THE BASELINE

Field Club News



February 2017

A Message from the NEW President

reetings Field Club members! Welcome to the first edition of the 2017 *Baseline*, which now includes new sections to keep you updated on club happenings. I am honored and excited to serve as president of the Field Club. This year, we have some lofty goals planned to keep our club running smoothly and offer great opportunities for our members.

The most recent presidential email blast outlined our goals for the year. The priority for our club is to fill our membership gap and build a wait list. Our revenues are derived from the annual dues and initiation fees. We need to all work to fill the gap by sponsoring new members and spreading the word to family members, friends, co-workers and neighbors – be creative! This club is more than a racquet and pool facility. It is a special memberowned club where friendships are made that will last a lifetime. We need to spread that message.

To encourage your participation in the membership drive, we will streamline the application process and will be offering members an incentive to become a sponsor (see the membership section by **Connie Pierson** on page 3 for details).

We will also be working on marketing initiatives to achieve our goals. Some of these initiatives include placing ads for our open houses, updating our website design and logo, posting on Facebook and issuing press releases for club events. This is a whole new era for the club; for the second year in a row we have a membership gap that needs to be filled. I am confident, with your help, we can fill this gap and even create a wait list.

We are actively implementing new marketing initiatives and have the board and volunteers thinking outside the box. Any ideas members have, please contact **Rick Plaut**, as he is working with a marketing group headed by **Anita Hoag**.

I would like to thank the current and outgoing board members: **Tom O'Brien, Mike Doyle** and **Meralee Kratovil**, for devoting their time and energy towards the betterment of the club. Their contributions were invaluable.

Tom O'Brien, as president, was able to steer the club through a major transition for the general manager position. Tom formed a talented committee comprised of Ryan Shanks, John Glenn, David Fuller, Lisa Doherty and Jamie Dunbar to search, interview and select a new general manager.

The team selected **Jeff Dubiel**, who has been busy updating, maintaining and planning the club's facility needs. He is currently working hard to find a Snuggery replacement for Eileen Mason, who retired this past year as well. In addition, he is overseeing our large pool renovation that began in the fall of 2016. This project will save the club substantial money and extend the life of the pool for another 8 - 10 years. The budgeted cost of this renovation is \$50,000. This fall, if you were at the club – even on weekends – they were sandblasting all the walls. This is a major project. When the snow melts and the *pollen has settled,* they will be back to finish the job. We are targeting our normal pool opening; however, we are at the mercy of mother nature being kind and giving us a warm early spring. Check out our new Manager's Corner for pool updates and other facility and member alerts.

We will be planning a grand pool opening not to be missed. Our pool is a big draw for our club and a true gem. I am looking forward to jumping in and swimming a few laps in the renovated pool!

The pool area is not the only area being updated. The women's tennis bathroom was renovated in the fall and the men's bathroom will be updated this spring. Jeff has been hard at work managing those projects as well.

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President's Message (continued)

This year we started the **Paul Doherty Award** and **David Appleman** was the first recipient. This award reflects the values the Field Club places on volunteerism, sportsmanship and keeping in the tradition and legacy to those who founded the Field Club. We were fortunate that Paul's daughters **Linda, Lisa** and **Brenda** were on hand to present the inaugural award. The theme of volunteering is integral to the success of the Field Club.

Our paddle season has taken off with a smash, with **Jeff Morneau** and his partner winning a National tournament held at the Field Club. Also well attended were the Men's 95+ tournament and the Women's and Men's A/B paddle tournaments. The women came out on a cold Sunday morning and had a great time for the first year of what we hope will be an annual event. **Asa Nilsson** and **Chris Nicholson** did a bang up job hosting, thank you! We also have had busy courts during our contract times and the courts are active on weekends, as well. **Kelly Coniff** will be offering members paddle clinics and private lessons as previously announced. Kelly is off and running improving all our games!

The junior paddle season is in full swing with **Glenn Snyder** and his assistant **Sam Freedman**.

The Ladies Oscar Paddle Mixer will be coming in a few weeks. Ladies get your red carpet look ready. See the article to follow for **Carolyn Marchese** and **Sonia Zeroogian's** event details. Men, get ready to sport your favorite team shirt (Patriots? or the Falcons?) for the Annual Pre-Superbowl LI Paddle Event hosted by **David Appleman, John Abbott, Brian Prast** and **Gerrrit Toebes.**

It is hard to believe but we are already planning for our spring season. Look for information in this issue on the Annual Spring Clean Up and The Spring Fling. Planning is underway for our tennis events. Jamie Dunbar has been brainstorming with **Ann Boisvert** to create more opportunities to play and lining up the events, chairs and hosts. One new event we are very excited about is a member trip to the US open (latest details page 9). **Lori McMahon** has also been busy planning

with the Pool chairs.

In closing I would like to encourage members to sponsor a new member, volunteer for an activity, attend the events and enjoy our club. Please feel free to contact me or any members of the board with any questions or ideas. We are looking forward to a great year!

All the best,





Happy Year of the Rooster!

A Memorial Tribute

The Field Club family was profoundly saddened by the recent passing of three longtime members:

Cathy Grayboff Mary Ann Olsen Carlene Stephens

Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and loved ones.

They will be missed by many.



Annual Meeting Review

The annual meeting was held November 4, 2016, at Twin Hills Country Club and was well attended by a fun crowd. Details of the Field Club business were discussed in between cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. We wished a fond farewell to the following outgoing board members:

Tom O'Brien Mike Doyle Meralee Kravotil

...and welcomed the following new board members:

Steve Ehrenberg Mark Cress

Planning a Party? Don't Forget...

...If you are planning a party with more than twelve guests, you will need to submit a request to the Board, in writing, a month ahead of the party date. Also, please remember that guest slips are outside the paddle hut under the thermometer or in the kitchen. Please refer to the Guidebook if you have any questions. — *Mona Swanson*



Welcome to the New General Manager's Corner!

Pool Renovation

We are currently waiting for the arrival of spring to complete the major pool renovation that was started in the fall. Anticipated Grand Opening (assuming the pollen season does not cause a delay) is the regular opening date. Painting of the pool can only begin once the pollen is no longer in the air.

Tennis Bathrooms

The women's Tennis bathroom has been remodeled. The men's Tennis bathroom is currently in the planning stages of being remodeled.

Paddle Courts

We have installed new door stops on the main entry doors. Gourmet flavored coffee and hot chocolate is now available in the paddle hut.

Miscellaneous Projects

There are many painting projects in the works for this spring. Please save the date for our Annual Spring Clean Up on Saturday, May 6, 2017.

Snuggery Manager Replacement

We are in the process of looking for a new Snuggery Manager. Please send us any ideas and contacts you know that would be interested in this position. The position requires a Serv Safe Certification and previous work experience in the food industry.

Items For Sale

Don't forget to try one of the demo paddles, located in the paddle hut. On sale are paddle balls, paddles and protective eye-wear.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

— Jeff Dubiel

The Field Club has Membership Openings

As Moira states in her first letter as president, "This is a whole new era for the Field Club." Never before have we had back-to-back years with unfilled openings. The membership, as a whole, has to work together to fill these openings. You are our only resource for attracting new members. Please consider becoming a sponsor.

The board has instituted a limited time rewards program. Anyone who sponsors a family that accepts a Family Membership will receive a \$100 account credit. Anyone who sponsors an individual who accepts an Adult Membership will receive a \$50 account credit. This rewards program will remain in effect until membership is full.

The application process has been simplified a bit. We still need the application, sponsor form and letter. The seconder and supporter will no longer be required to submit a letter; the form will suffice.

Please email me at bobconniep@comcast.net to obtain application documents.

- Connie Pierson



Paul Doherty Service Award Honoring a Field Club Legacy



David Appleman was the first recipient of the Field Club's Paul Doherty Service Award.

At the 2016 Annual Meeting, Linda, Lisa and Brenda Doherty presented David Appleman with the first Paul Doherty Service Award for his many years of service and outstanding contributions to the Field Club. The service award was initiated by the Board back in June, as a small way to honor Paul's legacy to the Field Club. Among his many contributions to the club, Paul was our founding governor who helped put together the financing to purchase the property and start the club. The Doherty family was thrilled to present the award to David, who has volunteered his time and energy to host both social and sporting events, serve on the Board, and provide assistance whenever needed. Congratulations, David! - Tom O'Brien

Fun for All at Oktoberfest

Music, beer, time with friends and great food – the makings of a great party. Well, it was! More than 35 members gathered to kick off the paddle season with the annual Oktoberfest Mixer sponsored by **Jonathan and Mindy Spencer** and **Steve and Sherri Ehrenberg**. With very seasoned players and some very new players on court, we had some terrific paddle matches and even more fun hanging around the food table, sampling the beer and catching up with friends we hadn't seen since the pool closed. Thanks to everyone who turned out to make a fantastic start to the paddle season. Watch for the 2017 Oktoberfest... always a lively night! – *Sherri Ehrenberg*

Volunteer Shout Out

Thank you to our volunteer hosts and committee members for making our events and programs possible. You keep the Field Club activities running and vibrant!

Newly Formed Marketing Committee Rick Plaut, Anita Hoag, AJ Steinberg, Todd Cieplik, Ryan Shanks

Annual Meeting Hosting/Organizing Mona Swanson

Davis Cup Paddle EventMona Swanson, AJ Steinberg

Paddle 101 Clinic

David Appleman, Gerrit Toebes, Per and Asa Nilsson, Gary and Candy Weiner, Rick and Carol Plaut

Men's National APTA Paddle Tournament Jeff Morneau, Dave Fuller, Per Nilsson, Tom Kietzman

Men's Paddle APTA 95+ Tournament Gary Weiner, Tom O'Brien

Oktoberfest Paddle Mixer

Steve and Sherri Ehrenberg, Jonathan and Mindy Spencer

Women's A/B Paddle Tournament Asa Nilsson, Chris Nicholson

Men's A/B Paddle Tournament David Appleman, Tom Kietzman

Hearty Soup & Hardy Paddle Mixer Dave and Jackie Pleet

Jr. Paddle

Glenn Snyder, Sam Freedman



First Annual Women's A/B Paddle Mixer

On a snowy, cold Sunday morning, the first annual Women's A/B Paddle Mixer was enjoyed by 31 players. With all five courts alive, friendly competition was enjoyed by all. Asa Nilsson and Chris Nicholson made a great team, organizing the round-robin format and providing a breakfast of energy bites, quiche, fruit salad and beverages (wine for those who stayed!). Thank you to all our wonderful Field Club participants and our one-andonly LCC representative, Lauren Gray, for making this event a fun success. Thank you to Jeff Dubiel and sidekick Ben Kozial, who had the courts cleared of snow and ready to play at 9 a.m. Thank you also to our paddle co-chairs, Tom Kietzman and Sally Gallucci, and to our club president, Moira Murphy.

— Chris Nicholson & Asa Nilsson

P.S. Hope all enjoyed the flowers in the ladies bathroom!









Men's A/B Paddle Tournament

Our Field Club hosted the annual LFC-LCC Men's A/B Mixer on a beautiful winter day on Saturday, January 14th. We had 44 participants, which included five friends from LCC. David **Appleman** made the pairings, and with the assistance of Tom Kietzman, John Pappas and Glenn Snyder, made sure that all the players had plenty to eat and drink. Special thanks to our "A" players, Per Nilsson, Mike Shields, Mike Freedman, Mark Rush, Larry Eagan, Rob Durfee, Jason Smith, Steve McKenna and Charles Gray, for bringing their "Big Stick Paddle" game in support of this event. Special thanks also to **Apples**, who couldn't play due to a recent (yes, paddle related) injury. Dave made sure all who attended had a great time! Just another great day to be a member of the Field Club of Longmeadow!! – Tom Kietzman

Get Your Oscar Glam On, Ladies!

The nominations are out, so get ready for the Annual Ladies' Oscar Paddle Mixer on Sunday, February 26, at 3 p.m. Get your "glam" on and join us for a walk down the red carpet and a whole lot of fun.

Players of all levels are encouraged to signup. Participants wear paddle clothes with a touch of gems, jewels, fur, feather boas – you get the picture. You may even want to consider coming in character as one of the nominees.

No partners are needed. You will play under a movie title (mixer style), and we will all cast our "pre-Oscar" votes for the films we think will win. The event will "wrap" by 6 p.m., so that we can all get home and catch the "other" red carpet event broadcast from Hollywood.

Save the date and see the signup in early February on the paddle hut bulletin board. More details to follow!

— Your Emcees for 2017, Carolyn Marchese and Sonia Zeroogian

Valley Men's APTA 95+ Paddle Tournament

The men's APTA 95+ sanctioned tournament was held at the Field Club on Saturday November 19, 2016. A full draw of 28 teams, with players coming from all over New England and New York, kicked off at 8:30 a.m., with the final match for the last draw ending at 6:30 p.m.

We had an early upset, as the unseeded team of **Steve Heath** and **Darryl Bender** upset the defending champions and no. 1 seed **Bill Durfee** and **Geoff Cartier** in the second round. Heath and Bender would go on to win the tournament in a three-set final over **Marc Porter** and **Dan McCormick** 3-6, 6-2, 6-4. The other results were as follows:

Quarter Reprieve:

Glenn Marshall and Andy Lovejoy defeated Mark Willis and Ryan Byrnes 6-4, 6-4.

Consolation:

Travis Lytle and Dan Joseph defeated Steve McKenna and Rick Steele 6-3, 6-7, 6-3.

Reprieve:

Bill Durfee and Geoff Cartier defeated Robert Pease and David Cox 6-3, 6-1.

Last Chance:

Josh Kress and Curt Robinson defeated Gary Weiner and Kent Griffiths 6-4, 6-4.

We had many compliments on the food truck that served several different tacos for our players' enjoyment. Plenty of beverages were provided for both the participants and the crowd of onlookers, who watched the matches on a beautiful November day. The weather was fantastic for paddle.

A special thank you for the volunteers who helped run the tournament — Candy Weiner, David Appleman, Gerrit Toebes and Dave Fuller. The past chair of the event, Rob Durfee, also assisted with preparing the draw and providing guidance along the way.

The event was a great way to highlight the Field Club and our membership.

— Gary Weiner and Tom O'Brien



Paddle Season 2016/2017

Paddle season is now in full swing. Be sure to mark your calendars for the events still to come:

Sunday, 2/5/17, 9a.m. to 3 p.m. Men's Super Bowl Mixer (W/LCC) Abbott, Appleman, Prast, Toebes

Saturday, 3/4/17, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. **APTA Pioneer Valley Woman's Open** *K. Morneau, A. Nilsson*

Sunday, 2/26/17, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. **Woman's Oscar Mixer** *Marchese, Zeroogian*

Friday, 3/10/17, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. **Mixed Doubles Mixer** *TBD*

Saturday, 3/25/17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Field Club Woman's Championship Kietzman, O'Brien, Suchey, Vincunas

Saturday, 3/25/17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Field Club Men's Championship Kietzman, O'Brien, Suchey, Vincunas

Saturday, 4/1/17, 9 a.m. to 12 noon **Field Club Mixed Championship** *Marna and Mike Shields*

Saturday, 4/8/17, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. **Season Ending Mixed Mixer (W/ LCC)** *Edwards, Gallucci*

—Tom Kietzman and Sally Gallucci

A popular Field Club tradition is happening soon! Don't miss the Men's Super Bowl Paddle Mixer on Sunday, February 5, 2017.





Davis Coffee Cup Mixer

Due to a limited amount of interest this year, the Davis Cup Paddle Tournament was changed to the Davis Coffee Cup Mixer. Twenty six participants turned out to enjoy this fun event on a beautiful, sunny Saturday morning in November. Fun paddle was enjoyed almost as much as coffee and egg and bacon sandwiches! Hopefully next year we can get back to some seriously fun competition with a full Davis Cup tournament. – *Mona Swanson*

Junior Paddle Clinics

Even if you've never played before, join coaches **Glenn Snyder** and **Sam**

Freedman for Junior Paddle Tuesday afternoons. Get introduced to

platform tennis or work on your existing skills with your friends and have fun outdoors during the winter.

Beginners and Advanced Beginners (ages 10+) play Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and Intermediate clinics (ages 12+) are Tuesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Call or email Rick Plaut for more information or to sign up: 413-330-2906, rickplaut@gmail.com.

Session III January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Session IV February 7, 14, 21, 28

Tournament/ March 7

wrap-up parties

— Rick Plaut

Field Club Hosts National Platform Tennis Tournament

On December 10, we were thrilled to host a tournament that featured ten of the top-ranked players in the United States. Many members and guests enjoyed the spectacle, as well as the warmth and congeniality of the hut – it was a cold day. That didn't faze the competitors, who were out there playing for hours.

Special congratulations to participating members **John Hughes** and **Jeff Morneau**; Jeff and his partner, **Juan Arraya**, won the final 6-1, 7-6 over **George Wilkinson** and **Max Le Pivert**.

Thanks to all the Field Clubbers who volunteered in so many ways to make this a truly memorable event! – *Rick Plaut*

Paddle 101/Open House

Save the date! Invite your friends, tell your neighbors!

On **Sunday, February 12**, the Field Club will combine two great events: Paddle 101, where we introduce beginning players to the joys of paddle, and an Open House, introducing friends and prospective members to all the Field Club has to offer. No pressure; just show up, pick up a paddle, and see what it's about.

Don't worry if you can't make this one; we're planning two more for **Saturday, March 25**, and **Saturday, May 20** (to coincide with Longmeadow Days). Hope to see you there! – *Rick Plant*





The Colony Club Welcomes Field Club Members

Dear Field Club Members,

In July 2016, the Field Club and Colony Club began a wonderful partnership, whereby Field Club members were able to utilize the Colony Club for lunch, dinner, events, and private/business functions. This new relationship has blossomed, and we are very excited to entertain more FC members in this coming year. Please contact us for further information and/or your reservations.

Cheers, Heidi Edwards, Club Manager

Reservations can be made by calling the Colony Club at: 413.732.4101. Field Club Member benefits include free parking, access to Colony Club Dining, and special event invites.

Think Warm Thoughts!

Even though we are in the midst of winter, the Social Committee is asking you to start thinking about the warmer days and all the fun you're sure to have with Field Club friends this spring and summer.

Mark your calendars for March 31st, when the Field Club will hold its annual Spring Fling at Springfield Country Club. While you're waiting for your invitation, please start thinking about hosting another social event this summer. Hosting an event on your own, or with another couple or family, is a great way to get involved and give back to the club! There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer, whether it's the Fourth of July Tailgate, Family Campout, Adult Poolside Party or the end-of-the-year Labor Day Tailgate. These events are always fun to host and attend! Please feel free to reach out if you're interested in helping with any of the social happenings this season!

– Molly Orr and Victoria Wright

Lanes Lines

We would like to welcome **Lori McMahon** as our new incoming Board Liaison to the Pool. Lori is a staple at the pool during the summer and has been an enthusiastic member for a few years. We look forward to working with her as we plan another summer of pool fun for our families.

We would like to take a moment and thank Meralee Kratovil for her time as the Board Liaison. Meralee has been so welcoming and has assisted us when we needed her guidance. Taking on these positions is just another commitment in our busy lives, and we very much appreciate all that she has done for us. The Field Club could not operate smoothly without our amazing volunteers – thank you!

It is hard to imagine we will be poolside again in just a few months. Our planning has begun for another fantastic summer. A great way for new and seasoned members to get involved is to volunteer at one of our many pool events. We will be on the search for members to organize and host an event. Many of the events are a fun favorite for our children. Please be on the lookout for an email to volunteer. We are open to new ideas and would love to hear them, so please contact us as soon as possible. We plan to have this organized by March.

Enjoy the remaining winter! We look forward to seeing everyone in the summer of 2017.

Rosaria Peffer and Deirdre Mailloux



Open House Paddle 101 Clinics

Members, Guests and Prospective Members Sunday, February 12, 2017 Saturday, March 25, 2017 Saturday, May 20, 2017





Spring Fling Friday, March 31, 2017

Spring Clean Up Saturday, May 6, 2017





The Field Club would like to give members the opportunity to attend the US Open this coming year. We would like to organize a bus, round trip, from the Field Club to the event.

This is a fantastic opportunity to attend a great event with the best tennis in the world on view with Field Club members and guests. At this point, here is the current information:

When: Friday, September 1, 2017

(Labor Day Weekend)

Time: Departs at 7:30 a.m.,

returns around 9 p.m.

Where: Arthur Ashe Stadium,

New York City, NY

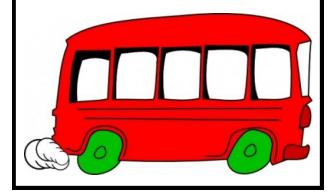
Cost: About \$135 per person

(subject to change)

No Alcohol.

Coolers and food will be Allowed on bus.

More details will follow soon!





At Your Service:

Your Board and Committee Chairs

Field Club Board of Governors - 2016 -2017

President

Moira Murphy

Vice President & Communications Chair Mike Freedman

Treasurer

Steve Ehrenberg

Assistant Treasurer & Paddle Liaison Rick Plaut

Clerk

Mark Cress

Assistant Clerk & Social & Garden Liaison

Mona Swanson

Tennis Board Liaison

Jamie Dunbar

Pool, Snuggery & Tot Lot

Lori McMahon

Field Club Committee Chairs 2016 -17

Paddle Tennis: Tom Kietzman and Sally Galucci

Tennis: Lora Arnold, Kim Burns and TBD Jr. Tennis: Kate Morneau and Marna Shields Pool: Rosaria Peffer and Deirdre Mailloux Social: Molly Orr and Victoria Wright

Gardens: Deirdre Mailloux and John Abbott

Capital Campaign: Tom O'Brien

Marketing: Anita Hoag



The tennis committee is getting a head start on the scheduling events for the summer. With the help of willing volunteers, we try to schedule a mixer almost every weekend throughout the summer. The most popular is the Davis Cup in June, which attracts members of varying abilities but all with enthusiasm. Please consider participating this year. We will be recruiting captains shortly. If you would like to be considered for this important commitment, please let either Kim or Lora know.

We are hopeful that many who sponsored an event last year will continue to do so. We welcome new input from other members, as well. We encourage you to team with another partner to organize a mixer.

To get ahead of the busy summer season, a notice will be posted in the Paddle Hut to sign-up for one of the mixer weekends.

We are looking forward to serving you and providing an entertaining and productive summer. — *Kim Burns and Lora Arnold*

Next Deadline March 17th

The next edition of *The Baseline* will be distributed in early April, just in time to gear up for all the spring and summer activities and events at the Field Club. Please send your submissions to Editor Lee-Anne Sprague at lsprague?@cox.net by Friday, March 17, 2017. She can also be reached at 860-335-8793.

This is your opportunity to share news, information and or photos pertaining to the

committees, events and activities you are helping to oversee this year. You can send your articles in a Word document or simply add them into the body of an email.

