



Waadhoeke School Tournament

Fryslân Open 2023, Masters and Grandmasters

Qualification and Sixth World Championships FRYSK!



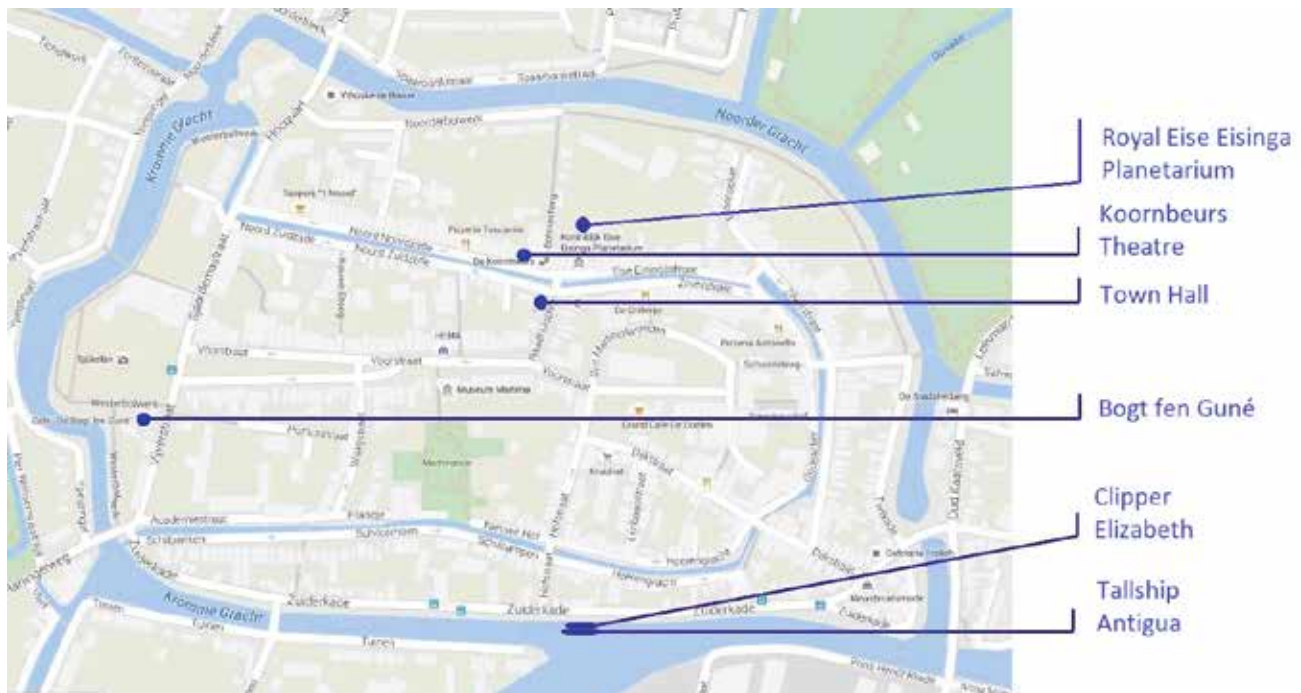


■ Venues in Franeker

The Koornbeurs Theatre is the venue for the Waadhoeke Schools Tournament on Tuesday 28 February and for the qualification tournament FRYSK! on Saturday 4 March.

The unique Royal Eise Eisinga Planetarium will host the first round of the (grand)master tournament on Friday evening, 3 March.

The Town Hall is the venue for the (grand)masters on Saturday and Sunday 4 and 5 March for the WC FRYSK!



The opening of the Tournament will take place at De Bogt fen Guné on Tuesday evening, 28 February.

Clipper Elizabeth is one of the venues for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Tallship Antigua is also one of the venues for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday as well as the accommodation for the players from outside Fryslân. The sponsors' evening will take place here on Thursday 2 March too.





■ Foreword

After two corona years in which we, as an organisation, were unable to organise a Fryslân Open tournament and were therefore unable to play two world championships FRYSK!, we have luckily been able to continue where we left off and organise another unique Draughts Week.

Nevertheless, the situation in the draughts world has changed considerably in the past few years. During the pandemic, with club life virtually at a standstill, the Dutch draughts sport has been dealt a hard blow. Many players and clubs have not been able to continue and the KNDB has suffered a considerable loss in membership.



Clubs have been the backbone of many sports, including draughts, for over a hundred years. But draughts is an individual sport and a draughts player does not necessarily need a club, but rather a platform where they can choose their opponents.

As an organisation, we are therefore very pleased with the draughts platform, Lidraughts.org, where draughts players from all over the world can find each other.

Our organisation has not been idle over the past few years. We have set up policies and one of the focal points is giving other organisations the opportunity to join WFD, offering them a good organisational structure for tournaments and providing necessary support.

This year, for instance, we will have an online tournament registration system in which we will, in principle, be able to record all tournament results and matches. A logical consequence is that we will also be able to record the ratings of all participating players.

Our website, www.frisiandraughts.com, has also undergone some necessary changes. All existing information has been transferred into a new clear format. Next year, the site will be further expanded with our research work on draughts history, training, studies and information on tournaments and matches.

Making information available online in addition to the online tournaments remains important work to increase the awareness of Frisian draughts internationally. But the icing on the cake still remains the real tournaments where players meet each other and new friendships are created.

The love for this unique game of draughts connects us all and that is why we as organisers, sponsors and volunteers get involved. We therefore wish everyone a successful tournament!

On behalf of the WFD Foundation
Marten Walinga



WFD Foundation

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8823 SX Lollum
The Netherlands
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Organisation

The WFD Foundation is the executive organisation of the World Championships Frisian Draughts and all related tournaments and events. The WFD Foundation is affiliated to the Frisian Draughts Federation DFS, to the Royal Dutch Draughts Federation KNDB and, in addition, Frisian draughts is recognised as an international draughts sport by the FMJD.

Mission statement

The WFD Foundation aims to develop Frisian draughts, which is internationally regarded as the most complex form of draughts, to a fully-fledged international standard.

Approach

The WFD Foundation organises draughts events and offers tools to learn or practice Frisian draughts.

Board

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Website

www.frisiandraughts.com

Online players team

WFD Team at www.lidraughts.org

Club of 100

Members of the Club of 100 support the work of the WFD Foundation by donating at least €100 per year. Members are kept informed about the latest developments and are listed as sponsors on the website.





■ Day 1 Programme: Tuesday 28 February

4th Waadhoeke Schools Tournament

Participation is free of charge.

15.00 Arrival and registration in The Koornbeurs Theatre

15.30 - 17.30 Schools tournament: round I-VI

17.30 Award ceremony



The winner will receive an invitation to the qualification round FRYSK! on Saturday 4 March, prior to the WC FRYSK! on 5 March.

Opening and draw will be at:

The Bogt fen Guné

Location: Vijverstraat 1

The Netherlands

+31 (0)517 392 416

www.debogt.nl



20.00 Arrival and registration with coffee and cake, accompanied by Sterk Spul shanty choir from Lollum

20.30 Welcome

Opening word and welcome by Alderman Jan Dijkstra

20.45 Draw by notary Mr. S. Swart

The Fryslân Open will be played according to the Swiss system. The ranking always determines the opponent for the next round. Before the first round, a draw will be held to ensure that as many international players will have a Frisian opponent, as possible. Placement numbers and programme booklets will be handed out during the draw.

21.15 Rules Explanation

The main arbitrator will briefly explain the game and match rules. How the software is used to live-track the matches will also be explained.

21.30 Press moment and Meet and Greet

The press will have the opportunity to interview the draughts players.





■ Day 2 Programme: Wednesday 1 March

Antigua and Elizabeth
Location: Zuiderkade

9.00 Arrival and registration

9.30 Official opening of the tournament:

First move by the owner of tallship Elizabeth, Alwin Wuffen

10.00-12.00 Round I

Games and livestream can be followed live on the Antigua and on www.frisiandraughts.com

12.00-13.00 Lunch on the Antigua

13.00-15.00 Round II

Games and livestream can be followed live on the Antigua and on www.frisiandraughts.com

15.30-17.30 Round III

Games and livestream can be followed live on the Antigua and on www.frisiandraughts.com

18.00 Dinner on the Antigua





■ Day 3 Programme : Thursday 2 March

Antigua and Elizabeth
Location: Zuiderkade

9.30 Arrival

10.00-12.00 Round IV

Games and livestream can be followed live on the Antigua and on www.frisiandraughts.com

12.00-13.00 Lunch on the Antigua

13.00-15.00 Round V

Games and livestream can be followed live on the Antigua and on www.frisiandraughts.com

15.30-17.30 Round VI

Games and livestream can be followed live on the Antigua and on www.frisiandraughts.com

18.00 Dinner on the Antigua

20.00 Sponsor evening

Musician Joop Obama will be the host at an informal evening on the Antigua for players, volunteers and sponsors.

A special draughts match will be held between the two Aldermen Jan Dijkstra and René de Vries.





■ Day 4 Daytime Programme: Friday 3 March

Antigua and Elizabeth
Location: Zuiderkade

9.30 Arrival

10.00-12.00 Round VII
Games and livestream can be followed live on the Antigua and on www.frisiandraughts.com.

12.00-13.00 Lunch on the Antigua

13.00-15.00 Round VIII
Games and livestream can be followed live on the Antigua and on www.frisiandraughts.com

15.00-16.00 Barrages

17.30 Dinner on the Antigua



■ Day 4 Evening Programme: Friday 3 March

Royal Eise Eisinga Planetarium
Location: Eise Eisingastraat 3

19.00 Arrival and tour of the Planetarium

19.30-22.30 Round I Grandmaster tournament
Games and livestream can be followed on www.frisiandraughts.com

The four strongest players as well as numbers 5-8 in the rankings start the Master and Grandmaster tournament



Koninklijk
Eise Eisinga
PLANETARIUM



■ Day 5 Programme: Saturday 4 March

A: Grandmasters and Masters

Town Hall

Location: Raadhuisplein 1

9.30 Arrival

10.00-13.00 Round II Grandmaster tournament

Games and livestream can be followed in the Town Hall and on www.frisiandraughts.com

13.00 Lunch

13.30-16.30 Round III Grandmaster tournament

Games and livestream can be followed in the Town Hall and on www.frisiandraughts.com



**De Koornbeurs
Theater & Film**



B: FRYSK!

The Koornbeurs Theatre

Location: Noord Noordzijde 2, Upper Foyer

10.00-16.30 Qualifying tournament FRYSK!

FRYSK! is draughts played according to the Frisian draughts rules, and has only five pieces per player. Normally such a starting position invariably ends in a draw in other draughts variants. However, in Frisian draughts, with just five pieces per player, the beauty of the endgame comes to the fore and a draw is still a rarity! FRYSK! is easy to learn, no opening theory is needed, and the positions are always clear. So anyone can participate! In any case, the four strongest players will qualify for the World Championship FRYSK! As the number of places is limited, please register as soon as possible in advance by emailing liuwe.westra@mensa.nl or martenwalinga@hotmail.com

C: After the tournament

17.00 Closing ceremony and announcement of the WC FRYSK! participants at the Town Hall.

18.30 Dinner on the Antigua





Day 6 Programme: Sunday 5 March

Town Hall
 Location: Raadhuisplein 1

10.00-16.30 Sixth World Championships FRYSK!

During the tournament, sixteen players will compete over seven rounds for the FRYSK! world title over seven.

Each player gets 10 minutes thinking time and 10 seconds for each move played.

Placement/Ranking as per SwissPerfect:

- 1: Winner Dutch Championships FRYSK! 2022
- 2: Winner Italian Championships FRYSK! 2023
- 3: Winner Czech Championships FRYSK! 2022
- 4: Winner Lidraughts Qualification Tournaments 2023
- 5: Winner Masters
- 6: Winner Grandmasters
- 7: 2nd place Masters
- 8: 2nd place Grandmasters
- 9: 3rd place Masters
- 10: 3rd place Grandmasters
- 11: 4th place Masters
- 12: 4th place Grandmasters
- 13: Winner Qualification Tournament FRYSK!
- 14: 2nd place Qualifying Tournament FRYSK!
- 15: 3rd place Qualifying Tournament FRYSK!
- 16: 4th place Qualifying Tournament FRYSK!

- Hans Jansen
- Andrea Peirano
- Petra Dušková
- Jelle Wiersma



Reserves:

- 1st reserve: 5th place Qualifying Tournament FRYSK!
- 2nd reserve: 6th place Qualifying Tournament FRYSK!
- 3rd reserve: and so on....

17.00 Award and Closing ceremony of:

Fryslân Open 2023, Grandmasters and Masters Tournaments, Qualifying Tournament FRYSK! and WC FRYSK!

Alderman René de Vries and Deputy Friso Douwstra attend the Awards Ceremony.

18.00 Dinner on the Antigua





■ Sjoerd Couperus

The oldest player at the Fryslân Open is 92 year old Sjoerd Couperus. He is currently living in Wommels, but his roots are not far from Franeker. He was born in Tritsum, a hamlet near Tsjom/Tzum. Couperus is part of a family with a strong Frisian draughts pedigree. His uncles, Klaas and Sjoerd Tigchelaar, were part of the top players between the 1930s and 1960s. Klaas was a three time Frisian Champion, and Sjoerd no less than ten times.

His uncles did not teach him how to play draughts though, this he learnt from Adam Hillebrand. In a small alley in Kûbaard (not far from Tritsum) was Rikus Hillebrand's bicycle workshop, Adam's father. Roughly 12 draughts players, including Sjoerd, regularly gathered there. This is where Adam taught Sjoerd the finer details of the Frisian game.



Sjoerd Couperus at the draughts board

■ Franeker

There is another link with Franeker: Hillebrand also moved here and became a renowned Frisian handball player (keatser) and draughts player. He was the cofounder of the Franeker draughts association. However, here they only played Dutch (international) draughts and not Frisian. Hillebrand was a devoted and strong player, traveling to all the Frisian tournaments.

Although he was predominantly immersed in Dutch draughts, his Frisian playing style was easily recognisable. This is also shown on the PFDB's website: "Hillebrand was a player with a preference for playing from the wing with its many moves, thereby sometimes neglecting his centre. That player who would startle the game room with a magnificently executed capture thereby forcing the win or gaining pieces." Clear elements from the Frisian game.



Adam Hillebrand, approximately 20 years old (Courtesy of the Historical Centre Franeker)

What exactly was the situation with Frisian draughts in Franeker at the time? Hillebrand obviously had more faith in a Dutch draughts association. However, according to Couperus, there were a few Frisian draughts players in Franeker. He remembers that his brothers (also gifted Frisian draughts players) regularly went to Franeker to pit themselves against others. However, this never culminated into an official association and Couperus can't remember any draught players from Franeker playing the Frisian game.

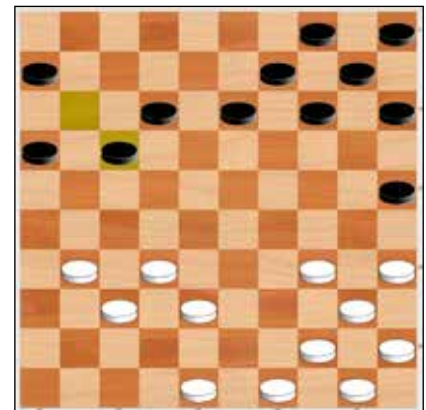
Couperus is still a Frisian draughts enthusiast, however, due to his advancing age, no longer attends as many competitions. Nevertheless, because he believes the Fryslân Open is such a special occasion, he decided to take part again. Despite his age, he can still be a formidable opponent. Couperus remains modest: he says he never achieved the level of those players who have been at the top of the game for several decades. Players such as Hiele Walinga, Dirk de Vries, Augustinus van der Goot, Taeke Kooistra and Jelle Wiersma. Participating is more important than winning is Couperus's new motto. In any case, it's a great addition to the tournament in Franeker to be able to watch such an experienced player once again.



■ Frisian draughts combinations from the 2020 Fryslân Open

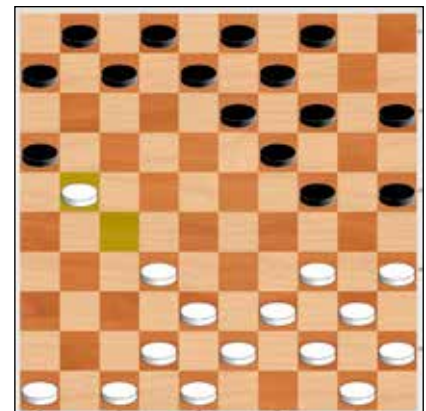
Anyone who starts playing Frisian draughts on the full board soon realises that it is very easy to fall behind quickly. Especially for players who are only used to diagonal captures on the draughts board, the additional potential combinations with horizontal and vertical captures are difficult to oversee. In the opening phase of the game, with many pieces still on the board, combinations can often be made to one's heart's content. Even when a king appears on the board, its reach is gladly used to combine. In recent years, many tournaments have been held by the WFD Foundation, with many beautiful combinations being played at these events. To appreciate these combinations again, we present a collection of combinations that were played during the last Fryslân Open in 2020.

1. In the 2020 Fryslân Open tournament, it was ten-time Frisian Champion Jelle Wiersma who struck with white against Belarusian player Kanstantsin Nord from Minsk in the following position:



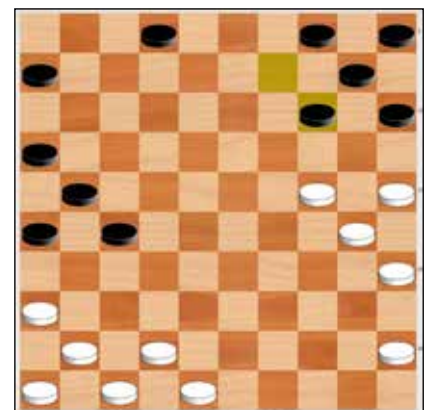
Kanstantsin played 11-16 as the last move to solve the threat to king by 31-26 16x36 37-31 36x27 32x1. Jelle had a plan B which went as follows: 31-26 16x36 38-33 36x27 33-28 27x29 34x3 4x2 35-30 25x34 44x22

2. Liuwe Westra got surprised by Petra Dušková who dealt him rather a blow with black. It did not give her the win, though the combination was inspiring nonetheless.



Liuwe exchanged attacking with 27-21 16x27 32x21 here and was then surprised by: 24-30 40x18 8x28 38x18 13x22 21x23 15-20 35x24 14-19 24x13 9x40 45x34

3. Alexander Georgiev performed a classic capture combination against Kees Tijssen in a flank game.

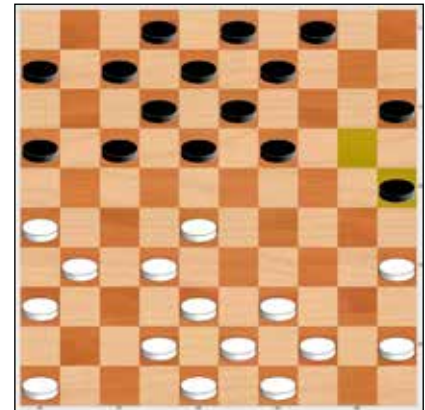


As the final move Kees Tijssen played 9-14 here. Nothing seems to be going on as the flanks are far apart. Alexander Georgiev broke through though: 24-20 15x24 30x19 14x23 25-20 10x30 35x11 6x17 36-31 26x37 47x7 2x11



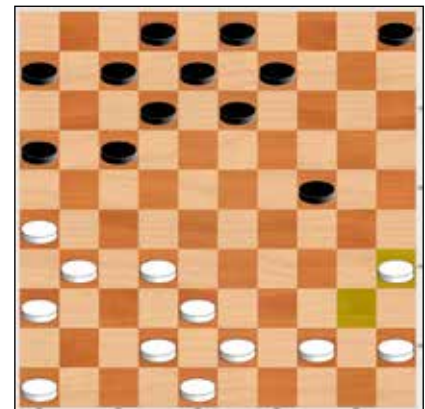
4. The so-called rún game also lends itself perfectly to a combination. In the game between Taeke Kooistra and Hein de Vries, Taeke gained a king by means of a classic move.

As the final move, Hein de Vries played 20-25. Then the following occurred: 32-27 17x37 28-22 18x27 26x28 37x26 28-22 12x32 38x27 26x28 35-30 25x34 44x24 19x30 39-33 28x39 43x5



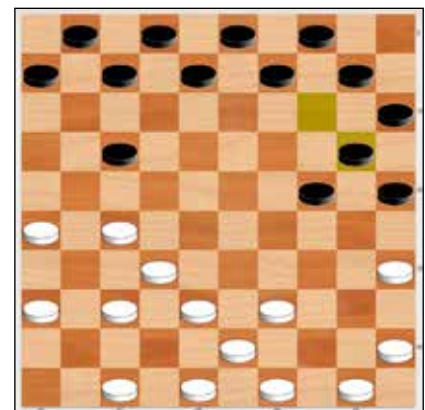
5. After eight rounds of the Fryslân Open, players were getting ready for the Grandmaster and Master tournaments. In the first round, Jelle Wiersma played against Hein de Vries and both players went full steam ahead with a beautiful game. As the final move, Jelle played 30-35 here.

Hein de Vries expertly finished the game with 6-11 26x6 24-30 35x24 9-14 24x41 3-18 4x22 17x50 6x17 50x41 36x47.



6. During the last round of the Masters, Hans Jansen played against Aleksej Domchev. Hans Jansen is famous for his creative draughts inventions, and here in Frisian draughts he left his calling card after Aleksej played 14-20.

A nice combination to the king's row follows: 37-31 17x28 38x18 8x28 39-33 28x39 43x5. The hook Hans starts with here is notorious and is often missed.



Marten Walinga



■ Computers and mind sports

Computers have had a significant impact on the game of chess, both in terms of how the game is played and how it is studied. In chess, computers are used in a variety of ways, including as game-playing engines, as analysis tools, and as databases for storing and retrieving historical games. This raises the question if something similar has also happened in Frisian draughts. One of the most notable ways computers have impacted chess is through the development of powerful chess-playing engines. These engines, such as Stockfish and AlphaZero, are able to analyse vast amounts of information and make calculations at a speed that is impossible for humans. This allows them to play chess at a level that is far beyond that of any human player, and they have been used to defeat some of the strongest human players in the world. One of the most famous matches between human and computer was the 1997 rematch between Garry Kasparov and IBM's Deep Blue, where Kasparov lost 3.5-2.5.

Another notable match was AlphaZero's match against Stockfish 8, where AlphaZero won with 28 wins, 72 draws, and 0 losses.

As a result chess players have adapted their style by incorporating more computer analysis into their preparation. Top players regularly use powerful chess engines and databases to study openings, endgames, and other aspects of the game, in order to gain a deeper understanding of the positions they will encounter. They also use the computer's analysis to validate their own ideas and improve their understanding of the game.



In this file photo Garry Kasparov, right, makes the first move in his final match of his six-game tournament with IBM's Deep Blue, the ACM International computer chess champion, led by Feng-Hsiung Hsu on Feb. 17, 1996. H. RUMPH, JR. / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Another way in which players have adapted their style is by becoming more aggressive and tactical in their play. As computers are able to calculate and analyse positions much faster and more accurately than humans, players have had to rely more on their own intuition and creativity in order to outmaneuver their opponents. This has led to a greater emphasis on tactical play and a more dynamic, aggressive style of chess.



Frisian draughts, on the other hand, has not been impacted as much by the computer's influence. The earliest Frisian draughts computer programme was Lusoris, created about 25 years ago and almost as strong as the best human players. When computers became faster and better, it became harder to win against Lusoris. A bigger influence on Frisian draughts however has been the emergence of Lidraughts, an online platform for playing and analysing Frisian draughts, and the computer programme Scan.

The Scan programme allows players to analyse the game with the help of a computer, which provides new insights and strategies. This has led to techniques and a style of play which seem impossible for human players.

In the past 30 years, chess has changed dramatically as a result of computers. The strategies and tactics used by players have evolved and become more sophisticated, and the level of precision and accuracy in play has increased. Similarly, Frisian draughts has begun to evolve with the help of Lidraughts and Scan. The game has become even richer than it already was. Players can prepare more in depth, discovering new strategies and tactics that were not possible before.

Jouke Algra



SCAN's analysis screen on the Lidraughts app



■ The Origin of the Words damjen, damspel, jeu de dames, dama, juego de damas

The English name for the game of draughts (pronounced just the same as 'drafts') is derived from the act of drawing, that is, moving pieces. The American name checkers, which refers instead to the board, which is chequered, is ultimately derived from the Latin scaccarium, meaning chess board. But where did the word cluster damjen (Frisian), dammen (Dutch), jeu de dames (French), dama (Italian) and juego de damas (Spanish) come from?

Mind sport players are scarce, but even scarcer are those who study the history of mind sports. The Dutch teacher, linguist and draughts player Arie van der Stoep (born 1944) wrote a dissertation on this topic in 1997. His book is the starting point for anyone who wants to delve deeper into the fascinating language history of draughts.

Damming game or ladies' game?

The game of draughts came to the Low Countries from the South. Both Frisian damjen and Dutch dammen (and also German Damenspiel) are all renderings, so-called loan words, of the French jeu de dames or Spanish juego de damas. But where did these words come from?

Here, I disagree with Van der Stoep, who thinks that French dame in this context hides the obsolete French word damme, meaning dam, i.e. a construction to stop water. In this case, the game would have got its name from the back row of the draughts board. The 'dam' is where the board stops and where the pieces cannot move any further. In addition, draughts, according to Van der Stoep, can be seen as a game about gaining access to that 'dam' and trying to 'dam' the opponent's pieces.

In my opinion, the case is stronger for the alternative explanation. Namely, French speakers called draughts the game of 'dames', in other words noble or highborn ladies. This is suggested by a 16th-century French-Latin dictionary, in which the translation of jeu de dames with ludus dominarum ('game of the ladies') is discarded in favour of the more classical ludus scuporum ('game of the pebbles'). Nevertheless, the entry in this dictionary proves that French people understood jeu de dames as a name that indicated a certain connection with noble and highborn ladies. How can this be explained?

There is an old theory, that claims that draughts pieces were called dames (or dominae) at a certain moment because draughts pieces and chess queens move in a similar way. Van der Stoep rightly points out, however, that this theory fails because we only find instances of draughts pieces being called dames (or one of its equivalents) much later than we find the game name jeu de dames. In other words, the meaning 'draughts piece' comes later than the designation jeu de dames.



What could have happened then? I found the clue to a new explanation in a diagram of a renowned late 13th-century manuscript of chess problems. Apart from more or less normal chess problems, this manuscript also contains a number of more theoretical or abstract problems which have nothing to do with chess as a real game. Here, we find a diagram with four golden queens and five red ones, golden plays and wins. There is only one solution to this problem: b8xa7. This problem presupposes the so-called old chess queen, which moved only diagonally and only one field at a time.

In practice, people who tried to solve this problem probably did not use nine chess queens (who owns that many chess sets?) but some kind of substitute, like pebbles, buttons, pennies, pawns, or... draughts pieces. Thus, two people could try to solve this problem, one playing with the golden 'queens' and the other with the red ones. In such a case, they were playing 'queens', not using actual queens but rather pieces that made the movement of queens.



This theoretical game strongly resembled the game of draughts as soon as it was played on a chequered board. The movement of the draughts pieces resembled the movement of chess queens. Thus, draughts may have been called the 'game of queens', not because draughts pieces were designated 'queens' but rather because they made the movement of queens. From 'game of queens' to 'game of ladies' or jeu de dames / juego de damas is not a giant leap.

Liuwe H. Westra



■ 6th World FRYSK! Championships

Seems so simple with just five pieces each

For the sixth time the FRYSK! World Championships will be contested, Frisian Draughts with just five pieces each. Many mind sport players not yet familiar with the game still wonder how this is possible, such a large draughts board with only a handful of pieces each, and then just so exciting!

The secret of the endgame lies in a few simple rules, the most beautiful surely being the three-move rule. This is an elegant rule that allows for game progression, as well as different possible positions with the pieces in the same positions. For example, a simple-looking endgame with a king and piece for both players. First, whose move is it? This yields two possibilities. Secondly, how many times has a player played his king: 1, 2, 3 or none? That gives four possibilities for either player, so $4 \times 4 \times 2$ equals 32 possible starting positions. Finally, there is the question which player plays which way, and again twice as many possibilities arise: now there are 64 possible starting positions for just one starting position! That would give even the best mind sport players a headache!



With the arrival of the computer programme Scan at www.lidraughts.org, the secrets of the endgame can be unravelled by anyone. However for us it still remains human work, and therefore even a 'thin' endgame, with only a few pieces, remains difficult to understand.

That is why we will once again hold a FRYSK! World Championships, with a finals for 16 players. Eight places will be filled by the Masters and Grandmasters of the Fryslân Open 2023, one place is reserved for Dutch champion Hans Jansen and one for the winner of the finals of the tournament series FRYSK! at www.lidraughts.org. Young Andrea Peirano qualified by winning the FRYSK! championships in Italy, and Petra Dušková did the same in the Czech Republic. The final places will be filled from the qualifying FRYSK! tournament to be played on Saturday 5 March. FRYSK! is quick to learn and easy to practice with the App, giving strong youth players a good chance of qualifying for the finals too.

To all those who are participating in FRYSK!, good luck and we wish you all great endgames!!!





■ Fryslân Open 2023 Participants

Aleksej Domchev

An international Grandmaster draughts player from Lithuania, Aleksej is now one of the regular players. In 2017, he was the highest finishing international player at the Fryslân Open, taking second place in the Grandmaster Tournament. In addition, in 2019 he was joint fourth in the World Championships FRYSK!

Auke Zijlstra

Auke Zijlstra has been one of the regular participants in the Frisian draughts tournaments in recent years. He grew up playing international draughts in the Frisian village of Blessum. During his wanderings through the Netherlands, as a result of study and work, he played for several clubs, including in Rotterdam and Utrecht. As a child, he occasionally played Frisian draughts, but only as 'qui perd qui gagne', or: the loser wins.

Bauke Dijkstra

An original and surprising draughts player. Those who think they have fully mastered a particular opening often get a surprise from Dijkstra. He often gives his opponent a headache, yet his surprises always enrich the opening theory. In the middlegame and endgame, he often manages to find the way to victory as well.

Cor Kooistra

An honorary member of the Frisian Draughts Federation, Cor Kooistra has been the driving force behind the well regarded Stadige Strikers draughts club from Scharnegoutum. His wonderful stories about the ups and down of their club evenings fascinate many readers. He also likes to enrich the Frisian language with the various Frisian draughts expressions. Cor has played several times in the Frisian draughts championships and may well cause a surprise this year.

Darya Tkachenko

Four-time female world champion draughts player. This is Darya Tkatchenko's third time at the Fryslân Open tournament. In previous editions, she managed to stand her ground well and played some strong games. Players like Darya are real tournament players and partly due to gaining experience in 2019 and 2020, she might spring a surprise.





Dicky van der Meer

A strong draughts championship player from 'Kameleon village' Terherne who will no doubt feel right at home at a tournament held mostly on the water. This year Dicky made his debut in the Frisian draughts championship and is now amongst the absolute top of Frisia. Other draughts players know that they need to take him seriously!

Fedde Wiersma

A strong sub-topper for many years, who originates from Easterein and belongs to a real draughts family. He has been playing Frisian draughts for many years now and has recently been competing in various Lidraughts tournaments.

Folkert Groenveld

Rubric writer and Frisian Grandmaster who made an early transition to Frisian draughts. He made an extensive study of opening theory and chronicled the opening names and variant names. He qualified in 2020 for the World Cup match held in 2021. Definitely one to watch!

Frans Kingma

One of the participants from the small but well-known village of Jorwert. He is from the generation of 1970s youth players who are making a comeback. Spending more time on Lidraughts is starting to pay off. Frans plays draughts solidly and constructively.

Hein de Vries

Hein has proven himself to be a Grandmaster in previous years, and has been one of the top players at the Fryslân Open tournaments for years. He is equally at home in the opening, both in classical flank and rún games. Having had more time to practice, he too is someone who has a chance of placing himself among the finalists.

Henk Haanstra

In recent years, Henk has consistently played for the podium places at the Frisian Championships. He regularly enriches the draught's opening theory with new discoveries. There are high expectations of him at the Fryslân Open.





Herbert Tulleken

With his mathematical background and love of board games, it is not surprising that Herbert is at the forefront of a new think sport, Trisian. This new game is a mix of elements from Turkish and Frisian checkers, played on the chessboard. Every other evening in Franeker, he is likely to appear to further develop this game with ideas from other players.

Jean Marc Ndjofang

Draughts is waiting, a term that completely applies to Jean Marc's playing style. When the time comes, you have to attack and strike like a predator catching its prey. Jean Marc is also the player representative within the FMJD, and in this role he will also strongly advocate Frisian draughts' role within the FMJD the coming years.

Jelle Wiersma

Jelle recently won his tenth Frisian draughts title and is currently the strongest draughts player in Frisia. He is lord and master of classical Frisian draughts as well as FRYSK!. His style of play is attractive, he doesn't avoid a complicated game, and his games are therefore sure to be crowd-pleasers.

Jouke Algra

If there is anyone who can provide surprises it will be Jouke Algra. He grew up playing draughts as a child, but later switched to chess and is one of Frisia's strongest players. About ten years ago, he tried for the Frisian draughts championship and became the runner-up. This will be the first time Jouke is participating in the Fryslân Open Tournament.

Leo van Dorp

Leo van Dorp played in the 2017 Frisian draughts European Championships, and we have not heard much from him since. It could of course just be that he has been honing his skills with the help of Scan on Lidraughts to be able to compete with the top players...

Marten Walinga

Is a two-time Frisian draughts World Champion. Marten has a style of play that pushes the boundaries and often goes beyond. Being one of the event organisers leaves him with little time to prepare for the game, so he will have to rely on his experience to try and become the best.





Patrick Casaril

Patrick has been playing at the Fryslân Open tournaments since the beginning and is very skilled in endgames. Due to his sublime calculation power, he belongs to the top of the FRYSK! game too and has already competed several times during the finals.

Petra Dušková

Petra has already won the FRYSK! Czech Championships several times and has therefore automatically qualified for the FRYSK! World Championships. She has an excellent command of both the full board and thin positions, and could easily finish in the top eight.

Porter Richardson

14 year old High School (VWO) student Porter Richardson from Monster is this year's youngest participant. He has been playing at Lidraughts for two and a half years and particularly enjoys the rich possibilities of making shots that Frisian draughts offers. He also plays at two draughts clubs and participates in the Royal Dutch Draughts Association (KNDB) aspirant training sessions.

Rein Jan Walinga

Rein Jan is one of the top Frisian players who is unfortunately unable to participate in regular championships due to time restraints. However, he likes to participate in the Fryslân Open tournament to show that he remains one of the top players. No one will be surprised if he places himself in the top eight.

Renaud Braye

Renaud is a versatile draughts player from Belgium and a true multi-talent. Not only does he practice various mind sports, he is also a professional musician and does not bat an eyelid conducting a choir when asked. Moreover, he is one of the most active international players on the app's online version.

Sjoerd Couperus

Sjoerd is the oldest participant at the Fryslân Open and was part of a small group of spectators when the Franeker tournament had just four participants. As soon as the Grandmaster Tournament was transformed into the Fryslân Open, he was there to register as a participant. He is the best proof that age hardly plays a role in this mind sport!





Taeke Kooistra

For years Taeke was by far the strongest draughts player in Frisia. It would not be surprising if he once more became Champion this year, to add to his collection of several titles already won in Franeker.

Ties Slagter

Ties Slagter is one of the draughts players who discovered Frisian draughts on Lidraughts and wholeheartedly immersed himself in it. Thanks to the analysis capabilities of Scan on Lidraughts, players like him who have the time and the passion can reach the top.

Tsjerk Wijbenga

Anyone who starts a conversation with Tsjerk Wijbenga about draughts needs to expect it is going to take some time. Wijbenga has a phenomenal memory for game fragments and endgames, and his stories are very entertaining. In addition, he is an experienced coach who knows his pupils well. If they have to play against a strong opponent, Tsjerk consistently encourages them with the statement: 'Se moatte earst mar ris fan jin winne.' (They still have to beat you first.) Very true!

Willem Dijkstra

Willem is playing for the first time this year and is one of the batch of draughts players who took up the game in the 1970s. Willem has always been interested in the peripheral phenomena of draughts and in 2001 wrote a unique book about the O.K.K draughts club in Jorwert.

The tournament schedule for the Fryslân Open 2023 can be found in Toernoibase.

The playing time during the Fryslân Open is 40 minutes + 20 seconds per move.

The playing time during the Grandmaster and Master Tournaments is 90 minutes + 30 seconds per move.



Player		Masters 2023					
		1	2	3	4	Total	Result
1							
2							
3							
4							

Player		Grandmasters 2023					
		1	2	3	4	Total	Result
1							
2							
3							
4							

The Grandmaster and Master competition schedule:

1st round on Friday evening: 1 - 4 and 2 - 3

2nd round on Saturday morning: 3 - 1 and 4 - 2

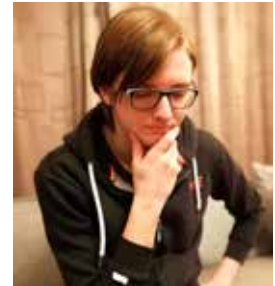
3rd round on Saturday afternoon: 1 - 2 and 3 - 4



■ Volunteers at the Fryslân Open

Niek Tolsma

Niek Tolsma is 23 years old and comes from Lollum. Niek will be refereeing the Qualification Tournament on Saturday 4 March. The reason he is doing this is because he is always glad to assist others where necessary. He thoroughly enjoys Frisian draughts and wants to get involved in the promotion of the mind sport he finds so fascinating. He hopes to meet many people at the draughts board during this tournament, and following tournaments in the future.



Siebren Dyk

Siebren Dyk started his career in international draughts but switched to Frisian Draughts after moving to the village of Jorwert. He is quite the enthusiast now and will be refereeing on several days of the Fryslân Open 2023. He appreciates this mind sport event because of its unique venues on classic vessels and also because of its diverse, international mix of participants, all against the backdrop of the revered academic town of Frjentsjer (Franeker)!



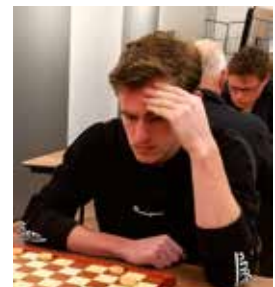
Chantal van Sluys

Chantal van Sluys is the owner of a coaching practice, student of Cultural Studies, wife to Marten Walinga and (bonus) mom of seven. In the Fryslân Open tournament she deals with all aspects of hospitality for the players. Although she does not play Frisian draughts herself, Chantal was inspired by Marten and Liuwe's passion and enthusiasm for the game. Each tournament she enjoys seeing how players, mind sport enthusiasts and other interested parties come together at the Fryslan Open.



Germ van Popta

Germ van Popta is volunteering as a technician for the duration of the tournament. He enjoys finding out how things work, both in electronics, the digital world and on the draughts board. In his own words: The draughts board still holds many secrets and surprises for me, and that is why I love it. I hope that we can show young people in particular what a beautiful mind sport Frisian Draughts is. It is my ambition to have many of them take up the sport and join our competitions and championships.



Boukje Emma Smith

Emma is 22 years old and grew up in High Wycombe, England, before moving to the Netherlands to study BA Minorities and Multilingualism (with a minor in Linguistics) at the University of Groningen. She is a native speaker of English and Frisian, is also fluent in Dutch and has been translating for the WFD Foundation for the last couple of years. Emma is currently the secretary of F.F.J. Bernlef, the Frisian student (youth) association in Groningen, having previously also been on the board of her study association, in the same function.





■ A draughts board from 1774

On the front cover you can see an image of the back of a unique draughts board from 1774. In Frisia there are a relatively high number of old 100-square draughts boards, some of which are also dated. Usually the date is accompanied by the maker's initials.

The back of this draughts board features geometric shapes with the borough of De Jouwer / Joure's 17th-century coat of arms in the centre, with a corn husk with acorns on either side. Above the geometric carvings is a view of the "Flek louter". In the centre is the so-called Joster Toer (Tower of Joure) from 1628.

On either side of the carved buildings are two mills. One of the mills is possibly the Borger family's saw mill from 1774.

This unique draughts board is now in Frjentsjer. The draughts board came up for auction at Peerdeman auction house in February 2021, and was bought by Klaas Regts, a specialist in antique tiles. The board was sold by an antique dealer from Haarlem.

In all the years Klaas Regts was dealing in antique tiles, he also developed an interest in Frisian folk art. Many old draughts boards therefore passed into Klaas Regts's hands.

The Regts family is originally from Joure and consequently this draughts board has a special meaning for him, so there is little doubt that it will not leave Frisia anytime soon.

Marten Walinga





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World championship
Frisian
Draughts

International Draughts event

FRYSLÂN OPEN 2023



