

Exeter Chess Club: Dutch Stonewall
Playing Black against QP openings
An Exeter Junior Chess Club Booklet

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January 25, 2004

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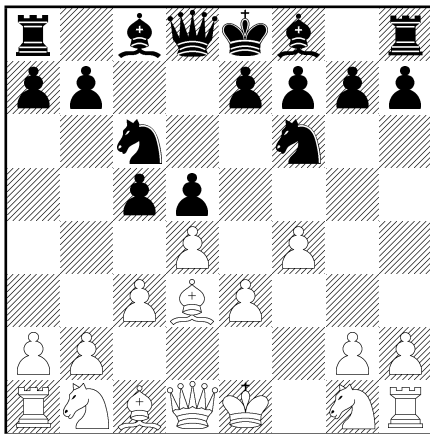
P.S. I had another think about this and the Cambridge springs and came up with the more comprehensive *Playing Black against 1. d4* booklet, which has more examples and variations, including Unusual variations of the Dutch Defence. That is for better players and older juniors, I think; this one is just to get you started.

Chapter 1

The Stonewall as White

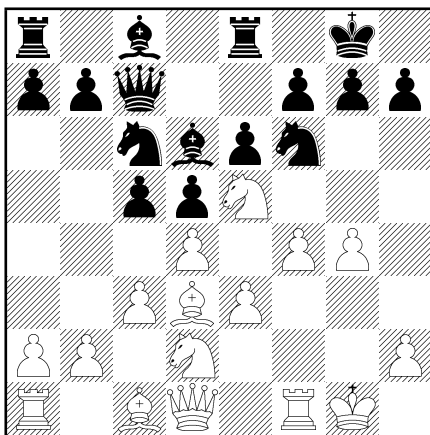
Reuben Fine gives this magnificent line as an example of what you are trying to do in the Stonewall system:

1. d4 d5 2. e3 ♘f6 3. ♙d3
3. ..., c5
4. c3 ♗c6 5. f4



This the basic Stonewall set-up. 5. ..., e6 blocks the Bc8 6. ♗f3 ♙d6 7. O-O O-O 8. ♗e5 ♙c7

9. ♗d2 ♖e8 10. g4



with a crushing attack

Great! Got the idea? Well, it's not always like that, Black has several improvements:

1. d4 d5 2. e3 ♗f6 3. ♙d3

[3. f4 is sometimes played to avoid the 3. ..., ♗c6 line]

3. ..., c5

[3. ..., ♗c6 4. f4

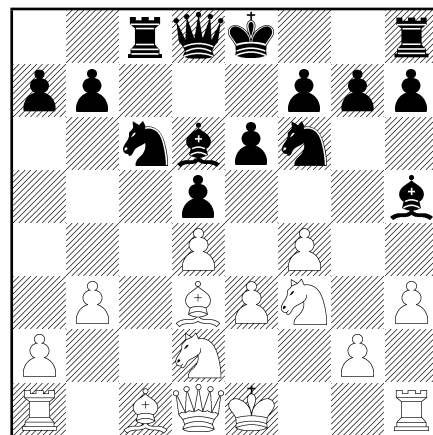
[4. c3 e5]

4. ..., ♗b4 5. ♗f3 ♗×d3+ 6. c×d3 g6 7. ♗c3 ♙g7 8. O-O O-O=]

4. c3 ♗c6 5. f4

5. ..., e6 blocks the Bc8

so [5. ..., ♙g4 6. ♗f3 e6 7. ♗bd2 ♙d6 8. h3 ♙h5 9. b3 c×d4 10. c×d4 ♖c8



and Black is comfortable]

6. ♗f3 ♙d6 7. O-O O-O 8. ♗e5 ♙c7

Ne5 needs some better response; Black could also try to occupy e4

Anyhow, that's the inspiration. Pillsbury even found a way to impose this sort of attack on the

Queen's Gambit, with the Bc1 developed actively at g5, and this idea is worth looking at one day too.

Chapter 2

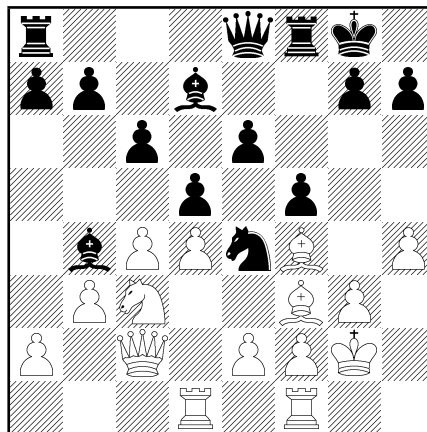
The Stonewall as Black

Because of these improved Black lines, you don't see the Stonewall Opening much, and, since Black has also learned how to play the Queen's Gambit Declined, you don't see the related Pillsbury formation often either. One place where the Stonewall formation will not go away is Black playing it in the Dutch Defence. Why hasn't this line died too?

White, starting first, is usually trying to get an advantage and won't play just to equalise with moves like Bf4, Bxd6, Ne5 and f4. Instead, White will often adopt an attacking formation on the Queen's side to start with and so there is a tendency for each side to attack on opposite sides.

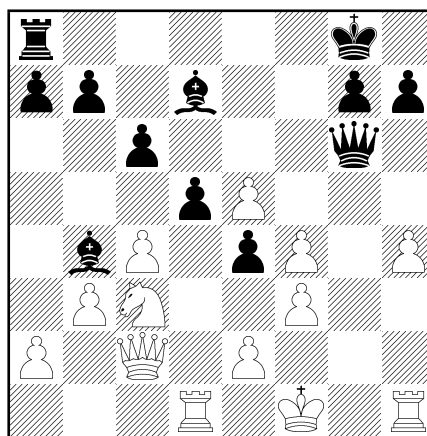
White often plays g3 and Bg2, creating a slow game with a slightly weakened King's side. Black can hope to get the ...f4 break in at some point.

This may help explain why you see the Stonewall is a better idea played a move behind in the Dutch Defence than played straight away as White. Perhaps the real reason is that World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik kept playing and winning with it for decades. Take a look at this:



White seems to have defended more than got on with his own plans. He now makes a mistake: 17. ♙×e4 ?

17. ... , f×e4 18. ♖h1 ♗h5 19. f3 ♗g6 20. ♔f1 e5 21. d×e5 ♖×f4 22. g×f4



Black has some clear achievements: the open g-file, the two bishops, the upset White King.

22. ... , ♗g3 threatens ...Bc5/...e3

23. ♗×e4 d×e4 24. ♖×d7 ♙c5 25. e3 ♗×f3+ 26. ♗f2 ♗×h1+ 27. ♔e2 ♗h3 28. f5 ♗g4+ 29. ♗d2 ♖f8 30. e6 ♗×f5 31. ♗×f5 ♖×f5 32. ♖×b7 ♖f2+ 33. ♔e1 ♖f6 34. b4 ♙×e3 0-1

2.0.1 Rabinovitch - Botvinnik (Ussr Ch'p, 1927)

1. d4 e6 2. c4 f5 3. g3 ♗f6 4. ♙g2 ♙e7 5. ♗c3 O-O 6. ♗f3 d5 7. O-O c6 8. ♗c2 ♗e8 9. ♙f4 ♗h5 10. ♖ad1 ♗bd7 11. b3 ♗e4 12. ♗e5 ♗g5

[12. ... , ♙f6 is better, says MB]

13. h4

[13. f3 ♗h3+ 14. ♙×h3 ♗×h3 15. e4 += MB]

13. ... , ♗e4 14. ♙f3 ♗e8 15. ♗×d7 ♙×d7 16. ♔g2 ♙b4

Another decisive King's side attack:

2.0.2 Steiner - Botvinnik, Groningen, 1946

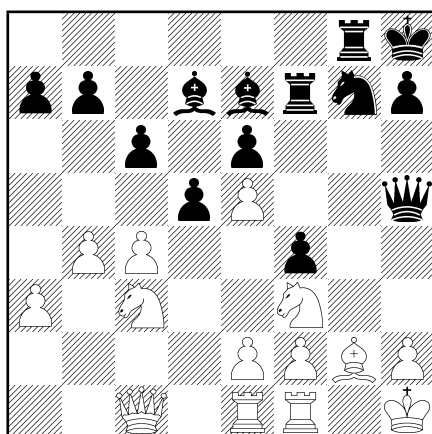
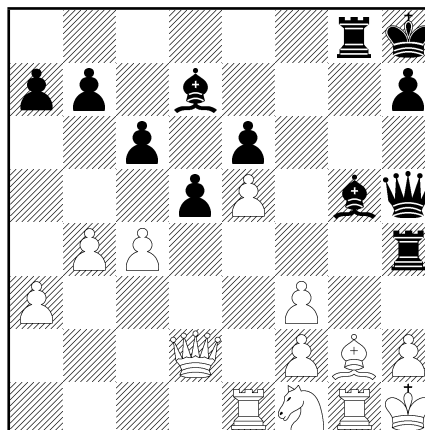
1. d4 e6 2. c4 f5 3. g3 ♘f6 4. ♙g2 ♙b4+ 5. ♙d2 ♙e7 6. ♘f3 d5 7. ♘c3 c6 8. O-O O-O 9. ♙f4 ♗e8 10. ♗c2 ♗h5 11. ♚ae1 ♘bd7 12. ♘d2

Aiming at e4, but too slowly. Another plan is to attack c6 with the b-pawn.

12. ..., g5 13. ♙c7 ♘e8 14. ♙e5 ♘×e5 15. d×e5 f4

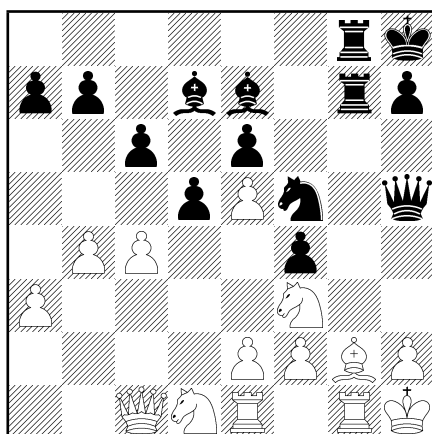
Black's plans are well-advanced; e4 will now be answered by ..f3

16. g×f4 g×f4 17. ♘f3 ♖h8 18. ♖h1 ♘g7 19. ♗c1 ♙d7 20. a3 ♗f7 21. b4 ♗g8



Making use of the open g-file

22. ♗g1 ♘f5 23. ♘d1 ♗fg7



Black has a winning position

24. ♗×f4 ♗g4 25. ♗d2 ♘h4 26. ♘e3 ♘×f3 27. e×f3 ♗h4 28. ♘f1 ♙g5

if the Q moves, ...Bf4 forces mate, so... 0-1

Here's an important game against a powerful rival.

2.0.3 Flohr - Botvinnik (10) Match, 1933

1. d4 e6 2. c4 f5 3. g3 ♘f6 4. ♙g2 ♙e7 5. ♘c3 d5 6. ♘f3 c6 7. O-O O-O 8. b3

[8. ♙f4 is better, says Botvinnik, or 8. ♗c2 ♗e8 9. ♙g5 with Bxf6]

8. ..., ♗e8 9. ♙b2 ♘bd7 10. ♗d3

[10. ♘g5 ♙d6 11. f4 Botvinnik]

10. ..., ♗h5 11. c×d5

[11. ♙c1 Botvinnik]

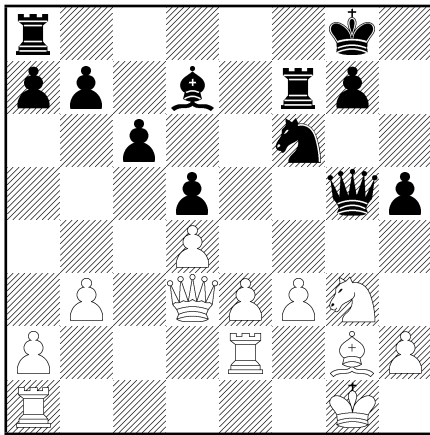
11. ..., e×d5 12. ♘d2

[12. ♘e1 and f4]

12. ..., ♘e4 13. f3

[13. f4 is now met by 13. ..., ♘×d2 14. ♗×d2 ♘f6 when White cannot really hope to get the N to e5]

13. ..., ♘×c3 14. ♙×c3 f4! 15. ♗fe1 ♙d6 16. ♘f1 ♗f7 17. e3 f×g3 18. ♘×g3 ♗h4 19. ♘f1 ♘f6 20. ♗e2 ♙d7 21. ♙e1 ♗g5 22. ♙g3 ♙×g3 23. ♘×g3 h5!



the final phase 24. f4 ♖g4 25. ♜f2 h4 26. ♙f3

[26. h3 ♜e6 27. ♗f1 ♗e4 is still -+]

26. ..., h×g3 27. ♙×g4 g×f2+ 28. ♔g2 ♗×g4 29. h3 ♗f6 30. ♕×f2 ♗e4+ 0-1

And lastly, a more complicated game from an early tournament:

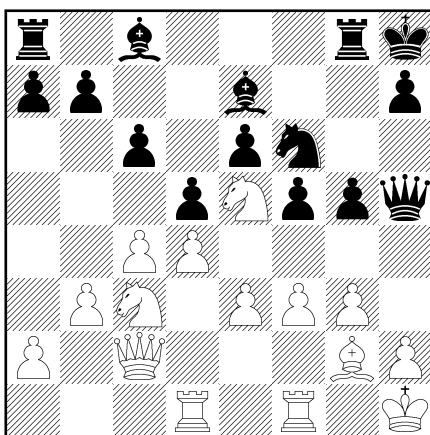
2.0.4 Yudovitch - Botvinnik, Leningrad 1934

1. c4 f5 2. d4 ♗f6 3. g3 e6 4. ♙g2 ♙e7 5. ♗f3 d5 6. O-O O-O 7. ♗c3 c6 8. ♜c2 ♜e8 9. ♙f4

[9. ♙g5 Chekhover]

9. ..., ♜h5 10. b3 ♗bd7 11. ♜ad1 ♗h8 12. ♕h1 a loss of tempo, and perhaps not even a better square

12. ..., ♜g8 13. e3 g5 14. ♙c7 ♗e8 15. ♙e5+ ♗×e5 16. ♗×e5 ♗f6 17. f3

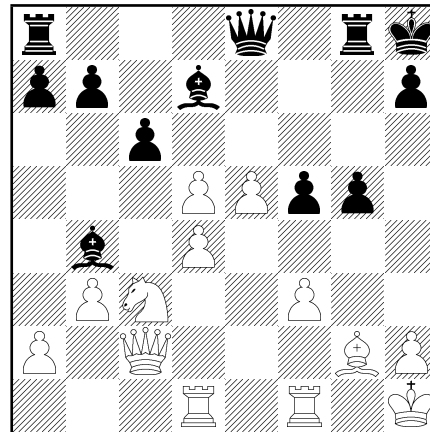


the right plan

17. ..., ♙d6 18. e4 ♗d7 19. g4

[19. ♗×d7 ♙×g3]

19. ..., ♜e8 20. ♗×d7 ♙×d7 21. e5 ♙b4 22. g×f5 e×f5 23. c×d5



23. ..., ♙×c3 24. d×c6 risky 24. ..., ♙×c6 25. ♜×c3 ♜e6 26. ♜d2 ♙d5 27. ♜c1 ♜g7 28. ♜c2 f4 29. ♜c1 ♜ag8 30. h3 h5 31. ♕g1 g4 32. h×g4 h×g4 33. ♕f2 ♜h7 34. ♜h1 g3+ 35. ♕e1 ♜×h1+ 36. ♙×h1 ♜h6 37. ♙g2

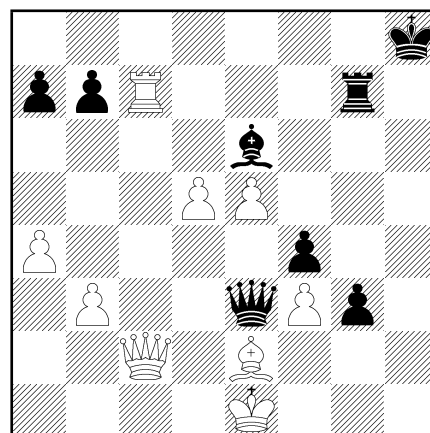
the last move before the time-check

37. ..., ♙c6 [37. ..., ♙e6]

38. a4 ♙d7 going for complications instead

[38. ..., ♙d5]

39. d5 ♙f5 40. ♜c7 ♜h2 41. ♜b2 ♜g1+ 42. ♙f1 ♜e3+ 43. ♙e2 ♙e6 44. ♜c2 ♜g7



45. d×e6

[45. ♜c8+ ♙g8 46. ♜f5 and R×g8+, getting perpetual]

45. ..., ♜f2+ 46. ♕d2 ♜d4+ controlling d8 47. ♕e1 ♜×c7 0-1

It's rare that you get the chance to play the Stonewall and related formations in the King-pawn openings, but as you improve you will meet more players who use this 1.d4 line. They are well worth knowing about, if only to enjoy these terrific games!

Robert Bellin wrote a good book on the Classical Dutch which is now sadly out-of-print; otherwise you might want to consult a book like BCO2 for the latest piece placements and move orders.

The Stonewall has in fact undergone something of a resurgence recently, with top GMs like Short and Yusupov adding it to their repertoire. The modern treatment for both sides has improved: Whites now know about Petrosian's idea of installing Knights on f3 and d3 where they support both White's attack and defence; similarly, players of Black have experimented with different placings of the Bishops, trying out the Bc8 on b7 after ...b6 (thinking about ...c6-c5 later), and also playing the Bf8 to d6, which, if White tries to exchange with Bc1-a3, can be followed with ...Qd8-e7. Now, if White still insists on the exchange, the time-consuming a2-a4 and Nb1xa3-c2 are necessary. With this time available, Black can think about ...e6-e5.

If White hasn't met the Dutch defence before, it's likely they will just play their usual old moves: the London system, the classical system or a Gambit.

The London system *d2-d4, Ng1-f3, Bc1-f4* is just asking for Black to play ...e7-e5, with a good game.

If White plays a classical Queen's Pawn game with *d2-d4 c2-c4 ♖g1-f3 ♖b1-c3 ♗c1-g5 e2-e3 ♗f1-d3* Black can get a good game with normal Dutch moves:

1.d4 f5 2.c4 e6 3.♖c3 ♖f6 4.♗g5 ♗e7 5.e3 0-0 6.♗d3 b6 7.♖ge2 ♗b7 8.0-0 Nh5 9.♗×e7 ♗×e7 10.♖g3 ♖×g3 11.h×g3 d6 12.f4 ♖c6= (0-1,54) *Harrwitz,D - Morphy,P (5) Paris match, 1858.*

1.d4 e6 2.♖f3 f5 3.c4 ♖f6 4.♗g5 ♗e7 5.♖c3 0-0 6.e3 b6 7.♗d3 ♗b7 8.0-0 Qe8 9.♗e2 ♖e4 10.♗×e7 ♖×c3 11.b×c3 ♗×e7 12.a4 ♗×f3 13.♗×f3 ♖c6 14.♗fb1 ♗ae8 =+ (1-0,52) *Capablanca,Jose - Tartakower,Savielly [A40] New York (06), 1924.* White went on to win this famous ending, but according to Robert Bellin, sometime British Champion and longtime Dutch defender, Black has the advantage because of his better Pawn structure.