

Reflections on December chess matters by Dr Lyndon Bouah

December 2018 was a busy month for chess in South Africa. The biggest event was of course the national junior event which took place in Gauteng. It was largely dominated by Gauteng and I congratulate them on their achievements. I am sure that someone who attended the event will write something for us.

Results can all be viewed via links on: <http://chess-results.com/tnr399495.aspx?lan=1>

The month of course started off in the aftermath of the World Championship match that took place in London in November 2018. The action of course didn't end there as a number of South Africans made the trek to participate in the annual London Chess Classic. Let's have a look at how they fared.

In the weekend Classic section under 2050 James Connor Forster (1839) playing under the SA flag scored 2 and had a performance rating of 1778. In the under 1750 section WIM Sune Du Toit scored 4. 5/5. Rated 1705 she had a performance rating of 1919. She ended 3rd in her section. Well done to her.



WIM Sune Du Toit

In the main FIDE Open FM Mohammed Bhawoodien 2123 scored 5.5. The event was a good warm up for the coming season for Mo. He is very talented and needs a big performance at some of the African Continental events in 2019. He didn't play any name players and picked up 5 rating points. Next up was FM Jack Van Zyl Rudd. Rudd is on 2306 in rating and scored 5 points. He had a nice draw with GM Danny Gormally and picked up four rating points. I am looking forward to seeing how Jack does in the SA Closed in 2019. Also on five points was FM Roland Bezuidenhout who scored 26 rating points. He lost to GM Cherniaev but his rating is pushing him to 2200 already. It is truly exciting that South Africa has these young and exciting players now at 2200 and 2300. FM Daniel Barrish had a bit

of a bad one with him only scoring 4 points. Chess-results have him losing a whopping 86 rating points. He lost to GM Melkumyan in round two and then he didn't seem to get going after that. I am sure the young man will recover and one must remember he came joint fourth in the SA Closed in 2017. Any of these four young men will be vying to be part of the Olympiad team to Khanti Mansisyk next year. The last South African was Olympiad veteran Ewan Kromhout who scored 4 points. He lost to IM Richard Pert in round one. Perts brother played for England and is a grandmaster. He lost 11 rating points and his current rating is 2019.



Mohammed Bhawoodien

While this event was happening African Chess Lounge was hosting an event in Cape Town with a number of top players participating. The event was hosted in various sections. The event was won by FM Calvin Klaasen and IM Watu Kobese with Klaasen having the better tie break. The joint SA Champion seems to like these classical time controls. Well done to African Chess Lounge.

Results:

Elite: <http://chess-results.com/tnr398559.aspx?lan=1&art=4>

Prestige: <http://chess-results.com/tnr398557.aspx?lan=1&art=4>

A: <http://chess-results.com/tnr398558.aspx?lan=1&art=4>

Open: <http://chess-results.com/tnr399037.aspx?lan=1&art=4>

U10: <http://chess-results.com/tnr399036.aspx?lan=1&art=4>



Winner of Elite Section FM Calvin Klaasen with Reuben Salimo



U10 players at ACL Open

While that event was concluding the Kraaifontein chess club hosted a rapid in Kraaifontein. The event was well attended and was won by Adv Estienne Pretorius (SC) who played for Bellville chess club in the WP league for a long time. In second place was WP coach and author Edwin November. The club is doing well and it is the second event that they have organised recently. They also won promotion from their division in the WP league.



Winners of Kraaifontein Rapid

At the same time the Western Cape Club Championships was being held in Stilbaai which was won by Steinitz Chess Club. The event featured clubs from Cape Town and Eden. The matches were hard fought but at the end Steinitz was too strong.



Steinitz Chess Club: Winners of the Western Cape Champs and runners up in the B Section

A particular highlight for me in December was the visit by Grandmaster Wesley So to South Africa in December. He managed to fit Cape Town in on his visit and we very pleased to have had the opportunity to chat with him and get his views on life at the top. I took him around a bit and we wish him well for the upcoming Gibraltar event which will be the first time he participates in the event.



CM Lyndon Bouah with GM Wesley So

Enjoy the vacation and I look forward to seeing you at the next event!

Regards
Dr Lyndon Bouah