

Reflections on South African Senior Chess Team by Dr Lyndon Bouah

The first ever South African Senior chess team (over 50) left today to compete in the World Senior Team Championships in Dresden, Germany. The event starts on 7 and ends on 14 July. The players that will represent South Africa are in Board order:

1. FM Shabier Bhawoodien
2. Mark Lewis
3. Gordon Lawrence
4. Deon Pick
5. Cecil Ohlson



FM Shabier Bhawoodien



Mark Lewis



Gordon Lawrence



Deon Pick



Cecil Ohlson

In December 2017 South Africa hosted for the first time ever a SA Closed for players over the age of 50. The players competed alongside the SA Closed sections and after the blistering eleven rounds Mark Lewis and Dr Shabier Bhawoodien ended on the same score but the tiebreak favoured Lewis who was declared the first ever SA Senior Closed Champion.

The players will compete against top grandmasters from all over the world with England regularly sending players like GM John Nunn and other luminaries. GM Nigel Short played in the event as well. One of the things that impressed was the number of older Russian and Eastern European Grandmasters that love participating in this event. Our players will certainly be tested but I think it's great that the players have this opportunity.

We will follow their fortunes as we wish our team well. I hope that next year we will also be able to send an over 65 team because we have some great players that are still active such as De Villiers, Ponelis, Southey, Gordon Lawrence, and others who could easily make up an over 65 team.

Let's wish our senior citizens well as well watch them checkmate the world! I know of one player who will be carrying his bag of tricks into the world arena now!

Regards

Dr Lyndon Bouah