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# THE BASELINE

## *Field Club News*

February 2014

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### A Message from the **NEW** President

I am pleased to serve as President of the Field Club in the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> year. I want to thank the outgoing Board members who have contributed greatly to the Club over the last several years: **Carolyn Marchese, Brian Prast, Brad Hoffman, Jackie Pleet and Denise Collins.** Their efforts on behalf of the membership should be duly noted, as through their terms they were able to successfully bring to fruition the building of the new Paddle Hut.

The Hut, or Paddle Palace as some have referred to the structure, has clearly exceeded what was hoped for and is an example of how we continue to work to improve and maintain our Club 50 years after it was established. Our core remains the same — to promote the health and general welfare of our members by offering recreation facilities, athletic activities and opportunities for social gatherings. The Club's facilities certainly have grown in the last 50 years, as we now have five paddle Courts and 14 tennis courts. In addition to the Paddle Hut construction, we have renovated and expanded the tennis deck to accommodate the active social events we have throughout the tennis season. The structure of the Club being run by the Board of Governors, committee chairs and our manager continues to work as each new Board comes on.

Volunteerism is what makes the Club special, along with the family atmosphere which we espouse whether on the tennis court, the pool or the paddle court. I am most pleased that the paddle hut has become a place for full year use, with some members playing cards during the day or using it as meeting area. In the fall of 2014, we intend to renovate two tennis courts, and it is

our intent that renovations of two courts will be an annual budget item as part of our overall maintenance and upkeep of our facility.

**Jim Girotti** continues to keep a watchful eye over our property and is a fiscally sound manager, ensuring that our dollars are spent wisely in operations. As the structures turn 50, that will require a continued watchful eye.

A committee has been established to help us celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we will have special events planned throughout the year. To keep track of the events for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as well as other activities at the Club, please check your emails and the Field Club calendar on our website ([www.field-club.com](http://www.field-club.com)).

Finally, I encourage everyone to get involved in whatever capacity they feel comfortable, whether it is being on a committee, chairing an event or a committee, or being on the Board of Governors. The more active membership we have, the more the Club can offer. Whether you have been a member for a year or fifty years, you should know that the more you put into the Club the more you will get out of it. I hope everyone will participate as we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> year. See you on the courts.

Sincerely yours,

Gary M. Weiner



## At Your Service

*Below is a listing of Board Members and Committee Liaisons for 2013/2014:*

Gary Weiner  
*President*

Scott Brindle  
*Vice President/  
Capital Improvements/  
Tennis/Jr. Tennis*

Ken Vincunas  
*Treasurer*

Mike Doyle  
*Assistant Treasurer/  
Paddle/Jr. Paddle*

Cathy Herchel  
*Clerk/ Communications*

Karen Brayton  
*Membership*

Sherri Ehrenberg  
*Assistant Clerk/  
Social/ Apparel*

Tom O'Brien  
*Beautification/ Gardens*

Meralee Kratovil  
*Pool/ Tot Lot/  
Snuggery*

Carolyn Marchese  
*Ex-Officio*



The Field Club will be  
50 years old this July,  
and we plan to  
celebrate in style!

## From Jim Girotti...

**Lost and Found:** The lost and found continues to grow in the paddle hut... gloves, sweatshirts, sweaters, water bottles, hats, even a children's toothbrush! Please check them out, as we can't store them much longer.

**Still Missing:** Viking - O - ZONE PADDLE from the Demo board. It has "FC 13" stamped on the side of the paddle. Please call Jim Girotti (413-478-5775) or return it to the demo board. All demo racquets went on sale January 1 for \$60. Demo paddles cost the Field Club money, as we have to purchase them. This paddle retails for \$139.99 if you want a new one!

**For Sale:** There is one 2013-2014 Demo paddle remaining for sale at \$60.00 plus tax. It is a Wilson XCEL model. If interested, please give Jim Girotti a call at 413-478-5775.

## The Field Club is Turning 50!

The Field Club opened in July 1964, which means we have a big anniversary this year. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is planning to celebrate all year long but in a very special way on **Saturday, July 5, 2014**. More details will follow, but a catered family BBQ is planned. Members and interested former members will be invited. Save the date to help celebrate our rich history!

We are in need of a volunteer videographer. Please contact Carolyn Marchese at 567-3599 if interested. We would like to get started soon on a video to make this celebration complete (this is a volunteer job that a high schooler could do, too).

— Carolyn Marchese

## 2013 Junior Tennis Champions



*It's never too late to wish someone congratulations on a job well done. Kudos to the following Junior Tennis champions from last summer's tennis season. We can hardly wait to see you all in action again this year!*

### Junior Ladder Champion

Ryan Morneau

### Junior Boys Singles/Girls Singles

10 & under	Ryan Hornyak
10 & under	Hannah Adler
12 & under	Peter Marchese
12 & under	Anna Hugney
14 & under	Will Hornyak
14 & under	Noelle Ehrenberg
16 & under	Sam Freedman

### Boys Junior Doubles

*Ages 8 to 11*

Ryan Morneau & Christian Hammett

*Ages 12 to 17*

Pierce Levielle & Will Hornyak

### Girls Junior Doubles

*Ages 8 to 11*

Samantha D'Angelo & Elizabeth McGeer

*Ages 12 to 17*

Brooke Leveille & Jennifer Brayton

### Junior Mixed Doubles

*Ages 8 to 11*

Luke Hornyak & Iris Gallo

*Ages 12 to 17*

Pierce & Brooke Leveillee



## Welcome New Members

*A warm welcome to our newest members:*

Dave & Karen Appleman (*returning members*)  
Jim & Karen Chadwell  
John & Mary Miller  
Andrew & MaryAnn Kniska  
Gary & Judy Delong  
Meinrad & Maryam Schirmeister  
Brendan & Lisa Kelly  
Dave & Katie Wartman  
Ben & Adena Falk  
Bill & Paula Welch  
Kate & Rich Sabatini  
Frank & Susan Cannizzo  
Steve & Dee Dee Grinstead  
Tom & Kara Conway

## Wait List On the Move

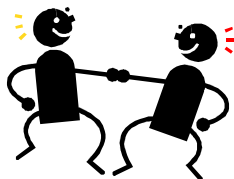
The Field Club Wait List is ever changing, as new members are accepted and new candidates are added! Below is the current Wait List:

### *Voted in Wait List*

DiStefano, Chris & Kristen (Hornyak)  
Chamberland, Michael & Debra (O'Connor)  
Greenman, Tim & Carrie (Oh)  
Kasperowski, Brian & Emily (Brais)  
Stiefel, Joseph & Connie (Marchese)  
Cartelli, Damon & Debra (Shanks)  
Baicker, Marty & Lark, Kelly (Berg)  
Han, Jonathan & Jean Ann (Posner)  
Shebar, Ila (Weiner)

Please return completed applications to Membership Chairperson Karen Brayton, 34 Burbank Road, Longmeadow, to get your candidate on the waiting list. She can be reached at [craig.brayton@verizon.net](mailto:craig.brayton@verizon.net) or 567-8436.

— Karen Brayton, Membership Chair



## Attention Members!!

Do you know of someone who is interested in becoming a member of the Field Club? Now is an excellent time to submit an application for membership, as we have recently added many new families from our waiting list to our membership. Membership application packets can be requested from Membership Chairperson Karen Brayton at [craig.brayton@verizon.net](mailto:craig.brayton@verizon.net) or by calling 567-8436.  
— Karen Brayton

## Looking Ahead to Adult Tennis 2014



**Mike Freedman and Michelle**

**Meth**, the new co-chairs of the Adult Tennis Committee, are already thinking up tennis events for the upcoming summer. If you have any suggestions or would like to host an event, please contact them. The Field Club was built on people volunteering. Not only is it fun, but it's a great way to meet other members. Look for an informal meeting in March to help plan the summer events.  
— Scott Brindle

## Save the Date!

### The 50th Anniversary Spring Fling

Friday, March 28, 2014  
7:00 p.m.

The Longmeadow Country Club



Featuring the music  
of Good Acoustics.  
Bring your dancing  
shoes and be  
prepared to swing,  
rock and jazz the  
night away!

## Paddle 101 Clinic

On Sunday, November 10, twenty-three participants and nine volunteer instructors gathered for the ever-popular Paddle 101 Clinic. The clinic included a combination of new and veteran members and paddle players. Socializing was first on the agenda. Then, it was to the courts for “skill and drill,” where players practiced ground strokes, volleys, screens, overheads, lobs, returns and serves. The clinic concluded with match play, giving everyone an opportunity to apply the skills that they learned. A good time was had by all. Following the clinic, some participants submitted testimonials including:

*“Thank you all the coaches for your time and all the valuable pointers.”*

*“Thank you for organizing today's clinic. The instructors were great, and I can't wait to get out again to practice what I learned!”*

*“Thanks for the great lesson today! We really enjoyed ourselves.”*

The following are some websites to explore to learn more about the game or to simply pick up some tips:

Platform Tennis Magazine:

[www.ptmonline.com](http://www.ptmonline.com)

Videos:

[www.platformtennis.org](http://www.platformtennis.org)  
[www.paddlepro.com](http://www.paddlepro.com)  
[www.paddletimes.com](http://www.paddletimes.com)



Club President Gary Weiner shares his wisdom at the Paddle 101 clinic.

Be sure to save the following dates to play or spectate:

Sunday, February 23:	Women's Oscar's Event
Saturday, March 1:	APTA Event (Women's Open)
Saturday, March 15:	Mixed Championship
Saturday, March 29:	Men's A/Men's B/ Women's Open Championship
Sunday, April 6:	End of Season Mixer

You can reserve courts at the Field Club by calling the reservation line at 413-594-1230.

Don't hesitate to contact your paddle co-chairs at any time with questions/concerns: Jeff Morneau ([jmorneau@cmolawyers.com](mailto:jmorneau@cmolawyers.com)) and Kate Morneau ([kbmorneau@yahoo.com](mailto:kbmorneau@yahoo.com)).

Play on! — Kate Morneau



## Wine & Cheese Mixer

Shown left: **Ken Vincunas** and **Dave Appleman** hosted a Wine & Cheese Mixer to kick off the paddle season! Thank you both for hosting such a fun evening with great company and delicious food and drink.





## Men's 95+ APTA Paddle

On November 23, the paddle gods smiled upon the Field Club and provided excellent weather for the extremely popular APTA Men's 95's paddle tournament. **Rob Durfee** and **Brad Hoffman** coordinated the event and were pleasantly surprised the draw filled up more than two weeks before the big day. Field Clubber **Asa Nilsson** was a Hut Commander extraordinaire, as she managed four draws (main, consolation, reprieve and last chance) with 56 men and seven courts (our five at the Field Club and two at Longmeadow Country Club). Over 25 of the players were Field Club members, and the balance were players from around New England, including the President of the APTA.

Field Club members were part of the main draw finals, consolation finals, reprieve finals, and last chance finals. The repeat winners of the main draw this year were **Marc Porter** and **Peter Harvey**, who won a very entertaining three-set match over Club favorites **Per Nilsson** and **Jeff Morneau**. **Rob Durfee** and his partner (**Phil Vogel** from Hartford) won the reprieve, and Field Clubbers **Carl Wistreich** and **Jay Kimmel** won the Last Chance (in Jay's first tournament and Carl's second event).

It was great to see that so many non-playing members came out to watch the festivities and that Asa was able to have all four finals start at the same time at the end of a long day of paddle. A special thank you to Asa for her efforts in making it a smoothly run event and to everyone who played or rooted on our players. — *Brad Hoffman*



(Left to right) Finalists Peter Harvey, Marc Porter, Jeff Morneau and Per Nilsson.

## WannaBe Tradition Continues

Despite what looked like questionable weather the night before, the December 7<sup>th</sup> Men's WannaBe paddle tournament went off on Saturday morning without a hitch. OK, maybe a small hitch at the beginning, with there being a small layer of slushy snow on the courts that had to be removed before play could begin. Fortunately, the paddle hut is equipped with plenty of shovels, and once the first-round crew showed up, there was no shortage of strong backs to get the place cleared and ready.

Before the courts were even dry, the weather had already turned favorable, and we knew the Field Club weather guardians would be with us once more. There was an excellent mix of players, from those who have been playing paddle for many years to those who have just taken up the game and are getting the bug (trust us, it never goes away!). As usual the experienced players imparted their years of wisdom to the newbies, making it not only fun, but a great learning experience. Also as usual, the WannaBe was about much more than paddle, but friends getting together, making new friends and sharing good food and drink. In those regards, the day did not disappoint.

For those who missed the 2013 WannaBe, make sure you mark off your 2014 calendar for early December so you don't miss it again! And lastly, a big thank you to **Jim Girotti**, all the players, and the co-hosts for putting together a great event! — *Chris Messier*

## Mid-Winter Paddle Mixer

The Mid-Winter Paddle Mixer, held Sunday, January 12, was well attended and well timed, avoiding the sub-freezing temps of the previous week. Twenty-six members played and ate and drank and socialized and played some more. Hosted by **Carol and Rick Plaut**, the mixer brought together singles, couples and families with a wide range of experience, from expert to beginner.

Watch your email for notification of the next mixer, and be sure to sign up.

— *Carol and Rick Plaut*

## Nationally-Ranking APTA Tournament a Success

On December 14, the Field Club played host to its first ever nationally-ranking APTA platform tennis event. Aided by a small army of assistants, and using courts at three other area clubs, Tournament Director **Jeff Morneau** seamlessly orchestrated the first-of-its-kind event, a worthy successor to the long-running President's Cup Qualifier, which has been held at the Club since 1991. The several inches of snow which began to fall early in the day failed to deter the sixty combatants who competed for the championships. "We felt the conditions presented an excellent opportunity to test the capacity of the court heaters," quipped Morneau. "Sadly the units on courts 1, 3 and 4 came up a little short later on, which caused a delay in play, the major consequence of which was to test the limits of the beer supply."

Morneau lauded the contributions of **Brad Hoffman, Mike Shields** and hut captain **Asa Nilsson** for the tournament's efficient operation. "Asa was indispensable in keeping the matches moving all day, Brad took charge of overseeing the beverage responsibilities, and Shieldzy, when not playing his matches, spent most of the day in his remote videographer's perch. He may win an Emmy in the fog-shrouded video category."

Indeed, the three-set final won by top-seeded **Johan Du Randt** and partner **Mark Parsons** was contested in conditions of dubious visibility due to the accumulating snow and cold. "Jeff runs a great event, and I always enjoy playing in Longmeadow," a breathless Du Randt recounted after the win. "All four of us were impressed with the number of players and fans who stayed to see the finish. I hope they could see better than we could."

Nine of the thirty teams competing had at least one player from the Field Club, so despite the quality of the players (Du Randt and Parsons are the reigning National Champions) the tournament had a true local feel. **Jeff Morneau**, who with his partner **Todd Hiscox** dropped a very close semi final to the eventual winners, made the deepest penetration in the draw. The other star of the day was the Field Club's new platform hut. It



Despite several inches of snow, the Field Club's first-ever nationally ranking APTA platform tennis event was a success. These participants, and others, were up for the challenge, and a good time was had by all.

provided both excellent viewing opportunities, as well as a commodious area for staying warm for a large number of viewers.

Du Randt, the racquets professional at the Weston Golf Club and a former international tennis player originally from South Africa, had also been the featured teacher in a clinic on the night before the tournament for Club members. "Johan has established real credibility from his success at the national level and is a great teacher," said Morneau, "so he is a natural for this clinic, which has been popular with the members."

— *David Fuller*

### Next Deadline: March 20

The next issue of *The Baseline* will be distributed in early April, just in time to gear up for the spring/summer season. The deadline for this edition will be Thursday, March 20. Send your news items to

Lee-Anne Sprague at  
lsprague7@cox.net.  
For more  
information, she  
can be reached at  
(860) 335-8793.

