

Floorball Club Kraainem Tigers

Newsletter

#1

Summer 2016



U16: Champions 2015/16 !!!

News from the teams
Results of the season 2015/16
Refereeing explained
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Time to say goodbye

Why this newsletter?

Time flies when you're having fun! All of a sudden, another season is over. Players join, players leave, matches are won or lost and history is written. You hear about it, you might read something on Facebook or catch a tweet. But sometimes it's hard to see the bigger picture.

This newsletter is an attempt to capture some of the events of this season and give a view into the life of the club, inside the rink as well as behind the scenes. We hope you enjoy it and would welcome your feedback.

The Board –Anders, Lars and Boris



A word from the Chairman

When we arrived in Brussels in 2009, my children were not happy at all about leaving Sweden. The fact that they (two of them to be precise) could continue playing floorball made life a lot easier. And in this context, I want to mention Bo Rosengren. I may write these lines as Tigers' President, but the club would not exist at all without Bo's commitment - thanks!

In addition to this private interest in Tigers, I think there is a true value in doing a team sport, where you have to interact with other people and use your efforts not only for your personal success but for the success of the team.

These are the personal and general reasons why I have been in the Board (and some sort of trainer/coach too) for some years now. The players are - of course - a must to have the teams up and running, but there is a need for people that provide the basis for the players to practice and play matches.

Our club relies on voluntary work, and there is always a place to contribute in one way or another, no matter what other commitments - work, studies, family, ... - there may be. I have never played floorball in a club myself (except for a few Division 3 matches some years ago when we had a critical lack of players). But you learn as you go along, and even though there may be questions and challenges to overcome, there are also big potential rewards when the players are happy and the teams make good results. And those who are already involved in the club's activities are happy to introduce new resources.

Now we are planning for next season. Generally, it looks good for U19 and U16, with a stable group of players. U13 faces the same situation as every year: we

start out with a little too few players because the oldest have left for U16 and new candidates typically drop in as the season comes along. And Adults will face new challenges with better opponents in Division 1, and some core players leaving the team for their home countries.

So don't hesitate to promote Tigers whenever you meet someone that may be our next player! And don't hesitate to contact the Board if you can contribute to the club outside the rink!

With this I wish all of you a nice summer break and hope to see you back again when practice starts in early September.

Anders



Looking back at the season



Ma 1ère année avec les U13

En tant que coach

Cette première année en tant que coach U13 a été une expérience exceptionnelle pour moi ! Je n’avais jamais eu l’occasion d’entraîner une équipe en club auparavant. J’avais déjà entraîné les différents niveaux d’âge en périscolaire à l’école Européenne mais les entraînements en périscolaire étaient basé principalement sur le ludique.

J’étais un peu stressé au début d’année, car j’avais eu l’occasion d’observer de nombreuses leçons l’année dernière, données par Jakub, qui est un excellent coach! J’avais un peu peur de faire moins bien que lui, aux yeux des joueurs car j’avais moins d’expérience. J’ai eu l’occasion de passer ma licence, en tant que référé cette année, cela m’a rassuré.

Finalement, Anders, Jakub et Lars m’ont très vite mis à l’aise. J’ai appris beaucoup grâce à eux et j’apprends encore à chaque entraînement ! L’entente avec l’équipe est vraiment très bonne et ils sont tous très ouvert à la discussion ! Cette saison a été très constructive et j’en remercie tous le staff.

L’équipe / Les joueurs



J’ai vu l’équipe évoluée tout au long de l’année, que ce soit physiquement, techniquement ou mentalement. Les voir si motivé m’a beaucoup encouragé à faire de mon mieux.

Je n’ai pas eu l’occasion malheureusement d’assister à beaucoup de match cette saison, car je travaillais souvent le samedi dans un club de fitness en tant que coach. Lars et Jakub se sont principalement occupés des matches et je les remercie également pour cela.

Notre plus belle victoire cette année, a été celle remporté contre les champions (les Renards de la Hulpe 5:6), alors qu’on était mené 4:1. Ce match a été fort en émotion, les joueurs ont été chercher cette



victoire au bout d’eux-mêmes et ils l’ont bien mérité! Ils ont compris ce jour-là, qu’un match n’est jamais fini avant le dernier coup de sifflet ! Encore Bravo à eux !!!

Globalement

Je suis très satisfait de leur saison. Ils ont progressé de 2 places au niveau du classement, par rapport à l’année dernière, ils terminent 6^{em}. Le niveau de l’équipe en fin d’année dépassait mon espérance. Merci à tous les joueurs et au reste du staff, pour cette saison exceptionnelle passée à vos côtés!

Perspective pour l’année prochaine : Faire mieux que cette année, malgré les nombreux joueurs qui montent en U16! Faire progresser l’équipe plus rapidement et plus tôt dans la saison car j’ai plus d’expérience. J’espère que l’équipe atteindra le top 3.

Cédric

U13 2015/16	Wins	Draw	Lost	Goals	Pts
1 Les Renards de La Hulpe	5	1	1	52-20	11
2 FBC Stimulo Denderleeuw	4	2	1	21-13	10
3 Juventus Floorball Club	5	0	2	42-14	10
4 Floorballteam Strijtem	4	1	2	51-23	9
5 FT Atom Eagles	4	0	3	32-39	8
6 FC Kraainem Tigers	2	1	4	25-42	5
7 Fireballs Tielt	1	1	5	26-49	3
8 TMD Aalst	0	0	7	9-67	0



Looking back at the season



Perspective: the fan

Being a committed Tigers fan in the past seven years has had many ups and downs. It's always a pleasure to shout for the Tigers, but winning is of course the best feeling – also for the fans.

This current team has already been very close to the championship twice: In 2010/2011, the then U12 lost the championship only in the final game. And in 2014/15, the U16 ended second again. We knew that this season would be the last for the team in its current setup, so hopes were high – surely this time it could work?

But it looked like we were in for a disappointment. The first game of the season was a clear defeat, and spirit seemed low. Then followed a victory, a defeat, a victory... ok but something was missing: team play. We saw many good individual actions and some impressive results (18:3, 19:4) but didn't see a team that could stand up to the rivals for the championship.



Something must have happened though. The November game against Stimulo was an entirely different thing: very well coordinated defence, clever pass play, and controlled offensive that opened up the possibilities to score. This was a team that could go all the way – and they did! Congratulations for a well-deserved championship.

Boris



Perspective: the coach

As you know by now, U16 won the league and became Belgian champions this season. Really well done, and I'm happy for all the players, not least those who were so close to win the season before, but stumbled on the finishing line - this year we had the small margins on our side, and finished before Waterloo Lions thanks to a very tight 7-6 win.

We had 24 licensed U16 players this season. This is completely in line with our approach to welcome everyone that wants to play floorball, but since the league matches are limited to 20 players, and the ideal number from a match and coach perspective is around 15, this leads sometimes to rather delicate decisions. Nevertheless, I do hope that every player appreciates being part of the team's success.

Next season no less than 11 players born 2000 will leave the team (and not as many, born 2003, will move up from U13). In other words: new season, new possibilities - and we hope to see a lot of players taking up practice again in September.

Anders

U16 TOP 2015/16	Wins	Draw	Lost	Goals	Pts
1 FC Kraainem Tigers	4	0	1	22-19	8
2 Waterloo Lions	4	0	1	34-18	8
3 Fireballs Tielt Black	3	0	2	20-13	6
4 FBC Stimulo Spartans	2	1	2	16-16	5
5 Juventus Floorball Club	1	1	3	10-18	3
6 TMD Aalst	0	0	5	13-31	0



Looking back at the season

Perspective: the captain

This season, 2015-16, was definitely the best season I've ever shared with the Tigers. It was full of emotions, team play, responsibility and respect. There were both good and bad moments, a lot of tight games and it was intense. During the season there were also some disagreements between some players including me and the coach. It isn't easy for a team to have a situation like that, but luckily we got over it. Finally I want to thank him for his great work and thank him for making playing floorball possible in Kraainem, with the help of many others as well! Thanks to all of you.

When the season started, we were confident because our U16 team came second in the ranking the previous season. After playing our first game of the season against the Waterloo Lions I was speechless. They had a strong, well-organised team based on strong defending and very quick counter-attacks. We lost the game 15-4. It was hard to motivate the team for the rest of the season after such a demolishing loss. We weren't organised and we had a lot to learn.

It started off directly in our next practice. We were more focused and concentrated on the training. We won a few games in a row in the U16 East league, but we still weren't a real team. We had strong individual players, but the real team chemistry that glues a team together was still missing. The games weren't nice to watch even though we won them by clear difference. But the last game of the "preliminary" league was going to be a tough one, against a strong Stimulo Denderleeuw that had eventually beaten the Lions.

Personally I think that it was that game that turned the season for us. We were missing a few important players, but somehow the game felt different. It was a tough opponent, we had to play good if we wanted to win and that's what we did. I think that there is a clear element that represents the good team spirit that we had in that game. We were leading 2-0 but Stimulo came back to 2-2 with some nice goals. We had a quick talk in the team and decided that we will win the game, no matter what. And so we did. We scored 4 more goals to assure a final score of 6-4 against Stimulo and proceed to the "Top Division": 5 more games to be played after the Christmas holidays, against the toughest 5 teams in Belgium.

After the holidays the confidence in the team was sky-high again. We didn't really think that there would be a challenge against the other teams that we hadn't played against yet. We were clearly too arrogant and obviously lost the first game 6-2 against Fireballs Tiel. We didn't really cry about it, the game showed perfectly how much better they were on that day. Nevertheless it was a huge disappointment. We lost our first game again and the fact that in the next league round we were facing Waterloo again didn't really

relax us. The game however went well and we won 7-6. It was one of the most fun, intense and interesting floorball games I've ever played. The team had gathered itself together and had achieved this victory.

The next two league round were tight games as well: 4-3 against Juventus and 3-1 against TMD Aalst. The season was looking good for Tigers despite the first loss. After the results of the other games were known the situation became clear. We would be champions by winning our last game against Stimulo and if Waterloo won against Tiel. We practiced hard to be able to beat Stimulo. We were sure they wanted a revenge on us.

On the last game day, we got a strong 2-0 lead in the first five minutes and the game felt already won, but Stimulo hadn't given up yet. Right after the second goal they scored and then again right before the end of the first period. Score during the intermission: 2-2. We had a good team talk during the intermission and finally ended up winning the game 6-3 with some nice team plays and also some good individual efforts.

The only problem was that our victory wasn't yet enough: the Waterloo-Tiel game was still to be played. Most of the team stayed in the hall watching the game and hoping for the best. And it was worth staying. Waterloo won the game and we became the champions. The whole team was obviously happy that we won. I would like to once more thank all the players, parents, coaches and other people who supported Tigers by any way during the season.



I've played in Tigers for five years now and so much has happened. We improved really quickly - our team final rankings from the five seasons say it all. It's in chronological order: 6,6,4,2 and finally 1. Playing in Tigers has always been fun despite maybe some big games we lost, for example last season and this season in U19 but I like the team-spirit and that a loss is quickly forgotten in the team. It hasn't always been easy at the practices. Sometimes they were very late and we never had our home games. We hope this will change for the next season which I'm already looking forward to.

Juho



Looking back at the season



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How the Adults team stormed through to Division 1

As champions of the third division from the previous year, Tigers were automatically promoted to the second Belgian floorball division for the season 2015-2016. It was very lucky that core of the team remained without major changes and only a few players left. Also very nice was the fact that some good players joined the team – Stephan from Switzerland, Michal from Czech Republic, Cedric from Belgium, Kalle from Sweden. With Johan and Anton, an important Swedish reinforcement came also from the Tigers U19 team. During the season Lennart joined the team and Kalle left back to Sweden in January. With this list of players Tigers were ready to fight in 16 matches.



At the BFF ceremony after the last play-off game

It all started in September 2015 with the game against Stimulo Spartans. The games with Stimulo had always been tough and this game was no different. After a really dramatic game both team gained one point with the 4:4 draw. But the result was a good signal for the team: Tigers belong in the second division (last season, Stimulo Spartans played first division).

There were three other teams where difficult and important games were expected – Union Beynoise, Tornado BIS and of course Fireballs Tielt. After several rounds it became clear that be the battle for the championship would take place among these teams. Tornado BIS soon lost several points and only four teams remained in the straight fight for winning the division. All along the season, there were only one or two points difference among them and until the last game it was not decided who would win the division.

From the table below you can see that there was only one point difference between the first three teams. Due to one defeat more, Tigers ended third. In total, our team won 11 games from 16, achieved a draw in 3 and lost 2 during the whole season. In addition to this very nice result it must be underlined that the Tigers had the best goal difference and with Klaus Kartila also had the division’s top scorer.



Topscorer in D2 and in U19: Klaus

With this result the Tigers were qualified for the play-offs where they could fight for the first division. The Juventus Club Bianconeri was the team which was the last block on the way to the first division and Tigers made it with a 13:7 victory. Although the second game against first division team FT Atom Eagles A was not decisive, the team won again and marched through to the first division.

After this season there will be some changes in the team because some players are leaving Brussels. Ondrej is going back to the Czech Republic, the first line of Tigers – Anssi, Klaus and Aarne- go back to Finland. Max will move back to Sweden and maybe some others. But of course new players will join the team and Tigers will be fighting again and again in the upcoming matches.

Ondrej

D2 2015/16	Wins	Draw	Lost	Goals	Pts
1 FBC Stimulo Spartans (A)	12	2	2	129-42	26
2 Fireballs Tielt Red	12	1	3	123-37	25
3 FC Kraainem Tigers	11	3	2	155-57	25
4 Tornado Bis	9	2	5	83-53	20
5 Union Beynoise Unihockey	9	2	5	73-70	20
6 Black Hawks de Mons	6	1	9	60-66	13
7 FBC Sharks Meix	3	2	11	46-120	8
8 Floorballteam Strijtem B	3	1	13	44-105	7
9 RLH Espoir	0	0	16	18-181	0

Looking back at the season



Competing in a very strong field

U19 ended in the season third place, after losing two tight matches against the teams in first and second position (TMD Aalst Black and Stimulo Denderleeuw), and winning the rest. The U19 league does not have so many teams, but the matches are sometimes just as intense as in the Adults league. After a tough season 2014-15, all pieces fell in the right place and we did a really good season this year.

The cooperation between U19 and Adults has been very good too, with common practice on Thursdays and several U19 players taking the step up to play an important role in Adults too. This is something we plan to keep up and running next season.

Some key players, including Klaus Kartila who finished top-scorer (in both U19 and Adults), are currently doing their BAC and then most likely leave Brussels for further studies elsewhere. Good luck to them - and to those who stay, or move up from U16: let's keep the spirit up for next season.

Anders



U19 2015/16	P	V	D	L	Avg	(GF-GA)	Pts
1 TMD Aalst Black	8	8	0	0	67	(78-11)	16
2 FBC Stimulo Denderleeuw	8	6	0	1	39	(48-9)	14
3 FC Kraainem Tigers	8	6	0	2	64	(87-23)	12
4 Floorballteam Strijtem	8	5	0	3	34	(59-25)	10
5 Juventus Floorball Club	8	3	1	4	3	(39-36)	7
5 Les Renards de La Hulpe	8	3	1	4	-26	(28-44)	7
7 FT Atom Eagles	8	2	0	6	-36	(26-61)	4
8 TMD Aalst White	8	1	0	7	-43	(18-62)	2
9 Black Hawks de Mons	8	0	0	7	-102	(9-111)	0

Precious investments

The boarding surrounding the playing field is essential equipment for playing floorball. A complete set is quite expensive for a small club like ours: it costs around €4000.



Using some accumulated savings and with the help of some generous donations from players and their families, the club purchased a first set in 2012 for use at the adult and U19 practice.

But since we're having practice at two different places, we needed to find a solution also for the U13 and U16 practices at the European School. In 2014, we have been able to conclude an agreement with the Suomi-klubi (the Finnish Club in Brussels) who also practices floorball at the EEB to share the costs for a boarding. With more donations from Tigers members we were then able to purchase another complete set.

We'd like to remind all players when using, installing or storing the boarding elements that they represent an important investment for our club and should be treated with care.

Mysteries explained

How a sports club works

Magically, the gym is available once a week, with equipment and a coach and somehow, on some weekends, other teams are happy to play against us – this can't be happening all by itself?

As you already suspected, it isn't. Most small clubs, and certainly the Tigers, rely heavily on volunteers that make the club go round. From parents who help at games, to coaches, referees and Board members.

Every little help makes a difference – starting with cleaning up after practice... If you think you could get more involved in the life of the club, please do not hesitate to contact the Board. You might find out that it's actually fun!



It's a dirty job but someone's gotta do it!

According to the league rules of the Belgian Floorball Federation, each club should register at least two referees per team. In Belgium, there are three levels of referee licences which depend on the experience of the referee and the result of the annual referee test. Adult matches have to be refereed by at least one referee with the highest licence (A-licence).

The referee test takes place usually in September. This season, Tigers had registered 13 referees for the adult team and the three youth teams. Well prepared by an introductory course given specifically for all newcomers by Lars Skaringer, all Tigers candidates passed the test.



For the adults league, referees are nominated by the Federation around 3 to 4 weeks in advance and informed on their nomination. In the youth leagues, each club has a number of matches to referee which are fixed from the start of the season. For the Tigers, we tried to evenly distribute the matches to the available referees. Lars and I had to take more matches as always at least one of us – having an A-licence – had to be present for the adult matches.

Referee classes and test 2016

BFF organises compulsory classes for beginner and advanced referee candidates. The referees have to attend an entire course to take the exam at the end of the course. New referees and C licensed referees should attend the beginners' course. B and A licensed referees should attend the advanced course.

Beginner's classes and test take place in the weekend of 10/9 and 11/9 (in Dutch and French). Exact location etc. is still to be confirmed. There are two dates for the advanced course in September: Saturday 17/9 and Sunday 18/9. Both advanced referee courses will be given in English by the IFF observer Adrian Kretz. Exact planning and info about the location will follow.

The A and B licensed referees who cannot attend the advanced course on 17 or 18 September, can pass the exam on the date of the beginners' course, but have to follow the entire beginners' course. Since there were no referee courses at all during last season, all referees have to attend a referee course.

Contrary to the season 2014/2015, this year we had enough referees and did not have to pay penalties to the federation for missed matches. Penalties are imposed if the total number of referees is not fulfilled or if referees from the club do not show up or cancel last minute. This can be a significant financial burden for the club, thus it is also financially important to have referees. In any case, who would want to play a serious match without?

Next year will be a challenge, as 2-3 experienced referees will not be available any more. I hope that parents from U-16 and U-13, young and in particular adult players will continue to take over this task for themselves and the club. I have been refereeing since more than 25 years in Switzerland, Germany and Belgium and find it still fascinating to read the game as a referee. While the rules are not always simple, in particular relating to penalties, it is in most cases just a decision of common sense: if a player unfairly pushes or hits the stick of the opponent, you whistle. By the way, referees get a small financial compensation for each match (10 Euros for a youth match and 20 Euro for an adult match), and the club pays for the course and the referee outfit.

Thanks to all Tigers referees!

Johannes

Active referees - season 2015/16

Lars	12 matches
Johannes	10 matches
Christer	7 matches
Johan	3 matches
Pasi	3 matches
Juho	3 matches
Ondrej	3 matches
Cédric	2 matches
Sven	1 match



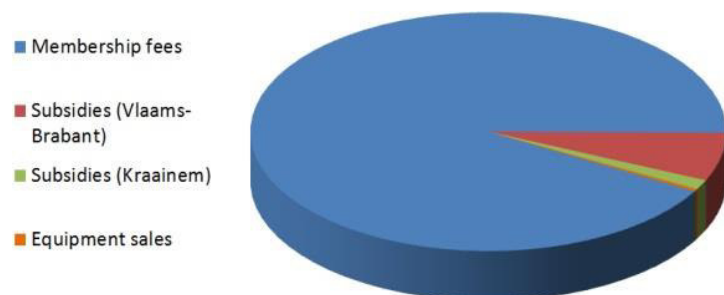
How the season went in financial terms

What is the turnover of Kraainem Tigers FC?

- Just about EUR 18.000 this season.

Where does the money come from?

- Almost all (more than 90%) comes from the membership fees. The remaining part are subsidies from the municipality of Kraainem and from the Sportregio programme of the Flemish Brabant province.



So we don't have any sponsors?

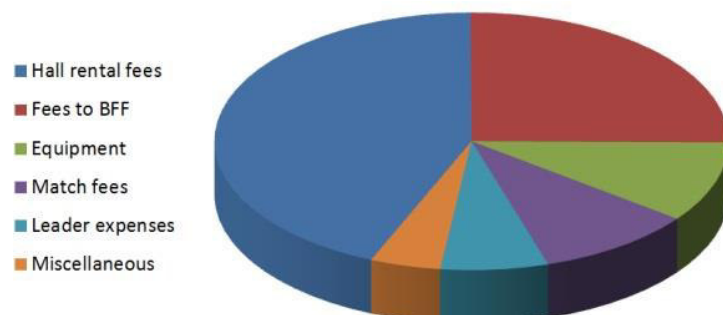
- So far, it has been difficult for us to find sponsors as floorball is a marginal sport in Belgium. Furthermore, most of our members comes from other countries and have few contacts with local business. Some years we have received important contributions from the members to acquire side boards (see article on page 7). We also have THEMAX, official distributor of Salming in Belgium, as privileged supplier where all Tigers players get discounts! We are of course very grateful for all support we can get and finally, as from next season we have an agreement with the Crelan Agency Kraainem for a regular financial support. While it is a modest amount, it is certainly a good start for us and we appreciate this help a lot.

What is the financial result this season?

- As you know our club is a so called vzw ("vereniging zonder winstoogmerk") which means that we are a non-profit association. Our goal is thus to make revenues and expenses to balance each other at the end of every season. This season is no exception and currently we are in line with our provisions.

What is the money used for?

- Our biggest expense is the rent for our three training halls which represents 44% of our expenses. The second largest cost is the different fees we pay to the Belgium Floorball Federation. It represents 25% of our expenses and includes among other the registration and insurances for our players as well as the registration fees for our teams.



Finally, is there anything we can do to reduce the costs?

- The most concrete action is to keep the different penalty fees to the Belgium Floorball Federation at a low level. These fees vary from 10 euro for a missing identity card to 500 euro for an unannounced forfeit! This past season we have paid 280 euro to BFF in penalty fees.

Time to say goodbye

Being such an international club has downsides as well: at the end of every season, players leave us for various reasons. This year, we have to bid farewell to many long-time players and club members. You will be truly missed!

Onni Afoumou is going back to Finland.

Joakim Andersson started to play with Tigers U15 in 2011 after having played field hockey with La Rassante. This autumn he will move to Sweden to study marine technology at the Marina Secondary Grammar School in Stockholm. By the way, the school has a floorball team...

Lars Andersson: Following the departure of his son, our treasurer and Twitter wizard lays down his mandate at the end of this season.

Johannes Baur, our long-time referee coordinator will take up a job in the Ukraine.

Ondrej Gryc is going back to the Czech Republic this summer. He hopes to continue playing floorball.

Karl Hammarlund has already left in January after temporary work in Brussels.

Jonatan Hermansson will study biology at the University of Reading.

Max Rosengren took the BAC exam and leaves to Sweden (see interview on page 13).

Also leaving: **Aarne Aalto**, **Anton Hagström**, **Klaus Kartila**, **Filip Sabo** and **Anssi Vääriskoski**



Een echt internationale club

Dit seizoen waren er in onze club spelers van vijftien verschillende nationaliteiten. Maar ze delen allemaal één taal - floorball! Kun jij alle vlaggen herkennen?

United Nations of Tigers 2015-2016



Report from the General Assembly

The annual General Assembly took place on 21 May 2016.

The Assembly is principally made up of the "effective members" of the club – these are persons that are willing to take on some level of responsibility for the club management. Only effective members have the right to vote at the General Assembly, but all other members (players) or their legal representatives are welcome to attend as well.

This year, two new effective members (Gavino and Lars S.) were elected unanimously. Unfortunately, Ondrej and Johannes will end their effective membership by September. The Assembly then went on to its most important task: with all votes in favour, the annual accounts for the fiscal year 2015 were formally approved and the Board was granted discharge for that same year.

The Board then informed the Assembly about several items:

- the expected financial result for the current season, which should end with a balance of around €1500 (last season: €3000);
- the registration of teams for the next season in the U13, U16, U19 and Division 1 leagues;
- the planned arrangements for regular practice;
- the referee situation.

The General Assembly discussed the membership fees for 2016/17. Based on the best estimates by the Board, and faced with several uncertainties regarding the number of licenced players, the costs for hall rental or potential penalties to be paid to the league, it was decided that the different levels of the membership fee will be increased by €25.

The Assembly voted in favour of a proposed change in the composition of the Board: Lars Andersson will leave the Board and three new members Gavino Murgia, Ville Kivikoski and David Hadrousek will in the future help with the club's management, together with Anders Ericsson and Boris Kandziora.

Finally, the Board explained the proposed change to the club's statutes which aims to bring the statutes in line with Belgian legal requirements, where a maximum level needs to be set for the "jaarlijkse bijdrage" (the contribution paid by effective members, currently €0) but not for the "lidgeld" (the membership fee paid by adherent members). The amendment was approved unanimously.

With seven participants, the meeting had a better attendance than in some other years. Still, it would be nice if more Tigers took an interest and participated in the discussion. The minutes of the meeting are available on the Tigers website www.tigerskfc.eu.

Boris



In search of space

As described on page 9, the Tigers spend over 40% of their yearly budget for renting halls in Woluwe-St. Pierre. If we are the "Kraainem" Tigers, why do we not have our practise there?

Tough times for 'newcomers'

Kraainem commune has a mid-sized sports hall located at the Northern end of the commune, close to the Parc Jourdain with its lakes and outdoor sports facilities. It has a wooden floor, sufficiently spacious and clean locker rooms, and a nice cafeteria that overlooks the hall.



For years, the club has tried to obtain suitable hours to organise its practice here, but to no avail: considered being a "new" club (compared to clubs that have been there for decades), we have never been able to have appropriate, regular hours. Currently our allocated time slot is Wednesdays from 21h30 to 23h – not a suitable time in particular for youth teams. And we have it only two to three times per month.



Looking elsewhere

Since a few years, on the initiative of Bo, the Tigers have become a regular partner of the afterschool activities at the European School in Woluwe. Although this course for young players is not an official activity of the club, it allows raising our visibility and has become a steady source of new players who would like to further develop their skills and take part in matches. So it was only natural to apply for practice hours in the school's sport hall and now we have a full three hours' time on Wednesday afternoons, allowing us to organise U13 and U16 practices there.

In addition, we need a regular practice opportunity for the U19 and the adults team. For this, we are renting the sports hall of the Athénée Royal de Woluwé-St. Lambert, close to metro station Roodebeek.

At home – where?

It might seem strange that the Kraainem Tigers can rarely ever been seen in Kraainem. And it certainly is a problem that we can never organise home matches – unfortunately this is not possible at the school halls we mostly use. The Kraainem hall would be a nice "home", but that would require sufficient hours and also weekend slots. With more hours, it would also make sense to move one of our two boardings there.

The club's management continues to work with the Commune's administration and the association of Kraainem sports clubs (the 'Sportraad'). Hopefully one day some progress can be made. At the time of this writing, discussions are on-going.

A brief history of the Tigers

The Adults league was for years dominated by Speedhok Brussels, who won the championship five times, including four seasons in a row. Around 2005/2006 Bo Rosengren started the Woluwe Tigers with the kids of some Speedhok players. At the time, the BFF did not have leagues for the youth teams. Instead, the youth teams played tournaments.

In 2009, both clubs merged to become the Kraainem Tigers who would continue competing in both the Adults and the Youth leagues.

Successes of the Tigers in the Belgian Floorball league include 1st place of the U18 team in 2010/11, 1st place in Adults Division 3 in 2014/15 and now 1st place in U16.

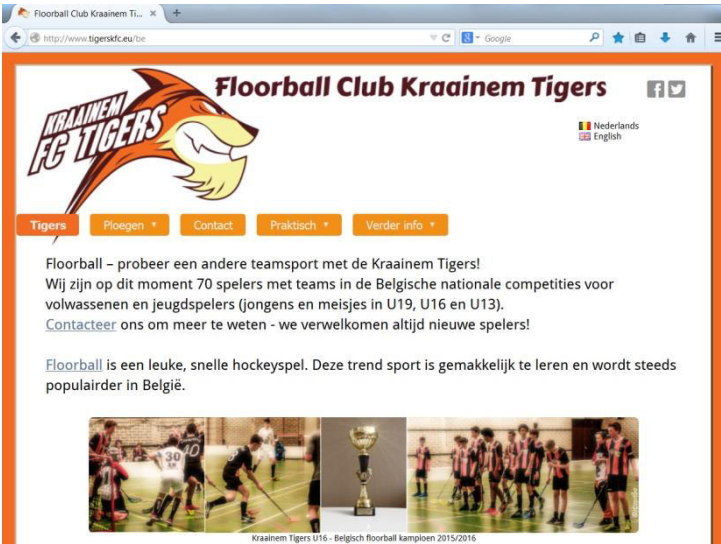


The Tigers online

Our club tries to inform members and the public through several channels. Here is an overview. The Board would welcome any feedback and suggestions for improvement!

Our web site

Our web site www.tigerskfc.eu provides all the important information you need for participating in the club’s activities. It has descriptions of the teams, indicates hall hours and practice times, and gives some background on how the club works.

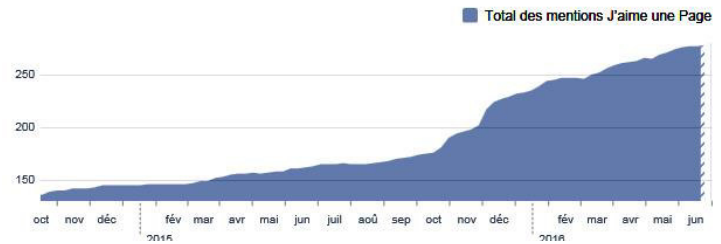


The website is often the first contact point for newcomers interested in the club. Every month, it is visited by more than 200 persons.

Facebook

Not everybody is on Facebook, and that’s ok! But it turned out that Facebook is a very good tool to inform about upcoming matches and results. We share many photos and videos there, and connect to other clubs. For many people, [our Facebook page](#) gives a view on the weekly life of the club and we often receive positive comments and feedback.

In the past year, we’ve been able to significantly expand our reach on Facebook and currently, over 275 persons or organisations “like” our page.



Our Club is on Twitter - @FCTigers

If you are a user of Twitter you have probably noticed that the club is present on Twitter since some years now. The main purpose is to communicate results and events but we also want to strengthen the club’s image in and outside Belgium.

There is generally a strong association between Floorball and Twitter. Many floorball clubs around the world are communicating actively on Twitter. In Belgium it is not so common yet. Only a handful floorball clubs are using Twitter and only occasionally. Kraainem Tigers is by far the most active floorball club on Twitter in Belgium. Since we started we have sent more than 1.500 messages. We are following about 300 floorball clubs, mostly from the members' home countries and we have more than 100 followers.



Visibility

It is difficult to say what we have achieved by using Twitter but we believe that thanks to our active use of Tiger’s online channels (website, Facebook and Twitter) we are probably the most famous Belgian floorball club outside Belgium and if so, it is of course most encouraging!

Vacancy

FC Kraainem Tigers are looking for help to manage their Twitter account. Our pioneer Lars is leaving us in September and we would be very happy if someone stepped up to continue the trail Lars has been blazing for us.

Experience required: none
Salary: none

Possessing a smart phone with a mobile data plan would be considered an asset.

Interview with Max Rosengren, U19 captain and Tigers veteran

Max, you have been with the Tigers practically from the beginning. How did all this start for you?

It all started as an after school activity organized by my father. There were almost only Swedish students from my class in this group and as we learned more about the sport we wanted to play against other teams. So a team called Woluwe Tigers was created, this would later be changed to Kraainem Tigers as we started practicing in Kraainem.

At the time there was no league for our age group as we were only about 7-8 years old but a few tournaments every year were organized. Many of those tournaments we won and I personally knew it was a sport I wanted to keep playing.

What has been your most memorable event in that long career as a Tigers player?

I have many great memories with the Tigers, of course the first tournaments I played are something I'll always remember. Especially the tournaments we won as I have always loved winning, just as much then as now. But looking at the more recent years, winning the Adult league during my first year with this team was certainly something special. But the most memorable event has to be this year's U19 match against Strijtem, a tight match with loads of goals that we finally won thanks to a great team moral and amazing fighting spirit. As a captain I was very proud of my team and my players.

Have you noticed any development in floorball in Belgium?

The floorball in Belgium has definitely developed over the years I have played here. I've watched many Belgian players my age develop into great floorball players which has been great to see. Overall I think that floorball is developing all over the world and I wouldn't be surprised if it's an Olympic sport within the coming years.

There are certainly not many goalies that are missing a hand! It doesn't seem to be any problem for you when playing. What made you want to be a goalie from the start?

I've always liked a challenge and I have always been very fascinated by goalies in every sport. Not only floorball. The huge responsibility a goalkeeper carries and the pressure a goalkeeper can feel during certain matches is something I love. So there was no question about what position I was going to play when I started playing floorball and my handicap wasn't going to stop me. In fact I think that it is something that has made me train and work harder than anyone else which has resulted in me being better than many others. Of course I've had to adapt and my playing style is different than other goalies but I believe this makes it harder for the opponent players as I do not follow the pattern they are used to.

Personally I do not focus on it anymore and from what I know the people around me don't either.

There will always be opponents pointing it out and trying to provoke me by commenting on this, but that only pushes me to become better in order to prove them wrong.

So we hear you are heading to Sweden - what are your plans and will you stay true to floorball?

Yes, as I am graduating this year I will be moving to Sweden this summer. I'm planning to study real estate in university and hopefully I can start a career within this area. But I'm of course going to keep playing floorball as I'm going to the best floorball nation in the world, Sweden. It's definitely going to be a challenge as the level in Sweden is so high but as we've all understood by now, a challenge doesn't stop me.







Some info about the next season

Practice hours

- U13 practice in the European School on Wednesdays, 16:30-18:15.
- U16 practice in the European School on Wednesdays, 18:15-20:00.
- Adults+U19 practice either in Roodebeek on Thursdays, 20:00-21:30 like this season - or in Kraainem on Tuesdays (negotiations were still on-going at the time of this writing). In this case the practice set-up is still to be confirmed.

Membership fee

Following the decision of the General Assembly (see article on page 10), the membership fee for the season 2016/17 is as follows:

- Adults players (born 1997 or earlier) - 275 EUR
- Youth players (born 1998 or later) - 245 EUR

Please pay your membership fee no later than July 1 to the Tigers account:

IBAN: BE17 8601 0764 4821

BIC: SPAABE22

League games

League games will start again in September. Locations and adversaries will be known later, but note already these dates of the first matches of our teams:

- U13: Sunday 2 October
- U16 : Saturday 24 September
- U19: Saturday 15 October
- D1: Sunday 25 September

Shoes, sticks and other equipment

SALMING has been the Tigers' preferred equipment provider for years. SALMING is a big brand in floorball, squash, running and handball.

SALMING BENELUX, represented in Belgium by THEMAXSPORT, hopes to continue being a supportive partner to the Tigers this coming season.



www.salming.com
THEMAXSPORT@telenet.be
 GSM 0475-308551

Sponsorship from Crelan agency Kraainem

We are very happy to announce that the club now has an official sponsor. The Crelan agency Kraainem has offered to provide annual financial support for the work of the club. The club has its account at this bank since the beginning and is very satisfied with the good business relationship.

Crelan Agency Bernadette de Keersmaeker

Our agency offers a complete service: all payments, savings plans and investments, loans and insurance. As independent agents, we opt for a long-term relationship with our customers. No frequent personnel changes, but familiar faces who know your history. We gladly take the time to advise you.

Koningin Astridlaan 233
 1950 Kraainem
 tel: 02 731 97 40
Kraainem@crelan.be
 FSMA 019408 A-B

www.crelan.be



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