

KubbnationTM

the magazine for the game of kubb



Daily Kubb
Energy City
The Belgian Bastards
Exclusive: The Drill Part 3
Interview: Shin Takahashi
Feature: Kubb In Minnesota, USA

Virtual Kubb
Pitch, Please!!
Wasted Potential
Madison Kubb League
Playing Kubb Around The World
Kubbfreunde Durstiges Holz Berlin e.V.

- and more -

Det Första Kastet	03
Year 10	
Daily Kubb	04
One Man's Passion Leads To Daily Kubb At Work	
Interview: Shin Takahashi	06
A Look Inside Kubb In Japan	
Madison Kubb League	10
Friendly, Casual Kubb Along The Lake	
The Belgian Bastards	13
First Ever Belgian World Champions	
Wasted Potential	19
The World Cup Story Of Wasted Potential	
Feature: Kubb In Minnesota, USA	21-33
Kubb On A Stick	22
The Next Big Thing In The Twin Cities	
Scandia	24
Part Tournament, Part Carnival	
Hot Iron Days	26
Family Kubb On The Minnesota Prairie	
Lake Superior Kubb	29
Growing Kubb In The Twin Ports	
Ely	32
Kubb On The Iron Range	
Exclusive: The Drill Part 3	34
The Timeline Of The Throw That Changed The Sport	
Playing Kubb Around The World	35
A Visit To A YMCA In Sri Lanka	
Pitch, Please!!	38
How A Block In Eau Claire Fell In Love With Kubb	
A Tournament In The Spirit Of Kubb	41
The Journey of Kubbfreunde Durstig's Holz Berlin e.V.	
Energy City Kubb	44
The Birth Of Organized Kubb In The Chicago Suburbs	
Virtual Kubb	46
Connecting The Kubb Community	
World Championship Results	49
U.S. National Kubb Championship Results	50
U.S. Team Cup Results	51

Kubb unites people and creates peace on Earth.
Kubb förenar människor och skapar fred på jorden.

Publisher and Editor:
Eric Anderson
Eau Claire, Wisconsin, USA

Distribution:
wisconsinkubb.com
the worldwide web



Opinions expressed in *Kubbnation* are the opinions of the writers and advertisers themselves, not the publication or its editors.

Contact information:
Eric Anderson
wisconsinkubb [at] gmail.com



Cover Photo: Madison Kubb League (Madison, Wisconsin, USA)

Above: Photos from the 2019 U.S. National Kubb Championship in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, USA

DET FÖRSTA KASTET

YEAR 10



to me. There is something special about this game that makes people mow their lawns at three different heights, look for houses that have an adequate area for a pitch, not ask for money for winning a tournament, is a catalyst in creating community and friendships, and is an amazing tool for fundraising. I truly believe in the saying, 'Kubb unites people and creates peace on Earth.' I have observed it when people were not looking, heard numerous personal stories about it, and have experienced it firsthand myself. Something great is going on. Kubb is a game, sure, but it is also a lot more than that. I hear so many people say, 'Kubb is more than just a game. It's part of my life now.' Some may laugh at that, but I don't. I believe it. The proof is out there for all to see." I guess it is part crazy and part not crazy, but I still feel the same. Actually, I feel it even more.

Aaron Berry, a friend to many of us and founder of organized kubb in the Madison, Wisconsin area passed away this past year. As it is with meeting so many people with kubb, I wished I was able to get to know him even more. I always really admired Aaron. I agree 100 percent with the quote about Aaron on Page 11. I always got the feeling that Aaron loved kubb, but that he equally loved adding joy to peoples' lives and making a community a better place...and Aaron Berry did just that.

After thinking about what Aaron gave us and learning more about Japan Kubb Association (Page 6) and continuing to be inspired by the AEK-Asociación Española de Kubb (2016 edition), I am going to work even harder this year to introduce more people to this beautiful game.

I hope you like the 2020 magazine. I could add so many things that I learned and really liked about each article. The thing I like most is that people are feeling more and more comfortable with their passions and adding them to the kubb world, and to me that is extremely important as we all move forward.

Here is to the 10th KubbNation Magazine.

UMGÅS

Swedish, verb

1. to socialize. to spend time together.

Experience umgås for yourself in Eau Claire.

VISIT EAU CLAIRE

visiteauclaire.com

TRAVEL
WISCONSIN
.COM



DAILY KUBB

ONE MAN'S PASSION LEADS TO DAILY KUBB AT WORK

By: Nick Evans - McKinney, Texas

Photos: Nick Evans

One of the best places to work in the Dallas-Fort Worth area is RightNow Media, a Christian non-profit on the northern outskirts of the metroplex. The office culture is fun and vibrant, and kubb is a daily occurrence.

The large one-story work space looks like so many other such structures, with a combination of cubicles and offices, a common kitchen and dining area, and the landscaping around the edges of the building. The casual dress of the employees accentuates the young feel of the workforce, Music plays through speakers in the "launch pad," and large prints from the many media projects decorate the walls of hallways and offices. However, the real magic happens everyday at break time.

Twice a day, when the mandatory 15 minute breaks begin,

Twice a day, when the mandatory 15 minute breaks begin, the office transforms into an elementary school headed to recess.

the office transforms into an elementary school heading to recess. People head outside to play corn hole, kick around a soccer ball, or throw a football, baseball or frisbee. Well, or at least they used to.

A little more than six months ago, one of the employees brought a homemade kubb set to the office. He taught a few people how to play, who then taught a few others. It was not long before Joe realized that all of those people who had been playing cornhole or tossing around a ball were now playing kubb. Joe quickly made a second set and brought it to the office as well.

On the 24th of October, 2019, the office had its second annual Chili cookoff. To add to the fun, Joe helped to



DAILY KUBB

ONE MAN'S PASSION LEADS TO DAILY KUBB AT WORK

All of that is to say that Joe Schmidt (in photo below) has, in the past 6 months, opened the eyes of the entire office to joys of kubb, and has created what is sure to be a number of lifelong players.

organize the first annual kubb tournament that day, as well. Joe showed up to work with 10 more hand made kubb sets to ensure that the sixteen 3-man teams that were competing could all play at once. One of the sets was even custom painted with the company logo and colors. Exactly 25% of the office staff participated in the competition, with

the rest circled around to watch the final match. The winning team and the runner ups got small kubb kings that Joe had made, and the office has a large king trophy that Joe crafted, covered in the signature of all of the competitors.

All of that is to say that Joe Schmidt has, in the past 6 months, opened the eyes of the entire office to joys of kubb, and has created what is sure to be a number of lifelong players. His passion for friendship and fun has helped build an environment where his coworkers flock together to toss batons and knock down kings.





Photos: Shin Takahashi

INTERVIEW: SHIN TAKAHASHI

A Look Inside Kubb In Japan

All one has to do is look up Japan Kubb Association on Facebook and you will be blown away by the outreach and number of new players being introduced to the game. The Japan Kubb Association along with the AEK - Asociación Española de Kubb in Spain seem to be the leaders of promoting the game to new people. A few years ago we had an article about AEK, and this year we interviewed Shin from the JKA.

How long have you been playing kubb?

I have been playing Kubb since 2012 and teaching Kubb in PE class of University. I'm a physical education teacher of International Christian University in Tokyo.

Do you know how/when kubb came to Japan?

2004

Staffs of National Recreation Association in Japan (NRAJ) played Kubb.

NRAJ introduced Kubb to National Camping Association in Japan (NCAJ)

NRAJ introduced Kubb on the monthly journal "REC". NRAJ started to sell a Kubb game set.

2005

NRAJ went into Kubb nation wide.

2009

Japan Kubb Association was established.

What is the Japan Kubb Association?

JKA was established in Tokyo 2009 as voluntary association. The main founder was Mr. Tatsuki Kawarazuka who works for National Recreation Association in Japan (NRAJ). We are going to make JKA to a general incorporated association near future.

Are you one of the founding members of the JKA?

I'm one of charter member of Japan Kubb Association (JKA) in 2009

What are member organizations?

The member organizations of JKA are 13 prefectures and 2 cities, and the Chiba-ken Kubb Association has 6 city Kubb Associations.

*Kubb in Japan become popular now.
We are regarding that kubb is the fun making sport
for quality of life,
not champion sports or athlete sports.*

INTERVIEW: SHIN TAKAHASHI

A Look Inside Kubb In Japan

How does someone get qualified to be a kubb instructor?

JKA has qualification program of Kubb Instructor and Senior Instructor. The instructor is to teach how to play Kubb and familiarize Kubb to people. Senior Instructor can qualify Kubb Instructor. The Kubb Instructor have to have 6 hours seminar. JKA have about 400 certificated instructors the nationwide.

How many events a year does the JKA promote and teach people how to play kubb?

April 2019 - March 2020 (Japanese financial year start from April)

Instructor Seminar: 7 seminars are/were presented by prefecture and city organization. Most of seminar, I taught in the seminar as a lecturer.

How many kubb tournaments are there in Japan?

April 2019 - March 2020

Japan Kubb Open: 7 prefectures had the tournaments (Hokkaido, Iwate-ken, Miyagi-ken, Chiba-ken, Tokyo, Niigata-ken, Nagano-ken)

Local Tournament: About 5-10 tournaments had in city or local area.

Promotion Program: We participated about 5 public festival to promote kubb. For instance, local or park festival of sports and outdoor.

When was the first tournament in Japan?

Japan Kubb Open in Tokyo, November 14, 2010

Does Japan have a national championship tournament?

We don't have a national championship tournament, however, we are going to have the tournament near future.

When you have learn to play events, how do you promote the event?

We mainly get event information from member organization of JKA and inform Kubb events through internet homepage or Facebook of JKA, and e-mail to people concern Kubb.

Is there a part of Japan where kubb is more popular than other parts of Japan?

Sumida Town, Iwate-ken Prefecture is called the home town of kubb in Japan. NRAJ introduced kubb to Sumida town in 2006, because Sumida town is a lumber town. The Autumn Kubb



INTERVIEW: SHIN TAKAHASHI

A Look Inside Kubb In Japan



INTERVIEW: SHIN TAKAHASHI

A Look Inside Kubb In Japan



Tournament in Sumida town had 400 participants in recent years. This is the biggest kubb tournament in Japan.

Is there a company in Japan that makes kubb sets?

NRAJ ordered to make kubb sets in China and sell them through their net shop. JKA certify this kubb set as official gear. And some company make and sell popular edition.

What is the tournament scene like in Japan, do teams travel to several different tournaments?

Kubb in Japan become popular now. We are regarding that kubb is the fun making sports for Quality of Life, not champion sports

or athlete sports. We are enjoying the tournament. Most of tournament in Japan has qualifying league in the morning, and the final tournament and in the afternoon. All participants enjoy all day. We hope many kubb fans participate to other tournament, and there are hopeful sigh now.

What do you think the future is for kubb in Japan?

The enjoyment of kubb absolutely go around in Japan, and we have a big hope to promote kubb. And JKA will take new step after getting corporate status near future.



Wisconsin Kubb

Home of:

Dallas, WI Oktoberfest Tournament

Kubbnation Magazine

Inkasting and baton throwing tips, techniques, and more.
wisconsinkubb.com



MADISON KUBB LEAGUE

FRIENDLY, CASUAL KUBB ALONG THE LAKE

By: Troy Curtin, Madison, WI

Photos: Madison Kubb

It's a beautiful summer Wednesday night on Madison's Eastside, just off Lake Monona. There's a long line growing at the Tiki Bar and a DJ spinning his records. The party is kicking off at Madison's Eastside Club. Ten kubb pitches are set up, but only a handful of players are throwing their sticks, most have their minds set on getting a drink first and catching up with their friends. "Warming up" is a joke to many in line, although everyone loves the game it's their friends, the sunset on the lake, and the party that brings them back every week.

Perhaps the biggest factor in the successful growth of this party culture of our kubb league is a combination of the location and those who hand a hand in getting it all started. When a handful of us wanted to start a league, the two biggest questions for us were: where will we play and will we find or create enough



*Aaron Berry: Founder of
organized kubb in Madison, WI.
Aaron passed away in 2019.*



*“Aaron was a good kubb player,
but his goal was never to be the best,
it was to spread the love of the game and
create new friendships while doing so.
Our Madison League has really organically
embraced Aaron’s persona.”*





MADISON KUBB LEAGUE

FRIENDLY, CASUAL KUBB ALONG THE LAKE

interest around the game?

Our first time going to the ESC was on a Tuesday night in 2016 with a goal of introducing the game to any strangers that might be there enjoying the view. The East Side Club, much like kubb, is an under-rated and still a relatively unknown gem on Madison's East Side. Lucky for us the Bocce Ball league was just wrapping up, and they immediately were interested in learning a new yard game. And so it began. Our first year was more of an "open kubb" night every Wednesday there, but it was made up by a combination of our own friends and some new friends from the Bocce League.

By the end of this summer we were able to play a short season

with 14 teams. Since then our league has grown to 20 teams and has a waitlist. We've maxed out the yard space with 10 pitches, but many members from the original summer remain staples of the league culture: we come to see our friends, but we also play kubb. The location itself also allows us to introduce the game to new spectators every week, and it's easy to convince friends to come watch as well.

Everything about the Madison Kubb League promotes a friendly, casual atmosphere. It seems like every year our commissioner, Jeff Kuhl, has new ideas on how to keep the fun party atmosphere at the forefront. Two years ago, for example, he added photo contest night with cash prizes. Pictures of people playing kubb might all look the same after a while, but the sunset on the lake with the capitol looming in the background makes this especially difficult to judge. And last year, Jeff got tired of being held responsible for the same playlist of Disney soundtracks and Celine Dion albums so he decided to have guest DJs come in for the last 3 weeks of the season. It's rumored that next year, they'll be a battle of DJs throughout the whole season.

Whatever fun side contests are added, we know the league will keep the party going. It's also no coincidence how much the league is a reflection of Aaron Berry. Aaron was a good kubb player, but his goal was never to be the best, it was to spread the love of the game and create new friendships while doing so. Our Madison League has really organically embraced Aaron's persona. Although, we lost a legendary ambassador of the game, Aaron's influence can be seen any summer Wednesday night at the East Side Club.

We can't thank you enough Aaron. Kubb on!



THE BELGIAN BASTARDS

First Ever Belgian World Champions



By: Kim Heremans - Westerlo, Belgium

Photos: The Belgian Bastards

Intro

I can't really tell how many times I've been swearing my lungs out when a training didn't go the way I wanted it to go, when I missed that last 4 or 8 meter with the 5th baton preventing my teammate of finishing the match, when we didn't achieve our team goals at a tournament or after an entire season.

Many of us have lived those moments, wanting to quit the game and started thinking, when am I finally gonna be rewarded for all the efforts I put in? The thing is, this game is simply too beautiful to walk away from. And efforts will result into life long memories.

Hail to the person who invented this intriguing and amazing wooden yard game called, KUBB!

How the seed was planted...

I don't exactly recall when the plan of going to the World Championships in 2019 unfolded. It was somewhere in mid-summer of 2018 when Jan revealed he had been thinking about going to the Kubb VM. He then already had the ideal team in mind and after I heard who was in it, I was quite exited. Multiple drillers/blasters, single shot snipers, 8 meter beasts, ..., and most important, it was a team with matching personalities. All the capacities were definitely there to go for the 'Big One'.

Me being a perfectionist, I was a bit concerned though about some things. Kim (aka Wally) and Hans were to make their debut at the Kubb VM, they didn't know what to expect. Okay, they are both top players but I remember my first (and also only) participation at the Kubb VM in 2017. It was quite an overwhelming first impression, being at the world's biggest kubb

showcase. Also the fact we had almost no experience of playing 6vs6 tournaments, and completely no experience what so ever in playing with the 6 of us, it was something we needed to work on big time in the next coming season. Blue/Orange, KP Wild Dogs, Kubb'ings & Gipfelstürmer, Auh-Laug-Eth, Gloria Victis, Twelve Tits United and many others, they all were much more familiar with the 6vs6 concept and already had a certain routine within their team. So despite all the qualities within our team and the trust we had in ourselves, we knew it was going to be hard struggle to achieve a good result.

And as 2018 and 2019 progressed it turned out that meeting up to train or competing at tournaments with the 6 of us wasn't that simple. Most of the weekends were already taken because of the many ranking tournaments in Belgium or there was always somebody who had other obligations (work, family, ...). Not the perfect preparation to head out for Gotland, but in some way it kind of relieved the pressure a bit.

How the seed started growing...

August 1st, me and Koen (aka Mettes) took off by plane, a double flight from Brussels to Stockholm and further on to Visby. The other team members travelled by car/boat, a trip of more than 20 hours, insane!!! We were joined one the first flight by the other Belgian competitor, Wasted Potential (Andres, Annabel, Dimitri, Jeroen, Stef en Ward). To enhance our patriotic feeling we decided to look for a place where both teams could stay. And we just found the perfect getaway in Havdhem, Ekegården hotel/B&B, a quiet location with a big lawn and about 7 kilometers away from the holy ground. For the record, if you ever would stay at Ekegården or pass by, definitely try their brisket dinner, it's absolutely delicious!

THE BELGIAN BASTARDS

First Ever Belgian World Champions

As soon as we all arrived at our Eden of kubb, we set up a pitch. Finally, training together! For the first time and that only 14 hours before the qualifying round! Even the darkness didn't stop us that evening. We went on playing, putting on the cars headlights and pointing them (or any other light we could find) at the field.

But at some point we had to stop, we had an important day ahead of us. I remember I couldn't sleep at all. I had about 3 hours of sleep that night. I was so full of excitement and focus, playing every match in my head over and over again. But hey I wasn't complaining, we were in Gotland and were about to play our favorite game at one of the most iconic kubb tournaments in the world!

How the first branches were formed...

August 2nd, qualifiers. I also had to play qualifiers in 2017 with the team The Magnificent 6 and we went out straight away. So I knew how nerve racking it would be and definitely didn't want it to happen again.

We made a good start though against the Danish team, Los Vikingos. It had to be said, they were competing with only 4 players. They didn't hold on very long, playing with just 4 batons. We were focused and concealed the first win quite easily. We immediately felt the nerve level going down. Sudrets Töisar was our second opponent. We had seen their first match and knew we could handle them. We confirmed our good form and also managed to win this match comfortably. With only 1 win away from the final stages we had to play against Silence Mountain, the least good team of our group. But our focus was gone and after 2 throwing rounds we only had 1 base kubb left, they still had 5! We had to step up a gear. The next round we managed to get some extra base kubbs in play and that killed their resistance. We finally won the first and also second set. Yes we won the group and were in the last 64!!! But what a scare it was. We learned an important lesson and were thankful that it happened. No matter who the opponent is or at what level they play, you always have to step into a match with the same focus and hunger to win it.

With a big smile and relief we went over to watch the other Belgian team, Wasted Potential, who had to face a strong Swiss team, Di Ändere, in their last match. The winner of this match would claim first place in the group. Our fellow Belgians played decent but didn't take their chances when needed. They unfortunately lost and, as the second placed team, had to play a shoot-out. Oh man, my heart was pumping during that one. If I was that nervous, imagine how they would have been feeling. With a very big help of Lady Fortune they also managed to qualify. Both teams through to the next round. In the end, that's all what mattered.

But the day wasn't over yet. Next on the agenda, the 1vs1 solo championship. It wasn't our main goal but we all had the capacities of getting through a couple of rounds. With Mettes and Wally, both multiple winners of solo tournaments, we even had title contenders. Many of us weren't able to reach the second or third round, some due to a tough draw. I lost a close first match against Simon Petterson of Team Kubbmeisters. I recall Annabel even came very close of beating Marcel Genal (Blue/Orange), that would have been some upset! Mettes lost his second round game against Standa Holakovsky of Kubb Klub Vrsovka, who (I saw the match) delivered some 'out of this world' kubb. Koen did everything he could but his opponent was just out'Standa'ing. Only Dimi (to his on surprise) and Wally were able to reach the third round, but that was the end of the road for both players. Dimi lost a close one (2-1), against a later semifinalist (sorry, don't know the name of this player). Wally also lost 2-1, against Per Norman of Blue/Orange. Although I definitely don't like the allowed rule of throwing 90°, I have to say, Per masters it to perfection, respect. At 6 PM all Belgians were out of the championship.

Actually, we weren't that disappointed. It gained us some extra hours of rest and it gave us the opportunity of making it a fun and relaxing evening at base camp amongst all Belgians, again with lots of kubb and a beer!

And how those branches finally evolved into a solid tree!

August 3rd, D-day, the day when 6 comrades wrote Belgian kubb history! I managed to get 6 hours of sleep that night, yeah I doubled the first night. As I came in the lobby of the B&B that morning I sensed a healthy tension amongst my teammates, the desire for glory. Considering the circumstances we were all quite 'relaxed' actually even though we knew we were about to head out to a war zone. Our group stage draw was very tough. We had to face:

Kubb Klub Vrsovka & Friends, Czech team and winner of the bronze medal the previous year

Auh-Laug-Eth, a Swedish team which had reached the last 16 many times and had loads of VM experience

Tjejligan, another Swedish but unknown team

First game and we immediately had to perform against the Czechs. I was really nervous in the beginning but there was no need to it. We started off decent and it soon became clear that the Czechs were nervous too. They weren't performing like they normally could. We kept pressuring them and won the first set. More of the same in set 2. We gained an advantage quickly but they got back into the set with a good round. Out of the blue, and with 6 kubbs in play, we managed to produce an excellent finish. We knocked down 4 kubbs with the first 2 batons and had 2 field and 2 baseline kubbs left. The 2 field kubbs were hampered slightly by the fallen kubbs and weren't in a straight line with each other. I remember Jan (aka Ginger Jack) telling me

THE BELGIAN BASTARDS

First Ever Belgian World Champions



Many of us have lived those moments, wanting to quit the game and started thinking, when am I finally gonna be rewarded for all the efforts I put in?

The thing is, this game is simply too beautiful to walk away from. And efforts will result into life long memories.

THE BELGIAN BASTARDS

First Ever Belgian World Champions

to go for the first one and see what would happen. Without any doubt, I produced my best shot of the tournament, taking out the 2 field kubbs and adding a baseline. Oh man, I screamed so loud of excitement and felt my body being filled with adrenaline! The last base was knocked down without hesitation by our sniper Kim (aka Wally), the king was a formality. A 2-0 win against last year's number 3. Such an important one. WOW, what a start!

It gave us breathing space for the next game against Auh-Laug-Eth, who also had won their first match. They showed us straight away they were a team that needed to be reckoned with but we were so full of confidence after that first win, we wanted to catch our second prey. We won the first set but they delivered some really good kubb in the second and we didn't stand a chance. 1-1, who would take the deciding set? They couldn't deliver the same though and after just 2 rounds we already had cleared their baseline. The set sadly ended with a discussion between the 2 teams about a 'stepping out of the field' violation of Hans. A call that we all thought was completely incorrect. We had to call in a referee who, after explaining the situation, approved our throw. We eventually took the third set but were still frustrated about what just happened. Gladly all things were sorted out quickly after the game. But it shows that this Kubb VM is a true competition, something everybody wants really bad. The other team also thought they made the right call, so in a way I understand why they stood their ground. And discussions can be a part of the game, as long as they are conducted with respect for each other. Nevertheless, with this second win we were a small step away from a top 32 spot.

Now we only had to face Tjejligan, an all-girl team. They had lost their first 2 matches but we had seen they had some qualities. Our game approach was spot on though, we played solid and quickly clinched victory. Same scenario as on Friday, another 3 on 3 and group winner. Auh-Laug-Eth secured second place after a thrilling win over Kubb Klub Vrsovka.

Meanwhile Wasted Potential also managed to win their group with 3 wins out of 3. Both Belgian teams through to the top 32 of the world!

Our next opponent was Cervisia Fortes, unknown to us but we had learned that we needed to approach every game with the same attitude. And we did. Our focus and the fact we came out of such a tough group, boosting our confidence, ensured our win against them. They weren't able to trouble us at all.

Wasted Potential was drawn against Team Kubbmeisters. They weren't outplayed, but sadly lost 2-0. If they would have had more believe, they could have taken them. Nevertheless, they made Belgium very proud with their performance.

Until then we already had played some great teams, but the biggest test was about to come. Round of the last 16 against the 2017 World Champion, Blue/Orange. Along with KP Wild Dogs, for us, these guys were the tournaments favorites. For the first time in the tournament we acknowledged to each other of being nervous. Quite understandable, knowing who's on the opposite side. And after their loss our fellow Belgians were able to live stream the match on Facebook, so we knew many people back home were gonna be watching. We didn't want to let them down. But it turned out Blue/Orange wasn't feeling comfortable either. They only knocked down 2 base kubbs in their first 2 turns, we had 1 in our first turn and in our second we added 3 base kubbs, leaving just 1 kubb at the baseline. That's what we needed! We were keen of giving them a hell of a fight. They weren't able of getting back into the set. Result: Belgian Bastards 1, Blue/Orange 0 and we were allowed to start set 2. Our first turn wasn't good though, hitting no base at all. But the Swedish still weren't warmed up yet and after our a good second turn we had them against the ropes, although we thought we did. A couple of rounds later our baseline was completely gone. We needed to finish it then, because we felt the game was changing in their advantage. They were getting more consistent. And we did finish it! As on many other difficult moments during the tournament, we delivered some great throws when needed and finished it off in style. Whaaaaaat? We knocked out the former World Champion and tournament favorites. We suddenly realized we were only 1 win away of the semifinals. And after that win, we also really started to believe we could win the whole thing.

TDA was the next team we had to eliminate. Sometimes people say, to become a champion you need some luck along the way. Well, during this quarter final match we were very lucky. With all due respect for TDA (because as a quarter finalist you have to admit they can really play the game), if we would have played Blue/Orange, Kubb Klub Vrsovka or Auh-Laug-Eth, our championship might have been over. We played horrible. We did manage to win the first set, but let TDA move into the field in the second. And we started with a 0 out of 2 in the third. All we could do was wait and hope for the best. Luckily they missed 4 out of 4. We were able to take down 2 base kubbs in the next turn and TDA again couldn't add any base kubb. And yep, once more a stylish finish, clearing the field, the 3 base kubbs and the king. Semifinals, here we come!

In the semis we crossed swords with another former and multiple World Champion, Kubb'ings & Gipfelstürmer, who had eliminated reigning champions KP Wild Dogs 2 rounds earlier. Little bit of 'panic' though before the match started. Wally had been drilling the kubbs the entire tournament and had been doing a great job at it, but during warm up he immediately felt the pitch didn't react the same when he drilled the kubbs. He wanted someone else to warm up as well, so if necessary

THE BELGIAN BASTARDS

First Ever Belgian World Champions

someone else could take over. Me and Koen applied for the job. I had a good feeling while drilling. Not that they were lying perfect but I had the feeling I had some control over the kubbs. Koen also was confident but he and Hans decided I should take over. I should have been nervous but I wasn't. Actually I was quite happy I had the opportunity of drilling the kubbs. Come on, it's the most exciting part of the game! It's like trying to make a new masterpiece every time again. Anyway, like many other teams that had played us, the Germans also didn't produce their A-game. Could it be they were nervous of playing us? We on the other hand were relaxed and kept on playing at a solid level, stepping up a gear when needed. Also the switch of driller didn't bother us at all during the match. The first set ended with a touch a magic from our very own Ginger Jack. While we all were already focusing on the next turn, he took the last 2 fields kubbs with an incredible double. Wally, as always, kept his cool and knocked down the king. And with total disbelief from our side, they gave us the opportunity to move into the field in the second set. Not something you would expect at that stage. But I have to say, it's so much harder for a 6 player team to clear a field of 7 kubbs or more. So again, some lucky moment we had there. But we didn't care at all, we were in the final!!!

We then already had achieved the best Belgian performance

ever at the Kubb VM. Now there was only 1 team standing in our way, Horstbrød. These guys won the silver medal the year before, so they were definitely favorites to win it this time. We fully admit, both teams didn't play at their best. But there were many twists and turns so I guess, for the spectators, it was quite a tense final to watch. Horstbrød started perfectly with a 2 on 2, we didn't respond to that. We assumed the worst but luckily they did not benefit from our bad start. Then we produced some crazy stuff. Hans floored the 2 field kubbs and with our 5 remaining batons we cleared their baseline. What a feeling that was, producing such an insane round in the final, one of the best moments of the tournament!

Unfortunately we couldn't clinch the first set in our next turn. In the end we won it, because Horstbrød couldn't clear their field after a 'stepping in' violation. Also in the second set we didn't produce our A-game. After a couple of rounds all our base kubbs were down, we still had 3 on theirs. It seemed we were heading to a deciding set. But then Hans (aka Sensei, or in this case The Bomber) thought it was time to fire away one of his missiles. He knocked over 6 of the 7 field kubbs. That wasn't all, Aster (aka Mr. Fine) also wanted his moment of glory and took a double with the last field kubb! What a moment to make these shots! 4 batons remaining for 2 base kubbs and the king, could we do it again? Unfortunately, the answer was no. Wally did manage to



THE BELGIAN BASTARDS

First Ever Belgian World Champions

add another base kubb to make it 9 in play. Just like in the first set we came back from a hopeless situation. That must have hit the opponents' confidence very hard, because in the next turn they left 1 in the field. For the first time during the final I was really nervous. Oh boy, we were 6 throws away of making Belgian kubb history. We cleared the field of 8 with 4 batons. Just 1 base kubb left. Time to put in our main weapon again, Wally, our savior on many other occasions. What a composure this guy has. Knowing he's an 8 meter machine, everybody probably would have thought he was going to take a few steps back to throw from behind the baseline. Nope, he took the shot from 5,5 meter and how clean can you hit it under such a huge amount of pressure, world class! And what to say about Koen, feeling the tension he took his time for the king shot but man, he hit it soooo firmly.

YESSSSSS, WORLD CHAMPION!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We jumped into each other's arms and started screaming of joy. The other Belgians came running towards us in celebration. What an indescribable euphoria. So many emotions were released at the same time. I was in shock, I couldn't believe that it really had happened. It felt so unreal. I fell down on my knees and started crying. I couldn't control it, it just happened. I guess, no matter what the occasion is (wedding, baby birth, sports achievement, ...), when you want something really bad and try to live up to it, it's natural you express that kind of emotions. And those emotions displayed true happiness!!! I even forget it was my birthday the next day. I remembered it during the winner's ceremony, that's how focused I was the entire tournament. We had a blast at the after party, celebrating our brand new title with our fellow countrymen and several other teams.

What a huge support the other Belgian team gave us after they went out. They kept encouraging us during the difficult moments and always told to keep faith in our own capabilities. They also made it possible for the entire Belgian kubb community to follow our last 4 matches (1/8 finals, 1/4 finals, semis and final) on Facebook as they live streamed those games and delivered some funny and memorable comments during it. There were even rumors that some of them were applying for a job on Belgian national TV, I wonder how that has turned out ... Anyway, their support definitely played a big part in us winning this trophy. So for all that, but also for an unforgettable weekend (these 2 teams were a match made in heaven), they deserve our infinite gratitude.

And how did it go the days after? Well it wasn't until we got back home that we found out how everyone in Belgium and other countries had lived this historical moment, this first ever Belgian gold medal at the Kubb VM. Watching those video's again on Facebook and reading all the comments, then we realized how big this victory was. So many people had been cheering for us, at home, in a pub or anywhere they could. A

very big thank you to all of you. This title has so much more meaning knowing you were all behind us.

The craziness didn't stop though. Several national newspapers wanted to write an article about our performance. We even made it on regional TV, had an article on the biggest national sports website and were contacted by national radio for a live interview. Man, I was more stressed about doing that interview then I was during the entire World Cup. But it was fun, being 'famous' for a couple of days. And the fame isn't entirely over yet. On March 4th we will be honored in city hall of Heist-op-den-Berg. Looking forward to that as well.

All that remains is for me to say what a wonderful time I had those couple of days. I couldn't have wished for better teammates and am so thankful the 6 of us achieved this greatness together. From the first moment together, until the last, it felt totally right. And it shows that, although training is necessary, the most important thing is team spirit and respect for each other. To be continued...



Wasted Potential

The World Cup story of Wasted Potential



By: Ward Mariën – Mechelen, Belgium

Photos: Wasted Potential

It was October '18 when I first found out about the plans of 'the Belgian Bastards' going to the WC '19. I immediately understood that the team could achieve great things and wanted to be there to witness it. At the Duo Kubb Championship of '18 I found someone (Annabel) who shared the same feeling. We both agreed to find 2 more players each and only 2 weeks later 'Wasted Potential' was born. Jeroen, Andres, Stef and Dimi joined the team. A mix of 6 players of 5 different teams was heading to Gotland with only 1 of them having had a WC experience before.

We stayed at the same location as 'the Belgian Bastards' where there were almost no other guests than us, the 12 Belgians. We bonded and it immediately became clear that the connection between us 12 could be a great weapon on Match day.

We, as 'Wasted Potential', started off with a second place in our group on Friday, where we got beaten by the strong Swiss team 'Di Andere'. Luckily we could place ourselves for the group stage on Saturday after a shoot-out against other teams who ended second in their group.

The final was nerve racking and when the King went down in the end it was just an explosion of happiness for all Belgians being there.

On Saturday we played a lot better and we were able to win our group but in the first knock-out round we got beaten by the Swedish 'Team Kubbmeisters'. At first there was a little bit of disappointment but when we looked back on it this gave us the opportunity to witness something incredible.

Being out of the tournament we gave ourselves the mission to support 'the Belgian Bastards' anyway that we could. Furthermore we could make sure that all the knock-out games could be live streamed for the Belgian audience. Letting them enjoy the remarkable road to victory of 'the Belgain Bastards'. Our footage even made it to all national newspaper sites and the biggest Belgian sports website. Letting the whole of Belgium see what a great victory it was.

The final was nerve racking and when the King went down in the end it was just an explosion of happiness for all Belgians being there. Although it where the 6 guys of 'the Belgian Bastards' on the field who did it, they immediately thanked all players of 'Wasted Potential' for being there for them during the whole weekend. It just proves what a great team spirit we had. I wouldn't have wanted to miss that for anything in the world and I want to thank all the 11 others again for the greatest kubb experience so far. This was once in a lifetime!



Official kubb set provider for the U.S. National Kubb Championship, Loppet, Madison, Kasson, Beloit, and several other U.S. kubb tournaments.

Whether you are playing in your backyard or training for Rone or Eau Claire... JP has you covered.



JP specializes in outdoor games: kubb, bags/cornhole, washer sets, tower challenge, mölkky, & custom designs.
- Ships Worldwide -



JPSBACKYARDGAMES.COM

St. Louis Park, MN
jpsbackyardgames@gmail.com





Photos: Lake Superior Kubb

FEATURE: KUBB IN MINNESOTA, USA

In 2010, Eric Goplin started a little winter backyard tournament at his apartment in Minneapolis, MN. Two years later, that tournament was part of the Loppet Festival. Also in 2010, Ryan Kolden hosted the first tournament in Thief River Falls, MN. Since then, kubb clubs and tournaments in the State of Minnesota have grown significantly. Most know about all the great things that St. Paul Kubb Society, Minnesota Kubb, 507Kubb, Thief River Falls Kubb, and Chaska Kubb are doing, but the number of other clubs and tournaments has grown and continues to grow. Over the years, we have had several articles and exclusive interviews about kubb in the State of Minnesota.

This year, in our Special Feature, we look at a few more: Kubb On A Stick, Scandia's events, Lambertson's Hot Iron Days, Lake Superior Kubb, and Ely.

Kubb in the Land of 10,000 Lakes continues to grow and looks to have a great future.

Feature: Kubb On A Stick

The Next Big Thing In The Twin Cities

By: Barb Lancette – Minneapolis, Minnesota

Photos: Kubb On A Stick

August in MN means three things: the summer is coming to an end, school is going to begin and the 12 day spectacle of the MN State Fair is upon us. But to kubb players it also means that the summertime Kubb season is winding down. A crew from Northeast Minneapolis had often thought of running a tournament to try to gain more popularity and for local kubb players to participate in. There are many ambassadors in the Twin Cities area that run tournaments in the winter, spring, as well as year round leagues. But what seemed to be lacking was a summertime tournament.

So when the NE crew started brainstorming on what they envisioned for a Minneapolis tournament, it only seemed fitting to coincide the event during State Fair time. The MN State Fair is a state-wide get together celebrating all things Minnesotan; including music, livestock competitions, local art exhibitions, and serving food on a stick. Hence, Kubb On A Stick was born.

The MN State Fair is a state-wide get together celebrating all things Minnesotan; including music, livestock competitions, local art exhibitions, and serving food on a stick. Hence, Kubb On A Stick was born.

When planning KoaS, the goal was to have it in Minneapolis, in a city park, with the idea that experienced kubb players and people who have never played before could come together. After seeing the popularity of kubb in Eau Claire, WI as well as reading about the following of it overseas, there was a realization that the Twin Cities area could use another tournament to add to its growing reputation.

There are many people responsible for the great community of kubb in the Twin Cities area including Eric Goplin and Tim Motzko who run tournaments such as Captain Ken's Kubb Tournament, the Kubb Krawl, as well as seasonal leagues. Although volunteering for these would be an easy way to support them, the NE crew felt that it would be awesome if there could be a tournament that they could take part in where they didn't have to do anything but show up and play. Location was easy when considering the local brewery scene by hosting it at a park within walking distance of two of NE's popular breweries.

The tournament featured experienced kubb players, such as members from Chaska Kubb, St. Paul Kubb Society, 507 Kubb, and the ever so popular Eau Claire Kubb league, as well as friends and family who have never participated in a kubb event

Kubb On A Stick

The Next Big Thing In The Twin Cities

before.

As for the Kubb, KoaS was held as a 3-6 player format featuring the DMK (Des Moines Kubb) scoring system consisting of 6 rounds in the morning. A break for lunch allowed everyone to enjoy food from a local food truck across the street at 56 Brewing, along with taking advantage of their beer specials offered to Kubb players. A 3-tier bracket tournament played out in the afternoon.

The winner of the bottom tier of teams received a brand new kubb set to promote the great game of Kubb and continue to

Special thanks to Broken Clock Brewery, 56 Brewery, Potter's Pasties, Kings Sanitation with the last minute delivery, JP's Backyard Games, and members of the NE crew: Ben Lancette, Brian Ramsey, Andy Lancette, Josh Carpenter, Andy Lunzer, Tim Tschida, and Barb Lancette who spearheaded the event in honor of Ben's 40th birthday. There were many others that were not mentioned who volunteered to help the tournament run seamlessly. We're looking forward to growing the event and seeing you all out there next year!

Although volunteering for these would be an easy way to support them, the NE crew felt that it would be awesome if there could be a tournament that they could take part in where they didn't have to do anything but show up and play.

play and practice for next year's tournament. The top three teams in the middle tier each received ribbons coinciding with the theme of MN state fair livestock competitions. The top teams competed for the coveted prizes of the corn-dog/proto pup on a stick, pig on a stick and pickle on a stick, 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively, along with MN State Fair tickets.

It's the opinion of KoaS that everyone who participated was a winner, but not everyone walked away with a trophy.



By: Jennifer Mertes - White Bear Lake, Minnesota



Photos: Saint Paul Kubb Society

FEATURE: SCANDIA

PART TOURNAMENT, PART CARNIVAL

January 25, 2020 will mark the 4th annual Vinterfest Kubb Tournament in Scandia, Mn. Home to the first Swedish settlers in Minnesota (1850). As evidenced by the town's name, Scandia has a rich Scandinavian heritage making it a perfect fit for kubb.

Vinterfest is a two day event that takes place the last weekend in January and began in 2005. Organized by the Scandia Parks and Rec Committee, Vinterfest features an adult hockey tournament, snow sculpture contest, chili cook-off and many family friendly activities, Saturday begins with a free pancake breakfast sponsored by the Scandia-Marine Lions Club and ends with an impressive fireworks display. In 2017, St Paul Kubb Society's Tim Motzko brought kubb to Vinterfest in the form of an all day scramble tournament. Many members of the Kubb Society participated along with several Scandia and Chisago locals. With about 40 players in attendance, it was and continues to be a day of frozen fun.

Following the success of the first Vinterfest tournament in 2017,

the Kubb Society was invited to organize a tournament as part of the town's late summer festival Taco Daze, taking place the Saturday after Labor Day (Sept, 12, 2020). Taco Daze, which began in 1975 as a community fundraiser-by making and selling tacos- has grown into a city wide celebration including live music, vendors, farmer's market, street dance, kids games and events, tractor show, the Running of the Meatballs (Swedish) a parade, and of course tacos. Thousands of people from surrounding communities come to Scandia to enjoy this charming -if not quirky- small town celebration, making it a perfect fit for a Kubb Society tournament.

Both tournaments are scramble style, round-robin with every player advancing into the championship bracket. Winners are determined by their total points earned throughout the day's play. Open to all skill levels, these tournaments encourage new and less experienced players to learn the game alongside more experienced (and often highly skilled) players. The tone of the tournament is simply to enjoy the game of kubb, play

SCANDIA

PART TOURNAMENT, PART CARNIVAL



competitively, and have fun. The tournament organizers goals are always the same; every player should be smiling all day.

The Vinterfest and Taco Daze tournaments have been described as part tournament, part carnival. Prizes abound in the Kubb Society's signature "game within a game" Kubb Down Bottoms Up, where players earn tokens by hitting down specific back row kubbs and the king. The tokens are then turned in for a prize when the game concludes. Prizes include kubb swag ranging from stickers, can coolers, hats, bags, shirts...and maybe a cold beverage of choice.

The tone of the tournament is simply to enjoy the game of kubb, play competitively, and have fun.

At the end of the tournament, door prizes are given to randomly selected participants ie: who traveled the furthest, who made an incredible shot, who laughed the most, etc. Trophies, bibs and prizes are awarded to the players with the most total points. And holding true to the Kubb Society tradition of keeping kubb quirky, winners may be 'asked' to wear something unusual for photos: wax lips, fake teeth, crowns and sashes. Care Bear onesie, Chris Jones?





By: Phil Goetstouwers - Lamberton, Minnesota

Photos: Phil Goetstouwers

FEATURE: HOT IRON DAYS

Family Kubb On The Minnesota Prairie

It was late spring in 2011 and my good friend, Ford Rolfsrud, called me up one evening and exclaimed, “Philly, I’ve been playing this lawn game lately with a buddy from school (Jason Larson) who is into all these old school games. It’s awesome! You’re going to love it!” “What’s it called?” I asked. “Kubb.” Then I asked the standard follow-up question, “How do you spell that?” A few weeks later, I drove 2 ½ hours to meet up with Ford to specifically play this “awesome” game called kubb with Jason and Matt Braa. I was instantly hooked. They asked if I’d want to play in the National Championships in July and I laughed asking how do we qualify? “You just need an email address,” they replied. Luckily, I had an email address. A few months later, I played in my first US National Kubb Championships and learned that the national rules don’t include stacking. Ford and I teamed up and lost in the quarterfinals. The next unique tournament opportunity I had was a tournament called the Loppet, played in the dead of winter in Minnesota intended to play on the ice of Lake Calhoun. The four of us (Ford, Jason, Matt, and I) recruited a couple new players to the game, John Oman and Tony Schmidt. We planned on playing as a larger group, but the tournament director, Eric Goplin had 31 teams and was looking for a group to form another team. Although Tony had never played before,

he and I decided to team up together. We seemed to find more success throughout the day and with a few breaks, we beat former National Champion, Josh Feathers, and his uncle Steve Feathers in the quarterfinals, Chris Hodges and Grant Scott in the semifinals and eventually lost to Chad Bevers and Chad Parsons. We lost 2-1, but the “hook” on kubb for me was deep. The addiction began and I wanted to play, watch, and talk kubb with anyone at any time.

Entering my second year as the 5-12 principal at Red Rock Central School District located in Lamberton, MN, a town of 775 people, I wanted to host a fun staff outing in the fall of 2012. The activity of choice was no other than a staff kubb tournament. Jason, Ford, and Matt came down to help to explain the rules, answer any questions, and sell some kubb sets. The staff who attended really enjoyed it and about a half-dozen teachers ended up buying a kubb set. We ended up have three annual staff outings playing kubb and the exposure spread and more kubb sets ended up in people’s hands in the Red Rock Central District (Lamberton, Sanborn, Storden, and Jeffers). Both Phy Ed (PE) teachers were exposed to the game and were interested in adding it to their PE curriculum. Yet, they weren’t comfortable teaching it themselves so they had

HOT IRON DAYS

Family Kubb On The Minnesota Prairie

me teach it to the students in 7th-10th grade and to this day, still have me teach the introductory day of kubb. After the initial day of introduction the first year, I popped in and out of class for the rest of the week as the students competed against each other in friendlies and later on in a class tournament. The following year I decided instead of loaning out my kubb sets, I donated a couple sets to the Phy Ed department. It has been part of the curriculum ever since and even though the PE department now owns 2 sets, I still loan out a couple sets each year so they can have a total of 4 matches going on at a time. This allows more teams of smaller sizes and more batons in each player's hands keeping students engaged more and building confidence and enjoyment level. Like most people's experiences with kubb, the students really enjoy the game and looked forward to playing it in the following years.

In 2004, the Lamberton Historical Society created the Lamberton Hot Iron Days; a festival of fire and fun where you can create your own iron artwork, machinery parts or sculpture and learn all about iron casting, the weekend after Labor Day. The Friday night of Hot Iron Days has a special event as many volunteers work together for the "Sparks Under the Stars". It's an incredible display of the hot iron being poured over the molds and sparks flying everywhere. The fire department is always on site to ensure safety for all involved. The celebration has evolved into much more including a volleyball tournament, medallion hunt, farmers/vendors/flea market, showcasing of cars, tractor or unique machinery parts for the



HOT IRON DAYS

Family Kubb On The Minnesota Prairie

Ageless Iron display, a free petting zoo, kids games and wagon rides and several food options throughout the weekend. It brings in over 1,000 people to the festival. Just like there are kubb fanatics that travel long distances to play kubb, there are hot iron fanatics that travel long distances as well. There are people who come from California, New York, and other places around the country to see and take part in the Hot Iron Days. In 2014, the Lambertson Hot Iron Days committee asked to include a kubb tournament as part of the festivities. This tournament was created to enhance the Lambertson Hot Iron Days celebration, expose more local residents to this wonderful lawn game, and promote kubb to the young and old by referring this as a family-fun tournament. That first year, we only had eight teams, six were from out of town and two were local. The following year, there were 12 teams, 8 were from out of town and 4 were local. Since 2016, the tournament hosts an average of 15-16 teams and although majority of the teams have been from out of town, more kids are playing, and more locals are participating and purchasing sets to play on their own. This last year, of the 14 teams, seven of the teams had at least one local player. In the six years hosting the tournament, there have been six different champion teams and two of the years was won by a parent and at least one of their children. We've had kubb teams travel from South Dakota, Wisconsin, and throughout Minnesota to experience this unique tournament and festivities in the small town of Lambertson.

Hot Iron Days is a unique festival by itself, but I try to make the kubb experience unique as well. In addition to having cast-ironed trophies in the last few years and this year using Keystone Kubb software to run the tournament, the weekend is more than kubb for the kubb players. After the tournament, it's become tradition to drive to the neighboring town of Walnut Grove for a Belgian game called Rolle Bolle. After experiencing that, we drive to another town of Wabasso to eat at the Roadhouse, a restaurant with what seems to be a limitless amount of unique burgers and

This tournament was created to enhance the Lambertson Hot Iron Days celebration, expose more local residents to this wonderful lawn game, and promote kubb to the young and old by referring this as a family-fun tournament.

sandwiches. It's a fun weekend as players start showing up Friday night for the Sparks Under the Stars and some friendlies at the park or under the lights in my backyard. The next morning, the Chaska Kubb Club members around assist with the entire set up. Jason Larson provides the sets, Paul Knutson brings the AP system for music and sound, and everyone else in the club helps set up.

There have been a few other opportunities to expose the game in Lambertson including at Kuhar Park Days, which is a fundraiser festival for the other park just outside of town, as well as at youth group events, neighborhood block parties. It's another great reminder, kubb is not only a fun game that can be played by all ages and abilities, it also creates peace and unites people on Earth.





FEATURE: LAKE SUPERIOR KUBB

GROWING KUBB IN THE TWIN PORTS

By: Erik Linge - Duluth, Minnesota

Photos: Lake Superior Kubb

The Beginning (reference pic 1)

My wife and I have been musicians performing at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival and other festivals for many years now. On one hot autumn day in 2016 at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival between our scheduled shows we visited the Viking Encampment. We noticed a few of our friends playing an odd-looking game involving some sticks and blocks of wood. Although we were exhausted and didn't have a lot of time before our next show, we stayed a short while and watched them play. One of our "Viking" friends noticed our interest, came over and told us the game was called kubb! I don't think we had time to throw even a single baton, but for some reason the game intrigued me enough to remember it a couple of months later.....

A Christmas tradition in our family has been to draw names every year to decide who you get to make a present for, to be given at the next Christmas. As Christmas 2016 came rapidly closing in I recalled that interesting Viking game I had seen at the Renaissance Festival and I thought that it would make a great present for my brother, Jeremy, whose name I'd drawn. I Googled the game and after much procrastinating, one Saturday shortly before Christmas I managed to dangerously rip some 4 x 4's down to what was approximately 7 cm and behold....I'd made my first kubb set! I looked up directions on how to play and in the process of searching online I discovered there was

actually a whole community of folks playing this obscure game and my interest grew!

The first time we played was a couple of weeks later at 2017's New Year's celebration. Another family tradition we have is to crash at my brother Jeremy and his wife Jenni's house to sing, drink, and ring in the New Year! That year we all went out on the slushy, partially frozen driveway and tried out this game called kubb. And wow, we were awful! But man was this game fun...and addicting!

We played only two more times between that January and the 2018 Christmas season. For that year I drew my brother Shane. Shane is really interested in Norse history and mythology so it was a no-brainer that I would be making him a kubb set for Christmas. Using some of the left over wood from Jeremy's set, I went to work. This time, my dimensions were a little closer to an official set, but not quite perfect.

The Six Hour Game

Our next opportunity to play kubb together didn't come until that summer at a family camping trip. Shane brought his new set and we proceeded to play. We hadn't played in so long that I forgot how the inkasting portion worked. We were playing so that regardless of how many field kubbs were cleared, in the next round the team would inkast all the field kubbs again. No

LAKE SUPERIOR KUBB

GROWING KUBB IN THE TWIN PORTS

short porches! Our drilling techniques were lacking and our inkast groups looked more like kubb counties rather than cities. So basically with no short porches, and with re-throwing all of the field kubbs each round, we proceeded with all 10 Kubbs in play and an apparent inability to clear them! We played and played. We took a break, ate supper, and played some more. We literally played this one game for 6 hours before someone finally cleared the field kubbs and slayed a very unimpressed King! After that camping trip, Shane went back and re-read the rules and had discovered that we'd been playing it wrong! He explained the short porch and how the inkasting worked. Oh yeah, that's right...we knew that a couple years before when we played at New Year's but somehow we had forgotten! On the bright side, how many people can say they once played a single kubb game for 6 hours straight?!! (Face-palm).

Team "The Darkness"

Now Shane was definitely hooked! He started doing more research online and discovered that there were tournaments and competitions going on all around us. That fall we decided to start getting together once a week to practice as a team. It would be Shane, his 16 year old son, Jade, and me. We settled on "The Darkness" as a team name. It really was just a joke at first because we were forced to come up with makeshift lighting in Shane's yard in order to play through the winter. Our goal was to register for the 2019 U.S. Nationals as soon as registration was open. We got together pretty faithfully every Monday night after work to play a couple of games together. We soon got wind of a tournament in Ely, MN coming up that February. We signed up and went to our first competitive kubb tournament. This was also the first time we'd ever played with anyone outside of family! It was the 2019 5th Annual Ely Winterfest Kubb Tournament. When we arrived it was literally twenty degrees below zero. Our first match in the round robin portion was against Ben Lancette and Tim Motzko (team: Choke Me Out Elmo). We lost the lag and I think the game lasted less than three rounds. We got smoked! It was a bit jarring. Before we had started we weren't sure how we'd match up against other players...and it wasn't looking too good at that point. But, we recovered our wits and ended up coming on strong in the second half and banked a few wins. It was our initiation into the world of competitive kubb and Shane and I were 100% hooked!

Lake Superior Kubb

Once we were done with Ely we set our sights on practicing for the U.S. Nationals, which were 5 months away. At practice every week we kept discussing our disappointment that there wasn't any kubb happening in our area. After competing in Ely, we weren't going to be satisfied with only playing in one or two tournaments a year.....that simply wasn't going to be enough kubb. Shane brought up the idea of us starting a club to try to get kubb growing in the area. My homemade sets weren't going to cut it for him anymore either, he ordered a JP's Backyard

Games official poplar kubb set and we began to play with that. It wasn't long until we decided to pull the trigger on the club and we got together to hash out the details. We would need a Facebook page, a website, business cards, and flyers....we'd need to get the word out! The website was launched in May 2019. We decided on meeting every other Thursday at parks around town to teach people about the game. We called it "Kubb in the Park" and it immediately went from every other Thursday, to every Thursday. And with that, Lake Superior Kubb was born! "Kubb in the Park" was going great and it would be a rare gathering where we weren't handing out Lake Superior Kubb cards and showing people how to play, as well as making some new friends that kept coming back each week!

2019 U.S. Nationals

Nationals came around before we knew it and 'The Darkness' went with the well wishes of our newfound kubb friends from the Twin Ports. 'The Darkness' had added Shane's wife Jenny, and my wife Stephanie, to the team. We could write a whole article on our experiences at Nationals, but I will just sum it up: We came, we lost, and we lost some more, we won a little, we drank, we laughed, and we had the time of our lives! We stayed out on "Championship Field" until the wee hours playing kubb by the moon light. We didn't want it to end. We were literally the only people left on the field – at least until the gnats arrived! Finally we stuffed everything we had into our little wagon and stumbled our way back to the hotel...which by the good foresight of my wife Stephanie, was only a few blocks away! On Sunday we all stayed and relaxed, baking in the hot sun and watched some of the best players in the world (quite literally). On top of that we got to hang out with our new friends Collin Troy, Nate Tremba, and Matthew Widdows from New Mexico Kubb. We also got an invite from Sean Davaidson to play at his 5th Annual Davidson Courtyard Kubb Classic, which he hosts in Eau Claire every year! He's good friends with a couple of our 'Kubb in the Park' regulars Marc and Dana Ross. Leagues, Tournaments, and a newfound kubb life! (reference pic 5 and 6)

The rest of the summer was busy; we played 'Kubb in the Park' every Thursday and hashed out the details for a fall league. We played at the Chippewa Falls 150th Celebration Kubb Tournament on August 10th and the 5th Annual Davidson Courtyard Kubb Classic on August 24th where we took 2nd Place! We then had our first fall league at the Beacon Sports Bar and Grill in Hermantown (a suburb of Duluth) from August 27th to September 21st. Odin's grace shined down on us as our league promotions caught the attention of local sports newscaster, Chelsie Brown Thayer, with WDIO. She came out to our pre-league 'Learn how to play Kubb Event' on August 20th at the Beacon and filmed a piece on our club and it aired on the local news! In the midst of all that we also hosted a 'Learn to Play Kubb' event at the University of MN Duluth campus as part

LAKE SUPERIOR KUBB

GROWING KUBB IN THE TWIN PORTS



of their “Welcome Week” for new students on August 29th. This was thanks to another ‘Kubb in the Park’ regular, Matthew Duffy. Then, at the suggestion of our new friend Jason Paul Larson, we competed at the 2019 11th Edition Dallas Oktoberfest Kubb Tournament on October 5th. This is a premier 6-players-per-team tournament and ‘The Darkness’ needed a 6th man! We reached out to Marc Ross who, along with Devon Sease (team: ‘Kubbin’ in My Pants’) were the victors of our 1st Annual 2019 LSK Fall League. Marc is a very skilled inkaster, and luckily for us, it didn’t take much convincing. We had an incredible time at Dallas, and ended up taking 1st Place in the Silver Bracket! (The pickles went to Marc – he earned them!)

Lake Superior Kubb Tournament

And that pretty much brings us to the present. At the suggestion of Shane’s wife Jenny, we reached out to the City of Superior, Wisconsin to see about hosting a kubb tournament in conjunction with their Annual Lake Superior Ice Festival. Yet again, Odin’s grace shined down on us because as it turned out, the City of Superior Director of Parks and Rec has her own kubb set and loves the game! She cordially invited us to host our tournament in conjunction with the Ice Festival held on Saturday, January 25th! We are currently sitting on the Planning Committee and hashing out



the details with high hopes for a great turnout despite the frigid January temperatures!

Acknowledgements

We would like to end by acknowledging some of the great people who have supported us in numerous ways in getting this club on its feet:

Thanks Ben Lancette and Tim Motzko for kicking our butts in Ely and motivating us to become better kubb players!

A special thanks to Eric Anderson for all the support and advice you’ve given us, undoubtedly so many pitfalls were avoided thanks to your guidance!

Thanks to Jason Paul Larson of Chaska Kubb for his advice and encouragement – it’s greatly appreciated! And thanks for making the best kubb sets available at JP’s Backyard Games!

Thanks to the fine folks at Kubb Life who helped us hash out the structure and details of our first kubb league.

And finally, thanks to Wisconsin Kubb for giving us a chance to tell our story.





By: Brian Ramsey - Minneapolis, Minnesota

Photos: Ely Kubb

FEATURE: ELY
KUBB IN THE IRON RANGE

Ely is an amazing small town in the Iron Range of northern Minnesota. It is mainly known as the gateway for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, during the warmer months. In early February the town celebrates Winter Festival with cold weather activities; snow sculpting, cross country skiing, fat tire bike rides, kick sleds, sled dogs, snowshoeing and a kubb tournament. A small park off of the main street in the town serves as the hub for all of the activities. The Ely Kubb tournament finished it's sixth year, and is a staple to the Winter Festival activities. It was first started by Dave Wigdahl and Matt Wigdahl, Menominee United, and has grown over the years. It is a relatively small tournament anywhere from 12 to 16 teams competing. One of the signature things about the tournament is the swag bags given to all participants. The swag bag is filled with goods from local vendors.

For NE Minneapolis kubb players, Ely Kubb was our gateway to the kubb community. Through social media I heard from my childhood friend, Matt Wigdahl that there was an interesting yard game called kubb. I gathered a group of friends and we went up to Ely with no expectations, we didn't even know the rules. The first thing that hooked us to the game was the people, everyone was incredibly polite to our newbie group and taught us tips and tricks of the game. Currently we help Dave Wigdahl run the Ely Kubb tournament, with much help from family and friends. It is true Kubb Unites People, we have met so many incredible people over the past six years and look forward to many more.

More information can be found at elywinterfestival.com and ely-kubb.com.





FEATURE: ELY
KUBB IN THE IRON RANGE

Exclusive: The Drill Part 3

The Timeline Of The Throw That Changed The Sport

By: Terry Ekelöf – Stockholm, Sweden



Photo: Terry Ekelöf and Team Ekeby in 1999. This is one of the oldest known photos of kubb. (Ekelöf)

To put the drill technique's significance into context we need to explain how kubb was played in the late nineties and early twenties. Almost no players were excellent at full length throws and because of that the most important objective in kubb was to prevent the opponent to move forward. In other words to be persistent in knocking down all short placed kubbs. Therefore myself and my Team Ekeby members Tord and Torgny Alhgren started experimenting with the drill technique in 1997. At first in his parents damp backyard. I think that the fact that it was damp was important because, as everyone who have learned how to master the drill technique knows, it takes a while to learn and a lot of practice to perfect and since it is a lot easier in damp lawns we were somewhat successful in our experimenting. At least at those conditions. At that point no other players was using the drill technique and just like Dick Fosbury (Fosbury flop in high jump) or Bill Koch (invented skating in cross country skiing) did not know what impact they would have on how their sports we would never have guessed that every kubb player in the world would use the drill technique twenty years later.

We never called it the drill technique. Translated we called it the screw technique..Skruvinkast.

In the World Championship, teams are allowed to let one specific player do all the throw ins we could make our throw ins a little better than all our opponents from 1997 and a few years forward. However more and more compatible teams learned how to master the drill technique and several teams even outperformed us on it which pushed us to take the next two steps in the drill technique. In the beginning we, and all following teams, were throwing in the kubbs in the center

because it is easier to stay on the pitch that way. The first thing we started to practice was to place the throw ins as close to the sideline as possible forcing the opponents to raise the kubbs in a more favorable way. That was in the year 2000. Even that is common today.

The second thing we practiced starting in around 2000 was drilling some kubbs as far back in the field as possible. By putting a few in the front (the amount we were pretty sure we could knock down) and the rest in the back we could make sure our opponents never could walk forward and the only thing we needed to do was to wait for the opponents to let us move forward and then finish the game. Throwing them back was an option we practiced but almost never got to use because back then it was not very common that more kubbs were in play than we thought we could knock down, but I have some memorable moments when it was the dealbreaker.

Due to the extreme rise of hit percentage at full length (and of course even at short length) that strategy has become quite obsolete nowadays. Today there are a couple of sub techniques of drilling such as angling the kubbs making them jump sideways building a wall to roll them against or low energy more precise throw ins. I do not know which is the best. Probably the best thing is to master all sub techniques to be able to throw in at all scenarios.

Foot note: We never called it the drill technique. Translated we called it the screw technique..Skruvinkast.

PLAYING KUBB AROUND THE WORLD

A Visit To A YMCA In Sri Lanka



By: Peter Bergendahl - Stockholm, Sweden

Photos: Peter Bergendahl

In January 2019 me and my wife Gunilla ("Nilla") was about to visit Sri Lanka for a couple of weeks to travel around the country. When we where planning the trip I recalled something I earlier had read in Kubbnation Magazine, that a local YMCA was one of the recipients of a kubb set in 2015 thru the "Steve Anderson Kubb SetProgram" by the U.S. National Kubb Championship and JP's Backyard Games. Sri Lanka is, as neighboring India, a mostly Hindu country but has a Muslim and a Christian population minority population as well. I started to look for the YMCA in Sri Lanka and realized that we had to sort out wich of the 38 (!) YMCA's it was. We soon found the one we were looking for and I sent them an e-mail to see if they still played kubb or if it had been forgotten. A swift answer from their President, Mr. Ridma Fonseka, let us know that it was very popular among the kids and a couple of the leaders also threw a couple of batons now and then. Checking the location on a map was the next step and we found it just a few miles off of our planned rout the last day before leaving Sri Lanka!

We were more than welcome to stop by and our trip plan was rescheduled, our driver informed and we suddenly had one

more fun thing to look forward to while we travelled around Sri Lanka! At every stop we played kubb in the evenings as we had a set with us, including a foldable plastic travel king (see pictures). The day came and we were up early as we had almost 200km to go to Pamunugama. We arrived before lunch and they had a tasty meal ready for us! We were overwhelmed by the hospitality. After a quick meal we went out in the backyard were some 20-25 kid was playing already. I was asked to inform them about competitive kubb and the VM rules, a good thing as they were used to play with "Garden rules" like picking out field kubbs as they were toppled, stacking etc.

First we played a short match, 2 vs 2, with Ridma and the most experienced leader to show the application of the competitive rules and the kids sat concentrated and watched and commented on inkasting, angles, rotation etc. as we played

A swift answer from their President, Mr. Ridma Fonseka, let us know that it was very popular among the kids and a couple of the leaders also threw a couple of batons now and then.

PLAYING KUBB AROUND THE WORLD

A Visit To A YMCA In Sri Lanka



PLAYING KUBB AROUND THE WORLD

A Visit To A YMCA In Sri Lanka

along. After this match we played a series of games together with the kids 6 vs 6. When I and Nilla couldn't take any more sun the kids kept on playing enthusiastically!

Beside the rules regarding kubbs being inkasted again and again instead of being taken out of play, the inkast itself was the thing

Early next morning we flew back home to the winter in Sweden, but our minds stayed in Pamunugama...

getting the biggest attention. Realizing the importance of the inkast, the kids and the leaders started to practice drilling kubbs right away.

When we left we donated the kubb set we brought with us so they would have two and we also was presented with a wonderful gift in the form of a couple of tea mugs with printing

in memory of our visit to Pamunugama YMCA! Early next morning we flew back home to the winter in Sweden, but our minds stayed in Pamunugama...

Since then we have stayed in contact with Ridma and have been happy to see that kubb has been developing since our stay, they have started to produce their own sets testing out different kinds of local wood qualities and they have started to introduce nearby YMCA's by having small tournaments to get them going. They have also been playing kubb with domestic and foreign visitors, among them some other Europeans, Germans for example. When will the first Sri Lankesian team show up at World's in Rone? Time will tell!

Kubb unites people and creates peace on Earth!





By: Jeanne Walker and Stephanie Taylor, Eau Claire, WI

Photos: Jeanne Walker and Stephanie Taylor

PITCH, PLEASE!!

HOW A BLOCK IN EAU CLAIRE FELL IN LOVE WITH KUBB

Pitch, please!!

My family and I moved to the Westside neighborhood of Eau Claire back in 2010 and it didn't take us long to appreciate the gem of a city we had stumbled upon. Neighbors were quick to welcome us, leading to summer bonfires and outdoor movie nights and yards full of kids (and kids at heart) getting the best out of our beautiful summers.

My husband, Chad and I, quickly became great friends with the neighbors, Scott and Steph. We have kids the same age and let's just be honest, we are genuinely super fun people! This led to Steph and I putting together a neighborhood block party through the City of Eau Claire. We set up a big tent, filled it with all the Wisconsin staple foods and roamed the street catching up with people we knew and meeting the ones we had not yet. Steph had arranged for Eric Anderson from the U.S. National Kubb Championship to come show us all how to play kubb (what's kubb?), so we gathered around him in her front yard and he gave us the rundown.

To say we were enamored, would be an understatement. Steph and Scott bought a set, we bought a set, and neighbors bought sets. We tried to make it a weekly thing – grab a drink and a lawn chair – who's yard is it tonight? It really brought us together as a neighborhood. The beauty of kubb is that anyone can play – no matter your age! A game of kubb in the front yard means an open invite to stop over, young and old and either play





PITCH, PLEASE!!

HOW A BLOCK IN EAU-CLAIRE FELL IN LOVE WITH KUBB

PITCH, PLEASE!!

HOW A BLOCK IN EAU CLAIRE FELL IN LOVE WITH KUBB



or just enjoy the entertainment!

We quickly learned of Nationals and knew it was something we had to be a part of. Steph, Scott and I formed a team and signed up. We practiced a lot (and I mean A LOT) and were ready to rock with the day came.

I was not aware of the magnitude of such an event. Tent after tent lined a beautifully manicured field with more pitches set up than I had ever imagined. Families were set up with their kids and pets. Friends drinking craft beers, co-workers flying their team flags, come one, come all! Feeling nervous, we started to warm up, eyeing up the competition. Yup...we were in over our heads. Like, waaay over our heads. The skills we had developed in our yards were a drop in the barrel compared to some of what we saw. The intimidation must have been showing on our faces when Gina Keenan from Team Kubboom came over and introduced herself to us. She was beyond friendly and while she and her team displayed next-level skill, she reassured us to just do our best, keep to it and most importantly, have fun.

I don't remember how many wins/losses we had that day, but I will never forget thinking that these are the coolest, kindest people with a sense of sportsmanship I could not believe. Everyone welcomed us, genuinely happy to have newcomers and even offered us tips and advice on how to up our game. They cheered us on when we were successful and commended our efforts when we were not. We left Nationals that first year with a buzz, a sunburn and an excitement to take what we had learned and improve our game!

We continued to play,

making kubb into a regular night activity. We found tournaments around the area to participate in and soon found the faces to be more and more familiar. The kindness and overall amazing sportsmanship never faded. We found ourselves meeting more and more people not just from Eau Claire, but also from other towns, states and even countries.

We participated in Nationals once again this past summer as the Kubb Ticklers, feeling better with a sense of familiarity. Our proudest moment was our 11 year-old daughters competing in the 6th U.S. Junior Kubb Championship and taking home second place! Yeah Kubbeans!

We then joined the fall league hosted by the Eau Claire Kubb League. If you have never been to Wisconsin in the fall, I highly recommend it! While beautiful, it is unpredictable. We went from league afternoons with people in their cut-off jean shorts to parkas the next. It was yet another experience of great Kubb and making new friends (shout out to the Ice Kubbs!).

Kubb has made us grateful for neighbors, friends, flat yards and a wonderful community. Bring on Nationals 2020!





*By: Christopher Storm, Kotten, Germany
Henrik Menger, Berlin, Germany
Matthes Wiechmann, Dresden, Germany*

A TOURNAMENT IN THE SPIRIT OF KUBB

THE JOURNEY OF KUBBFREUNDE DURSTIGES HOLZ BERLIN E.V.

Photos: Kubbfreunde Durstiges Holz Berlin e.V

Throwback: Saxony and Berlin, June 2013

The Elbe river and its tributaries flooded many cities and boroughs, including my hometown, after about ten days of constant rains. Thousands of volunteers from the fire department, emergency services and Bundeswehr units as well as countless local residents fought against the floods in the following days. Meanwhile, I was in Berlin – learning for my studies and playing Kubb with my friends in the park every little while without getting our feet wet. We were enjoying life with jolly weather and cool drinks. For getting socially involved – mounting something to help others – I did not have the scope of mind, not yet. Until that incident mentioned above.

Thanks to social networks I suddenly found myself in the middle of it. Many friends at home posted reports, photos, and manned up to make good the damage. Hereby they showed the world how bad the floods had hit my home. It made me realize the feel-good bubble I was living in – with all my basically small problems compared to losing ones assets or getting seriously harmed. After a brief consideration with Heiko, Roman and Christian it was clear to us that we wanted to do something. In far-off Berlin, of course, a direct tackling of the matter was difficult. Therefore, we chose the path, which – performed properly – achieves a lot: Collecting money.

Kubb was just in the center of our leisure activities and bit by bit we were discovering the German variety of tournaments. So it was not far-fetched that we decided to organize a tournament ourselves. The benefit tournament was born and the donation object was found easily: Supporting the flood victims in my home.

Full of euphoria to finally organize a tournament, which is





A TOURNAMENT IN THE SPIRIT OF KUBB

THE JOURNEY OF KUBBFREUNDE DURSTIGES HOLZ BERLIN E.V.

clearly different from the other tournaments due to its charity character, we started with littlest resources and the utmost effort. When the time had come, twelve teams were on site. There were homemade cakes, four beer cases, an honesty box and – last but not least - lots of Kubb. Because that is what we are all about. Getting together, playing Kubb, being happy, good times. Counting about 400 € in the end of the day we were pretty amazed and proud. A truly compelling case:

“This is just our cup of tea. Our tournament. Exactly what we want to stand for in the Kubb Universe.”

As part of the organization of the follow-up tournament, we soon reached the legal limits trying to become bigger, better and more professional. Retrospectively I just realize that this natural catastrophe was the trigger for the existence of the Kubb club Kubbfreunde Durstiges Holz Berlin e.V.. We founded it in order to overcome the legal hurdles organizing further Kubb tournaments for a good cause in the future.

The benefit tournament in Berlin has been firmly fixed in the German tournament calendar since 2013 and enjoys an exceptional standing. For one thing has remained the same throughout the years: The entire avails of the tournament are donated.

It represents the official season opening of the German Kubb Federation. In the past few years, the field of participants has grown up to 46 teams before leveling out at about 25-35 teams for years. We are very honored that many kubbers from other countries visit our tournament and purposely choose our in order to support social projects by participating. We have been welcoming Kubb friends from Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden and Germany for several years now. Time and again it is splendid to see how all kubbers yearn for summer in April and every ray of sunshine is used to finally play Kubb after the long winter again.

Many fancied World Championship teams have their season debuts at our event. They make both having a great time in Berlin and at the tournament a priority in their individual Kubb schedules which often results in high-end performances at the pitch. So we already witnessed final pairings at our place which also became final pairings at the World Championship.

The benefit tournament has not lost any of its original appeal despite the ongoing professionalization of the top teams. All teams are always welcome, whether you're a beginner, a casual player or an alleged professional. Kubb slightly fades from the spotlight at our tournament and becomes the means to an end: getting together, doing good and helping others who are not as well off as us kubbers.

Meanwhile the decision which project to donate to has evolved into one of the most difficult questions for we feel the responsibility to do right. The donee is voted by our club members democratically - each member can bring in suggestions regarding organizations or associations worthy of support. We give the entire proceeds to one of the proposed institutions. In recent years we have been able to donate four-digit amounts each to a multifarious mix of them: a children's hospice, a social project to help homeless people, an association for the integration of refugees into our society and an institution working with children and young people who have become victims of sexual violence.

The organization has become much more complex than in the early days in 2013. Nowadays we deal with an increased entitlement mentality among both our guests and ourselves. We care about providing decent kubb sets as well as suitable time plans and tournament systems. This clearly differs from the more or less charming organization of our maiden flight. The entire tournament site is set up on the day of the tournament

A TOURNAMENT IN THE SPIRIT OF KUBB

THE JOURNEY OF KUBBFREUNDE DURSTIGES HOLZ BERLIN E.V.

and then dismantled again. After countless strains in the past we rejoice having found a permanent partner with Füchse Berlin e.V. - now we enjoy reliable green spaces.

The whole club life, the tournaments and the friendships that have grown over the years make us very proud and impel us to stick to our tournament in the future.

It is all worth it, even having lost parts of its initial romanticism. Ultimately, such an endeavor depends on the active support of club members and friends. I have to mention that it is a wonderful feeling to see how others bring your former vision to fruition. This starts with baking cake and continues with staking out the pitches, taking care of the tombola and side games and ends with cleaning up the whole mess in the late evening. It's great to see what you can achieve as a group.

Present: Berlin, November 2019

The tournament planning has already started and the registration is declared open. Thoughts revolve around possible

improvements and ways to gain higher donations. A sense of tension with growing panic that everything will work out at the tournament day is palpable.

Our Kubb club, consisting of 35 members, continues to be one of the biggest ones in Germany. The circumstances for all of us have been changing during the years and still are. Studies were finished, knots tied and children born. Personally, I was drawn back home to the country. Kubb slenderly recedes and priorities have shifted. Perceiving this occasionally throws me a curve ball. But then watching at the commitment of our lately elected board and all the active members warms my heart marvelously.

The whole club life, the tournaments and the friendships that have grown over the years make us very proud and impel us to stick to our tournament in the future.

For at the end of the day it's all about getting together, playing kubb and being happy.



By: George Sloan - Batavia, IL



Photos: Energy City Kubb

ENERGY CITY KUBB

The Birth Of Organized Kubb In The Chicago Suburbs

Last Labor Day weekend, 50 participants from across the Midwest gathered in Batavia, Illinois, for the inaugural Illinois Kubb Championship. It's hard to believe that just one year earlier, the sport was virtually unknown in the suburban Chicago town.

In mid-2018, I came across an article about the U.S. National Kubb Championship in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Intrigued, I watched several kubb videos on YouTube and then shared the videos with a group of buddies in my hometown, Batavia. Eager to try the sport, we decided to make our own set and started playing.

This group of friends formed the core of six that would move kubb forward in the Chicago suburbs. After playing with rudimentary handmade sets all summer and into the winter months, we decided on the name Energy City Kubb (ECK), created a Facebook group, and got on the official KUBBon.com map. Around the same time, we contacted kubb organizers Evan Fitzgerald and Eric Anderson to get their advice on growing our club. ECK also applied and was awarded a regulation kubb set from the Steve Anderson Kubb Set Program.

In February 2019, I traveled to "Kubb on the Pond" tournament in Erin, Wisconsin, organized by Steve and Christine McDiarmid. Though the wintry weather kept several players away, and I got stuck in the parking area, I enjoyed an afternoon playing kubb and hanging out around a bonfire with a dozen folks who couldn't have been more welcoming to a novice from out of town.

In the spring of 2019, ECK decided to make regulation tournament kubb sets, which they sold some to generate seed money for their new group. They also approached their local Moose Club and got approval to start a weekly kubb league on Tuesday nights. One of the early highlights for the ECK league was when Evan and his wife, Michelle, visited and shared their expertise. As the league continued through the summer, participation grew to include more than 20 people and eight different teams. ECK also participated in a few out-of-town kubb tournaments.

The tournament exceeded everyone's expectations, with more than 50 participants from four states that competed to win one of the amazing hand-made trophies and cash prizes.

2019 ILLINOIS KUBB TOURNAMENT AUGUST 31



ENERGY CITY KUBB

The Birth Of Organized Kubb In The Chicago Suburbs

During the summer, Evan and Dave Giese approached ECK to see if they would like to host the first Illinois Kubb Championship over Labor Day weekend. Although the group felt unprepared to pull off such a big event, they agreed. Support from the Batavia Park District, who worked tirelessly to get the fields ready, helped make the event a success. Energy City Brewing in Batavia also set the stage for the weekend with a Friday night social.

Parks and Recreation Conference in Chicago during January, and ECK plans to attend the U.S. National Kubb Championship on July 11, 2020. And, we are already planning for the second-annual Illinois State Kubb Championship next Labor Day weekend.

If you would like to learn more about this great kubb group in the Chicago suburbs, join the Energy City Kubb Facebook group.

And, we are already planning for the second-annual Illinois State Kubb Championship next Labor Day weekend.

See you on the pitches.....

The tournament exceeded everyone’s expectations, with more than 50 participants from four states that competed to win one of the amazing hand-made trophies and cash prizes. Funds raised during the tournament allowed ECK to donate more than \$500 to various non-profit organizations in Batavia, including one that benefits homeless students and an animal rescue group.

After the league concluded for the year in late October, ECK continued to play in casual kubb gatherings and began planning for 2020.

In the upcoming year, I will present a talk on kubb to the Illinois





Game #3: Heremans 1: Oman 1

Photos - Robert Hickey and John Oman

VIRTUAL KUBB

CONNECTING THE KUBB COMMUNITY

*By: Robert Hickey - Morgantown, Pennsylvania
John Oman - Chaska, Minnesota*

The kubb community of the world has become more and more connected in recent years. Social media has its presence in our sport. Players from North America, Europe, and Down Under are becoming more aware of each other's presence as Facebook suggests new virtual friendships. Tournament promoting, club meet ups, online kubb magazines, and now virtual kubb are a few ways that Facebook has been utilized. Virtual kubb sounds complicated but can actually be quite simple. All you need is a kubb set to use, a place to play, and Facebook Messenger to communicate with.

move along quicker than if played in person. While one player waits for the opponent to text them their results for that turn, they can be drilling the number of kubbs in play at their own location. This communication goes on until one player states that the "King is down".

The Chaska Kubb club of Minnesota (USA) has been using Facebook Messenger to play virtual 1v1 matches between its players since 2015. Chaska Kubb did not invent this form of kubb but only innovated it. They first heard about it in 2014 when Robert Harnack of Rostock, Germany played an international match with Grant Scott of Des Moines, Iowa, USA. These two players utilized mobile devices and FaceTime so that they could see each other play. Chaska's players are spread out around Minnesota and Wisconsin so they started using this same form in order to get more practice time in without having to drive long distances. The process was eventually streamlined down to texting because it kept the matches moving along quicker. It did not take long for the players to trust each other's judgement when raising kubbs defensively for their opponent and playing fairly. Trust is an absolute in this game.

Both players agree on a time and day to play. Kubb sets are set up at their own locations. A king toss is performed and a photo is taken to show how close the baton is to the king. Once it is determined who throws first using the two photos, the game begins. In the most basic form of virtual kubb, the only communication needed for the rest of the match is to text the number of baseline kubbs (+1, +2, +3, +4, +5) taken on each turn. If an advantage line is left, the player would text how many kubbs are left and how close the nearest one is to the midline (1/2 meter, 1 meters, etc). It is not necessary to state anything about field kubbs. The game can

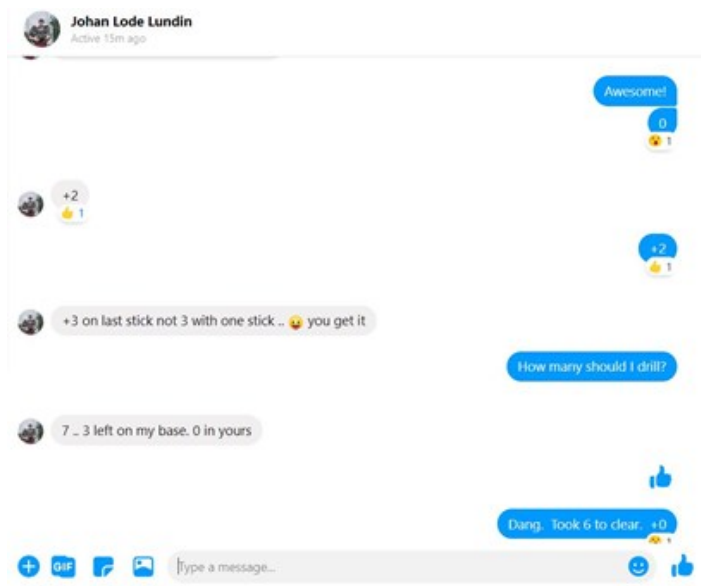


VIRTUAL KUBB

CONNECTING THE KUBB COMMUNITY

Chaska Intramural Pilot Test League

In the winter of 2018-19, John Oman organized a pilot version of an organized 8-player virtual league. The goal was to see if this format could work with many people involved. It only included Chaska Kubb members and Phil Dickinson of Michigan. Phil played on Chaska's team that went to the world championship that previous year and this is how he trained with them. With the help of Matt Braa and Ford Rolfsrud, a Google spreadsheet was created. It served as a live document for results and scheduling seven weekly matches. A tournament bracket was drawn up, seeded and played after league play. Phil Dickinson was the champion of this inaugural league. The feedback was all positive from this pilot test league which lead John to believe that something bigger could happen.



Virtual World Kubb League

In the spring of 2019, the league was opened up to 32 players from around the world. Six Europeans and 26 Americans were registered. Four groups of eight players were formed. Each player would play everyone in their group. The top two were then placed in the championship, the next two in silver, bronze and consolation brackets. Mark Oman of Amery, WI USA went on to defeat Kim Heremans 3-1 of Westerlo, Belgium in the finals.

The league reformed in the fall of 2019. John Oman defeated

Johan Lode Lundin in the finals. Lode played from the island of Gotland in Sweden. The winter of 2019-20 will see a small group of 8 players again. This round will only include Americans as limited daylight and time differences become too difficult to play international matches.

2020 World 1v1 at US Nationals Tournament

The spring Virtual World Kubb League final results were used for seeding the 2019 World 1v1 tournament held on Friday afternoon of the US Nationals tournament in Eau Claire, WI. The 2020 1v1 at US Nationals live tournament will be seeded again from the spring virtual league. Players looking to play in the virtual league in the future should contact John Oman on Facebook by March each year. The spring league runs from late April through late June.

Player Information			
*Ford Rolfsrud	Shakopee, MN USA	*Phil Goetstouwers	Lamberton, MN USA
Aaron Bauer	Sioux Falls, SD USA	Gert Verhaegen	Baal, Brabant, Belgium
Chris Jones	Minneapolis, MN USA	Paul Knutson	Chaska, MN USA
J.R. Hrejsa	Gaylord, MI USA	Steve Dolan	Minneapolis, MN USA
Peter Bergendahl	Stockholm, Sweden	Ethan Forney	Winston-Salem, NC USA
Mark Oman	Amery, WI USA	Chris Hodges	Des Moines, IA USA
Eric Goplin	Minneapolis, MN USA	Jesse Fraim	Kalamazoo, MI USA
Marc Binder	Baldingen, Switzerland	Brian Evans	Eau Claire, WI USA
*Matt Braa	Chaska, MN USA	*John Oman	Chaska, MN USA
Jan Danckaerts	Heist-op-den-Berg, Belgium	Kim Heremans	Westerlo, Belgium
Cody Glorioso	Hartford, WI USA	Kyle Weakland	Norfolk, Virginia USA
Brian Winistorfer	Eau Claire, WI USA	Matt Erdman	Norwood, MN USA
Demian Moore	St Paul, MN USA	Brian Ramsay	Minneapolis, MN USA
Phil Dickinson	Alanson, MI USA	Jan Boogemans	Heist-op-den-Berg, Belgium
Bryan Jones	Monroe, MI USA	Emily Jipp	Minneapolis, MN USA
Lars Ameson	Madison, WI USA	Mike Davids	Charlotte, NC USA

Keystone Kubb Virtual Kubb League

The Keystone Kubb Virtual Kubb League started in the Spring of 2019 when Pennsylvania Kubb enthusiast Dave Cantwell reached out to Keystone Kubb about forming a VKL. Dave was working on a web application to handle in match communication and to track player stats in real time but Dave and his teammate Mike Horengic didn't get into the Chaska spring league in time. In a matter of a couple of weeks, the Keystone Kubb VKL and kubbtracker.com were born.

Keystone Kubb's VKLs differ slightly from the Chaska World Leagues in that they are only open to players residing in the United States for match scheduling purposes. Also, the league consists of 6 weeks of best of 3 game qualification matches



Wisconsin Kubb

Home of:

Dallas, WI Oktoberfest Tournament

Kubbnation Magazine

Inkasting tips and techniques, and more.

wisconsinkubb.com



VIRTUAL KUBB

CONNECTING THE KUBB COMMUNITY

which are used to seed the single elimination brackets. Only the top 4 places are played out so the league lasts a maximum of 10 weeks for those players advancing to the tournament semifinals. All in match communication is done using kubbtracker.com rather than on Facebook Messenger.

Kubbtracker.com allows each player to input data about each turn and also gives each player a clear picture of the state of each game by showing them how many Kubbs are in play, how many batons are to be thrown, and if an advantage lines exists. Kubbtracker.com also gives real time stats as the match is in progress and notifies the player when it's their turn. Currently only 8m percentage is available for player stats but Dave is planning on expanding the stats to include 4m efficiency, King lag win percentage, penalty kubb percentage and more, Players can also review their previous matches on kubbtracker.com and see a turn by turn break down of each game.

The screenshot displays the KubbTracker.com interface with the following data:

- Penalty Kubbs:** 0
- Field Kubbs Left:** 0
- Advantage Line Given (feet from King):** None
- Advantage Line Throws:** 0
- BL Kubbs Hit:** 0
- King Shots (Over All Turns):** 0
- Game Status:** Base Kubb Double, Game Finished?, King hit?, King Early? (all unchecked)
- Buttons:** Enter Turn, Cancel Last Turn
- Current Turn:** Jake Leavitt's Turn #3, 1 Kubbs - 4 Kubbs, 1 VS 1
- Current Turn Stats:** Batons Available: 6, Kubbs to Inkast: 4, Field Kubbs: 5, Advantage Line: 3 FEET FROM THE KING
- Match Note:** Bob Hickes - 1 Field Kubb(s) were left on the field giving an Advantage Line 3 feet from the King. The Match is tied 0 to 0.
- Player Profile (Jake Leavitt):** Match Record: 3 - 2
- 8 Meters Stats:** Throws: 4 of 7, Accuracy: 57%
- Errors:** Penalties: 0, Advantages: 0

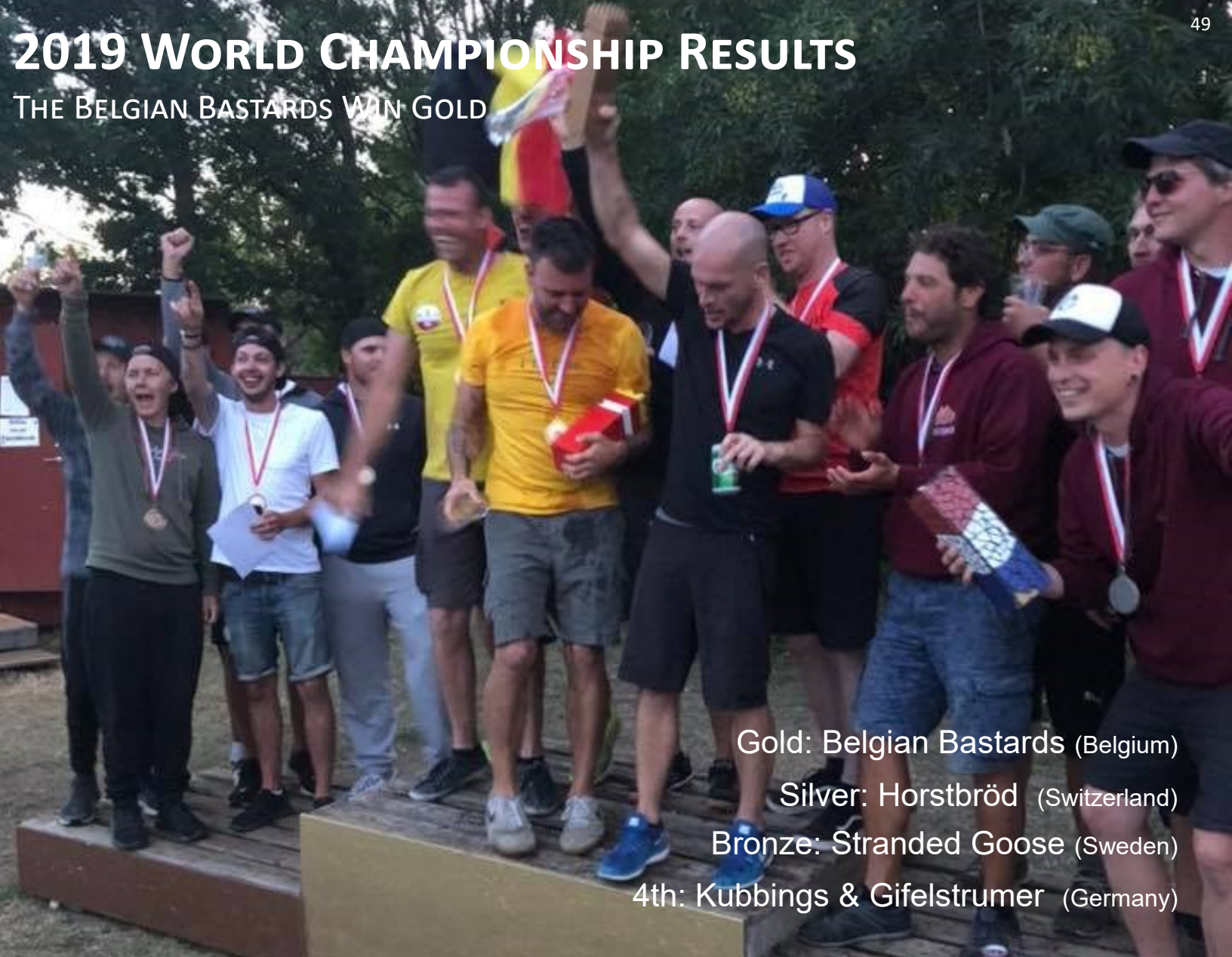
The 2019 Keystone Kubb Spring VKL started in April and ran until mid June. The Spring league consisted of 12 players in which Kyle Weakland defeated Grant Scott for the title. The Fall VKL expanded to 14 players and ran from September until early November. Emily O'Sullivan defeated Evan Fitzgerald to take the Fall VKL title.

Check out keystonekubb.com/leagues.html for all the details on upcoming virtual kubb leagues. Registration starts for the 2020 Spring VKL in March.

The kubb community of the world has become more and more connected in recent years. Social media has its presence in our sport.

2019 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

THE BELGIAN BASTARDS WIN GOLD



- Gold: Belgian Bastards (Belgium)
- Silver: Horstbröd (Switzerland)
- Bronze: Stranded Goose (Sweden)
- 4th: Kubblings & Gifelstrumer (Germany)

UMGÅS

Swedish, verb

1. to socialize. to spend time together.

Experience umgås for yourself in Eau Claire.



VISIT EAU CLAIRE

visiteauclaire.com

TRAVEL
WISCONSIN
.COM

2019 U.S. NATIONAL KUBB CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

2, 4, 6 MAFIA WINS GOLD



Championship



Silver

Bronze

U.S. Championship Bracket Results

Gold: 2, 4, 6 Mafia (Eau Claire, WI, Des Moines, IA)

Silver: Skol (S. Beloit, IL, Elberon, IA, Shakopee, MN)

Bronze: Chaska Blue (Chaska, Eden Prairie, St. Louis Park, MN)

4th: Kubbitz (Eau Claire, WI)

Bästa Inkastare: Gregg Jochimsen (Eau Claire, WI)

Semifinals

2, 4, 6 Mafia 2-0

Kubbitz

Skol 2-1

Chaska Blue

Final

2, 4, 6 Mafia 2-0

Skol

3rd Place

Chaska Blue 1-0

Kubbitz



Best of the Bigs

Silver Bracket Results

Gold: The Super Magical-Saurus-Giggle-Gigit Pickle Eating Machine (Eau Claire, WI/Minneapolis, MN)

Silver: The Kubbing Projekt (Eau Claire, WI)

Bronze: Ragnarok (Madison, Stoughton, Windsor, WI)

4th: Corey's Fire Crotch (Eau Claire, PDC, WI/Rochester, NY/Minneapolis, MN)

Bronze Bracket Results

Gold: Great Shape Fellas (Minneapolis, MN/Cumberland, WI)

Silver: Strawberry Khubarb Pie (Eau Claire, WI)

Bronze: The Big Kubbowski (Eau Claire, WI)

4th: Fyre Drill (Nashville, TN)

Best of the Bigs

Champion - Red Head Sched (Minneapolis, MN)

Kid Kubb (U.S. Junior Championship)

Champion - Math Masters **3rd -** The Heat

2nd - Kubbeans **4th -** Teenage Mutant Ninja Kubbers



2019 Results



Chaska Blue: L to R: Jason Larson, Tyler Patterson, Matt Braa

2019 Top 5 Results:

Chaska Blue (488)

Chaska Red (400)

Drill Pickles (378)

Kubbstaches (355)

Kubbitz (282)



U.S. TEAM CUP

CHASKA BLUE WINS 2019 TITLE. BRAA AND PATTERSON REPEAT



KUBBNATION MAGAZINE PRESENTS: DALLAS, WI OKTOBERFEST KUBB TOURNAMENT OCTOBER 3RD

- THE ONLY 6-PERSON TEAM TOURNAMENT IN U.S. -
music, brats, homemade lefse, chili, food trucks,
Valkyrie beer, cannon blasts, and more.

24 TEAM LIMIT - MORE INFO: WISCONSINKUBB.COM
REGISTRATION OPENS JUNE 01

12th Edition