
THE BASELINE

Field Club News

April 2008



A Message from the President

"It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want — oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!"

~ Mark Twain

As much as I love winter and all that goes with it, I am always happy to see the arrival of spring. At my most recent paddle outing, I watched a happy member sign up for the last available garden, a sure sign that warmer weather is on its way and paddle season is winding down. Our avid gardeners always kick off the next season at The Field Club.

Jim Girotti, our tireless manager, has his hiring well underway for this early in the season. In what must be a record, **Ann Boisvert** will be returning for her 22nd season. She will be joined by **Brad Walulak**, who will be joining us for his fourth season at the Club. Jim has three assistants already lined up, all of whom have terrific tennis pedigrees.

On the pool side, **Dan Pulsford** will be assuming the role of manager for the first time. His seven years of experience at the FC pool should serve him well in his new role. He is joined by **Martin Gullberg**, our 5-year veteran, as the assistant manager. The rest of the pool staff will be many familiar faces from years past.

Our Snuggery director is another veteran; **Eileen Mason** returns for her eleventh year. **Carolyn Talmadge** will oversee the Tot Lot, her second year in the role.

While Jim has a few more positions to be filled, you can see that our summer staff is qualified and experienced. It bodes well for a tremendous 2008 at the Club.

In keeping with tradition, the **Spring Fling** will be held on **Friday, May 16**, at the Longmeadow Country Club. This lively event kicks off the summer season with a night of revelry with friends. The Social Committee's first event of the year promises to provide more than a few laughs.

The Adult and Junior Tennis Committees have been hard at work planning a busy year of events on the court. Watch the *Guidebook*, and future additions of *The Baseline*, for specifics.

As we celebrate the arrival of spring, I would be remiss if I ignored what a terrific Paddle Season the Club had this year. Contract time, as per past years, was in great demand. Our paddle chairs, **Leslie Haskins** and **Gary Weiner**, have artfully and diplomatically distributed the courts equitably. Many thanks to them. Our paddle events are packed; the Big Barry had almost 60 participants, the Oscars party had 25. The junior paddle clinics were a hit again this year, with all three sessions active. Thanks to **Lynn Travers** for teaching and coordinating that program this year.

So... goodbye winter, hello spring and spring fever! See you on May 16!

Lisa Doherty



We Want You!

We want you to volunteer. One of the best elements of The Field Club is its volunteer activism. All of the events – tennis, paddle, pool, social or otherwise – are championed by members like yourselves. Volunteering at an event is a great way to get involved, meet new people and help keep the Club vibrant.

The Baseline is filled with dates and times of great activities run by members. Please contact them if you want to assist, or call the board liaison in your area of interest. He or she would be happy to connect you to people or events. The committee chairs are as follows:

Tennis: Candy Weiner Social: Chris Nicholson
Pool: Maria O'Reilly Junior Tennis: Doug Jangraw

We also want you to tell your friends that now is a good time to consider membership. The current wait list is roughly 18 months. If you get your application in now, you could be playing mixed doubles with your friends in the summer of 2009. Call Craig Carr for an application or more information.

Get Social!

Anyone looking for a social event to help out with? If so, please contact co-chairs Jacquie Kenny or Sarah Lloyd. Volunteering is a great way to get to know other members and truly be a part of this great family club.

2008 Social Events

Spring Fling
Friday, May 16

Family Campout
Friday, August 15

Fourth of July Tailgate
TBD (Dependent on Twin Hills' fireworks display)

Labor Day Tailgate
Sunday, August 31

Poolside Party (Adults)
Saturday, August 9

— *Chris Nicholson*



The Spring Fling

Friday, May 16, 2008

Longmeadow Country Club
400 Shaker Road, Longmeadow

Kick off another great season of Field Club fun!

Members are encouraged to invite their candidates on the waiting list!



Beautification Notes

It's that time of year again to be thinking of weeding and planting the gardens and tubs around the pool and tennis courts. **John Abbott** will once again co-chair this committee along with new member **Mike Breault**. Keep your eyes open for upcoming emails seeking volunteers to help plant and water this spring and summer.

The Beautification Committee welcomes old and new members to help make The Field Club a beautiful place to be. For more information, to volunteer to help, or to join the Beautification Committee, please call John Abbott or Mike Breault.

— *Chris Nicholson*



Got Taste Buds?

The Snuggery Committee is seeking a couple of new members, preferably those who eat there from time to time. The only qualifications are that you have working taste buds and that you are willing to attend a committee meeting once per year to consider the menu and discuss issues that may be of concern to the membership. If interested, please call Stew Creelman.

Platform Tennis Wrap-Up!

As this year's platform tennis season draws to a close, one can't help but reflect back on a winter filled with outstanding paddle events and paddle play. Sixteen individual weekend events were offered, and with Mother Nature's help, most of them went off without a hitch!

There are so many people to thank, and it's appropriate to begin with our Paddle Co-Chairs, **Gary Weiner** and **Leslie Haskins**. Gary and Leslie worked diligently to complete this year's adult platform tournament schedule and platform contract schedule. Scheduling contract times is an unenviable task, to say the least, but we knew they would be up to the challenge. Most weeknight paddle groups received the time slot they had requested, and two 7 p.m. courts were still available for play once the season was underway. With a variety of paddle events planned, coupled with timely email broadcasts, it's no wonder that these events attracted a large number of players. A huge thanks goes out to both of them!

It's easy for the Co-Chairs to look good when they have a solid committee behind them. Setting up a typical tournament day can be hectic, for the most part. It takes proper planning, a little cooperation from the weather and, sometimes, a good cook to feed the masses!

Overseeing several events this season were veteran committee members **John Abbott**, **Paula Bagge**, **Ed Barbeau**, **Bob and Peg Conley**, **Dick Forrest**, **Sally Gallucci**, **Alex Guardia**, **Art and Leslie Haskins**, **Doug Jangraw**, **Chris**



Ed Barbeau (left) and "The Big Barry" O'Connor did an outstanding job chairing The Big Barry.

Nicholson, **Per** and **Asa Nilsson**, **Barry O'Connor**, **Carol and Rick Plaut**, **Brian Prast**, **Buzz and Lynn**

Travers, and **Gary and Candy Weiner**. This year's platform tennis season also welcomed several new committee members, including **Bob Barnhart**,

Keith Fuller, **Brad Hoffman**, **Pam Low**, **Pete and Stacy Mancuso**, **Alex Seiler** and **Gerrit Toebe**s. We should all tip our paddle hats to these folks for a job well done.

Laura O'Connor and **Lynn Travers** kept a watchful eye on the Junior



Paddle circuit this season, and they both deserve a big thank you! At this writing, I've been told that participation remained strong throughout the winter months and that all the kids had a blast!

Our Club manager, **Jim Girotti**, along with Gary, Leslie and I, will continue to make platform tennis improvements in the off season and look forward to seeing everyone back out on the paddle courts this October. Enjoy the warm weather!

— *Dave Appleman, Paddle Liaison*

Lights, Camera... Paddle?



The red carpet welcomed 24 women to the Paddle Hut on Oscar night (February 24) for two hours of fun paddle followed by a delicious dinner catered by the Iron Chef. This year's fashions were complete with furs, boas and an abundance of stunning jewels. And the Oscar goes to... **Cathy Grayboff** for correctly picking the most winners. Start shopping for next year's outfit, ladies! — *Lynn Travers*

Men's Paddle Mixer of the Year: *The Big Barry*

Hands down the men's paddle event of the year, The Big Barry took place on February 3, Super Bowl Sunday. If you are confused about the Big Mamou and the Big Barry, the Big Barry was formerly called the Big Mamou. Next year, this event is to be called "The Big Easy," at Barry's request. Yes, sir! Or alternatively, we could call it the Big Eddie, for **Eddie Barbeau**. Both, Ed, as chief paddle coordinator, and Barry, as chef extraordinaire, were instrumental in making this paddle mixer a smashing success, no pun intended.

Speaking of success, the smaller parking lot next to the paddle hut overfloweth. Every year this mixer gets bigger and bigger. Longmeadow Country Club (LCC) has generously allowed us to use their courts for this event. LCC men who play paddle have a good thing going when it's presented to them on a silver platter. With six courts (four at The Field Club and two at LCC), a lot of paddle matches were played prior to lunch. And even quite a bit after.

Guess what, there were fifty players, plus eight for lunch. Yes, you read that right. Jim Girotti heard reports that the event was "outstanding." Why so successful? Only one reason: Chef **Barry O'Connor** and his extraordinarily masterful powers in the kitchen. He's got practically the entire male, paddle-playing contingent of The Field Club sniffing the wind and salivating every Super Bowl Sunday and asking, "When's lunch?," at breakfast.

What's so special about this food that would make grown men smack their lips with ineffable joy and say, "Hmmm!" with every mouthful? Here's the reason, in Barry's own words:

"We had three gumbos with combinations of shrimp, chicken and sausage. We went through 12 gallons of gumbo, including 12 lbs. of shrimp and 20 lbs. of sausage. We used both sweet and hot Italian sausages, as well as Lucanica sausage, which is made with white wine. We shied away from the classic andouille, and instead, smoked the sweet Italian sausage to impart a more rustic flavor. The chicken etouffee was made with a combination of chicken breast and thighs, San Marzano tomatoes and Creole spices."



"Rather than jambalaya, we had a New Orleans dirty rice, which had as its base a Cuban pernil, which is a pork shoulder rubbed with vinegar loaded up with 30 cloves of garlic in slits cut in the skin and lots of oregano, roasted at 300 degrees for 6 hours, added to roasted red peppers, onions and spices, as well as Basmati rice. This year, we went with a more classic New Orleans chicken thigh with three types of pepper: cayenne, crushed red and ancho, as well as, cumin, thyme, garlic, apple cider and blackstrap molasses."

"The toughest project this year was finding fresh okra for the gumbos, as both Boston and Hartford produce centers were out. Who woulda thunk? We wound up getting it shipped up from New York."

I don't know about you, but Chef Barry can cater my dinner parties anytime. Remember, next year's paddle event will be called "The Big Easy," not the Big Barry. Can't wait! — *Dick Forrest*

Men's B Paddle Champions



Shown following the 2008 Men's B Paddle Championships are (L to R): Dick Forrest, Alex Guardia, Rick Plaut and Bill Santaniello. Alex and Bill were champions; Rick and Dick were runners-up.

Women's A Paddle Champions



(L to R) Awards to 2008 Women's A Paddle Champions Asa Nilsson and Carol Plaut were presented by Leslie Haskins.

2008 Mixed Club Paddle Championship

The 2008 Mixed Paddle Championship took place on the Ides of March – March 15. After an early morning rain and sleet delay, seven teams battled it out for the top prize in the championship and the right to have their names inscribed on the Mixed Paddle Championship plaque.

Paddle coordinators **Bob Barnhart** (chief paddlemaster), **Gerrit Toebes** (lunch) and **Dick Forrest** (rules) provided a round-robin tournament, where every team played all of the others.

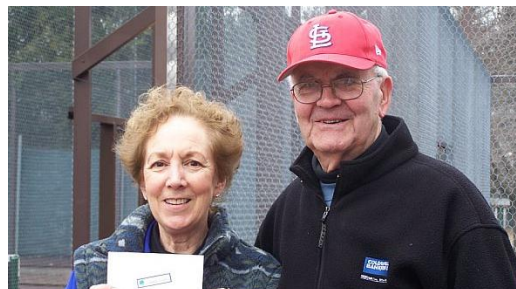
The top two teams that made it to the finals of the tournament were **Brad Hoffman/Lynn Travers** and **Hans Doup/Leslie Haskins**. The 2008 Mixed Paddle Champions were Hans and Leslie, winning a two-out-of-three set final, 6-4, 7-6 (10-8 tie-breaker) over Brad and Lynn. Each of the winners received a bottle of wine as first-place prizes, and each of the runners-up received a sleeve of paddle balls.

Play was marked by great competition, with a number of fiercely competitive matches, and good camaraderie among all. **Naren Dhamodharan** and **Asa Nilsson** had to forfeit due to a time constraint, much to the relief of several teams who were on the short end of their dominating play.

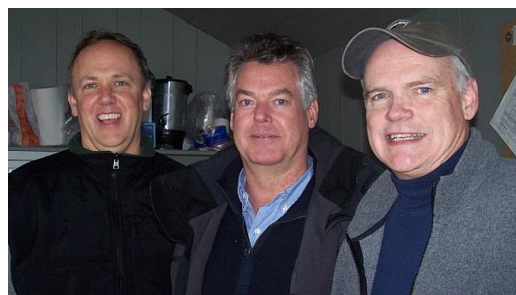
Winners of the consolation prize were **Angelo Teixeira** and **Barbara Contois**, who were awarded lottery tickets. — *Dick Forrest*



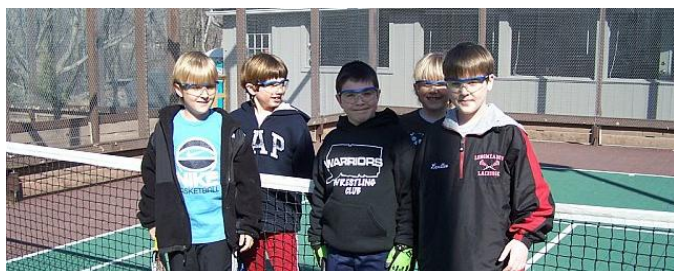
(L to R) Leslie Haskins, Lynn Travers, Brad Hoffman and Hans Doup played on the top two teams. Leslie and Hans emerged victorious.



Barb Contois and Angelo Teixeira were the consolation winners.



(L to R) Dick Forrest, Gerrit Toebes and Bob Barnhart served as event co-chairs.



Junior Paddle At Its Best!

As March drew to a close, so, too, did the Junior Paddle Program. It was a superb season of great participation and fun. We have some very talented young players whose love for the game kept them coming back week after week. In the younger group, we had five star players: **Daniel Draymore** (perfect attendance), **Jack Cove**, **Adam Katz** (perfect attendance), **Pierce Leveillee** and **Collin Prast**. The older group ended with strong attendance from **Jimmy Barnhart**, cousin **Sarah Barnhart**, **Shane Coughlin**, **Matt Draymore**, **Steve Grow**, **Nick Lucchesi** (perfect attendance), **Tom Nilsson**, **Erin O'Connor** and **Jack Ryan**. Good job, everyone! — *Lynn Travers*



Lane Lines

Opening day at the pool will be **Saturday, May 24**, at 10 a.m. During the pre-season period (Memorial Day weekend through the end of school), the pool will be open weekdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Summer Pool Hours (*End of School — Labor Day*)

Monday through Friday

10 a.m. to 12 noon: swimming lessons only
12 noon: opens for general use

Saturday and Sunday

10 a.m.: pool opens for general use

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.: Adult Swim
(*Baby pool closed during adult swim.*)

Thursday, Saturday and Sunday

5:30 to 7:45 p.m.: Family Swim

Snuggery Hours

Monday - Wednesday, Friday: 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday: 10:30 to 7 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday: 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Pool Events Schedule

Junior Fun Day (Ages 4 - 12)

Friday, June 27, 2 to 4 p.m.

Young Poolside Party (Ages 4 - 7)

Thursday, July 10, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Junior/Member Guest Day (Ages 4 - 12)

Friday, July 18, 1 p.m.

Middle School Fun Night (Grades 6 - 8)

Friday, July 25, 6 to 8 p.m.

Junior Poolside Party (Ages 8 - 10)

Thursday, July 31, 6 to 8 p.m.

Field Club Swim Championships

(Ages 16 and under)

Sunday, August 17, 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Kids Krafts

Thursdays, 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Swimming Lessons

Session 1: June 23

Session 3: July 21

Session 2: July 7

Session 4: August 4

Please sign up for swimming lessons in the Pool Office prior to the start date. The pool staff can help with selecting the proper level for your child. Throughout the summer, odd levels (1, 3, 5 and 7) will meet at 10:15 a.m., and even levels (2, 4 and 6) will meet at 11:15 a.m.

Be sure to fill out an **Emergency Safety Card** for each of your children. They will be available at the pool check-in table.

Please see *The Baseline* and poolside notices for further information and sign-ups. New ideas, suggestions or assistance on event committees are welcomed and encouraged.

— *Elena Oundjian & Maureen Dhamodharan*

Steady Climb for Women's B

There is a small, but active group of women paddle players who compete against other clubs in matches throughout the winter months. While our matches have always been competitive, we also pride ourselves on enjoying each other's company, both on and off the paddle courts.

In recent years, we began to notice our team slowly climbing out of the basement in the rankings. At the end of the this season, we had a strong finish in second place.

As retiring co-captains, we are proud of the "B" Paddle women and thank everyone for their time and effort. — *Candy Weiner and Pam Stewart*



Above: The Women's B Paddle team enjoyed very successful clinics with Hartford Golf Club Paddle Pro Courtia Worth on January 31 and February 7. The event was organized by Michelle Meth and Darcy Durfee.