

# BARBADOS TENNIS ASSOCIATION



## Newsletter AUGUST 2009

### Message from the President – Dr Raymond Forde

Since the publication of our last Newsletter in November 2008, I am pleased to report that the Association and its members continue to be very active in local, regional and international tennis arenas.

Here are some of the highlights from the last few months:

- Proceeds from our fund raising Grand Raffle drawn on December 31, 2008 helped us tremendously to nearly complete the floodlighting project at the National Tennis Centre. Floodlights are now erected on all courts and within the next few weeks, the electricity supply should be fully upgraded so that we will be able to light up all four sets of lights at the same time without blowing the fuses! I therefore thank all those who have helped us with this lengthy project, either by supporting our many fund raising endeavors or with much appreciated consultative advice.
- Following a run of very impressive victories on the ITF Junior Circuit, our top junior player – 17 year old Darian King has rocketed from #330 at the start of the year to a current ranking of #115 in the ITF junior rankings. Of particular note was Darian's win in the Barbados ITF Junior Championships held in April, when he became the first Barbadian to win the Boy's U18 singles event in its 14 year history.
- Top senior male player Haydn Lewis should also be mentioned. Haydn continues to play on the highly competitive ATP Challenger and Futures circuits in Australasia and more recently in the USA. Having reached a career ATP high of #583 in October 2008, Haydn's ranking has slipped to below 750, but we hope he will be on the rise again soon having won a doubles Futures event in Pittsburgh in mid July.
- On a less successful note, our senior Davis Cup team was relegated from Americas Zone Group III to Group IV after losing a very close playoff for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> spots against Costa Rica. Demotion comes after being one point away from promotion

to Group II in 2008. However, we anticipate that the great experiences gained by our juniors now playing in this senior event will ensure we can be back on track again in 2010.

- Other activities worthy of mention during 2009 have been the return of the Inter Club competition after many years, fresh sponsors for a new annual junior tournament at the National Tennis Centre and efforts to get "Outreach" tennis projects going in the wider community across Barbados.

I therefore look forward to reporting further successes for the Association during the remainder of the year.

### Tournament Report

#### Seniors

##### **Davis Cup**

Haydn Lewis, Darian King, Russell Moseley and Seanon Williams together with Captain Kevin Yarde traveled to La Libertad, El Salvador to compete in Group III of the Americas Zone Davis Cup competition in mid April with juniors King and Williams making their senior debuts.

As Haiti had dropped out at a late stage, Barbados was drawn with only two other teams - El Salvador and Bolivia in the Group A Round Robin, while Group B had four contesting teams. Against both Group A teams, the singles were shared and despite each deciding doubles match going to three sets, Barbados lost both and went down 1-2 in each tie.

Barbados therefore ended up in third place in their box, so the playoffs for 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> places against the two losers from Group B meant relegation for two of the teams.

Barbados started well against Honduras winning 3-0, but against Costa Rica in the final tie they fell short and again in the deciding doubles lost in three close sets.

El Salvador and Bolivia gain promotion to Group II, while Barbados and Honduras play in Group IV in 2010. Aruba and Bermuda are the promoted teams from Group IV.

### ***Spring Open tournament***

The second annual Spring Open was held from May 29 – June 7 at the National Tennis Centre. The Open singles winners were Ryan Moseley and Ancia Ifill.

Following the presentation of prizes for the tournament on June 13, a well attended *Big Bar-B-Q Bash* with music by resident DJ - George Grant (see below) was held at the National Tennis Centre clubhouse.



### ***Inter Club***

After many years, Inter Club competition resumed again during March – June under a new format whereby all fixtures were played on Saturday afternoons in order to avoid the traffic problems that had frustrated players trying to get to evening matches on time in the past.

Winners were the experienced Summerhayes Club with 423 points followed by the youthful Ocean View team with 366 points. Other teams participating were Tennis Centre, Paragon, Barbados Yacht Club, Windward and West Side.

At the presentation of prizes on July 4, organiser Stephen Slocombe was particularly pleased to announce that the Barbados National Bank had agreed to sponsor Inter Club from 2010. He also hoped that more teams would play in the competition next year as it was seen as a wonderful opportunity for players of all ages to participate in keen competition and camaraderie on a regular basis.

### ***Caribbean Games***

The 2009 games slated to be held in Trinidad and Tobago in July were cancelled due to the threat of swine flu.

We wait for confirmation that the games will be rescheduled, as tennis was to be one of the five designated sports to be showcased.

### ***Juniors***

#### ***Barbados International ITF Grade 4 Championships***

DARIAN KING became the first Barbadian to win the Barbados Junior International (ITF) Championships U18 boy's singles event in its 14 year history. He did it in fine style by defeating his doubles partner Jamaican Brandon Burke in straight sets 7-5, 6-3.

In the girl's U18 event, 14 year old Nadia Echeverria, a Venezuelan born qualifier representing the United States, convincingly won the singles championship over another young American, Denise Starr, 6-2, 6-1.

The Under 18s boy's doubles winners were Yuta Hirokawa (Japan) and Kamil Khalil (Lebanon) with runners-up Rodney Carey (Bahamas) and Nevy Jogi-Singh (USA). The Under 18s Girls Doubles winners were twins Adel and Renata Arshavskaya (Russia) with runners-up Nadia Echeverria (USA) and Olga Gaistruk (Ukraine).

The U14 girl's singles event was won by Tyler Smith of Bermuda and the U14s boy's event was won by Yannick Francis of Grenada.

Despite losing our leading sponsor for many years, the tournament held in early April attracted more than 100 players from 30 countries in search of world-ranking points on the ITF junior circuit.

The Association would like to thank all new sponsors, those members who provided accommodation to the overseas officials, as well as the students from the Barbados Community College Sports Administration course for their help in making the tournament a success.

### ***Junior Davis and Federation Cups***

The Barbados boy's team of Thomas Hill, Ture Skinner and Michael Jordan placed 15<sup>th</sup> in the North/Central America & Caribbean Pre-Qualifying Junior Davis Cup event held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in March. The girls team of Melena Lopez, Ancia Ifill and Kareika Wharton finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the Federation Cup event.

Bahamas were the eventual winners of the boy's event with Guatemala coming top of the girl's competition.

Thanks again to all those who attended our Irish Night Fund Raiser at the Barbados Yacht Club in March. We similarly thank the Moonshiners band and Willie Kerr & Chris Harper for providing the entertainment, all who made donations to the event and Patricia Murray for producing some testing quiz questions and the answers.

We were able to raise sufficient funds from the event to cover all the airfares and sportswear for our teams.

### ***Powerade Junior tournament***

The inaugural Powerade Junior tournament took place at the National Tennis Centre from April 24 – May 3 with nearly sixty juniors participating in the various age groups.

The Boys Singles U18s winner was Renaldo Gibson with runner up Mykell Reifer. The Girls Singles U18s was won by Gabriella Lopez, runner up was Ancia Ifill.

We are also pleased to announce that we have signed a two year contract with B&B Distribution whereby we will endorse PowerAde as the official Isotonic/Energy drink of our Association in return for their sponsorship.

### ***NASSCO/Fortress Junior series***

The first tournament of the two part 2009 series held at the NTC in June attracted a large entry of juniors in the many age group singles and doubles events.

The second tournament will be played from October 16-24.

### **JITIC Central American & Caribbean Closed tournament**

The team of Samiya Dottin, Joelle Hall and Michaela Batson represented Barbados in the U14 event held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in July. Samiya reached the main draw of the singles winning two out of her three ties at the group stage.

In the Under 18s boy's events, Darian King won the doubles with Brandon Burke of Jamaica and reached the semi-finals of the singles. Other Barbadian players in the U18s were Richard Cole and Ancia Ifill.

### **Caribbean Under 13s Development Championships**

These take place in Trinidad from August 17 – 22. Coach Julian Baird is attending with team members Melena Lopez, Joelle and Dylan Hall.

### **Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI) & tennis camps**

The JTI programme run at the National Tennis Centre continues to attract many young newcomers to the game from the island's primary schools.

Coach Julian Baird also introduced pupils of St Gabriel's Primary School to a week of mini tennis sponsored by *Island Heritage* recently. In addition the National Sports Council annual summer tennis camp was held at the NTC for five weeks during the summer holidays with more than 100 youngsters in attendance.

### **Fundraising**

The Association would like to thank all those who contributed in any way to the success of the Grand Raffle – prize givers, ticket sellers, ticket buyers etc. and to congratulate the winners.

The first prize of a Toyota Yaris was won by Kristen Bentham, and the second prize of a trip for two to London courtesy Virgin Atlantic was won by John Humphrey.

Prizes were presented to the lucky winners at a short ceremony at the NASSCO Ltd. showroom in January.

### **National Tennis Centre - status of improvements**

Due to the success of the Grand Raffle, a generous donation from the Peter Moores Barbados Trust and support from the International Tennis Federation (ITF), the Barbados Olympic Association and other kind donors, the National Tennis Centre now has three fully floodlit courts. We also anticipate it will be a matter of weeks before the fourth court is also lit following the upgrade of the power supply.

Our next major project will be the resurfacing and painting of courts which we hope to complete before our next ITF junior circuit tournament in April next year.

In addition, we also hope to improve our car parking area and attempt to alleviate the flooding problems we have in the large recess behind the Club House.

All members willing to provide any assistance in getting these projects underway – please step forward!

### **Other news**

#### **Darian King**

Following successes at four consecutive International Tennis Federation (ITF) Junior Circuit tournaments in the region and at the recently concluded JITIC Grade GB3 tournament, top local junior tennis player 17 year old Darian King has risen up the ITF junior rankings to #115 as at August 10, 2009.



After winning the Barbados International Junior Singles Championships in April, Darian took time off for studies. However he returned with a bang to compete in ITF tournaments in Bermuda, Bahamas, Aruba and St Maarten in June.

In Bermuda, he reached the semi-finals in the singles and won the doubles with Bahamian partner Rodney Carey. In the Bahamas he won the singles title and again captured the doubles with Carey. In Aruba, he suffered a hand injury in the quarter finals of the singles which stopped a likely victory, but he bounced back to take the doubles event with Jamaican partner Brandon Burke.

At the St Maarten Junior Open, Darian, seeded #1 beat partner Burke 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 in the final, before the two again paired up to win the doubles.

Darian's next goal is to qualify for the prestigious US Open Juniors championships to be played in New York in September.

#### **Other junior players**

Throughout the year, many youngsters participate in ITF events around the region and gain valuable experience playing against differing opposition and styles of play. We therefore encourage more juniors to participate in these overseas events so that they can pick up ITF ranking points and also possible overseas scholarships. See [www.itftennis.com/juniors/tournaments/](http://www.itftennis.com/juniors/tournaments/) for the list of ITF Junior Circuit tournaments for the remainder of 2009.

#### **Nationals**

The 2009 Nationals sponsored by CO Williams, Island Heritage & Esso will be held at the National Tennis Centre starting from September 5.

Fact Sheets and Entry forms will be circulated shortly by e-mail and will be available at the National Tennis Centre.

### **Scoring Rule changes etc**

Kindly note that in accordance with new rules applied on the Junior ITF and Senior ATP circuits, the following rule will be followed in tournaments sanctioned by the Association:

*“All doubles matches shall be two tie-break sets and a match tie break (10 points) in place of a third set (No Ad scoring will be used)”*

The ITF is also encouraging the use of smaller courts and slower balls for all competitions for U10s players and a new ruling will be coming out shortly.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The Association will be holding its Annual General Meeting at the Barbados Olympic Association building on Monday September 7, 2009 at 6:00 pm.

The Notice and Agenda have recently been circulated.

### **Tennis Shop at National Tennis Centre**

A small range of tennis items can now be purchased from our shop at the National Tennis Centre – please contact Julian for further details.

### **Mix & Mingle**

“Mix and Mingle” social tennis sessions will be resuming again soon on Wednesday evenings from 6-9 p.m at the National Tennis Centre.

Adult members of the Association and prospective members are also encouraged to take advantage of a clinic being offered by local coaches as well as men’s, ladies’ and mixed doubles play.

Details of the restart date will be advised shortly.

### **Mark Cox**

Mark Cox, one of Britain’s most successful tennis players up to the 1980s, took time out from his winter vacation in Barbados to visit the National Tennis Centre to meet juniors and coaches, as well as to observe exciting and hard hitting tournament play at Ocean View Tennis Club.

Now a regular BBC Wimbledon commentator and summarizer, Mark continues to be heavily involved with junior tennis development in Britain, and was impressed by the vast numbers of youngsters participating in coaching schemes here as well as their high standard of play at practice and tournament level.

### **Officials**

If you love playing, watching or following tennis - why not give officiating a go! If you are interested, contact us at [tennisbarbados@sunbeach.net](mailto:tennisbarbados@sunbeach.net) and have a try out at calling the lines during the upcoming Nationals.

If we can get enough interested persons, we hope to run an official’s course within the next year.

### **Clean up day at National Tennis Centre**

A very successful cleanup and painting session took place at the National Tennis Centre on Errol Barrow Bank Holiday. Many thanks to all those who came out to help. We aim to make this an annual event!

### **National Tennis Centre –facility rentals**

The NTC facilities are now available for rentals, so if you are thinking of a venue to hold your next fete call tel # 427-5300/5298 or e-mail [tennisbarbados@sunbeach.net](mailto:tennisbarbados@sunbeach.net) for further information on rental rates and related information.

**FOR SALE** – we still have executive chairs for sale – they can be viewed at the National Tennis Centre. *Please contact the President at [tennisbarbados@sunbeach.net](mailto:tennisbarbados@sunbeach.net) if interested in purchasing.*

### **Membership Fees**

*Membership fees are as follows:*

Juniors – 18 & under	One time entrance fee - \$20
	Annual membership fee - \$20
Adults – over 18	One time entrance fee - \$40
	Annual membership fee - \$50

Membership forms are available from Julian at the NTC or from the Association’s website – [www.tennisbarbados.org](http://www.tennisbarbados.org).

Please note that **all juniors** must be **current paid-up** members to play in tournaments run by the Association. All **seniors** must also be current members of the Association **to qualify for Barbados rankings.**

You can also contact Julian or Kevin regarding coaching sessions and racquet re-stringing etc at the National Tennis Centre.

We also welcome the many new members who joined during the last year, but to those still not members and interested in supporting us, please do join up now.

### **Member’s concessions**

**First Class Fitness Centre** located in the Garfield Sobers Gymnasium is offering members a 10% discount on their rates on presentation of current year membership cards. Call Osolene Skinner at 427-8193 for further details.

**Inspire Sports** at Rockley Golf Course are offering 10% discounts to paid up members of the Association. To enquire about their tennis equipment and clothing call 435-7873.

**Sports & Games**, located at the Corner of James & Roebuck Streets, Bridgetown are also offering members similar discounts – call 427-3713.

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