
THE BASELINE

Field Club News



February 2018

A Message from the **NEW** President

Greetings to all! It is a pleasure to be writing this message as the president of The Field Club for this upcoming year. It is an honor and privilege to be a part of this year's Board of Governors.

I'd like to express our appreciation to outgoing Board members from last year: **Mona Swanson, Rick Plaut**, and our previous president, **Moirra Murphy**, who have all been instrumental in organizing and leading our club over the past three years. They have been energetic, enthusiastic and passionate about The Field Club, and it has shown in their involvement throughout the years. Many thanks!

For the upcoming year, we have three major goals as we look to sustain and grow our club. First, we hope to increase involvement by engaging new and longtime members and encouraging their participation and organization in various Field Club activities. Next, we plan to develop a marketing/membership committee to help with our current membership deficit. And, lastly, we will be planning the construction of a new tennis walkway based on our most recent prioritization of capital projects. The current walkway has been a concern in recent years due to its potentially hazardous conditions, particularly when wetness causes it to be slippery and unsafe. Our appreciation goes out to the committee leading the charge! Please let us know of any thoughts or concerns.

During the fall and early winter months, we have been busy with various activities and planning for the upcoming year. The season began with the October Paddle 101 seeing several new members form paddle groups for the winter. **Sherri and Steve Ehrenberg** partnered up with **Mindy and Jonathan Spencer** to run the annual Oktoberfest Paddle Mixer. With close to 70 people attending, this is fast becoming one of the premier events throughout the year. This was followed by our Annual Meeting, run to perfection by **Moirra Murphy**. This year, it was held at the Colony Club, providing an exquisite venue for our year-end gathering.

During the months of November and December, we had two well received men's paddle tournaments. The Men's 95+ Tournament, ran by **Gary Weiner** and **Tom O'Brien**, brought in several regional players and provided numerous exciting matches. **Jeff Morneau** hosted the Western New England National Ranking Tournament. It was played during some heavy snow, but that didn't stop the amazing shot-making ability of some of the nation's best players. The Wanna Bee Mixer, hosted by **Jon Pappas** and **Dave Wartman**, generated a large turnout, giving members an opportunity to socialize and enjoy the early winter weather. We had a cold and arctic New Year's Eve Mixer that was warmed by good company and beverages. Thank you to **Brian Grayboff** and **Jenn Willson**, who co-hosted this event.

The Women's A/B mixer, hosted by **Asa Nilsson** and **Chris Nicholson**, brought members together to mix, mingle and play with all ability levels. **Dave and Jackie Pleet** got our January circulation going with the "Pre-Souper Bowl" Mixer.

At the time of this writing, the Super Bowl A/B Mixer is to be held on February 4th and should provide great paddle play prior to the big game. As we hope to thaw after a cold and arctic January, upcoming events include the Ladies' Oscars Mixer, the St. Patrick's Day Mixer and the upcoming Club Championships in March. So, plan on getting out there and joining in the upcoming events!

Jr. Paddle lessons, headed up by **Glenn Snyder** and assistant **Alexa Moutafis**, have been successful and have had a good showing from promising young paddle players. **The Ehrenberg Family** hosted the Parent Child Mixer, bringing together several families on a fun Sunday afternoon in January.

This upcoming year, we hope to continue our focus on our social events to include: the Spring Fling, July 4th and Labor Day Tailgates, Poolside Party and, hopefully, a trip to the US Open again this year. We also plan to do a few other outings along the way...so stay tuned.

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President's Message *(continued)*

Along with all the events, **Lori McMahon** continues to lead our membership efforts, so if you know of anyone interested in joining, please have them fill out an application! Look for upcoming marketing efforts and Open Houses, as well. Just a reminder that recent members can sponsor new members, and you can sponsor up to three new families per year. There continues to be a \$100 credit for sponsoring new members!

If anyone has any questions, concerns or ideas about planning or hosting an event; please don't hesitate to contact me or any Board member. Remember, The Field Club is a member-run organization, and your involvement is what makes it successful and special.

Think warm thoughts...and see you on the courts.

—*Mike Freedman*



The Field Club Has Membership Openings!

The entire Field Club family has to work together to fill our openings. You are our only resource for attracting new members. Please consider becoming a sponsor. Talk to your neighbors and kids' friends. Talk to your tennis friends.

The BOG has extended our sponsorship 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 lorimac1975@gmail.com to obtain application documents or check out our newly designed website! — *Lori McMahon*

GM's Corner



Snuggery Manager Replacement

We are in the process of looking for a new snuggery manager.

Please send us any ideas or contacts that might be interested in this position. The position requires a Serv Safe Certification and previous work experience in the food industry.

Tennis

The men's bathroom is scheduled to be renovated this spring. The walkway leading to the tennis courts will also be replaced this spring.

I am happy to announce that **Ann Boisvert** will be returning as Head Tennis Pro for the 2018 tennis season. **Evan Gaudreau** will also be returning as our part-time weekend and evening tennis pro.

Paddle

This fall, we repainted courts 1 and 3 and miscellaneous white lines on various courts. The paint is holding up well under these frozen conditions. Gourmet flavored coffee and hot chocolate is available in the puddle hut. The FC will be selling its used paddles and other used equipment in February.

Miscellaneous Projects

There are many painting and cleanup projects scheduled for this spring. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know. All skill levels are welcome. I will email the membership once we have selected a date for the spring clean up.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions: JeffDubiel@Gmail.com — *Jeff Dubiel*

A Memorial Tribute

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

Patricia Douglas
Delmar "Jack" Ubersax

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

Annual Meeting in Review

The annual meeting was held November 3, 2017, at The Colony 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:

- ◆ **Moira Murphy**
- ◆ **Rick Plaut**
- ◆ **Mona Swanson**



...and welcomed the following new board members:

- ◆ **Lora Arnold**
- ◆ **Tom Kietzman**
- ◆ **Liz Kollias**

— *Mike Freedman*

Tennis Committee Chairs

I am very pleased to announce that **Stephanie Foster** and **Rick Norman** will serve as the Tennis Committee Chairs. Although summer is a few months away, it always takes a little planning to find hosts for the weekend mixers, as well as Davis Cup captains. Speaking of the Davis Cup, watch for more details on this popular event soon!

The weekend mixers are always a great way to introduce new Field Club members into the community. If you have sponsored a new family or individual, please consider hosting a tennis event with them so they can meet more Field Club members. Hosting a tennis mixer is quite easy and fun! Pick a date, pick a co-host, post the event and



have a great day of tennis! Stephanie and Rick will be reaching out for volunteers to host these events or contact them if you are ready to commit to an event. Thanks!

— *Liz Kollias*

Social Committee News

From the Social Committee Liaison...

This year, the new social chairs are **Lauren Brady** and **Katie Wartman**. They are working diligently, recruiting volunteers to sponsor summer events. Please contact them if you can devote a little time to help schedule and prepare these events.

The **Spring Fling** will take place May 4th at the Springfield Country Club, with entertainment by Chris Hamel Productions. The Club will forego mailed invitations in favor of email blasts this year. Mark your calendars!

The Field Club will again sponsor a trip to the **U.S. Open**. This was a rousing success last year. Details will be finalized in February, watch for details to be announced then.

In order to provide members with different opportunities to participate in group activities, it has been suggested that members may want to sponsor an activity near and dear to their hearts (i.e. a ski outing, hiking, biking, or any other pastime that members enjoy). These would be informal, with a plan to meet at a particular place and enjoy each others' company. — *Lora Arnold*

... and From the Social Committee Chairs

We have jumped into our new roles as social chairs and are looking forward to a great season of social events! We are already starting to plan and are looking for others to help us. If you would like to be part of a Social Committee to work on these events and/or are able to host an event, please contact one of us. Here are some of the traditional events that you can look forward to this year.

Spring Fling	Friday, May 4
4th of July Tailgate	TBD
Adult Poolside Party	TBD, July or August
Family Campout	TBD, August
Labor Day Tailgate	Sunday, September 2

We are also working on a couple of new events and are open to feedback from members about ideas. As a member-driven club, if there is a social event you would like to make happen, we are happy to help you bring it to life. Please consider joining our team or hosting an event this summer!
— *Katie Wartman and Lauren Brady*



Gardens and Grounds Report

The Field Club Gardens and Grounds Committee met January 12th to discuss plans for the

future. We are looking forward to a great tennis season and hope to have the grounds and flowers in tip-top shape.

The committee will carry on the work done by former chairman **John Abbott**, who was largely responsible for planning and helping to plant the many beautiful flowers found at the Club, including the flower garden on the front walkway to the tennis courts.

In March, our committee will meet and (weather permitting) walk the grounds of the Club to see where we might make improvements and plantings. Later in the spring, we will schedule a Saturday to plant annuals around the Club and purchase hanging plants for the balcony of the clubhouse and other parts of the Club. We also discussed the possibility of having holiday decorations at the Club.

As always, we welcome any suggestions you might have to improve the Club's appearance. And, we always welcome anyone who wants to help us plant flowers or prune bushes and brush.

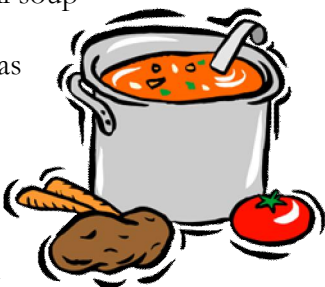
— *Mike Brault*

SOUPer Bowl Mixer

The Third Annual Souper Bowl mixed paddle event, hosted by the Pleets on Sunday January 21st, was met with a beautiful, windless, sunny day! Twenty members came out to enjoy four rounds of fun, social paddle, getting to meet up with both old and new friends. Everyone was a winner! All players were rewarded with a hearty, delicious vegetable lentil soup created by chef **Jackie Pleet**.

Plenty of time was left to get to watch the Super Bowl bound Patriots overwhelming championship game. Go Pats!

— *David and Jackie Pleet*



Colony Club Happenings

Field Club members enjoy benefits at The Colony Club, including free parking, access to dining, and special event invites. Mark your calendars for the following events taking place in the weeks ahead:

Tuesday-Friday, February 13-16

Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras Special Menus

Saturday, February 17

Valentine's Dinner Dance

Friday, February 23 — Complimentary music in the Lounge by Paul Lombardo & Tom Russo, 6-9pm. If you stay for dinner, you may take home a complimentary bottle of wine.

Tuesday-Saturday, March 3 - 17

St. Patrick's Day Special Menus

Friday, March 23 — Complimentary music in the Lounge by the Grayson Ty Duo, 6-9pm. If you stay for dinner, you may take home a complimentary bottle of wine.

Reservations can be made by calling The Colony Club at: 413.732.4101.



The Colony Club
Established 1913

Lane Lines

It's hard to imagine we will be poolside again in a few months. Our planning has begun for another fantastic summer. This is a great way for new and seasoned members to be involved and volunteer at one of our many pool events. We will be on the search for members to organize and host an event. Many of these events are fun favorites for our children. 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, for the Guidebook.

In addition, we are in need of **two** pool co-chairs. Responsibilities include finding hosts for events, assisting the pool Board member, and doing a bimonthly, short write-up for *The Baseline*. Having a couple of people makes the work easier. Please let me know if you are interested. You can email me at d73p68mail@charter.net — *Deirdre Mailloux*

Oktoberfest

The Oktoberfest paddle kickoff, held Friday, October 13, was very well attended with over 70 FC members on a perfect fall night in October. Teams played for three plus hours and enjoyed tons of homemade food and delicious brews, while many competitive baggo/corn hole games were played in between matches. Traditional Oktoberfest music played in the background, and members cooked brats and other nourishing meats on the grill. Old friends caught up, and new members joined in this annual event, which gets bigger every year. See you all next year. Special thanks to the Ehrenbergs for organizing and hosting. — *Mindy and Jonathan Spencer*



Parent-Child Paddle Mixer

On the bright and sunny afternoon of December 17th, ten pairs of parents and kids faced off for the Parent-Child Mixer. We only had a few tantrums — those parents are sure competitive! Seriously, every child had fun testing out their skills, playing with their own parent and mixing with other parents. Then, after a break for cookies and cupcakes, chips, cider and hot chocolate, the group went out again. Every court had great points; kids and parents were each hustling for balls and getting them off the wires. Really a fun way to spend the afternoon! — *Sherri Ehrenberg*

Mark Your Calendars
Field Club Open House

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Details to follow soon!



Save the Date: March 3, 2018

A great day of paddle is planned for ladies from all over New England, including many players from the Field Club. This annual tournament, which used to be an "open" level tournament, is now a "B" level tournament. This tournament precedes the B National Tournament, which will take place for the first time on March 15 and 16, 2018, in Franklin Hills, NJ.

For those of you looking for a competitive three matches, unrivaled camaraderie, great food and favor, complete the entry form and return it to Kate Morneau. There is a \$110 entree fee per team (*\$30 extra if you are not already an APTA member). If you are not up for playing, please consider yourself invited for spectating.

Entry forms are in the hut or you can e-mail me: kbmorneau@gmail.com. — *Kate Morneau*



Many thanks to all who turned out for the Women's A/B Paddle Mixer. A good time was had by all!



Ladies Oscar Buzz...

The nominations will be announced soon so get ready!

**Sunday, March 4th at 3pm
Annual Ladies' Oscar Mixer!**

Join the fun on Sunday, March 4th at 3 p.m. for a walk down the red carpet at the Annual Ladies Paddle Oscar Mixer. Every year, FC ladies get their "glam" on for this fun Paddle Mixer – all levels are encouraged to signup. We wear paddle clothes with a touch of gems, jewels, fur, feather boas – you get the picture. If you are really daring, you can come in character as one of the nominees.

No partners needed, you will play under a movie title (mixer style), and yes, we do vote "pre-Oscar" for the films we think will win. The event will "wrap" by 6 p.m., just in time to get home and catch the "other" red carpet event broadcast from Hollywood.

Save the date and see the signup on the paddle hut bulletin board.

More details to follow! — Your Emcees for 2018, Carolyn Marchese and Sonia Zeroogian



New Year's Eve Paddle

A resilient group of about twenty paddle friends were determined to ring in the New Year at the Field Club! Sub-zero temps failed to disrupt five filled courts of entertaining paddle fun! Lively outdoor music was a big hit, and the warm hut inside was decorated in festive NYE fashion with hats and whistle blowers. Tables were decorated and boasted appetizing food for all... typical FC enthusiasm to ring in the New Year!!

Fun, friends and festivities kept this hardy group playing until almost 11 p.m. in the frigid cold! We all enjoyed watching the ball drop and sharing a sip of champagne and a toast for a Happy New Year. — *Jenn Willson*



Junior Paddle!

Every Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Coach **Glenn Snyder** and his assistant **Alexa Moutafis** are on the courts teaching all of our interested and energetic kids the finer points of paddle. Between drills, serving practice and match play, these kids are getting really good! If the weather's really cold, they take breaks in the paddle hut to warm up!

It's never too late to start. Lessons continue through March, so have your child come try it out. The hour of fresh air alone is worth it! If interested, contact Sherri Ehrenberg at ssehrenberg@yahoo.com. Learning paddle is never easier than when you are a kid! — *Sherri Ehrenberg*

Paddle Season 2017/2018

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

Sunday, 2/4/18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Super Bowl A/B Mixer (w/LCC)

Abbott, Appleman, Prast, O'Connor

Saturday, 3/3/18, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Women's Open

K. Morneau, A. Nilsson

Sunday, 3/4/18, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Woman's Oscar Mixer

Marchese, Zeroogian

Saturday, 3/17/18, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

St. Patrick's Mixed Double Mixer

Murphy, The Kubrs

Saturday, 3/24/18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Field Club Men's "A" Championship

Durfee, McKenna

Saturday, 3/24/18, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Field Club Men's "B" Championship

Brindle, Libbos, Prast

Sunday, 3/25/18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Field Club Women's "A" Championship

Kietzman, O'Brien, Willson

Sunday, 3/25/18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Field Club Women's "B" Championship

Kietzman, O'Brien, Willson

Saturday, 3/31/18, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Field Club Mixed Championship

Shields

Saturday, 4/7/18

5 to 8 p.m.

Season-Ending Wine-N-Dine Mixed Mixer

Toebe, Goodman



Men's WannaBe

The Men's WannaBe was a great success at the Field Club on December 2. The event was hosted by **John Pappas** and **David Wartman**. The day brought perfect paddle weather. John and Dave were pleased that they had a nice even number of 36 players to work with.

The WannaBe was designed to provide a chance for any non-A player to get three matches in with all different partners. We were glad to have some new players join the fun this year, which is exactly what the structure of the day is designed for. Admittedly, it is more of a social event than a competitive event. That said, the keg was tapped under strict orders at 11 a.m. A big thank you goes to **George and Liz Kollias** (Grapevine) for making the group some excellent sandwiches to eat après paddle. A great time was had by all, and we are already looking forward to next year! — *John Pappas*

College Night Mixer

On December 27th, some of our college and high school students gathered for the first ever College Night Mixer. Though the weather was bitter, eight young members braved the cold and played a few rounds of paddle, remembering it easily from their own days of lessons at the Field Club. They finished off the night with pizza, drinks and cookies, and spent (due to the cold) almost as much time catching up as they did on the courts — truly the best thing about the Field Club: the friends you make! We hope to repeat the event next year. — *Sherri Ehrenberg*



Powers and Hughes Upend Defending Champions

Our Field Club of Longmeadow hosted the **APTA Men's Western New England Open** on December 9, 2017. Members **John Hughes** and **Jeff Morneau**, though not paired together, certainly made us proud in this nationally recognized paddle tournament!

A week after edging the number one ranked team and defending champions, **Juan Arraya** and **Jeff Morneau**, in the semifinals of The Duane Hayden Long Island Invitational, the third-ranked team of **John Hughes** and **Marc Powers** posted a similar result in the Western New England Championships in Longmeadow, MA. The 6-2, 6-2 score in the final was in marked contrast to the usual three-set scores experienced in virtually all of the combatants' recent matches. Tournament Director Morneau, when asked for the turning point in the match, pointed to "when we lost the first game," but did not otherwise make excuses for the result.

The tournament field of 26 teams had to endure day-long, white-out conditions as western New England welcomed the season's first snow storm, dumping 6 inches of snow. The snowfall made for a festive atmosphere for the steady stream of spectators who attended the event and enjoyed viewing a high level of platform performed in difficult conditions, just another reminder of the uniqueness of this great outdoor sport.

Thank you Tournament Director Jeff Morneau and the Longmeadow Field Club, the Longmeadow Country Club, and Great Horse.

— *Tom Kietzman*

Paddle 101 Draws New Players

This has become a very popular annual event. We had 20 or so "New to Paddlers" participate in Paddle 101 on November 29, 2017, regardless of the steady rain. **David Appleman** once again led the charge in drumming up interest from new members and new-to-paddle members. Dave recruited some more seasoned paddlers to help with instruction and drills, including the **Plauts, Nilssons, Weiners, John Pappas, Jenn Willson, Steve McKenna** and **Tom Kietzman**. **Moira Murphy** conducted an "Open House" during this event, and had a nice turnout!

We formed a couple new "Contract Times" for new players, and I can tell you from participating that some of these newer players are going to get very good, very quickly!

Another HUGE shout out to **Apples** for organizing this fun event. It was a GREAT day to be a member of the Field Club!

— *Tom Kietzman*



Save the Date...

Get Your Green On!

Saturday, March 17th, 7:00 pm

Annual St. Patrick's Day Adult Paddle Mixer

Everyone is Irish — prizes for the lucky! Paddle, March madness, beer... bring your favorite dessert or appetizer and join the fun!

All levels welcome!

Hosts: Dietmar & Angela Kubr, Moira Murphy





Mike Shields

Pioneer Valley Men's APTA 95+

With rain threatening earlier in the week, November 18, turned into a great day for

paddle, with overcast skies and 40+ degrees. The draw consisted of teams from Boston, Cape Cod, RI and CT, along with local teams filling out the 20 team draw. The Main Draw Final ended up with the No.1 seed of Steve Heath (returning champion) and Phil Johnson winning in two sets over the No.4 seed, Amin Khadduri and Tim McDougald 6-1, 6-3. In the consolation round finals, we had the most compelling ending; our own team of "Presidents," **Mike Shields** and **Mike Freedman**, pulled out a grueling three-setter 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (11-9) over the Essex, CT team of Rich Goldfeder and T.J. Riggio. Shields and Freedman were up 6-2 in the third set tiebreaker, only to see their opponents mount a charge to take the lead at 7-6. Mike and Mike battled back and forth the rest of the way until they pulled out the third-set tie breaker. It was a great match, celebrated with Joseph Stiefel's home brews.

In the reprieve finals, Steve Griggs and Dan Hansen beat Jason Smith and Larry Eagan 7-5, 6-2. Finally, in the Last Chance Final, the LCC team of Ted Robbins and Charles Gray took out the FC team of **Bob Bagge** and **David Wartman** in a three setter 5-7, 6-4, 6-0.

Aunt Cathie's Kitchen of West Springfield provided the food truck, and I believe all participants were happy with the food options.

Special thanks to **David Appleman**, **Ken Vincunas** and **Gerrit Toebes** for manning the FC and LCC huts during match play. Also thanks to **Rob Durfee** for setting up the draw, which was right on as the top four seeds made the semi finals. Finally, a big thanks to Brew Master **Joseph Stiefel** for providing the beverages for those to partake after their match play had ended. The amber was my favorite. The success of the event is largely based on the support of volunteers, and it was greatly appreciated. If you were not able to play this year, we hope to see you next year.

— Gary M. Weiner and Tom O'Brien, Co-Chairs



Gary Ulrich, Tom Kietzman, and Jim Martin enjoying lunch at the Pioneer Valley Men's APTA event.

Board of Governors, 2017-2018

President: Mike Freedman

Vice President & Communications Liaison:
Jamie Dunbar

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Asst. Treasurer & Paddle/Pickleball Liaison:
Tom Kietzman

Clerk: Mark Cress

Asst. Clerk & Membership Liaison:
Lori McMahon

Tennis Board Liaison: Liz Kollias

Pool, Snuggery, Tot Lot Liaison:
Deirdre Mailloux

Social, Gardens & Grounds Liaison:
Lora Arnold

Field Club Committee Chairs 2017- 18

Paddle Tennis: John Pappas, Jenn Willson

Jr. Paddle: Sherri Ehrenberg

Tennis: Stephanie Foster, Rick Norman

Jr. Tennis: Phil Guidrey, Marna Shields

Jr. Tennis Team: Kate Morneau (14u)

Jr. Tennis Team: Lauren Katz (18u)

Pool: TBD

Social: Katie Wartman, Lauren Brady

Gardens and Grounds: Mike Brault

