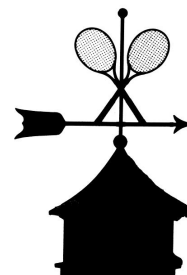

THE BASELINE

Field Club News

October 2014



A Message from the President

This is my final report for *The Baseline* as Club president, and I am amazed at how quickly the year has gone. It has been a great honor to serve as president this year, and I believe our 50th year was very successful. The Club continues to be used all year round, and we remain a great deal for what we offer.

As fall is in the air, **Jim Girotti and his staff** are preparing the Club for the winter. They have already closed the pool and snuggery areas and will begin the process of shutting down the tennis courts. As president, you truly realize the hard work that Jim Girotti does for the Club, and we are very fortunate to have him. I also want to thank **Ann Boisvert**, who finished her 29th year with the Club, and her summer staff. Our Tennis operations always go smoothly, and it is because of our staff. A highlight of the season is that the Field Club's Junior USTA team, coached by **P.J. Nassar**, is going to Nationals. Congratulations to all who contributed to the team's success.

The end of our fiscal year is also the time we review our budget projections for the past year and prepare for next year's budget. Last fall, as part of the budgeting process, we instituted a policy to include some larger budget items in our operating budget and not just rely on capital planning funds for those items. This policy was discussed by past Treasurer **Brad Hoffman**, and it became a reality with the 2013-2014 budgets. As a result, we were able to cover the costs of renovating tennis courts 5, 6, 7 and 8 as part of our normal operating budget for fiscal year 2014 and 2015. As many of you have seen, the work has been ongoing for a couple of weeks. We anticipate the work will be completed by November 1, 2014, if not sooner, and the courts will be ready for play in 2015.

There are a couple of key events over the next couple of months to keep in mind. First our Annual meeting is scheduled for **Friday, November 7, at Twin Hills Country Club**. I urge all of the membership to attend or vote by proxy. This is your

club, and the annual meeting gives you an opportunity to voice your opinion on how it operates. Next year's slate of officers and Board members will be on the agenda, along with an overview of our budget for the next fiscal year.

Second, we are bringing back **Davis Cup for Paddle**, and that event is scheduled for **Saturday, November 15, 2014**. Signup sheets will be posted in the hut and an email blast will be sent out next month. We had a goal of 100 players for the tennis Davis Cup, so we will be planning for 50 for Paddle.

Membership remains steady at 235 family memberships, 10 single memberships and over 118 senior memberships, but the waiting list is now down to 6. Historically, we usually have between 10 and 20 openings through either members resigning or changing to senior status. It is our goal to always have a waiting list of 10-15 families, as this will ensure we have 235 family members. This category is critical to our budget process. So, if you know any families who want to join, now is the time to get them on the list. Please contact **Karen Brayton**, our membership chair for an application for any new candidates. Karen has done a great job at membership, which can often be a time-consuming position with all of the changes in membership.

I want to thank the entire **Board of Governors**, who have worked diligently over this past year in overseeing the operations of the Club. The monthly Board Meetings have been productive and, at times, enjoyable. **Sheri Ehrenberg** and **Scott Brindle** will be completing their three years on the Board this November. Both of them have contributed enormously over the years in overseeing a variety of committees within the Club, from Social to Tot lot to Paddle and Tennis. Not only have they been on the Board, but they are both also always actively involved

(Continued page 2...)

Message from the President

...Continued from page 1

in chairing events in both Tennis and Paddle. Their active participation on the Board will be missed, and without Sherri at the meetings, I am not sure who will push us to finish quickly. Also completing her time on the Board is our immediate Past President, **Carolyn Marchese**, who has continued to provide guidance and support over the past year. Carolyn topped off her 4 years on the Board by chairing the 50th Anniversary Celebration in July, which was a great success.

Ken Vincunas stepped in as treasurer this year and has provided the Board with easy to understand reports, while always keeping track of our spending. We expect that we will come in under budget this year. We welcomed four new members to the Board this year. Among them are **Cathy Herchel** as clerk, who has the unenviable task of keeping track of minutes and overseeing our communications, and **Meralee Kratovil**, who oversaw the pool, snuggery and tot lot this year. I think we saw that the move to family swim hours was successful this year, along with the extended hours for the snuggery. **Mike Doyle** stepped in as liaison for paddle and as assistant treasurer and was responsible for drafting the new membership category for Young Members. **Tom O'Brien** served as Board liaison for the Beautification Committee. Like all of the other members of the Board, Tom was and is actively involved in many things going on in the Club, from Tennis, to Paddle, to the Gardens.

In addition to the Board members, I want to thank the committee chairs who made sure that our Club operates smoothly. This year, our Tennis Committee had two new chairs, **Mike Freedman** and **Michelle Meth**, who worked endlessly at putting together a very successful schedule of events. It seemed every event this year, from Davis Cup to mixers to the Club Championship, were well attended and provided a good mix of competitive tennis and opportunity to socialize. Our paddle season last year was highlighted by an **APTA Men's National** Tournament, which saw some of the top players in the country come out and play in blizzard conditions. It was truly a unique experience to watch. Our Paddle chairs, **Kate and Jeff Morneau**, filled the scheduled from October to April and made sure that all levels of play were taken care of. In Junior Paddle, **Rick Plaut** led a very successful season; demand for lessons among our junior members was so high, we needed to hire an assistant. Our social calendar this year, chaired by **Amy Ratner** and **Wendy Upson**, saw the Spring Fling bring record numbers, and the tailgates and campouts were also well attended. A special thank you to **Sherri**



Ehrenberg for her work in getting new members involved.

In communications, **Moirra Murphy** has become our email blast “star,” constantly making sure that our events and communications go out in a timely manner. **Asa Nilsson** took on the task of getting the Guidebook all set. I urge all members to make sure that Asa has your correct email address, as this is important for both billing and notifications from the Club.

An email blast has already gone out with information about paddle contracts, and I urge every group to try to include someone new in their group this year. Just adding one new person to your group is a way to continue to grow the sport within our club. **Paddle 101 Clinic** is scheduled this year for **Sunday November 9, 2014**. We will again use an online reservation system for court reservations(www.reservemycourt.com). Also this year, we will be introducing a part time professional platform tennis instructor, **Courtia Worth**. I expect an email blast will go out shortly listing the hours is available for lessons. This is a great opportunity for both new and seasoned players to get some valuable lessons at the Field Club.

Finally, I urge everyone to get involved in the Club by volunteering to serve on a committee or chair a committee. The more active the membership is, the better it is for the Club. Over the last three years, I have seen how the Club works, and the Board and our committee structure is so essential to operations. A successful Board makes the Club operate smoothly, and I urge members to seek to be on the Board. I think you will find it worthwhile. We are a volunteer membership, and the more active membership we have, the less likely we rely on certain members. Hope to see you all on November 7th at the annual meeting, and I thank you for the opportunity to serve as Field Club President this year.

Take Care,

Gary M. Weiner



Farewell Fair Summer!

A fond farewell to gardening season at the Field Club, although at this point in early September, at least half of the gardens are still harvesting crops. No mirror is needed to say that this summer was the fairest summer of them all. It could be years before we are ever gifted with such a perfect growing season, or, for that matter, such a perfect summer for just about anything. The plots were all filled, planted, tended and productive!

We celebrated with a (very) small end-of-season Garden Party on August 21. Next year, we'll schedule a better time! Our little group feasted on way too many garden creations, nevertheless, and thoroughly enjoyed our annual tour around the plots.

Thank you to all the gardeners for taking full advantage of your little plot in the sun. See you all next spring! — *Darcy Durfee*

Lost and Found

The Tennis Pro Shop has a table overflowing with items left behind from the summer, from water bottles, to towels, to bathing suits, to tennis racquet covers and even chairs left at the Twin Hills Fire works night and the Labor Day tailgate picnic. The Pro shop is open Tuesday through Friday while Ann Boisvert teaches, or you can catch Jim G. as he readies the paddle courts or closes down the pool and Snuggery. Items left after Columbus Day will be donated to charity. — *Jim Girotti*

Wait List On the Move

The Field Club Wait List is ever changing, as new members are accepted and new candidates are added. Take a look to see where your candidate stands as of September 22, 2014:

Voted- in 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. Silva, Lani & Angie (Brais)
6. Silver, Steven & Patti (Gang)
7. Harris, Rodney & Tara (Norman)
8. Robinson, Pete & Katie (Dunbar)
9. Leshine, Bruce & Elizabeth (re-admit)
10. McKenna, Tim & Mary Ellen (re-admit)

Regular Wait List

1. Macdonald, Greg & Debbie (Ehrenberg)
2. Walsh, Michael & McLaughlin, Mary (Glenn)
3. Steinberg, Allison & Adam (Blumberg)
4. Goodhines, Jim & Lori (O'Reilly)
5. Trudeau, Matthew & Carolyn (Tourtelotte)
6. Matthews, Rich & Jennifer (Suher)
7. Weldon, Tom & Sue (Kratovil)

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Now is an excellent time to sponsor a candidate for membership!

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. Membership application packets can be requested from membership Chairperson Karen Brayton at

craig.brayton@verizon.net or

by calling 567-8436.

— *Karen Brayton*



Terrific Season for USTA Junior Teams



Congratulations to all members of the Field Club's USTA Junior Tennis Teams on an outstanding season, and best wishes to those heading to Nationals!

What a summer it was for Junior Tennis! Thirty juniors participated in the USTA Team Tennis over the summer, which started in mid-June. The season flew by for both teams, and each had great moments. To me, the greatest moments for both teams happened in the Western Mass Tournament.

In the Western Mass Tournament, 11 players from the Blue team and 12 players from the White team competed. The Blue roster consisted of **Jenny Brayton, Brooke and Pierce Leveillee, Ashley Edwards, Pat Burns, Will Hornyak, Ethan Purrington, Ben Rush, James Leone** and **Haley Gurski**. The White roster consisted of **Justin Brayton, Owen McGeer, Ryan Morneau, Adam Katz, Brendan Mailloux, Liam Knowlton, Hannah Adler, Maggie Kratovil, Libby McGeer, Jocelyn Mailloux, and Sami and Mia D'Angelo**. Overall, both teams fought tirelessly and represented the Field Club in a first-class way. Our teams came in first and third respectively, with the Blue Team moving on to the Sectional Tournament.

The Sectional Tournament was just as thrilling. Seven players played in this round, including Jenny Brayton, Ashley Edwards, Mia D'Angelo, Haley Gurski, Pat Burns, James Leone and Ethan Purrington. They worked so hard to get there and did not disappoint when getting to the big stage. After two days of battling for position, we came in second in the tournament. We were extremely fortunate, because the New England section got the "wild card" this year, meaning they would be sending the first *and* second place teams!

Now on to Nationals with a roster of Meghan Swanson, Jenny Brayton, Mia D'Angelo, Ashley Edwards, Pat Burns, Matt Adler, Ethan Purrington, Ben Rush and James Leone. I could not have asked for more from any of the players this summer. They did such an amazing job, and all have improved a great deal. I hope they all took one thing from me: learn to love the game competitively. I also could not have been able to coach without the help of both **Mrs. Burns and Mrs. McGeer**. They were my lifesavers and made everything possible. — *Coach PJ*

Tennis News

Special thanks go out to Tennis Co-Chairs **Michelle Meth** and **Mike Freedman**. They did an outstanding job of recruiting all the hosts who successfully ran all the mixers and tournaments. The number of members who participated in these events has been growing each year. The Davis Cup alone had the biggest crowd that anyone can remember. Special thanks also go to those new hosts who stepped up to get involved.

Thank you to **Jim Girotti** and his maintenance crew for keeping the courts in such great shape! Last, but not least, thanks to **Anne Boisvert** (29 years) for doing a fantastic job teaching and managing a great tennis staff.

—*Scott Brindle*

Wine And Dine Mixer

Once again, the Fall Classic Mixer brought out the biggest crowd! Forty-five members participated in a friendly competitive tennis mixer, skillfully directed by **Tom O'Brien**. Some other members came out just to enjoy Chef Gerrit's Mediterranean wine and culinary delights... steamed mussels, grilled sausages, Italian meats and cheeses, along with a leg of lamb! The wines were carefully hand picked to compliment each dish. Well done, **Gerrit Toebe**s and Tom O'Brien. — *Scott Brindle*

Congratulations to Our 2014 Tennis Champions

Men's Singles: *Jeff Morneau over Rick Steele*

Ladies' Singles: *Kate Morneau over Marna Shields*

Men's Doubles: *Hans Doup & Dan Torres over Jay Kimmel & Jim Barnhart*

Ladies' Doubles: *Michelle Ditomassi & Alexis Ditomassi over Sam Edwards & Katie Kroon*

Mixed Doubles: *Jeff Morneau & Marna Shields over Mike Freedman & Jen Goodman*



Congratulations Mixed Doubles Champions

It was a warm and humid day with the potential for rain, but the skies held out for the exciting Mixed Doubles Championships on September 6. Eight teams competed, and each played 3 matches with consolation rounds, affording lots of tennis to the competitors.

A wonderful lunch was catered by Grapevine restaurant owners and Field Club members **Liz and George Kollias**. The matches were amazing and entertained the spectators who came to enjoy the fun and face-paced tennis. The eventual champions were crowned, as **Marna Shields** and **Jeff Morneau** bested the runner-up team of **Jenna Goodman** and **Mike Freedman**.

Many thanks to **Annie** for running the tournament, to **Eve** for assisting, and to **Jim** for providing breakfast munchies and making sure everything went smoothly from start to finish!

—*Tom and Connie Gould*

Junior Paddle Starts Soon!

Rick Plaut has inspired many of our younger members with lessons throughout the paddle season. He will do so again this year on Tuesdays. The Junior Paddle clinics are an introduction to platform tennis and a great way to improve skills. Most importantly, they are a way to see friends, make new ones and have a ton of fun. It doesn't matter if you have never played before or are already tournament tested — come on out! We play Tuesday afternoons starting up in November. Beginners and Advanced Beginners (ages 10+) play Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Intermediate clinics (ages 12+) are Tuesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

There is no charge for the clinics; however, space is limited to the first 12 players per clinic and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Call or email coach Rick Plaut to sign up for the sessions: 413-567-0950, rickplaut@comcast.net. Junior Paddle Clinic sessions are as follows:

Session I: November 4, 11, 18, 25

Session II: December 2, 9, 16, 23

Session III: January 6, 13, 20, 27

Session IV: February 3, 10, 17, 24

Session V: March 3, 10, 17, 24

— Rick Plaut/Jeff Morneau

Now Recruiting for Ladies B Paddle Team

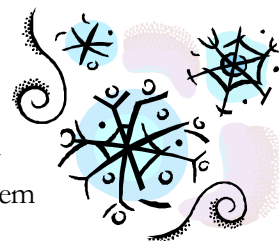
It's that time of year to begin thinking of the Ladies B Paddle Team. We are looking for women who are seasoned paddle players and would like to step their game up a notch with a little competitive paddle against other clubs, but in a relaxed atmosphere. Practices are on Thursdays at 1 p.m. and Wednesday mornings (time to be discussed). Matches are on Fridays at 9 a.m., and we do travel to other clubs in Connecticut.

In order to play in a match, you **MUST** practice with the team on Thursday. It's a great group, and we have a lot of fun!

Please consider joining us. If interested, contact Ginny Hyde at Geegeer2000@gmail.com.
— Ginny Hyde

Next Deadline January 21

The deadline for the next edition of *The Baseline*, the first one of 2015, will be **Wednesday, January 21, 2015**. The issue will be distributed in early February. Please send your submissions to Editor Lee-Anne Sprague at lsprague7@cox.net. You can send information and photos anytime between now and then and she will keep them on file.



Fun for All at Cocktail Party

A good time was had by all at the Cocktail Party on July 19th. The evening was cool and crisp, as 15 or so couples talked, laughed, drank and enjoyed oh-so-pretty appetizers and delicious desserts to the sound of music spun by Longmeadow Highschooler **Manny Fernandez**. Later in the evening, conversation gave way to a very competitive bean-bag toss... a Field Club favorite. A great way to spend a Saturday night! — Mary Oh



Paddle Season Has Arrived...

... to help get you started, here's some useful news and information from the Paddle Committee:

Summer Paddle — Those of you who played paddle throughout the summer...you have an edge on the rest of us. The Field Club hosted its Second Annual Summer paddle gathering on one of the most beautiful summer days in July. There were nine people who were ready, willing, and able to play, and fun was had by all.

Contract Times — Contract times officially begin October 14, 2014 (after Columbus Day) and run through the end of April 2015. Contract dates, times, captains, and groups for the prime hours on Monday through Thursday will be posted on the website and in the paddle hut. The following “spots” are still open for contract groups or for reservation through the reservation line (413-594-1230): Monday (3 courts @ 5:30 p.m.; 2 @ 8:30 p.m.); Tuesday (2 courts @ 5:30 p.m.; 1 @ 7 p.m.; 1 @ 8:30 p.m.); Wednesday (4 courts @ 5:30 p.m.); Thursday (2 courts @ 5:30 p.m.; 1 @ 7 p.m.; 1 @ 8:30 p.m.).

A few “contract” rules to remember:

- A “contract” is a commitment to use the court on a regular basis. As a courtesy to other members, please inform the paddle chair via e-mail as soon as possible if your group is not going to use a “contract” court so that other members will know that it is available for their use (especially the 7 p.m. times).
- A member can only be part of two contract groups.
- A “contract” must have 6 members per court.

Season Schedule — The season schedule will be posted on the website and in paddle hut. A copy of the schedule is also featured on page 8 of this newsletter.

Court Reservation — All courts must be reserved through the on-line reservation system at www.reservemycourt.com. Instructions for signing up and reserving courts are included in this newsletter (page 8), will be sent as an e-mail blast, and can be found on the website.

New Players — Want to play? Don’t know where to start? You need to **SAVE THE DATE for Paddle 101... Sunday, November 9, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** This is a FREE clinic run by members for members. We will introduce you to the game of Platform Tennis and other players. Most of us have had no formal instruction but started by getting on a sub list and learned by playing... with a little help from our member friends. Also, you will have an opportunity to hone the skills you learn at Paddle 101 during the Field Club mixers.

Platform Tennis Lessons — **Courtia Worth**, a PPTA certified professional, will be the *exclusive* teaching professional at the Field Club. Courtia has been the director of Platform Tennis at Hartford Golf Club since 2005 and has a vast amount of playing and teaching experience. Lessons are available for men, women, adults, children, beginners, intermediates, and advanced players. Please contact Courtia directly by e-mail at cworth@hartfordgolfclub.org or by phone/text at 914-466-0856 for her pricing and availability.

Contact Info — Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Paddle Committee members (**Jeff Morneau** and **Jenna Goodman**) regarding any questions or concerns you may have about Platform Tennis (paddle). Jeff can be reached at jmorneau@cmolawyers.com and Jenna can be reached at jennag98@gmail.com.

— Jeff Morneau

2014-2015 Platform Tennis Events

Kick Off Mixer

Friday, October 17, 2014
7 to 10 p.m.

Paddle 101 Clinic

Sunday, November 9, 2014
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Davis Cup

Saturday, November 15, 2014
8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

APTA Event (Men's 95+)

Saturday, November 22, 2014
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Men's Wanna Be

Saturday, December 6, 2014
9 am to 5 p.m.

Paddle Clinic/Exhibition

Friday, January 9, 2015
5 to 10 p.m.

APTA Event (Men's National)

Saturday, January 10, 2015
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Men's A/B Tournament

Sunday, January 18, 2015
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Men's Superbowl Event

Sunday, February 01, 2015
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Women's Oscars Event

Sunday, February 22, 2015
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

APTA Event (Women's Open)

Saturday, February 28, 2015
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mixed Championship

Saturday, March 14, 2015
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Men's A/Men's B/Women's Open Championship

Saturday, March 28, 2015
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

End of Season Mixer

Sunday, April 12, 2015
5 to 8 p.m.

Platform Tennis Online Court Reservation System

Creating a Login Name and Password:

1. Go to www.reservemycourt.com
2. Click "Sign Up for Free" (under "Tennis Players can . . .")
3. Fill-in your user information
 - a. Home facility – use drop down box to locate Field Club of Longmeadow
 - b. First name
 - c. Last name
 - d. Telephone number (use cell phone)
 - e. E-mail (use an e-mail address you can get on your cell phone if possible)
4. Reservation confirmation – pick the way you want your reservations confirmed
5. Login information
 - a. Username (choose a username and remember what it is)
 - b. Password (choose a password and remember what it is)
6. Telephone login information
 - a. User Code (last four of social security in case you make a telephone reservation)
 - b. Pin (choose a pin and remember what it is)

Reserving a Court:

1. Go to www.reservemycourt.com
 2. Login using your username and password (in upper right corner)
 3. Click on "Reservations" (on the left side of the page)
 4. Make your court reservation
 - a. Use the calendar on the left to navigate to the correct day that you want to reserve the court for
 - b. Use the "Enter Reservation Here" Section to select your court (1-5), start time, and finish time
 - c. You can see what courts and times are available in the calendar at the bottom – make sure you are looking at the correct day
 - d. You are limited by to making reservations only 7 days in advance and cannot reserve a court for more than 1.5 hours.
 5. Click "Reserve My Court"
 6. Court reservation will be confirmed
 7. Click to print or view on schedule
 8. You should also get an e-mail and/or text of your reservation
- Telephone reservations can be made by calling:
1-877-ON-COURT (1-877-662-6878).