



The Friendly Post

News from ICCF-US Friendly Matches from around the world - Issue 27, March 2019

Greetings from ICCF-US Friendly Match Central. 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're invited to participate!

*Help me choose the next countries we challenge for Friendly Matches!
See page 2.*

Send me your favorite combinations for publication! See page 7

Upcoming Friendly Matches

Norway recently accepted our challenge. Our previous Friendly Match resulted in the only Friendly Match tie the USA has had since at least 2007 (the only 1 out of 71 completed matches)! So, this upcoming match will serve as a tie-break ("grudge match") of sorts.

A match versus **Iceland** will be organized and started by mid-April. This will be a small match, as Iceland will be fielding only about a dozen players. Still, they can be hard to beat.

See the next section (the World Tour 2) about other future matches below.

Please remember that Friendly Matches can be scheduled, organized, and started all in between the publication of these newsletters, and in fact often are. To exemplify, matches versus Israel, Cuba, and the Netherlands all got organized since the last newsletter.

Therefore, if you not already let Dennis know, and want to play in the Friendly Matches, be sure you let Dennis know (at dmdorenchess@gmail.com).

The US Friendly Match World Tour 2 (WT2): "Go Around the World with US"

Are you "Going Around the World with US"?

Last year, we completed the ICCF World Tour by extending invitations to all of the 55 other ICCF Member Federations (MFs) and playing all takers. Mexico has now become the 56th Member Federation of the ICCF (besides the USA). Our second "Go Around the World with US" tour is more than halfway completed. To date, we have engaged with 32 MFs (plus 3 non-MF teams), and have 24 MFs to go to complete "WT2":

(1) We started play or at least scheduled a match versus Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, Russia, Spain, Sweden, the Ukraine, and Venezuela. This is besides the British Correspondence Chess Association, SchemingMind, and Yorkshire; all being international CC clubs affiliated with member federations.

(2) Invitations were extended but declined (either actively or passively) by: Cape Verde, Chile, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong, & Nicaragua.

PICK YOUR FAVORITES!

Here's your chance to help choose the next few Friendly Matches. We need to issue some new challenges to other countries to line up more Friendly Matches. Here is the remaining set to complete our second World Tour, and hence from which to choose:

Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, England, Estonia, Hungary,
India, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Poland,
Portugal, Romania, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa,
Switzerland, Turkey, and Wales

Send me a brief note (dmdorenchess@gmail.com) indicating which countries you would like to see our next challenges go to for Friendly Matches. (List no more than 3 countries, please.) I will follow your lead! I will also presume you are interested in playing on that match. If there is a reasonably closely rated opponent for you to play (once I get the other team's roster), I will give you first shot at accepting an invitation to play! **So, write to me with your preferred opponents (up to 3), and potentially move yourself to the top of my list!**

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 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 3/12/2019) are as follows:

	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Server/Email/Postal</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Result (USA v. other)</u>
1.	Russia v. Zone 3***	Server	8/31/17 (USA**)	88.5 - 114.5 (5 ongoing games)
2.	Mexico	Server	11/12/17	26.0 - 39.0 (1 ongoing game)
3.	Italy***	Server	12/1/17	73.0 - 105.0 (4 ongoing games)
4.	Venezuela	Server	12/31/17	17.5 - 13.5 (5 ongoing games)
5.	Yorkshire	Server	1/19/18	18.0 - 8.0 (2 ongoing games)
6.	SchemingMind	Server	1/29/18	18.0 - 13.0 (2 ongoing games)
7.	Ukraine	Server	2/20/18	23.0 - 31.0 (6 ongoing games)
8.	Sweden	Server	4/20/18	53.0 - 47.0 (24 ongoing games)
9.	Australia	Server	5/27/18	48.5 - 19.5 (16 ongoing games)
10.	Finland	Server	7/15/18	25.5 - 31.5 (25 ongoing games)
11.	Israel	Server	7/18/18	8.0 - 7.0 (5 ongoing games)
12.	Cuba	Server	8/1/18	22.0 - 30.0 (28 ongoing games)
13.	Netherlands	Server	9/30/18	26.5 - 18.5 (38 ongoing games)
14.	Portugal	Server	11/28/18	14.5 - 8.5 (73 ongoing games)
15.	Denmark	Server	12/11/18	5.5 - 7.5 (29 ongoing games)
16.	Canada	Server	3/16/19	0.0 - 0.0 (48 ongoing games)

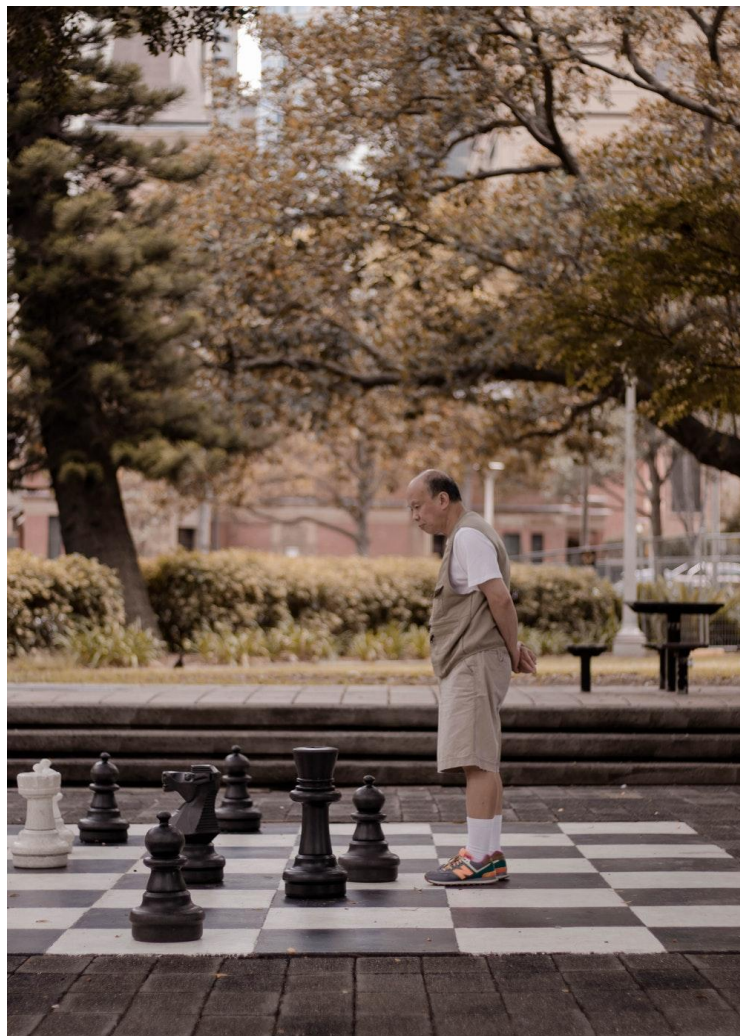
TOTAL USA RESULTS

Since 1/1/07* (5760 completed games!): 2854 - 2906 (**49.5%**)

* Not including Chess960 events versus Russia and Germany. The Chess960 events had far larger rating differences per board compared to regular Friendly Matches. The Chess960 results were therefore not considered comparable to those from regular Friendly Matches.

** Only the results involving USA players are shown or counted in the summary totals.

*** These matches often included pairings with a larger than usual rating difference, for reasons beyond Dennis's control, and usually in favor of our opponents. Hence, these matches shows disproportionate losses for the USA.



Highlights and Interesting Tidbits:

(1) Something to know: our lower boards are where many matches are won! For example, we just won the match versus **Australia** with 16 games still to go. Notably, the USA players on the lowest 10 boards scored 19 - 1 in the match, making our win all but assured. Similarly, we just scored enough to win versus **SchemingMind**, with the lowest 5 (of 16) boards scoring 6 of the 7 wins on those boards. Likewise, in the **Sweden** match, where we lead by 6 points with 24 games to go, the lower half of the USA team has scored nearly all of our wins. In Friendly Matches, every board counts!!

(2) In the last newsletter, it was reported we had a 4-point lead with only 5 remaining games. This meant that any win or 2 draws would take the match for us. During this quarter, no games were completed, so this situation remains the same.

(3) The **Ukraine** continues to be a nemesis for us. Despite the fact that we outscored them during the recent quarter year (4 - 3), we were already too far behind. We officially have lost that match, with 6 games yet to finish.

(4) The match versus **Israel** continues to be quite close. The USA had been a couple of points behind early in the match. We then took a 1-point lead, as reported last quarter. Two of the remaining 7 games ended, with each team scoring a point. Hence, now with only 5 games to go, this match could still go either way. Go USA!

(5) **Finland** has extended its 5-point lead to 6 points, now with 25 games still to be completed. This lead is getting a little large to overcome, but there is still some time for a great comeback. Onward USA!!

(6) The USA made great strides in our match versus the **Netherlands**. During the past 3 months, we scored 13 - 8, taking our lead from 3 to 8 points! With 38 ongoing games, an 8-point lead does not mean we have yet won the match, but we are certainly making it hard for the Dutch team to catch us.



Friendly Match (versus game) win/loss record

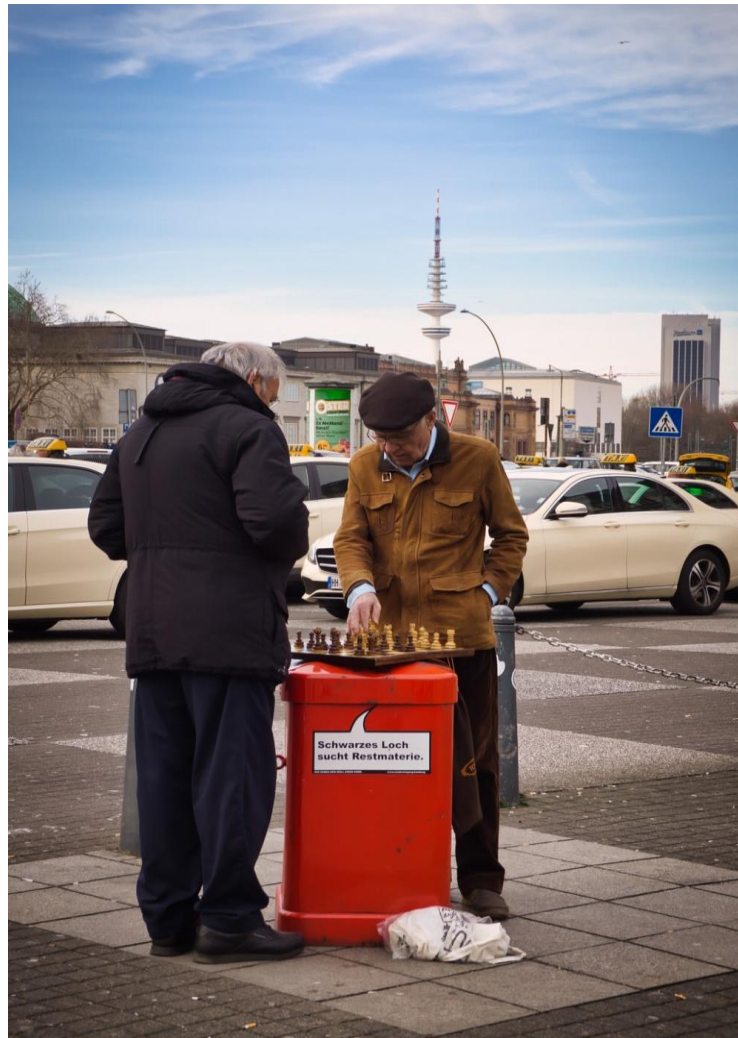
(Since 1/1/07) 40 wins, 30 losses, 1 tie (= **57.0%**)

USA Won	USA Lost**	USA Tied
Argentina (2010)	Austria (2014)	Norway (2013)***
Argentina (2016)	Belarus (2016)	
Australia/New Zealand (2012)	Belgium (2015)	
Australia (2016)	Croatia (2015)	
Australia (2018)*	Cuba (2013)	
Brazil (2016)	Cuba (2015)	
British CCA (2016)	Czech Republic (2011)	
Bulgaria (2016)	Czech Republic (2013)	
Canada (2014)	France (2010)	
Cape Verde (2013)	Germany (2008 - Women's only)	
Denmark (2014)	Germany (2011)	
England (2008)	Germany (2014)	
England (2012)	Iceland (2014)	
Estonia (2016)	Israel (2014)	
Finland (2009)	Italy (2010)	
France (2017)	Italy (2017)*	
Hong Kong (2010)	Mexico (2017)*	
India (2014)	Netherlands (2017)	
Indonesia (2016)	Panama (2015)	
Japan (2013)	Panama (2016)	
Japan (2017)	Poland (2015)	
Latvia (2015)	Russia (2013)	
Lithuania (2015)	Russia (v. Zone 3) (2017)*	
Netherlands (2013)	Spain (2008)	
Panama (2013)	Sweden (2007)	
Peru (2013)	Switzerland (2014)	
Portugal (2013)	Ukraine (2015)	
Romania (2008)	Ukraine (2018)*	
Romania (2013)	Venezuela (2014)	
SchemingMind (2018)*	Wales (2016)	
Scotland (2008)		
Scotland (2016)		
Slovakia (2014)		
Slovenia (2015)		
Spain (2016)		
Sweden (2012)		
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.

*** Isn't it amazing that after 71 completed matches, where pairings were made with as equal ratings as possible, that there has been only one tied match?



YOUR FAVORITE WINNING MOVE/COMBINATION?

We have played literally thousands of games in Friendly Matches over the past decade. Only about 20 have made it into this newsletter.

Do you have a winning move, or combination from a Friendly Match game you would like to share? I am looking for input from any participant of the Friendly Matches to highlight the creativity and skill of all of our players!

If you have a winning move or combination that was a highlight for you, let's make it a highlight for all of our readership! **Send me an email (dmdorenchess@gmail.com) which includes the following:**

- (1) your name and ICCF ID#;
- (2) the Friendly Match in which the game was played (This is required - the game must have been played in a Friendly Match!);
- (3) either a picture of the position or the server's number of the ICCF game [the 6- or 7-digit number that follows the URL for all ICCF games: <https://www.iccf.com/game?id=>]
- (4) the move number from the game where your move or the initial move of the combination was played (including indicating whether you were White or Black)
- (5) a BRIEF explanation as to why this move/combination was particularly good (brief analysis or just a verbal description. Extensive analysis is NOT desired due to time considerations. More is not necessarily better.)

I will be publishing a substantial number of submitted positions in future *The Friendly Post* newsletters. (Any submission to me will be presumed to give me such permission.)

See a highlight of your Friendly Match experience highlighted to others!



The new Triple Block time control system is coming to the ICCF-US!

Have you heard about the trials going on concerning the new "Triple Block" time control system? The Triple Block system, abbreviated as "TriBl" or "TB", was developed by an ICCF work group specifically appointed during the 2015 Congress to address a variety of complaints about the current 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. Since then, dozens of events have used the system without significant problem, with more events officially scheduled during 2019.

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. You can participate in helping the ICCF make a significant improvement in its 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!

You can learn more about this trial time control system by going to the following ICCF documents:

(1) Go to the ICCF home page, then to "ICCF Rules" (on the left), then in the lower box where it says "Triple Block System Documents", to find the following 3 detailed documents:

(a) "Explanation of how it works" (This is **the document** for players to use)

(b) "Instructions for Tournament Organizers"

(c) "Rule differences - for TDs"

(2) You can also see the original descriptive proposal (including a Power Point presentation) at <https://www.iccf.com/Proposal.aspx?id=103> [That is, go to the ICCF home page, then to "ICCF Congresses" (on the left), then to 2016 Congress "proposals", then to proposal #028].

RULES PERTAINING TO FRIENDLY MATCHES

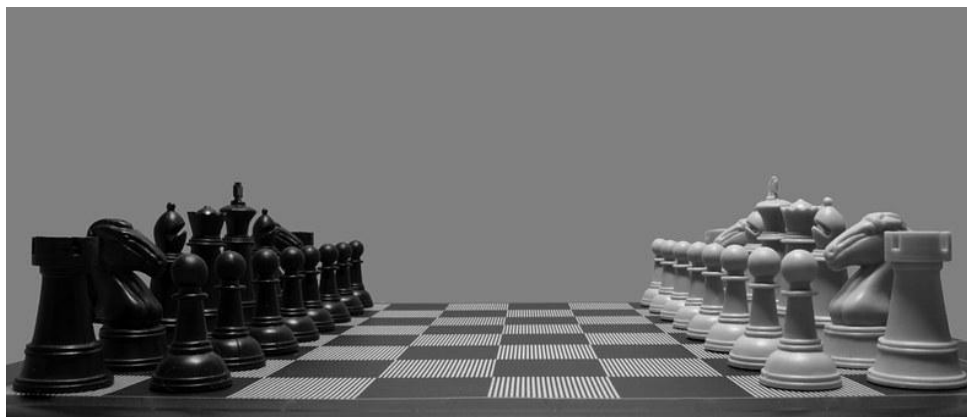
Since 1/1/17, Friendly Matches are viewed like any other ICCF-approved event, meaning a couple things of possible relevance to you.

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 of 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 now counts 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 left 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 Sieftring, Invitational Facilitator

Senior International Master Dan Perry, Webmaster

International Master Bob Rizzo, Norms and Communications Organizer

Yours truly, CCM 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 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!

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.