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VOLUME 4

Kubbnation™

the magazine for the game of kubb



- PLUS -

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New Clubs, Player Cards, and more

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Kid Edition

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











Top: The Des Moines Kubb 2013 Kick-Off Event (Melissa Walker).

Above: The five cover photos. Top left-clockwise:
Global: Kubbsicles in the 2013 U.S. Championship Final (Willis Sullivan)
Iowa, USA: Team Knockerheads in the semifinal match at the 2013 U.S. Championship (Willis Sullivan)
Minnesota, USA: King Pin advances to the 2013 Final (Eric Anderson)
Kid: Kubbarate at the Des Moines Fall Klassic (Blind Photography)
Europe: Kubb'Ings win 2013 World Championship (Samuel Hufschmid)

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Eric Anderson
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Contact information:
Eric Anderson
715.830.0122
wisconsinkubb [at] gmail.com

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Det Första Kastet

A Look Back and Kicking Things Off



It was August 2011. I had just returned from the 2011 World Championship. After experiencing six-person kubb, I felt like I needed to do two things. One thing was to find a way to have a six-person tournament here in the U.S. Second, and more important, we needed to have the U.S. Championship change from minimum two-person teams to minimum three-person teams.

Experiencing six-person teams really left an imprint on me. The teamwork, the energy, the passion, I loved it all. There was no way we could change the U.S. Championship to six-person teams, but three-person teams seemed like a logical step, and I felt strongly about it. I talked to people about it, and there was a wide range of reaction. Some thought it would be a good idea, but most were lukewarm, didn't like it, or thought if we did do it, we should give people one more year with minimum two-person teams, then implement minimum three-person teams in 2013, so in effect wait over 20 months.

I really wanted to start it in 2012, but was fifty-fifty between starting it in 2012 or 2013. Then I called my dad. When I had things to ask him or needed advice, it seems the discussion would start off about the weather, gardening, cooking, the Miami Dolphins, or something else. Then I would ask the question that I needed help with. "Hey dad. I have a question for you. What do you think about ……". I remember asking him about things ranging from freezers ("get an upright"), buying a car ("pay yourself back, not the bank") or house ("remember, don't get locked into someplace…always keep the backdoor open") , to kubb. Well, I asked him to talk me out of starting three-person teams in 2012, as opposed to 2013. His response, "Do it. What are people going to do? Not come?" In 2012, with three-person teams, we had 260 players. Yes, an increase of 76 players, or 41 percent.

He brought up the idea of doing a kubb set review, just like his car magazines reviewed cars and parts (it took me a couple years to do that). See, he thought *Kubbnation Magazine* could be a magazine for the kubb industry. It is taking time, as things do when they happen once a year, but perhaps it is moving in that direction. He would often tell me to get hotels in Des Moines, IA to put ads in the magazine, since they had a big and growing tournament. You are going to read about Shirley Malm in this magazine. Where did that idea come from? Yes, after seeing the trophies this year at the U.S. Championship, the idea came from my dad. And there are many more examples.

September 2008. Duluth, MN. My first tournament as a player, as there were only two U.S. tournaments in 2008. We were playing in the quarterfinals. I was nervous. I don't remember what my dad exactly said, but it brewed confidence and the will to win. My nerves disappeared, and I have never had nerves like that again on the pitch. As a volunteer…irreplaceable in Eau Claire and Rockford, bad back and all. My dad died October 11th. Looking forward, for me, kubb will no longer be the same and many places I look, I will see something he influenced, even just a little. Thank you Steve Anderson. Thank you dad.

————

I hope you like this Kubbnation Magazine. The idea for multiple covers this year came in October. If fantasy football magazines have multiple covers, why not kubb? With the *Game On.* cover, there are lots of men on the front, but inside you are going to see many women with important roles. Tournament directors, players, sponsors, photographers, artists, and a whole lot of young girls are learning the game.

I was curious about many things in the interview with Bibbi and Towe, but one of the biggest was if they thought of themselves as a tournament director that plays kubb or a kubb player that directs a tournament. I thought about how I would answer that question, and it was tournament director that plays kubb. I tried to steer back the other way, but it did not work. So, with the thought of all the additional ideas we have for 2014, I am going to focus on being a director and promoting kubb as much as I can. You cannot have years two, three, and beyond without a first year. 2014 will be Year 1 for a lot of things.





Saturday at the 2013 U.S. National Kubb Championship (U.S. Championship)

By: U.S. National Kubb Championship - Eau Claire, Wisconsin

U.S. National Kubb Championship

2013 National Champion - Kubbsicles

The 2013 U.S. Championship started with a sprinkle of rain and a possible storm racing towards the Kubb Capital of North America. The rain started during set-up, but by 8am, the rain was gone and there were welcoming clouds waiting for the players. Luckily, no storm came.

On Saturday, it was warm, but not as hot as previous years. The heat came on Sunday as the sun beat down on the eight teams that advanced to the quarterfinals. Saturday started with the team captain meeting, passing out more five-year buttons, singing happy birthday to Cole from Tad Kubbler and Cecilia, daughter of the two organizers, and both the Swedish and American national anthems. As is with any tournament, the round robin was an opportunity to meet three different teams in a team's group. For the teams, some of these teams were new and some were old acquaintances and/or friends. Group play ended at 12:30, and the 24 play-in games started promptly after. Soon, 64 teams were in the Championship Bracket and the other 24 were in the 2nd Consolation Bracket. After the round of 64, 32 moved on in the Championship Bracket while the other 32 went to the Consolation Bracket.

In the round of 16, there were new teams that found themselves one match away from entering the Sunday quarterfinals. Perhaps the highlight of the Round of 16 was the match between Tad Kubbler from Minneapolis and The Dark Side Of The Kubb from Eau Claire. These two teams also faced each other in the round of 16 in 2012. After over 90 minutes, Tad Kubbler was able to win 2-1 in front of dozens of people.

Sunday morning, teams started arriving at 7am to warm up. Every quarterfinal had a story line. The 2012 U.S. Champions Kubbsicles playing the 2012 bronze medalist team Leinenkubbels Light, both from Eau Claire. Leinenkubbels Light was the only team to take a game from Kubbsicles in 2012. Team Knockerheads versus Tad Kubbler in a quarterfinal rematch from 2012. Kubbitz against a new team The Torpedoes and two top level teams King Pin versus Pack of Snipers. In the semifinals, Kubbsicles proved too much for Kubbitz. In the other semifinal match, King Pin beat Team Knockerheads on their second turn after going 3 for 6 and then 2 for 2 at eight meters. Game two finished with 10 in play and King Pin's John Oman taking out six kubbs, then four kubbs to allow King Pin to win with three batons in hand.

With over 250 people watching the Final, Kubbsicles went toe-to-toe versus King Pin. King Pin survived the Group of Death which included Leinenkubbels Light and the Consolation Champions as well. On their path to the Final, they had to beat Pack of Snipers and the 2012 Runner-up and 2011 Champion Team Knockerheads. King Pin used



King Pin during the semi-final against Team Knockerheads (Blind Photography)

U.S. National Kubb Championship

2013 National Champion - Kubbsicles

their two inkastare strategy to perfection yet again. On the other end, Mark Blazel continued to show why he is one of the top inkastares in the nation. The level of the eight meter game that King Pin took to the Final dropped, which allowed Kubbsicles to stay in the front in Game 1, and eventually take it with four baselines still up on their side. In Game 2, with an empty King Pin baseline and two on the Kubbsicles baseline, Kubbsicles were able to advance to just short of the center line, the first field kubb King Pin left up all weekend, and win the 2013 U.S. Championship with their fifth baton, and become the first back-to-back U.S. National Champions.



Kubbsicles win U.S. Championship (Blind Photography)



Top Four Teams: Top Clockwise: Kubbsicles, King Pin, Kubbitz, Team Knockerheads. (Blind Photography)

Results

Champion: Kubbsicles (Eau Claire, WI)
Mark Blazel, Max Sebesta, Zachary Brown

2nd: King Pin (Chaska, MN)
John Oman, Phil Goetstouwers, Jason Larson

3rd: Team Knockerheads (Des Moines, IA)
Josh Feathers, Chris Hodges, Grant Scott

4th: Kubbitz (Eau Claire, WI)
Riley Radcliffe, Jeff Gibson, Dan Drumm

Bästa Inkastare: Josh Feathers (Des Moines, IA) - Team Knockerheads

Quarterfinals

Leinenkubbels Light (Eau Claire, WI)
Kubbsicles (Eau Claire, WI)

The Torpedoes (Minneapolis, MN)
Kubbitz (Eau Claire, WI)

Tad Kubbler (Minneapolis, MN)
Team Knockerheads (Des Moines, IA)

Pack of Snipers (Shafer, MN/Appleton, WI)
King Pin (Chaska, MN)

Consolation Results

1st: Kubboholics (Holmen, WI)

2nd: Rubik's Kubbs (Rhinelander, WI)

3rd: Throw Storm (Eau Claire, WI)

4th: Zorbaz Berzerkers (Park Rapids, MN)

2nd Consolation Results

1st: Team Hippsterfresh (Minneapolis, MN/Chicago, IL)

2nd: Sorta Good (Rosemount, MN)

3rd: Tomah Fury (Tomah, WI)

4th: Team Fenske (Eleva, WI)

By: Chris Hodges - Des Moines, Iowa





Chris Hodges (Ryan Kolden)

Making A Klassic

Klassic System Expands To More Tournaments

In August 2010 we were running high on inspiration after our first trip to Nationals. The theme was "Organize" - we were furiously trying to lay the foundation for a club, write a comprehensive rules document for our players (we had asked Eric to clarify some things for us, but this was still months before we actually started partnering with him on what became the USNKC rulebook), and we really wanted to get a serious local tournament off the ground. We had held several small tournaments by this time, but nothing public; nothing like what we knew we wanted to have. The format we had used at all of our little backyard events was pretty straight-forward; all the teams played a full round-robin then advanced to a seeded single-elim bracket. Easy enough when you only have 7-8 teams to worry about, but as we looked forward we knew it wouldn't support the kind of growth we wanted to foster. So what was the answer? Splitting into round-robin pools seemed a natural progression (and it had been demonstrably successful in Eau Claire), but we were concerned that the pools would be lopsided, especially given that this would be our 'debut' tournament and, if all went according to plan, we would have a fair number of teams that we didn't know a lot about. What we really wanted was a system of ranking teams against the entire field.

If I recall correctly it was Dobbie that first uttered the phrase "Swiss System". We both enjoy playing *Magic: The Gathering*, and Magic tournaments employ essentially the system we adopted - a set number of Swiss style rounds with the top eight advancing to a single-elimination bracket. We were very nervous about trying something so new to us because we felt we couldn't afford a miss-step in our first public offering, but the more we discussed the idea the more we got excited about it. We saw positive impacts for teams of every skill level due to the parity such a system creates over time. No need for complex bracketing or different divisions, no headaches about weird numbers of teams registering, or teams not showing up on tournament day, showing up late, or leaving early. Eventually we convinced ourselves that it was the right way to go, and Dobbie found some freeware online for running a Swiss Chess tournament that we messed around with until we could get it to do generally what we wanted.

And it was great! The tournament ran smoothly, we had some great matchups in the group rounds, and we felt that the "right" teams made it to the playoffs and were seeded appropriately. Most importantly though was the fact that the players all seemed to enjoy it, so we were sold that this was the way forward for us.

In our post-tourney wrap-up meeting we really dissected what we did and didn't like about the software we used. First and foremost, it was trying to run a chess tournament; it wanted to track how many times each player was white or black, it wanted to rank based on win/loss and FIDE/ELO rating, it couldn't differentiate between a 2-1 match and a 2-0 match (in fact it didn't understand "match" at all - only games), it had no concept of leading or trailing in games called due to time, it didn't consider each team's strength of schedule, and there was no display-friendly leader-board for the participants to follow throughout the day. We were enamored of the concept, but we knew that there was a lot of room to improve upon the execution.

I knew a thing or two about Excel and figured I could take a stab at writing a program to execute a kubb-specific format based on the Swiss system, and Steve, Dobbie, and I started hammering out requirements for it. We decided on a three tiered sort based on matches won, games won, and games won by opponents. We ironed out timing rules and how to handle Did Not Finishes. We also decided that - unlike the Swiss system - we would start the pairings each round with the two strongest teams that hadn't yet played and put them on pitch #1. The Swiss system actually pairs the strongest player with the weakest player with the same record (again, ELO ratings come into play here) with the intent that the strongest two players not meet until the final round. Because we knew we were hybridizing the Swiss and single-elims we elected to force the strongest possible matchups all day. In the years since I've learned that this is more similar to the McMahon Tournament System, so while we may not have been the first to develop the concept we at least did so independently - (I guess you'll have to take my word on that.)

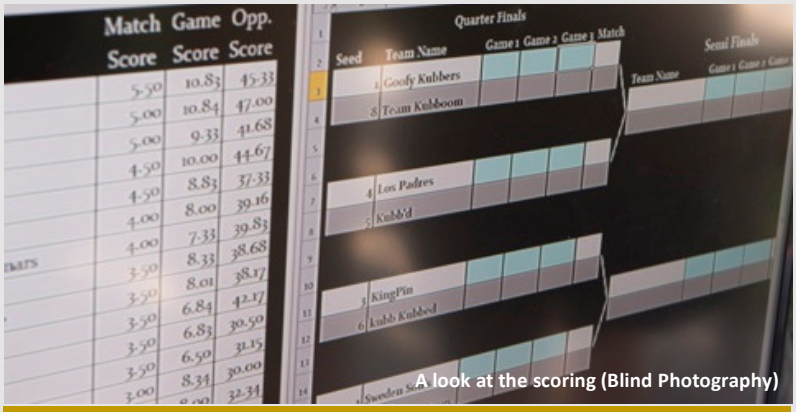
Over the next few months I built, tested, debugged, and rebuilt it a few times, and by September 2011 it was ready for primetime. We debuted it as the "DMK Klassic System" and it performed flawlessly. Ever since it's been like a project car for me - every few months I get it out and tinker with it, making a few tweaks to formatting or adding some additional automation. Earlier this year as an intellectual exercise I figured out how to incorporate Accelerated Pairings. This had been

Making A Klassic

Klassic System Expands To More Tournaments

something we had discussed since the very beginning but were never able to incorporate because I couldn't figure out how to reconcile the Klassic/McMahon top-down pairing with the Swiss system concept of player pools used in acceleration. It's desirable because it essentially produces a 'free' round of sorting. Think of the entire process as a machine built to order a random list - every round it sorts it a little better based on performance. The more rounds you play the more confident you can be that the list is ordered accurately and you are promoting the "right" eight teams to the playoffs. The six rounds we have now should reliably handle up to 64 teams, but beyond that we will need to either add a round or accelerate. The main drawback to acceleration is that it removes some of the random element in the first round, and one of the reasons this system is so popular is the fact that it eliminates all subjectivity on the part of the organizer - everybody has exactly the same opportunity and all results are based entirely on performance. Like I said, when we get to 65 teams we will have a decision to make, but I'm glad that the decision will be based on which policy we prefer and not a technical limitation.

I've come to realize that isn't the kind of thing I'll ever be "finished" with - there always seems to be another improvement I can make to it. In fact, I'm planning on a complete overhaul of the program this off-season, as I hope to move the entire process out of Excel and into a stand-alone .NET application. I've also been kicking around the idea of incorporating an Android app - imagine players being able to get pitch assignments on their mobile devices in the field, everyone having immediate access to the official tournament clock, teams reporting round results at the push of a button which immediately update the online leaderboard (as well as Planet Kubb), and people at home following along online in real time. We aren't close to that – not yet – but we'll be working on it!



A look at the scoring (Blind Photography)

The Klassic System Is Growing In Popularity

In 2014, many U.S. tournaments are going to use The Klassic or a variation of it. Will it travel to Europe?

Ames, IA (new tournament - will use in 2014)
Appleton, WI (established - possible change in 2014)
Chaska, MN (used in 2013 - will use in 2014)
Decorah, IA (used in 2013 - will use in 2014)
Des Moines, IA (used in 2013 - will use in 2014) - **where it started**
Kasson, MN (established - will change in 2014)
Kettle Moraine, WI (new tournament - will use in 2014)
Madison, WI (established - possible change in 2014)
Madrid, IA (new tournament - will use in 2014)
Milwaukee, WI (new tournament - will use in 2014)
Rockford, IL (established - possible change in 2014)

How The Klassic System Works

In the first round all teams are randomly matched. In subsequent rounds teams are paired in descending order of rank. The highest ranked team is paired with the next highest ranked team (that they have not played yet) on pitch one, the highest ranked team remaining plays with the next highest ranked available team (that they have not played yet) on pitch two, etc.

After a set number of rounds, the top eight ranked teams advance to a seeded elimination bracket. These matches are best-of-three games, do not have a time limit and cannot end in a tie. The four teams losing in the Quarterfinal round tie for 5th place, the two teams losing in the semi-final round have a playoff to determine 3rd and 4th place.

Teams are ranked based on the following criteria:

Match Points

This is simply a count of the number of matches a team has won. Matches ending in ties award each team half of a Match Point. All matches are best-of-three games, but due to the nature of the system all teams must be ready to play at the start of the next round so a time limit must be enforced. Matches start each hour, on the hour, and must be completed within 50 minutes. This gives the event staff ten minutes to record the match outcomes, create the pairings for the next round, and communicate the next round's schedule to the players. Ties among teams with the same number of Match Points are broken by Game Points.

Game Points

This is a count of individual games won, with a wrinkle; games that are called due to time (Did Not Finish or DNF) will be adjudicated thusly: If a Match does not end, then the game is recorded as DNF. DNF games are not counted while determining the outcome of a match. If the 2nd game of a match is recorded as DNF then the winner of game one is the winner of the match, if the 1st or 3rd game is DNF then the match is a tie and each team is awarded half a Match Point.

Game Points are still awarded for DNF games. The team that has toppled more base kubbs will be judged to have been "leading" and will be awarded 2/3 of a Game Point, and the team "trailing" will be awarded 1/3 of a Game Point. If the number of standing base kubbs is equal, the team that has fewer field kubbs remaining will be judged to have been "leading" and will be awarded 2/3 of a Game Point, and the team "trailing" will be awarded 1/3 of a Game Point.

If the number of standing base kubbs for each team are equal, AND the number of remaining field kubbs are equal, then each team will be awarded half of a Game Point. Ties among teams with the same number of Match Points AND the same number of Game Points are broken by Opponent Points

Opponent Points

This is the sum of the Game Point scores for all opponents a team has played, minus the Game Points scored by those opponents against that team. It is a metric of how well the teams you have played against are doing against the rest of the field (essentially, your Strength of Schedule).

Interview: Olsson and Danielsson

The Women Behind The World Championship and Swedish Championship

Kubb experienced huge growth in Sweden in the 1990s. During this time, a small little village in southern Gotland decided to start a Kubb World Championship, commonly called VM i Kubb (World Championship in Kubb). It grew every year up to 2002 when 208 6-player teams registered. Since then, the total number of teams has always been in the upper 100s.

On the Swedish mainland, the city of Nybro started the Swedish Kubb Championship in 1997. The town of approximately 13,000 just might be the most thriving kubb community on the planet. As you will read, it is hard to imagine another community with more organized kubb going on than Nybro.

We were interested in learning more about the World Championship and the Swedish Championship and the two women who are in charge of the two Championships. So, like always, we decided to contact them.

Bibbi Olsson - Rone, Gotland
World Championship (VM) Director
Towe Danielsson - Nybro, Småland
Swedish Championship (SM) Director





Bibbi Olsson (left) has been the director of the World Championship since 2004. Towe Danielsson (right) has been the director of the Swedish Championship since 1997. (Bibbi Olsson and Towe Danielsson)

What city where you born in?
Visby, Gotland. **(Bibbi)**
Växjö, Småland. **(Towe)**

What city do you live in now?
Rone, Gotland.
We moved to Nybro when I was nine years old.

How long have you been the director of the VM and SM?
Since 2004.
I have been the director for Kubb-SM since 1997.

What made you want to be the director of the VM and SM?
When the former president resigned, I was appointed to take over. I wanted to develop the World Championship and put Rone on the map. It is among the most fun things I have done.
My club Korpen Nybro organizes Kubb-SM. A group chose me to be the director, but they call me Kubb General. There are 20 people with the Kubb-SM, and we work for free the whole weekend. We have a group of five people that work the whole year. We are looking for sponsors, more activities during the SM, painting kubb sets, paperwork, music, and lottery. We always have the Kubb-SM on the same weekend every year. And it is week 32 Saturday-Sunday. This next year the Kubb-SM is August 9 and 10. To be a director is very fun. You meet very wonderful people from Sweden. That's the best. Everyone is happy and enjoys playing kubb. Everyone is so thankful that we organize the SM.

What are the biggest challenges of directing the VM and SM?
To keep the standard up and finding the motivation throughout the year.
The biggest challenges of directing the SM for us is to be as professional as possible. Since we started the SM in 1997, everyone has said that we are so good at what we do, and that makes us want to be even better year after year. But it is also very important to get more people interested in playing kubb. Three years ago we got a letter from the Swedish king and queen. They wished us good luck with the SM and we also got 5,000 Swedish Kronor ($780). Our speaker read the letter for the public and players. That was great.

Interview: Olsson and Danielsson

The Women Behind The World Championship and Swedish Championship

What are some of the biggest changes for your tournament from the 1st and 2nd year to 2013?

Number of participating teams, from 27 teams to 190. Also, everything around the event, food, kiosk, after-kubb and sponsors. All that must be worked on over the year.

The biggest changes since we started the SM are better quality of kubb sets, very good rules, and a better place to have the SM. Now we have a soccer field with painted lines, so you don't have to wonder if the kubb is in or out.

In 2013, the World Championship had 182 teams. Their largest number of teams was in 2002, when 208 teams registered.

In 2013, the Swedish Championship had 78 teams. Their largest number of teams was in 2012, when 90 teams registered.

Are there any big changes coming to the VM and SM in 2014?

We have a 20th anniversary. It should be noticed, more I cannot disclose right now.

Next year we hope to get even better and bigger. My hope is that we will be 100 teams next year. And more activities between kubb-playing. I want everyone to want to visit us at the Kubb-SM. Last year we have a special SM for children 7-13 year. They played at the same time as the adults. It was very popular. Ten children teams were playing Kubb-SM and they liked it. This year, we have 38 sponsors for the Kubb-SM. It is absolutely wonderful to have companies in Nybro like kubb. Everyone will be involved.

How old were you when you first played kubb?

26 years old.

The first time I played kubb was 1997.

How often do you play kubb?

Almost never. I arrange.

I play kubb every week the whole year.

What are some of your best memories of playing kubb?

I love to win and get frustrated when I'm not the best when I'm competing (hard), so when we took silver in the British Open in 2002, I was satisfied.

I have so many good memories of playing. This year we thanked an older man with a present. He played his 8th SM, and he is 91 years old. Isn't that amazing? Last year myself and ten other kubb players learned to talk to deaf kubb players. They are 10-12 people and every year they come to Nybro and play at the SM. So this year we surprised them and we used sign language the whole weekend. They were so grateful that we learned it. Last year, I was on television before the SM, which is a good memory. In 2008, we got a prize from the City of Nybro. We were the best club that year thanks to all the kubb players. We got 15,000 Swedish Kronor ($1,700) for our club.

If you could play kubb with anyone in the world, who would it be?

Swedish national football team.

My favorite player is people I already have. In the SM, I play with Fredrik Ideström. He is a friend to me. And the rest of the year I play with Tom Thomasson from the team Berras Sorkar (and he is from Gotland), and Maria Axelsson. They are also friends to me. We are a very good team.

Do you consider yourself a tournament director that plays kubb or a kubb player that directs a tournament?

A tournament director that plays kubb sometimes.

I think I am a kubb player that directs a tournament.

Have you played in either the VM or SM?

No, unfortunately not, but as I said I'm not a kubb player.

Me and my friends have played in the VM 10 times. The first time was 2004. We are three teams from Nybro every year. My team came in third place 2008 and we have been 4th place two times. We have also won the Little VM, and came in 2nd and 3rd in the Little VM.

What is your favorite thing about kubb?

Kubb unites people and creates peace on Earth. All great people.

My favorite thing about kubb is that it is so nice to meet kubb players every week. And of course its very fun to play kubb. I always would like to win. In the future I hope that kubb will be bigger and bigger. More people start to play. And here in Nybro we will see that kubb grows. But it's a lot of work.

Where do you see the future of the VM and SM? Do you think they will grow? Do you want them to grow?

Difficult, I want the VM to continue for many years to come. I would also like to see more countries participate, it would be awesome.

In the future I hope that kubb will be bigger and bigger and more people start to play. And here in Nybro we will see that the Kubb-SM grows. But it's a lot of work.

Do you think about kubb everyday?

Bibbi - "*Yeah, of course. Always.*"

Towe - "*Yes I do.*"

Towe, the SM requires at least two players on a team. Do you think you will require more people per team (3 or 6) in the future?

In the SM we are 2-3 player. And we are NOT going to change that. That is the only thing its different between the SM and VM. In the SM all the people have a chance to play for money on that team you think they can win Kubb-SM. And if you play on a winning team, you can win a lot of money. The City of Nybro has promised to give money. And we have nice prizes for the team who wins the SM. Teams that finish 1-8

Interview: Olsson and Danielsson

The Women Behind The World Championship and Swedish Championship

wins prizes. Its money, clothes, medals, and very fine things from the sponsors.

Where do you see kubb going in the future? Do you think it will continue to grow in Sweden and Europe?

Maybe not in Sweden, but in Europe, I think it will grow. I also believe that kubb will stay.

In Germany, I think there are a lot of teams with potential. Sometimes good teams make a shift in priorities (family planning, other hobbies), so very quickly opponents disappear. We also hope new teams that we don't know right now get better because competition is good for business and thus providing higher levels in national tournaments.

What do you think of all the other kubb things going on in Europe and the USA?

It is fun that there are so many who think that kubb is so amazing that they want to arrange competitions and leagues.

I am very glad that kubb is growing in Europe and USA.

Bibbi, what do people on Gotland think about others playing kubb?

I think people from Gotland are proud to have kubb coming from our island.

Towe, it seems like Nybro is the most popular place for kubb on the Swedish mainland. How did that happen? What is kubb like in Nybro?

Kubb in Nybro is very big. The difference between the VM and SM is we have heard is that we in Nybro are more serious. But I think that is because we play kubb the whole year thanks to our inside arena that we have. We play outside May to August. The rest of the year we play inside.

I hope that we in Nybro can go to more tournaments in Europe. Nybro is what we call "Kubbens Mecka" (Kubbs Mecca). We play kubb six days a week. We have handicapped people play kubb Mondays. On Wednesdays and Thursdays older people play at daytime. And Wednesdays and Thursdays one evening we have a competition. Teams play kubb 10 weeks in the spring and 10 week in the autumn. And two times a year we have a final day. And after that we now host the best kubb team in Nybro. And every Sunday we have training. We also have many competitions over the year. We have mixkubb, singlekubb, maratonkubb, girlskubb. Two times a year we have a big kubb party. We eat good food, listen to live music and play kubb all night. It is a very nice party. And these things we can do thanks to our inside arena. If we did not have this, I don't think kubb would be so big in Nybro.

Today we are 150 active kubb players in Nybro every week. Kubb is a national sport in Nybro. We get so much publicity. The newspaper in Nybro writes about kubb almost every week. Everyone can play kubb younger, older, handicapped people, you, and me. And that's so fantastic and special with kubb. Me and my friends have been in Stockholm and played Kubbistan, and we have won two times and got 2nd place once.

What are your hobbies and what is your profession outside of kubb?

Soccer, dance, and music. I work in schools, and also am a sports teacher and after school activities. I am also a part-time politician and sit on the regional council.

Kubb takes a big time of my life but I have more interests. I have a horse so I spend much time in the stable and ride every day. I work with mentally sick people and I really like my job. I am married to Pär Danielsson, and we have a family home and let kids stay with us when they have trouble in their life.

Bibbi, for you, what is so special about kubb?

VM with all the wonderful people of course, but also that everyone can participate on equal terms, it makes it one of the best sports in the world





Bibbi (left) and Towe (right) have many interests outside of kubb, but they do think about kubb everyday.

Do you think about kubb every day?

Yeah, of course. Always.

And the last question you wonder: if I think about kubb every day. And yes I do. I always try to find out something we can do better or different or a new competition. I hope sometime we can arranged a SM in our inside arena and called it Inside-SM. But that so far is only a wish.

We reached Bibbi in Rone, Gotland and Towe in Nybro, Småland.

For more information about the two Championships, you can go to:

www.vmkubb.com

www4.idrottonline.se/KorpforeningNybro-Korpen/Kubb-SM/

Fox Valley Kubb Radio

The New Sunday Evening Show Dedicated To Kubb


Evan Fitzgerald
(Blind Photography)

By: Evan Fitzgerald - Roscoe, Illinois

In early September, I received a message from Chad Bevers saying that he had been doing some research on internet radio and was seriously thinking about doing a weekly podcast to discuss kubb and invited me to co-host the show. Being an ultimate kubb geek, I jumped at the opportunity. Two days later we did a quick test in the morning to see how the software and call management process worked and Fox Valley Kubb Radio was born. The test was a lot of fun. We discussed the results of the test and we came up with a lot of ideas for future shows and then decided we were going to produce a pilot show that evening. We have been creating a new show every Sunday evening at 8pm Central. Chad and I have no background in radio broadcasting, but we both started researching on the internet and listening to other broadcasts and realized that preparation was going to be the key to having a successful show.

I have gone back and listened to the first show and it felt a bit awkward initially, but due to a miscommunication with getting Team Knockerheads on the following week, we received a surprise call from Chris Hodges and the show quickly felt like a real podcast as we settled into a kubb "discussion". Chris' insight into the game of kubb quickly brought the show alive and we realized that the show had a lot of potential. One of my favorite things about kubb is going to the tournaments and getting to meet very interesting people and have intimate discussions about kubb and player's personal backgrounds. Chad and I felt this aspect was critical to having a successful show, so we outlined who (as kubbers) we felt we'd like to share their stories and perspectives with the rest of the kubb community. We have had some great guests like Team Knockerheads, King Pin, Kubbsicles, and Eric Anderson. But, some of my favorite interviews have been with "lesser" known kubb personalities like Dan Pritchard from the Kubb Collective in New York, Shane Hultquist from Kubb Canada, the owners of Reallygoods, and the creators of Planet Kubb's website. Each guest brings an interesting perspective to the discussion and I find it very entertaining. From the feedback I have gotten from a lot of listeners, they seem to enjoy the format as well.


Chad Bevers
(Blind Photography)

Our show is hosted on the website BlogTalkRadio. The website does an amazing job of creating a professional radio show with easy to use studio tools and chat hosting functionality. The link to listen live and find archived show is www.blogtalkradio.com/fvk. We also have created a Facebook page for the show called www.facebook.com/FoxValleyKubbRadio and if you hit "like" on the page you will get updates to what we have planned and can send feedback and ideas for future shows. On Twitter you can follow Chad Bevers at @FoxValleyKubb and Evan Fitzgerald at @evanfitzgerald. The feedback we get from weekly listeners like Mike Paulus from Volume One, Grant Scott from Des Moines Kubb, and many others shapes the direction of the show and like Chad always says, "This show is for you in the kubb community, so please send us feedback." If there is something going on in the world of kubb that interests you, then there is a great chance that we want to explore it as well.

The show has been receiving from 250-450 archive and live listens per week and we believe that number will continue to grow. We would be happy to provide advertising time during the show for tournament directors, service providers, or retail marketers. If interested, then please email Chad Bevers at foxvalleykubb[@]gmail.com for details. Thanks to all that have listened and if you haven't been listening, then we hope you will join us for future shows. Good kubbing!











Chris, Cody, and Steve. The heartbeat of Kettle Moraine Kubb.
(Blind Photography)

By: Chris McDiarmid - Hartford, Wisconsin

Kettle Moraine Kubb

The Birth of Another Wisconsin Club



Chris McDiarmid
(Blind Photography)

We're Kettle Moraine Kubb, and we love kubb! Playing kubb, talking about kubb, dreaming up kubb ideas, watching kubb, listening to Kubb Radio, reading Kubbnation Magazine, basically living a balanced life of work and play that at most times incorporates a bit o' kubb. If you're reading this, you know these feelings...and if you haven't been drawn in yet, beware - you will be!

We learned how to play the game in 2011. We (Steve and Chris) owned a wine and cheese store in central Wisconsin, where customers Donna Anderson and Ray Hodowanic owned a vacation cottage. Donna and her sister, Paula, had been telling us about Eric (son/nephew), and this kubb craze he had been spreading around Eau Claire and everywhere else he goes. We were intrigued and bought a kubb set online. We played a game or two according to directions and sort of got it. Well, lucky for us, Eric and family came to spend time at the cottage, visited our store, and without hesitation offered to teach us the game of kubb according to kubb legion. We met Sunday afternoon after the store closed. It was hovering around 100 degrees so we equipped ourselves with plenty of iced Sangria and snacks for the days tailgate refreshments. We learned, we laughed, we played and didn't want to stop playing....and since that day, we haven't.

We introduced it to our family. The first games played were while vacationing on a Sheboygan area beach - we enjoyed playing in sand. We ended up moving to Erin, Wisconsin, in the Kettle Moraine, to be closer to family and open our new business, Reallygoods. We were so busy moving in that winter, we didn't play much kubb. Under those lucky leprechaun stars we had warm temps mid March, and began playing again, which teased us into looking closer at the tournament schedule.

Midsummer Tournament in Madison was our first kubb tournament gathering. When we arrived, pitches were being measured, people were setting up tents and chairs (oh wow, tents!), and juggling & laughter were happening - it was like a kubb festival! Oh, joy! We started to feel at home and set up our little "camp" under a shade tree near a picnic table. We met lots of people from several Midwest states. Some teams were newer to kubb than we were, and some showed us what the possibilities were if we played/practiced more often. We were kubbinspired! New mantra: enter more tournaments! Our 2012 calendar included: Decorah Nordic Fest, which is now on our yearly calendar, Des Moines Kubb Klassic was another that we made into a mini vacation, and will continue to do so, as long as we play kubb. One more that year was Octoberfest in Dallas, WI - super small town which includes Valkyrie Brewery! REPEAT! Getting a Club together in the Kettle Moraine of SE Wisconsin

2013 came around - new mantra: LET'S PLAY MORE KUBB! NO MATTER WHAT!

Loppet - February - on ice in the Twin Cities - we could not think of a better way to start off our kubbing year! Urban coolness - so Brrrrific!

Besides last year's repeats, we added ....Rockford (Midwest Championships) - so good to embrace the kubb family come spring - we won't miss it again! ....Fox Valley's Clash of Kubb - love those FVK people - including FVK Radio, and we also made it to the one and only, U.S. Nationals in Eau Claire - what a show!...the crème de la crème in the USA - the final games were fiercely competitive, skill and good sportsmanship during play was ever present - that's what we love about kubb - the camaraderie!! A discovery was made....we people who play kubb have similarities...and when we get to know each other, we like to be around each other. The kubb vibe is strong. It's like a tribe.



King Kung, trophies in hand,
at a sunny and hot 2013 Clash of Kubb
(Mark Blazel)

Kettle Moraine Kubb

The Birth of Another Wisconsin Club





In Southeast Wisconsin, KMK kubbs at the beach, parks, and in the heart of the Kettle Moraine (Kettle Moraine Kubb)

So, here we are, two years into it and we are EXTREMELY EXCITED to announce that we will be hosting our very own KMK tournament in 2014. In fact, it's two tournaments in one weekend - Labor Day Holiday Weekend....Kubb in the Kettle will be held in the beautiful Kettle Moraine area of SE Wisconsin, Saturday, August 30th - as well as, Kubb at the Beach to be held on picturesque McKinley Beach, along the shores of Lake Michigan, downtown Milwaukee, Sunday, August 31st - a regular ol' reggae beach bash with all the fixins - ya mon! Make it a mini vacation! We're planning a Friday night brewpub social and a Saturday night campfire cookout. Heaven only knows what Sunday night will bring...with this group!?

Until then, Kettle Moraine Kubb being a new club, is reaching out to introduce kubb in this picturesque southeast section of Wisconsin. The topography of this area is widely varied between the lakes and kettles and the hills of glacial deposits, which can rise up to 300 feet from the lakes. It's beautiful! Throughout spring, summer, and fall, we have "kubb friendlies" aka, "practice" at fun places in the "kettle".

We welcome you to join our group and join us in this great activity that "unites people and creates peace on Earth".

Chris McDiarmid
Kettle Moraine Kubb and team King Kung

You can find Kettle Moraine Kubb at:
kettlemorainekubb.com
facebook.com/Kettlemorainekubb



Wisconsin Kubb

Home of:
Dallas, WI Oktoberfest Tournament
- and -
Kubbnation Magazine
- plus -
Year-round inkasting tips and techniques, blog, and more.



DALLAS, WI OKTOBERFEST
KUBB TOURNAMENT
- ONLY 6-PERSON TEAMS IN U.S. -
Play six-player kubb next to the world's longest brat, lefse, music, Valkyrie beer and barmaids, cannon blasts, bald eagles, and more.

16 TEAM LIMIT - MORE INFO: WISCONSINKUBB.COM
REGISTRATION OPENS AUGUST 01
OCTOBER 4TH



Jason "JP" Larson - Chaska, Minnesota

Grant Scott - West Des Moines, Iowa

Competitors on the pitch, Jason (left) and Grant (right) share the same story of kubb overtaking cornhole as a competitive sport and recreational game (Blind Photography)

From Cornhole to Kubb

From Checkers To Chess

It is commonly called cornhole, beanbags, or bags. Regardless, it is one of the most popular backyard and tailgating games in the U.S. However, more and more cornhole players are finding kubb, and when they find kubb, the wooden boards get put away, sometimes for a long time. Two such people are Jason "JP" Larson and Grant Scott. Both played a lot of bags and also competed in tournaments. Now they are staples on the U.S. Kubb Circuit and promote kubb wherever they go. We wanted to learn more what they thought about the similarities and differences between kubb and cornhole. We reached JP in Chaska, MN and Grant in West Des Moines, IA.

Interview with Jason "JP" Larson

When did you start playing cornhole?

I started playing bags in the early to mid 80's when my grandfather built two sets of boards. I have been playing in backyards ever since.

How often would you play cornhole?

We played at all family functions in spring/summer/fall. My brothers and I usually had to play with Grandma almost daily during the summer between baseball games and other farm activities. There was lots of competition between four brothers and Grandma.

Did you play in cornhole tournaments?

I have only played in a handful of tournaments outside of my backyard and friends tournaments. As I was finding more time for hobbies and finding cornhole tournaments was about the same time I found out about kubb and kubb tournaments. I have wanted to participate more, but usually can't because they are usually the same weekends as kubb or other obligations.

How did you do in the tournaments?

In friendly backyard tournaments I have an amazing win percentage. Lots of side bets and friendly wagers went my way when it came to tossing bags. I have only participated in a few organized cornhole tournaments, but I have more wins than I have losses.

How and when were you introduced to kubb?

I was introduced to kubb through a co-worker about five years ago. She didn't remember too much other than you threw sticks at blocks and it was of Nordic origin. After that I began the research on the internet. Since then I've made sets for all my friends and even started a little business out of my garage (started making cornhole boards first).

"It just seems like kubb has taken my focus away from corn to wood." - Jason



Jason "JP" Larson blowing up a four meter group. (Blind Photography)

How often do you play kubb and cornhole now?

My friends and I are playing kubb at least once a week or as close to that much as we can with our crazy schedules. Since the 2012 Loppet, I have only brought out the cornhole boards a handful of times. It just seems like kubb has taken my focus away from corn to wood. I've got a great story of playing kubb in Nebraska in a roadside ditch waiting for a tow truck. That wouldn't be possible with bags.

What are the parts of the game of kubb that made you like the game?

There are so many things I like about kubb that it could fill a page. Here are few highlights:

- Flexibility in teams 1-1 or 2-3 or 6-6
- Any age or ability can play
- Skills/actions/thoughts/strategy are involved
- Can be played almost anywhere and anytime

From Cornhole to Kubb

Checkers To Chess

What are the similarities of the two games?
Both games are social and can be a great way to be doing something outside with a group of friends.

What are the differences of the two games?
There is strategy involved in kubb where I didn't see much strategy in bags. When playing bags with young kids there was always a tendency to let them throw from a shorter distance or try again and again to get a bag on the board. In a kubb game the five-year olds have as good a chance as anyone to knock down a kubb and typically do. Throwing four bags in a hole in a row is a common occurrence round after round. Going five for five on a baseline almost never does.

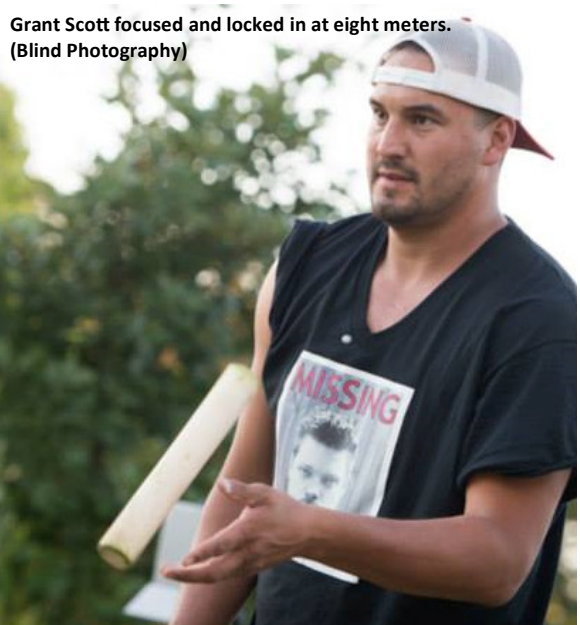
Are there any noticeable differences between the environment around cornhole and kubb?
Everyone wants to win at both events. I have seen more people at kubb events there for a good time and really get into the large team aspect. At kubb, people are much more willing to help their opponents learn the game, have friendly rivalries, and mix up teams just for fun (after tournaments of course).

At a few of the bags tournaments I went to I was trying to ask questions and chat during the game. I was often given the silent treatment and was told they were there on business. That business was to win and that was it. I wasn't a huge fan of a friendly game where the top teams were opposed to being friendly. That being said, I'm going to try and do a couple bags tournaments this year as well.

"Fortunately, an introduction to kubb two years ago stole my heart." - Grant

Are there any parts of either game that you feel like you can use to improve your level of play in the other sport?
The throwing action of batons/bags are fairly similar. Practicing that throwing motion will probably help in any underarm game of skill.

What would you say to cornhole players that have not heard about kubb?
It is like popcorn. Once you start…it is hard to stop. Kubb is like cornhole with skill and strategy of a game like pool added in.



Grant Scott focused and locked in at eight meters. (Blind Photography)

Interview with Grant Scott

When concerning bags and kubb, the similarities are noticeable and relevant. Both games rely on the ability to throw objects towards designated areas in order to win the game. However, the details and possibilities involved put the two games on extremely different spectrums. Comparing the two is similar to the comparison of chess and checkers, kubb being in the class of chess. Bags provide the opportunity to land four bags on a board, preferably in the hole, in order to outscore your opponent(s), which is typically played in single competition or doubles. Whereas, kubb can be played anywhere from a single person to the 6 vs. 6 format. Excitement quickly dwindles when one can consistently land 2-4 bags in the hole and begins to become mundane. Possible scenarios in the game of kubb are infinite as I have never played a game that is exact to one previously played.

I used to love playing bags; with friends, family, in tournaments. Fortunately, an introduction to kubb two years ago stole my heart. A game that can be carried in a small tote bag rather than lugging around two giant boards...check. Tossing lumber at ranges from eight meters to a foot...check. Playing against all types of people of all ages...check. Kubb has replaced bags from here on out.

Recently, I played in a bags tournament and took second place, a $100 bar tab and $200. Yet, all I could think about was the realization that I would much rather be playing kubb. The atmospheres are different as day and night. Kubb depicts a more family oriented gentlemanly sport while bags is showered heavily in college frat boy testosterone.

As kubb continues to evolve, I believe kubb could gain attention and notoriety by taking a few cues from the inhibitions of bags. Cash prizes are always a plus and can help provide incentives for teams traveling from state to state for tournaments. Charitable contributions are a great thing for the recognition of kubb, but as the saying goes, "Money talks and bullshit walks."

Camaraderie between so many people from different places, backgrounds, and environments is clearly evident when it comes to kubb. Hence, the uniqueness of kubb, as for the most part, players see each other several times a year and seem to jump right back where they left off at the last tournament. I don't think kubb needs to take many pointers from other sports or games, as kubb is on a path all its own. I look forward to seeing what kubb has in store for the future, the future is bright, and kubb continues to shine.

So here's to burning the bag boards, tossing the lumber, and killing kings...no need for checkers when you're able to play chess.

"...no need for checkers when you're able to play chess." - Grant

Shirley Malm painting a dala horse sign and a large dala horse at Hemslöjd in Lindsborg, KS . (Corey Peterson)

By: Corey Peterson - Lindsborg, Kansas

Shirley Malm

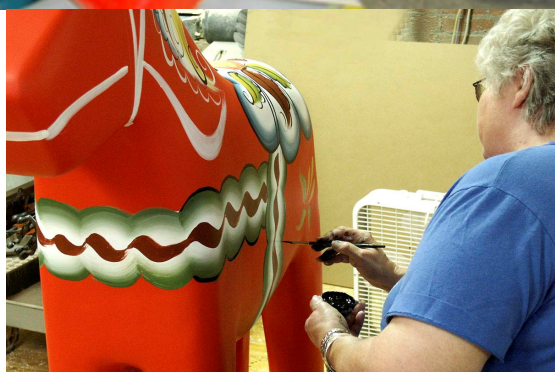
Swedish Dala Painting In Little Sweden, Kansas

Shirley (Harper) Malm has been the Hemslöjd's resident artist since 2003. Shirley designs and hand paints all Hemslöjd original pieces, including dala horse signs, door harps, clocks, plates, and ornaments, as well as her own items produced in her studio. All of Shirley's designs are original creations.

Shirley came to Lindsborg, KS in 1956 to attend Bethany College on an art scholarship. She immediately fell in love with central Kansas' Smoky Valley and with a handsome Swede named Dean, to whom she has been married for over 55 years.

Mostly self-taught, art has always been Shirley's passion. She managed to share her talent with the Lindsborg community and others during the years spent raising her two sons. In 1994 she purchased a charming, abandoned 1920's gas station on the east side of Lindsborg and it was there she opened "The Station" studio, that featured her studio, gallery, and gift shop. In 2003, Shirley came to Hemslöjd, succeeding its co-founder, Ken Sjogren, as resident artist.

She can be found at Hemslöjd painting and interacting with customers from all over the world four days a week. She enjoys speaking with individuals and groups, frequently discussing Sweden and Scandinavian art techniques with school and tour groups. Shirley often offers a blank miniature dala horse to small children that agree to give her a smile. They can then start their own journey into Swedish Folk Art, or just play with or chew on the wood horse.



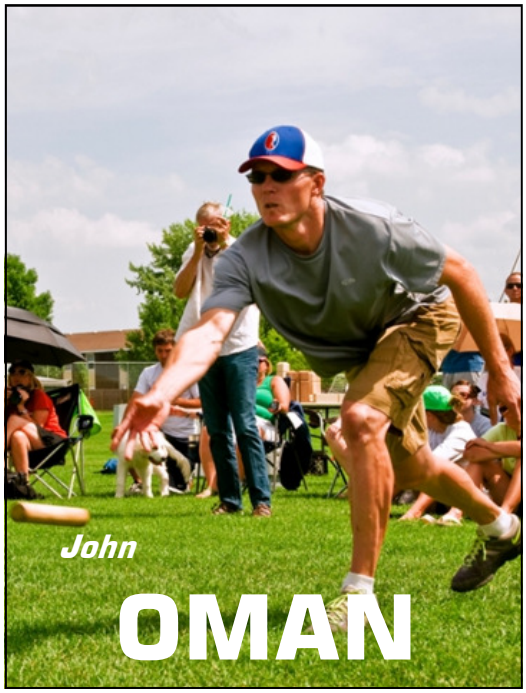
Shirley is best known for her interpretations of Swedish style folk art. In addition to the Hemslöjd originals and her own products, she has shared her talent with happy customers on a variety of items, some of which liked her work so much they want to take it with them in the end as she has even painted burial urns.

Shirley was proud to have designed and painted several kubb awards, feeling especially honored to provide the awards for the 2013 U.S. National Kubb Championship.





The U.S. Champion trophies and Bästa Inkastare trophy from the 2013 U.S. National Kubb Championship. Shirley Malm painted the trophies and they were donated by Hemslöjd. (Blind Photography)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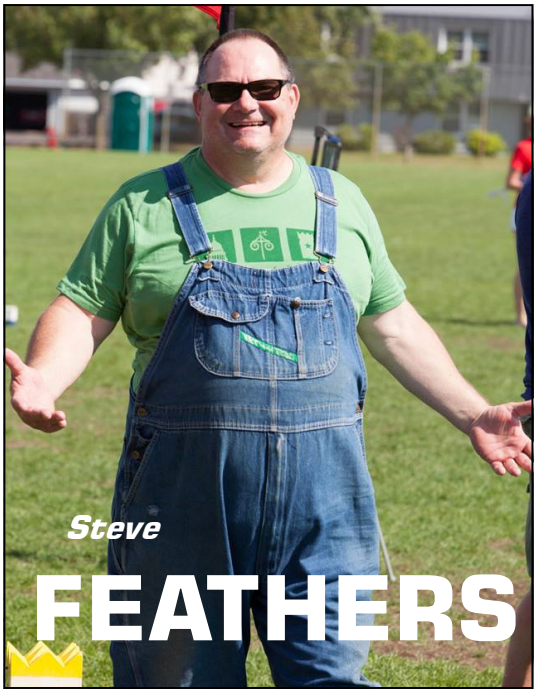
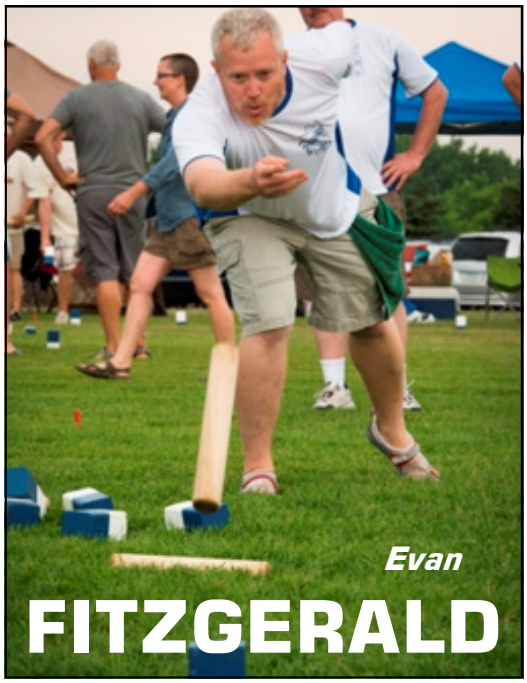
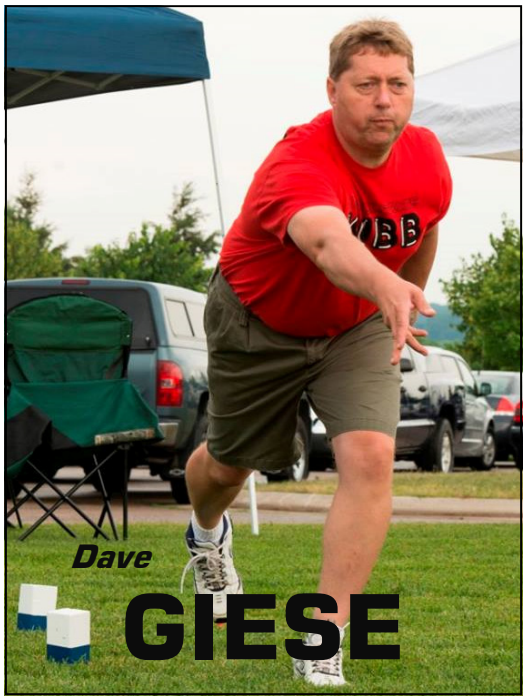

Steve
FEATHERS


Bridget
LONG


Evan
FITZGERALD


Mark
BLAZEL


Chad
PARSONS


Dave
GIESE


Emily
CONNELL


Gordon
KAUFFMAN

BRIDGET LONG

Born: New Richmond, WI Lives: Eau Claire, WI
Primary Team: Kubb You Long Time
Introduced to kubb: 2012

Started playing kubb in Fall 2012. Awarded the 2013 FOXY Award for Best Female Player in U.S. Made quarterfinals at 2013 Des Moines Klassic. Loves going to Brewers games, listening to Bob Uecker on the radio, and music. Pinball machine junkie.



STEVE FEATHERS

Born: Barberton, OH Lives: Des Moines, IA
Primary Team: Kubb'd
Introduced to kubb: 2010

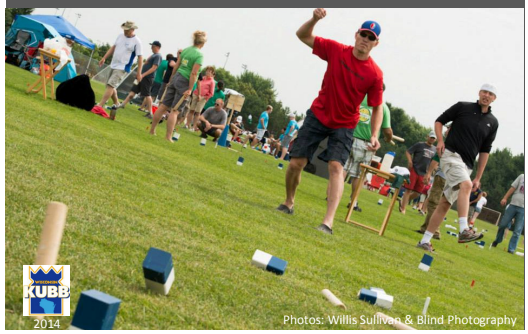
Won 2013 Lindsborg. Known for taking dozens of videos (YouTube: SirKubb) of kubb matches and posting them on the Internet. Also known for his bib overalls. Likes remote controlled helicopters, remodeling his home, and mostly technology. Also plays on Team Fjadrar.



JOHN OMAN

Born: Amery, WI Lives: Chaska, MN
Primary Team: King Pin
Introduced to kubb: 2007

2013 U.S. Championship Runner-up. Several other podiums including first at 2013 Summer Tri-Loppet. Enjoys mountain biking, road tripping, hiking, and camping. Middle School teacher in the Shakopee School District. Won 2013 FOXY Award for most improved player.



CHAD PARSONS

Born: Janesville, WI Lives: Appleton, WI
Primary Team: Kubb Snipers
Introduced to kubb: 2010

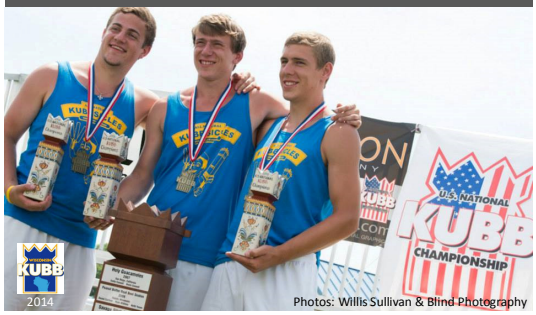
Won 2012 Loppet and Madison tournaments. 3rd at 2013 Loppet and Dallas. Has placed on other podiums as well. Helps organize the Clash of Kubb. Enjoys coaching and participating with Crossfit. Grew up in Eagle River, WI.



MARK BLAZEL

Born: Eau Claire, WI Lives: Eau Claire, WI
Primary Team: Kubbsicles
Introduced to kubb: 2010

2012 and 2013 U.S. Champion. Back-to-back Clash of Kubb champion. Several other firsts and podium finishes. Studying biology and chemistry at UW-La Crosse. Enjoys downhill and freestyle skiing. Played defense for three years on EC Memorial HS soccer team.



EVAN FITZGERALD

Born: Iowa City, IA Lives: Roscoe, IL
Primary Team: Team Knockerheads/Goofy Kubbers
Introduced to kubb: 2011

Won 2013 Lindsborg. 2nd at 2012 Des Moines Klassic. Avid curler. Enjoys camping, canoeing, kayaking, and helping with the Boy Scouts. Starting in 2014, organizes Rockford Kubb Tournament. One of the top inkastares in U.S. Co-hosts Fox Valley Kubb Radio.



GORDON KAUFFMAN

Born: Minot, SD Lives: Chippewa Falls, WI
Primary Team: Ulfhednar
Introduced to kubb: 2008

Has played on the team Kubb de Grace and now plays on the team Ulfhednar. He has played in six U.S. Championships, five Dallas Oktoberfests, and the Loppet. Outside of kubb, he enjoys reading, riding bike, and fishing.



EMILY CONNELL

Born: Sydney, Australia Lives: San Diego, CA
Primary Team: Holy Guacamoles
Introduced to kubb: 2006

Won 2007 EC Tournament. Grew up in Wollongong. Enjoys craft, making hand-sewn plush toys, sewing own clothes, playing sax and trumpet, kickboxing, seeing live bands, drinking margaritas, and playing with her dogs Nitro and Tequila. Created U.S. Championship logo.



DAVE GIESE

Born: Wisconsin Rapids, WI Lives: Fitchburg, WI
Primary Team: Rhymes With Tube
Introduced to kubb: 2007

Finished 4th at 2013 Nordic Fest. Known as one of the better baton players in the U.S. He enjoys spending time with friends, volleyball, bowling, brew pubs, euchre, and University of Wisconsin Badger sporting events. Helps organize Madison tournament.





Rubik's Kubbs: L to R: James Gilbertson, Ryan Feathers, Bryan Konicek (Ryan Feathers)

By: Ryan Feathers - Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Rubik's Kubbs

The Story Of A Team's First Trip To The U.S. Championship

Last summer the Handicraft area at Camp Tesomas added kubb as a game to play in their area during free time. I had only briefly heard of the game before and had not tried it much. Soon though I was off playing my first match of kubb (albeit with very non-standard size pieces as we would later discover) and my addiction to the game was born. We found all sorts of times to run down to Handicraft that summer and play in our brief break periods, on the weekend, or even in the waning daylight when you could hardly see the kubbs you were to be throwing at.

At the end of that summer I went home and quickly made my own set, that I continued to play with through scouting events and at other places. I was firmly hooked on the simple game that still contained some strategy and was accessible to anyone. At the start of this summer season many of us camp staff were into the game again and decided that we should make a weekend trip and go to Eau Claire, Wisconsin for the 2013 U.S. National Kubb Championship. We registered two teams, the Kubb Root with Adam Gewiss, Kyle Huddleston, and Matt Hansen and my own team the Rubik's Kubbs with myself, Bryan Konicek, and James Gilbertson.

After weeks of practice up on the hill, and finally learning the proper sizes of all the pieces (we had been playing with 1" in diameter batons all last year when we discovered that batons were supposed to be 1 3/4" in diameter), we were prepared to head off. The camp director kindly gave us all time off for Saturday morning and lent us a cooler and a water cooler for the trip. Saturday morning rolled around and alarms went off at 3:30 AM. As I lumbered into the showers I saw two of the individuals we would need for the trip--a good sign. We were all excited and ready to go play a lawn game halfway across the state with the best in the U.S. We found the rest of our team early that morning, loaded up our backpacks and coolers into Gewiss's van, and boldly headed forth into the night. For those unaware, Adam's van has some interesting features. First off, you start with only three doors, and the passenger door only opens from the inside, and the side door only opens from the outside. During the course of the trip I think we all finally got that down so that at every stop we could figure out the right combination to free all of ourselves for a stretch. This is the same van that has died on me before while riding in it (due to no oil and the engine beginning to seize up somewhere near Mosinee. When Adam went to remove the oil dipstick after we pulled over the plastic head was so hot it ripped off leaving the dipstick in) and this is the van that also would end up stuck in my driveway's ditch for a while. I wasn't completely confident the van would make it there for us, but Adam assured us that we had a decent shot of making it.

Next we swung into Hanna Venture Base at 4:00am to steal some ice from the ice machine to keep our coolers cold on the day. We quietly strode in with our coolers, filled them full of ice for the long day ahead, and reloaded the van and were well and truly on our way. After a little more than an hour we ran into two of our other teammates who were already down in Wausau and picked them up. We took a quick stop for some food and drinks, and broke out the granola bars we had. Then we continued on to Eau Claire.

After about another hour and half, somewhere around 7:00 we drove into Eau Claire, and Adam led us to the soccer park where Nationals were taking place. It was lightly raining at that point in the morning, but nothing too bad. As we pulled up, we were all in shock. Spreading into the distance were around 50 kubb pitches, all set up with the kubbs on the baseline, ready for a day of play. It was a surreal sight realizing that we were really here to play a lawn game all day.

We headed over to the sign-in booth, and got both of our teams signed in and found out the pitches where we would play at. Matt had luckily brought some chairs from his home, and even had a tent with him that we set up, that we could use to store stuff in throughout the day. Many other teams were better prepared with their shade tents and things, and we looked slightly out of place with our camping tent, but what do you expect out of a bunch of Boy Scouts? We got some good practice in that morning in the light rain and were excited for our first matches at 9:00.

"Spreading into the distance were around 50 kubb pitches, all set up with the kubbs on the baseline, ready for a day of play. It was a surreal sight realizing that we were really here to play a lawn game all day."

The morning is broken into pools of four teams each, and you play every team in the pool. This pool play determines your seeding for the Championship Bracket. We were in a pool with Throw Storm, Kubba Libre, and Pack of Snipers, a team that had tied for 5th place last year. Our first match was of course against them. All matches in this early pool play are best of three games. We lined up for our first game of the tournament and promptly embarrassed ourselves. After a few opening throws we wound up having to shoot at three close field kubbs, something that normally would be no issue. Generally I'd say we would hit down those three close kubbs well over 95% of the time.

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Not this time. We managed a puny one hit, and this good team now had a very good advantage line and used it to quickly dispatch us. Game over. The next game we redeemed ourselves somewhat, but their hitting and returning was just better. While we fought for many more rounds, they eventually defeated us. Lost two games and the match. A rough start to the morning, but they were a very good team. They made it to the top eight again like last year.

Next we had our match against Throw Storm. These games were intense! We were quite evenly matched against them. This team was also extremely nice. They were a husband and wife and one of their fathers as best as I could tell. Game one had quite a bit back and forth, but the old man was being extremely clutch. He always threw last, and I'm not sure he missed a kubb in game 1. He was consistently cleaning up every kubb he needed to, including the tough baseline to baseline shots. We eventually lost, and continued to remain winless on the day into game 2. This was another very close game. Our hitting had warmed up, I was returning well. We were each returning about 5-6 kubbs every round and knocking them all over, trying to find a way ahead. After what was probably a half an hour, we finally had managed to eek out the edge and use it for our first win of the day. It was a really satisfying win, and it in some way felt like an affirmation that we were supposed to be there. Now to see if we could win a match! Game 3 was extremely similar to Game 2. Long back and forth with great play on both sides, but we were able to come out on top and win. We had gone 2-1 and won our first match.

It was around this point that both Bryan and I knew we needed to go get some sunscreen on. It had been rainy and overcast all morning, but the rain had abated during our early matches. Now with a thin cloud layer, it had fooled us into feeling fairly safe. Of course to those pale folks out there who know, a cloudy day like that is very deceiving. During our match with Throw Storm we knew that we needed some protection, but the match went so long. We both eventually got some sunscreen on and a brief break before our third match, but both of us got some sunburn. As of this morning, I have some decent redness in places and will be feeling it for a few days probably.

As is though, we also realized that if we beat Kubba Libre we would get 2nd in our pool, which would mean we would earn a bye in the

2014 U.S. National Kubb Championship

July 12 and 13 - Eau Claire, WI

REGISTRATION MARCH 01 - JUNE 21

All skill levels and experience welcome. - Final eight teams return Sunday for quarterfinals.

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Whether it's Saturday and/or Sunday...



...welcome to Eau Claire.

Rubik's Kubbs

The Story Of A Team's First Trip To The U.S. Championship

first round of the Championship! We knew what we had to do. Regrettably I don't remember too much about the following games. I know that we managed to win both, and they were both over fairly quickly. I wish I could remember more on this one, but it was a long day with plenty of excitement to be had ahead.

Our other team we had sent in did a bit worse and got third in their pool. They wound up playing in the first round of the tournament, and I observed their match for a bit. They were playing a team that had gotten 4th in their pool and was a bit worse than Kubb Root. Kubb Root got the win and went into the 2nd round of the championship bracket, which we had already earned ourselves into. The problem we both were going to have though is we would be facing some of the best teams in the country. Kubb Root was up against the Kubbsicles, the 2012 Champions. The Rubik's Kubbs had to play the Leinenkubbels, which had placed third in 2012.

We wound up playing them pretty hard though in the first game. They had left us an advantage line, but unfortunately our hitting was a bit off and we did not utilize it very well in knocking down many kubbs. They fought their way back, we eventually messed up and gave them an advantage line, and that was the end. They took us out in both of the games to win 2-0. However we weren't that far out of it, and felt pretty well about how close we had played them. With a bit more practice it isn't out of thought that we could beat them.

As is, the Kubb Roots also lost. All 32 teams that lose in the round we did wind up in the Consolation Bracket however. This is a best of one bracket though, so the games are extra important, as you don't have the ability to mess up at all, as it could be the end.

I don't really remember our first match at all. We won it fairly handily as I remember and the Kubb Roots also managed to get into the round of 16 teams. From there we had a fun match against family. I forget their team name, but the mother and father were playing and they had their kids with them too. One was really young and kept running around the pitch grabbing pieces and trying to play with them which was a bit humorous. It was an intense round but we had a slight edge for most of it and managed to win again! We were onto the round of 8. At this point we went to observe how Kubb Root was doing. They were playing a team called R2Kubb2. We were going to be playing the winner of that game. If Kubb Root won, then one of our two teams was guaranteed to get into the top 4 in the Consolation Bracket, and the top 4 teams in the Consolation Bracket are given medals! We were close to walking away with some hardware, which was about as well as I thought we would realistically be able to do. The Kubb Roots however wound up losing, and that was the end of their day then. They had a fun time, but now it fell to the Rubik's Kubbs to ensure that R2Kubb2 didn't take both our teams out and deny us any hardware.

R2Kubb2 was at the point in the day of getting pretty far into their cooler of drinks however. They were a team of four players and some of them needed a smoke break, while others needed to get another beer or two down. They came over from their tent carrying the remaining beers of their case, and I think one of their members downed another two during the match. It was a pretty close game that probably went on for about half an hour. They were doing pretty well, but their hitting was decreasing, probably from the booze to be honest, although the wear of the day was getting on us a bit too. Luckily the other team returned a kubb out of bounds twice and that punishment kubb really slowed them down and gave us an advantage. We slowly whittled down their base kubbs and eventually won! We had secured at least 4th place and some form of medals for us! It was really exciting. However this also assured us at least two more games and it was already about 5:00 pm! The Kubb Roots packed up a bunch of our stuff, and we waited on the other game. It was Throw Storm versus some other Eau Claire team and they seemed to know each other fairly well. They were also extremely evenly versed. Their game lasted for 2 hours overall apparently, and finally was done around 6:30 or so. We now had to face off against the very kind Throw Storm team we had played earlier and gone 2-1 against.

Here however, Throw Storm seemed very worn from their marathon game and we were able to hit better than them. They wound up messing up too and gave us a nice advantage line to work from and we fairly quickly dispatched them. This meant we were in the finals of the consolation bracket, playing for 1st place! The Kubbaholics were the team waiting for us, and they had waited for awhile. We were the only games left to go at this point, in fact almost everyone else had left. There weren't any spectators left other than the Kubb Roots. They cheered us on, but our hitting and returning were a bit poor this match by our standards, and the other team was better on both than us. They wound up winning fairly handily, and we wound up with 2nd place.

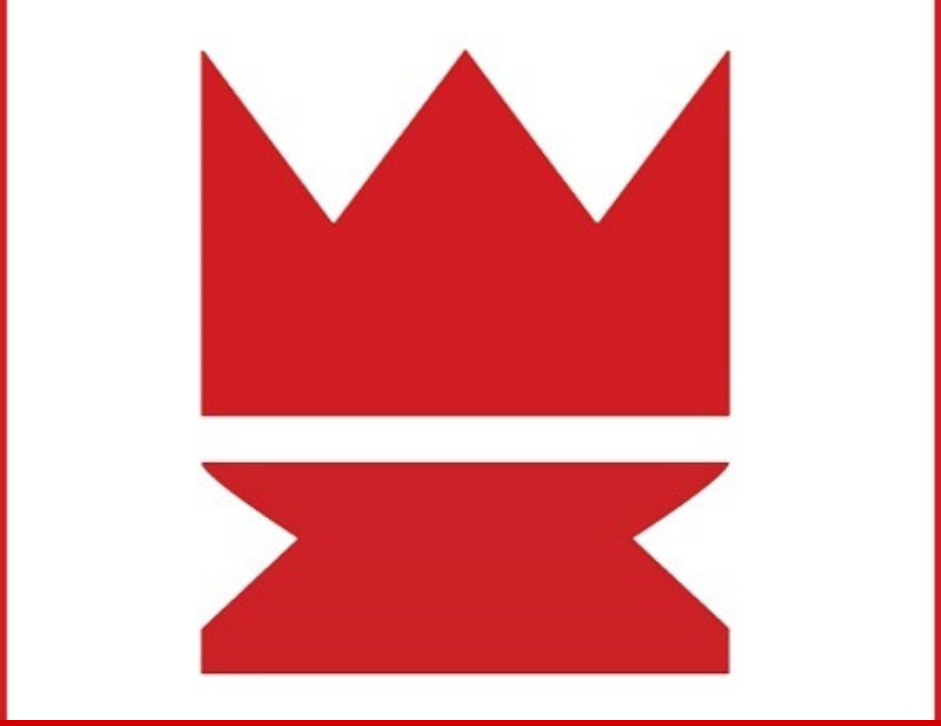
Which was still fantastic! We were quite excited. We were each given a silver medal and our picture was taken, and will wind up on their website later. We managed to be the 2nd place in the Consolation bracket at our first ever kubb tournament, at the U.S. Nationals. It was quite exciting, and a really good spot to finish. We went home with something to show, played 14 games of kubb, and went 8-6 on the day. We got to play some extremely good teams, but never felt all that out of it. With further practice, in future years Rubik's Kubbs could be quite the force it would seem. We are excited about the future, and were proud of the showing we had at our first tournament. It was an extremely fun day, and I hope to make it to more tournaments yet this year and in the future with the guys from our teams.







Left to Right: Throw Storm, Kubboholics, R2Kubb2
(U.S. Championship and Blind Photography)



By: Pattie Hultquist - Ottawa, Ontario

KUBB CANADA

JOINING CANADIANS WITHIN THE GLOBAL VILLAGE OF KUBB SPORT



Pattie Hultquist of Kubb Canada (Kubb Canada)

Kubb: The best damn lawn game.

These are the journeys of the Canucks who brought you Kubb Canada. Its five-year mission: to promote the awesomeness of kubb, to seek out new players and new social opportunities, and to boldly play as all kubb ancestors have before…

It's been the dream of Shane Hultquist to amplify awareness of the game since 2007 when he arrived on the lands of Gotland for an archaeological dig…leading to his participation in the World Kubb Championship. "A game-changing experience, to say the least, I often pondered the reality of doing something similar here on Canadian soil."

No more. He and his wife, Pattie, have endeavored to kick awareness into high gear since being asked to participate in live-action kubb demonstrations by the Swedish Embassy of Ottawa during the Scotiabank Nordic Walk for Cancer Survivorship in the fall of 2013. A small, but influential, group of local players came to help out by doing what they love best: playing kubb! They had the opportunity to show families, senior's home representatives, and even local media celebrities all about the glorious sounds of wood hitting wood. (If a kubb falls in the forest…?)

The stage was set…there is clearly a desire to learn and a want to play. If it happens here, it "must" happen across Canada, right?

There is a core group of individuals who play regularly at camping festivals and parks in and around Ottawa and the surrounding Valley areas, but more awareness is required in order to connect people and groups in broader geographical locations.

The current goal is to seek out local groups across the country using Pattie's skills in social media relations. No small feat in a vast country of backyard players! Dedication to various media channels, networking and community input will be paramount in order to see the goal of a Canadian National Kubb Championship to fruition. Networking is clearly first and front in this preliminary and ongoing challenge. "Thankfully, there has been a tremendous outpouring of support coming to Kubb Canada from our neighbours south of the 49th parallel and we are so very grateful!"

While Pattie works on the social aspect of crafting an online presence for Kubb Canada, and after seeing the work done by Planet Kubb to create a manual scoring system and website designed to keep statistics on games, Shane has been motivated to harness his love of

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programming and desire to learn new skills to take on creating a digital mobile scoring solution.

The application is initially being developed on the Android platform utilizing the scoring mechanism from Planet Kubb. The public release of the application will happen in early 2014 and will allow the user to score games of kubb intuitively and have the option to upload the games to the Planet Kubb system. Real-time statistics are then available much like many professional sports. A version of the application will be ported to the Apple iOS after the Android release. Beta testers have gone through the process of scoring an application already and their input is helping to shape the final outcome.



Shane Hultquist of Kubb Canada (Kubb Canada)

So, with all of these concurrent challenges, is Kubb Canada really going to just set up a championship, just like that? How else is it going to start, eh?!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! June 7th, 2014…the inaugural Canadian Kubb Championship, will be held here in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada!

The next endeavour will be finding sponsorship to help Kubb Canada really make a positive impact not just in the local community, but for those folk across this amazing country who may have thought they were alone in the kubb universe!

Mission: [Accepted]
Shane and Pattie Hultquist
Founders, Kubb Canada

You can find Kubb Canada at:
kubbcanada.com
facebook.com/canadakubb
twitter.com/CanadaKubb



Kubb Canada at Ottawa Nordic Walk (Kubb Canada)

What are you doing on July 12, 2014?

The U.S. National Championship is looking for ambassadors/referees. You get free food, a sweet referee shirt, as much sunscreen as you want, plenty of breaks, and rumor has it, we give out a nice little gift to them as well. And yes, we will train you, so don't worry.

Contact us at usakubb [at] gmail.com

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Wisconsin Kubb and Kubbnation Magazine would like to thank everyone that contributed to this edition of Kubbnation Magazine.

Kubb unites people and creates peace on Earth.

Less than one square mile in size, Eau Claire's Eastside Hill (aka Championship Hill) has dozens of households that play kubb, and the future looks bright, not just in the ESH neighborhood, but throughout the Kubb Capital of North America. Led by the nine homes of kubb players that are on the block surrounded by Hogeboom, Lee, Altoona, and Roderick, this is a (very) small collection of kubb on Championship Hill.

Eastside Hill - Eau Claire, WI

A Collage Of Kubb On Championship Hill


















How Kubb Brought Me Back to Life

By: Garrick van Buren


Garrick van Buren
(Blind Photography)

In the summer of 2011, my third child had just turned a year old. I was just beginning to feel reconnected with the world. My business was having one of its best years, in no small part to my part-time assistant. Yet, despite the optimistic signs all around me – I was working as if the world would end tomorrow. Projects I wanted to forget for clients I wanted to ignore. My regular exercise routine was pacing between my monitor and the coffee pot. I wouldn't leave my house for days at a time. My temper was getting short. I would explode at the slightest inconvenience. I was making my life and my young family's life worse. Not better. I didn't know how to stop.

In early August, two of my favorite people visited from half the world away and set up this block game in my suburban backyard. A simple game of 11 square wooden blocks and six wooden sticks. They were a little unsure of the rules – though they knew that five of the wooden blocks were placed on opposing sides, the larger king – placed in middle, and each side took turns throwing the sticks at the opposing sides blocks. The other parts of game play weren't as clear. It didn't matter, we played game after game after game for what seemed like hours.

Kubb – they called it.

A few weeks later I purchased my first kubb. Then in the middle of a mild, Minnesota winter, I invited a bunch of friends over to play for my 37th birthday. We joked about taking this silly wooden game seriously. We joked about playing competitively.

I pulled together two friends and entered The Loppet Foundation's winter kubb tournament. Outside. In February. In Minnesota. Walking into the tournament I remember saying to Jim, "there's this one part of the rules I don't quite understand." He shrugged and we waited for our first game.

That first game lasted no more than five minutes. Same as the second. In those two short games – Jim, Jamie and I got a faint whiff of the game's bowling-esque short game and intense strategy. We applied our learnings as quickly and clawed our way into the Championship bracket.

After that tournament, when I had a hard problem on a client project – I'd step outside and throw some wood. Sometimes I'd play against myself, other times I'd practice some aspect of the game. A clear, focused mind brought a hit every time. Any other single thought guaranteed a miss. It felt like hours melted away. Yet the clock would say only 30 minutes. Sometimes 45. Always refreshing.

I slept better. I stopped drinking two pounds of coffee a week. My in-laws commented on how much color was in my complexion.

I thought my team was ready for the U.S. National Championship. We weren't. We couldn't hit anything. But we could hold on. If we didn't lose immediately, we could hold on for a hour. A slow, painful slog only relieved by the tournament organizer calling time. Again we clawed our way into the Championship bracket. Again we lost immediately. Two long days in the heat of the Midwestern sun. Playing kubb. Nothing better.

Despite having two opposing sides there's hardly any defense in kubb. This means the throwing team is responsible for their own progress and only they're to blame for a bad throw. This lack of direct competition means both sides celebrate good hits, both sides shake off an unfortunate miss. It's always family on the other side of the pitch.

Kubb is a simple game. 17 non-descript pieces of wood. No technology, no Internet, no Inbox. Just friends and family throwing wood across the lawn. Kubb is a simple game that brought me back to life.

APRIL 11, 2014

Take Kubb To Work/School Day

Just imagine.

Imagine if everyone that played kubb in the world introduced all their co-workers/classmates to kubb, all on the same day. It is about to happen.

2014 U.S. National Kubb Championship

July 12 & 13 - Eau Claire, WI

Registration February 22 - June 22

USAKUBB.ORG

KID KUBB 2014 and FRIENDLIES on Friday

--

FIVE-YEAR BUTTONS for all the fifth-year players

--

Friday and Saturday night AFTER-KUBB party

--

TEAM DRAW party June 28



Game On.

Statements Are Made In 2013

By: Eric Anderson - Eau Claire, Wisconsin

2012 and 2013 U.S. Champions *Kubbsicles* playing in 2013 U.S. Final. (Blind Photography)

This past year was amazing. Just like in 2012, 2013 was a huge year for kubb in the U.S. Both years experienced amazing growth, new endeavors, and a new, and higher platform for kubb to take-off from in 2014. As it seems with the past few years of kubb, it was hard to know what was going to happen in a following year, but something did happen. In 2013, a handful of teams either solidified their name on the competitive kubb sport map or busted down the door and put their name on the map. *Kubbnation Magazine* does not have all the resources to know all the top and upcoming teams (we know some) in every country around the world (this just gave us an idea for next year). However, we do know that there are established good/great teams and upcoming teams throughout Europe. The sport of kubb is growing more and more. With that, let's look at some of the teams that either solidified their place at the top or are newcomers to the top, specifically in the U.S.

<u>King Pin</u>

Let's just cut to the chase. It is 10am on Sunday, July 14, 2013 in Eau Claire, WI. Over 250 people are surrounding the semifinal matches, which are about to start. On Pitch #1, right up against the two sets of bleachers, are Team Knockerheads (Des Moines, IA) and King Pin (Chaska, MN). Before the semifinal started, Team Knockerheads was a household name in Eau Claire and throughout Kubbnation. After the semifinal, King Pin is now also a household name in Eau Claire and throughout Kubbnation. Simple as that...GAME ON.

In what ended up being the match of the 2013 Championship, King Pin faced off against one of the two pre-Championship favorites and won 2-0. The match was full of must hits, pressured-filled inkasting, cheering sections for both teams, and nerves of steel. In that environment, King Pin was able to slay what many consider the best team in the U.S., and for sure one of the two best teams in the U.S. They did not do it in a sloppy, error-filled match. No, they did it in as near of a perfect match as one will see. They also did it with a no fear attitude and teamwork that could be felt in the stands. Most teams have lost before they throw their first batons against Team Knockerheads. Not King Pin. You could see and feel that they believed in their individual skills and roles, and that they felt that as a team they were at equals with Team Knockerheads.

Perhaps some think they were a one-match wonder. No, they finished first in their group, which was the Group of Death with Leinenkubbels Light (2013 T5 and 2012 Bronze Medalist), Team Kubboom-The Supernova, and Kubboholics (won consolation bracket). Perhaps some think they were a one-tournament wonder. No, look at their 2013 (not



***King Pin* after finishing 2nd at the U.S. Championship (Blind Photography)**

GAME ON.

STATEMENTS ARE MADE IN 2013

to mention 2012 and before) results. They kicked things off in Rockford, where the only two matches they lost were against Team Knockerheads and a hybrid of Kubbsicles, both in close matches. They played well and finished high all year, and finished 2nd at the Des Moines Fall Klassic, losing to Team Knockerheads in the Final. By any team's standard, not named Team Knockerheads or Kubbsicles, they had a very successful year.

Most will say that they are still one small step behind the top two, but right now, at the end of 2013, they are all alone in that spot. 2014 will determine if other teams join King Pin, as there are several teams battling to move up through the ranks and/or if King Pin joins the top two teams in the U.S. These are the two questions we are most excited about for the sport of kubb in 2014. We do know this. We know John Oman is now one of the best all-around players in the nation. Phil Goetstouwers really found his game in 2013, and just might be the most underrated player in the U.S. JP Larson's short game is exceptional and quietly takes care of business at eight meters, plus he adds a lefty to the team. They are hard to bet against.

Team Knockerheads

If The Freight Train from Des Moines, IA did not start the year on a mission to win every tournament they played in during 2013, well, it sure seemed like they did. It is impossible to say that Team Knockerheads were not the 2013 U.S. Team Of The Year. Just look at the stats, they do not lie. Quantity and quality. No other team can say that, period. Actually, it is not even close...GAME ON**.**

When all three of them played together, they lost two matches all year. When at least two-thirds of their roster played together, they won 43 matches, lost two, and tied one. Forty of those 43 match wins were 2-0 (note: this data is available on their website). As three members, they won the second and third largest tournaments in the U.S., Minneapolis (with three players in a two-person minimum format) and Rockford, which hosted the 2013 U.S. Midwest Championship. The third tournament they won as three players was the Nordic Fest Kubb Tournament (again three players in a two-person minimum format). With two of their three players, they won the Kubbing to Kick Cancer and Des Moines Fall Kubb Klassic. Don't get us started on their 8-meter game. When their matches were scored, their 8 meter hit rate was 101 of 210 (48.1%).

Not only are they the team of 2013, but one could say that they had three of the top 10 players in the U.S. last year. One could even argue that they had three of the top five players in the U.S. last year, and perhaps the best or second best players at their respective positions. For the positions that they play on the team, Josh Feathers (2011 U.S. Champion), is a tremendously detail-oriented lead-off and blaster, has a very underrated eight-meter game, has won two straight Bästa Inkastare awards at the U.S. Championship, and is unarguably one of the top three inkastares in the U.S. Grant Scott finished the year as the best eight-meter thrower in the U.S., nothing more is needed to say. Chris Hodges is one of the best all-around players in the nation (which is highly needed with batons three and four), and it is no secret that *Kubbnation Magazine* said in early 2013 that he was the best all-around player in the U.S. Sure, other players are reaching his all-around level of play, but we still put him in the top category of all-around players in the U.S.

It is absolutely impossible to envison Team Knockerheads taking a step backwards. It is not going to happen. The only option is for teams to join them in their skill and passion for the sport, and be able to take those two things and perform at high levels. With 2014 being the second year that Chris Hodges will be on the team, and with the addition of another top all-around player in Evan Fitzgerald (anyone can argue another top 10 player in the U.S.), it is easy to imagine that the Freight Train's 2014 results will again be stellar.

Kubbsicles

During the year, they often mix-up their teams with friends and other teams, and during the school year, college studies and college sports limit the number of tournaments that they can play in together. However, when summertime rolls around and Mark Blazel, Max Sebesta, and Zach Brown are all able to line up together in the now famous tank-tops and white shorts, gold medals happen, and they happen on the biggest stage we have here in the U.S. In 2013, Kubbsicles proved to the world that 2012 was not a fluke and won their second consecutive U.S. Championship...GAME ON.

At one time, and as recent as one year ago (remember, 2014 will be their fifth U.S. Championship appearance), people would be confused about who is who and their style of play was a catalyst for the perception that there was no captain or leader of the team. Perhaps there is still no captain or leader, per sea, but Mark Blazel has set himself apart over the course of the past year and shown that he needs to be in any discussion of best all-around player in the U.S. and best inkastare in the U.S. With that, he has raised the level of play on the team.

The 2012 Kubbsicles were a much better team than the 2011 Kubbsicles, and they were a better team in 2013 than in 2012. If you watched their interview with the U.S. Championship a week after winning their second U.S. Championship, you will hear three players that want to win as bad as anyone and view the game as a sport. They



Team Knockerheads won the 2013 MN Kubb Loppet in amazing fashion. (MN Kubb)

Game On.

Statements Are Made In 2013



Left to Right: Kubbarate and Team Norway (Blind Photography)

did not line up together after the U.S. Championship, but if you watched any of them play since July 14, 2013, you will see that they are still trying to improve their game, and successfully doing it.

Playing as two players, they won the Madison Midsommar tournament, and playing with two Kubbsicles and two players from Dark Side of the Kubb, they finished second at the U.S. Midwest Championship in Rockford. In addition to that, Mark Blazel stood on other podiums in 2013, not to mention successfully defended his 2012 Clash of Kubb title, this year with David Ellringing and Sy Ellringer from The Ringers.

Kubbsicles are also not going to suddenly or gradually take a step backward. It is just not going to happen. If you want success and top finishes, a team is going to have to find a way to beat them, or be happy being on a podium with them, just one or two steps below them.

Kubb'Ings

When the 19th World Championship in Kubb started, only one time had a non-Swedish team won gold. Over the past few years, the top four teams at the WC seemed to consist of Team Ekeby, a mix of three or four other teams that are in the running year after year, sprinkled in with a team that makes their only podium finish. However, over the past couple years, there have been more and more Swedish teams and non-Swedish teams that have been knocking on the door for a top four finish and even a World Championship title. Well, in 2013, the German team Kubb'Ings kicked the door down and won the European Championship and the World Championship...GAME ON.

If you follow European kubb, Kubb'Ings is a household name that you have heard before. They have been very successful on the German circuit and have played in other countries, including playing previously in the WC. If you have watched some of their videos, you will see that their eight meter game is lethal and their inkasting elite.

Kubb'Ings have all the skills required to stay as great as they are. They play numerous times a year across Europe, and they are going to win many more tournaments. With so many teams fighting it out in Europe, it is going to be exciting to see if how many other teams join Kubb'Ings at not only their level of play, but also their level of success. They are now the ones being chased.

The Kids

More and more kids are playing. Some are playing with other kids, and others are playing with adults. Either way...GAME ON.

Are a lot of them playing just for fun? Yes, and that is the most important thing. At the same time, many of them are getting better and enjoying getting better. Then there are the handful of young kids that are not just getting good, but they are good. Look at the Eau Claire team Kubbarate, which was made up of two 10 year olds and a seven year old at the U.S. Championship and one of the 10 year olds (Sam Klages) and the seven year old (his brother Max) at other tournaments. They win matches just as much as they lose, if not win more. Toss in a variety of other young players like Sy Ellringer on teams like The Ringers, these kids are playing in high level kubb matches.

2014 and Beyond

There are questions to ask for 2014. First, how many 1,000s of kids can we introduce to the game in 2014? Second, what teams are going to challenge Team Knockerheads and Kubbsicles in the U.S. and Kubb'Ings in Europe? Will King Pin and top contenders in Europe continue to stand their ground, or not? Will it just be King Pin who will have enough to take down the top two in the U.S., or will others emerge? There are teams on the doorstep (some real close), wanting to get in, and waiting for the 2014 season to start. There is more room at the top, but it will get quickly crowded...GAME ON.

Kubbnation Magazine's - U.S. Best of the Rest

Leinenkubbels (Eau Claire, WI) - In past two years, only losses at U.S. are to 2012 Champion and 2013 1st and 2nd. Sometimes not talked about, since historically they play only in EC. Gregg Jochimsen is a very underrated inkastare. If you picked them 4th best in the U.S., we would not argue. Chris Staack moved to Michigan. Hopefully he will come back to EC in July.

The Ringers (Eau Claire, WI) - 2010 U.S. Champions. Had amazing 2013, which is nothing new for them, with podium finishes in four states. Team up with different players more than anyone, and they perform at very high levels. That adds a ton of value when looking at how great this team really is. Perhaps as close to King Pin as any team out there. One could argue they belong next to King Pin.

Kubb Snipers (Appleton, WI) - 2012 was their breakout year - won Loppet and Madison. Played the reds for the first time at U.S. in 2013. Chad Bevers is a beast as one of the best all-around players out there. Chad Parsons is underrated. The Chads don't play together as often as some. Would love to see them line up together in four or five tournaments. If they did, look out top two.

Tad Kubbler (Minneapolis, MN) - This team has swagger. Since 2009, they have made it to every U.S. Quarterfinal...think about that. Have lost to Team Knockerheads the past two years in U.S. Quarters. Numerous podiums including winning Dallas 2011 and teaming up to win Dallas in 2013. 2014 is a big year for them, as more teams are aiming to use these veterans as their own gauge of success.

Dark Side of the Kubb (Eau Claire, WI) - Often in the shadow of their friends Kubbsicles. Teamed up with Kubbsicles to finish 2nd in Rockford, just missed playing the reds on Sunday in EC, and other good 2013 performances. Inkasting dramatically improved in 2013. If they work hard, 2014 could be a great year. Some may say a little early for them to be on Best of the Rest, but they belong.

Kubb'd (Des Moines, IA) - Historically the 2nd best team from DM. Injuries hurt 2013 record. Dana Oredson's improved game will take them to a higher level of play in 2014. We expect them to exceed their 2012 form, and so do they.

Kubbitz (Eau Claire, WI) - Like Leinenkubbels, they play mostly in EC. Some will say their path to the past two U.S. Semifinals have been easier than the others. Perhaps that is true. However, they have two 4th place U.S. medals hanging up at home, and Dan Drumm has a 2008 medal as well. Not bad at all.

Sweden's Sons (Eau Claire/River Falls, WI) - They did not play together in 2013. However, their past record is rock solid with three firsts and other podium finishes as well. Will they return in 2014?

Just missed, but could easily be joining the above teams (does not include a variety of other newer teams that could make the jump as well).

Team Kubboom (Eau Claire, WI) X-Kubbed (Chaska, MN)

Kubbilicious Maximus (Eau Claire, WI and beyond)



By: Eric Anderson - Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Taken and edited from the wisconsinkubb.com blog

U.S. Tournament Growth

Non-stop Growth Since 2007

So, let's say you have a business and it is Year 1. In Year 1, you had 18 accounts. You were really happy with that 18. The year before you didn't even have this business. The next year you had 23, then Year 3 you had 34. In Year 4, just three years after you started, you had 57 accounts. Yes, that is a 217 percent increase in accounts. Pretty good over three years. And remember, you were happy with the 18.

OK, let's try a different one. In Year 1 you had 18 accounts. You thought this was great. You had never had your own business before. Living life in the big city, you wanted to give it a go. You saw a couple other people starting up similar business, and things were going pretty good, so why not. In Year 2, you increased to 46 accounts. In Year 4, after 84 accounts in Year 3, you had a whopping 130 accounts. Think about it. You were feeling great in Year 1 and in Year 2, you could not believe the growth (155%). Then, just like the above example, three years after your initial start up, you were at 130 accounts, or over a 600 percent increase.

Let's toss out one more. Same type of business, and actually starting at the same time as the ones above. This one had 30 in Year 1, followed by 55, 84, and then 108. 30 to 108 three years later. And remember, the business did not even exist prior to Year 1.

How about if you put $30 in the bank in Year 1. In just two years later, you are looking at $120. Or how about another example. $8 in Year 1 and three years later, you have $73. That is some pretty good growth.

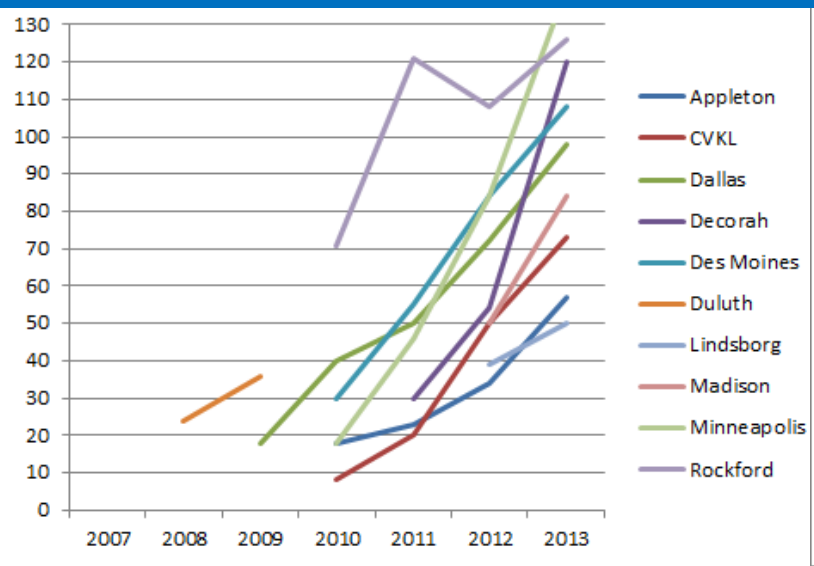
What are we talking about? Kubb tournaments, that's what we are talking about. Yes, this is the growth of the Appleton, Minneapolis, Des Moines, Decorah, and Chippewa Valley Kubb League tournaments. And this is just half of them. You can see all of them below.

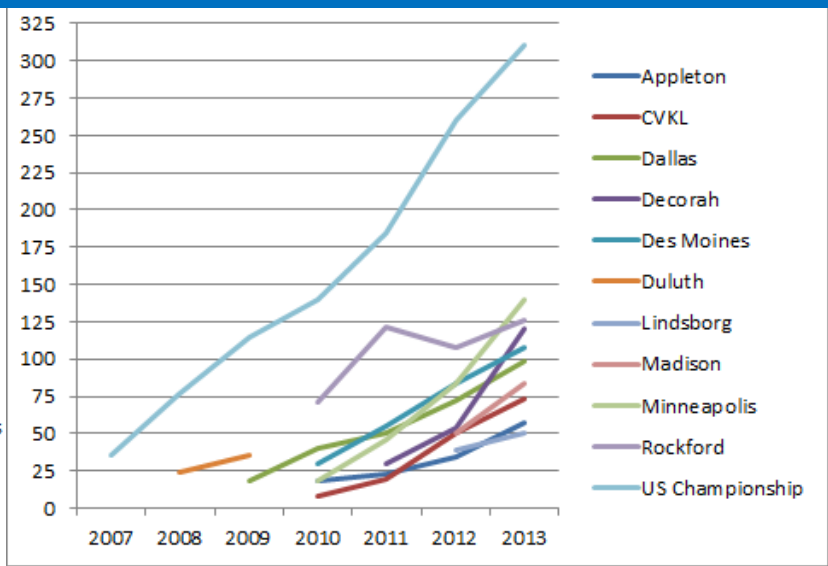
This article is not intended to show bigger is better, as we don't believe in that. This post is to show the growth of kubb tournaments in the U.S. The below graphs show only the tournaments that have existed for two years, since 2007. There have been more tournaments since 2007, but some were only for one year. This also does not take into account all the different tournaments happening in Thief River Falls, MN. In addition, there were new tournaments in 2013 that are already scheduled again in 2014. There are also new tournaments on the 2014 schedule. Kubb tournaments keep coming at you like Fox Valley Kubb Sunday Night radio shows.

Yes, you are reading it correctly that only one time did a tournament decrease in size since 2007. That was Rockford from 2011 to 2012. We are not sure about you, but we would not mind owning any of these businesses. The growth speaks for itself. There are two graphs below. One is with the U.S. Championship in Eau Claire, WI, and the other is without. Due to the size of the U.S. Championship, it makes it easier to see the growth of the other tournaments on a graph that does not have the U.S. Championship.

Enjoy. By the way, for those of you in other parts of the U.S., the proof is out there for all to see. Yes, I am talking to Seattle, New York City, Columbus, Salt Lake City, Boston, and a whole lot more. You build it, people will come, and you will have amazing growth. It takes some work, and often a lot, but does it pay off.

Graphs: Number of players at each tournament. Data was acquired from respective tournament directors.







Kubb'Ings standing on top of the kubb world at the World Championship (Robert Harnack)

KUBB'INGS
2013 WORLD CHAMPIONS

By: Robert Harnack - Konstanz, Germany

Last year, we interviewed Robert Harnack and Björn Görlitz, two of the best kubb players in Germany. We wanted to get an inside look at their two teams, them as players, and their thoughts on kubb in general, specifically in Europe. One of the questions was when they thought a non-Swedish team would win the World Championship, Robert answered, *"We think many kubb players in Europe want as quickly as possible a non-Swedish world champion. This desire is also to understand and drives many people to improve themselves in order to show at the WC a great performance. And we think in the near future we'll give it a few teams that can make it, and put the home side duly under pressure. We'll see what happens in the future."*

Well, for Robert's team Kubb'Ings, the future was in 2013. They won their group with ease, battled their way to the semifinals and faced off against a young Gotland team, and then won the Final against another young Gotland team.

Being a non-Swedish team and winning the WC does not happen often (only once before). Actually, winning the WC and not being Team Ekeby does not happen often. After the Germans won the 2013 World Championship, we knew we wanted to get a behind the scenes look at what their trip to the World Championship was like. We were able to reach Robert near Konstanz, Germany. He was kind enough to detail their trip and experiences at the 19th World Championship in Kubb.

The following is Robert's description of the team and their trip.

The Team:
Kubb'Ings (Kubb Engineers)
Andreas Pieper, 28, Back Up Blaster (watch the game against SMP the 2nd set), All-rounder
Robby Engelmann, 32, Single Kubb shooter ("Sternen Sammler"à Stars catcher), Cleaner
Jais Langer, 14, Inkastare (Best Inkastare at the VM, Best Player of the Final and the VM!), first 2 or 3 throws
Christian Groth, 24, Blaster No. 1
Heiko Kreuzburg, 44, All-rounder, Cleaner
Robert Harnack, 28, normal last baton, All-rounder

Our 2013 team consisted of one VM Rookie (Christian) and 5 VM veterans. Andreas and Robert played their 3rd VM and Heiko, Robby, and Ja played their 2nd VM.

Training
- Our "Training Camp" started on Monday 29th July, in Berlin. We prepared 3.5 days for the VM.
- For Andreas, Robert, and Christian these 3.5 days were the only days they played with a VM kubb set.
- We played the whole days. We play kubb and eat, drink, sleep, and talk about the games from the past.

The Trip
- Our flight goes from Berlin to Stockholm-Arlanda, then to Visby on Friday the 2nd August.
- We rent a car from Visby Airport to Rone GOIK (VM Arena). It's 65 km away from Visby.

Friday (the WC begins)
- Arrival at the VM Arena: 2:35. The qualification was on the run.
- Met Lode and Sören and talked about what will come on Saturday. Barbecue invitation from Sören, but the whole team wanted to play kubb deep into the night (we do it since we were at the VM the first time in 2011).
- Check our camping area and set up the tents.
- 4:00 the qualification is over. The best 32 teams are now in for Saturday, so the 64 teams who will go for gold are now clear.

KUBB'INGS
2013 WORLD CHAMPIONS

- Kubb'Ings start the practice in games against Belgium, Swedish and Switzerland teams. Won every game in best of three battle.
- 8:00 o'clock in the evening, many guys are at the camping area and are partying.
- Heiko and Jais with their family go to Sören's barbeque and leave the arena and slept just far away from the arena.
- All other guys play kubb deep into the night and slept at the camping area.
- Back at the camping area our Swedish neighbors invited us for drinking and hangout by them. We do it, and Robert was the last guy who left the party at 3 o'clock on the match day.

Saturday

- Saturday 03rd August. Match day. After the Swedish anthem at 9am the 19th VM started.
- We were in Group 13 and play against "Sist in först", "Team Megatron", "Raukt upp i Röjven" and win all games clear.
- Round of last 16: we play against Nybrokorpen 2, supposedly easiest opponent on the paper. For us it was a 1 hour very tough competition and worst game we played at the VM 2013. After this game, the trouble for all other opponents start.
- The first time we weren't out at the round of last 16, we say now: "Everything is now possible."
- Quarterfinal: Kubb'Ings vs SMP Switzerland United. Our opponent traded the worst two kubb players out of the team and traded the best Switzerland individual player and another guy in. For us, it was clear, they are the main favorite. They wanted and needed to win against us, they had set themselves under pressure. For some reason, that was our most important advantage because they played at once totally underground bad and cramped. Another reason was that they watch our 2nd set against Nybrokorpen one round earlier. They underestimated us and we kicked the self-proclaimed Switzerland Kubb National Team in a great arc out of the tournament. Unbelievable, we are in the "Cage" and top four in the world!

Semi-final

Semi-Final against Emmie Gardell (see page 32). We played against them in 2012 in the same group and won close 2:1. Robert watched them the whole Saturday and after they beat the "Hansson's" (3 members of Team Ekeby), everyone knew, that will be an interesting game. We played a very quick first set and won. In the 2nd set, the referee says no to two throws, the whole audience was against (incl. the Swedish people) and everyone including him knew that his decisions were wrong. We lost the 2nd set, which was the first set in the tournament. In the 3rd set, we quickly brought to us in the form of the semi-finals and moved quickly to the Final. Unbelievable Part 2, we are in the Final. Top 2, minimum world vice champion. Amazing. But the best will come soon....

The 2013 World Championship Final

FINAL: Kubb'Ings vs Menage A Trois (see page 32)
The best players of both teams know each other since the European Championship 2013, two weeks ago. Kubb'Ings win the opening toss. Robby did the best throw we have all ever seen. The baton stopped less than one millimeter away from the king. YEAH!

We start with just only a hit from Robert. Menage answers with two kubbs. The answer from Kubb'Ings was two. Five kubbs now part of the game. Menage answer with zero. Jais inkasted the five kubbs perfect, and we cleared the pitch with only three batons. Robert and Heiko eliminated the two remaining kubbs and Andreas hits the King. We lead 1:0.

Menage on the turn, they started like we the set before with only one kubb. We answered with three. They cleaned the four and hit one baseline kubb. Jais got five now. We cleaned the pitch with three batons and Heiko and Andreas hit two kubbs from the baseline.

Seven kubbs part of the game now. Seven kubbs proved to be too much and after three missed throws and the kubb in the front stays now alone and Kubb'Ings can go forward to the King's line (4-meter line). Six kubbs were inkasted perfect by Jais and after the three batons cleaned the pitch we have three king shots to be the new World Kubb Champion 2013. Heiko did it with first.

Jais did the inkasting the whole tournament very good. He was the youngest kubb player and didn't produce a criminal kubb. I think it has never happened in the entire history of the Kubb World Championship since 1995! So Jais was the MVP for the Final and the whole tournament. Unbelievable, a 14 years old kid did the best job ever!

Terry Ekelöf said to Robert after the Final, that at the moment just Menage or Kubb'Ings can win the VM after 2013. It's an honor to get such a statement from a 11-time world champion. Robert thinks that's not a correct statement. There are a lot teams who can win the title. But hey, it doesn't matter.

2013 World Championship Results

Champion: Kubb'Ings (GER)

2nd: Ménage A Trois (SWE)

3rd: Gloria Victis (SWE)

4th: Emmie Gardell (SWE)

Where was the 13-time World Champion Team Ekeby?

The three Hansson team members wanted to play in a family team, so the six members did not play together in 2013. According to team member Terry Ekelöf, the Team Ekeby team that he played with in 2013 will be the same team in 2014, unless someone does not want to play or cannot play. If that happens, then perhaps a former member of Team Ekeby can join back on the team, or someone else. Team Ekeby has a team rule that no player ever gets kicked off the team.


Emmi Gardell


Bej-laug-eth


Ménage à Trois


Berras Sorkar

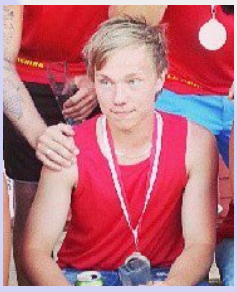
Growing Up With Kubb

A Look At Four Gotland Teams

For many on Gotland, kubb is part of their life. Some more than others, but kubb is there just like the Baltic Sea which surrounds the island. Here is an inside look at four teams that grew up with the game.

Ménage à Trois

"Ménage à Trois has existed for four years. Kristofer has been on the team for two years. Where does the team name come from? Josef was about to register the team for the WC and couldn't come up with a name. He asked Jesper for some ideas. Josef wanted a name in a other language and Jesper heard it in a song and just said it. Without knowing what it meant, Josef registered it and we stuck to it. The first three years the team lost in the round of 16." - In 2013, they finished 2nd at the World Championship.



Isak Björklund

Born: Rone
Reside: Rone
Age: 19
Age started: 4 or 5
Position: Depends on how I'm doing in a game.
How often he plays: When the weather is warm, I almost play a little every day!
Why he likes kubb: I grew up with it, and it's just something you can do at all times.



Josef Björklund

Born: Rone
Reside: Hemse
Age: 24
Age started: 4 or 5
Position: I throw mostly at the base, so I would say last or second last depending on the daily form. I also do most of the throw-ins.
How often he plays: This year I haven't practice as must as I used to, so like 2-3 times a week maybe, 3 years ago I played every day from April to September I think.
Why he likes kubb: It's a nice game and I'm quite good at it. The tournaments are the best part, and try to keep the team cool.



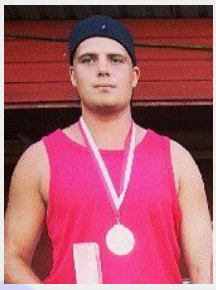
Kristofer Funk

Born: När
Reside: När
Age: 28
Age started: I live in Gotland, it's just something you grow up with here.
Position: I throw as 2-4 person, so mostly front play.
How often he plays: Every other day from May to September.
Why he likes kubb: Why I like kubb? Because I'm really good at it ;)



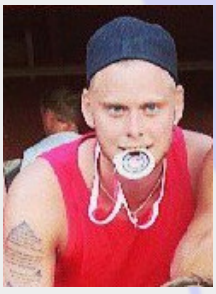
Christoffer Grönström

Born: Rone
Reside: Rone
Age: 24
Age started: 4 or 5 years old
Position: First thrower
How often he plays: 1-3 times a week during summer.
Why he likes kubb: It's fun because everyone can play the game and i like to meet new people.



Jesper Hederstedt

Born: Alva
Reside: Hemse
Age: 24 (16 in mind)
Age started: young kid
Position: One of the last two. I'm a freaking beast!
How often he plays: Last 2 years a couple hours/ week during spring and summer. But before that Josef and me could play for 8 hours straight.
Why he likes kubb: I like all kinds of sports and kubb was the closest thing to a sport I was decent at. And to be honest, what girl dosen't like a World Champion?



Anton Larsson

Born: Levide
Reside: Hemse
Age: 25
Age started: I started to throw serious when I joined Menage a Trois about four years ago.
Position: My position in the team is mainly at the shorter kubbs. Or one that no one else wants to throw at.
How often he plays: I play and practice from April to September depending on the weather. But it happens that we take out kubb in the middle of the winter as well.
Why he likes kubb: I like it because all you need is kubb and some grass to get playing. And anyone can join. It's a nice summer activity.

Bej-laug-eth

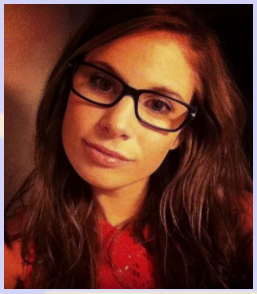
"The team was started in 2009, but 2010 we changed the name to Bej-laug-eth. We have an A team that plays kubb and we are their B team. Auh-laug-eth consists of guys and Bej-laug-eth consists of girls. Auh-laug-eth was formed in 2005. Together we are a kubb club." - The two team names sound out the Swedish words for "A team" and "B team".



Sandra Bogren
Born: Visby
Reside: Visby
Age: 25
Age started: Since I was a little girl, but I started to play more seriously when these lovely girls asked me if I wanted to join the team last year.
Position: I'm a neutral player and I prefer to throw at the baseline. It's something psychological with the ones in front of me.
How often she plays: I try to play as often as I can but I think that the team needs to practice more together.
Why she likes kubb: I love kubb because it's fun and easy to play, everyone can join. For me kubb means summer.



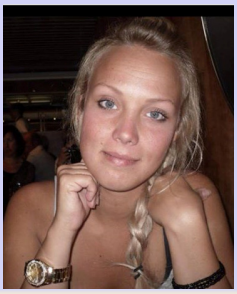
Madelene Buskas
Born: Klintehamn
Reside: Visby
Age: 23
Age started: I have played kubb for fun with my family at home in the summer since I was a little girl. I started to compete with a team 2009 for the first time, in Kubb VM in Rone. In 2010, I started a new team with my friends and that is the team we have today.
Position: My position in the team is to throw the kubbs.
How often she plays: In the summer I often play kubb at parties and our team is trying to practice some days every week, but we need to practice even more to get better!
Why she likes kubb: I play kubb because it's fun and you meet so many new and different people in the competitions.



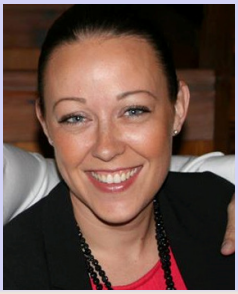
Carro Ohlsson
Born: Visby
Reside: Visby
Age: 23
Age started: I have played kubb for whole my life, but I started to compete three years ago.
Position: I'm a pretty natural player, but I can get very angry when I miss the kubb. I like to throw at the short kubbs.
How often she plays: In the summer I try to play every week with the team and with friends and family.
Why she likes kubb: Kubb is a fun game, where everybody has fun and can join.



Anna Olsson
Born: Visby
Reside: Stenkumla
Age: 22
Age started: I have played since I was a little girl for fun, I started to compete when I was 17 years old.
Position: My position is to throw and psych out the other team
How often she plays: In the summer I play maybe once a week, the team is trying to play together as often as we can, but we definitely need to try harder on that point.
Why she likes kubb: It's a social, fun thing to do, I like hanging out outside with my friends and I think that kubb can do a boring party super fun!



Emelie Olsson
Born: Visby
Reside: Visby
Age: 26
Age started: I have played kubb since I was a little girl but I started to compete when I was almost twenty.
Position: I'm a neutral player who likes to see solutions more than I see problems. I like to create a good feeling in the team.
How often she plays: I play seriously twice a year and in-between try to practice with the team.
Why she likes kubb: Kubb is something nice to do at summer parties. As long everybody has a good time while playing!



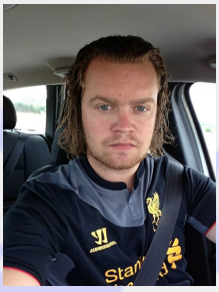
Hanna Pettersson
Born: Dalhem
Reside: Roma
Age: 27
Age started: My parents bought a kubb game when I was 10 years old, and I have played every summer since then.
Position: I'm a neutral player but I like the long throws at the baseline the most.
How often she plays: I play as often as I can in the summer but not as much as I should want to.
Why she likes kubb: Kubb is a good game to bring people together in the summer.

Emmi Gardell

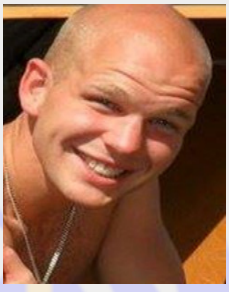
"Our team Emmi Gardell has existed since 2006. The team name, Emmi Gardell, comes from a mutual old friend who is also good looking. Why? There is no reason. We all step in and help each other when needed. If there someone who feels insecure about the throw we just let someone else take it. So everyone has the same position except for the inkastares (Sonny and Mattis)." - In 2013, they finished 4th at the World Championship.



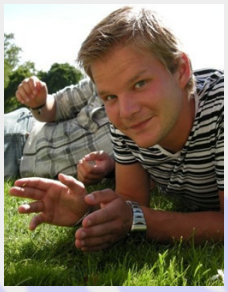
Simon Bolin
Born: Hemse
Reside: Hemse
Age: 25
Age started: as a child
How often he plays: I play 5-6 times a week.
Why he likes kubb: I like it because of the amazing atmosphere at kubb matches and we have a really great teamspirit in the team and we have good support from one another and of course the spectators.



Marcus Johansson
Born: Rone
Reside: Alva
Age: 28
Age started: 18
How often he plays: I play very often in the summertime otherwise I don´t play at all.
Why he likes kubb: I like it because it´s the best game in the world!



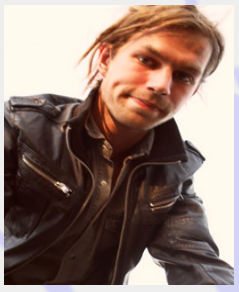
Sonny Nilsarve
Born: Rone
Reside: Visby
Age: 26
Age started: 6
How often he plays: I play kubb 3-4 days a week in the summertime.
Why he likes kubb: I like kubb because its exiting and anyone can play.



Timmi Nilsarve
Born: Rone
Reside: Visby
Age: 27
Age started: as a child
How often he plays: I play kubb about 4 times a week in the summertime. Sometimes about 10 matches a day.
Why he likes kubb: I like kubb because of the crazy twists of the game. Also there is something magic about the Kubb World Championship.



Mattis "Mattan" Nilsson
Born: Rone
Reside: Hemse
Age: 26
Age started: 6
How often he plays: I play kubb every day in the summertime but never in the winter.
Why he likes kubb: I like kubb because it´s very fun and it´s a game for everyone.



Petter Winarve
Born: Rone
Reside: Rone
Age: 24
Age started: as a child
How often he plays: I play kubb almost every day in the summertime.
Why he likes kubb: I like kubb because it´s nice and easy to play with friends and have a beer.

Berras Sorkar

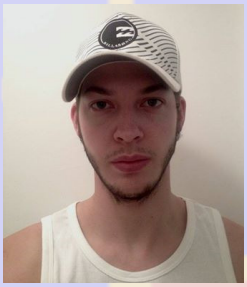
"Berras Sorkar has existed for four years. Where does the team name come from? Our team captain´s nickname is "Berra" and "sorkar" is a name for boys in the Gotland dialect (in Swedish boys is "pojkar")." - In 2012, they finished 2nd at the World Championship.



Joakim Gardell
Born: Alva
Reside: Visby
Age: 22
Age started: 10
Position: First thrower.
How often he plays: In the summer very often. In the winter not at all.
Why he likes kubb: I like the feeling of a wooden stick in my hand, and it's fun!



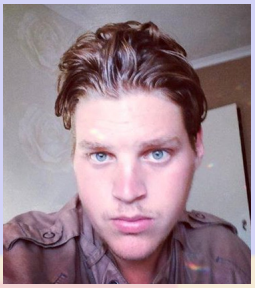
Alexander Karlsson
Born: När
Reside: När
Age: 23
Age started: I was 17 when I started playing.
Position: For the most part, I throw next to last.
How often he plays: Almost every day in the summer.
Why he likes kubb: Because it's fun.



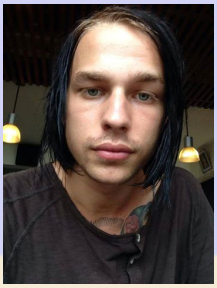
Linus Pettersson
Born: Rone
Reside: Stockholm
Age: 22
Age started: Probably about 3, but the serious game began when I was like 12-13 years old
Position: Second thrower, takes all the easy throws.
How often he plays: In the winter not so much but in summertime I do play every day.
Why he likes kubb: For me kubb means summer and when it's summer everything is just great.



Simon Pettersson
Born: Rone
Reside: Hemse
Age: 20
Age started: I think 5-6 years old.
Position: In 9/10 times I shoot on the basekubbs.
How often he plays: Just play the summers, was a lot more when I was younger but it was the good old days!
Why he likes kubb: Because it's fun.



Tom Thomasson
Born: Alva
Reside: Kalmar
Age: 22
Age started: First time I played more serious kubb was when I started in high school and played kubb together with three friends from the team.
Position: Inkastare and last thrower.
How often he plays: In the beginning I practice kubb 2 -3 hours every day in the summer. Today I practice 3 times a week.
Why he likes kubb: When I was younger and looked at the Finals when Team Ekeby played and I saw them play in the difficult situations and how they handled it. I was 11 years old when I saw Ekeby play in the Finals and 10 years later we played against them in the WC-Final. That´s why I like kubb.



Björn "Berra" Winarve
Born: Rone
Reside: Hemse
Age: 21
Age started: My parents were in the organization Rone Goik when they started Kubb VM in 1995, so ever since we always have played kubb in the summer evenings. I was about 12 when I joined Kubb VM with my old team "Sämst På Plan" now called "Emmi Gardell".
Position: Mostly second thrower. Sometimes third thrower. As second thrower I get down the lonely kubbs and sometimes combos and like third thrower I throws in many different situations. You need to be all-round as a third thrower. I'm also the captain!
How often he plays: Summertime every day, maybe 4-5 hours. Wintertime none.
Why he likes kubb: I like kubb because of the thinking and the discussions about what choice is the smartest, and the adreniline in a tournament game.



2014 U.S. Midwest Championship

July 26
Decorah, Iowa

Part of the 48th annual Nordic Fest
nordicfest.com
(minimum 3-player teams)

Midwest Kubb Championship

Nordic Fest Kubb Tournament

Scandinavian Fun For The Whole Family
Celebrating Decorah's Norwegian Heritage Since 1967

July 11, 2014
The day before the U.S. Championship
Eau Claire, WI

Ages: up to 12 years old
Min. 2 player teams
All players receive a participatory medal
Each team plays 3 matches

Top team from each group advance to playoff
Top 4 teams get awards Saturday morning
Plus much more...

Info and registration at:
usakubb.org

KID KUBB 2014
U.S. Junior Kubb Championship

The Kubb Nerds

Kubbing To Kick Cancer And More in Kasson, Minnesota

By: Dee Dee Halvorson - Kasson, Minnesota

Welcome to Kasson, Minnesota, population 6,006. We are located 13 miles west of Rochester, MN along U.S. Hwy 14 and Minnesota State Highway 57. Who are we? Dee Dee and Jason Halvorson, Nerd Herd, Kubb Nerds, Kasson Kubb? We've been known by a lot of different names during the past year. Let me provide you with a bit of history on how it all came to be.

In 2009, a group of co-workers decided to form a Relay for Life team to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Being the five of us were all IT professionals we chose the team name of Nerd Herd (credit going to NBC's TV series " Chuck"). That explains our Nerd Herd handle.

The kubb portion all started with a challenge. On a Friday afternoon in May of 2011, one of Jason's co-workers sent out a challenge – Google "kubb", make a set over the weekend and we'll compare them on Monday. Later that night with the help of Google, desmoineskubb.com for the instructional pdf, and a video by Mad Ze we were ready to start building. Saturday we had the set made and called our niece Danielle and husband Nick Fitch to come over and try out this "new" lawn game. We were hooked.

Since Team Nerd Herd formed we have tried a lot of different means to raise money. Some were successful, some not so much. In the fall of 2012 we hit upon the idea to host a kubb tournament. We did some on -line research, asked questions from other tournament directors and observed a few tournaments. We named our event "Kubbing to Kick Cancer", and things started to take off. Our first tournament was held on Saturday, June 15, 2013. Home Depot donated all the wood we used to make our kubb sets and trophies. Various Nerd Herd members came out to help us run the event. We planned for a 16 team tournament. 12 teams registered. Six of the teams had never played before. Three had played in the backyard or on fishing trips. Three were unknown (to us) teams from Wisconsin and Iowa. We learned a lot, we think people had a great time. Most importantly, we made some new friends while raising money for the American Cancer Society. To us that spelled success! As of August 2013, team Nerd Herd has raised $24,931.42 for the American Cancer Society.



Kubb Nerds in Des Moines, IA
Dee Dee is on the left. (Blind Photography)

That however is only part of the story. Where do all the other names come in? After our tournament, we started looking around for tournaments to play in. The inaugural event for the Kubb Nerds (Jason, Dee Dee, Danielle, and Nick) was the 2013 U.S. Kubb Nationals. Then came Nordic Fest (Kubb Nerds), DMK Fall Kubb Klassic (Lady Kubb Nerds and Man Kubbs). We were registered for Uffda Fest but it was cancelled due to bad weather. I'm sure there will be other name combinations as different friends join us in other tournaments.

In an effort to grow the popularity of the sport, learn, and play more kubb with others, we are planning to organize a Kasson Kubb Club (2K Club) this spring.

Kubbing to Kick Cancer 2014 will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2014. Registration will start in early February 2014. Visit our website: www.kubbingtokickcancer.com for more info. Thanks for visiting with us and we hope to see you all at our tournament in June.





2013 Tournament Results





Twin Cities Winter Tournament
L to R: 1st: Team Knockerheads (Des Moines, IA), 2nd: The Ringers (Eau Claire, WI), 3rd: Kubb Snipers (Appleton, WI), 4th: Team Hipsterfresh (Minneapolis, MN)



Rockford, IL Swedish Historical Society Kubb Tournament
Clockwise from top left: 4th: Tad Kubbler (Minneapolis, MN), 1st: Team Knockerheads (Des Moines, IA), 3rd: The Ringers (Eau Claire, WI), 2nd: Dark Side of the Kubbsicles (Eau Claire, WI)



Madison Midsommar Tournament
Left to Right: 3rd: The Ringers (Eau Claire, WI), 1st: Kubbsicles (Eau Claire, WI)
2nd: Team Fjadrar (Des Moines, IA,), Consolation 1st: King Kung (Hartford, WI)



Lindsborg Midsommar Tournament
1st: T-5 (Des Moines, IA /Roscoe, IL)), 2nd: Kubbayashi (Lindsborg, KS)



Summer Tri-Loppet
1st: King Pin (Chaska, MN),
2nd: Sav Face (Minneapolis, MN),
3rd: The Ringers (Eau Claire, WI)





Kubbing To Kick Cancer
Left to right: 1st: Team Knockerheads (Des Moines, IA), 2nd: The Ringers (Eau Claire, WI)

Minnesota Kubb Open
1st: Regicide (Minneapolis, MN/ Eau Claire, WI),
2nd: Goofy Kubbers (Roscoe, IL)



Nordic Fest Tournament
1st: Team Knockerheads (Des Moines, IA), 2nd: Dark Side of the Kubbsicles (Eau Claire, WI), 3rd: X Kubbed/King Pin (Chaska, MN), 4th: Throws With Wood (Madison, WI)

2007 - 2014 tournament information at: wisconsinkubb.com

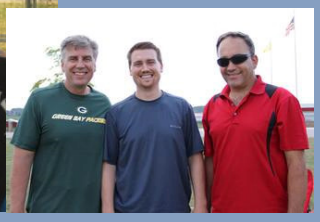
2013 Tournament Results




U.S. Championship Consolation
Left: 1st: Kubboholics (Holmen, WI), Right: 2nd: Rubik's Kubbs (Rhinelander, WI), 3rd: Throw Storm (Eau Claire, WI), 4th: Zorbaz Berzerkers (Park Rapids, MN)




U.S. Championship 2nd Consolation
Left: 1st: Team Hipsterfresh (Minneapolis, MN/Chicago, IL), Right: 2nd: Sorta Good (Rosemount, MN), 3rd: Tomah Fury (Tomah, WI), 4th: Team Fenske (Eleva, WI)

Fox Valley Clash of Kubb
Left: 1st: Ringersicles (Eau Claire, WI), Right: 2nd: Kubbilicious Maximus (Eau Claire, WI), 3rd: King Kung (Hartford, WI), 4th: Rubik's Kubbs (Rhinelander, WI)



Des Moines Fall Kubb Klassic
Clockwise from top left: 3rd: The Ringers (Eau Claire, WI); 4th: Derringer (Roscoe, IL/ Shafer, MN); 2nd: King Pin (Chaska, MN), 1st: Team Knockerheads (Des Moines, IA)




Dallas WI/Valkyrie Brewery Oktoberfest Tournament
Left: 1st: Tjugo Fjorton (Eau Claire, WI/Minneapolis, MN), Right: 2nd: DKK3 (Des Moines, IA/Eau Claire, WI), 3rd: Big Red Machine (Appleton/Madison, WI), 4th: Chaska Kubb (Chaska, MN/Roscoe, IL)



North America Singles Championship
L to R: 1st: Josh Feathers (Des Moines, IA), 4th: John Oman (Chaska, MN), Chad Bevers (Appleton, WI), 2nd: Mark Blazel (Eau Claire, WI)

Where's Your Kubb At?

Send your kubb pictures to wisconsinkubb [at] gmail.com

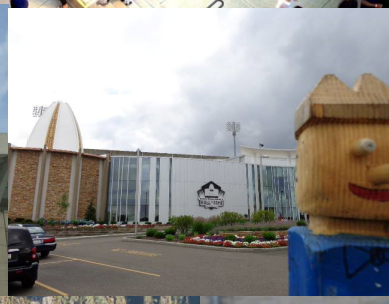










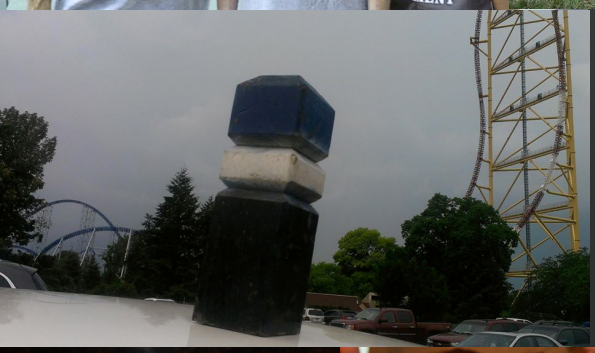












Top Left to bottom left: Melissa Walker, Jaime Feathers, and Jennifer Oredsen in San Franciso (Melissa Walker), Jeff Hansen at Machu Picchu (Gretchen Hansen), Kubb at the American Swedish Institute (Minnesota Kubb), Top Jimmy at University of Notre Dame and Pro Football Hall of Fame (Gregg Jochimsen), Henry Aaron statue in Eau Claire, WI (Eric Anderson), Scott Graham at Machu Picchu (Scott Graham), Cora Graham at Flynn Elementary Family Kubb Friendy in EC, WI (Eric Anderson), Cedar Point Theme Park (David Deas), Gregg, Jake, and Sam Jochimsen In New York City (Gregg Jochimsen), Willis Sullivan at Lassen Volcano (Willis Sullivan)

Below: Some of Maxine Blazel's kubb bakery creations (Mark Blazel)











U.S. Tournament Information

2014 Dates and U.S. Championship Kubb Set Grant

2014 Tournament Lineup

Captain Ken's Kubb Tournament - February 2
Minneapolis, MN

Des Moines Kubb Indoor Winter Scrambler - February 15
Clive, IA

Cabin Fever Kubb - March 8
Brookfield, WI

Rockford Swedish Historical Society Tournament - May 3
Rockford, IL

Chippewa Valley Kubb League Spring Fling - May 17
Eau Claire, WI

Norwegian Heritage Week - May 17
Thief River Falls, MN

Madison Tournament - May 31
Madison, WI

Kubbing to Kick Cancer - June 14
Kasson, MN

Lindsborg Midsommar Tournament - June 21
Lindsborg, KS

Co-Ed Kubb Challenge - June 21
Madrid, IA

Pre-U.S. Championship Tournament - July 5
Eau Claire, WI

Kid Kubb 2014 (U.S. Junior Championship) - July 11
Eau Claire, WI

U.S. National Kubb Championship - July 12 and 13
Eau Claire, WI

Iowa Games - July 19
Ames, IA

Corn-O-Kubbia - July 19
Stoughton, WI

U.S. Midwest Kubb Championship - July 26
Decorah, IA

Beloit Kubb Tournament - August 2
Beloit, WI

Fox Valley Clash Of Kubb - August 16
Appleton, WI

Kubb in the Kettle - August 30
Delafield, WI

Kubb at the Beach - August 31
Milwaukee, WI

Des Moines Fall Kubb Klassic - September 20
Des Moines, IA

Chippewa Valley Kubb League Kubbfest - September 20
Eau Claire, WI

Dallas Oktoberfest Tournament - October 4
Dallas, WI

North American Singles Championship - October 25
Chaska, MN


Steve Anderson at the 2013 U.S. Championship

On October 16, 1945, Steve Anderson was born in Rockford, Illinois to two Swedish immigrants, Tage and Linnea Anderson. Steve died October 11, 2013 at the age of 67. Steve served in the U.S. Navy, and he was one of the first 2,000 people ever to step foot on Antarctica. He retired from Commonwealth Edison as a lineman crew leader. Steve's passions consisted of his family, flying remote control airplanes, motorcycles, cooking, bird watching, gardening, blacksmithing, reading, kubb, and more.

Steve played on the kubb teams Crooked Lake Trolls, The Farfars, and Team New Milford. In 2012, he received his five-year button at the U.S. Championship. He retired from playing after the 2012 U.S. Championship. He was a referee at the 2013 U.S. Championship. He also thoroughly enjoyed watching kubb matches.

In July 2006, he gave his son Eric and Eric's wife Erin a kubb set after they returned from a year in Sweden. Hearing about the game from Eric and Erin's travels, he thought it would be a great gift when they moved to Helena, Montana. Eric and Erin introduced it to people while they lived there until January 2007. In January 2007, they moved to Eau Claire, Wisconsin. That summer they started what would become the U.S. National Kubb Championship, and Eau Claire, WI would soon become the Kubb Capital of North America and Kubbnation Magazine would be born.

We know for a fact that there would not be kubb as it is today, or perhaps even a hint of it in Eau Claire, WI, Rockford, IL, Dallas, WI, and Helena, MT if it was not for that kubb set gift in 2006. All waterfalls start with a drop of water. The kubb waterfall in these four communities, and to a degree what it is in the U.S., started with Steve's gift to Eric and Erin. As it was with many things he did, Steve left a deep footprint in the kubb community.

Above is the brief story of what one kubb set can do. It can bring people together. It can create a culture in a community. It can raise money for charities. It builds things and creates memories for us all. It can do so many things. Yes, we believe in the saying "Kubb unites people and creates peace on Earth", and we also believe in the power of even just one kubb set.

In memory of Steve Anderson, the U.S. National Kubb Championship has named our kubb set grant in honor of him. Our goal with the kubb set grant is to provide free kubb sets to communities where kubb is not currently played as a means to build it in a community and/or provide free kubb sets for any community that wants to introduce it to new population groups.

All skill levels and experience are welcome to play at the U.S. Kubb Championship, and all are welcome to apply for the grant.

By: U.S. National Kubb Championship



KUBB UNITES PEOPLE AND CREATES PEACE ON EARTH.

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