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22 April 2009

Hi Junior Members & Parents,

Well spring is finally here, and it would appear the weather has finally received that message too! I hope everyone had an enjoyable Easter Break; we have much tennis ahead of us and many opportunities for you in the coming weeks and months. Before I discuss the upcoming events, it's important that I take this opportunity to recognize the Junior Development Committee members. Through their combined efforts we are able to provide programmes such as the Pepperidge Farm Round Robin Series, Advanced Training, USTA Juniors Exchange Programme, numerous Junior Tournaments and our Annual Junior Dinner. As chair of the Junior Development Committee (JDC) and the link to the Executive of the BLTA, I have to say all the credit goes to the volunteers on the committee, with special mention to Chris Dougherty who manages to keep sane running the extensive Pepperidge Farm Round Robin series, thank you Chris for your dedication, seems always the busiest people find time for these things!

Chris Dougherty – Responsible for Pepperidge Farm Round Robin Series
Sheila Fisher – Advanced Training /Tournaments
Margo Rego – Secretary and General tournament administration
Sharon Lines – Pepperidge Farm / Tournaments
Cheryl Green – Treasury
Megan Boyle – Social / Fundraising /Tournaments
Jill Finnigan – Pepperidge Farm /Tournaments
Richard Boyle – Tournaments (Sports Locker)
Andrea Peets – General tournament assistance /junior research
Beverly Dennis – Tournament assistance (who sadly will be leaving the Island soon, we will miss your family and your kids in tennis, be sure to stay in touch).

Thank you all for being so passionate about ensuring our juniors have well run programmes to participate in.

As an update on the BLTA, we are now officially a registered charity, which means that we can do more fundraising for our various programmes, things like selling raffles were prohibited in the past without this status. We intend to hold a tag day for two days this year. We will be asking all juniors to participate and we will give volunteer credits for those students who require credits for their school curriculum. Dates are currently being finalized so stay tuned for more details.

Now onto the business of tennis and upcoming events.

IMPORTANT DATES MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- **MAY 16TH** – Junior Dinner/Fundraiser – Riddell's Bay Club 6:30pm - 11pm (Dinner, DJ and Dancing) Tickets go on sale soon. To reserve tickets send an email to info@blta.bm
- **MAY 25TH - ENTRY DEADLINE FOR:** Bank of Bermuda ITF Tournament
(Event Qualifying June 13th and 14th – Main Draw June 15th – 20th)

LOCAL TOURNAMENTS:

I encourage you to download the 2009 BLTA Calendar of Events and to continually check the BLTA website at www.blta.bm, entry forms are posted for upcoming events.

If you are playing the ITF these adult events will be a good warm up!

ADULT EVENTS:

- **2009 BERMUDA OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT (forms are available now)** Thursday April 30 ~ Saturday May 9, 2009
(Rain Date: Sunday May 10, 2009)
Location: W. E. R. Joell Tennis Stadium
ENTRY DEADLINE: Sunday April 26, 2009 – 5pm
- **Island Construction Tournament May 30th – June 13th**

OVERSEAS TOURNAMENTS:

As always with overseas events the National Select Committee must approve the final team selection.

- **JITIC Event -July 27th - August 2nd Dominican Republic**
4 juniors will be selected to participate, (courtesy of funds raised by the Celebrity Tennis Classic 2007). More details will be forthcoming shortly, for now if you are available to participate and interested in being considered for selection, please simply send an email to the BLTA at info@blta.bm with the heading 'JITIC Interest.' Please include your age, birthdate and a statement confirming you are available to travel if selected. Please note you must be Bermudian to participate.
- **August 24 ITF 13 & U Caribbean Championships Antigua & Barbuda Invitational** – There will be trials and a selection process for this event. We are limited to an entry of 3 players based on ITF rules. This can be either 2 boys and 1 girl or 2 girls and 1 boy. (Again more details will follow shortly)

JUNIOR ACTION AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Congratulations to Tyler Smith for winning the COTECC Under 14's Girls Singles in Barbados on April 3, 2009. She played against Cassidy King in the finals score 6-0, 6-1. Tyler has now reached a milestone she is ranked #1 in the COTECC Girls Under 14's WELL DONE! Tyler is currently training at the Bill Adams Tennis Academy in Florida where she is seeing much success in overseas junior tournaments. We wish Tyler continued success in the upcoming summer season and look forward to hearing more.
- Congratulations to the following juniors for being selected to play Junior Davis Cup:
 - Jack Keyes
 - Neal Towlson
 - Rickai BurrowsUnder the coaching direction of Jerome Bradshaw, the team narrowly missed the main draw of 8 but had several good wins in the Dominican Republic in early April. The team ended up 12 out 17 teams overall, not bad for a small country like Bermuda!!

THINGS WE ARE WORKING ON!

- Plans for an all girls training group to ensure we have girls ready for Junior Fed Cup events. As you'll note the past two years we have not been successful in securing a team ready to participate. We hope to have enough interest in this and to move forward mid-late May 09.
- A second USTA Exchange Programme to send junior players to NY to train with Katrina Adams at the Harlem Junior Tennis Facility: dates to be set for the fall season.
- Additional Fund Raising opportunities – we're all ears if anyone has some new and exciting ideas (especially in this economic environment).
- A research article on our juniors who received tennis scholarships.
- A good method of capturing results from our overseas players.

As always we appreciate your feedback, and your time and support. Remember juniors, tennis is a game for a lifetime, stay fit and mentally focused and you will go far!

All the best in your upcoming events!

Allison Towlson
Junior Development
Bermuda Lawn Tennis Association