

Reflections SA Closed Round 4 by Dr Adv Lyndon Bouah



The fourth round was completed tonight and what a day. Action packed, pulsating chess all round and it is clear that the players are now into the event. So let us look at some interesting statistics relating to the event:

1. There are 23 titled players consisting of

- IM. - 4
- WIM - 4
- FM - 7
- WFM - 2
- CM - 4
- WCM - 2

2. In the first three rounds white won 38 times, black won 30 times and there were 22 draws with three forfeits making up 93 games. This is a fairly high percentage for Black as internationally Black struggles to get to fifty percent.

3. WIM Anzel Laubscher who is playing in the event was also part of the first Chess Olympiad team in 1998.



4. IM Watu Kobese who was chosen for the first Olympiad team in 1992 but didn't play is also playing in this event.



5. FM Charles De Villiers is competing having first played in the 1974 Olympiad and then again in 1992.



6. South Africa's ever world Champion Dr Shabier Bhawoodien is also competing after winning the World Amateur championship in 2003.

7. Two sisters are competing for the second consecutive Closed. Megan and Robyn Van Niekerk.

8. Two father and son teams are competing
Shabier and Mohammed Bhawoodien (Senior and Premier)
Roland and Kenneth Willenberg (Senior and B section)

9. The son of a former winner is playing in the Under 23 section (Paul Gluckman).

10. The university sector is well represented in both the Women's section and all the open sections.

Some observations during the round:

11. Chessa has imposed a dress code on the event to maintain that sense of decorum that is so needed. I think it is needed because many of the male chess players will be arrested by the Fashion police because of well you know... dress sense! A lively debate took place on one of the Whatsapp groups about whether crocks for males are acceptable. I shall leave that complex question to the readers!

12. I was taking some pictures at the start of the round and I normally start at the back of the hall. Lo

and behold after seven minutes I got to Mabusela versus Van Den Heever where Mabusela, the Atteridgeville Shark, (I wonder can he swim) had essayed pawn to king four. Of course Donovan analysing some derivatives now proceeded to think for ten minutes before making his first move! It reminded me of Bronstein who once thought for fifty minutes before making his first move as he was checking variations!

13. I have noticed a certain former SA Champion who loves to lounge in his seat when it is not his turn to move. So I wonder if there is a law against this.

So now that you have been enlightened let's get going to the games:

1. Bhawoodien versus Klaasen. Klaasen played a nice Nimzo Indian. Tactics abound in this game. Bhawoodien had definite chances but Calvin played strong moves.

2. Ovcina versus Hercules. Hercules brought the point home against Ovcina. Ovcina seems to be having a flu but Ben played well to bring home the point.

3. Kobese versus Van Rensburg . Kobese was the old Lion in action. He simply demolished his opponent's Grivas Qb6. Once the initiative was secured he finished on move 22! Have a look at the game.

4. De Villiers versus Mosele. The battle between the Legend and the Big Guy had all the making of a classic. Both players badly wanted the point and played it full out. After a four hour see saw the point was shared.

5. Barrish beat Mnguni in a battle of the young lions. The game went on for four hours.

6. Mabusela versus Van Den Heever . Den Heever was playing his stock Sicilian line. They reached a theoretical position in which Black was already better in the middle game. Van Den a Heever however was happy when Mabusela blundered a pawn. The players agreed to a draw soon afterwards.

Women

1. Sonia Modi versus Van Zyl. The two ladies played a five and a half hour session. Van Zyl had an extra pawn which was also passed. Modi defended hard and secured the draw.

2. February versus Frick. The players played a tough game. Frick had the upper hand towards the end but February forced a perpetual.

3. Oberholzer versus Marais. Marais scored her first win in the event against fellow debutant Oberholzer.

4. Fisher versus Laubscher. Fisher beat Laubscher convincingly when she prevented Black from castling. She dominated the dark squares and wrapped up the game.

5. Van Niekerk versus Van Niekerk. Megan van Niekerk beat older sister Robyn van Niekerk. No sisterly love here!

6. Grobbelaar versus Joubert. Joubert beat Jacqui in a hard fought game.

Senior

1. Pick versus Willenberg was a draw. Although Black appeared to have some spatial advantage the Big Daddy of the Willenberg clan held the draw.

2. Ohlson versus Bhawoodien. Cecil played a line against Dr Bhawoodien that the latter analysed in 1978. Shabier informed me in the analysis room that he invented the move Bg4 and it appeared in the Informator at that time. There was no chessbase at that time! Shabier came 29 minutes late and then proceeded to finish first after ten minutes! Cecil prepared all night but alas next time Cecil.

3. Saffier versus November. Saffier must be devastated tonight as he missed a win against November. At this level if you don't put the opponent away he will come back! Sorry Jannie! well done Mr November.

4. Pesa versus Goosen. These two protagonists wanted they win badly as they were amongst the favourites. Goosen took the point against Mr Pesa.



5. Lewis versus Fredericks. Malcolm was a no show and Mark had an early night. This is a real pity because it spoils the event and potentially messes up his opponents Bucholtz as well.

6. Lawrence versus Southey. Southey essayed the Kings Indian and White drifted into a difficult position. Southey played the standard Kings Indian pawn storm and won convincingly. In this case the question can be asked whether the Kings Indian Defence is a defence or a disguised attack!

Under 23

1. De Jager versus Essop was a bit if am strange Ruy Lopez. I think I will encourage U23 players to play mainline because early deviations are not really called for!

2. Du Toit versus Bye.

3. Khumalo versus Gluckman . The two young men played seventy move draw. Gluckman played a Grunfeld but Khumalo was up to the challenge.

4. Du Plessis versus Verster. Heinco Du Plessis was playing the young SA Under 16 champion. Verster played a Caro Kann but Heinco had it under control.

5. Adams versus Lubbe . Seth Riley Adams played well and took the point! He is playing strong chess and this was tough one for him.

6. Van Der Merwe versus Bornheim. nornheim beat van Der Merwe although at one stage the young Van Der Merwe looked like he was pushing for a draw. bornheims experience showed however!

B section

1. James versus Willenberg. James convincingly beat Willenberg to take the lead. He played a strong game.

2. Nkosi versus Vermaak. Nkosi had a good game and brought home the bacon.n

3. Kromhout versus Kleinsmidt. Kleinsmidt beat Kromhout convincingly. This was a surprise as Alex has more experience than Cherwin but the Kings Gambit may not be the bets in the SA Closed!

4. Jacobs versus Basson. Basson had chances but Jacobs forced the draw.

5. Gandi versus Lawerlot. At least !!!! Gandi won. A nice competitive game by the two B section players! Haak Vrystaat!

6. Kuhlase versus Mfundisi. Sandile made up for his previous games by winning quickly at the back if the field.

7. Basson lost to Erlank in a titanic struggle. The game went on until nine pm. So it's interesting that

the spectators always think that they see more than the players but this simply not true!Warrick showed us after the game that he had everything under control.



Enjoy the day!

Regards

Dr Adv Lyndon Bouah