

## Games start at 12.30pm on Saturday, 25 September 2021

The address is: St Anselm's Parish Centre, 89 West Hill, Dartford DA1 2HJ. **But note the entry gate is in West Hill Drive.**

There are regular trains to Dartford from London Charing Cross. The venue is about a 10 minutes walk from the station. If you are coming by car the journey is straightforward. From the A2 (coming from the Blackwall Tunnel) take the Dartford turn off. At the roundabout take the first turn off towards Dartford. Keep going straight ahead for about two miles, the road bends to the left and you'll pass Dartford Grammar School (and the Mick Jagger Centre). You'll come to a mini-roundabout, take the first turnoff on to West Hill then a sharp right on to West Hill Drive and the St Anselm's car park is immediately on your left. **Make sure you go left at the mini-roundabout, otherwise you'll be stuck in the one-way system and its permanent traffic jam!**

The time control is all moves in 105 minutes, plus a 15 second increment per move from move one (G105' + 15"). The playing session will be four hours.

The draw will appear on the League Management System (LMS) website one hour before the start of the match. <https://ecflms.org.uk/lms/node/36/ofixtures>

As you know in this event we are guided by the regulations of the ECF. I'm sorry if these seem heavy-handed but they are designed to keep everyone safe. **When your players arrive at the Hall please wait outside (there is a waiting area inside should the weather be inclement or you can't wait in a car).** Captains will need to toss for colours before that. **Players will be invited in ten minutes before the start and should go straight to their boards. Please follow the one-way system in the Hall and maintain social distancing. Everyone is required to wear a face covering at all times in the Playing Area unless medically exempt or aged eleven and under.** There will be scoresheets available, but players may bring their own scorebooks. Make sure you bring your own pen/pencil. **When you finish your game please leave the playing area, don't hang around to watch the remaining games.** But make sure the result of your game has been recorded.

During play, a player must not have any access to mobile phones, electronic means of communication or devices capable of suggesting chess moves. Such devices, if brought into the playing venue, must be completely switched off and placed in a bag on or under the player's table before play starts. A player, when still in play, is forbidden to leave the playing area with such a bag. If it is evident that a player has such a device on their person in the playing venue, the player shall lose the game. The opponent shall win.

**Players may bring drinks into the playing area. However, these should be consumed with consideration for others including appropriate social distancing from your opponent and other players where the player needs to remove their face covering. So if you need a drink, sit back in your chair away from your opponent, remove your face covering take a drink, then replace the face covering immediately.**

## COVID

No one should play if they are:

- required to self-isolate
- tested positive for COVID-19
- displaying symptoms of COVID-19 (which can include a continuous cough or a high temperature) or 'flu-like symptoms.

So far as I'm aware everyone knows they must wear a face covering (e.g. a mask or visor) at all times in the Playing Area unless medically exempt or aged eleven or under. A player exercising a medical or age exemption shall play socially distanced chess using two boards, unless the opponent is willing to accept the increased risk of playing opposite a player without a face covering on a single board. In the event that a player facing an unmasked opponent chooses not to play on two boards the board shall be declared void (but shall continue to count for the purposes of average team rating) and scored 0 – 0. I've no reason to believe any of this could happen to us, could it?

Right, after all that fuss, I hope everyone enjoys their game.

Best wishes, David Gilbert, Kent Chess Association  
(With **highlighting** by ECA).