The 4th World Microcomputer Chess Championship

This event, sponsored by Computer Games Limited and Langs Supreme Whisky in association with Stakis Hotels PLC in Glasgow from 9-15 September produced an exciting and unique result with four computers sharing first place. Tension had been running high for the entire Championship with much at stake for the winners, especially amongst the commercial entrants. As the penultimate round finished, it was clear that a likely final result would be a tie and there was a growing feeling that the provision in the rules to split the tie (by the Bucholz system) would not be appropriate—when the likely contenders were so closely matched. It was therefore agreed by the appropriate participants and by the ICCA President that, for the first time, ties would not be resolved.

The four World Microcomputer Champions are therefore Fidelity Elite X, Mephisto S (A), Pinchex X and Pison Chess. The winners represent a worldwide cross-section coming from America, West Germany, Sweden and England respectively. Programmer Richard Lang, author of Pison Chess, received a special prize of whisky from one of the joint sponsors, Langs Supreme Whisky!

The commercial World Microcomputer Champion is open only to those machines which are currently available in the shops — was won by Mephisto S (A) and the Amateur title by Chessnut 3 from Dunfermline, the only entry in this category.

After a witty speech, Professor Monroe Newborn, President of the International Computer Chess Association, presented Cafithness Glass Bowls to the winners during an awards ceremony sponsored by the Turing Institute and the University of Strathclyde. There was general agreement that the standard of play of the top machines had improved in the past year.


Classifications:
Commercially Available: Sargon III on Apple, Compaq and Macintosh, Mephisto S (A), (D), and (C), Fidelity Elegance, L'Empereur, Fidelity Private Line.
Entries from commercial companies which are not available in shops: Conchess X and Y, Pinchex X, Fidelity Elite X and Y, Pison Chess, Intelligent Chess Software, Orwell, Colossus 2.1.
Non-commercial entry: Chessnut 3.

English
Colossus 2.1 White Conchess X Black
1 P-QB4 P-KN3 2 N-QB3 N-KB3 3 N-B3 N-B3 4 P-K3 P-Q3 5 P-Q4 B-QN5 P-KN5 N-K2 7 B-Q2 P-B3 8 O-O P-KN5 N-Q4 B-N3 B-B2 10 P-Q4 Q-Q1 R-QN1 14 P-O3 N-N2 Q2 15 B-N4 B-N5 16 K-R1 K-N1 15 Q-R5 N-Q6 R1 18 R-K2 N-K4 19 B-R3 R-Q1 20 R-N1 P-Q4 21 P-B3 N-Q2 22 N-N2 N-N4 23 Q-Q4 R-B4 B-QB4 24 N-N5 O-O 25 N-N5

WINNING COMBINATIVE PLAY

No. 376: Six positions from the 4th World Microcomputer Championships in which the machine to move has a winning combination. The positions are in order of difficulty, and the number of moves in the solution in the longest line of the solution (p. 199) and the last move played are given in brackets. White is playing up the board.