

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

Computer Chess NEWS SHEET 30 "SELECTIVE SEARCH" October 1990

The purpose in publishing <u>SELECTIVE SEARCH</u> (previously known as the **NEWS SHRET**) has always been 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 they provide financial backing and also allow me some time during office hours in which to prepare part of the material. We handle there a very wide range of Computers and I 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 and solely by myself.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: £10 a year, for 6 Issues. Poreign Readers £12.
PUBLICATION DATES: early Feb. Apr. Jun, Aug. Oct and Dec.

A REMISSER LABBL is placed on the Envelope of each Reader where the Issue enclosed is the LAST covered by their current sub. If there is such a Label on YOUR envelope, you will need to send your payment, payable either to "Selective Search" or myself, to obtain the next Issue.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS; always please state the <u>number</u> of the first Issue you wish your sub. to cover - otherwise you will always be sent a copy of the current Issue.

ARTICLES: Articles or Games sent in by Readers, Distributors or Programmers are always welcome and will receive fair consideration for publication.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to another (great) Issue of SELECTIVE SEARCH - a humper 24 page job this time, though it will normally remain at 20. However there is much to report and plenty of entertaining games so a couple of things promised in 5529 have still had to be left out (games from the Cambridge Olympiad and the German Blitz Championship... maybe next time?). Readership of SELECTIVE SEARCH continues to grow so the increase which a proper price-setting resulted in has clearly been well received, and helps in what I hope Readers will agree is an improvement in quality, as well as increase in Magazine size from 16 pages.

World Computer Olympiad in London, August 1990

The above received encouraging coverage in the Press for a nice change, with photos of World Champion Chess programmer, Richard Lung, getting into a couple. (SELECTIVE SEARCH follows suit, not wanting to lag behind the lines, Telegraph and Guardian in Computers Chess coverage!).

In all 55 programs were entered, hattling it out for Draughts, Othelio, Go, Scrabble, Chinese Chess, Bridge, Backgammon and Chess titles. The Chess is the one that interests us, of course, and it seems to be at Chess that the most effort and progress has been made.

Last years OLYMPIAD was won by Ed Schroeder's REBELL/POLGAR program running at around 20MHz. This year it was running on an Archimedes PC at around 55-60MHz and so well fancied: but

Richard Lang's series of programs from Amsterdam to Portorose has won the WORLD Micro Title for 5 successive years, and his improved Portorose was clearly the no. 1 contender, even though Richard's own 36MHz 68030 is no longer the fastest piece of hardware at these events with Zugzwang, Brainstorm and Chess Champion 2175 as well as the Rebell/Polgar all running on equal or faster equipment!

The result was decided by the Hephisto PORTOHOSE I v. Hephisto RENELL/POLGAR game, which is reproduced with Notes at the end of SS. (Here I should make a brief addition to the note to move 47 found there. After 47 - a2!, instead of 48 Bxe4 Re3 which leaves Black equal or winning, I now find 48 b5! Then if - Ic3 49 b6 Ib2 50 b7, and White is still well ahead). There will be more in SS31, but here is the final RESULTS ORDER (after giving programs a HALF for Byes where marked '):- Rephisto PORTOHOSE I 7/7; Hephisto REDELL/POLGAR 6; ZUGZERNE 5; BRAINSTORM 3.5; KAISSA, ECHECS, WOODPOSHER 3.5'; CHESS CHAMPION 2175 3°; BIGHTHAPE, HIARCS 1.5'; GURUCHESS .5'



... NEWS AND COMMENT... NEWS AND COMMENT... NEWS AND COMMENT...

CHESS MATE program for the Atari ST

This could be a real help to folk wanting to LEARN or brush-up on their Openings. It is NOT a chess opponent - NOR a *Chess Base* or *BIC Base* type copy, but an altogether new idea designed to help the player with his practice.

Users can make full use of the Openings already built into the files - there are 100 Opening Book titles available, 1 am told. AND you can add all of your own "pet" Openings or variations, plus addition of new theory to existing lines etc. - the limits are determined only by available disk space.

To use the program simply nominate the Opening you want to practice in and, with the mouse control, make what you believe to be the correct moves in that Opening for Black or White. When you are correct, the program replies from within the selected line; when you are wrong you are told so and given up to three chances to make the correct move before the program gives up on you and shows you the answer! The price is £49.95, but there is a demo version for £5 which also works on colour or black and white monitors. My demo version was the Caro Kann just waiting to see how much I know (or don't know!) about it. No comment!

CHESS MATE is available from Mark Wadsworth, 1 Norton Grove, Liverpool L31 5JX.

DAN and HATHE SPRACILEY

One or two readers (three actually) have asked for news of these ex-*Pidelity* programmers as everything has gone so quiet since their move to *Saitek/Kasparov*.

They are of course hard at work preparing a program for a future World Computer Championship entry, but I believe their instructions are to take their time rather than try to rush something out. Probably an entry into the late 1991 Tournaments is the earliest that can be realistically expected though, if the World Micro Championship is in mid-summer for 1991, as I believe, you never know if they might just make that!?

The real question concerns what progress the SPRACKLEN/KAPLAN team has made with regard to combining the best of their respective talents. The **Rasparov D/10** still lags behind a little bit on the various rating lists and Dan and Kathe can certainly improve on this. But will their first **SaiteR** production be something similar to the KACH 3/4 v.1-9 series they wrote for **Fidelity**, or will they also be able to incorporate enough improvements to get closer to RICHARD LANG?

NEW MEPHISTO MM5 upgrade modules!

This is the POLGAR program, but using the REBELL and MM4 display and features which means that existing MM2, Rebell and MM4 owners could upgrade to Polgar strength without paying the Polgar price. Of course they will miss out on some of the special Polgar features, but a MODULAR MM5 at £349 doesn't sound bad!

This new Computer from Novag was previewed in SS29, and we have now had chance to play some chess with it. It is a pleasing machine to use, an improvement on its predecessor, the SUPREMO, in both features and appearance (though it is another in the black and silver style, and I confess I preferred the Novag brown and cream combination from the SUPER CONSTELLATION and FORTE A/B days).

At £149 it represents good value for money and, though it must compete with Fidelity's DESIGNER 2100 DISPLAY which is an improved Par Excellence (6MRz instead of 5MHz, and an enlarged updated Opening Book, plus display), there doesn't look to be too much other competition at this price point.

PESULTS

Paul Cohen of Eureka sent me 3 games SUPER NOVA v. PAR EXCELLENCE which went 2-1 to the Novag; and our match SUPER HOVA v. DESIGNER 2100 DISPLAY was a 2-2 draw. It then went on to comfortably beat the new Atari program CHESS CHAMPION 2175 by 3-1. Bowever other results were not quite so good for the Novag: 2-4 v. Nephisto SUPERMONDIAL II; 1-3 v. Mephisto POLGAR/5; 1-3 v. CXG SPHINX GALAXY; and 0.5-3.5 v. Saitek SIMULTANO.

Despite the scorelines, one's impression is of a small but definite improvement over the Supremo/Super VIP programs, so it came as a surprise to me to find the SUPER NOVA actually 7 Elo behind the Super VIP on the latest list just released from Sweden. Their results so far are: 12.5-6.5 v. CONCHESS/1: 10.5-9.5 v. CXG SUPER ENTERPRISE (a big disappointment for the Novag); 0.5-1.5 v. Novag FORTE B; and 2.5-7.5 v. Nephisto MEGA 4. It is hard (for me) to believe that the SUPER NOVA is actually 100 Elo behind CHESS CHAMPION 2175 which is what the Swedish List shows from their results, and I am sure we will see an improvement there for the Super Nova as more scores start to come in.

In the meantime, here is a GAMES SELECTION from our own tests. All were played at 1 min per move.

Povag Super tova - games

White Mephisto SUPERMOUDIAL II Black Movag SUPER DOVA

1 e4 c5 2 Tf3 d6 3 d4 crd 4 Hrd4 Tf6 5 Hc3 a6 6 g3 e5 7 Nde2 Nbd7 6 Bg2 Be7 Both machines are now out of their Books

9 0-0 b5 10 a4(?!) bra 11 Rma4 Mc5

12 Rc4 0-0 19 Re3 a5 14 b4 Re6 15 Rd5 Brd5 16 erd5 Ha4 17 Qc1 Hb6
At this stage, both machines felt that the SUPER NOVA had a slight edge.

10 Bxb6 Qxb6 19 Qd2 a4(?!) 20 Ra1 a3
21 Rc6 Qa7 22 c4 Rac6(?)
Kephisto had expected 22 - Rfb6 and a position perhaps just in its own favour.
The same now swings away from the Novag.

23 Nc3 Qd4 24 Qxd4 exd4 25 Nb5 Rxc6 26 dxc d3 27 Rxa3 d5 28 cxd d2 29 Rd3 Bxb4 30 Bh3 Me4 31 d6 Mc5 32 Rd5 Me6 33 d7 Be7 34 Bxe6 fxe 35 Rxd2 Bd8 36 c7 Bxc7 37 Nxc7 Rf7 38 d8=Q Rxd8 39 Rxd8 Ke7 and resigns, I-0.

Here is the best of SUPER NOVA's two wins in this match.

White Novag SUPER NOVA Black Mephisto SUPERMONDIAL II

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Md2 c5 4 exd Qxd5 5 Mf3 cxd 6 Bc4 Qd6 7 0-0 Mf6 8 Mb3 Be7 9 Mxd4 a6

Both go out of Book together egain at this point.

10 Qe2 b5 11 Bd3 Bb7 12 Rd1 Mbd7 13 c4 bxc 14 Bxc4 Qc7 15 Bxe6(!)

An interesting moment. Novag evaluates this as a +066 move, but drops to +005 at move 18 before jumping again to +151 as it plays 20 Raci+. Thereafter both programs agree that Novag is winzing.

15 - fxe6 16 Mxe6 Qc6 17 Mxg7+ Id8(!)
17 - Kf7 had been expected.

18 Be6+ Ic8(?)

and here 18 - Kee was expected.

19 Bg5 Qe4(?) 20 Rac1+ Kb8 21 Qxe4
Bxe4 22 Bf4+ Kb7 23 Rxd7+ Wxd7 24
Rc7+ Kb6 25 Rxd7 Rae8 26 Bc7+
The SUPER NOVA is playing some fine
chess and its present +287 evaluation
will reach +445 by move 30!

26 - Rc6 27 Ne5+ Rb5 28 Nd4+ Rc5 29 1b3+ Rb5 30 Rd4 a5 31 Rxe4 a4 32 Nd4+ Ne will follow the game through to move 40. Novag has the win by now, of course, but meets stubborn resistance which prolonged the game and forced the SUPER

NOVA to play cautiously in its build-up towards the inevitable.

32 - Ia6 33 Mf5 a3 34 bxa Bxa3 35 Bd6 Bxd6 36 Mxd6 Re6 37 Wef7 Rb8 38 f3 Rb1+ 39 If2 Rb2 40 Ig3 Rg6

We will leave it there as it went to move 63 before the SUPERMONDIAL II needed to resign. 1-0.

Two games from the above match went to over 80 moves - there were some tough struggles! Next are a win for each from the SUPER NOVA v. POLGAR match.

White Mephisto POLGAR/5 Black Movag SUPER MOVA

1 e4 e5 2 Mf3 Mc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Mf6 5 0-0 Mxe4 6 d4 b5 7 Bb3 d5 8 dxe Be6 9 Mbd2 Mc5 10 c3 Be7

POLGAR goes out of Book now, but SUPER NOVA stays "with it" for one more move.

11 Bc2 Bg4 12 Qe1 0-0 13 Qe3 ReB 14 h3 Be6 15 Hd4 Bd7 16 f4(!)

The POLGAR central Pawns are worth watching in this game.

16 - We6 17 Qd3 Mf8 18 Bb3 Wxd4 19 cxd4 c6 20 f5 f6 21 e6 Bc8 22 a4 bxa At this stage, both programs think they have a small edge: POLGAR +090, SUPER HOVA +013.

23 Ba4 Qc7 24 Rel a5 25 Qc2 Qb6 26 Wb3 Bb7 27 Bd2 Bb4 28 Racl Rab8 29 g3 Bxd2

With this move, Novag recognised its opponents pressure and went ~023.

30 Qxd2 Ba8 31 Mxa5 Qxb2 32 Qxb2 Rxb2 33 Mxc6 Ra2 34 Bb3 Rb2 35 Bxd5 Bxc6 36 Rxc6 Re7 37 Rc7(!!)

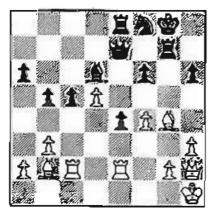
Suddenly its all over, POLGAR +665!

37 - Re8 38 e7+ Kh0 99 Bi7 Rb8 40
Bxe8 Bxe8 41 d5 h6 42 d6 Kh7 43
exf8=H+ Rxf8 and the Novag resigned.
just after allowing the POLGAR to prove
it knows about under-prometion! 1-0.

The next game is worth playing through, if only for one move!

White Novag SUPER TOVA Black Rephisto POLGAR/S

1 f4(!) d5 2 b3 Bg4 3 d4 Wf6 4 Wf9
Wbd7 5 Mbd2 c5 6 e3 e6 7 c4 Bd6 8
cxd exd 9 Be2 0-0 10 0-0 Re8 11 h3
Bxf3 12 Rxf3 a6 13 Bb2 Qh6 14 Rc1
Rac8 15 Qe1 Rb8 16 Qd1 Ra8 17 Qe1 g6
18 Rc2 Ra7 19 Qh4 Me4 20 Mxe4 dxe4 21
Rf2 Qd8 22 Qg3 f6 23 Bg4 b6 24 d5 Mf8
25 Rfd2 Rf7 26 Bf5(?!) Rg7 27 Bg4 q5
28 Qh2 gxf 29 exf h6 30 Th1 b5 31 Re1
Qe7



Vell, here it is! What would you play? I would like to give the SUPER KOVA a !!! or even !!!! - but such extravagances have to be reserved for Bobby Fisher (see his famous game as a 13 year old against Byrne where his Queen sac, move got !!!!)

32 Bf3(!!) exf3

There is really nothing better. I actually tried a PORTOROSE from this position against the SUPER NOVA, and even it was unable to save the game from

here at I win per more!

33 Rxe7 R8xe7 34 Qg1 Md7(?)

Michael Healey suggested 34 - Re2 35
Rxel fxsi 36 8xf6 Rf7 which is
certainly better, though we also found
36 Qel Re? 37 Bxf6 for White which
improves. The nearest to holding the
game might be 34 - Rxf4.

35 Qf1 fmg+(?) 36 Rmg2 Bmf4 37 Qmf4
Re1+ 36 Ih1 Rmg2+ 39 Img2 Re2+ 40 If3
Rmb2 41 Qg4+ If8 42 Qmd7 Rma2 43 d6
and Black resigned, 1-0.

To close we really have to print the following from the SIMULTANO match, a game in which the Saltek machine showed that it too, can play right out of its skin (as they say on TV). Moves 11-23 are worthy of some proper analysis at a future date.

White Movag SUPER MOVA Black Saiter SIMULTANO

1 e4 e5 2 c3(!)

Extravagant... iva for owners but still extravagant. Simultano goes straight out of Book, of course!

2 - Mf6 3 d4 d5 4 Mf3 exd 5 e5 Me4 6 cxd c5 7 Md2 Qa5 8 Bd3 cxd 9 Mxd4 Mc5 10 Mb3 Bxf2+ 11 Mf1 Mxd2 12 Bxd2 Qb6 13 Ba5 Qe3

We now show some of each computer's avaluations, which add to the confusion!

14 Bb5+ (+036) Nc6 15 Qc2 (+112) f6 (-071) 16 exf (+205) 0-0 (+632) 17 Bd2 Qb6 10 Bd3 (000!) Rxf6 19 Bg5 (-102) Nb4 (+130) 20 Bxh7+ Yh8 (+182) 21 Qe2 Bh4+ 12 Bxf6 Qxf6+ 23 Kg1 Qb6+ (+552!) 24 Kf1 Bg4 25 g3 Bxe2+ 26 Kxe2 Qe6+ 27 Kf1 Kxh7 26 Kg1 Bf6 29 Rf1 Kxa2 and White resigned, 0-1!

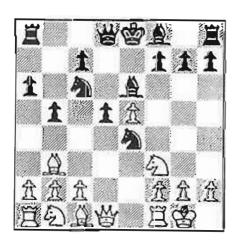
COMPUTERS AND OPENING THEORY, PART 2 by Graham White

Following my earlier Article on some openings analysis by the MEPHISTO PORTOROSE program, I would like to share some further interesting ideas. In particular I have been studying the "OPEN" RUY LOPEZ in order to add it to my own Black repertoire.

Mephisto's help in practising and generating original analysis in some lines proved quite invaluable, and I hope to show that the Computer found some possibly important new ideas.

1. BATSFORD CHESS OPERINGS 2, Page 394, Line 3. (BCO2 is NOT needed to follow this article).

1.e4 e5 2.Wf3 Mc6 3.Db5 a6 4.Ba4 Mf6 5.0-0 Me4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 B.de Be6



9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 Mc5 11.Bc2 Md7(?!)

If my analysis is correct, this line is not good for Slack. S.g:-

12.Re1(!) Mde5 13.Me5 Me5 14.Bd4 Mc6(?)
We are following Watson-Kaidanov, 1985
15.Bg7 Rg8

Now Watson retreated with, 16.Bd4(?)

BCO2 gives this line as unclear - and the game itself ended in a draw. However the PORTOROSE immediately finds the much better, 16.Qh5(!) The point is, if.

-A) 16...Rg7 17.Re6(!) Looks crushing, e.g. 17...Qd7 18.Bf5(!) Better is:--B) 16...Qd7 but then both, 17.Qh6 or 17.Qh7 Look to be winning. Okay, it's still a game, but I can't see much compensation, if any, for the Pawn Black is going to lose. It looks as if Taidanov's "Knight's Tour" idea should be thrown on the scrap heap because of 16.Qh5(!) and Black should play 11... Bg4 or vary earlier with 10...Qd7 which is also given in BCO2.

1. BCO2, same page! Line 5.

1.e4 e5 2.Jf3 Mc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Hf6 5.0-0 Te4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.de Be6 As in (1), see Diagram. Nov...

9.Qe2 Be7 10.Rd1 Hc3 11.Bd5 Bd5 12.Hc3

And BCO2 gives 12...Bc4 with a long and complicated line ending with a +/=.

Here are the moves (as long as you don't ask me to explain them all!);— 13.Rd8
Rd8 14.Qe3 b4 15.b3 Be6 16.Ne4 Rd1+
17.Ne1 Nd4 18.Bb2 Nc2 19.Qe2 Ra1
20.Ba1 Na1 21.Nc5 Bc5 22.Nd3 Bb6
23.Nb4 0-0 24.Nc6 (Timman-Yusupov, 1985). In fact this game ended with Black managing to draw after, 24...f6
25.h4 fe 26.Qe5 Rf6 27.Nd8(!) Bf7
28.Nf7 Rf7 29.Qa1 Rf2 30.Kh2 a5. But if all Black can expect is the worse side of a draw, this line is hardly appetising.

In fact 11...Bd5 is not in the PORTOROSE Book; and instead of 12...Bc4(?!), it

ă

prefers,

12... #b4(?!)

This merits attention - it is supposed to be dubious, but let's take a closer look:-

 $\frac{-\lambda}{1}$ 13.a3(?!) Bc4 14.Rd8 Rd8 15.Qc4 (forced) bc 16.ab He6 and the position is uncertain or may be just =/+.

-B) 13.b3(? - but given as ! by Pachman)
0-0 14.Ba3 le6(!)

Probably what Pachman missed? Now if, -Bi) 15.1105 1105 16.8e7 Qe7 17.12d5 11f5 -/+

-Bii) 15.Bb4 Uf4(!) =/+
-C) 13.Ue1(!)

Given as ! by Pachman also, and certainly best.

13...c6 14.a3 Mc2 15.Mc2 Qc7(!)
In fact the PORTOROSE plays 15...Nb3
first, but this is more accurate.
16.Md5 cd

Non if:

-Ci) 17.Bf4 Black can play, 17...1e6,

-Cii) 17.Rd5(?!) Hb3 18.Rb1 Rc8 19.Rd3
Rc1 (Qc2?!) 20.Rc1 Bg5(!) 21.Rc3 Qc3
22.bc Bc1 with a roughly level endgame.
Probably White would be better to sit on a slight advantage with 17.Rd4(!)

Our conclusion is that 12...Nb4 is a perfectly playable alternative to 12...Bc4.

3. BCO2, same page. Line 6, Note 28

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Ne4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.de Be6 As in (1), see Diagram. Kox...

9.Qm2 Be7 10.Rd1 0-0 11.c4 bc 12.Bc4 Qd7 13.Bc3 Bc3 14.bc f6 15.ef Bf6 16.Bg5 Bg5 17.Bg5 h6 18.Be3 Now, according to Forchnoi (and BCO2,

though it endorses 18...Qd6 first). It doesn't matter whether Black plays 18...Ne5 19.B53 Qd6 (which is the PORTOROSE Book), or 18...Qd6 expecting 19.Bb3 Ne5, and the same position by transposition, But after.

18...046

The PORTOROSE likes,

19.Bd5(!)

Then, after the continuation:
19...Bd5 20.c4 Me7 21.cd Md5 22.Qc4

White is much better and Black has two
weak Queenside Pawns. Who would fancy
Black's chances of surviving this
against. say, Karpov or Andersson?

4. BC02 - The 10...g6 (Iorchnoi) line

1.e4 e5 2.Hi3 Hc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Hi6 5.0-0 He4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.de Be6 Again as (1), and Diagram there. In his 1978 Match with Karpov, Korchnoi (once!) experimented with,

9.Ibd2 Ic5 10.c3 g6(?!)

He suffered a catastrophic loss and, as far as I can find, nobody has ever dared this "weak and provocative" move since (Speelman: Best Chess Games 1970- 1980). Note: the move 10...g6 is NOT in BCO2 which recommends d4, Nxb3 or Bg4.

Can the "g6" line be saved? The game went,

11.Qe2 Bg7 12.Md4(!) Ne5 13.f4 Nc4(?!) Here,

13... **Ted**3

Is given as slightly better by Speelman, and this is the move the PORTOROSE would choose, with a continuation,

14.15 gf (Speelman gives 14...Kc1, but what's the hurry to take this Bishop?)
15.Wf5 Bf6 16.Bc2 Wc1 17.Wac1 d4
This is just one sample line, and it's very messy. North another try sometime?
Only if you fancy playing with fire?!..

The MEPHISTO POLGAR 10 at the BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

SELECTIVE SEARCH COULD be criticised for its emphasis on Mephisto in a couple of recent Issues. We are aware of that, though 8829 seemed to us to have a good and fair balance. This Issue IS very lop-sided - WE know that - but we can only publish from WHAT IS RAPPENING! At least, from THIS Article, you will know that we shall print the good, the bad, and the ugly! I wouldn't describe the POLGAR 10's performance in the British MAJOR OPEN as either bad, or ugly - but I think the word disappointing certainly applies, considering its Calderdale 207 BCF grade and our resultant pre-Tournament hopes for another around the 200 mark.

EASTBOURNE WAS A splendid venue for the British Championships in August - it certainly went down well with those who fancied a dip in the sea or an hour or two's sunbathing either before or after play. The weather was just superb and the playing conditions as good as they possibly could be in view of the very warm temperatures.

THE ARRIVAL OF the Computer Team, with their accompanying humans, was greeted with a set of "Rules for Computers" which we had not been made aware of. These were supposed to avoid a repeat of last year's frustration when an ACADEMY overran the time control by taking 6 mins to announce a mate-in-5 when it only had 5 left on the clock! However a quick glance through the Rules made it clear that they would not be to our advantage, insisting first of all that ONLY the actual operator for each computer could decide on any time adjustments needed or, indeed, touch any of the machine's controls.

THE BCF HAS always encouraged us to enter as many machines as we are able to (maximising our entry payment?). However available manpower to operate machines, whilst also running a Stand for players at the Tournament to practice or buy computers, means that we can really only manage to enter ONE machine comfortably. So the BCF has always encouraged, and advertised for us, to make use of youngsters there, who are happy to operate a computer for a small fee!

THIS HAS WORKED perfectly well in the past as, in the event of a problem - with a largely untrained youngster operating a machine, the inevitable wrong transfer of a move is bound to happen from time-to-time - it had always been in order for one of Countrywide's other staff to move over and correct an error by taking back moves and getting the correct one/s into the machine's memory. There has to be some loss of time anyway in transferring moves from the main BOARD to the COMPUTER and vice-versa and, in the past, the machines have been set at 40 in 1hr45 instead of 2hrs. to allow for general time loss and one "accident". In view of the new Rule, we decided to put the computers on 1hr40 and told our "team" to go slower, and take extra care! This was okay most of the time, though a 20 minute time loss is still somewhat prejudicial (especially when computers only meet players who WANT to play them - all entrants have the option to refuse to play a computer if they so choose). But there were still 3 occasions when

wrong moves were transferred to the board and the patience now required, as the clock ticks on and one's temperature rises, in instructing a youngster step-by-step through take-back etc. is MOT something I would recommend as an elixir! In 2 games over 30mins were lost altogether for one reason or another.

OTHER RULES STATED that we could not offer a draw, accept a draw, or resign. A draw could be accepted if the computer's evaluation read "000", but as operators were only allowed to press buttons for time control checks, they did not know what the evaluation was. The arbiter could be called to allow this! - or to award a game to the player if it was felt we were "playing on for too long". As we weren't being allowed to resign, it was hard to know exactly what we were supposed to do!

WHILST IN CONTROVERSIAL mode, I see a recent article in **New in Chess** has criticised operators of computers in Tournaments for their noisy habits, complete disinterest in the chess, and disregard for other players. I MUST say that my own experience at such Events with EURKKA, COMPETENCE and COUNTRYWIDE is quite the <u>opposite</u> of this; the management AND operators have always been VERY interested in the games. One of the things which is both valuable and interesting during all of the games is to follow and note down the computer's analysis and evaluative work - the help this can be in assessing and reporting on the results is Immense. Because operators were forced to have only the clock times showing this year, that interest and value, for them and us, was clearly spoiled, though I am glad to say there were no subsequent noisy habits nor disregard for other competitors that I saw.

OF COURSE READERS of Selective Search are really more interested in the results, but I trust you will find the above remarks at least thought-provoking. Surely it is in the best interests of ALL involved in Chess Computers - as programmers, distributors or PURCHASERS - that accurate information should be available of performance abilities of the machines. Certainly there has always been great concern from many quarters (including the "hierarchy" of British Chess) when unsubstantiated claims/boasts have been bandled about. I believe it is in the interest of ALL concerned that proper opportunity - even encouragement - be given to those willing (and with the courage) to submit their computers to proper Tournament testing?

NOR ARE SUCH INVOLVEMENTS a guarantee of success! There are still some failures and disappointments running alongside the many occasions when the computers do well. The safest COMMERCIAL plan is probably still to stay in the office, save some money, claim that your new offering is "the strongest 32K computer in the world" or whatever, and let the customer find out for himself!

A (BRARLY) ROUND BY HOUND SUMMARY

Everything started out exactly according to plan with a splendid 2.5/3 on the

1st. day, including very good wins against two 166 grade players. On the 2nd. day we had one of the games with very heavy time pressure after the loss of 10 mins through operator error, but the points were still shared. Disaster struck on day three as the POLGAR 10's earned themselves some 190+ strength opposition and crashed 0/3! S. Ledger (194) beat us with 1 f4! to rub salt in the wound.

Fortunately there was a full recovery in round 4, with a 3/3 result, though the opposition average grading was back at 165. Still with 7/12 the POLGAR 10's were averaging close to 190 and everybody was fairly content.

It was during the next four days that things started to go wrong, and it took us that time to see what was happening and do something about it! Don't misunderstand, it was nothing illegal or at all wrong... just something we hadn't come up against before... or at least not that we're aware of! The players started to PREPARE for the computer! Copies of all games were printed and made available after play each day, and we slowly realised that openings which had been proved successful against the POLGAR were being repeated against it. Against I e4, e6 kept turning up and players as White were opening 1 e4 and, if the computer went e5, playing 2 Bc4. The POLGAR has various lines it will play in the French so that didn't always work, but 1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 does reduce POLGAR's options considerably, as readers will appreciate, and the computer actually plays along a known "sharp" line and then comes out of its Book at move 5! (1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 Nf3 Mxe4!? 4 Nc3 Rxc3 5 dxc). This opening was used successfully twice more against the computer after its first appearance when Ian Galloway (192) won "on his own". The first time it re-appeared a small group of players kept arriving at our hoard for a little giggle as "their champion" sat back and played all his prepared moves. Our computer of course just lives from day to day, and saw no reason to change any of the moves it considered "best" in the previous round, and we just had to accept the situation for the time being.

If we had entered one of Richard Lang's 16 or 32-bit PORTOROSES, then a quick and fairly easy solution would have been available! We could simply have made adjustments to the Opening Book overnight to cause different variations of the chosen lines to be played if and when they arose. I wonder if we would have had to tell the arbiter? If an ordinary player decides overnight to discard the opening he usually uses and play something different, HE'S allowed to. He can even buy what he needs at the Book Stall to help him do it:

Anyway, that can't be done on the POLGAR, so the question doesn't arise. Of course it would be quite wrong for the operator to force different opening moves via the "Next Best" button, but there was one other thing which we decided we could try, and that was adjust the SELECTIVITY OF SEARCH being used! The POLGARS are normally set to Selective 3, but we decided to try them on Selectives 2 and 4 in the hope that, after the Opening Book had ended, it might just YARY a move soon after to make its opponent think for himself instead of copying the moves from a previous game. Amusingly - no! not amusing really - the first time this

happened (and you should have seen our opponents' face when the POLGAR made a change on move 8!), the supporters of their latest "champion" complained to the arbiter that something had been done and the computer had changed a move! Obviously once we had explained that this was a built-in feature of the POLGAR and we had made an adjustment BRFORE play started which (I) simulated what any human might do when faced with the need to change a move be had found didn't work, and (2) remained in force throughout the game, the arbiters sided wholeheartedly with us. Stewart Reuben also condemned the method being adopted to oppose the computer and, gladly, rounds 9, 10 and 11 all went 2/3 for the machines, and we recovered some of our composure. Strangely, as a footnote to this one particular game, our opponent still won it! "Clearly" the POLGAR needs something different to 3 - Nxe4, or its Book extending up to 8 - Qe?.

Another lesson we have learned is that we DON'T need to offer a £10 prize to folk who heat the machine in order to encourage them to play properly against it! It was clearly noticeable in the final rounds - though we scored 6/9 from them - that, whilst other mid-table players played out some quietish draws, our opponents - short of the readies after their fortnight in Eastbourne - looked at our game as a source which might provide just one more night "on the town!"

Yet, in spite all of the ups and downs, the POLGAR 10C - they were all the same, but named "A", "B" and "C" to distinguish them in the draw for each round - came outright 7th. In the massive field with 7.5 from 11. Notably it never met ANY of the "prepared opening" brigade, and its games were mainly against higher graded folk who chose to play their own games. POLGARS "A" and "B" did less well, scoring 5, and 5.5 for a grand total of 18/33. The resultant final grading isn't known yet, but the truth is that it probably wont be much over 180. In fact our first calculation on pre-Tournament gradings came out at 179 BCF (the ACADEMY's exact 1989 result), though we believe that the update and recalculation done following the Tournament will probably change that by a point or two.

In the GAMES HIGHLIGHTS below readers will find samples of the 1 e4 e6 game AND the 1 e4 e5 1 Bc4 game that heat the POLGAR. In fact Oliver Jackson's win with the French Defence won the "Best Game against a Computer" prize - deservedly so as his win was all his own work. Actually Oliver came into the game really looking for revenge as the computer had beaten his wife quickly in an earlier round. To tell the full story she was somewhat surprised to find hereself drawn against the computer, but had forgotten to request avoidance when completing her entry forms and now, playing below her best, lost in 18 moves. Oliver's revenge was comprehensive! Other highlights include a win against Natasha Regan, England's representative in the World Ladies W-21 Championship; and the computer's best scalp, a win against A. Mack in the 11th. round. Mack is graded at 2170 and a win in this final round would have given him a share of the the Major Open Champion Title! Finally an interesting endgame sacrifice by the POLGAR 10 to obtain central passed Pawns. The opponent may have been able to hold this position, but the POLGAR's win was still a credit to its ingenuity.

Which one to start with? Let's have a look at OLIVER JACKSON's rather crushing win as we have already discussed the background in some detail!

White O JACKSON (191 BCF) Black Heph POLGAR B/10

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Mc3 Mf6 4 e5 Mfd7 5 f4 c5 6 Mf3 Mc6 7 Bd3 7 Be3 is the computer's Book move.

7 - Nxd4 8 Nxd4 cxd

Of course, computers think they are well ahead at this point. Probably they are, as long as they play exactly through the inevitable pressure which follows.

9 No.2 Bc5 10 0-0 0-0 11 Qc1 Qb6?!
The Queen does not belong on this side of the board, and it would have been better to play Bb6.

12 Q14!

Emphasising the inaccuracy of Black's last move.

12 - h6 13 f5 Exe5?!

I think that 13 - f6 to block the advance of White's f-Pawn was better.

14 f6 Ind3 15 cmd3 h5??

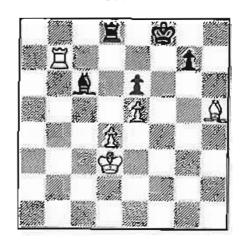
Played too quickly. Most moves lose outright here... and this is one of them! Only 15 ~ Rd8 almost holds: 16 fxg7 f5 (if 16 ~ e5 17 Rf6!) 17 Bxh6 Rd7 18 Rac1! winning, but with some work still to do. Incidentally 18 b4 tempting the Black Queen or Bishop from vital defence is interesting. If 18 ~ Qxb4 19 Bd2! wins easily; if 18 ~ Bxh4 19 Rab1 likewise. Finally note that 15 ~ Re8 does NOT work... 16 Bxh6 Bf8 17 Bxg7 Bxg7 18 Qg5 N/2.

16 Qg5 g6 17 Qh6 e5 18 Qg7 and mate!

Perhaps we should next look at some delightful endgame play by the Computer now, to help Polgar owners recover a little from the shock of the above one.

White Mephisto POLGAR B/10 Black W PURKISS (182 BCF)

We join play after Black's 60th. move (- Bc6). It has been a most interesting game of cut and thrust, with never much in it, and the game looks to be headed for a draw: White's has the better King position and his Rook on the 7th, but Black has his passed Pawn and, though it still has a long way to go, White must work to create his.



61 Rf7+ Ig8 62 Re7 Bd5 63 Bg4! Rf8 64 Rxe6!!?

The question mark is only really due to the fact that the game is just 5 mins. from sealing and adjournment! A decision like this would be better held back until afterwards so that the opponent must do his analysis over the board. Of course the POLGAR doesn't know about that, so goes straight ahead.

64 - Bre6 65 Bre6 Fe7

The sealed move. The Computer is showing a small plus evaluation, but Purkiss now had an hour to work out how to contain the passed Pawns.

66 d5 g6 67 le3 hat 66 hg4 ha4?!

We thought 68 - Ra3+ 69 If4 Ra4+ 70
Ig5 Rd4 71 Bi5 Rd3 72 Be4 Rd4! might
be best. Black's move is designed to
cut-off White's King support of his
two Pawas, but it does allow an
immediate Pawa advance and may not be
hest.

69 d6+ Ed8 70 Bd1 Ral 71 Be2 Ra3+ 72 Re4 Ra2?

Here 72 - Id7 may be better. After the game Purkiss told us that he hadn't been sure at all who was winning, and that he still had some hopes of a win! He was therefore trying to play with that in mind, but hoping to hold the draw if the Computer refused to make the endgame errors he was half-expecting to see. The POLGAR evaluation went over +100 with its 73rd.

73 Bá3 g5?

We are sure this is wrong. The POLGAR's suggestion was 73 - Ral! with either (a) 74 Xf4 Xd7 75 Bxg6 Rf1+ 76 Xe3 Xe6 or, (b) 74 e6 Re1+ 75 Xd5 Rd1+ 76 Xd4 Xe8 77 Xc4 Rc1+. The Computer's evalution now goes to +209.

74 e6 Ba5

Reverting to the plan of cutting White's King-support off; but it's probably too late.

75 Be2 Ra7 76 Rf5 Rh7 Best - it stops 77 Bh5

77 Bf3 Rg7 78 Rf6 g4?

The blunder ends it, though 78 - Rg8 79 Bc6 Rf8+ would not prolong things much. Black spotted the deadly 79 Bc6 shortly after playing g4, and resigned without waiting for the POLGAR's reply which would actually have resulted in 79 Kxg7 gxf3 80 If7 f2 81 e7+ Id7 82 e8=Q+.

Still in winning-mode, we follow with the game from Round 9 against England's representative in the World Ladies U21 Championships.

White Hephisto POLGAR C/10 Black Natasha REGAT (169 BCF)

1 e4 Hf6 2 e5 Hd5 3 d4 d6 4 Hf3 Hg4 5 He2 c6 6 exd exd 7 0-0 He7 8 h3

Is this exchange right? - or is it better to keep the Bishop and play Bh5?

9 Bxf3 Hf6 10 Rel 0-0 11 Bf4 Hbd7 12

12 c4 also looks worth considering. The Computer evaluates at around +050 at this stage of the game.

12 - Und5 13 Brd5 crd 14 Qrd5 Bf6?

14 - Nc5 is better. Black's game starts to lose direction now.

15 Ic3 Ie5 16 Rad1 Qb6

An optimistic development of the Queen which the POLGAR also made once or twice, though Natasha refuses 17 Qxb2 when the chance comes.

17 Me4 Be7 18 Mxd6 Mg6 19 Qxb7 Bf6 20 Bc1 Qa5 21 Qd5 Qxd5 22 Rxd5 Rfd8 23 c4 Mab8 24 b3 a5?!

The brave Pann carries NATASHA's hopes for a last-minute rescue. Something more solid, like 24 - Be7, could have been tried, but White is still +240 or so in Chess Computer terms!

25 Bd2 a4 26 Ba5 axb 27 Bxd0 bxa 28 Bxf6 Bb1 29 R5d1

And Black resigned as her position has disintegrated dramatically in the last few moves, despite the Oscar-winning efforts of the a-Pawa.

Hopefully our readers are now in a stronger frame of mind to take a look at another of the POLGAR's less successful encounters! - this time from Round 10.

White S PETERS (179 BCF)
Black Hephisto POLGAR A/10

1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Bf6 3 Bf3 Exe4 4 Ec3

Exc3 5 dxc f6 6 0-0 d6 7 Exe4 g6

The POLGAR is out of Book but here finds the vital "book" move.

8 f4 c6?!

And here it doesn't, though c6 looks better than the 8 - f5?! it played in an earlier Round, This was against IAN GALLOWAY (192 BCF), the game continuing 9 Nf3 Qf6 10 fxe dxe 11 Bq5 Qb6+ 12 Rh1 Be7 13 Qd5 Rf8 14 Qxe5 Mc6 15 Bb5 Qc5 16 Rfel Qxe5 17 Rxe5 If7 18 Bxc6 Bxq5 19 Nxg5 Rf6 20 Nxh7+ Rxe5 21 Relt, with the POLGAR lasting to move 40. The Opening was them repeated in Round 7. but we had changed the Computer's selectivity from 3 to 2 for this one! As it is defensive care that is needed in this line, a choice in the other direction (e.g. selective 4) might have been better, but our first aim was simply to create possible change. As a final comment to this lengthy note, 8 -Qe7 is the Book move, which is found in the Novag SUPER EXPERT C and Mephisto's OWB PORTOROSE.

9 f5 d5 10 frg Qb6+

We have commented on these Qb3/Qb6 moves before! The Computer shows +177.

11 Thi dxc 12 Qh5! Id8 13 Rxf6
Once again the human has quickly taken
advantage of Black's Queen moving out of
position. PETERS said afterwards that he
was torn between the move played and 13
g7, also rather dangerous!

13 - Be7?

I had expected 13 - Md7 and rather naughtily pressed the Info. button for a sneaky look at the evaluation, which read +097. This optimism was to change very quickly after White's forcing reply.

14 q7! Rq8 15 Oxh7 Re8 16 q8=0 Bxf6 17 Q8f7 Id7 18 Qbg6 Rf8 19 Qxf8+ Isn't 19 Oxf6+ stronger still? An interesting point is worth mentioning here about the way players use their clocks compared with Computers. Very clearly they think for much longer periods in the early middle-game, willing to leave themselves running a little short of time towards the time control. But they are planning their strategy and getting Pawas and Pieces to the best squares they can - Computers, of course, pace themselves fairly evenly throughout. I am not suggesting the Computers should allow themselves to get in serious time scrambles, but I would like to see them spend longer over those earlier phases. Often the game is won or lost - as in this game - by move 20, and the game then "wins itself" even if the player has to move every 10 secs. In this one, PETERS has used 1br 33 to the POLGAR's 41m., but it doesn't matter. Even missing the quickest winning line, as now, makes no difference at all to the outcome. As we say at Countrywide, "I could beat Gary from here!" - (I think).

19 - Wxf8 20 Qxf6+ Ke8 21 Bh6 Hd7 22 Qh8+ Kf7 23 Rf1+

Again White misses a real crusher - 23
Bg5! - and again it wont matter.

29 - Ie6 24 Wf5 Wf6 25 Qf8 Qc7 and the Computer resigned, whether it's allowed to or not! Well, we must finish on a positive note - and let's remember, the Computer did win more than it lost. In fact its final score of 15-12=6 was the BEST ever scored by a Computer in the Major Open. For the statisticians, with White it went 9-5=3, with Black 6-7=3.

We close with its win in Round 11 against A MACK, who started the Round on 7/10 and was lying 1=. For this Round, all the POLGARS were set on selective 4.

White Mephisto PCLGAR C/10 Black A MACK (2270 Elo = 209 BCF)

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 exd exd 4 Bd3 Hc6
The POLGAR goes out of Book with this
one - 3 exd is a rare choice nowadays.

5 c3 Bd6 6 Mf3 Mge7 7 0-0 Bg4 8 Rel Qd7 9 Ma9 a6 10 h3 Bh5 11 b4 b5 12 Mc2 0-0?!

Is this okay, or not? White's reply - especially coming from a Computer - must bave given MACK quite a shock.

13 Bxh7+!?
Played after just 4 mins, "thought".

13 - Th8?

Surely Black is being over-cautious, even though it was the result of 13 mins. thought. Perhaps he couldn't believe a Computer would make such a move without practical reasons? Whatever, 13 - Ixh? was expected and looks to leave MACK standing okay in a tense but evenly balanced position.

14 M3

A correct withdrawal in the circumstances; indeed White nurses his advantage most effectively throughout the game.

14 - Raed 15 No5!

This should guarantee the player with White good initiative and pressure whatever his/its opponent tries.

15 - Bxdl 16 Mxd7 Bxcl 17 Bxcl Ic8? 17 - Rg8 looks better. The Computer's evaluation now jumps near to +300.

18 Bg5 Rg8 19 Hf6 Rxe1+ 20 Rxe1 Be7
21 Hxg8 Bxg5 22 Hf6 gxf 23 Re8+ Ig7
24 Exc8 Bf4 25 Ra8 a5 26 bxa Bd2 27
a6 and Black resigned. If 27 - Bxc3 28
a7 Nxa7 29 Rxa7 c6 30 Rc7 Bxd4 31
Rxc6 wins comfortably; if instead after
27 - Bxc3 18 a7, Black tries Bxd4?!
then 29 Rg8+ Ixg8 30 a8=Q+ followed by
31 Qxc6 winning easily.

Well, finding myself with unexpected space at the bottom of the page, I cannot resist just one more. Here is another from POLGAR C, this time in Round 10.

White D STEWARDSON (190 BCF) Black Mephisto POLGAR C/10

1 d4 d5 2 Mf3 Mf6 3 c4 c6 4 e3 Mf5 5 lc3 e6 6 Qb3 (Humans do it too!) b6 7 Be2 Bd6 8 0-0 0-0 9 He5 Bxe5 10 dxe Mfd7 11 f4 Mc5 12 Qd1 Ma6 13 cxd exd 14 a3 Ic7 15 b4 He4 16 Exe4 Bre4 (The "!"'s and "?"'s show we reach some critical moments) 17 Bb2 a5! 16 Qd4 c5!! 19 Qd2 Qh4?! 20 Bf3 (20 bxc is better. White has used 1h 43, Black 49m) Arf3 21 Brf3 axb 22 Bh3 Qe7 23 axb h6 24 Rg3 Rxa1+ 25 Bxa1 RaB 26 Bb2 Ra2 27 f5! Net 28 f6 Qxe5! (Well played! The POLGAR finds it, though only just!) 29 Rxe5 Rxd2 30 brc brc 31 frg h5 32 e4 dxe (Eval. around +145 now) 33 If1 Rd3 34 Re2 (Perhaps 34 Rxd3 is better) c4 35 ke3 f6 36 Rxe4 fxe 37 Rxe5 Mf6 38 Rc5 Rd4 39 Rc7 Hd5 40 Ra5 c3 (and STEWARDSON resigned, 0-1).

As mentioned in SS29, Oxford Softworks have just released their latest chess program for the Atari ST, Amiga and IBM compatibles. Chess Champion 2175, a development of their popular Chess Player 2150 program, has some excellent new features! The main complaint people had with Chess Player was the somewhat unfriendly user interface. This has been vastly improved in Chess Champ'; so much so that the program is now one of the most friendly on the market. For instance a new feature called fast-move allows most moves to be entered with just one press of the mouse key. Moreover the user now has full control over the opening book. Openings can be selected on the basis of strength, popularity, name or manually as the game precedes.

As regard the paying strength the manual claims a 2000+ score on the ELO scale. The results so far would seem to suggest that this is a bit optimistic, 1900 is more realistic. The test games carried out were on a basic Atari 512 FTSM at one minute per move (when installed on machines with 1 megabyte or more of memory the program uses transposition tables to speed up its search). The results so far are;

	Score
Chess Champ v MMIV	2-5
Chess Champ v Stratos	1-4
Chess Champ v Advanced Star Chess	3-0

Here are two of the games with brief notes. See what you think!

White: Chess Champion 2175 Black: Advanced Star Chess (Aggressive) 1 minute/move 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd 4.Bc4 Bc5 5.c3 dxc 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Qd5+ Kf8 8.Qxc5+ Qe7 9.Qxe7+ Nxe7 10,Nxc3 d5 11,Bf4 dxe 12,Nd2 (simpler is 12,Nxe4) Nb4 13,O-O Ned5 14.Be5 Nxc3 15.Bxc3 Nd5 16.Nxe4 Bf5 17.Ng3 Bg6 18.Bd4 Bd3? (a mistake which leads to the lose of a pawn and a cramped position for Black) 19.Rfd1 Nf4 20.Be5 Ne2+ 21.Nxe2 Bxe2 22.Rd7 Rg8 23.Rxc7 Ba6 24.Bd6+ Ke8 25.Re1+ Kd8 26.R1e7 (Black is paralysed!) g6 27.Rxh7 g5 28.Rhd7+ (28.Be5 looks better - eg 28...Ke8 29.Bf6) Ke8 29.Re7+ Kd8 (not 29...Kf8? 30.Rg7+ Ke8 31.Rxg8++) 30.Rcd7+ Kc8 31.Rg7 Rh8 (surely 31...Rxg7 is better as it gives black a little freedom) 32.Rc7+ Kd8 33.Rgd7+ Ke8 34.Rg7 Kd8 35.h3 Ke8? 36.Rxg5 (missing a mate in 51 36.Rcd7! Bd3 37.Rge7+ Kf8 38.Rh7+ Ke8 39.Re7+ Kf8 40.Rxh8++) Kd8 37.Rg7 Ke8? 38.a3 (once again missing a mate in 5 via 38.Rcd7!) Kd8 39.Rcd7+ Kc8 40.a4 (with no black pawns on the K-side it would seem that a pawn advance eg 40.f4 or 40.g4 would be better) Bd3 41.Rxb7 (41.Be5 looks better) a6 42.Rgc7+ (missing another mate, this time a mate in 3 - 42.Rgd7! a5 43.Rbc7 Kb8 44.Rc6++) Kd8 43.Rd7+ Ke8 44.Re7+ Kd8 45.Be5 Rh6 46.Rbd7+ Kc8 47.Rxd3 Ra7 48.Rxa7 Rc6 49.Ra8+ Kb7 50.Rb8 Ka7 51.Rd7+ Rc7 52.Bxc7 a5 53.Rd5 Ka6 54.Rxa5++ mate 1-0.

White: MMIV Black: Chess Champion 2175 1 minute/move

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 (The classical Nimzo-Indian) c5 5.dxc O-O 6.Bg5 Na6 (Both programmes are out of their book) 7.a3 Bxc5 (MCO gives 7...Bxc3 8.Qxc3 Nxc5 which looks a little better as it frees the knight) 8.Nc4 Bd4 (8...Be7 seems safer) 9.Nf3 Qa5 10.Bd2 Qb6 11.Nxd4 Qxd4 12.Nxf6 Qxf6 13.Bc3 Qd8 14.Rd1 Qc7 15.e3 Rd8 16.Bd3 (+0.68) f5 (-0.85) 17.b4 d5 18.cxd Rxd5 19.O-O Bd7 20.e4 fxe 21.Bxa6 bxa 22.Qxe4 Qc6 23.Rd3 Rxd3 24.Qxd3 Qd5 25.Qg3 g6 26.Qf4 Bc6 27.f3 Qb3? (A blunder evaluated as -0.93 by Chess Champ', 27...Rf8 was necessary in order to stop the Queen and Bishop connecting along the diagonal. MMIV is quick to capitalise on the mistake) 28.Qf6 c5 (-5.66) 29.Bxe5 Qe3+ 30.Kh1 Qh6 31.Qe6+ Kf8 32.Qxc6 Rd8 33.Qf6+ Ke8 34.Bf4 Qxf4 35.Re1+ (announcing mate in 5) Kd7 36.Re7+ Kc8 37.Qxa6+ Kb8 38.Qb7++ mate 1-0.

All in all Chess Champion 2175 is an easy to use feature packed programme. If you already have an Atari ST, Amiga or IBM compatible then it'll give you a good game for the money!

CHRSS CHAMPION 2175 by Bric Hallsworth

I too have purchased Chris Whittington's new 2175 program, also for use on an Atari ST. Adverts for it will have been seen in various places, so readers are sure to be wondering if this is the PC program which might save them all buying a "proper" dedicated one in order to get real playing strength! I'm afraid not, though it probably does represent the best program for Atari and Amiga owners... at least until the long-promised CHRSSNASTER 2100 turns up... if ever!

Baving used its predecassor, the 2150 (with which I was not very impressed due to poor playing strength and extreme user-unfriendliness), I was initially pleasantly surprised when first using the 2175. Excellent graphics, choice of playing pieces, 2D/3D, option to vary the colours, easy-to-use system for moving quickly to and from Analysis and Evaluation info, plus much better Opening Book and facilities to add your own or new Openings... all of this was quickly apparent and very encouraging.

In play, too, first impressions were much better, and the 2175 was playing some nice Chess in the early middle-game, a quality which is apparent in many of its games. However, when you attack its King and almost always in the endgame, it really can be a letdown and I have to say I feel that even Steve's estimate of 1900 file is likely to be over-optimistic.

I did write to the distributors querying their implication of "2175" in the name for the program, but was assured

that "the marketing people's name choice is not an RLO, but a number higher than ChessMaster (whose name is also not an Rlo!)" - end of quote, underlining mine. Who are they trying to fool? You're right!

I then met programmer Chris Whittington at the recent OLYMPIAD in London, and we had a good chat. The program has been substantially re-written since the 2175 you and I can currently buy, and was running there on a 68030 at 28MRs (nearly low my Ataril). Chris was a little disappointed at its score of 21/6 (+ 1 bye) which was less than he had hoped, but it had held good positions in 2 of the games it finally lost, and I think there is potential if its tactics and the endgame can be sharpened. Chris was realistic about the work which still needs doing, but fully intends to bring out at least one more version (presumably numbered 2200+?!) when enough progress has been made.

Rere are some games which I have played with the 2175 which will illustrate, I think, some of my comments.

White Chess Champion 2175/Atari ST Black Mephisto Europa

In order to do the job properly I am including the full game but, to be honest, readers only really need to join it at the diagram! It is the final moves from there which show one of the reasons why I really cannot be so enthusiastic about this program.

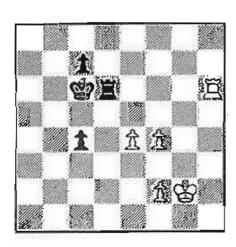
1.e2-e4 e7-e5 2.Mg1-f3 Mb8-c6 3.Mb1-c3 Mg8-f6 4.Bf1-b5 Bf8-b4 5.0-0 0-0

6.d2-d3 d7-d6 7.Bc1-g5 Bb4xc3 8.b2xc3 Qd8-e7 9.Rf1-el b7-h6 10.Bb5xc6 b7xc6 11.Bg5xf6 Qe7xf6 12.Ral-bl Bc8-g4 13.Rb1-b7 Bg4xf3 14.Qd1xf3 Qf6xf3 15.g2xf3 Rf8-c8 16.Rel-b1 Kg8-f8 17.d3-d4 Kf8-e7 18.Rb1-b4 Ke7-e6 19.Rb4-c4 Ke6-d7 20.d4xe5 d6xe5 21.Rc4-b4 Rc8-d8 22.Kgl-fl a7-a5 23.Rb4-bl c6-c5 24.Kf1-e2 Kd7-c6 25.Ke2-e3 g7-g5 26.a2-a4 Rd8-d7 27.Rb7-b5 Ra8-a6 28.Rbl-h1 Ra6-a8 29.h2-h4 f7-f6 30.h4xq5 h6xq5 31.Rh1-h6 Rd7-d6 32.c3-c4 Ra8-a7 33.c2-c3 Ra7-a8 34.Rh6-g6 Ra8-d8 35.Rb5xa5 Rd6-d3 36.Ke3-e2 Rd3-d2 37.Ke2-f1 Rd2-d1 38.Kf1-q2 Rd0-d6 39.Rg6xf6 Rd6xf6 40.Ra5-a6 Kc6-b7 41.Ra6xf6 Rd1-al 42.Rf6-f5 Ralxa4 43. Rf5re5 Ra4rc4 44. Re5rg5 Rc4rc3 45.f3-f4 c5-c4 By good pressure and with thanks to Europa for falling into a simple trap,

46.Rg5-b5 Kb7-c6 47.Rb5-b5 Rc3-d3 48.Rb5-b6 Rd3-d6

it has outplayed the Europa.

2175 now has a won game with just a modicum of care. And deservedly so as



49.Rh6-h3 Rd6-d4 50.Rg2-f3
Very disappointing! Morse, the 2175 was expecting 50...c3 from Black. And this was played at 1 min per move. Black's reply wins outright, of course.

50...Rd4-d3 51.Kf3-e2 Rd3xh3 52.f4-f5 c4-c3 53.f5-f6 c3-c2 54.Ke2-d2 Rh3-f3 55.Kd2xc2 Kc6-d6 56.Kc2-d2 Kd6-e5 57.Kd2-e1 Ke5xe4 58.Ke1-e2 Rf3xf6 59.Ke2-e1 Rf6-b6 etc.

0-1

White Chess Champion 2175/Atari ST Black Sovag SUPER VIP

1.d2-d4 c7-c5 2.d4-d5 d7-d6 3.e2-e4

Mg8-f6 4.Wb1-c3 g7-g6 5.Bc1-g5 Bf8-g7
6.Mg1-f3 0-0 7.Mf1-c4 Qd8-b6 8.Ra1-b1
Qb6-b4 9.Wf3-d2 h7-h6 10.a2-a3 Qb4-b6
11.Mg5-f4 e7-e5 12.Bf4-e3
12.dxe ep was better.

12...Wf6-g4 13.Wd2-f1 f7-f5!? 14.Be3-d2 f5xe4
14...f4, gaining space, is an

alternative.

15.Nc3re4 Bc8-f5! 16.Nf1-g3
16.Nc3?? Mf2 wins easily. 17.Rf2 Bc2!

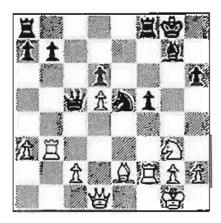
16...**mb8-d7** 17.**mg3**xf5 **g6**xf5 18.**me4-g3** e5-e4!? 19.**b2-b3** 19.8e2 may have been better.

19...Ed4 looked strong.

20.Bc4-e2 c5-c4 21.0-0 e4-e3 22.Bd2-e1 c4xb3 23.Rb1xb3
Super VIP showed a plus at this stage, but the 2175 is winning really.

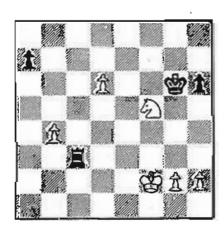
23...e3xf2 24.Belxf2 Mgfxf2 25.Rflxf2 Ob6-c5

Super VIP now shows -1.18, and quite right! I thought the 2175's next might allow Movag some good counter-attack chances when I first saw it, but the follow-up is a real surprise, and keeps the PC program ahead cleverly.



26.Rb3xb7!? We5-g4 27.Rb7xg7! Kg8xg7
28.Be2xg4 f5xg4 29.Qdlxg4 Kg7-b7
30.Qg4-d7 Kh7-b8 31.Wg3-f5 Qc5-c3
32.Qd7xd6 Rf8-f6 33.Qd6-b4 Qc3xb4
34.a3xb4 Ra8-e8 35.Wf5-g3 Rf6xf2
36.Wglxf2 Re8-c8
White's win may no longer look so certain, but it is still genuinely there, as the notes will show.

37.e2-c3 Rc8ac3 38.d5-d6 KhB-g7
39.lg3-f5 Rg7-g6 ??
A mistake, but Black gets away with it.
39...Kh7 was right to avoid the fork
which now becomes available to White.



40.g2-g4??
Missing 40.Ke2!! which wins, 40.Ke2 Rc2 (40...Kf5 41.d7!) 41.Kd3 Rc8 42.We7!

40...Rc3-b3 41.46-d7??
Re2 still mins! 41.Ke2 Rb2 42.Kd3 Rb1
43.Kc2 Rb4 44.d7!!

41... Rb3-d3 !
Now Black wins - there will be no
further chances for the 2175. A shame,
its play has deserved the win in this
one.

42.Hf5-b4 Kg6-g5 43.Wh4-f5 Rd3rd7
44.Kf2-g3 Rd7-d3 45.Kg3-f2 Rd3-b3
46.Hf5-e3 Rb3xb4 47.Kf2-g3 a7-a5
48.h2-b4 Kg5-g6 49.He3-d5 Rb4-b2
50.Hd5-e7 Kg6-b7 51.g4-g5 a5-a4
52.g5-g6 Kb7-b8 53.He7-f5 a4-a3
54.g6-g7 Kb8-g8 55.Bf5xb6 Rg8xg7
0-1

White Movag SUPER VIP Black Chess Champion 2175/Atari ST

1.d2-d4 d7-d5 2.Mg1-f3 e7-e6 3.c2-c4 d5xc4 4.Qd1-a4 4.e4 is better known.

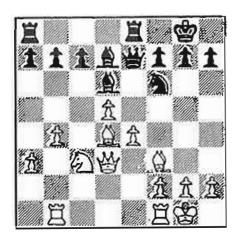
4...Wb8-c6 5.Qa4xc4 Mg8-f6 6.Wb1-c3 Bf8-b4 7.Qc4-d3?! Why?

7...0-0 8.e2-e4 Bc8-d7 9.Bf]-e2 Rf8-e8 10.Bc1-f4 Rf6-h5 11.Bf4-e3 Rh5-f6 12.0-0
Despite the extra moves with his Queen, White has completed development much more positively than Black.

12...e6-e5 13.d4-d5 Mc6-a5
13...Nd4 expected by Novag, looks
better;
14.Nd4 ed4 15.Bd4
14.a2-a3 Rb4-d6?
After 4 mins, but 14...Brc3 15 Qrc3 c6
was better.

15.b2-b4 Wa5-b3 16.Ra1-b1 Wb3-d4 17.Wf3xd4 e5xd4 18.Be3xd4 Qd8-e7 19.Be2-f3

REI Chess on the PC's!



19...a7-a5?
19...c6 was better.

20.b4xa5 Re8-b8 21.e4-e5! Well played!

21... Bd6xeS 22.Rf1-e1!

Another good move by the Super VIP;
White is winning easily now.

22...Be5xh2 23.Kg1xh2 Qe7xa3 24.Bd4xf6 g7xf6 25.Bf3-e4 f6-f5
The alternative was 25...Qd6+.

26.Nc3-b5 Qa3-c5 27.Qd3-c2 Qc5xc2
28.Be4xc2 Ra8xa5 29.Nb5xc7 Ra5-a2
30.Re1-e2 b7-b6 31.d5-d6 Kg8-g7
32.Rc2-d3 Ra2xe2 33.Bd3xe2 Kg7-f6
34.Nc7-d5 Kf6-e6 35.Nd5xb6 Rb8-d8
36.Rb1-d1 f7-f6 37.Kh2-g3 Ke6-f7
38.Nb6xd7 Rd8xd7 39.Be2-c4 Kf7-g6
40.Bc4-e6 Rd7-a7?
In the words of Paul Lamford, a real
"130 move"! It had to be Rd8 - or lose
a Pawn first by f4+. But Ra7? is very
poor.

41.d6-d7 Ra7-a3 42.Kg3-f4 Ra3-a4 43.Kf4-e3 f5-f4 44.Ke3-f3 Ra4-a3 45.Kf3xf4 Ra3-a4 46.Kf4-e3 Ra4-a3 47.Rd1-d3

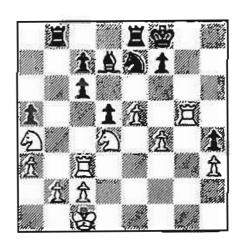
1-0

RRI, the current "king" of the PC programs, is still showing up well on both Sweden's and our own RATING LIST, using an 80386 PC at 20MHz. Readers have asked if I could print some of its games, but at present I only have 2! - one played against the Modul Computer Magazine folk and the other sent to me by Steve Maughan against CHRSSHASTER 2100 - available now for IBM and Compatibles.

It's a Rapid Chess game (30 mins each), using 80386sx hardware at 16MHx.

White PRI Chess, Black CHESSMASTER 2100

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 (that's a change!) 4.d4 Bd7 5.Nc3 exd4 6.Nxd4 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Qd2 Nf6 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.Bh6 0-0 11.Bxg7 Nxg7 12.0-0-0(!) Rb6 13.f4(!) Re8 14.Rhe1 Rfe8 15.e5(!) Ng4 16.h3 Nh6 17.Nf3 d5 18.Ne2 Qb4 19.Qc3 Nf5 20.g4 Ne7 21.a3 Qxc3 22.Nxc3 Bc8(?) 23.Na4 a5(?) 24.Nd4 h5 (please sir, I don't know what to do) 25.gxh5 gxh5 26.Rd3 Bf5 27.Ng1+ Nf8 28.Rc3 Bd7 29.Rg5 h4



30.f5(!) c5 (running rapidly out of moves) 31.Exc5 Bc6 32.e6 fxe6 33.Exe6+Bxe6 34.fxe6 Bec8 35.Ef3+ Ke8 36.Ef7 c5 37.Ef5 Rb7 38.Exe7 Ed8 (not 38..Rxe7 39.Rg8++) 39.Ec6+ Rxc6 40.Eq8 and mate!

White Mephisto PORTUROSE X 68030 Black Mephisto RESELL-POLGAR/58(?)

World Olympiad 1990, notes GRANAN WHITE

1.d2-d4 d7-d5 2.c2-c4 e7-e6 3.Mb1-c3

Mg8-f6 4.Rcl-g5 Mf8-e7 5.c4xd5

The Archange Variation which was a favourite of the great Crech G.M Salo Plohr. White's strategy can be simple:

Mf3, e3, Bd3, 0-0, Qc2, Rahl, Rfc1 followed by b4 and b5 with a "minority attack" on the Q-side against Black's Pawn phalanx a7, b7, c6 and d5. If allowed to succeed unhindered Black can end up with a position nearly impossible to defend.

5...e6zd5 6.e2-e3 c7-c6 7.Bf1-d3 Tb3-d7 8.Qd1-c2 0-0 9.Ng1-f3 Rf8-e8 10.0-0 Nd7-f8

This is the main line position, and we are still in theory. II.a3 was played in Plohr v. Tates, 1930. White prepares 12.b4. Against Euwe two years later, Plohr won a great game with II.Me5, and in more modern times Karpov has tried 11.h3. Also Timman v. Kasparov, 1984 went II.Bf6 Bf6 12.b4. The PORTOROSE X move is also known and is designed to support b4 - which Black correctly stops.

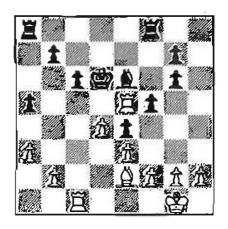
11.Ral-bl a7-a5 12.a2-a3 Mf8-g6
The PORTOROSE had 12...Ne4 in its 8cok
for Black, Both computers are now "on
their own".

13.063-64 M66-e4 14.0g5xe7 Qd0xe7
15.064xg6 67xg6 16.0c3xe4 d5xe4
White must have built up some advantage; he has the better Pawn structure, plus the more useful half-open file.

17.343-c4 Mc6-e6 18.32b1-c1 f7-f5 19.8c4-e2!?

Avoiding exchanges.

19...Ref-f8 20.Qc2-c5 Qe7xc5 21.Relxc5 Kg4-f7 22.Rf1-c1 Kf7-e7 23.Rc5-e5 Ke7-d6



24.62-54!

A very good move positionally: this and g1, which follows, fix the Black Pawn weaknesses.

24...Rf8-h8 25.g2-g3 Re6-d5 26.Kg1-g2
Ra8-f8 27.Re1-c2 b7-h6 28.Re2-c1
Clearly the PORTOROSE X is unsure how it can improve its position further.
Black's King is better centralised and White could do worse than head his King towards 32.

28 ... c6-c5-

It could well be that the game is actually headed for a draw - as long as Black does little or nothing. To play on the Q-side he should play Rc8, Rc7 and Rbc8 first... and watch out for h5!

29.h2-h4?! c5xb4 30.a3xb4 a5-a4!!
30...axb4 31.Rb1 b3 32.8d1 is better for White than Black's excellent chaice!

31.Rcl-c3
White wants to place the Rook as a

blockade on a3, but Black quickly stops this idea!

31...3d5-b3 32.Re5-b5 Rf0-b8 33.f2-f3
Good! If 33...exf+ 34.Bxf3 leaves White
with the better Bishop.

33... 188-18 34.13xe4 15xe4

Whilst Black now has several weak Pawns, he also has that little monster on a4.

White must actually be very careful and the issue is truly in doubt!

35.2b5-g5 Rf8-f6 36.8e2-b5 2b8-b7 37.2c3-c6

37.Rxg6? would be far too dangerous. e.g. 37...Rxg6 38.Rc6+ Rd5 39.Rxg6 Rc7 40.Rxb6 a3! 41.Ra6 a2 42.Be8 Rc4! - a line illustrating our previous note.

37...Rd6-e7 38.Rg5-e5 Ke7-d8 39.Rc6-c1 Rb7-e7 48.Re5xe7 Ed8xe7 41.Rc1-c3 Ke7-d6 42.g3-g4 g6-g5

I cannot see the idea or need for this.
42...Rf8! is the move and tempts 43.Rc6+
Rd5 44.Rxb6 43 45.Bc6+ Kc4 46.Bxe4 42

47.Ra6 Kc3!

43.h4xg5 Rf6-f7 44.Rc3-c6 Kd6-d5 45.Rc6xb6 a4-a3 46.Bb5-c6 Kd5-c4 47.Rb6a6 Rf7-f3??

Why? He throws away his trump a-Pawn which can still possibly even win this game! 47..a2! right now could be winning! E.g. 48.Bxe4 Kc3!

48.Ra6123 Rf3123 49.Bc6-24

A neat vinning tactic to end with. If 49... Rxb4? 50. Rxb3+ and White has one tempo to spare to get his Pawn home!

49... 163xa4 50. 1a3xe3 Rc4xd4 51. 1e3-a3
1a4-c6 52. 1a3-a6 1c6-b5 53. 1a6-g6 e4-e3
54. 1g6xg7 Kd4-d3 55. g5-g6 Kd3-d2 56. 1g7e7 1b5-c6 (1-0)

The end of a very interesting game in which the REBELL/POLGAR actually earned itself a chance to "steal" it for a couple of moves, even though the PORTOROSE I - running on somewhat slower hardware - controlled the game for most of the time.

BOTES re the RATING LIST (back page) to help EAGALINE EXECUTERS

15 after a machine indicates its PROCESSOR SPRED in MHz. Some programs are available running at different speeds and this helps distinguish them.

11- shows the maximum future RATING MOVEMENT likely for that computer. It is 95% certain mathematically that a machine's rating will stay within its +/- range. As the no. of games played by a machine increases, the +/- figure will decrease. Human Gamem This column shows each computer's results, from various countries, in tournament play against humans. The figures are adjusted to British levels, and affect, (1) the FINAL rating given to the INDIVIDUAL machine concerned, and (2) the OVERALL level of the finished Rating List for all computers. Some people feel that the results v. humans are more significant than those v. computers, but they often involve only a small number of games. The main BCF/Blo figures shown combine BOTH, and are the most accurate in my own view.

1PC indicates a program available for some PERSONAL COMPUTERS. The processing speed of the PC in use will affect the playing strength; figures shown are generally for 6-8MHz, except where shown otherwise

164 FID PAR E-ELITE-DES2100 163 KASP STRATOS-CORONA 163 NOV FORTE A 162 MEPH SUPERHONDIAL 1 162 CONCH PLYMATE/5.5 162 KASP GAL-REN B/6 161 KASP TURBO KING 161 FID CLUB A 68000	NOV EXPERTA NOV SUPER FO FID CLUB B FID CLUB B NOV EXPERTA NOV FORTE B NOV FORTE B NOV FORTE B	172 CONCH PLY-VICTORIA/8 172 MEPH MONTE CARLO 171 PSION 2 ATARI/PC 171 KASP GAL-REN C/8 170 CXG SPHINX/4 169 FID MACH 2A 68000	NEPH SUPMON KASP GAL-REI NOV SUPER FO FID MACH 2C FID MACH 2B FID MACH 2B FID MACH 2B FID MACH 2B FID MACH 2B	MEPH DALLAS NOV SUPER FO MEPH HONDIAL MEPH ACADEMY MEPH ANSTERD MEDH MEGA 4/	195 MEPH POLGAR/10 195 FID MACH38 2*68000/V5 192 MEPH ROMA 68020 190 MEPH ALMERIA 68020 189 MEPH DALLAS 68020 188 MEPH POLGAR/5 188 MEPH POLGAR/5 186 REY 80386 79MH7/PC	BATTING LIST C. LOCK 1990 SE BEF COMPUTER 219 HEPH PORTOROSE 68030 207 HEPH PORTOROSE 68020 206 FID MACH4B 68030/V9 202 MEPH ALMERIA 68020/V7 200 FID MACH4 68020/V7
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