

March 12, 2019

*For Immediate Release***Grand Chess Tour wildcards for Abidjan and Paris**

Saint Louis, MO, March 12, 2019 – The Grand Chess Tour (GCT) has opted for a mix of youth and experience in selecting the six wildcards that will participate in the forthcoming rapid and blitz tournaments in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire and Paris, France. The following six players have accepted wildcard invitations and will showcase their talents alongside the seven full tour participants in each event.

Event	Cote d'Ivoire Rapid & Blitz	Paris Rapid & Blitz
Date	May 6 – May 13	July 26 – August 2
1	Yi, Wei	Grischuk, Alexander
2	Topalov, Veselin	Duda, Jan-Krzysztof
3	Amin, Bassem	Dubov, Daniil

The selections are consistent with the approach that will be adopted for all GCT events this year. While former FIDE World Champion GM Veselin Topalov and GM Alexander Grischuk are no strangers to the Tour, the other four wildcards will all be making their debut appearances at a GCT event.

GM's Wei Yi, Jan-Krzysztof Duda and Daniil Dubov represent the very best of a growing group of emerging junior players while GM Bassem Amin is the reigning African Individual Champion as well as the number one ranked player from the African continent. He will become the first player from Africa to participate in a GCT tournament when he participates in the tournament in Abidjan in May.

The full fields for these two rapid and blitz tournaments are now finalised and are as follows:

#	Cote d'Ivoire Rapid & Blitz	Paris Rapid & Blitz
1	Carlsen, Magnus	Nakamura, Hikaru
2	Nakamura, Hikaru	Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime
3	Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime	Caruana, Fabiano
4	Ding, Liren	Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar
5	So, Wesley	Nepomniachtchi, Ian
6	Nepomniachtchi, Ian	Giri, Anish
7	Karjakin, Sergey	Anand, Viswanathan
8	Yi, Wei	Grischuk, Alexander
9	Topalov, Veselin	Duda, Jan-Krzysztof
10	Amin, Bassem	Dubov, Daniil

Both tournaments are sponsored by Vivendi SA, a French mass media conglomerate headquartered in Paris. In addition, the Paris Rapid and Blitz tournament also benefits from the support of Colliers International, a leading global real estate services and investment management company.

For more information, please contact:

Mr Michael Khodarkovsky

Grand Chess Tour Spokesperson

Phone: +1 201 317 8581

Email: press@grandchesstour.org

About the Grand Chess Tour (<http://grandchesstour.org>)

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 was created in partnership between the St Louis Chess Club (Sinquefield Cup) and Chess Promotions, Ltd. (London Chess Classic). The legendary Garry Kasparov, one of the world's greatest ambassadors for chess, inspired the Grand Chess Tour and helped solidify the partnership between the organizers.

Grand Chess Tour



325 N. Euclid Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63108, USA

info@grandchesstour.org
