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Photo: Michelle Lake and Jason Allen

Tennis Academy holds farewell function for Jason Allen

ANGUILLA—A large number of supporters and friends of Jason Allen and the Anguilla Tennis Academy attended a cocktail reception to say farewell to Jason who is leaving the island after four years. Allen has been the Director of the Anguilla Tennis Academy (ATA) and has been instrumental in organizing the new tennis facility and the programmes for the children.

The event was held at the CuisinArt Resort and Spa and was chaired by the new Director of the ATA, Marvin Hazell. He described Allen as a very good force for the ATA and thanked him for his work especially in teaching the eight coaches who have all grown up in the academy that started since 1996. Darryl Thompson, one of the coaches, presented Jason with a crystal photo of the coaches to thank him for all he has done.

A short film was presented by Greg Travis who described Allen's work as amazing in developing the programmes for the children and organizing international events. The film featured many of the children who have been involved in tennis over the years with comments by founder and president of the ATA, Michelle Lake.

In his farewell Allen said he is leaving Anguilla to pursue his doctorate. He thanked Lake for all his support over the years from the time that they were at college together. He first visited Anguilla in 1997 as a coach for the summer programme and then was happy to be a permanent coach during the past four years and become the Director of the ATA and also manage coaching in several of the resorts. He thanked everyone for their support including the Government. He presented a tennis racket, signed by Andy Roddick, to a "very special child and promising player", Khessim Reid.

Lake presented Allen with a plaque to commemorate and thank him for his service in Anguilla. He wished him all the best in his endeavours in the future. He thanked everyone for their support of Jason and the Academy. Minister of Social Development Evans McNeil Rogers added his thanks to "an extra special person". He also praised Eric and Isobel Martineau who "paved the way for Mitch and Jason." "We will miss you but wish you all the best," the Minister concluded.