



Ultimate fun and fitness for Triangle youth and adults

Triangle Flying Disc Association
a 501(c)3 nonprofit

Board of Directors

Christian Schwoerke
President

Ben Greene
Vice President

Lauren Gardner
Treasurer

Dusty Hoefler
Secretary

Troy Revell

Jacob Bonenberger

Mike Beatty

TFDA Annual Report 2008

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I. Introduction

With the election of five new board members in November, 2007, the TFDA board became more active than at anytime in the organization's history. The calendar year 2009 will see more changes and progress, including memberships, continued progress on the Ultiplex project, major revisions to the website, growth in youth ultimate, more effective fundraising, and enhancements to our leagues and tournaments. It is a privilege to serve on your board and to report to you now. This report covers fiscal 2007, which for TFDA runs from July 2007 to June 2008, although parts of the report will refer to events taking place after the end of the fiscal year.

Dusty Hoefler
Secretary

II. Letter from the President

TFDA's inception in 1997 by its far-sighted creator Joe Slater was seen at the time as no more than a dodge to save our league organizers a few cents on postage. Few saw the other benefits accruing to a non-profit organization, and initially the Triangle Flying Disc Association did little more than establish a bank account and launch a website, which by itself swept away into the dust heap any further need for mail or the community's ultimate-promoting newsletter, "Homespun."

However, as the need and desire to develop a set of ultimate-dedicated fields (the Ultiplex) began to seize our imaginations, the board came to understand it needed to grow into the vision Joe Slater had of an organization that has its own fields, runs leagues for adults and youth, and is actively promoting its programs in high schools and across the triangle. In the process of catching up to this vision, it's become imperative that the organization mature and become more responsible to its community, the community at large, and financially. Additionally, realization has only fitfully come about that the development of the Ultiplex will require more work, money, and coordination of effort than was initially conceived when the giving campaign began in 2001.



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With the November 2007 installation of new board members, TFDA has set itself the goal of becoming the area's major supporter of ultimate, whether in providing pickup opportunities, providing insurance, establishing/running leagues, assisting club and college teams, promoting UPA programs, and developing the Ultiplex. Additionally, the launch of the Ultiplex project has forced the organization to recognize again the need to grow ultimate for the area's youth, an initiative revitalized last year by Lindsey Hack.

For most of the college-age and wage-earning members of the ultimate playing community in the Triangle, all of these efforts are out of sight, out of mind, as they seem to have little bearing on our traditional leagues. However, with new initiatives to actively engage ultimate players in the area as dues-paying (and benefit-reaping) members, we hope to generate more revenue and more participation in the development of what might become the nation's first Ultiplex.

With that in mind, we on the board wish to thank you for your help in the past and for your ongoing assistance in the future.

Christian Schwoerke
President

[To see more of Joe Slater's original vision for TFDA, go here:
http://tfda.org/about/homespun/aug97_1.htm]

[To read more about the status of the Ultiplex development, see below: Ultiplex Project]

III. Financial

In the fiscal year ending June, 2008, TFDA received \$18,954 in contributions and gifts. It took in \$41,647 in program revenue, mainly league fees. It also gained \$3,816 in interest for a total income of \$64,417. On the expense side, league expenses, fees, insurance, etc. totaled \$40,681 and credits to other entities, primarily Cheek, LLC, totaled \$115,825, which included a down payment on future land purchase in the amount of \$75,000. Total expenses were \$156,506. Therefore, there was a net deficit for the year of \$92,089.

From a balance sheet perspective, at the start of the fiscal year, TFDA had \$162,076 in cash, and at the end of the year had \$69,987 in cash. TFDA has no assets besides cash.

TFDA's treasurer (Lauren Gardner) spent much of the last year creating financial statements for the prior three years (2005, 2006, 2007) based on stored receipts and statements. She also noted that TFDA had not filed IRS form 990 as required for organizations of its size, and she completed these forms for the prior three years and submitted them with a request that the fines normally levied for noncompliance be waived. It appears that TFDA is now in compliance and will not have to pay a penalty. All of TFDA's Form 990-EZ's are open to public inspection.

IV. Fundraising

TFDA's first major fundraising effort was the Spring Carnival, held in conjunction with Spring League finals, May 4, 2008. This event included food provided by the Original Q Shack, beer from CBC, a live and online auction, and live announcer-commentary on the final game, which netted TFDA \$4,872.

TFDA also benefited from a wine tasting party held at Lane Wigley's home, October 10, 2008. The event featured five California wines and a bonus champagne, as well as gourmet chocolates and snacks. The event raised a net \$75.



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TFDA solicits donations through its website—typically earmarked for the Ultiplex—as part of sign-up process for league or hat tourney registration. Donations received in this fashion, and at the dedicated Ultiplex giving site, totaled \$6177.

TFDA generates income through web search at www.GoodSearch.com. Simply enter “TFDA” in the blank where it requests whom you wish to “GoodSearch” for. You may also “GoodShop” at a multitude of online stores (e.g., Amazon, Apple, Ebay, Expedia, etc.) in support of TFDA. To date, such income has been negligible.

TFDA sells photos donated by photographers on the tfda.smugmug.com website. This site includes league play from 2007 and 2008, along with 2008 club play, as well as a good miscellany of near and far tournaments that feature Triangle players. Contributing photographers in 2008 were Samuel Adams, Lane Wigley, Doug Wilson, and Michelle Staben. This new website, launched in July, generated \$180 in 2008. As more players become aware of this repository of ultimate images, it is expected that the amount generated for TFDA’s ultiplex fund in 2009 will grow significantly.

TFDA members pre-ordered 30 custom, ultimate-photo calendars during winter league registrations, each at a cost of \$15. With the sale of the additional 20 calendars, TFDA netted \$219.48. Dusty Hoefler spearheaded this effort and the area’s photographers donated photos for the cause.

TFDA sells Entertainment coupon books as part of Winter League signup, a practice TJ Cawley has spearheaded for nearly a decade. They raised \$416 in fiscal 2007.

TFDA has applied for a grant of up to \$75,000 from the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission to assist in Ultiplex development. We hope to have decision by January 30, 2009.

The Annual Savage Seven tournament (inaugurated and run annually by Tim and Thuy Brooks) raised slightly over \$1000 in January 2008.

V. Giving

Since 2003, TFDA’s “Junior and College Nationals Assistance Grant” allows contributions to TFDA to be given directly to high school or college teams headed to National Championships. This enables donors to make tax-free donations. Additionally TFDA matches the amount donated to an earmarked team, up to \$2000. In 2008, UNC sent its women’s team, Pleiades, to Nationals, and TFDA was able to match direct giving to Pleiades in the amount of exactly \$2000, providing them a \$4000 check after their trip to Boulder, CO, to help defray the team’s expenses.

Another giving activity serves as an incentive to develop coaches in the Triangle, prompting participation in the UPA’s coaching clinics by members of the TFDA community. Upon an individual’s completion of a UPA coaching clinic, the individual is presented with a check for half the enrollment/participation fee. In 2008, there were no coaching clinics in the region, hence no reimbursements. In 2007, there were four such reimbursements. It is anticipated that the upcoming February 28, 2009, clinic—to be held here in the Triangle—will generate a large number of participants in this incentive program.

VI. Leagues and Tournaments

As can be seen in the Financial section, leagues netted about \$966. TFDA Spring League utilized a new format with core teams forming before the draft, then drafting their remaining roster. Participation increased over 50% compared to the prior Spring with about 150 participants, therefore the format will probably be continued next Spring. Summer League was held at Holly Springs and had 160 participants.



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Kudzu was organized by Christian Schwoerke and Garrett Dyer and held on May 24-25, 2008, at Cedar Forks Park. Twenty-one teams participated. Winter League is TFDA's largest league, with 22 teams in each of the 2007-08 and 2008-09 seasons, and it is held at several different locations because booking a single four-field site for the entire season is not possible.

TFDA also runs some one-day events such as the Heat Stroke Hat Tourney, Post-Turkey Day Hat Tourney, and the New Years Day Hat tourney.

VII. Youth Ultimate

In the summer of 2008, TYUL, the Triangle Youth Ultimate League, ran a five-week season with 3 divisions and six teams per division. There were 40 middle school and 60 high school participants and 23 volunteer coaches. Lindsey Hack was the director of the league and its principal organizer, and Troy Revell and Cameron Cockman assisted. The board agrees that youth ultimate is the key to the future of Ultimate in the Triangle and would like to expand TYUL under the auspices of TFDA, if fields can be found to accommodate larger numbers. Currently, with the promise of a Spring youth league (as well as continuing the Summer league), bookings for a six-week season have already been made and approved at the Wake-Med Soccer Complex (formerly SAS Soccer Complex), in Cary, NC.

VIII. Membership

TFDA is considering introducing a membership option, primarily to assist fundraising and marketing efforts, but also to increase community involvement and awareness. The structure of the membership would be such that by paying a nominal fee, one would not only become a member, but would also receive discounts on league fees that would offset the membership fee. The idea is to make membership a financial "can't lose" proposition to encourage everyone to join. TFDA may offer higher levels of membership that would include additional recognition and additional benefits for those who wish to increase their support of TFDA. Jake Bonenberger is the board's point man on this initiative.

IX. Leadership

Your board of directors:

President: Christian Schwoerke xian@tfda.org

Vice President: Ben Greene ben@tfda.org

Treasurer: Lauren Gardner lauren@tfda.org

Secretary: Dusty Hoefler dusty@tfda.org

Troy Revell: troy@tfda.org

Mike Beatty: mike@tfda.org

Jake Bonenberger (replacing Missy Summerville, who resigned in May 2008) jake@tfda.org

Also: board@tfda.org

In 2009 three or possibly four board members will remain in their positions while the remaining board members will step down or stand for re-election. In subsequent years, terms will be staggered, with three or four positions opening each year.

Some amendments to TFDA's bylaws were made in 2007, most having to do with the specific roles of each of the board officers.



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X. Technology

The board has determined TFDA's website is in need of an update, both in design and content. However, TFDA has not been able to locate a volunteer with the requisite time and technical knowledge to perform this service. TFDA would also like to update the separate League Central website to enable it to run more than one league at a time (i.e., youth and adult leagues). Again, volunteered time and expertise are the limiting factor.

XI. Ultiplex Project

Overview

In 2008, TFDA's executive committee has made significant progress towards the creation of the "Ultiplex." The Ultiplex will be a multi-use, recreational fields facility, primarily used for ultimate frisbee, consisting of 12 to 16 ultimate fields and a clubhouse.

Plan

The Ultiplex project will be completed in incremental phases, spanning an undetermined number of years. Phase 1 will consist of the land's purchase, permitting, and initial improvement resulting in 4 to 6 ultimate fields. In May 2008, TFDA worked with HadenStanziale, a Durham-based planning firm, to develop a pro-bono Illustrative Master Plan that has been displayed at several TFDA events and provided to others upon request. Additionally, TFDA has gotten conservative preliminary cost estimates based upon several different build scenarios and strategies.

There will be times when the Ultiplex fields will be unused by ultimate players. TFDA plans to leverage unused field-hours as a fundraising mechanism to support operational costs, Ultiplex upkeep, and future Ultiplex expansion.

Funding

TFDA plans to fund the Ultiplex project through a variety of means, including league dues, membership dues, grant funding, partnerships, corporate sponsorship, community fundraising, and field rentals. TFDA is actively discussing collaboration and partnership with numerous sports leagues, government bodies, and advocacy groups.

TFDA is seeking knowledge of other groups or entities developing dedicated fields for possible collaboration. Any such information should be directed to the executive committee (board@tfda.org).

Location

TFDA serves a wide geographical area, and thus it is both important and challenging to create the Ultiplex in a central location. TFDA's aim is to develop the Ultiplex in a location that is no greater than 45 minutes driving time from the city centers of Durham, Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Cary, while at the same time provide the best possible return on TFDA's investment.

One such location is a 40-acre parcel, currently owned by Cheek LLC, situated north of 5203 Cheek Rd in Durham. In fiscal 2008, TFDA advanced Cheek LLC nearly \$115,000 towards TFDA's purchase of the property, with the understanding that should TFDA choose not to purchase the land or such a sale is not possible, 100% of the paid funds will be refunded over a period of time deemed reasonable by both parties.



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Other locations continue to be researched, even as final details on purchase and development of land available from Cheek LLC remain unsettled.

As a matter of disclosure, some owning members of Cheek LLC have previously served on the TFDA board. However, no members of Cheek LLC were on the TFDA board in fiscal 2008 or are now, and no TFDA board member stands to make personal gains through any Cheek LLC activity.