

NYACK FIELD CLUB

Nyack, New York



There are times when it is okay to say goodbye to tradition. The Nyack Field Club, a racquet and swim club originally built in 1918, features a large main clubhouse that offers members a grand meeting spot. With its vintage Tudor look and vast size, and a bar for members, it covers more than the basics. Members can rent it out for parties, which happens often. There is no need for change there.

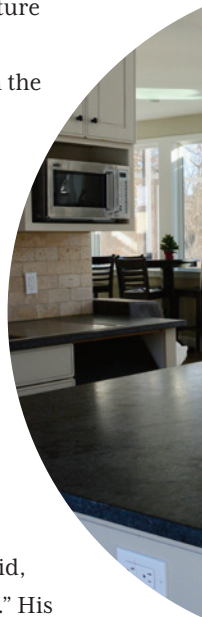
An antiquated 800-square-foot paddle hut with poor sightlines and inefficient heating, however, was begging for change. Its small bathrooms were inadequate, so summer pool members rarely used it. They walked to the main

clubhouse for locker rooms, which was not conveniently located for families with small children. Paddle members used the hut by necessity but didn't linger long.

In its place, the Nyack Field Club created a large structure that brings their membership together. The new well-appointed building is two and one-half sizes bigger than the original, placed carefully between the pool and courts. Using the natural elevation of about five feet, the hut has windows fronting the pool and large viewing windows facing the paddle courts. The club created the perfect upgrade that addressed the needs of the entire 190 family, 30 single, and 30 senior membership, half of whom play paddle.

The President of Nyack Field Club, Bill Loftus, has been a member since 1966, and has sat on the board for 20 years. He grew up at the club when his parents were members, and now his own family calls it home away from home. He said, "During construction, I was there every day." His familiarity with the past and his aspirations for the future were put into action.

The new multi-functional building project was funded by money the club had accumulated, as well as by financing and a debt reduction plan, which doesn't tax the membership very much, and also allows new members to contribute.



TIMELINE

The plan for a new building had to be approved by the membership. Loftus said, "In October of 2015, we presented the concept of hiring an architect for prototypes. The hut was not a candidate for renovation. Ideas were thrown around, like a workout room, number of floors, you name it. Next, we called a special meeting in February of 2016 when membership approved the design and funding. In May, we got bids and awarded the contracts. In September, we broke ground. We are lucky to have enough property so that permitting and compliance did not affect the schedule. While the noise

during last

winter's paddle season, we didn't have to shut down the courts.

The main clubhouse was open as usual, so there was a place for everyone to congregate."

In May of 2017, the one-story building was open for business, just in time for the summer season at the pool.

The new building is not for rent, so it is always available to members, who have adopted it very quickly.

The exterior pays respect to the main building but is not Tudor style.

With wide-open spaces, high ceilings with seven-foot fans, a cupola, stone fireplace,

a pro shop, four bathrooms, a 4 ½ x 8 foot soapstone kitchen island, a commercial fridge and ice machine and microwave, a water fountain, a sound system, cameras, and a 70-inch TV, there is no end to the luxury. At the same time, the blond hardwood floors and built-in cubbies are ready for the onslaught of wet swimmers or snowy paddle players.



The Nyack Field Club has always had a robust paddle program, led by Gerri Viant until her retirement a few years ago, and now run by Head Pro Mickey Brzov and Assistant Pro Bill Araneo. Nancy Edlund, the Club Manager, also keeps things clicking. The club supports an in-house league and a men's round robin, as well as five men's and four women's teams competing in the Fairfield County league.

IMPACT

"The place looks fabulous lit up at night, and it has created a great new sociability to the NFC. We have had more members come to paddle. One of the biggest differences is that members have a place to go even when they aren't playing," Loftus concluded. Almost 65 years after the grand opening of the Nyack Field Club, the opening of the new pool/paddle pavilion is changing the way Nyackers see their club. It's a room with a view for all members all of the time. «»

WHO WE HIRED

Peter Raymond Wells Architects, LLC
Greenbush Construction Company (Steve Lubeck)
Audio Services, Inc. (Mark Gringer)
Master Craftsman Noel Smith
Meg Fowler Architects (Design Consultant)