

**GREETINGS** and a very warm welcome from the BLTA . It is intended that this newsletter will serve as an update as to what has been taking place over the summer and will provide information pertaining to events to come in the near future. But before we get started, here is a question for you. Ready? **WHO OR WHAT EXACTLY IS THE BLTA?** Well the answer is simple. **YOU** are the BLTA. Whether you are a Board member, an official paid up member, an occasional player, a child, adult, senior citizen, parent, or spectator, **YOU** are a part of the BLTA and we encourage you to come on board full time to support this wonderful organization. BLTA stands for the Bahamas Lawn Tennis Association. If matches are played on hard court and/or clay court why then does the word “lawn” appear? You are invited to turn to the trivia corner for a chance to answer this and other questions where prizes and surprises await those who are prepared to put on their thinking caps and to come up with the correct information!

#### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

The year is fast coming to an end and we have accomplished much for the year already but there are few events left on the calendar. As in any organization, we have our challenges and everyone works very hard to continue to make the BLTA a sporting organization where persons of all ages especially children would want to come and play the game of tennis. We enjoyed many successes this year beginning with our Fed Cup team being promoted and our Junior Teams making strides in solidifying their position within the region. Commendation is extended to Mrs Glenda Wallace for the excellent job in writing and preparing the Newsletter and committing to taking on the awesome task.

#### **MEET THE PLAYERS:**

In each newsletter to come it is hoped that one player will be highlighted. He or she might be a champion player, a member of a travelling team, a novice player, a person new to New Providence, or one of our members from the Family Islands. It just might be **YOU!** This month our featured player is :

**KEVIN MAJOR (KJ) JR.**

(picture and brief biography to be emailed to you by Mr. Major

Kevin is presently attending Aquinas College high school in Nassau. He is one of top Junior players in the Bahamas and in fact, the region. He along with Christian and Ondre Cargill, Shaquille Taylor, Philip Major, Treajh Ferguson and others, make it pleasantly difficult when the time comes for team selection. Kevin is extremely dedicated and he is always practicing and working very hard to stay on top. He is the first Bahamian junior boy to win an ITF junior tournament earlier this year, which we all celebrated with much fanfare. With the upcoming Goombay Splash Bowl we know with Kevin leading the way, our presence will be felt throughout the tournament.

#### **ACTION HIGHLIGHTS: Team Travel**

It's 3:00 a.m. and lights are on in houses all over the island as parents roust their children out of bed to get showered, breakfasted, and on the road in time for a 4:30 a.m. check in at the airport! But for once the kids don't mind an early wake-up call because they are heading with their team mates and coaches to represent their country, play tennis to the best of their ability, greet old friends, make new friends, be introduced to new cultures, and have some fun.

As this newsletter is being compiled, the JITIC teams (boys and girls fourteen and under and sixteen and under) are representing the Bahamas in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. They have been accompanied by coaches Bradley Bain and Nikkita Fountain. For results of this (and other) action please check the BLTA website at [www.blta.net](http://www.blta.net) It would be wonderful if ALL of the players who took part in tournaments at home and abroad could be listed, but unfortunately space does not allow for everyone to be recognized in this format; however, CONGRATULATIONS go out to everyone. We are proud of you and your efforts!

During the third week in July a team travelled to El Salvador in Central America to participate in the ITF Developmental Programme for players twelve and under. Both the boys and the girls made a good showing out of the thirteen countries against whom they played. Players who represented us were Oneal Mortimer, Dani Wallace, Jade Bastian, and Eisha Shepherd.

When school reopens some players will not be in their seats. They will be representing the Bahamas at the ITF Developmental Programme for thirteen and under, which is slated to take place in Suriname, South America. What a way to start the school year.....but don't forget to catch up on everything you miss because GOOD GRADES and TENNIS go HAND IN HAND! Travelling to this event will be Oneal Mortimer, Dani Wallace and Candace Mortier. All the best kids.

#### **SUMMER TOURNAMENTS:**

It was an action packed summer starting with the ITF Junkanoo Bowl. There were many breathtaking moments as Bahamian players battled fiercely against opponents from around the world. Special congratulations go out to Simone Pratt in singles and doubles partners Eisha Shepherd and River Hart for making it to the final round. **JOB WELL DONE!**

On the heels of the ITF Junkanoo Bowl came the Junior Nationals Juice Bowl. This tournament ran very smoothly, particularly with the matches scheduled as following each other in a flexible time frame as opposed to at given set times. The tournament was well executed by the tournament directors and officials and the players went all out to demonstrate that tennis is still **"A GENTLEMAN'S GAME"**.

A new feature of these two tournaments was the sale of pizza and ice cream products. Both were well received, especially those cool ice cream bars and popsicles, after a grueling match in the hot sun. Thank you Mrs. Turnquest and Mrs. Mortier for taking the initiative and for your hard work at this new BLTA fundraiser. We look forward to this becoming part of all future tournaments.

#### **FUNDRAISING:**

Although the BLTA strives valiantly to assist financially with travel costs and clothing for all team and individual travel, it is virtually impossible to cover these astronomical bills. With **YOUR ASSISTANCE** however, fundraising can play a more viable part in helping our players along the way. The most recent fundraising event was a dance held for persons of the BLTA, eighteen and under. A fun time was had by all and it was a financial success. Most importantly everyone conducted him/herself in a manner befitting young athletes. The event did not happen magically and thanks go out to all those persons who worked so diligently at procuring donations of food and drinks, collecting money, selling refreshments, manning the gate, patrolling the grounds and cleaning up after the dance. We appreciate your time and hard work.....but more volunteers are always needed. If each person would volunteer for only **ONE** job, no matter how small, at only **ONE** BLTA event per year we will be able to make tremendous strides in the fundraising department. Your ideas for future fundraising events are welcomed.

#### **Trivia Corner:**

- 1. Why is the BLTA referred to as the Bahamas LAWN Tennis Association?**
- 2. When was the BLTA officially started?**

3. Name an outstanding WOMAN participant from the early days of the BLTA.

Submit your answers ( in writing) before November 1<sup>st</sup> to Mrs. Helen Turnquest, Miss Barbara Carey, or Mrs. Glenda Wallace to qualify for a prize. Remember to include your full name, age, and a telephone contact.

#### **AWAY THEY GO:**

This summer we say au revoir/ adios/farewell to some of our players who are spreading their wings and embarking on educational endeavors abroad for the first time. We wish them Godspeed, and great grades. Stay focused and make the Bahamas proud of you in the books as well as on the court!

#### **MEDICAL TIP:**

Drink WATER throughout most of your match. Once you have completed play, drink a beverage such as Gatorade to replenish electrolytes etc. to your system. Too much Gatorade can actually be harmful to your body. Avoid soda at all times when playing tennis and generally keep the consumption of soda to a minimum. The sugar content and chemicals are non beneficial to your weight, complexion and dental hygiene. Stay fit. DRINK WATER!

#### **READ ALL ABOUT IT:**

If you have something that you would like to share with our readers please submit your item to Mrs. Glenda Wallace or leave it with Mrs. Knowles at the desk at the NTC.

#### **NAME THAT TUNE:**

No, we do not really need the name of a song, but we ARE looking for a catchy name for our newsletter. Submit your ideas to either of the ladies at the desk and be eligible to win a prize. Remember to include your name and telephone number.

#### **NEW COMMITTEE:**

The Board and members of the BLTA are dedicated to raising and maintaining the standard of conduct both on and off the court at NTC and of our players as they represent the country

while travelling abroad. We are quite proud of what has been happening with our players recently but there is always room for improvement. Everyone, including parents/guardians, coaches, officials and spectators, play a vital role in how we as a country are perceived by others and it is felt that it is time to raise the level of the bar. In an effort to maximize our potential of attaining a sterling reputation, it has been proposed by a number of interested persons, that a committee be formed to undertake a PROACTIVE approach to introducing our players to ways and means of being the best of the best in all they do. It is hoped that recognized persons in the fields of nutrition, anger management, refining study habits, fitness training, etc. will be able to present seminars, power point presentations, hands on activities and much more to our players throughout the year. Mr. Jaxon Bain has generously volunteered to spearhead this committee and can be found most days right at NTC. We await your suggestions and willingness to participate in making this a most rewarding experience for all concerned. And as we go about dropping off and picking up our charges, watching them play and cheering them on during competition please keep in mind that children are reflections of their parents (although we all recognize the fact that they will make us shudder by just being KIDS) and that it is up to US to LEAD BY EXAMPLE! Together we can make a tremendous difference.

**SMILE:**

A little boy came home from Sunday School and told his mother that he knew God's name. "You do?" she asked. "I thought that God's name was GOD."

"No," replied the little boy, "God's name is Andy."

"It is?" asked the mother in wonder. "How do you know that God's name is Andy?"

The little boy smiled up at his mother and stated happily that his Sunday School teacher had told them because she said AND (H)E walks with us AND (H)E talks with us.....

**AROUND THE COURTS:**

(pictures of recent tournaments, awarding of trophies etc. miscellaneous fun photos of persons involved with the BLTA, pictures of the BLTA executive , pictures of the JITIC team returning home, Pictures of the folks meeting KJ at the airport with balloons, banners and pom poms etc. are all on phones so please check with Derron, Nikita, and Kevin Major for

available photos to put on this page and please use any of Jodi or anyone else that you might have.

**BLTA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS: President- S. Turnquest, Vice President- S. Thompson, Secretary- B. Carey, Assistant Secretary- N. Fountain, Treasurer-D. Mortier, Junior Development- D Donaldson, D. Saunders**

**But please remember.....**

**THE BLTA NEEDS YOU!**