

## WWCC Summer Update - Stay Safe – Help Prevent the Spread

Your Covid-19 sub-committee has **updated the club rules** for its meetings during July & August having regard to:

- HMG guidance for step 4 that applies from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July – read [here](#)
- Updated Wanstead House guidance that must be followed as conditions of use, so that it can remain a “covid secure” venue – read about the changes [here](#)

**Do read the two attached Club’s updated publications, also available shortly from our website.**

The Club is continuing with its proven successful four-pronged **safety & comfort strategy** of:

- ***Ventilation - all our playing rooms have a through flow, which is excellent in the summer***
- ***Face coverings – a barrier to limit the distance your viral load travels***
- ***Social Distancing – respecting the space of others, keeping 1m apart***
- ***Sanitisation – on entry/exit & as and when & a must before and after facial contact.***

All designed to give as many of our members and potential new members the reassurance and confidence to return to conventional over-the-board chess in the knowledge of comfortable uncrowded playing conditions. The continued wearing of a face covering is a minor inconvenience for the individual set against the greater peace of mind and safety benefits for everyone. It is very much in keeping with the new government guidance, which no responsible organisation should ignore.

### **Why is the playing of chess treated differently ?**

Playing chess indoors is a situation where there is a higher risk of catching or passing on COVID-19. This is because the players are in close contact and, depending on the event, either together for a long time or with more people to come into contact with. Without precautions there is the risk of crowding and coming into contact with more people who might be infectious. The main way of spreading COVID-19 is through close contact with an infected person. When someone with COVID-19 breathes, speaks, coughs or sneezes, they release particles (droplets and aerosols) containing the virus that causes COVID-19. The particles can build up over time. These particles can be breathed in by another person. The particles can also land on surfaces and be passed from person to person via touch.

So, ***to reduce the risk we adopt:***

- ***Ventilation*** to refresh the air and reduce the concentration of particles is reduced.
- ***Face coverings*** to act as barrier when exhaling, reducing viral load projection
- ***Distancing*** to avoid close contacts
- Hand ***sanitisation*** (as appropriate equipment too) as a barrier to transmission by touch.

**Track & trace** is now optional but still encouraged. For Club purposes we must still **keep to the room limits imposed by Wanstead House**, so we need advance attendance information to ensure that we have enough rooms booked to accommodate everyone, as you have achieved on every evening since our resumption in May. **Please do continue to complete the Attendance Form for each visit.** ***If you have a medical exemption from the wearing of a face covering do specify this on the form so that we can make special arrangements for you, which might include for example having to play on two-boards in a designated space at a greater distance from others. Do take medical advice about playing risks.***

Until the end of the summer we have events on each club session as **you compete for our 2020/21 championships trophies** at classical (G80’/10’’), rapid (G20’/10’’), blitz (G5’/3’’) and lightning (move every 10secs) time controls. Each event will have additional adjustments to prevent crowding during the tournament, akin to those in place for the Club Championship, which resumes in the Hall for the

next two Tuesday evenings (R2&3). Additional sections are also possible. **Please help those running each event by following the instructions and check your room allocation prior to arrival.** Remember too that in between rounds, you can make use of the additional space in the dedicated refreshment areas of the downstairs lounge. The bar/café closes at 9:30pm so orders should be in by 9:15pm.

Finally, our **Annual General Meeting, 7:30pm on Tuesday 24 August 2021**, will take place in the Hall, so that we can have good spacing between attendees in a very well ventilated room to allow the removal of face coverings when speaking.

The AGM is your opportunity to decide our chess playing activity for the new season starting on 7 September (the day after our welcome back club social dinner at [Le Marmiton](#) restaurant (exclusive use) on the High Street (club end) for members, partners and friends) and contribute to the debate about playing chess safely whilst living with the virus in the months ahead.

#### **What's on and where** (all 7:30 to 10:30pm unless stated otherwise)

Tue 20 July	Hall	Round 2 of Club Championship + social chess	
Tue 27 July	Hall	Round 3 of Club Championship + social chess	
Tue 3 August	Roding	Lightning Championship on the buzzer	Warren for social
Tue 10 August	Roding	Blitz Championship	Warren for social
Tue 17 August	Hall	Round 4 of Club Championship + social chess	
<b>Sat 21 August</b>	Roding	<b>Rapid Championship (10am to 6pm)</b>	
Tue 24 August	Hall	Annual General Meeting	
Tue 31 August	Hall	Final round of club championship + social chess	

#### **Club Membership - new and renewing members**

An ECF bronze membership taken out now is valid to 31 August 2022 and will be sufficient for you to renew or take out new membership of the club for what remains of 2020/21 with voting rights at the AGM.

#### **Club Rules**

##### **These are mandatory and not negotiable.**

- For each attendance complete the online Attendance Form
- Comply with the House rules for the communal areas. Failure to do so, means the Club's hire will be terminated. They exist for the safety of all. Without them we cannot have an indoor social gathering at Wanstead House.
- Use your common sense and be considerate of others.
- Sign the emergency evacuation register (not forgetting to mark your departure)
- Sanitise on entry and exit to the playing room.
- Avoid hand to mouth, eye and nose contact without sanitisation before and after.
- Wear a face covering in the playing room.
- Follow the instructions of your club steward/event controller/team captain at all times.
- Maintain social distance of at least 1m at all times, keeping movement in the playing room to a minimum and be conscious of others.

