MARLIES BOOSTER CLUB NEWSLETTER

INAUGURAL EDITION

Hello fellow booster clubbers, welcome to what will become a monthly update and information document on all of your club's happenings around the team. This newsletter will be a combined effort from various sources within the club itself and outside sources to keep the most loyal fans in the loop of everything Marlie!

After a few years of talk (since mid/late 2005-2006 season), a few fans have thrown un-organized ideas around about the formation of this club. As season seat holders and fans have come to know each other at the games and outside the games the ball started to gain speed. During a late road trip last year to Rochester/Syracuse, 2 holders made the trip that finally opened the eyes of many. Post game, these fans waited anxiously outside the team bus to meet/support the players on the team. The players responded with open arms and great excitement that fans dedicated themselves so much to travel down to see them perform outside the friendly confines of Ricoh Coliseum. With excitement growing in MLSE Marlies staff (Maple Leafs Sports and Entertainment), Marlie players and many of the loyalist fans, the ground work was set to form the club over the summer that has just passed.

In the past 3 months, we have organized some of the faithful fans, made connections with MLSE staff, and worked to form what we have at this point in time, the frame work to a strong collection of supportive fans that will participate and initiate a closer bond between the fans, team & community! To front and organize this club and its efforts we have elected a President, Vice – President, Secretary and 3 Chair Directors, along with a Treasurer to take charge of the financial needs within the club. This Executive consists of Ward Fuller (president), Daryl McEachern (vice-president), Diana Vaughn (secretary), Tony Genco (director), Sher Fyfe (director), Jason Banks (director) & Bernadette Dziadul (treasurer).

The efforts within the club to expand, connect and organize, will be spearheaded by the Directors within and drawing from many internal/external sources. These efforts will be based on our main objectives of this club; to create excitement, to connect with information, create a stronger connection in the community within the rink and externally and to support the team/players to which we fans are loyal to!

Message from the President

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the Marlies Booster Club. It is hard to believe that it was just two short months ago that we started all this. So much has happened, and so much excitement is brewing within the ranks of the club.

I want to thank the executive for all their hard work. It takes a team effort to get the ball rolling and keep it rolling. It will take the effort of many of you as volunteers to grow this into the greatest booster club in the AHL. There are many things that we can do and many things we need to learn. The fact that we are all new to this makes it lots of fun. There are many ideas that we have come up with and I am sure that all of you will have lots of ideas to share. Don't be shy, this club belongs to all of us, share your ideas and help us build a great support for the boys on the ice.

The players are so happy that we have started the booster club and are looking forward to working with us. As we work together we will make this hockey team our own and will show them that Toronto can be a Marlies town.

I look forward to meeting all of you and sharing ideas and comparing notes on the team.

See you at the Ricoh

Ward Fuller

President

"The Broken Stick" Challenge

The Growl (Hamilton Bulldogs booster club) and the Marlies Booster Club have arranged a season travel challenge, affectionately named "The Broken Stick". The challenge is to see which booster club will support their team more in the opponent`s arena with number of tickets purchased through their respective booster club for the road games. Our booster club will collect the number of tickets needed for Hamilton and purchase them through The Growl (discounted), and they will do the same with us. We play 6 games in Hamilton and 6 at Ricoh. At the 12th and final game in the series at Copps Coliseum, the booster club that has the best representation through all 12 games will be presented with a trophy! (hopefully on ice) This is an exciting, fun way to interact, and cooperate with The Growl, while showing support for our Marlies and promote a hockey rivalry, AHL style!

Games within the series:

Sat. Oct. 27th @ Ricoh 8PM

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

Heads Up: in The Trolly Tracks!

For those who TTC to the Ricoh, 509 Harbour front and 511 Bathurst streetcars are your most common routes from Union and Bathurst Stations. This fall and into winter, the TTC and the City of Toronto are totally re-inventing Fleet St. from Bathurst St. to the Exhibition grounds. This will cause major holdups for TTC patrons trying to get to the game. Normally, Bathurst/Harbourfront Streetcars take 25 mins down to Ricoh. Last week, in an attempt to get to Ricoh, it took about 40 mins from Bathurst and was a bit frustrating making the bus transfer.

But we have what seems to be a decent, easier option!

The 29 Dufferin Bus - for those who take the subway, you may find it a bit more convenient to head west to Dufferin Station (an extra 5 minutes from Bathurst) and jump on the 29 (transfer maybe required), which TTC drivers have said is 20-25 min from Bloor-Exhibition. The bus will drop off & pick up at the north end (rear) of Ricoh, beside the street car entrance.

The construction on Fleet St. will continue, till mid/late December. When completed, the tracks will either be raised above the road (Spadina) or dedicated (like Harbourfront). The idea is to make the tracks quicker and easier for the streetcars and bus drivers.

This will be updated as more information is received.

Booster Club Web Friendly

The Marlies Booster Club website is up and has been running since October 1st. www.marliesboosterclub.ca is our address. Many thanks to our webmaster, Andrei Tokarev, for his many hours getting us fully functional on the World Wide Web. The site is user friendly, simple and interactive. It will be constantly updated for everything related to our booster club. The site also features Members - only sections, which are only accessible to Booster club members.

Marlies in October

- Oct. 6th 4:30pm @ Ricoh vs. Rochester – Opening Night!!!
- Oct. 12th 7:30pm @ Ricoh vs. Lake Erie
- Oct. 14th 5pm @ Lake Erie
- Oct. 20th 4:30pm @ Ricoh vs. Manitoba
- Oct. 21st 4pm @ Ricoh vs. Hartford
- Oct. 27th 8pm @ Ricoh vs. Hamilton – 1st of the "Broken Stick" series
- Oct. 28th 4pm @ Ricoh vs. Syracuse – Wendel Clark Bobble head
- Oct. 31st 7pm @ Albany

LING GAMACHE WILLIAMS
MURPHY MITCHELL SALMELAINEN
EARL TLUSTY AUBIN
FOSTER ONDRUS PERROTT
BOYCE LEVEILLE
HARRISON SIFERS
HARRINGTON KRONWALL
WALSER MUIR
PERRY CASHMAN
POGGE
CLEMMENSON

Final Notes

Johnny Mitchell has hinted at having a date with the Booster Club to go bowling. Being one of the fan favourite players, we would like to accept the offer. Our social department will try and work details out and try and put this together in some form with John. Stay tuned.

Also special congratulations to Brad Davidson who got engaged over the summer! Brad is a member of the Marlies organization and we wish him all the best!

Ben Ondrus has been named 2nd captain in the team's AHL history. Ben fills a void within the team left by the retirement of Marc Moro this off season. Ben in his 3rd year as a Marlie, 4th as a prospect of the Maple Leafs, will not be alone at leading this team, which contains 6-7 players that will help in the dressing room and on the ice.

In The Dog House…

With Duke

Starting next month we will have a question & answer section for the younger fans to ask questions that will be directed to Duke the Dog and answered over the upcoming months…

Duke Questions can be submitted to the booster club on the Website www.marliesboosterclub.ca

Next general meeting: Will be announced on the Website & E-Mail

Ridin` The Pine:

With Colin Murphy

- **First of all then, Colin, when did you start to play hockey?**
- ***I was probably around 4 or 5 years old, I think. I started skating around 4 and got into hockey around 5 or 6, I think.***

- **What minor hockey association did you start in?**
- ***Fort McMurray, my hometown, it's in Alberta, northern Alberta so when we weren't playing minor hockey it was out on the outdoor rink pretty much. Some of our minor hockey was on outdoor rinks.***

- **Your favourite minor hockey moment?**
- ***Probably my first actual coached game when you are out there with your new jersey and you're just part of a team. I think just being apart of a team was a good experience.***

- **Which coach had the biggest impact on your development? How?**
- ***I'd have to say my coach in college. I was there for four years and I had two different coaches, Mike Sertich and Jamie Russell. They're both great coaches so they taught me a lot about the game and how to be a pro and stuff like that, getting you prepared for pro level, so those two for sure.***

- **What collage did you attend?**
- ***Michigan Tech University***

- **When did you first know you would play pro hockey?**
- ***At the end of my four years at university I just started getting a few calls. My agent was doing a little bit of work before that but I didn't really know what was out there. It's kind of right down to the last minute and then figure it out. I had a choice between a few teams and went from there. I chose Toronto, I guess.***

- **We are happy you did. What is your first memory of turning pro?**
- ***Just the fact that you are a pro hockey player now and that you are pretty much on your own. You don't have to worry about school or anything like that. Your life is hockey now. It's a pretty exciting time.***

- **Always dreamed of playing pro hockey right from the time you started?**
- ***For sure. Well, as a kid you always want to dream of playing junior in your hometown and you know just moving up, and once you realize you can, you have the skill and the mind-set to play pro then the dream comes true.***

- **So this year you will be expected to take a bigger role with the club as far as leadership with the moving on of some of the former leaders. In the outwards appearance you are a shy guy. What are you like in the dressing room?**
- ***I'm not too shy in the dressing room once you get comfortable with all the guys you are joking around all the time. I'm a pretty humorous guy in the room and like to throw a lot of jokes at the guys and make fun of guys and take it and getting it back and forth but if I am a leader in this club, and I know I will be one of them, it's going to be what I do on the ice not what I say most nights. You know there are different guys that are rah rah and you know I like to lead by example.***

- **Do you see your role changing on the ice this year?**
- ***A little bit. I am looked at as an offensive guy for the hockey club and I think I bring a different dimension. I can be physical and fight a little bit if I have to but I still see myself being one of the top offensive guys in the club and producing that way.***

- **And that happened last year too. The offense came up last year in your game.**
- ***Yeah, it did and that has been my game since I was in college and junior so I don't really try and drift away from it too much but that's what the coaches and my teammates expect me to do, so that's what I'm going to try to do.***

- **How do you pass the time on the long bus trips you have during the year?**
- ***Watch a lot of movies, read books, ipods, cell phones. There is a lot of playing cards with the guys and sitting around telling stories on the bus kills a lot of time.***

- **Talking a little bit more about your teammates and nicknames. What is your nickname?**
  - ***I don't know, Murph. A lot of guys give it to me because I like to eat fast foods once in a while so they'll call me by McDonalds or Wendy's, or something like that.***

- **Who on the team has a nickname that stands out?**
  - ***We call Ben Ondrus "wings" because he eats wings for breakfast, lunch and supper***

- **What would you be doing if you didn't play hockey?**
  - ***Well, I got a university degree coming up right now. I took marketing in school and business. I would like to sometime own my own business hopefully related to hockey or something along those lines. I always thought about being a police officer or fireman or something like that, you know, helping people. I think those guys are pretty special.***

- **Last year was a tough year early in the year with home wins coming few and far between. What was it like in the dressing room going through that time?**
  - ***It's tough. It's a hard thing to get out of. You're doing a lot. You're doing extra work. You're trying everything you can to get out of that slump. The only thing you can do is to keep coming to the rink with a smile and working hard everyday and sticking together as a team and that's the only way you're going to get out of it. I thought we did a good job after Christmas.***

- **One of the hardest things must have been with 48 players coming through the team last year was building team chemistry. How was building chemistry last year?**
  - ***Well, I think we had a good core group of guys that kept the room good and we had a great group of leaders and there was a lot of injuries and all the new guys that got called up or came up from junior or the east coast league they were welcomed with open arms and we made them feel comfortable right away, so I don't think it was much of an adjustment and we've seen them all in camp before. Like I said, the core group of guys were good and that's what stuck us together.***

- **Now Colin you are married and I've seen your little boy here at the rink. What does he think of his dad being a hockey player? Does he understand yet?**
  - ***He understands a little bit. He sees me on TV once in awhile and my wife doesn't come to all of the games because she has priorities with him and stuff but I think he understands that I play hockey but I'm not sure to what extent.***

- **Does he like you better or Duke the Dog?**
  - ***He loves Duke. He likes him from far. He doesn't like him up close.***

- **Are you looking to have more children?**
  - ***We've got twins coming in January so it's pretty exciting. My wife is getting pretty big right now and we are expecting in January, so it's an exciting time in our household.***

- **Is that going to be a distraction for you?**
  - ***It shouldn't be. It's going to take a little bit of my time away but my wife is great with my focus is hockey and when I am at the rink it's hockey and when I'm at home it's with Easton and her and the twins on the way. You just have to keep your hockey at hockey and your stuff at home at home.***

- **Does she have extended family here to help out?**
  - ***No, all her family is in Alberta but my parents are close to retirement and hers are too, so they'll be back and forth helping us out.***

- **I heard a wise man say grandparents are to make memories.**
  - ***For sure without them you would be lost.***

- **I appreciate your time for this Colin and the Booster club looks to see what we can do to help out with the club as much as possible. Is there anything you would like to see from the Booster club?**
  - ***No, I think it's great what you guys are doing and we appreciate what the fans do for us. I think it's awesome.***

- **Well, thanks very much**