

## **Fabi's Back: This Time It's a Knockout!**

Fans eager for more fabulous top-class chess after the World Championship in London need look no further than the London Chess Classic, where the valiant challenger, **Fabiano Caruana**, will be back in town for a showdown with three of the world's most exciting players from December 11-17, thanks to support from our new sponsor, [The Lohia Foundation](#).

With an exciting Semi-finals and Final format, complete with Classical, Rapid & Blitz, plus a nail-biting Armageddon decider, the London Chess Classic will pit Fabi against fellow American **Hikaru Nakamura**, Armenia's **Levon Aronian** and France's **Maxime Vachier-Lagrave** (MVL) in the finale of the 2018 Grand Chess Tour.

The fantastic four will be dueling for a total of \$300,000 (£230,000) in GCT prize money.

Just how Fabi will come back after his narrow loss (tied 6-6 in Classical, 3-0 in the Rapid playoffs) in the World Championship match against Magnus Carlsen will be the question on everyone's lips – as his opponents are likely to face more of the superb opening preparation that Fabi displayed there.

In his Semi-Final matchup, Fabi faces Rapid & Blitz specialist Hikaru, while in the other Semi-Final, Levon plays MVL.

### **PLAYER STATS (World rankings, November 2018):**

- Fabiano Caruana (Classical #2, 2832; Rapid #10, 2789; Blitz #16, 2767)
- Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Classical #6, 2778; Rapid #11, 2786; Blitz #2, 2937)
- Levon Aronian (Classical #11, 2765; Rapid #7, 2802; Blitz #3, 2889)
- Hikaru Nakamura (Classical #17, 2746; Rapid #2, 2844; Blitz #4, 2858)

After two Classical games on December 11-12, play switches to Rapid & Blitz on Dec. 13. The winners then go through to the 3-day Final, held at the traditional Olympia London venue on December 15-16 (Classical) & 17 (Rapid & Blitz). There will also be a Third Place Playoff.

The 2018 GCT champion will take home a 1st prize of \$120,000 (there's \$80,000 for 2nd, \$60,000 for 3rd and \$40,000 for 4th).

To watch the action live, you can [book your tickets now](#) (daily £25, season £60) for entrance to the London Chess Classic Final (December 15-17) at London Olympia.

- These tickets will also give you access to the accompanying London Chess Festival events (total prizes over £24,000) at Olympia, including the FIDE-rated Open, 5-Day Classic events & Weekend Classic events, GM simultaneous displays, chess teacher training courses, & live commentary by leading Grandmasters.

For more info contact our team at: [info@londonchessclassic.com](mailto:info@londonchessclassic.com)

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