

THE 1997 NOVAG AWARD*The Board of ICCA*

In the past, the ICCA has awarded a prize to the author(s) for the publication, which in the opinion of the judges, makes the biggest contribution to computer chess

For the first six years this award was known as the MEPHISTO AWARD in recognition of the German chess-computer manufacturer, who generously provided the prizes. As announced in Vol 18, No 2, this annual prize could be continued by generosity of the Hong Kong chess-computer manufacturer NOVAG, starting with the period April 1993 to March 1994. The winner of the first NOVAG AWARD was Rainer Feldmann for his Ph D thesis *Game Tree Search with Massively Parallel Systems*, followed by Aske Plaat, Jonathan Schaeffer, Wim Pijls and Arie de Bruin with their article *A New Paradigm for Minimax Search* in 1995. The 1996 Novag Award winner was Bob Hyatt for his July 1995 releases of the source code for the CRAFTY chess program.

The period covered by the fourth NOVAG AWARD is April 1996 to March 1997, both limits included. The winner of the fourth NOVAG AWARD will be announced in Vol 20, No 4.

CALENDAR OF COMPUTER-GAMES EVENTS 1997**April 6-10, 1997**

International Colloquium Board Games in Academia II, to be held in Leiden, The Netherlands. Details from Alex de Voogt, Da Costalaan 1, 3743 HT Baarn, The Netherlands, Telephone +31 3554 30697. See also announcement at pp 58-59.

April 16-23, 1997

The 12th AEGON Man-Machine Tournament, to be held in The Hague, The Netherlands. Details from Cock de Gorter, Valkenboskade 607, 2563 JE The Hague, The Netherlands, Telephone +31 70 34643729. See also announcement at pp 57-58.

May 3-10, 1997

The IBM Chess Challenge Rematch DEEP BLUE - Kasparov, to be held in New York, USA, at the Millennium on Broadway. See also announcement in ICCA Journal, Vol 19, No 4, p 277.

July 27-28, 1997

The AAAI-97 Workshop, to be held in Providence, Rhode Island, USA. Details from Robert Morris, Computer Science Program, Florida Institute of Technology, 150 W University Blvd, Melbourne, FL 32901, Telephone (407) 768-8000, ext 7290, Fax (407) 984-8461. Email morris@cs.fit.edu. See also announcement at pp 53-54.

August 18-24, 1997

The First Mind Sports Olympiad to be held in the Royal Festival Hall in London. Details from David Levy, 89, Constantine Road, London NW3 2LP, England. Email DavidL@intrsrch.demon.co.uk. See also announcement on pp 56-57.

August 24-25, 1997

The IJCAI-97 Workshop, to be held in Nagoya, Japan. Details from Hiroyuki Iida, Department of Computer Science, Shizuoka University, 3-5-1 Johoku, Hamamatsu, Shizuoka, 432 Japan. Telephone +81 534 781 456, Fax +81 534 754 595. Email iida@cs.inf.shizuoka.ac.jp. See also announcement on pp 54-55.

Fall 1997

The ICCA is negotiating to hold the 15th World Microcomputer Chess Championship in Paris, France. The date will probably be within the time frame October 24 - November 4, 1997.