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# THE BASELINE

## *Field Club News*

April 2016

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### A Message from the President

**A**s I sat in my living room on the first day of spring, I looked out my window and saw the fresh, but repugnant snow that blanketed my grass the previous night. I thought, “who isn’t tired of the winter?” Two days earlier, the sun was shining, cardinals were performing their mating rituals, and the crocuses were protruding through the ground. I fully expected to receive an email blast from **Darcy Durfee** beckoning all gardeners to clean up their plots! Fortunately, the snow melted away quickly and the beginning of our spring/summer season is now within sight.

And speaking of spring, another harbinger of the change of seasons is the Spring Fling on April 1, which will likely have taken place by the time you receive this newsletter. This year, we expect 125 members and guests to enjoy an evening of camaraderie, a fine beverage or two and entertaining moves on the dance floor by the likes of **Jamie and Elyse Dunbar**! Our venue for the annual gala is the Springfield Country Club. For those of you who are attending or thinking of attending, it is a great opportunity to get reacquainted with friends and a chance to meet both new and prospective members. It is always an enjoyable evening on our Field Club calendar.

I want to remind everyone that at our annual meeting in November, I pledged to close our gap in family memberships and rebuild our waitlist. As of this publication, I am happy to report that we have sent out eight applications for membership, with seven family openings. I fully expect the family openings will be filled by Memorial Day. We also see an increase in interest in receiving information about the Field Club. We have formed a Membership Drive committee, chaired by **Chris Nicholson**, to develop new initiatives to spark interest in joining our club. Having said this, Chris and her committee cannot do this alone. I think it is incumbent on all of us take an active part in attracting new members to our club. We expect to see

an increase in family memberships move into senior status in the next couple of years. As more members move into this membership category, new family memberships open up. We need to build up our waitlist, and we all need to do what we can to help support the committee and Club. Remember, initiation fees pay for a substantial part of our expenses every year.

To help build our waitlist this year, we will be offering new applicants the opportunity to pay the initiation fee over twelve months instead of just three months. We also plan on having three open houses on the following dates: April 30, 3 to 5 p.m.; May 22, 1 to 3 p.m.; and June 19, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. **Rick Plaut** and **Jamie Dunbar** are working with **Chris Nicholson** on our Facebook page and other social media sites to attract new members. Please remember that **Connie Pierson** is our membership chair, and all applications come from and are returned to her.

Other news of interest, as previously announced, **Jim Girotti** will be retiring at the end of June. We don’t know how the Club will function without him, but we are moving ahead to find his successor. Our Search Committee, headed by **John Glenn** and **Ryan Shanks**, has been interviewing candidates to fill Jim’s spot and has narrowed it down to two contenders. I would like to be able to introduce Jim’s successor at the Spring Fling. We are planning a poolside retirement party for Jim on **June 18**. I hope that many past and present Field Club members will be able to attend. More specifics on the event will be forthcoming from **Mona Swanson**.

The paddle season has been very busy, despite the number of rain out days and evenings. Our

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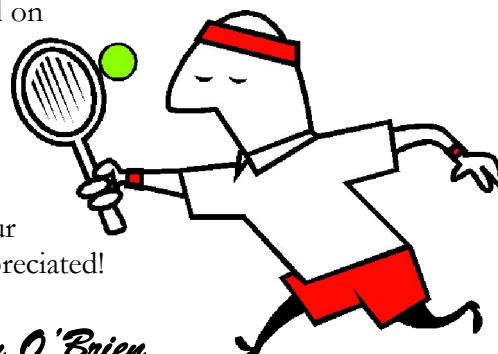
## ... A Message from the President (continued)

new paddle chairs, **Tom Keitzman** and **Jenna Goodman**, should be applauded for their organizational skills and for keeping our courts busy. We had courts 1-3 repainted in the fall, and just two players lost their footings due to the new paint. Did **Glenn Snyder** and **Steve Gelling** regain their self-respect? Hey, not an easy surface to play on! The Club's paddle championships were held on March 19, hosted by **Tom Keitzman**, **Sara Suchy**, **Chris Nicholson** and **Tom O'Brien**, with our grill apprentice **Ken Vincunas**, who didn't know you can grill more than two burgers and two dogs at a time! Let's congratulate the men's A paddle champions, **John Hughes** and **Craig Waddington**; the women's A paddle champions, **Marna Shields** and **Kathy Waddington**; and the men's B champions, **David Appleman** and **Tom O'Brien**. Congratulations to our winners and the 36 players who played in the tournament. A few other notable paddle events this year were the 7<sup>th</sup> Women's Pioneer APTA tournament held at the Field Club and the APTA National's held in Darien, CT. The women's event was held on February 27 and hosted by **Asa Nilsson** and **Kate Morneau**. Twenty-four teams participated and it was won by our own **Lindsey Herchel** and her partner, **Mary Gambale**. The APTA National's saw participation from **John Hughes**, **Jeff Morneau**, **Craig Waddington**, **Hans Doup**, **Will Hershel**, **Kate Morneau**, **Lindsey Herchel** and **Trish Bloom**. The Field Club can now boast of having two nationally ranked players; **John Hughes** is ranked #13 while **Jeff Morneau** is ranked #20. Congratulations to both John and Jeff on this great feat!

As the paddle season is winding down, the long awaited tennis and pool season is just around the corner. Mark your calendars for Volunteer Day, which will be held on May 14. We will be cleaning up the grounds and painting the Snuggery. Last year, we had over fifty members participate and hope to have that many again this year. Please continue to spread the word that the Field Club of Longmeadow is a family-focused tennis and swim club that welcomes new members.

Thanks to all of the members who have volunteered to join our committees and host and play in our paddle events. It is much appreciated!

— *Tom O'Brien*



### *A Memorial Tribute*

*Effective this issue, we will be dedicating this space as a tribute to Field Club members who have passed away. Names will be included as we are notified. Please take a moment to reflect on the lives of these individuals. Our thoughts are with their families.*

**Paul Doherty**  
*Founding Member*

**Roberta Doering**  
*Charter Member of Field Club*  
*Past President 1973*

**Luayne Schwartz**



### **Save the Wolf Swamp Fields** *We Need Your Vote!*

A petition for the Town Meeting warrant will be read at our next town meeting on **May 3**. The petition asks the town "to continue to use the Wolf Swamp fields for their original intended purpose as recreational fields for the Town of Longmeadow in perpetuity. We also ask the Select Board not to consider this site for a future DPW or other commercial or town development."

Please attend the **May 3** town meeting and vote "yes" to the citizen petition on the warrant to stop the DPW from building on the Wolf Swamp fields.

## Around the Plots

The prospect of an early spring has garden-minded members pretty excited, especially after last year's epic late arrival. There are a couple of vacant garden plots this year looking for a new family to adopt them. Plots are "rented out" for a fee of \$15 per year. Their upkeep is solely dependent on the gardener who adopts them, but a water source and a shed full of tools is provided. Also, great sunshine, warm earth, tranquility, fellow gardener camaraderie, and the prospect of delicious vegetables and proliferate bouquets of blossoms are included with each plot!

Realistically, it requires an average of 2 hours a week to maintain a plot – watering in dry spells and weekly weeding. Extra time translates directly to extra results! It is a bit of work with a big pay off, and we have a lot of fun out there. Each season, we have a Garden Party get-together to

socialize, feast, and talk gardens! If you have young children at the Club, it is a great way to fill their lesson time. Some members share a plot, which works out well to divide the weeding chores and water when the other is away.

If you are interested in gardening a plot this season, please email Darcy at [dfdurfee@gmail.com](mailto:dfdurfee@gmail.com). If I get more than two interested members, I will pull names from a hat.



Happy Spring to all! — Darcy Durfee

## From the Manager's Desk

### ***Lost and Found***

The Paddleball season is winding down, and we have many LOST and FOUND items in the back room "cubbies" near the bulletin board. Please check out the hats, gloves, water bottles, towels, etc. Any item left after April 30th will be donated to charity.

### ***Paddle Sales***

I have several brand new paddles in stock ready for sale. If you'd like to check them out, please contact me. I have a new Wilson BLX "Lite Stick" with a 4 1/4 grip, a Viking "Smash" with a 4 grip, a gray and neon Viking "O Zone" with a 4 1/4 grip, a black and orange Viking "O Zone" with a 4 1/4 grip and, finally, a Wilson "Steam Lite" with a 4 1/2 grip.

### ***Demo Paddles***

I have one left for \$60.00. It is a Wilson BLX "Juice Pro" with a 4 1/2 grip.

— Jim Girotti

## Volunteers Needed for Social Events

Greetings and happy spring! After a long winter, we are eagerly anticipating the summer. We look forward to many sunny days spent at the pool and tennis courts.

The social season is upon us. We hope you all enjoyed the Spring Fling. It was a wonderful night filled with dancing, food and friends. We look forward to a busy summer, with the 4th of July celebration, adult social mixer at the pool and the Labor Day cookout. We are looking for volunteers to help us coordinate the details. It's a fun way to get involved and to meet new people.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to host, please contact either Victoria Wright or Molly Orr. — Victoria Wright



## Field Club Waitlist

Take a look to see where your candidate stands as of April 1, 2016:

### Regular Wait List

- Case, Brian and Charlene (Friedberg)
- Novotney, Pete and Deb (Kenny)
- Talati, Rakesh (Kenny)
- Kriz, Jan and Petra (Swanson)
- Bone, Nick and Elizabeth (Doyle)
- Arnold, Jaimee (Steiger)
- Krein, Christopher & Sandra (Welch)

## Attention Members

Have you been asked to sponsor someone into The Field Club? If so, contact the membership chair for instructions on how to help your candidate become a member.

The Membership Chair is **Connie Pierson**. She can be reached at 567-5924 or by email at [bobconniep@comcast.net](mailto:bobconniep@comcast.net). If you need an application packet, please contact Connie. If you are the sponsor and have a completed application packet to submit, send it to Connie by email or to 85 Pinewood Drive, Longmeadow, MA 01106.

Names are added to the waitlist as soon as the completed application is received.

Now is an excellent time to sponsor a candidate for membership.— *Connie Pierson*

## Spring is in the Air!

The days are getting longer, the tennis courts are being groomed, and the paddle season is on the wane...

...and that means it's time to get the flower beds and borders all cleaned up and planted out for the summer. If you feel like getting your hands in the dirt and adding a dash of colorful flowers to the Club landscape, you should join the Beautification Committee.

Each spring, the Committee plants the annuals around the Club and coaxes the perennials back into shape. During the summer, we look after the plantings, watering, fertilizing and keeping them looking good through the fall.

Last spring, the Board asked us to improve the Wolf Swamp entrance to the Club. To improve the appearance and to increase visibility for drivers, the older, overgrown shrubs were removed. In September, we planted mums, some grasses and hydrangeas, courtesy of Tom O'Brien (thank you, Mr. President). This season, we hope to continue working on the entrance, as well as survey the grounds for areas that need attention.

If you'd like to join the Beautification Committee, please email John Abbott at : [abbo614@msn.com](mailto:abbo614@msn.com). Our first meeting will be in the paddle hut on a Saturday or Sunday in mid April, hope you can join us! — *John Abbott*

## Strong FC Turnout for Pioneer Valley Women's Open

The 7th Annual Pioneer Valley Women's Open, hosted at the Field Club of Longmeadow, was a huge success with 24 teams and weather that was just perfect! Like last year, the day was busy but well coordinated by the tournament directors, **Asa Nilsson** and **Kate Morneau**, as well as by two paddle enthusiasts' and gentlemen, **Tom Kietzman** and **Per Nilsson**.

**Lindsey Herchel** and **Mary Gambale**, in their matching hats, defeated last year's champions, **Kelly Canniff** and **Yvonne Ting**. The Consolation winners, after six matches, were sisters **Anna Asphar** and **Mary Stichter**. The Consolation Reprieve title went to **Leslie Haskins** and **Polly Handy**, while the Quarter Reprieve title went to **Kerry Alvino** and **Natalie Sanders**.

The best part about the day was the large number of Field Club members that played, including **Asa Nilsson**, **Kate Morneau**, **Marna Shields**, **Kathy Waddington**, **Linda Boborodea**, **Lisa Doherty Jenna Goodman**, **Sherri Ehrenberg**, **Leslie Haskins** (former long time member) and **Lindsay Herchel** (daughter of Cathy and Dennis Herchel).  
— *Asa Nilsson*





# **2016 Platform Tennis Club Championships**

The Field Club Paddle Championships were a success, with 16 teams participating in the Men's, and four teams participating in the women's. The weather was just perfect!

**John Hughes** and **Craig Waddington** took the "Men's Open" title in a well-played match over perennial finalists **Naren Dhamodharan** and **Mike Shields**. **David Appleman** and **Tom O'Brien** were victorious ( and totally spent by the end of their fourth match of the day, three of which went three sets) over up-and-comers **Pete Mancuso** and **Bill Swanson** in the "Men's B". The "Women's Open" champs were **Marna Shield** and **Kathy Waddington** over **Stacie Mancuso** and **Sara Suchy** in the finals, which were a best-three-of-five set affair this year. Marna and Kathy had to squeak past the Williams sisters in the quarters ( yes, Serena and Venus ) to even make the finals!

Needless to say, it was a good day for the Waddington family !

The Field Club's membership really stepped up to put on a great day of fun and paddle. Special thanks go out to all who helped out, including **David Appleman** (Paddle Hut Setup), **Chris Nicholson** (Provision Planning), **Ken Vincunas** (Grill Master ), **Sara Suchy** and **Stacie Mancuso** (Cleanup), **Mike Shields** (Official Photographer), and our President **Tom O'Brien** (Adult Beverage Taste Tester and Appraiser).

Another great day to be a member of the Longmeadow Field Club ! — *Your Hosts, Jenna Goodman and Tom Kietzman, Field Club Paddle Co-Chairs*



## **Pre-Game Mixer a "Souper" Time for All!**

The Pleets hosted a Pre Souper Bowl Paddle Mixer on January 24th. It was well attended by 24 people. After a beautiful sunshine-filled afternoon of friendly mixed paddle (partners determined by David's clever dice roll method!), everyone socialized afterwards with a wonderful bowl of hot chicken lentil soup, breads, and salad. Thanks to all who participated!

— *David and Jackie Pleet*





## Super Bowl Paddle Mixer

This is the only Field Club event for which people sign up not for really wanting to play paddle, but because they really want to eat **Chef Barry's** Cajun-style food! He should participate in Top Chef. We should be able to hire him as a home chef for special occasions...

Since **Dave Appleman** put together the play schedule, it was ensured that there would be good, quite-even matches. Everybody was guaranteed to play three rounds of eight pro-set matches. Paddle got underway under sunny skies; however, cooking could not commence due to an empty propane cylinder. **Brian Prast** rushed out to Rocky's to get a new one, and Barry still got his food ready for lunch time. Once again, he lived up to expectations – delicious spicy chicken and an assortment of other dishes that made the available beverages even taste better...

After lunch, it was a free-for-all pick up match event which lasted, for many, till late afternoon. Another great day at the Field Club! – *Dave Appleman and Gerrit Toebe*s



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## Ladies Paddle "B" Team Takes the Trophy

The Field Club Ladies Paddle "B" Team finished first this year in the Valley Paddle "B" league. Matched against teams from Simsbury Farms, Avon Golf Club, Longmeadow Country Club, Hopmeadow Country Club and Hartford Golf Club, the Field Club ladies played each team three times throughout this past winter. Dedicated team members played at home and away on frosty Friday mornings and brought all their skill and good-sportsmanship from the Field Club.

Each of four positions played three full sets and accumulated a point for each set on. Despite leading after the first of three flights, the scores

remained close. The Field Club sealed the league win over Hopmeadow in the very last match of the season, with a total of 125 points (Hopmeadow finished in 2nd with 118 points).

Team members included: **Craig Carr, Amy Corsetti, Mary Dibble, Sherri Ehrenberg, Jenna Goodman, Marsha Harbison, Becky Hatch, Lisa Katz, Liz Kollias, Angela Kuhr, Carolyn Marchese, Michelle Meth, Moira Murphy, Cindy, O'Malley, Susanne Osofsky, Rosaria Pepper, Connie Pierson, Marcia Snyder, Pam Stewart, Mona Swanson, Wendy Webber, Sonia Zeroogian** and our biggest fans, **Sue Monks** and **Ronnie Leavitt**!

Congratulations to all for a wonderful 2015-2016 season! — *Sherri Ehrenberg*



## Rave Reviews for Oscar Paddle 2016

In keeping with Field Club tradition, the ladies gathered for some paddle and Oscar-themed fun in February. We rolled out the red carpet, selected our movie “teams” and hit the courts.

There is no scientific process to our winner selection, but we sure have some fun tallying up the points. The ladies arrived in Oscar glam – furs, boas, gems and jewels that were truly red carpet worthy. The fashion police had to stop **Ginger Reiter** at the door with her “mop” prop (see the picture). While mops aren’t glamorous, she was granted entry and ultimately walked off with Best Costume award for her character portrayal from the film *JOY*. Thanks for your creativity, Ginger! The competition was stiff as we had some great character costumes for *Brooklyn*, *The Revenant* and *Martian* (**Ellen McKenna**, **Karla Shea**, **Catherine Landry** and **Anita Hoag**).

Twenty-two players came ready and, despite some cheating, answered all of the Oscar trivia that my clever co-chair, **Sonia Zeroogian**, could throw at them. After the paddle fun, we gathered for a wonderful Iron Chef catered dinner in our Paddle Palace!

The weather couldn’t have been better, and several random rounds of paddle were played. The movie tallying the most points in our red carpet extravaganza did not ultimately win at the big event in California. We had some fun discussing the Oscar nominations and making predictions on the winners.

If you could not join us this year, the Ladies Oscar Paddle Mixer is an annual event, so put it on your calendar for next year!

Now that’s a wrap!

— *Carolyn Marchese and Sonia Zeroogian, Event Co-chairs*

