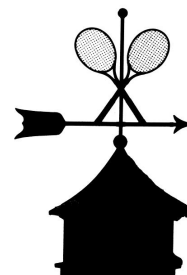

THE BASELINE

Field Club News

April 2014



A Message from the President

I know we have all had to deal with a winter that never seemed to want to end, and the cold air and snow for the last four months has been difficult for all of us. But spring is in the air for The Field Club, and we are hard at work preparing for the beginning of a busy season at the Club, between tennis, the pool and our 50th anniversary celebration.

By the time this goes to print, we will have danced the night away at our annual Spring Fling, which begins the social spring calendar. As I indicated in my February 2014 *Baseline* message, the Club is celebrating our 50th anniversary, and we will have special events throughout the spring and summer to commemorate this occasion, culminating in a celebration on Saturday, July 5. Please mark your calendars so you can be part of this event.

The Club has had to deal with a tremendous amount of snow this winter, and we have exceeded our budget for snow removal and propane use. We are in good position to handle the costs financially, although we may have to adjust some budget items for paddle maintenance as result of the winter expenditures. In that regard, please remember not to turn up the thermostat in the Paddle Hut and to turn off the lights when you leave the hut.

Paddle season is now winding down, with the Club annual championships — mixed doubles, men's A and B, and woman's — all to be decided in March. Co-chairs **Jeff and Kate Morneau** have done a great job in coordinating events this season, and on behalf of the Board, I thank them both for their efforts. We intend to try out an online reservation system for Paddle beginning

in April, and if it works, we may implement it next year as an alternative to the answering service we presently use. Also, we expect to have a part-time pro available for the next paddle season, beginning in October. Stay tuned for details.

As we prepare for spring and summer, **Jim Girotti** will continue to do his best in getting the Club prepared while keeping us within budget. Tennis Pro **Ann Boisvert** will be back, along with Junior Tennis Pro **P.J. Nassar** and Assistants **Eve Sullivan** and **Tom Knight**, so our tennis needs will be covered. The pool is also under control, as **Caroline Murphy** will return as manager and we appear to have a full complement of life guards hired for the season.

In the Pool area, we have committed to having family swim hours from 5:45 p.m. to closing time for the month of June and July. The Board believes this is the best way to meet the request of families to be able to swim together after a day at work. We are hopeful this is a positive change for everyone, and depending on the feedback, we will consider extending it into August.

Membership is at full capacity, and we have eight families on our waiting list. **Karen Brayton** has done a great job again this year as our membership chair. The tennis committee, led by new co chairs **Mike Freedman** and **Michele Meth**, are moving forward on a full schedule of events highlighted by the Davis Cup Tournament on Saturday, June 21, 2014. We are hoping we will have a large member turnout this year. The Davis Cup is truly a great event for our Club, and I encourage everyone to be a part of the event, whether you are 2.5 or 4.5 tennis player.

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President's Message *(continued)*

I also encourage everyone to get involved and join a committee, whether your interests are in tennis, paddle, social, pool or beautification, as the more active a membership we have, the more we will be able to offer. If you have an interest in being on a committee, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other Board member for information.

The Club continues to notify our membership through email blasts, so it is critical that we have your updated email information. It is our goal to use email as much as possible for all communications, including billing, as a way to reduce our costs. If you are not getting regular email information from the Club, please make sure we have your correct information.

I look forward to seeing you all this upcoming season enjoying the best of what the Field Club offers, whether it is tennis, the pool, social events or even paddle in the summer.

Take Care,
Gary M. Weiner

Welcome New Members!

Michael and Debra Chamberland
Chris and Kristen DiStefano
Bryan and Emily Kasperowski
Joseph and Connie Stiefel

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 stands as of March 20, 2014:

Voted In Wait List

Bill and Krista Scott (re-admission)

Regular Wait List

1. Cartelli, Damon & Debra (Shanks)
2. Baicker, Marty & Lark, Kelly (Berg)
3. Han, Jonathan & Jean Ann (Posner)
4. Campbell, Robert & Cynthia (Putnam)
5. Macdonald, Greg & Debbie (Ehrenberg)
6. Silva, Lani & Angie (Brais)
7. Silver, Steven & Patti (Gang)

Re-SPONSOR-bilities

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

The Membership Chair is Karen Brayton. She can be reached at 567-8436 or by email at craig.brayton@verizon.net. If you need an application packet, please contact Karen. If you are the sponsor and have a completed application packet to submit, send it to Karen at 34 Burbank 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 only one candidate per calendar 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 write letters of support if they know the candidate(s) well and have known the candidate(s) for at least one-year.

Responsibilities:

- To locate two other members to write letters as a seconder and a support person.
- To assist candidates with the two-page application.
- 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! Contact Karen now for an application packet.

— Karen Brayton



Spring Fling...

A Great Start to the Field Club's 50th Anniversary Year!

On Friday, March 28th, The Field Club held its annual Spring Fling at Longmeadow Country Club. A packed house was treated to socializing with a myriad of friends, a delightful menu and the lively tunes of Good Acoustics.

What is normally a well-attended event became a sold-out crowd for the beginning of our 50th anniversary year celebrations. Earlier in the week, the attendance was at peak capacity and, unfortunately, a few members were turned away as nearly 170 friends gathered to reconnect after this long winter and to celebrate the coming of spring.

Members were so eager to catch up that the LCC staff could hardly get anyone to their seats to start the dinner line. (Or perhaps it was the stuffed mushrooms, mini spring rolls and various other appetizers that kept everyone content?) Once everyone had their fill of fish, tenderloin, potatoes, pasta, green beans and salad, a make-your-own ice cream sundae completed the feast.

Of course, the band, Good Acoustics, entertained this crowd throughout the night and kept everyone dancing and singing along to old and new favorites alike. Their upbeat tempo kept everyone swaying until closing time.

Field Club President **Gary Weiner** and 50th Anniversary Committee Co-Chair **David Appleman** each spoke about the wonderful year ahead for The Field Club, emphasizing that this was just the beginning of a spectacular year. (The actual 50th celebration will be held on July 5th in lieu of the 4th of July tailgate.) They encouraged everyone to attend and participate in what is likely to be a fantastic year for the Field Club.

Amy Ratner and **Wendy Upson** did an incredible job with all the decorations, coordination and planning for this fun-filled night. **Carolyn Marchese** spearheaded the video screen of past Field Club events, as well as the trivia contest on the tables. Many thanks for all of their selfless work and behind-the-scenes efforts to make this a special and memorable evening for The Field Club.

— Sherri Ehrenberg



The Field Club is Turning Fifty...

Save the date to celebrate Field-Club style
with a celebration on July 5, 2014!

The Field Club opened in July of 1964, which means we have a big anniversary this year. The 50th Anniversary Committee is planning to celebrate this milestone all year long, but in a very special way on Saturday, July 5th. On this special day, Bub's BBQ of Sunderland will cater a Family BBQ. Be part of this celebration, which promises DJ entertainment and a full day/eve of Field Club fun! Members and interested former members will be invited.

**Don't miss out on celebrating the rich history that is
The Field Club of Longmeadow!**

The 50th Anniversary Committee is hard at work to make this celebration a special one. Hope you can join us. Look for your invitation later this spring! — *Carolyn Marchese*



Mixed Doubles Championship

Despite our cold winter, participants were met with 50 degree temperatures and sunshine for the Mixed Doubles Championship this year. **Jeff Morneau** and **Marna Shields** took the finals over **Craig and Kathy Waddington**. The fourteen participants enjoyed lunch on the deck and a delightful morning and early afternoon of paddle. Looking forward to the melting snow and a full season of tennis!

— *Catherine Herchel*

Online Paddle Reservations

Paddle telephone reservations have ended for the season. As of April 1st, a new "online system" has begun. Directions are posted in the Paddle Warming Hut, and members can go online and view the Field Club website (www.field-club.com)



to obtain the directions as to how to reserve a court. Current contract times remain in effect for the month of April. — *Jim Girotti*

Next Deadline May 23

The next *Baseline* will be distributed in early June. The deadline for will be Friday, May 23. Please send your news items to Lee-Anne Sprague at lsprague7@cox.net.

Super Bowl Tailgate

Under overcast skies and comfortable temperatures, over 40 paddle players took to the courts for the Annual Super Bowl Sunday Tailgate. Following a morning of spirited paddle and camaraderie, everyone dined on **Chef Barry O'Connor's** Cajun specialties: chicken jambalaya, Jamaican jerk chicken, shrimp e'touffee, "Boston Butt" pulled pork and cornbread, washed down with an assortment of locally brewed beverages. After lunch, those hearty souls who could do so took to the courts for more paddle, until the rains came and all went home to prepare for the big game. And in the case of your humble reporter, to take a little nap. — *John Abbott*

Pioneer Valley Women's Tourney a Success

On March 1st, a day that started on the chilly side but became a pleasant day of platform tennis, the 5th Annual Pioneer Valley Women's Open tournament took place at the Field Club in Longmeadow, Massachusetts. With a draw of 20 teams from all over New England, the day was busy but well coordinated by our multi-talented hut commander **Jeff Morneau**, while **Barbara Horne** handled food and refreshments.

Amy Hutter and **Kathleen Buckley**, from Boston, once again took home the top trophy by winning over the local duo of **Kelly Hellstein** and **Yvonne Ting**. Quarter reprieve, consolation and consolation reprieve winners came from Rhode Island, New York City and Connecticut.

— Asa Nilsson



Above:
The main draw
finalists.

Right:
Hut Commander Jeff
Morneau in action.



Oscar Paddle: A Dazzling Day on the Courts

All week long the excitement mounted... what star would take Oscar home? At the Field Club, the Paddle Palace was prepared for our own Oscar show down. The Red Carpet was down and the mimosas were ready to be poured. The 21 players came streaming in, glammed up with beautiful furs, wraps and even an animal stole, head, legs, tail and all. **Catherine Landry** came with a blue cape as Elsa from *The Frozen*, **Bridget Landry** came sporting a campy *Captain Phillips* outfit, and **Ginger Reiter** was dressed as Woody Grant of *Nebraska*, with frumpy boots, baggy pants, plaid shirt and all. After the paparazzi snapped a few



pictures and a few mimosas were consumed, the competitions began.

We had teams representing 10 of the movies up for an award. With three rounds of play, we had some exciting paddle experiences. Would *Wolf of Wall Street* prevail? Or, how about *American Hustle*? In the end, *Dallas Buyers Club* and *Her* got our nod with the most games won. It seems the Oscar judges are out of touch with our system. After the play was completed, we dined on wonderful fruit salad, yogurt with granola, and muffins. The annual trivia contest was completed, with five of our players scoring in the top category of 8-10 questions answered correctly or "you can start your own movie blog." Prizes for best dressed went to **Mary Dibble**, who played in her crinoline skirt. **Ellen McKenna** won biggest hat award and also maneuvered around the court with it on. **Cathy Tavenier** won the "glam" award, and **Chris Nicholson** the "bling" award. Cathy and Chris have taken home a prize two years in a row, a very rare feat for Oscar awards.

As the curtain falls on this hosting team (it is our last year as the MCs), we hope that someone will take on this Oscar paddle event, as it is a fun day on the courts .

— Darcy Durfee, Jackie Pleet and Margot Seefeld

2014 Platform Tennis Club Championships

A total of 17 teams across three independent draws got together on March 29th for the Platform Tennis Club Championships. The day started out sunny, complicating the view to the east, but clouds prevailed as the day went on. Conditions were slightly warmer than usual, but very desirable! Some light rain rolled in near the end of the day but offered no real complications to the final teams.

The breakfast was a delicate mix of munchkins and bagels, with a near bottomless supply of coffee and OJ. Lunch was even better, as participants filled their plates with wraps, salads and pizza. Several brackets were complete by lunch, so beer was out to complement the vittles.

The paddle was nothing short of spectacular!

Three women's teams battled it out on court 4. Long points, crafty volleys and fierce drives dominated the matches until one team remained standing. **Marna Shields** and **Kathy Waddington**



squeaked out two 3-set victories over the reputable teams of **Kate Morneau /Asa Nilsson** and **Sara Suchy/Jacquie Kenney**.

There were two draws on the men's side. The main draw featured eight teams, six of which



battled in round-robin format to determine team rank for the playoffs. A key match that garnished lots of attention was a full-out duel featuring **Carl Wistreich** and **Jonathan Spencer**

against the multiple "B" championship team of **Gary Weiner** and **Kent Griffiths**. The match was

so long that we all thought the tiebreaker was to decide the third set, when in fact it was only for the first set. Gary and Kent pulled out a two-set victory, lining up an old rematch from a few years ago against the competent team of **Jeff Morneau** and **Mike Shields**. Despite some long points, Shields and Morneau won and earned a spot in the finals. On the other side of the draw, veteran team **Hans Doup** and **Greg Birtwell** moved into position, facing **Jason Smith** and **Craig Waddington** for their chance to get to the finals. A third set was averted when Waddington came to life with several key backhands to secure the victory. Shields/Morneau won the finals in three sets and claimed victory for a second time.



The second men's draw, or the "B's", featured

consistent play from six teams, ranging from newcomers to crafty veterans. The team of **Dick Forest/Doug Jangraw** moved through their matches like a warm knife through butter and earned a spot in the finals. **Tom Kietzman** and **Dave Pleet** worked their magic on the other side of the draw, lining up a showdown that aimed to please. Team Forrest/Jangraw was too much for Tom and Dave, despite some very solid play. Dick and Doug are the "B" club champions!

Special recognition to **Kate, Gary** and **Mike** for organizing this signature event. Thanks to **Jeff** for draw assistance and to tournament referee **Per Nilsson**. Thank you **George** for the fantastic Grapevine lunch. As always, we hope to see more teams out there next year! Keep an eye out for more team photos at www.field-club.com.

— *Mike Shields*





Tennis News

The start of the 2014 tennis season seems like a long way off! New tennis chairs **Mike Freedman** and **Michelle Meth** have been busy planning and organizing the upcoming summer events. There will be plenty of fun and even some competitive events for you to choose from. Some themes from last year's events, including wine & cheese, daiquiri, pot luck, and mojito mixers, were well attended. Look for the next *Baseline* for more details. — *Scott Brindle*

2014 Junior Tennis Events

Friday, June 27	Junior Opener Pizza Round Robin
Tuesday, July 1	Tot Open
Wednesday, July 2	US Open
Wednesday, July 9	French Open
Wednesday, July 16	Australian Open
Wednesday, July 23	Wimbledon
Wednesday, July 30	Junior Davis Cup
Saturday, August 2	Family Round Robin
Wed. & Thurs., August 6 & 7	Doubles/Mixed Doubles Championship
Wed. & Thurs., August 13 & 14	Singles Championship
Wed., August 20	Corcoran Cup
Thursday, August 21	End of Season Tot Party
Friday, August 22	Awards Party

Event information updates can be found on the Field Club website, tennis bulletin board, monthly calendars and upcoming editions of The Baseline. Also watch for more information on the Club's Junior USTA team for boys and girls ages 10-14 as of August 31, 2014 (15 players maximum).

2014 Adult Tennis Schedule

Temperatures are warming up (or will be soon!), which means tennis excitement is on its way. Mark your calendars for the following events:

New Member Mixer

Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day)

Clem Easton U.S.T.A. Sr. Tournament

Thursday - Sunday, May 29 through June 1

Adult Mixer

Sunday, June 2

Adult Mixer

Saturday, June 7

Adult Mixer

Sunday, June 14

Davis Cup

Saturday, June 21

Mixer (50th Anniversary Theme)

Sunday, June 29

Adult Mixer (Daiquiri)

Saturday, July 12

Adult Mixer

Sunday, July 20

Adult Mixer

Saturday, August 2

Adult Mixer

Sunday, August 10

M/W Doubles

Saturday, August 23

M/W Singles

Saturday & Sunday, August 30 & 31

Mixed Doubles

Championship

Saturday, September 6

Season End Mixer

Sunday, September 14

