

National Club Championship Reflections by Dr Lyndon Bouah

The recently held SA National Club Championship (22-25 September 2017) was a success for WP, Western Cape and Chessa. I for one am glad that this event is being staged annually and that South African chess clubs have something to look forward to.



Opening Ceremony

The University of the Western Cape has a unique chess history in South Africa. Let's look at this unique history. Three presidents of Chess South Africa are (or were) graduates of this institution. The presidents were Dr. Berte Van Wyk (1992 to 1994), Dr. Adv Lyndon Bouah (2003-2005) and the late Mr. Eldo Smart (2014- 2017). UWC has already produced the following Protea players, Dr Shabier Bhawoodien (2003) Advocate Maxwell Solomon (1992) and Lyndon Bouah (1992). The president of SA Schools, Dr Omar Esau is a graduate of the university and the current WP President, Dr Deon Solomons, is currently a lecturer in the maths department. UWC has also honoured chess highly by bestowing the prestigious award of UWC Sportsperson of the year on three chess players Lyndon Bouah (1992), Kenny Willenberg (2002) and Shane Willenberg (2012 and 2016).



Opening move of SA National Club Championship 2017

Now let's get to the individual board honours and have a look at the individual results.

CHAMPIONSHIP A – SECTION

On Board one the prize went to Lutho Mfazwe (2007) from Capablanca with a score of 5/6 and a rating performance of 2105. The player who ended second on the board was IM Watu Kobese (2351) who scored 4/5 with a rating performance of 2334. In the third place was FM Calvin Klassen who scored 3/4 with a rating performance of 2242. I am sure IM Kobese must have been surprised by this turn of events because Capablanca was campaigning on the bottom boards for most of the event. IM Watu Kobese probably felt a bit like GM Kasparov who in 2002 called for an overall review of the board prizes when IM Robert Gwaze scored 100 percent and won the board prize but his performance rating was far lower than Kasparov who was playing on table one at the Olympiad. So Mfazwe scored 83.3 percent with an average opponent rating of his opponents being 1832. So well done to Mfazwe.

Board 1

Rank		Name	Rtg	Team	Pts	%	Games	RtgØ	ratP
1		Mfazwe Lutho	2007	Capablanca A	5	83.3	6	1832	2105
2	IM	Kobese Watu	2351	Manyanani A	4	80	5	2094	2334
3	FM	Klaasen Calvin Jong	2268	MRL A	3	75	4	2049	2242
4	CM	Bouah Lyndon	2117	Steinitz A	3.5	58.3	6	2051	2108
5		De Jager Luan	1919	Steinitz B	3.5	58.3	6	2045	2083
6		Kromhout Ewan	2017	Port Elizabeth A	3.5	58.3	6	1963	2020
7		Wium Daniel	1931	Zuckertort A	3.5	58.3	6	1896	1953
8		Lawerlot George Lee-Roy	1915	MRL B	3	50	6	1894	1894
9		Southey Andrew M.	1808	Stellenbosch A	3	50	6	1874	1874
10		James Michael	2000	University of the Western Cape A	2.5	41.7	6	2020	1963
11	FM	De Villiers Charles	2168	African Chess Lounge A	2.5	41.7	6	2015	1958
12	CM	Adams Seth-Riley	1756	Mitchells Plain A (FOORD MP)	2	33.3	6	1889	1764
13		Levin Benny	1699	Bellville A	1.5	25	6	1906	1713
14		Khosa Farisani	1732	University of Cape Town B	1.5	25	6	1897	1704
15		Manuel Saul	1853	African Chess Lounge B	1	16.7	6	1862	1611

The board one fight was an interesting one. Kobese was very passionate and was the heart and soul of his team fighting robustly in every game. Watu would pace around the stage and his eyes would scour the whole board to see how he could probe for weaknesses. A true champion and this first national club title may still yet inspire him to higher honours.

Calvin Klaasen at 2268 is fast approaching 2300 and is consolidating himself as a solid player. He is a quiet leader on first board for MRL and they seem to gain in confidence when he plays. He drew with Watu in an exciting game then and Lyndon Bouah.

Luan de Jager scored an important victory for Steinitz B when he defeated FM Charles De Villiers in a well-played game. His 3.5 (58%) and strong rating performance of 2083 shows he is on the rise. Micheal James and Charles De Villiers would've been disappointed with their score of 2.5/6 as they normally score better. Time trouble seems to be Charles' enemy and with Micheal he tends to overestimate his position.

On board two IM Donovan Van Den Heever was pure class with 5/6 and a 2253 rating performance. He was never in trouble in any game and he played with the poise that we all know the former SA Closed champion possesses. Positional crushes and of course his strong quiet moves brought the points home. Amini Daud scored 4/6 for African Chess Lounge and showed that this year he is determined to score with his chess. He plays solid chess and came second on the board. Veroe September from Stellenbosch and Freddy Odendaal also scored 4/6.

Board 2

Rank		Name	Rtg	Team	Pts	%	Games	RtgØ	ratP
1	IM	Van Den Heever Donovan	2239	Manyanani A	5	83.3	6	1993	2253
2		Amini Daud	2063	African Chess Lounge A	4	66.7	6	1975	2005
3		September Veroe	1681	Stellenbosch A	4	66.7	6	1882	2007
4		Odendaal Frederick	2068	Port Elizabeth A	4	66.7	6	1863	1988
5		Solomons Remondo T.	1888	University of the Western Cape A	2.5	62.5	4	1932	2103
6		Nelson Wilfred	1769	Mitchells Plain A (FOORD MP)	3	60	5	1717	1711
7	FM	Solomons Deon	2111	Steinitz A	3	50	6	2018	2018
8		Hendriksz Gabriel	1769	University of Cape Town A	3	50	6	2005	2005
9	CM	Solomon Maxwell	2061	MRL A	3	50	6	1950	1950
10		Goredema Dione	1767	African Chess Lounge B	3	50	6	1837	1837
11		Mphuti Lebohang	1739	Zuckertort A	2.5	41.7	6	1851	1794
12		Baxter David Jarred	1714	Bellville A	2.5	41.7	6	1744	1595
13		Londt Christopher P	1714	MRL B	2	33.3	6	1839	1619
14		Willenberg Chad	1860	University of Cape Town B	1	25	4	1818	1625
15		Louw Jerome V.	1742	Capablanca A	1	20	5	1770	0

On board three fireworks was the order of the day. Paul Khuphwahea was the player scoring the points in Paul Morphy fashion by disposing of FM Shabier

Bhawoodien in a tactical melee, beating Bryan Aguirre and then drawing with CM Maxwell Solomon. He would've secured the board prize but for an extraordinary loss to Blows who played the Max Lange attack. Aguirre played solid chess throughout and secured the board prize with 4.5/6 with the better rating performance. Second place on the board went to Graham Solomon who scored 4.5 /6 with an average rating performance of 2070. Graham was an anchor for MRL. Graham is a graduate of philosophy of UWC (and brother of GM Kenny Solomon) and this year he played the entire WP league and now the National Clubs as well.

Board 3

Rank		Name	Rtg	Team	Pts	%	Games	RtgØ	ratP
1		Aguirre Bryan	1958	African Chess Lounge A	4.5	75	6	1884	2077
2		Solomon Graham	2034	MRL A	4.5	75	6	1877	2070
3	CM	Khuphwathea Paul C.	1818	Steinitz B	4.5	75	6	1765	1958
4		Willenberg Craig Glen	2026	Steinitz A	4	66.7	6	1918	2043
5		Jooste Marko	1564	Bellville A	4	66.7	6	1578	1703
6		Nkuna Mchuchisi Martin	1605	African Chess Lounge B	2.5	62.5	4	1677	1772
7	WIM	February Jesse Nikki	1897	University of the Western Cape A	3	50	6	1809	1809
8		Kromhout Alexander	2031	Port Elizabeth A	3	50	6	1774	1774
9		Amsterdam Nathan	1608	Stellenbosch A	3	50	6	1764	1764
10	FM	Bhawoodien Shabir Hussain	2007	Manyanani A	2.5	41.7	6	1912	1855
11		Essop Hishaam	1818	University of Cape Town A	2.5	41.7	6	1821	1764
12		Baatjies Thsepo	1724	Zuckertort A	2	33.3	6	1831	1706
13		Fritz Virgil J.	1432	Capablanca A	2	33.3	6	1700	1575
14	CM	Schnabel Johann Emil	1626	MRL B	1.5	25	6	1668	1475
15		Matsaung Thapelo Isack	1683	University of Cape Town B	0.5	8.3	6	1729	1328

Craig Willenberg played his heart out on board three for Steinitz A and narrowly lost out on board prizes because of too many draws. WIM Jesse February never really got going after losing in round two to Laurie when she was a piece up. Alexander Kromhout from PE would probably also be disappointed by his play as he sets his standards for himself. Perhaps the secret lies in the beard. FM Bhawoodien would've been disappointed in his score.

On board 4 Luka Elliot surprised many by his solid play when he scored 5/6 (83%) with a performance rating of 1822. He was very solid and in the game against Kenny Willenberg he should've converted as he had Kenny in deep trouble but he just didn't find the resource to win. I was observing Luka in the WP League

and he is playing good chess despite his 1796 rating. Taking second prize on the board was John Laurie from MRL. Laurie has been demolishing all before him in team chess this year. He seldom plays major events but as board four for MRL he has been unstoppable. Before the game I told Kenny Willenberg that he cannot lose for the second time in the season to Laurie as he had lost in the league to him. Kenny then dusted himself off and played a brilliant game to beat Laurie. Kenny was third on the board with 4.5 /6 with a relating performance of 2041. An honourable mention must be made of Them bani Manaba of Zukertort cc (Bloemfontein) who also played well and scored 4.5 /6.

Board 4

Rank		Name	Rtg	Team	Pts	%	Games	RtgØ	ratP
1		Elliott Luka	1706	University of Cape Town B	5	83.3	6	1549	1822
2		Laurie John D	1904	MRL A	4	80	5	1765	2005
3		Willenberg Kenneth Sean	2021	Steinitz A	4.5	75	6	1848	2041
4		Manaba Them bani	1601	Zuckertort A	4.5	75	6	1756	1934
5		Erlank Warrick	1921	Manyanani A	4	66.7	6	1895	2020
6	AIM	Salimu Reuben	1957	African Chess Lounge A	4	66.7	6	1864	1894
7		Blows Kian	1110	African Chess Lounge B	4	66.7	6	1637	1762
8		Moses Rodwin	1476	Mitchells Plain A (FOORD MP)	2.5	62.5	4	1743	1758
9		Van Schaik Michael	1557	Bellville A	3.5	58.3	6	1627	1612
10		Jacobs Kevin T	1928	Port Elizabeth A	3	50	6	1684	1684
11		Willenberg Athon	1967	Steinitz B	2.5	50	5	1840	1840
12		Latela Kananelo	1795	University of Cape Town A	2	33.3	6	1779	1654
13		Balie Ryan	1506	Capablanca A	2	33.3	6	1553	1428
14		Palmer Keagan	1317	Stellenbosch A	1.5	25	6	1689	1496
15		Van Niekerk Robyn Julian	1648	MRL B	1	25	4	1655	1462

Kevin Jacobs would've been disappointed with his play and score after his brilliant SA Open performance in Durban in July. Warrick Erlank was a star for Manyanani who scored 4/6 on board four. Rodwin Moses from Mitchell's Plain beat Alex Kromhout while Kian Blows beat Paul K should've brought that point home.

On board five Ashley Schuller combined a working weekend with some chess and scored fifty percent 2/4 to secure first prize on fifth board for Steinitz B. Justin Lynch from MRL also scored fifty percent but with lesser games.

Board 5

Rank	Name	Rtg	Team	Pts	%	Games	RtgØ	ratP
1	Schuller Ashley	1987	Steinitz B	2	50	4	1691	1691
2	Lynch Justin	1864	MRL A	1.5	50	3	1623	1623
3	Hastie Sachin	1674	University of Cape Town A	2.5	41.7	6	1720	1663
4	Kleinsmidt Cherwin	1839	University of the Western Cape A	2	40	5	1779	1707
5	Saunders Matthew	1366	Mitchells Plain A (FOORD MP)	1	16.7	6	1524	1251

PRESTIGE B – SECTION

In the B section Jacques Basson from Chess Kings (West Coast) scored 5.5 /6 to secure first prize on board one in the B section. Jacques is a solid player and his 1625 rating doesn't do justice to his chess understanding. The next three players Ethan Samuels, Changrui Yu (both Steinitz) and Malcolm Fredericks (Uitsig) also scored 5/6 but the second board prize went to Samuels who had a better field and had a rating performance of 1798. It is good to see Malcolm Fredericks play board one for club after sitting on board three in the WP league.

Board 1

Rank	Name	Rtg	Team	Pts	%	Games	RtgØ	ratP
1	Basson Jacques	1625	Chess Kings	5.5	91.7	6	1354	1755
2	Samuels Ethan	1708	Steinitz C	5	83.3	6	1525	1798
3	Yu Changrui	1536	Steinitz D	5	83.3	6	1465	1738
4	Fredericks Malcolm	1767	Uitsig	5	83.3	6	1356	1629
5	Richard Nicolas	1510	ACL C	4	80	5	1391	1521
6	Diamond Ruben	1561	UWC B	4.5	75	6	1492	1685
7	Brown Shaun	1553	Blackjacks B	4	66.7	6	1489	1614
8	Briedenhann Corne	1470	Life is Good	3	60	5	1347	1449
9	Dhevcharran Kahill	1372	Steinitz E	3.5	58.3	6	1536	1593
10	Baloyi Xikombi	1856	Blackjacks A	3.5	58.3	6	1478	1535
11	Salem Abdarahim	1491	CPUT A	3.5	58.3	6	1385	1442
12	Muller Neyton	1412	Bellville B	3.5	58.3	6	1294	1351

13	Lague Sebastian	1398	Grassy Park A	3	50	6	1444	1528
14	Fittock Luke	813	Young Knights	2.5	50	5	1219	1027
15	Schutte Rico	1470	PECC B	2.5	41.7	6	1483	1352
16	Gallied Stephen	1578	Manyanani B	2.5	41.7	6	1461	1404
17	Farao Franco	1375	Worcester CC	2.5	41.7	6	1354	1297
18	Maxwell Christian	1046	Drakenstein Dragons A	2.5	41.7	6	1210	1194
19	Joao Erineu	1153	CPUT B	2.5	41.7	6	1208	1151
20	Khwezi Jackson	1011	TSiBA	2	40	5	1354	1282
21	Duba Mpumzi	1291	UWC D	2	40	5	1194	1038
22	Willenberg Kurt	1316	UWC C	2	33.3	6	1446	1321
23	Louw Carlo	1320	Steinitz F	2	33.3	6	1384	1259
24	Olkers Declan	844	Steinitz H	1.5	30	5	1087	938
25	Fortune Ivan	1184	Steinitz G	0.5	12.5	4	1377	1055
26	Richards Ezekiel	0	The Four Knights	0	0	5	1143	343

On second board Jamie Geduldt scored 5/6 to register the board prize. Geduld is a patient player and cannot be underestimated as he has years of chess understanding. Ethan Felix from Steinitz and has been playing well and it is good that he is showing fine form. Warren Galant from Blackjacks B scored a comfortable 4.5/6 and showed good form.

Board 2

Rank	Name	Rtg	Team	Pts	%	Games	RtgØ	ratP
1	Geduldt Jamie	1629	Blackjacks A	5	83.3	6	1343	1616
2	Felix Ethon	1361	Steinitz E	4	80	5	1464	1704
3	Galant Warren	1572	Blackjacks B	4.5	75	6	1453	1646
4	Arnold Mogamad	1319	Condogreen Mplain B	3.5	70	5	1141	1290
5	Thevan Lucian	799	Drakenstein Dragons A	4	66.7	6	1196	1430
6	Marcus Hendrik	1384	Elsies Blitzkrieg	4	66.7	6	1180	1208
7	Frank Daniel	1464	Life is Good	2.5	62.5	4	1536	1631
8	Ohlson Cecil	1510	Grassy Park A	3	60	5	1360	1432

9		Siyo Sibabale	1246	Steinitz F	3	60	5	1260	1332
10		Mzimane Mbali	1388	CPUT A	3.5	58.3	6	1292	1349
11		Ellman Basil	1307	Chess Kings	3.5	58.3	6	1172	1207
12		Van Zyl Albrecht	1211	Worcester CC	3	50	6	1282	1282
13		Kaunda John	1469	Uitsig	3	50	6	1256	1184
14		Wright Adrian	1446	Bellville B	3	50	6	1193	1193
15		Dreyer Christof	797	Steinitz H	2	50	4	1127	0
16		Cakwebe Avuyile	1228	UWC D	2	50	4	914	827
17	CM	De Jager Andreas	1712	Steinitz C	2.5	41.7	6	1477	1420
18		Willenberg Keagan	940	Steinitz G	2	40	5	1372	1348
19		Hlakula Thando	1146	Crossroads A	2	33.3	6	1518	1393
20		Willenberg Shaun	1574	Steinitz D	2	33.3	6	1385	1260
21		Lekay Dawynne	1135	CPUT B	2	33.3	6	1074	1058
22		Berrange Anton	1379	PECC B	1.5	25	6	1395	1202
23		Maqungo Sandiso	1205	ACL C	1	25	4	1462	1269
24		Fittock Kaylee	625	Young Knights	1	20	5	1123	883
25		Lewaks Shaundre	0	The Four Knights	0	0	5	1020	220

On board three Bruce Masama (CPUT B) scored an emphatic 6/6 to register a perfect score. The only one of the event. Well done Bruce! In second position was CM Bartoli Flores who scored 5.5/ 6 and who assisted Manyanani to secure the B section as well. There were streams of players with 4/6 following them.

Board 3

Rank		Name	Rtg	Team	Pts	%	Games	RtgØ	ratP
1		Masama Bruce	1518	CPUT A	6	100	6	1212	2012
2	CM	Flores Bartoli Andrew	1592	Manyanani B	5.5	91.7	6	1368	1769
3		Van Wyk Aldrich	1337	Life is Good	4	66.7	6	1366	1491
4		Willenberg Glen	1664	Steinitz C	4	66.7	6	1363	1488
5		Jansen Lyle	1275	Grassy Park A	4	66.7	6	1298	1423
6		Strydom De-Leon	1424	PECC B	4	66.7	6	1207	1332

7	Daniels George	1326	Uitsig	4	66.7	6	1101	1226
8	Moyo Sibabalwe	1246	Steinitz F	3	60	5	1360	1432
9	Fritz Kaylyn	1565	UWC B	3.5	58.3	6	1391	1448
10	Thompson Themba	785	Crossroads A	3	50	6	1388	1388
11	Mentoor Theodor	1396	Blackjacks B	3	50	6	1299	1299
12	Felix Devon	1417	Steinitz D	3	50	6	1284	1284
13	Kay Isaac	1284	Elsies Blitzkrieg	3	50	6	1103	1103
14	Willenberg Ivan	1348	Steinitz E	2.5	50	5	1284	1284
15	Willis Cronan	822	Steinitz H	2	50	4	981	981
16	Williams Dale	1226	Bellville B	2.5	41.7	6	1007	950
17	Plaatjies Eddie	644	Young Knights	2	40	5	1059	866
18	Neethling Vincent	703	Worcester CC	2	33.3	6	1092	967
19	Resandt Arthur	1073	CPUT B	2	33.3	6	1028	903
20	Samuels Rowen	1060	UWC C	1.5	25	6	1254	1061
21	Ariefdien Dominique	915	Steinitz G	1	20	5	1217	977
22	Richards Elijah	0	The Four Knights	1	20	5	860	620
23	Saunders Joe	1301	Condogreen Mplain B	1	16.7	6	1133	860
24	Plaatjies Philip Pete	909	Chess Kings	0.5	8.3	6	1072	671

On board four Miguel Thompson from Mitchell's Plain B scored 5.5 /6 to secure the boardprize. Roland Willenberg (Steinitz) showed why he is a top coach when he scored 5/6 to secure the second prize on this board. Wian Schutte and Adrian Alberts also scored 5/6 with a lower rating average and rating performance.

Rank	Name	Rtg	Team	Pts	%	Games	RtgØ	ratP
1	Thompson Miguel	1037	Condogreen Mplain B	5.5	91.7	6	926	1327
2	Willenberg Roland	1630	Steinitz C	5	83.3	6	1316	1589
3	Schutte Wian	1449	PECC B	5	83.3	6	1175	1363
4	Alberts Adriaan	0	Worcester CC	5	83.3	6	1042	1300
5	De Kock Cian	826	Steinitz G	4	80	5	1071	1311

6	Willenberg Tristan	1384	Steinitz D	4.5	75	6	1310	1503
7	Meiring Victor	1491	Blackjacks A	3	75	4	1245	1438
8	Esau Omar	1352	Manyanani B	4	66.7	6	1227	1352
9	Barnard Brendon	1150	UWC C	4	66.7	6	1135	1243
10	Olkers Lleyton	1356	Steinitz E	3	60	5	1366	1438
11	Samuels Kieran	1286	Steinitz F	3	60	5	1193	1130
12	Daniels Steven	1435	Uitsig	3	60	5	1088	1191
13	Mamba Sonke	734	UWC D	3	60	5	912	960
14	Nkosana Luvuyo	651	Crossroads A	3.5	58.3	6	1227	1284
15	Ohlson Liam	1029	Grassy Park A	3.5	58.3	6	1126	1183
16	Coetzee Philip	1248	Life is Good	3	50	6	1288	1288
17	Roberts Christopher	1330	Blackjacks B	3	50	6	1110	1110
18	Snyman Johannes	1084	Bellville B	3	50	6	1003	1003
19	Pause Angelo	1232	Elsies Blitzkrieg	3	50	6	980	980
20	Carelse Jarred	1374	UWC B	2	50	4	1329	1329
21	Blows Kiara	1043	ACL C	2	50	4	1191	1191
22	Maxwell Tristan	617	Drakenstein Dragons A	2	33.3	6	1131	971
23	Williams Vogan	0	The Four Knights	1	20	5	963	723
24	Ellman Anne Belle	565	Young Knights	1	20	5	917	677
25	Lewaks Andre	1000	Chess Kings	1	16.7	6	1182	909

On board five Junior Mncwabe(UWC) scored 4/5 to secure a prize for UWC while Andre Pearce scored 3/4 to assist Manyanani to secure the B section title.

Board 5

Rank	Name	Rtg	Team	Pts	%	Games	RtgØ	ratP
1	Mncwabe Minenhle Junior	1354	UWC B	4	80	5	1356	1599
2	Pearce Andre	1389	Manyanani B	3	75	4	1357	1550
3	Louw Llewellyn	1590	Blackjacks A	4	66.7	6	1150	1275
4	Makwatie Deon	1080	Life is Good	2	66.7	3	1284	1409

5		Witbooi Lee-Roy	1277	UWC C	2	66.7	3	971	1096
6	CM	Thakersee Akshay	1125	Steinitz F	2	66.7	3	908	1033
7		Williams Brett	931	Steinitz G	3	60	5	970	1042
8		Kedama Sandiso	636	Crossroads A	2.5	41.7	6	1239	1182
9	CM	Thakersee Rishay	1214	Steinitz E	1	33.3	3	1407	1282
10		Fortuin Chad	0	Drakenstein Dragons A	1	33.3	3	896	771
11		Price Shaun	1103	Elsies Blitzkrieg	1	33.3	3	888	763
12		Siyo Ayabulela	687	Steinitz H	1	33.3	3	863	738
13		Smith Xavier	955	Condogreen Mplain B	1	25	4	1168	0
14		Ndimande Nqobani	0	UWC D	1	25	4	917	217
15		Mcgregor Marion	0	CPUT B	1	20	5	1154	914
16		Alexander Justin	0	TSiBA	1	20	5	1093	853
17		Sithole Anoona	817	ACL C	0.5	12.5	4	1057	735
18		Tsengiwe Sepatie	529	CPUT A	0	0	3	1244	444

I congratulate all the winners of the respective board prizes. The games were hard fought in all divisions.

I sincerely hope that SA can send teams to the African Club Championships in 2018. The second African Club Championship was held in Egypt in July 2017 (the first one was held in Cape Town in 2010).

I thank Chessa and the organisers in the Western Cape for a job well done and a superlative effort by the arbiters and local organising committee and congratulate Manyanani for their great success.



Regards

Dr Adv Lyndon Bouah