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## UPDATES

Communication is an important function in games. In Chess, communication takes place by moves. Every move changes the position and a knowledgeable commentator is able to inform the audience of the changes and the new perspectives. For the ICGA Journal a similar line of reasoning applies. Each issue informs the reader on the scientific progress made in our world and in the News section we report on the ICGA events and developments.

In the year 2012, we were unable to inform you of the 2012 ICGA events, being the WCCC, the Computer Olympiad, and the Conference. That is really a pity, but as all readers know the economic situation is worse and we were not successful in fundraising. For the year 2013 signs are good and we hope to inform you later.

A second point of attention on our activity agenda is the ICGA Journal. A good Journal flourishes by the opportunity to attract new blood now and then. After the recent appointment of Aske Plaat as Deputy Editor I have spoken with many people on the ICGA Journal's perspectives in relation to the composition of the Editorial Board. As a result we are pleased to announce three new members, viz. Ingo Althöfer, Cameron Brown, and Guy Haworth. They are active researchers in our community and they promised us to contribute actively in recruiting original contributions with an open eye towards diversification of the content. In the next issue we will highlight the background of these three new members. Then we will also say official farewell to three members of established stature, who have served us for many years with good advice and constructive work. Thank you, Michael Buro, Ken Chen, and Hans Kuijff.

The third point of update is that we say farewell to the Swedish Rating List. We have noticed that the list is no longer updated regularly, which implies that we are unable to include a recent list in each issue of the Journal. We are aware that there are many different lists available on the Internet. For the moment, we have not thought about a replacement of this service. We will discuss our policy within the Editorial Board. Meanwhile we would like to thank Göran Grotting for starting the service back in 1984. At the end of the 1980s he was helped by Torbjörn Jansson and Hans Pahlén. In June 1991 Thoralf Karlsson joined him and since 1998 Karlsson was responsible for the List. It has been an excellent service to the community. I have seen many disputes that came to an end by referring to the results published in this list. Clearly, I would like to thank in particular Göran Grotting and Thoralf Karlsson for the effort they have given to the ICCA/ICGA Journal. Gentlemen, you did a great job. I am sure that our readership concurs with the compliments given to you.

This issue is quite an interesting issue by its diversity and difficult words. It seems that the Greek language is entering our community. Of course, the English language absorbs all what is of use for human beings to

communicate, but so far I have not edited an issue in which we see Triskaidekaphobia (literally: fear of the number thirteen, from τρεισκαιδεκα (thirteen) and φοβος (abnormal fear); meaning: *the number 13 brings misfortune*) and Boustrophedon (literally: as an ox turns in ploughing; from βους (ox) and στροφος (turning); meaning: *from right to left and from left to right in alternative lines*).

This issue contains two articles and two notes. In all four publications we read how important the increasing power of the computer is for the progress of our scientific work. Kai Himstedt shows this by combining (1) the Young Brothers Wait Concept (YBWC) that is implemented in a parallelized chess program running on a cluster and (2) Optimistic Pondering that is realized on top of several clusters. Kai's message is that in Grid environments the highest possible speedup is more important than efficiency. Here we may speculate that within ten years efficiency will reclaim its position. The contribution *The Crossword Solver DR.FILL* by Matthew L. Ginsberg discusses the algorithm used by the computer program DR.FILL in the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament (ACPT) 2012. DR.FILL achieved place 141 among the 592 human competitors. Above we referred to Across 78 (see p. 85): Boustrophedon machines common in the '70s and '80s.

The Chess Endgame News by Guy Haworth discusses a case study for tournament arbiters and endgame connoisseurs. It is a joy to read. The same holds true for Einstein Würfelt Nicht – An Analysis of Endgame Play by Wesley Turner.

In this issue the diversification is *large* owing to Dap Hartmann (Review), Jan-Jaap van Horssen (Draughts), D-J. Sun et al. (Nonograms), and Ryan Hayward (Hex). In contrast, the discrepancy between Scientific Articles and Tournament Reports is *small*. Einstein Würfelt Nicht is a note in which the report of the Computer Olympiad is included. Similarly, The Crossword Solver DR.FILL is also a report on the ACPT 2012. Our conclusion is that the world of games grows in fascination and saturation.

Jaap van den Herik

The credits of the photographs in this issue are to: Jimmy Yen, Jan-Jaap van Horssen, and Joke 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>