

Reflections by Dr Lyndon Bouah – Cape Winelands Sports Awards

On Thursday 8 December 2016, I attended the annual Cape Winelands Sport Awards held in Worcester at the Cumberland hotel in my capacity as Chief Director of Sport and Recreation in the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport. I was accompanied by my good friend Mr. Deon Pick who lives in Worcester and who is a retired school inspector.

As usual there were many awards to be made that evening and since this is a district awards I did not know who all the winners and recipients would be. I was thus pleasantly surprised and glad when Mr. Cecil Cupido received the Lifetime Award for his services to chess in the Cape Winelands.



Mr. Cupido has been part of the Boland (as Cape Winelands was previously known) since I can remember. I remember first meeting Mr. Cupido in September 1989 when I played in the then South African Schools championship held under the auspices of The South African Senior Schools Sports Association (Sasssa). We played at a school called Klein Nederberg and I won that event thus winning my first national title. The next year in Port Elizabeth I retained my title.

One must recall that at that time there were two school organisations for chess (one white and one black) as there were for many codes of sport. For the record the Sasssa chess championships was held every two years from 1982 until 1988 whereafter it became one year. The winners of the events for the decade of the 1980s were:

1982 : Mr. Shaun Willenberg and Mr Nazeem Samie

1984 : Dr Deon Solomons (current Chessa Board member)
1986 : Dr Nazeem Mustapha
1988 : Mr Winston Dalpat (current Chessa Vice President)
1989. : Dr Lyndon Bouah (former Chessa President)
1990 : Dr Lyndon Bouah

Mr Cupido continued to organise schools chess in the Boland area as he was teaching in Wellington. In 2002 when Boland chess was formed Mr. Cupido became president and served for over a decade as President. Under his leadership Boland hosted many fine championships including inter provincials held in Swellendam and national club championships.

Boland fielded many teams at the Chessa Inter regional Championships and many strong players were developed at weekend events. Mr Cupido is still involved in schools chess and is one of the unsung heroes of the chess community in South Africa. I enjoy my many discussions with Mr. Cupido who is still able in true schoolmasterly fashion to gently chastise me when he feels I made an incorrect decision or I did not consider all the facts before forming an opinion on a matter.

To Mr. Cecil Cupido your region has recognised you. I thank you for vision, foresight and commitment to Boland and Cape Winelands chess. Take a bow Mr. Cupido you deserve it.

Regards

Dr Lyndon Bouah