



This is a guide that comes with the video course "The London System".

*We highly recommend you first watch the video series before completing these exercises.
To watch the videos, click [here](#).*

The London System is a chess opening that usually arises after 1.d4 and 2.Bf4, or 2.Nf3 and 3.Bf4. It is a "system" opening that can be used against virtually any black defense and thus comprises a smaller body of opening theory than many other openings.

The London is a set of solid lines where after 1.d4 White quickly develops his dark-squared bishop to f4 and normally bolsters his center with pawns on c3 and e3 rather than expanding. Although it has the potential for a quick kingside attack, the white forces are generally flexible enough to engage in a battle anywhere on the board. Historically it developed into a system mainly from three variations:

- 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4
- 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4
- 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4

"There is one opening that shines above all others when comparing reward payout to the input effort," says Zhigen Lin. "It is relatively quick to learn and obscure enough that even titled opponents may not have a proper antidote lined up." He is - of course - talking about the London System, popularized by the London BCF Congress Tournament of 1922.

Learning the London system is not hard, and it can be an essential arrow in your quiver!

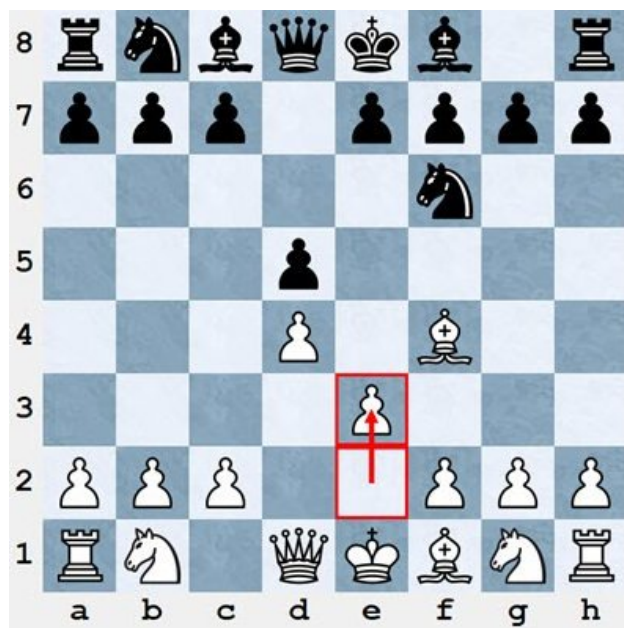
All you need is a set of videos by an experienced GM and, of course, a lot of practice!



Damian Lemos became a chess Grandmaster at 18 and won the Gold Medal at the Pan-American Games U-20 in Colombia. Damian is an active player: he participated in the Gibraltar Open this year. He is well-known for his video series, which are famous for clarity, being to the point and indicated for beginners and intermediate players.

In this series, GM Lemos offers you his point of view on the London System, and watching the videos will bring you to the next level!

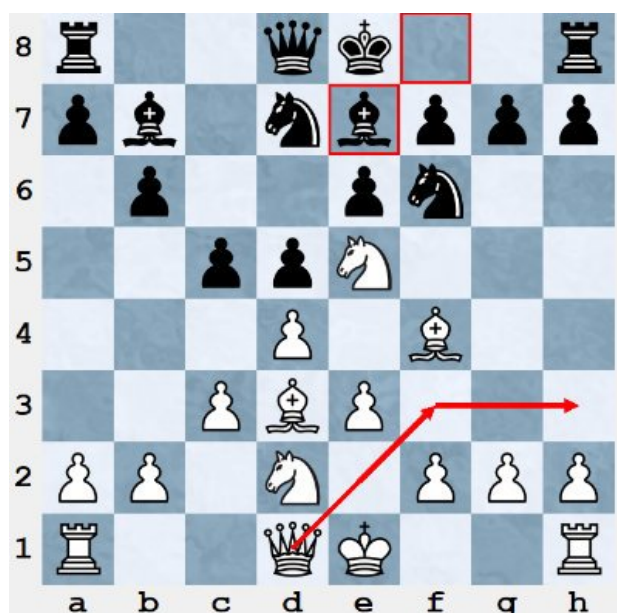
Video 1 - The importance of move order



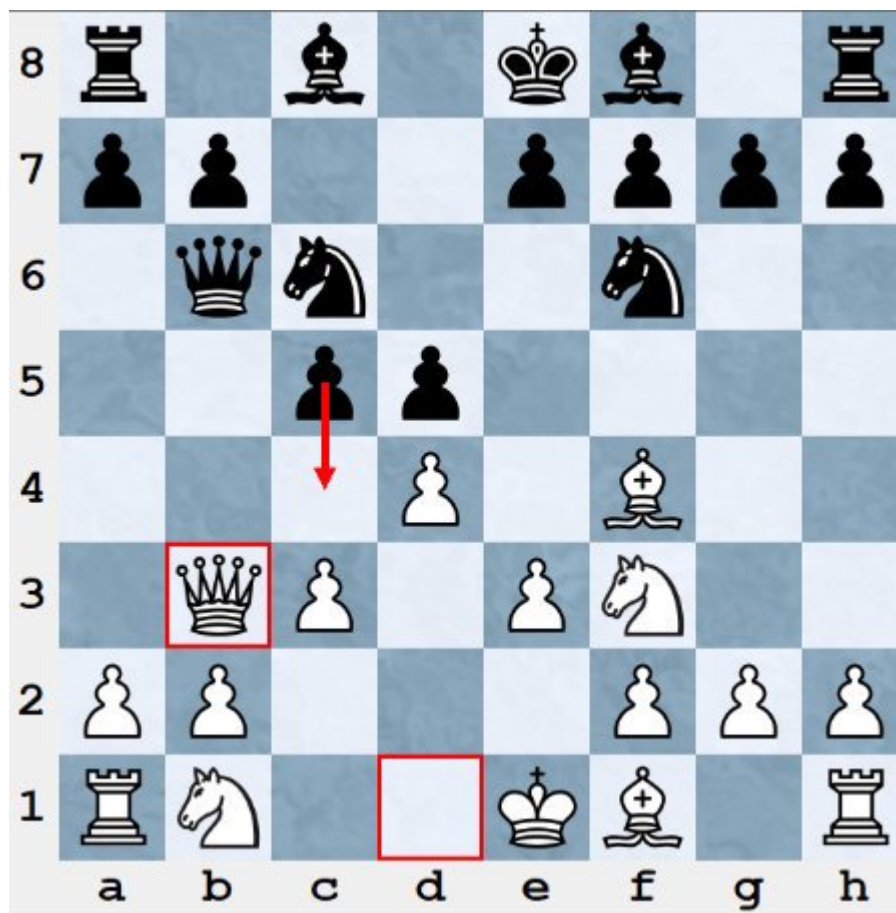
In this first chapter, GM Lemos shows us the importance of move-order in the London System. For this purpose, Damian uses the game Terentiev-Donchenko.

In the game, Terentiev plays 3. e3, and this leads to some early choices to be made by both colors.

Damian shows us how important it is to play an early Nd2 as White, and then the game becomes an attacking model where White plays an aggressive **Qf3-Qh3!**



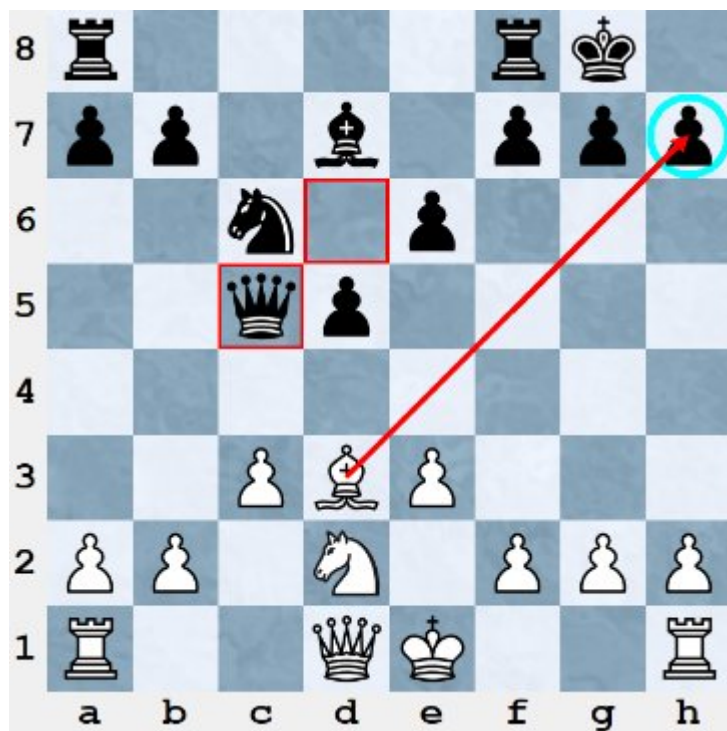
Video 2 - Queen against Queen Confrontation



In the second chapter, GM Lemos starts analyzing some positional situation in the game Kamsky vs. Shankland, played in Sturbridge, in 2014.

Damian shows us more tricks in the all-important move-order during the opening, and then then the typical Queen against Queen Confrontation on the b file (see pic.) and how to assess the out coming positions.

Video 3 - In the Center of the Action!



In video 3, GM Lemos brings us in the center of the action! Here we see one of the greatest sacrifices in the London system, and it happens after a quiet line by both sides. Your opponents won't see it coming!

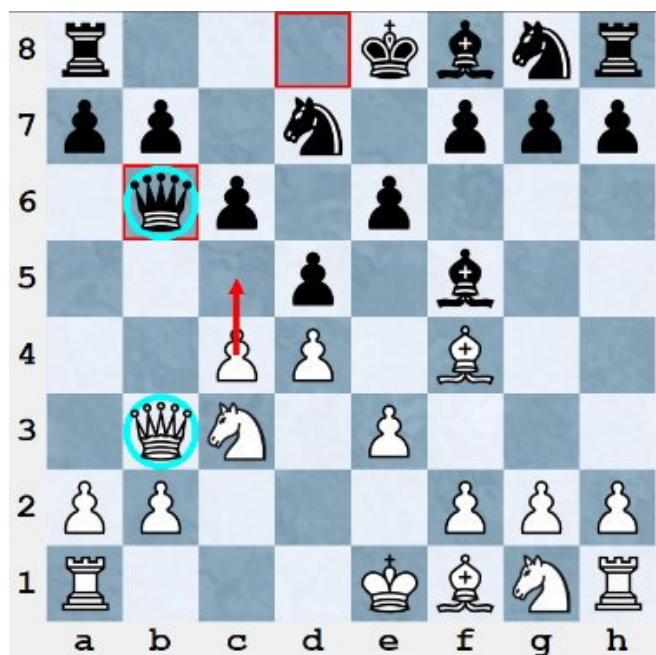
After the sac - that must be done at the right moment! - a couple of amazing "quiet" moves leads White to a won position.

Watch the video, and Go to the [Learning Center](#) to do quizzes!

Video 4 - The London System in Slav Structures

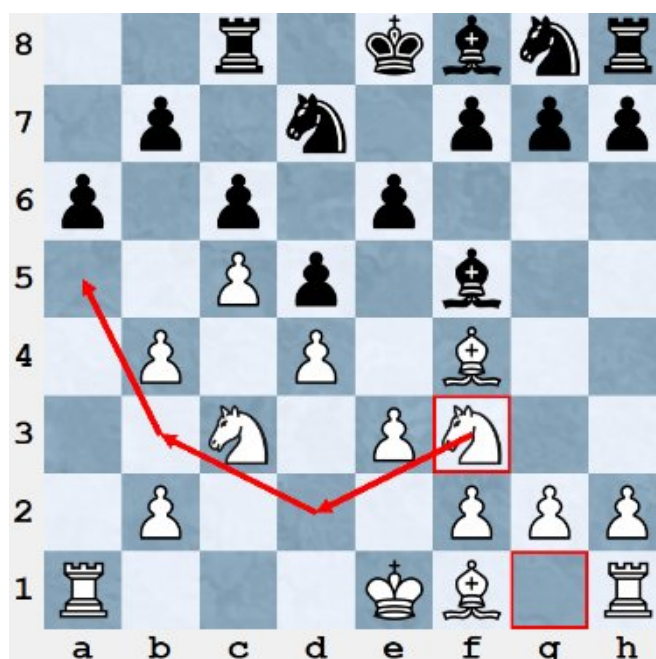
In this 4th video, by analyzing the game Grischuk vs. Bartel, GM Damian shows us how to use the London system in a Slav Structure, where the Bishop in f4 is incredibly well-placed.

Once again we see the Queen's confrontation on the b file:



which is an important positional factor worth studying.

The Nf3-d2-b3-a5 maneuver is going to give you a lot of points as white!

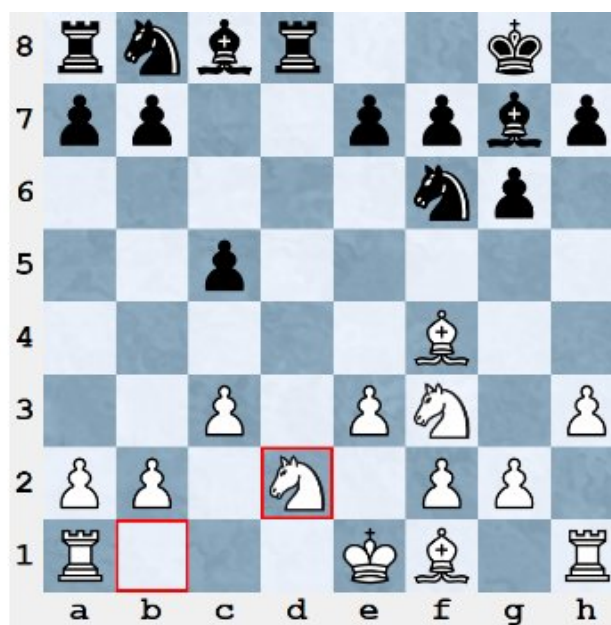
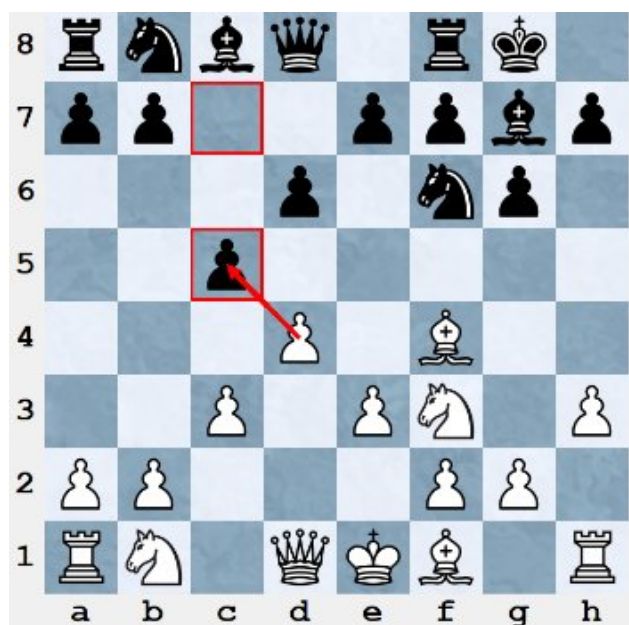


Video 5 - How to play the pre-endgame as White

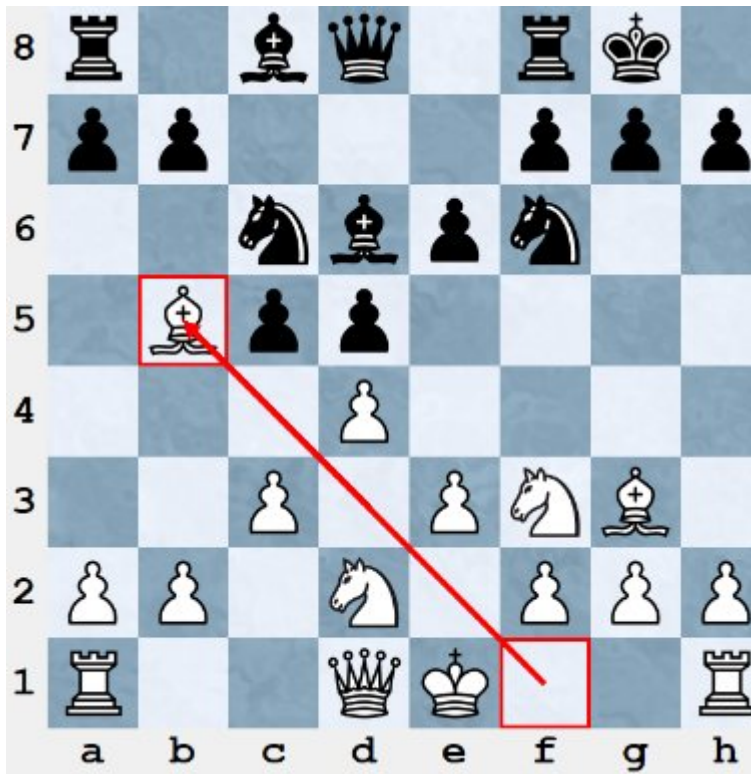
Video 5 brings us more of the positional battle, by analyzing the game **Kamsky** (a leading expert on the London system) **vs. Gurevich**.

Black fights against the Nd2-b3-a5 idea but the price is huge: he has to give away a bishop with Be7-Bd8 and Bxa5.

Video 5 shows us a model of how to play the pre-endgame as White.



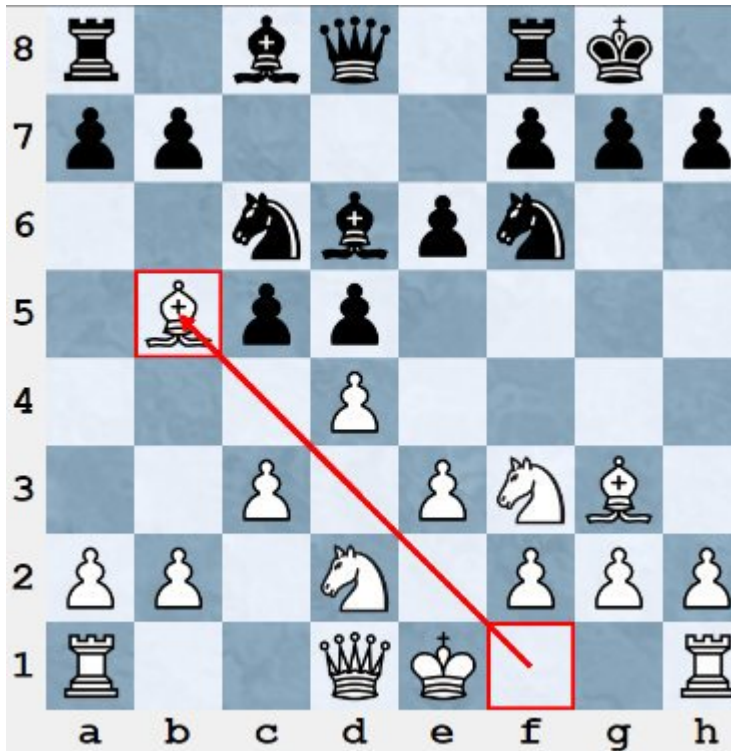
Video 6 – A New Idea in the London: 8.Bb5!?



In video 6 GM Damian analyzes a game played by the World Champion Magnus Carlsen, to show a new idea in the opening: 8.Bb5!?

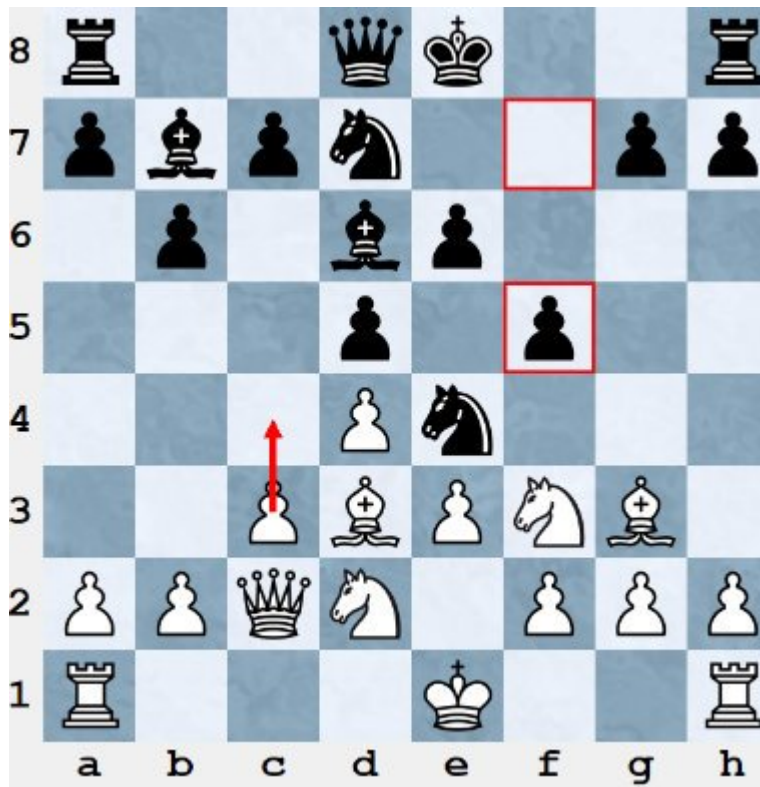
Video 7 - Deep into the line 8.Bb5!?

In the seventh chapter, GM Lemos analyzes another game played by the great Carlsen, to go deep into the line with 8.Bb5!?



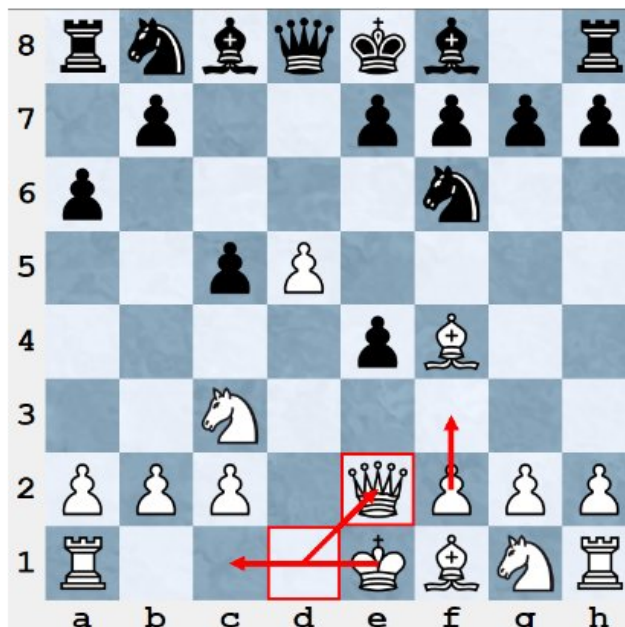
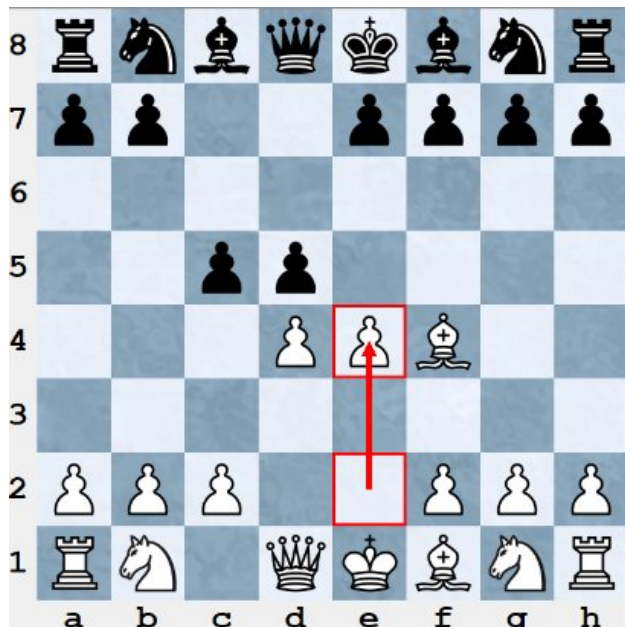
Video 8 – Castle Delay

Analyzing fresh games is the best thing we can do in order to understand the London system. The game starts in a positional fashion, but all of a sudden White fires an unstoppable attack, when he plays c4 we can see how smart it was to keep the king on e1 for a while!



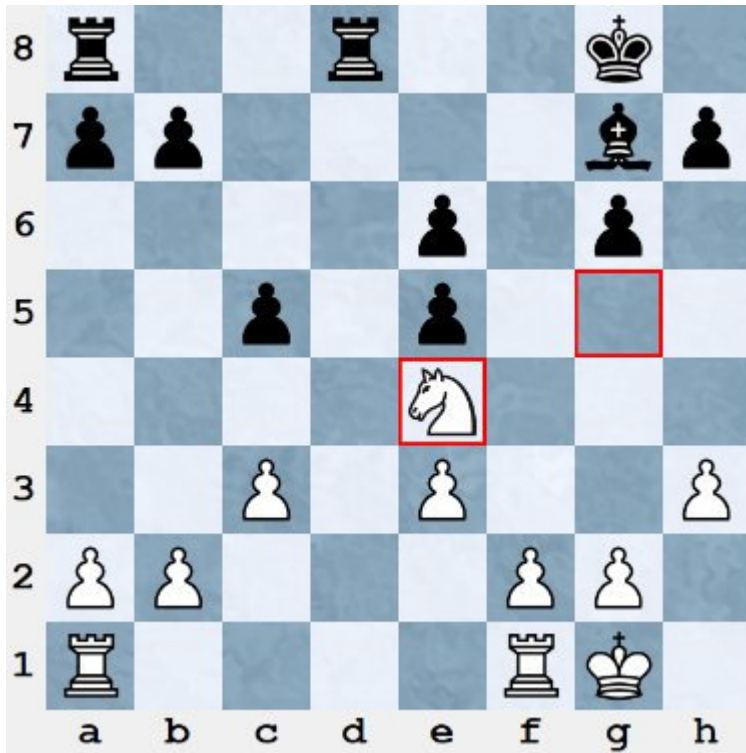
Video 9 – Aggressive Gambit!

In this chapter, we see how aggressive the London system can be. 1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 c5 3.e4! is an interesting gambit that's even stronger if our opponents are not prepared for it!



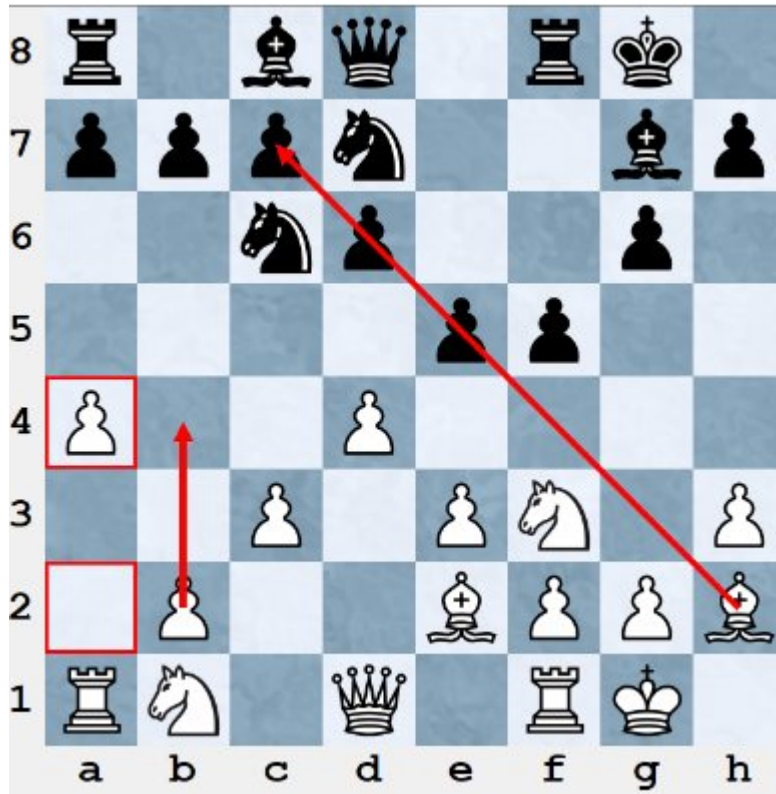
Video 10 – King’s Indian Systems

In this chapter, we start analyzing Kings Indian systems, and there's no better way to start by analyzing a classic between Alekhine and Euwe. If Euwe was capable of falling into a bad position like this one, we could state the London has great potential!



Video 11 – How to face Black’s aggressiveness in the King’s Indian

In this chapter, we see how to face of the most aggressive plans Black has in the Kings Indian: Nc6-Nd7 e5/f5. We'll also understand how valuable Bh2 is, for attacking/defense purposes.



Video 12 and 13 - The London pre-endgame

We are going to examine two model games played by GM Kamsky. We don't want to give any spoilers here, watch the videos!

