



Chickee Chatter

Royal Palm Tennis Club

Founded in 1960

February 2015

7001 SW 98th Street

Miami, FL 33156

Pro Shop: 305.661.3350

Office: 305.667.4006

www.rptc.org

OFFICERS

2015

President

Jorge Hernando

Vice President

Corinne Kayal

Secretary

Javier Siu

Treasurer

Doug Orth

Past President

Wally Lord

DIRECTORS

(serving through)

Bogie Glenn '15

Jorge Hernando '15

Doug Orth '15

Marianne Pantin '15

Marcie Ziv '15

Carol Crabtree '16

Tom David '16

Corinne Kayal '16

Jim Perry '16

Javier Siu '16

Carol Castro '17

Andy Herron '17

Glenn Huber '17

Elliott Rodriguez '17

Bill Tuttle '17



President's Notes

Happy New Year! We are enjoying a beautiful January with cooler weather and sunny days. I am sitting here beginning my first newsletter on a Friday morning watching my son Tavi take a tennis lesson and enjoying a casual work day. Lots of good tennis being played and some excellent teaching pros at work. It is no wonder the snowbirds make their annual trek to South Florida in the winter. I am surprised we don't have more seasonal tennis club members.....might be an idea for a new membership category!

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have new Officers to the Board of Directors, and five new Board Members comprised of the following;

Officers: President - Jorge Hernando; Vice President - Corinne Kayal; Secretary - Javier Siu; Treasurer - Doug Orth

New Board Members: Carol Castro, Andy Herron, Bill Tuttle, Glenn Huber, Elliott Rodriguez.

A big thank you and welcome to the new board members, and thanks for your outstanding service to the outgoing board - Cindy Augustyn, Jay Bashein, Bill Castellano and Steve Sirota. I would like to especially thank Wally Lord for his excellent leadership and accomplishments last year. It was a very busy time at Royal Palm and Wally handled many projects deftly, and continued to move the club forward with approval for additional, much needed lights. Further, thanks to all the members that volunteered to run for the Board and did not get elected. We are a relatively large community so occasionally it takes multiple attempts to get elected to the Board. Keep trying as long as you are interested! It is through the dedication of the Board that the club has excelled over the past 50+ years. Everyone that volunteers as a Board Member puts in many hours participating in the club and do so freely to benefit the membership and continue to make Royal Palm the premier tennis club in the area. We also need to keep in mind that even in the midst of debates such as on the desire for color or white tennis attire, we need to maintain a friendly and cordial perspective no matter what side of the issue you fall. This club is as our mission states, "..... to operate, maintain, and improve the Royal Palm Tennis Club as a private, non-profit club for the purpose of enabling its members to learn and play the game of tennis and engage in other social activities in an atmosphere of sportsmanship and friendship." That mission statement beautifully highlights what everyone loves about Royal Palm.

See you on the courts!

Jorge Hernando

Notes From The Pro Shop

Events: Sat 7th & 21st - Kids Match Day at 12 –2pm

Sun 8th—Men’s Round Robin & BBQ at 9:00am

Sat 28th - Club Championships Singles Finals

Guest fees for Adults & Juniors will be \$10 as of January 1st 2015. Failure to sign in your guest will result in a \$25 fine.



David & Samantha Warren



Welcome New Members

Al & Lynn Bunis



Welcome to our new Junior members

The following are our newest Junior members of the Club. They are listed Alphabetically.

Junior “A”

Aliyah Cohen; Maya Gowda; Cole Perez-Blanco; Andrea Torres

Junior “B”

Alexis Barna; Delialah Cohen; Josh Delgado; Franky DiMise; Oliver “Nikko” Fiallo; Joella Fiallo; Andrea Garcia; Matthew Garcia; Ysabel Gonzalez; Patrick Grattan; Paul Karam; Nikita Kolesnikov; Marino Kulisic; Alec Libnic; Andre Libnic; Luca Lipari; Raffaella Lipari; Lindy Lyons; Isabella & Natalia Marquez; Michael Rusanov; Carly Stokes; Mia Suarez.

We are delighted to have you all at Royal Palm Tennis Club!



New Club Championships Division

There will be a new category this year in the doubles Club Championships. It will be Senior 60+ for the Men & Ladies. Please sign up in the Proshop if you are interested. Minimum of 4 teams. Find a partner or sign up as an individual looking for a partner. Tournament begins on March 7th . Good luck!



Proud of our Members



Sara & Jim's Amazing Nobel Prize Adventure

In what was truly a once in a lifetime experience, my wife, Sara Czaja, was invited to Stockholm, Sweden to engage with experts (including six Nobel Prize Laureates) from all over the world in the *Nobel Week Dialogue*, a day-long symposium held on December 9, 2014, devoted to all aspects (medical, biological, scientific, sociological, technological, demographic & economic) of **Aging**. Sara, who is the Leonard Miller Professor of Psychiatry and the Scientific Director of the *Center on Aging* at the University of Miami, participated in two panels during the day, entitled “*Implications of an Older World*” and “*Technological Innovations*”.

The *Nobel Week Dialogue* was held in conjunction with the *Nobel Prize Awards & the Nobel Banquet*, always held on December 10, the day of Alfred Nobel's death, where the King of Sweden awards the Nobel Prizes in Medicine, Physics, Chemistry, Literature and Economics (the *Nobel Peace Prize* is awarded in Oslo, Norway on the same day.)

Sara invited me to join her on this wonderful adventure, and for three magical days we enjoyed the wonderful company of Nobel Prize winners and brilliant researchers from Europe, Asia, Africa and America (we were the only ones from Miami). Every person we met, including many of the most distinguished scientists in the world, was generous with his or her time and spirit, gracious and down to earth. During a taxi ride I shared with Craig Mello, who won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2006 for discovering how RNA works, he explained his research to me in words that even I could (almost) understand and Jeff Koons, the famous artist, kissed Sara on both cheeks and told her that she had done a wonderful job!

The dress code for the banquet was White Tie & Tails, so here's a picture of us in our costumes.



Congratulations to **Josh Lerner** on his selection as “Top Lawyer” by the South Florida Legal Guide! Josh is listed under the areas of Corporate and Business Litigation, Professional Liability. Selection to the SFLG listings are based entirely on peer nominations. During the months of April and May of each year, lawyers in South Florida are invited to nominate their peers and peer firms to the Guide's several listings. Well Done, Josh! Now we want to see you around the tennis courts again.





Tennis Tip



Hello Royal Palmer's!

A new year is upon us, and with a new year I'm sure we all have new goals. From a player's perspective, this a good time to think about working on a possible new aspect of your game; and since we are all fresh off of holiday season, the shot that I am going to suggest everyone add to their arsenal, is the drop shot.

First, during the cooler months the ball moves slower through the air and stays lower to the ground which is helpful for a drop shot. Second, there are many of us that had some great meals over the holidays possibly making some of your opponents a step slow. Now we just have to know how to hit the shot and when to use the shot.

Technically, a drop shot is hit by hitting the ball close to your body with a slightly open racquet face. Your depth is generated by two factors: (1) pace of the ball and (2) power from the step of your legs. The stroke used to hit the shot is generated by moving your racquet slightly high to low with a tight wrist, soft hand and no follow through. Essentially, a drop shot is a "stop shot."

The best time to use a drop shot is first off of a mid-court or short ball and in combination with your opponent playing significantly behind the baseline.

Therefore, in 2015 add one of the deadliest shots in club tennis to your weaponry- the dropper! Try it out in practice or ask a pro for some assistance in your clinics and lessons.

See you at the courts!- Eric



Congratulations to Eric & Alexandra on their new addition to the family, Noah Hechtman.



If you are looking for a team to play on, a clinic to participate in, or game to play in, please call Eric, so that he can assist you.