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The 12th Computer Olympiad (Science Park Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 11-18, 2007)

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THE 12TH COMPUTER OLYMPIAD

Science Park Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
June 11-18, 2007

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Maastricht, The Netherlands

The Science Park Amsterdam was the location of the 12th Computer Olympiad. The Olympiad was made possible by the generous sponsorship of IBM, SARA Computing Networks, NCF (Foundations of National Computing Facilities). The three partners supported the computer Olympiad in the framework of their opening festivities of the New Supercomputer, the Huygens machine, which was officially taken in operation on June 14, 2007. The opening was effectuated by the Mayor of Amsterdam, Dr. Cohen, the former Rector Magnificus of the Universiteit Maastricht. With much pleasure we acknowledge the main sponsors and the other sponsors: NWO Physical Sciences, OnDemand Rentals, SIKS, and BNVKI.

The organisation of the Olympiad was in the hands of Axel Berg and Marina den Hartog (local organisers) and of MICC-IKAT (Institute for Knowledge and Agent Technology) with Johanna Hellemons as chair of the organising committee. Other members were: Jaap van den Herik, Tons van den Bosch, Mark Winands, Jos Uiterwijk, and Maarten Schadd.

As usual, the Computer Olympiad consisted of many different competitions, each having their own programs and their own rules. Jaap van den Herik served as Tournament Director and Dr. Mark Winands as Assistant Tournament Director.

The 12th Computer Olympiad hosted the following ten games: Amazons, Backgammon, Chinese Chess, Connect6, 10×10 Draughts, Go 9×9, Go 19×19, Phantom Go, Shogi, and Surakarta. The next pages report on the distinct competitions. Here we would like to congratulate the gold-medal winners with their victory: STEENVRETER (Erik van der Werf, Go 9×9), MOGO (Sylvain Gelly and Yizao Wang, Go 19×19), NEUCHESS (Wang Jiao, Chinese Chess), DAM 2.2 (Harm Jetten, 10×10 Draughts), TACOS (T. Hashimoto *et al.*, Shogi), X6 (Shi-Yuan Liou *et al.*, Connect6), BGBLITZ (Peter Berger, Backgammon), SIA (Mark Winands, Surakarta), 8 QUEENS PROBLEM (Johan de Koning, Amazons), GOLOIS (Tristan Cazenave, Phantom Go). Below we provide reports in the order mentioned above. Owing to space restrictions we had to postpone the reports on Shogi, Draughts, Amazons, and Phantom Go to the next issue. Full results and games can be found at www.icga.org.

The Amsterdam SARA/IBM/NCF Committee organised a beautiful tournament for all participants. There were excursions to Volendam, Marken, and Amsterdam, a magnificent dinner in the De Waag (Amsterdam) and a splendid farewell dinner. Moreover, the Olympiad was visited by front-ranked players (chess and Go) and prominent scientists, politicians, and leaders of scientific organizations. A team of three persons of the Chinese Organisation of the 13th Computer Olympiad was present. They gave several stimulating speeches and made all participants enthusiastic for next year. We all enjoyed the Science Park and considered it an excellent continuation of the opening ceremony of the Supercomputer Huygens.

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