

Zambian Reflections (3) by Dr Lyndon Bouah

Today 10 June 2017 the Zone 4.3 chess championships started in Livingstone, Zambia. I woke up at six am to a rather rude cell phone going off with WhatsApp messages. The Wifi didn't work for most of the day and now everything was coming through. However, as is my custom, I had arranged to have breakfast at seven thirty.

At the breakfast table I was joined by the Mozambican representative Persson Abrantes. He is a lecturer in IT in Beira and we chatted about various events. He informed me that they will be hosting a Mozambican Open in August so perhaps those enthusiastic players that travelled to Swaziland can also travel to Maputo! We were soon joined by GM Kenny Solomon who then informed us of his battle with some local mosquitoes. He counted fifty and I then informed him that I had no visitors so it must be a rating and title thing. They know where to gain the most rating points!

So off we went to Shoprite! There are many South African stores here including Pep Stores, Shoprite, Spar and others. So at Shoprite we obtained the Peaceful Sleep and other things a Chessplayer needs on these long trips. Along the way we stopped at the tourism bureau but they were still closed but we did get to meet Dr David Livingstone. We introduced ourselves but he didn't catch the joke I made about the South African advertisement for lawnmowers called Rolux Magnum of a few decades ago. I am sure he will catch it later. I informed him that GM Kenny is from Cape Town so at least the journey Cape to Cairo is possible!



Dr Lyndon Bouah asking "Dr Livingstone I presume". Making my acquaintance on the way to Shoprite. 10:22



GM Kenny Solomon from South Africa introducing himself to Dr Livingstone. From Cape To Cairo Indeed!! 11:39

We then proceeded back to the hotel where I attend the technical meeting. Chess is really becoming technical. No watches, camera and pens allowed into the venue! This is to comply with anti-cheating rules. So basically you come as you are! It is a strange feeling because I used to enjoy the Kasparov manoeuvre where you start the game by taking your watch off and then putting it back on when you signalling to your opponent that's it's time to resign. Well none of that here. Everything else was

standard fare so we got to the meat of the proceedings.

The Opening ceremony was held at 14:00 in the playing venue. All the players attended and the SA players were dressed in their Protea outfits. Interestingly I found out that this is the first zonal for Daniel Cawdery, Roland Bezuidenhout, Matt Pon and Lyndon Bouah. On the female side only Anzel has played previously. So Aleida, Dantelle and Michelle are all making their debut. The Zone 4.3 president Mr Kezzie started the event by having a moment of silence for presidents Mr. Eldo Smart from South Africa and Zimbabwean Mr. Charles Kuwaza from both who recently passed away.

FIDE President Kirsan Ilzurnihov attended the opening ceremony where he made the key note address. He spoke about various plans for African chess and reminded us that he wishes to have 1 billion people playing chess. After the speeches he then proceeded to the top table where he made the first move on behalf of the top seed IM Daniel Cawdery from South Africa. President Kirsan essayed pawn to e4 which Daniel was happy to play.



Fide president in attendance

17:48



Fide President Kirsan making the first move on top board. SA champion IM Daniel is top seed.

So then the actual games began. On Board one Daniel played his e4 and soon had his opponent in trouble with the king stuck in the middle of the board. On board two Andrew Kayonde beat his Angolan opponent who sacrificed too speculatively. On board three it looked like Pretoria resident IM Daniel Jere was in trouble and he was still playing at the time of this report. On board four, GM Kenny Solomon outplayed Johannesburg resident Musa Simutowe. Musa is the brother of the first sub Saharan Grandmaster Amon Simutowe who obtained his title on 1 July 2009. On board five I had a good game against Mwali but in the end I succumbed. On board six, Stanley Chumfwa easily disposed of his opponent. Matt Pon on board fifteen played a solid game to beat Dante Beukes the Namibian representative. On board 8 Roland Bezuidenhout was attacking but IM Gillian Bwalya was having none of it and soon exchanged into a winning ending.

In the women's section WCM Michelle Fisher was paired against WGM Sabure from Botswana. She was then informed that Sabure is in fact not in Zambia. I found this off because I would have thought that all players must register at least in the morning. This may affect Michelle later if she plays for a WIM Title or a WFM title because defaults don't count.

Anzel and Aleida were paired against one another and it looked like Anzel played the Morra Gambit. At the time of writing this report they were still playing so it will be interesting to hear the outcome. On board seven Dantelle was a pawn up in an endgame and then somehow contrived to lose her bishop. She then had to defend very hard and scored a draw but she should've finished her opponent. Early days and early lessons but I am sure she will bounce back.

So I'm off to have supper now. We play two games tomorrow so it's going to rough. We are playing two rounds on Monday as well so the next two days will determine the nature and character of the event. Of course I'm playing with a heavy heart but I shall remember Eldo Smart. He often used to come to me a day or two after my travels so that I could show him my games and share the joys of Bacchus. I shall miss those days. In 2014 he and I travelled to Namibia for the zone 4.3 event where Donny Van Den Heever won and obtained his IM title and where WIM Denise Frick showed a clean pair of heels and won the Women's section.

I end off with some interesting facts about Zambia.

1. It is said that Zambia is so beautiful that Dr Livingstone said that scenes so lovely must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight.
2. Zambia is a landlocked country.
3. Until 1964 when it gained its independence it was known as Northern Rhodesia.
4. It is bordered by the DRC , Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and Angola!
5. The terrain is mostly high plateau with stunning hills and mountains.

Regards

Reporting live from Livingstone! Zambia

Dr Lyndon Bouah