



The Friendly Post

News from ICCF-US Friendly Matches from around the world - Issue 8, June 2014

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.

MATCHES "IMMEDIATELY" AVAILABLE

- I need you to let me know your interest - NOW!

We currently have 19 Friendly Matches being played (!!), but there are 5 more already scheduled to start in the next few months. Unlike my usual situation, I will be organizing more than one Friendly Match at the same time during the next couple months because of this volume.

You can make my job easier, and **make it more likely I put you on a team (or more)**. **SEND ME A QUICK EMAIL** stating your desire (to dmdoren@yahoo.com).

By quick, I really mean both right away, and just the necessary words such as: "all", "any 2", "Slovakia", "Austria and Switzerland", etc. - whatever you want me to know.

Your specifying a country (from the following list only) will mean I can expect you to accept an invitation to play in that specific match, so if I can find you a place on the team (based on our opponents' ratings) I will!

Please know that I will still consider you for any upcoming match even if you do not specify the country, but you will have lower priority in my selection process than people who let

me know of their interest - in other words, I will still call on people to fill in "rating gaps" in our team wherever they occur, even if those people did not let me know of the specific interest.

But you can **place yourself at the top of the list!!** Just write me of your interest. But do it **NOW**. I expect to be working on forming our teams for the first listed matches literally any day now!!

Friendly Matches about to be organized:

- (1) Austria - To start about July 1.
- (2) Hong Kong - To start in July.
- (3) Switzerland - Start date August 1.
- (4) Slovakia - To start in the Fall.
- (5) Venezuela (we have already been challenged to a rematch!) - to start in the Fall.

*I failed to make the chess team because of my height. **Woody Allen***

And the Friendly Matches that are Already Ongoing...

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 to the date of newsletter circulation. 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 6/7/2014) are as follows:

| | <u>Opponent</u> | <u>Server/Email/Postal</u> | <u>Start Date</u> | <u>Result (USA v. other)</u> |
|----|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Australia/NZ | Server | 11/1/12 | 64.0 - 45.0 (1 game still ongoing) |
| 2. | Russia | Server | 2/1/13 | 61.0 - 94.0 (7 games still ongoing) |
| 3. | Cape Verde | Server | 3/24/13 | 20.0 - 8.0 (2 games still ongoing) |
| 4. | Norway | Server | 3/31/13 | 20.5 - 20.5 (3 games still ongoing) |
| 5. | Netherlands | Server | 4/11/13 | 57.5 - 57.5 (13 games still ongoing) |

| | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|---------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 6. | Czech Republic | Server | 4/25/13 | 44.0 - 54.0 (14 games still ongoing) |
| 7. | Portugal | Server | 4/25/13 | 27.0 - 24.0 (3 games still ongoing) |
| 8. | Romania | Server | 9/1/13 | 26.5 - 20.5 (23 games still ongoing) |
| 9. | Venezuela | Server | 9/16/13 | 20.5 - 13.5 (6 games still ongoing) |
| 10. | Peru | Server | 9/25/13 | 17.5 - 14.5 (20 games still ongoing) |
| 11. | Japan | Server | 10/25/13 | 4.0 - 5.0 (9 games still ongoing) |
| 12. | Cuba | Server | 12/11/13 | 10.0 - 18.0 (56 games still ongoing) |
| 13. | Wales | Server | 12/12/13 | 16.5 - 13.5 (12 games still ongoing) |
| 14. | Iceland | Server | 1/2/14 | 6.0 - 10.0 (46 games still ongoing) |
| 15. | Canada | Server & Post | 1/17/14 | 31.5 - 12.5 (56 games still ongoing) |
| 16. | Germany | Server | 3/22/14 | 26.0 - 35.0 (263 games still ongoing) |
| 17. | India | Server | 4/3/14 | 2.5 - 3.5 (24 games still ongoing) |
| 18. | Israel | Server | 5/26/14 | 0.0 - 1.0 (55 games still ongoing) |
| 19. | Denmark | Server | 6/4/14 | 0.0 - 0.0 (46 games still ongoing) |

TOTAL USA RESULTS since 1/1/07: 1068.0 - 1084.0 **(49.6%, up from 49.1% in just 6 months)**

Highlights:

(1) We caught up in the Norway match. With the score now tied (at 20.5 - 20.5), there are only 3 games still ongoing. These 3 games will decide the match winner! Go team!!

(2) Our comeback in the Netherlands match continues. We were behind 40-47 just 6 months ago, but we have completely caught up. The score is now 57.5 - 57.5 with 13 games still ongoing. Go team!!

(3) We have nearly won the Portugal match. With the score currently at 27 - 24 and only 3 games still ongoing, we need only a draw in any of the 3 games to win the match. Go team!!

(4) Despite there still being 6 ongoing games, we have won the match versus Venezuela, with the current score of 20.5 - 13.5. Venezuela's response: they have already challenged us to a rematch! The rematch is being planned for the Fall.

(5) Our total results have continued to improve! When the newsletters began, back in September 2012, USA players had scored 48.1% out of 1004 games in Friendly Matches (since

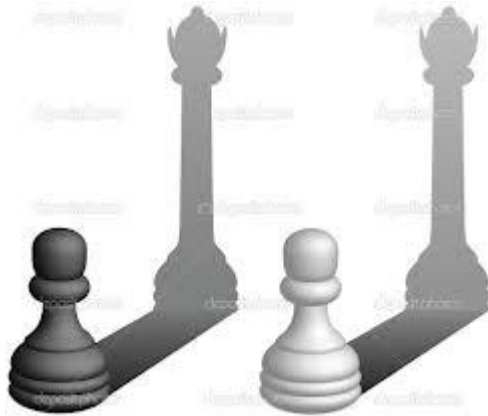
1/1/07). (Put another way, we scored 42 points under 50% during the 5.75 years between January 2007 through September 2012.) We have now made up more than half of those points (26 of those 42) in just the past 1.75 years, scoring 51.2% of 1048 games during that time.

*Marriage is like a game of chess except the board is flowing water, the pieces are made of smoke and no move you make will have any effect on the outcome. **Jerry Seinfeld***

Match (versus game) win/loss record since 1/1/07: 12 wins, 9 losses (57.1%)

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

(And reverse alphabetically, just to be different:)

Senior International Master Carl Siefring, Tournament Organizer

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

International Master Bob Rizzo, Norms and Communications Organizer

Senior International Master Dan Perry, Webmaster

Senior International Master Kristo Miettinen, Tournament Organizer

Anthony Kain, Technical Advisor

International Arbiter Franklin Campbell, Tournament Organizer

Yours truly,

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

My problem with chess was that all my pieces wanted to end the game as soon as possible. Dave Barry



Games from the Matches

We typically put one or two games from our Friendly Matches in this section. In this issue, however, we will do something different. IM John Ballow has graciously offered us something of interest, and probably educational for most of us. Have you ever heard of "Plachutta Interference"? Yes, this is a chess term! IM Ballow explains and gives us some fascinating examples of this beautiful chess rarity.

The Plachutta Interference

Dennis' quote from Wikipedia: "The **Plachutta** is a device found in chess problems: a white piece sacrifices itself on a square where it could be captured by one of two similarly moving black pieces (for example, a bishop and a queen moving along a diagonal, or two rooks) moving along a different line; whichever black piece captures, it interferes with the other. Plachutta theme is named by Joseph Plachutta (1827–1883)." [Note from Dennis: only White can play this? Obviously not true, but the rest is accurate.]

Examples from IM Ballow (Thanks John!):

Example 1:

In the game *Tarrasch vs Allies* [SEE DIAGRAM 1 BELOW], Black seems to be holding here (at least against immediate catastrophe), because the black queen guards against Qb7+ (followed by Kxa5 Ra1#), while the black rook on c8 defends against Rxc5#.

Can you figure out the winning move? Hint: It uses the concept of Plachutta interference. (Answer, as provided by IM Ballow, can be found on the last page of this newsletter.)

Diagram 1



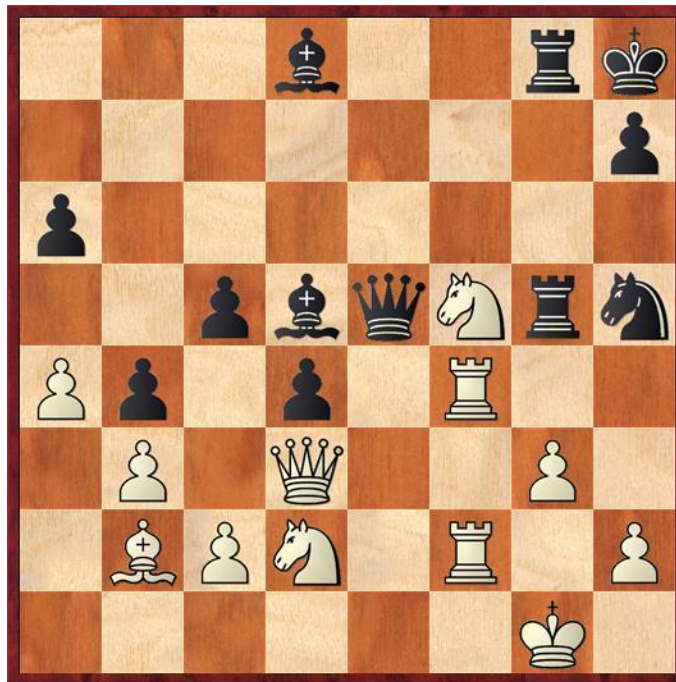
Position before White's 31st move



Example 2:

In the game against Walbrodt, Tarrasch (as White) played rather poorly, and his opponent had the better of it for a long time [SEE DIAGRAM 2 BELOW]. Can you find Tarrasch's winning combination (hint: the Pluchetta interference comes 5 moves into White's combination)? (Answer, as provided by IM Ballow, can again be found on the last page of this newsletter.)

Diagram 2



Position after Black's move 33



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 36 players on the ICCF-US current list:

Brent Askvig; Juraj Beres; Brian Brzezinski; Mark Capron; Lawrence Coplin; Robert Cousins; Ken Edwards; Mark Ellis; Gordon Everitt; Robert Fass; Eric Fischvogt; Stephen Grout; Russ Haag; Michael G. Hayes; Kenneth Holroyd, IM; David Huff; Stanley Jarosz; Richard Jenkins; Charles Knouse; Steven Ledford; Andrew Leonard; William Lindberg; Jean L. Moeckel; John Moldovan; Lazaro Munoz; Carl Palmateer; Donald Randolph; Russell Rice; Fred Sharpell; Carl L. Sieftring, SIM; George Stone; Dana Sylvander; Bryan Towery; Brian Villarreal; Scott Young; & William C. Young, III

Even beyond are the 37 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; Kyle Biedermann; Thomas Biedermann, SIM; Michael Brooks; Maurice Carter; Chris Cendrowski; Steven Chilson; Gregory W. Cross; Gary Deskin; Dennis Doren; James R. Ellis; Leonid Gleyzer; Dr. Michael Hailparn; Harry Ingersol; Joseph Korman; Jon S. Leisner; Edward Lupiński; Roger Martindale; Edwin Meiners; William Merrell; Charles Mellow; Cesar Musitani, IM; Chris O'Connell; Larry Parsons; Michael Quirk; Alex Relyea; Mark Robledo, Sr.; Patrick J. Ryan; Corky Schakel, IM; Gerald K. Thomas; Wesley Underwood; Lester Weiss; David V. White; & 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.

I stole a piece of the chess set on the first film. I took a piece of the treasure out of Bellatrix's vault on this film. And I've taken my wand and I've got my cloak.
Emma Watson

Answers to "Pluchetta Interference" analyses above:

Example 1

From IM Ballow: Tarrasch played the ingenious interference move 31.Bc7! (known as a Plachutta interference because the pieces both move orthogonally). This blocks off both defenses, and whatever piece captures becomes overloaded. That is, if 31...Rxc7, the rook is overloaded, having to look after both the key squares, since the queen is blocked from b7. So White would play 32.Qb7+ Rxb7, deflecting the rook from defense of c5, allowing 33.Rxc5#. But if Black plays instead 31...Qxc7, the queen blocks off the rook's defense of c5 and becomes overloaded: 32.Rxc5+ Qxc5 deflects the queen

from defense of b7, allowing 33.Qb7+ Kxa5 34.Ra1#. Black actually resigned after this move. [This same analysis is described on Wikipedia.]

Example 2

From IM Ballou: Tarrasch's 34.Rxd4 seems obvious, because 34...cxd4 allows 35.Bxd4 winning the queen. But Black has a seemingly strong counterattack which had to be foreseen. The game is redeemed by the following startling combination: .. 34...Nxf3 35.Nxf3 Rxf3+ 36.hxf3 Rxf3+ 37.Kf1! Rxd3 and now the startling 38.Rg4!! with devastating threats of 39. Rf8+ mating and Bxe5 not to mention cxd3 to follow. Black resigned.