



The Friendly Post

News from ICCF-US Friendly Matches from around the world - Issue 39, March 2022

Greetings from ICCF-US Friendly Match Central. This is the newsletter concerning everything related to ICCF-US Friendly Matches. Thanks to your ongoing interest in the Friendly Matches, this newsletter has been arriving at your email-doorstep 4 times per year for 9.5 years!

To explain to any new recipients, Friendly Matches are team versus team chess contests (involving teams affiliated with different nations) where the overall team outcomes do not matter beyond bragging rights. Everyone is eligible to play. The ICCF-US uses both a standing set of interested players and new participants in virtually every match. Each match participant plays two **rated** games, one with white and one with black, against a single opponent of nearly identical rating. The fee to participate is \$5 per match. You are invited to participate!

A message from our ICCF-US National Delegate

Earlier this month, Grandmaster Jason Bokar, the USA representative to the ICCF, posted the following in response to the invasion of Ukraine. His note is repeated here for any player who did not see the original posting.

Dear Chessfriends,

As you all know, in the past week Ukraine, which is part of ICCF family, was attacked by its neighbors Russia and Belarus, with horrifying consequences. Our thoughts and our hearts go out to the Ukrainian people. We hope and pray that they all will be safe.

I hope you will join with me in expressing our deepest sorrow to all the people of Ukraine and our brothers and sisters in chess. On these terrible days, our thoughts are with all those who are impacted by this terrible conflict. We share the pain with our Ukrainian chess family and pray for peace.

As many of you may know, ICCF in general is a global, non-political body and by our own statutes implores us to use our chess as a message of peace and friendship. Amici Sumus is our motto. However, we also shouldn't remain silent. Out of solidarity with Ukraine we wholeheartedly condemn the atrocities being committed by the Russian and Belarusian leadership.

ICCF-US will do what we can to help our Ukrainian chess friends, and we will support any activities and initiatives through ICCF to help them and promote peace through chess.

We hope you appreciate and support this sentiment.



Recently Started Friendly Matches

We have two new records!! Since 11/15/21, the following friendly matches were started:

- (1) Denmark,
- (2) Cuba,
- (3) Israel,
- (4) the combination of Nicaragua, Ecuador, Guatemala, & Cape Verde,
- (5) Russia,
- (6) Australia,
- (7) France, and
- (8) Belgium.

That is 8 new friendly matches (involving 11 countries) within 4 months. That's **an average of 2 matches per month for a sustained period.**

Even more, that new record is overshadowed by our other new record. As of this issue, there are currently **24 ongoing friendly matches (involving 28 different countries).** That number SHATTERS the previous record of 21 ongoing matches!! **Put another way, we are currently playing friendly matches against literally half of the ICCF's set of (56 other) countries!!!**

As we have said many times, if you are not playing in the friendly matches, it is because you do not want to. To get on the list of interested players, write to Dennis at dmdorenchess@gmail.com.

This issue brings you more from "Chess Words of Wisdom"

(by Mike Henebry).



Upcoming Friendly Matches

The advertised match versus **Lithuania** was postponed (by them) until September.

An invitation was just sent to **Suriname (!)**, a country in the process of applying for ICCF membership. If this invitation is accepted, all boards except one will involve unrated players. Rated players need not tell me they are interested in participating in this match (I avoid pairing unrated players with rated players), but **I will be glad to hear from interested USA players who will still be unrated in April.**

Other friendly matches to be organized soon have not yet been determined. See the next section about our World Tour #3 concerning possible options in that regard.

As we have said previously, matches can go from an idea to an active reality within any 90-day period – that is, between newsletters. So, if you have not already let it be known that you want to play, be sure to let us know by writing to Dennis at dmdorenchess@gmail.com!

[The king's] value as a fighting piece in the endgame has been estimated to be equivalent to a knight (or maybe a little more).



Around the World a Third Time!!

The USA Friendly Match World Tour 3

Whether you want to “collect countries”, wish to have an opportunity to communicate with people from your ancestors’ home country, or just like the opportunity to meet people from around the world, the Friendly Matches bring you that opportunity. During our third World Tour (WT3), we again plan to make offers for Friendly Matches to all ICCF member federations: all 56 of them (besides us). Come go around the world with US!

So far in WT3:

We have started play against the following (15) countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cape Verde, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Nicaragua, Philippines, Russia

A match versus Lithuania is **scheduled** for September 2022). An **invitation has been sent** to Suriname, a country anticipated to apply for ICCF membership.

Our **invitation was declined or received no response** by Panama.

Countries yet to be included (39) in WT3: Argentina, Aruba, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, England, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and Wales.



The Friendly Matches that are Already Ongoing...

You can always find the current results from any of our Friendly Matches by visiting www.iccf.com, Tables and Results, Friendly Matches, but this newsletter continues to make it easy for you to stay up-to-date. The first three issues of "*The Friendly Post*" listed all our matches from 1/1/07 to the date of newsletter circulation. (You can find those 3, and all other issues of "*The Friendly Post*" at www.iccfus.com). There became too many Friendly Matches to keep doing that, so each issue now lists only those currently in progress or just completed since the last newsletter. The current standings (through 3/19/2022) are as follows:

	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Server/Email/Postal</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Result (USA v. other)</u>
1.	Switzerland	Server	2/20/2020	32.0 - 33.0 (1 ongoing game)
2.	England	Server	6/16/2020	101.5 -105.5 (3 ongoing games)
3.	Germany	Server	9/21/2020	139.0 -173.0 (4 ongoing games)
4.	Scotland	Server	10/21/2020	31.5 - 26.5 (2 ongoing games)
5.	Slovakia	Server	11/18/2020	40.5 - 40.5 (3 ongoing games)
6.	BeNeLux	Server	11/30/2020	122.5 -125.5 (4 ongoing games)
7.	Belarus	Server	3/13/2021	24.0 - 21.0 (5 ongoing games)
8.	Romania	Server	4/8/2021	33.5 - 40.5 (7 ongoing games)
9.	Philippines	Server	5/31/2021	15.0 - 37.0 (8 ongoing games)
10.	Peru	Server	6/4/2021	40.5 - 38.0 (6 ongoing games)
11.	Slovenia	Server	6/6/2021	17.0 - 20.0 (5 ongoing games)
12.	Spain	Server	6/18/2021	29.0 - 40.0 (15 ongoing games)
13.	Philippines B	Server	7/7/2021	10.0 - 15.0 (9 ongoing games)
14.	Austria	Server	8/15/2021	20.0 - 19.0 (23 ongoing games)
15.	Japan	Server	9/30/2021	11.0 - 5.0 (8 ongoing games)
16.	Indonesia	Server	10/31/2021	13.5 - 11.5 (23 ongoing games)
17.	Denmark	Server	11/15/2021	6.0 - 11.0 (7 ongoing games)
18.	Cuba	Server	11/29/2021	28.0 - 41.0 (91 ongoing games)
19.	Israel	Server	12/21/2021	2.5 - 1.5 (12 ongoing games)
20.	NCA/ECU/GUA/CPV	Server	1/2/2022	5.0 - 2.0 (15 ongoing games)
21.	Russia	Server	1/9/2022	20.5 - 18.5 (65 ongoing games)
22.	Australia	Server	3/14/2022	0.0 - 0.0 (102 ongoing games)
23.	France	Server	3/23/2022	0.0 - 0.0 (82 ongoing games)
24.	Belgium	Server	3/26/2022	0.0 - 0.0 (64 ongoing games)

TOTAL USA RESULTS

Currently (as of 3/19/2022) = 564 ongoing games

Completed games since 1/1/2007* = 8293 games

Total score since 1/1/2007* = 4101.5 – 4191.5 (49.5%)

(* 1/1/2007 is the beginning of USA friendly match records on the ICCF server)



Challenge question: What was the name of the Star Trek episode featuring the above chess match?

The answer can be found at the very end of this newsletter.



Highlights and Interesting Tidbits:

(1) The USA has now **completed 101 Friendly Matches** since 1/1/2007. (See our complete record in the enumeration below.) The USA has played **more friendly matches than any other country in the ICCF, by far**. Thanks to all of you who have participated in the ICCF-US Friendly Matches!!

(2) After letting you know about reaching of the 100-match threshold and our accompanying thanks, let's start with the team's unfortunate news first:

(a) After a very close lengthy match, we have lost the match versus **England**. With 3 remaining games, the USA has fallen 4 points back. It was exciting throughout, but in the end, we just could not pull out the win.

(b) The **Philippines** pulled out to an early and substantial lead against us, and never let up. This past quarter was no different, with the USA only scoring 3 points out of the 14 games that ended this quarter. With 8 games yet to finish, the USA trails by 22 points. We just take our hats off to the Philippines team for its strong play.

(3) Versus **Slovakia**, we were behind, then we caught up, then went ahead, but unfortunately just gave up our lead. With only 3 remaining games, the team scores are tied. Go team!!

(4) We also came from behind versus **BeNeLux** and closed the large lead down to just 3 points. Unfortunately, we have not been able to continue that trend. Things are now looking dire. The USA is still just 3 points behind, but there are only 4 remaining games...

(5) We took an early lead versus **Belarus** and have been holding onto it. With only 5 games to go, the USA is up by 3. Hang on USA!!

(6) The match versus **Romania** looks nearly hopeless. Our opponents still have their 7-point lead with only the same number of remaining games. Winning all 7 games seems, well, nearly hopeless.

(7) We've been holding onto our 2-point lead versus **Peru**. Given 19 games completed during this past quarter, with only 6 games still ongoing, this lead is looking rather good. Keep up the good fun USA!!!

(8) We've slipped against **Slovenia**. With only 5 remaining games, our deficit increased this quarter from 1 to 3. GO USA!!

(9) **Spain** is holding onto its large lead, and it is looking insurmountable. The USA needs to score 11 more points than our opponent out of the remaining 15 games. Another tough challenge faces us.

(10) Good news: the USA is holding onto small leads versus **Austria** and **Indonesia**. There are still many ongoing games, though.

(11) The match versus **Japan** is nearly ours! The USA is up 11 – 5 with only 8 remaining games. GO USA!

(12) On the other hand, the USA is in the opposite situation versus **Denmark**. We are down by 5 points with only 7 remaining games.

If you are about to lose some material...try to lose material so that you end up with an imbalance instead of having the same kind of material as your opponent....For example, favor losing the exchange over losing two pawns.



Friendly Match (versus game) win/loss record

(Since 1/1/07) 52 wins, 44 losses, 3 ties (= 54.0% for USA)

USA Won	USA Lost**	USA Tied
Argentina (2010)	Aruba (2020)	Argentina (2019)***
Argentina (2016)	Austria (2014)	Norway (2013)***
Australia/New Zealand (2012)	Belarus (2016)	Wales (2019)***
Australia (2016)	Belgium (2015)	
Australia (2018)	Canada (2019)	
Brazil (2016)	Croatia (2015)	
Brazil (2020)	Cuba (2013)	
British CCA (2016)	Cuba (2015)	
Bulgaria (2016)	Cuba (2018)	
Bulgaria (2021)	Czech Republic (2011)	
Canada (2014)	Czech Republic (2013)	
Cape Verde (2013)	Czech Republic (2019)	
Denmark (2014)	Denmark (2018)	
England (2008)	England (2020)*	
England (2012)	Finland (2018)	
Estonia (2016)	France (2010)	
Estonia (2020)	Germany (2008 – Women's only)	
Finland (2009)	Germany (2011)	
France (2017)	Germany (2014)	
Hong Kong (2010)	Germany (2020)*	
India (2014)	Iceland (2014)	
India (2019)	Iceland (2019)	
Indonesia (2016)	Israel (2014)	
Israel (2016)	Italy (2010)	
Japan (2013)	Italy (2017)	
Japan (2017)	Mexico (2017)	
Latvia (2015)	Netherlands (2017)	
Latvia (2020)	Norway (2019)	
Lithuania (2015)	Panama (2015)	
Mexico (2020)	Panama (2016)	
Netherlands (2013)	Philippines (2021)*	
Netherlands (2018)	Poland (2015)	
New Zealand (2020)	Russia (2013)	
Panama (2013)	Russia (v. Zone 3) (2017)	
Peru (2013)	Slovenia (2019)	
Portugal (2013)	Spain (2008)	
Portugal (2018)	Sweden (2007)	
Romania (2008)	Switzerland (2014)	
Romania (2013)	Ukraine (2010)	
SchemingMind (2018)	Ukraine (2015)	
Scotland (2008)	Ukraine (2018)	
Scotland (2016)	Venezuela (2014)	
Scotland (2020)*	Venezuela (2017)	
Slovakia (2014)	Wales (2016)	
Slovenia (2015)		
Spain (2016)		

Sweden (2012)
Sweden (2018)
Turkey (2015)
Venezuela (2013)
Wales (2013)
Yorkshire (2018)

* Still officially ongoing, but the final team outcome is already determined.

** Chess960 matches versus Germany and Russia are not included in this list because it is a different game coupled with the very large rating differences in these matches. The USA lost both matches.

*** After 99 completed matches, where pairings were made with as equal ratings as possible, that there have been only three tied results.



The Triple Block time control system has come to the ICCF!

Have you heard about the "Triple Block" time control system? The Triple Block system, most often abbreviated as "TB", was developed by an ICCF work group specifically appointed during the 2015 Congress to address a variety of complaints about the standard time control system. (There were 6 different proposals during the 2015 Congress alone for changes in the ICCF time control system.) The new system was approved for trials by the 2016 Congress, and

officially approved by the 2020 Congress. Since then, hundreds of events have used the system without significant problem.

Some of our recently started Friendly Matches are using this system. Some of our as-yet-to-be scheduled Friendly Matches will also use this new time control system.

In brief, the Triple Block system gives you your reflection time, your leave time, and some additional time right from the beginning. The time keeping is simplified in that there is no doubling of reflection time (as there is currently after 20 days without a move), no 40+ day loss by default and therefore no registering to be allowed to go beyond that time limit, no watching your time at each 10-move interval, and no recording of leave time. Instead, each player has far more control of his/her reflection time. Problematic play related to the "dead man's defense" is also lessened. And you will typically have more reflection time per move available to you than you currently do!

The rules and procedures for the TB system are incorporated as Appendix 3 in the document "ICCF Rules".



Once the attack has begun, it is crucial to keep the momentum.

RULES PERTAINING TO FRIENDLY MATCHES

Since 1/1/17, Friendly Matches are viewed like any other ICCF-approved event, meaning a couple things of possible relevance to you.

For players, it means that **a player withdrawal (of any type, accepted, unaccepted, or silent) from a Friendly Match will also be considered a withdrawal (of the same type) from all other ICCF events;** and a withdrawal from any other ICCF-approved event will also mean a withdrawal of the same type from all Friendly Matches.

If you have dire need to stop playing, ask the tournament director for an accepted withdrawal. If you simply wish to stop playing, it is recommended you resign your Friendly Match games rather than simply abandon them.

The latter causes losses in all your other ICCF games and a 2-year suspension during which you will not be allowed to register for any other ICCF event.

For tournament directors interested in working towards the International Arbiter title, directing friendly matches count towards the required number of directed games to earn the title of International Arbiter.



Where to Find Us

The ICCF-US home website is at www.iccfus.com. You can always find copies of "*The Friendly Post*" at that site, with a link on the top in the home page. The server for playing games is at www.iccf.com.

Contact Dennis Doren at dmdorenochess@gmail.com concerning anything related to Friendly Matches.



The People Behind the Organization

Thanks to the people who keep it all running, the ICCF-US Administrators:

Grandmaster Jason Bokar, Director

Senior International Master Tom Biedermann, Deputy Director & Treasurer

International Master Corky Schakel, Registrations Director

Grandmaster Carl Siefring, Invitational Facilitator

Senior International Master Dan Perry, Webmaster

International Master Bob Rizzo, Norms and Communications Organizer

Yours truly, **IM Dennis Doren**, Friendly Matches Organizer (dmdorenochess@gmail.com)



How Do I Get On A Team?

Getting selected to play on a USA Team in a Friendly Match takes almost no effort. Just let me know you are interested! Send an email to dmdorenchess@gmail.com and say you wish to play in a Friendly Match. When I have a team slot for you (meaning there is an opponent with about the same rating as your current one), I will let you know. You can also let me know of any specific country you wish to play against, but you do not have to do that.

When I have a specific team placement to offer you, you will receive an email from me - sent to the same address you have listed on the ICCF server. (Don't forget to update any email address changes!) My email will offer you a position on a team in a Friendly Match against a specifically listed country.

Please know that you need to respond to that email, and typically to do so **within 3 days** of my having sent it! I have a lot of positions to fill while all the members of the opposing team simply wait for me to complete my task. That is why there is a time frame for your response. If I do not hear from you within the specified time, I will offer your slot to someone else. However, even if you do not want, or cannot take the offered position, I strongly request that you do me the courtesy of a quick reply saying so. In that way, I can make an offer of "your" team position to someone else right away.

After you accept your offered position, you will get a reply email from me telling you what you need to pay and how to pay it. Please do NOT pay anything to anyone for a Friendly Match before you receive this email from me. "Pre-paying" only makes our administrative task more complicated, not easier. You will be asked to pay your fee before the match starts.

Finally, you will automatically receive your pairings, including an email from the ICCF server informing you that the match has begun and who you are paired against.

That is it! Let me know your interest, accept my invitation for you to play in a specific match, pay your fee, and enjoy your games!

You Can Play on the USA Team in a Friendly Match!

You, too, can play in a Friendly Match, no matter the degree to which you have played in an ICCF-US event of any kind previously. Each match consists of two **rated** games (one white, one black) against the same opponent who is very close in rating to yours. The total fee is \$5 for your participation per match. Just contact Dennis Doren, the ICCF-US Friendly Match Organizer, at dmdorencchess@gmail.com and tell him your specific interest in playing.

Do **NOT** send any money to Dennis or anyone else at this point to pay for your participation! You will only need to pay (through Paypal, money order, or by check) when your placement on a USA team in a specific Friendly Match has been confirmed by Dennis. Dennis will tell you when that is.

Answer to the challenge question: "Charlie X". It was one of the very early episodes of the original Star Trek series.