

What's in a Name?

The women's team were paired against FYR Macedonia in round 7.

We know Macedonia as a northern region in Greece, from previous travels to the World Youth in Halkidiki. Confusingly, our open team coach, Bulgarian GM Maria Petrov, mentioned that Macedonia is a part of Bulgaria, and that the language is virtually indistinguishable from Bulgarian; I thought "google is our friend" and came across the following interesting information...



Geographic and political division of Macedonia
■ Macedonia (Greece)
■ Republic of Macedonia

FYR Macedonia (formally "Republic of Macedonia" and sometimes FYROM) stands for the **F**ormer **Y**ugoslav **R**epublic **o**f **M**acedonia, the name under which it was admitted to the UN in 1993 due to an ongoing dispute with Greece over the name "Macedonia". The dispute arises from ambiguity between the **Republic of Macedonia**, the adjacent Greek region of Macedonia and the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedon (which falls mostly within Greek Macedonia).

Millions of ethnic Greeks identify themselves as Macedonian, unrelated to the Slavic people associated with the FYROM. Greece fearing territorial claims by its neighbour over the Greek Macedonia region has further entrenched opposition.

Earlier this year however, Greece and the FYROM signed an agreement in principle for the country to be renamed the "Republic of North Macedonia". This was put to a referendum in FYROM **only yesterday** (30 September 2018) and passed with a huge majority – albeit with a low turnout, so the dispute may still rumble on a while.

Round 7

Women's Team v FYR Macedonia

Out-rated all the way down, a 2-2 draw was a great result for the team. We'd hoped for more, of course, but it could just as easily have swung against us, and nearly did.

| Bo. | 71 | Wales (WLS) | Rtg | - | 58 | FYR Macedonia (MKD) | Rtg | 2 : 2 |
|------|-----|--|------|---|-----|--|------|-------|
| 40.1 | WFM | <input type="checkbox"/> Richmond, Jane | 2053 | - | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bejatovic, Bojana | 2057 | ½ - ½ |
| 40.2 | WFM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith, Olivia | 2013 | - | WFM | <input type="checkbox"/> Stojkovska, Monika | 2106 | 0 - 1 |
| 40.3 | WCM | <input type="checkbox"/> Sivarajasingam, Venetia | 1771 | - | WIM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Koskoska, Gabriela | 2026 | ½ - ½ |
| 40.4 | WCM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sivarajasingam, Shayanna | 1788 | - | | <input type="checkbox"/> Petrovska, Katerina | 1966 | 1 - 0 |

Jane's game was about level all the way through, and Venetia's position was looking very promising.

But Olivia and Shayanna were very much worse off from quite early on. Olivia fought on, creating lots of chances for her opponent to mess up, but eventually succumbed.

Shayanna, though, managed to turn around her game completely!

Her opponent (White) stood rather better after 25. **Bxc5+**



Just a few moves later, the position was quite a different matter: 25... **Kg8**
26. **b4?! a5** 27. **bxa5? Bxa5**
28. **Be7 Bxd2** and suddenly White's Bishop on d5 is looking just a little vulnerable.

Shayanna went on to win the endgame (an exchange and a pawn up) convincingly.



Suddenly there was excitement among the spectators - with Venetia a pawn up in a strong position, we might even win the match! A see-saw of emotions as she lost an exchange to a tactic, then the pawn, ending up on the wrong side of a **K+B+P v K+R+P**. Time was now a factor for both players though and Venetia held out for the eventual draw.

You can see the whole of [Venetia's game on chess24](#), as you can for all the Olympiad games.

Open Team v Brunei

The Open team match was the other side of the coin this round. Also ending in a 2-2 draw, we were expecting more.

| Bo. | 133 | Brunei (BRU) | Rtg - 114 | Wales (WLS) | Rtg | 2 : 2 |
|------|-----|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|------|-------|
| 64.1 | | □ Pg, Mohd Omar Ak Hira | 2175 - FM | ■ Strugnell, Carl | 2327 | 1 - 0 |
| 64.2 | | ■ Pg, Md Omar Ak Hafizon | 2125 - | □ Blackburn, Jonathan L B | 2185 | ½ - ½ |
| 64.3 | FM | □ Hj, Azahari Md Aliuddin | 1991 - | ■ Pleasants, Allan J | 2090 | ½ - ½ |
| 64.4 | | ■ Yussof, Pg Abd Rahman | 1854 - | □ Rayner, Francis | 2083 | 0 - 1 |

Francis's result was never in doubt and was over in 20 moves.



His opponent fatally neglected his development in the opening as the position after White's move 12 shows.

This is an instructive game for juniors/beginners – why not to bring your Queen out too early and the perils of swapping off your only active pieces!

See [Francis's game on Chess24](#).

Better from early on, Allan missed some clearly winning chances and ended up having to take a draw 2 pawns up in an opposite-coloured Bishop ending. From a match perspective though, this wasn't a disaster at the time. Jonathan drew, and the remaining game on board one looked a clear win for Carl, who was an exchange and 3 pawns up at one stage. But it all went horribly wrong...

Never mind. Tomorrow is another day!

Looking Forward

Interesting pairings for both teams in round 8.



Women – Round 8 – Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Women are a team spanning the generations (*photo credit: David Llada*):



Their board 3, WIM Rani Hamid, was Bangladesh's first WIM, 19-times national champion and three-times British Women's Champion. She started playing chess at the age of 34 and has played in every Olympiad since 1984, twice in the Open section.

Now aged 74, her current rating of 1909 does not really reflect her level of experience (her highest rating was 2230 in 1998). Susan Polgar interviewed her at the previous Olympiad in Baku: <https://youtu.be/AUk9VEU8bSY>

| Bo. | 71 |  Wales (WLS) | Rtg - | 60 |  Bangladesh (BAN) | Rtg |
|------|-----|---|--------|-----|--|------|
| 36.1 | WFM | <input type="checkbox"/> Richmond, Jane | 2053 - | WFM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parveen, Tanima | 2022 |
| 36.2 | WCM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sivarajasingam, Venetia | 1771 - | WFM | <input type="checkbox"/> Sultana, Sharmin Shirin | 1974 |
| 36.3 | WCM | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp, Imogen A L | 1940 - | WIM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hamid, Rani | 1909 |
| 36.4 | WCM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sivarajasingam, Shayanna | 1788 - | WFM | <input type="checkbox"/> Sultana, Zakia | 1838 |

Open – Round 8 – Hong Kong

Chances for a win here again, but take nothing for granted; Hong Kong players are much stronger than they look on paper; their boards 1 and 2 for this round have made significant rating gains this tournament (+44 and +23 respectively), Kuen Pang Yui (board 1) drawing with a 2519 GM in the first round.

| Bo. | 139 |  Hong Kong (HKG) | Rtg - | 114 |  Wales (WLS) | Rtg |
|------|-----|---|--------|---|---|------|
| 65.1 | CM | <input type="checkbox"/> Pang Yui, Kuen | 1981 - | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blackburn, Jonathan L B | | 2185 |
| 65.2 | FM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wong, Brian | 2024 - | <input type="checkbox"/> Bullen, Alex | | 2098 |
| 65.3 | | <input type="checkbox"/> Ho In Hei, Henry | 1797 - | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pleasants, Allan J | | 2090 |
| 65.4 | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lai, Robin | 1863 - | <input type="checkbox"/> Rayner, Francis | | 2083 |