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# Kubbnation



**2012**  
**THE YEAR FOR U.S. KUBB**  
- PLUS -  
Interview: Harnack and Görlitz  
U.S. Champions: Kubbsicles  
Belgium, Set Review, Player Cards, and more



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Kubb unites people and creates peace on Earth.  
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Above: New kubbers at Nordic Fest (Willis Sullivan): Top left clockwise: Chad Parsons at Dallas, WI Oktoberfest (Jamie Thingelstad), players from the Belgian teams El Kubbidos Del Mundo and De Kubbisten (Vlaanderen Kubbt); World Championship Round of 16 (Björn Disch), Corey Peterson and Haley Peterson at Lindsborg Midsommar Tournament (Corey Peterson), Wisconsin winter garage kubb (Chris McDiarmid).

Cover: L to R: Team Knockerheads (Mike Jackelen), Chicks With Sticks and Kubbang! (Jennifer Oredson), Cynthia Plaster Inkastare (Mike Jackelen), Kubbsicles (Blind Photography), Lindsborg Midsommar Tournament (Corey Peterson), Show Us Your Horns (Eric Anderson), John Kubbar Mellancamp (Lee Hulkonen), Nordic Fest trophies (Willis Sullivan), Planet Kubb (Jamie Thingelstad), Team Kubboom (Gretchen Hansen)

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

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the worldwide web

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Contact information:  
Eric Anderson  
715.830.0122  
wisconsin-kubb [at] gmail.com



# DET FÖRSTA KASTET

## ENJOYING THE 2013 RIDE



First, thanks to the authors, photographers, advertisers, and everyone else that helped with the magazine.

One year ago, we as a community were happy with where kubb was at. More people were learning the game and there was momentum for kubb. Well, one year later, we could have not imagined what happened in 2012. Kubb exploded here in the U.S. I have to think that we here in the U.S. are not the only ones saying that 2012

was a huge year. People all over Europe and other places around the world have to be saying it as well. By the way, was I the only one that fell off my chair when I saw the video from the Belgium Championship?

There are so many things I wanted to point out, but space is limited. A couple of quick things: I really enjoy the mix of articles this year and some of my favorite things about kubb are in a couple of the articles that might not be one of the first ones to be read, so read them all. Also, the more people I meet from abroad, the more I appreciate and understand that there is no perfect English. Often times, cultural sayings or words used from non-native English speakers can teach us all something, even native English speakers. I was asked to improve some of the English in articles written where English is not a first, or maybe even second, language. I did a few things, but doing too much would lose the spirit with what was being said. Enjoy the articles; I did.

It is hard to think back to what life was like before kubb (BK). The more stories I hear, I think a lot of others feel the same way. We all know so many more people. Locally, often friendships are made. We see each other picking our kids up from school and out and about, we hangout, and more. For those of us that don't live in the same communities, I think our relationships are complex and fascinating. It seems to be a combination of friends, competitors, and acquaintances. I have met great people over the past several years, and I am appreciative and want to get to know them better.

Yep, you read the front of the magazine correctly, we are introducing player cards. I could talk for a long time at what I hope the player cards do. After working on the player cards for many hours, I started looking at the end product, and I thought to myself, this is part of the face of U.S. Kubb. I noticed myself looking at some of the pictures and reading information from them (that I secretly got), and I started feeling more and more proud of what all of us have built and are still building here. I hope it gives a face to U.S. kubb inside and outside the U.S. There is a whole additional set on the website.

Last year, I said I was going to thank all the sponsors that supported all the tournaments that I made it to. Check that off my list. This year though, I am going to work on something internally. I am always thinking about what kubb will be like next year and beyond. I am not saying that I have always thought about what kubb will be like in 2013, 2014, and beyond. See, in 2008, I was wondering and thinking what kubb would be like in 2009 and beyond. In 2010, it was 2011 and beyond.

Yes, I am a dreamer. I wonder about a lot of things, and there is nothing wrong with wondering, dreaming, and planning. But through kubb, I have found not to do it at the expense of enjoying your current ride. So, in 2013, I am going to enjoy the 2013 kubb ride. I am going to try to limit my discussion and talk of what kubb will be like in 2020 and replace it with enjoying what we are doing right now.

I tell this next story here and there. My grandpa on my mom's side lived to be 100. I wish I would have listened and remembered more of what he told me, some of which was over and over again. See, I don't remember much. One thing I do remember though, he would always tell me and anyone that would listen to, "Don't spend your time doing something. Invest your time doing something." 2013 is the year that I am going to keep investing in kubb AND enjoy all the work that so many people have invested their time doing.

I hope you enjoy the third installment of this little magazine. No matter where you are, your friend,  
Eric

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

# U.S. NATIONAL KUBB CHAMPIONSHIP

## 2012 NATIONAL CHAMPION - KUBBSICLES

What a two days at the 2012 U.S. National Kubb Championship in Eau Claire, WI. Looking out at the fields prior to play, it felt and looked like the U.S. Championship. The kings were painted, the corner pins were painted, music was playing, team tents/canopies were being raised, club flags and banners were being put up, and the tremendous energy of all the teams, volunteers, and spectators could be felt.

The heat, yet again, beat down on all the players and spectators. The day started with a team captain meeting, more five-year buttons, introducing the UW-Eau Claire student that received the \$500 Scholarship to study in Sweden, and both the Swedish and American national anthems. The round robin was an opportunity to meet the three other teams in each group of four. Some of these teams were new and some were old acquaintances and/or friends. Group play ended at 12:30, and the 12 play-in games started promptly after. Soon, 64 teams were in the Championship Bracket and the other 12 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. One round of 64 match lasted two hours and 10 minutes.

In the round of 16, defending Champion Team Knockerheads were able to get past Fox Valley Kubb's Kubb Snipers from Appleton, WI. Wolfpack and Feroces Lignum, two teams that have been on the circuit since 2007 and 2008, found themselves, yet again, facing off in the playoffs. The round of 16 determined who was going to make it to Sunday. For two Des Moines, IA teams, they had to play each other. In the end, Kubb'd beat Inkubbus.

Another round of 16 match was a rematch from 2011, with The Ringers (EC, WI) and Kastpinnar Kings (Shakopee, MN). Kastpinnar Kings beat The Ringers in the round of 16 last year. The father/son team The Ringers added 8 year old and 11 year old cousins. After winning the first game, The Ringers were able to move up in the second. There were no baseline kubbs remaining. Dave Ellringer (the grandpa of the family) destroyed a tightly clumped group with two batons. There were two field kubbs standing, but no chance for a

double. Aaron (the dad) had two batons, Sy (Aaron's son, age 8) had one baton, and Sy's cousin Colton had one baton. Most people would say that the smart "captain move" is that each kid goes for each field kubb, Aaron cleans it up, if needed, and then goes for the king. Game, Match, they move to Sunday. Well, the amazing "dad move" happened. Aaron asked Sy, "Sy, do you have the king in you?" Sy's response was "Yes". Aaron walks up, leans over and drops both field kubbs with his two batons. Sy walks back to the baseline and released the baton at the waiting king. The baton hits the king as solid as it can...game, match, the 2010 U.S. Champs, The Ringers, go to Sunday.

Later, after waiting almost two hours, Eau Claire's Kubbsicles end the day for Minneapolis' The Good, The Bad, The Ugly, and they become the last team to reach Sunday. In the Consolation Final, in front of the bleachers, Kubb de Grace (Eau Claire/Chippewa Falls, WI) beat the team of Wisconsin floorball pioneers Tomah Fury (Tomah, WI).

Sunday morning, teams started arriving at 7am to practice. The quarterfinal that most were expecting and looking forward to happened: Tad Kubbler (Minneapolis) vs. Team Knockerheads (Des Moines and Kansas City). Both teams left the Championship Saturday afternoon knowing they would have to battle in the sun early Sunday morning to make it to the semifinals. Team Knockerheads took advantage of moving up and were able to beat Tad Kubbler 2-0.

Kubbitz and The Ringers, both from Eau Claire and all know each other, played on Pitch 4. Leinenkubbels (EC, WI) moved past Wolfpack (Shafer/Rosemount, MN), and on Pitch 1, Kubbsicles started out a little slow, but quickly found their form and beat Kubb'd. Most people did not have Leinenkubbels or Kubbitz on their radars when Saturday started, but here they were, playing the 2011 Champion and the 2011 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams, front and center. On Pitch 2, Leinenkubbels beat Kubbsicles in game one, but Kubbsicles won games two and three. The other match consisted of two of the better inkastares in the U.S. (both interviewed in 2012 KubbNation Magazine's article *The Drill*). Team Knockerheads were too much for the combination of Default and

# U.S. NATIONAL KUBB CHAMPIONSHIP

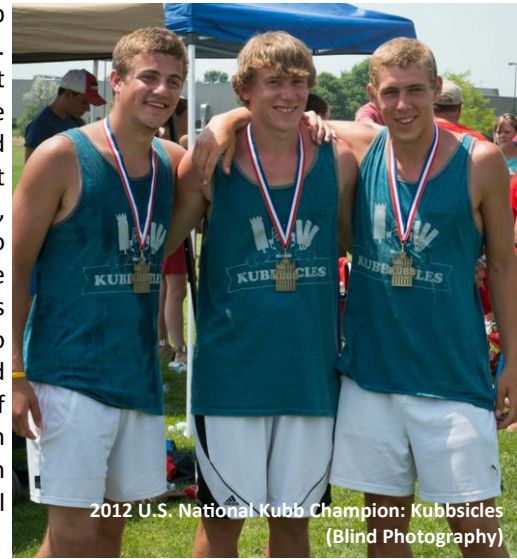
## 2012 NATIONAL CHAMPION - KUBBSICLES

Kubbitz. Team Knockerheads were on their way to their second consecutive Final, where they would meet a team that they beat in the semifinals in 2011...Kubbsicles.

The Final was a heavyweight match. The hometown Kubbsicles versus the 2011 Champs from Des Moines and Kansas City, who travel with a sizeable crowd of other teams and fans (30 plus people made the trip). In 2010, Kubbsicles lost to Tad Kubbler in quarterfinals. In 2011, they beat Tad Kubbler in the quarterfinals. In 2011, Kubbsicles lost to Team Knockerheads in the semifinal. Last year, they were one of the best teams with the batons, but their one weak link was putting kubbs in the needed tight space. Well that problem was solved as Kubbsicles' Mark Blazel quickly has become one of the top inkastare in the country. Mark and Josh Feathers went back and forth.

Both teams had opportunities to win game one. With the largest crowd ever in the U.S. watching a Final, Kubbsicles were able to take

advantage of a field kubbs left up and win game one. Game two started out quick, with four and five kubbs going back and forth within the first couple turns. From there, eight kubbs made it into play, and with no baseline to go after, Kubbsicles were able to get two triples, two singles, and then down the last king of the Championship with their fifth baton to win the 2012 U.S. National Kubb Championship.



2012 U.S. National Kubb Champion: Kubbsicles  
(Blind Photography)



Top Four Teams: Top Left Clockwise: Kubbsicles, Team Knockerheads, Kubbitz, Leinenkubbels (Blind Photography)

### Results

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

**2nd: Team Knockerheads** (Des Moines, IA / Kansas City, KS)  
Josh Feathers, Grant Scott, Dwayne Ballmer

**3rd: Leinenkubbels** (Eau Claire, WI)  
Chris Staack, Greg Jochimsen, Sam Barby

**4th: Kubbitz** (Eau Claire, WI)  
Jeff Gibson, Scott Forster, Dan Drumm

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

### Consolation Results

**1st: Kubb de Grace** (Eau Claire/Chippewa Falls, WI)

**2nd: Tomah Fury** (Tomah, WI)

**3rd: Läkerol Originals** (Minnetonka, MN)

**4th: The Farfars** (Cherry Valley/New Milford, IL)

### Quarterfinals

Tad Kubbler (Minneapolis, MN)  
Team Knockerheads

The Ringers (Eau Claire, WI)  
Kubbitz

Kubb'd (Des Moines, IA)  
Kubbsicles

Wolfpack (Shafer/Rosemount, MN)  
Leinenkubbels

### 2nd Consolation Results

**1st: Karls In Charge** (Eau Claire, WI)

**2nd: Kubbra Kai** (Chicago, IL)

**3rd: Kubbonic Plague** (Milwaukee, WI)

**4th: The Kubbras** (Eau Claire, WI)



Goofy Kubbers: L to R: Michelle Fitzgerald, Evan Fitzgerald, Ashlie Merath, Jamie Merath, Cal Merath, and Ryan Accetta. Not pictured: Braden Fitzgerald and Charlie Dana (Evan Fitzgerald)



By: Evan Fitzgerald - Roscoe, IL  
Staeline Kubb Club & Goofy Kubbers

## GOOD KUBBING FROM CURLING TO KUBB

While a group of friends and I were sitting around the table at a curling tournament, our discussion worked its way to a highly skilled and successful player that consistently displayed a poor level of sportsmanship. My friend made a comment that this particular player is very good at throwing stones, but he is not a good curler. What he meant by this statement is that a complete player is one who embodies the true spirit of the game and not just the mechanics. In my short kubb career I have yet to encounter intentional poor sportsmanship. The sense of fair play, encouragement for new players and experienced players openly sharing their strategies and techniques that I have experienced with the kubb community is what I would describe as the "curling spirit". It is quickly recognized by my curling friends that I have introduced to the kubb community and I believe it is the foundation for the sport that will help kubb grow into a sport that will be recognized by many in our country.

An interesting fact about the "spirit of curling" is that it is actually written in the World Curling Federation rules with the following text in verbatim. *"Curlers play to win but never to humble their opponents. A true curler would prefer to lose rather than win unfairly. A good curler never attempts to distract an opponent or otherwise prevent him/her from playing his/her best. No curler ever deliberately breaks a rule of the game or any of its traditions. But, if he/she should do so inadvertently and be aware of it, he/she is the first to divulge the breach. While the main objective of the game is to determine the relative skills of the players, the spirit of the game demands good sportsmanship, kindly feeling and honorable conduct. This spirit should influence both the interpretation and application of the rules of the game and also the conduct of all participants on and off the ice."* I've curled for roughly one and a half seasons, and as a new curler I have learned that the code is not just words in a book, it is the way the game is played and the way fellow curlers treat each other on and off the ice. While not written in the kubb rules it is what I've felt when I play in tournaments and in social exchanges with fellow kubb players.

A curling game isn't complete until both teams have joined together in the social encounter after the game known as "stacking the brooms". The tradition is that once the game is complete the winning team buys or serves the losing team a beverage and you sit at the same table and get to know the players from the other team or visit with old friends. The old stories of curling battles and antics that have occurred during curling bonspiels (tournaments that typically span multiple days) quickly make you forget how well or poorly you have just played and forge friendships that will last for lifetimes. This tradition helped me get my wife to enjoy and participate in the sport of curling because at the end of our Friday night mixed league both teams share drinks and appetizers and has helped us to form strong social bonds within the club. It has become our date night and we both look forward to it each week of the curling season. I follow the Des Moines Kubb club's Facebook page periodically and it's obvious that a similar social bond has been formed within their club and it is great to see. Forming of these social bonds is necessary to make the sport of kubb relevant.



Goofy Kubbers with their 2nd place trophies at the 2012 Des Moines Fall Kubb Klassic (Blind Photography)

# GOOD KUBBING

## FROM CURLING TO KUBB

The closest experience that I have had at a kubb tournament that was similar to “stacking the brooms” was after the Uff-da Fest tournament in Spring Grove, MN this fall. The non-local teams that consisted of Jaime and Josh Feathers from Des Moines; Luke Peikert, Mark Blazel and family from Eau Claire; Jason Larson, Matt Braa, and John Oman from Chaska; the tournament director James Halbakken, along with my 13 year old son Braden and I went out to dinner after the game. It was my favorite moment of the kubb season as we got to learn more about each other and our clubs, trash talk a bit and discuss where we each see the sport of kubb progressing at our particular clubs and in the United States.

There will be a lot of opportunities for different and creative types of kubb tournaments, but I hope we can find a way to introduce even more social interaction between the teams. A normal curling bonspiel typically takes the course of three days and there is a lot of downtime between games so it is easier to interact with the other teams. Currently, most kubb tournaments tend to be quicker paced as we pack the whole tournament into roughly 8-9 hours. I'd like to challenge veteran teams, traveling clubs, and directors to find creative ways to make even more effort to continue to make the social interaction even a bigger part of the kubb experience. We all have displayed the true spirit of kubb, and I know we can continue to strengthen kubb even more by taking the time to deepen the social bonds that can form in a fun and competitive environment.

My family and I have had our lives enriched since the discovery of both kubb and curling, and each sport's primary season complement each other very well. When curling season ends and the promise of spring and good weather is in the air, kubb season begins; and when cold weather is on the horizon, curling season begins. I realize there are summer curling bonspiels and winter kubb tournaments, but at least for me those don't have much appeal. The chilled air makes me think of crashing granite stones and screams of “Sweep!!!” while sliding on the ice. Green grass, gentle breezes, and birds singing make me long for the cracking of wooden sticks hitting blocks of wood and the feeling of the grass between my toes. Each for me has their season and I know they are a part of me. Each brings me a chance to meet new friends and introduce both sports to friends and family. Similar to kubb, every curling game is started and ended by shaking hands and wishing them “good curling”. So when you encounter a player on the kubb pitch and they wish you “good kubbing”, be sure to ask them about their other sport, and I know they will be more than happy to share.

Good kubbing.



Goofy Kubbers strategizing in the Final at the 2012 Des Moines Fall Kubb Klassic (Blind Photography)

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Top three teams at 2012 European Championship. 1st: Kubb'Ings,  
2nd Fortschritt 99, 3rd: De falschi Haas (Switzerland) (Robert Harnack)

*Robert Harnack - Wismar, Germany*  
*Kubb'Ings*

*Björn Görlitz - Leipzig, Germany*  
*Fortschritt99*

# INTERVIEW: HARNACK AND GÖRLITZ

## The View From The Top Of Germany

There is a lot of German culture and ethnic activity in Wisconsin. OK, Eau Claire, the home of KubbNation Magazine, is not in the most German area of Wisconsin, but we still experience a lot of German culture in these parts. For example, names of buildings and streets and of course the food and beer. Heck, brats are one of the major food groups, even in this part of Wisconsin. But kubb in Germany? Do they play kubb in Germany? You betchya. With roughly 20 tournaments throughout the country in 2012, including hosting the European Championship, and three teams traveling to Sweden for the World Championship, Germany is on the kubb map. To learn more about what is going on with German kubb, we decided to ask players from the top two teams. We were able to get in contact with Robert Harnack of Kubb'Ings (Kubb Engineers) and Björn Görlitz of Fortschritt99 (Progress99). Some of the questions from Kubb'Ings were answered by their team, so Robert, Andreas Pieper, David Jüttke, and Christian Nickel.

Again, we kept as much of the original language as possible to keep the spirit with what was being said. The questions were from both Eric Anderson (Eau Claire, WI) and Sören Wallin (Stockholm, Sweden). Enjoy the responses; we did.

### How long have you been playing kubb?

We have played kubb since 2008. Christian and I are the team founders in 2008. Since 2009 Andreas and David reinforced the team. **(Robert)** Eight years. **(Björn)**

### How did you first get introduced to the game?

We all played kubb for the first time with friends at barbecues at various places in Rostock and Kiel, our hometowns.

This was a funny situation. Our team decided to find a sport where we can be World Champion or European Champion, and we found kubb.

Before, we played a lot of soccer, basketball, and handball and there the opportunity is zero percent. So we found kubb and kubb found us.

### How much has kubb grown in the past few years in Germany? What is kubb like in Germany now?

It's nice to see that more and more people are playing kubb. Yet there are always people who do not know it. Mostly, we need to explain and encourage people to play with. Then everyone understands and it's fun and most of them want to know where you can buy it.

I think every year we have 30 percent more tournaments in Germany. So it is still growing, and next year we will build a good opportunity to grow faster than the last years.

### Is there some special feature attached to German kubb that separates it from kubb in other countries?

The main difference to all other countries is that we usually play with a rotating basis of kubb throwers. We personally find very beautiful. We believe it is an expression of true team strength and power, so that the result was achieved as a team and not a very good thrower.

We hope so, because this year we saved all of our sponsorship money to develop a new step for German kubbers. Next year we will have the first real German Championship, and we hope that this tournament structure will push kubb in Germany in a higher sphere. Next year, one big tournament and for the following year you have to qualify for this tournament over satellites all over the country. Next year Germany will have a central kubb page [www.kubb-deutschland.de](http://www.kubb-deutschland.de) with all information about the sport.

### Is there anything else that German kubb has brought to the kubb world?

At the moment we try to build a database for kubb. So we try to find a way for a national rankings and if it works in Germany we will give this technology to every country who asks for it. Kubb unites people.



# INTERVIEW: HARNACK AND GÖRLITZ

## The View From The Top Of Germany

**Your two teams finished first and second at the European Championship. What are the future plans of the European Championship?**

I think much will depend on winning the World Championship from a non-Swedish team. If that was due to arrive in a timely manner, many strong teams as Elefantbajs 2000, Gloria Victis, or even Team Ekeby might come to the European Championship. Currently there are only three teams that compete for the European Championship title among themselves. In order to get more power in, it would be nice to see the Swedes there. The organizers of the European Championship this year did the best conditions at the Friedrich Jahn Sports Park. The playing field was even better than the WC. But you have to pay the highest respect and say come to Berlin and play at the European Championship. It's worth finding. Many people have said, namely after the first EC 2011, we will never go back there. But we say to these skeptics, everything is hard and it is evolving and changing in positive ways.

I don't know. We will be there next year and we want to have fun. We have good opportunities to win this tournament again, but maybe we will see a new rising kubb team. Who knows.

**Most memorable trip for you?**

Any trip to a kubb tournaments is special in the memory. Since 2011, however, the travel to the European Championship in Berlin, and of course the World Championship in Rone. This year, we did a one week holiday after the WC on Gotland. We would like to thank Joerg, the owner of Fristyler, as they have sponsored our travel and playing costs since 2009.

Every kubb trip is memorable. Our Sweden trips are a highlight every year. We book a house in the middle of nowhere on a big lake. We have boats for fishing and water ski, golf clubs, soccer goals and everything else to enjoy the week before driving to Gotland. Our Basel trips were special too this year.

**Talk about the World Championship. Why do you go? Do you enjoy your time there?**

The first thought when we signed up for the WC, of course, was to find really good opponents outside of Germany because many tournaments were quickly becoming not much of a challenge. Due to the already excellent results of our fellow German competitors we wanted to also try to achieve similar goals, as these are definitely possible. The World Championship is incredible and includes with the European Championships the annual highlights of the season since 2011. The atmosphere on the ground is not to describe in words, but you must have seen it live. The Swedish people are hospitable and likable and the country is awesome too. We have hopefully some nice years to maintain the highest level of play before us and to continue and expand the relationships with our Swedish friends. At this point, thank you always to Sören, Ewa, and Tore to name a few, and we are so glad that we could get to know you.

It's a world championship with 1,200 participating people. I need not to say more.

**When will a non-Swedish team win the World Championship?**

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 future

Next year with 20 percent chance and 2014 with 80 percent chance, because then we will have all good players back on our team. In the last two years, each year, we have had two new players on our team. The reasons were kids, family, and working career.

**Is Germany the second best kubb country in the world?**

Personally I think that Germany is well forward, where exactly is hard to say. After the home of kubb, one can mention the level of Switzerland, where there is a collection of very, very good teams that promises to be a top level, in every tournament. Throw in rotating kubb throwers, and the Germans are a leader. If you were to play both in Switzerland and at the WC, it would be nice to compare the leading countries among themselves and to see true team effort.

No. In Germany we have two very strong teams and the gap between the following teams is big. In Switzerland they have a lot of strong teams. So I would say the second kubb country at the moment is Switzerland.

**Is kubb a sport?**

A very good question. We believe after all these experiences, YES it is a sport. It takes as in all sports, talent, and skill at constant concentration. If we manage to convey this view to the rest of the world, kubb should be quickly in the Olympics. Of course there are critics who say that you throw only sticks, but it's not so simple, and should not be dismissed so easily, but will be discussed seriously.

Yes.

**Your teams are two of the top teams in Europe. What are your team strengths? What are the things you need to work on?**

The past few years have just shown that we are well positioned in comparison to other teams. Since most tournaments are three-person and require all players to throw kubbs, we already have a very large advantage. We can all throw kubbs pretty well, which is in our opinion is the main reason for our success. Furthermore, we are all well-rounded and can participate in all aspects of the game and can replace the clear definition of roles and adapt. It should be mentioned however that we do not specifically train like others, but through our play get our security. And there will always be things that can be worked on by one.

I think we are one of the best in the world for the drill and the short combinations. The long throws are still improvable.

**What are the most important things you look for when putting together a three-person team and a six-person team?**

The combination of a three man team is pretty easy for us. We have a selection of enough players. Mostly we play Andreas, David, and Robert. In southern Germany and Switzerland we trade normally David for Christian, because Christian did not play too many tournaments in the year and he also needs playing. For a six-man team, we are the team already with four people. All other candidates will be primarily determined by your personality and only then about their kubb talent. If both are true, you can be a Kubb'Ing.

**Do your teams have any rivalries against any other teams?**

Many people tell us we have a rivalry with our German colleagues from F 99. That's not true, because we're a completely different generation of kubb, as they are in average five to seven years older than us. We

# INTERVIEW: HARNACK AND GÖRLITZ

## The View From The Top Of Germany

are all from Rostock, where the origin of kubb in Germany started at the end of the 1990s. We have already proposed F 99 last year to formulate a mix Team Germany for the WC in order to combine the best German players. Maybe this happens still, our willingness to do it still stands.

We don't like people with arrogance. And we don't like people with too much confidence only in kubb. It's only a game to be outside, to meet people, and to laugh about funny moments. There is no reason to take it too serious. The good thing is there are only a few people with these views.

### **Kubb'Ings have won every important tournament in Germany since 2011, why?**

We are in relation to our competitors still pretty fresh in the business. We always follow the motto, tournament situations cannot be simulated. Thus we play regularly since 2009, 10 tournaments and more. Now, after five years at the highest level, the foundations have been laid. We will play just for fun with the joy, as always, but put a strong emphasis on the highlights of the season. But, if it fits in time, you should have been trying to play a lot of tournaments to gain experience, especially with stressful situations.

Our focus is not anymore who wins the most tournaments. We want to push kubb generally and for this we need not to play every tournament. In 2012 we played only one German tournament. There are only two really interesting tournaments at the moment: The European Championship and the World Championship.

### **Will we see a fight between Kubb'Ings vs F 99 respectively for the next couple of years as well, or are there other teams that can come up with a serious challenge?**

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.

It would be great to have a lot of strong teams in the future. We think about a very strong team with grandfathers, a very strong team only with girls, and so on. This would be cool, because this sport should be for everyone and everybody could be really good in kubb.

### **What will it take for your teams respectively to win the WC in Rone?**

Would be great because then it would be much easier for us to make kubb bigger in Germany. This sport would be good for our country, because it's good to spend time outside with other people and it's good to challenge yourselves.

### **How far are you from that goal?**

20 months?

### **Is there any rule in Rone you particularly dislike?**

We think they should go away from the single-thrower of kubbs and leave this to the whole team. This would show the true team strength. The 50 percent rule of the inserted Kubbs should be reconsidered. This always leads to discussions about whether it is in or not. It should be in 100 percent and then it is good. To facilitate this, one should stretch cords on the ground, so as to replace the marker. A lot of tournaments in Switzerland have shown that there is a better alternative. The helicopter. They allow at the highest tournament 45 degrees, which is

too much. There is a local team in Sweden, and they practice it. I cannot accept this, because it's unfair. Maybe throw a maximum of 15 degrees, which is actually far too much. Our previous perceptions have shown a non-neutral attitude of the referees. What we regret very much is that this is not only for us, but has happened to other foreign teams too.

### **What team features are needed to be able to beat Team Ekeby?**

I report from my own experience. We played at our first participation at the WC in the round of 16 in 2011 against them. We knew them only from the Internet, which is exactly their main advantage, because there is an image which conveys they are unbeatable. What we had to think is that they cook only with water. One important rule is, you should before kickoff believe to win because you cannot waste any second, otherwise you will lose. When you see how many batons they miss against us, it must be said, you can only miss very little in order to beat them. Playing Team Ekeby means you have to use every chance you get. You have to know your own team very well and have to work in the moment, then one can defeat them. At this point I would like to greet Terry and Marcus. There is respect. I look forward to the future with duels at your level.

Ekeby shouldn't be the benchmark for success in kubb. They never laugh and it doesn't look like that they enjoy the day and after the tournament they leave the place to celebrate somewhere. If every team would do it like this, this tournament wouldn't grow and wouldn't be so special. The aim for participating teams shouldn't be to win the tournament. The aim should be to unite with other people around the world.

### **What is your best advice for foreign teams that plan to go to Rone and play for the first time in 2013?**

If you are kubb-addicted enough to cope with the not so easy journey, you must go there one time. It will infect you with a virus and you will never get rid of it! You do not need much to travel there. If it is good weather, you only need a tent for wild camping, which is allowed everywhere. A truly wonderful experience and highly recommended.

Do it. Book a flight or a ferry and try it. It's a special place and a special atmosphere and the first time would be interesting for everybody. Life is very short, so don't miss a good opportunity to be happy and to learn a lot.

### **When will we see a German team at the US Championship?**

We first thought about it after the 2011 WC was over, but because of the financial costs, we very quickly abandoned it. But the desire is still there. Right now when you can see so much kubb from America, of course, it itches in your fingers, time scales for the comparison. If we still find someone who participates and helps us financially, we would immediately fly over. Perhaps in the future, when we all have a good job, but it is in the plan.

Maybe 2014. We only have to speak about the opportunities. Would be great to play behind the Atlantic Ocean. But maybe we have another suggestion. What do you think about the idea that a few of your best players play the World Championship with a few of the best players from Fortschritt99? We play together, win the tournament, and the USA guys have the opportunity to make kubb much bigger in USA. This would be a big *fortschritt* (means progress in English). So that would be the best strategy to give this sport the opportunity to grow much faster.



The partner and the co-pilot. From Left to Right: Stephanie Kidder, Steve Feathers, Sue Feathers (Blind Photography)

By: Steve Feathers - Des Moines, IA  
Des Moines Kubb

# ON THE KUBB HIGHWAY FROM DES MOINES TO GOTLAND IN THE MIDWEST

During the course of the past few years, I have become hooked on this sport called kubb. As 2011 was waning and talk of the 2012 kubb tournaments began, I started to plan my kubb schedule.

The excitement, fun, and camaraderie of the few tournaments I participated in during 2011 made me think it would be a fun sport to try and to participate in as many kubb events in 2012 as I could. I also knew I would be going "under the knife" at the end of the year with a knee replacement. The 2013 season would be one of recovery, so I figured I could justify to myself stacking as many tournaments in 2012 as possible.

The first hurdle to overcome was getting my wife, Sue Feathers, to bless this endeavor because she would be traveling with me and serving as my co-pilot as we drove around the Midwest. I shouldn't have been surprised, but in all honesty I was when she quickly agreed. The only tournament she wasn't excited about was Minnesota Kubb's Winter Tournament in February (she really doesn't like the cold).

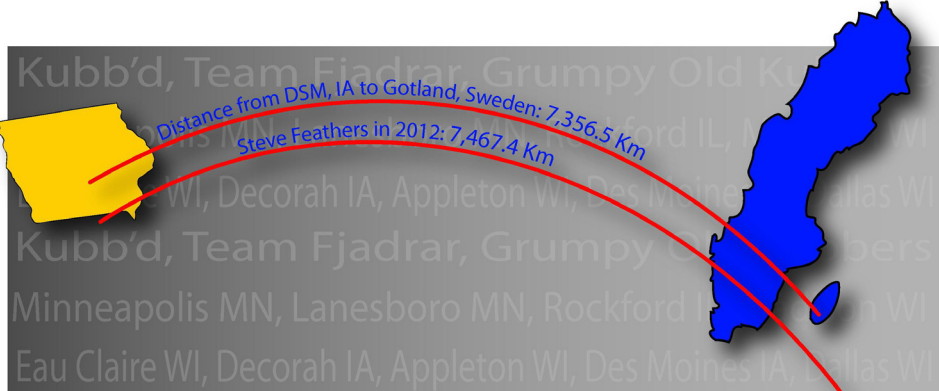
The second challenge was determining which tournaments would fit into my schedule. I originally settled on seven tournaments but added an eighth when Lanesboro, MN decided to organize a tournament in April. That was soon followed by a ninth tournament when Madison became a two-player tournament.

Hmmm ... now that I had my co-pilot, and I knew where I wanted to go, I needed to find teammates to compete with. Des Moines Kubb (DMK) is deep with talent so I started recruiting locally for the various tournaments. Kubb'd is my mainstay team, and when I can I will compete as team Kubb'd. However, Stephanie Kidder, my oldest stepdaughter and our star 8-meter sniper, has young children so has to limit her time away, as do many of the DMK members.

Stephanie could commit to Rockford, IL, and Eau Claire, WI, but that was it. I was able to recruit Josh Feathers (Team Knockerheads) for the Minnesota Winter Tournament, and we represented the Feathers Clan as Team Fjädrrar (and if the Microsoft translator is correct that's Team "Feathers" in Swedish). I knew we would have enough DMK members going to Dallas in October, so I wasn't concerned about that one.

But who could I get for the other tournaments? I tried numerous DMK members, but because of family, work, or other commitments and obligations, no one was available. I turned to my lovely bride, and she quickly agreed to fill in as my partner for those tournaments where no one else was available. She prefers to watch and doesn't give herself enough credit for being a decent kubb player. We settled on the team name Grumpy Old Kubbers.

Dana Oredson joined Kubb'd as our third member for the U.S. National Championship and caught the kubb bug that's been sweeping the nation. After tying for fifth at Nationals, Dana was ready for more. He joined Sue and me for Nordic Fest.



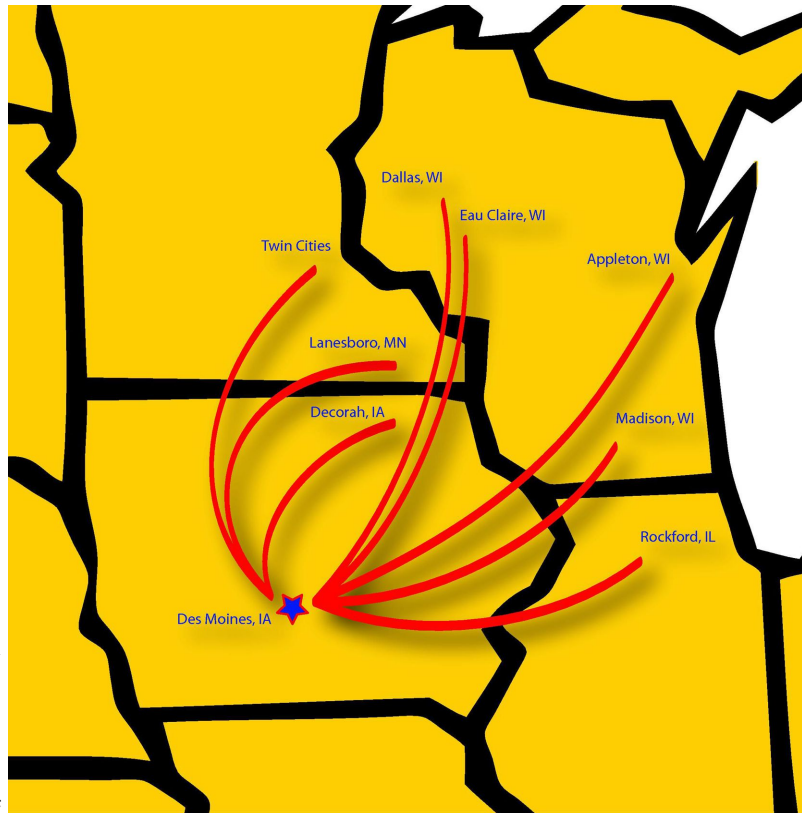
# ON THE KUBB HIGHWAY

## FROM DES MOINES TO GOTLAND IN THE MIDWEST

The kubb tournament quest did not disappoint. Sue and I reconnected with old kubb friends and made even more new friends as we traveled “the circuit”.

One of the highlights of our journey this past summer was after the Madison, WI Tournament. While exploring Madison for something to eat, we came across a magical and whimsical eatery called Ella’s Deli and Ice Cream Emporium. Ella’s is a sight to behold! It has a full-size carousel and more gadgets, toys and bizarre oddities than I’ve ever seen assembled in one location. The food is pretty decent, too.

And then there was Nationals in Eau Claire, WI. The excitement of Nationals starts weeks before the event and is thick in the air when you arrive. The flying, biting bugs on the practice field will never be forgotten (I think I still have a wound healing from them to this date). Stephanie, Dana, and I met our goal of reaching the quarterfinals even though we had to take down (in many opinions) a more consistent and seasoned team from DMK going by the name Inkubbus, but because of a tear in the time-space continuum and some extraordinary “kubbmanship” by Kubb’d, we were able to emerge victorious. It was a bittersweet victory, but it allowed us to move on and compete the following day of the tournament. As one of my partners once said: “There are no winners in kubb, there are only survivors.” We survived Day 1.



### Steve Feathers – 2012 Travel

Feb 4 <sup>th</sup> – Minnesota Kubb Loppet Tournament	488 Miles
April 14 <sup>th</sup> – Minnesota Kubb Lanesboro, MN event	450 Miles
May 19 <sup>th</sup> – Rockford, IL SHS Tournament	571 Miles
June 9 <sup>th</sup> – Madison, WI Midsommar Tournament	590 Miles
July 14 <sup>th</sup> – US Nationals	651 Miles
July 28 <sup>th</sup> – Decorah, IA NordicFest	423 Miles
August 18 <sup>th</sup> – Appleton Clash of Kubb	803 Miles
Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Des Moines Kubb Fall Klassic	0 Miles
October 6 <sup>th</sup> – Dallas Oktoberfest	664 Miles

**4,640 MILES TOTAL**

Distance from Des Moines, IA to  
Gotland, Sweden:  
**4571.1 MILES**

I learned a valuable lesson about dehydration the first day of Nationals. It doesn’t matter how much water you drink if you are sweating more than you intake. I went down with a leg cramp in our final game against Inkubbus but was able to dig deep and work past the pain to finish the game. Sue, our back-up player, confessed she was silently praying for me to get up and finish because she wasn’t ready to step in. The next few hours that night had me writhing in pain due to repeated muscle cramps in places I never even knew existed. I wouldn’t change this experience for anything. However, next year I will be monitoring my hydration much more closely.

I love this sport for the same reasons as many of you, but I also love it because an old, overweight man with arthritic knees can compete with 20-year-olds and be competitive. But it’s more than that. It’s about the new friends I find at every tournament and places I go for kubb that really makes this all worthwhile. I recently posted on Facebook that I have more friends now than I have ever had. It’s amazing but true.

It’s been a great year for kubb, and I’m glad to have been part of it. The Oktoberfest Tournament in Dallas, WI was my last tournament of the year. After that trip, I calculated I accumulated more than **5,000 driving miles**, which includes all of our sight-seeing side trips. Sue was on board for all but maybe 500 of those miles.

Now it’s time to think about next year. How many miles? How many tournaments? I don’t know yet, but I’m already thinking about my schedule. It won’t be as aggressive as this year because of my arthritis and knee joint replacements, but rest assured you’ll see me on the circuit – just look for the bibs. Stop over in between games, and let’s talk some kubb.

Here’s wishing you well my kubb friends.

Steve “T-Five” Feathers

(Of Steve’s nine 2012 tournaments, he tied for 5th in seven.)

*“There are no winners in kubb, there are only survivors. We survived Day 1.”*

Steve Feathers - 2012 Quote Of KubbNation



Steve cramping in U.S. Championship Round of 16.  
(Blind Photography)

By: Kristof Ackx - Heist-op-den-Berg, Belgium  
[OHC] Kubb Team



## GOING BIG IN BELGIUM

### A LOOK AT KUBB IN BELGIUM FROM [OHC]

Early last spring, I contacted my Belgian kubb friends from [OHC] that I met at the 2011 World Championship to see if they would be interested in doing a 2013 article about kubb in Belgium. To be honest, I didn't know much about what kubb was like in Belgium. Then a video came out from the 2012 Belgium Championship. Everyone that I talked to that had seen it went crazy. I contacted one of the organizers of the Belgium Championship and learned a whole lot of amazing things that they are doing. Then, I definitely knew we needed an article about kubb in Belgium.

In the spectrum of the life of kubb in Belgium, [OHC] is not one of the first teams to play. However, they have played since 2007. Also, it is hard to imagine many teams that have travelled and played as much kubb over the past few years. Looking more into the game in Belgium, we found dozens of teams that travel, host tournaments, have websites, and more. Top that off with over 50 tournaments, an out of this world national kubb website that lists tournaments, teams, and more (kubbspel.be) and it is easy to see that kubb in Belgium takes a backseat to nobody, and we mean nobody. Actually, to be honest, they are driving the car and setting the bar. We have a saying here, and that is, "Go big or go home." Pure and simple, Belgium is going Big, with a capital B. We hope you enjoy learning about the little country with big-time kubb, from going inside [OHC] Kubb Team.

[OHC] started out as a bunch of friends who used to be in the Flemish youth movement called 'Chiro'. As former leaders at this youth movement, and being good friends, we decided to organize more activities for ourselves. The 'O' stands for 'Old-leaders', and the 'H' and 'C' for Heist-Centrum, the group from downtown Heist-op-den-Berg where we originate from.

I first learned the game of kubb at a course given to young leaders at the 'Chiro'. All it needed was one nice, bored afternoon, and the words: 'Hey, I know a new game. Want to learn it?'

It's October 2007, and [OHC] plays it's first game of kubb. Spring 2008, we started playing more. We loved the game from the start, but honestly, we really sucked at it. And since we really like crazy ideas,

and we found out there was a World Championship in Sweden, we enrolled ourselves, and planned our roadtrip to Gotland, in summer 2008. That is where our eyes opened! We played two tournaments in Belgium, and that was all the experience we had. That Thursday, we arrived in Rone at the 'Holy Kubb Ground', and we saw that we were even worse than we thought. Some nice people explained us a tactical 'spin', which is commonly used all over the world now, but we never saw it before. Filip started to practice, until the evening went in to the dark night. Some other tactical moves were explained to us, and we knew that it was going to be tough.

Friday morning, 9 a.m., we threw our first piece of wood after the Swedish National Anthem. We won our game! After the group games, there were two teams with equal points. We qualified by shootout, and moved on to Saturday's heat. No need to say we ended 4th in our group. But we were happy, and we carried a lot of tactical advantage in our head.



Team [OHC] at 2011 Belgium Championship (Belgium Championship)

# GOING BIG IN BELGIUM

## A LOOK AT KUBB IN BELGIUM FROM [OHC]

Two weeks later we played our first Belgian Championship. In the pouring rain, where the kubbs were literally floating in the water, we were kicked out in the 1/8 finals.

The year after, we started winning our first tournaments. 2009 brings us to Sweden again. Once more we manage to make it to Saturday, where we ended up in a group with Team Ekeby and Elefantbajs 2000, one reigning and one former World Champion. And for that one split second, you think about winning those games. Again, kicked out after the group heat, but with a very good feeling.

The next Belgian Championship, in Antwerp, looks easy. [OHC] wins the group, and game after game the team moves on. In the 1/4th finals, we lost our first set of the day. And our second. [OHC] kicked out, but only to return stronger.

In 2010 we play a lot of tournaments. We start already in February in The Netherlands, and end with our 10th tournament of that year in September. No WC this year, but we became, as the top favorite team, Belgian Champion in Bruges. Meantime it is clear that the game is really getting popular, and more people learn the tricks and skills of kubb.

2011 is by far the best year we had. As Belgian Champs, we travel through the country, playing 12 tournaments. We also returned to Sweden, for our third WC. After an exciting struggle, we just miss out on 'glory', and need to be happy with the 'Lilla VM'. There, it ends in the 1/8th finals. At the Belgian Championship, [OHC] needs to defend it's title, which causes some extra stress. But the season went so great, that a second victory was only a matter of time. At the end of a very, very, very hot day, [OHC] gets it's well deserved second Belgian Title, at the city of Leuven, only 20 miles from our own hometown!

In 2012, things are different. The team wins less, competition is heavy, and the BC seems to become a tragedy. Almost knocked out in the 1/32 finals, [OHC] makes a U-turn and competes on, just to be kicked

out by Champions-to-be Chouffekubbers in the 1/4 finals.

In 2009, we organized our own tournament. The profit we make is spent all on kubb. Main goal: reducing the personal costs of going to Gotland. Our first edition is one with mostly local teams. A little over 20 teams. But year after year, the popularity of our tournament grows, along with the popularity of the game. The venue we play can hold a maximum of 40 teams, if we play in 5-team groups (8 groups). All of them are 6-person teams. Along with the supporters, fans, curious persons, press, we have reasonably good crowd every year. In our second edition, we already had a team from every province in Flanders, and some teams from The Netherlands.

I guess the success we have can be explained by a couple of reasons:

- We play the game a lot ourselves. Therefore, we know the rules, and how to apply them. We also managed to make our tournament a perfect mix of 'fun' kubb, and 'serious' kubb.
- Visiting tournaments all over the country, brought us a lot of new friends. They all returned us the favor of coming over to us.
- We take care of our guests. We work hard, starting two days before. We want it to be perfect. Shelter in case of heavy sun/rain, enough beer and non-alcoholic beverages, a well-thought system of play, enough benches and tables to give people a rest, a nice background music, and a dose of humor. We even take care of a nice catering: self made salads + BBQ.
- Low prices. Our tournament fee is €20 /team (approx. \$25). We also try to sell our drinks and food at reasonable prices so people don't need to complain.
- We make our prizes for the teams who get 1st, 2nd or 3rd ourselves. It makes people appreciate the effort. I guess you need to take a good look at the pictures of our tournament on the Facebook page of [OHC], and see for yourself. Lots of happy people in there!

As I said earlier, [OHC] is larger than just those nine guys playing kubb. Those nine are just the guys who spend the most time together. We all have our specialty, and some have some more. This is the team:

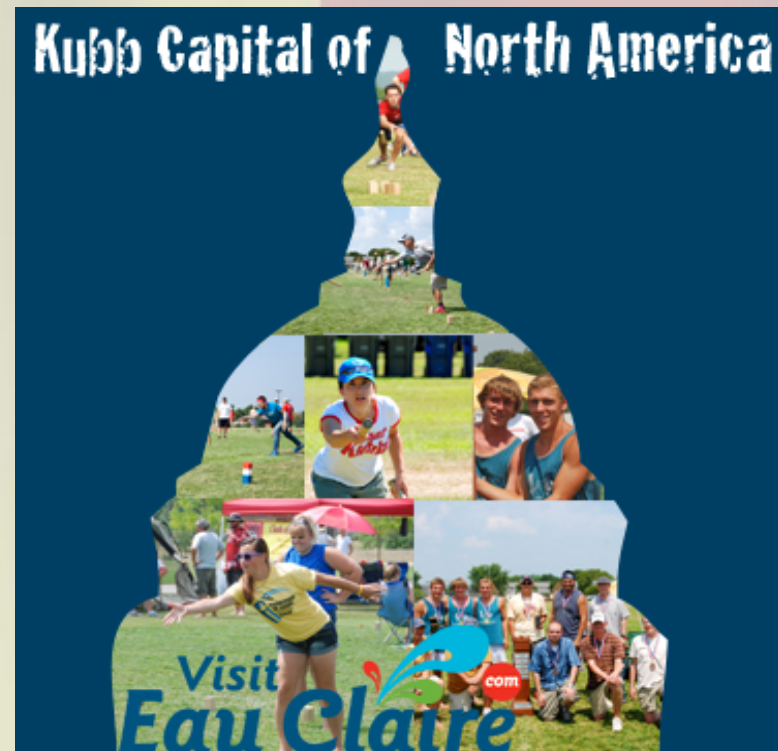
## World Championship 2012 Results

**Champion: Team Ekeby**

**2nd: Berras Sorkar**

**3rd: Gloria Victis**

**4th: SMP Basel United**





## GOING BIG IN BELGIUM A LOOK AT KUBB IN BELGIUM FROM [OHC]

Bart Saelen - Position: 1 (he kicks ass at the shorter distance)  
 Maarten Storms - Position: 1 or 2 (clearing out the kubbs at about 4m is his thing)  
 Philippe Batens - Position: 1 or 2 (tracking lines - also good at 8m)  
 Tom Geuens - Position 2 or 3 (droppin' it like it's hot)  
 Filip Van De Velde - Position 3 or 4 (cleaning what's left - also likes to put the kubbs together)  
 Kristof Ackx - Position 3 or 4 (semi-long distance, 2nd tosser)  
 Koen Van Den Bergh - Position 4 or 5 (semi-long distance, relaxed and steady hand)  
 Hans Liekens - Position 5 or 6 (long distance - 8 m throws, 1st tosser)  
 Koen Dom - Position 6 (king of the 8m throws - also backup in throwing kubbs)

If there was a ranking in Belgian Kubb, I guess we would still be on top. Only two years ago there would be only two or three other teams who could compete with us. In 2012, we noticed a lot of teams trained very hard. So the 10 best teams in Belgium are all at about the same level. And that number will only increase. I've seen a kids team (aged about 8-14 yrs) which will be at our level in only a matter of years.

The past years, we could rely on our experience. We played a lot of tournaments, and many semi-finals or finals. If we play a final, we don't get overmanned by stress. Many of our opponents did, and many times, it made them lose. With more tournaments, comes more winners, and

they all get confident. This is just normal. And good for the competition!

In the five years that we have played kubb, we played more than 40 tournaments, of which eight abroad. 21 of those tournaments were won. Another eight were 2nd places. I guess the numbers speak for themselves. But we are realistic. Those numbers go back to the days when kubb was played by only a few teams. In the future, we need to realize that playing a final is something you fought for. Teams are always looking out for us, they know us, and will do anything to beat us. That's normal, we do the same thing. We know the teams, and we



[OHC] after winning the 2010 Belgium Championship (Belgium Championship)

# GOING BIG IN BELGIUM

## A LOOK AT KUBB IN BELGIUM FROM [OHC]

know which ones are better and which ones are not. It's just the experience. But in times like these, a new team is a bigger danger. You never know how they play. "It's our first tournament", you hear them often say. And they go on to the semi-finals or so. Playing means also practicing, and a lot of new teams know that. For our team, I hope we can go on playing, and spend our Saturdays on the other side of the country having fun, drinking a beer, and play our game of kubb. After these five years, that is still the basic idea in the team. People

Kubb is popular in Flanders (northern Belgium, Dutch speaking), and hardly known in Wallonia (southern of Belgium, French speaking). This year, two Wallonia teams showed up at the BC, so there is a lot of work to do, and a lot of potential that can be discovered. So far, the Belgian Championship's locations were in Flanders. (Ghent, Ghent, Antwerp, Bruges, Leuven, Hasselt). Maybe it's time to cross the 'language border' and go south. But as you might know, Belgium is a difficult country.



De Kubbvaders (Vlaanderen Kubbt)



Bar crew at the BC (Belgium Championship)



De Dissers (De Dissers)

sometimes call us names, because they think that we only come for winning and that's it. Well, it is kind of offending. We do this because we like it. Some days we get up at 5 or 6 am to leave in time to play a tournament somewhere far away. If you do this only for winning, you wouldn't keep doing it. We love the game. We love the company of our teammates. The day we don't have fun anymore playing kubb, we quit.

The BC tries to connect as close as possible to the rules of the WC. Only time is a difficult point, and therefore some rules are slightly changed.

In Belgium, the growth of kubb only started to kick in last year. 2012 was very important, because in many local movements someone knew the game, and wanted to organize something. The BC itself has had six editions, starting in 2007. There were 48 teams in 2008, 64 teams in 2010, 96 in 2011 and in 2012 there were 128 teams enrolled. And, all of these teams exist of six persons.

There are lots and lots of tournaments in Belgium. The first ones show up right after winter is over, in the end of March and beginning of April. The last ones are organized in the end of September. Most of them are in May, June, and July. In May you can find a tournament every day of every weekend. That is also when the [OHC]Kubb Cup is taking place. Most of the bigger tournaments are for six person teams. In Belgium, the general idea is: you play kubb with six persons, because it is the most honest way. But of course there are smaller tournaments, with three person teams, and they are just as much fun!



Top teams at the 2012 Flemish Kubb Championship (Vlaanderen Kubbt)





By: Andy Niese - Eau Claire, WI  
P.E. Teacher at Regis Schools

# KUBB IN P.E. CLASS

## ST. JAMES SCHOOL - EAU CLAIRE, WI

After Eric visited our 5<sup>th</sup> graders in May of 2011 and then had a follow-up visit with our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in September 2011, it was apparent that the game of kubb was something that had caught the attention of our students.

Due to our limited gym space at St. James, I am always looking for ideas "outside of the box" in order to put a little variety into our winter physical education units. Because of the stationary (no running) nature of kubb, I thought the game would fit well as an indoor winter sport at St. James, although the game has traditionally been played almost entirely outside with the students.

With some adaptations made to account for space limitations, here is the basic info and structure to our indoor kubb unit at St. James School, held for the first time last winter:

- The unit is done only at the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade levels.
- The unit lasts 5 to 6 class periods, or roughly 2 to 3 weeks.
- The unit takes place in February.
- Day 1 is spent learning the rules, organizing the teams, and playing practice games.
- Days 2 through 6 are spent playing in a tournament format, team vs. team.
- The class is organized into six teams of two to three students. We then follow a predetermined schedule or season format.
- Each team is allowed to make up their team name.
- At the start of each class, I present two facts about the game of kubb.
- I was fortunate enough to get funding for three kubb sets.

- The playing/game surface consists of two blue gymnastic mats (10' by 5') put end to end on our tile floor. Each playing area ends up being 20' by 5' in size.
- Each team vs. team matchup lasts the entire class, or roughly 30+ minutes after we do an aerobic warm-up and go over the kubb facts.
- Within this allotted time, the teams play as many complete games as they can. There are instances where no one wins a game, thus resulting in a 0-0 tie.
- If a team wins a game and then a 2<sup>nd</sup> game has not been completed, the team that won the first game is considered the victor, 1 game to 0.
- If a tossed baton lands off of the mat, that is a lost toss. "Do overs" are not an option.
- Yes, things can get a bit chaotic at times with batons bouncing and ricocheting off the mats and wooden pieces clanging on our tile floor.
- The games are oak and hold up very well.
- It was a huge success, the kids enjoyed it, and it is on the planner for February, 2013 and beyond.

### 2012 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Kubb Tournament Standings

Team	W	L	T
Better Than The	4	1	0
TNT Filled Kings	2	1	2
Kubbikins	2	2	1
Flying Turtle Cops	1	1	3
Teddy Bears	1	2	2
Kubb Girls	0	3	2



One of several Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls schools that are playing kubb. St. James School plays kubb both in warm weather and then indoors in the winter. (Eric Anderson)

# KUBB SET REVIEW

## A "TALE OF THE TAPE"



Scott, Sam, and Pat.  
Three members from Team Kubboom.

Over the past years, there have been more and more kubb sets available in the North American market. With the increase in different kubb sets, there naturally comes questions and a growing interest on what kubb set meets personal needs. *Kubbnation Magazine* contacted all the different companies that sell kubb sets that we could find. Not all wanted their sets reviewed, so in the end, we were able to get six sets. As you can see, some are called kubb and some are not. But, they all can be used the same.

The goal for the kubb set review was to provide as much information as possible for consumers. We did not rate the sets from best to worst or what was liked and not liked. We wanted to provide pictures and information about each set. The opinion of *Kubbnation Magazine* is that there is no bad kubb set, just different types of sets.

When trying to decide who would review the sets, we decided to invite some fellow kubb players from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. We didn't have to travel far to invite the kubb teams Team Kubboom and The Ringers,

as they are two of the many teams that live in our Eastside Hill neighborhood in Eau Claire. Since the U.S. Championship was started in our neighborhood, the 2010 U.S. Championship was won by The Ringers, and a few other tournament wins have made their way back to the Eastside Hill, many in our neighborhood affectionately call it Championship Hill.

The review consisted of weighing and measuring kubbs, batons, and kings. In addition, we looked at corner stakes, rules, and bags. And, yes, of course, we played with each set. Each set has a 1/3 page picture gallery. On page 21, you will find the range of weights and average weight for kubbs and batons and the "Tale Of The Tape" of all the sets.

Thank you to the companies that sent us their sets, our Championship Hill friends that helped with the review, and our Des Moines Kubb friends down in Iowa that created the graphics on page 21.

(Photos: Aaron Ellringer Graphics: Josh Feathers)

## Fruitsuper Design (King's Game)



## JP's Backyard Games



# KUBB SET REVIEW

A "TALE OF THE TAPE"



## Madwood



## Tosso.com (Über Games)



## V:King



# KUBB SET REVIEW

A "TALE OF THE TAPE"

## Kubb Farm (Bex Original)



# 2013 U.S. National Kubb Championship

July 13 and 14 - Eau Claire, WI  
96 teams

REGISTRATION MARCH 01 - JUNE 21

All teams must have at least three players.

Final eight teams return Sunday for quarterfinals.

All skill levels welcome.

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION AT:

**USAKUBB.ORG**

*"The Kubb Capital of North America"*



Play it.

Experience it.

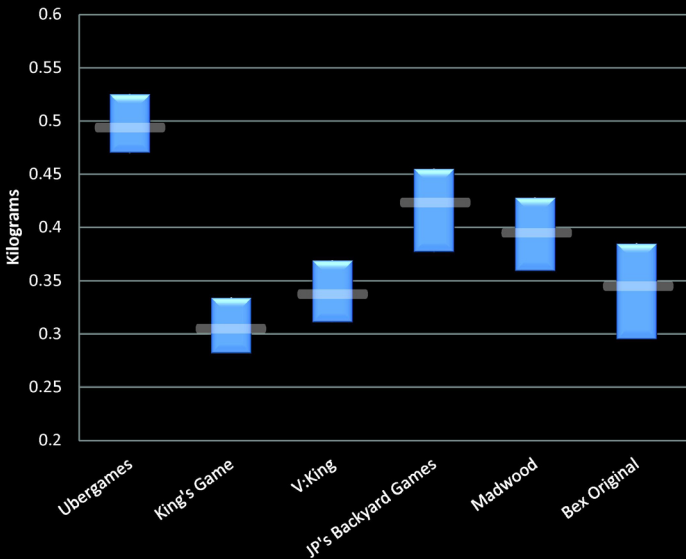
Live it.

# KUBB SET REVIEW

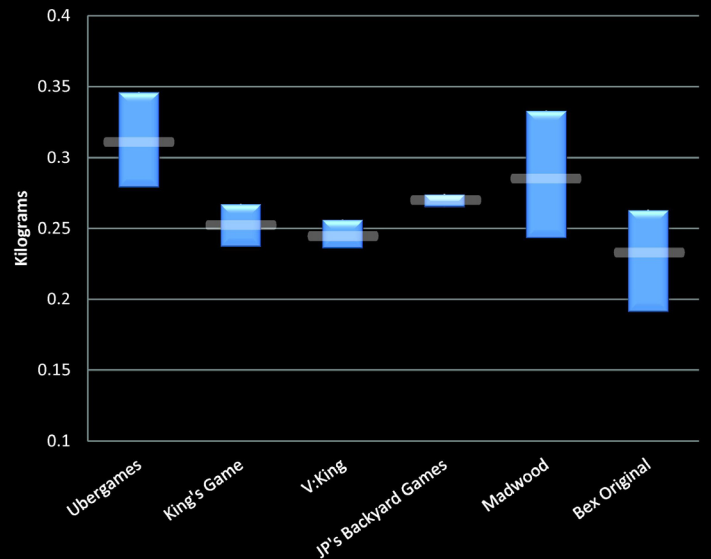
## CHAMPIONSHIP HALL TALE OF THE TAPE

	THE KING	SET WEIGHT	MEASUREMENTS BY KING/KUBBS	STAKE COUNT	ACCESSORIES	ROUTING	WOOD TYPE	MADE IN USA
<b>Tosso.com</b> Über Games Cost: \$109.95	8.5x29.5 cm Red 9-Crown Neck bevel	8.37 kg	4.4x30 cm 6.6x15 cm	4	Duffel Bag Rules	NONE	MANGO	
<b>Fruitsuper.com</b> King's Game Cost: \$172.00	7.0x28.5 cm Grn 4-Crown Neck bevel	5.37 kg	3.7x28.6 cm 5.6x14.6 cm	4	Travel Bag Rules	BATONS KUBBS	BIRCH	
<b>Playvking.com</b> V:King Cost: \$99.00	8.3x28.0 cm 9-Crown Neck bevel	6.31 kg	3.8x28.0 cm 5.7x13.8 cm	4	Travel Bag Rules	KUBBS & BATONS	NORTHERN HARDWOOD	
<b>Jpsbackyardgames.com</b> JP's Backyard Games Cost: \$80.00	9.0x30.0 cm 9-Crown Neck bevel	7.07 kg	4.4x30 cm 7.0x15.0 cm	6	Travel Bag Rules	KUBBS & BATONS	POPLAR	
<b>Madwood.us/kubb</b> Madwood Cost: \$59.95	8.0x30.0 cm No Crown 3 Neck Bevels	6.55 kg	4.4x30 cm 7.0x15 cm	6	Travel Bag Rules	BATONS KUBBS	PINE	
<b>Kubb Farm (Bex Orig)</b> aaron.ellringer.info Cost: \$60.00	7.5x40.0 cm 9-Crown Neck bevel	5.90 kg	3.8x40 cm 6.0x15 cm	4	Travel Bag Rules	KUBBS & BATONS	RUBBER WOOD	

Variance between Kubb Weights



Variance between Baton Weights



The variance for each set is from the one set that each company gave to review. The variance is the range in weight for the game pieces. All pieces fit in that range. The horizontal line shows the average of the six batons and the ten kubbs.

The medal podium at the City of Lakes Loppet Tournament  
(Mike Jackelen)



By: Eric Anderson - Eau Claire, WI

Wisconsin Kubb

## 2012: THE YEAR FOR U.S. KUBB

### KUBB TAKES HUGE STEPS IN THE U.S.

We didn't know what to expect on February 4th, 2012. None of us. Minnesota Kubb was hosting their third annual Winter Tournament in Minneapolis, MN, the largest city on the U.S. kubb tournament circuit. In 2011, 16 teams played on a snow packed park in southern Minneapolis. That was a big step from the 2010 tournament which was in a backyard that had enough room for two pitches. In 2012, the tournament became part of the City of Lakes Loppet, which is comprised of numerous skiing events over two days in Minneapolis. There were 32 teams that showed up on February 4th. Not only were there regulars of kubb tournaments, but around half of the players were playing in their first ever tournament, and they were doing it in the heart of Minnesota's legendary frigid winter. Also, not only were there many new players, but there were a handful of three-player teams and even six-player teams. If you had played in 2011, and especially 2010, one could not help but stand there in the cold sun of Minnesota and be amazed what a difference one year can make. And at the same time, it was hard not to wonder what the rest of 2012 would be like. It is safe to say that nobody could have imagined the new things and trends that would be prevalent one year later.

First, let's not forget where we were a year ago. In January 2012, an amazing year of kubb had just completed. In 2011, there was significant growth. More people playing recreationally and competitively, new tournaments, larger tournaments, and more. Yes, 2011 was a good year for kubb in the U.S., and perhaps one could say the most important to date. But then came 2012, and with that, a whole brand new country of kubb.

Perhaps some day, and maybe that day will be sooner than we all think, we will look back at 2012, and it will have a much closer resemblance to 2009 than the current year that we are looking back from. But for now, 2012 was the year that kubb looked considerably different and provided a big leap to the next generation of kubb. The year 2012 was indeed the year for U.S. kubb.

#### Tournaments

In 2012, tournaments expanded and more tournaments were introduced. Let's begin with the new tournaments. Most of them

started as a result of an existing event. This does many things for a tournament, but two things really stick out. First, much of the needed infrastructure is already in place for the tournament. Second, there are already people at the event, so it introduces new people to the game. A perfect example is Nordic Fest in Decorah, Iowa. Nordic Fest annually attracts 10,000s of people. In 2012, they hosted their first kubb tournament. How many teams were from Decorah? Zero. How many people in Decorah had heard about kubb? Not many. But, during the day, 17 teams (including the 2012 National Champions) played and hundreds of people saw kubb for the first time, and thousands saw the word kubb on the Internet, in flyers, and other promotional material. There were even dozens of people that picked up their first baton and gave it a go. Their 2013 tournament is currently being planned, and they will be hosting the 2014 U.S. Midwest Kubb Championship, which rotates between communities.

As discussed in the beginning of the article, another example is the Minnesota Kubb Winter Tournament. It is not a new tournament, but the venue is. In 2012, 32 teams played kubb at the City of Lakes Loppet which draws thousands of participants and thousands of spectators over two days. The semifinals and Final were moved to a location that was along the route for the annual Saturday evening luminary ski. Hundreds of people saw kubb for the first time. People stopped to watch. People looked up the game on their phones. People asked questions. New players were introduced to the game.

Kubb tournaments as part of events in Minnesota did not stop there. There were smaller kubb tournaments in Spring Grove (Uff-da Fest) and Lanesboro (Ibsenfest) as well. Were there thousands of people at these events? No, but hundreds were. For those communities, kubb was part of their annual events, and was introduced to those communities and people who came to the events.

In the small, remote town of 350, kubb was part of the Dallas, Wisconsin, Oktoberfest for the fourth year in row. In 2012, the tournament became the country's first six-person team tournament. Twelve teams signed up to play, with players coming from throughout Wisconsin, and also from Minnesota and Iowa. Kubb will continue to be a staple of the Oktoberfest.

# 2012: THE YEAR FOR U.S. KUBB

## KUBB TAKES HUGE STEPS IN THE U.S.



Swedish themed trophies at Lindsborg's Midsommar Tournament (Corey Peterson)

Another new tournament in 2012 was the Madison Midsommar Tournament which was played at Olbrich Park along the shore of Lake Monona. In its first year, the tournament had 19 teams. Like others, this was not a one and done event. In 2013, Madison Kubb will host their second annual kubb tournament in the second largest city in Wisconsin, which is also the state capital.

dominated by small companies that make the sets themselves or get them from a supplier either in the U.S. or overseas. They have sold them in their small retail store or on their website. In the past, one limitation to the growth of the game was that it was extremely rare for someone to stumble upon kubb. For the most part, one had to be introduced to the game. There was no opportunity for a person to walk down a store aisle or shop online for other things and have kubb look them in the face and say, "Kubb up. Check me out. I am the greatest game out there and perfect for all ages." Those days are now over.

Kubb tournaments are also expanding outside of the Midwest. Lindsborg, Kansas hosted their first tournament, which was part of their community's Midsommar Celebration. Nicknamed "Little Sweden" Lindsborg is home to a population where over a third has Swedish heritage and where there are a variety of Swedish gift shops and restaurants, Swedish festivals, and an overall Swedish theme for the city. Also, the inaugural Georgia Championship was held in Atlanta, Georgia.

It is impossible to say how many kubb sets were sold in 2012. But, all it takes is a quick look on the Internet to see that kubb sets are now being sold by various large stores online. At the same time, tournament-sized kubb sets were sold, in store, by one of the largest home improvement companies in the country, and they promoted it by having kubb in one of their weekly promotional ad mailings. This was the second year they sold sets, but the first year that they were regulation size. In addition, a variety of retail and sporting goods stores sold sets online and/or in-store as well. This was a first for kubb, and we can only assume it will not go away.

How about all the existing tournaments? Well, Rockford increased their average players per team to three players per team. Appleton experienced an increase in teams and had players from four states. Des Moines increased their teams from 23 to 32. As discussed above, Dallas' format changed, and the Dallas Oktoberfest tournament went from minimum two-player teams and 42 players to six-player teams and close to 80 players. Then, there was the U.S. National Championship that experienced a 40 percent increase in players from 2011 to 2012, and that was with the requirement change from a minimum of two players on a team to three.

### Team size, shirts, and activity

Shortly after the 2011 U.S. National Kubb Championship, the U.S. Championship decided to require at least three people on a team in 2012. Then, shortly after the 2011 Dallas Oktoberfest Tournament, that tournament decided to require at least six people on a team in 2012. There were no other tournaments in 2012 that required more than two-player teams. However, these two tournaments were not the only tournaments where we experienced more than two players on a team. It was kicked off at the City of Lakes Loppet Winter

Painted game pieces were also introduced in 2012. The U.S. Championship had painted kings and field stakes. Other tournaments painted field stakes as well. The Dallas Oktoberfest Tournament had painted kubbs, kings, and field stakes. Some tournaments are already planning on painted game pieces for 2013.

### Kubb set availability

Kubb sets have been sold online for many years. It has been

**REGULATION SIZE AND WEIGHT**  
**10 kubbs, 6 batons, 1 king,**  
**6 marking stakes, carrying tote, and**  
**official US National Championship rules.**

-----

**Used at the only six-person team**  
**tournament in the USA...Dallas, WI Oktoberfest.**  
**Right in the heart of Kubb Country.**

**Meets size and weight**  
**requirements for tournament play.**

**One of very few to include six corner stakes,**  
**to allow marking the center line,**  
**which you will want.**

**This kubb set can be used "as is".**  
**You can also give it your**  
**favorite finish or custom paint job.**

# MADWOOD KUBB

## FULL SIZE KUBB SET.

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# 2012: THE YEAR FOR U.S. KUBB

## KUBB TAKES HUGE STEPS IN THE U.S.

Tournament where there were three six-player teams. Then in Rockford, two six-player teams made it to the quarterfinals, and there were a host of three and four-player teams as well. There were three-player teams in Madison, with two making it to the semifinals. And it did not stop there, as every tournament had teams of three or more with many making it to quarterfinals and beyond.

The difference between two and three players on a team can be noticed, both with strategy and energy. However, the difference between two or three players and six players is huge. It is like the difference between a Prius (two players), a minivan (three players), and then a streetsweeper (six players). That streetsweeper wakes you up at 4am, when it is two or three blocks away. Two-person and three-person teams exist on a pitch, (with most two person teams being pretty quiet). However, six-person teams are conspicuous, regardless if you are on one, playing against one, or four or five pitches away from them. Not only do larger teams add to the teamwork needed, but the energy that is created by a six-person team generates enormous energy in a tournament and is highly contagious for all teams.

Team t-shirts exploded in 2012 as well. There were a lot of team t-shirts in previous years, but in 2012, they really took off. Both the U.S. Championship and Fox Valley Clash of Kubb had team t-shirt contests. Amazing team t-shirts were not only seen there. They were seen at every tournament.

Lastly, and perhaps best of all, we saw a continued diversification of players. Young and old. Male and female. White and non-White. Competitive and recreational. We saw it all.

### Planet Kubb

On February 4, 2012, Jamie Thingelstad, Garrick van Buren, and Jim Bernard played in the City of Lakes Loppet Tournament. It was their first kubb tournament. Within days, Jamie and Garrick discussed the idea of an Internet home for all things kubb. Within weeks, Planet Kubb was born. Planet Kubb (p. 29) is a website that receives feeds from a host of other kubb related websites and hosts a kubb forum of discussion and information. Among other things, Planet Kubb has put together a scoring system for games, created a space for teams to host their own websites, and developed a forum to ask questions and create global dialogue. It provides a means for updates on their website, Facebook, and Twitter that come from dozens of other sites around the world. To think that Planet Kubb has yet to celebrate its first birthday is amazing.



### Advertising and sponsors

As kubb has grown, we have seen a greater variety of businesses support and sponsor kubb. Some of these businesses are finding ways to incorporate kubb into their already existing business model. An example of this is Hemslöjd. The Swedish/Nordic store started painting kubb kings with a traditional Swedish Dalarna pattern and includes family names on it. As more kubb related events become part of Swedish and/or Nordic events, it is only logical that local companies in those towns or larger Nordic companies that already have connections to those events and/or want to enter a new and growing market will become more interested in supporting kubb.

Another example is Reallygoods. In the summer of 2012, a small, new business in southeastern Wisconsin decided they wanted to partner with kubb. Introduced to the game less than two years earlier, the owners of Reallygoods decided to promote their new organic, raw snack food in the kubb community. You can now find Reallygoods at every kubb tournament in the Midwest, and not surprisingly Reallygoods are in grocery stores in the communities that host kubb tournaments. They did not stop there with their product and kubb. They also promote Reallygoods at other events. On the bottom of their banner, they promote their affiliation with the U.S. National Kubb Championship, which includes the U.S. Championship logo. At these events, it is common for people to come up and ask about kubb, and it is not uncommon for a set to be brought out and a game to be played.

As more kubb activity is created in communities and tournaments grow and/or get more established, there are going to be additional opportunities for companies to support kubb and use kubb as a tool to enter new markets. We are experiencing the early stages of this.

### Press

When kubb makes a presence in a newspaper, it does wonders. In 2012, both for the first time, the newspapers in Des Moines and Decorah had big articles about kubb. Thousands of people, and in the case of the Des Moines Register, tens of thousands of people read about the game. In Eau Claire, the local newspaper, The Leader

Dozens tried kubb for the first time, hundreds saw the game for the first time, and thousands saw the word *kubb* for the first time at Decorah's Nordic Fest. (Willis Sullivan)



# 2012: THE YEAR FOR U.S. KUBB

## KUBB TAKES HUGE STEPS IN THE U.S.

Telegram, along with Volume One, a culture and entertainment magazine in the Chippewa Valley, had more than one article about kubb in 2012, and the local television stations had more than one segment about kubb and the U.S. Championship. The Rockford newspaper again had an article about their tournament and local television stations came out to video. When an article about kubb is the first or second article in a community, it introduces people to the game. When it has been in a newspaper and/or TV numerous times, it still introduces people to the game, but it also reinforces to people that it exists in the community, and shows people that it is part of the community.

The book *Silver Linings Playbook* was released as a movie. The story includes kubb as a component in the book. In addition, another book that included kubb was *Tag, Toss, and Run* written by Paul Tukey and Victoria Rowell. The book promotes 40 classic lawn games to help get kids more active. Kubb is actually on the cover. While promoting the book nationally, Paul Tukey was on a one-hour Wisconsin Public Radio show. During that hour, they specifically talked about kubb and how it has exploded in Eau Claire, and the Midwest as a whole.

### Websites, social media, and team logos

In 2011, team websites and social media activity could be defined as virtually nonexistent. There was some club activity on websites and social media in 2011, but even that was limited. In February, Team Knockerheads created a Facebook page. Soon, a few other teams did as well. More clubs started creating pages. Players, teams, and clubs also started creating Twitter accounts to help spread the word about kubb. These can be seen from the East Coast to the West Coast. Then in the early summer, Team Kubboom decided to let the world know they existed and they created a Facebook page, a Twitter account, and they now have their own functioning website. On their site, you can even go on and see where they have played kubb.

In 2012, Planet Kubb introduced a program where a team can easily create their own team website on the Planet Kubb site. More and more teams are creating these team pages. One great thing about increased Internet activity is that it allows people in different parts of the country and around the world to read about each team.

If you were in Rockford last May, you saw the big banner flag that Fox Valley Kubb brought with them and unveiled, then brought with them to each tournament after that. In 2012, more and more teams and clubs started creating logos. With these logos came more apparel and paraphernalia.

### Local activity

There was a large increase in local activity, with most of it being generated by clubs. This activity was both an expansion of existing activity and new activity. In the Midwest, it can be seen from Thief River Falls, MN, to Appleton, WI, to Des Moines, IA, and everywhere between. Looking on the Internet, it is easy to see this activity, and it does not stop in the Midwest, but exists across the country.

A few examples of this include the growth of the Chippewa Valley Kubb League in the Eau Claire area. Their spring and fall local-based tournaments have expanded, with several top local players from the U.S. Championship playing in their 2012 fall tournament. In addition,

various clubs have included indoor winter kubb as a way to introduce more people to the game. It is also easy to follow local clubs throughout the year attending various local events that are introducing more and more people to the game. And of course, there is the continual infusion of kubb into the schools (P.E. class, clubs, after-school programs), which is happening in more than one community as well. Chippewa Falls Middle School and Eau Claire Memorial High School both have clubs, and kubb was introduced into new schools this past year not only in Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls, but also places like Shakopee, MN.

Communities also started investing in kubb. A new park in Rockford, IL incorporated a kubb pitch. In addition, with redevelopment activity happening in downtown Eau Claire, there has been serious discussion of including kubb pitches as part of the upcoming new development.

### 2013 and beyond

What will happen in 2013? How about beyond? The farther out, just like everything, we don't know exactly, but here are some thoughts. First, all the trends that were talked about, they are going to continue. It is hard not to imagine. More sets available. Larger tournaments. Increase in the diversity in players. Not only will this continue in communities where kubb is already being played, but also in new communities. It is just the natural progression that we have seen and will continue to see. Also, in some instances, what took existing kubb communities awhile to create or invent will happen quicker in new communities. The knowledge will be there.

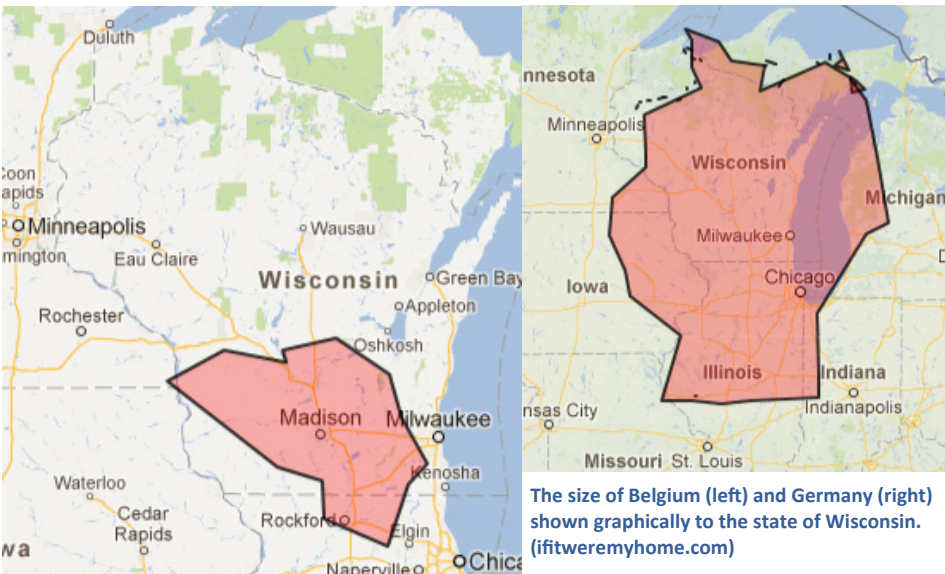
Second, we have to understand and accept that when looking at kubb, the U.S. is very different than kubb countries in Europe. One cannot directly compare them due to spatial distances. In the Midwest, where most of the current organized U.S. kubb activity is located, our population is a lot more dispersed than Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, and so on. The distance between Eau Claire and Chicago is a one-way six hour drive. Add two to three more if you want to go to Des Moines from Appleton. How many countries can you go through in Europe in nine hours? From many areas in the Twin Cities, it is even a two hour drive to Eau Claire.

Belgium is 1/5 the size of Wisconsin and has approximately 11 million people. If, for the most part, only Flanders is playing kubb, then they have 6.3 million people in an area of roughly 1/10 the size of Wisconsin (total population is 5.7 million). In Belgium, everyone can get to a "far-away" tournament in a two or three hour car, train, or bus ride. We cannot even fathom that. That just is never going to happen here. Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois have a total population of roughly 27 million. Chicago's several million of that is in the southeast corner of most Midwest organized kubb activity, as currently there is limited kubb activity south northern Illinois.



# 2012: THE YEAR FOR U.S. KUBB

## KUBB TAKES HUGE STEPS IN THE U.S.



Overall, we will continue to see growth of the game in the Midwest and across the country. It is safe to assume that as more people learn about the game outside of the Midwest, the Midwest will continue with its identity of the U.S. kubb heartbeat, and it will actually grow. Perhaps we will see more teams travel long distances to their closest tournament and make a point to play in the U.S. Championship, even if it is just once. As kubb communities grow and evolve, they will continue to create their own identities and kubb cultures.

However, and this will be huge, due to the spatial structure in the Midwest, one key will be local growth. We cannot expect hundreds of people to travel half a day or more to a tournament. We should not think of this as a negative though. We should use this as a strength. If we want our local activity to grow, then we need more locals,

which require us to find ways to promote the game locally. First, more people will learn the game. This will increase numbers and diversity. Second, with this local growth, kubb communities will increase in size and strengthen their own local identity both at home and beyond, which will significantly add to the game of kubb in the U.S.

However, let's look at another region of the U.S. There are some similarities between the Northeast and countries in Europe. In the Northeast, tens of millions of people live in extremely close distance. Spatially, this is more in tune to kubb playing countries in Europe. When organized kubb activities start in the Northeast, it is easy to see that there is potential for larger tournaments, perhaps even tournaments that are larger than in the Upper Midwest. There are just that many more people that live that much closer to each other in the Northeast than the Midwest. How long will it take for another region in the U.S. to catch up with the Midwest? We don't really know, as it takes people to want to build these things, like people in the Midwest have done. However, it is easy to envision that when it happens, the initial growth would be quicker than what happened in the Midwest.

The thing is though, and it is really exciting, is that with our large geographical area, it will create something totally different here in the U.S. We are living in the largest kubb experiment possible. Looking at the U.S., we should more closely compare ourselves to Europe as a whole, and then some. A trip to Minneapolis is like a trip to Berlin. A trip to Des Moines is like a trip to the Dutch National Championships. A trip to Madison is like a trip to the Swiss capital Bern, minus the mountains. Well, yes and no, but you get the drift. The really cool possibility is that this is replicated throughout different U.S. regions. There is ONLY one Rone, but perhaps for some, a trip to Eau Claire would be like a trip to Rone. The distance would be greater for most Americans to get to Eau Claire than most Europeans to get to Rone.

With distance comes intrigue and sometimes a greater fascination, and culture plays a part in that. Isn't that what part of the mystique of Rone is? The fact that it is a very small remote hamlet, on a remote island in the Baltic is amazing. If the WC was located in Stockholm, it would not be the same, not at all. If the U.S. Championship was located in Minneapolis or Chicago, it is easy to envision it getting lost in Big City culture. In Eau Claire, it is quickly becoming an actual part of the city and a significant and quickly growing percentage of the population about kubb and that they host the U.S. Championship.

Another thing we have going for us is language. I love languages and culture as much as anyone, but for most countries in Europe, I cannot read about kubb in their countries, nor can most Europeans, as the websites are in their native languages. We don't have that issue here.

The graphic features a photograph of three people in a field, one holding a wooden baton high in the air. The background is a bright blue sky with a yellow curved border on the right side. The text is in a bold, serif font, with the event name in a larger, gold-outlined font. A quote is written in a smaller, brown font. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a city skyline with a kubb tower in the center, and the website name in a bold, black font.

**4th Annual  
Fall Kubb  
Klassic**

**"Whether you're a  
National Champion or  
have never tossed a baton;  
you'll find what you're  
looking for here."**

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k u b b**

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**9/21/13**

# KUBBIN' DEVELOPMENT

## KUBB IN THE PEACE CORPS

By: *Dan Sarles - Minneapolis, MN*  
*Settlers of Baton*



Kids playing kubb in Bulgaria (Dan Sarles)

In 2009 I received an invitation to serve for The United States Peace Corps in Bulgaria. I was going to work towards the Peace Corps's three goals; "Helping the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women", "Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served" and "Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans". I was elated to travel to that wondrous land that was Bulgaria! I was overjoyed with the thought of taking up this new challenge and submersing myself in that legendary and nuanced Bulgarian culture! I couldn't wait to see all those amazing sights in Bulgaria that I have been hearing about!

...I had no idea where Bulgaria was or anything about it - I had to look at a Wikipedia Page...

Arriving in the Eastern European nation of Bulgaria; north of Greece east of Serbia and south of Romania, I was immediately submersed in multiple new and extraordinary experiences. I was in a new country with a different culture, language, and climate. I also had an intense schedule of Peace Corps training sessions. Most of the time I was ridding the adrenaline-rush of living the experience, but at other times I was quite home-sick. One thing, in particular, that I missed was kubb.

Kubb is indeed a game I feel passionately enough about to miss while being away for less than a month, and also to write an essay about. Unfortunately for me, my kubb set would have taken up too much of my 60 pounds of checked luggage, so I decided to leave it at home. Besides, I thought, they probably had lumber in Bulgaria.



Game pieces made our of extra wood (Dan Sarles)

# KUBBIN' DEVELOPMENT

## KUBB IN THE PEACE CORPS

After three to four weeks of language training, I got my nerve up to ask a local carpenter if he could help me make a kubb set. I drew up the dimensions on a sheet of paper of exactly what I wanted. I detailed the drawings down to the angle on the king's crown. The carpenter was incredibly accommodating, if a little imprecise, with the dimensions. Even though the kubbs were cube shaped as opposed to the rectangle prism shape I was expecting and the king was without a crown, I managed to adapt the rules to account for this unconventional kubb set...and it was perfect! Finally, I was able to share this game I played in Minnesota with the people in my village and the other Peace Corps volunteers!

At the beginning, a lot of my volunteer work in Bulgaria included going to the school-yard and playing soccer, basketball, volleyball, and ping pong with the kids from my village. It was a great way to get some exercise, integrate into the community and practice my language with some kids who were a lot more forgiving with my weak Bulgarian language skills.

One day, I decided to introduce the kids to kubb. I wasn't sure how it was going to go over. There are no analogous games to kubb that the kids in the village may have been familiar with and my language wasn't strong enough to explain little things, like the strategy in the game. Although there were a few barriers to overcome, I was able to get through a full game, but I don't think the kids really understood what was going on and they wanted to play basketball instead.

Later that week some of the kids I taught how to play asked me if we could play "that game with the sticks" again. Sure, they probably just wanted to hang out with "The American", and they knew asking me this was a good way to convince me to stop what I was doing and run off to the school-yard, but they were right and it worked.

I hurried to my house to grab the kubb set. I set it up and went over the rules again. Soon enough our group grew to eight, then to ten, and finally to a full game of twelve kids playing kubb! After a few rounds

into the game some of the older boys and girls whom understood the game, were able to help me keep the younger kids in the game interested, and following the rules.

From then on the kids of my village knew the name kubb! They asked to play it often, and every subsequent time it was easier and easier to play.

After a number of kubb matches, many of which were played boys vs. girls, it occurred to me that the boys didn't have a dominating ability in the game. The games would go back and fourth. The girls or boys were as likely to win a match as the other. This was an interesting way to address one of my Peace Corps objectives of gender development and empowering girls. The girls enjoyed the active competition and gained confidence when they were able to defeat the boys' team, and the boys loved having to work hard to defeat the girls' team. It made for some exciting, good-natured games.

With kubbs popularity amongst my students, and the nature of the game allowing for a semblance of parity in skills amongst boys and girls; I thought it would lend itself perfect for an educational game for my English lessons.

I developed a hybrid game of hang-man and kubb. For every letter one team guessed correctly they received three extra batons to throw, guess the word six extra batons, explain the meaning of the word nine extra batons, use the word in a sentence-twelve extra batons! The game was quite successful and we played the game many times for my English clubs and my students' vocabulary and English abilities grew.

Kubb was a fantastic way to approach two of my Peace Corps objectives; and it introduced some young Bulgarians to a new game that they may not otherwise have known about. It was also a game that is available and easy to build with the resources they have in the village so it is sustainable as well.



## DALLAS, WI OKTOBERFEST

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## KUBB TOURNAMENT - JULY 27

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# PLANET KUBB

## FEEDING KUBB TO THE PLANET



*By: Jamie Thingelstad - Minneapolis, MN*

*Garrick van Buren - St. Anthony, MN*

**Kubbchucks and Planet Kubb**

Dallas, WI Oktoberfest Tournament (Jamie Thingelstad)

Very late one evening in February of 2012 I sent this email to my friend Garrick:

Subject: Kubb River  
 From: Jamie Thingelstad <jamie@\_\_\_\_.com>  
 Date: Tue, 14 Feb 2012 00:15:20 -0600  
 To: Garrick Van Buren email@\_\_\_\_.com

Got timestamps working on feeds so it is right now. Just need to move this river to PlanetKubb and give it a better HTML.

<http://river.thingelstad.com/kubb/index.html>

Jamie Thingelstad via iPhone

Three days prior to that I had thought to make a feed of kubb blog posts, videos, and anything else I could find just for my personal use. When I saw that river of kubb come together I thought it was immediately useful and interesting. I've been an Internet geek since the early 90's and knew that there were a number of "planet feeds" out there that aggregated everything they could find on a topic, usually an open source project. I saw my little river of kubb and thought to myself "I wonder if there should be a planet feed for kubb? Planet Kubb?" And with that and the email above Planet Kubb was created.

For years I've hosted my own personal and hobby websites. I run several WordPress blogs and several MediaWiki powered wikis. I've been a constant explorer of this type of software for over a decade. I have two virtual servers at Linode to run all of my projects on, so after I setup the initial Planet Kubb website I started thinking about more interesting things that could be put up for the kubb community. I was poking around and discovered an open source package called Question2Answer that can be used to power question and answer websites. Right away I knew this was something that would be interesting for kubb, so I pinged Garrick since I couldn't figure out what to call it and he immediately replied...

### Ask Planet Kubb

Ask Planet Kubb was launched just four days later on February 18th. Today, Ask Planet Kubb has over 300 answers to more than 100 questions. Topics ranging from how to practice to optimal placement of

penalty kubbs to the more light-hearted question of all the pre-throw baton flipping.

Ask Planet Kubb has become the "go to" place to get input on whatever questions you have about kubb. There are kubb players from the US, Sweden, Germany, and a number of other countries actively answering and exchanging comments. A major highlight occurred on Ask Planet Kubb on August 7, 2012 when a discussion around the process of standing kubbs near the center pin resulted in a rules clarification with US, Swedish, and German kubb players engaging in the discussion.

Quickly Ask Planet Kubb became a place to discuss some of the more esoteric aspects of competitive kubb – but where to document the decisions?

### Planet Kubb Wiki

The Planet Kubb Wiki started as a directory of vocabulary, tournaments, teams, players, and a nascent page about kubb notation "Some ideas on how to keep something like a box score for a kubb match. The most repeatable action is the baton toss so that is the key to pace the sheet."

A couple months later, Garrick brought a blank piece of paper to a lunchtime game of kubb and we took turns documenting each baton throw. Over the next few weeks, the Planet Kubb Game Notation and Scoresheet were flushed out. Both got their first real test during the championship bracket at the 2012 US National Kubb Championship where Garrick, Tony Hansen of Des Moines Kubb, Chad Bevers of Fox Valley Kubb, and I scored all the championship games. With the notation now baked deep into the wiki with automatically calculated game, teams, and player statistics we can start to raise our level of understanding of kubb to an entirely new level.

I have great hopes that we will see further adoption of the Planet Kubb Notation system and that it starts to be used as a means of archiving and sharing game results across clubs as well as countries and languages. I truly believe it is the most significant contribution that Planet Kubb has made to the game in our brief time working on stuff. I hope to be able to follow the championship game at the Kubb VM

# PLANET KUBB

## FEEDING KUBB TO THE PLANET

someday by getting Tweets of each turn transmitted using the notation. "8i3r 4f 3f f b K - # Team Ekeby wins the Kubb VM!". Please see the next article in *Kubbnation* on the Planet Kubb Notation System.

The Planet Kubb Wiki aims to be the central archive of all kubb related information available. It is a directory of kubb clubs, an archive of games played, a place to see the brackets from previous tournaments and the most complete reference of kubb content on the web. The best part? You can help make it better of course by creating an account and contributing additional content!

### Planet Kubb Network

I have long wished that there were more kubb teams with blogs. I wish that there was a better option for tournaments and clubs to have a nice website platform. There are a lot of Facebook pages for kubb clubs, but they lack more depth on the clubs, members, and their thoughts on kubb. After wishing something better would exist it hit me that Planet Kubb could make that something better, and on October 20th the Planet Kubb Network was launched.

Using the Planet Kubb Network any kubb team, club, event, or even player can have their own WordPress-powered website to share whatever kubb related information they want. You don't have to pay anything. The sites are hosted via Planet Kubb. And the content is all yours. If you wish to move it somewhere else later you can export everything and head off to a different website.

All of the sites in the Planet Kubb Network are automatically included in the distribution feeds we syndicate on Facebook and Twitter so you get an instant tap into kubb fans around the world. And, the network supports localization into Swedish, German, and Dutch right now and other languages are easy to add.

In the past six months Planet Kubb has had over 15,000 visits from

over 50 different countries around the world. What's next for Planet Kubb? In 2013 Planet Kubb will award the US Kubb Club Championship for the first time. The Kubb Club that collects the most points from it's top three representative teams in the US National Championship will be named the top kubb club in the US! Will your club be the one?

To a large extent, the future of Planet Kubb is in the kubb community's hands. Get involved on Ask Planet Kubb and answer some questions. Contribute some content to the Planet Kubb Wiki. Score some games and add them to the corpus of games on the Planet Kubb Wiki. Add your local kubb clubs and events. Thank you for helping build out the most vibrant kubb community on the Internet!



Kubbchucks: Top leftclockwise: Garrick van Buren, Jamie Thingelstad, and Jim Bernard (Jamie Thingelstad)

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--

**TEAM DRAW** PARTY JUNE 29

# PLANET KUBB

## GAME NOTATION SYSTEM

It's Game 2 of the 2012 U.S. Nationals' quarterfinals; Team Knockerheads v. Tad Kubbler. Team Knockerheads' Josh Feathers prepares to throw in nine kubbs. If Team Knockerheads win this, they move forward to the semifinals. Nine field kubbs and six batons. Will Team Knockerheads leave Tad Kubbler an advantage line? And if they do – is their championship quest over?

With the Planet Kubb Game Notation it is now possible to start to answer these questions. Just as baseball has the all-telling box score, kubb now has a simple, fast, and effective method of transcribing and archiving kubb games for easy sharing and statistical analysis.

The Game Notation was developed by Jamie Thingelstad and Garrick van Buren early in 2012 as a simple way to describe each turn within a kubb game. It debuted at the 2012 US Championship after being tested on several kubb games on YouTube as well as field tested in actual game play. The Notation can be learned in a minute and it provides an easy guide to any Kubb game: a 'B' means a baseline kubb was hit, an 'F' means a field kubb was hit, and a 'K' means the king was slain.

With this we can describe a perfect kubb game as follows:

b	b	b	b	b	k
---	---	---	---	---	---

One 'b' or baseline kubb hit by each of the first 5 batons with the final baton slaying the king – 'k'. We can even introduce a letter for each player, to denote who threw each baton. Take this team with players; Josh – 'j', Grant – 'g', Dwayne – 'd':

j:b	j:b	g:b	g:b	d:b	d:k
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Of course, a kubb game is made of more than baseline kubb hits and king shots. There's missed shots, advantage lines, and throwing kubbs in. The Notation can capture all aspects of a kubb game and has been used to record nearly 100 tournament games worldwide already – including the quarterfinals bracket from the 2012 U.S. Nationals.

Let's return to the quarterfinals game where Josh Feathers is about to throw in nine kubbs. After analyzing the notation of each turn in the recorded games, we know there's a *48 percent chance one or more of those nine kubbs will remain* – leaving an advantage line for the opponent. Additionally, there's an 85 percent chance the opponent will immediately convert that advantage line into a win.

How do Team Knockerheads perform? Let's take a look:

j:9i3r	j:5f	j:2f	g:f	g:-	d:-	d:f
--------	------	------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Josh throws in nine kubbs, and had to rethrow three (j:9i3r). Then with the first baton he knocks down five field kubbs (j:5f), then two more with the 2nd baton (j:2f). Grant then takes care of one more field kubb (g:f), misses (g:-) and steps back for Dwayne. Dwayne also misses (d:-) risking the odds before toppling the final field kubb (d:f).

Tad Kubbler is now up with Eric Goplin (e) throwing in nine kubbs, with four rethrows.

e:9i4r	c:3f	c:-	a:3f	a:f	e:-	e:-
--------	------	-----	------	-----	-----	-----

Cole (c) immediately topples three field kubbs (c:3f) followed by a miss (c:-). Anders (a) also hits a triple (a:3f) and a single (a:f). Unfortunately, Eric misses twice leaving an advantage line – just as the statistics predicted would happen with nine field kubbs.

Also just as the statistics predicted, Team Knockerheads immediately win.

j:7ir	a	j:5f	j:f	g:f	d:k	x	x
-------	---	------	-----	-----	-----	---	---

Josh now only throws in seven (with one rethrow). Then he moves up to the advantage line (a) and topples five (j:5f) followed by a single (j:f). Grant finishes the last field kubb (g:f) then steps back while Dwayne slays the king (d:k). Team Knockerheads move into the semifinals with two unthrown batons (x).



Team Knockerheads (L to R): Grant Scott, Josh Feathers, and Dwayne Ballmer (Blind Photography)



Tad Kubbler (Top left clockwise): Eric Goplin, Cole Vryens, and Anders Thorstensen (Mike Jackelen)

# PLANET KUBB

## GAME NOTATION SYSTEM

This quarterfinal game between Team Knockerheads and Tad Kubbler had 20 turns. Across those 20 turns, Team Knockerheads hit wood 62 percent of the time compared to Tad Kubbler's 60 percent. This tells us that these two teams are very evenly matched and both hold up well to the stresses of tournament-level play.

The notation isn't just for tournament play. It's easy enough to remember and quick enough to jot down during friendlies or practices to gauge your own skill level and track improvements.

The downloadable Planet Kubb Scoresheet includes the most used notation and supports a 20 turn game. Once the data is on the scoresheet (or even if it's not), everyone is welcome to enter their game statistics into the Planet Kubb Wiki. This will automatically calculate hit percentages for the game, each player, and feed into the overall kubb game statistics.

Additionally, kubb players have started scoring games from tournaments (both in person and using YouTube videos) making it possible for us to understand both individual performances, team strengths, and overall game dynamics. When game video is available – as it is for this Team Knockerheads v. Tad Kubbler game – the video is embedded into the Planet Kubb game page. This makes it easy to follow along as the game unfolds and revise the game's notation as needed.

The Planet Kubb Game Notation is a tremendously exciting innovation for the sport of kubb. It provides a statistical framework for understanding this simple, yet complex game. It adds the best of chess notation, the excitement of sports statistics, and allows kubb teams to compare their play across time, languages, and countries!

The full notation includes indicators for rescue kubbs, missed king shots, illegal throws, and everything else that happens in kubb.

### Planet Kubb Game Notation Primer

Kubb Tossing Phase	
i	Number of kubbs thrown in.
r	Number of kubbs rethrown because they landed out of bounds.
p	Number of penalty kubbs thrown (kubbs thrown out of bounds twice).
Advantage Line	
a	Indicates the team is throwing from an advantage line. Prepended number indicated estimated distance (in meters) of advantage.
Baton Tossing Phase	
- (dash)	Baton did not knock anything down.
b	Base kubbs hit.
f	Number of field kubbs hit, prepended number indicates multiples.
k	King hit

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## PLANET KUBB

**Q:** Will Your Club Be Crowned **PLANET KUBB** U.S. Kubb Club Champion?

**A:** How well will your best **3** teams place at U.S. Nationals?

**PLANETKUBB.COM**



# KUBB GAME NOTATION SYSTEM

## GAME NOTATION SYSTEM

### PLANET KUBB SCORESHEET



wiki.planetkubb.com/wiki/ScoreSheet

location: US Nationals 2012 QUARTERFINALS date / time start: 9:32AM pitch surface: GRASS

team starting: TAD KUBBLER vs Knackerheads team

player 1: Eric Goplin - e player 2: JOSEPH FEATHERS - j

player 3: Cole Vryens - c player 4: Grant Scott - g

player 5: Anders THORSTENSEN - a player 6: DWAYNE BALLMER - d

round	inkast	advantage line: <input type="checkbox"/> 0m <input type="checkbox"/> 2m <input type="checkbox"/> 4m	inkast	advantage line: <input type="checkbox"/> 0m <input type="checkbox"/> 2m <input type="checkbox"/> 4m
round 1		c- cB a- a- e- e-	j-	j- j- g- gF d- d- 4 throws to clean a single field kubb
round 2	e i	c- cF a- a- e- eB	j z i	j- j- gF g- dF d-
round 3	e z i	cF c- aF a- e- eB	j z i	j z F j B g B g- d- d B
round 4	e l e i	cF c- aF aF e z F eF THROW 5 was great. Eric in clutch	j l e i	j z F j- gF gF dF dF THROW 2 hit sidepin. Field kubb in throw 6 almost rolls to base kubb.
round 5	e l e i	c- cF a- a- eF eF THROW 1 straight in air. Throw 6 almost rolls to base kubb	j l e i	j z F j z F g- g- dF dF
round 6	e l e i z r	c z F c- aF aF eF eF	j l e i z r p	j z F j F g- gF dF dF dwayne w clutch
round 7	e l e i z r	c z F c z F aF aF e- e-	j l e i r	j z F j F g- g- d B d- great grouping
round 8	e z i	c- c z F z F aF eF eF great group, eric in clutch	j z i r	j z F j z F gF g- d- d B
round 9	e z i r	c y F cF a z F aF e B e-	j z i z r	j z F j z F gF g- d- dF AMAZING drill
round 10	e z i a r	c z F c- a z F aF e- e-	j z i r	j z F j F gF d k X X

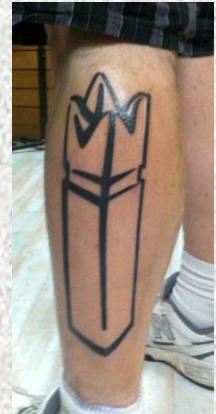
winning team

10:31  
time end

I	R	P	Q	B	F	-	X	Z	K	=	E
inkast	rethrow	penalty	rescued	base	field	miss	unthrown	illegal	king	missed	illegal
kubbs	kubbs	kubbs	kubbs	kubb	kubb		baton	throw		king	king hit

# WHERE'S YOUR KUBB AT?

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



Top Left to bottom Right: 2012 European Champion Robert Harnack (Germany), Johan Lundin's (Gotland) leg tattoo, Sherry McMenemy's (EC, WI) kubb set, 2006 World Champion Niklas Ahlgren (Gotland), Chris Hodges (DM, IA) tattoo, Jordan Wolffe (EC, WI) and family in S.F., Pitch Wizard birthday, Jamie Thingelstad (Minneapolis, MN) at Svinafellsjökull in Iceland, Claudia Joergens (Louisville, KY) at Churchill Downs, Dave Ellringer's (EC, WI) kubb shirts drying, Fortschritt 99 in Costa Rica, 2012 wedding in Belgium, Minnesota license plate.

Below Chippewa Valley Kubb League's Top Jimmy made his way around the Midwest in the summer of 2012 with Gregg Jochimsen of Eau Claire, WI





*Chris*

**HODGES**



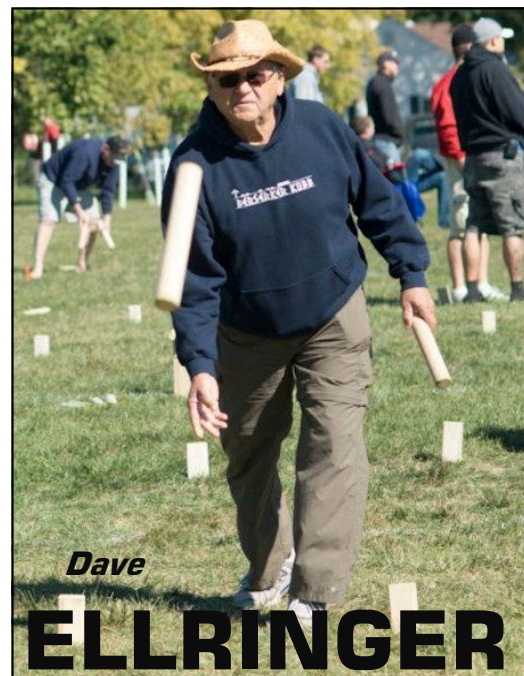
*Max*

**SEBESTA**



*Ryan*

**KOLDEN**



*Dave*

**ELLRINGER**



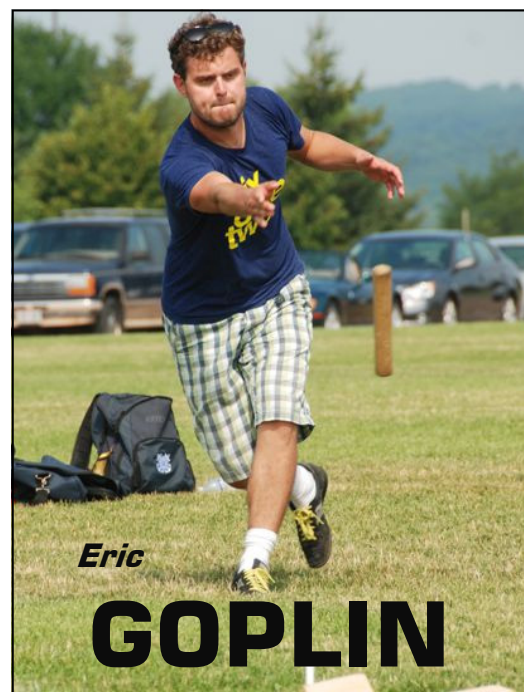
*Keith*

**YANES**



*Mary*

**TAPKEN**



*Eric*

**GOPLIN**



*Irene*

**SULLIVAN**



*Terrence*

**JUSTINIANI**

## RYAN KOLDEN

Born: Thief River Falls, MN Lives: TRF, MN  
Primary Team: Northwest Minnesota Kubb  
Introduced to kubb: 2000

Started and organizes Northwest Minnesota Kubb, which has several tournaments and events a year, indoor and outdoor. Minnesota Vikings fan. Is known as one of the first people at any tournament. TRF is the Home of American Indoor Kubb.



Photos: Ryan Kolden

## MAX SEBESTA

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

2012 U.S. Champion. At U.S. Championship, finished 2010-T5, 2011-3rd. Currently a student at University of Wisconsin-Madison majoring in Civil Engineering. Was captain and played center defense for Eau Claire Memorial High School soccer team.



Photos: Blind Photography

## CHRIS HODGES

Born: Iowa City, IA Lives: Des Moines, IA  
Primary Team: Team Knockerheads / Los Padres  
Introduced to kubb: 2008

Made set and introduced it to friends. Co-founding member of DM Club. Co-organizes DM Fall Klassic. Won 2012 Dallas Oktoberfest. KC Chiefs fan. Hobbies include playing/talking kubb, promoting kubb, and making kubb computer programs for tourneys.



Photos: Blind Photography

## MARY TAPKEN

Born: Baldwin, WI Lives: Des Moines, IA  
Primary Team: The Beers  
Introduced to kubb: 2008

Designer for the 2012 and 2013 U.S. Kubb Championship shirts. Played volleyball throughout college and still recreationally. Melts glass to make jewelry. One of the top female inkastares in U.S. Won 2012 Dallas Oktoberfest six-person team tournament.



Photos: Blind Photography

## KEITH YANES

Born: Fresno, CA Lives: Duluth, MN  
Primary Team: Always changing team names  
Introduced to kubb: 2004

Co-starter of UM-Duluth Kubb Klubb. Co-organized 2008 and 2009 UM-Duluth tournaments. In, E.C., has finished 1st (2008), 2nd (2007), and 4th (2011). Loves music and plays stand-up and electric bass in different jazz bands.



Photos: John Connell

## DAVE ELLRINGER

Born: Eyota, MN Lives: Eau Claire, WI  
Primary Team: The Ringers  
Introduced to kubb: 2007

2010 U.S. Champion. Won 2011 Rockford SHS and 2012 DM Fall Klassic. Competitively, plays primarily with son Aaron. Known for one of the hardest blasts and eight meter accuracy. Operates a small family farm outside Eau Claire and grows much of their food.



Photos: Blind Photography & John Connell

## TERRENCE JUSTINIANI

Born: Chicago IL Lives: Mount Prospect, IL  
Primary Team: Kubbra Kai  
Introduced to kubb: 2007

Along with his teammates, has played in five straight U.S. Championships. Has also played at Rockford SHS Tournament. Enjoys golf and tennis. Avid Chicago sports fan. Works as a physical therapist. Enjoys reading and listening to a variety of music.



Photos: John Connell

## IREENE SULLIVAN

Born: S. Milwaukee, WI Lives: Mequon, WI  
Primary Team: Lucky Lefse  
Introduced to kubb: 2007

Hobbies include knitting and needlework. Every year, Ireene's family and friends bring numerous teams to Eau Claire, WI and raise several Norwegian flags. In 2013, Ireene will receive her five-year button at the U.S. Championship. She has five grandchildren.



Photos: John Connell

## ERIC GOPLIN

Born: Owatonna, MN Lives: Minneapolis, MN  
Primary Team: Tad Kubbler  
Introduced to kubb: 2002

Won 2011 Dallas Oktoberfest Tournament. Finished in top five in three straight years at U.S. Championship (10-12). Started Minnesota Kubb and organizes the Minneapolis Winter Tournament. Plays the guitar. Enjoys watching Sweden's soccer team.



Photos: Mike Jackelen & Eric Anderson

# 2012 TOURNAMENT RESULTS



## Twin Cities Winter Tournament—February 4 (Minneapolis, MN)

L to R: 4th: Los Padres (Des Moines, IA), 2nd: 2 Pump Chumps (Chaska, MN), 1st: Kubbs Snipers (Appleton, WI), 3rd: Sweden's Sons (Eau Claire and River Falls, WI)



## Syttende Mai Tournament—May 19 (Spring Grove, MN)

1st: Team CSM (Spring Grove, MN), 2nd: Kubbie Brothers (Winona, MN - not shown)



## Rockford, IL Swedish Historical Society Kubb Tournament—May 19

L to R: 4th: Wolfpack (Shafer/Rosemount, MN), 2nd: Tad Kubbler (Minneapolis, MN), 3rd: The Ringers (Eau Claire, WI), 1st: Head Slap (Des Moines, IA)



## Madison Midsommar Tournament—June 9

Left: 1st: Kubbs Snipers (Appleton, WI), Right: 2nd: The Ringers (Eau Claire, WI)  
3rd: Kubbilicious Maximus (Eau Claire, WI), 4th: Flippin' Batons (Appleton, WI)



## Lindsborg Midsommar Tournament—June 16

L to R: 2nd: Team Good Game (Kansas City, KS), 1st: Cubs Lose (Lindsborg, KS)  
3rd: Kubbs Fu (Lindsborg, KS), 4th: Carl's Kubbers (Lindsborg, KS—not shown))



## Nordic Fest Tournament—July 28 (Decorah, IA)

1st: Kubby Doo (Eau Claire, WI), 2nd: Baton Death March (Des Moines, IA),  
3rd: Relentless Kastpinnar (Walnut Grove, MN), 4th: Kubbie Brothers (Winona, MN)

# 2012 TOURNAMENT RESULTS



**U.S. Championship Consolation — July 14 (Eau Claire, WI)**

Left: 1st: Kubbe de Grace (Chippewa Falls/Eau Claire, WI), Right: 2nd: Tomah Fury (Tomah, WI), 3rd: Läkerol Originals (Minnetonka, MN), 4th: The Farfars (Cherry Valley/New Milford, IL)



**U.S. Championship 2nd Consolation — July 14 (Eau Claire, WI)**

Left: 1st: Karls In Charge (Eau Claire, WI), Right: 2nd: Kubbra Kai (Chicago, IL)  
3rd: Kubbonic Plague (Milwaukee, WI), 4th: The Kubbras (Eau Claire, WI)



**Fox Valley Clash of Kubb — August 18 (Appleton, WI)**

Left: 1st: Dark Side of the Kubbsicles (Eau Claire, WI), Right: 2nd: Sweden's Sons (Eau Claire/River Falls, WI), 3rd: Kubbilicious Maximus (Eau Claire, WI), 4th: Shin Splitters (Appleton, WI)



**Off-da Fest Tournament — September 29 (Spring Grove, MN)**

Left to right: 3rd: King Pin (Chaska, MN), 2nd: Big Damn Heroes (Des Moines, IA), 1st: Dark Side of the Kubbsicles (Eau Claire, WI), 4th: Goofy Kubbers (Roscoe, IL - not shown)



**Des Moines Fall Kubb Klassic — September 22**

L to R: 4th: King Pin (Chaska, MN); 3rd: Los Padres (Des Moines, IA)  
1st: Sweden's Sons (Eau Claire, WI); 2nd: Goofy Kubbers (Roscoe, IL)



**Dallas WI/Valkyrie Brewery Oktoberfest Tournament — October 06**

Left: 1st: Sixpack (Des Moines, IA and Shafer/Rosemount, MN), Right: 2nd: Kubb Shot J.R.? (Minneapolis, MN), 3rd: Sweden's Amateur Ringers (Eau Claire/River Falls/Chippewa Falls, WI), 4th: Big Red Machine (Appleton/Depere/Freedom/Winneconne, WI)

# TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

## U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP AND MORE

### 2013 TOURNAMENT LINEUP

THIS LIST INCLUDES TOURNAMENTS THAT ARE PLANNED AT PUBLICATION



City of Lakes Loppet Winter Tournament - February 2  
Minneapolis, MN



Georgia Championship - April  
Atlanta, GA



U.S. Midwest Kubb Championship  
(hosted by Rockford Swedish Historical Society) - May 6  
Rockford, IL



Madison Midsommar Tournament - June 1  
Madison, WI



Lindsborg Midsommar Tournament - June 15  
Lindsborg, KS



U.S. National Kubb Championship - July 13 and 14  
Eau Claire, WI



Nordic Fest Kubb Tournament - July 27  
Decorah, IA



Fox Valley Clash Of Kubb - August 17  
Appleton, WI



Des Moines Fall Kubb Klassic - September 21  
Des Moines, IA



Dallas Oktoberfest Tournament - October 5  
Dallas, WI

There is a new family member in the U.S. kubb community, and that is **The Stapp King**. Named after the man who built it, Ethan Stapp, all teams that win the U.S. Championship will have a plaque with their team name, individual names, and city on it. Ethan lives in Helena, Montana and is a long-time friend of the tournament organizers. Ethan, his wife, and his sister played in the 2010 U.S. Championship as Kubbistan Freedom Fighters.



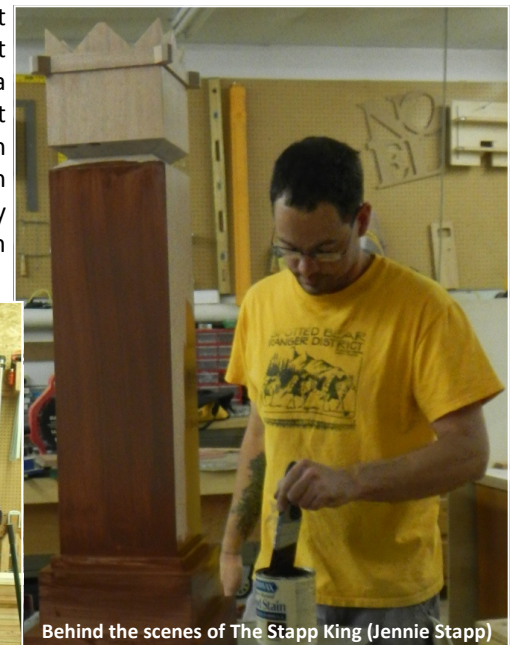
Ethan Stapp with The Stapp King (Jennie Stapp)

As always, the U.S. Championship will continue to do its best to create the most fair, enjoyable, and comfortable environment for players and spectators. With that, 2013 will bring about a change to the allowable baton angle. The World Championship, and most other countries in Europe, allow 45 degrees from vertical. After discussing it with other tournament directors, a variety of players and teams, and also players and tournament organizers in Europe, the U.S. Championship will now allow batons to be 45 degrees from vertical. It is anticipated that other U.S. tournaments will adopt this rule as well.

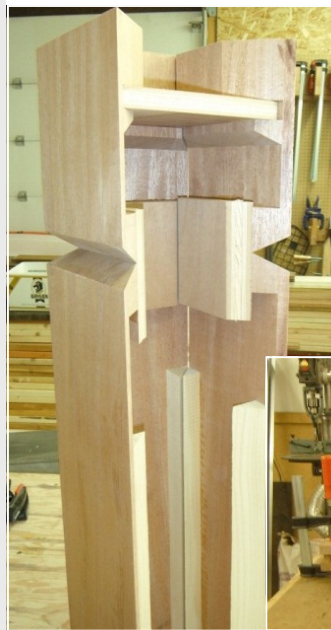
A new U.S. Championship rules document was created in 2012. It has more visual references and is the most comprehensive English rules document available. You can find it at [www.usakubb.org](http://www.usakubb.org).

In 2012, the U.S. Championship created a Kubb Set Grant. The U.S. Championship will annually award free kubb sets to help promote the game in new communities and/or with underrepresented populations.

Finally, the U.S. Midwest Championship will return. It will be held annually in a different city each year. It will require three-person teams. In 2013, it will be in Rockford, IL and hosted by the Rockford Swedish Historical Society.



Behind the scenes of The Stapp King (Jennie Stapp)





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