



Chickee Chatter

Royal Palm Tennis Club

Founded in 1960

October, 2020

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Miami, FL 33156

Pro Shop: 305.661.3350

Office: 305.667.4006

www.rptc.org

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2020

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Fellow Royal Palmers,
Chickee Chatter is back!

As you may have noticed, the club is very busy and cranking on all cylinders. Indeed, the membership is full at 290 families, and the Board recently capped the waitlist at 10 (waitlisters do have some playing privileges, and the courts are already very full). So new applicants to the Club will sit "in the drawer" until a spot on the waitlist opens up.



Why are we so busy? Some have suggested that tennis is a very COVID-friendly physical activity, given that it is outdoors and not crowded (as compared to a gym, for example). That may have something to do with it, but I like to think that Royal Palm is experiencing a new Silver Age as a result of its wise and benevolent leader. Of course, I am referring to (myself) Bev, who has done an outstanding job in making sure the club, the staff, the pros and the members are thriving in the COVID age.

But, being busy presents some new challenges. At peak times (and even times that used to be calmer), the courts are jammed and ["DISASTER!"], you may have to wait for a court or you may be bumped from a court you are using. When I was a kid, (the Golden Age of RPTC) and the club regularly had a full waiting list, these indignities also happened from time to time. Regrettably, I have heard that some have not responded well to these occurrences. I'll say no more other than to strongly encourage everyone to endure a delay or a bumping with grace and politeness toward our staff and fellow members. For those who cannot do so, I have asked the maintenance staff to build a pillory in the breezeway to detain recalcitrant members. OK, that is not true (we will probably just purchase a pillory). But, I do urge everyone to BE NICE and PLAY FAIR for the benefit of everyone.

More quick news and notes:

- Eric is back! Welcome him back and demand stories about pro tennis in the bubble.
- The end of an era: The Rock House is not long for this world, as the cost of necessary repairs to pass our upcoming certification is too high. The Board is currently getting bids to raze the structure and identifying future options for that space.

Thanks to all for complying with the new normal: bring your own water jug and wear a mask when not playing.

Be Well and Stay Safe!

- Andy Herron

Welcome

Family Members

Ricardo Donoso & Family

Seema Mehta & Family

Michelle Pasko & Family

Lloyd Schneider & Family

* * * * *

Waitlist Members

Rodrigo Arrangoiz & Family

James Crowell & Family

Luis Fernandez & Family

Angela Jimenez & Family

Richard Munoz & Family

Vivian Vila & Family

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And Welcome to all of the new Junior Members!



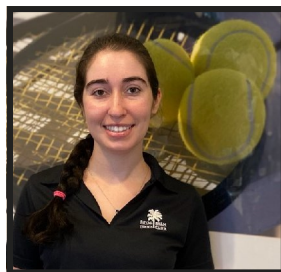
Proshop Gals



Thank you to all the Proshop staff who have been so helpful, kind and courteous throughout these Covid times. They help with court assignments, serving ice & water, answering many calls and live weather reports to the members on these crazy busy days at the Club, and always with a smile. It does not go unrecognized!



Valentina



Jeselyn



Alexia & Sophie



Nancy



Out on the Courts!



Now that tennis is the “go to sport”, you may have noticed the courts are packed day in and day out!

So just a few reminders.....

- Singles is allowed 1 hour and Doubles is allowed 1-1/2 hours per game.
- If all the courts are filled, you can be bumped at this time. When you sign up at the pro shop, you are given a 5 minute grace period to get out to the court and then your time begins.
- If there are open courts, you can play as long as you wish!
- If you are playing singles and then you have extra players joining you at a later time, you do need to check in to the pro shop as you will only have 1 hour of court time. If there are courts available, you may stay on your existing court and get a new start time. If there is a waitlist, you need to give up your court and may need to wait a short time.
- If courts are almost full, with only 2 remaining unused, the entire group needs to be present to get a court assigned.
- Once a non-member has taken a lesson, they do not have access to play socially afterwards unless you sign them in as your guest.
- Please sign in your guests prior to playing and to give first and last names to the pro shop staff.

Thank you for your patience on our busy days!



David Kurtz



David Brooks Kurtz, passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with cancer. David was a third generation Miamian. After graduating from Coral Gables High School, he pursued a career as a Tennis Professional. In this capacity, he worked for the city of Coral Gables, including opening the Biltmore Tennis Center. He also gave tennis lessons and was particularly good with children. He enjoyed inspiring them to love the game as well. He retired from the city in 2009.

As a young man, David’s hobbies included surfing and competition water skiing. He continued to play tennis at Royal Palm Tennis Club, where he was a member for 17 years. He was on the Board of Directors and Grounds Committee over the years. He would play with anyone and everyone, no matter what the level, and always made the opponent feel good! He was an avid golfer and fisherman as well. David and Anita shared a passion for sailboat racing, primarily in Florida and the Bahamas. They also had many wonderful experiences cruising on chartered sailboats in the Abaco Islands and the British Virgin Islands. David was a life member and Past Commodore of the Coconut Grove Sailing Club.

He will be missed by all those whose lives he touched.



Men's 4.0 Team at RPT



The Men's 55+ 8.0 USTA team is representing Miami-Dade County in the Sectionals (State Championships) at the Lake Nona USTA National Campus from October 10-12. The team lost 2-1 last year in the semi-finals. The team consists of Larry Cole, Tim Battle, Jorge Hernandez, Ricardo Gross, John Dubois, Gregg Schwartz (Captain), Andy Herron, Javier Siu, Steve Rigl, Ralph Martins, Martin Zilber, Raul Moskovitz and John Sullivan .

Well done & Good luck to you all!



The new handshake!



Pros Corner



To do or not to do?

I want to bring up a topic about conditioning for tennis.

It is very important, especially in the summer time and here in Florida. You're going to sweat, meet extreme heat and humidity and might (hopefully not) experience cramps, dehydration and symptoms of heat stroke.

It is very important to remember that the game of tennis is not just to be able to hit one more ball over the net and inside the lines, than your opponent (which is actually important too), but to be able to perform on the same level every day. So if you think that just hitting some balls every day is enough, I will "break" (change) your opinion.

Conditioning is highly necessary on a daily basis. There are plenty of drills such as sprints/ stop, ladder, cones, reaction, etc. All of these will help you perform at a good level and you will not to be out of breath after long rallies. By the rules, you have only 30 seconds to recover and to start a next point. Obviously, you need to be in shape to be able to make it. So try to dedicate at least 30 to 45 minutes every day to jog, sprint, or do other tennis related activities outside. Don't forget to stretch afterwards and you will see the positive results very soon. Also be sure to hydrate with plenty of water, sport drinks and electrolytes as you lose minerals while sweating and you need to replenish them to prevent cramping and other complications.

So exercise outside on the tennis court and have fun playing!

- Ana Larionova