



WSCC 2019: the World Speed Chess Championship

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WSCC 2019: The World Speed Chess Championship

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The ICGA's 2019 'WSCC' World Speed Chess Championship was held alongside its WCCC and WCSC events (Krabbenbos et al., 2019a, 2019b) on the 12th and 15th August at the Venetian Macau Hotel Resort in Macau, China. The location was luxuriously spectacular with every facility, a great place for some of the world's top computer chess authors and operators to meet and celebrate their art and achievements. The ICGA's events were part of the 28th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI-19) which also acted as the main sponsor. The other important sponsor was Digital Game Technology (DGT) who provided the electronic chessboards. Chessbase donated an extra prize for the first position.

All WCCC/WCSC engines other than THE BARON took part as in Table 1. The all-play-all event consisted of ten rounds sequenced for logistical convenience as five double-rounds. Each engine played one opponent with one colour and then the other. The tempo was 5'+5"/m, which makes the operator's experience, accuracy and speed of hand very important.

Table 1
The participants in WSCC 2019 (CPW, 2019)

id	Program	Author(s)	CC	Operator
C	CHIRON	Ubaldo Andrea Farina	IT	Ubaldo Andrea Farina
G	GINKGO	Frank Schneider	DE	Wolfgang Zugrav
J	JONNY	Johannes Zwanzger	DE	Johannes Zwanzger
K	KOMODO	Don Dailey, Larry Kaufman & Mark Lefler	US	Erdogan Günes
S	SHREDDER	Stefan Meyer-Kahlen	DE	Stefan Meyer-Kahlen

The faster tempo brought its surprises. Game 3, KOMODO lost to JONNY in a dead even position, sadly because of a connection failure with just 15" on the clock. After some 'strange moves', it was then genuinely outplayed in game 16 by CHIRON which, reasonably, was more attracted to an EGT-guaranteed, 28-move mate from move 58 than a 7-man, 16-move mate from move 55.

JONNY took its turn to win all the plaudits – the only unbeaten engine and, even ignoring its fortunate result against KOMODO, the engine with the most wins. Game 2 was a victory over GINKGO as Black, and game 15 was a win over the multiple ICGA champion, SHREDDER.

All games, some lightly annotated and all at GM standard despite the frenetic Blitz tempo, are available for study at human pace from the repository version (Krabbenbos et al., 2019c) of this report. Our heartiest congratulations to Johannes Zwanzger, the 2019 World Speed Chess Champion.

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Fig. 1. Part of the Venetian Macau Resort, China.



Fig. 2. The ICGA's tournament hall, featuring from right to left, THE BARON's Richard Pijl, Johannes Zwanzger (JONNY), Stefan Meyer-Kahlen (SHREDDER), Wolfgang Zugrav (GINKGO) and CHIRON's Ubaldo Andrea Farina.

Table 2
The WSCC 2019 games.²

#	r	g	Wh.	Bl.	ECO	Opening	#m	Res.	FGen	7m	6m
01	01	1	K	S	B85	Sicilian, Scheveningen, Classical Variation with ...Qc7 and ...Nc6	51	½-½	—	—	—
02	01	2	G	J	D12	Queen's Gambit Declined Slav	58	0-1	—	—	—
03	02	1	J	K	A29	English Opening, Four Knights, Kingside Fianchetto: 1. ... e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3	53	1-0	—	—	—
04	02	2	C	G	B90	Sicilian, Najdorf	93	½-½	—	—	—
05	03	1	S	J	D10	Queen's Gambit Declined Slav	58	½-½	52b	—	—
06	03	2	K	C	A28	English Opening, Four Knights System: 1...e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 (without 4.g3)	68	1-0	—	—	—
07	04	1	C	S	B47	Sicilian, Taimanov (Bastrikov) variation	79	½-½	70b	—	—
08	04	2	G	K	B09	Pirc, Austrian attack	37	½-½	—	—	—
09	05	1	S	G	E00	Queen's Pawn Game (including Neo-Indian Attack,	37	½-½	—	—	—
10	05	2	J	C	E11	Bogo-Indian Defence	48	½-½	38w	—	—
11	06	1	S	K	D46	Queen's Gambit Declined; Semi-Slav 6.Bd3	42	½-½	41b	—	—
12	06	2	J	G	A29	English Opening, Four Knights, Kingside Fianchetto:	112	½-½	—	—	—
13	07	1	K	J	B67	Sicilian, Richter–Rauzer, Rauzer Attack, 7...a6 defence, 8...Bd7	139	½-½	—	—	—
14	07	2	G	C	E10	Queen's Pawn Game 3.Nf3	76	½-½	—	73w, ½-½	—
15	08	1	J	S	B10	Caro-Kann Defence	80	1-0	34b	—	—
16	08	2	C	K	B06	Robatsch (Modern) Defence, including Monkey's Bum	57	1-0	—	54b, 1-0	—
17	09	1	S	C	D45	Queen's Gambit Declined; Semi-Slav 5.e3	42	½-½	—	—	—
18	09	2	K	G	E97	King's Indian, Orthodox, Aronin–Taimanov Variation (Yugoslav Attack / Mar del Plata Variation)	77	½-½	—	—	—
19	10	1	G	S	B49	Sicilian, Taimanov Variation	36	½-½	32b	—	—
20	10	2	C	J	B69	Sicilian, Richter–Rauzer, Rauzer Attack, 7...a6 defence, 11.Bxf6	124	½-½	—	—	—

Table 3
The WSCC 2019 cross-table

#	id	Program	J	C	G	K	S	W	D	L	Score	Perf. %
1	J	JONNY	½	½	½	½	½	3	5	0	5½	68.75
2	C	CHIRON	½	½	½	0	½	1	6	1	4	50.00
3	G	GINKGO	0	½	½	½	½	0	7	1	3½	43.75
4	K	KOMODO	0	1	½	½	½	1	5	2	3½	43.75
5	S	SHREDDER	½	½	½	½	½	0	7	1	3½	43.75

Table 4
The WSCC 2019 results, round by round

#	id	Program	r1	r2	r3	r4	r5	r6	r7	r8	r9	r10	Score
1	J	JONNY	Gb1	Gw½	Kw1	Kb½	bye	Sb½	Sw1	Cw½	Cb½	5½	
2	C	CHIRON	bye	Gw½	Gb½	Sw½	Sb½	Kb0	Kw1	Jb½	Jw½	4	
3	G	GINKGO	Jw0	Jb½	Cb½	Cw½	Kw½	Kb½	bye	Sb½	Sw½	3½	
4	K	KOMODO	Sw½	Sb½	Jb0	Jw½	Gb½	Gw½	Cw1	Cb0	bye	3½	
5	S	SHREDDER	Kb½	Kw½	bye	Cb½	Cw½	Jw½	Jb0	Gw½	Gb½	3½	

² FINALGEN-compatible positions (Müller and Haworth, 2019; Romero, 2012) are noted in column 'FGen'.

Table 5
WCSC 2019 progress, round by round

#	Program	r1	r2	r3	r4	r5	r6	r7	r8	r9	r10
1	JONNY	1	1½	2½	3	3	3	3½	4½	5	5½
2	CHIRON	0	0	½	1	1½	2	2	3	3½	4
3	GINKGO	0	½	1	1½	2	2½	2½	2½	3	3½
4	KOMODO	½	1	1	1½	2	2½	3½	3½	3½	3½
5	SHREDDER	½	1	1	1	1½	2	2½	2½	3	3½

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Fig. 3. Johannes Zwanzger, author and operator of JONNY, the 2019 World Speed Chess Champion. David Levy, the long-time and retiring president of the ICGA, presented the prize.