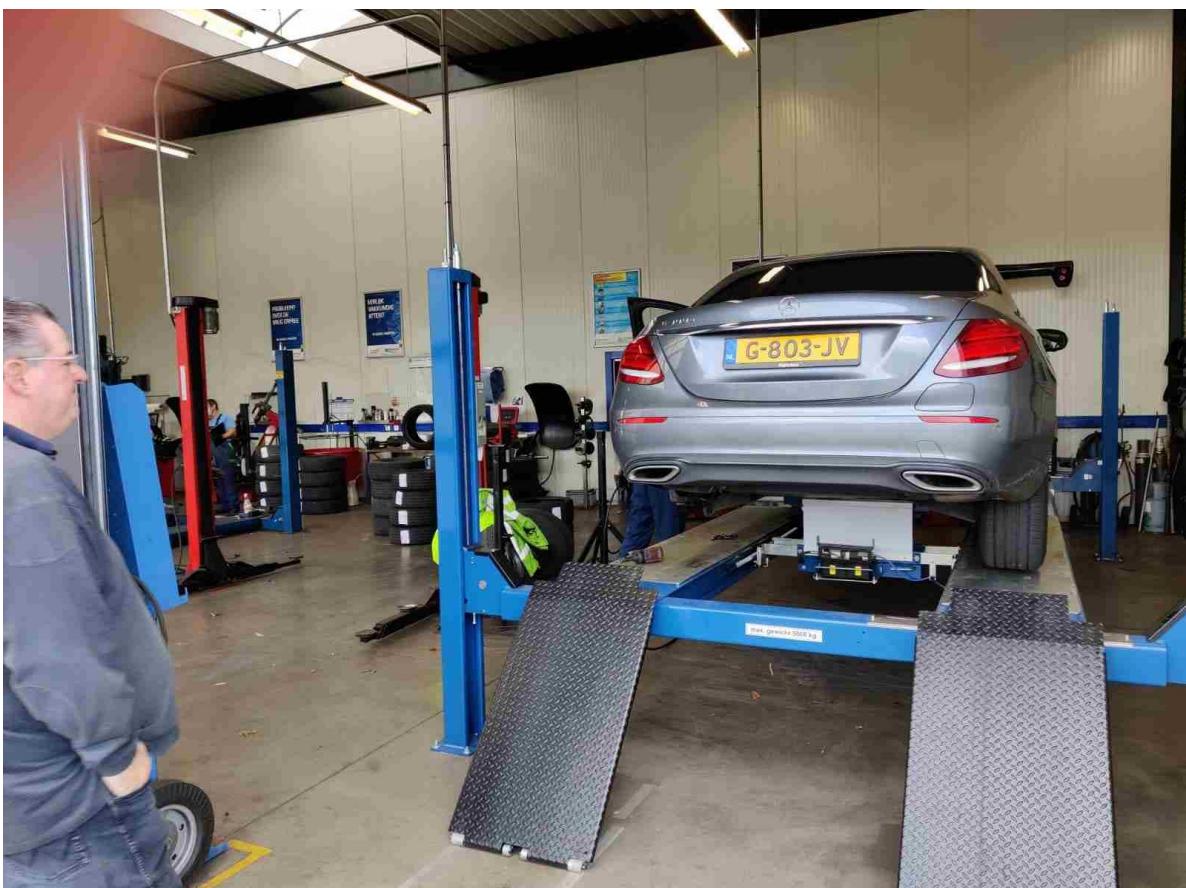


## No tournament but corona..., but we are still going to Kaufbeuren!

Why go to Kaufbeuren this year? There is no chess tournament, and the corona virus is lurking everywhere. Moreover, a SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) test was compulsory for Dutch people who wanted to visit Germany. So you had to have a document with you, which was not older than 48 hours and which showed that you were tested negative. You received this against a payment of € 150,--. All these obstacles made us decide to travel anyway. If only to encourage Alwin Gruber after the death of Kurt Kispert. Thursday October 22nd the two of us left, but Ruud already had a deflated car tyre on his way to me, so I immediately visited the tyre dealer, the Euromaster in Tilburg. Ruud didn't have any peace of mind because the leakage was in a nasty spot, just on the side and just on the tread. In Venlo he visited the Euromaster again, because his tyre kept deflating. For a moment Ruud thought he had to leave his car there and overload all the luggage in my car. But Ruud was a bit lucky, because he got a new tyre so he could get on with his car. A total delay of a few hours, so a very long drive awaited us. Around 19:30 we arrived in Kaufbeuren reasonably tired but satisfied. And if you are broken after all, we had dinner with a nice beer. After that some 'Blitzen', and because of the corona regulations the lights went out in the hotel at 22:00. That was a good thing, because our bed was the only thing we were still thinking about.



First in Tilburg, and now here in Venlo, Ruud Martin's car is on the bridge. According to Ruud, his extra thick rear tyres are quite rare, but with some luck Euromaster was able to quickly pick up and fit a new tyre via fast transport.



It really is a waste of time with Ruud's luggage. Only now do I understand why we are friends. After driving about 750 km, we are in Kaufbeuren. The next morning we unpacked, because we were also going to visit Millennium in Munich. We did that with my new car. On the way Ruud connected my smartphone to the car. It was so easy, because now I could call him hands-free on the road. Ruud also made my music sound better by optimising it. Ruudje... thank you!

## Visiting Millennium

On Friday morning we drove in my car to Millennium in Munich. We had an appointment with Thomas Karkosch and Ossi Weiner for a business lunch in a very nice hotel. I had never driven in such a big city before. And that also straight through the centre with navigation. Actually, I didn't have enough eyes and ears to drive safely through the busy traffic. Before you know it you miss the right exit with all the consequences. That's why I asked Ruud to keep an eye on me. We had all the traffic lights against us, and we couldn't make our planned appointment. In the end, we arrived at the hotel with a slight delay. It was an experience in itself for me to be able to be there. After all these years, Ossi is still very adept at computer chess. This time, of course, it was a joint project between Ruud, Phoenix Chess Systems, and Millennium. Ossi knows quite a lot, but Thomas often had to call him to order. Ruud also had to explain some technical matters to Ossi about the development of a new (high-end) chess computer with many emulations that should be on the market at the end of next year. So I know what will come, but I have agreed on a duty of silence. It is as simple as that.



I remember the trip to Richard Lang in early 2018, which was unforgettable. But this business meeting is of a different order, and in itself another experience to be enjoyed! So, as a historian, let's look forward instead of backward!

Friday evening we will meet our 'first participants' of Kaufbeuren 2020. A new face was Marcus Kästner with his charming girlfriend. He didn't know who I was yet, but of course that soon became clear. Volker Lehnert was also present. He praised my online database and in passing I received an invitation to take a look at his collection. Moreover, he showed me some beautiful pictures of the VEB Mikroelektronik Chess-Master Schachtisch. I was impressed by those beautiful pictures! He would send them to me with the necessary extra new information to expand my item. Wolfgang Spiekermann was also present. Always a very quiet person who likes to observe all things from a distance.



I got to know Volker Lehnert from a completely different side this year. He has an overview of no less than 1100 different chess computers in his personal file. So that really includes everything, including prototypes! It was nice to hear that he consulted my database many times.



Volker Lehnert, Alwin Gruber and Marcus Kästner.



**Volker Lehnert.** Talk to him and you'll be impressed by yourself of his very general and extensive knowledge of chess computers!

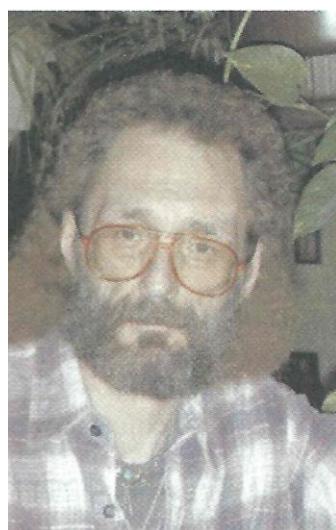


**Alwin Gruber, Marcus Kästner and Wolfgang Spiekermann.**  
Three very different personalities who get along just fine!



A newcomer to Kaufbeuren was Marcus Kästner here in the middle with the green jumper. After the death of his good friend Detlef (Elvis) Pordzik, he turned his back on computer chess for at least 15 years. But the blood is crawling where it can't go, so he's back! What a pleasant person he is. Welcome back Marcus, and how happy I am to get to know you personally!

Marcus Kästner: [https://www.chessprogramming.org/Marcus\\_K%C3%A4stner](https://www.chessprogramming.org/Marcus_K%C3%A4stner)



Detlef (Elvis) Pordzik  
[https://www.chessprogramming.org/Detlef\\_Pordzik](https://www.chessprogramming.org/Detlef_Pordzik)

Detlef Pordzik (1998) – Weihnachtszeit: Brettcomputerzeit  
[http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/hein\\_veldhuis/database/files/12-1998,%20Detlef%20Pordzik,%20Weihnachtszeit,%20Brettcomputerzeit.pdf](http://www.schaakcomputers.nl/hein_veldhuis/database/files/12-1998,%20Detlef%20Pordzik,%20Weihnachtszeit,%20Brettcomputerzeit.pdf)

# ChessBits

*Das kompetente Magazin rund um Schach mit dem Computer*

## DAS DUELL: Wer ist besser?



## Vergleichstest Fritz gegen MCS

mit allen TOP-Engines: Shredder 3 WChess 2000 Nimzo 2000 Zarkov 5  
gegen  
Fritz 5.32 Junior 5 Hiarcs 6 Nimzo 99/2

### Weitere Themen dieser Ausgabe:

- Diverse Wettkämpfe Mensch gegen Maschine
- Ausführlicher Bericht zum Computerschachturnier in Aufsess
- Interview mit Dieter Friedrich und Stefan Meyer-Kahlen (Shredder 3)
- Historische Abhandlung: Die Geschichte des Computerschach
- Aus alter Zeit: Die Fidelities
- Nachrichten, Informationen, Tips, Ranglisten, usw.

**Do you remember this journal? It appeared with 21 magazines from 1999 up to and including 2003. And do you remember who was in the editorial board?**

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## EDITORIAL

Lieber Schachfreund !

Sie halten gerade die erste Ausgabe von Chess-Bits, dem neuen Magazin rund um das Computerschach in Händen. Wir haben uns zum Ziel gesetzt völlig unabhängig und wertneutral über alles zu berichten was mit dem Thema Schach und Computer zu tun hat. Testberichte, Turnierberichte, Nachrichten, Entwicklungen, Trends und nicht zuletzt die Neuigkeiten aus der „Szene“ wollen wir regelmäßig zu Papier bringen. Nicht nur Zahlenkolonnen sondern vor allem Kommentare, Analysen und die „Menschen“ die dahinter stehen möchten wir präsentieren. Aber auch die alten Brettgeräte liegen uns am Herzen, aus einer Zeit, die (leider) unwiederbringlich vorüber ist.

Schach mit dem Computer ist ein faszinierendes Hobby. Jeden Tag gibt es etwas zu „erforschen“. Sei es um mit Hilfe des Computers Theorie zu „pauken“, sei es um das praktische Spiel zu trainieren, sei es um seine eigenen oder fremde Partien mit Computerhilfe zu analysieren, sei es um seine Fernpartien nach taktischen Fehlern abzusichern, Ideen auszuprobiieren und Zeit zu sparen, sei es eine große Datenbank anzulegen und zu pflegen, sei es um sich in das Programm und dessen „Logik“ zu vertiefen, oder sei es einfach nur um bei einem Glas Bier zuzusehen wie das eigene Programm den Rechner des Bekannten gerade in den Schwitzkasten nimmt. Wie auch immer, Spaß macht's allemal das unergründliche königliche Spiel mit dem Computer zu erforschen.

Nichtsdestotrotz ist die Gemeinde der Computerschachfreunde nicht besonders groß, so daß diese Zeitschrift nur in relativ kleiner Auflage aufgelegt werden kann, was sich zwangsläufig im Verkaufspreis bemerkbar machen muß. Ich bin aber der Meinung, daß wir für DM 15,- einen reellen Gegenwert bieten, und Informationen liefern die Sie anderweitig mit Sicherheit nicht bekommen werden.

Ich möchte Sie an dieser Stelle auffordern uns Ihre Meinungen und Erfahrungen zu schreiben und aktiv dieses Magazin mitzugestalten. Wir sind für jeden Leserbeitrag dankbar, denn von dem Kontakt mit den Lesern lebt nun einmal ein Medium wie dieses.

In diesem Sinne wünsche ich Ihnen viel Spaß bei der Lektüre der ersten Ausgabe und würde mich freuen Sie auch beim nächsten Mal wieder begrüßen zu dürfen.

Herzlichst, Ihr



Marcus Kästner

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So it was Marcus Kästner who was responsible for the content!

It gave him a lot of stress to get every new edition to the printer on time.



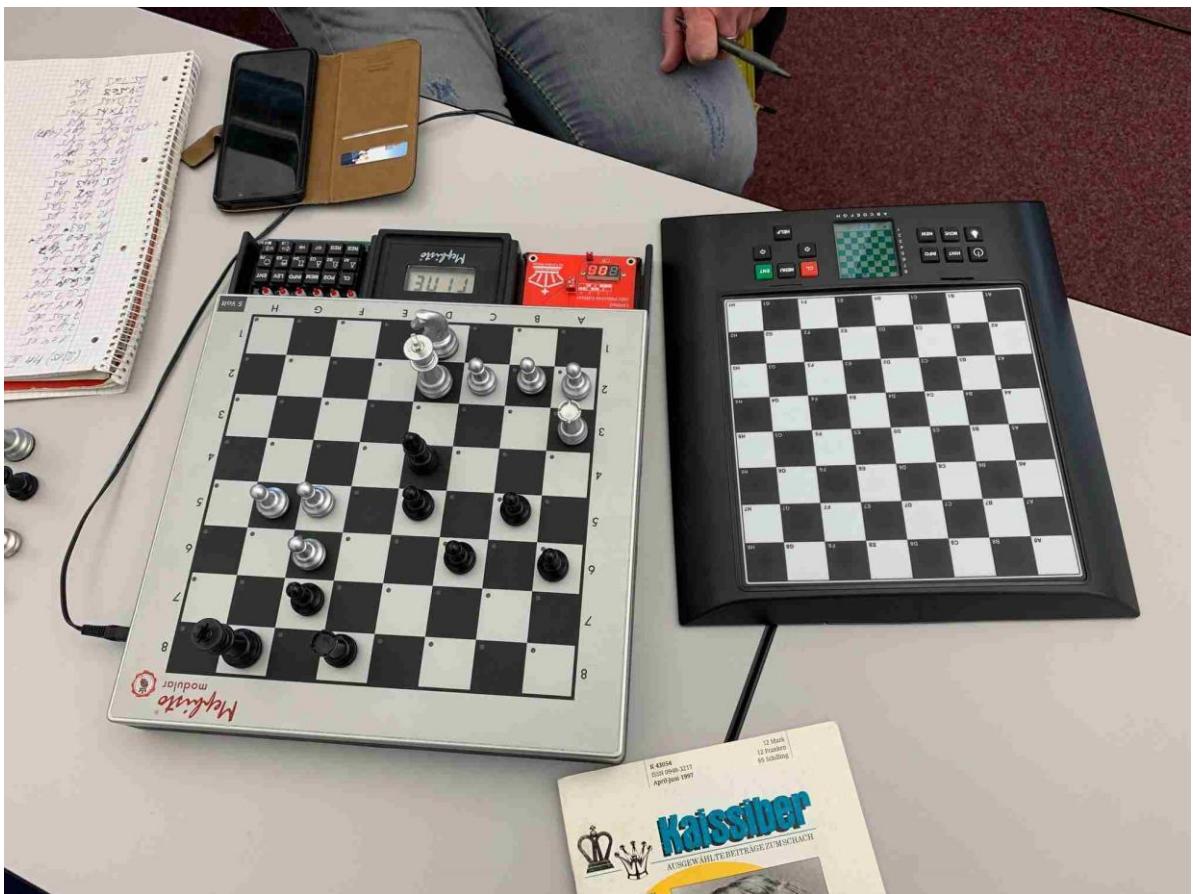
Marcus Kästner receives some explanation from Ruud Martin about his newly acquired Reflection module.



There is no need for a computer chess tournament. We decide for ourselves what we will do! Marcus Kästner is testing his latest acquisition, Ruud Martin's Reflection module against his Fidelity V11 72 MHz. Alwin was impressed and had some Bednorz-Tönissen test setups examined via his smartphone.



A tournament is not really necessary to have a nice weekend...



How do you do that then? You take 2 computers with you and let them against play chess with each other, while others ask questions about what you have brought with you.



Here in the middle, the smiling Udo Helscher  
with his latest Mephisto MM IV and MM V project.



Udo Helscher talks to Ruud Martin about his latest project.

I also got to know Udo better in person.

Actually, it is a teddy bear that is far too heavily built!



Limited Udo Helscher Edition! Nice to see that every chess computer freak (in the good sense of the word) is in his own way engaged in his hobby.





We all know the Fidelity Chess Challenger Voice. When you start up the German Voice you will hear the following robot voice: "Hallo, ich bin der Chess Challenger von Fidelity, Ihr elektronischer Schachfreund. Wählen Sie Ihre Spielstärke."

As a parody to this well-known statement, Alwin Gruber came up with the following text, which he entered on his smartphone like a robot in the concrete fire corridor of the hotel: "ICH BIN DER RUUD MARTIN VON PHOENIX CHESS SYSTEMS, WÄHLEN SIE IHRE EMULATION." Back in the playroom we were all double laughing! It was a perfect recording, and Ruud went straight to work with this recorded text, to program this 'computer voice' to his Revelation chess computer.



Ruud at work to upgrade my Revelation II to Revelation II AE.  
Well, get the old processor out and soon the new one in.



Ruud in his element. The implementation of an upgrade is accurate work.



Certainly also when speakers have to be built into the Revelation II AE for the emulation of the robot voice of the Novag Robot Adversary.



Ruud 'alkoholfrei' und ich 'Weißbier mit Alkohol', aber beide ohne Mundmaske!



Nice blitz chess with Ruud. That wasn't easy because it's all about who makes the fewest blunders. Honest or not, but it was 10-7 for me. 😊

## **Back home...**

On Sunday morning we both drove away from Kaufbeuren at 7:00 a.m. with a full tank of petrol, in the direction of Kempten to take the motorway. We seldom came across other cars this way at the early hour. Speeds quickly rose to between 230 and 250 km. per hour! At one point Ruud drove at his maximum speed. That was 254 km. per hour. His Mercedes e300e could have gone faster, Ruud said, if it hadn't been limited. I drove after Ruud as much as I could according to the agreement. On an empty stretch of motorway we both got to the bottom. Ruud on the left half and I finally on the right half. At one point my Cupra indicated 260 km. per hour and I had some feeling left over. For safety's sake, I only drove this speed for a moment, but it did give me a powerful feeling!



Ruud even dared to take a picture at 253 km. per hour!



Aah... Ruud also secretly took a picture of my car.

## **The fuel consumption of my Cupra Ateca...**

A total of 47 litres of petrol consumed in exactly the first 100 minutes! My consumption was 18.4 litres per 100 kilometres. The Mercedes e300e from Ruud consumed 14.0 litres per 100 kilometres. At 14:45 I was at home in Tilburg and had driven about 750 km. in about 6.5 hours. Average speed including the 3 breaks was 115 km. per hour. My fuel costs of this very fast ride home are about € 165,--. Ruud and I really enjoyed our drive together, because it was an unforgettable experience in itself to have 'no more waiting times' along the way. This car journey gave us great pleasure, which I hope to see again.

**Your reporter: Hein Veldhuis from Tilburg**