



The Friendly Post

News from ICCF-US Friendly Matches from around the world - Issue 6, December 2013

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. 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.

If you have not already done so: sign up now for the Friendly Matches of 2014!

First of all, thanks to so many of you! The response to this survey, first published last issue, has been absolutely great. About 135 of you already responded. Most of you are interested in playing in Friendly Matches against any country without preference. Some of you had general preferences, but would take any and all comers. Some of you want to play only in matches against specific countries. It also helped to find out who was not going to be available in 2014 to play in any Friendly Matches, so we did not schedule such people only to have to replace them on our lists of players.

This is all great! Your survey responses will not only help us in our organizational work, to bring you more Friendly Matches than ever before, but these responses already have!! As you will see later in this newsletter, some of the new Friendly Matches have already been organized and have started - just because we knew where your interest was and who wanted to play. So, again, thanks!

For anyone who has not already responded to this survey, there is still time. Just send Dennis an email responding to the options stated below. IF YOU ALREADY RESPONDED TO THIS SURVEY, PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND AGAIN unless you wish to change the information you previously sent.

WE INTERRUPT THIS ADVERTISEMENT TO MAKE THIS SPECIAL BROADCAST:

The Friendly Match being organized against Germany will be the largest the USA has ever had. It is scheduled to start in March, but we will be sending the USA roster to the German Friendly Match organizer within a couple weeks. You can still register to play in this historic event! Just send Dennis a quick email saying you are interested in playing in the Germany-USA Friendly Match (at dmdoren@yahoo.com). If you already responded to the survey, you do NOT need to send any note to Dennis unless you wish to change what you previously said.

Now back to our regular programming...

Below is a survey where you can tell Dennis which countries to contact to set up Friendly Matches during this coming year. Dennis will work to set up Friendly Matches with the countries you show the greatest interest in playing! At the same time, he will also know who wants to play in each match.

The following are your options. Eliminated from the total list of ICCF Member Nations are any that we have played too recently, are currently playing, or we already know declined or did not respond to a recent offer to play a Friendly Match. So, we are open to trying to set up Friendly Matches with any from the following list:

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) Austria * | (12) France | (23) Luxembourg |
| (2) Belarus | (13) Germany *** | (24) Poland |
| (3) Belgium | (14) Greece | (25) Scotland |
| (4) Bulgaria | (15) Hong Kong | (26) Slovakia |
| (5) Canada ** | (16) Hungary | (27) Slovenia |
| (6) Chile | (17) Iceland | (28) South Africa ***** |
| (7) Croatia | (18) India | (29) Spain |
| (8) Cuba **** | (19) Ireland | (30) Switzerland |
| (9) Denmark | (20) Israel | (31) Turkey (continued next page) |

(10) Estonia

(21) Latvia

(32) Ukraine

(11) Finland

(22) Lithuania

(33) Wales****

* A Friendly Match is already scheduled to start in June 2014, so be sure to sign up if you interested in playing in it (if you have not already done so)!

** A Friendly Match is already scheduled to start in January 2014, meaning it is being organized NOW. If you wish to participate in this and did not already respond to this survey, send an email to Dennis right away.

*** A Friendly Match is already scheduled to start in March 2014. Because it clearly promises to be our largest Friendly Match ever (by far!!), this match is being organized NOW. If you wish to participate in this and did not already respond to this survey, send an email to Dennis right away.

**** You are too late for these. Friendly Matches against these countries have already been organized and started.

***** We never received a response from this country to the invitation we already sent for a Friendly Match, so this match will likely not happen.

Here is all we need from you: **ONE VERY BRIEF EMAIL.**

Send Dennis an email (to dmdoren@yahoo.com) that says:

(1) Your name (if not obvious in your email address),

(2) Either the word "any" (or if you prefer, "all"), or any combination of the specific numbers (from the list of 1-33 above) that are your countries of interest (for example: #'s 2,3,6,14 & 22), and

(3) Any special instructions to me, such as "no more than 2 matches in 2014" from your list, or "I would really like to play in a match versus [country name]", or "any 3 matches".

That's it. **Just send Dennis an email.** It can be as brief as one word: "any", or as detailed as you wish.

Just a few more words about how this will work. First, you can express your interest in playing in one or more 2014 Friendly Matches any time during the next year. It does not have to be immediately. On the other hand, your input will be most effective both for you and Dennis if you do it right away. He has already been setting up 2014 Friendly Matches, once he has enough information to allow him to do so. Likewise, if you wait into 2014 to let him know

of your interest, he could have already filled up all our boards in your desired match. Please keep in mind that you can always add or subtract from your list as the year goes on!

Secondly, your stating an interest to Dennis does NOT obligate you to play if the opportunity arises. We all understand that "life happens", plans change, and you may not be available when the time comes. Dennis always checks to see if people are still interested and available to play before finalizing team placement. So, **SIGN UP NOW**, and worry about your availability later. If you do not let Dennis know of your possible interest, however, he will not know to consider placing you on a team!

Thirdly, please be aware that just because you express interest in a certain match does not automatically mean you will get to play in that match. We simply have more players expressing interest in specific Friendly Matches than there are boards to accommodate (read: the other countries' teams are too small compared to what we can field). Dennis tries to accommodate "specially expressed interest", but cannot always do so.

Finally, do NOT send any money to anyone to pay your fee for any Friendly Match until you are specifically told by me to do so - which only occurs after your placement in a specific match has been confirmed. Dennis will always let you know when your money is due.

So, a lot of information, but just one simple thing requested of you: SEND DENNIS AN EMAIL to express your 2014 interest in playing in the ICCF-US Friendly Matches!

Without error there can be no brilliancy. - Emanuel Lasker



The Friendly Matches Just Keep On Comin'!

You can always find the current results from any of our Friendly Matches by visiting www.iccf-webchess.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*" (which can

be found at www.iccfus.com) listed all of our matches from 1/1/07 onward. There are now too many Friendly Matches to keep doing that, so this issue lists only those currently in progress but not yet completed. The current standings (through 10/13/2013) are as follows:

	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Server/Email/Postal</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Result (USA v. other)</u>
1.	Sweden	Server	5/1/12	61.0 - 28.0 (1 game still ongoing)
2.	England	Server	8/1/12	33.0 - 33.0 (2 games still ongoing)
3.	Australia/NZ	Server	11/1/12	61.5 - 43.5 (5 games still ongoing)
4.	Russia	Server	2/1/13	53.5 - 85.5 (23 games still ongoing)
5.	Panama	Server	3/4/13	12.5 - 7.5 (4 games still ongoing)
6.	Cape Verde	Server	3/24/13	15.5 - 6.5 (8 games still ongoing)
7.	Norway	Server	3/31/13	17.0 - 17.0 (10 games still ongoing)
8.	Netherlands	Server	4/11/13	40.0 - 47.0 (41 games still ongoing)
9.	Czech Republic	Server	4/25/13	29.0 - 39.0 (44 games still ongoing)
10.	Portugal	Server	4/25/13	18.5 - 15.5 (20 games still ongoing)
11.	Romania	Server	9/1/13	14.5 - 8.5 (47 games still ongoing)
12.	Venezuela	Server	9/16/13	5.5 - 3.5 (31 games still ongoing)
13.	Peru	Server	9/25/13	5.0 - 4.0 (43 games still ongoing)
14.	Japan	Server	10/25/13	0.0 - 0.0 (18 games still ongoing)
15.	Cuba	Server	12/11/13	0.0 - 0.0 (84 games still ongoing)
16.	Wales	Server	12/12/13	0.0 - 1.0 (41 games still ongoing)

TOTAL USA RESULTS since 1/1/07: 871 - 903 **(49.1%)**

In case you had not figured it out, our intention is to have a Friendly Match with every Member Nation of the ICCF, that is unless they turn us down or do not respond to our offer. But we will offer a match to all of the countries listed (plus some repeats, of course). It will take us some time, of course...

Haste, the great enemy. - Znosko-Borovsky

Interesting Tidbits:

(a) The listed **percentage of wins/losses** (49.1%) went up 0.3% since September 2013 with the completion of another 122 games. We are surely making our way to 50%...

(b) **Match (versus game) win/loss record** since 1/1/07: 10 wins, 9 losses (52.6%)

<u>USA Won</u>	<u>USA Lost</u>
Argentina (2010)	Czech Republic (2011)
Australia/New Zealand (2012)*	France (2010)
England (2008)	German (2011)
Finland (2009)	Germany (2008 - Women's only)
Hong Kong (2010)	Italy (2010)
Romania (2008)	Spain (2008)
Scotland (2008)	Sweden (2007)
Sweden (2012)*	Ukraine (2010)
Cape Verde (2013)*	Russia (2013)*
Panama (2013)*	

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

The USA has achieved a plus score in Friendly Match outcomes! It has been quite a few years. Congratulations and thanks to all of you who have participated!

If I win, it was a sacrifice. If I lose, then it was a mistake. - Koltanowsky



A Statistical Brain Teaser...

In the last issue, some interesting statistics from the Friendly Matches were presented. One was this:

"The higher a player's rating, the more likely his/her games will end in draws; or said the other way around, the lower a player's rating, the more likely his/her games will end in either a win or loss (versus a draw). The finding was statistically quite strong."

My question to readers is this: which one of the following is correct?

- (a) This outcome is regularly found only when people play equally rated opponents, such as in the Friendly Matches.
- (b) An implication of this statistical finding is that your rating will go up to the degree that you increase the proportion of your games that end in a draw.
- (c) Although this finding was statistically strong in this analysis, it probably will not hold up over time.
- (d) None of the above is true.

The correct answer will be in the next newsletter. If you wish, however, you can write to Dennis at dmdoren@yahoo.com to find out the correct answer.

When you don't know what to do, wait for your opponent to get an idea - it's sure to be wrong! - Tarrasch



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-webchess.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, USA National Federation Representative

Senior International Master Tom Biedermann, Treasurer

Senior International Master Dan Perry, Webmaster

International Master Bob Rizzo, Norms and Communications Organizer

Senior International Master Kristo Miettinen, Tournament Organizer, Tournament Director

International Arbiter Franklin Campbell, Tournament Organizer, Tournament Director

Wolff Morrow, US Correspondence Chess Championship (USCCC) Organizer

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

Yours truly,

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



Games from the Matches

The intention is that each newsletter will show games and/or interesting positions from the ICCF-US friendly matches. Do you have a game you would like published here? A position with a great move? Our intention is to show games from across rating levels, so do not be shy

about submitting your games (to Dennis Doren at dmdoren@yahoo.com). You can also offer your own commentary, or just leave that to us (which you can review pre-publication) if you prefer.

In this issue, we need to start with a correction concerning the game reviewed in the last issue of *The Friendly Post* (Issue 5). This concerned the position shown after move 25 in the game Leonid Gleyzer - Aleksandr Valentinovich Volkov from the USA-Russia Friendly Match. The proper diagram should have White's pawn on f4, not f2.

This issue is actually going to be the first one in which no game is presented. This is only because there seemed need to get this issue out quickly (it is actually a bit ahead of our anticipated schedule) so as to advertise the upcoming options for 2014 Friendly Matches, in particular the Germany-USA match which is certainly going to be our largest ever. You can participate in it - just let Dennis know if you have not already done so, but do so right away!

If one piece is badly posted, the whole game is bad. - Tarrasch

The "FRIENDLY MATCH ELITE

Both as an incentive for participation as well as a reward for never silently withdrawing, we recently began a new 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 24 players on the ICCF-US current list:

John Ballow, IM; Juraj Beres; Mark Capron; Maurice Carter; Chris Cendrowski; Steven Chilson; Ken Edwards; Gordon Everitt; Russ Haag; Dr. Michael Hailparn; Michael G. Hayes; Harry Ingersol; Steven Ledford; Roger Martindale; William Merrell; Jean L. Moeckel; Cesar Musitani, IM; Donald Randolph; Alex Relyea; Fred Sharpell; Carl L. Siefring, SIM; Brian Villarreal; William C. Young, III; & Viktor Zenkov

Even beyond are the 25 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; Edward Barr; Kyle Biedermann; Thomas Biedermann, SIM; Michael Brooks; Gregory W. Cross; Gary Deskin; Dennis Doren; James R. Ellis; Leonid Gleyzer; Joseph Korman; Jon S. Leisner; Edward Lupiensi; Edwin Meiners; Charles Merrow; Chris O'Connell; Larry Parsons; Michael Quirk; Mark Robledo, Sr.; Patrick J. Ryan; Corky Schakel, IM; Gerald K. Thomas; Lester Weiss; & David V. White

Are you next? Who is just one Friendly Match away from becoming Elite? These 16 people:

Robert Fass; Eric Fischvogt; Alex Herrera; David Huff; Rick Jenkins; Charles Knouse; William Lindberg; John Moldovan; Lazaro Munoz; Russell Rice; George Stone; Dana Sylvander; Wesley Underwood; Harry Van Buren; Scott Young; & Anthony Zawadski

To everyone: 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 all arrangements have been finalized. Dennis will tell you when that is.