



The Friendly Post

News from ICCF-US Friendly Matches from around the world - Issue 9, September 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 About to be Organized in 2014...:

- (1) Slovakia - To start in mid-November.
- (2) Venezuela (a rematch!) - to start in November or December.

If you are interested in playing in either one of these, and you have not already told me of your interest specific to one or both 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.

Friendly Matches to be Organized in 2015...:

Our intention is to offer USA players about as many Friendly Matches in 2015 as we did in 2014. (We started 13 separate Friendly Matches within the past 12 months, ranging from 9 to 162 boards in each.) The list of countries to be challenged has not yet been composed.

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 suggest (in that same email) one or more countries you would like to play against. I take recommendations like that strongly into consideration! That's it!



"I like to play against people who are alive" - (In response to the question: "Which of the great dead players would you like to play?") - Judit Polgar

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 9/1/2014) 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	66.0 - 94.0 (2 games still ongoing)
2.	Netherlands	Server	4/11/13	59.5 - 59.5 (9 games still ongoing)
3.	Czech Republic	Server	4/25/13	45.0 - 56.0 (11 games still ongoing)
4.	Portugal	Server	4/25/13	29.0 - 24.0 (1 game still ongoing)
5.	Romania	Server	9/1/13	32.5 - 26.5 (10 games still ongoing)
6.	Venezuela	Server	9/16/13	22.5 - 15.5 (2 games still ongoing)
7.	Peru	Server	9/25/13	18.5 - 18.5 (15 games still ongoing)

8.	Japan	Server	10/25/13	5.5 - 5.5 (7 games still ongoing)
9.	Cuba	Server	12/11/13	23.0 - 34.0 (27 games still ongoing)
10.	Wales	Server	12/12/13	21.0 - 19.0 (2 games still ongoing)
11.	Iceland	Server	1/2/14	11.5 - 19.5 (31 games still ongoing)
12.	Canada	Server & Post	1/17/14	39.0 - 24.0 (37 games still ongoing)
13.	Germany	Server	3/22/14	63.5 - 90.5 (170 games still ongoing)
14.	India	Server	4/3/14	8.5 - 7.5 (16 games still ongoing)
15.	Israel	Server	5/26/14	3.0 - 8.0 (45 games still ongoing)
16.	Denmark	Server	6/4/14	9.5 - 6.5 (30 games still ongoing)
17.	Austria	Server	7/14/14	4.0 - 4.0 (112 games still ongoing)
18.	Switzerland	Server	8/1/14	2.5 - 1.5 (110 games still ongoing)

TOTAL USA RESULTS since 1/1/07: 1184.0 - 1225.0 **(49.1%, where we were 9 months ago, but still a full percentage point improvement since these newsletters began in Sept. 2012)**

Highlights:

(1) The Norway match ended with our first tie (22.0 - 22.0) out of 23 completed matches since 2007. This match was hard fought right to the end. Besides it always being close, there were no games in the whole match that were determined by time default, withdrawal, or the like. Congratulations to both teams for a match well played! I am thinking we will have to challenge Norway to a rematch soon...

(2) The Netherlands match continues to be as close as it can be. We came from behind by 7 points from 9 months ago, with the score now tied after 119 completed games (at 59.5 - 59.5). There are only 9 games still remaining. Go team!!

(3) Likewise, the match versus Peru is also currently tied. With 15 games still ongoing, the score is 18.5 - 18.5. Go team!!

(4) Speaking of close, our match versus Wales is almost done, and we have almost won. With 2 games still being played, 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.

(5) This past 3 months saw us win the match against Portugal. Currently with only 1 game yet to be completed, we are up by 5 points.

(6) Unfortunately, we need a perfect record of wins across the remaining 11 games against the Czech Republic, or we will lose. With 11 games still ongoing, the USA is behind by 11 points (45 - 56).

(7) We are doing quite well against Romania. With only 10 games to go, we are up by 6 points.

**Match (versus game) win/loss record since 1/1/07: 13 wins, 9 losses, 1 tie
(58.7%)**

<u>USA Won</u>	<u>USA Lost</u>	<u>USA Tied</u>
Argentina (2010)	Czech Republic (2011)	Norway (2013)
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)	
Portugal (2013)*	Ukraine (2010)	
Romania (2008)		
Scotland (2008)		
Sweden (2012)		
Venezuela (2013)		

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

I remember once I was in Switzerland and my wife told me, 'I put some of your stuff in the safe – the code is very easy to remember, it's 2706, so you can take whatever you need.' And I told her, 'Well, 2706 is not really a good Elo rating. Normally it's rounded off to the nearest 5 or 10'. So I told her I couldn't see how I could remember that. She looked a bit shocked and then she explained to me that the 27th June is our anniversary.'

- Viswanathan Anand



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 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)



Games from the Matches

We typically put one or two games from our Friendly Matches in this section. In the following, we offer the reader a game from our still ongoing match versus Israel. In this game, Matthew Tedesco, who only began playing in the Friendly Matches 8 months ago, keeps pressing his K-side attack until White finally succumbs. Even our newest of players contributes to the USA team efforts, and with the Black pieces no less!

Findiur, Igor (1917) (ISR) - Tedesco, Matthew (1921) (USA)

[This game can be found at <https://www.iccf.com/game?id=630638>]

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 exd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 [The far more common move is 5.Bg5.]

5...c6 6.Qc2 Be7 7.h3 O-O 8.Bf4 [White's planned choice instead of Bg5, which often have been played at moves 6 and 7 besides at move 5.]

8...Bd6 9.Bg5 [What could be called a theoretical novelty, as this idea does not seem to have been played before. 9.Bxd6 is the usual move.]

9...h6 10.Bd2 [It now appears that White's idea with this B is faulty. It has moved 3 times to end up where it could have gone in 1 move, and "forced" Black to advance his B to d6 and his pawn to h6 in the meanwhile - hardly weaknesses for Black. This loss of time in the opening can be costly.]

10...c5 [Developing another piece was worthy of consideration, such as 10...Qe7 or 10...Re8.]

11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.e3 Nc6 13.Be2 [Okay, but passive. 13.Bb5 was better.]

13...Re8 14.O-O Bd6 [Continuing to develop from the back row with 14...Be6 was likely better. This B maneuvering has returned White's lost tempi to him.]

15.Rfd1 [A reasonable idea, but 15.Nb5 was a more active start to White's attack.]

15... a6 [Taking away White's 16.Nb5 option.]

16.Rac1 Be6 17.Be1 [A reasonable idea in this position, but this move also exposes how White wasted moves with this B earlier - White spent 4 moves to get his B to e1 where it does almost nothing.]

17...Rc8 18.Bf1 Bb8 [Unlike White's Bs' retreats to the back row, Black's move has significant utility, besides still leaving it active along one diagonal.]

19.g3 [Trying to counter Black's control of a long diagonal, but creating square weaknesses around his King (f3 and h3) in the process.]

19...Qd7 [Immediately attacking one of those new weaknesses. Black has an advantage at this point, though it is not immediately clear how to win.]

20.Kh2 Ne5 [Bringing a Q-side piece into the K-side attack, and attacking the other newly created weakness of f3. Nice idea.]

21.Nd4 [Trading on e5 may have been better, both with the purpose of trading off attacking pieces and to avoid leaving an attack on f3.]

21...b5 [21...h5 22.f4 Nfg4+ 23.hg4 Nxc4+ 24.Kg1 Nxe3 25.Qd3 Nxd1 26.Qxd1 would have been interesting. Black would have a R and 2 pawns in exchange for 2 N's, and White's K would be all the more open. White could have declined this variation with 22.Qa4, though Black would still have more space with 22...Qd6 and 23...b5.]

22.a3 h5 23.f4



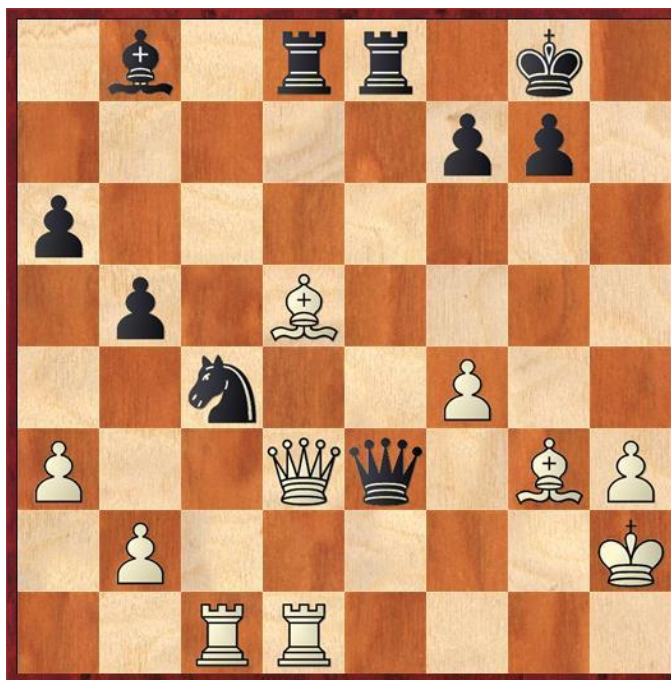
Position after 23.f4

23...Nc6 [Either 23...Neg4+ or 23...Nfg4+ seem more consistent with Black's K-side attack. The continuation could have then been 24.hg4 Nxg4+ 25.Kg1 Nxe3 26.Qh2 Nxd1 27.Rxd1 Bg4. We all miss tactical plays from time to time. Black's move still maintains a slight advantage. Can he bring back a strong attack?]

24.Nxe6 Qxe6 25.Bg2 Na5 26.Bf2 h4 [A fine idea. If 27.gh4 d4, and if 28.Rxd4 Nb3 or if 28.ed4 Bxf4+.]

27.Qb1 [Retreating into the back row on the Q-side can't be the right idea when being attacked on the K-side. The defensive move 27.g4 or the counterattacking move 27.b4 seem necessary, though Black's attack is already back in motion.]

27...hxg3+ 28.Bxg3 Nc4 29.Nxd5 Nxd5 30.Bxd5 Qxe3 31.Qd3 Rcd8 [Again a fine idea. A fascinating position in that material is even, nearly all of White's pieces are in active positions (except his dark squared B), he has the two B's compared to Black's B and N, but White is in dire trouble! Black plays it superbly to finish White off.]



Position after 31...Rcd8

32.b3 Bxf4 33.Qxe3 Nxe3 34.Bxf4 Rxd5 35.Rxd5 Nxd5 36.Kg3 Re4 37.Rc8+ Kh7 38.Bc1 Rd4 39.Kf3 Kg6 40.Rc6+ Kf5 41.Rxa6 Rd3+ 42.Kf2 Rc3 43.Bd2 Rxh3 44.a4 [44.Ra7 Kf6 45.Ra6+ Ke5 46.Ra7 f5 47.Rxg7 Rxb3 48.Bc1 may have lasted longer.]

44...Rxb3 45.Ra5 Rb2 46.Ke1 Ke4 [This wins. Black could have also played 46...Ke6 47.Rxb5 Rxb5 48.ab5 Kd6 and Black mates within 38 moves.]

47.axb5 f5 48.Ra7 g6 49.Ra6 Kf3 50.Bh6 Ne3 51.Bxe3 [Forced. if 51.Rxg6, Re2 mate]

51...Kxe3 52.Re6+ Kf3 53.Rxg6

Black now won with a 6-piece tablebase claim. It is forced mate in 32 moves after 53...Rxb5. 0-1



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 35 players on the ICCF-US current list:

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

Even beyond are the 41 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; Ken Edwards; James R. Ellis; Leonid Gleyzer; Dr. Michael Hailparn; 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.



A chess player never has a heart attack in a good position. - Bent Larsen

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.