

Reflections 2 on CWP League 2018 by Dr Lyndon Bouah

The Day of the Student



The WP chess league continued on 11 August 2018 at the Western Cape Sport School. The matches were tightly contested affairs with teams nowadays very evenly matched. In the main game MRL drew with African Chess Lounge 4-4 with the top board clash between FM Calvin Klaasen and IM Watu Kobese going down to the wire. The two players appeared to have contested a Kings Indian Defence with Kobese going for the kingside whilst Klaasen was happy to take the queenside. The match was action packed with spectators crowding the board to catch a glimpse of these two Olympian teammates (2016 Olympian teammates). The game ended in a win for Kobese after many adventures.

Steinitz played against UWC. The University of the Western Cape is an experienced team and they have this year won the university championship. Their players are all versatile and experienced. On top board I faced off against Cherwin Kleinsmidt. Cherwin won the SA Closed B section in December 2017 and is no slouch at the board. Cherwin plays very fast which is unnerving as most of his moves are accurate. At the board I was soon about fifteen to twenty minutes behind him in terms of time, and then suddenly I found a move f4 which put pressure on his position.

Cherwin now thought for no less than 60 minutes, yes! A whole hour before he replied. Now what to do when your thought goes for the big think. A few decades ago I remember that Mikhail Tal said that when he was thinking so deeply that he was thinking about how to get a hippo out of a swimmingly pool! I on the other hand needed to do something. So after seeing my opponent going for the Big Think I decide to go buy some coffee.



On the right, Cherwin Kleinsmidt busy with the Big Think

This of course allows me to wander between the boards and see the other games. I first started by checking out my team. All the boards seem to be ok. So I then went down the stage and saw MRL vs African Chess Lounge. Kobese vs Klaasen. Big game. Then on board two was CM Maxwell Solomon vs FM Charles De Villiers (1992 Olympian teammates). Maxwell won. So on those two boards were four Olympians with about close to 200 Olympiad caps. Remember Watu alone has over 100 caps!

So now I have my coffee and I go back to the board, my opponent is still thinking. So now fifteen minutes have passed. I take another walk. At this rate I can finish my 10 000 steps a day while he is thinking. One must think of ones health as well you know. I buy a second cup of coffee. I need to drink quickly because I received that uxorial look of why a second cup? Uxor is Latin for wife. My wife WIM Denise Bouah frowns on too much coffee. (I made up in the second round when I bought hot chocolate for her and coffee for me so I won some brownie points!).

Now thirty minutes have passed. I decided that I must also go visit the board to see what my opponent is seeing. Alas I couldn't see anything deep for him so I continued to do my walkabouts. I noticed that Chess really is a family affair. In the Cape Town team father IM David Gluckman sits on board one whilst his son FM Paul Gluckman plays board two. I noticed the van Niekerk sisters and then of course the Willenberg family as well.

My opponent moved at last and decided to sacrifice the piece rather than go a pawn down. I wrapped up the game soon afterwards. Steinitz won 7-1 with a great draw being played between FM Deon Solomons and Marcel Roberts

Stellenbosch narrowly beat Blackjacks 4.5 to 3.5. Kenny Willenberg drew with Professor Wagner whilst Dr Baloyi from Blackjacks beat Christian Cruywagen.

Cape Town and Grassy Park drew 4-4. During the game Neil Horne from Cape Town showed me on one of my walks during the Big Think that a pigeon that flew into the venue dropped a message next to his h1 square, Neil informed me that the pigeon probably wanted to play the Byrds opening!

Manyanani drew with Bellville 4-4. I am sure this is not a result that Manyanani wanted and this result probably put paid any title hopes they had, while Bellville will be happy with this result.

UCT beat CPUT 7-1 with that man Veroe September again showing great form by beating Mohammed

Bhawoodien. CPUT now have their backs to the wall as they have lost their first three matches by lopsided scores of seven to one which belies their true chess understanding.

In round four Steinitz played UCT. Last year these teams drew 4-4 so Steinitz was determined to get the points. This was however not going to be easy with the top two boards losing to UCT. Bhawoodien beat Bouah while Paul Darling continues his impressive run of form when he beat Craig Willenberg. Steinitz revealed their depth however by winning 5-3 with the bottom boards being impressive. Mark Lewis is in sublime form as well. He wrote to me to inform me of the following: "an interesting dual happened in my match today; I found my opponent was sleeping after going into deep analysis. I thought it best not to wake him up since it happened to Fischer as well. The blunder in that game was that his opponent woke Fischer up! "

African Chess Lounge beat CPUT 6.5 to 1.5. Unfortunately Reuben Salimu phone rang early on and had to give up the game.

MRL beat Bellville 6 -2 with Benny Levin holding FM Calvin Klaasen to a draw on board one. Benny is an old campaigner and Bellville has taken some valuable game points.

Manyanani beat Grassy Park 5.5 to 2.5. In the big match Dr Omar Esau beat Cecil Ohlson.!

Stellenbosch drew with Cape Town 4-4 while Blackjacks downed UWC 5.5 to 2.5. So quite a day of chess.

The cross table after four rounds shows MRL in first place with three wins and one draw, followed by Steinitz with the same match score as well as African Chess Lounge with three wins and a draw as well.

In the B section Steinitz B is currently leading after recording some solid victories today. They beat Belhar Knights 3.5 to 2.5 and then UCT 3.5 to 2.5.

I end off with the cross tables of all the top 3 sections!

Premier Section

Ranking crosstable																	
Rk.	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TB1	TB2	TB3	TB4
1	MRL	*	4				6½			6			7½	7	24,0	0	3986
2	Steinitz		*		4		5				7		7	7	23,0	0	3687
3	African Chess Lounge			4	*			4½	5				6½	7	20,0	0	3318
4	Stellenbosch			4		*	4½		4	5½				6	18,0	0	2971
5	Blackjacks					3½	*			4	5½	4½		5	17,5	0	2922
6	University of Cape Town		1½	3				*	5½				7	4	17,0	0	2783
7	Manyanani				3½			2½	*	4	5½			3	15,5	0	2645
8	Cape Town				3	4				*	4	4		3	15,0	0	2483
9	Bellville			2			4	4	4	*				3	14,0	0	2301
10	University of the Western Cape				1		2½	2½			*	5		2	11,0	0	1798
11	Grassy Park						3½	2½	4		3	*		1	13,0	0	2075
12	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	½	1	1½				1					*	0	4,0	0	711

B Section

Ranking crosstable

Rk.	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TB1	TB2	TB3	TB4
1	Steinitz B	*		3½			4½				3½	6	8	17,5	0	44,5	
2	Uitsig A		*	2		5				5		4	6	16,0	0	29,0	
3	Belhar Knights A	2½	4	*	4					5			6	15,5	0	39,5	
4	Mitchells Plain A			2	*		3½	5				3	5	13,5	0	25,5	
5	Stellenbosch B		1			*		2½	3½		5		4	12,0	0	19,0	
6	Steinitz C	1½			2½		*	4				4	4	12,0	0	17,0	
7	GPCA B					3½		*	2	3		3		4	11,5	0	21,5
8	Mitchells Plain B				1		2	4	*			3		3	10,0	0	16,0
9	Elsies River A			1		2½		3		*	3½			3	10,0	0	15,8
10	UCT B	2½	1							2½	*	4		2	10,0	0	9,0
11	Bellville B					1		3	3		2	*		2	9,0	0	10,8
12	Capablanca A	0	2		3		2						*	1	7,0	0	6,8

C Section

Ranking crosstable

Rk.	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TB1	TB2	TB3	TB4
1	Blackjacks B		*		3½			4	3½			6		8	17,0	0	47,5
2	Sanlam A			*		2				5½	6		5	6	18,5	0	20,5
3	Crossroads A			2½	*	4	4						6	6	16,5	0	28,0
4	Maties				2	*	4		3½			3½		6	13,0	0	33,0
5	GPCA C				4		2	*		3	5½			5	14,5	0	31,5
6	En Passant A				2			*	4		3		4	5	13,0	0	24,0
7	Goodwood A			2			2	*		3½			5	4	12,5	0	14,0
8	Stellenbosch C			2½		2½	3		*		5			3	13,0	0	13,8
9	African Chess Lounge(ACL)- B			½			3	2½		*			6	3	12,0	0	8,5
10	Manyanani B			0		½			1		*	5		2	6,5	0	5,5
11	Aurecon A			0		2½	2				1	*		0	5,5	0	0,0
12	Steinitz D			1	0			1		0			*	0	2,0	0	0,0

See you all next Saturday at Wittebome!

Regards

Dr Lyndon Bouah