

The fifth Computer Olympiad (Alexandra Palace, London, August 21-25, 2000)

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NEWS, INFORMATION, TOURNAMENTS, AND REPORTS

THE FIFTH COMPUTER OLYMPIAD

**Alexandra Palace, London
August 21-25, 2000**

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The fifth Computer Olympiad was held in the framework of the Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO). Both Olympiads are David Levy's brainchildren. In 2000, it was the first time that they were combined and - I am happy to state - it was a great success. The concept of the Computer Olympiad was developed in the late 1980s. In 1989 the first Computer Olympiad took place at the Park Lane Hotel in London. There was a tough competition in sixteen different kinds of games. For one game it was the first and last competition. After the Olympiad Connect-Four was removed from the list since it was solved by Victor Allis (and James Allen). The second Computer Olympiad was again in London, in 1990, with fourteen different game competitions. The series continued in Maastricht in 1991 with thirteen competitions and in London in 1992 with again thirteen competitions. (The list of games was different from the one of 1991.) Then the event collapsed. It was felt by many as a real miss for the games community (see also the Editorial).

Meanwhile, David Levy was stimulating a much broader concept, i.e., the Minds Sports Olympiad. The MSO was a great success too, until this spring saw a drifting apart of the two organizers, David Levy and Raymond Keene. Without diving into details, we may conclude that David Levy with the help of many has succeeded to continue the MSO and even to enrich this event by incorporating the fifth Computer Olympiad. An important part of the Olympiad was, of course, the chess tournament. It was given the special status of being the 17th World Microcomputer Chess Championship (WMCC 2000).

Moreover, four new games entered the Computer Olympiad: Amazons, Hex, Lines of Action, and Shogi. The next pages report on the seven distinct competitions of which I would like to congratulate the gold-medal winners (in the order of the reports published below) with their success: SHREDDER (Stefan Meyer-Kahlen, Chess), MARVIN (Thomas Lincke, Awari), GOEMATE (Zhixing Chen, Go), YL (Yngvi Björnsson, Lines of Action), 8QP (Johan de Koning, Amazons), HEXY (Vadim Anshelevich, Hex), YSS (Hiroshi Yamashita, Shogi).



Photo by Johanna Hellemons.

SHREDDER READY FOR THE TOP? Zibi Franck (r) congratulates Stefan Meyer-Kahlen (m) with his 2000 World Microcomputer Chess Championship. Ossi Weiner obviously enjoyed the victory. London, August 25, 2000.

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