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CHESS COMPUTERS - NEWS SHEET 1  
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Dear Friends,

I am sending this NEWS SHEET to all SUPPLIERS, RETAILERS and PERSONAL CONTACTS with whom I have been in touch in one way or another concerning CHESS COMPUTERS sold or owned by them. All of the Information which I have received from you has been very much appreciated and proved most helpful; and I hope that one of the outcomes of this NEWS SHEET will be continuing incoming supplies of Information to keep future NEWS SHEETS properly up-to-date. Also, if you know of any other owners who may be interested either to read this or supply information/statistics, then I will gladly send copies of this first set of News Sheets on receipt of address and stamp for postage.

Let me right at the outset affirm my neutrality in these matters! I have no commercial interests at all and my purpose in writing to you and issuing this NEWS SHEET is simply due to a desire to obtain and release accurate Information about CHESS COMPUTERS and their ABILITIES/RATINGS. This seems to be done carefully in the U.S.A and parts of Europe and I believe an independent NEWS SHEET will appeal to many owners and would-be owners in Britain as well. I am particularly keen to obtain Results and Information from owners concerning the performances of the Machines as purchased!

As well as sending the NEWS SHEET to my current corresponders I am also proposing to send some to CHESS and BRITISH CHESS MAGAZINE to make an 'appeal' through them for owners elsewhere to also send me any results/scores which they have. In addition I am in touch with the European Branch of the INTERNATIONAL CHESS COMPUTER ASSOCIATION and believe that the total of incoming information should enable a Reliable and up-to-date ELO RATING System for Chess Computers to be maintained and sent out to those interested.

In putting results obtained into my Sharp HOME COMPUTER I have decided that it is not possible to act as judge and jury over the validity of results I am given - I will trust my correspondents! I am already advised from some sources of the obvious dangers in this but, nevertheless, I am going to rely on my correspondents to supply me with accurate results and to give me the fullest information possible concerning exact Machines, Models, running speed etc. - in turn I propose to issue a NEWS SHEET with little or no personal comment or opinion but rather publication of the scores and one or two positions for owners to try out on their own machines and, finally, a Rating Table based on the ELO SYSTEM for the COMPUTERS for which I have (adequate) results. However what I am doing is applying STANDARD DEVIATION techniques to all the results sent to me and my Home Computer is programmed to provide me with Reliability Figures as well as take ADJUSTMENT ACTION wherever Standard Deviation is exceeded and especially when the S/D limits show 2 or more Machines outside their usual limits! Should it become clear that a large number of results from any one source, private or commercial, is continually exceeding the S/D limits then I will contact them privately to check accuracy. There will be NO mud-slinging within these pages at all. If a Machine (owned or sold by you) has a result which seems low in your opinion then it will be only because the Results which I have computed at that time have caused it. I shall at no time make any adjustments due to personal opinion but all Ratings will be treated in an equal way by the Computer Algorithms with Standard Deviation and Exponential Averaging and Validity checks. If you feel unhappy about a Machine, send me some Results and Games showing what it can do! Let me give an example of what can happen:- suppose that the first three Results coming in for a Machine show 1950, 1960 and 2050 as its Performances. It APPEARS that the 2050 is 'high' and Exponential down-grading will reduce it a little. However should the next two Results for this same Machine show, say, 2045 and 2070, then it would now appear that the 2050 was okay. If anything the 1950 and 1960 figures will be slightly up-graded! Of course all this is assuming that all the high figures don't come from the same source of information necessitating other adjustments.

Well, that is an outline of the procedural system - the MORE information sent, the more accurate everything will become - and that is up to you! If you send in Games Scores or Game positions at any time then these are always appreciated and I will try to share some of them as well through these pages. But the time has come at this moment to give you some of the latest information and results - and this is where the fun starts! I had just drafted the front page when the ICCA European Newsletter came with a mass of most interesting observations and results. This includes the Result of a full Test between the ELEGANCE and SUPER CONSTELLATION Machines and Results from over 80 (yes, EIGHTY plus) Games between well known Chess Computers. All of these will take some considerable time to analyse properly, but I am including in this NEWS SHEET those which, at first run through the Sharp Computer Algorithms, appear to be the most reliable compared with previous Results made known. There are bound to be some Adjustments when a full Analysis has been done though it is true to say, as you will see, that many Ratings are now based on so many Games that a major increase or decrease for such would be highly unlikely. Anyhow, I am going to show my revised Table for the top 25 or so based on the first run-through of the new Information. Interestingly the Swedish Chess Computer Association, who are responsible for these 80+ Test Matches of which MANY run into many individual Games as well, has also issued its own 'Order of Merit' Table based solely on these results. They have issued their Ratings based on a figure for the Novag CONSTELLATION 2 of 1700 which seems low by comparison with all the other figures I both have and have seen. Nevertheless the 'gap' relationship between the various Machines is most helpful in confirming my own findings. Their Order of Merit is topped by (in the absence of ELITE C, MEPHISTO MM2 or BLITZ and CONCHESS 6) - ELEGANCE 1971, SUPER CONSTELLATION 1904, TURBOSTAR 1888, CONCHESS 4 1870, MEPHISTO EXCLUSIVE 1862; going down to CONSTELLATION 2 1700, MEPHISTO 3A MODULAR 1602, SENSORY 9 1592, CHESS 2001 1545, SUPERSTAR 1542, MEPHISTO 2 1539. As I wrote in POPULAR CHESS, we must be careful not to over-rate our CHESS COMPUTERS, but these figures seem to be overdoing the caution in view of the USCF Rating Awards given to some Machines and the good results which one or two HAVE obtained against human opposition.

The figures in the Table which I show are a little lower than those issued or claimed from some quarters, but they are certainly higher than ICCA's and I am satisfied that they represent a close reflection of real abilities by comparison with we mortals.

Here, then, are some of the latest Results I have in, each showing the Machine and Model and Score as given to me, and a Performance Rating for each Machine based on that Result.

From BRITISH Sources.

N/Super Constellation - F/Sensory 9/1.5 7-1 (2025-1689)  
 F/Sensory 12 - Mephisto 2A 16½-7½ (1894-1711) F/Excellence - N/Super Const 21-10 (2131-1872)  
 F/Elegance - F/Sensory 9/1.5 11-2 (2002-1704) F/Excellence - N/Super Const 6½-5½ (2 mins per  
 F/Excellence - Conchess 6 3½-2½ (2074-1947) move. 2022-1980)  
 F/Excellence - N/Constellation 2 4-0 (2220-1614)  
 Mephisto Blitz - N/Super Const 6½-3½ (2109-1958) Mephisto Blitz - Mephisto MM2 4-6 (2057-2158)  
 N/Super Const - N/Constellation 2 8-3 (2002-1807)  
 Mephisto 3A Mod - N/Constellation 2 5½-4½ (1860-1710)  
 Mephisto 3A Mod - Mephisto 2 7½-4½ (1795-1650) Mephisto 3A Mod - N/Super Const 3-10 (1773-1965)  
 Super Enterprise - S/Turbostar 1-1 (1974-1945)

Stuttgart Tournament v. Mortals; competing Computer's results:-

F/Elite C	10	2079
Paion 8	8	1993
Conchess 4	8	1991
N/Super Const	6½	1918

Australian Tournament with Mortals

S/Turbostar	4 /6	2005
N/Super Const	3½/6	1937
F/Sensory 12	2½/6	1881

ICCA Test

F/Elegance - N/Super Const 16½-13½ (2029-1941)

Swedish Chess Computer Association Results.

There are OVER 80 altogether; this initial Selection is of 3 or 4 For each of the major Machines in the Tests and where the Results is 50% or more within Standard Deviation.

F/Elegance - S/Turbostar 6½-5½ (1996-1947)	F/Elegance - F/Sensory 12 5-2 (2032-1809)
F/Elegance - Mephisto Exclusive S 5½-3½ (1995-1892)	
N/Super Const - F/Elegance 11-9 (2021-1949)	N/Super Const - Conchess 4 36½-35½ (1996-1983)
S/Turbostar - N/Super Const 10-9 (2010-1953)	S/Turbostar - N/Constellation 3.6 6-4 (1961-1894)
Conchess 4 - N/Constellation 2 7-2 (2042-1768)	Conchess 4 - F/Elegance 4-6 (1901-2070)
Conchess 4 - S/Turbostar 9½-11½ (1936-2028)	
Meph Exclusive S - N/Const 3.6 7-5 (1948-1840)	Meph Exclusive S - Conchess 2 1-1 (1913-1906)
Conchess 2 - F/Prestige 3½-3½ (1917-1913)	Conchess 2 - F/Sensory 12 15-15 (1861-1913)
F/Prestige - N/Const 2 78-41 (1944-1792)	F/Prestige - GGM + Steinitz 10½-3½ (1907-1717)
F/Prestige - F/Sensory 12 14-11 (1909-1869)	F/Prestige - F/Sensory 9B 8-4 (1916-1783)
F/Sensory 12 - N/Const 2 29-21 (1884-1797)	F/Sensory 12 - GGM + Steinitz 20½-8½ (1872-1695)
N/Const 3.6 - F/Sensory 12 31-28 (1881-1861)	N/Const 3.6 - N/Const 2 21½-14½ (1897-1803)
N/Const 3.6 - Conchess 2 14½-12½ (1942-1851)	N/Const 3.6 - Meph 3A Modular 19½-6½ (1950-1681)
N/Const 2 - Meph 3A Modular 20-12 (1850-1720)	N/Const 2 - Mephisto 3 14½-9½ (1783-1736)
N/Const 2 - F/Sensory 9B 8-6 (1840-1763)	F/Sensory 9B - Meph 3A Modular 4-4 (1750-1783)
Meph 3A Modular - F/Sensory 9A 13½-10½ (1775-1700)	
Mephisto 3 - S/Superstar 2-2 (1740-1700)	Chess 2001 - GGM + Steinitz 8½-7½ (1732-1709)

These Swedish Test figures were up-to-date at March 1985; Figures will be up-dated and re-submitted for Sharp Computer Analysis as and when I receive them. All of the above Figures have been included as part of the Rating Information to produce the following Table of Top Machines popularly available. The number of Total Games included to calculate the Rating is also shown to give Readers an idea of the Reliability of the figure.

At September 1985 including all Figures held by Eric Hallsworth at that time.

Mephisto Blitz	2075	10	
F/Elite C	2019	76	
F/Excellence	2014	71	*****
Conchess 6	2008	25	NEW MACHINES from what i hear.
Conchess 4	1990	465	SUPER ENTERPRISE. Mnfctrs. claim 2100; other
N/Super Constellation	1989	718	Retailer says 1900+. Few Results in so far,
F/Elegance	1981	203	I am giving it a very tentative 1940 for now.
S/Turbostar	1974	169	
F/Elite A	1935	23	FIDELITY EXCELLENCE also has very erratic
F/Prestige	1917	450	information. One Retailer has it close to
Conchess 2	1912	300	2100; two others have it at 1850+ and 1886.
Mephisto Exclusive S	1906	122	A Purchaser estimates around 2040 and the
F/Elite B	1905	37	Games scores I have thus far suggest around
N/Constellation 3.6	1881	450	2020, perhaps a little more. We shall see!
F/Sensory 12	1860	514	MEPHISTO BLITZ, an 'advance' on the
Colossus 2	1858	28	Princess Prog. (from Conchess originally).
Psion (QL)	1850	?	Has a genuine and outstanding result against
White Knight 12	1848	?	Super Const. and looks to be around 2060.
F/Elite Old	1825	134	
N/Constellation 2	1819	665	MEPHISTO #12 is apparently even stronger; by
F/Sensory 9B	1783	109	6-4. Thus over 2100 and the same price as the
Conchess A=	1764	23	Blitz by Module addition to those with the
Mephisto 3A Modular	1750	141	existing Mephisto Modular gear.
Mephisto 2A	1741	160	
White Knight 11	1743	27	Novag MONSTER - an upgrade and 5mhz version of
S/Superstar	1740	115	the Super Constellation; approx 2050.
Chess 2001	1734	48	Fidelity ELITE 5mhz on the way? No more
S/C.C Mark 6	1726	27	known. Also an EXCLUSIVE \$ from Mephisto.
F/Sensory 9A	1725	398	
GGM + steinitz	1707	208	If information available so far is correct, the
Mephisto 3	1700	97	EXCELLENCE and SUPER ENTERPRISE sound good
Mephisto 2	1695	391	value for money. Purchasers... please let
GGM + Morphy	1686	23	me know!!

NEXT TIME? MORE RESULTS. up-date TABLE plus