

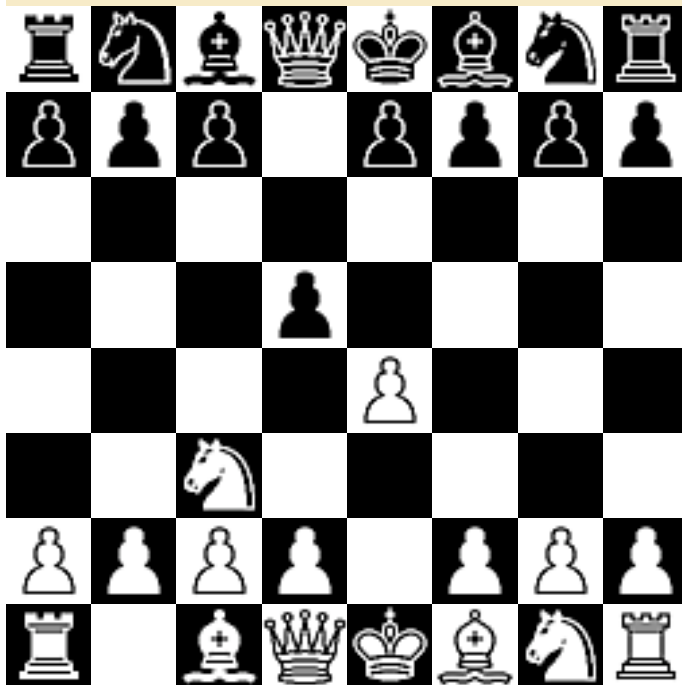
Center Counter (Scandinavian) 1...d5

In recent years several GMs have experimented with this move, and for some it is a regular part of their repertoire. Someone once described this as a line for "Black players who want to suck all the life out of the position".

After 2. exd5 Qxd5 Black will be behind in development for a long time, but will also be very solid. I have been frustrated by trying to beat this annoying defence even with a useful space advantage.

I advise you to make an immediate deviation from theory, with

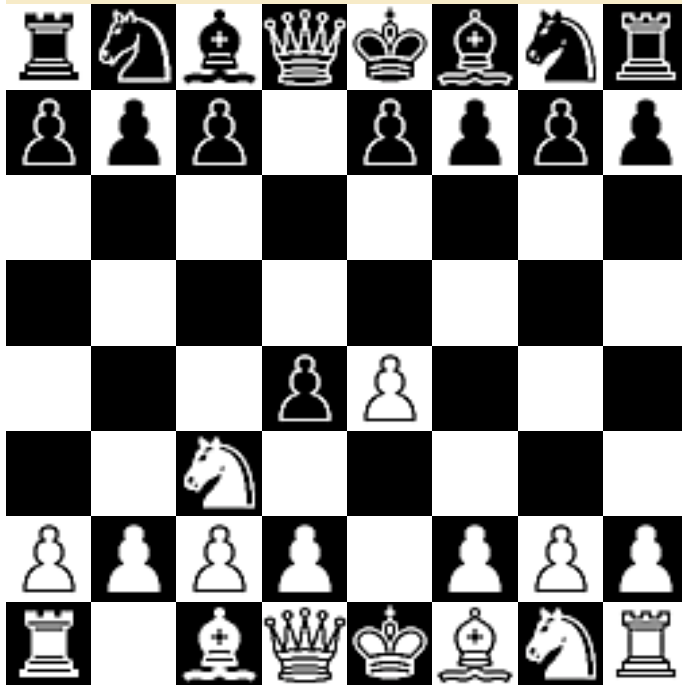
1. e4 d5 2. Nc3



Black has a choice: advance, exchange, or defend. In practice Black does not usually defend the pawn, and any defence will transpose to KIA lines.

There is precious little published theory on this line and a lot of scope to improvise.

Advance with 2...d4



White retreats with

3. Nce2

and plans to play Bc4 with ideas of attacking on the K-side.

Black should probably continue

3...e5 4. Ng3

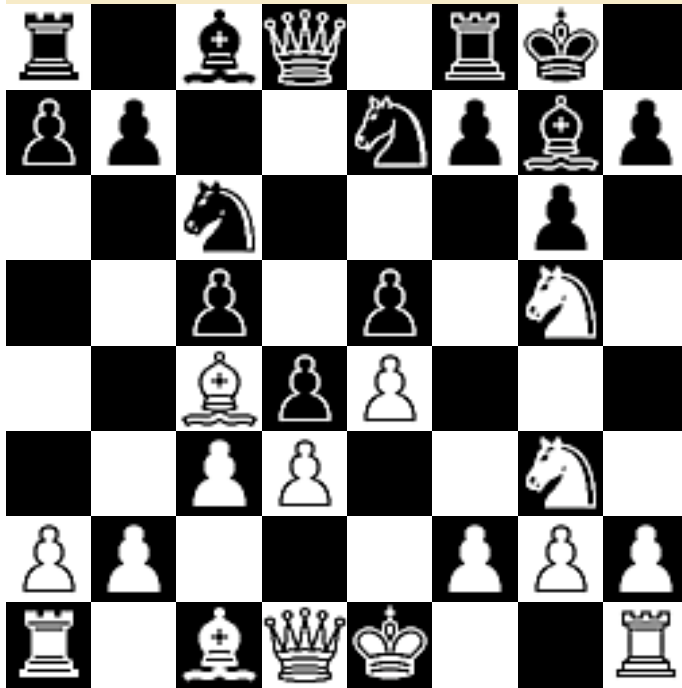
when there is a lot of choice.

4...g6

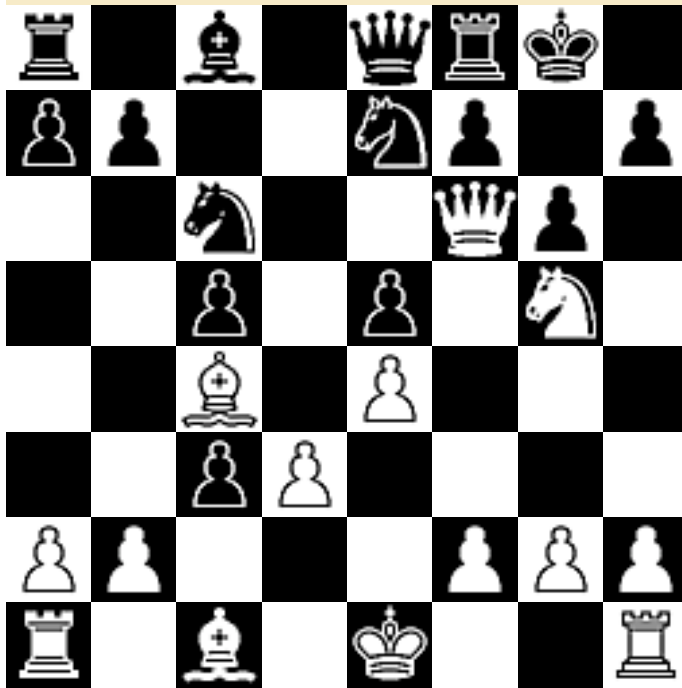
is logical, hoping to cramp the Ng3, but the best move here is not known. The Ng3 need not stay cramped...

Van Geet - Guyt [Aoo] Paramaribo, 1967

1. Nc3 d5 2. e4 d4 3. Nce2 e5 4. Ng3 g6 5. Bc4 Bg7 6. d3 c5 7. Nf3 Nc6 8. c3 Nge7 9. Ng5 O-O



10. Nh5 Bh8 ? 11. Qf3 Qe8 12. Nf6+ Bxf6 13. Qxf6 dxc3?



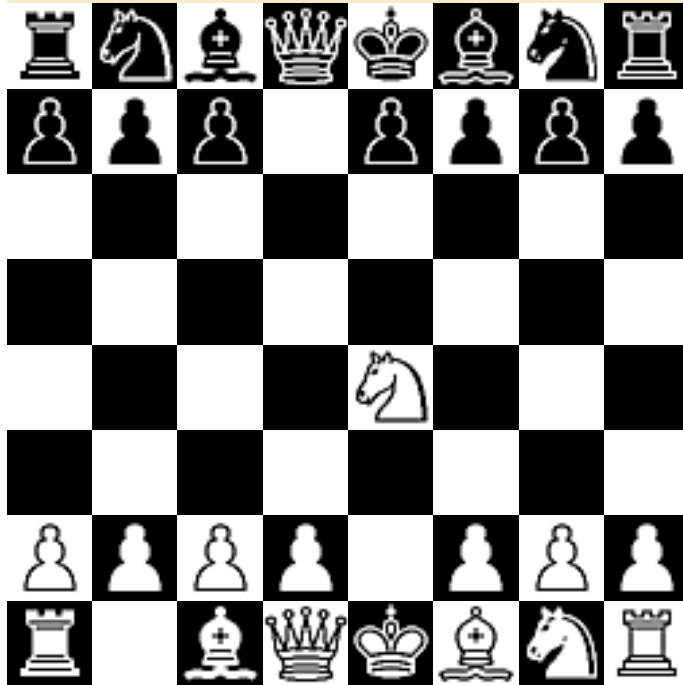
13...Na5 was essential

14. Nxf7 Rxf7 15. Bh6 1-0

Exchange with 2...dxe4

White recaptures with

3. Nxe4



and (guess what?) plans to play 4. Bc4 with ideas of attacking on the K-side.

Now 3...c6 and 3...e6 will transpose to lines considered above.

3...Bf5 4. Ng3 Ng6 5. Bc4 e6 can also transpose to the Caro-Kann, or if you want to be independent you can go 6. Bc4 Nd7 7. d3

The best-looking move in reply is of course

3...e5

when we follow up with

4. Bc4

after which at least three correspondence(!) games have continued

4...Be7 5. Qh5 Nh6 6. d3 1-0

More careful is

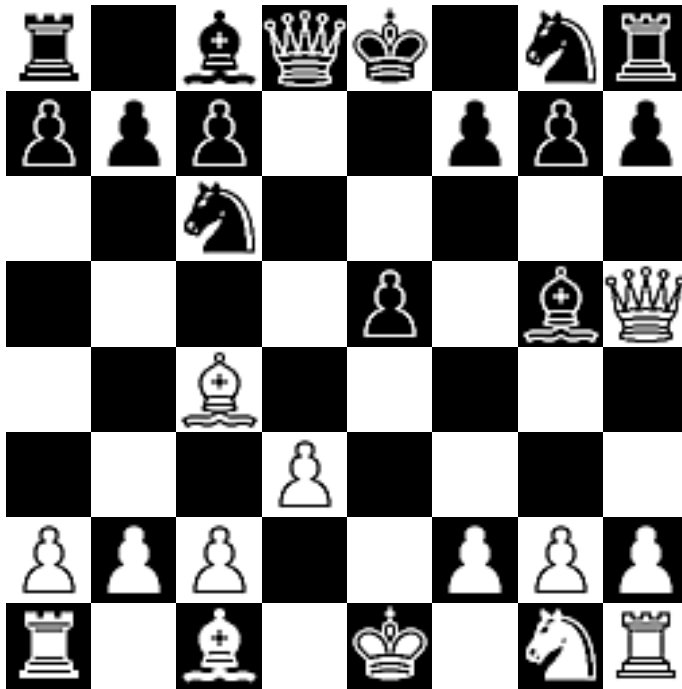
4...Nc6

[The natural 4...Nf6 is bad after 5. Ng5!]

after which

5. d3 Be7 6. Nf3

6. Ng5 is to be considered; 6...Bxg5 7. Qh5

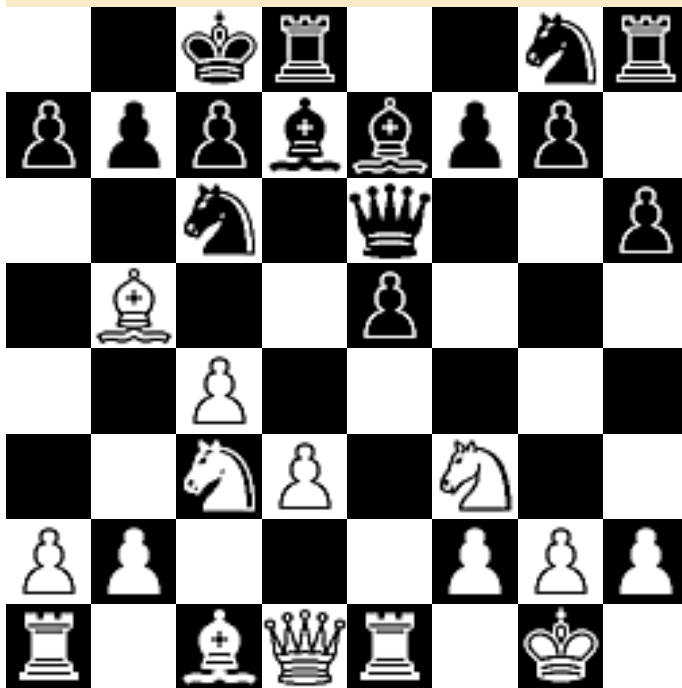


with the two bishops

6...h6

6...Nf6 7. Neg5 O-O 8. Nxf7 Rxf7 9. Ng5 Nd5 10. Nxf7 Kxf7 11. Qf3 reminds us of the Fried Liver in the Two Knights' Defence

7. Bb5 Qd5 8. c4 Qe6 9.O-O Bd7 10. Re1 O-O-O 11. Nc3



+ = Van Geet-Sandklef corr 1982