



## **BUDA General Meeting November 20, 2008**

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### Agenda

1. Review this report (no report-reading, only Q&A from attendees)
2. Discussion topics
  - Volunteers
  - New initiatives
3. New business

Congratulations to everyone on yet another successful year.

Please review the attached reports in advance and jot down any questions you may have; commissioners & volunteers will be available to answer questions but will not be giving reading presentations this year.

Our hat and club leagues are thriving, as are local and regional tournaments and events. While we continue to make improvements and take steps forward, we are also experiencing growing pains as our staff is being stretched to cover more and more areas. Youth outreach, HS, grand masters, UCPC, and various IT initiatives are in danger of regressing without some fresh help.

As we continue to grow, our most valuable resource is our people, and we have to make finding new volunteers who are as dedicated and competent as our current ones one of our top priorities.

See you on the fields,

BUDA President

## **Treasurer's Report**

*Bob Kulchuk - November 20, 2008*

### ***Core Leagues and Tournaments***

- In 2008, BUDA again sponsored three Club level tournaments – the Boston Invitational, Mixed / Masters Easterns and Club Sectionals/Regionals. Additionally, BUDA sponsored the College Sectionals/Regionals series. After expenses, the Club and College Series tournaments contributed \$3K towards BUDA operations and programs.
- BUDA again offered some assistance with the Ultimate Showcase Series developed by Erik Sebesta and also lent some financial and logistical support to the UCPC. The net proceeds from the two events went towards running the programs and all of the proceeds were exhausted in 2008.
- BUDA offered four Hat Leagues and a Learning League in 2008. Although not all expenses have been captured at this point for FHL, the 5 leagues combined to contribute approximately \$31K towards BUDA operations and programs.
- BUDA also ran a Summer Club and a Fall Club league in 2008. Although not all expenses have been captured at this point for the FCL, the two leagues will contribute approximately \$14K towards BUDA operations and programs.

### ***High School, Youth and Other Programs***

- For the fourth year, BUDA sponsored all-star youth teams to attend the UPA Youth Club Championships (YCC) and provided financial, logistic and other support throughout the season. BUDA sponsored two teams, Open and Mixed, both of which reached the semis at the national tournament this past August.
- BUDA's Youth outreach program supplied coaching support to area schools as well as discs and "starter" kits to High School Ultimate programs.
- Altogether, BUDA invested approximately \$3K in the High School & Youth programs in 2008 helping to bring the sport of Ultimate to the next generation of Ultimate players.
- In addition to the High and Youth Ultimate programs, BUDA also gave back to the community by once again sponsoring the Annual Good Cause tournament. Additionally, we also donated funds to help the Cambridge Youth Games.

### ***Administration and Other Costs***

- BUDA does not employ any staff – all of the leagues and tournaments exist because dedicated volunteers give enormous amounts of their time and energy.
- Outside of the volunteer support, there are, however, numerous administrative costs that need to be covered including insurance, web hosting and maintenance,

telephone, office and other supplies, general supplies for the BUDA Trailer (cones, field paint, air horns, ice packs, scoreboards, etc). These costs year to date are approximately \$14K, including \$10K for sports liability insurance.

### ***Financial Position***

- BUDA began the year with assets of \$77K including \$66K in cash and equivalents. Currently, assets total \$105K including \$99K of cash and equivalents. There are a number of expenses that are typically prepaid for the coming year (WHL field rental for example) that will further reduce the cash on hand by year end, but BUDA continues to strengthen its financial position. Cash on hand not immediately needed for operational needs have been invested in insured Bank CDs and Federal Treasuries to provide interest to be used for various programs that do not otherwise fund themselves. Year to date, these investments have yielded \$2K in interest income.
- Year to date BUDA revenues have exceeded expenses by approximately \$31K. This includes approximately \$3K of charitable contributions donated to BUDA by players. These donations will be used as the donors have requested. Many of the donors have directed their contributions to Youth Programs. There are expenses that will be incurred before the end of the year, but the remaining surplus will enable BUDA to service its existing programs and expand our community involvement going forward.

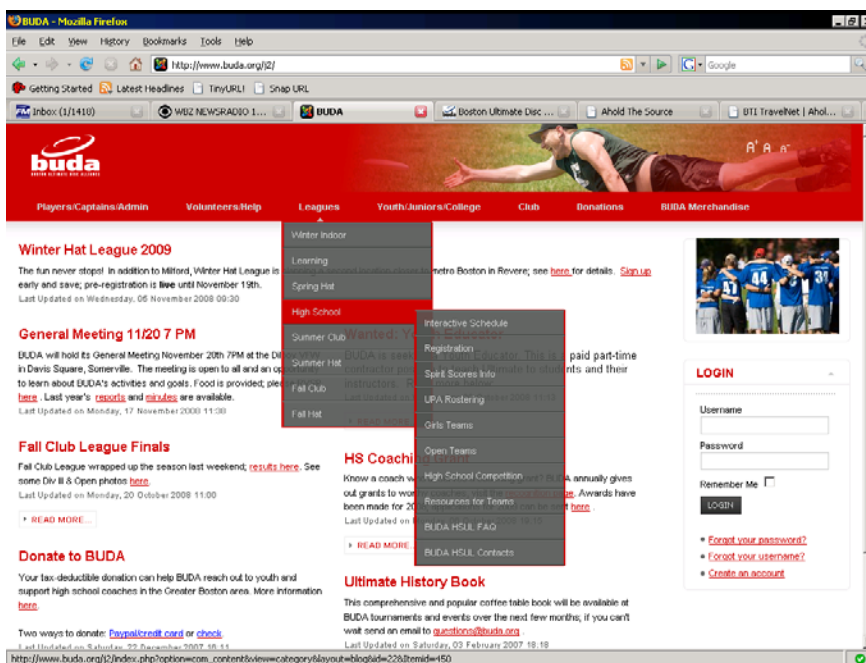
### ***Note***

- Please submit all reimbursement requests for 2008 expenditures (in particular for FCL) as soon as possible so the books can be closed out. Reimbursement forms can be found at <http://www.buda.org/misc/forms/budachk.pdf> and should be sent along with original receipts to BUDA, 65 Woburn St., Waltham MA 02452.

## IT Update

Darren Mace

- 1) Closing in on completion of waiver automation. Have a working test prototype but need a little more time from the consultant who did the work to close the loop on this. Have also selected efax/voicemail provider package for new hotline.
- 2) Had problems with the want-team list for the fall club league. This uncovered that it really needs to be re-written to work with our latest hat league code.
- 3) John Peterson got further on the integration of the login functionality however we still are not to the point that there is a single login for both the Joomla content and the old php code (for example the player page)
- 4) In the middle of an upgrade to PHP 5 and the latest version of Joomla 1.5; also reorganizing web content and design to utilize new CMS components and features.



There are new things that are being looked at to help with the collection of information about users (work zip, home zip) so that we can do more to help people organize into teams (want team).

At this point, outside of the current folks who work on the system it has been very difficult to get projects completed. This is mainly due to time constraints on the current volunteers. We should take advantage of the current economic climate and hire a consultant to do the work that we have had on the list of a couple of years now. That person could finish all of the work that has been left hanging and also be responsible for newer projects to get implemented. I would estimate that the current work we have would take a full-time consultant no more than 3 months to complete.

## **Youth Program**

*Raphael Savir, Director*

In 2008 our Youth Program conducted a handful of clinics, reaching almost 200 students. We lost our Youth Educator, Catherine Greenwald, hired a new one, Michael Kovacic, and then lost him. We are currently seeking a new Youth Educator.

As we have been for the past few years, we're still seeking meaningful funding so that we can set our YE loose on more opportunities. With limited funding, and limited time from our YE, we typically just let schools and organizations come to us. In 2007 we attended MAHPERD (MA Health Physical Ed Rec Dance conference) and made a ton of school/teacher contacts, and leads from that are still trickling in, which is nice. Long term, I think word of mouth will be a big driver, but we'll need to have more dedicated time from a YE to keep our presence alive in enough places for this to work.

## **BUDA High School Ultimate League Report, Spring 2008**

*Catherine Greenwald, Director, retiring*

The BUDA High School Ultimate League had 19 teams registering in open Division I and 45 teams registered in Division II. This included 2 teams from New Hampshire, 1 from Vermont, and 1 team from Maine. In the Girls division, 10 teams registered representing 6 schools.

### League Functioning/Organization:

*Website:* This year we adopted the same system for the HSUL that BUDA Club Leagues use. In theory it was going to help teams set up and track their schedules and report scores more easily, as well as save the league organizer from having to manually create the contact list. Unfortunately, in practice it ended being buggy and difficult for teams to use, and Bill and Geoff ended spending a lot of time troubleshooting. I'm not sure if these are difficulties intrinsic to the system, or if it was just first-year pains. This should be looked at closely and evaluated going into next year. We may have overestimated the tech-savvy of coaches and schedulers, and a simplified system might be an option to explore.

*UPA Sanctioning:* This year we decided to sanction all divisions – Open Div 1, Open Div 2, and Girls. While in theory we had good reasons for doing this, in practice it didn't work so well – of the 73 teams in the league, 54 submitted some kind of roster to the UPA. Actually, it went pretty well for most Open Division 1 teams -- with plenty of whip-cracking, rostering was taken care of well before the State Championships, which was a good thing. Division 2 was another story. I'd say we had just above 50% completion rate among those teams. One reason the count was off was that some teams did not actually manage to play much of a season, they were not really viable teams. Some began the process and didn't follow through for various reasons, while others didn't bother, or claimed not to be aware that they needed to do this. While volunteers were enlisted to follow up with roster compliance, there was little success. There were many other teams that I needed to walk through the process of signing kids up and building rosters – the user-unfriendliness of the UPA website didn't help, and that, in addition to the new complexity of the BUDA website, made for some frustrated and discouraged teams. In addition, the UPA gave us a very negative sanctioning report and raised the fees for sanctioning next year's league significantly. On the other hand, while sanctioning was difficult there were a small number of teams for whom having the liability insurance and the backing of a national organization was helpful.

*Scheduling meeting(s):* Both were well-attended. The Western meeting has a somewhat different function, bringing together club and college teams as well as high school leaders. This year we did a little better with Western teams signing up for the BUDA league in a timely fashion, but again there was very little effort on the part of most teams to comply with our regulations requiring that all teams within the region and the same division play each other. The Eastern meeting was very well attended, so much so that we had to move out of the room we were in (future meetings should always be in cafeterias).

*Game schedules.* Once again, there was a great deal of variability in the schedules from team to team, with some teams playing over 20 games, and others only 3 or 4. For the most part, teams were pretty good about playing all the teams in their division in their geographic region, but others didn't give this requirement much attention (hello, Western teams). Teams

mostly played within their divisions (1 or 2), although there were some crossovers. The new scheduling system was meant to stabilize this somewhat, but most teams (mine included) ignored it and scheduled games themselves as usual. I think this was due in part to unfamiliarity with the system but mostly the fact that these schedules did not come out until right before the scheduling meeting and teams didn't have enough time to assimilate them.

#### Tournaments:

*BUDA Division 2:* May 23 & 24 at Mitre Fields– North/Central teams one day, South/West teams the other, 12 teams each day. This number of teams could be accommodated much more comfortably than last year's 16 (on one day). Things went fairly smoothly, with Timberland (NH) winning Saturday and Holliston on Sunday. These two teams played off on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> for the Division 2 championship, with Holliston winning. This tournament was not separately sanctioned with the UPA, but was considered part of the league activities so we did not need to charge another one-time fee and set up a separate rostering site.

*Mass. States:* June 8 at Devens. This is a UPA-sponsored tournament hosted by BUDA *Open:* 14 teams. Every team in Division 1 that wanted to play was able to, although again the tournament was too late in the month to accommodate the prep schools (and in fact we lost one that had been able to play before because the date was so late). The field was rounded out to 14 by Timberlane (Holliston as the Div 2 winner was entitled to that spot but was unable to come).

*Girls:* Eight teams – anyone who wanted to play was allowed to enter.

This tournament did not go so smoothly. The threat of record heat, combined with reduced oversight due to extenuating circumstances (not enough staff, moving, illness) made for some poor management. Some re-arrangement of the rounds was required, and a miscommunication over a 3<sup>rd</sup> place Girls' game resulted in complaints and an appeal to the UPA. One thing that did go well organizationally was that all rosters were complete and submitted well in advance of the tournament. For future reference, this is the only way to go.

#### Coaching Support:

*Matching of coaches with teams:* This is a service we should continue to promote and support, perhaps even more actively. I managed to find a replacement for my high school teams this way, which was great.

*Coaching grants:* This was managed by Raphael Savir as a Youth Program initiative.

*Other support for coaches:* Coaching certification should be encouraged. A small number of HSUL coaches took advantage of BUDA's offer to subsidize the cost of the clinic.

#### YCCs:

BUDA submitted bids for 3 teams, but technically only one BUDA team ended up going to the tournament. The girls' team had to drop out for lack of numbers, unfortunately at a rather late date. The mixed team, while in name a BUDA team, ended up adopting "at large" status because of problems with the eligibility of several players (they had played on teams not officially in the BUDA HSUL). Neither of these two developments sat very well with the UPA,

and it will be interesting to see how they handle any bids we submit next year. The problem is mainly that there wasn't anyone coordinating this effort, which is why I recommend that BUDA designate someone who would be exclusively coordinating YCC activities. Duties would include submitting bids, sending checks to the UPA, advertising/promoting the tryouts, locating fields for tryouts (it worked well I think to have them all on same day/place), checking eligibility of players, ordering uniforms, and then posting results on the BUDA website.

As far as the experience of the teams attending the tournament, it actually went very well – both teams made it to the semifinals, and the Open team once again won the Spirit Award. Josh's field trip to Worlds in Vancouver prior to the YCCs was also very much enjoyed.

### The future:

*Leadership/organization:* The biggest challenge is leadership. I have not been able to find anyone who is willing to step up and take this on, primarily because of the huge amount of work involved. I feel very strongly that in order to attract someone, BUDA is going to have to offer a stipend to someone to lead this and/or break the job down into more manageable bits. For example, a board that would manage the league could be broken down as follows:

*Director:* Also UPA State Youth Coordinator, and as such is responsible for setting up the State Championships. Posts information on website. Sets up Eastern scheduling meeting. Submits sanctioning request to UPA. Sets dates and gets fields for end of season tournaments (something that needs to happen ASAP, or certainly by January '09). Manages all aspects of YCC participation (or this can be broken out to someone else).

*Div 1 Manager:* Oversees rostering for Div 1 teams. Is the actual TD for the Div 1/Girls tournament, taking care of seeding, formats, works with BUDA to make sure things are set up properly.

*Div 2 Manager:* This is a big job. The complexity of it will depend if Div 2 ends up being sanctioned again. If it is sanctioned, should have at least one individual contact with each and every Div 2 team to ensure that they are aware of the requirements and are on track to comply. Promotes and manages entries for Div 2 tournament(s). Runs tournament(s).

*Girls:* it would be nice if someone could take responsibility for the girls division and look for ways to promote girl's ultimate in the area. They would also be responsible for girls' rosters, setting up the Girls division of States and overseeing that part of the tournament.

All of these duties really do add up to a part-time position if one person is handling it. If the Competition Committee is not able/willing to take on these jobs, BUDA should consider hiring someone to take it on. I am willing to help out in a consulting capacity as needed.

### Sanctioning:

Do we continue to try to sanction the whole league, or go back to just Div 1? Sanctioning Div 2 is feasible in theory, but I think it will take a phone call to each and every coach to make sure they are on board. We need to discuss what type of "buy-in" is necessary at this level. The challenge will be to find someone with the time to do that.

## **Grand Masters**

*Raphael Savir*

*There is a lot to tell here, and I'll try to keep this write up brief, so pardon me if some parts seem truncated.*

### HISTORY

A few years ago Sas (Alexander) Peters started a tourney in Long Island for Grand Masters Ultimate (men 40+). I think his motivation was to find a way for his team to compete against similarly aged players, as the masters teams were getting too young for them. Montreal also started a tourney around this time. I think Jose and Jeff Perkins started running a small tourney concurrent with Easterns or Boston Invitational a year or two later.

My bias, which I'll state up front, is that I think that the Masters model is not a good one. I don't think it serves the Ultimate community at large, nor in our Boston area. It's a division with very low numbers, very few events during the year, and a relatively low level of competition. In the past couple of years the competitiveness may have increased, partly due to DoG entering the fray, but I still believe that the model is not a successful one.

To be successful, a division focused on older players needs to have local/regional events, in my opinion. It is partly based on this belief that I asked BUDA to sponsor some events in 2008 as an experiment.

### WHAT WE DID IN 2008

1) June, 2008, Easterns. We ran an 8 team tournament for GM, with 4 mixed teams and 4 open teams. One hat team was formed in each bracket, made up of players who emailed me that they were interested in playing but had no team. The hat teams were not competitive, which was frustrating for them, but I think it was successful in bringing those players out and letting them see the GM environment. One competitive team, MTA, was formed out of that experience.

2) In the Fall, we ran a 6-team Friday night league in JP for GM teams. We let people sign up in groups of any size, and had a supplemental draft to round out the teams and get everyone onto a team. This seemed very successful, except that several teams appeared to prefer a Western Suburb setting instead of Metro, and there was a fair amount of unevenness in terms of competitiveness.

3) We also ran two more tourneys this Fall, a Tune Up with 5 mixed teams and then 'Regionals' with 4 open teams (two teams had 2 women each, the other teams had 1 woman each).

### PLAN FOR 2009

I would like BUDA to run a session about GM at the UPA League Organizers Conference in February. I've got a call in with Melanie at the UPA, but she's been busy so it might be a bit before we nail this down.

In July(?), the UPA would like to have a Championship tourney. They are looking for bids. They'd like to get at least 6 OPEN GM teams and 6 WOMEN's Masters teams. Personally, I think MIXED is a good format for GM based upon our limited experiences in this area. I'd be interested in seeing if BUDA could run this tourney, put a bid out to the UPA, and plan to make up to three divisions (women's, mixed, open). Any division that gets 6+ teams is in. Any division with less gets booted (that's the UPA's minimum number). My reasoning:

- 1) We are at the forefront of GM, so it'd be nice to showcase. It'd also be a boost for our own GM efforts.
- 2) It'd allow more Boston area teams to attend
- 3) If we don't do it, I seriously doubt MIXED will be in the mix, and I think that'd be a shame.

In other words, this allows us to push what we think is important.

Regardless of who hosts the Championship tourney, I think we should have a GM tourney at Easterns again, if that is an option in terms of fields and such. I'd like to aim for 8+ teams again.

In the Fall, I think we should push for a FCL GM division. I'd like to bill this as a way for the GM teams to practice and jell together. Shoot for 6 teams, but even 4 would be ok. We could either repeat games, or mix in some non-GM games. I think these teams should then shuffle into the FCL tournament, choosing the appropriate division. Doing this in the Spring would be ideal, given that the Championship tourney is in the Summer, but I don't think it's practical in terms of fields, marketing, and conflicts with SCL.

In the Fall, I think it's reasonable to have a GM division at Regionals again, but probably I won't push for a Tune Up tourney, as I did in 2008. It was just too hard to get teams out for both tournaments. We don't need to make a decision on that now, of course.

I'd like to make all these GM events MIXED, which probably means 5/2 for now. Note that in the case of FCL, these teams would have to go 4/3 or OPEN at the tourney.

## FUTURE PLANS

My long range thoughts for GM are that we need a handful of the bigger organizations (Boston, Seattle, DC, ... ) to embrace having some kind of GM league and a handful of GM tourneys throughout the year. Even if those tourneys are one-day local/regional events, that will keep players coming back for more. I'd like to see some eagerness from the 38-39 year old crowd, indicating that as they turn 40 they'll be pumped to join this new division. If we can achieve these modest goals, I think we'll be on our way to creating a really happy place for older players to play. And I think players and orgs from many places will follow our lead, if it looks like it's fun.

How competitive will the division ever be? How many players will ever compete? These are great questions for which I have no answer. But as to Open v Mixed, I do have some thoughts ...

### OPEN v MIXED

From the experience I've had with GM over the past year, I've seen very little traction for women's masters. At Easterns, we couldn't get even a single team. I don't know if it's numbers, marketing, or the social aspects, but I just think MIXED is the format that brings the older women who aren't competing OPEN or MIXED into GM.

As well, I've stated above that I think Masters as currently played is a failed format. In order to make it more successful, or to make GM successful, I think we need to look at why it's not successful. In my opinion, it's for two reasons. First, the age is so low that players at the lower end are happily competing in OPEN/WOMEN. Second, once those players are a bit older or less competitive, they don't see Masters as a fun or competitive environment. It's not fun because there is so little of it. In my recent talk with the UPA, I noticed they kept referring to alum and reunion tourneys. That's what Masters is, and that's not a real lure for a wider group of players. In order to pull players from a wider range we need to look at the places where they're currently playing, such as rec leagues like SCL. Players there are typically playing mixed.

I hate trying to make decisions based on just one year of experience running GM events, but it appears that we are more advanced than anyone else out there, and the UPA is forging ahead with their Championship tournament, which I fear might solidify the notion that GM is just an older version of Masters. That would be a shame.

We are the one-eyed man in the land of the blind.

## **League Operations Report**

*Bill Dill (Director of League Operations)*

### Growth

In 2008, the hat leagues continued to show sustained growth in the number of people who signed up. The attached graph shows the number of sign-ups for each league (including learning league, which has remained flat). This spring league was the first time that a league has grown to capacity for mixed (4/3), requiring us to turn away enough women that we actually could have made additional teams had we the space. We had 24 mixed teams in JP in 2007, but there was no wait-list for women. This summer we had a small number of paid women, who didn't get placed, but they were mostly late sign-ups and had we foreseen this, we would have just made more Mixed (4/3) teams.

Do these trends indicate that we should be expanding the league to additional sites? An additional location would help most with Spring league, but that's also the league we have the hardest time finding fields for because most places don't rent out fields prior to memorial day. If someone knew of an alternative T-accessible weeknight location, it would be good to give it a trial run one season.

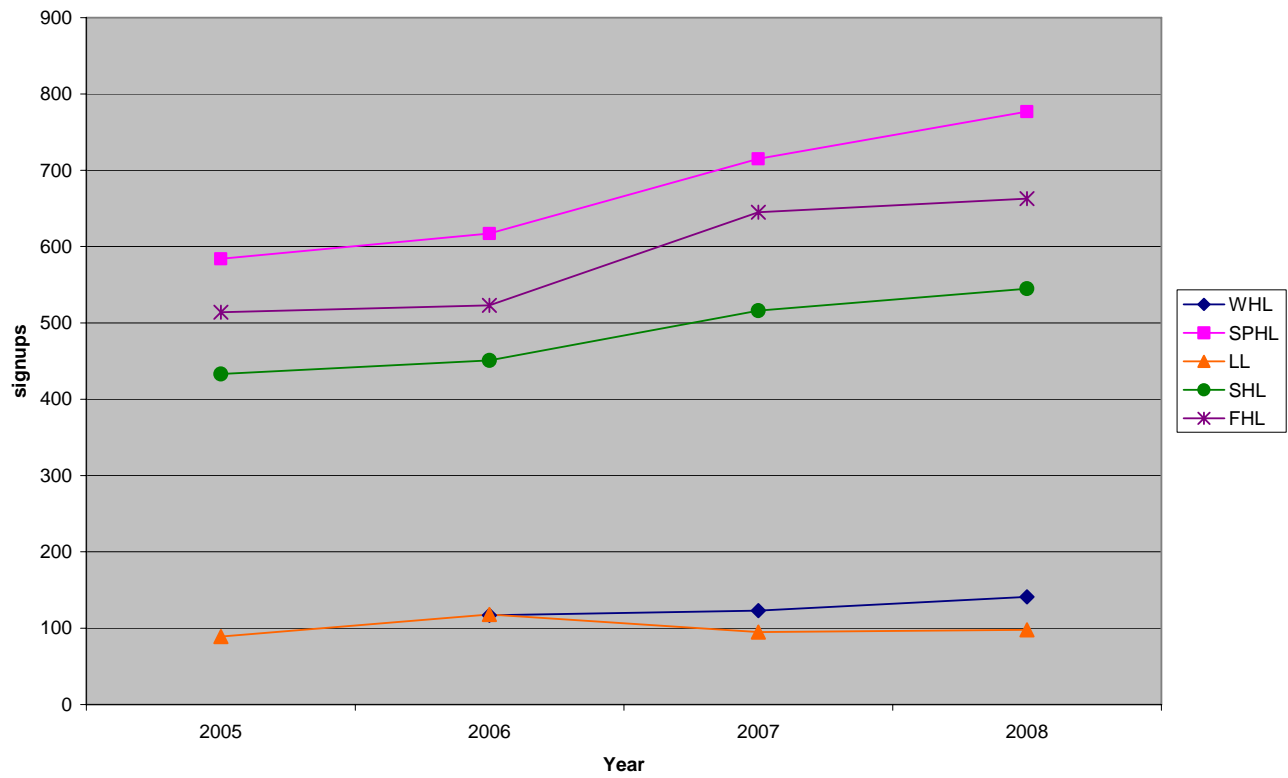
I don't expect SHL '09 to require additional field space, but if we were to get it and not need it, we could make those fields available to club league teams, like in years past. As for the fall, both the Fall Club and Fall hat leagues are growing. We've shared JP with FHL and FCL teams, so we have room for FHL to grow, but then we'd need to find additional space for FCL.

Winter league is growing, but I don't want to stomp on Greg Aloe's thunder so I'll let him talk about some good stuff that's going on there.

### Tournaments

Although the hat league tournaments have been running pretty smoothly for the most part, there are a few issues that come up each season. Each league is a different size, thus we need a different format for each tournament. However, depending on the number of teams, it can be difficult to fairly schedule a format that can be worked out in 4 rounds, plus a final. And on occasion, it seems that commissioners end up reinventing what's been already worked out a few years ago. I'm wondering if there are enough interested people to form a task force to come up with fair tournament formats that could accommodate from anywhere between 6 and 16 teams. Perhaps there are good examples of formats already out there on the web and it would just be a matter of collecting them. Or maybe it would require coming up with formats from scratch. Is anyone here interested in working on this?

### League Growth



## Winter Indoor Hat League

Greg Aloe [gregaloe@gmail.com](mailto:gregaloe@gmail.com)

### Location/Scheduling:

John Smith Sports Center, Milford, MA

8 weeks

### Registration/Rostering:

110 players, 10 teams of 8/3, format 4/1

~13 waitlisted before registration was closed

Most people I talk to who don't play in Milford say that they either don't want to travel so far, or that they don't even have a means for traveling there. As noted last year, I started a buda-whl-carpool Google group to encourage carpooling and help people find rides to Milford. I know of at least 4 groups that hooked up this way, and I believe that the strategy successfully helped increase the number of applications such that I could put 3 women on each team (up from 1.6 the previous year) and actually close registration early.

### Playoffs:

As planned, we had two weeks of playoffs. And because we were granted an extra time slot to compensate for a fire alarm evacuation, I was able to plan a finals match on the same day as the semifinals. Teams were excited to have an actual 8 team playoff bracket, and so I will continue to focus on optimizing playoffs in the future.

### End of season survey:

At the end of the 2008 season, I sent out a [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com) survey to all WHL participants from 2007 and 2008 about the location of the league. I got 81 responses, which is an amazing response rate. The questions focused on league location, and we discovered that:

- ~60% who responded would prefer to play closer to Boston.
- ~30% who responded want to continue playing in Milford.
- About half of those players wishing to play closer to Boston would be interested in playing in both a Milford league and a closer-to-Boston league if both were available.

### Location for 2009

After discussions with Bill Dill, Jose Invencio, Geoff Doerre, and Darren Mace, we decided to open a Revere division (Revere Teamworks) with 6 teams and reduce the size of the Milford league from 10 teams to 6 team. This will satisfy the players who continue to prefer playing in Milford, and the team reduction will mitigate the expected migration of players to Revere.

Also, in order to predict the number of Revere players and give ourselves the opportunity to reserve more timeslots to make more teams, we sent out a 2009 WHL pre-registration (Nov.5 to Nov.19). After we assess the state of the applications, we will make a decision to expand the Revere league or not.

I have had great experiences with the folks at Revere Teamworks, and they are excited to grow a relationship with BUDA.

## **Learning League**

*Nathan Dushman, [ll@buda.org](mailto:ll@buda.org)*

Registration for learning league this year was comparable to the past few years, with about 60 women and 30 men signed up. Of those we had 40-50 participants at each session. Learning League ran Monday evenings from the end of April through the end of May at Danehy, followed by a final session on Saturday, June 7th that was attended by only about 18 people. We were limited by poor weather this year: several days were so windy that we were unable to do much, and the Saturday session was intensely hot.

I haven't checked how many learning league participants continued with hat leagues this year, but I heard "You taught me learning league!" more often this year than I have in the past.

Peri Kurshan and I (Nathan) coached the learning league again this year, with some administrative assistance from Mike Etkind. We're still looking for more experienced volunteers to help out.

It would be nice to set up an end-of-season survey of learning league participants to get some feedback as to what we're doing well and what we could do better.

We've generally had more people show up at the final learning league session when we plan it well in advance. This year we didn't set the date until learning league was nearly over. Also, it would be better to hold it closer to Boston, even if that means playing on a smaller field.

We might get more volunteers if BUDA set up another general meeting at the beginning of the season at which people interested in getting involved could meet the league commissioners and share ideas for the season.

I tried to captain a "Learning League 2" summer club team, but only half a team of players were willing to commit. We picked up enough players from the want-team list to make a full team, but we were short players at many games and were unable to play in the tournament.

## **Spring Hat League**

*Mandy Eckhoff (will be returning as 2009 SPHL team leader)*

Theme: Disco

24 JP Mixed teams

14 Waltham Co-ed teams

### **Season Summary:**

1. Waivers. There was a high rate of compliance with waivers again this year. By this time most people understand that they need to submit their waivers immediately after registration or they will not be placed on a team.

There continue to be problems with waiver entry. I would like to have an update posted on Tuesdays and Fridays that inform people that all waivers received by that time have been entered. This will help alleviate some of the email traffic which I cannot respond to because I do not enter the waivers.

2. Waltham. Season shortened due to rain. Otherwise no issues.
3. JP Fields. There was an issue with the fields at the start of the season due to a time conflict with the youth soccer league. We did not have a final permit when the season started and as a result were unable to confirm our start time

Suggestions for improvement:

- Appoint a person to contact the Boston Park and Rec Department and confirm our start time and obtain a copy of the permit.
  - Select 1-2 people for each night (Mon. and Wed.) to be the people to talk with and resolve any conflicts with the fields that night. This will ensure consistent messages and prevent future communication problems between the parties.
4. Tournament. The Mixed tournament was cut short (again) this year due to inclement weather. The Co-ed tournament went as scheduled. Once again it was suggested to try to find another (more level) venue for the tournament. I would like the Tournament Committee (see below) to investigate this possibility.
  5. Spirit discs. We ordered discs for the spring, summer and fall seasons. Due to the high number of discs we had last year, we reduced the number of discs we ordered to 200.
  6. Volunteer shirts. As a token of appreciation, we provided long-sleeve, Patagonia BUDA volunteer shirts to spring captains and others who have volunteered on a regular and significant basis. The shirt designs were created by BUDA player Michelle DiMartini. Everyone loved the shirts. I would suggest that an appreciation gift (shirt or otherwise) be provided every few years to the then captains to show appreciation and assist in volunteer recruitment efforts.

7. Changes in 2009. Several people have commented that BUDA seems less like a social community than it used to. In order to increase the social community of BUDA I would like to propose the following changes to the 2009 spring season:

- Governance by Committee. I would like to create a committee to run the spring league similar to the one used for the corporate summer league. This would help divide up the work, encourage greater involvement, help gather new ideas, and generally improve the league. Ideally we will have the following subcommittees:
  - Communications
  - Spirit Awards
  - Team Creation
  - Captains
  - Tournament
  - Tournament Party
  - Shirts
  - Others?
  - Any volunteers?
- Scheduling. One of the important social aspects of BUDA is going out after the game. Unfortunately, the way the schedule is created many teams are consistently unable to go out after the game because games their games do not finish until after 10:30. I would like to investigate different ways to change the schedule to encourage team bonding after games. Suggestions include:
  - Booking another lighted field in JP for earlier games.
  - Randomizing the schedule to give teams a mix of early and late games (i.e., granting day but not time requests)
  - Scheduling the earlier games earlier so the late games won't be so late.
  - Others?
- Registration. To alleviate confusion, eliminate chains which complicate the team creation process, encourage randomization of teams, and lead to more parity between teams, the second choice "play with" registration option will be removed for the 2009 spring season. Players will only be able to elect to play with one other person. Chains will be no longer than 2 individuals.
- Weekly communication. Someone suggested that a weekly short (and funny) email be sent to the league which would include standings updates, quotes from captains about things that happened during their game, and other random tidbits. We would solicit captains each week to nominate a "spirit player of the week" and provide anecdotes to be included. I have one person who might be interested drafting this newsletter and will confirm before the season starts.
- Tournament BBQ. I would like to investigate the possibility of having an on-site, or off-site (i.e., at someone's house), post-tournament BBQ. This would encourage people to stay and watch the finals and further encourage the social community of BUDA. Ideally, I would like the tournament party committee to look into this option.

## **Summer Hat League**

*Buzz Aldrich*

Summer recap:

### Registration:

Went well, extra Cambridge area fields were nice to have.

### Fields:

BBN was locked several times. We should try to get a key next year. Newton//Weekend, it would be nice to start earlier, they don't really get a full season in. I have a couple of people who will help out trying to find new options for next year.

### Captains:

We did not have a major shortage this year although several teams had only one captain. I did use a couple of people who would rather not have had to captain. I still feel we should work harder to reward captains.

### Shirts:

Once again design was spell checked to disk instead of disc. I did not catch it on the proofs I was sent, seems to be a consistent error, we should reallllllly make a note that this happens and double check the proofs that they come back with the same spelling we sent out.

### Tourney:

Excellent job getting this pulled together at the last minute. Lots of people stepped up and helped out when we lost the fields just two weeks before the tourney. I was surprised at how well the two day, multi location format worked out. I would still much much rather plan and run a one day one location, but it went well. Moakley worked very well except the swampy conditions.

## Fall Hat League

*Commissioner: Joey George*

*Andy Golden will replace me as commissioner in 2009*

- Division notes
  - JP Mixed - 12 teams, JP Coed - 8 teams
    - No games needed to be rescheduled, problems with lights one day but no huge issues
    - Field permit issues caused the schedule to change over the first few weeks of the season
      - Same as last year
      - Permits were issued for 8:30-10:30 instead of 7:30-10:30 as in past years
      - FHL start times were listed at 7:45 but teams were encouraged to start at 7:30 if the fields were vacant (generally were)
  - Lexington - 8 teams
    - Games scheduled only on Mondays so that FCL could use Lexington fields on Wednesdays
    - One day rained out, games were not rescheduled.
  - Waltham - 8 teams
    - First three weeks' games needed to be rescheduled
    - Scheduled doubleheaders for 2 weeks to make up games
- General info
  - 16 people per roster, 576 players in the league
  - All waitlists didn't clear
  - There were an unusual number of late change requests this year
  - Waltham, JP Coed captains were hard to find
  - A handful of players were not placed because of missing waivers
  - Initial team assignments were good, and only moderate number of players (~20) needed to be shuffled afterwards
  - Theme was "Toys" (PG rated names only)
  - Shirt was designed by Rhian Hodges (a friend of mine, not a player)
  - Shirts were printed by BUDA shirt guy Colin Blight and were not delivered until the first games. Bill Dill helped with receiving JP shirts, others were delivered to fields by Colin
- Tournament
  - At Mitre Fields in Burlington
  - JP Mixed on Saturday, October 25
    - Used 6 fields
    - Mixed division used a 12 team format with 3 pools of 4
    - Mixed division pools were weighted so that teams with better regular season records had the higher chances of moving to Division 1 bracket but lower-seeded teams played competitive games
      - Feedback on this format was extremely positive
      - Top teams advanced

- Lower teams got competitive games
- Determining seed within pools for elimination games was easy and fair
- All teams were guaranteed 4 games (3 pool, 1 elimination) with a possibility of a championship
  - Received feedback that 5 games were too many except for top division playoff games - div 3 finals were not played
  - Ordered pizza, 40 pies, from place across the street.
  - Tried to hurry schedule because rain was expected in the afternoon
  - Succeeded in being on time and also beating the rain
- Lexington, JP Coed, and Waltham on Sunday, October 26
  - Used 12 fields (field layout provided by Jeff Perkins)
  - All Coed teams were ranked based on win/loss record and point differential and broken into 3 divisions to maximize competitive games
  - All teams were guaranteed 4 games (3 pool, 1 elimination) with a possibility of a championship
    - Received feedback that 5 games were too many except for top division playoff games - lower division consolation games weren't always played
    - Ordered pizza - 72 from Dominos
- Spirit discs for players were given to captains at the tournament
- Extra waivers (~40) are in the trailer
- Would be nice to have a standard set of rules for caps and tiebreakers for all hat leagues
  - I took tiebreakers from UPA formats manual, in one instance had to go to 2nd tiebreaker
  - I used a mostly-drop-dead hard time cap where points ended unless the game was tied at the horn. If game was tied teams would finish the point so the game does not end in a tie
    - This was not optimal, but most teams understood the rule and the need for it so the tournament would stay on schedule
- Trailer
  - Was unable to find someone with a pickup to move the trailer back to Bedford
  - Rented a pickup from UHaul.
  - With another person to help, was not difficult to move the trailer
  - I would recommend other commissioners look into this instead of depending on volunteers

## **SUMMER CLUB LEAGUE**

*Jeff Perkins*

This year we had a total of 85 teams registered for the league (30 4/3 teams, 38 5/2 teams, and 17 open teams). That is essentially flat with respect to the last two years (83 and 80 teams). There does seem to be a slow but steady rise in the percentage of 4/3 teams (23, 25, 30)

We use the partially automated season schedule program again this year. We worked through some bugs and the schedule process seemed to go pretty well. There are some minor improvements we should make to better balance the schedule over the season.

Compliance with waivers was pretty similar to last year. Most teams got their waiver deposit back without significant problems. The waiver submission process itself continues to be error prone. Waivers seem to get lost and there is limited or no feedback when a waiver can't be entered. It is not clear what the problem is and it is a very difficult situation for us to deal with. When people have problems, all we can suggest is that they try again. It would be VERY helpful to have this situation cleared up for next year. As previously, we trusted captains that said that they had previously sent in waivers and back dated them as necessary. On numerous occasions, I accepted scanned waivers when the standard process didn't seem to work.

The tournament included 65 teams (13 open, 22 4/3, and 30 5/2 teams), which is a slight increase from last year (60 teams), but still a decline from the previous year (70 teams). We suspect that this is at least partially due to more active enforcement of the roster rules (every player must have played at least 4 waived games with their team). As last year, we repeatedly reminded teams of the rule and asked each team to sign their roster verifying that it was correct when the signed in.

There was less trouble at the tournament (and preceding the tournament) with the roster rules. Hopefully being consistent about this over the last two years has helped everyone understand the rules. There were no last minute requests for exceptions and no roster complaints mentioned. We will continue to stress these rules at the captains meeting.

We raised the tournament deposit from \$100.00 to \$250.00 and stressed that teams would forfeit their deposit if they dropped out or changed divisions. There were some last minute issues with some Open teams, but in general there were significantly less problems than in previous years.

We gave out individual Spirit Awards at the tournament based on nominations during the season. This seemed to be pretty popular.

Other notes:

- We continue to use the remote fields intensively. Fields 26/27 had porta-johns this year which helped out. We had a somewhat simpler format this year which helped in communication to the remote fields.
- We had a mixup at the tournament that resulted in not having the normal staff to distribute water and clean up at the end. But we were able to recruit enough volunteers to work things out pretty smoothly.
- We continue to have a relatively large want-team list. It would be great if those players could find and/or form teams. The implementation of the want team list could be improved to make it easier to find players in a reasonable location.
- We had some discussions with a team that showed up on a relatively large number of do-not-play requests for the season schedule. We don't know of any further issues with this team.

Summer Club League Commissioners:

*Jeff Perkins  
Tracy McNeal  
Kevin Leete  
Jose Invenio  
Kate Elliot  
Mark Tuden*

*Roger Barnum  
Raphael Savir  
Ian Marlier  
Kristin Sinclair  
Timothy Lawlor*

## Fall Club League '08

Cris Shaikh, Commissioner

*(This report describes both Mixed and Open leagues in general with the Mixed Division described in more detail. A separate Open League report should also be available. With Natalia's permission I copied her format)*  
)

### Team Information:

Total Teams: 43 teams  
(8 more teams than 2007, though 6 were new GM teams so a net gain of 2)

### 4/3 Mixed Teams:

Division 1: 10 teams  
Division 2: 6 teams  
Division 3: 12 teams

### Open Teams:

Division 1: 7 teams  
Division 2: 2 teams

### GM Teams:

Only Division: 6 teams

### Fields:

Conway Field, Somerville: Tuesdays and Thursdays  
Hoyt Field, Cambridge: Tuesdays  
Tufts Field (not Tufts University):  
Thursdays  
Donnelly Fields, Cambridge: Tuesdays  
Ronan Park, Dorchester: Tuesdays, Thursdays  
Lexington HS, Lexington: Wednesdays, Thursdays  
Ebersol Field, Esplanade, Boston: Wednesdays  
JP English, Boston, Wednesday

### League Info:

Teams and captains were notified in early August. Emails were sent out to a BUDA mailing list. A notice was also posted on the BUDA website.

Team Cost: \$350 per team (\$15,050)

Scheduling was done by hand. We had a timing issue with team confirmation, and manual seemed easier.

### Recruitment of Players:

The "want team" link was posted before and during the season, but it never worked for Captains to check available players. We asked about this link numerous times with no resolution, and no response as far as I can tell. The Commish ended up sending emails of players expressing interest to captains who expressed need. If this link worked correctly it would be very nice.

### Season Issues:

#### Fields:

1. Team numbers and composition were late in finalizing, and the number of field permits needed was compiled late(my fault), so only the first week of games was posted initially. We also added a team who paid late after week 1, so they had one less game but the divisions worked out better when I posted the schedule for the rest of the season.
2. Because I did scheduling all by hand, and entered all games one by one by hand, I made a few mistakes. Almost all were caught before they occurred by Natalia and Bill, but on one

evening we had three games for a two field space, and I was out of cell phone coverage. The captains involved created an innovative and terrific solution, thanks to Mandy Eckoff and others for their great decision making.

#### Teams:

1. We had two teams that signed up but decided not to play
2. A handful of teams took a while to create rosters and submit all of their waivers. After I sent out a stern email to captains about missing waivers, it was insisted that many of the missing waivers had been sent in. I inquired, and learned that the waiver status is rarely updated on the web site. It would be great if this was more up to date.
3. I tried to give teams an extra game or two, since we had the fields and it would make them feel like they were getting more bang for their buck. I gave Olin College more games, as they had about 30 people on their roster and were willing to play anyone.

#### Tournament:

Held October 18/19; Open/Div III Saturday, Div I/II on Sunday.

GM had no weekend tournament; they had their championship during the week.

4 teams dropped out, giving us a perfect 16/16 split for sat/sun.

Raph Savir(and kids) and Burt Granofsky helped me on Saturday(while I was playing), their presence was invaluable.

#### 4/3 Mixed Results:

Division 1 : Porkchop over The Animals

Division 2 : Zippy over Skoosh

Division 3 : Toads over the Deciders(sniff)

Division GM : Fighting Kung Fu Monks over Huckagenarians

#### Open Results:

Open Division 1: Just the Tip over WiPPs

#### Tournament Issues:

1. Saturday morning Mitre decided to re-paint their parking lot, and told us at about 8:30am. People were amazingly nice and quick about moving their cars but it threw me off a bit, and delayed the captains meeting.
2. One team was given permission to have a woman play who had only played one game for them during the season(short season requirement is two). She had been on their team for years, and missed many games due to family commitments. Permission was asked for early, and nicely, no problems there.
3. Two teams at the tournament had pickup women (one Saturday, one Sunday) after repeatedly being asked not to. Saturday's team didn't advance to the finals so it wasn't an issue. Sunday's team played in the finals, without said woman, and was blown out. Their opponent was very cool about the situation.
4. Sunday we had a player get smashed in the face in her first game. She drove to Lahey Clinic, got stitches and played their last two games (what a trooper). It made me wish I had taken first aid class, or had arranged to know who there was medically trained (if anyone)
5. To make numbers work, I had to bump a div I team down to div II for the tournament. We moved down Zippy who were unhappy but very mature about it. Zippy then mopped the floor with div II in the tourney.

6. I bought candy prizes at Costco for first and second place of each division. People seemed to like that, and it was fairly inexpensive
7. We didn't have any field space problems on either day, but we definitely need a new large whiteboard(or two)

Weather held up all season, as we didn't have any rainouts(except for one GM night) and we had plenty of fields. Captains were patient and very encouraging with me as it was my first season Commishing. Natalia, Bill and Geoff also fielded my many silly questions and made themselves available to me at all hours of day and night. Next season I plan to steal some of Joey's organizational ideas for the tournament, I really like how he ran the FHL tourney.

**Good Cause Report: 11/20/08**

*Conor Plunkett (Good Cause Ambassador)*

This past summer's Good Cause beneficiary Horizons for Homeless Children. HFHC is a Roxbury-based, non-profit group dedicated to helping homeless children and their parents throughout Massachusetts. By providing day care centers and job placement programs, the parents are able to get back onto their feet, while the children are properly cared for and out of shelters. For more info check out [www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org](http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org)

The tournament was again held at Millennium Park. We had a medium-sized turnout of 110 players. 70 participants were first timers to Good Cause, which was terrific to see. The representative from HFHC was blown away by how efficient our little operation was; from the collection forms to the team building process. The only bummer was when the sprinklers came on and soaked everything during registration. HFHC was thrilled with the final donation by us, and even included me in a promotional video for them, talking about BUDA and our fundraising efforts, and why we chose HFHC. It was fun to do. As always, the Good Cause "special rules" were a bit hit for the players.

For the very first time, I enlisted a true corporate sponsor. Harpoon Brewery's UFO Marketing team was very generous. They donated the following: A case of UFO to every player who raised over \$100 + an additional case for every additional \$100. THIS WAS A HUGE HIT, and increased fundraising levels substantially. In 2007 we had 12 players raise over \$100, but this year we had 44 players raise over \$100. Very cool. UFO made a \$500 donation to HFHC, because Raphael Savir personally raised \$900. UFO SWAG. Discs, T-shirts, Glasses, Key Chains. I will definitely try to convince Harpoon to sponsor next year, but I'll lean on the "IPA" marketers instead.

PLAYERS 110  
EXPENSES \$1,196  
DOLLARS RAISED \$9,200

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TOTAL DONATION TO HFHC \$8,004

**SOME POSSIBLE FUTURE BENEFICIARIES (decisions not made until spring)**

- School on Wheels
- EarthWorks or City Sprouts
- All Smiles Foundation - Support services for families dealing with childhood cancer.
- Good Sports.org
- High Hopes.org
- Girls LEAP
- ReVision Urban Farm
- Common Purpose
- Youth Build Boston
- Friends of the Children
- The Second Step - Provides transitional living and community outreach programs for survivors of domestic violence.
- The Gabe Kapler Foundation - Prevention and support for battered women.
- Boston Center for Missing Kids
- Handi Kids - Provides therapy for disabled kids, thru therapeutic horseback riding.
- Camp High Low, for children with Diabetes
- Project Joy
- Boston Cares.org
- Smiling Kids Incorporated  
(This group encourages kids to donate their birthday gifts to kids needier than themselves)
- Cradle To Crayon (donates used toys to homeless kids)
- Women's Lunch Place (a safe haven for abused women)
- Italian Home for Children in JP (a home for troubled children)
- Loaves & Fishes (the food Pantry at Fort Devens Community)
- Child Witness to Violence Program



## **Ultimate Showcase Series**

*Erik Sebesta (USS Founder and Director; USS is self-supported and only BUDA-affiliated)*

The 2008 Ultimate Showcase Series (USS) featured 10 games, 100 elite players, and a thousand fans. Thanks to Geoff Doerre and BUDA's support, excellent fields were procured including games at Dilboy and Charlestown, both successful venues. At Charlestown, the USS attracted the attention of 20+ young kids and the local youth coordinator who reached out to BUDA for clinics. The USS also played a few games at local high schools Concord-Carlisle, BB&N, and Bedford, adding a few top high school players to each team. The series finished with a wonderful game between Boston Ultimate and Great Britain, overflowing the stands at Tufts Bello Field.

For 2009, the USS is seeking sponsors and volunteers to continue to build a fan base. We'd like to find ways to get more young fans to come see our favorite sport.

## **Volunteer of the Year 2007**

*Catherine Greenwald (HS Director, Youth Educator, HS coaching grant recipient)*



Catherine Greenwald has been playing and coaching Ultimate since 1982. Over that time she won three UPA National titles (1995-97) and participated in over a dozen National, World, and World Club championships.

Since retiring from elite competition, she has dedicated herself to teaching and coaching Ultimate to kids of all ages. In addition to coaching the Concord-Carlisle High School team, she was Director of the BUDA High School Ultimate League and a BUDA Youth Educator before her recent move to Utah.

Catherine took BUDA's fledging high school program to the next level, investing countless hours in reorganizing its structure and helping teams understand the rostering and scheduling requirements. Her two years as high school director saw a significant increase in high school league and tournament participation, and was matched her enthusiasm for youth outreach and clinics.

As a token of our appreciation, and since we're not totally convinced she's retired, Catherine is receiving a VC Ultimate gift certificate. If she doesn't get some sweet gear for herself, no doubt her daughter will benefit.

Catherine, you really did a tremendous job, and we, and the youth Ultimate community of our area, appreciate all your hard work and brilliant ideas

Best regards from all of BUDA--you will be missed.