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I am looking forward to a pleasant co-operation with readers, authors and all interested parties. I am aware that your support, individually and collectively, is essential if this publication is to live up to the high expectations all of us share for its future.

Jaap van den Herik

### INTRODUCTION

While the Editorial Board will do what it can to help authors prepare their manuscripts for publication, we will not normally explain why papers are selected. However, a few comments on the merits of those included in this first issue may be helpful. Jon Schaeffer's paper is a typical interesting contribution of direct assistance to people actually developing chess programs. It is short and to the point, describing a new technique, and is supported by a table of results. We would like to believe that there is a large number of papers of this type awaiting a suitable publication medium like the ICCA Journal. László Lindner's contribution is the second part of an article which appeared in our predecessor, the ICCA Newsletter, and it presents additional quantitative data. While the chess-problem field may be small and specialized, the paper is not out of place here, and it illustrates our desire to provide some continuity from issue to issue. The article by Dr. Botvinnik is representative of works by world-famous individuals. It is somewhat philosophical in tone, and of interest to a broad spectrum of readers.

The paper by Helmut Horacek, selected for its technical contents, has one thing in common with most of the papers we have received: its length. Its publication must be regarded as an exception. While it will be possible to publish long papers from time to time, the delays will always be greater than for short ones. Substantial works take longer to review, longer to prepare and generally should be of exceptional quality to warrant so much attention. There can be no doubt that a clear, concisely written and understandable short paper has a much better chance of a quick acceptance. We expect that most authors will find it productive to restrict their articles to 2000-3000 words.

T.A. Marsland