

NEWS, INFORMATION, TOURNAMENTS AND REPORTS

FUTURE IDEAS FOR THE ICCA

*by David Levy
President of the ICCA*

In any association such as ours, the future depends much on new ideas of one sort or another. Anyone can have good ideas, and we will always be willing to listen to suggestions. A number of ideas were discussed informally during the tournaments in Dallas last October, and I would like to mention them to test readers' reactions, and perhaps to stimulate some readers into making their own suggestions.

Rules

We discussed the need for new rules and I formed a small committee to look into this question. Eventually we will have a permanent commission to examine all matters pertaining to the rules of our tournaments, as does FIDE.

Awards

Various suggestions have been made for giving special awards to persons who achieve something special during the year. We could have a prize for the most improved program. A prize for the best game played by a computer program. An award for the best paper published on any aspect of computer chess. An award for the most outstanding contribution to computer chess by an individual. A scholarship to be awarded to the high-school student(s) who produce the best new program.

Titles and Ratings

There are already various unofficial rating lists published for chess programs, the two best known are probably those in England (Hallsworth) and Sweden (Swedish Computer Chess Association). I would like to see an official ICCA rating list, published twice a year, in which only games from tournaments and matches would be included, not games played in private test sessions.

I also suggested the possibility of titles, such as "Computer Master" and "Computer Grandmaster", for programs that achieve certain levels of performance.

Both of these ideas (titles and ratings) have been criticized for being commercially oriented, and maybe this criticism is correct.

Membership

As part of our drive to double the ICCA membership during the period 1986-1989, it was agreed in Dallas that in any future ICCA sanctioned tournament, all the members of all the programming teams **must** be

ICCA members at the start of the tournament. This means that they can be students at or employees of Corporate Members of the ICCA, or they can be individual members. This rule came into force on January 1st 1987.

Future ICCA Tournaments

I would like to see as many tournaments as possible held in countries which up to now have not had a computer tournament. This year the World Microcomputer Chess Championship will be in Italy, probably in September. Does any reader want to help organize the event for 1988 or 1989. Entry fees guarantee that the event is self-financing, and all you need to do as a local organizer is to find a suitable playing hall. We can organize everything else.

If anyone in Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Finland, France, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Mexico, etc. would like to see an important computer-chess event in their country, and is willing to offer a little assistance, please write to me.

Questionnaire

In order to test the opinions of the ICCA members, I would like you to fill in the questionnaire and return it to me at 11, Loudoun Road, London NW8 0LP, England.

Thank you for your co-operation.

ICCA QUESTIONNAIRE

Please assign a score from 0 to 4 for each of the following ideas.

0 = I hate it.

1 = I do not like it very much.

2 = I have no strong feelings either way.

3 = I like the idea.

4 = I think it is a great idea.

Suggestion	Score
Prize for most improved program	
Prize for best game played by a program	
Award for best paper published on computer chess	
Award for most outstanding contribution to computer chess by an individual	
Scholarship for best new program written by high-school students	
Titles (Computer Master, Computer Grandmaster)	
Official ICCA rating list	

I would like to make the following suggestion(s) to the ICCA: