

## Reflections by Dr Lyndon Bouah – Sports Awards

In my capacity as Chief Director of Sport and Recreation in the Western Cape Province I attend many sport award functions across South Africa. The first one I attended this year was the Eastern Cape Sport Awards in Nelson Mandela Bay. I was accompanied by Chessa Vice President, Mr. Winston Dalpat and Mrs. Marsha Rensburg from Eastern Cape Chess.



Ms Marsha Rensburg from Eastern Cape Chess with Mr Dalpat and Dr Bouah

The event took place at the Boardwalk Hotel complex which is well known to chess players as they hosted the Commonwealth chess championships in 2013 and the African Youth in 2016. Winston and I greeted the Vice President of Sascoc, Mr Barry Hendricks, who is a former teacher of both Winston and me.



Sascoc Vice President Barry Hendricks with Dr Bouah and Mr Dalpat

I was thus pleasantly surprised to find that Women International Master Jesse February was one of the nominees for Sportswoman of the year. She was competing against Sharodine Fortuin from boxing and Dane Van Niekerk from cricket. Jesse greeted us warmly and was accompanied by her mother Jenny. Jesse lost out to Ms Fortuin in the final category.



WIM Jesse February and Dr Lyndon Bouah at the Eastern Cape Sport Awards 2017

In Cape Town I attended the Metro Sport Awards also known as the Western Province Sport Awards. Here chess was well represented with FM Keegan Agulhas being a finalist in the best schoolboy category. He narrowly lost out having won the award two years ago.

In the female section Chess Western Province was rewarded when WFM Dantelle Joubert won the best schoolgirl category for Metro. Her parents who attended the awards with her were very proud.



In the Sportswoman of the year category both WIM Denise Frick and WIM Anzel Laubscher were finalists and narrowly lost out to one of the Olympians from Cape Town.

In the Federation of the year category Dr Deon Solomons represented Chess Western Province who were narrowly pipped to the try line by Western Province Rugby.

In the Lifetime Achiever category Western Cape President Mr. Mark Lewis from Steinitz chess club was awarded the Lifetime Achiever award for his services to chess. He has been involved with chess for his whole life and was one of the founder members of Steinitz chess club in 1977. He has served with distinction on many committees and has represented South Africa as a coach and has achieved many first in his illustrious career. Well doing Mark Lewis.



Dr Bouah - Dr Bouah congratulates Mr Lewis

Yolanda Prinsloo from Gauteng informs me that in the Gauteng Sport Awards the Hlangabeza Primary School , mixed was awarded the U-13 award. The Primary School male athlete of the year was Lonwabo Fihla of Hlangabeza Primary School. The primary school female athlete of the year was Nombulelo Saidi from Hlangabeza Primary school.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Steinitz Chess Open next month!!

Regards

Dr Lyndon Bouah