



**BARBADOS  
TENNIS**  
ASSOCIATION INC

# REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR THE YEAR 2022

To be presented at the 2023 AGM  
November 27, 2023

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This constitutes the Report of the Board of Directors (the Board\Council) for the year ended December 31, 2022, for presentation at the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

## 1. MEMBERSHIP

The total membership at December 31, 2022 increased from 338 to 343 members, comprising:

<u>Category</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Juniors	82	92	89	98
Seniors (over 18 years)	249	235	204	194
Honorary Life Vice Presidents	5	4	4	3
Clubs	7	7	8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>301</b>

During the year two (2) members resigned and several junior members transitioned to senior membership. Former long-standing Treasurer, Ms. Helen Roper, also became an Honorary Life Vice President.

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

## 2. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Following are the people who served on the Board during the 2021/22 & 2022/23 terms:

Dr. Raymond Forde	President
Junior King <sup>a</sup>	Vice President
Craig Smith	Vice President
Marie-Jeanne Symmonds <sup>c</sup>	Secretary
Sheryl Peter-Kirton <sup>a</sup>	Assistant Secretary
Brian Cadogan	Board Member
Grace Chambers <sup>a</sup>	Board Member
Stephen Ollivierre <sup>b</sup>	Board Member 2021/22
Lloyd Stephen Slocombe	Board Member
Andrew Thornton <sup>b</sup>	Board Member 2021/22

Since the last AGM in 2022<sup>1</sup>, five (5) Board meetings were held in 2022/23. The attendance of members during the year varied and a quorum was reached at 4 of the 5 meetings.

### 3. THE COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

As the AGM is held in the latter half of the year. Members of sub-committees for 2021/22 year served until the AGM on December 5, 2022, and thereafter new sub-committees for the 2022/23 year served until the 2023 AGM. Outlined are the designated committees and the assigned chairpersons:

COMMITTEE	2021/22	2022/23
Junior Development	Mr. Craig Smith	Mr. Craig Smith
Junior Tennis	Mrs. Marie-Jeanne Symmonds	Mrs. Marie-Jeanne Symmonds
Senior Tennis	Mr. Andrew Thornton (to Aug 2022) Lloyd Slocombe (from Sep 2022)	Lloyd Slocombe
Davis Cup\Fed Cup	Mr. Junior King	Mr. Junior King
Inter-Club Committee	Mr. Brian Cadogan Mr. Steve Slocombe	Mr. Brian Cadogan Mr. Steve Slocombe
Selection	Mr. Craig Smith	Mr. Craig Smith
Tournament Committee	Chair of Junior, Senior or Inter-Club Committees	Chair of Junior, Senior or Inter-Club Committees
Coaches Advisory Committee	Mr. Damien Applewhaite	Mr. Damien Applewhaite

<sup>1</sup> Notes from above

<sup>a</sup> These members will retire at the 2023 AGM, and have all offered themselves for re-election.

<sup>b</sup> These members both with 2021-2023 terms, resigned during 2021/22. The casual vacancies remain unfilled, however the Board invited Mrs. Margot Thomson and Ms. Asha King to attend meetings in 2022/23 as non-voting officers. The positions are again vacant at the 2023 AGM and only Mrs. Grace Chambers has been nominated to fill one of the 3 positions. Subsequent to nominations closing, Mr. Dario Parris has expressed an interest in serving. Nominations will be taken at the 2023 AGM.

<sup>c</sup> Ms. Helen Roper, the long-standing Treasurer, retired at the 2021 AGM. At that AGM there were no nominations for Treasurer and the casual vacancy remained unfilled through to the 2023 AGM. Mrs. Symmonds, who is a Chartered Accountant, Chairs the Finance Committee and has oversight of the Treasurer's functions. We are pleased to announce that Mr. Alvin Chambers has been nominated unopposed to fill the position of Treasurer for 2023/25.

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Finance	Mrs. Marie-Jeanne Symmonds	Mrs. Marie-Jeanne Symmonds
Fund Raising	Mrs. Grace Chambers	Mrs. Grace Chambers
Public Relations, Media & Marketing	Mrs. Grace Chambers	Mrs. Grace Chambers
Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Committee	Mr. Bryan Weekes	Mr. Bryan Weekes
Tennis Centre (facilities)	Mr. Junior King	Mr. Junior King
Tennis Centre Operations\Management	Mr. Craig Smith	Mr. Craig Smith
Education	Mr. Andrew Thornton (to Aug 2022)	Mrs. Sheryl Peter-Kirton (from Mar 2023)
Special events	Mr. Lloyd Slocombe	Mr. Lloyd Slocombe
Strategic Planning	Mrs. Sheryl Peter-Kirton	Mrs. Sheryl Peter-Kirton
Membership	Mr. Brian Cadogan	Mr. Brian Cadogan

### 3.1 Selection Committee:

The Selection Committee for 2021/22 and 2022/23 comprises:

Mr. Craig Smith (Chair)  
Mrs. Marie-Jeanne Symmonds  
Mr. Chris King  
Mr. Ryan Moseley (resigned June 23, 2022)  
Mr. Terrance Bradshaw (appointed September 21, 2022)  
Mr. Lloyd Slocombe (appointed March 1, 2023)

## 4. NTC COACHING PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

### 4.1 The Team

In 2022 the Junior Development Programme (JDP) at the National Tennis Centre (NTC) continued to excel under the steadfast leadership of the existing team:

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

The JDP was further enriched by the addition of certified ITF Level 2 coaches Seanon Williams and Duncan Evanson, bringing diverse training methodologies and expertise. Darian King, Stephen Slocombe Jr, Kyle Griffith and Nicholas Charles also bolstered the coaching line up in 2022.

### 4.2 Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI) Programme

Despite the challenges experienced earlier in 2022, the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions led to significant participation, demonstrating the community's continued enthusiasm for tennis. By the end of the year, enrollment numbers were an impressive 86.

The NTC's JTI players showed exceptional skill and determination throughout the year, continuing to dominate the Tennis10s Competitions held throughout the year. They also performed admirably in the C.O. Williams Barbados Junior International tournaments, both the U14 COTECC and U12 Invitational tournaments held in Barbados in April 2022. Eleven (11) year old Dimitri Kirton, who was ultimately voted most improved player, reached the semi-finals of the U14 tournament, in both singles and doubles. His brother Zane Kirton reached semi-finals in the U12 Invitational.

Dimitri continued to excel at the U14 level throughout the year, attaining a career high ranking of #9 in COTECC U14 by early 2023.

#### **✔ Notable Developments in Early 2023**

Trident Tennis Academy launched in January 2023 training, among others, former players of the Performance Tennis Initiative (PTI) and Advanced players of the BTA's JTI Programme. The BTA endorsed its strategy as it relates to the preparation and development of players' technical, mental and physical skills.

### 4.3 Tennis10s Competitions

The year 2022 marked the resumption of the Tennis10s events, with all three successfully held and attracting 30 to 45 participants each. These events provided our young athletes with a valuable opportunity to compete and showcase their skills developed over the challenging periods.

#### 4.4 Daytime Primary Schools' Programme

The Daytime Primary Schools' Programme in 2022 continued to engage students from the original participating schools: Blackman and Gollop, Grantley Prescod and Luther Thorne, as well as The School House and St. Gabriel's School.

These schools sent full classes to the NTC, where the students enjoyed and benefited from the sessions led mainly by Coaches Julian Baird, Andrew Thornton and Christian Maxwell.

Participation in these programmes expanded during 2023.

#### 4.5 Adult Tennis Initiative (ATI) Programme

The Adult Tennis Initiative maintained its appeal throughout 2022, with a consistent participation of 12-16 individuals per class. This reflected both the programme's enduring appeal and the normalisation of post-pandemic sporting activities.

At the National Tennis Centre, the Round Robin Fridays continued in earnest as did the private Social Tennis initiative happening on Thursdays.

#### 4.6 Summer Camps

The BTA's Summer Camp, held from July 18<sup>th</sup> to August 26<sup>th</sup>, was an enriching experience for all of the children who participated over the six-week period. 72 children benefited from the camp's well-structured timetable, which combined rigorous tennis drills with a variety of cross-training activities, ensuring a holistic approach to physical fitness and skill development.

In addition to the daily activities, the camp also organised several tours for its campers, adding an educational and exploratory dimension to their experience. The effectiveness of the camp was underscored by the fact that several participants were inspired to join the JTI after-school programme in September, indicating the lasting impact of the camp on their interests and athletic pursuits.

## 5. JUNIOR TENNIS

### 5.1 Local Tournaments & 2022 National Champions

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

- Fortress Nassco Series Parts 1 to 3
- Powerade Junior 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, 2022:

	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
Under-18	Xavier Peter-Gooding	Hannah Chambers
Under-16	Xzavier Hastick	Messiah Austin
Under-14	Dimitri Kirton	Micah Austin
Under-12	Zane Kirton	-
Under-10	Liam Cave	-

These players were all also crowned at the 2022 National Champions, except for the Girls Under-18 and Boys Under-10 events which did not happen and the Boys Under-12 which was also won by Dimitri Kirton.

### 5.2 World Junior Championships (U14) 2022

A Boys team was sent to compete at the U14 World Junior Tennis Championships held in El Salvador, February 21-26, 2022.

Juian Baird (Captain)  
Aidan Clarke  
Ethan Warner  
Dimitri Kirton

The team defeated Suriname and Panama, reaching the back draw final and placing 10<sup>th</sup> out of 13 teams.

### 5.3 Junior Davis Cup 2022

A Boys team was sent to compete in the Junior Davis Cup held in the Dominican Republic (DR), March 6 – 11, 2022.

Junior Davis Cup Team  
Andrew Thornton (Captain)  
Kia Owen  
Neil King  
Aidan Clarke

The defeated Honduras and Trinidad & Tobago to place a commendable 9<sup>th</sup> out of 14 teams.

#### 5.4 U12 ITF/COTECC Team Competition 2022

Barbados sent a Boys team to attend the U12 Sub-Region 4 team championship which was held in Trinidad, July 15th – 22, 2022. The team consisted of the following:

Boys team

Damien Applewhaite (Captain)

Dimitri Kirton

Zane Kirton

Travis Licorish

Nine boys' teams attended the event and the Barbados team won all 3 of their ties and all 9 matches, to place top of their group and to qualify for the COTECC U12 Team Competition Finals.

The COTECC U12 team competition finals were held in Dominican Republic, August 26 to September 2, 2022. The team consisted of the following:

Boys team

Damien Applewhaite (Captain)

Dimitri Kirton

Zane Kirton

Zack King

These young players gained invaluable experience and an opportunity to part-take in the regional final. Barbados defeated Trinidad & Tobago in their last tie to place 7<sup>th</sup> out of 8 and earned the bragging rights as the top team of Sub-region 4!

#### 5.5 C.O. Williams Barbados Junior International Tennis Tournament 2022 – 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 event.

Honorable mention goes to locally based Thomas O'Neill of Canada, who defeated Barbadian Dimitri Kirton to reach the U14 singles final. Thomas also reached the doubles final, with his Barbadian partner Aidan Clarke. Dimitri and locally based Xzavier Hastick, also of Canada, made it to the semi-finals of the doubles.

Adam King won the U12 Consolation and made it to the semi-finals of the U12 doubles with his brother Zach King. Other Barbadian players competing in these tournaments included Llewellyn York, Travis Licorish, Ammon Archer, Micah Austin and Mckayla Cochrane.

## 5.6 ITF U18 Junior Tournaments held at the NTC

Due to Covid restrictions impacting tournament organisation, Barbados did not host an ITF U18 Junior Event in Easter 2022, however in November 2022 the BTA sanctioned The Barbados Cup, two (2) back-to-back ITF U18 junior tournaments held at the NTC, organized by Travel Experts of Canada (under the direction of Mr. Karl Hale). The first was a Grade 4 event followed by a Grade 5 event.

Barbadian Aidan Clarke earned his first ITF points at the G4 event. Aidan, Xavier Peter-Gooding and Adam King were the 3 local players to make it beyond the first round.

## 5.7 JITIC U14 & U18 2022

JITIC U14 is the premier regional tournament on the COTECC calendar and was played in the summer of 2022.

The U18 JITIC is a closed event (to COTECC players only) an ITF Grade I tournament, which allows players to enter based on the U18 ITF rankings.

In 2022 Adam King and Xavier Peter-Gooding qualified for the event and gain invaluable experience competing in the U18 JITIC by Mexico. Aidan Clarke also went to Mexico and competed in the JITIC U14 event, accompanied by locally based Xavier Hastick. Despite the tough competition Hastick & Clarke got to the semi-final of the G3 Doubles.

## 5.8 Junior achievements

Hannah Chambers, who attained a career high ranking of #334 in ITF U18 world rankings, continued to participate actively on the ITF U18 circuit for the first half of 2022. She was classified as an “Emerging Athlete” by the Barbados Olympic Association and received assistance with her competition schedule.

Hannah started college in the USA in August 2022 on a tennis scholarship. She joins a list for successful former junior players who all attended US colleges on tennis scholarships in 2022 including Romani Mayers, Robert Hayden, Kaipo Marshall, Stephen Slocombe, Nile Morris, Curt Seifert, Torain Alleyne, Tangia Riley-Codrington, Sanaa Hewitt, Gabrielle Leslie and Taisha Jones.

# 6. ADULT TENNIS

## 6.1 Inter-Club Competition 2022

The 2022 Inter-Club Competition showcased exciting tennis with six teams participating. The teams were divided into two groups, leading to a series of round robin matches. This year's competition format included seven doubles matches being two Men's Open, a Women's Open and two Mixed doubles along with the newly featured Men's 45 doubles and Women's O35 doubles.

The participating teams were Group 1 - Windward, Yacht Club, Paragon and Group 2 - Tennis Centre, Ocean View, Summerhayes.

Teams competed in a round robin within their respective groups. The top two from each group advanced to the semifinals, culminating in a highly anticipated final. In a reversal of fortunes, it was Tennis Centre Club whose performance on the finals day resulted in a convincing victory over Ocean View who had previously defeated them in the group stage. Tennis Centre Club defeated Ocean View 52-34 in the final.

## 6.2 Open and Senior Nationals 2022

The Nationals this year, though without a sponsor, still showcased the high calibre of tennis Barbados has to offer. Players competed fiercely, demonstrating both skill and sportsmanship.

Winners:

- Men's Open: Simon Lewis won his first Barbados Nationals title in a compelling match against Adam King, concluding with scores of 7-6(5), 6-2.
- Ladies Open: this event did not happen in 2022
- Over-35 and Over-45: In these categories, Matthew Weir (Men's) and Donna Gibbs (Ladies) proved their enduring skills and competitive spirit by claiming the titles in both age groups.

## 6.3 Davis Cup 2022

Barbados's participation in the Davis Cup showcased the nation's growing tennis capabilities and the resilience of its players against tough international opponents.

### February vs. Ukraine:

Facing a strong Ukraine team in Turkey, Barbados endured a 4-0 defeat but maintained their position in World Group II. This tie highlighted the need for continuous improvement and adaptation against high-caliber opponents. The team consisted of the following:

Damien Applewhaite (Captain)  
Darian King  
Matthew Foster-Estwick  
Kaipo Marshall  
Xavier Lawrence

### September vs. Ireland:

Barbados playing in their second 2022 World Group II tie, had a heart-wrenching 2-3 loss against Ireland. In September saw Barbados just missing out on a win. The two wins came in singles, both by Darian King. King playing with veteran Handn Lewis in the doubles was unable to pull off the win. The doubles match loss was a decisive moment in the tie. The team consisted of the following:

Damien Applewhaite (Captain)  
Darian King  
Matthew Foster-Estwick  
Kaipo Marshall  
Haydn Lewis  
Xavier Lawrence

### **✔ Notable Developments in Early 2023**

In February 2023, in a dramatic comeback, Barbados retained their position in World Group II with a 3-2 victory. With King again winning his two singles ties and this time playing doubles with Matthew Foster-Estwick. After defeat in the doubles, it was Kaipō Marshall's performance, coming back from a set and a break down to clinch the match and the tie that was particularly commendable.

#### **6.4 Billie Jean King Cup 2022**

In the Billie Jean King Cup, the Barbados team faced formidable opposition and gained valuable experience, despite not securing victories. The team comprised:

Andrew Thornton (Captain)  
Hannah Chambers  
Serena Bryan  
Cherise Slocombe

All showcased determination and resilience against seasoned international players.

#### **6.5 BTA Top 8 2022**

The BTA Top 8 remained a premier event in the Barbados tennis calendar, attracting the nation's top players and delivering high-quality matches.

##### **Men's Category:**

In an impressive display of skill and tenacity, Xavier Lawrence clinched his second Top 8 title, overcoming a strong challenge from young Stephen Slocombe in the final.

##### **Women's Category:**

Gabrielle Leslie continued her impressive run in the Top 8, securing her fourth consecutive title. The finals victory was over Billie Jean King Cup teammate Hannah Chambers.

#### **6.6 Other Competitions 2022**

Unfortunately, there was no representation at the Huntsman World Senior Games. The cancellation of the BiiG Games under the Barbados Olympic Association was also a notable absence in the year's tennis calendar.

#### **6.7 ATP Professional – Darian King 2022**

Darian King faced a challenging year, marked by injuries and a decline in rankings. Nonetheless, his contributions, especially in the Davis Cup ties, were significant. His journey to the finals of the M15 Future in the Dominican Republic, despite not clinching the title, was a highlight of his year.

## 7. EDUCATION

Between June 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2022 the BTA hosted an ITF Play Tennis Course 2022, attracting a diverse group of ten (10) participants, four (4) of whom were female. One (1) participant was an overseas attendee. This comprehensive programme was structured to offer a blend of online and in- person training, totaling 35 hours. Specifically, it encompassed 3 hours of online instruction coupled with 32 hours of face-to-face engagement. The course was marked by its robust curriculum, designed to cater to the varying needs and skill levels of the participants.

While the majority, 8 of the 10 attendees, successfully completed the course, two participants will need to re-take one of the final exams, highlighting the course's rigorous standards and commitment to excellence.

## 8. PUBLIC RELATIONS, MEDIA AND MARKETING

The BTA integrated the Gift Certificate Packages as prizes for its various tournaments and activities, and continued the initiative in December 2022, as one way of marketing the sport, encouraging interested parties to give the gift of tennis, gifting court time, or sessions for those wishing to learn how to play tennis.

The BTA's official website continued to serve as a record of its core activities, events and result. Its events and players were actively promoted on its Instagram and Facebook pages, rewarded by a high level of engagement from its followers.

While there were numerous articles on tennis in Barbados reflected in the various newspapers, discussions continued on ways to further market the sport.

## 9. NATIONAL TENNIS CENTRE

### 9.1 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 BTA's Administrator. Mr. Julian Baird and Mr. Christian Maxwell continue to steadfastly provide coaching and services in the BTA programmes.

### 9.2 NTC Facilities

In 2022 the NTC emphasised facility improvements and maintenance. Landscaping efforts, led by Dr. Raymond Forde, were pivotal in keeping the grounds in pristine condition, especially in preparation for our international events. The Clubhouse was enhanced with a new printer, the replacement of the water cooler and plans afoot to improve bathroom facilities for efficiency.

Court maintenance involved repainting of courts 1 and 2 for the Davis Cup and upgrading court 1's lighting to meet ITF standards, addressing issues like breaker heating. There were also various remedial works completed, including regrading pathways and painting, with some ongoing tasks like repairing cracked asphalt.

A highlight of the year was the soft opening ceremony, with the Maria Holder Memorial Trust, where the new courts were officially opened and handed over, marking a significant milestone in the NTC's development. This event underscored the NTC's dedication to enhancing its facilities and promoting tennis.

## **10. FUND RAISING**

There were no fund-raising events held during the year however there was brainstorming around ideas for 2023.

## **11. AFFILIATIONS**

### **11.1 National Sports Council (NSC)**

In respect to 2022, the Association received subventions for the period 2021 and 2022 as well as a grant towards junior team competitions and ongoing assistance for elite athlete Darian King.

### **11.2 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 Hannah Chambers and Darian King continued during the year.

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

### **11.3 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.

### **11.4 Arts and Sports Promotion Fund (ASPF)**

In respect to 2022, the Association received a grant towards junior team competitions from the ASPF.

### **11.5 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 2022 were Barbados Bottling Co. Ltd (Powerade and Dasani), C.O. Williams Group of Companies, the Fortress Fund Managers Limited, Nassco Limited and Windward Agencies and all but C.O. Williams Group of Companies renewed their sponsorship in 2023.

## 11. 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  
*November 27, 2023*