



Established 1992

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## **PRESS RELEASE: England vs. Sweden Challenge Match**

Chess & Bridge is proud to announce the forthcoming England vs. Sweden Challenge Match between Grandmaster David Howell (England) and Grandmaster Nils Grandelius (Sweden) in London this March. The event is being staged as part of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the founding of the London Chess Centre and the relaunching of *CHESS* Magazine.

The match will be held at the Residence of Sweden's Ambassador to the United Kingdom Mikaela Kumlin Granit. Taking place in the grand library of the residence, the match will be contested over 10 games of classical chess.

*“I’m thrilled to host the match between the Swedish and British Grandmasters Nils Grandelius and David Howell at the Swedish Residence. This will be a great opportunity for more contacts between Swedish and British players and fans of chess, which is played and loved by so many in Sweden and in the UK,”* says Ambassador Kumlin Granit.

To encourage fighting chess the organisers have structured the prize-fund to offer a greater financial reward for a win and a loss than for two draws. The prize fund is a maximum of £17,000 (€20,000).

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Game 1	Slow time control
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Game 2	Slow time control
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Game 3	Slow time control
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Game 4	Slow time control
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Game 5	Slow time control
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	<i>Rest Day</i>	
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Game 6	Fast time control
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Game 7	Fast time control
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Game 8	Fast time control
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Game 9	Fast time control
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Game 10	Fast time control

All games will begin at 2pm GMT.

Chess24 will be the official broadcast partner of the match providing full coverage of the event including live commentary from GM Simon Williams and Askild Bryn.

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David Howell's next engagement is as commentator on Chess24's coverage of the *Airthings Masters*, an online super-tournament which starts on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February and is the first event in this year's Meltwater Champions Chess Tour. Nils made his debut in the 2021 Meltwater Champions Chess Tour and is on the roster for this year's edition.

### **Match Information**

The match will not be open to the general public.

The first five games will be contested at a time control of 40 moves in 120 minutes plus 30 seconds per move, followed by the rest of the game in 30 minutes plus 30 seconds per move. The remaining five games will be played at a faster time control of 40 moves in 90 minutes plus 30 seconds per move, followed by the rest of the game in 15 minutes plus 30 seconds per move.

No draw offers prior to move 30.

Games played after the match is decided will still count for FIDE rating.

The arbiter will be IA Shohreh Bayat.

### **Player Information**

**David Howell**

**Nationality: English**

**Age: 31**

**Current Rating: 2646**

**Peak Rating: 2712 (August 2015)**

David Howell is an English Grandmaster and three-time British Chess Champion. He set several records as a chess prodigy, including being the youngest British player to earn the title of Grandmaster at just 16 years old.

In 2015, Howell placed second at Gibraltar Masters and won the inaugural British Knockout Championship. The same year, in August, he broke the 2700 rating barrier and earned career-bests for rating (2712) and world ranking (36).

David scored a top-10 performance at the 2017 European Individual Chess Championship after leading for much of the tournament. Other career highlights include top-10 finishes at the 2019 and 2021 FIDE Chess.com Grand Swiss, where after winning four in a row David shared the lead with two rounds to go.



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**Nils Grandelius**

**Nationality: Swedish**

**Age: 28**

**Current Rating: 2672**

**Peak Rating: 2694 (March 2019)**

Nils Grandelius is a Swedish Grandmaster. He became a FIDE Master in 2007, an International Master in 2008, a Grandmaster in 2010, Swedish Champion in 2015 and has been Sweden's top ranked player for close to a decade.

Career highlights include the bronze medal at the 2010 World Youth Chess Championships (U18), the gold medal at the 2010 European Youth Championships, and joint-winner of the Sigeman & Co Chess Tournaments of 2017 and 2018. In March 2019, Grandelius tied for first place with Vladislav Artemiev in the European Individual Championship, held in Skopje, scoring 8½/11 points. He took the silver medal on tiebreak.

Grandelius was one of the seconds for Magnus Carlsen, the current world champion, during the 2016 and 2018 World Chess Championship matches.

For further information relating to the match please contact Malcolm Pein - [info@chess.co.uk](mailto:info@chess.co.uk).

**ENDS**