

# *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 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

| #  | 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:<br>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:<br>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,<br>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<br>(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,<br>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  |       |

<sup>2</sup> 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.