

Reflections 2 : 2018 - Chess Events by Dr Advocate Lyndon Bouah

The chess season has started in South Africa. The first event that kicked it off was the Cape Open which was won by IM Watu Kobese. He and Dr Shabier Bhawoodien both scored 5/6 but because Im Kobese beat Dr Bhawoodien he was adjudged the winner. Some tough games but of course very exciting 225 players participated in different sections.



WIM Anzel Laubscher competed in an event in Jamaica and regained some of the rating points she shed in December. I am sure Anzel will be playing Caribbean style upon her return to these shores.

We also noted the various reports of GM Nakamura on www.chessvibes.com www.chessbase.com. Great publicity for the country. The two juniors that beat him did exceptionally well and the Van Der Merwe game was shown on various national websites.



GM Nakamura in Joubert Park, Johannesburg

The next event was the Nelson Mandela Rapid held at the Drakenstein prison. The event was played as a 27 minute a side Rapid and was won by Daud Amini. The event was part of the celebrations of the Nelson Mandela Festival which is celebrating the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela. The event is becoming quite popular and I do believe that it will become a permanent fixture. Players also received a special medal celebrating the event.

On the same weekend the Lesotho Open was won by CM Joseph Mwale. Malawian Mwale is an exciting player and I remember playing him in 2015 and 2016. He has won quite a number of events since then and is definitely a star on the local circuit.



Joseph Mwale at the Lesotho Open

The Piet Robbertse Event was held from 2 to 4 February and was won by Khanya Mazibuko and Pierre van Der Walt. They scored 4.5/5. Young and old I guess. Former SA Open Champion Albert Ponelis was third.

The Heidelberg Open was held from 2-4 February and was won by Ben Hercules. Ben is restoring some confidence after a tough SA Closed but I am sure he will be back to his Herculean strength again.

Well done to the Chess Excellence guys!

The Constantia Park Open was held on 10 February and was won by Joseph Mwale.

The next event on the WP calendar is the WP Team Blitz event which is always exciting. Many of the top clubs will form teams of four to try to win this coveted title. The event is on 17 February at San Souci.

The Sparticus Chess Club will be having a five round Swiss event at the Secunda High School over the same weekend.

On the weekend of the 24th of February Paarl Boys High celebrates its 150th anniversary and they have decided to organise a chess event to celebrate this achievement. I am sure many players will flock to this event. The school is well known in rugby circles and is one of South Africa's top schools.

The Nkangala District will be hosting a five round event at CR Swart in Middelburg.

The following weekend the WP Open will take place in Cape Town. Calvin Klaasen is the defending champion and this event will again of course be jampacked with stars.

At the same time the Moja Chess Club in Kimberley is hosting a six round event which has some serious

prizes. First Prize is R5000.

The Uplands Chess tournament will take place in White River and will also be a five round event.

The next exciting event is the IM Norm event in Nelson Mandela Bay which will be held from 12 to 18 March 2018. The players that are confirmed is GM Sahaj Grover 2484 from India IM Rodwell Makoto 2349 from Zimbabwe, FM Calvin Klaasen 2320, FM Harold Wanyama (Uganda) 2305, Patric Kawuma (Uganda) 2300 and FM Jack Van Zyl Rudd 2195 and making a welcome return IM Mohammed Henry Steel.

There will also be an open section and various side events from 16 to 18 March 2018. It promises to be a great event. Let's see if we can attend the event.

Over the same weekend the Western Cape is hosting the Western Cape Club Championships that will be held in Still Baai. This is the third year the event is being held.

Steinitz Chess Club is hosting their annual Steinitz Open from 21 to 25 March. They have recently obtained a new venue at HTS Bellville and this event will celebrate the new venue. Good prizes are on offer.

The next event is over the Easter Weekend which will be the Zimbabwe Open. A strong event as usual perhaps some SA players should go compete there!

From 3 to 11 April the Zone 4.3 Individual Chess Championship will be held in Maputo, Mozambique. The zonals are always exciting with new players making their debut each year. Last year this was a World Cup qualifier which was won by GM Kenny Solomon.

Daniel Cawdery and Gm Kenny Solomon both played in Gibraltar in January 2018.

IM Daniel Cawdery scored 5.5 having played GM Short, GM Harikrishna, and GM Gupta. He scored two losses and a draw with Gupta. In this field that is a tremendous result. Daniel is now on 2446.

GM Kenny scored 5.5 and played four grandmasters. He played GM Huzman (draw) GM Deac (loss) GM Dvirnyy (draw) and GM Moroni (loss). Also a good performance by Gm Kenny. His rating is now 2420.

In April the SA Junior Closed will be held in the first week of April in Johannesburg. I am sure we will have some great chess here from our younger players.

The WP Closed will take place over the weekend of the 14th of April. Dr Deon Solomons is the defending champion and I am sure he will do his best to defend his title!

The next event is the Capablanca Open which will take place in Pretoria. The event has become a must play event on the circuit and I am sure many players will flock there as it is being held over a long weekend. The event commences on the 27th of April ends on the 1st of May.

Over the same weekend the KZN Open will take place in Durban. This event is also quite popular and it is a pity it clashes directly as I am sure many players would have loved to play in both!

The African individuals are set for 11 to 24 May in Zambia. The players should start preparing as this event is usually dominated by the Egyptians.

The Commonwealth championship is set for 24 June to 4 July in New Delhi. SA I am sure will send a full

contingent.

The FIDE World Senior Team championship (over fifty and over 65) is set for Germany from 7 to 15 July. I am hoping SA can send a team as we have just hosted a SA Senior Closed.

So some exciting events over the next three months.

Let's chat again soon!

Dr Adv Lyndon Bouah