

Reflections 3 on CWP League 2018 by Dr Lyndon Bouah

We have reached the mid-point of the Chess WP League in Cape Town. The league takes a much needed break after three successive super Saturdays where double rounds were played. Now double rounds can be exhausting for any player particularly when the first game goes down to the wire!

So we started off with a bit of a funny incident on Saturday morning. Wittebome civic centre was the venue for the clashes. The tables are set up so that you can see who plays who. So on the table adjacent to mine the match Stellenbosch versus Manyanani was set to be played. Professor Stefan Wagner, the board one of Stellenbosch was waiting for his opponent when the round started at nine thirty. At nine thirty he looked a bit puzzled when IM Watu Kobese sat down and was about to play against Prof Wagner. Wagner then informed IM Kobese that actually he thinks IM Watu is playing further down the table. Then the laughter started as Watu then realised he actually plays for ACL in the league and not for Manyanani! Dr Esau please release Watu from the Manyanani Whatsapp group!

So to the actual matches! Blackjacks came close to a stunning upset when they held Steinitz to a 4-4 drawn result. Blackjacks has come about in leaps and bounds and with some deft recruitment in the off season they are now able to hold their own thanks to Kenny Willenberg playing board one and Dr Baloyi and Charlton Manyaravika sharing duties on two and three. Craig Willenberg lost to Jamie Geduld which was probably decisive and FM Deon Solomons lost to Charlton after being a pawn up. Well done to Blackjacks. An interesting game was played by Ethan Samuels who beat his opponent Leatin Booy in a similar manner to GM Short beating GM Timman. In a basically closed position Ethan moved his king from g1 to h6 thus covering the h file with his queen preparing to deliver mate on the back rank. Well done Ethan!

Cape Town chess club drew 4-4 with University of the Western Cape. The students are holding their own. SA Closed B section champion Cherwin Kleinsmidt drew with IM David Gluckman which I will consider an upset while Shane Willenberg beat FM Paul Gluckman. IM Gluckman informed me that Cape Town has now drawn four matches consecutively which must be a record on its own in this league!

Manyanani narrowly beat Stellenbosch 4.5 to 3.5 in a bruising encounter. Dr Bhawoodien was a bit exhausted after driving to KuilsRiver only to find gymnastics there and then raced back to Wittebome but unfortunately his gymnastics at the board didn't help his time deficit!

MRL had two players who were involved in a car accident and couldn't make the match. They ok. They managed to field a player and still managed to beat a Grassy Park 4.5 to 3.5. Calvin Klaasen gave a lesson to Jordan Verster as the game ended very quickly.

Bellville won their first match of the season when they defeated CPUT 7.5 to 0.5. The students are having a torrid time and are headed back to the B division.

UCT and African chess Lounge drew 4-4 in a pulsating encounter. FM Mo Bhawoodien appeared to have the edge against IM Kobese with what appeared to be a bind in the position. IM Kobese refuted this and sacrificed the exchange. I briefly watched the analysis afterwards. The other players were showing Watu that his position was challenging. Watu's reply "Other players see challenges whilst Kings Indian Players see opportunities!"

So after the necessary break which consisted of chicken strips, chips and coffee we got ready for round six! So the matches were very interesting. UCT beat Bellville 6-2. Tough time for Bellville but UCT is showing that with their two prong attack consisting of two young lions Bhawoodien and Darling that they can hold anyone and beat anyone!

CPUT won their first ever Premier Division match when they beat Grassy Park. In a closely fought match the students won 4.5 to 3.5. Well done to CPUT. This will bring some relief and hopefully spur them on for the last five rounds.

Manyanani beat UWC 6.5 to 1.5. The match marked the return of IM Donovan Van Den Heever, former SA Closed champion who will be playing in the Olympiad next month. The inclusion of Van Den Heever strengthened the team and has assisted Manyanani to score an emphatic victory.

Blackjacks crowned a great day by beating Cape Town 7-1 in the afternoon match. Cape Town needed some players on the bottom boards but Blackjacks did enough to secure a 7-1 victory.

The two big matches were the highlight of the afternoon. In the Stellenbosch - MRL match IM Mohammed Henry Steel came to play against FM Calvin Klaasen. Steel had the white pieces and managed to get Klaasen in an opening trap. Once the opening phase was completed Steel used his technique to complete the win. Stellenbosch beat MRL 4.5 to 3.5 with the bottom boards assisting Stellenbosch. An interesting aside from this match is that it is the first loss of MRL in the WP league since 2016. In the 2017 they were unbeaten and crowned league champions. Now MRL has drawn a match against ACL (yeah lots of acronyms!) and now they have lost in round six against Stellenbosch. That meant they went a remarkable 16 matches without a defeat. Well done MRL and well down to Stellenbosch.

In the other big clash of the day ACL played against Steinitz. This match is always a difficult one for both teams as the pendulum can swing either way depending on the day. On top board CM Bouah lost to IM Watu Kobese in 60 moves. CM Bouah was a pawn up against Kobese but the compensation for Kobese was enough. Now I must digress here a bit to talk about playing Watu.



I decided to prepare for the game by looking at a few lines and also donning my cap. Yes my cap. You see the trick is not to look at Watu's eyes and his grey jersey. Watu only plays with his green jersey in the league as he has basically won all his games with it!! Yes check it out in the photo attached! Now Watu's eyes surveys the whole board. He analyses and when he notices something his eyes pop out of his head! And then you know you in trouble. Of course this means that you also must look deeply in the

position! At one stage Watu had his hands in front of his face with only his eyes darting over the board. Then he looks to the kingside, then the middle of the board and then the queenside and of course back to the kingside as he is looking to deliver the decisive blow! Well I am glad to report that we had a hard fought game! I enjoyed it and although I lost it is always to play a legend like Watu!

On the board next to me two other former Olympians were swinging their battle axes. FM Charles De Villiers played against FM Deon Solomons. The game was a Kings Indian defence and the two players gave it their all. Will Black break on the kingside or will White breakthrough on the queenside. At the end Black broke though on the queenside!

Spoils were shared on the different boards and the match ended in well-deserved 4-4 for the two teams. The four Olympians were teammates in the 1994 Moscow Olympiad.

So the Table reveals that three teams have 9 points MRL, ACL and STZ (ok I made up the last one?) MRL is ahead by one game point whereas Steinitz has 31 and ACL has 28. Steinitz is probably ruing the opportunity to have beaten Blackjacks which would have propelled them into the lead! But these are the vagaries of league chess!! The interesting analysis is that MRL is leading despite losing a match whereas both Steinitz and ACL have won three matches and drawn three. Blackjacks sits comfortably in fourth followed by Stellenbosch.

Things are heating up the other divisions as well. In the B division Belhar Knights recovered beautifully from their loss last week to Steinitz by beating Steinitz C 6-0 and then in the afternoon game Belhar Knights defeated Capablanca 5-1. In the second game Belhar secured a nice victory by securing the win on board one with Tommy Abrahams beating Jerome Louw whilst Brandon Losper and Duke Simons drew with the back boards of Blaauw, Styer and Kuhn picking up the points to secure an emphatic victory. The team is playing hard to honour the memory of the late Eldo Smart and the best present for him will be promotion to the Premier Division! Well done Belhar Knights. 11/12 for the day!

Steinitz B lost 5-1 to Stellenbosch. Well done Stellenbosch. Belhar Knights and Steinitz B now leads the B section with Mitchell's Plain in third. It is important to note that Steinitz cannot be promoted so there is still much to play for.

In the C division Blackjacks is leading having won all their matches and are poised to enter the B division! Sanlam has only lost to Blackjacks and is lying in a good second position. Crossroads A is lying in third position and has everything to play for!

In the D Division Kraaifontein has won all its matches and is readying itself for C division status! Stellenbosch D is making a push as well for Promotion.

The Saturday 1 September is the Saturday Swiss as well at Kuils River. So let's have a look at their log as well.

Good luck everyone!

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	3½	6½		6			7½	4½	9	32,0	0	93,5	
2	Steinitz		*	4	4	4	5			7	7		9	31,0	0	93,8	
3	African Chess Lounge	4	4	*			4	4½	5	6½			9	28,0	0	100,5	
4	Blackjacks		4		*	3½			4	7	5½	4½	8	28,5	0	83,8	
5	Stellenbosch	4½	4		4½	*		3½	4	5½			8	26,0	0	102,5	
6	University of Cape Town	1½	3	4			*	5½	6		7		7	27,0	0	73,0	
7	Manyanani			3½		4½	2½	*	4	6½	5½		7	26,5	0	74,3	
8	Bellville	2			4		2	4	*	4	7½		5	23,5	0	46,5	
9	Cape Town			3	1	4			4	*	4	4	4	20,0	0	43,0	
10	University of the Western Cape		1	2½	2½		1½		4	*		5	3	16,5	0	30,0	
11	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	½	1	1½			1	½			*	4½	2	9,0	0	20,0	
12	Grassy Park	3½			3½			2½	4	3	3½	*	1	20,0	0	10,0	

B Section

Ranking crosstable

Rk.	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TB1	TB2	TB3	TB4
1	Belhar Knights A	*	2½	4	4	5					6	5	10	26,5	0	83,5	
2	Steinitz B	3½	*				1	6		3½	4½		6	10	24,5	0	79,0
3	Mitchells Plain A	2		*			3½	5	5½	3½		3	9	22,5	0	69,0	
4	Uitsig A	2			*		5	2½		5		3½	4	8	22,0	0	59,0
5	Elsies River A	1				*	2½	3	4½	3½		3½		7	18,0	0	54,5
6	Stellenbosch B		5	2½	1	3½	*	2½			5		6	19,5	0	56,5	
7	GPCA B		0		3½	3	3½	*	2			3	6	15,0	0	57,5	
8	Mitchells Plain B			1		1½		4	*		2	3	5	5	16,5	0	31,0
9	UCT B		2½	½	1	2½				*	6	4		4	16,5	0	26,0
10	Steinitz C	0	1½	2½					4	0	*		4	4	12,0	0	25,5
11	Bellville B				2½	2½	1	3	3	2		*		2	14,0	0	15,8
12	Capablanca A	1	0	3	2				1		2		*	1	9,0	0	11,3

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				5	3½	6		6	12	28,0	0	91,0
2	Sanlam A		*		2	4½	5½	6			6	5	10	29,0	0	64,0	
3	Crossroads A	2½		*	3	4	4					5	6	9	24,5	0	59,3
4	GPCA C		4	3	*			2		3	4	5½		8	21,5	0	69,0
5	Goodwood A	2				*	2	4	3½			4½	5	8	21,0	0	45,0
6	En Passant A		1½	2		4	*		3		4		6	7	20,5	0	42,5
7	Maties			2	4	2		*	2	3½	3½			6	17,0	0	48,0
8	African Chess Lounge(ACL)- B	1	½			2½	3	4	*				6	5	17,0	0	29,3
9	Stellenbosch C	2½	0		3			2½		*	2½	5		3	15,5	0	19,8
10	Aurecon A	0			2	2	2½		3½	*	1			2	11,0	0	15,5
11	Manyanani B		0	1	½	1½				1	5	*		2	9,0	0	11,0
12	Steinitz D	0	1	0		1	0		0				*	0	2,0	0	0,0

D Section

Ranking crosstable

Rk.	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TB1	TB2	TB3	TB4
1	Kraaifontein A	*		4	3					5	6	6	6	11	30,0	0	60,8
2	Stellenbosch D		*			6	3½	4	3		5		6	11	27,5	0	72,0
3	Elsies River B	2		*					3½	4	5½	6	6	10	27,0	0	39,5
4	UWC B	3			*	2	4	4½		5	6			9	24,5	0	56,0
5	Observatory A		0		4	*	2	6	4				6	8	22,0	0	60,5
6	Drakenstein Dragons A		2½		2	4	*	2		4			6	6	20,5	0	41,0
7	GPCA D		2			0	3	*	1		6	6		6	18,0	0	23,0
8	UCT C		3	2½	1½	2		5	*	4				5	18,0	0	50,8
9	Crossroads B	1		2			2		2	*	6	6		4	19,0	0	2,5
10	Blackjacks C	0	1	½	1			0		0	*			0	2,5	0	0,0
11	Capablanca B (WITHDRAWN)	0		0	0			0	0			*		0	0,0	0	0,0
	ACL C (WITHDRAWN)	0	0	0		0	0						*	0	0,0	0	0,0

Saturday Swiss

Ranking crosstable after Round 2

Rk.	Mannschaft	1.Rd	2.Rd	TB1	TB2	TB3	TB4
1	Stellenbosch E	18w4½	13w5	4	9,5	0	6,0
2	Mitchells Plain C	16w4	19w5	4	9,0	0	2,5
3	Elsies River C	19b4½	18w4½	4	9,0	0	1,5
4	UWC C	8b4	10w4	4	8,0	0	11,0
5	Bellville C	9w3½	12w4	4	7,5	0	10,5
6	GPCA F	14b3	7w2½	3	5,5	1	5,8
7	Kraaifontein B	15b3	6b2½	3	5,5	1	5,8
8	Sibanye Khayelitsha Chess Club A	4w1	17b5	2	6,0	0	1,0
9	Surrey Estate A	5b1½	15w4	2	5,5	0	3,0
10	Kraaifontein C	11w4	4b1	2	5,0	0	5,0
11	Manyanani C	10b1	16w4	2	5,0	0	2,0
12	Sibanye khayelitsha Chess Club C	17w4	5b1	2	5,0	0	1,0
13	GPCA E	22w5	1b0	2	5,0	0	0,0
14	Kraaifontein D	6w0	22b3	2	3,0	0	0,0
15	GPCA G	7w2	9b1	0	3,0	0	0,0
16	Crossroads C	2b1	11b1	0	2,0	0	0,0
17	En Passant B	12b1	8w0	0	1,0	0	0,0
18	Mitchells Plain D	1b½	3b½	0	1,0	0	0,0
19	Drakenstein Dragons B	3w½	2b0	0	0,5	0	0,0
20	Bellville D	0w0	0w0	0	0,0	0	0,0
21	Crossroads D	0w0	0w0	0	0,0	0	0,0
22	Sibanye Khayelitsha Chess Club B	13b0	14w0	0	0,0	0	0,0
23	Sibanye Khayelitsha Chess Club D	0w0	0w0	0	0,0	0	0,0

Regards

Dr Lyndon Bouah