



Melbourne Chess Club Inc.

Est. 1866

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Dear MCC members, and other members of the chess community,

Given the spread of the global Coronavirus (COVID-19), it has become necessary for MCC to take additional measures to safeguard the health of all MCC patrons. As of the 12th March 2020, the WHO has officially declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic. Additionally, the Australian Government has advised that all non-essential mass gatherings be banned as of the 16th March 2020.

MCC's top priority will always be the health and safety of all persons who attend the club. Given the growing concerns around COVID-19, the MCC committee has made the difficult decision to close the club. As such, **MCC will be closed indefinitely following the conclusion of Round 6 of the 2020 MCC Club Championship on the 16th March 2020.**

As a result:

- After the 16th Match 2020, MCC will not be open on any day of the week, and as a result all weekly events i.e. the Monday night long-play tournaments, the Tuesday evening blitz, the Wednesday social night, Julia Ryjanova's Thursday Coaching Masterclass, the Friday social night, the Saturday morning junior class, and the Saturday afternoon Allegro, will be cancelled. **Note: Julia Ryjanova's Thursday class will still run on 19th March 2020.**
- The 2020 MCC Club Championship will be postponed. If it is not possible to restart the tournament in a timely fashion, the 2020 club champion will be decided based on the results of the first 6 rounds of play. In this case, all players will be eligible for a pro-rata refund for the last three rounds of play.
- The ANZAC Day Weekender will be cancelled. Players who have registered and paid will be given a full refund.
- The club will be re-opened as soon as the committee feels it is safe to do so

Links to the Victorian and Australian Government's websites on COVID-19 are provided below. Please see these links for the latest updates on the current situation and current advice from the Victorian and Australian Government.

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/novelcoronavirus>

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

Thank you for your patience and understanding about this. Should things change, MCC will communicate those changes to all MCC members.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Dale

President, Melbourne Chess Club, on behalf of the MCC Committee