



Anguilla Tennis Academy

"Shaping lives and building a future since 1996"

ANGUILLA TENNIS ACADEMY'S SPRING NEWSLETTER 2017 EDITION

Tennis for Everyone!!!!

ATA launched a tennis program for persons with special needs in Anguilla.

The Anguilla Tennis Academy (ATA) and the Arijah Children's Foundation have enjoyed a strong partnership over the last few years. In an effort to build on this partnership, the ATA has started a new initiative to implement a year-round, comprehensive Wheelchair Tennis Program to provide persons with special needs an opportunity to play and grow in the sport of tennis. Wheelchair Tennis has been in existence for more than 40 years worldwide. It is one of the most dynamic and exciting sports at the Paralympic Games. It also has a professional circuit overseen by the International Tennis Federation.

The program was launched on Saturday, December 3rd 2016 at 9:00am at the ATA. Initially, the free classes will continue every Saturday at 9:00am for a period of six months. Mr. Mitchell Lake and his team hope to garner the necessary funding to secure wheelchairs and equipment for the participants and to upgrade the facility with the necessary amenities including wheelchair ramps to accommodate the players. It is also the hope of the ATA that players from Anguilla will eventually compete in wheelchair tennis tournaments and look forward to the possibility of hosting such tournaments at the ATA in the future. The rules of wheelchair tennis and able-bodied tennis are the same, except for one rule; wheelchair tennis players get two bounces.

Renuka Harrigan, Founder of the Arijah Children's Foundation commented, "We are excited that the Anguilla Tennis Academy is growing its vision to include tennis instruction for children with special needs and one day bring wheelchair tennis to Anguilla. The ATA currently hosts our annual LOVE Tennis Tournament in February to show their love by assisting us in raising funds which can be used to provide services to help children with special needs to develop their potential. We are grateful to the Anguilla Tennis Academy for embracing our vision of including children with special needs in all community activities and for their continued support year after year"



CEO and Founder Mr. Mitchell Lake with Mrs. Renuka Harrigan, parents and participants.



Coach Vallan teaching swing technique to Wheel Chair Tennis Program participant.



Coaches playing tennis with children with Special Needs on court at the ATA.

We at the ATA are so happy to partner with the Arijah Children's Foundation to provide tennis service to everyone. We value all of our players and welcome those with special needs to benefit from this awesome sport. We at the ATA aim to deliver high quality tennis instruction and we intend to include all persons to benefit from this sport.

2016 Christmas Challenge

On December 17th 2016 the ATA hosted the annual Christmas Challenge Tournament. This tournament included a Juniors category and an adult category. It was another successful and exciting event. The results were as follows:

Men's Singles Finals—Denny Derrick won 6-1 & 6-2 to Jon-Paul Walden

Boy's 18 & Under Final—Rodrigo Vazquez Chairez won 6-1 & 6-1 to Jovial Barry

Girl's 18 & Under Finals—Nandi Edwards won 6-1 & 6-2 to Angela Guinto

Boy's 14 & Under Finals—Benajah Harrigan won 2-0 (win by ret.) to Kadmiel Porter

Girl's 14 & Under Finals—Louis Guinto won 8-1 to Rhonica Connor

Boy's 10 & Under Finals—Kieron Edwards won 4-3 to Cheddie Leveret-Richardson



Sites and scenes from the ATA 2016 Christmas Challenge Award ceremony.

2017 Love Tennis Tournament

On Saturday, February 11th 2017, the annual Love Tournament was held at the Anguilla Tennis Academy, for the benefit of the Arijah Children's Foundation. We are also very pleased to continue with our "Tennis for Everyone" program and see the players have an amazing time as they participate in this sport.

[#AdvantageATA](#)



CEO & Founder of the Anguilla Tennis Academy, Mr. Mitchell Lake & Founder & CEO of the Arijah Children's Foundation, Mrs. Renuka Harrigan.

Men's Pro Am Tournament

On Friday, March 10th 2017, the Anguilla Tennis Academy hosted the Men's Pro Am event, where Mathias Cocuron & Denny Derrick came out victorious. The finalists were Sebastian Rogers & Rodrigo Vazquez Chairez.

We would like to extend our appreciation to all participants, as well as all persons who came out and supported the event. The Anguilla Tennis Academy looks forward to hosting many more tournaments of this nature and will be organizing a Mixed Doubles Pro Am Tournament, in the upcoming month of May.

Robert Cox Clinic— Spring Camp

During the week of March 20th—March 24th 2017, we held our Annual Spring Camp conducted by Coach Robert Cox. Our players experienced exceptional coaching instruction from Coach Cox assisted by our local coaches. Mr. Cox served as the head men's coach of Arkansas University for 26 years. During his tenure he coached four players to the number one ranking position in the nation and developed 13 All Americans at the University of Arkansas. Mr. Robert Cox was awarded the prestigious honor of being inducted into the Tyler Jr. College Hall of Fame in 2006 and then inducted into the University of Arkansas Hall of Fame in 2014.

A hearty thank you to all who participated to make the camp a success once again.



Coach Robert Cox along with ATA coaches and kids at the Spring Camp- Robert Cox Clinic.

Article by Mr. Chris Ryall

TENNIS ANYONE?

“On a trip to Anguilla I met a very inspiring man who has devoted his adult life to helping children in his community reach both educational and life goals.

Mitch Lake, founder and president of the Anguilla Tennis Academy brings an infectious passion to his cause. He provides a world-class facility for kids of families who couldn't dream or afford of buying a tennis racquet or having post-secondary education for their kids.

Some may say tennis is an elitist sport and what good does having kids from financially poor families learn tennis. “I'm using tennis as a vehicle to empower children and develop the total child,” Lake responds. He adds, “This is to boost morale of the children and of the country.”

It's not just about tennis. Lake provides both a facility and atmosphere of support not just for kids to play tennis but more importantly be caring and educated members of society. For some of the kids the parents can't

afford to send them to school. For only \$75 a month Lake's facility provides kids from ages 5-17 tennis equipment, a first-rate facility, and a variety of programs that will help them hopefully obtain scholarships to go to university – something unheard of without this program.

Lake, a tireless promoter who constantly courts donations started small – 35 children with three racquets with dilapidated and barely usable courts. Today more than a 150 children with six acres of land and world-class resorts. People from all over including Richard Branson have all given to the cause. For more than 20 years Lake has been fundraising and running the facility – it's been a struggle.

"There is a cost and there is a cause, and the cause is of greater value than the cost," says Lake.

The program has been successful in turning out 30 kids that went through the tennis program to earning scholarships, many at leading US universities and colleges. The facility itself is now on the international tennis junior circuit, something Lake is especially proud of."

ATA's Tennis Court Resurfacing Campaign

In November 2016, we launched a tennis court resurfacing campaign. The funds raised from this campaign will go towards the costs incurred to upgrade our tennis courts. This upgrade was necessary to prepare for the November ITF Tournament and most importantly to provide safe courts for our student players to train on. The ATA facility was constructed in 2007 and this provided our players with a world class tennis facility to train. Over the years more than 4000 children have benefited from our structured programs and trained on our courts. After nine (9) years of wear and tear, the courts were in serious need of repair and we therefore contracted Agile Courts, who constructed the courts, to make the repairs at an estimated cost of US\$65,000.00.

We hope to bring our campaign to a close at the end of May 2017. We are just US\$15,000.00 away from reaching our goal of US\$60,000.00. Upon reaching this goal, the ATA will receive a matching gift from the Windsong Foundation to go towards our children's programs. This matching fund is important to sustain our programs. To date we have raised US\$45,000.00 from local businesses and international friends of the ATA. We are reaching out to persons to contribute towards this campaign and help us reach our goal. Thank you in advance for your continued help and for your generous contribution to the Anguilla Tennis Academy. Donations can be made at the ATA's front office. For United States residents, tax deductible donations can be made by sending payments to the Anguilla Progressive Association of New York (APANY) for the tennis court repairs campaign. APANY's address is: Anguilla Progressive Association of New York, C/o Gregory Hodge, 579 Mineola Avenue, Carle Place, NY 11514. Donations can also be made by visiting our website at www.anguillatennis.com and pay via credit card using our PayPal account following the three (3) easy steps. Message: Contributions for ATA tennis court repairs. You may contact us at info@anguillatennis.com if you have any questions or concerns.



Newly Resurfaced Courts.