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For Immediate Release

Grand Chess Tour Adds 5th Event, Prize Money Grows, Field Expanded

Continuing the growth shown over the last two years, the GCT now adds a fifth event to the Tour. This new tournament, sponsored by the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, will be held in Saint Louis, MO from August 13 to 20, 2017. It will follow the Sinquefeld Cup, which will be held in the same venue from July 31 to August 12, 2017. The addition of a fifth event brings the total prize pool for the 2017 GCT season to 1.2 million dollars, the highest in the tour's history.

The Grand Chess Tour announced last month that the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, Chess Promotions Ltd, Colliers International France, Vivendi S.A. and Your Next Move™ have renewed their partnership for the 2017 season.

A total of nine players will be selected as full 2017 Grand Chess Tour participants. Three spots will be awarded to the top finishers in the 2016 GCT, another three to the top players by average 2016 rating and the final three shall be determined by the GCT as tour wildcards. Players are required to participate in both classic events and two of the three rapid and blitz events.

Spots	Method	Notes
3	2016 Grand Chess Tour	The top-three from 2016 GCT
3	Rating	Average 2016 monthly classical rating
3	Tour Wildcards	Selected by the GCT

The GCT further expands its scope by including 14 event wildcard positions in 2017. These coveted invitations allow up to 14 additional players to vie for a share of the \$1.2 million in prizes.

Each classical event shall award one wildcard invitation, while the rapid and blitz events will have four event wildcards. The full list of 2017 tour participants will be announced after the conclusion of the 2016 London Chess Classic. Each event in which a player competes will count toward their GCT score and final tour standings.

All tournaments in 2017 will feature live play-by-play and analysis streamed worldwide, complete with grandmaster commentary and player interviews. All official tournament broadcasts will be carried live on the GCT website at grandchesstour.org. The full 2017 line-up and prizes are as follows:

Event	Paris GCT	Your Next Move	Sinquefield Cup	Saint Louis Rapid	London Classic
Location	Paris, France	Leuven, Belgium	Saint Louis, USA	Saint Louis, USA	London, UK
Dates	19 - 26 June	26 June - 3 July	31 July - 12 Aug	13 - 20 Aug	29 Nov - 12 Dec
Format	Rapid & Blitz	Rapid & Blitz	Classical	Rapid & Blitz	Classical
GCT Tour Participants	6	6	9	6	9
Event Wildcards	4	4	1	4	1
Prize Fund	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$300,000
GCT Prize Pool: \$150,000					
Total 2017 GCT Prize Fund: \$1,200,000					

Members of the press who require additional information are asked to direct queries to press@grandchesstour.org.

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