

Mozambique Reflections 6 by Dr Lyndon Bouah

Many players will be competing in the African Individuals in Zambia which will take place from 12-24 May. So the key is to try to peak at the events at the right time. You may have a bad event now but then later come back and peak at the right time.

The same applies to the last four rounds of any event. If you can win three of the last four games, you will probably be amongst the prizes. The key however is to maintain focus and try to put earlier losses behind you. Easier said than done though!

The zonals every second year will be a World Cup qualifier so this year is a good year to chase titles. I actually miss a Zonal Team tournament like we had in 2008. The team event allows you to blood players and ascertain their readiness. The zonals allow you to compete in your zone against your peers. Once you know what your shortcomings are then you need to start preparing for the Egyptians! Remember Grandmaster Amin is at 2700 already and of course grandmaster Adly is a strong 2600. GM Solomon and IM Cawdery have also shown their mettle over the last few years so the zonals are an important benchmark for aspiring titled players.

I look forward to the day when all the top players in Africa compete in the zonals and African Individuals. We need to start sponsoring the players so that we can get the best to the events. I dare think that Steel, Cawdery and Kobese could be pushed toward their grandmaster titles. Klaasen and Mabusela are of course not far behind. We need to discuss what high performance and development actually means because for many players high performance would entail zonals, African Individuals, Olympiad, SA Open, SA Closed, etc. At the Olympiad many new statistics will be revealed. An interesting aspect nowadays is that most top events in South Africa are FIDE rated so players can climb faster towards their titles unlike the old days when FIDE rated events were only done internationally or at the SA Open or at SA Closed. Let's hope we can discuss some of these aspects at the SA Open.

The players will be very busy because besides Zambia the Commonwealth beckons from 24 June to 4 July. Thereafter the players must be in Georgia for the Olympiad from 19 September to 6 October. So a fair bit of travelling. In between all of these players are expected to work and study and enjoy life!

Let's check on the results:

Open:

1. Do Santos vs Pedro. The top board ended in a draw. This protects Pedros lead as he goes into the last two rounds.
2. Munenga vs Klaasen. Klaasen wins and will now play Pedro on the top board. This is his golden chance. If Klaasen's win tomorrow he will set himself up for the title.



Calvin Klaasen at 2017 SA Closed

3. De Villiers vs Domingos. Domingos beat Charles De Villiers after a great run from Charles.

4. Paiva vs Kalule . Donald beat Kalule. This was a good WIM by the young Moz talent.

5. Bezuidenhout vs Beukes. Roland scores a great win against Beukes. He now has one win and five draws!

6. Mulenga vs Simutowe. The two players drew their game

7. Mwale vs Bhawoodien. Mo lost to Mwale. The important thing for Mohammed is to end well. He must still give it his all.

8. Calicoca vs Abrantes. Calicoca won the game.

9. Botao vs Khetho . Khetho took this one.

10. Chunguane vs Gafar . Chunguane took it.

11. Oatlotse vs Vasco . IM Providence is probably a tad embarrassed to be sitting on the last board and will be happy to move.

12. Silva beat Masango.

Women:

1. February vs Mwango. Jesse February beat Mwango in a great result for the SA Women's Champion. Four players are now on 4.5/6s o the race hots up!,

2. Caxita vs Onkemetse. Onkemetse wins and also jumps to 4.5/6

3. Megan Van Niekerk vs Lubuuto. This is a big win for Megan. Megan is playing without pressure on herself. She told me before the event that she is going just to play. Results will come when they do. And it seems they are!



Megan Van Niekerk at 2017 SA Closed

4. Hamoonga vs Marape. A draw was agreed to.

5. Vilhete vs Mudongo. Mudongo is now on 4/6 after starting with two losses. This is class!

6. Selkirk vs Mbatha. Selkirk beat Mbatha. After two losses in the previous two rounds Selkirk now wishes to bounce back with a strong finish which she is quite capable of!

7. Idalmish vs Van Niekerk. Robyn brought the point home!

8. Castro vs Simenda Castro beat Simenda.

9. Makwena vs Cheila. Cheila won.

10. Siteo vs Jefo a draw between the players.

Round seven is going to be very interesting. We have three South Africans on the top three boards in the women's section!, let's wish them well!

In the Open Section it is Pedro versus Klaasen. Angola versus South Africa.

The scene is set!!!!

We wish Klaasen well.

The players are playing two rounds on Friday the 13th. We pray that there are no ladders nearby!

Regards

Dr Lyndon Bouah