

First in our 10 week website profiling of Chessa members, week one we are starting with Free State Chess.

## Free State Chess Profile



### Current

Free State Chess as an Executive Committee under the stewardship of Professor Lochner Marias. The current Executive Committee was elected in December 2017. The Exco is in compliance with its constitution.

### Last few years

Free State chess has expanded the number of districts involved in chess from two (2) to three (3). Two more districts will become full members in January 2019, totaling to 5 districts. In addition to longstanding activity in Lejweleputswa and Mangaung, Xhariep has been active for the last three years and active committees have been established in Fezile Dabi and Thabo Mofutsanyane. Tshediso Ramabodu and Sello Shai are heading these last two districts and are working very hard to create functionality in these districts. We hope to increase the number of chess players by adding these two districts. Our 3 active regions has participated in the recent editions of the SAJCC.

### The last 12 months

Over the last 12 months the Free State hosted the **SA Inter-Provincial teams** and the **SA Open** tournaments while Mangaung, Lejweleputswa and Xhariep participated and did well at the **Inter-District** tournament held in Kimberley in May of this year. The Inter-Provincial tournament hosted teams from the nine provinces in three sections: A-Section, Women's-sections and a B-Section. The SA Open was won by GM Sahaj Grover with IM Daniel Cawdery in the second place. In the B-section two of our local players, Katleho Mantje came first and Kamohelo Posholi was in the third position. Free State based players that have achieved top 20 positions results in the A section were Patrick Mmoneng (10<sup>th</sup>) Franco Marais (11<sup>th</sup>), Lefu Sekharume (19<sup>th</sup>) and Samson Mofokeng (20<sup>th</sup>). We managed to have SABC news and television broadcast report in our bid to help market Chess during the SA Open.

## Arbiters

The mission is to have 10 new arbiters by the end of 2019 covering all the 5 regions and so far we managed to have 5 new Regional Arbiters with 3 qualifying during the SA Open. We believe we are doing well with our pace.

Ben de Winnaar who is a Fide Arbiter (FA) is mandated to ensure Arbiters development in FS and also assists other Provinces was selected to act as arbiter at the Olympiad in Georgia in September 2018.

## Our tournaments

Our premier events are Morris Club Tournament, Free State Open and Piet van Zyl Festival. It is common knowledge that Oom Piet is the living ancestor of Free State Chess who has touched many chess lives in South Africa and it was befitting for FS Chess to honor him in this way.

The Free State open will take place over the weekend of *17 and 18 August* in Bloemfontein. We welcome any other member of Chessa who would like to come and have a good time with us.

Piet van Zyl Chess Festival will be held early October and is a FIDE rated tournament. We are in the process of building cross border relations with Lesotho and the will sure try to come and take the first prize.



(Pic: Piet van Zyl)

## **Immediate future**

Free State chess will also approve a strategic plan at their next OGM. The strategic plan focuses on aspects of good governance, expanding the game and improving the quality of chess in the province. We hope that in taking small steps we will be able to expand the game and improve the quality of chess in the province.

Relationship management with stakeholder has taken a centre stage and FS Chess is working very close with Departments of Sports, Education and with Free State Sports Confederations to ensure the pace of our sport development is accelerated.