

Wp Awards evening 2017 – Dr Lyndon Bouah



The National Sport and Recreation Plan of 2011 enjoins us to acknowledge and recognise our heroes and heroines. The recognition given to our stars of 2017 is all important as it allows us to measure our success as well as to acknowledge the top players, clubs, teams and athletes of this past year.

The year started off with a flourish when the WP juniors fared exceptionally at the SAJCC event held in Johannesburg. The event was very competitive and augurs well for our district that we have such committed administrators, parents and players that enrich this event. I wish you well for the event that will be held in January 2018.

The Cape of Good Hope event, which traditionally kicks off the year was held in late January 2017. This event has been the event where players kick off the year and announce themselves. IM Watu Kobese announced himself by winning all seven games in this event, well done to the Lion of Africa.

In the WP Open we had upsets from the first round when Micheal James announced himself in emphatic style by beating Watu. FM Calvin Klaasen raced to an early lead and never relinquished the lead. Well done to FM a Klaasen who then held the WP Open and WP Closed titles at the same time. The event was held at the Western Cape Sport School and was well attended. I have been away from the tournament for too long because when I went to fetch a clock I was asked if I am playing in the C section!

One of the highlights of the first quarter in the Western Cape was the Nelson Mandela 27 min aside event held at Drakenstein prison. The event was won by WIM Khadija Latreche steel ahead of many WP players. The event will be held on 3 February 2018 and we look forward to Sabrina defending her title.

Our WP juniors then participated in the SA Junior Closed championship in Gauteng where number of new champions were crowned. WP Juniors did us proud:

U20G – WIM Jesse February (Gold), WFM Charne Woolf (Silver)

U180 – FM Keegan Agulhas (Gold)

U160 – Jordan Vester (Gold)

U140 – CM Dante Eaton (Gold)
U120 - Alexander Van Der Merwe (Silver)
U100 – Reagan Palmer (Silver), Migael Van Schaik (Bronze)
U80 – Caden Spiller (Silver)

Steinitz then hosted their annual Steinitz open which was in 2017 very special as it was their 40th anniversary. GM Grover from India won this event held in Bellville South with many top WP players competing in it. The event is becoming a good marker on the calendar and I wish the club well in its preparation for 2018 as I understand the event is in March 2018.

In late April IM Henry Steel participated in the BRICS event in China. He did all of us proud by scoring 1.5 points against a strong field of grandmasters. He drew with the two Chinese grandmasters both rated over 2700.

The Mitchell's Plain open was held in the first week of May. This event is also becoming a regular fixture on the calendar and it speaks to the strength of CWP that so many clubs organise their own events. The surprise winner was Dione Goredena who is an up and coming player.

Many WP players travelled to Gauteng in April and early May to compete in the Capablanca and other allied festivals. Notable achievements include WIM Dr Denise Frick winning the first prize in the Rapids in Johannesburg and FM Daniel Barrish beating Grandmaster Sri JHA in round one of the Grandmaster section of Capablanca. This must surely be the youngest win by a WP player against a grandmaster?

In June 2017 GM Kenny Solomon made all of us proud by winning the zone 4.3 individual championship in Zambia. GM Kenny started off with four blistering wins and then settled down to win the event in superb fashion thus qualifying for the World Champions which was held in September 2017 in Georgia. GM Solomon was paired against super GM Fabiano Caruana who defeated him.



In June 2017 we were also learnt of the death of our Chessa President Eldo Smart. Mr. Smart was a pillar of our WP chess and indeed SA chess having served in various administrative capacities in various posts since 2002. We will miss him but we will remember the strong principled values that he stood for and that we will never forget the indelible contribution he has made to chess in this district and in South Africa. Grandmaster Solomon dedicates his victory in the event to Mr. Eldo Smart.

In the Women's section WCM Michelle Fisher did us all proud by coming second in the event and also securing her WFM title. She played exciting chess and is a player to watch. Hot in her heels were WIM Anzel Laubscher and Protea debutant Dantelle Joubert. All of them did Western Province proud.

In July 2017 the SA Open was held in Durban. The top South African was IM Watu Kobese who was playing superb chess. He had all of us on the edge of our seats !

The African individual chess championship was held in Algeria and was a great success for IM Daniel Cawdery who beat grandmasters Adly and El Gindy to secure second place behind Grandmaster Bassem. In the Women's section WIM Jesse February did all of us proud by securing her first WGM norm and ending in the top three after starting with a win against WGM Mona Khaled. Congrats Jesse.

In July 2017 the Wp league commenced at the Wittebome Civic centre. The league this year was 110 years old with the first league commencing in 1907. The league had four divisions and boasted 77 teams and 818 individual players. The league is a highlight in the calendar of CWP and South Africa. Players from far and wide competed for league honours. Well done to Lorenzo Van Niekerk and his MRL club for winning the league for the first time. You assembled a classy team who didn't falter once!



I also wish to single out Crossroads chess club who won the D division in their first attempt. Well

done to Crossroads who I am sure will go from strength to strength. The minister of Cultural Affairs, Minister Anroux Marais, also visited the female players during the league.



The Eldo Smart interprovincial championship was held in Bloemfontein in late August 2017. The WP Open team ended in the event behind Gauteng and I am sure they will look to avenge this when they compete again. In the women's section the Western Cape ladies won their division and brought the trophy home. Well done to the Western Cape Ladies team that consisted of WIM Denise Frick, WIM Jesse February, Robyn Van Niekerk and Kaylin Fritz.

In September 2017 the chess season ended with the hosting of the national Club league at UWC. A great venue was followed by superb chess. The winners were Manyanani who not only won the A section but also wrapped up the B section as well. Well done to Dr Omar Esau and his teams for the superb performance throughout the year. You showed grit and determination and WP can be proud of stalwart clubs such as Manyanani.

The year ended off tragically with the sad death of Graham Solomon who is a four time WP league champion. We salute him and know that his spirit is with us and we remember his contributions to team play in particular.

I wish everyone well at the prize giving tonight and know that each one of you are winners in your own right.

Regards.

Dr Advocate Lyndon Bouah