

Frjentsjer / Franeker
2-8 March 2026

WFD Official Tournament Books

FRYSLAN OPEN 2026

Tallships Oostelijke Industrieweg

Koornbeurs Theatre / Town Hall

ORGANISATION

WFD Foundation
www.frisiandraughts.com

WFD Board

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Streaming Youtube; Frisian draughts

Design / Operation: Marten Walinga
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Catering in the Town Hall: Janneke de Vries-van der Zee and Anita de Boer

Online games: <https://lidraughts.org/> and <https://toernooibase.kndb.nl/>

Instagram: @frisandraughts

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/frisiandraughts>

Locations in Frjentsjer / Franeker:

📍 Tallships Antigua and Elizabeth
Oostelijke Industrieweg
8801 JW

📍 Koornbeurs Theatre
Noord 2
8801 KP

📍 Town Hall
Raadhuisplein 1
8801 KX

live games
results
commentary



Foreword	3
Venues	4
Players	6
Tournament Schedule	13
9th FRYSK! World Championships	16
Frisian Draughts in Africa	17
Villages and Draughts in Waadhoeke	18
Fryslân Open and Beyond	20
Sponsors	22

FOREWORD

“In Franeker, tradition and ambition converge, honouring the rich heritage of Frisian draughts while shaping its international future.”

Frisian draughts presents a distinctive challenge every time. Each game demands the utmost concentration, preparation and perseverance. In Franeker, 32 players will take up this challenge. Over the course of eight rounds, four players will qualify for the Masters and four for the Grandmasters. It will take a minimum of 140 games to determine the winner. Later this year, the winner will face another prestigious challenge: a match for the world title.

Franeker will also host the World Championship FRYSK!, an endgame variant of Frisian draughts that is gaining international recognition. Online tournaments and national championships in the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Italy have already paved the way for this world championship. In addition, the event in Franeker will host an international FRYSK! schools tournament and a FRYSK! qualification tournament, culminating in a sixteen-player final on the final day. More than 500 games will be played in total before the new World Champion FRYSK! is crowned.

Every participant will have undergone an intensive preparation process and continual effort to perform at their best in every game. As organisers, we consider it our responsibility to support the players as effectively as possible. To this end, we are making as many games as possible available digitally, enabling them to be analysed using SCAN on the draughts platform Lidraughts. As with chess, we are seeing a growing interest among young people in mind sports. The availability of online analytical tools clearly contributes to their rapid development. Over the past year, we have embarked on a new initiative by organising the first Open African Frisian Draughts Championship in Cameroon. This step has already produced tangible results. Frisian draughts has been recognised as an official FMJD section, and a second Open African Championship has been scheduled. In addition, a new tournament will be introduced this year: the Open Challenge Tournament. Through this initiative, we aim to provide players who have not yet competed in Franeker with the opportunity to gain international playing experience in a setting that is both accessible and inspiring.

During this draughts week, we are pleased to welcome over fifty players from outside Fryslân. Organising an event of this scale would not be possible without the generous support of sponsors and funds, the Province of Fryslân and the Municipality of Waadhoeke, the

shipowners of the Antigua, Elizabeth and Leafde fan Fryslân, the Stadsherberg and the dedication of many volunteers. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of them.

I wish all players and supporters a sporting, dignified and successful draughts week.

Marten Walinga
Chairman





VENUES

The opening of the tournament will take place on the evening of Monday 2 March at De Bogt fen Guné, the oldest students' inn of the Netherlands, dating back to 1593. It is located next to the *Sjûkelân* green, the 'holy ground' of another Frisian sport, keatsen or Frisian handball.

The Koornbeurs Theatre will be the venue for the 7th Waadhoeke Schools Tournament and 1st Open Challenge Tournament on Friday 6 March and the FRYSK! Qualifier on Saturday 7 March. The Koornbeurs Theatre is built on the site of the former greater Botnia castle (the Botnia family crest can be seen in the pavement), which in the seventeenth century housed another students' inn. As a guest book from this inn is kept at Tresoar (Archive, Museum and Library of the Province of Fryslân), we know for a fact that Frisian Draughts was played here 400 years ago!



The Clipper Elizabeth and the Tallship Antigua, moored on the Oostelijke Industrieweg, will be the tournament's venues from Tuesday 3 to Thursday 5 March. The sponsors' evening on Thursday 5 March will take place on the Antigua.

The historic town hall will host the Masters and Grandmasters Tournaments on Friday 6 March and Saturday 7 March as well as the last two rounds of the Open Challenge Tournament on Friday 6 March and the 9th FRYSK! World Championships on Sunday 8 March. It served as the town hall of Frjentsjer/Franeker, one of the eleven Frisian towns, from 1594 to 1984. From 1984 until 2018, it was the centre of the municipality of Frjentsjerteradiel/Franekeradeel, with which the town of Frjentsjer had merged. Before 1984, the town was unique in having two official municipal centres, one of the town itself, and one of the old *gritenij* (rural district) of Frjentsjerteradiel, which included eleven

villages surrounding the town. After another municipal reorganisation, Frjentsjer became the centre of the new municipality of Waadhoeke ('Wadden Sea Region').

- 1 Historic Town Hall
- 2 De Bogt fen Guné
- 3 Clipper Elizabeth
- 4 Tallship Antigua
- 5 Koornbeurs Theatre



ALEKSEJ DOMČEV

Vilnius, Lithuania

In the diagonal game Aleksej Domčev is an international grandmaster. But also in the Frisian game Aleksej is a great player with a lot of experience. Aleksej has played in many Fryslân Open Tournaments, where he has performed admirably. In 2017 he was the highest placed international player at the Fryslân Open. He has participated FRYSK!, Frisian draughts and diagonal draughts world championships. It would be great to have him back at the Masters or even in the Grandmasters!



ANNE DE BOER

Wommels, Frisia

Anne de Boer is one of the new players in this year's Fryslân Open Tournament. A lifelong member of the renowned Hartwert draughts club, professional obligations have often prevented him from participating in tournaments in the past. Nowadays, however, he has more spare time, some of which he dedicates to draughts. The draughts board is always on the kitchen table, and he made an impressive debut in this year's official championships of the Frisian Draughts Federation. We look forward to seeing how he will perform in the Fryslân Open!



AUKE ZIJLSTRA

Utrecht, The Netherlands

As the FRYSK! World Champion in 2023, Auke Zijlstra can certainly be called an endgame specialist in Frisian Draughts. In the strong field of the 2024 Fryslân Open, he shared 9th place. One of the attractive features of Frisian draughts is the fact that a decision is often only reached when there are ten, eight or even less pieces left on the board. This definitely works to Auke's advantage...



DICKY VAN DER MEER

Terherne, Frisia

Dicky learnt the Frisian game at school in his early childhood. He took part in many youth tournaments, but somehow gave up the game at the age of fifteen. Almost 20 years later, he felt an irresistible urge to get back into the game, and so he did. Being an entrepreneur does not leave him much time to study the game, but he compensates for this with an overdose of passion. He entered the 2024 Frisian Draughts World Championships, not so much to become world champion himself, but rather to show the world how beautiful the Frisian game is. His goal has not changed, but he will not hesitate to take a top position if he gets the chance!



FEDDE KRAMER

Nieuwolda, The Netherlands

Here we have a strong diagonal draughts player from Groningen with Frisian roots. As such, he made sure that Frisian draughts had a place on the draughts platform Lidraughts, which he founded together with Stefan Schermann. He also took the initiative, together with Frederik Bos, to found a new group of Frisian draughts players in the city of Groningen, Fries yn Grun, who organise an official tournament each summer.



FEDDE WIERSMA

Easterein, Frisia

Fedde Kramer's namesake, Fedde Wiersma, is a Frisian draughts player who has been a member of the famous Frisian draughts club Hartwert for most of his life. He has participated in the official Frisian championships for decades, twice finishing just one place below the champions' league. Perhaps this year's Fryslân Open will turn out a stepping stone towards a breakthrough?



FOEKE TIEMENSMA (M)

Frjentsjer/Franeker, Frisia

The player with the shortest distance to cover from bed to board is the Frjentsjer-born Foeke Tiemensma. Being a diagonal draughts player, he came as a visitor to the very first Grandmasters Tournament back in 2009. He learnt the Frisian game in a surprisingly short time and has been on the premises ever since. He became the FRYSK! World Champion in 2016 and 2019, won the Fryslân Open in 2024 in an impressive style and ended second in last year's edition. This year, he is doubtless one of the favourites again.



HANS JANSEN

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Hans Jansen was one of the first diagonal draughts players to show an interest in Frisian draughts when the Franeker tournaments began. He is a multiple Dutch champion in diagonal draughts and is also very strong at Frisian draughts. His combinatory talent is legendary, and we are delighted to welcome him back after a few years' absence.



HEIN DE VRIES (M)

Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Frisia

Long before the tournaments in Franeker Hein de Vries already participated in international draughts exchanges in which different variants were played. He is renowned for his solid style, but lately seems to start playing in a more adventurous way. This at least earned him a place in the champions league of next year's official championships of the Frisian Draughts Federation. Who knows what it will already bring him in Franeker this year?



HENK HAANSTRA

Aldegea/Oudega, Frisia

Henk Haanstra literally has the game of Frisian draughts in his blood. He is a lifelong member of one of the strongest draughts clubs in Frisia, Nocht en Kriich ('Fun and Strife') just like his father and grandfather. He performed very well in the latest official championships of the Frisian Draughts Federation, so anyone playing against him in Franeker should know that he is a formidable opponent.



HERBERT TULLEKEN

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The mathematician Herbert Tulleken began his mind sports career with diagonal draughts. Because of the wide draw margin in this game, he moved on to chess (which he still plays at a very good level) and finally found Frisian Draughts. He is a staunch supporter of the game and has introduced many others to it. But he also likes to dream about the perfect variant of draughts: a little more peaceful, even less drawish, playable in an infinite number of dimensions... But dreaming does not prevent him from being a good player and a sporting opponent!



HYLKE ALGRA

Lollum, Frisia

Hylke Algra is a member of draughts club De Rûge Wolf ('the Rough Wolf') of Lollum-Waaksens, which is quite near to Franeker and also has Marten Walinga and Liuwe Westra as members. In recent years, he has been present in Franeker either as a referee or as a player. This year he has chosen to play. His creative style may surprise quite some of his opponents and will undoubtedly be an asset to the tournament.



JEAN MARC NDJOFANG

Yaoundé, Cameroon

Jean Marc Ndjofang is one of the strongest players of diagonal draughts today. He came second in the 2013 World Championship and was African Champion in 2000. He was introduced to the Frisian game in 2014. Since then he has been an enthusiast and ambassador for the game. In 2025 he started the initiative to introduce Frisian Draughts to Cameroon, becoming the first official Frisian Draughts champion of Africa in the process ...



JURJEN FRANKENA

Blauhús/Blauwhuis, Frisia

For the first time this year, we have a player from one of the youngest Frisian draughts clubs: De Skyfkes ('The Draughts Men') from the village of Blauhús. Having lived outside Frisia for many years, he started playing draughts diagonally. After moving to Blauhús, he became passionate about playing Frisian draughts. He performed well in the latest official championships of the Frisian Draughts Federation, so his fellow club members have high hopes for him!



KLAAS-HENDRIK LEIJENAAR

Groningen, The Netherlands

Klaas-Hendrik Leijenaar is a regular participant of the annual tournament of the Groningen group Fries yn Grun, where he earned himself a place for this year's Fryslân Open. Not only is he a good draughts player and youth instructor, he also uses the game of draughts in his professional life to promote social cohesion and personal development in the municipality of Mid-Groningen. We are very honoured to have such an all-round player on our list of participants!



LEO VAN DORP

Wageningen, The Netherlands

It is a real joy to witness the enthusiasm of draughts player Leo van Dorp. He is open to new variants and eager to learn. Like Renaud Braye, he is also a talented musician and often enriches the social evenings of the tournaments with his improvised flute concertos.



LIUWE WESTRA

Lollum, Frisia

As a minister, this player has the disadvantage of sometimes taking too literally the commandment that it is better to give than to take. He also started too late in life to become a really good player. But he likes the game and he likes organising tournaments, so he has been on board since the very first Grandmasters tournament in 2009. Last year, he surprised both his friends and his enemies by qualifying for the Grandmasters Tournament.



ŁUKASZ KOSOBUDZKI

Mińsk Mazowiecki, Poland

This incredibly strong Polish player was the big surprise of the Fryslân Open 2024, where he won the Masters Tournament as a debutant. Since then, he has only got stronger. Not afraid to play different types of draughts, he won the Malay Draughts side tournament at the 2024 World Championships. Many players are looking forward to meeting him again, but not all of them are willing to play against him...



MALTE SCHULZ

Hamburg, Germany

Malte Schulz is a student who discovered Frisian Draughts during the pandemic. He became such an eager player that he even participated in the official championships of the Frisian Draughts Federation in 2024, when still in high school. Although he has less time to play now, he cleared the first week of March in his diary to attend the Fryslân Open. We are happy to welcome him and wish him all the best!



PATRICK CASARIL

Liège, Belgium

Here we have one of the regulars at the Fryslân Open. A five-time national champion, Patrick Casaril is one of the strongest diagonal draughts players in Belgium. As he lives not too far from the Dutch border, it is possible for him (and his good friend Renaud Braye) to take part in some regular Fryslân draughts competitions. The two of them played together for the Lollum-Waaksens club in the Frisian draughts club championships in the so-called Mecca of Frisian draughts, Easterein. And that is the best training you can have!



PETRA DUŠKOVÁ

Prague, Czech Republic

Petra Dušková is a draughts coach in Prague and has been focusing on Frisian draughts for several years. And with success! Her final place in the first FRYSK! World Championships was widely admired, and her game has only gotten better through a lot of training on Lidraughts. Petra is one of the strongest draughts players in the Czech Republic and is currently working on a project to teaching Frisian Draughts to a new generation of players.



PIET SIKMA

Hartwert/Hartwerd, Frisia

Piet Sikma has been a passionate chess player for decades and only took up Frisian draughts after moving to the village of Hartwert, which has a strong Frisian draughts club. But he also plays a lot on Lidraughts and is one of the regulars at the Fryslân Open. Not content with all these draughts activities, he took the initiative to start a year-round Frisian draughts competition for players who have reached the age of 55. This event is now a permanent fixture in the Frisian draughts calendar!



REIN JAN WALINGA

Aldegea/Oudega, Frisia

Here we meet one of the strongest players in the Aldegea draughts club, one of the three Walinga brothers who play draughts. He has taken part in the Fryslân Open on several occasions and finished sixth overall in 2020. He has a great ability to concentrate, is completely at home in the game and has a fighting spirit that has earned him many points when his position was actually worse than his opponent's. This year, he made it (again) to the second league of the official Frisian Draughts championships, so his opponents may consider themselves warned!



RENAUD BRAYE

Liège, Belgium

Renaud Braye is the other Belgian participating in the Fryslân Open. He often plays Frisian draughts, but in the evenings he also enjoys playing diagonal checkers, draughts, chess and Malay draughts. He also often takes the trouble to travel from Liège to Frisia once a year to participate in the official club championships of the Frisian Draughts Federation. And quite a few people are looking forward to see him in his role as a regular guest conductor of the shanty choir during the opening even of the Fryslân Open.



SIEP BUURKE

Eelde, The Netherlands

Siep Buurke is a regular at the Fryslân Open Tournament, but this is the first time he will be playing in it. Although he is a strong diagonal draughts player, he has always been open to other variants. A great advocate of draughts, he has held several roles in both the KNDB (Royal Dutch Draughts Federation) and the FMJD (World Draughts Federation). We are honoured to have him on the players' list!



TAEKE KOOISTRA (GM)

Hartwert/Hartwerd, Frisia

Here we meet a formidable player. Since this year, he can boast of participating no less than 50 times in a row in the champions' league of the Frisian Draughts Federation. He welcomes all the innovations in Frisian draughts, digital and otherwise, except for the FRYSK! variant. As a strategic player, this variant does not really suit him, or so he says. But that did not stop him from winning the FRYSK! World Championships once ...



TIES SLAGTER

's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands

Ties Slagter is one of the persons who became acquainted with Frisian draughts in the time of the corona lockdown, when most of the playing was online. After that, however, he showed himself regularly at real-life tournaments. He has won the hearts of many traditional draughts players by driving from his home city to Frisia and back one time just to play three games of draughts. Moreover, he takes care that all official Frisian Draughts tournaments are entered into the Toernooibase database. A real ambassador for the game!



TSJERK WIJBENGA

Arum, Frisia

Tsjerk Wijbenga has the gift of remembering most of his games in detail. While enjoying a glass of beer, he can tell you a thing or two about Frisian draughts! He is a strong player, who mostly competes in the champions' league of the Frisian Draughts Federation. At the Fryslân Open, he often makes it to the Masters or even the Grandmasters Tournament. He likes to say, 'An opponent may be strong, but to beat me, he has to win first!' And many players have found this to be true.



VÁCLAV KŘIŠTA

Prague, Czech Republic

Václav Kříšta was the very first to organise Frisian draughts tournaments outside the Netherlands and the world of draughts should thank him for that. Thanks to his efforts, many Czech players have embraced Frisian draughts. He was Czech champion in the game several times, but younger and stronger players took over in the course of time. This is as it should be, of course, and we are all the more glad to have him as one of the participants once more.



VASYL IVANCHUK

Lviv, Ukraine

Vasyl Ivanchuk is a highly gifted chess player who likes to look over the fence to other mind sports. After taking up Frisian draughts, he managed to qualify himself for the first Frisian draughts world championships in 2018 and became a worldwide advocate of the game. This is his first Frisian draughts tournament after the pandemic and we are glad to have him back. We hope that he is ready for the game and that his opponents will be ready for him!



WILLEM DIJKSTRA

Jorwert, Frisia

Willem Dijkstra is one of the driving forces of the sole remaining Frisian draughts club outside the municipality of Súdwest-Fryslân: OKK ('Skill by Practice') in the village of Jorwert, which is also famous for its yearly open-air theatre play. The OKK players practise in a traditional Frisian inn, of which not so many are left anymore. But Frisian draughts in Jorwert is more than just a piece of cultural heritage. It is also an example of skill in one of the official Frisian sports. Last year, Willem Dijkstra made his debut in the Fryslân Open and immediately secured himself a place in the Masters Tournament!



WILLEM SCHAAP

Jirnsum, Frisia

Like Jelle Wiersma, Willem Schaap plays for the Stadjige Strikers ('the Slow Movers') in Skearnegoutum, near the Frisian town of Sneek. Like Jelle, he plays in the Champions League of the Frisian Draughts Federation. His surname is identical to the Dutch word for 'sheep', so he is known in draughts circles as 'the wolf in sheep's clothin'. Players who have not come up against Willem Schaap before should take note!

Mayor N.A. van de Nadort of the Waadhoeke municipality wishes all players a wonderful stay in Frjentsjer/Franekeer and an inspiring tournament.



2-8 MARCH 2026 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

📍 *Koornbeurs Theatre
Noord 2
Franeker*

📍 *Clipper Elizabeth and Tallship Antigua
Oostelijke Industrieweg
Franeker*

📍 *De Bogt fen Guné
Vijverstraat 1
Franeker*

📍 *Town Hall
Raadhuisplein 1
Franeker*

10th Fryslân Open Frisian Draughts Tournament

Eight rounds according to the Swiss system; the top four players will play the Grandmasters Tournament; the next four players will play the Masters Tournament. In the event of a tie there will be play-offs to determine the participants of the Grandmasters and Masters Tournaments.

Time control Fischer, 40 minutes + 20 seconds per move.

Grandmaster and Master Tournaments

Three rounds round robin.

In the event of a tie there will be play-offs to determine a winner.

Time control Fischer, 90 minutes + 30 seconds per move.

Prize fund Fryslân Open, Grandmasters and Masters Tournaments €4500.

7th Waadhoeke Schools FRYSK! Tournament

Seven rounds according to the Swiss system; the winner gets a free ticket to the FRYSK! Qualifying Tournament.

Time control Fischer, 5 minutes + 5 seconds per move.

1st Open Challenge Frisian Draughts Tournament

Six rounds according to the Swiss system. This new addition to the Fryslân Open tournament offers players who do not qualify for the Masters and Grandmasters Tournaments the chance to play more games against opponents of a similar level. Other draughts players are also welcome to participate in this tournament, which offers them the chance to take part in an international event. Prizes will be awarded in two or three categories, depending on the number of participants. In the event of a tie, play-offs will be held to determine the tournament winner.

Time control to be determined. Prize fund €500.

Qualifying Tournament for the FRYSK! World Championships

Eight rounds according to the Swiss system; the top players will qualify for the World Championship FRYSK! on Sunday 8 March.

In the event of a tie there will be play-offs to determine the participants of the finals.

Time control Fischer, 10 minutes + 10 seconds per move.

9th FRYSK! World Championships

Seven rounds according to the Swiss system. The winner will receive the title FRYSK! World Champion. In the event of a tie there will be play-offs to determine the World Champion.

Time control Fischer, 10 minutes + 10 seconds per move.

Prize fund Qualifiers and Finals FRYSK! World Championships €2000.

Day 1

Monday 2 March

Venue: *De Bogt fen Guné*

- 8 p.m. **Official opening and welcome on behalf of the municipality of Waadhoeke**
- Drawing for the first round by public notary Rienk Talstra**
- Music by shanty choir Sterk Spul**

Day 2

Tuesday 3 March

Venue: *Clipper Elizabeth and Tallship Antigua*

- 9.30 a.m. **Arrival and registration**
- 10 a.m. **Fryslân Open Tournament: First move and Round I**
- noon **Lunch**
- 1 p.m. **Fryslân Open Tournament: Round II**
- 3 p.m. **Tea**
- 3.30 p.m. **Fryslân Open Tournament: Round III**
- 6 p.m. **Dinner**

Day 5

Friday 6 March

Venue: *Koornbeurs Theatre*

- 10 a.m. **Official meeting of WFD Board and Partners**
- noon **Lunch**
- 1 p.m. **Waadhoeke schools FRYSK! Tournament**
- 1 p.m. **Open Challenge Tournament: Rounds I to IV**

Venue: *Town Hall*

- 6 p.m. **Dinner**
- 7.30 p.m. **Grandmasters and Masters Tournaments: Round I**
- 8 p.m. **Open Challenge Tournament: Rounds V and VI**

Day 6

Saturday 7 March

Venue: *Town Hall*

- 9.30 a.m. **Welcome**
- 10 a.m. **Grandmasters and Masters Tournaments: Round II**
- 1 p.m. **Lunch (on the Antigua)**
- 1.30 p.m. **Grandmasters and Masters Tournaments: Round III**

Venue: *Koornbeurs Theatre*

- 10 a.m. **FRYSK! Qualifying Tournament: Rounds I to V**
- 1.30 p.m. **FRYSK! Qualifying Tournament: Rounds VI to VIII and play-offs**

Venue: *Tallship Antigua*

- 6.30 p.m. **Dinner**

Day 3

Wednesday 4 March

Venue: *Clipper Elizabeth and Tallship Antigua*

- 9.30 a.m. **Arrival**
- 10 a.m. **Fryslân Open Tournament: Round IV**
- noon **Lunch**
- 1 p.m. **Fryslân Open Tournament: Round V**
- 3 p.m. **Tea**
- 3.30 p.m. **Fryslân Open Tournament: Round VI**
- 6 p.m. **Dinner**

Day 4

Thursday 5 March

Venue: *Clipper Elizabeth and Tallship Antigua*

- 9.30 a.m. **Arrival**
- 10 a.m. **Fryslân Open Tournament: Round VII**
- noon **Lunch**
- 1 p.m. **Fryslân Open Tournament: Round VIII**
- 3 p.m. **Tea**
- 3.30 p.m. **Fryslân Open Tournament: Play-offs if necessary**
- 6 p.m. **Dinner**
- 8 p.m. **Sponsor night with singer-songwriter Piter Wilkens**

Day 7

Sunday 8 March

Venue: *Town Hall*

- 10 a.m. **Arrival and welcome**
- 10.15 a.m. **FRYSK! World Championships: Rounds I to IV**
- 12.30 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1.30 p.m. **FRYSK! World Championships: Rounds V to VII and play-offs**
- 4 p.m. **Award ceremony with Mayor André van de Nadort of Waadhoeke municipality**

Venue: *Tallship Antigua*

- 6.30 p.m. **Dinner**

9TH FRYSK! WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year, the official FRYSK! World Championships will bring the entire Fryslân Open 2026 week to a close again. The championship is open to 16 participants, all of whom must qualify in some way. This year, the Czech champion, Pavel Noga; the Dutch champion, Jelle Wiersma; and the Italian champion, Francesco Zappia, qualified in their respective national championships. To our regret, Joseph Niyongabo from Rwanda, who qualified through a series of online tournaments, will not be able to attend in person. You can find the results of all qualifiers on our website: www.frisiandraughts.com -> Tournaments -> WC FRYSK! WCF 2024.

Eight other places are reserved for the players in the Masters and Grandmasters tournaments. The remaining four places, as well as Joseph Niyongabo's, will be occupied by the top five players of the Qualifying FRYSK! tournament on 7 March. If any qualified player withdraws for any reason, his place will be taken by the next highest-ranking player in the Qualifying FRYSK! tournament.

The world champions so far are Jelle Wiersma (2016, 2020, 2024), Taeke Kooistra (2017), Foeke Tiemensma (2018, 2019, 2025) and Auke Zijlstra (2023).

The players who have qualified will be placed as follows.

- 1 Pavel Noga, Czech Champion
- 2 Jelle Wiersma, Dutch Champion
- 3 Francesco Zappia, Italian Champion
- 4 fifth place FRYSK! Qualifier
- 5 winner of the Masters Tournament (MT)
- 6 winner of the Grandmasters Tournament (GMT)
- 7 runner up MT
- 8 runner up GMT
- 9 third place MT
- 10 third place GMT
- 11 fourth place MT
- 12 fourth place GMT
- 13 winner of the FRYSK! Qualifier
- 14 runner up of the FRYSK! Qualifier
- 15 third place FRYSK! Qualifier
- 16 fourth place FRYSK! Qualifier



FRISIAN DRAUGHTS IN AFRICA

Liuwe H. Westra

About a year ago, the WFD Foundation received a very special invitation to come to Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon, and organise a Frisian draughts tournament. The tournament was intended as a side event for the diagonal draughts world championships. Jean Marc Ndjofang, a familiar face at the Fryslân Open tournaments, was one of the people behind this idea.

Consequently, in June 2025, we travelled to Yaoundé to organise not only a Frisian draughts tournament as part of the world championships, but also special women's and FRYSK! tournaments. Each of these tournaments had around 20 participants. Claude Ngondiep, president of the Cameroon Draughts Federation, performed the first move and in that way opened the first Frisian Open Tournament.

But that is not all. The Cameroon Draughts Federation became an official WFD partner, and many other African organisations expressed an interest. Since then, a number of Frisian draughts tournaments have been organised in Cameroon.



Around 60 players are active now in that country. Furthermore, emerging groups have formed in Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Ivory Coast. And there are plans to organise the first official African Frisian Draughts Championships in the near future.

We are very excited about these recent developments and would like to greet all African draughts players from Franeker, especially grandmaster Jean Marc Ndjofang and Claude Ngondiep, president of the Cameroon Draughts Federation!

VILLAGES AND DRAUGHTS IN WAADHOEKE

Marten Walinga

In addition to the town of Frjentsjer/Franeker, the municipality of Waadhoeke comprises no fewer than thirty-five villages with more than one hundred inhabitants. Although they may appear as just so many small dots on the map, these seemingly quiet communities have a rich history of competition, fellowship and tradition — the story of Frisian draughts.

Franeker has always played a leading role in this history. As early as the eighteenth century, draughts competitions were held at numerous locations throughout the town. Decades before the Frisian Draughts Federation was established in 1932, Franeker already had an active draughts and chess club that regularly took on challenges from clubs in surrounding villages. The first unofficial championships were organised here in the 1920s, and several rounds of the Frisian Championships were frequently played in the town until the 1980s. Franeker's draughts history goes even further back. Not only do most of the historic eighteenth-century draughts boards that have been preserved stem from Franeker or its direct environment, one of the oldest surviving seventeenth-century boards also has its roots there. Thus, it is no coincidence that the initiative to revive and promote the heritage of Frisian draughts as an international mind sport was launched here in 2007.

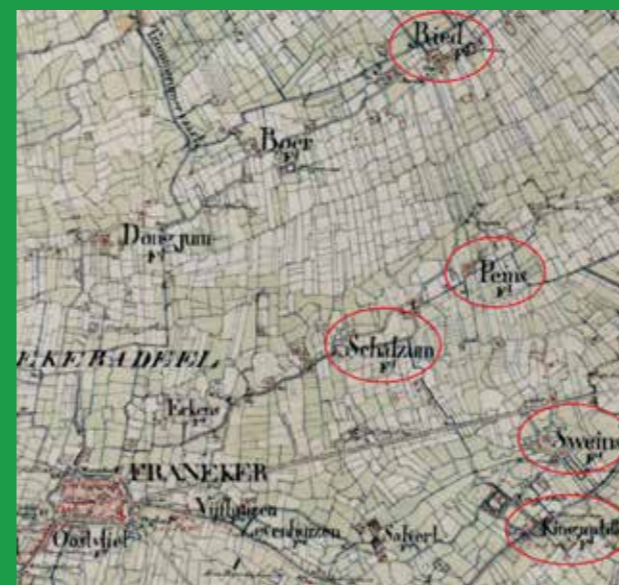
However, it would be a disservice to history to mention only the town of Franeker. Draughts was played, contested and celebrated in villages such as Sint-Anne/Sint Annaparochie, Dronryp, Menaam, Berltsum, Minnertsgea/Minnertsga, Sint-Jabik/

Sint Jacobiparochie, Seisbierrum/Sexbierum, Tsjummearum/Tzummarum, Tsjom/Tzum, Deinum, Marsum, Winsum, Ouwesyl/Oudebildtzijl, Bitgummole, Bitgum, Froubuert/Vrouwenparochie, Achlum, Easterbierrum/Oosterbierum, Wjelsryp, Ried, Hjelbeam/Herbaijum, Peins, Hitsum/Hitzum, Wier, Pitersbierrum/Pietersbierum, Baaium and Skingen/Schingen, as well as in the small hamlets of Nijesyl/Nieuwe Bildtzijl and Keimptille/Kingmatille. The game often came to life in the village cafés, where farmers, labourers and local dignitaries gathered around the board.

Take Schalsum, for example, which with a population of just 145 is one of the smallest villages near Franeker. Between 1855 and 1873, innkeeper J. van der Sloot organised several competitions in his café. After his death his widow took the initiative once more in 1884. These modest yet meaningful gatherings secured the village's place on the Frisian draughts map.

However, Frisian draughts did experience difficult times. Between 1890 and 1909, only twenty-seven public draughts competitions were announced across Fryslân as a whole. The tradition appeared to be fading. In Waadhoeke, too, activity dwindled, with competitions being organised only in places such as Sint Jacobiparochie, Oudebildtzijl, Bitgum, Bitgummole, Minnertsga and Franeker.

Yet in 1910, the tide turned. For reasons that remain unclear to this day, draughts enjoyed a revival. Innkeepers in welcoming village cafés began



Met toestemming van het EdelAchtb. Bestuur van Franekeradeel, gedenkt de kastelein T. BUWALDA te Kingmatille, op **Saturdag den 23 Jan. 1875** te houden eene **Dampartij**, om **EEN NADER TE BEPALEN PRIJS EN PREMIE**. Alle liefhebbers worden uitgenoodigd, uitgezonderd T. WESTRA, door zijne bekwaamheid. Aangifte des namiddags 4 uur. Bij deze gelegenheid wordt ook Gekruisjast. T. BUWALDA.

advertising competitions again. What started with just a few players quickly grew into tournaments with dozens of participants. It was also during this period that draughts clubs were founded, often in conjunction with chess societies.

After a long silence, cooperation between the small villages of Schalsum, Zweins and Peins led to the organisation of a new competition on 5 January 1925. J. Dijkstra, the innkeeper and a draughts enthusiast, made his café available. Two weeks later, Schalsum once again hosted a draughts contest. Competitions continued there until 1934, with the last one taking place on 24 January that year.

The hamlet of Kingmatille likewise has a distinctive history. Its name derives from the fifteenth-century Kinghum and from the former Kingmastate, which stood there until 1864. At this crossing of roads

DAMPARTIJ.
Met vereischte toestemming van den WelEd. Heer Burgemeester van Franekeradeel, gedenken J. v. d. Sloot en eenige liefhebbers te Schalsum, op **Woensdag den 24 Januarij**, te laten **VERDAMMEN**, tot **PRIJS: Een fraai volledig THEESERVIES.** **PREMIE: Een ingelegd mahoniehouten DAMBORD.** Aangifte vóór 1 uur 's namiddags.

Behoudens goedk. v. d. Edelachtb. heer Burg.
Damwedstrijd te Schalsum,
op Zaterdag 26 Febr. '27.
Bij genoegzame deelname in twee klassen.
Aangifte tot 's namiddags half twee.
Aanbevelend, **J. DIJKSTRA.**

DAMPARTIJ
op **Zaterdag den 19 Januari 1878**, om een **fraaie Prijs en Premie**. Alle liefhebbers worden uitgenoodigd, uitgezonderd de heeren T. en J. WESTRA, wegens hunne bekwaamheid in 't spel. Aangifte tot 's avonds 5 uur, bij de WED. BUWALDA te Kingmatille onder Zweins.

and waterways, where tolls were collected, people naturally gathered. Between 1858 and 1878, twelve public draughts competitions were held, first organised by the innkeeper and baker Jan Kas and later by Tjeerd Buwalda.

The final competition took place on 19 January 1878 and was arranged by Buwalda's widow, who, as in previous years, excluded several highly skilled players to ensure fairness.

Thus, the villages and draughts together tell the story of a region where the game was more than just a pastime. It served as a bond between people, providing a reason to gather in cafés and inns and creating a tradition that connected generations. Although times have changed, the soft sound of pieces sliding across the board still echoes in Waadhoeke as a reminder of its rich and enduring heritage.

FRYSLÂN OPEN AND BEYOND

Liuwe H. Westra

The tradition of international Frisian draughts tournaments in Franeker started in 2013, when Hans Jansen, Anatoli Gantvarg, Leopold Sekongo and Michele Borghetti were invited to play in a round-robin tournament alongside the fifth Frisian Grandmasters Tournament. The following year, eight international players were invited. 2014 also saw the establishment of the WFD Foundation. In 2015, the first Fryslân Open Tournament took place.

The WFD Foundation has two main objectives. Firstly, the foundation aims to promote Frisian draughts as an international competitive mind sport. Secondly, it organises the official Frisian Draughts World Championships.

The WFD Foundation is not a federation, but rather a lightweight organisation that works with independent partners. This approach stems from the belief that, in today's world, one should not impose a single way of working on every organisation involved in Frisian draughts. Instead, local, regional or national organisations should be free to work in their own way. For this reason, WFD partners are only obliged to organise at least one official WFD tournament every year.

The first official WFD partners were the Czech Draughts Federation (Česká Federace Dámy) and the Damaosta Draughts Association (Associazione Sportiva Damaosta), who signed the partnership agreement at the Fryslân Open 2023 awards ceremony. One year later, the draughts group Fries yn Grun joined the WFD family, followed in 2025 by the Cameroon Draughts Federation (Fédération Camerounaise de Jeu de Dames).

In 2025, the Board and Partners of the WFD Foundation, along with most of the international

participants of the Fryslân Open Tournament, held their first official meeting. This proved to be very fruitful. Firstly, many players expressed a desire for those who do not qualify for the Masters and Grandmasters Tournaments to have the opportunity to continue playing Frisian Draughts as well. Formulated differently, the Fryslân Open Tournament should not be an exclusive elite event but also an attractive tournament for players who are less experienced in Frisian Draughts. This resulted in this year's 1st Open Challenge Tournament.

Secondly, several partners stated that it would be beneficial to have a set of official rules available for anyone wishing to organise a Frisian draughts event. The Board has promised to work on this. As a result, two sets of rules will be issued in the near future. Firstly, the official rules of the game will be made available in English and French. These are issued by the Frisian Draughts Federation. The WFD Foundation follows these rules, with one exception: in games that are broadcast online, only legal moves are permitted. Secondly, a draft of special WFD competition rules has been written and sent to all partners. These rules will be discussed at this year's WFD Board and Partners Meeting, after which they will be made official.

It has also been agreed that the WFD Foundation's Board and Partners will publish a WFD Calendar containing all WFD tournaments at least once a year. What constitutes a WFD tournament? It is not only the fact that such a tournament is organised by a WFD partner or the WFD Foundation itself, but also that it is connected in some way with a world championship cycle. In other words, if a WFD partner organises a WFD tournament, the winner should qualify directly for either a FRYSK! or a Frisian Draughts classic world championship,



or for another qualifying tournament. This structure ensures that anyone participating in a Frisian draughts tournament has the opportunity to compete in a world championship.

Annual world championships are possible in the FRYSK! variant. Until now, these have been held on the Sunday after the Masters and Grandmasters finals at the Fryslân Open Tournament. National FRYSK! championships in the Czech Republic, Italy and the Netherlands are directly connected to the world championships, with all three national champions qualifying for them. Players living in regions where no national or other championships can be held can qualify through online tournaments. However, even if they qualify through these, it is not always possible for players to travel to Franeker for the world championships due to the sometimes considerable travel costs. There is not yet a ready solution to this problem.

However, there are some very hopeful developments. For example, the game of FRYSK! is becoming increasingly popular in Italy. No fewer than 25 Italian players will be our guests this year, and the Italian FRYSK! Championships had 60 participants! Much of this success is due to Paolo Faleo from Aosta, a true ambassador of Frisian draughts. He not only spreads the game of FRYSK! all over Italy, but also exports it to other countries. Consequently, a delegation of five players from the Republic of Ireland, all members of Mairéad Breen's team, will be participating for the first time this year.

This development is not only encouraging and

heartwarming for us as organisers, but it may also provide the key to enabling anyone with the talent and will to play Frisian draughts at the highest level to do so in Frisia. We believe that winning a tournament or series of tournaments should not only grant the right to participate in a world championship, but also provide enough prize money to cover the cost of travelling to Frisia. However, in order for this system to work, a network of local, regional and national tournaments is required. And that is exactly what is happening right now!

Returning to this year's Fryslân Open, this is the second time that the winner will have the opportunity to challenge the current world champion, Marten Walinga. The first official Frisian Draughts World Championships were held in the Frisian capital of Ljouwert/Leeuwarden in 2018, and the 16 participants had to qualify in some way or another to take part. Marten Walinga won the tournament, becoming the first official Frisian Draughts world champion. In 2021, Folkert Groenveld won the Fryslân Open Tournament, acquiring the right to challenge Walinga. The two contestants played a 11-game match in the town of Harns/Harlingen, in which Marten Walinga successfully defended his title. In 2024, the world championship was open again, with 16 players needing to qualify to participate. Marten Walinga won again. The big question at this year's Fryslân Open Tournament is, who will win and will the winner become the next Frisian Draughts World Champion?

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