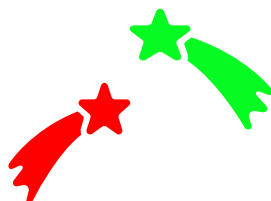


Party Time!



Round 5

A double win for Wales for the first time this tournament, with all players undefeated this round! The Women beat El Salvador 3½ - ½ and the Open team defeated Bahrain 2½ - 1½.

Maybe everyone had their luck mascots with them. Anyone see the amusing “Superstition” video on You Tube which included an interview with Carl on the subject?



https://youtu.be/i9heh2_AZms

Women’s Team v El Salvador

A decisive win from the team, which meets the objective of getting back into **Playing Hall 1**.

Bo.	71	 Wales (WLS)	Rtg - 94	 El Salvador (ESA)	Rtg 3½: ½
46.1	WFM	□ Richmond, Jane	2053 - WFM	■ Ortez, Andrea	1772 1 - 0
46.2	WFM	■ Smith, Olivia	2013 - WCM	□ Hernandez, Bera	1778 1 - 0
46.3	WCM	□ Sivarajasingam, Venetia	1771 - WCM	■ Santos, Judith	1702 1 - 0
46.4	WCM	■ Camp, Imogen A L	1940 - WCM	□ Garcia Mendez, Alcira Guadalupe	1741 ½ - ½

Not quite 4-0 (a stretch target) but we came close!

Another under-rated team, who were very well prepared, so an excellent performance. All games were still going after 4½ hours of play when the rest of us arrived at the venue at 7:30.

Venetia was first to finish when her opponent resigned after dropping her Queen. It was a bit of a heart-attack moment for the spectators when the result was recorded online as a win to her opponent, and for an agonising few minutes we wondered whether Venetia had lost on time (the chess24 clock times never being 100% accurate). But to our relief it was corrected within a few minutes.

Olivia’s and Shayanna’s decisive wins followed soon after.

Imogen was last to finish at 8:30, a full 5 ½ hours of play. She had had a clearly winning position 2 pawns up earlier in the game, but a miscalculation dropped back an exchange in the tactics. Time was a factor and Imogen playing on the increment to hold a draw in the eventual K+B v K+R endgame was stressful for the spectators too (we were watching online from the exhibition hall).



Ahead on time, her opponent tried various winning patterns, but Imogen knew what to do and executed it well under pressure. An instructive endgame for juniors!



This was the position after Black’s move 56.

Black must keep their King in the corner of the opposite colour to the Bishop and maintain the ability to block the Rook checks with the Bishop.

The game continued 57. **Kh6 Bg8** 58. **Kg6 Ba2** 59. **Rh7+ Kg8** 60. **Rb7 Kh8** 61. **Rb2 Bc4**, and so on in similar vein to move 89. Having exhausted all avenues attempting to win and with no longer any time advantage her opponent finally took the draw. You can play through [the game on Chess24](https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/olympiad-batumi-2018-open/5/64/1) to see all the different tries by White to win, and Black's defence.

Open Team v Bahrain

In a match which swung one way and then the other, Wales achieved what they needed to from the match – the full 2 points for the win.

Bo.	114	 Wales (WLS)	Rtg -	125	 Bahrain (BRN)	Rtg 2½:1½
64.1	FM	□ Strugnell, Carl	2327 -	FM	■ Ayyad, Husain	2243 1 - 0
64.2		■ Bullen, Alex	2098 -	FM	□ Ayyad, Maher	2106 ½ - ½
64.3		□ Pleasants, Allan J	2090 -	CM	■ Al-Ghasra, Ali	2096 ½ - ½
64.4		■ Rayner, Francis	2083 -		□ Bukhalaf, Khalil	1914 ½ - ½

Carl had a significant advantage from quite early in the game:



Position after White's move 29, taking the pawn on c7 and going 2 pawns up.

His opponent found resources to struggle on for a long time; he finally succumbed to the inevitable after 67 moves when Carl was threatening to Queen his pawn in a K+R+P v K+R ending.

<https://chess24.com/en/watch/live-tournaments/olympiad-batumi-2018-open/5/64/1>

Draws from the rest of the team secured the match victory.

Time to Celebrate!

With the rest day tomorrow, tonight was the perfect time for celebrations. Some of the team wanted a relaxing evening in the hotel and early night to make the most of the opportunity for sightseeing the next day; others (especially the three girls) were keen to experience the famous Bermuda Party.



As our hotel is so far from the venue, those of us going to the party decided to go out for a meal in Batumi straight after the round rather than trek back and forth.

We found a restaurant near the party venue...

...and the girls found WIFI!



The food was great and very reasonably priced, but accompanied by extremely loud live music and dancing, so not much conversation was possible.

As we'd already gone into the party before heading out for food, we were able to skip the queue later, which was handy as it got very busy. Men payed 10 Lari for a ticket which included a free drink; women got in free but no drink. Odd system, as for the most part a drink also cost 10 Lari!



Dante Club is on the Boulevard in Batumi and right on the beach. It's in a lovely location, with a square bar in the centre of a circular, domed dance floor, with steps up to a raised platform area with some seating at one end.

There is also an outer circle comprising a decked seating area with groups of comfortable chairs and tables, and a ramp down onto the beach for the party to overspill onto.

The girls very soon met up with other youngsters they knew – team Scotland in particular – and headed off together, while the rest of us found seats in the outer ring.

A good time was had by all.

We started to gather our things about half past midnight and caught one of the scheduled minibuses transfers back to Kobuleti shortly afterwards, getting back just before 2am. The transport was very well organised 😊.

Looking Forward

First – the Rest Day!

With both teams well placed above their original seeding, the Rest Day comes at a good time for us.





Various plans are being made, ranging from sightseeing tours, to shopping, to relaxing by the pool and in the spa.


Whichever way the players choose to spend the day, here's hoping they all return fully recharged and ready to do battle once more.

Women – Round 6 pairings – Vietnam

17	19		VIE	Vietnam	14	6	:	6	12	Wales	WLS		71
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The Women's team has a tough task ahead. On board 17 we'll once again be playing near the top teams, and Vietnam are formidable opponents. If they put their best team out we could face all IM / WGM titled players, rated 2244 – 2368.

Team composition for federation VIE - Women



★ 33. Vietnam (VIE / RtgAvg:2321, Captain: Vasilyev Mikhail / TB1: 6 / TB2: 65)

Bo.		Name	Rtg	FED	1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts.	Games	RtgAvg	Rp	w	we	w-we	K	rtg+/-
1	WGM	Vo Thi Kim Phung	2368	VIE	1	1	½	0	0		2,5	5	2230	2276	2,5	2,91	-0,41	10	-4,1
2	IM	Pham Le Thao Nguyen	2347	VIE		1	1	½	½		3,0	4	2241	2434	3	2,47	0,53	10	5,3
3	WGM	Hoang Thi Bao Tram	2323	VIE	1		1	0	0		2,0	4	2123	2178	2	2,65	-0,65	10	-6,5
4	WGM	Nguyen Thi Mai Hung	2244	VIE	1	1		½	1		3,5	4	2062	2403	3,5	2,77	0,73	20	14,6
5	WFM	Bach Ngoc Thuy Duong	2161	VIE	1	1	1				3,0	3	1690	2634	3	2,58	0,42	40	16,8

A challenge relished by all the team; every half point we take off them will be a bonus.

Open – Round 6 – Denmark

48	114		WLS	Wales	9	5	:	5	11	Denmark	DEN		52
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In the Open section the challenge is Denmark, who field a squad of GM/IMs all rated in the 24 to 25 hundreds.

Team composition for federation DEN - Open



90. Denmark (DEN / RtgAvg:2481, Captain: Bjerre Tavs / TB1: 5 / TB2: 37,5)

Bo.	Name	Rtg	FED	1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts.	Games	RtgAvg	Rp	w	we	w-we	K	rtg+/-
1	GM Glud Jakob Vang	2514	DEN	½	½	1	½			2,5	4	2532	2627	2,5	1,92	0,58	10	5,8
2	IM Bekker-Jensen Simon	2482	DEN	1	½	1		½		3,0	4	2362	2555	3	2,52	0,48	10	4,8
3	IM Ochsner Bjorn Moller	2462	DEN	1	½		½	0		2,0	4	2367	2413	2	2,17	-0,17	10	-1,7
4	IM Mikkelsen Nikolaj	2467	DEN	1		1	½	0		2,5	4	2251	2385	2,5	2,78	-0,28	10	-2,8
5	IM Bjerre Jonas Buhl	2423	DEN	1	0	0	0			1,0	4	2168	2028	1	2,91	-1,91	10	-19,1

Good luck to both teams. Nothing to lose here, and everything to gain!