

## **BUDA General Meeting November 29, 2007**

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### **Agenda**

1. Review this report
2. Discussion topics; Q&A
3. New business

### **Introduction**

I have to confess I was a little nervous coming into this season with 5 out of 7 BUDA leagues being headed up by new commissioners, but thanks to our solid infrastructure and dedicated volunteers we were quite successful and only raised the bar. League participation, in both Club *and* Hat, has increased. Waiver compliance, rostering, and scheduling are seeing improved efficiency. Finals tournaments are well attended and filled to capacity. Yes there is room for improvement but everyone involved deserves a pat on the back for a job well done.

Locally we have revamped our High School program, creating a newly focused league. Hopefully we can apply our club league IT systems to make HS rostering and organization more efficient in the coming year. We are also continuing outreach in our youth program and have made inroads into new areas of the metro Boston educational and recreational systems along those lines.

In the regional picture BUDA is continuing to make news—2007 again saw us running national caliber tournaments such as Easterns, the Boston Invite, and UPA Regionals, as well as sponsoring a trio of Juniors all-star teams who represented us proudly at the national Youth Club Championships (YCC). Our involvement with the Ultimate Coaches and Players Conference (UCPC) and the Ultimate Showcase Series (USS) helped educate and involve our community, and exposed everyone to the bigger, national, ultimate picture.

I am very proud of all our volunteers, from rookie hat league captains to the grizzled webteam veterans, and thank you all for your continued efforts. While there is work to be done, let's enjoy the "off-season" and some well-deserved rest for a few weeks.

See you on the fields,



BUDA President

## Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance Treasurer's Report

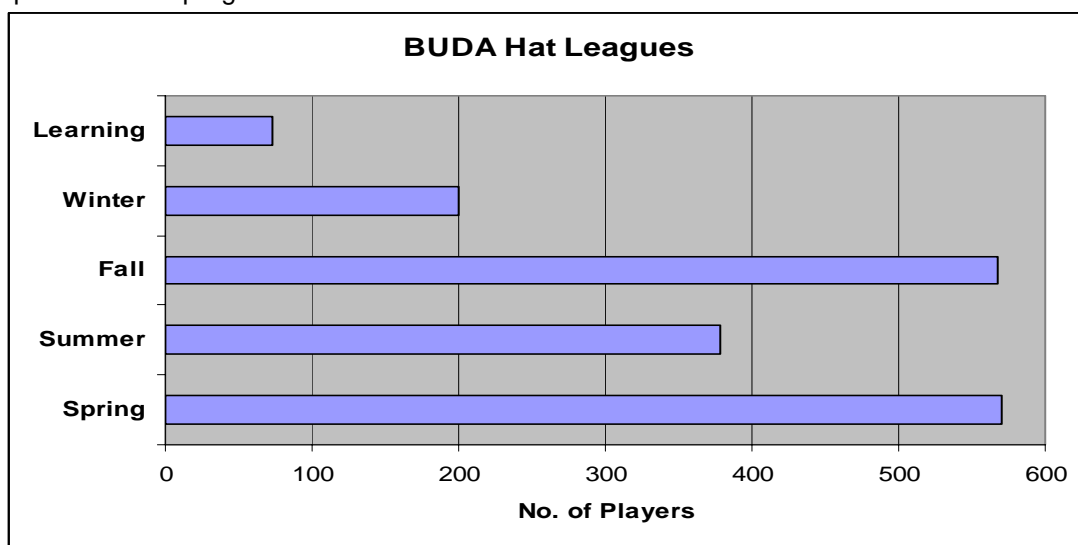
Bob Kulchuk - November 29, 2007

### Status of New Initiatives

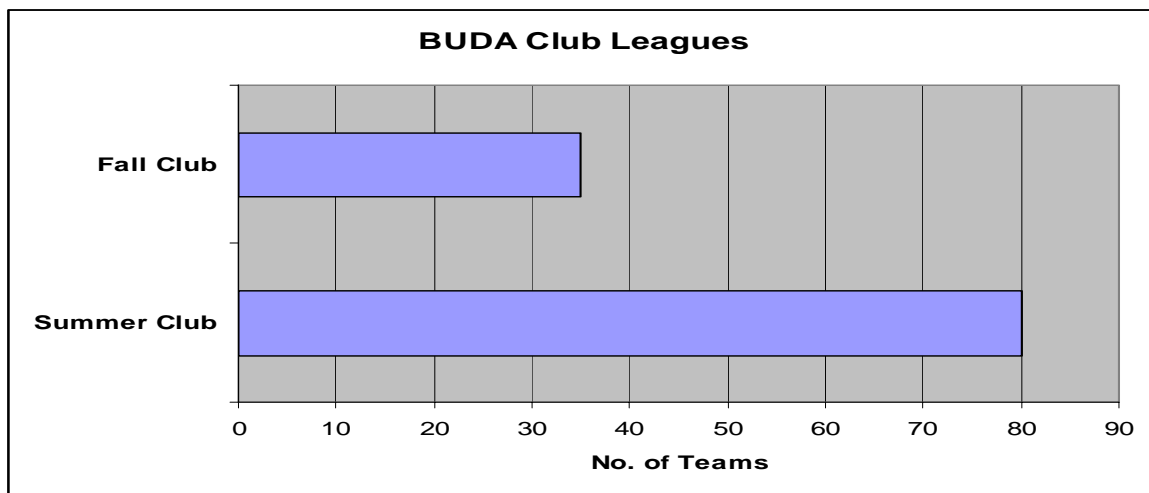
- During 2006, I converted the BUDA financials to a new accounting system to improve our reporting and tracking capabilities. People who have received reimbursements in the past several months have also noticed that checks are now printed directly from the accounting system eliminating extra administrative steps and streamlining the process.
- At the Board's March 2007 meeting, the Board formally adopted a new Investment Policy which governs the investment of the organizations idle funds. All of the investments have either been in FDIC insured CD's or US Treasuries. To date for 2007, the organization has earned \$1,733 in interest on those investments.
- In 2007, BUDA sponsored the UCPC, the Ultimate Showcase Series and organized a Winter Fund Raising drive to raise funds for a Coaching Grant pool. Each year, one or more coaches in the High School or Youth ranks will be nominated and receive a stipend from this pool. In 2007, one such stipend was granted and \$1,200 remains to be awarded in the future. The Ultimate Showcase series and the UCPC have exhausted all of the funds raised for those programs.

### Core Leagues and Tournaments

- In 2007, BUDA again sponsored three Club level tournaments – the Boston Invitational, Mixed / Masters Easterns and Regionals. After expenses, the three tournaments contributed \$6K 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 essentially all of the proceeds were exhausted in 2007.
- BUDA offered four Hat Leagues and a Learning League in 2007. Although not all expenses have been captured at this point for FHL, the 5 leagues combined to contribute approximately \$28K towards BUDA operations and programs.



- BUDA also ran a Summer Club and a Fall Club league in 2007. Although not all expenses have been captured at this point for the FCL, the two leagues will contribute approximately \$16K towards BUDA operations and programs.



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

- BUDA sponsored and subsidized several qualifying tournaments for High School teams throughout the state as well as the Massachusetts and New England State High School Championship tournament.
- For the third year, BUDA sponsored an all-star youth team to attend the UPA Youth Club Championships (YCC) and provided financial, logistic and other support throughout the season. In prior years, BUDA had only sponsored one team. This year, BUDA sponsored three teams (one each of Women's, Open, and Mixed). Each of the three teams did very well and advanced to at least the semifinals of Nationals.
- 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 \$7K in the High School & Youth programs in 2007 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 – "where do my league dues go?"***

- 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 \$19K, including \$11K for insurance.

### ***Financial Position***

- BUDA began the year with assets of \$56K including \$42K in cash and equivalents. Currently, assets total \$71K including \$63K of cash and equivalents. There are a number of expenses that are typically prepaid for the coming year (WHL Bubble rental for example) that will further reduce the cash on hand by year end, but BUDA continues to strengthen its financial position.
- Year to date BUDA revenues have exceeded expenses by approximately \$20K. 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 2007 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/admin\\_buda/forms/chekreq.pdf](http://www.buda.org/admin_buda/forms/chekreq.pdf) and should be sent along with original receipts to BUDA, 65 Woburn St., Waltham MA 02452.



## **MARKETING & FUNDRAISING UPDATE**

*Kristi Rea & Raphael Savir*

Our marketing strategy is divided into two pieces. One piece is getting sponsors for our leagues or the website, and the other piece is getting sponsors for our Youth Program. They're different in that the former is more of a business deal, whereas the latter is really just a donation. League/tournament/website sponsorship is left to league commissioners or tournament directors; there is no BUDA policy in place other than sponsorship deals must be reviewed and approved by the president and marketing.

In 2006 we tried to get more donations through our website and recommended having a donation opt-in on the league sign ups. We got a few big donations (\$500) but very little else. We would like to (shortly) send out another eblast to our community and post something on the website encouraging similar year-end donations. BUDA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, so all donations are tax-deductible.

From these donations, we gave \$500 to one coach in 2006 (and sent honorary letters to a few others who were receiving remuneration from their schools already). We have another coach who will shortly receive a \$500 check, and we will continue this program throughout the year and hopefully ongoing.

New Balance has a program that we'd like to apply to, but we need to contact a New Balance employee in our Ultimate community.

Catherine may have a contact who can help us generally with this fundraising, as our approaches have yielded little over the past few years.

## Youth Program

*Raphael Savir, Director*

The Youth Program is split into two areas, Youth Clinics and the High School League. In 2007, for the first time, we were able to bring these two pieces pretty close together because **Catherine Greenwald** was the HS Commissioner and also our Youth Educator.

Catherine has a separate page about the HS League. I will simply add that because of the Youth Club Championship (under 19) requirements about how kids qualify for these teams, and changing state championship requirements, she/we are having to do a lot of thinking about how to structure our league and tournaments, whether to continue allowing non-MA teams, how to best open up the rosters on the YCC teams, etc.

In 2007 we only did a couple of school clinics, but we did some new things. One was a Springfield Professional Development Day where Catherine was able to work with over 40 teachers directly. Another was the Boston ROCKS program, which was funded by the city of Boston in an attempt to give kids more recreational opportunities over the Summer. Our program was very poorly attended due to organizational woes by the city, but the program may well continue in 2008 and we'd like to be a part of it again. Two big pluses for this program: One, they fund it. Two, it gives us new contacts in the city, where we don't have many.

Catherine and I attended the MAHPERD conference in Worcester in early November. This brings together all the k-12 PE Teachers from across the state. There were maybe 50 vendors. Side note, ours was one of few who weren't trying to make a buck hawking equipment. At any rate, we got about 70 teachers to sign up for a clinic. That meant they filled out a very brief survey about their previous/current Ultimate teaching experiences and gave us their name/phone/email. One week later we sent an email to those 70 and as of this writing we are compiling responses for follow up.

Because of our limited budget, we'll probably only be able to hit about a dozen of these schools in Spring, 2008. That will likely leave many requests on the table. This brings me to the issue that has dogged us for years, getting funding for the YP. Ideally, we'd like to get funding for a full time Youth Educator (salary, benefits, expenses) plus more for a half time Program Director. So far, all the bits we've gotten (player dues, donations) have gone directly to paying for a very part time Youth Educator.

One new program we are considering is a professional development day for teachers. We would make this a paid event. We think there is interest, and hopefully funding out there, but we are still in the process of determining exact needs and available funding before we put more work into setting this up. In theory, this would be a better direction for us than clinics because we'd hit the teachers directly and let them teach their kids, instead of us trying to reach every kid ourselves.



## **BUDA High School Ultimate League Report, Spring 2007**

*Catherine Greenwald, Director*

**The BUDA High School Ultimate League had a successful season, with 21 teams registering in open Division I and 34 teams playing in Division II. In Massachusetts, 43 different schools were represented, with 25 % coming from private schools. Six teams from New Hampshire, 2 from Vermont, and 1 team from Maine also registered on the website. In the Girls division, 11 teams played representing 7 schools.**

Teams scheduled their own games, contacting other teams on the website. They were required to play everyone in their Division and Geographic Region (North, West, Central or South). Outside of that requirement, they were encouraged to play as many teams in their division outside of their geographic region as possible. Games outside of divisions (Div 1 team vs. Div 2 team) did not count towards final standings.

### **Tournaments:**

**BUDA Division 2:** May 26 at Mitre Fields. 16 teams from MA and NH.

**Mass. States:** June 3 at Devens. This is a UPA-sponsored tournament hosted by BUDA

**Open:** Twelve teams, selected based on record

**Girls:** Eight teams, one of which was a combo team – everyone who wanted to come could play.

**New England Invitational:** June 3 at Devens. 8 teams from VT, CT, ME & NH. When one of the Vermont teams dropped out, the 13<sup>th</sup> place Mass. team took its place.

### **SOTG/Spirit Reporting**

Teams were requested to not only submit game scores but “Spirit Scores” for each game. Teams receiving a low score would be contacted, informed that they’d been given a low score, and reminded to learn the rules and play with better spirit. This only had to be done on two occasions, with satisfactory results.

### **Coaching Support:**

**Matching of coaches with teams:** Several coaches were matched with teams looking for coaches.

**Coaching grants:** Two awards were made.

**Other support for coaches:** BUDA offered high school coaches a rebate of \$50 to any coaches who work with teams in the HSUL. The clinic was held Nov. 19 in Concord.

### **Fall:**

This fall we instituted a UPA-sanctioned *Fall High School Hat League*. It gave high school players a structured opportunity to meet and play with kids from other schools, helping to build a local high school community of players. We played on two fields in Waltham on Sunday afternoons. We had 43 players register, and divided into four teams.

## **Webteam Update**

*Buzz Aldrich, meeting notes 11/20/2007*

1. Active project recap: Other than content creation in Joomla projects did not move forward. We have decided to focus on only two projects at a time & try to keep them moving. The projects will be the Joomla login integration and the Waiver Automation project.
2. John Peterson gave a presentation on Joomla and discussed our options for login integration. We decided to pursue the "cookie hook" option followed by conversion of old pages to Joomla using the "Custom Pages" component.
3. Web Priorities:
  - Joomla Integration
  - Improving the waiver process
  - High school league support (Bill Dill & Catherine Greenwald)
4. Short talk on email aliases, decided to setup autoresponders on old ones, create a new batch each Jan
  1. Autoresponder will direct people to the BUDA site to get the correct address. Darren will provide Geoff and Bill D. a list of the current aliases and they will decide which ones should get rolled.
5. Short talk on incentives for web volunteers, possibility of paying club team fees or \$100 discussed.
6. Talked about setting a budget for web projects. Geoff will discuss at next board meeting.
7. Next steps.
  - Consultant will start work on later phases of Waiver project.
  - by 12/15/07 we need progress from Chris P. on waivers or we will move consultant to early phases of project.
  - John will try to complete or make significant headway on the cookie hook by the end of next week. If no significant progress is made we will move forward with a consultant. John will project manage the consultants efforts.
  - Status check 3rd week of Dec. on both projects.

**League Operations Report**  
*Bill Dill, DOLO*

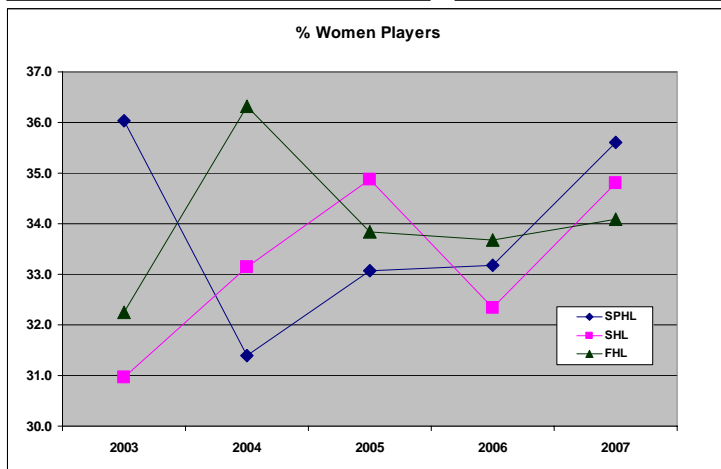
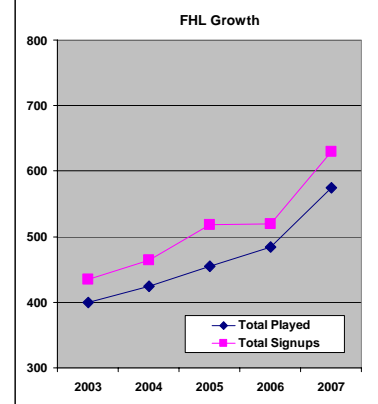
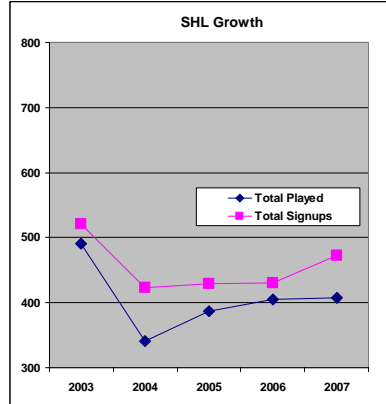
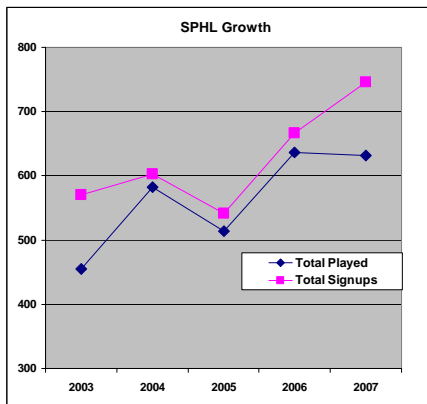
After a few stagnant years, 2007 has been marked by growth in a bunch of leagues.

In winter league, we ended up with a small waitlist for the first time. It might be time for us to seriously consider expanding the league. Greg has followed up on some leads of indoor facilities, which are much closer to Boston than Milford. However, with a signed contract with the Milford facility, nothing will change for WHL '08.

Spring league has been maxed out on the number of teams the past two seasons. But this year we had enough growth in women that we were able to make that entire JP division all mixed (4/3). There were 100 men on the waitlist, although expanding this league to add another location could be problematic since it's difficult to get fields prior to Memorial Day.

Fall Hat league grew by a few teams in both metro and in the suburbs. The metro league has been growing by 2 teams a year, so it was nice to see this trend continue. But the exciting news is that both Lexington and Waltham were flat at 6 teams for the past few years and this year both of those divisions grew to 8 teams.

Fall Club league grew by a large margin. In '04 and '05 it had 22 teams. Last year it had 26 teams and this year it had 35 teams. It appears that this league has finally grown out of its infancy. Since it's a club league, it has followed the same rules as the Summer Club League. But since it was much smaller, it was run more casually. However, with the way it grew, it's going to need to be run more formally in the future. I heard of cases where people were playing for multiple teams, requests that people be allowed to play in both the open and Mixed divisions, and other situations that really need to be cleared up before the season starts. It looks like a required captain's meeting where rules will be spelled out and possibly voted on before hand will be necessary.



## Winter Indoor Hat League

Greg Aloe (will return as 2008 commissioner) [gregaloe@gmail.com](mailto:gregaloe@gmail.com)

### Location/Scheduling:

John Smith Sports Center, Milford, MA  
8 weeks

### Registration/Rostering:

110 players, 10 teams, format 4/1  
10 waitlisted

6 teams were rostered with male/female: 9/2

4 teams were rostered with male/female: 10/1

Clearly this can frustrate opponent teams trying to match gender, especially on a week where no females show up on a particular team. I made some default rules for how to handle specific situations, but there were generally no complaints about gender matching throughout the season. Captains were pretty good about knowing the status of whether they would have enough women, and in 2-3 cases we were able to fill the gaps with pickup players. Thanks to Bill Dill, we provided a PayPal link to pay for single games:

<http://www.buda.org/hatleagues/pickup.php>.

We first made sure a waiver was sent in, and then we charged \$10 per pickup, which is reasonable considering that registered players paid \$9.38 per week. I plan to continue this process in 2008, and advertise it to captains at the beginning of the season.

To recruit more women for 2008, I've tried spreading the word to women during fall hat and fall club. The biggest reason players are reluctant to register is because they don't have transportation. As a mitigation strategy, I have set up a Google group to assist players with finding carpools (<http://groups.google.com/group/buda-whl-carpool>). I'm advertising it on the 2008 WHL page, as well as in the registration announcement. We'll see how it goes.

### \$\$\$:

Players paid \$75 each, and did not receive any BUDA paraphernalia. The rental rate rose from \$185/hour to \$190/hour. This raises the BUDA cost/player from \$67.27 to \$69.09.

An end-of-season survey (which I've reported on below) indicates that a small majority (54%) would prefer not to see an increase in WHL dues in order to provide a spirit or competition award. Therefore, I'm reluctant to raise dues for any reason.

### Playoffs:

There were several complaints about the power-ranking system and how it wasn't an accurate representation of the team strengths going into the 1 week of playoffs. Several suggested using win/loss records over point-differential. To mitigate this problem, I plan to have 2 weeks of playoffs for 2008, and I plan to use the win/loss records as suggested. However, from other feedback in the BUDA community, I think it would be of interest to players if BUDA posted the power ranking algorithms.

### End of season survey:

At the end of the 2007 season, I sent out a [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com) survey and gathered some information from a total of 39 responses from the 110 players (that's a very high response rate). I won't share all the bloody details unless someone is specifically curious, but the questions asked about the following types of things:

- Changing cost so we can offer a spirit/competition award
- Rules changes (stall count and boundaries)
- How to manage the playoffs

In general, the majority of the players didn't want to see any major changes.

### Location for 2009?

Over the fall of 2007, the WHL mailing list received at least three suggestions for alternative sites to host the league. The major complaint is that Milford is a 1 hour drive from Boston. Jose and I compiled a list of possible alternatives to look into:

- Bedford (I spoke with this facility and it does not meet our needs)
- Peabody (I have not contacted this facility)
- **Rockland (this facility meets our needs as a possible replacement)**
- Plymouth (Steve Striar and Jose are working on this)
- Revere (pickup over the last few years)
- Tewksbury (6 team league, 1-1/2 hour games)
- Seekonk (RIPUL-run pickup at the Wheeler School)
- Acton (Jose heard there is an indoor pickup game here)
- Nashua/Manchester, NH (Jose heard there is an indoor pickup game here)
- Portsmouth, NH (Jose heard there is an indoor pickup game here)
- Dana Barros Sports Complex, Mansfield (Jose and I are yet to investigate)

Of course, we'd have to decide whether we want to open a new league or simply relocate the league. If we open a new league, we risk stealing players from the Milford league, which is already getting little more than the minimum number of applicants. If the attendance decreased from 110 to 100, then we'd already be operating at a \$100 loss at the current WHL dues of \$75. So I'm suspecting that if we move the league, then we should have a trial year with 10 teams just like in Milford, and see how many people register. This would help us gauge how many more hours of fields to rent for 2010. However, I'd also like to point out that there is a good number of people from the metro west and further who play in the Milford league and would want to travel into Boston (I could gather more information from the player database). So we're not making everyone happy by moving it. I plan to put out a poll at the end of the season to get more information from the players.

## **BUDA Learning League**

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

This year we had 90 people registered for the learning league: 60 women, 30 men. Turnout for each session was between half and two-thirds of that. Sessions ran 6-8pm on Monday nights at Danehy Park from April 23 through May 28, with a final Saturday morning session on June 2nd. I do not remember how many people attended the final Saturday session but it was more than in past years, possibly due to better planning this year. An unofficial count suggests that of the people who signed up for learning league, 41 signed up for the summer hat league (26 women, 15 men) and 27 signed up for the fall hat league (11 women, 6 men, most of whom were also included in the summer hat league numbers). This is an improvement from last year, and we appreciate the help from the summer league commissioner in placing learning league participants on teams even if they signed up late.

The coaches for the learning league this year were Peri Kurshan and myself, Nathan Dushman. Most of the sessions were not divided by gender, which I think worked well for everyone. We had fewer experienced volunteers help with the league this year, but I feel this was offset by better organization since Peri and I have both been involved for several years now. We were also aided by good weather - I think we were able to hold all scheduled sessions, which made it easier to cover everything we hoped to explain.

Topics covered in the learning league included throws (forehand and backhand), rules, marking the disc, the stack, cuts, and basic zone.

We set up a mailing list for learning league participants to use this year, and several of them self-organized weekend sessions to play and practice.

## **Spring Hat League**

*Mandy Eckhoff (will return as 2008 SpHL commissioner)*

Theme: Safari

24 JP Co-Ed Teams

14 Waltham Co-Ed Teams

Issues:

### Waivers

There was a high rate of compliance with waivers this year. Requiring that players have a signed waiver on file to be placed on a team worked well. I am not aware of any player playing in SPHL that did not have a signed waiver on file. There were timing problems with entering the waivers. I would like to investigate alternative ways to enter waivers (e.g., electronic signature or online) to save time and make the process run more smoothly. In the alternative, I would like to create clear procedures for entering and processing waivers so people understand the process.

### Waltham

The season ran smoothly. There were no issues with field accessibility this year. The season was cut short by bad weather on several weekends.

### Fields

There were no conflicts with others for permitted fields. I am aware of the conflict this fall. Can the league confirm whether that will be ongoing and affect the Spring 2008 season?

### Tournament

The mixed and co-ed tournament was twice cancelled due to rain. MIT was under construction and unavailable. It re-turfed the fields this summer and it is unlikely BUDA will be able to use them going forward.

### Spirit Disc

Spirit discs were designed and purchased for Spring, Summer and Fall Hat leagues. 250 discs were purchased. Buying for all seasons allowed us to save significantly on a per disc basis. Due to the tournament cancellation, we have a large number of discs remaining. The discs were a huge hit received very positive comments.

### Spirit Awards

The spirit discs were given out to captains and spirit award team winners at the spring tournament. I would like to investigate the possibility of giving captains a special award as an incentive to aid recruiting efforts. I have spoken with a few ultimate gear manufacturers who may be able sell us long sleeve wicking t-shirts at a discount for the captains. In the alternative, I would like to waive the registration fee for individuals who are selected to captain.

## **Summer Hat League**

*Buzz Aldrich (will return as 2008 SHL commissioner)*

### Registration

No big issues. Some players were confused about what they signed up for in terms of nights of the week and field location. We should probably try for more clarity in the sign up form.

### Fields

Scheduling was difficult due to the conditions of the Tufts fields. Powderhouse was in very bad shape, so we moved games off of it to the field behind the baseball field (C?) which was too small. Powderhouse was then repaired, so we moved games BACK to Powderhouse. Some people (20-30) who signed up could only play on one field, this made scheduling much more difficult. I'm not sure it's worth having JP and the North teams play one another given the level of pain. It might be better to treat them like Newton.

Town of Newton was VERY bad with fields. We were double booked several times. I recommend using other fields next year.

### Captains

Captains were hard to come by this year. I was able to get enough, but only by asking some borderline (quality-wise) people to captain. I had several complaints from players about their captains and saw some poor captaining spirit-wise at the tourney.

I feel we need to step up the reward for captaining to the point that we can afford to be selective. Captains are really the public face of Buda, we need to try for the highest level we can achieve. This may be the biggest thing turning away new players after only one season right now. I've only been able to talk to a few new players, but the quality of captain seems to be the deciding factor on whether or not they return.

### Shirts

Shirts were fine, as John mentioned last year, it is important to get a deadline from Colin (or whoever) on when the design & color choices need to be in for timely delivery.

### Spirit Discs

Like the new design, like the yearly design change, lets keep it up!

### Tournament

We had many teams with extremely low numbers, many people did not show that said they would. This seems to be a summer tourney trend. I would like to schedule the tourney in the middle of the season next year and see if that affects attendance. Feedback welcome.

The party was at the Irish Ale House. Attendance was weak, I believe most people were just too tired to care.

## Fall Hat League

Joey George (will return as 2008 FHL commissioner)

- Division notes
  - JP Mixed - 12 teams, JP Coed - 8 teams
    - No games needed to be rescheduled, no problems with lights
    - Field permit issues caused the schedule to change over the first few weeks of the season
      - Permits were issued for 8:30-10:30 instead of 7:30-10:30 as in past years
      - I contacted JP Youth Soccer organizers to see if we could use our traditional 7:15 start times
      - JP Youth Soccer permits were issued until 8:30 rather than until 7 as in past years, and their permit began earlier as well, they initially said they may use the fields till 8:30
      - Once it was clear that they did not use the fields past 7:30, FHL start times were moved up to 7:30
    - No games were scheduled for the Wednesday before the tournament, so fields were used for pickup games for all FHL players to promote socialization of people across teams
  - Lexington - 8 teams
    - Games scheduled only on Mondays so that FCL could use Lexington fields on Wednesdays
    - One day rained out, all games were rescheduled for Wednesday between FCL and FHL tournaments
  - Waltham - 8 teams
    - No games needed to be rescheduled
    - No issues that came to my attention
- General info
  - 16 people per roster, 576 players in the league
  - JP waitlist (both divisions) did not clear
  - Lexington, Waltham waitlists cleared of all players who paid
  - 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 "Magic" with a Harry Potter inspired logo
  - Shirt was designed by Rhian Hodges (a friend of mine, not a player)
  - Shirts were printed by BUDA shirt guy Colin Blight and delivered promptly at the captains' meeting
- Tournament
  - At Mitre Fields in Burlington
  - JP teams (both divisions) on Saturday, October 27
    - Used 10 fields
    - Mixed division used a 12 team format with 3 pools of 4
    - Coed division used a 8 team format with 2 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
    - Did not order pizza because conditions were cold and wet, so most players left immediately after their games
  - Lexington and Waltham on Sunday, October 28
    - Used 8 fields
    - Lexington and Waltham teams were ranked based on win/loss record and point differential and broken into 2 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
    - Ordered pizza
      - 40 were supposed to be delivered at end of semifinal round, delivery guy was 30 min late so many people left before it arrived
      - I cancelled the second delivery (would have been 10) for the end of finals
      - We received a 10% discount
  - Spirit discs for players were given to captains at the tournament
  - Schedule note for next year: allow time between games even if it means starting earlier or having shorter games
  - Extra waivers (~40) are in the trailer
  - Would be nice to have a standard set of rules for caps and tiebreakers
    - 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.
- Post-season Party
  - Was entirely planned and executed by Chris Akin, the notes that follow are his
  - Estimate at least 150 people
  - All drink tickets given away within 50 minutes
  - Food disappeared as soon as it came out
  - Ken DoRosario played a great solo acoustic gig
  - The Point thought we were great and have said they would happily host us again.



## SUMMER CLUB LEAGUE

*Jeff Perkins (will return as 2008 SCL Commissioner)*

This year we had a total of 80 teams registered for the league (25 4/3 teams, 37 5/2 teams, and 18 open teams). That is essentially flat with respect to the previous year (83 teams).

We partially automated the creation of the season schedule this year. That seemed to work fairly well and should make things significantly easier in future years. The approach allows commissioners to specify a list of possible opponents for each team and then the system automatically creates a schedule with a fairly low number of byes.

Compliance with waivers was significantly improved this year. Most teams had most of their waivers submitted by the June 1 deadline. All teams at the tournament had all of their waivers submitted far enough in advance for each player to have played at least 4 waived games with the team. 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. Due to this, we trusted captains that said that they had previously submitted waivers and back dated them accordingly. But most teams were able to get their waivers in without significant problems.

The tournament included 61 teams (10 open, 19 4/3, and 32 5/2 teams). This is a decline from last year (70 teams). At least some of this was due to more active enforcement of the roster rules (every player must have played at least 4 waived games with their team). 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 were still disagreements about the rostering rules (despite a significant vote in favor of them at the captain's meeting). Some people were very distressed that they were not allowed to pickup people for the tournament. However, most teams seem to like the rule. There may be a difference between the younger teams (where this is just another tournament) and the more established teams (for which this is their major tournament of the year). We will discuss the rules again at next year's captain's meeting.

There were also problems with teams dropping out and/or changing divisions at the last minute. This required significant (and time consuming) changes to the schedule at the last minute. We propose raising the tournament (refundable) deposit from \$100.00 to \$250.00 next year in an effort to make teams make a more serious commitment to the tournament.

We gave out Spirit Awards at the tournament. We gave out banana guards to teams that were nominated by other teams as having exceptional spirit (as opposed to using spirit scores). This seemed to be pretty popular (though somewhat expensive (\$800.00))

### Other notes:

- We used the remote fields intensively. Fields 22/23 and 24/25 seem to work out well, but we probably won't use fields 26/27 again unless we can get portajohns for them.
- There were problems communicating with the remote fields on Sunday so that we could quickly get results and get teams to their next fields.
- The tournament doesn't reward higher seeded teams with better fields, schedules, etc. This always seems to surprise some people, but seems like the right choice.
- Some teams were short players and asked other teams to play with different rostering rules (e.g., play 6-1 rather than 5-2). We will probably not allow this in future tournaments (i.e., a team will have to play short or forfeit).

### Summer Club League Commissioners:

Jeff Perkins

Tracy MacNeal

Kevin Leete

Jose Invencio

Kate Elliot

Mark Tuden

Roger Barnum

Raphael Savir

## **Summer Club League, Open Conference**

Kevin Leete, [mayorkl@gmail.com](mailto:mayorkl@gmail.com)

On the whole, Summer Club League was a success this year, with a few provisos (listed below). The positives of the summer –

1. total number of teams was up.
2. field availability, and sharing of fields was much more open and accepted (although squatting was a regular occurrence, as usual)
3. captain response was overall much easier during the regular season (see exceptions below)
4. spirit between teams was overall better intradivision (i.e. – among tier 1 teams)
5. the schedule was good, and changes were made with relative ease
6. Rivalries are starting to form that are a lot of fun to follow. Hopefully the level of play will continue to rise and attract new teams to the mix

Some less-than-positives –

1. Rules knowledge (11<sup>th</sup> edition)
2. Interdivision spirit, planning, skill difference. It seemed that because of the skill and experience difference, game planning, game play, and in-game spirit was a problem. This was true for both high school and non-high school teams.
3. number of teams per division (for good game play). Top teams played each other the maximum number of times (4), while playing lower tiers only if necessary.
4. Team availability. Either due to lack of players or location, there were a few teams on the schedule that were unable to play most of their games. Because of this, many teams had fewer games, and the tournament had far fewer teams.

Tournament –

The tournament was as one-sided for the first couple rounds as the regular season was due to the vast difference in experience between tier 1 and tier 2. Beyond that it was a great time with some really good games played between some very talented teams. However, there were also some teams missing that would have raised the level of play even further, and so it was a bit disappointing in that way. Having some sort of tournament requirement at the beginning of the season should make these problems less severe in the future (40% of the league not showing up for the tourney).

Teams should not be put on the schedule until they have at LEAST the minimum number of waived players to have a game. Also, the schedule should probably be set up in two phases – weeks 1-5, and weeks 6-10 (or however the numbers work out). This will allow the teams who are signed up and waived early to get playing, but also allows the teams that are a bit late to have a few scheduled games to get them started. It will also allow us to remove teams from the schedule that have shown that they cannot be counted on to show up.



## Fall Club League

*Natalia Espinal, Commissioner (not returning 2008; Cris Shaikh named as possible replacement)*

*(This report describes both Mixed and Open leagues in general with the Mixed Division described in more detail. A separate Open League report will also be available.)*

### Team Information:

Total Teams: 35 teams (9 more teams than 2006)

4/3 Mixed Teams:

Division 1: 9 teams

Division 2: 3 teams

Division 3: 10 teams

Open Teams:

Division 1: 8 teams

Division 2: 5 teams

### Fields:

- Conway Field, Somerville: Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Hoyt Field, Cambridge: Tuesdays \*
- Tufts Field (not Tufts University): Tuesdays\*^
- Donnelly Fields, Cambridge: Tuesdays and Thursdays\*
- Ronan Park, Dorchester: Thursdays#
- Lexington HS, Lexington: Wednesdays
- Ebersol Field, Esplanade, Boston: Wednesdays

\*Not available the week of Labor Day; ^Not available the week after Columbus Day week; #Acquired the second week of the season and used for make-up games and to replace fields we didn't have at the end of the season.

### League Info:

- Teams and captains were notified in early August. Emails were sent out to last year's captains/gm's and summer club captains/gm's. A notice was also posted on the BUDA website.
- Team Cost: \$350 per team (\$12,250)
- The scheduling program used for Summer Club was used for this season. There were a few kinks, but it was helpful in creating team match-ups.

### Recruitment of Players:

The "want team" link was posted by the end of the season, which was late for players to realistically join teams. However, it never worked properly. As a result, the commissioner either constantly sent captains potential players' information or ignored requests.

### Season Issues:

#### Fields:

1. As in years past, procuring fields was hectic in late August/early September. As a result only the first week of games was posted initially. Also, some of the fields used during the season were not available the week of Labor Day so the Fields Rep had to get replacement fields for just the first week.
2. There were problems with fitting fields in at Tufts Field when there were multiple softball games. Because of rainouts/playoffs, there were two softball games going on which left little space for two ultimate fields. The problems were worked out thanks to Jerry Hershkowitz and some other captains.
3. Some teams/players were encouraged to find fields on their own to use for FCL games with the promise that they would be reimbursed and the implication that all their games would be at the acquired field. There were questions as to how to reimburse for the fields (given that they might be more expensive than other fields) and the consequences of teams getting their own fields. (One suggestion is to reimburse for the average cost of the fields and charge teams something if they make scheduling requests.)
4. Games held at 6 pm appeared to be an issue for many teams although there were few reported forfeits. However, many teams complained of the early time.

#### Teams:

1. Girls and boys from Andover High School signed teams up to play in the Open League. By chance, we learned that the teams consisted of high school players. There was some concern from the commissioner and other BUDA staff about allowing an all girls team to play in the open league. At least one mother of a captain also had concerns and so the girls were given special permission to play in the Mixed League with a coach. Eventually the boys high school team dropped out of the Open League due to scheduling conflicts and some of them joined the girls team. No problems were ever reported to the commissioner by other teams.

2. A handful of teams took a while to create rosters and submit all their waivers. Multiple emails helped most teams update their rosters, but a few still needed to hand in waivers at the tournament.

Tournament:

- Held 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in October; Mixed on Saturday, Open on Sunday.
- 1 Mixed team dropped out; few Mixed teams were low on women.
- Jerry Hershkowitz and Josh Albertson were tournament directors on Saturday.

4/3 Mixed Results:

Division 1 A Pool: Porkchop over Burning River  
 Division 1 B Pool: Tribute over The Animals  
 Division 2 A Pool: Store Bought Dirt over Swirling Monkeys  
 Division 2 B Pool: Skoosh over Counting Coup

Open Results:

Open Division 1: Groonies over Red Snapper  
 Open Division 2: Tron over One Icehouse Please

Tournament Issues:

1. The total number of Mixed teams exceeded the space available at Mitre. There was consideration to pull out one division to play on Sunday, but it could not be determined early enough which division or teams should go (to give those teams enough time to make sure they could field a team on Sunday). In the end, all division played on Saturday and one pool had byes. (Even if the one team had not dropped out, we still would have needed byes.)
2. A few days before the tournament, Burning River asked if they could pick up women for the tournament. They were given options of playing in the open tournament, playing with the women they had or not playing. They chose to play with the women they had. They felt that they could have picked up women and not told the commissioner, thus they were being penalized for their honesty. It brought up the issue of pick up players in general and how the league deals with them.
3. Due to the great difference in team ability, it was difficult to create a tournament format that allowed for competitive play. While the format we used was not the best (or most popular), it was the best that was offered given team, time, and space constraints. Out of 22 Div 1 games, there were 2 “blowouts”—in this case, when a team wins by more than 7 points. Out of 22 games in Div 2, there were 7 blowouts.
4. During a semi-finals game, a player got hurt and needed medical attention. Since he needed to be transported by an ambulance, 911 was called. The street address of Mitre Fields and the closest hospital were not known. (Someone watching a game knew the street address and was able to help us.)

The Fall Club League has grown tremendously in the past two years. Some of these suggestions for next year are a result of that growth:

- Consider beginning the season after the week Labor Day since it appears that some fields are not available the week of Labor Day.
- Begin the process of signing up even earlier so the final number of teams is known with enough time to get fields and create a schedule before the first week of September.
- Create a policy regarding the individual teams getting their own permits and how/if BUDA will reimburse them so that teams and BUDA are not competing for fields.
- Create a policy of how high school teams can participate in FCL regarding player/team eligibility, most appropriate league (mixed or open), coaches, etc.
- Consider re-assigning teams’ division choice based on previous year’s performance and/or roster to create more competitive divisions and for the possibility of having different mixed divisions play on different days of the tournament.
- Have a tournament deposit to avoid last minute changes in tournament format.
- Have a roster deadline with explicit consequences to be more consistent with Summer Club League.
- Create a Mitre Field file that has important information for a tournament (closest hospital, possible field layouts, street address, water information, etc.) so that people are not reinventing the wheel or looking for important information at the last minute.
- In regards to the tournament fields: either look for an alternative to Mitre to accommodate the growth in the mixed league, cap the mixed teams in the league to fit all teams on one day at Mitre, or early in the season designate a division to play on the same day as the open league.

### **Fall Club League, Open**

*Kevin Leete, [mayorkl@gmail.com](mailto:mayorkl@gmail.com)*

OPEN Fall League was fine, just a bit uncontrolled. The tournament was OK, given the haphazard way everything was put together (we really need to find an option other than Mitre. Someone needs to work on MIT or Harvard...) The number of teams was pretty solid, but no one had a vested interest in the tournament due to the way the season plays out.

Field space and lights, especially in JP, were especially annoying, as I only attended one week where there was no field ownership or early loss of light issues. Spirit was worse in the Fall than it was in the Summer, with bad calls, blatant fouls, and a lot of jawing being the main issues. Fall league was far less fun than Summer, even if the majority of teams were of a higher caliber overall.

I very much liked having the college teams involved, and something to think about would be to request in the Spring that the college teams try and garner night fields for the following fall. This would eliminate a lot of the travel and field issues, as well as the lights and cost. Getting the captain's list from the UPA college regional coordinator would be a great first step.

**Good Cause Report: 11/23/07**

*Good Cause Ambassador: Conor Plunkett*

This past summer's Good Cause beneficiary was Boston R.O.C.K.S!!!

Boston R.O.C.K.S., is a non-profit program launched this year by Mayor Menino's office, which offers "Recreational Opportunities for City Kids." The summer program was designed to engage 1,000 Boston inner-city youths in fun and safe community activities, while giving each kid an opportunity to grow and reach their full potential. The program helps kids get off the streets during the summer months and into numerous structured camp activities. Independently of Good Cause (but dovetailing nicely with it) BUDA volunteers also ran a Boston ROCKS program, teaching the sport of Ultimate in Jamaica Plain. Since we were both a city grant recipient, as well as a donor to the program, we created a special dilemma for the city bookkeepers. Dollars raised by BUDA supported future scholarships to Boston ROCKS. For more info check out [www.BostonYouthZone.com/summer/](http://www.BostonYouthZone.com/summer/)

The tournament was again held at Millennium Park. We had a medium-sized turnout of 100 players. Since Traditionally we see the same players year after year, but for this Good Cause we have 55 first-timers, many on the younger side of 30. So that was a nice surprise.

Several members of the Mayor's staff attended the event and were blown away by what they saw. They were very easy to work with and what I'd consider an excellent beneficiary. Not to mention the key contacts we made at Boston City Hall. I doubt we would have trouble getting fields for this event again.

And as always, the Good Cause "special rules" were a big hit for the players.

PLAYERS	100
EXPENSES	\$965
DOLLARS RAISED	\$6,460
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TOTAL DONATION TO BNB	<b>\$5,495</b>

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

- All Smiles Foundation - Support services for families dealing with childhood cancer.
- 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
- Horizons for Homeless Children
- Project Joy
- Boston Cares.org
- Smiling Kids Incorporated  
(This group encourages kids to donate their birthday gifts to kids needier than themselves)
- RFK Children's Action Fund (helping kids with behavioral issues, in Clinton, Ma)
- 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
- Cole to Teen - Adolescent Education program at McLean Hospital

# West Roxbury

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## TRANSCRIPT



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## BUDA Tournament rocks for the Ultimate good

By Joe McGonegal  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Standing on the top of West Roxbury's Millennium Park fields, overlooking Boston on a dramatically beautiful midsummer day, Becky Owens, the head of the J. Geils Band team, was all smiles. And while you might think that J. Geils was head of the J. Geils Band, it was not so for Saturday's Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance 17th annual Good Cause Tournament.

The Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance is a loose confederation of more than 2,000 players of all abilities in the metro Boston area who devote their spare time, year round, to the sport they love, what many of us know as Frisbee.

Organized in 1990, BUDA is one of the largest Ultimate disc leagues in the country, and each year, the organization chooses one charity for its summer Good Cause Tournament. This year's recipient, Boston ROCKS (Recreational Opportunities for City Kids), received more than \$6,500 in donations from the 10 teams who participated in the tournament, all of whom were named, in honor of the recipient, after Boston rock bands.

"Before my time," Becky Owens said of the band name her team was christened for the day. "But I'm also somewhat musically challenged."

As captain of her "hat league" team (meaning its members were drawn from a hat on the day of the event), however, Owens had to think fast to lead a group of players who'd never played together before. "The bottom line today is spirit," she said in between points. "This is one of the most democratic sports, particularly today, where we have an 'all-touch' rule." Owens explained that if any team is down by three points, it could call "all-touch," which requires all members of the opposing team to touch the Frisbee as they move it down field to score.



PHOTO BY ZARA TZANEV

From left: Nick Amendolare, Wesley Highley, Levy Lorenzo and Ravi Vasudevan go after the Frisbee in the 17th annual BUDA Good Cause Tournament, Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance Ultimate Frisbee Tournament, at Millennium Park this past Saturday. Organized in 1990, BUDA is one of the largest Ultimate disc leagues in the country, and each year, the organization chooses one charity for its summer Good Cause Tournament. This year's recipient, Boston ROCKS (Recreational Opportunities for City Kids), received more than \$6,500 in donations from the 10 teams that participated in the tournament, all of whom were named, in honor of the recipient, after Boston rock bands.

Owens said she has always loved tournaments like the Good Cause because of its spontaneous and seemingly improvised organization. "Where else do you get people coming together for a day, who've never known each other before, to meet others and work as a team," she said.

Over on the farthest field, newly introduced teammates Kramer Gibson and Kat Engel chatted while they waited to sub in for their team, Morphine, in its efforts to beat team Aerosmith. "I'd heard of Boston ROCKS before, as a social worker at Children's Hospital. It's great for getting kids something productive to do during the summer," Engel said.

Gibson, a recent graduate of Ashland High School, was getting as much playtime in before his first year at Miami University-Ohio, where he will play on the university's club team. "After the tournament, today I'm getting in the car and driving to an Ultimate camp in Northfield," he said.

Team Morphine had just lost its last match to team Guster, and so had to participate in the long-standing BUDA tradition of singing them a song after the game, hastily improvised by the team captain. "There once was a team

named Guster," the song went, "who gave us about all they could muster. They gave us a good round, nearly ran us out of town, and then we had hot dogs with ketchup and mustard."

The tournament's organizer, Conor Plunkett, stood at the white-board in the center of the field, recording scores and calling out encouragement to friends, both new and old. "BUDA is a grassroots organization, started by a few people who wanted to give something back to the community," he said. "We started doing this tournament as a way to give a lot of young players, who don't have a lot of ways or means for giving, a simple way to do something for a good cause."

Through the years, recipients of the Good Cause Tournament funds have included the Eggleston Square YMCA, Bikes Not Bombs, Project Bread and the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. "But we like to make a big splash in a small puddle," Plunkett said. "So we look for smaller organizations who could benefit a lot from the amount we can give them. This is the first time, also, that we've done something in conjunction with the city, which has always been a great host to us. And we've also gotten BUDA involved with Boston ROCKS, which is a great way to make kids' summers worthwhile."

Players could raise funds ahead of the tournament on their own, or simply pay the \$35 registration fee, much of which went to the cause. Angie Locknar of Somerville raised nearly \$300 for the ROCKS program; she has raised at least as much in her six years playing with BUDA. "I post something at work and people donate," she said. "I don't believe in

badgering people for charity. ROCKS sounds like a good program."

Chris Akin, who played Ultimate for UMass-Amherst, also raised money beforehand, totaling over \$375. Akin, who grew up in Texas, began playing Ultimate Frisbee in England, and joined the BUDA league immediately when he returned to the states.

Akin said he loves playing charity tournaments for the social scene as well as for the good cause. "There's so many people here," he said. "You see someone you haven't seen in years, and meet plenty of new people, too. Ultimate is all-encompassing — it welcomes all skill levels who get involved."

Akin was grateful to his old friend and organizer for continually putting his heart and soul into such events.

"This thing couldn't happen without Conor. It takes so much to put one of these events together, and he's got the initiative and drive to do it right," said Akin.

"One of our missions when we started this whole thing was to make it more than just a summer league," BUDA co-founder Raphael Savir said after the Good Cause tournament Saturday. "And it's become so much more than that. We've organized over 50 high school teams, competitive junior all-star teams and clinics." An independent consultant who consistently ranks as a top fundraiser for the Good Cause tournament, Savir sees Boston ROCKS as a perfect way to come full-circle in one of BUDA's fundamental aims: involving youths in the sport. "Boston ROCKS originally gave BUDA a grant to involve youth in summer Ultimate activities," he said. "This was a great way to give back."



PHOTO BY ZARA TZANEV

Vlad Meikostopov and Nick Amendolare, right, jump for the Frisbee as Li-Ming Yang looks on in the 17th annual BUDA Good Cause Tournament.

**"We like to make a big splash in a small puddle!"**

- Conor Plunkett  
Charity tournament organizer

## Volunteer of the Year 2006



**Coach Proulx**

For our volunteer of the year for 2006 we have selected Tommy Proulx. A longtime member of the BUDA board, he also served on the UPA Board for several years until his recent retirement.

Tommy leaves behind some big shoes to fill. While he was continuously active in club/corporate leagues (Toads, Ants), and in coaching and promoting high school ultimate (Andover, taking them to national competition), his biggest splash perhaps was made with the high caliber tournaments he attracted and organized. 2001 College Nationals, Easterns, the Boston Invite, the 2006 World Juniors Championship, and the UPA Club series fall events all benefited from his leadership and brought the national and international ultimate spotlight to the New England region.

As a token of our appreciation a Phantom Gourmet gift card is being sent along, to be used for a nice romantic dinner.

Tommy, thank you for your years of dedication.