

## Reflections 2 on a strong and beautiful Steinitz Open

The time is upon us when the Steinitz Open will be contested by players from all over South Africa.

I remember that first one back in 2007. It was the thirtieth anniversary of the chess club and it was decided to convene a chess congress in Cape Town. The headquarters of chess at the time was Claremont chess club. We played in the Claremont hall as well as in the library hall. The players came from all over. We met Mr. Bryan Aguirre for the first time who surprised many top players by defeating them with the Wing gambit! (1.e4 c5 followed by pawn to b4!)

Calvin Klaasen was making his debut in top level competitions as well and we also see Justin Wilken that competed in around twenty five SA Opens.

Winston Dalpat travelled from our sister club Alekhine chess club in Nelson Mandela Bay to enter.

IM and now GM Kenny Solomon won the event!



*Winners of Steinitz 30th Anniversary Open*

I was pleased to see that the event has now passed 100 players. It is fantastic that the players have started to register for this event. The list of players is now up on [www.chess-results.com](http://www.chess-results.com) and can be viewed there under South Africa. Let's have a look at the registered players (as at Tuesday 26 March) shall we:

Top seed is Watu Kobese (2370) who jointly won in 2013 with Jerald Times. Watu took the trophy on tiebreak! Watu has played over 100 times at Chess Olympiads for South Africa.



*IM Watu Kobese at SA Closed 2017*

The next few players include FM Calvin Klaasen on 2275 who is the current Co - SA Champion.

They are followed by young lions FM Mohammed Bhawoodien, Micheal James and Paul Gluckman

As it stands now there are 28 players in the A section of which 8 will be female. The top rated female players are WIM Jesse February current SA Women's Champion and three time SA Women's champion WIM Denise Bouah, WIM Anzel Laubscher, WCM Rebekkah Selkirk, Robyn van Niekerk, WFM Lauren Willenberg, WFM Michelle Fisher and Riani Pistorius. These ladies are all lethal on the board!





*FM Calvin Klaasen at SA Closed 2017*



*FM Mohammed Bhawoodien at SA Closed 2017*



*WIM Jesse February current SA Women's Champion at SA Closed 2017*



*Three time SA Women's champion WIM Denise Bouh at SA Closed 2017*





*WIM Anzel Laubscher at SA Closed 2017*

Kindly note registration closes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April.

You will not be paired if you have not paid by Friday 5 April 2019 18h20. We do not want empty boards and players without opponents.

Regards.

Dr Lyndon Bouah.