Computer Chess
NEWS SHEET 20
November 1988

The purpose in publishing the "NEWS SHEET" is to provide a survey of the CHESS COMPUTER scene, with special emphasis on a careful and realistic assessment of the PLAYING STRENGTHS of the many machines. I also work for COMPETENCE LTD (one of the longest established Chess Computer retailers) and enjoy freedom to maintain personal opinions and preferences which I seek to share with readers. Final Games and Articles selection for each Issue is done independently by myself. The NEWS SHEET is financed solely by myself with help from readers whose voluntary contributions are always welcome (please!) but folk who make little attempt to 'pay their way' will not remain on the Mailing List for ever. Articles or Games sent in by readers (or others involved in Chess Computing) will always receive consideration for publication. It is often the lack of such material rather than any editorial bias which determines the final NS content!

Welcome to another Issue of NEWS SHEET. Most of you will find this 8-page NS and an 8-page Booklet on the WORLD MICRO Championship enclosed.. but not everyone! If you haven't received the WORLD MICRO Booklet it means simply that your payments have fallen a bit too far behind my costs. Please don't think of me as being 'mean' for leaving the Booklet out – from my position I am losing well over £50 every Issue by still sending NS out to 'mini-contributors' and it was not the simplest decision to send out even the basic NS20 to them knowing that it mostly represents lost money. If no WORLD MICRO Booklet was enclosed (1) you can have a copy by sending me £1 and (2) if you want future Issues of the NS you will need to send me £5 which will cover you for Issues 21-24 (Foreign Readers £8 in Pounds Sterling for 4 Issues). I would like to use my hard-earned cash to buy myself a new Chess Computer and cannot keep putting such amounts of money, not to mention time, into NS.

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The 1988 WORLD MICRO Championship

This EVENT is reported fully in the separate Booklet detailing astonishing 'on/off/on' problems before the Championship, the 'disappearing' organiser and his 'Disorganizing Committee'; then plenty of high-class and exciting Chess. MEPHISTO won all the Sections in which they were entered though FIDELITY led in the MANUFACTURERS Section in the early stages until the Mephisto team began to make adjustments to their Opening Books and obtained a winning advantage. The distance between the MEPHISTO and FIDELITY Programmes and the others who entered suggested that these two have moved a long way clear of the competition at this time. Which of the two turns out to be strongest in their COMMERCIAL

formats remains to be seen - the Official World Micro Tournaments no longer answer such obvious questions. FIDELITY's Championship programme in its 68000 16MHz MACH III format, holding the Official US MASTER TITLE and 2265 USCF Grading, is already out costing £399. The running speeds, DRAM size, launch dates and prices for the MEPHISTO ALMERIA are still unknown to me at the time of writing this part of NS. STOP PRESS - prices similar to ROMA; 32 bit could be in EXCLUSIVE Board too; release possibly end of November.

New MACHINES coming out

CXG SPHINX. This Programme is already out, in fact, in a choice of 2 Boards. The first is the GALAXY costing £150 on the SUPER ENTERPRISE Board and the other the COMMANDER costing £300 on the wood, auto sensory CXG 3000 Board - both with Scrolling multi-info Displays and lotsalevels etc. The originally intended SPHINX programme was to be David Levy's CYRUS 68000 effort but this never reached the playing strength required by CXG so they have actually got a Franz Morsch programme in it running at 4MHz on the 6502 processor. Morsch was the programmer of the selective search SUPER MONDIAL and, as the SPHINX comes a year later, we can expect it to be stronger.

Andy Roland at Contemporary Chess Computers kindly loaned me one for the *Pergamon CHESS* "Beat the Masters" and the results of its efforts will appear in the November Issue. One position particularly produced an impressive effort from the Sphinx. In my own testing it came out a little below the Conchess Plymate 5.5MHz, a conclusion with which Andy, who also markets Conchess, agrees. However in Sweden its results are about 30 Elo above mine - still small sample from both of us. Room permitting I will print a couple of its games from my tests. Below is its current Results standing combining all scores in so far.

CXG SPHINX Rating 1953 +/- 28 vs hums 1914 in 62

v MEPH DALLAS 32	0.5	5.5	v MEPH REBELL	9	10
v FID PAR E/ELITE 2100	1.5	0.5	v SCI TURBOSTAR 432	5	2
v NOV SUPER CONST	2	2	v FID EXCELLENCE/4	11.5	8.5
v CONCHESS/2	2	0	v KASP STRATOS	1.5	0.5
v MEPH MM4/5	6.5	11.5	v MEPH ROMA 32	0.5	0.5
v MEPH ROMA 16	2	6	v KASP LEON ANALYST/8	10	10
v NOV SUP EXP-FORTE/6	2.5	7.5	v FID MASTER MACH 2C+	7.5	12.5
v NOV SUP EXP-FORTE/5	26	34	v MEPH MEGA 4	3	7

KASPAROV SIMULTANO. An interesting newcomes for Nov/Dec at £199.99. Advance publicity suggests it may be something close to the STRATOS programme on a press-sensor Board but with a couple of unique additions. (1) The extra LCD Display which can be used to mark a position allowing the user to explore forward analysis and then easily get back to the root position. The Display will show up to 8-Ply of forward analysis which can thus be played through as required on the Board without risk of confusion. (2) The Simultano will play up to 8 games simultaneously giving you the chance to pretend you are a G.M!

MEPHISTO MONTE CARLO. No, it's not a new machine, of course - NS carried a report just after its launch some while ago. However it still hasn't made an appearance on the Swedish lists and, thus far, I have no-one sending in any scores for this programme so it is still rated as per the small sample work I did myself. If anyone has any scores they can let me have from this computer, do please send them to me. Ta.

HITECH   STRIKES BACK! After my report in NS19 of the dramatic progress of
Chiptest, later re-named DEEP THOUGHT, I now learn that HiTech has been prog-
rammed with the singular extension system and is back vying for top spot again.
An amazing $3\frac{1}{2}$-$\frac{1}{2}$ victory at 40 in 2 hrs has just been achieved against G.M
Arnold Denker. Denker of course is some way past his prime and rates at around
2350 nowadays. Even so this is a noteworthy win especially as the G.M is known
to be a Chess Computer fan and has experience of playing against them. Both
HiTech and Deep Thought would appear to be grading at close to 2500 USCF.

FIDELITY   DESIGNER EXCELLENCE. The very popular PAR EXCELLENCE programme in a
newly designed modern-look Board with DISPLAY and much extended FEATURES. At
£149.95 it must capture much of the Christmas sales.

RESULTS   REPORT. This apparently bad idea was introduced a few Issues ago,
the idea being to make available a print-out of ALL the Computer vs Computer
results known to me fully up-to-date with corresponding full Rating List. The
cost was suggested at just £2 but, with the games list growing and growing and
only a handful of Readers wanting it, the printing costs for it have escalated
and I've had to suspend it for now. Maybe I'll prepare another one with NS21 if
a few folk write expressing interest, but it will have to be for around £3-£4.

RESULTS SECTION

The following is a selection of the Results which have come in since the last
News Sheet.

1988 PAPATOETOE (New Zealand) INVITATION Micro-Computer Tournament

1= Mephisto ROMA 16 bit	7 /10	Many thanks to Bruce Barnard in New
1= CXG SPHINX	7	Zealand for sending me an excellently
3 Novag SUPER FORTE/5	$6\frac{1}{2}$	produced Booklet covering this Event. The
4 Fidelity PAR EXCELLENCE	$5\frac{1}{2}$	Time Control in use was 60/60 mins and I
5 Kasparov STRATOS	3	had hoped to include some of the best
6 Conchess PRINCHESS/2	1	games in the NEWS SHEET if space had

allowed - perhaps next time. Excerpts from
the Tournament Books comments:- *"The high standard of play achieved under this
time control undoubtedly impressed many people who had been previous sceptics..
we now hope to make this an Annual Event.. Mephisto was expected to win easily
.. we still believe the programme was a notch above the others entered here..
the CXG in the nice housing (Commander) is a strong programme and this result
was a great success for it.. the poor Stratos result could lead to false
conclusions that it is below the standards of the other machines. However it
has beaten Super Forte $17\frac{1}{2}$-$14\frac{1}{2}$ after the Super Forte beat the Sphinx 19-13 in
other tests by us.. the result of the older Par Excellence was no fluke if one
plays through its games, this is a strong programme too"*.

Two Recent TOURNAMENTS in Europe

		Perf			Perf
Nov SUPER EXPERT/5	$11\frac{1}{2}$/18	2218	Meph ROMA 16	20/30	2172
Fid MACH IIC+	$9\frac{1}{2}$	2102	Meph MEGA 4	$17\frac{1}{2}$	2118
Meph ROMA 16	$7\frac{1}{2}$	2003	Fid MACH IIC+	16	2071
Meph MEGA 4	$7\frac{1}{2}$	2024	Nov SUPER EXPERT/5	$12\frac{1}{2}$	1994
			CXG SPHINX	12	2001
			Meph MM4	12	1975

The 2nd result virtually reverses the order of the four Computers from the 1st!

Vs HUMANS

In Holland, Meph MEGA 4 1976 from 30, CXG SPHINX 1858, Kasp TURBO KING 1829.
In USA, Nov SUPER FORTE/9 2135 from 9, Kasp + TURBO 2079.
Badalona, Spain, Nov SUPER FORTE/6 2034 from 9.
Vienna, Fid MACH 2C+ 2155 from 6.
Aegon Tournament, (5 or 6 games played by each), Fid MACH 2B 2176, Meph MEGA 4
+ TURBO 2142, Meph REBELL 88 + TURBO 2114, CXG SPHINX 1956, Fid MACH 2C 1928,
Nov SUPER FORTE + TURBO 1926, Nov FORTE B 1923, Meph SUPER ROMA 1914, Kasp
MAESTRO + TURBO 1811, Nov SUPER EXPERT/5 1785.

BRIEF REPORT on CXG SPHINX

Coming out at a very competitive time, with the Kasparov Simultano and Fidelity
Designer Excellence 2100 at quite similar prices to the GALAXY SPHINX, it will
be interesting to see how much of the market the latter obtains, though all
three of these press-sensory Computers are undoubtably good value for money.

The SPHINX had a torrid introduction in my games and I found it below the
strength of Fid Mach 2, Meph Mega 4 and Nov Super Expert/6, as do the German
testers. But the New Zealand Tourny and some early Swedish figures have it
closer to them, so we will have to see. Like Franz Morsch's Mondial, Super
Mondial and Monte Carlo series of programmes, the SPHINX plays some interesting
Chess, using the selective search system to good effect. Against the Meph MM4
and MEGA 4 it seemed quite even with 4 draws in 6 games; the 2 Sphinx losses
appeared to be a surprise even to the Mega in a sense in that its evaluations
showed no appreciation of what always looked like a useful endgame advantage.
Against Nov SUPER EXPERT/6 and Fid MACH 2C it went down more clearly but showed
some interesting ideas nevertheless with most of the games being quite comp-
etitive. It finally came into its own against the well-known Nov SUPER CONST-
ELLATION programme, though I only had time to get in a couple of games.

CXG SPHINX White, Meph MM4 Black. 60 moves in 1 hr. Nearly a win for SPHINX
but MM4 claws its way back.
1 e4 e5 2 f4 Bc5 3 Nf3 d6 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 Bc4 Nc6 6 d3 Bg4 7 h3 Bxf3 8 Qxf3
Nd4 9 Qd1 0-0 10 fxe dxe 11 Bg5 h6 12 Bh4 Qd6 13 Rf1! - *(A good move and
nice idea. Eval +0.33)* Nd7 14 Nd5 Qg6 15 c3 c6? *(Sphinx expected Ne6. MM4's
move played with an eval +0.04 which is surely wrong!)* 16 Ne7+ Bxe7 *(-1.43.
Aah!)* 17 Bxe7 b5 18 Bxf8 Rxf8 19 Bxf7+ Rxf7 20 Rxf7 Kxf7 21 cxd4 Qxg2 22
Rc1 Qxh3 23 Qb3+ Kg6 24 Rxc6 Kh7 25 d5 Qe3+ 26 Kd1 Nc5 27 Qxb5 Nxd3 28
a3? - *(White's advantage has been slipping and this virtually ends it though
Sphinx's own eval. stays a small plus for a few moves more)* Qxe4 29 b4 Qf3+
30 Kc2 e4 31 d6 Qf6 32 d7 Qb2+ 33 Kd1 Nf2+ 34 Ke1 Nd3+ 35 Kd1 Nf2+ ½-½

CXG SPHINX White, Nov SUPER CONST Black. 60 moves in 1 hour.
1 f4! d5 2 Nf3 g6 3 e3 Bg4 4 c4 Nf6 *(Both machines out of Book!)* 5 Nc3
0-0 6 d4 c6 7 Bd3 Bg4 8 0-0 e6 9 Qb3 Qe7 10 Bd2 a5 11 Ne5 Rd8 12 cxd exd
13 Nxg4 Nxg4 14 Na4 Nc6 15 Nb6 Nxh2? *(Black's best move order is 15 - Nxe4
16 Qd1 (not 16 exd4 Bxd4+ 17 Kh1 Qh4 M/2) and then Nxd4)* 16 Kxh2 Nxd4? *(16 -
Qh4 better, but Black still losing)* 17 Qa4 - *(+3.20!)* Nc6 18 Nxa8 Rxa8 19
Bc3 Qh4+ 20 Kg1 Bxc3 21 bxc3 Ne5 22 Be2 Ng4 23 Bxg4 Qxg4 24 Qb5 Rd8 25
Qxa5 Rc8 26 Qb5 Rxc3 27 Qxb7 Rxe3 28 Qb8+ Kg7 29 a4 e4 30 Ra2 Qe6 31 fxe
Rxe5 32 Rc2 Re1 33 Rcf2 Qe3 34 Qc7 Rxf1+ 35 Kxf1 Qd3+ 36 Kg1 Qd1+ 37 Kh2
Qh5+ 38 Kg3 Qg5 39 Kf3 d4 40 Ke2 Qg4+ 41 Kd2 Qe6 42 Rf3! h5 43 Kd3 Qb3+
44 Ke4 d3 45 a5 Qb4+ 46 Kxd3 Qb4 47 Kd4 Qb4+ 48 Kd5 Qb5+ 49 Kd6 and 1-0

FIDELITY and that MASTER TITLE

The question of whether FIDELITY's new MACH III MASTER will live up to its fine achievement of an Official U.S MASTER Title in its games against Computers is now being tested. This aggressively strong programme with Search Extensions specifically designed for play against Humans which proved itself so successful in the WORLD OPEN is so far also looking good against Computers as well. Early days with just 8 games played at time of writing these notes (6-1=1), but to get 3 games as attractive as the following already whets the appetite somewhat!

Fid MACH 3 White, Meph ROMA 16 Black. 1 hour for game per side. Some nice positional play to obtain combinational threats. Roma misses the main one and allows Mach 3 an impressive finish.
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Nxe4 6 d4 b5 7 Bb3 d5 8 dxe Be6 9 c3 Nc5 10 Bc2 - _(Mach 3 goes out of Book)_ Bg4 11 Bf4 Ne6 _(Roma out of Book now too)_ 12 Bg3 Bc5 13 b4 Ba7 14 Qd3 - _(Building initiative)_ Bxf3 15 Qxf3 Ng5 16 Qf5 - _(The start of a nice forcing combination which cages the Roma King)_ g6 17 Qf4 0-0 18 Bh4 Ne6 19 Qh6 Qd7 20 Bf6 Rfe8 _(Both machines now rate Fidelity at around +1.00, though Roma had been close to = until this move)_ 21 a4! Ne7 22 Ra3!! Qc6? _(Mach 3, showing +1.34, expected Nf5. Meph misses the threat)_ 23 c4! - _(+6.17. 23 - Qxc4 allows M/4, but Roma's choice is no better)_ Bd4? 24 Qxh7+ - _(M/3)_ Kf8 25 Qh6+ Kg8 26 Qh8 Mate.

Fid MACH 3 White, Meph MEGA 4 Black. 30 moves an hour.
1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 a6 8 Bc4 b5 9 Bb3 Bb7 10 Qd2 Nbd7 11 Bh6 Bxh6 12 Qxh6 Nc5 13 0-0-0 Nxb3 14 cxb3!? b4 15 N3e2 Qa5? 16 Kb1 Rd8 17 Rc1 Qb6 18 Rhd1 Rc8 19 Rxc8 Bxc8 20 Rc1 Bb7 21 g4 d5 22 Qf4! Qd8 23 Rc7 Bc8 24 Qc1 0-0 25 e5 Nd7 26 e6 Nf6 27 Qc5 Re8 28 g5 Nh5 29 exf+ Kxf7 30 Nc2 Ng7 31 Ned4 a5 32 h3 Kg8 33 Qxa5 Qd6 34 Ra7 Qg3 35 a3 Qb8 36 Nxb4 e6 37 Nb5! Rc8 38 Qa6 d4 39 Nxd4 Re8 40 Rd7 Qe5 _(It's over now, Mach 3 having used only 51 mins, Mega 1hr 14)_ 41 Qa7 Kh8 42 Nd3! Be4 43 fxe4 Qxe4 44 Nc2 Rg8 45 Ka2 Kf5 46 Qc7 Qxh3 47 Ne5 Rf8 48 Rxg7 Qh2 49 Qe7 - _(M/5)_ Rf5 50 Nf7+ Kxg7 51 Nh6+ Kh8 52 Qd8+ Kg7 53 Qg8 and Mate.

Nov SUPER EXPERT/6 White, Fid MACH 3 Black. 30 moves an hour.
1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 c3 Nf6 4 h3 - _(Puts Mach 3 out of Book)_ Nc6 5 Bd3 d5 6 e5 c4 7 Bxc4?! - _(Novag is now out of Book and shows +0.53 playing this though it doesn't look right to me)_ dxc4 8 exf6 gxf6 9 Na3 Qd3 10 Nb5 Rb8 11 Qa4 Rg8 12 Rg1 Qe4+ 13 Kf1 Qd3+ 14 Ke1 e5! 15 Na3 Bxa3 16 Qxa3 Bf5! 17 Nh2 - _(Novag took 10 mins to find this, but it is better than its earlier choice, 17 Qc5 Qxf3+!)_ Qe4+ 18 Kf1 Bxh3 19 f3 Qg6 20 Ng4 Qd3+ 21 Kf2 Bxg4 22 fxg4 Rxg4 23 Qc5 Nd4+ 24 Qb5? - _(No! All hands on the defensive deck is what's needed here!)_ Qg3+ _(+7.08)_ 25 Ke2 Qh2 26 Qc5 Nd4+ _(+9.99)_ 27 cxd4 Qxg1 28 Qb5+ and Resigns. I continued play 28 - Rd7 29 Qxc4 Re4+ 30 Kd3 R7xd4 _(M/6!)_ 31 Qxd4 Qxd4+ 32 Kc2 Qc4+ 33 Kd1 Qf1+ 34 Kc2 Rc4+ 35 Kb3 Qd3 and Mate.

STOP PRESS RESULTS - ALL GAMES COMPILED FROM NEW OWNERS RESULTS OVER 7 DAYS; Kevin Doubleday, Graham White, Gerald Murphy, Keith Kitson, Larry Kaufman and self

v MEPH DALLAS 16	5.5	2.5	v KASP STRATOS	5	1
v MEPH MM4/5	7.5	4.5	v MEPH ROMA 32	5.5	8.5
v MEPH ROMA 16	9	3	v NOV SUP EXP-FORTE/6	4.5	1.5
v FID MASTER MACH 2C+	17.5	8.5	v NOV SUP EXP-FORTE/5	3	1
v MEPH MEGA 4	6.5	1.5	v MEPH MEGA 4+TURBO*	1	7

NOVAG   SUPERS and the VSS FACTOR

Following my report in NS19 about the interesting differences between the VSS and NORMAL modes on Novag's Super Forte and Expert, Tony Leech and I have been doing further tests. Tony has played 20 games between his Novag Super Forte/6 and the Mephisto Mondial/Dallas XL, 10 with Novag on Normal and 10 on VSS; results of games played at 3 mins per move are:-

Normal: Novag 4^1$_2$ Mephisto 5^1$_2$
VSS   : Novag 5   Mephisto 5

Too small a sample to be at all concl-usive, of course, but still interest-ing. Here is a game, played at 2 mins per move using the same Opening for both Modes. I have shown exactly where the Normal and VSS modes diverge and then followed each game through to the end. The games were played between a Novag Super Expert/6 and a Mephisto Roma 16 bit. Normal mode first.

White **SUP EXPERT/6** , Black ROMA 16 bit
1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 h4 h6 7 Nf3 Nd7 8 h5 Bh7 9 Bd3 Bxd3 10 Qxd3 Qc7 11 Bd2 e6 12 Qe2 Nf6 13 c4 Bd6 14 Nf5 Bf4 15 Bxf4 Qxf4 (The Caro-Kann seems to be Roma's main line as Black against 1 e4. This is where both machines left their Opening Books). 16 Ng3 - (Novag spent a long time over 16 Nxg7+, then some on 16 Ne3, which is in the Books). - 0-0 17 Rh4 Qc7 18 0-0-0 c5 19 d5 exd 20 cxd   Rfe8 21 Qc2 b5 22 Kb1 c4 23 d6 Qc5 24 Nf5 a5 25 Rh3 Kf8 26 Rh4 a4 27 g4 - (Despite spending 13 mins on 25 and 26 (a little less on VSS) Novag could only come up with the Rook shuffle. However the move 27 g4 is not designed to block in that Rook but is aiming for g5 and a challenge on the King-side for White to counteract Black's imposing advantage on the other wing). - a3 28 g5 hxg 29 Nxg5 Re5 30 Rf4 axb 31 h6 gxh 32 Nf3 Re8 33 Qc3 Ra3 34 Qxb2 Ra4 35 Qc2 Nd5 36 Rxd5 -

(I believe Novags under-estimate the difference between Rooks and the Bishops/Knights prior to the exchange having seen this type of sacrifice before. Here, for example, the eval-uation as it makes the exchange is only -0.31 whereas at 37 Nxh6 it will be -1.81. However with his 38th Novag will show that, this time, there is more to the exchange than may first meet the

eye). - Qxd5 37 Nxh6 f6 38 Rg4! Rb4+ 39 Kc1 Ne5

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. . . . . r k . . .
. . . . P . p . N .
. p . q n . . . .
. r p . . . R .
. . . . N . . .
P . Q . . P . . .
. . K . . . . .
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Here only do Normal and VSS diverge! VSS has 40 Rg8+ for ages but goes deep-er than Normal mode and comes up with a weaker move! We continue 1st with the Normal mode.

40 Rg8+! Qxg8 41 Nxg8 Nd3+! (Black's defence, with the Knight manouvre to e5 (covering g6 and threatening arrival at f3 and d3) and now d3 where it arrives with Check as well as blocking the b1-h7 diagonal, is outstanding and appears to have stopped Novag's attack in its tracks). 42 Kd2 Kxg8 43 Kc3 Rb2 44 Qd1 Rxa2 45 Qg1+ Kf7 46 Qg4 Rb8 47 Qd7+ Kg6 48 Qg4+ Kh6? (48 - Kh7 looks better as it saves a vital tempo. The game is now turning and Novag evaluates itself at -0.12 with his next move and +1.64 with his 50th). 49 Nh4 Ra3+ 50 Kd4 Kh7 51 Qg6+ Kh8 (Here Novag evaluates at +3.89 but the Roma remains obliviously optimistic with a +1.32 reading!?) 52 d7! Ra4 53 Qe8+ announcing Mate in 4! Very enjoyable play!

And now the VSS game from move 40.
40 d7? - (In the Normal mode game, d7 is played much later and with forceful threats attached to it. Here it is eas-ily blocked, virtually threatless and just gives White an extra responsib-ility to arrange defence for it). - Rd8 41 Rg8+ Qxg8 42 Nxg8 Nd3+ 43 Kd2 Kxg8 44 Qc3 - (White's chances are clearly much less and Black has the better of this position). - Kf7 45 Qd4 Rb2+ 46 Ke3 Ke7 47 Qg4 Rxd7 48 Qg7+ Kd8 49 Qxf6+ Re7+ 50 Kd4 Nxf2 51 a4 Ke8 52 axb Rd7+ 53 Kxc4 Rc7+ 54 Kd5 Rxb5+ 55 Kd4 Rb4+ 56 Kd5 Rb5+ 57 Kd4 Rb4+ 58 Kd5 Rb5+ and a draw by repetition. Another from this series next time.

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Rating Lists

Thanks for the feedback from NS19 - obviously many of you want to see the vs HUMAN List printed every Issue though, because of space, it will have to be done as a sort of 'Top Fourty'!

NOTES

/5 after a Machine indicates its processor speed to distinguish it from the same programme elsewhere on the List running at a different speed.
+/- shows the maximum deviation likely for that Machine. A Computer for which we have many Results will have a low +/- and one with few Results behind it will have a high +/- (i.e. the Rating for the first one is more reliable).
Human Games Column represent each Machine's overall Result in Tournaments against Human opposition. Many folk believe thesee figures are actually the valuable ones in determining the REAL CHESS ABILITY of the various Computers. These figures are also used to adjust the overall LEVEL of the main List and also appear again in the vs HUMANS List with each Computer in correct vs HUMAN order.
* after a Machine's name in the vs HUMAN List indicates that the Computer is not generally commercially available in that form even though it has appeared, perhaps as a 'special', in a Tournament against Humans. If the Computer becomes properly available, the '*' will be removed and the Machine will start to appear in the MAIN RATING LIST as well.

Top COMPUTER RATINGS vs HUMANS, November 1988

BCF	Computer	Elo	Games	BCF	Computer	Elo	Games
205	FID MACH 4 32 bit*	2238	53	174	NOV SUPER EXPERT ORIG	1993	22
198	FID MACH 3	2185	48	174	LEONARDO+TURBO*	1992	26
192	MEPH MM4+TURBO*	2134	36	174	MEPH EXCL S/12	1989	27
191	MEPH MEGA 4+TURBO*	2130	54	172	CONCHESS/4	1978	23
189	FID 68020 MASTER/LA*	2113	58	171	CONCHESS PLYMATE/6	1972	55
189	MEPH DALLAS 32	2109	197	170	FID PAR E/8*	1964	55
188	MEPH MEGA 4	2101	46	170	NOV FORTE A	1963	124
187	MEPH AMSTERDAM	2093	182	170	NOV SUP EXP-FORTE/5	1960	13
186	NOV EXPERT/5	2089	62	170	MEPH REBELL	1960	46
186	NOV EXPERT+TURBO*	2087	78	169	FID MASTER MACH 2A	1954	35
185	MEPH MOND/DALLAS XL	2079	48	169	FID PAR E/ELITE 2100	1953	209
184	FID MASTER MACH 2C+	2075	82	169	KASP TURBO KING	1949	30
184	CONCHESS PLYMATE/4	2073	6	168	SCI TURBO KASP/6*	1946	12
183	NOV SUP EXP-FORTE/6	2068	94	166	SCI TURBOSTAR 432	1929	61
183	NOV EXPERT/6	2061	22	166	NOV SUP FORTE+TURBO*	1926	5
182	MEPH MM4/5	2056	78	164	CXG SPHINX	1914	62
182	NOV SUP EXP-FORTE/9*	2055	24	163	FID EXCELLENCE/3	1907	41
181	MEPH ROMA 32	2046	47	163	NOV CONST/3.6	1904	17
181	PSION ATARI/8	2045	24	163	FID ELEGANCE	1902	40
179	KASP LEON ANALYST/8	2029	20	163	FID ELITE C	1901	11
178	MEPH DALLAS 16	2026	50	163	FID 68000 CLUB B	1900	7
178	MEPH SUPER MONDIAL	2020	6	162	KASP LEON MAESTRO/6	1899	123
178	KASP LEON MAESTRO/4	2020	6	162	NOV SUPER CONST	1898	254
177	NOV EXPERT/4	2014	43	162	FID AVANT GARDE/5	1893	77
176	MEPH BLITZ	2008	6	161	FID ELITE OLD	1886	5
175	NOV FORTE B	2002	207	155	FID SENSORY 12	1840	7
175	MEPH MM4/8*	2001	7	153	MEPH ROMA 16	1820	16
175	FID MASTER MACH 2B	1998	25	153	CONCHESS/2	1820	11
174	SCI TURBO KASP/4	1994	52	151	FID ELITE A	1809	20

RATING LIST November 1988 for NEWS SHEET 20

BCF	Computer	Elo	+/-	Games	Pos		Human/Games	
200	FID MACH 3	2198	38	152	1	¦	2185	48
199	MEPH ROMA 32	2189	21	510	2	¦	2046	47
196	MEPH DALLAS 32	2166	15	935	3	¦	2109	197
191	MEPH DALLAS 16	2131	13	1245	4	¦	2026	50
191	MEPH ROMA 16	2125	15	957	5	¦	1820	16
188	FID MASTER MACH 2C+	2100	12	1384	6	¦	2075	82
187	MEPH MOND/DALLAS XL	2099	39	140	7	¦	2079	48
186	MEPH MEGA 4	2084	19	630	8	¦	2101	46
186	MEPH AMSTERDAM	2084	10	2085	9	¦	2093	182
183	FID MASTER MACH 2B	2067	27	287	10	¦	1998	25
182	MEPH MM4/5	2053	12	1495	11	¦	2056	78
181	NOV SUP EXP-FORTE/6	2051	25	356	12	¦	2068	94
180	PSION ATARI/8	2036	15	930	13	¦	2045	24
179	MEPH MONTE CARLO	2028	39	140	14	¦		
177	KASP LEON ANALYST/8	2012	36	169	15	¦	2029	20
177	NOV SUP EXP-FORTE/5	2012	16	845	16	¦	1960	13
176	FID MASTER MACH 2A	2005	26	330	17	¦	1954	35
174	NOV EXPERT/5	1994	32	214	18	¦	2089	62
174	FID 68000 CLUB B	1992	14	1090	19	¦	1900	7
174	NOV EXPERT/6	1988	31	222	20	¦	2061	22
172	FID AVANT GARDE/5	1972	12	1426	21	¦	1893	77
171	NOV FORTE B	1970	11	1651	22	¦	2002	207
171	KASP STRATOS	1970	17	784	23	¦		
171	FID PAR E/ELITE 2100	1967	10	1997	24	¦	1953	209
171	MEPH REBELL	1964	13	1351	25	¦	1960	46
169	NOV SUPER EXPERT ORIG	1954	25	338	26	¦	1993	22
169	NOV FORTE A	1954	10	1962	27	¦	1963	124
169	CXG SPHINX	1953	28	271	28	¦	1914	62
168	CONCHESS PLYMATE/6	1945	13	1377	29	¦	1972	55
168	KASP LEON MAESTRO/6	1944	15	934	30	¦	1899	123
167	MEPH SUPER MONDIAL	1937	16	823	31	¦	2020	6
167	KASP LEON MAESTRO/4	1936	84	31	32	¦	2020	6
166	FID EXCELLENCE/4	1926	14	1164	33	¦		
166	KASP TURBO KING	1924	48	95	34	¦	1949	30
165	NOV EXPERT/4	1923	16	804	35	¦	2014	43
165	CONCHESS/6	1920	47	98	36	¦	2224	1
165	SCI TURBO KASP/4	1919	21	494	37	¦	1994	52
165	CONCHESS PLYMATE/4	1917	24	362	38	¦	2073	6
162	SCI TURBOSTAR 432	1898	13	1237	39	¦	1929	61
162	PSION 1/8	1898	54	75	40	¦		
162	MEPH MM2	1897	20	567	41	¦	1732	7
162	FID ELEGANCE	1897	19	630	42	¦	1902	40
162	FID EXCELLENCE/3	1896	13	1220	43	¦	1907	41
160	FID ELITE C	1882	37	160	44	¦	1901	11
158	CONCHESS/4	1867	21	504	45	¦	1978	23
158	FID EXCEL DISPLAY/3	1865	41	131	46	¦		
158	NOV SUPER CONST	1864	9	2711	47	¦	1898	254
156	MEPH BLITZ	1849	29	262	48	¦	2008	6
154	MEPH EUROPA	1828	44	113	49	¦		
152	FID ELITE A	1816	41	131	50	¦	1809	20
151	MEPH EXCL S/12	1804	32	212	51	¦	1989	27
150	SCI SUPERSTAR 36K	1800	17	729	52	¦		
150	FID PRESTIGE	1800	18	695	53	¦	1788	131
149	FID SENSORY 12	1792	16	878	54	¦	1840	7
149	NOV QUATTRO	1791	19	575	55	¦		
148	PSION GL	1784	56	70	56	¦		
148	CHESSMASTER 2000	1783	37	160	57	¦		
148	NOV PRIMO/VIP	1781	30	242	58	¦		