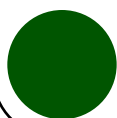




AFRICAN JUNIOR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Report by Lynne van Rensburg

2008



The African Junior Chess Championships 2008 was held from 28th December 2008 to 6th January 2009 at the Amanzintaba Resort “*Water from the Mountain*”, near Bronkhorstspuit, a town in the Gauteng Province , South Africa. 13 African countries were represented, which is a significant increase to previous years. One of the goals of CACDEC (*Committee for Assistance to Chess Developing Countries*) and the African Chess Union is to develop Chess in Africa and increase participation in FIDE rated events.



Africa

- Algeria
- Angola
- Botswana
- Burundi
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Libya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- Sudan
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

3 countries (Namibia, Nigeria and Somalia), unfortunately cancelled just before the tournament due to VISA time limits or financial constraints. We encourage them to enter earlier in 2009 in Egypt.

Tournament



Officials - IA Günther van den Bergh, Chief Arbiter, FA Lars Persson, and Brian Aitchison, CHESSA vice President.



FA Gilton Mkumbwa (Malawi), overlooks some of the games.

27 Boys and 15 girls competed in the event.

The "flow" of the tournament was extremely smooth which means it was well organized. The remoteness of the venue was certainly something that enabled the players to concentrate on the chess tournament. The Zero Tolerance Of Late Arrivals was applied as a special tournament rule and resulted in a fair amount of discussion at the pre tournament technical meeting, but the proposal was accepted. The result was that every player was seated at their table and ready to start at about 5 minutes before every round during the tournament. The latest arrival was usually 5 minutes before scheduled starting time.

In general the tournament proceeded with good discipline amongst the players and a very good spirit. Once the tournament started it went off in a most pleasing manner. The frustrations of the start receded from the prominence that it had initially, with the registration and arrival of teams (see later).

There were very few incidents that required Arbiter intervention and none that erupted into serious controversy.

In the Open section, where there were 8 FIDE rated players and 2 titled players, Egypt dominated in the top 5 . The "big 5" South Africans dominated in the Girls section where there were 6 FIDE rated players and 3 titled players in total.

Günther van den Bergh (International Arbiter - RSA) was the chief arbiter and Lars Persson (FIDE Arbiter RSA) and Gilton Mkumbwa (FIDE Arbiter MAL) were both awarded their second norms for International Arbiter qualifications.

Winners



In the Girls section, South Africa took the first 5 places. From left to right:

Daleen Wiid (3rd), Ezet Roos (2nd), Melissa Greeff (1st),
Karein Wageih (Egy - 1st), Andrew Kayonde (ZAM - 2nd) and Mosab Gator (Lib - 3rd).

IM Kariem Wageih from Cairo, retained his title as the African Junior Open Champion while WIM Melissa Greeff from Cape Town won the girls section for the 2nd time after winning in 2006. Both players were younger than the average age of the players and received their 2nd GM norms.

“We are all winners in the game of chess - some win ideas and some win points”.
- a quote from one of the players who really enjoyed the tournament.




Results

AFRICAN JUNIOR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2008_9

OPEN Section

Results after round 9

POS	PLACE	FLAG	FED	NAME	RATING	TITLE	SCORE	CUMUL	BUCHM	SONNB	KOYA
1	1		EGY	WAGEIH, KAREIM	2197	IM	7.5	39.5	28.0	41.00	7.5
2	=2		ZAM	KAYONDE, ANDREW	0		7.0	37.0	28.0	38.00	6.0
3	=2		LBA	GATOR, MOSAB	0		7.0	36.0	28.0	37.00	7.0
4	4		EGY	ISMAIL, SHEREIF	2184	FM	6.5	31.0	28.5	34.75	5.5
5	5		RSA	DOLE, ANANT	1997		6.0	31.0	28.5	30.75	4.0
6	=6		ANG	SOARES, ERIKSON	2262		5.5	29.0	25.0	20.50	2.5
7	=6		ANG	ADELINO, VASCO	0		5.5	26.5	23.0	24.25	3.0
8	=8		UGA	KAWUMA, PATRICK	0		5.0	28.0	25.5	22.25	2.0
9	=8		MOZ	PAIVA, DONALDO	0		5.0	26.5	25.0	19.50	3.0
10	=8		ANG	SANTOS, JEOVANY	0		5.0	26.5	18.0	17.00	2.0
11	=8		LBA	ADEL, RAMI	0		5.0	26.0	23.5	19.50	3.0
12	=12		RSA	VAN RENSBURG, RYAN	1963		4.5	26.5	26.0	20.75	2.5
13	=12		BOT	GUMPO, THABO	0		4.5	24.0	24.0	19.25	2.5
14	=12		RSA	BLAAUW, CORNE	0		4.5	22.0	25.0	19.75	3.5
15	=12		RSA	LONG HOW, PETER	1987		4.5	21.0	22.0	18.25	1.0
16	=12		ANG	ADAO, DAVID	0		4.5	18.5	19.5	13.00	0.5

17	=12		UGA	NKEMBA, JAMES	0		4.5	17.0	15.0	11.25	0.5
18	=18		MAW	MWALE, JOSEPH	0		4.0	21.0	22.0	15.00	1.5
19	=18		ANG	CAMPOS, RUI	2105		4.0	20.0	18.0	12.50	1.0
20	=18		BOT	CHANDNA, SHUBHAM	0		4.0	18.0	15.5	11.50	0.5
21	=18		ZIM	KATEMA, PATRICK	0		4.0	18.0	15.0	9.00	0.0
22	=18		RSA	BORNHEIM, DARREN	0		4.0	15.0	15.0	8.50	0.5
23	=23		MRI	DE ROBILLARD, VINCENT	1846		3.5	18.0	22.0	14.75	1.5
24	=23		SEY	ACCOUCHE, ANDRY	0		3.5	17.0	21.5	9.50	0.0
25	=23		LBA	ALFELU, AHMED	0		3.5	16.5	16.0	5.50	0.0
26	26		SEY	PILLAY, RAGUL	0		2.0	12.0	15.5	1.50	0.0
27	27		LBA	ALNAMI, SALAHEDDIN	0		1.5	8.5	15.5	2.00	0.0






CHESSA President, Emelia Ellappen hands the trophy to Karien Wageih from Egypt, who retains the title from 2007



AFRICAN JUNIOR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2008_9

GIRLS

Results after round 9

POS	PLACE	FLAG	FED	NAME	RATING	TITLE	SCORE	CUMUL	BUCHM	SONNB	KOYA
1	1		RSA	GREEFF, MELISSA	1963	WIM	8.0	40.0	26.0	39.00	6.0
2	2		RSA	ROOS, EZET	1723		7.5	36.0	26.0	40.50	6.5
3	=3		RSA	WIID, DALEEN	1939	WIM	6.0	30.0	26.0	28.75	4.0
4	=3		RSA	DE JAGER, CARMEN	1799	WCM	6.0	29.0	24.5	25.00	4.5
5	5		RSA	ALBERTS, NICOLA	0		5.5	27.0	25.0	24.25	3.5
6	=6		ANG	ROCHA, VALQUIRIA	1824		5.0	29.0	26.5	22.50	3.0
7	=6		LBA	ELFLOW, KHALOOD	0		5.0	22.0	19.5	13.00	1.0
8	=8		ANG	ROSALINO, SONIA	0		4.5	24.5	20.0	12.75	0.5
9	=8		ANG	LOPES, NELMA	0		4.5	22.5	18.5	14.00	1.5
10	=8		RSA	HOEK, ADRIANA	0		4.5	19.5	16.0	10.50	0.5
11	=11		BOT	LESO, GORATA	0		4.0	23.0	18.5	8.50	0.0
12	=11		ANG	GUIMARAES, LUCIA	0		4.0	18.5	17.5	11.25	1.5
13	=13		SEY	FIGARO, DERICKA	1780		3.0	17.0	17.0	6.00	1.0
14	=13		KEN	ASIEMA, ISABELLA	0		3.0	14.0	17.0	4.50	0.0
15	15		BOT	KOLAATAMO, LAME	0		1.5	8.0	17.0	2.00	0.0
16	16		UGA	MUTESI, PHIONA	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0

Arrival

Although the tournament itself started on time, the day before started with quite a bit of chaos due to a number of reasons. Not all the Federations had confirmed their travel arrangements in advance and arrived at 3 different venues namely the Johannesburg station, Pretoria Station and OR Tambo International airport. Although the organisers had booked mini buses to the venue for those who had indicated, it was difficult to cope with unannounced entries resulting in a shortage of transport. This also had an effect on those who had notified the organisers of their arrangements in time, who then had to wait for the return of mini buses to fetch them.

The rain also added to the time in getting people to the venue, as the road to the resort was muddy and wet, with rough terrain. The Seychelles delegation's flight was delayed by 5 hours, and they eventually arrived at the venue, tired but still in good spirits at 2:30am. To add to this, one of the player's luggage was lost at the airport, but fortunately found a few days later, adding another trip to the airport.

Registration

There were also problems with the collection of fees at the airport, as federations sent fewer or more people than originally entered. This meant invoices needed adjustments, rooms needed to be reallocated etc causing time delays. It was also advised for all participants and accompanying persons to pay in advance (by 30th November) via bank transfer to avoid the risk of carrying large sums of cash. Unfortunately the Libyan team had some money and cameras stolen which we apologise for the bad experience and inconvenience. The resort manager hired 5 additional security guards for the rest of the tournament for the safety of the players and accompanying persons.

Recommendations

We urge countries to please co-operate with the organisers in the future to improve on logistical problems. We would also advise a central transit lounge with a registration desk at one place only, where all fees (including FIDE fees) could be checked before departing to the playing venue. Not all federations had paid their FIDE Fees, which again delayed the transport issues. If arrival times were clearly indicated, separate transport from the stations to the airport could have been arranged, allowing the shuttle buses to rotate continuously throughout the day to the venue.

Pre-payments are required in other continents and Africa need to follow suit to facilitate the registration process and minimise the display of cash in public places, as this adds to the risk of crime, particularly in South Africa.

Venue



The resort had a number of spacious self contained thatched chalets which were comfortable and fairly well equipped for self catering. It had a central area , used as the dining area. This was a large thatch construction with roll down marquee walls so that in the warm days it could be opened to create an almost outside type of atmosphere. The staff were very friendly and tried to assist wherever possible. Thanks to Eddie Smith and staff for their hard work.

Cell phone reception at best was marginal. The need for internet access in modern day chess is essential. This applies to the tournament organizers and the participants. The results were uploaded to the official website daily but photo's were only added afterwards once better signals were established. There was also no ready cell phone air time voucher kiosk on the venue, but we helped out by buying air time in town and via the internet.

The playing hall was a short walk from the dining area along undulating path which crossed the river with a log constructed bridge – not ideal for anyone with disabilities . The hall had good fluorescent lighting and French doors which opened to allow good fresh air flow through the hall. A number of oscillating fans were used in the hall as there was no air conditioning.

Although it would be nice to host this prestige event in an air conditioned 5 star hotel close to the airport, this would require additional funding, as more than 50% of players are sponsored by the hosting country. The time of the year is also peak holiday season in most countries, where venues are at their most expensive, but this time of the year is the most suitable for students and scholars, who then do not miss study time. The remoteness of the venue allowed the players to get to know each other quite well.

Day off



A musician was organised to entertain at the New Years Eve party on 31st December. The Angolan team had the best spirit on this evening and enjoyed dancing.

Some players preferred to rest the following morning on New Years Day while others visited the Buddhist Temple in Bronkhorstspuit, which is the biggest temple in the Southern Hemisphere.

We celebrated 5 birthdays during the tournament :

- 31 Dec - Mosab Gator (LIB)
- 1st Jan - Anant Dole (RSA)
- 3rd Jan - Lynne van Rensburg (Organiser)
- 4th Jan - Isabella Asiema (Ken)
- 5th Jan - Gunther van den Bergh - Arbiter (Chief arbiter)

In the afternoon, those who wanted to (including accompanying persons and coaches) enjoyed the Blitz.

Congratulations to Erickson Soares from Angola, the top seed in the main tournament for winning the Blitz. Results are on the official website.



More chess during the free time!!!

Sponsors and Special Guests



Mr. Dabilani Buthali, African Chess Union President (BOT) delivers an opening address.



Mr. Lewis Ncube, FIDE Vice President (ZAM) looks on at the prize giving

We would like to thank FIDE, CHESS South Africa, Allan Gray and the Department of Sport and Recreation for sponsoring this event which without them would have not been possible. We would also like to thank the special guests, FIDE vice president, Lewis Ncube (ZAM), African Chess Union President, Dabilani Buthali (BOT), CHESSA President and vice President, Emelia Ellappen and Brian Aitchison for attending the tournament. Your presence and support was appreciated.

Thank you to Chris de Jager for capturing the games in pgn format, which were available to the players during the tournament. These and additional photo's can be downloaded from the official website:

<http://www.chessa.co.za/Africanjuniors.html>

Lastly, thanks to Neelu Dole who unfortunately had to withdraw at the last minute due to a family crisis. Many of the delegations would liked to have met her, after corresponding for a few months before the tournament.

We had a lot of positive feedback from many of the players who enjoyed the tournament, and hope it grows from strength to strength.

Good luck to Egypt for the African Junior Chess Championships 2009! We hope to see you all there.