

KNZ e-Newsletter - 2004 Year under review

24 Dec 2004

Christmas Wishes

Korfball New Zealand would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and an enjoyable New Year. The annual celebrations should be bringing us sunshine, warm weather, enjoyable outdoor korfball, and ample refreshments to lubricate the relaxed social atmosphere. Who knows just what has happened, but obviously someone has upset Zeus and so he is spending far too much time meting out thunder, lightning and rain, rain, rain.

So into the dry confines of the house for Christmas dinner! Barbecues to be replaced with candles - Tanning lotion with moisturiser - And all those outside toys for the kids, cricket bats, T-ball sets and korfball posts will be left piled by the door awaiting their release.

What better way to burn off those extra Christmas calories than a brisk game of beach korfball? Everyone with raincoats, rugby boots and umbrellas should assemble for a game or two – it'll be the Parkas vs the Gumboots!

All in all, have a restful and rejuvenating Christmas break.

Looking Back

Looking back over the last 12 months shows something of an explosion for korfball in New Zealand. Major milestones have been reached, and the sport which has been settled in Canterbury for the last, what, 8 years, has now grown to include Wellington and most recently Auckland. This is an amazing development, due in no small part to the drive and focus of the founding members of those regions. KNZ is ecstatic that it can now be a truly nationwide representative organisation.

KNZ was very proud to have mounted the Asian Oceania Korfball Championships in the middle of the year. The goodwill generated from the competition, the first opportunity to play a senior-level international challenge for the NZ team, and the first opportunity to have a national team that was truly national. Looking back, it was this tournament which created the publicity to allow the Auckland base to grow and reach the critical mass it needed to start their new regional body. NZ may not have won many games, may not be up to the level of our opponents, but we sure took it to the media and consequently created a new playing region.

The year's competitions, with its split level format continues to show great promise. Watching players who step up from social to A-grade and experienced the skill level needed for korfball, can show just how much korfball has developed in New Zealand. In days gone by, we all played at social level. The arrival of skilled players from overseas, who then spent time coaching their skills and strategy, significantly improved our player base.

Rob Smith's Chairman's Report discusses in detail the activities over the last year - you can read it yourself at <http://www.korfball.org.nz/archive/ChmnsRpt2004.pdf>

Looking Forward

Things are changing for New Zealand korfballers – but in a way they are also staying the same! This Newsletter will likely be the last one directly sent to you from Korfball New Zealand. The changes to the KNZ Constitution were formally accepted by the Members at the recent AGM, and they have been registered to now make them official.

What does that mean?

Well, no longer will players be direct members of KNZ. Instead, all the Canterbury players (who, by playing in a competition were automatically members of KNZ) will instead become part of Korfball Canterbury. KNZ will, from now on, be run by representatives from the regional bodies - namely Auckland, Wellington, and Canterbury (at this point).

And what does that mean?

For the players, not much. For the executive, it's a huge reduction in workload. No longer will the executive have to look after both the local competitions and also the national development. The split will also allow the Canterbury region to focus on developing and creating Clubs.

So what does that mean?

Look at the player base within your current club and see how you might be able to formalise it and grow your numbers. Sounds simple, doesn't it. By increasing your own players, you will be able to improve the playing level of your club, and so will be able to enjoy better games of korfball. Along the way, you can also focus on creating a social side, so that you can get together for those extra-curricular fun times!

Where are we now?

Korfball New Zealand is now a national, representative organisation charged with developing more regions, selecting and training the New Zealand team, and running international and national representative tournaments. Right now, the executive contains 4 Canterbury and 4 Wellington representatives, with a gap remaining for Auckland.

Auckland Korfball is growing its membership and creating its first executive. With over 40 players already, its future looks rosy to become the biggest player base in the country. Auckland and Wellington players will be meeting in Taupo in January for a friendly game or three.

Wellington Korfball is up and running with its first executive. It has a formal league in place, and is playing regular games. Already regional representative teams have been selected and games have been played with the Canterbury players.

Korfball Canterbury has been created, and is awaiting the opportunity to meet for the first time to create the new executive. This will allow the competitions to be formalised, and then a focus be made to start the creation of formalised clubs.