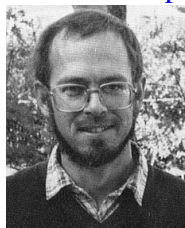


[Home](#) \* [People](#) \* **Ulf Rathsmann**



Ulf Rathsmann <sup>[4]</sup>

**Ulf Rathsmann**, a Swedish engineer and former professional computer chess programmer. He started chess programming in the 70s, and his first program [Dark Horse](#), written in [Fortran](#) and running on a [CDC 6600 mainframe computer](#) <sup>[1]</sup> and also on a 36-bit one's complement [Univac 1100](#) <sup>[2]</sup>, played the [WCCC 1977](#) in [Toronto](#), the [WCCC 1980](#) in [Linz](#) respectively <sup>[3]</sup>, and was runner-up at the [ECCC 1979](#).

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## Programs

*in chronological order*

- [Dark Horse](#)
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## Dedicated Computers

- [Conchess](#)
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## Career

[Princhess](#) was Rathsmann's first program for a [microcomputer](#), written in [6502 Assembly](#) to run on a [Commodore 64](#). In 1981, supported by [Johan Enroth](#), Rathsmann became professional chess programmer for [dedicated chess computers](#). Soon after Princhess' success as runner-up at the [WMCCC 1981](#) in [Travemünde](#) <sup>[5]</sup>, he started collaboration with [Peter-Ingolf Gericke](#) und [Klaus Heyne](#) within their company [Consumenta](#), merchandising [Conchess](#) chess computers manufactured by *Wallharn Electronics*, Ireland, with Rathsmann's [6502](#) based Princhess program <sup>[6] [7]</sup>. After Consumenta's down and out in 1983, Conchess continued under the aegis of Enroth's company, also marketed by [Hegener & Glaser](#) within two models of their [Mephisto](#) series <sup>[8] [9]</sup>. A Conchess computer competed at the [WCCC 1983](#) in [New York](#) <sup>[10]</sup>.

Princhess became tied [World Microcomputer Chess Champion 1984](#) in [Glasgow](#), where also two Conchess computers competed with the same author involved. In collaboration with co-author [Lars Hjörth](#), Rathsmann's next program was [Plymate](#) <sup>[11]</sup>, competing along with Princhess at the [WMCCC 1985](#), and further the [WCCC 1986](#), the [WMCCC 1987](#) and the [WMCCC 1988](#). [Y!](#) (Why Not 88 and 89), also with [Lars Hjörth](#) as co-author, and [Sandro Necchi](#) as [book author](#), competed the [WMCCC 1988](#) and [WMCCC 1989](#), as well the [WCCC 1989](#) <sup>[12]</sup>. Somewhere in the 90s, Ulf Rathsmann retired from computer chess.

## Photos



[Lars Hjörth](#), [David Kittinger](#), [Kaare Danielsen](#), [Ulf Rathsmann](#), [WMCCC 1985](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

## Photos & Games



[WCCC 1986](#), [Plymate](#) vs. [Mephisto X](#), [Ulf Rathsman](#), [Richard Lang](#) and [Ossi Weiner](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

```
[Event "WCCC 1986"]
[Site "Cologne, Germany"]
[Date "1986.06.12"]
[Round "2"]
[White "Plymate"]
[Black "Mephisto X"]
[Result "1-0"]
```

```
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Bc4 e6 7.N1e2 Nf6 8.
Nf4 Bd6
9.Nxg6 hxg6 10.O-
O b5 11.Be2 Ne4 12.Bg4 Qh4 13.Bh3 Ng5 14.Bxg5 Qxg5 15.Qd3 Nd7
16.Ne4 Qd5 17.a4 Bc7 18.axb5 cxb5 19.Nc3 Qd6 20.f4 b4 21.Nb5 Qb6 22.Qc
4 Kd8
23.Kh1 a6 24.Nxc7 Qxc7 25.Qb3 Qc6 26.Qxb4 Rxh3 27.Qa5+ Ke8 28.d5 Qxc2
29.gxh3
Qe4+ 30.Kg1 Qd4+ 31.Rf2 exd5 32.Qc7 Qe3 33.Qd6 Rb8 34.b4 Qe4 35.Qxa6 Q
xb4 36.Qc6
Qd4 37.Re1+ Kd8 38.Qc2 Nf6 39.Rc1 Qb6 40.Kh1 Ne4 41.Rff1 Rb7 42.Qc8+ K
e7 43.Rfe1
Rd7 44.Qh8 Qf6 45.Rf1 Rd8 46.Qh7 Kd7 47.Rcd1 Nc3 48.Rd3 Ra8 49.Rc1 Rc8
50.Re1 d4
51.Rg3 Ra8 52.Rg2 Nd5 53.f5 Ne3 54.Rd2 Qc6+ 55.Kg1 Qc3 56.Rde2 Ra1 57.
Qh4 gxf5
58.Rxa1 Qxa1+ 59.Re1 Qb2 60.Qg3 g6 61.Qf3 f6 62.Qa8 f4 63.Ra1 Qb5 64.Q
e4 Qg5+
65.Kh1 Qd5 66.Qxd5+ Nxd5 67.Rd1 Ke6 68.Rxd4 Ke5 69.Ra4 Nc3 70.Ra3 Nd5
71.Kg1 Ke4
72.Kf2 g5 73.h4 Ne3 74.Ra4+ Kf5 75.h5 Ng4+ 76.Kg2 Ne5 77.Ra7 Ng4 78.h3
Nh6 79.Rh7
Ng8 80.h6 Kg6 81.Rg7+ Kxh6 82.Rxg8 Kh7 83.Rc8 f5 84.Rf8 Kg7 85.Rxf5 Kg
6 86.Rd5
1-0
```

## External Links

- [Ulf Rathsmann's ICGA Tournaments](#)
- [Rathsmann, Ulf](#) – [Schachcomputer.info Wiki](#) (German)

## References

1. <sup>^</sup> [Peter Jennings](#) (1978). *Microchess 1.5 Versus Dark Horse*. [BYTE](#), Vol. 3, No. 3
2. <sup>^</sup> [3rd World Computer Chess Championship - Linz 1980 \(ICGA Tournaments\)](#)
3. <sup>^</sup> [Dark Horse' ICGA Tournaments](#)
4. <sup>^</sup> Image cropped from [Tidskrift för Schack](#) utges av [Sveriges Schackförbund](#), No. 9, November, 1982, pg. 285, Den "svensktillverkade" schackdatorn [Conchess](#) konstruktörer, [Ulf Rathsmann](#) och [Johan Enroth](#), pdf
5. <sup>^</sup> [Princhess' ICGA Tournaments](#)
6. <sup>^</sup> [Conchess](#) – [Schachcomputer.info Wiki](#) (German)
7. <sup>^</sup> [Karsten Bauermeister](#) (1998). *Die Geschichte der Conchess-Schachcomputer*. [Computerschach und Spiele](#), Heft 4, August-September 1998
8. <sup>^</sup> [Mephisto B&P](#) – [Schachcomputer.info Wiki](#)
9. <sup>^</sup> [Mephisto MM II](#) – [Schachcomputer.info Wiki](#)
10. <sup>^</sup> [Conchess' ICGA Tournaments](#)
11. <sup>^</sup> [Plymate's ICGA Tournaments](#)
12. <sup>^</sup> [Y!'s ICGA Tournaments](#)
13. <sup>^</sup> [László Lindner](#), A SZÁMÍTÓGÉPES SAKK KÉPEKBEN című melléklete - The pictures of the Beginning of Chess Computers
14. <sup>^</sup> [Computerschach Weltmeisterschaft / World Computer Chess Championship \(WCCC\)](#) from [Schachcomputer.info - Wiki](#)

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