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Junior Development Committee Junior Development Committee

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Juniors and Parents,

Since the last time I wrote back in December there have been many changes in local tennis, first and foremost a new Bermuda Lawn Tennis Executive Committee was voted into office in January, the members of the Executive are:

President: Mr. David Lambert (this is Mr. Lambert's 4th time in office a testament to how well respected he is in the tennis community)

Vice President: Mr. Coleridge Place (responsible for liaising with tennis coaches on the Island)

Vice President: Mrs. Gill Butterfield (responsible for tournaments and fundraising)

Vice President: Mrs. Allison Towlson (responsible for Junior Development)

Treasurer: Ms. Veronica Dunkerley (responsible for finances and accounting)

Vice President and Lifetime member: Mr. Allan Simmons (responsible for working with the International Tennis Federation and acting as tournament referee).

This is an exciting time as the BLTA transition with the new Executive and moves forward with many initiatives. You may recall I was writing monthly newsletters, with my increased responsibilities for Junior Development at the Executive level, I find myself with less time to write, but still feel it's a vital part of communicating with the juniors and the parents and keeping them informed of all tennis activities.

In addition to the changes at the Executive level, we have had renewed support at the Junior Development Committee level. I would like to thank the Junior Development Committee for their support and I look to them for their increased support in the coming months. Below are the committee members:

Allison Towlson –BLTA Executive Rep
Rhonda Caza - responsible for Pepperidge Farm Round Robins
Phil Cooper - Fundraising
Sarah Cooke -Advanced juniors and tournaments
Sheila Fisher – Pepperidge Farm and tournament assistance
Cheryl Green - Tournament assistance
Chris Dougherty – Pepperidge Farm Round Robins
Megan Boyle - Administration & Social Activities
Vanessa Skater – Administration & Social Activities
Margo Rego - Secretary

There has been much activity in the first few months of the year and many events coming up in the next few months, and I hope I've captured the many highlights in this first quarter newsletter.

FEATURED ARTICLE

JUNIOR DAVIS CUP AND JUNIOR FED CUP TEAMS COMPETE IN EL SALVADOR!



In late March six Bermudian juniors were selected from a training squad and traveled to La Libertad, El Salvador to compete in both the Junior Davis Cup (boys) and Junior Federation Cup (girls) under 16's event. Amidst 90+ degree weather, coupled with altitude, the players had a little over a day and a half to get adjusted to the heat and the altitude. Why the altitude? For those that have never played tennis in higher terrain the ball bounces higher, faster and the pace of the game can be completely different than when playing at lower levels or closer to sea level.

The Junior Davis Cup team consisted of, Alexander Cooper, Neal Towlson and Frederick Wade (with alternate Matteo Frazzoni) while the Junior Fed Cup team consisted of Cayla Cross, Catherine Cooke and Carolita Joseph (with alternate Courtney Fisher). Coaching the boys was Coach Steve Bean, while Coach Steve Phillips coached the girls, a big thank you to the Coaches who gave so much of their time and energy to our juniors. I also traveled with the team and made sure all our logistics were taken care of, and I made contacts with the coaches from other countries in the hopes that we could learn more from those in our region.

The format for the event was first to be drawn into a round robin pool with other countries. Each country would play two singles matches and one doubles match against each respective country, within their round robin pool. This would mean we would have 3 matches against each country. In order to win against a country, you had to win 2 out of the 3 matches against each country. The winner of the round robin fixture would then go into a main draw to see who would win overall. However if you didn't go into the main draw you still played in a consolation draw. Both the main draw and the consolation draw was not the usual knock out event, even if you lost you then played out to see who came 4th, 5th, 6th etc. For the 7 days of match play, we played 6 days with 1 rest day, each day playing 3 matches for boys and 3 for the girls, a total of 6 matches each day. In all, 6 matches a day, for 7 days, for a total of 42 matches in 7 days, quite a lot of tennis!

There were 14 teams in the Junior Davis Cup (boy's event) and overall Bermuda placed 11th, while the Junior Fed Cup event had 11 teams and Bermuda placed overall 10th. Whilst we may not have done as well as we had hoped, the experience was a great development opportunity for the Bermuda team, the players learned much about themselves and what they want to focus on to improve upon. For two of our junior players, Frederick Wade and Cayla Cross, this was their last time they are eligible for the team, as they will no longer be by 16&U next year; thank you both for your commitment over the past few years to this event. We hope you will continue with your

tennis and eventually play for the adult Davis Cup and Fed Cup teams. For full results of the event I would encourage you to log onto www.itftennis.com and look for the Caribbean, Central American Qualifying rounds for Junior Davis Cup and Fed Cup 2007.

THOUGHTS FROM THE BLTA PRESIDENT:

David Lambert will be adding his thoughts to this column in next quarterly newsletter, having just taken over the office of President in January he has much that he is working on and there are some exciting opportunities coming up for the juniors. Mr. Lambert fully supports the Junior Development Committee and the tennis community as a whole; he looks forward to working with the committee and the juniors in the coming year.

TOURNAMENTS:

Two junior tournaments have been played so far in 2007. The Cromwell Manders Tournament and the Emerald Financial Group Junior tournament, both had a great turn out of juniors, Emerald Financial Group saw record numbers this year compared to last year, which is great news for junior tennis.



Results from the recent Emerald Financial Group Tournament are below www.manderislandtennis.com , and refer to the BLTA website www.blta.bm for overall rankings. Thanks to Emerald the sponsors for sponsoring this event and to Brent Smith and his juniors that helped to run a well run event.

Please note we have one new tournament on the calendar thanks to the Boyle family who are hosting a tournament for the younger juniors early in June, please see dates and venues below for upcoming tournaments through July. Remember to check the BLTA website www.blta.bm for a list of all tournaments.

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	CATEGORY	SURFACE
May 3 -12	BLTA Open (Vitamin Water)	Tennis Stadium	Adult	Hard (Deadline Sunday April 29 th)
May 26-June 9 th	Island Construction	Pomander Gate	Adult	Hard
June 10 th -16 th	Boyle's Tournament	Coral Beach Club	Junior Tournament for 14&U, 12& and 10U only	Clay

June 16-17 th (Deadline May 16 th)	ITF Bank of Bermuda (Age restriction)	Tennis Stadium	Juniors Qualifying	Hard
June 18 th 023 rd	ITF Bank of Bermuda	Tennis Stadium	Juniors Main Draw	Hard
July 2 – 14	Argus Open	Tennis Stadium	Adult	Hard
July 16 - 20	Minute Maid	Tennis Stadium	Juniors	Hard

OVERSEAS TOURNAMENTS & EVENTS:

The summer is often a busy time for junior tennis events as the players are out of school. This year there are two overseas events that the Bermuda Lawn Tennis Association are supporting.

- **JITIC Junior Event in the Dominican Republic** for ages 18&U, 16&U and 14&U. Last year Mr. David Lambert (now our President) raised money under the Bermuda Tennis Foundation via his Celebrity Tennis Classic. With the funds raised from this event a select group of juniors will be sent to compete in the JITIC event being held from July 30th to August 8th. Bermuda's top juniors will be invited to participate, an email communication will be outgoing shortly to the junior membership regarding the criteria for invitation to this event.
- **ITF (International Tennis Federation) Under 14's Caribbean Event.** The BLTA will be sending three juniors to compete in this event which is scheduled from August 13th – 19th. A training squad will be created from the juniors eligible to try out for the event, they must be Bermudian, and of a certain age requirement, again details will follow shortly in a separate email communication to all junior members and those eligible.

SPECIAL LOCAL EVENTS:

TransWorld Sports Services Presented to Juniors & Parents

The BLTA recently sponsored Mr. Bill Riddle of TransWorld Sports Services to present to the members of the BLTA his services and how TransWorld can assist talented juniors in receiving a tennis scholarship. This presentation was held on April 10th and we had approximately 35 to 40 people turn out. Mr. Bill Riddle laid out some interesting facts which I've highlighted below:

- The average tennis scholarship is \$10,000
- There are over 1,400 universities and colleges that offer tennis scholarship, and often not all of those scholarships are used.
- For every university or college that offers a scholarship on average there are 3 for the men and 6 for the women, this is due to the passing of Title 90 which was designed to provide more opportunities to females given males had always had plenty of sports scholarships opportunities.
- Last year along in one State there were at least 13 scholarships that were not utilized, meaning money was left unused.

Mr. Bill Riddle provides many services, from developing the players and working with the coaches early on to improve their schools, matching the skill level of the players with the right university or college team, also matching the right size of school with the individuals personal choices as well as ensuring that the players work through all the necessary visas, forms etc in the process of applying for schools. The process of matching a player to a school with the hopes of being offered a scholarship also involves videoing the player and sending DVD's to the respective coaches to preview and important process to securing a scholarship.

As for the fees, the BLTA has entered a strategic partnership with TransWorld Sports Services, typically the fee for a player is \$999 one time charge but if you are a BLTA member it is a charge of \$750 one time. Mr. Riddle explained that they prefer to work with students early on, on average between 14 and 15 years of old to ensure they set the right development path to securing their goals both academically and physically. If a player is accepts a scholarship in a school, TransWorld's job is not over, if for some reason the player isn't happy at that school

TransWorld will continue to work with them to ensure successful placement in another school. Effectively until a player has graduated they are a client of TransWorld and can tap into their resources and skills to ensure maximum benefit.

The BLTA will continue to work with Mr. Riddle and hope to be able to host an evaluation program in the near future. For more information on TransWorld Sports Services please refer to their website www.transworldsportservices.com .

XL Open Tournament

Its been a pleasure this month to watch the XL Open and enjoy some high performance tennis and I'm also pleased to see many of our juniors out there being ballkids for this event. It's a great opportunity for juniors to be amidst these players, watch the matches and see how the pros do it, you never know you may be asking for the next 'Nada' to sign your hats. We appreciate all the efforts our juniors have put into this event, working with the grounds crew and the organizers to make it a success.

Two junior clinics were held in association with this event, the first was on the opening Sunday and was an open event for all juniors regardless of age or ability. The pros on hand did drills with the kids and graciously stayed to sign autographs. On the Wednesday, XL hosted a private clinic for some older top ranked juniors on the Island, this was a special chance for them to be evaluated by the likes of Roy Emerson along with Ross Case (Wimbledon Doubles Champion) and Mikael Pernfors (XL Bermuda Open Champion). The players got some valuable tips from the pros and some areas to improve upon. It was a valuable session and we thank Alec Anderson the organizer of the XL Tennis for the opportunity.

Celebrity Tennis Classic

Coming up in September is the Celebrity Classic Event, mark your calendar for **September 26th – 29th** when we have visiting celebrities to support Junior Tennis Development. More details will follow in our next issue.

As always don't hesitate to ask any questions via info@blta.bm addressed to my attention or the Junior Development Committee (JDC), we are working hard for all of you, to make tennis better for our juniors and to improve opportunities for all.

Always remember “**Tennis is a game for a lifetime**”.

Sincerely,
Allison Towlson
Junior Development Committee