

NEWS, INFORMATION, TOURNAMENTS AND REPORTS

1989 ICCA ELECTIONS

David Levy

ICCA President

The election of the members of the Board of the ICCA will take place in Edmonton during the 1989 World Computer Chess Championships. As far as the election is concerned, the Bylaws state that "The elective officers of the organization shall consist of a President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. They shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Organization and shall be charged with the administrative affairs of the ICCA".

The nomination and election procedure is as follows. "Elections for the members of the Executive Committee will be held at each Triennial Meeting, with elected officers taking on their duties at the end of that meeting. Nominations are to be made by petition no later than three (3) months before the elections. The *ICCA Newsletter* (now called the *ICCA Journal*) will announce the candidates at least two (2) months before the election. At least five (5) member signatures are required on each nominating petition. All candidates for election must have been members of the ICCA for no less than two (2) years. Officers are elected by a majority of those present and voting, via secret written ballot. Runoffs will be held if no candidate receives a simple majority.

The candidate with the least votes will be eliminated from the ballot for each runoff, until one candidate receives the simple majority".

The existing Board of the ICCA had decided to offer itself for election again in 1989, the individual Board members running for the positions which they currently hold, namely:

President : David Levy
Vice-President : Tony Marsland
Secretary-Treasurer: Jonathan Schaeffer

THE 8th WORLD MICROCOMPUTER-CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Almeria, Spain
September 24 - October 2, 1988

ICCA Communication
by *David Levy*

This year's World Microcomputer-Chess Championships are being held in Spain, organized in grand style by Señor Amador Cuesta who is doing so much to popularize and support computer chess. This event will take place at the Hotel Porto Magno, in the town of Agua Dulce (a few miles from Almeria, on Spain's southern coast). Almeria is served by an international airport.

The hotel is in the 5 star category, which is typical of the whole event. For example, the **commentators** on the games will include Botvinnik, Karpov, Smyslov, Ehlvest, Sokolov, Yusupov, Ljubojevic, Andersson and Ilescas. Fidelity, Mephisto and CXG have all indicated their intention to participate in the manufacturers' group, and there will be opportunities for computer-chess fans to see the very latest in commercially available chess computers.

Entry forms and details have been sent to a number of prospective participants. Anyone wishing for more information should telephone David Levy in London (624-5551) or Amador Cuesta in Madrid (262-8185).

TWENTY YEARS ON

David Levy

London, England

The year 1988 marks a milestone in the annals of computer chess. It was in August 1968 that I made a bet with Professors Donald Michie and John McCarthy that there would not be, within 10 years, a computer program which could win a match against me. At that time I was extremely confident that I would not meet a serious challenge within 10 years.

One year later Professor Seymour Papert was offered the chance to join the bet. He said that he would happily take the bet for five years from the original date, in other words that he felt that only four more years would be needed. I refused this offer because I felt it would be unfair to take his money under those terms, but he finally agreed to come in on the bet with the others - with 1978 as the crucial year.

When August 1978 came, I played a match against the reigning World Champion CHESS 4.7. The match was played at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto and resulted in a win for me by 3 1/2 - 1 1/2 (three wins, one draw and one loss).

Shortly afterwards *Omni* magazine and I offered a prize of \$ 5,000 for the first program to win a match against me whenever that might be. The reason was simply that having offered myself as a target to the computer-chess community I did not wish to move (or remove) the target. At about the same time I made another bet, this one for five years, and collected \$ 1,000 from Dan MacCracken in 1984 after I had successfully defended myself against a challenge from CRAY BLITZ, the reigning World Champion. I won that match rather easily, with a score of 4-0.

Now we are all twenty years older than when the first bet was made. I have been surprised at just how much progress has been made during those two decades, and I must admit that within another year or two (three at the outside) I think I will be defeated. I have recently accepted another challenge to play CRAY BLITZ, and if I survive I will wait for a letter from Carnegie-Mellon University, which is breeding mega chess machines at an alarming rate and which I expect to be the home of the program which picks up the Omni Prize.

P.S. If any reader knows the whereabouts of Ed Kozdrowicki, who welched on the original bet, could they please let me know. I am still after my £ 250,-- plus ten years' interest!