

COMPUTER CHESS NEWSLETTER

This issue of the Newsletter, written by Doug Penrod, has been sent by PERSONAL COMPUTING magazine for him. Further issues of the Newsletter will appear in regular monthly editions of PERSONAL COMPUTING, which you will receive at no further charge to you for the duration of your subscription to the Newsletter.

Due to terminal cancer (Diffuse Histiocytic Lymphoma) that started in January 1975, I am transferring the Computer Chess Newsletter to the monthly magazine Personal Computing (\$14/year), which will include the Computer Chess Newsletter in each issue. Present Computer Chess Newsletter subscriptions will be honored on an issue for issue basis. If you have not yet sent for Issue #2, please request that your subscription start with it. The simplest way is to send \$14.75, asking for CCNL Issue #2 and a year's subscription to Personal Computing magazine.

If you sent for CCNL #1 or #2 and haven't received it yet, you will soon. I have a backlog from December 13, 1977, and Personal Computing is handling this. Thanks for your patience.

Please continue to send letters and articles for publication in the Computer Chess Newsletter. My friend Russ McNeil still serves as editor until a suitable editor is found in the Boston area. Russ will also continue to contribute material to the newsletter.

Please address future correspondence to Computer Chess Newsletter, c/o Personal Computing, 1050 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215.

My first thoughts about this in 1976 were to start a computer chess organization, with the objective of advancing computer chess — so that by meeting and exchanging ideas, computer chess programmers could develop stronger programs and advance computer chess at a higher rate. Hopefully, whole new approaches to this challenging artificial intelligence problem might emerge.

An essential feature of a computer chess organization would of course be a publication, ranging from a professional level journal to a newsletter. It turned out to be easier to start with the newsletter, and the Computer Chess Newsletter resulted.

At the 2nd World Computer Chess Championship held in Toronto in August 1977 (which I couldn't attend because of getting radiation treatments here in Santa Barbara daily), the organization of an international computer chess association was proposed. See future issues of the Computer Chess Newsletter in Personal Computing for more on this.

Future issues will provide complete details of all the games at the World Championship in Toronto (16 contestants), along with supporting articles. David Levy has also promised us an article on this.

I attended the 8th Annual North American (formerly "US") Computer Chess Championship in Seattle in October, and future issues will give complete details of all the games. One of the 12 contestants was *8080 Chess* running on a hobby computer at the site. We will also print details of the Simultaneous Exhibition in which Tournament Director and International Chess Master David Levy from London played against all 12 programs at once. David Levy has been the Director of every US and World computer chess tournament so far.

The US tournaments have been organized by Professor Monroe Newborn (now at McGill University, Montreal), and Professor Ben Mittman (now at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois).

At the Seattle tournament, David Levy asked me to organize a computer chess tournament for hobbyists (using mainly microcomputers) for the spring of 1978. Due to the energetic help of Larry Wagner and Roy Elder of Atari, this event will take place at the Convention Center in San Jose, CA, March 3-5, at the 2nd West Coast Computer Faire. All authors of a computer chess program for a

hobby computer are urged to enter their programs. Contact Roy Elder at Atari, Micro-Electronics Dept., 155 Moffett Park Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

Tom Crispin, whose letters appear in CCNL #1 & #2, and author of the Basic Language program "PATZER 451" written for the Tektronix 4051, has written a new program in 8080 assembly language, and hopes to have it advanced enough to justify entry in the March hobby tournament. Tom has some novel ideas about computer chess programs.

Also present at the Tournament will be the 3 microcomputers dedicated to computer chess – *The Chess Challenger*, *CompuChess*, and *Boris*. (See the newsletter for more information on these.) The Hobby Computer Chess Tournament will be completely covered in the newsletter.

We will also have information on programs available to the hobbyist, such as Randy Miller's program, with modifications, and the Tenberg program. My friend Doug Hogg is now testing them on his homebrew 8080 and on PDP-11/03 in his physics lab at UCSB.

I expected to publish a thorough bibliography of computer chess literature. But there is now available, for \$1.00, "A Comprehensive List of Computer Chess Literature" by Tony A. Marsland (Technical Report TR77-4, September 1977), published by and available from the Department of Computing Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. However, the Computer Chess Newsletter will publish additional Russian and German bibliographical material not in the first edition of Tony Marsland's bibliography.

Founding the Computer Chess Newsletter has been a great pleasure for me, though a lot of work, and I hope to help with it as long as I am able. I apologize for the delays and other defects. I expect the newsletter to be useful to both those who are pushing the state of the art at the professional level in the universities, and to the growing army of hobbyists who are just learning about it. I trust that the experienced computer chess programmers will continue to write about it both for their mutual benefit, providing communication to advance the state of the art, and to write tutorial articles for the benefit of those who are trying to write their first program. I look forward to the publication of completely documented programs, modularly constructed for easy modification by the experimenter.

With deepest regards,

Doug Perrod

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