

Michael Adams



Kamsky takes a flier on Bird's Opening

In a game with Gata Kamsky, I was surprised at how accurately I had to play to hold the balance when he whipped out a reversed Leningrad Dutch. However, given that Kamsky and Nakamura have employed this system with the black pieces, perhaps it is not a shock that with an additional tempo it can be interesting for White.

That game is one of those covered on Andrew Martin's www.chessbase.com DVD, *Enter 1.f2-f4, Bird's Opening!*. It also features other ways to play the underrated Bird's opening such as in the reversed Queen's Indian style, as in the game below where we turn the clock back over a century to a game by the British inventor of the system, Henry Bird.



H. Bird - J. Blackburne
Vienna 1882

14.g2-g4

With his own monarch tucked away on the queenside, Mr Bird starts clearing lines in the direction of Black's king.

14... e5xf4
15.g4xf5 Bg6xf5
16.e3xf4 Rf8-e8

17.Rh1-g1

The rook takes aim.

17... Nd7-f8
18.Nf2-g4 Kg8-h8

Things were not going swimmingly, but 18...Bf5xg4 retaining the important defensive bishop was necessary.

19.Ng4xf6 g7xf6
20.Nc3-d5

With a howling gale down the long dark diagonal, White wins material at once.

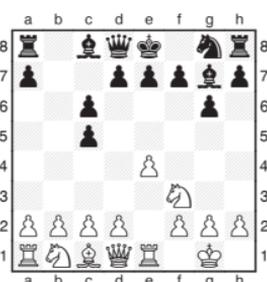


20... Re8-e6
21.Nd5-e3 Nf8-g6
22.Ne3xf5 Ng6xf4
23.Qe2-e3 1-0

Victor Bologan is also often spotted at the Chessbase studios, but I wanted to mention instead his book entitled *The Rossolimo Sicilian* (www.newinchess.com), which occurs after 1.e2-e4 c7-c5 2.Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6 3.Bf1-b5.

As a line that I (and Viktor) have essayed quite often, I was curious about what the enterprising Moldovan theoretician might have to say on the subject. I wasn't disappointed, as the subject, which has been scarcely covered by literature in the past, is brought thoroughly up to date in all major lines.

We'll finish with the author successfully using the system in a game in which it should be admitted Black's resistance was not great. However, it does show the swift and harmonious development that attracts players to this line.



V. Bologan - C. Troyke
Dresden 1996

6... Qd8-b6
Developing Black's knight is a better idea than bringing his queen into the action.

7.Nb1-a3 Bc8-a6
7...d7-d5 was a wiser way to control the c4 square.

8.d2-d3 Ng8-f6
9.Na3-c4 Qb6-c7
9...Ba6xc4 10.d3xc4 doesn't solve Black's problems, but 9...Qb6-b8 would have kept his queen out of trouble.

10.e4-e5 Nf6-d5
11.Nc4-d6+ Ke8-f8
12.Nd6-e4

The redeployment of the nimble knight, depriving Black of castling rights in the process, causes havoc.

12... d7-d6
12...c5-c4 13.d3xc4 Ba6xc4 14.b2-b3 also evicts the knight from its central post.

13.c2-c4 Nd5-b6
14.e5xd6 e7xd6
15.Bc1-f4
Natural development creates a handy pin.

15... Ra8-d8
16.Ne4xc5 Ba6-c8
17.Nc5-e4
Having grabbed a pawn the knight withdraws to threaten c4-c5.

17... c6-c5
18.d3-d4 f7-f5
19.Ne4xc5
A nice echo as the knight captured a second 'c' pawn. Black wisely threw in the towel.
1-0