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Tennis Programme starts at Webster Park

ANGUILLA—The Anguilla Tennis Academy (ATA) began its continuous tennis programme on Monday December 8 with a short opening ceremony for parents and players.

Brent Davis, treasurer of the ATA said that the programme is the beginning of a very long future for tennis in Anguilla. He said it was the beginning of a dream for Mitchelle Lake, the founder of the ATA, who has held summer programmes for the past eight years but is now pleased to offer continuous training. He thanked the parents for their support and said they expected more children to participate in the new year. He welcomed the “grandfather of tennis” Eric Martineau for his continued interest in tennis and the youth of the island.

Foster Rogers, speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Social Development, praised Mitch and the ATA for all they are doing for the young people of the island. He urged the participants to have healthy competition and a sense of pride in their achievements. He noted that everyone knows the traditional career paths but there are also opportunities in sports and a viable way to make a living.

Davis introduced the professional coach from the USA, Rick Landry, who is in Anguilla to run the programme. Landry thanked the Government of Anguilla and the ATA for inviting him to run the programme. He told the children that tennis teaches respect, fair play, leadership and good sportsmanship. He said that it is most important that the students have academic responsibility and that he will check on their grades. He also suggested they should participate in community service and he looks forward to developing a health relationship with them all.

Mitchelle Lake in an e-mail correspondence for the occasion expressed his thanks to the government, to Alkins Rogers the Sports Director and the Anguilla Tennis Association for their support towards a continuous tennis programme. He also thanked Richard Landry for accepting the challenge to develop a year round programme. “I strongly encourage all parents to take advantage of this great opportunity and support the efforts of the ATA.”