

Reflections SA Closed Round 8 by Dr Adv Lyndon Bouah



Ken Whyld released a book entitled the Guinness Chess the Records in 1986. He lists all the winners of the SA Closed since the event began. I cross referenced with Mr Leonard Reitstein who wrote the History of Chess in South Africa. Whyld gives the following on page 114:

- 1892 - Roberts (Reitstein gives Rivett first and then Roberts both with 9.5)
- 1897 - Roberts
- 1899. - Micheal
- 1903. - Lee
- 1906. - Siegheim
- 1910 - Duhan
- 1912 - Seigheim
- 1920 - Cameron and Chavkin
- 1924. - Chavkin
- 1926 - Blieden
- 1928 - Blieden
- 1935 - Archer
- 1937 - Dreyer
- 1939 - Heidenfeld
- 1945 - Heidenfeld and Holford
- 1947- Heidenfeld
- 1949 - Heidenfeld
- 1951 - Heidenfeld
- 1953 - Eriksen

1955 - Heidenfeld
1957 - Heidenfeld
1959- Heidenfeld and Kirby
1961 - Gerber
1963 - Kirby and Van Den Meyden
1965 - Kroon
1967 - Friedgood
1969 - Kroon
1971 - Friedgood
1973 - Friedgood
1975 - Kroon and De Villiers
1977 - Walker and De Villiers
1979 - Korostenki
1981 - De Villiers
1983 - McFarlane
1985 - De Villiers and Wolpe
1986. - Shabier Bhawoodien
1987 - De Villiers and Deon Pick
1988 - Maxwell Solomon
1989 - De Villiers

1990 - Deon Solomons
1991 - Deon Solomons
1993 - Michelakis
1994 - Solomons
1995 - Gluckman
1998 - Rubery and Kobese
2000 - Van Der Nat
2001 - Kobese
2003 - Kobese and Solomon
2005 - Van Der Nat
2007 - Steel
2009 - Van Der Nat
2011 - Steel and Kobese
2013- Van Den Heever
2015 - Cawdery

The player with the most SA Closed titles is Wolfgang Heidenfeld. Between 1939 and 1959 he won the national championship no less than 8 times and on the last occasion according to Rietstein he was also the champion of Ireland. Heidenfeld's greatest success was in 1955 when he tied with W.J Muhring above ex world champion Max Euwe at the Johannesburg International.

Heidenfeld wrote prolifically for the South African Chessplayer and also wrote several books including Lacking the Master Touch, a collection of his own games, and Draw! An acclaimed collection of drawn games from master play. Heidenfeld played in the Olympiad for South Africa and Ireland

and his son Mark later represented Ireland as well.

In this day and age we may never have another player dominating with 8 championships over 20 years. De Villiers is second with 6 titles followed by Kobese with four and then a number of players with 3.

From about 1986 Two SA chess championships were held. In 1984 a black South African chess body was formed to represent players who believed in non-racial chess. This body staged their own chess championships as well. Players such as Deon Solomons, Maxwell Solomon, Gordon Lawrence, Shabier Bhawoodien, Jannie Saffier, Mark Lewis, Roland Willenberg, and Lyndon Bouah came from this body.

It is a matter of debate whether the 1993 and 1994 SA Trials were also SA Closed. I am going to submit that they were and must be counted as such because the best players in the country were invited to play and participated in both events. So for the completeness of the record books I am enclosing both those events with winners as well as the winners of the SA Closed played by the black chess body as those records must also be counted.

Today was the day of reconciliation in South Africa but on the board it was anything but! In the Open section both leaders tried their best but could not break down their opponents. Calvin Klaasen was a bit fortunate to survive a piece down against Barrish.

Kobese tried his best to win an opposite colour bishop ending against Mohammed Bhawoodiem. However Modini showed his pedigree and held the draw.

Charles played against the Benko Gambit and proceeded to beat Denis Ovcina!

The Atteridgeville Shark, Johannes Mabusela beat Ben Hercules to draw level with Kobese and Klaasen. Now going into the final three rounds these three now have it all to lose. The top two gets into the Olympiad team directly!

Ryan Van Rensburg inflicted the second consecutive defeat on Van Den Heever.

In the women's section

The big surprise was Megan van Niekerk beating Laubscher. Megan played hard and defeated the Dutch. I am sure Anzel will bounce back.

Jesse February secured her lead by beating Michelle Fisher.

Denise Frick beat Jacqui Grobbelaar to secure second place in the standing.



Modi and Oberholzer drew their game.

van Zyl beat Robyn van Niekerk after some adventures.

Nina Marais beat Dantelle Joubert.

An exciting finish is envisaged.

Senior section

Deon pick beat Jannie Saffier in an exciting game in which knights caused a nightmare for Saffier!

Ohlson surprised me by beating Pesa.

Willenberg held Lewis to a draw!

Bhawoodien beat Lawrence to keep up the pressure on Lewis.



Under 23

De Jager beat Khumalo.

Du Plessis and du Toit drew.

Adams and Essop drew.

Bornheim beat Paul Gluckman



Lubbe lost to Verster.

B section

The bid surprise was Micheal James losing to Vermaak in under an hour.

That allowed Kleinsmidt to beat Basson to take the lead.

Kenny Willenberg beat Lawerlot!

Alex Kromhout drew with Heinrich Basson

Jacobs beat Nkosi.

Gandi beat Mfundisi.

So the scene is set!

Regards

Lyndon