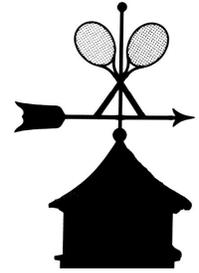

THE BASELINE

Field Club News

April 2011



A Message from the President

March Madness, Tournament Time, Spring Ahead, Tax Day — Yes spring is in the air! Finally... what a winter we have had here in Longmeadow. But we love winter. Our paddle courts were heavily used all winter and were usually ready for use only hours after the snow stopped flying. Kudos to **Jim Girotti** for orchestrating this mammoth maintenance job.

As the shoveled snow continues to melt around the paddle courts, we can congratulate this year's paddle champions (see articles within). We still have the Women's Championships yet to be played, so there is time to get your name on a plaque. But it's not always about the tournaments. Many thanks go out to the paddle chairs, **Scott Brindle and Asa Nilsson**, and to the people that ran events all year. Congratulations also to our members that participated in the APTA President's Cup and National Championships recently in Chicago (see article within).

While there may not be another chance to get your name on the Paddle Hut wall of fame this year, there is still time to hone your skills or learn the game. Our paddle courts will continue to be used well into April and beyond, so get out and enjoy.

A sure sign of spring is our **Spring Fling**, the Club's opening party. This event will be held on April 8, 2011 at the Longmeadow Country Club. This is always a great time and should not be missed. This year we expect to have a live band that plays lots of favorites and requests — so bring your dancing shoes. I hope to see all our new members and their sponsors at this opening event.

We are in the process of getting quotes to have lights installed on tennis courts 13-14 and the hard courts. This will put lights on all of our tennis courts! We expect to have this work completed in time for the summer season.

Minor revisions have been made to the Guidebook Rules & Regulations. These changes will be highlighted in the next edition of *The Baseline*, but you will be receiving a revised copy in May after the new Guidebook is printed.

We are in the process of securing our employees for the summer. Highlights of our hires to date include Club Manager **Jim Girotti**, back for his 25th year; **Ann Corcoran-Boisvert**, returning for her 26th season as tennis pro; and **Michelle Boisvert**, returning as coordinator of the Junior Tennis program, along with Tennis Assistants **John Hughes** and **Chris Moskal**. **Martin Gullberg** will be back as pool manager, **Ashley Bacon** will be assistant pool manager, and six out of seven of last year's lifeguards will be back. **Meghan Randall** is back to run the Tot Lot and Kids Crafts and help out in the Snuggery, too. **Eileen Mason** is returning to direct the Snuggery operation, and **Morgan Bacon** will also be returning.

In closing, keep enjoying your club, consider sponsoring new members as our waiting list is low, have fun — and don't forget to file your taxes!

Sincerely,

Buzz Travers



Guidebook 2011 Update

The Field Club Guidebook (the green three-ring binder that typically lies in a place near your phone book) is a useful resource for key information about the Club and its membership. Although generally opened only for an email, phone number, address or remembering a name, it also contains information on by-laws, membership rules and regulations, committee and board members, various events and activities.

The Guidebook is updated each year in the March/April timeframe. The 2011 packet, which includes 11 sections plus a cover sheet and table of contents, will be sent out to each member to replace the existing sections in the green binder.

All members should now have the current 2010 Guidebook sections. **Please take a moment to verify that your family information, address and email are correct and up to date.** Email **Rob Durfee** with any changes, no later than April 15. These changes will be incorporated in the 2011 edition.

Please note: All new families that have joined the Club since the April 2010 printing will have their information in the 2011 Guidebook. **Carolyn Marchese** (membership chairperson) forwards this information to **Rob Durfee** when a membership is confirmed.

Thanks for your help. – *Rob Durfee*



Next Deadline May 18

The next issue of *The Baseline* will be distributed in early June, just in time to kick-off the summer season! Be sure to send your submissions to Editor Lee-Anne Sprague by Wednesday, May 18. E-mail her at lsprague7@cox.net. She can also be reached via phone at (860) 335-8793.



Garden Plots Now in View!

Thank goodness for a gardener's leap of faith. After seeing only fence posts waving out from the snow cover for two months, it is taking some serious forward thinking to start talking gardens. Though I haven't actually seen the gardens yet this second week of March, I know they are there, and I'm starting to rub my palms together with anticipation.

I am expecting one or two available plots this spring, which is unfortunately a meager offering. The personal re-fencing of some of the gardens last summer proved successful and rewarding, and many gardeners are keeping their plots. Please email me if you are interested in a garden plot for this year; I maintain a waiting list when I get more interest than availability and will be happy to include your name.

The fee for a garden plot is \$10 per year. Spring rototilling is available for an additional fee – usually \$12 to \$15. There is a hose for watering, but watering is the responsibility of the gardener. Fencing is also the responsibility of the gardener, though last year the Field Club very generously provided fencing materials and expects to be able to do that again this year. Fencing is not required but really does help deter harvesting by the plentiful wildlife!

Looking forward to hearing from you! — *Darcy Durfee*



Re-SPONSOR-bilities

Have you been asked to sponsor someone into The Field Club? Below is an outline of things you should know:

The Membership Chair is now **Carolyn Marchese**. She can be reached at 567-3599 or by e-mail at carolynmarchese@comcast.net. If you need an application packet, please contact Carolyn. If you are the sponsor and have a completed application packet to submit, send it to Carolyn at 171 Colony Road, Longmeadow, MA 01106. Names are added to the wait list as soon as the completed application is received.

Who qualifies as a sponsor?

Any member who has been a member for at least two years can sponsor someone. A member may sponsor one candidate per year.

What does being a sponsor entail?

To sponsor someone, each candidate for membership must be proposed by a member of The Field Club in writing and seconded by two letters of support. Members should only sponsor and write letters of support if they know the candidate(s) well and have known the candidate(s) for at least one-year.

Responsibilities:

1. To locate two other members to write letters as a seconder and a support person.
2. To assist candidates with the two-page application.
3. To supervise the candidacy of the applicant, including escorting the candidate(s) to a Meet & Greet and introducing them to at least five Board members.

Now is an excellent time to sponsor a candidate for membership! — *Carolyn Marchese*

Welcome New Members

The Field Club welcomes the following new members:

Seth and Jenna Goodman & family
Sandra Neumann & family
Mary Alice Abbott and Chris Ollari & family
Mark Pinkowski and Elizabeth Baron & family
Jeff and Alison Schechtman & family

Wait List On the Move



The Field Club Wait List is ever changing. New members are accepted and new candidates are added! Take a look to see where your candidate now stands:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Davis, Andrew & Lauren | Keiser |
| 2. Kroon, Katie & Eric | Grayboff |
| 3. Johnson, Carl & Melissa | Seefeld |
| 4. Mikaelian, Julie & Mark | Rothstein |
| 5. McGeer, Kate & Tim | Ehrenberg |
| 6. Landon, Lisa & Matt | Snyder |
| 7. Bregianes, James & Linda | Hoffman |
| 8. Shrair, Peter & Danielle | Healey |
| 9. Fontaine, Noiel & Laura | Coughlin |
| 10. Norman, Rick & Elizabeth | Messier |
| 11. Hoag, Anita & Michael | Port |



Super Bowl Sunday Tradition Continues

About 50 players celebrated the Super Bowl at this annual paddle mixer, which is becoming a tradition on the Sunday afternoon of the Big Game.

The name of the event has changed over the years, from the Big Mamou, to the Big Barry, to the current Super Sunday Mixer, but the formula has stayed the same: good paddle, terrific food and a great bunch of guys.

And this year, the weather was great also – temps in the high 30s, sunny and no wind. It was enough to make you forget about the winter – until you hit a ball out of the court and had to trudge through mountains of snow surrounding the courts!

After a morning of paddle, the players dug in to the Cajun specialties prepared by **Chef Barry O'Connor**. Bowls of jambalaya (in three levels of heat) and rice, etouffee with home made cornbread, Jamaican chicken thighs, and Caribbean-style pulled pork, washed down with an assortment of domestic and imported beverages.

A big thank you to the 'hosts' of the mixer: **Bob Barnhart, Don Brock, Keith Fuller and John Abbott**. An Extra-Special Thank You to Chef Barry, for all of his hard work in making this day such a success. *Laissez les bons temps rouler!!!*
— *John Abbott*

Changes Ahead Due to Massachusetts Allergy Law

A new Massachusetts law for allergy sufferers will ensure restaurant employees understand how to handle food allergy issues during preparation and cooking. It requires these changes in every restaurant:

1. Display in the staff area a poster describing possible allergens. The Field Club Snuggery will also hang this poster beside the adults' and children's order windows.
2. Attend an allergen awareness training. Eileen Mason has completed the mandatory training on the new law.
3. Include this notice on every menu: ***Before placing your order, please inform your server if a person in your party has a food allergy.***

The Field Club Snuggery has always been sensitive to those members and guests who have allergies. In fact, our Snuggery staff keeps a list of those families whose members have food allergies. As in previous summers, Eileen would like you to notify her if any person in your family should be added to the list. In past years, families who attended the new members' orientation were asked to let Eileen know about any food allergies so that information could be posted in the Snuggery and communicated to Snuggery staff. And Eileen welcomes that information at any time, so talk to Eileen if you or your child has recently become sensitive to a food.

The new law also requires that those with allergies let their servers know they have an allergy. That said, we are now asking members, in addition to letting Eileen know ahead of time, to also write a note about their food sensitivities across the order sheet when handing in the menu. For example, you may write: *allergy to peanuts or wheat gluten intolerance.*

The Snuggery does have peanut butter on its menu, and the staff will make sandwiches and bagels with that ingredient. However, as a precaution for those who may be allergic, Eileen has always prepared peanut butter with disposable utensils on a separate counter so that ingredient will not make its way to the area where other food is prepared.

— Katherine Charbonneau



(Left to right) Men's Paddle A Champions Ken Vincunas and Naren Dhamodharan and Runners-up Dick Seiler and Alex Seiler

Strong Draw for Men's Paddle Championship "A"

The annual Field Club Men's Paddle Championship "A" had an unusually strong draw with participation of ten high caliber teams. The four paddle courts saw action from early morning until late afternoon on Saturday March 5, 2011. All teams played at least three matches, and there were some noticeable signs of exhaustion at the end of the day.

The final between the new teams of **Naren Dhamodharan/Ken Vincunas** and **Dick Seiler/Alex Seiler** was an epic battle with magnificent shot making that made the audience (yes, there were plenty of spectators that came just to watch and learn) jump out of their seats. Dhamodharan/Vincunas took the first set in a close tie-breaker, where both teams had several set-points. The Seilers took the second set in an equally close tie-breaker after fending off a match point. The third set went to 5-5 when Dhamodharan/Vincunas managed to get a break and then hold serve for a 7-5 win.

Hans Doup/Rod Larsen won a close two straight set match for third place versus **Neal Churchill/Alex Guardia**. Neal Churchill won the award for "toughest guy" after taking a hard drive on the throat that only slowed him down momentarily.

All in all, it was a great day that represented what paddle is all about: intense competition, a physical and mental challenge, fair play, camaraderie, and a FUN and rewarding outdoor winter activity. — Per Nilsson

Western New England Championships

Matt Porter repeated as champion in the 21st Annual Western New England Championships, teaming this year with **Johan duRandt** to take Region II's fifth and final President's Cup event of the season. The event was held at Longmeadow's Field Club on February 12, 2011. Porter and duRandt made relatively quick work of last minute entrants **Mark Fischl** and **Anton Mavrin** in the final, 6-3, 6-4.

Although the final lacked some of the drama of others in recent years, that was in no way a reflection on the skills of the combatants, which were considerable. Fischl and Mavrin had upset second seeds **Alex Seiler** and **Naren Dhamodharan** with brilliant defense, but could not repeat the result when faced with Porter and duRandt's superior firepower in the final. En route to the finals, Porter and duRandt turned aside the determined effort of 2010's other champion, the host club's **Jeff Morneau**, this year paired with Connecticut's **Mike Fried**, by scores of 6-3, 6-4. Morneau refused to blame his semi-final loss on duRandt's decision to allow his Staffordshire bull terrier to patrol the perimeter of the court during play. "Although I was surprised to hear him growl after some of our line calls, I choose to believe that Johan and Matt were just the stronger team today, and the final result was justified."



(Left to right) Dave Fuller, Mark Fischl and Anton Mavrin (runners-up), Johan duRandt and Matt Porter (winners), and Jeff Morneau

Consolation honors went to the local team of **Hans Doup** and tournament photographer **Per Nilsson**, whose late afternoon final concluded in a snow squall, after many competitors had departed. Other bracket winners were **Geoff Cartier** and **Karl Gregor**, in the quarterfinal reprieve, and tournament assistant **Brad Hoffman** and partner **Dennis Herschel**, who nipped local talents **Tim Scanlon** and **Gary Ulrich**.

For the second year in a row, Ulrich had arranged for a very generous supply of Tournament prizes and favors from Friendly Ice Cream, which is headquartered in nearby Wilbraham. This year's tournament attracted a total field of 21 teams, one of the larger turnouts within the region, and was well-supported by players from the two Longmeadow clubs and the Suffield club. — *Brad Hoffman*

Doyle and Seefeld Reign in B Championships

Eleven teams set out to become the 2011 Men's "B" Champion on March 12th. In what may have been a Field Club first, the "B" championship was held under the lights. After all teams completed four preliminary 8-game pro-sets, the four teams with the highest point totals — **Doyle/Seefeld, Rothschild/Weiner, O'Brien/Toebes** and **Santaniello/Travers** — qualified for the semi-finals.



(Left to right) Bill Seefeld, Michael Doyle, Dan Rothschild and Gary Weiner

Before the semis began, all participants were treated to a light dinner of Frigo's grinders and various munchies. Non-semi-finalists also enjoyed some traditional Irish beverages. In the semis, Doyle/Seefeld defeated O'Brien/Toebes and Rothschild/Weiner defeated Santaniello/Travers in two sets, leaving the two unbeaten teams to battle for the championship. In the final, Doyle/Seefeld bested Rothschild/Weiner in two sets, taking home the "B" championship, as well as a couple bottles of wine.

Congratulations again to our Field Club 2011 "B" Paddle Champions, Michael Doyle and Bill Seefeld! — *Brian Prast*



Get Set for Tennis!

The tennis season is right around the corner. Watch for tennis news and schedules in the June edition of *The Baseline* and online at www.field-club.com.



Mixed Paddle Champions

Congratulations to **Gerrit Toebes** and **Asa Nilsson**, who took the title of Mixed Paddle Champions after defeating **Dennis** and **Kathy Herchel**.

Ladies' Night Out on the Courts!

There was a great turnout on Sunday, February 27, for the Annual Oscar Ladies' Mixer, despite this year's fickle Hollywood-style momentary cancellation and reinstatement. Eight contending movies were represented by a changing cast of paddle-playing characters as they vied for the coveted Best Picture Award. The movie that was the overwhelming winner was *The Black Swan*, which stealthily swam through the competition in each of three rounds.

Our own ballot voting took place after the paddle play, with categories for Best Picture, Best Leading Actor and Actress, and Best Supporting Actor and Actress. There was also a challenging bonus category for Best Documentary.

Asa Nilsson was the Grand Winner with 5 out of 6 correct picks (she did pretty well with the paddle, too), edging out **Sue Monks** with 4 out of 6. Most of the 18 players were accurate predictors of Best Picture, Best Actor and Best Actress, but only two players were enlightened enough to select the winning Best Documentary ("*Inside Job*") – **Asa Nilsson** and **Grazyna Vincunas**. Congratulations, ladies!

For anyone wavering about signing up for the Oscar Paddle next year, we say, attend! The entertainment is top shelf, the costume accessories all original creations, and with the knowledgeable group voting, it's a real time-saver because you don't have to stay up all night to see the results!

Many thanks to all who played and made the day so much fun!
— *Jacqueline Pleet*



A GREAT time was had by all at the Annual Oscar Ladies Mixer.

Sadie Hawkins Mixer

The most daunting part of the Sadie Hawkins mixer is for the women to get up the nerve to ask a man to be their partner for this paddle event.

After several false starts to get this mixer up and running, on February 20th eight teams came out to have a great afternoon of paddle. In order to make sure each mixed doubles team played all the other teams, the sets were kept short and switches were fast paced. Although it was agreed to keep it all friendly and not keep an overall score, several teams were claiming victory in the end.

After two hours of paddle play, the grill was going with hot dogs, and there were sandwiches and a delicious platter of brownies to enjoy. All in all, it was a fun-filled, slightly competitive, fast-paced afternoon of paddle for all who played!
— *Candy Weiner and Leslie Haskins*

Lane Lines

We can't wait for Memorial Day Weekend and the opening of the pool! This year's summer season promises to be filled with fantastic activities and a terrific staff. We are also concentrating on brightening up those locker rooms and updating the games for those times when we all need a break from the water.

The only change to our schedule this year is that we will no longer have early morning lap swim on the weekends. Instead, the pool will open for everyone at 10 a.m. on weekends. As usual, we will have two lap lanes available for swimming laps throughout the day.

We are putting badminton racquets and shuttlecocks in the lifeguard shack for use on the sand volleyball court. Kids (and adults) of all ages can work up a sweat swatting away at those elusive shuttlecocks before jumping back in the water to cool off. We will also have the basketball net up for the splashing and dashing of pool basketball. And these are just the day-to-day activities we have planned!

We have recruited fabulous members to chair various events for poolside fun, including a movie night for our high school members. Please see the schedule of events, and as usual, sign up, poolside, about a week in advance.

We are committed to keeping the pool clean, fun and active this summer. If you have any ideas or comments to making the pool a better place to be, please do not hesitate to contact us. — *Karen Brayton & Sherri Ehrenberg*



Field Club Pool Activities 2011

There's a whole season of fun ahead at the Field Club pool. To enjoy a cool summer, be sure to mark your calendars for the pool events listed below. Sign up, poolside, about a week in advance.

Middle School Fun Night (Grades 6 - 8)

Thursday, June 30, 6 to 8 p.m.

Karen Brayton and Sherri Ehrenberg

Minnows Poolside Party (Ages 4 - 7)

Thursday, July 7, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Ruth Griffiths

High School Movie Night

Friday, July 8, 6:30 p.m.

Tricia Freedman and Carolyn Marchese

Clownfish Poolside Party (Ages 8 - 10)

Thursday, July 14, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Mona Swanson and Margaret Messier

School of Fish Poolside Party (Ages 4 - 12)

Tuesday, July 19, 2 to 4 p.m.

Gwen Bruns and Alison Schechtman

Member Guest (all ages)

Friday, July 29, 1 p.m.

Mindy Spencer



Congratulations to Our President's Cup and Nationals Participants!



This year, five Field Club members participated in the President's Cup Tournament and a total of seven members participated in Nationals. **Alex Seiler, Naren Dhamodharan, Jeff Morneau, Per Nilsson and Asa Nilsson** were in Chicago to be part of the President's Cup on March 10th. President cup is an event that participants must qualify to participate in based on their tournament results during the paddle season. The qualifiers participate in a one-day tournament, where each of the seven paddle regions around the country has five teams playing against each other to determine which region is "the best." Region II, captained by Alex Seiler, came in second to Region V (which includes Chicago, the host region for the nationals). Each of those five members also participated in the Nationals, along with **Leslie Haskins and Brad Hoffman**. — *Brad Hoffman*