

From lower Class to upper Class

The afternoon visiting the Nelson Mandela square quickly turned into a work visit as nearby, my daughters go to the upmarket school known as Crawford Schools. The school is attended by A-list parent's children. There can never be a startling class contrast in the SA school system than this. It can be the building appearance to the air-conditioned environments, even the rolling design deco gardens. This school boasts an Italian restaurant on campus while the normal school can do with a Tuck shop.

The learners of this school clearly receive a better education from the best qualified teachers in the best environment in South Africa. The cost of education is not chicken feed either! Mind you the school is listed in the stock-exchange!



(Here's Bassem mimicking Magnus Carlsen as he tries modeling with the prestigious Crawford in the backdrop)



(The Head Mistress/Principal Reece took time off to welcome the Africa champion, Nice!!!)



(Some game position analysis)



(Time odds were incredibly One to Five Minutes! Be warned: GM. Bassem is 3200 Elo on Internet- Bullet!)





(It was an eye opener for the visiting Grandmaster!)

Chess in the Park

In most major cities of the world there is an urban culture of chess in some park. In Johannesburg there is a park known as Joubert Park. Here the main activity was always chess until the Soccer world cup 2010 in South Africa left a little legacy of an out-door television locked on a soccer channel. However still, chess is played on the Giant chess set board and several break-away like table on normal sizes Staunton sets. To find a friendly game will be difficult because money (Gambling) is the reason.

This is where many chess players from many African countries hang-out. Funny enough every time I bring a stranger player these regulars do not hesitate to challenge for a bet. I guess they have gotten used to the fact that after using the

“unknown” top player to collect all their daily earning, I give it back and announce who the master really is. I did this with Watu Kobese, who strangely was unknown and no one could recognize him and he played a simultaneous blind fold to the shock of all. Then there was the young Gwaze who mesmerized. Mandizha, Simutowe, Chumfwa and Chitumbo! You will bet the park regulars have learned from the past? No! They refused to believe that GM. Bassem is here in person. Then they challenged to teach him a lesson! After a score of something like 42-0 later. All were competing on who lost the worst!



To our good fortune upon arrival at the park, one of the regulars there International Kudzanai mamombe was in attendance. His chess has taken a dip and he never sit to compete, he just come to watch!



Grandmaster Bassem sat down and took amazing time odds against all (2 to 5 Minutes).



What followed was a chess lesson that many will not forget. While many claim to win against IM. Mamombe, the African champion proved that a master is to be respected! Bassem it seemed, was able to humiliate the opponent using chess pieces. Players who sat across him proclaiming they are going to beat him, playing

to the spectators, were beaten handsomely. In fact it was becoming clear to the on-lookers as captured beautifully in this man's expression together with the fans reactions! Let's face it!



The GM enjoyed every moment!

More pictures.....





The end was very sweet. 100% Wins! Many bid Grandmaster Bassem a warm farewell and a wish that he defends his title. Then come back to the park to test his skills again!