



**BARBADOS
TENNIS**
ASSOCIATION INC

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR THE YEAR 2024

To be presented at the 2025 AGM
December 8, 2025

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This constitutes the Report of the Board of Directors (the Board\Council) for the year ended December 31, 2024, for presentation at the 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

1. MEMBERSHIP

The total membership at December 31, 2024 increased from 384 to 454 members, comprising:

As at December 31:	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Category					
Juniors	87	98	82	92	89
Seniors (over 18 yrs)	355	274	249	235	204
Honorary Life Vice Presidents	4	5	5	4	4
Clubs	8	7	7	7	8
Total	454	384	343	338	305

During the year several new members joined and participated in the 2024 AGM.

A substantial number of members are delinquent and/or inactive and prior to consideration of striking them off, the Board will encourage them to pay the associated membership and remain as members.

2. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As the AGM is held in the latter half of the year, and Board Members are elected for two-year terms. Members of the Board elected at the 2022 AGM served until the AGM on November 25, 2024, and members elected at both the 2023 & 2024 AGM's served until the 2025 & 2026 AGM's respectively. The following are the people who served on the Board during the calendar year 2024:

Dr. Raymond Forde	President 2022/24
Craig Smith	President 2024/26
Craig Smith	Vice President 2022/24
Lloyd Stephen Slocombe	Vice President 2024/26
Junior King	Vice President 2023/25
Marie-Jeanne Symmonds	Secretary 2022/24 & 2024/26
Sheryl Peter-Kirton	Assistant Secretary 2023/25
Alvin Chambers	Treasurer 2023/25
Dario Parris	Board Member 2023/25
Grace Chambers	Board Member 2023/25
Zeta Bridgeman	Board Member 2023/25
Brian Cadogan	Board Member 2022/24
Lloyd Stephen Slocombe	Board Member 2022/24
Priestley Blunte	Board Member 2024/26
Terrance Bradshaw	Board Member 2024/26

Since the last AGM in 2024, eleven (11) Board meetings were held in 2024/25 (2023/24 – five were held). The attendance of Board members during the year varied but a quorum was reached at all 11 meetings.

3. THE COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

Members of Committees for 2023/24 year served until the AGM on November 25, 2024, and thereafter new Committees for the 2024/25 year served until the 2025 AGM. Outlined are the designated committees and the assigned chairpersons and co-chairpersons where applicable:

COMMITTEE	2023/24 - CHAIRS	2024/25 – CHAIR & MEMBERS
Junior Development And Coaches Advisory Committee (CAC)	Mr. Craig Smith (Junior Development) Mr. Damien Applewhaite (CAC)	Mr. Lloyd Slocombe Mr. Terrance Bradshaw Mr. Priestly Blunte Mr. Damien Applewhaite Mr. Seanon Williams Mr. Michael Date
Junior Tennis and Senior Tennis	Mrs. Marie-Jeanne Symmonds (Junior Committee) Mr. Lloyd Slocombe (Senior Committee)	Mrs. Marie-Jeanne Symmonds Mr. Lloyd Slocombe Mr. Priestly Blunte Mr. Dario Parris Mr. Alvin Chambers Mr Terrance Bradshaw
Davis Cup\Billie Jean King Cup	Mr. Junior King	Mr. Junior King Mr. Lloyd Slocombe Mrs. Marie-Jeanne Symmonds Mrs. Sheryl Peter-Kirton
Inter-Club Committee	Mr. Brian Cadogan Mr. Lloyd Slocombe	Mr. Lloyd Slocombe Mr. Dario Parris
Selection	Mr. Craig Smith Mrs. Marie-Jeanne Symmonds Mr. Terrance Bradshaw Mr. Lloyd Slocombe Mr. Chris King (resigned March 2024)	Mr. Junior King Mrs. Marie-Jeanne Symmonds Mr. Terrance Bradshaw Mr. Alvin Chambers Mr. Damien Applewhaite
Tournament Committee	Chair of Junior, Senior or Inter-Club Committees	Chair of Junior & Senior or Inter-Club Committees
Finance	Mrs. Marie-Jeanne Symmonds	Mrs. Marie-Jeanne Symmonds Mr. Junior King Mr. Lloyd Slocombe Mr. Alvin Chambers
Fund Raising	Mrs. Grace Chambers Mrs. Zeta Bridgeman	Mrs. Grace Chambers Mrs. Zeta Bridgeman

COMMITTEE	2023/24 - CHAIRS	2024/25 – CHAIR & MEMBERS
Public Relations, Media & Marketing	Mrs. Grace Chambers	Mrs. Grace Chambers
Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Committee	Mr. Bryan Weekes (to January 2024) Ms. Sukeena Maynard (from January 2024)	Ms. Sukeena Maynard (from January 2024 to December 2024)
Tennis Centre (facilities and operations\management)	Mr. Junior King Mr. Craig Smith	Mr. Junior King Mr. Lloyd Slocombe
Education	Mrs. Sheryl Peter-Kirton	Mrs. Sheryl Peter-Kirton
Special events	Mr. Lloyd Slocombe	Mr. Lloyd Slocombe
Strategic Planning	Mrs. Sheryl Peter-Kirton	Mrs. Sheryl Peter-Kirton
Membership benefits	Mr. Brian Cadogan	Mr. Dario Parris Ms. Zeta Bridgeman
Membership relationship (new)		Mr. Lloyd Slocombe Mrs. Sheryl Peter-Kirton Ms. Zeta Bridgeman Mr. Damien Applewhaite

4. NTC COACHING PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

4.1 The Team

In 2024, the leadership team for the Junior Development Programme (JDP) at the National Tennis Centre (NTC) remained consistent:

- **Chair Junior Development:** Craig Smith\Lloyd Slocombe
- **JTI Director of Tennis:** Damien Applewhaite
- **JTI Head Coach:** Julian Baird
- **JTI Assistant Head Coach:** Christian Maxwell

The JDP was supporting coaching team varied during the year but the following persons coached on a regular basis: Nicholas Charles, Emil Trotman, Priestly Blunte, Trevine Sellier and Curt Seifert (Assistant) bolstered the coaching line up on a regular basis during 2024

4.2 Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI) Programme

By the end of 2024, enrollment in the JTI programme reached 91 participants, reflecting strong engagement and interest in tennis development.

4.3 Tennis10s Competitions

Three Tennis10s events were held in 2024, the Spring Tennis10s, Serve & Connect Summit and Independence Tennis10s. These events attracted between 26 and 44 participants each. The format remained unchanged, continuing to provide young players with a platform to showcase their skills.

4.4 Daytime Primary Schools' Programme

The Daytime Primary Schools' Programme in 2024 continued to engage students from the original participating schools which includes Blackman and Gollop, Grantley Prescod, Luther Thorne, The School House, and St. Gabriel's School; continued to participate, ensuring a strong and consistent foundation for the programme. We thank Mr. Richard Edhgill for his continued support of The School House program.

The Serve and Connect programme was launched as a community initiative, inviting children from the surrounding areas to enjoy free tennis sessions. The initial turnout was modest, but participation grew steadily as we expanded our outreach and engaged schools in nearby communities. Over the 3 months we reached more than ten schools, giving 350+ students meaningful exposure to the sport. The programme concluded with a tournament at the National Tennis Centre, where the children represented their schools in a positive and supportive environment.

4.5 Adult Tennis Initiative (ATI) Programme

The ATI programme maintained strong participation in 2024, with 8-16 students per class. Round Robin Fridays and Social Tennis Thursdays remained active, attracting 6-14 players per session.

4.6 Summer & Other Camps

The National Tennis Centre hosted two camps in 2024: the Summer Camp (July 15-August 23) with 87 participants, and the Christmas Camp (December 16-20) with 19 participants. The Camps followed their traditional structures, combining tennis drills with cross-training activities.

5. JUNIOR TENNIS

Junior tennis players in Barbados actively competed in local and international events, including the Barbados Junior International tournament.

5.1 Local Tournaments & 2024 National Championships

Junior Tennis continued to thrive with five sanctioned tournaments in the year held at the NTC:

- Fortress Nassco Series Parts 1 to 3
- Robert Manufacturing Nationals
- BTA Christmas Juniors.

National Rankings are based on points achieved for a player's points from these tournaments, as well as points earned from wins on the regional and international circuit - ITF U18 Junior circuit and the COTECC U14 circuit.

The following players were ranked #1 in Barbados as at December 31, 2024:

	Boys	Girls
Under-18	Aidan Clarke	Messiah Austin
Under-16	Aidan Clarke	Micah Austin
Under-14	Zane Kirton	Adai Hope
Under-12	Zane Kirton	Adai Hope
Under-10	Dominic Cadogan	-

The following players won the 2024 National Championships:

	Boys	Girls
Under-18	Xzavier Hastick	Messiah Austin
Under-16	Lucas Davis	Micah Austin
Under-14	Zane Kirton	Adai Hope
Under-12	Liam Cave	Adai Hope

5.2 World Junior Championships (U14) 2024

A Boys' team was sent to compete at the U14 World Junior Tennis Championships held in El Salvador, March 4-9, 2024.

Julian Baird (Captain)
Dimitri Kirton
Zane Kirton
Zach King

The team won the back draw, defeating Jamaica in that final a few months after the senior Davis Cup team had defeated Jamaica in Davis Cup Group 2. They also defeated St. Lucia and Curacao. They placed 9th out of 17 teams.

5.3 Junior Davis Cup 2024

A Boys' team was sent to compete in the Junior Davis Cup held in Dominican Republic, February 25 to March 1, 2024.

Seanon Williams (Captain)
Aidan Clarke
Dimitri Kirton
Tyler Davis

Congratulation to Dimitri Kirton who was selected for both the WJC and the JDC teams. The JDC team were back draw finalist against Puerto Rico and placed 10th out of 17 teams. On the way they defeated Honduras and Dominican Republic.

5.4 U12 ITF/COTECC Sub-Region 4 (SR4) Team Competition 2024

Barbados sent a Boys' and a Girls' team to attend the U12 SR4 team championship which was held in Trinidad, July 14-18, 2024. The teams consisted of the following:

Damien Applewhaite (Captain)

Zane Kirton

Cruz Thornton

Liam Cave

Cherise Slocombe (Captain)

Sienna Gilkes-Lopez

Victoria Reifer

The boys' team defeated Grenada, Curacao & Aruba and played in the main draw placing 3rd out of 9 teams. It was good to have a girls' team again after many years not being represented. The girls' team had several match wins and defeated Trinidad & Tobago 2 placing 10th out of 12 teams.

📌 Notable Developments in 2025

During 2025 the Under-12 Boys team of Cruz Thornton, Liam Cave & Yemi Walcott won the Sub-Region 4 Championships and qualified for the Under-12 Masters, held in Cancun, Mexico.

In 2025 the Under-12 girls' team, of Sienna Gilkes-Lopez and Victoria Reifier were finalist in the SR4 championship losing a third set tie-breaker in the deciding doubles and placing 2nd, narrowly missing out on a place in the Masters.

5.5 Barbados Junior International Tennis Tournament 2024 – U14 & U12

This Tournament, hosted by the BTA, provides our players with an opportunity to compete in a COTECC sanctioned U14 event at home. The tournament was held during the Easter vacation and is sanctioned as a Grade 2 in the COTECC U14 circuit where many of our juniors earned valuable COTECC ranking points. Due to demand, the BTA also hosted an U12 invitational event.

U14 COTECC Tournament

The tournament attracted not only players from Barbados but from Trinidad, Antigua, Suriname, Curacao, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and even as far afield as El Salvador.

Congratulations go to Barbadian Dimitri Kirton, who defeated fellow Barbadian Zach King to win the U14 singles final. Zach won the doubles final with his Barbadian partner Tyler Davis.

U12 Invitational Tournament

Barbadian Cruz Thornton won the U12 Championship, defeating fellow Barbadian Liam Cave in the final. Barbadian Adai Hope was a finalist in the Girls U12 singles and the runner-up in the doubles. Zania Goddard paired up with Katelyn Pasula of Antigua to win the girls doubles.

5.6 ITF U18 Junior Tournaments held at the NTC

In April 2024 and November 2024, the BTA hosted two ITF U18 J30 junior international tournaments held at the NTC, and with competitors coming far all over the world it was an invaluable experience for our Under-18 players. Barbadian Lucas Davis, Cristain Blunte & Kai Owen earned valuable ITF ranking points. The April event was sponsored by Roberts Manufacturing.

5.7 JITIC U14 regional tournament

JITIC U14 is the premier regional tournament on the COTECC calendar and was played in the summer of 2024.

In 2024 this U14 Grade A event was held in Dominican Republic and saw 48 boys and 48 girls from the COTECC region competing for glory. Dimitri Kirton, Zane Kirton & Zach King attended representing Barbados accompanied by coach Seanon Williams. All 3 boys performed credibly but with 3 wins and 2 losses, placing third in Groups of 6, in the round robin, they were unable to make the main draw. Zane Kirton was a finalist in the back-draw doubles.

The U18 JITIC event is no longer being held due to lack of participation from the regional players.

5.8 Junior achievements

Dimitri Kirton won the COTECC U14 G2 tournaments held in St. Lucia and St. Vincent in the summer of 2024. He paired up with his brother Zane to also take the St. Lucia doubles title and they were finalist in the St Vincent doubles. In August 2024 13-year-old Dimitri Kirton, was ranked within the Top 8 in the COTECC 14 rankings and qualified for the prestigious 2024 COTECC Masters U14 (Top 8) held in Cancun, Mexico.

✔ Notable Developments in 2025

By August 2025 12-year old Zane Kirton was ranked in the Top 8 in COTECC and also qualified for the prestigious 2025 COTECC Masters U14 (Top 8) held in Tabasco, Mexico.

6. ADULT TENNIS

6.1 Inter-Club Competition 2024

The 2024 Inter-Club Competition brought together six teams, Tennis Centre, Ocean View, Yacht Club, Paragon, Summerhayes and new entrant Pure Tennis, for another exciting display of team tennis. All teams competed in a single group in a round-robin format.

The competition mostly retained the format of seven doubles matches: two Men's Open, one Women's Open, two Mixed Doubles, one Women's 35 Doubles and a slight alteration of the one Men's 45 Doubles being changed to Men's 40 Doubles.

In the semifinals, Tennis Centre had a decisive victory over Paragon 58-33, while Yacht Club overcame Pure Tennis with an equally decisive 60-36 victory. The Finals produced another highly

competitive showdown, with the Barbados Yacht Club eventually confirmed as the 2024 champions following a tribunal review, 49-42.

6.2 Open and Senior Nationals 2024

The 2024 Open and Senior Nationals, proudly sponsored by Roberts Manufacturing, showcased an impressive level of participation, slightly surpassing the previous year's turnout. The tournament delivered competitive matches and highlighted both experienced players and emerging talents.

- **Men's Open:** Thomas O'Neill at 14 years old claimed the top title over Neil King 6-4, 6-1
- **Ladies Open:** Shonte Sargeant triumphed over Leah Olliviere in a thrilling final, 7-6(3), 6-4.
- **Over-35 Men:** Dario Parris was crowned after Matthew Weir withdrew.
- **Over- 35 Ladies:** Donna Gibbs cruised to the title over Billie-June Langdon 6-0, 6-0
- **Over-45 Men:** Junior King overcame Matthew Weir in the finals, 3-6, 6-4 (10-4).
- **Over-45 Ladies:** Donna Gibbs convincingly won all her round-robin matches to secure the title.

The tournament maintained its reputation as a platform for exceptional tennis, with a notable performance from Thomas O'Neill, becoming one of the youngest Men's Open title winners.

6.3 Davis Cup 2024

Barbados continued its Davis Cup campaign in 2024 with two ties, showcasing resilience and determination on the international stage. Damien Applewhaite served as Captain.

February vs. Jamaica (Away)

In February 2024 Barbados travelled to Kingston to face Jamaica at the Eric Bell National Tennis Centre in a World Group II play-off. After two tight days of competition Barbados secured a 3-2 victory, with experienced players Darian King and Haydn Lewis playing key roles in the doubles and Kaipō Marshall clinching victory in the live fifth rubber. The team comprised:

Darian King,
Kaipo Marshall,
Xavier Lawrence,
Haydn Lewis,
Stephen Slocombe

September vs Pakistan (Home)

In September 2024 Barbados hosted Pakistan at the National Tennis Centre in Wilkey in the World Group II first round and recorded a historic 3-1 win. Darian King won both his singles matches and partnered with Haydn Lewis to claim a dramatic three set doubles victory, securing the tie for Barbados and confirming another season at World Group II level. The team comprised:

Darian King,
Kaipo Marshall,
Xavier Lawrence,
Haydn Lewis,
Stephen Slocombe

6.4 Billie Jean King Cup 2024

The Barbados Billie Jean King Cup team competed in Americas Group III and the team enjoyed an exceptional campaign in 2024 in Tacarigua, Trinidad and Tobago, earning promotion to Americas Group II for 2025 after winning all five of their fixtures. The team was captained by Seanon Williams and comprised:

Gabrielle Leslie
Hannah Chambers
Serena Bryan
Cherise Slocombe.

The final promotional match against El Salvador came down to a thrilling final set match tiebreak, where Barbados held their nerve to secure the victory. Gabrielle Leslie led the team with 5 wins in 5 matches at #1 singles, while Serena Bryan produced key comeback performances. The doubles pairing of Cherise Slocombe and Hannah Chambers delivered crucial deciding wins, sealing one of the most successful Billie Jean King Cup results in Barbados tennis history.

6.5 BTA Top 8 2024

The BTA Top 8 remained a premier event on the Barbados tennis calendar in 2024, featuring some of the nation's best players competing in high-stakes matches.

Men's Category:

Xavier Lawrence delivered a composed and confident performance to win his third BTA Top 8 title. He defeated fellow Davis Cup team mate Stephen Slocombe in the final, ending Stephen's bid for the title in his third consecutive appearance in the championship match.

Women's Category:

Gabrielle Leslie extended her remarkable run of excellence, capturing the Women's Top 8 title for the sixth straight year. She prevailed over Hannah Chambers in the final, further solidifying her status as a dominant force in Barbados women's tennis.

6.6 Other Competitions 2024

The BTA introduced a new team competition initiative in October 2024 – the Friendship Cup. Five teams competed in a round robin format with "Team Global" (Damein Applewhaite, Seanon Williams, Russell Moseley, Trevine Sellier & Nathan Valdez) capturing the inaugural title.

The Senior Games 2024 were a standout highlight, with a strong turnout of 44 players competing across the Over-35 to Over-60 categories. The event featured keenly contested matches, plenty of smiles and laughter, and an uplifting display of camaraderie. It was a clear reminder that tennis is truly a sport for life.

6.7 ATP Professional – Darian King 2024

The 2024 season proved to be an injury affected year for Darian King. After competing in two ATP Challenger events in January, he sustained a knee injury that significantly limited his ability to compete for the remainder of the year. With extended periods away from the tour and minimal opportunity to defend previous results, Darian ultimately saw all of his ATP World Ranking points fall off by the end of the season.

7. NATIONAL TENNIS CENTRE

7.1 NTC Operations

The day-to-day operations of the NTC programmes and operations continue to be managed by Damien Applewhaite in his capacity the Director of Tennis ably assisted by Cherise Slocombe the NTC's Administrator. Mr. Julian Baird and Mr. Christian Maxwell continue to steadfastly provide administrative assistance as well as coaching and services in the BTA programmes.

7.2 NTC Facilities

In 2024, the BTA continued to focus on facility improvements, maintenance and efficiencies. We continue to emphasize the beautification of the facility by ensuring that the landscaping is completed on a regular basis. We continue to have schedule cleaning of the facility to ensure that members and users of the facility are comfortable in the NTC space.

Court maintenance involved power washing and roller replacements in preparation for the Davis Cup and ITF tournaments.

8. AFFILIATIONS

8.1 Barbados Olympic Association (BOA)

The BOA supported the Association with grants towards administration, ITF membership fees and representation at international and regional Annual General Meetings. In addition, funding was provided towards local and overseas competitions and the assistance for Darian King for his competition schedule.

The BOA also provided transport for the BTA's Day Time School programmes using their buses.

8.2 International Tennis Federation (ITF)

Grants were received from the ITF in respect of Davis Cup, Bille Jean King Cup and JTI Development, and towards travel expenses for junior teams as well as hospitality at team events.

8.3 National Sports Council (NSC)

In respect to 2024, the Association received an annual subvention as well as a grant towards junior team competitions, Davis Cup Preparation as well as ongoing assistance for athletes Darian King & Kaipo Marshall.

8.4 Arts and Sports Promotion Fund (ASPF)

In respect to 2024, the Association received a grant towards hosting of the Davis Cup tie against Pakistan, held at home, from the ASPF.

8.5 Sponsors

Council again wishes to thank our corporate sponsors who continued to support both junior and senior tournaments throughout the year. Our tournament sponsors in 2024 were Barbados Bottling Co. Ltd (Powerade and Dasani), the Fortress Fund Managers Limited, Nassco Limited, Caribbean Consultants Ltd. (Richard Edghill), Roger Edghill, and Roberts Manufacturing.

Special mention must be made of Roberts Manufacturing who came on as a tournament sponsor initially but has increased their sponsorship and are now our title sponsor and partner in tennis development in Barbados.

9. CONCLUSION

The Mission Statement of the BTA is “to develop and promote tennis in Barbados”. The Motto of the BTA is “Tennis, the sport for a lifetime for all”.

We believe that Tennis as a sport for a lifetime, can make a difference to young people’s lives. A student of the game gains life skills through discipline, character building and intense mental and physical development, and adults can also play the game for many years.

As a non-profit organisation, the costs of tournaments, other initiatives and events are covered in large part by the sponsors, donors and fundraisers. Additionally, active participation by the BTA membership, as well as the ongoing support of family and friends of tennis continues to be essential.

As your Board, you have our assurance that we are committed to doing as much as we can to promote and develop tennis in Barbados. The involvement of sponsors, donors, players, coaches, volunteers as well as all other stakeholders is critical to this success and we thank each and every one of you, present and not present, for all your support during the past year.

Barbados Tennis Association
December 8, 2025