
NEWS, INFORMATION, TOURNAMENTS AND REPORTS

**ICCA Triennial Meeting
Monday, October 24, 1983
Sheraton Centre Hotel, New York**

Some 40 members of the ICCA attended the 1983 Triennial Meeting. Outgoing President Benjamin Mittman introduced Dr. Michael Botvinnik, one of the honored guests at the Fourth World Computer Chess Championship, and then had each ICCA member in the audience stand and introduce himself or herself. The first order of business on the agenda was the election of a new slate of ICCA officers. Since there was only one candidate for each position, the following officers were elected by acclamation:

President : Professor Monroe Newborn, Canada
Vice-President : Johan Enroth, Sweden
Secretary/Treasurer: William Blanchard, U.S.A.

The new officers began their tenure at the close of the meeting.

Ben Mittman then asked Monty Newborn to present the various committee reports. Tony Marsland reported on the activities of the Publications and Publicity Committee. Its main activity during the past year was transferring the Editorship of the former ICCA Newsletter from Professor Ben Mittman at Northwestern University to Dr. Jaap van den Herik at the Delft University of Technology. Jaap is Editor of a new publication, the ICCA Journal, as a direct continuation of the Newsletter. Its first issue appeared just before this meeting.

The Ranking Committee is chaired by Mr. Jan Berglund of Sweden. He was not present, but he had sent a letter to the Executive Committee. He expressed concern about the poor response he had received from members of his committee and from the Executive Committee, and, in general, he felt that the committee structure needed changing. He did not think that the current geographical dispersion of committee members made for an effective working environment. It was decided that the new Vice-President, Johan Enroth, would look into the matter of committee organization. According to the bylaws, the current membership of the committee remain as is until November 1, 1984.

David Levy and David Slate reported on activities of the Liaison Committee. Levy reviewed the liaison which now exists between ICCA and FIDE as a result of the joint agreement which has been approved by both organizations. Levy has been named as the official FIDE liaison person to the ICCA. He also discussed the slow progress being made in FIDE toward the possibility of allowing computer chess programs to compete in the Olympiads. He sees no immediate way out of the current impasse to such participation. David Slate reviewed activities of the USCF Computer Chess Committee chaired by David Welsh. That Committee has made considerable progress in having USCF-sponsored tournaments accept computer chess programs as competitors. Rating of chess programs is also one of their priority items. A mechanism for rating commercial chess computers has been developed, and the Committee is apparently waiting for its first "customer". In addition, the USCF received the agreement of the participants in the Fourth World Championship to have their programs rated in this tournament by USCF.

One topic which was brought up at this point, but which did not receive much discussion due to time constraints, was the subject of the classes of membership in ICCA. Currently, only individuals may belong to ICCA. This restriction causes problems for some Socialist countries, where, as a rule, national organizations only are affiliated to international organizations, providing individuals with a derived affiliation. This, of course, is the way FIDE operates, it is an organization of organizations. The issue also impacts other countries having strong national computer chess associations (the Dutch Computer Chess Association outnumbers the ICCA), though not necessarily in the same manner. There seemed to be general interest among the ICCA members present to review this issue of classes of membership; thus, this will be a charge for the new Executive Committee.

Ben Mittman reported on the assistance which the Tournament Organizing Committee had given to three recent, ICCA-sanctioned tournaments in Travemünde, Budapest and New York. Such assistance will also be available to future tournaments which are now being planned.

The final committee report was from the Sanctioning Committee, chaired by Robert Hyatt. Hyatt reported that there were two invitations to ICCA to host world computer chess championships. The Scottish Chess Federation has asked

to host a sanctioned world microcomputer-chess championship in 1984 to honor its 100th anniversary. The Dutch Computer Chess Association asked ICCA to sanction a world championship in Amsterdam in 1985, in conjunction with the opening of a new World Trade Center. In response to the desires of some of the leading commercial microcomputer-chess programmers who had privately expressed their fear that yearly events would be too frequent, the Sanctioning Committee proposed that world micro championships be limited to every other year. However, the sentiment of the ICCA membership was not in favor of such a limitation, and instead voted to sanction a world microcomputer championship no more often than once a year. This essentially gave the Sanctioning Committee the charge to solicit and sanction world microcomputer championships spaced approximately one year apart, if appropriate sponsorship and acceptable rules were forthcoming. One other conclusion reached was that the World Computer Chess Championship should continue on a triennial basis. As a result of these actions the Sanctioning Committee will communicate with the Scottish Chess Federation and the Dutch Computer Chess Association to follow up on their potential respective sponsorships of the Fourth and Fifth World Microcomputer-Chess Championships in 1984 and 1985.

The final order of business was a short speech by Monty Newborn thanking the outgoing officers and expressing his best wishes and appreciation to Ben Mittman for his long and devoted service to the ICCA and to computer chess in general.

(The information in the above has been provided by Ben Mittman, to whom the Editorial Board expresses its gratitude.)



Photo by TF.

Ken Thompson receives a Special ACM Award for his great deserts in Computer Science, among which were mentioned: UNIX, Belle and his contributions to C.