

For immediate release

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British Knockout: Top GMs & young masters battle it out for £42,000

The five members of the multiple medal-winning England Open team – **Mickey Adams, David Howell, Luke McShane, Gawain Jones and Nicholas Pert** – are the top seeds in this year's **British Knockout Championship**, which runs from **November 30 to December 8** at London Olympia, alongside the Grand Chess Tour Finals featuring World Champion Magnus Carlsen.

The five top seeds will be joined in an eight-player Knockout tournament by three qualifiers.

At stake will be a **total prize fund of £42,000**, with a **£10,000 first prize**, £7,500 to the runner-up, £5,000 each to the semi-finalists and £2,500 to the quarter-finalists.

The **Semi-Finals (2nd-4th December)** and the **Final (6th-8th December)** will each consist of 2 classical games, followed by a final day of Rapid & Blitz. Play will start at 4:00pm on weekdays, and at 2:00pm on Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th December.

The British Knockout Semi-Finals and Final will be held in the same auditorium as the Grand Chess Tour Finals, and will follow the same format: 2 classical games, followed by 2 rapid and 4 blitz games, followed by 2 blitz playoff games and an Armageddon blitz game if required to decide the winner of each match. Adding to the entertainment for chess fans will be an Exhibition Match between the two losing semi-finalists, running alongside the Final, where spectators will be invited to suggest the openings.

Spectators welcome

Spectator tickets are on sale online at the [London Chess Classic Box Office](#). **Day Passes** (valid on December 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8) **cost £25 each**, while a **Season Pass costs £80 – a total saving of £70**.

Young players to the fore

Among the group of 15 players seeking to qualify for the Quarter-Finals are two members of the England Women's team and a host of promising young titled players under the age of 25. Participants include: GM Daniel Fernandez; WGM Katarzyna Toma; IMs Ravi Haria, Joseph McPhillips, Alan Merry, Brandon Clarke, Matthew Wadsworth, Andrew Horton and Adam C. Taylor. For the up-to-date list of participants, see the [British Knockout Championship results, pairings and games page](#) on the London Chess Classic website.

Both the **Preliminary Round on 30th November** (a 9-round Swiss Rapidplay, plus blitz and Armageddon playoff games if necessary) and the **Quarter-Finals on 1st December** (two Classical games, plus rapid, blitz and Armageddon playoff games if required) **start at 11:00am**.

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