

Reflection 1 on Steinitz Chess Festival by Dr Lyndon Bouah

The Steinitz Open will be held from 5-7 April at Stellenberg High School. The event is an annual event that the club uses to celebrate its existence. This year the event has again succeeded in attracting some top players. The defending champion IM Watu Kobese has assured me he means business as he has already won this event twice and wishes to make it a hat trick of sorts!! Craig Willenberg won it cleanly one year and last year lost out on tiebreak will be playing. Joint SA Closed champion FM Calvin Klaasen will be playing in this event as a warm up event. Four of the last five female Olympians have confirmed participation in the event. They are reigning SA Women's champion WIM Jesse February, SA Women's champion WIM Denise Bouah and Rebecca Selkirk have confirmed participation. They will also be joined by former Olympians Lauren Willenberg and Robyn Van Niekerk. Other notable players are FM Mohammed Bhawoodien, Cherwin Kleinsmidt who won the SA Closed B section, Michael James, Deon Pick, Andrew Southey who won the Commonwealth senior prize last year and a string of other notable players. We will release some other surprises once we have finalised the registrations in the next few days.

The Steinitz Open was first held in 2007 when Steinitz celebrated its 30th anniversary. The event was an exciting and was still played at the Claremont chess club in Rondebosch. The event was held at the existing chess club and in the minor hall at the library. The event was won by the then IM and now Grandmaster Kenny Solomon. All the top players at the time participated in the event. There were some nice prizes and wine holders at the event.

We then as Steinitz chess club started the event again in 2012 when we continued with the 35th anniversary. The event was held at Settlers High School and was very interesting and exciting because our own Craig Willenberg ran away with the laurels after beating his opponents and then helping out in the tuckshop!

The event then moved to the Curro Primary School at Century city in 2013. Here we had different sections and filled the whole hall as well some of the classrooms as well. The event was won by IM Watu Kobese. Watu loves Open Swiss events. He plays exciting and attacking chess. One has to be on guard the whole time because one slight mistake and Kobese is attacking. The Lion of Africa is always dangerous!

In 2014 Steinitz attempted something that had not been attempted for a long time. It organised a Grandmaster section as well as Open section. The event attracted grandmasters from around the world. The event was won by Grandmaster Aleksa Strikovic who ended ahead of hometown favourite (Then IM) now GM Kenny Solomon. Other notable players in that event included GM Sergey Kasparov and WGM Katya Toma.

In 2015 the Steinitz event was again held at Curro and this time a Prestige Section was easily won by Grandmaster Strikovic.

In 2016 the event was won by Daud Amini who ended on 5/6 edging out CM Chiletso Chipanga from Malawi and Kenny Willenberg who was on 4.5/6.

In 2017 the event attracted Grandmaster Sahaj Grover from India who won the event with

some good play. I enjoyed my game against him and probably could've drawn but went for glory and lost! Steinitz was able to attract some top women players. This event was held in Bellville South.

In 2018 the Steinitz Open was held at Bellville Technical High School. The event attracted some top players and it was good to see IM Henry Mohammed Steel playing again. The event was a three way between Kobese, Steel and Craig Willenberg with Kobese edging the other two to win the event on tiebreak.



2018 the Steinitz Open Winners



IM David Silva played Roland Willenberg (2018)



WFM Michelle Fisher (2018)



Roland Willenberg with Kahill Dhevcharran winner of Chessa Section

In 2019 Steinitz will continue this fine tradition and will host a good event. Let's support the event and play some good chess. It is very rare that a club with very little sponsorships host an annual event for the chess community of the Western Cape.

The event has some good prize money and we are looking forward to seeing all of the players there. Let's celebrate chess. The event is also being held over the weekend of 5-7 April. Internationally 6 April is the international Day of Sport for Development and Peace. The General Assembly of the United Nations decided to proclaim 6 April as international day of Sport for peace and Development. This date commemorates the inauguration, in 1896, of the first Olympic Games of the modern era in Athens. Let's celebrate chess development and peace.

See you there at Stellenberg!



Steinitz Chess Festival 2019

42nd Anniversary



Venue: Stellenberg High School

Date: 5-7 April 2019

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/SqKDvLksF42>

ONLINE REGISTRATION: <http://tinyurl.com/Steinitz2019Entry>

WEB SITE: <http://www.steinitzchessclub.co.za/festival2019.php>

Sections *	Requirements	Entry Fees	Time Control	Dates
A (Chessa rated)	6 Round Swiss (Players with a Chessa rating above 1600)	R 250	60/60 + 10sec	Fri 5 – Sun 7 Apr
B (Chessa rated)	6 Round Swiss (Players with a Chessa rating lower than 1600 and higher than 1100)	R 200	60/60 + 10sec	Fri 5 – Sun 7 Apr
C (Chessa rated)	6 Round Swiss (Open to all players rated 1100 and lower)	R 100	60/60 + 10sec	Fri 5 – Sun 7 Apr
Under 8 (Chessa rated)	6 Round Swiss (Players of Chessa rating below 800 born 2012 and later)	R 80	30/30	Sat 6 Apr

* LOC reserves the right to waive criteria in all the sections Tie Break: Direct Encounter, Buchholz, Buchholz Median, Sonneborn-Berger

Date	A, B & C (60/60 + 10sec)	U8 (30/30)
Fri 5 April	Round 1: 19h30	
Sat 6 April	Round 2: 09h00 Round 3: 12h30 Round 4: 15h30	R1-R6: 09h00 – 15h00 Prize Giving: After last round
Sun 7 April	Round 5: 09h00 Round 6: 12h30 Prize Giving: 15h30	

* The default time for all sections is 15 minutes

Prize giving:

A, B and C Sections – Sun 7 April at 15h30

U8 – Sat 6 April after last round

Arbiters:

NA Leon de Jager

NA Andrew Talmarkes

PA Elfreda Louw

PROOF OF PAYMENT:

Please email proof of payment and direct any payment queries to **Ilze** de Kock, Ilze@accprof.co.za by 2 April 2019 at 17h00. No Late Payments.

BANKING DETAILS:

Bank:	FNB	Account Name:	STEINITZ
Account No:	62804544064	Branch:	CAPE GATE
Branch Code :	250655	Account Type:	Current Account

PAYMENT REFERENCE:

Please use the player's first 3 letters of the player's surname + initials, followed by date of birth in the format of DD MMM YYYY, as the reference number (e.g. ***Smij23Jan1973*** or ***KasG17Nov2001***)

Please **bring your own clocks, notation pages and pens**. Some clocks are available upon request.

GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND:

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Female Prize Fund	Total
A	R 4 000	R 2 500	R 1 500	R 1000	R 1500	R 10 500
B	R 2 000	R 1 000	R 750	R 500	R 450	R 4 700
C	R 750	R 500	R 300	R 100	R 150	R 1 800
U8	Trophy & Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	-	-	-
Total						R 17 000

** Prize fund may increase based on entries*

For further information, please feel free to contact LOC: loc@steinitzchessclub.co.za



Regards
Dr Advocate Lyndon Bouah