



**George Alcock MacDonnell** (16 August 1830 - 3 June 1899) was an Irish [chess](#) master and writer.

He tied for 3rd-4th at London 1862 (the 5th [British Chess Congress](#), [Adolf Anderssen](#) won),<sup>[1]</sup> won two matches against [George Henry Mackenzie](#) (8 : 5) and (6.5 : 3.5) both at Dublin 1862, shared 1st with [Wilhelm Steinitz](#) at Dublin 1865,<sup>[2]</sup> but lost a play-off game to him there, tied for 2nd-3rd at London 1866 (the 1st [British Chess Championship](#), [Cecil De Vere](#) won),<sup>[3]</sup> tied for 3rd-4th at Dundee ([Gustav Neumann](#) won),<sup>[4]</sup> tied for 3rd-5th at London 1868/69 (the 2nd BCA Challenge Cup, [Joseph Henry Blackburne](#) and De Vere won),<sup>[5]</sup> shared 3rd at London 1872 (Steinitz won),<sup>[6]</sup> and took 4th at London 1872 (the 4th BCA Challenge Cup, [John Wisker](#) and De Vere won).<sup>[7]</sup>

MacDonnell won a match against Wisker (3.5 : 0.5) at Bristol 1873, and lost a rematch (6 : 9) at London 1874.<sup>[8]</sup> He took 4th at London 1876 (Blackburne won),<sup>[9]</sup> took 4th at London 1879 (*Quadrangular*, [Henry Bird](#) won), took 3rd at London 1883 (*Vizayanagaram*, [Curt von Bardeleben](#) won),<sup>[10]</sup> took 4th at Bath 1884 (Wayte won), tied for 5-6th at London 1885 ([Isidor Gunsberg](#) won), shared 1st at London 1866, tied for 7-8th at London 1886 (Blackburne and [Amos Burn](#) won),<sup>[11]</sup> lost a match to Blackburne (1.5 : 2.5) at London 1887, and took 6th at Stamford 1887 ([Joseph Henry Blake](#) won).<sup>[12]</sup>

He led a chess column in the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* for many years. He wrote two books: *Chess Life Pictures* (London 1883) and *Knights and Kings of Chess* (London 1894).<sup>[13]</sup>

#### References[[edit](#)]

1. [Jump up](#)<sup>^</sup> [London](#)
2. [Jump up](#)<sup>^</sup> [Dublin](#)
3. [Jump up](#)<sup>^</sup> [London](#)
4. [Jump up](#)<sup>^</sup> [Dundee](#)
5. [Jump up](#)<sup>^</sup> [London](#)
6. [Jump up](#)<sup>^</sup> [Londra](#)
7. [Jump up](#)<sup>^</sup> [Londra](#)
8. [Jump up](#)<sup>^</sup> [matches 1865-79](#)
9. [Jump up](#)<sup>^</sup> [Londra](#)
10. [Jump up](#)<sup>^</sup> [londonviz](#)
11. [Jump up](#)<sup>^</sup> [london](#)
12. [Jump up](#)<sup>^</sup> <http://www.anders.thulin.name/SUBJECTS/CHESS/CTCIndex.pdf> Name Index to Jeremy Gaige's *Chess Tournament Crosstables*, An Electronic Edition, Anders Thulin, Malmö, 2004-09-01

13. **Jump up** Litmanowicz, Władysław & Giżycki, Jerzy (1986, 1987). *Szachy od A do Z*. Wydawnictwo Sport i Turystyka Warszawa. [ISBN 83-217-2481-7](#) (1. A-M), [ISBN 83-217-2745-X](#) (2. N-Z)

Он связал для 3-го - 4-й в Лондоне 1862 (5-й британский Шахматный Конгресс, Адольф Андерсцен победил), [1] выиграл два состязания против Джорджа Генри Маккензи (8: 5) и (6.5: 3.5) оба в Дублине 1862, разделенный 1-й с Вильгельмом Штайницем в Дублине 1865, [2], но, проиграл игру на стадии плей-офф ему там, связанный для 2-го - 3-й в Лондоне 1866 (1-й британский Чемпионат по Шахматам, Сесил Де Ве победил), [3] связанный для 3-го - 4-й в Данди (выигранный Густав Нейман), [4] связанный для 3-го - 5-й в Лондоне 1868/69 (2-й Переходящий кубок ВСА, Джозеф Генри Блэкберн и выигранный Де Ве), [5] разделил 3-й в Лондоне 1872 (выигранный Штайниц), [6] и взял 4-й в Лондоне 1872 (4-й Переходящий кубок ВСА, Джон Вискер и выигранный Де Ве). [7]

Макдоннелл выиграл состязание против Wisker (3.5: 0.5) в Бристоле 1873, и потерянный матч - реванш (6: 9) в Лондоне 1874. [8] Он взял 4-й в Лондоне, который 1876 (выигранный Блэкберн), [9] взял 4-й в Лондоне 1879 (Четырехугольный, выигранный Генри Бирд), взял 3-й в Лондоне 1883 (Vizayanagar, Курт фон Барделебен победил), [10] взял 4-й в Ванне 1884 (выигранный Вейт), связанный для 56-го в Лондоне 1885 (выигранный Исидор Гунсберг), разделенный 1-й в Лондоне 1866, связанный для 78-го в Лондоне, 1886 (Блэкберн и выигранный Амос Берн), [11] проиграл матч Блэкберну (1.5: 2.5) в Лондоне 1887, и взял 6-й в Стамфорде 1887 (выигранный Джозеф Генри Блэйк). [12]

Он вел шахматную колонку в Иллюстрированных Спортивных и Поразительных новостях много лет. Он написал две книги: Chess Life Pictures (Лондон 1883) и Рыцари и Короли Шахмат (Лондон 1894). [13]

Number of games in database: 90

Years covered: 1861 to 1883

Overall record: +42 -38 =9 (52.2%)\*

\* Overall winning percentage = (wins+draws/2) / total games

Based on games in the database; may be incomplete.

1 exhibition game, odds game, etc. is excluded from this statistic.

#### MOST PLAYED OPENINGS

With the White pieces:	With the Black pieces:
<b>Giuoco Piano</b> (8) C50 C53 C54	<b>Philidor's Defense</b> (8) C41
<b>Ruy Lopez</b> (7) C67 C84 C79 C78 C80	<b>King's Gambit Declined</b> (5) C30 C31

<b>King's Gambit Accepted</b> (6) C37 C39 C35 <b>Bird's Opening</b> (4) A02 A03 <b>Philidor's Defense</b> (4) C41 <b>Scotch Game</b> (4) C45	<b>Sicilian</b> (5) B23 B21 B46 B20 <b>Queen's Pawn Game</b> (4) A40 D05 D02
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**NOTABLE GAMES:**

- G MacDonnell vs Bird, 1872 1-0
- G MacDonnell vs Anderssen, 1862 1/2-1/2
- G MacDonnell vs Bird, 1872 1-0
- Bird vs G MacDonnell, 1882 1/2-1/2
- V Green vs G MacDonnell, 1862 0-1
- G MacDonnell vs S Boden, 1861 1-0
- G MacDonnell vs J Wisker, 1874 1-0

**NOTABLE TOURNAMENTS:**

- MacDonnell - Mackenzie 1862/63 (1862)
- Dundee Congress (1867)
- London (Vizayanagaram) (1883)

**GAME COLLECTIONS:** [\[what is this?\]](#)

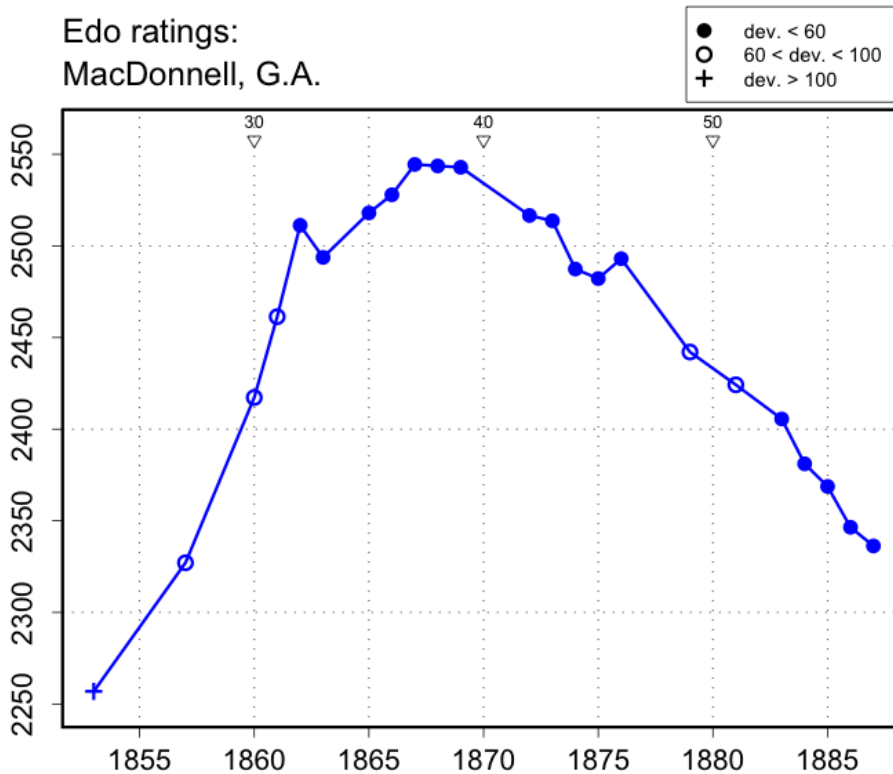
- Dundee Congress 1867 by Calli

[Search Sacrifice Explorer](#) for George Alcock MacDonnell

[Search Google](#) for George Alcock MacDonnell

Opening (White) <i>Realtime (beta)</i>	Opening (Black) <i>Realtime (beta)</i>
Ruy Lopez (36%): C77 C80 C84 C67 C67 C79	Philidor's defence (20%): C41 C41
King's pawn (21%): C44 C50 B00 C44	King's gambit (20%): C32 C30
Bird's opening (10%): A03 A02	Vienna game (13%): C25 C29
Philidor's defence (10%): C41 C41	Ruy Lopez (6%): C77
Scotch game (10%): C45	Sicilian defence (6%): B20

Edo ratings:  
MacDonnell, G.A.



**Best World Rank:** **#5** (2 different months between the [December 1873 rating list](#) and the [January 1874 rating list](#) )

**Highest Rating:** **2624** on the [January 1874 rating list](#), #5 in world, [age 43y5m](#)

**Best Individual Performance:** **2599** in [London, 1876](#), scoring 3/5 (60%) vs 2593-rated opposition

## Ratings

Year	Rank	Edo	Dev.	Games
1853	68	2257	(113)	1
1854	61	2274	(109)	0
1855	59	2292	(104)	0
1856	59	2310	(98)	0
1857	53	2327	(92)	1
1858	40	2357	(86)	0
1859	34	2387	(80)	0
1860	33	2417	(71)	1
1861	20	2461	(61)	1
1862	15	2511	(48)	27
1863	17	2494	(51)	11
1864	14	2506	(55)	0
1865	12	2518	(53)	5
1866	10	2528	(49)	11
1867	10	2544	(49)	11
1868	9	2544	(52)	1
1869	10	2543	(48)	17
1870	10	2534	(54)	0
1871	14	2525	(54)	0
1872	14	2517	(47)	16
1873	15	2514	(48)	6
1874	21	2487	(48)	16
1875	21	2482	(53)	1
1876	21	2493	(52)	12
1877	23	2476	(60)	0
1878	25	2459	(63)	0
1879	28	2442	(62)	3
1880	36	2433	(63)	0
1881	45	2424	(61)	1
1882	54	2415	(55)	0
1883	60	2406	(44)	25

## Biographical data

Name: **MacDonnell, George Alcock**

Also known as: Rev. George Alcock MacDonnell; Hiber; Mars

Born: 16 Aug. 1830

Died: 3 June 1899

## References

### Books

Feenstra Kuiper, 100 Jahre Schachzweikämpfe, page 87

Forster, Amos Burn, page 42, 964

Gaige, Chess Personalia, page 260

Golombek, Golombek's Encyclopedia, page 188

Hooper and Whyld, Oxford Companion (1st ed.), page 197

Sergeant, Century of British Chess, page 31, 114, 157, 236

### Periodicals

[CPC], vol. 3, Nov. 1855, page cover

[ILN], vol. 39, 28 Dec. 1861, page 665

### Web

Harding, Tim. [[The Last Homecoming of Mars](#)]

Harding, Tim. [[Who was the strongest Irish player of all time?](#)]

Sericano, C. [[Maestri di scacchi dell'800](#)]

Winter, Edward. [[CN 3974. The Steinitz-Wormald-MacDonnell controversy](#)]

Winter, Edward. [[CN 4879. Census information](#)]

1884	72	2381	(43)	13
1885	80	2369	(43)	15
1886	89	2346	(44)	18
1887	98	2336	(53)	10

### Rating table notes

#### Match data (f=formal; c=casual; s=soft)

Buckle, H.T. - MacDonnell, G.A. 1853	(c)	1	-	0
MacDonnell, G.A. - Hannah, J.W. 1862	(f)	2.5	-	0.5
Mackenzie, G.H. - MacDonnell, G.A. 1862	(f)	5	-	8
Mackenzie, G.H. - MacDonnell, G.A. 1863	(f)	7	-	4
MacDonnell, G.A. - Wisker, J. 1873	(f)	3.5	-	0.5
Wisker, J. - MacDonnell, G.A. 1874	(f)	9	-	6
MacDonnell, G.A. - Down, Ms. H.C. 1878	(c)	0	-	1
Blackburne, J.H. - MacDonnell, G.A. 1887	(f)	2.5	-	1.5

#### Tournament data

Manchester 1857 (2)	1st British Chess Association Congress Minor Section			
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Medley, G.W.</a>	0 - 1		
London 1860 (3)	St. James's Club Handicap Tournament			
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Piechonka</a>	0 - 1		MacDonnell, G.A. gave odds of pawn and move
Bristol and London 1861	Bristol - London telegraph match			
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Medley, G.W.</a>	0.5 - 0.5		
London 1862 (2)	Grand Tournament (5th British Chess Association?)		7 / 11	
Dublin 1865	Dublin Masters Tournament		3.5 / 5	
London 1866 (1)	1st British Chess Association Challenge Cup		3.5 / 7	
London 1866 (2)	British Chess Association Handicap Tournament			
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Thorold, E.</a>	2 - 0		MacDonnell, G.A. gave odds of the move
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Steinitz, W.</a>	0 - 2		
Dundee 1867 (1)	Dundee Tournament		6.5 / 9	
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">de Vere, C.V.</a>	1 - 1		

London and Bristol 1868	Westminster - Bristol Telegraph Match			
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Thorold, E.</a>	1 - 0		
London 1869 (1)	London Handicap Tournament (British Chess Association?)			
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Franklin, S.</a>	1 - 0		MacDonnell, G.A. gave odds of pawn and move
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Green, S.J.</a>	0 - 1		MacDonnell, G.A. gave odds of pawn and two moves
London 1869 (2)	Glowworm Prize Tournament			
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Franklin, S.</a>	1 - 0		
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">de Vere, C.V.</a>	1.5 - 0.5		
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Lord, J.</a>	1 - 0		
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Wisker, J.</a>	1 - 0		
London 1869 (3)	2nd British Chess Association Challenge Cup		6 / 10	
London 1872 (2)	4th British Chess Association Challenge Cup		4 / 7	
London 1872 (3)	British Chess Association Grand Tourney		3.5 / 7	
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Zukertort, J.H.</a>	0 - 1		
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">de Vere, C.V.</a>	1 - 0		
Bristol 1873 (1)	4th Counties Chess Association Meeting - Handicap Tournament			
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Thomson, W.</a>	1 - 0		
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Burn, A.</a>	0 - 1		
London 1874 (3)	City of London Club - Bermondsey Club Match			
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Monk (1)</a>	1 - 0		MacDonnell, G.A. gave odds of a knight
Glasgow 1875 (3)	6th Counties Chess Association Meeting - Handicap Tournament			
	MacDonnell, G.A. - Berwick, A.	1 - 0		MacDonnell, G.A. gave odds of pawn and two moves
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Burn, A.</a>	0 - 1		
London 1876 (8)	Simpson's Divan Tournament		6.5 / 11	
London 1876 (10)	City of London Club - Bermondsey Club Match			
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Keates</a>	1 - 0		MacDonnell, G.A. gave odds of a knight
London 1879 (1)	Lowenthal Tourney, 1st Class		1 / 3	
London 1881 (1)	City of London - Saint George's Club Match			
	MacDonnell, G.A. - <a href="#">Wayte, W.</a>	1 - 0		
London 1882 (8)	City of London Club Handicap			
	MacDonnell, G.A. - Bramham, W.	1 - 0		MacDonnell, G.A. gave odds of a knight
London 1883 (6)	Vizayanagaram Tournament		19.5 / 25	
Bath 1884 (2)	14th Counties Chess Association Meeting - Class I, Division 1		2 / 6	
London 1884 (10)	Simpson's Divan Handicap - Section B		4 / 7	
London 1885 (5)	British Chess Association Tournament		10 / 15	
London 1886 (2)	British Chess Club Master Tourney		2 / 7	
Nottingham 1886 (2)	Counties Chess Association - Minor Tourney, Division I		3.5 / 6	

London 1886 (6) 2nd British Chess Association Congress - Tennyson Prize Tourney 6 / 7  
 Stamford 1887 Counties Chess Association Meeting - 1st Class Tournament 2 / 6

<a href="#">MacKenzie-MacDonnell I, 1862</a>	not rated on <a href="#">January 1862 list</a>	-	+3 (8/13, 62%)	no games vs rated opposition	N/A
<a href="#">London, 1862</a>	not rated on <a href="#">June 1862 list</a>	2538	+3 (7/11, 64%)	+1 (4/7, 57%) vs 2509-rated opposition	N/A
<a href="#">MacDonnell-MacKenzie II (Dublin), 1862</a>	2554 (#6 on <a href="#">December 1862 list</a> )	2424	-3 (3.5/10, 35%)	-3 (3.5/10, 35%) vs 2489-rated opposition	-2.3
<a href="#">Dublin, 1865</a>	2517 (#10 on <a href="#">September 1865 list</a> )	[2510]	+2 (3.5/5, 70%)	-1 (0.5/2, 25%) vs 2621-rated opposition	-0.3
<a href="#">London, 1866</a>	not rated on <a href="#">June 1866 list</a>	-	= (3.5/7, 50%)	no games vs rated opposition	N/A
<a href="#">London Handicap, 1866</a>	not rated on <a href="#">June 1866 list</a>	-	= (2/4, 50%)	no games vs rated opposition	N/A
<a href="#">Dundee, 1867</a>	2493 (#12 on <a href="#">September 1867 list</a> )	[2538]	+4 (6.5/9, 72%)	-2 (0.5/3, 17%) vs 2700-rated opposition	-0.3
<a href="#">London, 1868</a>	2533 (#10 on <a href="#">November 1868 list</a> )	[2535]	+3 (6/9, 67%)	= (1/2, 50%) vs 2588-rated opposition	+0.1
<a href="#">London, 1872</a>	not rated on <a href="#">June 1872 list</a>	2546	+1 (4/7, 57%)	-1 (2/5, 40%) vs 2618-rated opposition	N/A
<a href="#">London, 1872</a>	not rated on <a href="#">June 1872 list</a>	[2492]	+1 (4/7, 57%)	-1 (1/3, 33%) vs 2574-rated opposition	N/A
<a href="#">MacDonnell-Wisker I (Bristol), 1873</a>	2543 (#12 on <a href="#">January 1873 list</a> )	[2675]	+3 (3.5/4, 88%)	+3 (3.5/4, 88%) vs 2597-rated opposition	+1.8
<a href="#">MacDonnell-Wisker II (London), 1874</a>	2624 (#5 on <a href="#">January 1874 list</a> )	2545	-3 (6/15, 40%)	-3 (6/15, 40%) vs 2601-rated opposition	-1.9
<a href="#">London, 1876</a>	2567 (#9 on <a href="#">March 1876 list</a> )	2599	+2 (6.5/11, 59%)	+1 (3/5, 60%) vs 2593-rated opposition	+0.7
<a href="#">London, 1879</a>	not rated on <a href="#">August 1879 list</a>	[2524]	-1 (1/3, 33%)	-1 (1/3, 33%) vs 2620-rated opposition	N/A
<a href="#">London Vizayanagram, 1883</a>	not rated on <a href="#">January 1883 list</a>	[2574]	+14 (19.5/25, 78%)	+1 (1/1, 100%) vs 2585-rated opposition	N/A
<a href="#">Bath, 1884</a>	2433 (#44 on <a href="#">January 1884 list</a> )	2414	-2 (2/6, 33%)	-1 (2/5, 40%) vs 2442-rated opposition	-0.4
<a href="#">London, 1885</a>	2412 (#42 on <a href="#">June 1885 list</a> )	[2381]	+5 (10/15, 67%)	-2 (0.5/3, 17%) vs 2475-rated opposition	-0.8
<a href="#">London, 1886</a>	2423 (#47 on <a href="#">January 1886 list</a> )	[2480]	+5 (6/7, 86%)	+2 (2/2, 100%) vs 2364-rated opposition	+0.9
<a href="#">London, 1886</a>	2403 (#53 on <a href="#">February 1886 list</a> )	2427	-3 (2/7, 29%)	-4 (0.5/5, 10%) vs 2601-rated opposition	-0.8
<a href="#">Stamford, 1887</a>	2457 (#36 on <a href="#">January 1887 list</a> )	[2425]	-2 (2/6, 33%)	-1 (1.5/4, 38%) vs 2466-rated opposition	-0.5
<a href="#">Blackburne-MacDonnell Match (London), 1887</a>	2457 (#36 on <a href="#">January 1887 list</a> )	[2627]	-1 (1.5/4, 38%)	-1 (1.5/4, 38%) vs 2744-rated opposition	+0.8