MARLIES BOOSTER CLUB NEWSLETTER

MARLIES BOOSTER CLUB

community spirit support

Message from the President

One month down and success has blessed our boys on the ice. I would love to say that in our first year we had something to do with the team's best start ever, but we all know that it's a pure case of a good group of players playing well as a team. The importance of team work is vital in the game of hockey and is also important for us in the Booster Club. As we work as a team we will have great success. Memberships are rolling in and we are building an interest and a force that will be able to accomplish a lot.

Many of you have asked about road trips, and, as we grow in members, about 75 now, we are coming close to the numbers to start thinking about a bus trip. We are planning a trip to Cleveland for the last game of the current road trip, November 17th. This trip will be a one day down and back where we go via cars or vans, unless we get enough interest and can rent a bus. I can't think of a better way to welcome our boy's home than to go to that final game and support them on the road.

Our "Broken Stick" challenge has started with the first game for the Hamilton fans to come to the Ricoh. Although there were some Bulldog fans in the stands, none of them had come via the Booster Club. This gives us a chance to put a real statement on this challenge come November 23rd at Copps. The tickets are $16 if purchased through the Booster Club and are already on sale. If you are interested, come see me or one of the executive at the table on game nights for a sign-up sheet. Tickets must be paid for at time of ordering.

We had our first bobble head game on Sunday October 28th with the Wendel Clark bobble head give away. One of the advantages that club membership provides is that if you were unable to attend the game, a limited number of bobble heads are made available. A couple of people have put in their request, but we have a few more available, so if you wanted one and could not make the game, make sure you contact me.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter as much as we have enjoyed gathering all the exciting information that we have incorporated. Look for more new things to come in future editions as well as on the web site.

See you at the Ricoh,

Ward Fuller

President

"The Broken Stick" Challenge

Ticket purchasing information has been finalized and posted on our website with cooperation between the Marlies, the Bulldogs, the Growl and us. Tickets are $16 each, ordered through the Marlies Booster Club, and will be waiting at Copps Coliseum will call. For more information, look in the "Road Trips" section of our website.

With the first game completed of the 12 game set, The Growl were unable to come together and send a single person to Ricoh. This has enabled us to take the lead in the challenge!

Current Scoreboard

Marlies Booster Club	The Growl
0/0	0/1

Games Upcoming within the series:

- Fri. Nov. 23rd @ Copps 7:30PM
- Sat. Dec. 29th @ Copps 7PM
- Sat. Jan. 5th @ Ricoh 4PM
- Sat. Feb. 9th @ Ricoh 4PM
- Wed. Feb. 13th @ Copps 7:30PM
- Fri. Feb. 15th @ Copps 7:30PM
- Sun. Feb. 24th @ Ricoh 4PM
- Sat. Mar. 15th @ Ricoh 4PM
- Fri. Mar. 21st @ Copps 7:30PM
- Sat. Mar. 22nd @ Ricoh 7PM
- Fri. Apr. 11th @ Copps 7:30PM

To Cleveland... AND BEYOND!

We have started the planning and registering of information for our 1st road trip as a booster club! On Saturday November 17th we will be going to Cleveland to see the Lake Erie Monsters host our Marlies at Quicken Loans Arena.

The trip will last one day leaving in the morning and returning in the early hours of Sunday. Costs are yet to be fully determined, but looks like it will be around $50 per participant. Carpooling in vans looks to be the route we are taking for our mode of transportation.

Information will be updated on the website under the "Road Trips" section as it becomes available.

If you are interested in this trip please contact our Social Director Tony Genco at tony@marliesboosterclub.ca . Please contact Tony before November 7th so all planning can be done promptly!

Website Member's Only Access

Some sections within the www.marliesboosterclub.ca website are member's only sections and we have member's only tools. To gain access to these features of the site you need a member "log in ID" and "password". `

If you do not have an ID as of yet, look under "Booster Club Information" and "Web Site Registration Process" to get instructions to acquire a member specific ID/password.

Team Roster

MURPHY MITCHELL LING

BOYCE NEWBURY WILLIAMS

EARL FOSTER ONDRUS

AUBIN LEVEILLE PERROTT

MUIR SIFERS

WALSER KRONWALL

HARRISON HARRINGTON

CASHMAN

CLEMMENSON

POGGE

Marlies in November

- Nov 2nd 7pm @ Wilkes-Barre
- Nov 3rd 7pm @ Hartford
- Nov 7th Marlies Bowl for Kids
- Nov 10th 7pm @ Grand Rapids
- Nov 11th 5pm @ Lake Erie
- Nov 16th 7:30pm @ Syracuse
- Nov 17th 7:30pm @ Lake Erie
- Nov 18th 4pm @ Ricoh vs. Rockford – Mats Sundin Bobble head
- Nov 21st 7:30pm @ Ricoh vs. Lake Erie
- Nov 23rd 7:30pm @ Hamilton – 2nd of the "Broken Stick" series
- Nov 24th 4pm @ Ricoh vs. Syracuse – Nickelodeon Family Day (1/4)
- Nov 28th 11:30am @ Ricoh vs. Grand Rapids
- Nov 30th 7:30pm @ Ricoh vs. Lake Erie – Justin Pogge Bobble head

Final Notes

The Toronto Marlies office invited us to a bowling night with the Marlies on November 7th, in support of the "Kids Up Front" charity. Information has been posted on our website. We have had a lack of response towards this event and time is running out. If interested please contact Tony Genco ASAP otherwise we will pass on this event as a club.

We have learned in recent days that when the Marlies return home on November 18th, the Ricoh Coliseum will have new glass in the north and south ends! If you have been to any of the home games this year, you will know that we have had problems with the glass in both end zones. The glass system at Ricoh is a few years old and will be updated and set up in the next 3 weeks. From what we hear they will have a new partition system installed and the glass will be brand new, and scratch resistant. This is a much needed improvement to the end zones current situation!

We have advertised that members will receive a Leafs/Marlies Media Guide with their booster club applications. These Guides are currently on backorder. When they become available every membership application will receive their Guide.

We would like to congratulate 3 players for their 1st appearances in the Toronto Maple Leafs line-up within the last month; Simon Gamache, Jiri Tlusty and Anton Stralman have recently dressed and made an impact in various games for the parent Maple Leafs. Jiri also scored 2 goals in his debut! Good job to Staffan Kronwall who also received a recall but was not dressed for the game vs. Pittsburgh. Staffan has been one of our strongest and most improved Defensemen this year and his recall was well earned!

In October we made 2 calls to Columbia for help from Tyler Doig and Patrick Weller. Although they did not dress for action we thank both for their time.

From Inside the Press Box

Guest Columnist: John Bartlett

Hello there all you booster club members! I wanted to congratulate all of you for showing your support for the Toronto Marlies. Looks like you already have a lot of great events planned which is great to see. Just remember, if you're taking a bus to any road games, you can hang a banner outside the window to support the Marlies, but let's not try to duplicate the boosters from the movie "Slap Shot" alright?

Well the team is off to a flying start heading into what I like to refer to as Week 3 in the AHL season. It sure will be nice to finally hit the road and play a few weeknight games starting next week. This football like schedule to start the year is a little tough, but it seems to have worked well so far. Let's recap. No regulation losses, top special teams in the league, a defenseman leading the team in scoring, four call-ups to the Leafs, two NHL debuts and a pair of first NHL goals. Not bad for six games into the season! This version of the Marlies is something exciting to watch and I have a good feeling that we'll see a lot of exciting moments this season.

Sunday was Wendel Clark bobble head day at Ricoh Coliseum. They looked really cool and are full size. Spread the good word and don't forget about Mats Sundin bobble head night on Nov. 18th against the Rockford Ice Hogs!

Hope you all enjoyed the two home games at the Coliseum this weekend, because we hit the road for 7 straight while the Royal Winter Fair rolls into town. I'll have all the games Live on torontomarlies.com. And, if you haven't done it yet, try watching a road game Live online with B2 Networks. Just click the "Watch Marlies Games Online" box. I will recommend that you have a high speed connection. As always, you can follow my blog "Barts' Bytes" on torontomarlies.com.

Ridin` The Pine:

With John Mitchell

- **John, when did you first start playing hockey?**
- ***I believe I started playing hockey when I was five years old. I just started playing house league. I think my Dad was my coach. My Dad and one of his good buddies was the coach of my house league team. My team was the LA Kings. That was my very first team, so, and naturally like Gretzky played on the Kings at that time so he was my favourite player and everything like that so....It was fun. But, yeah, I started when I was five.***

- **What hockey association was that in?**
- ***Well, I first started playing hockey when I was living in Hamilton. I played out of Rosedale Park Arena there, and, yeah, we had, I think it was one game a week every Saturday was our house league game, so we might have one practice or two, I can't really remember, but I remember we had our annual Saturday morning, you know, like 7am game, so...It was fun though.***

- **What associations did you go to then?**
- ***I played for Hamilton. I played AA for one year and I played AAA for two maybe three years in Hamilton and then my Mom she got transferred out of Hamilton to Kitchener and my Dad had already been working in Cambridge the whole time, so we decided it made sense to move to Waterloo, so we moved to Waterloo and then that's when I started to play for the Waterloo Minor League Hockey system there, and I played in there for, I don't know, four or five years, and then I played junior B for the Waterloo Siskins, my draft year into the OHL, and then I played in the OHL.***

- **What is your favourite minor hockey memory that you had as a kid?**
- ***Oh boy, well I remember when I was living in Hamilton and I was playing on the AA team we won the whole league, and so that was really special. That was fun. We were a really good team, too. We played in a lot of AAA tournaments, and I think we won one of the AAA tournaments that we actually played in, because we had a really good team. I think our team was maybe even better than the AAA team that was ahead of us because a lot of parents "I want my kids to play on an AAA team". That's how it seemed it worked, and then the next year everybody that was on that AA team was playing AAA and there were only a few or a handful of kids on that AAA team that actually stayed there, so that was probably pretty special was winning the league there. And then another one was we played in a Brantford Wayne Gretzky tournament so I think I got three MVP medals at the game for playing in there, and it was pretty cool because you get one that said 99 Wayne Gretzky Tournament and everything so that was fun, too.***

- **It sounds like you had a few coaches. Which coach had the biggest impact on your game and how?**
- ***Well, I've had a lot of good coaches over the years, and they've all been different. In Junior B I had a coach, Gerry Harrigan. He was a real hard-nosed, old-school kind of player himself he'd come in, yell at you if you weren't playing good and just rip into you real good. So he was a fun coach to have but he was also, I mean, I kind of learned a lot from him to stick up for yourself and don't really take anything from anyone. And then my coach in Plymouth Michael Vellucci he was a really good coach too. He helped me with a lot of things. I mean he had played pro hockey just a little bit, but he always told me these things like riding a bike is important. Things that I always took for granted, and once I actually got to the pro level, you know, that's an every day sort of thing. I mean, sometimes I wish I would have listened to him a little bit more, but he definitely knew what he was talking about. And then the two coaches I've had up here, Greg Gilbert and Paul Maurice, I mean, they're obviously very good coaches. They've established themselves in the NHL and everywhere, the OHL, things like that, so it was really good, especially with Paul Maurice because he really pushed me to try and be a better player, and I appreciate it, and I think he likes the way I play, and***

everything like that, so hopefully I'll get a chance.

- **I think having Paul Maurice on the Leafs now for people in your situation, you and Jeremy and others who he's coached down here, bodes well for your chances to make it because he knows your game and he's taught your game, as you said.**
- *My first year pro was 2005/2006, so Paul Maurice was our head coach, and he spent the whole year there, and I was there with him the whole year. He pushed me in practice, and in games and told me how things were gonna be. He's just a very straight-forward person and he'll never really beat around the bush and tell you what you want to hear. He'll tell you what you need to hear, so he was a really good coach.*

- **Talking to your mother, she told me that you loved to play hockey even as a kid. You even loved to go to practices. She said that not even once did she have to push you to go to practice or anything. Do you contribute that to the success you've had so far in your career?**
- *Well, probably, practice makes perfect right? I've enjoyed playing hockey my entire life and I still do everyday. I wake up and some days it's like "oh I have to go to practice", and it's not because I have to go to practice, because, oh man, I have to get up at 7:30 to go to practice, where when I was a kid it was after school practice, and things like that. I mean, I just really enjoy looking forward to, it's not only going to practice and getting on the ice, but just being with your teammates, like bonding with your teammates which inevitably become your friends forever, and so you get such a good relationship with everyone, and it's just so much fun. You go to the rink and you have fun. It's just the way it is.*

- **There had to be some part of practice, there had to be some drill you just didn't like, you just hated.**
- *There's always a drill you don't like, and I can't really put my finger on one drill in particular that I didn't like. I like every drill. Maybe a drill like a defenseman or something where we have to kind of switch forwards play D and D play forwards sort of thing where I'm out of my element, so I feel a little bit uncomfortable, but I don't think there was ever really a drill that I really disliked. It's just something like maybe back skating. I don't think anybody likes to do that but it has to be done.*

- **Now, I recently read an interview with Mike Ulmer that you did and he talked about the fact when you were about 15 your Dad hooked you up with an agent. Was that when you first really realized that hey, you know what, I can play pro hockey? We always have the dream as a kid growing up.**
- *Yeah, like you said, we always have that dream that, oh yeah, I want to play in the NHL. I'm going to be the next Wayne Gretzky. I'm going to be the next this, and then as you kind of get older. Obviously kids fall off and they're like I'm not interested in hockey, I'm going no where, and things like that. Then I was playing Junior B as one of the youngest guys in the league and I hadn't been drafted into the OHL, and it was about half-way through that that I realized that oh the scouts for, you know, Barrie Colts were looking at me and the scouts from Kitchener and this, that, and it's like "oh really?" Then I finally realized that things could possibly happen, and then they said you are going to go in the first round of the OHL draft, and I said well that must be a good thing if you go in the first round of any draft, that's pretty good news. It was definitely good for me because I just wanted to go to the rink and have fun and enjoy myself. I mean, you know, my Dad let me do that and he, don't get me wrong, he pushed me but not to the point where it was like "You're never gonna play pro hockey if you don't do this!" He never said anything like that. He said "If you wanna be better you gotta do this." You know, go shoot pucks. Go shoot pucks. That was his thing he preached to me was go and shoot pucks. So I'd go and take a bucket of pucks. In Hamilton we lived right across from the school and, once obviously school was over and whatever, and after school hours, I'd just take my bucket of pucks and I had a plastic board that was like fake ice. That's what it's supposed to be, and I'd just put my pucks on the ground and dig them out and I'd just take wrist shots at the brick wall. Sometimes I'd take chalk and I'd draw a net, too. Yeah, just to shoot, just to shoot, you know, repetition, repetition, that'll give you a good shot eventually.*

- **I've heard Greg Gilbert say you need to shoot more, and I've noticed this year you are**

shooting more. Is that the message he's getting into you?

- *For sure, I mean, he's always told me to shoot and he tells me he thinks I'm still not shooting enough, and I agree with him. Sometimes I'll be right in the slot, for whatever reason, I won't shoot. I'll look around to see if there's a back-door pass that's just like an easy tap in goal for some stupid reason when, you know, I could just get a shot on net and a rebound and then a goal, or something. Or I shoot and I score sort of thing, so I really have to get that. Another mentality I have is that I have to be right in the crease in order to have a good scoring chance. I'd rather try and skate through three guys and shoot a puck from the blue line and the goalies just glove it. I'll try and go through a few guys to get closer to the net to give myself a better angle at a shot, which is not the right way to do it. I mean, sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't, but definitely he wants me to shoot more so, I mean, I'll shoot more.*

- **So far this year he's put you with two line mates, David Ling and Colin Murphy, and you guys seem to be clicking very well together. In David Ling you have a player who is looking to pass, looking for you constantly. Do you find that an advantage to help you looking for those shots?**
- *Oh yeah, for sure. David's so smart. He's shifting, and he gives you room out there, even though he's little, he gives you more room just because the players on the other team are always looking at him, you know. Our line in general, just like you said, is clicking and I think it really is. It works really well and, I mean, I played with Murph all year last year. I never really played with Ling, but he's an older player, he knows, he's a veteran so he is able to just work around whoever he's playing with, and so far it's worked really well.*

- **Looking at your year so far you have four goals and four assists in the seven games for eight points and the four goals have all come on the power play. You've seen a lot more power play time. How are you finding that?**
- *I enjoy it. Of course every player that wants to score a goal you want to be on the power play because you can get a lot more goals on there. I would've never thought I'd have four power play goals or all my goals be power play goals this early in the season this fast, but, I mean, I'm not gonna complain. It's nice, and I'm glad that he puts me out there and we've got the best power play in the league, so, I don't think, I mean, I don't see him stopping, you know, not putting us out there anymore just because we've played so well and we're doing obviously very well in this league, but being on the power play is huge, especially if you want to produce and get points, not only that, but just win for the team.*

- **You've had a great start this year. That must do wonders for your confidence. Not only is the team doing well but you personally.**
- *Yeah, I mean our team's obviously doing great. We haven't lost a game in regulation. We lost in a shoot-out which is, you know, kind of unfortunate, but our team's doing really well, and, like you said, the confidence thing is huge because it seems like for my career I always have kind of a slow start and then as the season goes on I progress and get a lot better and start putting up more numbers, so it's finally nice to really bear down right at the beginning of the season and get that confidence and then just keep going with it, you know, keep rising with it or at least stay on pace with it, keep that steady pace going through the whole course of the year so it's really good.*

- **What's your first memory of turning pro?**
- *Well, probably the very first game and just kind of the nerves, and being out on the ice with guys that are 30 years old, and stuff like that, cause I'd just played junior where you play against guys that when I was a rookie were four years older than you, or five years, but you are coming into a league when I was 20 and there's guys that are 30 or 35,older men, and they've obviously been playing hockey a lot longer than I have, so it was just kind of weird to come out on the ice and see all these different types of players and guys, but that was probably just the biggest memory, that very first game at the Ricoh Coliseum and just nerves and jitters, but it was fun.*

- **So I guess getting out on the road then more than anything else is getting to know the guys and bond as a team. I guess you don't spend a lot of time together away from the rink when you are at home.**

- *No, like when you're at home you do and you don't. I guess it depends if you have your wife or girlfriend with you here or not. You obviously have to spend time with them cause you spend so much time at the rink, so you can't really neglect them or else you're going to get an earful, of course. So, I think a lot of the guys who don't have girlfriends here all kind of hang out and they do things together, and I do, too, even though my girlfriend's here. We hang out some days, some days we don't. We have a lot of guys on the team who have Xbox, Xbox 360, and we can play online, so sometimes we play online, and online with each other, so we're not physically there together but just online we're all right there, just all the same. In fact, it's pretty fun.*

- **So what's the big game on Xbox between the Marlies players?**
- *Well, Halo 3 just came out, so that's the game that we all play right now.*

- **The team is off to a great start this year, unlike last year when you went through it. What's the difference in the mood in the dressing room? How has that changed this year?**
- *It just does wonders, especially after games where you know you win and we have the music playing in the room and everybody's happy and smiling just like the moral is overwhelming in the dressing room. Last year we'd come in, we'd be losing, and guys would be yelling at each other, you know, throwing equipment or something. They'd just get so fed up. After awhile you lose 1, 2, 3 games in a row or 4 games, you know, you just get sick of it. You don't want to quit but you're just like," What do I have to do in order to make things work?" Then sometimes you start doing things you're not supposed to, like you overwork, you try and do your job and this guy's job, or you try and do too much. Then we've got every guy on the team trying to do too much, and you're really not doing anything right at all.*

- **Well, you started this year in training camp with the Leafs, and you had a very successful training camp. What do you need to do now to take it to the next step?**
- *I did. I thought I had a good training camp. I played well in the two games I got to play in, and I think I'm doing pretty well in the AHL for the Marlies. I think I just have to keep producing, and it's working hard every day, not just on the ice, but off the ice, practice, and just mentally being ready for every single game. That's what you have to do in the NHL even more than in the AHL, you know, because you play two extra games but you play a little bit more during the week so it seems like every other day you have a game in the NHL. In the AHL it's more a bunch of games over the course of the weekend, so in the AHL you really get prepped and ready on Friday, you know, Saturday, Sunday for your games on Saturday and Sunday, but in the NHL you have to be mentally ready every single day because you have a game one day, a day off, game, day off, game, you know, maybe two days off. Well, I mean, not days off but non-game days, where you practice or something. You have to be mentally ready all the time, just eating the right food, getting the right rest. It's really important. I've been really trying to take care of that this year, you know, being mentally ready, mentally tough, mentally strong, so I think just working hard. If you work hard you'll get your opportunity, and as long as you produce and do the right thing, you should hopefully get your opportunity.*

- **Well great, John. The Booster Club appreciates your time for this. Is there anything we at the Booster Club can do for you?**
- *Well, I don't know, let's have a bowling party. I've said that probably 20 times now. I love bowling.*

- **It's become a joke through the Booster Club that somebody's got to take Johnnie bowling.**
- *Yeah, well it should be the joke of the Booster Club, "take John Mitchell bowling". I like glow in the dark bowling, cosmic bowling I think they call it. That's always fun. I always have a good time with that, but I remember in Plymouth we had a couple of bowling things with the Booster Club, and it was a good time.*

- **Well thanks John. We appreciate it.**
- *You're welcome.*

Faces From The Past

With Ian White

- **Ian you spent some time down here with the Marlies to start your career with Marc Moro as your defence partner. What did Marc teach you that helped you for the next step?**
- ***Marc was terrific; I played with him two years. He was my mentor coming into professional hockey, I have noting but great things to say about him, he was a terrific D-man really helped me out. We complemented each other well, he was a big, steady, "stay at home" defenseman and I was quite the opposite. He had a lot to do with my development.***

- **He takes credit for you going up to the Leafs you know?**
- ***I hope so; he did have a big part in it. Two solid years he was my steady defence partner, so I give him a lot of credit.***

- **What was your favourite memory about playing here with the Marlies?**
- ***Well everything, just from being a new city all the teammates even the bus trips stuff like that everything was fun. Being around the guys, being around the rink, even coming to watch the games here brings back fond memories.***

- **You try to get to as many of these as you can don't you?**
- ***Ya I still have a lot of good friends on the team, and I like to come out and support them and see how they are doing, it's always fun to come out and watch.***

- **You have just been reunited back with Hal Gill; you guys seem to work well together. How does your game and his fit together?**
- ***We got 70 or so odd games together already. Just kind of like Moro, we complement each other well. He stays at home he is a big strong guy and I kind of jump up in the play a little more then he does. It just seems to work, sometimes those opposites attract, and fortunately for us we've been very successful together. I look forward to playing another year with him.***

- **Now your first year here in Toronto after coming from St. John's you had Paul Maurice as a coach. How did having him down here help with your relationship up there, him knowing your game?**
- ***That's huge for sure. He came in it obviously a different experience for him, he's never coached a minor leagues club before, it was a learning experience for him, but he got to know a lot of the younger guys, a lot of the players and know their skill set and how to press their buttons and get them to play their game. It was a big part of my development as well, he was a great coach, and still is today, so it was an honour to play for him and still is.***

- **I'm going to take you back a bit, because my first memory of watching you play was the world juniors, when you played on the same team with Bell and Colaiacovo. What was that experience like playing for team Canada and wearing the Maple Leaf on your chest?**
- ***The world junior was probably, I have to say it was the best hockey experience of my life. I'm sure I could say the same for the guys that played here. It was awesome. Playing at home in Halifax just the group of guys we had. Obviously we didn't win gold like we wanted to but the whole experience was second to none. Everyone had a blast the guys were great I wish I could do it all over again, but the memories will always be there.***

- **Thanks for your time.**

Ian was spotted in the crowd during one of the home games within the last month and was very willing and pleased to do this interview with us. We thank him for his time and support and wish him well on his career with the Toronto Maple Leafs!