

# Man pipes up on club rules

By LISA OCKER

Staff Writer

As a pipe smoker for almost half a century, smoking even on the tennis court and the golf course, Alvin Orlian was steamed when the country club he paid more than \$45,000 to join enacted a rule against it.

"In view of the fact that I have been a member of private country clubs for about 40 years, it would have been impossible for me to anticipate such an unheard-of rule," Orlian, of Boca Raton, wrote in January in his letter of withdrawal from the membership of Falls Country Club near Lake Worth. "Obviously, I would not have become a member if I had any idea such a rule would be put into effect."

Orlian, who joined the club in 1986, demanded a full refund of \$45,000 in membership fees plus a \$5,000 initiation fee and \$1,000 special assessment, as well as a pro-rated refund of his \$2,000 in dues.

The club never responded and, on Monday, Orlian sued.

"This man, when he joins the club, wants to smoke and socialize and relax," attorney Kenneth Lipman said. "The point is that he belongs and then they change the rules after the fact."

Orlian, 65, began smoking a pipe when he was 17. He smoked one when he met with a club official before applying for membership, he wrote in his letter, and he smoked a pipe at every meeting of the club's board of governors.

"At no time prior to my receiving a draft of the club rules was I apprised of the fact that not only could I not smoke a pipe but could not bring an unlit pipe into the clubhouse," he wrote.