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COMPUTER CHESS ——— NEWS SHEET 9
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Dear Friends,

Greetings again - it is always good to reach the place when I am sat at the typewriter and the NEWS SHEET is going into production. Perhaps more so this time as there has been the odd occasion when I have wondered if I would really make it being at the height of our season here at West Winds which is now full every week! However we have made it, thanks partly to having a Fidelity AVANT GARDE at present with Printer and being able to use same to prepare the Games-scores for readers, and thanks more than partly to Gerald Murphy and particularly John Strange in South Wales who have organised much photo-copying for me at a price I could (nearly) afford!

As Readers will have realised on receiving this bulky package, the NEWS SHEET this time is bigger than ever for reasons which will quickly become clear with the arrival of the Fidelity PAR EXCELLENCE 5/6 weeks ago and the Novag FORTE which is 'arriving'. In addition I have included a fullish Report of the World Computer Championship in Cologne together with other current News and the Score Table from the World Micro Computer Championship held in July in Mobile. However the major reason for the thickening of NS is the large number of Game-scores included from games involving the new PAR EXCELLENCE, large comparisons of same with the Fidelity AVANT GARDE, the MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM which has been regularly used to 'test' them both, also the new Novag QUATTRO and... hopefully, the Novag FORTE! The last-named is not actually here at the time I write this Introduction, but I do so in the good expectation of one arriving early next week (10-12/August) and my intention is to run it in 8 two mins per move Games against the Par Excellence. Hopefully not only the Result of this mini-Match will be included in this NS but also John Strange will have managed to photo-copy a couple of the early Games for inclusion with the NS. (If you don't find them later on then you know something went wrong!). My thanks are due to both Fidelity for the long loan of a PAR EXCELLENCE so that I could really test it fully - gladly a 2nd. Consignment is due to arrive in Britain this week so all other folk with outstanding Orders will not need to feel that they could have had mine! - and also Eureka who I know are trying their very best to get one of their FORTES to me despite the problems they've been having, of which more later.

Before getting down to the actual CHESS NEWS I must mention something about the future of NEWS SHEET. It is my fullest desire to keep it on the present voluntary donation basis if at all possible. I much prefer this friendlier, casual type of approach as you know, with no harrassing deadlines which 'have' to be met. Nevertheless the costs of bigger Issues such as this and the continually increasing Mailing List means that what have been small financial losses in the past are becoming rather bigger! I had intended to cut the Mailing down this Issue at one time by excluding the folk who had only sent the 1 s.a.e originally and haven't responded to the further Issues I have sent them, or who have only had any NS because of a friend's request or recommendation. However there is so much worthwhile study with the PAR EXCELLENCE and FORTE Machines which are surely the best value for money ever available (with the possible exception of the Mephisto AMSTERDAM which, despite its high cost, I still consider first class) and in view of Fidelity's and Eureka's encouragement in my work it seemed wrong to miss folk out this time and so I am sending this out to all Readers. However there will definitely be a pruning next time so, if you've never written me since the first request for NEWS SHEET and you are still interested, you'll have to write me now or I'll use you to cut down on my Postage costs. Folk who have written me since, sent stamps or gifts need not fear - I have always kept full records of such so that no-one who has confirmed their interest in this way should be accidentally omitted.

And so to the CHESS.....

THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP at COLOGNE

A full Report covering 3 pages is enclosed with this Issue and Readers will find a brief Round-by-Round summary, Final Table, plus some Games and game-excerpts. I have not put

ELO Ratings to the final Score Table yet as I am trying to obtain the running speeds of one or two of the Machines first. However HiTECH's victory over Jana Miles confirms that it at least is in the 2350-2400 area for sure and, with CRAY BLITZ winning, presumably HiTech is not on its own at such a figure.

Fidelity's PAR EXCELLENCE

The much-heralded arrival of the PAR EXCELLENCE occurred towards the end of June with the 1st. Consignment to reach these shores being sold out before they arrived! Many NS Readers have one on Order from the letters I am getting and those who already have theirs will know that the 2100 Rating given it by the USCF is fully deserved. With all the same features, appearance etc. of the EXCELLENCE/3/4, but with improved Programme, especially noticeable in the End-Game and running at 5mhz, this new Machine is the strongest yet from Fidelity and makes a very tough and aggressive Opponent. There is plenty about it in the enclosed photocopies with Speed and Move Selection comparisons with the AVANT GARDE. For the benefit of folk who take a day or two to get there I can briefly tell you that the PAR EXCELLENCE is fractionally faster (about 5%) and with nominal Programme improvement. The main plus over the Avant Garde is in the OPENING BOOK which is 16,000 positions in the PAR EXCELLENCE. These are not so wide as in the CB16 Cartridge which I run as an extra in my Fidelity Machine and Rate at +40 Elo, but it is definitely deeper and I feel fairly certain that this must make the Par Excellence at least +30 on the basic Avant Garde. A new feature of the PE is the option to select any of 64 Opening Systems - i.e. instead of putting a Caro Kann in under Monitor Mode up to, say, move 8, you can now select the appropriate Opening at the outset and the Machine will play it until either you depart from Book or the Machine runs out of Book - this is a most useful feature and, with 64 main lines in it, there are for example 8 different lines for the English Opening, 8 for the Sicilian, 6 for the Ruy Lopez etc. Another new feature is the provision of 5 Easier Levels (a sign of the place Chess Computers have got to is the fact that both Fidelity, Novag and others are having to put 'Easy Levels' in their Machines to try to get them to play worse for the benefit of weaker players!) - the Easy Levels on Par Excellence make it play after a 1/2/3/4 or 5 Ply Search and obviously the Programme is much weakened on the 1 and 2 Ply which only take it a fraction of a second in normal Search time.

At this particular moment 3 PAR EXCELLENCE's in the MAJOR Section at the British Championship have obtained 10 pts from 21 Games amongst them. After 18 Games their Opposition had included 9 Players rated over 2080, 3 over 2150 and 1 at 2250, so the 10/21 score confirms again the 2100 Rating is deserved. An up-date of the PAR EXCELLENCE Result will be given at the end of the duplicated pages with the RATING TABLE.

Novag's FORTE

The FORTE is another 5mhz Machine and again represents Programming improvement over its predecessor, the Novag EXPERT. At the time of writing these notes the actual amount of improvement is not known, but Novag is expecting/hoping that the FORTE will achieve 2100+. A FORTE was entered at Mobile for the Micro Championship but, unfortunately, the Experimental Model playing there proved to have a software bug which let it down in 2 games of its score of 2½/6. As I haven't seen any of the Game Scores as yet I cannot comment on whether any or much difference would have been made to the Forte's final score, but the same version was (daringly) entered in the British Major along with the Par Excellence's (and a Mephisto Rebel Experimental!). Here again the bug had let it down in each of its 1st. three Games but, by the 4th. day a new ROM from Novag was being fitted to a spare Machine this being expected to fully correct the fault and enable finished commercial versions to go through the final production stage. The last I had heard the Novag FORTE had 2/7 thus showing a definite turn for the better. Early scores from brief tests with the faulty version and at Speed Chess had the Forte ahead of the Novag Super C and Mephisto's REBEL, but behind the Mephisto AMSTERDAM and new Tests are being arranged as soon as possible now that the fault has been corrected. In addition to the Strength expectation the Novag FORTE is also to have a LCD Display which will show Clock Times, Move Analysis, Depth and Node Search Levels, Positional Evaluations and others somewhat numerous to mention but seeming to me to cover just about everything anyone is likely to think of or want. Another feature is its built-in Software to connect with an IBM or compatible PC which will produce on-screen in depth information, move analysis, opening variations with moves/info/evaluation/analysis and various other possibilities of value to clubs and organisers as well as general chess freaks. As I understand it any Computer taking the RS232 connection can equally be used, though the Software for Machines other than IBM & Co has yet to be prepared.

Incidentally, the FORTE Board is to be the same as that for the QUATTRO except

for the addition of the LCD Displays.... the QUATTRO is discussed below.

Finally I must mention the Prices of both the PAR EXCELLENCE.... £199, and the FORTE.... £249. Apart from the features, with Ratings of around 2100 or more these Machines have to be the best value-for-money that has ever been available as far as I can tell.

The Novag QUATTRO

This is an 'all-over' Up-date of the CONSTELLATION 3.6 and, at £149, represents good value for money yet again though not in the same Playing Strength area as the Par Excellence and Forte discussed above. The Board, whilst clearly being a 'Novag' is nevertheless a real improvement in appearance on the Super Constellation; its looks are fine, the LEDs for the squares clear without being too big to spoil appearance, the Press Sensory is first-class - the Novag Machines are really responsive and pleasing to use in this area - and the light brown/dark brown squares with brown wood grain solid surround give a very pleasing appearance. The Programme is an improvement on the 3.6mhz and runs at 4mhz and initial impressions suggest that it will Rate at around 1925-1950.

The Mephisto REBEL

My information on this is a little sketchy at present as only the EXPERIMENTAL version has been seen in Britain. I gather Mephisto intend to make it available on their 3 standard Board sizes plus the portable 'Mobile' version and that the REBEL is to be issued rather than an MM2 up-grade it being considered that the REBEL is stronger. Certainly it was the big surprise at the WCCC at Cologne where it wasn't at all far from winning the Title in the middle of the afternoon on the final day and, as Game Notes in my report will show, BeBe only just saved the main-frames ending up with red-faces again (as they did also at Mobile last year in the American Championship when Fidelity beat them). In the event the REBEL's score having played every Game against a main-frame was quite remarkable, and it was only running at 2mhz extra compared with the Commercial version due out very soon (7mhz instead of 5). Unfortunately results since have not supported this being a 2150 Machine as far as I can tell - Novag's FORTE holds a lead over it at Speed Chess; the 3 versions entered in the World Micro CC scored satisfactorily but not outstandingly - the Mephisto REBEL in the Major with PAR EXCELLENCE and FORTE has scored $1\frac{1}{2}/7$ from my latest information - so a figure of around 2075 seems at present to be more accurate. A Tournament Level Game between the REBEL and the FORTE will be in these Notes later so that Readers checking through the Rebel's Games given in this NS will be able to see its great early Middle Game strengths and combinational abilities with, possibly, a short-coming in its anticipation area... but whether that will apply when it is released commercially remains to be seen as the version used so far has been the pre-launch Experimental.

SciSys

SciSys sent me various pre-launch information on their forthcoming LEONARDO series which looks set to be a 5mhz up-grade of the TURBO KASPAROV when the MAESTRO or ANALYST Modules have been added. The SciSys estimate of the basic Leonardo is 1900, but with Maestro 2050 and Analyst 2100. Board size a little bigger than the Avant Garde and de-luxe and at a cost (converting the DM figures quoted which may result in discrepancies) of somewhere around £250, £300 and £350 respectively. LEONARDO will join the FORTE in offering serial connection to a PC and their top-priced ANALYST Module will join FORTE, AVANT GARDE, AMSTERDAM in having LCD Display for clocks, moves, evaluations etc; If I hear any more re availability and dates I will include a note later in this NS.

RESULTS SECTION

A little bit sparse this time with no new Information from the Swedish University Tests since the last NS. There is also a general slowing-down of Info. coming in from both Readers and Distributors, mainly of course because I've caught up with all the Results which they have available for my use. However Readers are encouraged to please keep sending my in any Scores you may have both from COMPUTER v COMPUTER games and COMPUTER v HUMANS. Quite a few folk are realising that the Machines are quite safe (!) playing Club Members or even in the Club Tournament - results from these with Player's Ratings are most useful to ascertain the real strengths of the different Machines. Please note that the Ratings are only of value

takes the game fully seriously - 'casual' opposition resulting in unearned draws or wins for the Chess Computer has resulted in over-ratings in the past.... Tests such as the USCF's where the human gets PAID if he wins, and $\frac{1}{2}$ -paid (whatever that is!) if he draws produce the necessary incentive to ensure accuracy. And bearing in mind that the PAR EXCELLENCE scored 26-8=6 in such circumstances shows that today's generation of Computers can take care of themselves. I am not suggesting Readers should pay the Opposition (I am a much more needy cause!) - but I trust the need for proper human effort is understood.

MORPHY ENCOKE-4 CYRUS I.S-4 (1685-1599) MORPHY ENCOKE-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ SUPERCHESS 3-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ (1482-1759)
 MORPHY ENCOKE-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ SUPERCHESS 3.5-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ (1650-1646) MORPHY ENCOKE-5 $\frac{1}{2}$ SPECTRUM 2-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ (1775-1449)
 F.AVANT GARDE-7 $\frac{1}{2}$ F.ELEGANCE-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ (no Opening Cartridge in either Machine)
 F.EXCELLENCE/3-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ N. QUATTRO-8 $\frac{1}{2}$ (1992-1960) MEPH AMSTERDAM-18 $\frac{1}{2}$ F.PAR EXCELLENCE-7 $\frac{1}{2}$ (2269-2021)
 MEPH AMSTERDAM-10 F.AVANT GARDE+CB16-6 (2232-2033)
 London Quickplay... N.QUATTRO rated 1912/5
 F.EXCELLENCE/4-7 $\frac{1}{2}$ F.SENSORY 9+CB16-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ (2031-1847) F.AVANT GARDE+CB16-6 F.PAR EXCELLENCE-6 (2076-2126)
 F.AVANT GARDE+CB16-5 N.QUATTRO-1 (2216-1858) F.PAR EXCELLENCE-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ N.QUATTRO-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ (2142-1882)

ICD Reported the Top 4 places from a multi-round Tournament involving 9 Machines - from the Percentages given the following 'Top 4' List has been created with Scores out of 40.

MEPH AMSTERDAM	27/40	Adverts in the States' (CHESS LIFE) indicate that the Novag EXPERT,
NOV EXPERT/6	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mephisto MM2 and MM3, SciSys TURBO KASPAROV are available at 5mhz or
MEPH MM3/5	22	there. I hear that the 5mhz NOVAG EXPERT will be available in Britain
SCI TURBO KASPAROV/5	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	by the time this NS is out; but in the States they now also appear to
		have the EXPERT running at 6mhz!

Without knowing the other 5 Machines involved it is impossible to give a properly reliable Rating - if the full Table is included in COMPUTER CHESS DIGEST which is coming out now and contains (I believe) an Article about our NEWS SHEET, then I will give it with Elo Ratings next time. Approximate figures would be MEPH AMSTERDAM 2160, NOVAG EXPERT and MEPHISTO MM3 2100, TURBO KASPAROV 2080 and these figures relate accurately to 'my' NS Rating List figures for the same Machines at their slightly lower Running Speeds (with the exception of the MEPH AMSTERDAM, of course, which is 12mhz in all Lists and in this Tournament).

World MICRO Champs - MOBILE 1986

At the time of writing I have only the basic outline of the Result but no Games or details. The order of the Table is based on Opponent's Scores count as given to me over the 'phone and, from that, I have estimated the Ratings and give what Info. (+ some guesswork) I have on 'what was what'. If I do any Machine an injustice I apologise NOW and will put it right with apology in the next NS. I would guess, however, that Readers would rather get what I have, sketchy as it is, than wait another couple of months for a full version. Any Manufacturer/Distributor knowing I have something wrong - do please write!

1 Fidelity X	5 /6	2327	Readers hoping for lots of Info. on the Machines will be
2 Fidelity ParE Exp	5	2327	disappointed, at least for the moment. The Fid ParE Exp may
3 Mephisto Janus	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2268	have been the new ParE prog. running on a 16 bit system and thus
4=ChessMaster 2000/Apple	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2151	as higher mhz - it may or may not be made commercially available
4=Fidelity PC/IBM	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2151	'sometime'. I think the Monster Expert was the Expert/6mhz and
6 Novag Monster Expert	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2143	the Expert Exp the Expert at 5mhz. The Mephisto Rebel was the
7 Mephisto Excl Rebel	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2135	same Programme as ran at Cologne and there rating at around 2150.
8 Mephisto Mobile Rebel	3	2091	The Avant Garde and Par Excellence coming 9= were standard production
9=Fidelity Avant Garde	3	2077	Models as were the 2 Novags (being available at 5mhz here and 6 in
9=Fidelity Par Excellence	3	2077	the States) and the 3rd. Novag, the Forte Exp. which we now know
11 Novag Expert Exp	3	2064	had a Software bug now either being or is corrected. Mephisto Janus
12 Mephisto Experimental	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2013	was probably Mephisto Cologne (an Amsterdam up-date at 18mhz) but
13 Novag Forte Experimental	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2013	not called Mephisto Mobile which Mephisto do, using the place name,
14 ChessMaster 2000/IBM	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2002	as they already have a Mobile carrying the Rebel programme. Zsuzsa
15 Mephisto Rbel X	2	1957	is obviously named after the Hungarian top-rated lady, Zsuzsa
16 ChessMaster 2000msdos	2	1944	Polgar, but not quite as good! SciSys and Conchess were notable
17 Zsuzsa	1	1831	absentees, the latter disappointingly so in view of their good
18 EGA	1	1819	score with the Plymate at Cologne.

Recalling that I had a Machine speed wrong and another Machine's contents wrong in my 1st. Issue of the 1985 Table, I trust that I haven't missed the mark by so much this time.

KINGPIN Chess Magazine - A really good read, and a Mag. aimed at the Club/high Club Player in its annotations rather than the GM which means that people like me can understand and benefit from it. Also more 'open' to Chess Computers than BCM and CHESS, so worth a try. I would class it as similar in aim to POPULAR CHESS but with Articles written by a greater variety of folk. Single Issue £1-10 from 10 Derwent Gardens, Ilford, Essex IG4 5NA..... and the next Issue will have a SHORT CHESS COMP. HISTORY by myself!!!

GAMES SENT BY READERS

The first is by NOVAG FORTE (White) and MEPHISTO KEBEL (Black) at Tournament Level. Although this was played before the Forte's software bug had been corrected, the bug didn't let it down in every Game and the one completed here shows the strengths of both these new Machines. Despite nice piece co-ordination by the FORTE (a hallmark of Novag Machines) the KEBEL builds an advantage after the Opening and takes it powerfully into the Middle Game. However (as against BeBe at Cologne) a mistake puts the win in doubt and Novag plays sharply to gain a 'sure' draw. Then KEBEL makes a second mistake, apparently still looking for a win when a draw is all he has.... and the FORTE takes full and immediate advantage.

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Ke1 b5 7 Bb3 d6 8 c3 0-0 9 h3 Na5 10 Bc2 e5
11 d4 Qc7 12 Nd2 cxd 13 cxd Bb7 14 Nf1 A typical and nice Novag manoeuvre, but Kebel has compensation
in development Kc8 15 Bd3 exd 16 Ng3! d5! Sharp play from both sides 17 e5 Ne4 18 Nxd4 Here Nxe4
looks better to me Bb4! 19 Nxe4 Forte does well to see that this is better than 19 Ke2 Qxe5! dxe4
20 Bxe4 Bxe1 21 Qx1 Rfd8 22 Bxb7 Nxb7 23 Nf3 Qc2 Black's position is beginning to look strong 24 Bg5
Ke8 25 b3 Nc5 26 Qf1 Ne4 27 Be3 Nc3 28 Nd4 Qb2 29 f4 Nd5 I am unsure why Nxa2 wasn't used here which
looks to give Black a 2 pawn advantage. Even so this also turns out very well. 30 Nf5 Nxe3 31 Nxe3 Qd4
32 Ke1 f6! Clearly seen by Kebel when playing Nd5 and he now looks to have a winning attack. But fine defence
just holds the Forte position from disaster. 33 Kh1 fxe 34 Nf5 Qc5 35 b4!? The move that seems to spark
off a comeback. Qxb4 36 Kxe5 g6 37 Nh6+ Kg7 38 Ng4 Qb2 39 Hxe8 Hxe8 40 f5!? Kc8 41 Qd3 Kc1+?? Loses
all the advantage with one bad move. 41 - Qc1+ is perfectly alright; it leaves the Rook in a place where
it can help with the defence (Kebel has underestimated the strength for Mate threats of White's Queen, Knight
and f5 pawn) and allows, after 42 Kh2 either Qf4+ 43 g3 Qxf5 with clear advantage, or 42 Kh2 Qc7+ 43 Kh1 h5
also with advantage. Now, however... 42 Kh2 gxf5 Alternatives fail to even hold the draw. Eg 42 - Qxa2
43 Qd4+ Kf7 44 fxg+ hxg 45 Qf4+ and wins, or 42 - Re1 43 f6+ Kf8 44 Qd8+ Ke8 45 Qc7! and an easy win.
43 Qd7+! Novag is playing for perpetual check Kf8 44 Qd8+ Kf7 45 Qd7+ Kg6?? A serious oversight as the
return to f8 obtains the draw in straightforward manner. Forte needs no more assistance - 46 Qe6+! The
Queen's reaching the e-file wins the Game. Kg7 47 Qe7+ Kg6 48 Ne5+!! Qxe5 Unavoidable - if 48 - Kh6
49 Qh4+ is Mate in 5. 49 Qxe5 and the FORTE mated Black on move 67. (1-0)

The second is a very positive performance by a PAR EXCELLENCE (White, 3 mins per move) against a CONCHESS/2
(black 3m45secs per move). My Reader sending this tells me he is an 1850 Elo Player, but has yet to win his
first Game against his newly acquired PAR E!

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 f4 e5 4 fxe Qh4+? Allows White too much of an early development lead 5 g3 Qe7
6 Nf3 Nxe5 7 Bg2 Nf6 8 0-0 d6 9 d3 Bg4 10 Bf4 Nxf3+ 11 Bxf3 Bh3 12 Hfel 0-0-0 Risky. 12 - Qd7 to
enable Be7 and 0-0 may have been wiser. 13 e5! dxe5 14 Bxe5 Qd7 15 a4 a6 16 a5 Qf5 17 Na4! Nc7 18 Bf4
g5 19 Bb4 Qf6 20 Bd2! Very strong, threatening 21 Bc3. 20 Nb6+ also seems to give White a good advantage
in view of - Nxb6 21 Be5! Bg7?! Black's position has become very difficult and this may be best. An
alternative is 20 - Bd6 when 21 Qh5 Be6 22 Bxg5 leaves White still well in control. 21 Qh5! Qh6 22 Qxf7
Bd4+ 23 Kh1 Qg7 24 Qb3 Nf6 25 Bf3 Hde8 Here I prefer Hhe8 26 c3 Bf2 27 Hxe8+ Kxe8 28 Nb6+ Kb8
29 Bxg5! A fine move, setting the Game alight again. Qxg5 Obvious - and the move chosen by MEPH AMSTERDAM
even after 1/2-an-hour. But it sets the CONCHESS up for the wrong end of a devastating attack and I think
29 - Bg4 was a better answer, though Black remains too far behind to have any hope. From 29 - Bg4 30 Bf4+
Ka7 31 Bg2! remains clear enough. 30 Qf7 Bc8 31 Nxc8 Kxc8 32 Rf1 Re1 33 Rxe8 Bxe8 34 Qe6+ Kd8 35 Qxb Qf5
36 Qe3 Qh3 37 Kgl Qf5 38 Bxb7 Qh5 39 Qf4 Nd7 40 Bxa6 and easy (1-0). The owner of the Machines who sent
me this Game comments that 'the Conchess/2 is not strong enough to test Par/E'!

As Readers will see the remaining Games apart from those from Cologne are photo-copies of
the Game print-outs as they were played at West Winds. I have kept the sheets separate rather
than stapling them so that Readers can play and keep them in whatever order they prefer.

I should perhaps mention that the PAR EXCELLENCE itself does not support a Printer, but the
Print-outs were obtained by relaying the moves to the AVANT GARDE in Games where the
Avant Garde was not itself involved. This has also meant that there is much less analysis - I
wouldn't have time at the present to do too much, anyway - but many more Games. I would be
interested to know if Readers have any definite preferences ie the more Games or less Games
but with fuller Analysis/comment.... as it should be possible to do either during Winter.
Certainly the Fidelity Printer has made life much easier preparing this News Sheet.

2 closing Notes (PSs!) for this page - Novag's EXPENT at 5mhz will be the same price as the current 4mhz;
Fidelity will replace the AVANT GARDE with the ELITE 2100 containing the PAR EXCELLENCE Programme, clearly
indicating their view of the relative strengths of the new Machine.

Having given KINGPIN CHESS MAG a 'plug' I should do the same for Mike Basman's equally interesting POPULAR
CHESS, available at £5 for 5 Issues coming out Quarterly from 7 Billockby Close, CHESSINGTON, Surrey KT9 2ED.
Being Mike Basman's it is full of a wide variety of interesting Opening Ideas and Middle Game guidance.

Suggested RATING LIST August 1986 by ERIC HALLSWORTH

INCLUDES Performances in the BRITISH MAJOR as follows :

PAR EXCELLENCE A	4½/11	
MEPHISTO REBEL	4	picked up well in the 2nd half
PAR EXCELLENCE B	3½	
PAR EXCELLENCE C	3½	
Novag FORTE	3	in a sense 3 /8 due to breakdowns in 1st. 3 Rounds

LIST shows * where Rating based on 50 Games min
 ** where Rating based on 200 Games min

NEXT Figure shows Price where known in £000's
 ie. 3 = £300 4½ = £40
 4½+ means 'various Boards available from £450

ANALYSING KASPAROV v KARPOV!

I was playing through Game 5 over the week-end on my MEPHISTO AMSTENDAM, occasionally checking to see what the AMSTENDAM would have played. This resulted in an interesting situation arising after KARPOV's 19th. So, the Game thus far....

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Bf4 Bg7 5 e3 c5 6 dxc5
 Qxa5 7 Kc1 Ne4 8 cxd5 Nc3 9 Qd2 Qa2 10 bxc3 Qxd2+
 11 Kxd2.Nd7 12 Bb5 0-0 13 Bxd7 Bxd7 14 e4 f5
 15 e5 e6 16 c4 Kfc8 17 c6 bxc6 18 d6 c5 19 h4

Up to this point the AMSTENDAM appeared to rate Black (Kasparov) as slightly ahead - a later check using the Fidelity AVANT GAHDE suggested a virtually equal position. However here MA appeared to frown at Kasparov's h6 as not sufficiently active and started to show him at a disadvantage. So I checked with the FAV and found exactly the same; but interestingly MA and FAV themselves each recommended different 'active' moves. So I decided to see how FAV would do with his choice against the MA...

19 - a5! (The move played by Kasparov at 20) 20 Nf3
 a4 21 h5 gxh5 22 Kxh5 (Taking his hook away from the important 1st rank) a3 23 Ng5 a2 24 Kd1 Kcb8
 25 Kc2 Kb4 26 g3 Kc4 27 Kb3 Kb4 28 Kc2 h6 29 Nf3
 Ba4! (A terrific plan!) 30 Kc1 Bd1 31 Kxd1 Rb1+
 32 Ke2 Nxa1 33 Bd2 Rb1 34 Bc3 Kc1 and MA resigns 0-1

Then I gave MA his chance as Black with his preferred move... 19 - Bc6 20 Nf3 Bxf3 21 gxf3 Kcb8 22 Kc1
 Kb4 23 Kc3 a5 24 Kb3 Kd8 25 Kd1 Kd7 26 Nxb4 cxb4
 27 Kb3 Kf7 28 c5 Kd8 29 c6 g5 30 c7 a4 31 Kb4 Kc8
 32 d7 Hxc7 33 Qd8 Hb7 34 Ka4 and MA resigns again 1-0

Though FAV (and the PAR EXCELLENCE plays all the same key moves) wins this with both White and Black it must, in fairness, be remembered that the MEPHISTO AMSTENDAM wins in a 2:1 ratio against the 2 Fidelity leaders over some 40 games. Nevertheless this does show quite clearly the very good Chess that the Fidelity Machines are able to play in active positions. Even so, it does seem that the AMSTENDAM holds something like a 100 Elo advantage over everything else at present!?!

HiTech	2346	
Cray Blitz	2251	
Mephisto Cologne	2246	
1 MEPHISTO AMSTENDAM	2196	** 9+
BeBe	2177	
Belle	2156	
Phoenix	2125	
2 F.PAR EXCELLENCE	2095	* 2
3 N.FORTE	2085	2½
4= MEPH NEBEL	2084	?
4= F.AVANT GAHDE	2084	* 6
6 N.EXPERT/5	2080	4½
7 CONCHESS PLYMATE/6	2068	** 5½+
Nuchess	2062	
8 S.TURBO KASPAROV/5	2058	?
9 N.EXPERT/4	2052	** 4½
Chaos	2048	
10 F.EXCELLENCE/4	2048	** 2
Schnach 2.7.	2045	
11 CONCHESS/6	2035	* 5½+
Advance 68k	2025	
12 S.TURBO KASPAROV/4	2023	* 2½
13 MEPHISTO MM2	2022	** 3½+
Advance 3	2015	
14 CONCHESS PLYMATE/4	2013	** 4½+
14= F.ELITE C	2013	*
16 F.EXCELLENCE/3	2000	** 1½
17 F.ELEGANCE/PRIVATE LINE	1994	** 2½
18= S.TURBOSTAR 432	1991	** 2
18= MEPHISTO BLITZ	1991	**
Psion/8	1986	
20 CONCHESS/4	1978	** 4½+
21 N.SUPER CONST	1975	** 2
Ostrich	1940	
22= N.QUATTRO	1937	* 1½
22= F.PRESTIGE	1937	**
Awit	1931	
Cyrus 68k	1919	
24 CONCHESS/2	1916	** 2½+
25 MEPH SUPERMONDIAL	1915(+?)	?
26 F.ELITE A	1906	*
27 MEPH EXCLUSIVE S	1905	**
28 S.SUPERSTAR 36K/2	1903	* ?
29 PSION SINCLAIR QL	1902	
30 F.ELITE B	1893	*
31 N.CONST/3.6	1891	** 1
32 F.SENSKY 12	1887	**
33 AVE SARGON 4	1875	*
34 SARGON 3	1860	
35= COLOSSUS 4 (Amstrad & c)	1840	
35= WHITE KNIGHT 12 (BBC)	1840	
35= 3D CLOCK CHESS (Amstrad)	1840	
38= SUPER ENTERPRISE	1835	** 1
38= ADVANCED STAR CHESS	1835	** ½
40 MEPHISTO MONDIAL	1834	*
41 F.ELITE OLD	1833	**
42 N.CONST/2	1830	**
43 COLOSSUS 2	1824	
44 MYCHESS 2	1812	
45= PHILIDOR I.S.2	1805	
45= LA HEGENCE/L'EMPEUR	1805	
47 F.SENSORY 9/2	1790	**
48 S.TURBO 16K	1755	* 1
49 MEPHISTO 2A	1746	**
50 MEPHISTO 3A	1739	**

FIDELITY PAR EXCELLENCE v NOVAG FORTE

The NEWS SHEET and photo-copied Games and Notes (which are being issued to all Readers as at 13/8/1986 and the next 12 applicants only as only 130 have been made) pay considerable attention to the PAR EXCELLENCE in particular and the NOVAG FORTE. "My" FORTE Experimental arrived yesterday with its newly fitted and corrective KOM and is working o.k. - I understand final Commercial versions have also left the Mfrs. for these shores, so it's good timing for the NEWS SHEET to be able to carry a Report on these early Games. Eureka also kindly loaned me a Printer to enable some quicker (but non-annotated) Games to be played as I have been doing with the Avant Garde and Fidelity Printer - my wife and I can listen out for 'beeps' and move the pieces whilst we are doing West Winds' work, and the Printers tells us what happened afterwards! Incidentally the Novags use a thermal Printer and, though lacking the Figure symbols of the Fidelity, it is lovely and quiet, easy to use and can also print-up the FORTE's move-by-move Evaluations which is very handy. Before giving the Moves from a couple of the early Games, let me say that I am impressed with the FORTE's LCDisplay - it is very clear and with a nice variety of visual options so that you can see exactly what information you want - and avoid any you don't want! (i.e. if you don't need help because you're a somewhat better player than I am!). Although still clearly displaying the SUPER C and EXPERT playing style, I feel that Novag have adjusted it slightly and tightened up its Game a little. Nevertheless it remains an 'active' Programme and the Games are already providing much excitement and sharp play. The PAR E already has its Official 2100 from the USCF, of course... from the early Games it is sure that FORTE will be around the same - they are 2 first-class Competitors!

Game 1 All Games are being played at 60/2 (2mins per move). In this one the PAR E held a slight upper-hand throughout, winning a Pawn and then having a passed a-pawn still a pawn up. FORTE cleverly exchanged a bishop for 2 pawns and looked in trouble but had aimed for perpetual check! For a moment it seemed that PAR E might wriggle out, but it was not to be (½-½)

Game 2 PAR E (White) v FORTE. 1 e2e4 e7e5 2 g1f3 b8c6 3 f1c4 f8c5 4 d2d3 g8f6 5 b1c3 d7d6 6 c1g5 c6a5 7 c4b3 a5xb3 8 a2xb3 c8g4 9 0-0 h7h6 10 g5xf6 d8xf6 e11c3d5 f6d8 12 b3b4 c5d4 13 c2c3 c7c6 From winning a Pawn now PAR E never looks back and achieves the win in strong manner 14 c3xd4 c6xd5 15 e4xd5 0-0 16 d4xe5 d6xe5 17 h2h3 g4xf3 18 d1xf3 d8d6 19 f3e3 d6xd5 20 a1xa7 a8xa7 21 e3xa7 d5xd3 22 a7xb7 d3c2 23 b4b5 c2xb2 24 b5b6 f7f5 25 f1d1 b2e2 26 b7d7 f8b8 27 d1c1 e2a6 28 c1c7 a6a1+ 29 g1h2 e5e4 30 c7c8+ b8xc8 31 d7xc8+ g8f7 32 c8xf5+ f7e7 33 b6b7 a1b2 34 f5c5+ e7f7 35 c5c7+ f7e6 36 b7b8=Q b2xb8 Black resigns (1-0)

Game 3 A tense Game and a must for Readers to try. PAKE (Black) equalises early but his 15 - Ng4 gives FORTE time to re-assert. 18 - a5 gets my ? and it seems that FORTE must win Q-side Pawns until PAKE finds saving resources. However a breakthrough does come around move 30 only for PAKE to strike back with 34 - fxe3! which gets him back into the Game. Eventually PAKE swaps this Pawn for a passed b-Pawn and seems to have a win; but FORTE isn't finished yet either and creates a p-P on the K-side. PAKE still has the edge to the end, but hasn't enough material to clinch it!

N.FORTE (White) v PAR E 1 d2d4 d7d5 2 c2c4 e7e6 3 b1c3 g8f6 4 c1g5 b8d7 5 e2e3 c7c6 6 g1f3 d8a5 7 c4xd5 f6xd5 8 d1d2 f8b4 9 a1c1 0-0 10 g5h4 d7f6 11 h4xf6 d5xf6 12 a2a3 b4d6 13 f1c4 b7b6 14 0-0 f8d8 15 c4d3 f6g4 16 h2h3 g4f6 17 b2b4 a5h5 18 f1d1 a7a5 19 c3e4 f6xe4 20 d3xe4 a5xb4 21 a3xb4 c8d7 22 c1a1 h5b5 23 a1b1 f7f5 24 e4d3 b5d5 25 d2c3 d6e7 26 f3e5 e7g5 27 d3c4 d5d6 28 c3c3 d8f8 29 b1a1 a8xa1 30 d1xa1 b6b5 31 c4b3 d7c8 32 c2xc6 d6xc6 33 e5xc6 f5f4 34 a1a8 f4xe3 35 f2f4 c8d7 36 a8xf8+ g8xf8 37 c6e5 g5h4 38 g1f1 d7c8 39 f1e2 h4f2 40 e5g4 f2g3 41 e2xe3 g3e1 42 g4e5 e1xb4 43 g2g4 b4c3 44 b3c2 h7h6 45 e3d3 b5b4 46 d3c4 c8b7 47 c4d3 b7d5 48 e5g6+ f8f7 49 g6e5+ f7f6 50 h3h4 c3e1 51 g4g5 f6e7 52 c2a4 b4b3 53 h4h5 b3b2 54 a4c2 h6xg5 55 f4xg5 d5a2 56 h5h6 g7xh6 57 d3e2 e1g3 58 e5g6+ e7f7 59 g5xh6 f7g8 60 g6e7+ g8h8 61 e2f3 g3c7 62 f3e3 b2b1=Q 63 e7g6+ h8h7 64 g6f8+ h7xh6 65 c2xb1 a2xb1 66 f8xe6 c7d6 67 d4d5 h6g6 68 e3d4 g6f6 69 e6d8 b1f5 70 d8c6 f6f7 PAKE left with B+K v K some while later and ½-½

Game 4 Another real 'cracker' in which PAR E gains a Pawn (a-file again) but FORTE gets strong central pressure against an Iso-QP with his pieces. Still, when the Pawn starts to move at 35-36 PAR E looks to have equal chances. However FORTE creates Mating threats for a while and then, as these dissipate, it really looks as if PAR E will win it. Suddenly FORTE finds K-side pressure again and this time wins material enough to win. PAR E (white v N.FORTE 1 d2d4 g8f6 2 c2c4 e7e6 3 b1c3 f8b4 4 e2e3 0-0 5 g1f3 d7d5 6 f1d3 c7c5 7 0-0 d5xc4 8 d3xc4 b8d7 9 d1e2 b7b6 10 f1d1 c5xd4 11 e3xd4 c8b7 12 c1g5 a8c8 13 f3e5 d8e8 14 c4b5 a7a6 15 b5xa6 b7xa6 16 e2xa6 b4xc3 17 b2xc3 c8xc3 18 g5xf6 d7xf6 19 a6xb6 f6d5 20 b6d6 e8c8 21 e5d3 f8d8 22 d6e5 h7h6 23 a2a4 c8c4 24 d3c5 c3c2 25 c5b7 d8d7 26 e5b8+ g8h7 27 b7c5 d7c7 28 a1b1 c4e2 29 d1f1 e2g4 30 b8b3 c2d2 31 b3g3 g4xg3 32 h2xg3 d2xd4 33 f1c1 d4d2 34 b1a1 h7g6 35 a4a5 c7a7 36 a5a6 d2e2 37 g1f1 e2b2 38 a1a3 d5b4 39 f2f4 g6f5 40 c1c4 b4c2 41 a3f3 f5f6 42 c4a4 c2b4 43 f3c3 b4d5 44 c3b3 b2c2 45 a4a5 f6e7 46 f1g1 e7f6 47 b3b7 a7a8 48 c5d7+ f6g6 49 d7e5+ g6h7 50 b7xf7 d5e3 51 g1h2 c2xg2+ 52 h2h3 g2c2 53 a5a1 c2c3 54 f7d7 e3f5 55 e5d3 f5e3 56 h3h4 e3f5+ 57 h4g4 f5e3+ 58 g4f3 e3d5 59 f3e2 c3c2+ 60 e2f1 d5e3+ 61 f1e1 c2g2 62 a1a4 e3c2+ 63 e1d1 c2e3+ 64 d1e1 a8c8 65 d3f2 e3d5 66 e1f1 g2xg3 67 a6a7 d5b6 and 0-1 twenty moves later. Game 5 a complicated one, PAR E just ahead as I write.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS for the LEADING (over 2000 Elo) MACHINES

On the left, under each Machine's NAME, is the RATING from my List, then the Swedish List and finally the actual AVERAGE plus No. of Games from the Machine's PERFORMANCE FIGURES only. The main body of Figures has the Individual Performance Figures for each Match/Tournament for which I have results for the Machine plus the number of Games the Machine played in that appearance. I.e. 2000/10 means the Computer obtained a Rating of 2000 over 10 Games. If the Result is underlined it means the opposition was HUMAN and not Computers.

MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM	2274/8 2272/8 2229/2 2285/20 2241/8 2086/13 2300/9 2210/20
My Rating	2190 2171/18 2140/4 2338/10 2045/4 2142/24 2236/6 <u>2103/15</u> 2245/22
Swedish Rating	2203 2272/21 2198/40 2238/20 2282/6 2221/51 2366/22 2148/29 2178/35
Performances	2195/639 2154/48 2171/16 2110/42 2164/54 2229/34 2136/30
FID AVANT GARDE/5	2166/6 2048/6 1981/21 1910/22 2131/42 2123/8 1921/2 2175/6
My Rating	2085 2142/17 2089/22 2135/20 2288/6 1961/10 2108/10
Swedish Rating	2146
Performances	2080/198
CONCHESS PLYMATE/6	2098/16 2003/8 2042/20 2005/10 2228/5 2212/10 1931/7
My Rating	2068
Swedish Rating	2117
Performances	2069/76
NOV CONST EXPERT	2038/8 1940/8 2254/2 2025/2 <u>2079/11</u> 2113/6 2303/2 2019/2
My Rating	2052 2112/4 2411/6 2211/4 2082/24 <u>1850/10</u> 2003/6 2048/40 2061/54
Swedish Rating	2107 1945/6 2095/7 2079/7 2082/20 2170/9 2066/20 2140/10
Performances	2070/268
FID EXCELLENCE/4	1965/17 2049/20 1985/7 2154/24 2027/29 2264/3 2052/32 2199/4
My Rating	2046 2086/14 2067/8 1990/7 1907/2 2223/12 2042/10
Swedish Rating	2099
Performances	2067/189
CONCHESS/6	1988/6 2061/7 2179/2 1883/6 2053/8 2028/2 2150/5 2046/12
My Rating	2035 2021/12
Swedish Rating	2069
Performances	2034/60
MEPHISTO MM2	2111/10 1789/2 2151/22 2084/8 2020/4 2240/8 1761/2 1906/24
My Rating	2022 2068/30 1828/6 1930/10 1928/15 1995/8 2024/15 2036/2 2001/14
Swedish Rating	2036 2128/20 2046/20 1881/16
Performances	2022/236
SCI TURBO KASPAROV	1969/8 <u>2055/12</u> 1930/6 2001/20 1945/20 1642/6 2042/24 2210/10
My Rating	2019 2026/35
Swedish Rating	----
Performances	2016/137
CONCHESS PLYMATE/4	2005/8 1988/8 2017/22 2025/47 2043/62 2106/10 2023/18
My Rating	2013 1880/20 2027/29 1971/20
Swedish Rating	2050
Performances	2014/244
FID ELITE C	2029/10 2072/7 2030/40 1979/3 <u>2089/16</u> <u>1916/12</u> 1984/40
My Rating	2013 1892/10 1981/22
Swedish Rating	----
Performances	2001/160
FID EXCELLENCE/3	1990/18 2076/6 1872/6 1936/8 1903/19 1817/22 <u>1962/12</u>
My Rating	2003 <u>2060/13</u> 2069/24 2084/10 1969/51 2042/29 1943/20 1975/18
Swedish Rating	2048 2070/25 2070/15 2035/89 2041/26 1992/22 2046/12 1999/11 2036/2
Performances	2004/486 2199/2 1990/3 2053/20 1772/3

As a matter of interest on Performances alone HITECH rates at 2432!

SUGGESTED RATING LIST, June/July 1986, by ERIC HALLSWORTH

A further addition is made to the RATING LIST this Issue to give an indication of the Recommended Retail Price currently applicable where I know (or think I know) it!

The figure shown represents £000 (hundreds).... i.e. 4 means around £400, 2½ means around £250. The figures are only intended to be to the nearest £50 and if I do any Manufacturer an injustice then I apologise for it will have been a genuine error. If you write me with the correction I will make sure I get it right next time.

As in the last Issue a '*' after a Machine indicates the Rating is based on at least 50 games and should be correct to within 40 Elo at the most; '**' indicates at least 200 Games form the basis of the Rating and such should be Reliable to within 20 Elo at the most.

I hope the additional info. helps; there is no price shown against the older Machines as interested Buyers will often be able to get 2nd. hand versions and prices will vary too much. Ah. yes..... nearly forgot. A Machine shown at 4½+ for its price indicates that the Price shown is for the Computer in its cheapest format and that it is available in a different variety of Board-styles some of which will cost more than the price shown.

	HiTech	2352		21	MEPH EXCLUSIVE S	1905	**	
1	MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM	2190	** ½	22	S.SUPERSTAR 36K/2	1903	*	?
	Cray Blitz	2190		23	PSION/Sinclair QL	1902		
	Belle	2156			Ostrich	1898		
	Int Chess Sft 2	2128		24	F.ELITE B	1893	*	
	BeBe	2124		25	N.CONST/3.6	1891	**	
2	F.AVANT GARDE/5	2085	* 6	26	F.SENSORY 12	1887		**
3	CONCHESS PLYMATE/6	2068	** 5½+	27	AVE SARGON 4	1875	*	
	Nuchess	2062		28	SARGON 3	1860		
4	N.CONST EXPERT	2052	** 4½	29=	COLOSSUS 4	1840		
	Chaos	2048		29=	WHITE KNIGHT 12	1840		
5	F.EXCELLENCE/4	2046	** 2	31=	SUPER ENTERPRISE	1835	**	½+
6	CONCHESS/6	2035	* 5½+	31=	ADVANCED STAR CHESS	1835	**	½
7	MEPHISTO MM2	2022	** 3½	33	MEPHISTO MONDIAL	1834	*	?
8	S.TURBO KASPAROV	2019	* 2½	34	F.ELITE OLD	1833	**	
	Advance 3	2016		35	N.CONST/2	1830	**	
9	CONCHESS PLYMATE/4	2013	** 4½	36	COLOSSUS 2	1824		
10	F.ELITE C	2013	*	37	MYCHESS 2	1812		
11	F.EXCELLENCE/3	2003	** 1½	38=	PHILIDOR I.S.2	1805		
	Orwell 85	2000		38=	LA REGENCE/L'EMPEREUR	1805		
12	F.ELEGANCE	1997	** 2½	40	F.SENSORY 9B	1790	**	
	Phoenix	1996		41	S.TURBO 16K	1755	*	
13	S.TURBOSTAR 432	1991	** 2	42	MEPHISTO 2A	1746	**	
14	MEPHISTO BLITZ	1991	**	43	MEPHISTO 3A	1739	**	
	Psion/8	1986		44=	CHESS 2001	1730	*	
15	CONCHESS/4	1978	** 4½	44=	S.EXPRESS 16K	1730	*	½
16	N.SUPER CONST	1976	** 2	44=	WHITE KNIGHT 11	1730		
	Awit	1938		47	CYRUS 2.5	1724		
17	F.PRESTIGE	1937	**	48	CONCHESS A0	1723		
18	CONCHESS/2	1916	** 2½	49	S.SUPERSTAR	1717	**	
19	MEPH SUPERMONDIAL	1915	?	50	F.SENSORY 9A	1711	**	
20	F.ELITE A	1906	*	51	GGM + STEINITZ	1709	**	

Well, there we are.... all my room has gone again. Hope you've found the Issue interesting and helpful. Keep in touch.

Best wishes
Eric