

Round 11

The last round was early on Tuesday, allowing little time for preparation. All participants were now feeling the strain and physically and emotionally tired.

Hugo had a very unfortunate draw, having black in both the 2 last rounds and playing first Scottish then Irish. His Irish opponent graded 1917 and the current Irish U19 champion, had not had the best of tournaments, and made it clear from very early on, that he would settle for a quick draw. Hugo decided to play on, only for his opponent to play a very unusual opening and then block up the position, playing for the draw. After an hour and a half, Hugo realised he was going to be frustrated in making any further headway so accepted the draw.

Ifan, with black, faced an 1864 Greek player buoyed by home advantage. This match was a gruelling battle which finally ended with the Greek taking the point.

The boys attended the closing ceremony revelling in the atmosphere, national anthems and spectacle. The 6 sections were all won by different countries so no one country dominated, although it was notable that the European nations did particularly well.

Having thoroughly enjoyed the experience, benefited greatly from the exposure to so many talented players and having made a number of new friends the boys now head for home.

Both boys have gained rating points (notoriously difficult to achieve at this level) and have obtained excellent results against higher graded opponents. Hugo ended with 5 draws and a win, Ifan with 3 wins and 2 draws. They can be very pleased with this performance bearing in mind their low seeding and the quality of the opposition.