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Posted on Thursday, 12.02.10

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## Coral Gables Country Club reopens in grand style

BY ONELIA COLLAZO MENDIVE / GABLESHOMEPAGE.COM  
GABLESHOMEPAGE.COM

The newly restored Coral Gables Country Club celebrated its reopening in grand style on Tuesday, Nov. 30 as approximately 1,000 people attended the festivities and got a look at the renovations.

The renovations cost \$3 million, according Stacey Hawkins, marketing manager, Liberty Entertainment Group. Liberty president Nick Di Donato and wife Nadia Di Donato welcomed Coral Gables residents, South Florida community members and Canadian guests to the opening launch party. Nadia Di Donato, Creative Director – Liberty Entertainment Group, oversaw the new look of the club.

On hand to celebrate the occasion were Coral Gables Mayor Don Slesnick, Vice-Mayor Bill Kerdyk, Commissioners Maria Anderson, Wayne



Coral Gables Chamber President Mark Trowbridge, Liberty President Nick Di Donato, Chamber Chairman John O'Rourke Photo by Betty Alvarez /

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E. "Chip" Withers and Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera.

Coral Gables Chamber Chair John O'Rourke and chamber President & CEO Mark Trowbridge presented Liberty president Nick Di Donato with a proclamation commemorating the official reopening of the country club.

Art, live music, dancing and champagne kept the guests entertained as they toured the newly redone club.

On display at the reopening was a free public art exhibit of works by Salvador Dali and other masters that will continue to be open to the public Dec. 2-5 to coincide with Art Basel Miami Beach.

The facility is now open to the public and does not require a membership. The venue is available for weddings as well as other social and corporate events.

In addition to the event space the Country Club houses the Liberty Caffe and the Coral Gables Athletic Club.

The Toronto-based Liberty Entertainment Group took over in June 2009 and signed a 30-year lease to

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run the historic, city-owned club built in 1924. It had been closed since April 2008 after the previous management Granada LLC stopped paying its monthly \$22,500 loan payment for over a year. The club's Liberty Caffé opened to the public in May and the athletic club opened in July.



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**cotesud8** 12/03/2010 11:54 AM

So let me get this straight, a Canadian company gets a chance to make a profit while all of the CG members who paid hefty dues are left out in the cold. The property should have been sold to pay back the members. This is disgusting and why Slesnick and the commisioners should be voted out!!!

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**doc77** 12/03/2010 09:40 PM

The Coral Gables Commission sucks

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 **HeraldReader** 12/04/2010 12:02 AM

Isn't this article factually incorrect? The story with the old club, if memory serves, was not that it stopped paying rent. Rather, the old club had not yet started paying rent, because its contract with the landlord/city did not require payment of rent until the club turned a profit, which it might have been able to achieve if the city manager (who later resigned in disgrace) and commissioners had not attacked the club and destroyed its business prospects, which is why the city reportedly had to pay something like two million dollars to settle the claims of the old club's manager.

(Edited by author 1 week ago)

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 **cotesud8** 12/04/2010 02:53 PM in reply to HeraldReader

Except there was one woman Maria Torres or something-or-another who I called when the club was waning and she acted like she could have cared less.

I would love to see where the bixx is now!

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 **Jon Drummond** 12/06/2010 02:43 PM

dirty business...thats how the greedy do

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