Pennsylvania State Championship, Pittsburgh, July 24, 1988.
White: IM Formanek (2485)
Black: Hitech (2385)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0-0 Nxe4 6. d4 b5 7. Bb3 d5 8. Nxe5 Nxe5 9. dxe5 c6 10. Nd2 Nc5 11. Nf3 Be7 12. c3 Nxb3 13. axb3 0-0 14. Nd4 Bd7 15. b4 a5 16. Rxa5 Rxa5 17. bxa5 Qxa5 18. b4 Qa2 19. Be3 Qc4 20. Qa1 c5 21. bxc5 Bxc5 22. h3 Re8 23. Nf3 Bxe3 24 fxe3 Qc5 25. Qe1 Rc8 26. Qf2 Be8 27. Nd4 Qxc3 28. Nxb5 Qxe5 29. Nd4 Rc3 30. Re1 Bd7 31. Qf3 Bc8 32. Kf2 f6 33. Ra1 Bb7 34. Rb1 Rc7 35. Rb6 Kf7 36. Re6 Qg5 37. Qg3 Rc2+ 38. Nxc2 Qxg3+ 39. Kxg3 Kxe6 40. Nd4+ Ke5 41. Kf3 h5 42. h4 g5 43. g3 Bc8 44. Nc6+ Kd6 45. Nd4 Bg4+ 46. Kf2 Ke5 47. Nb5 Bd7 48. Nd4 Ke4 49. Nc2 Bb5 50. Nd4 Ba6 51. Ne6 Bc8 52. Nd4 Bd7 53. Nc2 gxh4 54. gxh4 Bg4 55. Nd4 f5 56. Ne6 f4 57. Nc5+ Kf5 58. Nd3 d4 59. exd4 Ke4 60. Ne5 Kxd4 61. Nf7 Be6 62. Ng5 Bd5 63. Nh3 Ke4 64. Ng1 Kf5 65. Ne2 Kg4 66. Kg1 f3 67. Nc3 Bc6 68. Kf2 Kxh4 69. Nd1 Kg4 70. Ne3+ Kf4 71. Nf1 h4 72. Nh2 h3 73. Nf1 Bb5 74. Ng3 h2 75. Nh5+ Kg4 76. Ng3 Bf1 White Resigns.

BONA FIDE?

ICCA Communication

by David Welsh

As a service to our readers, we are glad to republish an *extract* from the *Transactions of the United States Chess Federation Computer Chess Committee*, Vol. 5, No. 1, May 10, 1988.
The republication has been prompted by its relevance to the vexed question whether and to what extent computer programs are chess-players under FIDE rules.

"Recent successes by HITECH have raised its performance rating to the 2400 Elo level and would make the program eligible for a FIDE rating, except that FIDE does not recognize chess programs as "players". The following letter from Prof. Lim Kok-Ann of FIDE answered a USCF inquiry:

[address and saluting formulae]

1. [...]. There is no official FIDE policy on rating of computers. The following is my interpretation of what is implied by FIDE regulations.

2. The principles of the FIDE rating system is described in Reg. 3.0, B.01 of the Handbook, "Measurement of Over-the-Board Play." Reference is made there to the performance of "players", a term that implied *human* players. It is a moot point if machines can "play".

3. According to my understanding, a computer cannot be a player, in fact a game "played by a computer is a game played by a human with the assistance of a machine programmed to do so. The Laws of Chess specifically prohibits in Section 15.1(a), the use of "handwritten, printed or otherwise recorded matter, or to analyze the game on another chess-board." This rules out the use of a computer whether the player himself is at the chessboard or places there a remote-controlled machine.

4. The application of the FIDE rating system to games played in violation of the Laws of Chess is therefore meaningless. Please do not include in your rating reports any results obtained with the assistance of computers.

5. The technical skill involved in programming chess computers is of course of great interest, similar to the interest evoked by the construction of flying machines [!Eds]. FIDE has a Commission on Chess

Computers which has recommended that a team, or should we say, a battery, of computers be permitted to take part in the Olympiad."

"On being advised by Hans Berliner of this situation, [David Welsh] wrote:

To Policy Board:

At the present time FIDE declines to rate computer chess programs. I would like to draw your attention to this situation. In the past this has not been a problem worth discussing, because programs were not good enough to compete in International events. Recently, the best U.S. programs have demonstrated playing strength approaching the 2400 level [...] and have shown the ability to play creditably against masters. Whether Hitech or any other program could now compete successfully in International events is debatable, but certainly this capability is not very far in the future. Great strides have been made recently in the development of chess-specific computers.

The rights of USCF Computer Members do not include FIDE competitions, thus USCF is in no way obligated to act. But would it not be a very good thing for chess if computer programs were allowed to play, and gain FIDE ratings, in some (perhaps carefully selected) International tournaments? (At present it is unclear whether a program is actually prohibited from competing in International events, but a refusal to rate it would have the same effect as it would lower the event classification.)
One benefit would be an interest in sponsoring such events on the part of the computer manufacturers. I do not know any professional player who thinks we have enough good tournaments or enough prize money offered. Another benefit would be increased public interest in chess tournaments - awareness of computer chess is very high in some parts of Europe (Sweden and the Netherlands, for example). This factor would, I am certain, create significant additional competitive opportunities for top players.

As the strength of chess programs increases, FIDE must come to grips, like it or not, with the problem of their participation in FIDE events. If FIDE ignores computer chess, I predict that within twenty years, perhaps within ten, there will be an unsanctioned challenge to the (human) World Champion from a computer program, for the absolute World Chess Championship. A likely scenario: a FIDE decision that participation in such a match would cost the champion his title, and a subsequent proclamation by the program's sponsors that the program was now absolute World Chess Champion by default. The ensuing controversy would only be resolved by a match.

As the U.S. now has the most progressive federation in its attitude toward computer chess, and is also the leader in computer chess research, it seems appropriate for USCF to take the lead here and try to give FIDE some constructive input."