



The Friendly Post

News from ICCF-US Friendly Matches from around the world - Issue 10, December 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. We are now beginning our third year of bringing you these newsletters!

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.

Friendly Matches Scheduled to be Organized:

- (1) Latvia - to start mid-February.
- (2) Ukraine - to start the beginning of March (if not sooner)
- (3) Poland - to start mid-May.

You can get yourself on the top of my list for any of these scheduled matches! If you are interested in playing in any one of these, and you have not already told me of your interest specific to any of these countries, please send me an email (dmdoren@yahoo.com) and let me know. I will do my best to get you into the match of interest to you.

Special Bulletin: Get your Self-Photos Posted by ICCF

The ICCF server now has a new feature! You can have a photograph of yourself posted on your "Player Detail" page (the page anyone finds by looking up your rating or contact

information: by following the link from "ICCF Ratings" and putting in your name). In fact, we encourage you to do this.

The procedure is simple. Send a (200 x 200 pixel = sufficiently pixelated) photo by email attachment to our National ICCF Delegate Corky Schakel (schakels@comcast.net) - be sure to tell him your name (as not all email addresses identify the sender). The photo can be cropped from a larger one if you wish, but that is not necessary. You can choose how you look, a full body or just profile shot, what you are doing, what "props" you include in the photo, etc. Please know that any photo considered inappropriate will be rejected and not be put onto the server. Examples of your many options of what to include in your photo can be found from the photos already on the server from some ICCF-US Board Members:

- (a) Corky Schakel: shot taken from an artistic angle while posed with a chess board;
- (b) Tom Biedermann: standing next to a trophy;
- (c) Tony Kain: a shocking looking photo, it was taken during a class in which he was teaching about things that protect from heat;
- (d) Dennis Doren: the simple head shot.

So send a selfie for webpage publication!!

Now we return you to your regularly scheduled Friendly Match business:

Other Plans for Future Friendly Matches

Our intention is to offer USA players a chance to play against every ICCF Member Nation! Besides the USA, there are 55 other countries that belong to the ICCF. Since 1/1/2007 (the date back to which the server has these data), the USA has played in at least one Friendly Match against 34 of those countries. Additionally, we have sent out invitations to play a Friendly Match with us to another 7 countries, but either never received a response from them or they declined. (We cannot force others to put together a team for us to play!) That leaves 14 countries to go in our quest: **Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovenia, and Turkey.**

As listed above, Friendly Matches against Latvia and Poland are already in process of being organized. (We already played against the Ukraine 4 years ago, but they challenged us for this repeat. We do not turn down such challenges!) Our intention is to concentrate our Friendly Match organizational efforts for 2015 on the other countries in the list just given.

You can do two things to help us and yourself, both with a quick note to me (at dmdoren@yahoo.com). The first is to write to me to tell me you are interested in playing in the Friendly Matches. If I do not already have you on my list, I will gladly add you to it. The second is to list (in that same email) one or more **specific** countries from the above list you would like to play against. I take recommendations like that strongly into consideration! That's it!



The quotes in this issue sound like chess-related quotes, but are they? Try to guess, yes or no, for each quote. The answers are on the last page of this newsletter. (Thanks to IM Corky Schakel for supplying some of these.)

Quote #1: "It is worse than a crime. It is a blunder."

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.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 became too many Friendly Matches to keep doing that, so each issue now lists only those currently in progress but not yet completed. The current standings (through 12/6/2014) are as follows:

	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Server/Email/Postal</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Result (USA v. other)</u>
1.	Russia	Server	2/1/13	66.5 - 94.5 (1 game still ongoing)
2.	Netherlands	Server	4/11/13	64.5 - 61.5 (2 games still ongoing)
3.	Czech Republic	Server	4/25/13	50.0 - 58.0 (4 games still ongoing)
4.	Portugal	Server	4/25/13	29.0 - 24.0 (1 game still ongoing)
5.	Romania	Server	9/1/13	36.5 - 28.5 (4 games still ongoing)

6.	Venezuela	Server	9/16/13	22.5 - 16.5 (1 game still ongoing)
7.	Peru	Server	9/25/13	22.5 - 21.5 (8 games still ongoing)
8.	Japan	Server	10/25/13	9.5 - 8.5 (completed - we won!)
9.	Wales	Server	12/11/13	21.0 - 19.0 (2 games still ongoing)
10.	Cuba	Server	12/12/13	29.5 - 42.5 (12 games still ongoing)
11.	Iceland	Server	1/2/14	19.0 - 25.0 (18 games still ongoing)
12.	Canada	Server & Post	1/17/14	44.0 - 32.0 (24 games still ongoing)
13.	Germany	Server	3/22/14	97.5 - 147.5 (79 games still ongoing)
14.	India	Server	4/3/14	12.0 - 10.0 (10 games still ongoing)
15.	Israel	Server	5/26/14	10.5 - 18.5 (27 games still ongoing)
16.	Denmark	Server	6/4/14	13.0 - 11.0 (22 games still ongoing)
17.	Austria	Server	7/14/14	19.0 - 27.0 (74 games still ongoing)
18.	Switzerland	Server	8/1/14	18.0 - 20.5 (74 games still ongoing)
19.	Slovakia	Server	11/18/14	0.0 - 0.0 (108 games still ongoing)
20.	Venezuela (rematch)	Server	12/8/14	0.0 - 0.0 (40 games still ongoing)

TOTAL USA RESULTS since 1/1/07: 1304.5 - 1378.5 **(48.6%)**

Quote #2: "You must not let your opponent know how you feel. "

Highlights and Interesting Tidbits:

(1) This is the first time in a long time, maybe EVER, that the USA has been actively playing in 20 different Friendly Matches at the same time!! My personal thanks to all of you who have been participating. These matches literally could not be happening without your participation!!

(2) Interestingly, although our scoring percentage went down during this past quarter (since the last issue of this newsletter), the USA teams' winning percentage went up. The explanation: we have been winning a number of close matches, but also losing some by larger margins!

(3) We won a very close match against the Netherlands! With just two games still being played, we are ahead by 3 points. With 64 boards, matches don't get much closer than this one, but our players pulled it out. Congratulations to our team!

(4) We also won a close match against Japan - again by the slimmest of margins. Congratulations to our team again!

(5) And we won the match versus Romania. With 4 games still being played, we are up 8 points. Congratulations to our team once again!

(6) The Peru match was tied at the time of the last issue. We have now pulled ahead by the slimmest of margins. With 8 games still being played, this match is still a nail biter...

(7) Speaking of close, our match versus Wales is still almost done. The two ongoing games are the same as those mentioned in the last issue of this newsletter. We have almost won, as we are up by 2 points (21 - 19). If either of our two remaining players can get at least a draw, the USA will win this match. If not, the match will become our second tie.

(8) Unfortunately, we tallied up two team losses this past quarter. The Czech Republic got the final boost they needed during the past 3 months. With 4 games still being played, they are now up by 8 points. We did not do so well against Cuba either. With 12 games left to be completed, we are down by 13 points. Oh well. We can't win them all...



**Match (versus game) win/loss record since 1/1/07: 16 wins, 11 losses, 1 tie
(58.9%)**

<u>USA Won</u>	<u>USA Lost</u>	<u>USA Tied</u>
Argentina (2010)	Cuba (2013)*	Norway (2013)
Australia/New Zealand (2012)	Czech Republic (2011)	
Cape Verde (2013)	Czech Republic (2013)*	
England (2008)	France (2010)	
England (2012)	Germany (2011)	

Finland (2009)	Germany (2008 - Women's only)
Hong Kong (2010)	Italy (2010)
Japan (2013)	Russia (2013)*
Netherlands (2013)*	Spain (2008)
Panama (2013)	Sweden (2007)
Portugal (2013)*	Ukraine (2010)
Romania (2008)	
Romania (2013)*	
Scotland (2008)	
Sweden (2012)	
Venezuela (2013)*	

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

Quote #3: When computer work is a substitute for hard thinking, it is of little value. It's value increases insofar as it leads...to new thoughts..."



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 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 Sieftring, 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)



Games from the Matches

We typically put a game from our Friendly Matches in this section. Here is one from our First Board in the Iceland - USA Friendly Match still underway. IM Kenneth Holroyd, a Friendly Match Elite member, has been kind enough to annotate this game for our readers: all comments are his.

IM Kenneth Holroyd (2446) (USA) - IM Árni H Kristjánsson (2447) (Iceland)

[This game can be found at <https://www.iccf.com/game?id=604656>.]

After receiving the news of my opponent for this match, a review of IM Kristjansson's games showed that he usually plays the King's Indian Defense against 1. d4. Since I have had a

good record playing that opening with both the White and Black pieces, and it usually leads to an interesting game, I proceeded.....

1.d4 d5and was surprised to see the Queen's Gambit, the first time he had played this. Perhaps trying out something new during a Friendly Match.

2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Heading toward the Catalan with 3. Nf3 and 4.g3 is another popular way to play.

3...Nf6 The Queen's Gambit Declined has been a popular, more solid, secondary opening for King's Indian Defense players, as both defenses tend to offer Black attacking chances against the White King. Other moves worth considering in this position include 3....c6, 3...Be7, 3....Bb4, and 3....c5.

4.cxd5 The exchange variation. 4.Bg5 and 4.Nf3 are other popular ways to proceed.

4...exd5 4...Nxd5 has been popularized again by Kramnik, and is also difficult to gain an advantage against. White can play 5.e4 or head toward an isolated Queen's pawn position with 5.Nf3 and 6.e3.

5.Bg5 Be7 If Black would like to play an ending, there is 5...c6 6.e3 Bf5 7.Qf3 Bg6 8. Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Qxf6 gxf6 with an unbalanced position.

6.e3 O-O 7.Bd3 c6 Black can also here and on the next move either delayc6, when it tends to be better to place the White King's Knight on f3, or delayNbd7 and includeh6, when it tends to be better to place the White's King Knight on e2. Asplayed, White has a choice.

8.Qc2 Nbd7 9.Nf3 9.Nge2 is the other major choice. Black's probably best plan is then well known in ICCF, but not well known in over the board play. GM Perevertkin-GM and WCh Langeveld, ICCF WCh 26 in 2010, proceeded 9.Nge2 Re8 10.O-O Nf8 11.f3 g6 12. Rad1 Ne6 13. Bh4 b5 when Black has done well.

9...Re8 10.O-O Nf8 11.h3 Proceeding with Queenside play with 11. Rab1 or central play with 11. Rae1 are other popular choices. 11. h3 is a flexible move that gives White a variety of plans, based on Black's reply, and was popularized by former World Champion Karpov in the 1970s. A detailed description of White's plans after 11. h3 can be read about in GM Yermolinsky's book "The Road to Chess Improvement".

11...g6 11...Be6 and 11....Ng6 are other quite playable, and perhaps better, moves.

12.Bh6 Ne6 13.Ne5 Ng7 Black is prepared to playBf5 and complete his development, while exchanging a piece, a typical maneuver for Black in the exchange variation.

14.g4 White preventsBf5 and prepares a Kingside attack.

14...Nd7 15.f4 Nxe5 16.fxe5 Still a known position, where White has been successful in ICCF and in over the board chess with either recapture. Now 16....Bh4 is perhaps stronger than the played.....

16...Bg5 17.Bxg5 Qxg5 18.Qf2 Be6 19.Qf4 Qh4 20.Rf2 Rf8



Position after 20...Rf8

Here 20...Qxh3 would be a mistake, as after 21. Be2 Black's Queen is going to be trapped by Rh2, and 21...Qh4 22. Rh2 Qe7 23. Qh6 wins, when to avoid checkmate on h7, Black is forced to give up a piece withNh5 24.gxh5.

21.Raf1 Bd7 21...h5 22. Be2 Rad8 was a major alternative for Black.

22.Kg2 Ne6 23.Qg3 Qxg3+ 24.Kxg3 Kg7 25.h4 c5 26.Ne2 Rac8 27.h5 a6 Here or on the previous move, it is better for Black to exchange withcxd4, and then play nowRc6, with potential Queenside play withRb6.

28.h6+ Kg8 29.a3 At this point I thought White has a modest advantage, but did not think it all that likely I would win the game.

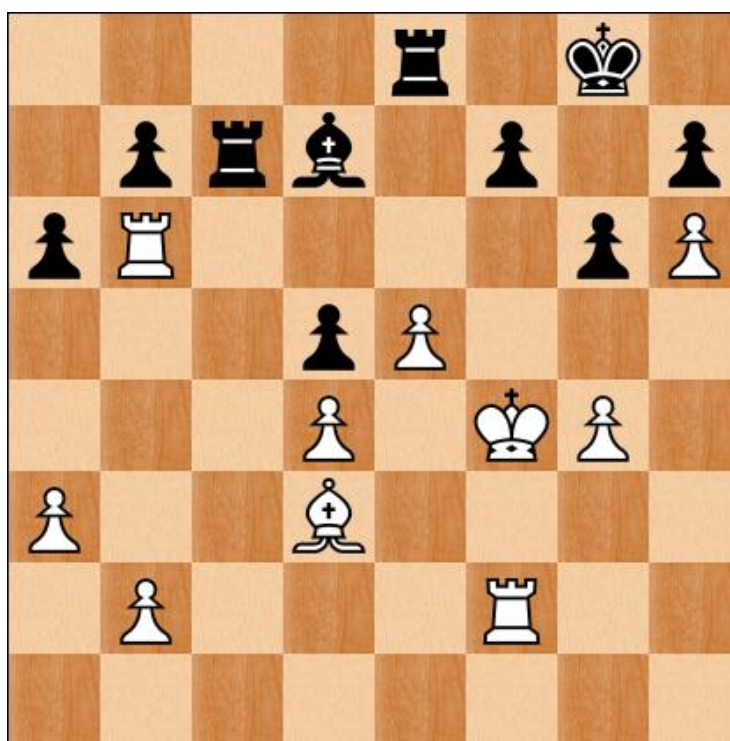
29...cxd4 30.exd4 Rc7 31.Rf6 31...Bc8 and 31...Rc6 also seem to hold.

31...Bc6 32.Kf2 Bd7 33.Ke3 Rcc8 Black has remained passive, and asks White how he will make progress. Here 33....Rc6 and 34....Nc7 were better.

34.Nf4 Nxf4 34....Nc7 35. g5 will put Black under increasing pressure.

35.Kxf4 Rfe8 35...Be6 36.Bf5 seems winning for White, whether Black takes with the pawn, the bishop, or allows White to exchange on e6.. This may be what my opponent overlooked when formulating his defensive plan. But without this blockading resource, White's Rf6 can be moved to attack the queenside or the d pawn. While 35...Rc6,Rc7,Bc6, ora5 are other defensive tries, White seems at least close to winning in all lines.

36.Rb6 Rc7 37.Rf2



Position after 37.Rf2

PreventingRc2 with counterplay in certain lines. In addition, White may be able to play Rc2 and exchange off a pair of Rooks, which will make simultaneous defense of the Black pawns on b7 and d5 difficult. Now, after a two week think, IM Kristjansson wrote me a note that his position is lost, and he resigned.

1-0

Although I thought I was winning, this was certainly a quicker resignation than I had expected. The combination of White's space advantage on the Kingside, the Black pawns on the same

color as his bishop, the active White Rook on b6, and the active White King is enough to make Black's position lost, in concrete variations. There are many Black defensive tries, two of which I will mention as follows:

37...Re6 38.Rd6 Rxd6 39.exd6 Rc6 40.Ke5 Rc8 41.Kxd5 Kf8 42.g5 Rc1 43.Ke5 Re1+ 44.Be2 Bg4 45.Kf6 Bd7 46.Bc4 Be6 47.d5 Bd7 48.Rc2 Rd1 49.Re2 Rf1+ 50.Ke5 Rc1 51.Re4 Rc2 52.Kd4

or

37...Kf8 38.Rd6 Be6 39.Rc2 Rxc2 40.Bxc2 Ke7 41.Rb6 Bc8 42.Kg5 Rd8 43.Bd1 Rd7 44.Bf3 Rd8 45.Rb3 Rf8 46.Rc3 f6+ 47.exf6+ Kd6 48.a4 Be6 49.a5

With either of these defenses, White will gradually advance to victory.

Quote #4: "If you are not big enough to lose, you are not big enough to win."



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 32 players on the ICCF-US current list:

Andy Ansel; Eric Arnold; Brent Askvig; Mark Capron; David Cofer; Lawrence Coplin; Peter Dessales; Mark Ellis; Gordon Everitt; Robert Fass; Eric Fischvogt; Stephen Grout; Russ Haag; Michael G. Hayes; Stanley Jarosz; Charles Knouse; Andrew Leonard; William Lindberg; Jean L. Moeckel; John Moldovan; Carl Palmateer; Donald Randolph; Russell Rice; Fred Sharpell; Carl L. Sieftring, SIM; George Stone; Dana Sylvander; Bryan Towery; Brian Villarreal; Jerry Weiner; Scott Young; & William C. Young, III

Even beyond are the 45 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; Juraj Beres; Kyle Biedermann; Thomas Biedermann, SIM; Michael Brooks; Brian Brzezinski; Maurice Carter; Chris Cendrowski; Steven Chilson; Gregory W. Cross; Robert Cousins; Gary Deskin; Dennis Doren; Ken Edwards; James R. Ellis; Leonid Gleyzer; Dr. Michael Hailparn; Kenneth Holroyd, IM; David Huff; Harry Ingersol; Richard Jenkins; Joseph Korman; Steven Ledford; Jon S. Leisner; Edward Lupiński; Roger Martindale; Edwin Meiners; William Merrell; Charles Merrow; 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.

Chess Related Quotes, or Not?

Quote #1: Antoine Boulay, comte de la Meurthe, in reference to an execution using trumped up charges by Napoleon's government of a Duke [not chess-related]:

Quote #2: Alexander Kotov [chess related]

Quote #3: Cuthbert Daniel and Fred Wood [not chess related]

Quote #4: Walter Reuther [not chess related]