

The 8th WORLD MICRO CHAMPIONSHIP **Almeria, Spain. Last wk Sept, 1988**

A NEWS SHEET

SPECIAL £1

The annual occasion of confrontation between both machines and their men - and the 1988 Event was no exception. Whilst intended to display the best of Chess Computing, it seems each year to also show us the worst of men, though this time the troubles were before the Event - indeed the Championship itself was conducted in a good atmosphere once play was under way.

Rumours were reaching Britain, perhaps 10 days before the proposed start, of the withdrawal of the sponsors and subsequent cancellation of the Championship. The main Organiser, Amador Cuesta, had invited Kasparov, Karpov and Botvinnik amongst other GMs, plus Chess Computer Press from all over the world (including self) on the basis of the sponsorship. We were all to go free, travel and hotel expenses fully paid, though I declined. In fact Amador Cuesta and the Organising Committee (later dubbed the Disorganising Committee by Kevin O'Connell) really did try to cancel the Event after the sponsor's withdrawal and, for reasons which are not fully clear, an effort seems also to have been made not to tell David Levy and the ICCA of this turn of events whilst telling the various Entrants to the Tournaments, "Don't come - it's cancelled". It isn't easy to rescue a situation like this with less than a week to the supposed commencement!

In the Tournament Bulletins we thus find David Levy proclaiming himself the hero of the hour in saving the Event when finally he did hear of its demise and, whilst a later letter by some of the Disorganizing Committee objected to the general tone of some comments in David's 'welcome' to Almeria, it certainly seems that we owe it to him that the Championships did take place in the end. It also seems from the Tournament Bulletins that the Spanish Computer Association organiser, said Amador Cuesta, was

missing during most of the pre-Event planning and rarely available apart from sending letters all over the world inviting folk to attend Almeria at his (i.e. the sponsors!) expense. For David Levy we must also say a real 'thanks' for the quite excellent Tournament Bulletins provided daily by himself and Frederik Friedel with both the gamescores and general comment.

The TITLES at STAKE

The main Titles from my readers point of view were the MANUFACTURERS and the COMMERCIAL, though the SOFTWARE group also had entries of some programmes which are available in dedicated machines. The MANUFACTURERS group was only entered by Fidelity and Mephisto, each with 4 machines which enabled 32 games between them to be played over the 8 days.

The COMMERCIAL group was a matter of some controversy (again) prior to the Event. This was originally an idea of Amador Cuesta, the intention being to buy for the Event the 2 strongest models of each Manufacturer in the shops, then pitting them against each other. All the Manufacturers were supposed to have been told of this extra Title by late July but, incredibly, Hegener & Glaser/Mephisto had not... despite the fact that dear Amador is Mephisto's main distributor in Spain! All 3 Hong Kong Manufacturers, Novag, Saitek and CXG, sent formal protests against their Machines being put into the Tournament; Fidelity responded that they would play; Conchess also agreed to enter and Mephisto agreed, though with some uncertainty, once they finally knew of the extra Title being available.

These 'Commercial' machines were a slight joke. Fidelity's 68020 is genuinely available, but only to special order and at a cost of around £2000 in the same Board as the existing Mach II and III 68000s. This hardly seems

worth considering as the 68000 Mach III only costs £399! The Mephisto 68020 machine turned up on unpainted wooden stilts with a hastily stuck on 'Almeria' tag designation and, initially, no Instruction Book. Hardly shop bought it would seem, but it will be available fairly soon (though I am told it may be running at the same speeds as existing 16 and 32 bit Mephistos, not 20MHz as at Almeria) and possibly with less RAM for the Hash tables, though I don't know for sure. Prospective purchasers should keep in touch with their Distributor for latest info). The Conchess Plymate was the current 5.5 version but fitted with a Turbo Booster running at around 20MHz.

In the SOFTWARE Group Fidelity and Mephisto had their same programmes entered, plus Rebel '88, Chat and various Amateur entries.

The TOURNYS, day by day

By agreement Fidelity was not arriving until day 2, so the opening day's play concerned only the Software Section.

DAY 2

In the MANUFACTURERS Group, Mephisto and Fidelity drew 2-2. Friedel comments that Fidelity looked better on all Boards and even Ossi Weiner, who was in overall responsibility for the Mephisto machines, is reported to have been amazed at the amount of progress Fidelity had clearly made since 1987. For some reason Mephisto had White in 3 of these games, an imbalance never corrected.

In the COMMERCIAL Group Conchess was beaten by both Fidelity and Mephisto (a result which was to be repeated almost day after day, emphasising the enormous gap these 2 have opened over others), whilst the Fidelity-Mephisto head-on clash was a very tense affair.

Mephisto had actually gone 3 Pawns up at one stage, but Fidelity's Rooks were tremendously powerful and obtained threats of perpetual check. Mephisto sacrificed the exchange to stop this and the finish was decidedly precarious before probably everyone breathed sighs of relief close to midnight as the game was drawn!

Fidelity-Mephisto (60/60)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2 e6 6.0-0 d5 7.Bg5 dxe4 8.Nxe4 Nbd7 9.Nxf6+ Nxf6 10.c3 Be7 11.Qb3 Qb6 12.Rf6 1 0-0 13.Bf4 Nd5 14.Bd2 Bd6 15.g3 Qxb3 16.axb3 c5 17.Ra4 Bf5 18.Rea1 a6 19.c4 Nb6 20.Ra5 Nd7 21.Be3 Rfc8 22.Nh4 Be4 23.Bf3 Bxf3 24.Nxf3 cxd4 25.Nxd4 Be7 26.Rd1 Nf6 27.Bf4 Rd8 28.Raa1 Rac8 29.Nc2 Ne4 30.Be3 g6 31.f4 Bf6 32.Bd4 Bxd4+ 33.Nxd4 Rd6 34.Nf3 Rb6 35.Ra3 Nc5 36.Kg2 Nxb3 37.Ne5 Nc5 38.Rd2 16 39.Ng4 Kg7 40.Kf3 Rb4 41.Rc3 Kf7 42.Nh6+ Ke7 43.Ng4 Na4 44.Rcd3 Rc7 45.b3 Nc5 46.Rd8 Nxb3 47.Rd1 Rbxc4 48.Rh8 e5 49.fxe5 fxe5 50.Nxe5 Rc3+ 51.Kf4 Kf6 52.Rf8+ Kg7 53.Rdd8 Re7 54.Rg8+ Kf6 55.Rd6+ Re6 56.Rdd8 Rxe5 57.Rgf8+ Kg7 58.Kxe5 Rc2 59.h4 Re2+ 60.Kd6 b5 61.Rfe8 Rxe8 62.Rxe8 b4 63.Kd5 Nd2 64.Re2 Nf1 65.g4 g5 66.hxg5 Kg6 67.Re6+ Kxg5 68.Rxa6 Kxg4 69.Rb6 h5 70.Rxb4+ Kg3 71.Rb3+ Kg2 72.Rb2+ Kg3 73.Rb1 Kg2 74.Rb7 h4 75.Rg7+ Ng3 76.Ke5 h3 77.Kf4 h2 78.Rxg3+ Kf2 79.Rh3 Kg2 1/2-1/2

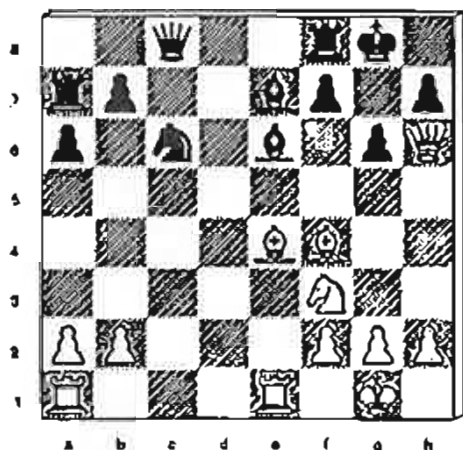
DAY 3

There was some impressive Chess in the morning session in the MANUFACTURERS Group, one of Fidelity's wins even finding its way into the Week-end DAILY TELEGRAPH.

The tactics are incredibly deep and White's 20 Be3 must be one of the best individual moves of the Tournament. The move order is impeccable as the e-file is cleared for the Rook, the dark-squared Bishop is brought to an optimal square for the Kingside attack, and the exchange sacrifice virtually ends the game.

Fidelity 1 - Mephisto 2

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bd3 Nb4 9.Be4 0-0 10.0-0 N8c6 11.Re1 Qd6 12.Nb5 Qd8 13.Bf4 a6 14.Nc7 Ra7 15.d5 exd5 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.Qxd5 Be6 18.Qh5 g6 19.Qh6 Qc8



20.Be3 Ra8 21.Bxc6 Qxc6 22.Bd4 f6 23.Rxe6 Qd7 24.Ng5 Bb4 25.Bxf6 Rae8 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.Qh4 a5 28.a3 Bd2 29.Ne4 Qd3 30.Nxd2 Qxd2 31.Qc4+ Kf8 32.Bc3 Qd8 33.Rb1 b6 34.b4 a4 35.b5 Qd7 36.Qf4+ Qf7 37.Qd4 h5 38.Rb4 Rc8 1-0

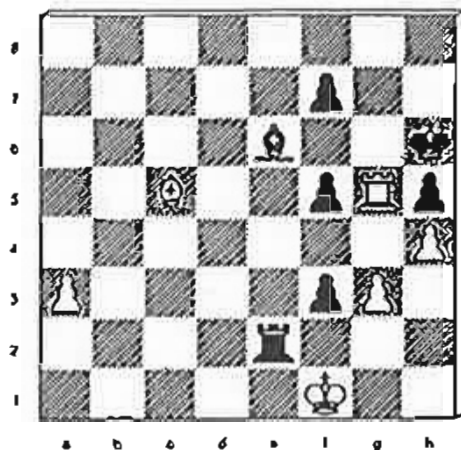
But one of the Mephistos won the point back with a fine positional game in which the Fidelity finally lost on time and so the Round was drawn 2-2. If the amount of Fidelity improvement was proving impressive, it was clear that Richard Lang's re-write of the Roma programme had also been very effective.

Fidelity 2 – Mephisto 1

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.h3 Bh5 6.Be2 e6 7.O-O d5 8.e5 Ne4 9.Be3 Nxc3 10.bxc3 Be7 11.Rb1 b5 12.Qd2 O-O 13.Rb2 Nd7 14.Bf4 h6 15.Rfb1 a6 16.Nh2 Bxe2 17.Qxe2 Nb6 18.Qg4 Kh8 19.Rb3 c5 20.Rd1 Qc7 21.Qe2 Rac8 22.Rc1 Nd7 23.Qe3 Qa5 24.a3 c4 25.Rbb1 Nb6 26.Qf3 Na4 27.Ra1 Qxc3 28.Qxc3 Nxc3 29.Ra1 Na4 30.Ng4 Bd8 31.Bd2 c3 32.Be3 Be7 33.Ra2 Kg8 34.Nh2 Rc4 35.Rb1 Nb2 36.Rba1 Rfc8 37.Nf1 f6 0-1

In the evening, however, Fidelity pulled into the lead by 7-5 with a 3-1 winning session. The ending from one of these is worth looking at. For a moment onlookers initially thought that Mephisto (White) must have a 'bug' when it played 68 Rxd7, sacrificing the exchange. However it is quite right (and has nothing to do with trying to Queen its h-Pawn either) but is purposed to stop 68 - Bc6 and 69 - Rf3 mate!

Mephisto 2 – Fidelity 4.



56...Bc4 57.Bf8+ Kh7 58.Rxh5+ Kg8 59.Bc5 Re5+ 60.Kf2 Rxc5 61.Rg5+ Kf8 62.Kxf3 Be6 63.h5 Rc3+ 64.Kf4 f6 65.Rg6 Kf7 66.Rh6 Bd7 67.Rh7+ Ke6 68.Rxd7 Rc4+ 69.Kf3 Kxd7 70.Ke3 Rg4 0-1

In the COMMERCIAL Section, both Fidelity and Mephisto won their games again against Plymate. The Fidelity v Plymate game was a particularly short one.

Fidelity – Plymate (60/120)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ gxf6 6.c3 e5 7.Be3 Bd6 8.Bc4 Rg8 9.dxe5 fxe5 10.Qb3 Qf6 11.O-O-O Rxf2 12.Bxf7+ Qxf7 13.Qxf7+ Kxf7 14.Rxd6 Bg4 15.Rh6 Kg7 16.h3 Bf5 17.Nf3 Be4 18.Nh4 Rg5 19.Bxg5 Bxh1 20.Re6 Na6 21.Re7+ Kg8 22.Bf6 Be4 23.f3 Bd3 24.Rg7+ Kf8 25.Rxb7 h5 26.Bxe5 1-0

However Mephisto went ahead of Fidelity by winning their own contest after forcing it to give up the exchange at move 20. Thus Mephisto took a 1 point lead even though Fidelity was producing much more convincing wins against the third member of the group.

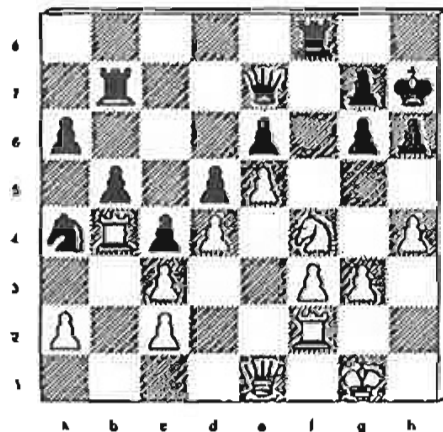
The SOFTWARE Section virtually ended on Day 3 as far as 1st and 2nd places were concerned. It was clear that Mephisto and Fidelity were way ahead of anything else and Mephisto won their private clash in Round 4. As they only meet the once in this Section, the win was tantamount to deciding the Group winner.

The game is another one well worth playing through. Mephisto's advantage seems nominal until it comes up with a fine exchange sacrifice on move 44

which opens up the game and destroys White's Pawn cover in real style.

Challenger – Almeria

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.h3 Bh5 6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 d5 8.e5 Ne4 9.Be3 Nxc3 10.bxc3 Be7 11.Rb1 b5 12.Qd2 0-0 13.Rb2 Nd7 14.Bf4 Nb6 15.Qe3 Bg6 16.Bd3 h6 17.Nd2 Na4 18.Rb3 a6 19.Qg3 Kh8 20.Bxg6 fxg6 21.Nf3 Qe8 22.Bd2 Nb6 23.Bc1 Nc4 24.Nd2 Na5 25.Rb1 Qf7 26.Nb3 Nc4 27.Nd2 Nb6 28.Qd3 c5 29.Nf3 c4 30.Qd2 Qf5 31.Nh2 Bg5 32.Qd1 Bxc1 33.Qxc1 Na4 34.Qd2 Qf4 35.Qe1 Rf7 36.f3 Ra8 37.Ng4 Kh7 38.Rb4 Kg8 39.Ne3 Kh8 40.h4 Rb7 41.g3 Qf7 42.Rf2 Kh7 43.Ng2 Qe7 44.Nf4



44...Rx14 45.gxf4 Qxh4 46.Qe3 Rf7 47.Kg2 Rf5 48.Qe1 Rh5 49.Kf1 Qxf4 50.Ke2 Qf5 51.Kd2 Rh3 52.Qe3 Rh1 53.Rg2 Ra1 54.f4 Rxa2 55.Kc1 Ra1+ 56.Kd2 Nxc3 57.Kxc3 Ra3+ 58.Rb3 cxb3 59.cxb3 Ra1 60.Kb4 Rf1 61.Ka5 Qxf4 62.Qxf4 Rxf4 63.Rd2 Rf3 64.Kxa6 Rxb3 65.Kb7 Rc3 66.Ra2 Kg8 67.Ra8+ Kf7 68.Ra7 b4 69.Kb8+ Kf8 70.Ra6 Rc4 71.Rxe6 g5 72.Rd6 Rxd4 73.Rd7 b3 74.Rb7 Re4 75.Rxb3 Rxe5 76.Kc7 g4 77.Kd6 Rg5 78.Ke6 Kg8 79.Rb8+ Kh7. Adjudicated a win for Black, 0-1

DAY 4

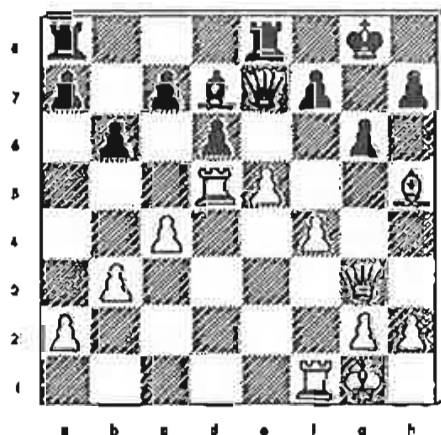
This proved to be the most important day of the Tournament in many ways. The Mephisto team turned up in the morning red-eyed from a night's worry and work following their 3-1 demise the previous evening in the main Section. The overnight work involved a serious re-tuning of the programmable Mephisto Opening Books, an effort which had an immediate and dramatic effect as they more than returned the compliment by winning the morning Round 3¹/₂-1¹/₂! Fidelity weren't helped in one game where someone had been using their machine prior to play and

so the Computer started its game proper with the Time Control disrupted. An appeal to Mephisto to allow the controls to be reset was turned down, a decision within Mephisto's rights. All of the games were long, the shortest being 53 moves, but the result was clear.

For the evening session Iouri Bondarenko (Fidelity's opening 'expert') prepared the 'big surprise' Opening of 1 e4 d6 2 d3?!? where Fidelity was to play White. The machines were both quickly out of Book in what was an effort to avoid the advantage that Mephisto's Opening play adjustments seemed to have given them. However Mephisto won both these games (though Fidelity had the chance of a win in one of them) and, by drawing the opposite colour games 1-1, now went into an 11¹/₂-8¹/₂ lead in 'Fidelity's blackest ever day'. The forced win for Fidelity at move 24 is shown in brackets in the following game. A moment (20 mins actually!) of further interest occurred at Black's move 43 where Mephisto spent all that time looking at the (probably losing) - h5. After a 13 ply search it came up with the excellent 43 - f6! to win a most interesting game.

Fidelity 1-Mephisto 1

1.e4 d6 2.d3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Be2 e5 5.0-0 Be7 6.c4 0-0 7.Nc3 Be6 8.d4 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 exd4 10.Qxd4 Nd7 11.Bf4 Bf6 12.Qd2 Bxc3 13.Qxc3 Qh4 14.Qe3 Qf6 15.b3 Rfe8 16.Rad1 b6 17.Qg3 Ne5 18.Bh5 Bd7 19.Bg5 Qe6 20.f4 Nc6 21.e5 g6 22.Rd5 Ne7 23.Bxe7 Qxe7



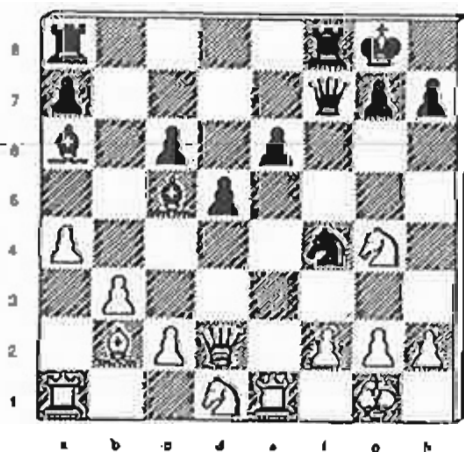
24.exd6 [24.f5! dxe5 25.fxg6 hxg6 26.Bxg6 fxg6 27.Qxg6+] 24...cxd6 25.Rfd1 Be6 26.Rxd5 Rad8 27.Rxd8 Rxd8 28.a4 Bf5 29.Bf3 Qe3+ 30.Qf2 Rxd1+ 31.Bxd1 Qc1 32.Qf1 Qd2 33.h3 Be4 34.Kh2 Bxg2 35.Qe2 Qxe2 36.Bxe2 Bc6! 37.Kg3 Kg7 38.Bf3 Bxf3 39.Kxf3 Kf6 40.b4 Ke6 41.Ke4 Kd6 42.Kd3 h6 43.Kd4 f6! 44.Kd3 Kc6 45.Kd4 a5 46.bxa5 bxa5 47.Kd3 Kc5 48.h4 g5 49.hxg5 hxg5 50.fxg5 fxg5 0-1

The COMMERCIAL Group followed its now standard pattern with both Mephisto and Fidelity beating Conchess and then drawing with each other, leaving Mephisto on 5, Fidelity 4 and Plymate not yet troubling the scorers as they say.

The SOFTWARE Group provided Fidelity with some consolation in that, whilst both they and Mephisto won again leaving their relative scores unchanged, their own game vs Rebell 88 was a real eye-catcher with a tremendous Queen sacrifice; later (at move 30) refusing to take it back when opportunity arose. Folk around the Board thought Fidelity had over-reached, but the Computer had seen deeper and Rebell was lost 3 moves later. Nerves of steel in a plastic surround!

Rebel-Challenger

1.e4 c5 2.b3 e6 3.Bb2 Nc6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.e5 Nd5 6.Bb5 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.d3 f6 10.Nc3 Bb7 11.a4 fxe5 12.Nxe5 Qc7 13.d4 Nf4 14.Ng4 Ba6 15.Re1 d5 16.dxc5 Bxc5 17.Qd2 Qf7 18.Nd1



Nxg2 19.Qg5 Nxe1 20.Nh6+ Kh8 21.Nxf7+ Rxf7 22.Qg3 Nf3+ 23.Kh1 Ra8 24.a5 d4 25.Ba3 Bxa3 26.Rxa3 Be2 27.Ra1 Nd2 28.Qd6 Bf3+ 29.Kg1 Rf6 30.Qg3 Bh5 31.Nb2 Ne4 32.Qg2 Bf3 33.Qxf3 0-1

DAY 5

The day which virtually finalised the MANUFACTURERS Group and showed the value of Mephisto's better organising for the Event in their ability to continually update and change their Opening Books. This time Bondarenko got Fidelity to open with 1 a3 as White in both morning games and, after - c5, 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 b3. Both games were identical up to a mid-game point where the Fidelitys had dreadful positions. They then played different moves, but to no avail, going down within a move of each other. As Black they also lost, 1/2-1/2, thus leaving the total score a virtually unsurmountable 15-9 for Mephisto.

There are 2 things I would like to say concerning these Opening changes.

(1) BCO states "1 a3 (Anderssen) nowadays intends a reversed Sicilian (1 a3 e5 2 c4), reversed Benoni (1 a3 d5 2 c4) or St George (1 a3 2 b4)". I do wonder what 2 Nf3 and 3 b3 was supposed to achieve even though this decision to get right out of the Books was supposed to be the 'lesser of two evils'. I cannot see 1 a3 as the way to go at all. MCO comments "Anderssen only used it once against Morphy (GUESS WHO WON!). It allows White to DEFEND against various Pawn Openings in reverse", CAPS are mine.

Note this: Prior to changing the White Openings Fidelity scored 4-3 as White; with the new Openings they got 2-6. With Black they scored 3 1/2-5 1/2 before Mephisto's adjustments. Afterwards, but with the Fidelity Black O/B UNCHANGED, Fidelity scored 3 1/2-4 1/2, actually a tiny improvement. So my "Prawn of the Month Award" definitely goes to Mr Bondarenko.

(2) The Daily Telegraph reported at some length on the World Micro, which was great to see. They made another point:- "Part of the explanation for Mephisto's success, according to ICCA

president David Levy, is that the computer's handlers can re-program it in particular openings, during a tournament, to play certain lines or avoid others, once they discover what a rival machine's strengths or weaknesses are. So is it the programmes which are so clever, or their owners?"

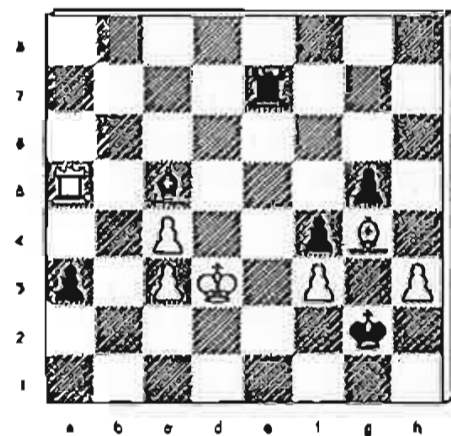
Of course Mephisto was only doing what Kasparov or Karpov would do, and have continually done, in a Match - i.e. change the Openings which weren't going well for them (or find new lines in them), and persevere stubbornly with the Openings which do go well, challenging the Opponent to find some different routes. So I certainly do not challenge Mephisto's rights in this - they can be congratulated on better organisation at the Event. Whether the machines exactly as they entered - left completely untouched (and therefore closer to the versions we may eventually buy - i.e. with complete Opening Books) - whether they would have produced the SAME score in Mephisto's favour to me seems doubtful, but who knows? Until we buy and test our own Commercial versions we'll each be entitled to our own opinions. In the meantime we cannot take away from Mephisto the fact that THEY WON!

The evening play saw the 1 a3 idea at least adjusted so that Fidelity played 2 e4 producing a delayed Sicilian which seems more sensible and actually earned them 2 wins! A 1-1 with Black brought the total score back to 16-12 ... much more presentable... plus a piece of Endgame play which again got itself into the good old Daily Telegraph! AND then a game which won the 'Best Game Prize'. Coupled with the Telegraph's statement that, "Fidelity won the best games" and rarely can the loser have got so much good publicity!

White's capture of the Bishop here is his chosen method for taking advantage of the two passed c-Pawns. By sacrificing the exchange he removes the Bishop blockade. However his King is only just near enough to the g5-Pawn to win the game!

Fidelity 3-Mephisto 1

1.a3 c5 2.e4 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Bb5 Nxc3 7.bxc3 Qd6 8.d4 Bg4 9.0-0 e6 10.h3 Bh5 11.Re1 Be7 12.Be3 0-0 13.dxc5 Qxd1 14.Raxd1 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Ne5 16.Kg2 Rad8 17.Bd3 Nc6 18.Be4 Rxd1 19.Rxd1 Rd8 20.Rb1 Na5 21.Rb5 Nc4 22.a4 a6 23.Rxb7 Nxe3+ 24.fxe3 Bxc5 25.Kf2 f5 26.Bd3 f4 27.Ke1 Bxe3 28.Re7 Rd6 29.Re8+ Kf7 30.Ra8 Rc6 31.Bxf7 g6 32.Bg8+ Kg7 33.Kd1 a5 34.Rd8 Rc4 35.Bxe6 Rxa4 36.Ra8 g5 37.Bb3 Ra1+ 38.Ke2 Kg6 39.Ra6+ Kh5 40.Be6 Kh4 41.Ra6 Bc5 42.Rh8+ Kg3 43.Rg8 Be7 44.Rg7 Bf6 45.Rg6 Be7 46.Bg4 a4 47.Re6 Bd8 48.Kd3 a3 49.Kc4 Rb1 50.Ra6 Be7 51.Ra7 Bf8 52.Ra5 Rb7 53.Kd3 Be7 54.c4 Bb4 55.Ra4 Bc5 56.Ra5 Re7 57.c3 Kg2



58.Rxc5 Ra7 59.Re5 a2 60.Re1 a1Q 61.Rxa1 Rxa1 62.c5 Ra6 63.Kc4 Ra4+ 64.Kd5 Ra3 65.c4 Ra5 66.Kd6 Ra4 67.c6 Rxc4 68.e7 Rc1 69.Kd7 Rd1+ 70.Ke7 Rc1 71.c8Q Rxc8 72.Bxc8 Kxf3 73.Kf6 Ke4 74.Kxg5 f3 75.Bb7+ Ke3 1-0

Best Game Prize Winner Mephisto 3-Fidelity 1

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qb3 Na6 6.Bg5 Bb7 7.0-0-0 Bxc3 8.Qxc3 Ne4 9.Qa3 Nxc3 10.Nxc3 Qf6 11.Qg3 h6 12.Nf3 Be4 13.a3 c5 14.e3 cxd4 15.Nxd4 Nc5 16.f3 Bh7 17.e4 0-0 18.e5 Qe7 19.f4 f6 20.Qe3 fxe5 21.fxe5 Qh4 22.g3 Qh5 23.Bg2 Rac8 24.Rd2 Qg6 25.Kd1 Rf7 26.b3 Rcf8 27.Ke2 Qh5+ 28.Ke1 Rf2 29.Qxf2 Nd3+ 30.Rxd3 Rxf2 31.Kxf2 Bxd3 32.Ra1 Qf7+ 33.Bf3 Qf8 34.Re3 Bb1 35.Nb5 Qc5 36.Be2 a6 37.b4 Qc6 38.Nd6 Qh1 39.h4 Qh2+ 40.Kf1 Kh7 41.Nc8 Qh1+ 42.Kf2 Qc6 43.Nd6 a5 44.Bd1 Qh1 45.Ba4 Qh2+ 46.Kf3 Qg1 47.Ke2 Qg2+ 48.Ke1 Bc2 49.Bxd7 Qg1+ 50.Ke2 Qd1+ 51.Kf2 Bd3 52.g4 Qf1+ 53.Kg3 g5 54.hxg5 hxg5 55.Rf3 Qg1+ 56.Kh3 Bf1+ 57.Rxf1 Qxf1+ 58.Kg3 Qf4+ 59.Kg2 Qxg4+ 60.Kf2 Qd4+ 61.Kf1 Qxe5 62.c5 Qa1+ 63.Kg2 Qb2+ 64.Kf3 Qxa3+ 65.Ke4 Qxb4+ 66.Ke5 Qxc5+ 67.Kxe6 0-1

In the COMMERCIAL Group, 2 wins were recorded over Plymate again, but Mephisto got its 2nd win in the Mephisto vs Fidelity series thus ensuring itself at least a share of the Title. Fidelity goes ahead on Pawns but his King gets more exercise than is good for him!

Mephisto-Fidelity (60/120)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 a6 9.e4 c5 10.e5 cxd4 11.Nxb5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 axb5 13.Bxb5+ Bd7 14.Nxd7 Qa5+ 15.Bd2 Qxb5 16.Nxf6+ gxf6 17.a4 Qxb2 18.0-0 Bd6 19.Qf3 Kc7 20.Rfb1 Bxh2+ 21.Kxh2 Qxd2 22.Rb7+ Kd6 23.Rd1 Qh6+ 24.Kg1 Rxa4 25.Qc3 Rb8 26.Qc7+ Kd5 27.Rxb8 Ke4 28.Qc2+ Kf4 29.Qc1+ 1-0

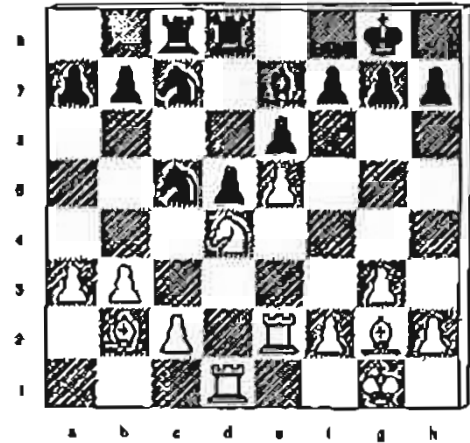
DAY 6

The final day saw Fidelity again persevering with 1 a3 in the MANUFACTURERS Section. Needing to win 4-0 to share the Title they had set their machines' contempt factor at high to persuade it to avoid draws at all costs (which it did) and play for results. Mephisto, of course, had set their contempt factor to low so they would take any draws happily. The effect was that Fidelity avoided a draw by repetition at least once even though having the worse position! Naturally Mephisto had also now prepared their machines in case there was a repetition of Fidelity's 1 a3? This time, instead of 1 a3 c5 2 e4 Nc6 3 Nc3 Nc6, their Computers were ready with the change 3 - g6 in one game and, in the other, the startling Opening 1 a3 c6!? Fidelity thus went down 2-0 again with White, though the machines got a win each where Mephisto was Black. All the games were marathons, the shortest 65 moves, the longest two 119 and 92.

In the COMMERCIAL Section, Plymate, having lost every game more quickly to Fidelity than Mephisto, now got a $\frac{1}{2}$ point off the Fidelity programme! Mephisto won again enlarging the final gap between them.

Fidelity 2-Mephisto 3

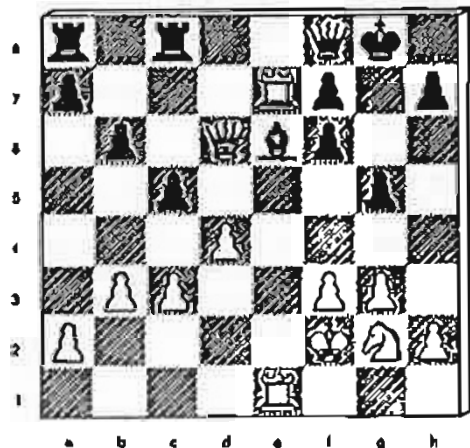
1.a3! c6! 2.Nf3 d5 3.d3 Nf6 4.Nbd2 Bf5 5.e3 e6 6.Be2 Bg4? 7.e4 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.b3 Qc7 10.Bb2 Bxf3? 11.Bxf3 Nbd7 12.d4 Qf4? 13.g3 Qg5? 14.e5 Ne8 15.Bg2 Qf5 16.Nf3 c5 17.dxc5 Nxc5 18.Qe2 Qe4 19.Rfe1 Qxe2 20.Rxe2 Nc7 21.Rd1 Rac8 22.Nd4 Rfd8



23.f4? h6 24.f5? Bg5 25.Rf1 Rf8 26.Kh1 a6 27.a4 Rfe8 28.a5 Rcd8 29.Nf3 Be7 30.f6 gxf6 31.exf6 Bf8 32.Ne5 Nb5 33.Rf4 Nd6 34.Rg4+ Kh7 35.Ba3 Rc8 36.c4 dxc4 37.bxc4 Rc7 38.Rf2 Nf5 39.Bb2 Ne3 40.Rg4 Nd1 41.Rd2 Nxb2 42.Rxb2 Rd8 43.Bf3 Bd6 44.Rd2 Bxe5 45.Rxd8 Bxf4 46.gxf4 Kg6 47.Bd1 Ne4 48.Bb3 Rc5 49.Bc2 Rxc4 50.Bd3 Ra4 51.Bc2 Ra1+ 52.Kg2 Ra2 53.Rc8 Kxf6 54.Kg1 Ra1+ 55.Kg2 Rc1 56.Kf3 Nd2+ 57.Ke3 Nb3 58.Kd3 Na1 59.h3 Rxc2 60.Rxc2 Nxc2 61.Kxc2 Kf5 62.Kc3 Kxf4 63.Kd3 f5 64.Ke2 Kg3 65.Kf1 f4 0-1

Fidelity-Plymate (60/120)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Bc4 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ exf6 7.Ne2 Bb4+ 8.c3 Bd6 9.Qb3 0-0 10.Bf4 Bxf4 11.Nxf4 Qe7+ 12.Ne2 Qe4 13.f3 Qg6 14.Nf4 Qh6 15.g3 Re8+ 16.Kf2 Rf8 17.Rae1 g5 18.Ng2 Nb6 19.Re7 Nxc4 20.Qxc4 Be6 21.Qc5 Rfb8 22.b3 Qf8 23.Re1 b6 24.Qd6 Rd8 25.Qc7 Rdc8 26.Qd6 c5



7.R1xe6 fxe6 28.Qxe6+ Kh8 29.Rf7 Qh6 30.Rxf6
Qg7 31.Rf7 Qg6 32.Qxg6 hxg6 33.d5 c4 34.b4 a5
35.b5 Rc5 36.Ne3 Rxb5 37.a4 Rb2+ 38.Kf1 Rxb2
39.d6 Kg8 40.Rf6 Kg7 41.Re6 Rxb6 42.Re7+ Kf8
43.Nxc4 Rc2 44.Re2 Rh1+ 45.Kg2 Rxc1 46.Rxc2
Rxc2+ 47.Kh3 Rxc3 48.Ne5 Ke8 49.Kg4 Rc5
50.Nxg6 Rd5 51.Ne7 Rxd6 52.Nc8 Kd7 53.Nxd6
Kxd6 54.Kf5 b5 55.Ke4 bxa4 56.Kd3 Kd5 57.Kc3
a3 58.Kb3 a2 59.Kxa2 Kd4 60.Kb3 Ke3 61.f4 gxh4
62.gxh4 Kxf4 63.Ka4 1/2-1/2

The final CHAMPIONSHIP scores were:-

MANUFACTURERS Group Mephisto 19,
Fidelity 13,
COMMERCIAL Group Mephisto 9, Fidelity
6¹/₂, Plymate 1¹/₂.
SOFTWARE Group Meph Almeria 6,
Fidelity 4¹/₂, Y!BB 3¹/₂, Rebell '88 3,
Pandix 2¹/₂, Chat 1 and Dappet 1¹/₂.

As the selection of games above shows,
there was some high-class Chess, often
very exciting, and clearly exhibiting
excellent levels of improvement as the
reward for the past year's work. For
MEPHISTO and FIDELITY we can certainly
see that their new ALMERIA and MACH
III offerings are sure to do them much
credit.

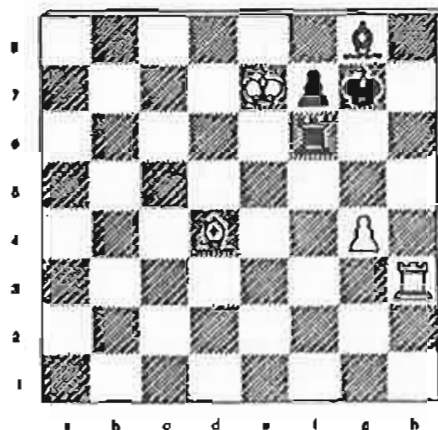
Hardware test

In order to check the speed of the computers par-
ticipating in the commercial group and have a ref-
erence for identical sets available in retail outlets
David Levy proposed the following test: take five
mate problems and clock each of the computers
that actually played in the tournament. The results
can be used as a basis to verify that the commer-
cial machine that played in Aguadulce was not in
fact "tuned" - speeded up or otherwise manipu-
lated for greater performance.

After the tests the quartz crystals of the Fidelity
and Mephisto machines were examined - and in
fact exchanged. Since both were running at identi-
cal speeds (20.03 MHz was measured with an
oscilloscope for Mephisto) the difference in the
solution times the second time around was less
than 10%.

The problems given to the computer were all by
the great American composer Samuel Loyd. After
each problem we give the times taken to display
the mate.

S. Loyd, American Chess Nuts, 1868

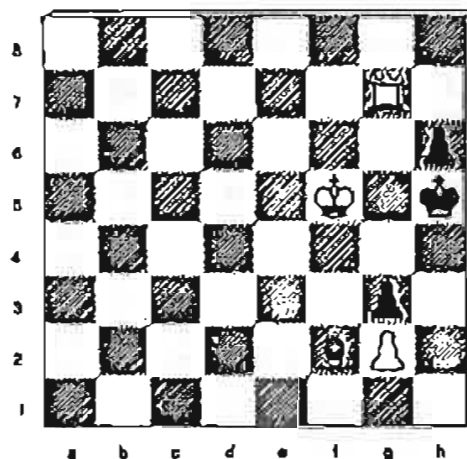


Mate in 5 moves

1.Rh6 Kxh6 2.Kxf6 Kh7 3.g5 Kh8 4.g6

Fidelity	4 min 59 sec
Mephisto	0 min 45 sec
Plymate	2 min 44 sec

S. Loyd, Chess Monthly, 1859



Mate in 5 moves

1.Rb7 Be3 2.Rb1 Bg5 3.Rh1+ Bh4 4.Rh2 gxh2
5.g4+
[1...Bg1 2.Rb1 Bh2 3.Re1 Kh4 4.Kg6]

Fidelity	12 sec
Mephisto	10 sec
Plymate	21 sec