

BARBADOS TENNIS ASSOCIATION



Newsletter January 2011

Since our last Newsletter was published back in August 2009, we hope you have been keeping up to date with local and regional tennis action through our website and the local press. However, for those not following these sources of news, worthy of note have been the following events:

- **“Tennis Pon De Rock”**. In November 2009, the directors of the Barbados Invitational Tennis Exhibition (BITE) hosted the world’s top female players Serena Williams and Caroline Wozniacki at two fund raising exhibition events. Together with our top player Haydn Lewis and past top 50 professional Jeff Tarango, matches were played in front of packed crowds at the Garfield Sobers Gymnasium and at the Sugar Hill Resort. The players also attended a Fantasy Camp with many of our juniors at the National Tennis Centre (NTC) as well as a cocktail party at Sugar Hill. Funds raised from the exhibition were donated to our Junior Development programme and to our top junior player Darian King.



- In January 2010, thanks to a grant from the Government’s Arts and Sports Promotion Fund, we were able to complete the second part of the major improvements at the NTC. We are now proud to offer members four newly resurfaced and fully floodlit courts for rental – call tel #s 427-5300/5298 to make bookings.
- In June 2010, our Davis Cup team of Haydn Lewis, Anthony Marshall, Ryan Moseley and Seanon Williams with Captain Kevin Yarde topped Americas Zone Group IV played in Panama, and gained promotion back to Group III – this year’s round robin event will be played in Tarija, Bolivia in June 2011.

- Our top junior player – Darian King has had an eventful year. Having achieved an impressive ITF junior ranking of #47 in early 2010, he went on to play in the main draws of the Roland Garros, Wimbledon and US Open junior grand slam events. However, the highlights of 2010 were when he won the Boy’s singles consolation event at the inaugural Youth Olympic Games held in Singapore in August, as well as gaining his first ATP point at the Dominican Republic Men’s Circuit Futures events in November 2010 which gave him a world ranking of #1579.



- The ITF supported Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI) programme for youngsters aged 6-14 years has really taken off at the NTC during 2010. Part of this programme is the Schools Tennis Initiative (STI) for 6-11 year olds. Hourly sessions are conducted by JTI Coordinator Julian Baird, fellow coaches and helpers and take place three times a week. The STI currently attracts some 80 juniors from 30 schools.
- Another segment of the JTI, the Performance Tennis Initiative (PTI) is also run three times weekly for the best juniors over 11 years who have progressed through the STI Programme. Call the NTC at 427-5300/5298 for more information on both the STI and PTI programmes or check our website www.tennisbarbados.org and follow link to JTI. The new term started January 3, 2011.
- High performance coaching sessions are also being held at the NTC for those juniors looking for more individual training. Contact Paul Stewart at the NTC for more information.

- Barbados and the English Speaking Caribbean now have their first Level 3 coach. Three more Level 2 coaches from Barbados also qualified during 2010. Damien Applewhaite received an Olympic Solidarity Scholarship to attend the Level 3 coaching course at ITF Coaching Headquarters in Valencia, Spain during May and returned successfully. Richele Lesaldo, Duncan Evanson and Michael Date also attended an ITF run Level 2 coaching course held in Antigua in November and similarly gained their new qualifications.
- Our President for the past 13 years, Dr. Raymond Forde was honoured by the ITF at its Annual General Meeting in September 2010. Dr. Forde received the honour in recognition of his involvement in the expansion of Barbados' junior development programme, the improvements made to the facility at the NTC, the staging of many local coaching and officiating courses and his work with regional tennis bodies during his tenure.

Annual General Meeting

At our Annual General Meeting held on October 3, 2010, the new Council for 2010/11 was appointed as follows:

President – Dr. Raymond Forde

Vice Presidents – Ms. Sandra Osborne and Mrs. Patricia Murray

Secretary – Mrs. Eleanor Brown

Assistant Secretary – Mrs. Margot Thomson

Treasurer – Ms. Helen Roper

Councillors – Mr. Christopher Cadogan, Ms. Carole Callender, Ms. Richele LeSaldo, Mr. Ryan Moseley and Mr. Stephen Slocombe

We always appreciate the help of members and parents with our many tennis playing and social events – if anyone is interested, please leave your name at the NTC with our Administrative Assistant, any Council member or by contacting us via e-mail at tennisbarbados@sunbeach.net

Tournament Report

Seniors

Nationals - The high point of the 2010 Nationals held in September 2010 at the NTC was Seanon Williams' follow up to his 2009 victory in the Open men's singles. However the 2010 marathon final against Russell Moseley lasted 3 and a half hours before victory went to Williams 7-5,6-7,7-6.

Inter Club 2010 - The Barbados National Bank (BNB) sponsored Inter Club competition was played during March and April with eight teams taking part in two divisions. Winners for the second year running were Summerhayes who beat Paragon in a closely contested final. A well attended BBQ and prizegiving also took place at the NTC following the final.

Senior Games - For the first time, tennis formed part of the Barbados Senior Games played at the NTC in April 2010. The games organised by the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment, Urban and Rural Development attracted many of our more mature players and is intended

as a stepping stone for National representation at the World Senior Games held annually.

Dr. Raymond Forde was the winner of both the men's singles and doubles at the inaugural event.

Juniors

Barbados International ITF Grade 4 Championship -

The 2010 tournament held in March resulted in wins for Kamil Khalil of Liberia in the Boy's singles and Kimberley Zimmerman of Belgium in the Girl's singles.

In the U14 events, the Girl's singles final was won by Antiguan Chassidy King who beat Melena Lopez while Trinidadian Scott Lanser beat Dylan Hall in the Boy's singles final. In the U14s doubles, the Girl's title went to Chassidy King and Melena Lopez who beat Cherise Slocombe and Michaela Batson. Hall and Lanser also teamed up together to win the Boy's doubles against Gavin Hutchinson and Shakir Elvin of Antigua.

U13 Development Championships 2010 –

Kiana Marshall excelled at the championships held in Trinidad in August winning the girl's singles and also the girl's doubles with partner Cherise Slocombe.

Most Improved Junior Players 2010 - In recognition of their achievements during the past year, Darian King and Kiana Marshall were recently presented with trophies as "Most Improved Junior Players 2010".

Forthcoming events

Errol Barrow Day – Friday January 21, 2011 - we are holding a 12 hour Tennis-a-Thon at the NTC in aid of repairs to the Clubhouse. Those interested in participating should contact the NTC to obtain a sponsorship form.

Courses and Lectures - during 2011, our Director of Coaches Education – Damien Applewhaite, plans to hold two "Play And Stay" training courses to introduce basics to parents and others interested in coaching juniors. He also hopes to hold several lectures on new coaching techniques learnt on his Level 3 course. More information on the course dates will be available shortly.

Tennis Pon De Rock2 – following the postponement of this event in December 2010 due to an injury to Gael Monfils, the Directors of BITE advise that they plan to rerun the exhibition matches featuring some of the top men players when a gap appears in their 2011 schedules.

Tournament Calendar 2011 – this will be posted on our website shortly – note that the 2011 Barbados Junior ITF Championship runs from March 28 – April 3.

2011 Subscriptions – notices are now being sent out to all members – annual fees are \$20 for 18 and unders and \$50 for all those over 18 years.

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