

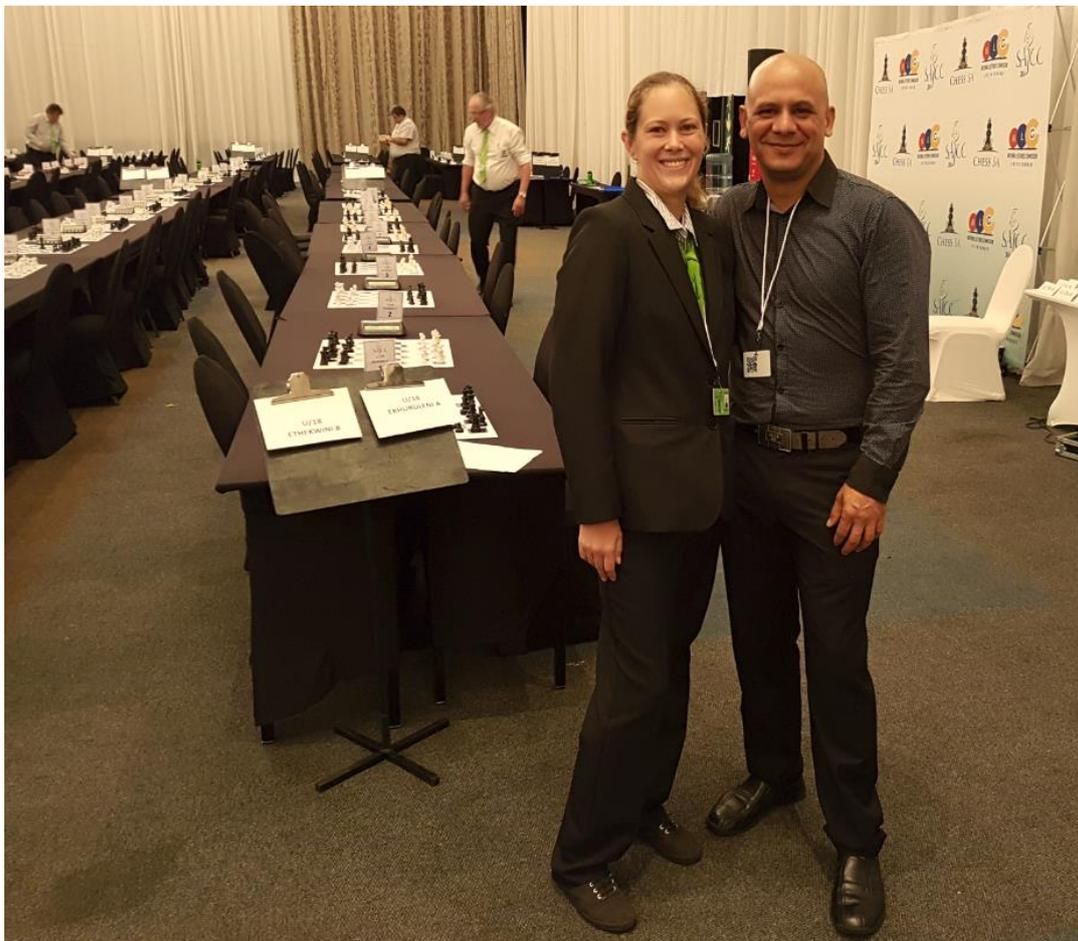
Reflections by Dr Lyndon Bouah - SAJCC 2016

Over the weekend of 16-18 December 2016 I visited the South African Junior Chess Championships currently being held at Birchwood in Johannesburg. The event has approximately over 2400 players from across the country.

It really is a huge event with many dimensions. I started my day on Friday at 4am to get on the 6:30am flight as the first meeting was being held at 11:00am. Chessa has introduced a FIDE style congress where all the Commissions and Committees now meet prior to Congress so that matters may be thoroughly debated. And believe me they were thoroughly debated. I welcome this addition because it meant that many matters could be ironed out in committees and commissions with the assistance of provincial representatives. I attended all the meetings and my constant companions were IM Nicholas Van Der Nat and Chessa Vice President Winston Dalpat. Good contributions were made and I think the positive development will go a long way to empower chess, chess players and administrators.

On day two further meetings were held with many of the committees finalising their minutes of the meeting. Mrs Agulhas did an admirable job of sending out the documents when she received them often in the middle of the night!

On day three I went to visit the tournament hall before the games. Every morning round started at 09:00 so at about 08:15 I popped in to the OR Tambo hall to observe the arbiters ensuring the clocks are correctly set. I took a few pics of the friendly arbiters who didn't chase me away!



FA Linsy Pistorius and NA Ricardo Minnaar

It was an impressive sight with the chess board arrayed and the electronic boards being used in the under twenties section.



Chess players clearly have passion for the game because even at seven thirty players were playing on the big boards. And then an hour later they play again!



It is also the time when you bump into friends that you haven't seen for many a year. The first person I bumped into was Rodwell Makoto from Zimbabwe who beat GM Kenny Solomon at the Olympiad earlier this year. Rodwell is the 2012 SA Open Champion.



Dr Lyndon Bouah with Rodwell Makoto

I then bumped into my friends IM Johannes Mabusela and Tinto Seotladi. Johannes and I have been competing against one another since 2002. Tinto was a member of Steinitz chess club who ten years ago played in the WP league and scored 11/11 thus securing us the league title that year.



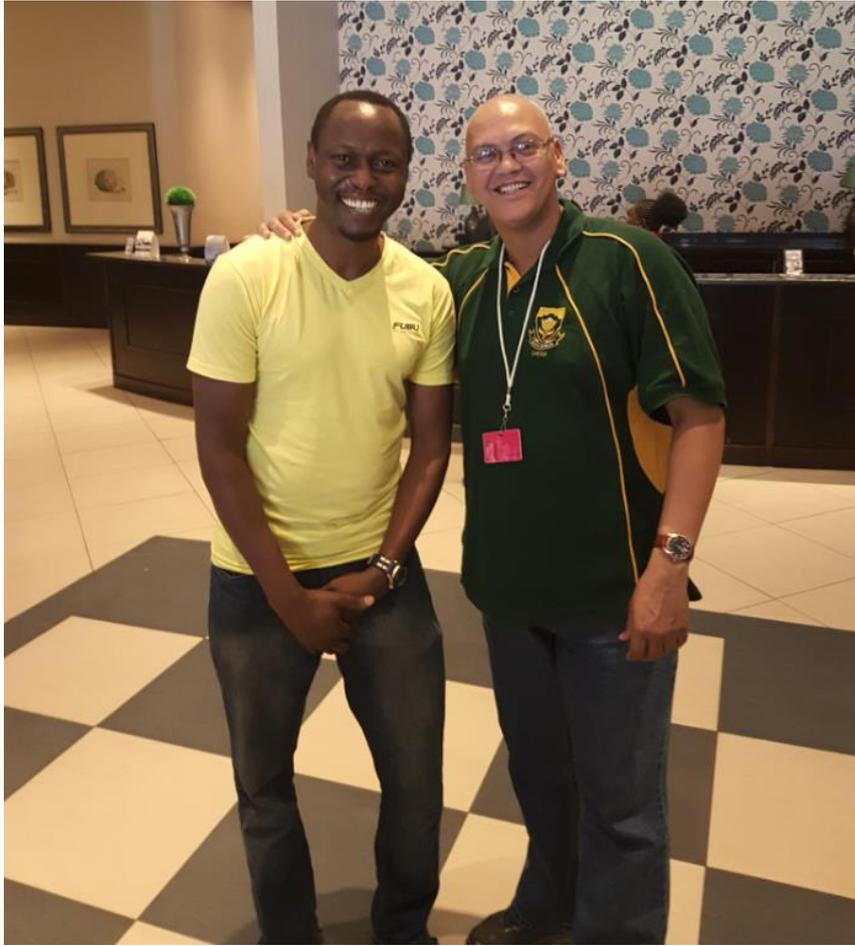
Dr Bouah and Tinto Seotladi

At the same title IM David Gluckman was also in attendance as both his son FM Paul Gluckman and daughter Amy is playing.



IM David Gluckman & IM Johannes Mabusela

A recent addition to Johannesburg was Dr Akande Tunde who was awarded his doctorate at CPUT in Science earlier this year.



Dr Bouah with Dr Akande Tunde

I stayed at Birchwood as well and every morning from about 6am I used to hear move the rooks to the centre early and watch out for pins etc. I discovered the voice belonged to Martin Botha who informed me thus was his 29th records and his 22nd as coach. That must be some kind of record! Well done Martin and thanks for the chat and coaching lessons at 6am!

I will watch the final day results with interest!

Enjoy the day!

Regards.

Dr Lyndon Bouah