

Reflections 3 on Capablanca by Dr Lyndon Bouah

The event is turning into quite a tough one for me. I lost both games today, and it's not that I am playing badly. My opponents simply see further than what I am seeing at present. I think the rustiness is now showing. I play too little to compete against the new young crop of players coming through. I will continue to play hard as it has just been unfortunate that I had the black pieces three times in first four rounds. However I am no quitter so will give my all in the last five rounds. Wish me luck!

We are playing at the wonderful Maslow hotel. As I was contemplating my moves I was thinking of my hierarchy of needs. I need a safe king, and some points and my self-esteem is taking a beating! My king has not been his safest ever so he is suffering a bit. I am staying with my wife's brother who makes the wonderful lasagna and other dishes, note to self. I must learn to cook. It will impress my wife, the way I am playing now I may as well contemplate a new hobby!lets just agree that at this stage in Maslows hierarchy safe king and points are basic needs!

The grandmaster event is following its normal course. The grandmasters tend to draw with each other and the high rated players and then try to take points off the lower rated players. So that's the secret. In my section I am the lower rated player so I must note this secret!

Jack van Zyl Rudd is having a good run of form. He drew with Grandmaster Hoffman and then was offered a draw by GM Strikovic. Jack tuned the draw down and went on to lose. Well, you can't say he didn't believe in himself. Sacrifices seem to abound in his games. Watu Kobese is of course very entertaining. In this latest round he essayed the Cochrane Gambit against the Petroff of Van Zyl Rudd. Have a look at the game. Full of twists and turns.

GM Grover seems to be racking up the points. He is currently sitting on 4.5/5. He hails from India and is currently based in Nelson Mandela Bay. (PS the current SA Open champion resides in Nelson Mandela Bay and the SA Women's Closed champion resides in PE! Is it something in the air?) He has taken the points against Kayonde, Klaasen and Railson from Madagascar. He seems to be the player to watch. IM Kayonde who always dresses impeccably (I really hope IM Kayonde can inspire some of our local players with his dress sense! There are some players who come with the same jersey since the 1980's!) plays aggressively and beat GM Hoffman last night.

I shared a few notes with GM Hoffman last night. I informed him that Argentina was the first country that South Africa played against in the 1992 Chess Olympiad when it was allowed to compete in the Philippines. The SA team lost 4-0 in this memorable encounter. In the last 1980s South Africa was also visited by GM Miguel Quinteros who played a match against FM Charles De Villiers on SABC. In rugby South Africa lost for the first time against Argentina last year!

IM Roselli from Uruguay is an experienced International Master and has represented Uruguay at a number of Olympiads. What many sport fans don't know is that Uruguay has won the Soccer World Cup twice already and of course all of us remember Luis Suarez and the hand of God that saw him stop a certain goal in the quarter final of the World Cup here in 2010!



IM Kobese vs IM Roselli

In the Masters section CM Donaldo Paiva seems to be the man to beat. He started off on a blistering 3/3! In the Round Robin A section CM Richard Mbedza seems to be the form player. He is playing well. In this section I witnessed Keith Khumalo drew with Albert Poneis who won the SA Open title in the 1970s. he also drew with Nedjo Stevanovic. So it is good that experienced is blended with youth.

In the Round Robin B section FM Dante Beukes from Namibia is the player to watch. He is playing well. He has played an impressive five events this year already so he is red hot at the moment. He played in March in the Boardwalk event in Nelson Mandela Bay, then the Steinitz Open in Cape Town, then joint first in the Namibian championship and then he competed in the zone 4.3 championship in Mozambique. Once he completes this event he travels to Zambia where he compete from 12 May in the African Champs.

I end off with some statistics.

In the GM section there are

Three grandmasters, three International masters, and three FIDE Masters. They represent seven countries being Argentina, India, Serbia, Madagascar, Uruguay, Zambia and South Africa.

In the Masters section the following countries are represented Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Zambia. There is one international Master, one Women international master, Three FIDE Masters and three Candidate Masters

Ranking crosstable after Round 5

Rk.		Name	Rtg	FED	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts.	TB1	TB2	TB3	TB4
1		GM Grover Sahaj	2490	IND	*			½	1	1		1		1	4,5	0,0	4	9,00	0,0
2		GM Strikovic Aleksa	2507	SRB		*	½	½		1	1		½		3,5	0,5	2	8,00	0,0
3		IM Roselli Mailhe Bernardo	2433	URU		½	*		1			½	½	1	3,5	0,5	2	6,75	0,0
4		IM Cawdery Daniel	2429	RSA	½	½		*	½			½		1	3,0	0,0	1	7,00	0,0
5		IM Kobese Watu	2336	RSA	0	0	½	*		1	1				2,5	0,0	2	4,50	0,0
6		IM Kayonde Andrew	2394	ZAM	0	0				*	1	½	1		2,5	0,0	2	3,75	0,0
7		FM Van Zyl-Rudd Jack	2252	RSA		0			0	0	*		½	1	1,5	0,0	1	1,75	0,0
8		FM Klaasen Calvin John	2272	RSA	0		½	½	0	½		*			1,5	0,0	0	4,50	0,0
9		GM Hoffman Alejandro	2488	ARG		½	½			0	½		*	0	1,5	0,0	0	4,25	0,0
10		FM Ralison Milanto Harifidy	2326	MAD	0		0	0			0		1	*	1,0	0,0	1	1,50	0,0

Enjoy the evening! The results are on www.chess-results.co.za

Regards.

Dr. Lyndon Bouah