

Frijentsjer / Franeker  
17-23 February 2025

WFD Official Tournament Books

# FRYSLAN OPEN 2025

*Tallships Antigua and Elizabeth*

*Royal Eise Eisinga Planetarium | Town Hall*

## ORGANISATION

### WFD Foundation

[www.frisiandraughts.com](http://www.frisiandraughts.com)

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Streaming commentary and analysis: Alexander Shvartsman (et al.)

**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:** @frisiandraughts


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

### Locations in Frjentsjer / Franeker:

 Tallships Antigua and Elizabeth  
Oostelijke Industrieweg  
8801 JW

 Royal Eise Eisinga Planetarium  
Eise Eisingastraat 3  
8801 KE

 Koornbeurs Theatre  
Noord 2  
8801 KP

 Town Hall  
Raadhuisplein 1  
8801 KX

**live games  
results  
commentary**



Foreword	3
Venues	4
Players	6
8th FRYSK! World Championships	12
Tournament Schedule	13
The Evolution of a Game Board	16
Names and Rules	18
Rating, Ranking and Titles in Frisian Draughts	20
Sponsors	22

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***“Where passion ignites and dreams take flight, in the rhythm of play, the spirit of sport comes alive.”***

– AI

Last year we achieved a lot: we, the WFD Foundation, together with our partners, volunteers, sponsors and supporting organisations, several national championships were held, the Fryslân Open 2024 and two world championships, both FRYSK! and Classic. Thanks to the sporting efforts of more than 300 participants, more than 30 tournaments were played and almost 20,000 euros in prize money was paid out!

This year too, important steps are being taken to make Frisian Draughts a serious international competitive sport. Two series of online tournaments have already been organised, and the first official meeting of the WFD board and partners will take place during the Fryslân Open. New this year is that Master and Grandmaster titles will be officially awarded for the first time.

The structure and growth we envisage is different from the traditional form of federations, unions, associations and members. As a foundation, we have no members, but work with partners. On an individual level, this requires a different approach, as we cannot reach out from the top through a hierarchical structure. Instead, we use the Lidraughts platform, where we have successfully established the WFD Team. This team already includes over 230 players from more than 30 countries. This group is very important and we will continue to encourage them through online tournaments with prize money and tickets to real tournaments.

And it is the real tournaments, where we come together as a draughts family, that form the basis of the Frisian game of draughts. For hundreds of years, players have gathered here in Fryslân to play in large tournaments over several days. The biggest multi-day tournament is now the Fryslân Open, but it may well be that the first Italian Open will be held in a few years' time and that the tradition will continue in other countries.

Without the support of the Tallship Company from Franeker, the Municipality of Waadhoeke, the Province of Fryslân, the Franeker Ster van de Elfsteden Entrepreneurs' Fund, dozens of individual entrepreneurs

and others who support us financially or in other ways, we would not be able to realise this and we are very grateful to them.

In addition, the volunteers and staff of the organisation are indispensable to the success of this event.

It remains for me to wish all the players a successful and, above all, sporting tournament.



Marten Walinga  
Chairman





## VENUES

The opening of the tournament will take place on the evening of Monday 17 February at De Bogt fen Guné, the oldest students' inn of the Netherlands, dating back to 1593. It is located next to the Sjúkelân green, the 'holy ground' of another Frisian sport, *keatsen* or Frisian handball.

The Koornbeurs Theatre will be the venue for the FRYSK! Qualifier on Saturday 22 February and the Waadhoeke Schools Tournament on Monday 17 February. 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





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on the Oostelijke Industrieweg, will be the tournament's venues from Tuesday 18 to Friday 21 February. The sponsors' evening on Thursday 20 February will take place on the Antigua.

The Royal Eise Eisinga Planetarium will be the venue for the Masters and Grandmasters Tournaments on Friday 21 February. On the ceiling of the living room of a beautiful canal house is the oldest working planetarium in the world. This precise moving model of the solar system was built between 1774 and 1781 by the Frisian wool comber Eise Eisinga.

The historic town hall will host the Masters and Grandmasters Tournaments on Saturday 22 February as well as the 8th FRYSK! World Championships on Sunday 23 February. 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').

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- 1 Historic Town Hall
  - 2 De Bogt fen Guné
  - 3 Clipper Elizabeth
  - 4 Tallship Antigua
  - 5 Royal Eise Eisinga Planetarium
  - 6 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 in FRYSK!, Frisian draughts and diagonal draughts world championships. It would be great to have him back at the Masters or even in the Grandmasters!



## ALIX BOUFFARD

Toronto, Canada

When the 2024 Frisian Draughts World Championships were announced, Alix Bouffard did not hesitate to book tickets to the Frisian port of Harns/Harlingen. She came as a spectator and soon took on the role of an indispensable volunteer. But she also came to play, albeit only in the side tournaments. Now it seems that she is ready for the real thing and will participate in the Fryslân Open, the FRYSK! Qualifier and maybe the FRYSK! World Championship. As one of the two woman players and in addition the one who travelled the furthest to Frjentsjer, we wish her all the luck in the world!



## 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...



## COR KOOISTRA

Nijlân/Nijland, Frisia

Cor Kooistra is an all-round Frisian sportsman. He knows how to play *keatsen* (Frisian handball), as a young man he was a formidable *Ijepper* (pole vaulter) and in 2018 he even cancelled his participation in the Fryslân Open because low temperatures were forecast and he did not want to miss the chance to practice his *reedriden* (skating). He has been one of the top Frisian draughts players for decades. Perhaps the climate change will help him to become an official master or even grandmaster?



## 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 lack of time 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, one of the three official WFD partners at the moment. He is also a formidable player in Frisian Draughts, finishing 4th together with Taeke Kooistra in last year's Fryslân Open.



## FEDDE WIERSMA

Easterein, Frisia

His 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, once finishing just one place below the champions' league. We welcome him as a regular guest at the Fryslân Open and look forward to seeing how he does this year.



## FOEKE TIEMENSMA

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 2018 and 2019 and won the Fryslân Open in 2024 in an impressive style. This year, he could well finish in the top list again.



## FOLKERT GROENVELD

De Jutryp/Jutrijp, Frisia

Former Dutch champion Folkert Groenveld is an established name in Frisian draughts. He is a high school economics teacher, but has also written a comprehensive manual on opening theory in Frisian Draughts. As a player he has an impressive track record as well. He won the Fryslân Open in 2020 and 2023. In 2021, Folkert played Marten Walinga in a world championship match in Harlingen. His next title cannot be far away!



## HEIN DE VRIES

Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Frisia

Hein de Vries was one of the first Frisian draughts players to take part in international exchanges playing different variants, long before the tournaments in Franeker. He played an extremely strong tournament in last year's Frisian championships. In the same year, he also took part in the World Championships, where he gained a shared sixth place in a strong field. His solid style of play always makes him a formidable opponent, as many players in Frjentsjer and beyond have found out!



## HENK HAANSTRA

Aldegea/Oudega, Frisia

Henk Haanstra has been playing in the Frisian Championship for years and is often close to the title. He is one of those draughts players who literally has the game in his genes. Like his father and grandfather, he is a lifelong member of one of the strongest draughts clubs of Frisia, Nocht en Kriich ('Fun and Strife') in Aldegea in the municipality of Súdwest-Fryslân. He won the Fryslân Open in 2023 and, given the chance, he will not hesitate to repeat the feat in 2025.



## 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!





## HIDDE DE VRIES

Langsweagen/Langezwaag, Frisia

Hidde de Vries, a brother of Hein de Vries, has recently developed into an enthusiastic competitive player. As such, he took part in the Fryslân Open for the first time in 2024, finishing in a not too bad shared 16th place, together with among others Ties Slagter and Renaud Braye. We will see which one of them will be highest this year. Or will Hidde even equal Hein?



## 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. Due to his many commitments as an international player, he cannot devote as much time to Frisian draughts as he would like. But the biggest mistake a draughts player can make is to underestimate Jean Marc...



## JELLE WIERSMA

Wommels, Frisia

Jelle Wiersma is one of the strongest players of Frisian draughts today. He is both a multiple Frisian champion and a multiple FRYSK! World Champion. He came second in the 2024 Frisian Draughts World Championships. Few people doubt that he will make it to the Grandmasters Tournament, but will he win first place there? In any case, the Fryslân Open would not be complete without Jelle Wiersma.



## 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. Frjentsjer is the town where his family used to shop when he was a boy, so being at the Fryslân Open always feels a bit like coming home to him, regardless of the results.



## 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...



## 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 currently one of the two national champions of Frisian draughts in the non-Frisian part of Europe.



## 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. If there were a go board on board, he could show us another trick or two!



## TAEKE KOOISTRA

Hartwert/Hartwerd, Frisia

Here we meet the younger brother of Cor Kooistra. Taeke is a formidable player and has won the Frisian championships more times than anyone else and is a regular in the tournament. 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. His major feat until now was his place in the finals of the 2024 World Championships. We will see what he has in store for us this year!



## 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.



## 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. Meet Willem Dijkstra and you will experience the truth of this!

# 8TH FRYSK! WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

From 2016 onwards, the WFD Foundation has been organising FRYSK! World Championships as the highlight of the Fryslân Open Tournament. The winners so far are Jelle Wiersma (2016, 2020 and 2024), Taeke Kooistra (2017), Foeke Tiemensma (2018 and 2019) and Auke Zijlstra (2023). There were no FRYSK! World Championships in 2021 and 2022 due to the Corona measures.

To qualify for the FRYSK! World Championships, there were until now only three possibilities. The first one was (and still is) to win an official WFD national or regional championships tournament, such as the Czech, Italian and Dutch championships. The next possibility is to take part in the Masters and Grandmasters Tournaments in the Fryslân Open immediately preceding the FRYSK! World Championships. The only other possibility so far was to finish in fifth place or higher in the FRYSK! Qualifier, which took place on the Saturday before the FRYSK! World Championships.

Due to the request of many players, this year we have decided to offer two places in the FRYSK! World Championships to the winners of a series of online qualifiers. These qualifiers were held from 23 January to 2 February, with participants from at least 15 different countries on four continents!


This means that this year there will be reserved places for the top three finishers of the FRYSK! Qualifier on 22 February. However, in case of a double qualification (e.g. if the Dutch Champion also participates in either the Master or Grandmaster tournament), an additional place will be available for the next top finisher of the Qualifier. The same applies if one of the other qualifiers decides to withdraw from the FRYSK! World Championships.


The results of all national and online qualifiers can be found on our website: [www.frisiandraughts.com](http://www.frisiandraughts.com) → Tournaments → WC FRYSK! → WCF 2024.


The players who have qualified will be placed as follows.

- 1 Pavel Noga, Czech Champion of FRYSK!
- 2 Hein de Vries, Dutch Champion of FRYSK!
- 3 Davide Gemma, Italian Champion of FRYSK!
- 4 Willem Schaap, winner of the online qualifier
- 5 Porter Richardson, runner up of the online qualifier
- 6 winner of the Masters Tournament (MT)
- 7 winner of the Grandmasters Tournament (GMT)
- 8 runner up MT
- 9 runner up GMT
- 10 third place MT
- 11 third place GMT
- 12 fourth place MT
- 13 fourth place GMT
- 14 winner of the FRYSK! Qualifier
- 15 runner up of the FRYSK! Qualifier
- 16 third place FRYSK! Qualifier


# 17 - 23 FEBRUARY 2025 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

 *Koornbeurs Theatre  
Noord 2  
Franeker*

 *Clipper Elizabeth and Tallship Antigua  
Oostelijke Industrieweg  
Franeker*

 *De Bogt fen Guné  
Vijverstraat 1  
Franeker*

 *Royal Eise Eisinga Planetarium  
Eise Eisingastraat 3  
Franeker*

 *Town Hall  
Raadhuisplein 1  
Franeker*

## **6th Waadhoeke Schools FRYSK! Tournament**

Six rounds according to the Swiss system; the winner gets a free ticket to the FRYSK!

Qualifier on Saturday 22 February

Time control Fischer, 5 minutes + 5 seconds per move

## **9th 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

## **Qualifier FRYSK! World Championships**

Eight rounds according to the Swiss system; the top three will qualify for the finals on Sunday 23 February.

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

## **8th 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 17 February

Venue:  
*Koornbeurs Theatre*

2 p.m. **Waadhoeke schools  
FRYSK! tournament**

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 the public notary**

**Music by shanty choir  
Sterk Spul**

Day 2

## Tuesday 18 February

Venue:  
*Clipper Elizabeth and Tallship Antigua*

9.30 a.m. **Arrival and registration**

10 a.m. **First move and Round I**

noon **Lunch**

1 p.m. **Round II**

3 p.m. **Tea**

3.30 p.m. **Round III**

6 p.m. **Dinner**

Day 3

## Wednesday 19 February

Venue:  
*Clipper Elizabeth and Tallship Antigua*

9.30 a.m. **Arrival**

10 a.m. **Round IV**

noon **Lunch**

1 p.m. **Round V**

3 p.m. **Tea**

3.30 p.m. **Round VI**

6 p.m. **Dinner**

Day 4

## Thursday 20 February

Venue:  
*Clipper Elizabeth and Tallship Antigua*

9.30 a.m. **Arrival**

10 a.m. **Round VII**

noon **Lunch**

1 p.m. **Round VIII**

3 p.m. **Tea**

3.30 p.m. **Play-offs if necessary**

6 p.m. **Dinner**

8 p.m. **Sponsor night with  
singer-songwriter Piter Wilkens**

Day 5

## Friday 21 February

Venue:  
*Tallship Antigua*

10 a.m. **Official meeting of WFD Board  
and Partners**

1 p.m. **Lunch**

2 p.m. **Tour of the town**

6 p.m. **Dinner**

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Venue:  
*Royal Eise Eisinga Planetarium*

7 p.m. **Arrival and tour of  
the Planetarium**

7.30 p.m. **Round I of the Grandmasters  
and Masters Tournaments**

Day 6

## Saturday 22 February

Venue:  
*Town Hall*

9.30 a.m. **Welcome**

10 a.m. **Round II of the Grandmasters  
and Masters Tournaments**

1 p.m. **Lunch**

1.30 p.m. **Round III of the Grandmasters  
and Masters Tournaments**

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Venue:  
*Koornbeurs Theatre*

10 a.m. **FRYSK! Qualifier rounds 1 to 5**

1.30 p.m. **FRYSK! Qualifier rounds 6 to 8  
and play-offs**

Day 7

## Sunday 23 February

Venue:  
*Town Hall*

10 a.m. **Arrival and welcome**

10.15 a.m. **FRYSK! World Championships  
rounds 1 to 4**

12.30 p.m. **Lunch**

1.30 p.m. **FRYSK! World Championships  
rounds 5 to 7 and play-offs**

4 p.m. **Award ceremony with Mayor  
Marga Waanders**

6 p.m. **Dinner**



# THE EVOLUTION OF A GAME BOARD

Marten Walinga

One of the oldest line board games is the alquerque game. There are several variants of this, such as the tribal form *Alquerque de Tres*. When you put four of these boards together, you get the game *Alquerque de Doze*.

This game, using twelve pieces for each player, is generally seen as the predecessor of draughts as we know it. It is played as follows. Both players place their pieces at the intersections of the lines, leaving the central one open. To make a move, one moves a piece from its original intersection along one of the lines to an empty one. To make a capture, one moves one's own pieces over an adjacent opponent's piece to an empty intersection immediately behind the opponent's piece, all along one single line, as in draughts. Also as in draughts, more than one piece can be captured in this way.

The board of *Alquerque de Doze* does not yet resemble the chequered board as we know it. However, by the end of the Middle Ages, a board had appeared in the Iberian peninsula that exactly fits a 64-square chequered board. The game that was played on this board was probably identical with the *Andaraya* game, also known as 'new alquerque'.

In the Philippines, such a board is still in use and the game that is played on it is known as *Dama Pinoy* or Philippine draughts. This board can be projected one-to-one on the 64-square board that is used for Spanish draughts and many other variants. Since the Philippines are a former Spanish colony, it is highly plausible that Philippine Draughts or *Dama Pinoy* represents the *Andaraya* game in its original form.

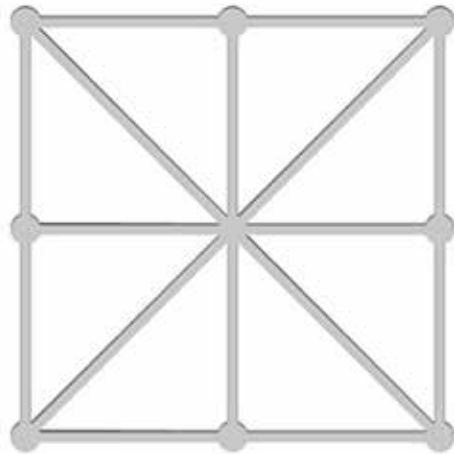
If we enlarge the *Alquerque de Doze* game once

more as we did with *Alquerque de Tres*, we get an even greater board. On this board the game of *Zamma* is still played, in particular in Mauritania.

The game board that can be seen on the front cover of the Fryslân Open 2024 Tournament Book has even one additional line on all four sides. This board has turned out to have originated in the Frisian market town of Kollum and dates to the first half of the 17th century.

If we look at how alquerque changed into Philippine draughts, we can see some interesting points. First of all, the main purpose of the lines is to show the direction of play. In Philippine draughts, however, the horizontal and vertical lines have mostly disappeared and the playing direction is now only diagonal. Another difference is that the board is no longer completely symmetrical. The pieces have also been rearranged, with two complete rows rather than one open intersection. Two special horizontal lines show the starting position of the pieces. If we look at the 17th-century Kollum board and use the same ideas, we can see that a 100-square board appears, which is what Frisian draughts is played on. Or almost. Actually, the board does not fit twenty but rather eighteen pieces for each player. The dents in the board might well have the same purpose as the extra horizontal lines on the Philippine board, thus indicating the starting position of the pieces. All this seems too much of a coincidence. Earlier research already brought out that Frisian draughts, rather than Polish draughts or some other diagonal variant of draughts, was the original game for the 100-square board. What we have in the Kollum board, is the missing link between alquerque-like games on the one hand and 100-square draughts on the other.

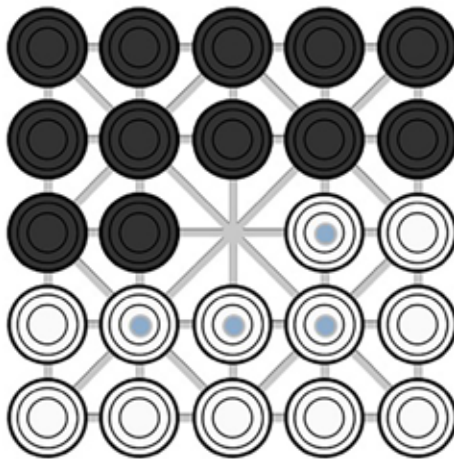




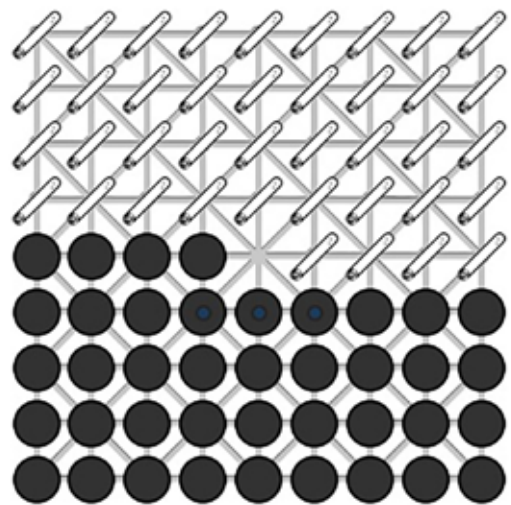
Board for *Alquerque de Tres*



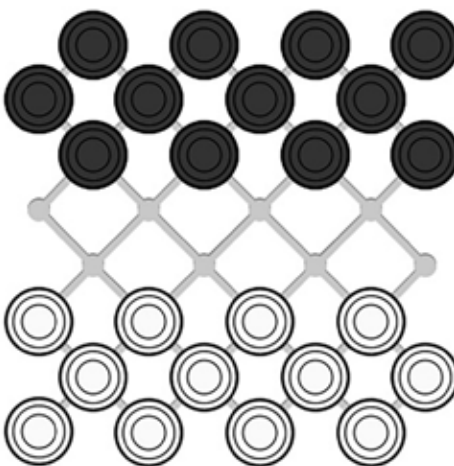
People playing Philippine draughts



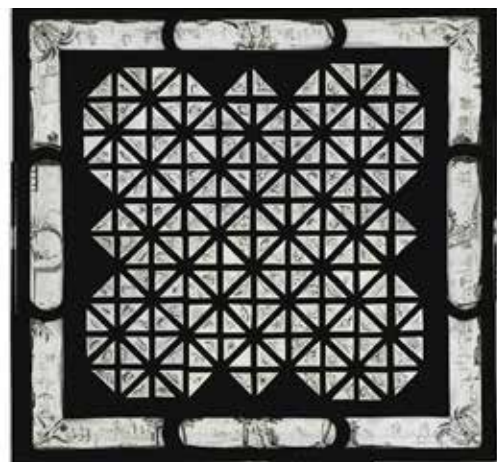
Board and pieces for *Alquerque de Doze*



Board and pieces for *Zamma*



Late medieval line board and pieces, probably for *Andaraya*



17th-century line board from Kollum

# NAMES AND RULES

Liuwe H. Westra

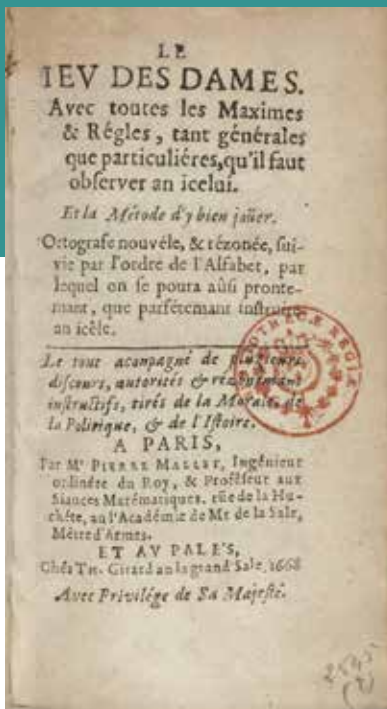
When I first started playing draughts, I was taught the rules. But which ones? In those days I lived on a remote farm, I was the eldest child, so there were only two possible opponents: my mother and my (paternal) grandmother, who visited regularly. My mother only wanted to play diagonal (or, as we said, 'Dutch') draughts, and my grandmother only wanted to play Frisian. But even after choosing the right variant, the discussion continued. When taking with a king, was it allowed to move to any free square on the same diagonal, or should it stop immediately behind the piece taken? Today we call this the difference between a long ('free') king and a half long ('stopping immediately') king. The way of capturing (only diagonally or in eight directions) was given with the chosen variant, Frisian or 'Dutch'. But within both variants there was always some discussion about the long and the half-long king. In other words, the name of the variant did not say anything about that specific part of the rules.

Draughts can be, and has been, played in an almost infinite number of ways. There are differences in the size of the board, the position of the board, the starting colour, the type of capture, specific rules for capture, promotion and even winning and losing. It is therefore not surprising that there are a large number of different names for different types of draughts. We tend to associate each name with a particular variant that follows a particular set of rules. See, for example, the Wikipedia article 'Checkers', which lists no less than 25 variants, each with a

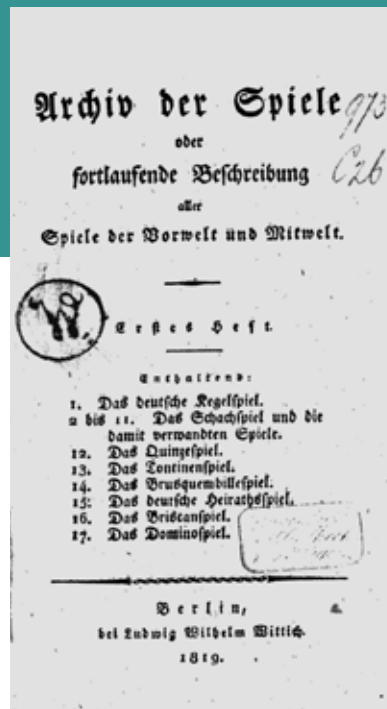
specific set of rules. But even then, some variants allow for certain differences in the rules.

In the old days, the situation was more like what I experienced at home. There are certain names, but they do not refer to a particular set of rules, but rather to a particular aspect of the rules. In other words, the names we find in historical sources do not refer to individual variants, but rather to sets of variants. In this article I will limit myself to three such cases.

First of all, we have a draughts book from 1668: Pierre Mallet, *Le jeu des dames*. Interestingly, Mallet advises the players to discuss the rules before starting in order to avoid embarrassing situations during the game. He mentions several differences, including whether or not to follow priority rules in capturing. But in his opinion, these differences are all a matter of freedom and do not constitute different types of draughts. Much more important to him is the question, of whether capturing is mandatory or not. Here, he distinguishes three types of draughts, each with its own name. In the game of *jeu grand forçat*, capturing is absolutely compulsory, as it is in most modern variants. If a player forgets to capture, he simply loses the game. However, there is also the game of *jeu petit forçat*, in which capturing is also mandatory, but the consequences of missing a capture are less dramatic. Either the opponent insists on making the capture, or he takes the piece with which the capture should have been



Le jeu des dames



Archiv der Spiele

made ('huffing' or, in Frisian, *pûsterjen*). Finally, Mallet mentions a third type of draughts, *jeu plaisant*, in which capturing is optional rather than compulsory. In other words: Mallet's three names only say something about mandatory or optional capturing, but nothing at all about priority capture or short, long or half-long kings.

Mallet only knew the 64-square chequered board. At a certain point, however, the 100-square board was introduced in France. From 1761 onwards, we find many French sources distinguishing between two types of draughts: French and Polish. These two terms refer to the size of the board, but say nothing about the way of capturing. We know that Frisian draughts (or a closely resembling variant) was played in Paris for a time. Sometimes it is explicitly referred to as Babylonian, but even then, Babylonian was seen as just one among many ways of playing Polish. Interestingly, Mallet's designations have disappeared by then. To all probability, this means that only one of these three variations had survived, *petit forçat*.

Finally, we turn to a German source, the encyclopedia *Archiv der Spiele, oder fortlaufende Beschreibung aller Spiele der Vorwelt und der Mitwelt* from 1819-1820. Here, nothing is said about the size of the board, although the 100-square board must have been known in Germany by then. Nothing is said either about mandatory capture, huffing or optional capture. This time, there are three types

of draughts, depending on the type of capturing. According to the *Archiv*, there are three kinds of draughts: German, English and Polish. In German draughts, it is only allowed to capture diagonally and forwards; the king is half long. In English draughts, one captures both forwards and backwards, but only diagonally; the king is long. In Polish draughts, one captures in eight directions (as in Frisian); the king is long. As far as the *Archiv* is concerned, all three types may have been played on either 64 or on 100 squares. And the players may well have discussed any rules of priority capture before they started, just as advised by Mallet.

What does this tell us about the history of Frisian draughts? In Mallet's France, the Frisian game was probably not yet known. Mallet only knows the 64-square board and says nothing on different directions of capture. In 18th and 19th-century France, a kind of Frisian was certainly played, but we do not know exactly how as it is considered a special kind of Polish (although it may be explicitly referred to as Babylonian). But were the rules of priority capture already applied as they are today? There is just no way of knowing. The same holds true for 19th-century Germany. The Frisian way of capture was known and had its own name, Polish. We also know that the king was free to move on after capturing a piece. But on the other hand, nothing prevents the possibility that the Frisian rules were applied there on a 64-square board... however unnatural that may seem to us.

# RATING, RANKING AND TITLES IN FRISIAN DRAUGHTS

Marten Walinga

In sports, players are usually put into different classes for matches so that they play against an equal opponent. To see how good a player is, a rating is calculated for them. This rating number shows how good the player is and can be compared to the opponent's rating. There are many ways to calculate this number, but for reliability, it is important that enough results are known. Fortunately, with the introduction of Lidraughts and the many tournaments played there, there is no shortage of results. The rating on Lidraughts is calculated automatically and is a reasonable indication of a player's strength. In the world of competitive mind sports, there usually is a kind of hierarchy of classes. The Frisian Draughts Federation traditionally had seven classes: champions' league, premier league AA, reserve premier league AA, premier league A, premier league B and first, second and third league. In international mind sports, the titles of Master and Grandmaster are often used to indicate levels of skill approaching and including the top. These titles are issued by an organisation that organises international competitions and world championships. As such, the WFD Foundation has decided to start issuing the titles of Master and Grandmaster in Frisian Draughts in 2025.

We have decided to use international over-the-board tournaments of Frisian Draughts (full board) as a basis, so that in principle every draughts player has the opportunity to earn these titles. These tournaments must be organised either by the WFD Foundation itself or by one of its partners. So, the Fryslân Open and World Championships Frisian Draughts (not FRYSK!) are the only tournaments that meet these criteria right now. But of course, it is perfectly possible and we certainly hope that some of our partners will organise international open tournaments in the future, for example an Italian

Open, Czech Open or even Lithuanian or Polish open!

To become a Master of Frisian Draughts, a player has to meet two requirements. First of all, he or she has to gather 25 master (MP) or grandmaster points (GMP) in international official WFD tournaments. Secondly, the player must have taken part in three Master Tournaments (MT) after 2020, Grandmaster Tournaments (GMT) or World Championship Finals. To become a Grandmaster of Frisian Draughts, a player has to meet two requirements as well. First of all, he or she has to gather 25 grandmaster points (GMP) in international official WFD tournaments. Secondly, the player must have taken part in three Grandmaster Tournaments (GMT) or World Championship (WC) Finals.

Master points are given to the top ten players in all Fryslân Open Tournaments since 2015 (1 point for tenth place, 10 points for first place) and for the Master Tournaments since 2015 (in the same way, 1 to 4 points). When two or more players finish in the same place, the master or grandmaster points are divided between them. The same thing happens when two or more players finish in shared tenth place in a Fryslân Open Tournament. Finally, for the Master Tournaments up to 2020, not 4, 3, 2 and 1 points are awarded but rather 2 and 1 for the top two players only. Grandmaster points are awarded for Grandmaster Tournaments since 2015 (1 point for fourth place, 4 points for first place), for World Championship Finals (similarly), for World Championships (as in Fryslân Open Tournaments: 1 point for tenth place, 10 points for first place) and for World Championship Matches (one point for each game). The same rules for shared places apply as for master points.

On this basis, the WFD Foundation has determined that the following players will be issued the following titles.

## Official Grandmasters of Frisian Draughts

name	MP	GMP	GMT	WC finals
Jelle Wiersma	63.7	43	7	2
Taeke Kooistra	50.3	33.5	5	2
Marten Walinga	28.1	35.5	3	2

## Official Masters of Frisian Draughts

name	MP	GMP	MT	GMT	WC finals
Foeke Tiemensma	48.5	20	-	4	1
Folkert Groenveld	34.1	22.5	-	4	-
Hein de Vries	43.6	9	2	3	-
Alexander Georgiev	28.1	20	-	2	1

## Other players with a Grandmaster or Master ranking in Frisian Draughts

name	MP	GMP	MT	GMT	WC finals
Tsjerk Wijbenga	29	5	1	1	-
Henk Haanstra	18.3	4	1	1	-
Hans Jansen	11.8	3.5	-	-	-
Fedde Kramer	9	6	1	-	-
Kees Tijssen	11.7	3	-	1	-
Łukasz Kosobudzki	8	3.5	1	-	-
Auke Zijlstra	11.5	-	-	-	-
Rein Jan Walinga	11.5	-	-	-	-
Fedde Wiersma	9.7	-	-	-	-
Ties Slagter	-	8	-	-	1
Frederik Bos	7.5	-	-	-	-
Aleksej Domčev	7	-	-	-	-
Jan van Dijk	7	-	-	-	-
Kanstantsin Nord	6.5	-	-	-	-
Dicky van der Meer	6.1	-	1	-	-
Jouke Algra	6	-	1	-	-
Bauke Dijkstra	4.7	-	-	-	-
Willem Schaap	-	3.5	-	-	-
Cor Kooistra	3	-	-	-	-
Petra Dušková	-	1	-	-	-
Vasyl Ivanchuk	1	-	-	-	-

## Deceased players

name	MP	GMP	MT	GMT	WC finals
Sjoerd Couperus	8.1	-	-	-	-
Tjalling Goedemoed	4	-	-	-	-



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