



Anguilla Tennis Academy

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ATA Monthly

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Anguilla Tennis Academy and Malliouhana Hotel and Spa working together

Malliouhana Hotel & Spa

The Anguilla Tennis Academy(ATA), a non profit organization dedicated to teaching children to become empowered through the sport of tennis recently finalized a contract in which it would immediately begin to manage the tennis facility at Malliouhana Hotel and Spa. In the past two years, the ATA has worked diligently to upgrade its programs and hire and train local tennis pros. Recently, the tennis director for Malliouhana Hotel, Andy Matthew, decided to go overseas to pursue his career. As a result, an agreement was reached between the ATA and Malliouhana hotel that allowed the ATA to assume control of the daily operations of the tennis program.

Malliouhana Hotel and Spa is the premier upscale resort in the Caribbean (according to Condé Nast Traveler) and has an impressive tennis facility. Currently, there are four hard courts of which two are cushioned. Moreover, there is a beautiful tennis pro shop located below the Spa which contains a great selection of tennis merchandise including rackets, shoes, shorts, shirts, and other tennis accessories. Jason Allen, director of the ATA, has appointed Vallan Hodge, one of the ATA's rising stars, as the head professional of the resort. When asked about Vallan Hodge's new responsibilities, Jason mentioned, "Vallan is an exceptional young adult who in the past year has grown so much, he is now our top assistant professional. I am excited for him as he now has a chance to continue to grow as a head professional at one of the Caribbean's most beautiful and prestigious resorts."

The ATA, now in its 12th year of operation, has made many positive strides both in youth development and construction of its world class tennis facility. Despite the fact that the facility is not yet on stream, the ATA's many programs still continue to function at a towering level. It is difficult however to sustain a top-notch program financially and for this reason, the ATA is very proud and thankful for the opportunity to manage Malliouhana Hotel and Spa from both a monetary and operational perspective. This new partnership will help subsidize the ATA's after school programmes as well as its award winning summer camp. So far, five of the six tennis pros that are currently employed by the ATA are all past participants of the Academy's programmes. The ATA plans to continue providing job opportunities for interested graduates of its programmes now that they are managing both Cuisinart Resort and Spa and Malliouhana Hotel and Spa.

Mitchelle Lake, founder and president of the ATA commented, "on behalf of the ATA Board, I want to express sincere gratitude to the management of Malliouhana Hotel for this opportunity. Our team will work diligently to strengthen this partnership to ensure that it is mutually beneficial for both parties. As the ATA grows from strength to strength, I trust that other resorts will consider establishing a partnership with the ATA." Malliouhana's manager, Mr. Nigel Roydon was equally happy to be able to support the ATA. He has witnessed, first hand, the ATA's summer program for the past 11 years as the program has been held at Malliouhana's courts. Mr Roydon stated, "we are thrilled to be working with the ATA and are looking forward to their positive approach to tennis at Malliouhana Hotel & Spa"

Quick Facts.....

Malliouhana Hotel & Spa

Malliouhana Hotel and Spa was recently named the number one resort in the Caribbean according to Condé Nast.

Jason Allen has been writing a youth column in The Anguillian - Anguilla's national newspaper, for more than four months. Check it out at www.anguillian.com

Chris Wade, one of the ATA's premier coaches, is the head pro at the T Bar M tennis Academy in Dallas, Texas. This academy was recently named the best in the USA. Great job Chris!!!

Anguilla Tennis Academy now managing Covecastles tennis facilities

Last week, Mrs. Sylvene Petty, manager of Covecastles, signed a contract with the Anguilla Tennis Academy allowing the ATA to assume control of all tennis operations at the upscale resort. President, Mitchelle Lake and Director, Jason Allen of the ATA were present to sign the contract making the partnership official. Covecastles is a unique vacation destination as its architecture was designed by world famous Myron Goldfinger. It also boasts of having two new tennis courts with a unique surface. They are both what many would call omnicourt, which is essentially astroturf with sand. In England, it would be more correct to call them "artificial lawn tennis courts."

Although Covecastles is not famous for its tennis facilities, the courts are used frequently by the guests. The ATA staff has been unofficially giving tennis lessons at Covecastles for the past two years and the resort guests have been pleased with the professionalism and high quality instruction the ATA provides. As there is not much money made available for sports development on Anguilla, partnering with local hotels and resorts is essential for maintaining the ATA's programs. It is also a fantastic way to provide job opportunities for local tennis pros. One of the main goals of the ATA is to hire participants of its junior programs to work at these facilities. Without the help and support of local resorts such as Covecastles, Cuisinart Resort and Spa, and Malliouhana Hotel and Spa, it would be difficult to maintain such a high level of coaching for the children.

When asked about this new venture, Mitchelle Lake responded, "Covecastles has been a staunch supporter of the ATA over the years. They have contributed annually to the summer program and have underwritten over US\$500,000 in architectural drawings and renderings. I welcome this official partnership and look forward to maintaining a partnership that will be mutually to both parties."

Sylvene Petty commented, "we at Covecastles are very happy and excited to have this partnership with the Anguilla Tennis Academy. Their services have always been of high quality and the guests of our resort have always been well taken care of by the ATA staff. We hope that this partnership will enhance the programs for the children."



Keithroy Proctor is doing well at Lambuth University! He has just joined a fraternity and is now the Vice-President of the Black Student Union. He is patiently awaiting the 2007 tennis season and will be returning to help coach with the ATA on December 15 during the holiday break. Way to go Keithroy!!

The ATA receives substantial help from Paul Lowerre

November 21, 2006

Mr. Mitchell Lake
 Founder & President
 Anguilla Tennis Academy
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Dear Mitchell:

My family joins me in congratulating you and the ATA Board for the progress you reported on the Tennis Center.

As we discussed, originally in December of last year, we feel strongly that the Center must be more than a mere facility. Its architecture should be (and certainly is) inspiring, and the grounds should provide an equally compelling and enjoyable setting for all the wonderful activities underway at the Center. I am excited to hear that the landscaping project is beginning, as this will transform the Center from a construction site, into a beautiful, purposeful destination of which everyone in Anguilla can be justifiably proud.

So it is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that, on behalf of my family, I am forwarding to Gregory Hodge, Treasurer of the Anguilla Progressive Association of New York (APANY), a check from The Lowerre Family Charitable Trust in the amount of US\$30,000, restricted to the development and execution of the Tennis Center grounds and landscaping plan.

Furthermore, as you know, this year my family also contributed US\$30,000 to establish an endowment fund to provide, in perpetuity, scholarships for deserving young Anguillians who, for financial reasons, would not be able to experience the benefits of the ATA program. I am pleased to report to the community that this endowment is fully invested and managed in New York by UBS Global Asset Management, one of the world's leading investment advisory firms. I am particularly pleased that ATA is now in a position to name its first scholarship recipients; no doubt there are many worthy candidates from which to choose!

We invite any and all supporters of the ATA to contribute to the endowment fund and increase the number of participants it can support. The fund is organized under the aegis of the Anguilla Progressive Association of New York (APANY) which is a charitable 501c3 organization, so for US taxpayers, gifts will be fully tax-deductible as allowed by law. Gifts can be made by check, as well as with appreciated securities. For more information, those interested may contact me at 212-713-1145.

This is a wonderful project, Mitch, and we are proud to do what we can to support it. Good luck with the "Kick Off" activities, and we look forward to seeing the great progress when we are down in the Spring. Keep us in touch.

PAUL LOWERRE

The ATA now manages the following resorts:

1. Cuisinart Resort and Spa
2. Malliouhana Hotel and Spa
3. Covecastles
4. St. Regis Temenos Villas
5. Cerulean

The ATA also is now training 80 children in the park. The numbers rose from 50 to 80 children in two months. ATA Director Jason Allen is also training the elite group every Wednesday at Cuisinart Resort and Spa.

St. Regis Temenos Villas contracts the ATA to manage tennis

St. Regis Temenos Villas, located in Long Bay, are known world-wide as the embodiment of luxury in Caribbean Villas. Known globally for its accurate and concise information about travelling, Fodors says, "'Temenos" is Greek for "sanctuary," and the name is certainly justified. These incomparably glamorous villas were inspired by the pure, spare architecture of Mykonos and Santorini: sparkling white buildings contrast with the serene blues and greens of the ocean. The three villas -- named Sea, Sky, and Sand -- each have a different shimmering colour scheme that evokes its name. All have cathedral ceilings, louvered French doors, infinity pools, and enormous marble bathrooms with indoor-outdoor showers. Textural elements are mixed beautifully; marble, granite, wrought iron, mosaic tiles, and woven rugs offset state-of-the-art kitchen and entertainment equipment."

There is much information that one can find about St. Regis Temenos Villas, but there is one aspect not mentioned very often; the tennis facility. Temenos Villas, in the opinion of many, has the best tennis courts in Anguilla. There are three private courts with a pavilion, bathroom, and porch area. The courts are fairly new and well maintained. For the last two years, the Anguilla Tennis Academy has unofficially been providing tennis lessons for residents of the luxurious hideaway. Now, thanks to Brian Schultz, manager of Temenos Villas, the ATA is officially in charge of managing all aspects of tennis.

The ATA now manages the tennis facilities at Cuisinart Resort and Spa, Malliouhana Hotel and Spa, Covecastles, and St. Regis Temenos Villas. This great accomplishment speaks volumes for the level of professionalism and work that ATA staff has done in the past year. This is also exciting because all the money taken by the ATA goes directly into the children's program account. Currently, the ATA staffs six tennis professionals who work at the various resorts and hotels as well as run a program with almost 80 children at the James Ronald Webster Park. ATA director Jason Allen mentioned, "I am excited about yet another opportunity to show the public that the ATA is a serious organization not only committed to teaching children, but providing job opportunities for Anguillians who excel at tennis. I want to thank St. Regis and Brian Schultz for believing in us and giving us this opportunity to help sustain our programs around the island." Mr. Brian Schultz was quoted as saying, "St. Regis Temenos Villas have always been strong supporters of the ATA and its programs. We have worked closely with Mitch & Jason for several years now and are very pleased to formalize this on going partnership."

SXM Tennis Federation in Anguilla to train and compete with the ATA

This past weekend, 16 children from the St. Maarten tennis federation made the trip to Anguilla to connect with the Anguilla Tennis Academy. The children arrived on Friday, November 17 at 6:00 p.m. and were escorted to the Anguilla Great House where they remained for the entire weekend. Joining the children were six adult chaperones including delegates from the SXM tennis federation as well as Coach Les Brown. Rudy Engel, president of the federation, contacted the ATA's director Jason Allen in late September. Mr. Engel expressed interest in fostering a relationship between the two organizations for the benefit of the children. It was agreed that one of the problems confronting all sports development is the lack of frequent and different competition. In the sport of tennis, it is paramount to play as many different players as possible. Intense and frequent competition augments ones mental toughness.

The SXM federation is also excited about the new Anguilla Tennis Academy Facility being built in Blowing Point. All of the SXM delegates agreed that the facility will have no rival in the Caribbean and upon completion they look forward to competing more often. The reason for the trip was two fold; The SXM delegates wanted the children to participate in the ATA's Saturday morning tennis clinic where they could receive top notch instruction from Anguilla's local tennis pros, and during the afternoon, they wanted to play matches against the ATA's children. The Saturday morning instructional session was held at the beautiful courts of Cuisinart Resort and Spa. Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, the matches were held at Malliouhana Hotel and Spa.

All in all, it was an extremely successful weekend based on the fact that the children had a wonderful time. All involved benefited from the match play and enjoyed meeting new people and fostering new relationships. The ATA and SXM crew would like to extend their gratitude to the Anguilla Great House for hosting the children and providing great food and service. Both organizations look forward to making such events happen more often. Consequently, the ATA will be sending many students to St. Maarten for the Diamond Creations Tennis Tournament at the end of the month.



Tennis Tips from Jason Allen

You can always find some type of tennis tip to help you with a certain stroke, yet most times, the tip is very technical and it still takes away from the fact that tennis is a game that requires a great deal of focus and mental concentration. These mental aspects are my specialty and therefore will comprise the bulk of my tips. This month, my focus is **controlling the center of the court**.

When I was growing up, Pete Sampras was my favorite tennis player. I am not the typical fan when it comes to tennis. I hate to see the underdog win and I always cheer for the one who is dominating the game. Pete, in my opinion is the best ever. He had a huge serve and a tough game. Yet, his strategy is what got him there. Pete was the master of controlling the center of the court. This is a strategy that many advanced players employ. You should give it a try as well:

Controlling the center of the court, in a nutshell, means that you should hit the ball from one position in the center of the court while you force your to stay back and return balls from the corners. It is an aggressive style of play in which your opponent is constantly moving and you are in one position. It requires a great deal of precision because it requires you to hit 2 feet from the lines or even closer. You will find that when your opponent is running side to side, he or she will typically return all the balls to you and you can consequently dictate play. See if this strategy works for you.

Current facility photos and update



The ground is leveled to Begin construction of the Courts.



The front entrance with new palm trees



Two workers preparing the courts.



Mr. Jeff Richardson is The contractor



A worker mixes material to lay the new tile.



The floor being tiled

Mitch has informed me that the construction of the stadium court has begun. They have also leveled out the ground so that the courts can be surfaced. Recently, over thirty coconut palm trees were planted around the facility and the floors in the building are being tiled. I was recently there and the construction workers were also framing the doorways and painting the domes. Indeed, there is much work going on and the new completion date of the courts and the building is June 2007.



Concrete will soon be poured For the fencing and light poles

ATA Children successful in St. Maarten

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.tennis.ai

This past weekend, December 2-3, 18 students and tennis pros from the Anguilla Tennis Academy travelled to St. Maarten to compete in the 5th annual Diamond Creations Tennis Tournament. The tournament was organized by Les Brown, who in the past decade has become a sports icon in St. Maarten for his work with the youth. In the past, the St. Maarten contingency has always dominated the Anguillians in these tournaments. However, that was not the case this time as the Anguillians came out on top in nearly every category. In the boys 10 and under category, William Herbert was named the most improved and best beginner. Although he did not win the tournament, he made the ATA very proud. In the girls 10 and under, Mikiah Harrigan won her first ever tournament. She was excited and deserving of the title of champion. In the boys 13 and under, the Kyle Hawkins of Island Harbour won in a close final match. This was also the first tournament Kyle has ever won and he was quite excited. Also, in the girls 13 and under, Aline Geyer of Sandy ground was crowned champion. This was an important accomplishment as she was supposed to play the girls 10 and under, but because of lack of participation, she was moved up into the older category. Although she was the youngest, she came out on top as champion beating her opponent 6-2 in the final match. In the girls 15 and under, Katie Hawkins of Island Harbour lost in the final match. Although she beat her opponent in a previous round, she dropped the final match 6-2 making her the runner-up.

In the open class, 3 members of the Anguilla Tennis Academy coaching staff entered. ATA director Jason Allen and assistant pros Denny Derrick and Vallan Hodge competed against two participants from St. Maarten and one from Antigua. In the end, the ATA's Jason Allen came out on top as champion defeating Denny derrick in the final 6-4. Coach Les Brown took excellent care of the Anguillian squad by providing transportation, balls, organization, a trip to the cinema, food, and lodgings. The Anguillians stayed at the Mid Town hotel on Front Street and enjoyed a movie at the Megaplex theatre as well as some leisurely shopping on Sunday morning. The actual tournament was held at both the Raoul Illidge Sports Complex and Port de Plaisance. The competition was a round robin format and in the end the top two finishers played each other one more time to decide the final winner.

Jason Allen was extremely proud of the children who were representing the ATA. He said, "the children were just incredible. Practically every came home with a trophy. This was the first time that we were able to even compete with St. Maarten and it was a bonus to even have so many Anguillian champions. I want to thank Les Brown for his Hospitality as well as other members from the St. Maarten Tennis Federation; Michael Van Grieken, Richard Boyd, and Rudy Engel. The success of our children is due to the hard work and dedication exhibited by not only the children, but the entire ATA staff. I would also like to give special recognition to Louis Price and his staff as they have been working with our children pro bono and his efforts have already proven to be beneficial for our children. This only validates that we are doing good work for the community by teaching a lifelong sport and creating future Anguillian champions."

About the Anguilla Tennis Academy...

The Anguilla Tennis Academy is dedicated to providing the highest quality tennis instruction to Anguillian, Caribbean and International youth in a competitive environment while encouraging exemplary sportsmanship. The primary goal of the Anguilla Tennis Academy is to expose children to the joys, discipline and rigor of the life long sport of tennis where they can acquire technical skill, experience ideal sportsmanship and develop a strong sense of community.

