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To whom it may concern,

Throughout the year Buffalo City and every other region in South Africa held their trials, whereby the best of the region, get selected to compete. The SAJCCC thus took place in July 2021 in an online format, which cameras and mics were required to ensure fair play. Some players were disqualified however NONE of our players were affected. I am very proud that we play fair! Over 500 players competed.

Stage 1

The event was held in 3 stages, Stage 1 being the wild card, whereby if you had not already qualified for the Closed Stage 2, this was the last chance. Our entries to the wild card accompanied by the results are as follows:

Stage 1- Wild Card, Open Swiss event where each age group qualified a certain amount of players to join other qualifiers in stage 2					
Group	Name	Position	Players	To qualify	Qualified
U80	George Aaron	3rd	14	14	Yes
U100	Gower Daniel	14-19th	25	5	No
U12G	George Alaina	10-13th	15	15	Yes
U120	Botha Tyler	10-11th	32	11	Yes
U14G	Dove Megan	1-2nd (1st on tie break)	10	8	Yes
U140	Gopakumar Nikhil	25-27th	33	7	No
U140	Ndumndum Lelami	28-29th	33	7	No
U160	Becker Matthew	3-4th (3rd on tie break)	31	11	Yes
U160	Wang Ikai	20-25th	31	11	No
U18	Ou Jing-Qian	(event abandoned)	9	All	Yes

Here we bagged 3 podiums (Top 3 places)! With 6 of our 10 entered players qualifying. This determined the best of the best.

Stage 2

Stage two had our players that qualified for the wild card along with players that already qualified due to their performances last year. Our qualified players had the following results:

Stage 2- Round Robin, 8 players in each group with the top 4 in each group progressing to the final 16 (Some age groups went for a swiss event). Players from the wild card joined players that qualified via Grand Prix rated events in 2020 or the canceled SAJCCC in 2020					
Group	Name	Position	Players	To qualify	Qualified
U8O	George Aaron	5th (Swiss)	20	16th	Yes
U10G	Beecum Viha	6th (Swiss)	27	16th	Yes
U10 O	Deang Aldre	6th (Group 1)	8	4th	No
U12G	George Alaina	4th (Promoted)	8	4th	Yes
U12O	Botha Tyler	3rd (Group 1)	8	4th	Yes
U12 O	Chang Samuel	2nd (Group 2)	8	4th	Yes
U14G	Bixa Tshegofatso	4th (Group 1)	8	4th	Yes
U14G	Dove Megan	2nd (Group 2)	8	4th	Yes
U16G	Wang Pei-Shan	1st (Group 1)	8	4th	Yes
U16G	Qangule Mandibonge	5th (Group 3)	8	4th	No
U16G	Becker Robyn	1st (Group 4)	8	4th	Yes
U16G	Jacobs Elsje	3rd (Group 4)	8	4th	Yes
U16O	Becker Matthew	7th (Group 1)	8	4th	No
U16O	Meise Keagen	3rd (Group 2)	8	4th	Yes
U16O	Chang Sebastian	4th (Group 2)	8	4th	Yes
U16O	Sparg Nathan	2nd (Group 3)	8	4th	Yes
U18	Ou Jing-Qian	24th (Swiss)	29	16	No

Here we bagged 8 podiums (Top 3 places)! With 13 of our 17 entered players qualifying. This determined the best of the best of the best. 13 of our players of ours being in the top 16 spots at the South African Junior Chess Closed is an amazing achievement for our region!

Stage 3

Stage 3 consisted of knock out events, like a world cup where players first qualify via a group. This stage was to determine the best of the best of the best of the best. If you got knocked out of the final 16 you were out, however if you got knocked out from the final 8, you could still fight for 5th. The M refers to match number in the age group and it was just a way to identify the match up.

George Alaina (EBC) U12G

Final 16				
Ramlall Sanjana (GJM)	1	1		2,0
George Alaina (EBC)	0	0		0,0
Final Ranking = 9th-16th				
This young lady has been persistent and can be very proud to have finished within the top 16 in the country! Only losing to the lady that came 5th.				

Botha Tyler (EBC)

Final 16				
Reyneke Luke (GTP)	0	1	1	2,0
Botha Tyler (EBC)	1	0	0	1,0
Final Ranking = 9th-16th				
This young man is a fighter to the end! He can be very proud of finishing in the top 16 in South Africa! Only losing to the player that came 5th				

Chang Samuel (EBC)

Final 16				
Boheim Eugene (GTP)	1	1		2,0
Chang Samuel (EBC)	0	0		0,0
Final Ranking = 9th-16th				
Samuel is a big talent who has competed internationally. Only losing to the player that came 4th. He will be back fighting for the top places, that is for sure!				

Dove Megan (EBC)

Final 16				
Goosen Mignon (GSV)	1	0	1	2,0
Dove Megan (EBC)	0	1	0	1,0
Final Ranking = 9th-16th				
Brilliant performance by winning the wild card! Only losing to the player that came in 6th. Megans chess has improved greatly and she can be proud to have finished in the top 16 in the country!				

Bixa Tshegofatso (EBC)

Final 16				
Bixa Tshegofatso (EBC)	0	0		0,0
Badenhorst Chloe (GJM)	1	1		2,0
Final Ranking = 9th-16th				
Tshego is the ultimate boss over the board, however she performed very well online to finish in the top 16 in South Africa! She lost only to the winner of the event, she can be very proud!				

Becker Robyn (EBC)

Final 16				
Becker Robyn (EBC)	0	0		0,0
Naude Nia (GTP)	1	1		2,0
Final Ranking = 9th-16th				
Robyn performed very well, winning stage 2 of the event. However she lost only to the lady that came 3rd. She maintains her place as part of the leading group of players in South Africa!				

Meise Keagen (EBC)

Final 16				
Shuping Omphile (GTP)	1	1		2,0
Meise Keagen (EBC)	0	0		0,0
Final Ranking = 9th-16th				
Keagen played really well and can be proud to maintain his position as a leading player in his age group. There is no doubt he will be fighting for positions at the very top. Another player who is an absolute boss over the board!				

Chang Sebastian (EBC)

Final 16				
Fourie Brandon (GTP)	1	0,5		1,5
Chang Sebastian (EBC)	0	0,5		0,5
Final Ranking = 9th-16th				
Only losing to the player that came 3rd, Sebastian continues to show an abundance of talent and deserves his place among the leading group of players in South Africa!				

Next up we look at the players that made it to the final 8

George Aaron (EBC) – U8

Final 16				
George Aaron (EBC)	1	1		2,0
Samsunder Aryan (GJM)	0	0		0,0
Final 8				
George Aaron (EBC)	0	1	0	1,0
Steyn Willem (FMB)	1	0	1	2,0
Fight for 5th-8th (Match 1)				
M inny Oban (GTP)	1	0	0	1,0
George Aaron (EBC)	0	1	1	2,0
Fight for 5th-8th (Match 2)				
George Aaron (EBC)	1	1		2,0
Slabbert Marko (GTP)	0	0		0,0
Final Ranking = 5th				
All I can say about this player is that a new star has entered the scene for Buffalo City Chess! 5th in the country is a great achievement!				

Beecum Viha (EBC)

Final 16				
Snyman Mila Marie (WP)	0	0		0,0
Beecum Viha (EBC)	1	1		2,0
Final 8				
Budhram Kaylee (KED)	0,5	0		0,5
Beecum Viha (EBC)	0,5	1		1,5
Final 4				
Beecum Viha (EBC)	0	1	0	1,0
Miya Minentle (NWP)	1	0	1	2,0
3rd 4th place play off				
Mungal Zoey (GJM)	1	1		2,0
Beecum Viha (EBC)	0	0		0,0
Final Ranking = 4th				
Viha has come a long way from finishing in the bottom half of an U10 BC Chess trials to 4th in the country. Hard work pays off!				

Sparg Nathan (EBC)

Final 16				
Ristic Andrej (GTP)	0	0,5		0,5
Sparg Nathan (EBC)	1	0,5		1,5
Final 8				
Van Der Merwe Alexandre	1	1		2,0
Sparg Nathan (EBC)	0	0		0,0
Fight for 5th-8th (Match 1)				
Sparg Nathan (EBC)	1	0,5		1,5
Shuping Omphile (GTP)	0	0,5		0,5
Fight for 5th-8th (Match 2)				
Mostert Adriaan (GTP)	0	1	0	1,0
Sparg Nathan (EBC)	1	0	1	2,0
Final Ranking = 5th				
<p>The U16 Open group was probably the toughest group by rating. Nathan lost only to the eventual champion. Nathan's chess has nowhere to go but up, he will be a national champion sooner or later, no doubt.</p>				

Jacobs Elsje (EBC)

Final 16				
Jacobs Elsje (EBC)	1	1		2,0
Shaw Amy (GJM)	0	0		0,0
Final 8				
Jacobs Elsje (EBC)	1	1		2,0
Naude Nia (GTP)	0	0		0,0
Final 4				
Wang Pei-Shan (EBC)	0,5	1		1,5
Jacobs Elsje (EBC)	0,5	0		0,5
3rd 4th play off				
Jacobs Elsje (EBC)	1	0	0	1,0
Nel Hayley (GE)	0	1	1	2,0
Final Ranking = 4th				
<p>Elsje produced the most fighting chess of the event. Being knocked out by the eventual champion can only motivate her. Finishing 4th in the country is a great achievement!</p>				

Wang Pei-Shan (EBC)

Final 16				
Wang Pei-Shan (EBC)	1	1		2,0
Venter Zanri (GTP)	0	0		0,0
Final 8				
Wang Pei-Shan (EBC)	0	1	1	2,0
Yacoob Ameera (WP)	1	0	0	1,0
Final 4				
Wang Pei-Shan (EBC)	0,5	1		1,5
Jacobs Elsje (EBC)	0,5	0		0,5
FINALS				
Wang Pei-Shan (EBC)	0,5	1		1,5
Claassen Gabriella (GTP)	0,5	0		0,5
Final Ranking = 1st (CHAMPION)				
<p>What else can be said of Pei-Shan other than being the South African Junior U16 Girls champion! She trained well, and let her talent do the rest. Buffalo City Chess can be very proud to have our own champion!</p>				

The above results confirm that our region belongs among the best and can look forward to the many futures national events!

Best of luck to Pei-Shan who is participating in the World Cadet Championship this weekend! Not representing Buffalo City, but South Africa! Another 5% push and many more players will inevitably join these ranks!

Kind Regards
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