

CORONAVIRUS

Advice from the Lincolnshire Chess Association Management Team

(Issued: 17th March 2020)

Background and ECF advice

The situation with respect to the Coronavirus risk is changing daily. The English Chess Federation have published some advice; follow the link below to see this <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/the-ecf-and-coronavirus-guidance/>.

Government advice and uncertainty.

The government have not yet recommended “locking down” activities that involve person to person contact. Their advice needs to consider many factors: e.g. what’s the effect of closing schools and parents staying at home, what’s the economic effect of a “lock down”? We, in Lincolnshire can be more focused on our circumstances. It’s probably true that the average age of our members is higher than the national average, and the distribution of our ages skewed to the upper end. If we don’t play league matches there isn’t any great loss compared to the harm if we contribute to the spread of coronavirus, especially to our members. There are few hard facts about the virus, so we need to take actions that may mitigate effects should events take the more pessimistic course.

The advice from the Lincolnshire Chess Association Management team (“the management team”).

League matches should be postponed for 3 weeks. That is, until 5th April. At that time the management team will review the situation and issue an update to their advice. It seems likely that at that time the management team will decide to extend the postponement; there is so much uncertainty, who can say?

Outstanding fixtures will be recorded as “postponed”. All outstanding fixtures will have their dates removed and recorded as “postponed” on the web site and in LMS. Clubs will be asked to reschedule the fixture dates when the management team declares the “all clear”.

Club chess.

Each club must decide whether to continue with their club competitions and normal activities. The risks associated with internal club activities may be less than with interclub league matches. Each club must decide what is appropriate. It would be wise for clubs to impress on their members the need for extra vigilance with respect to hygiene (hand washing, coughing, sneezing), and encourage members that display even mild respiratory symptoms not to attend.