

## **KILLER and CUCUMBER**

My name is **Kari Juhani Skogberg**. I have invented 2 games- which I will tell you about shortly.

If you look on the internet about any author of these games- you will find nothing.

There is information, in one game, about "Comes from Germany in the 1930s/50s.." but the information was withdrawn... or "probably from Poland because cucumber is called Cucumber- in Polish" - which also is wrong (it's called "Ogorek") or "probably Swedish origin".

This is completely wrong - unfortunately. Well, in both cases it's completely Swedish!

Why am I telling you this now? Well, there are sometimes things that you have come up with – but that you never got credit for or recognition. I have never applied. I'm almost 70 years old. That's why I want people to know who is making up the games. Why haven't I told you this before? Well, I'm of course proud but I never understand how good this was or what spread this got or "what's so strange about this? We just played and had fun!

And if I've ever done something good and forgotten about it – it's these games that I've made up – and neglected that I've actually made them up – until now!!

To think that copyright or anything else was not a thought of, then!

But a late recognition would perhaps be fun! In the old days!

At least to correct wrong sources on the internet!

I was born in Finland, Tampere in 1955, at the time of writing 69 years old. Swedish citizen 1968.

My parents chose to take me and my brother to Australia in 1958 to seek their fortune. The post-war period was difficult in Finland. I was 3 years old, my brother Seppo barely 2. I went to school there from the age of 5. I learned to read & write in English. My sister Anita was born . In 1961, homesickness became severe and my parents moved back to the Nordic countries. It was Sweden, Gothenburg that offered everyone jobs but there was no housing. But it was closer to home to my grandparents in Finland.

In 1965 we moved to a newly built Länsmansgården on Hisingen in Gothenburg. 3 rooms, parquet floor, hot water from the tap, bathtub – nature all around, lots of friends in the yard, good school,

Life changing lift!

That's where my creative period apparently began.

**THE CARD GAME CUCUMBER** – I made up at home in the kitchen at Temperaturgatan 18 in Gothenburg. Between 1965-1970

How did it happen? Well, I made it up, we played a lot of cards at that time in school and in our spare time.

When I came up with the game, I didn't have a name for it. But one event gave me the name CUCUMBER.

There was a guy called GURKA, who was a few years older and one day he walked past the temperature street 18.

I stopped him on the pavement outside our entrance..

"- Is that you who is called GURKA?" I shouted provocatively (thought he had a funny name).

"-What the hell does it concern You?!" Then he gave me a big blow , he knocked me down....

Well, why the hell was I that nosy??!! I got a blow - but suddenly I got a reason to call the card game GURKA(CUCUMBER).

There we played Cucumber at the coffee breaks in a room between TB/TC in the basement. The foreman asked me- who made this up? I have, I replied.

I worked for several years during the summer, taught them the game and the rest is history – it spread! When I turned 18, I had to quit – because I couldn't/didn't want to become an electrician.

Started studying IT and became so-called IT-consultant... at Volvo, among other companies,

Nowadays happily retired.

## **KILLER – a type of dart game. 1970-1975**

1970 – the family moved to Gamla Björlandavägen 77, Hisingen, Gothenburg.

One summer day, a friend came to my house (old classmate, Tony Fredman, we played basketball together, LUNDBY BASKET) We were pretty lazy and didn't know what to do. We went out into the garden. There was an old chicken coop and on the door my father had put up an old arrow board. He used to throw darts in the Finnish style "TIKKA" – where you stand 5-10 m from the board with rings and bullseye in the middle. We got tired of that.

Turned the board over and there were Dartrings with fields. But darts required insertion with doubles and being able to count from 301 backwards was not my thing.... Tony was awesome at darts and good at counting... so to have such a chance all of a sudden I challenged Tony and said – pick a number with his left hand (right in his case) – throw... Then I did the same thing- then I said now I'm going to throw on your number and murder you.... and got an idea – doubles and triples become 5- hits in the single field gives 1.

When I have 5th I am the one who kills.... then I figured it out,- then I'm a KILLER... That's what the game should be called!

(You won when you threw opponents down to 0. But you could get fat if you accidentally threw at yourself when you were a killer. Variants have apparently been added to the game.

My buddies and brothers buddies, siblings and friends of friends - everyone liked darts, darts games and of course KILLER at the time. So in the Gothenburg area, it must have spread like wildfire!

Some acquaintances were in some darts club and the rumor went...

If you went downtown in Gothenburg, – you would soon notice that all played Killer!.

If you went down town to Gothenburg, – you would soon find that all played KILLER.

I said on a few occasions on a visit to eg. Jameson on the Avenue

"– I'm the one who invented the game!"

"- Is that true?"

"- Yes it is ..."

There was nothing more to it!

In 1974 and 1975 after finishing high school my friends and I went travelling with Interrail. A lot of visits to England, Scotland and around Europe. We visited a lot of pubs. If they had a dart board we introduced people to KILLER . It spread very quickly! The rest is history

**Update: 2024-08-30**

I went out with information about the KILLER game that I made up.

It didn't take long before I got pushback.

According a book from 1968. Author Noel E. Williamson described 2 different KILLER games with completely different rules.

In this game, hitting a DOUBLE made you a KILLER. It was only DOUBLES they threw at.

I had no clue about other similar games besides Darts and Långben (You start with 5 legs and need to throw higher than the opponent before you- if you do not succeed , you loose a leg. If you loose all- you are out – play continues until one wins. )

But it is natural that this type of game has been named KILLER if, despite different rules, the game is about eliminating each other. All games are also about WINNING over other players. It's no wonder that several people have come up with the name KILLER for their variant.

That I happened to do this and in the belief that it was a unique name, was due to my ignorance.

Sad news for me. The name KILLER was taken.

Today I would have named it KILLER 1970 or KILLER by Kari or Killer 2.0

But on the other hand – I'm sure that my KILLER game, with my rules, are the one most spread globally.

### **My rules:**

**The game is about Murdering each other. Hence the name KILLER.**

You are at least 2 players. Each round is thrown with 3 darts. First, you choose a number on a dartboard by throwing with the wrong hand. I'm right-handed, so I take an arrow and throw it with my left.

When everyone has done it (you can't have the same number), highest number starts throwing.

It is important to remember your number. But when you're a KILLER you have to ask what numbers the others have, if you forgot.

You throw 3 darts. You try to hit your number. It is important to hit your own field.

Optional rule: If you throw in the opponent's field and do not have own points, you are eliminated immediately.

On your number , Triple fields give 3 points, Double gives 2, single fields give 1.

Bullseye doesn't count.

When you have 5 points – no more, no less, you are a KILLER. If you get more than 5 – you're out. If you have 5-you are a KILLER, then you should throw at the opponent's number, to lower him by the corresponding score.

If opponents have 0 points when you become a killer – they are out.

If you throw as a KILLER at opponents, their points are deducted by the score you hit.

If You as a Killer throw on your own number- you are bust.Out.

When opponents are down to 0- they are out. You win. They can participate in next round of the game. With new numbers selected.

The game can go on for a while because they can climb up to 5 again, but if for e.g If there are more players who become killers - the one who has few points is living quite risky... and, KILLERS are trying to prioritize throwing at KILLERS.....

We used 3 arrows , on each turn, so it was possible to get score 5 , and become Killer first time you throw.

This was certainly not an endless story..

But if you're out, you're out that round. But can participate in the next one when you have a winner in the previous one.

For each round, you choose new numbers to throw on as above.

**Optional rule:**

You can choose to play with this rule: If you throw at your opponent's number without being a KILLER, you are out.

Alternatively, your points are reduced – if you hit opponent's number. If you don't have any- you're out.

Alternatively: Hitting opponents' number and have NOT become KILLER, it is ignored. (for beginners).