

Reflections on the South African Closed Chess Championship 2022 (1) by Dr Lyndon Bouah



On 10 May 2022 I visited the Newlands Cricket ground in Cape Town where the South Africa Closed Chess Championship is currently taking place. There are three sections. The championships will determine the players that will participate in the South African Olympiad team in Chennai, India in July.

The history of the event is a long one! Let's look at this!

Ken Whyld released a book entitled the Guinness Chess the Records in 1986. He lists all the winners of the SA Closed since the event began. I cross referenced with Mr Leonard Reitstein who wrote the History of Chess in South Africa. Whyld gives the following on page 114:

1892 - Roberts (Reitstein gives Rivett first and then Roberts both with 9.5)

1897 - Roberts

1899. - Micheal

1903. - Lee

1906. - Siegheim

1910 - Duhan

1912 - Seigheim

1920 - Cameron and Chavkin

1924. - Chavkin

1926 - Blieden

1928 - Blieden

1935 - Archer

1937 - Dreyer

1939 - Heidenfeld

1945 - Heidenfeld and Holford
1947- Heidenfeld
1949 - Heidenfeld
1951 - Heidenfeld
1953 - Eriksen
1955 - Heidenfeld
1957 - Heidenfeld
1959- Heidenfeld and Kirby
1961 - Gerber
1963 - Kirby and Van Den Meyden
1965 - Kroon
1967 - Friedgood
1969 - Kroon
1971 - Friedgood
1973 - Friedgood
1975 - Kroon and De Villiers
1977 - Walker and De Villiers
1979 - Korostenki
1981 - De Villiers
1983 - McFarlane
1985 - De Villiers and Wolpe
1986. – Benny Rhode (CAPSA)
1987 - De Villiers (SACF) and Deon Pick (CAPSA)
1988 - Maxwell Solomon (CAPSA)
1989 - De Villiers (SACF)

1989 - Deon Solomons (CAPSA)
1991 - Deon Solomons (CAPSA)
1993 – IM George Michelakis
1994 – FM Deon Solomons
1995 – IM David Gluckman
1998 - IM Watu Kobese and Mark Rubery
2000 - FM Nicholas van der Nat
2001 - IM Watu Kobese
2003 – IM Watu Kobese and Kenny Solomon
2005 – FM Nicholas van der Nat
2007 – Henry Steel
2009 – FM Nicholas Van Der Nat
2011 – Henry Steel and IM Watu Kobese
2013- Donovan Van den Heever
2015 – IM Daniel Cawdery

2017- IM Johannes Mabusela and FM Calvin Klaasen



Wolfgang Heidenfeld

The player with the most SA Closed titles is Wolfgang Heidenfeld.

Between 1939 and 1959 he won the national championship no less than 8 times and on the last occasion according to Reitstein he was also the champion of Ireland. Heidenfeld's greatest success was in 1955 when he tied with W.J Muhring above ex-world champion Max Euwe at the Johannesburg International.

Heidenfeld wrote prolifically for the South African Chessplayer and also wrote several books including *Lacking the Master Touch*, a collection of his own games, and *Draw!* an acclaimed collection of drawn games from master play. Heidenfeld played in the Olympiad for South Africa and Ireland and his son Mark later represented Ireland as well.

In this day and age we may never have another player dominating with 8 championships over 20 years. FM Charles de Villiers is second with 6 titles followed by IM Watu Kobese with four and then a number of players with 3.

From 1986 two SA chess championships were held. In 1984 a black South African chess body was formed to represent players who believed in non-racial chess. This body staged their own chess championships as well. Players such as Deon Solomons, Maxwell Solomon, Gordon Lawrence, Shabier Bhawoodien, Jannie Saffier, Mark Lewis, Roland Willenberg, and Lyndon Bouah came from this body.

It is a matter of debate whether the 1993 and 1994 SA Trials were also SA Closed. I am going to submit that they were and must be counted as such because the best players in the country were invited to play and participated in both events. So for the completeness of the record books I am enclosing both those events with winners as well as the winners of the SA Closed played by the black chess body as those records must also be counted.

In the SA Closed of 2022, IM Daniel Cawdery and GM Kenny Solomon are running neck and neck, but of course young FM Banele wishes to join the party. The off number of players of course makes things difficult to call but everyone is playing their heart out. A number of established players are struggling, and this could be due to lack of tournament practice because of the dearth of events. The games are all hard fought and everyone wishes to become South African champion!

In the games tonight GM Kenny Solomon and IM Daniel Cawdrey drew. It was an unusual Grünfeld. The queens came off early and Cawdrey later attacked the centre with c5 and f5. Interesting game.

On the second board Banele Mhango beat FM Shabir Bhawoodien who had sacrificed his queen but FM Mhango was up to the defensive task.



On board three IM Watu Kobese and Zonal Champion FM Calvin Klaasen had a battle royale. I was literally on the edge of my seat as I was not sure about all the tactical complications in this game! Kobese took the point.

On the fourth board defending SA Champion Daniel Barrish beat Kenny Willenberg.

In the women's section African and South African Champion WIM Jesse February beat FM Rebecca Selkirk, WIM Anzel Laubscher beat Jacqui Grobbelaar and WIM Charlise van Zyl beat Robyn Klaasen in a well played attack.



In the Senior Section (over- 50) Mark Lewis beat Pierre Goosen.

Andrew Southey beat Mike Van Schaik after pressure with a knight sacrifice.

Cecil Ohlson beat Dr Omar Esau and is running with Mark Lewis at the top of the leaderboard!










Greg Baker and Stephen Gallied drew their game!

Hans Steyn brought his A-game from Pretoria and is a contender!

The standing as at the end of round five are:

Open

Ranking crosstable after Round 5

Rk.		Name	FED	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts.	TB1	TB2	TB3	TB4
1		IM Cawdery Daniel	RSA	*	½	½				½	1	+	3,5	0,0	5,50	2	1,0
2		GM Solomon Kenny	RSA	½	*		1	1			½		3,0	0,0	7,75	2	2,5
3		FM Barrish Daniel	RSA	½		*			1	1		½	3,0	0,0	5,25	2	1,5
4		FM Mhango Banele	RSA		0		*	1		1	1		3,0	0,0	4,50	3	1,0
5		FM Bhawoodien Shabir Hussain	RSA		0		0	*		1	½	1	2,5	0,0	2,50	2	0,0
6		IM Kobese Watu	RSA			0			*	½	1	½	2,0	0,0	2,00	1	0,0
7		Willenberg Kenneth Sean	RSA	½		0	0	0	½	*			1,0	0,0	2,75	0	1,0
		FM Klaasen Calvin John	RSA	0	½		0	½	0		*		1,0	0,0	2,75	0	1,0
9		CM Mazibuko Khanya	RSA	-		½		0	½			*	1,0	0,0	2,50	0	1,0

Annotation:

Tie Break1: Direct Encounter (The results of the players in the same point group)

Tie Break2: [Sonneborn-Berger-Tie-Break variable](#)

Tie Break3: [The greater number of victories \(variable\)](#)

Tie Break4: Koya Tie-Break

Women

Ranking crosstable after Round 3

Rk.		Name	FED	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Pts.	TB1	TB2	TB3	TB4
1	WIM	Van Zyl Charlize	RSA	*	½				1	1	2,5	0,0	1,50	2	0,5
2	WIM	February Jesse Nikki	RSA	½	*	½				1	2,0	0,0	2,00	1	1,0
3		Grobbelaar Jacqui	RSA		½	*		0	1		1,5	0,0	1,50	1	0,5
4		Badenhorst Chloe	RSA				*	1	½		1,5	0,0	1,25	1	1,0
5	WIM	Laubscher Anzel	RSA			1	0	*			1,0	0,0	1,50	1	1,0
6		Klaasen Robyn Julian	RSA	0		0	½		*		0,5	0,0	0,75	0	0,5
7	WCM	Selkirk Rebecca	RSA	0	0					*	0,0	0,0	0,00	0	0,0

Annotation:

Tie Break1: Direct Encounter (The results of the players in the same point group)

Tie Break2: [Sonneborn-Berger-Tie-Break variable](#)

Tie Break3: [The greater number of victories \(variable\)](#)

Tie Break4: Koya Tie-Break

Seniors

Rank after Round 5

Rk.	SNo	Name	sex	FED	Rtg	RtgI	RtgN	Pts.	TB1	TB2	TB3	TB4	Rp	n	w	we	w-we	K	rtg+/-
1	10	Lewis Mark		RSA	1875	1875	1802	4,5	0,0	10,00	4	3,5 ...	1878	4	3,5	3,43	0,07	20	1,4
2	1	Ohlson Cecil		RSA	1620	1620	1629	4,0	0,0	9,00	4	4,0 ...	1871	5	4	2,46	1,54	20	30,8
3	8	Steyn Hans		RSA	1840	1840	1872	3,5	0,0	7,25	3	2,5 ...	1677	4	2,5	3,24	-0,74	20	-14,8
4	6	Galleid Stephen		RSA	1578	1578	1590	3,0	0,0	5,50	2	1,5 ...	1599	3	1,5	0,91	0,59	20	11,8
5	4	Southey Andrew		RSA	1756	1756	1752	2,5	0,0	2,75	2	1,0 ...	1488	3	1	1,79	-0,79	20	-15,8
6	5	Esau Omar		RSA	1521	1521	1380	2,5	0,0	2,75	2	0,5 ...	1488	3	0,5	0,91	-0,41	20	-8,2
7	2	Van Schaik Michael		RSA	1578	1578	1606	2,0	1,0	2,50	2	1,0 ...	1472	4	1	1,56	-0,56	20	-11,2
8	3	Goosen Pierre		RSA	1427	1427	1254	2,0	0,0	4,00	2	1,0 ...	1519	4	1	0,69	0,31	40	12,4
9	9	Baker Gregory		RSA	1044	0	1044	0,5	0,0	1,50	0	0,5 ...	1206	5	0,5				
10	7	Gabriels Zaid		RSA	1357	0	1357	0,5	0,0	1,25	0	0,5 ...	1348	5	0,5				

Annotation:

Tie Break1: Direct Encounter (The results of the players in the same point group)

Tie Break2: Sonneborn-Berger-Tie-Break variable

Tie Break3: The greater number of victories (variable)

Tie Break4: Koya Tie-Break (fine)