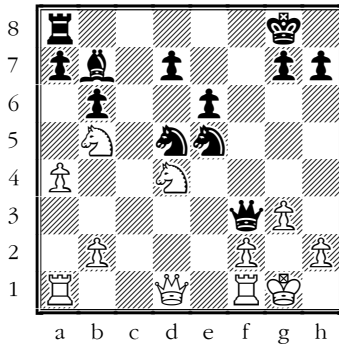


## Chess Quiz

**R. Gruenberg – Dory**  
Stockholm 1984/1985



## Chess News

### Gata Kamsky is back!

After losing the FIDE World Championship match to Karpov in 1996 in Elista, Gata Kamsky decided to quit chess. He played one more tournament later that year, but that was it – instead of chess he concentrated on his studies. Kamsky did appear in Las Vegas in 1999 for the FIDE knockout championship, where he lost to Alexander Khalifman, the future tournament winner, in a tense match. But after that he completely disappeared from the chess scene, though he still played blitz online.

Yesterday I heard the news that Kamsky was playing in a tournament on ICC, so I e-mailed our reader (and ICC admin) Andy McFarland, looking for more information. Here is his answer:

"GM Kamsky did play in the [New York Masters](#) last night – see its [cross-table](#). All 4 of his games were relayed on ICC. Type "liblist NewYorkMasters" for the 4 games. Over 350 watched the games live on ICC, a record number of observers for a New York Masters on ICC."



### Opening Quirks

by IM Andrew Martin

Today we introduce a new column – 'Opening Quirks'. Here International Master Andrew Martin scans the tournament scene for interesting opening ideas. Andrew is a well-known chess coach and author. He has a popular [column](#) 'Bits and Pieces' at the [Chessville](#) website and is also my team-mate for Wood Green in the 4NCL.

You can find Kamsky's games in our database today. Chess Base website also wrote about [Kamsky's return](#). Strangely enough, they used a photo of Kamsky where he was just 15!

### International Junior Tournament

An interesting tournament is about to start in Russia. We are used to closed tournaments with well-established players and of course there are also world junior championships, but here talented juniors from different countries will compete in all-play-all event. The tournament will take place in Kirishi, near St. Petersburg. The first round is on 18 June.

[Official site](#)

### Voronezh Chess Festival

*Standings after 4 rounds:*

1. Sambuev — 4 points;  
2-6. Kurnosov, Voitsekhovskiy,  
Frolyanov, Alavkin and Chebotarev —  
3½ points, etc. [Official site](#)

### Ponomariov Open Letter

TWIC has posted a new [Open Letter](#) from Ruslan Ponomariov – his response to the interview with Georgios Makropoulos.

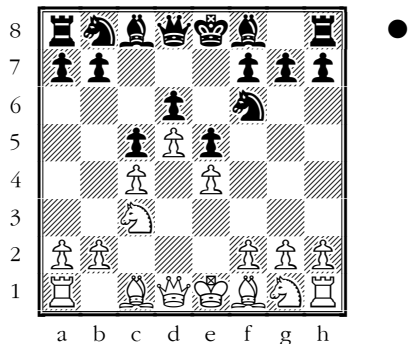
Welcome! Here's where you pick up some novel ideas or maybe gain some inspiration. If you'd like me to cover a controversial line or examine something topical, don't hesitate to write to me. We kick off with the Czech Benoni, a comparative rarity on the modern master scene.

**White: Rajko Vujatovic (2265)**

**Black: Graham Lee (2360)**

British Ch, Edinburgh (5), 2003

**1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e5 4.♗c3 d6 5.e4 (D)**

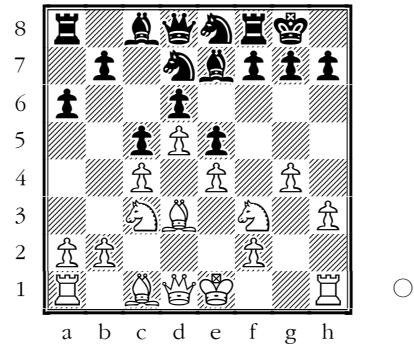


**5...♗e7**

5...♗bd7 was suggested by William Hartston a long time ago as a means of distracting White from his usual ♗d3, h3, g4 thing. For instance 6.h3 (also worth attention is the continuation of Ghitescu-Petrosian, Zagreb 1970: 6.♗f3 ♗e7 7.♗d3 ♗f8 8.h3 ♗d7 9.♖e2 a6 10.♗e3 ♗g6 11.♗d2 h5! 12.a3 h4 13.♗f3 ♗h5 14.♖c2 ♗gf4 15.♗f1 b5! ♣) 6...♗e7 7.♗d3 ♗f8!? 8.♗e3 h5!? 9.♖d2 h4 with ideas of ...♗fh7 and ...♗g5 or maybe ...♗g6, ...♗h5 and ...♗hf4! This is fascinating play. A way of playing Czech Benoni positions which has been hardly touched upon!

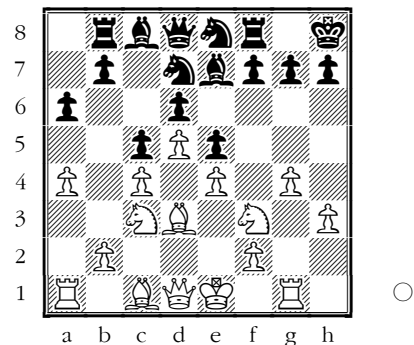
**6.♗d3** I have ventured the Czech Benoni on a number of occasions and every time 6.♗d3 comes up, rather robotically in my opinion. Oh, Kasparov has played it so we will play it... Yes, White's plan to cramp Black and ultimately attack his King is dangerous, but I think a well-prepared Black player really has nothing to fear.

**6...0-0 7.h3 ♗e8 8.♗f3 ♗d7 9.g4 a6! (D)**



An essential component of Black's plan, preparing queenside counter-play with ...b7-b5. White moves to stop this but now his plan of campaign becomes rather unwieldy - he struggles to hold Black on both flanks and at the same time play for mate! Nevertheless, Kasparov went this way and so Vujatovic follows.

**10.a4 ♖b8 11.♞g1 ♗h8!?N (D)**



There are two reasons for this outwardly peculiar move:

1) Black might want to manoeuvre a knight to g8 to fend off a bishop on h6.

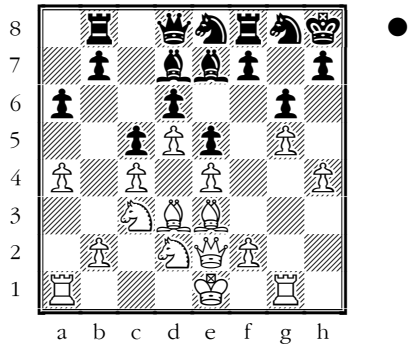
2) The king is marginally safer on h8 should Black ever get around to playing ...f7-f5

11...♗c7 was played in the famous game Kasparov-Miles, Basel 1986, and Black goes for a speedy ...b7-b5. White won and this is the example the crowd want to follow. Yet Black had significant counter-play even there which any glance at an Informator will reveal. Lee's improvement is interesting. He will put his head into the lion's jaws with a quick...f7-f5 and take his chances. ...b7-b5 comes later.

**12.♖e2 ♗df6 13.♗e3 ♗d7**

So that the thought of ...b7-b5 is always on White's mind.

**14.g5 ♗g8 15.h4 g6 16.♗d2 (D)**



One can sense that White doesn't quite know how to break through. He can see opportunities on both flanks and ways in which Black can parry his ideas. So he just makes as useful a move as he can find. This would be a typical critical moment in a Czech Benoni game. White is cramping Black but his pawns cannot move backwards and his King is shaky if Black can ever open the position. The flank operations mentioned earlier: 16.h5 ♖g7 17.hxg6 fxg6 18.♖h1 ♖h5!∞ or 16.a5 ♖g7 17.♖d2 f5 18.exf5 ♖xf5 19.h5 ♖g7 20.hxg6 hxg6∞.

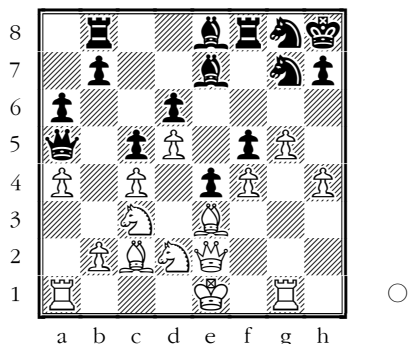
**16...f5!** Lee springs into action! White's weaknesses appear almost immediately.

**17.exf5** 17.♖f3 ♖g7 18.a5 (18.exf5 ♖xf5 19.♖d2 ♖d7 20.♖de4 ♖h5∞) 18...b5⇒.

**17...gxf5 18.f4**

18.♖b3 ♖g7 19.a5 b6!∞

**18...♖a5 19.♖h5 e4 20.♖c2 ♖g7 21.♖e2 ♖e8! (D)**



This is a nice move. Black prevents ...h4-h5 and prepares to occupy that square himself.

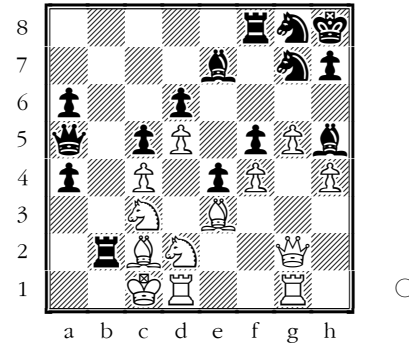
**22.0-0-0 ♖h5 23.♖g2** Nevertheless **23...b5!**

Rejecting the rook – what a hero! Nevertheless 23...♖xd1 24.♖xd1 b5 was also very good.

**24.♖e2?!**

I daresay he could have put up more resistance but psychologically White has given up hope. Black has been allowed to effect both the critical pawn breaks in this game (...f7-f5 and ...b7-b5) and in all probability has winning attack against even the best defence.

**24...bxa4 25.♖c3 ♖xb2! (D)**



OK, we can all play such moves but I am convinced that beauty and aesthetic considerations are a very important reason for playing chess. I'm sure you agree!

**26.♖xb2 a3+ 27.♖b3 ♖b4+ 0-1**

A game which went like clockwork for Black. Perhaps White didn't fully understand how to handle blocked positions. Patience is required!

**Solution to our quiz:**

R. Gruenberg – Dory: **24...♖g2+!**

**25.♖xg2 ♖f4+ 26.♖g1 ♖h3#**

**Contact information.** Have some comments about Chess Today? [E-mail us](#) – we appreciate your feedback!

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