



# FACEOFF

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## Philly Phantoms live on as broomball champions

*Editors Note: This article was written by TIM LEONE of the Patriot-News  
tleone@patriot-news.com and permission was received to republish it here in Faceoff. Thanks to the Patriot-News for allowing us to use this article.*

Though the Philadelphia Phantoms ceased to exist more than a year ago, they remain an on-ice threat in the AHL.

Like the Baltimore Colts Marching Band, which kept playing after their team departed to Indianapolis the Philadelphia Phantoms Phan Club also is continuing to play after their team's move to Glens Falls, N.Y.

They're doing it with a dynastic broomball team that won its fifth straight championship at the 27th annual AHL Booster Club Broomball Tournament Saturday at Twin Ponds East in Harrisburg.

"There's still a lot of love for the team in Philadelphia," said team captain Rick Hoffman, who added that the booster club has around 45 registered members.

"We decided, hey, we're going to try to keep this going. We're going to try to keep the name of the Philadelphia Phantoms going for as long as we can."

The Hershey Bears Booster Club hosted the six-team event, which also included clubs from Manchester, Syracuse, Worcester and Wilkes-Barre/



Scranton, and Philadelphia.

"It's nice to get all the teams together once a year and do something like this," Hershey assistant captain Mike Schmelz said.

Broomball is played on a rink with the same number of players as hockey. AHL booster broomball is coed, and at least one woman must be on the ice at all times.

The sticks, which resemble long-handled ice-scrapers, aren't really

brooms and the nets are larger than the ones used in hockey. Players wear protective gear, with helmets being mandatory, and ice-gripping shoes instead of skates.

Games consist of two 10-minute halves, and 4-on-4 and 3-on-3 (with no goalie) overtimes are used for elimination games. For the AHL BC tournament, the red line was used for offsides. Hockey experience doesn't necessarily translate to broomball, which uses a 6-inch-wide rubber ball and doesn't

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## **Board of Directors**

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howie\_lewis@verizon.net

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jk0527@comcast.net

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hockeynanny20@aol.com

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tetaksenia@aol.com

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msh691@aol.com

## **Mission Statement**

**The purpose of this organization will be:**

- a. To promote better understanding between Booster Clubs and the American Hockey League Organization.**
- b. To Compare and attempt to alleviate problems confronting each individual Booster Club.**
- c. To act as a social organization for Booster Club members.**

## **Submitting an Article**

**To submit an article to this newsletter, please email it to lighthouseman2@yahoo.com with "AAHLBC Newsletter" in the subject line.**

**Please note: Your club must be a member of the AAHLBC in order to submit an article to this newsletter.**

**Editor: Bill Walch**



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allow checking.

"In game knowledge and stick-handling, it's just a totally different learning curve," said Craig Blatt, a Hershey assistant captain.

One of Hershey's round-robin games was a scoreless tie against the Manchester Monarchs Booster Club. Manchester and Hershey played in the Eastern Conference finals of the 2009-10 Calder Cup playoffs.

You come to play the tournament, but you also come to see your friends," Manchester's Bill Walch said. "We've become friends over the years, and that's what it's about."

Some of the old Hershey-Philadelphia Turnpike rivalry survives in broomball.

"When we play Philly," Hershey captain Brian Whitman said, "you kind of run a little harder and maybe bump a little harder."

Philadelphia beat Hershey 2-1 in 4-on-4 overtime in the championship game for its sixth title in seven years.

"When Hershey last hosted in 2004, they did such a good job that the running joke amongst the other teams

was that Hershey should host every year," Hoffman said. "They do such a fantastic job."

"This tournament has come a long way. Our team joined the circuit in '98. Back when we joined, you had people running on ice in sneakers. We were using hockey nets instead of broomball nets. Fighting amongst the booster club people was tolerated, believe it or not. Our first year, they had a guy from Springfield run off the bench in a playoff game and tackle a guy on the ice from behind."

A Philly fan opposed to on-ice fighting?

"In broomball, yes, correct," Hoffman joked. "We take offense because I don't want to get beat up by any women. I'm just here for my brutal play. We'll leave the fighting to the professionals."



## Broomball Awards



In the upper left-hand photo, Nick Martin of Philadelphia receives the Male MVP Award. He scored five goals and assisted on three others. Nick has won this award in past tournaments as well.



In the upper right-hand photo, John "Fergie" Ferguson of Worcester grabs the Ryan "Bubba" Broghamer Award, as voted on by the goalies. This award is given to the player who exhibits great sportsmanship. Ryan was a goaltender for Wilkes-Barre /Scranton team until his untimely death earlier this year. His friendship and good sportsmanship was greatly missed during the tournament.

In the lower left-hand photo, Chris O'Shea of Worcester nabs the Unsung Hero Award. This award goes to the player who makes a substantive yet unrecognized contribution.

In the lower right-hand photo, Jamie Frantz of Hershey gets the Female MVP Award.

Congrats to all of this year's award winners.



## Broomball Final Standings, Playoff Results & Scoring

PLACE	PTS	TEAM	W	L	T	GF	GA	PLAYOFF RESULTS				
1	10	Philadelphia	5	0	0	10	0	3rd vs. 6th	Hershey	2	Syracuse	0
2	6	WB/Scranton	2	1	2	4	5	4th vs. 5th	Worcester	2	Manchester	1 (2OT)
3	5	Hershey	1	1	3	6	4	Semi-Final Gm 1	Hershey	3	WB/Scranton	0
4	4	Worcester	1	2	2	5	7	Semi-Final Gm 2	Philadelphia	1	Worcester	0
5	4	Manchester	1	2	2	1	2	3rd Place	Worcester	2	WB/Scranton	1
6	1	Syracuse	0	4	1	4	12	Championship	Philadelphia	2	Hershey	1

### Tournament Scoring Leaders

Nick Martin	Philadelphia	5	3	8	1
Tom Martin	Philadelphia	3	4	7	0
Dave Anger	Worcester	5	0	5	1
Aron Bender	Wilkes-Barre	2	2	4	1
Steve Viner	Worcester	2	2	4	1
Travis Helm	Hershey	1	3	4	2
John Dimmick	Syracuse	1	2	3	2
John Hughes	Syracuse	2	1	3	0
Nick Kronopolus	Worcester	1	2	3	1
Alison Dillon	Philadelphia	1	2	3	0
Craig Blatt	Hershey	2	1	3	1
Scott Siegel	Hershey	3	0	3	0
Justin Shaffern	Wilkes-Barre	1	1	2	0
Tommy Faucher	Manchester	1	1	2	1
Jay Nagaki	Philadelphia	1	1	2	1
Mike Humphreys	Philadelphia	1	1	2	0
Barbie Pippen	Philadelphia	1	1	2	0
Chad Eberly	Hershey	2	0	2	2
Eric Mundis	Hershey	0	2	2	0
Jamie Frantz	Hershey	2	0	2	0
Jay Bartlebaugh	Hershey	1	1	2	0
#32	Wilkes-Barre	0	1	1	0
Matt Burdett	Wilkes-Barre	0	1	1	1
#5	Wilkes-Barre	1	0	1	0
#14	Wilkes-Barre	0	1	1	0
Matt Kuscavage	Wilkes-Barre	1	0	1	1
John Freund	Syracuse	1	0	1	1
Josh Ryanrd	Syracuse	0	1	1	1
Devon Gifford	Manchester	1	0	1	1
Jason Robidoux	Manchester	0	1	1	1
Mike LaPrade	Worcester	0	1	1	0
Joe Ferraro	Worcester	0	1	1	0
Doug Cumming	Worcester	0	1	1	0
Josh Taylor	Worcester	1	0	1	0
Brian Hoffman	Philadelphia	0	1	1	1
Rick Hoffman	Philadelphia	0	1	1	0
Dave Zeek	Philadelphia	1	0	1	1
Mike Schmelz	Hershey	1	0	1	1
Cathy Rynard	Hershey	0	1	1	0
Brian Whitman	Hershey	0	1	1	0
Tom Mara	Hershey	0	1	1	0
Chris Mitchell	Hershey	0	1	1	0
Liz Manning	Hershey	0	1	1	0
Wayne Miller	Hershey	0	1	1	1
Karen Reinhardt	Syracuse	0	0	0	1
Westbrook Shortell	Syracuse	0	0	0	1
Ray Clarke	Manchester	0	0	0	1
Shaun Shattuck	Manchester	0	0	0	1
John Perry	Manchester	0	0	0	1
Karen Raymond	Manchester	0	0	0	1
Justin Smith	Worcester	0	0	0	1
Lisa Anger	Worcester	0	0	0	2
Lynn Ahlers	Philadelphia	0	0	0	1
Jason Klinger	Hershey	0	0	0	3
Darin Weaver	Hershey	0	0	0	2

# Portland Professional Hockey BC makes donation to Gary's House

*Submitted by the PPHBC*

Gary's House provides a safe, affordable home-away-from-home for family members or individuals who have a loved one receiving medical treatment in any greater Portland area hospital.

Gary's House is more than just a place for guests to rest. It's a place where families can gain strength from one another while they cope with emotional and physical stresses that can accompany illness and hospitalization.

Located in a Federal-style home in Portland's historic West End, Gary's House is convenient to all area healthcare facilities, less than a block from Mercy Hospital, and close to Maine Medical Center.

The Portland Professional Hockey Booster Club has been donating to Gary's House for many years. In the past we have donated a chest freezer and food. We also partnered with the Portland Pirates Organization to do a complete makeover of one of the rooms. This year money was raised from the "Evening with the Pirates" event and other fund raisers. The funds were used to purchase a new larger refrigerator and two new vacuum cleaners for the house.

In addition to these donations, several members of the booster club have donated their own time, money and efforts to preparing meals on a monthly basis for the residents of the house to enjoy. Any food leftover from club events is also dropped off



at the house for the residents to enjoy.

Our members found this to be a very rewarding experience to be able to help such a wonderful cause.

Who is Gary, you ask? Gary Pike was a bright and adventurous eighteen-year-old from Kennebunk Maine. He was diagnosed with cancer in the summer of 1989. Over the next

two years, Gary's battle with the disease took him to Portland and later to Boston for treatment.

During this time, Gary witnessed the severe financial hardship and stress his family suffered as they spent many nights away from home. He watched their hotel expenses mount and saw his mother sleep many nights on the hospital room floor or in her car.

Gary did not believe families should have to suffer this way when a loved one was seriously ill. And the idea of Gary's House (a place for families to come to when loved ones are seriously ill) was born.

Gary lost his battle against cancer in 1991, but the dream did not die with him. His family, friends and the Kennebunk community worked tirelessly over the next seven years to raise funds to purchase and renovate the house on Portland's State Street.

To stay at Gary's House, guests must have a loved one with a life-threatening or serious illness who is receiving treatment in a Portland area hospital. Room fees are \$15 per night, per room. Gary's House opened here in 1998 as an affiliate of Mercy Hospital.

## Bridgeport Sound Tigers BC Update

By Ray Lietuvninkas, BSTBC

The Bridgeport Sound Tigers Booster club is enthusiastically preparing for the teams tenth anniversary in the Park City. A number of events are being planned throughout the season to celebrate this very special milestone. With so many prospects throughout the Islander system once again, this season's team will be among the youngest in the league.

As the Booster club prepares for its "ninth" season a number of new and exciting things have occurred over the past several months. We as a club are very excited to share them with all of you.

First and foremost, the Sound Tiger Booster Club has a new upgraded website in operation. It has some of the same features the old site had, but there are many new things to enjoy and explore. As with anything new it is a work in progress and any commentary from any of our fellow association members is always greatly appreciated. Take the time to enjoy the site by going to [www.soundtigerboosters.com](http://www.soundtigerboosters.com) to check it all out. We want to personally thank Chris Rutsch for all the work he did in getting the new site off the ground.

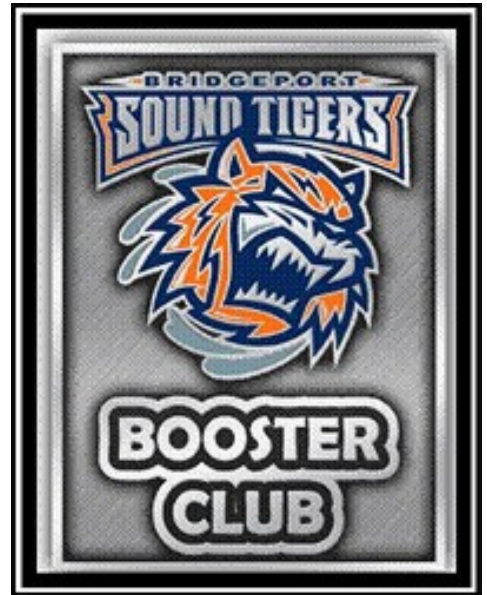
In June, we had our annual elections, and also had a wonderful time at the Sports Center in Shelton. The Booster Club challenged the Sound Tiger front office staff to its second annual mini golf tournament. Due to the thunderstorms we had to move indoors and took them on in a moonlight bowling competition instead. Everyone who attended had a great time.

As for our elections, Karen Benway was voted in as First Vice President. We are so glad to have Karen back as a member of our Executive Board.

Lori Uilecan who graciously took on the role of Secretary Pro-Tem this past fall, ran formally for the position and was elected by the membership. We also want to acknowledge and thank Michelle Krupel who ran against Lori, and will now serve in the role of Chuck-A-Puck Chairman. We all know they will be valuable assets to our Executive and General Boards.

Through out the year our club was very active in supporting numerous area charities. Two of our premier events were our support of one of our local Special Olympics Unified Floor Hockey teams. They ended up winning a Gold medal in their division at the State Tournament. They were honored during the last Sound Tiger home game. A number of our members also acted as volunteers at the Regional Summer games in Trumbull. We are in the process of developing a Special Olympics Unified Floor Hockey jamboree for this February.

Our biggest event was the "Roses of Hope" fundraiser which was held on behalf of one of our Sound Tiger fans, Jamie McDowell. He is your typical 17 year old sports fan who loves the Yankees and of course the Sound Tigers. During the season Jamie, his dad Jim and his Grandma Sally came to many games and sat right up close to catch the action. He enjoys meeting the players after the game to get their autographs. His favorite player is Pascal Morency. This past February Jamie had a 14 hour surgery to correct the curvature of his spine and spent several weeks recuperating in the hospital. Booster Club member Erin Latham and her family came up with the idea of selling chocolate roses during the Valentine's Day weekend to help raise funds for the incidentals of the surgery that were not covered by insurance. Thanks to all of our fans, we sold out and were happy to give a



check to the McDowell family for \$2000.

Our club also collected non-perishable food items which were then bagged by the Sound Tiger players under the direction of player Pascal Morency. Several dozen bags were dropped off at the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. Given these tough times it was greatly appreciated.

Our work with other charities included a Bowl-a-thon for the Umbrella Group, a hockey themed Christmas tree auction for the Ronald McDonald House in New Haven, funds to support the Siberian Tigers at the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport, donations to the Community Closet, The Islander Children's Foundation, the Nathan Crowell Foundation and many more local programs.

Our Sound Tiger booster club has generated via various fund raisers, including 50/50 raffles and Chuck-A-Puck nights, close to \$65,000 for charitable causes in just eight years. To us as a club these are our proudest accomplishments.

### Booster Club Elections

The Hershey Bears Booster Club held their elections for 2010-2011. The results are - President: Lesli Hall, Vice President: Chuck Hoffer, Treasurer: Dave Bower, Secretary: Molly Hoffer, Asst. Secretary: Wanda Shade, Membership: Jen Schildt, 2-Year Trustee: Julie Shaak, 1-Year Trustee: Josh Rynard