

THE MEPHISTO BEST-PUBLICATION AWARD

The Board of ICCA

The Mephisto Best-Publication Award, for the first time announced in the June/September 1988 issue of the *ICCA Journal*, has been presented annually to authors of a publication which, in the opinion of the jury, has made the biggest contribution to computer chess in the year in question. The first Award was for publications dated between April 1st, 1987 and March 31st, 1988 (and won by Thomas Anantharaman, Murray Campbell and Feng-hsiung Hsu for their paper: 'Singular Extensions: Adding Selectivity to Brute-Force Searching' published in *Proceedings of the AAAI Spring Symposium, Computer Game Playing*, March 1988), the second Award for publications dated between April 1st, 1988 and March 31st, 1989 (adjudged to the book *Advances in Computer Chess 5*, edited by Don Beal), the third for publications dated between April 1st, 1989 and March 31st, 1990 (awarded to Feng-hsiung Hsu for his Ph.D. thesis, entitled *Large Scale Parallelization of Alpha-Beta Search: An Algorithmic and Architectural Study with Computer Chess*), and the fourth for publications between April 1st, 1990 and March 31st, 1991 (awarded to Tony and Linda Scherzer and Dean Tjaden for their article 'Learning in Bebe', published in *Computers, Chess, and Cognition*, edited by T.A. Marsland and J. Schaeffer, pp. 197-216).

The fifth Mephisto Best-Publication Award for publications between April 1st, 1991 and March 31st, 1992 is shared between Thomas Anantharaman for his article 'Extension Heuristics', *ICCA Journal*, Vol. 14, No. 2, pp. 47-63, and Jos Uiterwijk for his article 'The Countermove Heuristic', *ICCA Journal*, Vol. 15, No. 1, pp. 8-15.

The jury consisted of Don Beal, Robert Hyatt, David Levy, Tony Marsland, Tony Scherzer and Ken Thompson.

The ICCA would once again like to thank Hegener + Glaser AG of Munich, for donating this award and the jury for their labours.

Since Hegener + Glaser AG have generously renewed their sponsorship of this award (see below), we announce the continuation to a 1992-1993 Mephisto Best-Publication Award, qualification dates for which are from April 1st, 1992, to March 31st, 1993, including the June, September and December 1992 issues of the *ICCA Journal*, as well as the March 1993 issue. Once again, any publication on or related to computer chess will be considered, and the Award is not limited to papers presented in the *ICCA Journal*.

ICCA AWARDS, OLD AND NEW

The Board of ICCA

The Board of ICCA has the pleasure to inform you about three Awards, two of which are new.

1. Hegener + Glaser AG have been donating the "Mephisto Best-Publication Award" for the past 5 years, which was the period originally agreed between the company and the ICCA. We are delighted to announce that Hegener + Glaser AG have now consented to continue the award for a further two years. Moreover, they have an option to extend that period for a further two years thereafter.
2. The ICCA has instituted a new award, to be adjudged to the best author new to computer chess, for an article in the *ICCA Journal*. The first award covers articles published in four consecutive issues of the Journal, starting from Vol. 15, No. 2 (June 1992) up to and including Vol. 16, No. 1 (March 1993). The winner will receive a hand-lettered certificate to this effect and will have a choice of three Volumes of the Journal's back issues. The name of the winning author will also, of course, be published in the *ICCA Journal* with a short curriculum vitae if so desired and an abbreviated version of the jury's report, giving reasons for their choice.

3. Another new award, to be presented for the first time in early 1994, is for the program which provides the best annotations to an input chess game. Contestants must write a program to run under either MS-DOS or UNIX. Input to the program will be provided by the ICCA in the form of a chess game presented as an ASCII text file, using the notation <from square> <to square> (e.g., e2e4). Contestants must submit their programs to the ICCA by the end of 1993 and the ICCA will provide the same games as input to all entries. The judges will all be chess experts and are charged to adjudicate the award on the basis of the state of the art in annotating games by programs. Detailed rules for this award will be published in the March 1993 issue of the *ICCA Journal*. It is hoped to secure sponsorship to provide a prize of some material value in addition to suitable publicity in the Journal for the program as a product.

1993 WORLD MICROCOMPUTER CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

The ICCA has received a verbal offer of sponsorship to host the 1993 World Microcomputer Chess Championship in Germany, probably Munich or Nuremberg. The dates are likely to be October/November. This offer should be confirmed and an agreement signed between the ICCA and the sponsor by the end of February, and full details of the tournament will then appear in the March 1993 issue of the *ICCA Journal*.



Photo by Jos Uiterwijk

CHIP AWAY, MY THOUSAND SLAVES!

The Paderborn team, runners-up to the World Championship, rooting for Zugzwang (Madrid, November 1992). (left to right: Rainer Feldmann, Peter Mysliwicz and Prof. B. Monien.)