

Inspection of Limerick (Ireland) for the European School Chess Ch. 2024

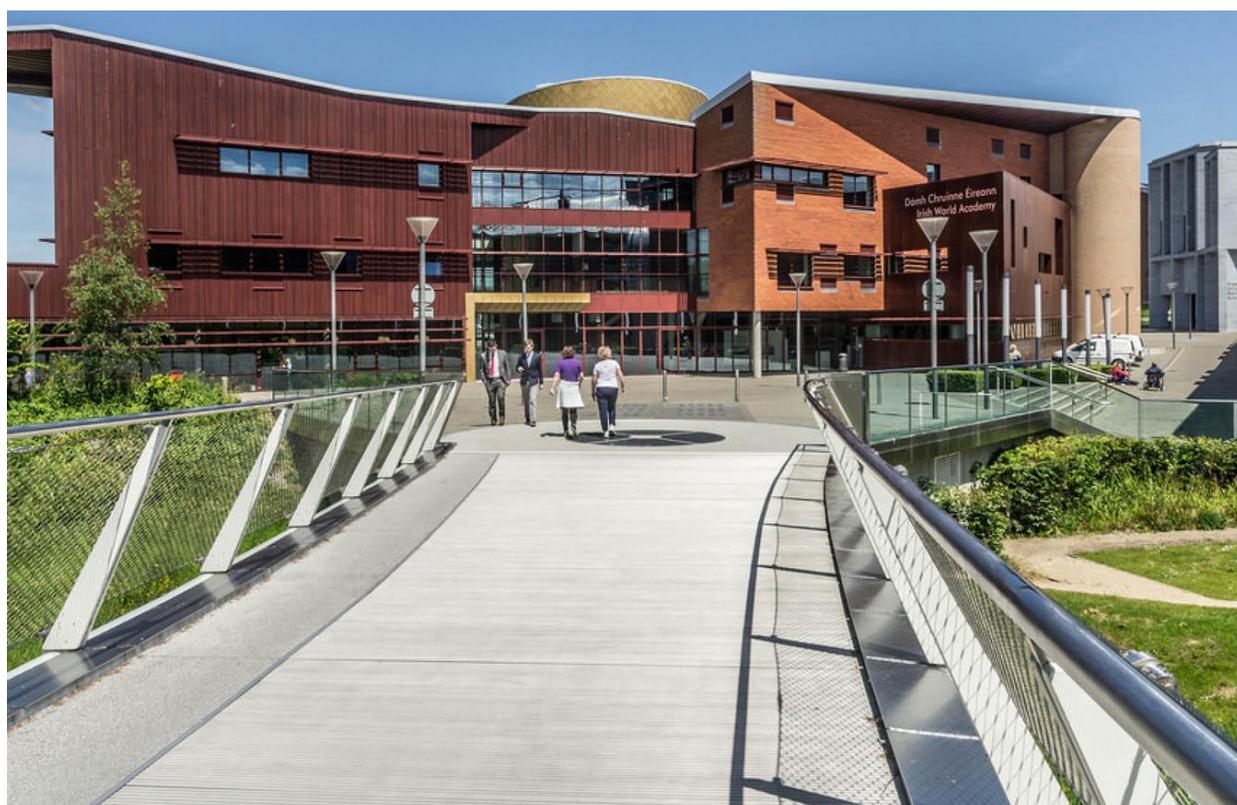
Dates of Championship:	30 th May – 8 th June 2024	Federation:	Ireland
Inspector:	Paris Klerides (CYP)	Dates of Inspection:	22&23/06/2022
Accompanied by:	Desmond Beatty, Caoimhe Taylor and Kathlyn Coleman		

Limerick is a major city in the Republic of Ireland, set in Munster province in the south of the country. Its compact old town is known for the medieval-era St. Mary’s Cathedral and St. John’s square, which is lined with Georgian townhouses. Standing along the River Shannon, the 13th-century King John’s Castle is one of the city’s most recognizable sites. With a population of 94,192 at the 2016 census, Limerick is the third-most populous urban area in the state, and the fourth-most populous city on the island of Ireland at the 2011 census.

On 1st June 2014 following the merger of Limerick City and County Council, a new Metropolitan District of Limerick was formed within the united council, which extended the city area. The Metropolitan District includes the city urban area and extends outwards towards Patrick Swell in the west and Castle Connell in the east. The City Metropolitan Area however excludes city suburbs located within County Clare.

A few years ago, Limerick became Ireland's inaugural *National City of Culture*, with a variety of artistic and cultural events occurring at locations around the city throughout the year.

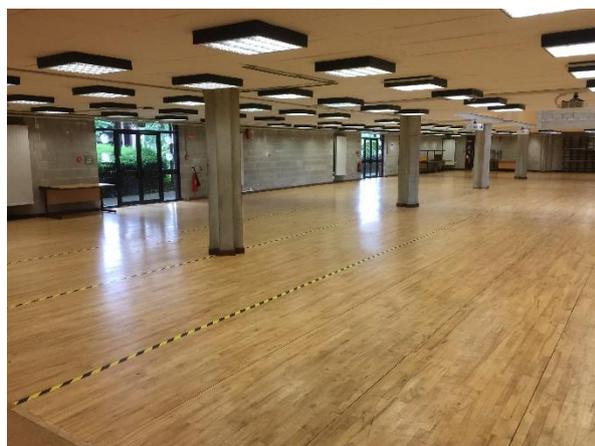
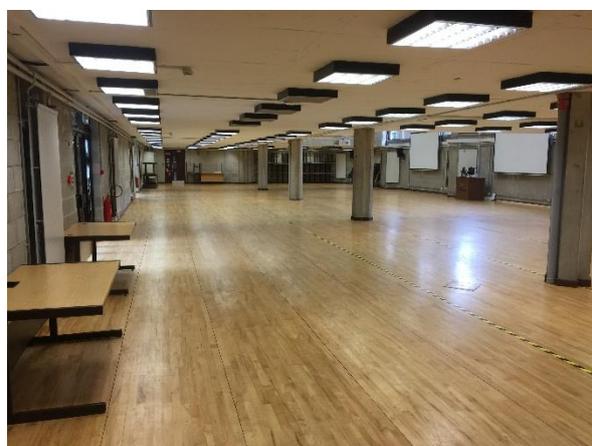
Playing Venue: “University of Limerick EG010 Hall”



The University of Limerick is a public research university institution in Limerick, Ireland. Founded in 1972 as the National Institute for Higher Education, Limerick, it became a university in 1989 in accordance with the University of Limerick Act 1989.

Situated on a superb riverside campus of over 140 hectares. The University of Limerick (UL) has a proven track record of delivering complex quality events at local, national, European & World Championship level. Also known as Ireland's Sporting Campus, UL's world-class facilities, accessibility, Olympic village style accommodation and experience in managing large scale, diverse events on a National and International level has seen this fantastic venue become a world renowned one stop solution for event owners.

The University of Limerick is committed to helping to create a platform that delivers the best possible competitive environment, with the ultimate aim of providing a memorable chess experience for everyone involved. The superb parkland campus at the University of Limerick is designed with the high-performance mind. Premium event spaces, quality sports facilities, Olympic village style accommodation and catering facilities are all on site which allows for the competitors to interact and foster, hopefully lifetime, friendships in Chess.



The size of the playing hall is approximately 500 sqm and can be expanded to an additional 100 sqm depending on the number of entries in the tournament. The hall will be equipped with a thick navy blue carpet, sufficient light and air-conditioning.

The Organizers will use tables, boards and chess sets in FIDE standards and they will be offering the players free water during the whole tournament.

Next to the playing hall and at a distance of about 10 meters there are 3 toilets and 3 urinals for men and 5 toilets for women. In addition to the listed toilets, there is one toilet for handicap people. There are also 5 portable toilets outdoor. More toilets on the 1st floor.



Additionally, inside the playing hall there are 2 rooms that will be used exclusively by the arbiters and other officials.
A special room shall also be used for Appeals Committee or/and Anti-Cheating Committee.



Inside the building where the playing hall is located, there is a theater which will be used for live broadcasting of the games, so the accompanying persons and other visitors will be able to watch the games on a giant screen. The space has a capacity of 250 people.

Several other rooms can be used as press center and analyzing room.



Free Wi-Fi will be available in all areas of the building.



Inside the building, there will be a modern cafeteria/restaurant where visitors can pass their time with various drinks and snacks.



There are also other areas where visitors will be able to pass their time.



The opening and closing ceremony will take place at the Concert Hall in the Musical Theatre Building, next to the Playing Venue.

Lodging and Meals

Accommodation on full board basis (breakfast, lunch and dinner) will be provided to all participants from May 30th until June 7th as follows.

Dromroe Village

General Information:

Capacity	Rooms		Meal	Distance	Time	Transport to Venue
	Double	Triple				
925 persons approx.	81 apartments with 456 rooms which can be configured according to the needs of the participants.		Buffet	390 m	4 minutes	Walking

Dromroe Village is an attractive apartment style complex located on the main campus opposite the University Concert Hall. Popular with all guests, Dromroe has 2/6 ensuite bedrooms in each apartment and shared kitchen/living areas.



Dromroe Village has a total of 81 apartments. Of these 81 apartments: Three are 5-bed disability friendly apartments (these rooms will be larger and have a disability-friendly bathroom/wet room), one is a 3-bed apartment and 6 are 2-bed apartments.





There are 456 rooms available in Dromroe Village. All rooms are provided with Towels and Toiletries (soaps, shampoo and toilet paper). All the bedrooms are double bed ensuite rooms with a desk and sufficient storage for clothes and personal belongings.



Each apartment has a spacious kitchen and living room area with a television. The kitchen is furnished with delph, cutlery, pots & pans. Some apartments have a balcony, depending on if it is above the ground floor.



If there are families staying that have children under the age of 18, they must have a private apartment. This means that it would be that family in that apartment only. Otherwise, there must be one adult in every apartment to chaperone the children.

There is also a launderette in the village, so residents can wash and dry their laundry at their own leisure. This is open between 7am and 11pm every day.



The Village Hall is spacious and has sufficient space to practice and study chess. There are also two seminar rooms upstairs if the guests wish for a slightly more private space. The Village Hall is a communal space, however.



There is also an Apache Pizza in the village if the guests would like to have some takeaway.

There is a large carpark beside the village if guests are arriving via car. There is also an area beside the village for buses to drop off the guests, but there is no bus parking in Dromroe. There are sufficient bus parking spaces in Cappavilla Village.



Cappavilla Apartments are attractive residences ideally suited for conference delegates and located on the North Campus. These apartments are perfect for association meetings, conference attendee's and corporate events. Built on the highest point of the campus, the views of the surrounding counties and river Shannon are superb. Cappavilla Village is within 8-10 minutes' walking distance of the main university campus and if you prefer the scenic route you can access the main campus via "The Living Bridge", Ireland's longest pedestrian bridge. Offering 2/4/6 bedroom apartments all en suite, the village has its own launderette and common room for evening relaxation or meetings.



Accommodation with full board costs €89 per person/night for a minimum 9 nights.

Meals: Full Board (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner) served primarily in one of the following two On-Campus facilities:

The Stables and Scholars Club

Founded in 1987, The Stables Club has grown to be the largest club on the University of Limerick campus. In that time, the Stables has become the focal point of campus social life. Its success has been based on their dedication to providing the best possible service and an atmosphere that lets both the student body and faculty relax in comfort.



Castle Oaks Catering provides a diverse range of food for all occasions. The restaurant can serve up to 500 people at the same time.



The restaurant also has an outdoor area. In one of the two outdoor areas there are two large screens that will be used for live broadcasting of the games.



The Pavilion

Located in the North Campus of the University of Limerick on the banks of the Shannon, The Pavilion is Limerick's newest and most spectacular multi-purpose venue. The Pavilion has a stylish bar and lounge offering panoramic views, two modern conference rooms with a combined capacity to host up to 150 delegates and a stunning Veranda.



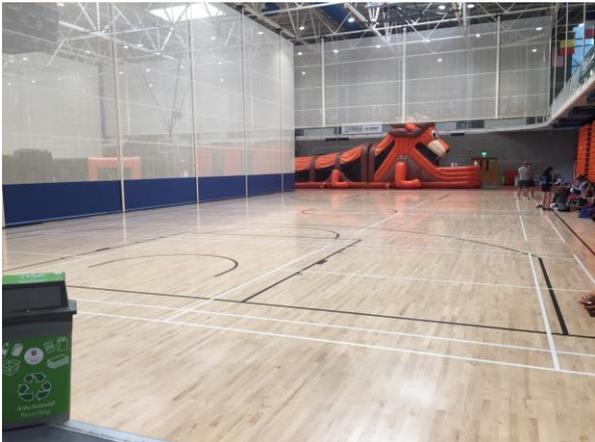
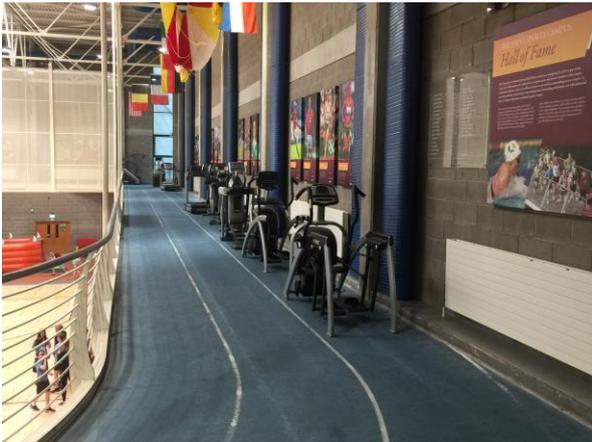
Awarded Ireland's Industrial Caterer in 2016. The Pavilion is catered by MasterChef's Hospitality, one of Ireland's leading Corporate and Event Catering Companies.



The restaurant can serve up to 600 people at the same time divided into 300 inside and 300 outside.



All participants and accompanying persons will be able to use all the university's facilities during their stay. There are several courts, play rooms, gym and a large Olympic size swimming pool.



Travel Connections:

Shannon International Airport is the closest to Limerick and it is about 36 kilometers away. It is located in County Clare. It is adjacent to the Shannon Estuary and lies halfway between Ennis and Limerick. The airport is the third busiest airport in the Republic of Ireland, and the fifth busiest on the island.

The airport has a history of pioneering in global aviation with the first transatlantic proving flight in 1945, the world's first duty-free airport opening in 1947, and Europe's first United States border preclearance facility opening in 1986. It was a busy refueling stop for many international carriers in the 1960s, making it a gateway between Europe and the Americas. At 3,199 meters (10,495 ft), Shannon has the longest runway in Ireland, which allowed it to be a designated alternative landing site for the Space Shuttle.

Dublin International Airport is the major airport in Ireland and it is about 206 kilometers away from Limerick. It is operated by DAA. The airport is located in Collins town, 7 km north of Dublin, and 3 km south of the town of Swords. It shares the same Eircode routing key area with both Swords and Collins town.

In 2019, 33 million passengers passed through the airport, making it the airport's busiest year on record. It is the 12th busiest airport in Europe, and is the busiest of Ireland's airports by total passenger traffic; it also has the largest traffic levels on the island of Ireland, followed by Belfast International Airport. The airport has an extensive short and medium haul network, served by an array of carriers, as well as a significant long-haul network focused on North America and the Middle East. It serves as the headquarters of Ireland's flag carrier – Aer Lingus, Europe's largest low-cost carrier – Ryanair, and Ireland's newest regional airline Emerald Airlines, together with another two airlines, CityJet and ASL Airlines Ireland.

United States border preclearance services are available at the airport for U.S.-bound passengers. Shannon Airport is the only other airport in Europe to offer this facility.

Cork Airport is the second-largest of the three principal international airports in the Republic of Ireland, after Dublin and ahead of Shannon and it is about 116 kilometers away from Limerick. It is located 6.5 km south of Cork city centre in an area known as Farmers Cross.

Cork is the state's second-busiest airport in terms of passenger numbers, after Dublin, and third busiest on the island of Ireland, after Dublin and Belfast International.

Railway and Intercity Bus: Rail and Bus Station: Limerick (Colbert) is about 6 kilometers away.

- Mainline station with regular rail services to/from Dublin (hourly), Cork and Galway.
- Regular Intercity bus services including Dublin and Shannon Airports.

The transfer cost on arrival and departure days from airport/railway station are included in the organizers fee which is €100 per person.

Additional information/remarks:

There will be launched a modern and professional designed website with photo and video gallery where visitors will be able to follow the results and find full reports of the tournament. Live broadcast of at least 50 games will be provided during all rounds. Video streaming live will be also provided during the games. The Organizers will make available full reports in national and local TV Channels. A professional team will be responsible for daily reports to all chess columns in newspapers and international websites.

Organizers will offer on campus activities and daily excursions on request.

Conclusion:

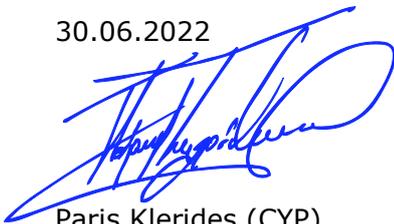
The bid of the Irish Chess Union fully meets the requirements of such a European Chess Event.

Visiting Limerick, I was impressed by the university facilities and I firmly believe that if the bid is awarded to the Irish Chess Union, all participants will be satisfied and the tournament will go down in history as a success.

I also declare that I was thrilled by the warm hospitality I received from the organizers and in general by all the staff of the university of Limerick.

The University of Limerick seems to be an ideal stage for people to come together, whether it be a sporting, cultural or corporate occasion.

30.06.2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paris Klerides', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Paris Klerides (CYP)