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Interview: Twin Cities, MN  
Spanish Kubb Association  
Belgium Kubb Federation  
Kubb in Czech Republic  
Gotland Kubb League  
N. Carolina and Ohio  
German Kubb Scene  
and more

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TM

# Kubbnation

the magazine for the game of kubb

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



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Cover Photo: Chelsey Kornetzke (Tasteful Side Kubb)

The teams Boyz In The Kubb, Keeping Up With Kubbdashins, New Kubbs On The Block, and Tasteful Side Kubb played their first tournament at the 2015 Captain Ken's Loppet Kubb Tournament in Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 31. This picture is taken at the 2015 U.S. National Kubb Championship.

Above: Eau Claire Kubb League (Bridget Long), Netherlands Kubb Championship (NK Kubb), Paradies Kubb Jena (PKJ), Kubb in Japan (JKA), Kubbclub Unteres Aaretal Final (KCUA)

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# DET FÖRSTA KASTET

IN THE END IT'S WORTH IT WHEN YOU LIVE FOR KUBB



Up until very recently, kubb was an obscure game that few knew about. Just five years ago the number of tournaments was small in most countries (the U.S. had only six in 2011 and 11 in 2012), but that has now changed. Recreational and competitive kubb have exploded. Among the barometers, the growth can be seen from activity on the Internet and now dozens of tournaments in several

different countries. Specifically over the past year, kubb has significantly increased its level of popularity, and kubb has become part of more regional and local cultures and identities.

For more and more people, kubb is what we do and part of who we are. Also, kubb has become...cool. Look no further than our 2016 cover with the teams Boyz In The Kubb, Keeping Up With Kubbdashins, New Kubbs On The Block, and Tasteful Side Kubb. Also look at any tournament. Look at the teams, look at the fun being had, look at them coming back, and probably most importantly, look at the kids loving everything about the game and sport (Kid Kubb had over 20 teams this year, and down the road, they are painting their bedroom in their team colors). And with kubb becoming cooler and more kids playing, recreational and competitive kubb is growing even more as a game and a sport, and the future is bright. Kubb is not a trend. Kubb is here to stay.

After reading the magazine and looking for some sort of theme, this issue seems to answer a lot of "Why" and "How" questions. We didn't know that would be a theme when we asked people to share their stories. It is interesting and inspirational to hear how the Spanish

Association of Kubb started and what they are doing. They are volunteering hours and hours to introduce kubb to people around Spain...a game that they had no initial connection with. The article about the Belgium Kubb Federation discusses their visions for competitive kubb and making sure it stays fair for all teams and at the same time allows as many competitive and fair opportunities for as many players, teams, and clubs as possible.

The interview from the Twin Cities and the Gotland article get into detail about why these four individuals do what they do, and also how they do it. As Johan says in the Gotland article, "It's hard work doing it, but in the end it's worth it when you live for kubb." I would guess all of the people in this edition and everyone else that invests their time and energy introducing people to kubb, provide opportunities for people to compete at all levels, even World and National Championship levels, and find different ways to promote this amazing game and sport must agree with that statement. They are all builders, and to different degrees they live for kubb. They have a passion for kubb, and at the same time they are building community and creating culture.

This is really an exciting time, as so many people can see the fruits of their labor, and the fruit is growing and is more abundant. And those just starting out new like Burning River Kubb and the Kubb Krew (we were all them at one time) it will be great for all of us to watch and get inspired by their future successes.

The articles about Germany and the Czech Republic get us inside the club activity in Europe. You can easily tell that it adds so much energy and comradery to the sport in Europe. Shirts, flags, multiple teams from clubs, hosting tournaments, club/team dinners are becoming more standard in Europe. There is so much going on there. You can feel it in the words and see it in the pictures.

Thank you for taking time to read our little magazine.

## Kubb in the Kettle

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# SPANISH ASSOCIATION OF KUBB

FROM THE NORTH TO THE SOUTH OF EUROPE.



Photos: Daniel Martínez Colmenarejo

*By: Daniel Martínez Colmenarejo - Cercedilla, Spain  
Vice President of the Spanish Association of Kubb*

## Background

Manuel Martínez Gámez, Physical Education Teacher Licensure and Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education, specialist in Games and Alternative Sports, as part of its research on games in education, discovers Kubb in Bonn (Germany) in 2007 and later in Copenhagen (Denmark) in 2011.

Once he got the game he began playing kubb with other fellow researchers in Cercedilla (Madrid), Abejar (Soria), Getafe (Madrid),... during 2012 and 2013, until we decided to incorporate this modality to the Recreational-Sport Meetings for Equality and Interculturality of the Community of Madrid held in May 2014.

## Creation of the Spanish Association of Kubb -A.E.K.-

On 27 March 2014 in Leganés (Madrid) the Association of Teachers of Physical Education ADAL - ApefADAL- organized a training session in which the SPANISH ASSOCIATION OF KUBB -A.E.K.- was created.

During the process of institutionalization of the game we decided to make some changes in our regulations. The most significant is the reduction in the size of the field with the aim that all the players have a rewarding experience in addition to enhancing the inclusiveness of the game. The dimensions that we use are 6 x 4 m. The proportions are not so disparate as the game elements have the same longitudinal dimensions but less thick-wide.

Another adaptation is the version for dissemination activities among young people when practice time is limited: the "Fast Kubb" version in which the knocked down base kubbs are removed from the field. This version is the

one we use in the Recreational-Sport Meetings for Equality and Interculturality of the Community of Madrid.

On the final day of the season we organize a special "Kubb 6 - Fast". The teams consist of 6 players each and must have members from both categories, older and younger than 13 years and of both sexes. This is played in the "Fast" mode in which the knocked down base kubbs are removed from the field.

*The teams consist of 6 players each and must have members from both categories, older and younger than 13 years and of both sexes.*

## Meetings and Tournaments

We distinguish between Meetings and Tournaments. The "Meetings" are open league competition format, do not require prior registration, the

teams join or leave the game when they want to and they play "ALL TOGETHER". The results of the game are managed by the players themselves recording the scores at the end of the game: 3 points for a win, 2 points for a draw and 1 point for a loss. At the end of the preassigned time the final standings are calculated based on the





number of points won.

We usually play this modality when we organize a "Kubb Party" in a locality for the first time or when low participation is expected.

In the "Tournament" modality, prior registration is required and a competitive calendar with a double-elimination Cup format is established. We usually play the lightning mode, which limits the duration of each game to a maximum time that can vary from 15 to 30 minutes. When time runs out the team that holds more base kubbs wins. In case of a draw an attempt to knock over the king will take place as decided at the start of the game.

We usually play in teams of 2 or 3 players. In order to give a more festive touch we use music to indicate the end of the games.

### Preparing "The Kubb Parties"

In order to spread Kubb, we are organizing "Kubb Parties" in different municipalities, which are usually held on Sunday to facilitate the participation of the entire neighbourhood. Before the "Kubb Party", we conduct a number of dissemination activities to achieve enough participation:

- Press releases.
- Dissemination sessions in the schools near to where the "Kubb Party" is going to be held in collaboration with the physical education teachers of the schools.
- Saturday practice session prior to the "Kubb Party".

### "The Kubb Parties"

The Kubb parties are celebrated according to the following regulations:

1. Meetings and Tournaments will be organized in a sports-recreational and festive atmosphere.

*The most significant is the reduction in the size of the field with the aim that all the players have a rewarding experience in addition to enhancing the inclusiveness of the game.*

2. Knowing how to lose is equally important as knowing how to win. We will all gain from the experience.

3. We recommend giving a general salute at the beginning and at the end of the game.

4. All the material must be kept in the corresponding playing field, please do not move.

5. Depending on the number of players we will make two groups or categories: under and over 13 years of age.

6. Each category will have its quadrant-schedule of its Tournament.

7. Two playing fields are set, one of them with the priority fields for the category under 13.

8. The teams that are losing two games in the Tournament can join the "Meeting" of each category.

The preference to use the playing fields is for the games of the Tournament.

In the "Meetings": 3 points for a win, 2 points for a draw (if both teams have the same number of base kubbs when time is up) and 1 point for a loss.



Agree on the time and join the appointed time of play. At the end count the points for both teams.

The "Meetings" end at the same time as the semi-finals, that is, during the final of the Tournament this will be the only game taking place.

When time is up, the team with more points will be the champion of the "Meeting".

9. You can only play once with the same team during the celebration of the "Meetings".

10. Final standings according to the final results will be computed,

# SPANISH ASSOCIATION OF KUBB

## FROM THE NORTH TO THE SOUTH OF EUROPE.



these will be valid for the individual and team AEK Ranking list. 15 points will be awarded to the 1st ranked team in each Tournament or Meeting, 10 points to the 2nd, 7 to the 3rd and 5 to the 4th. 4 points to the winner of the Meeting and 3 points to all the players.

### Our first two seasons 2014 and 2015

We had two intense starting seasons. During 2014 we organized 13 meetings or tournaments at the following locations: Getafe, Fuenlabrada, Alcobendas, Madrid, and Leganes in the Community of Madrid, Abejar (Soria), and Guadalajara. These involved 174 adults and 1,070 children (1,008 in the XVII Recreational-Sport Meetings for Equality and Interculturality of the Community of Madrid).

In 2015 we have organized 17 meetings or tournaments at the following locations: Getafe, Fuenlabrada, Alcobendas, Madrid, and Leganes in the Community of Madrid, Andújar (Jaén), Abejar (Soria), Tavernes (Valencia) and Orcera (Jaén). These involved 225 adults and 1,137 children (1,008 in the XVIII Recreational-Sport Meetings for Equality and Interculturality of the Community of Madrid).

The main novelty of this season has been the celebration of the First World Tournament of Beach Kubb on August 15, 2015 (Saturday) from 18 to 21 hours on the beach of Tavernes (Valencia). For the first time in Spain and worldwide (according to the information gathered) this Kubb Party took place.

At the end-of-season Kubb Party, held at the Polvoranca Park in the



Community of Madrid, we included the "Kubb 6 - Fast" version. 10 teams participated during these two seasons. The winning team of the Kubb-6 in the 2014 season consisted of three families and generations from Club "Tavernes Playa". "Los Reyes Fugaces" was the winner in 2015.

In the 2016 season we will maintain our aim of spreading kubb on a public-convivial atmosphere, trying to ensure that all the players have a positive and inclusive experience and promoting intergenerational relationships through this fantastic game: "kubb".

Daniel Martínez Colmenarejo  
Vice President of the Spanish Association of Kubb

For more information  
[www.apefadal.es / kubb](http://www.apefadal.es/kubb)  
Spanish Association of Kubb - AEK  
[www.facebook.com/KubbSpain?ref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/KubbSpain?ref=ts)  
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Author of the book "Education in Leisure and Recreation using alternative physical activities" ("Educación del Ocio y Tiempo Libre con actividades físicas alternativas") 1995. Madrid. Ed. Esteban Sanz.

# CZECH MATE

## KUBB IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC IS GROWING



By: Ladislav Chovítek - Brno, Czech Republic

Photos: Czech Kubb League, Nasrot Kubb Team

### Before Jesus...

Czech kubb is a rookie on the European kubb map but you can grow faster when you start from scratch. The “legend” (similar to Vikings origin of kubb) says that Czech kubb was born about ten years ago and its first steps were taken with caution, age-appropriate. I was not there though. My friends and I joined the still small wave in 2008. It was just before the regular tournaments with a support of the Swedish embassy started in the capital. Someone brought this amazing game to an outdoor party and we fell in love with it immediately. We have played it everywhere and on almost on every occasion since then. Many of us made our own kubb set because it wasn’t easy to get one. We attended the Czech championship in Prague the same year. It was still just a small tournament where most of the players did not really know how to throw kubbs well to the other half of the pitch. We did not know how to do it either so we were not successful that day.

We trained hard, started to organize first tournaments and spread the word. In 2011 four of “our” teams won the first four Czech championship spots. Until then the Czech championship was the only regular (with breaks) tournament in the Czech Republic. We started another one the very same year - the Dobruška fest - which is now the biggest tournament in the Czech Republic.

### The birth of the tournament series

Our domination in our country (let us enjoy some arrogance) encouraged us to attend the World Championship 2011 in Sweden as the first Czech team. Thanks to the

strong enthusiasm of 13 friends and especially good organization skills of Petr Poláček – let’s say the captain of the whole road trip - we could compare ourselves with 192 teams mostly from Sweden. A well prepared tournament showed us bigger scale competition, which was beyond our level. Players from the winning team demonstrated all-in-one games within 10 seconds during their training. Despite this and the fact that everyone plays kubb in Sweden since childhood and they have played their national game for centuries, the Czech crew scored many wins and we gained much experience.

Although we didn’t reach high posts at this awesome tournament the event happened to be the origin of the Czech Kubb Open (CKO) tournament series. These are closely related to Dobruška fest because the managers of the festival were in this “national team”. At the same time this kubb-trip helped to promote the game at home, thanks to the sport writer from the Czech national TV who was with us as a part of the crew. He made a nice coverage, which we used to spread wherever we could.

### Tournaments in 2015

The Czech championship in Prague was held irregularly until 2011. It was the only (one) official tournament in the Czech Republic. To be able to play with broader competition, we had to wait for one tournament the whole year. It was not enough for us. Another aspect of the lack of tournaments was the quality of competitions. It was not at a high level even at the

*Czech kubb is a rookie on the European kubb map but you can grow faster when you start from scratch. The “legend” (similar to Vikings origin of kubb) says that Czech kubb was born about ten years ago and its first steps were taken with caution, age-appropriate.*

# CZECH MATE

## KUBB IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC IS GROWING



Czech championship. Most of the players were not able to toss the kubbs to the other half of the playground to have the advantage of gathering kubbs close to each other. Without this important skill you cannot think about victory these days. You need to master it otherwise you have no chance.

We set a number of regular tournaments in the last four years, which pushed the game up. Now we have four regular big tournaments of the Czech kubb open series which take place every year. And the

cherry on top is the Czech championship. These five competitions always welcome more than 40 teams and the minimum amount of players per team is 3. In addition there are several smaller tournaments of a regional character mostly of approximately 20 teams competing.

Players of CKO and the Czech championship follow the Swedish rules and the kubb sets are the same as well (e.g. it is different in Germany). There are small differences in rules, optimized and arranged by the



# CZECH MATE

## KUBB IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC IS GROWING



The first all-Czech Republic team at the World Championship (2011)

group of the most involved players and often the managers of the tournaments mentioned before (“the board”). All main tournaments are played under the same rules, which help to avoid or at least minimize disputes between teams during tournaments.

*These five competitions always welcome more than 40 teams and the minimum amount of players per team is 3. In addition there are several smaller tournaments of a regional character mostly of approximately 20 teams competing.*

### Dobruška fest as a benchmark

The biggest kubb tournament of the last several years is Dobruška fest, which is held in Dobruška, a town in the northeast of the country. This festival of outdoor games and alternative culture was established first as the initial CKO tournament and over the years it evolved into something with broader range. Apart from the CKO tournament there are tournaments and exhibitions of games like petang, möllky, kanjam, foosball, free croquet, slackline, discgolf, speedminton and many others. To increase fun for the players after the tournament and attract more fresh blood to kubb, proper music festival was attached to this sport event, which brings thousands of visitors every year. Everyone who wants to compete with the Czech kubb elite is always in Dobruška and even foreign teams from Belgium, Germany, and

Switzerland (we do not count Slovaks among foreigners because they are really like national brothers) always participate.

### Evolution

We are really happy that the base of the players has evolved and increased rapidly during the last few years. It is not easy to win the major tournaments for us anymore but the excitement of the game is much stronger now and we can finally call the whole Czech kubb environment competitive. In connection with the broader base of the players, “the board” decided to create a list of seeded players based on their results of main tournaments. It is a this year innovation. The best scored teams are seeded to the groups for the Czech championship. It helps to avoid top teams in the group already.



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Photos: Eric Goplin, Jason "JP" Larson, Tim Motzko, Eric Anderson, St. Paul Kubb Society, Minnesota Kubb, Mike Jackelen

# INTERVIEW: KUBB IN THE TWIN CITIES, MINNESOTA

## Three Behind The Growth

Located in Southeast Minnesota, the Minneapolis/St. Paul Twin Cities Metro Area has over three million people. The first promoted, open kubb tournament in the Twin Cities was a winter tournament organized by Eric Goplin in 2011 who founded and created the club Minnesota Kubb. 16, mostly two-person teams, showed up that day. Just five years later, that winter tournament has turned into a 64-team, three-person team tournament (with a waiting list) as part of the City of Lakes Loppet Ski Festival. In addition, the Twin Cities is home to the North America 1 v. 1 Championship; a brand new and super active Saint Paul Kubb Society that hosts seasonal, weekly leagues and numerous events; several other tournaments; Chaska Kubb which is one of the most talented and deepest kubb clubs in the U.S.; Planet Kubb; growing relationships with two major craft breweries; dozens of recreational and competitive teams, more of which are traveling outside the Twin Cities to play; a growing industry of making kubb sets; and as much potential to grow kubb as any area in the U.S. We went behind the scenes with three major individuals promoting and expanding kubb in the Twin Cities.

### City you live in

Goplin: Minneapolis, MN

Larson: Chaska, MN

Motzko: Saint Paul, MN

### What year did you start playing kubb

Goplin: I first played kubb in 2002 in San Diego, CA with a Swedish friend. I started playing here in Minneapolis in 2009 when Patrick Phenow brought a set to the infamous BFF.

Larson: 2005 or 2006

Motzko: 2014

### What tournaments/leagues do you organize/host

Goplin: Loppet Kubb Tournament, Minnesota Kubb Open, Surly Brewing Kubb League.

Larson: North American 1v1 Championships, Decorah Nordic Fest Tournament, weekly kubb meet up in Chaska-most of the time in my backyard.

Motzko: Kubb Society Summit Spring League, Kubb Society Summit Fall League, Kubb Society Summit Winter Scramble League, Kubb Society Summit Loppet Warmer Upper Scramble Tournament, The Kubb Summit, Scramble Tournament in June, Kubb Society Summit Scramble Tournament in August, St Paul Kubb Society 1 vs 1 Ladder League – All Year, Upcoming June 2016- Kübb Kråwl (a Twin Cities kubb tournament all along the light rail between Minneapolis and St Paul) A joint venture with Minnesota Kubb and St Paul Kubb Society.

### JP, how long have you been making kubb sets, and how long has JP's Backyard Games been around

Larson: I made my first set from leftover pieces from my parents' deck that was torn down and an old closet rod. I found some information online about kubb. After a few years of making them for friends and selling them on Craigslist I started making official kubb sets in 2009. I think officially JP's Backyard Games has been around since then. I was making custom cornhole sets for a few years before that for people, but was not a true business.

### How long have you been hosting tournaments/leagues

Goplin: 2016 will be my 6th year hosting kubb tournaments in earnest.

Larson: 4 years

Motzko: April 1st 2015 (April Fools Day) was our 1st Ladder League date. The date set the tone for the fun we have with our leagues and events.

### Why did you decide to start your tournament/league

Goplin: More than anything a group of us in Minneapolis didn't want to stop playing kubb in the winter. The kubb calendar in 2016 is pretty

# INTERVIEW: KUBB IN THE TWIN CITIES, MN

## Three Behind The Growth

saturated, but when we started playing in 2009 the kubb offseason was 7 months between the Dallas tournament in October and the Rockford tournament in May. We just didn't want to stop playing - so I set up a backyard tournament in December 2010 and have been organizing ever since.

Larson: Chaska was busy traveling to kubb tournaments and we wanted to something different. Our first tourney was just for family/friends on cold windy day. Something must have stuck because we kept our tournament during the same time of year.

Motzko: So I could play more kubb and get more people playing. The more players that play, the more I can play kubb. We needed more opportunities to play and I wanted to provide them.

**All three of you have had recent experience with pretty big companies and/or organizations really embracing kubb. How have those relationships changed/helped you do your events ?**

Goplin: The relationships with our partners have been invaluable to our growth. Partnering with an established, well-run organization like the Loppet Foundation in 2011 added instant credibility to Minnesota Kubb. We went from a 16 team tournament in a park to 3 straight years of tournament capped at 64 teams with a waiting list. Subsequently we have been able to build other partnerships and sponsorship opportunities with places like Surly Brewing, the American Swedish Institute and Summit Brewing. In terms of logistics, partnering with an existing event like the City of Lakes Loppet Ski Festival was extremely helpful in that we were able to hand off things like insurance and licensing, which any kubb organizer will tell you can be incredibly stressful and time consuming.

Larson: I'm always looking for ways to spread the kubb experience. In Decorah, it is nice to have Nordic Fest support with advertising. This has potential of reaching a lot of people and has a pretty visible location for the event. Our Chaska tournament is a pretty low-key event thus far, but with the support of all of our club members we are hoping to find some potential business partners.

Motzko: Summit embraces the type of people that kubb attracts. They dig the whole vibe. They love having their name attached to our gorilla marketing efforts and they want to be on the forefront of a cool movement and they feel they are. Using Summit as a sponsor gives us leverage with other companies, the city of St Paul and just gives The Society more legitimacy. Hosting leagues at a sly brewery attracts a lot of beerdos, hipsters, cyclists, pretty girls, yard gamers and socialites. It's perfect.

**Are you a kubb player that organizes, or are you a kubb organizer that also plays kubb**

Goplin: In terms of clock-hours - I'm probably an organizer that plays kubb. In my heart I'm a kubb player who happens to organize.

Larson: This answer depends on what day/time you ask me.

Motzko: I like to play. If the tournament or league is too big or complex, I will step back and just organize. I am good at organizing people and events but it takes its toll on me. I am a bit of a perfectionist and it causes a little stress when the pitches aren't set up straight with each other and other minutiae like that. I much prefer showing up to kubb events that somebody else has organized. I play much, much better when I am relaxed and can enjoy the foci of kubb and the event that I am at.

**There are over three million people in the Twin Cities Metro Area. In**

**your mind, what is the potential for recreational and competitive kubb in the Twin Cities ?**

Goplin: Well, let's look at the Eau Claire Metropolitan Area, which in 2014 was 165,024. That means the Twin Cities is about 20 times bigger. If the U.S. National Kubb Championship took all the amazing work they do in Eau Claire and packed up to move to the Twin Cities you'd be looking at tournament of 2,160 teams. Right? ;)

While the population is larger in the Twin Cities, there is also more competition for people's time. There are events, shows, festivals, etc happening every weekend here. However, the advantage in my opinion is the potential exposure that comes with more media outlets and people to spread the word. When we've done live segments for the Loppet on KARE11 and Fox 9, that goes statewide. So to me, the potential exposure in the Twin Cities is our biggest asset.

St. Paul Kubb Society team My Boyfriend Floyd at the Dallas, WI Oktoberfest Tournament. St. Paul Kubb Society teams have become some of the best traveling teams in the U.S.



Larson: As a kubb set provider I think more and more people are experiencing kubb. I know how many sets I've sold in the area and I am not the only one selling them. A friend took a set up to a cabin and was playing by a lake. Their lake neighbor came over and asked how they knew about kubb. That neighbor had purchased a set from me as well. These are the type of situations that just make me smile. It seems to be happening more and more.

As far as competitive kubb I'm hoping people realize how family-friendly it really is and can be great way to teach children how to compete. How many competitive events can parents play with their kid or their own parents and do well? With more and more leagues or people playing kubb there should be an influx in competitive kubb. It might be awhile before lots of people travel to play, but I can see local tournaments being successful.

Motzko: I think the Kübb Kråwl event will start determining the potential. If we can start exposing more people, more people will start



## INTERVIEW: KUBB IN THE TWIN CITIES, MN

### Three Behind The Growth

playing. The more people that are playing, the more people will be exposed. Exposure will lead to a larger pool of players to attend leagues, tournaments and events. The larger these events are, the more sponsors will want to be apart of kubb. Media (TV, City Pages, Pioneer Press, StarTrib, The Growler, etc.) all want to cover fun events like this. They are looking for stories and we can start providing them with some. Once we get some more press, we can start the “More Play Leads to More Exposure, More Exposure Leads to More Play” loop again. Twin Cities has a ton of potential. Lots of Scandinavians in ‘deese here parts, yah.

**The Twin Cities and Chicago regions are a major key in taking kubb to heights we cannot even imagine. And there seem to be similarities between the Twin Cities region (population, geographic size, etc.) and the part of Belgium that plays most of the kubb. You three have the best experiences of anyone in the U.S. in promoting kubb in a big metropolitan area. What has worked well and what has not worked well? Also, what are the things that could be done in the future to turn the Twin Cities into a place like Belgium where there are dozens of tournaments, clubs, more than one tournament in a weekend, etc.? Is it possible?**

**Goplin:** The Twin Cities kubb calendar was quite full in 2015. If you lived in the Metro area, there was an opportunity to play competitive kubb on over half of 52 weeks. It’s pretty high between the Loppet, Sociable Winter League, Summit Spring League, Minnesota Kubb Open, Summit Fall League, and Summit Winter League. 2016 will see even more opportunities including two winter leagues - one at Surly Brewing and one at Summit Brewing.



JP Larson (bottom right) with three other Chaska Kubb members

# INTERVIEW: KUBB IN THE TWIN CITIES, MN

## Three Behind The Growth

The things I've found that work well for promoting kubb are getting people playing while they're already out at an event. We've made kubb part of Open Streets Minneapolis and have taught kubb at the American Swedish Institute during several of their events that have sold over 2,000 tickets. These are events with high visibility and interest. This type of promotion is in contrast to simply playing in public spaces. We used to focus a lot of effort on spreading the game that way and it just didn't work for us. Getting people to play in a more relaxed setting like the ASI or a brewery has translated to people signing up for leagues and tournaments.

Larson: Belgium is known for good beer. Minneapolis has lots of microbrews.....hmmm.

We have tried a few things in Chaska that haven't worked like: just showing up at bar and playing, sending invitations in the mail to businesses to come play, and asking the park and rec department. We have introduced kubb in schools and that is a great place to start. If kids want to play they might get their parents to get out and try it too.

Motzko: I touched on it in the last question but with our large population, many of them with Germanic (Viking) heritage, our fun/quirky events and our solid sponsors like Summit will really expose a ton of people to kubb. We will continue to keep kubb quirky as there are already lots of events for the more serious players. We need lots and lots of casual players to keep kubb growing. Many of those casual players will become more serious and start attending kubb events and

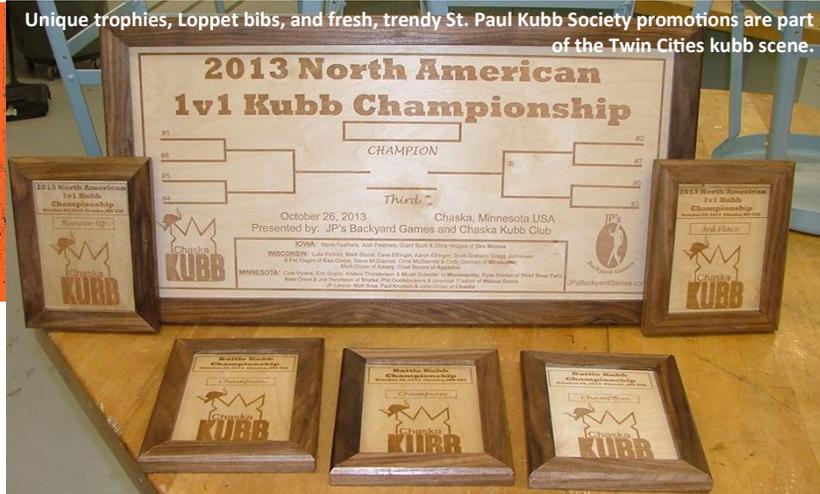
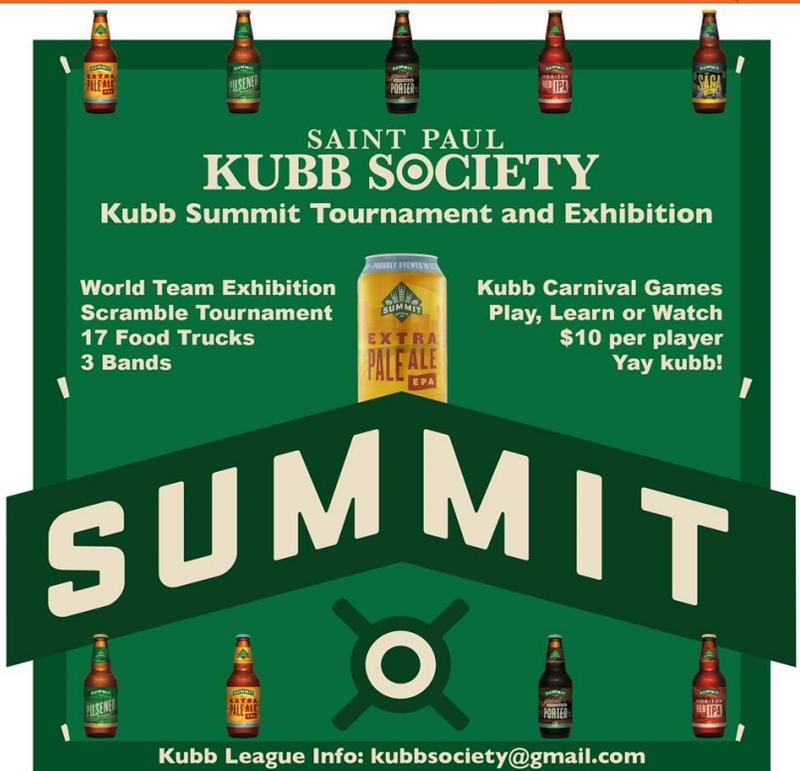
more often. I think having diverse kubb events that are approachable to the beginner will give kubb staying power and continual growth.

**The Twin Cities has 1, 2, and 3 person-team tournaments. Do you think we will see a 6-person team tournament in the near future in the Twin Cities?**

Goplin: My long-term plan is for the Minnesota Kubb Open to evolve to 6 players in the years ahead. The location in downtown Minneapolis is really unique but can only facilitate 16 teams, meaning the only way to increase the number of players is by upping the minimum players per team. 2016 will be our 3rd year as a three player minimum tournament. 2017 could see 6 player teams in downtown Minneapolis.

Larson: I think it will happen.

Motzko: If Eric Goplin has it his way than.....YES! I think by fall of next year, we could do it. Summit is the perfect place for a 6 person tournament. The Kubb Society fielded 3 teams for Dallas and a few people were sad that they couldn't make it. Maybe this would be the perfect time to get USAKubb, Minnesota Kubb and The Kubb Society together for a co-sponsored 6-person tournament at Summit next August? The Summit Sixer? .....imagine the potential. Let's talk.



Unique trophies, Loppet bibs, and fresh, trendy St. Paul Kubb Society promotions are part of the Twin Cities kubb scene.

# INTERVIEW: KUBB IN THE TWIN CITIES, MN

## Three Behind The Growth

*Look around first and see if there's something similar happening in your community. If so, join them. It will save you a lot of stress.* - Goplin

*Find something unique that fits your style to separate your tourney/league.* - Larson

*Keep your passion for kubb first and foremost.* - Motzko

### What is the biggest challenge organizing your tournament/league?

Goplin: Weather. Our venue is usually up in the air until about a week before the event. Even then we need the right amount of snow.

Larson: Trying to organize Decorah while not living there is always a struggle.

For the 1 v 1 it is the time of year that causes problems. The park systems close up the restrooms because things could be frozen. We moved the event to City Center Park, which worked well as businesses have restrooms close by, but this venue doesn't allow us to grow very much. With the 1 v 1 we weren't sure how many new people would come, but we typically have a few first-time kubb tournament participants.

Motzko: Asking for more help, then accepting help and then letting go a bit. SteveyD and Brad work with me at the Science Museum, so they know I am crazy about small details that matter to nobody else. They pay no attention to my Timposions and TimmyTirades and etc. I am afraid that I would scare less aware people. I am harmless and laugh a ton, but when your meltdowns have several nicknames, I need to be aware of the meek.

### Three things of advice for someone wanting to start a tournament/league?

Goplin:

- Do what you want to do with your tournament and let the chips fall where they may.
- Look around first and see if there's something similar happening in your community. If so, join them. It will save you a lot of stress.
- Ask yourself what will make your tournament different from others, not the same as others.

Larson:

- Tournament-start small
- League-make people pay a small fee (easy to not show up; there is no investment) or encourage incentives to bring someone new
- Find something unique that fits your style to separate your tourney/league

Motzko:

- Keep your passion for kubb first

and foremost.

- Make sure everybody is smiling.

- Don't do it for money because it will cost you more than you bring in. I say this lovingly but honestly.

### Are there any changes coming for your tournament/league in 2016 that you would like to talk about?

Goplin: The Loppet Tournament will require a minimum of three players per team in 2016 and beyond. The Minnesota Kubb Open will be a double round robin similar to the World Kubb Championships. The top two teams in each group (8 total) will be placed in two Championship Round Robin groups with four teams in each group. The winners of each group will meet in the final. The runners up in each group will play for 3rd, etc. This guarantees each team 7 matches.

Larson: We try to come up with something new every year for the 1 v 1. We tried two different rules this year. The first was the "Neighbor Rule" where if a kubb is elevated after the drill the driller can place the kubb anywhere on the pitch. The other was the penalty kubb drill instead of placing on the pitch. Both of these worked well for our event.

Motzko: No changes but.....say it with me three times.....Kübb Kråwl, Kübb Kråwl, Kübb Kråwl. It is going to be a big event, a great event and it should gain some attention on our great sport of kubb. We flip batons all day long

### Do you think about kubb every day?

Goplin: Without a doubt, yes.



# INTERVIEW: KUBB IN THE TWIN CITIES, MN

## Three Behind The Growth

Larson: In some fashion- yes. I have my 8m sticker and JP's Backyard Games sticker on my water bottle. Then I try to work on building some games for about an hour or two a night to keep up with demand.

Motzko: Yes. Sad but true. We have about 6-8 regular players at Thee Museum and kubb talk, upcoming events, past events, strategy is always a topic of daily conversation. I flip a baton walking in to work and back. You think I would be a better player?

**If you didn't think kubb was special, you wouldn't be doing what you are doing...simple as that. What makes kubb so special to you, and why are you organizing your tournaments/leagues?**

Goplin: Every year at the Loppet people ask me if I wish I was playing. My honest answer is no. I get a real joy out of seeing 250 people playing the same game together and enjoying themselves. Simple as that.

Larson: I'm an educator and I think that has a lot to do with why I like it. In my classroom I was always trying to find ways to include everyone and get them excited about learning. There is always some learning going on in the game of kubb. Whether that learning is personal or interpersonal depends on the situation and the goal of the game. I can play kubb with a family member that has never played before (not many of them left!) in the backyard and have just as much fun as I do when I'm playing in the U.S National Kubb Tournament on Sunday. To me this makes this game so special.

Motzko: It's just a really fun game. It is simple but complex. The game pieces are basic but beautiful. The game can be fun and the sport intense. Everybody understands the game at a base level, Knock over wood with wood on grass, sand, dirt, mud, snow or ice. I used to pass golf courses and want to play on it, even just one hole. Now I look at a picture of Stonehenge and wonder if a pitch would fit or try to imagine what the grass conditions are at Machu Picchu.

*Every year at the Loppet people ask me if I wish I was playing. My honest answer is no. - Goplin*

*There is always some learning going on in the game of kubb. - Larson*

*It's just a really fun game. It is simple but complex. The game pieces are basic but beautiful. The game can be fun and the sport intense. - Motzko*

**If you could play kubb with anyone, who would it be?**

Goplin: My paternal grandfather died years before I was born. I would play with Walt Goplin if I could play with anyone.

Larson: Big Blue. Family.

Motzko: I could say the Dalai Llama or Elvis or John F Kennedy or Dave Ellringer.....but I will stick with the Skübbü Düdes. Steve and Brad are selfless teammates. They like to win but enjoy laughing and having a good time is front and center. We are at the right level on the fun/serious level. We will improve over the next year but we have realistic goals. I can play relaxed with them. They know how to ignore me.

**When talking about why they like kubb so much, often new players talk the term "kubb culture." What is your definition of "kubb culture" ?**

Goplin: Kubb culture means inclusion. Kubb is for everyone and it's important we intentionally build it that way. For me, this inclusion means finding and welcoming more women and minorities to the game.

Larson: Have fun, play hard while having fun, have more fun.

Motzko: Kubb really does seem to attract a solid group of people. Every sport has its "type" and kubb has a fun, smart, eccentric, honest and friendly "type". I loved golf but the "type" of people changed about 15 years ago. Everybody had to rush, play through, get bent about something, play way too serious and judge others based on their clubs and their barefeet. Kubb embraces barefeet and I like that "type" of culture. I don't want to tick off the golfers but I just needed to compare and contrast with something that I know (and most golfers realize what they are.....hence the upside down, backwards, Guy Fieri Nike golf visor). I guess kubb culture can be both fun and catty.



## GREAT LAKES KUBB CHAMPIONSHIP

At the tip of the mitt in Michigan - Alanson, MI

40 minutes south of the Mackinac Bridge

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**Saturday, September 10**

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# BELGIUM KUBB FEDERATION

## TAKING THE NEXT STEP TOWARDS COMPETITIVE AND FAIR PLAY

*In late 2015, the Belgium Kubb Federation was born. It comprises of six individuals and their goal is to make kubb in Belgium even better. With dozens of tournaments, some days having two or more, no country on the planet has more organized kubb activity than Belgium. We caught up with the new Kubbfederatie.be this Fall. They were kind enough to provide us the following information about the Federation.*

### Goals:

1. Develop transparent & fair competition
2. More play opportunity for competitive kubb players
  - Make KF competition accessible for more teams
  - Increase game & level of playing kubb: Increase level of the game and level of playing kubb
3. Identical play schedules & scoring on KF tournaments
4. Equalizing the kubb rules for KF tournaments

### View – mission – objectives

General principles:

During our KF meetings we find collective ground for action and decisions in the following principles:

- In the Kubb Federation, we want to focus on the long-term development of the kubb competition.
- We want to take decisions which are beyond individual team needs.
- We want to offer guidance by selecting (to do and to experiment) and evaluating (feedback and interaction) a competition form.
- We want to be there not only for the kubb players of today's competition. We also want to be there for the kubb competition players of the future. The way we see that future is explained in the wording of our view.

Why do we do it (view)?

More and more people will come into contact with kubb (via other kubb players, tournaments, media, family ...) and want to experience the competition and measure up to the best teams of Belgium. Even when their living situation, or that of someone of their team, changes (moving, wedding, having a baby ...) they still want to take part in a competitive level of kubb.

*In the Kubb Federation, we want to focus on the long-term development of the kubb competition. We want to take decisions which are beyond individual team needs.*

The first few years, we do not see any changes in the choice of tournaments as a game form (instead of finishing an individual match against one team), as a result of which a busy play calendar can be a burden on your private life. The low regional spread in a number of provinces will be an issue the next few years that stands in the way of

e.g. a possible regional/provincial competition.

On the one hand, a real kubb competition is being formed, where top teams measure up to each other in an official tournament schedule (fixed teams, fixed clear regulations, fixed game schedules, clear and restricted calendar ...) with seasonal winning as ultimate goal. On the other hand, there is a recreational scene of kubb competition where the daily winning of tournaments comes first and where the rules 'of the house' apply.

What are we going to do (mission)?

Furthering the competitive ability of Belgian kubb teams i.e. furthering the accessibility and the level of the KF competition.

How will we attempt to attain that (objectives)?

- To make the competition inviting and accessible for (new) kubb teams
- To streamline and to clarify the rules of the game
- To professionalize the federation as an institution

*...in an official tournament schedule (fixed teams, fixed clear regulations, fixed game schedules, clear and restricted calendar ...) with seasonal winning as ultimate goal*

### Responsibilities Kubb Federation

The Kubb Federation will take the next responsibilities upon itself for the season of 2016:

- Drawing up, communicating and taking decisions about the rules of the game for the KF competition.
- Answering questions and collecting feedback about the KF competition.
- Observing, managing and communicating the scoring of the KF competition.
- Managing the subscriptions of KF members and observing the insurance files for the teams and players.
- Sale of official Kubb sets - The Kubb Federation will not continue to rent kubb sets in the season of 2016 (the same goes possibly for the period after that). The last few years, we have noticed more and more teams own a fair stock of sets themselves, which they rent to the 'well-known' tournaments. For the 'amateur tournaments' and 'events', we are consulting with other associations that can take over our kubb sets and take the renting upon themselves. You will receive further information early in 2016.
- Observing, advising and taking decisions in case of disputes regarding the KF competition
- Guidance of the play calendar 2016 (number of KF tournaments, conditions ...)



# BELGIUM KUBB FEDERATION

## TAKING THE NEXT STEP TOWARDS COMPETITIVE AND FAIR PLAY

### Important alteration – season 2016

Season 2016 – most important alteration:

We want to explain an important alteration in the regulations for the competition of 2016 individually because it deserves some attention and it needs to be clarified in more detail.

Rule:

The minimum number of players per team will be reduced to 3 players per team for KF tournaments.

Why?

As a federation, we want to increase the **accessibility of the KF competition** and **increase the level of kubb**. According to us, the biggest effect in this can be reached next season by increasing the play opportunity for competitive teams.

At the moment, we regularly see experienced teams where **strong and competitive players want to play more often** but it happens only once in a while that they achieve the required number of players because

the rest of the team is not enough motivated to take up the **intensive game schedule** (the choice for a tournament principle means that the intensity is focused on one day, which does not always go together with family life).

On tournaments, we often come into touch with amateur teams that wish to play more often but have trouble bringing together 4 motivated players.

This season, we notice an **increase in the mixed teams on the KF tournaments**. Even though we understand and sometimes enjoy this as a federation, it deviates from the transparent and fair team competition that we want to develop.

Explanation:

On FKF tournaments, a team is expected to be made up of at least 3 fixed players from the same club. The tournament direction of the organizing FKF tournament or the FKF federation members are at everyone's disposal for remarks or disputes that cannot be determined

## 10th Annual U.S. National Kubb Championship

Eau Claire, WI

Team Draw/Pre-Championship-June 25/26

Kid Kubb, Friendlies, Pre-Kubb Party-July 8

U.S. Championship-July 9/10

Registration opens April 01 - All skill levels and experience welcome. - Final 16 teams return Sunday.

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# BELGIUM KUBB FEDERATION

## TAKING THE NEXT STEP TOWARDS COMPETITIVE AND FAIR PLAY

amongst the teams.

- The term 'club' signifies e.g. The Kubb Kangaroos
- The term 'team' signifies e.g. Kubb Kangaroos 1, Kubb Kangaroos 2, etc.

### Team A

Lining up with 3 players  
on a KF tournament

under the name: **Team A**

= points in the KF list of rankings for **Team A**

### Team A

Lining up with 3 players + 1 'other' player (from another club)

on a KF tournament under the name: **Team A**

= points in the KF list of rankings for **Team A**

### Team A

### Team X

Lining up with 3 players + >1 'other' player (from another club)

on a KF tournament:

= new team name for this tournament and no points for **Team A** in the KF list of rankings

*This season, we notice an increase in the mixed teams on the KF tournaments. Even though we understand and sometimes enjoy this as a federation, it deviates from the transparent and fair team competition that we want to develop.*

### Registration and insurance

Registration of players and your team

Under the registration for the season 2016 we understand the registration of your team/club name and the members thereof. **This is a necessary condition to earn points in the KF list of rankings.**

**Each player can register with one club at most.**

Assurance of players and your team

The insurance of your players is apart from the registration. You can opt for one of these two or both.

For the season 2016, the insurance amount is 40 euros for max. 6 players of the same club, each additional player costs 6 euros.

We want to encourage everyone to insure their players. This has several advantages:

- You are insured for the organization of your own tournament
- You are insured when you participate in a kubb tournament
- You are personally insured for accidents during kubb trainings
- No exemptions for physical accidents\*
- You can organize an official KF tournament (if you also meet the conditions)

You can find the registration and insurance module on our website:

[www.kubbfederatie.be](http://www.kubbfederatie.be)

\* You will find the policy via the website of the Kubb Federation, all details can be read again.

### KF competition 2016: calendar – tournaments

KF competition 2016:

The data for the official 16 FKF competition tournaments of 2016 are scheduled between April 1st and September 30th .

**There can only be 1 KF tournament per weekend.** The Kubb calendar is the official place where you can find the available and taken data for KF tournaments. [www.kubbfederatie.be](http://www.kubbfederatie.be)

The **Masters tournament "Battle of the Best"** amongst the 16 best teams of the season 2016 will take place in the last weekend of September (24/09/2016).

The conditions to organize a KF tournament are the following:

- **Being a member of the Kubb Federation with your team**
- **Completely following the rules of play of the Kubb Federation**
- **Participating with your own team in at least 6 KF tournaments (NL: KF-toernooien)**
- Applying the Kubb Federation game schedules - This is optional in 2016, but we recommend to follow it as much as possible.

### **Tips for organizing a Kubb tournament:**

- There are many teams who are experienced in organizing tournaments, make sure to consult them.
- Check up the possibility of organizing a tournament with another team, this will possibly relieve the workload.
- Provide sufficient space between the grounds, it avoids accidents and increases the game pleasure and level (we recommend at least 2 meters between the grounds).
- Provide identical (official) kubb sets on all grounds.
- Make sure the ground is ready for playing (the grass is mown, not too many bumps ...)
- Provide a mobile drink delivery. It increases your returns fairly since it is difficult for players to walk up and down during the kubb matches.
- Apply the KF tournament regulations to avoid disputes. We certainly do not want to discourage experiments but we do strive for identically.
- KF competition 2016 – scoring

### Scoring season 2016 KF competition

The system for scoring in the season 2016 is the following:

1st place: 24 points

2nd place: 23 points

3rd place, 4th place, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th place: 1 point

In case of a tie at the end of the competition, we will look at the number of best places on a tournament to determine the final list of rankings.

Look at the example below for clarification (Team B will be higher on this list than Team A)

1st place – 24 points, 15th place – 10 points

...

Total: 157 points



The World Championship and some other tournaments (U.S. Championship shown here) provide passive referees throughout the day and have passive referees on pitches once a specific round is reached.

## ACTIVE REFEREES

### OMAN AND GRAHAM: THE CASE FOR AND AGAINST ACTIVE REFEREES

Refereeing is part of kubb. It doesn't matter if you are playing for fun with your young kids in the yard, playing in the World Championship Final, or somewhere in between. Every baton throw, kubb throw, kubb raise, and more is refereed in some way or another.

The overwhelming majority of kubb matches in tournaments are refereed by the two teams. Tournaments just don't have the resources to have a referee on each pitch and some tournaments don't believe in having any referees. In some tournaments around the world, passive referees are available to answer questions and/or help raise kubbs in situations that need some guidance. In even fewer tournaments, passive referees are located on each pitch starting at a certain point in the tournament.

One thing that we really enjoy about kubb are different ideas and innovations that have started over the past few years, some of which you have read in previous Kubbations and can read in this edition (Klassik System, season team rankings, player/team cards, different opens to games, etc.). In 2015, a couple U.S. tournaments used active referees during some matches, and there is interest among some to increase the number of tournaments that have active referees. These active referees watch for illegal throws (baton angles, foot faults, etc.). After hearing from people on both sides of the active referee aisle in the summer, in late summer we asked two U.S. players to make their case for and against active referees.



**Mark Oman**  
Amery, Wisconsin USA  
Chaska Kubb Club

One hot July day, I watched a firefighter take a fireman's axe to a metal door of a burning building and dent it all up trying to get inside. After a minute or so, they were no closer to accessing the building than when they had arrived. Moments later, after flipping the axe head around and smashing the pick point into the door frame and prying on it, another fireman easily sprung the door open and gained

access. Sometimes solutions are right in front of us but don't always seem obvious unless we practice them.

I have always enjoyed the different experimental rules and tournament formats that come with each kubb event. Some rules are designed to improve the game, some to make it easier, some to make it move faster, other rules are designed to give us another twist or turn in our kubb strategy. One attempt to improve the sport of kubb that I find particularly helpful in competitive tournament play is active refereeing.

**Scott Graham**  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin USA  
Berserker Kubb

Considering the potential of active referees officiating kubb matches, there are a few main issues that require further examination: feasibility, desirability, and the role of active referees.

Let's start with the role of an active ref, a "job description" if you will. It is not my aim to answer this particular question in these few short paragraphs or to write the job description myself, but simply to point out the need for much more discussion and clarification of this topic. As it stands currently, there is no universally accepted or understood concept - or plan - for what exactly an active referee should be and do. We've all seen or experienced passive refereeing, one who is simply there as needed by either team for rule clarifications, line calls, or to assist in settling a dispute if the teams come to an impasse. But what about active refs? What is their role and how do they fit into the framework of the game? Do they make calls unsolicited by either team? Where should they be expected to stand or sit? Would it not be very difficult - if not



# REFEREES

## OMAN AND GRAHAM: THE CASE FOR AND AGAINST ACTIVE REFEREES

I have had some experience on both sides of active refereeing both as a player and as a referee. Having pro-active refs is a great idea for several reasons:

- Players don't have to worry about the problem of a contentious match because of disputed or incorrect calls by the opposing team.
- Active referees position themselves in the best places to consistently make correct calls much better than players do.
- It allows players to focus on playing their best game.
- Active referees consistently pay attention to the fast moving details of the game better than players do.

Passive refereeing is called on when there is a dispute and it has its place at kubb tournaments but does not address these four reasons. Active refs are responsible for every call during the match. Duties of active refs include all aspects of kubb rules but the most important ones include judging helicopters, out-of-bounds during kubb raising, downed kubbs and foot faults.

Two referees per match is ideal. One referee is positioned kneeling behind the baton thrower. The other ref should be positioned beyond the opposite baseline as best as possible in-line with the baton throw without being distracting to the thrower. Duties for the ref behind the thrower largely include watching for illegal throws, foot faults and helping judge out-of-bounds kubbs. The referee on the opposite baseline watches for illegal throws, judges downed field kubbs, and helps judge out-of-bounds also. Both refs can confer with each other when questions arise and come to an agreement as needed with these and other aspects of the game. Players can discuss calls or situations with the referees but cannot make their own calls against an opponent to distract them from their game.

Positioning of the referees during baton throwing is most important. Baton throws viewed in anything but a 2-dimensional (directly in line) view are impossible to consistently call correctly. An active referee kneeling behind the thrower is the best view of a baton throw. This referee will be the primary judge of foot faults and helicopter throws but may ask for the other judges opinion if needed too. The thrower has the next best view. A person directly in line with the throw on the opponent's end is the third best position. All other views of the throw are 3-dimensional and consistently accurate helicopter calls are a myth with all but the most horizontal of throws. To accomplish this consistency, the person(s) judging the throws must be lined up in a 2-dimensional view every time. Perspective is everything and viewer positioning makes consistency possible with this fastest moving portion of the game. The referee opposite the thrower is responsible for watching for field kubbs being knocked down which requires intense focus as a kubb can get knocked down and roll back onto its top pretty fast. Foot faults occur at a much slower pace are easier to judge especially since many players do not step during the throwing process anyways. Out-of-bounds kubb raising is not under the pressure of being judged in real-time but having active referees determining this speeds up the game.

Having enough experienced players at a tournament to volunteer as referee can be a problem in early rounds of a tournament. However, players eliminated from competition can volunteer to be a referee for later rounds as many of these players stay to watch. Being an active

impossible - to be in position to make foot-fault calls as well as 45-degree calls on the same throw? Would that require two active referees per pitch? Are active refs allowed to tell players where they can and can't stand, sit or kneel during a match? Is it the ref's job to place kubbs back in their original position in the event of an illegal throw? Can an active ref assess penalties for repeated rules violations or unsportsmanlike conduct? Some of these may seem like silly questions, but part of the fairness of any system of officiating lies in all players knowing which aspects of the game the referee does or does not govern, and in all players competing with a reasonable level of understanding about what can be expected from an official. Many questions remain to be answered.

Perhaps the most important issue to look at is feasibility. Many people say that other competitive sports have referees to officiate the games and keep things fair, so why not have referees at the highest levels of competitive kubb? My counter-argument is that referees in those other sports have - at the very least - gone through several hours of an organized training program to teach them the specifics of the sport, great detail and nuances of the rules, their role within the game, and the expectations of them as referees. They have typically been certified by the national or local governing body of their sport to be competent officials. In almost all cases these referees are paid for their time, and are scheduled in such a manner that they do not officiate a game in which they may have a conflict of interest. A co-worker of mine has been a high school football referee for 18 years, and he has never officiated a game in Eau Claire or a game involving any Eau Claire area team. He typically drives 45-90 minutes away to officiate a game, specifically to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

We must have serious questions about whether this level of officiating is feasible in the kubb world. It is not so easy as to grab a couple players present at a tournament and ask them to step in and actively referee high level playoff matches. If we do this, it is not a matter of if - but when - there will be disagreements about the integrity and impartiality of these active referees officiating certain matches and certain calls they do or don't make for or against certain teams. Pandora's Box is teeming with conflicts of interest on this one. For an active refereeing program to really work, the refs need to be as unbiased as possible, which I submit means they need to be non-players. Yet they also need to understand the rules just as well if not better than the highest level players. This is an extremely difficult combination to find or create; a non-player (or at least non-active tournament circuit player) who understands the numerous nuances of the game of kubb as well as possessing a fluent mastery of the rule book. It will take years of an as-of-now-yet-to-be-established training program to produce a pool of competent, unbiased active referees. Is it feasible? Plausible? Do-able?

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# REFEREES

## OMAN AND GRAHAM: THE CASE FOR AND AGAINST ACTIVE REFEREES

referee is a fun experience and keeps more people involved in a tournament even after being eliminated from competition. Many participants will eventually take their turn being a ref and discover it is a great way for players of all skill levels to learn the focus it takes to judge a game correctly.

I am a believer in continuous training and being prepared in all aspects of one's life. Simply practicing reffing when casually playing with teammates is a great way to get started. Volunteering for it at an upcoming tournament that is using it advances your experience as well. It can be enhanced further with some well-developed on-line training videos regarding the rules and calling a match correctly. Already, there are some great on-line videos developed and posted regarding judging helicopter throws and other rules of kubb. I suspect in the future, as seemingly with all great kubb ideas, there may be some training videos developed and posted that are devoted to kubb refereeing for all to see.

*Being part of the kubb community is a fun and unique experience. Being involved as an active referee adds to this experience for players at all levels.*

Being part of the kubb community is a fun and unique experience. Being involved as an active referee adds to this experience for players at all levels. Trying active refereeing gave me a different perspective on the importance of being in good position to judge a game consistently and correctly. The active referee process can make for a much more relaxed game for the players too. If you are hosting a tournament, I strongly encourage you to try active refereeing. With some practice, it is a solution to a problem that makes kubb a better sport.

Enjoy your game!

*This is not the easy way. Cooperation and collective decision-making can be quite difficult, which is another beautiful aspect of this game. It challenges us in so many ways beyond just the physical mastery of blocks and sticks.*

In addition to questions about feasibility, we must look at whether this level of officiating is desirable for us. Whether you like the team on the opposite baseline or not, the game of kubb is based on cooperation. You do not have to like someone to cooperate with them. In fact Peace comes not from everyone "liking" each other but from very different people deciding to cooperate. Every single one of us can work toward being a better cooperator.

This is not the easy way. Cooperation and collective decision-making can be quite difficult, which is another beautiful aspect of this game. It challenges us in so many ways beyond just the physical mastery of blocks and sticks. The referee question is another way in which the game is challenging us to become better people and better to each other.

While I understand some players having a desire to see active referees and I can respect their vision of the game, I see unintended consequences on the horizon where this path leads. Active referees will reduce our communication and cooperation as players, and I have serious doubts about the feasibility and viability of such a system.

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By: Johan "Lode" Lundin - Gotland, Sweden

Photos: Johan "Lode" Lundin

# GOTLAND KUBB LEAGUE

## A weekly league in the birthplace of kubb

### The Birth!

As many know Gotland is the home of kubb and have some of the best players and teams in the world. But the problem is it's a very small island so we don't have enough teams that take kubb seriously and want to become better. So when I got the question a few years ago if it wouldn't be possible to start a Kubbleague on Gotland. I felt right away that we didn't have the material for it, so I just shook that off me. Many of the teams that hold a higher class don't even live on Gotland the whole year around. But last year (2014) when I was hosting a MixKubbtournament in September I got the question again. At that moment I felt that the kubb on Gotland had grown bigger so maybe it could be done. At least it was worth a shot.

I worked up a basis for how it could be done and sent out a request. I wanted at least 8 teams to sign up for me to get going. I got 11 teams. So it was officially completed. The first Kubbleague on Gotland was going to start 2015. And I got some of the top teams on the train, Menage a trois and Gloria Victis.

### How was it executed?

Many probably thought that we were going to play 3-4 matches 1-2 times a month. But no, I wanted to try something different. We started April 5 and played every Sunday until we got on a summerbreak June 14. First and last Sunday every team played 2 matches and all of the teams played on the same field on the same time. But all other Sundays you only played one match, and you had to travel to the team who was appointed as the home

*The teams had to be at least 3 players every match but you could sign up to 8 players to the team. Rules were the same as on the World Championship. If the team were less then 6 players, a player was not allowed to throw two batons in a row.*

team. You played every team twice so all of them were home team every second match. Exactly as it works in other sports such as football or hockey. Ulterior move with this was that you could learn from other teams and get better. How do they train, on what kind of field and on what kind of kubbset. (However it had to be KubbVM measure). The teams had to be at least 3 players every match but you could sign up to 8 players to the team. Rules were the same as on the World Championship. If the team were less then 6 players, a player was not allowed to throw two batons in a row. The reason for the summerbreak is that in the middle of the summer you have a lot of tournaments anyway and we wanted to extend the Kubbseason. So August 16 it started again and was going on until September 27. After that we had playoffs on October 5 with the best 8 teams and finished it all with a prize ceremony.

### How did it go?

The Kubbleague went better than expected and almost went on by itself. The favorite teams to be on top remained at the top but we also had some unexpected results where the underdogs did beat a better team. Menage a trois won the league after only losing one match against Gloria Victis that placed second, but did win the playoffs after beating Menage a trois in the final match. But you got the best prize to win the league. A good thing for the teams was that they had the opportunity to play and train in various weather conditions. You never know what weather is going to show up on the World Championship.

| Lag              | S  | V  | F  | Diff  | P  |
|------------------|----|----|----|-------|----|
| Menage a Trois   | 20 | 19 | 1  | 39-4  | 19 |
| Gloria Victis    | 20 | 17 | 3  | 35-8  | 17 |
| Maltes Bil o Rep | 20 | 15 | 5  | 31-14 | 15 |
| Emmi Gardell     | 20 | 13 | 7  | 30-20 | 13 |
| Ingen            | 20 | 11 | 9  | 25-19 | 11 |
| Burs Broilers    | 20 | 11 | 9  | 24-20 | 11 |
| Rubb o Kubb      | 20 | 8  | 12 | 21-25 | 8  |
| Molokai          | 20 | 7  | 13 | 16-28 | 7  |
| Trippel-X 1      | 20 | 5  | 15 | 10-30 | 5  |
| Trippel-X 2      | 20 | 2  | 18 | 7-37  | 2  |
| Fallna Kungar    | 20 | 2  | 18 | 5-38  | 2  |

# GOTLAND KUBB LEAGUE

## A weekly league in the birthplace of kubb

### *Why me and how do I manage it?*

So why was it me who'd make sure this got started? I already do much when it comes to kubb on Gotland. I'm a referee at the World Championship and also help them out with various things. I host a tournament called SIGA CUP that is the largest kubb tournament after WC on Gotland. I host the Pre-World Championship in Rone that is played the weekend before the real one. And I also host a Mix-tournament in late August. I run a homepage where you could find all information about kubb tournaments on Gotland and also about the Swedish Championship and WC. Outside of that I do host the "Sunday league" football on Gotland and many other things. I like to host events and make people happy so when someone ask me to start something its hard for me to say no if I know its possible. One thing that that I don't think many know about is that all the kubb tournaments including the new league that I host I do without any sponsor or help from any other part. I do get to borrow kubb sets from the World Championship to my biggest tournament but that's all. I ask players who are on place first to help me put up the games and so on and I make it work. It's hard work doing it but in the end it's worth it when you live for kubb.

### *The future for the league!*

After the league ended I did ask all teams to evaluate the league so I could change things for hopefully next year's league. The response from almost every team was that it was fun to play every Sunday but that it will not work in the future. They instead want to play 1-2 times a

month and 3-4 matches each time. So if we get enough teams for next year we will play like that instead. The plan is to have a league even in 2016. We want more teams and a dream is to have so many teams that you would have to make several divisions. I also have a plan for a new tournament with some special rules, but for that to happen I

*It's hard work doing it, but in the end it's worth it when you live for kubb.*

think its not possible for me to run this all on my own. We need more people who are passionate about kubb and want to develop it. And also to spread kubb around Gotland, it's a small Island but with the right people we could get more to know about it and play kubb. When the league started we did become aware of the local radio which did a show about it and the local newspaper have made articles about us several of times. So maybe, just maybe we have reached out to more people that have a kubbheart.



Simon Ekstrom on team Emmi Gardell  
Below: The top three teams in the league:  
Menage a Trois, Gloria Victis, Maltes Bil o Rep  
(J. Lundin)





By: Neil Weakland - Canton, Ohio

Photos: Neil Weakland

## BURNING RIVER KUBB, OHIO

### Building Something From Nothing

Inaugural Burning River Kubb Klassic

Neil Weakland was introduced to kubb by a bunch of men in kilts at a friend's wedding in 2013, and soon after decided that he needed a set of his own. Neil and his brothers, Kyle and Paul, played a lot of kubb over the next couple of years, sometimes with their friends, learning and correcting the rules as they went. It even became a mainstay of their annual end-of-year lawn game competition. They were desperate to find competition to play against, but in Northeast Ohio, like many places, the presence of kubb is next to nothing.

With the nearest tournaments being seven hours away, they figured they may as well go to the biggest tournament in the country, the 2015 U.S. National Kubb Championship. They formed their team, the Kubb Squirrels, and entered. They went, like most new teams, with limited expectations, just hoping to win a match and have fun. In the Kubb Squirrels' first two matches, they won 2-0, and were both shocked and surprised, especially considering that they had only discovered and practiced drilling for about two months prior. Their third match would

be their big test against a 2014 T-9 finisher, the Eau Claire Badgers. They split the first 2 games, and were down late in the third game, but they were able to make a comeback and win the match and their group. The rest of the day went well. Following a bye in the tournament, the Kubb Squirrels finished by going 1 and 2 the rest of the day. After being knocked out of the tournament, the Kubb Squirrels were able to watch some big matches, as well as talk and learn from other kubb fans. Beyond that, they were impressed with the great community of kubb, the speed at which it seemed to be growing, and the friendly people they met like Garrick van Buren, Grant Scott, and Todd Johnson, all of whom took time to teach them more about the sport of kubb.

On the way home, the Weakland brothers talked about how to best bring kubb to their home region. They decided that a club would help organize the kubb fans in Northeast Ohio and create more opportunities to reach out to potential kubb fans. They named the club the Burning River Kubb Club after the affectionate nickname of the Cuyahoga River that infamously caught fire many times before 1970. They invited their friends to the club and started playing weekly games in public parks and local universities. The weekly kubb meetings succeeded in increasing visibility, they were able to play kubb with many new people, but didn't see a lot of returning players. To try and remedy this, they decided to hold a scheduled tournament to encourage everyone to get together at the same time.



# BURNING RIVER KUBB, OHIO

## Building Something From Nothing

They named the tournament the Burning River Kubb Classic and created a championship trophy from a used tire. The tire was chosen to represent Akron, Ohio, which is known as the Rubber Capital of the World. A week before the tournament was scheduled, they found to their dismay that the weather was going to drop from 70 degrees and sunny to an unseasonal 40 degrees with rain. They rushed to put together more tents and a firepit, as well as dry towels and hot drinks. When the day came, 17 players participated on 8 teams including the Kubbstaches from Morgantown, PA, who won first place. Despite the weather, the tournament was a big success and several people

*They named the tournament the Burning River Kubb Classic and created a championship trophy from a used tire. The tire was chosen to represent Akron, Ohio, which is known as the Rubber Capital of the World.*

expressed interest in getting their own sets, and how they could play together more often. They also learned about how to manage a kubb tournament and how to attract people to the sport of kubb.

Since the tournament, they have grown to nearly a dozen registered club members. Additionally, they have partnered up with Country



Kubb Squirrels at the 2015 U.S. National Kubb Championship

Kubb, a local kubb set maker in Ohio, to create tournament level sets and to promote kubb through an additional spring tournament in 2016. They are continuing to play kubb in the community to increase visibility and hone their skills as players. Their hope is to continue to grow their tournaments and the sport throughout the community, as well as attract more competitive teams from Ohio and the nearby states. More kubb is now being played in Ohio than ever before, the Burning River Kubb Club is proud of its role in growing the presence of kubb in northeast Ohio from nothing into something.

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# WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

## GIPFELSTÜRMER & FREUNDE WIN GOLD



Photo: Gesine Klebba

## 2015 World Championship Results

Gold: Gipfelstürmer & Freunde  
(Germany, Austria, Sweden)

Silver: SMP United (Switzerland)

Bronze: ' T is Gebeurd! (Belgium)

4th: Berras Sorkar (Sweden)

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# U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP

## FUROR CELTICA WINS GOLD



Championship



Consolation



2nd Consolation



### 2015 Results

#### Kid Kubbb

Champion - Kubb Craft  
2nd - Kubby Railroaders  
3rd - Kubbicorns  
4th - The Dark Wizards

**Gold:** Furor Celtica (Roscoe, IL/Fitchburg, WI/Des Moines, IA)

**Silver:** Ringers ft. Rekubblikanerna Stockholm (Eau Claire, WI, Stockholm, Sweden)

**Bronze:** Damage Incorporated (Eau Claire, WI, Waukesha, WI, Des Moines, IA)

**4th:** Kubbitz (Eau Claire, WI)

**Bästa Inkastare:** Josh Feathers (Des Moines, IA) - Furor Celtica

#### Final

Furor Celtica 2-0

Ringers ft. Rekubblikanerna Stockholm

#### 3rd Place

Damage Incorporated 2-0

Kubbitz

#### Semifinals

Furor Celtica 2-1

Damage Incorporated

Ringers ft. Rekubblikanerna Stockholm 2-1

Kubbitz

#### Quarterfinals

Furor Celtica 2-1

Kubbsicles (Eau Claire, WI)

Damage Incorporated 2-0  
King Pin (Chaska, MN)

Ringers ft. Rekubblikanerna Stockholm 2-1  
Team Ona Orth (Minneapolis, MN/Chicago, IL)

Kubbitz 2-1

X-Kubbed (Chaska, MN)

#### Consolation Results

**Gold:** Flippin Baton (De Pere, WI)

**Silver:** Kings of the Kinni (River Falls, WI)

**Bronze:** T-Time Kubboom (Fergus Falls, MN)

**4th:** Skübbby Düdes (St. Paul, MN)

#### 2nd Consolation Results

**Gold:** Kubblesi and the Unsullied (Eau Claire, WI)

**Silver:** Berzerkerz Prezentz: Valhalla Rizing (Nimrod, MN)

**Bronze:** The Flux Capacitors (Eau Claire, WI)

**4th:** Rubik's Kubbs—The Better Half (Rhinelander, WI)

The team "El Presidentos del Kubb" with the kubb club "Kubbfreunde Durstiges Holz Berlin e.V." behind them. The team was a mixture of presidents of different German clubs.



## GERMAN KUBB SCENE

### THE NEXT GENERATION REACHING FOR THE STARS

In the Kubb Universe, Germany is mainly known for only a few very successful teams. But following in their wake, a broad community emerges and reaches for the stars.

#### How it all began

Our journey starts at an outlying airfield close to the Baltic Sea in July 2009. For a few months we had enjoyed our new hobby called kubb and then learnt from the newspaper, that in fact there were tournaments for this unique game.

We were curious about the level and at the same time sure of being able to climb the victory podium. But even back then we fared like many newcomers today: Under the pressure of competition our performance hardly corresponded with what was expected and the sporting elite had been underestimated. So we were amazed by the final between the teams "Fortschritt 99" and "Kubb'Ings" and we quickly obtained the feeling of not being able to catch up this difference in quality in the near future. While the boys of "Fortschritt" stepped on the podium of the World Championships on Gotland in the years 2008, 2009 and 2010, the "Kubb'Ings" blossomed out to "The Invincibles" at national tier. We could not do much besides granting and learning: When, for example, the "Berlin Wall" (thrown in kubbs which have touched each other are mounted at the same place) was no longer part of the rulebook, the drill technique imported from Sweden proved itself as a key aspect of the game.

As young students we had a lot of time and our passion for Kubb almost became obsession. For Christian, with whom I still often play together, and me that meant a significant improvement of our abilities. More and more we set ourselves apart from the newcomers, but

**Matthes Wiechmann - Rostock, Germany**  
outlines the national kubb history from 2009 to today

**Christopher Storm - Dresden, Germany**  
describes the current state of Germany's varied Kubb scene

winning a tournament or at least climbing the podium was still out of reach, although often playing rather small events with ten to twenty teams. The missing strength of nerve continued to be a major problem, but in retrospect there is another explanation: The always changing lineup of our team. In the first three tournaments we had already started with five different players, and this trend drug on for years. Nowadays the "RZKKC" army has about 25 participants.

*Under the pressure of competition our performance hardly corresponded with what was expected and the sporting elite had been underestimated.*

At the second "Gipfeltreffen" in Berlin in spring of 2011, which is organized by the now highly successful "Gipfelstürmer", once again Christian and I welcomed two new players. After the setbacks experienced in the first tournaments, the first trophy (third place) of our Kubb lives came very surprising, other than the victory of "Kubb'Ings". They appeared far ahead with their enviable skills.

At this time I did not expect "Gipfelstürmer" to shape the future of the German Kubb scene considerably, although this could have been

# GERMAN KUBB SCENE

## THE NEXT GENERATION REACHING FOR THE STARS



The AHOI Beachkubb Tournament on Warnemünde Beach in Rostock, Germany.

guessed at that time. At the "Gipfeltreffen" 2011 we just left them behind luckily. One campaign before they had even brought the group phase elimination at the "German Kubb Masters" on us. To underestimate them was presumably based on their appearance on the pitch as man, woman and child. That really did not look like a typical tournament team! But with talent, ambition, and willingness to discuss during matches they took the fight out of us progressively.

We got used to only being able to win something in the absence of the Big Three and could live with it quite well. At the beginning of the 2012 campaign we won two smaller tournaments more or less secretly and so we went to the next "Gipfeltreffen" with big sanguinity again. The whole day was a sheer heat battle - during the matches three team members at a time sojourned in the shadow of the fourth who was

already waiting for the switch. In sporting terms, there is only one match in my memory: That one against "Durstiges Holz". Never before I had experienced such electrified opponents. These three guys on the other side of the pitch were highly motivated, so they literally burst by tension, celebrated even the most simple results like the winning goal in the World Cup and experienced every setback as their personal doomsday. We won by a hairsbreadth, but what really matters is that friendships, which I had not found in this quality within the Kubb scene to that date, were born.

A few weeks later, this impression was fueled anew. As Eastern-German one normally does not plan to travel to Palatinat roughly 10 hours away. You do not expect much except woods and hiking trails. But kubb unites people and so we headed off to discover something



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# GERMAN KUBB SCENE

## THE NEXT GENERATION REACHING FOR THE STARS

new straightforward. Three days of life and joy followed - we were welcomed most cordially, housed in a rumpus room as well as hosted splendidly and soon we were fully acquainted with the difficult dialect. The lovely people of "Hägar Club Schindhard" did not mind that we and the also Eastern-German "Gipfelstürmer" of all people faced each other in the final of this great folk festivaesque tournament. Again friendships grew and in the subsequent years we often merged to powerful teams gladly.

The times of painstaking searching for the third player were almost over, and a wider pool of talented and likewise motivated players evolved. This mix of euphoria, more opponents and teammates at eye level as well as the desire for new experiences raised our level. In result we even reached the not considered possible final victory over the "Kubb'Ings" at a rather small tournament. Hence the campaign 2012 marks the turn to me from mere playing along in tournaments to

### The sequence of the present

3 years in a row world champion, 4 times in a row European champion, one team undefeated for 2 years running. All those are characteristics of the best teams in Germany. So far the Kubb'Ings are playing the highest level in the sport of kubb, even outperforming the Gipfelstürmer.

Nevertheless, there is one common connection between both teams – they are the only internationally known teams of the German kubb scene. But currently the German kubb community is changing and the Kubb'Ings and Gipfelstürmer are no longer the one and only of the German Kubb sport.

There is a rising chance – and it feels like all the teams which were hiding behind the success and shadow of the Kubb'Ings start to enforce a chance in spirit and strategy. Clubs and associations have been

The round of 16 match between Paradies Kubb Jena and Kubbfreunde Durstiges Holz Berlin at the 2015 World Championship in Rone, Gotland.



celebrating with friends and occasional successes. Since then I have been playing as many tournaments as possible with as many different fellow players as possible.

On top of that I came to know the president of the youngest German Kubb club "Paradies Kubb Jena" when I participated in Germany's only pure beneficial tournament (organised by "Durstiges Holz") with my cousin for the first time. Since May 2014 this club makes its mark for both sporting quality and downright passion to party. The spirit of Kubb has changed in this country and sometimes the whole schmeer outstrips the sporting rivalry. Looking back at six years now, I realize: This trip was worth it and it is still far from over.

*There is an growing understanding that kubb has the potential to be far more than a "unknown" sport... we just need to use this growing understanding to support the new structures and make it more popular.*

founded and the community is constantly growing. Old inflexible setups and team structures are becoming more tolerant and open minded, building the origin of the German Kubb Association (in which the Kubb'Ings and Gipfelstürmer are also members) – to only name a few changes.

There is an growing understanding that kubb has the potential to be far more than a "unknown" sport... we just need to use this growing understanding to support the new structures and make it more popular. During the last years, the tournament calender becomes fuller with new events and a growing number of participants. Furthermore, it is the hard work of the Kubb community and its clubs who strenghten the sport and popularity of the German Kubb through newspaper articles, TV interviews, trendsport brochures as well as word of mouth. Therefore, it is no wonder that local TV stations are interested in interviewing local teams before participating in the World Kubb Championship and also showing German kubb events on TV - this especially increases the awareness and interest in this sport. Thanks to all those social activities, the niveau and attractiveness of kubb is

# GERMAN KUBB SCENE

## THE NEXT GENERATION REACHING FOR THE STARS

constantly growing, which is also positive for the Kubb'ings and Gipfelstürmer, since they now have fresh and exciting oponents. The "old and inflexible" structure is becoming "fresh" and more exciting - so even the top teams now need to fight harder and new teams are taking over the top rankings.

and podium. So cohesion, friendship and respect come first. For these reasons, the kubbers from Schindhard have become a top team, no matter in which team constalation they compete in. The advantage here is obvious. With ever-changing game partners and always new constellations, it is necessary to understand the game in all its complexity and also cope with unpleasant sequences and need to train all situations individually e.g. you can not rely on the strenghs of one single player, you need train and trust the entire team. This of course is not the key to success, however, this principle forms the best players. Even those players who for example are not best in knocking over the base line, but are perfect team players in knocking over the kubbs in the front can threaten top teams - because, a combination of all team players with a stong team spirit and trust in the others, even though one might not be the best kubber, does increase the whole spirit since the responsibility is shared between everybody - and strengthen the single players - you can feel it.

The Kubbfreunde Durstiges Holz Berlin e.V. are following a complete different approach of a tournaments. Tournaments organised by them are enjoying an ever-increasing participation of players and follows an entirely selfless purpose.

*Therefore, for them it is not primarily important which place they achieve, but a high and ambitious team spirit. They began to realize that in kubb, there are far more important aspects than pure success and podium. So cohesion, friendship and respect come first.*

The Hägar Club Schindhard, from the beautiful Pfalz region, is one of the first kubb clubs in Germany and is also hosting one of the most famous kubb events in Germany, welcoming top participants and Kubb teams from all over Europe for example Switzerland and Belgium - the "Pfälzer Kubb Open". The high niveau of this tournament is one aspect, but the main characteristic is the beautiful landscape where the matches take place. Surrounded by green hills, steep cliffs and conifers this tournament therefore is even the most beautiful one on the Kubb tournament calender. Furthermore, there are the great members that make the Hägar Club Schindhard to one of the biggest kubb clubs in Germany with more than 45 members.

Also the kubb team Schindhard has been the first club playing with rotating teams, and therefore not playing in fixed constellations. Therefore, for them it is not primarily important which place they achieve, but a high and ambitious team spirit. They began to realize that in kubb, there are far more important aspects than pure success

Top Right: Team Durstiges Holz finishing third at the 2014 German Championship.  
Bottom Right: Gathering of numerous German tournament and club directors.  
Left: Another amazing kubb shirt



# GERMAN KUBB SCENE

## THE NEXT GENERATION REACHING FOR THE STARS

Every tournament has not only the organisational side but also an attractive financial aspect to gain some money for the Club's own good. What makes the Kubbfreunde Durstiges Holz Berlin e.V differnt? They donate all their revenue to charity - so far more than 2000€ have been donated.

The Club itself has only existed since 2013. There were Grille, Roman and Ole who were infected by the "Kubb virus", after their first tournaments in 2012. They realized that this sport is something special and brings people together. So the first Kubb Club in Berlin was founded by friends for friends. What started as a whim, is now one of the biggest kubb Clubs in Germany with more than 33 members. Initially they always played in the same constellation and did not really want to mix with others. The great successes stay out first, but after a while they realised that a change of thinking is necessary. Of course, it is a long process to achieve a new level of professionalism, but the long tournament seasons in Europe is a great chance to learn and train with other players very fast, if you mix the teams and focus on each players individual strength. The result is that the kubber from the club are serious opponents and so great successes can be celebrated in tournaments regularly. Through the constant learning, team spirit and mental training, now the biggest successes are achieved, like a placement in the top ten ranking in the World Cup 2015 and several other tournament wins e.g. Czech champion 2015, 3rd Place in German Championship behind Fortschritt 99 and Gipfelstürmer in 2014 or the 1st Place in Champions Trophy.

Yet, another kubb club has played in the focus of attention since 2014 - the Paradies Kubb Jena e.V.. A pure kubb club with 20 members officially founded in 2015. They learned very quickly and achieved a higher level of performance, and should not be underestimated at all. Again, a continuous rotation in every tournament makes every kubber better and better. First of all Franz Ludwig, the President of the Club, is one of the best single players in Germany after only 2 years of playing kubb. He is the guy who established kubb in Jena and initiate 20 students to spend time with kubb and organize the Trip to the VM i kubb 2015 with 2 Teams. One of the teams reached the quarterfinals and finished the tournament within the top 8 ranking. But the highlight for all players was the so called "round of last 16". During those final games, it came to a great game between Paradies Kubb Jena and Kubbfreunde Durstiges Holz.

Paradies Kubb Jena have won in their group against Foyer United (Switzerland) and Gloria Victis (Sweden). Both top teams for the semi finals. Kubbfreunde Durstiges Holz have won against Insalata Mista, a Team from Switzerland too and a Top Team from Sweden. It was an absolut thriller game - the games took more than 3 hours. But it was a special game... no frustration, no sadness after losing a round. It was a highlight for all players, since everybody was happy to play this game and everybody was happy for the others to win the game. That was pure joy of kubb. If you want, you can watch it on youtube (Den törstiga Matrik vs. Paradies Kubb Jena). An also big success was the third place by the German Championship in 2015 behind the Kubb'Ings and Fortschritt99.

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# GERMAN KUBB SCENE

## THE NEXT GENERATION REACHING FOR THE STARS

### The vision of a German Kubb-Association

The kubb-community in Germany has talked about the foundation of a federation several times in the past. In 2013 this idea came up again. In Schindhard (Palatinate) the 1. Hägar-Club Schindhard e.V. started to have a motivated discussion about founding a national kubb association. Hereby Jens Meier, treasurer and main-organiser of that club took the initiative and contacted Holger Meier (Main-Organiser of SV-Lengede, Lower Saxony). A long process of active exchange with information drives to concrete proposals. Following there was a meeting at the 30th May in Schindhard with about 20 friends of kubb

for a personal exchange of information about the federation. The advantages and disadvantages have been discussed and evaluated. As a conclusion the initiators got the task to prepare a meeting for foundation. The day after all of them played the „Pfälzer Kubb Open“ out there. After intense discussions lasting several hours the the german kubb federation was founded in Lengede on the 27th of June 2014.

The 30 friends of Kubb elected the following board.

Jens Meier (President, Schindhard, Rhineland-Palatinate)

Hans-Holger Meier (Vice-President, Lengede)

Matthias Fesser ( Secretary, Tangstedt )

Robert Harnack (Treasurer, Rostock)

Klaus Riedel (PR-Officer, Rostock)

With the help of the federation the german kubb community grew together and established new ways to spread the unknown sport.

First of all a generell rulebook got evolved with the help of Matthes Wiechmann. All members of the federation had the chance to vote for their special rulebook considering nearly all possible situations in a match. In this way we created rules which are accepted by the general public of players.

*But currently the German kubb community is changing and the Kubb'ings and Gipfelstürmer are no longer the one and only of the German kubb sport.*

The next big step is the approach to a rotating European Kubb Championship with the help of the Belgian, Switzerland and German federation. The estimated start is in Belgium in 2017.

[www.dkubbb.de](http://www.dkubbb.de)

<https://www.facebook.com/DeutscherKubbBund/?ref=hl>

Special Thanks to Jens Meier (president of the DkubbB) and Franz Ludwig (president of Paradies Kubb Jena)

Hägar Club Schindhard e.V., the biggest kubb club in Germany.



By: Leigh Northrup - Concord, North Carolina

Photos: Leigh Northrup



## KUBB KREW

### PLAYING AND GROWING KUBB IN AMERICA'S SOUTH

Playing kubb in North Carolina

Let's set the scene...

It was a beautiful day on a Fall afternoon and two guys sat drinking a six pack of a craft beverage solving the worlds problems. "Who would buy this game?" Mattsson said as he sipped his beverage and threw back his six mini batons from a tabletop kubb game. "It costs like 70 bucks and it is not fun until you play it with awesome people." Northrup countered "sounds like a good plan, lets ask the owner of the company if we can go show the world how awesome this game really is!"

*Over the past four years, we have had the privilege of introducing over 3,000 people to the game of kubb.*

A few days later the Kubb Krew was born and an epic partnership between The Carolina Kubb Krew and Old Time Games/Kubbspelclassic was formed. Krista Davis, owner of Kubbspelclassic.com, joined forces with Mattsson and Northrup to promote the game of kubb in the Southeast. Our initial strategy was to attend out door events, beer festivals, etc., set up kubb, and expand the game. "People come running when we unpack the set." Mattsson says. "They are so used to cornhole that kubb is a great deviation from the normal tailgate scene." Over the past four years, we have had the privilege of introducing over 3,000 people to the game of kubb. We teach them the game and tell them where they should go to get an awesome set!

We didn't really understand the magnitude of our adventure until we landed in Eau Claire last July. Sure, we knew it was an awesome game

and usually awesome games were played by awesome people, but we had no idea about the kubb culture that we were just scratching the surface of. Upon pulling up in the parking lot of the soccer park we were met with hospitality and warm welcomes. We even had Aaron Ellringer scream "Welcome Kubb Krew" out of his mini van window as we were staring in awe of the perfectly manicured pitch. The weekend was a perfect blend of making new friends, playing a great game, and experiencing Eau Claire on a perfect July weekend. Needless to say we will be back in 2016.

Our work in the Southeast is far from over. In many ways, it is just beginning. Upon returning from Eau Claire the Krew partnered with the founder of Queen City Kubb, Mike Davids, to make our impact on the Southeast even bigger. Over the past 18 months we have had dozens of learn to play clinics, hosted three major tournaments, and have dreams of launching the East Coast Nationals next year.

Through our efforts to grow kubb as a staple in the Charlotte/Concord area, we have been able to give back to a couple of organizations that mean so much to us. We have chosen to partner with Appalachian

*Our work in the Southeast is far from over. In many ways, it is just beginning. Upon returning from Eau Claire the Krew partnered with the founder of Queen City Kubb, Mike Davids, to make our impact on the Southeast even bigger.*

# KUBB KREW

## PLAYING AND GROWING KUBB IN AMERICA'S SOUTH



The Kubb Krew 18 miles from Eau Claire, WI

Service Project and Special Olympics of North Carolina. All proceeds from our Spring and Fall Tournaments are given directly to these organizations to further their impact in the community. #kubbforakause

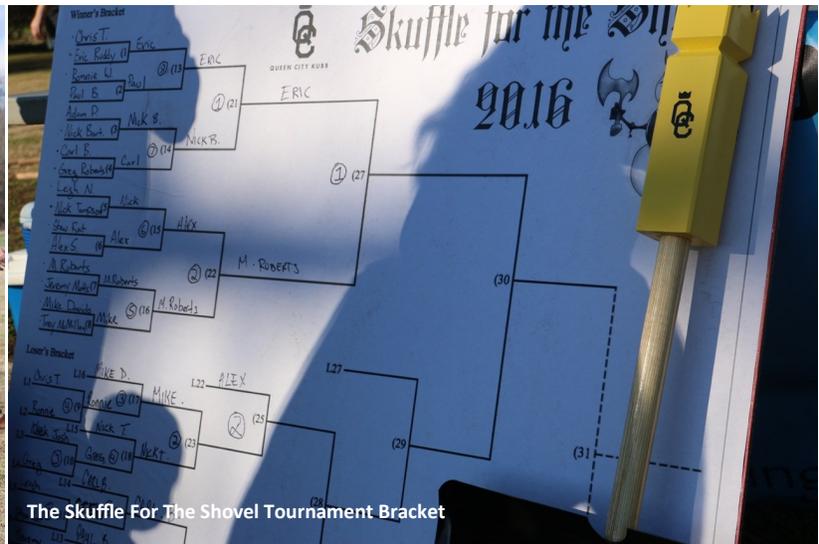
The best part of this journey has been the people we've met along the way. From the Vall family (our first match at Nationals) to Dee Dee Halvorson from Kasson, you awesome kubb folk have made a few southern country boys feel very welcome in your world of kubb. We

hope that our commitment to promoting kubb in our area will increase exposure and help the game we all love take the east coast by storm.

None of this would be possible without the help and support of Krista Davis and Old Time Games. She is dedicated to promoting the game in this area and we are so appreciative that she is helping make it happen.



Kubb tournament in Concord, NC



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