



# Chickee Chatter

Royal Palm Tennis Club

Founded in 1960

January 2014

7001 SW 98th Street Miami, FL 33156 Pro Shop: 305.661.3350 Office: 305.667.4006 www.rptc.org

## OFFICERS 2013

**President**  
Greg Barnes

**Vice President**  
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**Secretary**  
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**Past President**  
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Wally Lord '14

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Jorge Hernando '15

Doug Orth '15

Marianne Pantin '15

Marcie Ziv '15

Dear members,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and a terrific kick-off to 2014!

We certainly had a fun-filled December at Royal Palm, which included the annual Holiday Round Robin & Brunch, the ending of the fall USTA league season, and holiday camp for kids on break. A highlight for me was our annual holiday luncheon where I had the pleasure of passing out year-end bonus checks to our hard-working and dedicated staff. I am happy to share that, at press time, we had 95% member participation in the employee fund. This is absolutely fantastic and each staff member is so thankful to the membership for their generous response.

We've got several great highlights to share from the December Board meeting. First and most importantly, there was an approval of a proposed capital budget for 2014, which will be presented at the Annual Members' meeting in January. Items addressed include improved drainage systems and new walkways from the parking lots to the Clubhouse, among other things. Additionally, it was announced that the long-awaited steps project has commenced as has the resurfacing of the practice wall court. These improvements should be completed shortly after the New Year and before the President's Party, which is scheduled for Saturday, January 25. Lastly, five new applicants were approved for membership!

Speaking of the President's Party, I will wrap up my tenure a few days later at the Annual Members' meeting on Tuesday, January 28. It has been a pleasure and honor to have served as the President of this wonderful Club. I know that you are only as good as the people around you and I have been fortunate to have an energetic and committed group of Board members. A special thanks to the Officers and those that have Chaired Committees. Specifically, I'd like to thank four Board members (Andi, Joan, Lou and Dave) who, along with me, will complete their Board terms. We appreciate your service. We have a great group of returning Board members and a wonderful slate to fill the open slots. A reminder that you do not have to be a Board member to be involved in Club governance – I encourage you to consider making a New Year's resolution to get involved!

**Get to know a Pro.** This past month, I had the extreme pleasure of taking a lesson from Eric, our new Head Pro! (See page 2 for more details about Eric) Eric is an amazing asset to our Club and I am excited that I now have a little extra time to work on my game in 2014 with his help! He has already provided me several good pointers to improve my game. The most helpful technique he helped me with is my swing preparation. I learned to take the racquet back higher and in one simple motion. This simple technique allowed me to better coil my body and ultimately generate more racquet speed and create a more offensive shot.

Happy New Year to all and I look forward to lots of tennis in 2014!

**Greg Barnes**

## Notes From The Pro Shop

**Jan Events: Sat 18th:** Kids Match Day 12 noon-2pm  
**Sat 18th:** Club Championships Singles begin.

**\*\*\* Sat 25th: Annual Presidents Party at 7pm**

\* \* \* \* \*

Monica Warman, to the right, is a petitioned Nominee  
for the Board for 2014.



## Welcome New Members

Dianne Amador

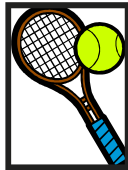
Tony & Jenny Baumer

Eric & Lauren Lieberman

Bruce Merrifield

Wayne & Evelyn Rosen

Erin Yaroshuk (Junior)



## Head Pro - Eric Hechtman

It is with much excitement, enthusiasm and exuberance that RPTC names Eric Hechtman our Head Pro. Eric was born and raised in Miami. He won the High School State Championships 3 years in a row, and was the number 3 recruited player in the nation going into college. As the Hurricanes team captain for 3 years, he holds the school record for the most all time wins. During his time at the U, he became a two time ACC Champion as well as a two time Big East Champion. He played the ATP tour for 6 months after graduating and he still competes in a few prize money tournaments. Eric graduated from the University of Miami with a degree in political science. He went on to work at Fowler, White & Burnett and then attended Law School.

For the last three years Eric has been the Director of Junior Tennis program here at RPTC. Eric's philosophy is: "I have tried to instill work ethic, sportsmanship, respect and responsibility into the young players in order to help build a future generation of tennis in the Miami area. Greatness in all these aspects is contagious, and I hope it will spread throughout the community."

Eric enjoys all levels but specializes in fitness, technique and strategy at the intermediate to advanced level. In addition to the junior program and private lessons, Eric teaches clinics for the men & women. He has also been the hitting partner for some of the top players in the world (Rafael Nadal,

Roger Federer, Venus & Serena Williams). Perhaps you have had the opportunity to watch Eric play with Venus here at the Club.

Finally, Eric is to be congratulated for being named the USTA's Junior Competitive Coach of the Year, in addition to being named Head Pro at our great Club.

\* \* \* \* \*

Eric & student, Chase Perez Blanco, to the left, who was named  
USTA Junior Player of the Year 2013.





# Holiday Round Robin & Brunch



Sylvia & Ernesto Arill

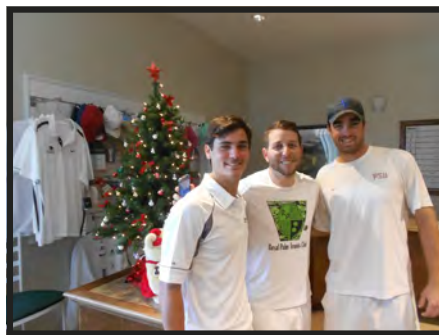
After unexpected rain, the courts were dried and play commenced. Brunch was delicious and was again, a treat enjoyed by all. Big thanks to Marcie for fabulous food, the pros for playing tennis with members, Marianne and Greg for their help and the staff for making this an extraordinary event. Thanks to the Bazaar vendors for their support and wonderful merchandise at the event.



Greg Barnes & Marcie Ziv



James, Ernie, Barbara, Pro-John



Pros Eduardo, Rafael, Brad



Marcy, Benny, Mary Jane, Uta



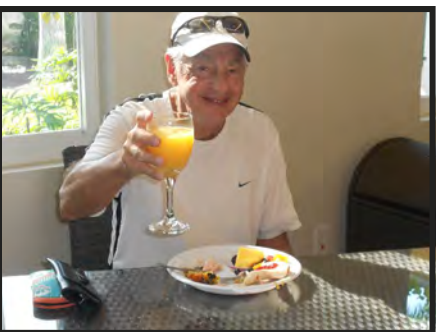
Lauren A, Pro-Chris, Julie G



Marianne, Abby, Karen



Julia B, Abby, Carol, Pro-Eduardo



Dale Davis



George, Celeste, Chuck, Carol, Monica, Tom



Chrissy P & Jeanne B



## Ladies play in Colorado

Royal Palm Ladies participated in this Annual Summer Member/Guest Doubles Tournament at the beautiful Maroone Creek Club in Aspen, Colorado. Players from all over Colorado attend this event, and it just so happens that it was an all Royal Palm final. Jamie Richman, Lauren Miller, Robin Zagorski & Eva Gorson are pictured to the right.

Congratulations to all!!



## Kids Match Day & Awards



Belinda & Thomas Biggs,  
Pro-Rafael



Pro-David, Sean Bayard,  
Lia Fletcher



Alejandro, Pro-David,  
Sam Regueros



**\*\*\*ALL THE BEST FOR THE NEW YEAR\*\*\***

Thank you all for your generosity .... from Royal Palm Staff