Eric Hallsworth, The Red House, 46 High St. Wilburton, Cambs CB6 3RA

Computer Chess
NEWS SHEET 24

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The purpose in publishing the "NEWS SHEET" is to provide a survey of the CHESS COMPUTER scene, with a special emphasis on realistic assessments of the PLAYING ABILITIES of the many Machines now available. My work at COUNTRYWIDE COMPUTERS is of special help in this as we handle there a very wide range of Computers and I enjoy a 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 and solely by myself. The NEWS SHEET is also financed by myself and by NS 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. (Hint: £5 just covers my costs for 4 Issues; Foreign Readers £8 - I try to produce 5 Issues per year). Articles or Games sent in by Readers or others involved in Chess Computing will always receive fair consideration for publication.!

Welcome to another edition of the NEWS SHEET - and thanks to all for the many responses and "subs" since NS/23... I actually made a small profit! Now so much seems to have happened since Issue 23 that it feels as if far more than just 2½ months have gone by! The Table of CONTENTS itself will, I think, whet your appetites somewhat! In order to fit everything in, some Articles will have to be reduced perhaps more than they deserve, but I will try to cover as much as possible.

Contents

* Hegener & Glaser (Mephisto) to TAKE-OVER Fidelity!?
* The NOVAG SUPER "B"   - report, opinion and games.
* The MEPHISTO ACADEMY   at the British Championships!
* ROSS WITHEY Test   - Results and Comment.
* Very Interesting vs HUMAN results   - and some games.
* Latest RATING LISTS.

Take-over Talks

The take-over of FIDELITY by MEPHISTO has to be the biggest news in Computer Chess for some years. We first heard of the possibility some 5 or 6 weeks ago and, whilst specific details have to be worked out, everything is proceeding according to plan so far.

What are the implications? Firstly, I don't believe there is any reason for the average Chess Computer owner to be anything but encouraged! I am certain that competition for the top programme and maximum advances in playing strength each year will continue unaffected. Indeed Richard Lang and Dan & Kathe Spracklen will each be as keen as possible to press their claims for providing Hegener & Glaser with the top programme and, for themselves, the position of "No. 1 Programmer". There is also the chance that the two parties may even get together for a sharing of ideas which could enable each Programme to benefit from areas where the other is better?!

2

In any case, I fully expect both the "Mach 2/3/4" and the "Amsterdam-Almeria" series to continue quite separately for at least the immediate future. Indeed I can equally see the possibility that Hegener & Glaser could in the future start adapting the Spracklen's programme for use in their own Modular format. This could mean that an owner of one of Mephisto's Modular/Exclusive/Munchen upgradeable boards could have the choice of not only the Schroeder 6502 programmes (Rebell, MM4) and Richard Langs, but also one of the Spracklens! In this way all three programmes would remain in competition.

My personal opinion (which I can state without too much fear of accusations of bias in the latest circumstances) is that, when on equal hardware, Richard Lang's programme is the stronger... indeed I have good reason to believe his next could be a real "haymaker".... but do remember that, even now, the Almeria 68020 runs at 12MHz and the Mach 4 68020 at 20MHz. Nevertheless I am equally conscious of the fact that there is not that much in it and, in another year or two, I could be telling a different story.

Of course it is also quite possible that the separate styles, which affect both appearance and play, could each be retained, and the majority of the computers from both sides continue to be available. Remember, Fidelity programmes are basically full-width and Mephisto's selective, whether in the 6502 or 68000 series format, and it is still not 100% clear which will prove the better in the long term now that some of the full-width systems are using extensions to give an additional selective-type search. I am sure that Hegener & Glaser will make their selections designed to bring commercial benefit, and that means not only keeping all current Mephisto and Fidelity fans, but also enticing owners of other machines to change. To be successful, a take-over must result in growth; therefore they must work for an enlargement of the available market (i.e. more conversions to the idea of owning a chess computer), and capture a bigger percentage of that market. To do that they must sell what customers want, and at a competitive price, which has to be good for us.

In the end we may not be so much affected by all of this in Britain anyway. I am pretty certain that H & G's eye is mainly on the enormous American market. Despite the introduction of the excellent value MONDIAL 68000 XL (just £299 in this country for the very strong Dallas programme!), plus the MEGA 4 and now the ACADEMY (which are also very competitive machines and selling extremely well in most places), the USA market remains largely unreached. I think the take-over is purposed to remedy that, and therefore the separate identities of Mephisto and Fidelity may in fact be retained for longer than one might think.

Novag's SUPER B arrives

There have already been two distinct reactions to the new B programme for the NOVAG SUPER FORTE & EXPERT.

Those who made their purchase or went in for the upgrade with a philosophical view should have been pretty satisfied. It is clearly (in my view) better than the original version, having had its previous under-estimate of Rooks adjusted somewhat, and its selective search system altered to improve early move selection thus enabling the selectivity to be increased without harming the likelihood of finding "unlikely" moves (e.g. sacrifices). I also detect improvements in the end-game which makes play through the whole game much more satisfactory and there is a better feeling of consistency in the machine.

On the other hand those whose expectations were based on the Eureka advertising for it (which in turn was based mainly on a few of Larry Kaufman's Tests in the USA using an 8MHz version) have been somewhat disappointed, if the letters I have received are anything to go by. Indeed Larry himself wrote on 20 June, *"My 40/2 results for Novag SUPER B (at 8MHz) dropped off sharply in my 2nd. dozen games, as it did poorly vs. Schroeder's ACADEMY. After 24 games it rates at "Ply" 2064 which implies 2030-2040 at 6MHz".* I don't have Larry's actual SUPER B vs ACADEMY figures, but the following shows the total of **most** of the other results which I have in at this time for the SUPER B at 6MHz.

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NOV SUPER FORTE-EXP B/6   Rating 2079  +/- 43   vs hums 1974  in 26

   v MEPH ALMERIA 32        4.5    13.5   v FID 68020 MACH 4       3.5    2.5
   v FID 68000 MACH 3       3.5     2.5   v KASP RENAISSANCE D/10  3      3
   v MEPH MOND/DALLAS XL     2       0     v MEPH ROMA 16           3      4
   v MEPH ACADEMY           4.5     3.5   v FID 68000 MACH 2C      9      8
   v MEPH MEGA 4            4.5     3.5   v MEPH AMSTERDAM          2      1
   v MEPH MM4/5             3       4     v KASP STRATOS/CORONA     4      0
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Why "most"? Well, there are also some good, new features included within the upgrade version. Not least of these is the opportunity for the user to increase or decrease selectivity. Novag themselves recommend that it be left on **Select 3**, but indicate that **Select 4** is a possibility for games at over 3 mins per move. Incidentally, the new **Select 1** is the equivalent of the old Normal; and the new Select 2 is the equivalent of the old VSS! This shows how the selective search and move ordering algorithms have been improved to enable the larger selects to produce better results. These quicker timings often obtained in Tests even apply in tactical situations.

What the NEWS SHEET Rating List needs is **all** Results at **all** selects used by each reader. Only this will enable me to calculate for you **which** produces the best results all round. Thus far there is (the usual!?) divergence of opinion! One person thinks sel.2 is best (and only sent me his sel.2 results); two think sel. 3 is best (I am one of those!); one thinks sel.4 is best (and only sent his sel.4 results) and another thinks sel.5 is best (I did too, at first). The problem, of course, is that, if I include Owner A's sel.2 results (which represent his best) and don't have his results at 3, 4 and 5; and then include Owner D's results at sel.4 but can't use his at sel.2, 3 and 5; and then I include only my own at sel.3 (which are just best on my tests)..... the result is that I will be only including the **best** results and ignoring the poorer ones. If **all** the **best** results were at the **same** sel. level, then there would be no problem, and I would just use those. But now, should I use A's sel.2 and add my sel.2 results to his (not so good!); or should I use D's sel.4 and add my sel.4 results to those (not so bad!)? It is also obvious that, if Owner D has been able to conclude that, in his Tests, sel.4 is best... then he must have some other results to compare them with. Please, can I have them too, as well as the ones you want me to have!?

So, if a reader **only tests at one sel.** - that's fine, I will include them all. If a reader uses two or more sel. - I will include them both/all **if he sends them both/all**, or I will use none if he only sends the best!

Of course, someone will immediately spot that, instead of only using the Novag SUPER B's best results, even though at different sel. levels, which would give

the Novag an unfair **advantage**, I will now be using a mixture which will include poorer results. For example, let us suppose that in the end, sel.3 and sel.4 prove virtually identical and best, and we learn that we can include both without having any effect on the overall Rating. Thus events finally prove sel.2 and sel.5 to be that "bit" worse. If I am including sel.2 and sel.5 for the time being, then obviously this is temporarily prejudicial to the Novag. Therefore I am totally relying on readers to please send me all of their results as soon as they can. This will enable me to distinguish between the results at the different sel. levels and not only include a correct Rating for the Novag B's on the List, but also advise readers on the best sel. levels for future use. At present my view is that there will not be more than 20 Elo between sel.2 and sel. 3/4, but maybe 30-40 Elo between sel.3/4 and sel.5. For the present, on the basis that best results seem to be at sel.3 and 4, the results for Ratings only make use of the results which I have for those sel. levels. The sel.2 and sel.5 "fans" might feel thwarted - but I assure you that if I had used yours **plus** the other sel.2 or 5 results I have, the overall results would have put Novag's Rating slightly lower. If you send me all of your other results, maybe the effect on the sel.3/4 figures will indicate that you were right after all! Incidentally, the same problem and principle apply to the Mephisto ACADEMY, and I do want all results for that as well, please.

Well, that was a complicated business... but I hope you've grasped the general idea. Just to confuse the issue, Steve Maugham (a Cambridge University graduate and a bit of a whizz at mathematics) and I (ahem!) are developing a completely new idea for using Test positions to rate Computers! You see, I think the idea that Machine A (finding the best move in 5 mins), is therefore better than Machine B (finding it in 15) may not always be right. Suppose Machine A had a real "rubbish" move for those first 5 mins? And suppose Machine B had a good move - one not so much inferior to the best move. Which Computer is better? Surely B! It will be better at the faster speeds as well as more reliable for analysis and more consistent in its overall results.

We believe that, using various **Beat the Masters** positions from *Pergamon CHESS* which gives individual scores for the different moves in each Test position, we can develop an improved Rating method. This will enable Computers to be graded from the order of their Move Selection and the times for each Selection. Steve is away in America at the moment, and it is his original concept more than mine so I don't want to "jump the gun". When he returns we will produce an Article and a new set of Test positions... the Ultimate Test? Perhaps not! There will never be a true replacement for playing full games of Chess, and there are definite limits in the benefits to be gained when reducing Chess to one-move situations. But the idea has undergone some Testing already, and I have used the NOVAG SUPER EXPERT B/6 on 20 such positions, carefully recording the Move Changes and Change Times. An incredible mathematical formula of Steve's which I have managed to get to actually work on my Amstrad ('O' level plodder that I was) enables us to convert the results into a % Grading at the Time Selections of our choice. The following Table gives some of the results:-

NOVAG SUPER EXPERT B/6

	sel.2	sel.3	sel.4	sel.5
10 secs	56.2%	58.9%	56.1%	55.8%
30 secs	63.6%	65.1%	61.2%	60.0%
1 min	66.1%	67.1%	62.7%	60.5%
3 mins	67.7%	68.2%	63.2%	62.1%
10 mins	69.0%	66.2%	65.5%	65.8%

Of course sel.3 is highly unlikely to be worse at 10 mins than 3! However the
Tests were just run for 15 mins on each position (they can easily be adapted
for 30 mins or an hour per position, but 20 tests x 4 sel. levels x 1 hour = no
NEWS SHEET until October!). At 6 mins the sel.3 "lost" the best move and chose
a much weaker one. All of the other sel. levels took over 20 mins to "find" the
same "improvement" (!?) and thus escaped the loss of Rating which sel.3
sustained. This was the only problem I let run for longer than the 15 mins as
the sudden change of move was such a surprise and I wondered what would
actually happen to the other sel. levels. Although they all fell eventually,
the Time Limit at 15 mins was applied throughout the Test and thus ignores the
later change for sel.2, 4 and 5. We cannot change the rules of a Test just
because a result looks strange or fails to suit our purposes. Nor should we
just use the results that suit us.

I believe this method has good potential and I am looking forward to scouring
"CHESS" for an improved selection of positions to work with. In the meantime
the test as it stands indicates that sel.3 and then sel.2 are more likely to
produce best results.... we shall see.

Saitek "D" Programme

Reference is made elsewhere to results of the new Saitek/Kasparov RENAISSANCE D
programme. RENAISSANCE is the name for the new board, replacing the Galileo,
and "D" represents the new programme. In commercial terms the "B" was the
Stratos and the "C" the Simultano. I wanted to include this brief note as the
vs. Human results quoted elsewhere for Renaissance D/10MHz are not as good as
I'm sure the manufacturers must have hoped. However the new programme has been
getting some good results vs. other computers. Some scores are in from Larry
Kaufman, who rates it about equal to the Novag Super B programme; other scores
are already in from Sweden, though the new board and programme are not avail-
able in this country yet, as far as I know. Nick Gibbons has promised one to me
as soon as they are, so there could well be some fuller coverage in the next
NS. For now, here is a summary of results which might give a better picture of
what to expect in terms of playing strength.

KASP RENAISSANCE D/10 Rating 2094 +/- 41   vs hums 1992 in 29

v FID 68020 MACH 4	4	6	v MEPH ALMERIA 16	4.5	7.5
v NOV SUPER FORTE-EXP B/6	3	3	v MEPH ACADEMY	7	3
v MEPH MEGA 4	8.5	3.5	v PSION ATARI/IBM	6	4
v NOV SUP FORTE-EXP A/5	19.5	5.5	v FID 68000 CLUB B	6.5	3.5
v KASP STRATOS/CORONA	3	4			

Mephisto Academy at the British Championships!

I am writing this part of the NEWS SHEET as the last item before printing, and
in a state of exhaustion after a most exciting and interesting fortnight in
Plymouth. We (i.e. Michael Healey and Countrywide) decided to enter the
Mephisto ACADEMY as a change from the ALMERIA 32 which we had entered at
Calderdale earlier in the year. Knowing that the last time Computers were
entered in the British MAJOR OPEN the results were 11/33 for the Par Excellence

and a 160 grade, with the Mephisto Rebell at 159 and Novag Forte 158, we were conscious that this would be a very tough test for a medium-priced machine against strong and mainly county or county strength players.

The view of the BCF Controllers when we arrived was that we could hope for a 50% score for one of the machines, but they thought it unlikely we would get 16½ points total and a 50% score overall. I must confess we made this our "target", and it was always touch and go! With 8/15 approaching half-way, we nearly had a 3/3 on day 6. However the computer went into a long think on its 40th move in a totally won position, and permission for us to press the Enter button (given because the game was clearly won) was received just too late and the flag fell only 10 secs. before the Academy announced Mate in 5! So it was 10/18, but the computers appeared to sulk on the next 2 days and dropped to 12/24 and a grading at around 178 BCF.

It is strange how nerve-racking such situations can become and the desire to get that 50% barrier became a stronger challenge to the operating team as each day went by, especially as the outcome seemed so uncertain. However 2/3 in both of the next rounds put "us" onto 16/30 and things looked very hopeful. However an early loss in the last round to a 205J grade who played a tremendous game left us wishing we'd got that "lost point" from day 6 which would have actually left us safe and sound before the last round!

Gladly a win and a draw against our other opponents (175 and 178 BCF) gave us the necessary, plus a bit to spare at 17½ from 33, and allowed the team some time to get involved in the excitement of the CHAMPIONSHIP itself where Michael Adams was by now looking likely to beat Murray Chandler and get 1st. place outright. David Norwood had already agreed an early draw, which was what he needed for his third GM norm. and the GM Title. Understandably he chose to go for this rather than risk a try for the win and possibly lose the "norm" in trying too hard for the British Title. But with Jon Mestel having won, Adams needed a win also to stay the ½ point clear, so it was a very exciting finish. Indeed, the last round had started with no less than 7 players all within a ½ pt. of each other, so you could hardly ask for anything closer.

However I have to confess that it was the ACADEMY's performance which gripped us the more, and the satisfaction with the outcome made the hard work worthwhile. The grading is likely to finish at around 182 BCF — and this is the figure which has been included in the Rating List, though it can easily be adjusted should it go up a little when the next BCF List comes out, which is the one operating for these Championships. I only have available some of the games from the early rounds at the moment, so an exciting one (almost heartstopping at times!) which was played by a computer I was operating at the time follows. It should be noted that Mr Jowett is a computer owner and came with a carefully prepared opening and plan, playing determinedly for the win. However the Academy found the right moves at critical moments and it was the opponent who was glad of the draw in the end, by his own admission.

P JOWETT 180 BCF, Mephisto ACADEMY
1 c4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 g6 *e6 4 Bg2 d5 5 cxd exd 6 d4 Nf6 7 Nc3 Ne4 8 0-0
Nc3 9 bxc3 b6 10 c4 dxc 11 Ne5!? Nxe5?! 12 dxe5 Qxd1 13 Rxd1 Rb8 14 Bc6+
Ke7 15 Bg5+ Ke6 16 e4! h6 17 Be5+ Kd7 18 Bxf7+ Kc6 19 Bd8 Bg4 20 Rd5 Bd7
21 Rad1 Rxd8 22 Rxd7! Rxd7 23 Be8! b5 24 e6 Be7 25 exd7 Kc7 26 d8=Q+ Bxd8
27 Bxb5 c3 28 f4 g5 29 Rc1 gxf 30 gxf Rg8+ 31 Kf2 Rg4! 32 Rxc3 Rxf4+ 33
Kg2 Rxe4 34 Rxc5+ Kb6 35 Rh5 Bc7+ 36 Kf3 Re5 37 Rxe5+ and agreed drawn!

Novag SUPER EXPERT B/6 - Fidelity MACH 4. 1 min per move.
1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf 3 Nf3 g5 4 Bc4 Bg7 5 h4 *g4 6 Ng5 Nh6 7 d4 f6 8 Bxf4 Qe7
9 *Nc3 Qb4 10 Qd3 fxg5 11 hxg Nf7 12 0-0-0 c6 13 Rh4 Nd8 14 e5 Qf8 15 Bd2
d5 16 exd ep Qxd6 17 Re1+ *(+094)* Be6 *(+058)* 18 Qf5 Ke7 19 Rxg4 Na6 20 Bxe6
Nxe6 21 Rxe6 *(+304)* Qxe6 *(-171)* 22 Re4 Qxe4 23 Qxe4+ Kd8 24 Nd5?! cxd 25
Qxd5+ Kc8 26 Qe6+ Kd8 27 g6 hxg 28 Bg5+ Kc7 29 Qf7 Kb6 30 Qxg6+ Ka5 31 Qxg7
Rh1+ 32 Kd2 b5 33 d5 R1h8 34 d6 Rag8 35 Qc3+ Kb6 36 d7! Nb8 37 Qd4+ Kc7 38
Bf4 Kb7 39 Qd5+ Kb6 40 Be5 Nc6 41 Bf6 Kc7 42 Ke2 Rd8 43 Qxb5?! Kxd7 44
Bxh8 Rxh8 45 Qd5+ Kc7 46 g4 Rh7 47 g5 Re7+ 48 Kf3 Re5 49 Qf7+ Re7 50 Qc4
Kd7 51 Qd5+ Kc7 52 Kf4 Re2 53 g6 Rf2+? 54 Kg3 Rf1 55 Qf7+ Rxf7 56 gxf7 Kb6
57 f8=Q Kb5 58 a4+ Kb6 59 Kf4 Kc7 60 Ke4 *(1-0)*.

Fidelity MACH 4 - Novag SUPER EXPERT B/6. 1 min per move.
1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 b5 8 e5 dxe 9
fxe Qc7 10 exf Qe5+ 11 Be2 Qxg5 12 0-0 Ra7 13 *Rf2?! *Rd7 14 Qd3 Qe5 15 Rd1
(up to here Novag plays the same on sel.3/4/5. However, they now diverge):-
a.sel.3)
15 - gxf 16 Ne4 Be7 17 Bf3 0-0 18 Rfd2 f5?! 19 Nf2 Rfd8 20 c3 Bg5 21 Re2
Qg7 22 Qc2 Bf6 23 Re3 Bxd4 24 cxd4 a5 25 Rc3 Ba6 26 d5 b4 27 Rc5 a4 28 Re1
Bb7 29 Qxa4 e5 30 Rb5 e4 31 Bd1 Qxb2 32 g4! Rc7 33 Bb3 fxg 34 Qxb4 g3 35
hxg Na6 36 Qa5 e3 37 Ne4 Ra8? 38 d6 Rc5 39 Rxb7 Rxa5 40 Bxf7+ Kf8 41 Rxb2
Kxf7 42 Rxe3... *and with White's centralised pieces versus Black's grouped on
the a-file, plus the pawn situation, White won on move 72, so 1-0.*
b.sel.4)
15 - Bc5! *(a key move, missed by sel.3)* 16 Nxb5 axb 17 c3 gxf 18 b4 Ba7 19
Qxb5 0-0 20 Rf3 Rfd8?! 21 a4? Ba6 22 Qxe5 fxe5 23 b5 *(-630!)* exd *(+367)* 24
Kh1 dxc 25 Rxd7 Rxd7 26 Rxc3 Rd2 27 Bf3 Bb7 28 Rc1 Bxf3 29 gxf3 Nd7 30 a5
Ne5 31 Rf1 Ra2 32 b6 Bb8 33 b7 Nd3 34 Kg1 Rxa5 35 Rd1 Ra3 36 Rd2 Rb3 37 h3
Rb1+ 38 Kg2 Nf4+ 39 Kh2 Nd5+ 40 Rg2 Rxb7 41 Kf2 Be5 *(0-1)*.
c.sel.5)
15 - Bc5! 16 Nxb5 axb5 17 c3 gxf 18 b4 Ba7 19 Qxb5 0-0 20 Rf3 Rd5 *(this
compares with Rfd8 played on sel.4)* Rd5! 21 Qc4 Ba6 22 Rg3+ Qxg3 23 hxg3 Bxc4
24 Bxc4 R5d8 *(+537)* 25 Kh2 *(-799)* e5 26 Nb5 Rxd1 27 Nxa7 Rfd8 28 a4 R8d2 29
a5 Nd7 30 Nc8 Rc1 31 Ne7+ Kf8 32 Nd5 f5 33 Bb3 Rb1! 34 Ba4 Rxd5 35 Bc2 Rf1
36 g4 e4 37 gxf e3 38 Bb3 *(and resigns, 0-1)*.

Mephisto ACADEMY - Novag SUPER EXPERT B/6. 1 min per move.
1 e4 g6 *(! for surprise)* 2 d4 Bg7 3 c3! *d6 *(Novag out of Book first... the 1 -
g6 idea needs further preparation)* 4 f4 Nf6 5 e5 dxe 6 fxe Nd7? 7 *Be3 0-0 8
Nf3 c5 9 e6?! fxe 10 dxc *(+035)* Qc7 *(+034)* 11 b4 Nc6 12 Qb3! Kh8! 13 Nbd2
Nf6! 14 Bc4 Nd5 15 Bxd5 exd5 16 0-0 Qd8 17 Rae1 Bf5 18 c4 d4 19 Bg5 h6 20
Bh4 Rc8 21 h3 *(=)* d3 *(+040)* 22 Ne4 Bxe4 23 Rxe4 d2 *(pushing it too far)* 24
Rfd1 Nd4 25 Nxd4 Bxd4+ 26 Kh1 g5 27 Bg3 e5 28 Bxe5+ *(+169)* Bxe5 29 Rxe5 Rf2
30 Qe3 Qf6? 31 Re6 Rf1+ 32 Kh2 Rxd1? 33 Rxf6 Rh1+ 34 Kg3 *(1-0! If 34 - d1=Q
35 Rxh6+ announcing M/6!)*.

Novag SUPER EXPERT B/6 - Mephisto ACADEMY. 1 min per move.

1 d4 d5   2 c4 e6   3 Nc3 Nf6   4 Bg5 Be7   5 e3 0-0   6 Nf3 h6   7 Bxf6 Bxf6   8 cxd
*exd   9 Be2 c6   10 *0-0 Bf5   11 Rc1 Nd7   12 b4 Qe7   13 b5 Rfe8   14 a4 Rac8   15
bxc bxc   16 Bd3 Bg4   17 h3 Bh5   18 Rb1 Rb8   19 Qc2 Bxf3   20 gxf3 Bh4   21 f4
(+003) g6 *(+013)*   22 Kh1 f5   23 Rg1 Kh7   24 Rgc1 Rb6   25 a5 Rb8   26 Nd1 Rxb1?   27
Rxb1 Nb8   28 a6! *(threatening Rb7)* Qd6   29 Rb7+ Re7   30 Qb2?! *(Academy had
expected Qb1, which looks better)* Nd7? *(isn't Rxb7 the correct move?)*   31 Rxa7
Nf6   32 Rxe7! *(to find this move, Novag takes 1m46 on sel.2, 0m43 on sel.3 and
2m10 on sel.4)* Qxe7   33 Qb8 *(+321)* Nd7 *(-292)*   34 Qb7 Kh8   35 a7 Qa3   36 a8=Q
(1-0).

Here is a surprising Opening Book win against the Mach 2C.

Fidelity MACH 2C - Novag SUPER EXPERT B/6. 1 min per move.

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 Bc5   10 Nbd2 0-0   11 Bc2 Nxf2   12 *Rxf2 *(Novag's Book is prepared for all
Mach 2's replies right up to move 23!)* f6   13 exf Bxf2+   14 Kxf2 Qxf6   15 Kg1
Rae8   16 a4 b4   17 Nb3 Ne5   18 cxb Bg4   19 Qxd5+ Kh8   20 Be4 Nxf3   21 gxf3 Rxe4
22 Qxe4 Bxf3   23 Qe3 *Bd5   24 Bd2 Qg6+   25 Qg5 Qe4   26 Bf4 *(-192)* Qh1+ *(+457)*   27
Kf2 Qf3+   28 Ke1 Rxf4   29 Qd8+ Rf8   30 Qxf8+ Qxf8   31 Nd2 Qxb4   32 Rc1 Qxb2   33
Rd1 Bb3+   34 Nxb3 Qxb3   35 Ke2 Qb2+   36 Kd1 Qd4+   37 Kc2 Qxa4+   38 Kb2 Qb4+   39
Ka1 *(and resigns, 0-1)*.

Mephisto MEGA 4 - Novag SUPER EXPERT B/6. 1 min per move.

1 e4 Nf6   2 e5 Nd5   3 c4 Nb6   4 d4 d6   5 exd *exd   6 Nf3 Be7   7 Be2 0-0   8 Nc3
Re8   9 *0-0 *(this time sel.5 does not come out on top. On sel.3 the game
continued...)*
a.sel.3]
9 - Bf5   10 Bf4 Be6   11 d5 Bg4   12 Nd4 Bxe2   13 Qxe2 N8d7   14 b3 Bg5   15 Qg4 Bxf4
16 Qxf4 Ne5   17 Rfe1 *(+026)* c6 *(+003)*   18 Nf5 cxd   19 c5! g5   20 Qg3 Nc8 *(-138)*
21 Nxd6 *(+108)* Nxd6   22 Rxe5 f6   23 Rxd5 Qe7   24 f4 Nf7   25 Rad1 Qe3+   26 Qxe3
Rxe3   27 Nb5 gxf   28 Rd7 a6   29 Nd6 Ne5 *(-010?)*   30 Rxb7 Re2   31 Rf1 f3   32 gxf
Rxa2 *(-097)*   33 f4 *(+176 and Mega went on to win after a tough struggle, 1-0).*
*The Mephisto also won the games with Novag on sel.2 and sel.4, so it is clear
that this particular Opening, as played, is better for White. The following was
the easiest win:-*
b.sel.5]
9 - Bf6   10 Be3 Bg4   11 Qd3 Na6   12 Ne4 d5?!   13 Nxf6 Qxf6   14 c5 Nc4   15 Qb3 Nxe3
16 fxe3 Qe6   17 Qxb7 Qxe3+   18 Rf2 Rab8   19 Qxa6 Rxb2   20 Re1 Bxf3   21 gxf3 Qxd4
22 Qxa7 Rc2   23 Qxc7 Rxa2   24 Qd7 Qe3 *(although you would expect sel.2 and sel.5
to be quite different, it is surprising how often these two actually play the
same moves. In this very game, for example, they both played exactly the same up
to here. Now sel.2 went 24 - Rf8 (-210) and lasted somewhat longer).*   25 c6 d4
(neat trap, but...)   26 c7 Rc2   27 Ref1 h6   28 Ba6 Rxf2 *(-655 and 1-0).*

Mephisto ALMERIA 32 - Novag SUPER EXPERT B/6. 1 min per move.

1 c4 e5   2 Nc3 Nc6   3 e3 g6   4 d4 d6   5 d5 Nce7   6 e4 Bg7   7 Nf3 *Nf6   8 *Be2 0-0
9 0-0 Nd7   10 Be3 f5!   11 Ng5 Nf6   12 f3 h6   13 Ne6!? *(-078)* Bxe6 *(+144)*   14 dxe6

fxe 15 fxe Kh7 16 c5 a6 17 Qb3 a5 *(d5?! for 2 mins)* 18 Rad1 Qb8 19 a4 Nc8
20 Kh1 b6 21 cxd Nxd6? 22 e7 Re8 *(+081?)* 23 Qe6 *(+169!)* Ndxe4 24 Nxe4 Nxe4
25 Bb5 Qc8 26 Bd7 Qb8 27 Bc6 Nd6? 28 Rxd6!! cxd *(-548)* 29 Be4 Bf6 30 Qf7+
Kh8 31 Qxf6+ Kh7 32 Qxg6+ Kh8 33 Qh7 *mate, 1-0.*

Novag SUPER EXPERT B/6 - Kasparov STRATOS. 1 min per move.

1 e4 c5 2 c3 Nf6 3 e5 Nd5 4 d4 cxd 5 Nf3 Nc6 6 Bc4 Nb6 7 Bb3 d6 8 exd Qxd6
9 Na3 *dxc 10 Qxd6 exd6 11 Nb5 cxb 12 *Bxb2 Rb8 13 0-0-0 Be7 14 Rhe1 Kf8 15
Nxd6 Bxd6 16 Rxd6 Bd7 17 Ba3! Kg8 18 Ng5 *(+216)* Rf8? *(+1312!)* 19 Nxf7 *(+529)*
g6 *(-460)* 20 Nxh8+ Kg7 21 Rxd7 Nxd7 22 Bxf8 Kxf8 23 Ba4 Nde5 24 Kc2? *(up to
here the selects 2-5 play the same. Now sel.4/5 start to make heavy weather of
things.... compare sel.3 shown later).*
a.sel.4)
24 Kc2? Ng4 25 Kc3? Kg7 26 Rb1? Na5 27 Rb4 Nf6 28 Rb5 b6 29 Nxg6 hxg6 30
Re5 Kf7 31 f3 Nh5 32 Bb3+ Nxb3 33 axb3 Nf4 34 g3 Nh3 35 Kd4 Ng1 36 Ke4 Nh3
37 f4 Nf2+ 38 Kd4 Kf6 39 h4 Nh1 40 g4 Nf2 41 g5+ Kf7 42 Re1 Nh3 43 Ke3 Ke6
44 Rh1 Nxg5 45 hxg5 *(and back on course for 1-0).*
b.sel.3)
24 Bxc6! *(seems obvious, really)* Nd3 25 Kd2 Nxe1 26 Nxg6+ hxg6 27 Bb7 Nxg2
28 Bxg2 *(and as easy as falling off a log, 1-0).*

Mephisto ACADEMY - Fidelity MACH 4. 1 min per move.

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3 e5 6 Bb5+ Nbd7 7 Nf5 d5 8 exd a6
9 Bxd7 Qxd7 10 Ne3 b5 11 c4 Bc5 12 *Qe2 *bxc 13 Nxc4 0-0 14 Nc3 Nxd5 15
Nxe5 Qd8 16 Ne4 Bb4+ 17 Kf1 Qb6 18 a3 *(+066)* Be7 *(-011)* 19 Nc4 Qc7 20 Bd2
Bd7 21 Rc1 Bb5 22 Ba5? *(although Mach 4's "hint move" also, this leaves d3
short of protection)* Qxc4 23 Qxc4 Bxc4 24 Kf2 *(-243)* Rac8 25 b4 Nf4 26 Rc3 f5
27 Rd2 Bb5 28 Rxc8 Nd3+ 29 Ke3 Bg5+ 30 Kd4 Rxc8 31 Nb1 Bf6 32 Ke3 Re8+ 33
Kd2 *(resigns, 0-1)*

Fidelity MACH 4 - Mephisto ACADEMY. 1 min per move.

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 b5 5 Bb3 Na5 6 0-0 d6 7 d4 f6 8 *Bxg8!?
Rxg8 9 dxe dxe 10 Qxd8+ Kxd8 11 Rd1 *(+060)* Bd6 *(-009)* 12 a4 b4 13 Rd5 Nb7 14
Be3 Bd7 15 c3 Bc6! 16 Rd1 *(+031)* Bxe4 17 cxb Bxf3 18 gxf3 *(-014)* Kc8 *(+041)*
19 Bd2 Rb8 20 Rc1 Nd8 21 Rc4 Ne6 22 Ra2 f5 23 Kh1 g5 24 Na3 Nd4 25 Kg2 Kd7
26 Bc3 Ne2 27 Bd2 Nf4+ 28 Kf1 Rg6 29 b3 Rh6 30 Kg1 Rh3 31 Bxf4 gxf4 32 Kg2
Rh6 33 Rd2 Rg8+ 34 Kh1 Rhg6 35 R4c1 Ke6 36 Ne2 h6 37 R2d1 Rb8 38 Na1? Rxb4
(the Academy is now winning this tricky end-game) 39 Rc6 Rd4 40 Rf1 a5 41 Ra6
Rd5 42 Rc1 Kd7 43 Nc2? *(-176)* Rc5! *(+234)* 44 Ra8 Rc3 45 Rxa5 Rxf3 46 Ne1?
Rxf2 47 Nd3 Re2 48 Re1 Rxe1 49 Nxe1 c5 50 Nd3? e4! *(f3 was expected, but this
is even stronger)* 51 Nxc5 Kc6 52 b4 f3 53 Ra6+ Kd6 54 Nb7 e3 55 Ra5+ Kc6 56
Nd8+ *(and resigns 0-1).*

I only had time for 6 games MACH 4 v ACADEMY and MACH 4 v NOVAG B/6... the first
ended 3-3 and the second 2.5-3.5! Prospective and optimistic advertisers should
not read too much into small sample results... for example MACH 2C v NOVAG B/6
stands very close at 8.5-9.5 in my games!... but it is interesting!

REPORT on Results of *ROSS WITHEY'S TEST IN NS/23*

Notes:-

[1] 25. Should read gxf3, not gxf6. Quite a few readers disagree with David Levy's remark that gxf3 is "undoubtedly the correct recapture". I am not really sure that it is correct to reward gxf3 with 10 points, and Bxf3 with 0.

[2] 17. It is thought that 1 Bf5 also draws, with Kb3 to follow at move 2 or 3. Do others agree?

[3] 22. 1 g3 definitely works okay as long as the 2 Rd3 is played next move. If the Computer shows 2 Rd3 when playing 1 g3, then points should be awarded as for Rd3 at move 1.

As far as possible, scores have been adjusted/corrected to take the above notes into account.

[4] Other positions also have caused "disagreement". In fact I have received not inconsiderable correspondence, plus quite a few complaints, that the Test is biassed in favour of Full-Width programmes. Indeed it is clear that Selective programmes have not done at all as well in most cases as otherwise closely rated Full Width systems. This is obvious from a quick check through the figures, but made particularly clear by the massive difference between the Novag Super "A" progs. at both 5 and 6MHz where the normal and vss figures vary to an amount far beyond any actual difference between them in playing full games. To correct this we probably need to add a further 10 positions where defensive-type moves need to be found, or where there are mistakes to avoid, to give the selective systems a chance to come properly into their own. It is often true that the selective programmes often find better quiet or developing moves where tactical opportunities are at a premium – it is such moves which often set up the combinational chances anyway.

Having said that, the Test does have some genuine values – particularly for judging the amount of progress between programmes from the same programmer, viz. the Mach 2C and Mach 3, or the Novag Super "A" and "B". However there may well be a better and more accurate way of doing even this work... and one which would enable us to compare the machines and their relationships and abilities at different speeds! For this discussion you will need to wait for a future NS, but there are some comments in the report on the new Novag Super "B" programme which may give readers an idea of the possibilities.

Finally, we must remember that Chess is a not a **one move** game. Testing for finding any single move does not mean that machine X is necessarily better than machine Y, and never will. Results in play are what count and, for this reason, the actual RATING LIST and the v HUMAN LIST are, in my view, clearly a more accurate guide to the overall abilities of the Computers in practice.

Note re the RATINGS

Where I have 2 or more figures for the same machine:- If [i] there is an "agreement" amongst 2 or more of the submitted results, whilst another shows a different figure, those which "match" are taken as being correct. If [ii] there is variation amongst the results for a particular machine and no consistent figure (an alarmingly frequent occurance!), the average has been taken.

	Score	Latest Grade BCF	Elo
Fidelity 68020 MACH 4	424	203	2223
Fidelity 68000 MACH 3	374	191	2126
Mephisto ROMA 32	368	195	2157
Mephisto ALMERIA 32	356	205	2241
Novag SUPER EXPERT B/6.s3	346	185	2079
Novag SUPER EXPERT B/6.s2	344	185	2079
Mephisto ALMERIA 16	342	195	2157
Novag SUPER EXPERT B/6.s4	341	185	2079
Novag SUPER EXPERT/6norm	320	177	2016
Conchess PLYMATE/5.5	318	163	1905
Novag SUPER EXPERT B/6.s0	308	185	2079
Meph MONDIAL 68000 XL	304	185	2080
Novag SUPER EXPERT/5norm	294	170	1957
Mephisto DALLAS 16	288	187	2093
Fidelity MACH 2C	286	182	2052
Mephisto ACADEMY	276	184	2070
Novag SUPER CONSTELLATION	274	153	1827
Mephisto MM2	274	158	1866
Novag EXPERT/5	262	168	1944
Mephisto SUPER MONDIAL I	254	163	1901
Novag FORTE A	254	165	1917
Mephisto MM4	252	177	2017
Conchess/2	242	144	1749
Conchess/6	240	160	1883
Fidelity PAR EXCELLENCE	240	166	1928
SciSys TURBO KASPAROV	238	160	1878
SciSys TURBOSTAR 432	228	158	1860
Kasp STRATOS	222	166	1930
Mephisto MEGA 4	218	191	2048
Mephisto REBELL	210	166	1925
Novag SUPER EXPERT/6vss	208	177	2016
Novag SUPER EXPERT/5vss	188	170	1957
CXG ADVANCED STAR Chess	184	134	1668
Fidelity SENSORY 12	160	145	1760
Novag VIP	156	143	1745
Fidelity EXCELLENCE/3	144	157	1859
PSION 1	106	155	1841
Fidelity ELITE A	68	148	1781
Fidelity SENSORY 9	48	125	1596
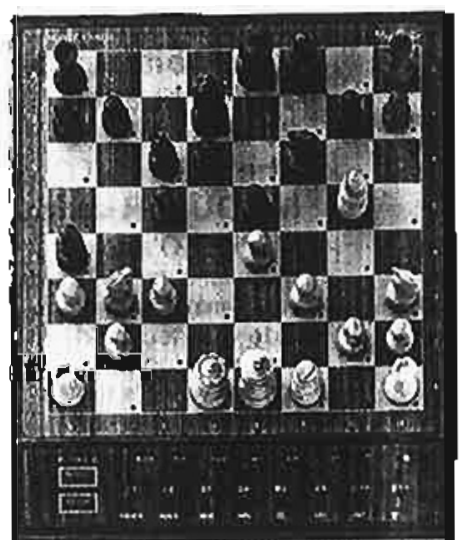
MEPHISTO MONTE CARLO

Yet another Computer, ignored in that dreadful "I stand by everything I said" Survey, which has done well in recent competition.

See p.12 (Mondial 68000 XL) and p.13 for Monte Carlo's win.

TOURNAMENT NEWS vs HUMANS

There have been two or three interesting results recently (perhaps even the word "spectacular" can be used?).

Excellent FIDELITY performance in ACTION CHESS Event.
A boosted version of the Fidelity MACH 4 scored a fine 7.5/11 in the NatWest British Speed Championships early in July. The Event, 30 mins each for the full game, was won by John Nunn (9.5), with Peter Wells 2nd and Michael Adams and Ivan Sokolov sharing 3rd.

The Fidelity computer came 12th= and obtained an Action Chess grading for the Tournament of 243 BCF/2544 Elo. The machine in use was Fidelity's ORLANDO unit, which runs on a 68030 processor at 32MHz so, whilst the perspective is that it calculates at approximately twice the speed of the current commercial MACH 4, the results is nevertheless an excellent one and again shows the potential of the leading programmes. I will try to make space for either one or two games, but readers will be keen to know that it beat Glenn Flear, Bill Hartston, George Botterill, Nigel Davies and Colin Crouch amongst others; drew with Julian Hodgson; and lost to Peter Wells, Michael Adams and Tony Kosten.

Fine Mephisto ALMERIA result in Swedish Championships.
Four Computers were entered in the recent Swedish Championships, always a difficult test in which gradings are often around 100 Elo lower than results in similar British tests. The Mephisto ALMERIA 32 bit obtained an outstanding result with a 7/7 score! Of course a 100% score is unrateable in a sense and the actual Elo method for calculating it as a 99% would result in a grade of over 2400 which is incredible for 40 moves in 2 hours. The BCF system is easier where a 100% score is involved, and that gives a 210 BCF/2281 Elo figure, making no allowances for any additions due to the apparently stricter Swedish grading levels. The full results of the Computers was:-

Mephisto ALMERIA 32	2281
Fidelity MACH 4	2059
Novag SUPER EXPERT B/6MHz	1892
Kasparov RENAISSANCE D/10MHz	1767

All of the entries were the models exactly as commercially available in Sweden. Obviously it is a very notable gap between the ALMERIA and MACH 4 - just as it is also a notable gap down to the new Novag programme.

The next result actually emphasises the point.
Royan Open, France, July 1989.
This time 5 Computers were involved. Almost the same ones as in Sweden except that the Mephisto entry was the MONDIAL 68000 XL (the Dallas programme in a 16 bit processor which retails at £299! .... overlooked by the infamous Chess Computer Survey by you-know-who!). Rate of play was again 40 in 2 hours and the

machines all played 9 games this time, except for the Novags which played 18 as a
SUPER EXPERT B and a SUPER FORTE B were both entered.

Mephisto MONDIAL 68000 XL   2083
Fidelity MACH 4   2000
Novag SUPER B prog/6MHz   1890
Kasparov RENAISSANCE D/10MHz   1800

One has little choice from these two results to conclude that the claims for the
new Novag "B" programme in a recent advert ("20 points ahead of all other
computers on the International Rating List... including the 32 bit Mephisto
Almeria") now seem "a little premature"!

Mephisto MONTE CARLO wins Cambridge "Olympiad"

Teams of three representing 17 different Countries, plus a team of Mephisto MONTE
CARLO computers, competed in this 6-round Action Chess Event. Several strong
players from the Cambridge University and Cambridge Chess Clubs were
participating, including IMs Graham Burgess (England) and D H Aturupane (Sri
Lank). But it was also known there would be a small number of "hobby" players
involved as well so, rather than enter a team of Mephisto Almeria's, Countrywide
Computers entered three MONTE CARLOS instead.

And they won!! Their final score was 14/18, thanks to beating early Tournament
Leaders (Greece and Sri Lanka) in the last two rounds. Greece just held on to
2nd. place, but the Cambridge University Club (representing England and with whom
the computers had earlier drawn 1.5-1.5) moved into 3rd. The MONTE CARLOS Action
Chess grade for this Event was the equivalent of 182 BCF!

Fidelity ORLANDO games from the NatWest Event

It is never easy to select games from an Event of this type, as Speed and Action
Chess tends to produce errors that might well not occur at "normal" Tournament
times, but which are sometimes easy to criticise when given time to do some
analysis. For example George Botterill had a useful advantage in a sharp position
when he blundered around moves 38-39 and was given no chance to recover. In the
same way Nigel Davies was doing allright in a probably even position until he,
too, scored own goals at moves 36 and 38, and was mated at move 41!

Perhaps, then, the following are more interesting representatives. Whilst less
dramatic in their critical moments, they probably tell more about the computer's
qualities and perseverance in creating and using smaller advantages against IM/GM
resistance.

Glenn FLEAR, GM - Fidelity ORLANDO

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e3 Bf5 5 cd5: cd5: 6 Qb3 Bc8 7 Nf3 e6 8 Bd2
Bd6 9 Bd3 Nc6 10 Rc1 O-O 11 O-O Nb4 12 Bb1 Nc6 13 Bd3 Nb4 14 Be1 · · ·

de4: 16 Ne4: Ne4: 17 Be4: Rb8 18 Rfd1 Bd7 19 Bg5 Qa5 20 d5 Ne5 21 de6: Be6: 22 Bd5 Rbe8 23 h4? *(it's pretty even to here, but now I think Ne5: is better)* Nf3:+ *(+0.65)* 24 gf3: b6 25 Kg2 h6 26 Be3 Be5 27 h5? *(this is certainly wrong; Rc6 looks fairly even)* Bb2: 28 Rc6 Qa3 29 Be6: fe6: 30 Qc4 Qe7 31 R1d6 Rf6 32 Qd3 Qf7 33 Rd8 Qh5: *(+220)* 34 Re8:+ Qe8: 35 Rc7 Qa4 36 f4 Qa2: 37 Qd8+ Rf8 38 Qd7 Ra8 39 Kg3 Kh8 40 f5? *(the game has gone with this; last hope was probably Kg2)* Be5+ 41 f5 Bc7: 42 f6 gf6: 43 *(resigns, 0-1).*

Fidelity ORLANDO - Bill HARTSTON, IM

1 d4 c6 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Bg5 Ne4 5 Ne4: de4: 6 Qd2 Bf5 7 e3 h6 8 Bf4 Nd7 9 Ne2 g5 10 Bg3 Bg7 11 Nc3 Bg6 12 Be2 0-0 13 0-0 e5 14 d5 f5 15 Rad1 c5 16 h3 f4 *(building up a useful-looking attack)* 17 Bh2 f3 18 gf3: ef3: 19 Bd3 Qe8 20 Bg3 Bg3: 21 Qg3: Qh5 22 Kh2 Nf6 *(could the attack have been pressed a little more with g5 here? After the move played, White gets into the game)* 23 Qf5 Rae8 24 d6 Nd5 25 Qg4 Qg4: 26 hg4: Nc3: 27 bc3: Re6 28 d7 Rd8 29 Rd5 Kf7 30 Rfd1 b6 31 e4 Ke7 32 Kh2 Bf6 33 Bh2 Kf7 34 Kg3 Rc6 35 Kf3: Ke6 36 Bg3 Rc7 37 Rh1 Rcd7: 38 Rh6: Kf7 39 Be5: Be5: 40 Re5 Kg7 41 Rh5 Rf8+ 42 Ke3 Rf6 43 Reg5:+ Rg6 44 Rg6:+ Kg6: 45 f4 Rd1 46 f5+ Kg7 47 e5 Rc1 48 Kd3 Re1 49 f6+ Kg6 50 Rf5 Kf7 51 g5 Ke6 52 f7 Kf5: 53 f8Q+ Kg5: 54 Qe7+ Kg4 55 Qa7: Re5: 56 Qb6: Rf5 57 a4 Kf3 58 a5 *(and Black resigned, 1-0)*

Games from the Swedish and French Events are not available at the time of writing. But some will be included next time if at all possible, especially it is hoped those involving the ALMERIA in view of its performance in Sweden.

Late News

From MODUL:-
A Mephisto ALMERIA 32 won the Donau Chess Club Championship with an 8/9 score which produced a 2169 grade. Players coming behind the Almeria included Karl Schreiner (2055), Franz Zuser (2104) and Helmut Erhart (2089). Zuser lost his game in 24 moves and would have had it printed in this NS for his trouble if I hadn't run out of space!

From SCHACH & SPIELE:-
The top-rated Computers in the latest S&S survey were...
[1] Meph ACADEMY, [2] Meph ALMERIA, [3] Nov SUPER EXPERT, [4] Nov SUPER FORTE, [5] Meph COLLEGE/SUPERMONDIAL II, [6] CXG SPHINX, [7] Meph MM4, [8] Saitek CORONA, [9] Fid MACH 3 and [10] Galileo ANALYST.

Current TOTAL SCORES between the various **Fidelity and Mephisto 68000's** are:-
Meph ALMERIA 32 - Fid MACH 4   32 -31 (!!). These two are VERY close on both the Computer vs Computer and Computer vs Human Lists, with Almeria a shade ahead now on both.
Meph ALMERIA 16 - Fid MACH 4   9 -11
Meph ALMERIA 32 - Fid MACH 3 $67\frac{1}{2}$-$28\frac{1}{2}$
Meph ALMERIA 16 - Fid MACH 3 $71\frac{1}{2}$-$42\frac{1}{2}$

RATING LISTS.

As occasionally included, some notes for newcomers.

/5 after a machine indicates its processor speed - these programmes are available with different processors, so this helps distinguish between them.

+/- shows the maximum rating deviation likely for that machine. It is 95% certain that its Rating will stay within its +/- range.

Human Games Column repeats Info. from the vs HUMANS List. These figures are used to adjust the OVERALL LEVEL of the RATING LIST as well as each SPECIFIC machines own Rating. Many people feel that the vs HUMANS List is more useful than my MAIN one which includes both the Computer v Human and Computer v Computer Results.

* after a Machine in the vs HUMANS List indicates that is not generally available commercially in that form. If it comes onto the market, the '*' will be removed.

Regulars will note this time a small drop in the figures for all Machines. As you know the List is continually up-dated to stay in line with Computer Results vs Humans. This is the only way to make sure the List gives an accurate guide to Ratings for British owners, especially those who want to buy a machine that will genuinely meet their needs. Thus the latest French and Swedish Results (which would have caused an even greater drop but for the Almeria 32's effort) together with a necessary adjustment to figures included from America, have had a small "impact" this time! I believe I have the relationship still about right between European and British results, but a comparison between USA and Europe/ Britain shows an apparently increasing gap?! E.g NSE "A"/6 in USA 2163 yet NSE "B"/6 in Sweden 1892 and France 1890. Also Renaissance in USA just over 2200 according to Larry Kaufman, yet 1767 in Sweden and 1800 in France. Finally Mach 4 got 2325 in the USA, but 2059 in Sweden and 2000 in France. My Computer thus indicated a further down-adjustment was needed to USCF figures from which nearly 120 Elo are now deducted to produce a British equivalent.

Top COMPUTER RATINGS vs HUMANS, NEWS SHEET 24

BCF	Computer	Elo	Games	BCF	Computer	Elo	Games
199	MEPH ALMERIA 32	2193	103	178	MEPH MM4/5	2020	82
198	FID 68020 MACH 4	2185	94	177	KASP GAL ANALYST/8	2016	98
194	NOV SUPER EXP-FORTE/8*	2152	32	177	KASP GALILEO+TURBO*	2012	49
194	NOVAG SUPER5+TURBO*	2149	44	175	MEPH DALLAS 16	2000	50
191	MEPH MEGA 4+TURBO*	2131	102	174	KASP RENAISSANCE D/10	1992	29
189	MEPH MM4+TURBO*	2113	36	174	MEPH SUPER MONDIAL	·1990	6
189	FID 68000 MACH 3	2112	188	173	KASP GAL MAESTRO/4	1982	6
187	MEPH ALMERIA 16	2096	10	172	MEPH ROMA 16	1975	54
185	MEPH DALLAS 32	2080	197	172	NOV EXPERT/4	1975	43
184	MEPH COLLEGE-SUPMOND 2	2074	8	172	NOV FORTE B	1975	208
183	MEPH AMSTERDAM	2068	182	172	NOV SUPER FORTE-EXP B/6	1974	26
183	FID 68000 MACH 2C	2066	127	171	FID 68000 MACH 2B	1968	25
183	NOV EXPERT+TURBO*	2062	78	170	NOV SUPER EXPERT ORIG*	1963	22
182	MEPH MOND/DALLAS XL	2060	77	170	MEPH BLITZ	1962	6
182	NOV SUPER FORTE-EXP A/6	2058	151	170	SCI TURBO KASP/4	1959	52
182	NOV EXPERT/5	2052	62	169	MEPH REBELL	1955	52
181	MEPH MONTE CARLO	2046	10	168	MEPH EXCL S/12	1941	27
181	MEPH ACADEMY	2044	64	168	FID PAR E/8*	1940	56
180	MEPH MEGA 4	2041	169	167	CONCH PLYMATE/5.5	1939	55
180	NOV EXPERT/6	2036	22	167	CONCHESS/4	1937	23
179	FSION ATARI/18M	2033	28	167	NOV FORTE A	1936	124
179	MEPH ROMA 32	2031	57	166	CXG SPHINX	1930	121
179	MEPH MM4/8*	2022	8	166	FID PAR E/ELITE 2100	1930	210
178	CONCHESS PLYMATE/4	2027	5	165	FID 68000 MACH 2A	1918	35

BCF	Computer	Elo	+/-	Games	Pos	Human/Games	
205	MEPH ALMERIA 32	2241	18	639	1	2193	103
203	FID 68020 MACH 4	2223	22	461	2	2185	94
195	MEPH ALMERIA 16	2157	18	685	3	2096	10
195	MEPH ROMA 32	2157	18	849	4	2031	57
191	MEPH ROMA 32	2129	15	797	5	2080	197
191	FID 68000 MACH 3	2126	11	1701	6	2112	188
187	KASP RENAISSANCE D/10	2094	41	131	7	1992	29
187	MEPH DALLAS 16	2093	13	1382	8	2000	50
185	MEPH MOND/DALLAS XL	2080	22	443	9	2060	77
185	NDV SUPER FORTE-EXP B/6	2079	43	118	10	1974	26
184	MEPH ROMA 16	2079	12	1431	11	1975	54
184	MEPH ACADEMY	2070	18	666	12	2044	64
182	MEPH COLLEGE-SUPMOND 2	2069	44	113	13	2074	8
182	FID 68000 MACH 2C	2052	11	1901	14	2066	127
181	MEPH MEGA 4	2048	12	1470	15	2041	169
181	MEPH AMSTERDAM	2046	10	2247	16	2068	182
178	FID 68000 MACH 2B	2025	27	321	17	1762	25
177	MEPH MM4/5	2017	11	1922	18	2020	82
177	NDV SUPER FORTE-EXP A/6	2016	15	926	19	2058	151
175	CONCH PLY-VICTORIA	2000	52	80	20	1848	8
174	PSION ATARI/IBM	1991	13	1201	21	2033	25
174	MEPH MONTE CARLO	1990	35	181	22	2046	10
173	KASP GAL ANALYST/8	1985	28	276	23	2016	98
171	FID 68000 MACH 2A	1968	26	330	24	1918	35
170	CXG SPHINX	1958	17	753	25	1930	121
170	NDV SUPER FORTE-EXP A/5	1957	15	1237	26	1936	29
169	NDV EXPERT/6	1950	31	222	27	2036	22
169	FID 68000 CLUB B	1948	13	1319	28	1870	7
188	NDV EXPERT/5	1944	30	247	29	2052	62
166	FID AVANT GARDE/5	1931	12	1574	30	1862	80
166	KASP STRATOS/CORONA	1930	13	1218	31		
166	NDV FORTE B	1930	11	1804	32		
166	FID PAR E/ELITE 2100	1928	10	2160	33	1930	210
165	MEPH REBELL	1925	12	1523	34	1955	52
165	NDV FORTE A	1917	10	2036	35	1936	124
163	KASP GAL MAESTRO/6	1906	15	934	36		
163	CONCH PLYMATE/5.5	1905	12	1502	37	1939	55
163	MEPH SUPER MONDIAL	1901	15	974	38	1990	6
162	KASP GAL MAESTRO/4	1898	84	31	39	1982	6
161	KASP TURBO KING	1889	40	132	40	1910	61
161	NDV EXPERT/4	1889	16	873	41	1975	43
160	FID EXCELLENCE/4	1885	13	1311	42		
160	CONCHESS/6	1883	47	98	43	2184	1
160	CONCHESS PLYMATE/4	1880	24	362	44	2027	6
160	SCI TURBO KASP/4	1879	21	508	45	1959	52
159	KASP SIMULTANO	1874	24	576	46	1742	21
158	MEPH MM2	1866	19	611	47	1776	8
158	FID ELEGANCE	1860	19	630	48	1872	40
158	SCI TURBOSTAR 432	1860	13	1294	49	1896	61
157	FID EXCELLENCE/3	1859	13	1337	50	1881	46
156	FID ELITE C	1845	37	160	51	1869	11
155	PSION 1/8	1841	40	133	52	1937	23
154	CONCHESS/4	1831	21	504	53	1858	264
153	NDV SUPER CONST	1827	9	2932	54		
153	FID EXCEL DISPLAY/3	1824	40	135	55	1962	6
152	MEPH BLITZ	1814	29	276	56	1779	20
148	FID ELITE A	1781	41	131	57		
147	MEPH EUROPA/MARCO POLO	1778	32	129	58		
146	MEPH EXCL S/12	1768	32	212	59	1941	27
146	SCI SUPERSTAR 36K	1768	16	839	60		
146	FID PRESTIGE	1766	18	895	61	1758	131
145	FID SENSORY 12	1760	15	994	62	1805	7
144	NDV QUATTRO	1751	19	585	63		
144	CONCHESS/2	1749	15	908	64	1786	11
143	NDV PRIMO/VIP	1745	29	254	65		
143	PSION QL	1745	56	70	66		
143	NDV CONST/3.5	1741	16	803	67	1861	17
142	SARGON 4	1736	53	78	68		
142	CHESSMASTER 2000	1732	29	251	69		
141	FID ELITE B	1729	63	54	70		
138	SARGON 3	1702	68	47	71		
137	MEPH MONDIAL	1696	30	237	72		
136	FID ELITE OLD	1690	39	139	73	1840	5
136	COLOSSUS 4	1689	31	231	74	1610	2
135	NDV CONST/2	1677	13	1227	75	1730	37
134	SUPER ENT/ADV STAR	1668	17	783	76	1636	11
132	COLOSSUS 10	1654	79	35	77		
125	FID SENSORY 9	1596	16	869	78		
123	COLOSSUS 2	1587	79	35	79	1646	59
121	GGM + STEINITZ	1569	28	285	80		