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## CONGRATULATIONS

The Editorial Board would like to congratulate the members of the DEEP BLUE team, Feng-hsiung Hsu, Murray Campbell, C J Tan, Joseph Hoane, Jerry Brody, and Joel Benjamin<sup>1</sup>, on DEEP BLUE's victory over the World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov. DEEP BLUE's win in the six-game rematch proved that a milestone, disputed by so many outside the computer-chess world, was reachable. After seven years of hard work, the DEEP BLUE team gave a definite answer to the particular question: Can a computer beat the World Champion in a match played under normal tournament conditions?

Is this the end of computer-chess research? No, of course not. It is a characteristic of science that answering questions always provides more new questions than that it solves. The magnificent result of the DEEP BLUE team has indeed raised many new questions, apart from the obvious one: What will be the next milestone? Some of the questions are posed and, to some extent, even treated in this issue, the main questions being, of course: How strong is DEEP BLUE now? and To what level can its playing strength be raised?

Using the crystal-ball metaphor, David Levy arrives at the conclusion that DEEP BLUE has a place among the best four in the world. He conjectures that with its current performance DEEP BLUE belongs to the ranks of Kasparov, Karpov and Anand. Some may object that six games are too few on which to base such a conjecture. There may be some truth in this, but taking the two matches together, which spans a period of only one and a half years, we have twelve games with a performance of 6.5 to 5.5 in favour of Kasparov. Such a score also confirms the high ranking above.

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<sup>1</sup> Next to Joel Benjamin who joined the ranks of the DEEP BLUE team in an early stage, information from the *New York Times* told us that three other Grandmasters have helped the team, viz Miguel Illescas, John Fedorowicz and Nick DeFirmian.

Apart from the new scientific challenges on the applicability of the techniques used on other domains, such as related games and real-world problems, IBM still faces the greater challenge of obtaining the World Championship title. In the rematch, they have played for money, thousands of dollars, but not for the ultimate honour. Would Garry Kasparov be willing to put his title, albeit only a PCA title, at stake? Would IBM accept such a match?

In TIMES PAST, the computer-chess community had an explicit goal of beating the World Champion. In TIMES PRESENT, the ICCA has the duty to distribute the knowledge of successful research, and in TIMES FUTURE, the *ICCA Journal* will broaden its scope by also publishing scientific results achieved in games which use chess-related techniques. The latter statement implies that we continue our policy of giving attention to games such as Checkers, Othello and Shogi.

Reverting to DEEP BLUE, it is undoubtedly true that brute force has played its rôle, but the fine-tuning of this power with knowledge involved should be emphasized. So, we will consider the performance of DEEP BLUE as results of Knowledge Science, avoiding a discussion on Artificial Intelligence.

Reverting to the cradle of DEEP BLUE, Carnegie Mellon University, we would like to congratulate a founding father of computer-chess research, Herbert Simon. His prediction from 1957 has finally come true. Yes, indeed, some thirty years later than the date he predicted, but the essence was correct and we are happy that he could enjoy this result.

Jaap van den Herik

#### AN APOLOGY

In the Editorial of the *ICCA Journal*, Vol 20, No 1 at p 2, the following sentence appeared: Both programs [i.e., GUNDA-1 and RAJAH] were based on Hyatt's world-wide available code of the program CRAFTY. Mr Valavan Manohararajah, RAJAH's author, communicated that the information given was not correct. RAJAH is in no way based on CRAFTY. I have offered RAJAH's author my apologies and have invited him to contribute to the Journal. Mr Manohararajah has accepted both offers (see elsewhere in this issue).

Jaap van den Herik  
Editor of the *ICCA Journal*

#### VALEDICTION AND WELCOME

Since September 1990 the Editor-in-Chief has been supported by Ms Tons van den Bosch. In the seven years past she has served the ICCA in numerous ways: as Editorial Assistant, as Editorial Manager, and the last three years as Desk Editor. In all three positions she has shown, with unselfish devotion, her willingness to promote the Journal. As per July 1, 1997, she will leave the Department to accept the challenge of the post of Secretary of the University's Library Board and Head of the Library Office.

The Editorial Board wish to thank her most explicitly for her ongoing drive which has stimulated so many authors and which has helped the *ICCA Journal* so much in their striving to perfection. They feel assured that the readership will concur in their gratitude.

Moreover, the Editors are happy that this is also the place to welcome Ms Anouk Klinkers (+31 43 3883525, Email [klinkers@cs.unimaas.nl](mailto:klinkers@cs.unimaas.nl)) as the Journal's new Desk Editor.

Jaap van den Herik

*ICCA Journal* readers may be interested to know that information on our publications is now available on the Internet. Our homepage can be reached by <http://www.cs.unimaas.nl/icca/iccainfo.htm>

A complete list of all articles, notes and literature reviews published in the *ICCA Journal* is available on the Internet at [http://www.cs.unimaas.nl/interwyk/icca\\_j\\_toc.htm](http://www.cs.unimaas.nl/interwyk/icca_j_toc.htm)