

Reflections by Dr Lyndon Bouah – Olympiad

The Olympiad took place the first two weeks of September 2016. Whilst the main event was happening various meetings were held in the city. Let's look at a few matters that have some interest for Africa and South Africa.

The following countries were ratified as members of FIDE:

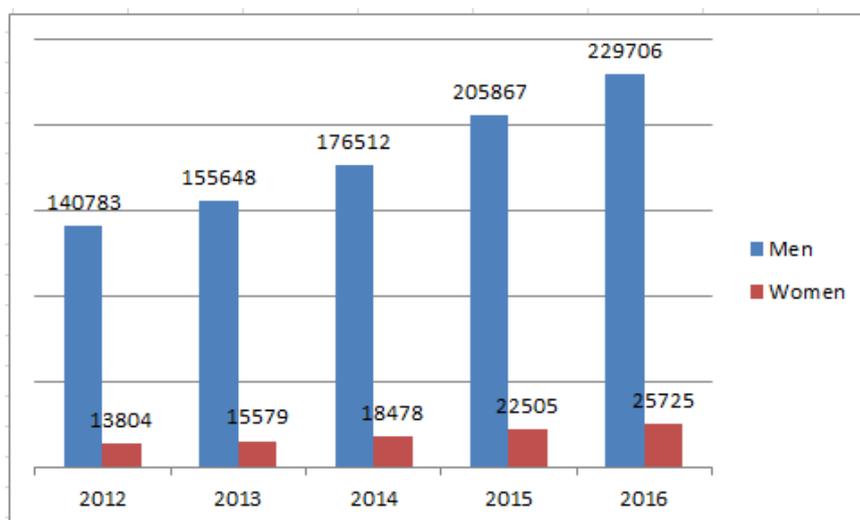
- Burkina Faso
- Tanzania
- South Sudan
- Liberia
- Cape Verde

South Sudan made quite an impression and their players are capable of playing. I played one youngster at the African Individual who literally had to escape the war to come to the event. Tanzania was for a long time a member of FIDE but failed to pay its debts. I remember Tanzania sending players to various events during my junior days.

I don't know much about Liberia and Burkina Faso as chess countries. I am assuming that Cape Verde has chess due to its Portuguese links. Cape Verde has a very impressive Football team and was at one stage one of the highest ranked FIFA countries despite having a very small population.

The 2018 Chess Olympiad will be taking place from 23 September to 7 October 2018 in Batumi, Georgia. Chess will be appointing one official to start coordinating matters in July 2017 and the places will be finalising their places at the SA Closed which is scheduled for December 2017. The chess Olympiad 2020 is set for Khanty Mansiysk in Russia.

The FIDE Women's Commission spoke about the many interesting projects that they are involved in. There appears to have been a growth in women chess over the last few years. Let's recap the last five years shall we:



Work must still be done as male players are increasing very fast in comparison to female players.

The World Youth Chess Championships for Disabled will be held from 23-29 June 2017 in Orlando, Florida. The World Chess Championship for Disabled will be held from 20-30 October 2017 in Dresden, Germany. The Chessa Physically Challenged Commission will be studying the requirements for these events and make the requisite proposals to Chessa.

FIDE released its list of international arbiters with South Africa being represented by Gunther van den Bergh and Eddie Price.

Regards

Dr Lyndon Bouah