

Pontyclun Notes

Pontyclun – Bridge over the River Clun (we walked over the River Ely, one of three rivers that flow into the sea at Cardiff. The River Clun joined the River Ely north of where we walked today. The word Clun, or Cluwn or Clown, relates to words such as Glyn, Glan or Glen, all referring to broad glacial valleys.

The name Pontyclun has only been in official use since 1893 and prior to that the area was known as Pont Clown or Pont y Clown, which is said to indicate that the river was shrouded with trees and undergrowth.

We are on the southern edge of the South Wales coalfield. North of here are towns and villages with an industrial past. South of here is the Vale of Glamorgan with its agricultural past.

The Roman settlement of South Wales included a military fort near Miskin which was occupied from about 50AD to 400AD. At times up to 1000 soldiers were inhabiting the area and with families and suppliers the local population could have been up to 4000

Industry arrived in the 1850s. Tin plate works – on site of the industrial estate we walked through. Cardiff Navigation Colliery was north of the railway line. The pipe works and joinery works were also north of the railway – across the line from the Boar's Head.

Pontyclun Station used to be called Llantrisant Station

Arthur Howard Williams

https://cy.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Howard_Williams

Arthur Howard Williams (born 1950) is a former international chess player . He was born in Pontyclun. Now lived in Cardigan

He learned to play chess at the age of 10 when his father bought him a set as a Christmas present , and when he went to Ysgol Gramdeg Y Bont-faen he joined the Chess Club there. He won the Welsh Chess Championship for under 14s in 1964 , and then under fifteens in 1965 . In 1966 he won the British Under 16 Chess Championship.

He became equal first in the British Chess Championship in 1974, but lost the rematch. In 1974 he also played against Anatoly Karpov who became World Chess Champion a year later.

Howard Williams has been Welsh Chess Champion 18 times, and won the title in 1971 , 1972 , 1974 , 1975 , 1979-80, 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1986 , and shared it in 1968 , 1977 , 1978 , 1982-83, 1987 , 1988 , 1991 , 1993 , 1994 and 2011 . He represented his country in 8 Chess Olympiads between 1972 and 1986.

In 1973 he published *Alekhine's Defence*, a book on Alekhine's Defense jointly with the English chess player, Richard Eales. He was also the successor of T. Llew Jones as editor of *Y Ddraig*, the Welsh chess magazine.

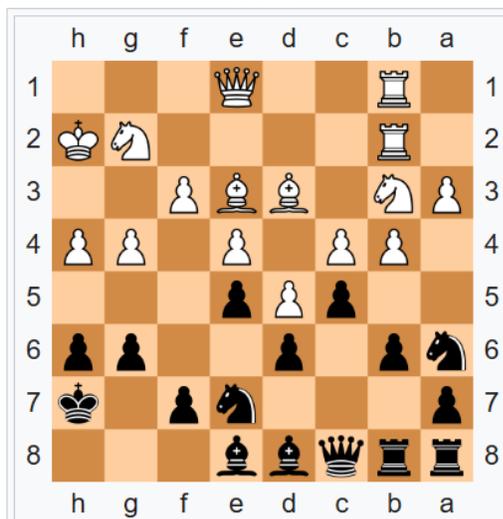
He was motivated to learn Welsh while playing for Wales in the Buenos Aires Chess Olympiad in Argentina in 1978 when he heard his international teammate Iolo Ceredig Jones speaking the language in the hotel with people from the Colony. Williams has learned to speak Welsh fluently and sing.

He still plays chess for the Cardigan club

Arthur Howard Williams is co-author of chess game record with latest first capture. In game Rogoff – Williams (World Junior Chess Championship, Stockholm 1969) the first capture occurred only on White's 94th move.

Rogoff vs. Williams, Stockholm

1969



Position just before White played 94.
bxc5