

## From the desk of Mark Lewis

### A. Report on Eldo Smart SA Inter Provincial Championships

The first inter-provincial Team Championships took place in Bloemfontein from 29 August 2017 to 03 September 2017

The venue was the Bains Lodge. The event was hosted by Chess Free State and together with Chess South Africa they ensured a classy and well-run event.

The players all enjoyed free accommodation including three meals. The event was also the brain-child of our past President and a good friend Mr Eldo Smart. In addition, 12 e-boards showed the games live to across the country.

Western Cape also wishes to thank the office of Mr Thabo Tutu for providing travelling assistance so that I could get the players there on time.



Of the nine provinces only KZN was not represented. Western Cape sent two teams. In the A Section, International Master Donovan Van den Heever on board one held his own and earned the board prize scoring 5/6. On Board Two Fide Master Calvin Klaasen also did very well and his confident play as well as his calm demeanour ensured that the board two was his scoring 5.5/6 as well as an excellent victory over International Master Ryan Van Rensburg. The experienced Fide Master Deon Solomons played well but did not want to risk much on board three with Mark Lewis completing the fourth spot as Manager and Captain.

Our A Team did very well in scoring more game points than the final winners Gauteng but since Match points were the determinant we could after our loss to the winners only secure Silver. We will be back to take the gold.

### SA Inter Provincial 2017 A Section

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#### Final Ranking cross table after 6 Rounds

Rk	Mannschaft	1.Rd	2.Rd	3.Rd	4.Rd	5.Rd	6.Rd	TB1	TB2	TB3
1	Gauteng	5w3½	6b3	2w3	4b4	3b3½	7w3	12	20	68,5
2	Western Cape	8b3½	4w4	1b1	6w4	5b3	3w2½	10	18	69,5
3	Limpopo	4w0	5b3	8w3	7b3	1w½	2b1½	6	11	75,5
4	Mpumalanga	3b4	2b0	6w2	1w0	7b2	8b3	6	11	74,5
5	Eastern Cape	1b½	3w1	7w2	8b3	2w1	6b3	5	10,5	74,5
6	North West	7w2½	1w1	4b2	2b0	8w3	5w1	5	9,5	75,5
7	Free State	6b1½	8w1	5b2	3w1	4w2	1b1	2	8,5	69,5
8	Northern Cape	2w½	7b3	3b1	5w1	6b1	4w1	2	7,5	68,5

Our Second team was an all ladies team. Only four provinces had lady's teams and although all teams had to have some ladies in their team it meant that our ladies had to play in the B Section which together with the lady's teams comprised 10 other teams.

Our team comprised of Women International Master Jesse February on board 1. She struggled in the beginning but when it mattered she came through.

Then on board two, Women International Master Denise Frick just missed the board prize. She did well to play solid games and to captain the team to a stunning team victory. On board three the unbeaten Robyn Van Niekerk won the board prize and was the stalwart in the team. Not to be undone on board four was the find of the tournament Kaylyn Fritz who scored well on board four. Even the game she lost due to time had a winning position. I have great expectations for her in the SA Closed.

### SA Inter Provincial 2017 B Section

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#### Final Ranking after 6 Rounds

Rk.	SNo	Team	Games	+	=	-	TB1	TB2	TB3
1	1	Western Cape Ladies	6	4	2	0	10	18	76,5
2	2	Gauteng Ladies	6	4	1	1	9	17,5	79
3	3	Free State	6	4	0	2	8	16,5	73
4	5	Eastern Cape	6	3	1	2	7	13	76
5	7	Free State Ladies	6	3	1	2	7	11	61,5
6	8	Limpopo	6	3	0	3	6	10	77,5
7	6	Mpumalanga	6	1	3	2	5	10,5	78,5
8	9	North West	6	2	1	3	5	10	61,5
9	4	Northern Cape	6	1	1	4	3	9	67
10	10	North West Ladies	6	0	0	6	0	4,5	69,5

Despite the slow start our ladies team ended strongly and won Gold. I was pleased to see how they just got along so well, supported the one or the other when the result did not go their way.

All in all, a great event and well run by the organizers. Once more congratulations to our First Western Cape teams and we look forward to build on this success.



A Winning combination