



Anguilla Tennis Academy

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ATA Monthly

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National Bank of Anguilla and Caribbean Commercial Bank lend the ATA USD \$2,000,000 to finish the facility.



The National Bank of Anguilla and the Caribbean Commercial Bank which donated US\$75,000 and US\$85,000 to the Anguilla Tennis Academy to construct two courts last year, have gone a big step further. They have now agreed to provide a loan of US\$1,000,000 each to the academy to help complete the project.

All three parties, excited over the matter, called a press conference at the Anguilla Great House on May 6 at which the announcement was made to the cheering invited guests. Among those present, was Zina Garrison, the former Wimbledon Champion and USA Fed Cup Captain, who spent a week in Anguilla working with the Tennis Academy and a number of young trainees. Her trip was facilitated by NBA, CCB, Cable & Wireless, Viceroy, the Social Security Board, CuisinArt Resort & Spa, American Eagle and Caribbean Juris Chambers.

Tennis Director, Jason Allen, who chaired the press conference, said the two million dollars in loans from the banks were in addition to a number of pledges from other sources. He commended Michelle Lake, founder of the academy, for doing a great deal of fund-raising for the project.

NBA's Chief Executive Officer, E. Valentine Banks, was delighted that both banks had taken a supportive role in the development of local tennis when Mr. Lake first introduced the summer training camps for school children. He was pleased to see how Lake's dream was becoming a reality with the growing support the project was now enjoying and that NBA was part of that dream.



Attendees of the press conference

CCB's Managing Director, Preston Bryan, said he had no difficulty in convincing the Board of Directors to contribute to the project on various occasions. He was struck by the scope of Lake's ambition, optimism and strategic planning. He added that the bank had agreed to provide the funding particularly for the social life of the island and the development of sports in general.

Founder and President of the Anguilla Tennis Academy, Michelle Lake, said when he started the academy eleven years ago, it was a way for him to give back to the children of the island through a sport which had provided many benefits for him. Lake, who holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and until recently was a teacher in the United States, attributed his experience in tennis and the establishment of the academy to Eric Martineau of Sandy Ground who introduced him and others on the island to the sport.

"It is good to dream," Mr. Lake went on. "Without dreams we won't accomplish much. As a young man, knowing what the sport has done for me, I realise there were two things in the mix. There was a cause and there was a cost and, in this situation, the cause is greater than the cost and I thought for that reason this project has to be done.

"I am so grateful to Mr. Val Banks and Mr. Preston Bryan of NBA and CCB for their support to the programme and now to this project from the inception in 1996. Without their support and that of others, my efforts are in vain... I want to thank the community of Anguilla, and particularly National Bank and the Caribbean Commercial Bank, for taking up this challenge and believing in me and the ATA and the children of Anguilla to bring to Anguilla something that is historic and unprecedented because I think this is a first for the Caribbean region and for this reason this is very special for us...

"I know that together we will be able to do good things and what was once a dream has become a shared vision. It is only a matter of time before the island will have an Anguilla Tennis Academy where our children can grow and develop and become responsible citizens in the community and live more healthy and productive lives." Mr. Lake said he was grateful to Zina Garrison for coming to Anguilla to help promote the project and to show the children that they were not playing in vain and that, like her, they too could achieve. He added that her visit "had provided a renewed energy for persons to continue to support the project" and had made the children excited that they were coached by a champion.

Ms. Garrison expressed appreciation to both banks for providing the loans so that there could be bigger and better dreams of tennis development on the island. She was grateful "to have been welcomed and accepted to the fullest" in Anguilla and admired the programme which the Anguilla Tennis Academy is developing for the island's children.

"It has been very nice to come to Anguilla and talk to the children who want a dream," she continued. "They asked me tons of questions...and one again I want to say to both banks thank you for taking advantage of the opportunity that these young children have now and they do have a dream. Thanks for the support and I am truly, truly a supporter of this programme and I will be there whenever you need me."



Zina Garrison
Endorses the project

Did you know.....

-- There are currently 70 kids in the year round program and the three coaches responsible for instruction are all former participants of the ATA's programs.

Meet the Anguilla Tennis Academy Board



Mitchelle Lake
Founder and President



R: Millie Hodge
Vice President,
Regional Manager
American Eagle



2nd from the left:
Brent Davis
Treasurer



Jason Allen
Director, ATA

Zina Garrison visits the ATA's state of the art facility



L-R. Hugo Rey (project manager), Mitch Lake, Anne Parles, Zina Garrison, Brent Davis, Acting Governor Mark Capes, Gale Monk, Jason Allen

The Anguilla Tennis Academy facility, now being constructed at Blowing Point, was toured on Monday this week by celebrated United States professional and champion, Zina Garrison, now on a one-week invitational visit to the island. The tour was her first engagement on the island following her arrival on Monday, May 1, at the invitation of the Tennis Academy.

The touring party accompanying Ms Garrison, were her manager, (Gale Monk), Acting Governor in Anguilla, Mark Capes, founder of the ATA, Michelle Lake, Project Manager, Hugo Rey, Tennis Director, Jason Allen and ATA Board members, Brent Davis and Anne Parles. On Tuesday evening she was a guest at a reception hosted in her honour at the Deputy Governor's residence at Sea Rocks, Island Harbour.

Ms Garrison, who was delighted that such a state-of-the-art facility was being built in Anguilla, was told about the design of the 250-foot long building and the use of its 7,235-square-foot floor space. She also heard, during the tour led by Mr. Lake and Mr. Rey, about the actual building of the tennis courts to be started shortly. She was invited to come to Anguilla to run a series of tennis events at CuisinArt Resort and Spa, including clinics for the ATA's top junior players and for guests at the hotel and an exhibition match with Jason Allen. Ms Garrison ranked number one in the world as a junior, having won both the junior US open and junior Wimbledon matches. During her career she won 14 singles titles and 20 double titles on the Sony Ericsson WTA tour. She is also the 12th woman in the world to win over 500 matches with her total wins at 587. She reached as high as number four in singles and number 5 in doubles during her tenure on the professional tour. These accomplishments helped her to gain entry into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame and she is on track to win a bid into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. She sits as a board member of the United States Tennis Association and is currently the captain of the USA Fed Cup Team.

(courtesy of The Anguillian)

The ATA board thanks the sponsors who made the Zina Garrison trip successful!



ANGUILLA



Caribbean Juris Chambers



The Pumphouse

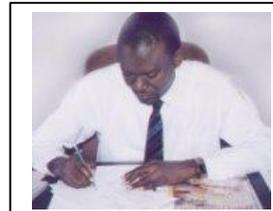
Johnno's

Gorgeous Scilly Cay

Essential

Kreative Communications Network

Blanchards



Leslie Richardson,
Caribbean
Commercial Bank



Far right: Anne Parles,
ATA parent and owner of
Straw Hat Restaurant



Will Fleming,
Anguilla Great
House

The Anguilla Tennis Academy Board

In order for the ATA to be a non profit organization, it must have a board of directors. All of the board members are volunteers except for Jason as he is employed full time. The board meets on a regular basis to discuss any and all issues dealing with the ATA's programs and the new facility. No decision can be made without the board's approval. All of the members of the board are prominent citizens within the Anguillan community and devote their time to the ATA because they share with Mitch's passion to help the children by providing them with more opportunities for growth.

Anguilla Tennis Academy is on the front page of the phone book



More exciting things continue to happen for the ATA. In lieu of the facility donation for USD \$100,00 from Cable and Wireless, they have also agreed to feature the picture on the left on the cover of the new phone book for Anguilla. Therefore, every household in Anguilla will have a picture of the Academy. This type of exposure is paramount in terms of reaching the Anguillan population and educating them about opportunities for their children. Besides the front cover, there is also a page insert on the first page that describes the Academy and what had been done to get the project started and what will be done to finish it. The partnership with Cable and Wireless has been of great benefit for the ATA and we are extremely appreciative. Thank you to Sutcliffe Hodge and Avon Carty for organizing everything!!!!



Tennis Tips from Marvin Hazell

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, I have invited Marvin Hazell to provide some insight.

I'm pleased to be given the opportunity to provide the tip for this month's edition.

When Opportunity Knocks – Go Get It!

Recognizing opportunities within a tennis match can mean the difference between winning the point and losing the point. When you see that your opponent is in trouble, you must use your instincts to attack. The slightest bit of hesitation and you could make the situation a lot harder for yourself or simply cause yourself to lose the point. Keep an eye on where your opponent is after each shot and once they are out of position ATTACK! You can only be very successful doing this if your next shot keeps your opponent under pressure. Placement of the ball can give you a winner or force them to have to play a tougher shot than usual. In any event it will wear them down eventually.

Go out there and give it a try.

Marvin Hazell

Marvin Hazell is the Head Pro of the Anguilla Tennis Academy

Job Vacancy for Head Pro of the Anguilla Tennis Academy

The Anguilla Tennis Academy is seeking to hire a new head tennis professional. This will have to be a highly motivated person who is dedicated to teaching the game to all ages and levels. First and foremost, this individual must love teaching children the game as well as be their mentor. Other responsibilities include teaching lessons and conducting clinics for guests at Cuisinart Resort and Spa. The head pro will also work closely with the tennis director to ensure the continued success of all the ATA's programs. All interested persons must e-mail their CV to Jason Allen at jallen@caribcable.com

Anguilla Tennis
Academy

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.tennis.ai

This Month's tennis stand outs

PeeWee Group: Kenvia Hodge arrives to the tennis court and means business. She has been very attentive and shows many leadership qualities among her peers. She is our stand out this month for her well behaved manner and concentration while on the court.

Group2: William Herbert is fun to watch play. He has shown that he is one of the quickest learners this past month. His confidence shows when he performs each drill and he makes the best out of the learning experience each class. He stands out in his group because of his focus and commitment towards playing the right way.

Group 3: Teresa Brooks has improved very well since her start in the program. Her concentration and play have been noteworthy as of late and she continues to grow through tennis. With a positive attitude towards learning she can be very good in the coming years.

Group 4: Within the advanced, older group we have many talented players who play well and learn how to be competitive. Standing out though is Melissa Mussington, who recently has been the hardest worker of the group. She always wants to play at a high level and each session at the park she makes progress with her game. She is a well rounded player and great to coach.

About the Anguilla Tennis Academy...

The Anguilla Tennis Academy is dedicated to providing the highest quality tennis instruction to Anguillan, 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.

**ANGUILLA TENNIS
ACADEMY**

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BWI

