

Play Magnus Group (PMG) - Tour Finals 2022: Meltwater Champions Chess Tour reaches its climax in San Francisco

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(Oslo, 1 November 2022) - A drama-filled season spanning nearly a full year of competition has led to the ninth and final event of the award-winning Meltwater Champions Chess Tour. The tournament is a seven-day all-play-all round robin starting on November 14 and concluding on November 20.

Eight elite chess stars will take part in the third and final major, the Tour Finals 2022. In a unique online and in-person hybrid chess event, four players will compete from SHACK15 in San Francisco while four will play remotely.

Newly-crowned Tour 2022 Champion **Magnus Carlsen** heads the line-up and will be in San Francisco vying for his fifth victory in the 2022 season. Three-time US Champion **Wesley So**, will be back making his keenly-awaited first appearance this year.

Indian teen sensation **Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa** will be aiming for his breakthrough first tournament win after coming so close twice already this season. Dutch No.1 **Anish Giri** will complete the in-person line-up in San Francisco aiming to score his first win in 2022.

Playing online are four of the most exciting players this year. **Jan-Krzysztof Duda**, who sits second in the overall Tour leaderboard after winning October's Aimchess Rapid, will be joined by the runner-up from that event **Shakhriyar Mamedyarov**.

Completing the line-up are Vietnam's US-based speed specialist **Liem Quang Le**, fourth in the overall Tour leaderboard, and **Arjun Erigaisi**, the other Indian wonderkid to wow audiences this year. Erigaisi finished second to Carlsen at the Julius Baer Generation Cup before scoring a first win against the Norwegian at the Aimchess Rapid.

The Meltwater Champions Chess Tour is the world's first year-long online chess series designed to determine the world's best chess player over a full season of competitive online chess.

Play Magnus Group created the Tour from scratch as the world of sport closed down during the global covid pandemic in 2020. Since its launch in 2020, the Tour has gone from strength-to-strength breaking viewership records for online and live tournaments and recently winning the Digital Entertainment award from Leaders in Sport alongside other winners including Wimbledon, NBA, Arsenal and other major sports organizations.

Global media has increasingly followed the excitement of the Tour. According to Meltwater's reach data, the Tour generated 22 billion in media reach in 2021 and 58 billion so far in 2022, representing 164 per cent year over year growth on an already record-breaking inaugural season.

Tour Director Arne Horvei said, "We are excited to see the second season of the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour culminate in the Tour Finals in San Francisco with our title partner Meltwater. This year the Tour has taken major strides in becoming the leading annual circuit in online chess, and we are proud to have many more fans, players and partners become part of the Tour's journey throughout the season."

The Tour is supported by San Francisco headquartered, social and media intelligence provider Meltwater, which became the title partner of the Champions Chess Tour at the beginning of the inaugural 2021 season. The partnership thrives on mutual themes of strategy, analysis and utilizing information to improve your position whether over the chess board or the boardroom.

Zubair Timol, Vice President of Culture at Meltwater, said, "The Meltwater Champions Chess Tour has been a historic series, in terms of viewership, engagement and social interactions. The Tour has visited Oslo, Miami and now San Francisco, bringing the world's best players to a truly global market. At Meltwater, innovation is at the core of everything we do, and it has been a privilege to collaborate with PMG as they continue to drive digital transformation in chess. The recent Leaders In Sport Award is a reflection of a truly collaborative and inclusive partnership between PMG and Meltwater."

The in-person event will be hosted at SHACK15, an innovative social space located within San Francisco's iconic Ferry Building with panoramic views of the Bay.

The Tour Finals 2022 kick off at 15:00 ET / 21:00 CET on November 14. Watch the broadcast live on chess24.com or chess24's YouTube and Twitch channels.

For more information contact

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About the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour

The Meltwater Champions Chess Tour is the leading online chess Tour worldwide determining the world's best chess player over a full competitive season of online chess. The 2022 season began in February 2022 and features 9 monthly tournaments culminating in a Final to be held at Shack 15 in San Francisco from November 14 - 20, 2022. The best chess players in the world compete for a total prize pool of over USD 1.6 million in rapid chess online on www.chess24.com. For more information visit www.championschesstour.com.

About Play Magnus Group

Play Magnus Group is a global leader in the chess industry focused on providing premier digital experiences for millions of chess players and students. The company offers elearning and entertainment services via its market leading brands: chess24, Chessable, iChess, New In Chess, Everyman Chess, Magnus Academy, Aimchess, the Play Magnus App Suite, and the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour. The Group's mission is to grow chess to make the world a smarter place by encouraging more people to play, watch, study, and earn a living from chess.

Play Magnus Group is listed on Euronext Growth Oslo under the ticker PMG and OTCQX® Best Market under the ticker PMGMF. For more information visit pmg.me.

About Meltwater

Meltwater provides social and media intelligence. By analyzing ~1 billion online documents each day, Meltwater enables PR, Communications, and Marketing professionals to make informed strategic decisions and influence the world around them. The Company was founded in Oslo, Norway, in 2001 and is headquartered in San Francisco, California, with 50 offices across six continents. The Company has 2,300 employees and 27,000 corporate customers, including industry leaders in several sectors. Learn more at meltwater.com.

Disclosure regulation

This release is an announcement issued pursuant to legal information obligations and is subject of the disclosure requirements pursuant to the Market Abuse Regulation (MAR) Article 17 no. 1 and section 5-12 of the Norwegian Securities Trading Act, and was submitted for publication by Arkus Fredriksson, Chief Strategy Officer of Play Magnus Group.

Attachments

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