International Committee of Silent Chess

40 Years Jubilee
1. THE FOUNDING OF THE I.C.S.C.

The "International Committee for Silent Chess" (I.C.S.C.) was founded in Copenhagen, Denmark on 14th August, 1949. It was brought about by the efforts of a remarkable deaf local chess player from Holland, Mr. L.G. Dronkers.

Before the founding of the I.C.S.C., international deaf chess did not exist. There had been some attempts to include chess as one of the events in the international sports programme for the deaf under the auspices of the C.I.S.S. (Comite International des Sports des Sourds founded in 1924) but they did not succeed. Mr. Dronkers was amongst the founders of the C.I.S.S. and distinguished himself in the affairs of the C.I.S.S., having been elected twice as President and was awarded a silver medal in 1953. He knew how important it was to encourage outstanding deaf chess players to take part in international events and to get them to know each other. It was after the C.I.S.S.-Olympiad in Copenhagen in 1949 when Mr. Dronkers called up an open meeting to discuss international deaf chess matters. Four countries, namely Holland, Denmark, Norway and Finland, collaborated under him and the result was the formation of the I.C.S.C.. Mr. L.G. Dronkers was elected the first President and Mr. A. Olsen of Norway was the Secretary-General.

The I.C.S.C. held its first international teams tournament in Oslo on 21st and 22nd February 1953 alongside with the C.I.S.S. International Deaf Winter Sports. Even though Finland, Yugoslavia, Germany and Holland had announced their intention of participating in the chess event, only England and Norway took part. Others could not turn up due to financial and technical difficulties.

Mr. Dronkers thought there was not enough publicity and not sufficient connection with other countries. It was the second I.C.S.C. Congress (1955) in Oberammergau, West Germany which paved the way for the development of the I.C.S.C.

Mr. L.G. Dronkers of Holland
Founder of the I.C.S.C.
1949-1956 President
1960 Honorary President
The second international teams tournament in which six countries (Finland, Switzerland, Holland, Poland, Denmark and Germany) participated, took place and Germany won the event. At the same time, the unofficial international deaf individual chess championships took place with V. Christensen (Denmark), V. Klemm and P. Shreck both of Germany sharing the top place. After these tournaments, the Congress took place and delegates from ten countries were present which showed their willingness to see the I.C.S.C. put into operation. Mr. Dronkers stressed that there should be an inclusion of chess in the C.I.S.S. programme and to show publicly the importance of international deaf chess tournaments. However well he meant, the delegates felt that the I.C.S.C. should proceed independently and that it should have its own Statutes and Regulations.

The third Congress, held in Warsaw, Poland on February 26th 1956 saw the approval of the Statutes and this formed the basis of the I.C.S.C. and its activities. The governing committee of the I.C.S.C. was formally elected and later it changed to the Presidium of the I.C.S.C. It was found that funds were not sufficient to cover administrative costs and so subscriptions from member-countries formed the basic finance of the I.C.S.C. and were subjected to increases when called for. The membership now grew to 12. The I.C.S.C. was now seeking recognition from the International Chess Federation (F.I.D.E.). The Regulations of the I.C.S.C. had yet to be worked upon. At the same time the first official World Deaf Individual Chess Championships was held and Dr. M. Svabensky of Czechoslovakia won this event. Thus in the first six years the initiation of the I.C.S.C. was beginning to bear fruit as to its objectives.

Mr. H. Meurer of East Germany
22 years in the ICSC Presidium
1958-1964 Secretary-General
1964-1978 President
As the German Deaf Sports Union was dissolved in 1957, the two associations (East Germany and West Germany) had successfully applied separately for the membership of the I.C.S.C. and soon by 1958, there were 17 member-countries. Even though the C.I.S.S. had already voted by a large majority not to accept chess in their international sports programme, the I.C.S.C. was now a well-established international deaf chess organisation in its own right.

2. I.C.S.C. BULLETINS

Since joining in the I.C.S.C. Presidium in 1956, Mr. Heinz Meurer of East Germany was largely responsible for keeping the I.C.S.C. going from strength to strength during his 22 years of service. Other members of the I.C.S.C. Presidium who contributed to the strengthening of the structure of the I.C.S.C. and tournaments for the next twenty years were Dr. M. Svabensky of Czechoslovakia, and Mr. O. Puschke of West Germany. They provided the stability of the I.C.S.C.

Mr. Meurer was responsible for setting up the official I.C.S.C bulletins. He outlined the objectives in the first issue (March 1959):-

"This information sheet is designed to cultivate the ideas of chess as a valuable cultural heritage among the deaf of the world. Its purpose is to form a connection between the members of the International Committee of Silent Chess and to tighten existing bonds between them as well as to help the aspiring I.C.S.C. to gain the necessary international reputation."

The fact that the issuing of these I.C.S.C. bulletins still continue to this day is a tribute to Mr. Meurer and the objectives remain as they were outlined thirty years ago.

Dr. M. Svabensky (Czechoslovakia)
1956-1964 Vice-President
1964-1976 Secretary-General
3 times World Deaf Chess Champion.

Mr. O. Puschke (West Germany)
1956-1962 President
1978-1986 President
25 years in Presidium.

In order to publicise the purpose of the I.C.S.C. in the international chess circle, it was found necessary to make contact with the International Chess Federation (F.I.D.E.), and to seek their support and practical advice on questions concerning the regulations for tournaments. After receiving confirmation of the acceptance of the I.C.S.C. into the F.I.D.E., the activities of the I.C.S.C. had been regularly reported at the F.I.D.E. Congresses.

The contact with the F.I.D.E. was now furthered by producing in 1974 a draft of the agreement with the F.I.D.E. It was approved by the Central Committee of F.I.D.E. in September 1975 in Oosterbeek (Netherlands). The agreement read:-

"The International Chess Federation (FIDE) and the International Committee of Silent Chess (ICSC) declare unanimously their conviction that a close cooperation will be useful given the mutual interest in the development and promotion of chess. FIDE and ICSC therefore unite as partners in the form of an association in which each partner remains legally, economically and technically independent.

The FIDE recognises the ICSC as the only official international federation for silent chess.

Titles given by the ICSC will be confirmed by the FIDE. This agreement is valid for an indefinite period. Changes and amendments require mutual consent. This agreement will become effective upon approval by the General Assembly of the FIDE and by the Congress of the ICSC."

This announcement by Mr. Meurer in his speech on the 25th anniversary of the I.C.S.C. showed years of negotiation with the F.I.D.E. and the trust of the F.I.D.E. in the I.C.S.C.'s handling of the chess events and Congresses for the deaf in the highest standards and in the I.C.S.C.'s conformity to F.I.D.E. standards is a credit to both Mr. Meurer and Dr. Svbensky.

Today the I.C.S.C. is an affiliated member of the F.I.D.E.. Even though the F.I.D.E. only deals with the hearing chess organisations, it is important to note that the F.I.D.E. has given the I.C.S.C. full backing by the F.I.D.E.'s award of the International Master status to the I.C.S.C. World Individual Chess Champion and has truly recognised the role of the I.C.S.C..
4. THE I.C.S.C. TOURNAMENTS

The I.C.S.C. achieved much success in their staging of the World Individual and Teams Deaf Chess Championships. The International Individual and Club Correspondence Chess Championships were also initiated but ceased in 1983 due to high cost of postage.

The idea of staging the European national deaf chess club championships originated from a meeting of the I.C.S.C. Presidium in December 1967 in Prague. Heinz Meurer was the initiator and after five years of deliberation, the first Europa Cup competition was held in 1973. Essen, the West German champion club, won and was followed by Budapest of Hungary. This popular tournament, held once every two years, continues to this day.

Looking back, the I.C.S.C. have carried out the following events during the last 40 years:

- 10 World Team Championships,
- 9 World Individual Championships,
- 9 Europa Cup Championships,
- 19 International Congresses

Mr. G. Vida (Hungary)
1986 - President
15 years of service in Presidium.
5. GENERAL

In 1983 the I.C.S.C. was instrumental and supportive in the founding of the international fund-raising body for all sports for the world’s disabled, the I.P.S.D., and is a member of the I.P.S.D. The I.C.S.C. is appreciative of the financial support from the I.P.S.D. in the staging of the I.C.S.C. world events.

From time to time, awards have been awarded to those who have served well in the I.C.S.C. Presidium and to those who achieved the status of the I.C.S.C. Grandmaster and Master. The roll of honour of the I.C.S.C. is found in the Appendix.

In 1984, for the first time, awards were presented to the long-serving and regular delegates of the I.C.S.C., notably the present and hard-working General-Secretary and Treasurer of the I.C.S.C., Mr. G.J. Westerveld of the Netherlands, with a gold medal. Indeed the biannual I.C.S.C. Congresses have been held regularly and have been made possible only by the regular attendances and the willingness and the goodwill of the delegates of the affiliated countries.

Concern was shown at the lack of some of the affiliated countries outside Europe to participate in the I.C.S.C. World events because of the costly expenses of the long-distant journeys. In 1988, reflecting on the success of the European clubs championships, the wording of the Europe Cup was replaced by the Inter-Continental Cup in the revised I.C.S.C. Statutes and Regulations during the Congress at Stockholm. The I.C.S.C. hopes that affiliated countries would be encouraged to stage their national clubs championships in their Continen in the near future.

Today the recent East European revolution has allowed several East European countries to resume their places in the I.C.S.C. and we welcome their presence and look forward to the staging of the I.C.S.C. events in their countries.

Mr. G.J. Westerveld (The Netherlands)
1985—Secretary-General/Treasurer
1984—Gold award for long service to I.C.S.C.
6. CONCLUSION
Throughout the forty years of the I.C.S.C., the Presidium of the I.C.S.C. have striven hard to maintain the high standards and have relied on the goodwill and full cooperation of all the affiliated member-countries of the I.C.S.C. which have helped to organise the Congresses, the World Championships, and the Europa Cup Championships. The I.C.S.C. owe thanks to the affiliated countries, their delegates, their participants, friends and supporters, the F.I.D.E. and the I.F.S.D. and look forward to their continuing support in the future.

Today the I.C.S.C. is in its fortieth year and its basic activities and traditions continue as they were when Meurer departed in 1978 and has its own Archives. It is a fitting occasion for the I.C.S.C.'s Jubilee celebration to be held in Hungary when it is recalled that the present I.C.S.C. President, Mr. Gabor Vida is an Hungarian and is the longest serving member of the I.C.S.C. Presidium of 25 years. The I.C.S.C. salutes him.

As Mr. G.Vida mentioned in his Presidential address of the 9th Europa Cup tournament in London, on the use of the chess clock theme: the chess clock started running at the inauguration of the I.C.S.C. on 14th August 1949 and "after 40 years we had, have and will have the opportunity of meeting each other again and making new friends so the chess clock is still running... Old chess fans have passed, new ones have come but we have pictures, photos and documents to keep all those events in mind". This will indeed be the theme of the 40 years Jubilee celebration of the I.C.S.C. during the World Teams Deaf Chess Championships in Veszprem, Hungary.

The I.C.S.C. is an international deaf chess organisation and a voting member of the F.I.D.E. and has always taken into account the interests of all member-countries and welcomes new countries to join in and to participate in the noblest game of all sports, CHESS for the benefit of the deaf.

On behalf of the Presidium of the I.C.S.C., every best wishes are extended to all and so the chess clock keeps running...and may it never stop running in the future.
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF SILENT CHESS
(affiliated to F.I.D.E.)

Members of the I.C.S.C. BOARD.
President : Mr. G. VLDA (HUNGARY)
Vice-President : Mr. A. J. BOYCE (ENGLAND)
Secretary-General/Treasurer : Mr. G. J. WESTERVELD (THE NETHERLANDS)
Member of the Board: Mr. M. MIKOLIC (YUGOSLAVIA)

Affiliated Members of the I.C.S.C.
Australia  
Argentina  
Bangladesh  
Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Costa Rica  
Denmark  
West Germany  
East Germany  
England  
Spain  
Finland  
France  
Hungary  
Iceland

Israel  
Mexico  
The Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Rumania  
Scotland  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Czechoslovakia  
United States of America  
Venezuela  
Yugoslavia

All correspondence to the I.C.S.C.:-
Hoontebrink 31,
NL-7544 ZV Enschede
The Netherlands

Bank Account:-
Nr. 408.413.01 W of the Schweizerischen Bankgesellschaft,
Bahnhofstrasse 45,
CH-8021 ZURICH
SWITZERLAND.
# World Teams Deaf Chess Championships

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### 1953

**I World Teams Deaf Chess Championships**  
21st–22nd February 1953. OSLO, Norway.

1. Norway  
2. England

### 1955

**II World Teams Deaf Chess Championships**  
10th–13th February 1955. OBERAMMELGAO (West Germany).

1. Germany  
2. Netherlands  
3. Poland  
4. Finland  
5. Denmark  
6. Switzerland

### 1958

**III World Teams Deaf Chess Championships**  

1. Germany  
2. Poland  
3. Yugoslavia  
4. Spain  
5. Hungary  
6. Netherlands  
7. Great Britain  
8. Finland
1962
IV WORLD TEAMS DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS
12th-21st October 1962. VARNA, Bulgaria.

1. Hungary
2. Bulgaria
3. Poland
4. East Germany
5. Rumania
6. Netherlands

1966
V WORLD TEAMS DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS
22nd June-2nd July 1966. LEKSAND, Sweden.

1. Czechoslovakia
2. West Germany
3. Hungary
4. East Germany
5. Denmark
6. Netherlands
7. Sweden
8. Finland

1970
VI WORLD TEAMS DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS
5th-18th August 1970. TURKU, Finland.

1. Bulgaria
2. Czechoslovakia
3. East Germany
4. Yugoslavia
5. West Germany
6. Hungary
7. Netherlands
8. Sweden
9. Finland

1974
VII WORLD TEAMS DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS
12th-21st August 1974. FREDERICIA, Denmark.

1. Bulgaria
2. East Germany
3. Hungary
4. West Germany
5. Spain
6. Denmark
7. Netherlands
8. Norway
9. Sweden
VIII WORLD TEAMS DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS
14th-28th May 1978. OBERSTDORF, West Germany.

1. Yugoslavia
2. Spain
3. Bulgaria
4. Hungary
5. West Germany
6. East Germany
7. Sweden
8. Netherlands
9. U.S.A.

IX WORLD TEAMS DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS
23rd-5th June 1982. PALMA DE MALLORCA, Spain.

1. Yugoslavia
2. West Germany
3. Hungary
4. Spain
5. U.S.A.
6. Sweden
7. Netherlands
8. Portugal
9. Switzerland
10. Venezuela

X WORLD TEAMS DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS
24th-7th June 1986. ALBUFEIRA, Portugal.

1. Yugoslavia
2. Hungary
3. West Germany
4. Spain
5. Great Britain
6. Sweden
7. Switzerland
8. Denmark
9. Portugal
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<td>Ch. Aubert (FRA)</td>
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<td>P. Bereczky (HUN)</td>
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<td>J. Schmid (CZE)</td>
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<td>Guadalajara (SPA)</td>
<td>F. Lon (SPA)</td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>R. Pereira (POR)</td>
<td>A. Sabotic (YUG)</td>
<td>J. Schmid (CZE)</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>J. Kerec (YUG)</td>
<td>R. Chauvenet (USA)</td>
<td>A. J. Boyce (GB)</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>D. Hadorn (SWI)</td>
<td>R. Chauvenet (USA)</td>
<td>I. Bokros (HUN)</td>
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1956
I WORLD INDIVIDUAL DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS
11th-21st February 1956. ZAKOPANE, Poland.

1. Dr. M. Svabensky (Czechoslovakia)
2. A. Nedev (Bulgaria)
3. R. Walter (West Germany)
4. J. Smolka (Poland)
5. J. Zak (Poland)
6. K. Geyer (East Germany)
7. B. Petani (Yugoslavia)
8. C.R. White (England)

1960
II WORLD INDIVIDUAL DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS
4th-16th September, 1960. PORTORZ, Yugoslavia.

1. E. Lulcev (Bulgaria)
2. Dr. M. Svabensky (Czechoslovakia)
3. C. Aubert (France)
4. J. Zak (Poland)
5. H. Gudac (Yugoslavia)
6. F. Lon (Spain)
7. R. Walter (West Germany)
8. K. Pötzsch (East Germany)
9. Pelikan (Rumania)
10. A. Nielsen (Denmark)

1965
III WORLD INDIVIDUAL DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Dr. M. Svabensky (Czechoslovakia)
2. P. Bereczki (Hungary)
3. E. Lulcev (Bulgaria)
4. W. Nedev (Bulgaria)
5. W. Krabbe (West Germany)
6. K. Ljungberg (Finland)
7. H. Liis (Finland)
8. S. Christensen (Denmark)
1968 IV WORLD INDIVIDUAL DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS
8th-18th May 1968 BUDAPEST, Hungary.

FINAL A
1. Dr. M. Svatensky (Czechoslovakia)
2. W. Mustakerski (Bulgaria)
3. P. Berczki (Hungary)
4. R. Walter (West Germany)
5. J. Zak (Poland)
6. J. Gelencsér (Hungary)
7. J. Schneider (Czechoslovakia)
8. A. Sabotic (Yugoslavia)

FINAL B
1. W. Krabbe (East Germany)
2. J. Vos (Netherlands)
3. J. Pedersen (Denmark)
4. E. Tzouros (Greece)
5. L. Johansson (Sweden)
6. E. Saarinen (Finland)

1972 V WORLD INDIVIDUAL DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS
6th-16th August 1972 LEIPZIG, East Germany.

FINAL A
1. N. Mustakerski (Bulgaria)
2. J. Gelencsér (Hungary)
3. J. Schmid (Czechoslovakia)
4. Z. Makowski (Poland)
5. J. Kerenc (Yugoslavia)
6. H. Punschke (West Germany)
7. B. Meader (Great Britain)
8. A. de Bruyn (Netherlands)

FINAL B
1. H. Weidemann (East Germany)
2. R. Walla (Norway)
3. J. Perez (Spain)
4. E. Klastrup (Denmark)
5. J. Axelsen (Sweden)
6. E. Lahti (Finland)
1976
VI WORLD INDIVIDUAL DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS
2nd-14th August 1976, BILBAO, Spain.

1. N. Mustakerski (Bulgaria)
2. J. Guadalajara (Spain)
3. F. Lon (Spain)
4. J. Gelenčsér (Hungary)
5. B. Petkov (Bulgaria)
6. A. van der Linden (Belgium)
7. G. Kopton (West Germany)
8. H. Havik (Netherlands)
9. H. Walther (Norway)
10. J. Christiansen (Sweden)
11. E. Ladner (U.S.A.)

1980
VII WORLD INDIVIDUAL DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS
1st-13th June 1980, AMSTERDAM, Netherlands

FINAL A
1. R. Pereira (Portugal)
2. A. Sabotic (Yugoslavia)
3. J. Schmid (Czechoslovakia)
4. W. Mustakerski (Bulgaria)
5. J. Zak (Poland)
6. J. Gelenčsér (Hungary)
7. H. Walther (Norway)
8. W. Boot (Netherlands)
9. S. Stamenov (Bulgaria)
10. M. Reafatullah (Bangladesh)

FINAL B
1. R. Walter (West Germany)
2. R. Chauvenet (U.S.A.)
3. H. Gardarsson (Iceland)
4. J. Bosch (Spain)
5. A. van de Linden (Belgium)
6. D. Hadorn (Switzerland)
7. I. Berntsson (Sweden)
8. C. Aubert (France)
1984  VIII WORLD INDIVIDUAL DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS  
27th May – 9th June 1984.  WASHINGTON, U.S.A.  

1. J. Kerec-  (Yugoslavia)  
2. R. Chauvenet  (U.S.A.)  
3. A.J. Boyce  (Great Britain)  
4. D. Hadorn  (Switzerland)  
5. L. Vossen  (West Germany)  
6. G. Carrillo  (Costa Rica)  
7. A. Mossin  (Sweden)  
8. A. Langendoen  (Netherlands)  
9. P. deWeerdt  (Belgium)  
10. J. Gonzalez  (Mexico)  

1988  IX WORLD INDIVIDUAL DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS  

1. D. Hadorn  (Switzerland)  
2. R. Chauvenet  (U.S.A.)  
3. I. Bokros  (Hungary)  
4. G. Kopton  (West Germany)  
5. A. Wassar  (Australia)  
6. M. Reafatullah  (Bangladesh)  
7. S. Juhola  (Finland)  
8. T. Nabarro  (England)  
9. R. Burnett  (Scotland)  
10. P. deWeerdt  (Belgium)  
11. P. Borg  (Sweden)  

16
### EUROPA CUP

#### I 1973
- **Essen** (West Germany)
  1. Essen (West Germany)
  2. Budapest (Hungary)
  3. Göteborg (Sweden)
  4. Amsterdam (Netherlands)
  5. Essen II (West Germany)
  6. Herning (Denmark)

#### II 1975
- **Göteborg** (Sweden)
  1. Heidelberg (West Germany)
  2. Budapest (Hungary)
  3. Prague (Czechoslovakia)
  4. Amsterdam (Netherlands)
  5. Göteborg (Sweden)
  6. Herning (Denmark)

#### III 1977
- **Den Haag** (Netherlands)
  1. Heidelberg (West Germany)
  2. Belgrade (Yugoslavia)
  3. Budapest (Hungary)
  4. Göteborg (Sweden)
  5. Voorburg (Netherlands)
  6. Leiden (Netherlands)
  7. Gent (Belgium)
  8. Sheffield (England)

#### IV 1979
- **Essen** (West Germany)
  1. Belgrade (Yugoslavia)
  2. Essen I (West Germany)
  3. Den Haag (Netherlands)
  4. Helsingborg (Sweden)
  5. London (England)
  6. Essen II (West Germany)

#### V 1981
- **Vaxjo** (Sweden)
  1. Belgrade (Yugoslavia)
  2. Budapest (Hungary)
  3. Karlsruhe (West Germany)
  4. Sofia (Bulgaria)
  5. Bergen (Norway)
  6. St.Gallen (Switzerland)
  7. London (England)
  8. Zoetermeer (Netherlands)
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<td><strong>VI 1983</strong></td>
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### I.C.S.C. CONGRESSES

**I.C.S.C. Inauguration on 14th August, 1949**

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I.C.S.C. ROLL OF HONOUR

Honorarium President
1960  L.G. Dronkers (Holland)

Distinguished Service to I.C.S.C.
GOLD:  1976  Dr. M. Svabensky (Czechoslovakia)
       1984  G.J. Westerveld (Netherlands)

SILVER:  1976  J. Pedersen (Denmark)
         1984  J.L. Penacoba (Spain)

BRONZE:  1984  G. Arnold (East Germany)
         Dr. Foldi (Hungary)
         H. Claeyis (Belgium)
         T. Krum scheid (West Germany)
         M. Nikolic (Yugoslavia)

I.C.S.C. International Grandmaster
1960  N.A. Nedeve (Bulgaria)
      R. Walter (West Germany)
1962  Dr. M. Svabensky (Czechoslovakia)
1965  E. Lulcev (Bulgaria)
      J. Zak (Poland)

I.C.S.C. International Master
1960  J. Zak (Poland)
1965  K. Ceyer in mem (East Germany)
      J. Varnai (Hungary)
      P. Bereczki (Hungary)
      N. Mustakersky (Bulgaria)
1967  J. Schmid (Czechoslovakia)
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