

Dundee Grand Tourney 1867

At the Dundee International Tournament of 1867 in Scotland, there were three different events: 1. The Grand Tourney; 2. The Handicap Tourney; 3. The Scotch Tourney.

The first round was held on 4th September, and the last round was played on September 13th.

The following information is taken from *The Story of Dundee Chess Club*, by Peter W. Walsh (1984).

Additional information on the Scotch Tourney has been supplied by the chess historian and publisher, Tony Gillam.

1. The Grand Tourney

This consisted of invited players and included:

Wilhelm Steinitz, regarded as world champion and favourite to take first prize.

Joseph H. Blackburne, a British Grandmaster and highly successful tournament player who became a prominent master in the 19th century. Blackburne was already famed for his blindfold play and was destined to become the second official British champion in 1868, the year that he went professional.

Dr Gustav R.L. Neumann, a German born in Gleiwitz, and regarded as one of the very strongest mid-nineteenth-century masters.

Cecil de Vere, a young star who had become the first official British champion in 1866.

Rev. G.A. MacDonnell, the strongest of all the chess-playing 'reverends' in Britain during the nineteenth century - and there were many.

S. Hamel, a well-known Nottingham player and possibly related to L. Hamel, one of our [Dundee CC] founder members.

Scotland's invited experts were:

Sheriff **W.C. Spens** from Glasgow, [he did not hold the title of Sheriff at the time of the tournament - AMcG] who was to instigate the founding of the Scottish Chess Association in 1884, and after whom the Spens Cup is named.

Dr J. Fraser and Colonel **J.A. Robertson**, both from Edinburgh and both strong players.

Finally, of course, our [Dundee CC] own **George B. Fraser**, who had become by this date a well known analyst and discoverer of many important and interesting variations in different openings.

The tournament was held in the Board Room of the Caledonian Railway Company under the auspices of the then British Chess Association. For the first time "to obviate the difficulty experienced in the recent Grand Tourney at Paris, it was proposed that each draw should be reckoned at half a game".

This was the first <international> chess tournament to have < drawn games > to score a ½ point to each player!

An oddity of this tournament was that the players tossed for colour at the start of each game.

Dundee 1867		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts
1	Neumann	0	0	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	7½
2	Steinitz	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	7
3	De Vere	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	½	1	1	6½
4	MacDonnell	½	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6½
5	Blackburne	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	*	1	1	5
6	Robertson	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
7	Dr Fraser	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	*	1	½	2½
8	G.B. Fraser	0	0	½	0	*	0	*	0	1	1	2½
9	Hamel	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
10	Spens	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	½

An asterisk (*) in the cross table indicates that G.B. Fraser resigned these games without play as they did not affect the prize money.

Prizes in the international event were announced as: 1. £40 2. £20 3. £10. De Vere took third prize following his play-off win against MacDonnell.

2. The Handicap Tourney

This consisted of all Grand Tourney competitors except Hamel, plus seven others. It was contested on a knock-out basis. The players were grouped into four classes with the pairing done by lot for each round. Class I gave to Class II pawn and move; to Class III pawn and two moves, and to Class IV Queen's KNight. The total prize money for this event was £37.10s, divided as follows: First £20, Second £10, Third £5, Fourth £2.10s. These sums indicate the standing that this event had, and the importance of handicap chess in general at that time. The deciding games were:

Dr Fraser v Steinitz and Neumann v Scott (Dundee Chess Club). Neumann defeated Scott to take third prize but the other game proved controversial. Steinitz claimed a win, in a hopeless position, on the grounds that Dr Fraser had over-stepped the time allowance - two hours for thirty moves. Fraser had made only twenty seven moves when his one hour sand-glass ran out for the second time. Fraser wished the game to be annulled, which it duly was, as no rule or procedure had been laid down for deciding the penalty for over-stepping the time limit. No replay was possible for Steinitz "had to leave per steamer in the afternoon". They mutually agreed to share the first and second prizes.

1-2. Steinitz & Dr Fraser 3; 3. Neumann 3; 4. Scott 2. The other results were Blackburne, Keating, Spens & Robertson 1; de Vere, Baxter, Thoms, Dumon, G.B. Fraser, MacDonnell, Baxter & Sine 0. (A tie-breaking system was used.)

3. The Scotch Tourney

The tournament was open to Scottish players only. Eight players entered and it was run on an all-play-all basis, without handicaps. Draws counted $\frac{1}{2}$ (as in the Dundee international). There were three prizes as follows:

1. Silver Cup and £20 - Dr Fraser (Edinburgh) 6/7
2. Set of ivory chessmen and £5 5s - Charles R. Baxter (Dundee) 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ /7
3. Set of ivory chessmen and £2 2s - George B. Fraser (Dundee) 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ /7

Dr. Fraser won outright. This tournament could be regarded as the first Scottish Championship but, as Tony Gillam has mentioned, he has not found a single use of the phrase in any of the reports of the tournament he has consulted. Also, from the occasional results given in the press and the total results given for each player.

Sources:

The Story of the Dundee Chess Club, by Peter W. Walsh (1984)

Centenary Tournament Dundee 1967, by R.G. Wade (The Chess Player, Nottingham, 1967)

Anthony J. Gillam, Historian, Author, Editor.

Jul-13-15 **zanzibar:** This is widely acknowledged as the first << international tournament >> to implement draws as 1/2 points.



The question is, was there any widely known national or club tournament that preceded it and therefore has precedence?

Dundee Centenary Tournament 1967

From: *Scottish Chess*, the Bulletin of the Scottish Chess Association, Nr. 23, May-August 1967

During the last two weeks of July, a Centenary Tournament and the Scottish Congress were held in Dundee. The tournament celebrated a similar event in 1867 when the top tournament had been won by Neumann ahead of Steinitz. This year's tournament was organised by a committee headed by the Lord provost of Dundee and including members of the City Council with W.A. Fairhurst, President of the Scottish Chess Association and originator of the concept of holding an International Tournament, handling the technical aspects of the organising.

Mr Fairhurst also gave two official dinners, the first [July 11th] being to welcome the players with the Lord Provost and Council Members of Dundee attending, and the second [July 22nd] being to welcome the players for the Scottish Congress to Dundee with the Lord Provost, local M.P Mr [Peter] Doig and the Under-Secretary of State for Scotland Lord Hughes attending.

The International Tournament was controlled by *Harry Golombek* and the Dundee organisers were Mrs N.C. Elder, W.P. McColl, A.D.D. McKay with H.Deas controlling the Scottish Congress events.

Dundee 1967		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	Gligoric, S.	0	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	6½
2	Larsen, B.	0	0	1	½	0	1	1	1	1	5½
3	Olafsson, F.	½	0	0	1	½	½	1	1	1	5½
4	O'Kelly, A.	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	5
5	Penrose, Dr J.	½	1	½	½	0	½	½	1	½	5
6	Kottnauer, C.	0	0	½	0	½	0	½	1	½	3
7	Davie, A.M.	0	0	0	0	½	½	0	0	1	2
8	Wade, R.G.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
9	Pritchett, C.W.	0	0	0	½	½	½	0	0	0	1½

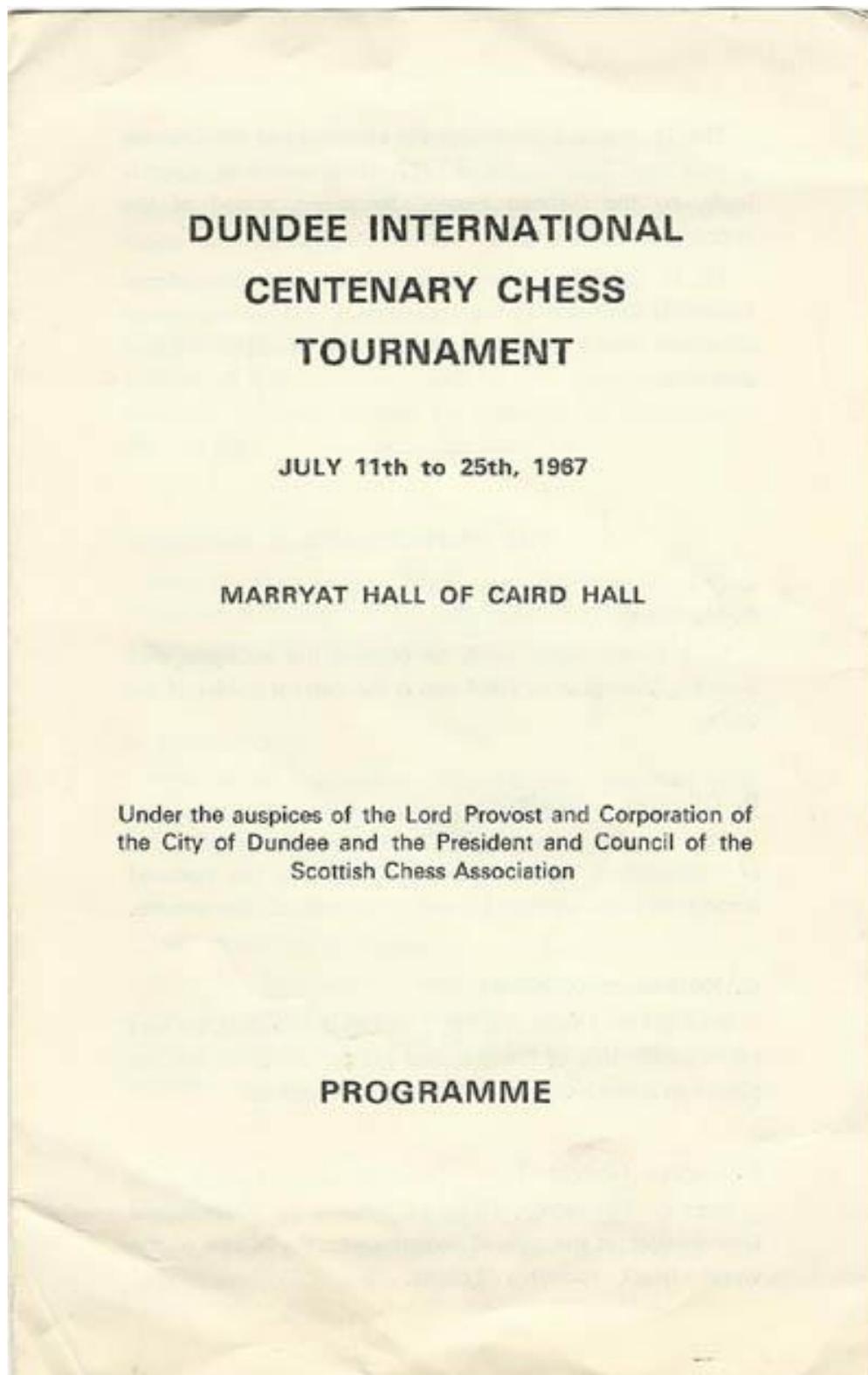
The International Chess Tournament was won quite comfortably by S. Gligoric, his only challenger, F. Olafsson, failing in the last round against B. Larsen.

Larsen did not seem to be quite on form and his characteristic experiments mostly failed. Apart from the winner, Dr J. Penrose was the only player to avoid defeat, reflecting the solidity of his play. Had he won more games against the tail-enders, he could have challenged for first place - a very fine performance despite having a cold midway through the tournament. Both the Scots, Davie and Pritchett, were inadequately prepared in the opening and frequently went into the middle game in the inferior position. Pritchett was further troubled by having five blacks and, in the earlier rounds, by a tendency to drift unnecessarily into time trouble.

Arturo Pomar of Spain withdrew ill during round three and his score was cancelled.

We are grateful to W.A. Fairhurst, C.W. Pritchett, the Tournament Book published in the Chess Player series, and S. Gligoric for help in the writing of this report.

The following three images of the programme were kindly supplied by Jim Doyle of the Shettleston CC (Glasgow), who participated in the SCA Congress.



The Tournament celebrates the centenary of the Dundee International Tournament of 1867 which was won, surprisingly, by the German master, Neumann, ahead of the reigning World Champion, Wilhelm Steinitz.

Mr. H. Golombek, International Master and International Arbitrator, is Controller of the Tournament. He has on several occasions been a judge at matches for the World Championship title.

THE PARTICIPANTS

A. M. Davie (Scotland)

Born on 4th April, 1946, he became the youngest ever Scottish Champion in 1964 and is the current holder of the title.

S. Gligoric (Yugoslavia)

Born on 2nd February, 1923, he was awarded the title of International Grandmaster in 1961. He has featured among the prize-winners in many international tournaments.

C. Kottbauer (England)

Born on 23rd February, 1910, in Czechoslovakia, he was awarded the title of International Master in 1950. He has played in many individual and team tournaments.

B. Larsen (Denmark)

Born on 4th March, 1936, he became an International Grandmaster at the age of twenty-one. He is one of the world's finest exponents of chess.

A. o'Kelly de Galway (Belgium)

Born on 17th May, 1911, he has been a regular visitor to England. He was awarded the title of International Grandmaster in 1956.

F. Olafsson (Iceland)

Born on 26th January, 1935, he is a very experienced tournament player, gaining the International Grandmaster title in 1958.

J. Penrose (England)

Born on 7th October, 1933, he is currently the British Champion and has held the title on seven occasions. He was awarded the title of International Master in 1961.

A. Pomar (Spain)

Born on 1st September, 1931, he was celebrated as a boy prodigy at chess. Veteran of many tournaments, he became an International Grandmaster in 1962.

C. W. Pritchett (Scotland)

Born on 15th January, 1949, he is the youngest player in the tournament. He was a member of the Scottish team which competed at the 17th Olympiad in Havana, Cuba, last year.

R. G. Wade (New Zealand)

Born 1921 he won the British Championship in 1952. He is an experienced International Master who has participated in many tournaments abroad.

From:

Centenary Tournament Dundee 1967, by R.G. Wade (The Chess Player, Nottingham, 1967)

The possibility of holding an International Tournament to celebrate the centenary of the 1867 tournament was discussed between [W.A. Fairhurst](#) and Dundee's Lord Provost (i.e. Lord Mayor) McManus in December 1966, and in January 1967 a committee headed by the Lord Provost and including members of the City Council was formed to promote the project.

Mr Fairhurst was asked to invite a number of International Grandmasters to participate in a tournament with from ten to twelve players including Scottish and English masters.

In May, after the council elections, a new committee was formed under Lord Provost Alex MacKenzie with Baillies J.M. Gillies and Kames Walker, and councillors George Soutar, Robert Doyle, J.L. Stewart, A.J. Thomson and Harry Dickson as the members.

Mr Fairhurst reported progress to the new committee, and it was agreed that the event should take place from July 11th to 26th in the Marryat Hall of the Caird Hall adjacent to the City Chambers.

Unfortunately, due to other events in their own countries, Keres and Botvinnik of the U.S.S.R., and Szabo of Hungary, who were invited, were not able to accept despite their expressed wish to do so.

Despite this setback a very strong entry was obtained, thanks to R.G. Wade who provided valuable contacts during the negotiations, and with Grandmasters Gligoric, Larsen, Olafsson, O'Kelly (and Pomar) able to compete the success of the tournament was ensured.

Additional notes:

Prior to the second dinner on Saturday July 22nd, coinciding with the beginning of the Scottish Chess Association's annual congress, there had been an open-air game of chess on a pleasant afternoon at the big granite board that Fairhurst had incorporated in the approaches to the Tay Road Bridge at the Dundee end. (Mr Fairhurst, a renowned civil and structural engineer, was involved in the building of this bridge, which opened in 1966.) The game was between Teddy Taylor, Conservative M.P for Cathcart [Glasgow] and Peter Doig, Labour M.P for Dundee West, the latter winning.

Prizes:

1st £200 2nd £140 3rd £100 4th £70 5th £50. In addition, non-prize winners received £5 for each won game.

Sources:

Scottish Chess Bulletin Nr. 23, May-August 1967.

Chess Nr. 523-4, March 1967, page 149 and Nr. 535-6, August 1967, page 331 and others.

Centenary Tournament Dundee 1967, by R.G. Wade (The Chess Player, Nottingham, 1967)

Jim Doyle, Shettleston CC (Glasgow)

[Alan McGowan](#)

Compare the summaries of the 1867 tournament and the 100-year anniversary tournament in 1967: They were both very strong chess tournaments, and are fascinating to explore. The information here is based on the Chess Scotland history archive which itself is taken from the book *The Story of Dundee Chess Club* by Peter Walsh (1984) and *Scottish Chess*, a bulletin produced by the former *Scottish Chess Association*.

The main objective of the tournament 2017 is to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the world famous Dundee International Chess Tournament which was held in 1867, with a similarly prestigious all-play-all tournament of 10 invited International Grandmasters and to host the 124th

Scottish Chess Championships, which will run concurrently from 15-23 July 2017. The first round of the Anniv Tournament will take place a day earlier to give the players a free day.

The main tournaments will take place during afternoons from **15-23 July** in the Bonar Hall, Dundee, with other events taking place in the mornings within the Bonar Halls complex

The 150th Anniversary Tournament will link with The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum which also will celebrate its 150th Anniversary in 2017. The building now commemorates Dundee Lord Provost, Maurice McManus, who served from 1960-1968. In its current form, it re-opened in 2010 after a multi-million-pound refit.

The Annual Scottish Chess Championships (first held in 1884) have taken place in Dundee on 14 previous occasions but the last time was 40 years ago in 1976. Prior to that, in 1967, it was held along with the 100th Anniversary International Tournament, with both events being organised by the President of the Scottish Chess Association, **Dr W.A. Fairhurst** (who designed the Tay Road Bridge which was opened in 1966, the year before the 1967 tournament) with Lord Provost, Maurice McManus, and the Dundee City Council.

The Dundee Lord Provost and the Dundee City Council are providing valuable assistance and encouragement for the tournament, for which the organisers are most grateful.

Player	Country
Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant,	Scotland
Pia Cramling	Sweden
Andrew Greet	Scotland
Spyridon Kapnisis	Greece
Colin McNab	Scotland
Keith Arkell (substitute for F. Olafsson)	England
Martin Petr	Czech Republic
Craig Pritchett	Scotland
Eduardas Rozentalis	Lithuania
Simon Williams	England



www.chessscotland.com/documents/photos/Olym2014agreet_1000.jpg

Andrew Greet won the << **Dundee 150th Anniversary Chess Tournament in 2017** >> as an IM! GMs Simon Williams, Martin Petr, Spyridon Kapnisis and Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant all shared 2nd-5th places; a half point back, in total 10 players (8 GMs, 2 IMs). The Scottish player had in the last round to defend for an incredible 135 moves against Rozentalis to seal the tournament title, suffered one loss (against Pia Cramling), and won four games.

Recapitulation: In 1867, Dundee in Scotland hosted an international tournament that featured elite players such as Steinitz and Blackburne, Neuman won. Dundee 1867 is widely acknowledged as <the first **international** tournament to implement draws as 1/2 points>.

One hundred years later, in 1967, the Dundee centenary event included Gligoric, who won, Larsen, Olafsson, or O'Kelly.

150 years after the original event, Dundee was again hosting an international tournament in 2017.

Dundee International Chess Tournament 1867, 1967, and 2017

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=82388> (1867)

https://www.chessscotland.com/documents/history/Dundee_1867.htm (1867)

https://www.chessscotland.com/documents/history/Dundee_1967.htm (1967)

<http://www.scottishchesschamp.co.uk/>

<http://150chess.gs/history.html> (150th Anniversary Tournament, Official Site 2017)

[https://en.chessbase.com/\(X\(1\)S\(2tkfoi1vi0kyx2lthpbhfdui\)\)/post/greet-is-great-at-150th-dundee-anniversary](https://en.chessbase.com/(X(1)S(2tkfoi1vi0kyx2lthpbhfdui))/post/greet-is-great-at-150th-dundee-anniversary) (ChessBase)

2017, published in: <http://www.chessdiagonals.ch/>