



Winter 2014

“Bay State Ringer Report”

As I write this, the snow is falling in the first Nor'easter of the season – this storm makes having an indoor horseshoe pitching facility even HIGHER on our wish list!

Some of us ARE lucky enough to be near one of the indoor court buildings, in Gardner, MA, in Milford, NH, and in Thompson, CT. And of course the most activity occurs in E. Hartford, CT where they are FULL in their bi-monthly tournaments and in their 5 nights/week leagues. No longer necessary to put the horseshoes away for the winter!

The New Guys

We had many new members join up this year. We hope that they enjoyed the competition, whether it was in tournaments or in a league. I know in our league, we had some memorable new members! Good luck to all of you and hope we continue to see you! The Rookie of the Year will be announced in the Spring newsletter. Here are the names of the new pitchers.

New member list - 2013

Jean Adams	Bruce Allen
David Barnes	Brad Bouchard
Brandon Bouchard	Ben Butler
Andrew Broughton	Jim Connors
Jim Defayette	Mike DeLuca
Ashely Demoranville	Joao Ferreira
Neil Fisher	Dennis Fitzpatrick
Matthew Gerber	Russell Germain
Adam Germain	Andrew Gifford
Gerald Gifford	Joshua Gifford
Brett Higgins	Joshua Lentini
Chuck Kavanaugh	Emilie Kavanaugh
Mark Magnussen	Richard Mah
Pat Martin	Theresa Meshnick
Tyllah Monteiro	James Nally
Patrick Pelletier	Joe Perry
Brian Platt	Lisa Platt
Annie Rounds	Gary Seaman
William Sergi	Robert St. George
Fran Turcotte	

Welcome ! And we hope to see you all on the courts again soon!

News from 2013

Our State Champions this year were new AND returning champions.

Men's State Champion – Rick Howe

Women's State Champion-Debby Michaud

Elder's State Champion – Dave Bliss Sr.

Jr. Boy Champion – Paul Demoranville

Cadet Champion – Tyllah Monteiro

Rick Howe had a good year – in addition to becoming the 2013 State Champion (in a 3 way playoff), he also went from “Last” to “First” in the Tournament of Champions, finishing last in 2012, and first in 2013! Rick may pitch more horseshoes than anyone else in the MA HPA as he pitches in sanctioned AND in non-sanctioned tournaments on a regular basis, sometimes in two different events on one weekend.

In 2013, we held steady in the number of entries in tournaments and the weather was more of an issue for heat than it was for rain. In addition to our sanctioned tournaments, there are many non-sanctioned tournaments held in yards and clubs everywhere. The Loon Pond H.C. also held some “open” tournaments in the summer. There is an interesting tournament being held the week before the Super Bowl called the “Frostbite Open”. It will be in Taunton - I will find out more about it – intriguing!

New for 2014

This year we will again have the State Singles and the State Doubles tournaments one week apart. Some charters have them on the same weekend! In 2014, the State Doubles will be first, on August 2nd in Lakeville while the State Singles will be on August 9th in Hamilton.

ALSO, in “honor” of the 2014 World Tournament in Buffalo, we are going to sell some MA HPA T-Shirts that we can

wear as a group when we go to Buffalo or when we go to Keene, NH for the New England tournament on Labor Day weekend. We will be selling these T-shirts at the first two tournaments - more on that in the spring newsletter.

Club Reports

Loon Pond H.C.

We had over 80 pitchers pitching on three days/week. In the Singles League, Mike St.Pierre, Sr. won for the year with Jim Defayette, a newcomer, coming in second. We had 20 pitchers in singles – Eric Medeiros is the statistician and keeps all kinds of interesting stats. One that he really likes is the “% scoring” stat. That is, how many of the shoes that you pitch actually score points. Jim Bigelow was the first that we know of to ever pitch a game with 100% of his shoes scoring BUT, three weeks after he did that, he AND Scott Bedard BOTH pitched a 100% scoring game AGAINST each other. Amazing! We pitch 3 - 50 'shoe games each night in singles.

In doubles, the winners were Scott Bedard and Abe Lewis while newcomers Bruce Allen and Joe Perry were runnersup and won Division II. Eight teams (out of 26) were in the playoffs this year so the playoff system took 4 weeks to complete. While the playoffs were happening, the other pitchers played Horseshoemania on those Wednesday evenings - fun for all! Wendy Kruczek is the doubles stat person.

Sportsmanship winners were: Scott Bedard in singles and Melissa St. Pierre and Sue Dunn in doubles. SO many pitchers received votes, though.....

Tuesday nights we had a new "Flex" league with several new players and 30 'shoe singles games. They were great to watch!

Hamilton Horseshoe Club

The Hamilton H.C. has a singles league on Mondays – their Class A champion is Roger Lemire while the Class B champion is Steve Lavoie. Most improved was Jim Hanson, Jr. and the sportsmanship award went to Bob Martinez. Rookie of the year was Jim Nally and the Eldon Goodhue "Best Dressed Award" went to Huck Keany. Shelly Martinez won the individual awards such as High Game, High Average and High Game over Average.

Great news is that they had more members this year and that they will start a doubles league on Wednesdays. AND, an engineer has been hired to start the site plans for the renovation of their courts. Great news!!

Proposed change to By-Laws for MA

Fred Briand proposed a change to our By-Laws that stated that a handicap system would be used if a class in a tournament has too wide a percentage spread. He withdrew the proposed change before we voted on it but the possibility does exist that a Tournament Director CAN use a handicap system in a certain class. We are leaving it up to each tournament site

to decide, partly determined by the pitchers who enter. Many pitchers do NOT want a handicap system EVER and others like it – hard to have something that works for everyone, for sure.

Tournament of Champions

This continues to be a very popular tournament in October. Enter as many MA HPA tournaments as you can so that you have a better chance to win your class to become eligible for this October event. It is handicapped, 20 'shoe games and you get to pitch people from all different classes.

OFFICERS

There is no change in the panel of MA HPA officers that we have. We vote on at least two officers every year so, if you would like to become a state officer OR if you would like to try it yourself, let us know! Ray Bedard would REALLY like to step down as president so think about it with an open mind – it is interesting and we are pretty low-key so it is not overwhelming at all. You would have some good, veteran people around you if you decided to run for president.

Speaking of the president!.....

Prez Sez

Just received word that George St. Pierre, long time Regional Director for New England, passed away in NH. He was ill for a while and was 80 yrs. old. Our condolences to his wife Gloria.

PITCHING TIPS

In the winter, many of us cannot practice at all but we CAN do a few things to help our pitching. One thing is to stay in shape – join a gym or walk regularly, in a mall or on a treadmill at home. Some exercise equipment is inexpensive – stationary bikes come to mind. They also do not take up much room. Staying fit will help us last through a whole tournament AND can help us when we get into a tight game – our bodies will handle the stress/excitement AND the heat better when they are in good shape. Exercise also keeps those muscles strong and the weight down.

Another thing to do is to visualize how you pitch – really! You can pitch ‘shoes in your living room, just be sure to keep the right timing and focus and DON’T let a real horseshoe go INSIDE the house. (I did that once—only once!).

REMINDER

This is a RE-reminder that the CADET AGE is changed: Cadets are now any child who is 12 or under for the entire year- they pitch from behind the 20’ line. We have one dynamite Cadet who just turned 9 last year – Tyllah Monteiro was very competitive in our Tuesday Flex league in Lakeville.

2014 World Horseshoe Tournament

Hopefully, MANY pitchers from MA will be going to the 2014 World Tournament – if you ever wanted to try a

World Tournament, this might be IT! I think the entry numbers will be high which means that the classes will be VERY tight, very competitive. You will pitch for 3 days so you need to plan for at least 5 days, including 2 for travel. It is a one long day’s drive. Some are talking about renting a home together which saves rental money AND you can keep some food there as well to save more money. It would be great to see MANY New Englanders there, to pitch and to root for each other.

Deadline to enter will probably be mid-May and you need 4 sanctioned events after last mid-May to enter.

REMINDER

This newsletter and the New England newsletter in February will be sent via e-mail to most members AND it will be on-line at: newenglandhorseshoes.com. Any of you who know someone who may not have the internet and who does not get a copy can make sure that they get a copy – I WILL be sending out newsletters via land mail to anyone for whom I do not have any e-mail address but I may miss a few so I can use your help! If you know someone who is not receiving newsletters, please call me to let me know. My number is: 508-822-9610. The New England newsletter contains the entire 2014 sanctioned event schedule along with entry blanks.

For those of you WITH the internet, please go to: newenglandhorseshoes.com and click on the New England newsletter, right

near the top of the home page – you can print the schedule or just flag it as a favorite so that you can access it quickly.

We are up to 120 MA HPA members who DO have e-mail access and internet – that works!

2014 PITCHING SCHEDULE



May

3 - Kruczek Memorial Dbls – Lakeville

17-Hamilton Open – Hamilton

June

14-Mass. Open-Shrewsbury

28 – Brunson Memorial – Lakeville

August

2 - State Doubles - Lakeville

9 – MA State Singles – Hamilton

16 – Clambake Doubles – Shrewsbury

22–Friday Night Challenge-Lakeville

30,31,Sept.1 - New England's.-
Keene,NH

September

13 – Bonani Memorial – Lakeville

20 – Rollie Morin Mem.-Shrewsbury

October

4–2014- Tourn.of Champions –
Shrewsbury

OFFICERS in the MA HPA

President: Ray Bedard

508-943-5017 (cell)-774-254-0875

e-mail: cnr33@verizon.net

Vice-President: Dave Bliss, Jr.

508-864-3248

Secretary: Debby Michaud

508-822-9610, (cell) 774-240-0607

e-mail: loonpond@verizon.net

Treasurer: Jim Bigelow

508-880-0259, e-mail:

acacia1@comcast.net

Regional Director: Leo Michaud

508-822-9610, e-mail:

newenglandrd@yahoo.com

New England statistician/webmaster:

Jim Hanson – haven4@comcast.net

Recording Secretary: Dianne
Lynch

Newsletter Editor/Ass't RD

Debby Michaud, 508-822-9610,

e-mail: loonpond@verizon.net

MASSACHUSETTS H.P.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Welcome to the Massachusetts Horseshoe Pitchers Association! The following application is to renew your membership or to join for the first time. When this is completed and received by the State Secretary, you will receive your 2014 MAHPA/NHPA membership card. Keep it in your wallet or your horseshoe box to show at tournaments.

Adults \$25.00 Juniors (18 & below) \$8.00

Please make the check out to : MA HPA Ck. # (officer fill in) _____

Send to Sec: Debby Michaud, 379 Hodges St., Taunton, MA 02780 508-822-9610

Check out the New England website: newenglandhorseshoes.com for more information and for the 2014 tournament schedule in Massachusetts and the other 5 New England states.

Name(first) _____ (MI) _____ (Last) _____

Address: _____
_____, MA _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____ E-mail address: _____

Winter address(if different) _____

Applying as: New member _____ Renewal _____ Years as member? _____ NHPA # _____

Birth Date _____ (required for Juniors and Elders, requested for others)

CATEGORY: Men 40 ft. _____ Men 30 ft*. _____ Women _____

Junior Girl** _____ Junior Boy** _____ Cadet*** _____

*Men 70 and older or with a physical limitation. **Juniors = 18 years of age for the entire calendar year – ***Cadet is 12 yrs. of age for the entire calendar year.

Breakdown of Adult Membership Fees NHPA - \$17.00, MA HPA - \$8.00

Breakdown of Junior Membership Fee (**FREE** if new or if previous yr. member **and** participated in 2 sanctioned events) NHPA - \$5.00, MA HPA - \$3.00

BOOSTER (contribution for publicity, 1st yr. Juniors, etc.) _____

_____ Ordering the Newline magazine \$12.00/yr., incl. in check **IF** a new subscriber only

