

Inauguration of Tennis Academy courts and camp

ANGUILLA—The opening of the Anguilla Tennis Academy (ATA) Summer Camp was a special one this year as for the first time it is being held at the new facility at Blowing Point. Six brand new pristine courts are ready for use for the first time for the children attending the camp. Attending the inauguration were many of the sponsors who have supported the ATA over the years, parents, friends and the children.

Founder of the ATA, Mitchelle Lake said the ATA has reached a significant milestone in its 13 years of providing opportunities through tennis for the children of the island. He said that it is a dream come true for him but “we would not be at this phase in the project without the dedicated and committed support of our government, the businesses in the community, international friends and local Anguillians,” he noted. “On behalf of the ATA Board, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have given of their time and financial resources to this worthy cause. Your efforts and contributions have helped us to build a centre of excellence that will undoubtedly be a landmark of the Caribbean and a symbol of national pride,” he told the audience.

As well as the six lighted tennis courts, the facility includes a large building with bathrooms, offices, conference room and other facilities. The official opening of the entire complex is planned for October this year. The stadium court complex is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2008.

Timothy Hodge, Director of Social Security, said he was excited by what he was seeing and the hundreds of children ready to take part in the summer camp. He said he is proud that Social Security have been associated with the ATA for many years and been able to share in the dream of bringing tennis to the children of the island.

Valentine Banks, CEO of the National Bank of Anguilla said that the Bank has been part of the ATA since 1996 and supported the summer camp each year. He recalled that Eric and Isobel Martineau introduced tennis to many players, including Mitchelle, and the ATA owes a lot to them. He suggested that the ATA is now an institution and a valuable one in the community and that all should be proud of Mitch and all the others who have supported him.

Leslie Richardson, Senior Manager of Caribbean Commercial Bank, focused on the importance of the ATA for the children of Anguilla and the need to challenge their energies in the right direction.

The Minister of Finance and Tourism, Victor Banks, spoke of his pride in seeing the tennis facility reaching this stage in its construction. He congratulated Mitch and all those who have been involved in the project including the corporate sponsors in the island.

Lake added his thanks to all the sponsors, to the contractor Jeffery Richardson, the project manager Hugo Rey and all the workmen. He especially thanked Marcel Fahie for his assistance and Jason Allen, Director of the ATA and all the coaches who are working with him during the camp. He noted that more financial support

is needed to complete the project and urged persons to come forward and help bring the project to fruition.