
THE BASELINE

Field Club News

April 2012



A Message from the President

Tennis or swimming anyone? With temperatures already hitting the high 70s, it will not be long before we are out on the clay courts or sitting at the pool. Thanks to our busy Club manager, **Jim Girotti**, the hard court nets are up and preparations are already being made to get the other courts ready for play.

As the tennis courts are being set up, the "normal" paddle season is winding down, with all the official paddle events completed and with contract time soon to expire. What an outstanding paddle season at the Field Club! All 5 courts were full much of the season and the events well-attended, as evidenced by the events highlighted in this newsletter. Great work by the paddle co-chairs **Asa Nilsson** and **Jonathan Spencer**. Also, thanks again to **Rick Plaut** for the excellent job he did with the junior paddle clinics. While the normal paddle season is coming to an end, don't worry you spring/summer paddle diehards out there. I will make sure Jim keeps some of the nets up for you to get your fix.

Turning back to tennis, **Ann Corcoran-Boisvert** will return as our tennis pro to supervise the tennis program and staff, as well as offer lessons for those of us who need them. In addition, the tennis co-chairs, **Cathy Herchel** and **Jamie Dunbar**, have put together a full schedule of events for the season. Please see the schedule on page 7 of the newsletter. Highlights of the season include the New Member Orientation Mixer on May 28th and the Davis Cup on June 23rd. New members and sponsors, please make every effort to attend the Orientation Mixer. It will be a great opportunity to meet other new members and learn about the Club. Jim and Ann, as well as a number of Board members and other Field Club staff, will be in attendance to give a tour of the Club and go over any questions. And, of course, a little tennis will be played.

Soon after the tennis season gets into full swing, the pool season will kick off. Thank you to our new pool co-chairs, **Erin Hornyak** and **Amy Tyler**, for

arranging all the pool activities as shown on page 8. This summer **Dan Handzel** returns after a 5-year hiatus to manage our pool. In addition to hiring Dan, Jim has hired the full complement of lifeguards for the summer. Other summer hires include the welcomed return of **Eileen Mason** to run the Snuggery and **Colleen Douglas** to supervise the Tot Lot.

By the time you read this newsletter, the kickoff event of our social season has come and gone – namely, our Spring Fling March 30th at Twin Hills. As of this writing, over 160 members have committed to attend! Should be an outstanding time for everyone, with great food, music, dancing and conversation. As mentioned later in this message, another highlight of this event will be honoring Jim Girotti. In addition to organizing the Spring Fling, the co-chairs of the Social Committee, **Mona Swanson** and **Sonia Zeroogian**, have put together a great schedule of Social events as shown on page 7 of the newsletter.

As you may have noticed, Jim's name has been mentioned in each paragraph of my message. Not only does this highlight how valuable Jim is to our Club, it is a little tribute to him for all his years of service to the Field Club - 25 YEARS to be exact! If our records are correct, Jim started working for the Field Club on April 1, 1987. I would like to personally thank him for all he has done for our Club (the list is endless), and also thank his wife **Linda** for sharing his time with us. The next time you see Jim, please join me in congratulating him on his 25th Anniversary.

Well, I think I have delayed the printing of this issue long enough, so I will sign off for now. As you can see, in addition to Jim, I have focused my April message on all the activities available to our members. Please take full advantage of all the Club has to offer. And, as always, please consider volunteering, if not already.

Take Care,

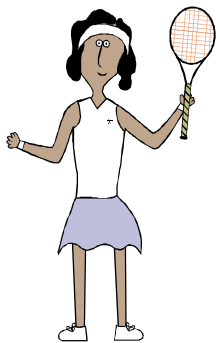
Brian

Welcome New Members!

A warm welcome to our new members:

Bridget & Michael Landry
Ned & Patty Doyle
Noiel & Laura Fontaine
Wayne Duke & Deirdre Curran
Tom & Cathy Kietzman
Dan & Sue Landry
Beth & Matt Renola
Todd and Amy Ratner
Margo Whitt & Matt Thompson
Lori Byrne & family
Amy & Rick Cianfaglione

— Carolyn Marchese



Save the Date

A **New Member Orientation and Mixer** will be held on Memorial Day this year. Mark your calendars for **Monday, May 28**. Details and invitations to follow! Stay tuned...

— Carolyn Marchese

Seeking Volunteers for Demographic Committee

The Board has created a temporary Demographic Committee to review and reconcile the current databases and to contact members to ensure that we have the most up-to-date demographic information. With over 300 active memberships, volunteers are needed to help with this important effort. Please contact **Denise Collins** if you are willing to be part of this committee. As the saying goes, many hands make light work!

All Field Club members can expect to be contacted by a volunteer in the near future to review/update the information currently on file. Accurate demographic information not only helps with planning, but also enables our staff to provide better service thanks to more accurate information regarding which family members are authorized to use the facilities, etc. Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation with this project.

— Brad Hoffman

Field Club Website

The Field Club Board is thinking of updating our website. We are looking for any ideas or suggestions on how to enhance this website. We are also interested in anyone who would like to participate in our Communications Committee. If you have any suggestions for improving our website, feel free to email them to me — Jackie Pleet, Communications Committee Board Liaison, at jpleet@gmail.com. Any ideas are most welcome! — Jackie Pleet

Guidebook Updates

The Field Club *Guidebook* (green 3-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 bylaws, membership rules and regulations, committee and board members, various events and activities.

The 2012 edition will be going to print in April. Please take a moment to review the Membership Section IX to be sure your information (family members, address, phone numbers, emails) is correct. **Please send all corrections to Carleen Hoffman at carleen@clutterdoctor.com no later than April 15.**

Guidebook contacts:

Carleen Hoffman

Guidebook Chairperson

Carolyn Marchese

Membership Chairperson

John Abbott

Communication Chairperson

Jackie Pleet

Board Liaison (Guidebook & Communications)

Next Deadline May 16

The next edition of *The Baseline* will be distributed in early June. The deadline for this issue will be Wednesday, May 16. Please email your submissions to Editor Lee-Anne Sprague at lsprague7@cox.net.



Wait List On the Move

The Field Club Wait List is ever changing. See where your candidate stands as of 03/20/2012:

Regular Candidate Waiting List:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Houle, William & Dina (legacy) | Morey |
| 2. Torres, Daniel & Orsi | Stephens |
| 3. Maree, Nancy & Paul | Santaniello |
| 4. Fox, Hallie & Aaron | Peterson/Murphy |
| 5. Hadro, Neal & Jennifer | Dash/Miller |
| 6. Purrington, Rick & Debra | Travers |
| 7. Upson, Derek & Wendy | Durfee |
| 8. Wagner, Stephen &
Christina Turgeon | Weiner |
| 9. Cooper, Scott & Susan | Cowan |
| 10. Orr, Trey & Molly | Shanks |

Be sure to return completed applications to the Membership Chair to get your candidate on our waiting list. — *Carolyn Marchese*

Garden Plots Now Available

Two springs could barely be more opposite than this year's and last. Looking back at last year's spring article, I see that in the second week of March I was looking at only fence posts sticking forlornly out of the snow where the gardens should be. This year, the first week of March, things are already sprouting out in the gardens. This calls for full mobilization!

Several garden plots are available for members interested in a small patch of sunshine to grow flowers or vegetables. Annual "rental fee" is only \$10, utilities (water) included! For an extra \$15, you can have your plot rototilled.

Since the number of plots is limited and often there is more interest than availability, the only request to garden owners is to commit to using the plot. Weeds are fine, as long as something is growing on purpose, too! Expect to need to visit your garden twice a week to water (unless last summer returns and you'll need to visit once a week with a sump pump instead.) You'll find when you dedicate some time to the garden, you get more out of it than just flowers and veggies.

If interested in having a garden plot this year, please send me an email. We'll be excited to see all the plots a-growin'! — *Darcy Durfee*

Snuggery Streamlines Ordering

The Snuggery will offer some combinations for easier ordering and to make the data entry a simpler task for the staff. This summer, you will be able to order the following selections with a single checkmark and receive a small savings in the price:

- Turkey, vegetable or tuna wrap with beverage
- Cheeseburger with chips and beverage
- Personal pizza with beverage
- Garden or Caesar salad with beverage

Beverages options in the combination bundles include a 12 oz. can of soda, lemonade, iced tea, half and half (½ lemonade; ½ iced tea), or 16 oz. Snapple. Fruit smoothies are not included in the combinations and must be ordered separately.

Members have suggested the Snuggery allow people to order half wraps, so this summer smaller wraps will be offered as occasional specials so the staff can figure out if it would be reasonable to add them to the menu next season.

Requests from the Snuggery staff:

- PRINT your name on the order slip and include your phone number. It streamlines the inputting process when the staff can read the order slips.
- Please remember we recycle. There are two trash cans at the Snuggery – one for trash, the other for bottles and cans. Please do not mix up trash with bottles and cans. It makes for a very messy business when they have to be manually separated.
- Keep in mind the Snuggery is a self-service operation. Please clean off your table and use the spray cleaner provided to wipe up spills.

Many thanks! — *Katherine Charbonneau*



2012 Paddle Champions

The Field Club Open Championships were held on Saturday, March 24, under partly cloudy skies in warm conditions, making for a day of lively paddle matches. The Men's and Women's draws played simultaneously, using all five courts from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Five Women's teams and eleven men's teams participated. It was nice to have the Women's and Men's championship on the same day, which was possible due to the new 5th court.

The Women's draw consisted of a round-robin approach while the men's draw was an APTA-like main draw followed by a variety of back draws. All women played an impressive four matches, and after a lot of close matches, the Women's Champions were **Asa Nilsson** and **Elizabeth D'Amour**. Congratulations!

The Men's Finals pitted youth against experience. **Jeff Morneau** and **Mike Shields** made their way through the main draw to play against **Naren Dhamodharan** and **Per Nilsson**, two Longmeadow legends. Morneau and Shields prevailed in three sets to become the 2012 FC Paddle Champions.

Bob Conley and **Mike Doyle** won the consolation draw, and **Rob Durfee** and **Don**

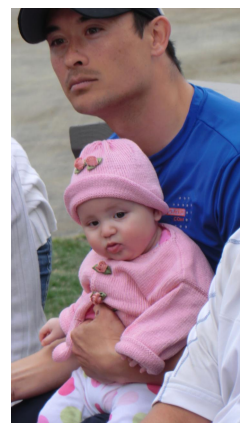
Douglas won the quarter reprieve draw. Other impressive teams included the **Neal and Steele duo** and the rookie squad of **Weiner/Griffiths**. Six-month old paddle protégé, **Madison Seiler**, made an appearance at the finals match, and supervised the post-tournament Baggo competition.

Special thanks to **Asa Nilsson**, who organized the Women's group and provided a delicious breakfast, as well as to **Brad Hoffman**, who created the draws and ensured a very competitive, compliant and exciting day.

— *Jonathan Spencer*



(L to R) Elizabeth D'Amour, Asa Nilsson, Mike Shields and Jeff Morneau



Baby Madison and Dad Alex Seiler



Oscar Mixer Always a Winner

The Ladies Oscar Paddle Mixer on Oscar Sunday, February 26, once again proved itself reliably fun! Twenty women arrived on the red carpet decked out in jewels and furs, with an intimidating appearance by Lisbeth (*The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*), luckily tempered by the comforting Aibileen (*The Help*).

The slightly tweaked movies (*The Spin Artist*, *You-Go*) battled each other for the most games accrued in three rounds of play. A beautiful sunny afternoon, healthy nibbles, champagne punch and chocolates made for a perfect ladies' day (although Lisbeth was later spotted with blood coming through her white gloves).

Ballots were cast for Oscar predictions. The grand prizes (theater box candy) for the most correct votes went to **Patsy Martin** and **Cindy Hibert**. Congratulations, winners!

— *Jackie Pleet, Margot Seefeld, Darcy Durfee*

Western New England Championships

Johan Du Randt and **Rob Pierce** were crowned as champions at the 22nd annual Western New England Championships, in Region II's fifth and final President's Cup event of the season. The event was held at Longmeadow's Field Club on February 11, 2012.

Pierce and Du Randt prevailed by scores of 6-4, 6-0 over the Fairfield County team of **Juan Pablo Arraya** and **Mark Fischl** before a large crowd. Du Randt and Arraya traded many creative slices and drives, while their partners supplied steady defense. After a tightly-contested first set, the victors raised their games ever so slightly and dominated a quick second set to secure the championship. Arraya and Fischl had patiently waited to start their day as first-round combatants battled in a marathon match, then methodically advanced to the final by eliminating **Jeff Morneau** and **Bill Power** and then **Alex Seiler** and **Chuck Poe** in the quarters and semis respectively.

Not even the courtside barbecue smoke swirling around the action interfered with their play. Du Randt, who had highlighted a local paddle clinic the Friday evening before the event, gave an advanced clinic throughout the tournament Saturday, demonstrating his mastery of the nuances of the racquet game he has played for only a handful of years. It is no mystery that he has advanced to the #1 ranking in the sport.

Through the aggressive recruitment efforts of new Tournament chair Jeff Morneau, the Longmeadow entries grew to 24 teams and attracted out-of-towners from as far away as Rochester. The event also marked the tournament debut of the Field Club's new fifth court, erected in the fall. When asked to give his impressions of the event, Region II President **Rob Coster**, an observer throughout the day, commented, "Jeff runs a first class event, and it's encouraging to see Johan's game develop. He's come a long way since that Brae Burn B. I only wish he could still play President's Cup."

Back Draw Division winners included **Brad Hoffman** and **Dan Nash** in the consolation event, **Jonathan Spencer** and **Mike Freedman** in the consolation reprieve, and **Mike Shields** and **John Hughes** in the reprieve final. The quarter-final reprieve was won by Morneau and Power over **Naren Dhamodharan** and **Paul Fairchild**.

— *Dave Fuller*

(Left to right) Western New England Runners-Up Juan Pablo Arraya and Mark Fischl with Champions Rob Pierce and Johan Du Randt



(Left to right) Kent Griffiths, Gary Weiner, Dick Forrest and David Fuller, Men's B Tournament finalists

Men's B Tourney

The Men's B Tournament was played Saturday, March 10th under perfect conditions — sunny skies and a bit of a chill, but ideal for paddle. Twelve teams vied for the engraved plate on the Winners' plaque, and a good time was had by all.

In the end, **Gary Weiner** and Partner **Kent Griffiths** triumphed over **Dick Forrest** and **David Fuller** in a hard-fought 3-set match with a sizable crowd enjoying the action, the weather and, of course, the refreshments.

— *Ken Vincunas*

Men's A/B Mixer

On a warm, sunny Sunday in late January, the Field Club and Longmeadow Country Club (LCC) Men's A and B paddle players mixed it up for a day full of great paddle, food and spirits. It was highlighted by a full complement of players using all five Field Club courts, as well as LCC's 2 courts. This year's format was simply to play as much as possible with as many different people in a mixer format. With **Bob Conley** running the tunes and **Neal Churchill** coordinating the food, there were plenty of well-mixed matches that ran into the afternoon. Most players left with some well-placed shots against some old and new friends. — *Mike Freedman*

Another Great Season of Junior Paddle

Paddle is full of fun, laughter and excitement! Tuesdays are never dull; every week we look forward to coming to paddle lessons. This is not only a social time when we get to chat with friends, but also a time to learn new paddle skills.

Lessons vary from games to serves and everything in-between. One of our favorite activities is practicing our lobs. In this particular activity, Mr. Plaut feeds us the ball, and we try to lob it over his head, near the base line. Mr. Plaut says the lob should be tall like an elevator, not flat like an escalator. One game that the group enjoys playing is “King of the Court.” We can’t *tell* you how many times we and our colleagues have hit the ball over the fence. When the weather gets too chilly, we rush to the paddle hut to warm our toes. Occasionally, other paddle players will leave food for us to snack on. The food ranges from raspberry hot chocolate to ketchup.

None of this could ever happen without the help of our fantastic teacher, Mr. Plaut. He is an excellent paddle player himself and loves to teach us his skills so one day they might rub off on us. One of the things we admire most about Mr. Plaut is his incredible patience. Even when we do something wrong, Mr. Plaut doesn’t shout at us; he corrects us.

We have had an amazing paddle year with a great teacher who has taught us so much. We hope that Mr. Plaut is back to teach us next year and that lots more kids join us to learn how to play. — *Jenny Brayton & Noelle Ehrenberg*

The Big Paddle

On a clear, but very windy Saturday in late February, Longmeadow competed in the **Big Paddle Challenge** hosted by the Hartford Golf Club. The Field Club battled to a hard, close-fought 2nd place in this annual event, losing the total number of matches by one to Madison/Essex team. Once again, the Madison/Essex (CT) team brought home the coveted Big Paddle.

This is the 12th year captain **Rob Durfee** has led a team of players from the Field Club to participate in this fun and very competitive event. The Big Paddle has been played at Hartford Golf Club for over 35 years beginning in 1977. Top players drawn from four clubs and their surrounding areas play one match against each of the three other clubs. The other teams include Essex/Madison (CT), Shelter Harbor (RI) and Hartford (CT).

Longmeadow was well represented this year with nationally ranked players **Jeff Morneau** and **Alex Seiler**, in addition to the paddle talents of **Naren Dhamodharan**, **Mike Shields** and **Rick Steele**. Tough veterans **Hans Doup**, **Rob Durfee** rounded off the team along with the racquet skills of **Dennis Herchel**, **Brad Hoffman** and **Jason Smith**.

Please note: Due to the exciting, increased level of paddle activity and skills at the Field Club, there will be changes on how team members are “chosen” for this fun APTA event. Qualification rules will be posted at the beginning of next season, which will allow any paddle member the opportunity to qualify and play on the team.

— *Rob Durfee*



Women’s Night Out Series

The Field Club is pleased to announce the formation of a new committee, “Ladies Night Out” chaired by **Carleen Hoffman**. The committee will provide exciting and fun events for Field Club women to participate in. The events will give women an opportunity to meet others and network in a relaxed environment. Interested in learning more, becoming a committee member, or hosting an event? Please contact Carleen at carleen@clutterdoctor.com. The first event, a Pot Luck/Granita Night is slated for May/June. Stay tuned for more details! — *Carleen Hoffman*

A Full Season of Tennis Fun

Be sure to mark you calendars for all the fun 2012 tennis events:

New Member Mixer

Monday, May 28

J. Dunbar, C. Herchel, B. Prast

Adult Mixer

Sunday, June 3

Plants and Spencers

Adult Mixer

Friday, June 15

Durfees and Freedmans

Davis Cup

Saturday, June 23

Jamie Dunbar, Cathy Herchel, Chris Messier, Dennis Herchel

Daiquiri Doubles

Saturday, July 14

David and Jackie Pleet

Doubles Trouble

Saturday, July 28

Jon, Pam Rovere

Friday Night Fiesta

Friday, August 10

Dunbars

Wine Mixer

Friday, August 17

Conleys and O'Briens

M/W Doubles Championships

Saturday, August 25

Shields and Nilssons

M/W Singles Championships

Saturday & Sunday, September 2 & 3

Kelly Hellstein, Jason Smith

Mixed Doubles Championships

Saturday, September 8

Cathy and Dennis Herchel

Season End Mix-it-up Session

Sunday, September 16

S. Brindle and J. Kenny

Save the Date

The Davis Cup Tennis event is scheduled for Saturday June 23. This is the Field Club's signature event and is not to be missed. It is a fun, competitive and team environment welcoming players of all levels. This years Davis Cup stands to be one of the best yet, so make sure to hold Saturday, June 23, from 8:30 a.m. to midday open, and look for sign-up opportunities. See you out there. — *Tennis Co-Chairs Jamie Dunbar and Cathy Herchel*



2012 Social Events

The 2012 social events schedule kicked off last Friday with the Spring Fling. Don't miss out on all the other fun social events still to come:

Davis Cup

Saturday, June 23 (directly after tennis)

Kate Morneau and Liz Kollias

July 4th Tailgate

Sunday, July 1

Connie Pierson and Kate McGeer

Poolside Party

Saturday, August 4

Liz Leshine and Grazyna Vincunas

Family Campout

Friday, August 17

Deirdre Mailloux and TBD

Labor Day Tailgate

Sunday, September 2

Maira Murphy and Lauren Shanks

Ladies Night Out Series

Throughout the season

Carleen Hoffman

Volunteers welcome! Please e-mail

Co-chairpersons Mona Swanson at

mona.swanson@comcast.net or Sonia Zeroogian

at Sonia_zeroogian@yahoo.com. — *Denise Collins*

Lane Lines

Spring is upon us... Memorial Day weekend and the opening of the pool are right around the corner! Summer 2012 promises to be a great one, filled with fun poolside activities and a fantastic staff.

Several members have agreed to chair the various poolside events. There will be a fun-filled party for every age level. As always, be sure to sign up at the poolside bulletin board.

A new Basketball hoop has been approved for purchase for the pool. So... polish up your dunking skills and get ready for some water hoops!

Swim team anyone? There has been some interest regarding a 2012 Field Club Swim Team. If you are interested in leading or participating on a swim team committee, please let us know.

We'd like to take a moment to thank **Sherri Ehrenberg** and **Karen Brayton** for all of their dedication and hard work on the pool committee over the past several years. Thanks to these two dynamic ladies, the pool has been a fun, clean and active haven for all of our families. We look forward to seeing you both again this summer. We, **Erin Hornyak** and **Amy Tyler**, have humbly agreed to fill these positions. Please feel free to contact us at info@annawilliam.com (Erin) or amtyler68@comcast.net. We look forward to seeing you all poolside.

— *Erin Hornyak and Amy Tyler*

Be On the Lookout for Junior Tennis Info

Mary Adler and Meralee Kratovil are busy planning the upcoming Junior Tennis Program for this summer. Look in the next addition of *The Baseline* for exact dates.

— *Scott Brindle, Tennis Board Liaison*



2012 Pool Events

Dive into the fun at the pool this summer... mark your calendar for the following fun poolside events:



Middle School Fun Night (grades 6-8)

Thursday, June 28

6 to 8 p. m.

Mary Cieplik

Minnows Poolside Party (ages 4-7)

Tuesday, July 17

4 to 5:30 p.m.

Judy D'Angelo and May Oh

Clownfish Poolside Party (ages 8-10)

Thursday, July 19

5 to 6:30 p.m.

Deirdre Mailloux and Andrea Cataldo

School of Fish Poolside Party (ages 4-12)

Thursday, July 26

2 to 4 p. m.

Alison Schechtman and Karen Brayton

Member Guest (all ages)

Thursday, August 9

1 p.m.

Erin Hornyak and Amy Tyler



Make the Most of Your Spring and Summer!

Be sure to visit The Field Club online at www.field-club.com for an updated listing of all the fun tennis, pool and social events.

See you at the Club!

