

Zambian report (5) by Dr Lyndon Bouah

It is now 08:46pm on Monday night. I'm feeling good as I scored 1.5/2 today. A good day at the office. I'm waiting for GM Kenny who is playing IM Stanley Chumfwa. We had agreed to go to a restaurant tonight since we are not playing tomorrow because it is the rest day.



Zone 4.3 venue

In the morning round GM Kenny appeared to be under pressure but once he weathered the storm he won a piece and secured the point. 4/4. SA champion Daniel Cawdery however only drew his game and he must've been disappointed because that meant he scored one win and three draws in the first four rounds. He won round five to get to a more than respectable 3.5 /5. Matt Pon is also doing well and is holding his own. I have now figured out that Matt loves the Rubinstein move with the queen along the first rank. I have seen him now thrice playing his queen along the first rank. This morning Roland was on fire with him playing a marvellous game to secure the point. He had his opponent at sixes and sevens.

In the women's section something very interesting happening when the top two boards had exactly the same opening variation. This reminded me of Goteborg at the inter zonal when the The three players from Argentina had the same position on the board against the three Soviet grandmasters. WIM Laubscher informed me that at some point Michelle Fisher's opponent waited for their game before making a move. The variation was the population Dragon variation where White wins the d5 pawn but black plays her queen to the b file to create pressure. Anzel drew but Michelle lost to the

the 2015 Zonal champion WIM Mudonga from Botswana. Aleida is playing very well and she has come out fighting. In round five most of the games were drawn.



Dantelle Joubert and Aleida de Bruyn in round 3

This morning my game lasted 103 moves. Yes you read that right! 103 moves in five and half hours. We drew the game but it was clear my opponent came to play. Objectively the position was drawn around move 25 when queens and rooks were swapped off but he wanted to outsit me. What he doesn't know is that I love to outsit my opponents too. We drew after many adventures.

The wifi connection is still a problem. Today Chessa authorised me to buy data and a local sim so that the players can prepare. One doesn't realise how fortunate we sometimes are that we take wifi for granted.

It is good to see the new generation of players making their debut in this event. I told Kenny over breakfast today that I realised that I am the oldest player in the event and that I was playing the Olympiad before many of the players were at school. It is good to see this Zonal so popular because of the incentives. IM Andrew Kayonde is going for best dressed as he is wearing a suit with matching under coat and tie every day. I haven't spotted his matching handkerchief but I am sure he has it in his room.

Yesterday in all the excitement to watch Kenny's game I spilled coffee on a guy's jacket. I hope I didn't ruin it. Chessplayers can smell blood on the board and then they swarm to that board. And so it was with me. All the excitement was at Kenny's board and I wanted to see the action.

So tonight we are taking it easy as tomorrow is all the big adventures when we visit the Vic falls and do some exciting things!

So have a look at www.chess-results for the standings.

Some important facts for this round:

1. Most Zambians enjoy a tropical climate, although this is dependent on altitude.
2. The rainy season is from October to April
3. Most wild animals can be spotted in Zambia.
4. The official language is English but many indigenous languages are spoken.
5. Lake Kariba is the largest manmade lake by volume , containing an incredible 43 cubic miles of water

Regards

Dr Lyndon Bouah

Reporting live from Livingstone, Zambia