

# Contents



POISONED PAWN

Introduction	5
Algebraic Notation	6
How to Play the Opening	8

## The 50 Mighty Openings

1) Giuoco Piano	14
2) Evans Gambit	16
3) Two Knights Defence	18
4) King's Gambit	20
5) Danish Gambit and Centre Game	22
6) Göring and Latvian Gambits	24
7) Bishop's Opening and Vienna Game	26
8) Scotch Game	28
9) Philidor Defence	30
10) Petroff Defence	32
11) Ruy Lopez: Introduction	34
12) Ruy Lopez: Closed Main Lines	36
13) Ruy Lopez: Marshall Attack	38
14) Ruy Lopez: Open Spanish	40
15) Alekhine Defence	42
16) Scandinavian Defence	44
17) Caro-Kann Defence	46
18) French Defence: Introduction	48
19) French Defence: 3 $\text{♞c3}$ Main Lines	50
20) Sicilian Defence: Introduction	52
21) Closed Sicilian and Grand Prix Attack	54
22) Alapin (c3) Sicilian	56
23) Morra Gambit	58
24) $\text{♞b5}$ Sicilian	60
25) Open Sicilian: Introduction	62
26) Sicilian Dragon	64
27) Sicilian Najdorf	66
28) Sveshnikov Sicilian	68

29) Queen's Gambit Accepted	70
30) Classical Queen's Gambit Declined	72
31) Tartakower and Modern Lines	74
32) Queen's Gambit Exchange Variations	76
33) Tarrasch Defence	78
34) Chigorin and Albin Counter-Gambit	80
35) Slav	82
36) Semi-Slav	84
37) London, Colle and Trompowsky	86
38) Dutch Defence	88
39) Modern Benoni and Benko Gambit	90
40) King's Indian: Introduction	92
41) King's Indian: Main Lines	94
42) Grünfeld Defence: Introduction	96
43) Exchange Grünfeld	98
44) Queen's Indian and Bogo-Indian	100
45) Nimzo-Indian: Introduction	102
46) Nimzo-Indian: Main Lines	104
47) Reversed Sicilian	106
48) Symmetrical English	108
49) Assorted English Lines	110
50) Réti Opening	112
Test Your Opening Knowledge	114
Test Your Opening Skills	116
Test Solutions	123
Conclusion	128



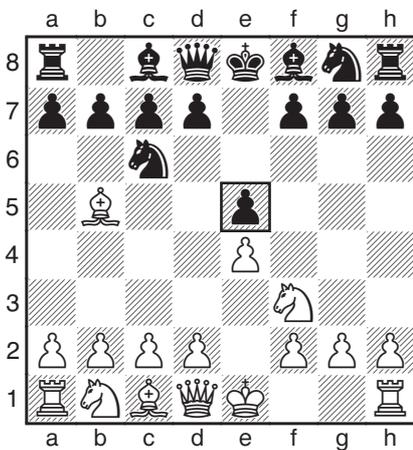
# MIGHTY OPENING 11

## Ruy Lopez: Introduction

*The opening that has stood the test of time like no other*

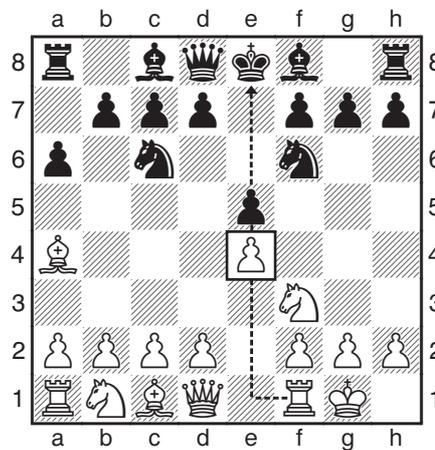
The Ruy Lopez is one of the oldest and most important openings. After **1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♗c6**, White plays **3 ♖b5** (1a). This looks less scary than 3 ♖c4 as White doesn't target the f7-pawn, but White's plan is to put pressure on the e5-pawn by attacking its defender. Sooner or later, Black will need to parry this threat, and White hopes to use the time gained to establish a strong grip on the centre. Note also that Black's pawn-thrust ...d5, which we saw repeatedly in the Giuoco Piano and Two Knights, will not hit the bishop. Black has a wide choice of replies, as White isn't yet threatening 4 ♖xc6 dxc6 5 ♗xe5, because 5... ♖d4 regains the pawn with a good game. Thus 3...d6 is unnecessarily passive, and 4 d4 gives White the freer game. The main line is 3...a6, with points like 4 ♖a4 d6 5 d4?! b5! 6 ♖b3 ♗xd4 7 ♗xd4 exd4 8 ♖xd4?? c5, when ...c4 will win the white bishop. The solid 3...♗f6 (3) and the wild 3...f5 (4) are also possible, while the natural 3...♖c5 leaves the bishop exposed to White's c3 and d4 pawn-break.

### Basic Positions of the Ruy Lopez



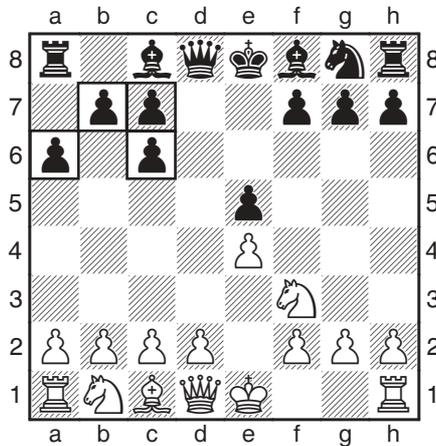
#### 1a) Black moves

3...a6 forces the bishop to declare its intentions. For 4 ♖xc6 dxc6 see diagram 2a. 4 ♖a4 keeps the bishop, waiting for a better moment to exchange on c6.



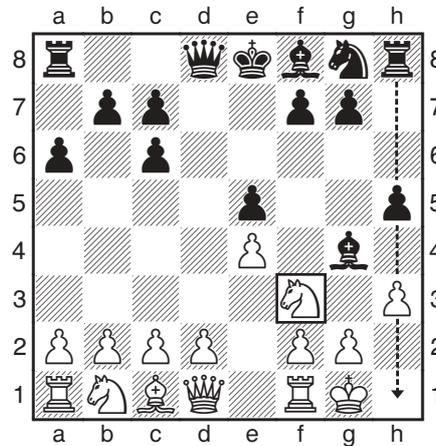
#### 1b) Black moves

Then 4...♗f6 5 0-0 leads to this position. It looks as if White has forgotten about his e-pawn, but see page 40 for 5...♗xe4. The main move is 5...♖e7 (pages 36-9).



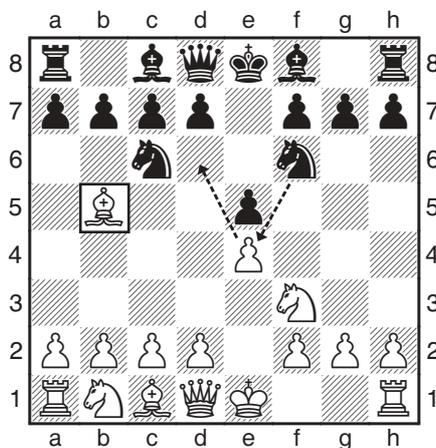
### 2a) White moves

After 5 d4 exd4 6 ♖xd4 ♗xd4 7 ♘xd4, a pure pawn ending would be bad for Black, so he must avoid too many exchanges and put his strong bishops to work. 5 ♗xe5 ♗d4 gives White nothing.



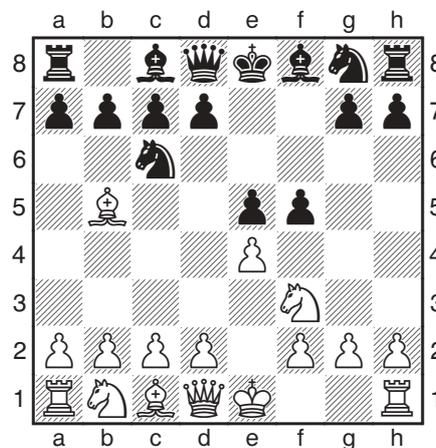
### 2b) White moves

The position after 5 0-0 ♗g4!? 6 h3 h5!. The bishop is taboo: 7 hxg4? hxg4 8 ♘h2? ♗h4. After 7 d3 ♗f6 Black intends ...♗e7-g6 and may exchange on f3 if this doubles White's pawns too.



### 3) White moves

This defence has the idea 4 0-0 ♗xe4 5 ♗e1 ♗d6, attacking the b5-bishop. This pops up again in the line 5 d4 ♗d6 6 ♗xc6 dxc6 7 dxe5 ♗f5 8 ♗xd8+ ♗xd8, with a complex queenless middlegame.



### 4) White moves

A point of this thrust is 4 d4 fxe4 5 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 6 dxe5 c6. If the bishop moves, 7...♗a5+ wins the e5-pawn. After 4 ♗c3 fxe4 5 ♗xe4 ♗f6 6 ♗xf6+ ♗xf6 7 ♗e2 ♗e7 Black offers a pawn to get piece-play.

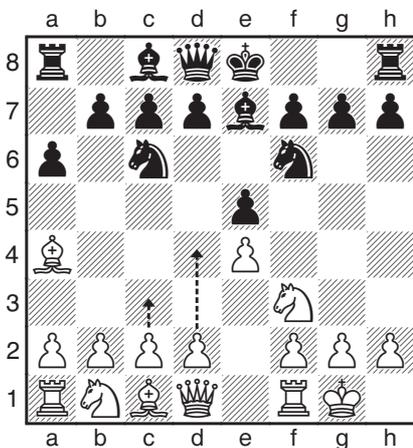
# MIGHTY OPENING 12

## Ruy Lopez: Closed Main Lines

*A true test of chess understanding*

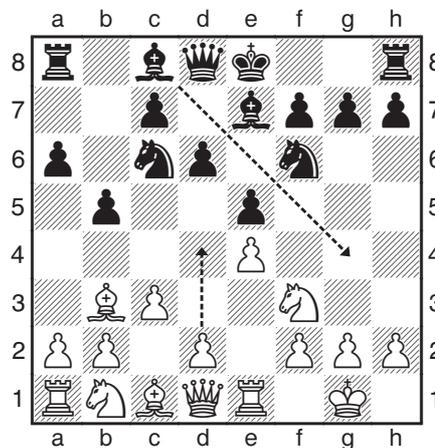
1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♗c6 3 ♖b5 a6 4 ♗a4 ♞f6 5 0-0 ♕e7 (1a) is known as the Closed Ruy Lopez, and often leads to play of great strategic subtlety. But don't be fooled by the name: there are plenty of ways for the game to open up. First things first though: White now needs to protect his e4-pawn, so 6 ♖e1 is the normal move. White then threatens to exchange on c6 and take on e5, so Black prevents this idea with 6...b5 7 ♖b3. You might think that White has simply lost time with this bishop, but it has arrived on a very good diagonal, and Black's moves ...a6 and ...b5 can provide useful targets for White. Having secured his e5-pawn, Black needs to decide how to deploy his pieces. 7...d6 is the standard move, bringing in ideas of ...♗g4 and also with the positional threat of ...♞a5, exchanging off White's potent bishop. That's why White normally replies 8 c3 (1b), which also prepares the move d4. Then after 8...0-0 9 h3 (2a) we have reached a position where Black has a very wide choice of plans.

### Basic Positions of the Closed Ruy Lopez



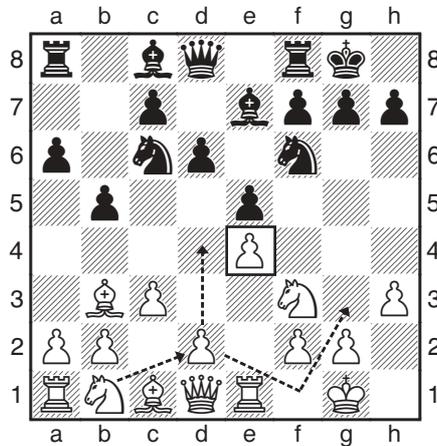
#### 1a) White moves

Direct attacking methods achieve little for White here. His best plan is to secure his e-pawn and play c3 and d4, building a strong and flexible pawn-centre.



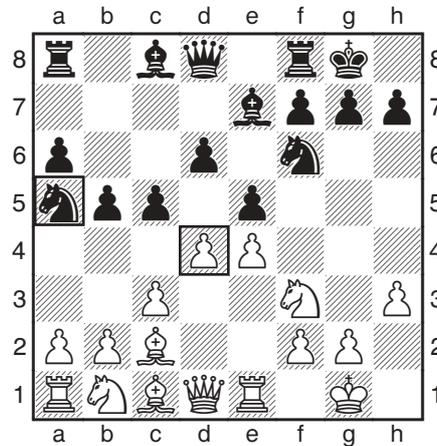
#### 1b) Black moves

Now 8...♞a5 gets nowhere after 9 ♖c2. Following 8...0-0 9 d4, Black's 9...♗g4! idea puts pressure on White, as 10 h3? ♗xf3 11 ♖xf3 exd4 costs him a pawn.



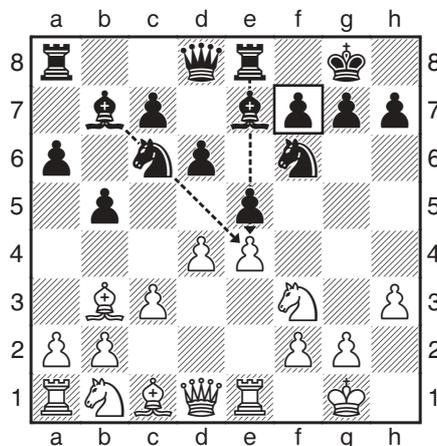
### 2a) Black moves

White plans d4, with an ideal centre, and then to develop by  $\text{b}d2$ , and if possible  $\text{f}1-g3$ , freeing the c1-bishop. Black's main defences all hinder this manoeuvre – see the next three diagrams.



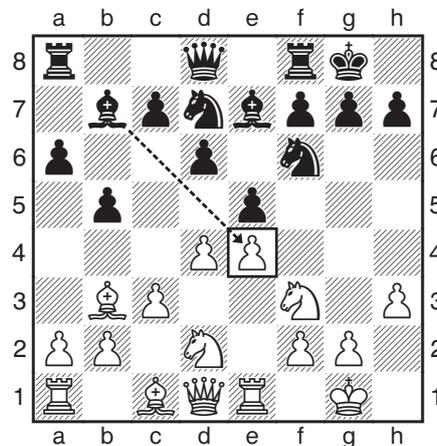
### 2b) Black moves

This is the Chigorin Defence,  $9...a5$   $10 \text{c}2$   $\text{c}5$   $11 \text{d}4$ . Now  $11...c7$   $12 \text{b}d2$   $\text{c}6$   $13 \text{d}5$  closes the game,  $11...cxd4$   $12 \text{cxd4}$   $\text{exd4}$  opens it, while  $11...d7$   $12 \text{b}d2$   $\text{exd4}$   $13 \text{cxd4}$  unbalances matters.



### 2c) White moves

$9...b7$   $10 \text{d}4$   $\text{e}8$  puts direct pressure on e4, and can lead to exciting play in lines like  $11 \text{b}d2$   $\text{f}8$   $12 \text{a}4$   $\text{h}6$   $13 \text{c}2$   $\text{exd}4$   $14 \text{cxd}4$   $\text{b}4$   $15 \text{b}1$   $\text{c}5$ . But note  $11 \text{g}5$   $\text{f}8$   $12 \text{f}3$ , seeking a draw.



### 2d) White moves

Breyer's  $9...b8$   $10 \text{d}4$   $\text{b}d7$   $11 \text{b}d2$   $\text{b}7$  reorganizes Black's pieces flexibly, with  $...d5$  and  $...c5$  both still possible. The two players must manoeuvre carefully, ready for many different structures.