

Reflections by Dr Lyndon Bouah - Mr Richard Morris

While I was in Zambia in June 2017, I received the disturbing news that Mr Richard Morris from Free State had passed away. I met Richard for the first time in about 2002. The Interprovincials had moved to Free State as well as the national Inter clubs. Free State under the stewardship of Piet Van Zyl and Richard Morris started organising these two events on behalf of Chessa.

Richard and I spent many hours debating chess matters and chess policies. I always found him to be a gentleman with whom one could reason. He was pragmatic and would not necessarily apply a rule slavishly that may prejudice a player or team.

I have many of the old SA chessplayer books at home and Richard appears in quite a few of them. I didn't know how strong he was until about 2005/2006 when Eastern Province hosted the Interprovincials. WP comfortably won 3-1 but the shock of the round was Richard beating Donovan Van Den Heever. Donovan attacked but Richard played well and secured the point.

Richard also represented Free State at many Chessa meetings that I attended. He offered sound advice to the meeting and could be called upon to assist wherever necessary. He was an astute administrator and through my conversations and interaction with him I learnt a great deal.

He served as a mentor to many young Free State players and I am sure today that WIM Anzel Laubscher has a great deal to thank Richard for.

Richard was big hearted and a gentleman of the game. I visited him last year when I was in Free State and his sense of humour was always present. He immediately put me at ease and the hour I spent with him I remember fondly.

Richard Morris, you will be remembered. You were an outstanding servant of our noble game. I am honoured to have known you over the last decade and a half. Chess Free State and Chess South Africa is poorer with your departure.

Rest in peace.

Your friend

Dr Lyndon Bouah