



BALLENISLES

SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY

The private community, only minutes from downtown Palm Beach, has completed a \$50 million capital improvement program.



“NINE HOLE ROUNDS are on the rise and golf has become more social as well. We have increased our afternoon couples, non-competitive tournaments.”
 – JEFF FITZHERBERT, DIRECTOR OF GOLF



DID YOU KNOW?

A century ago, tennis was played on clay, grass, and *en-tout-cas*, a crushed brick from Europe. The brick was occasionally shipped from France and England as ballast on empty boats. In 1931, the first Har-Tru court was built in America. Har-Tru is a trademark name for clay-based composite mined in Virginia (like champagne is a trademark sparkling wine in France). Today, 88% of the top players in tennis practice on Har-Tru courts.

“NO MATTER your skill level, following basic fundamentals is critical. Be sure to (1) evaluate your position on the court, (2) lock in your choice of shot, and (3) execute without hesitation.” – FRANK SWOPE, DIRECTOR OF TENNIS OPERATIONS

“OUR STAFF OF 380 organizes 200 member events per year.” – DERRICK BARNETT, GENERAL MANAGER

PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLORIDA: BallenIsles is considered the most exclusive private community in South Florida with three 18-hole courses.

“Golf is at our core,” explained Jeff Fitzherbert, director of golf. “We average 150 players on each of our courses per day. We offer 48 group golf clinics per year and our ladies golf association is so active, we divided it into two leagues.”

BallenIsles is a member-owned private community energized with activity. Its 1,575 residents have access to a 72,000 square-foot contemporary clubhouse, a 62,000 square-foot sports complex, Cosmo and Company Spa, tennis pavilion, three restaurants, and an inviting resort-style pool in a lushly landscaped setting.

Two years ago, the membership committed to maintain its golf reputation.

“Our North Course received a \$5.2 million renovation,” proudly reported Fitzherbert. “The end result is an aesthetically pleasing design. While not our longest golf course, the greens can be tricky.

“The courses are known for tournament caliber conditioning. Our East Course is our marquis design. It is by far our toughest test with deep bunkers. It has hosted many U.S. Open qualifiers and is famous for several great moments, including Jack Nicklaus’s win of the 1971 PGA Championship.”

It is advisable to pack a couple of extra golf balls when playing the South Course at BallenIsles.

“If you like water, you will love our South Course,”

grinned Fitzherbert. “Lakes come into play off the tee box on eleven holes. When you make the turn, you will face three of the most beautiful holes in Florida. Starting on hole nine, mature Australian Pines create a completely different feel.”

TENNIS NIRVANA

The BallenIsles Tennis Pavilion is one of the largest, most respected facilities on the East Coast. With a 500 seat stadium court, 19 Har-Tru clay courts, and two hard surface courts, it is understandable why Olympic Gold Medalists Venus and Serena Williams train at the club.

“Our staff of six teaching professionals interact with our 350 active players,” said Frank Swope, director of tennis operations. “Our membership’s interest in tennis is a close second to golf. We work to establish a full calendar of varied events. As a result, usage is up and we have over 100 women in our tennis league.

“Our tournaments run the gamut from ultra-competitive to pure fun,” said Swope. “Tennis is not a passive sport. Your body takes a lot of stress on the court. I like to advise our new members, ‘don’t play tennis to get fit, get fit to play tennis.’” ■

BallenIsles is 15 minutes north of the Palm Beach Airport (PBI) and near all of the Palm Beach cultural activities.

For more information, please visit ballenises.org, or you may call (561) 775-4763.