

Created on 12/05/2001

## Crazy Crazy (k)Nights

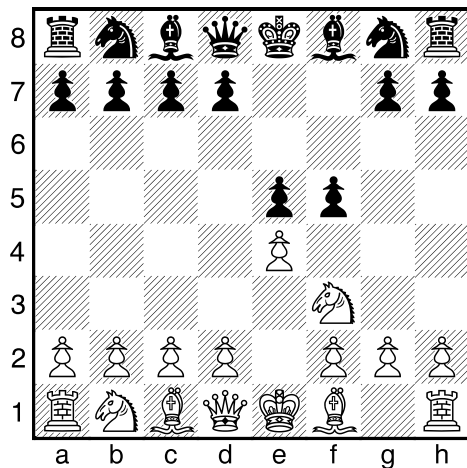
The Wild World of email chess

(87) Te,N – Negri,V [C40]

Email, 03.2001

[Dr Stupid]

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 f5?!



The *Latvian Gambit*. This unusual move by Black is theoretically inferior to the more normal ♘c6, but has value as a surprise weapon. It usually plunges the game rapidly into complicated tactical positions, which accounts for its greater popularity in email and postal chess than in over-the-board play.

3.♗c4 Other good moves for White are 3.♘xe5 and 3.exf5.

3...fxe4 4.♘xe5 Now White has a dangerous threat against f7.

4...d5 Experience has shown this is Black's only viable option. [The older move here was 4...♖g5 ]

5.♗b3? This instinctive retreat is in fact a mistake – illustrating the tricky nature of the opening. Now Black gets an advantage. [The critical move is 5.♖h5+ g6 6.♘xg6 hxg6 7.♖xh8 ♔f7! 8.♖d4! ♗e6 9.♗b3 c5 10.♖e3 with an unclear position where Black has greater space and central control in return for a material deficit.]

5...♖g5 6.d4 ♖xg2 7.♖f1

[A crucial point is whether 7.♖h5+ is any better: 7...g6 8.♘xg6 ♖xh1+ 9.♔d2 hxg6 10.♖xh8 e3+! 11.♔c3

a) 11.fxe3 ♗b4+ 12.♘c3 (12.c3 ♖g2+) 12...♖g2+ and mates;

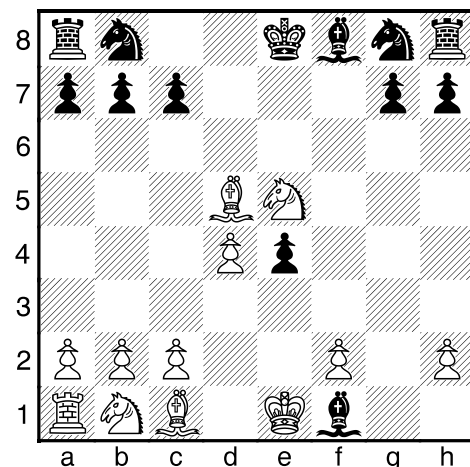
b) 11.♔c2 ♗g4+ 12.♔d3 ♖xc1 and Black has two pieces more and still threatens against the White king, e.g. 13.♖xg8? ♖d1+ 14.♔xc3 ♖f3+ 15.♔d2 ♖xf2+ 16.♔d3 ♗f5+ 17.♔c3 ♖c3#;

c) 11.♔d3 ♖c4+ 12.♔c3 (12.♔e2 ♗g4+ and mates) 12...♘c6 13.♗a4 (13.♗xd5 ♗b4+ 14.♔b3 ♖xd5+ 15.c4 ♘a5+ 16.♔xb4 c5+ 17.dxc5 ♖xc4+ 18.♔a3; Δ13.-- ♗b4#) 13...exf2 14.♗b5 ♖f3+ 15.♔d2 ♗h6+;

11...exf2 12.♖e5+ ♗e7 13.♘d2 ♖e1 14.♖xd5 ♖e3+ 15.♔c4 b5+ 16.♖xb5+ c6 (threatening ... ♗a6) 17.♖a4 (17.♗a4 ♗e6+ 18.d5 cxb5+ 19.♗xb5+ ♘d7 (threat is ♖c8) 20.♗xd7+ ♗xd7 21.c3 f1 ♖+ 22.♘xf1 ♖e4+ 23.♔b3 ♖a4#) 17...♗c6+]

7...♗h3 8.♖e2 [The only way to defend the rook is 8.♘d2 but then after 8...♘f6 Black has a winning advantage, e.g. 9.♖e2 c6 10.♖e3 ♘bd7 11.f3 ♖xh2 12.♘xd7 ♖g3+ 13.♖f2 ♖xf2+ 14.♖xf2 ♗xd7 15.fxe4 dxe4 16.♘c4 0-0-0]

8...♖xf1+ 9.♖xf1 ♗xf1 10.♗xd5!? (diag)



A remarkable idea! White is losing, so opts for a attempt to continue a attack against the exposed Black king, even at the cost of a

rook. [After the normal 10.♔xf1 ♖f6 11.c4 dxc4 12.♙xc4 ♗d6 Black has rook and pawn against bishop]

**10...♙a6!** The only move.

**11.♙g5!** Threatening ♗f7#! [This is much more effective than 11.♖f7 ♖f6 12.♙b3 ♙b4+ 13.c3 ♖f8 14.cxb4 ♖xf7 15.♙xf7+ ♔xf7]

**11...♖f6** [11...♖h6 12.♙xe4 (12.♙xh6 gxh6 13.♖f7 ♖g8 14.♖d6+ ♙xd6 15.♙xg8) ]

**12.♖c3** [Again, White could regain some material by 12.♙xf6 gxf6 13.♖f7 ♖g8 14.♖d6+ ♙xd6 15.♙xg8 ♖c6 (15...♙xh2 16.♙xh7 ♖c6 17.d5 ♖b4 18.♙xe4 0-0-0) 16.d5 ♖d4 but the cost would be the end of all hope.]

**12...♙b4** Overly complex. The bishop on d5 is a thorn in the flesh and should have been removed. [Black considered the simple 12...♖xd5 13.♖xd5 and was concerned about the two powerful knights, but after 13...♙d6 14.0-0-0 (14.♙e7 ♙xe5 15.dxe5 c6 16.♖c7+ ♔xe7 17.♖xa8 ♖c8) 14...0-0 they have no targets.]

**13.0-0-0** Bringing the rook into the attack. White's only chance is to exploit Black's badly developed and placed pieces, and hope that he makes a mistake.

**13...♙xc3 14.♙xf6** [More vigorous might have been 14.♙f7+ ♔e7 15.bxc3 ♖bd7 16.♙b3 c5 (16...h6? 17.♖g6+) 17.♖e1 ♖he8 18.♖xe4 ♖d6 19.♖e1 ♖xe5 20.dxe5+ ♔c7 (20...♖xe5 21.♙f4) 21.♙f7 ♖e7 22.♙b3 c4 23.♖e3 cxb3 24.cxb3 ♖d5 25.♙xe7 ♖xe7; The bishop cannot be taken: 14.bxc3? ♖xd5]

**14...gxf6 15.♖f7** [Still the bishop is immune: 15.bxc3 fxe5 16.♙xe4 exd4 17.♖xd4 0-0!]

**15...♖f8** [Black could have bailed out to a winning ending with 15...c6 16.♖xh8 (16.♙b3 ♖f8 17.♖d6+ ♔d7) 16...cxd5 17.bxc3 (17.♖g1 ♙xd4 (17...♙b4 18.♖g8+

♙f8) 18.♖g8+ ♔e7 19.♖g7+ ♔e6) 17...♔f8 18.♖g1 ♖c6]

**16.♖h6** [Yet again, taking the bishop would make matters worse: 16.bxc3 ♖xf7 17.♙xf7+ ♔xf7]

**16...♙b4 17.♖f5** [17.♙xe4 ♖d7 (17...♙d6 18.♖e1 ♔d7) 18.♙xh7 0-0-0]

**17...♙d6** Trying to provoke White into exchanging off his knight. [17...♖d7 was also perfectly sound: 18.♙xe4 0-0-0]

**18.♙e6?!** [18.♖e1 is the most active try: 18...♔d8 19.♖xe4 ♖e8! Now if White tries to avoid exchanges with 20.♖h4 Black gets activity – 20...♖e1+ 21.♔d2 ♙b4+ 22.c3 ♖e2+ 23.♔c1 ♖xf2 24.♙e4 ♙d6; 18.♖g7+ ♔d7 doesn't lead anywhere.]

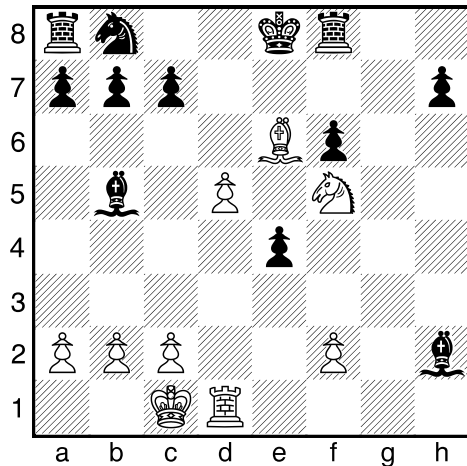
**8...♙xh2** An important pawn. Now Black no longer needs to worry about White obtaining play via a passed h–pawn.

**19.d5?!**

[The critical line was 19.♖e1 Best now is 19...♙f4+ (More passive is 19...♔d8 20.♖xe4 ♖h8 21.♖h6 (21.♖h4 ♙g1) 21...♖e8) 20.♔d1 e3! (line closing sacrifice) 21.fxe3 (now the dangerous e–file is blocked) 21...♙g5 22.♖g7+ ♔e7 23.♙g4 ♖h8 24.♖c6 ♔d6 25.e4 h6 (maybe 25...h5!?) ) 26.e5+ fxe5 27.dxe5+ ♔e7 28.c4 (28.♖xc7?? ♖d8+ and mate follows!) 28...♙xc4 29.♖xc7 ♖c6 30.♖xa8 ♖b4! with a winning attack.

The other try is 19.♖h1 ♙f4+ 20.♔d1 ♖h8 21.♖h4 ♙g5 22.♖xe4 h5! Remarkably, the discovered check poses no danger. 23.♙d5+ ♔d8 24.f4 c6 25.♙f7 ♙h6 26.c4 (26.♙xh5 ♙xf4) 26...♔c7 27.♖e7+ ♖d7 28.♙e6 ♖ad8 29.♖xh6 ♖xh6]

**19...♙b5!** (diag)



The bishop will come to d7 and finally unpick Black's position. [Less clear-cut was 19...♖d7 20.♖h1 ♕f4+ 21.♔d1 ♖h8 22.♗g7+ ♔e7 23.♗f5+ ♔d8 24.♖h4 ♕e5 25.♗h6 ♖e8 26.♗f7+ ♔e7]

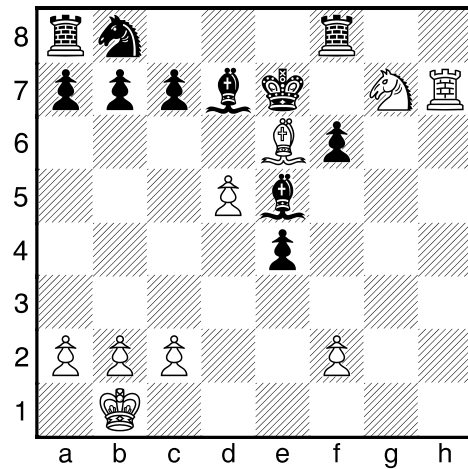
**20.♖h1** [White could again try 20.♖e1 ♕f4+ (20...♕d7 21.♖xe4 ♕xc6 22.♗g7+ (22.♖xe6+ ♔d8) 22...♔f7 23.♗xe6) 21.♔b1 ♕d7 22.♖xe4 ♕d6 23.c4 ♕xe6 24.♗g7+ (24.dxe6 ♖h8) 24...♔f7 25.♗xe6 ♖e8 (25...f5) 26.♖h4 and the clearest win is 26...♖xe6 27.dxe6+ ♔xe6 28.♖xh7 ♗c6]

**20...♕f4+** A vital tempo.

**21.♔b1 ♕d7 22.♗g7+** [22.♖xh7 ♕e5 leads to wild play, though Black still runs out on top: 23.♗g7+ ♔e7 24.♗f5+ ♔d8 25.♖h4 (25.♗g7 f5! 26.♕xd7 ♕xg7) 25...♗a6! 26.♕xd7 (26.♖xe4 ♗c5) 26...♔xd7 27.♖xe4 ♖h8 28.a3 ♖ag8 29.♗e3 ♖h1+ 30.♔a2 ♖gg1 31.♖c4 (The threat was 31.-- ♗c5 32.-- ♖a1#) 31...b6 32.♖g4 ♖a1+ 33.♔b3 ♗c5+ 34.♔c4 ♕xb2 35.♖g7+ ♔d6 36.♗f5+ ♔e5 37.♗e3 ♖xa3 38.♖e7+ ♔f4 39.♔b5 ♕e5 40.♔c6 ♗e4 41.♔b7 ♖c3 42.♖d7]

**22...♔e7 23.♖h4?!** wasting a move. [However, 23.♖xh7 immediately would not save the game: 23...♕e5 24.♗f5+ (24.a3 ♕xe6 25.♗f5+ ♔d8 26.dxe6 ♖e8 27.♗g7 ♖g8 28.♗f5 a5 29.e7+ ♔d7) 24...♔d8 25.c4 ♕xe6 26.dxe6 ♖e8 27.♗g7 ♖g8 28.♗f5 ♗c6]

**23...♕e5 24.♖xh7**



(diag) [The previous move could have been carried through by 24.♖xe4 whereupon Black has the rejoinder 24...♗a6 25.♗f5+ ♔e8 26.♗g7+ ♔d8 27.♖h4 ♖h8 28.♗f5 ♗c5 29.f4 ♕d6 30.♗d4 ♕xe6 31.dxe6 ♔e7 32.f5 ♖ag8]

**24...♕xe6** The white bishop is exchanged, and all initiative fizzles out.

**25.♗f5+** [25.dxe6 ♗a6 26.-- ♖h8; 25.♗xe6+ ♖f7 26.♖h8 f5 27.♖c8 ♖h7 28.c4 ♖h1+ 29.♔c2 ♖h2 30.♖xc7+ ♗d7 31.♖xb7 ♖xf2+ 32.♔b1 ♖h8]

**25...♔d8 26.dxe6 ♖e8 27.e7+** [27.♖h4 ♖xe6 28.♖xe4 ♔d7; 27.♗g7 ♖g8 28.♔c1 ♔e7]

**27...♔d7 28.a4** Sensing the impending arrival of the black rooks, White makes space for her king [28.♖h4 ♗c6 29.♖xe4 ♗xe7]

**28...♗c6 29.♔a2 ♗xe7 30.♗e3 ♕d4!** No peace for the wicked!

**31.♗g4** [31.♗d1 ♖h8; 31.♗d5 ♔d6]

**31...f5 32.♗f6+?? ♕xf6 33.♖h1 ♔e6! 34.♔a3 ♖ad8 35.b4 ♖d2 36.♖f1 ♖xc2 37.f3 ♖d8 38.♔b3** and Black announced mate in 4:

**38...♖b2+** [38...♖c3+ 39.♔b2 ♖d2+ 40.♔b1 ♖a3 41.♔c1 ♖b2 42.♖d1 ♖a1#]

**39.♔c4** [39.♔a3 ♖d3#]

# Dr Stupid's Chess Clinics

**39...♖d4+ 40.♗c5** [40.♗b5 ♜bxb4+  
41.♗c5 (41.♗a5 ♜c6#) 41...b6#]

**40...♜bxb4** [40...♜c2+ 41.♗b5 ♜d5#]

**41.a5** [41.♜c1 b6#]

**41...♜dc4# 0-1**