

## COMMONWEALTH GAMES QUEEN'S BATON

On April 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 the ATA welcomed the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton as it travelled around Anguilla and stopped by the ATA. The ATA was featured on BBC showing how we welcomed the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton. We are proud of our programs and our students. Thank you BBC team for this special feature. <http://bbc.in/1hJPt63>



Mitch Lake, Founder and President of the ATA  
holding the Queen's Baton



## 2013 ING NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

Coach Vallan Hodge-Richardson ran the 2013 ING New York City Marathon to raise funds for the Anguilla Tennis Academy. Coach Vallan Hodge-Richardson made us all proud as he crossed the finish line at the 2013 ING New York City Marathon. Coach Vallan represented Anguilla and the Anguilla Tennis Academy on that day and did an outstanding job. The ATA raised US \$30,000.00 from pledges made towards Coach Vallan.

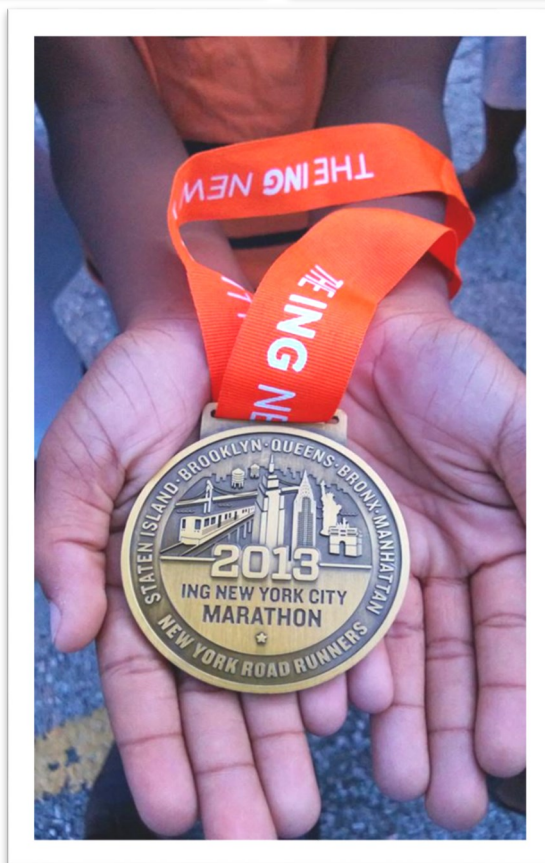
Coach Vallan as he made his way around the 2013 ING New York City Marathon route.





## 2013 ING NEW YORK CITY MARATHON (Contd.)

Coach Vallan received a Hero's welcome home by smiles and questions from the students of the Anguilla Tennis Academy. They were so happy to welcome him home and learn from his experience.



## RAFAL AND AGA LINKOWSKI MAKE A GENEROUS DONATION TO THE ANGUILLA TENNIS ACADEMY

Recently, the Linkowski family made a generous donation valued at US\$5,000.00 to help further the mission of the ATA. Included in the over 20 boxes of items were sweat pants, shoes, tennis racket strings, tennis racket grips, t-shirts, and tennis apparel. Rafal and Aga said, "as tennis always played a very important part in my life, one of the first visits to the Island (December 2010) was a visit to Anguilla Tennis Academy. We were thrilled to see the premises and to find out about the Tennis After School Programme. That is why this year we decided to donate much more goods than two years ago, with a total value of \$ 5000.00 USD to the Anguilla Tennis Academy which we thought would be a perfect partner for further redistribution of the goods."

CEO and Founder of the ATA Mr. Mitchelle Lake accepted the donation on behalf of the ATA. There was a great quantity of items and Lake shared these items with other organizations on the island. The other organizations that benefitted from this generous donation include the JC Recreational Center, the Department of Probation, the Catholic Church, and the Blowing Point Community Center. Lake further stated that, "the ATA is committed to developing healthy partnerships in the community. We are humbled by this opportunity to share with others. We are grateful to Rafal and Aga for their continued support to Anguilla via the Anguilla Tennis Academy."

Ms. Jocelyn Johnson of The Department of Probation was pleased to accept the generous donation of gym pants presented by Mr. Mitchelle Lake of the Anguilla Tennis Academy. Ms. Johnson indicated that the pants will be used by residents and staff at Zenaida Haven in their exercise programme and related sporting activities.





## ATA REPRESENTED AT ARTHUR ASH KIDS' DAY AND US OPEN

Alysha Carty who earlier in 2013 won the Girls' Junior's Under 10 Championship in Anguilla and her mother Jocelyn Johnson were able to attend this event which officially opened the US Open. The Arthur Ashe Kids' Day is the U.S. Open's great pre-tournament celebration for families. It was held on August 24, 2013, and many of the day's events were free. The free Grounds Festival offered interactive games, music and tennis activities for all ages. Kids could test their skills, watch top tennis pros and have a chance to win prizes. The Grounds Festival also featured a free concert with exciting up-and-coming talent on the Hess Express Stage.

The Stadium Show inside Arthur Ashe Stadium required tickets and was the highlight of the day's events for Alysha. She was able to see Ariana Grande in performance, the First Lady Michelle Obama and a number of the tennis stars including Serena Williams and her favorite Novak Djokovic. Following the exciting day Alysha said "I can't believe that I was in the same place as Ariana Grande!!!" She anticipated seeing some of the tennis greats play on August 28th and 29th.



## CONGRATULATIONS AVERN GUMBS

In her first year on an academic and tennis scholarship at Clark Atlanta University (CAU), procured through the ATA, Avern Gumbs, a graduate of the Anguilla Tennis Academy, has won several awards. Her Lady Panthers Women's Tennis Team, wrapped up its regular season last week and cracked the HBCU women's Tennis National Poll with a No. 2 ranking!

Freshman Avern Gumbs who played at the No. 5 position ended this season receiving the 2014 SIAC Women's Tennis First Team Selection in Singles All-Conference award. Avern ended the season with a 9-8 overall record and 7-1 in Conference.

The freshman tandem of Avern Gumbs and Tori Pradier earned the 2014 SIAC Women's Tennis First Team Selection Doubles All-Conference for their play at No. 3 doubles position with stellar record of 11-0 in Conference matches. This also allowed Avern and Tori to be privileged to receive the 2014 SIAC Women's Tennis Doubles All-Tournament Award.

CEO of the ATA Mr. Mitchelle Lake said, "We are proud of Avern's achievements on the court in her rookie season at CAU. She is a great ambassador for our program and is representing the ATA and Anguilla well."





## CONGRATULATIONS NZINGHA BANKS

Nzingha Banks, a graduate of the Anguilla Tennis Academy, who received an athletic and collegiate scholarship to attend Washburn University is currently enrolled in the School of Business majoring in Accounting.

The Washburn Ichabod men's and women's tennis team placed 10 members on the MIAA Academic Honor Roll and had four named as an MIAA Scholar Athlete as released by the conference office on Tuesday. To achieve honor roll status, a student-athlete must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 and have at least two terms of attendance at the certifying member institution, excluding summer terms. The MIAA Scholar Athlete Award is given to those who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50, have at least two terms of attendance at the certifying member institution, excluding summer terms, and, if competing in a championship sport of the MIAA, earn All-MIAA honors. Newcomers and MIAA Academic Excellence Awards will be given out following the end of the 2013-14 school year.

Nzingha, was named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll after recording at least a 3.0 grade point average. Nzingha finished her Spring semester with a GPA of 3.86, from 4 As and 1 B. Nzingha now has a cumulative GPA of 3.89. In Spring 2013 as well as Fall 2013 Nzingha was on the President's honor roll, with a 4.0 average.



## TOURNAMENTS

### Diamond International Youth Tennis Tournament

On November 13<sup>th</sup> 2013, players from the Anguilla Tennis Academy travelled to St. Maarten to participate in the Diamond International Youth Tennis Tournament, which took place on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2013. This was a great learning experience for our players and each of them represented the ATA well.





## TOURNAMENTS (Contd.)

### The "Rights of A Child Sports Day 2013"

A contingent of kids, parents and coaches from the Anguilla Tennis Academy attended the "Rights of A Child Sports Day in St. Marten on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013. Islands such as St. Barths, Statia, Anguilla, French and Dutch St. Marten and Tortola competed against each other in various sports. The Anguilla Tennis Academy represented Anguilla in tennis and won the overall tennis competition.



These children are a testament to the hard work the coaches put in each year and the dedication from the students enrolled in the Anguilla Tennis Academy's programs. The children selected ranged from ages 10 to 13 and in the 2012 - 2013 school year they will be participating in the High Performance Program. This is the first year that more than 5 children developed the skill sets needed to be invited to participate in the High Performance Program.

## TOURNAMENTS (Contd.)

### ATA 2014 Easter Classic

The Anguilla Tennis Academy and LIME presented the 2014 Easter Classic Tennis Tournament. This event was held at the Academy in Blowing Point from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2014. The LIME sponsored event attracted a record number of players with over 30 adults entering the Open Mixed Doubles and 25 juniors entering the boys and girls singles in two separate age group categories. Entries were encouraged from players of all standards, from beginners through intermediate all the way up to advance level. There were trophies and LIME prizes for winners and runners up and a fun atmosphere was guaranteed. The younger Junior finals plus a Coaches' exhibition match took place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April beginning at 4:00pm. The older Juniors plus the hotly contested Mixed Doubles finals took place on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:00pm. President of the ATA, Mr. Mitchelle Lake commented "LIME has been a staunch supporter of the ATA from inception and continues to support our efforts to develop children through the sport of tennis. I wish to thank LIME for their continued support and trust that the participants will have a fun and memorable Easter Tennis Classic tournament." The ATA extended an invitation to the general public to visit and show their support for all the players. Junior matches were from 9:00am and Open Mixed Doubles from 5:00pm daily.





## TOURNAMENTS (Contd.)

### The Love Tournament

The Anguilla Tennis Academy hosted "The Love Game, Love Tennis Tournament" Saturday February 8th 2014. The Anguilla Tennis Academy ("ATA") has been forever changed to a better place since we hosted the 2014 "Love Tennis Tournament" in honour of the Arijah Children's Foundation. This tournament is the beginning of a great partnership between the ATA and the Arijah Children's Foundation. All proceeds raised at the tournament went towards the Arijah Children's Foundation. Special thanks to all the sponsors, contributors and persons who made this event an amazing success. Also thanks to those who participated in the tournament and congratulations to the winners and runners up in each of the four categories. The day was filled with so much love...love for the game of tennis, love for the ATA and love for the children of the Arijah Children's Foundation.



Renuka Harrigan, Founder of the Arijah Children's Foundation with Coach Marvin assisting Arijah to hit the first ball opening the Love Tournament

## 2014 ATA ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP

### OVER 70 CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 5 - 17 PARTICIPATING IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ANGUILLA TENNIS ACADEMY SUMMER CAMP

The nineteenth (19<sup>th</sup>) year anniversary of the Anguilla Tennis Academy (ATA) Summer Camp organized by CEO and President, Mitchelle Lake will commence on Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup> 2014 through August 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. Over 70 children between the ages of 5 and 17 have registered and will benefit from the tennis sessions over the two week period. International coaches Chris and Becky Wade (Texas), Nicholas Agritelley, (Texas), Ethan Moskowsky (NY), Salif Muhammed, (NY) and Nicholas Naumann (Texas) will be on island for the final week of tennis. Glen Agritelley, owner of T Bar M Racket Club in Dallas Texas will also be on hand to observe the camp during its final week.

Mr. Lake and his team secured sponsorship from over 20 local businesses to make this year's camp possible. Organizer Lake commented, "Despite these challenging economic times, our local businesses continue to show strong support for our annual summer camp. We applaud their loyalty to our summer camp and the development of our children through the sport of tennis."

This year's camp will feature some high level exhibition matches by the visiting coaches. The matches will take place at Viceroy Anguilla on July 30<sup>th</sup> 2014 and Cuisinart Golf Resort and Spa on July 31<sup>st</sup> 2014, commencing at 6:00pm. The final exhibition match will take place at the Anguilla Tennis Academy on August 1<sup>st</sup> 2014, and will commence at 5:00pm. The general public is invited to attend these matches and show their support for the sport of tennis.

Over 4000 children have benefited from the Anguilla Tennis Academy Summer Camp and After School Program since its inception in 1996.



**Anguilla Tennis Academy**  
**SUMMER CAMP 2014**

**When**  
 July 21<sup>st</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>

**What We Offer**

Ages	Time
5 to 7 - <i>Pee Wees</i>	8:00am to 9:00am
8 to 12 - <i>Future Stars</i>	9:00am to 10:00am
13 to 17 - <i>Rising Stars</i>	10:00am to 11:30am

High Performance Program **Invitation Only**  
 (July 28th-August 1st)

**Registration Fee**  
 \$50.00 (US) per child

**Sign Up**  
 1-264-498-0697 or at [info@anguillatennis.com](mailto:info@anguillatennis.com)

[www.anguillatennis.com](http://www.anguillatennis.com)  
[facebook.com/anguillatennis](https://www.facebook.com/anguillatennis)



## THE SWEET SPOT

The SweetSpot is here to stay!!!

Originally a daydream of two tennis moms, The SweetSpot, the tiny makeshift cafe-bar at the ATA has already become an institution. Balanced in the corner on trestle tables and coolers, this little venture has transformed the energy of the Academy on Friday evenings. Cold drinks, hot pizza, snacks, fruit slices and much more are on offer and the music just adds to the party vibe. Lesley and Michelle have taken things one step further by inviting local chefs to promote their restaurants - so far we've enjoyed a Sushi night thanks to Ken of ChaChaSan and a Tapas night, courtesy of Dale of Tasty's. Parents now know that their kids want to hang out at the SweetSpot on Friday evenings whether or not they are playing tennis and dinner is pretty much taken care of! On Wimbledon Finals day, there was a special Breakfast Edition of The SweetSpot, where members gathered to enjoy the match as a group and feasted on croissants, buns, coffee and of course, strawberries and cream.

The cafe-bar keeps its prices super reasonable but is building up a fund in order to build a permanent bar - later this year if all goes to plan. The design is done - all that remains is for enough money be found in order to start work. Michelle and Lesley put on a regular SweetSpot tournament on the last Friday of the month in order to add to the fund but this is a slow process so any donations will be very gratefully received!

SweetSpot T shirts are about to go on sale too so get your order in early and [See you at THE SWEET SPOT!!](#)

