

Summer 2018

KRAAINEM FC TIGERS

Newsletter #3

A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear members,

Time to look back on the season that has just ended.

Our league results in the 2017-18 season were clearly among the best in the history of Tigers: U19 champions, U13 champions too, and Adults running for the top of D2 all season long. U16 was trailing a bit result-wise, but was still successful in a broader perspective.

The U19 and U13 seasons were quite different, with different challenges, although they both ended with Tigers in first place. U19 had a title to defend, the group was relatively small, and we did take a loss that could have spoiled our chances. On the contrary, U13 started from a season with mixed results, the group comprised more than 20 licensed players with varying age and floorball experience, but all pieces fell in the right place and they managed to go through the season undefeated, with ten straight victories.

U19 were strong and disciplined in both attack and defence (goal differential 81-22 in 8 games), whereas U13 kept the tradition from last year with loads of goals (goal differential 130-51 in ten games, and individual results like 15-11 and 13-9). Anyway, there was really good performance and entertainment in both cases.

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Adults had a good season too, with opposition at the right level. Some really tough games, and some games with lots of goal-scoring. Just like last season, U19 players contributed a lot to the team. In the end we finished in third place, but the following play-off for D1 showed again that there indeed is a difference between D2 and D1.

U16 had a fairly tough season after the first and second place of the two preceding seasons. For no specific reason, we have a dip in our number of players for the years 2002 and 2003, and this had an impact on U16 this year. Still, they kept on practicing and ended with two wins and one draw in the end – well done!

This being said about the teams in general, I would like to point out some other

things, with one common characteristic: successful collaboration.

Let's start with two symbolic occasions that both took place the weekend on 10-11 March. On Saturday, U16 took their first win for the season, with significant help from a U13 player (and throughout the season, we had no less than eight U13 players in U16 games). On Sunday, we lacked both of our main goalkeepers for the Adults game, but our U16 goalkeeper stepped in and got a clean sheet in his Adults debut, two months after his 16th birthday.

Personally, I really like this. Increased interaction between the teams gives more cohesion and stability for Tigers as a whole. The players learn from playing with more skilled players, and will have an easier time getting used to the age group they will move up to in the future.

"In my opinion, this is the core of it all, being able to play your sport and have fun in a positive atmosphere with mutual respect."

GOALIES' CORNER

Goalkeepers don't always get the attention they deserve at practice. The focus is often on tactics and exercises where the goalkeeper plays the secondary role. During part of the season, our old goalkeeper Bo Rosengren conducted a one-hour dedicated goalkeeper practice on Tuesdays. This was very much appreciated by all goalkeepers, from Romain in U13, via Matej in U16 and Robin in U19, to Heini in the Adults team. Hopefully, we will be able to continue this next season.



At club level, we had some similar examples too, with two players from Waterloo Lions joining Tigers Adults team, due to Lions' lack of an Adults team. Additionally, two players from Tornado played U19 with us (and ultimately Adults too) since Tornado did not have a U19 team. This really strengthened both our teams, and the players had no problems with being teammates one weekend and opponents the next. Some of our U16 players also joined forces with Les Renards de La Hulpe in the Storvreta cup in Sweden around New Year.

In my opinion, this is the core of it all, being able to play your sport and have fun in a positive atmosphere with mutual respect.

Our presence in Kraainem changed quite a bit this season. For the first time in many years, we had regular weekly practice, although the setup changed during the season. We went from the planned separate practice for U16, U19, and Adults to dedicated goalkeeper practice followed by combined U19 and Adults practice, depending on the number of available players. Still, the practice has been a welcome addition, and it also led to us hosting a D2 league round in March. This was a really rewarding experience in itself, and gave an opportunity to become more visible in Kraainem.

Looking onto next season, there will be a

turnover of players as usual, and more specifically we will lose several players that have consistently played U19 and Adults the last two-three seasons. However, with a number of new players (including some from the past, who now return to floorball), we are confident that the Adults and U19 will have fairly stable teams. U16 will benefit from the arrival of some of the U13 champions and become more stable this season. And U13 has a good core and some new players joining, so they should be well off too.

We plan to keep the basic practice setup from this year, and we will apply to BFF for two league rounds during the season. And the financial status is stable.

The only concern for the 2018-19 season is about our referees. For a start, we need a good presence at the BFF course and test 2 and 9 September, and we need people to act as referees during the season as well. Anyone that is able to help out here – or with any other kind of volunteering work at club or team level – is most welcome to contact us. And finally, in this context, a big THANK YOU to all of you that already help out and keep Tigers up and running!

Enjoy the summer, and hope to see you again in early September!

Anders

U13: a season to remember

As always, the U13 team went enthusiastically into a new season, and I think we had one clear goal: to do better than in the previous year. After a few practices it was clear that we had a quite good team in the making. With several players doing their last year in U13, we were also in a better position experience-wise than last season.

The first match-day arrived, we were facing Aalst and we won that game, not because we were much better really, but we just managed to score more goals (15) than we conceded (11). So we were off to a good start, but we also knew that we needed to improve the structure of play, since strong opponents were on the horizon.

Already in the next game we met Strijtem Green, a team we would on beforehand count as one of the favorites. And the team had improved, taking more responsibility in the defense and helping each other across the field, with some players starting to play more and more like "real" defenders, a position not so famous among players at this age. The match finished 13-9 for Tigers and by now we knew that this could become a very good season.

Next up were Juventus, defending champions and a team that beat us quite easily in the previous season. Those of you who were there got to see a very tight and intensive game that eventually ended 8-6 for Tigers, with a really remarkable effort from all who were there, across the whole field. This was the first game where we as coaches (Andrew, Cedric and me) felt there was a need to "top" the team towards the end, playing mainly with the stronger players, primarily those born in 2005 - 2006. After this game, having beaten the current champions, it was clear we had something special in the works.

Then followed a number of other games that we won one after the other and it became clearer and clearer that the last game of the season, against La Hulpe who were also winning their games, could become decisive for the league title. As this last game of the season coincided

with the start of the Easter break in the European schools, there was the clear risk that we would only be able to go to that game with a seriously reduced team, or in the worst case not even get a team together. A quick email survey confirmed this and we decided to launch the procedure with BFF to move the game and contacted La Hulpe about it.

The U13 coaches in La Hulpe were really great in agreeing to shift the game and to help find a time that would suit both teams. So on 10 March we played the game in La Hulpe sports hall, with a record turnout of spectators from both teams. It turned out to become a very exciting game from the first to the last whistle, with Tigers leading for most of the time, but never by more than one goal. As the final whistle blew, the match ended 5-3 for us and took the Tigers U13 to win the league for the first time, with 10 straight wins - a great effort by the whole team.

In addition to winning the league, some statistics: we scored a total of 130 goals and conceded 51. Keeping in mind that 20 of these goals conceded came in the first two matches, it becomes clear how the team evolved during the season to play good, structured floorball over the

whole field, offensive and well as defensive. We also ended up having 2 players among the top 5 scorers, so in every aspect this was a truly remarkable season for us and a great memory for all the players.

Now we look forward to the next season. With many players moving up to U16, next season will come with new challenges but I think we have a good team that will be able to do a good season again. When it comes to the practices, this season we also found ourselves in an unfamiliar situation having more than a full team for U13. At some point, there were almost too many players coming to the practices. With over twenty players aged 8 - 12, it is not always so easy to make oneself heard and get the players' attention to the exercises, but overall I think it went fine.

However, this record turnout meant that we actually had to establish a waiting list for some interested new players. I hope that those who found themselves on that list will still be interested in coming to join next season. As it looks, we'll have slightly less players than this season so there is room for new Tigers to join the team.

Lars



The proud team after an exciting final game

U19: champions ...again!

Having won the Belgian championship title for two previous years in a row (one U16, one U19), the outset for our U19 team was very clear: To claim the 3rd one. To achieve that result in a season with only eight matches you have to start and continue in a determined way, and keep a disciplined way of playing and winning from the very beginning. A will to win is important, and with this team you could really feel it as from the start of the season.



Tigers-Lions: action guaranteed

After a win in our first match in September, the second match in October was against our dear neighbours Waterloo Lions. They have always been a tough opponent to us, a strong and skilled team with several talented players. Maybe that was one of the reasons that disturbed our concentration on the essential, letting them to a 0 - 4 lead already in the 1st period. After them scoring 0 - 5 in the beginning of the 2nd, it was time for the Tigers to wake up. There was a clear change in the already sunken spirit, and the rest of the 2nd period brought us to 2 - 5. The 3rd period continued showing the floorball that we are used to see from our team, but ending with a 3 - 5 score for the Lions.



Scoreboard: a wake-up call

If there only had been a 4th period... Anyway, that brought our champions back to earth, and made clear that during the rest of the still young season there was no more room for mistakes.

But our Tigers were able to put this drama behind: the next five matches were a streak of five wins, with a convincing goal difference of 70 - 13 (+57!) for the Tigers.

When arriving to the last and decisive league round in the end of March, it was most likely that the champion would be one of the big cats, either Tigers or Lions, depending on the result of our match against Stimulo. Our only option was to win it - a tie wouldn't suffice.

The final match on 24 March started well, although it was clear from the beginning that Stimulo was a strong and skilful opponent and we were missing two strong players: Alex and Arno were on a school trip. After eight minutes of play Henri, assisted by Juho, showed once again his already well known horrendous power shot from an angle scoring 0 - 1, and just before the end of the 1st period Tiitus presented his skills by his distinctive powerspin sling from far. After period 1, the score was thus 0 - 2.



Final game: 0-2 by Tiitus

In the 2nd period Stimulo came in with a 1 - 2 power play goal. All in all, the game was at the same time entertaining and exciting to watch, since there were two strong and disciplined teams playing entertaining floorball against each other, and the result was not in any way clear yet.

In the 3rd period Artturi reclaimed, after a long absence, his position in

the team by scoring 1 - 3, assisted by Sven. Unfortunately, the certainty of a two-goal lead didn't last for long, since Stimulo scored again a 2 - 3 power play goal four minutes before the end. Keeping in mind that a tie would not have been enough for us, this created a bit of a pressure on the Tigers.



2-4: the victory is ours

Despite of that, our boys managed to stay focused and didn't let their game be disturbed. Towards the end whistle Aatu managed a break through, heavily disturbed by the Stimulo defence to the extent that the referee already had his hand raised for a penalty. Finally that penalty was never given, since the score turned 2 - 4 for the Tigers a minute and 25 seconds before the end. That was enough to snap the spine of Stimulo and guarantee another Belgian Championship for our U19 team!

By the final whistle the Tiger joy was up to the ceiling of the Gentse Tolhuis hall, except maybe with Artturi, who was lying down in pain on the floor with a torn ligament in his ankle. It was a truly culminating point of the season, during which the team as a whole had given its best, and everybody had been contributing their best to the common goal. Not forgetting Robin who, behind his mask, was statistically the 2nd best goalie of the whole league.



This was a perfect end of career for several Tigers U19 players. I have personally followed the journey of many of these players since they were 10 - 12 years old, and all I can do is to admire the way they have developed as players and persons, and, above all, as a team. Far behind are the days when it was a bunch of small boys, all running back and forth after the ball only wanting to score. Nowadays it looks like real floorball with skills, speed and different roles creating clever ways of playing together to trick the opponent. Training twice a week with the adults team for sure has helped the players to face even the most challenging opponents.



Champions!

It is a pity to lose such a bunch, but there seems to be the time for everything. This was the end of an era in the club's history, and for sure the ups and downs together during the years have taught us a lot and left their inerasable marks in all of us. As well as the unforgettable, and even partly emotional moments together in the dressing room after the final match, including a well-deserved bottle of sparkling wine for the champions. At least in me they have.

Ville



Farewell to a golden generation

Being an international club with players from many different countries also means that after each season, we have to say goodbye to some players who are leaving Belgium again.

So this is nothing new. Still, it is a bit special. These guys truly belong to a golden generation. Some of them have achieved three national titles in three years: U16 in 2015/16 and U19 in the following two seasons. And some of them have been Tigers player since the foundation of the club nine years ago!

So we are sadly bidding farewell to our U19 players Aatu, Alex, Anton, Arno, Artturi, Henri, Johan, Juho, Onni, Sven and Tiitus and wish them all the best for their future. We hope you can continue to play floorball wherever you go and we are sure you won't forget the Tigers - as we will always remember you fondly.

So is this the end of an era? Yes... and no - the next generation is eager to fill these footsteps, as our U13 have just proven with winning the championship!



Final results of the season 2017/18

| U13 2017/2018 | Played | Victory | Draw | Loss | Avg | (GF-GA) | Points |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------|------|------|-----|----------|--------|
| 1 FC Kraainem Tigers | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 79 | (130-51) | 20 |
| 2 Les Renards de La Hulpe | 10 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 61 | (76-15) | 18 |
| 3 Juventus Floorball Club | 10 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 48 | (73-25) | 16 |
| 4 Floorballteam Strijtem Green | 10 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 69 | (118-49) | 14 |
| 5 Fireballs Tielt | 10 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 7 | (60-53) | 10 |
| 6 TMD Aalst | 10 | 4 | 0 | 6 | -2 | (66-68) | 8 |
| 7 FT Atom Eagles | 10 | 4 | 0 | 6 | -29 | (35-64) | 8 |
| 8 FBC Stimulo Denderleeuw | 10 | 3 | 0 | 7 | -33 | (37-70) | 6 |
| 9 Tornado Brussels Floorball | 10 | 2 | 0 | 8 | -34 | (22-56) | 4 |
| 10 Flo-Mark Bullets | 10 | 2 | 0 | 8 | -94 | (30-124) | 4 |
| 11 Floorballteam Strijtem White | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | -76 | (16-92) | 0 |



| U19 2017/2018 | Played | Victory | Draw | Loss | Avg | (GF-GA) | Points |
|---------------------------|--------|---------|------|------|-----|----------|--------|
| 1 FC Kraainem Tigers | 8 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 59 | (81-22) | 14 |
| 2 Waterloo Lions | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 41 | (63-22) | 13 |
| 3 Fireballs Tielt | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 5 | (42-37) | 10 |
| 4 FBC Stimulo Denderleeuw | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 38 | (52-14) | 10 |
| 5 Juventus Floorball Club | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 10 | (38-28) | 10 |
| 6 TMD Aalst | 8 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 15 | (38-23) | 8 |
| 7 Les Renards de La Hulpe | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | -1 | (41-42) | 5 |
| 8 Black Cobra's Gent | 8 | 1 | 0 | 7 | -99 | (20-119) | 2 |
| 9 FT Atom Eagles | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 | -68 | (9-77) | 0 |



| U16 2017/2018 | Played | Victory | Draw | Loss | Avg | (GF-GA) | Points |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|------|------|------|----------|--------|
| 1 Fireballs Tielt | 9 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 40 | (68-28) | 16 |
| 2 FBC Stimulo Denderleeuw | 9 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 90 | (122-32) | 16 |
| 3 Les Renards de La Hulpe | 9 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 69 | (100-31) | 14 |
| 4 Juventus Floorball Club | 9 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 39 | (80-41) | 12 |
| 5 TMD Aalst Black | 9 | 4 | 0 | 5 | -3 | (48-51) | 8 |
| 6 Floorballteam Strijtem | 9 | 4 | 0 | 5 | -9 | (42-51) | 8 |
| 7 FT Atom Eagles | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | -6 | (46-52) | 7 |
| 8 FC Kraainem Tigers | 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | -32 | (32-64) | 5 |
| 9 Les Panthers de Hannut | 9 | 2 | 0 | 7 | -44 | (24-68) | 4 |
| 10 TMD Aalst White | 9 | 0 | 0 | 9 | -144 | (12-156) | 0 |



| D2 2017/2018 | Played | Victory | Draw | Loss | Avg | (GF-GA) | Points |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|------|------|-----|----------|--------|
| 1 Les Renards de La Hulpe | 14 | 11 | 0 | 3 | 38 | (92-54) | 22 |
| 2 Loups du Lux | 14 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 48 | (97-49) | 21 |
| 3 FC Kraainem Tigers | 14 | 10 | 0 | 4 | 40 | (98-58) | 20 |
| 4 FBC Stimulo Denderleeuw | 14 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 15 | (66-51) | 19 |
| 5 Juventus Bianconeri | 14 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 15 | (64-49) | 14 |
| 6 Les Panthers de Hannut A | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 | -29 | (52-81) | 9 |
| 7 Union Beynoise Unihockey | 14 | 2 | 2 | 10 | -37 | (56-93) | 6 |
| 8 Floorballteam Strijtem B | 14 | 0 | 1 | 13 | -90 | (25-115) | 1 |

U16: a team in the making

The 2017/18 season was a year of transition in U16. A number of players had left the team: most of them joined the U19 team, some headed back to their home countries (such as Emil and Arvo). Fewer players from previous year's U13 reinforced the team (Mikael, Max, Gustav, Niilo, Viljami) and we recruited one newcomer (Daniel). As a result, it was often difficult to even put up two full lines for a game. Thankfully, many current U13 players (Kaarlo, Carl, Martin, Henrik, Gustav, Stepan, Jan) were willing to take the challenge and help out our big guys (against other big guys on the other side). All of them deserve big thanks for courage and great team spirit but they showed good skills and promising talent too. Altogether, 18 players dressed up for U16 at least for one game.

The core of the team included in particular Matej in goal, Rafael, Adam, Max and Gustav usually in defense and Daniel, Niilo, Mikael, Viljami, Krystof and Ondrej mostly in attack. Our young team had only 3 "true" U16 players among its ranks (players born 2002) and we naturally lacked in physical strength and technical skills in games against the top opponents. Nevertheless, all the players that showed up for a game always fought like true Tigers and, most importantly, like a team, never getting discouraged by often being outnumbered and, yes, outplayed at times.



Not exactly numerous...

The season started with a bit of a hard landing, in the match against the eventual league winner Fireballs Tielt. The result (1:9) might look disappointing, but it wasn't com-

pletely a true image of how the game went. At times, we were able to keep up with the superior Fireballs. We followed up with a rather unfortunate draw against Atom Eagles, with our Tigers holding onto a 2:1 lead with less than 2 minutes to go in the game. Well, they scored the equalizer in the end and, all things considered, the draw was a fair result.



A difficult start of the season

The following games brought a streak of losses against traditional opponents Les Renards de La Hulpe, Floorballteam Strijtem, Aalst Black and Stimulo Denderleeuw. Despite these results, the games brought many heart-warming moments from our side: Show of team spirit by Mikael, who was the only volunteer with the courage to replace our regular goalie Matej against Strijtem and who did a great job and proved both skill and calm nerves. Or the 3:2 win in the last period of the same game. Or superb tactical effort and fearless performance of our Magnificent Seven against the crowded opposite bench of Stimulo. Or the arrival for the last period of U13 players Stepan and Martin in the same game, who came over right after having finished their own game.

The final phase of the season was marked by an upswing in our results thanks to the win in two games: First against Panthers de Hannut (4:2, tough opponent, but spectacular all-team effort from our boys that ultimately paid off) and the other against Aalst White (admittedly a weaker opponent, Aalst's B-team, who however was very much present on the field and showed both

quality and fighting spirit). The season was then rounded off by an epic fight of just 8 players on our side against 3 complete line-ups of Juventus: After 2 periods of wasted scoring chances we finally found a sharp shooter in Carl who turned the 3rd period into our small victory. That's how it actually felt after these extremely demanding 60 minutes...

We would like to thank all the players for their hard work and positive attitude during the season. Special big thanks go, as always, to the parents – thank you for your time and support. You were always there for the Tigers, cheering up our team despite being outnumbered in the stands even more than the players on the field. We would also like to express our gratitude for the work behind the scenes of the many people around the club: Thanks to Anders and Jan – you had to take charge of many practices because of other commitments of the coaches. Thanks to Lars and other referees who did and organized all the refereeing assigned to us in the U16 league. Thanks to the Board members (Anders, Boris, Ville, Gavino, David) for running the club and making sure the Tigers have a home.



Let's go for it—together!

It was a pleasure to be part of the big Tigers family for yet another season. We wish all the best to Adam, Krystof and Matej in U19 and look forward to fresh blood coming from U13. Have a great summer, and we hope to see you all in the next season!

David, Jakub

Tigers Adults: never give up roaring!

Prologue for the season

After relegating from Division 1 last spring, we managed to hold on to most of our key players. Some of our young tigers moved to study around Europe and some of the more experienced ones decided to call it a career. In general things were looking good however as we managed to recruit a few new players and we had found Malte as our new head coach. We got some extra training hours and the summer training showed that we would actually be quite a powerful team during the season.

Period 1 – New chef in the kitchen

In D1 we had played mostly very defensive games, partly because of superior opponents, partly because we lacked the vision. From the beginning Malte started to install a new, more structured playing style to the team. Big changes always come with a little turbulence and uncertainty and the first games showed us that there was a lot of work left. After 3 games, we had one win and two losses., but we knew we were on a right track. The spirit in practices was very high, the new guys had grown into team chemistry, the playing style started to feel comfortable. On the sadder side of the news, we heard that in January Malte would be moving abroad to work.

Period 2 – Comeback kings

We entered an eight league game winning streak that lasted from 22.10.2017 until 18.3.2018. We did lose one match in this timeframe since Tornado Hurricanes beat us in the cup eight-finals, but to our excuse the game was played on the weekend when several of our players were already gone for Christmas holidays. During our 8-game run we won everyone, the winners of D2, Les Renards, the runner ups Loups du Lux and everyone else as well. We topped D2. We were unbeatable. What was the most impressive was that we won even when we didn't play so well. Against Union Beynoise we were chasing by two goals and managed to win. Against Juventus we were down by two midway to the third period and won. We just kept on roaring! The season culminated on 18 March when we faced Les Renards. We came back from 2-4 to 5-4, but lost 5-6 with only 21 seconds left to play. Floorball is a fast game and a lot can happen in 21 seconds, but this time it was just not enough for our final comeback.

Period 3 – the season finale

After the loss to Les Renards, we were surprised to learn that in the next round Loups had lost a point to Juventus. If we would win our two last games and Loups would win Les Renards, we could still win the

league! The sad part was that we learned this on a chilly Sunday morning in Messancy, with only 8 field players after the U19 Championship festivities the day before and half of our team already on Easter Holidays. One could say that we were stormed by Tornado Hurricanes both in the cup and in the league with just a little help from the league calendar (unfortunately, the league calendar sometimes clashes with the European School holidays). We went on to win the last game and ended up 3rd in Division 2, which is a good result, but clearly not the absolute maximum what we could have reached.

In play-offs we lost both to Fireballs Tielt and Atom Eagles and didn't qualify for D1. Already at this point we knew that we would lose several members of our U19 golden generation as they would move abroad to study and also some of the older ones would hang their playing shoes. We all knew that promotion to D1 would not have been a smart move. One could say that in the end it all worked out somewhat fine.

Epilogue of 2017-2018

It was a great season. The team spirit stayed high all through the campaign. We had good rotation in the roster and several players had their chances to prove their skills. One significant highlight of the season was our first adult home game in Kraainem ever. We hope to see a lot of them in the future. The preparations for the next season are ongoing. There are a lot of new faces in the practice and the rebuilding of the team is ongoing. We are looking forward for a challenging season 2018-19.

Mikko



Moments



SHOCK

The moment when a goalie is sure he messed it up. But don't worry, your teammate is there for the rescue!

FASHION FAILURE

Always pay attention to your socks colour! If the adversary complains, that's two minutes on the bench for you. But ok, we won the game anyway.



GOODBYES

We are used to seeing friends come and go. Sometimes it's extra hard like in the case of Malte, who invested a lot of energy in coaching the Adults team.



EXCITEMENT

Aatu just scored the goal that secured the championship. The crowd goes wild—spot the poor lonely Stimulo supporter in the midst of chaos...



GROOVE

On 11 March the Tigers had the pleasure to organise an entire Division 2 league round. Everybody was on board to make sure we could be the perfect host for the four Adults games. And not least we could count on the support of our hardcore fan Lars and of our resident DJ Joakim, who again flew in from Sweden for the occasion.



CHAMPAGNE

Maybe this needs practicing—but it was fun nevertheless!

PROTECTIVE GLASSES

Protective glasses will be mandatory for U13 next season, and we promote the use of protective glasses to all players. We have a small supply of such glasses for back-up purposes, but all U13 players are expected to have their own and bring them to practice and matches. Please contact your coach or the Board if you have any questions about this.



Trend setter: Jan

REFEREE COURSES AND EXAMS

We (always) need more referees to fulfil our obligations towards BFF. Any volunteer is truly appreciated. The club pays for the course and the referee outfit.

The BFF organizes beginner's courses and theoretical exams:

- in English on [2 September](#)
- in French on [9 September](#) in Louvaine-la-Neuve
- in Dutch on [9 September](#) in Tiel



Third boarding

With the new, additional hall hours in Kraainem from this season, we needed to make sure we could organise a proper practice.

Luckily, the club had quite a good financial result in the previous season, so we could actually afford to buy a complete boarding to stay permanently in the Kraainem hall.

We now have three boardings at our disposal, and two of them (in the European School and in Kraainem) are IFF-approved, meaning they can be used for official matches.

A friendly reminder: such a boarding is a big investment and should be treated with care, especially when mounting, dismantling and storing the elements.



Another year of refereeing

As always, as the season approached things were looking a bit sketchy as regards the refereeing situation. With many teams come many matches to referee and finding referees has never been easy.

This year, we got some interested U13 parents to join in, so special thanks to Roger and Jonas for taking the exam and getting their very own referee licenses. First of all, this helped us to avoid a fine for not having enough referees, but it also meant that for U13 we found ourselves in a relatively comfortable position, where the refereeing could be covered by parents who were there anyway for the game. This helped relieve the rest of the referees to concentrate on U16 and up.

For the rest, we managed to scramble up referees for every game, so all in all the season became reasonably manageable. Special thanks to Ilkka, Johan and Juho for taking so many adult games.

Now we look forward to the next season of refereeing. As always, some referees will no longer be available due to studies, work situation etc, but I hope that some players will be interested in taking the step up to also referee floorball, not just play it! Please contact the board if you want to help out. The more we are, the easier the load on each and every one and last but not least - it is actually quite fun!

Lars



Membership fee 2018/19

⇒ For **Adults** players (born 1999 or earlier), the membership fee is **275 EUR**.

⇒ For **youth** players (born 2000 or later), the membership fee is **245 EUR**.

NEW: For families with more than one player, the first player pays the full fee, and the other players get a **reduction of 50 EUR** each.

Please pay the membership fee to the Tigers account - the sooner, the better:

860-1076448-21 Crelan

IBAN: BE17 8601 0764 4821

BIC: NICABEBB



PRACTICE SETUP NEXT SEASON

Practice starts first week of September as follows:

U13: European School,
Wednesdays 17:45-19:00

U16: European School,
Wednesdays 18:45-20:30

U19+Adults: Kraainem,
Tuesdays, 19:00-20:30
and Roodebeek,
Thursdays, 20:00-21:30

"We need to have the signed consent form from you. Unfortunately, it is not a question of personal feeling of wanting or not wanting to sign it, but a must."

Data protection—please help us

Tigers as a club have since a long time had the habit to ask to sign a consent form for the transfer of personal info and to publish photos/videos of our players, coaches, referees and other team officials. So far the obligation has come from the Belgian privacy law, but as you definitely know there is a recent European regulation which sets up the common rules to this throughout Europe. And also the Tigers are directly affected by this.

So what does the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) mean for us? In a nutshell, to handle or to transfer any kind of your personal data (name, date of birth, address, photos etc.), the Tigers Board needs your consent. In practical terms it means that without a signed consent form from you, we cannot register you as a player (or a referee) in the Belgian floorball league, since for that we need to transfer your details to BFF. And even the routine information flow between the different actors in the Tigers Board needs your consent, otherwise we wouldn't be able to sort out basic things like members file, membership fees, match jerseys etc.

For that reason, we need to have the

signed consent form from you. Unfortunately, it is not a question of personal feeling of wanting or not wanting to sign it, but a must. Otherwise, the Tigers would be breaching the GDPR, which we of course do not want to do.

So far, the response to the calls to sign and return the form has been relatively good, but the situation is still far from perfect. The aim is to get the signed form back from all our active members by the start of the next season.

The Board would like to thank all of those who have already returned the form, as well as encourage the ones who still have not done so. The form has been sent to all of our members and it can also be found on the club website. The original filled/signed form handed over to the team coach, or a scanned copy sent by email preferably to Ville (or any other board member) will be enough.

Although it is not mandatory, do not forget to tick the 2nd tick box as well, since that gives us the possibility to use match photos etc. for publicity purposes on our website and social media channels!



Interview with Alex: Making the national team

How did your floorball career develop?

I started to play floorball when I was six years old. Our sports teacher at primary school was the President of the Tornado Brussels Floorball Club. Together with several of my friends and classmates, he brought me to the club. I played during nine years at Tornado, as forward and centre, and for a couple of seasons as goalkeeper. In summer 2015 I moved to the Waterloo Lions, and finally, in 2017 joined the Kraainem Tigers, where my floorball career culminated with winning the U19 Belgian championship.

How did you make the Belgian U19 national team?

2015/16 was an excellent season for me. My team, the Waterloo Lions U16, ended 2nd in the Belgian championship, and I was the Belgian U16 topscorer.



When the U19 national coach invited me in spring 2016 to the first training weekend I was very pleased, as you can imagine. When the weekend approached, I was highly excited and nervous at the same time because I was the only new recruit and one of the youngest players. It was the last training session before the team went to the World Cup qualification, and the trainer had to reduce the 26-strong team to those 20 players who would go to Italy. Unfortunately, I was not selected then because my application for the Belgian nationality was pending at the time of the decision.

But it turned out to be a success for you after all?

When I was invited to the next national training weekend in November 2016, I belonged to the older and more experienced players, because many from the past team had passed the age limit and the trainer had to overhaul the entire team. It was an odd feeling to suddenly play with teammates whom I knew as opponents since I started playing in the Belgian U12 league.

In April 2017, I had a strong showing in my first international match against the Netherlands (8:9) with three goals and one assist. In September 2017, we travelled to Granada and won against Spain 6:2. I was very proud to be elected man of the match. Presently, I am also the top scorer of our national team.

The next big event for our team is the qualification for the World Championship 2019 to take place in Canada.

The qualification matches of our group will take place from 5 to 9 September in Moscow, and we will confront Estonia, Slovenia, France and Russia. I am a bit sad that my 'other' country, Germany, plays in another group because I would have loved to play against the German team.

What do you like in the national team and what could be improved?

I really appreciate to play alongside players whom I had only known as opponents in all those years. The team spirit is excellent.

In my view, the biggest issue in the national team is a typical Belgian one: the language. The training is of course bilingual, but outside the actual practice sessions there are two groups, the Francophones and Dutch speaking players. Moreover, there is a large imbalance, with only three out of 20 players being French speaking.

However, during the last practice weekend in Tielst we had organised to stay overnight with the family of a local player, which also gave me the opportunity to bridge the gap between the two language groups

So what are your plans for the future?

After finishing school in June, I plan to go to the US for one year as an au pair to improve my English and to gain a new experience. Afterwards I intend to go to university to study sports and economics. My aim is to study in Sweden, where I could play floorball on an even higher level than in Belgium and hopefully evolve as a player.



In & Out

As in every season, there has been a lot of movement in the teams. Here are some testimonials:

Who arrived

After having played football for five years, **Tuomas** (11 years) decided to try floorball instead. He joined the Kraainem Tigers last September and enjoys a lot playing in U13, thanks to exciting matches, good team spirit and fair play.

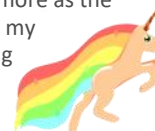
William Quigley joined the club in 2017. Hi is German / Irish and he grew up in Brussels. William enjoys playing floorball immensely and he is looking forward to the new season.

Paul joined the Tigers U13 this year and has really enjoyed the practice, the team spirit and the good friends (and the success in the league!).

Who is leaving

Juho Ruotanen has applied to study medicine in Finland and will know the results at the end of June. He got accepted into a floorball team in Finland as well, but he will never forget the Tigers!

Onni Afoumou tells us: "I will be leaving Brussels to go and study psychology in Amsterdam. Probably won't be playing floorball anymore as the fast movements are too much for my knees. I've been thinking of getting into martial arts though, won't stop doing sports!"



Tiitus Koskinen moves back to Finland this summer to start his studies at Upper Secondary School in Turku. After three consecutive Belgium titles (once with U16 and twice with U19) Tiitus will miss his teammates, encouraging each of them to continue to play floorball in Tigers or wherever they might end up after leaving Belgium. For the upcoming season in Finland, Tiitus told us that he is about to finalise the negotiations with some clubs and his forthcoming team will be seen later in the summer once IFF publishes the transfer on their website.

Sven Kandziora moves to Germany to study mathematics. A prime criterion for choosing his university: they need to have a floorball team!

Arno Egenhofer writes: "After finishing school, I want to go for one year to Australia, to learn about a new culture and of course I will continue playing floorball."

For the plans of his brother **Alex**: see interview on page 14.

Aatu Kivikoski lets us know: "I will be leaving to study in Amsterdam and I hope to continue playing floorball there after all these good years that I have spent with the Tigers."

Johan Ericsson: "After being a part of the Kraainem Tigers for nine years, it's sadly time for me to move on to new challenges. Following the bac exams, I will be moving to Sweden to start studying mathematics, and I hope to continue playing floorball, although I don't know at what level. I would like to thank the Tigers for all these years, and wish you good luck for the future!"

SAVE THE DATES

First games next season

U13: 15 September

U16: 22 September

U19: 15 September (Tielt)

Adults: 23 September



We still have some bottle openers / key rings. For only €1.50 you get a unique fan item and support your club.

Join the Tigers

The Kraainem Tigers have more than ten years of experience in the Belgian floorball scene. With around 80 licensed players, we have four teams taking part in national competitions. Our setup is quite international and we always welcome new players. Our goal is to have fun while playing seriously and we place an emphasis on the development of our youth teams.

Interested? Please get in touch!

www.facebook.com/KraainemTigers
www.tigerskfc.eu

Crelan Agency Bernadette de Keersmaecker

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