



The Friendly Post

News from ICCF-US Friendly Matches from around the world - Issue 20, June 2017

Greetings again from ICCF-US Friendly Match Central. 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. You're invited to participate!

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NEW FRIENDLY MATCHES

The key phrase this quarter: **LET ME KNOW**

YOU MUST RESPOND to show your interest!! For the first time in a long time, we are scheduled to play in some Friendly Matches in which most anyone from the USA who wants to play can be placed into the match. All I need is to know of your interest. **To get on the team, write to me** (dmdorenchess@gmail.com). **Let me know in which of these you wish to play!!** You can specify either one or both of the following (but do not send money until I confirm by reply email that you are on the desired team(s)):

I. RUSSIA's challenge to us

Russia has challenged us within a "Russia versus Zone 3" Friendly Match. Zone 3 includes the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, and Hong Kong. The preliminary (potentially expanding) Russian team roster includes over 80 boards. The combined number of boards to be filled by players from the other Zone 3 countries (besides the USA) will still leave a vast majority for the USA. So most USA players with interest will be placed into this match. There is one caveat, though. Russia has almost no players with ratings lower than 1800. At this time, I cannot

guarantee placement into this match for someone rated substantially below that threshold. Feel free to let me know of your interest no matter what your rating, and I will see what I can do. Unrated players are also invited to play, as Russia's team has many unrated players as well. The time limit for letting me know of your interest is 7/15/17. (Do not send any money until I confirm you are on the team.) This match is scheduled to begin officially on or about 8/31/17.

This quarter's theme in quotes and photos is pawns...

II. Versus Italy

This is another match in which anyone who wants to play will likely be placed. And this time there is no minimum rating required. Italy has stated they will play against as many USA players as want to play. Given their historical records in this regard, and the fact they have active players ranging from the highest ranges of the ICCF list through the lowest, we should take them at their word. This match is currently scheduled to begin officially on or about 9/30/17. This means I need to know you wish to play no later than 8/15/17. (Do not send any money until I confirm you are on the team.)

Again, please write to me (at dmdorechess@gmail.com) to **let me know** of your interest!

Don't miss these opportunities! Usually, we are the bigger country, and need to limit our number of players to accommodate the smaller available set from somewhere else. In these two cases, most all of you can play if you want. **Just let me know!!** I do not expect to be sending personal invitations to anyone for the above Friendly Matches (because most everyone is invited!) **You need to let me know of your interest** or you will miss these opportunities.



Other Upcoming Friendly Matches

Here are other matches that are already planned:

(1) **Hong Kong** - scheduled to start in late July or in August. I will be sending invitations to players for this match, as it will involve a very small number of boards and I need to match the ratings from the opponent's roster.

(2) **Sweden** - scheduled to start March 2018

(3) Anticipated challenges to be extended in the near future: **Cape Verde, Finland, & Netherlands**

Please remember that Friendly Matches can first be scheduled, organized, and started in between the publication of these newsletters, and in fact often are. Therefore, if you want to play in the Friendly Matches, make sure you let Dennis know (at dmdorenchess@gmail.com).

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 (soon to become 56) 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, we engaged with 17 MFs (and 2 non-MF teams), and have 40 MFs to complete "WT2":

(1) We have started play or at least scheduled a match versus Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Panama, Peru, Russia, Spain, and Sweden. This is besides the British Correspondence Chess Association, an international CC club; and Indonesia, which has applied but is not yet an ICCF Member Federation.

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

Are you "Going Around the World with US"?



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 6/12/2017) 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	57.0 - 42.0 (1 postal game ongoing)
2.	Croatia	Server	6/25/15	19.0 - 26.0 (1 game still ongoing)
3.	Lithuania	Server	8/1/15	22.0 - 19.0 (1 game still ongoing)
4.	Panama (rematch)	Server	10/15/15	24.5 - 35.5 (2 games still ongoing)
5.	Australia	Server	3/1/16	42.0 - 30.0 (8 games still ongoing)
6.	Wales	Server	4/19/16	22.5 - 27.5 (4 games still ongoing)
7.	British CCA	Server	4/24/16	23.0 - 17.0 (2 games still ongoing)
8.	Estonia	Server	4/24/16	13.0 - 6.0 (1 game still ongoing)
9.	Belarus	Server	4/25/16	33.0 - 43.0 (4 games still ongoing)
10.	Panama (rematch 2)	Server	7/26/16	26.0 - 31.0 (7 games still ongoing)
11.	Spain	Server	8/9/16	43.5 - 37.5 (29 games still ongoing)
12.	Brazil	Server	9/13/16	35.0 - 22.0 (25 games still ongoing)
13.	Argentina	Server	10/19/16	10.0 - 12.0 (32 games still ongoing)
14.	Peru	Server	12/13/16	6.0 - 9.0 (17 games still ongoing)
15.	Indonesia	Server	12/15/16	10.0 - 7.0 (5 games still ongoing)
16.	Bulgaria	Server	12/25/16	9.5 - 9.5 (27 games still ongoing)
17.	Russia (Chess960)	Server	2/10/17	5.5 - 16.5 (16 games still ongoing)
18.	Germany (Chess960)	Server	2/12/17	3.0 - 12.0 (17 games still ongoing)

19.	France	Server	3/31/17	5.0 - 6.0 (55 games still ongoing)
20.	Japan	Server	6/15/17	0.0 - 0.0 (32 games still ongoing)

TOTAL USA RESULTS since 1/1/07*: 2186.5 - 2211.5 (**49.7%**)

* Not including the two Chess960 events, #'s 17 and 18 on the above list. The Chess960 events have far larger rating differences per board compared to regular Friendly Matches. The Chess960 results are therefore not considered comparable to those from regular Friendly Matches.

“Sometimes a Pawn is enough to change the whole game and those who ignore the importance of it, are liable to lose their Queen.”
– Sandeep Sharma

Highlights and Interesting Tidbits:

There is a lot of good news, not-so-good news to report this quarter:

(1) With 8 games yet to be completed, the USA already won its match versus **Australia**. Nicely done!

(2) The nail biter versus **Wales** did not go our way. We had been keeping it close, but with 4 games still to be completed, we are 5 points behind.

(3) The **Estonia** match has continued to be where the USA has been shining. A surge by the USA in scoring some full points near the end of this match secured the win!

(4) Unfortunately, **Belarus** had its own surge against us, such that we fell too far behind to save this match. During the past quarter, they scored 8.5 points to our 3.5, extending their lead to an insurmountable level.

(5) The USA doubled its lead versus **Spain**. We now lead by 6 points, having gained 3 through the most recently completed 14 games. With 27 games yet to be completed, though, there is still time for Spain to rebound. GO USA!!

(6) We are in trouble in our second rematch with **Panama**. We won the first match against them, and they won the second. In this "rubber match", we are not sitting well. With only 7 games to go, the USA is 5 points behind. Hmm. We need lots of wins to pull this one out. What is encouraging, however, is that we just scored 6.5 - 2.5 against them during this past quarter. Could we complete this comeback?

(7) We are crushing versus **Brazil**! With 57 games completed, we are already ahead by 13 points. Although there are still 25 games in progress, the USA lead of 13 points seems insurmountable for Brazil to overcome. Nice going USA.

(8) Unlike many of our other recent matches, the one versus **Bulgaria** started and has remained very close throughout. In the last newsletter, the score was 6.5 - 6.5. It is still tied (9.5 points each), now with 21 games remaining. It looks like this one will require every point we can get. Go Team!!

(9) We took an early 3 point lead versus **Indonesia**, and we are holding onto it. With only 5 games remaining, our lead is looking pretty good. To those still playing, keep pluggin'!

(10) Our inexperience in **Chess960** shows. In the two events together, we have scored only 8.5 points compared to our opponents' total of 28.5. To be fair to us, some of the rating differences have also been substantial. Please keep in mind that rating differences in Chess960 matches tend to be far larger than in regular Friendly Matches reflecting the fact that there are very few players who signed up to play in a Chess960 event. Pairings were made simply "as best I could", but not even close to staying within the guidelines used for regular Friendly Match pairings.



**Match (versus game) win/loss record since 1/1/07: 30 wins, 25 losses, 1 tie
(54.5%)**

<u>USA Won</u>	<u>USA Lost</u>	<u>USA Tied</u>
Argentina (2010)	Austria (2014)	Norway (2013)
Australia/New Zealand (2012)	Belarus (2016)*	
Australia (2016)*	Belgium (2015)	
British CCA (2016)*	Croatia (2015)*	
Canada (2014)*	Cuba (2013)	
Cape Verde (2013)	Cuba (2015)	

Denmark (2014)	Czech Republic (2011)
England (2008)	Czech Republic (2013)
England (2012)	France (2010)
Estonia (2016)*	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)
Lithuania (2015)*	Panama (2015)*
Netherlands (2013)	Poland (2015)
Panama (2013)	Russia (2013)
Peru (2013)	Spain (2008)
Portugal (2013)	Sweden (2007)
Romania (2008)	Switzerland (2014)
Romania (2013)	Ukraine (2010)
Scotland (2008)	Ukraine (2015)
Scotland (2016)	Venezuela (2014)
Slovakia (2014)	Wales (2016)*
Slovenia (2015)	
Sweden (2012)	
Turkey (2015)	
Venezuela (2013)	
Wales (2013)	

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

Always put the rook behind the pawn, except when it is incorrect to do so.

Siegbert Tarrasch

"NEW" ICCF RULES PERTAINING TO FRIENDLY MATCHES

During August 2016, the ICCF Congress approved a change in the rules that affected Friendly Matches. Starting 1/1/2017, Friendly Matches are viewed like any other ICCF-approved event, meaning a couple different 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. Until 1/1/17, Friendly Matches were exempt from Tournament Rules 8.3 through 8.5 that governed the "withdrawal from one event means withdrawal from all events" rules.

For Tournament Directors, the new rule means that directing Friendly Matches now counts towards the required number of directed games to earn the title of International Arbiter. Before 1/1/17, that was not true.



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

Grandmaster Carl Sieftring, Tournament Organizer

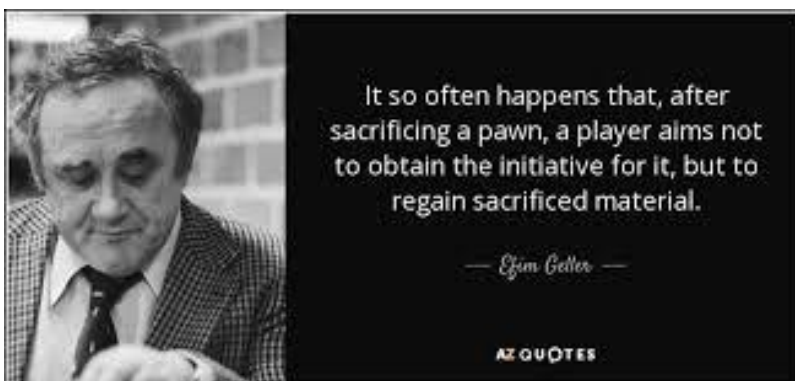
Senior International Master Dan Perry, Webmaster

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.

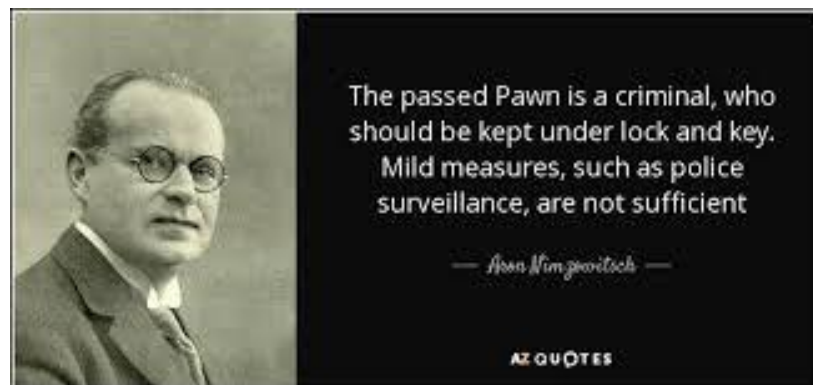
That's it! Let me know your interest, accept my invitation for you to play in a specific match, pay your fee, and enjoy your games!

Pawn endings are to chess what putting is to golf.

Cecil Purdy

Brief Note

If you wish to contact me, Dennis Doren, please use my current 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.