All,  
OK, my first game in the Cambridgeshire County Chess Association league. As has been my objective for the past 10 months, I have gone out with the intension of playing more aggressively with white. My opponent offered me that opportunity by playng a passive line and allowing me to exploit a weakened king-side by some nice tactical thrusts.

[Event "CCCA League Matches 2007-2008"]

[Site "Cambridge, ENG"]

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[Round "1.1"]

[White "Ross, Chris"]

[Black "Kemp, Paul. R."]

[Result "1-0"]

[ECO "D30"]

[WhiteElo "2144"]

[BlackElo "2103"]

[Annotator "Chris Ross"]

[PlyCount "67"]

[EventDate "2007.10.03"]

[WhiteTeam "New England A"]

[BlackTeam "Cambridge City"]

{D30: Queen's Gambit Declined: semi Slav}

1. d4 d5

2. Nf3 Nf6

3. c4 c6

4. e3 e6

5. Bd3 Be7

{More ambitious is 5... Bd6 with Nbd7 and with the hope of getting a quick e6-e5 in.}

6. O-O O-O

7. Nc3 {My usual move here is 7. Nbd2 to avoid this main Moran continuation. With the bishop on e7, black can't really avoid a quick e3-e4 and the knight can serve equally as well on d2 as it does on c3. On c3, it is vulnerable to attacks by black's "B" pawn, which could be annoying. This is the main reason why white delays the development of the queen's knight as long as possible.}

7.... dxc4

8. Bxc4 b5

9. Bd3 b4?! {I don't like this move, although theory accepts it as a possible move. In my view, the b4 thrust should be delayed until white has provoked it with a2-a4, thereby taking away the a4 square for the white knight. The text-move allows the knight to step onto a4 if he wants to and not force the knight to retreat to e2, where it isn't as active, or venture into e4, where exchanges will ease black's cramped position.}

10. Na4  {The correct square for the white knight. The knight now exerts tremendous pressur on the c5 square and if black is to acheive any equality in the position, he must be able to play c6-c5. So, holding this up is positionally justified and the knight does not stand off-side.}

10 .... Nbd7

11. e4 Bb7

12. Qe2  {Placing the queen on the more active square, protecting the e4 pawn against possible tactics with c6-c5 moves. The queen also stands in readiness for the king-side attack and avoids any exchanges down the D file. White's development is smooth and well coordinated whereas black is striving to get his pieces in harmony and to force c6-c5 to release the pressure of a cramped position.}

12... Rc8  {Black ought to thrust with c5 while he can. After the exchange, a future Bg5 is going to make the pin on the f6 knight very awkward and the positionally forced Be7 by black will not give the black queen many squares to hide on, as the central files will soon be controlled by the white rooks coming swiftly to c1 and d1. White will have the space advantage with his pawn on e4 and the possibility of launching the attack with e4-e5 at the correct moment.}

13. Bg5 c5 {OK, the sceen is set. Black has got in his desired c6-c5 and white must act quickly and aggressively to avoid black from obtaining equality.}

14. e5 Nd5 {14... c4 15. Bxc4 Bxf3 16. gxf3 (16. Qxf3 Rxc4 17. exf6 Bxf6) is good for white}

15. Qe4 g6 {A critical weakness has now been created. The dark-squares around the black king-side have been compromised.}

16. Qh4 {Starting to apply the pressure on the dark squares themselves. The queen has now successfully transferre ditself to the king-side to aid in the king-side attack and is placed to pressure the bishop on e7, preventing the black queen from being developed. 16. Bxe7 Qxe7  17. Nxc5 Nxc5 18. dxc5 is another way of playing to releases the pressure prematurely.}

16... cxd4 {After the game, black thought he had achieved equality here, but I am extremely worried about the looseness of the dark squares. Naturally, I have had to sack a pawn on d4 temporary as recapture leaves the e5 pawn, which is a thorn in black's position, en prise. But lets assess the position as an overall structure. White has a promising king-side attack, where the dark squares are a tremendous source of pressure. The white pieces are building up in mass on the king-side and the white queen and knight are looming dangerously whereas black has few defenders of the king-side, as the e5 spear-head cuts off the black minor pieces. Now consider the positional side of it. Black has an open file, but can do nothing with it as there is no entry point on c2 and the b2 pawn prevents any use of the c3 square. The off-side knight on a4 helps in the control of the c5 square, which could be a useful defensive square for the black rook and the pawn on b4 blocks in the black pieces and doesn't actually help in any constructive way for him. The bishop on b7 is useful, but is shut in by his only well-placed piece, the knight on d5, which actually, although stand well, doesn't have anywhere to go. In fact, it must remain there, presently due to the looseness of the bishop on e7 but also to help in defending the weakened king-side. Now the light-squared bishops. White is ensured of getting the dark-squared bishops off, thereby giving him an excellent end-game. In any end-game, the black king-side pawns would be weak as they stand on the same colour as his own bishop and the white pawns, e5 etc. can not be easily attacked. White has a space advantage and black has weak extended pawns on the queen-side.}

17. Rfe1 {Developing, protecting e5 and allowing a future rook air-lift. Although not winning, I think this position is tremendous for white and I was becoming more and more confident about my winning prospects. I was struggling to find a decent plan for black here, but that was obviously, not my problem and I was clear in the way I wanted to play this as white. All in all, a good psychological standpoint and one that fills you up with confidence and assurance and things, when put in that way, rarely if ever go wrong for you.}

17... Re8  {Wanting to develop. The bishop on e7 requires defending if he is to move the knight on d5 or the black queen. Naturally taking on g5 makes the h7 a massive target square and he doesn't really want to push his H pawn and create another fatal weakness. However, now the rook has vacated f8, the black knight can drop into there and defend h7 and I dont' want to allow Nxg5 with an unnecessary and perhaps potentially difficult pin. So, the time for ridding myself of black's dark-squared defender has now come.}

18. Bxe7 Qxe7

19. Qxd4 {Queen exchanges do not interest me yet as I still have ambitious plans for a king-side attack. Regaining the pawn and usig the queen to exploit the dark-squares is my intension now. Black still has not broke out and achieved any kind of equality and still stands under the cosh.}

19... Nc5  {Wanting to force exchange to ease his load. This in itself would be ok, but all he achieves here is to rid himself of a useful king-side defender and rids me of my only poor piece, my off-side knight. So, another plan should have been sought. 19... Bc6 20. Bc2 Red8 was what i was expecting.}

20. Nxc5 Qxc5  {Again, black goes queen-exchange hunting. Gainging complete control of the C file with 20... Rxc5 has to be preferred as the black queen prevents the white counterpart from reestablishing attacking possibilities on the king-side.}

21. Qh4 Kg7

22. Ng5 Rh8 {If black is forced into desperate defensive measures such as this, then things can not be very rosy for him.}

23. Rad1 {Controlled aggression. White completes development and places the rook on a useful file, with future Rxd5 sacks in the offing leaving the f6 square fatally weak. The other asset is that after a white knight lands on e4, there is no annoying Qd4 pins.}

23... Qe7

24. Qg3  {Unpinning and opening up the way for the launching of the H pawn.}

24... h5?  {This can not be recommended, not at all, as it is weak tactically and positionally. If anything. 24... h6 keeps some control of a dark square and prevents white from ramming his H pawn down black's throat, but nevertheless the correct plan has to be 24... Nb6 opening up lines and having Nc4 ideas. White would have to decide whether he gives himself the e4 square forever for his knight with 25. Be4 but the attack will still continue.}

25. h4  {Simple and positionally sound. The knight can now never be shifted from g5 and the back-rank has been cleared. 25. Ne4 h4 26. Qg4 h3 could not be allowed.}

25... Rc7? {Probably black's losing move. Black is in serious trouble in any case but this rook compounds his awkwardness.  The rook is placed to defend along the 2nd rank and to allow the doubling up on the C file, which he can't penetrate down in any case. However, the rook proves to be a tactical liability on c7 as it is not well defended by his counterpart. 25... Nb6 has to be his one and only and best try.}

26. Ne4 Rd8  {26.. Rhc8 as originally planned allows the knight to land on d6 with gain of tempo. The position is now critical for black. The text move allows a neat finish though.}

27. Nf6! {tactically exploiting the rook on c7 and blocking up the dark squares and the way to g5, allowing the white queen full penetration into the black camp.}

27... Kh8  {What else. Perhaps there is no saving move. 27... nxf6?? 28. exf6+ Qxf6 29. Qxc7 drops the loose rook on c7. h5 is threatened with check and if 27... Kf8 28. Qg5 will soon mate in any case.}

28. Qg5 {Playing it slightly slowly. Naturally, 28. Bxg6 wins at least a pawn, but I had seen a clearer path to victory.}

28... Nxf6 {What else. 28... Qf8 allows 29. nxh5 with Nf4 to follow and it all collapses for him.}

29. exf6 Qf8

30. Bxg6!  {Giving black absolutely no rest at all. Naturally, the positional elements, when so strong, just allow the tactical bits to sort themselves out. I was pleased with my finish here. Naturally, I threaten 31. Qxh5+ and Qh7 mate, so black must try to defend along the 2nd rank, with that rook on c7....which, don't forget, is loose!}

30... fxg6

31. Rxd8 Qxd8

32. f7! {The point to the conbination. White threatens the black queen and 33. Qh6 mate so this has to be defended against either by the control of h6 or the queen exchange. Naturally if 32... Qxg5 33. f8=Q+ wins a whole queen as that all important h4 pawn defends the queen on g5. Black's move is forced, naturally.}.

32... Qf8

33. Qe5+ Kh7

34. Qxc7 {Whoops, that loose rook has dropped off! White is now a clear exchange up, a huge pass pawn to his name and it is simple technique to win from here. Black had seen that I had demonstrated enough to take the point home.}

34. 1-0

Opening references:  
A.  
12. Qc2 h6 13. Qe2 Qa5 14. b3 e5 15. Nxe5 Nxe5 16. dxe5 Qxe5 17. Bb2 Qh5 18.  
f3 Rfe8 19. Rac1 Bd6 20. g3 c5 21. Ba6 Bc8 22. Qd3 Bxa6 23. Qxa6 Red8 24.  
Rf2 Rd7 25. Qc6 Rad8 26. Kg2 Nh7

Seres,L-Burmakin,V/Zalakaros 1993/EXT 2000/0-1 (30)

B.  
12... c5 13. e5 Nd5 14. Nxc5 Nxc5 15. dxc5 Bxc5 (15... Rc8 16. Qe4 g6 17.  
Bh6 Re8 18. Rac1 Qa5 19. Bb1 Rxc5 20. Rxc5 Qxc5 21. h4 Bf8 22. Bxf8 Qxf8 23.  
h5 Qh6 24. hxg6 hxg6 25. Nh2 Kg7 26. Ng4 Qh4 27. Nf6 Nf4 28. Nxe8+ Kh8 29.  
Qe1 Nh3+ 30. Kh2

Kollar,F-O'Donnell,T/Winnipeg 1994/EXT 1998/0-1 (32)

C.  
12... c5 13. e5 Nd5 14. Nxc5 Nxc5 15. dxc5 Rc8 16. Bxh7+ Kh8 17. Ng5 g6 18.  
Qc4 Ne3 19. Qh4 Nf5 20. Qh3 Kg7 21. Bg8 Nh6 22. Bxf7 Qd5 23. Nxe6+ Kxf7 24.  
Nxc5 Qxc5 25. Bxh6 Rfe8 26. Bf4 Rh8 27. Qd7+

Schlecht,D-Schimmer,K/Senden 1998/CBM 067 ext/1-0 (27)