

□ **Capablanca, Jose R.**

■ **Mattison, Hermann**

Carlsbad Spa

[Hicks, E]

**E38**

**2775**

**2450**

1929

**1.d4** Opening with a center pawn. One of the two strongest opening moves. This one is a favorite of Gary Kasparov. 1.d4 leads to games more positional in style, where 1. e4 leads to sharper tactical games. **Nf6** Developing a piece, controlling the center, and preventing white from grabbing a pawn center with d4. **2.c4** Very common in queen's pawn openings. C4 creates kind of a mini-pawn center. Also it helps prevent black from playing d5. **e6** Unleashing the Bishop and controlling one center square. **3.Nc3** A natural developing move. Develops the knight to its most powerful square where it attacks two key center squares. **Bb4** Exerting indirect pressure on the center by PINNING the knight that controls the center. **4.Qc2** The safest way to develop a queen in the opening is to move it up one square to a place where it is not likely to be attacked by black's pieces. White plays this move to prevent black from doubling his pawns with BxN, and to focus on the h7 pawn since it looks like black will be castling kingside, and to clear the dynamic d-file for the white rook. **c5** Normal move in these types of openings. Attempts to undermine white's strong center. **5.dxc5** Although white has conceded some pressure in the center, he does get some benefit by playing PxP. The move opens the d-file to white's benefit. Also, black will have to slow down and play BxP, taking the pressure off the knight and slowing his development. **Nc6** Natural developing move. **6.Nf3** These types of moves should be automatic for you by now. **Bxc5** Recapturing the pawn and relocating the bishop where it puts direct pressure on the center square d4 and bites down on the f7 pawn. **7.Bf4** Developing the bishop to a strong square where it attacks key center squares. **d5** An aggressive CENTER FILE opening move. This type of opening may not be good for black who is

slightly behind in development. Generally, opening the position benefits the side who is better developed. **8.e3** Opting to ignore the d5 pawn. 8.e3 protects the d4 square from a possible pawn advance, and releases the bishop which now holds onto the c4 pawn which was loose. **Qa5** A PINNING maneuver...but black would have been better off castling and delayed such a committing move until all the "automatic" moves such as castling have been played. Developing and preparing to castle, taking the pressure off the knight. **9.Be2 Bb4** Moving the same piece twice in the opening. This is a waste of time. Black would be better off castling. **10.0-0** Capablanca knows to castle often and castle early. **Bxc3** Trading his GOOD BISHOP for a knight. Usually not a good idea, but black does get some compensation, complete ownership of the key center square e4. **11.bxc3** White decides not to trade queens because he feels his queen is better positioned than black's. **0-0** Castle often castle early. Again, black should have played this move earlier, knowing he must play it sometime anyway, and see what white plan is before making committing moves like Qa5. Since you do not want to move the same piece twice in the opening, you want to take care to develop your pieces right the first time. **12.Rab1** This is an elegant move. Develops the rook to a file where it PINS the black bishop to holding onto b7. Later, black will have to waste a move to protect this pawn so that he can develop his c8 bishop. **Qa3?** An attacking move when black should be completing his development. More wise would be ideas like trading pawns and then playing Rd8, or defensive moves like h6 stopping white's coming invasion. **13.Rfd1** Continuing with strong developing moves. You can see that white has gained a sizable lead in development. **b6** Again a non-developing move, but necessary for black to develop his c8 bishop. In bad positions arise bad moves. **14.cxd5** With a big lead in development, and all of his pieces developed, white begins an attack. The first move is meant to lure the defensive black knight on f6 away from the king where the

