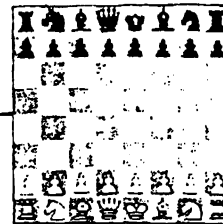


INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER CHESS ASSOCIATION
(I.C.C.A.)



ICCA Newsletter

Vol. 1 No. 1
May 1978

Editor: B. Mittman
Northwestern University

FIRST ISSUE EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of a newsletter which will report on activities in computer chess. It is intended to publish news of competitions, publications, new developments, and personalities in the field of computer chess, as well as contribution from our readers.

The participants at the 2nd World Computer Chess Championship in Toronto last year felt that an organization was necessary to enhance communication among practitioners in the field. We, at Northwestern, volunteered to inaugurate ICCA and to undertake an initial mailing. However, it will be necessary to charge a membership fee if we are to continue providing this clearing-house function. The organizers have decided on an annual fee of \$5.00 to support the printing and mailing of the newsletter and any other communications. We expect to produce a minimum of two issues a year to begin. To become a member of ICCA and to be retained on our mailing list, please send a check or money order in the amount of \$5.00, with the enclosed application form, to:

ICCA
Vogelback Computing Center
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois 60201
USA

Finally, I want to thank Mr. Barend Swets of The Netherlands for his efforts in getting us off to an excellent beginning. Barend organized the initial meeting in Toronto and designed and produced our attractive letterhead. We are fortunate to have such an active and enthusiastic colleague representing ICCA in Europe. This first issue is dedicated to him.

B. Mittman, Editor

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER

In order to provide timely, informative and interesting material on computer chess, we need your help. Please send in any information or ideas pertaining to your programs, to competitions, to publications, etc. We shall try not to overlap with the Computer Chess Newsletter, which will no doubt emphasize personal computing (see next item). We expect that our main contributors will be authors of larger scale programs and other computer chess enthusiasts from all over the world. Please send in short articles, news items, or letters to:

ICCA Newsletter Editor
Vogelback Computing Center
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois 60201
USA

Computer Chess Newsletter

Many of you have received a newsletter on computer chess started by Doug Penrod. The Computer Chess Newsletter will now be a regular feature of Personal Computing. Information about the newsletter can be obtained by writing to:

Computer Chess Newsletter
c/o Personal Computing
1050 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
USA

North American Championship

ACM'77 in Seattle was the site of the 8th North American Computer Chess Championship in October, 1977. DUCHESS of Duke University, which had upset KAISSA at the Second World Computer Chess Championship in Toronto in August, held CHESS 4.6 of Northwestern University to a draw in the final round, and ended the tournament tied for first place. CHAOS of the University of Michigan took third place honors.

The next North American Championship is scheduled for ACM'78 in Washington, D. C. in December. Inquiries about entering this tournament should be directed to:

Prof. M. Newborn
School of Computer Science
McGill University
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
(514) 392-8274

Jerusalem Conference

An international computer chess invitational tournament is scheduled for the Third Jerusalem Conference on Information Technology to be held in Israel, August 6-8, 1978. At this time it appears that the following six programs are to compete: BS'66'76, CHAOS, CHESS 4.6, DUCHESS, OSTRICH, and TELL.

In addition, there will be several exhibitions of man-machine play. A paper session is scheduled for the technical program with the following presentations:

"CHESS 4.6 - Where do we go from here?"
David Slate and Benjamin Mittman

"Computer Chess: Recent Progress and Future Expectations"
Monroe Newborn

"Can Computer Programs Play Real Chess?"
David Levy

Proceedings of the conference will be published by North-Holland Publishing Company. Inquiries about the tournament should be sent to Prof. B. Mittman.

David Levy Challenge Match

David Levy's bet that no computer program would beat him in a multi-game chess match during the decade following August 1968 comes to a conclusion this August. At present, plans are being made for possible challenge matches. Although nothing has been confirmed at the moment, possible sites for the challenge(s) are the Canadian National Exposition in Toronto, the Fourth International Congress of Cybernetics and Systems in Amsterdam, and somewhere in Paris.

Second European Computer Chess Championship

Mr. Barend Swets is organizing the Second European Computer Chess Championship to be held in conjunction with the Fourth International Congress of Cybernetics and Systems in Amsterdam during the week of August 21, 1978. All inquiries should be sent to:

Mr. Barend Swets
Chopinstraat 65
Venray, The Netherlands

Meetings and Conferences

We have received notification of the following meetings and conferences:

Advances in Computer Chess
April 10-11, 1978, Edinburgh

For information about the Proceedings, contact:

Mr. M.R.B. Clarke
Dept. of Computer Science &
Statistics
University of London
Queen Mary College
Mile End Road
London E1 4NS, England

Computer Chess Workshop
May 23-25, 1978, Edmonton

For information, contact:

Dr. Anthony Marsland
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H1
Canada

Item of Interest - Handicapping Computer Chess Tournaments

The issue of handicapping computer chess tournaments based upon the relative speeds and power of the computers used has arisen again in an exchange of letters between Mr. Don Beal of Queen Mary College, London, and Mr. Barend Swets. This controversy dates back to the organizing sessions for the First U. S. Computer Chess Championships in New York in 1970. We are not including any of the arguments in this issue, but instead, are retaining them for inclusion in a subsequent Newsletter. If any of our readers wish to enter the discussion with ideas, opinions, or comments, please write to the Newsletter editor.

APPLICATION FORM

This is to apply for membership in the International Computer Chess Association.

Enclosed is a check (U.S. only)

or international money order

for the amount of \$5.00 made out to ICCA for the first year's dues.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State or Province: _____

Zip Code: _____

Country: _____

Please mail to:

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Vogelback Computing Center
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois 60201 USA