



The Friendly Post

News from ICCF-US Friendly Matches from around the world - Issue 37, September 2021

Greetings from ICCF-US Friendly Match Central. This is the newsletter concerning everything related to ICCF-US Friendly Matches. Thanks to your ongoing interest in the Friendly Matches, this newsletter has been arriving at your email-doorstep 4 times per year for a full 9 years!

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 fee to participate is \$5 per match. You are invited to participate!

This issue is dedicated to... (see below).

Upcoming Friendly Matches

We continue this quarter with our new tradition of offering a LOT of Friendly Matches. Currently planned matches are against **Lithuania** (scheduled to start in October), **Israel**, and **Denmark**. That is besides the match versus **Japan** that was just proposed, organized, and started during this past quarter.

If you have a desire to play against any of these countries, or just to play on a USA team, please write to Dennis (dmdorenchess@gmail.com) and let him know!

As we have said previously, matches can go from an idea to an active reality within any 90-day period – that is, between newsletters. So, if you have not already let it be known that you want to play, be sure to let us know by writing to Dennis at dmdorenchess@gmail.com!



Around the World a Third Time!!

The US Friendly Match World Tour 3

Did you ever want to “collect countries” of chess opponents you have played? The USA Friendly Matches can bring those opponents to you.

Did you ever want to play some games with a person from your family’s ancestral country? The USA Friendly Matches may be able to help you.

Do you just like to have conversations with people from around the world? The USA Friendly Matches can take you around the world in a safe and very inexpensive way.

Do you just want to play chess on your schedule? Yes, the USA Friendly Matches can likely be played on your schedule.

These are some of the things the USA World Tour 3 (WT3) is all about. There are now 56 member federations in the ICCF. (After the recent ICCF Congress, the Philippines and Aruba were added as ICCF member federations. Venezuela was dismissed from its membership.) WT3 will, like the first WT and WT2, involve sending invitations to all the other 55 countries to play a Friendly Match. From Austria to Wales (A through W), from Canada/Russia/Norway to Chile/Argentina/Australia (most northern to most southern), from Cape Verde to Russia (smallest to largest), from Mexico to South Africa to India to Peru to Latvia to Australia (across

all 6 continents, or also New Zealand if the research of its being a 7th continent is correct) and across almost all Europe. Come go around the world with US!

This issue is dedicated to you, the player! We have organized a USA Friendly Match on an average of 1 per month (100+ Friendly Matches) over the past 9 years, and you made it possible! A sincere thanks goes out to all of you who have participated in the Friendly Matches!



The Reeeeeaaaallllly Long Think...

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 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 9/14/2021) are as follows:

	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Server/Email/Postal</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Result (USA v. other)</u>
1.	Switzerland	Server	2/20/2020	31.5 - 32.5 (2 ongoing games)
2.	Brazil	Server	3/27/2020	57.0 - 35.0 (2 ongoing games)
3.	England	Server	6/16/2020	101.0 -104.0 (5 ongoing games)
4.	Aruba	Server	7/29/2020	6.5 - 8.5 (1 ongoing game)
5.	Germany	Server	9/21/2020	131.5 -163.5 (21 ongoing games)
6.	Estonia	Server	10/12/2020	11.5 - 9.5 (3 ongoing games)
7.	Scotland	Server	10/21/2020	30.0 - 26.0 (4 ongoing games)
8.	Slovakia	Server	11/18/2020	37.5 - 35.5 (11 ongoing games)
9.	BeNeLux	Server	11/30/2020	113.0 -116.0 (24 ongoing games)
10.	Belarus	Server	3/13/2021	14.0 - 14.0 (22 ongoing games)
11.	Bulgaria	Server	3/19/2021	13.0 - 13.0 (14 ongoing games)
12.	Romania	Server	4/8/2021	21.0 - 27.0 (32 ongoing games)
13.	Philippines	Server	5/31/2021	7.0 - 12.0 (41 ongoing games)
14.	Peru	Server	6/4/2021	19.0 - 20.0 (45 ongoing games)
15.	Slovenia	Server	6/6/2021	6.0 - 6.0 (30 ongoing games)
16.	Spain	Server	6/18/2021	13.0 - 17.0 (54 ongoing games)
17.	Philippines B	Server	7/7/2021	4.0 - 6.0 (24 ongoing games)
18.	Austria	Server	8/15/2021	1.0 - 0.0 (61 ongoing games)
19.	Japan	Server	9/30/2021	0.0 - 0.0 (24 ongoing games)

TOTAL USA RESULTS

Currently (as of 9/14/2021) = **417 ongoing games**

Completed games since 1/1/2007* = 7816 games

Total score since 1/1/2007* = 3876 – 3940 **(49.6%)**

(* 1/1/2007 is the beginning of USA friendly match records on the ICCF server)

Highlights and Interesting Tidbits:

(1) Our match versus **Switzerland** remains very close! The USA came from behind to tie up the match with 10 remaining games. With 5 games remaining 3 months ago, the USA team was 2 points back. During this past quarter, we gained back another point. We are now 1 point back with 2 games remaining (on the same board!!). A win and a draw will result in a tied match, while 2 wins will bring victory to the USA. Can our player do it? Go USA!

(2) We started slowly versus **England**, falling behind by 9 points during the first 145 completed games. A half year ago with 27 remaining games, the USA's deficit was only 2 points. Now, with 205 games completed and only 5 games left, we are still 3 points back. It is looking rough for us, but still possible...

(3) **Germany** has won in their friendly match against us, again. Quite a nemesis for us.

(4) **Estonia** is fighting back from its 4-point deficit last quarter, but probably running out of time. The USA still holds a 2-point lead with only 3 games to go. Push on USA!

(5) Our lead versus **Scotland** is now looking insurmountable. We are up by 4 points with 4 games to go. Even one draw among those remaining games and the match is ours. Go USA!

(6) We came from behind and pulled ahead of **Slovakia**! We now have a 2-point lead with 11 games to go. It is still anyone's match, but we are going in the right direction. Keep up the good fun (not work, of course)!

(7) We also just caught up a bunch versus **BeNeLux**. They had a large lead just 3 months ago – a whopping 11 points. This last quarter saw the tables turn though. The USA gained back 8 of those points (out of 39 completed games)! This is FABULOUS – maybe the best single quarter comeback we have ever had! With 24 remaining games, the USA is only behind by 3 points. Keep pushing USA!!

(8) The matches versus **Belarus** and **Bulgaria** are both currently tied, having remained close throughout. With 22 and 14 remaining games respectively, there is still plenty of time for the USA to take a decisively lead.

(9) Unfortunately, the USA is slipping behind **Romania**. We went from 4 points behind to a 6-point deficit. But there are still 32 remaining games, so there is plenty of time to make this up!

(10) The **Philippines** is showing itself to be a difficult opponent. It has taken a lead in two different matches. Quite impressive for a new member federation to the ICCF!



Friendly Match (versus game) win/loss record

(Since 1/1/07) 49 wins, 42 losses, 3 ties (= 53.7% for USA)

USA Won	USA Lost**	USA Tied
Argentina (2010)	Aruba (2020)*	Argentina (2019)***
Argentina (2016)	Austria (2014)	Norway (2013)***
Australia/New Zealand (2012)	Belarus (2016)	Wales (2019)***
Australia (2016)	Belgium (2015)	
Australia (2018)	Canada (2019)	
Brazil (2016)	Croatia (2015)	
Brazil (2020)*	Cuba (2013)	
British CCA (2016)	Cuba (2015)	
Bulgaria (2016)	Cuba (2018)	
Canada (2014)	Czech Republic (2011)	
Cape Verde (2013)	Czech Republic (2013)	

Denmark (2014)	Czech Republic (2019)
England (2008)	Denmark (2018)
England (2012)	Finland (2018)
Estonia (2016)	France (2010)
Finland (2009)	Germany (2008 - Women's only)
France (2017)	Germany (2011)
Hong Kong (2010)	Germany (2014)
India (2014)	Germany (2020)*
India (2019)	Iceland (2014)
Indonesia (2016)	Iceland (2019)
Israel (2016)	Israel (2014)
Japan (2013)	Italy (2010)
Japan (2017)	Italy (2017)
Latvia (2015)	Mexico (2017)
Latvia (2020)	Netherlands (2017)
Lithuania (2015)	Norway (2019)
Mexico (2020)	Panama (2015)
Netherlands (2013)	Panama (2016)
Netherlands (2018)	Poland (2015)
New Zealand (2020)	Russia (2013)
Panama (2013)	Russia (v. Zone 3) (2017)
Peru (2013)	Slovenia (2019)
Portugal (2013)	Spain (2008)
Portugal (2018)	Sweden (2007)
Romania (2008)	Switzerland (2014)
Romania (2013)	Ukraine (2010)
SChemingMind (2018)	Ukraine (2015)
Scotland (2008)	Ukraine (2018)
Scotland (2016)	Venezuela (2014)
Slovakia (2014)	Venezuela (2017)
Slovenia (2015)	Wales (2016)
Spain (2016)	
Sweden (2012)	
Sweden (2018)	
Turkey (2015)	
Venezuela (2013)	
Wales (2013)	
Yorkshire (2018)	

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

** Chess960 matches versus Germany and Russia are not included in this list because it is a different game coupled with the very large rating differences in these matches. The USA lost both matches.

*** After 93 completed matches, where pairings were made with as equal ratings as possible, that there have been only three tied results.



Featured Games

This quarter's featured games section is dedicated to the memory of one of our prominent players. SIM Kurt Stein passed during this recent quarter. Here is the memorial written about him quoted from the ICCF homepage:

SIM Kurt Stein † 1959-2021

Thursday, August 5, 2021: SIM Kurt Stein passed away suddenly 30 July, 2021

It's my sad duty to inform our ICCF Chess community of the passing of SIM Kurt Stein. While he might have been an opponent across the board, he made many friends at the same time. Please find below a brief biography of Kurt provided by SIM Ken Holroyd.

Regards - GM Jason Bokar, ND ICCF-USA

Kurt Stein was born on July 4, 1959, in Chicago, Illinois. A long time friend and fixture of the Chicago chess community, Kurt joined the US Chess Federation. in 1972, participating in events such as the Midwest Junior High School Championship. Kurt reached Expert level in high school, and outperformed to place near the top of the 1977 National High School Championship. With the Black pieces, he was an early adopter and exclusively played for years, the Sveshnikov Sicilian and the Benko Gambit. While representing Johns Hopkins University, he won the Blitz tournament of the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship, winning with the Sveshnikov Sicilian against future GM Sergey Kudrin and IM Leonid Bass. Kurt maintained a steady over the board tournament schedule during the 1980s and early 1990s, with a USCF rating in the high 2300s and FIDE rating of 2300, and with occasional wins against Grandmasters.

A great listener with an engaging personality and a quick wit, Kurt made friends with many in the chess community, including many Grandmasters, and was particularly close to GM John Fedorowicz. In his professional life, Kurt received electrical engineering and mechanical engineering degrees from the University of Michigan, and law and business degrees from Northwestern University, which he used to start a supply chain information technology company, Liquio Corporation.

With the persuasion of long time friend SIM Ken Holroyd, Kurt joined ICCF in 2015. With a rapid ascent, Kurt achieved the IM title in 2019 and the SIM title in 2020, while winning 21 games with no losses, of 126 games played in 18 matches and tournaments. SIM Kurt Stein had an ICCF rating of 2540 at the time of his premature sudden passing at his home in Lombard, Illinois, on July 30, 2021.

From Dennis: Kurt played in 8 ICCF-US Friendly Matches, 3 of those being his first ICCF events! Of those 16 Friendly Match games, he never lost one, winning a few! A couple of his wins and his exciting recent draw with black against a grandmaster are the featured games for this issue of *The Friendly Post*.

The pgn of each game can be obtained by clicking where it says “ICCF Game” [in blue](#) under the listed Friendly Match.

Kurt W. Stein (2214 FIDE) – Anatoly Khvorostyanov (2218)
USA – Ukraine 2015
[ICCF Game](#)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 Qa5 7.cd5 Nxd5 8.Rc1 Bb4 9.Qd2 O-O 10.a3 Bxc3 11.bc3 h6



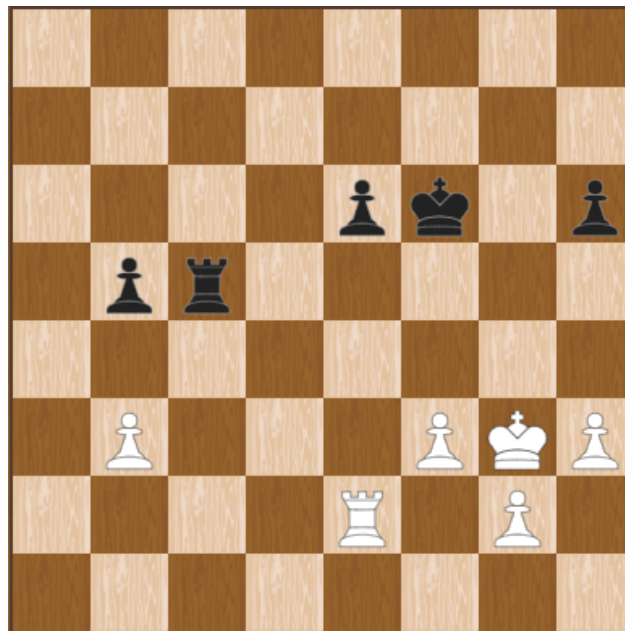
Position after 11...h6: Can you see White's move?

12.Bxh6! (Did you see that coming?)

12...gh6 13.e4 N5b6 14.Qxh6 Qxa3 15.Qg5+ Kh8 16.Qh6+ Kg8 17.Qg5+ Kh8 18.Kd2 f6 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.Qg6+ Kh8 21.h4 Qe7 22.Ng5 1-0

Kurt W. Stein (2214 FIDE) – SIM Józef Lubas (2214)
USA – Poland 2015
ICCF Game

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 O-O 5.Bd3 d5 6.Nf3 c5 7.O-O Nc6 8.cd5 ed5 9.dc5 Bxc5 10.h3 Qe7 11.b3 Rd8 12.Bb2 Ne4 13.Rc1 Bf5 14.Ne2 Rac8 15.Nf4 Ba3 16.Qe2 Bxb2 17.Qxb2 Be6 18.Nh5 Nf6 19.Nxf6+ Qxf6 20.Qxf6 gf6 21.Bb5 Rd6 22.Rfd1 a6 23.Bxc6 Rdx6 24.Ra1 Kf8 25.Nd4 Rc5 26.Kh2 Ke7 27.Rab1 Kd6 28.Rb2 Rc1 29.Rdd2 b5 30.Nc2 h6 31.f3 a5 32.e4 Rc5 33.b4 ab4 34.Nxb4 R1c3 35.Kg3 Ra3 36.Nxd5 f5 37.Nb4+ Ke7 38.Nd3 Rc7 39.ef5 Bxf5 40.Nf4 Rc5 41.Rb3 Rxb3 42.ab3 Be6 43.Re2 Kf6 44.Nxe6 fe6



Position after 44...fe6: Could you win this with White?

45.Kh4 e5 46.Re4 Rc2 47.g4 Rc3 48.f4 ef4 49.Rxf4+ Kg6 50.Rb4 Rc5 51.Rd4 Re5 52.b4 Kg7 53.Rf4 Re6 54. Rf5 Rb6 55.Kg3 Rb7 56.Kf4 Kg6 57.Ke4 Rc7 58.Rxb5 Rc3 59.Rc5 Rxh3 60.b5 1-0

GM Yoav Dothan (2539) - Kurt W. Stein (2536)
Israel – USA 2018
ICCF Game

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Qc2 c5 6.d5 ed5 7.cd5 Bb7 8.Bg2 Nxd5 9.O-O Be7 10.Rd1 Nc6 11.Qf5 Nf6 12.e4 g6 13.Qf4 O-O 14.e5 Nh5 15.Qg4 Qb8 16.Nc3 Nxe5



Position after 16...Nxe5: The fireworks begin, and last quite a while!

17.Nxe5 Bxg2 18.Nxd7 Qb7 19.Nxf8 Nf6 20.Qh4 Bh1 21.f3 Qxf3 22.Rd2 c4 23.Nd7 Re8 24.Rf2 Bc5 25.Be3 Bxe3 26.Nxf6+ Kf8 27.Nd7+ Kg8 28.Nf6+ Kf8 29.Qh6+ Bxh6 30.Rxf3 Bxf3 31.Nxe8 Kxe8 32.Nb5 Be3+ 33.Kf1 Kf8 34.a4 Bg4 35.a5 Bd7 36.Ke2 Bc5 37.ab6 ab6 38.Na3 Be6 39.Kd2 Bd4 40.Nb5 Bxb2 41.Ra8+ Ke7 42.Ra6 Bd7 43.Rxb6 ½-½



The Triple Block time control system has come to the ICCF!

Have you heard about the "Triple Block" time control system? The Triple Block system, most often abbreviated as "TB", was developed by an ICCF work group specifically appointed during the 2015 Congress to address a variety of complaints about the standard time control system. (There were 6 different proposals during the 2015 Congress alone for changes in the ICCF time control system.) The new system was approved for trials by the 2016 Congress, and officially approved by the 2020 Congress. Since then, hundreds of events have used the system without significant problem.

Some of our recently started Friendly Matches are using this system. Some of our as-yet-to-be scheduled Friendly Matches will also use this new time control system.

In brief, the Triple Block system gives you your reflection time, your leave time, and some additional time right from the beginning. The time keeping is simplified in that there is no doubling of reflection time (as there is currently after 20 days without a move), no 40+ day loss by default and therefore no registering to be allowed to go beyond that time limit, no watching your time at each 10-move interval, and no recording of leave time. Instead, each player has far more control of his/her reflection time. Problematic play related to the "dead man's defense" is also lessened. And you will typically have more reflection time per move available to you than you currently do!

The rules and procedures for the TB system are incorporated as Appendix 3 in the document "ICCF Rules".





RULES PERTAINING TO FRIENDLY MATCHES

Since 1/1/17, Friendly Matches are viewed like any other ICCF-approved event, meaning a couple 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.

If you have dire need to stop playing, ask the tournament director for an accepted withdrawal. If you simply wish to stop playing, it is recommended you resign your Friendly Match games rather than simply abandon them.

The latter causes losses in all your other ICCF games and a 2-year suspension during which you will not be allowed to register for any other ICCF event.

For tournament directors interested in working towards the International Arbiter title, directing friendly matches count towards the required number of directed games to earn the title of International Arbiter.



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 top 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 Siefring, Invitational Facilitator

Senior International Master Dan Perry, Webmaster

International Master Bob Rizzo, Norms and Communications Organizer

Yours truly, **IM 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 any specific country you wish to play against, but you do not have to do that.

When I have a specific team placement 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 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 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 is 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 current email address: dmdorenchess@gmail.com; not my old yahoo address.

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! 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.

