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CHESS COMPUTERS ----- NEWS SHEET 7

Greetings to all readers, both new ones and regulars. It is good to be printing again after another 5-6 week period of testing, sorting and organising the large amounts of information which reach me each week. Many thanks to both Manufacturers and Readers who continually keep me in touch with whatever News they have for passing on to the NS readership which has now reached 80!

In fact this Issue should have been done using a Computer/Word-Processor and Daisywheel Printer attached thereto, but the supposed suppliers of what I wanted have let me down and the various equipment hasn't even arrived yet so I decided I would have to do this issue on existing typewriter and gear. Maybe next time, though I don't think the actual appearance will change so much, it is more the 'ease of publication' for myself... I hope!

Well, it's time to get started. This issue is mainly a results and games issue, but I wish to start off (by popular DEMAND, with a brief look at what I consider the 'best buys' in 4 different price ranges. Quite a few readers have asked me to provide more details of prices to enable a Strength/Price comparison. I have resisted this until now as I believe there is more to the decision of 'What should I buy' than a simple strength/price ratio. Appearance, quality, reliability, functions, upgradeability are other major matters involved; nevertheless, when I hopefully get the whole News Sheet onto a Computer I should be able to simply 'call up' the current Rating List for immediate print-out onto stencil and I will try to alter the Programme for same to include the Data concerning prices where known. Perhaps Manufacturers can keep me up-to-date with their new Models and price changes from time to time in this respect to avoid too many appearing with a '?!'.

A NEWS SHEET 'Best Buy' Guide.

UNDER £100 but over 1800 Elo!

How quickly things change.... I have as many as 6 Machines now to recommend, all coming under this Heading. Readers should refer to the RATING LIST to obtain the current Rating for each Machine, but brief notes on prices are made here. NOVAG CONSTELLATION/3.6 has just had a price reduction to £98 (+£10 for adaptor) and easily beats the 1800 Elo minimum. A press-sensory board (press-sensory usually means a plastic-type surface and the user presses the square with his piece as the piece leaves the square and then presses the square on which he wants to put it. With Machines until a couple of years ago this sometimes required you to nearly press through to your dining room table, but the Novag, Fidelity and SciSys machines I have tested during the past 12 months have all been satisfied with gentle pressure and responded easily). Back to the CONSTELLATION/3.6.... press-sensory with good features and functions. The SUPER ENTERPRISE is similar in price and being press-sensory, has even more functions and can play in 4 different styles which means in some positions you can get it to seek out aggressive moves and then get it to produce a positional-type alternative (or use it on its 'normal' mode which is probably just its strongest all-round). It's Rating is a little below the Constellation/3.6. ADVANCED STAR CHESS is exactly the same programme/functions/speed etc. but is a small plug-in set with battery lasting ages and first class for travelling or sat up in bed! Cost is around £70. A

direct competitor to the Advanced Star Chess is the SCICYS EXPRESS 16K/8mhz which is also a plug-in and has good functions and appearance. Its cost is £60 but it may rate a little lower than the Advanced Star Chess though, in fairness, I haven't had chance to try one out yet. However the Manufacturer's (SciSys have always seemed very fair in this area to me) suggest themselves around 1800 Elo. The Express 16K/8 has an 'elder brother' which is again similar to Const/3.6 and Super Enterprise in press-sensory style/functions and price. It varies from the Express in its name TURBO 16K and runs at 12mhz so will be around 50 Elo better. SciSys indicate this at 1850 but, again I am lacking in any other games info here and if anyone can send me details of scores obtained by either of these I'd be glad. A final Machine under this heading is the MEPHISTO MONDIAL though I have a feeling it is priced at very slightly over £100 at about £110-£120. Particularly nice in appearance with good functions; tests with it in Sweden put it slightly below the Super Enterprise/Adv Star Chess Rating.

FROM £100 to £250 and over 1900 Elo!

I would like to mention 5 Machines in this group - all are press-sensory again with 8x8 LED lights (ie, there isn't a light for each square but they are placed on the horizontal and vertical and you 'cross-reference' them to find the piece the Computer wishes to move. As soon as you have pressed this it gives the cross reference of the destination square. I prefer the 'light for each square' system for simplicity in use,

as long as they aren't so big as to become unsightly. However the 8x8 system is easier to get used to than you might think and some folk prefer it, not only because it enables the Manufacturer to keep the price down as with these and the Machines under £100, but also because it leaves the playing area 'clean'. All these 5 Machines have good functions but I have made brief comment on a couple of points against each Machine. The SCICYS TURBO KASPAROV is, I think, £260 rather than £250, but should come into this section because of press-sensory style and appearance. It has recently been the subject of my NS tests and has performed very creditably (see result details elsewhere). It plays a fine defensive game, also a strong end-game, very good openings and can play a strong attack when it sees an advantage. Its preference seems to be for closed styles, 1 d4 openings, it will often exchange down into an end-game to make full use of its ability there, but I would have liked to see it play a little more actively or sharply in quieter, equal positions. Also I must warn readers to watch where you put its feet! It stained one of my other boards after being left on it over-night! I would also like to have seen help/analysis features which (personal opinion) I believe are important to help the owner if he is hoping to use the Machine to advance his own play. Nevertheless there are no real grumbles at all with TURBO KASPAROV, it's a good-value Machine. The NOVAG SUPER CONSTELLATION must be one of the best known and most-purchased Chess Computers of all-time and hardly needs my endorsement! The USCF gave it an Official Rating of 2018 some time ago and it is a strong Machine in all areas of play with good functions and helps. Perhaps most important of all is the news that Novag has just reduced its price to £260 which does make it first class value. SCICYS has a second Machine in this group namely the TURBOSTAR 432 which was the TURBO KASPAROV's predecessor. Virtually the same as the TURBO K but with a smaller Openings Book and therefore with a lower Rating (and price, of course! at £195). Finally FIDELITY has the EXCELLENCE and here both the 3 and 4mhz models come well within the price limit and exceed the Elo Rating requirement. Perhaps I can say a word or two about the Excellence without too many folk jumping down my throat. When it first came out and on the basis of info. from the U.S.A I gave the Excellence a 2020 Rating. My subsequent mail from 4 or 5 sources had to be read to be believed for vitriol (no repeats, please) but 1 or 2 others also wrote helpfully and all felt I was substantially over-rating the Machine. On the basis of this and with a couple of (very) small sample Results, I reduced the Excellence/3 to 1930, noting that others still felt this to be too high and were suggesting under 1900. Now I don't know if the Excellence/3 that first came into the country and the Excellence/3 and 4 now being sold are exactly the same; whether the first few had a programme error or something I just don't know; but I do note that the Results currently coming in from various European sources (eg. see the Swedish Rating list later in this NS for a shock!) indicate that the Excellence is getting some very good results, especially considering its price of £150 for the 3mhz and £200 for the 4. Please don't misunderstand me..... I am not saying that the Excellence is necessarily a better buy than the 3 Machines already mentioned above... but I do think it should come into consideration in this Price/Rating range. I have received quite a few results for the

Excellence recently and, whilst I will not pretend that my original 2020 figure has proved right, I certainly believe I went too low when I dropped it to 1930 and regulars will not a steady climb up since then. Indeed the 2020 figure may well apply to the 4mhz version. Can I ask readers with Excellences... please keep results coming to me and let's find out as near as we can what this range of Machines should be. Perhaps if you could advise re your date of purchase when sending results and I'll try to keep a track of that info. and see if it brings anything interesting up. Anyway, the Excellence is press-sensory with a small Openings Book but sharp in playing style and has good functions/helps.

F R O M £250 to £500 and over 2000 Elo.

In this section we are progressing to wooden boards and auto-sensory moving system (ie. you lift the piece and put it straight onto its new square as you would playing a human. LEDs are on every square and the Machine shows its move by flashing the from and to squares and you just move the piece for it. All in this range have good functions, the Elegance less than the others because it cannot replay a full game, and the Mephisto more in that its method of advising its analysis and rating of the position is built-in via its LED system when you open its draw (most Computers use the flashing LEDs on the board and a range of buttons on the side of the board to obtain function info., the Mephisto has a draw which you can keep closed or open up and info. is gained via that. The Novag and Fidelity machines require a Home Computer or Printer to obtain just a couple of its extra functions. NOVAG CONSTELLATION EXPERT is an improved programme based on the Super Constellation. Novag indicates that the Expert plays about 50 Elo above the Super C; some Readers have written me feeling the improvement is greater but from my tests I would rather stay around +50. A fine board, nice felted men; I would have personally preferred it if the hint mode could be switched on or off for a game's duration whereas you must press it (beep beep) every move to obtain a hint. Also forward analysis can only be obtained by moving the pieces though you can of course take them all back afterwards to continue from your base position. Otherwise its full marks for appearance, size (12½" x 12½" play surface), quality, functions etc. The cost is £430 which is good value for quality. The MEPHISTO MM2 scores similarly, certainly in the Mephisto mid-range Exclusive S board. Cost is from £330, but that is for the cheaper board, though it is still auto-sensory and has full functions. For the wood board at 13"x13" you need to pay a price similar to that of the Expert. The Openings Book is not so substantial at all as that in the Expert, but you can buy an extra Module to put this right, though that puts the price right on the edge of my £500 limit for this section, and to get the MM2 in Mephisto's best quality board, the Munich, would go quite a bit beyond it. I have the Exclusive S Board with my Amsterdam (the MM2 owner can up-date to the Amsterdam for £600 if he wishes and has a nice Bank Manager!) and it is a quality board as is the Expert. The Mephisto magnetics for the pieces are absolutely first-rate, especially in speed games when you want to put the pieces down quickly as the board seems to

recognise a piece's arrival however inaccurately you have planked it on its square. The pieces are not quite as large as those on the Expert but are again felted and represent a quality acquisition. The CONCHESS/4 and the FIDELITY ELEGANCE/3.6 are both being placed in this Section though I think both just miss out on the 2000 Elo Rating, though they come pretty close. Both make it on the price and the Elegance goes over 2000 if you buy a CB9 or CB16 Openings Book Cartridge for it, though you get a bit close to the £500 then! The Elegance is 10" x 10" Playing Surface and the pieces are equally smaller and not felted so the quality is not so good as the 2 previous Machines. The Conchess/4 is (like the Mephisto) available in 3 different Board qualities and prices go from around £400, then £460 approx. for the medium-sized wood board. Conchess may have a Machine which both fits into the Price and Strength bracket here in the PLYMATE/4. It certainly makes it for Strength being the same Programme as that in the MEPHISTO MM2 referred to above. However I'm not sure how the prices work out; the cheaper board will be under £500 but I'm not sure if their medium-range one (ie. wood) is just under or just over the £500.

£500-£1250 and over 2100 Elo.

The MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM is the only Machine which, to my knowledge, certainly qualifies on both accounts in this Section. Board style/size, functions etc are exactly the same as for the MM2, it's 'just' a different Programme Cartridge operating, these being easily user-replaceable if/when you up-date). So quality is high again, but so is the price from around £900+ and just over £1000 if you want the wooden board of the Exclusive S. Quite a few of my NS Readers have the Amsterdam. Of these just 2 feel a Rating around 2150 may be more accurate. Most are around 2200-2250 which is the range

I would certainly go along with for this Machine. In the Swedish Rating List you will see they have it even higher but again I would be happier to stick with my own Rating List which already shows this to have a high ability. It's value in analysis and ability to give positional evaluations for 2nd, 3rd, 4th best moves etc is, in my view, most appealing and useful and, in spite of its price, I cannot really recommend it too highly. FIDELITY has the AVANT GARDE programme in its top ELITE Board now. The 'standard' model runs at 5mhz and is below the 2100 but will be very close to that with CB9 or CB16 Openings Book in bringing the price to around £750 (FIDELITY... can you send me your current Price List for this, please, for my next NS?). I understand there is an AVANT GARDE/8mhz available - though perhaps just in U.S.A at present - and that would go over 2100 though the rumoured price in Chess Life, the U.S.A Chess mag, is \$3000! The CONCHESS PLYMATE/6mhz will again be just under 2100 and cannot be improved as this already contains its full Opening Book. Price guess is again £600 for the 'black and silver' and £650 for the medium wood board... but these figures are approximate as I haven't got Conchess's own figures on the Plymate range. Finally SCICYS are bringing out a LEONARDO which may well qualify on the 2100 Elo (that is the exact SciSys indication), but I don't think prices for same have been released yet. Rumours reach me from various sources (I should explain that the Leonardo is not a 'rumour' but genuine SciSys info) about up-coming new Machines 'as good as the Mephisto Amsterdam and cheaper' and various Readers have asked me about what I have heard. I can only say that I have heard the rumours! Apart from the info. from SciSys none of the actual Manufacturers or main Distributors has given me any indication as yet of any challenge with which they expect to dethrone the 1985 World Micro Champion... Mephisto Amsterdam.

NEWS.

NOVAG has announced price reductions for some of their range; main details already given above, but I understand the new Novag out later this year will be called the FORTE. Its price will be £299 and its Strength could be even a little above the Expert's according to the advert... 'the strongest Novag ever'.

SCICYS has a SUPERSTAR 36K appearing in the Results Section (Swedish Results); I understand from them that it is a Turbostar 432 running at 2mhz, apparently available in European countries but not over here. It is stated as definitely not an up-grade of the Machine/Programme known as the Superstar in this country. The TURBO 16K (which I have at 1850 Elo but require owner's reports/opinions for if anyone can help) is also to be made available with a Kasparov Openings and Games Module and have some extra Functions, but price not known yet. The LEONARDO which I referred to in the 'Over £500 and over 2100 Elo' Section is, in its highest Playing Strength form, to be the Turbo Kasparov increased to 48K with various extra Analysis and Evaluation Functions, running at 12mhz and called LEONARDO ANALYST MODULE. Price unknown but the SciSys indication of 2100+ in the latest info. I have from them could be a short-selling of themselves. The Speed increase from 4mhz to 12mhz alone should put this around 2150-2175 which would be very good if it works out that way.

Fame for the NEWS SHEET! Hegener and Glaser kindly sent me photo-copies of part of the German Chess Computer Magazine 'Schach und Spiele' in which brief comment and a Rating Table from an earlier News Sheet was printed... 'world-wide recognition' was the comment made by them (but I am having the German translated to make sure it's okay!!!). Seriously it was good to find these efforts are reaching so far, especially as I have a handful of readers both in Europe and Australasia and Africa!

Following the HOW MANY RESULTS ARE NEEDED Article in NS/6, another reader, Lawrence

Barlow kindly wrote me with a remarkable (to me!) binomial formula and full explanation for using it to calculate result probabilities. I haven't had chance to get to grips with it yet or put it into my own Computer, but Lawrence confirms that the correct formula as given bears out my published finding exactly. For those who may well be interested, here it is....

$$p^n + (n/1 * p^{n-1} q) + (\frac{n(n-1)}{1*2} * p^{n-2} q^2) + (\frac{n(n-1)(n-2)}{1*2*3} * p^{n-3} q^3) + \dots + q^n$$

Hope I've typed that out understandably - I should have stayed at school longer! p is the probability of an event having a certain outcome, q is the probability of its alternative, and n the number of trial games.

1984 RESULTS. Reader Costas Clita very kindly sent me some really useful information on various 1984 events, some of which I didn't have the scores for. I shall not re-produce them in the NS at this time, but I have included them in my Computations which explains why some of the Machine Ratings may have changed a little although no new scores are quoted for them in this Issue. Once I get everything into my 'new' Computer (here we go again!) then back-tracking over older scores should be much easier. I haven't actually gone back to the 'beginning' and re-worked all the Machines from scratch as I often do with 'older' results; however there were no major Rating alterations in that area so it wasn't necessary this time. Nevertheless, thanks for the help which was greatly appreciated.

RESULTS SECTION.

I have the full Score Table from the 16th ACM American Computer Championship (initial Table was given in NS/5) and am now able to Re-Print it with Opponents' Scores and corrected Ratings.

1 HiTech	4 /4	17	2422	It has been interesting to read of the interest in HiTech, most of which has seemed to come following the NS/5 Article in January. Each year there is the FREDKIN MASTERS INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT held in which a small number of Main-Frame Computers are invited to compete with a selection of humans of similar/slightly higher Ratings. The Players of course, knowing of the Computers which will be present, are able to make appropriate preparations, and the Computers haven't always managed to live up to their Ratings. The 1985 invite was to the HiTech on its own and the field chosen to oppose it deliberately set at a higher level and all of Master strength minimum (actually 2217-2404). HiTech came 3rd. in this field with 5 1/2/8, obtaining a 2437 Performance Figure!
2 BeBe	3	10	2235	
3 Int Chess Sft 2	2 1/2	7 1/2	2139	
4 Cray Blitz	2	6	2045	
Phoenix	2	6	2072	
Chaos	2	4	2027	
7 Lachex	1 1/2	6 1/2	2022	
Spoc	1 1/2	2	1935	
Ostrich	1 1/2	2	1940	
10 Awit	1/2	1	1779	

TOURNAMENTS in HOLLAND held by Louwmans (6 games between each pair of Machines.... 2 and 3 mins per move)

	MA	NE	FE	TK	MM2		NC	SS6	PP	SE	M3				
MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM	*	4	4	2 1/2	5 1/2	= 16	2142	N.CONSTELLATION/3.6	*	2 1/2	4 1/2	3	4	= 14	1884
NOVAG EXPERT	2	*	2 1/2	4	4 1/2	= 13	2082	S.SUPERSTAR 36K	3 1/2	*	2 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	= 14	1878
FID.EXCELLENCE/3	2	3 1/2	*	4	2 1/2	= 12	2069	MEPHISTO MONDIAL	1 1/2	3 1/2	*	2 1/2	5	= 12 1/2	1853
S.TURBO KASPAROV	3 1/2	2	2	*	4	= 11 1/2	2042	SUPER ENTERPRISE	3	1 1/2	3 1/2	*	4 1/2	= 12 1/2	1846
MEPHISTO MM2	1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	2	*	= 7 1/2	1906	MEPHISTO 3	2	2 1/2	1	1 1/2	*	= 7	1702

According to the Report I have, the N.CONST EXPERT was running at 5mhz and all other Machines at their standard commercially available speeds. However there seems to have been some misconceptions about the Expert's speed which IS 4mhz in the commercial Machine and I frankly don't know if the Dutch report is correct or another of the misconceptions. It would only make a 30 Elo difference to the Expert's Performance figure anyway when you re-calculate it back to 4mhz, but the above Table has assumed that it was at the commercial 4mhz.

MATCHES currently in progress in BRITAIN.

- F.EXCELLENCE/3 v MEPHISTO 3 10-0 (2084-1570)
- MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM v S.TURBO KASPAROV 15-5 (2210-2001)
- S.TURBO KASPAROV v F.ELEGANCE/3.6 +CB16 8-12 (1945-2090)
- MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM v F.ELEGANCE/3.6 +CB16 16 1/2-3 1/2 (2785-1542)
- S.TURBO KASPAROV v N.CONST EXPERT 7-3 (6-2-2) (2210-1850)
- MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM v N.SUPER CONST 8 1/2-4 1/2 (was 4 1/2-4 1/2) (2103-2080)

SPEED (15secs. per move TOURNAMENT)

	MA	FE	TK	NE	
MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM	*	7 1/2	7 1/2	6 1/2	= 21 1/2
F.ELEGANCE/3.6 +CB16	2 1/2	*	3 1/2	9	= 15
S.TURBO KASPAROV	2 1/2	6 1/2	*	4	= 13
N.CONST EXPERT	3 1/2	1	6	*	= 10 1/2

Games Selection later in NS from this Tournament, 10 games between each pair.

RESULTS from SWEDEN.

Before the List of Results and Ratings, here is the Rating List produced by the Swedish University based on the Results from their Tests:

Mephisto Amsterdam	2266	Conchess/4	1994	Super Enterprise	1877
Conchess/6	2069	Mephisto Blitz	1965	Advanced Star Chess	1877
F.Excellence/3	2060	Mephisto Exclusive S	1950	F.Elite Old	1860
S.Turbostar 432	2039	Conchess/2	1939	Mephisto Mondial	1857
F.Private Line	2019	F.Prestige	1939	N.Const/2	1820
F.Elegance/3.6	2019	S.Superstar 36K	1939	F.Sensory 5/2	1788
Mephisto MM2	2014	F.Sensory 12/3	1915	F.Sensory 9/1.5	1726
N-Super Constellation	2011	N.Const/3.6	1913	Mephisto 2A	1711

Some brief extracts from the Swedish Chess Computer Association's accompanying remarks..... "The list has been normalized to the Swedish standard... American readers should add some 200 points. (I have done that, but feel that the resulting Ratings are, on average, about 25 too high - Eric)..... "Mephisto Amsterdam is the new top scorer of the list. I don't think this is a surprise to anyone who has read about its superior victory in Amsterdam. Our belief is that Amsterdam's playing strength is very close to Belle and Cray Blitz, programmes running on high-speed computers.... Conchess/6 is number 2 on the list, but the Rating seems to be about 40 to 50 too high compared with Conchess/4. This may be due to sampling error. (6 cp 4mhz is 57, so the 'error' is only 20 as a Conchess/6 Rating of 2051 could be expected based on that obtained by the Conchess/4 - Eric)..... "Excellence/3 is no. 3. We have noticed that neither American chess magazines nor Fidelity claim that Excellence is stronger than Elegance, yet we have found it is factually stronger".

It will be noted that Fidelity's AVANT GARDE, Novag's EXPERT and the SciSys TURBO KASPAROV are missing from the list and it is anticipated some results for both them and the EXCELLENCE/4 will be in next time. For now I have managed to get some early scores for the EXCELLENCE/4 and the CONCHESS PLYMATE/4 and 6, though they have not yet found their way onto the Swedish Rating List. So now for the scores.....

MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM v F.EXCELLENCE/3 $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ (2204-1957) v S.TURBOSTAR 432 $8\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$ (2116-2084)
v N.SUPER CONST 9 - 1 (2313-1883) v CONCHESS PLYMATE/6 $9\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ (2174-2096)

CONCHESS PLYMATE 6 (each newly Listed Machine will have its Results excluding those in previous group/s)
v F.EXCELLENCE/4 $10\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ (2148-1945) v F.SENSORY 12/3 3 - 2 (1954-1955)

F.AVANT GARDE/5 v CONCHESS PLYMATE/6 $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ (2123-2003) v CONCHESS/2 1 - 1 (1921-2068)

N.CONST EXPERT v CONCHESS/4 1 - 1 (1980-2050)

CONCHESS/6 v N.SUPER CONST $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ (2150-1874) v F.SENSORY 12/3 $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ (2046-1870)
v N.CONST/2 9 - 3 (2021-1837)

F.EXCELLENCE/4 v CONCHESS/4 17 - 7 (2154-1848)

F.EXCELLENCE/3 v S.TURBOSTAR 432 $10\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$ (2053-1865) v MEPHISTO MM2 $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ (2094-1876)
v N.SUPER CONST 12 - 8 (2070-1862) v CONCHESS/4 $13\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$ (2102-1861) v CONCHESS/2 8 - 6 (1979-1917)
v F.SENSORY 12/3 $8\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ (2046-1792) v N.CONST/3.6 $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ (2003-1848) v SUPER ENTERPRISE $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 0 (2036-1763)

CONCHESS PLYMATE/4 v F.ELEGANCE/3.6 23 - 21 (2009-1992) v S.TURBOSTAR 432 $9\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{2}$ (1993-2010)
v N.SUPER CONST 33 - 26 (2034-1962) v MEPHISTO EXCL S $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ (2106-1814) v F.PRIVATE LINE 2 - 2 (1998-2017)
v F.EXCELLENCE/4 5 - 4 (2060-1972) v F.EXCELLENCE/3 1 - 1 (1973-2018) v F.SENSORY 12/3 4 - 3 (1929-1961)

S.TURBOSTAR 432 v N.SUPER CONST 37 - 32 (2021-1957) v CONCHESS/4 $12\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{2}$ (2055-1925)
v N.CONST/3.6 14 - 9 (1975-1910) v N.CONST/2 17 - 6 (2008-1792) v CONCHESS/2 $13\frac{1}{2}$ - $8\frac{1}{2}$ (2009-1905)
v MEPHISTO EXCL S 3 - 2 (1973-1906) v F.PRIVATE LINE 11 - 9 (2032-1961) v F.PRESTIGE 4 - 4 (1931-1986)
v F.SENSORY 12/3 $15\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ (2119-1733) v MEPHISTO MM2 10 - 6 (2124-1881) v MEPHISTO BLITZ 11 - 5 (2173-1836)
v SUPER ENTERPRISE $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$ (1935-1901)

F.PRIVATE LINE v MEPHISTO EXCL S $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ (1994-1892) v CONCHESS/2 $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ (2121-1792)
v F.SENSORY 12/3 12 - 3 (2117-1751) v N.CONST/3.6 11 - 7 (1970-1905) v CHESS 2001 $(7\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ (1850-1893)
v MEPHISTO S $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (1994-1892) v N.SUPER CONST $8\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ (1987-1992) v CONCHESS/4 $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ (2191-1792)
v MEPHISTO BLITZ $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ (2063-1928) v F.PRESTIGE 1 - 1 (1925-1997) v SUPER ENTERPRISE $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ (2039-1796)
v N.CONST/2 3 - 1 (2022-1798)

F.ELEGANCE/3.6 v S.TURBOSTAR 432 11 - 9 (2036-1948) v CONCHESS/4 $24\frac{1}{2}$ - $23\frac{1}{2}$ (2011-1978)
v F.SENSORY 12/3 $11\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ (1976-1878) v CONCHESS/2 $8\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ (2007-1903) v N.CONST/3.6 10 - 4 (2053-1917)
v MEPHISTO EXCL S $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ (1983-1901) v N.CONST/2 14 - 6 (1976-1830) v N.SUPER CONST $14\frac{1}{2}$ - $14\frac{1}{2}$ (1986-1989)

MEPHISTO MM2 v N.SUPER CONST $8\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ (2075-1929) v SUPER ENTERPRISE $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (2036-1819)

GAMES..... GAMES..... GAMES..... GAMES..... GAMES..... GAMES..... GAMES..... GAMES.....

First 2 Tournament Level Games inputting the GROB (1.g4) to see how the Machines managed.

S.TURBO KASPAROV (White) v MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM. 1 g4 d5 2 Bh3 (In a later Game I gave the TK Mike Basman's recommended move of 2 h3 and it went on to win, though the MA won all the other 5 Grob games against TK) - e5 3 d3 Nc6 4 c3 Be7 5 Qb3 Rb8 6 Bg2 Bc6 7 h3 Nf6 8 f4 exf 9 Bxf4 0-0 10 Nf3 Bd6 11 Bxd6 (this exchange helps MA's cause) - Qxd6 12 0-0 Qg3 13 Rf2 h5 14 g5 Ne4! 15 dxe4 dxe 16 Qb5! e3 17 Rf1 Bxh3 18 Ne1 h4 19 Qd5 (MA expected Kh1) - Be6! 20 Qf3 Qxg5 21 Qf4 Qg4! (TK probably expected the exchange here) 22 Nc2 Qx2 23 Na3 h3 24 Bf3 Qe6 25 Ne3 Qx6 26 Rfb1 (HF2 looks best) - Rbd8 27 Kh1 Rfe8 28 Be4 Rd7 29 Nac2 Rd2 30 b3 Qc5 31 Qxc7 Rxc2! (This is very nice. MA had expected 31 Rd1 from TK) 32 Nxc2 Bd5 33 Re1 (If 33 Rf1 Rxe4 34 Kh2 Re2+ and wins; if 33 Bxd5 Qxd5+ 34 K moves Qg2 mate) - Rxe4 34 Ne3 Re7+ 35 Kh2 Rxc7 and won soon.

MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM (White) v F.ELEGANCE + CB16. 1 g4 d5 2 Bg2 c5 3 h3 e5 4 d4 e4 5 Bf4 g5 6 Be5 f6 7 Bxb8 Rxb8 8 Nc3 Bd5 9 e3 f5 10 gxf Bxf5 11 Qh5+ Bg6 12 Qg4 Bf7 13 0-0-0?! (MA had assessed the position as pretty even up till now and in playing this move. He expected 13 - h5 in reply, but Elegance finds a move which gives him a mounting pressure against MA for quite a few moves) - Nh6! 14 Qe2 Nf5 15 Qg4 Nh4 16 Bf1 h5 17 Qe2 Qf6 18 Rd2 Bb4 19 Rd1 Bxc3 20 bxc3 Qd6 21 Kb2 (MA assessed the position at 1.20 in making this move. The FE reply and his 22nd. excitingly increase the pressure, but we wonder if they are best as he then allows the tension to relax with a weak 23rd) - b5! 22 f3 b4! 23 c4 exf3? 24 Nxf3 Nxf3 25 Qxf3 dxc4 26 Rg1 Qg6 27 Qg3 Kd7 28 Qxg5 c3 29 Ke1 Qe6 30 d5 (MA rates this as +0.60 and amazingly in 4 more moves he has a completely won game!) - cxd 31 Bc4! Qe4 32 Bxd5 Bxd5 33 Rxd5+ Ke6 34 Rd4 Qf5 35 Rd6+ Kxd6 36 Qxf5 Rbe8 37 Qf6+ Re6 (If 37 - Ke7 38 Rg7+ and mate in 4 via Kbb 39 Qd6 etc) 38 Rd1+ Kc7 39 Qxd6+ and its all over.

Now an 'appetizer' from the NOVAG CONST EXPERT v SCICYS TURBO KASPAROV Match - there will be more next Issue, but for starters here is the Game with which TK took the lead. Game 7. N.CONST EXPERT (3) White v S.TURBO KASPAROV (3)

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Nc6 6 Bg5 e6 7 Qd2 Be7 8 0-0-0 0-0 (the '!' is because I love to see them Castle on opposite wings - this puts the NE out of Book, TK stays in until his 12th) 9 f4! h6? (Though played immediately and apparently in the TK Book, I don't like this move as it seems to me to encourage NE to play the moves which were best for him anyway. Incidentally I should have commented at NE's 9 f4 that 9 Bxf6 there would have given a similar advantage to the game) 10 Nxc6 bxc6 11 Bxf6 gxf6 12 g4 Kh7 13 Bg2 Qa5 (13 - Qb6 planning Kb8 looks good here, removing much of White's advantage. Perhaps the NE might have played 12 f5 or 13 Bc4 to avoid the possibility which I think TK has missed) 14 f4! (What an INCREDIBLE line-up after only 14 moves. BUT remember this when you get to move 29 and see the note there!) - Rb8 15 g5? (one advance too many) - Qb4 16 b3 Bb7 17 Nb1 Qxd2+ 18 Nxd2 Rg8 19 Ne4? (With this move the advantage goes to the TK which moves in sharply. The Knight on the King wing with 19 Nf3 looks better and 19 - d5 rates -0.50 on the MA scales when 20 Kb2 or 20 e5 seems to hold the game even) - d5 20 Nb3 Bdc 21 Ng4 Bxf4+ 22 Kb1 fxg 23 Nf6+ Kh8 24 Nxg8 Kxg8 25 hxg hxg 26 exd cxd 27 c3 Kg7 28 Kc2 Kg6 29 Rdg1 (Now it is the Black K-side Pawn chain which looks formidable - remember the position and note at move 14? Black is also looking for Kc8 to hold White's King to the Q-wing, and his next move is to enable that. If 29 - Kc8 immediately then 30 c4! when dxc cannot be played because of 31 Bb7. However Black would have 30 - g4! in this line and a strong plus) - Ba6 30 Bf3 Be5 31 Bh5+ Kf6 32 a4 Rc8 33 Rh3 Rc7 34 b4 d4! 35 Rf3+ Bf4 36 b5 Bb7 37 Rh3 Be4+ 38 Kb3 Bf5 39 Rf3 Be3 40 Rd1?! (Played to obtain a moving passed Pawn to keep himself in the Game despite the material disadvantage. However the p-p won't last for long and the continuation 40 Rxe3 dxe3 41 Kg5 e5 42 Be2 Be6 43 c4 e4 44 Kb4 Kf5 45 Rxe3 g4 46 c5 would have served NE better in the circumstances. However a try like this is, in my view, an admirable side of the NE play, looking to create something, encouraging complications and possible mistakes which he might succeed in doing against similarly rated humans. Unfortunately for NE the TK's great strength is his sound defence and it was his ability to come safely through the complications set by the Expert which did most to win him this Match) - Rxc3+ 41 Kb4 Rc2 42 a5 Rh2 43 Bg4 Ke5 44 Bxf5 bxf5 45 b6 axb 46 axb Ke4 47 R3f1 R62+ 48 Kc4 (48 Kc5 to guard the Pawn meets d3!) - Rxb6 49 Rh1 g4 50 Rh7 Bb7 51 Rg7 Re7+ 52 Kb5 Bf2 53 Rg8 Rc3+ 54 Kb4 Kf3! (A very strong 'quiet' move strengthening the g-pawn's advance considerably. The TK shows fine end-game ability but the Expert also defends very well and both display good skill in this department) 55 Rg7 Rc7 56 Kb5 f4 57 Kb6 Rc3 58 Rxf7 g3 59 Kb5 g2 60 Rg7 Be3 61 Rb1 Re2? (It won't matter of course, but 61 - Rcl wins outright. White should have played 61 Kb4 to stop this possibility though a longer look persuaded me that Rcl is very strong even after Kb4) 62 Ka4 Rcl! 63 Rb2 g1=Q 64 Rxg1 Rxg1 65 Kb3 Ke4 66 Ra2 f3 67 Rh2 f2 68 Rxf2 and the Expert resigned! A very interesting and instructive game.

To close the Games Section there is just room to put a couple of the Games from the 15 secs per move Matches. I have selected 5 altogether for the NS but, once again, am rapidly running out of room. I realise that the style of presenting the Games as above is not as clear as the method used in the last 2 Issues, but trust Readers will appreciate that it has enabled me to get more games in doing it this way.

2 Speed Games from MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM v NOVAG EXPERT.

Game 8 in their Match. N.CONST EXPERT (White) v MEPH AMSTENDAM. 1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf 3 Nf3 d6 4 Nc3 h6 5 h4 Bg4 6 d4 Be7 7 Bxf4 Bxh4!? 8 g3 Bf6 9 Bg2 Nc6 10 Be3 Qd7 11 Qd2 Ne7 12 0-0-0 0-0! 13 Hdf1 a5 14 Nh2 Bh3 15 Bxh3 Qxh3 16 Nxf6!? gxh6 17 Bxh6 Hfc8 18 Be3 a4 19 a3 f5 20 Kbl fxe 21 d5! Ne5 22 Bg5 Nf3 23 Qc1 (around here the Game seems to be easily an MA victory, but actually there's a great struggle in store!) - Nxc5 24 Qxg5+ Kf8 25 Nxe4 Ka5 26 Nf6 Hb5 27 g4! Ng6 28 Qf5 Hd8 29 Nd7+ Ke8 (I wouldn't have wanted to take either Machine's place with these complications at Speed play!) 30 Nf6+ Ke7 31 Hc1+ Kf8 32 Nf3 Qh6 33 g5 Qg7 34 Qe4 Ne5 35 Nh7+ Kg8 36 Nxe5 Qxh7! 37 Qxh7 Kxh7 38 c4! dxe5! 39 cxb5 Hxd5 40 Hc1 Hd7 (it's worth playing on - both Machines find some really nice moves before it's over) 41 Hc4 Kg6 42 Kc2 Kxg5 43 Hxh4 f5! 44 Ka7 b6 45 a4 e4 46 a5! e3! 47 axb Rd2+ (only this move saves MA from sudden catastrophe) 48 Kc3 cxb6 49 He7 f4 50 He6 (he WONT lie down!) - Kf5! (clever- the Rook can't get back to the e-file in 1 move now) 51 Hxb6 Hxb2!! (if you didn't enjoy that I should take up tiddlywinks - and the Rook, which can't be taken, behind the passed pawn as well!) 52 Hb8 Hb1 53 Kd3 Kg4 54 b6 Kf3 55 He8 Hxb6 56 Kc2 e2 57 Kd3 Hd6+ 58 Kc4 Hd1 59 Kc3 Kf2 60 Kc2 f3 61 Kc3 e1=Q 62 Kc2 Hd2 and MA announces a win by Mate in 5. A BEAUTY!

Game 9, same Match. MEPH AMSTENDAM (White) v N.CONST EXPERT. 1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 Nf3 Nc6 4 e3 Bb4 5 Qc2 Bxc3 6 Qxc3 Qe7 7 a3 0-0 8 Be2 d5 9 cxd Nxd5 10 Qb3 Nd8 11 0-0 e4 12 Ne1 Hb8 13 d4 Be6 14 Qc2 f5 15 b4 Hd6 16 b5 Nd8 17 a4 Hd7 18 Ba3 Qf6 (MA looks to have a winning position here, but the Expert often caused the MA trouble in the middle-game during this Match) 19 Hc1 Nf7 20 Qc5 b6 21 Qc2 Qh4! (Warning lights should flash for those who know the Expert's fine tactical/mate threat abilities) 22 h3 Hd8 23 Qc6? Qh6 24 Nc2 Nd6 25 Hfd1 f4!! 26 Nb4? (After the Game analysis suggested 26 Bg4 would still hold MA's game together and at equality. Now the NE strikes in deadly fashion) - Ne7 27 Qc3 f3! 28 gxf3 Bxh3 29 Qb3+ Kh8 30 Bf1 (It's this, a Q-sacrifice, or Mate in 3 from Qg6+) - Bxf1! 31 Nxf1 exf3 32 Hfd1 Qh3 and Mate unavoidable so the Expert wins one back.

Suggested RATING LIST, April/May 1986, by Eric Hallsworth.

As indicated in NS/6 asterisks will be placed after each Rating if the Machine's Rating is based on 50 or more Games. One '*' = 50+ Games, Rating Reliability +/- 40. Two '**' = 200+ Games, Rating Reliability +/- 20. No asterisk indicates variation of +/- over 40 is still possible and the figure should be considered 'uncertain' pending further results.

HiTech	2352	Paion/8	1986	37	F.ELITE OLD	1833 *
1 MEPHISTO AMSTENDAM	2205 **	16 N.SUPER CONST	1981 **	38	MEPHISTO MONDIAL	1831 *
Cray Blitz	2198	17 CONCHESS/4	1980 **	39	N.CONST/2	1827 **
Belle	2156	18 F.EXCELLENCE/3	1978 **	40	MYCHESS 2	1812
2 F.AVANT GARDE/8	2136	Advance 2.4	1952	41=	PHILIDOR I.S.2	1805
BeBe	2134	19 F.SENSORY 12/5	1943	41=	LA HEGENCE?L'EMPEURK	1805
Int Chess Sft 2	2128	Awit	1938	43	S.EXPRESS 16K/8	1800
3 CONCHESS PLYMATE/6	2070 *	20 F.PRESTIGE	1938 **	44	F.SENSORY 9/2	1790 **
4 F.AVANT GARDE/5	2062	21 CONCHESS/2	1922 **	45	F.SUPER 9	1785
Nucleus	2062	22 S.SUPERSTAR 36K	1913 *	46	MEPHISTO 2A	1746 **
Chaos	2048	23 F.ELITE A	1906 *	47	MEPHISTO 3A	1736 **
5 CONCHESS/6	2038 *	24 MEPHISTO EXCL 5	1905 **	48	CHESS 2001	1730 *
6 N.CONST EXPERT	2036 **	25 PSION/QL	1902	49	WHITE KNIGHT 11	1730
7 F.EXCELLENCE/4	2020 *	Ostrich	1898	50	CYNUS 2.5	1724
8 S.TURBO KASPAROV	2019 *	26 F.ELITE B	1893 *	51	CONCHESS A0	1723
9= MEPHISTO MM2	2016 **	27 N.CONST/3.6	1891 **	52	S.SUPERSTAR	1717 **
9= CONCHESS PLYMATE/4	2016 **	28 F.SENSORY 12/3	1877 **	53	F.SENSORY 9/1.5	1715 **
Advance 3	2016	29= AVE SARGON 4	1875 *	54	GGM + STEINITZ	1709 **
11 F.ELITE C/4	2013 *	29= COLOSSUS 4	1875	55	CYNUS I.S	1700
Orwell 85	2000	31 SARGON 3	1860	56	S.C/C MARK 6	1682 *
12 F.PRIVATE LINE/4	1999 **	32 COLOSSUS 2	1852	57	MEPHISTO 3	1681 **
13 S.TURBOSTAR 432	1996 **	33 S.TURBO 16K/12	1850	58	MEPHISTO 2	1666 **
14 F.ELEGANCE/3.6	1993 **	34 WHITE KNIGHT 12	1848	59	GGM + MORPHY	1648 *
Phoenix	1992	35= SUPEN ENTERPRISE	1847 **	60	S.C/C MARK 5	1644 *
16 MEPHISTO BLITZ	1991 *	35= ADVANCED STAR CHESS	1847 **	61	SUPERCHESS 3.0	1642

Once again that's it for another Issue. Again thanks to all of you who are keeping in touch and helping with provision of Information for the News Sheets. I do hope that each Reader will find something of interest in this, indeed in every Issue, as I try to help both newcomers to Chess, Computers as well as established 'fanatics'. In a future Issue David Pritchard (author of 'Begin Chess' and 'The Right Way to Play Chess' is going to annotate a game or two v. his Amsterdam to give us insights into its strengths and weaknesses and guide us a little on 'how to play against them and win sometimes!' Until then it's bye for now (and well done, Chicago Bears - which some of you may understand, I hope!)

Eric