

Minutes of the Cambridgeshire Korfball Association meeting held at 7.00pm on Tuesday, November 30th.

Present: Hugh Barker, Gillian Card, Rebecca Elliott, Juin Foksiang, Jon Gregory, Andy Neely, Robert Nudds, Mark Walters, Jenny Winn, Kate Bark.

Apologies: Andy Rutter

2) The minutes of the last meeting were passed unanimously.

3) League Report. The league is running smoothly and a first table of results has been produced (see end). It was decided that in the case of a walk-over ten goals should be awarded against the team failing to show up i.e. the score line shall read 10-0 in favour of the team who are at the appointed venue at the prearranged time. The league officer reminded members from A.S. Bedford and Addenbrookes Korfball clubs that their fixtures for the New Year are required as soon as possible.

4) Development Report. The organisers of the City Sport course are happy with the preliminary discussions concerning the course to be run at Kings Hedges and will be in touch again early in the New Year. The City Council may also be able to help with interesting local schools in playing Korfball.

Sadly Gillian Card had to resign as Youth Development Officer due to the time pressures of other commitments and final year exams. The position is now open to any interested person (Perhaps the teaching members of the CKA might like to consider standing?).

Andy proposed to put together a development report on the state of Korfball in Cambridgeshire which would then be circulated to all those interested. To this end he distributed update forms to all the clubs and asked for cooperation in returning them quickly. The Bedford clubs asked that they might also fill in the forms although they are not strictly based in Cambridgeshire.

The junior posts have to be moved from Churchill College by the end of the week and, after approaching the Kelsey Kerridge Sports Hall, they have been kindly taken for temporary storage by Alan Lewis. Mark Walters suggested that schools be offered a free trial of Korfball and free equipment in order that the posts be put to good use.

Robert Nudds spoke to the meeting on behalf of the Botisham Community Sports Club. This organisation meets once a week on a Sunday and generally plays half an hour of Badminton followed by an hour in which they like to try many new sports. They are very interested in being introduced to the sport of Korfball. The session would take place during the next school term, would be indoors and involve a maximum of 20 people. It was noted that this would require 2 or 3 coaches from the established clubs and the transport of up to 4 posts to the venue. Everyone present was enthusiastic about the idea and it was decided that Robert should report back at the next meeting with a suggested date for the session.

5) Treasurers Report. It was reported that the City Council grant form had been returned by the required submission date. The details contained in the form were filled in to the best ability of the treasurer and any omissions were a result of being new to the area and organisation.

6) Refereeing Report. Mark Walters expressed concern about the standard of refereeing in the league matches and the way forward in terms of giving relatively inexperienced referees practise and constructive feedback. He pointed out that a referee should be mobile during a match in order that they are able to view all events on and off the ball; this involves more than just running up and down the sidelines. It was suggested that a follow up course(s) was run to build on the basic introduction held back in October. This would involve both a theory session and a practical assessment (held over 2 matches). Mark volunteered to assist in running/organising a basic qualification (to be known as a CKA standard) and then the BKA will be approached to provide a higher level course, possibly leading to an official BKA qualification. Graham Crafter of the BKA expressed interest in helping with such a course if it was required. **The theory session is planned for early in the New**

Year, provisionally a Sunday towards the end of January. All clubs should send at least two people and they need not have been on the previous introductory course (although it would be very helpful if all those attending had at least read the rule book).

Those present who had themselves refereed matches felt that anyone wishing to attend a CKA level course should first have experience of refereeing at least one match. It was pointed out that that this would not be possible in all cases and agreed that practise during training sessions would provide similar basic experience.

The possibility of paying a token sum to those refereeing matches, with the payment level depending on the qualifications held, was considered. The aim of this would be to provide an incentive to people to obtain good qualifications. Most members present felt that such an incentive would be unnecessary and a further drain on financial resources of both players and clubs.

7) National League Report. In brief this involved using the CKA league as a feeder league for the National League with the local champions able to go forward to the National League play-offs. However this would necessitate all member clubs of the CKA affiliating to the BKA, involving final annual amounts in excess of £100.

The immediate response from all those present was that the sums of money involved would be prohibitive to all the clubs having to affiliate, especially when the majority of club members would see minimal return for their money. The aim of the CKA is to promote the sport of Korfball in the area and as such having to affiliate to the BKA would be likely to have the opposite effect. The general opinion was that the next couple of years are the time for consolidation of the existing clubs and should be used to see our local development plans come to fruition. In a couple of years time we would be honoured to be invited to join the National League.

It was decided that the City Council might perhaps be approached regarding whether affiliation fees might be paid from a sports and/or development grant.

In order that our local clubs should be able to experience playing against a wider range of teams it was suggested that the CKA organise an Eastern Region knock-out cup, to include all the teams currently playing in the Norwich league and any other interested teams.

Mark Walters was voted onto the committee as refereeing officer and given the job of forming preliminary plans for the Eastern region cup. This is to be discussed more fully at the next meeting. The matter of the CKA tournament was also raised and the time of year at which it should be held. It was suggested that it should coincide with the end of the City Korfball course if this finishes before universities final exams. The possible venues are Jesus Green or a college sports ground. The CKA tournament is to be discussed at the next meeting.

8) Other business. The City club are very short of Korfballs and wished to know how many balls were owned by the CKA and where they were being used. The 2 balls owned by the CKA are currently with Addenbrookes Korfball club. After discussion it was decided to leave them there and for members of the University club to loan their Korfballs to the City club as often as possible.

Members of the City club asked if there was the interest for Hugh to run a course aimed at coaching. This was felt to be a good idea although the necessary hall time would be likely to prove problematic. It was pointed out that the BKA are hoping to run an introductory course for school teachers, to be held in Cambridge, but that this would only be at a very basic level. The opinion was that while this would be extremely useful for development of the sport, the local clubs were now at a stage of self-sufficiency where they required their coaches to gain some more experience of higher level tactics and play.

9) The next meeting was set for 7pm on Tuesday 18th January in the Prince Regent.