

## Reflections SA Closed (5) by Dr Adv Lyndon Bouah



The tournament is starting to take shape. The players are playing to participate in the SA Olympiad squad as well as various other African events. Let's look at a few Olympians in the field:

Open:

1. Charles De Villiers who made his Olympiad debut in 1974! And thereafter in 1992, 1994 and 1998.
2. IM Johannes Manyedi Mabusela who made his debut in 2008 and thereafter in 2010 and 2012
3. FM Calvin Klaasen who made his debut in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2016
4. IM Donovan van Den Heever who made his debut in 2006 and continued to play in 2010, 2014 and 2016.
5. And of course IM Watu Kobese who played in ten Olympiads already  
1994, 1996, 1998, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016 !  
He has played over 100 games for South Africa at the Chess Olympiads. He was the first Centurion.

In the Women Section the following Olympiad players are competing

1. WIM Jesse February who made her debut in 2016 in Azerbaijan
2. Robyn Van Niekerk who made her debut in Norway in 2014
3. WFM Michelle Fisher who made her debut in Norway 2014
4. WIM Denise Frick who has played in six Olympiads starting in 2000

5. WIM Anzel Laubscher has played in Seven Olympiads starting in 1998

So things will be warming up!

Let's look at what happened today:

Open

1. Watu Kobese crushed KG Mosehle in a well played Kings Indian. Kobese was on fire. Have a look at the game.

2. Mabusela versus Bhawoodien was probably better for Mabusela but he didn't want to risk and decided to take the draw rather than play for the win with a minuscule advantage. His tournament strategy will be seen in later rounds!

3. Van Den Heever versus Barrish ended in a draw after Barrish was better in the endgame. Donovan played a Fischer like Bxa7 and survived to tell the tale!

4. Mnguni versus De Villiers was a nice game for the young man. He beat Charles at the end and he is now on 2/3. A good start from the debutant.

5. Van Rensburg versus Ovcina. I thought that Ovcina was looking good but Ryan soon disabused me by winning the game!

6. Hercules versus Klaasen was a strong game by Klaasen. Despite a Herculean effort by Ben, Klaasen had a small advantage which he pressed home.

Women

1. Grobbelaar beat Sonia Modi. Jacqui is having the tournament of her life so far.

2. Joubert versus Robyn Van Niekerk. The young Joubert won the game,

3. Megan Van Niekerk lost to Michelle Fisher.

4. Anzel Laubscher beat Marni Oberholzer

5. Nina Marais lost to Jesse February

6. Denise Frick beat Charlize van Zyl

3. Senior

1. Lawrence versus Deon Pick was a solid win for Lawrence.

2. Southey versus Lewis was an interesting game. Dr Southey did not want to draw and instead played for the win. Mark then consolidated and brought the point home.

3. Fredericks versus Pesa was a good win by Pesa.

4. Goosen beat Saffier

5. November lost to Ohlson

6. Bhawoodien beat Willenberg

Bhawoodien is intent on showing who is boss in this section!

Under 23

1. Van Der Merwe lost to de Jager .

2. Bornheim versus Adams petered out into a draw.

3. Lubbe lost to Du Plessis

4. Verster lost fairly quickly to Khumalo

5. Gluckman lost to Du Toit who seems to have woken up after that shocker in round one,

6. Bye

B section

1. Kleinsmidt lost quickly to James! James now assumes the lead.

2. Willenberg beat Kromhout in a nicely played game.

3. Erlank lost to Nkosi

4. Basson drew with Jacobs

5. Lawerlot lost to Vermaak

6. Mfundisi lost to Basson

7. Gandi versus Kuhlase was a long drawn out affair that ended in a draw. Gandi pushed but couldn't bring the point home.

## Conclusion

It's still early days with the nerves settling and the players now getting into the routine. The games are on chess24 and were also broadcast in the hall as well.

Enjoy the day!

Regards.

Dr Adv Lyndon Bouah