



# Chickee Chatter

Royal Palm Tennis Club

Founded in 1960

March 2021

7001 SW 98th Street Miami, FL 33156 Pro Shop: 305.661.3350 Office: 305.667.4006 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,

As I am sure you have heard, fallout from the insurrection at the pro shop continues apace. I formed a tri-partisan commission (including supporters of Penn, Wilson and even Babolat balls) to investigate the attack by angry seniors (aka "Grandma Gate"). The commission has already identified a key security failure. As some of you may know, the Club recently laid to rest its long-serving Director of Security, who obviously was not present when the octogenarian onslaught occurred. Known by her friends as "Cheeto" (real name: Whiskers Paws Mittens Steffi Graf Cat). Cheeto was a skilled, legendary attack cat whose name was very well-known throughout Miami's alleys and restaurant parking lots. But Cheeto left the Miami streets at the top of her game some eighteen years ago in order to take over all security operations at Royal Palm. She had protected the club ever since, day and night, taking nothing more than a bowl of food and a kind word for her trouble. None of us will soon forget the day in 2005 when Cheeto foiled a terrorist attack by agitators seeking to change the all-white clothing rule. But alas, Cheeto was not present for the insurrection. The commission concluded that the mob was primarily emboldened by Cheeto's absence. At the Board meeting following the release of the report, there was a consensus that the Club promptly employ a new Director of Security. Board member, Robert Rubin, while acknowledging that finding another watch cat was the popular pick, lobbied heavily for a chupacabra, if one were available.

Obviously, I have taken some poetic license to further glorify Cheeto, who was also our club mascot. She will be sorely missed, and the staff was heartbroken. I can report that we did convince one chupacabra to interview on an upcoming moonless night.

In other news, the Club continues to experience incredibly high demand for courts. Please be patient if you come to pay at peak hours. Or avoid the issue by scheduling your tennis later or earlier. If you do have to wait, or you are bumped, please be gracious and polite to the staff and your fellow members.

Projects are also moving forward. We are on the verge of solving our electrical problem in the NW corner of the property, and we have installed a new shed in that area for storage. We will soon be changing the main electrical panel over an upcoming weekend, and the lighting project on courts 9 through 12 is on schedule for May execution.

Finally, look for details on a great opportunity: given our unspent entertainment budget, Royal Palm has purchased a "Cabana" on the grounds of the Miami Open and will be raffling off tickets to the membership. Stay tuned!

- Andy Herron



## Notes



- Drive slowly and carefully in the parking lot and be mindful of pedestrians.
- Do not leave valuables in your car and make sure you lock the doors.
- Please respect social distancing and other players personal items under the tikis.
- No parking in the drive-thru if parking spots are available, especially in front of the handicapped.



## News



**Guest fees** will be \$15 per person as of April 1st, 2021.

**Guest playing privileges are as follows:**

**Weekdays** - No restrictions in the mornings at this time.

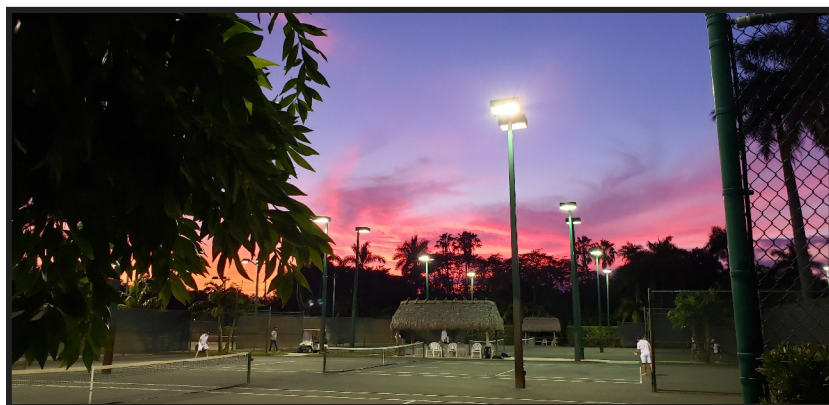
No guests allowed between 5-7pm.

**Weekends** - Guests are allowed to play after 11am-6pm.

1 hour for singles play & 1 1/2hr for doubles if all courts are in use.

Due to the Club being very active, these rules are set in order to help with court availability.

We appreciate that you abide by these rules during this busy tennis time.



Sadly, Vinnie Bluimfeldas passed away in peace on March 5th. Our thoughts and prayers are with Aurea and her family at this sad time.

Andy Garcia, a long time member at RP in the 70's & 80's passed away as well. Condolences to their family too.

Rest in peace!



## Pic of the Month



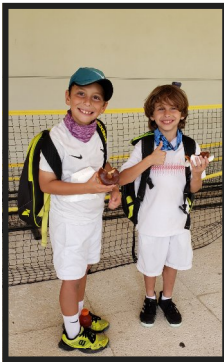
The Gal's..... Louise, Sharon & Kitty, in style for their doubles game.



## Kids Match Day



Twice a month we have a "Kids Match Day" on Saturday with our Junior Members. Thanks to Pro Roeland, Drake, Eric, Cliff & Anna for coaching them during their matches. We cap the group at 36 players and it sure fills up fast. Our next group of stars on the rise!



## Tennis Camp

Spring is almost here and **\*\*Kids Spring Tennis Camp\*\*** will be held March 29th-April 2nd.

Camp begins 9:30am-12pm and Academy 11-2pm

Register in the pro shop. Let us know if you have any questions!





## Heart



Heart is something that is ever present in the world. We always love to hear the stories, whether they are soldiers, firefighters, police officers, athletes, and more, of people using their courage and heart to fight and give it their all to persevere. In Australia, I had first had experience of this while coaching Venus Williams.

Venus won her first round of the Australian Open in convincing fashion and good form. She had a left knee injury plaguing her for weeks, but never once used it as an excuse or a reason why she would not be able to perform at her best. As she entered the court in her 2<sup>nd</sup> Round match, I could see her knee bothering her more and more right through the warm-up. Then, in the first set, she sprained her right ankle. She could barely put weight on either leg at this stage. As a coach, I signaled to her to stop playing and get off the court to prevent further injury. I watched as my heart sunk to my stomach hearing her screams of frustration and pain. All the hard work, time, sacrifice, and things sometimes just do not go your way. I knew exactly what was flying through her mind. She got off the bench after a double medical timeout and continued to play....

Immediately, I was a bit angry, thinking why she isn't listening! She's only going to hurt herself more. However, within minutes, I understood that not only is she a champion, but she has the HEART of a champion. I knew that once she starts something that she never quits! This a quality that everyone should admire. I watched the rest of the match with anxiety (hoping for her not to get hurt worse) and pride (knowing my student has the heart of a champion and will never quit). Thankfully, Venus didn't get hurt worse and she is working hard to recover. Her heart showed me that the strongest quality any athlete or person can bring to the table is exactly that, heart. You never know what any day can bring... make sure you always lay it on the line!

Your heart defines you as a person.

- Eric Hechtman

