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FROM TILBURG TO LEIDEN

The *ICGA Journal* is moving for the fourth time in its existence. This time we move from Tilburg to Leiden. Your Editor believes that this move provides a suitable opportunity to inform our younger readers of some of the history of the ICGA and its Journal. Before doing so, we would first like to express our gratitude to the Tilburg University authorities for their generous and fruitful cooperation over more than five years. They gave us the space and means to edit and produce the Journals and to organise the ICGA events in Tilburg in 2011. In summary, the ICGA thanks Tilburg University for all their support.

With respect to the history of the ICGA we take the World Computer-Chess Championship (WCCC) in Stockholm (1974) as the starting point of our community, although some would argue that the North American Computer Chess Championships, that saw their first event in 1970, should be mentioned as a stimulating predecessor. The second WCCC took place in Toronto in 1977. There Barend Swets (Delft, the Netherlands) launched the ICCA and Ben Mittman (Evanston, IL) became the first Editor-in-Chief of the *ICCA Newsletter* and the first *ICCA President*. In 1983, he transferred the editorial function to Jaap van den Herik (then in Delft, in the neighbourhood of Swets). The *ICCA Newsletter* became the *ICCA Journal* (the first benefit of the 1983 move). In 1987, the *ICCA Journal* moved to Maastricht, in 2008 to Tilburg, and now (2014) to Leiden. As you can see the original name was related to chess only, since ICCA means International Computer Chess Association. During the Computer Olympiad in Maastricht 2000 the Journal's name was changed into *ICGA Journal*. Two years later, at the Triennial Meeting again in Maastricht, the name of the Association followed the change and so the ICCA was redubbed ICGA, meaning International Computer Games Association.

The reason for the current movement is that your Editor has now taken up a position in the Faculty of Science at Leiden University with the task of helping to establish the Leiden Centre of Data Science. He is pleased to mention that his move is taking place together with Joke Hellemons and Aske Plaat. It means that from January 1, 2014 the ICGA Headquarters are located at LIACS Leiden, the Netherlands. As you all may know Leiden has a rich history and many Noble Prize winners in physics. It is the oldest University city in the Netherlands and also well known for its Faculty of Law. Obviously, we look forward to welcoming our ICGA colleagues in this ancient and beautiful city. Although the ICGA headquarters are moving, the principles and themes of the Journal transcend geography and evolve apace.

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Thus the present issue both looks backwards and forwards, which is reflected in its contents. We thank Karsten Müller and Guy Haworth for their confirmation of the old theories on the famous chess game Timman-Velimirović and for formulating new ones concerning the ending Rook versus Bishop. Moreover, we are happy to publish a breakthrough in Chinese Chess Endgame Knowledge Bases. The authors deal with a very difficult topic and manage well to show us the importance of multi-level inference. The four notes demonstrate in a fine way the current progress in our community. Their contribution ranges from solving a minichess variant, via a new approach for algorithms to decide almost on the spot, to two contributions by Guy Haworth. His Chess Endgame News is nowadays a regular and well-known contribution which reads as a story in many parts. Over the years, as new *Depth to Mate* results have come in, many have wondered precisely how deep chess is, thinking ahead to 8-man, 10-man, and 32-man chess. The latest 7-man figures from Moscow seem to confirm a clear trend and Guy Haworth's statistical analysis has given rise to a stimulating conjecture, dubbed "Haworth's Law" by Thomine Stolberg-Rohr WFM. It will no doubt give rise to other conjectures. Then, we have Dap Hartmann's contribution, a laudable review of the Ph.D. thesis by Abdallah Saffidine. We conclude the issue with a series of tournament reports that show us progress, progress, and progress.

All in all, we see that many moves are made in our Games Community. It is up to readers and authors to make the next moves in any games they wish. Please do not forget to inform us about the results of your research. They will be reviewed and published for the benefit of our community.

Jaap van den Herik

The credits of the photographs in this issue are to: Henk Stoop, Professor X. Xu, Professor H. Iida, and Professor T. Cazenave.

It is also possible to receive your membership copy in electronic form. Please, arrange the change of your subscription with our Editorial Manager Johanna Hellemons.

ICGA Journal readers who are interested in information on our publications are referred to our website. A complete list of all articles, notes, and literature reviews published in the *ICCA Journal* and the *ICGA Journal* is accessible on the Internet at <http://www.icga.org>

Since October 1, 2013 all payments to the ICGA should be made to the ING Bank, the Netherlands. IBAN code: NL34INGB0003988921 / Swift code: INGBNL2A. Our Deutsche Bank account has been terminated.