

BARBADOS TENNIS ASSOCIATION



Newsletter

January 2007 – Issue 1

Message from the President – Dr Raymond Forde

I hope you will agree that tennis has had a rebirth in Barbados during the past year on and off the courts!

During 2006 we changed our name, our Men's Davis Cup team gained promotion to Group III of the Americas Zone, we appointed Kevin Yarde as National Tennis Coordinator and coach of the Junior Tennis Initiative, our junior Davis Cup team performed creditably in their first venture in the competition, as well as having our 5 Year Development Plan approved by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

However, we cannot rest on our laurels, as we have now made serious commitments to continue our expansion and improve on our successes by putting more of our plans in place over the next five years and beyond.

Our objectives for 2007 therefore, are to commence a major fund-raising thrust to finance teams taking part in junior and senior events overseas, to attract new sponsors for domestic tournaments, to complete the lighting of the courts at the National Tennis Centre and to have closer workings with the National Sports Council to generally develop the game.

We have already noted that since Kevin has started coaching at various secondary schools, there has been increased interest from the children in tennis. We also wish to continue our junior outreach programme in both public and private primary schools to get more children between eight and ten years playing tennis, as well as encouraging more teenagers, their parents and other adult beginners to take up the sport.

I therefore hope that members will help us not just by providing monetary support, but by becoming personally involved in promoting tennis in the schools, clubs and public courts on the island by spreading the motto of the Association - ***"Tennis – the Sport for a Lifetime"***!

A new Council was appointed at the Annual General Meeting held on October 11, 2006 as follows.

President – Dr. Raymond Forde
Vice Presidents – Ms. Sandra Osborne &
Mr. Roderic Roach
Secretary – Mrs. Bonita Morgan
Assistant Secretary – Mr. Jason Mayhew
Treasurer – Ms. Helen Roper
Councillors – Mrs Eleanor Brown, Ms Penny Ettinger,
Mrs. Patricia Murray and Mrs Margot Thomson

We still have sub-committee positions to fill, and request interested persons who may have spare time to help with fund-raising and other areas to contact us.

Finally, I would also like to say many thanks to our contact at the Nation Newspaper – reporter Sherrylyn Clarke who as I hope you have noticed, has given us considerable positive coverage in recent months in the press. We hope she will continue with similar reporting.

Tournament Calendar for 2007 (provisional)

Seniors

Interclub Competition – March (at the NTC)
Federation Cup – April 16-21 (Uruguay)
Davis Cup – June 18-25 (Guatemala)
Caribbean Top 16 Men's Invitational – May (Trinidad)
Open tournament – May
Senior and Open Nationals – September

Juniors

Junior Davis Cup/Fed Cup – Mar 26-Apr 1 (El Salvador)
Easter tournament – March - April
JITIC tournament – July 30 – Aug 5
Junior Nationals – September
FCIB ITF Group 4 junior tournament – October 15-21
Under 14 Development Championships – Oct 29–Nov 4
Junior Christmas tournament – December

A full calendar of the tournaments in the region, and at our local clubs will be placed on our website shortly.

2006 Tournament Report

Seniors

Nationals

The Nationals held in September 2006 attracted the largest entry in several years with a lot of old faces coming out to compete. The Men's singles Open division was won by Summerhayes's Michael Date who beat his regular adversary in 2006 tournaments, Russell Moseley from Ocean View, 6-4, 6-4 in the final.

In the Open Ladies singles, Ocean View's 16 year old Kristen Lopez became champion beating her more experienced opponent West Side Tennis coach Alexine Marshall in the final 6-2, 7-5.

The Men's doubles Open event was won by Bernard Frost and Wayne Forde (Summerhayes) who beat Russell Moseley and his young partner Seanon Williams (OV). Unfortunately the Open Ladies doubles final was not contested with the pairing of Lopez sisters Kristen and Gabriella pulling out due to injuries leaving Doctors Sherry Belle and Kathy Stewart (Paragon) as champions.

The Open Mixed doubles went to Russell Moseley and Kathy Stewart who beat coach Melvin (Ollie) Elcock and Kay Musselwhite in the final.

In the Over 35s Men's singles, Craig Smith beat Jason Small while in the Men's Over 45s Karl Holder beat George Grant. Margot Thomson was winner of both the Ladies Over 35s and Over 45s singles with Michele McKenzie runner-up in both events too.

Margot also took the Over 35s and Over 45s Ladies doubles with Helen Roper, with the runners-up being Judy Skinner and Natalie Small and Patricia Murray and Renee Newman in the respective events.

In the Men's Over 35s doubles, Craig Archer and Jerry Harper beat Derrick Franklyn and George Grant, while BTA President Raymond Forde and Past-President Peter Symmonds disposed of Karl Holder and Roddy Roach in the Over 45s.

In the Veterans Mixed doubles – Dr Forde and Margot Thomson edged Jason and Natalie Small in the final event of the tournament.

Our thanks go to our sponsors – Island Heritage and CO Williams for their support as well as to the many local companies who very kindly donated prizes to the winners and runners-up.

Men's Top 16s and Ladies' Top 8s Invitational singles

The Men's and Ladies' invitational events were held at the National Tennis Centre in the first week of 2007, and the results gave selectors some interesting decisions to make in choosing the players for the 2007 Davis and Federation Cup squads.

In the Men's event, players were divided into four groups in a Round Robin format. With only the winners of each group going through to the semi-finals, some losers in very closely contested matches sadly missed out.

However, the eventual semi-finalists were National Champion Michael Date who comfortably won his Group One, UK based Bajan Marc Beckles from Group Two who won two very tight tie-breakers with Bradley Bryan and a 3 setter with Ryan Moseley before progressing, Venezuela based Bajan Anthony Marshall from Group Three and coach Damien Applewhaite from Group 4.

The semifinals then saw Marc Beckles beat Damien Applewhaite 6-3, 6-2, while Anthony Marshall beat Michael Date in a high quality match 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.

The final was played late on Saturday night in front of sadly a very small crowd who witnessed an exceptional match between the two overseas based Bajans. Twenty one year old Marshall – the grandson of Yvette and Norman Marshall (still playing regular and good tennis in their senior years!) overcame Beckles, only 19, living in Luton, UK in three sets with some very thrilling and impressive rallies between the players. Marshall came out the eventual winner 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

In the Ladies event, the eight players were grouped into two boxes, with the winners and runners up going through to the semifinals. From Group One, National champion Kristen Lopez and Maya Morgan (home for the holidays from college in the US) and from Group Two winner 14 year old Alyssa Fuentes (Rockley) and Nationals runner-up Alexine Marshall making up the foursome.

The semi-finals between Morgan and Fuentes and Lopez and Marshall played at mid-day following several rain delays produced some very good and exciting long rallies. Maya winning 6-3, 6-4 and Kristen winning 6-3, 6-2 respectively.

The final played later in the evening between Maya and Kristen resulted in Maya winning 7-5, 7-5 in a long match between two very tired players, that saw the score see-saw back and forth several times!

Thanks to Roger Hill for sponsoring the tent out on our grounds which was well used during heavy rain and sun.

Juniors

Nationals

Some 60 youngsters competed in the various age groups in the junior section of the September tournament. Among the players making several trips for medals at the awards presentation were Seanon Williams, Devard Wharton, Christopher King, Jackson Kerr, Jodie Watson, Melena Lopez, Ancia Ifill and Andrew Meyer.

Many thanks to Esso for sponsoring the junior tournament.

Caribbean Under 14s development championships

A team consisting of Jodie Watson, Ashley Frost, Darian King and Jackson Kerr represented Barbados at the Caribbean Under 14s tournament in Trinidad in late August.

Although the team faced some tough opposition, Darian King won the Boy's singles event and following his success, was picked to attend the prestigious International Tennis Federation (ITF) regional training camp at the National Tennis Centre in St Vincent and the Grenadines in November.

The one-week camp, which was held in conjunction with the Caribbean and Central American Tennis Confederation (COTECC), also included the Top 14 players from the COTECC region.

The other countries represented at the camp, which was supervised by Ivan Molina, the ITF travelling coach, and Anthony Jeremiah, development officer for the Caribbean, were Haiti, Cayman Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, Netherlands Antilles, Aruba, Suriname, and the Bahamas, so Darian gained plenty of experience facing the best young players in the region.

Peter Patterson Xmas tournament

Anthony Downes of Guyana brushed aside local opposition to win both the Under 18s and 16s Boys singles in the tournament played in mid December. In the under 18s, he defeated Andre Parris 6-1, 6-1, then went on to beat Christopher Date in the under 16s 6-3, 6-1. Liam Rice took the Under 14s, while Ryan Newman won the Under 12s.

Among the girls, Allison Boyce won the Under 18s singles, while Gabriella Lopez was Under 16s champion. Ancia Ifill came top of the Under 14s, while Melena Lopez took the Under 12s and Joelle Hall the Under 10s.

National Ranking System

A new ranking system for junior, open and senior players will become effective this year.

Please see our website www.tennisbarbados.org for details as well as for the list of ranked players in all categories, which will be uploaded shortly.

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

Court Rental fees: (subject to change)

Without Lights	\$8 per hour for Members
	\$16 per hour for non-Members
With Lights	\$16 per hour for Members
	\$24 per hour for non-Members

For court bookings, please call Julian Baird at the National Tennis Centre tel # 427-5300 or 427-5298.

Sunday bookings must be made by 2.00pm on Saturdays.

Please also contact Julian or Kevin regarding coaching sessions, racquet re-stringing etc at the National Tennis Centre.

Membership Fees

Membership fees for 2007 are now due and requests for fees have been mailed out.

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.

Please note that all juniors must be current paid-up members to play in tournaments run by the Association.

We also welcome any seniors still not members and interested in supporting the Association to join up too.

National Tennis Clean-up day

Many juniors, Mums, Dads and Council members spent their Errol Barrow bank holiday on January 22 down at the Tennis Centre cleaning up the courts, surroundings and Club house.

Many thanks to all those members who attended plus Julian, Fabian and Mr Marshall for their help with the early spring-cleaning, painting, and gardening.

In addition, further thanks go to Cliff Nolan for donating paint, and Richard (Bones) Marsh for supplying a skip for the day. Similarly, we are very appreciative of Peter and Jane Date's very kind donation of palm trees, which have already brightened up the area and hopefully will provide more shade in future years.

Although we did accomplish the majority of jobs planned, many more are still to be done. We hope to have another Member's Day in the next quarter of the year.

New E-mail address

Kindly note that we can now be reached only at tennisbarbados@sunbeach.net (our old e-mail address has now been suspended)

Wimbledon tickets

Applications for 2007 Wimbledon tickets can be made via e-mail to tennisbarbados@sunbeach.net.

Wimbledon runs from 25 June to 8 July 2007, so mark your diaries.

Fundraising events

Quiz Night – a “Super Quiz” night will be held at the Barbados Yacht Club on Friday, March 9 from 7.00pm. This event is to raise funds for our junior and senior Davis and Federation Cup teams to go to South America in March, April and June.

Tickets at \$100 each are available from Council members. Drinks and food are included in the price, and some excellent prizes will be awarded for the best contestants and teams.

Do come out with friends and family to have an entertaining evening as well as to help our players.

Bingo – Bingo is planned in April/May at Sherbourne Centre - tickets will be on sale nearer the confirmed date.

Advertising Opportunities at the National Tennis Centre

We still have space available to again invite members and/or their company, to join in our fund raising efforts through the purchase of advertising at the NTC.

Contact Councilor – Patricia Murray via e-mail to tennisbarbados@sunbeach.net to discuss the details, answer any questions and make the appropriate arrangements.

Similarly, we are also looking for advertisers for our website, so please contact us should you be interested.

Member's concessions

Sandy Lane Hotel continues to offer court rentals at US\$10 per hour (with or without lights) to senior members of BTA Inc on presentation of 2007 BTA membership cards or receipts. All players must be BTA members, so please make sure your 2007 subscription is paid to be able to take up this opportunity. Call Sandy Lane Hotel – tel # 444-2600 or 266-4247 for bookings.

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

Other concessions are currently being worked on – we hope to shortly advise you of further worthwhile benefits of becoming a member of the BTA Inc!

Other news

Haydn Lewis

Our NSC elite sportsman – Haydn Lewis is continuing to play Futures events in Australia with some success. His coach in Oz, Peter Smith reports that Haydn qualified for a number of the events and in F10 – probably his best tournament, he qualified, won a round, then lost to Shannon Nettle, a very experienced Aussie Pro (ranked 339) and played some very competitive tennis.

In the 3rd round Qualifiers of F8, he played another Aussie Luke Bourgeois (ranked 262) and was unlucky as his opponent was ultimately 2nd seed in the Main Draw – although Haydn lost, the score line was encouraging.

After the Futures tournaments Haydn returned to Adelaide for a period of intensive training with plans for playing a full schedule in 2007.

Unfortunately, Haydn has recently had to return to Florida where his father has been unwell. He has made an arrangement to train with a University tennis team while there, and with the approval of his coach Peter Smith will maintain his practice regime until he can return to Australia.

We wish Haydn and his father well, and would also like to thank the National Sports Council and the Peter Moores Foundation for providing grants to enable Haydn to continue his career in Australia and to hopefully make his way up the ATP rankings in 2007. (Haydn is currently 1421 but with a career high ranking of 1142 in October, 2004).

James Ingrahm

Following several years at Club Rockley under the supervision of coach Lou Fuentes, James was awarded a tennis scholarship to Sutton Junior Tennis Centre in England in 2005.

During the past term he has played exclusively Matchplays, and from January will be signing up for Superseries Events and British Tour Events under the recommendation of his coach Erwan Nicholas.

Bradley Bryan

Bradley is attending Cypress Bay High School in Weston, Florida, playing # 2 singles on the tennis team and will be graduating in May of this year. Bradley is also being coached by Bill Adams at his International Tennis Academy in Florida.

Damien Applewhaite

Damien attended the ITF Regional Coaches' Workshop held in Panama in September, and the PASO Tennis Continental Course held in Argentina in October 2006.

He has also become an ITF appointed assessor for the International Tennis Numbering system which represents a player's general level of play. Damien is currently assessing players at Sandy Lane in a pilot project, but intends to broaden the system across the island in future months.

NB We are currently collecting information on present and past universities and colleges that have given tennis scholarships to Barbadian nationals. This information will be available on the website shortly.

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