

On the Ball

These guys hit the court for **FUN, COMARADERIE AND SOME COMPETITIVE PLAY**—but they also use the sport they love to give back in wonderful ways

BY VALERIE FOSTER • PHOTOGRAPHY BY VENERA ALEXandroVA



Jim McGuire (Milbrook Club), Tom Ayoub (Country Club of New Canaan), Roy Anderson (Tokeneke Club), Mike Boscaino (Lake Club)

Like its members, the **GOOD OLD BOYS TENNIS ASSOCIATION**—GOBs to its members—knows the power of sustainability. It’s celebrating its fortieth anniversary this year. GOBs is a group of 125 tennis loving, very active, retired or soon-to-be-retired men. They represent eighteen Fairfield County clubs, with seventy-six play dates scheduled from April through mid-October. At the helm is GOB president Jim McGuire, a member of the Milbrook Club.

“The common denominator we all share is a love for tennis and staying fit,” McGuire says. “It’s wonderful to get up every day, enjoy your time and find interesting ways to fill your days. The comaraderie we share is good for our mental health and an outlet for some very interesting exchanges.” Consider Roy Anderson, a member of the Tokeneke Club of Darien, who has been retired for almost thirty years. Never one to sit home all day, he competed in many tennis tournaments pre-Covid, but during the pandemic

REDDIN’S 18

FAIRFIELD COUNTY CLUBS PARTICIPATING IN GOBS

GREENWICH

1. Bailiwick Club
2. Belle Haven Club
3. Greenwich Country Club
4. Innis Arden Golf Club
5. Milbrook Club
6. Riverside Yacht Club
7. Stanwich Club

DARIEN

8. Country Club of Darien
9. Middlesex Club
10. Tokeneke Club
11. Wee Burn Country Club
12. Woodway Country Club

NEW CANAAN

13. Country Club of New Canaan
14. New Canaan Field Club

NORWALK

15. Shore & Country Club

STAMFORD

16. Roxbury Swim & Tennis Club
17. Stamford Yacht Club

WILTON

18. Lake Club



FOUNDER
ALEX REDDIN
MILBROOK CLUB



ART HILL
NEW CANAAN
FIELD CLUB



THE ORIGINAL FOURSOME



JACK GILLESPIE
LAKE CLUB



TAD BOWEN
SHORE & COUNTRY CLUB



many tournaments were put on hold. He was aware of GOBs but three years ago decided to find out more—and ended up joining the group.

“I wasn’t sitting home during Covid, and that was wonderful,” he says. “Older guys have different levels of play, and what was really attractive to me is that GOBs puts the better players together. Many of the players are quite good, and I am always able to get good games.”

GOBs began in 1983, when the late Alex Reddin, a competitive tennis player and the club champion at Milbrook, was newly retired. He had launched the Fairfield County Tennis League (FCTL) in 1966, a night league for businessmen to play competitive tennis. Retired, he found himself wanting to play tennis during the day but was having trouble finding men his age, with his tennis ability. He pitched the concept of GOBs to several Fairfield County clubs. The first year there were thirteen clubs and thirty-nine men involved.

Today the group comprises national, county and club champions, as well as United States Tennis Association and FCTL participants.

Now, forty years later, McGuire says that the group, with its talent pool of successful executives, recognized their ability to make a difference. They have teamed up with Grassroots Tennis & Education, an organization that helps youth in Norwalk and Stamford build a foundation for success on the tennis court, in the classroom and in life. Grassroots was founded in 1995 by recently deceased GOBs’ member Art Goldblatt.

David Kimani, acting director of Grassroots, says: “GOBs provides an experiential learning opportunity for our youth to further grow and develop life skills through a mutual passion of playing tennis. It is a memory that will last forever, which may influence the future directions of participants.”

Anderson has been involved with Grassroots since its beginning in 1995 and thinks the synergy between the two organizations truly makes an impression on the kids.

“The kids see old guys playing tennis, and that encourages them to continue to play beyond high school and college,” he says. “Tennis is a lifetime sport, and they learn that it is something they can continue playing their whole life. Some of these kids are really good, and there will be some interesting games.”

Adds McGuire: “It’s a wonderful opportunity to expose them to retired executives in a relaxed atmosphere, at a local club. And it’s an opportunity for us to raise some money for a very worthwhile organization.”

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Dr. Tom Ayoub, Country Club of New Canaan; Mike Boscaino

{ ANNIVERSARY EVENT }

MEET THE "BOYS"

Watch some great tennis and enjoy a buffet lunch

date: **Thursday, August 17, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** location: **Tokeneke Club, Darien**
gobs-tennis.com



Dr. Tom Ayoub, Roy Anderson, Mike Boscaino



left: Roy Anderson, Tokeneke Club; Mike Boscaino, Lake Club **middle:** Good Old Boy's president, Jim McGuire; **right:** Rob Steeves, Middlesex Club; Ray Boller, New Canaan Field Club; John Wilson, Lake Club; Reid Campbell, Woodway Country Club



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—**DAVID KIMANI**, ACTING DIRECTOR OF GRASSROOTS



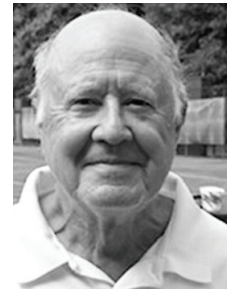
Kevork Toroyan,
Senior Advisor



Peter Carnes,
Director of Membership



Bill Gaillard,
Senior Advisor



Fred Baker,
Treasurer



left: Jim McGuire **right:** Dick Paterniti, Middlesex Club; Jim Kelly, Woodway Country Club

For information about the organization, contact GOBs Director of Membership, Peter Carnes, at picarnes@gmail.com.