

Reflections by Dr Lyndon Bouah – Advocate Maxwell Solomon

On Saturday 23 September 2017 the National Club Championship kicked off in Cape Town. At the opening ceremony I was pleasantly surprised when Advocate Maxwell Solomon was called upon to recite a poem that he had written. The poem was entitled Royal Game and I quote it here:

"A game of kings, they say,
This game called chess.

Where minds clash
Move after move
As pawns and pieces
Humble-looking (as they are)
Jockey for position.

A mortal combat staged:
The annexing of squares,
The clashing of the pieces,
vying for dominance
In this cerebral warfare.

A gentleman's game, they say

With every move,
A posture of psychology-
Never mind the quiet position
The simplified strategy,
The ebbing away of time:
A form of meditation.

The royal game, they call it

All that matters is the initiative :
Seizing it,
Harnessing it,
Transforming it,
to a winning advantage-

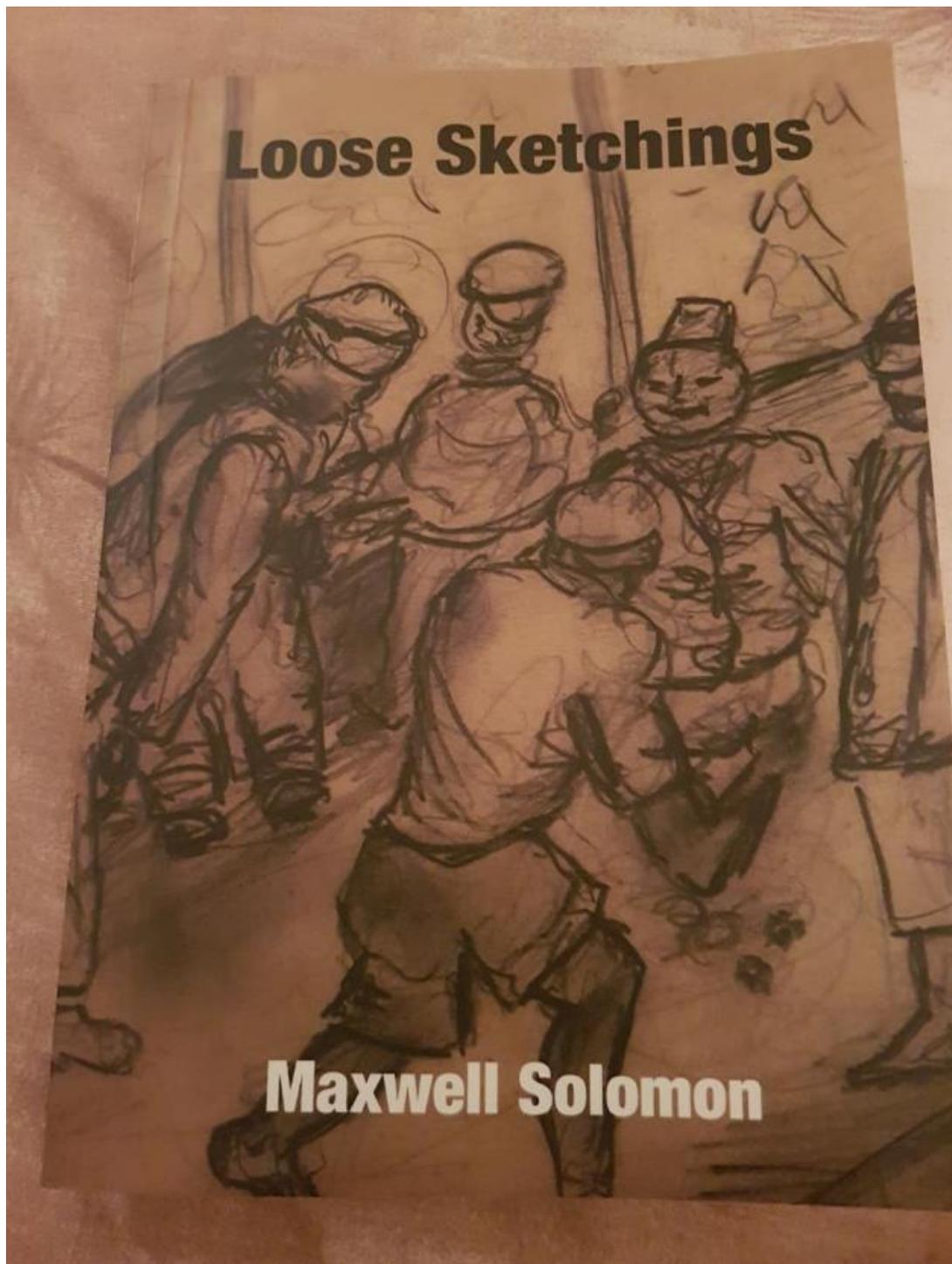
Capturing all the king's men,
With the queen mating the king. "

What an entrance to make at the national championship. A fitting poem. Advocate Maxwell Solomon was a South African champion and has represented the country at three Olympiads (1992, 1994 and 2000). He has won multiple WP titles and was part of many match winning WP teams that

won the national interunion title. This year he played board two for his club, MRL, who won the local WP Premier.



Advocate Maxwell Solomon is the brother of Grandmaster Kenny Solomon and is a practising member of the Cape Bar. He has published a book on his poetry called *Loose Sketchings*. The book contains more than 40 poems he has written over the last few years. He will be launching the book at the Book Lounge (Roeland Street) on 5 October 2017 at 5:30pm. Let's support our proud champion as he shows his multiple talents.



I have played against Maxwell on many occasions and was also his teammate on many occasions. A fierce competitor on the board and also a best friend off it. He always has a gentle word for any budding chess player and is not afraid to stand up and serve when called up. Max we are proud of you!

Regards

Dr Lyndon Bouah