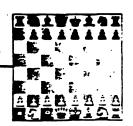


INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER CHESS ASSOCIATION

(I.C.C.A.)



ICCA Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

So much has happened in computer chess in the past few months that it is very hard to know where to begin. Most of the events have been positive and attest to the explosive, world-wide growth of interest in our field. Another event which took place in Travemunde, Germany in September is less positive and points out the need for ICCA involvement in trying to curb the commercial excesses which can bring disrepute to computer chess from the world's chess-playing public.

Ken Thompson and I attended the 2nd World Microcomputer Chess Championship as ICCA observers. Our report of that tournament and the unfortunate antics of the commercial participants appears on pages 16 to 29. We urge our members to read that report and to communicate your ideas to us on how ICCA might organize future commercial tournaments or other forms of evaluation for commercially available chess computers. The computer chess buying public would like some objective evaluations of chess computers, and ICCA can play an important role in that endeavor. Editor: B. Mittman Editorial Asst.: J. Cesal Northwestern University Evanston, Illinois 60201, USA

It might also be useful for the manufacturers to band together and form a chess computer manufacturers' association to monitor their commercial and marketing activities.

ICCA and FIDE, the World Chess Federation, have drafted, and the FIDE General Assembly has approved, a cooperation agreement between our two organizations. ICCA approval requires a vote of its membership. A ballot for such approval is enclosed. See page 6 for other FIDE news, as well.

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A new computer chess organization was established this year in the Netherlands and now has over 500 members! Another measure of the intense interest in computer chess in the Netherlands is the estimate that some 45,000 chess computers have been sold there in the past few years. A tournament was organized in Utrecht in September, exclusively for Dutch programs, and had 13 participants. A short report on that tournament is found on page 8.

Finally, I would like to say a few words about ICCA business. We need many more people to become involved in our activities. Vice President Monty Newborn has been working on our committee memberships. He has contacted a number of people who expressed interest in helping. In this issue of the Newsletter, we have listed the initial membership of a number of our committees. I urge our members to communicate with the various chairmen to offer help and ideas. During 1982, the ICCA agenda calls for planning the 4th World Computer Chess Championship in 1983, solidifying our relationships with FIDE and major national chess federations, working on the problems involving commercial computer chess products, strengthening our publications, and, most important in the view of the officers, finding a second generation of ICCA principals, people who will be creative, who will work hard for the advancement of computer chess worldwide, and who will become active in ICCA activities.

B. Mittman
President & Editor

ICCA COMMITTEES

The composition of the six standing ICCA committees has been decided. According to the ICCA Bylaws, the chairmen are appointed for a three-year period. These assignments become effective November 1, 1981.

Publications and Publicity Committee
The Publications and Publicity Committee will encourage the publication
of technical and nontechnical works
on the subject of computer chess and
will assure that the activities of
ICCA are well publicized. The official publication of the ICCA shall
be the ICCA Newsletter.

Tony Marsland, Chairman (Canada) Computing Science Dept. University of Alberta Edmonton T6G 2H1, Canada

Kathe Spracklen (USA) Pierre Nolot (France)

Ranking

The Ranking Committee will establish a rating or ranking system for programs and will rank and rate active programs.

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Ingemar Johansson (Sweden) Edmar Mednis (USA) Ken Thompson (USA)