

NEWS, INFORMATION, TOURNAMENTS AND REPORTS

AWARDS TO THOMPSON AND JANSEN

The Board of ICCA

The Mephisto Best-Publication Award, first 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 Award period.

The sixth Mephisto Best-Publication Award for publications between April 1st, 1992 and March 31st, 1993 has been awarded to Ken Thompson for his CD-ROM *Chess Endgames Vol. 3* (released October 22, 1992 and described in the June 1993 issue of the *ICCA Journal*, pp. 86-90 and p. 97).

The jury consisted of T.A. Marsland, D.N.L. Levy, D.F. Beal and H.J. van den Herik. The ICCA would once again like to thank Hegener + Glaser AG of Munich for donating this award.

In 1992, Hegener + Glaser AG generously renewed their sponsorship of this award for another two years. We are therefore happy to invite authors to compete for the 1993-1994 Mephisto Best-Publication Award, qualification dates for which are April 1st, 1993, to March 31st, 1994, including the June, September and December 1993 and the March 1994 issues of the *ICCA Journal*. Once more, any publication dealing with computer chess will be considered, including publications on electronic media; it is stated once again that the Award is not limited to papers presented in the *ICCA Journal*.

A table of Mephisto-Award winners so far is given below.

Period	Winner(s)	Publication
1987-1988	Thomas Anantharaman, Murray Campbell and Feng-hsiung Hsu	Singular Extensions: Adding Selectivity to Brute-Force Searching. <i>Proceedings of the AAAI Spring Symposium, Computer Game Playing</i> , March 1988.
1988-1989	Don Beal (for his Editorship)	<i>Advances in Computer Chess 5</i> . North-Holland, Amsterdam.
1989-1990	Feng-hsiung Hsu	<i>Large Scale Parallelization of Alpha-Beta Search: An Algorithmic and Architectural Study with Computer Chess</i> . Ph.D. thesis. Carnegie-Mellon University.
1990-1991	Tony Scherzer, Linda Scherzer and Dean Tjaden	Learning in Bebe. <i>Computers, Chess, and Cognition</i> (eds. T.A. Marsland and J. Schaeffer), pp. 197-216. Springer Verlag, New York.
1991-1992	Thomas Anantharaman jointly with Jos Uiterwijk	Extension Heuristics. <i>ICCA Journal</i> , Vol. 14, No. 2, pp. 47-63. The Countermove Heuristic. <i>ICCA Journal</i> , Vol 15, No. 1, pp. 8-15.
1992-1993	Ken Thompson	<i>Chess Endgames Vol. 3</i> , CD-ROM. AT&T Bell Laboratories, New Jersey.

The Board of ICCA is also happy to announce the first winner of the newly-instituted annual ICCA Journal Award for the best paper in this Journal by a first-time author. For the period April 1, 1992 to March 31, 1993, covering the issues Vol. 15, No. 2 up to and including Vol. 16, No. 1, this award has been granted to Peter Jansen for his article "KQKR: Awareness of a Fallible Opponent", *ICCA Journal*, Vol. 15, No. 3, pp. 111-131. Beside a certificate stating this, Peter Jansen is also entitled to three Volumes of his choice of back issues. A brief scientific biography of the winner, an intrinsic part of the Award, will be included in the next issue of the Journal.

Finally, the Board of ICCA repeats its call for nominations of the Best-Annotation Award for annotations by a chess program, as first announced in the *ICCA Journal*, Vol. 15, No. 4, pp. 235-236. Nominations by program authors or others are eligible for the Award if they are submitted as certified copies in machine-executable form to Professor Tony Marsland, University of Alberta, Dept. of Computing Science, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H1, Canada, before March 31, 1994. The copies should be accompanied by at least the amount of documentation required to operate them under DOS, Windows, or in a similarly widely available environment.



Photo by Jaap van den Herik

THE BASE ELEVATED.

Tony Marsland congratulates Ken Thompson with the Mephisto Award.
Munich, November 5, 1993.