



# Chickee Chatter

Royal Palm Tennis Club

Founded in 1960

February 2021

7001 SW 98th Street

Miami, FL 33156

Pro Shop: 305.661.3350

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www.rptc.org

## OFFICERS

### 2021

#### President

Andy Herron

#### Vice President

Alison McLaughlin

#### Secretary

Javier Siu

#### Treasurer

Doug Orth

## DIRECTORS

(serving through)

Wendy Coles '21

Andy Herron '21

Glenn Huber '21

Alison McLaughlin '21

Javier Siu '21

Paco Comparini '22

Marla Ferreira '22

Bruce Koniver '22

Robert Rubin '22

Joan Sanz '22

Cindy Augustyn '23

David Elkins '23

Bruce Hornik '23

Steve Rigl '23

John Sullivan '23

Dear Royal Palmers,

Congrats to our new Board members: Steve Rigl, David Elkins, Cindy Augustyn, Bruce Hornik and John Sullivan. Kudos to all of you for the willingness to give your time to Royal Palm.

The annual meeting via video conference was a new experience, but we succeeded. The meeting was highlighted by Doug Orth's good news Treasurer's report, and lots of scintillating and definitely excessive talking by yours truly. Special thanks to Doug, Alison McLaughlin, Bev, Eric (who attended from Australia), our pollsters and all those whom I have left out.

You are probably wondering why I am still writing this column. Some of you are probably saying: where is the new President? The fact is that just a few days before Alison was due to be sworn in, I received a message from my secret mentor (let's call him "Q") about the deep state (let's call it "Coral Oaks") infiltrating and trying to take over Royal Palm. So, in light of that crisis and the pandemic, I have invoked martial law and suspended the RPTC by-laws that I did not like, including the ones that meant my term might end. So I will continue in my role, which has been tweaked and is now called "Emperor." Just as Julius Caesar did before me, I assure you that this is for the good of all.

Ok. Some of that is not really true. As announced at the annual meeting, I had been approached by some members of the Board about serving as President for another year. I agreed to do it, if elected, provided that my Presidential salary was tripled. Shockingly, they were not deterred, and the new Board has elected me to serve one more year. In seriousness, RPTC has been a big part of my life over the years, and I am honored to continue to serve. Hopefully I will not disappoint too many of you.

In other news, one of our current projects hit a speed bump: It seems that the electrical connection at the Rock House (due to be disconnected for the impending demolition) also powers the sprinklers for courts 17 and 18. Thankfully, we devised a temporary solution: Alan is installing a large hamster wheel / dynamo to be manned by new Board Member and tri-athlete Steve Rigl. When the courts need to be watered, Steve will power the sprinkler pump by training on the hamster wheel. If others pitch in (Joan Sanz has already volunteered to be Steve's back up), we can start selling electricity back to FPL. We already have an electrical contractor looking at developing a permanent solution, which will likely involve bringing power to a newly installed junction in the northwest corner of the property. (continued on next page)



This hiccup is probably a blessing in disguise because we can anticipate and plan for our potential future electrical needs in that area, including lighting courts 17 and 18, lighting the hitting wall / pickle ball area, and powering the Piña Colada / Daiquiri machine.

Finally, I remind you all that pro tennis is back (in Australia)! Check it out and look for Eric on TV; he got good air time in Venus's match against Kvitova.

See you on the courts!

**Emperor Herron**



## Notes



- Club Championships Singles will begin February 6th .
- Sign up in pro shop for Doubles Club Championships which will begin in March.
- Kindly remind your guests to wear the proper white tennis attire to the Club.
- On cold days, colored warm-ups may be worn over your white apparel, no colored shirts allowed.
- Hand Sanitizer is available at the pro shop for use before and after play.
- Additional hooks have been added to the tikis for your tennis bags and towels.



## Thank you!



Thank you to the expert "Ballot Counters" for the taking time to help us with the count. Janine Burke, Anita Shuffield, Sharon Johnnides, Maria Bandklayder & Adrienne Vynne have all had years of experience!

You are the Best!!





## Pro Tip



### Split-step

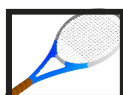
The split-step is one of the most fundamental aspects about tennis. Every time, before you hit a ball, you most likely are performing a “split-step.” However, many players do this move incorrectly or not at all. Most people, when they “split”, jump up high in the air, narrow their stance, and are essentially not in an explosive position.

I like to think of the split step as more of a split down, with the focus on widening the base of your legs for balance and agility, keeping your upper body straight and the core tight for balance. The wide base and strong balance should help develop an explosive first step in order to position to the ball quicker and with better balance. Tennis, in the end, is a short distance sport. Therefore, being in an athletic position and ready to pounce is crucial.

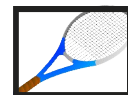
Timing of the split is also important. Players should keep in mind that the split should always happen before the opponent hits the ball. Being late on a split is like not splitting at all. The volley and the return are the two most important shots to split correctly since both require quick balanced reactions.

Start your shot off on the right foot or feet for that matter. Split down, split at the right time, split with balance, and split with purpose.

- Eric Hechtman



## Club Championships



Another exciting match was completed for the Doubles Championships 2020.



Ladies “B” Doubles

Winner:

Eve Rosen & Shelia Barreto

Finalist:

Joanne Rigl & Paula Herron

Thank you for playing!





## On the Tour



### Adelaide Melbourne Journal

We have been so blessed and lucky to be in Adelaide. Our flight was a private chartered flight on Qatar Airlines with only Venus' team, Serena's team, and Naomi Osaka's team. A whopping total of 14 people on an Airbus 350 that normally carries 400 plus passengers.

All players knew coming in that they were going to be in a 14-day quarantine, with a special grant to tennis players to leave the room for 4-5 hours a day to train. However, there were 3 flights that people had tested positive for Covid-19. These flights put all players and passengers into a hard lockdown for 14 days, where they cannot leave their room at all. Luckily, we were not on one of those flights.

The hotel we are at is only for tennis players playing in the exhibition. Each floor is dedicated to players and their team members: Williams sisters, Osaka, Help, Djokovic, and Nadal. My room is very spacious, a two-bedroom apartment with a balcony. There is a small kitchen, washer/dryer and bed and bathroom. Unlike most hotel stays, all cleaning etc. is up to the occupant. We receive grocery delivery for the day and dinner delivered each night to the floor. Also, COVID-19 being the main concern... we were tested each day of the 14-day stint. So far, on day 10 nobody has tested positive.

Practice has been unique to say the least.... We are allowed 4-5 hours including driving time for Venus and Serena to practice each day. The practice time is the only time we are allowed out of the hotel room/floor. Luckily, our cohort group has been positive, and we can interact with those on our floor. Everyone on the floor is on the Williams team!

Each day, we must drive ourselves in an exceptionally large passenger van from our narrow garage to the courts. Unfortunately, I am the designated driver, driving the large vehicle and full crew on the wrong side of the road. Good thing last year we had the RV experience across the US!

Friday, we will be released from our quarantine sentence and Venus will take part in an exhibition at 4:30 pm and then jump on a flight that night heading to Melbourne for a tournament ahead of the Australian Open.

- Eric Hechtman



## Safe Place



We have been so fortunate in keeping the Club a safe place to come and play tennis. With everyone doing their part, by wearing face masks, social distancing and staying away if they may have been exposed to someone with Covid, all contributes to the well being of the Club. Keep it up, be smart, and hopefully we will get back to normal soon!

