



The Friendly Post

News from ICCF-US Friendly Matches from around the world - Issue 13, September 2015

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.

Progress Report on our Friendly Match "World Tour"

What is the "World Tour"? The ICCF is made up of 56 member federations (nations), divided into 4 zones:

- (a) Europe (Zone 1) has 36 member federations.
- (b) Latin America (Zone 2) has 10 members.
- (c) North America/Pacific zone (Zone 3) has 6 members (including the USA).
- (d) Africa/Asia zone (Zone 4) has 4 members.

This all means there are 55 other nations for us to play in Friendly Matches in order for us to make the complete ICCF "World Tour". Since the beginning of 2007, we have played/are currently playing at least one Friendly Match against all of the following:

From Zone 1: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia,

Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Wales (= **28 countries**)

From Zone 2: Argentina, Cuba, Panama, Peru, Venezuela (= **5 countries**)

From Zone 3: Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand (to be clear, one match was played against a combined team from Australia and New Zealand at their suggestion)(= **5 countries**, given that Hong Kong is the only ICCF representative from China)

From Zone 4: Cape Verde, India (**2 countries**)

We have also extended invitations to play a Friendly Match against the following countries, but these countries either specifically declined (because of too few players) or did not respond to the invitation at all. Since we cannot force other countries to play in such a match, we figure we have done our part relative to completing our World Tour:

Zone 1: Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg

Zone 2: Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua

Zone 3: (none)

Zone 4: Tunisia, South Africa

Only the following 4 countries have never received an invitation from us to play a Friendly Match (since at least 1/1/2007):

Zone 1: Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary

We have these 4 countries to go from among the total of 55 ICCF member federations (besides the USA). That means we are about 92.7% complete in our World Tour!!



He is a poet who creates a work of art out of something which would hardly inspire another man to send home a picture postcard. - Max Euwe

Friendly Matches in our Future:

The ICCF-US has, of course, been organizing the next in our series of Friendly Matches for your enjoyment. Here is what's happening in that regard:

- (1) Another match against **Panama**, scheduled to be organized during the last week of September, first week of October, start date mid-October.
- (2) A match against **Belgium** (one of our remaining World Tour countries), scheduled to be organized about the same time as the Panama match above, with an official start date of 10/19/15 (give or take). Please know this match will be played at the time control of 10 moves in 40 days instead of the usual 10 moves in 50 days, per the request of the Belgium organizer.
- (3) We have been challenged by the **Australians** to another match. This one is not scheduled to start until March 2016, meaning it will first be organized in February.
- (4) Please also know that invitations for Friendly Matches against **Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, and Hungary** are planned to complete our ICCF World Tour. The timing of each of these is still not known, but you can express your interest in any of these specific matches any time. In that way I will know who is interested in participating when the time comes to organize these.

Please be aware that once a match is in process of being organized, it can go from a challenge to an ongoing match in a matter of two weeks or less. (This just occurred in organizing the rematch against Cuba, for example.) That is why it is useful to let me know **ahead of time** about your interest in playing, either generally or for any specific match. Write to Dennis at dmdoren@yahoo.com to express your interest now!



[My] favorite chess piece [is] the one that wins! - Anonymous

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 dmdoren@yahoo.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!



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*" 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 9/15/2015) are as follows:

	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Server/Email/Postal</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Result (USA v. other)</u>
1.	Czech Republic	Server	4/25/13	52.0 - 59.0 (1 game still ongoing)
2.	Romania	Server	9/1/13	38.5 - 29.5 (1 game still ongoing)
3.	Peru	Server	9/25/13	26.0 - 25.0 (1 game still ongoing)
4.	Canada	Server & Post	1/17/14	54.5 - 36.5 (9 postal games ongoing)
5.	Germany	Server	3/22/14	128.5 - 189.5 (6 games still ongoing)
6.	India	Server	4/3/14	16.0 - 12.0 (2 games still ongoing)
7.	Denmark	Server	6/4/14	22.5 - 20.5 (2 games still ongoing)
8.	Austria	Server	7/14/14	54.0 - 58.0 (8 games still ongoing)
9.	Switzerland	Server	8/1/14	52.0 - 51.0 (11 games still ongoing)
10.	Slovakia	Server	11/18/14	41.0 - 36.0 (31 games still ongoing)
11.	Venezuela (rematch)	Server	12/8/14	16.0 - 21.0 (3 games still ongoing)
12.	Latvia	Server	2/13/15	24.0-17.0 (39 games still ongoing)
13.	Ukraine	Server	3/14/15	15.0-14.0 (35 games still ongoing)
14.	Poland	Server	5/1/15	13.5-18.5 (48 games still ongoing)
15.	Croatia	Server	6/25/15	5.5 - 4.5 (36 games still ongoing)
16.	Turkey	Server	6/30/15	5.0 - 4.0 (65 games still ongoing)
17.	Lithuania	Server	8/1/15	2.0 - 4.0 (36 games still ongoing)
18.	Slovenia	Server	8/1/15	1.5 - 1.5 (61 games still ongoing)

19. **Cuba** (rematch) Server 9/1/15 0.5 - 1.5 (50 games still ongoing)

TOTAL USA RESULTS since 1/1/07: 1603.5 - 1656.5 (**49.2%**)

It is always better to sacrifice your opponent's men. - Tartakover

Highlights and Interesting Tidbits:

(1) First, the unfortunate news: We played our last games even against Israel, but that meant we lost that match. Israel has a small but very powerful team...

(2) We also lost the rematch against Venezuela. We had won against that country 23-17 in a match started 2013, but not in this rematch. With 3 games still ongoing, our deficit at this time is too great to overcome. Congrats to the Venezuelans for their improvement. Maybe we will have to have a "grudge" match (the third in a best of three) in the near future...

(3) To the good news: We have secured at least a tie in our match versus Denmark. With two games yet to be completed, we are ahead by 2 points. Any draw or win for the USA wins the match...

(4) The Peru match is still down to the last game. As with the Denmark match, a USA win or draw will win this match...

(5) We have gained back some of the points needed in the Austria match, going 6.0 - 4.0 during the past 3 months. However, with only 8 games still ongoing, we are still down 4 points, meaning we need to score 6.0 - 2.0 in the remaining games to get a tie. Sounds tough. Go USA!

(6) Switzerland just made a surge in their results. They have cut a 4-point deficit (3 months ago) to a 1-point deficit. The lead in this match has been back and forth since the match started. With 11 games still ongoing, this match is clearly still up for grabs...

(7) Talk about surges! The USA scored 18.5 - 10.5 during this past 3 months to go from a 3-point deficit to a 5-point lead in our match versus Slovakia! There are still 31 ongoing games, however, so the fight is not at all done. Keep fighting USA!

(8) The USA has also taken a clear lead against Latvia, adding 4 more points this past quarter to our previous 3-point lead. There is still a lot of chess to be played, however, with 39 games still in play...

**Match (versus game) win/loss record since 1/1/07: 19 wins, 15 losses, 1 tie
(59.1%)**

<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)	
Canada (2014)*	Czech Republic (2013)*	
Cape Verde (2013)	France (2010)	
England (2008)	Germany (2011)	
England (2012)	Germany (2008 - Women's only)	
Finland (2009)	Germany (2014)*	
Hong Kong (2010)	Iceland (2014)	
India (2014)*	Israel (2014)	
Japan (2013)	Italy (2010)	
Netherlands (2013)	Russia (2013)	
Panama (2013)	Spain (2008)	
Portugal (2013)	Sweden (2007)	
Romania (2008)	Ukraine (2010)	
Romania (2013)*	Venezuela (2014)*	
Scotland (2008)		
Sweden (2012)		
Venezuela (2013)		
Wales (2013)		

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

In the realm of play, chess stands alone in dignity. - Geoffrey Mott-Smith



Featured Game from the Friendly Matches

In this issue, we are featuring a game from one of the people who has played the most ICCF-US Friendly Match games in "modern history" (that is since 1/1/2007, from when records exist on the server): Kyle Biedermann. The following game is from the nearly completed but still ongoing USA - India Friendly Match. The commentary is by Kyle except where noted. The ICCF server has this game at the following link: <https://www.iccf.com/game?id=622213>.

Kyle Biedermann (2266) (USA) - Dr. Ambar Chatterjee (2258) (IND) [B90]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3

6.h3 against the Najdorf is becoming more popular currently in higher play. One of its first notable appearances was in Bobby Fischer's "My 60 Memorable Games". Nowadays it is adopted by many Grandmasters such as Caruana, Navara, Nepomniachtchi and from Correspondence we have Nickel, Riccio, and Cruzado. It is something fresh and still in the water compared to the very well analyzed 6.Be3, 6.Be2, and 6.Bg5.

6...e5 7.Nde2 h5

[This move and 6...Be6 are the two current popular moves, but 6...h5 has shown the better results for Black in both OTB and CC. - Dennis]

8.g3 Be6

[A standard move, but 8...Nbd7 has statistically shown better results for Black, relative to 8...Be6, in both OTB and CC. - Dennis]

9.Bg2 Nbd7 10.O-O b5

[10...Rc8 ½-½ Cruzado Dueñas, C. - Acevedo, A. Berliner Invitational - A (USA) 2013]

11.Be3 Nb6

[This appears to be the first time this move has been played in CC, though a few OTB games were found with this move. This game followed A. Serazeev - T. Kain (2013) until this move. Maybe importantly, Black lost two of those OTB games, drawing the third. - Dennis]

12.b3 Bd7

[This move had been played once before. The more natural move appears to be 12...Be7. - Dennis]

13.a4 bxa4 14.Qd3 Be7 15.Rfb1 Qc7 16.bxa4 Nc4 17.Bg5 Qc5 18.a5 Ng4 19.hxg4 Bxg5 20.gxh5 Rxh5



Position after 20...Rxh5

21.Na4

[+/=]

[A nice maneuver. 21.Nd5 is also good, and looks more natural, but the advantage to the move played is that it forces Black's trading a B that is defending his K for a N not yet in the action. See next note for more detail - Dennis]

21...Bxa4

[Allowing Nb6 is just asking for trouble. If White had played 21.Nd5, Black could have played 21...Bd8 to prevent 22.Nb6. White's 21.Na4 did not allow 21...Bd8 because of the threat on Black's Q. - Dennis]

22.Rxa4 Nxa5

[Black is essentially forced to take the sacrificed pawn and to do it now. If 22...Nd2 instead, 23.Rd1 Rb8, 24.Nc3 Rc8, 25.Nd5 planning Rb4 and (if Black plays Nxa5) Rb6 and White's pieces start to crawl all over Black's position. Black's pieces are now quite uncoordinated. - Dennis]

23.Rab4

[23.Nc3 was also possible. This would not only bring out the N and the threat of an outpost N on d5, but also allow Bf1, Be2 (or Bf3 followed by Be2) to bring the B to a more active post. Although 23.Rba1 is also playable, the move seems antithetical to the point of the pawn sacrifice: why just work to get the pawn back? - Dennis]

23...Bd8 24.Nc3 g6

[Here is where Black starts to part company from the chess engine recommendations. 24...Rh6, activating the R, seems like a better idea than the move played. With 24...g6, Black makes it harder to keep his R on h5 active. - Dennis]

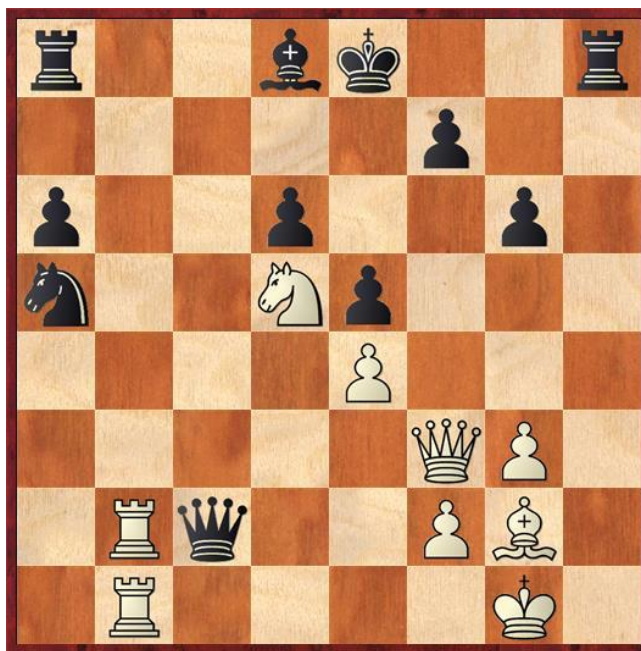
25.Nd5 Rh8 26.Qf3

[+/-; if 26.Rb8 +/-, and 26...Rxb8 27.Rxb8 Nc6. From my computer analysis the position gives a slightly better score for White but the position liquidates a lot of potential difficulties for Black.]

[And here is where White smartly parts company from the chess engines, to sacrifice a second pawn to facilitate his attack. Multiple chess engines see this position as essentially equal after Black's following move of 26...Qxc2, but they often do not evaluate positional sacrifices accurately... - Dennis]

26...Qxc2 27.R4b2

[Not too surprisingly, there is no place for Black's Q to go that is sufficient for the defense. White's pieces, except for his B, are all well placed. In contrast, Black has two undeveloped R's a N on the rim, and a B in the back row... - Dennis]



Position after 27.R4b2

27...Qc8

[+-; 27...Qc6 28.Bf1 Kf8 29.Rb8 Rxb8 30.Rxb8 Qe8 31.Nc7 Bxc7 32.Rxe8+ Kxe8 33.Qg4 +-]

28.Nb6 Bxb6 29.Rxb6 Ke7

[Protects the d-pawn, and makes an avenue by which the R on h8 can come into play. Still, you have to know it is not good in a middlegame when your K is one of your better developed pieces. - Dennis]

30.Bf1

[The only good move.]

30...Rh7

[After a series of exchanges we get into an unbalanced endgame with Black temporarily up two pawns but White with compensation of active heavy pieces and strong diagonal for bishop leading to a passive position for Black.]

[30...Ra7 may have been better, though nothing is good. - Dennis]

31.Rd1 Nc4

[Only move.]

32.Bxc4

[White must take the Knight on c4. Otherwise, it leads to a passive rook placement for White.]

32...Qxc4 33.Rbxd6 1-0

[The position still has possibilities, so the resignation may have been premature. The current position leads to many single rook endings with me up a pawn with all pawns on the same side of the board.]

[One possible line is 33...Ke8, 34.Qf6 Qc7, 35.R6d5 a5, 36.Kg2 a4, 37.Rxe5+ Kf8, 38.Red5 Re8, 39.Rd8 Qe7, 40.Rxe8+ Kxe8, 41.Qc6+ Kf8, 42.Rd7 Qe5, 43.Qxa4. Although all the pawns are technically all on the King side, two factors indicate to me that White should win: (a) White has an unopposed K-pawn in White's set of connected pawns, and (b) Black's K is pinned to the back row. A simplified example as to how these factors lead to a win is detailed on page 339 of Reuben Fine's "Basic Chess Endings", in reference to diagram #366 - Dennis]



ANALYSIS: Irrefutable proof that you could have won a game that you lost.
- Eliot Hearst

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:

Grandmaster Jason Bokar, ICCF-US Director starting mid-August 2015
Senior International Master Tom Biedermann, Deputy Director & Treasurer
International Master Corky Schakel, Registrations Director
Senior International Master Carl Siefring, Tournament Organizer
Senior International Master Dan Perry, Webmaster
International Master Bob Rizzo, Norms and Communications Organizer
International Master Anthony Kain, Technical Advisor
International Master Kenneth Holroyd, Tournament Facilitator
International Arbiter Franklin Campbell, Tournament Organizer
Senior International Master Kristo Miettinen, Tournament Organizer

It is with great sadness that we report that Glen Shields, a valued member of the ICCF-US and incredible organizer for the NAPZ and CCLA, passed away during this last quarter. He worked tirelessly for years to help organize CC events for the average player. Glen will be sorely missed by many.

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



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 33 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; Steve Greig; Michael G. Hayes; Stanley Jarosz; Charles Knouse; Andrew Leonard; William Lindberg; Juan Gustavo Mercader Martinez; Jean L. Moeckel; John Moldovan; Carl Palmateer; Donald Randolph; Kenneth Reinhart, SIM; Russell Rice; Robert Rizzo, IM; Fred Sharpell; Joseph Shipman; Carl L. Siefring, SIM; Matthew Tedesco; Chris Torres; Bryan Towery; Jerry Weiner; & William C. Young, III

Even beyond are the 54 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; Jonathan Fortune; Leonid Gleyzer; Stephen Grout; Russ Haag; Dr. Michael Hailparn; Kenneth Holroyd, IM; David Huff; Harry Ingersol; Richard Jenkins; Joseph Korman; Eric Landes; Steven Ledford; Jon S. Leisner; Edward Lupiński; Roger Martindale; Edwin Meiners; William Merrell; Charles Merrow; Wolff Morrow, IM; Cesar Musitani, IM; Chris O'Connell; Larry Parsons; Michael Quirk; Alex Relyea; Mark Robledo, Sr.; Patrick J. Ryan; Corky Schakel, IM; George Stone; Dana Sylvander; Gerald K. Thomas; Wesley Underwood; Brian Villarreal; Lester Weiss; David V. White; Scott Young; & 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.