



We give the teams a hard nut to crack

Velin TSANOV, Chair of the Scientific Committee

„One of all 8 competition tasks during the two competition days will be a real challenge even for the best prepared Olympians. I will personally be very happy if any of my young colleagues solves it,“ announced Velin Tsanov, Chair of the Scientific Committee. „It is, so to say, the hard nut in the big competition.“

According to the existing regulations, the representatives of the 83 participating countries work on two selected sets of four tasks each. Apart from the very tough task, there is also a very easy one, which even the novices should be able to solve. Students can check their performance on this task themselves, i.e. there is full feedback. Each contestant can tell if they have scored a point on it. The people in the spacious Hall 11 have different levels of preparation and arrangements must be made to make sure each contestant will find a „suitable track“.

Velin Tsanov remembers the contests he took part in himself not very long time ago. He was a gold medal winner in IOI'2001 and IOI'2002. The other members of the Scientific Committee are also former medallists. If we count all the medals we have won all together, the number will be higher than 20,“ jokes Velin.

„Crowned“ with champion titles, he had the chance to study and specialize in the USA and is currently an important player at the D.E.Shaw&Co investment fund in New York. Naturally, he wouldn't say what exactly he does, but in general terms, his job is to design and develop computer programs for various financial transactions. For travel and appointments at the Olympiad, Velin received the support of the compa-



ny he works for.

Apparently, the dynamism of the contest is only natural for him because of the fast rhythm of his lifestyle in the USA. „I can only come to

Bulgaria just once a year,“ admits Velin. But in New York there are a lot of Bulgarians now, so it is getting easier to cope with homesickness. The champion from the beginning of the 21st century is happily married to a Bulgarian and is expecting to become a father soon.



The 7th International Olympiad in Informatics took place at the end of June at Eindhoven in the Netherlands. The competition, which hosts the winners of many national contests, attracted over 200 competitors from 52 different countries. It is far from being an exclusively European affair,

with teams from as far afield as Colombia and China.

Great Britain is not a newcomer to the event, but having been unable to attend for the last two years it felt like it at times. This year we picked a team of 5 from the „British Informatics Olympiad“, four of whom were able to attend. We flew into Amsterdam, from where we were taken to the Eindhoven

University of Technology (TUE), the main competition site.

For the week of the competition, the IOI took over much of the campus. As well as rooms for the computing a hospitality tent was set up, and many of the students were brought in as guides. Accommodation was at the nearby „Center Parcs“ complex.

