



The Friendly Post

News from ICCF-US Friendly Matches from around the world - Issue 11, March 2015

Greetings again from ICCF-US Friendly Match Central! This issue continues our process of bringing you the news from our collective set of Friendly Matches. We are now beginning our third year of bringing you these newsletters!

To explain to any new recipients, Friendly Matches are national team versus national team chess contests 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 regular fee to participate is \$6 per match.

Friendly Matches in our Future:

You probably have not been paying attention long enough, but we are slowly making an ICCF world tour. Over the past several years, we have been playing (or at least challenging) nearly every ICCF member nation in the world! Of the 55 such nations (besides the USA), we have only the following 12 yet to go: **Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Slovenia, and Turkey!!** (We just took Latvia and Poland off our previous list - 2 down, 12 more to go.) Our intention is to play Friendly Matches against all of them, or at least all of them that will put together a team against us!

The order in which I extend challenges to these countries is influenced by you. Please let me know if there a specific one (or more) of these countries you would like to play. In so doing, you will not only make it more likely I extend an invitation to your choice first, but you also get yourself on the top of my list to participate in that match when it occurs! Please send me an email (dmdoren@yahoo.com) and let me know. I will do my best to get you into the match of interest to you.

"I walked about 55 kilometers and was awake for 25 hours. Now I have to think about setting a sleeping record." - (after setting a World Record by playing 614 games simultaneously) - Ehsan Ghaem-Maghami

How Do I Get On A Team?

Getting selected to play on a USA Team in a Friendly Match does almost no effort. Just to let me know you are interested! Send an email to dmdoren@yahoo.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 will receive an email from me - sent to the same address you have listed on the ICCF server. It 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 of the members of the opposing team simply waits for me to complete my task. That is why there is a time frame for needing 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 actually 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's it! Let me know your interest, accept my invitation for you to play in a specific match, pay your fee, and enjoy your games!

"There just isn't enough televised chess." - David Letterman



Reminder: Get your Self-Photos Posted by ICCF

The ICCF server now recently added a new feature! You can have a photograph of yourself posted on your "Player Detail" page (the page anyone finds by looking up your rating or contact information: by following the link from "ICCF Ratings" and putting in your name). In fact, we encourage you to do this.

The procedure is simple. Send a (200 x 200 pixel = sufficiently pixelated) photo by email attachment to our National ICCF Delegate Corky Schakel (schakels@comcast.net) - be sure to tell him your name (as not all email addresses identify the sender). The photo can be cropped from a larger one if you wish, but that is not necessary. You can choose how you look, a full body or just profile shot, what you are doing, what "props" you include in the photo, etc. Please know that any photo considered inappropriate will be rejected and not be put onto the server.

So send a selfie for webpage publication!!

Now we return you to your regularly scheduled Friendly Match business:



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 will also make it easy for you to stay up-to-date. The first three issues of "*The Friendly Post*" listed all of 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 3/8/2015) are as follows:

	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Server/Email/Postal</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Result (USA v. other)</u>
1.	Russia	Server	2/1/13	66.5 - 94.5 (1 game still ongoing)
2.	Netherlands	Server	4/11/13	65.5 - 61.5 (1 game still ongoing)
3.	Czech Republic	Server	4/25/13	51.0 - 59.0 (2 games still ongoing)
4.	Portugal	Server	4/25/13	30.0 - 24.0 (completed)
5.	Romania	Server	9/1/13	37.0 - 29.0 (3 games still ongoing)
6.	Venezuela	Server	9/16/13	23.0 - 17.0 (completed)
7.	Peru	Server	9/25/13	24.5 - 22.5 (5 games still ongoing)
8.	Wales	Server	12/11/13	22.0 - 20.0 (completed)
9.	Cuba	Server	12/12/13	33.5 - 43.5 (7 games still ongoing)
10.	Iceland	Server	1/2/14	24.0 - 32.0 (6 games still ongoing)
11.	Canada	Server & Post	1/17/14	48.5 - 36.5 (15 games still ongoing)
12.	Germany	Server	3/22/14	116.5 - 173.5 (44 games still ongoing)
13.	India	Server	4/3/14	13.0 - 10.0 (8 games still ongoing)
14.	Israel	Server	5/26/14	18.5 - 24.5 (13 games still ongoing)
15.	Denmark	Server	6/4/14	16.0 - 16.0 (14 games still ongoing)
16.	Austria	Server	7/14/14	37.0 - 42.0 (41 games still ongoing)
17.	Switzerland	Server	8/1/14	38.0 - 34.0 (42 games still ongoing)
18.	Slovakia	Server	11/18/14	9.0 -11.0 (88 games still ongoing)

19.	Venezuela (rematch)	Server	12/8/14	8.5 - 7.5 (24 games still ongoing)
20.	Latvia	Server	2/13/15	0.0 - 0.0 (80 games still ongoing)
21.	Ukraine	Server	3/14/15	0.0 - 0.0 (64 games still ongoing)
22.	Poland	Server	(set to begin with an official start date of 5/1/15)	

TOTAL USA RESULTS since 1/1/07: 1411 - 1479 **(48.8%)**

The Friendly Matches have involved nearly 2900 completed games in the past 8 years. That's one completed game each day, every day, for 8 years!! We at ICCF-US Friendly Match Central hope you have enjoyed your games!! There are plenty more to come...

"A computer beat me in chess, but it was no match when it came to kickboxing."
- Emo Phillips



Highlights and Interesting Tidbits:

(1) We won the match versus Wales, but we needed our final active boards to come through for us. And they did. With 2 games left, we needed at least a half-point to win the match. We split those two points, and won. Congratulations to our team!!

(2) Unfortunately, our chances slipped away in the match versus Iceland. Although there are still 6 ongoing games, we were not able to recover from an early deficit, and have lost the overall match. Oh well.

(3) Germany continues to be our nemesis. This match was our largest in recent times, with 162 boards; a total of 312 games being played! Unfortunately, with 44 games still to finish, the Germany team has beaten us once again. Oh well.

(4) We have nearly won the match versus Canada. With 15 games yet ongoing, we are ahead by 12 points. Go team!!

(5) The USA team has made a great surge in our match versus Switzerland! We were slightly behind the last time I reported 3 months ago. Now, after another 32 games completed, we are leading by 4 points. Nice turnaround team!

(6) We are continuing to hold on to the small lead we had at last reporting in the Peru match. Six months ago we were tied, and three months ago we led by 1. Our lead has "opened up" to 2! With only 5 games still being played, however, these 2 points are looking pretty good.

(7) The match with Denmark is as close as it gets. With 14 games remaining (out of the original 46), the score is tied. Press on team!!

(8) Finally, our match versus India is looking rather good. With only 8 games remaining, the USA team is up by 3 points. Go team!

"A good sacrifice is one that is not necessarily sound but leaves your opponent dazed and confused." - Rudolph Spielmann

**Match (versus game) win/loss record since 1/1/07: 17 wins, 13 losses, 1 tie
(56.5%)**

<u>USA Won</u>	<u>USA Lost</u>	<u>USA Tied</u>
Argentina (2010)	Cuba (2013)*	Norway (2013)
Australia/New Zealand (2012)	Czech Republic (2011)	
Cape Verde (2013)	Czech Republic (2013)*	
England (2008)	France (2010)	
England (2012)	Germany (2011)	
Finland (2009)	Germany (2008 - Women's only)	
Hong Kong (2010)	Germany (2014)*	
Japan (2013)	Iceland (2014)*	
Netherlands (2013)*	Italy (2010)	

Panama (2013)	Russia (2013)*
Portugal (2013)	Spain (2008)
Romania (2008)	Sweden (2007)
Romania (2013)*	Ukraine (2010)
Scotland (2008)	
Sweden (2012)	
Venezuela (2013)	
Wales (2013)	

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



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 left in the home page. The server for playing games is at www.iccf.com. Contact Dennis Doren at dmdoren@yahoo.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:

International Master Corky Schakel, ICCF-US Director
Senior International Master Carl Siefring, Tournament Organizer

Senior International Master Dan Perry, Webmaster
Senior International Master Kristo Miettinen, Tournament Organizer
Senior International Master Tom Biedermann, Treasurer
International Master Bob Rizzo, Norms and Communications Organizer
International Master Anthony Kain, Technical Advisor
International Master Kenneth Holroyd, Tournament Facilitator
International Arbiter Franklin Campbell, Tournament Organizer
Glen Shields, North America/Pacific Zone (NAPZ) Tournament Organizer

Yours truly,
Dennis Doren, Friendly Matches Organizer (dmdoren@yahoo.com)

Games from the Matches

We typically put a game from our Friendly Matches in this section. Here is one from the still ongoing Friendly Match against Germany. In this match, our ICCF-US Treasurer SIM Tom Biedermann had the opportunity to play an ex-World Champion - how's that for an example of what great opportunities the Friendly Matches can offer! And even with the black pieces, Tom gets a solid draw against the ex-WC.

GM Dr. Fritz Baumbach (2434) (GER) - SIM Thomas Biedermann (2441) (USA)

[This game can be found at <https://www.iccf.com/game?id=619843>.]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.g3 [One of the less common variations of the Grunfeld Defense. More common choices for White, both in correspondence and OTB chess, are 4.cd5, 4.Nf3, 4.Bf4, 4.Bg5, 4.e3, and 4.Qb3. White obviously has lots of options this early in this opening.]

4...Bg7 5.Bg2 dxc4 [Historically, this move, as compared to 5...c6, shows the best results.]

6.Qa4+ Nfd7 [An odd looking move, but clearly the most popular in the position. This N while seeming to waste time by retreating, comes back out later with tempo. Additionally, White's Q uses up the extra tempo anyway just to retake the c4 pawn.]

7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Qxc4 Nb6 9.Qb3 [The other main option was 9.Qd3. This move deliberately allows Black to take on d4.]

9...O-O [Black wisely declines the opportunity. If 9...Nxd4, White can continue 10.Nxd4 Qxd4, 11.Nb5 Qd8, 12.Bf4 e5, 13.Rd1 Bd7 14.Bg5 and White's pieces own a lot more room on the board for the sacrificed pawn.]

10.e3 Be6 11.Qd1 Bc4 [Instead of having to work hard to survive White's better piece positions that would have occurred after 9...Nxd4, Black has simply continued his piece development. Black has equalized largely because White has had to move his Q four times and only gotten it back to its original square. There is a reason this is a less common variation for White to play, as mentioned after White's move 4.]

12.b3 Ba6



Position after 12...Ba6

13.Ne4 [This appears to be a theoretical novelty. A 1979 OTB game Kovacs (2430) - Banas (2395) continued with 13.Ba3 Re8, 14.Rc1 e5, 15.d5 Nd4! with Black winning that game handily.]

13...Nd7 [13...e5 is also possible, but why allow White to trade off Black's good B on a6 (with 14.Nc5)? And the continuation 13...e5 14.Nc5 ed4, 15.Nxa6 de3, 16.Bxe3 Bxa1, 17.Qxa1 again gives White a great deal of play and Black weaknesses for White's sacrificed material.]

14.Ba3 Re8 [Black is ready to open the center with e5, a concept that looks especially juicy if White's K stays in the middle of the board.]

15.Bf1 [White not only counters Black's strong B, but extricates his K from the center of the board, just in time.]

15...Bxf1 16.Kxf1 Nb6 17.Kg2 [Safety at last, through "castling by hand".]

17...e5 [Black's aggressive style keeps White from mobilizing his own forces. White keeps needing to respond to Black's thrusts.]

18.dxe5 Nxe5 19.Nxe5 Rxe5 [19...Bxe5 is possible, but R takes is stronger by allowing Black to double R's on a single file without taking another move to set up the possibility.]

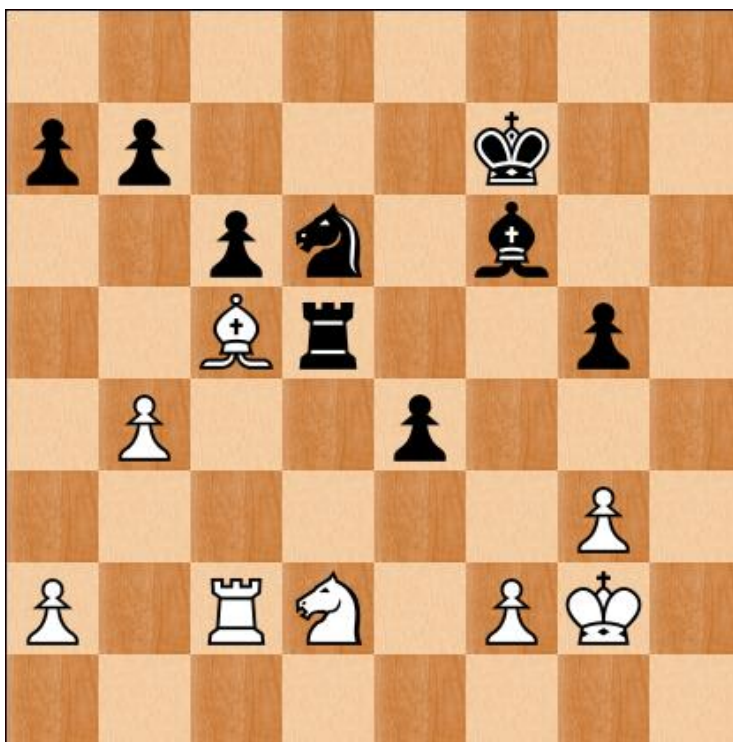
20.Qxd8+ Rxd8 21.Rad1 Red5 [The point of 19...Rxe5.]

22.Rxd5 Rxd5 23.Rc1 f5 24.Ng5 [24.Nc5 allows the annoying pin 24...Bf8.]

24...c6 25.Rc2 [Preventing Black from placing his R on his 7th rank.]

25...Bf6 26.h4 h6 27.Nf3 Kf7 28.Bc5 Nc8 29.b4 [29.Nd2 was another try, with the potential continuation 29...b6, 30.Ba3 Ne7, 31.e4 Rd3, 32.Bxe7 Kxe7, 33.ef5 gf5 where White has created some Black isolated pawns while giving up the B for N. This line probably would not have made a difference in the game outcome, however. Black's play has been too positionally solid.]

29...g5 30.hxg5 hxg5 31.e4 fxe4 32.Nd2 Nd6 [Bringing the N out from the back row, by employing a nice combination that trades down to a clearly drawn endgame.]



Position after 32...Nd6

33.Bxa7 Bc3 34.Rxc3 [34.Be3 allows 34...Bxb4, 35.Nxe4 Nxe4, 36.Rc4 Bc5, 37.Rxe4 Bxe3, 38.Rxe3 giving Black a R&P endgame with a passed pawn. While Black is not

likely to win that endgame, White certainly could not hope for more than a draw out of it.]

34...Rxd2 35.a4 g4 [Advancing the P off the color of White's B, and to fix White's K-side pawns. There is now nothing much remaining here for either side.]

36.Bc5 Nf5 37.a5 Ke6 38.Bb6 Ne7 39.Rc4 Ke5 40.b5 cxb5 41.Rc5+ Nd5 42.Rxb5 Kd6 43.Kf1 Rd1+ 44.Kg2 [44.Ke2?? 44...Nc3+ wins.]

44...Rd2 45.Kf1 Rd1+ 1/2-1/2

Nice work Tom!



The "FRIENDLY MATCH ELITE

Both as an incentive for participation as well as a reward for never silently withdrawing, we have a status within the world of ICCF-US Friendly Matches, a status whose reward includes **reduced fees** for future Friendly Matches.

The designation is called the Friendly Match Elite. The Elite are the people who have played in at least 7 Friendly Matches (since 1/1/07) and have never silently withdrawn. As a token of thanks for their fine and regular participation, these players will have their fees reduced for each of the next 3 Friendly Matches in which they play, from the usual \$6 to \$4 per match.

To everyone: **Anyone can reach this status!** Just play in enough Friendly Matches and never default a game through silent withdrawal. Your total number of Friendly Matches will automatically be tallied without any effort by you. (If you wish to know your current number of FM's played to date, just ask Dennis at dmdoren@yahoo.com.)

So who are the current Friendly Match Elite? Congrats to those 33 players on the ICCF-US current list:

Andy Ansel; Eric Arnold; Brent Askvig; Mark Capron; David Cofer; Lawrence Coplin; Peter Dessales; Mark Ellis; Gordon Everitt; Robert Fass; Eric Fischvogt; Jonathan Fortune; Stephen Grout; Michael G. Hayes; Stanley Jarosz; Charles Knouse; Eric Landes; Andrew Leonard; William Lindberg; Jean L. Moeckel; John Moldovan; Wolff Morrow, IM; Carl Palmateer; Donald Randolph; Russell Rice; Robert Rizzo, IM; Fred Sharpell; Carl L. Sieftring, SIM; George Stone; Bryan Towery; Brian Villarreal; Jerry Weiner; & William C. Young, III

Even beyond are the 48 people on the **ICCF-US FM Honor Roll** (those people who achieved Elite status, received their reduced fees for 3 matches, and of course, continue to demonstrate both ongoing interest and integrity in playing FMs):

Richard Aiken; David Ballard; John Ballow, IM; Edward Barr; Juraj Beres; Kyle Biedermann; Thomas Biedermann, SIM; Michael Brooks; Brian Brzezinski; Maurice Carter; Chris Cendrowski; Steven Chilson; Gregory W. Cross; Robert Cousins; Gary Deskin; Dennis Doren; Ken Edwards; James R. Ellis; Leonid Gleyzer; Russ Haag; Dr. Michael Hailparn; Kenneth Holroyd, IM; David Huff; Harry Ingersol; Richard Jenkins; Joseph Korman; Steven Ledford; Jon S. Leisner; Edward Lupiński; Roger Martindale; Edwin Meiners; William Merrell; Charles Merrow; Cesar Musitani, IM; Chris O'Connell; Larry Parsons; Michael Quirk; Alex Relyea; Mark Robledo, Sr.; Patrick J. Ryan; Corky Schakel, IM; Dana Sylvander; Gerald K. Thomas; Wesley Underwood; Lester Weiss; David V. White; Scott Young; & Viktor Zenkov

Are you next? All you need to do is play in 7 Friendly Matches without ever committing a silent withdrawal. You need not complete play from your 7th FM to become FM Elite and have reduced fees for 3 of your next FMs - just start play in your 7th FM, be up-to-date in your fee payments, and continue to avoid defaulting a game.

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 \$6 for your participation per match (unless you are FM Elite as described above, when the fee is \$4 for your next 3 FMs).

Just contact Dennis Doren, the ICCF-US Friendly Match Organizer, at dmdoren@yahoo.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 in either of the listed FMs! 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.

