



# Antigua & Barbuda Tennis Association

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER APRIL 2012- JUNE 2012

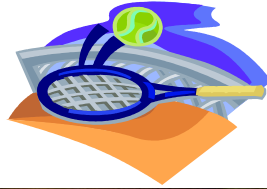
## HAPPENING NOW

Cordell Williams awarded Coach of the Year



Cordell Williams

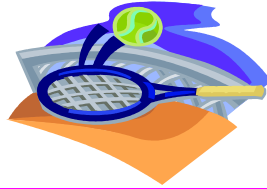
The ABTA also received a recognition award for its continued support of our juniors, working hard to develop them for competition both locally and internationally.



Cordell Williams and Carlton Bedminster after the 2012 Sports Awards

It has always been Coach Williams dream to secure a home for tennis in Antigua, to ensure the continued development of our national tennis program. This would give all children interested in playing the sport the opportunity to learn with an aim at representing their country on the international stage.

It is the time he gives to his juniors that helped the judges recognize that Coach Cordell Williams has what it takes to make our athletes develop with the inspiration to succeed at a sport as difficult as Tennis.



## FLASHBACK – PERSONAL BESTS

COSAT (Confederation of Tennis in South America) Tour selectee, D’Jeri Raymond competed in four Grade One U-14 tournaments throughout her four and a half week stint in South America.

Raymond was a member of a four member squad selected from Central America and the Caribbean. Raymond, as indicated in our previous newsletter, was the only person selected from the English speaking Caribbean; team members hailed from Honduras, Costa Rica and El Salvador. D’Jeri said of her first experience on the Red Clay: “Your fitness level had to be great and you had to learn how to slide as a means to get to the ball”.

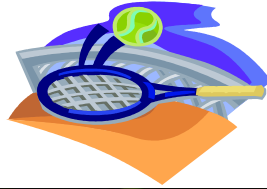






Jody Maginley partnering with Christian Cargill of the Bahamas won his first ITF(International Tennis Federation) Under 18 Doubles competition at the Copas Sultana in Mayaguez Puerto Rico. Congratulations, Jody, this is a major accomplishment and we know this is just the beginning.





Jody Maginley & Christian Cargill (BAH)

Jevannie Ambrose won his first ITF U14 title at the inaugural Copa Sultana Mayaguez Puerto Rico.



Jevannie Ambrose at trophy presentation.



Cordell Williams Jr and D’Jeri Raymond were successful at the Barbados ITF Junior International. Williams won boys U14 Singles Consolation, while Raymond was a finalist in the U14 girls Singles and winner in Girls Doubles partnered with Anouk Ma Jong of Suriname.



D’Jeri Raymond



Cordell Williams jr.

D’Jeri went on to take the U14 singles and doubles title at the Trinidad Digicel ITF Junior Circuit.





D'Jer

i Raymond and Iana Blackwood (Barbados) singles opponents and doubles partners.

**Carlton Bedminster** became the Men's Champion at the inaugural Cap Maison Easter tournament in St. Lucia, and gained finalist spots in both the doubles and mixed doubles competition.



Carlton Bedminster and trophy presentation.



**PLAYER INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS.**

Player	ITF Ranking – Feb 2012	ITF Ranking- April 2012	COTECC - April 2012	COSAT
	U18	U18	U14	
KYLE JOSEPH (18'S)	1028	1169		
JODY MAGINLEY (18'S)	1752	1578		
D'JERI RAYMOND (14'S & 18'S)	1363	1453	#4	#56
JEVANNIE AMBROSE (14's)			#14	
CORDELL WILLIAMS JR (14'S)			#59	

As is the rule of ITF/COTECC, all under 14 player rankings do not roll over from year to year, however this is not the case in the Under 18 player rankings which rolls over from year to year with the best 6 results determines the year end rankings.

## **FLASH BACK – LOCAL TOURNAMENT BEAT**

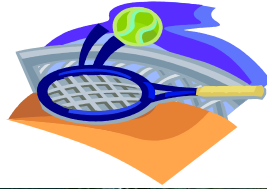
**Pre-Easter Tennis10s tournament.**





Ashley Bersma 10 & under girls winner-pre Easter tournament

The first tournament of 2012- the Halcyon Tennis Club pre-Easter tennis 10s tournament sanctioned by The ABTA and organized by the Halcyon Tennis Club organizers kicked off on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012 at 9 am. With over 45 boys and girls competing, the tournament was deemed a success by the organizing committee.



L-R Kaila Ambrose, Fergus Costello Platts, Liam Costello Platts, Aayana Evanson, Ajante Josiah & Ashley Bersma.

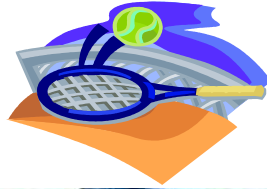
The tournament's eventual winners were Ashley Bersma who won over Kaila Ambrose 10-4 in the girls competition and in the boys competition Liam Costello Platts defeated his brother and opponent Fergus Costello Platts 12-10. Successful also were consolation winners Aayana Evanson (girls) and Ajante Josiah (boys). Support for this tournament came from Athletes Foot's -Giselle Maginley.

### **Halcyon 12 & under Junior Tennis Tournament**

The following week 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 the Under 12 players came out to do battle at the Halcyon 12 & Under junior tennis tournament.

Winners- Halcyon 12 & Under junior tennis tournament





L-R Chante Francis, Walter Sweeney, Callum Drepaul, Ayden Ambrose, Zena Joseph & Keon Armstrong.

Boys winner - Ayden Ambrose

Boys Finalist - Keon Armstrong

Girls Winner - Chante Francis

Girls Finalist - Zena Joseph

In the consolation competition Callum Drepaul was successful in his bid for consolation singles finals.

The ABTA is aiming to host a pre mother's day weekend red and orange ball Play & Stay tournament. More information will be available on our facebook page

[www.facebook.com/tennisantigua](http://www.facebook.com/tennisantigua).

Play and Stay tournaments are aimed at encouraging children as young as five (5) years to engage in competition using the age appropriate balls (Red/orange/green)

The local tournament beat should see a significant rise in the number of junior and senior tournaments held in 2012. As pointed out by President and Coach Cordell Williams there is a





significant gap in age levels. This is visible in the under 14 to Under 16 players, however all is not lost as a great number of U10 and U12 players will soon make the transition to U14 competition.

In an interview on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 President Williams expressed the importance of a home for Tennis which would give children from all walks of life the chance to learn the sport. It is hoped that in Partnership with the Government and corporate Antigua, a home will soon be built. Not only will a National Tennis Centre help to increase the number of children playing the sport but it will give the ABTA the opportunity to host an ITF (International Tennis Federation) tournament which will prove to be a boost to the Antiguan economy.

## Flash Back – International Tournament Beat



R - D'Jeri Raymond & Doubles partner Daniela Obando (Honduras) –Cosat Tour

January – February 2011 proved to be very busy months for COSAT tour selectee D'Jeri Raymond. Raymond competed in a number of Under 14 grade one tournament on red clay of Columbia,



Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. Raymond had some success in these tournaments especially in the Doubles competition where she teamed up with Daniella Obando COSAT tour selectee from Honduras.

**Results and feedback:**

<b>Tournament Name</b>	<b>Singles</b>	<b>Doubles</b>
Copa Indervalle, Columbia	L Round 1 (4-6, 3-6)	W Round 1 (6-1, 7-5 ) / L Round 2 (3-6, 6-1 (11-13)
Guyaquil Bowl, Ecuador	W Round 1 (6-1, 6-0) L Round 2 ( 4-6, 5-7)	W Round 1 (6-1, 6-4)/W Round 2 (2-6,6-4 (10-5) / W Quarter Finals (6-0, 6-0)
Regatta Bowl, Peru	L Round 1 (1-6, 1-6)	W Round 1 (6-0, 6-2) / L round 2 ( 3-6, 2-6)
Condor de Plata, Bolivia	W Round 1 ( 6-0, 6-2) W Round 2 (6-2, 6-4) L Round 3 (2-6, 3-6)	W Round 1 (6-0, 6-1) / L round 2 ( 3-6, 2-6)

Feedback from ITF COSAT tour travelling coach John Goede, indicated that while D’Jeri has areas of her game which need to be improved. She was found to be **a great team member & has good discipline, athletic, a fighter, coachable & learns fast and developed positively while on tour.**

Jody Maginley and Kyle Joseph competed in their first **grade 2 ITF tournaments in South Africa** though they did not make it past the qualifying rounds they gained the experience needed for what was to come, *keep reading....*

In March 2011, our junior athletes at home and overseas embarked on playing the ITF events scheduled in our region; **Barbados ITF Junior International (GR 4), Trinidad Digicel ITF Junior Circuit (GR 4) and Copa Sultana, Puerto Rico (GR 5)**. These tournaments brought success to all travelling players. While some were rewarded for their performance others gained the experienced needed from tournament to tournament.



### Barbados Junior International tournament results

**Under 14** players played through the qualifying matches with **D’Jeri Raymond** and Jevannie Ambrose making it to the main draw as top seeds and **Cordell Williams jr** making it into the consolation round as the #1 seed and eventual winner.

Player	Singles results	Doubles results
Cordell Williams jr	Consolation Winner	Partner with J.Ambrose / L Round 2
Jevannie Ambrose	L Round 1	partner with C. Williams / L Round 2
D’Jeri Raymond	Finalist	partner with A. Ma Jong / Winner

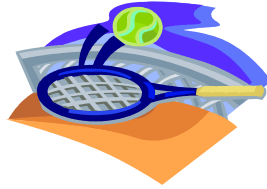


Cordell Williams jr. serving it up during Barbados International finals.

Cordell Williams jr., suffered an injury prior to playing finals which cause his withdrawl from the Trinidad and Puerto Rico tournament.

Under 18 competition included Jody Maginley and Shakir Elvin who both made it to the The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the qualifiers but were unable to make it to finals to secure a main draw spot.





Kyle Joseph currently training at Bill Adams Tennis Academy in Florida base on ranking secured a main draw spot, losing in the first round- *All is not lost.....keep reading*



Kyle Joseph

#### **TRINIDAD DIGICEL ITF JUNIOR CIRCUIT:**

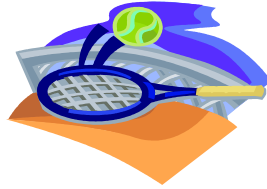
As the team moved on to the Trinidad Digicel ITF junior tournament improvement could be seen from the results of each game they played.

The **Under 14 competition** brought some success for Antigua & Barbuda as **D'Jeri Raymond** repeated her feat of taking the singles and doubles title.

<b>Player</b>	<b>Singles results</b>	<b>Doubles results</b>
Jevannie Ambrose	L Round 1	partner with R. Akcayli/Semi Finals
D'Jeri Raymond	Winner	partner with I. Blackwood/Winner

Antigua's competitors in the **Under 18 competition** included only Shakir Elvin and Jody Maginley.

Elvin who had to battle through three rounds of qualifiers convincingly earned his spot in the



Main draw; Maginley earned his spot into the main draw this time around based on the point system. Though both players did not make it past round 1 of the singles competition, a greater fight was shown in the doubles competition. But as faith would have it Shakir Elvin & his doubles partner Charlie Ridout of Great Britian came up against Jody Maginley and his doubles partner academy mate Shaquille Taylor of the Bahamas. Team Maginley and Taylor were the successor as they move to round 2, where they lost to the #1 seeded doubles team. *But more is still to come.... Keep reading*

### **COPA SULTANA –MAYAGUEZ PUERTO RICO**

This tournament was a first for this group of players, which came with some challenges.

The Under 14 girls competition was cancelled which resulted in D’Jeri Raymond receiving a Wild Card into the Girls Under 18 competition. Jody Maginley also received a Wild Card into the U18 boys competition due to his persistence as stated by tournament director Jose Caballeros. This tournament prove to be another success in the history of our junior tennis in Antigua.

**Jevannie Ambrose** was crowned champion of the boys Under 14 competition. This is a feat that Mr. Ambrose has been working for throughout his junior career. Ambrose was able to overcome Leonardo Cordero of Puerto Rico 6-2, 6-4.

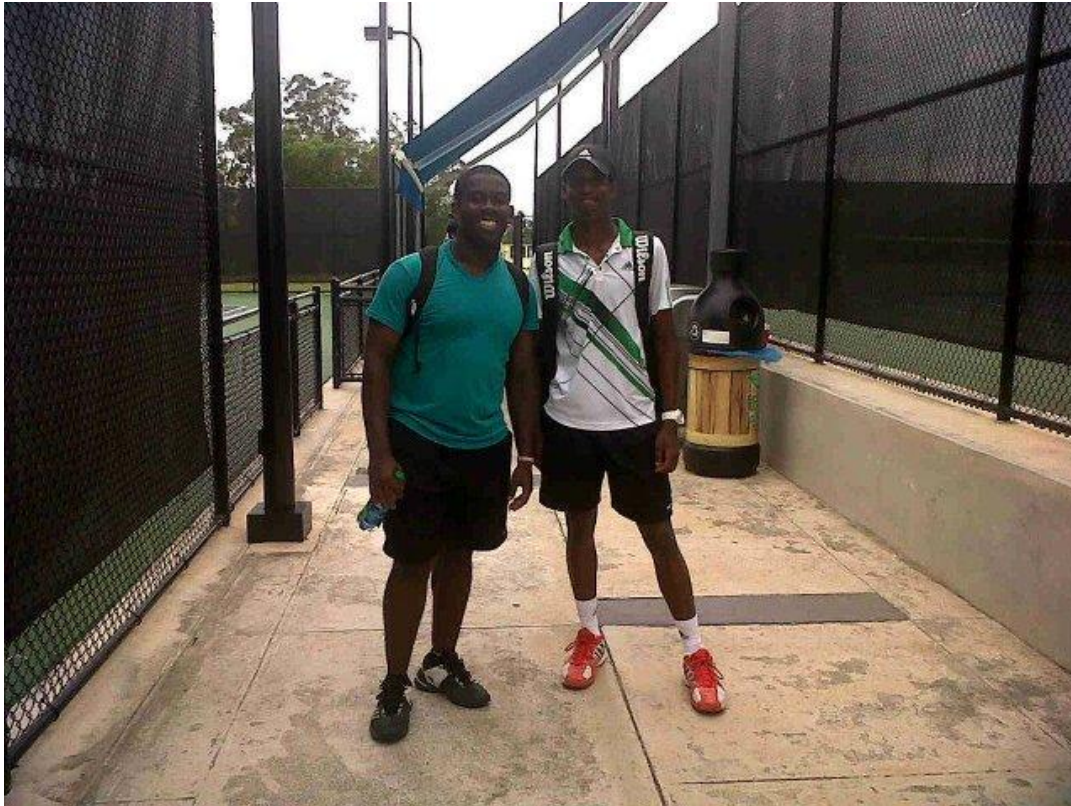


Jevannie Ambrose



The Under 18 competition proved to be another success story for Antigua & Barbuda. A slow start in Girls U18 competition for D'Jeri Raymond who lost in the first round singles competition to Taylor Shukow of the USA. Both Maginley and Elvin also lost in their first round singles but steam came from team Antigua when the doubles competition started.

Maginley and Elvin teamed of up with Bahamian brothers Christian and Ondre Cargill respectively. In the first round doubles competition **Shakir Elvin** and his partner Ondre Cargill defeated David Santa Maria (Pur)/ Arthur Stefani (Bra) 6-1, 6-1; **Jody Maginley** & partner Christian Cargill also had success In round two defeating Kevin Kovacs (GER)/Francis Williams (USA) 6-1, 6-4



L – R Ondre Cargill (BAR) and Shakir Elvin

As fate would have it Maginley and Elvin were destined to meet again and once again Maginley was the successor defeating the team of Elvin / Cargill 6-3, 6-1. This win opened the door for Maginley and Cargill taking them all the way to finals where they defeated Juan Alanis (MEX)/Runhao HUA(CHI) 2-6, 6-4 (10-5), becoming the first boys doubles champion at the inaugural Copa Sultana.







L-R Jody Maginley, Hon John Maginley and Christian Cargill at trophy ceremony.



## **CAP MAISON EASTER TOURNAMENT - ST. LUCIA**

In only his first tournament after the 2011 ALBA games in Venezuela, **Carlton Bedminster** became the men's champion at the inaugural Cap Maison Easter Tournament.



**Carlton Bedminster**

This feat was possible after his defeat of Glenton Evans (LCA) 6-2, 6-0; Bedminster had some success in the doubles and mixed doubles competitions where he emerged finalist in both. In the doubles competition he teamed up with Aladin Hammal (LCA) and Stephanie Lovell (LCA) in the mixed doubles competition.

With such a successful start to the season both in Juniors and Mens competition we continue to encourage our athletes to grow from strength to strength taking their game to the next level.





## VISITS

### **March 2012**

In his first visit for 2012, ITF Development Officer Mr. Anthony Jeremiah met with the executive body of the Antigua & Barbuda Tennis Association to review tennis development in Antigua for the next five years. Assistance was given with our pre-planned tennis workshop refresher for the primary schools physical education teachers. Meetings were also held with key stake holders in the Ministry of Sports, the National Olympic Committee, parents and coaches.

Feedback from this proved to be positive as shown in a follow up letter on the 25-29 March 2012 Visit.

### **JTI (Junior Tennis Initiative)**

2011 program was successful, as the ABTA in collaboration with our schools was able to host a number of tournaments in both the 10 & Under and the 12 & Under

### **Play Tennis Workshops**

The play tennis refresher was facilitated by Coach Larry Michael with the assistance of Cordell Williams and Anthony Jeremiah. This refresher was well attended and was a good motivator for physical education teachers to continue to pass on the knowledge they have gained to our next generation of tennis players. It is expected that future refreshers be organized to keep both the teachers and children motivated.



### **Training**

Mr. Jeremiah was pleased with the performance of the best 10 and 12 & under players.

### **12 & Under:**

Keon Armstrong, Justice Christopher, Ayden Ambrose, Nadine Fuller, Walter Sweeney, Callum Drepaul, Justin Marcano, Chante Francis, Shereese Henry and Zena Joseph.

### **10 & Under:**

Aiden Fuller, Seth Joseph, Liam Platts, Fergus Platts, Aaron Fields, Ajante Josiah, Diezel Roseau, Saddiq Austin, Kamir Ambrose, Ashley Bersma, Kaila Ambrose, Chernia Norris and Selene Kentish.

He indicates that these players have great potential and will shine given the opportunity to groom in a structured program.

### **Meeting with Parents;**

Meeting with parents went well as they were quite supportive of the Association's program. It was stressed that the association needs to continue having forums with parents especially those with 10 & under players, this is to ensure that the correct equipment, proper nutrition, strength & conditioning and proper discipline are adhered to.

### **Facility:**

Saddened by the delays experienced in the rehabilitation of Vikings which is now the property of the ABTA. Delays have been due to financing in getting the project off the ground. It is hoped that the Association does not give up in its efforts to see this venture's first Phase completed.



### Coaches Education:

Given the challenge the ABTA in conjunction with the NOC will be hosting two short

#### **Courses :**

- Travelling with top players.
- Working and retaining female players.

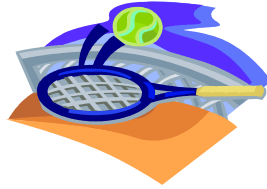
Course period October 10- 18, 2012

It is expected that after coming off of a high in 2011, 2012 will see improvement based on the targeted projects, increase competitions and training opportunities.

## **WORKSHOPS**

As promised in 2011 the ABTA embarked on a Tennis 10s refresher workshop with the physical education teachers from about 25 government and private primary schools. This workshop was timely as it coincided with the arrival of our tennis equipment and the visit of Mr. Anthony Jeremiah (ITF Development Officer). The Physical Education teachers were able to use the age appropriate **RED, ORANGE AND GREEN** tennis balls and understand their purpose in the development of their students. It was the vision of association president Cordell Williams to invest in the necessary equipment (racquets) to ensure that tennis in Antigua can have a grass roots footing. Upon the completion of the workshop all teachers were given adequate balls and racquets under contracted agreement that they will start a vibrant program in their respective schools. This program will be reviewed within three (3)





months by the ABTA in conjunction with the tennis coordinator in the Ministry of



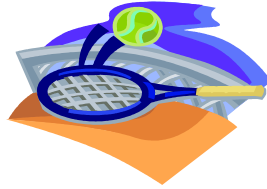
Sports.

## CAN WE DO IT ?????

In our previous newsletter the hosting of the ITF 12 & under development championships was up for our consideration, however the ITF have withdrawn this tournament from their calendar for 2012. This is due to the lack of funding required to pull off this event. The association is currently speaking with the Ministry of Public works in an effort to commence the first phase of the Vikings tennis courts rehabilitation project.

### New Partners:

In our efforts to ensure our juniors are given the opportunity to participate in the upcoming Team events 13 & Under Development championships and JITIC, the ABTA has embarked on seeking sponsorship partners within Corporate Antigua. We are happy to announce that **the “**



**Caribbean Union Bank (CUB)** has stepped up to the plate and given full sponsorship for our juniors to attend the 13 & under development championships being held in Tobago this year. **CUB** is happy to Partner with the ABTA in the area of junior development and are quite pleased with our development program. With that said, they have agreed to support our efforts for a period of 5 years.

We do however need support to be able to send a team to JITIC team event in El Salvador. It is a costly event mainly because of its location but no expense should be spared if it means possible success for our juniors. Success does not only come with wins but with the development of our juniors as they grow from strength to strength.

The strength of our juniors can be seen in their achievements for 2011. **CAN WE DO IT AGAIN IN 2012, YES WE CAN BUT ONLY WITH THE HELP OF CORPORATE ANTIGUA.**

## **CAN YOU SEE THE BENEFITS?????**

Some might say it's a dream, but others have dreamed it and it has happened. Why not Tennis Antigua? In the 70s, 80s and 90s we had it all, we can have it again. But to do this we need a facility, a facility where we can continue the programs we already have, where we can have a vibrant grass roots programme where talent can be identified and harnessed. A dream we might say but we can see it – THE VIKINGS NATIONAL TENNIS CENTRE, a place where national tournaments can be held, a place where we can host invitational's, and, more so, a place where, in collaboration with the Halcyon Tennis Club, we can host ITF international tournaments. See the benefits..... A sports tourism gateway- one ITF tournament, 150 players, with coaches, parents, officials..... a boost to the economy (food, transportation, hotels etc), CAN YOU SEE THE BENEFITS?????



**THE ABTA continues to Seek your help.....The ABTA needs you.**

**SEE THE VISION**

**WORK HARD**

**Dream BIG**

**Be COMMITTED**

**Be MORE THAN ORDINARY**

**BELIEVE.....**

**ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.**