INFORMATION ON THE 15th WORLD MICROCOMPUTER CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Paris, France
October 26 – November 2, 1997

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The International Computer Chess Association is pleased to announce that SBF is generously hosting the 15th WMCC in the prestigious "Palais de la Bourse" which was built at the command of Napoleon Bonaparte in the early 1800s. Some Paris stock-market activities are still at this place during the weekdays. The tournament takes place from October 26 to November 2, 1997. The supplier of the computing equipment for the participants to use is AMD, who are lending high end PCs with K6 super fast processors. The local organization is provided by Titus Software, a Paris-based public French company, listed under the "Nouveau Marche" component of the stock exchange (it trades under the code TITP.PA). Titus Software was founded by Eric and Herve Caen in 1985. By creating and publishing games for home computers, Titus is one of the fastest growing companies in this industry. You can read more about these three companies at their web sites. For Titus, use: www.titusgames.com; for SBF, use: www.bourse-de-paris.fr; for AMD, use: www.amd.com.

In total 34 teams have been accepted to participate in the ICCA 15th World Microcomputer Chess Championship. The selection process was particularly difficult because the available space in the tournament hall limits the size of this event. Thus a number of otherwise perfectly satisfactory chess programs could not be admitted, and have been placed on a waiting list.

To ensure a smooth-running event, the operator should be a member of the programming team and be conversant with all aspects of the program's interface. The December 1996 issue of the *ICCA Journal*, pp. 263-267 outlines the expected capabilities of tournament-ready chess programs. The program must come with a complete set of on-line instructions, so that another delegate can run the program should the designated operator be indisposed.

This year we have secured the services of Frederic Friedel to produce the daily bulletin of games and to publish the games scores and intermediate results on the internet. Established participants will remember the excellent job Frederic did in this regard at the 1992 World Championship in Madrid, and again at the 1993 Microcomputer Championship in Munich. To avoid the delays we experienced in Jakarta, all programs must at the end of each game produce a PC-compatible diskette with the game score in either standard PGN (portable game notation) or in international short algebraic notation.

The local organizers in Paris have assured us that they can supply the necessary number of computers for participants' use. The supplier is AMD and they are providing 233 or 266 MHz machines. The amount of memory is not specified, but expect an adequate hard drive, 14 inch monitor (or better) and a floppy drive. It is assumed that you will be able to bring your preferred operating system (on a hard disk perhaps), if necessary. Installation will be done on Saturday, October 25.

During the event, Ms. Estelle Giron will be the representative of the local organizers and will be in daily attendance. She will expedite all aspects to ensure that everything runs smoothly. Ms. Giron is also coordinating the hotel arrangements, and will arrange the renting of any special equipment that the participants need. In addition Ms. Sophie Kaenzig will handle the public relations side of things, and is trying to secure TV coverage of the event.

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Table 1 lists the 34 participating programs with the corresponding programmers.

Program Name	Origin	Category[1]	Email	Programmer(s)
HYDRA	Austria	Em	Chrilly@donninger.vienna.at	Donninger, Weigel, and Kure
GANDALF	Denmark	Em	ssu@post3.tele.dk	Suurballe
ANMON	France	Am	cbarre@club-internet.fr	Barreteau
CAPTURE	France	Am	renard1@worldnet.fr	Renard
CHESS GURU	France	Am	rivat@desargues.univ-lyon.fr	Rivat
CHESS WIZARD	France	Em	no@email	Lougnet
DRAGON (FR)	France	Am	lucas@cril-ing.fr	Lucas
THE CRAZY BISHOP	France	Am	no@email	Coulom
VIRTUAL CHESS 2	France	Pro	100023.611@compuserve.com	Baudot and Weill
COMET	Germany	Am	utuerke@hotmail.com	Tuerke
DARKTHOUGHT	Germany	Am	heinze@ira.uka.de	Gille and Heinz
GOLIATH X	Germany	Em	borgstaedt@mail.cww.de	Borgstaedt
HEUREKA	Germany	Am	106477.1216@compuserve.com	Fischer
ISICHESS	Germany	Am	Isichess@oal.com	Isenberg
NIGHTMARE	Germany	Am	gellner@uni-muenster.de	Gellner
PATZER	Germany	Am	pfister@aat-f.aeg-f.de	Pfister
SHREDDER 2.0	Germany	Em	meyerka@fmi.uni-passau.de	Meyer-Kahlen
SOS	Germany	Am	rudolf@uebemc.siemens.de	Huber
XXXX II	Germany	Am	zentner@pike.phil.uni-passau.de	Zentner
CHESS TIGER	Guadeloupe	Am	ctheron@outremer.com	Theron
JUNIOR	Israel	Am	amirban@m-sys.com	Ban and Bushinsky
ARTHUR	The Netherlands	Am	ravenek@chem.vu.nl	Ravenek
DIEP	The Netherlands	Am	vdiepeve@cs.ruu.nl	Diepeveen
FRITZ	The Netherlands	Pro	morsch@pi.net	Morsch, Wollenweber, and Feist
EUGEN 7.2	Spain	Am	ejimenez@lince.lander.es	Castillo
TOLEDO 2000	Spain	Am	gcastano@lander.es	Castano
ANANSE 3.0	Switzerland	Am	101461.1103@compuserve.com	Bannerman
CHESS SYSTEM TAL	England	Pro	chrisw@cpsoft.demon.co.uk	Whittington
FRANCESCA	England	Am	tom@hatbulb.demon.co.uk	King
HIARCS	England	Pro	mark@acc-ltd.demon.co.uk	Uniacke
WOODPUSHER	England	Am	johno@chess.demon.co.uk	Hamlen
CRAFTY	USA	Am	hyatt@crafty.cis.uab.edu	Hyatt
FERRET	USA	Am	brucemo@seanet.com	Moreland
STOBOR	USA	Am	kerrigan@deimos.frii.com	Kerrigan

Table 1: List of 34 participants.

The Tournament Director, Jaap van den Herik, will take responsibility for ranking the programs according to their estimated strength just prior to the start of the first round.

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[1] There are two categories: Professionals (Pro) and Amateurs (Am). Within the category of Professionals we distinguish newcomers to the professional ranks (Em). See also *ICCA Journal*, Vol. 20, No. 2, p. 132.