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ATA Founder makes presentations to Banks

ANGUILLA—Mitchelle Lake, founder of the Anguilla Tennis Academy (ATA) was in Anguilla for the weekend to make presentations to three of the banks. He says he is grateful to the senior management of the National Bank of Anguilla, the Caribbean Commercial Bank and the First National Bank for their interest in the proposed plans for the state-of-the-art tennis facility to be built at Blowing Point.

Lake reports that the responses were great and he is looking forward to support from the banks as well as other businesses and individuals. He notes that the goal is to get Anguillians involved in the project as it is to be a symbol of national pride assisted by international tennis enthusiasts.

The facility will have six lighted tennis courts, a stadium court with seating for more than one thousand persons and a main building with a pro shop, bathroom facilities, lounge, terraces, conference room and offices. To date pledges have reached in excess of US\$100,000 contingent on the ground breaking that is scheduled for December 2003. Several donations in kind have been made including the land from the Government of Anguilla, a donation of doors, windows, plumbing fixtures and other hardware from All Island Exports based in Miami, and the architectural drawings by Myron Goldfinger. Legal assistance has been from Ephraim Helton and Associates of Danville, Kentucky and from Caribbean Juris Chambers in Anguilla. Promotional assistance and discount fares from American Airlines/American Eagle, blocks from ABC Supplies, fencing from Anguilla Island Development and land clearing by Walton Fleming, are all important aspects of the donations.

Lake says that the ATA will help build valuable life skills for its younger members including work ethics, competitiveness and teamwork. There will be cultural benefits through the out-reach programme when members will be able to share the rich culture of our island and people with international participants and coaches. There will also be economic benefits too with year round scheduled tournaments attracting visitors to the island and providing a boost to the industry by helping to extend the season. He notes that the ATA will provide opportunities for young children and adults through the sport of tennis, that with the world class golf course and the world class tennis facility Anguilla will become the number one sports leisure destination in the Caribbean and all local businesses will benefit financially. He also stressed that Anguilla must be the first in the Caribbean to build this tennis facility as it was first proposed in Anguilla.

Also attending the presentations with Lake and answering questions posed were Bill Riddle, the ATA Tournament Director/Event Director and Marketing official who is the Head Coach at Cumberland University in Nashville, Tennessee, and Brent Davis, treasurer of the ATA.