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Photo: Rodney Ross, Michelle Lake and Elijah Armstrong

New Director appointed for Anguilla Tennis Academy

ANGUILLA—Elijah Armstrong of Antigua has been appointed as the Director of the Anguilla Tennis Academy (ATA). He is a former tennis professional and a successful coach for the past thirty years. He is no stranger to Anguilla having been the Tennis Director at Cap Juluca for one season and at CuisinArt Resort for two and a half years. Rodney Ross of Trinidad and Tobago has been appointed as the Programme Director of the ATA.

Michelle Lake, founder of the ATA, says that he is excited about the future of the Academy. “The people of Anguilla will be proud of the job that Eli and Rodney will do. They are accomplished coaches with a vast range of experience,” he said. “I am asking the community to get behind the ATA and keep the dream alive as we strive to bring the stadium court to fruition.” He plans to renew efforts and have a major drive to raise funds, amounting to some US\$1.5 million to complete the Stadium Court within the next two years. Plans are to then be able to hold regional and international matches at the Academy, although is also a possibility on the existing six lighted courts.

Lake revealed that Anthony Jeremiah the International Tennis Federation Development Officer for the Caribbean will be coming to Anguilla for three or four days during the upcoming Summer Camp at the ATA. He will be reviewing the facilities with the possibility of holding ITF tournaments and/or training in Anguilla. Armstrong, who has worked in many of the islands, stated that the ATA is the best facility that he has seen in the Caribbean.

The ATA Summer Camp is being held from July 5-23. It is the fifteenth year of the Camp and this year Armstrong and Ross are planning many extra activities so that the children can stay all morning. Activities, in addition to the tennis coaching, will include fun games, table tennis, kiddie cricket, chess and other board games for rainy days, and tennis videos and instruction videos. Lake says the ATA is moving to the next level and he is grateful for the support from parents and visitors.

Other future plans that Armstrong outlined included raising the level of service of the Academy, improving the standard of the coaches, enlisting more members and raising funds. He said he is happy to be on board and working with the other staff.