

Please let me know if you are interested in playing in a Gateball 3-a-side tournament in Bitburg, the weekend of 27-28 January. The hall has a super, artificial grass surface, with space for 4 Gateball courts almost full-size.

I am in negotiations with the Sport-Schule Bitburg, who run the hall, concerning hire fee and accomodation package so, at this stage, I do not seek a firm committment but rather an expression of interest. The entry fee is likely to be in the region of 60 € per team of 3. Extra cost would be for accomodation, meals etc.

Why 3-a-side, you ask, instead of 5-a-side? The hall is *unheated*. With only 3-a-side we get to keep moving more.

Why January? From about February till late spring the hall is normally intensively used by professional soccer teams for training.

With max 16 teams we would run a "Swiss" tournament instead of a knock-out, so that we all keep playing at least half the time, but with winners playing winners, losers playing losers. That way we should also finish early enough to allow players to get their travel back home on Sunday night. It also leaves room on Sunday afternoon for us to run a "come and try it" session for people in the locality.

Travel by plane could be to the closest Ryanair airport, Frankfurt-Hahn 45' away, or to Luxembourg 60', Düsseldorf 90', Brussels 120', etc.

By train, Bitburg-Erdorf on the line from Köln to Trier is closest, but Wittlich-Wengerohr (the line Koblenz-Trier) is also not far.

By arrangement we can probably arrange transfers for the closer travel points.

3-a-side would be played as far as possible to normal WGU rules but so that 2 players per team have fixed numbers, the captain plays only the middle ball (5 or 6). Teams not currently playing would have to take their turn in providing refereee, linesman, scorer etc.

Accomodation and meals would be extra but just next door, as part of a package deal at the Sport-Schule Bitburg, which runs the hall

So - are you interested in entering 1 or more teams? With some expressions of interest I would have a stronger hand in negotiating with the Sport-Schule to keep the price down. We can probably arrange for composite teams if you are missing a person.

Kind regards,
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Süd-Eifel Krocket & Gateball Freunde

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