

# BARBADOS TENNIS ASSOCIATION



## Newsletter November 2008

### **Message from the President – Dr Raymond Forde**

The Association held the best attended Annual General Meeting in recent years on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and many topics were addressed with the major items of interest as follows:

1. An enquiry was made about the use of the National Centre Tennis (NTC) courts after working hours since two courts are now floodlit.

*REPLY: Investigations are ongoing regarding the use of a prepaid token or timer system for operating the lights, so that courts can be used without staff having to work late.*

2. A question was raised regarding competitions being run for young players aged 19 and over by the Association.

*REPLY: Plans are being made to develop futures tournaments similar to those held in Jamaica.*

3. The high cost of electricity for floodlighting the courts was discussed.

*REPLY: It was agreed that other National Associations be asked what they are doing to offset the increase in this expense and whether any concessions might be arranged.*

4. It was recommended that Mr. Tyrone Mapp be nominated as an honorary vice president of the Association based upon his lifetime contribution to the game of tennis.

*REPLY: A vote was called and was unanimously passed.*

5. An enquiry was made about the possibility of having a full time National Tennis coach rather than the current arrangement whereby the position is shared with the National Sports Council (NSC).

*REPLY: This matter will be discussed with the NSC.*

6. Questions were raised regarding the progress of the JTI and PTI programmes.

*REPLY: It was agreed that the National Tennis Coordinator be asked to prepare a report and this be distributed to members. (See report at right)*

8. Members requested more effort be placed on the grooming of potential players through the JTI program so players with high potential could be better identified.

*REPLY: This suggestion would be addressed in the current term.*

At the same meeting a new Council for 2008/9 was appointed as follows:

President – Dr. Raymond Forde

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

Secretary – Mrs Eleanor Brown

Assistant Secretary – Mr. Jason Mayhew

Treasurer – Ms. Helen Roper

Councillors – Mr. Vere Ifill, Ms Richele LeSaldo, Mrs. Patricia Carlstrom, Mrs. Margot Thomson and Mr. Stephen Slocombe

In conclusion, I thank those members who came out for the meeting and participated in the various discussions and trust that all the membership will continue to support the new Council with its many ongoing projects as it has done in the past term.

### **Report on the Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI) & Performance Tennis Initiative (PTI) programmes by Kevin Yarde – National Tennis Coordinator**

The Association's development programmes were restarted in September 2006 with the blessing of the ITF's Development Officer for the English speaking Caribbean, Anthony Jeremiah. Mr. Jeremiah has visited every year since its rebirth to take a look at the players and the overall running of the programme. In addition to his visits, quarterly written reports are submitted, which are reviewed and approved by President Dr. Raymond Forde.

The JTI programme is basically an introduction to the game of tennis starting the juniors with mini tennis along with eye-hand coordination drills, footwork drills and similar routines. It is a fun way to introduce them to the game and keeps the youngsters interested in playing.

This programme is also based on teaching tactics, i.e. hitting the ball over the net into the court and away from the opponent. We have been concentrating on playing rallies as soon as possible, with the ones showing the most promise being placed into smaller groups to continue working on their game and their technique. Since its restart, about 75 children have taken part in the JTI program and 55 have registered in the program since last term.

Players for these programs were initially identified from the NSC summer camp in 2006 and were placed in the various programmes according to their age and skill level.

Since then, the majority of our JTI players have been introduced by word of mouth and by sending invitation letters to some of the principals and P.E. teachers of schools that are in close proximity to the Tennis Centre. We have also conducted a two day talent identification clinic which took place at the Tennis Centre at the end of June and we are looking to continue further clinics during every mid term break.



Junior players from St Gabriel's school at Mini Camp

The PTI is a follow up to the JTI programme which includes those that have shown the most improvement in technique and tactics. This is where we start to get the youngsters ready for local competition and work towards international tournaments. The PTI programme currently has 16 players and is growing from strength to strength with as many as 13 of them competing in the first NASSCO/Fortress junior tournament held in June 2008.

My goal is to see these programmes grow in quantity and quality with one day developing some top juniors who can make an impression on the ITF circuit and go on to represent Barbados at the junior and senior Davis and Federation cup competitions.

This goal can only be achieved with more help in raising funds to keep the programme going, awareness of what the programmes can offer, together with more support from the local coaching fraternity. As these programmes grow from strength to strength, Assistant coach Julian Baird and myself will obviously need assistance to handle the increased numbers.

I must also mention that in my capacity as a sessional coach with the National Sports Council, I coach on average 20 plus hours in the secondary schools exposing roughly 140 students to tennis per school year.

This term I am currently going into 8 different schools as well as the Learning Centre conducting 14 coaching sessions per week and exposing around 180 new students to the game.

I see my job at the NSC as being one of talent identification as well as reintroducing the game at the school level. One of my requirements is to conduct an

under 13 training programme. This is done by identifying the players from the schools programme and exposing them to further technical and tactical training at the Tennis Centre. This programme is conducted at the same time as the PTI programme due to time constraints and with the players of about the same age and skill level.

In conclusion I am happy to report that these programmes continue to increase in numbers and have done well since their inception, and it is for this reason that we hope to look at utilizing all 4 courts at the NTC for these programmes on a regular basis.

### **2008 Tournament Report**

#### **Seniors**

##### ***Doubles tournament***

A weekend of doubles tennis was held at the National Tennis Centre in January 2008, together with testing for International Tennis Numbers (ITNs).

In the ladies' doubles section, winners were Natalie Small and Karen McGuire with runners up Grainne Kearns and Helen Roper. In the men's section, winners were Karl Holder and Peter Clarke with runners up Peter Date and Jack Ramsey.

Over both days, ITF Level 2 coaches Damien Applewhaite and Kevin Yarde ably assisted by statistician Kyesha Applewhaite tested 17 players for their International Tennis Numbers (ITNs). Results were interesting, and suggested that we could all do with further practice/coaching and don't play well under pressure!

#### ***Federation Cup***

Our senior ladies team of Richele LeSaldo (returning to Fed Cup after a break overseas), and teenagers Kristen Lopez and Alyssa Fuentes captained by Kevin Yarde played Venezuela and Guatemala in the Federation Cup Americas Zone Group II - Pool C in distant Cochabamba, Bolivia in April.



**2008 Federation Cup team of Kristen Lopez, Alyssa Fuentes & Richele Le Saldo with Captain Kevin Yarde**

After a tiring trip to Bolivia, they came up against very strong seeded opposition and lost both their group matches 0-3. In the play offs for 9th - 12th spots, the team then played Panama but lost the rubber 1-2 to finish in 11th position.

## **Davis Cup**

The 2008 Davis cup team came very close to advancing to Group II of the Americas Zone in July, but unfortunately luck wasn't on their side as the eventual promotion spot was decided on some very close points.



### **2008 Davis Cup team of Michael Date, Anthony Marshall, Russell Moseley and Haydn Lewis**

The first match was against host nation Honduras, which ended in a good 3-0 win.

Barbados then won their next match 2-1 against #1 seeds Jamaica to advance to the promotion group. Anthony Marshall played Damion Johnson and won 6-3, 7-6(3) to go up 1-0, Haydn Lewis next played Dominic Pagon and won 7-6(10), 6-4 and then Michael Date teamed up with Russell Moseley against Damion & Damar Johnson in a match that they lost 6-4, 7-5.

In the promotion group Barbados played Puerto Rico first but lost 2-1. Anthony played Jose Perdomo and lost 6-1, 6-4 and then Haydn played Alex Llompert and lost 7-6(5), 6-2. Haydn and Russell were able to salvage a win in the doubles by beating Llompert & Jose Sierra-Short 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

The final match was against Guatemala, where once again Anthony gave the team a good start against Sebastien Vidal beating him 6-2, 3-6, 7-6(5) but Haydn was slightly off in his match against Cristian Paiz and lost 6-4, 6-2. The tie as well as promotion hopes then came down to the doubles but sadly despite a keenly contested match Haydn and Russell lost 6-7(9), 7-5, 6-4.

Barbados finished in third place overall and are currently ranked #88 in the Davis Cup rankings issued on September 22, 2008 – up from the previous ranking of #98.

## **Nationals**

Despite many frustrating rain delays which interrupted the Tournament Director – Julian Baird's daily schedules, the Nationals held in September attracted another large entry.

Men's singles winner for the last three years - Michael Date was forced to withdraw due to tennis commitments off the island leaving Duncan Evanson to take on top junior Darian King in the final of the *Island Heritage* Open Men's singles competition. Unseeded King duly

dispatched Evanson 6-0, 6-0 to secure overwhelming victories in both the National senior and junior singles.

In ladies' Open action, top junior Alyssa Fuentes also did the double in senior and junior singles, taking the 2008 women's singles event for the second year running defeating Kristen Lopez in a three set marathon lasting more than three hours.

Youngsters were again winners in the Open Men's doubles event with Darian King teaming up with Devard Wharton to beat the Moseley brothers Russell and Ryan in two sets. In Open Ladies doubles action, Marie-Jeanne Symmonds and Marieann Gonzalves beat Helen Roper and Sue Rogers in a close fought three set battle.

In Open mixed final action, Ryan Moseley and Kristen Lopez became champions beating Hasani and Zhara Stewart after coming from behind after the Stewarts took the first set.

In the Over 35s Men's singles final, former Davis Cup player Bernard Frost beat O'Neal Marshall (better known for his surfing prowess) in a competitive match, while in the Men's Over 45s final, Craig Smith had a walk over against Sydney Lopez.

Dr Sherry Belle was the decisive winner of both the Ladies Over 35s and Over 45s singles events against 2007 winner Helen Roper. However, Helen and Patricia Murray took both the Over 45s and Over 35s Ladies doubles against Rosie Roach and Lydia Albert and Rosie Roach and Carol Nilson respectively.

In the Men's Over 35s doubles, Jason Small and David Sumpter beat Bernard Babb and George Grant, while Raymond Forde and Peter Symmonds retained their title against Richard Harrison and George Grant in the Over 45s by taking a very close deciding match tie-break.

In the Masters Mixed doubles – newcomers to this event Bernard Frost and Sherry Belle overcame Dr Forde and Helen Roper in the final event of the tournament played as a round robin.

Our thanks go to our sponsors – *Island Heritage*, *CO Williams* and *SBI Distribution* for their support as well as to the many local companies who again very kindly donated prizes to the winners and runners-up. Many thanks too to B&B Distribution for supplies of PowerAde drinks to the winners and runners-up and to all members and parents who provided refreshments for the prize giving ceremony.

## **Douglas Corbin Inter-club tournament**

Barbados Yacht Club (BYC) hosted an inter-club doubles tournament between Paragon, Windward, Summerhayes and BYC in late September. This year the men's, ladies and mixed pairings had to have a combined age of 75 years or more to participate.

A very strong Paragon team prevailed, beating Summerhayes in the final with BYC and Windward clubs taking third and fourth spots respectively.

## **Juniors**

### **FirstCaribbean International Bank ITF Grade 4**

The 13th staging of the tournament, sponsored by FirstCaribbean International Bank ended successfully with more than 100 players from 30 countries visiting the island in April in search of world-ranking points on the ITF junior circuit.



**Entrants at the 2008 FCIB ITF Grade 4 tournament**

Unseeded American Gina Suarez proved too much for Martinique's Laurence Porry in the Under-18 Girls singles while Italian Matteo Civarolo exhibited lessons in consistency to win the Under-18 Boys' title against Venezuela's Alexander Rojas.

Barbados best results came from Darian King who was defeated in the quarter-finals by Jorge Varon of Venezuela, 6-4, 7-6 (3). Darian also teamed up with Jamaican Brandon Burke to reach the quarter-finals of the doubles.

Grenadians Yannick James and Corey Wilson contested the Under 14s singles play-off and also combined to win the doubles.

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

Barbados boys placed fourth at the regional Junior Davis Cup pre-qualifying competition for under 16s after closely losing their last two ties in Honduras.

Barbados, the No. 1 seeds, went down 2-1 to Cuba in the semi-finals. Darian King won his singles match against Randy Blanco 6-3, 6-2, but Jackson Kerr lost his match 1-6, 2-6 against Roberto Cruz. King and Kerr won the first set 6-1 of the deciding doubles, but lost the next two 3-6, 4-6.

In the play-off for third place, No. 3 seeds Bahamas beat Barbados 2-1. Jonathan Taylor beat Kerr 7-6 (2), 6-2, King then won his match 6-4, 6-1, but Kerr and Kenton Gamble lost the doubles match 2-6, 6-7 (8).

Cuba was the eventual winner, beating Honduras 2-1 in the final, leaving Bahamas and Barbados in third and fourth positions respectively.

The Junior Federation Cup team of Alyssa Fuentes, Jodie Watson and Kareika Wharton finished 12th out of the 16th teams in the girls' event. After losing 3-0 to

Honduras, Barbados also went down 3-0 to Guatemala. Karla Barrientos beat Watson 6-0, 6-2; Jennifer Pusey beat Fuentes 6-3, 7-5 and the team of Isabella Escobar and Barrientos beat Fuentes and Watson 6-2, 6-1.

No. 1 seeds Bahamas won the tournament, defeating Puerto Rico 3-0 in the final with Trinidad and Tobago in third position.

Many thanks again to all those who attended our Irish Night Fund Raiser at the Barbados Yacht Club in March. We were able to raise sufficient funds from the event to cover all the airfares for our teams to travel to Honduras



**Junior Davis & Federation Cup teams at Fund-raiser**

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

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

Sixty eight players signed up with the biggest entries in the both the Under 14s and Under 12s boys and girls singles events.

The second tournament in the 2008 series is currently under way although has been prone to several lengthy and frustrating rain delays.

### **Caribbean Under 13s development championships**

Dylan Hall, Matthew Hutchinson and Samiya Dottin represented Barbados at the Caribbean Under 13s tournament held in Antigua in mid August. The young team had some tough matches and ended up in 11<sup>th</sup> position out of the 15 teams taking part.

### **Nationals**

Some 60 youngsters competed in the various age groups in the junior section of the September tournament with top junior Darian King the most successful player winning both the Under 18 singles and doubles titles in the Championships sponsored by Esso.

Darian took the Boys' Under-18 singles title with a 6-0, 6-4 victory over Seanon Williams and partnering Devard Wharton beat Mykell Reifer and Yannick Hooper in a

match which the more experienced pair dominated throughout to take the Under 18s doubles.

Fourteen-year-old Ture Skinner won the Under-16 Boys' singles title 6-3, 6-3 upsetting No 1 seed Kenton Gamble.

In the Under-16 Boys' doubles final, Thomas Hill and Matthew Hutchinson won the title with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Ture Skinner and Kenton Gamble.

Skinner went after his second title in the Under-14 final where he is the No.1 seed after beating Gavin Hutchinson 6-0, 6-1, while his opponent, No. 2 seed Dylan Hall beat Matthew Hutchinson 6-0, 3-6, 6-4 in his match.

Gavin Hutchinson, the No. 3 seed, won the Under-12 title, beating unranked Andrew Symmonds 8-4 in the final while Kiana Marshall won the girls' title.

The daughter of former Barbados surfer O'Neal Marshall while unranked, upset the No. 1 seed Samiya Dottin 8-7 (8-6) in the semi-final and then beat No. 4 Cherise Slocombe 8-4 in the final. Slocombe upset No. 2 Joelle Hall 8-6 in their semi-final match.

The Under-14 Girls' title went to Melena Lopez who beat Janice Ayuen.

Girls' No. 1 seed Alyssa Fuentes defeated Kareika Wharton 6-1, 6-0 to win the Under-18 singles title as she continued her domination of the group.

#### ***Peter Patterson Xmas tournament***

The tournament will be held from December 12-20, 2008 at the National Tennis Centre. See website for entry form.

#### ***ITF level 1 Coaching course***

An intensive nine day course sponsored by PASO (Pan-American Sports Organisation) and conducted by Mr. Anthony Jeremiah – ITF Development Officer for the English speaking Caribbean - was held at the National Tennis Centre in August.



Participants celebrating the completion of Level 1 coaching course

Sixteen prospective coaches started the course (nine local and seven from neighbouring territories) and at the end of the grueling sessions, ten new coaches passed the course with two more having to retake small parts of the examination.

We look forward to our four new coaches joining the local squad in helping to further develop the sport across the Barbados community.

#### ***IPIN (International Player Identification Number)***

Reminder - all players who wish to compete in ITF Junior Circuit or ITF Pro Circuit tournaments must have a current IPIN number. Register at [www.itftennis.com/IPIN](http://www.itftennis.com/IPIN)

#### ***National Tennis Centre Information***

Opening hours continue to be as follows:

Monday to Friday – 2.30pm – 9.00pm  
Saturday – 7.00am – 6.00pm  
Sunday - see below

#### ***NEW COURT RENTAL CHARGES***

***(Interim increases effective from February 4, 2008)***

##### ***Court Rental fees:***

Without Lights \$10 per hour for Members  
\$20 per hour for non-Members  
With Lights \$20 per hour for Members  
\$30 per hour for non-Members

For court bookings, call Julian Baird at the National Tennis Centre tel # 427-5300 or 427-5298. Sunday bookings must be made by 2.00pm on Saturdays.

#### ***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**

**Sandy Lane Hotel** has sadly dis-continued their concessionary court rental rates to members. We are hoping to arrange similar arrangements at other venues shortly.

**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** is open for business at Rockley Golf Course. To enquire about their tennis equipment and clothing call 435-7873.

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

No major work has been undertaken at the NTC during 2008 to date, pending further funding which is still being pursued to complete the lighting and further court renovations.

We do hope to conclude these projects in early 2009, after which we plan to direct our attention to improving the car park, Club house and surrounding areas.

### **Fundraising**

Our Grand Raffle, the proceeds of which will enable the much needed upgrading of its facilities at the National Tennis Centre, Garfield Sobers Sports Complex was launched in July 2008 with the draw being made on December 31, 2008.

One lucky winner will drive away in a brand new Toyota Yaris courtesy of **Nassco Ltd**, and the second place winner will receive two return tickets to London courtesy of **Virgin Atlantic**.

The Association is very grateful for the support of these two major sponsors as well as **Bougainvillea Beach Resort, Sugar Cane Club Hotel & Spa, Little Switzerland, Colombian Emeralds, Elbowroom Bar & Stonegrill** and **Indulgence Spa** who have all donated attractive prizes.

Tickets at \$5 each are still available from Council Members or can be obtained from the National Tennis Centre, tel numbers 427-5300/5298.

We look forward to your support – if you still have not purchased a ticket or so, do let us know.

### **Other news**

#### **Haydn Lewis**

Following successes in tournaments in the United States and Venezuela in the summer, top senior player Haydn Lewis has returned to the Futures events in Australia and is improving his ITF rankings accordingly.

He is currently #677 in ITF singles rankings and #563 in doubles, although had reached career high rankings of 583 and 448 in singles and doubles in mid October 2008.

Haydn's tournament activity can be viewed by going to the ITF website – [www.ifttennis.com](http://www.ifttennis.com) and selecting his name from the list of players on the Men's Circuit

### **Darian King & Alyssa Fuentes**

Darian and Alyssa (both 16) represented Barbados at the Commonwealth Junior Games in Pune, India held in mid October. National coach Kevin Yarde also attended the Games as a member of the team.

Although both players only reached the quarters of their singles events, they both advise that traveling with the Barbados contingent to India was a wonderful and eye-opening experience – especially the food available!

Since returning to Barbados, Darian (currently with an ITF junior ranking of 333) has been back in action on the ITF Junior circuit reaching the singles quarter finals of the Evert American Circuit tournament in Boca Raton.

He next hopes to play in several tournaments in Florida during December.

Having finished full time school, Alyssa plans to spend 2009 on the ITF circuit. She anticipates playing in as many as twelve tournaments around the region and in the United States during the year.

### **Mrs Jean Date**

At the prize giving presentation for the 2008 Nationals, Mrs Date – honorary secretary of the Association for many years was presented with a mahogany clock in recognition of her outstanding contributions to tennis in Barbados. Thank you again Jean.

**FOR SALE** – we have 25 executive chairs for sale at \$75 each – they can be viewed at the National Tennis Centre.



Please contact the President at [tennisbarbados@sunbeach.net](mailto:tennisbarbados@sunbeach.net) if you are interested in purchasing.

*Newsletter produced by Barbados Tennis Association Inc.,  
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