

Dear member,

We write with news of our summer programme with an extended Stage 3 for the next four weeks and Stage 4 limited to the summer run in to the autumn in a reduced window of 7 “freedom” Tuesdays. Freedom of course is a misnomer in that we anticipate that social distancing and preventive measures will be part of our “normal” lives to some degree not only for the summer but through the following year.

### **Health & Safety Update**

Wanstead House has had the foresight to continue its “covid secure” arrangements to the end of the summer in the expectation of moving goal posts and the ever present risks of heightened wave crests. The Club is fortunate to have exclusive use of the House and the separate social bar/café on Tuesday evenings, ensuring that compliance with the rule of 6 whilst stage 3 remains is as straightforward as possible and ensuring that all our members (and occasional guests) who wish to attend our club nights can do so.

The arrival of the summer allows the Club to increase the ventilation in all of its playing rooms. Accordingly, the covid-19 sub-committee has approved a relaxation of the stipulation for two-boarded chess during what remains of Stage 3, provided both players agree and they keep a minimum separation of 1m at all times. (The separation using our two-boarded arrangement is a minimum of 1.4m - the length of the table). The use of one board has to be consensual with both players accepting the increased risk of that closer proximity, albeit mitigated by greater ventilation.

When Stage 4 kicks in on its new date of 20 July for our meetings, single board chess will be the norm but under the ECF Tournament Rules (which apply to all ECF over-the-board rated chess where social distancing is applicable) any player can insist on using two-boards. This is also likely to be applicable to rated league chess when it resumes, if as we suspect social distancing in some form is here to stay for the near future.

### **Club Championship – entries open**

The headline news is that thanks to your support of our meetings over the past four weeks we are confident with your continued co-operation that the Club Championship 2020/21 can be held in a secure and comfortable environment as close to its accustomed format as we can manage. We have retained the Hall to ensure that we can have a large and extremely well ventilated playing space which can cope with games played under Stage 3 and Stage 4 conditions. We will group tables of 3 together into area pods accommodating 6 persons but those tables will be socially distanced; in effect a group of 2 for the Championships.

After play, players should decamp to the grounds (be aware of outside noise reaching the hall) or to the bar/café lounge of the house when open. Social distancing is to be maintained at all times and under stage 3 spectating of games at a distance is only permitted within your 3 table pod.

As the competition is being held in the holiday season, there will be special arrangements to accommodate those with booked vacations and we will apply the ECF Tournament rules for over-the-board rated chess so that means of play is always social distanced whatever the conditions of Stages 3 and 4 may be.

With limited time for the tournament and a full summer programme, the default time control will be G80/10 though where there is reasonable spacing between rounds, players will be able to agree a two session format with an adjournment provided 3 hours of play in the first session has been reached.

Round dates: 29 June (Stage 3), 20 July (Stage 4), 27 July (S4), 17 August (S4) and 31 August (S5)

### **Other Championships**

Lightning - the tournament requiring your move on the buzzer that sounds every 10 seconds

Blitz - unrated, pure fun, with a rating limited section too, subject to entry.

Rapid - continuing the tradition of all rounds on a single Saturday, with a rating limited section too, subject to entry.

### **Other events**

It may be possible to host some **friendly matches** against local teams during stage 4. Were these to occur our match night will be on a Thursday night.

The **London Online League** is running throughout the summer on Wednesday nights at 7pm on the Tornelo platform (45 + 15). We have a team in the 1750 average team rating section. If you are interested in joining the squad contact skipper Nigel White at [em@wansteadandwoodfordchess.club](mailto:em@wansteadandwoodfordchess.club)

### **Coming up in the next 4 weeks (Stage 3)**

In addition to the first round of the Club Championship we will be running over the 3 other Tuesdays two rapid competitions on similar lines to our Rule of 6 rapids, one at 10 + 5 and one at 20 + 10. Seeded groups of 6.

### **Non-chess-playing dates for diary**

Tuesday 24 August at 7:30pm - Annual General Meeting

Monday 6 September at 7:30pm - Social Dinner for members, partners and friends at Marmiton restaurant on High Street. **Please note the new date.**

We hope that we have something for everyone in the schedule below and that our welcome cohort of new members will join in the challenge of our summer programme. We do not know what 2021/22 will entail so do make use of this opportunity for near normal chess and engage in our championship trophy programme.

**A message from the Chair:** "Thanks once again to Mark Murrell for his continued work on these aspects, enabling those members who feel comfortable playing over-the-board chess within these difficult times to continue to enjoy our game. Largely through Mark's assiduous application to the labyrinth of regulation and protocol – in conjunction with the invaluable advantage of the House being a covid-secure environment – together with his considerable organisational skills, the Club is streets ahead of any other Club in the County in returning to OTB chess and preparation for the future."

**Ian Hunnable, Chair**

**Philip Staniland, Secretary**

**Peter Nickals, Treasurer**

**Mark Murrell, Tournaments & Fixtures Secretary**

*Summer Schedule overleaf...*

## SUMMER SCHEDULE AT WWCC

### STAGE 3 EXTENSION

Tuesday 22 June 7:30pm Rule of 6 10 + 5 Rapid (delay incremental)  
**Tuesday 29 June** 7:30pm CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP Round 1 (Hall) 80 + 10 (incremental)  
Tuesday 06 July 7:30pm Rule of 6 20 + 10 Rapid Part 1 (incremental)  
Tuesday 13 July 7:30pm Rule of 6 20 + 10 Rapid Part 2 (incremental)

### STAGE 4

**Tuesday 20 July** 7:30pm CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP Round 2 (Hall) 80 + 10 (incremental)  
**Tuesday 27 July** 7:30pm CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP Round 3 (Hall) 80 + 10 (incremental)  
Tuesday 03 August 7:30pm LIGHTNING CHAMPIONSHIP (move on buzzer after 10 seconds)  
Tuesday 10 August 7:30pm BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP 8 + 0  
**Tuesday 17 August** 7:30pm CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP Round 4 (Hall) 80 + 10 (incremental)  
Saturday 21 August 10 to 6pm RAPID CHAMPIONSHIP (all day) 20 + 10 (incremental) 6 rounds  
**Tuesday 24 August** 7:30pm AGM  
**Tuesday 31 August** 7:30pm CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP Round 5 (Hall) 80 + 10 (incremental)

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Tuesday 07 September New season, opening night