



The Friendly Post

News from ICCF-US Friendly Matches from around the world - Issue 12, June 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. This issue marks the last quarter of the third year we are bringing you this newsletter! And you made it all possible - by supporting the Friendly Matches. So, **this issue is dedicated to YOU!**

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.

An Issue Dedicated to the Players of Friendly Matches

As mentioned above, this issue is dedicated to all of the participants of the ICCF-US Friendly Matches. Let me start by giving you the context of what we have been doing:

I. Over 3000 completed games!

To be exact: 3066 completed games since 1/1/2007 (the date from which I have records). That is the number that the USA players in ICCF Friendly Matches have completed during the past nearly 8.5 years. Put another way, we've completed essentially one Friendly Match game per day, every day, for 8 years, 5 months, and counting. Thank you for your great participation!!

II. A 59.1% team win record!

The pairings in Friendly Matches are made by pitting players against opponents with nearly equal ratings. The likely outcomes per board, then, are 50% of the points for each player. We should also therefore expect that our team would score team wins only about 50% of the time as well. But, you are better than that! As of this issue, nearly 8.5 years of results show that the USA team has a 19 win, 13 loss, and 1 tie record, for a 59.1% record! (See details on page 14.)



III. Our Friendly Match "World Tour" is over 89% complete!

What is the "World Tour"? Let me explain. The ICCF is made up of 56 member federations (nations), divided into 4 zones. The Europe zone (Zone 1) has 36 member federations. The Latin America zone (Zone 2) has 10 members. We are part of the North America/Pacific zone (Zone 3) with 6 members. The Africa/Asia zone (Zone 4) has 4 members. This all means there are 55 other nations for us to play in Friendly Matches in order for us to make the complete ICCF "World Tour". Since the beginning of 2007, we have played/are currently playing one or more Friendly Matches against all of the following:

From Zone 1: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania (a match being organized right now) Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia (another match being organized right now), Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey (a match already organized and scheduled to begin this month), Ukraine, Wales (= **28 countries**)

From Zone 2: Argentina, Cuba, Panama, Peru, Venezuela (= **5 countries**)

From Zone 3: Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand (to be clear, one match was played against a combined team from Australia and New Zealand at their suggestion)(= **5 countries**, given that Hong Kong is the only ICCF representative from China)

From Zone 4: Cape Verde, India (**2 countries**)



We have also extended invitations to play a Friendly Match against the following countries, but these countries either specifically declined (because of too few players) or did not respond to the invitation at all. Since we cannot force other countries to play in such a match, we figure we have done our part relative to completing our World Tour:

Zone 1: Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg

Zone 2: Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua

Zone 3: (none)

Zone 4: Tunisia

Only the following 6 countries have never received an invitation from us to play a Friendly Match (since at least 1/1/2007):

Zone 1: Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary; and from Zone 4: South Africa.

We have these 6 countries to go from among the total of 55 ICCF member federations (besides the USA). We are over 89% complete in our World Tour!!

IV. USA players and their successes

And now the really fun part: looking at the successes our players have demonstrated. In the following sections, I have used results from Friendly Matches that started no earlier than 3/1/2013: the most recent 2.25 years. During those 27 months, the USA has been involved in 25 Friendly Matches; essentially one per month. Only completed games were included in the following, not games still in progress.



A quick note

IM Corky Schakel has decided to retire after 8 years of service as the Director of the ICCF-US - our National Delegate to the ICCF. GM Jason Bokar will become our new Director mid-August. To Cork: your leadership helped make all of this happen! Thank you. Your guidance, interpersonal skills, and humor will be missed. To Jason: Welcome aboard!

Our overall numbers

During the past 2.25 years, almost 200 of you (197, to be exact) played and completed at least one game in the Friendly Matches!

This number can be compared to the figure of 313, that being the total number of different people who have ever played in a USA Friendly Match since 1/1/2007 (the 197 being included in the total of 313). To get an idea of what these numbers mean, the current total of USA players listed as "active" on the ICCF server is 856.

Our "most perfect" players

In every Friendly Match, players are paired for two games on each board. A perfect score is therefore 2 wins with 0 losses and 0 draws. So, which USA players (since 3/1/2013) are most successful at getting 2-0 scores in a Friendly Match (FM)?

There are two players tied at the top of our list: **Alexander Relyea** (2131) and **David Cofer** (2073). They each have been perfect (that is, scored 2-0) on four (4) occasions within the past 2.25 years, and they both did it out of 8 Friendly Matches (FMs) each completed during that time period.

There are another 8 players who were perfect three (3) times during the same period: **Paul Berthelot** (2007)(in 4 FMs), **William Lindberg** (1747) (in 4 FMs), **Richard Aiken** (1906)(in 5 FMs),

Alex Risovic (1648) (in 5 FMs), **Brian Brzezinski** (2162) (in 9 FMs), **Wesley Underwood** (2050) (in 9 FMs), **Maurice Carter** (2007)(in 10 FMs), and **Kyle Biedermann** (2252)(in 14 FMs).

Congratulations to our most frequently perfect players!!

And what about perfection across all Friendly Match play? Is there anyone who has a perfect score in all of his/her FM play since 3/1/2013?

Yes!

But as you might imagine, perfection is hard to accomplish and harder to maintain. This is especially true when you are paired with opponents whose ratings are virtually identical to yours. The odds are high that most outcomes will be 1-1 splits. Perfection cannot be maintained for a lot of games under this circumstance.

With that said, let me congratulate our single most perfect player over the past 2.25 years. With just 4 completed games during that time, but with 4 wins is **Michael Burrus** (1616)! He has a longer streak from the beginning of this time period than anyone else. Congratulations Michael!

There are also only two people with perfect 3-0 scores during this same time period: **Rexford Cristal** (2079) and **Jim Stroup** (1940). Congratulations to you two as well, and keep plugging. You could tie for the lead with just one more win!



Our "most successful" players

As just mentioned, the statistically likely outcome from any board in a Friendly Match is 1-1, what could also be written as a score of 50% for either player. This can occur with a win and a loss, or with two draws, but either way the score of 50% is what we can expect and be correct most of the time.

With that said, there are some people who have done far better than expected. I will call these people our "most successful" players.

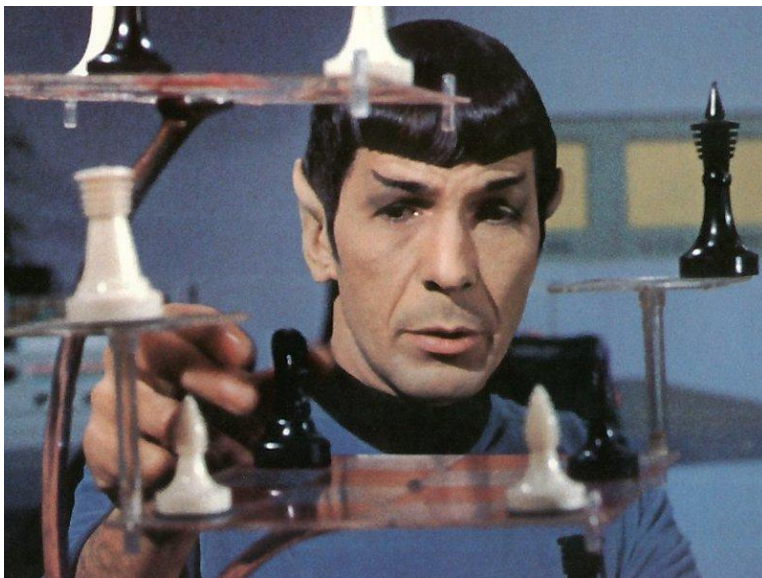
Of course, it is easier to score highly across just a few games than it is to maintain a high score across a lot more games. I will therefore present our "most successful" players in groups of similar total numbers of games completed.

You sit at the board and suddenly your heart leaps. Your hand trembles to pick up the piece and move it. But what chess teaches you is that you must sit there calmly and think about whether it's really a good idea and whether there are other, better ideas. Stanley Kubrick

Completed 5 - 9 games

When I looked at players who completed between 5 and 9 games (inclusively), our top "most successful" player was **William Lindberg** (1747). He had an astounding score of 87.5% (7 points out of 8 games). As you can imagine with a score like that, once we go beyond 4 completed games (and Michael Burrus' perfect 4-0 score), William had the highest percentage of all USA players during this time period. A hardy congratulations William!

Not far behind him are **Timothy Geier** (2211) and **David McCann** (unrated). They both scored 81.3% (6.5 points out of 8 completed games). **Ian Zimmerman** (2153) also was very much in the hunt for the top with a score of 80% (4 points out of 5 completed games). Congratulations to each of you for being among our "most successful"!!



Completed 10 - 15 games

There are quite a few players, 34 to be exact, who completed between 10 and 15 games (inclusively) during the past 2.25 years. Among those people, there was one clear top player among the "most successful": **Eugene Adler** (2110). He scored virtually as well as William

Lindberg did, with 85% (8.5 points out of 10 completed games), being second highest across all USA players (with more than 4 completed games)! Congratulations on your success Eugene!

Runner-ups for the top spot in this completed-game range are **Mark Capron** (1950) with 75% (across 10 games), **Eric Arnold** (1974) with 73.1% (across 13 games), and yours truly, **Dennis Doren** (2340) with 72.7% (across 11 games). To the first two in this paragraph, I congratulate you on being among the "most successful" players! To Dennis, not so much...(a little bit of humor).



Completed 16 - 20 games

As you might imagine, the number of players dwindle here, as the required number of completed games goes up. Within this range, there were only 19 people. Still, our "most successful" were truly that! At the top is **Alexander Relyea** (2131). He scored an amazing 81.3% (13 points out of 16 completed games), having scored 11 wins, 4 draws, and only 1 loss across those 16 games! Talk about a "most successful" player! Congratulations Alexander!

The other player listed above in the "most perfect" category besides Alexander was **David Cofer** (2073). David's degree of perfection also meant he scored well overall, coming in second in this category behind Alexander. David scored 75% (12 points out of 16 games) during this time period. **Wesley Underwood** (2050) was a close third here, with a score of 70.6% (12 points out of 17 completed games). Congratulations to both of you for this high degree of success!



Completed more than 20 games

There were only 7 players who completed this number of games during the past 2.25 years. That in itself was an accomplishment! A high degree of success is also still found in this category as well. At the top was **Kyle Biedermann** (2252) with a score of 68.2% (22.5 points out of 33 completed games). And his completed game total was actually the second highest across all USA Friendly Match players. Congratulations Kyle for this high degree of success while maintaining such a high game load!

Our most active players

So who do you think completed more games than Kyle Biedermann's 33 games? **SIM Thomas Biedermann** (2409), his dad. Tom (our ICCF-US Treasurer) completed a whopping 36 Friendly Match games within this past 2.25 years. What can we say, Tom. That is amazing. Thank you very much for your incredible ongoing support of the ICCF-US Friendly Matches! Coming in third in this category, after the two Biedermanns, was **Viktor Zenkov** (1673) with 26 completed games. Thanks to you as well Viktor, for your great support of the Friendly Matches!



Our most consistent players

Finally, we have the players who are more consistent in obtaining 1-1 results in Friendly Matches than anyone else. We make mention of these people because they are the rocks upon which good team scores happen over time. Some players may win more than their statistical share, but players who can be counted on not to lose their board are worth a great deal in the long run. These are the players being honored in this section.

There are two players worthy of special mention in this category. **Richard Jenkins** (2192) scored 1-1 eight (8) times out of 9 Friendly Matches. **C. O'Connell** (2400) completed 2 fewer Friendly Matches during the past 2.25 years, but obtained the 1-1 score 100% of the time: 7 times out of 7 completed matches. Talk about consistency, and being rocks for the USA Team. Congratulations to both of you!

SUMMARY COMMENT

One last comment in this dedication to the players in the ICCF-US Friendly Matches. It does not matter what your rating is to enjoy playing in a Friendly Match, or even to become one of our most successful players. In case you did not notice, our "best" players listed above have ratings that range across the whole rating spectrum including unrated. That is what is special about the Friendly Matches. Since everyone plays only an opponent rated the same as oneself, all players are in an equal situation for doing well. Thanks everyone for playing!



Friendly Matches in our Future:

The ICCF-US has, of course, been organizing the next in our series of Friendly Matches for your enjoyment. Here is what's happening in that regard:

(1) An incredible match against Turkey has already been organized, with an official start date of June 30. What is incredible is the following:

(a) For the first time since at least 2007 (from when I have data), the USA Team in a Friendly Match includes 4 of our GMs. (The USA currently has 6 active GMs.);

(b) The first board match is between the world's 23rd highest rated (active) player and the 40th highest rated player;

(c) Our top 7 boards are all titled players;

(d) In total, 9 of the top 15 USA players (that is, in Section A) are titled players; and

(e) When you look at the top 6 players from each team, it looks like an Olympiad Final; the average ratings for the top 6 players are 2518 versus 2523 for the teams from Turkey and the USA respectively.

This is not your average Friendly Match. And you can bet these people are going to take their games and the team's outcome very seriously...

(2) The Lithuanians have accepted our challenge for a match. They are currently organizing their team roster. When I receive it, I will begin making invitations to USA players to participate. The start date is likely to be in July. Interested in playing?

(3) The same with the Slovenians. They have accepted our challenge. I expect to receive their team roster later this month. I will then begin to look to fill the USA slots for this match, also likely to start in July. Are you interested in playing?

Please be aware that once a match is in process of being organized, it can go from a challenge to an ongoing match in a matter of two weeks or less. (This just occurred in organizing the match against Croatia, for example.) That is why it is useful to let me know **ahead of time** about your interest in playing, either generally or for any specific match.



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 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 can also let me know of specific interest you may have (such as the currently being organized match versus Lithuania and/or Slovenia), but you do not have to do that.

When I have a specific something to offer you, 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 wait 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!

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 6/1/2015) are as follows:

	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Server/Email/Postal</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Result (USA v. other)</u>
1.	Netherlands	Server	4/11/13	65.5 - 61.5 (1 game still ongoing)
2.	Czech Republic	Server	4/25/13	52.0 - 59.0 (1 game still ongoing)
3.	Romania	Server	9/1/13	37.0 - 29.0 (3 games still ongoing)
4.	Peru	Server	9/25/13	26.0 - 25.0 (1 game still ongoing)
5.	Cuba	Server	12/12/13	36.0 - 46.0 (2 games still ongoing)
6.	Iceland	Server	1/2/14	26.5 - 33.5 (2 games still ongoing)
7.	Canada	Server & Post	1/17/14	52.0 - 36.0 (11 games still ongoing)
8.	Germany	Server	3/22/14	127.0 - 182.0 (25 games still ongoing)
9.	India	Server	4/3/14	15.5 - 10.5 (4 games still ongoing)
10.	Israel	Server	5/26/14	22.0 - 28.0 (6 games still ongoing)
11.	Denmark	Server	6/4/14	19.0 - 18.0 (9 games still ongoing)

12.	Austria	Server	7/14/14	47.5 - 53.5 (19 games still ongoing)
13.	Switzerland	Server	8/1/14	47.0 - 43.0 (24 games still ongoing)
14.	Slovakia	Server	11/18/14	22.5 -25.5 (60 games still ongoing)
15.	Venezuela (rematch)	Server	12/8/14	13.5 -14.5 (12 games still ongoing)
16.	Latvia	Server	2/13/15	8.0 - 5.0 (67 games still ongoing)
17.	Ukraine	Server	3/14/15	5.0 - 5.0 (54 games still ongoing)
18.	Poland	Server	5/1/15	3.5 - 6.5 (70 games still ongoing)
19.	Croatia	Server	6/25/15	0.0 - 0.0 (46 games still ongoing)
20.	Turkey	Server	(scheduled 6/30/15)	
21.	Lithuania	Server	(scheduled July 2015)	
22.	Slovenia	Server	(scheduled August 2015)	

TOTAL USA RESULTS since 1/1/07: 1506 - 1560 **(49.1%)**



Highlights and Interesting Tidbits:

(1) Once the match versus Turkey starts (unofficially on June 16), we will have 20 active Friendly Matches at the same time! That's 20 different countries out of the ICCF's possible 55 Member Federations (excluding the USA, of course) - over 36% of all possible countries simultaneously. Thank you for your support!

(2) Peru closed the gap, but with one game still to go, the USA cannot lose the match. It doesn't get any closer than this...

(3) In contrast, with 11 games still to be completed, we have won the match versus Canada! Congratulations to the USA Team!

(4) We also held off any late match surge and won against India. Congratulations again!

(5) Unfortunately, our chances in the match versus Israel have nearly slipped away. With 6 games remaining, we are behind by 6 points. We need everyone to win the remaining games. Sounds pretty darn tough...

(6) The USA team made a great surge in our match versus Switzerland between 3-6 months ago. We were slightly behind as of 6 months ago, but as of 3 months ago we were leading by 4 points. Another nearly 60 completed since then, and we have held on to that 4 point lead. Keep up the great work for the remaining 24 games!

(7) The match with Denmark remains quite close as it gets. With only 9 games still being played, we lead by 1 point! Keep pressing team!

(8) Venezuela is giving us a run for our money this time around. We won the previous match handily. In this rematch, however, Venezuela is leading by 1 point with 12 games to go. Go team!!



**Match (versus game) win/loss record since 1/1/07: 19 wins, 13 losses, 1 tie
(59.1%)**

<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)	
Canada (2014)*	Czech Republic (2013)*	
Cape Verde (2013)	France (2010)	
England (2008)	Germany (2011)	
England (2012)	Germany (2008 - Women's only)	
Finland (2009)	Germany (2014)*	
Hong Kong (2010)	Iceland (2014)*	
India (2014)*	Italy (2010)	
Japan (2013)	Russia (2013)*	
Netherlands (2013)*	Spain (2008)	
Panama (2013)	Sweden (2007)	
Portugal (2013)	Ukraine (2010)	
Romania (2008)		
Romania (2013)*		
Scotland (2008)		
Sweden (2012)		
Venezuela (2013)		
Wales (2013)		

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

Chess is ruthless: you've got to be prepared to kill people.

Nigel Short

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, retiring mid-August 2015*

Grandmaster Jason Bokar, incoming ICCF-US Director starting mid-August 2015*

Senior International Master Tom Biedermann, Deputy Director & Treasurer

Senior International Master Carl Siefring, Tournament Organizer

Glen Shields, North America/Pacific Zone (NAPZ) Tournament Organizer

Senior International Master Dan Perry, Webmaster

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

Senior International Master Kristo Miettinen, Tournament Organizer

* IM Corky Schakel, or Cork, has served as our ICCF-US Director since 2007 - for 8 years. He recently decided to retire. He will be passing the baton of leadership to GM Jason Bokar.

Yours truly,

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



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 30 players on the ICCF-US current list:

Andy Ansel; Eric Arnold; Brent Askvig; Mark Capron; David Cofer; Lawrence Coplin; Peter Dessauls; 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; Carl Palmateer; Donald Randolph; Russell Rice; Robert Rizzo, IM; Fred Sharpell; Carl L. Sieftring, SIM; Bryan Towery; Jerry Weiner; & William C. Young, III

Even beyond are the 51 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 Mellow; Wolff Morrow, IM; Cesar Musitani, IM; Chris O'Connell; Larry Parsons; Michael Quirk; Alex Relyea; Mark Robledo, Sr.; Patrick J. Ryan; Corky Schakel, IM; George Stone; Dana Sylvander; Gerald K. Thomas; Wesley Underwood; Brian Villarreal; 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.