

The First World MICROCOMPUTER CHAMPIONSHIP

by Tom Furstenberg

The 1st official World Championship for micro-computers, sponsored by *Personal Computer World* magazine, was held from 4-6 September at London's Cunard International Hotel, as part of the Personal Computer Exhibition. "Sensory Voice Chess Challenger" from the U.S.A., programmed by Dan and Kathie Spracklen and an improved version of their successful Sargon 2.5, won the tournament.

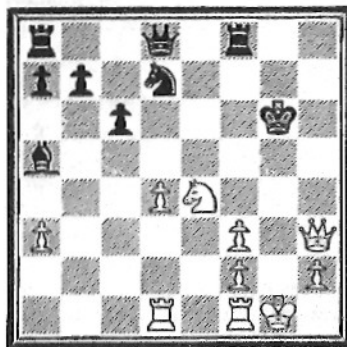
There have been quite a few changes lately in the Micro-Computer chess field—Chafitz, who had held world marketing rights for the Sargon 2.5 and other computers developed by Applied Concepts of Dallas, Texas, lost this exclusivity. As a result the Spracklens moved to Fidelity Electronics.

Applied Concepts are developing their Sargon 2.5, but the version which took part in the tournament is still in the experimental stages, hence its name: "Boris Experimental". It is likely to be some time before a commercial model is available. It seems that "Sensory Voice" has made more advances than "Boris" especially in the end-game, although this remains the weak spot in all programs.

One realizes just how much is at stake commercially when one learns that "Boris Experimental" arrived, 10 minutes before the start of the tournament, in the handbag of a young lady who had flown in from Dallas solely for this purpose. Its programmers had burnt the midnight oil the night before feverishly incorporating last-minute alterations.

Dave Rodgers, Director of Marketing and Sales for Applied Concepts, was in the hall to operate "Boris". Fidelity Electronics were represented by their President, Sid Samole, and Ron Nelson, who had programmed all chess challengers up to then.

The tournament was no walkover for "Sensory Voice" as the following position from its game against the Swiss "Viktor" shows.



It is White, "Viktor" to move. It has excellent winning chances after 32 K—R1 with R—KN1 ch to follow. However, the machine had a technical failure. Its hardware had to be changed and its level of play deteriorated dramatically. It played 32 P—Q5 and was mated 9 moves later.

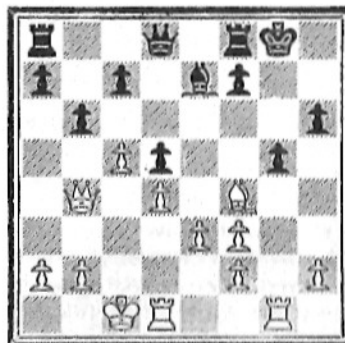
Immediately after the tournament Terry Knight of Competence, the U.K. distributor of Applied Concept Products, and Dave Rodgers, challenged the new world champion to a "best of three" match for a stake of £500 to be donated by the winner to the International Computer Chess Association. Sid Samole over-confidently accepted the challenge. He had nothing to gain, and everything to lose. What a commercial advantage Applied Concepts would have if they could advertise their program as having beaten the new world champion! Sid Samole put up tough conditions, though. The game between the two in the world championship, which "Sensory Voice" had won, was to count as the first of the three games. Moreover, he raised the ante to £2,500 to be paid to him personally. The Applied Concepts crowd telephoned Dallas (where it was 5 a.m.!) and got the go-ahead.

A special room in the hotel was hired to accommodate spectators. Also, David Levy was set to comment on the games in progress, but Samole vetoed this. So the first move was made by "Boris" at 3 p.m. sharp, with "Sensory Voice" already in the lead 1-0...

QGD

"Boris Experimental" White
"Sensory Voice" Black

1 P—Q4 P—Q4 2 P—QB4 P—K3
3 N—QB3 N—KB3 4 N—B3 B—K2
5 B—N5 O—O 6 P—K3 QN—Q2 7
B—K2 N—N3 8 P—B5 N—B5? 9
KBxN PxB 10 Q—R4 B—Q2 11
QxBP B—B3 12 O—O—O BxN 13
PxB P—KR3 14 B—B4 N—Q4 15
NxN PxN 16 Q—N4? P—QN3 17
KR—N1 P—KN4

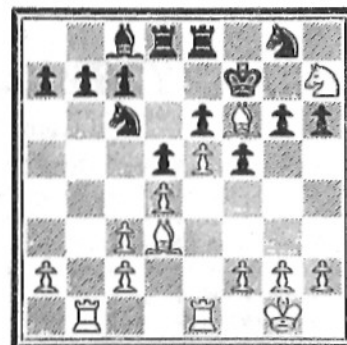


18 Q—B3 K—R1 19 B—N3
P—QB3 20 PxP QxP 21 B—K5ch
P—B3 22 B—N3 QR—B1 23 K—N1
KR—Q1 24 P—K4 B—N5 25
Q—K3(?) P—QB4 26 QPxP BxP 27
Q—K2 P—Q5 28 P—B4 B—Q3 29
P—K5 NPxP 30 BxP PxP 31 BxKPch
BxB 32 QxBch Q—KB3 33 QxQch
K—R2 34 Q—N7 mate.

So the match was wide open again. The final game was to prove the best of the whole event.

French Defence
"Sensory Voice" White
"Boris Experimental" Black

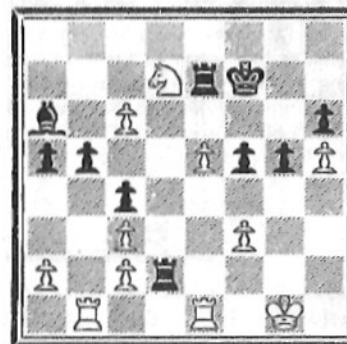
1 P—K4 P—K3 2 P—Q4 P—Q4
3 N—QB3 B—N5 4 P—K5 N—QB3
5 Q—N4 P—KN3 6 N—B3 P—B4
7 Q—N5 BxNch 8 PxN KN—K2 9
Q—R6 K—B2 10 B—KN5? Q—B1 11
QxQch RxQ 12 B—Q3 B—Q2 13
O—O QR—Q1 14 QR—N1 B—B1
15 B—KR6 R(B1)—K1 16 KR—K1
N—KN1 17 N—N5ch K—K2 18
B—N7 P—KR3 19 N—R7 K—B2 20
B—B6



20... NxB?

The move that cost £2,500!

21 NxN R—K2 22 P—KR4 P—N3
23 P—R5 P—KN4 24 P—N3 P—R3
25 P—B3 N—R4 26 P—N4 P—N4
27 K—N2 N—B5 28 BxN QPxP 29
PxP PxP 30 P—Q5 B—N2 31
R(N1)—Q1 B—B1 32 K—B2 P—R4?
33 R—QN1 P—B3 34 PxP R—Q7ch
35 K—N1 B—R3 36 N—Q7!



36... RxBP 37 P—K6ch! K—K1
38 N—B6ch K—B1 39 N—Q5
R—QR2? 40 P—K7ch K—K1 41
N—B6ch K—B2 42 P—K8=Qch
K—N2 43 Q—N6ch K—B1 44
R—K8 mate.

I've never heard such a sigh of relief, Sid Samole!

There does not seem to be a great deal of difference in strength between the two programs. One way to find the true champion would be a series of candidates' matches, as chance plays a much larger part in occasional games between computers than between humans. In London two "Sensory Voice" machines were used, and in most games had to be taken off their wooden

base to cool half way through. In two games one "Sensory Voice" had to be substituted by the other. (N.B.: the program that became world champion will not be used in the "Sensory Voice" until the present stock of 280 microprocessors is used up.)

It is clear that the "Sensory Voice Challenger" and the Modular Game System with the "Boris" program are the two strongest presently available. Both have pros and cons: the "Sensory Voice" reads the moves from the board, whilst the "Boris" has to have them keyed in. However "Boris" has a cartridge module which can be replaced as improved programs become available.

The Dutch program, "Gambiet 80", by Wim Rens, drew a lot of attention after beating "Boris 2.5" with a well-organised mating attack. It was interesting to watch the screen of the Tandy computer on which it ran. It showed the time used by both sides, and on its turn to move displayed the number of moves it had to calculate and the best move examined to date. During the last round it looked as if "Gambiet 80", with 7 minutes left for 4 moves, would lose on time. However Rens had made a program change to try to avoid loss on time the morning before. He'd had no time to test it, but it worked: for its last two moves "Gambiet 80" interrupted its thinking process before all moves had been con-

England take revenge

The fourth annual Wales v England Ladies' match for the Lloyds Bank Trophy took place on September 27 at the Angel Hotel, Cardiff. A strong England team just succeeded in reversing the 1979 result (Wales won 4½-3½) when Wales had to concede a draw late at night on board six.

board	Wales	England
1	Jane Garwell	Sheila Jackson
	(Black)	
2	Debbie Evans	Susan Caldwell
3	Clare Watkins	Peggy Clarke
4	Gaynor James	Susan Walker
5	Hazel Brunker	Anita Rakshit
6	Mary Davies	Maria Eagle
7	Diana James	Karen Cartmel
8	Sian Johnston	Angela Eagle
	3½	4½

The following day play moved to the Sandringham Hotel for a five-round Swiss

tournament and just made the time-control (30 moves per hour).

Some of the programs should not have been allowed to compete. "Albatross" for instance managed to give away its queen within a few moves twice:

1 P-Q4 P-K3 2 N-KB3 P-Q4 3 N-B3 B-K2 4 B-B4 Q-Q3?? and

1 P-Q4 P-K3 2 N-KB3 P-Q4 3 N-B3 B-K2 4 P-K4 PXP 5 NxP Q-Q4 6 N-B3 N-QB3??

"K. Chess IV" scored 0/5, and played the shortest game of the tournament, against "Boris Experimental": 1 P-KN3 N-QB3 and Black won, because White's program refused to play a second move. K. stands for "Killer"!

"Rook 4-0" played the strangest opening against "Vega 1-7" in round one: 1 P-Q4 P-Q4 2 P-K4 PXP 3 K-Q2 QxPch 4 K-K1 and Black won in 61 moves. Stage-fright?

Final results: 1 **Sensory Voice Challenger U.S.A.** 5/5; 2 **Boris Experimental U.S.A.** 4; 3-6 **Gambiet 80 Holland**, Mike 3-0 **England**, Rook 4-0 **Sweden**, Sargon 2-0 **U.S.A.** 3; 7-9 **Auto Response Board** and **Boris MGS 2-5**, both **U.S.A.**, **Vega 1-7 England** 2½; 10-11 **Albatross England**, **Viktor Switzerland** 2; 12 **Fafner 2 England** 1½; 13 **Princess Sweden** 1; 14 **Killer Chess IV England** 0.

tournament with 47 entrants, the largest women's tournament ever in Wales, also sponsored by Lloyds Bank and organised by the Welsh Ladies' Chess Association. Sheila Jackson won after a play-off with twice previous winner Jane Garwell.

1 **Sheila Jackson** 4½/5; 2 **Jane Garwell** 4½; 3 **Debbie Evans** 4; 4 **Anita Rakshit** 4; 5 **Gaynor James** 4. Age group prizes: under 18, **Clare Watkins** 3½; under 16, **Susan Walker** 4; under 14, **Yvonne Coates** 3; under 12, **Penelope Clarke** 3. Best over-18s not playing in the International: **Olive Chataway** and **Ann Garwell**. Prizes for outstanding results: **Jane Riley** and **Sally Clarke**. Best Juniors from **Gwent**, **East Glamorgan** and **Mid- and West Wales**: **Linda Powell**, **Carina Miles** and **Diana James**. Special prize: **Helen Veale**. Best score by a junior receiving no other prize: **Carey Groves**. **Frank Hatto** controlled.

Richard Britton's

GRECIAN ODYSSEY

Rhodes, Greece, 16-31 October

	Ki	B	L	Be	R	K	V	T	P	D	A	Pa	Ps	Di	Pts.
1. Kindermann Austria	2375	x	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	9
2. Britton England	2330	½	x	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	8½
3-5. Liverios Greece	2275	½	½	x	0	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	7½
3-5. Bernat Argentina	2390	0	½	½	x	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	7½
3-5. Roos France	2380	½	½	½	½	x	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	7½
6-10. Kaiszauri Sweden	2365	½	½	½	½	½	x	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	6½
6-10. Vizantiadis Greece	2275	½	½	½	½	½	½	x	½	½	½	½	½	½	6½
6-10. Tabor Hungary	2325	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	x	½	½	½	½	½	6½
6-10. Pountzas Greece	2305	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	x	½	½	½	½	6½
6-10. Donaldson U.S.A.	2360	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	x	½	½	½	6½
6-10. Akvist Sweden	2275	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	x	½	½	6
12. Pandavos Greece	2200	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	x	½	5
13. Psarras Greece	2200	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	x	4½
14. Dimitriadis Greece	2240	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	3

The trouble with Rhodes is that no-one really feels like playing chess. Even though the main tourist season was drawing to its close, the weather was tremendous. Surprisingly the organisers had difficulty getting a full complement of players together, Kaiszauri, Vizantiadis, Tabor and Donaldson all arriving late.

The tournament was organised by the Rhodian Tennis Club (which incorporates the local chess club).

Anyone who has seen my play knows it is rather sharp. My first round game illustrates this particularly well:

King's Indian

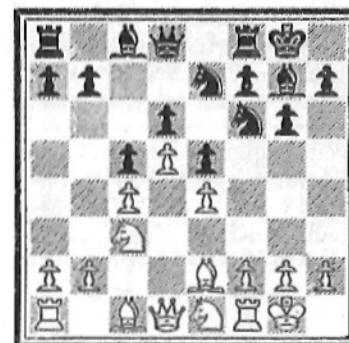
Countzas White Britton Black

1 P-QB4 N-KB3 2 N-QB3 P-KN3 3 P-K4 P-Q3 4 P-Q4 B-N2 5 B-K2 O-O 6 N-B3 P-K4 7 O-O N-QB3 8 P-Q5 N-K2 9 N-K1

9 N-Q2, 9 B-Q2 and 9 P-QN4 are the main alternatives, but 9 N-K1 is nearly always played.

9 ... P-B4?!

This is certainly inferior but has the advantage of not being well-known. The usual continuation, 9



... N-Q2 10 N-Q3 P-KB4 11 B-Q2 N-KB3 12 P-B3 P-B5, leads to a position which has been much analysed lately.

The trouble with 9 ... P-B4 is that after Korchnoi's 10 P-B4! White obtains much the better game. Black cannot cover his K4 square adequately and so must allow either P-B5 (with a king's side pawn storm to follow) or, after capturing on KB5, shut in his king's bishop by ... P-KB3 in order to prevent P-K5.

10 P-QR3 N-Q2 11 P-QN4 P-B4 12 P-B3 P-N3 13 N-Q3 N-KB3 14 B-Q2 P-B5 15 P-QR4 P-KN4 16 P-R5 P-R4