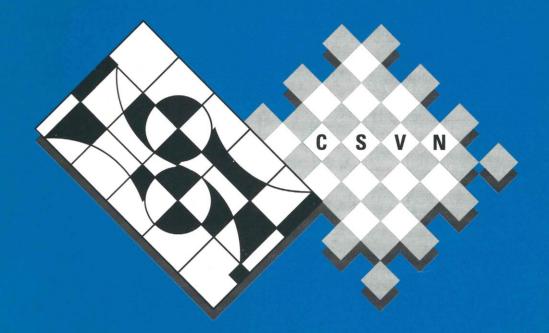


AEGON COMPUTER CHESS TOURNAMENT



APRIL 26, 27, 28 AND MAY 1, 2, 3 1995

PROGRAM



Programme Brochure - 10th Aegon Computer Chess Tournament (April-May 1995) with the Participants and Computers. (photo copyright © by www.schaakcomputers.nl) (600 dpi)

Why Computer Chess?

With the organization of the tenth AEGON tournament, AEGON is once again contributing and adding to the development and research of artificial intelligence. Computer chess plays a major part in this respect. Research carried out at universities all over the world has shown the following remarkable facts:

- computers are able to arrive at diagnoses in case of bacteriological inflammations or make decisions as to the allocation of subsidies and bank credits:
- the Carnegie Mellon University realized a trip with an army truck at a maximum speed of 90 kms/hr without a driver. The Navlab II program operating the truck neatly reacted to every imaginable situation;
- the recognition of handwritten postal codes and cheques requires programs that are able to immerse themselves in human thought. Consider for example the many ways in which humans can jot down the number 7;
- Professor Van den Herik of Leiden State University is presently investigating how future jurisdiction can be carried out by computers.

Research into artificial intelligence focuses on two targets:

- the development of intelligent programs that are able to carry out smart actions;
- finding out more about human intelligence and how it actually works.

Chess is pre-eminently an intelligent game serving as a test case among researchers. If a computer program is able to play a decent game of chess, it therefore shows intelligent behavior. As we saw above, artificial intelligence is used in many scientific fields. But there are more disciplines that could be mentioned, such as psychology, which above all is interested in the way people think. But there is still more to it. It is virtually impossible to calculate the chess game completely. This means that many advanced searching techniques are necessary. A chess program involves a considerable number of grids and schedule-related problems the solutions of which are used in e.g. economics. If a business enhances its production, it will earn more, but it will also have to pay more taxes and environmental fees, and it will also have to invest in more and better educated personnel. So the question of demand and supply after all does look a bit like a game... The design of chess programs incorporates searching techniques that can also be used for other expert systems, offering comparisons with real-life problems. At AEGON, too, we make use of such expert systems. AEPAX renders it possible to apply artificial intelligence on a daily basis.

You hear people say that developments in the computer world are threatening for chess players. This has laid the foundation for a fear that, when computers beat the best human players, it will be the end of our noble game. I think this fear is unfounded.

In the summertime I always watch the "Tour de France". While motorcyclists are much faster than the cyclists, the Tour continues year after year and the speed of motorcyclists has no negative effect on the event at all. Another example, all around the world rowing competitions are still held, while the motorboat has established itself as a commonplace property.

We wish you, chess players and computer programmers, a successful tournament. Man will win, with or without a computer.

Cock de Gorter

Programme Brochure - 10th Aegon Computer Chess Tournament (April-May 1995) with the Participants and Computers.

Opening Ceremony:

Wednesday April 26, 1995 at 7.15 pm at AEGON headquarters, Mariahoeveplein 50, The Hague.

Opening speech will be given by Professor Dr. H.J. van den Herik.

Playing Site:

Headquarters of AEGON, Mariahoeveplein 50, The Hague.

Playing days:

Wednesday April 26, Thursday April 27, Friday April 28. Monday May 1, Tuesday May 2, Wednesday May 3 1995.

Each round starts at 7.30 pm and finishes no later than 11.30 pm.

Summary of playing rules:

There is a special rule which states that the operator may never influence the game by his/her interference. The operator has to carry out all instructions given by the computer.

The external clock determines the available time left, even if it differs from the internal time registration. If the operator starts to notice too big a difference between the external and internal time registration, he may under certain conditions make corrections. The human chess players play according to FIDE rules.

Time limit:

All moves in 1.30 hours. The Bronstein clock will be used which means that each player will get 15 seconds extra per move. Seconds not used for a move will not be added.

Commentary:

GM Vlastimil Hort will provide the audience with comments on the games for each round.

Mr Hort will be assisted by *Drs. Theo van der Storm*, a computer expert and council member of "Computer Schaak Vereniging Nederland".

Along with Mr Hort's comments, analyses by "The King" computer will be available and will be used by Mr Hort.

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Participants

GM DAVID BRONSTEIN - RUSSIA

This legendary grandmaster came within one game of the world championship title in his younger days. Known for his creative and attractive style, Bronstein always attracts large crowds. Petrosian once said: "Every player thinks theory started when he himself was born, but that isn't true: theory started when Bronstein was born."

GM LARRY CHRISTIANSEN - USA

Shared second place at the most recent US championship with Yasser Seirawan. Larry lives in Cologne, Germany where he plays in the Bundesliga. Last year, he and John Nunn won the nineth edition of the AEGON tournament.

GM YASSER SEIRAWAN - USA

Businessman, author and chess player. Won a gold medal for the US team at the Moscow Olympiad for best board performance. His corporation, International Chess Enterprises, publishes the bi-weekly magazine "Inside Chess" and is the only chess business listed on a stock exchange. Yasser has written many books, among them "No Regrets" about his meeting with Bobby Fischer and the 1992 match Fischer-Spassksy.

GM JOHN NUNN - ENGLAND

Twice co-winner of the AEGON tournament, in 1993 with David Bronstein and last year with Larry Christiansen. The "Doc" has written many books, the most recent of which were done with the help of computer analysis for complete accuracy and to make the public more aware of the machine's usefulness.

GM ROBERTO CIFUENTES - HOLLAND

Born in Chile, but Roberto has lived in Holland for quite some time. Cifuentes is known for his positional style and was the captain for the Dutch women's team during the 1994 Moscow Olympiad.

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GM HANS REE - HOLLAND

Didn't quite manage to win a couple of years ago, and might want to make up for that this year! Hans has a column in "NRC Handelsblad", writes for New in Chess and is the author of several excellent chess short stories.

GM ZSUZSA POLGAR - HUNGARY

The eldest of three famous Polgar sisters. Zsuzsa recently was married and is the official challenger for the women's world championship in 1995.

GM JOHN VAN DER WIEL - HOLLAND

Won the 1992 AEGON tournament with the perfect score. John has a passion for games and bridge is certainly his second love.

IM SOFIA POLGAR - HUNGARY

Like her sister, playing for the first time in this tournament. Perhaps not so well known as her other two sisters but certainly no less dangerous!

IM HERMAN GROOTEN - HOLLAND

Started last year at zero for two, but then scored four straight victories. Herman most definitely would like to continue this winning streak. Due to last year's experience, he will surely pay attention when a computer plays Rh1-q1.

IM GERT LIGTERINK - HOLLAND

Chess correspondent for the daily newspaper "De Volkskrant". Never has won the tournament but has improved his score the last two years. Beware!

IM PAUL BOERSMA - HOLLAND

Chess journalist of the newspaper "Algemeen Dagblad". One of the new faces in this event. Asked the organizers, slightly afraid, if the Pentium would participate.

IM ROB HARTOCH - HOLLAND

This "heavyweight" once showed during the Dutch open in Dieren that he can beat any computer without effort.

IM JOHN DONALDSON - USA

Many-time captain of U.S. men's team. Excellent chess historian, who has written books about Rubinstein, Fischer and Alekhine. This will be has second time to play in Holland.

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IM ERIK HOEKSEMA - HOLLAND

Playing for the first time in this event and may not have a lot of experience playing against computers. However, he is well known to be dangerous player for humans!

WIM ESTHER DE KLEUVER - HOLLAND

One of the top Dutch women players. Esther participated in the Dutch team at the Olympiad and almost made it to the Interzonal tournament for Women a few years ago.

WIM ANNEMARIE BENSCHOP - HOLLAND

Also one of Holland's best woman players who played, along with Esther, at several Olympiads. Her first appearance here in The Hague.

JANNES VAN DER WAL - HOLLAND

Former world champion at draughts/checkers. Loves to play chess and has been seen in many open chess tournaments. This will be the third time he will be participating at AEGON.

KLAAS STEYN - HOLLAND

Has improved his score dramatically in the last two years and might well be on his way to a larger success.

BERT KIEBOOM - HOLLAND

Journalist champion in 1994, Bert writes for "Utrechts Nieuwsblad" and is looking forward to improving his score from last year.

HENK DE KLEIJNEN - HOLLAND

Has made the statement that "no 1900 player has to lose against any computer whatsoever" and "almost" proved that true last year.

NICO KUIJF - HOLLAND

Works for AEGON in the automation department. Creator of the TASC- and NICbase. Scored 4.5 out 6 last year, and finished second in 1992.

ALEXANDER MÜNNINGHOFF - HOLLAND

Might regret that only one other Russian-speaking player is present, since he lived in Moscow for many years. Alexander should therefore have had excellent chess training and be a danger to all computers present.

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TIM KRABBÉ - HOLLAND

A very creative artist who has tried to show the art of chess in a different light through its curiosities. Tim has scored 50% twice in a row in this event and has had enough training now to obtain a higher score.

MARTIN VOORN - HOLLAND

The new journalist champion of Holland. During the most recent Hoogovens tournament, he left his colleagues like Alexander Münninghoff in the dust. Also on his victory list is this very tournament which he has managed to win a couple of times. Let's see if 1995 is will continue to be successful for him.

AD VAN DEN BERG - HOLLAND

Has to make up for his performance of last year where he "only" scored 3 out of 6.

WIM HELEEN DE GREEF - HOLLAND

Former girl's and women's champion of Holland. Didn't pursue an active international chess career but Heleen still plays frequently in Dutch events, such as this year's Reserve Master Group in Wijk aan Zee.

WIM VAN DER WIJK - HOLLAND

Wim has never been able to win against a computer until his first "big success" in the fifth round last year. He used Fritz2 as his sparring partner. After his fifth round win last year, he felt he had conquered his computer complex, and is now of the opinion that he will never again lose against a machine.

ED VOORTMEYER - HOLLAND

Played in the very first AEGON computer tournaments and tried to use the computers as guinea pigs. However, last year it didn't work out so well and Ed's score was kind of a disaster. Therefore, he has sworn revenge this year.

GUNTHER LOEWENTHAL - HOLLAND

As an employee of AEGON, Gunther is well-acquainted with the company's aim to be the perfect host. Therefore, he didn't score more than a modest 50% last year to make sure that both he, and his opponents would return.

PEEWEE VAN VOORTHUIJSEN - HOLLAND

The first year PeeWee participated he scored 3 out of 6 to Iull his competitors into a false sense of security. The following year (last year) he had a perfect score after five rounds. Only a last round loss against Gideon 2 deprived him of first place. Still he shared third with Bronstein an excellent result by any standards. Is PeeWee going to surprise again?

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DICK VAN GEET - HOLLAND

This correspondence grandmaster didn't have an easy time last year during this event. "The computers don't often play strong moves but you shouldn't let your guard down. Because they sometimes play those stupid moves, you tend to lessen your concentration." His last round loss proved his words. Forewarned is fore-armed.

LEX JONGSMA - HOLLAND

Although he won this tournament several times in its younger days, Lex surely is looking forward to a strong comeback after his last year's performance of 2 out of 6.

HENK ARNOLDUS - HOLLAND

Perhaps not too well-known, Henk is one of those players who quietly scores his points. With a 2000+ Elo-rating, he scored a respectable 2.5 out of 6 last year.

NICO VROMANS - HOLLAND

Playing in the The Hague League, Nico helped promote his team to the highest section this year. Nico also participated here last year and scored 2.5 out of 6 while having a rating of "only" 1835!

WIM JESSICA HARMSEN - HOLLAND

Former Dutch women's champion, Jessica has played for the Dutch women's Olympiad team several times. She is currently working for TASC in Rotterdam so she should be well acquainted with computers and may have the advantage of knowing their weaknesses.

WIM WOLTHUIS - HOLLAND

Wim has played for many years in the highest Dutch league for club teams. Scored 2.5 out of 6 last year.

PIET GEERTSEMA - HOLLAND

Piet has wanted to play in this tournament for a long time. In order to measure up to the computer challenge he has been vigorously preparing physically in order to make a good impression in his first try.

ADA VAN DER GIESSEN - HOLLAND

Ada has been one of the leading women's players of her time. Although she doesn't play as frequently as she used to do, Ada hasn't lost her appetite for the game. She has good chances to improve her 1.5 out of 6 score of last year.

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HENNY MALIANGKAY - HOLLAND

This Rotterdam artist has traveled the world over for his artwork and also for a passion for chess and in support of its players. Last year, Henny, in his characteristic optimistic mood, declared that he would win the tournament only to find himself finishing last. Perhaps the saying that "the last shall be first" will come true this year.

JOS DE WAARD - HOLLAND

A strong player from The Hague who has always held his ground in previous tournaments.

JOS TIMMER - HOLLAND

Now retired from his broadcasting duties, Jos was responsible for popularizing chess on radio and TV through the KRO matches with the help of Hans Böhm. Now Jos finally has the time to practice the game himself! Hopefully, the lessons given by the grandmasters playing the KRO matches will have a positive effect on his performance here.

HERBERT PEREZ GARCIA - HOLLAND

Known for his fun-first style of play, Herbert tries to defeat the computers the hard way (by tactics) and at times he has been successful. Herbert scored 2.5 out of 6 last year.

FRE HOOGENDOORN - HOLLAND

One of the "Schaaknieuws" reporters who tries to combine chess work with phe art of playing the game.

WIM VAN DER POL - HOLLAND

One of his region's leading players, Wim had some nice games with the King's Gambit last year and performed a respectable 50% score.

E.M.O. KARSTAN - HOLLAND

One of Gouda's best players.

MAX PAM - HOLLAND

Film actor, writer, and VPRO contributor. For many years Max had a chess column in "Vrij Nederland", and is currently writing for the "Trouw" newspaper. Despite all his activities, Max does have the time to play chess successfully. Last year he scored 3.5 out of 6.

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Computers

REBEL (SCHRÖDER), HOLLAND PENTIUM

Ed Schröder is still the official world champion in all categories. Moreover, his computer program finished ahead of all participating computers in AEGON last year.

CHESS GENIUS X (LANG), ENGLAND PENTIUM

The programs of multiple world champion Richard Lang are always top-notch. The Swedish computer rating list is headed by Chess Genius at 2440 Elo. Richard Lang is the current champion in the commercial class.

HIARCS (UNIACKE), ENGLAND PENTIUM

The current world champion in the software class. Last year Hiarcs scored 4 out of 6, a tournament performance rating of 2324, and finished nineth among the computers.

W-CHESS (KITTINGER), USA PENTIUM

In its first tournament against grandmasters (rapid chess 25 min. each) this program exceeded all expectations. During the Harvard Cup in Boston it scored a performance rating of 2895! Both the program and the machine are practically identical with the configuration in Boston. The program examines about 40,000 positions per-second.

QUEST (MORSCH), HOLLAND PENTIUM

Frans Morsch became 1994 Dutch champion with this program. 100,000 positions-per-second are no problem for this extremely fast program. The opening library has even been improved after gaining the title.

THE KING 2.5 (DE KONING), HOLLAND PENTIUM

The latest program of Johan de Koning. Positionally improved over its predecessor without losing anything tactically.

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HITECH (PROF. DR. BERLINER), USA SPECIAL CHESS HARDWARE

Won this tournament in 1990 and in previous years drew against Jeroen Piket and Rafael Vaganian but hasn't come close to winning the tournament since 1990. No hardware problems here, since it is one of the fastest computers at this tournament. A special note for the spectators: The hardware is at the Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburg, we are connected by transatlantic telephone line. Prof. Dr. Hans Berliner, former world champion correspondence chess, will also be present this year to carefully watch his brain-child perform. The computer is thought to be able to attain 200,000 positions-per-second.

FRENCH CHESS (BAUDOT AND WEILL), FRANCE CRAY T3D

The French Chess's hardware is approximately a 1,000 times faster than that of a Pentium although a chess program might not take optimum advantage of that. This sort of super computer has primarily been developed for different usages.

ZUGZWANG (DR. FELDMAN AND DR. MISLIWIETZ), GERMANY ABOUT 100 POWER PC'S

The hardware is located at the University of Paderborn and we are connected to it by telephone. Every Power PC is faster than a Pentium which in turn is twice as a fast as last year's best PC.

FRITZ3 (MORSCH), HOLLAND PENTIUM

This program won one of the strongest blitz tournaments of all time in Munich 1994. It numbered among its victims PCA World Champion Gary Kasparov, Nigel Short and Viswanathan Anand. Less-known is the result it achieved during a closed tournament in Bad Godesberg 1995: 5.5 out of 11 and a performance rating of 2452 which was good enough for an IM norm. Under normal tournament conditions.

Fritz3 also won a tournament highly regarded in the computer world at Wels, Austria. All these results were achieved with the identical hardware it is using here in the AEGON tournament.

R30 (DE KONING), HOLLAND RISC

The program and the hardware are identical to The King AEGON which almost won the AEGON 1993 with a performance rating of 2590. Last year this computer ended up second-best amongst its "colleagues."

GM Bronstein lost against the R30 last year, although from the human point of view this loss wasn't deserved.

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SCHACH 3.0 (ENGELBACH AND KREITMAIR), GERMANY PENTIUM

This program finished third in the open Dutch championship and won the international computer tournament in Paderborn. This is a different participant than the program of last year which had the same name but played a secondary role. This year's hardware is twice as fast as last year. Theoretically this means about an extra 80 Elo points.

MEPHISTO PC-BOARD ADVANCE (SCHRÖDER), HOLLAND PENTIUM

One of the latest programs of Ed Schröder. The PC is operated by moving the pieces on an adjoining chess board.

M-CHESS PRO (HIRSCH), USA PENTIUM

The predecessor (half as fast) of this program is listed on the Swedish rankings with a 2351 Elo. Due to the hardware difference, you can add 80 Elo points to this version.

CHESS GENIUS Y (LANG), ENGLAND PENTIUM

The earlier version of this program knocked Gary Kasparov out of the PCA rapid tournament in London in August 1994.

MEPHISTO GENIUS 68030 (LANG), ENGLAND 68030

A few years ago, this processor was the fastest we had. While this is no longer the case, it was good for a TPR of 2500 then and has clearly been improved since. It is obvious that Mephisto is a dangerous opponent for all the human participants.

KALLISTO (WESTRATE), HOLLAND PENTIUM

Little was heard from this computer after it obtained the unofficial blitz world championship title. During the 1994 Dutch championship it finished fourth. To be a top finisher in Holland is very promising, so we are very curious.

MEPHISTO MONTREUX (DE KONING), HOLLAND RISC

A dangerous tactician. Johan de Koning has mastered the material evaluation function. For non-computer fans this means that the program sacrifices material mostly based upon the gain of space or a lead in development.

MEPHISTO BERLIN 68020 (LANG), ENGLAND 68020

A sportscar among Formula One racing cars. Last year it managed a TPR of 2401.

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ZARKOV (STANBACK), USA PENTIUM

In the last round of last year's tournament this program deprived John Nunn of the half-point which he needed to be the clear victor. This program's TPR was 2305.

CHESSMASTER 4000 (DE KONING), HOLLAND POWER PC

This program scored a TPR of 2516 against six American grandmasters in the Harvard Cup.

SOCRATES (KAPLAN), USA PENTIUM

Scored a TPR of 2527 in the Harvard Cup with 2.5 out of 6 against American GMs.

CAMEL (BATCHERIKOV), RUSSIA PENTIUM

The Kurchatov Institute of Moscow is sending three programs to The Hague. To my knowledge, this is the first time that this program has played against humans under tournament conditions.

NIGHTMARE D (GELLNER), GERMANY PENTIUM

With a TPR of 2233 and 3.5 out of 6 in last year's tournament, this computer seems to be about master strength.

MIRAGE (RYBINKINE AND SHPEER), RUSSIA PENTIUM

The Kurchatov Institute also sends this program, along with its programmers who need to size up the human forces which allowed Mirage only 2 out of 6 last year. We warmly welcome our Russian friends.

CENTAUR (VIKHREV AND MANIAKHINE), RUSSIA PENTIUM

The third entry from the Kurchatov Institute. I have read that it can only evaluate a few positions per second. So, of course, I am very curious to see if that is true. During this event, we hopefully will learn more about this program since the programmers will be operating it themselves.

CHESSICA (MORSCH), HOLLAND PENTIUM

A program that looks very different than, but is still comparable with, Fritz3. The opening book has about 15,000 more positions, which broadens its repertoire.

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VIRTUA CHESS (BAUDOT AND WEILL), FRANCE PENTIUM

The successor to Ecume and Joker who scored respectively 3 and 4 out of 6 last year.

The hardware is twice as fast as last year's. The program's rating is expected to be above 2300.

SAITEK BRUTE FORCE (MORSCH), HOLLAND H8

This chip has scored above the 2100 TPR level in its games against humans. Contrary to its name, this program doesn't rely on the Brute Force Method but is purely selective.

CHECK CHECK (DELMARE AND KOHLFELD), GERMANY PENTIUM

Last year Check Check scored 3.5 out of 6 for a TPR of 2161.

SAITEK PRESIDENT (MORSCH), HOLLAND H8

Frans Morsch is considered a grandmaster among programmers because he is able to generate many Elo points in strength out of the smallest memories and relatively slow calculation.

DAPPET (DR. HARTMANN AND DR. KOUWENHOVEN), HOLLAND PENTIUM

Had a disappointing performance last year but it took revenge during the Dutch championship of 1994 by finishing fifth. It is one of the few programs that, when necessary, is able to swindle.

CHESS SYSTEM TAL (WHITTINGTON), ENGLAND PENTIUM Its predecessor scored a TPR of 2244 last year.

SAITEK GK 2100 (MORSCH), HOLLAND H8

An improved version of the Brute Force program.

PANDIX (G. AND Z. HORVATH), HUNGARY PENTIUM

Finished sixth in the World Championship in Munich 1993. Last year it scored 2.5 out of 6 in this tournament, good enough for a tournament performance rating of 1931. With its current hardware, it is probably 80 Elo points stronger. Last February, Pandix played a tournament against humans in Hungary and scored 5.5 out of 9 (2155 Elo). We are curious to find out what else the Hungarians have in store.

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NIGHTMARE N (BUYS AND GOLDHOORN), HOLLAND PENTIUM

An amateur program that finished sixth in the Dutch championship although the hardware used then was less powerful than this promises to be. The programmers have worked hard to make the Nightmare's debut a successful one.

NOVAG SAPHIRE (KITTINGER), USA H8

Saphire looks like a simple pocket calculator but don't underestimate it. Dave Kittinger is challenging Frans Morsch in conjuring strength with little memory and calculation power.

NOW (LEFLER), USA PENTIUM

An American amateur program. It has been playing in several computer tournaments with mixed results.

GANDALF (SUURBALLE), DENMARK PENTIUM

Had a tournament performance rating of 2040 last year. The improvements in hardware and the program should gain the computer at least 100 Elo points.

L-CHESS (LOEP), HOLLAND PENTIUM

Better hardware and program will bring the 2200 Elo level in sight. Last year L-Chess achieved a TPR of 2068 (3 out of 6).

ARTHUR (RAVENEK), HOLLAND PENTIUM

Amateur program. Arthur scored 5 out 11 in the 1994 Dutch Championship.

HECTOR 2 (BULTS), HOLLAND PENTIUM

Also an amateur program which finished ahead of Arthur with 6 out of 11 during the Dutch championship.

ANANSE (BANNERMAN), SWITZERLAND PENTIUM

Scored an unfortunate only 2 out of 6 in the last AEGON tournament since Walter Bannerman wasn't able to work on his program due to illness.

SCHAAKMEESTER 2.0 (LOEP), HOLLAND PENTIUM

A more commercialized and mature version of L-Chess.

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BIONIC (SECELLE), BELGIUM PENTIUM

Hans Secelle participated in the Dutch championship with Bionic and scored 3 out of 11. Since then, the program has been written in a faster language and programmers' mistakes have been deleted but as is so often the case, new ones may have appeared. We know, however, that the balance will be positive. And what does the name "Bionic" mean? Believe it or not, it's Checkmate.

CAPTURE (RENARD), FRANCE PENTIUM

Only some results are known for this program though the hardware hardly gives a fair representation. The results can be judged on the formula: Doubling the speed = 80 Elo points. In that case, the program will have about a 2000 Elo rating. Sylvain Renard is an amateur programmer who hasn't participated in major tournaments before.

ISICHESS (ISENBERG), GERMANY PENTIUM

Had a tournament performance rating of 2000 last year it its first appearance at AEGON. Not bad for a beginner in an international tournament. Now present for the second time, Gerd Isenberg is looking for a bigger success.

DIOGENES (BURWITZ), GERMANY PENTIUM

An amateur program that scored 3.5 out of 7 in the big computer tournament in Paderborn.

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<u>2014,%20Rob%20van%20Son,%20Reviewing%20the%2010th%20Aegon%20Computer%20Chess%20Tournament%20(1995!).pdf</u>

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