Uzbekistan Chess Olympiad Reflections (9) by Dr Lyndon Bouah

Greetings family, friends, colleagues and the broader chess community from Uzbekistan.

The 2026 Chess Olympiad is being held in Samarkand in Uzbekistan. 200 countries from across the world have gathered to play in this prestigious event. Uzbekistan is in Central Asia, in the heart of the ancient Silk Road region.



I am the coach for this wonderful team of Grenada. We have been working together since January 2025. Teams and LICHESS have been wonderful in coaching a team thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean.



Over the years I have been coaching many teams and have learnt a thing or two. Let me tell you about the lessons.

1. Understand what the player knows and what he/ she does not know.

2. Appreciate the time that you have with the player. There may not be sufficient time to coach someone a complete repertoire.

3. The coach must understand the strengths and weaknesses of the player.

4. Openings and defences must be planned that will play to the strengths of the player.

5. Specific time must be arranged to analyse the games of each player. This will allow possible weaknesses that may occur in the event or subsequent events to be analysed and to take the necessary measures.

6. Check the time a player uses for different phases of the game. How confident is the player in the opening, middlegame and endgame?

7. Is the clock a friend or enemy? Determine what should be avoided to maximise the return.

8. Coaching requires patience.

9. One can learn from both lost games and won games. Analyse both.

10. A coach must allow a player to play their best. And if a player does not win a specific game, then the coach must take the lessons from that game and apply it to the next game.

Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose but you always learn!

Grenada Open team played Gabon who is staying in the same hotel as Grenada. The team narrowly lost 2.5 to 1.5 against Gabon. Gabon won a point early on against us on board 4 and thereafter the rest of the boards steered the games to a drawn position.

Bo.	174	Gabon (GAB)	Rtg -	198	Grenada (GRN)	Rtg	2½:1½
		(c) Amir Zaibi			(c) Lyndon Bouah		
91.1		☐ Koumba, Mounguen Jose Evrard	1973	-	■ Renniel, Gilbert	1848	½ - ½
91.2		■ MBOULA MBOUMBA, Jerome	1812	-	☐ Pope, Omario	1431	½ - ½
91.3		☐ TCHIBINDA ONDO MVE, Onass Theo Jonady	0	-	■ Jaedyn, C	0	½ - ½
91.4		■ TATY, Charles	1680	-	☐ Mendez, Vladimir	1651	1 - 0

In the Women's section Grenada played Timor- Leste. Grenada lost 3 to 1 but our WCM Elect Rhonda Lambert keeps on winning.

Bo.	130	Timor-Leste (TLS)	Rtg -	172	Grenada (GRN)	Rtg	3 : 1
		(c) Zeferino Viegas Tilman			(c) Denise Bouah		
80.1		☐ de Araujo, Maria Soares	1724	-	■ Rhonda, J Lambert	1577	0 - 1
80.2		■ da Silva, Sonizia A.Tilman	1675	-	☐ Achazia, N.A.Lewis	0	1 - 0
80.3		☐ dos Santos, Elfiana	1674	-	■ Naziyah, S.A.James	0	1 - 0
80.4		■ Soares, Embelina Agusta	1587	-	☐ Tehalyani, Kenishka	0	1 - 0

SA Women played Luxembourg

Bo.	58	Luxembourg (LUX)	Rtg -	86	South Africa (RSA)	Rtg	1 : 3
		(c) Cedric Paci			(c) Kenneth Terence Solomon		
34.1	WGM	☐ Wagener, Anna	2160	- WFM	■ Badenhorst, Chloe	1997	½ - ½
34.2		■ Lyon, Hannah Jane	1906	- WIM	☐ Laubscher, Anzel	1817	½ - ½
34.3		☐ Sivashankar, Samyukta	1878	- WCM	■ Nel, Hayley	1864	0 - 1
34.4		■ Kremer, Nadine	1882	-	☐ Masango, Sizakele	1880	0 - 1

SA Open team played an all-GM line up from Cuba. In a sensational result, the SA Open team drew with Cuba. I was watching the games and was so happy when I saw Caleb Levitan obtain an excellent position which he converted. Charlton Mnyasta then also played a lovely opposite colored bishop ending to beat, I think, his first grandmaster. Banele's game I am not sure of as he was a

queen down for a few minor pieces. Jan kept the resistance going on one but the Cuban board one could not be denied.

Bo.	44	Cuba (CUB)	Rtg -	77	South Africa (RSA)	Rtg	2 : 2
		(c) Rodney Oscar Perez Garcia			(c) Henry Robert Steel		
34.1	GM	□ Elias Reyes, Jorge Roberto	2505 -	IM	■ Karsten, Jan	2386	1 - 0
34.2	GM	■ Martinez Duany, Lelys Stanley	2440 -	IM	□ Levitan, Caleb Levi	2316	0 - 1
34.3	GM	□ Espinosa Veloz, Ermes	2460 -	FM	■ Mhango, Banele	2354	1 - 0
34.4	GM	■ Alvarez Pedraza, Aramis	2433 -		□ Mnyasta, Charlton	2236	0 - 1

Regards,

Dr Lyndon Bouah

Reporting live from Uzbekistan