

## **Korfball New Zealand Chairman's Report for the Year to 30 June 2004**

### **Overview**

This is the seventh annual report we have prepared for Korfball New Zealand. In reviewing the preceding six recently, I was able to re-confirm my belief that this was a particularly good year for us and one where we were able to take some great strides forward. However, it remains clear that we do have limited human and financial resources and focusing these in any particular area while neglecting other areas, can result in partial stagnation of our progress.

Our financial position is satisfactory, and will be fully reported on by our treasurer Ian Harding.

### **Asia Oceania Korfball Championship**

The year under review finished just a few days before the most significant event in the history of our organisation to date. However, since we spent much of the latter part of the 2003/04 year preparing for it, I am going to briefly report on the Sixth Asia Oceania Korfball Championships (AOKC), which we hosted in Pioneer Stadium from 6-11 July – not least because by the time of the next annual report, the event will have slipped from recent memory.

Speaking personally, hosting the tournament was stressful, hard work, occasionally immensely frustrating and detracted considerably from personal and professional life. I did not enjoy a decent night's sleep from the beginning of June, leading up to the tournament, and through until all our visitors were safely returned to their own countries. However, it was an enormously rewarding experience for me, as well as – I believe – for the organisation.

The loss of the Indonesian team from the event, just a few days before they were scheduled to arrive, took some of the gloss off the experience, but in spite of that setback we were able to run a tournament that received excellent feedback from our visitors; that achieved a very positive public profile; and that enabled our most talented and motivated players to experience korfball at international level. For the latter, I think, we have been able to gauge where our technical ability presently stands relative to Australia and Chinese Taipei – the two leading powers in our region. We know how big the gap is and I believe we can find ways to bridge that gap and make ourselves more competitive at international level. We are already working on ways to ensure that we are able to make positive progress based on the lessons we learnt on court during the tournament.

A number of people deserve recognition for their great efforts prior to and during the tournament:

- My colleagues on the AOKC tournament sub-committee, Ian Harding and Ngaire Smith, put in countless hours of unremitting toil to ensure the event was a success. I enjoyed working with you and hope we have the opportunity to build on the experience by hosting a bigger tournament some time in the future.

- National squad members – overall squad co-ordinator Ewout van Bruchem, coach Pete Gill, team manager Marion Savage and physiotherapist Ditte van der Meulen, plus Phil Sibbons the Australian coach who was very generous with his time and advice – along with the players who represented New Zealand on the court – captain Nick Muir, Adam Klomp, Simon Welsh, Silvia Bangma, Jeni Savage, Rebecca Lambert, Timothy Asby, Steven Asher, Matt Linton, Lorelee Pope, Anna Teen, Kate Boerlage and Jeanette Visser.
- Our international visitors from Australia, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong and the Netherlands, in particular the chairman of the Asia Oceania Korfball Federation Mr MC Gupta of India, Secretary General Fang-Yi Hsieh (Bird) of Chinese Taipei, and the International Korfball Federation officials Helen Searle of Australia and Ying-Che Huang (English) of Chinese Taipei.
- Richard Taylor and the staff at Adams House who provided a faultless service in accommodating our visitors.
- The many members of Korfball New Zealand who rallied around tremendously to fill the various volunteer roles during the tournament – in particular Kirsty Prentice, whose persistence and ingenuity managing media relations gained spectacular results, and who also kept the tournament on track by ensuring there were players to fill the gaps in the invitation team that took the place of Indonesia in the draw.
- Our sponsors The Community Trust, The Southern Trust, Pub Charity Incorporated, the Christchurch City Council, the Christchurch Star and in particular the New Zealand Institute of Sport, whose students under Jonathon McAleese also very ably filled a number of volunteer roles, and who have subsequently become most welcome additions to our playing numbers and More FM, whose team led by Sarah Dixon gave the presentation of the games each evening a totally professional and engaging presentation.

### **National Developments**

Aside from the Asia-Oceania Korfball Championship, which was a highlight of the year in that it gave us a focus for development and profile and a test of our resources, there were other developments during the year under review that will ultimately prove to be more important, I believe, in strengthening our organisation and enabling us to grow.

Most important was the establishment of Wellington Korfball, which was officially incorporated on 3 June 2004 – a milestone on a journey that Kirsty Prentice began late in 2003, and which has seen regular korfball played in Wellington throughout the 2004 winter and beyond. Congratulations and good luck in your efforts to the members of the inaugural committee of Wellington Korfball, along with Kirsty, Alex Gould, Colinda Vroonland, Raewyn Tse, Jeanette Visser and Peter Visser.

After a brief competition in Hokitika in late 1999, having korfball officially established in two main centres is a major step forward, and one that we have been hoping to be able to take since we began playing korfball in Christchurch in 1997. Along with the establishment of korfball in Auckland, initiated by Matt Day since the end of the reporting year, our development as a true national organisation has now begun, and will see considerable change to Korfball New Zealand in the near future. At an organisational level, that will see the establishment of Korfball Canterbury

Incorporated, which is presently in process, and the revision of the Korfball New Zealand constitution to reflect the fact that from now on this will be a national body in actuality as well as in name.

### **Schools**

Another important step forward was the establishment of a Secondary Schools Korfball Competition in Christchurch, in conjunction with the Secondary School Sports Director. Once again, this occurred subsequent to the financial year under review, though a good deal of the preparation that secured this opportunity was undertaken prior to 30 June. For that, particular acknowledgement is warranted to the Swan Fund, which provided financial assistance for a project called 'Teaching the Teachers', aimed at profiling korfball to physical education teachers and giving them a better understanding of our sport.

As part of the project, during the year under review and with the expert assistance of Physical Education New Zealand, we carried out introductory sessions in Hamilton at the PENZ annual conference in September 2003, in Wellington in November 2003 and in Christchurch in March 2004. With the enthusiastic encouragement of participants at the latter, we were able to go on to secure a place for korfball in the Secondary School Sports programme during Term Four. This has been an important, but until now elusive goal since Korfball New Zealand was incorporated. We have at last made a promising start in properly establishing korfball in schools – one we must look to build from here. Ewout van Bruchem deserves particular mention for his efforts during the 2003/04 year to gain us the opportunity. A number of others have been involved in making the competition a success, but the correct place to recognise them will be in the next annual report.

Also in schools, in June Ewout van Bruchem, Jeni Savage and I took a Year Five class at Fendalton Primary School for a series of korfball sessions. We have not worked with players as young as this before, and the enjoyment the children showed made it a very worthwhile experience, boding well for future activity at this age. Once again, I hope this is an activity we are able to build on in the coming months. Korfball is particularly suited to young children and gives those who educate them a good opportunity to teach some important values. We must devote more time and attention to this facet of our sport. By doing so we can achieve great results.

### **Tuesday Night Competition**

During the year under review, our annual Tuesday night competition continued successfully. We have maintained development of the club format that was initiated at the start of 2003. After an initial slump in numbers during that year, we have been successful in recruiting new players to korfball and exceeded our previous peak number of participants, with 12 teams playing in our first 2004 competition, increasing to 13 for the second competition, which once again fell after the year under review. We have refined the competition to a point where it runs smoothly – the expectations for players, referees and captains are consistently able to be met, with a result that the games generally run to schedule, there are few defaults and the spirit of the competition is good. The level of play, particularly in the A grade, has also

continued to improve, and most players have been able to enjoy well-contested, competitive korfbal.

Credit once again to Ewout and Liesbeth van Bruchem for organising the competitions during the 2003/04 year – assisted latterly by Silvia Bangma and Lee Hill. Also to the team captains for their efforts in ensuring the smooth operation of the competition. Next year, with the change to Korfbal Canterbury, we can look forward to consolidation of the club system, which will hopefully increase yet further the commitment that players are putting in to learn and play a high standard of korfbal.

## **Referees**

Integral to the continued improvement of our competition and everything else related to our technical development is the commitment and competence of our referees. During the latter part of 2003, we introduced a more formal system of accreditation for our referees, which has been successful in improving the consistency of our referees.

Ian Harding took the lead in this process, continuing the huge commitment he has given at the vanguard of every Korfbal New Zealand refereeing development over the past seven years. Congratulations to those who have gained accreditation through this programme.

Particular recognition to Rose Podvoiskis, who became New Zealand's first accredited referee on the IKF international list, and who we can look forward to seeing officiate at international tournaments in the future. For her growing profile as a representative of this organisation on the international stage, I am particularly proud of Rose's refereeing achievements to date, and am confident that what we have seen so far is just the start.

In the coming months I hope that we are able to develop a similar process of accreditation and support for those willing to coach korfbal, following the example established for our referees. This is likely to be a project undertaken by Korfbal Canterbury, Wellington Korfbal and Korfbal New Zealand working together, and one that we will hopefully be able to introduce to Auckland when the time is right.

## **National and International Recognition**

Achieving recognition from the Olympic movement has been a big step forward for korfbal at an international level. The International Korfbal Federation encourages its members to seek recognition from their national Olympic body. Following a lengthy period of correspondence with the New Zealand Olympic Committee, Korfbal New Zealand was duly granted associate membership in April this year.

In November 2003 we were also granted full membership of the International Korfbal Federation, having been a provisional member prior to that.

These achievements do not have an instant impact on our regular activities, but they are external recognition of our progress and we will be able to use them to our advantage in the future.

In a similar vein, one of the tasks of the new committee will be to more firmly establish our credentials with Sport and Recreation New Zealand (Sparc), which has firm tiered guidelines for recognising national sports organisations that we should be able to achieve with relative ease to establish ourselves in their structure at the appropriate point. This should open the possibility of some funding to assist development – so long as we can clearly demonstrate the path we intend to take and how we will be able to substantiate that.

## **Equipment**

We have continued to manufacture korfs to fulfil orders that have generally been placed by schools. This is a revenue earning activity for our society, but at a level that probably does not really reflect the considerable amount of work put in – in particular by John Mathieson, who has been assisted by Ewout van Bruchem, Neil Macbeth and Lee Hill. We also struggle to meet these orders in a timely fashion, which as korfbal grows in various locations, risks hindering our development potential. We need to continue to look for solutions to this situation.

## **The Future**

Our annual general meeting marks another exciting step forward for our organisation. As mentioned above, where previously – in reality if not in name – we have been largely focused on Canterbury, this is the point where we truly become a national sporting body

Ratification of the revision of the Korfbal New Zealand constitution will bring the ‘new’ national version of the organisation into being over the next few months. This will carry with it a series of interesting challenges, but promises to be an exciting and rewarding process. Establishing Korfbal Canterbury to take on the day to day local activities that have been undertaken to this point by Korfbal New Zealand will also be a challenge. I am personally delighted that we now have this marvellous opportunity and believe that, although it will take a great deal of effort, the enthusiasm and commitment of the key people involved means we have considerable achievement to look forward to.

We are at a point where we can evaluate what we need to do to achieve future success and set our course accordingly. This, I believe, will be the primary initial focus of the new committee. There have been enormous potential opportunities from the very start with Korfbal New Zealand. We now have an increased capacity than previously to capitalise on these. I am looking forward to exciting times ahead.

## **Acknowledgements**

Many people and organisations have made a great contribution to our progress this year. Most of them I hope I have acknowledged already in this report.

As a group, working with the Korfbal New Zealand committee this year has not been quite such a feature as it has in previous years. The main reason for that, I think, is that we have been able to successfully delegate much of what we do to various groups

or sub-committees to put the work in – with the committee coming together to report to each other and ensure that we are all progressing in the right direction. Thanks, then, to this year's committee of secretary Neil Macbeth, Ewout and Liesbeth van Bruchem, Tim Asby, Loralee Pope, Nick Muir and Silvia Bangma – who was co-opted to the committee during the year.

In particular I want to thank Ian Harding, who has recently informed me that he does not intend to remain on the committee. Ian has put in tremendous time and effort for Korfbal New Zealand over the last eight years and without him I doubt that we would still be in existence, let alone be in the positive position we find ourselves. His unstinting attention to the laborious – and largely thankless – role of treasurer is ably demonstrated in our healthy financial position. In addition, over recent months, his involvement with the AOKC, in re-drafting our constitution and in establishing Korfbal Canterbury have helped set us up for considerable future success. Having said that, I am going to refrain from making this any more of a valediction for Ian as he has indicated he wishes to continue his involvement with referee development, and I do not wish to give anyone – least of all Ian – the impression that he is not going to be around anymore. I only hope we can find someone as conscientious and diligent as you to take on the role as treasurer.

**Rob Smith**  
**Chairman**  
**13 November 2004**