

The Best Laid Plans

Round 8

Open Team v Hong Kong

We expected tough games on boards 1 and 2 in this match, having seen these players' tournament performance so far; Pang Yui drew with a GM in round 1 and was on +44 rating points.

Surprisingly, though, these were the boards on which we took our two points, the match finishing in another 2-2 draw.

Bo.	139	✳	Hong Kong (HKG)	Rtg	-	114	🇨🇪	Wales (WLS)	Rtg	2 : 2
65.1	CM	□	Pang Yui, Kuen	1981	-	■	Blackburn, Jonathan L B	2185	0 - 1	
65.2	FM	■	Wong, Brian	2024	-	□	Bullen, Alex	2098	0 - 1	
65.3		□	Ho In Hei, Henry	1797	-	■	Pleasants, Allan J	2090	1 - 0	
65.4		■	Lai, Robin	1863	-	□	Rayner, Francis	2083	1 - 0	

On the up side, both Jonathan and Alex have earned their Candidate Master (CM) titles from the tournament.

Candidate Master (CM)						
No.	FideID	Name	Team	FED	After Rd.	Pts. Games
1	16100727	Abdirahin, Abdullahi Mohamed	Somalia	SOM	8	3,5 5
2	9202609	Abo Moliiana, Montasar	Libya	LBA	8	5,5 8
3	21500193	AGM Al Mutairi, Hassan S	Saudi Arabia	KSA	7	3,5 6
4	11501731	Allam, Mohamed	Palestine	PLE	8	4 7
5	16301188	Bai, Adelard	Chinese Taipei	TPE	8	4 8
6	1801090	Blackburn, Jonathan L B	Wales	WLS	8	4 7
7	11100516	Blackman, Justin	Barbados	BAR	8	4,5 8
8	11200596	Bukhalaf, Khalil	Bahrain	BRN	8	4 7
9	1801627	Bullen, Alex	Wales	WLS	8	4 7

6/9 (65%) is the target for a FIDE Master (FM) title. With 3 rounds to go, so they are still in with a chance for this too.



Jonathan's opponent made some egregious errors in the opening, which led to his early demise at move 30.



See Jon's video analysis of his game, describing how his opponent went wrong: <https://youtu.be/2O0kZ3l-5b4>

Allan had much the better of the position on board 3 for most of the game, but tiredness and time pressure took its toll and a couple of errors were all it took for his opponent to turn it around. There's no coming back from even small errors at this level of tournament.

Francis battled on valiantly to move 79 to try to save the day, attempting to ask the question of his opponent "Can you mate with Knight & Bishop?". The answer may well have been "Umm, not sure" because he appeared to take every possible step to prevent Francis sac'ing his Rook for the last remaining pawn. Eventually Lai managed to build a bridge to protect the pawn's advance, but it was a very good try. Worth a look at the game on Chess24 : [R9, Bd65.4, Francis Rayner v Robin Lai R9](#)

Women's Team v Bangladesh

With a starting rank 11 places above us, but resting their top board, this was always going to be a close match. The result went against us by the narrowest margin.

Bo.	71	 Wales (WLS)	Rtg -	60	 Bangladesh (BAN)	Rtg	1½:2½
36.1	WFM	<input type="checkbox"/> Richmond, Jane	2053	-	WFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parveen, Tanima	2022 1 - 0
36.2	WCM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sivarajasingam, Venetia	1771	-	WFM	<input type="checkbox"/> Sultana, Sharmin Shirin	1974 0 - 1
36.3	WCM	<input type="checkbox"/> Camp, Imogen A L	1940	-	WIM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hamid, Rani	1909 0 - 1
36.4	WCM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sivarajasingam, Shayanna	1788	-	WFM	<input type="checkbox"/> Sultana, Zakia	1838 ½ - ½



Looking Forward

Another chance to win some matches in round 9.

Women – Round 9 – IPCA



The [IPCA](#) is the International Physically Disabled Chess Association, uniting physically disabled players from across the world, and recognised as a Federation in its own right by FIDE. IPCA Women's top board in this Olympiad, Svetlana Gerasimova, is President of the Association.

On ratings this looks a winnable match, but taking nothing for granted again...

Bo.	83	 IPCA (IPCA)	Rtg -	71	 Wales (WLS)	Rtg
31.1		<input type="checkbox"/> Gerasimova, Svetlana	1966	-	WFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richmond, Jane 2053
31.2	WFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aleksandrova, Aleksandra	1801	-	WFM	<input type="checkbox"/> Smith, Olivia 2013
31.3	WIM	<input type="checkbox"/> Kaydanovich, Marina	1725	-	WCM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sivarajasingam, Venetia 1771
31.4		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sovietova, Kateryna	1353	-	WCM	<input type="checkbox"/> Camp, Imogen A L 1940

Open – Round 9 – Morocco

Stronger opponents on paper than we had last round. Maybe we can do better against them?

Bo.	114	 Wales (WLS)	Rtg -	92	 Morocco (MAR)	Rtg
59.1	FM	<input type="checkbox"/> Strugnell, Carl	2327	-	IM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tissir, Mohamed 2388
59.2		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blackburn, Jonathan L B	2185	-	IM	<input type="checkbox"/> Onkoud, Abdelaziz 2315
59.3		<input type="checkbox"/> Bullen, Alex	2098	-		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saber, Yasser 2192
59.4		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rayner, Francis	2083	-	CM	<input type="checkbox"/> Aithmidou, Mohamed-Mehdi 2244