unorthodox Openings Newsletter* #42 is finally being published. I had to deal with a lot in the interval, including losing a flash drive with already partially-prepared draft of UON #42. Hence, I had to redo everything. Fortunately I had files saved on my Gmail account, which solved this problem.

Chess has lost some wonderful players. John Moldovan, a very respected tournament director, chess player, and blogger, has died on April 10, 2023 from cancer. On May 22, 2023, Ari Minkov, the Secretary of the West Orange Chess Club, was killed in a tragic accident when his electric scooter collider with a dump truck in Montclair, New Jersey. We express condolences and sympathies to the family and chess community. More details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

As your humble editor types these words, much has changed in the chess world. Magnus Carlsen, the number one player and world chess champion, has abdicated his throne. He feels that there are simply no strong players left to challenge him. Carlsen would have played Hikaru Nakamura, but Nakamura did not make it to the candidates finals. As a result, Ding Liren of China and Ian Nepomnyaschi of Russia played a fourteen-game match. The score stood at 7-7, so an additional four games, with a 25-minute time control, were played. The first three games were drawn. Ding Liren won the fourth and last game, so now he is the world chess champion.

Initially, UON #42 was supposed to come out in 2023. As usual, man supposes, God disposes. Summer came and with it, the 29-board simultaneous exhibition of Grandmaster Abhimanu Mishra at Westfield Chess Club in Westfield, New Jersey on July 9, 2023. This simul was covered by me for the Maplewood-based newspaper *Local Talk*. I have adapted the article for Unorthodox Openings Newsletter, including more photographs, games, and the complete list of players.

There is the regular book review by Gary Gifford, our Editor Emeritus. As usual, the book review has some interesting information, which Gary and I share with our readers. Readers will be interested in what Gary has to say about some of the newest books.

I should mention that the unexpected departure of the previous Associate Editor, Earl Roberts, complicated things. Previously, the Associate Editor would proofread and do the editing for this newsletter. With him gone, I had to do everything alone. Rob Weir has agreed to be the new Associate Editor.

We also have material from the Garden State Chess League 2022-2023 tournament season and the newly-started 2023-2024 season. The GSCL had twelve teams in 2022-2023. It is now up to 16 teams in two divisions. The Hybrid Division plays both in-person and online. There are eight teams in the Hybrid Division. The Online Division has 6 teams and plays exclusively online on lichess.org. Your editor is President of the Garden State Chess League and captain of the Newark McDonalds chess team. All teams have four players. Board 1 is the strongest, and Board 4 is the weakest.

In the Blackmar-Diemer Universe (BDG Universe), more games with the BDG, **1. d4 d5 2. e4 de4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3**, are given. Theory is always expanding, so it is no surprise that new variations have been found. The Vienna Defense, **4...Bf5**, is hit by the Gunderam Attack, **5. g4 Bg6 6. h4!** What happens after **6...h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Qf3!?** or **8. Bg2!**—That is something only BDG games can answer.

Thanks to the internet, I can readily find source material to write about. The lichess.org and chessmonitor.com websites have millions of games to choose from. These include unorthodox openings such as **1. a4, 1. h4, 1. Na3**, and the like. In the past, when Davide Rozzoni was editor-in-chief, this newsletter published plenty of games with those first moves. If readers so wish, I can publish some newer games with **1. a4, 1. h4, 1. Na3**, and similar odd moves.

**We should mention that all credit is due to those who submit their articles or those whose articles are cited. This newsletter is protected by the copyright laws of the United States of America and the relevant international copyright laws. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Everything is given sources and due credit.**

There are some interesting games by our readers. These can be found in the usual “Readers’ Games” column. We encourage readers, old and new, to submit their games for publication.

Finally, there is an attempt to figure out what the future holds for us. **The deadline for *Unorthodox Openings Newsletter #43*, is October 19, 2024.** We invite all readers to submit articles for publication.

With that said, enjoy *Unorthodox Openings Newsletter #42*!

## From the Associate Editor

Hello, everyone. I'm Rob Weir, your new Associate Editor. I got interested in unorthodox chess openings after I graduated from college (BA in Astronomy and Astrophysics, Harvard, 1991). I hung out on CompuServe, Usenet, the bulletin boards, and eventually then on the Yahoo UnorthodoxChessOpenings group. There was a vibrant community back then, though many have since passed on, like Eric Schiller and Clyde Nakamura. There was a nice used book store in Harvard Square back then, McIntyre & Moore, which had a treasure trove of used chess books, like the opening pamphlets of Ken Smith, issues of *Myers' Opening Bulletin*, and other assorted oddities. We also had Wordsworth, a wonderful book store that has a good selection of new chess books. My first unorthodox purchase there was Basman's *The Killer Grob*. The clerk looked at me like I was a pervert or something when I made that purchase. Whether she knew no chess and was just reacting to the title, or whether she knew more, I'll never know.

As for editing, I have a fair amount of experience editing books, journals, and newsletters. I know the difference between an en-dash and an em-dash, between a recto and a verso. I'm not afraid to use a non-breaking space. I have *The Chicago Manual of Style* and *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* within reach on my desk. I always use the Oxford comma.

In any case, I'm looking forward to taking your contributions and making you look good in print. Our "Submission Guidelines" will be found on the last page of this issue.

## NM Arkady Geller has passed away

*by Lev Zilbermintz*

Chess has suffered a great loss. It is with deep regret that I must inform the chess community of the passing of NM Arkady Geller. According to the information received, Arkady Geller passed away in June 2023 at age 85.

He was my chess teacher in 1988–1994. I attended Brooklyn Children's Chess School, located in Brighton Beach, New York. When I came there, my rating was 1400. Within a year, under Arkady's guidance, I improved my chess skills to obtain a rating of over 1700+. Remember, this was 1988–1989.



I won the school prize, the Geller Cup, in 1989. It was awarded to the best student. Several years later, in 1992, I became the undisputed school champion, both in rating, and the number of points I gathered in the school.

While at Brooklyn Children's Chess School, I started developing my gambit style. In September 1990 I first analyzed the von Popiel Gambit, **1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5**. This, in turn, led me to learn about the Blackmar Diemer Gambit, **1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3**. From there I progressed to the point that I was rated 1900+ by 1994, when I left BCCS for good.

One student at BCCS, Ralph (Rostislav) Neplokh, always played the Old Benoni, **1. d4 c5**, against me. In 1995, I developed the Zilbermints Benoni, **1. d4 c5 2. b4!** and **1. d4 c5 2. Nf3 cxd4 3. b4!**

I won the very first game, against Ralph Neplokh, with **1. d4 c5 2. b4!** in February 1995.

Neplokh was a fellow student at Arkady Geller's BCCS.

Another student was David M. Wielgus, who attended BCCS between 1989–1991. His playing style led me to explore the Blackmar Diemer Gambit and introduce the Zilbermints Gambit, **1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7**. Wielgus

was weak at open positions and tried to avoid playing me as much as possible. It was a clash of playing styles, open positions versus closed positions, gambits versus solid play. As can be seen, many of my openings were developed under the influence of what occurred at Brooklyn Children's Chess School.

Arkady Geller was originally from Soviet Russia. See this 1997 *New York Times* article [“Kings, Castles and Kids.”](#)

At first, Arkady had other jobs. Then he decided to teach chess full time.

I recall playing in my first United States Amateur Team East in 1989. Our team won a prize. Playing third board, I scored 4.5 out of 6. I was 22 years old, the oldest student at Brooklyn Children's Chess School.

The following year, 1990, our team won a prize for the best team name. This won us dinner at a fine restaurant.

As the 1990s moved on, I went to college. At Essex County College, I became President of the Chess Club in 1990–1991 and 1991–92. I went on to receive my AS degree (ECC, 1993), BA degree (1996, Bloomfield College), MA degree (Rutgers-Newark, Graduate School Newark). In every school, I created a chess club and was involved in its activities. This was only made possible by the training I received from Arkady Geller during my days at Brooklyn Children's Chess School.

In 1995 I won the chess championship of Essex County. In 2014 and 2018, I won the chess championship of Union County. Again, credit must be given to Arkady Geller for his teaching.

Arkady Geller was a wonderful human being. At times, when it was very late, he would let me stay at his house in the Forest Hills section of Newark. He would drive me to and from New York in his car. Later on, I figured out which train—the D—went to Coney Island Avenue. Coming from Newark, it took me 2.5 hours to get to Arkady Geller's Chess School in New York.

Arkady motivated his students to succeed. Some of them, like Anatoly Trubman, became masters. Others, like me, became candidate masters or experts. Grandmaster Irina Krush very briefly attended Brooklyn Children's Chess School in 1992.

After he was done with teaching, Arkady would go shopping for fruits and vegetables. The Korean stores always had the latest fresh apricots, grapes, bananas, raspberries, strawberries, etc. The trick was knowing where to get these. Some stores had what others did not have.

We would sometimes shop in the Russian-language stores. These had caviar, salmon, various breads, cheeses, pastries, and other Russian cuisine. Sometimes we would go to a restaurant and order something to eat. I would order pancakes with red caviar or sour cream. Arkady would order soup or something else.

Going back by car to New Jersey, Arkady and I would talk about chess and politics, events in the world. This was 1988–1994, and there were no cell phones or social media. It was a simpler time. Bin Laden had not yet a name for himself and America was unchallenged after the fall of the Soviet Union. The legacy of President Reagan was still felt, and Donald Trump was still involved in business, not politics.

In New Jersey, Arkady ran a chess club at Bloomfield Civic Center. This was around 1992–1995. Then the owners of the civic center wanted to increase the rent, and Arkady would have none of that. So he moved to the Gateway Hilton in Newark for a time. I played in some tournaments there in 1996–97.

Arkady Geller is survived by Luba Geller, his wife; his stepson, Sergo Ulan; two step-granddaughters; five children and many grandchildren.

May Arkady Geller rest in peace!

Lev Zilbermintz

President of Garden State Chess League, Chess Champion of Brooklyn Children's Chess School, 1989–1994



## Obituaries

*by Jack McCorkell*

Chess in New Jersey has lost two very wonderful people: John Moldovan and Aaron “Ari” Minkov. John Moldovan passed away April 10, 2023 from cancer. Ari Minkov, age 41, was killed in a freak accident on May 22, 2023. His electric scooter collided with a dump truck in Montclair, New Jersey. The circumstances of that tragic accident are still being investigated by the Montclair police and Minkov’s family.

The tragic accident was covered by a number of internet and television outlets. West Orange Chess Club sent four members to Ari Minkov’s funeral, which was held at the Riverside Cemetery in Saddle Brook, New Jersey. Family members from Israel called in via FaceTime. Ari Minkov was remembered as a warm person, with humor, a strong chess player with a talent for math.

Below is the message sent to the Garden State Chess League about the passing of John Moldovan:

HEADQUARTERS  
GARDEN STATE CHESS LEAGUE  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

11 APRIL 2023

To all Captains and Organizers:

It is with deep regret that I have to inform the Garden State Chess League that John Moldovan, one of two founders of the GSCL, has passed away yesterday. Stephen Lorimor, the Online Tournament Director, has informed me about John’s passing earlier today. Since this has been posted on Facebook, many of you may have already heard about it.

John Moldovan and John Hagerty founded the Garden State Chess League in 2009. Moldovan served as the Vice President of the Garden State Chess League, as well as President of the Kenilworth Chess Club, Westfield Chess Club, and tournament director at Rahway Chess Mates. Moldovan also served on the Tournament Committee of the Garden State Chess League.

John Moldovan was a caring person, great tournament director, and a chess player. He was a good friend to many chess players, including myself. The Garden State Chess League owes a great debt to John Moldovan for putting it together.

As President of the Garden State Chess League and Vice President of West Orange Chess Club, I intend to put together a tournament to honor the memory and legacy of John Moldovan. Even now, discussions are ongoing when the John Moldovan Memorial Tournament will take place at West Orange Chess Club. I will inform the League when it takes place.

Hope to hear from you soon.

He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Lev Zilbermintz  
President of Garden State Chess League

## **Marshall Chess Club Board of Governors wants to sell the building**

To all Chess Players:

The Board of Governors of the Marshall Chess Club, the world-famous club, is considering selling the building. Located at 23 West 10th Street, New York, New York, the building was originally purchased in 1931 by friends of Frank J. Marshall, the U.S. Chess Champion (1909–1936) as a show of respect. Previously, the chess club was located on West 12th Street (1922–1931).

My sources indicate that the Board of Governors is likely to have the majority it needs to sell the building. However, they still need a majority vote of the Marshall members to do so. This is where chess players enter the picture. If enough people raise their voice, the proposed sale of the building may be called off.

At the moment, there are tenants in the Marshall Chess Club building. The rent they pay to the 23 West 10th Street Corporation helps to keep the building going. The club also pays rent to the 23 West 10th Street Corporation. If the building is sold, a historical landmark will be lost. Without the Marshall Chess Club, where will chess players play chess?

True, the Board of Governors can purchase a larger building or space. We all know that the cost of real estate in New York is very expensive. There are many unanswered questions that chess players need to ask the Board of Governors. It is important that you email, call, and write to the club to ask these questions.

Where will the new location be? What will the new place look like? How much will it cost? Why is the decision to sell being kept secret?

Just because there is a bigger building does not mean everything will be great. The Manhattan Chess Club moved from Carnegie Hall to Restaurant Row on West 46 Street in 1993. They lasted only six years there before moving to the New Yorker Hotel in 1999. By February 2002, the Manhattan Chess Club went out of business. The point is, something similar could happen to the Marshall Chess Club if they sell the building and move.

My fellow chess players, the future of the Marshall Chess Club is in your hands. If you act promptly, and raise your voice, Marshall Chess Club will stay at 23 West 10th Street.

Here is the website: <https://www.marshallchessclub.org>.

As of September, 2024, the Marshall CC Board of Governors has not yet decided to sell the building. My sources say they are probably building up support to get the General Membership to approve this. *UON* will keep readers updated on any new developments.

Sincerely yours,

Lev Zilbermintz

President of Garden State Chess League

Marshall member 1990-2012

## **Chess Grandmaster, 14, Plays 29 Games Simultaneously**

*by Lev Zilbermintz*

WESTFIELD—Being extremely good at chess means being able to play 29 games at the same time.

Huh? Say what??

Yes, you read that right the first time. Playing against twenty-nine opponents at the same time. This is something Abhimanu Mishra, a 14-year-old grandmaster, did quite easily on Sunday, July 9, at the Westfield Chess Club.

Out of 29 games, Mishra won 28, and lost 1.

The simultaneous exhibition was planned months in advance by Westfield Chess Club leaders. David Lazarus, Haibo Hu, Alexander Hu all put in a lot of effort in organizing the event. Since the chess club only meets on Sundays, it was important to reserve a date far in advance. This would allow the simultaneous exhibition to be held in a timely manner.

Registration for the simultaneous exhibition began at least two or more months in advance. The entry fee of \$35 could be paid online via PayPal. Altogether 29 players paid the entry fee. A total of \$1,015 was raised. Presumably a portion of that money goes to pay Abhimanu Mishra for the simultaneous exhibition. The remaining part of the money goes to the Westfield Chess Club treasury.

Grandmasters frequently use simultaneous exhibitions to earn money. It is not uncommon for a grandmaster to be paid hundreds of dollars for the simultaneous exhibition.

Unorthodox Openings Newsletter arrived just as the simultaneous exhibition was about to start.

The simultaneous exhibition was held on the second floor of the Westfield YMCA, in a large conference room. Tables were set in the shape of a giant square. Chess boards and pieces were set up. Each player had a number from 1 to 29 and a scoresheet to write down the moves. Without exception, everyone played the Black pieces. It is traditional for the strong player giving the simultaneous exhibition to play the White pieces in every game.

The simultaneous exhibition started at 10:20 a.m.

GM Abhimanu Mishra was in the middle of the huge square. Mishra moved from board to board, making moves quickly. David Lazarus, the director, moved with Mishra from board to board to ensure there were no arguments.

Many of the players were Asian. Some were from India. Others were from South Korea, Taiwan, Russia, and other countries.

Most of the players were children, ranging in age from 5 to 17 years old. Four adults also participated in the simultaneous exhibition. However, everyone lost, save for Elizabeth Tsugel. She was the only one who defeated the grandmaster.

In his game against Tsugel, Mishra sacrificed two pawns for an attack. However, Ms. Tsugel defended accurately and beat off the attack. The grandmaster resigned the game after his opponent captured all his pieces, leaving a lone White king against a black queen, rook, bishop, and a number of pawns.

.



*GM Abhimanu Mishra. Behind him in sports clothes: Tournament Director David Lazarus.*

The simultaneous had both boys and girls, men and women. There were 25 boys and men, and 4 women and girls.

Under the rules of the simultaneous exhibition, players were allowed one “pass”. That is, they could miss making their move once. If the grandmaster came to a player’s table, and that player missed his move a second time, he lost. Usually there are more “passes”—between 2 and 5—a simultaneous exhibitions. However, since the YMCA closed at 3 p.m. on Sundays, it is plausible that this is the reason why the amount of passes was limited to one.

As the simul progressed, it became clear that the grandmaster was using solid play to gain an advantage. Since his opponents all played Black, many of Abhimanu Mishra’s games were similar to one another. This allowed the grandmaster to avoid surprises. If a position becomes complex, the grandmaster might lose or draw. The reason for this is that when someone is playing 29 opponents at the same time, there is not enough time to analyze all the complications.

UON did an interview with Hemant Mishra, the grandmaster's father.

**What city and province did you come from India?**

City: Bhopal

State: Madhya Pradesh

**You are Abhimanu's mentor? Was there anyone else who taught your son?**

GM Arun Prasad and GM Magesh Panchnathan have played a big role.

**How many hours per day do you have your son study chess?**

He works on all aspects of the games (about 8+ hours a day).

**Is Abhimanu in high school? When I was 14, back in 1981, I just finished junior high, and started high school.**

He will in high school next year.

**Does Abhimanu travel a lot to play in big tournaments?**

Yes.

**When do you see your son making an attempt for the World Chess Championship?**

It is far. The next medium term goal is to cross 2700 ELO and become Super GM. He is hoping to get that in a year time and try to become youngest ever Super GM in the world. Movement after 2700 ELO is a different ball game. Unfortunately there is not much corporate support for chess players in USA and it is very difficult to move forward without that.

I will keep supporting him as long as he loves the game and works hard. If things work out as planned there is a realistic chance to do that in next 3-4 years before he gets into college.

**Have you considered writing a book about your son's best games?**

His autobiography is already published which has ~30 of his annotated games: *The Youngest Chess Grandmaster in the World: The Chess Adventures of Abhimanyu Mishra Aged 12 years, 4 months, and 25 days*, ISBN 9789493257412, available on Amazon.com.

**Does Abhimanu play on lichess.org, chess.com, Internet Chess Club?**

Yes

**Do your younger kids look to Abhimanu as a role model?**

Yes

**What do you believe to be important in achieving the master title (2200 USCF) ?**

Knowledge of all theoretical end games is a must. It helps to check some good books on middle game planning and having a proper opening repertoire (with limited openings) is needed.

Hemant Mishra told *Local Talk* that Abhimanu's rating is currently 2591. According to Hemant, his son is going for 2650 by the end of 2023. His ambition is to make 2700 by the end of 2024. Abhimanu became an expert at 7 years 6 months; a master at 9 years 2 months; international master at 10 years 9 months; and the youngest grandmaster in chess history at 12 years 4 months.

According to the United States Chess Federation, an expert is 1799–1999 points, candidate master 2000–2199 points, master 2200–2399 points, and senior master 2400–2599 points. The titles of international master and grandmaster are obtained playing in very strong tournaments, ones where international masters and grandmasters play. To be awarded a title, a player has to fulfill a “norm” by obtaining a certain amount of points, say, 7 out of 9. Once a player has achieved three norms, he or she is awarded the title by the World Chess Federation (FIDE).

Asked about his background, Hemant Mishra said that the family came to the United States from India in 2006. Abhimanu was born in 2009. He started playing chess at 2.5–4.5 years old. Abhimanu's father works with him 20–25 hours a week, studying chess. Resources used include books, chess videos, study of endgames, positional games, and tactics.

List of simultaneous participants, from Board 1 to Board 29. First name listed is Board 1; last name listed is Board 29.

Yegna Jandhyala, Miguel Moledo, Santiago Nunez, Benjamin Nunez, Aayush Majmudar, Raymond Ouyang, Paul Kolojeski, Aarav Gandhi, Naman Mehta, Nimaa Gandhi, Kian Zarineh, Ruchira Shree, Neel Tandon, Cash Wenger, George Walter, Alex Najarian, Elizabeth Tsugel, Yash Sunlil Dalal, David Shwartzman, Oliver Gu, Avika Shukla, Sharon Pinto, Aarush Samanta, Dmytro Osyka, Mark Kogan, Rohan Madhok, Adam Ye, and Bo-Yuan Nathan Wang.

The only winner, Elizabeth Tsugel, played on Board 18.

## Games from the Simultaneous Exhibition

### King's Indian Defense

GM Abhimanu Mishra (2548)

Kian Zarineh (1076)

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 d6 5. Nf3 e6 6. Nc3 Nbd7 7. O-O O-O 8. e4 e5 9. h3 b6 10. Be3 exd4 11. Nxd4 Bb7 12. e5 dxe5 13. Bxb7 exd4 14. Bxa8 dxc3 15. Bg2 cxb2 16. Rb1 Ne5 17. Qc2 Qd3 18. Qxd3 Nxd3 19. Rfd1 Ne5 20. Rxb2 Nxc4 21. Rb3 Re8 22. Bd4 Re7 23. Rc1 Na5 24. Re3 Rd7 25. Be5 c5 26. Ree1 Rd2 27. Rcd1 Rxa2 28. Rd8+ Bf8 29. Bxf6 Nb7 30. Bxb7 h5 31. Ree8 Ra1+ 32. Kh2 Rh1+ 33. Kxh1 Kh7 34. Rxf8 a5 35. Rh8#

### King's Indian Defense

GM Abhimanu Mishra

Yegna Jandhyala

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 O-O 5. Nc3 d6 6. Nf3 Bf5 7. O-O c6 8. Re1 d5 9. Ne5 dxc4 10. Nxc4 b5 11. Ne5 Qc8 12. Nxb5 a6 13. Nc3 Rd8 14. e4 Bh3 15. Be3 Bxg2 16. Kxg2 Nxe4 17. Nxc4 hxg6 18. Nxe4 e5 19. Qf3 exd4 20. Bg5 Rd5 21. Be7 21... f5 22. Nf6+ Bxf6 23. Bxf6 Nd7 24. Bg5 Ne5 25. Qf4 Nd3 26. Qh4 Nxe1+ 27. Rxe1 Rd7 28. Bf6 Kf7 29. Bxd4 Rxd4 30. Re7+ Kf8 31. Qf6+ Kg8 32. Qg7#

**Queen's Gambit**  
**GM Abhimanu Mishra**  
**Dmytro Osyka**

Dmytro held the grandmaster at bay for a very long time.

1. Nf3 d5 2. d4 Nf6 3. c4 e6 4. g3 Bd6 5. Bg2 dxc4 6. O-O Bd7 7. Nc3 Bc6 8. Bg5 Be7 9. Ne5 Bxg2 10. Kxg2 Nd5 11. Bxe7 Qxe7 12. Nxc4 O-O 13. e4 Nxc3 14. bxc3 c6 15. Rb1 b5 16. Ne3 a6 17. a4 Qb7 18. c4 c5 19. d5 b4 20. e5 Nd7 21. f4 a5 22. Qf3 Rae8 23. d6 Qxf3+ 24. Kxf3 g6 25. Ke4 Kg7 26. Nd1 Rh8 27. Nb2 h5 28. Nd3 Rh7 29. Ra1 Reh8 30. Nc1 Ra8 31. Nb3 Rhh8 32. Rf3 Rhc8 33. h3 Rh8 34. Raf1 Rhf8 35. g4 Rh8 36. f5 hxg4 37. hxg4 Rhf8 38. f6+ and mate in 5. 1-0.

**King's Indian Defense, Normal Variation, King's Knight Variation**

**GM Abhimanu Mishra**  
**Elizabeth Tsugel**

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. d4 g6 3. c4 Bg7 4. g3 O-O 5. Bg2 d6 6. Nc3 Na6 7. O-O c5 8. d5 Rb8 9. e4 Bd7 10. e5 Ng4 11. e6 fxe6 12. Ng5 e5 13. Bh3 Qc8 14. f3 Nf6 15. Be6+ Bxe6 16. Nxe6 Rf7 17. Nb5 Qd7 18. f4 e4 19. f5 Nb4 20. fxc6 hxg6 21. Nc3 Na6 22. Bg5 Nc7 23. Bxf6 exf6 24. Qg4 Re8 25. Qxg6 Nxe6 26. dxe6 Qxe6 27. Rf5 Qxc4 28. Nd5 Qd4+ 29. Kh1 Re6 30. Re1 e3 31. Qh5 e2 32. Qf3 Qd2 33. Qf2 Re5 34. Rxe5 fxe5 35. Qxe2 Qxd5+ 36. Kg1 Qd4+ 37. Kg2 Qd5+ 38. Kg1 Qf3 39. Qxf3 Rxf3 40. Rd1 Bf8 41. Kg2 Re3 42. Kf2 Re4 43. h4 Rd4 44. Rg1 Rd2+ 45. Kf3 Rxb2 46. Ke4 c4 47. g4 c3 48. Rg3 c2 49. Rc3 Rxa2 50. h5 b5 51. Kf5 b4 52. Rc8 b3 53. g5 b2 54. h6 c1=Q 55. h7+ Kxh7 56. g6+ Kg7 57. Rb8 b1=Q+ 58. Rxb1 Qxb1+ White Resigned

After 11. e6, Stockfish 16 evaluates the position as -0.3 for Black. Better is 11. exd6 exd6 12. Bf4 Qb6 13. Qd2 Rbe8 +0.9 White advantage.

12. Ng5 -0.4 12...e5 +0.6 =

18. e4 +1.3 18...Nb4! +0.8

21. Nc3 Na6 +1.6 White advantage. Better is 21...b5!

23...exf6 +0.2 =

28. Nd5 -1.3 Black advantage.

29...Re6 -1.0 Black advantage.

30. Re1? is a major blunder. -4.9 overwhelming Black advantage after 30...Qd2! 31. Re3 Re5 32. Rd6 Qc4 -. Instead, the less accurate 30...e3 still gives Black -2.2 according to Stockfish 16.

From 36. Kg1 on, GM Mishra tries to fight back, but it is futile. Black is up a bishop and a pawn.



*Abhimanu Mishra shakes hands with Elizabeth Tsugel, the only player to win a game.*

## Analyses of the Zilbermints Gambit, Double Sacrifice Line

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nc3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. Qd2 Qxb2 8. Rb1 Qa3 9. Rb3 Qa5 10. Nd5 Qxa2 11. Nxc7+ Kd8 12. Nxa8 Bb4 13. Rxb4 Qa1+ 14. Qd1 Qc3+ 15. Nd2 Nxb4 16. e3 Nxc2+ 17. Ke2 d5! 18. Nf3 Bf5 19. Qxd5+ Kc8 20. Nd2 Be6 21. Qd3 Qb2 22. Qd6 Qc3 23. Qc7+ Qxc7 24. Nxc7 Kxc7 25. Ne4 Rd8 26. Nd6 Nb4 27. e4 h5 28. h4 a6 29. f4 f6 30. exf6 Kxd6 31. fxg7 Rg8 32. f5+ Ne5 33. fxe6 Rxg7 34. Bf4 Kxe6 = according to Stockfish 14.

The line **1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. Qd2 Qxb2 8. Rb1 Qa3 9. Rb3 Qa5 10. Nd5 Qxa2 11. Nxc7+ Kd8 12. Nxa8 Bb4 13. Rxb4** is known as the “Double-Sacrifice Variation.” This is because Black sacrifices a rook and a bishop to either draw or launch a blistering attack on the white king. Without a computer, play can get very complicated, with the outcome hinging on the interpolation of one or two key moves. Since the initial analyses in *Blackmar–Diemer Gambit World* #61, #62 and #63, in 1994, new evaluations have emerged. This is in part to stronger chess engines which found improvements for both White and Black. However, when you are playing someone over-the-board, without a computer, it is not so easy to calculate all the complicated variations. So, let us examine this complicated line!

**1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7** the Zilbermints Gambit. Recently there has been some interesting mention about a Soviet Russian player, Yakov Zilbermints, who introduced **3...Nge7** in the late 1970s in Russia. However, this opening was not well-known outside the Soviet Union. Thus, it remained for another man, Lev Zilbermintz, to discover the gambit on his own. Are the two related? Being my family’s genealogist, I am not so sure. There is a possibility that Yakov is a distant relative from another branch of the large Zilbermints family. Another possibility is that Yakov Zilbermints is not related at all.

To make things more complicated, an Internet search on Russian–language websites yields not one, but three men named Yakov Zilbermints! Which one of these three men introduced the line **1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7** to the chess players of Soviet Russia in the late 1970s? It is not so clear.

The three men have different fathers. One is Yakov Konstantinovich, or son of Konstantine Zilbermints. The second is Yakov Davidovich, or son of David Zilbermints. The third is Yakov Solomonovich, or son of Solomon Zilbermints.

**4. Bf4** Klein Defense, named after the late Senior Master Erez Klein (1976-2013) of New York, who introduced it in 1994. White defends the e5-pawn, but leaves his queenside undefended.

**4...Ng6 5. Bg3** After **5. e3 d6!** Black gets compensation in the form of open files and quick development. **5...Qe7 6. Nc3! Qb4!** The Kopiecki Attack, named after Edward P. Kopiecki (1955–2019) of Brooklyn, New York, who analyzed it in-depth with me between 1994–2018. Here Black attacks the b2-pawn with his Queen. The difference between the regular Englund Gambit, **1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Qe7 4. Bf4 Qb4+ 5. Bd2 Qxb2 6. Nc3!** and the Zilbermints Gambit is that with the white bishop on g3, there is one less defender of the queenside.

Now there are many different moves for White. There are **4. Rb1**, **4. Qc1**, **4. Qb1**, **4. a3**, **4. e4**, **4. Qd3?**, **4. e6**, **4. d5**, **4. Qd4**, and **4. Nd2?** All these moves will be covered in another article. For the moment, the move under discussion and analyses is **4. Qd2**.

There follows **4... Qxb2 5. Rb1 Qa3 6. Rb3 Qa5 7. Nd5**

“JQ-Dragon” (1881)

Lev Zilbermintz (2369)

lichess.org, 240+0, 07/02/2024

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. Qd2 Qxb2 8. Rb1 Qa3 9. Rb3 Qa5 10. Nd5 Qxa2 11. Nxc7+ Kd8 12. Nxa8 Bb4 13. c3 Qxb3 14. cxb4 Nxb4 15. Nd4 Qb1+ 16. Qd1 Qe4 17. e3 Nxe5 18. Bxe5 Qxe5 19. Qb3 Nc6 20. Be2 Re8 21. O-O Nxd4 22. exd4 Qxe2 23. Qxf7 Qe7 24. Qc4 d6 25. Rc1 Qe1+ 26. Qf1 Qxf1+ 27. Rxf1

b6 28. Rc1 Re7 29. Rc6 Bb7 30. Rxd6+ Rd7 31. Rxd7+ Kxd7 32. Nxb6+ axb6 33. Kf1 b5 34. f3 b4 35. Ke2 Kd6 36. Kd3 Kd5 37. g3 Ba6+ 38. Ke3 b3 39. Kd2 Kxd4 40. Kc1 Kc3 41. f4 Bd3 0-1

**“taikatemppu” (2424)**

**Lev Zilbermintz (2287)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 10/17/2023**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. Qd2 Qxb2 8. Rb1 Qa3 9. Rb3 Qa5 10. Nd5 Qxa2 11. Nxc7+ Kd8 12. Nxa8 Bb4 13. Rxb4 Qa1+ 14. Qd1 Qc3+ 15. Qd2 Qa1+ 16. Qd1 Qc3+ 1/2-1/2

**“benny1993” (2444)**

**Lev Zilbermintz (2275)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 10/13/2023**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. Qd2 Qxb2 8. Rb1 Qa3 9. Rb3 Qa5 10. Nd5 Qxa2 11. Nxc7+ Kd8 12. Nxa8 Bb4 13. Rxb4 Qa1+ 14. Qd1 Qc3+ 15. Nd2 Nxb4 16. Qc1 d6 17. exd6 Bd7 18. Kd1 Ba4 19. Nb3 Nxc2 20. Qg5+ f6 21. Qa5+ Qxa5 0-1

**“Yura14051964” (2287)**

**Lev Zilbermintz (2339)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 03/05/2023**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. Qd2 Qxb2 8. Rb1 Qa3 9. Rb3 Qa5 10. Rb5 Qa3 11. Rb3 Qa5 12. Nd5 Qxa2 13. Nxc7+ Kd8 14. Nxa8 Bb4 15. Rxb4 Qa1+ 16. Qd1 Qc3+ 17. Qd2 Qa1+ 18. Qd1 Qc3+ 19. Qd2 Qa1+ 1/2-1/2

**“Lather42” (2616)**

**Lev Zilbermintz (2395)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 02/10/2023**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. Qd2 Qxb2 8. Rb1 Qa3 9. Rb3 Qa5 10. Nd5 Qxa2 11. Nxc7+ Kd8 12. Nxa8 Bb4 13. Rxb4 Qa1+ 14. Qd1 Qc3+ 15. Qd2 Qa1+ 16. Qd1 Qc3+ 17. Qd2 Qa1+ 1/2-1/2

**“Shustrick” (2368)**

**Lev Zilbermintz (2381)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 02/05/2023**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. Qd2 Qxb2 8. Rb1 Qa3 9. Rb3 Qa5 10. Nd5 Qxa2 11. e4 Qa1+ 12. Qd1 Qxd1+ 13. Kxd1 Kd8 14. e6 fxe6 15. Nxc7 Rb8 16. h4 d6 17. Nb5 Nge5 18. Nxe5 Nxe5 19. Be2 a6 20. Nd4 Bd7 21. Kd2 Be7 22. Bxa6 Nc6 23. Nxc6+ Bxc6 24. Bd3 Kd7 25. Rhb1 Kc7 26. f3 g5 27. h5 h6 28. e5 d5 29. Bg6 Rhf8 30. Bf2 Kd7 31. Kd3 Ra8 32. Rxb7+ Bxb7 33. Rxb7+ Kc6 34. Rxe7 Ra3+ 35. c3 Rb8 36. Rxe6+ Kd7 37. Rd6+ Ke7 38. Bc5 Ra5 39. Rxd5+ Rxc5 40. Rxc5 Ke6 41. Ke4 Rd8 42. Bf5+ Ke7 43. Rc7+ Kf8 44. e6 Re8 45. Ke5 Kg8 46. Kf6 1-0

**“SuperMario99” (2343)**

**Lev Zilbermintz (2310)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 01/09/2023**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. Qd2 Qxb2 8. Rb1 Qa3 9. Rb3 Qa5 10. Nd5 Qxa2 11. Nxc7+ Kd8 12. Nxa8 Bb4 13. c3 Qxb3 14. cxb4 Nxb4 15. Nd4 Qb1+ 16. Qd1 Qb2 17. e3 Qc3+ 18. Qd2 Qa1+ 19. Ke2 Nd5 20. f4 Nc3+ 21. Kf3 b6 1/2-1/2

## Readers' Games

### Charlick Gambit

Ziyang Lin (1244)

Raffaele Sigona

Swieqi Chess Club, Malta, December Open, 12/3/2023

1. e4 a6 2. d4 e5 3. dxe5 d6 4. exd6 Bxd6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Bc4 Nf6 7. Nf3 Bg4 8. Be2 Qe7  
9. O-O O-O-O 10. Qe1 Nxe4 11. Nxe4 Qxe4 12. h3 Bxf3 13. Bxf3 Qxe1 14. Rxe1 Nd4  
15. Be4 Rhe8 16. Bd2 Ne6 17. Bf5 Bh2+ 18. Kxh2 Rxd2 19. Kg1 g6 20. Bd3 Rd8 21. Rad1  
Rxd1 22. Rxd1 b5 23. Kf1 Nf4 24. Be2 Nxe2 25. Rxd8+ Kxd8 26. Kxe2 Kd7 27. Kf3 Ke6  
28. Ke4 c5 29. g4 g5 30. f4 gxf4 31. Kxf4 h6 32. Ke4 a5 33. h4 a4 34. a3 1/2-1/2

### Blackmar-Diemer Gambit

Michael O'Connor (1812)

"QuintusTheFifth" (1630)

lichess.org, 300+0, 3/20/2024

1. e4 d5 2. d4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 exf3 5. Nxf3 Nc6 6. Bc4 Bg4 7. h3 Bxf3 8. Qxf3 Nxd4  
9. Qxb7 Nxc2+ 10. Kf1 Nxa1 11. Bb5+ Nd7 12. Nd5 Rc8 13. Bf4 e5 14. Bxe5 Bd6 15. Bxg7  
Rg8 16. Bf6 1-0

## An Interesting Article on the Zilbermints Gambit

by Lev Zilbermintz

Our next article is taken from the [Chess Journal website](#). The authors of this site have made some interesting observations about the Zilbermints Gambit, **1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7**. Of particular interest is mention of Yakov Zilbermints who is said to have introduced the Zilbermints Gambit in Russia in the late 1970s. We must ask, where are games? That is first.

Second, the article says that “the Zilbermints Gambit remained unknown to the large chess community until the mid-2000s until it was rediscovered by the Dutch grandmaster Dimitri Reindermann.” This statement ignores the fact that Lev Zilbermintz, another Russian player, introduced the gambit to the chess world in articles published in *Blackmar–Diemer Gambit World* #61, #62, #63 (1993-1994) This material was published by Stefan Bucker in *Kaissiber* #5 (1998).

It could be said that two players named Zilbermints introduced the gambit in their respective countries. Yakov Zilbermints introduced **1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7** to the players of then Soviet Union in the late 1970s. Lev Zilbermintz introduced the same opening in the early 1990s to the American players and the world at large. By the end of the 1990s and certainly earlier in the decade, players were calling **1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7** the Zilbermints Gambit.

What about grandmaster Dimitri Reinderman? It would be interesting to see his games with the Zilbermints Gambit. Once we obtain a copy, we will publish these games. That said, here are a few facts about the Dutch grandmaster.

Reinderman is 51 years old. He is a vegetarian. Reinderman earned his grandmaster title in 1998. His peak FIDE rating was 2619 in May 2014. Currently the Dutch grandmaster’s rating is 2577.

As of 2020, Reinderman is the 8th–strongest Dutch player.

Reinderman was Dutch chess champion in 2013.

In addition to being a FIDE Arbiter/Trainer, Reinderman has been a Developmental Instructor since 2014.

Recently we have received a response via email from an online store that sells chess books and magazines. In response to our question, our source has told us that Grandmaster Reinderman does not appear as a contributor in any New In Chess magazines published in 2006. Nor are there any games that Reinderman has played with the Zilbermints Gambit. Furthermore, as of press time, the Chess Journal website has not responded to our questions about the Zilbermints Gambit and GM Reinderman.

In communication via LinkedIn, GM Reinderman wrote, concerning the article, “But I think they made a mistake, I can’t remember having written about it or ever played it.”

Russian–language archives show that there were three men named Yakov Zilbermints. One is buried at the Vostryakovskoye Cemetery, in Moscow, Russia. His floruit is 1913–1997. Another Yakov was born in 1902 and evacuated to Central Asia in 1941. The third Yakov Zilbermints has no date of birth listed. He also was evacuated to Central Asia in 1941.

The Chess Journal article makes a big mistake in saying that I am Latvian–American. Actually, I am Russian–American. My ancestors on my father’s side were Polish Jews. When Poland was divided in 1795, my ancestors ended up in Ukraine. Three generations of my father’s ancestors—Leyzor II (1787–1834), Abraham II (1823–1870?) and Leyzor III (1859–1906)—lived in Berdichev, Ukraine. My great-grandfather, a tea company commercial agent, moved to Odessa in 1903. My grandfather, Abraham III, moved to Moscow in the early 1920s. He lived there most of his life with the exception of the war years, 1941–1944.

My mother’s ancestors were partly from Poland, partly from what is now Moldova. At least several generations

lived in a town called Telenesht. My mother's father was Miron (Meir) Polyanker (1908–1945). He was the fourth to bear that name. Old 19th century Russian records give the male-line ancestors as Solomon (1875–1919), Meir III (1842–before 1908); Leyb, or Lev (1809–?); Meir II (1776–before 1842); Leyb I? (1743–before 1809); Meir I (1710–before 1776).

Research shows that Jews were invited to Telenesht by the local magnates at the end of the 18th century, possibly around the 1770s/1780s. Where they lived before that is unclear. However, when my mother's grandfather, Solomon, moved to Ekaterinosklav (now Dnipro, Ukraine) the writing of his last name changed. The Romanians and Moldovans used the Latin alphabet, whereas the Russians used the Cyrillic alphabet. In Bessarabia, where my mother's paternal ancestors were from, the surname was spelled Palanker. The Russian spelling was spelled Polyanker.

In a similar vein, my father's paternal ancestors were also from Ukraine, and before that, Poland–Lithuania. Where they lived before my great-great-great-grandfather, Leyzor II, came to Berdichev in 1831, I am not sure. I do know that the surname Zilbermintz was spelled many different ways in Polish, Ukrainian and Russian.



*Dutch grandmaster Dimitri Reinderman in 2007, from Wikipedia.*

# Zilbermints Gambit: Englund Gambit Variation Guide

*by ChessJournal.com Editorial Staff*

The Zilbermints Gambit is a variation of the Englund Gambit, which is an uncommon chess opening characterized by the moves 1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7. This gambit is an offbeat and aggressive chess opening that can catch your opponent off guard and give you an exciting, imbalanced game. The opening is named after Lev Zilbermints, a Latvian-American chess enthusiast who popularized the gambit in the 1990s.

**1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7**

This guide aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the Zilbermints Gambit, including key ideas, variations, and strategic themes, so you can employ this opening in your own games.

- History
- Theory
- Variations
  - Main Line: **4. Bf4**
  - **4. e3**
  - **4. Nc3**
  - **4. g3**
- Key Ideas and Themes
- Typical Middlegame Strategies
  - With White
  - With Black
- Common Endgame Themes
  - With White
  - With Black
- Conclusion

## History

Named after its inventor, the Russian chess player and composer Yakov Zilbermints. Zilbermints first introduced the gambit in the late 1970s, and it quickly became popular among amateur players who were looking for an aggressive and attacking opening.

However, the Zilbermints Gambit remained largely unknown to the wider chess community until the mid-2000s, when it was rediscovered by the Dutch grandmaster Dimitri Reinderman. Reinderman began playing the Zilbermints Gambit in his own games, and published an article about it in the chess magazine *New in Chess* in 2006. Since then, the gambit has gained a small but dedicated following among players who enjoy the thrill of a daring opening.

## Theory

The Zilbermints Gambit is a rare and aggressive opening in chess that begins with the moves **1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7**. This gambit sacrifices a pawn in exchange for rapid development, control over the center, and potential attacking opportunities. Here, we will explore the variations of the Zilbermints Gambit and discuss the benefits and drawbacks of each line.

This is a highly tactical and aggressive opening, and requires precise play from both sides. If Black plays inaccurately, they can easily find themselves in a difficult position, with a cramped position and a lack of development.

## Variations

### Main Line: 4. Bf4

The main line of the Zilbermints Gambit is 4. Bf4, which is also the most popular response. With this move, White develops their bishop and prepares to castle kingside. Black can respond with **4... Ng6**, attacking the bishop and regaining the pawn.

White can then play **5. Bg3**, protecting the pawn on e5 and preparing to castle. Black can either continue with **5... h5**, putting pressure on the white king's position, or **5... Qe7**, attacking the bishop again and preparing to castle themselves.

One drawback of this line is that Black can often regain their pawn without too much difficulty, leaving White down material. However, White has the advantage of better development and central control, and can launch a rapid attack if Black fails to defend accurately.

### 4. e3

Another option for White is to play **4. e3**, protecting the pawn on e5 and preparing to castle kingside. Black can then play **4... Ng6**, attacking the pawn and threatening to win it back. White can respond with **5. Nc3**, which prepares to develop the knight to d5 and attack the black queen. Black can then play **5... Bb4**, attacking the white knight and preparing to castle.

In this line, White has solid central control and good development, while Black has an open b-file and potential attacking opportunities on the queenside.

### 4. Nc3

White can also choose to play **4. Nc3**, attacking the black pawn on e5 and preparing to develop the knight to d5. Black can respond with **4... Ng6**, attacking the white knight and threatening to win the pawn on e5. White can then play **5. h4**, attacking the black knight and preparing to castle kingside. Black can either retreat the knight or try to hold onto the pawn with **5... h5**.

In this line, White sacrifices time in order to attack the black knight and gain control of the center. However, this can lead to a weakened kingside and potential attacking opportunities for Black.

### 4. g3

Finally, White can also play **4. g3**, developing the bishop to g2 and preparing to castle kingside. Black can then play **4... Ng6**, attacking the pawn on e5 and threatening to win it back. White can respond with **5. Bg2**, protecting the pawn and preparing to castle. Black can either try to regain the pawn immediately with **5... Ncxe5** or develop their pieces with **5... Bc5**.

In this line, White has solid development and control over the center, while Black has potential attacking opportunities on the queenside and can put pressure on the white bishop with moves like **...h5** and **...Ng4**.

## Key Ideas and Themes

The Zilbermints Gambit's main ideas and themes include the following.

- Playing f3 to support the e4 pawn push, which aims to establish a strong pawn center.
- Delaying the capture of the b5 pawn, which can sometimes lead to a quicker kingside attack.
- Provoking weaknesses in Black's pawn structure, which can be exploited later in the game.
- Developing pieces harmoniously, while maintaining central control and kingside attacking chances.

## Typical Middlegame Strategies

In the Zilbermints Gambit, both sides have various middlegame strategies to consider. Here are some typical plans for each side.

### With White

- Strengthen and maintain the pawn center by playing moves like Be3, Qd2, and Rd1.
- Look for opportunities to open the f-file for the rook by playing f4 or fxe4 at the right moment.
- Attack Black's king with moves like h4-h5 or g4-g5 if Black castles kingside.
- Target weak points in Black's pawn structure, such as backward or isolated pawns.

### With Black

- Challenge White's pawn center with moves like ...f5, ...d6, or ...Nbd7, aiming to create weaknesses in White's position.
- Seek counterplay on the queenside by targeting the b2 and d5 pawns or by creating pressure along the a- and b-files.
- Coordinate the knights, bishops, and queen to pressure White's central pawns and exploit potential weaknesses.
- Consider castling queenside or delaying kingside castling to avoid direct attacks from White, but be cautious of potential weaknesses on the queenside.

## Common Endgame Themes

If the game reaches an endgame, both players should be aware of the following themes:

### With White

- Utilize the central pawn majority to create passed pawns, which can be promoted or used to distract Black's pieces.
- Exploit weak squares in Black's camp, such as the d6 or f6 squares, by placing pieces on these outposts.
- Coordinate major pieces along open files or diagonals to pressure Black's pawn structure and king.

### With Black

- Counter White's central pawn majority by creating counterplay on the wings or by targeting weak pawns.
- Activate the king to support pawn advances or to attack White's pawn structure in the endgame.
- Use minor pieces to blockade passed pawns, and coordinate major pieces to support the promotion of your own passed pawns.

## Conclusion

The Zilbermints Gambit is a fascinating and aggressive opening that can lead to sharp, imbalanced positions. Although not as sound as traditional mainlines, it can provide the knowledgeable player with a psychological edge and a chance to catch their opponent off-guard.

By studying the key ideas, variations, and strategic themes presented in this guide, you'll be well-equipped to employ the Zilbermints Gambit in your own games. Remember, practice makes perfect, so don't hesitate to test your understanding of this opening in online or over-the-board games. As you gain more experience with the Zilbermints Gambit, you'll develop a deeper intuition for its unique characteristics, allowing you to make the most of the opportunities it presents.

To further improve your knowledge and skills in the Zilbermints Gambit, consider analyzing games played by strong players who have used this opening, and practice your tactics and calculation skills regularly. This will help you become more adept at spotting the critical moments and potential combinations that can arise from this exciting gambit.

The Zilbermints Gambit may not be a conventional choice, but it can serve as a potent weapon in your chess arsenal, particularly in games where you're seeking an exciting, non-standard battle. By embracing the dynamic and creative spirit of this opening, you'll not only improve your overall chess understanding but also experience the joy of exploring lesser-known paths in the vast world of chess.

# Zilbermints Gambit: Sideline with 7.a3

by Lev Zilbermintz

## 1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3

This move is not often played. For obvious reasons, White wants to defend the b2-pawn, not give it up. Such reasons belong to the realm of psychology. Indeed, theory supports the argument that 7. a3 is a very rare line. In over thirty years of playing against 4. Bf4, the Klein Variation, I have seen the line **4...Ng6 5. Bg3. Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3** played against me less than ten times. This includes tournament chess, blitz chess, casual chess, correspondence, and internet chess (Internet Chess Club, chess.com, lichess.org) games. I would say it is human nature to protect the attacked pawn.

Thirty years ago, I analyzed the Zilbermints Gambit in *Blackmar–Diemer Gambit World* #61, #62, #63 (January–February 1994, March–April 1994, May–June 1994). Much of my analyses, on 4. Bf4, was done without a computer, with the assistance of the late Edward Kopiecki (1955–2019). The analyses focused mainly on 7. Qd2, 7. Qc1, and 7. Qb1. I did analyze 7. a3 in some detail but, having no games played, could not give a better evaluation. In the thirty years since 1994, much has changed. The line 7. a3 has seen some games played, primarily in blitz. It still remains very rare in tournament practice. What follows has been put together from Internet chess games, my own games, and Stockfish 16 chess engine analyses.

## 1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5

Here extant Zilbermints Gambit theory branches into three lines: **A 8...Bxa3?!**, **B 8... Bc5?**, and **C 8...Kd8**. We will look at all three lines, as well as relevant 1994 analyses.

### A) 8...Bxa3

**9. Rb1? Qa2** This is the only good move, as after **9...Bb4+ 10. Nxb4 Qc3+ 11. Qd2 Qxd2 12. Nxd2 Nxb4 13. Rxb4+ +-** White has an overwhelming advantage.

**10. Nc7+ Kd8 11. Nxa8** The trapped Na8 is common to many lines of the Zilbermints Gambit, Klein Variation. In return for the rook, Black has a big attack on the queenside. The question is whether the attack can break through before White extracts his Na8 or counterattacks. What follows is exciting and tricky play by both sides. **11...Bb4+ 12. Nd2 Nd4 13. Qc1 Ba3 14. Ra1 Nxc2+ 15. Kd1 Nxa1?! (15...Qxa1! 16. Qxa1 Nc2+ 17. Kd1 Nxa1 -0.14, Stockfish 16) 16. Qc7+ Ke7 17. Qc4 Qb2 18. Nc7 Rd8! 19. Bh4+ Nxb4 20. Qxb4 f6 21. ef6 Kf7 22. Qh5+ Kg8 23. Qd5+ Kh8 24. fg7+ Kg7 25. Qg5+ (Possible is 25. e3!? Qc1+ 26. Ke2 Qxc7 27. Qd4+ Kf7 28. Qxa1?! Bf8) 25...Kf7 26. Qf4+ Kg7 27. Qg5+ Kf7 28. Qf5+ Kg7, 1/2-1/2, A. Sergeev (2129)-Lev Zilbermintz, Westfield Chess Club Quads, New Jersey, 7/21/2024.**

## 1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Bxa3

Now we look at **9. Rxa3 Qxa3 10. Nxc7+ Kd8 11. Nxa8 Qc3+**

Stockfish 16 (7MB, depth 20) evaluates **11...Qc3+** as +0.9 **11...Nb4** as +2.0. This means that after the former, Black can still fight, while after the latter, White has a big advantage.

The original analyses, published in May–June 1994 issue of *Blackmar–Diemer Gambit World* #63 went as follows:

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Bxa3 9. Rxa3 Qxa3 10. Nxc7+ Kd8 11. Nxa8 Qc3+ 12. Nd2 (12 Qd2? Qa1+! draws by repetition) Nd4

Here the late Edward Kopiecki (1955–2019) and I considered the following lines:

A1) 13. Qc1 Ne6! 14. f4 (14. e3 Nxe5 15. Be2 b6 16. Nxb6 ab6 17. O-O. Ke7 unclear) 14...Ngf4 15. Bxf4 Nxf4 16. g3 Nd5 17. Bg2 Ne3 18. Be4 d5! With the ideas of Re8, Bh3! =+ ;

A2) 13. e3 Nxc2+ 14. Ke2 b6! 15. Ne4 Qc4+ 16. Kf3 Qc6 17. Bd3 Nb4 18. Nxb6 ab6 19. Bb1 Ba6 =+/unclear;

A3) 13. Qb1! Ne6 (13...Nxc2+ 14. Kd1! Nd4 15. Qc1! +=) 14. Qa2! Qc5 15. Ne4 Qb4+ 16. Nd2 a6 17. e3 and White is a piece ahead. Therefore the move 8...Bxa3?! must be considered dubious, however dashing. This, however, does not mean it cannot be tried! Let the unwary beware!

Edward was a good friend of mine since 1990. We spent many happy days analyzing the Zilbermints Gambit and other openings. It was Edward Kopiecki who contributed many interesting lines in the variation that bears his name, the Kopiecki Attack, 6...Qb4!. He and I played numerous blitz games, many of which I have recorded. It was thanks to my 43-game Blackmar–Diemer Gambit blitz–match with Edward Kopiecki that I learned how to keep score in blitz and make moves at the same time. I used my right hand to write down the moves and the left hand to move the pieces and hit the clock.

The topic of the match in question was the Zilbermints Gambit in the Euwe Defense, **1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 exf3 5. Nxf3 e6 6. Bg5 Be7 7. Bd3 Nc6 8 00. Nxd4 9. Kh1!** Played in April–June 1993, the match ended in a win for me, 40-3.

Kopiecki was a talented tactician, an attacking player who defeated some very strong masters. In the next issue I will try to publish some games from the upcoming Edward Kopiecki Memorial Tournament, September 27–October 18 (one game per week) hosted by Queens Chess Club in Floral Park, New York.

#### “Maksimov” (2164)

**Lev Zilbermintz (2269)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 10/25/2023**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Bxa3 9. Rxa3 Qxa3 10. Nxc7+ Kd8 11. Nxa8 Qc3+ 12. Qd2 Qa1+ 13. Qd1 Qc3+ 14. Nd2 Nb4 15. f4 Nxc2+ 16. Kf2 Qe3# 0-1

#### “MagiqueRoger” (2475)

**Lev Zilbermintz (2292)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 3/8/2021**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Bxa3 9. Rxa3 Qxa3 10. Nxc7+ Kd8 11. Nxa8 Qc3+ 12. Nd2 Nb4 13. Qb1 Nxc2+ 14. Kd1 Na3 15. Qc1 Qa5 16. e6 Qa4+ 17. Ke1 Nc2+ 18. Kd1 Ne3+ 19. Ke1 Nc2+ 20. Kd1 Ne3+ 21. Ke1 Nc2+ 1/2-1/2

In the following game, I could have won much earlier after **10. Rxa3? Nxc2+! 11. Ke2 Nxa3+ 12. Qd2 Qb5+ 13. Ke1 Qb1+ 14. Qd1 Qxd1+ 15. Kxd1 OO 16. Nxc7 Rb8 17. Bd3 b5 or 17. h4 h5 18. Bd3 b5**, evaluated as -2.0, per Stockfish 16 (7MB, depth 29).

#### “goikolaketic” (2402)

**Lev Zilbermintz (2317)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 2/21/2023**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Bxa3 9. e3 Nb4 10. Rxa3 Qxa3 11. Nxc7+ Kd8 12. Nxa8 Qc3+ 13. Qd2 Qa1+ 14. Ke2 Qa6+ 15. Kd1 Qa1+ 16. Qc1 Qc3 17. Bd3 Na2 18. Qd2 Qa1+ 19. Ke2 Nc3+ 20. Qxc3 Qxc3 21. e6 dxe6 22. Nc7 Ke7 23. Nb5 Qb2 24. Bd6+ Kf6 25. g4 h6 26. h4 e5 27. g5+ Ke6 28. Ba3 Qa2 29. Nd2 Kd7 30. Bc4 Qxc2 31. Rc1 Qf5 32. Bd3 Qg4+ 33. f3 Qg2+ 34. Kd1 Qg1+ 35. Kc2 Qxe3 36. Nc4 Qf2+ 37. Kb3 a6 38. Nc3 b5 0-1

The following game sees White play **9. Rb1 Qa2 10. Nxc7+ Kd8 11. e6 fxe6 12. Nxa8 Bb4+ 13. Nd2** when the outcome is very much up in the air. As usual, Black gets an attack against the White queenside, while White gets the Ra8 and puts his knight out of action. Whoever knows the analyses better wins.

**“ElraneroMurcia” (2242)**

**Lev Zilbermintz (2278)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 8/20/2020**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Bf4 Nge7 4. Nf3 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Bxa3 9. Rb1 Qa2  
10. Nxc7+ Kd8 11. e6 fxe6 12. Nxa8 Bb4+ 13. Nd2 Bxd2+ 14. Kxd2 Qd5+ 15. Ke1 Qa5+ 16. Qd2 Qxd2+ 17. Kxd2  
e5 18. e4 b6 19. Nxb6 axb6 20. Rxb6 Kc7 21. Rb2 d6 22. Bc4 Rf8 23. Rhb1 Nf4 24. Bxf4 Rxf4 25. f3 g5 26. Bd5  
g4 27. Bxc6 Kxc6 28. Rb6+ Kc7 29. Ke3 gxf3 30. gxf3 Rh4 31. R6b3 Rxh2 32. Rc3+ Kd7 33. Rb8 Ba6 34. f4 exf4+  
35. Kxf4 Rf2+ 36. Kg5 Re2 37. Ra8 Bb5 38. Kf6 Rf2+ 39. Kg7 h5 40. Rcc8 Bc6 41. Rd8+ Kc7 42. Rac8+ Kb7  
43. Rb8+ Kc7 44. Rdc8+ Kd7 45. Rf8 Rxc2 46. Rf7+ Ke6 47. Rc8 Rg2+ 48. Kf8 Bxe4 49. Re7+ Kd5 50. Rc1 Bd3  
51. Rh7 Bxh7 0-1

In the following game, both sides skate on thin ice. Despite what the chess engine says, it is not easy to figure out the correct moves in an unfamiliar position, with a clock ticking at your side.

**“chEss653447” (2480)**

**Lev Zilbermintz (2344)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 1/28/2024**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Bxa3 9. Rb1 Qa2  
10. Nxc7+ Kd8 11. Nxa8 Bb4+ 12. Nd2 Bxd2+ 13. Kxd2 Ngxe5 14. e3 b6 15. Bd3 Bb7 16. Nxb6 axb6 17. Re1  
Nxd3 18. Kxd3 Ba6+ 19. Ke4 Qe6+ 20. Kf3 Qf5+ 21. Bf4 Ne5+ 22. Kg3 Qg6+ 23. Kh3 Qe6+ 24. g4 h5 25. Bxe5  
hgx4+ 26. Kg2 Qxe5 27. Qxg4 Qxh2+ 28. Kf3 Rh3+ 29. Ke4 Rh4 30. Rg1 Rxg4+ 31. Rxg4 Qxf2 32. Rf4 Qxc2+ 0-1

In the following game, the position is very complex after **14. Ke2**. Here I should have played **14...d5! 15. Nf3 Bf5 16. Qxd5 Kc8 17. Nd2 Na3 18. Kf3 h5 19. h3 h4 20. Bh2 Kd8 21. Ne4 Rxd5 22. Nxc3 Nxe5+ 23. Bxe5 Rxe5 24. Be2 Kb8 25. Ra1 Nc2 26. Rd1 Bc5 27. Ne4 Rc6 28. g4 hg3 29. Nd6 Ne1+ 30. Kxg3 Bc2 31. Nd4 Kxa8 32. Nxf7 a6 +0.6**, but really = , according to Stockfish 16 (7 MB, dDepth 20).

**“aconeni” (2393)**

**Lev Zilbermintz (2321)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 10/29/2020**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Bf4 Nge7 4. Nf3 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Bxa3 9. Rxa3 Qxa3  
10. Nxc7+ Kd8 11. Nxa8 Qc3+ 12. Nd2 Nb4 13. e3 Nxc2+ 14. Ke2 b6?! 15. Ne4 Ba6+ 16. Kf3 Ne1+ 17. Kg4 h5+  
18. Kg5 Qb4 19. Nd6 Nxe5 20. Bxe5 f6+ 21. Kg6 fxe5 22. Nf7+ Ke7 23. Nxe8 Qe4+ 24. Kxg7 Qxa8 25. Ng6+ Ke8  
26. Qd6 Kd8 27. Qf8+ 1-0

In the next game, both sides made mistakes. For example, **13. e3?** is incorrect.

**13.Qb1 b6 14.Qb3 Nxc2+ 15.Kd1 Qxb3 16.Nxb3 Nb4 17.e6 dxe6 18.Nc7 e5 19.Nb5 Be6 20.Na1 Ke7 21.Kc1 a5 22.e4 f5 23.exf5 Bxf5 24.Kb2 Rd8 25.Nc3 h5 26.h4 Nf4 27.Bxf4 exf4 28.Nb3 Kf6 29.Bb5 Nd3+ 30.Bxd3 Rxd3 31.f3 g5 32.Ne2** = is what the Stockfish 16 (7 MB, dDepth 36) gives.

After **14...d6?! 15. Nf3!** White has a +3.0 advantage according to Stockfish 16. However, moving the d-pawn one square further, **14...d5!** gives complete equality. The line **14...d5! 15. Nf3 Bf5 16. Qxd5 Kc8 17. Nd3 Na3 18. Kf3 h5 19. h3 h4 20. Bh2 Rd8! 21. Ne4 Rxd5 22. Nxc3 Nxe5+ 23. Kf4 Ng6+ 24. Kf3** leads to a draw by repetition.

Why is **14...d5!** better than **14...d6!**? *The nuance is that White cannot capture on d6 with the queen and open up a power battery with a later e6. On the light-colored square d5 the queen is less powerful.*

I spent decades trying to determine whether ...b6, ...d6, or ...d5 was the best move for Black. Analyses back in the 1990s showed that moving the d-pawn was better. In some lines the Bc8 was developed to d7, where it could develop to either the kingside or the queenside. It was determined that ...b6 only allowed queenside development for the Bc8. Now Stockfish 16 has proved once and for all that ...d5 is the best move for the d-pawn in this complex line.

**“chessfromweb” (2147)**

**Lev Zilbermintz (2240)**

**lichess.org, 300+3, 5/20/2020**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Bf4 Nge7 4. Nf3 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Bxa3 9. Nxc7+ Kd8  
10. Rxa3 Qxa3 11. Nxa8 Qc3+ 12. Nd2 Nb4 13. e3 Nxc2+ 14. Ke2 d6 15. h3 Bd7 16. Qb1 a6 17. Qxb7 Bb5+  
18. Kd1 Ba4 19. Qb8+ Kd7 20. Qa7+ Kd8 21. Qb6+ Kd7 22. Qb7+ Kd8 23. Qb8+ Kd7 24. Qb7+ Kd8 1/2-1/2

Below is a miniature played by me. It shows the dangers of not knowing the intricacies of the Zilbermints Gambit.

**“Jaqmat” (2326)**

**Lev Zilbermintz (2354)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 4/1/2022**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Bf4 Nge7 4. Nf3 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Bxa3 9. Nxc7+?? Kd8  
10. Nxa8 Bb4+ 11. Nd2 Bxd2+ 12. Kxd2 Qd4+ 13. Ke1 Qc3+ 0-1

In the next game, both players were Candidate Masters. It appears to me that 11...Qc4 is a bad move. Stockfish 16 agrees with this evaluation. Having said that, the game is full of blunders by both sides.

**“Skillcam” (2459)**

**“vovaches” [FM Vladimir Mikhaylovskyof Russia] (2511)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 4/10/2021**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Bf4 Nge7 4. Nf3 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Bxa3 9. Rb1 Qa2  
10. Nxc7+ Kd8 11. Nd5 Qc4 12. e3 Qc5 13. Be2 Nb4 14. Nxb4 Bxb4+ 15. Kf1 Re8 16. h4 Bc3 17. Rb5 Qc6 18. h5  
Ne7 19. Nd4 Bxd4 20. exd4 Nd5 21. Rc5 Qe6 22. Bg4 Qa6+ 23. c4 Nc3 24. Bh4+ f6 25. exf6 gxf6 26. Qc1 Ne4  
27. Rf5 d6 28. Rf4 Bxg4 29. Rxg4 Nd2+ 30. Kg1 Nxc4 31. Bxf6+ Kd7 32. d5 Rg8 33. Rxc4 Rac8 34. Rxc8 Rxc8  
35. Qf4 Qd3 36. Qg4+ Kc7 37. Kh2 Kb8 38. Be7 Qxd5 39. Qg3 Rc6 40. Re1 a6 41. Qg8+ Ka7 42. Qg3 Qxh5+  
43. Qh3 Qd5 44. Bf6 Rc5 45. Bd4 Qc6 46. Qe3 b6 47. Bxc5 Qxc5 48. Qg3 Kb7 49. Re3 Kc6 50. Rf3 Qb5 51. Rf6  
Kc5 52. Qg4 Qc6 53. Qf5+ Qd5 54. Qf4 Kc6 55. Rf5 Qe5 56. Rxe5 dxe5 57. Qe4+ Kb5 58. Qe3 1-0

**GM Denis Lazavik**

**FM Vladimir Mikhailovsky**

**chess.com, Royal Arena, King's Week, 3rd Friday, 2021**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Bxa3 9. Rb1 Qa2  
10. Nxc7+ Kd8 11. Nxa8 Bb4+ 12. Rxb4 Nxb4 13. Nd4 Qa5 14. c3 Nd5 15. f3 Re8 16. Qd2 Nxe5 17. Kf2 Nxc3  
18. Qc2 b6 19. e3 Bb7 20. Nc7 Kxc7 21. Qxc3+ Qxc3 22. Nb5+ Kb8 23. Nxc3 Rc8 24. Bxe5+ 1-0

Black could have improved with **18...Qc5!** and **19...Qc5!** when the position is even.

**GM Bora Kostic**

**Lev Zilbermintz**

**chess.com, 5-minute blitz, 10/19/2019**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Bxa3 9. Rxa3 Qxa3  
10. Nxc7+ Kd8 11. Nxa8 Qc3+ 12. Qd2 Qa1+ 13. Qd1 Qc3+ 14. Nd2 Nb4 15. e4 Nxc2+ 16. Ke2 b6 17. Nb1??  
Ba6+ 18. Qd3 Qxd3# 0-1

**“chEss653447” (2480)**

**Lev Zilbermintz (2344)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 1/28/2023**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Bxa3 9. Rb1 Qa2  
10. Nxc7+ Kd8 11. Nxa8 Bb4+ 12. Nd2 Bxd2+ 13. Kxd2 Ngxe5 14. e3 b6 15. Bd3 Bb7 16. Nxb6 axb6 17. Re1  
Nxd3 18. Kxd3 Ba6+ 19. Ke4 Qe6+ 20. Kf3 Qf5+ 21. Bf4 Ne5+ 22. Kg3 Qg6+ 23. Kh3 Qe6+ 24. g4 h5 25. Bxe5  
hxg4+ 26. Kg2 Qxe5 27. Qxg4 Qxh2+ 28. Kf3 Rh3+ 29. Ke4 Rh4 30. Rg1 Rxc4+ 31. Rxc4 Qxf2 32. Rf4 Qxc2+ 0-1

## **B) 8...Bc5?!**

According to analyses by Zilbermintz and Kopiecki in the May–June 1994 *BDG World* #63 the following lines may occur: **8...Bc5 9. Nxc7+ Kd8 10. Nxa8 Qc3+ 11. Nd2 Nd4 12. Ra2 (12 Rc1? Bxca3! =+) Bxa3 13. e3 Ne6 14. Rxa3 Qxa3 15. Bd3 +=**

Research found only two games with **8...Bc5?!**, both in blitz. In the first game, Black won because this was one-minute bullet chess. I don't think much of the value of such games. It was only included here because of a lack of other games.

In the second game, White played better and won.

**“earthshaker01” (2342)**

**“Vinvin” (2328)**

**lichess.org, 60+0, 3/10/2020**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Bc5 9. Nxc7+ Kd8  
10. Nxa8 Qc3+ 11. Nd2 Ngxe5 12. e3 d5 13. Bb5 Bg4 14. Qc1 Bxe3 15. fxe3 Qxe3+ 16. Kf1 a6 17. Bxc6 Be2+  
18. Ke1 Bf3+ 19. Kf1 Qe2+ 20. Kg1 Qxg2# 0-1

**“gerard5886” (1972)**

**“Plussa” (1966)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 2/13/2021**

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Bc5 9. Nxc7+ Kd8  
10. Nxa8 Qc3+ 11. Nd2 Nd4 12. Rc1 Bxa3 13. e3 Bxc1 14. exd4 Bxd2+ 15. Qxd2 Qxd2+ 16. Kxd2 Nf8 17. Bc4 b6  
18. e6 Bb7 19. Nxb6 axb6 20. exf7 Bxg2 21. Re1 d5 22. Re8+ Kd7 23. Bb5# 1-0

## **C) 8...Kd8!**

This is the third line that Black has. Instead of going for an all-out attack with **8...Ba3**, Black protects his c7-pawn, and delays his attack by one move. The question is, can White take advantage of Black's loss of castling to gain an

edge? As the games and analyses will show, it is far from clear.

**1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Kd8**

- **9. e6 d6 10. ef7 Be6 11. Nf4 Bxf7** originally analyzed by myself and Edward Kopiecki in 1994.
- **9. — 10. — 11. — Qc3+ 12. Nd2 Bf7 13. e3 Nxf4 14. Bf4 Bg6 15. Ra2 Bf7 16. Ra1 Bg6 17. Ra2 Bf7 1/2-1/2** Stockfish 16 (7MB, depth 41)

Analyses from 1994 by Lev Zilbermintz and Edward Kopiecki is as follows:

**1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Kd8** 9. e6 d6! 10. exf7 Be6 C1) 11. Nf4 Bf5!? (11...Nxf4 12. Bxf4 Bxf7 13. Ng5 Bg8 unclear)

C11) 11. Nf4 Bf5!? 12. Rb1 Qxa3 13. Rxb7 Qc3+ 14. Qd2 Qa1 draw by repetition, or 14. Nd2? Nd4! With tremendous Black advantage;

C12) 12. Rc1 Qa3! with Black advantage;

C13) 12. Kd2 Nge5! 13. Nxe5 Nxe5! 14. e3 Kc8 unclear/=+ ?

C2) 11. c4 Bxd5! 12. cxd5 Qc3+ 13. Nd2 Nd4 14. Ra2 (14 Rc1 Qxa3! =+) Qa5 15. e3 Nb5 16. Bxb5 Qxb5 unclear/=+

C3) 11. e4 Bxd5 12. exd5 13. Qc3+ 13. Ke2 (13 Nd2 Nce5! unclear/=+) Nce5! 14. Nxe5 Nxe5 15. Bxe5 dxe5! =+

**“LaiiiL90” (1922)**

**“noosoo” (1925)**

**lichess.org, 180+0, 3/21/2024**

**1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Kd8 9. e6 d6 10. exf7 Be6 11. Nf4 Bxf7** 12. Nxc6 Bxc6 13. c4 Be7 14. Bh4 Qc3+ 15. Nd2 Bxh4 16. Rc1 Qxa3 17. g3 Bf6 18. Bg2 Kd7 19. O-O Rhe8 20. Bh3+ Ke7 21. Bg2 Rab8 22. Nf3 Kf8 23. Nd2 Ne5 24. f4 Ng4 25. Rf3 Bd4+ 26. Kh1 Nf2+ 27. Rxf2 Bxf2 28. e4 b6 29. Qe2 Qxc1+ 0-1

**“LaiiiL90” (1934)**

**“noosoo” (1913)**

**lichess.org, 180+0, 3/21/2024**

**1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Kd8 9. e6 d6 10. exf7 Be6 11. Nf4 Bxf7 12. Nxc6 Bxc6 13. Rb1 Qxa3 14. Rxb7 Be7 15. e3 Qc3+ 16. Nd2 Qxc2 17. Qf3 Qc1+ 18. Qd1 Qxd1+ 19. Kxd1 Kd7 20. Be2 Rbh8 21. Rxb8 Rxb8 22. Kc1 a5 23. Bg4+ Kd8 24. Nc4 Rb1+ 0-1**

**“LaiiiL90” (1934)**

**“noosoo” (1912)**

**lichess.org, 180+0, 3/21/2024**

**1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Kd8 9. e6 d6 10. exf7 Be6 11. Nf4 Bxf7 12. Nxc6 Bxc6 13. e3 Qxc2 14. Qd4 Na5 15. Rd1 Nb3 16. Qb4 b6 17. Be2 a5 18. Qf4 Be7 19. O-O**

Qxe2 20. Nh4 Rf8 21. Qc4 Qxc4 0-1

“LaiiiL90” (1900)

“noosoo” (1938)

lichess.org, 180+0, 3/10/2024

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Kd8 9. e6 d6 10. exf7 Be6 11. Nf4 Bxf7 12. Ng5 Nge5 13. Nxf7+ Nxf7 14. e3 Qc3+ 15. Ke2 Kd7 16. Rb1 b6 17. Nd5 Qxa3 18. Ke1 Be7 19. Be2 h5 20. h4 Nfe5 21. Kf1 g6 22. Bb5 a6 23. Bxc6+ Nxc6 24. Qf3 Raf8 25. Qe2 Rf5 26. Nf4 Rhf8 27. Nxc6 R8f7 28. Nxe7 Nxe7 29. f4 Nc6 30. Kg1 a5 31. Kh2 Re7 32. Rbe1 Nd4 33. Qd3 Qxd3 34. cxd3 Nc2 35. Re2 Nxe3 36. Rhe1 Ng4+ 37. Kh3 Rxe2 38. Rxe2 Rd5 39. Rd2 a4 40. Be1 b5 41. Rb2 c6 42. d4 Rxd4 43. Bc3 1-0

“Laiiilo” (1912)

“nosoo” (1935)

lichess.org, 180+0, March 2024

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Kd8 9. e6 d6 10. exf7 Be6 11. Nxc7 Kxc7 12. e3 Rd8 13. Bd3 Bf7 14 00. h5 15. h4 Be7 16. Rb1 Qxa3? 17. Be4 Qc5 18. Qd3 a6?? 19. Bxc6 Nb4?? (19...Bc4! + 0.3) 20. Rxb4! Bxc6 21. Qb3 Rb8 22. Rc4 Kd7 23. Rxc5 dxc5 24. Bxb8 Rxb8 25. Ne5+ 1-0

In the next game, after **13...Nxb4 14. Nd2 Qa4 15. Rb4 Qb4 16. e3 Be7 17. Bd3 Rb8 18 00. Bxf7 19. Ne4 Bc4** gives Black an advantage of -3.7, according to Stockfish 16 (depth 27).

“Watchoutfordanger” (2174)

“Kingalingaling” (2080)

lichess.org, 180+2, 4/18/2024

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Bf4 Nge7 4. Nf3 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Kd8 9. e6 d6 10. exf7 Be6 11. Rb1 Qxa3 12. Rxb7 Qa5+ 13. Nb4 Bxf7 14. c3 Nxb4 15. Rxb4 d5 16. Rb7 Qxc3+ 17. Qd2 Qa1+ 18. Qd1 Qa6 19. Rxc7 Qa5+ 20. Nd2 Bb4 21. Rxf7 Bxd2+ 22. Qxd2 Qa1+ 23. Qd1 Qc3+ 24. Qd2 Qa1+ 25. Qd1 Qc3+ 26. Qd2 Qa1+ 1/2-1/2

In the following game, White plays **12. h4**, but it brings him no advantage.

“Sayandeep01” (2136)

“thony3” (2119)

lichess.org, 180+0, 5/25/2023

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Ne7 3. Nf3 Nbc6 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Kd8 9. e6 d6 10. exf7 Be6 11. e4 Bxf7 12. h4 Nge5 13. Nxe5 dxe5 14. Nb6+ Nd4 15. Nxa8 Kc8 16. Bxe5 Nxc2+ 17. Kd2 Qxe5 18. Qxc2 Bd6 19. g3 Rd8 20. Bd3 Kb8 21. Rab1 Kxa8 22. Rb5 Qd4 23. Ke2 c6 24. Rf5 Bg6 25. Rf3 Bh5 26. Rd1 Bxf3+ 27. Kxf3 Rf8+ 28. Ke2 0-1

Here 12. ed5 seems to be a bit better than the previous game's **12. h4?! However, 11...Nce5 12. Nd2 c6 13. Rb1 Qxa3 14. f4 cxd5 15. fxe5 h5** gives a +1.8 advantage for White according to Stockfish 16.

“Gabry81 (2304)

“dancio” (2236)

lichess.org, 180+2, 10/28/2020

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Kd8 9. e6 d6 10. exf7 Be6 11. e4 Bxd5 12. exd5 Qc3+ 13. Nd2 Nd4 14. Bd3 Qc5 15. O-O Qxd5 16. Bxc6 hxc6 17. Nb3 c5 18. Nxd4 Qxd4

19. Qf3 Kc7 20. Rab1 Rb8 21. Rfe1 Qf6 22. Qd5 Rh5 23. Qc4 a6 24. Re8 b5 25. Qa2 c4 26. Rxb8 Kxb8 27. Qxc4 Rc5 28. Qb3 Rc7 29. a4 Rb7 30. Qe3 Qxf7 31. axb5 Rxb5 32. Rd1 Rd5 33. Ra1 Qf6 34. Qb6+ Kc8 35. Qxa6+ Kd8 36. Qb6+ 1-0

**9. Ng5?** appears dubious, as it gives up the e5–pawn for no compensation whatsoever. Readers can use the following game as an example.

“Valtasar1984” (2265)

“Axilla3000” (2242)

lichess.org, 180+0, 12/7/2023

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Kd8 **9. Ng5 Ngxe5 10. f4** h6 11. fxe5 hxg5 12. e6 d6 13. exf7 Be6 14. e4 Bxd5 15. exd5 Qc3+ 16. Kf2 Qc5+ 17. Ke2 Nd4+ 18. Kd3 Qxd5 19. c4 Qc5 20. Qg4 Nc6 21. Qe6 Qd4+ 22. Kc2 Be7 23. Bd3 Rh6 24. Qd5 Qxd5 25. cxd5 Ne5 26. Rhf1 Rh8 27. Rae1 Bf6 28. Bxe5 dxe5 29. Bf5 Ke7 30. Be6 Rad8 31. Kd3 c6 32. Ke4 cxd5+ 33. Bxd5 Rhf8 34. Rc1 Rd7 35. Rfd1 b6 36. g4 Rfd8 37. Rc6 Kf8 38. Re6 Rxd5 39. Rxd5 Rxd5 40. Re8+ Kxf7 41. Kxd5 Kxe8 42. Ke6 Kf8 0-1

“Mohamed-Eltalawy” (2143)

“CaptainCologne” (2227)

lichess.org, 600+0, 7/19/2020

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Kd8 **9. e4 Bxa3 10. Rb1** Bb4+ 11. Nxb4 Qc3+ 12. Qd2 Qa3 13. Nxc6+ bxc6 14. Qb4 Qa2 15. Bd3 c5 16. Qb3 Qa5+ 17. Nd2 c4 18. Qxc4 Nxe5 19. Bxe5 Qxe5 20. O-O c6 21. Qxf7 Kc7 22. Nc4 Qd4 23. Qf4+ d6 24. e5 Qxf4 0-1

In the following game, **10...Qa2** is played. Is the move better than **10...Bb4+**? That requires more tournament practice. For now, I would say that **10...Bb4+** won one game, while **10...Qa2** lost three games. According to Stockfish 16, neither move is good. Instead, Stockfish gives **9...Nce7 10. Rb1 Qa3 11. Bd3 Nd5 12. ed5 Qa5+ 13. c3 Qxc3+ 14. Kf1 Be7 +-**, when Black can still fight, even if White has a +2.1 advantage. The moves **10...Qa2** and **10...Bb4** give White a 4.0 and 3.6 advantage according to Stockfish 16.

“LaiiiL90” (1937)

“noosoo” (1932)

lichess.org, 180+0, 3/25/2024

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Kd8 **9. e4 Bxa3 10. Rb1 Qa2** 11. Bd3 Nce7 12. Nc3 Qe6 13. Rb3 Bc5 14. Ng5 Qc6 15. Nxf7+ Ke8 16. Nxb8 Nxb8 17. O-O b6 18. Qh5+ Qg6 19. Qe2 Bb7 20. Na4 Bd4 21. c3 Nc6 22. cxd4 Nxd4 23. Qb2 Nxb3 24. Qxb3 h5 25. Qg8+ Ke7 26. Bh4+ 1-0

1.d4 e5 2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nge7 4. Bf4 Ng6 5. Bg3 Qe7 6. Nc3 Qb4 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Nd5 Kd8 **9. e4 Bxa3 10. Bc4!**

At this point Black has a number of moves. They are **10...Bb4+** and **10...Nb4**. Neither is good.

The game with **10...Bb4+?** continued **11. Kf1 Nge5? 12. Nxe5 Nxe5 13. Ra2! 1-0**, GM Luis Paulo Supi–GM Brandon Jacobson, 3-minute blitz, chess.com, 2022.

After **10...Nb4 11 00. Rf8 12. Ne3 Qc3 13. Nd4 Bb2 14. Ne2!** White has a big advantage according to Stockfish 16. So perhaps the whole idea of **9...Bxa3?!** is not good. Instead, Stockfish 16 gives **9...Nce7 10. Rb1 Qa3 11. Bd3 Qa5+ 12. c3 Nxd5 13. ed5 Qxc3+ 14. Kf1 Be7 15. Rc1 Qb2 16. d6 cd6 17. ed6 Bf6 +2.0**, when Black can still fight back. In the lines with **9. e4 Bxa3? 10. Bc4!** Black does not have any good options.

## Games from Various Tournaments

### Gibbins-Weidenhagen Gambit

Carlsen, M. (2830)

Tari, A. (2623)

chess.com, Titled Tue, 12/5/2023

1. d4 Nf6 2. g4 Nxc3 3. e4 Nf6 4. e5 Nd5 5. c4 Nb6 6. c5 Nd5 7. Bc4 e6 8. Nc3 Nxc3 9. bxc3 d6 10. Nf3 dxc5 11. Rg1 Nc6 12. Bg5 Qd7 13. Qe2 Na5 14. dxc5 Nxc4 15. Rd1 Qxd1+ 16. Kxd1 b5 17. Qe4 Rb8 18. Nd4 Bb7 19. c6 Ba6 20. Nb3 h6 21. Be3 b4 22. Bc5 Rd8+ 23. Kc1 bxc3 24. Bxf8 Kxf8 25. Nc5 Nd2 26. Qb4 Be2 27. Nxe6+ Ke8 28. Nxc7# 1-0

### English Opening

Sameer Mujumdar

Bobby Qian

Westfield Swiss, Westfield, NJ, 2023

1. c4 e5 2. e3 Nf6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. d4 exd4 5. exd4 d5 6. cxd5 Nxd5 7. Bd2 O-O 8. Be2 Re8 9. Nf3 Nc6 10. O-O Bg4 11. h3 Bf5 12. Rc1 Nxc3 13. Bxc3 Qd6 14. Bd3 Bxd3 15. Qxd3 Rad8 16. Rfd1 Rd7 17. Qb5 Bxc3 18. bxc3 b6 19. Nd2 Qd5 20. a4 a5 21. Qxd5 Rxd5 22. Re1 Rdd8 23. Kf1 Kf8 24. Nc4 Ne7 25. Ne3 Nd5 26. Nxd5 Rxd5 27. Rxe8+ Kxe8 28. Ke2 c5 29. Kd3 cxd4 30. cxd4 Kd7 31. Ke4 =, but later 1-0

### Vienna Gambit

Andy Chan Jr. (1818)

Bobby Qian (2024)

West Orange Chess Club Championship, 3/21/2023

1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. f4 d5 4. fxe5 Nxe4 5. Qf3 f5 6. d3 Nxc3 7. bxc3 d4 8. Qg3 Nc6 9. Be2 Be6 10. Bf3 Qd7 11. c4 O-O-O 12. Ne2 Re8 13. Bxc6 bxc6 14. O-O h6 15. Qf2 c5 16. Rb1 g5 17. Ng3 f4 18. Qf3 Bd5 19. cxd5 fxg3 20. e6 gxh2+ 21. Kh1 Qd6 22. Bd2 Be7 23. c4 h5 24. Qd1 Ref8 25. Rxf8+ Rxf8 26. Ba5 Bf6 27. Qb3 Kd8 28. Qb8+ Ke7 29. Bxc7 1-0

### French Defense

Bobby Qian

Murray Burn

West Orange Chess Club Championship, 3/14/2023

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Nge7 6. Bd3 Ng6 7. O-O Be7 8. a3 Nh4 9. Nxc4 Bxc4 10. Qg4 g6 11. Bh6 Bd7 12. Qf4 Be7 13. Bg7 Rg8 14. Qh6 Qb6 15. b4 cxd4 16. Rc1 O-O-O 17. Nd2 Kb8 18. c4 Rc8 19. c5 Qd8 20. f4 Bf8 21. Bxf8 Qxf8 22. Qh4 h5 23. Nf3 a6 24. Rab1 Qd8 25. Qf2 Rc7 26. a4 Qc8 27. b5 axb5 28. axb5 Nd8 29. Qxd4 b6 30. c6 Nxc6 31. bxc6 Rxc6 32. Rxb6+ Kc7 33. Rbxc6+ Bxc6 34. Bb5, 1-0

### Benko Gambit Accepted

Elizabeth Tsugel (1886)

Eshan Guha (2226)

Westfield Chess Club Octos, Westfield, NJ, 1/14/2024

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 b5

This is the Benko Gambit. It was introduced into play by the Hungarian Grandmaster Pal Benko in the early 1970s.

4. cxb5 a6 5. bxa6 g6

This is the classic Benko Gambit Accepted. Black gets the open a- and b-files, a strong Bishop on g7. From what I have seen, Black is the clear favorite in this position.

6. Nc3 Bg7 7. e4 0-0 8. Nf3 Qa5 9. Bd2 Bxa6 10. Be2 d6 11. 0-0 Bxe2 12. Qxe2 Qa6 13. Qxa6 Nxa6

Black has exchanged some minor pieces, but still retains pressure on the queenside.

14. a3 Rfb8 15. Rfb1 Nc7 16. Ne1 Rb3 17. f3 Rab8 18. Nd3 Nd7 19. Kf1 Na6 20. Ke1 c4 21. Nf2 Rxb2 22. Nfd1 R2b3 23. Rc1 Nac5 24. Ke2 Ra8 25. a4 Rb4 26. Rab1 Nb3 27. Kf2 Nxc1 28. Rxc1 Nc5 29. Ke2 Nb3 30. Rb1 Nd4+ 31. Kf2 Rxb1 32. Nxb1 Rxa4 33. Nbc3 Ra1 34. Ne3 Nb3 35. Be1 -+ and White resigned after 49 moves

### **Zilbermints Gambit**

**Gata Kamsky (2672)**

**Vladimir Mikhailovsky (2228)**

**chess.com Titled Tuesday (8), 10/20/2020**

1.d4 e5 2.dxe5 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nge7 4.c4 Ng6 5.Nc3 Ngxe5 6.Nxe5 Nxe5 7.e4 Bc5 8.Be2 O-O 9.O-O d6 10.Na4 Qh4 11.Nxc5 dxc5 12.Be3 Qxe4 13.Bxc5 Bh3 14.f3 Qg6 15.Rf2 Rfd8 16.Qf1 Nd3 17.Bxd3 Rxd3 18.Rd1 Rad8 19.Rxd3 Rxd3 20.Qe2 Be6 21.b3 h6 22.Be3 a6 23.Qe1 b5 24.cxb5 axb5 25.Rd2 Bd5 26.Rxd3 Qxd3 27.Qc1 c6 28.Kf2 g5 29.h3 f6 30.Qd2 Qf5 31.Bd4 h5 32.Qe2 Kf7 33.Bc5 g4 34.Qe7+ Kg6 35.hxg4 hxg4 36.Qe8+ Bf7 37.Qe3 gxf3 38.gxf3 Bd5 39.Kg3 Be6 40.Qe4 Qxe4 41.fxe4 f5 42.e5 Kg5 43.Be3+ Kg6 44.Kf4 Bd7 45.a4 bxa4 46.bxa4 Kf7 47.a5 Ke6 48.a6 Bc8 49.a7 Bb7 50.Bb6 Kd5 51.Bc7 Ke6 52.Bb6 Ba8 53.Be3 Bb7 54.Bd4 Ba8 55.Kg5 c5 56.Bc3 c4 57.Kf4 Bb7 58.Ke3 Bd5 59.Kf4 Bb7 60.Kg5 Ba8 61.Kf4 Bb7 1/2-1/2

### **St. George Defense**

**Vladimir Kramnik (2991)**

**Magnus Carlsen (3366)**

**chess.com, Titled Tuesday, 1/2/2024**

1.e4 h6 2.d4 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.Nf3 b5 5.Bd3 c5 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.O-O Bb7 8.a4 b4 9.Ne2 Nf6 10.Ng3 d6 11.Qe2 Nbd7 12.a5 Qc7 13.Bd2 h5 14.Bg5 Ne5 15.Nxe5 dxe5 16.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Nxh5 Ke7 20.Ng3 Rh4 21.h3 Rg8 22.Kh2 f5 23.Bxa6 Bxe4 24.Nxe4 Rxe4 25.Qh5 Rd4 26.Kh1 Qc6 27.Qf3 Qxa6 28.c3 bxc3 29.Qxc3 Bb4+ 30.Qc7+ Kf6 31.Qb6 Qxb6 32.axb6 Rb8 33.Ra6 Rd6 0-1

### **Queen's Gambit Declined**

**NM Mark Kernighan**

**NM Bilgen Sazci**

**West Orange Chess Club Championship playoff, G/15, 6/11/2024**

1.d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Be7 5. e3 O-O 6. Nf3 Nbd7 7. cxd5 exd5 8. Bd3 c6 9. Qc2 h6 10. Bf4 Nh5 11. Be5 Nxe5 12. Nxe5 Bd6 13. O-O Nf6 14. Nf3 Bg4 15. Nd2 Re8 16. Rac1 Bd7 17. Nf3 Qb8 18. h3 Qc8 19. Nh2 Bxh3 20. gxh3 Qxh3 21. f3 Rxe3 22. Rcd1 Nh5 23. Rf2 Nf4 24. Bf1 Qg3+ 25. Kh1 Rae8 26. Qd2 Qh4 27. Ne4 dxe4 28. Qxe3 Re6 29. fxe4 Nd5 30. Qh3 Qxf2 31. exd5 cxd5 32. Qg2 Qf4 33. Bb5 Rg6 34. Qc2 Rg5 35. Qd2 (35. Rd2 g6 36. Be8 Qe3 37. Bxf7+ Kxf7 38. Rf2+ Kg7 39. Nf3 Rf5 40. Qd1 Qxf2 0-1

## Petroff Defense

NM Bilgen Saczi

NM Mark Kernighan

West Orange Chess Club Championship playoff, G/15, 6/11/2024

18...Rb8?? loses the game.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. d4 Nxe4 4. Nxe5 Nf6 5. Bd3 d6 6. Nf3 Be7 7. h3 O-O 8. O-O Re8 9. c4 d5 10. b3 b6 11. Bb2 Bb7 12. Nbd2 c5 13. Re1 Nc6 14. dxc5 bxc5 15. cxd5 Qxd5 16. Ne4 Nxe4 17. Bxe4 Qxd1 18. Raxd1 Rab8 19. Rd7 Na5 20. Bxb7 Rxb7 21. Rxe7 1-0



*Mark (in green shirt) vs. Bilgen (in orange shirt). Bryan Cohen is watching the game.*

## BDG Universe: The Malm-Zilbermints Gambit

by Lev Zilbermintz

Recently there have been new developments in the Vienna Defense of the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit. For those that are not familiar with it, the line runs **1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5**. Here White has several options. The most popular are **5. fex4 Nxe4 6. Qf3** with either **6...Nd6 7. Bf4** or **6...Nxc3 7. bxc3**, **5. g4 Bg6 6. h4!** the Gunderam Attack; and **5. Bg5**, the Polish Attack. Lesser-played alternatives include **5. Qe2?! Nc6!** and **5. Bc4**, the Sperling Attack.

This installment will focus on the newly-developed Malm-Zilbermints Gambit, and its close cousin, the Delayed Malm-Zilbermints Gambit, a.k.a. the Shirazi Attack. The former goes **1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 c6 10. Rb1 Qc7 11. Ne2**.

The Shirazi Attack or the Delayed Malm-Zilbermints Gambit continues with **6...h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3!** IM Kamran Shirazi played this line twice, in 2016 and 2020, winning one and drawing one.

A search on the chess site lichess.org finds 27 games with the **9. Qxf3** line. The three most common moves are **9...Nxc3** (16 games, 38% wins 6% draws, 56% losses), **9...Qxd4** (7 games, 14% wins, 86% losses); and **9...Nd6** (75% wins, 25% losses). Total is 27 games (37% wins, 4% draws, 59% losses). Under these circumstances, one would think that the variation is unsound. Not so! Rather, White uses a poor choice of follow-up moves to continue his attack. Moreover, many of these games were played with a time control of one minute for the entire game. Let us examine some games.

“sperfol” (2641)

“ljdr” (2545)

**lichess.org, 60+0, 6/17/2021**

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. e4 dxe4 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Nd6 10. Bf4 c6  
11. O-O-O e6 12. Nh3 Nd7 13. g5 Bf5 14. g6 Qf6 15. Kb1 O-O-O 16. gxf7 Nxf7 17. Qxc6+ bxc6 18. Ba6# 1-0

**Lev Zilbermintz (2320)**

“Milindddevil” (2320)

**lichess.org, 300+0, 12/27/2022**

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Nxc3 10. bxc3 c6 11. Rb1  
Qd7 12. Bc4 e6 13. Ne2 Bxc2 14. Rb2 Bh7 15. O-O Ba3 16. Rxb7 Qxb7 17. Bxa3 Na6 18. Ng3 Rb8 19. Ne4 Bxe4  
20. Qxe4 c5 21. Qxb7 Rxb7 22. Bxa6 Rb6 23. Bd3 cxd4 24. cxd4 Kd7 25. Bc5 f6 26. Bxb6 axb6 27. a4 Kd6 28. Rb1  
Kd5 29. Rxb6 Kxd4 30. Bg6 e5 31. a5 Ra8 32. a6 Ra7 33. Kf2 Kc5 34. Rb7 Rxa6 35. Rxc7 Kd4 36. Rd7+ Kc5  
37. Kf3 Ra4 38. Rd1 Rf4+ 39. Kg3 Rc4 40. Rd8 Rc3+ 41. Kf2 Rc4 42. Rc8+ Kd4 43. Rxc4+ Kxc4 44. Ke3 Kd5  
45. Bf5 Kc4 46. Ke4 Kc5 47. Bc8 Kc4 48. Kf5 Kd4 49. Kxf6 e4 50. Ba6 e3 51. g5 1-0

## The Malm–Zilbermints Gambit

And now, the Malm–Zilbermints Gambit!!

1. **d4 d5** 2. **e4 dxe4** 3. **Nc3 Nf6** 4. **f3 Bf5** Blackmar-Diemer Gambit Bf5 Vienna Defense 5. **g4 Bg6** 6. **h4** Gunderam Attack, where 6... **h6** is recommended by GM David Smerdon

### A1) 7. **fxe4!**

This is the first of several moves that begins the Malm-Zilbermints Gambit. Black usually recaptures with the knight, 7...**Nxe4**. Certainly, playing 7...**Bxe4** 8. **Nxe4 Nxe4** 9. **Bg2** yields the bishop pair.

7th move alternatives for White:

### A2) 7. **h5 Bh7** 8. **fxe4 Nxe4** 9. **Qf3!?**

Instead of the immediate 7. **fxe4!** IM Kamran Shirazi of France prefers 7. **h5 Bh7** and only then 8. **fxe4 Nxe4** 9. **Qf3!?** This is the Delayed Malm-Zilbermints Gambit or the Shirazi Attack.

This could be called the Shirazi Variation, after IM Kamran Shirazi who played it in two games. The 9. **Qf3** line is different from 9. **Bg2** in that the Bf1 is deployed to c4 in this variation. Also, after 7. **h5 Bh7**, Black cannot move the bishop to defend the useful f7-square.

### IM Kamran Shirazi

“FastFaun” (NM)

chess.com, 5 minute blitz, 8/26/2020

1. **d4 d5** 2. **e4 dxe4** 3. **Nc3 Nf6** 4. **f3 Bf5** 5. **g4 Bg6** 6. **h4 h6** 7. **h5 Bh7** 8. **fxe4 Nxe4** 9. **Qf3 Nxc3** 10. **Bc4 e6** 11. **bx c3** **Nc6** 12. **Bb5 Qd5** 13. **c4 Bb4+** 14. **Kf1 Qxd4** 15. **Bxc6+ bxc6** 16. **Qxc6+ Ke7** 17. **Qxc7+ Kf6??**

Blunder. Correct was 17...**Kf8!** when Black has the edge.

18. **Qf4+ ??**

Correct was 18. **g5+!** **hg5** 19. **Bxg5+** 20. **Nf3+!** **Kf6** 21. **Nxd4** with a winning advantage.

18...**Qxf4+** 19. **Bxf4 Rac8** 20. **Nf3 Bc3** 21. **Rb1 Rxc4** 22. **g5+ hxg5** 23. **Bxg5+ Kf5** 24. **Rh4 Rxh4** 25. **Bxh4 Kg4** 26. **Rb3 Rc8** 27. **Kf2 Bxc2** 28. **Rb7 f5** 29. **h6 gxh6** 30. **Rxa7 Be4** 31. **Ra4 Rc7** 32. **Bd8 Rc8** 33. **Bb6 Ra8** 34. **Rxa8** **Bxa8** 35. **Nd4 Bxd4+** 36. **Bxd4 Kf4** 37. **Be3+ Ke4** 38. **Bxh6 e5** 39. **a4 Bc6** 40. **a5 Bb5** 41. **Bg7 f4** 42. **Bf8 Kf5** 43. **Ba3** **e4** 44. **Bc1 Kg4** 45. **Bd2 Ba6** 46. **Bc1 Bb5** 47. **Bd2 Ba6** 48. **Bc1 Kf5** 49. **Bd2 Ke5** 50. **Bc1 Kf5** 51. **Bd2 Bb5** 52. **Bc1** **Ba6** 1/2-1/2

### IM Kamran Shirazi

“Francisko82”

chess.com, 1-minute blitz, 10/1/2016

1. **d4 d5** 2. **e4 dxe4** 3. **Nc3 Nf6** 4. **f3 Bf5** 5. **g4 Bg6** 6. **h4 h6** 7. **h5 Bh7** 8. **fxe4 Nxe4** 9. **Qf3 Qxd4** 10. **Nge2 Qe5** 11. **Bf4 Qa5** 12. **O-O-O Nd6** 13. **Bxd6 cxd6** 14. **Qxb7 e6** 15. **Qxa8 Qc7** 16. **Nb5 Qb6** 17. **Qxa7 Qxb5** 18. **Nd4 Qg5+** 19. **Kb1 Nd7** 20. **Bb5 Qd8** 21. **Nc6 Qc8** 22. **Nb8** 1-0

In the next game, the well-known Grandmaster Kirill Georgiev plays Black. White makes a fatal mistake by not playing the immediate 10. **bx c3**, with devastating results. Let this be a warning as what may happen if you decide to go pawn-hunting!!

In the second game with 10. **Qxb7??** Black plays an inferior line with 10...**Nd7**. White gets a dangerous attack and

is winning the game, but then oversteps on time.

**“sperfols” (2630)**

**“K-Georgiev” (GM Kirill Georgiev, 2694)**

**lichess.org, 60+0, 9/30/2021**

1. d4 d5 2. Nc3 Bf5 3. e4 dxe4 4. f3 Nf6 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Nxc3 10. Qxb7 Be4!! 0-1

**“sperfols” (2606)**

**“Thomazzzzz” (2633)**

**lichess.org, 60+0, 5/1/2022**

1. d4 d5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. e4 dxe4 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Nxc3 10. Qxb7?? Nd7??  
11. bxc3 Rb8 12. Qxa7 Bxc2 13. Rh2 Bh7 14. Ba3 e6 15. Bxf8 Nxf8 16. Qa4+ Nd7 17. Bb5 Be4 18. Bxd7+ Qxd7  
19. Qxd7+ Kxd7 20. Re2 Bc6 21. a4 Ra8 22. a5 Rhb8 23. Rea2 Bd5 24. Ra3 Rb5 25. Ne2 Rb2 26. Nf4 Bc6 27. Nd3  
Rh2 28. Ne5+ Kd6 29. Nxf7+ Kd5 30. Ne5 Be8 31. a6 c5 32. Ra5 Rh1+ 33. Kf2 Rxa1 34. Rxa1 cxd4 35. cxd4 Kxd4  
36. Ra5 Ke4 37. a7 Kf4 38. Ke2 Ke4 39. Kf2 Kf4 40. Kg2 Ke4 41. Kg3 Ke3 42. Ng6 Bxg6 43. hxg6 Ke4 44. Kh4  
Kf4 45. g5 hxg5+ 46. Kh3 e5 47. Kg2 e4 48. Ra6 g4 49. Kf2 Kg5 50. Kg2 Kf4 51. Kf2 g3+ 52. Ke2 g2 53. Kf2 e3+  
54. Kxg2 Ke4 55. Kf1 Kd3 56. Ke1 Rh8 57. Ra3+ Ke4 58. a8=Q+ Kf4 0-1

**“sperfols” (2684)**

**“windycamel” (2671)**

**lichess.org, 60+0, 10/10/2021**

1. d4 d5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. e4 dxe4 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Nxc3 10. bxc3 Nc6  
11. Rb1 Qc8 12. Ba6 bxa6 13. Qxc6+ Kd8 14. Bf4 e6 15. Bxc7+ Ke7 16. Rb7 Kf6 17. Be5+ Kg5 18. Nh3+ Kh4  
19. Qg2 Qxc3+ 20. Kf1 f5 21. Nf2+ Kg5 22. gxf5+ Kxf5 23. Qg4# 1-0

**“sperfols” (2692)**

**“HowardXue” (2847)**

**lichess.org, 60+0, 10/15/2022**

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. e4 dxe4 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Nxc3 10. bxc3 c6 11. Rb1  
Qd7 12. Bh3 e6 13. Ne2 Na6 14. O-O O-O-O 15. Qxf7 Bxc2 16. Rb2 Bd3 17. Qxd7+ Rxd7 18. g5 Nc7 19. Bf4  
hxg5 20. Bxc7 Kxc7 21. Bxe6 Re7 22. Bg4 Re4 23. Bf3 Re3 24. Kf2 Re6 25. Re1 Rf6 26. Kg3 Bd6+ 27. Kg2 g4  
28. Bxg4 Rhf8 29. Ng3 Rf4 30. Kh3 Rf2 31. Rxf2 Rxf2 32. Be6 b5 33. Kg4 Rf4+ 34. Kh3 Rf3 35. Rg1 Bc4 36. Bg4  
Rxc3 37. Kh4 Rxc3 38. Rxc3 Bxc3+ 39. Kxc3 Bxa2 40. Kf4 Kd6 41. Kf5 Ke7 42. Kg6 Kf8 43. Bd7 Bf7+ 44. Kf5  
Bd5 45. Ke5 a5 46. Kd6 a4 47. Bf5 a3 48. Bb1 a2 49. Bxa2 Bxa2 50. Kxc6 b4 51. d5 b3 52. d6 b2 53. d7 Ke7 54. Kc7  
b1=Q 55. d8=Q+ Kf7 56. Qd7+ Kg8 57. Qe8+ Kh7 58. Qg6+ Qxg6 59. hxg6+ Kxg6 60. Kd6 Kf6 61. Kc5 g5  
62. Kd4 Kf5 63. Ke3 Kg4 64. Kf2 Kh3 65. Kg1 g4 66. Kf1 Kg3 67. Kg1 Bc4 68. Kh1 Kf2 69. Kh2 g3+ 70. Kh3 Be6+  
71. Kh4 g2 72. Kg5 g1=Q+ 73. Kf6 1/2-1/2

**“sperfols” (2647)**

**“Timotz” (2574)**

**lichess.org, 60+0, 5/17/2021**

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. e4 dxe4 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Nxc3 10. bxc3 Nc6

11. Rb1 Qd6 12. Rxb7 e5 13. Bb5 O-O-O 14. Qxc6 exd4 15. Rxa7 Qxc6 16. Bxc6 1-0

“sssaaa111” (2407)

“Skypelesson99” (2364)

lichess.org, 60+0, 11/27/2022

1. e4 d5 2. d4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Nxc3 10. bxc3 Nc6  
11. Rb1 Rb8 12. Rxb7 1-0

In the next game, time was a real factor. The time limit was one minute for the entire game, which explains the mistakes by both sides. For example, **19. Qg4!** gives White a big edge. **20. Qh5?** is a blunder. Instead, **20. Nxe6+! Qxe6 21. Bxe6 Rxf3 22. Rxf3 Rf8 23. Rg3+ Kf6 24. Bh3 ed4 25. cd4 Kf7 26. Rxb7** gives White an advantage. Likewise, instead of **21...Bxg5??** stronger would have been **21...Rxf1+! 22. Kxf1 Rf8+ 23. Ke1 Bf5 24. Be6 Qe8 25. Qe8 Re8 26. Bf5 Bg5 27. Rxb7 Rf7 =++**

“sperfols” (2628)

“YamOri” (2495)

lichess.org, 60+0, 7/26/2022

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. e4 dxe4 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Nxc3 10. bxc3 c6 11. Rb1 Qc7 12. Bf4 Qd7 13. Bc4 e6 14. Nh3 Na6 15. O-O Be7 16. Be5 O-O 17. g5 hxg5 18. h6 f6 19. hxg7 Kxg7 20. Nxc3 fxe5 21. Qh5 Bxg5 22. Qxg5+ Bg6 23. dxe5 Rf5 24. Rxf5 exf5 25. Qf6+ Kh6 26. Kf2 Qd2+ 27. Kf3 Qxc3+ 28. Bd3 1-0

Sometimes Black decides not to help White with development, and instead of capturing the Nc3, plays **9...Nd6**. This is very similar to the Diemer Gambit, **1. d4 d5 2. dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf3 4. f3 Bf5 5. fxe4 Nxe4 6. Qf3 Nd6**. The difference is that in this position you have the extra moves with the g- and h-pawns, as well as the Black bishop on h7 and a Black pawn on h6.

“sperfols” (2641)

“ljdr” (2545)

lichess.org, 60+0, 6/17/2021

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. e4 dxe4 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Nd6 10. Bf4 c6  
11. O-O-O e6 12. Nh3 Nd7 13. g5 Bf5 14. g6 Qf6 15. Kb1 O-O-O 16. gxf7 Nxf7 17. Qxc6+ bxc6 18. Ba6# 1-0

“sssaaa111” (2401)

“alirezathenext” (2485)

lichess.org, 60+0, 8/19/2021

1. e4 d5 2. d4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Nd6 10. Bf4 Nc6  
11. O-O-O Qd7 12. Bb5 Nxb5 13. Nxb5 Rc8 14. d5 Nb4 15. Nxa7 Qa4 16. Qb3 Nxa2+ 17. Kb1 Qxb3 0-1

“khalid555” (2398)

“CivAg” (2559)

lichess.org, 60+0, 3/20/2021

1. e4 d5 2. d4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Bf5 4. f3 Nf6 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Nd6 10. Bd3 Bxd3  
11. Qxd3 e6 12. Nf3 Nc6 13. Bf4 Nb4 14. Qe2 Qf6 15. Be5 Qe7 16. O-O-O O-O-O 17. a3 Nd5 18. Nxd5 exd5  
19. Qd3 Qd7 20. Qb3 c6 21. Rhe1 f6 22. Bh2 Ne4 23. Nd2 Nxd2 24. Rxd2 Bd6 25. Bxd6 Qxd6 26. Qe3 Qd7  
27. Rde2 Kc7 28. Qf4+ Kc8 29. Re7 Qd6 30. Qf5+ Kb8 31. R1e6 Qg3 32. b3 Qg1+ 33. Kb2 Qxd4+ 34. Ka2 Qb6

35. Qf4+ Ka8 36. a4 d4 37. a5 Qxa5+ 38. Kb1 d3 39. Rd6 dxc2+ 40. Kxc2 Qc5+ 41. Qc4 Qxd6 42. Re6 Qd2+ 43. Kb1 Qd1+ 44. Qc1 Rd2 45. Qxd1 Rxd1+ 46. Kc2 Rhd8 47. Re7 R8d2+ 48. Kc3 Rd3+ 49. Kc4 Rd4+ 50. Kc3 R1d3+ 51. Kc2 Rd2+ 52. Kc3 Rd1 53. Kc2 R4d2+ 54. Kc3 Rd3+ 55. Kc4 Rd4+ 56. Kc3 R1d3+ 57. Kb2 Rd2+ 58. Ka3 1-0

“sperfol” (2560)

“prydurok” (2556)

lichess.org, 60+0, 01/21/2021

1. e4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. d4 dxe4 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Nxc3 10. bxc3 c6 11. Rb1 b6 12. Bb5 Qd6 13. Bf4 Qe6+ 14. Ne2 Be4 15. Qg3 cxb5 16. Bxb8 Bxh1 17. Kd2 Bd5 18. Re1 Qd7 19. Be5 e6 20. Nf4 Rd8 21. g5 hxg5 22. Qxg5 Bd6 23. Qxg7 Rf8 24. Bf6 Be7 25. h6 Bxf6 26. Qxf6 Qe7 27. Qg7 Kd7 28. h7 Rh8 29. Nh5 Rdf8 30. Nf6+ Kc7 31. Qg3+ Qd6 32. Qg5 Rxh7 33. Nxh7 Rd8 34. Nf6 Rd7 35. Qe5 Qxe5 36. Rxe5 Bc6 37. Re3 Rd5 38. Ne4 Rd7 39. Nf6 Bd5 40. Ng4 Bc4 41. Ne5 Bxa2 42. Nxd7 Bd5 43. Ne5 Kd6 44. Nxf7+ Kc6 45. Ne5+ Kb7 46. Nf3 Ka6 47. Ne5 Ka5 48. c4 b4 49. c5 bxc5 50. dxc5 Kb5 51. Rd3 Bc6 52. Rd5 Bxd5 53. Nd3 Bc6 54. Nb2 Bd5 55. Nc4 Kxc5 56. Nb2 Kb5 57. c3 bxc3+ 58. Kxc3 Kc5 59. Kd3 Kd6 0-1

The handle “prydurok” is equivalent to the Russian word for “fool”. So White lost to a fool?

“sperfol” (2337)

“JelenaZ” (2463)

lichess.org, 180+0, 9/16/2020

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. e4 dxe4 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Nxc3 10. bxc3 c6 11. Rb1 Qd7 12. Nh3 e6 13. Bd3 Bxd3 14. cxd3 Na6 15. O-O Bd6 16. g5 hxg5 17. Nxg5 f6 18. Qe4 fxe5 19. Qg6+ Kd8 20. Rf7 Qe8 21. Bxg5+ Kc8 22. Be7 Bxe7 23. Qxe6+ Qd7 24. Qxe7 Qxe7 25. Rxe7 Nc7 26. Rxe7 b5 27. Rf1 Kb7 28. Rf5 Rag8 29. Rxe8 Rxe8+ 30. Kh2 Ne6 31. Kh3 b4 32. Rf7+ Kb6 33. Rf6 Ng5+ 34. Kh4 bxc3 35. Rf1 c2 36. Rc1 Nf3+ 37. Kh3 Nxd4 38. Kh4 Rg2 39. h6 Nf5+ 40. Kh3 Rg6 41. h7 Rh6+ 42. Kg4 Nd4 0-1

In the next game, White makes a critical mistake by playing **10. Be3?!**. Correct is the immediate **10. Nge2! Qf6 11. Bf4 Nd6 12. Nd5 Qb2 13. Rd1 e5 14. Nc7+ Kd7 15. Nxa8 ef4 16. Bh3!** with a sharp and unclear position. The same holds true for the other two games where **10. Be3?** Is played.

“sperfol” (2521)

“NguyenXi1427” (2741, GM Hoang Thong Tu of Vietnam)

lichess.org, 60+0, 6/21/2020

1. e4 d5 2. Nc3 dxe4 3. d4 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Qxd4 10. Be3? Qe5 11. Bf4 Qe6 12. O-O-O Nc6 13. Nb5 Rc8 14. Nxc7+ Rxc7 15. Bxc7 Qxa2 16. Qa3 Qxa3 17. bxa3 Nf2 18. Nf3 Nxh1 19. Bb5 f6 20. Rxh1 e5 21. Rd1 Bxa3+ 22. Kb1 O-O 23. Rd7 Be4 24. Nh4 Ne7 25. Ka2 Bc5 26. Ba5 b6 27. Bd2 Rc8 28. Bc4+ Kf8 29. Kb3 Ke8 30. Rxa7 Bd6 31. Bb4 Bxc2+ 32. Kc3 Bxb4+ 33. Kxb4 Bd1 34. Nf5 Nc6+ 35. Kb5 Nxa7+ 36. Kxb6 Rxc4 37. Nxg7+ Kf7 38. Kxa7 Rxe4 39. Nf5 Rg5 40. Nxh6+ Ke6 41. Kb6 Rxh5 42. Ng8 Rh8 43. Nh6 Rxh6 44. Kc5 f5 45. Kc4 f4 46. Kc3 Rh3+ 0-1

“sperfol” (2606)

“taras05” (2455)

lichess.org, 60+0, 6/8/2020

1. e4 d5 2. d4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Bf5 4. f3 Nf6 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Qxd4 10. Be3? Qe5 11. O-O-O Nc6 12. Bf4 Qe6 13. Bb5 Nxc3 14. Qxc3 Be4 15. Rh2 a6 16. Ba4 Qxg4 17. Qe3 f5 18. Ne2 b5 19. Bb3 e5 20. Bxe5 Nxe5 21. Nc3 Qf3 22. Qd4 Bd6 23. Rf2 Qg3 24. Re1 O-O-O 25. Nxe4 fxe4 26. Qxe4 Rhe8 27. Qa8+

Kd7 28. Qxa6 Re7 29. Rfe2 c6 30. Qa7+ Bc7 31. Qa8 Qg5+ 32. Kb1 Rxa8 33. Rd2+ Kc8 34. Rde2 Kb7 35. a3 Rae8 36. a4 Nc4 37. axb5 Na3+ 38. bxa3 Qxb5 0-1

And achieving the same positions via a different move order:

“aquarius091332” (1687)

“Andos58” (1772)

lichess.org, 900+0, 10/3/2022

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Bf5 4. g4 Bg6 5. h4 h6 6. h5 Bh7 7. f3 Nf6 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Qxd4 10. Be3? Qe5 11. O-O-O c6 12. Bc4 f6 13. Bf4 Ng5 14. Bxg5 Qxg5+ 15. Kb1 Nd7 16. Nh3 Qc5 17. Be6 Ne5 18. Qf2 Qxf2 19. Nxf2 Bg8 20. Bxg8 Rxg8 21. Nfe4 Rd8 22. b3 e6 23. Kb2 Nxg4 24. Rxd8+ Kxd8 25. Rd1+ Kc7 26. Na4 Be7 27. Nec5 Bxc5 28. Nxc5 Ne5 29. Nxe6+ Kb6 30. Rg1 g5 31. hxg6 Rxg6 32. Rh1 f5 33. Nd4 f4 34. Rh5 Ng4 35. Rf5 Rf6 36. Rh5 f3 37. Rh1 f2 38. Rf1 h5 39. Ne2 Ne3 40. Rh1 f1=Q 41. Rxf1 Nxf1 0-1

Finally, I had the opportunity to test the **9. Qf3 Qxd4** line myself. Of course, critical is the capture of the second pawn, **9...Qxd4**. Play resembles the Ryder Gambit, **1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 exf3 5. Qxf3**, except that here White has more pieces developed. The move **10. Nge2!** is key to the whole line. It develops the Knight and makes Black lose time by moving the Queen. After **10...Qe5 11. Bf4 Qe6** I could have obtained a huge advantage with **12. 0-0-0!**

Zilbermintz (2338)

“rrenann” (2357)

lichess.org, 300+0, 12/20/2022

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Bf5 4. f3 Nf6 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. h5 Bh7 8. fxe4 Nxe4 9. Qf3 Qxd4 10. Nge2 Qe5 11. Bf4 Qe6 12. Nd4 Ng5+ 13. Nxe6 Nxf3+ 14. Kf2 fxe6 15. Kxf3 Nc6 16. Bb5 O-O-O 17. Bxc6 bxc6 18. Rhe1 e5 19. Rxe5 g5 20. Be3 Bg6?? 21. hxg6 1-0

1. d4 d5 2. e4 de4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4

**B1) 7... Nxe4**

Alternatives:

**B2) 7...Bxe4 8. Nxe4 Nxe4 9. Bg2 Nd6**

The **9...Nd6** line attempts to deny White the open b-file while at the same time protecting the vulnerable b7-pawn. For this reason, White should use a different strategy to play against **7...Nd6**. My attempts with **9. Nge2** were not always unsuccessful; however, **9. Bg2**, followed by Nf3, and Qe2, is a better plan.

Zilbermintz (2109)

“D\_orlicek” (1450)

Chess.com, 300+0, 4/15/2020

1. e4 d5 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Bxe4 8. Nxe4 Nxe4 9. Bg2 Nd6 10. Bf4 c6 11. Nf3 e6 12. Qe2 Nd7 13. O-O-O Qb6 14. d5 e5 15. Nxe5 Nxe5 16. Qxe5+ Kd7 17. dxc6+ bxc6 18. Rxd6+ Bxd6 19. Qxd6+ Kc8 20. Qxc6+ Qxc6 21. Bxc6 Rb8 22. Bxb8 Kxb8 23. Re1 Rc8 24. Re8 Rxe8 25. Bxe8 f6 26. c4 Kc7

27. b4 Kd6 28. a4 g5 29. hxg5 hxg5 30. Kd2 Ke5 31. Ke3 f5 32. gxf5 Kxf5 33. c5 g4 34. Bd7+ Kg5 35. Bxg4 1-0

**Lev Zilbermintz (2384)**

**“dlobster7401” (1743)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 6/13/2021**

1. d4 Nf6 2. f3 d5 3. e4 dxe4 4. Nc3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nd6 9. Bf4 Nc6 10. Nge2 Nb4  
11. Rc1 Rb8 12. a3 Nc6 13. O-O e6 14. Bg3 Be7 15. h5 Bh7 16. d5 exd5 17. Nxd5 Bg5 18. Rb1 O-O 19. Nxc7 Qxc7  
20. Bxd6 Qb6+ 21. Kh1 Rbd8 22. Qd5 Bxc2 23. Qc5 Qxc5 24. Bxc5 Rfe8 25. Nc3 Bxb1 26. Rxb1 Rd2 27. Ne4 Re2  
28. Nxg5 Re1+ 29. Rxe1 Rxe1+ 30. Kh2 hxg5 31. b4 Re2 32. Kg3 Re3+?? 33. Bxe3 1-0

**Lev Zilbermintz (2232)**

**“imammsantosa” (2219)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 7/4/2020**

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nd6 9. Nge2 e6 10. Nf4 Bh7  
11. Qe2 Be7 12. g5 hxg5 13. hxg5 Bxg5 14. Nxe6 fxe6?? 14...Bh4+! 15. Qh5+ g6 16. Qxg5 Qxg5 17. Bxg5 Nc6  
18. O-O-O O-O 19. d5 exd5 20. Bxd5+ Kh8 21. Rh2 Rf7 22. Bxf7 Nxf7 23. Bf6+ Kg8 24. Rdh1 1-0

**Lev Zilbermintz (2269)**

**“stalmate20” (2222)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 6/19/2020**

1. d4 Nf6 2. f3 d5 3. e4 dxe4 4. Nc3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nd6 9. Nge2 e6 10. Nf4 Bh7 11. Be3  
Be7 12. Bf2 c6 13. Qe2 Na6 14. O-O-O Qa5 15. Kb1 O-O-O 16. Ne4 Nxe4 17. Bxe4 Bxe4 18. Qxe4 Nb4 19. a3  
Nd5 20. Nxd5 Qxd5 21. Qf4 Rhf8 22. Rhe1 Bd6 23. Qe3 Qa5 24. Rd3 Rfe8 25. Rc3 Qc7 26. Qf3 Kb8 27. Rd1 e5  
28. d5 e4 29. Qe3 c5 30. b4 Qb6 31. Rb3 cxb4 32. Qxb6 axb6 33. Bxb6 Rc8 34. axb4 Rc4 35. b5 Rb4 36. Rxb4  
Bxb4 37. Be3 Kc7 38. c4 Kd6 39. Kc2 Bc5 40. Re1 g6 41. Bf4+ Kd7 42. Bxh6 f5 43. gxf5 gxf5 44. Bf4 Bd6 45. Be3  
f4 46. Bd4 e3 47. Kd3 Be5 48. c5 Bxd4 49. Kxd4 Rh8 50. Ke4 Rxh4 51. Kf3 Rh5 52. Rd1 Rf5 53. c6+ bxc6  
54. dxc6+ Kc7 55. Rd7+ Kb6 56. Rb7+ Kc5 57. c7 1-0

**Lev Zilbermintz (2365)**

**“Riverstone\_T1AO” (2321)]**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 11/14/2022**

1. d4 Nf6 2. f3 d5 3. e4 dxe4 4. Nc3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nd6 9. Nge2 e6 10. Nf4 Bh7 11. Be3  
Be7 12. Bf2 Nd7 13. Nh5 O-O 14. Qd2 Nc4 15. Qe2 Nxb2 16. Rb1 Bb4 17. Kd2 Bxc3+ 18. Kxc3 Na4+ 19. Kd2  
Nf6 20. Nxf6+ Qxf6 21. Bxb7 Rad8 22. Rb4 Nb6 23. Qf3 Qg6 24. Rc1 c5 25. Rb3 cxd4 26. Bg3 Nc4+ 27. Ke1 Ne3  
28. Rb2 e5 29. h5 Qe6 30. Be4 Bxe4 31. Qxe4 Nxg4 0-1

**Lev Zilbermintz (2364)**

**“Riverstone\_T1AO” (2322)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 11/14/2022**

1. d4 Nf6 2. f3 d5 3. e4 dxe4 4. Nc3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nd6 9. Nge2 e6 10. O-O?? Qxh4  
11. Nf4 Bh7 12. Qe2 Nd7 13. Nb5 Nxb5 14. Qxb5 Rb8 15. d5 e5 16. Nh3 Bc5+ 17. Kh1 Be4 18. Kh2 Bxg2  
19. Kxg2 Qxg4+ 20. Kh2 O-O 21. Bd2 a6 22. Qd3 Nf6 23. Rae1 e4 24. Qe2 Bd6+ 0-1

**B3) 7...Qd7** led to a draw after 8. Be2 Nxe4 9. Bf3 Nxc3 10. bxc3 Nc6 11. Rb1 b6 12. Qe2 Rd8 13. Nh3 e6 14. Nf4  
Bh7 15. Nh5 Bg6 16. Nf4 Bh7 17. Nh5 Bg6 18. Nf4 Bh7 19. Nh5 Bg6, drawn, Zilbermintz–BingLing (2014),  
Internet Chess Club 5-minute blitz, 2/21/2019.

## B4) 7...e5

This counterstrike attempts to open up the center. Fortunately for White, the 7...e5 line is pretty rare. More commonly seen is the automatic 7...Nxe4.

**Lev Zilbermintz (2298)**

**“TeaCChess” (2390)**

**lichess.org, 180+2, 1/28/2021**

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 e5 8. dxe5 Qxd1+ 9. Kxd1 Nxe4 10. Ke1 Nxe5 11. Bf4 Nbc6 12. Bb5 O-O-O 13. Nge2 Bd6 14. Rh3 a6 15. Bd3 Rhe8 16. Rd1 Bh5 17. Kf2 Bg4 18. Rg3 h5 19. Rd2 f6 20. a3 Rf8 21. Nd5 g5 22. Bxe5 fxe5+ 23. Ke1 gxh4 24. Rg1 Bc5 25. Rh1 Bf2+ 26. Kd1 Be3 27. Nxe3 h3 28. Nxe4 hxe4 29. Ng3 Rf3 30. Nf1 Rdf8 31. Kc1 Nd4 32. Kb1 Ne6 33. Be2 Rf2 34. Kc1 Rxf1+ 35. Rxf1 Rxf1+ 36. Bxf1 Nf4 37. Kd1 g3 38. Bxh3+ Nxe3 39. Rg2 Nf2+ 40. Ke2 Nxe4 41. Ke3 Nd6 42. Kf3 e4+ 43. Kxe3 Kd7 44. Kf4 Ke6 45. Rg6+ Kd7 46. Rg7+ Kc6 47. Rg6 b6 48. b3 a5 49. c4 Kd7 50. Rg7+ Kc6 51. Re7 Kb7 52. Re6 a4 53. Rxd6 cxd6 54. b4 b5 55. cxb5 d5 56. Ke3 Kb6 57. Kd4 Kxb5 58. Ke3 Kc4 59. Kf4 Kd3 60. b5 e3 61. b6 e2 62. b7 e1=Q 63. b8=Q Qc1+ 64. Kf5 Qxa3 65. Qg3+ Kc2 66. Qxa3 d4 67. Ke4 1-0

**Lev Zilbermintz (1974)**

**“CCBTheDestroyer” (1924)**

**lichess.org, 60+0, 7/30/2019**

1.d4 Nf6 2. f3 d5 3. e4 dxe4 4. Nc3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 e5 8. Be3 c6 9. dxe5 Qxd1+ 10. Rxd1 Nxe4 11. Bg2 Bb4 12. Ne2 O-O 13. O-O Nxc3 14. bxc3 Be7 15. Nf4 Bxc2 16. Rd2 Bh7 17. Rb2 1/2-1/2 .

Thus far we have seen that 7...e5 can be met effectively by **8. Be3!**

Back to analyses. After **1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4** there follows:

### **C1) 8. Bg2.**

This is the most common move played. It pressures the Ne4, and puts the Bf1 on the long diagonal. Thus, Black has to either exchange via **8...Nxc3 9. bxc3** or retreat with **8...Nd6**. Practice shows that **8...Nxc3 9. bxc3** is the overwhelming favorite. Only a few games with **8...Nd6** are known.

Alternatives to 8. Bg2:

**C2) 8. h5 Bh7** which may transpose

**IM Alberto Barp of Italy (2548)**

**“ALEXEYSMELOV” (2472)**

**lichess.org, 60+0, 7/14/2021**

1. Nc3 Nf6 2. e4 d5 3. d4 dxe4 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. h5 Bh7 9. Nge2 c5 10. d5 e6 11. Bg2 exd5 12. Nxd5 Nc6 13. Bf4 Nf6 14. Nc7+ 1-0

Here after 10...Be4! Black had a won game but blundered later and lost.

### C3) 8. Qf3

**“ABDULLAH3WONOGIRI3” (2020)**

**“yevhengros” (2003)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 7/27/2022**

1. d4 d5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. f3 Bf5 4. g4 Bg6 5. h4 h6 6. e4 dxe4 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Qf3 Nxc3 9. Qxb7?? Be4!! 10. Bb5+ Nxb5 11. Qxe4 Na6?? 12. Qc6+ Qd7 13. Qxa8+ Qd8 14. Qc6+ Qd7 15. Qxa6 Nxd4 16. Qd3 Qxg4 17. Be3 Nf3+ 18. Nxf3 Qxf3 19. Qb5+ c6 20. Qb8+ Kd7 21. Rd1+ Ke6 22. Qc8+ Kf6 23. Rf1 Qxf1+ 24. Kxf1 g6 25. Bd4+ e5 26. Qxc6+ Ke7 27. Bxe5 1-0

**“woutvanveen” (1939)**

**“alvassiriki” (1966)**

**lichess.org, 180+2, 1/3/2021**

1. d4 d5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. e4 dxe4 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Qf3 Nxc3 9. Qxb7?? Be4!! 10. Bb5+ Nxb5 11. Qxe4 c6 0-1

**“Peaudepailles” (2605)**

**“hyperreal” (2543)**

**lichess.org, 180+0, 12/30/2017**

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Qf3 Nxc3 9. bxc3 Nd7 10. Bd3 Bxd3 11. cxd3 e6 12. Ne2 Be7 13. Qf2 c5 14. Rb1 cxd4 15. Nxd4 Nc5 16. Ke2 Bf6 17. Be3 Rc8 18. g5 Be5 19. gxh6 gxh6 20. Rbf1 Qd7 21. Rhg1 Na4 22. c4 Rd8 23. Rg4 Rf8 24. h5 b5 25. cxb5 Nc3+ 26. Kd2 Nxb5 27. Bxh6 Bxd4 28. Rxd4 Nxd4 29. Bxf8 Nf5 30. Qe2 Ng3 31. Rxf7 Nxe2 32. Rxd7 Rxd7 33. Bh6 Ng3 34. Be3 Nxb5 35. Bf4 Nxf4 36. Ke3 Nxd3 37. Ke4 Nc5+ 38. Ke5 Ke7 39. Kf4 Kf6 40. Ke3 Ke5 41. a3 Rd3+ 42. Ke2 Ke4 43. a4 Ra3 44. a5 Ra2+ 45. Kf1 Kf3 46. Ke1 Ke3 47. Kf1 Ne4 48. a6 e5 49. Kg1 Kf3 50. Kh1 Ng3+ 51. Kg1 Rg2# 0-1

**“Peaudepailles” (2614)**

**“luka1950” (2488)**

**lichess.org, 180+0, 11/22/2016**

1. d4 Nf6 2. f3 d5 3. e4 dxe4 4. Nc3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Qf3 Nxc3 9. bxc3 c6 10. Rb1 e5 11. h5 Bxc2 12. Rxb7 Be7 13. Bc4 O-O 14. g5 Bxg5 15. Rxf7 Rxf7 16. Qxf7+ Kh8 17. Bxg5 hxg5 18. h6 g6 19. Qg7# 1-0

Since this game was played at a time control of one minute for the entire game, it is not of much value. Rather, it serves as a lesson in how not to play the Malm-Zilbermints Gambit. Of note is that the key move 10. Rb1 never gets played.

**“wiessyjr” (2226)**

**“Shouldbeworking” (2272)**

**lichess.org, 60+0, 9/21/2021**

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Qf3 Nxc3 9. bxc3 Nc6 10. Bb5? Best is 10. Rb1 10... Qd6 11. d5 Qe5+ 12. Ne2 O-O-O 13. dxc6 b6?? 14. Ba6+ Kb8 15. Bf4 Qa5 16. Bc4 e5 17. Be3 Bxc2 18. O-O Bd6 19. Bb3 Bd3 20. Rfd1 e4 21. Qf2 g5 22. h5 Qe5 23. Bd4 Qb5 24. Bxh8 Bxe2 25. Re1 Bf3 26. Bf6 Bc5 27. c4??? Qb4 28. Bd4 Bxd4 29. Red1 Bxf2+ 30. Kxf2 Bxd1 31. Rxd1 Rxd1 32. Bxd1 Qd2+ 33. Be2 e3+ 34. Kf3

Qd4 35. c5 Qf4+ 36. Kg2 Qf2+ 37. Kh3 Qxe2 38. Kg3 Qf2+ 39. Kh3 Qf3+ 0-1

“talant-007” (1709)

“bdrhn4” (1704)

lichess.org, 600+0, 1/7/2022

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Qf3 Nxc3 9. bxc3 e6 10. Qxb7 Nc6 1-0

“Gardendwarf” (2254)

“Rakirovka” (2210)

lichess.org, 300+0, 10/21/2021

1. e4 d5 2. d4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Qf3 Qxd4 9. Be3 Qb4 10. O-O-O Nxc3 11. bxc3 Qa3+ 12. Kbl Nc6 13. Bb5 Qxc3 14. Bd3 O-O-O 15. Ne2 Qb4+ 16. Ka1 Bxd3 17. cxd3 e6 18. Qxf7 Bd6 19. Qxe6+ Kb8 20. Rb1 Qa5 21. Qc4 Rhe8 22. Qxc6 1-0

As it turns out, premature resignation!! 22...Bb4! 23. Rxb4 Qxb4 24. Qf3 Qd6 +- with a big advantage for Black.

“machineplayer” (1816)

“Neo9990” (1792)

lichess.org, 600+0, 1/12/2021

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Qf3 Nd6 9. Bb5+ c6 10. Ba4 Qb6 11. d5 Qb4 12. dxc6 Nxc6 13. Bxc6+ Kd8 14. Ba4 Be4 15. Qh3 b5 16. Bb3 Bxh1 17. Qxh1 Rc8 18. Bd2 Qxg4 19. Nge2 b4 20. Nd5 Qe4 21. Qxe4 Nxe4 22. O-O-O Nc5 23. Bxb4 Nxb3+ 24. axb3 Ke8 25. Bc3 e6 26. Nb4 Be7 27. Nd4 Bf6 28. Nb5 Kf8 29. Bxf6 gxf6 30. Nd6 Rc5 31. Nc4 Rg8 32. Na6 Rf5 33. Rd8+ Kg7 34. Rxc8+ Kxc8 35. Nd6 Rf1+ 36. Kd2 Rh1 37. Ne4 Rxh4 38. Nxf6+ Kg7 39. Ne8+ Kf8 40. Nd6 Rh2+ 41. Kc3 Rh3+ 42. Kd4 Rh4+ 43. Ke5 Rh5+ 44. Kf6 Rh1 45. Nc5 Rf1+ 46. Ke5 Re1+ 47. Kf4 Rf1+ 48. Kg4 Rd1 49. Nde4 Rd4 50. Kh5 1-0

## D1) 8...Nxc3

Alternatives to 8...Nxc3:

D2) 8...Nd6

D3) 8...Ng3?

Lev Zilbermintz (1992)

“denyslevchenko” (1187)

chess.com, 6/15/2022

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Bf5 4. f3 Nf6 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Ng3 9. Rh3 Ne4 10. Nxe4 c6 11. Be3 f5 12. Nc5 fxg4 13. Qxg4 h5 14. Qxg6# 1-0

D4) 8...Nc6??

Lev Zilbermintz

JL86 (2300)

lichess.org, 300+0, 6/15/2021

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nc6?? 9. Nxe4, Black resigned

## D5) 8...Nd7

Lev Zilbermintz (2308)

“maagtablet” (2132)

lichess.org, 300+0, 11/18/2022

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 Nd7 10. Bxb7 Rb8  
11. Bf3 e6 12. Ne2 Bd6 13. Nf4 Bh7 14. Nh5 O-O 15. g5 1-0

## E1) 9. bxc3 c6

This move is most often played. It blocks the long diagonal and defends the b7-pawn. Most of the games with the Malm–Zilbermintz Gambit follow the 9...c6 line.

Alternatives to 9...c6

**E2) 9...Nc6?** is not good, as it makes the Nc6 a target. There are variations where the Rxb7 move destroys the defending b7-pawn, allowing Bxc6+, winning material.

**E3) 9...Qc8 10. Rb1 c6** can transpose to the main line.

**1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 c6  
10. Rb1**

This is the position that was reached in Malm–Kent, email correspondence, 1998. White has open files, development, and a strong center for the pawn. Black is still behind in development. The question is whether White can crash through with his attack before Black can finish developing and consolidate. Practice shows that White wins the overwhelming majority of the games due to his lead in development and better-placed pieces.

Analyses: **10. Rb1 Qc7 11. h5 Bh7 12. Nf3 Nd7 13. O-O e5 14. Qe2 O-O-O 15. dxe5 Bc5+ 16. Kh1 Rhe8 17. Bf4 Nb6 18. Bh2 f6 = Stockfish 16**

Alternatives to **10. Rb1**

**E2) 10. Qe2** Nd7 11. h5 Bh7 12. Nf3 Qc7 13. O-O f6 14. Be3 O-O-O 15. Rab1 e5 16. dxe5 Re8 17. e6 Rxe6 18. Nd4 Re5 19. Bxc6 Nb6 20. Bf3 Bc5 21. Qf2 Nd5 22. Bxd5 Rxd5 23. Rfe1 Qd7 24. Nf5 Rd2 25. Ne7+ Kb8 26. Qg3+ Bd6 27. Qf3 Bxc2 28. Nc6+ Ka8 29. Bxd2 Bxb1 30. Rxb1 bxc6 = Stockfish 16

**E3) 10. Nh3**

## F1) 10...Qc7

Alternatives to **10...Qc7**

**F2) 10...Qc8**

**F3) 10...Qd7**

**F4) 10...Qd6**

Lev Zilbermintz(2398)

“Samy1975” (2504)

lichess.org, 300+0, 12/19/2021

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 Nc6 10. Rb1 Qd6

11. Qf3 O-O-O 12. Bf4 Qd7 13. Ne2 e5 14. Bxe5 h5 15. g5 Bf5 16. O-O Bg4 17. Qe3 f6 18. gxf6 gxf6 19. Rxf6 Bg7  
20. Rxc6 Bxe5 21. Rxb7 Kxb7 22. Rd6+ Kc8 23. Rxd7 Rxd7 24. dxe5 Rg8 25. Nf4 Rf7 26. Kh2 Rgf8 27. e6 1-0

## G1) 11. Ne2

Alternatives to 11. Ne2:

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 c6 10. Rb1 Qc7

G2) 11. Nf3!?

G3) 11. Qf3

G4) 11. Qe2

G5) 11. Nf3!?

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 Nd7 10. Bxb7 Rb8  
11. Nf3!?

Only this move, 11. Nf3!?, prevents the ...e5 break for a time. There exists limited practice with this move, but it is probably better than it looks. The computer, Stockfish 16 chess engine, gives various lines after 11. Nf3. In sum, with only limited practice, it seems that 11...e6 is often played. Three of four games went like this. The remaining game went 11...Qg3+ 12. Kf1 and now Black had to use valuable tempi to bring the Qg3 back to the defense. Thus, 11...Qg3 amounts to a wasted move, inasmuch as it leaves the b7-square unprotected.

One wonders if a prefatory 11. h5 Bh7 should be played. The key point is that the Bishop cannot move to f7, where it plays a defensive role. Only after 11...Bh7 can the Delayed Malm-Zilbermintz Gambit be played. This line goes 12. fxe4 Nxe4 13. Bg2 Nxc3 14. bxc3 c6 15. Rb1 Qc7 16. Nf3!? Now 16...f6 (or 16...Nbd7, 17...f6) is not quite the same as with the Bg6-Bf7 motif. But all this needs more testing.

While the computer gives lines for Black, in practice, against human players, the Malm-Zilbermintz Gambit has excellent chances. If anything, 11. Nf3 is a psychological move that prevents the immediate ...e5 break, delaying it by a few moves. This allows White to mount a dangerous attack, one that should not be underestimated.

## Lev Zilbermintz (2256)

“maagtablet” (2199)

lichess.org, 300+0, 12/10/2022

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 c6 10. Rb1 Qc7  
11. Nf3 e6 12. O-O Bd6 13. h5 Bh7 14. Qe2 Nd7 15. g5 O-O-O 16. g6 fxc6 17. hxc6 Bxc6 18. Qxe6 Bxc2 19. Rb2  
Bh7 20. Bh3 Rhe8 21. Qb3 g5 22. Be6 Be4 23. Nd2 Bh2+ 24. Kf2 Qg3+ 25. Ke2 Qd3+ 26. Kd1 Qa6 27. Rf7 Rxe6  
28. Qxe6 Bd5 29. Qe7 Bxf7 30. Qxf7 Bf4 31. Nc4 Re8 32. Qxe8+ 1-0

## Lev Zilbermintz (2254)

“maagtablet” (2201)

lichess.org, 300+0, 12/10/2022

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 c6 10. Rb1 Qc7  
11. Nf3 e6 12. Ne5 Bh7 13. O-O f6 14. Nd3 Nd7 15. Qf3 Bd6 16. Be3 Nb6 17. Nf4 Qd7 18. g5 hxc6 19. hxc6  
O-O-O 20. Bh3 Bf5 21. Bxf5 exf5 22. g6 Rde8 23. d5 Nxd5 24. Nxd5 cxd5 25. Bxa7 Re4 26. Rf2 Rg4+ 27. Kf1 Bg3  
28. Rd2 Rf4 29. Qxf4 Bxf4 0-1

### Lev Zilbermintz (2272)

“maagtablet” (2183)

lichess.org, 300+0, 12/10/2022

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 c6 10. Rb1 Qc7  
11. Nf3 e6 12. O-O Bd6 13. h5 Bh7 14. Qe2 Nd7 15. g5 hxg5 16. Nxc3 Nf6 17. h6 gxh6 18. Nxe6 fxe6 19. Qxe6+  
Qe7 20. Qxf6 Qxf6 21. Rxf6 O-O-O 22. Rf7 Bc7 23. Bxh6 Bg6 24. Rxc7+ Kxc7 25. Bf4+ Kc8 26. Bf3 Rdg8  
27. Bg4+ Bf5 28. Be5 Rxc4+ 29. Kf2 Rhg8 30. Ke3 Bxc2 31. Rf1 Ba4 32. Rf7 Rg3+ 33. Bxc3 Rxc3+ 34. Kf4 Rg8  
35. Ke5 Kd8 36. Rxb7 Re8+ 37. Kf4 Bb5 38. Rxa7 Re7 39. Ra8+ Kd7 40. Ra7+ Kd6 41. Ra8 Kd5 42. a4 Bd3 43. a5  
Kc4 44. a6 Kxc3 45. Rc8 Bxa6 46. Rxc6+ Kxd4 47. Rxa6 Re4+ 48. Kf5 Re5+ 49. Kf6 Re3 50. Rd6+ Ke4 51. Re6+  
Kd3 52. Rxe3+ Kxe3 1/2-1/2

### Lev Zilbermintz (2264)

“maagtablet” (2191)

lichess.org, 300+0, 12/10/2022

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 c6 10. Rb1 Qc7  
11. Nf3 Qg3+ 12. Kf1 Qc7 13. Ne5 Bh7 14. Bf4 Qc8 15. Qf3 f6 16. Nd3 e6 17. g5 hxg5 18. hxg5 Bxd3+ 19. Qxd3  
Rxh1+ 20. Bxh1 Nd7 21. Qg6+ Ke7 22. gxf6+ gxf6 23. Qh7+ Ke8 24. Qg6+ Ke7 25. Qh7+ Ke8 26. Qg6+ Ke7 1/2-  
1/2

### H1) 11... e6

### Lev Zilbermintz (1900)

NM Roman Rychkov (2277 USCF)

Westfield Quads, G/40, 10/23/2022

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 c6 10. Rb1 Qc7  
11. Ne2 e6 12. Nf4 Be7 13. Qe2 00 14. 00 Bh7 15. g5 hxg5 16. hxg5 Bf5 17. g6 Bf6 18. Qh5 fg6 19. Ng6 Bg6  
20. Qg6 Qf7 21. Qg4 Qe7 22. Be4 Qf7 23. Ba3! Qd7 24. Bxf8 Kxf8 25. Bg6 Na6 26. Qe4 b6 27. Rf3 Ke7 28. Re1  
Nc7 29. Bf5 Rh8 30. Bxe6 Qd6 31. Bh3! Kd8 32. Qg4! Ne6 33. Rxe6! Qd5 34. Ree3 Kc7 35. Rff6!, Black resigned

Alternatives to 11...e6:

**H2) 11...e5!**, Kent Sub-Variation

**H3) 11...Nd7**, can transpose into 11...e6

**H4) 11...b6??**

### Lev Zilbermintz (2429)

“Oleg\_VeR” (2506)

lichess.org, 300+0, 2/9/2022

1. d4 Nf6 2. f3 d5 3. e4 dxe4 4. Nc3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 c6 10. Rb1 Qc7 11. Ne2  
e5 12. O-O Bd6 13. h5 Bh7 14. dxe5 Bc5+ 15. Nd4 O-O 16. Bf4 Qa5 17. Qd2 Bb6 18. Kh2 Na6 19. Nf5 Rad8 20. Qc1  
Nc5 21. Bxh6 Ne6 22. Bxc7 Nxc7 23. Qg5 Qxe5+ 24. Kh3 Bxf5 25. Rxf5 Qe3+ 26. Qxe3 Bxe3 27. Rf3 Bb6 28. h6  
Ne6 29. Kh4 Rd2 30. Bh3 Bf2+ 31. Kh5 Rd5+ 32. Rf5 Nf4+ 33. Kg5 Nxc3+ 34. Kf6 Bh4+ 35. g5 Bxc5+ 36. Rxc5+  
Nxc5 37. Rg1 Kh7 38. Rxc5 Rxc5 39. Kxc5 Rd8 40. Kf6 Kxh6 41. Kxf7 Rd2 42. Ke7 Rxc2 43. Kd6 Rxc3 44. Kc7 Ra3

45. Kxb7 c5 46. Kc6 c4 47. Kb5 c3 48. Kb4 c2 49. Kxa3 c1=Q+ 50. Kb4 Qb2+ 51. Kc5 Qxa2 White resigned

**Lev Zilbermintz (2391)**

**“GOATNOLE” (2568)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 10/12/2021**

1. d4 Nf6 2. f3 d5 3. e4 dxe4 4. Nc3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 c6 10. Rb1 Qc7  
11. Ne2 e5 12. O-O Bd6 13. dxe5 Bxe5 14. Nf4 Bh7 15. Qf3 O-O 16. g5 hxg5 17. hxg5 Nd7 18. Qh5 Bg6 19. Nxc6  
fxg6 20. Rxf8+ Rxf8 21. Qxg6 Bh2+ 22. Kh1 Qg3 23. Ba3 Nf6 24. Bxf8 Qh4 25. Qxg7# 1-0

**Lev Zilbermintz (2192)**

**“WillTheRedRabbit” (1878)**

**lichess.org, 300+0, 7/3/2018**

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 c6 10. Rb1 Qc7  
11. Ne2 e5 12. O-O Bd6 13. Be3 O-O 14. Qd2 Nd7 15. h5 Bh7 16. Rbd1 Rad8 17. g5 hxg5 18. Bxg5 f6 19. Be3  
Nb6 20. Bh3 Nc4 21. Be6+ Kh8 22. Bxc4 b5 23. Be6 f5 24. Bg5 Rde8 25. Bb3 a5 26. a4 e4 27. Bf4 e3 28. Bxe3  
Bh2+ 29. Kh1 f4 30. Bxf4 Bxf4 31. Rxf4 Be4+ 32. Kg1 Qe7 33. Rxf8+ Rxf8 34. Rf1 Rxf1+ 35. Kxf1 Qf6+ 36. Qf4,  
Black resigns. 1-0

**Lev Zilbermintz**

**“tangent”**

**Internet Chess Club, 180+3, 6/26/2019**

1.d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 c6 10. Rb1 Qc7  
11. Ne2 e5 12. 0-0 Nd7 13. h5 Bh7 14. Qe1 f6 15. Nf4 Nb6 16. Ne6 Qd6 17. Nxf8 Rxf8 18. Bf4 0-0-0 19. dxe5  
Qc5+ 20. Kh2 Nd5 21. Bg3 Ne3 22. exf6 Nxf1+ 23. Qxf1 Rxf6 24. Qe1 Bxc2 25. Rc1 Bh7 26. Rd1 Rff8 27. Qe6+,  
Black forfeits on time, 1-0.

**Lev Zilbermintz (2321)**

**“Anatoly\_Donchenko” (2504)**

**lichess.org, 5+0, 8/17/2022**

1.d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 Bf5 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h6 7. fxe4 Nxe4 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 c6 10. Rb1 Qc7  
11. Ne2 e5 12. Be3 Bd6 13. O-O Nd7 14. Qd2 O-O 15. h5 Bh7 16. g5 hxg5 17. Bxg5 exd4 18. cxd4 Rae8 19. h6  
Re6 20. hxg7 Rfe8 21. Nf4 Re3 22. Nd5 cxd5 23. Bxe3 Nb6 24. Bf4 Nc4 25. Qf2 Be4 26. Qh4 Kxg7 27. Qg4+ Bg6  
28. Bxd5 Bxf4 29. Qxf4 Qxf4 30. Rxf4 Nb6 31. Bxb7 Re2 32. Rf2 Re7 33. Ba6 Rc7 34. Bd3 Bxd3 35. cxd3 Rd7  
36. Rf4 Nd5 37. Rg4+ Kf8 38. Rb8+ Ke7 39. Rb1 Kd6 40. Re1 Rb7 41. Rg5 Rb2 42. Rg7 f6 43. Rxa7 Nf4 44. Ra6+  
Kd5 45. Rxf6 Nh3+ 46. Kf1 Kxd4 47. Rd6+ Kc5 48. Rh6??? Rf2 mate, 0-1

**I1) 12. Nf4**

Alternatives:

**I2) 12. Bf4**

**I3) 12. 0-0**

**I4) 12. Rf1**

**J1) 12...Bh7**

Alternatives:

**J2) 12...Be7**

**K1) 13. 0-0**

Alternatives:

**K2) 13. g5**

**L1) 13...Bd6**

Alternatives to 13...Bd6:

**M1) 14. Nh5 0-0**

Alternatives to 14...0-0

**N1) 15. Bxh6!**

Alternative to 15. Bxh6!

**N2) 15. g5**

**O1) 15...gxh6**

**P1) 16. Qd2 f5**

Alternative to 16...f5

**P2) 16...Bh2+** 17. Kh1 Qd8 18. Qxh6 f5?? 19. Qg7 mate, Zilbermintz-abc446446, chess.com email, 11/21/2021.

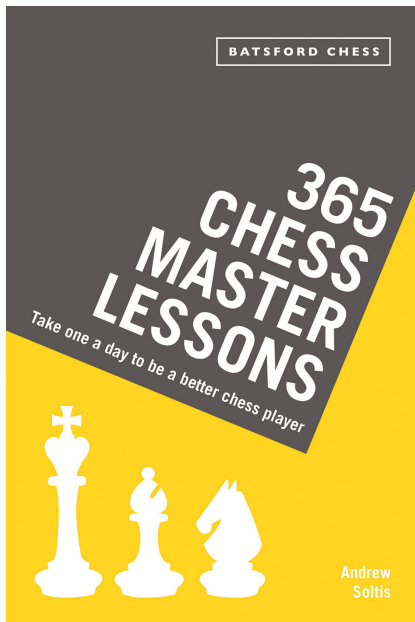
**Q1) 17. Qxh6 Rf7**

**Q2) 17...Qf7** 18. Rbe1 Qg6 19. Rxe6 Qh6 20. Rxh6 Be3 21. g5 Rf7 22. Bh3 Bf8 23. Nf6 Rf6 24. Rf6 Nd7 25. Re6 Kh8 26. Bf5 Bg8 27. Ree1 Nb6 28. Be6 29. Bg8 Kg8 30. Rf3 +- Stockfish 16 engine.

## Soltis's 365 Chess Master Lessons

*A review by Gary Gifford*

*365 Chess Master Lessons: Take One A Day To Be A Better Chess Player* by Andrew Soltis  
Batsford, London (2017), 384 pp.



Chess lessons can be quite expensive, I've seen them ranging from \$50 to over \$200, and that's just for one lesson. In this book, priced below \$20, we have an entire year's worth of great chess instruction.

Each lesson consists of two relatively short games. The first game of each lesson has analysis and one or two diagrams. And there is at least one question to test your understanding. The second game of each lesson has no analysis or diagram. It presents the same concept taught in the main game.

The games are great and worth playing more than once. The "Day 20 Lesson," for example, about "Long (Explosive) Diagonals," features Magnus Carlson facing Fabiano Caruana, Bilbao 2012. We see Fabiano throw in the towel, as Black, on his 17th move in a Sicilian Defense (B40).

Some lessons use old but great games from days long gone, like a Janowski game from 1896.

Even if you only play unorthodox openings you can benefit from the book, because it really comes down to sound strategy and great tactical shots

In closing, the book uses figurine algebraic notation and the layout, on light manilla-colored paper, is quite easy on the eyes.

## A Time of Change

A time is coming of great division,  
When continents will change their shape,  
Those who scoff and sneer with derision  
Will soon learn their fate.

For centuries has the planet been abused,  
Gaea cried silently when she was not given respect,  
Now that her gifts are not being properly used,  
She will hit back with great effect.

Hurricanes, tornadoes and tsunami,  
Have laid low mighty buildings like an origami,  
Waves thirty feet and more high,  
Shall sweep away everything far and nigh.

Those who are away from the water,  
Shall be those who manage to survive,  
And the number is not much of those left alive,  
Far away, desolation and a crater.

A time will again soon come,  
When the president will resign,  
Far away in the Levant,  
Enemy troops are stopped by a chant.

There comes a time in the future,  
When better telescopes are like second nature,  
A new planet in our solar system is discovered,  
Knowledge once thought lost, is recovered.

Far away, beyond what is called Pluto,  
Two giant planets orbit in space,  
So far away these worlds orbit,  
That thousands of years around our sun they need to commit.

And what will happen to Islam,  
Which is the religion of the Mohammedan,  
Will the Hidden Imam arrive,  
His followers adoring him alive?  
What of Christianity, of Judaism,  
And those who profess paganism?  
Those of Buddha, Shinto, Hinduism,  
And those who profess atheism?

The time will finally come,  
When people shall have a new religion,  
One that will mesh with a vision,  
By protecting the planet and its environment,

Many from previous religions will resign,  
People will be helped by the world government.

The level of the oceans has increased,  
And the percentage of land, decreased,  
Those of the distant year 2072,  
Will not recognize the world that you knew.

Much land will go underwater,  
And new islands arise from the depths,  
Humanity must band together,  
In order to pass important tests.

The result is an Earth united and free,  
A hundred and fifty years by century twenty-three,  
Giant space stations orbit in space,  
Those are new homes for the human race.

Lev Zilbermintz  
28 February 2024

## Submission Guidelines

*Unorthodox Openings Newsletter* welcomes your submissions. We're especially interested in:

- Game scores featuring unorthodox chess openings. These can be your own games or games that have caught your eye. These can be annotated if you wish, but please send only your original analysis.
- Reviews of relevant books, websites, YouTube videos, etc.
- Interviews of chess players known for playing unorthodox chess openings.
- And, of course, analysis of a specific unorthodox chess opening.

Submissions can be made in MS Word format or as PGN or ChessBase data files.

## Submission Deadline

Although submissions may be made at any time, please submit before 19 October 2024 to be considered for our next issue, *UON* #43.

You can send your submissions to [editor@unorthodoxchessopenings.com](mailto:editor@unorthodoxchessopenings.com).