ICCA Newsletter

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 Travemünde, 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.

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 organ-
ized in Utrecht in September, ex-
clusively 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 Champion-
ship in 1983, solidifying our re-
lationships with FIDE and major
national chess federations, working
on the problems involving commer-
cial 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 be-
come effective November 1, 1981.

Publications and Publicity Committee

The Publications and Publicity Com-
mittee 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 offi-
cial publication of the ICCA shall
be the ICCA Newsletter.

Tony Marsland, Chairman (Canada)
Computing Science Dept.
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Kathe Spracklen (USA)
Pierre Nolot (France)

Ranking

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

Jan Berglund, Chairman (Sweden)
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Ingemar Johansson (Sweden)
Edmar Mednis (USA)
Ken Thompson (USA)