

HITECH CHALLENGED LEVY

David Levy

Hans Berliner challenged David Levy to play a match against HITECH for the Omni Prize. This prize of \$5,000 was announced in the April 1979 issue of Omni magazine, and will be awarded to the first computer to win a match against Levy, whenever that might be. Omni has put up \$4,000 of the money and Levy the other \$1,000.

Levy played one match to defend this prize, against CRAY BLITZ in 1984. Then Levy won 4-0. Levy accepted this challenge, and they agreed that the match was to be played in New York from July 13 - 17, 1988. A venue was found. Berliner then withdrew his challenge without (in Levy's opinion) giving or having an adequate reason. Levy subsequently challenged Berliner to play a match in London, under the same conditions that Levy would have had in New York, but Berliner did not respond to his letter.

CHESS COMPOSITIONS AND COMPUTERS

László Lindner

At the request of Dr. László Lindner, a frequent contributor to these pages, we publish in extract an appeal, emanating from him for the wider dissemination of sets of chess-problem collections. Readers may take note that the proposal has emerged from the subcommittee on Computer Affairs of the Permanent Commission for Chess Compositions which in turn is attached to FIDE and therefore may be said to enjoy some official status.

1. "A list should be established, containing the existing solving programs, together with their most important characteristics. The members of the Commission were requested to collect in their countries the data of such programs. The speaker, in his turn, kindly asks the programmers to put at his disposal - or at the disposal of the PCCC-member of his country - all useful information in this subject."
2. "The possibility should be investigated, if existing problem collections, (...) could be brought to computers. The speaker informed the members of the sub-committee about the ChessBase program, (...). [Some are] dedicated to collect chess-games, but it could be modified in view of handling chess-problem collections." (...) "The chess-problem collections, [once] established, kept up to date and handled by computers would have many advantages versus the traditional methods. The problems should be put in once only, together with all thematic characteristics, and they could be displayed according to any theme they contain, or, if requested, according to authors, tourneys, etc."
3. "A further proposal has been treated, concerning the publication of a theme-book, the terms of them being officially / half-officially approved by the PCCC." [It was found Dr. Lindner's initiative would hopefully lead to a publication of such a problem set but only if a private publisher would be found willing. Meanwhile, Dr. Lindner's initiative is an ongoing effort, of which at least some readers of the ICCA Journal would do well to take notice.]

Dr. Lindner can be contacted at

Népköztársaság útja 54,
H-1062 Budapest,
Hungary.