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ON EQUAL FOOTING

Other days, other ways. Five years ago, in 1997, DEEP BLUE defeated World Champion Kasparov by 3.5 to 2.5. For a long time, it was believed that this event only would mark a single isolated point of success in the range of contests between human World Champions and computer programs. Within the human chess world there were many people who thought that this outcome was an exception, a small mistake made by the thinking process of the World Champion and a fortunate result for the computer. Insiders knew better. They were sure that the victory was only a milestone to be followed soon by other milestones. However, we had to wait five years before a new match of this calibre was played. In October 2002 it happened and in this issue of the Journal we report on a second milestone: DEEP FRITZ played in Bahrain (thus called FRITZ BAHRAIN) on equal footing with the current World Champion Vladimir Kramnik. Our congratulations to ChessBase and in particular to Frans Morsch, Mathias Feist and Alexander Kure. Another milestone is the publication of three excellent contributions on Go, which make this issue a special issue. The Editor thanks Ken Chen for his effort to compose the scientific part of this issue and to tell us about “The Way to Go”. We wish the go world much success with the progress in playing strength and hope to see them in the 8th Computer Olympiad and in the 10th Advances in Computer Games Conference in Graz, Austria in November 2002.

Jaap van den Herik