

The Home Straight

Round 9

Women's Team v IPCA

A good, solid 3-1 win for Wales this round.

Bo.	83	 IPCA (IPCA)	Rtg - 71	 Wales (WLS)	Rtg	1 : 3
31.1		<input type="checkbox"/> Gerasimova, Svetlana	1966 - WFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richmond, Jane	2053	0 - 1
31.2	WFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aleksandrova, Aleksandra	1801 - WFM	<input type="checkbox"/> Smith, Olivia	2013	0 - 1
31.3	WIM	<input type="checkbox"/> Kaydanovich, Marina	1725 - WCM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sivarajasingam, Venetia	1771	1 - 0
31.4		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sovietova, Kateryna	1353 - WCM	<input type="checkbox"/> Camp, Imogen A L	1940	0 - 1

This takes Wales back up into 74th place, around par for the course given our starting rank of 71. Whether we meet our target of finishing up the rankings all hangs on the results of the next two rounds.

Open Team v Morocco

Another draw from Jonathan against an IM to continue his great run this tournament!

Bo.	114	 Wales (WLS)	Rtg - 92	 Morocco (MAR)	Rtg	½ : 3½
59.1	FM	<input type="checkbox"/> Strugnell, Carl	2327 - IM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tissir, Mohamed	2388	0 - 1
59.2		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blackburn, Jonathan L B	2185 - IM	<input type="checkbox"/> Onkoud, Abdelaziz	2315	½ - ½
59.3		<input type="checkbox"/> Bullen, Alex	2098 -	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saber, Yasser	2192	0 - 1
59.4		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rayner, Francis	2083 - CM	<input type="checkbox"/> Aithmidou, Mohamed-Mehdi	2244	0 - 1

We need some match points on the Open from the last two rounds to finish around par.

Rest & Relaxation

One of the "Must See" tourist attractions of Batumi is the Botanical Gardens, so Allan and I took advantage of his rest day to spend a couple of hours there.



We thought we'd take the bus, which we'd heard stopped at the gardens on the way to Batumi. Sounded easy, and all seemed to be going to plan at first. The bus stop is just a few yards from the hotel gates and we flagged down a passing bus with a "BATUMI" placard in the windscreen. The driver clearly understood where we were headed too, **but...** where he dropped us was at a junction with a right turn next to a sign saying:

Botanical Gardens 1.1km



We'd seen from the map it was off the main road, and 1.1 km is only about 10 minutes' walk, so we set off as indicated.

15 minutes later, no sign of an entrance yet... Several cars and taxis stopped and asked where we were going and offered us a lift (in Georgian / Russian) but we refused. One rather more insistent driver and eventually we understood that we were going the wrong way. A glance at Google Maps and sure enough we were a good hour's walk from the gardens.

Turns out the 1.1km sign was to the **exit** towards the Botanical Gardens. We gave in and accepted a lift, paying the driver over-the-odds (still only about £7) and were dropped at the gates.

It was worth the trip though! The gardens are extensive and excellently maintained, with fabulous views of the Black Sea. We spent a couple of hours walking around and only saw a fraction of the place.



We had lunch at a café on the beach, ordering one safe option (pizza) and something random from the Georgian specialities section, which turned out to be something a whole baked Georgian cheese, "Sulguni". Very nice, but a bit of a cheese overload!



We took a taxi back to the hotel 😊

Looking Forward

Another mixed bag for round 10, with the Women having the toughest ask.

Women – Round 10 – South Korea

South Korea's individual performance shows how massively under-rated they are. Their board 4 is on 6/7 and +82 rating points and has already met the requirements for her WFM title this tournament.

This will be a challenging match!

Bo.	71	 Wales (WLS)	Rtg - 77	 South Korea (KOR)	Rtg
34.1	WFM	<input type="checkbox"/> Smith, Olivia	2013 - WFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wang, Chengjia	2050
34.2	WCM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sivarajasingam, Venetia	1771 - WFM	<input type="checkbox"/> Eynula, Roza	2030
34.3	WCM	<input type="checkbox"/> Camp, Imogen A L	1940 - CM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lee, Seyeon	1727
34.4	WCM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sivarajasingam, Shayanna	1788 - WCM	<input type="checkbox"/> Park, Sunwoo	1793

 63. South Korea (KOR / RtgAvg:1900, Captain: Lee Sanghoon / TB1: 9 / TB2: 164)																					
Bo.	Name	Rtg	FED	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts.	Games	Rp	w	we	w-we	K	rtg+/-
1	WFM Wang Chengjia	2050	KOR	0	0	0	1	½	0	0	1,5	7	1918	1,5	2,65	-1,15	20	-23,0			
2	WFM Eynula Roza	2030	KOR	1	½	½	1	1	1	½	0	5,5	8	2188	5,5	3,79	1,71	20	34,2		
3	CM Lee Seyeon	1727	KOR	0	½	1	0	1	0	1	3,5	7	1913	3,5	2,06	1,44	40	57,6			
4	WCM Park Sunwoo	1793	KOR	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	6,0	7	2052	5	2,95	2,05	40	82,0			
5	Kim Yubin	1671	KOR	0	1	½	1	1	0	0	3,5	7	1786	2,5	1,73	0,77	40	30,8			

Imogen's Round 8 win leaves her still in with a chance of a WFM title this tournament, but she needs to play and win both remaining games. That will be a tough ask.

Open – Round 10 – Kuwait

In the Open section Wales has Kuwait, a team with mixed results. Carl and Alex get the toughest / best-performing of the squad, Alex's opponent having already met the requirements for a conditional FM title from this tournament with 6/7 so far (just needs to push his rating up to 2100).

Still in with the chance of an FM title himself, Jonathan also needs 2/2 from the remaining games.

Bo.	148	 Kuwait (KUW)	Rtg - 114	 Wales (WLS)	Rtg
72.1	FM	<input type="checkbox"/> Al-Hajiri, Bader	2112 - FM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strugnell, Carl	2327
72.2		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Al Azmi, Khalaf	1785 -	<input type="checkbox"/> Blackburn, Jonathan L B	2185
72.3	CM	<input type="checkbox"/> Alothman, Abdul Wahab	1911 -	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bullen, Alex	2098
72.4		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alothman, Salem	1690 -	<input type="checkbox"/> Pleasants, Allan J	2090

 140. Kuwait (KUW / RtgAvg:1898, Captain: Gagunashvili Merab / TB1: 7 / TB2: 79,5)																					
Bo.	Name	Rtg	FED	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts.	Games	Rp	w	we	w-we	K	rtg+/-
1	FM Al-Hajiri Bader	2112	KUW	0	1	½	1	1	1	1	½	1	7,0	9	2346	7	4,33	2,67	20	53,4	
2	Al Azmi Khalaf	1785	KUW	0	0	0	½	0	1	0	0	1,5	8	1771	1,5	1,85	-0,35	20	-7,0		
3	AlShourfaa Hazaa	1783	KUW	0	0	0	0	1	½	0	0	1,5	8	1576	0,5	1,70	-1,20	20	-24,0		
4	CM Alothman Abdul Wahab	1911	KUW	1	½	1	1	½	1	1	6,0	7	2076	3	1,75	1,25	20	25,0			
5	Alothman Salem	1690	KUW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,0	4	1092	0	1,05	-1,05	40	-42,0			