.MPUTER CHESS NEWS SHEET 3. December 1985.

Dear Friends,

Greetings to all readers and, of course, my best wishes to you for a happy Christmas.

As a Christian and occasional Preacher, Christmas is a particularly enjoyable time for me and I always hope that others, in the midst of their festivities (and excesses) will notice that it is called CHRISTmas, and be reminded a little of what it is supposed to be about. However – no sermons allowed in CHESS NEWS SHEETS, but do please allow me to sincerely wish God's Blessing on you and your family at this special time of the year.

AND NOW TO THE CHESS NEWS.

NOVAG. Congratulations to Novag for the CONSTELLATION EXPERT's excellent 17th. place out of 400 in the French Open when it scored 8½/11. This included 7½/10 against officially Rated Opponents averaging out at 1879 ELO (this figure is slightly approximate due to having to adjust the internal French Ratings which are different to both ELO and BCF). The Performance Rating for this comes out at 2079 and I think Eureka will send you copies of all the Games for £2. I emphasise 'all' because its a nice change not to get just the wins! Estimated Ratings for Fidelity and Scicys Machines in the US Open are given later in the News Sheet.

FIDELITY. Every Chess Magazine that comes through the post-box seems to contain the latest information sheet about the EXCELLENCE for which Competence seem continually able to find better and better things to advertise. However the results from other Distributors and Consumers are not up to the same high standard. Mike Healey of Countrywide Computers sent me an Informatio Pack containing details of his Tests with the EXCELLENCE and the N.CONST 3.6. The Const 3.6 is known to play 'above itself' at Blitz and Speed Levels and showed itself superior to the Excellence here. At ½ – 1 min. per move their relative ability evened out; then at Tournament Levels the Excellence proved itself the better. These 2 Machines are the best for Playing Ability that I know of at present under £150. The other Competitor in the price range is the SUPER ENTERPRISE which has more functions, is cheaper BUT between 50 – 100 ELO points behind them. I expect Countrywide Computers will let you have copies of the games if you write them nicely and send a stamp.

MEPHISTO. Hegener and Glaser have kindly sent me details of the improvements in their MM2 Programme compared with their BLITZ Programme. Those affecting Playing Strength are:-

The BLITZ has 3600 opening positions, the MM2 has 6000.
The MM2 contains improved End-Game technique.

Other improvements to the Programme are the inclusion of a Position Evaluation function, Chess clock with move counter, Analysis demonstration to 5-ply.

After telling you this you will wonder what on earth I am doing when you get to my actual Rating List for the BLITZ shows 1 point above the MM2. I think that the MM2 is probably a better Programme than my Ratings are showing at present but, as I have always promised to do, I MUST print-out my Rating List exactly as my Computer calculations produce. The explanation for this 'anomaly' is that I have recently received a batch of outstanding results for the Blitz from Computer Chess Report U.S.A whereas my Rating for MM2 is based on a much smaller sample of results. Now that the MM2 is commercially available further results will no doubt be on their way soon. Mephisto would hardly have replaced their Blitz prog. with the MM2, nor used the MM2 as the starter-base for the AMSTERDAM if the MM2 programme wasn't the better! There are some Match Results for the AMSTERDAM later in the NEWS SHEET and I am anticipating having an Amsterdam on Test against my own 'top' Machine in the near future. My best Machine is the F.ELEGANCE 3.6 with CB16 Cartridge; if other Manufacturers/Owners feel brave enough to Test their favourite against the Amsterdam then you can contact me; my wife and I can probably manage to put one person at a time up for a day or two's Testing if everything works out as planned! If you're interested and write me, I'll let you know what can be worked out!

RESULTS SECTION

A large number this time with many from the Swedish University Testing detailed in the ICCA Journal, others in Computer Chess Reports from the USA and kindly sent to me by Gerald Murphy, information from Countrywide Computers and Eureka Electronics and (most exciting of all!?) Reports from ICD/America of the first Match Results of the Mephisto Amsterdam!

First of all, however, a corrected Table from the 1985 World Micro Championship in Amsterdam. Since publication of NEWS SHEET 2 I have learned that only the Mephisto Amsterdam 1 was running at a speed in excess of the commercially available Model — this was running at 18mhz instead of 12mh as advised to me by Hegener & Glaser 29/11/1985. The Amsterdam 2 and 3 Machines were both at the standard commercial speed which is 12mhz. The corrected Table looks like this:—

		8	Opps	ELO Perf	
1	MEPHISTO Amsterdam 1 (+60 ELO)	8	58	2356	(-60 ELO = 2296 estimate)
2	MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM 2	7	49	2274	
3	MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM 3	7	48½	2272	
4	CONCHESS 6	4½	25	2053	
5	N/CONST EXPERT Y	4	28	2038	
6	Conchess Plymate Y/Meph MM2	4	21	2005	
7	Conchess Plymate Z/Meph MM2	3½	23	1988	
8	Orwell 85 x	3½	23	1989	
9	Orwell 85 Y	3½	21½	1981	
10	S/TURBOSTAR KASPAROV	3½	18½	1969	
11	Orwell 85 Z	3	25½	1973	
12	N/CONST EXPERT C	3	19	1940	
13	S/TURBOSTAR 440	3	15	1923	
14	Conchess Plymate X/Meph MM2	3	14	1919	
15	S/TURBOSTAR G	2½	15	1897	
16	N/CONST EXPERT X	1	7	1773	

MATCHES

The Names of the Computers are shown first, then the score and the ELO Rating Performances for the Match are in brackets. However to enable Readers to relate these scores with those given in previous News Sheets, the score from the previous News Sheet is also shown.

F.ELEGANCE ' S.TURBOSTAR 6½-5½ as prev. (2012-1952)
F.ELEGANCE ' CONCHESS 4 24½-23½ prev. 6-4 (2011-1978)
F.ELEGANCE ' F.SENSORY 12 11½-6½ prev. 5-2 (1976-1878)
F.ELEGANCE ' CONCHESS 2 8½-5½ prev. 2½-1½ (2007-1903)
F.ELEGANCE ' N.CONST 3.6 10-4 prev. same (2053-1817)
F.ELEGANCE ' MEPH EXCLUSIVE S 5½-3½ as prev. (1983-1901)
F.ELEGANCE ' N.CONST 2 14-6 (1978-1830)
F.PRIVATE LINE ' S.TURBOSTAR 2½-1½ (2078-1891)
F.PRIVATE LINE ' MEPHISTO EXCLUSIVE S 2½-1½ (1994-1892)
F.PRIVATE LINE ' CONCHESS 2 4½-1½ (2121-1792)
F.PRIVATE LINE ' F.SENSORY 12 10-1 (2192-1666)
F.PRIVATE LINE ' N.CONST 3.6 11-7 (1970-1905)
N.SUPER CONST ' F.ELEGANCE 13½-12½ prev. 11-9 (2005-1972)
N.SUPER CONST ' F.PRESTIGE 11-10 as prev. (1949-1969)
N.SUPER CONST ' N.CONST 3.6 30-6 prev. 23½-5½ (2148-1721)
N.SUPER CONST ' F.SENSORY 12 33½-21½ prev. 20-14 (1951-1902)
N.SUPER CONST ' CONCHESS 4 64-59 prev. 36½-35½ (2017-1973)
N.SUPER CONST ' F.PRIVATE LINE 7-6 (2023-1961)
S.TURBOSTAR ' N.SUPER CONST 29-24 prev. 10-9 (2029-1940)
S.TURBOSTAR ' CONCHESS 4 12½-9½ prev. 11½-9½ (2055-1925)
S.TURBOSTAR ' N.CONST 3.6 7½-5½ prev. 6-4 (1941-1923)
S.TURBOSTAR ' N.CONST 2 17-6 prev. 6-4 (2008-1792)
S.TURBOSTAR ' CONCHESS 2 13½-7½ prev. 1½-½ (2034-1870)
S.TURBOSTAR ' MEPHISTO EXCLUSIVE S 3-2 prev. 1½-½ (1973-1906)
S.TURBOSTAR ' F.PRESTIGE 4-4 (1931-1986)
S.TURBOSTAR ' F.SENSORY 12 15½-3½ (2119-1733)
CONCHESS 4 ' N.CONST 3.6 16½-16½ prev. 11½-10½ (1880-1997)
CONCHESS 4 ' N.CONST 2 8½-2½ prev. 7-2 (2034-1779)
CONCHESS 4 ' F.SENSORY 12 19-15 prev. 4-7! (1912-1950)

MEPHISTO EXCLUSIVE S ' CONCHESS 4 7-6 prev. 7-5 (2027-1862)
MEPHISTO EXCLUSIVE S ' N.CONST 3.6 8½-6½ prev. 7-5 (1935-1842)
CONCHESS 2 ' N.SUPER CONST 16½-15½ prev. 12½-11½ (2002-1906)
CONCHESS 2 ' N.CONST 2 7-3 (1975-1762)
CONCHESS 2 ' CONCHESS 4 3½-2½ prev. ½-1½! (2062-1855)
F.SENSORY 12 ' N.CONST 2 36½-23½ prev. 29-21 (1901-1781)
F.SENSORY 12 ' CONCHESS 2 23-19 prev. 15-15 (1961-1835)
N.CONST 3.6 ' F.SENSORY 12 36½-31½ prev. 31-28 (1905-1852)
N.CONST 3.6 ' CONCHESS 2 16½-14½ prev. 14½-12½ (1943-1858)

The above are from the ongoing Swedish University Tests – I have just included for Machines over 1800. I have scores for the earlier Mephisto and Sensory 9 models, also Chess 2001, Scicys Superstar, GGM + Steinitz but they'd fill this page and more up and I believe it is better to concentrate on the Rating Leaders. Anyone wanting further information can write me.

SOME CONSUMER RESULTS

F.EXCELLENCE ' N.CONST 2 11½-7½ (1903-1870)
N.SUPER CONST ' F.ELEGANCE 5½-4½ (2029-1950)
F.ELITE A ' PSION QL 5-5 (1850-1930)
N.SUPER CONST ' F.ELITE A 6½-3½ (2060-1869)
F.ELITE A ' MEPHISTO 3 5-0 (2023-1588)
MEPHISTO BLITZ ' N.SUPER CONST 8½-6½ prev. 6½-3½ (2043-1964)
MEPHISTO MM2 ' F.EXCELLENCE 13-5 (2126-1852)
MEPHISTO MM2 ' SUPER ENTERPRISE 3-1 (2037-1828)
MEPHISTO MM2 ' N?SUPER CONST 2½-1½ (2090-1928)

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The following are from various Test/Distribution Sources (Doska, Countrywide Computers, Computer Chess Report USA, ICD USA).

F.EXCELLENCE ' N.CONST 3.6 3-3 (1985-1939)
MEPHISTO BLITZ ' N.SUPER CONST 11-9 (2030-2010)
MEPHISTO BLITZ ' F.ELITE C 23-17 (2075-1984)
MEPHISTO BLITZ ' N.SUPER CONST 28-22 (20381969) – note: a different result to that above.
MEPHISTO BLITZ ' S.TURBOSTAR 432 30½-9½ (2197-1818)
N. CONST EXPERT ' S.TURBOSTAR 432 2-0 (2254-1785)
MEPHISTO MM2 ' N.SUPER CONST ½-1½ (1789-2238)
MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM ' F.ELITE C 17½-4½ (2245-1981)
MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM ' F.AVANTE GARDE 7½-2½ (2262-2010)

The AVANTE GARDE came 5= in the US Open 6/1985 with 3½/6 earning a basic Rating of around 2026. However as reported in NEWS SHEET 2 its operator did resign against FIDELITY'S EXCELLENCE in a won/drawn position. It seems Fidelity at that time thought the Excellence was the better Machine and preferred it to score 1 point rather than 0 (or, at best, ½). IF Avante Garde had been allowed its draw, its initial Rating would have been around 2075, so I have initialised it at 2060 prior to this result.

MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM ' N.CONST EXPERT 3½-1½ (2190-2052)
MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM ' N.SUPER CONST 5½-1½ (2218-1982)

The following are BLITZ Level scores and therefore not included in the Rating Table Calculations:-
MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM ' F.AVANTE GARDE 22-8
MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM ' F.ELITE C 46-7
MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM ' N.CONST EXPERT 23-6
MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM ' N.SUPER CONST 23½-7½
MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM ' S.TURBO KASPAROV 18½-1½
MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM ' MEPHISTO MM2 15½-4½

The US Open (ie. for 'humans!'. Chess COMPUTER results) :-
F.EXCELLENCE scored 6½/11 against Opponents at 1910 = 1983.
  Excellence was at 8mhz. Therefore 1983 – 135 adj. = 1848 for 3mhz.
F.ELITE C scored 6/11 against Opponents at 2070 = 2106.
  Elite was at 10mhz. Thefefore 2106 – 128 = 1978 for 4mhz.
S.TURBOSTAR KASPAROV scored 6½/12 against Opponents at 2081 = 2114
  Turbo Kasparov was at 4mhz, commercial speed.
S.TURBOSTAR 640 scored 6½/12 against Opponents at 1993 = 2026.
  Turbo 640 was at 6mhz. Therefore 2026 – 57 = 1969 for the 440 4mhz commercial model.

Suggested RATING TABLE, Dec. 1985

	Cray Blitz	2280
1	MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM	2220
	Belle	2180
	Bebe	2180
2	F.AVANTE GARDE	2040
3	MEPHISTO BLITZ	2038
4	MEPHISTO MM2	2037
5	N.CONST EXPERT	2030
	Orwell 85	2007
6	F.ELITE C	2005
7	S.TURBOSTAR KASPAROV	1996
	Psion 8	1996
8	F.PRIVATE LINE	1991
9	N.SUPER CONST	1990
10	F.ELEGANCE	1985
11	S.TURBOSTAR 432	1981
12	S.TURBOSTAR 440	1971
13	F.EXCELLENCE	1937
14	F.PRESTIGE	1930
15	F.ELITE A	1926
16	PSION QL	1903
17	F.ELITE B	1902
18	MEPHISTO EXCLUSIVE	1896
19	N.CONST 3.6	1885
	Sargon 3	1885
20	SARGON 4 ARB	1874
21	F.SENSORY 12	1873
22	COLOSSUS 2	1859
23	WHITE KNIGHT 12	1848
24	SUPER ENTERPRISE	1836
25	F.ELITE OLD	1836
	Philidor LS/2	1821
26	N.CONST 2	1819
	La Regence/L'Empereur	1813
27	MYCHESS 2	1808
28	F.SENSORY 9B/2	1797
29	MEPHISTO 2A	1747
30	CHESS 2001	1745
31	MEPHISTO 3A	1741
32	WHITE KNIGHT 11	1734
33	S.SUPERSTAR	1727
34	CYRUS 2.5	1724
35	S.C.C MARK 6	1721
36	F.SENSORY 9A/1.5	1721
37	GGM + STEINITZ	1708

**TOURNAMENT
40 MOVES/2 HOURS**

Amsterdam

FIDELITY AVANT-GARDE WHITE	MEPHISTO MUNICH "S" BLACK

MEPHISTO Check Mates
Avant-Garde...

	WHITE	BLACK
01	G1F3	D7D5
02	C2C4	C7C6
03	B2B3	G8F6
04	G2G3	C5C4
05	B3C4	E7E5
06	B1C3	E5E4
07	F3G5	F8B4
08	D1C2	B4C3
09	D2C3	C8F5
10	F1G2	D8E7
11	A2A4	E8G8
12	E1G1	H7H6
13	C1A3	C6C5
14	G5H3	E7E6
15	A3C5	F5H3
16	C5F8	G8F8
17	C2B2	B7B6
18	G2H3	E6H3
19	F2F3	B8C6
20	B2D2	H3E6
21	F3E4	A8E8
22	F1F4	F6E4
23	D2D3	G7G5
24	F4F1	E8D8
25	D3E3	E6C4
26	A1A3	D8D2
27	F1E1	F8G8
28	G1F1	C6E5
29	H2H3	F7F5
30	A3A1	D2C2
31	A1C1	F5F4
32	G3F4	G5F4
33	C1C2	F4E3
34	F1G2	C4F7
35	E1G1	F7F2
36	G2H1	E4G3
37	G1G3	F2G3
38	C2A2	G3H3
39	H1G1	E5G4
40	A2B2	H3G3
41	G1H1	G4F2

MATE

The S.TURBOSTAR 432 comes close to STARDOM!

Whilst in Hamburg earlier this year, Gary Kasparov played a simultaneous against 32 Chess Computers. One or two, especially the F.Private Line, got close to a Draw but, before they lost 32 – 0, only the TURBOSTAR managed to obtain a winning position. Here it is (or was!) :-

!	!	!	!	!	!r!	k!	!
!	!p!	!r!	!	!p!	!	!	!
!	!	!	!P!	!	!	!P!	!
!p!	!	!	!p!	!	!	!	!
!	!	!n!	!P!p!B!	!			
!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!P!
!q!	!	!	!	!P!Q!	!		
!	!	!	!R!	!	!K!	!	

Kasparov (White) had just played 37. Bg4 threatening the Rook on d7. He said after the Game that Black had the win in this position but, unfortunately, the Turbostar moved its Queen to b3 instead of a4 and the play went:- 37.- Qb3 38. Bd7: Qd1:+ 39. Kh2 Rf7 (to stop mate at g7) 40. Be6 Kf8 (Kh8 is terminal) 41. h7 Nd6: 42. h8=Q+ Ke7 43. Bf7: Nf7: 44. Qhg7 and Black resigned.

If 37. Qa4 38. Bd7: Qd7: 39.Qg7: Qg7: 40. hg7: Kg7: 41. d7 Rd8 and Black wins.

The Hamburg Chess professional and Club Coach, Gisbert Jacoby, who scored $26\frac{1}{2}$ in 4hrs. in a 1979 simul. v Computers, took 9hrs. this year against a current selection to win 16 – 8. Mephisto got 3pts, Scicys and Novag 2 each and Fidelity 1.

Concerning the RATING TABLE, the Conchess Machines will be noted for their absence. Sadly Contemporary Chess Computers are unhappy with the order shown in my previous Rating Table and want my printed Table to fall in line with their own (i.e. with Conchess Machines higher). Feeling quite unable to facilitate their request I advised them that it seemed best to remove Conchess Machines from my List and, as they have not yet replied and I am keen to get this News Sheet out before Christmas, that is what I have had to do. It seems to me that my News Sheet provides free publicity for Chess Computers generally and the leading Machines specifically, and Conchess are amongst these. However I don't see why I should do anything to promote a group who, at this time, seem determined to write ungenerous and threatening letters to me after every issue. A shame, and I'm genuinely sorry about it and do hope that it may be righted for the next issue. In the meantime, if anyone would rather buy a Conchess 4 than (quoting similar costs and ability Machines) a Mephisto MM2, Novag Expert or Fidelity Elegance, then I will let you have the Ratings for same according to my own calculations.

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CHESS COMPUTER NEWS SHEETS ————— INTRODUCTION

Because of the continuing increase of new readers I felt it would be wise to issue an INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION SHEET so that everyone will know of the basic intentions and purposes of the NEWS SHEETS. That, as Readers will quickly ascertain, is to provide an INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT of the CHESS COMPUTERS' PLAYING STRENGTHS. Whilst there will be occasional comment on other aspects of Chess Computers, such things as Quality, Functions, Appearance, Upgradeability etc. can be examined by the prospective CONSUMER himself prior to purchase by careful examination of advertising material or by visiting a retail or distribution source. However Playing Strength cannot be assessed so easily or quickly and, unfortunately, some Manufacturers claims in this area cannot always be taken as read. Independent work in this area appears to be going on quite thoroughly in the United States and parts of Europe and my efforts are intended to make similar information and rating assessments available to consumers in Britain also. Readers will be kept up-to-date with all of the most important TOURNAMENT, MATCH and TEST Scores as they come to me from Manufacturers, Distributors, Independent Test Sources (e.g. the ongoing work being done by the University of Sweden) and especially Consumers themselves who, owning 2 or more Machines, conduct their own Matches. Results of Games against officially rated mortals are equally of real value.

For my resultant RATING LIST to retain the fullest accuracy it is absolutely necessary that Chess Computers competing against each other should be playing at the same Time Limits, and this speed should preferably be the TOURNAMENT SPEED of 40 moves in either 2 or 2½ hours. Certainly games played at anything less than 2 mins. per move cannot be assessed for the RATING LIST, though it is agreed that it is often interesting to compare the playing abilities of the Machines at their faster and especially Blitz levels. The RATING TABLE is the ultimate end of my labours - the very many Matches, Tournament and Test Results which I have are being continually up-dated by new ones as well as being re-assessed in the light of incoming results. These comparisons and calculations are done by my Sharp Home Computer for which I have created a CHESS COMPUTER RATING SYSTEM, based on the ELO RATING METHOD, but including a full Database for all Chess Computers (including various Main-frame Programmes), a carefully planned Standard Deviation System which both warns me of the presence of 'peculiar' results as well as limiting the effects of same together with other algorithms and helps to ensure as far as I possibly can that the figures which my Sharp outputs are as accurate and reliable as I can possibly get them. We can remember when rating a CHESS COMPUTER that, unlike a HUMAN, it should not be affected by health, tiredness etc., nor will it improve with experience or deteriorate as old age comes on! Rather, each Computer HAS a fixed ability - the task of the Rater is to pinpoint as accurately as possible what that ability is!

May I affirm again that my labours, finding and conclusions are reached quite independently and the output from my Computing Calculations will always be given exactly as it is produced, regardless of what I or anyone else may wish to see or think should have happened. Also let me confirm that the Rating List is based on RESULTS and not on hardware specifications, programmers expectations or manufacturers hopes. Some feel that the latter need to be taken more seriously and that they are more important than the Results obtained by the Machines. Those who wish to judge Machine Ability on that basis are, of course, welcome and free to do so; however, though initialising a Computer with an estimated figure based on such information, my method ensures (through the use of Reliability and 'Experience' Factors) that Results quickly take priority in the calculations - my view is steadfast that it is what the Machine DOES that matters!

Almost all of the Chess Computers available today, and especially those produced in the last 12 - 18 months, are really good value for money - they will provide worthwhile opposition to all levels of personal playing standard (always buy a Machine BETTER than you are, but probably not 'infinitely' better!); opening practice, training in tactical skills, blitz (speed) play, testing of new variations, generally improving your level of play (especially by allowing the Machine to show you deficiencies in your own play through use of Demonstrate and Take-Back functions) - I am a firm believer in them for all of the above reasons, and that apart from the sheer pleasure and fun they certainly have and do give to me and, I am confident, any Chess enthusiast who plays against them.

Finally, there is no specific charge for these NEWS SHEETS - they will come out irregularly depending on the availability of new, worthwhile and interesting material. MANUFACTURER/DISTRIBUTORS can help me by keeping me supplied with full up-dates on Machines handled by them - specifications, prices, results etc; or of course by loaning me any Machine I haven't already got for full Testing and the value (if it does okay!) of independently guaranteed reliable results. Consumers can help by sending me Stamp money from time to time and/or results/position etc. from their own Games and Tests. For those of you who have already done all of these various things, my sincere thanks; also thanks to the many who have sent appreciative comments, encouragement etc. - please keep in touch.