

The Barbados Olympic Association Inc.

OLYMPIC LINES

NEWSLETTER



STEVE R. STOUTE - PRESIDENT, BOA

President's Message

I start this message by thanking UNICEF and the Embassy of the United States of America for joining with us on Sunday 9th April in what was an extremely successful activity to celebrate the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. Some 14 local communities took part at the Gall Hill Playing Field in St. John, involving hundreds of young people from across Barbados. Indeed, the event was lauded by the Peace and Sport Organization and we note with pleasure that the Embassy of the United States of America has agreed to work with us on a number of similar projects during 2017.

Meanwhile, plans are under way for Barbados to welcome the Queen's Baton, which is scheduled to visit us during the middle of June. The Baton left Buckingham Palace on Commonwealth Day, Monday 13th March, and will be the longest relay in history, covering some 230,000 km, over a 388 day journey to all 71 nations in the Commonwealth. The Baton has been specially designed to capture the boundless energy of the Gold Coast, the host of the 2018 Games, and will be an inspiring symbol that will connect the Commonwealth with Australia, Queensland and the Gold Coast.

Our Patron and Head of State, Governor General His Excellency Sir Elliott Belgrave has graciously agreed to be part of the events surrounding this visit and will receive the Baton from His Excellency John Pilbeam, Australian High Commissioner, at Government House on 12th June. A relay of runners will take the Baton from Government House, past various schools to finish at the Barbados Olympic Centre. The next day, it will also traverse the length and breadth of Barbados, visiting various iconic landmarks before leaving our shores.

The Baton will also feature at the Youth Commonwealth Games slated for Nassau, Bahamas in mid-July. Barbados will have a team of approximately 10 athletes at these Games. It will be the first time the Commonwealth Youth Games are held in the Caribbean.

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News from the Academy

Olympic Museum Tours

During March, the BOA welcomed members of the Lamar High School Water Polo Team all the way from Houston, Texas in the USA! The group toured the Olympic Museum as a part of their one week trip to Barbados to compete in the Darren Eastmond Memorial Water Polo Tournament.



Lamar High School Water Polo team on their tour of the Olympic Musuem.

On the 13th April, the BOA also welcomed members of the Boy Scouts (Bridgetown Division) to tour the Olympic Museum under the leadership of Ms. Kathy Ema Armstrong as part of their Easter celebrations.



Bridgetown Boy Scouts tour the Musuem.



Bridgetown Boy Scouts outside of the BOA.

Supporting women in sport

On Sunday 12th March, the Barbados Olympic Association Inc. (BOA) proudly hosted our annual International Women's Day event at BOA Headquarters in Wildey. Taking the form of a unique treasure hunt and group 'fitness jam' session, the day was a full celebration of female fitness, healthy lifestyles, empowerment, and self-esteem through sports.

Coordinated in partnership with the Barbados Orienteering Federation and the Women and Sport Commission, the treasure hunt consisted of clues to 20 marker points around the Garfield Sobers Sports Complex, each with trivia questions and fitness challenges for the 23 participating teams to complete.

Daneka Headley, assistant to the Director of the Olympic Academy, and also a Women and Sport Commission representative, said this year's program marked a change from the usual International Women's Day Fun Walk, hence the 2017 social media event hashtag - #BeBoldForChange.

"We wanted to change it up this year and focus on educating the public on women in sport. Each of the points in the treasure hunt are specific to women in sport and female athletes to bring awareness to the fact that women are out there, and they are thriving. It's important to host these kind of events to encourage women to get involved in sport and to show them the great things that women have done, both locally and abroad," she said.

Teams competed to win cash prizes of \$750, \$500, and \$250. Sports represented included badminton, basketball, netball, rugby, shooting, table tennis, volleyball, weightlifting and members of the Kiwanis Club of Barbados Young Professionals. There was an additional team made up of representatives from the Crossfit and yoga communities, and the Barbados Sports Medicine Association.



Winning treasure hunt team 'the White Wanderers.'



The group fitness jam lead by Bajantics Dancercise to round off the day.

Commonwealth Day Multi-Faith celebrations kick start Queen's Baton Relay



BOA President Steve Stoute delivering his Commonwealth Day address.

On 13th March, the BOA celebrated Commonwealth Day in partnership with the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) (Barbados Branch) at its Annual Commonwealth Day Multi-Faith Observance at Calvary Moravian Church, St. Michael. The Observance was conducted by Rev. Dr. Adrian Smith, and featured the reading of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Commonwealth Day message by the Governor General of Barbados, His Excellency Sir Elliott Belgrave.

Commonwealth Day also marked the launch of the Queen's Baton Relay which set off from Buckingham Palace in London on the same day. The Baton arrives in Barbados on 10th June before heading to Dominica on 14th June. It journeys

throughout the entire Commonwealth to reach its final destination of the Gold Coast, Australia, on 4th April 2018 for the Games' Opening Ceremony.

In his Commonwealth Day address, BOA President Steve Stoute emphasised the significance of both Commonwealth Day and the Commonwealth Games as avenues to use sport to promote social cohesion. "We are pleased to join with the Royal Commonwealth Society in these celebrations of unity. We also use this occasion to recognise the official start of the Queen's Baton Relay which will take Her Majesty the Queen's message along its longest route in Commonwealth Games history. We look forward to welcoming the Baton to Barbados and wish a productive Commonwealth Day to all Commonwealth citizens," he said.

Chair of the RCS Barbados Public Relations Committee, Miles Weekes, said the Society was proud to once again host a local Multi-Faith Observance of Commonwealth Day. "This year's Commonwealth theme is 'A Peace Building Commonwealth' and what better way to embrace this than by bringing together our country's diverse faiths in a show of national solidarity," he said.

This year's Multi-Faith event also incorporated the reading of scriptures and prayers by representatives of the resident High Commissions (Britain, Canada, and New Zealand), representatives of the Barbados National Youth Parliament, the Barbados Youth Development Council, and representatives of the local Jewish, Baha'i, and Muslim faiths. Also in attendance were some of the athletes likely to represent Barbados at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.



Awaiting the arrival of the Governor General of Barbados to Commonwealth Day celebrations.

Multi-sport youth rally in the name of peace



Players, officials and invited guests join hands in a display of peace and solidarity.

The Barbados Olympic Association Inc. (BOA) hosted its annual International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) on Sunday 9th April at Gall Hill Playing Field in St. John. Local teams came together to participate in a multi-sport youth rally including basketball, dominoes, football, netball, and road tennis. With the support of UNICEF and the U.S. Embassy in Barbados, the event highlighted sport as a tool to strengthen communities.

In his opening remarks, BOA Secretary General Erskine Simmons spoke about the significance of the IDSDP and the value of sports to foster peace and development. "The primary concept of Olympism is to use sport to create a more peaceful and developed world. Today's activities bring together a large number of our nation's young people in a way that embodies this philosophy and spreads a message of peace throughout entire communities," he said.

In her address, Her Excellency Linda Tagliatela, Ambassador of the United States of America, announced plans for a series of community sports and educational programs to be held in collaboration with the BOA. "Today is especially significant in highlighting peaceful play, camaraderie, team building and true sportsmanship, and is a wonderful launch to a series of similar events to be hosted island-wide. The U.S. Embassy and the BOA's missions dovetail well, making this a natural partnership that I hope will continue for many years," she said.

Parliamentary Representative for St. John, Mara Thompson, also thanked all who were instrumental in organising the event before officially declaring the tournament open.

Tricia Browne from the winning football team, Pride of Gall Hill, said she fully supported the initiative. "This is a great idea to bring communities together. It also helps young people to grow and develop in terms of discipline, while having fun at the same time," she said.

Food and drink were on sale by local vendors, alongside jumping tents, and a DJ playing music all day. Youth development organisation A Ganar Barbados also provided motivational group discussions, while the National Anti-Doping Commission (NADC) handed out information about doping in sports.

The IDSDP is an annual celebration of the power of sport to drive social change, community development, and foster peace and understanding. The United Nations (UN) General Assembly declared 6th April as the IDSDP in 2013, and it has been celebrated annually since 2014.



Afternoon football action in St. John.



Basketball fun on the hardcourt.



A youthful game of dominoes.



An intense road tennis rally between two young stars.



Football players showing their support for the 2017 #WhiteCard campaign.



The netball competition hotting up.



The netballers were all smiles.



Winning football team, Pride of Gall Hill, braved the rain to celebrate their victory.

Caribbean Coaching Certification Programme at BOA



Janelle Chase Mayers instructing this years participants.

During April, the BOA hosted the annual Introduction to Coaching Course under the auspices of the Caribbean Coaching Certification Programme (CCCP).

The CCCP is a grassroots entry-level coaching course designed for sport leaders and club coaches. This year's course participants included 36 local coaches representing 12 sport disciplines, as well as two schools.

The CCCP is owned by the Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees (CANOC) and delivered by trained instructors on behalf of the National Olympic Committees (NOC) of the Caribbean.

Leading the CCCP was Ms. Janelle Chase Mayers, a recently trained Course Coordinator. Ms. Chase Mayers was trained at the CANOC Training Workshop in Tortola, BVI, during October last year.

The 20 hour course continued all throughout April.

Anti-Doping Workshop for Coaches

During April, National Sports Council (NSC) coaches attended a one day educational workshop at BOA Headquarters to increase their awareness of the growing challenges of Performance Enhancing Drugs in sport. The workshop was part of a week of similar activities designed for the NSC coaches.

Regional Anti-Doping Organization (RADO) staff member Sasha Sutherland conducted the workshop, which was followed by a guided tour of the Olympic Museum by Daneka Headley from the BOA.



Coaches listening intently to Sasha Sutherland during the workshop.