# TCEC12: the 12th Top Chess Engine Championship 

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## TCEC12: the $12^{\text {th }}$ Top Chess Engine Championship

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After the successes of TCEC Season 11 (Haworth and Hernandez, 2018a; TCEC, 2018), the Top Chess Engine Championship moved straight on to Season 12, starting April $18^{\text {th }} 2018$ with the same divisional structure if somewhat evolved.

Five divisions, each of eight engines, played two or more 'DRR' double round robin phases each, with promotions and relegations following. Classic tempi gradually lengthened and the Premier division's top two engines played a 100-game match to determine the Grand Champion. The strategy for the selection of mandated openings was finessed from division to division. The revised TCEC engine lineup is illustrated and listed in Fig. 1 and Table 1.


Fig. 1. Logos for the TCEC 12 engines as in their original divisions.
Besides using FIDE's $3 x$-repetition and 50-move drawing rules, TCEC terminated a game at move 40 or later if both engines had |eval| $<0.05$ for ten consecutive plies in the current phase, i.e., since the last pawn-advance and/or capture. TCEC12 fell in line with most of the participating engines by adjudicating endgames using the Syzygy DTZ $_{50}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ EGTs (de Man, 2018) rather than the Gaviota DTM EGTs which do not recognise the 50-move rule. 5-man EGTs were used for the divisions and 6-man EGTs were used for the Superfinal. Games which were apparently decisive were terminated by TCEC

[^0]if both engines consistently agreed for the last eight plies that the evaluation is at least 6.5 or at most－ 6．5．

ELO ranged from 2714 to 3554，averaging 3143．Four new engines joined the fray this time：
LEELA CHESS ZERO，a new－architecture UCT／NN engine from a large community， Rodent by the Polish chess programmer Pawel Koziol，
Tucano by the Brazilian professional software developer／programmer Alcides Schulz，and XIPHOS by the Serbian mathematician and computer scientist Milos Tatarevic．

The formidable 44－core server of TCEC11 was used unchanged in TCEC12．

Table 1．The TCEC12 engines（CPW，2018），details，authors and progression．

| \＃ | Engine Name |  | Initial |  |  | thr． | $\begin{gathered} \text { proto- } \\ \text { col } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Hash Kb | EGTs | Authors | Country Codes | Final Div． |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Version | ELO | Div． |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 01 |  | Andscacs | 0.93070 | 3339 | P | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | － | Daniel José Queraltó | AD | $\rightarrow \mathrm{P}$ |
| 02 |  | Arasan | TCEC12 | 3142 | 2 | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | Syz． | Jon Dart | US | $\downarrow$ 3 |
| 03 | Bc | Bobcat | 8 | 3072 | 3 | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | － | Gunnar Harms | NL | $\rightarrow 3$ |
| 04 |  | Booot | 6.2 | 3273 | 1 | 16 | UCI | 8，192 | － | Alex Morozov | UA | $\rightarrow 1$ |
| 05 | Cb | ChessbrainVB | 3.67 | 3024 | 3 | 43 | xboard | 1，200 | － | Roger Zuehlsdorf | DE | $\nearrow 2$ |
| 06 | Ch | Chiron | 040318 | 3340 | P | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | Syz． | Ubaldo Andrea Farina | IT | $\downarrow 1$ |
| 07 |  | Ethereal | 9.60 | 2985 | 4 | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | － | Andrew Grant | US | $\nearrow 3$ |
| 08 | Fi | Fire | 7 | 3393 | P | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | Syz． | Norman Schmidt | US | $\rightarrow \mathrm{P}$ |
| 09 |  | Fizbo | 2 | 3284 | 1 | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | Syz． | Youri Matiounine | US | $\rightarrow 1$ |
| 10 |  | Fritz | 16.10 | 3165 | 2 | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | Nal？ | Vasik Rajlich | CZ／US | $\nearrow 1$ |
| 11 |  | Fruit | $2 \mathrm{E}+07$ | 2934 | 4 | 16 | UCI | 8，192 | Syz． | Daniel Mehrmann | DE | $\rightarrow 4$ |
| 12 | Gi | Ginkgo | 2.012 | 3267 | 1 | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | － | Frank Schneider | DE | $\nearrow \mathrm{P}$ |
| 13 |  | Gull | 3 | 3217 | 1 | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | Syz． | Vadim Demichev | RU | $\downarrow 2$ |
| 14 |  | Hannibal | 121017 | 3193 | 2 | 16 | UCI | 8，192 | － | Sam Hamilton，Edsel Apostol | US／PH | $\downarrow$ 3 |
| 15 |  | Houdini | 6.03 | 3491 | P | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | Syz． | Robert Houdart | BE | $\rightarrow \mathrm{P}$ |
| 16 |  | Jonny | 8.1 | 3252 | 1 | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | Syz． | Johannes Zwanzger | DE | $入 1$ |
| 17 |  | Komodo | 12 | 3466 | P | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | Syz． | Don Dailey，Larry Kaufman， Mark Lefler | US | $\rightarrow \mathrm{P}$ |
| 18 | La | Laser | 070518 | 3194 | 1 | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | Syz． | Jeffrey An，Michael An | US | $\rightarrow 1$ |
| 19 | Lc | Leela Chess Zer | 0.7 ID125 | 2714 | 4 | 43 | UCI | － | － | UCT／NN AI Community | － | $\downarrow$ |
| 20 |  | Nemorino | 4.13 | 3104 | 3 | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | Syz． | Christian Günther | US | $\rightarrow 3$ |
| 21 | Ni | Nirvana | 2.4 | 3168 | 2 | 16 | UCI | 8，192 | － | Thomas Kolarik | US | $\rightarrow 2$ |
| 22 |  | Pedone | 1.8 | 3104 | 3 | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | Syz． | Fabio Gobbato | IT | $\rightarrow 3$ |
| 23 | Ro | Rodent III | 0.244 | 3076 | 4 | 16 | UCI | 4，096 | － | Pawel Koziol | PL | $\rightarrow 4$ |
| 24 | Sc | Scorpio | 2.82 | 2831 | 4 | 43 | xboard | 16，384 | － | Daniel Shawul | ET | $\downarrow$－ |
| 25 | Se | Senpai | 2.0 | 3062 | 3 | 16 | UCI | 16，384 | － | Fabien Letouzey | FR | $\downarrow 4$ |
| 26 | St | Stockfish | 160518 | 3554 | P | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | Syz． | Tord Romstad，Marco Costalba， Joona Kiiski，Gary Linscott | NO／IT／ <br> FI／CA | $\rightarrow \mathrm{P}$ |
| 27 |  | Texel | 1.08 a 11 | 3202 | 2 | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | Syz． | Peter Österlund | SE | $入 2$ |
| 28 | Th | The Baron | 3.41 | 2840 | 4 | 43 | UCI |  | Syz． | Richard Pijl | NL | $\rightarrow 4$ |
| 29 |  | Tucano | 7.00 | 2830 | 4 | 43 | xboard | 1，024 | － | Alcides Schulz | BR | $\rightarrow 4$ |
| 30 |  | Vajolet2 | 2.5 | 3119 | 2 | 43 | UCI | 16，384 | Syz． | Marco Belli | IT | $\rightarrow 2$ |
| 31 | Wa | W asp | 180420 | 2964 | 3 | 43 | UCI | 8，192 | － | John Stanback | US | $\downarrow 4$ |
| 32 | Xi | Xiphos | 0.2 | 2986 | 4 | 43 | UCI | 4096 | － | Milos Tatarevic | RS | フォ 2 |

1 Division 4，two DRR phases， 28 rounds， 112 games，tempo $30^{\prime}+\mathbf{1 0}^{\prime \prime} / \mathrm{m}$
A principal focus was the participation of the exciting LEELA CHESS ZERO，a neural－network－ architecture engine inspired by the innovations of Deep Mind＇s AlphaZERo（Silver et al，2017）．The 14 most common two－move openings in the second author＇s CATOBASE（Hernandez，2018）were allocated to rounds 1－7 and 15－21，and with colours reversed for rounds 8－14 and 22－28，see Table 2.

The results, as played, are as in Table 3 though a rule introduced in TCEC11 required that the participation of SCORPIO be scratched as it had three technical crashes. The seven connection breaks with the server were thought to be caused by deadlock conditions in the engine. These losses in fact made no difference to the final ranking on this occasion. LC0 did not in fact progress but will be greatly helped by GPU assistance in a future season. The generic statistical review of TCEC12 results and terminations is given for each phase of TCEC12 in Table 11.

Table 2. CATOBASE's most common two-move openings.

| \# First four plies | Rounds ECO | Opening | TCEC's ECO coding for the eight games | TCEC12.D4 results 1-0 $1 / 2-1 / 2 / 2-1$ ignored |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 01 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 | 01 \& 08 B50 | Sicilian Defence | B84, B52, B50, B52; B51, B54, B53, B90 | 3 | 2 | 2 | , |
| 02 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 | 02 \& 09 C44 | King's Pawn Game | C45, C68, C58, C84; C45, C61, C68, C67 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 03 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 | 03 \& 10 E00 | Queen's Pawn Game | D50, E40, D35, E20; D30, D50, D59, D41 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 04 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 | 04 \& 11 C 00 | French Defence | C01, C06, C06, C01; C11, C14, C01, C01 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| 05 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 | $05 \& 12$ B30 | Sicilian Defence | B30, B30, B30, B30; B30, B30, B30, B31 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| 06 1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 | 06 \& 13 B12 | Caro-Kann Defence | В15, B15, C19, В15; B15, B12, B15, В12 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| 07 1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 | 07 \& 14 D10 | Queen's Gambit Declined | D12, D12, D11, D12; D10, D12, D94, D30 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 08 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 | 15 \& 22 E60 | King's Indian Defence | A56, D85, D94, D85; D93, D85, B38, E61 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 09 1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 d5 | 16 \& 23 A46 | Queen's Pawn game | D30, D37, D05, D11; D26, D94, D35, D24 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 10 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 | 17 \& 24 D30 | Queen's Gambit Declined | D50, D50, D35, E51; D30, D50, D30, D53 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 11 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 | 18 \& 25 B40 | Sicilian Defence | B33, B45, B45, B22; B40, B45, B45, B46 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| 12 1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 | 19 \& 26 A46 | Queen's Pawn game | E10, E10, D24, E05; D30, E12, D30, A46 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| 13 1.c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 | $20 \& 27$ A22 | English Opening | A28, A28, A28, A22; A28, A22, A28, A28 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 14 1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 c5 | 21 \& 28 A15 | English Opening | B14, A35, A30, A33; D30, D27, A30, A30 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 0 |

For division 4, all rounds have four games so game $r . n$ is game $4 r-4+n$ in the pgn files (Haworth and Hernandez, 2018b) and the colour-flipped pairings of engines are 28 games apart. This division had $10.8 \%$ of its wins below the diagonal of the eventual x-table. ETHEREAL alone was much improved, undefeated and a strong first while XIPHOS kept RODENT III in a distant third place, beating it 4-0.

Table 3. The TCEC12 Division 4 cross-table: two DRR phases, 28 rounds, 112 games.

| $\#$ | Engine | ELO | Pts | DRR | SB | nSB | Et | Xi | Ro | Tu | Th | Ft | Sc | Lc | Move |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Ethereal 9.60 | 2985 | 23.5 | 2 | 282.25 | 70.56 |  | $11====1=$ | 1111 | $===1$ | $11=1$ | 1111 | 1111 | $\nearrow$ |  |
| 2 | Xiphos 0.2 | 2986 | 22.0 | 2 | 253.75 | 63.44 | $00==$ |  | 1111 | $=11=$ | $111=$ | $101=1111$ | 1111 | $\nearrow$ |  |
| 3 | Rodent III 0.244 | 3076 | 18.0 | 2 | 187.00 | 46.75 | $==0=$ | 0000 |  | $1===$ | $11=1$ | $=11=$ | $111=$ | 1111 | $\rightarrow$ |
| 4 | Tucano 7.00 | 2830 | 13.5 | 2 | 135.25 | 33.81 | 0000 | $=00=$ | $0===$ |  | $=111$ | $1=01$ | $==00$ | 1111 | $\rightarrow$ |
| 5 | The Baron 3.41 | 2840 | 11.5 | 2 | 123.00 | 30.75 | $===0$ | $000=$ | $00=0$ | $=000$ |  | $=1=1$ | 1001 | $=111$ | $\rightarrow$ |
| 6 | Fruit 20180416 | 2934 | 11.0 | 2 | 118.25 | 29.56 | $00=0$ | $010=$ | $=00=$ | $0=10$ | $=0=0$ |  | $=010$ | 1111 | $\rightarrow$ |
| 7 | Scorpio 2.82 | 2831 | 10.5 | 2 | 105.00 | 26.25 | 0000 | 0000 | $000===11$ | 0110 | $=101$ |  | $101=$ | $\rangle$ |  |
| 8 | LCZero 0.7 ID125 | 2714 | 02.0 | 2 | 21.50 | 5.38 | 0000 | 0000 | 0000 | 0000 | $=000$ | 0000 | $010=$ |  | $\searrow$ |

## 2 Division 3, two DRR phases, 28 rounds, 112 games, tempo 30'+10"/m

In this division, the same fourteen openings were mandated as for Division 4 and used in the same order. This time however, the colour-reversed game followed immediately rather than 28 games later, giving an earlier balanced view on the bilateral contests. Rounds were therefore of eight games rather than four and were numbered from 1 to 14 , see Table 4.

Draws under the 50 -move rule are very rare in TCEC, less than $1 \%$ of terminations. This is because most engines seem to monitor the ply-count, zero their evaluations as they see it reaching 100, and allow TCEC draw-adjudication to take its course. Game 13.1/97, CHESSBRAINVB-WASP, was however a 50m-rule draw: CHESSBRAINVB retained hopes of a win to the end, despite being a pawn down.

CHESSBRAINVB was a clear winner but the race for the second promotion-spot was close. XIPHOS pulled off its second promotion this season, despite having lost its head-to-head matches with fellowcandidates ETHEREAL and PEDONE. ETHEREAL more than justified its promotion to Division 3.

Table 4. The 14 two-move openings chosen for Division 3.

| \# First four plies | Rounds | ECO | Opening | TCEC's ECO coding for the eight games | TCEC12.D3 results 1-0 $1 / 2-1 / 20$ 0-1 ignored |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 01 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 | 01 | B50 | Sicilian Defence | B52, B52; B54, B90; B50, B53; B92, B52 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| 02 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 | 02 | C44 | King's Pawn Game | C67, C67; C84, C69; C46, C69; C61, C69 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| 03 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 | 03 | E00 | Queen's Pawn Game | E12, E12; E14, E10; E10, E10; E10, E00 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 04 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 | 04 | C00 | French Defence | C07, C02; C01, C01; C06, C01; C01, C05 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 05 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 | 05 | B30 | Sicilian Defence | B31, B30; B30, B30; B30, B30; B30, B31 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| 06 1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 | 06 | B12 | Caro-Kann Defence | В12, B15; B12, B15; B12, B12; B18, В15 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| 07 1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 | 07 | D10 | Queen's Gambit Declined | D10, D11; D11, D10; D12, D11; D11, D12 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| 08 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 | 08 | E60 | King's Indian Defence | D85, E90; D85, D90; D83, D85; D86, E60 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| 09 1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 d5 | 09 | A46 | Queen's Pawn game | A46, A46; A46, A46; A46, A46; A46, A46 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 | 10 | D30 | Queen's Gambit Declined | D30, D30; D31, D53; D30, D30; D30, D30 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| 11 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 | 11 | B40 | Sicilian Defence | B40, B40; B40, B40; B40, B40; B40, B40 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 | 12 | A46 | Queen's Pawn game | A46, A46; A46, A46; A46, A46; A46, A46 |  | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| 13 1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 | 13 | A22 | English Opening | A22, A22; A22, A22; A22, A22; A22, A22 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| 14 1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 c5 | 14 | A15 | English Opening | A05, A05; A05, A05; A05, A05; A05, A05 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 |

Table 5. The TCEC12 Division 3 cross-table: two DRR phases, 28 rounds, 112 games.

| \# | Engine | Rtng | Pts | DRR | SB | nSB | Ch | Xi | Pe | Et | Bo | Ne | Se | Wa | Move |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | ChessBrainVB 3.67 | 3024 | 19.0 | 2 | 246.50 | 61.63 |  | $=1=0$ |  | $1=1=$ | 11=1 | 101= | $1==1$ | $1==1$ | $\nearrow$ |
| 2 | Xiphos 0.2 | 3180 | 17.5 | 2 | 220.25 | 55.06 | $=0$ |  | $=$ |  | ==1= | 111= | =1 | $1=11$ | $\lambda$ |
| 3 | Pedone 1.8 | 3104 | 16.0 | 2 | 217.50 | 54.38 |  |  |  | 11== | 10 | ==01 | $1==$ | $1==$ | $\rightarrow$ |
| 4 | Ethereal 9.64 | 3243 | 15.5 | 2 | 196.75 | 49.19 | $0=0=$ | $=1$ | 00 |  | =1== | $1=$ | $=1=$ | $=$ | $\rightarrow$ |
| 5 | Bobcat 8 | 3072 | 14.5 | 2 | 183.50 | 45.88 | $00=0$ | $0=$ | $1=01$ | $0=$ |  | = $=11$ | $=1=1$ | $10=1$ | $\rightarrow$ |
| 6 | Nemorino 4.1 | 3104 | 12.5 | 2 | 158.00 | 39.50 | $010=$ | $000=$ | ==10 | $0=$ | =00 |  | 11== | $==11$ | $\rightarrow$ |
| 7 | Senpai 2.0 | 3062 | 9.0 | 2 | 126.75 | 31.69 | $0==0$ | $=0=0$ | $=$ | = | $=0=0$ | 00= |  |  | $\checkmark$ |
| 8 | Wasp 180420 | 2964 | 8.0 | 2 | 111.75 | 27.94 | $0==0$ | $0=00$ | $0==$ | $000=$ | $01=0$ | $==00$ | $==$ |  | $\downarrow$ |

## 3 Division 2, two DRR phases, 28 rounds, 112 games, tempo $\mathbf{3 0}{ }^{\prime} \mathbf{+ 1 0 \prime \prime} / \mathbf{m}$

Fourteen of the most frequent 100 two-move openings in CATOBASE were allocated to rounds 1-14 with, again, the colour-reversed games being played immediately.

Table 6. The 14 two-move openings chosen for Division 2.

| \# First four plies | Rounds | ECO Opening | TCEC's ECO coding for the eight games | TCEC12.D2 results 1-0 $1 / 2-1 / 2 / 20-1$ ignored |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 01 1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 | 01 | C24 Bishop's O.; Berlin Def. | C26, C26; C26, C26; C26, C26; C26, C26 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| 02 1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 d5 | 02 | A05 Reti Opening | A05, A05; A05, A05; A05, E09; A05, A05 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| 03 1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 e6 | 03 | B23 Sicilian, closed | B45, B45; B45, B23; B45, B45; B81, B23 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| 04 1. Nf3 d5 2. c4 e6 | 04 | A09 Reti Opening | D37, D38; D55, D37; D38, D32; A13, D26 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 05 1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 | 05 | A22 English Opening | A28, A28; A28, A28; A28, A28; A28, A28 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| 06 1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 d5 | 06 | A45 Queen's Pawn Game | D38, D38; D37, D38; D27, D02; D04, D55 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 07 1. e4 c6 2. Nc3 d5 | 07 | B10 Caro-Kann defence | B15, B18; B18, B17; B15, B15; B15, B15 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 08 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 | 08 | D30 Queen's Gambit Declined | D37, D30; D30, D31; D50, D50; D37, D53 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 09 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 | 09 | C60 Ruy Lopez | C80, C69; C69, C58; C69, C58; C61, C58 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 g6 | 10 | B27 Sicilian, Hungarian Var. | B27, B27; B27, B27; B27, B27; B27, B27 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| 11 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 d6 | 11 | A53 Old Indian Defence | A53, A55; A54, A53; A53, E90; E90, A53 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 12 1.d4 f5 2. g3 Nf6 | 12 | A81 Dutch Defence | A81, A90; A92, A81; A92, A81; A81, A81 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 13 1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 | 13 | B01 Scandinavian Defence | B01, $\mathrm{B} 01 ; \mathrm{B} 01, \mathrm{~B} 01 ; \mathrm{B} 01, \mathrm{~B} 01 ; \mathrm{B} 01, \mathrm{~B} 01$ | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 14 1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 | 14 | B02 Alekhine's Defence | В03, В04; B02, В02; В04, B04; B02, В03 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 |

This time, Fritz and TEXEL won promotion but the newly promoted XIPHOS and CHESSBRAINVB took the next two places. There were 10 technical crashes in the division, and both ARASAN and HANNIBAL were disqualified and relegated for disconnecting from the server: a pity as they had both scored wins against FRITZ. VAJOLET no doubt counted itself lucky to survive.

Table 7. The TCEC12 Division 2 cross-table: two DRR phases, 28 rounds, 112 games.

| \# | Engine | ELO | Pts | DRR | SB | nSB | Fr | Te | Xi | Ch | Ni | Ha | Ar | Va | Move |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Fritz 16.10 | 3165 | 18.0 | 2 | 242.75 | 60.69 |  | 1=01 | =11= | 1= | $1=$ | $0=11$ | 101= | $=1=$ | $\nearrow$ |
| 2 | Texel 1.08a11 | 3202 | 17.5 | 2 | 227.50 | 56.88 | $0=10$ |  | == | $1==0$ | $1=$ | $=1=$ | = 111 | 1011 | $\lambda$ |
| 3 | Xiphos 0.2.4 | 3193 | 15.5 | 2 | 206.00 | 51.50 | $=00=$ | $==0$ |  | $=11=$ | $11=1$ | == | $=0$ | $1=$ | $\rightarrow$ |
| 4 | ChessBrainVB 3.68 | 3242 | 13.5 | 2 | 179.75 | 44.94 | $0==$ | $0==1$ | $=00=$ |  | $10=0$ | $100=$ | $0=11$ | $11=1$ | $\rightarrow$ |
| 5 | Nirvana 2.4 | 3168 | 13.5 | 2 | 177.25 | 44.31 | $==0=$ | 010= | $00=0$ | 01=1 |  | $1=00$ | $11=$ | $=11$ | $\rightarrow$ |
| 6 | Hannibal 121017 | 3193 | 13.0 | 2 | 180.50 | 45.13 | $1=00$ | $==0=$ | $===0$ | 011= | $0=11$ |  | $==0=$ | $=10$ | $\rightarrow$ |
| 7 | Arasan TCEC12 | 3142 | 11.0 | 2 | 155.75 | 38.94 | 010= | $=000$ | $=1=$ | $1=00$ | $00=$ | $=1=$ |  | $=0=$ | $\downarrow$ |
| 8 | Vajolet2 2.5 | 3119 | 10.0 | 2 | 141.50 | 35.38 | $==0=$ | 0100 | $0===$ | $00=0$ | $==00$ | $=01$ | =1== |  | $\downarrow$ |

## 4 Division 1, two DRR phases, 28 rounds, 112 games, tempo 60'+10"/m

The normalised Sonneborn-Berger scores suggest that this was the most closely-contested division of TCEC12. Eventually, GINKGO and JonNY triumphed though FIZBO and Booot kept the result in doubt until almost the end. Thankfully, we did not see another rash of engine-disconnect fails, the one ultimately irrelevant incident being g8.8/64, FRITZ-JONNY. FritZ as Black had beaten JONNY in their first, g1.7/7, encounter and hung on to its recent promotion: TEXEL did not.

Table 8. The TCEC12 Division 1 cross-table: two DRR phases, 28 rounds, 112 games.

| \# | Engine | ELO | Pts | DRR | SB | nSB | Gi | Jo | Fi | Bo | La | Fr | Gu | Te | Move |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Ginkgo 2.012 | 3267 | 17.0 | 2 | 226.75 | 56.69 |  | ==10 | 0111 | $0=$ | 1= | $==1$ | 1=== | 11== | $\nearrow$ |
| 2 | Jonny 8.1 | 3252 | 17.0 | 2 | 225.25 | 56.31 | $==01$ |  | === | 110 | --- | $=11$ | 11 | $==1$ | $\nearrow$ |
| 3 | Fizbo 2 | 3284 | 15.0 | 2 | 194.75 | 48.69 | 1000 | ==== |  | $=011$ | ===0 | ==0= | $=1=$ | 1111 | $\rightarrow$ |
| 4 | Booot 6.2 | 3273 | 14.5 | 2 | 199.50 | 49.88 | ==1= | $=001$ | $=100$ |  | $=1=$ | $1==0$ | 01= | $==1$ | $\rightarrow$ |
| 5 | Laser 070518 | 3194 | 14.5 | 2 | 198.25 | 49.56 | $=0=$ | == | $===1$ | $=0=$ |  | $=1=$ | $=01=$ | $=101$ | $\rightarrow$ |
| 6 | Fritz 16.10 | 3294 | 13.5 | 2 | 185.75 | 46.44 | ===0 | $1=00$ | $=1=$ | $0==1$ | $=0=$ |  | $1=$ | $=0=1$ | $\rightarrow$ |
| 7 | Gull 3 | 3217 | 11.0 | 2 | 153.75 | 38.44 | $0==$ | $00=0$ | $=0=$ | $10=$ | $=10=$ | $0==$ |  | ==== | $\downarrow$ |
| 8 | Texel 1.08a11 | 3273 | 9.5 | 2 | 135.00 | 33.75 | $00==$ | ===0 | 0000 | $===0$ | $=010$ | $=1=0$ | === |  | $\downarrow$ |

## 5 Division P, four DRR phases, 56 rounds, 224 games, tempo 90' $\mathbf{9} \mathbf{1 0}^{\prime \prime} / \mathrm{m}$

Table 9. The Premier Division cross-table: four DRR phases, 56 rounds, in fact 168 rather than 224 games.

| \# Engine | ELO | Pts | DRR | S B | nSB | Ko | St | Ho | Fi | An | Gi | Jo | Ch | Move |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 Komodo 12 | 3466 | 31.0 | 4 | 670.00 | 57.00 |  | ==0===== | ==01==== | =1=====1 | 1=====11 | 1111==== | 1=111=11 |  | $\nearrow$ |
| 2 Stockfish 160518 | 3554 | 30.5 | 4 | 681.00 | 57.93 | ==1===== |  | ======== | $1=1===1=$ | $=111===1$ | =11===1 | $1==1=1=$ | 1 | $\nearrow$ |
| 3 Houdini 6.03 | 3491 | 29.5 | 4 | 650.50 | 55.34 | $==10====$ | ======== |  | == $0=====$ | =11-=1== | $=1=1=1=1$ | $=1=1=111$ | 1 | $\rightarrow$ |
| 4 Fire 7 | 3393 | 22.0 | 4 | 525.50 | 44.70 | $=0=====0$ | $0=0===0=$ | $=1====$ |  | ======01 | $1=1====$ | $=0=0===$ | $=$ | $\rightarrow$ |
| 5 Andscacs 0.93070 | 3339 | 20.5 | 4 | 469.00 | 39.90 | $0=====00$ | $==00===0$ | $=00==0==$ | ======10 |  | $0=1=10==$ | $1==1===$ |  | $\rightarrow$ |
| 6 Ginkgo 2.014 | 3340 | 19.0 | 4 | 430.50 | 36.62 | $0000===$ | $=00===0=$ | $=0=0=0=0$ | $0=0====$ | $1=0=01==$ |  | $1=1=10=1$ | 1 | $\rightarrow$ |
| 7 Jonny 8.1 | 3274 | 15.5 | 4 | 370.50 | 31.52 | $0=000=00$ | $0===0=0=$ | $=0=0=000$ | $=1=1==$ | $0===0==$ | $0=0=01=0$ |  | 0 | $v$ |
| 8 Chiron 040318 | 3340 | 0.0 | 4 | 0.00 | 0.00 |  | 0 | 0 | = |  | 0 | 1 |  | $\downarrow$ |

STOCKFISH was the only unbeaten engine but was still second with a Performance ELO of 3443, 121 down on its nominal 3554. KOMODO lost its eight-game match against STOCKFISH but had a better
harvest of wins against the bottom three engines. HOUDINI made up the three engines that stretched away from the others. CHIRON crashed three times in the first round and was pulled from the event.

## 6 The TCEC12 Superfinal match: 100 games, tempo $\mathbf{1 2 0}^{\prime}+\mathbf{1 5}^{\prime \prime} / \mathrm{m}$

The Superfinal between STOCKFISH and Komodo surprised in two ways. First, it was not close and secondly, the win-rate was high. STOCKFISH won $29-9,23 / 6$ as White and $6 / 3$ as Black so White also dominated Black 29-9. In terms of the fifty two-game pairs, STOCKFISH won 22 pairs $1 \frac{1}{2}-1 / 2$ and the g71-72 pair 2-0: KOMODO won 4 pairs $11 / 2-1 / 2$. GM Thechesspuzzler (2018) created a Youtube stream for the TCEC12 Superfinal. Wool (2018) provided some useful chessic insight on TCEC12 as a whole.

Table 10. The Superfinal match of 100 games: (numbers of) games and game-pairs won, Black wins underlined.

| Superfinal | ELO | Score | \# of | games won $(0-1$ wins underlined) $\ldots$ | \# of | game-pairs won |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  | $5,9,11,17,25,27,31,35,43, \underline{46}$, | $3,5,6,9,13,14,16,18,22$, |  |
| STOCKFISH | 3519 | 60 | 29 | $51,55,57,59, \underline{64}, \underline{66}, 67, \underline{70}, 71, \underline{72}$, | 23 | $29,30,32,33,34,35,36$, |
|  |  |  |  | $75,77,83, \underline{88}, \underline{89}, 93,95,97,99$ | $38,39,42,44,47,48,49,50$ |  |
| KOMODO | 3475 | 40 | 9 | $\underline{1}, \underline{29}, 34,38, \underline{45}, 52,56,90,96$ | 4 | $1,15,17,19$ |

## 7 Summary

We gather together some generic statistics for the Divisions and Superfinal in Tables 11 and 12. These will help aficionados and analysts of computer chess to identify the particular games of interest to them later. The pgn files and further data are included with the e-repository version of this note (Haworth and Hernandez, 2018). Our congratulations go once again to the TCEC audience who made for a lively discussion forum (Twitch, 2018), to all participants, particularly to those who gained promotion and to the TCEC12 Grand Champion, STOCKFISH and all its supporters.

Table 11. Generic statistics for each phase of TCEC12.

| TCEC 12 | Division 4 |  | Division 3 |  | Division 2 |  | Division 1 |  | Division P |  | Superfinal |  | Overall |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# | \% |
| \# games | 112 |  | 112 |  | 112 |  | 112 |  | 173 |  | 100 |  | 721 |  |
| Draw | 29 | 25.9 | 61 | 54.5 | 53 | 47.3 | 65 | 58.0 | 109 | 63.0 | 62 | 62.0 | 379 | 52.6 |
| Wins | 83 | 74.1 | 51 | 45.5 | 59 | 52.7 | 47 | 42.0 | 64 | 37.0 | 38 | 38.0 | 342 | 47.4 |
| 1-0 | 48 | 42.9 | 31 | 27.7 | 35 | 31.3 | 32 | 28.6 | 48 | 27.7 | 29 | 29.0 | 223 | 30.9 |
| 0-1 | 35 | 31.1 | 20 | 17.9 | 24 | 21.4 | 15 | 13.4 | 16 | 9.2 | 9 | 9.0 | 119 | 16.5 |
| White Perf. | 62.5 | 55.8 | 61.5 | 54.9 | 61.5 | 54.9 | 64.5 | 57.6 | 102.5 | 59.2 | 60.0 | 60.0 | 412.5 | 57.2 |
| Black Perf. | 49.5 | 44.2 | 50.5 | 45.1 | 50.5 | 45.1 | 47.5 | 42.4 | 70.5 | 40.8 | 40.0 | 40.0 | 308.5 | 42.8 |
| TCEC draw | 13 | 11.6 | 32 | 28.6 | 30 | 26.8 | 38 | 33.9 | 58 | 33.5 | 35 | 35.0 | 206 | 28.6 |
| 3 x repetition | 6 | 5.4 | 10 | 8.9 | 11 | 9.8 | 14 | 12.5 | 25 | 14.5 | 10 | 10.0 | 76 | 10.5 |
| 50m rule | 2 | 1.8 | 1 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 1.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.0 | 6 | 0.8 |
| EGT adj. | 11 | 9.8 | 20 | 17.9 | 16 | 14.3 | 13 | 11.6 | 26 | 15.0 | 16 | 16.0 | 102 | 14.1 |
| TCEC win | 71 | 63.4 | 48 | 42.9 | 45 | 40.2 | 44 | 39.3 | 61 | 35.3 | 38 | 38.0 | 307 | 42.6 |
| Tech. default | 7 | 6.3 | 1 | 0.9 | 10 | 8.9 | 1 | 0.9 | 3 | 1.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 22 | 3.1 |
| Manual 'win' | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Mates | 2 | 1.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.3 |

Table 12. The shortest and longest 1-0, drawn and 0-1 games in each phase of TCEC12.

| Div. | 1-0 |  |  |  |  |  | 1/2-1/2 |  |  |  |  |  | 0-1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Shortest |  |  | Longest |  |  | Shortest |  |  | Longest |  |  | Shortest |  |  | Longest |  |  |
|  | Game | mv | between | Game | mv b | between | Game | mv | between | Game | mv b | between | Game | mv | between | Game | mv | between |
| 4 | 16.3/63 | 25 | Xi-Ft | 18.3/71 | 104 | $\mathrm{Et}-\mathrm{Sc}$ | 21.4/84 | 37 | Xi-Et | 6.4/24 | 353 | Ft -Sc | 25.3/99 | 31 | Sc-Et | 27.3/107 | 128 | Th-Tu |
| 3 | 6.7/47 | 36 | $\mathrm{Pe}-\mathrm{Et}$ | 11.4/84 | 158 | Bo-Pe | 13.7/103 | 20 | $\mathrm{Pe}-\mathrm{Et}$ | 1.2/2 | 136 | $\mathrm{Se}-\mathrm{Cb}$ | 12.2/90 | 30 | $\mathrm{Bo}-\mathrm{Cb}$ | 12.4/92 | 95 | Wa-Ne |
| 2 | 1.5/5 | 47 | $\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{Xi}$ | 7.1/49 | 108 | $\mathrm{Te}-\mathrm{Cb}$ | 3.5/21 | 28 | $\mathrm{Va}-\mathrm{Ar}$ | 9.6/70 | 159 | $\mathrm{Fr}-\mathrm{Cb}$ | 3.3/19 | 34 | $\mathrm{Ha}-\mathrm{Fr}$ | 5.6/38 | 117 | $\mathrm{Cb}-\mathrm{Xi}$ |
| 1 | 1.5/13 | 34 | Bo-Fr | 5.5/37 | 115 | Gu-Bo | 11.6/86 | 17 | $\mathrm{Gi}-\mathrm{Te}$ | 10.6/78 | 199 | Jo-La | 2.2/10 | 43 | Te-Fi | 4.3/27 | 159 | Gu-Jo |
| P | 1.1/1 | 31 | St-Jo | 24.3/95 | 99 | $\mathrm{Ho}-\mathrm{Gi}$ | 40.4/160 | 34 | Ho-Fi | 42.3/167 | 185 | Ko-Fi | 52.1/189 | 51 | Jo-Ho | 2.1/5 | 136 | Jo-Ch |
| SF | 9.1/17 | 42 | St-Ko | 22.1/43 | 128 | St-Ko | 33.1/65 | 26 | St-Ko | 35.1/69 | 238 | St-Ko | 23.2/46 | 46 | Ko-St | 15.1/29 | 132 | St-Ko |

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