

# Korfball New Zealand Annual Report 2005/06 Chairman's Report



## Overview

This is the ninth reporting year since Korfball New Zealand was founded. We have achieved a number of important objectives this year, and since our balance date, that have brought with them a new sense of confidence and an accelerated impression of progress about korfball. These achievements include:

- Consolidation and growth within all three regions currently playing korfball
- Continuation of a successful and enjoyable national tournament programme
- The presence of two New Zealand teams at the inaugural Oceania Regional Korfball Championships
- The establishment, through a short-term contract, of a salaried development position
- Completion of a korfball-focussed resource for teachers, linked to the New Zealand health and physical education curriculum
- Preparation of a New Zealand team for international competition
- Attendance of the New Zealand team at the International Capital Cities cup in Chinese Taipei and at the Asia Oceania Korfball Championships in Hong Kong (the latter just after this reporting year, but included in this annual report)
- The appointment of a senior international coach
- A sustainable solution to issues around the provision of equipment.

## Funding Assistance – Acknowledgements

A number of organisations, companies and agencies provided financial assistance to Korfball New Zealand during the 12 months under review. These are acknowledged elsewhere in this report. Their contribution to our activities is greatly appreciated.

This income has been highly influential in dictating the progress we have been able to achieve this year. Without funds from these sources it is safe to say that the substance of this report would have been totally different and any success reported would have been on a considerably reduced scale.

While we have been fortunate to benefit from this funding, and will keep making every effort to finance our activities from such sources in the future, it would be dangerous to assume that this assistance at this level will continue. We must be ready to fund activities from other sources, if necessary, and we must prepare a risk management strategy to ensure that we are able to maintain forward momentum if legislation, social trends or some other factor removes or reduces gaming machine funding as an income source.

## **Regional Progress**

- ***Auckland***

Auckland Korfball has had an exciting year with growth experienced in both social and competitive korfball. The companies tournament in February saw eight teams competing in an outdoor competition for the Specialist Computer Services Trophy. This was soon followed by the first Auckland autumn social league indoor competition, which attracted four teams playing on a Tuesday night. Since the reporting date, this concept has been expanded further with six teams entered in a new Tuesday night social competition, finishing late November. Development work demonstrating and encouraging participation in korfball continues to progress well with joint AK@Play and Push Play initiatives being held at various venues.

- ***Wellington***

Since the start of the 2006 calendar year Wellington Korfball has seen an injection of energy and dedication from new members. Hard work in marketing and recruitment has seen numbers grow, leading to the start of a 2006 autumn social league, commencing since balance date. Wellington Korfball is also pursuing schools – holding trainings with teachers and students. The efforts of Carolyne Doherty and other Wellington Korfball members in this area promise to provide further growth and awareness of korfball in the region.

- ***Canterbury***

Korfball Canterbury continued to run successful indoor competitions through the winter, where quality levels have increased. In conjunction with Riccarton Korfball Club, successful outdoor competitions and junior programmes were established. A secondary schools competition was also organised, but promotion into schools continues to be a challenge. Within the Canterbury region, Riccarton Korfball Club consolidated further during the course of the year, and since the reporting date, Westminster Korfball Club, the second club in Canterbury, has also been established.

## **National Tournament Programme**

During the course of the year under review we have organised tournaments in Christchurch in September 2005, Taupo in January 2006 and Christchurch again in May 2006. Since the end of the 2005/06 year we have also organised a tournament in Wellington and have commenced a more formal process, under a competition sub-committee, to help ensure the continued improvement of our tournament programme.

As an organisation, the objective of running national tournaments is to provide a challenging and rewarding experience to our players therefore increasing their commitment to korfball, while also raising the level at which we play the game. Our tournaments continue to offer highly competitive matches with ever decreasing margins between the three regions, while the number of teams participating has risen. On this basis, we can state that the programme is meeting the objectives we have set.

## **New Zealand Senior Squad**

New Zealand was represented at the International Capital Cities Cup in Chinese-Taipei in June 2006 and at the Seventh Asia Oceania Korfball Championships in Hong Kong in July 2006. Although the latter fell just outside the reporting period, the preparation phase did not. The squad provided a tremendous opportunity for those involved to develop an understanding of and commitment to korfball, and also for Korfball New Zealand as a corporate entity to test its ability, ingenuity and organisational capability. A detailed report on the squad is appended to this report.

## **Oceania Regional Korfball Championship**

On the weekend of 10 March we undertook one of the largest logistical exercises we have yet attempted. A North Island team and a South Island team, consisting of 24 people in total, including managers and coaches, travelled to Adelaide to participate in the inaugural Oceania Regional Korfball Championships, with two state teams representing South Australia and one representing Victoria.

It was extremely satisfying to compete at this level, with two senior teams, for the first time. While neither New Zealand team was able to achieve a victory over the Australian teams, we did match them for long periods of each game and the tournament again demonstrated the value of experience as a critical factor at this level of korfball. That the New Zealand teams gained experience from this tournament will count in our favour in the future. We must seek to ensure this level of contact with our nearest international neighbour is maintained and developed in the future.

## **Senior International Coach**

In June 2006 we appointed Daniel De Rudder as Korfball New Zealand's senior international coach. Daniel has over 30 years experience as an international korfball coach. His appointment was made to help raise the technical level of New Zealand teams participating at the international level. His involvement should also have benefit to our own coaches. It was unfortunate, but unavoidable, that Daniel was not able to work with the New Zealand senior squad further in advance of the Asia Oceania Korfball Championships in Hong Kong. We are looking forward to his much greater involvement in the preparation of the New Zealand Under 23 squad for the 2007 Asia Oceania Youth Korfball Championships, which we hope and expect will enable that squad to achieve its potential.

## **Seventh Asia Oceania Korfball Championships**

As reported above, New Zealand was represented at the Seventh Asia Oceania Korfball Championships in Hong Kong in July 2006. In addition to the New Zealand team participating in the tournament, Ian Harding served as one of the tournament referees and Rob Smith chaired the tournament jury. Appointments such as these demonstrate the growing credibility of New Zealand within international korfball, and also establish a path for others to follow into international korfball if participating in a playing capacity is not a feasible option for them.

## **Administration and Development Officer**

In September 2005 we secured an initial tranche of funding to finance the salary of an administration and development officer. While this project did not proceed exactly as planned, in February 2006 Boyd Kedzlie commenced a contract under this project to develop a coaching framework for korfball. This has been prepared in line with Sparc recommendations on coaching in New Zealand. The latter are not fully established, and although the coaching framework for korfball is almost completed, the finishing touches will not be applied until the over-arching Sparc documentation is published.

In the meantime, since the reporting period, a number of other projects have been scoped for completion by an administration and development officer. Over the next few months we will pursue funding for these in the hope and expectation that this role can be continued and expanded.

## **Equipment**

Sourcing equipment for our own activities and to facilitate development of korfball in schools has been an ongoing problem for at least the past three to four years. At last it seems we have resolved the equipment problem, establishing an arrangement with an engineering company (Burleighs) and a marketer (Sports Distributors Limited) that will, theoretically, place the provision of equipment on a commercial footing.

The objective of passing the provision of equipment to commercially oriented third parties was to improve the accessibility of gear to schools. At this stage the arrangement we have set up is too new to enable us to evaluate whether it has become easier for schools to obtain equipment, and therefore whether more schools are teaching and playing korfball. This is something we should be able to report on next year.

## **Referees**

Korfball New Zealand's Referee Committee was active during the year, administering referee accreditation courses Wellington in November 2005 and in Christchurch in March 2006, resulting in six and five new referees respectively. Congratulations to Alex Gould, Jackie Derwin, Greig Neilson, Mike Oppenheim, Raewyn Tse and Julia Hall who became accredited referees in Wellington and to Tim Asby, Alice Carmody, Boyd Kedzlie, Irfon Jones and Catherine Tisch who became accredited referees in Christchurch. Subsequent to the reporting date, a further course was also run in Auckland in October 2006.

A new on-line rules quiz, to assist aspiring referees and others to test their own understanding of the rules of korfball, was commissioned in March 2006 on the Korfball New Zealand website. This attracted considerable interest and favourable comment from elsewhere in international korfball, and continues to draw regular visitors to the website.

Two senior referees are currently on the international referees list. Rose Podvoiskis refereed at tournaments in The Netherlands in the early part of 2005, prior to the reporting year, while Ian Harding refereed at the International Capital Cities tournament in Chinese Taipei in June 2006 and the Asia Oceania Korfball Championship in Hong Kong in July 2006.

The International Korfball Federation introduced some changes to the rules of korfball at the commencement of the 2005/06 year. These were implemented effectively in the regions, then applied at the Christchurch National Provincial Championship in September 2005.

Top-ranked international referee Berthold Komduur, holidaying in New Zealand, was able to join a group of Canterbury referees in March 2006, when he provided further briefing on the rule changes and discussed refereeing philosophy and practice. Unfortunately his itinerary did not enable referees in other centres to benefit from his visit in the same way.

Referees have been included in squad training to assist players and coaches, and also as a useful training opportunity for the referees themselves.

The Referee Committee currently consists of Ian Harding, Rob Smith and Rose Podvoiskis. As all three are Canterbury based, additional membership from Auckland and Wellington will be sought more vigorously during the 2006/07 year.

Ian Harding has been appointed to the Asia Oceania Referees Working Group, reporting to the International Korfball Federation and the Asia Oceania Korfball Federation, with a mandate to develop referees in the Asia Oceania region.

## **Schools**

In January 2006, via the Korfball New Zealand website, we published 'Let's Play Korfball,' written and peer reviewed respectively by physical education professionals Alan Hill and Sharyn Pratley. This document links korfball to the New Zealand health and physical education curriculum in a way that is intended to provide teachers with an easy to implement guide and their students with a high quality introduction to korfball.

Promoting korfball into schools remains a priority for Korfball New Zealand, but one where progress remains elusive. With the completion of the teaching resource and outsourcing the provision of equipment mentioned above, we might expect to see some more schools and teachers taking an interest in korfball during 2007. The possible production of a DVD, additional publications facilitated through our relationship with Sports Distributors Limited, and funding for the continuation of a development position should all ultimately also bring us closer to our highly prized but so far elusive objectives around the introduction of korfball into schools.

## **New logo**

During the course of the year we formally adopted a new logo, incorporating the silver fern along with the korfball figure that featured in our previous logo. Thanks to Mike Oppenheim for his patience and creativity in creating this logo, which was unanimously agreed to by the executive committee and has been widely praised by many involved in our sport – both domestically and internationally.

## **Future Prospects**

While it is never possible to predict exactly what the future will hold, based on past experience we face a number of challenges in the next 12 months, the successful negotiation of which we will hopefully be able to report at the next annual meeting. The main challenges that are imminently in prospect at present, and have not been referred to elsewhere in this report are as follows:

- ***Waikato***

With the recent arrival of Stuart Doran in Waikato, we have an excellent opportunity to develop a fourth New Zealand korfball region. The main practical impetus to assist in establishing Waikato will need to come from Auckland Korfball, but it is in all of our interests to spread through the whole country and Korfball New Zealand will look to source and provide whatever resources possible to ensure that a regional entity for korfball in Waikato comes into existence and becomes the next member of our organisation.

- ***AOKYC***

The coming months, to the end of the 2006/07 financial year will see a great deal of effort around preparations for the 2007 Asia Oceania Youth Korfball Championships, which Korfball New Zealand is hosting in Christchurch. This event will once again test our abilities as an organisation. An organising committee is in place and working towards hosting a high quality event. We have also commenced the development and preparation of a New Zealand squad to compete in the tournament. There are excellent opportunities around this tournament to ratchet up the profile of korfball in New Zealand yet further; to consolidate the commitment of many who are presently involved in korfball by enabling them to experience the sport at a higher level; and to put New Zealand even more firmly on the map of world korfball. We are not likely to have another opportunity to host a tournament such as this for at least another decade – so we need to make the most of it.

- ***NZIS***

Since the end of the reporting year, Korfball New Zealand has consolidated our excellent relationship with the New Zealand Institute of Sport and commenced a project that ultimately aims to establish korfball within various Pacific Island states. This is a very positive and exciting prospect and one that, if successful, will create some excellent new opportunities for us.

## **Thanks**

My thanks and acknowledgement in the 2005/06 year to the Korfball New Zealand executive committee. At the beginning of the year, the committee consisted of Neil Macbeth (secretary), Greig Neilson (treasurer), Melissa Ho (registrar), Matt Day and Tim Asby. During the course of the year, Neil Macbeth stood down to be replaced by Cam Wasley and Greig Neilson stood down to be replaced by Brenda King. Stacey Mason was co-opted to the committee and acted as an effective link to Korfball Canterbury, Kerry Wilson was co-opted with a brief to fulfil a similar role on behalf of Auckland, while Mike Oppenheim attended most executive meetings as an ex-officio member, ensuring a strong link back to Wellington Korfball.

Also thanks to all those who have served on the committees of the three current members of Korfball New Zealand this year.

**Rob Smith**  
**Chair**  
**Korfball New Zealand**  
**November 2006**

## **Korfball New Zealand Senior National Squad 2005/06**

The New Zealand national squad was re-formed in April 2005, under direction from Korfball New Zealand. A sub-committee of four was appointed to establish and administer the squad, aiming to attend the Korfball World Championships in The Czech Republic in 2007.

An initial trial was held in conjunction with the NPC event held in Wellington in May 2005. For that trial Australian coaches Phil Sibbons and Shayne Phillips (the latter also a Hoofdklasse referee) led the training elements and assisted with the selection.

A core squad of 16 players was selected, augmented by a number of invitational players.

Establishing organisational tasks and responsibilities, and sharing these among squad members, was the initial organisational challenge.

Unfortunately two of those initially appointed to the sub-committee were unable to participate, meaning some elements were not completed to full satisfaction. Much of the slack, however, was picked up by a number of the players.

Training events were set to run as live-in weekend camps. The first two camps took place in Nelson in August and October 2005, utilising a local school and a holiday park as playing venue and accommodation respectively.

Additional camps were also held in Christchurch in February 2006 and Blenheim in May 2006. This totalled about eight days of solid korfball preparation together.

Players spent the remaining time developing themselves through playing and training within their own regions. Players also met for a weekend most months that a training camp was not scheduled as these months tended to be the occasion of the NPC tournaments.

A fitness test was successfully introduced during the early training phase to monitor player performance in a simulated game situation.

Various relationships and contacts were established with companies and bodies, including gaming machine trusts who became regular grant funders. Some sponsorship was generously provided by a variety of companies, notably Ritchies Transport and New Zealand Blood Service. Grateful acknowledgement is also made to the many other businesses and individuals that donated money and goods to the squad.

In addition to the training camps and NPC events, playing time consisted of two warm-up tournaments before the qualifying tournament.

The first games were held as part of the Oceania Regional Korfball Championships, where two New Zealand based regional teams travelled to Adelaide in Australia to play against the Australian regional teams. At the end of the weekend in March the two national teams played each other. New Zealand left the event with a good understanding of what was required to improve before the tournament in Hong Kong.

The next ‘practice’ games were in Taipei, Taiwan at the International Capital Cities Cup. This took place the week before the tournament in Hong Kong and consisted of top teams Chinese Taipei and Australia alongside established Asian korfball contender Japan and newcomer Korea.

The New Zealand team progressed well during the training sessions and the games and finished in third place, gaining bronze medals and a trophy.

The squad then proceeded to Hong Kong to take part in the Seventh Asia Oceania Korfball Championships. Success at this tournament, being the qualifying event for the 2007 World Championships, was vital to enable the senior programme to continue as planned. A top four finish was required to secure qualification. Unfortunately New Zealand finished sixth and dreams of the Czech Republic the following year were thwarted.

On return to New Zealand new goals were formulated to allow the squad to continue as a body until the next senior qualifying event in 2010.

The following people are acknowledged for their membership of , support for or involvement in assisting the squad during this period: Helen Timms, Alice Carmody, Tim Asby, Daniel De Rudder, Helen Cranney, Matt Day, Rob Smith, Alex Gould, Shayne Phillips, Phil Sibbons, Wayne Timms, Bridget Timms, Lorelee Pope, Peter Gill, Elayne Teweehi, Daniel Gyles, Andy Hamilton, Boyd Kedzlie, John Fouhy, Greig Neilson, Nick Muir, Mike Oppenheim, Steven Asher, Iritana Bristowe, Natalie Stevens, Raewyn Tse, Stacey Mason, Shontee Carroll, Anna Teen, Julia Hall, Beck Lambert, Estelle Uren, Jackie Derwin, Melissa Robinson, Rushmila Karayawasam, Bronwen Bayne, Kirsteen Day, Dasha Leonova and Carla Webster

**Tim Asby**  
**Senior Squad Assistant Coach 2005-06**