

YOU'RE ALL TOO FLIPPIN' GOOD!

IT'S all over! The world's greatest dolphin race is FINISHED after hundreds of you cracked Ecco in just TWO weeks. Sega bosses were stunned last night after we told them that you lot had beaten all 25 tough levels. A spokesman told us: "We reckoned it would take about THREE months. Our experts in the UK haven't cracked it yet - perhaps we should employ your readers instead. Well done to all those who have finished, it's an amazing effort." The big question is, Who gets £1,000 worth of Mega Drive games?

We put all the winners into a hat and first out was - wait for it - Martyn Prince of Penenden Heath, Maldstone, Kent. Congrats Martyn, we'll be in touch!

The next five all get a personalised Ecco Mega Drive plus a game, T-shirt, cuddly toy dolphin, music tape and a book. They are: James Hamilton, of South Warnborough, Basingstoke, Hants; Mrs J. Wright of Waterlooville, Hants; Kelvin Cannon, of Latchford, Warrington, Cheshire. Mr T. Butler, of Thornhill, Southampton. Mr C.T. Gibson, of Lancaster.

There's a soopa doopa Ecco T-shirt and a cuddly toy dolphin for the following ten runners-up: Carl Brain, of Barton Hill, Bristol; Simon Andrew of Lydney, Glouce; Alan Fox of Pinner, Middlesex; Mr R.C. Runciman of Fleur-De-Lys, Blackwood, Gwent; R.M. Aubin of Okehampton, Devon; Ian McPhee of Kirkcaldy, Fife; G.A. Batchelor, of Norwich; Steven Carr of Millfield, Sunderland; Mark Darley of Gooite, North Humberside; Alan Brundson of Tooting, South London.

The next ten runners up get a soopa doopa T-shirt: John Morgan of Velindre, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan; Paul Venkatesh, Harlow, Essex; J.C. Harrison of Netherly, Liverpool; I. Whitehouse, of Great Barr, Birmingham; Michael Corbett of Solihull, West Midlands; N. Mannerings, 21, of Blcester, Oxon; Neil Fraser of Ribbleson, Preston; Antony Wilder of Mayfield Dalketh, Midlothian; Andrew Hooper, St. Anne's-On-Sea, Lancs; Mark Good of Langford, Beds. Flippin' well done, the lot of you. We'll be in touch.



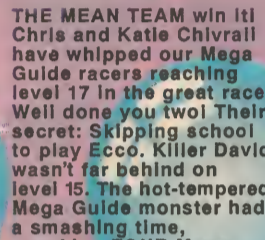
Chris... level 17



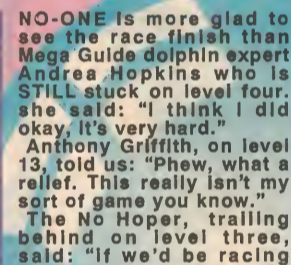
Katie... level 17



David... level 15



OFF THE HOOK



Andrea... level four



Anthony... level 13

NO-ONE is more glad to see the race finish than Mega Guide dolphin expert Andrea Hopkins who is STILL stuck on level four. She said: "I think I did okay, it's very hard." Anthony Griffith, on level 13, told us: "Phew, what a relief. This really isn't my sort of game you know." The No Hoper, trailing behind on level three, said: "If we'd be racing through Mario I would have thrashed everyone."

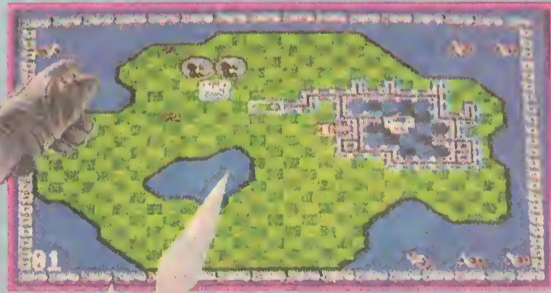


Ecco... greatest sea race ever

DOLPHIN STAKES

BORED STUPID? YOU WILL BE!

THE ads say Rampart will take you back to medieval times. So this is what computer games were like in the Dark Ages...



RAMPART on the MASTER SYSTEM

BUILD a castle, place your cannons and survive the onslaught of ships and soldiers that want to get their grubby mitts on your land. At the end of each battle it's time to rebuild your castle with a selection of shaped pieces of wall. Fill in all the gaps blown in your wall by the enemy, who, if they had been alive today would have made good Millwall fans. If you don't rebuild in time you lose the war. But graphics are hopeless and play is worse. The only real fun comes when you try the two player game with a mate. Blast him to oblivion with wise placing of cannons and double strength front walls. Only die-hard strategy fans with mates of a similar disposition should risk buying this. By Sega, £29.99. SCORE DUDE SAYS: Avoid it like the plague.

SPEEDBALL 2 is a cross between gridiron, soccer and World War Three. Two teams of nine players face each other in an arena where rules mean nothing, and you're nothing if you ain't mean.

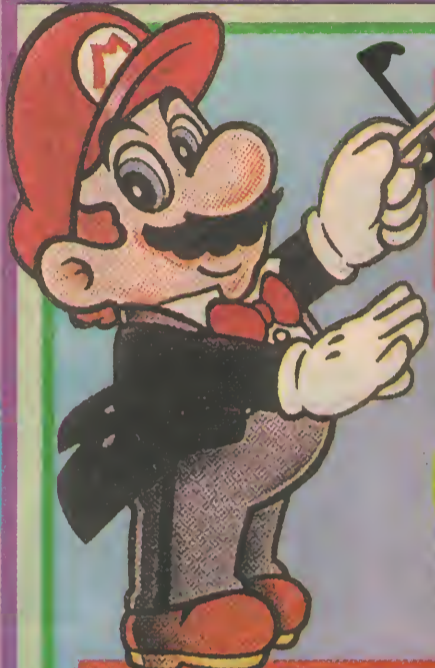
Players have their own strengths like aggression, speed, power, stamina, intelligence. You need a good blend, as you don't want nine well 'ard players sharing one brain cell between them. Power ups improve the ability of individual players. The two-player option is FAB. This lightning fast game is not for the faint hearted but it's great fun that will keep its appeal for a long time. One of the best Master System games about. By Sega, £29.99.

SCORE DUDE SAYS: Violent and fast, the formula for a perfect game. (Ed's note: Rumours that Sega are bringing out a Woodball version for the No Hoper are untrue.)

SPEEDBALL 2, MASTER SYSTEM VICTORY ROLLING

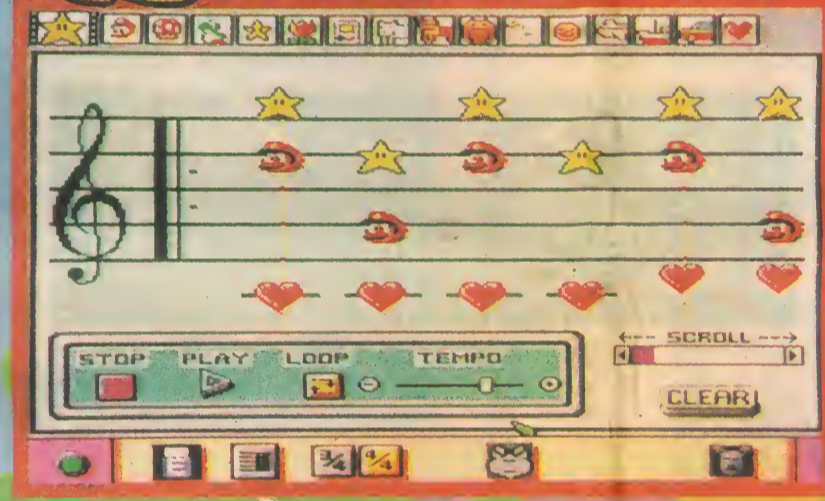
MEGA GUIDE

If you want to contact us, write (don't phone!) to Mega Guide, The Sun, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XP.



MARIO PAINT, SUPER NINTENDO

HAS the recession even hit Mario? The lovable plumber from Brooklyn is obviously having to take any work he can get these days. First he was saving princesses and solving puzzles, then he turned his hand to a bit of Kart racing. Now he's painting and creating music in his latest role. Mario Paint costs sixty quid which may sound a bit pricey but you do get a mouse as part of the package. There's no plans as yet to launch the mouse as a separate product, but Nintendo say future projects could make use of it. To paint you select the colours, shapes and characters you require with the mouse from the selection of icons available at the top and bottom of the screen. It is possible to create some excellent pictures, but I'm afraid that my abilities were shown up and half my pictures looked like something the cat had thrown up. There's a couple of drawbacks, you can only save one picture at a time for starters. The worst thing though is that you can't print your pictures as there is no printer for the SNES (and none planned for the future either, I'm afraid).



It says in the instruction book that you can record your creations on video which is quite a good idea, but you can't proudly hang a video tape on your wall, can you? Despite these obvious drawbacks Mario Paint is still a great cart to have and is very original in these days of shoot-em-ups and blast-ems. It is perfect for all the family, youngsters will benefit a lot from its educational value and I think this is the game's strongest point. Highly recommended for people who want a cart that all the family can use. By Nintendo, £59.99.



SCORE DUDE SAYS

I'm afraid I'm at odds with the reviewer on this one, so I have asked for more space for my wise comments. MARIO Paint is fun to mess about with for a while but anyone who pays sixty quid for it is COMPLETELY BOKERS. The cartridge has a MASSIVE problem and there is no way of getting around it. You cannot print your pictures so all you can do is look at them on screen. Worse, you can only save them one at a time so you can't even keep them in the hope that a printer will one day become available for the Super NES. Worse still, the game is TWENTY quid more than most games (which are overpriced themselves). Nintendo say this is because you get a mouse with the cart. Big deal. You can't use it with any other game. My advice is that if you want a mouse that badly, put some cheese down. And if you want to do some drawing, go out and buy yourself a set of crayons.

Edited by MARK GREGORY

STREETS of Rage II is still knocking seven bells out of all its rivals. Super Mario Kart creeps back towards the top spot. Here's the full low-down on the console showdown:

- 1 STREETS OF RAGE II (MEGA DRIVE)
- 2 SUPER MARIO KART (SUPER NES)
- 3 ROAD RASH II (MEGA DRIVE)
- 4 ECCO (MEGA DRIVE)
- 5 SONIC 2 (MEGA DRIVE)
- 6 SONIC 2 (MASTER SYSTEM)
- 7 MICKEY AND DONALD (MEGA DRIVE)
- 8 SONIC 2 (GAME GEAR)
- 9 SUPER MARIO LAND 2 (GAME BOY)
- 10 DESERT STRIKE (MEGA DRIVE)

Nintendo NO-HOPER

By STEVE READ Sun System Editor



Well done Ecco winners. I got nowhere but my quest continues, thanks to my growing army of supporters out there!

Here's a nice one from JAMES CLARK of MAIDSTONE, KENT that proves I am not the world's biggest No-Hoper: My cheat for Ecco is ARNXXAT ... but there is a snag, I don't know what it does!

Well James, you've found the password for one of the levels ... and cheated yourself out of playing a good half of the game. Here's a great letter from RICKY BAMBER, of BASILDON, ESSEX:

This is a code or password for Ecco Level 22: VGDROSOH.

And here's a cheat for Ecco to make him immortal.

Go to the password screen, enter a password. Now go to the start screen, press at the same time Start and A, hold them down. The game will then start but will be paused.

Release A (keeping Start down), now unpause using the Start button. Ecco will now be immortal, even after your life squares go.

P.S. You are the best bloke ever and there is always hope so you aren't a No-Hoper. Cheers, Ricky.

THE CHEAT

YOU dirty rotten cheats, what are you reading this column for, have you no principal? Aren't you told cheats never prosper? Well, they do - so read on. I've got some FAB cheats below, sent in by my loyal army of tricksters. Next week I'm gonna spill the beans on Ecco The Dolphin, so if you're having trouble make sure you read the Mega Guide, only in The Sun.

MEGA DRIVE

EUROPEAN CLUB SOCCER: Enter the password THREE SHREDDED WHEAT into the password area.

Each word should be placed on a new line. Now when the game is played the players have a Pele Kick. They can kick the ball at great speed and score goals from long range. To use the kick simply do a hard kick as it says in the instructions, now it should be much harder.

MASTER SYSTEM

MARBLE MADNESS: Go to the options screen and set the following. TEST FX 2 and TEST MUSIC 5. The player may now move the cursor to SELECT LEVEL and start from any level.

GAME BOY

ADDAMS FAMILY: Before going into the freezer room get the Frankenstein potion, this will allow you to walk through baddies without losing energy - Chris Baker, Warley, West Midlands.

GAME GEAR

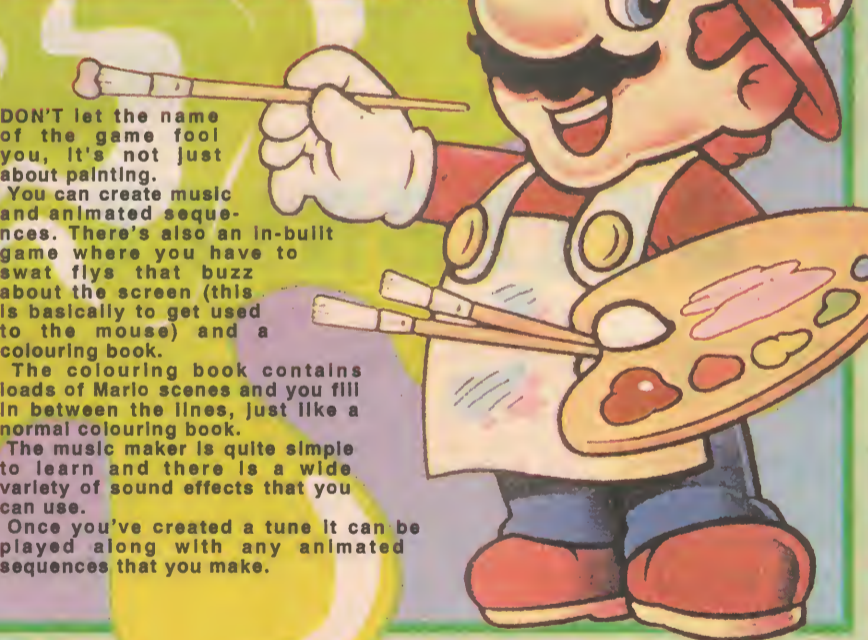
TERMINATOR: Go to the main terminator screen. Hold down BUTTON 2 and press BUTTON 1, the screen will turn black for a few seconds. While the screen is black do the following on the joystick. LEFT, LEFT, UP, UP, RIGHT, RIGHT, DOWN, DOWN. Two O's should appear on the screen, the level can now be selected by pressing LEFT and RIGHT on the joystick.

SUPER NINTENDO

ADDAMS FAMILY: Use the password 2112 for 100 lives, five hearts and a sword - Marc Downs, Oldham, Lancs.

Keep on cheating!

PAINT HALF HOT



DON'T let the name of the game fool you, it's not just about painting. You can create music and animated sequences. There's also an in-built game where you have to swat flies that buzz about the screen (this is basically to get used to the mouse) and a colouring book.

The colouring book contains loads of Mario scenes and you fill in between the lines, just like a normal colouring book. The music maker is quite simple to learn and there is a wide variety of sound effects that you can use.

Once you've created a tune it can be played along with any animated sequences that you make.

TOP SECRET

STREETFIGHTER ALERT - WEEK 4 INCREDIBLE news on the cartridge riddle of the century! Prepare yourselves - Street Fighter 2 on the Mega Drive still isn't here. And nobody's got a clue where it is. It's true: The most eagerly-awaited Mega Drive cart in history is still nowhere to be seen, and even the boffins are baffled. A spokesman for M15 told Mega Guide: "What the hell are you on about?" PROVING that the secret service are slumped. Where the hell is the bloody thing? Some old bloke down at Sega claimed the release date has been put back to mid April, and told us he still hadn't seen the game. RUBBISH - they're just keeping it to themselves.

BUZZ QUIZ: IS there intelligent life elsewhere in the galaxy? If so are they wasting their time waiting for Street Fighter 2 as well?

ANT-TASTIC

ROLL Up, roll up, it's the greatest show on earth! It's Aero The Acrobat, defying death on a console near you soon. He jumps. He dives. He bows the crowd. And he's only an ant. He's out to save the circus and his enemies will have to be pretty hard to stop him. Aero is the new breed of console hero. He's not very big, doesn't talk much, wears a silly little mask and gets squashed when you tread on him. Aero is a brand new fast-action platformer hitting Sega and Nintendo soon from Sunsoft. The game promises thrills galore and it looks as if there's a new hero in town to give hedgehogs and plumbers a run for their money.

FOX IS HOT

TOLD YOU SO DEPT: STARFOX is the biggest thing on Nintendo for years and everyone's favourite furry starfighter is proving one of the biggest heroes ever. Already there's a cartoon strip based on the exploits of Fox and his pals. And that's just the start. The lad has made his TV debut in America and the game hasn't even been released yet. We told you it was going to be big when we spotted it at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas - and we were first with the news as usual. Stay tuned to your marvellous Mega Guide and we'll be bringing you more on the fab Fox and his adventures right years before anyone else.



