

Zambian Report (9) by Dr Lyndon Bouah

GM Kenny Solomon dedicates Zonal win to Eldo Smart



Mitchell's Plain born South African Grandmaster Kenny Solomon in an emotionally charged day for all the South African participants won the Zone 4.3 individual Championship today, 17 June 2017, in Livingstone, Zambia. In his winning speech he dedicated his win to the late Chessa President, Mr Eldo Smart. GM Kenny told me that this morning he had thought about Mr. Smart because he knew Eldo since he started playing in 1993 and knew that the funeral was on whilst we were playing.





In the Women's Section tenth seeded Aleida De Bruyn from the High school Helpmekaar in Johannesburg, sensationally won the Women's section of the Zonal championship. She impressed all with her calm demeanour. Aleida in the first round lost to favourite WIM Anzel Laubscher and then she proceeded to score a magnificent 6.5 from the next 8 rounds to secure her first place and also her Women's International Master title. Congratulations Aleida.



The tournament was a huge success for the South African contingent. In the women's section Aleida led with her gold medal followed by Michelle Fisher with silver on 6 who now becomes a Women Fide Master. Congratulations Michelle. Anzel Laubscher on tie break takes the bronze medal. Aleida wins \$1000 , Michelle Fisher \$750



In the Open section the tension could be felt right at the start of the event. One was reading on various social media the the Copper Eagle also known as IM Mwali was going to take it as he was level pegging with GM Solomon going into the last round. IM Mwali had to play IM Daniel Cawdery. IM Cawdery soon had IM Mwali against the ropes early on and should've won to secure possible second spot but instead couldn't find the win and had to settle for a draw. I am sure Daniel is kicking himself as I am sure there was a win in the opening or early middle game. IM Mwali ended second with IM Raymond Phiri in third spot on tiebreak from IM Daniel Cawdery.

On board one the game started off slowly and developed from a Cambridge Springs Defence. IM Daniel Jere was defending with the Black pieces and looked like he did enough for the draw as he has GM Kenny under time pressure. This however wasn't enough because GM Kenny Solomon continued to play for the win knowing that a clear win would secure a first place finish and the much coveted ticket to the FIDE World Cup which will take place in Batumi, Georgia from 2-25 September 2017. GM Solomon will now represent the African continent at the event in Georgia.

IM Jere then decided to sacrifice a pawn instead of defending passively and this was the mistake. Kenny took the pawn and thereafter slowly converted the win in true grand masterly style. Technique was required and GM Kenny Solomon who earlier this year won a tournament in Italy now continued his good form to win this event.

By winning this event GM Kenny has won \$1500 and also secured a first round participation fee of \$

6000 US Dollars that will emanate from his participation in Batumi, Georgia.

The event has shown that there are many capable players able to show their stuff. IM Aderito Pedro from Angola surprised all when he downed IM Andrew Kayonde in the final round to secure six points. Roland Bezuidenhout played fantastic chess and beat Musa Simutowe with a queen sacrifice in the last round. He ended with a fantastic 5.5 / 9. Matt Pon and Lyndon Bouah both ended with a respectable 4.5 / 9. They didn't have the greatest of events but I think that the top players came through.

In the women's section the seasoned players like WIM Lopang and IM Mudongo showed that they had fire in them and played strongly. WIM Anzel Laubscher probably had just too many draws. WFM Dantelle Joubert woke up late but started getting points at the end and finished well.

I was also very happy for Dante Beukes who scored a win in the final round after being on 0.5/8. Well done to the young man from Namibia who is the Namibian champion at the age of 14.

Zambia has done a good job in organising the zone 4.3 championships. They provided opportunities for their arbiters and international organisers. The event ran smoothly from the onset and the players probably can only complain about the wifi and that was something outside of the Zambian organisers' control.

We are going to have a quiet evening tonight as we remember the late Eldo Smart to whom this win is dedicated.

I shall complete a concluding report when I get back to South Africa with photos.

Regards

Reporting for the last time
Live from Livingstone, Zambia

Dr Lyndon Bouah