

# **Bahamas Lawn Tennis Association**

## **Play Tennis Course Participants**

### *About The Play Tennis Course*

The Play Tennis Course (PTC) is an introductory level ITF tennis qualification that is being delivered through the Bahamas Lawn Tennis Association. The Play Tennis Course is a 35 hour blended learning course that will run over a four-day period.

The aim of the Play Tennis Course is to help participants understand how to introduce tennis to beginner players of all ages, organizing and delivering tennis sessions in a fun and effective learning environment. Upon successful completion of the ITF Play Tennis Course, participants will be able to work with young beginner players and adult beginner players.

This stand alone course, PTC is a prerequisite for the ITF Level 1 Coaching Beginner and Intermediate Players.

### *Welcome From the President*

#### **DARNETTE WEIR**

The Bahamas Lawn Tennis Association welcomes each and every one of you participating in the 2019 Play Tennis Course being facilitated by John Goede, ITF Development Officer for The Caribbean. We especially wish to extend warmest wishes to those from our 2nd city, Grand Bahama who took time away from family and work to join us today.

We are pleased that each person assembled here today has taken a gallant step to invest in coach's education, which will undoubtedly reap huge dividends. As the Association embarks on this very timely initiative to further the development of coaching in The Bahamas, we entreat with you today to continue to arm yourselves with the knowledge that would set you apart.

Again, we love having each of you join us in this educational forum and trust that these four days in workshop would be most productive and rewarding.



## *About The Instructor*

### **JOHN A. GOEDE**



Mr. John Goede has 39 years of coaching experience. He is the owner of Tennis Academy Jaguars in Suriname. He has served as Suriname's national tennis coach from 1997-2003 as well as the national junior tennis initiative coordinator from 1996-2004.

Mr. Goede's continued his professional experience with the International Tennis Federation as Assistant Development Officer from 2001-2004. He has been an ITF Presenter since 2004, an ITF Operations Expert 2003-2013, an ITF Long Term Development Consultant since 2003 and is currently the ITF's Development Officer for the Caribbean.

John's experience is accompanied by an impressive list of qualifications:

- PTR Professional L5 (1985)
- ITF/STB Level 2 (2001)
- ITF Tutor Level 2 (2005)
- ITF/STB Level 3 (2018)



## *About The Participants*

### **PERRY E. NEWTON**



Mr. Perry Newton has held various posts in the Tennis Arena inclusive of Public Relations Officer, Treasurer and Council Member of the BLTA and Director and Treasurer of The National Tennis Centre(NTC).

Perry firmly believes in the vehicle of sports to provide focus and growth. "It is never too late to start" and "If you do it, do it properly" are two of his beliefs.

Perry is the newly elected head of junior development for the national tennis association, The BLTA. He brings an enthusiasm for the sport, a love of people and a plan for growth and development that will aid in the advancement of tennis.

### **BJORN FERGUSON**

My name is Bjorn Ferguson; I've been playing tennis since the age of eight. I participated as a junior player in national tournaments. I credit my father Roscoe Ferguson for introducing me to the game, and Randy Knowles and Kim Cartwright for building my strokes.

I play recreationally and currently I'm involved in the administration of tennis in The Bahamas. I am the current treasurer of the Bahamas Lawn Tennis Association.



It is my goal to successfully complete the course so that I can assist with the recruitment of new players to the sport of tennis. In particular, I would like to spearhead a program in the community of Fox Hill; which happens to be one of oldest communities in the country. The cost to play the sport of tennis, and to receive instructions from coaches/trainers still act as a barrier for new entrants to the sport. As a result, it is my goal to take the game to the inner city communities and provide a new generation of players with the opportunity to learn the sport.



## SYDNEY CLARKE



Tennis rising star, Sydney Clarke was born on November the 18, 2001 to proud parents, Bernard and Shayvon Clarke. Four year old Clarke was introduced to the game of tennis by Coach George McPhee who immediately noted her potential. Coach McPhee started giving Clarke free lessons five days a week, after school. She even sometimes played on weekends to perfect her skills.

Upon recommendation Clarke moved on from McPhee to Coach Kim O'Kelly who taught her to master the volley. When Clarke turned eight years old, her parents saw how rapidly her potential was growing and enrolled her in the Brajaxba tennis after school program. It was in the said program that she grew more knowledgeable of the game of tennis and honed her skills gaining international exposure.

Clarke began watching the skills of tennis sensation Serena Williams and grew stronger and better in her discipline. Her talent has given her the opportunity to receive an academic and athletic scholarship at the Windsor High School, which is the home of the Lleyton Hewitt Tennis Academy at Albany. She was presented with the Sportsmanship Award in September 2015 by the Bahamas Lawn Tennis Association and became Gatorade Student Athlete of the Week in November 2012. She was honored by the North Western School District in 2014 as Junior Tennis Champion and was featured in the GSSSA magazine. Clarke, who started traveling abroad to compete from age ten, has played on many national teams including Fed Cup. She was the face of the BFYTT Campaign at Club One in the summer of 2016. Sydney's highest Cotec ranking was #4 in the Central-American and Caribbean region. She hopes to finish in the top 50 on the junior ITF circuit and one day play on the WTA circuit.

## GREGORY K. GREENE



Keith is a certified Teaching Pro and is a member of the Racquet Stringers Association. He has been teaching tennis to children in many schools and also the After-School Program for the past 20 years.

In addition to working with children, he teaches adults from the beginner level to the advanced level with drills for game improvement. He loves the sport and continues to teach it daily.



## SHARON GREENE



Sharon Greene, founder, President and Head Pro, at 242 Tennis holds a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and more than 25 years experience teaching tennis. 242 Tennis formerly Tennis Unlimited was founded in 1987 with the desire to expand the sport of tennis on the island of Grand Bahama

Sharon was ranked the #1 female player on the island of Grand Bahama. She has initiated and nurtured a Junior Development Program which includes a successful After-School Program and a Pre-School Program making tennis apart of the PE curriculum. An Inter-School Tennis Tournament was also initiated by her.

In 1997, Sharon represented The Bahamas at Fed Cup in the Dominican Republic and in 1999 in Costa Rica.

She continues to push for the sport to be the most sort out sport on the island of Grand Bahama.

## CORY M. FRANCIS

Born in Nassau, The Bahamas on February 18, 1961, I began playing tennis at the tender age of ten years old at the Paradise Island Resort and Casino Tennis Court in 1971. My father was an avid recreational tennis player who played tennis every evening on his off time. My father saw fit to take his three young sons to involve themselves in something positive, rather than being idle in the neighborhood.



My brothers and I became very interested in the sport of tennis and were under the tutelage of Mr. Leo Rolle, Mr. John Antonas, Mr. Bradley Demeritte, Mr John Farrington, Sir Kendal G.L. Isaacs, Mr. Sammy and Mrs. Viki Knowles, Mr. Bob Isaacs and Mr. Felix Rolle just to name a few.

From 1971-1978 I played several junior tournaments in The Bahamas, sometimes going head to head in the finals with one of my brothers. My brothers and I represented the Bahamas in several Caribbean countries, one



of which was the Junior Brandon and Caribbean Cub in Barbados in 1979, this being my last junior year I decided upon my return to become a professional tennis player, hence going into the sport as an instructor.

In 1981 I attended a coaching course in The Bahamas at the Nassau Beach Resort Tennis Courts under the direction of Mr. Sammy and Mrs. Viki Knowles, who were the Tennis Pros for that Resort. The course was facilitated by the lead instructor, Mr. Humphrey Jose, who was ranked as the number one tennis player in Venezuela at the time. Upon completion of the mentioned coaching course, I officially became a bona fide Tennis instructor.

Presently I am an active member of the Bahamas Lawn Tennis Association. I am married to the former Judith LaFleur and the proud father of two children, Coryce and Jeron.

## RITA ROY

Rita Roy is Clinical Biochemistry with M. Public Health from University of Mexico. For the last 20 years, she has lived in different countries and has acquired a vast learning experience about culture and language.



A part of her biggest acquisition, is having 3 athletic children and being a full mom-job, she left her position of medical technologist and educator and focused on community collaboration including firefighter and first aid rescue in her Swiss town. Nowadays, she is contributing her skills to Bahamas Humane Society, the Bahamas Red Cross, Doctors Hospital, and the Camp Pathfinder.

Rita was quoted as saying “After obtaining this course, I hope to be able to develop new skills in the tennis lessons which are suitable for the younger ones or adults too. One thing I know for sure is that everyone can play this really great sport. Many people learned to play tennis at school for PE and don’t play again until they are adults. Others start when they are in their 30’s or 40’s, and this is my case. “

On completion Rita would like to be able to work with young or adult players and to observe exactly their potentials and recognize their possible mistakes. She also wants to have sufficient knowledge to give instructions so the player can be capable of rallying with their partner cooperatively.



## MICHAEL BUTLER



Michael "Mikey" Butler was born the seventh son to Eugene and Lottie Butler. He attended and graduated from Government High School, Nassau Bahamas and Highland Park College, Michigan. Michael is a former semiprofessional Baseball player. He is also former member of the Bahamas national Baseball and Softball teams, a career investment Banker and regulator. He is the current president of Southwest Tennis Club, and coordinator of its after school Play n Stay program, former coach and adviser to Bahamian tennis standout Sydney Clarke, and an active player on the local junior veteran tennis circuit.

## ESTHER N. NEWTON

Esther N. Newton is a tennis enthusiast who was drawn to the sport through watching her nephew play. This introduction to the sport blossomed into a desire to play and to serve.

Esther enjoys participating in adult fun tournaments in The Bahamas and has earned two female doubles finalist trophies one in Nassau and one in Eleuthera.



Esther has also been involved in the administration of the sport over the last few years. She worked as an Umpire at the two most recent International Tennis Federation (ITF) tournaments held in The Bahamas. Presently she sits on the Fed Cup/Davis Cup Committee and is on the Public Relations Committee of The Bahamas Lawn Tennis Association.

Esther's passion for the sport is fueled by her belief that we are a talented nation with tremendous opportunity for growth and development in Tennis. With this in mind she would like to advance her skills to help in developing young eager individuals.

She always promotes tennis as "A sport that stands through the ages for all ages".



## DORIS KEMP-KNOWLES



Doris Kemp-Knowles was born September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1961 and hails from High Rock, Grand Bahama. She has two boys and two granddaughters. Doris is an honor graduate of Eight Mile Rock High School 1979 and she received many other awards.

Doris is self employed and is the owner and manager of a 10 room hotel/Restaurant. She has been an athlete from the age of five to date. Her athletic career includes track and field (1976 CARIFTA ) 800M, volleyball (NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER 1984), softball, basketball and tennis. In all of the sporting events that she played she has also coached.

Doris states her reason for taking the course “I want to assist in the building of tennis in Grand Bahama/Bahamas as I feel the best way to do this is to start from the ground up with juniors.

Doris is also working with the Special Olympics kids and expressed a desire to find fun ways of teaching them the skills they need for tennis.

## OTHER PARTICIPANTS

BRENT JOHNSON

RODNEY CAREY SR.

MACARTHER RIGBY

