



The Friendly Post

News from ICCF-US Friendly Matches from around the world - Issue 17, September 2016

Greetings again from ICCF-US Friendly Match Central. This issue represents the

4 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

of *The Friendly Post* quarterly newsletters!! Thank you to everyone who has participated in the ICCF-US Friendly Matches, to those who have contributed games and suggestions for the newsletter, and to those who simply offered statements of appreciation. Without all of you, these newsletters would not be happening.

And there is no reason to stop now! You can expect us to continue to bring you the news and progress from our collective set of Friendly Matches,

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 regular fee to participate is \$5 per match.

Friendly Matches Now Being Organized

The following Friendly Matches are in process of being organized. If you have a special desire to play in one or more of these matches, please let me know:

- (1) **Bulgaria** - scheduled to be organized in November, with an official start date in December
- (2) **Argentina** - invitation accepted, scheduled to be organized during the next month, with the official start date expected to be in October.

The US Friendly Match World Tour 2 (WT2): "Go Around the World with US"

We recently completed the ICCF World Tour by extending invitations to all 55 of the other ICCF Member Federations (MFs) and playing all takers. We are now starting our second "Go Around the World with US" tour. To date, 9 MFs down, 46 to go:

(1) Invitations were extended and accepted by: Argentina, Brazil, Panama & Spain. This is besides the British Correspondence Chess Association, an international CC club. (The match versus Bulgaria scheduled for December 2016 is still from "WT1", which is why it is not listed here.)

(2) Invitations were extended but declined (either actively or passively) by: Chile, Ecuador, Greece, Guatemala, & Nicaragua

Just for fun: Three (3) Friendly Match Trivia Questions for You:

The ICCF-US has officially begun 9 Friendly Matches during 2016 so far.

QUESTION 1: How many boards were there in total across those 9 matches?

QUESTION 2: How many different players for the USA were there in total across those 9 matches? (Do not count the many players who received invitations to play and either declined or never responded - just those that actually played.)

QUESTION 3: In addition to all of the people who decided to play in any of the nine 2016 Friendly Matches, how many other players were also sent invitations to play in one or more of those 9 matches but either declined or never responded?

ANSWERS: Can be found at the very end of this newsletter.



The SWEEP

This issue is dedicated to the best of what you, the players, are able to accomplish: "the sweep". A sweep is the process of winning both games on a single board in a friendly match: the perfect score of 2-0. As already mentioned, the first issue of *The Friendly Post* came out four years ago, in September 2012. So, we will start our look-back at your successes from there.



The Context: Friendly Matches since 9/1/2012

Since 9/1/2012, there have been 43 Friendly Matches started by the ICCF-US. That is an average pace of about one new Friendly Match per month. During the Fall of 2012, there was only 1 new Friendly Match, but we picked up speed quickly:

- (a) 13 Friendly Matches started in 2013,
- (b) 10 Friendly Matches in each of 2014 and 2015, and
- (c) there have been 9 Friendly Matches started to date in 2016. With the scheduled Friendly Matches versus Argentina (soon) and Bulgaria starting in December, we expect to end 2016 with 11 new Friendly Matches.

Our Sweeps

Within those 4 years, there have been 179 times that a USA player completed a sweep in a Friendly Match. That is, on average, **a new sweep by a USA player every 8 days, nearly every week! Whew!**

Additionally, on this our 4-year anniversary, **we literally just had our 100th different person complete a sweep in a Friendly Match!**



"I believe in Magic...There is Magic in the creative facility such as great poets and philosophers conspicuously possess, and equally in the creative chessmaster." - Emanuel Lasker

Our "Sweeping" Players

One hundred different USA players completed at least 1 sweep during the past 4 years. And what about players who completed multiple sweeps during that time? Here are the facts, and our "sweeping" players:

A. 54 different players completed a total of 1 sweep.

Just over half of our "sweeping" players accomplished this perfection once during the past 4 years. In alphabetical order, these players were: William Abbey, Jorge Acosta, Edward Addis II, Douglas Anderson, David Ballard, IM John Ballow, Edward Barr, Michael Brooks, Chris Cendrowski, Rexford Cristal, Christopher Dessert, John DiJoseph, Dennis Doren, George Eichhorn, Eric Fischvogt, John Galvin, Timothy Geier, David Gerber, Gary Gilbert, Jose Gonzalez-Gigato, Steve Greig, SIM Kenneth Holroyd, James Howard, Stanley Jarosz, Rick Jenkins, Steven Kaplan, Charles Knouse, Paul Kolojeski, Joseph Korman, Leonid Korogodski, Andrew Ledford, Jon Leisner, Jeffrey Levin, Daniel Lines, Joseph Luna, Gustavo Meillon, Edwin Meiners, William Merrell, Charles Mellow, SIM Wolff Morrow, Carl Palmateer, Larry Parsons, Hugh Thomas Patterson, Russell Rice, Andrew Ritzmann, Tom Rossbottom, Patrick Ryan, George Stone, Julian Trujillo, Harry Van Buren, Jim Vaughan, William Vega, Jerry Weiner, & William Young III

Players with Multiple Sweeps!

Sweeping once is an accomplishment. Sweeping multiple times is that much more impressive.



B. 24 different players completed a total of 2 sweeps.

Perfection once is certainly an accomplishment. Doing it twice is all the better. Our "repeat perfectionists" are Eric Arnold, Brent Askvig, Bryce Avery, Steve Baer, Gregory Bain, Juraj Beres, William Brock, Michael Burrus, John Cakars, Mark Capron, Gregory Cross, James Ellis, Michael Hailparn, Kenneth Jones, Eric Landes, Andrew Leonard, David McCann, Mark Neale, IM Corky Schakel, Madge Smith, Dana Sylvander, Gerald Thomas, Chris Torres, & Bryan Towery

C. 14 different players completed a total of 3 sweeps.

Having accomplished only one sweep myself, I am quite impressed by those who have accomplished a sweep truly multiple times. These people are: Eugene Adler, Paul Berthelot, Kyle Biedermann, Brian Brzezinski, Robert Cousins, Greg Henderson, Fred Jarmuz, William Lindberg, Edward Lupiensi, Mark Stephenson, Jim Stroup, Matthew Tedesco, Lester Weiss, & Viktor Zenkov

D. 6 different players completed a total of 4 sweeps.

Six of our top 8 players have managed to sweep their opponents so often they make it look easy. The 6 players who accomplished 4 sweeps are the following: Richard Aiken, David Cofer, Gary Deskin, David Huff, Aleksandar Risovic, & Wesley Underwood.

E. **1 player completed a total of 5 sweeps.**



Then we reach near the top. The person who almost had the greatest number of sweeps, earning a proverbial Silver Medal, and certainly having had a magnificent set of finishes by any measure, is Maurice Carter. As a small sign of recognition for this accomplishment, Maurice will be given one free entry to an ICCF-US Friendly Match.

F. **1 player completed an astounding 6 sweeps.**



And the Gold Medal goes to the sweepers among sweepers, the only player with 6 sweeps during the past 4 years, Alexander Relyea. Truly an amazing set of performances. Congratulations Alex on sweeping more frequently than every other ICCF-US player in recent

history! Alexander will also be given a free entry to an ICCF-US Friendly Match in recognition of this achievement.

The Rating Record Holder

Until this past quarter year, the record for the highest rated opponent swept by an ICCF-US player in a Friendly Match (since at least 1/1/2007, as far back as regular records are available!) was held by SIM Michael Millstone. Back in 2009, he swept an opponent rated 2441 (IM Pertti Raivio) on board 3 in a match versus Finland (<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=18770>).



But we now have a new record holder! On 7/2/2016, SIM Wolff Morrow completed a sweep involving an opponent rated 2485, beating the old record by 44 rating points. This was also the first known sweep (since at least 1/1/2007, with unknown history prior to that) of a Grandmaster (GM Gintautas Petraitis) by a USA player in a Friendly Match. This sweep occurred on board 1 in our match versus Lithuania, a match that is still continuing on other boards (<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=53953>).

Honorable Mention

Almost a new record holder himself, SIM Kenneth Holroyd just completed a sweep on 9/2/2016 of an opponent rated 2478! If SIM Morrow had not broken SIM Millstone's 7-year long record just 2 months ago, the new record holder would have been SIM Holroyd! This most recent sweep occurred on board 3 (versus SIM Alexej Lelenko) in our still ongoing Friendly Match versus Slovakia - USA (<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=48922>).

Not only does this high-rated sweep warrant an honorable mention, but it seems quite fitting to point out that this sweep was the very one that constituted our 100th sweep by a different ICCF-US team player in the past 4 years! A great set of victories all around.



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 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 9/8/2016) are as follows:

	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Server/Email/Postal</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Result (USA v. other)</u>
1.	Canada	Server & Post	1/17/14	56.0 - 39.0 (5 postal games ongoing)
2.	Slovakia	Server	11/18/14	55.5 - 47.5 (5 games still ongoing)
3.	Latvia	Server	2/13/15	48.0 - 31.0 (1 game still ongoing)
4.	Ukraine	Server	3/14/15	29.5 - 31.5 (3 games still ongoing)
5.	Poland	Server	5/1/15	35.5 - 40.5 (4 games still ongoing)
6.	Croatia	Server	6/25/15	18.0 - 24.0 (4 games still ongoing)
7.	Turkey	Server	6/30/15	37.0 - 28.0 (9 games still ongoing)
	(Turkey A: 12.5 - 11.5 with 4 ongoing games; Turkey B: 24.5 - 16.5 with 5 ongoing games)			
8.	Lithuania	Server	8/1/15	17.5 - 17.5 (7 games still ongoing)
9.	Slovenia	Server	8/1/15	31.5 - 24.5 (8 games still ongoing)
10.	Cuba (rematch)	Server	9/1/15	21.0 - 26.0 (5 games still ongoing)

11.	Panama (rematch)	Server	10/15/15	20.5 - 32.5 (7 games still ongoing)
12.	Belgium	Server	10/20/15	21.5 - 23.5 (7 games still ongoing)
13.	Scotland	Server	1/14/16	20.5 - 20.5 (9 games still ongoing)
14.	Australia	Server	3/1/16	24.5 - 17.5 (38 games still ongoing)
15.	Wales	Server	4/19/16	12.5 - 10.5 (31 games still ongoing)
16.	British CCA	Server	4/24/16	11.5 - 8.5 (22 games still ongoing)
17.	Estonia	Server	4/24/16	2.5 - 0.5 (17 games still ongoing)
18.	Belarus	Server	4/25/16	11.5 - 10.5 (58 games still ongoing)
19.	Panama (rematch 2)	Server	7/26/16	6.0 - 3.0 (55 games still ongoing)
20.	Spain	Server	8/9/16	1.5 - 2.5 (106 games still ongoing)
21.	Brazil	Server	9/13/16	0.0 - 0.0 (82 games still ongoing)

TOTAL USA RESULTS since 1/1/07: 1938.5 - 1977.5 (**49.5%**)

This was one of our best quarter years ever! Collectively, we scored 91.5 - 70.5 during this past quarter year. That's 56.5% against opponents rated essentially the same as each of us!

And do you know how well the USA teams have been doing during the past 4 years? Get a load of these results:

Since the first issue of *The Friendly Post* (September 2012), the USA team has won 17 Friendly Matches, lost 11, and tied 1. This is a match win rate of 60.3% across 29 completed matches!!

Our pattern has clearly been to win the relatively close matches, but when we lose it can be by a lot. Overall, our point total in the past 4 years is 1407.5 - 1404.5 (50.1%), about as close to 50% as one can get.

And as just indicated, the number of completed games in the Friendly Matches during the past 4 years is 2812 (1407.5 + 1404.5). That comes to 703 per year, or **almost 2 games being completed per day, every day, for 4 years.** By way of comparison, there were "only" 1104 completed games during the 5.75 years prior to September 2012 (between 1/1/07 - 8/31/12). We nearly quadrupled the number of games being played in the Friendly Matches!

Highlights and Interesting Tidbits:

Did you notice? **This is the first time, at least since 1/1/2007, that the ICCF-US has been actively playing in 20+ Friendly Matches at the same time; maybe the first time ever!** Thank you for your interest and participation in the Friendly Matches!!

And now, on to the news from the matches themselves:

(1) It's official. We won our match versus Slovakia. There are still 5 ongoing games, but our lead is simply too great to be caught. Congrats to our players!

(2) On the flip side, we fell a bit too far behind Poland. With 4 games remaining, we have to acknowledge they beat us.

(3) The same is true for the rematch versus Panama. With 7 games still to be completed, their lead is simply too great. I wish to acknowledge the great accomplishment this is for Panama, however. That country is still new to the Friendly Matches, this being only their second such match. (We beat them in their first.) This is their first Friendly Match win! Congratulations to Panama!

(4) Unfortunately, things are not going our way versus Cuba. With 5 ongoing games, we are down 5 points. This means we need to win all 5 to tie. Hmm, doesn't look good...

(5) The last newsletter reported that Scotland showed a major surge. From 6.5 - 4.5 the previous quarter, Scotland went ahead 13.5 - 18.5, with 18 games still ongoing. I reported that "recovering from this 5 point deficit is certainly still well within the realm of possible". Well, good news: we surged back, scoring 7 - 2 this past quarter! The score is now tied, with only 9 games remaining. Go Team USA!

(6) Speaking of surges, the USA scored 14.5 - 8.5 versus Australia this past quarter. Go USA!

(7) The USA has won section B of the Turkey match, and nearly the match overall. In section B, we have scored about 60% of the points, and with 5 remaining games cannot be caught. In section A, we are still 1 point up, now with 4 remaining games. Overall, we are 9 points up with 9 remaining games. Looks real good for US!

(8) Last quarter, the report stated that we "again maintained our small lead, moving from 2 points up to 3 points up. With 20 ongoing games, however, this lead will take work to maintain." Well, you worked it, scoring 8 - 4 during that past 3 months!! Now with 8 remaining games, the USA is ahead by 7 points. We have nearly won the match...

(9) There are a couple of other very close matches:

(a) versus Lithuania: for the third quarter in a row, the score remains tied! There are only 7 games to go, so every point counts!

(b) versus Belgium: the USA slipped a little in this match. With 7 remaining games, the USA is behind by 2 points. Come on USA, we can do this!

**Match (versus game) win/loss record since 1/1/07: 23 wins, 20 losses, 1 tie
(53.4%)**

<u>USA Won</u>	<u>USA Lost</u>	<u>USA Tied</u>
Argentina (2010)	Austria (2014)	Norway (2013)
Australia/New Zealand (2012)	Croatia (2015)*	
Canada (2014)*	Cuba (2013)	
Cape Verde (2013)	Czech Republic (2011)	
Denmark (2014)	Czech Republic (2013)	
England (2008)	France (2010)	
England (2012)	Germany (2011)	
Finland (2009)	Germany (2008 - Women's only)	
Hong Kong (2010)	Germany (2014)	
India (2014)	Iceland (2014)	
Japan (2013)	Israel (2014)	
Latvia (2015)*	Italy (2010)	
Netherlands (2013)	Panama (2015)*	
Panama (2013)	Poland (2015)*	
Peru (2013)	Russia (2013)	
Portugal (2013)	Spain (2008)	
Romania (2008)	Sweden (2007)	
Romania (2013)	Switzerland (2014)	
Scotland (2008)	Ukraine (2010)	
Slovakia (2014)*	Venezuela (2014)	
Sweden (2012)		
Venezuela (2013)		
Wales (2013)		

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

"In the opening a master should play like a book, in the middle-game he should play like a magician, in the ending he should play like a machine." - Spielmann

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 dmdorenchess@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

Senior International Master Carl Siefiring, Tournament Organizer

Senior International Master Dan Perry, Webmaster

Senior International Master Kenneth Holroyd, Tournament Facilitator

Senior International Master Kristo Miettinen, Tournament Organizer

International Master Bob Rizzo, Norms and Communications Organizer

Yours truly, Dennis Doren, Friendly Matches Organizer (dmdorenchess@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 specific country you wish to play against, 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. (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 of 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 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!

Brief Note

If you wish to contact me, Dennis Doren, please use my new email address: dmdorenchess@gmail.com; not my old yahoo address.

The FRIENDLY MATCH ELITE

The Elite program is being phased out in keeping with the reduced participation fee for everyone. If you already earned Elite status, your reduced fee for up to 3 remaining matches will still be honored. There will be no new members of the Elite program starting 1/1/2016.

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 dmdorenchess@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 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.

ANSWERS to trivia questions 1, 2, and 3 from page 2:

(1) Number of boards = 293 in total across the 9 matches in 9 months. This is already more boards than we had in the 2015 Friendly Matches, and we still have 2 more matches planned within 2016!

(2) Number of different players on USA teams so far in 2016 = 150.

(3) Excluding the 150 players mentioned in answer #2 who accepted invitations to play, the number of people who declined invitations or never responded in 2016 so far = 62. So, during the first 9 months of 2016, 212 (150 + 62) different people were given opportunities to play in the Friendly Matches. **If you were not one of them and you want to be, let me know!!**