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), Princhess X and Psion Chess. The winners represent a world-wide cross-section coming from America, West Germany, Sweden and England respectively. Programmer Richard Lang, author of Psion Chess, received a special prize of whisky from one of the joint sponsors, Langs Supreme Whisky!

The commercial World Microcomputer Champion — 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 Caithness 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.

Final scores: **1-4 Elite X, Mephisto S (A), Princhess X, Psion Chess 5;** 5-7 Conchess X, Elegance, Elite Y 4½; 8-10 Mephisto S (C), Private Line, Sargon III/Apple 4; 11-12 Mephisto S (B), Sargon III/MacIntosh 3½; 13-15 Conchess Y, Intelligent Chess Software, Sargon III/Compaq 2½; 16-18 Colossus 2.1, L'Empereur, Orwell 2; 19 Chessnut 3 ½.

Classifications:

Commercially Available: Sargon III on Apple, Compaq and MacIntosh, Mephisto S (A), (B), and (C), Fidelity Elegance, L'Empereur, Fidelity Private Line.

Entries from commercial companies which are not available in shops: Conchess X and Y, Princhess X, Fidelity Elite X and Y, Psion 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—K4 2 N—QB3 N—KB3 3 N—B3 N—B3 4 P—K3 P—Q3 5 P—Q4 B—B4 6 P—Q5 N—K2 7 B—K2 P—B3 8 O—O P—K5 9 N—Q4 B—N3 10 Q—R4 Q—B1 11 B—Q2 Q—B2 12 PxP PxP 13 QR—Q1 R—QN1 14 P—QN3 N—Q2 15 B—N4 Q—N2 16 KR—K1 N—QB4 17 Q—R5 N—Q6 18 R—K2 N—K4 19 B—R3 R—Q1 20 R—N1 P—Q4 21 PxP NxP 22 NxN RxN 23 Q—R4 B—QB4 24 N—B5 O—O 25 B—B3

25 ... Q—N4 26 QxQ PxQ 27 P—QN4 N—Q6 28 NxP B—Q3 29 N—K6 PxN 30 BxPch B—KB2 31 BxR BxB 32 P—QR3 NxP 33 RxN BxRPch 34 KxB RxR 35 R—Q1 R—QB7 36 RxB RxB 37 R—N5ch K—R1 38 RxP RxRP 39 R—N8ch K—N2 40 R—N7ch K—N3 41 P—N5 RxP 42 RxQRP R—QN6 43 R—QN7 K—B3 44 P—N6 P—K6 45 K—N3 P—K7 dis ch 46 K—B2 R—K6 47 K—K1 K—K3 48 RxP R—QN6 49 KxP R—N7ch 50 K—Q3? RxKNP 51 P—N7 R—QN7 52 K—B3 R—N8 53 K—B2 R—N4 54 R—N7 K—Q3 55 R—KB7 K—B3 56 R—B6ch Draw agreed.
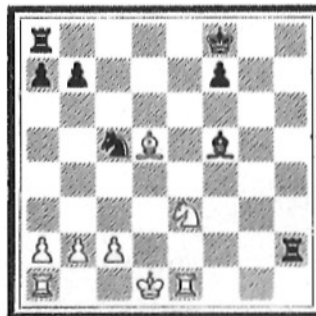
WINNING COMBINATIVE PLAY

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 longest line of the SOLUTION (p.198) and the last move played are given in brackets. White is playing up the board.

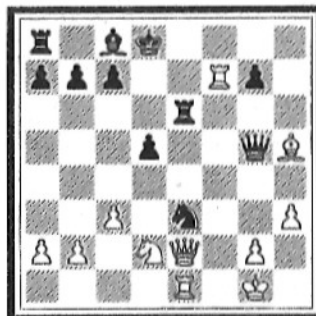**1 Chessnut 3 v Elegance**
Black to play (16 Q-N5, 3)

2 Orwell v Intelligent Chess Software
Black to play (47 R-N3, 3)

3 Intelligent Chess Software v Sargon III/MacIntosh
Black to play (23 N-K3, 4)

4 Sargon III/Apple v Intelligent Chess Software
White to play (36 ... Q-N1, 7)

5 Elite Y v Colossus 2.1
White to play (21 ... Q-N4, 4)

6 Colossus 2.1 v Mephisto S(C)
Black to play (33 RxP, 6)