

JANUARY 2017
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Belgium's Kubbaholics

Interview: Ringers
Books and Music

Kalifornia Kubb

UK Kubb

KCUA

and more

TM

Kubbnation the magazine for the game of kubb

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Cover Photo: Kaatje Henderickx (page 07) at a kubb tournament in Belgium (Kaatje Henderickx)

Above: KCUA Podium (KCUA), Kubbelientjes kubb team (NK Kubb), Wisconsin license plate (Dave Ellringer), Captain Ken's Loppet Kubb Tournament (Minnesota Kubb)

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

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DET FÖRSTA KASTET

DOWN THE ROAD TO PÜSSELBÜRENER AND MORE



Photo: Blind Photography

Where has the time gone? Tournaments in the U.S. have been going on for 10 years now, and the World Championship is over 20 years old. After looking back at some old photos a couple months ago, it is amazing to remember what has happened over the years with kubb. I would love to find a way to write a thesis or dissertation on the growth of kubb around the world with timelines, charts, graphs, and more. All this grew from a few farms on the island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea. One has to live it to believe it.

I often think I know a decent amount of what is happening with kubb in Europe, then I dive into this magazine, and I realize don't know much. One article introduces me to another, and that one to another, and I cannot help but wonder how many more there are, just down that one road. That is what happened with Püsselbürener KUBB-Spiele in Germany. It is hard for me to imagine that more than 10 people in the U.S. know about the tournament, and maybe very few around the world know the history, and what a history it is. If someone would have told me the story of their growth, I would have not believed it.

Speaking of the growth of kubb sport, it is like a wave in Europe. You can see more teams competing for national championships, battling in nation team rankings, and traveling throughout Europe to play in different countries. Here in the U.S., it now seems like there is momentum, with traction, to finally build the sport of kubb outside of the upper Midwest, and we have a new year-long competition for teams. The connections across the Atlantic continue to be made. You could feel that with the stories from the three American teams that played in the 2016 World Championship and the player that played in a 2016 tournament in Belgium. The kubb world is getting significantly bigger and smaller at the same time, and it is wonderful.

Every year, I wonder what else there is to write about, but an idea comes up that I personally would like to explore and learn more about. In the past, it was things like the history of kubb, drilling, referees, interviewing Bibbi and Towe, and more. For the past couple years, I have been interested in finding ways to get more female participation in everything from backyard games to friendlies to leagues to tournaments. I wanted to know more about not only participation, but to look at why female players are disproportionately not finishing high in tournaments. Perhaps it is because I have two daughters, I don't know, but I honestly think that kubb would be even better if quarterfinals and podiums had more female representation.

To look into it more, I decided to ask some questions to a few female players...half in Europe and half in the U.S. Those few players turned into nine players, then 12 players, and their responses are spread throughout the magazine. I was curious what their answers would be. How do they view the game and sport? What are their experiences? Of course 12 female players is a very small sample size, and there is another question that I thought of later that I really wish I would have asked, but I learned a lot from their responses. After reading their answers, I wanted to ask more female players, but it was not possible for this edition. However, I have found myself asking other female players and non-players (mostly here in Eau Claire) what their thoughts are regarding getting even more female players at tournaments and in leagues and what it would take to get more co-ed teams or female teams at a high and elite level. It has been both an educational and enjoyable process. Will there be more female players finishing high in tournaments in the future? What is success? If we don't meet that definition of success or it does not increase, will it be a failure? Those are all questions I am asking myself.

Thanks again for reading this little annual magazine. The amazing KCUA, Ringers, books, music, California, Milwaukee, Woodsnipers, Kubbaholics, UK, and more. The 7th Volume of *Kubbnation* is full. I hope this edition of the magazine introduces you to some new things in the world of kubb...it did for me.



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Emmie Jönsson

Nybro, Sweden

I play with my sister and we're called Team Hagnebo

How long have you been playing? 7 years
How long have you played in tournaments/leagues? 4 years



How were you introduced to kubb? My dad started to play kubb when I was little together with my mom. So every summer we had a kubb course just outside our house and we played all the time. That's how I started to like the sport more and more. The sport has always been in my family. And today we still play the fantastic game.

What are your favorite things about kubb? Why I like the sport so much it's because of the new people you meet and everyone can play it. You don't have to be good at it you can just play for fun. It's a game that creates happiness and lot of fun.

What interested you in playing in tournaments/leagues? The thing that interested me in to start playing tournaments was that when I have played a couple of years I started to get good at the game. My dad taught me technic and very important things to know about the sport to be a good player. I wanted to see how good I was meeting teams that I never played against. It was a challenge and I am very happy that I took the chance to start playing in a team with my sister. To see how far we can go and how good we can be.

In tournaments/leagues, the majority of players and teams are still male. How can we get more females to play in tournaments/leagues? I think already there are more females players in the sport. I think the numbers grow for every year. I don't think there's a way to make more females play, I just hope that the number is going to keep on growing.

Disproportionately (at least in the U.S), many females in tournaments play with their significant other. Males on the other hand, most are playing with friends. What are your thoughts about that? How can we get more all-female teams or females playing with non-significant others? I think that here our teams play more with friends than we play with our significant other. I think it's good that we are not only males and females team. It's good that we mix the teams.

Very few podium spots have had females on them and/or very few females compete on high-level teams. How do we change that? Train more. To be better, and it's not just on kubb it's in any sport, you have to train so you get better. Without training you just stand still on the same level all the time.

What do you see as existing barriers to getting more females playing kubb? I think that many people don't see kubb as a sport, just a fun game that you play with friends on midsummer, etc. This sport has a different training system. You don't lose weight to play the game, you don't get more condition. Many sport you have to maybe run every day or go to the gym to be better but this game is more about technic than to exercise your body.

Due to being the only female or one of only a very few in a specific environment (kubb friendly, tournament, league, or just people playing) have you ever felt uncomfortable and/or felt like you didn't belong in that environment? No never, I has always been welcome, never heard that I don't belong here or something like that. I would say that this is the only sport that everybody and everyone can play, you don't have to be good you can just play for fun and met new people and make new friends.

Has anyone ever made any comments to you that they would have not made to a male player or comments in general that you heard that has made you feel uncomfortable and/or questioned if you really wanted to be in that environment? No, but when I have said to some people that I play kubb, they just laugh and say, "Kubb? Is that really a sport?" But I don't care what people think. I love the sport and I will keep playing it no matter what :)

The thing that interested me in to start playing tournaments was that when I have played a couple of years I started to get good at the game. I wanted to see how good I was meeting teams that I never played against. It was a challenge and I am very happy that I took the chance to start playing in a team with my sister. To see how far we can go and how good we can be.





Photos: Joe Zenas

By: Joe Zenas - South Pasadena, California

Kalifornia Kubbin' The Start Of The SoCal Kubb Scene

Like most reading this article, I unsuspectingly got the kubb bug a few years back, and since have been systematically doing my best to spread it on the West Coast and anywhere I travel.

My personal kubb journey started about three years ago when I stumbled upon the small kubb pitch set up in Bryant Park in New York City. It was a beautiful spring day, and I was enjoying a cup of coffee and waiting for a business meeting. I watched a couple people heaving batons at the kubbs, went online, read a little about the game, grabbed a screenshot for later reference and went on my way. Many months later prepping for a family holiday in Palm Springs with another family and looking for a "Dad Activity", I remembered the game and found directions to build my first set and we stumbled and learned the rules in the heat of the Palm Springs desert. By the second hour of playing my friend, Kris, googled and discovered the 2015 U.S. National Kubb Championships in Eau Claire scheduled a mere four months later. That night we sent out a few emails to draft another player and by morning drafted two more players and the L.A. Kubb Club was born, and the Kalifornia Kubbers was the first and only team.

The four of us started playing regularly in preparation for our first tournament at the U.S. Nationals in July, 2015, with the singular goal of not embarrassing ourselves. Planning we would just have a fun "guys weekend" away, we had no idea of the immediate sense of

As anyone who has joined the circle of competitive kubb knows, the game is unique in how it brings people of different classes, ages, types together for fun and an amazing kinship of competition.

camaraderie, competition and community in which we would be soon be welcomed and immersed. As anyone who has joined the circle of competitive kubb knows, the game is unique in how it brings people of different classes, ages, types together for fun and an amazing kinship of competition. While our first full tournament day was grueling, it was invigorating as well. As we relived the moments of near misses and greater defeat, it was during dinner after the tournament that we hatched the plan of 'someday' hosting the official West Coast Kubb Championships in our small town of South Pasadena, California.

As we relived the moments of near misses and greater defeat, it was during dinner after the tournament that we hatched the plan of 'someday' hosting the official West Coast Kubb Championships in our small town of South Pasadena, California.

Leaving our first trip to Eau Claire, grateful for the warm welcome all in the kubb community, and impressed by the tournament Eric Anderson and his crew put together, we returned to Southern California energized to grow the game on the West Coast.

Over the balance of 2015 and early 2016, we grew our core league with more organized games, meet-ups and an on-going ladder tournament. Eventually our core group grew from four to nearly 20, and our mailing list of occasional players doubling that. Our additional goal of running the official West Coast Kubb Championship became a reality as we picked a date in mid April.

Kalifornia Kubbin'

The Start Of The SoCal Kubb Scene

Not knowing what type of attendance we would have our first year, we focused on a minimum two person team tournament, and posted it on Facebook and Twitter. Shockingly there was immediate interest not only from our club, but from others across the U.S. Additionally, there was an immediate outreach of support from Eric Anderson from U.S. National Kubb Championship as well as Evan Fitzgerald and Chris

friends and newcomers; have formed bonds and valued friendships with neighbors and others in my town; and brought the game with me on my international travels and have shared kubb with friends in Dubai, Beijing, Edinburgh, and Abu Dhabi.

Who knew when stumbling on this simple and brilliant game, I would find such a simple common and joyous bond between people. Indeed as pronounced on the US Kubb website: Kubb unites people and creates peace on Earth. And we all need a lot more of that in the world these days.

2017 West Coast Kubb Championships
 Sunday April 23, 2017
 South Pasadena, California.
 twitter: @kalikubbers



Hodges from Kubb United. The Kubb Community certainly showed it's support early in helping us have the tools necessary to host a "legitimate" tournament.

Long story short, after a series of Kubb Chats on Google Hangouts, getting schooled in the Klassic format of tournaments with Kubb United's software we were well positioned to host a successful tournament. In the inaugural West Coast Kubb Championships we fielded 24 teams with over 50 players from four states, featuring our "celebrity" kubbers: Evan Fitzgerald and Chris Hodges hosting a technique master's clinic the day prior.

Over the balance of 2015 and early 2016, we grew our core league with more organized games, meet-ups and an on-going ladder tournament. Eventually our core group grew from four to nearly 20, and our mailing list of occasional players doubling that.

And the kubb interest here in Southern California continues to grow. L.A. Kubb Club traveled two teams this year to the U.S. National Championships in July, where we had the opportunity to play some side matches with our friends in the Minnesota Kubb Club at Summit Brewery launching the first annual 6 v 6 "Kalisota Challenge". We are continuing to grow the kubb community in Southern California through our meet-ups, challenges, and outreach to local clubs and schools.

What's the goal? Well, we certainly hope in a few years the "West Coast Kubb Championships" will be viewed as the "Rose Bowl" for kubb, and give our midwestern friends a much needed break from the winter snow.

Since being introduced to the game, I've made dozens of kubb sets for



Kaatje Henderickx Itegem, Belgium

Kaatjes Kubbmaten. It's a little word-play. It means "Kubb playing friends of Kaatje", but also "Cup size of Kaatje".

How long have you been playing? 5 years
How long have you played in tournaments/leagues? 5 years. But in the beginning only little, local ones.



How were you introduced to kubb? We were all animators at the local playground and we did it from time to time as an activity with the kids. After a while, I started playing little tournaments with the boys with the name of our playground. And then, when it started to get serious, we chose our own name.

What are your favorite things about kubb? The atmosphere at the tournaments, the fact that you can play it with friends and drink a beer,...

What interested you in playing in tournaments/leagues? We didn't want to keep on playing it in our garden. We wanted to play against other teams and learn to know other teams.

In tournaments/leagues, the majority of players and teams are still male. How can we get more females to play in tournaments/leagues?

I think, if you give away something at your tournament for ladies or you do something special for ladies (female drinks or something), more ladies will come. This year, Das Kubb organized a tournament with special prices for ladies teams, for example tickets for a party and a total make-over with photoshoot. I think 12 of the 60 teams were female. And maybe, the fact that it takes a whole day also keeps women away. A tournament of half a day is already less intensive and more accessible.

Disproportionately (at least in the U.S), many females in tournaments play with their significant other. Males on the other hand, most are playing with friends. What are your thoughts about that? How can we get more all-female teams or females playing with non-significant others? Maybe, this article will already help ladies to see that kubb can also be played by women. I don't know any other ways. I tell almost everyone I meet that I play kubb and that it's not only for boys.

Very few podium spots have had females on them and/or very few females compete on high-level teams. How do we change that?

I don't know if it's possible. I think ladies are just less interested in it and are less competitive. That's what I see in Belgium. The female teams just play for fun, the male teams play to win.

What do you see as existing barriers to getting more females playing kubb? Maybe the fact that it's a sport you play outside? Men don't really care, but ladies don't like standing in the rain, because their hair will be messed up. Ladies also get cold sooner. And it's a really tactic sport. I think men are more into that tactic kind of stuff.

Due to being the only female or one of only a very few in a specific environment (kubb friendly, tournament, league, or just people playing) have you ever felt uncomfortable and/or felt like you didn't belong in that environment? No, not at all. If my teammates go into the field to put the kubbs straight, I do think "Let them do that, it's a male job, they can think about it more logic". But I don't feel uncomfortable about it.

Has anyone ever made any comments to you that they would have not made to a male player or comments in general that you heard that has made you feel uncomfortable and/or questioned if you really wanted to be in that environment? Not that I can remember. Maybe once someone saw me as mascot of the team. But by knocking over the kubbs, they changed their minds quickly.

Maybe, this article will already help ladies to see that kubb can also be played by women. I don't know any other ways. I tell almost everyone I meet that I play kubb and that it's not only for boys.





KUBBAHOLICS

ADDICTED TO KUBB AND FUN IN BELGIUM

By: Valerie Bentivegna - Heist-op-den-Berg, Belgium

Photos: Kubbaholics

Let us take you back to the summer of 2013. At a kubb tournament, organized by our friends of Kaatjes Kubbmaten, an idea was born. Instead of just being spectators and supporters – though very enthusiastic supporters, we'd have to say – we would start our own team.

We lived in the right place. In Heist-op-den-Berg, the kubb culture is vast to say the least. Multiple great kubb teams have originated from our little town somewhere in the middle of Flanders, including some Belgian champions. [OHC] Kubb Team was the best team in Belgium in

2010 and 2011, T'is Gebeurd took the title in 2013 (and went on to become third in the 2015 World Championship) and Das Kubb was Belgian's best in 2014. It's probably thanks to [OHC] Kubb team that the kubb fever arrived in our town in the first place.

So we would have a lot of teams to look up to and learn from. Including Kaatjes Kubbmaten, who would always look like they were having so much fun training during the week and playing tournaments in the weekend. Standing on the sideline became a bit too boring for us, so we started our own team: Kubbaholics.

Our name would suggest that we are addicted to kubb, but we – a team made up of female players and only one male member – probably are more addicted to fun. We started the team so we could spend more time together and with our friends at tournaments. We don't have the ambition to go for a title or compete in the ranking.

KUBBAHOLICS

KUBBAHOLICS

ADDICTED TO KUBB AND FUN IN BELGIUM

The main goal is: to do your best and have fun! It didn't take long before we got a bit of a reputation: we're that team that's always laughing and singing and dancing (not a bad reputation, right?), we're that "fun team".

To be honest, having fun all the time occasionally causes us to break our concentration. It has happened more than once that we seemed to start out very well, knocking down more than one block in our first round or winning a first set or two, but keeping this up for a whole tournament has proved difficult. We are gradually improving though, sometimes surprising ourselves (and most definitely the opposing team) with how good we set up the field or throw the first stick.

Some reactions from teams we have played against:

"It's nice to play against a good looking team for once." – that all-male team that one time.

"It was very distracting, they are always dancing and singing, we couldn't concentrate on the game." – an unhappy kubb player who's team probably beat us anyway.

"Oh a team of women, that'd be an easy win." – some team that had never played us, before being surprised by our superb skills.

"Oh it's the Kubbaholics, that'd be an easy win." – a team that knows us quite well but had forgotten how surprisingly superb our skills can occasionally be.

We lived in the right place. In Heist-op-den-Berg, the kubb culture is vast to say the least.

The original team has expanded a bit; we now have 9 members: Cleo, Elia (still the only male), Eleni, Ine, Liesbeth, Shanah, Sofie, Tessy and Valerie. If not enough can make it to a tournament, we ask along some friends and call them our back-kubb. We also now have custom sweaters with our sponsor Verabo and our logo: Kubbaholics, the "i" is a kubb king with a little hat, a tribute to our late friend.

We're definitely not at the top of the kubb scene, nor are we the best



KUBBAHOLICS

ADDICTED TO KUBB AND FUN IN BELGIUM

Last year we played 13 tournaments. A few of our teammates are students so when they have exams it's difficult to form a team on tournaments.

At the Kubbaholics, fun is more important than the ranking. So we decided to choose tournaments close to our home over tournaments far away. Belgium isn't that big but we prefer distances under 45 min/one hour driving. Our friends or other teams sometimes drive (more than) two hours but we don't. For us that's one of the reasons to decide whether or not to play a tournament: how far is it and do we have enough players (or can we find back-kubbs). When there are two tournaments nearby, the same day, we sometimes choose the one where our (boy)friends are also playing or we choose the tournament organized by friends/teams we know well.

Some tournaments are only five minutes by bike(!) or 10 minutes by car. Because in Heist-op-den-Berg there are a lot of teams and also a lot of tournaments, not only by ranking-teams but also by youth movements or other people.



KUBBAHOLICS

ADDICTED TO KUBB AND FUN IN BELGIUM



female players, we know that. There are some very good players out there, and some excellent female players, that are playing in the top league and definitely deserve to be there. Even though we're not the best of teams, our competitors don't go easy on us just because we're a bunch of women. We always deserve the results we get.

It's safe to say that being part of Kubbaholics has been an amazing experience for all of us. We've all been able to sharpen our kubb skills. Moreover, being part of the kubb community has led to new friends. And last but not least, being part of a team has given us the opportunity to hang out more.

We probably don't train enough, but we also go play with some teams once in a while just for fun, or meet up with other teams on Tuesday evenings to "throw a few blocks". These Tuesday evenings are organized by a fellow "kubber" from the team Korvera; he opens up his yard for any team or player to come along and play a friendly match. The wonderful thing about the kubb scene is how many people you meet and how many friends you make. Kubb players go and support other teams when they're not playing themselves. Teams would congratulate their competitor on an especially good throw or the way they set up the field. There will always be a more experienced kubb player who is more than happy to show newbies some moves or give us some tips. Or explain the rules that possible have changed. Some of us might have also met their boyfriends thanks to kubb.

It's safe to say that being part of Kubbaholics has been an amazing experience for all of us. We've all been able to sharpen our kubb skills. Moreover, being part of the kubb community has led to new friends.

And last but not least, being part of a team has given us the opportunity to hang out more.

Finally, our advice: get yourself a set (or find an acquaintance that has one), go outside and start throwing blocks. You'll be surprised at how many people will come and ask what you're doing or even want to join for a set. And it's amazingly fun, trust us!

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Emily Jipp

Minneapolis, Minnesota USA

Kubbatrubbas, Cute as a Baton, Sweet Fancy Moses

How long have you been playing? 2 years
How long have you played in tournaments/leagues? 2 years



How long have you been playing? I learned how to play in August of 2014. I then played pretty sporadically for the next year but have now been playing regularly since October of 2015.

How long have you played in tournaments/leagues? I first played in a league in the winter of 2015 and then in my first tournament (the MN Open) the following summer. This last year was my first year of playing in the Summit league and participating in tournaments outside of the Twin Cities.

How were you introduced to kubb?

In August of 2014, my friend Jen asked if I would be interested in joining her at a Scramble at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. I had never heard of kubb, so she came over to my house two days beforehand to show me how to play. The Scramble was a great introduction to the game as I was partnered up with more experienced players throughout the day who helped walk me through it and offer up tips.

What are your favorite things about kubb? I like the technique and the strategy involved. I like that it can be played most anywhere and in any season. One of my favorite things is to go out into my backyard on a summer evening and listen to music and just play for a while.

What interested you in playing in tournaments/leagues? Initially my motivation in playing was just to have fun and enjoy spending time with friends. And that's certainly still the primary focus, but being introduced to the Summit league last October is when I first discovered that I had a desire to put more time into practicing in hopes of being more competitive. It's rewarding to meet some goals individually and as a team.

In tournaments/leagues, the majority of players and teams are still male. How can we get more females to play in tournaments/leagues?

There is one step that could be taken that would go a long way in helping with this. It's important for leagues and tournaments to be more proactive about reaching out to newer players to let them know about further opportunities to play. I do think that most tournament directors and league organizers are very good about doing that. However, I know of a handful of women that I have played with in leagues or tournaments once or twice who haven't really played again, simply because they weren't made aware of any future leagues or tournaments to join. I believe a large part of the reason for this is that for many women their involvement is through their significant others receiving emails or Facebook messages/invitations, so I think some women are unintentionally left out of the loop and thus can't show up for something that they don't know about.

Disproportionately (at least in the U.S), many females in tournaments play with their significant other. Males on the other hand, most are playing with friends. What are your thoughts about that? How can we get more all-female teams or females playing with non-significant others? There's no easy answer for this. I think because it is a sport in which the number of men greatly outweighs the number of women, the natural expectation is that women get involved through their male partners. It may be difficult for some women who, like me, don't play with their significant other to want to put forth the effort to break through that expectation to be considered an equal. If welcomed under the assumption that women (or at least some of them) want to play for the same reasons men do, I believe we could see female involvement grow. While I can understand the tendency to think that women are naturally less competitively-minded than men, that has never been the case for me, so I would venture to guess that there are other women who feel as I do.

I like the technique and the strategy involved. I like that it can be played most anywhere and in any season. One of my favorite things is to go out into my backyard on a summer evening and listen to music and just play for a while.



Annabel Georges

Ghent, Belgium

During the year I play with Thunderkubb, a family team. For the Flemish Championship, I had the chance to play on an all-women team. For the Belgian Championship, I played with Kubb aan't Spit

How long have you been playing? 5 years
How long have you played in tournaments/leagues? 2 years

How were you introduced to kubb? I think my sister introduced me to kubb via the youth movement. However I really started playing kubb in the garden together with my dad.

What are your favorite things about kubb? Being outside with other people. Being active, but not too active. When I'm playing kubb I'm really relaxed.

What interested you in playing in tournaments/leagues? First we played each year a tournament with the family. A cousin also played kubb with friends. Eventually they organized two times a year in which everyone could join and was divided randomly in teams. There I met two team members of Kubb aan't spit and they invited me to join their team and play tournaments.

In tournaments/leagues, the majority of players and teams are still male. How can we get more females to play in tournaments/leagues? Being active in leagues is very time intensive, Mostly it's a whole day, from 7am until 7pm that you're away from home and your family and kids. Maybe shorter tournaments can get more females to play in leagues? Or babysitting in kubb tournaments (in a safe place).

Disproportionately (at least in the U.S), many females in tournaments play with their significant other. Males on the other hand, most are playing with friends. What are your thoughts about that? How can we get more all-female teams or females playing with non-significant others? I never looked at that this way. In fact, my partner doesn't play kubb in tournaments. So that's the other way around, I'm the one who is playing kubb each Saturday. This summer during the Flemish championship there was also a prize for the best female team. Therefore we made a special women kubb team to show all the men team that women can play kubb as well. That was a very nice experience and I think we surprised some male teams. First they were happy to play against a women team, because they thought it would be easy. I'm glad we surprised some men :). So the fact that there were special prizes for women teams encouraged women to stick together and form teams.

Very few podium spots have had females on them and/or very few females compete on high-level teams. How do we change that? I once was on the solo kubb tournament in Belgium. I was the only female out of 40 persons. For me, I don't think that's annoying or frustrating, but I can imagine that some women can be discouraged when knowing they the only female.

What do you see as existing barriers to getting more females playing kubb? Some people think you should always throw your Viking stick very hard, and male can put more force behind there Viking stick. But in fact, sometimes it doesn't matter if you throw hard, it's the matter of being precise. Next to this I also think that for mothers it's very time intensive combining kubb and having a family with young children. Maybe kubb is still unknown or seen as a game only for recreation during for example a garden party. Maybe women are less competitive?

Due to being the only female or one of only a very few in a specific environment (kubb friendly, tournament, league, or just people playing) have you ever felt uncomfortable and/or felt like you didn't belong in that environment? I didn't feel like I didn't belong to the environment. But you get noticed by others more quickly if you are playing good. Sometimes people say "she is really good". But then I think, if I would be male, nobody would say this.

Has anyone ever made any comments to you that they would have not made to a male player or comments in general that you heard that has made you feel uncomfortable and/or questioned if you really wanted to be in that environment? I've got some sexist comments of (most of the time) drunk people. But if it's kubb or another sports, you can get them everywhere, it's not typical kubb :).

Therefore we made a special women kubb team to show all the men's team that women can play kubb as well. That was a very nice experience and I think we surprised some male teams. First they were happy to play against a women team, because they thought it would be easy. I'm glad we surprised some men.





INTERVIEW: RINGERS

One Of The U.S.'s Longest Lasting and Best Teams

Photos: Ringers, Blind Photography, Gregg Jochimsen, Eric Anderson, Mark Blazel

It's not going out on a limb if you say Ringers is the most famous team name in U.S. kubb. Aaron Ellringer and David Ellringer were two of the first dozen or so people to learn kubb in Eau Claire in 2007. Aaron has played in every U.S. Championship since 2007 and David is right behind him. In 2010, Aaron and David played together and won the U.S. Championship. David has by far played in more kubb tournaments than anyone else in the U.S., and the team name Ringers has participated in more tournaments than any other team name in U.S. history. The core of the team is now David (71 years old), Aaron (43 years old), Aaron's son Sy (11 years old) and daughter Olive (14 years old).

Combined, they have finished in the top three of a tournament a staggering (at least) 40 times since 2010. This includes eight times in 2016 alone (six of which included at least two of them), and they won the inaugural U.S. Team Cup competition in 2016.

At the same time, their success on the pitch is equaled by the amount of time they have invested into promoting and building the game and sport, specifically in Eau Claire. When people ask why/how kubb is so big in Eau Claire, there are a handful of major reasons. One of them is because Aaron learned the game and passed it on to his family and Ringers have never passed up an opportunity to help promote and build kubb in Eau Claire.

Ringers play under the Berserker Kubb flag and won the 2016 U.S. Team Cup, which was the inaugural season. Aaron and Sy answer a few of the first questions. Aaron answered the remaining. We caught up with them at Kubb Farm, their home and training compound.

When did the three of you first learn kubb:

Aaron: I learned to play in Peace Park in the spring of 2007. A nice guy that was new to town was visiting the co-op I owned and asked if I would like to learn the game in the park across the street. I was hooked. I taught my dad shortly after that, and it has been a big part of our entire family ever since.

Sy: When I was like 4, in our backyard. My dad allowed me to step up to the king. My dad always let me win. Then I got mad at him for always letting me win. After that he won a lot, but now I can beat him.

What do each of you enjoy about kubb:

Aaron: Juxtaposition. Many things I enjoy most about kubb are also things I like the least. Competition. All day tournaments. And reasons that drew me to the game a decade ago no longer feed me. Otherwise I think kubb has common values that attracts people, and I'm no different. It's predominantly played outdoors. It's made of wood and a constant reminder of nature. No scorekeeping. Can be played equally well by all types of people. A social game requiring skill. The best thing? Plenty of chances to get lucky.

Sy: Anybody can play it. And how everyone plays it a bit differently. You can set it up in your backyard and don't need anything else.

What do each of you three enjoy most about playing together:

Aaron: We live most of the year together in a multigenerational family household. For me, tensions can build up, relationships ebb and flow and our daily lives don't give us too many opportunities to unite towards a clear goal. Kubb can be a way for us to enjoy some time together outside while having fun, socializing with other people, and supporting each other to play our best. It's a competitive sport I can play at a very high level with my dad and son, and I haven't come across anything else like it.

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Sy: We play together a lot and we have a system. We know our jobs.

What is each of your most memorable match:

Sy: A match against the Mavericks in the U.S. National Kubb Championship this year. It was Sunday, a three game battle at the end of our group. The winner got to go to the cage. There were lots of technical questions that nobody really knew how to answer.

Aaron: From this year it was certainly at CHS stadium in St. Paul, this spring in the last few games of the Kubb Krawl - a new tournament format for us. We were doing lots of walking, taking the light rail and riding shared bicycles all day. And playing a lot of kubb. There were way more logistics to the tournament than most, and although we are quite familiar with the Twin Cities, it had us playing kubb in places previously unknown to us. Olive was serving a critical role as coach for our team that day, coordinating our schedule, keeping us on track, providing critical feedback and cheerleading. We played well throughout the day and made it to the semi finals. It was the match we were waiting for all day. We made a tough call and it rattled us a bit but solidly performed to earn a spot in the Final. We ended up with silver after an excellent match against our new arch-frienemy, Kubbatrubbas.

Both Aaron and Dave are known for teaming up with lots of different players. Do you think that has made your team better? If so, why? What have you gotten out of it?

Standing behind the line with someone offers us a unique view into their mindset as well as their skillset. It goes both ways, as we love to share what we have learned as well. We actively create a learning atmosphere behind the lines by asking questions and challenging assumptions. By inviting our opponents onto the team, we are also manifesting the kubb motto by uniting people together under one flag. We choose people to play with hoping to have fun with them.

Anyone that follows kubb in the U.S. would agree that Ringers are as big of a household name as there is in the U.S. Many would say it is the biggest household name in the U.S., and perhaps even a brand now in the U.S. What do you think your brand, identity, and/or reputation is? We're not out to build anything other than piles of kubbs to destroy. There is no brand. We don't have a font, a logo or any type of uniform. Each person that plays on the team is to play to their best, in their own way. Our reputation is a reflection of who we are as individuals united as friends and family on the pitch. We do have an interest in building kubb not only as a game but as a movement with the goal of uniting people and creating peace. We understand that how we present ourselves on the pitch, and how we treat our opponents, can help bring more people into the movement, or turn them away.

Two words that describes Ringers:
The Ringers!

Let's talk about your dad. Most know he is a cancer survivor, but he has also had on and off serious back issues and other health issues. Yet, he keeps playing...and playing at a high level. How does he do it?

I really don't know, it defies reason. This has happened more than once: he is crippled with pain, barely able to stand and insists on playing a game with me. He will throw a perfect game. Not a single miss. I can barely do that as a healthy young man! If we look at it though, he'd been playing horseshoes and pitching softball all of his life, and since learning kubb he's just been playing and playing more than anyone I've ever met.

Your team is very unique in that it is multi-generational and you three live together. Playing with your son and your dad, what do you like more. Do you like the journey



At Kubbathon

leading up to a tournament, playing with them in the tournament, or reliving the tournament with them? And why?

I live in the moment at the tournaments. It is great to see my dad laugh and converse with friends. It is amazing to see my son play well and get compliments. We don't spend a lot of time reflecting as there is always another match ahead of us.

How has kubb changed for you since you learned it in 2007? For a lot of top teams, the game is much more of a sport now. How has your enjoyment/love of kubb changed since 2007?

It is always changing. It is certainly more competitive at the top levels, and we enjoy the challenge that forces us to play better. Meeting new

MICHIGAN 1 v. 1 TOURNAMENT
APRIL 29
GREAT LAKES KUBB CHAMPIONSHIP
SEPTEMBER 9
At the tip of the mitt in Michigan - Alanson, MI
More info at: playyardgames.com

THE SECOND OHIO KUBB CHAMPIONSHIP
THE BIGGEST KUBB EVENT IN OHIO!
May 20th Canton, OH
OHIOKUBB.COM

KUBBING TO KICK CANCER.COM
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people, sharing skills and learning from others continue to be hallmarks of the sport. However, with the increasing use of a hybrid tournament structure that pairs the Des Moines/Swiss system with a bracket, we have been having less fun, and I have been going to fewer tournaments that use this hybrid. In these tournaments, we play the same caliber teams all day long. The more traditional bracket style tournament allows more mixed play for much of the day, which allows different teams to interact, often mixing local teams with travelers. The main reason we travel to play kubb is to socialize, meet new people, and make new mistakes that give other teams opportunities to get lucky and advance. With the hybrid system, we can beat a team in the morning and face them again in the afternoon. I'd rather play a wider



A typical summer evening at Kubb Farm

variety of teams and give them a chance to capitalize on our inconsistency. I hope more tournaments will consider going back to non-hybrid structures where we can play a traditional bracket OR the meat grinder. I will also say that the DMK/Swiss system is genius - but many directors and most participants do not fully understand the philosophy behind the computer algorithm that guides it. Many players do not buy into certain aspects of it either, such as the weighting of opponents in the overall score that puts teams with the same record in very different spots on the chart. This misunderstanding leads to bitterness and upset. I hope that tournament directors consider the

hybrid structure an experiment, and a work in progress, and listen to participants to ensure that new players are welcome.

Back in early Spring 2014, you did a Kubb Marathon (Kubbathon). You played kubb for 36 plus straight hours at the confluence of the Chippewa River and Eau Claire River in downtown Eau Claire. What did you get out of that? Perhaps just as importantly, have you ever thought about what you gave out of those 36 hours?

The Kubbathon came at a very interesting point in life for me. I was feeling quite down, but had a lot going for me at the same time. Most people would call it a midlife crisis. There were plenty of great things going on in Eau Claire, and we were at a bit of a turning point, culturally, in town. I wanted to be part of the movement towards respecting the riverfront and creating more green space downtown. Kubbathon was a unique way that I could hopefully help solve a whole bunch of problems all at once. I've always been a fan of epic April Fool's Day pranks, so I chose to play kubb non-stop as long as I possibly could on April First. I wanted to raise awareness to downtown, I wanted to teach people how to play, I wanted to promote the game, I wanted to highlight this cool tiny park at the confluence of the rivers, I wanted to be with the enormous cottonwoods and the eagles. I wanted to help the community movement towards investing in our downtown and build support for a vote in the City that was imminent. I wanted to play kubb with friends at a time of year we typically don't play. I needed to force myself way outside of my comfort zone and get some new momentum in life. And I was in the midst of training for the World Kubb Championship - I knew I would be jet lagged, exhausted and worn out if we were going to play for days in Sweden hopefully leading up into the championship Final. Kubbathon was critical training for me in that regard, giving me confidence that I could continue to perform well even after 36 hours of continuous play. I couldn't have done it without the support of my family, who were really quite generous in letting me indulge in the ridiculous prank. I recorded every game by hand and cherish the long list of visitors.

Where would you like to see kubb in the next two or three years? Kubb is 10 years old in Eau Claire this January, what do you think it will be like in 10 more years?

Left to Right: After winning the 2016 U.S. Championship, Gregg Jochimsen took The Stapp King to the Kubb Farm; Sy and David played with two-time U.S. Champion Mark Blazel (Kubbsicles) from Eau Claire in Appleton, WI a few years ago; Dave playing together with four kids in the weekly Eau Claire Kubb League.



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I want to see it in more schools in the next few years. The students and faculty are all interested, it's a matter of developing more curriculum and opportunities. In ten years? With the recent U.S. presidential election, I have a really hard time predicting the next four years let alone ten. There's a lot at stake, and I plan to do everything I can to protect our clean air and water and promote peace and unity. I hope our investment in this game helps us achieve that, and in 10 years kubb will be more widespread than fascism.

Do you ever go back and read any of your old kubb blog posts? What are your thoughts when you read back those memories?

No I haven't, honestly.

Two words that describes kubb in Eau Claire:

Kubb Manifesto.

You have played a lot of matches against other top Eau Claire teams. How would you describe your relationship with the other top Eau Claire teams?

Interesting question. We love Eau Claire. We love kubb. We love Eau Claire kubb teams. We support each other as much as possible. We have been beaten by most teams at one point or another, so I feel what I truly believe is friendly competition with everyone. We appreciate having a lot of kubb talent but also just plain great humans in the area to play with and challenge on a regular basis.

In the past several years, Eau Claire has had some teams consistently on the U.S. Championship podium most every year (Kubbsicles, Ringers, Kubbitz, Damage Incorporated with Gregg Jochimsen). Two questions: What did it mean for kubb in EC that Kubbsicles won in 2012 and 2013? Which one of these teams would you want to play in a U.S. Championship Final, and why?

I was hometown proud, and felt it really solidified Eau Claire as the Kubb Capital of North America. It would be an incredible honor to play anyone in a U.S. Championship Final!

You built a kubbcache here in town, and it is actually really amazing. Are more coming? What other ideas do you have to promote and spread kubb in Eau Claire?

I've always seen the problem with expansion of kubb as accessibility. Initially, what little capitalist there is in me thought that selling sets was the solution. Turns out, quality kubb sets are a significant investment and most families simply can't afford it. The kubbcache is

my new community minded solution to the problem of accessibility. The hope is to have a network of publicly accessible kubb sets worldwide - uniting people and creating peace!

In a 2013 article on the Ringers' home page, you discuss that you don't truly claim any enemies in kubb, but if you did you need it to be a team that pushes you beyond where you have been and makes you better. Is there a team or more out there right now that would fit into that description? If so, what team(s)?

Kubbatrubbas. I like their team on a personal level, and there is something about them that inspires me to be a better player. They've beaten us at a few tournaments now, so I've got my eye on them. It's intense competition that can push the edge of friendliness, and it pushes me to question how seriously I take the game and winning.

This year was the first year of the U.S. Team Cup. Ringers won it. How important was it to you to do well in the U.S. Team Cup?

I'm not ashamed to admit I really wanted to win it playing with my father and son.

Aaron, you are really known for your eight meter throw and also your ability to successfully throw from Loser's Corner. Several years ago, inkasting was the weakest part of the team's game. But your inkasting has dramatically improved over the past couple years, to the point where it wins you matches. How did that come about? Can you tell us about the process?

As a scientist, I approached the problem by learning and observing. For years I was training for the 2014 World Kubb Championship in Sweden. The anchor on our team, I was hyper focused on 8 meters and slaying the king. After that, I felt pretty good about my 8m and I needed something else to work on in order to keep my interest and passion in kubb. A lot of people have commented that I have a



Left to Right: Dave and Aaron on the silver-medalist team Claire Mni - 2014 at the 2014 World Championship; Aaron and Dave after winning the 2010 U.S. Championship; Dave and Aaron with Peter Bergendahl won silver medal at the 2015 U.S. Championship.



INTERVIEW: RINGERS

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Ringers Top-Three Finishes

2010 U.S. National Championship
 2010 Habitat for Humanity
 2011 Rockford
 2012 Madison
 2012 Dallas
 2012 Rockford
 2012 Des Moines Fall Kubb Klassic
 2013 Loppet
 2013 Chippewa Valley Spring Fling
 2013 Midwest Kubb Championship
 2013 Rockford
 2013 Madison
 2013 Clash of Kubb
 2013 Tri Loppet
 2013 Kubbing to Kick Cancer
 2013 Minnesota Kubb Open
 2013 Des Moines Fall Kubb Klassic
 2013 Dallas
 2014 Rockford
 2014 Kubbing to Kick Cancer
 2014 Lindsborg Midsommar
 2014 U.S. National Junior Championship
 2014 World Kubb Championship
 2014 Eastside Hill Kubb Derby
 2014 Kubb at the Kettle
 2014 Dallas
 2015 U.S. National Championship
 2015 U.S. National Junior Championship
 2015 Kubb at the Kettle
 2015 Kubb at the Beach
 2015 Dallas
 2016 Springfest Kubb Championship
 2016 Kubb Krawl
 2016 Kubbing to Kick Cancer
 2016 U.S. National Junior Championship
 2016 U.S. National Championship
 2016 Kubb at the Beach
 2016 U.S. Kubb Open
 2016 Dallas
 2016 U.S. Team Cup

Gold, Silver, Bronze

Each of these finishes had at least one Ringer

different grip on the kubbs (I use the tips of my fingers). I've embraced that, although it does limit what I can do with placement of kubbs. I don't practice, rather I use time during competition to continuously take risks to learn the limits of my throw. I have also relaxed my expectations a bit. Having complete confidence in my team to clear all field kubbs, I don't feel obligated to stack them all right on top of each other. Outliers or "mistakes" can be turned to advantages in most cases. It is a work in progress, but I doubt I will ever master inkasting.

Why do you juggle the batons and what is the story behind the kilt?

Juggling batons came naturally to me as I have been a juggler for many years. I credit my early talent at kubbing to my experience passing juggling pins with partners. Passing pins requires repeated accuracy with a movement almost identical to throwing a kubbing baton. As I juggle batons, my hands get the experience of releasing the wood repeatedly - this release is a

kubbing location. I liked the feeling of playing kubbing in a kilt and I've stuck with it.

What is the future of Kubbing Farm?

We are moving more and more into education and movement building. The farm will slowly become more and more of a food hub with the principles of work and play. In short: more kubbing, more farm.

Why do you have such a passion to promote kubbing in EC and create a kubbing culture in the City?

I believe strongly in the concept of "think globally, act locally". Eau Claire is my home and those who know me understand that I have dedicated myself to working with others to make this place a better place to live. I've seen what kubbing has done for my family, and I've seen what it can do for others. I've been able to combine my passion and experience with community organizing and apply it to kubbing, with the knowledge that kubbing unites people and creates peace on earth.

What is the first word you think of when I ask you, "What do you think your life would be like if you never learned kubbing?"
 Different.

An incomplete list of people that have played under the Ringers umbrella:

Casey Anderson
 Eric Anderson
 Zacarious Barnes
 Peter Bergendahl
 Mark Blazel
 Josh Dibley
 Colton Ellringer
 Sylvester Ellringer
 Jim Erdman
 Eric Goplin

Scott Graham
 Chris Hodges
 Gregg Jochimsen
 Christopher Jones
 Sam Klages
 Ryan Wayne Kolden
 Josh Miller
 Mike Paulus
 Shannon Paulus
 Drew Strait
 Cole Vryens
 Nick Webb

(Source: Ringers)

Sy, who is now a staple on the team, has been playing since he was four. Ringers are truly a multi-generational team.



critical part of the throw. Juggling serves as a tension release and distraction from the pressure of some kubbing games as well.

Kilts are a practical and fashionable item of clothing. I'm surprised more men don't wear them. I bought my first kilt while studying outside of Edinburgh in 1992. The first time I remember playing kubbing in a kilt was with my friend Zac Barnes down in what is now the Community Gardens and

Elisabeth Von Der Waydbrink

Berlin, Germany

Falklinge.com

How long have you been playing? 5 years
How long have you played in tournaments/leagues? 3 years



How were you introduced to kubb? We started in the park hanging out with beer and playing kubb like really bloody beginners.

What are your favorite things about kubb? Everybody can play kubb. Even children, oldies or sport fans can play.

What interested you in playing in tournaments/leagues? The competition ;).

In tournaments/leagues, the majority of players and teams are still male. How can we get more females to play in tournaments/leagues? I think the female player become more and more. But it is like in every other sports male player are more interested in challenging each other. Of cause more "Erdbeerlimes" and kubbsets in pink would be helpful ;).

Disproportionately (at least in the U.S), many females in tournaments play with their significant other. Males on the other hand, most are playing with friends. What are your thoughts about that? How can we get more all-female teams or females playing with non-significant others? I think a lot of our teams play with their friends. It doesn't depend what sex they are. Do we really need all-female teams? I played two tournaments in an all-female team this year and this was fun. But more satisfying was to win a tournament but with two male players.

Very few podium spots have had females on them and/or very few females compete on high-level teams. How do we change that? It depends on the training. Like in every other sport, you get better when you play more. But if you don't have the time or the interest to play three times a week, the level will stagnate.

What do you see as existing barriers to getting more females playing kubb? For most of the people it is a fun game which you can play in the park and they are not interested to play in a competitive character. The sport at itself is a barrier. A lot of women do sports to have a result like body forming etc. The only success you get with kubb is maybe a long time trained throw which work or to win a tournament. But you will not have a body transformation. Or maybe in the other way because of too much alcohol and bad food ;).

Due to being the only female or one of only a very few in a specific environment (kubb friendly, tournament, league, or just people playing) have you ever felt uncomfortable and/or felt like you didn't belong in that environment? No! I felt uncomfortable because of other things like everybody can play their own rules. But I never felt a difference because I'm a woman. When there was a problem with sexes I would not play anymore.

Has anyone ever made any comments to you that they would have not made to a male player or comments in general that you heard that has made you feel uncomfortable and/or questioned if you really wanted to be in that environment? I heard a stupid comment this year. We played the championships in a whole female team, played and lost in the round of 16. The adversary said after the game: "That we played very good even when we're women". This was so ridiculous that we decided to not take part at that shit next year ;).

For most of the people it is a fun game which you can play in the park and they are not interested to play in a competitive character. The sport at itself is a barrier.



WOMEN IN KUBB

A LOOK AT THE GENDER GAP

By: Eric Anderson - Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Nadine Beyeler at the 2015 Sprysse Cup 2015 in Basel, Switzerland
Photos: From all the players



In 2007, Emily and Kevin Connell won what was the first U.S. National Kubb Championship. Toasted Bagels finished second, and one of their three players was a female player. A female player played on a team that finished fourth in 2008. In 2009, Stephanie and Rob Miller won. Since then, no female player has stood on top of the podium. In fact, Bridget Long from the team The Kubbing Projekt was the first female player since 2009 to stand on the U.S. Championship podium, when her team finished in fourth place...in 2016. That is seven years.

There were 28 U.S. tournaments in 2016 where the top three teams (or players for singles competitions) are cataloged by Kubb United. Of those 28 tournaments, 12 of the possible 87 top three spots had a female player on the team (14%). Of the team tournaments, only one of the teams had more than one female (1%), and that was the all-girl, three-player team Kubbicorn in the U.S. Junior Kubb Championship. Of those 12 top-three spots, Emily Jipp had six. No other female player had more than one. We do not have all the statistics throughout Europe, but it is easy to see that there is a disproportionate number of men with high finishes in tournaments/leagues throughout the world. Why is that?

You don't need to follow kubb closely to know that women play absolutely huge roles in kubb. Bibbi Olsson is the director of the

World Championship and Towe Danielsson is the director of the Swedish Championship and the kubb leagues in Nybro (see our 2014 interview). The spring, fall, and winter 32-team Eau Claire Kubb League is directed by Bridget Long. The U.S. National Kubb Championship requires that their board be 2/5 and 3/5 for each gender. A quick look around U.S. and European clubs, and you will see that many of the tournaments are co-organized by both women and men club members. Women have and continue to play an enormous role in the growth of kubb as a game and sport.

When talking to people about what makes kubb so wonderful, the fact that both sexes can compete against each other equally is often brought up. At the core of the game, that is one of things that makes kubb so beautiful. There are not many competitive sports where males and females can compete equally, especially at the highest level. At the same time, kubb sport does require males and females to compete against each other, which is unique in the overwhelming number of sports when done at the highest levels. Even in sports like horseshoes and rolle bolle, men and women do not compete against each other in competition, so kubb is very, very unique in that aspect.

In talking with numerous females that do and do not play in tournaments and leagues that were not interviewed for the

WOMEN IN KUBB

A LOOK AT THE GENDER GAP

magazine, it seems like there are several different thoughts as why more males play in tournaments and disproportionately there are more males on the podiums. Common comments included men on average are naturally more competitive than women; time raising kids (especially young kids) disproportionately falls to women; as a whole, women have less time than men for recreational opportunities; if women are going to invest time into recreation, they tend to invest a good portion of it in recreation that is health related (cardio, yoga, weights, etc.); and some kubb activities end up being mostly or all male which might make some females feel uncomfortable and/or male discussions or male to female comments might keep some women away.

Overall, it is not close to 50/50 female/male in tournaments or leagues, but one can see more women playing in more tournaments and leagues than a few years ago. For example, the Eau Claire Kubb League has a spring, fall, and winter season. The spring and fall season both have a recreational division and competitive division. The Fall recreational division (12 teams) has roughly 50 percent female players. The Fall competitive division (20 teams) had six female players (less than 15 percent), and they were all on teams with their spouse. The kubb league in Nybro, Sweden has roughly 1/3 female participation and for tournaments about 40 percent. However, according to Director Towe Danielsson, the men are still disproportionately the better players in the Nybro League. It is probably pretty safe to say that this is extremely common throughout kubb sport.

So there are two questions, how can we still get more female players to play in kubb tournaments and leagues? Secondly, what can we do to get more females finishing higher in tournaments and leagues, after all, there are no physical advantages for men or women?

It is a very small case study, but in looking at what the future of the sport could be more like, one could look at the 2016 U.S. Junior Kubb Championship. In 2016, there were 24 teams in Kid Kubb (U.S. Junior Kubb Championship). Those 24 teams were split up into six groups of four teams. Four of the six group winners were all-girl teams and made the eight-team playoff. Two of those teams made it to the semifinals, and one finished first and the other fourth. Take a minute or more and



Mady Thor, Grit Thor, and Pauline Bauske

imagine if this was how the sport was at the adult level. What can we do to help foster that? What kind of catalysts are needed to make that happen?

One comment in the interviews that really stuck out was in reference to the drilling technique of inkasting kubbs. It is impossible for any team (female, male, or co-ed) to be highly competitive in tournaments/leagues if the team does not have an inkastare that can use the drill technique at least at a good level, if not a very good level. In talking to some people about this, and there are similar comments in the 12 interviews, comments included on average more men than women have more time to devote to practicing the drill technique. Also, some viewed the inkastares position as often being more of a captain position, and that might be more often a male on a co-ed team. So even if a female has time to practice it, she might have difficulty becoming the inkastare on a team and hone the skills in competition. Is there a solution somewhere for this?

Recreational and competitive kubb has exploded over the past two decades. The number of teams that are at a good, great, elite, and world-class level has substantially increased. World-class players and teams are playing in several different countries. With that, the time and dedication needed to get to be at a level to finish on a podium for players and teams increases. This is great for the level of the sport, but at the same time, it might further limit disproportionately more female players, who among other things mentioned in the interviews, don't have as much recreational time to invest in improving. As we continue to move forward, let's hope more females enter kubb tournaments and leagues that the game becomes more inclusive at the top of tournaments, and not stay the same or decrease. Perhaps the answers from the 12 players can help start more discussion and can help us make the sport of kubb more inclusive at the top levels.



The four all-girl teams that won four of the six groups at Kid Kubb 2016.
Photo: Kelly Murray



MASTERING KUBB



MASTERING KUBB

A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK INSIDE THE SPORT OF KUBB

By: *Phi Dickinson - Alanson, Michigan*

In July 2005, I was selling my wooden toys and swings at a craft show in Charlevoix, Michigan. A man walked up to me with a big smile on his face. He said I needed to make this game called kubb. I could find

it on the internet and it would go perfectly with my other games. He told me his daughter was a star softball pitcher and when she threw batons at kubbs—similar to pitching a softball at a mitt—she hardly missed. No one could beat her. I went home that night and did some research. What I discovered was not only a fun game to make, but a fascinating one to play. Only a few people in the country were making them at the time commercially. Back then I made a lot of sets for friends and families. For years we played behind rope baselines with the rules that kubbs could be stacked, twice down and the kubb was out of play, and helicopters were the preferred (and encouraged!) method of tossing. And for some reason my relatives thought I invented the game! They were sure disappointed when I told them otherwise.

For years I had a desire to see my favorite game being played at a tournament level somewhere, but I could never find the time to go see one. I was fascinated by the attendance and excitement of the U.S. National Kubb Championship. I needed to understand the rule differences in our games (Huh? What do you mean kubbs are always in play?). So in 2014 I went as a spectator. That event not only changed the game for me, it changed my life.

Now I had to know everything about this game.

I had to be better than I was yesterday.

And I had to live the worldwide slogan: Kubb Unites People and Creates Peace on Earth.

So in 2014 I went as a spectator. That event not only changed the game for me, it changed my life.

Now I had to know everything about this game.

That's how it all started. And for me it has been all consuming. Ask anyone who knows me. They'll tell you I'm a kubb fanatic (my wife, Stormy, for one; so glad she supports my dreams!). It truly has become a daily passion. But I soon realized I had a dilemma. How do I keep track of all the information that was flooding in about every aspect of the game? I soon realized a book of kubbology had to be written to preserve the vast pool of knowledge out there.

For two years I lived the book. I kept a small notebook in my pocket and scribbled down ideas. As I drove down the highway, I put sticky notes on my dashboard. I sent emails to myself. I snapped pictures of play-by-play scenarios on my phone. I watched YouTube videos, read kubb blogs, and participated in chat rooms. I interviewed the kubb pros and asked about their secrets. I befriended anyone I could on Facebook who had the same passion and commitment that I did so I could learn

For two years I lived the book. I kept a small notebook in my pocket and scribbled down ideas. As I drove down the highway, I put sticky notes on my dashboard. I sent emails to myself. I snapped pictures of play-by-play scenarios on my phone.

even more. After attending the Nationals in 2014, I started the Great Lakes Kubb Club and hosted the Great Lakes Kubb Championship later that fall. Two years later I was hosting the Michigan 1v1 and the Great Lakes Kidd Kubb Championship.

But there's still more to know about this game.

I will be better than I was yesterday.



MASTERING KUBB

A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK INSIDE THE SPORT OF KUBB

And I will help kubb unite people and create peace on Earth.

After two years of research, practices, and competitions, *Mastering Kubb* was finally released at the U.S. National Kubb Championship on July 9, 2016. It's hard to believe it's more over 200 pages long. But that's the beauty of the sport; so many facets, nuances, and subtleties that make it multidimensional—unlike many other yard games that only require you to hit a stake, throw a bag in a hole, or pitch a washer in a box. For anyone willing to work at it, little improvements in the game can make a huge difference in success or failure. Every moment is unique and challenging. Every round is different. And there are no boundaries for age or gender. It's anyone's game to beat—as long as you are willing to put in the time and learn.

What is in *Mastering Kubb*? When you read it, I hope it makes you feel like we are hanging out together on a warm summer day with our favorite drink in hand and talking kubb. I share my experiences with different aspects of the game. My ideas are certainly my own opinion, but I want you to consider them because I want you to get better too.

That will only improve the game for everyone.

Much of the book was “written” before me. Those pioneers of the sport, both in the United States and abroad, who have mastered the concepts and shared their ideas, deserve all the credit. I could not have written this book without their expertise and commitment. This book was truly built on the shoulders of giants.

So, what are you going to find in the book? There are 14 chapters that include a history of the sport, rules, strategies, terminology (official and slang), teamwork concepts, the psychological game, practice drills, kubb tournaments around the world, and personal stories from players in nine different countries. To give you a better idea of what you'll find inside, here are some excerpts from a few selected chapters:

CHAPTER 1: RHYMES WITH TUBE: Kubb has given me a new outlook on life. Years ago I had given up sports altogether due to other priorities, primarily with family. Although kubb doesn't give me the same aerobic exercise and sustained heart rate as running or basketball, it still keeps

11th Annual U.S. National Kubb Championship

Eau Claire, WI

Team Draw/Pre-Championship-June 24/25 Kid Kubb, Ladies Inkasting Clinic, Friendlies, Pre-Kubb Party-July 7
U.S. Championship-July 8/9

Registration opens April 01. - 128 Team limit. - All skill levels and experience welcome. - Final 16 teams return Sunday.

USAKUBB.ORG



EIGHT METER FEVER

MASTERING KUBB

A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK INSIDE THE SPORT OF KUBB

me limber and energized. If nothing else, it helps strengthen my lower back with all that bending over to pick up wood (and yes, I admit, I do kick the batons and kubbs into a pile at times to reduce how often I have to bend over!). Kubb has given me a new favorite pastime, one that I can have fun playing while at the same time challenging myself.

CHAPTER 6: BLASTING. Okay, I have one baton left and I have to slay the king. The pressure is on. It's only 4 meters away, right? Toppling it seals an immediate victory; missing it means the other team has a chance to win. This is the least forgivable shot in the game. When I miss, it lingers on my mind. I lose sleep over it. So what do I do to reduce the chance of missing? First, I find my position behind the baseline about a meter to the right of center (or to the left if you are left-handed). At this angle I know I have more wood on the king (1¼ inch) than a straight on shot. I might do some baton flips. I stand with my right foot planted behind the baseline and my left foot trailing. I make sure my center of gravity feels right. I lean forward slightly. I lift my arm and point the baton at the king. When I look down my arm I should see the king lined up perfectly with my thumb. I lower my arm and toss the baton in an aggressive manner (no room for timidity here), making sure I follow through smoothly with my shot. The important thing is to treat the throw like it is one big kubb you're hitting. It's great to see the king fly backwards a meter or more (that definitive game closer)! Although it never happens, I like to think I can drive the king backwards 4 meters and lay it on the sandals of my opponents with the baton stuck in his throat.

CHAPTER 8: TEAMWORK. One time I got paired up with someone I had never played with before. The problem is we had no time to work out anything ahead of time. Who would inkast? Who would throw at what distance? What did we expect from each other as teammates? Without these answers, we just winged it. We played. We encouraged each other. We had fun. When we were done, he said, "It feels comfortable on the line with you." This was a compliment and I returned it. "Comfortable" was his way of saying that I met his needs as a partner. My words and body language were supportive and allowed him to do his best throughout the game.

CHAPTER 9: THE PSYCHOLOGICAL GAME: Remember: you are your own coach. You have to find ways to stay confident and energized. Your teammates will hopefully help, but it's your brain. You have to make it work. Sports psychology coach Jim Afremow describes it as "strive to

master your mind rather than being mastered by it."...There is nothing that will help your mental game more than preparing yourself adequately for the event. If you don't put the time in, you've shortchanged both your body's preparedness and your mental confidence...The night before the tournament, be content knowing you've put the time in beforehand. You know you could have practiced more, but you did your best to prepare given your schedule and life's demands. And when it's all said and done, you can look back with no regrets.

CHAPTER 14: KUBB AROUND THE WORLD. (This story comes to me from Nick Keeling, Melbourne, Australia, lead singer in the award winning bluegrass band, Mustered Courage): "We started playing a few years ago. I was introduced to it at a friend's birthday party. Then my band mate mentioned playing as well and that he was going to make his own set. We started playing in the park, learning the proper rules as we went. We started practicing techniques and drilling kubbs and the game went from the whole field of play focused on just the inner corners and we tried to emulate the pro strategies. Since it's so portable we were able to bring the game on the road with us. In a touring band, we travel a lot and introduced Kubb to many other musician friends in the Australian folk music scene across the country.

Mastering Kubb has been a labor of love. But it's not over. It's hard to believe I'm still writing sticking notes and sending emails to myself, but it's true. I'm still improving and learning new ideas as I practice, compete, and talk kubb with old and new friends alike.

Then we found a local kubb group in our home town of Melbourne and got together with them for an afternoon of what I like to call 'throwing sticks & other sticks.' Playing kubb in public always creates a fair amount of interest from passersby and that's the easiest way to explain it in a single

phrase. The kubb group was made up of mostly Swedish expats showing their new Aussie friends the game while relieving some homesickness. Our measuring of the field was the first thing that got us laughed at. After we started drilling the kubbs, we were looked at as if we had brought a bazooka to a kid's piñata party. We tour the USA with the band every year and would one day love to play some serious kubb."

Mastering Kubb has been a labor of love. But it's not over. It's hard to believe I'm still writing sticking notes and sending emails to myself, but it's true. I'm still improving and learning new ideas as I practice, compete, and talk kubb with old and new friends alike. And there will be a second edition some day. What will it include? It's going to be a deeper dive into Kubology: advanced strategies, new practice drills, teamwork concepts, slang and jargon, rule changes, and more personal stories. Look for it in the Fall 2018 after I compete at the World Kubb Championship in Gotland. I can't wait.

How do you get a copy? Amazon.com, Lulu.com, or if you live in the States, message me on Facebook and I'll send you a signed copy. Be glad to. Kubb on!



Dee Dee Halvorson

Kasson, Minnesota USA

Kubb Nerds and Lady Kubb Nerds

How long have you been playing? 5 years
How long have you played in tournaments/leagues? 4 years

How were you introduced to kubb? Someone at work recommended it so we googled it and built a set.

What are your favorite things about kubb? The kubb community, it's easy to learn, almost anyone can play it.

What interested you in playing in tournaments/leagues? Playing against different people, seeing if my skills are getting better.

In tournaments/leagues, the majority of players and teams are still male. How can we get more females to play in tournaments/leagues? I think as women see and hear about more woman teams they will start to join in.

Disproportionately (at least in the U.S), many females in tournaments play with their significant other. Males on the other hand, most are playing with friends. What are your thoughts about that? How can we get more all-female teams or females playing with non-significant others? For Jason and I we travel as a couple, I guess we never thought of not playing as a team (except Nationals... he is on an all male team and I am on an all female team.) I think we'd enjoy competing against each other, we'll have to give that a try in 2017. Anyone looking for teammates??

Very few podium spots have had females on them and/or very few females compete on high-level teams. How do we change that? I think it's a matter of dedication. In order to make it to the podium they have to be willing to put the time in for practice etc. Not really anything we can do.

What do you see as existing barriers to getting more females playing kubb? Time?? Not to say men aren't pressed for time too. Just that for the younger women I know they just don't have time to dedicate to practice and tournaments (kids and work). Plus it all depends on a person dedication and how competitive they are...if there is a desire they will find a way. WHY they don't desire it – I have no idea.

Due to being the only female or one of only a very few in a specific environment (kubb friendly, tournament, league, or just people playing) have you ever felt uncomfortable and/or felt like you didn't belong in that environment? Never. I don't know that it has never happened, but I've enjoyed playing kubb everywhere I've been.

Has anyone ever made any comments to you that they would have not made to a male player or comments in general that you heard that has made you feel uncomfortable and/or questioned if you really wanted to be in that environment. No. In fact I think a lot of the male players would like to see more women players advance.

For Jason and I we travel as a couple, I guess we never thought of not playing as a team (except Nationals... he is on an all male team and I am on an all female team.) I think we'd enjoy competing against each other, we'll have to give that a try in 2017. Anyone looking for teammates??



PÜSSELBÜRENER KUBB

THE HISTORY BEHIND A 6-PERSON TOURNAMENT IN GERMANY

By: Uwe Kümper - Ibbenbüren, Germany



The history of the Püsselbürener KUBB-Spiele in Püsselbüren, a small part of the city of Ibbenbüren, 50 km north of Münster is quite amazing. Since 2005, hundreds of players have met for the Püsselbürener KUBB-Spiele tournament on the last Sunday before the summer holidays (in North Rhine-Westphalia).

At the initiative of Uwe Kümper, an organizational team was formed in 2005, to which Hans-Gerd Brüning, Peter Menger and Thomas Rode belong. In the same year, the first kubb tournament with 16 teams (minimum three-player teams) was held with the goal of making kubb more popular in Germany. From the beginning, family friendliness was very important to the organizers. The prices for food and drinks are very low, and it is located on the grounds of the Escher Sportpark. Children can play in the playground, football, or beach volleyball. The Püsselbürener KUBB-Spiele found great positive feedback, so that in 2006 the second edition followed. It was planned to carry out the tournament with 32 teams.

Since, the kubbwave had been swept over Püsselbüren and the surrounding area since the first tournament, more than the planned 32 teams signed up within one month. This led the organizational team to increase the number of participants to 40 teams. The kubb virus spread more and more! After this tournament, we increased the team size to six-player teams.

When, after 14 hours, the participant field for the 3rd Püsselbürener KUBB-Spiele was filled with 40 teams of six players and in the evening of the same day a total of 48 entries, the club opted for a further increase to 50 Teams. Despite great interest there should be no further increase of the participant field in order to preserve the family character of the tournament. In the following years, the coveted places for the tournament were usually given within a few hours. The

Püsselbürener KUBB-Spiele tournament is now known in the kubb scene all over Germany. Besides teams from the surrounding area, teams also from Karlsruhe, Leipzig and Berlin attend. In 2015 the Püsselbürener KUBB-Spiele celebrated their 10th anniversary.

This took the organizational team to change the tournament format. The number of participants has been reduced from 50 to 40 teams. At the same time, a consolation bracket has been introduced so that all teams have more games during the tournament. This year the Püsselbürener KUBB-Spiele will be held for the 13th time. Many teams are already looking forward to the release of the registration form, in order to be on the 9th of July with the family-friendly kubb tournament. Then it is again for kubb players of all generations...kubb again!

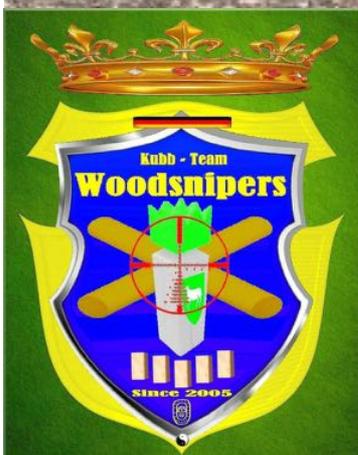
www.kubb-spiele.de/



Woodsnipers

A Decade Old Family Team

By: Daniel Mol - Schöppingen, Germany



The team Woodsnipers have officially been playing kubb in Germany since 2007. However, kubb found Daniel Mol before that. Daniel and his wife Kathrin were introduced to kubb while on vacation in The Netherlands in 2005 from Daniel's aunt and uncle. His aunt and uncle had brought the

game back home from Sweden. From there, as Daniel says, they got the kubb fever, a decade-long family team was born, and kubb is a huge part of their lives.

The team is headquartered out of Schöppingen, Germany and comprises of Daniel and Kathrin, their son and daughter, Daniel's parents (Daniel's dad was born in The Netherlands) and sister, brother-in-law, and friends from both Germany and The Netherlands. The first tournament they played in was the 2006 Open NK Kubb (The Netherlands National Championship), which they won in 2011, 2015, and 2016. After 2011, the NK altered the rules so only teams from The Netherlands can play, however, Woodsnipers had a wild card to enter up to 2016. Starting in 2017, they will form a new team to compete in the NK, and the team will be comprised of four Dutch players and three German players. The team will be called Amstel KUBB United.



Over the past decade, they have played in dozens of tournaments. At the same time, they have invited other players to play on their team and themselves had the opportunity to play on other teams. Players from teams like Gipfelstürmer, Kubbles, Hemelrijk usw have played on their team and they have played on teams like Blokkie Om, King Killers, and Kubbles. In 2015, two players played in the World Championship with Astra la Vista. They finished in 20th place of 174 teams.

For Woodsnipers, the best part of the game is the sociability, everyone can play (young/old and female/male), and the magnificent sportsmanship. Due to their love of the sport, they started the Westmünsterland KUBB Challenge tournament in 2011. The tournament requires at least three players on a team, and it is held in either July or August.

www.woodsnipers.de facebook.com/woodsnipers

Chantal van Dijk Nijeveen, The Netherlands Kubbelientjes

How long have you been playing? 5 years
How long have you played in tournaments/leagues? 1 year



How were you introduced to kubb? Since I was working at the place where they organize the tournaments. That was about 7 years ago that I started working there.

What are your favorite things about kubb? When you play it, it feels like a nice sport with friends. No rush or something just playing nice and friendly. That's what I like the most about it.

What interested you in playing in tournaments/leagues? I just saw that the teams had so much fun. I wanted to have that as well.

Disproportionately (at least in the U.S), many females in tournaments play with their significant other. Males on the other hand, most are playing with friends. What are your thoughts about that? How can we get more all-female teams or females playing with non-significant others? I think that it is more important to play with friends than to play with an significant other. The game is about fun as well and with who can you have more fun than with your friends? So I think it's nice to play kubb with friends. Maybe you can organize a male tournament and a female tournament on the same day for a few years and put it together when there are more female teams. Maybe let them see more pictures about just women teams so other females will feel more welcome. For example put a collage on Facebook with female teams or in a magazine.

Very few podium spots have had females on them and/or very few females compete on high-level teams. How do we change that? Give a training for females where they can practice kubb and give them some tips how they can do it better.

What do you see as existing barriers to getting more females playing kubb? I don't see a barrier for females to play kubb actually. Maybe they see it as a male sport, then you have to change their view on the game.

Due to being the only female or one of only a very few in a specific environment (kubb friendly, tournament, league, or just people playing) have you ever felt uncomfortable and/or felt like you didn't belong in that environment? No, not at all. The sport is very friendly. It doesn't matter if you are a male or a female. The males just often think that they are better. How nice is it then to win from them.

Has anyone ever made any comments to you that they would have not made to a male player or comments in general that you heard that has made you feel uncomfortable and/or questioned if you really wanted to be in that environment? No everyone accepts who you are.

The sport is very friendly. It doesn't matter if you are a male or a female. The males just often think that they are better. How nice is it then to win from them.



Mary Tapken

Des Moines, Iowa USA

I've been on many different teams. Including (but not limited to) The Beers, Kubbacca, Six Pack, R2-Kubb 2, Appetite for Kubbstruction.

How long have you been playing? 8 years
How long have you played in tournaments/leagues? 8 years

How were you introduced to kubb? Chris Hodges.

What are your favorite things about kubb? The strategy and skill.

What interested you in playing in tournaments/leagues? In Des Moines we all learned together. Chris found this 'crazy' yard game online. He made a set to play at a birthday party. It was organic how we started playing more and more on weekends then having tournaments in backyards for the first couple years. Then we found out about Nationals and thought it would be fun to go as a big group.

In tournaments/leagues, the majority of players and teams are still male. How can we get more females to play in tournaments/leagues? Possibly have an introductory to kubb female only event. And then encourage participants to practice and keep playing. I would limit female only events to beginners to get to know the game and gain confidence. A great aspect of kubb is there are situations for different skills and a skills diverse team is successful.

Disproportionately (at least in the U.S), many females in tournaments play with their significant other. Males on the other hand, most are playing with friends. What are your thoughts about that? I think it is great that couples play together. How can we get more all-female teams or females playing with non-significant others? This is difficult for me to answer, in my kubb experience I've played on a variety of teams that included friends, my husband, all female. I've never joined or formed a team based on the male/female aspect but more with the intent of having fun. If I'm going to spend money and my time to register and travel I want to have a good time and placing well in a tournament that's the cherry on top. I will do the best I can but big picture? Kubb is a game.

Very few podium spots have had females on them and/or very few females compete on high-level teams. How do we change that? I think that's just where we are at, unfortunately. I'm not sure how to change it. A couple of years ago I wouldn't have anticipated the multiple city super teams. No matter your gender, if you put in the time to practice like the top players have you will get to the podium. From what I've seen in kubb over the past eight years all over the Midwest, if a direction is forced whether it be more structured rules, limitations on throws, or restrictive play; drama follows and overall interest in the game is decreased. Growth should be organic.

What do you see as existing barriers to getting more females playing kubb? I don't see any. From a Des Moines kubb perspective we have a lot of female involvement. We always have, I think that is because how we grew as a club.

Due to being the only female or one of only a very few in a specific environment (kubb friendly, tournament, league, or just people playing) have you ever felt uncomfortable and/or felt like you didn't belong in that environment? Never. It has been wonderful to meet players from other clubs and seeing them time and again at tournaments. In a short time we developed strong bonds over kubb and sometimes bloody marys and beer.

Has anyone ever made any comments to you that they would have not made to a male player or comments in general that you heard that has made you feel uncomfortable and/or questioned if you really wanted to be in that environment. Never. But let's be honest, it takes a lot to offend me and I can get a bit mouthy. So maybe we should ask if I've offended other players. That's the more likely scenario.

Possibly have an introductory to kubb female only event. And then encourage participants to practice and keep playing. I would limit female only events to beginners to get to know the game and gain confidence.





NORMAN'S ALL-STARS

BUILDING KUBB IN MILWAUKEE AND BEYOND

By: John Kellerman - Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

Photos: Norman's All-Stars

Norman's All-Stars Kubb Club

"Hey, that's Eric Anderson!" I shouted to my wife as we were out for a family hike in Northern Wisconsin in early August. "What are you talking about?" my wife replied with a look of confusion.

Needless to say, I was equal parts excited to see the godfather of kubb and disappointed with my wife for not recognizing him. As I ran down to the edge of the rushing river yelling his name, I quickly realized that I needed to calm myself down unless I wanted Eric to think I was a crazy stalker. When I finally made my way down to introduce myself to him, I was immediately impressed by his genuine nature. He stood there listening intently as I rambled on, and on, and on about kubb and Norman's All-Stars.

When Eric reached out to us for a feature article in KubbNation Magazine I was ecstatic for the chance to write about our club and further connect with the kubb community.

Thanks Eric, and I hope you all enjoy our story!

Local Roots

The first game of kubb played by our local group took place in July of 2007. Laura Kellerman, cousin of NA's founder John Kellerman, brought the game from Montana

to John and Deanna Kellerman's wedding rehearsal and it became an instant sensation. For years the game has been played at nearly every social function and has served as way to unify groups and foster good times. However, it wasn't until tragedy struck that the game took on a new meaning for us all.

January 2nd, 2013 will forever be ingrained in our hearts and minds as the day we lost our dear friend, Sam Henke, as he was called home to eternal life with his Heavenly Father. Before this date, the group now known as Norman's All-Stars were merely casual acquaintances, with only their friendship with Sam and passion for kubb in common. As each of us struggled with the loss, the game helped bring us closer together.

At the funeral we promised each other to play in the U.S. National Kubb Championship to honor Sam's life. We had high expectations for the event, and although we finished in a disappointing tie for 44th, none of us could have imagined the bond it would help to form. From that weekend on, we became Norman's All-Stars, a group dedicated to making a difference and having a good time.

The first Championship field included 42 competitors playing on 13 teams, with a total of 23 players participating in their first kubb event.

The Kubb Championship - Presented by Norman's All-Stars

In 2014, a pregnancy epidemic amongst the Norman's All-Stars wives forced the team to withdraw

NORMAN'S ALL-STARS

BUILDING KUBB IN MILWAUKEE AND BEYOND



from Nationals. The dream of besting their 44th place finish faded into the horizon, and for the first time, the future of the club seemed bleak. In an effort to salvage the year, it was decided that Norman's All-Stars would organize a local championship with the intention of growing the sport at a local level.

Our tournament is unique and truly local in almost every sense of the word. Played in backyards of city lots just outside of Milwaukee, competitors supply potluck meals for each other as they sip on local brews. Each tournament set is handcrafted of local hardwoods and constructed in Pastor Dave's Workshop. Competitors arrive early for our Bloody Mary Bar and keep the party going until the wee hours of the morning.

The first Championship field included 42 competitors playing on 13 teams, with a total of 23 players participating in their first kubb event. The field has continued to grow as this year's tournament consisted of 63 competitors from 22 teams. In addition to attracting new kubbers, the event has also produced some high level competitors. Our 2015 Champions, Wisconsin Lift Kubb, made a strong showing at 2016 National Championship in Eau Claire, WI. This team features Derek Berger, Alan Gardebrecht, and Jeff Merryfield who is widely regarded as tournament's top talent. The team tied for 17th place and was knocked out of the tournament by the eventual champions, Damage Incorporated.

In addition to continuously increasing participation and throwing the best Kubb Party in America, Norman's All-Stars has sought to make a positive impact in our local community. Through the generosity of our sponsors and participants, we were able to donate \$1,600 to a local family who was coping with the recent loss of their teenage son.

Our Continued Vision

We love to have a good time and we take pride in helping others. Our hope is to continue connecting people to having a great time playing kubb while benefiting great causes. Currently, we are seeking to form partnerships with local businesses and organizations who share our passion for building community; and we are constantly looking for unique ways to spread the game. Most recently, we've partnered with

a local brewery and have been working to make #Kubbshots the next viral phenomenon.

Big Head Brewing Partnership

Most recently, we have partnered with Big Head Brewing Company in Wauwatosa, WI. Thanks to their support and generosity, we will be forming an Indoor Kubb League and hosting indoor tournaments at the Brewery beginning in the Winter of 2017.

#Kubbshots

Join us on our quest to spread the word of kubb while connecting with players around the world. Simply take a kubb block and baton and video record yourself knocking down a trick shot, then post to Twitter or Instagram using hashtag #kubbshots. Challenge friends and competitors to see who can hit the most impressive shots, then post your conquest using #kubbshots.

Contact Us

Norman's All-Stars is the premier Kubb Club of Metro Milwaukee dedicated to having a good time and benefiting great causes. The club is organized by a six member board of directors: John Kellerman, Greg Beyer, Nick Beyer, Chris Beyer, Kurt Shapekahn, and Jeff Terek. For more information or to contact us, please visit kubbshop.com



Grit Thor

Berlin, Germany

My own team is called "ein Thor kommt selten allein" (with my sister Mady & my best friend Pauline) nearly translated "a Thor rarely comes alone"; but as well often in the team "Durstiges Holz Berlin"

How long have you been playing? 10 years
How long have you played in tournaments/leagues? 2 years



How were you introduced to kubb? Ten years ago I played kubb for the first time at a friend's birthday party. Since this year, we played kubb every year on his birthday, but always for fun. In April 2015, I was asked if I could help out for a tournament in a team of good friends. Since this tournament I was addicted by playing kubb.

What are your favorite things about kubb? The possibility of competitions and tournaments. We can play outside and it's for every age; you can play with friends or your family. It is nice to have wood in one hand and a beer in the other.

What interested you in playing in tournaments/leagues? An important fact is to meet new people and older friends again. It is also nice to be in competition with each other. You improve your skills faster while watching other players.

In tournaments/leagues, the majority of players and teams are still male. How can we get more females to play in tournaments/leagues?

That's a good question. Many people still think that men are generally better than women. This prejudice should be removed. For this, it should be organized more tournaments, in which women and men have to play together. With success the women become more ambitious and also better skills. They also tell their friends of kubb. The desire to play with a woman in the team should be awakened by the men. Perhaps you could also lure women with extras, like no entrance fee, free wine, or something like this.

Disproportionately (at least in the U.S), many females in tournaments play with their significant other. Males on the other hand, most are playing with friends. What are your thoughts about that? How can we get more all-female teams or females playing with non-significant others? I prefer to play with significant others or in male teams. I think it is not necessary to change that because it is a motivation for both to play with each other.

Very few podium spots have had females on them and/or very few females compete on high-level teams. How do we change that?

In Germany women were often on the podium this year. Although always together with one or more men, but this way also women won their first tournaments. So I also won a tournament with a friend this season and in many tournaments women were either in the first place or at least on the podium. Meanwhile the men want to play with women more and more often. In the U.S. you can change this by organizing tournaments where women and men have to play together.

What do you see as existing barriers to getting more females playing kubb? Women are worse in throwing sports than men because of evolution. They have to train a lot more to get better. That's why many women may not be interested in kubb.

Due to being the only female or one of only a very few in a specific environment (kubb friendly, tournament, league, or just people playing) have you ever felt uncomfortable and/or felt like you didn't belong in that environment? No, on the contrary. Most men look forward to the women in kubb sport. With women's success, we also get more respect and appreciation from the male players.

Has anyone ever made any comments to you that they would have not made to a male player or comments in general that you heard that has made you feel uncomfortable and/or questioned if you really wanted to be in that environment? Oh yes. At one tournament we played in a women team against a men team. One of our opponents said after the brief defeat that we were quite good for a women team. This I felt as an insult, because we were not really worse. We were only seen as worse players because of our gender. In general we are often praised that we are quite good for the females.

Many people still think that men are generally better than women. This prejudice should be removed.





UK KUBB

A Chip Off The Old Block

By: David Woodward - Southampton, England

Photos: UK Kubb

Although it is still a niche game in the UK, you may not know that there has been an annual championship running without a break for twelve years. This is, by some distance, the largest kubb tournament in the UK. Now known as the "UK Kubb Championship" and in its second year under the new management of Dave Woodward and Glenn Broadway, the event had humble beginnings. As Neil Wilson, the co-founder of the Championship remembers...

"I stumbled on kubb one summer holiday. I bought a set, and played a game with my boules-fiend friend Ian Middleton. After that first game in 2004, we were both hooked. We decided to set ourselves up as the de facto official guardians of UK based kubb playing, achieved by setting up a website, promoting myself to Chairman of the Association and Ian to Managing Director and pulling together a simple constitution.

Within a few weeks, Ian had arranged the Kubb Hertford Open tournament. There were only eight teams in that inaugural event, competing for Ian's expensive shop-bought trophy and my bread-board for the runners up. The event was a great success and showed that, if we were to put more effort into it, we could actually get something going. The following May, I managed to bully approximately 60 friends to spend a rainy afternoon in the garden of the Station Inn, Hallatrow.

This larger event was also successful, so we repeated the format the following year. In the meantime, I attained my 15 minutes of fame by getting interviewed by BBC Radio 2 presenter Chris Evans (of recent Top Gear infamy) for his radio show. I had also started eyeing up a significantly larger venue at the New Inn, Farmborough but initially dismissed it as being far too large.

However, we made the move the following year and the annual tournaments carried on pretty much unchanged for ten years – approximately 32 teams in a Swiss Ladder format, comprising 50% new players and 50% old friends and regulars. Unsurprisingly, most of our teams are from the UK, but we did get the occasional foreign visitor.

A team of German visitors created a massive stir, being both delightful and very, very skillful. They won easily that year and there was much concern that they would return the following year. As it happened, they did not but were replaced by a Swedish team that was even more delightful and also wiped the floor with us.

There have been other memorable moments and it's been a lot of fun, but after ten years in charge I am quite happy to be handing over the reins to Dave and Glenn to run from here on."

Dave Woodward's involvement started on vacation on a windy hillside in Cornwall.

"While walking my dog I saw a tall blonde man playing a skittles type game with his kids. I watched for a few minutes and decided to ask about the game on the way back. Unfortunately, they had already left by that stage, so I resorted to googling "wooden skittles type game". It turned out to be pretty effective, and I ordered a kubb set to get to me for the second week of the vacation.

You will know that the game seems to capture the curiosity of anyone that sees it being played. Even in that first week on the beach, we had a dozen or so people ask what we were doing. (Glenn has since created an excellent set of business cards with an answer to the question



UK KUBB

A Chip Off The Old Block

“What IS that game you’re playing?” to help direct potential players to our web site). We brought our set back, showed it to a few people and started to gather together a wider group of enthusiasts. During the following winter I discovered Neil’s website and agreed with Glenn and another friend, Mark, to enter the competition the following summer.

A spring of “training” followed with the kubb set being brought out at every BBQ, beach trip or any other opportunity. Glenn designed the essential t-shirts, and we set out for a meeting with kubb destiny.

A spring of “training” followed with the kubb set being brought out at every BBQ, beach trip or any other opportunity. Glenn designed the essential t-shirts, and we set out for a meeting with kubb destiny.

Our team, “Game of Throws”, did not do spectacularly well in 2015, but in conversation with Neil, we picked up his wish to cease organising and to play more. By that stage, we were highly enthusiastic about spreading the word of kubb so we pretty much snatched it out of Neil’s hands.

Glenn’s background in graphic design helped sort out a new look for the UKKubb.org website and we spent the winter making a set of ten magnificent new kubb sets emblazoned with the UK flag. Eric and the rest of the US National Championship team were generous with their time and their resources as we found our feet and set up a UK identity. We can’t thank them enough.

All of this effort paid off when, on 9th July 2016, we organised our first event under the new UK Kubb Championship banner. We have a lot of the same faces that have been coming to the event since Neil’s early days, but now have people from all over the country making significant pilgrimages to join us in Farmborough.

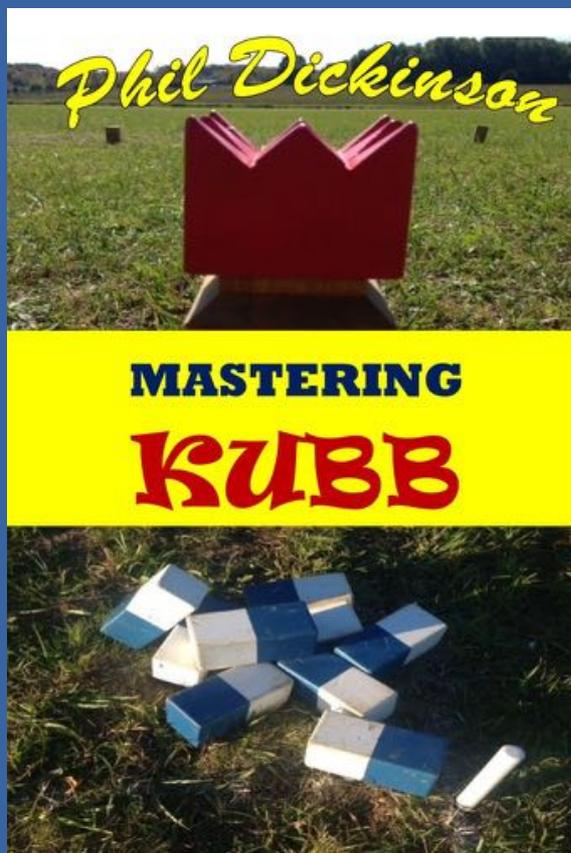
Definitely a little stressful that first time, but we have met some fantastic people, made a bunch of new friends, and we look forward to growing the Championship over the next few years.

What’s in plan? The UK Kubb Championship’s ambitions are a little smaller scale than those of the US National event, but we’d like to cement the reputation of the game and to bring it to more and more people across the country. That will mean we outgrow the current

venue at some point, but we look forward to that challenge when it comes. We have been looking at variations of format, and we may well seek to adopt the DMK Klassic format in the future because we sometimes run into scheduling issues that the DMK Klassic format might well remove. One thing we have learned is that there is a lot of knowledgeable people out there very willing to help!

Between annual events, Glenn, who teaches I.T. at a school in Hampshire, has been setting up regular kubb sessions for the pupils. That seems to be incredibly popular, and there surely can’t be a better way to introduce the game to families in the area. Meanwhile the UKKbb.org website, Facebook page and Twitter accounts continue keep UK Kubbers informed of news of the main championship event, of smaller events held across the country and of any other kubb news that the organisers come across.

So yes, it’s still small part of the recreation scene in the UK, but it’s growing quickly and UKKubb.org and its organisers are delighted to be part of that journey.



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Heidi Schwarzenbart Lodi, Wisconsin USA Rhymes with Tube, Roaster's Toasters

How long have you been playing? 6 years
How long have you played in tournaments/leagues? 6 years



How were you introduced to kubb? At a friend's Fourth of July picnic. I played one game that day and thought it was fun. My friend, Dave Giese, saw there was a tournament coming up at my favorite Wisconsin brewery and he said we should think about entering - it was open to anyone. So we came up with a great team name, I made up some team sweatshirts, and we were on our way to Dallas WI.

What are your favorite things about kubb? I've made great friends through kubb and I always look forward to getting together with them.

In tournaments/leagues, the majority of players and teams are still male. How can we get more females to play in tournaments/leagues ?
I think the key is drilling.:

- For co-ed teams, men have to get interested in having women drill and women have to get interested in learning to drill.
- As a solo player, I am a terrible driller, so it would be pointless for me to enter a 1-v-1 tournament, which is a place where your skills can be showcased and where interest in you as a potential teammate can be formed.
- In terms of forming my own team - I can't form a team of new people, because there'd be no one to drill. It can be too frustrating to play with bad drilling when all the other teams you're competing against are so good. And I know it can be frustrating for good teams to play against a team with bad drilling. Learning to drill gives you more options and more opportunities to play and be competitive.

Secondly, I think that there need to be more tournaments like Kettle Moraine Kubb's "Kubb on the Beach" tournament, which is a mixer format. It gets people who might not know each other, or maybe never considered playing together to mix it up. I think a person can take away a lot from a tournament with that design.

If men are interested in seeing more women on the podiums, men need to reach out more to women and show an interest in partnering with them and working with them - especially where drilling is concerned. And men shouldn't have a problem taking women seriously as competitors and teammates. One of the great things about kubb is that people of any age and almost any physical type can play it and be good at it. But no woman is going to put in the time and effort to be good at the sport, if they're not given the same consideration right from the beginning that male players give to each other.

If men are interested in seeing more women on the podiums, men need to reach out more to women and show an interest in partnering with them and working with them - especially where drilling is concerned. And men shouldn't have a problem taking women seriously as competitors and teammates.



KCUA

INTRODUCING KCUA AND THE LARGEST 3-PERSON TOURNAMENT IN EUROPE



Photos: KCUA

The Kubb Club unteres Aaretal (KCUA) was founded in 2012, to bring the people from our area closer together and work for a common goal: to create the best kubb tournament in the world.

Most of its members were born and raised in the area called “unteres Aaretal”, hence the name. Well before the idea of a club came up, most of us already played kubb. At this time there were around 10 tournaments in Switzerland and our intention was to raise money to create, what we believe, is one of the world’s best kubb tournaments.

Today, the KCUA is the biggest kubb club in Switzerland. More than 60 members help to turn the KCUA Cup into a bigger festival each year. We meet once a year for our general assembly. Each member is invited to contribute and discuss the latest and most important features for the upcoming tournament.

By now, not only residents of the “unteres Aaretal” are members of our club, but people from all over the Swiss kubb community, even some guys from Germany, want to participate, making the KCUA more than just a club. Also from the sporting perspective we can say that the KCUA found its place in the Swiss kubb elite. We won more than 10 tournaments this year, including the Swiss Kubb Championship in team (Dr. Chakkala, with Christoph, Tobias and



Christoph Fischer - Baden, Switzerland
President KCUA

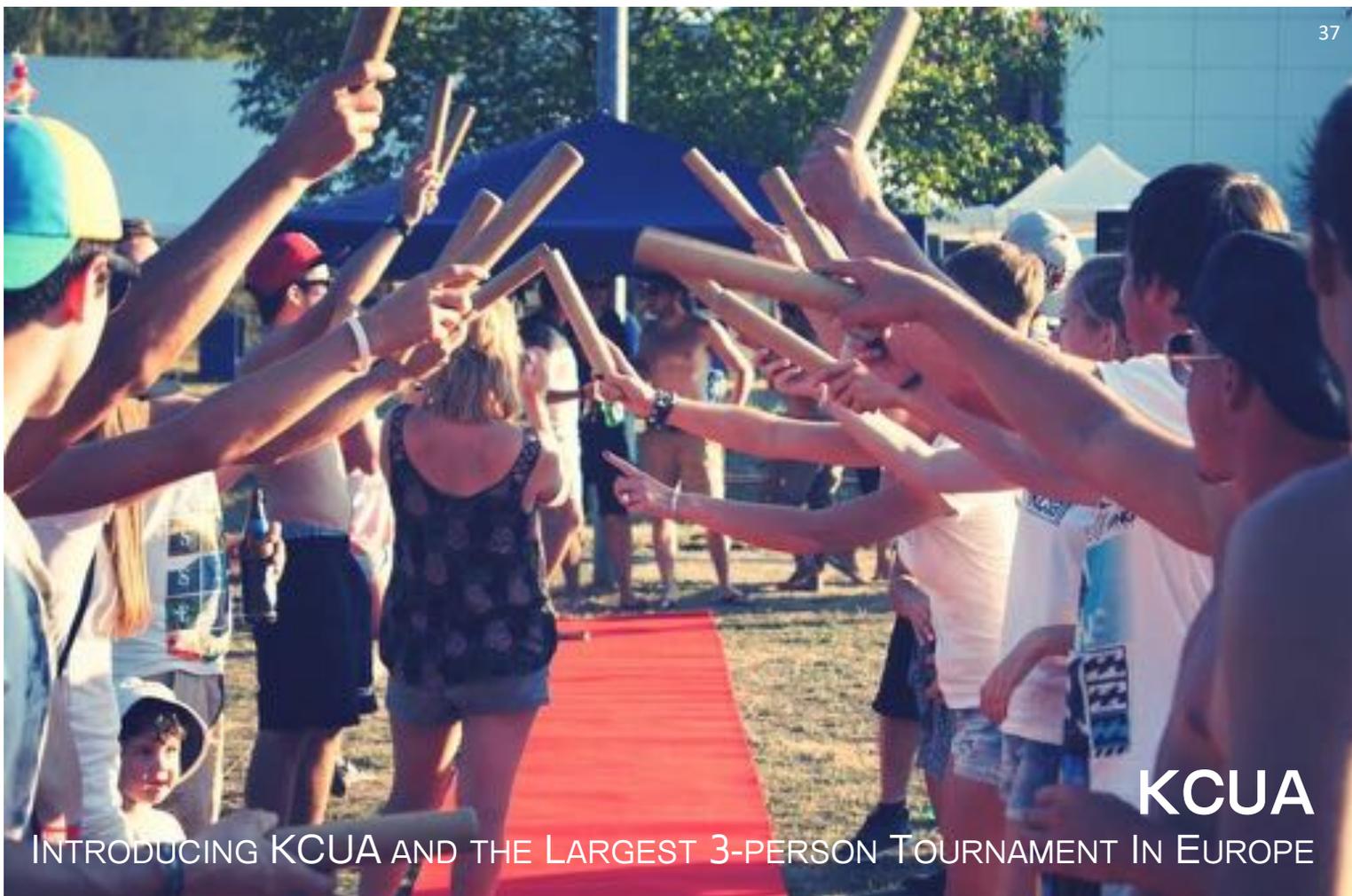
Tobias Zeier - Baden, Switzerland
Chief Financial Officer KCUA

Clirim) and single (Vasek). Even the annual Kubb ranking, the Kubbtour, was won by a KCUA Team, with Dr. Chakkala winning the title ‘Kubb Team Of The Year’ this year.

In the last three years some KCUA teams participated at the World Championship in Gotland, Sweden. This year the collaboration of KCUA and Breitzone, KP Wilddogs, made it to the quarterfinals, and were really close to the biggest triumph in Swiss kubb history. Next year we will definitely try it again, and come back stronger.

We wanted to create something unique, something the kubb community had never seen before.

When we held the Tournament for the first time back in 2013, we were inspired by the various tournaments we visited in Switzerland and abroad. We wanted to create something unique, something the kubb community had never seen before. When we were planning the first tournament, someone came up with the idea of building a giant wooden king, in which the information desk should be located. By now we do not only have this one giant king, but we try to add a wooden structure each year. By 2016, we already added a second giant king, a wooden final pitch and two roofed spaces to sit, drink, and have a chat



KCUA

INTRODUCING KCUA AND THE LARGEST 3-PERSON TOURNAMENT IN EUROPE

with some fellow kubbers. Each of them planned and built by ourselves each year. In addition, we have a giant white tent covering the whole food area. Apparently, we managed to keep up with the expectations here in Switzerland. Since the first tournament the KCUA Cup has been elected as the Swiss Kubb Tournament Of The Year four times in a row.

At one point in time, we realized that almost every good tournament has a pitch that is reserved for the final games only. In Switzerland this idea was first introduced by SMP from Basel when they officially opened their "Lünde Arena" in honor of one of Switzerland's first Kubb tournament organizers. Shortly after that we adapted the idea and put it in place "KCUA-style", meaning that it had to be something made out of wood. Two of our more skilled members (Sevi and Domi) created what is now known, as the most beautiful final-pitch in Switzerland.

Every tournament needs good planning and preparation. The work for every KCUA Cup starts months before the actual tournament. Finding a date for the tournament is a main point when preparing the Cup. Due

to the increasing number of tournaments in Switzerland, it becomes more difficult each year to find a Saturday that is not already booked. But also all ideas for new projects have to be tested for their feasibility. Most of the boxes on our checklist would ideally be ticked about a month before the actual tournament. Unfortunately, there are always things that you have to fix last minute. Furthermore, a core team of about 5 – 10 people start to work on the wooden structures about a week before the Cup. Luckily, we have enough man power amongst our members, to complete most of the projects in this one week. Some people even take a whole week off work to help building our constructions, helping to make the KCUA Cup into one of the must-do's for every European kubb team.

The 2016 edition was by far our most successful, in terms of competing teams, international participation, feedback from the kubb community and strength of the competing teams. Almost 300 people, divided into 96 squads came to Leuggern to participate at the 4th KCUA Cup. Among them, teams from Austria, Belgium, Germany, and of course



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Switzerland battled each other for one of the most wanted titles in the European kubb community. World-, European-, German-, and Swiss Champions all had to face each other in order to get the chance to play in the final pitch, making the KCUA Cup the biggest and strongest 3-person tournament in Europe.

The Final match between the two Swiss teams Öpfelbaum (the most successful Swiss Kubb Team ever) and Horstcrew (an uprising newcomer in the scene) was even covered by our newest video – The KCUA Final Match Review, which was the very first professional kubb match review, with statistics, commentary and interviews. Probably one of the biggest movie projects in kubb history! The head of the KCUA Movie Studios is Sophie Fischer, sister of Christoph Fischer. She's been working with him on every KCUA Kubb movie project ever since. Find the movie here: <https://vimeo.com/193175039/85e5acbabd> or search on vimeo.com for KCUA.

Since day one, the evolution of the sport was a big issue to us as a club. So every year we try to improve the tournament with new innovations. With gadgets like the two wooden kings (one is the Hall of Fame King, one is for the speaker- and referee-desk), the "Hau den Diggy", and a special wheel of fortune we successfully managed to add more to a tournament than just a plain field of grass and some pitches. "Hau den Diggy", which won the Kubb Innovation Award 2016, is a kubb adaptation to the well-known High-Striker one can find on funfairs and

Since day one the evolution of the sport was a big issue to us as a club. So every year we try to improve the tournament with new innovations.

elsewhere. Another example is our special ceremony before the final match. Both teams are introduced separately, where they walk on a red carpet and through a cordon into the final arena. We tried to create an event that brings people together by doing what they love. By today every major tournament in Switzerland added some extras and the organizers try to outperform each other in order to win the

In general, one might say that we are crazy in love with kubb and the community that comes along with it. We always tried to improve the sport and raise awareness for it. KCUA is more than a club, it's a lifestyle.



KCUA

INTRODUCING KCUA AND THE LARGEST 3-PERSON TOURNAMENT IN EUROPE

innovation award at the end of the season. And we as a club try to do our job inspiring others to bring up new innovations and aspects to the game we love.

But the KCUA CUP isn't even the only tournament the KCUA and its president are organizing each year. With the Bâton d'Or on the pre- evening of the KCUA CUP this year we had the biggest singles kubb tournament of Europe, with almost 100 players participating. The Mighty Kubber is the oldest singles tournament of the world and probably the most prestigious title a player can achieve in his kubb career. And of course there is the Ice Rink Kubb Challenge, a world premiere. The very first kubb tournament on ice ever, which took place this year for the first time. You can find some video material about it, with all the over aftermovies from our tournaments, of course on our Vimeo page. Summarized, KCUA members organized almost 10 tournaments, of 23 in total, this year.

In general, one might say that we are crazy in love with kubb and the community that comes along with it. We always tried to improve the sport and raise awareness for it. KCUA is more than a club, it's a lifestyle. Winning the "Best Tournament Of The Year 2016" award, for the fourth time in a row, again boosted our motivation and we want to strive for more. We can say here that we won't stop.



We can say here that we won't stop.

The 2017 tournament is September 23.

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Nadine Beyeler

Basel, Switzerland

Waynes



How long have you been playing? 8 years
How long have you played in tournaments/leagues? 8 years

How were you introduced to kubb? I was introduced by a friend. I was walking next to the Rhine River and my friends were playing and my friends asked me to play. I played it and loved it. All my friends are playing it now. I know so many friends playing it now. It is a big thing now in Basel. There are some places in Switzerland, I think especially the bigger cities where they play kubb, and where there are Swedes. There are a lot of places in Switzerland that do not know the game and when people introduce it to them, they are not interested in playing kubb.

What are your favorite things about kubb? My favorite thing about kubb is first of all friendship. You have lots of friends and you get to know more and more people. And of course team playing and both male and female have same chances, which I like. What I really like is being focused and concentrated. It is all in your head. If I think I will hit this one, I will. If I believe in being good, and the next day I will be good and have a better chance to win. You get better with every tournament. You can practice really good. In the summer it is awesome to play and practice outside after work.

In tournaments/leagues, the majority of players and teams are still male. How can we get more females to play in tournaments/leagues? I think it is important to have friends that play kubb. If you are the only one that plays, then it is quite hard. You also need to love it. If you don't like it from the beginning on, then it is quite hard. You need to make more commercials, since many people do not know kubb. Most people do not know about kubb. You need a place to play. You need to have a group chat. I can text the group chat every day and every day at least someone is playing somewhere in a park. You need to have friends that play it.

Very few podium spots have had females on them and/or very few females compete on high-level teams. How do we change that? You need to love the game. You also need to have people that you can play with that are also at a high level. If you only play with players that are not good, then you can never get better. You should be ambitious about what you do. You should not give up easily.

Due to being the only female or one of only a very few in a specific environment (kubb friendly, tournament, league, or just people playing) have you ever felt uncomfortable and/or felt like you didn't belong in that environment? I am not the only woman that plays kubb, but I am one of the longest playing women that play this nice sport. I play tournaments and naturally I play with my friends, friendly kubb. I always feel accepted and good with male kubb players, because they are really fun and nice to me and we have such a good time together.

My favorite thing about kubb is first of all friendship. You have lots of friends and you get to know more and more people. And of course team playing and both male and female have same chances, which I like. What I really like is being focused and concentrated. It is all in your head



INKASTARE

A MUSIC COMPOSITION FROM THE SOUNDS OF KUBB

By: Hunter Hanson - Eau Claire, Wisconsin



Hunter Hanson at the *Inkastare* World Premiere - Natalie Hanson

As a composition major at Northwestern, I was given the opportunity to write for the Northwestern University Contemporary Music Ensemble, a chamber orchestra of grad and undergrad music performance majors whose repertoire consists entirely of pieces composed by living composers. In June of 2016, I was assigned to write a piece that they would premiere in the following October, giving me the summer to compose a new piece. Kubb was the natural choice for my subject.

One of the most recognizable characteristics of kubb is its sound; it's the kind of game you hear before you see. The plunky resonance of wood against wood, a warm and dry knock, is enormously satisfying to me. Last Summer, after competing in the U.S. National Kubb Championship for a few years with my family, I realized that, during its peak, each kubb tournament takes on its own massive rhythm composed of hundreds of these wooden clicks. During the 2016 Championship, when I closed my eyes, stood at the center of the fields, and tried to ignore the polka music blaring behind me for a moment, I began to feel the groove emanating from 360 degrees of simultaneous kubbery. When I opened my eyes, I had an idea. This is

One of the most recognizable characteristics of kubb is its sound; it's the kind of game you hear before you see. The plunky resonance of wood against wood, a warm and dry knock, is enormously satisfying to me.

the sonic world I latched onto as I began to compose *Inkastare*. I started by sketching a few of the rhythms that had emerged from my tournament-listening and looked for ways I could manipulate them into something new. After a few days, however, I was stuck. I had a strong sense of rhythmic direction, but I needed some sort of emotional or psychological framework for the piece to continue.

A few weeks later in August, my family and I went on vacation in Sweden where we participated in the Kubb World Championship. Despite being thousands of miles away from the Eau Claire soccer park, I felt an inescapable sense of belonging as I walked onto the kubb pitch with my mom, dad, and three brothers, brat and baton in hand. As we played our way through the bracket (in which we were one of three American teams) I realized that each of us had developed specialties as members of the team. My brother Chase, for example, was our inkastare, meaning that he threw the field-kubbs onto the opponent's side at the start of a turn. Although we didn't make it to the finals, I left that tournament with fresh ideas for my piece. As soon as we arrived back home I reattached my sketches and thought of ways to incorporate the sense of belonging and teamwork into the musical structure and gave it the title it bears now, *Inkastare*.

The result of my four months of kubbing and composing was a 10-minute piece that follows two themes or characters as they battle for dominance on the pitch while maintaining internal focus. Therefore, the piece does not merely depict a kubb match throw for throw, but rather explores the aspects of the game I find the most important: teamwork, individuality, and fun.

SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/hansonhs95/inkastare>



Jill Brandenburg

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Poplar Culture

How long have you been playing? 3 years
How long have you played in tournaments/leagues? 2 years



How were you introduced to kubb? I was introduced to kubb by my husband who learned how to play from a friend. He became interested immediately and would set it up anytime we were outside. We play it all year round now with our two daughters, neighbors, fellow kubb mates, and anyone who wants to play.

What are your favorite things about kubb? My favorite part about kubb is the game itself; it is a true game of strategy and one small change can make a huge difference. I like the personal challenge of finding what works for me to improve my accuracy. My second favorite part of kubb is the positive atmosphere; everyone playing is there to have fun. Yes, we all want to win, but I am impressed with the good sportsmanship among all the players in our league and the encouragement we all provide for each other. Just today we were playing one of the better teams in the league and they were clapping for us when we had good shots.

What interested you in playing in tournaments/leagues? What interested me in playing in a kubb league was my husband, Drew, the "captain" of our team. I'm pretty sure he wasn't able to find another person to play with him but he kindly asked me if I wanted to play with him in league over a year ago. I agreed, but thought I'd get "traded" within weeks. It has been a great experience and a nice break in our busy lives to know that we will have Sunday afternoon to play kubb. Don't get me wrong, it's not time for chit chat. Nope, it's all business when we step up to the baseline. Every so often he'll gently tell me, "Get your head in the game." I will be the first one to admit it is a very addicting game and I look forward to league play every week.

In tournaments/leagues, the majority of players and teams are still male. How can we get more females to play in tournaments/leagues?

That's a tough question and I am sure one that other recreational activities ask. One reason, I think, that has a big influence is that, even though it is 2016, women are more frequently the primary care takers for children and may not be able to commit to a weekly league due to needing to transport children to their activities, needing to stay home because it is nap time, or unable (or unwilling) to hire a babysitter during leagues/tournaments. Our daughters are in middle school and high school now and do not require babysitters but if they were younger I am not sure if I would play. I certainly do not play the martyr but I would not put my recreational interest before my children.

A suggestion to get more females interested in playing kubb is to go through the same avenues/channels of those sports/activities that already DO have female interest. Also, exposure to the game (having women try it) might be a way to draw interest. Go to a women's volleyball league day and offer to teach them how to play kubb, go to the Sports Center and offer to teach the women's soccer teams how to play kubb. Another great place to recruit women would be UW Eau Claire and/or CVTC.

Now I'm not implying it is any one person's responsibility to do this but other than word of mouth, knowing someone who plays kubb, or happening to see someone play somewhere and asking about it, some women may never know what the game is or how to play. Eric Anderson and others in town have done an incredible job and spent countless hours teaching the young and old of Eau Claire how to play in rain and wind; they have grown the game and introduced it to hundreds of people but it still feels new. Every time we play, whether it be in a park, in our front yard, at the beach, camping, on snow or ice, someone asks us what we are playing. We excitedly explain the rules and offer to let them play. Some take us up on it and others do not.

When we think about the history of sports (and trust me, I am not a historian but I'm pretty sure I'm right on this one) most, if not all sports started out with men and later with women playing recreationally, semi-pro, or professional. Three other possibilities: 1. Is that most people identify with a sport and like to concentrate on it. It may be what you played in high school or college. When recreation time is limited people have to pick and choose what they can play. If you are good at one sport and that's your "thing," how likely are you to abandon your "thing" to try something new? 2. Again, when recreational time is limited (and I think it is in most people's lives due to work and family, no matter how big or small) some women are looking for a cardio workout which kubb does not offer. 3. Some women are intimidated by competitive sports, especially when it is co-ed (guilty). I'm not entirely sure why I feel this way but I do. I have never been made to feel inferior nor has any man in the league ever said anything to make me feel bad. My experiences have been quite the opposite, everyone is very friendly and I've always felt the play was fair. There may be a questionable call here or there but that's part of the game and it can be disputed as far as we care to take it.

Disproportionately (at least in the U.S), many females in tournaments play with their significant other. Males on the other hand, most are playing with friends. What are your thoughts about that? How can we get more all-female teams or females playing with non-significant others? There are a few teams comprised of couples in a relationship, which I think is nice (because I am one of them and I see value in

spending time doing something together that we both enjoy) and I view it somewhat like a date. We go to league, we get a drink, we spend an hour or so together playing kubb, talking, joking around, talking with other players, it's fun. But I guess I don't think of it any further beyond that. I'm not seeking out another partner and I never really thought seriously about branching out to play kubb on a team with other women. Drew is significantly better at the game than I am so there's definitely a "safe" feeling playing with him in that if I miss a kubb it's very likely he will get it. Also I feel like it's ok if I don't play well with my husband, he'll get over it, but I wouldn't want to be the lackey on a team with my friends because let's face it, no one wants to be the weak link! There are teams comprised of women who are friends in our league but not very many. I know for myself I am not a very competitive person (this drives Drew absolutely bonkers!) and so I guess I'm just content with where I am. I will admit the thought has crossed my mind to play on a team with friends (or maybe it was Drew's suggestion?) but my girlfriends are not confident enough in their game to even consider it. Although....if I were to seriously pursue playing on a team with another woman I would first talk to the other women in league who play. It would be a smart place to start because they already know how to play the game and clearly have an interest in playing regularly. Now there's a whole other issue... Do I break up a couple to create an all-woman team?

Very few podium spots have had females on them and/or very few females compete on high-level teams. How do we change that?

Well, I think it will take time. Time to play, time to feel more confident in a predominantly male sport, time for women to see other women playing and peak interest, and time for learning new strategies that work for other women. I think it will happen over time. We just need a couple female teams to work really hard and make it to the top. I think that would be encouraging to other women and exemplify that it isn't just for men.

What do you see as existing barriers to getting more females playing kubb? I think barriers to getting more females to play kubb are similar to what I stated earlier including availability of time, lack of confidence in play, and exposure/experience playing the game. I also see that the women who play on our league are primarily in their late 20's to 30's and 40's. I don't see any college or young 20's playing. I am not sure why. Perhaps college aged people play sports/recreational games on or near campus?

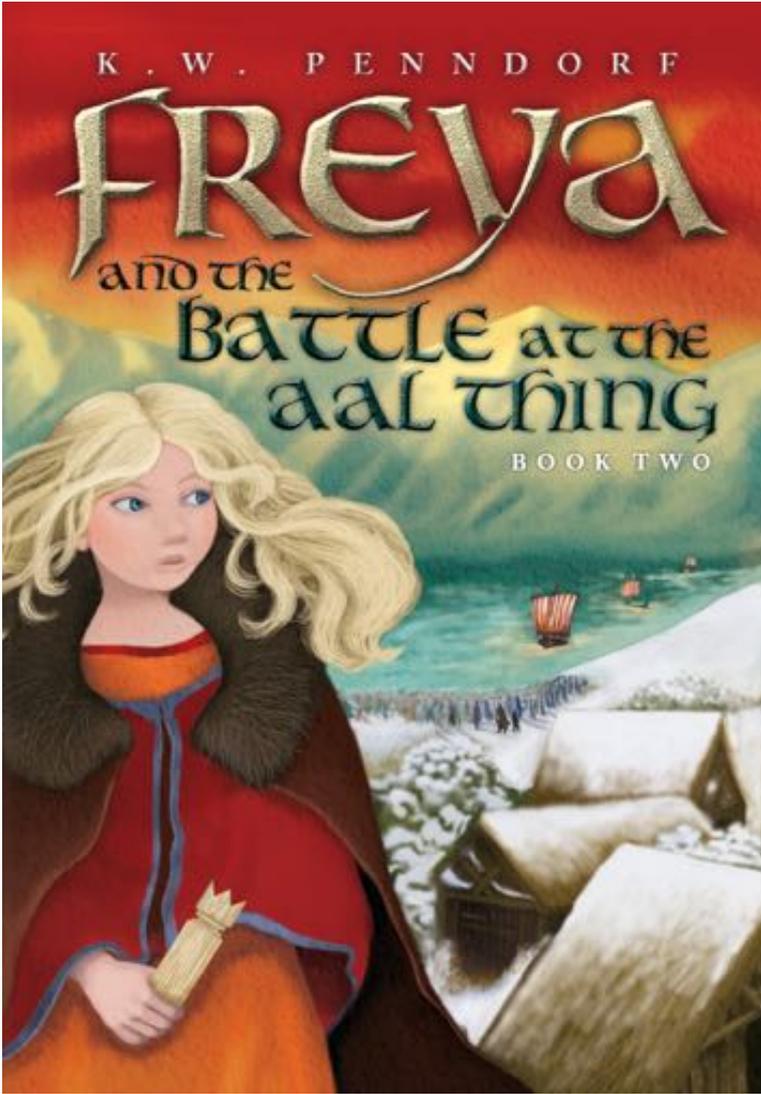
Due to being the only female or one of only a very few in a specific environment (kubb friendly, tournament, league, or just people playing) have you ever felt uncomfortable and/or felt like you didn't belong in that environment? In all my time playing in Eau Claire leagues/tournaments I have never felt personally offended by anything that was said to me nor has anyone ever made any rude or inappropriate comments about me or my skill level. I do truly feel there is a genuine respect for the game and the rules and everyone I've ever played with thus far has been respectful to me and my partner. I have heard a few conversations that could be considered "locker talk" regarding sexual encounters with woman but I just walk away and don't say anything. We women can talk the same way so I just ignore it and it's not an issue.

Has anyone ever made any comments to you that they would have not made to a male player or comments in general that you heard that has made you feel uncomfortable and/or questioned if you really wanted to be in that environment? Ok here's the part that might make me sound like I am from another planet, but here it goes. I do have to mention the sense (that I got from day one) that there seems to be an emphasis on drinking alcohol while playing kubb. Or maybe not an emphasis but a lot of people who play kubb are having several drinks during league. Or perhaps people who like to drink are attracted to kubb? I'm not sure and it really doesn't matter. I totally get it and I don't want to sound like a prude because it's not that anyone is getting drunk during our league time and maybe this is some people's one day a week to relax and have a drink. And maybe it's the people who I hang out with the most that I get that feeling that the alcohol goes hand in hand with the game? Again, I get it, I understand that we live in Wisconsin, we drink beer, we are playing at a bar on a Sunday afternoon, and sometimes before, during, or after a football game. I completely understand that's when a lot of people drink beer but I also hear a lot of other players discussing their drunken adventures from the night before, or the two nights before, or the weekend before. Like I said, I get it, we're all adults, we're all of legal drinking age, and we're all being responsible, but I wonder....just wonder....if the scene/environment has anything to do with the interest in the game?

I love being at The Complexx, I think it is clean, neat, great place to play (food, drinks, indoors, warm, TVs, plenty to do, games for the kids, safe, etc...) and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. I just wanted to say that was my first impression, however, it doesn't change my interest in the game at all. Also when I think of my girlfriends, I know ALL but one of them would gladly go to Fox Run or The Complexx and have a beer or Bloody Mary and watch or play kubb on a Sunday or two so it's not like drinking beer and playing a sport/game on a Sunday afternoon is out of the ordinary for anyone. It's just a bird's eye observation. Nuff said.

It has been a great experience and a nice break in our busy lives to know that we will have Sunday afternoon to play kubb. Don't get me wrong, it's not time for chit chat. Nope, it's all business when we step up to the baseline.





ADVENTURE BOOK SERIES

THE VIKINGS ARE INVADING AND KUBB IS TOO

By: KW Penndorf - Oshkosh, Wisconsin

delights in learning the game is the same in the Viking Era. KW's research taught her that this thousand year old Viking game is still played today. Thanks are in order to Chad Bevers who opened up the modern world's version to KW and her FREYA books. Fans of the series can look forward to book two, *Freya And The Battle At The Aal Thing* out this summer. Look for books and KW at the U.S. National Kubb Championship and at the U.S. Kubb Open.

Follow the adventure at www.kwpenndorf.com.

Author KW Penndorf had a vision for a new adventure book series: a little girl, given the chance to help her father hide a precious museum artifact, botches her opportunity by "pulling a Freya" and discovers herself transported to the Viking Era. The idea was exciting for KW who set about in researching the era, daily life, travel, battles, and mythology. She wanted her fiction books to read as if they were real; the characters, the action, the everyday happenings. All that was missing in her mind was a game. Enter kubb.

Vikings played many games, including chess. But what made kubb stand out for KW's characters to play was the potential of thrilling danger. After all, game pieces get thrown. Wouldn't that lend itself to aggravating a Viking? Readers can enjoy battles of kubb that dare to overthrow enemies as well as less death-defying scenes through table top kubb.



Freya is well versed in the art of kubb matches and

Eau Claire Co-ed Tournament

Coming in 2017

Three-person team minimum

At least 1/3 of the team has to be male or female



QUICK NEWS

PAINTING LINES. KUBB UNITED HAS THE ANSWER.



Have you ever wanted to paint lines for your kubb tournament and/or a backyard party? Kubb United has the easiest and best answer to date.

Evan Fitzgerald (President of Kubb United) hosts two videos showing how it is done. The first video describes how to make the form, and the second video shows how to use it. You can find the videos on the Kubb

United Facebook page www.facebook.com/KubbUnited/videos

The device is made out of aluminum flashing and furring strips. You roll it out and paint between the two pieces of aluminum flashing, and then you can roll it up for easy storage. For the demonstration, they used athletic striping paint.

THE BREWING PROJEKT RELEASES KUNGEN ÖL

The Eau Claire, Wisconsin craft brewery The Brewing Projekt released a kubb named beer in September. The American style pilsner can label has a kubb set on it. The name of the beer is Swedish and translates to King Beer. The label also informs the drinker about Eau Claire being the Kubb Capital of North America and that the city of Eau Claire, Wisconsin annually hosts the U.S. National Kubb Championship. The cans are 16 ounces and come in four packs. The Brewing Projekt also sponsors the weekly Eau Claire Kubb League.



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

KUBB'INGS AND FORTSCHRITT 99 WINS GOLD



Photo: Therese Ekström

2016 World Championship Results

Rone, Gotland - Sweden

Gold: Kubb'ings and Fortschritt 99 (Germany)

Silver: Berras Sorkar (Sweden)

Bronze: Gipfelstürmer und Freunde (Germany)

4th: Emmi Gardell (Sweden)

U.S. Championship Webshop



U.S. NATIONAL KUBB CHAMPIONSHIP

DAMAGE INCORPORATED WINS GOLD



Championship



Silver



Bronze

Gold: Damage Incorporated (Eau Claire and Waukesha WI, Des Moines, IA)

Silver: KubbUnited.com (Des Moines, IA, Fitchburg, WI)

Bronze: Ringers (Eau Claire, WI)

4th: The Kubbing Projekt (Eau Claire, WI)

Bästa Inkastare: Darren Finger (Waukesha, WI) - Damage Incorporated

Final

Damage Incorporated 2-1
KubbUnited.com

Semifinals

Damage Incorporated 2-0
Ringers

3rd Place

Ringers 1-0
The Kubbing Projekt

KubbUnited.com 2-0
The Kubbing Projekt



2016 Results

Silver Bracket Results

Gold: Tyr's Tre (Eau Claire, WI)
Silver: Kubbstaches (Morgantown, PA)
Bronze: Skübby Düdes (St. Paul, MN)
4th: King Me (Eau Claire, WI)

Bronze Bracket Results

Gold: Menomonie United (Menomonie, WI)
Silver: Läkerol Originals (Minnetonka, MN)
Bronze: The Northmen (Madison, WI)
4th: Eat. Sleep. Kubb. Repeat (St. Paul, MN)



Kid Kubb

Kid Kubb (U.S. Junior Championship)

Champion - Kubbicorns
2nd - RingBoom
3rd - Kubb Jedi
4th - Girls Just Want To Kubb



**KUBBNATION MAGAZINE
DALLAS, WI OKTOBERFEST KUBB TOURNAMENT
OCTOBER 7TH**

- ONLY 6-PERSON TEAM TOURNAMENT IN U.S. -

brats, homemade lefse, chili, music, craft market,
Valkyrie beer, cannon blasts, bald eagles, and more.

MORE INFO: WISCONSINKUBB.COM

9th Edition