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Governor hosts Tennis Academy sponsors and supporters

ANGUILLA—The Governor, Peter Johnstone and Mrs. Johnstone hosted a cocktail reception on Friday evening for sponsors, coaches and supporters of the Anguilla Tennis Academy (ATA). It was held in the attractive grounds of Government House with music supplied by Dumpa on the steel drum.

The Governor welcomed everyone noting that it is important to say thank you as the ATA needs sponsorship and support. He particularly welcomed the first time visitors and those from overseas. There are thirteen coaches from the USA, some with their families, who have been in Anguilla for the past week to assist with the coaching at the tennis camp.

One of the coaches, Chris Wade, says that tennis will bring great things to the island. He congratulated Michelle Lake on an outstanding job, noting that the children of Anguilla are really benefiting from the Academy. He highlighted the need to tell everyone about the new tennis facility so that funds can be raised quickly and it could be built sooner.

Bill Riddle, another coach says it is his third year at the tennis camp and he is glad to be back. He said that every year there is more progress and more enthusiasm. He challenged the parents and coaches to get even more participation next year and says he looks forward to the new facility.

Mitchelle Lake who founded the ATA said that in 1996 when he started the first camp there were 49 children and this year there have been 150. He thanked his many supporters with special appreciation to the Government of Anguilla for its support. He thanked the Governor for hosting the party, the coaches, hotels, restaurants, American Eagle, and all the many businesses who have given support. He commented that with the new golf course and the tennis facility Anguilla will become a number one sports and leisure destination.

He announced that the “Buy a Brick” campaign is now in full gear and encouraged everyone to buy a brick for US\$100.00 that will be inscribed with the donor’s name and used to pave the walkway to the new tennis facility. 5000 bricks in five months, when the groundbreaking is due, is his aim.