



MA HPA NEWS SPRING 2023



Hello All!

It is March and next week is already the beginning of Daylight Savings. All the horseshoe meetings have been held BUT first we have to get through an early March snowstorm. As I write this, I am in Keene, NH where we expect a foot of snow. It JUST started snowing and it is REALLY coming down! So it is still winter but all the schedules for the summer are complete and ready. There are still some more winter, indoor tournaments in Connecticut. E. Hartford is filled every 2 weeks, almost to its capacity of 84 pitchers, and Thompson, CT has filled theirs with a maximum of 28 pitchers on their 3 courts, one tournament a month. Indoor pitching may be the future of our sport! Just ONE MegaBucks away.....!

Our president, Theresa Howe, has had a serious medical issue but she is improving every day and is now home to complete her recovery. We wish her the BEST for a complete recovery. She has to concentrate on getting better so Dave Bliss, VP, is now our acting president. We had our winter meeting at the very nice Blissful Meadows Country Club, very quiet in the off season, home of Dave's uncle's golf course. St. Moritz, Hamilton H.C., and the Loon Pond H.C. were all represented. All gave reports of their clubs. St. Moritz is the oldest

facility and they do need to do some work on their stakes. Hopefully, they can get the Scouts or the Park people to help them with that. Hamilton is still recovering from Covid in terms of its numbers of pitchers but will hold the first tournament, the Hamilton Open, on May 13th, then will host the State Singles Tournament in August. Loon Pond will hold the Memorial Doubles on Memorial Day weekend, appropriately, then the MASS Open on June 10th, and the State Doubles in September. Scott Bedard is hoping to get some computerized scoring on at least 2 courts this year, which would be awesome, AND he will be “training” a new Tournament Director in Clayton Demoranville, Loon Pond’s acting president. Thanks, Scott and Clayton! Also, the Horseshoe Club will be participating in “Lakeville Day” on March 26th at Ted Williams Camp. We hope that Belchertown can get going again AND George Vadnais runs a nice league in Palmer, MA. The tournament schedules are all getting posted on the New England HPA website, newenglandhorseshoes.net. With this newsletter, I have enclosed the 2023 MA HPA application and a generic entry form for tournaments, as well as the Loon Pond application form for our leagues. As always, you can renew your membership on the national website, horseshoepitching.com under EShoe. Even new players can get their memberships there and - we actually pick up a lot of new players there.

Some items to share with you: - our State Singles tournament will be designated as our “free birth to the New England Championships” opportunity. It is an idea from Mike Karpinski, the NEHPA president. Each class winner in the State Tournament will receive a free entry into the NEC in Bristol, VT on Labor Day weekend. Also at our State Singles tournament, we will be **voting** on several items in our Constitution/By Laws that need updating or that have had suggestions for changes. All of those items will be posted at each club, will be put on Face Book, and will be on the New England website. Ballots will be passed out at the State tournament and any MA HPA member can vote on these potential changes. One change that has been suggested is to increase the maximum combined ringer % for the teams in the State Doubles up to 120%. If this is voted on, we will also request that it start THIS year instead of after October 1st so something for you all to think about.

This year we will also continue to pay for 2 World Tournament entry fees, names pulled out of a hat from all of the W.T. attendees. And we are devising ways of increasing the prize money at the State Singles tournament so there are a few motivators to get you to the State Tournament this year!!

We do have some new members that have started in CT at the indoor courts so we hope to meet them all outside. Remember, ALL Juniors' memberships are free in their first year and any year after that if they pitch in two sanctioned events, leagues being one. We currently have two junior boys and one cadet BUT have added another junior boy who currently pitches several times a week. The more we have, the more fun it is for them. There will also be a Popcorn Program for the kids and clubs to run which will increase their prize fund AND might help get them to the World Tournament and/or the New England Championships. That will be sent to parents to help get that going at each tournament.

On a slightly more serious note, the New England association is trying to obtain an AED to have at our biggest tournament – and I just found out that the Ted Williams Camp in Lakeville has an AED that is kept near our courts. Hopefully, we never need one but, better to have it and not need it than to not have it at all. AED's save lives EVERY day, as evidenced by Damar Hamlin of the Buffalo Bills.

Keep in mind: IF you know someone who deserves to be honored for his or her sportsmanship, send that name to Alan Fauteux who annually awards this Sportsmanship Award to someone in honor of his late father-in-law, Al Cardinale. There are so many who deserve this and have not been recognized! Thank-you to Al for his continuing support of the MAHPA, with his time and sponsorship.

Looking forward to the spring and outdoor pitching – also looking forward to seeing all of you “palefaces” and working on our tans together. LOVE winter but I LOVE the sun! Check off the days until we start – first tournament is the last weekend in March in Coventry, RI. That first tournament is always full so get your entry in early to Mike Karpinski. See you soon!

MA HPA Officers:

Dave Bliss, acting president, 508-864-3248, davebliss57@gmail.com

Dick Mah, secretary, 978-502-5799, richgmc@aol.com

Shelly Martinez, treasurer, 978-836-9859, samartinez29@verizon.net

NOTE: This year is the year that we vote in the offices of MA HPA Vice President and Secretary. We do have one candidate for Vice President – Melanie Eno has expressed an interest in running for that position. She feels that she can help out Dave Bliss with her computer skills. Dave Bliss, acting president, and Richard Mah, secretary, have not said yet that they will be running but all of that will ramp up when the season starts. We will keep you posted.

Tournaments in MA – 2023 (see schedule on the New England website soon).

May 13th - Hamilton Open – Hamilton

May 27th – Memorial Doubles – Lakeville

June 10th – Massachusetts Open – Lakeville

July 16th – **possible** rolling (start when you get there), **non-sanctioned** tournament, Lakeville

August 19th – MA State Singles – Hamilton

Labor Day Weekend – New England Championships – Bristol, VT

September 16th - MA State Doubles - Lakeville

Entry Form to enter NHPA Tournaments

Name _____ NHPA # _____ Category _____

Address _____ Town/City _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ On Face Book? _____ e-mail _____

Name of Tournament _____ Site of tournament _____

APPLICATION FOR 2023 MA HPA MEMBERSHIP (simple form for returners)

Name_____

Address_____Town_____Zip_____

Age_____Birth date required for juniors, cadets, and elders (65 & over)_____

\$33.00/ adult member renewal and for full membership_____

\$10.00/ Provisional membership FIRST YEAR ONLY, for players who are not entering the State Tournaments_____

\$8.00/Junior or Cadet memberships (18 & under for juniors, 12 & under for cadets)_____

Mail check (made out to: MA HPA) to: Richard Mah, Secretary, 86 Shore Drive, Peabody, MA 01960-3010