



For more information, please contact:

Rebecca Buffington
Saint Louis Chess Club
(314) 277-3930

rbuffington@saintlouischessclub.org

For Immediate Release

World's Best Return to Saint Louis for Pivotal Grand Chess Tour Tournaments

World Champion Magnus Carlsen Attempting to Set World Record 2900 Rating

SAINT LOUIS, August 1, 2019 – The fifth edition of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT), a series of eight elite chess tournaments held across the globe, will return to America's Chess Capital at the Saint Louis Chess Club from August 9-29, 2019. [Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz](#), held August 9-15, will kick off the festivities with 10 of the world's best chess players competing for \$150,000 in prize money. The [Sinquefield Cup](#) will follow the conclusion of Rapid & Blitz, running August 15-29. This classical chess tournament will feature 12 top-ranked international players competing for a total prize fund of \$325,000.

“Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz and the Sinquefield Cup are the premier international chess tournaments held in the United States each year,” said Tony Rich, Executive Director, Saint Louis Chess Club. “We're thrilled to welcome back the world's best to Saint Louis for these back-to-back events and are excited to be offering an improved prize fund for these outstanding players in 2019.

Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz Marks Midway Point of 2019 GCT Tour

The Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz will host 10 of the top players from around the world including World Champion Magnus Carlsen. The tournament will be played in a round robin format and conclude with a possible playoff armageddon. This is the fourth stop on the 2019 [Grand Chess Tour](#).

Sinquefield Cup Offers Final Classical Chess Tournament on GCT

The Sinquefield Cup will be the last classical chess tournament played on the Grand Chess Tour this season. Last year's event was one of the most dramatic on the Grand Chess Tour,

ending in a three-way tie between World Champion Magnus Carlsen, 2018 World Champion Challenger Fabiano Caruana, and GM Levon Aronian, 2015 Sinquefield Cup Winner and leading Armenian chess player since the early 2000's.

The previous classical tournament in Croatia and the upcoming Sinquefield Cup both hold a larger prize fund than any of the other Grand Chess Tour events with a sum total of \$650,000 and will offer more tour points to the winners, putting the Sinquefield Cup winner in solid contention to qualify for the 2019 Grand Chess Tour finals in London. Entering the Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz and the Sinquefield Cup, World No. 1 and current World Champion Magnus Carlsen is firmly atop the leaderboard, with American Wesley So in second, followed by Chinese Ding Liren in third place.

Following the conclusion of the Sinquefield Cup, the Saint Louis Chess Club will host an Ultimate Moves Exhibition with all players on August 29 at 2pm. The event will include Saint Louis Chess Club founder Rex Sinquefield, his son Randy Sinquefield, President of Spectrum Studios, legendary World Champion Garry Kasparov and the Sinquefield Cup players in a team vs. team matchup. All tournament players will compete in this fun-spirited event where players swap out after every fifth move and are encouraged to talk amongst each other and their opponents throughout the match.

2019 Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz Field						
Title	Name	URS Rating	FIDE Rapid Rating	FIDE Blitz Rating	Age	Residence
GM	Magnus Carlsen	2869	2895	2920	28	Norway
GM	Maxime Vachier-Lagrave	2799	2812	2948	28	France
GM	Fabiano Caruana	2793	2817	2772	27	USA
GM	Liren Ding	2792	2786	2779	26	China
GM	Levon Aronian	2776	2695	2848	36	Armenia
GM	Shakrihyar Mamedyarov	2770	2810	2778	34	Azerbaijan
GM	Sergey Karjakin	2768	2750	2814	29	Russia
GM	Yangi Yu	2756	2775	2710	25	China
GM	Leinier Dominguez	2751	2769	2703	35	USA
GM	Richard Rapport	2724	2719	2736	23	Hungary

Ratings as of July 2019

2019 Sinquefield Cup Field					
Title	Name	URS Rating	FIDE Rating	Age	Residence
GM	Magnus Carlsen	2869	2872	29	Norway
GM	Hikaru Nakamura	2806	2754	32	USA
GM	Maxime Vachier-Lagrave	2799	2775	29	France
GM	Fabiano Caruana	2793	2819	27	USA
GM	Liren Ding	2792	2812	27	China
GM	Wesley So	2777	2763	26	USA
GM	Levon Aronian	2776	2756	37	Armenia
GM	Ian Nepomniachtchi	2774	2775	29	Russia
GM	Shakhriyar Mamedyarov	2770	2765	34	Azerbaijan
GM	Sergey Karjakin	2768	2748	29	Russia
GM	Anish Giri	2763	2779	25	Netherlands
GM	Viswanathan Anand	2757	2764	50	India

Ratings as of July 2019

About The Saint Louis Chess Club

The Saint Louis Chess Club is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that is committed to making chess an important part of our community. In addition to providing a forum for everyone to play tournaments and casual games, the club also offers chess improvement classes, beginner lessons and special lectures.

Recognizing the cognitive and behavioral benefits of chess, the Saint Louis Chess Club is committed to supporting those chess programs that already exist in area schools while encouraging the development of new in-school and after-school programs. For more information, visit www.saintlouischessclub.org.

About The Grand Chess Tour

The Grand Chess Tour is a circuit of international events, each demonstrating the highest level of organization for the world's best players. The Tour is organized by the Saint Louis Chess Club and the Kasparov Chess Foundation. The legendary Garry Kasparov, one of the world's greatest ambassadors for chess, inspired the Grand Chess Tour and helped solidify the partnerships among sponsors and organizers.

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