

November-December, 2016

The Barbados Olympic Association Inc.

# OLYMPIC LINES

NEWSLETTER



## President's Message



**STEVE R. STOUTE - PRESIDENT, BOA**

This National Olympic Committee recognized Barbados' 50th Anniversary of Independence by coordinating an Inaugural Independence Games, involving some 26 national federations, in a cavalcade of sport, taking place over a two week period, November and December. An innovation was a Beach Games, involving some 13 sports, with competitions taking place both in the ocean and on the beach. This was highly successful and could be a catalyst for a larger event, as beach games have become very popular internationally. These Games gave hundreds of young people an opportunity to be part of the Independence celebrations and I would like to congratulate the coordinators, led by Lt. Col. Browne, for an excellent event.

After some 17 years, as Chair and President of the Caribbean Olympic fraternity, first the Caribbean Olympic Caucus and then the Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees (CANOC), I stepped down as leader during the Annual General Assembly held in Guadeloupe during October of this year. Brian Lewis of Trinidad and Tobago was elected Interim President until an Annual General Assembly scheduled for Barranquilla, Colombia in February, 2017, when there will be elections for President. My motivation for creating this entity was to seek cohesion among the Caribbean Olympic fraternity, to share scarce

resources and to speak with one voice, wherever possible. At times, the journey was difficult and frustrating but I am pleased to say that I have left an organization that is now recognized by the International Olympic fraternity and has strived to build capacity among the membership. I was flattered to be named Honorary Life President and it is my hope that CANOC continues to progress and maintain Olympic Caribbean unity.

As this is our last newsletter for 2016, I would like to take this opportunity to wish my colleagues on the Board of Directors, our staff, our national federations, our sponsors and our friends and supporters everywhere a blessed Christmas season and a happy, healthy and productive 2017.

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# News from the Academy

## Olympic Museum Tours

Students of the Ellerslie Secondary School, Hilda Skeene Primary School and Harrison College recently toured the Olympic Museum under the leadership of Academy Assistant Daneka Headley. The Form 4 students of Ellerslie Secondary led by staff member Mr Carlos Merritt were starting preliminary research leading up to the SBA for the CXC Physical Education and Sport. Their visit to the Olympic Museum gave them an insight into the Olympic Movement, as well as an appreciation of the accomplishments of their national athletes who are featured in the Champions' Room.



**Students of Ellerslie Secondary School with staff member Mr Carlos Merritt**



**Hilda Skeene Primary School Cross Country Team with staff member Ms Janelle Denny**

While at the Museum they were also given an educational presentation on the Dangers of Doping in Sport by RADO representative Ms Sasha Sutherland. This presentation included an overview of the methods of testing as well as other pertinent details. Educational programs continue to be the focus of the RADO in its mission to keep participation in sports drug free. Members of the Hilda Skeene Primary School Cross Country Team also visited the Museum after their Championship event. They were under the guidance of staff member Ms Janelle Denny.



**RADO representative Ms Sasha Sutherland in discussion with Ellerslie school students.**



**Form 5 students of Harrison College with Academy Assistant Daneka Headley (far left)**

The Olympic Museum continues to attract groups of students who take advantage of the opportunity to learn more of the Olympic Movement as well as to gain a deeper understanding of the Olympic values of **Excellence, Friendship, Respect** and their relevance to daily life.



## Women in Sport Workshop

The Women in Sport Commission hosted a Workshop at the Olympic Centre on Saturday 8th October. Titled “**The Struggle Is Real,**” the event targeted 40 girls in the 14 to 18 age group and focused on the everyday challenges of balancing Academics and Sport and trying to maintain a happy medium. Presentations were made by former national athletes and university graduates. The Workshop was the final of three activities promoting Women In Sport and was scheduled to coincide with the International Day of the Girl. Among the guests at the Workshop were Rio 2016 Olympians Kierre Beckles and Lani Cabrera who were also a part of the team of presenters. Other presenters were national volleyball player Anicia Wood and former national track athlete Sheena Gooding. Following the presentations, the participants were then treated to leadership and team building activities through an outdoor exercise in Orienteering.



**STRONG**  
*Girls*  
**STRONG**  
**WORLD**

**INTERNATIONAL  
DAY OF THE GIRL**  
OCTOBER 11

#dayofthegirl | dayofthegirl.gc.ca





**Neil Murrell presents a copy of this thesis to BOA President Mr Steve Stoute.**

## Neil Murrell completes the MEMOS program

Congratulations to Mr Neil Murrell, Director of the National Sports Council on the successful completion of his MEMOS course of study.

The MEMOS program is an Executive Masters in Sports Organization Management which is funded by Olympic Solidarity to assist countries in the development of their sport management personnel.

Neil's thesis was "Enhancing Talent Identification in the Disciplines of Athletics and Tennis through Value added Private Sector Engagement."

This brings to four the number of MEMOS graduates within our sport fraternity. The other three graduates are Mr Trevor Browne, Ms Vaneisha Cadogan and Ms Mona Alleyne.



## 50th Anniversary Independence BOA Games

The 50th Anniversary Independence BOA Games were officially opened on Wednesday 16 November in a brief ceremony at Olympic Centre. After the President's message was read by Assistant Secretary General Cammie Burke, and a brief overview of the spirit and mission of the Games was delivered by Organizing Committee Chair Lt Col Trevor Browne, the Games were officially opened by Mr Jerry Blenman, Interim CEO of the Gymnasium Ltd. The Games featured twenty-four sports over a twenty seven day period in a multi- sport Games atmosphere.

Among the number of sport activities celebrated were the Caribbean Boxing Championships at Barbados Beach Club in Christ Church, Rugby 7s International at Trents in St James, and the International Judo Championships at Sherbourne Center. One of the big days was the Festival of Beach Games on Sunday 20th November at Pirates Cove on Lower Bay Street, which attracted a number of sports to the beach for a full day of activity. Among the beach sports were Fencing, Handball, Hockey, Netball Fast 5s, Rugby 7s, Volleyball, Water Polo and Wrestling.

**Below: Opening Remarks were made by BOA Asst. Secretary General Mr Cameron Burke**



**Above: interim CEO Mr Jerry Blenman officially opening the Games**

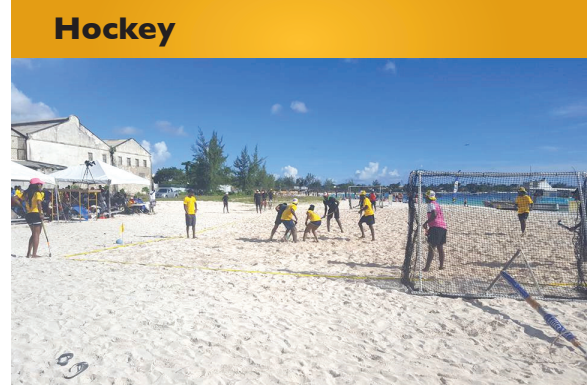


**Left: The flame is lit by Rio 2016 Olympian Kierre Beckles**

# Independence Beach Games



**Pirates Cove**



**Hockey**



**Volleyball**



**Netball**



**Beach Wrestling**



**Sailing**



**Fencing**



**The Beach at Pirates Cove**

## World Boxing Chief Visits Barbados



Dr. Ching-Kuo Wu, IOC Executive Board Member and President of AIBA (the world international boxing body) recently visited Barbados for the Caribbean Development Boxing Tournament, as part of the BOA 50th Independence Games.

Dr. Wu attended the regional boxing caucus at the Barbados Olympic Centre on Sunday, December 11, hosted by BOA President, Steve Stoute, to discuss the problems facing regional boxing, after Mr Stoute had written to him expressing concern for the need for more regional boxing competitions.

Dr. Wu indicated that it was not AIBA's policy to permit regional boxing bodies however he said that the recent boxing tournament held in Barbados should be an annual event which would be recognised by AIBA and in the future AIBA would provide financial support and would work with the region to ensure this is nurtured and developed.

**Left: Captain Anthony Jones - President of the Barbados Boxing Association, Steve Stoute - BOA President, Dr. C.K. Wu - IOC Executive Board Member and President of International Boxing Association, William Louis-Marie - Executive Director of the International Boxing Association**

He also said that during these annual championships, there should be an assembly of all regional boxing delegates, at which time, any problems and concerns could be discussed. He lauded the BBA for the excellent work in organising the recent tournament and thanked the BOA for their continued support.

Dr. Wu later participated in the BOA's 50th Anniversary of Independence Games Closing Ceremony, presenting a number of awards to boxers and athletes from other sports.



## BOA Independence Games officially close

After 24 sports in 27 days, the BOA Independence Games officially came to a close on Sunday the 11th of December at BOA Headquarters in Wildey. The Most Valuable Players (MVPs) for each participating sport were also presented with individual awards, and the symbolic Olympic flame was extinguished to signify the end of the Games. In his welcoming address, Chairman of the Organising Committee Lt. Colonial Trevor Browne acknowledged all of the participating sports and highlighted the calibre of the Independence Games activities over the period 16th November to 11th December. "We have been very pleased with the tremendous response we have received from this initiative of the 50th Anniversary Independence Games. I also continue to be impressed by the enthusiasm, the effort, and the commitment of our athletes, and this is why we recognise our MVPs tonight for their unwavering dedication to their respective sports. We hope to be able to execute another full Independence Games next year to once again showcase all levels of sport in Barbados," he said. The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, The Hon. Stephen Lashley also noted the Independence Games' potential for putting a spotlight on local sports and to assist in the development of Barbados' sporting facilities and athletes to the highest of standards. "These Games have thrown the national spotlight on the full

spectrum of our sporting disciplines and allowed our athletes to really demonstrate just what it is they have to offer. I congratulate the Organising Committee and the BOA for its determination and planning in ensuring these Games were a fine success. You can be assured the Government of Barbados will continue to support the development of all sports in Barbados," he said. In his closing remarks and vote of thanks, BOA President Steve Stoute extended his thanks to all of the National Federations, and to all who made the Independence Games possible. "This has been a triumphant spectacle of sport, befitting our 50th Anniversary of Independence milestone. It has been a real celebration of Bajan sport and Bajan sportspersons, a very significant and historic event," he said as he declared the Games officially closed.

Male MVP for Weightlifting, Romario Forde, did the honors of extinguishing the flame and concluding the BOA Independence Games for 2016.

**The BOA says thank you to all who came out to support this important initiative to celebrate our nation's 50th Year of Independence and the development of all sport in Barbados!**