

December 29, 2010

Photos:

1. Mitchelle Lake addressing the audience with one of the photos in the background.
2. Mitchelle Lake and Bill Boyd with the new book.

Book and photos launched by Tennis Academy

ANGUILLA—The Anguilla Tennis Academy (ATA) has received a face lift with the installation of new showers and locker rooms and enlarged photos on the walls. At a reception on Tuesday December 28 President and Founder of the ATA, Mitchelle Lake welcomed those present and described the improvements to the state of the art facility.

The event was chaired by Board Director, Brent Davis who introduced Bill Boyd from Philadelphia who had enlarged many photos and put them on canvas on the walls in the two front offices, the corridor and the main room. Boyd said it was a joy to be involved and he plans to have more pictures in the remainder of the Academy. “This is just the start for me,” he said, “I am happy to do anything I can to move the Academy forward.”

Director of Tourism, Candis Niles welcomed those present saying that the project is two-fold and will make sure the children of Anguilla can achieve more as well as developing sports tourism. She noted that the Tourist Board is committed to working with the ATA to take the Academy to the next level by the completion of the stadium court.

Lake said that he envisioned the programme some fifteen years ago when the idea was just a dream. He said that as well as his enthusiasm for the project it would not have come about except for the parents, the children and the many visitors who have supported him over the years. He said that he is still receiving significant contributions from visitors.

He thanked Boyd for his work saying that he has captured the vision of the Academy in photos which as well as being on the walls are being put into a booklet. There is a large size coffee table book and a smaller booklet that will soon be on sale to the public.

Lake also urged supporters to sign up for membership of the Academy with family membership, individual membership, junior membership or villa membership available. Membership is on a prorated basis according to the number of months left in the year. Non members will pay US\$20.00 per hour for court use.

The ATA was founded in 1996 and provides after school programmes for children as well as a large summer camp each year. More than 1500 children have so far benefitted from the coaching provided. The primary goal of the ATA is to expose children to the joys, discipline and rigour of the life-long sport of tennis where they can acquire technical skills, experience sportsmanship

and develop a strong sense of community. During the past two weeks Lake said that he and his coaches have given 200 hours of tennis coaching to visitors and local players.