

Chess for All

non-profit company

Not for nothing is chess known as “the game of kings”. No doubt the rulers of empires and kingdoms saw in the game fitting practice for the strategizing and forecasting they themselves were required to do when dealing with other monarchs and challengers. As we learn more about the brain, some are beginning to push for chess to be reintroduced as a tool in the public’s education. With benefits like these, they have a strong case.

- It can raise your IQ
- It exercises both sides of the brain
- It increases your creativity
- It improves your memory
- It increases problem-solving skills
- It improves reading skills
- It improves concentration

From the local chess community Susan Marx, Nicholas van der Nat, Karin de Beer CA(SA) and Ewan Oberholzer CA(SA) understood that chess should be introduced to the children of South Africa to ensure the benefits listed above are realised.

Chess for All was founded by them as non-profit company with one of its goals to strive to introduce and improve Chess in as many schools as possible.

Queens-to-be, one of **Chess for All**'s projects, was highly successful with more than a 1000 school girls that were reached.

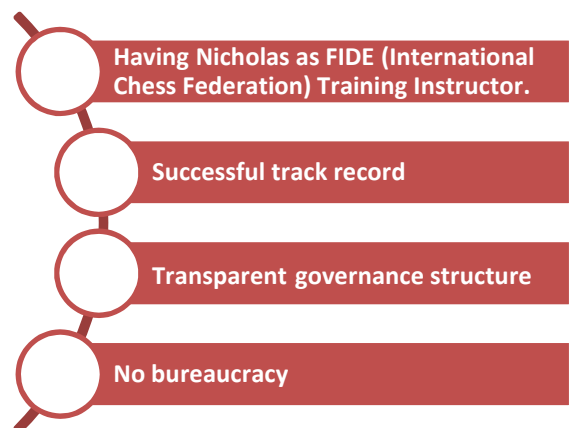
Because of the **Queens-to-be** project **Chess for All** also hosted the **SA Women’s Open Chess Festival & Championship 2013** which ran from 8-11 August.



From left to right: Nicholas, Karin and Susan. Three of the founding members and directors of **Chess for All**.

Chess as a sport will grow when more children are exposed to it and Chess SA, the governing body of chess in South Africa, have provincial structures where children can participate not only on provincial and national level but also internationally.

Some of the success factors **Chess for All** believes are important:



Having appropriate governance structures in place gave sponsors such as Deloitte, Accountancy @ UJ, PPC, Spectramed, Accounting Professional Training, City Lodge and Liberty (Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton) peace of mind when dealing with **Chess for All**



this is our

QUEENS-TO-BE

Better themselves

Develop analytical ability

Improve decision making

Increase intellectual ability

On 9 Aug 2013, 150 girls participated in the Queens-to-Be tournament as part of the SA Women's Open Chess Festival and Championship. The top selected player received a scholarship.

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MOVES THAT MATTER

Chess is a mirror of life, rich in metaphors for human experience. It is a pitched battle to the finish between opposing armies, yet completely non-violent, with no injuries ever reported from playing (as yet). It is a testing ground where we can experiment, act out, sacrifice or play the dragon, with no consequences other than wiping the board clean and starting over again. Chess is a blend of primitive instinct and sophisticated calculation, it lets a player directly engage the mind of another human being – learning from experience, memorizing common patterns, methodically building a position, setting traps, analyzing variations, and finally moving in for the kill.



TOURNAMENT FIT FOR A QUEEN

Through an initiative by *Chess for All* a chess development programme was run with more than a thousand school girls at 22 schools in Johannesburg Metro. The objective of this programme was to promote chess amongst girls from disadvantaged communities, with all its education, social and competitive benefits. The goals of the project are to encourage our Queens-to-Be to realize that the best way to better themselves is through the improvement of their minds, not only in developing intellectual and analytical ability, but also in decision-making skills, which they can transfer to real life.



At the SA Women's Open Chess Festival & Championship 2013, 8-11 August the top 150 girls participated in their own development tournament. The top selected player received a scholarship to study at the Accountancy Department @ UJ.

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