

THE ICCA BEST ANNOTATION AWARD FOR 1995

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As in previous years this Annotation Award is made possible by Bob Herschberg's generous donation. We are sure our readers join us in thanking him for his interest and enthusiasm. In 1995 we were pleased to see the arrival of a new annotation program, FRITZ 4.0. Although the program is written by Frans Morsch and Matthias Feist, the analysis component is the work of Matthias Wullenweber. Unfortunately the previous year's winner (Jeff Mallet's Innovation program) did not have the use of a stronger chess engine and so it did not participate in the competition. There were no other entries and so our task was to determine whether Wullenweber's annotation, as produced by FRITZ 4.0 (Wullenweber) were worthy of the award.

As is our custom the program was given the moves of a game, hopefully unknown to it, and asked to provide its comments. We chose a game dating back to 1931 which we felt would be outside any database of games that might be employed by any of the entries. (The game was chosen before we knew how many programs had been submitted.) The test was done at the University of Alberta using FRITZ's 11-ply search option.

FRITZ's annotating style is to provide alternative suggestions together with its assessment of their merit, but to use very few words. Mostly the standard (Informator) symbols are used, though just occasionally FRITZ does lapse into "prose".

Last year we criticized the winning entry for its lack of sound analysis. FRITZ is much better in this respect, as one would expect from a World Champion program, though we must say that some more words would be appreciated in its annotations. We would also like to have seen some more comments between moves 20-30.

It seems clear to us that the analysis provided by FRITZ 4.0 represents a marked improvement on those from last year's winner. Therefore the 1995 ICCA Best Annotation Award is given to Matthias Wullenweber. If progress in this field continues to be made at the same rate we would expect that, by the end of the century, there will be annotation programs available which can offer a very useful service to chess-players of every strength. Certainly the necessary strength of play is already there in the chess engines of many different programs. When the leading chess programmers come to realise the financial potential of a good annotation program we will doubtless see a quantum leap in the quality of the entries in this competition for future years!

FRITZ Printout, 02/03/96

Rauzer - Botvinnik

USSR Championship 1931

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 d5 4. Bg5 Nbd7 5. Nf3 c6 6. Qb3 out of book Be7+=[6 Qa5=] 7. e3 0-0 8. Be2 [8 Bd3=] 8. ... b6 9. cxd5=+ [9 0-0=] 9. ... exd5 10. 0-0 Bb7+=[10 Re8=] 11. Rfd1 Rc8 [11 Re8+]=] 12. Ne5=+ [12 Bd3+=] 12. ... Nxe5 13. dxe5 Nd7 14. Bf4 Bg5 [14 f6 15 e4=] 15. Bxg5 Qxg5 16. f4 Qe7+=[16 Qh4=] 17. e4 Qc5+ 18. Kh1 Rcd8± [18 Qf2 19 Rf1 (19 exd5 Qxf4 20 Qa3=) 19 Qe3 20 Rf3 Qc5±] 19. exd5 Qe3 [19 cxd5 20 Bf3± (20 Nxd5 Nxe5 21 Nxb6=)] 20. Qc4 [20 Qa4 cxd5 21 Rd3 b5 22 Qxb5+- (22 Rxe3 bxa4 23 Rd3±)] 20. ... cxd5 21. Nxd5 Bxd5 22. Rxd5 Nc5 23. Bf3= [23 Rxd8 Rxd8 24 Bh5 g6 25 Bf3 Nd3 26 h3 Nxf4 27 Qc7 Re8 28 Bc6 Qxe5 29 Qxa7 Qxb2 30 Rf1=+] 23. ... Nd3 24. h3 Rxd5 25. Bxd5 Qg3 [25 Nxf4 26 Rd1 Nxb3 27 gxh3 Qxh3+ 28 Kg1 Qe3+ 29 Kh1 Qh6+ (29 Qxe5 30 Bxf7+ Kh8±) 30 Kg1 Qg5+ 31 Bg2 Qe3+ 32 Kh1 Qxe5=] 26. Rf1 Nf2+ 27. Kg1 Nxb3+ 28. Kh1 Nf2+ 29. Rxf2 Qxf2 30. Bxf7+??-+ and White is collapsing completely [∩30 a4 ¯] 30. ... Rxf7 31. e6 [31 Qd5-+ is not much help] 31. ... Rxf4

The word "Line" ends FRITZ's analysis

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Call for Entries for the 1996 ICCA Best Annotation Award

Annotation programs should be submitted on disk to David Levy and/or Tony Marsland, complete with full operating instructions in English, to arrive not later than December 31st, 1996. The software on the disk must run under a standard system, such as DOS, MacOS, Windows or Unix.

Background information for the previous competitions can be found in previous issues of the Journal and on the ICCA home page URL <http://www.cs.rulimburg.nl/icca/>

THE 1996 WORLD MICROCOMPUTER CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Jakarta, Indonesia
October 9th-16th, 1996

*David Levy*¹

London, England

The ICCA is pleased to announce that the 1996 World Microcomputer Chess Championship will take place in Jakarta, Indonesia, thanks to the most generous sponsorship of Gunadarma University. The dates are October 9th-16th, with arrival on October 7th and departure on October 17th.

Travel and Hotel

The sponsors are generously providing free air tickets for up to 24 participants and officials, either Amsterdam-Jakarta-Amsterdam or Los Angeles-Jakarta-Los Angeles. (It will be the responsibility of the participants to make their own way to Amsterdam or Los Angeles.) Under the terms of the contract between the ICCA and the sponsors these air tickets will be in our hands at least 1 month prior to the tournament. 21 or 22 of the tickets will be allocated to participating programs and 2 or 3 to tournament officials.

In addition the sponsors are arranging for vastly reduced prices at a 4-star or 5-star hotel in Jakarta – these rooms will cost the participants US \$40 per night per room.

Computers

The sponsors are arranging for all PC-based programs to be provided with the loan (free of charge) of a computer (Pentium 100 or faster). These loan computers will all have the same processor speed.

Anyone wishing to run on a different type of computer must make their own arrangements, though the sponsors will do their best to liaise with the local office of the manufacturers in order to assist.

Anyone who will be bringing their own computer should notify me of the details not later than **September 7th**. The sponsors will then contact the customs authorities in Jakarta to expedite the formalities at the airport and to ensure that no customs duty needs to be paid by the participant.

The sponsors have indicated that they expect to provide all those who need them with the free loan of 133 MHz P5 PCs.

Schedule

The schedule for applications etc. is as follows:

Saturday August 3rd

All entries must be RECEIVED by David Levy. Please note that I shall be away from July 20th until August 3rd and my e-mail service will return to you anything sent between July 20th and about July 27th. This means that anyone entering by email must do so and have a confirmation of receipt from me not later than July 19th. Any entries made after that date should be duplicated by a snailmail copy to

David Levy, 89, Constantine Road, London NW3 2LP, England or by fax to me at +44 171 482 0672

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