

Reflections 9: 2018 – Kobese dominate WP Open 2018 by Dr Advocate Lyndon Bouah

The first week of March is traditionally the WP Open. The event was held at Bellville Technical High School. It's principal, Mr Koopman, is a keen Chessplayer, and obtained his Eastern Province chess colours in the 1980s. The WP Open is one of Cape Town's oldest events and attracts many players from across the Western Cape.



Mr Koopman handing over winner's prize to IM Watu Kobese at COGH Open

This year the event was played in different sections. A FIDE Elite Section had 12 players, which was followed by the FIDE Prestige section and thereafter we had three more sections. All the results are at the end of the event but I will concentrate on the highlights of the Elite Section.

In the Elite Section IM Watu Kobese completely dominated the field. He scored an impressive 6/6 and was not in any danger at any stage. Kobese showed his class by cutting to shreds the opposition which consisted of many young, hungry lions. He showed his mettle by effortlessly playing superb chess and

was simply impressive. His attacking prowess was on full display and I enjoyed his games. It seems that many of his opponents when they play IM Kobese on stage got stage fright! The game was sometimes finished before I had my second coffee of the round. Kobese singled out his game against Kenny Willenberg as one of his best of the event. I include the game here for enjoyment. Well done Watu. His second victory for the year after winning the Cape of Good Hope event with an unbeaten 5/6. He now readies himself for the Steinitz Open where I am sure he will attempt a hattrick of tournament wins. Hopefully they first prize of R4000 attracts him! We wish him well.

In second position was Mohammed Bhawoodien popularly known as Mo. Mo scored 4.5 only losing to Kobese and a draw with Litha Hempe. Litha is from Nelson Mandela bay and has recently registered at UCT. Hempe did well in scoring 3.5. His coach from Nelson Mandela, Mr Jannie Saffier, can be justly proud of the young man. Mohammed Bhawoodien often had a spot of bother in time trouble but this never seemed to faze him! We wish Mo well when he makes his zone 4.3 debut in Mozambique in April.



Dr Solomons with Wate Kobese and Mohammed Bhawoodien at WP Open Prize giving

In third position was Paul Gluckman. A likeable young man he was pleasant to chat with and was cracking jokes before the games. This shows his confidence and he is already a player to watch for the future.

It was good to see Rebecca Selkirk participating as she too will be making his debut at the Zone 4.3 event in Mozambique.

In the Prestige section Dione Goredema lived up to his ranking by finishing with 5/6. He has impressed me with his play and his enthusiasm and play makes him a popular winner. He was unbeaten and was not really in any trouble. A number of players ended on 4.5 as can be seen from the cross table but the one I wish to single out is Ethan Samuels who scored a whopping 52 rating points in the event. Well done to Dione and all the second placed players. Robyn Van Niekerk was the top rated female in the section. She held her own and I was pleased to see her take many games down to the wire and she was not shy to use all her time in analysing the position!



Reginal Sinden handing over Prestige Section first prize to Dione Goredema

In the B Section WP Vice President Reggie Sinden showed his stripes by scoring 5.5 /6. He only allowed one draw but it was clear that his experience was far beyond his rating of 1481. I was impressed with Takudzwa Chiriya , a young female Zimbabwean who scored 5/6 and ended second in this section. she plays for Kraaifontein chess club and I am sure we will hear more about her in subsequent events,

In the C Section Lee Dafydd and Ismail Umar both scored 5.5/6 to secure joint first in the event. This section was very popular and had players of all ages in this section.

In the D Section 8 players competed in the section which was won by Kael Beech (tie break) and Ruben Pfaff second who both scored 3.5/5.



Kael Beech with RA Elfreda Louw

Watu Kobese sent us this game against Kenny Willenberg from the WP Open 2018

1.e4 c5. 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cd 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bc4 e6 7. Bb3 b5. 8. Be3 Be7 9. f4 Qc7 10. a3 Nc6 11. f5 Nxd4 12. Bxd4 e5 13. Bf2 Bb7 14. OO OO 15. Qf3 Rfd8 16. Rbd1 Bc6. 17.g4 Qb7 18. Rfe1 h6 19. h4 Rac8 20. g5 hg 21 hg Nh7 22. g6 Ng5 23. Qh5 Bf6 24. Be3 Ne4 25. Nd5 Bxd5 26. Bxd5 Ng3 and resigns

We look forward or seeing all of you at the Steinitz Open starting in 21 March.

Regards

Dr Adv Lyndon Bouah