

Eric Hallsworth  
West Winds  
Aberdovey  
Gwynedd LL35 0EA

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CHESS COMPUTER NEWS SHEETS \*\*\*\*\* JUNE/JULY 1986. NS/8  
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Greetings as usual to all Readers, both new and long-standing; once again it's good to be "in print" with various News, Results, Games and Rating List. Can I again thank the many of you who send gifts and stamps to help out with the costs - the help which you give me in this way covers nearly all of the 'practical outgoings' for most Issues and is very much appreciated.

My wife and I were doing some necessary shopping in Aberystwyth a couple of weeks ago and I expect you have seen the plaques on pub walls and the like, "old golfers never die.....". Well we saw one for "Old Chees players" in a shop window which Chris bought for me, and it reads "Old (I wasn't so keen on that bit!) Chess players never die - they know all the right moves!". Most of you already know that we are both Christians and I was sat down on Monday having a cuppa and preparing some notes for the News Sheet when the thought occurred to me wondering how many of my News Sheet Readers know the right moves to make sure they never die! Please write if you'd like details!

NEWS from the MANUFACTURERS.

CONCHESS wrote me after News Sheet 7 to point out that the CONCHESS 2 in its cheapest form qualifies for the Section 'under £250 and over 1900 Elo'. Apologies to them, especially as it's the only Auto-Sensory to make it.

FIDELITY sent me the latest price details and the ELEGANCE (which is also Auto-Sensory and with Wood Board/men and nearly 2000 Elo now almost qualifies for the same Section having come down to £269. With a CB9 or CB16 Cartridge in it to improve the openings it also easily qualifies for the next Section of 'under £500 and over 2000 Elo'. Fidelity's AVANT GARDE/5 now costs £599 which is another reduction. Incidentally I am expecting to have an avant Garde/5 here any day now to run with my CB16 Cartridge in it in Tests against the Mephisto Amsterdam. As Readers will see further into the News Sheet there is a wide discrepancy amongst the Results for Matches between these two; some show the MA as being much superior whilst others have them very close with MA only slightly better, so I am keen to put them against each other myself. I mentioned a forthcoming PAR EXCELLENCE a couple of Issues ago and the latest news I have on this Machine (due out in a couple of months) is that it is the Excellence/Avant Garde programme running at 5mhz. and with a larger Opening Book in it than the current Excellence. I hear that the USCF has submitted it to Tests against 40 of their Members and given a Rating of around 2100 about which I'll let you have more details as soon as I have them.

NOVAG's CONST FORTE is due out any time - it will be £299 and I hear it may have a small Playing Strength improvement on the Expert. Novag also have a QUATTRO coming out which is an up-date in both style/appearance and programme strength on the CONSTELLATION/3.6.

MEPHISTO has their MOBIL (a nice-size Portable with magnetic disc pieces and option to have 'normal' pieces) now containing the MM2 programme. News just reaching me from Germany indicates that it will actually be an up-date on the MM2 and is an MM3 Module at 3.7 mhz featuring slightly greater strength and a chess-instructor programme for learners. Mephisto also has a SUPERMONDIAL coming out again featuring improved programming and mhz speed compared with the MONDIAL. Regret I have no price details for these, but I can see the strong-strength portable Mobil MM3 selling quite well if the cost is okay.

FIFTH WORLD COMPUTER CHAMPIONSHIP

This takes place in COLOGNE, 11-15th June 1986 and the latest List of Programmes entered includes Advance, Awit, BeBe, Cray Blitz, Cyrus, HiTech, Mephisto, Ostrich, Phoenix, Plymate and BCP. The total entry already in was 20 and provision for only another 4 has

been made so whether there will anything from Fidelity, Novag or Belle remains to be seen.

The entry list as it already stands guarantees a most interesting contest. I hear that the Cray Blitz will go in on even stronger, faster hardware than ever, but I shall stick my neck out and side with HiTech to win. Since I first mentioned this programme in a News Sheet right at the beginning of the year there have been articles about it in various Dailies as well as in the Computer Magazines. In Tournaments against both Machines and Humans it has already obtained 2 Performance Ratings of over 2400 and I shant be surprised to see it score  $4\frac{1}{2}$  or 5/5. It will equally be very interesting to see how the Mephisto Amsterdam gets on in such company. There is obviously a bit too much luck involved in a Tournament with so small a number of Games, but I expect to see Mephisto comfortably in the top-half of the Table believing that it is capable of sharing points with such as BeBe and Cray Blitz even though I couldn't honestly see it getting anything if it meets HiTech. I hope to leave room for a partially-annotated HiTech game in the Games Section of this NS.

#### More SWEDISH UNIVERSITY Information:

The RESULTS SECTION which follows shortly includes the latest Results from the S.U Tests as well as those from both mine and other Readers. The Swedish University Report has a couple of interesting developments:- firstly they are excluding any Machine for which they don't have their minimum of 40 Test Games (thus CONCHESS/6 is left out altogether in their latest List!); their second step is to exclude all Machines rated below the NOVAG CONST/2 as being "ancient history"! I have an idea quite a few NS Readers will strongly disagree with that opinion! Indeed more than a few of you have asked me to keep issuing the Rating List as low as possible to show the 'ability' of the old Machines enabling all (and especially new) readers to see just how much Chess Computer strengths have improved in the past few years. I also know quite a few Readers still get a lot of pleasure from their 'old' Sensory 9's and Mephisto 2A's etc and not every Reader is a 2000+ Player anyway (and we don't have to be to still enjoy Chess, do we?). So you may rest assured that my List will continue to reach down into those lower regions for as long as I can fit them on the page.

Here, however, are the Top 20 from the Swedish List as at March 1986, with Conchess/6 included at its December 1985 figure.

1 MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM	2203	11 FID ELEGANCE/PRIVATE LINE	2020
2 FID AVANT GARDE/5	2146	12 NOVAG SUPER CONST	2010
3 CONCHESS PLYMATE/6	2117	13 MEPHISTO BLITZ	1988
4 NOVAG CONST EXPERT	2107	14 CONCHESS/4	1984
5 FID EXCELLENCE/4	2099	15 FID PRESTIGE	1946
6 CONCHESS/6	2069	16 CONCHESS/2	1937
7 CONCHESS PLYMATE/4	2050	17 MEPHISTO EXCLUSIVE S	1933
8 FID EXCELLENCE/3	2048	18 FID SENSORY/12	1911
9 MEPHISTO MM2	2036	19 SCISYS SUPERSTAR 36K	1910
10 S.TURBOSTAR 432	2029	20 NOVAG CONST/3.6	1900

Other Machines further down the List but currently 'popular' due to size/cost/portability are..... Super Enterprise/Advanced Star Chess 1843 Novag Const/2 1838 Mephisto Mondial 1829 SciSys Turbo 16K 1713. Generally speaking I consider that most of the above figures are from 25 - 50 Elo too high and I am including a PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS Sheet in this Issue to cover all the Results I have in for each of the Computers rated at over 2000 so that Readers can judge the Performances forming the background to the final Ratings for themselves.

#### RESULTS SECTION

As I often (but not always) do, where a Result is an Up-Date on a previously reported Score, the previous score is shown in brackets before the rating Performance figure. The reason for this is... suppose Machine A (rated 2000) unexpectedly is only drawing 8 - 8 with Machine B (rated 1900); if the latest score has become 12 - 12 I would not want Readers to think that we had 2 separate Results in suggesting Machine B could draw with A. I trust you understand the point I am trying to get at! The up-date would thus read...

Machine A - Machine B 12-12 (8-8) 1900-2000

GGM + MORPHY ' MEPHISTO 2  $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$  1786-1528 MEPHISTO 3 ' GGM + MORPHY  $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$  1860-1482  
MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM ' N.SUPER CONST  $10\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$  ( $8\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$ ) 2103-2084  
MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM ' N.CONST EXPERT  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$  2236-2003 F.SENSORY 12 ' CYRUS 2  $16\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  1877-1500  
F.SENSORY 12 ' COLOSSUS 4 13-3 2125-1627 MEPHISTO 3A ' F.SENSORY 9/1.5  $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$  1861-1591  
MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM ' F.ELEITE C  $17\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$  2245-1981 MEPH AMSTERDAM ' F.AVANT GARDE/5  $16\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$  ( $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ )  
MEPH AMSTERDAM ' N.CONST EXPERT 28-12 ( $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ ) 2198-2048 2272-1981  
MEPH AMSTERDAM ' N.SUPER CONST  $16\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$  ( $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ ) 2238-1950 MEPH AMSTERDAM ' F.PRESTIGE 6-0 2282-1868  
N.SUPER CONST ' F.ELITE A + CB16  $10\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{2}$  1967-1958 (CB16 rated at +40)  
MEPHISTO MM2 + O/C ' CONCHESS/4 12-8 (not calculated yet, result only just in. The O/C is the Meph  
Amsterdam's Opening Cartridge added on to the basic MM2 and worth approx. +40)  
MEPH AMSTERDAM ' F.EXCELLENCE 3 41-10 2221-1969 (in this extra-long Match which is ideal for accurate  
Rating purposes came a warning against 'small samples' in that Excellence won 2 of the first 3 games!)  
MEPH AMSTERDAM ' F.AVANT GARDE/5  $18\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$  2366-1910 (independent West German source)  
MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM ' F.EXCELLENCE 3  $20\frac{1}{2}$ - $8\frac{1}{2}$  ( $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ ) 2148-2042  
MEPH AMSTERDAM ' S.TURBOSTAR 432  $25\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{2}$  ( $8\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$ ) 2178-2026  
MEPH AMSTERDAM ' N.SUPER CONST 34-14 (9-1) 2154-2031  
MEPH AMSTERDAM ' CONCHESS PLYMATE/6 10-6 ( $9\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ ) 2171-2098  
MEPH AMSTERDAM ' F.AVANT GARDE/5  $24\frac{1}{2}$ - $17\frac{1}{2}$  2110-2131 (as you can see, this 42 game Match is producing a very  
different story to the other scores between these two and shown above. Which are the most accurate we  
will try to find out for the next Issue!)

MEPH AMSTERDAM ' N.CONST EXPERT  $35\frac{1}{2}$ - $18\frac{1}{2}$  2164-2061 MEPH AMSTERDAM ' F.ELEGANCE 27-7 2229-1947  
MEPH AMSTERDAM ' MEPHISTO MM2  $19\frac{1}{2}$ - $10\frac{1}{2}$  2136-2068  
F.AVANT GARDE/5 ' CONCHESS PLYMATE/6  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$  2123-2003 F.AVANT GARDE/5 ' CONCHESS/2 1-1 1921-2068  
F.AVANT GARDE/5 ' N.CONST EXPERT 4-2 2175-1945 F.AVANT GARDE/5 ' F.EXCELLENCE/4 11-6 2142-1965  
F.AVANT GARDE/5 ' CONCHESS PLYMATE/4 13-9 2089-2017 F.AVANT GARDE/5 ' S.TURBOSTAR 432  $13\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$  2135-1950  
F.AVANT GARDE/5 ' MEPHISTO MM2 5-1 2288-1828 F.AVANT GARDE/5 ' F.SENSORY 12 6-4 1961-2017  
F.AVANT GARDE/5 ' N.CONST/2  $8\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$  2108-1813  
CONCHESS PLYMATE/6 ' F.EXCELLENCE/4  $10\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{2}$  ( $10\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ ) 2042-2049  
CONCH PLYMATE/6 ' F.SENSORY 12  $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$  (3-2) 2005-1948 CONCH PLYMATE/6 ' N.SUPER CONST 4-1 2228-1828  
CONCH PLYMATE/6 ' N.CONST/3.6 9-1 2212-1750  
N.CONST EXPERT ' CONCHESS/4  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$  (1-1) 2095-1926 N.CONST EXPERT ' F.EXCELLENCE/4 4-3 2079-1985  
N.CONST EXPERT ' F.EXCELLENCE/3  $12\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$  2082-1943 N.CONST EXPERT ' S.TURBOSTAR 432  $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$  2170-1868  
N.CONST EXPERT ' N.SUPER CONST 12-8 2066-1969 N.CONST EXPERT ' MEPHISTO MM2  $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$  2140-1930

F.ELEGANCE The 'total' Results for this Machine are confusing in that the Swedish Univ. has now found that  
the PRIVATE LINE and ELEGANCE are the same Machine (I suggested this in NS/2). They have thus 'lumped'  
the scores for each Machine together and the full list of ELEGANCE results against each Machine not already  
shown above is as follows (the ELEGANCE score and rating shown first in every case):-

S.TURBOSTAR 20-20 1992-1986 CONCHESS/4 32-26 2018-1947 F.SENSORY 12  $23\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{2}$  2050-1824  
CONCHESS/2 13-7 2041-1875 N.CONST/3.6 21-11 2015-1869 MEPH EXCL S 8-5 1998-1902  
N.CONST/2 17-7 1993-1828 N.SUPER CONST 23-23 1985-1995 MEPHISTO BLITZ  $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$  2058-1927  
F.PRESTIGE 1-1 1937-1995 SUPER ENTERPRISE 16-4 2087-1755

CONCH PLYMATE/4 ' F.ELEGANCE 25-22 (23-21) 2025-1993 CONCH PLYMATE/4 ' N.SUPER CONST  $35\frac{1}{2}$ - $26\frac{1}{2}$  (33-26)  
CONCH PLYMATE/4 ' MEPH EXCL S  $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$  2106-1814 2043-1961  
CONCH PLYMATE/4 ' F.EXCELLENCE/3 10-8 (1-1) 2023-1975  
CONCH PLYMATE/4 ' F.SENSORY 12 10-10 (4-3) 1880-2020  
F.EXCELLENCE/3 ' S.TURBOSTAR 432 15-10 ( $10\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$ ) 2070-1901  
F.EXCELLENCE/3 ' N.SUPER CONST  $51\frac{1}{2}$ - $37\frac{1}{2}$  (12-8) 2035-1930  
F.EXCELLENCE/3 ' CONCHESS/4  $14\frac{1}{2}$ - $10\frac{1}{2}$  ( $13\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$ ) 2041-1928 and ' CONCHESS/2 13-9 (8-6) 1992-1920  
F.EXCELLENCE/3 ' S.SUPERSTAR 36K  $13\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$  2053-1854  
F.EXCELLENCE/4 ' CONCHESS 4 17-7 (17-7) 2154-1848 and ' CONCH PLYMATE/4 15-14 (4-5) 2027-2027  
F.EXCELLENCE/4 ' S.TURBOSTAR 432  $18\frac{1}{2}$ - $13\frac{1}{2}$  2052-1977 F.EXCELLENCE/4 ' F.ELEGANCE 3-1 2199-1841  
F.EXCELLENCE/4 ' N.SUPER CONST 9-5 2086-1928 F.EXCELLENCE/4 ' MEPHISTO MM2  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$  2067-1995  
F.EXCELLENCE/4 ' MEPHISTO BLITZ  $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$  1990-2045 F.EXCELLENCE/4 ' N.CONST/3.6 11-1 2223-1710  
F.EXCELLENCE/4 ' SUPER ENTERPRISE  $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$  2042-1847  
S.TURBOSTAR 432 ' CONCH PLYMATE/6 4-3 2128-1931 S.TURBOSTAR 432 ' N.SUPER CONST  $42\frac{1}{2}$ - $36\frac{1}{2}$  (37-32)  
S.TURBOSTAR 432 ' MEPHISTO BLITZ  $16\frac{1}{2}$ - $11\frac{1}{2}$  (11-5) 2065-1919 2000-1961  
S.TURBOSTAR 432 ' MEPHISTO MM2  $11\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$  (10-6) 2065-1919  
N.SUPER CONST ' MEPHISTO BLITZ 35-32 ( $23\frac{1}{2}$ - $20\frac{1}{2}$ ) 2009-1953  
N.SUPER CONST ' MEPHISTO MONDIAL 10-4 ( $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ ) 2005-1798

CONCHESS/4 ' SUPER ENTERPRISE 5½-4½ 1882-1937  
 S.SUPERSTAR 36K ' CONCHESS/4 2½-1½ 2075-1800 and ' CONCHESS/2 7-5 1986-1835  
 S.SUPERSTAR 36K ' N.CONST/2 11-9 1866-1866 and ' S.TURBO 16K 15-5 2027-1703  
 N.CONST/3.6 ' MEPHISTO MONDIAL 12½-7½ (5½-2½) 1932-1785 and ' S.TURBO 16K 16-4 2026-1645  
 SUPER ENTERPRISE ' MEPHISTO MONDIAL 11½-8½ (9-5) 1895-1784 and ' S.TURBO 16K 8-8 1755-1844  
 MEPHISTO MONDIAL ' S.SUPERSTAR 36K 12½-11½ (3½-2½) 1921-1825 and ' S.TURBO 16K 15½-10½ 1846-1765  
 N.CONST/2 ' SUPER ENTERPRISE 13½-6½ 1980-1689 and ' MEPHISTO MONDIAL 13-7 1963-1716  
 N.CONST/2 ' S.TURBO 16K 16-4 2008-1602

Well, that should be more than enough for Readers to digest for this Issue. Please do keep your Results coming in even if they seem insignificant to you I assure you that they are all genuinely useful, even more so if you can enclose Game Scores for me to look through. When sending them, if you can tell me which are particularly interesting it will save me time (especially during summer months when I am short of that commodity) in wading through games of 'lesser interest'! This Issue carries 2 Games sent to me by Readers in addition to some from my own Tests and the HiTech game already mentioned.

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### GAMES and MACHINE/MATCH REPORTS

I'll take the risk of starting off with the HiTech game and some cheeky annotations. I say 'cheeky' because both HiTech and his opponent, a Charles Nowe rated 2262, are much better at the Game than I. Nevertheless with the help of my Amsterdam I hope I can do the Game some justice.

HiTech, which came 3rd. in a field of 9 that was other than HiTech all 'human' and all rated over 2200, is Black, and Charles Nowe is White.

1 24 25 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 0-0 Nf6 5 d3 d6 6 c3 Bb6 7 Bb5 Bd7 - HiTech seems prepared to develop pieces and delay 0-0 more than many Computer programmes - 8 Re1 a6 9 Ba4 Ba5 10 Nbd2 - I would have liked to see White challenging the centre with 10 d4, or perhaps extricating his Bishop with 10 Be3 before this move - b5 11 Bb3 0-0 12 Nf1 b4! - this takes the fullest advantage of White's last move which removed the 'cover' at d2; it also takes best advantage of the unusual temporary placing of the Black Bishop on a5 - 13 Bd2 bxc 14 bxc Bb6 - this Game appears also in PERSONAL COMPUTER WORLD in their Monthly Chess column and the analyst there thinks HiTech played this move deliberately to 'tempt' his opponent into a poor manouvre with his own Bishop. My own view is that it simply put its Bishop back on its best square but, when it sees White mis-place his Bishop makes the subsequently under-protected c-pawn the focus of his strategy for the following moves - 15 Bg5 h6 16 Bb4? - this seems a mistake as the Bishop cannot return to the protection of the c3-Pawn from here. 16 Be3 is preferred, or a plan at move 15 based on Ng3 - Bb5! - I do not think that many Programmes would play this! Nevertheless it is clearly the result of recognising the lack of good protection for c3 which now becomes pinned again and, in a moment, the c6-Knight will be moved to join the attack on it - 17 Rc1 Na7 - White comes to a crucial moment, for the Black Knight is headed for b5 if allowed. PCW recommends 18 Re2 or 18 Ba4 (the former removing the pin, the latter covering b5. My Amsterdam chose 18 Bc4 also covering b5 and Evaluating the position as +0.50 for White though after 18 - Nb5! 19 Qd2 Nd4 it re-assessed the position as =. In the circumstances the move actually played by White seems to be an error although analysis later in the Game will seek to show that he still has chances - 18 Ne3 Nb5 19 Qd2 - here I tried 19 Bxf6 Qxf6 20 Nd5 Qd8 21 a4 and perhaps a very small advantage to White? - Nd4 20 Nxd4 exd4 21 Nd5 g5!? - 21 - dxc3 looks as if it might work, but 22 Nxc3 with possibilities of e5 or perhaps 22 Qf4 with pressure on f6 would leave White still ahead. All Readers should STOP here for a moment and look at this position as I think g5!? is an extremely interesting and inventive move for HiTech to find. The immediate thought is to move the White Bishop back to g3, but I noted that my Amsterdam immediately showed Bxg5 as its proposed move. Of course (it's easy to say 'of course' and 'obviously' when you've had a few minutes to look at it) if after 22 Bxg5 hxg5? 23 Qxg5+ followed by 24 Nxf6 wins. So what did HiTech plan against 22 Bxg5 when he played his 21 - g5? We shall see, but also note that 22 Bg3 Nxd5 and either 23 exd5 Bxc3 or 23 Bxd5 Kb8 24 Red1 Bxc3 are fine for Black - 22 Bxg5 dxc3! 23 Rxc3 - hereabouts I am hopeful that one of my Readers with appropriate ability (Mike Basman or David Pritchard perhaps?) might show me something I can't see! The PCW analysis says that here White cannot play 23 Nxc3 as the Bishop on g5 can now be taken. However my Amsterdam chose 23 Nxc3 without hesitation and, if 23 - hxg5 24 Qxg5+ wins because Qxa5 next move. If Black delays taking the Bishop with 23 - Bxc3 24 Rxc3 hxg5 25 Qxg5+ Kh7 26 Qh4+ Kg7 27 d4 it seems to me (with help from MA) that White's position is fine. Whereas after the move played (23 Rxc3) his Game is in a mess. If someone can show me what I've missed I'd be most grateful - Bxc3 24 Qxc3 Nxd5 25 Bxd5 Qxg5 - Black has emerged now with a material plus and

still has initiative. White will recover a Pawn, but HiTech is after Mate now - 26 Bxa8 Bh3 27 e5  
 Rxa8 28 Qc6 Rb8 29 Kf1 Bf5 30 Qxc7 Rc8 31 Qxd6 Qd2! 32 Rb1 Bxd3+ and White resigned.

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Next in what looks like being a bumper Games Issue comes a Game sent to me by reader Gerald Murphy played between his Meph AMSTERDAM and the Novag SUPER CONST. The score early on was keeping very close but the MA has forged ahead now and the latest score I have which arrived after I had typed-up the Results sheet is 12½-4½ for MA. Here is the superb 15th. Game from the Match.

MEPH AMSTERDAM (White) 9½ N.SUPER CONST (4½) T/Match Game 15

1 d4 Nf6 2c4 e6 3 Nc3 c5 4 d5 exd 5 Nxd5 Be7\* 6 Nf3\* 0-0 7 Bf4 Nc6 8 Bc7! Qe8  
 9 Nxe7+ Nxe7 10 e3 b6 11 Bd6 Ne4 12 Be2 Bb7 13 0-0 h6 14 Qd3 Nxd6 15 Qxd6 Nc8  
 16 Qg3 d6 17 Rad1 Qa4 - this could be considered the start of SC's troubles as White will achieve  
 much on the K-side whilst the Queen is away from duties there - 18 a3 Qb3 19 Rd2 Be4 20 Rfc1

Here is the Position...

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r - n - - r k -
p - - - - p p -
- p - p - - - p
- - p - - - -
- - P - b - - -
P q - - P N Q -
- P - R B P P P
- R - - - K -
  
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What is Black to do? He may already be regretting his 16 - d6 which allowed his Queen to go AWOL and blocked-in his c8-Knight. Using MA analysis and evaluation opinions 20 - Re8 is not so bad (-0.45), then 21 Bd1 (+0.64) Qa2 22 Ba4. Another possibility is 20 - Qa4 21 Qg4 Re8 or 21 Bd3 (+0.60) Qc6 22 b4. These both have MA ahead, but only by the equivalent of about ½ a pawn.

20 - d5? 21 Qe5! - The MA measures this move at +1.40 and it does seem (to me) that he now has a won Game. If 21 - Rd8 22 Bdl !. On 21 - Bxf3 22 Bxf3 reads +2.40. Best may be 21 - Qa4 22 cxd Re8

23 Qf4 Qd7 24 d6 (+1.92) Bb7 25 Ne5, though White still has a won Game. - Qa4 22 cxd Re8 23 Qf4  
 Qa5 24 Rc3! f5 25 d6 Rd8 26 Bc4+ Kh7 - it doesn't matter so much as MA is well on top now, but 26 - Kh8 would have helped SC last longer - 27 d7 (+3.00) Ne7 28 Qd6, or 27 Ne5 (+3.08) Kh7 28 Nf7 -  
 27 Ng5+ - a lovely Knight sacrifice, only found after 7 mins. which MA was able to do by virtue of time 'saved-up' on earlier moves. Evaluation here is +5.20 - hxg5 28 Qxg5 Bf3 29 Bf7 Rxd6 30 Rxd6  
 g6 31 Rxg6 Be4 32 Rh6 mate.

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Now 2 simultaneous Games involving Grandmasters and Chess Computers - the 'poor' GMs! We never publish the ones they win! SOSONKO took on a field of 31 Chess Computers in September 1985, a group which included all the World Micro Champ field. His score was 25-5=1 (the draw was against the MA). Here, of course (!), is one of his defeats..... Sosonko (White) v SciSys TURBOSTAR 432.

1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Bf5 3 c4 e6 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 cxd5 Nxd5 6 e3 Bb4 7 Bd2 Bxc3 8 bxc3 0-0 9 Be2 Nb6 10 0-0  
 Nc6 11 c4 Kb8 12 a4 Be4 13 a5 Bxf3 14 gxf3 Nd7 15 f4 Qf6 16 Kh1 Qf5 17 Bf3 Nf6 18 Qb1 Qh3 19 Bg2  
 Qh4 20 Qe1 Rfd8 21 a6 Ng4 22 h3 Rd6 23 axb7 Rxb7 24 c5 Rd5 25 f3 Qxe1 26 Rfxe1 Nf2+ 27 Kg1 Nd3  
 28 Re1 Nxc5 29 Rc1 Nb3 30 Rab1 Nd8 31 Rc2 Nxd4 32 Rcb2 Rxb2 33 Rxb2 Nb5 34 e4 Rd6 35 Bf1 Nd4  
 36 Kf2 f5 37 Ha2 N8c6 38 Bc4 Kf7 39 Bc3 fxe4 40 fxe4 Kg6 41 Ke3 e5 42 Bd5 exf4+ 43 Kxf4 Rf6+  
 44 Ke3 Rf3+ 45 Kd2 Rf2+ 46 Ke3 Hxa2 47 Bxa2 Nb5 48 Bb2 a6 49 e5 Kg5 50 Ke4 Nb4 51 Bg8 Kg6 52 e6  
 Nd6+ 53 Ke5 Nd3+ 54 Kd5 Nxb2 55 e7 Kf6 56 Kc6 Kxe7 57 Bxh7 Kd8 58 Kd5 Kd7 59 Bc2 a5 60 Kc5 g5  
 61 Bg6 Na4+ 62 Kd4 Ke6 63 Bc2 Nb5+ 64 Ke4 Nc5+ 65 Ke3 a4 66 Bb1 Nc3 67 Bh7 a3 68 Kd4 a2 69 Bg8+  
 Kd6 70 Bxa2 Nxa2 71 Ke3 Ke5 72 Kf3 Ne4 73 Kg4 Nb4 74 h4 gxh4 75 Kxh4 Kf4 76 Kh3 c5 77 Kg2 c4  
 78 Kf1 c3 79 Ke1 Ke3 80 Kd1 Nf2+ 81 Kc1 Nfd3+ and Sosonko resigned giving the Turbostar a fine win. I wish I could get my Knights to work as well as that!

Second another simul. - this time involving YUSUPOV, a leading World Title Contender (though after what Kasparov has done to Miles perhaps he'd be better keeping out of the way for a while?!). Here he is in a simultaneous against 40 Dutchmen in February this year. I'm not too sure how the Mephisto AMSTERDAM qualifies as a Dutchman apart from its name, but it did have the distinction of being the last Game to finish, not the easiest of tasks against a GM when he is concentrating solely on you! Yusupov is White and the Amsterdam at around moves 20-30 seems to have a 'dead' position with any chances belonging to Yusupov. But from around

move 37 the MA creates some clear chances and obtains chances of a threatening passed Pawn making Yusupov happy, no doubt, to make the Draw.

1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e4 e5 4 Nf3 Bb4+ 5 Bd2 Bxd2+ 6 Qxd2 exd4 7 Qxd4 Qxd4 8 Nxd4 Nf6 9 Nc3 0-0  
 10 Bxc4 Bd7 11 0-0-0 Nc6 12 f3 Ne5 13 Be2 a6 14 f4 Ng6 15 g3 Ne7 16 Bf3 c6 17 Nb3 Bh3 18 Na4 b5  
 19 Nac5 a5 20 Nd4 Kfc8 21 Rd2 a4 22 Nc2 Rd8 23 Rhd1 Rxd2 24 Hxd2 Bg4 25 Bxg4 Nxc4 26 h3 Nf6  
 27 Nb4 Nh5 28 Rd3 g6 29 Kd2 Kc8 30 Ke2 f5 31 exf5 Nxf5 32 Kf2 Nhxg3! 33 Hxg3 Nxc3 34 Kxc3 Kf7  
 35 Kf3 Kf6 36 a3 Kc7 37 Nc2 Ke7 38 Ke4 Kd6 39 Kd4 Rf7 40 Ne4+ Kc7 41 Ke3 Kb6 42 Nd4 Rd7 43 h4 e5  
 44 Ne6 c4 45 Nd4 Re7 46 Nc2 Re8 47 Nb4 Rf8 48 Ng5 h6 49 Ne4 Rf7 50 Nd5+ Kc6 51 Kd4 h5 52 Nec3  
 Hg7 53 Ke5 Rd7 54 Nb4+ Kc5 55 Nce4+ Kb6 56 Nd5+ Kc6 57 Nef6 Rg7 58 Ke6 Kc5 59 Ne4+ Kd4 60 Nd6  
 Kd3 61 Nxb5 Kc2! 62 Nd6 Kb3 63 Nb6 c3 64 bxc3 Kxa3 65 c4 Kb3 66 Nxa4 Kxa4 67 c5 Kc7 68 Kd5 Ka5  
 69 c6 Ka6 70 Nc4 Rf7 71 Ke5 Rf5+ 72 Ke4 Rf6 73 Ne5 Rd6 74 f5 gxf5+ 75 Kxf5 Rd5 76 Kf6 [½-½]

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I hope you enjoyed the brief interlude from COMPUTER v COMPUTER Games. We come back to them now and I am conscious that, since I got my own Meph Amsterdam, some of you may think I have lost my sense of 'balance and fair play' printing many of its best performances and using it quite regularly in preparing analysis for these Sheets. I readily confess that I have found it a most enjoyable Opponent and Companion, and the work it does in analysis and position evaluation has been continually valuable to me. Nevertheless it doesn't win every Game it plays and I have been very interested to see the improving Results coming in recently for Fidelity's AVANT GARDE. Earlier Results for this Machine (as they were for the EXCELLENCE) were not so good as those coming in more recently and I have been wondering how the AVANT GARDE with my CB16 Openings Book Cartridge used in my ELEGANCE might perform against the Amsterdam. I have discussed Fidelity's O/Book Cartridges before; when I bought mine I was under the impression that a +80 (approx) applied to them - later I saw comments in an American Magazine that +25 was a more accurate figure and, since then, I have tended to rate it at +40. Certainly the Elegance results with it against the Novag Expert and the SciSys Turbo Kasparov fully warrant giving it +40 and I concluded a Match with CB16 in the AVANT GARDE against MEPH AMSTERDAM could be quite close.

Arrangements with Fidelity to get one here were completed last week and it arrived whilst I was typing-up the HiTech Game earlier in this Issue. A couple of LEDs seem to have been harmed in transit unfortunately, but that didn't stop me getting it plugged-in! The ELITE Board is a few inches bigger than that on my EXCLUSIVE and they make a fine pair side-by-side. Despite the faulty LED the 2 Displays on the Elite Avant Garde are extremely useful and there are a remarkable number of Options/Functions and Features. Indeed if I mention one minor crib it is really neither here nor there compared with the many excellent things which could be said about this Machine (and indeed the Novag EXPERT recently returned to Eureka) if there was more room. The LED showing the Machine's Positional Evaluation is, in my view and as in the Mephisto, a real PLUS... but what a shame that you can't get that figure displayed after the FAV (Avant Garde) has made the move. Occasionally it makes a last minute change of choice and a 'new' move appears on the Board for which you have had no chance to see the revised Evaluation. This may not matter to most folk, but (as usual!) I am trying to do other things whilst playing Chess Matches and, on this occasion, was typing-up the latest Rating List and other things. When the Amsterdam has made its move you play it out on both the Boards and obtain Forward Analysis, Evaluation etc. The same applies on the Fidelity except that you can no longer get at the Evaluation.... you needed to see it during the Machine's 'think-time'. Otherwise it's ACE!

I decided to input the first 10 moves from Game 1 of the ELEGANCE+CB16 Match with Amsterdam in which FE made mistakes between moves 11-20 that left him with a lost Game. What would FAV change?

Game 1. T/Level. F.AVANT GARDE+CB16 (White) v. MEPH AMSTERDAM

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e6 6 Nb5 Bb4 7 a3 Bxc3 8 Nxc3 d5  
 9 exd5 exd5 - in the FE/MA Game, both Machines left Book here. FE went 10 Qe2+ (not too keen on this) Be6 11 Qb5 Qc7 12 Be3 0-0-0 13 Ne2 a6 14 Qa4(?) Ng4 15 Bc1 Qe5 16 h3 Nf6 17 f3(?) Rhe8  
 18 c3 d4! 19 cxd4 Rxd4 20 Qc2 Bb3 and Black well on top. FAV looked at 10 Qe2+ only briefly, assessed it at -0.16, and played - 10 Bg5 0-0 11 Bx76 Qxf6 12 Nxd5?! - FAV rates himself at -0.39 here,

but MA clearly considers it a bad move and puts himself at +0.88 with his reply and evaluates his Position as a clear plus until move 18 where he goes back down to +0.08) - Qxb2 13 Be2 Rd8 14 0-0 Be6 15 c4 Rd7 - FAV expected Bf5, and MA preferred Nd4 until the very last moments - 16 Re1 Qd4 17 Rb1 Qc5 18 Bg4 Qd6 19 Qe2 Bxg4 20 Qxg4 Kh8 21 Rb3 Ne5 - at this point both Machines rate FAV as very slightly ahead. MA expect 22 Qe4 here and the FAV shows 22 Qd4 +0.28 until the last moment when he changes to the move actually played. MA subsequently starts to assess his own position as better and improving - 22 Qe2 f6 23 Reb1 Qc6 24 Ne3 b6 25 f4 Ng6 26 Qf1 Rad8! - playing this, and expecting 27 Rb5 Qd6, MA evaluates his position as +1.45 and stays in the +1.50 to +1.96 area all the way through to move 32 when he starts to drop back - 27 f5 - both here and for the next few moves there is a remarkable difference of opinion as the FAV continues to assess his position as only slightly behind. For the next few moves both Computers correctly analyse the coming play making the variation in Evaluation even more surprising - Ne5 28 Rb5 Qe4 29 R5b3 Rd2 30 Re1 - now FAV also shows his position as -1.00, but he expects MA to play Re8 - R2d3 31 Rxd3 Rxd3 32 Ng4 Qd4+ - the MA position which he has built up still seems good to me, but surely (? dare I say that) 32 - Qxc4 was the best continuation here. The MOTTO of this Game could be NEVER GIVE UP, for there is to be an amazing turn in the Play and advantage - 33 Kh1 Rxa3 34 Nxe5 fxe5 - both Machines now assess the position as equal. Who would have believed that one of them would be mated 11 moves later!? - 35 f6 Kg8 36 Qf5 Kf8 37 Rf1! - excellent - Qd6 38 Qc8+ - FAV's eval. +8.50! and, with his next, MA resigns at -9.99 though I played it through to its finish - Kf7 39 Qb7+ Ke6 40 fxcg Qd8 41 Qf7+ Kd6 42 Qd5+ Kc7 43 Rf7+ Qd8 44 Rxd8+ Kc8 45 g8=Q mate!

I must say that seemed a remarkable Game to me... and I'm sure I'd have enjoyed it even more if I hadn't been typing between the moves! (Though I left the typing more than once, especially during the middle-game period when it look as if the Amsterdam was building up an irrepressible (hope I've spelt that right) attack, and all the closing moves with FAV's unbelievable come-back. It looks to me as if a full series of Games between these 2 should provide some very interesting and exciting Chess.

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Next a Game between the MEPHISTO MM2 and CONCHESS 4. The MEPHISTO has the Openings Book Cartridge in it (so it plays from the same Openings Book as the Amsterdam). I imagine this, like CB9 and CB16, is worth around 40 Elo and the Match Score and details sent to me by an Essex reader suggests it does provide a definite plus, though he also felt that the MM2 was better in the End-game. Final score was 12-8 for the MM2.

Game 5. T/Level. CONCHESS 4 (White) 1½ MEPHISTO MM2 2½

1 e4 c5 2 Ne2!? - an interesting and unusual idea, presumably designed to get Opponent's out of their Book! (I always thought humans did that to Computers; not Computers doing it as well!). However it is not completely new and the MM2 has 2- Nc6 thanks to the addition of its Opening Module. Interestingly BCO has the 2 Ne2 line, but only with Nf5 - Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 e5!? - a BIG surprise, if only to me! My Amsterdam only has 4 - g6 in Book and only plays 4 - e5 if asked to play out-of-Book. My reader assures me that it is only on their 5th. moves that the 2 Computers leave their Books! - 5 Nxc6 bxc6 6 Nc3 Bb4 7 Qg4 Bxc3+ 8 bxc3 Qf6 9 Qg3 Ne7 10 Bg5 Qg6 11 Bxe7 Qxg3 12 fxcg3 - hxcg3 seems best when Kxe7 13 Rb1 is pretty equal. Now the MA evaluates Kxe7 and 13 Bc4 as -0.40 against White - Kxe7 13 Bc4 Bb7 14 Rd1 Rab8 15 0-0 f6 16 Rb1 d5! 17 Bd3 h5 18 Rb3 Kd6 19 Rfb1 Kc7 20 exd5 exd5 21 c4 e4! 22 Bf1 d4 23 Rd1 Rhd8 24 Be2 g6 25 Rdb1 - for the past few moves the CONCHESS has only 'shuffled' his pieces whilst the MM2 has improved his position to create ways of making full use of his advanced Pawns - Ba6! 26 Rf1 - I should have mentioned that c5 might have been worth a try at move 25 which would also stop Black getting his Rook out via d6 (see later) and restrict his King at the same time. Here (move 26) I prefer Kf1 or (?) Rd1 - Rd6! 27 c5 Re6 28 Re1 Bxe2 29 Rxe2 Rxb3 30 cxb3 e3 31 Kf1 - my correspondent tells me that Conchess spent 24 mins. on this move; however he had plenty of spare time and no doubt recognised that his position has become serious and was looking for a ray of hope. The move played is the best there is, but he cannot hope to hold on much longer against those mighty pawns - d3 32 Rb2 Re5 33 g6 - there is no longer any hope. If 33 b4 Rf5+ 34 Kel d2+ wins; if 33 Kel Rxc5 or d2+ also wins - hxcg4 34 a4 Rf5+ 35 Ke1 d2+ 36 Rxd2 exd2 (0-1)

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I have quite a few Readers who cheerfully admit to being beginners or still 'mediocre' at the Game. The next Game is with them in mind as I recently borrowed the new SciSys EXPRESS 16K. I had unfortunately just returned the loaned ADV STAR CHESS to Eureka (a Match between them would have been ideal as they are priced and sized so closely - the SciSys Machine is 'better-looking, a very nice little job, but the ASC will be the stronger Player and with many more functions). So poor 'young' Express had to meet the likes of Elegance and Amsterdam! To even things up a bit I put the latter onto their 10 secs per move modes, and let Express play his full 3 min level.

The next Game should help newer Chess players see how a Player builds up a strategically strong, balanced, fluid position whilst the other 'just develops'. When the action starts, there is only side in it!

Meph AMSTERDAM (White, 10 secs) SciSys EXPRESS (3 mins) 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe  
 4 cxd Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 h4 h6 7 Nf3 Nd7 8 h5 Bh7 9 Bd3 Bxd3 10 Qxd3 Qc7 11 Bd2 e6  
 12 c4 Nf6\* - the EXPRESS O/Book didn't always last so long, but it's quite good - 13 c5\* Bc7 14 0-0  
 0-0-0 15 Qc2 Nd5 - there's nothing in it yet, but watch now how one Player steadily improves his  
 position, piece co-ordination etc. whilst the other appears planless. Aimlessness is a fault of most new-  
 comers to Chess and it should be instructive to see how another Player/Machine builds-up his position  
 in such circumstances - 16 Rfe1 Kb8 17 Rac1 Ka8 18 a3 Bf6 19 b4 Be7 20 a4 Rhe8 21 b5  
 Reg8 22 Qb3 cxb 23 axb N7f6 24 Qa2 Qd7 25 Ra1 b6 26 cxb Hxb6 27 Ne5 Qb7 28 Nc6  
 Rd7 29 Nxa7 Qxa7 30 Qb3 Rxd4 31 Rxa7 Kxa7 32 Be3 Rd6 33 Qa3 Kb7 34 Qa6+ Kb8  
 35 Bxb6 Rxb6 36 Qxb6 - and MA announced Mate in 5 by Kc8 37 Rcl+ Bc5 38 Rxc5+ Kd7 39 Qb7+ Kd6  
 40 Qc7 mate

A later Game in the same 10 secs v 3 mins Match is not given to embarrass Express fans (after all, it only costs £50 so we're not trying to compare equals). However I am sure that one of the best ways to learn is to see Games played at 'our own' standard (I am speaking for those of us under 2000), especially if one Player is that bit better. Mike Basman's POPULAR CHESS is an excellent example of the Teaching value in this area. MA is not 'a bit' better than the Express of course, but his sheer Speed and Tactical ability are reduced to the place where it is more his strategic/positional/chess knowledge that comes into play against a Machine which, at 3 mins per move, is capable of handling straightforward Tactics. Indeed in the next Game the MA misses a Tactical need with being at only 10 secs (see notes around moves 25-27) and needs all his Chess knowledge to survive and then go on to the win.

SciSys EXPRESS (3 mins) White. Meph AMSTERDAM (10 secs) 1 e4 c5 2 c5 d5 3 exd  
 Qxd5 4 d4 e6 5 Nf3 Nf6 6 Nd2\* cxd\* 7 Bc4 Qd6 8 Nxd4 Nc6 9 Nxc6 Qxc6 10 0-0 Bd6  
 11 Qe2 0-0 12 Nf3! Bd7 13 Bg5! Rac8 14 Nd2 - SE has done pretty well thus far, but this is a  
 mistake. 14 Bd3 is not too bad; even better 14 Bxf6 then gxf6 and fairly equal - Qc7 15 h3! - the !  
 is because h3 is just better than g3 (I think!) - Nd5 16 Rad1 h6 17 Bh4 g5 18 Bg3 Bxg3  
 19 fxxg3 Qc5+? - an AWFUL move! - and most peculiar as I couldn't get the MA to even produce it on its  
 Display again! It goes through 19 - Ba4 with a smaller advantage, though 20 Re1 shows -1.00 against White;  
 further analysis produces ideas of 19 - Qb6+ which is different altogether as Black has Qxb2 and Qxc3 after  
 White's Rf2. Almost anything BUT Qc5+ though I think MA slightly over-estimates his position in all  
 evaluations at this moment - 20 Rf2 f5 21 Bb3 Rf7 22 c4 Ne3 23 Re1 f4 24 gxf6 gxf6 - at this  
 point MA rates the position =. White's next is NOT a good move, but it yields a remarkable harvest!  
 25 g3?! e5?? - a SERIOUS mistake (which makes the Game MOST exciting!), as MA fails to appreciate that  
 only the Pawn on c4 now stands between the b3-Bishop and his f7-pinned-Rook! If White can move his blocked  
 c4 pawn.....! Note that, on Level 3 (30 secs instead of 10) the MA finds the simple 25 - fxxg! which  
 virtually wins outright. After 26 Rxf7 Nf5+ and Black is well on top - 26 Ne4!! Qe7 27 c5! Be6 28 Nd6!  
 Bxb3 29 Nxc8 Qxc5 30 axb3 Rg7 - very sound, cool defence at 10 secs per move! MA is close to  
 escaping - 31 Nxa7? - according to my efforts 31 g4 Qxc8 32 Qd2 (-0.80) or 31 Rf3 (best) because after  
 Qxc8 33 Kh2 (not Kf2 Qxh3!) leaves Black slightly behind! - Rxxg3+ 32 Kh2 Qxa7 33 Re1 Qb8  
 34 Qb5 - MA expected 34 Qh5 which certainly looks better - Qd8! 35 Kh1? - though now lost, 35 Re2 hangs  
 on a bit. The move played allows a quick Mate - Rxh3 36 Rh2 Rxh2 37 Rxh2 Qd2+ 38 Kh3  
 Qg2+ 39 Kh4 Qh2 mate (0-1)

A very interesting Game, and room for more analysis than I have provided above I should think.

Well, Games Section at an end in this Bumper Issue - apologies to Novag for the missing EXPERT Games, also SciSys who should have had a TURBO KASPAROV win in as well. Hopefully next time, plus more on the Avant Garde+CB16 v Meph Amsterdam Match. I think myself that MA will just win despite the events of Game 1, but it may well be close!