



General

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The World Puzzle Championship (WPC) and World Sudoku Championship (WSC) are held annually.

The first WPC was held in 1992 in New York, USA, organised by Will Shortz and Games magazine, with 52 puzzle enthusiasts from 13 countries competing for the title of 1st World Puzzle Champion.

In 1999 the World Puzzle Federation (WPF) was founded by a group of previous WPC organizers to oversee the annual championship, as well as to further innovation and quality in puzzles worldwide.

Although sudoku was, and still is, just one type of puzzle within the WPC, its significant global popularity led to the first separate WSC being held in 2006 in Lucca, Italy

Together, the WPC and WSC have naturally grown in popularity, with nearly 200 competitors from over 25 countries now regularly attending each year. In some countries, there are hundreds of serious puzzlers contending for the four main team places, with mainstream media providing extensive exposure to these events.

The Netherlands

In 1992, when the first WPC were held, The Netherlands was represented by a team from Puzzelsport. Later on, Puzzelsport hosted the 5th WPC in 1996 in Utrecht and the 12th WPC in 2003 in Arnhem.

The best results we booked: Niels Roest was World Puzzle Champion twice, in 2002 and 2004. As a team we reached the 2nd place in 1999 and 2000. More recent, Bram de Laat ended the last three years in the top-ten at the WPC.

On the next pages you'll find a complete overview of the Dutch presence at all WPC's and WSC's. And some personal comments.

Year	1 Individual	1 Team
Name	2 Individual	2 Team
Location	3 Individual	3 Team
Participants	19 Rank	Rank/teams
	26 Rank	
	30 Rank	Captain
	43 Rank	

1992	1 David Samuel (Can)	1 USA
WPC 1	2 Darren Rigby (Can)	2 Argentina
New York (USA)	3 Daniel Johnson (USA)	3 Poland
52	19 Peter Ritmeester	9/13
	26 Jan Lam	
	30 Martin Overdiek	Rob Geensen
	43 Tineke van Wijnbergen	

1993	1 Robert Babilon (CZ)	1 Czech Republic
WPC 2	2 Wei-Hwa Huang (USA)	2 USA
Brno (CZ)	3 Pavel Kalhous (CZ)	3 Poland
52	25 Jan Lam	11/13
	36 Peter Ritmeester	
	41 Martin Overdiek	Rob Geensen
	50 Patricia Glasbeek	

In 1994 I (Hns) started working at Puzzelsport. In that year all Puzzelsport employees were invited for the WPC, organized by Andreas Franz (Bastei). One of the puzzles, while drifting on the Rhine, was: how many fireworks-explosions were there while we passed the Lorelei?

1994	1 Ron Osher (USA)	1 Czech Republic
WPC 3	2 Pavel Kalhous (CZ)	2 USA
Köln (Ger)	3 Pero Galogaza (CRO)	3 Croatia
52	44 Tineke van Wijnbergen	13/13
	47 Patricia Glasbeek	
	50 Robert van den Ham	Rob Geensen
	51 Dirk de Rover	

1995	1 Wei-Hwa Huang (USA)	1 USA
WPC 4	2 Gyorgy Istvan (HUN)	2 Czech Republic
Poiana Brasov (ROE)	3 Pavel Kalhous (CZ)	3 Hungary
52	27 Peter Ritmeester	10/10
	39 Martin Overdiek	
	41 Hns Eendebak	Rob Geensen
	48 Patricia Glasbeek	

In 1996 The Netherlands organized their first WPC. So we had to organize a national championship, to select the best Dutch puzzlers. Paul Jacobs was the first official Dutch Puzzle Champion. He was the best Dutch puzzler as well at the 5th WPC: 6th place. Jeroen Meewisse. who ended 5th at the Dutch championships, ended unofficially at the 23rd place during that WPC.

1996	1 Robert Babilon (CZ)	1 USA
WPC 5	2 Zack Butler (USA)	2 Czech Republic
Utrecht (Nld)	3 Wei-Hwa Huang (USA)	3 Turkey
57	6 Paul Jacobs	4/14
	11 Jan Beelen	
	(23 Jeroen Meewisse)	Ton Peek
	34 Erik van den Doel	
	43 Rien Verbeek	

1997	1 Wei-Hwa Huang (USA)	1 Czech Republic
WPC 6	2 Ron Osher (USA)	2 USA
Koprivnica (KRO)	3 Robert Babilon (CZ)	3 Hungary
64	25 Jan Beelen	9/16
	34 Jeroen Meewisse	
	39 Hns Eendebak	Rob Geensen
	42 Peter Ritmeester	

1998 was a special year in the WPC-history. Turkey was the host, but the puzzles were made by Japan. My little brother Pieter was the youngest contestant. And it was my first captain-appearance.

1998	1 Wei-Hwa Huang (USA)	1 USA
WPC 7	2 Akira Nakai (Jap)	2 Japan
Istanbul (Tur)	3 Michael Ley (Ger)	3 Hungary
56	5 Niels Roest	4/14
	13 Delia Keetman	
	19 Jeroen Meewisse	Hns
	26 Pieter Eendebak	

1999: How could we ever not win this one with four players in the top-12?

1999	1 Wei-Hwa Huang (USA)	1 USA
WPC 8	2 Zack Butler (USA)	2 Netherlands
Budapest (Hun)	3 Niels Roest	3 Czech Republic
71	3 Niels Roest	2/18
	9 Jeroen Meewisse	
	10 Tim Peeters	Hns
	12 Paul Jacobs	

2000: the first WPC with a final on stage. Also the first victory of Ulrich Voigt - one of the best puzzlers in the world. Actually - the best.

2000	1 Ulrich Voigt	1 USA
WPC 9	2 Wei-Hwa Huang	2 Netherlands
Stamford (USA)	3 Niels Roest	3 Germany
77	3 Niels Roest	2/20
	16 Rick Uppelschoten	
	21 Jan Beelen	Hns
	26 Delia Keetman	

2001: Vita said to me: the paper medal. I'll never forget that expression.

2001	1 Ulrich Voigt (Ger)	1 USA
WPC 10	2 Robert Babilon (CZ)	2 Czech Republic
Brno (CZ)	3 Zack Butler (USA)	3 Belgium
105	5 Niels Roest	4/27
	6 Tim Peeters	
	18 Delia Keetman	Hns
	43 Jan Beelen	

2002: Niels defeats the Voigt-family. And another paper medal - but who cares if you are World Champion?

2002	1 Niels Roest	1 Japan
WPC 11	2 Ulrich Voigt (GER)	2 Germany
Oulu (FIN)	3 Roland Voigt (GER)	3 USA
73	1 Niels Roest	4/18
	17 Annick Weyzig	
	19 Rick Uppelschoten	Hns
	34 Johan Haasakker	

2003: Arnhem, sportscentre Papendal. Quite a job to host a WPC. Lots of things to take care of. Also the time that I introduced Star Battle and The Weakest Link.

2003	1 Ulrich Voigt (GER)	1 Germany
WPC 12	2 Wei-Hwa Huang (USA)	2 USA
Arnhem (NED)	3 Roger Barkan (USA)	3 Netherlands
84	5 Niels Roest	3/21
	21 Bram de Laat	
	28 Maarten Löffler	Paul Jacobs
	33 Alex Samsom	

2004: Niels Roest wins his second WPC. Fourth place again for the Dutch team.

2004	1 Niels Roest	1 USA
WPC 13	2 Ulrich Voigt (GER)	2 Germany
Opatija (KRO)	3 Roger Barkan (USA)	3 Hungary
90	1 Niels Roest	4/22
	13 Rick Uppelschoten	
	14 Tim Peeters	Hns
	50 Jan Beelen	

2005: Eger, Hungary. It gets boring: another fourth place for the Dutch team.

2005	1 Ulrich Voigt (GER)	1 Germany
WPC 14	2 Wei-Hwa Huang (USA)	2 USA
Eger (HUN)	3 Niels Roest	3 Japan
102	3 Niels Roest	4/26
	24 Bram de Laat	
	34 Tim Peeters	Hns
	44 Annick Weyzig	

In 2006 Riccardo Albini organized the first World Sudoku Championships. He decided that teams would have three members. The Dutch team had only two that year: Delia Keetman and Rick Uppelschoten. There were no team rankings.

2006	1 Jana Tylova (CZ)	
WSC 1	2 Thomas Snyder (USA)	
Lucca (ITA)	3 Wei-Hwa Huang (USA)	
86	22 Delia Keetman	
	35 Rick Uppelschoten	Hns

WPC 15 - 2006. Borovets, Bulgaria. Something went wrong with one final-puzzle and Bram had to catch a plane, so he couldn't play the finals. Michael Ley was so grateful to give up his 9th place.

2006	1 Ulrich Voigt (GER)	1 USA
WPC 15	2 Wei-Hwa Huang (USA)	2 Germany
Borovets (BUL)	3 Maho Yokota (JAP)	3 Japan
92	6 Niels Roest	5/23
	9 Bram de Laat	
	37 Maarten Löffler	Hns
	59 Jaco Breukels	

WSC 2- 2007. Prague, Czech Republic. I decided to play as a B-unofficial contestant and the result was a 110th place. Nice.

2007	1 Thomas Snyder (USA)	1 Japan
WSC 2	2 Yuhei Kusui (JAP)	2 USA
Prague (CZ)	3 Peter Hudák (SVK)	3 Czech Republic
141	22 Delia Keetman	12/24
	43 Niels Roest	
	64 Rick Uppelschoten	Jan Lam
	93 Robert Bearda	
	(110 Hns)	

WPC 16 - 2007. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. What a beautiful location! I remember all the fresh fruits - and the beach.

2007	1 Pal Madarassy (HUN)	1 USA
WPC 16	2 Thomas Snyder (USA)	2 Japan
Rio de Janeiro (BRA)	3 Ulrich Voigt (GER)	3 Belgium
95	6 Niels Roest	4/23
	20 Rick Uppelschoten	
	29 Bram de Laat	Hns
	46 Tim Peeters	

WSC 3 - 2008. Goa, India. The first WPC/WSC I missed since 1994 - my son is born in that month.

2008	1 Thomas Snyder (USA)	1 Czech Republic
WSC 3	2 Yuhei Kusui (JAP)	2 Japan
Goa (IND)	3 Jakub Ondrušek (CZ)	3 Germany
?	26 Karin Griffioen	10/20
	34 Rick Uppelschoten	
	42 Wilbert Zwart	Jan Lam

WPC 17 - 2008. Minsk, Belarus. I remember myself solving puzzles in a small corner in some sort of basement. Vladimir Portugalov did a great job organizing a WPC in a very short time.

2008	1 Ulrich Voigt (GER)	1 USA
WPC16	2 Mehmet Murat Sevim (TUR)	2 Japan
Minsk (BEL)	3 Roger Barkan (USA)	3 Czech Republic
94	17 Rick Uppelschoten	11/22
	19 Niels Roest	
	53 Marcel van Asperen	Hns
	76 Hns	

WSC 4 - 2009. Zilina, Slovakia. Probably Thomas Snyder was the best, but the rules decided something else.

2009	1 Jan Mrozowski (POL)	1 Slovakia
WSC 4	2 Branko Ceranic (SER)	2 Czech Republic
Zilina (SLO)	3 Robert Babilon (CZ)	3 Serbia
128	37 Karin Griffioen	19/28
	67 Rick Uppelschoten	
	78 Delia Keetman	Hns

WPC 18 - 2009. Antalya, Turkey. One of the best hosts ever. Every day all Dutch contestants had a complete different meal from the same buffet. And the puzzles were very good as well.

2009	1 Ulrich Voigt (GER)	1 Germany
WPC 18	3 Peter Hudák (SVK)	2 USA
Antalya (TUR)	3 Mehmet Murat Sevim (TUR)	3 Japan
97	25 Annick Weyzig	12/23
	34 Rick Uppelschoten	
	49 Jaco Breukels	Hns
	66 Marcel van Asperen	

WSC 5 - 2010. Philadelphia, USA. Fantastic hotel in the town centre, and a spectacular final, commented by Thomas and Wei-Hua.

2010	1 Jan Mrozowski (POL)	1 Germany
WSC 5	2 Jakub Ondroušek (CZ)	2 Czech Republic
Philadelphia (USA)	3 Hideaki Jo (JAP)	3 Japan
121	28 Bram de Laat	8/23
	53 Rick Uppelschoten	
	66 Niels Roest	Hns

WPC 19 - 2010. Propotnia, Poland.

2010	1 Taro Arimatsu (JAP)	1 Japan
WPC 16	2 Ulrich Voigt (GER)	2 USA
Propotnia (POL)	3 Hideaki Jo (JAP)	3 Germany
105	25 Niels Roest	8/26
	31 Rick Uppelschoten	
	47 Tim Peeters	Hns
	61 Marcel van Asperen	

2011. WSC 6 / WPC 20. Eger, Hungary. The first combined WSC/WPC.

2011	1 Thomas Snyder (USA)	1 USA
WSC 6	2 Kota Morinishi (JAP)	2 Germany
Eger (HUN)	3 Tiit Vunk (EST)	3 Japan
136	32 Bram de Laat	5/24
	41 Karin Griffioen	
	45 Wilbert Zwart	Hns
	46 Rick Uppelschoten	
2011	1 Palmer Mebane (USA)	1 USA
WPC 20	2 Ulrich Voigt (GER)	2 Germany
Eger (HUN)	3 Thomas Snyder (USA)	3 Japan
	5 Bram de Laat	
102	25 Rick Uppelschoten	
	37 Annick Weyzig	Hns
	71 Delia Keetman	
	(110 Wilbert Zwart)	

2012. WSC 7 / WPC 21. Kraljevica , Croatia.

2012	1 Jan Mrozowski (POL)	1 Japan
WSC 7	2 Kota Morinishi (JAP)	2 Czech Republic
Kraljevica (CRO)	3 Hideaki Jo (JAP)	3 China
93	30 Bram de Laat	16/21
	48 Annick Weyzig	
	79 Richard Stolk	Hns
	90 Paul Jacobs	
2012	1 Ulrich Voigt (GER)	1 Germany
WPC 21	2 Thomas Snyder (USA)	2 Japan
Kraljevica (CRO)	3 Palmer Mebane (USA)	3 USA
	7 Bram de Laat	13/19
89	39 Annick Weyzig	
	62 Paul Jacobs	Hns
	85 Richard Stolk	

2013. WSC 8 / WPC 22 Beijing, China. Hungary made the puzzles for the WPC. I think it was the best WPC, puzzle-wise.

2013	1 Jin Ce (CHN)	1 China
WSC 8	2 Kota Morinishi (JAP)	2 Czech Republic
Beijing (CHN)	3 Jacub Ondrušek (CZ)	3 Japan
107	38 Bram de Laat	18/23
	80 Richard Stolk	
	83 Yuk Yee Au	Hns
	98 René Gilhuijs	
2013	1 Ulrich Voigt (GER)	1 USA
WPC 22	2 Palmer Mebane (USA)	2 Germany
Beijing (CHN)	3 Thomas Snyder (USA)	3 Japan
	4 Bram de Laat	15/20
93	74 Richard Stolk	
	85 René Gilhuijs	Hns
	87 Yuk Yee Au	

2014. WSC 9 / WPC 23 London, UK. The first time WCPN was the official member of the WPF. We also send some (half) B-teams!

2014	1 Kota Morinishi (JAP)	1 Japan
WSC 9	2 Tiit Vunk (EST)	2 Germany
London (UK)	3 Bastien Vial-Jaime (FRA)	3 China
	3 Jacub Ondrušek (CZ)	
109	35 Bram de Laat	18/23
	42 Karin Griffioen	
	62 Annick Weyzig	Hns
	67 Rick Uppelschoten	
	(96) Yuk Yee Lee-Au	
	(98) René Gilhuijs	
2014	1 Ulrich Voigt (GER)	1 USA
WPC 23	2 Palmer Mebane (USA)	2 Germany
London (UK)	3 Florian Kirch (GER)	3 Japan
	7 Bram de Laat	7/25
102	38 Niels Roest	
	43 Rick Uppelschoten	Hns
	58 Annick Weyzig	
	(67) Marcel van Asperen	
	(95) René Gilhuijs	

2015. WSC 10 / WPC 24 Sofia, Bulgaria. The first time WCPN sended two teams to both competitions. I was not able to travel, so Richard Stolk did most of the captains "work". Bram just missed the bronze medal!

2015	1 Kota Morinishi (Japan)	1 Japan
WSC 10	2 Tiit Vunk (Estonia)	2 China
Sofia (BUL)	3 Jakub Ondroušek (CZ)	3 CZ
186	21 Bram de Laat	10/47
	35 Annick Weyzig	41/47 (B)
	45 Karin Griffioen	Richard
	74 Rick Uppelschoten	
	125 Lars Slofstra	
	128 René Gilhuijs	
	140 Yuk Yee Lee-Au	
	170 Hugo van Rooijen	
2015	1 Ken Endo (Japan)	1 Germany
WPC 24	2 Ulrich Voigt (GER)	2 Japan
Sofia (BUL)	3 Palmer Mebane (USA)	3 USA
	4 Bram de Laat	12/46
102	37 Rick Uppelschoten	38/46 (B)
	53 Annick Weyzig	Richard
	75 Marcel van Asperen	
	133 Richard Stolk (85)	
	144 Lars Slofstra (88)	
	152 René Gilhuijs (91)	
	172 Hugo van Rooijen (103)	
	(The numbers between brackets give the position in the A-list)	

2016. WSC 11 / WPC 25 Senec, Slovakia. Two complete teams to both championships, plus an extra WSC-puzzler who performed very well.

2016	1 Tiit Vunk (Estonia)		1 CZ
WSC 11	2 Jakub Ondroušek (CZ)		2 China
Senec (SLO)	3 Kota Morinishi (JAP)		3 Japan
Official 101	Official	Unofficial	
Total 213	44 Annick Weyzig	64	24 official
	45 Karin Griffioen	65	54 in total
	Niels Roest	103	NLD A:
	Delia Keetman	109	14 official
	66 Tom Groot Kormelink	116	NLD B: 35
	Yuk Yee Lee-Au	149	UN 06: 37
	86 Richard Stolk	166	
	René Gilhuijs	174	Captain: Hns
	Eline Werkman (UN06)	183	
2016	1 Ulrich Voigt (GER)		1 Germany
WPC 25	2 Palmer Mebane (USA)		2 Japan
Senec (SLO)	3 Ken Endo (JAP)		3 USA
Official 104	32 Annick Weyzig	40	25 official
Total 197	Niels Roest	45	50 in total
	68 Tom Groot Kormelink	98	NLD A:
	Delia Keetman	110	17 official
	79 Marcel van Asperen	118	NLD B: 31
	83 Karin Griffioen	125	
	Richard Stolk	156	
	René Gilhuijs	182	Captain: Hns
	(Only the A-teams and members are in the official list)		