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NEWS SHEET 12 -- JANUARY 1987

First of all, my GREETINGS to all Readers for the NEW YEAR - my wife (Chris) and I send you our sincere best wishes both personally and spiritually and for our continuing friendship in Chess.

Next let me draw your attention to our NEW ADDRESS as above. Please make a note of this in the appropriate place as our MAIL will only be forwarded on to us from West Winds for a limited time. I must say that I like the name of the place - PEACEHAVEN - most of you must know by now that we are keen Christians so such a name obviously has a good ring to it... though I realise that the Good Book says that HE came to stir things up and not send us to sleep! That sounds like a good basis for a sermon in some Churches I know!

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- * A first look at MEPHISTO SUPER DALLAS!
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But first... the WEST WINDS TOURNAMENT BOOK!

Hopefully you have been awaiting this with great expectation - and disappointment at its continuing non-arrival. My apologies. I really do still intend to get it out but am currently delayed by the non-arrival of ANALYSIS from Competence for 3 PAR EXCELLENCE games. It was a terrific boost to my enthusiasm for the BOOKLET to learn that these were to be done by JON SPEELMAN, but you will know that he has been rather busy (!) winning the British Championship again and also playing at Hastings (where he has recovered from a poor start to reach joint leadership at the time of writing this). Thus his Analysis for the West Winds TOURNAMENT BOOKLET has still not reached me. I haven't been able to make too much progress with my own typing as I don't know how much space Jon's efforts will take up - I understand from Terry Knight that he has done a very full and first-class job - but the notes have only just reached Competence and have not got through to me as yet. In a way, with being busy due to our

our removal at the beginning of January, it has been a relief not to feel the pressure of getting the Booklet out as well... but I am conscious of my promises in NS/11 and can only hope that I will be able to make some real progress soon.

OUR MOVE

Some readers may have guessed it from our address already, and the fact is that I have moved here to take up employment with EUREKA. I believe I can truthfully say that I have had good and friendly relationships with virtually all of the Distributors and Retail outlets with whom I have had any contact via the NEWS SHEET, and none more than with Paul Cohen of EUREKA. It was thus a joy to be invited by him to join their staff and I can't pretend to have hesitated much in making the decision. It means a big change for us in more ways than just our removal and daily work as I also have had to say goodbye to the various preaching and evangelistic opportunities which we had built up during our time in mid-Wales. Nevertheless, we are glad and excited to be here and look forward to what the future has in store! Paul even admitted (once) that there are sinners in Brighton too (!) so we believe that all things will work together for good.

The FUTURE of NEWS SHEET

The change of job obviously affects my previous INDEPENDENT status concerning my Viewing, Testing and Reporting on the Chess Computer scene. However it is my intention to keep the NEWS SHEET going if at all possible and I purpose to remain as objective and fair as I can. Paul Cohen has agreed to this and it was agreed as a part of my job acceptance that the NS would remain entirely mine, with its own separate Mailing List, and Paul would not seek to influence comments (nor sack me for any untoward ones!). At the same time one MUST be realistic and it seems a bit inevitable that working in the particular surroundings of Novag, Mephisto and CXG machines will have some effect on my attitudes as well as general discussions around the Office which, while being directly concerned with Eureka affairs and not being intended as NEWS SHEET material, will inevitably colour the emphasis of the NS to some degree.

On the other hand there are some things which will force me to keep some sort of balance apart from my own determination and promise to that end. Copies of every NS go to Competence, Contemporary Chess Computers, SciSys as major Distributors in this

Country as well as various leading retail outlets and other Distributors abroad. If I, on the one hand, make claims of neutrality and fairness and they, on the other, feel that I am using the NS as a vehicle specifically for Eureka, then they will have every entitlement to complain and, no doubt (and rightly), be quick to do so! I think it may be fair to give some room in the NEWS SHEET for their comments made in response to NS material and, if other Distributors feel that I have gone 'over the top' and the intention of 'all-round fairness' doesn't seem to be working out, then I shall have to re-appraise the situation and issue the NS marked to show my Eureka bias. I don't know that that would make so much difference to the content anyway! Whilst I can honestly say that I owned Machines by both NOVAG and MEPHISTO prior to joining Eureka (which 'proves' that I did like them when I was independent) I am not interested in suddenly pretending I don't like, say, the FIDELITY Avant Garde which remains one of my favourites, or the appearance of the new SCISYS Leonardo which looks to have some interesting possibilities once the Programme is sorted out for its playing strength. There are other Fidelity Machines about which I have made encouraging noises in the NS such as the Elegance; from SciSys the Turbo Kasparov; and from Mephisto the Rebell and Amsterdam; from Novag the Expert and Forte... I still like all of these and others besides and I shall continue to report on them exactly AS I FIND THEM and not as others think I OUGHT to find them - be the 'other' friend or foe!

Understandably there will be some folk who will be unhappy about my lack of independence in future articles and may consider my reliability to be less valuable - anyone so inclined is welcome to cancel his NEWS SHEET and, if you're one of the folk who has sent a Gift in the past to help towards the running and distribution costs (which I will still be funding personally) then I shall send you a pro rata return based on the date of the gift and the number of Issues you've had.

Having said all of that, I think the best thing now is to see how it all works out in practice.

RUNNING COMPUTER v COMPUTER Tests

It has seemed to me for some while that an important part of Testing CHESS COMPUTER strengths against EACH OTHER necessitated usage of a widish variety of Openings with a view to obtaining Results covering a VARIETY of positions... sharp and quiet, tactical and strategical, handling and defending K and Q-side advantages etc. Allowing a Machine to use its own Opening selection can easily result in a very unbalanced view and (a real 'untouched' problem) produce much duplication in results. The latter point was brought home more forcibly recently when Reader Gerald Murphy sent me copies of his MEPHISTO AMSTERDAM v NOVAG FORTE Match. Between these Machines I had obtained a 10-8 score for the AMSTERDAM; Gerald got a 12½-7½ result. Not too different, but enough

affect the Performance Ratings by +/-50. One could easily be tempted to add the scores together to obtain a nice average... thus 22½-15½ for the AMSTERDAM but, when I read through Gerald's game scores, I found that FIVE Games were exact duplications... i.e. we had both played 5 games exactly the same! Of these, 3 were AMSTERDAM wins, 1 was a FORTE win, the other a draw. Thus the REAL TOTAL needs to be 19-14 for the AMSTERDAM which is now 'owed' a Game with the White pieces! Not too much of a swing, of course, BUT we need to realise that this is going on all the time. For example (by agreement) I take results out of PLY Magazine and add them to my own computed figures - but HOW MANY of the games in their totals have already been played in games included in my own figures? The argument could easily be advanced that it will all work out evenly 'in the end' - and quite likely it will - but I still feel it would be good if we could 'organise' the Tests a little.

Happily Larry Kaufman in the States was coming to the same conclusion and, all credit to him he has put the idea into practice ahead of me and is already running a large Tournament involving over 10 Machines playing 30 secs per move on the White and Black side of 8 different Openings. This means each Machine plays each other Machine over 16 games and the latest scores from these Tests are shown in a cross-table elsewhere in the NS. I think Larry is also right in playing the Machines on both sides of the same Openings... thus if a particular Opening is known to suit White, both Machines have a chance at the full point with it. Another example is in playing a Gambit where Computers are sometimes (some of them!) at a loss to know how to proceed when a Pawn down (not of their own choosing, but by the Opening Book) - often they only want to win back the Pawn and avoid the necessary developing and attacking moves they are supposed to make. Here, too, it is important to give both Machines the chance on both sides of the Gambit.

Thus Readers will find a separate SHEET with this NS which is a suggested format for such Tests. As usual I am open to Reader comment on this, especially suggestions for alternative Openings which could be used. The range as presented seems to provide a useful variety in requirements for playing style, attack/defence etc. and is also designed not to cover the same ground as Larry Kaufman's tests so that his results will be of fullest use to me and vice-versa.

Readers using this plan could have a photo-copy made and then mark up results and send details to me so that I can make sure duplicated Results are kept out of future calculations as far as possible. If a Reader used, say, only 4 of the Openings, then I recommend ~~four~~ should start 1.e4 (1.e4 should be 40-50%, 1.d4 30-40%, and 1.c4 10-20%). Whichever Openings are used, play the Machines on both the White and Black side of same. If you wish to use something different, say 1.Nf3, or a different variation of the Ruy Lopez, Sicilian or whatever,

simply mark the SHEET to show the first 3 or 4 moves made (or more if you want) and make sure the Machines again have their chance on both sides of the Opening. I have kept the 'depth' of the Openings down to 3 or 4 moves so that most Machines should still be in their 'Books' and be able to play on from the position with some choice of their own without being able to alter the general trend and requirements of the Opening too drastically. Again discussion on this will be welcomed and I would be willing to re-do the SHEET with revisions in the light of improvements.

On the basis of this new FORMAT you will find my COVERAGE of MATCHES played is changed from this Issue. From now I will produce separate papers each covering progress in one particular Match with detail of the Openings used in the Match and the Result of each Opening's play. A game selection will then be given (with or without notes according to available time, source of result and circumstances) seeking to print the best or most interesting games and, as before, seeking to show a fair balance in line with the Result thus far. For example, everyone (I imagine) will want to know if the new MEPHISTO SUPER DALLAS can be beaten, even in one game, by anything else commercially available! The answer is 'yes'... we have one win by the NOVAG FORTE over MSD and one win by FIDELITY AVANT GARDE +CB16 against it. BUT it needs to be known that these are out of many Games and our Test Results so far have necessitated a total of 34 (!) games between MSD and FORTE, AVANT GARDE and EXPERT/4 to get these 2 wins for the opposition. To print only the 2 wins against it (much as folk might especially want to see them... particularly NOVAG and FIDELITY! ... would be rather unfair. Thus the papers will include such games as they become available, BUT the SUPER DALLAS wins (and there are rather a lot of them, of course) will also be printed in roughly equal proportion to the Result over all the Games.

These MATCH PAPERS will be kept separate from the NEWS SHEET so that Readers can use and keep or file them apart from the NS if they wish.

SciSys LEONARDO

Unfortunately my Report on this is of necessity shorter than it should have been due to the fact that the 4MHz Cartridge sent to me doesn't appear to be working properly. This is a real shame as the Board, Appearance and overall Presentation of the LEONARDO is very encouraging. The Tournament-size Board is particularly nice with fine wood Pieces - SciSys have gone for co-ordinate LEDs rather than LEDs on each square - this enables Board appearance to be at its best though I personally prefer the LEDs on each square to help with ease and speed in playing.

I have occasionally commented on the lack of features on SciSys machines (it's a bug I have - I love lots of buttons and features, hints, analysis, displays and all that sort of thing... I also believe

that some of the features make a vital difference to the overall user-value of a Machine) - but there are no complaints with the LEONARDO. Although there is no Display all of the standard features of the best Machines are there and even a rough Evaluation of the position from the Computer's point of view is available by the use of the LEDs in a similar way to the Super Enterprise. In addition the LEONARDO will link-up to many of the popular Home Computers and this facility will enable more information still to be accessed. With a Home Computer and/or compatible Printer the possibilities seem enormous as it does seem that 'compatible' will include more Home Computers than similar possibilities already available on the FORTE and EXPERT Machines by NOVAG.

The stumbling-block at the moment (as far as I can see with the items sent to me) has to be Programme Playing Strength. The 'basic' Programme in the LEONARDO at purchase is only intended to be an equivalent or slightly better than the SciSys TURBO 24K and this certainly proved to be the case in Tests I made against FID AVANT GARDE, MEPH REBELL and NOV FORTE in which the LEONARDO failed to score a point in 14 games. SciSys kindly sent me an extra 4MHz Cartridge to use which is basically a TURBO KASPAROV, maybe with some improvements from info. and good reports heard from Germany where LEONARDO has been available for a while now - I will try to get hold of a couple of game-scores from a 4 or 6MHz Cartridge abroad to 'balance' the negative aspects of these comments a little. However my 4MHz Cartridge certainly seemed to add the first-class KASPAROV Opening Book as in the Turbo Kasparov, and the Programme played some nice Chess in patches, though not seeming all that similar to the very solid and reliable Turbo K. Unfortunately the version here would occasionally make 'purposeless' moves ignoring threats, even mating attacks, and thus was unable to produce a result any better than the Basic programme. There is certainly something wrong with my version and I have noticed that the Board sent to me is a 'Tester's Model... not for re-sale' so I would guess that the Board and Cartridge are not themselves fully compatible as I am quite certain that a properly functioning LEONARDO/4 will play much better than mine. In view of this I am not printing any LEONARDO games as I believe they would give a false and unfair impression of the strength in their up-grades.

I think it would be fair to say (and Paul Hales who is working with SciSys now agrees with me) that a 'good' Chessplayer is going to want the up-grade Programme at 4 or 6MHz to give him the strength for pleasure and practice that he would need as the Programme in the basic LEONARDO is at the lower-end of the Rating strength-scale. Hopefully I will be able to get a LEONARDO + 4 or 6MHz up and working before the next NEWS SHEET and then I will be able to give Readers something more definite in this area. In the meantime anyone wanting to know if there is further progress can ring Paul Hales on 0932 59330.

Mephisto DALLAS and SUPER DALLAS

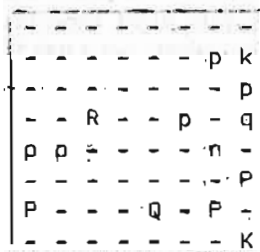
I have just completed a '30 min for the full Game' Match against the FID AVANT GARDE +CB16 and Paul Cohen has done 2 short Matches against the NOV FORTE and EXPERT/4; these Results plus those I have from Larry Kaufman's first Tests indicate that the MEPH SUPER DALLAS will earn a figure of just over 2300 on my RATING LIST. It really is a superb CHESS COMPUTER and, whilst some might say that it ought to be good for its price and operating speed, this cannot detract from the fact that it really does play an outstanding game of Chess.

The basic DALLAS programme is an upgrade of the AMSTERDAM and the improvements, I believe, will be of particular value in play against humans although its overall play will be a little better in various departments. It has an improved and extended Opening Book over the AMSTERDAM, improved understanding and therefore play for Pawns and Pawn formations; definite end-game improvements, particularly to its play defending against an enemy passed Pawn; plus increased aggressiveness and combinational play against the enemy King - this leads it to occasionally use sacrificial means to open up the opponent's King position. At the moment in play against other Computers the changes may only produce an extra 25 Elo - though I believe it will prove to be more than this when more extensive testing has taken place - but I do expect it to produce a bigger gain against people and, this combined with the extra Speed of the SUPER DALLAS should make the latter a real handful for all but the very best players. It will be interesting to see how it scores in the forthcoming Kings Head Quickplay and whether it is able to live up to my 2300+ expectation there!

I am not quite sure what the position will be regarding its Rating in the USA - as Readers now know the USA Ratings tend to run some 75 Elo higher than our human figures so that a figure of close to 2400 is expected. This will still be below HiTech which recently achieved a 2500+ in Tournament play, and the improved faster Cray Blitz, but a tremendous figure nonetheless. However I have been told that the USA Chess Rating Agency which organised Rating Tests for the FID PAR EXCELLENCE and the FID Challenger 16MHz will be 'unable to Rate the new MEPHISTO Models for at least 6 months'. I am not sure what this is all about, but it sounds a bit 'naughty' especially as 'Chess Life' wont allow Rating claims unless they are CRA approved and the CRA was set up with the apparent express purpose of providing figures for any Machine submitted to it. I have written to a couple of places to try and get some more light thrown on this matter and perhaps I had better keep my suspicions to myself until I hear more. One certainly gets the impression from USCF adverts (yes, they advertise particular Machines whereas our own BCF (correctly) simply checks and neutrally confirms a suitable Machine standard and value for money) that they have a financial interest in the prosperity of certain Machines - I'd have named them if I'd still been

independent, but wont now so that I don't appear to be biased and having a 'go' at a particular Firm or Computer... I'm actually concerned only about the USCF and whether a Chess Federation should have such a 'power' in this area of things. One thing is sure - if my information is even 50% correct, Mephisto seems to be getting a raw deal.

Back to the SUPER DALLAS! Here is a position which, I think, Graham White sent me some 12 months ago and which he had tried out on various Machines but which none had been able to deal with. I have given every Computer that has come my way a couple of hours on the position, including the MEPH AMSTERDAM, and none has seen anything other than 1.Qxg4 with a strongly positive Evaluation (whereas the move actually loses). I did find that MEPH AMSTERDAM realised from the Black side after 1.Qxg4 that the reply 1... fxcg leads to a win, but this took 7 mins! All the other Machines still think Black is losing even after 30 mins looking at 1... fxcg. However the SUPER DALLAS only takes 5½ mins from the initial position to see that 1.Qxg4 loses (registering -0.72) and after a further 3 mins (making 8 mins 40 secs in all) turns to 1.Qc2 which is okay. Actually 1.Rb5 is its eventual choice, but the main point is to avoid 1.Qxg4. From the Black position after 1.Qxg4? the SUPER DALLAS takes only 20 secs to see that 1.. fxcg is a +1.50 evaluation (the AMSTERDAM reads +1.64 after 7 mins 6 secs), and the evaluation increases with further time. Readers can easily see that there has to be Programme improvement as well as Speed increase to provide such a dramatic change.



1.Qxg4? fxcg 2.Rxh5 g5! ooops!

I haven't seen any of the Dallas WORLD MICRO Games yet, but will print one or two when they are available - I gather that there are some terrific tussles between the DALLAS Programme and FIDELITY's CHALLENGER. I also understand from our interpretation of Swedish in the latest Issue of PLY. (Thoralf, mine hasn't come yet, a Reader 'phoned me with the info... can you get one to me, please?) that the SUPER DALLAS was running at close to 60MHz at Dallas and the FIDELITY CHALLENGERS at 24MHz and 20MHz... also the CYRUS was at 24MHz. I will reprint my Rating List in this Issue on those figures as I am also now able to include the Buccholz tie-split having obtained the details of who-played-who; but as I haven't had confirmation or otherwise of these Speeds from Hegener/Glaser, Fidelity or David Levy as yet, I reserve the right to be wrong!!

 RESULTS ... RESULTS ... RESULTS ... RESULTS ... RESULTS ... RESULTS ... RESULTS ... RES

CROSS-TABLE as at JANUARY 1987 from LARRY KAUFMAN's Tests in U.S.A over 30secs per move

	MA	NF	NE/6	MR	FPE	FE/4	FE/3	STK	NQ	NSC	
MEPH AMSTERDAM	*	13½	6½		12	13½					These are the RESULTS from the COMPLETED Matches, each over 16 Games. Larry is using the SAME Openings for each Match and these Openings are those numbered at to a8 from the PAR EXCELLENCE Bkck. Thus RUY LOPEZ Exchange, TWO KNIGHTS, SICILIAN Najdorf, CARO KANN Exch, QGAcc, GRUENFELD, ENGLISH Symm with Fianchetto and RETI London are in use - another nice variety.
NOV FORTE	2½	*		9	8	7		10			
NOV EXPERT/6	9½		*		10	9		8½			
MEPH REBELL		7		*	8½	7½	10½	7½		9	
FID PAR EXCELLENCE	4	8	6	7½	*			9		10	
FID EXCELLENCE/4	2½	9	7	8½		*		9		8½	
FID EXCELLENCE/3				5½			*		11½	10½	
SCI TURBO K/5½		6	7½	8½	7	7		*	11		
NOV QUATTRO								4½	5	*	
NOV SUPER CONST				7	6	7½	5½			*	

Other RESULTS from Larry (using the same Openings series) are:-

30secs. MEPH DALLAS 11½-4½ FID PAR E/8MHz (a-5 to 8MHz speed up is available in the States)

MEPH AMSTERDAM 8-8 FID PAR E/8

MEPH DALLAS 9½-6½ NOV EXPERT/6 MEPH DALLAS 10-6 FID PAR E MEPH DALLAS 10½-5½ NOV FORTE

MEPH SUPER DALLAS 14½-1½ NOV EXPERT/6 MEPH SUPER DALLAS 12½-3½ FID PAR E/8

15secs. MEPH DALLAS 5½-½ FID AVANT GARDE

1 min MEPH DALLAS 3½-4½ NOV EXPERT/6 MEPH DALLAS 4-1 NOV FORTE MEPH AMSTERDAM 3½-1½ NOV EXPERT/6

MEPH AMSTERDAM 5½-1½ NOV FORTE MEPH SUPER DALLAS 5-3 FID PAR E/8

Other U.S.A scores... MEPH AMSTERDAM 11-9 NOV FORTE NOV FORTE 52-30 NOV SUPER CONST

MEPH REBELL 3½-1½ FID PAR E

No Swedish Results this issue - my copy of PLY not yet arrived

British Results... MEPH AMSTERDAM 12½-7½ NOV FORTE (Gerald Murphy)

MEPH SUPER DALLAS 8-2 NOV FORTE (Speed) MEPH SUPER DALLAS 7½-½ NOV EXPERT/4 (Speed - Paul Cohen)

MEPH SUPER DALLAS 13-3 FID AVANT GARDE+CB16 (30secs)

(Change of Daisywheel... the 'o' went on my NEW one lat. day's use, now the 'e' has gone as well! Serves me right for using it on the NEWS SHEET as I bought it especially for the TOURNAMENT BOOKLET!).

MEPH DALLAS 2½-1½ NOV EXPERT/6 MEPH SUPER DALLAS 4-1 MEPH REBELL

MEPH REBELL 7½-6½ NOV EXPERT/6 MEPH REBELL 12½-7½ FID AVANT GARDE (was 11-6 in NS/11)

MEPH AMSTERDAM 9-7 MEPH REBELL MEPH REBELL 4-0 SCI LEONARDO BASIC

NOV FORTE 6-0 SCI LEONARDO BASIC FID AVANT GARDE 4-0 SCI LEONARDO BASIC

SUPER ENTERPRISE 7½-½ MEPH 3A. FID AVANT GARDE+CB16 8½-9½ NOV EXPERT/6

WORLD MICRO, DALLAS, 1987. Revision II.

	7	Buch	PERF	
MEPH SUPER DALLAS/60	6	27	2481	(-76=Commercial 30MHz)
FID CHALLENGER/24	5½	25	2388	
MEPH SUPER DALLAS/60	5	22½	2286	
FID CHALLENGER/24	4½	28½	2336	
MEPH SUPER DALLAS/60	4½	26	2292	
HECOM/8 (! see note)	4	29½	2297	
FID CHALLENGER/20 or 24	3½	26	2177	
HECOM/8	3½	24½	2150	
HECOM/8	3½	23½	2132	
CYRUS MAGIC BOARD/24	3	20	2012	
CYRUS MAGIC BOARD/24	2½	24	2027	
CYRUS MAGIC BOARD/24	2	22½	1943	
CHESS MONSTER	1½	19½	1832	
ATARI KEMPELEN	0	21½	1696?	

I have just received a copy of PLAYERS CHESS NEWS (U.S.A.) devoted to Chess Computers this issue. They cover much which NS Readers already know but state that HECOM (the REBELL Prog) which was bit-sliced and played at 16MHz in Neth USA was on a 6502 at 8MHz in the Dallas WORLD MICRO, where bit-slicers were not allowed. Thus a very creditable performance to go with its good placing at Cologne.

BLITZ Matches for stakes reported in NS/11 by the MEPH SUPER DALLAS (60MHz) can now be given with more details... against John Hall (2484 USCF) 4½-3½ for the SUPER DALLAS! against Mike Valvo (IM!) 6-4 for the IM!

Nice to see my work reported on in the January PERSONAL COMPUTER WORLD in Kevin O'Connell's article. Also my Part I of CHESS COMPUTER HISTORY in KINGPIN. Part II appears in the Issue coming out NOW - every Order for KINGPIN No.11 (£1.10p to Kingpin, 10 Derwent Gardens, Ilford, Essex IG4 5NA) will get a FREE copy of No.9 as well. Mike Basman's latest POPULAR CHESS looks at the very interesting CHINESE CHESS! (I wonder if you can open l.h4 at that?!).

RATING LIST by ERIC HALLSWORTH. January 1987

You will recall discussion in NS/11 on the subject of prices being shown in the RATING LIST. There hasn't been an enormous response on this point but, notably, NEITHER of the Manufacturers who requested I withdraw this Information has acknowledged or commented on my failing in line with their request. I had thus intended to include the prices again in this Issue but, unfortunately, the File of Information has gone 'missing' during our removal and I can't even find my box of spare copies of NS/10 and 11 to copy out the old details.

A couple of Readers suggested I try to overcome the problem by putting in a 'FEATURE & QUALITY RATING' based on things like:- +1 for Press Sensory, +2 for Auto; +1 for Quality Wood; +1 for Hint; +1 more for up to 5 Ply Analysis, +1 for Take Back; + 1 more for full Game Take Back; +1 for Game Replay etc. Thus a Machine could be shown with its Price plus my Evaluation, based on a specific method, of the Machine Overall Quality thus giving a more all-round picture. It's a good idea, similar to the one used by the German Schach & Spiele to create their Annual 'Machine of the Year' Award (won by MEPH SUPER MONDIAL for 1986 - a Machine I haven't even seen yet!). Sadly I cannot afford to buy all the Machines past, present and future so that such Evaluations could be created. A possibility is that I draw up a specific PAPER similar to the one on OPENINGS with this NS so that Readers can evaluate their own Machines in an attempt to provide a QUALITY RATING for as many Machines as possible. Thoughts on this would be appreciated - also anyone willing to send a List of FEATURES to be included in the Evaluation, partly to compare with the one I shall draw up and partly to make sure I don't overlook anything.

HiTech	2368	13 FID EXCELLENCE/4	1993	36 NOV CONST/3.6	1831
Cray Blitz	2309	14 NOV EXPERT/4	1980	37 FID SENSORY 12	1815
1 MEPH SUPER DALLAS	2303	15 SCI TURBO KASPAROV/4	1966	38 SARGON 4 AVE	1810
Fid Challenger/24	2273	16 CONCHESS/6	1966	39 MEPH MONDIAL	1788
Sun Phoenix	2255	17 MEPH MM2	1958	40 SARGON 3	1785
Belle	2232	18 CONCHESS PLYMATE/4	1957	41 WHITE KNIGHT 12	1775
BeBe	2223	19 NOV SUPER CONST/5	1947	42 SCI LEONARDO BASIC	1774
2 MEPH DALLAS/12	2166	20 FID EXCELLENCE/3	1942	43 SUPER ENTERPRISE	1771
Recam/16	2161	21 FID ELITE C	1941	44 COLOSSUS 4	1760
Nov Exp*Forte/12	2151	22 SCI TURBOSTAR 432	1938	45 FID ELITE OLD	1758
3 MEPH AMSTERDAM	2136	23 FID ELEGANCE	1931	46 NOV CONST/2	1752
4 NOV EXPERT/6	2046	24 NOV SUPER CONST/4	1920	47 AMSTRAD 3D CLOCK	1750
5 MEPH REBELL	2041	25 MEPH BLITZ	1915	48 SCI TURBO 24K	1742
6 CONCHESS PLYMATE/6	2035	Psion/8	1910	49 MYCHESS 2	1740
Chessmaster 2000	2035	26 CONCHESS/4	1910	50 COLOSSUS 2	1734
Schach 2.7	2030	27 NOV QUATTRO	1875	51 FID SENSORY 9/2	1717
Advance 68k	2025	28 MEPH SUPER MONDIAL	1870?	52 SCI TURBO/16K	1685
Lachex	2025	29 SCI SUPERSTAR 36K	1854	53 MEPH 2A	1681
7 FID AVANT GARDE	2024	30 FID PRESTIGE	1853	54 CHESS 2001	1668
8 NOV FORTE	2023	31 PSION QL	1845	55 CYRUS 2.5	1664
9 FID PAR EXCELLENCE	2021	32 FID ELITE A	1839	56 SUPERCHESS 3.5	1658
10 NOV EXPERT/5	2015	33 MEPH EXCLUSIVE 3	1839	57 MEPH 3A	1656
11 CONCHESS PLYMATE/6	2004	34 CONCHESS/2	1837	58 SCI SUPERSTAR	1654
12 SCI TURBO KASPAROV/5	1997	35 FID ELITE B	1836	59 SCI EXPRESS 16K	1649

My thanks as usual to all those who kindly sent Gifts to help towards NEWS SHEET costs - indeed Christmas generosity actually resulted in NS/11 showing a whole £6 profit! Also thanks for the many encouraging remarks, Christmas cards etc... I reply to most individually as far as time allows and especially if there are enquiries or comments etc creating interesting discussion, but my apologies to any missed out in the past few weeks during our upheaval; I do assure you that all your views, comments and ideas are much appreciated.

Best wishes to all

So, keep in touch 'til next time... I don't know when that will be as I am typing this at home as Peacehaven is cut off from Brighton and I can't get to work! A fine (>> snow!) start! It'll be March for the next NS... or the WEST WINDS Tournament Booklet???

Eric