

## Round 9

Today Ifan faced a USA opponent graded 1774. This was one of Ifan's longest games and an epic contest. Initially he came out a little worse from the opening, but battled back to parity. The game remained equal for a considerable period of time, until Ifan began to find himself in time trouble. The American took advantage to gain the upper hand, but Ifan was determined to persevere. Despite being short of time, he managed to equalise the position and a draw was agreed after nearly 5 hours play.

Hugo had a tough draw against a Namibian FM graded 2155. The opening Sicilian followed theory for a considerable number of moves, allowing black an extra pawn, but white an advantageous position. Hugo would normally expect to benefit in the middle game, but despite playing a series of good moves he could not make any impact against an opponent consistently finding the best possible moves. Although Hugo played well with no obvious blunders, the game could not be saved. This was a game that Hugo will further analyse as a learning experience as, on the day, he was simply outplayed by a more experienced player. The boys are dismayed tomorrow that they are both drawn against their friends in the Scottish delegation. The odds of both Welsh playing both Scots in the same round must have been long.

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