

## Round 5

Tuesday dawned with beautiful sunshine again. Both boys spent the morning preparing their openings and discussing tactics. They left for the venue in a positive frame of mind.

Ifan was playing a highly promising 1976 Hungarian. A female and only 11 years old, she was already in possession of her WCM title. Her confidence in entering a section containing mainly boys much older than herself was fully justified by her results, including a draw against the top seed rated over 2400 in the first round.

Ifan's detailed preparation proved to be of no avail when his opponent completely changed her opening. He adapted quickly and by the middle game was clearly ahead. His rattled opponent offered him 3 draws, but Ifan assessed his position and declined them. It is always easy with hindsight to regret not taking a draw against a strong player, but both Welsh boys agreed after the game, that Ifan made the correct choice when analysing the position. Unfortunately, the standard here is so high, that there is always a risk of the game turning. Here, a tiny miscalculation in the end game allowed the Hungarian to turn the tables and secure the win after over 5 hours of play.

Hugo faced a Spanish player graded 2065. Again opening preparation was thwarted by the Spaniard playing a different variation which led to Hugo being behind after the opening. He fought back throughout the middle game to achieve parity and then ease ahead. By the end game Hugo was a pawn up, but facing a very stubborn opponent determined to deny him the opportunity of converting his advantage. After nearly 5 and a half hours, and with both players short of time, they agreed that a draw was the inevitable result.

Both Welsh boys have had a tough draw against a number of much higher rated opponents. They are rising to the challenge and all games are very competitive. They both are relishing the experience and improving their standard of play.