

THE BARBADOS OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION INC.

OLYMPIC LINES

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After a challenging 2020, and an equally challenging start to 2021, I sincerely hope that we will see the full return of sporting events this year. Towards the end of 2020, we revisited our strategic plan to confirm and/or update our vision, mission and goals for the rest of the plan cycle 2021-2024. Our work will be supported by increased Olympic Solidarity and Panam Sports funding as well as funding from the local lottery and gaming industry.

The most important event for us this year is the Olympic Games. It is my hope that athletes will be able to resume their preparation and be fully prepared for competition in their respective disciplines at all levels. We look forward to fielding a team in Tokyo of which we can be proud. As I mentioned in our Christmas message, during this quarter we will be focusing on developing a comprehensive plan to complement the Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee's COVID-19 countermeasures. This will prepare us for any eventuality that may arise in relation to our athletes and their entourage as it relates to COVID-19.



SANDRA OSBORNE, SCM, Q.C.
PRESIDENT

Our Athletes Commission continues to be active and we have a voice on the Panam Sports Athletes Commission (Amber Joseph) and the Athletes Commission of Centro Caribe Sports, (Shawn Simpson) formerly Central American and Caribbean Sports Organization. An active Barbados Athletes Commission under the capable leadership of Anicia Wood and representation at the regional and continental levels are all critical at a time when Rule 50 is under debate across the world. It is important for our athletes to have a say in any future iteration of this rule.

In this edition, we acknowledge a number of appointments. Shawn Simpson was appointed to the Athletes Commission of Centro Caribe Sports, while Ryan Brathwaite was appointed Regional Manager, Caribbean and the Americas of the Commonwealth Games Federation. Cameron Burke and Shelley-Anne Griffith were elevated to the offices of Vice President and Assistant Secretary General of the BOA respectively, and Secretary General, Erskine Simmons, was elected to the executive board of Panam Sports. One of our strategic objectives is to support Barbadians in their bid to be elected or appointed to regional, continental and international sporting bodies and we are indeed pleased at these new positions our colleagues have deservedly earned. We wish them all a long and successful tenure in their new positions.

I wish everyone the very best for a healthy and successful 2021. Stay safe.

Yours in Sport

Sandra Osborne, QC
President

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Cameron Burke Elected New Vice President of the BOA

Cameron Burke is the new Vice President of The Barbados Olympic Association Inc. (BOA). After the 2020 Annual General Meeting held at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre, Burke defeated president of the Barbados Volleyball Association, Kenmore Bynoe, 21-15.

The retired meteorologist and former BOA Assistant Secretary General replaced the late Ralph “Bruggadung” Johnson GCM who passed away in May after holding the post for many years. ■



BOA President, Sandra Osborne and new BOA Vice President, Cameron Burke.

Shelley-Ann Griffith Appointed BOA's New Assistant Secretary General

The Barbados Olympic Association Inc. (BOA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Shelley-Ann Griffith as its new Assistant Secretary General. Griffith, who previously held the position of director was appointed by the Board of Directors on October 7, to fill the post made vacant by Cameron Burke's elevation to the post of Vice President at the recently held Annual General Meeting.

Griffith was first elected to the Board September 2019. She is not new to sports administration, however, having been involved in sports at various levels in a number of sporting disciplines including taekwondo, football, cricket, weightlifting and chess. She expressed that she is very keen to take on this new role within the BOA.

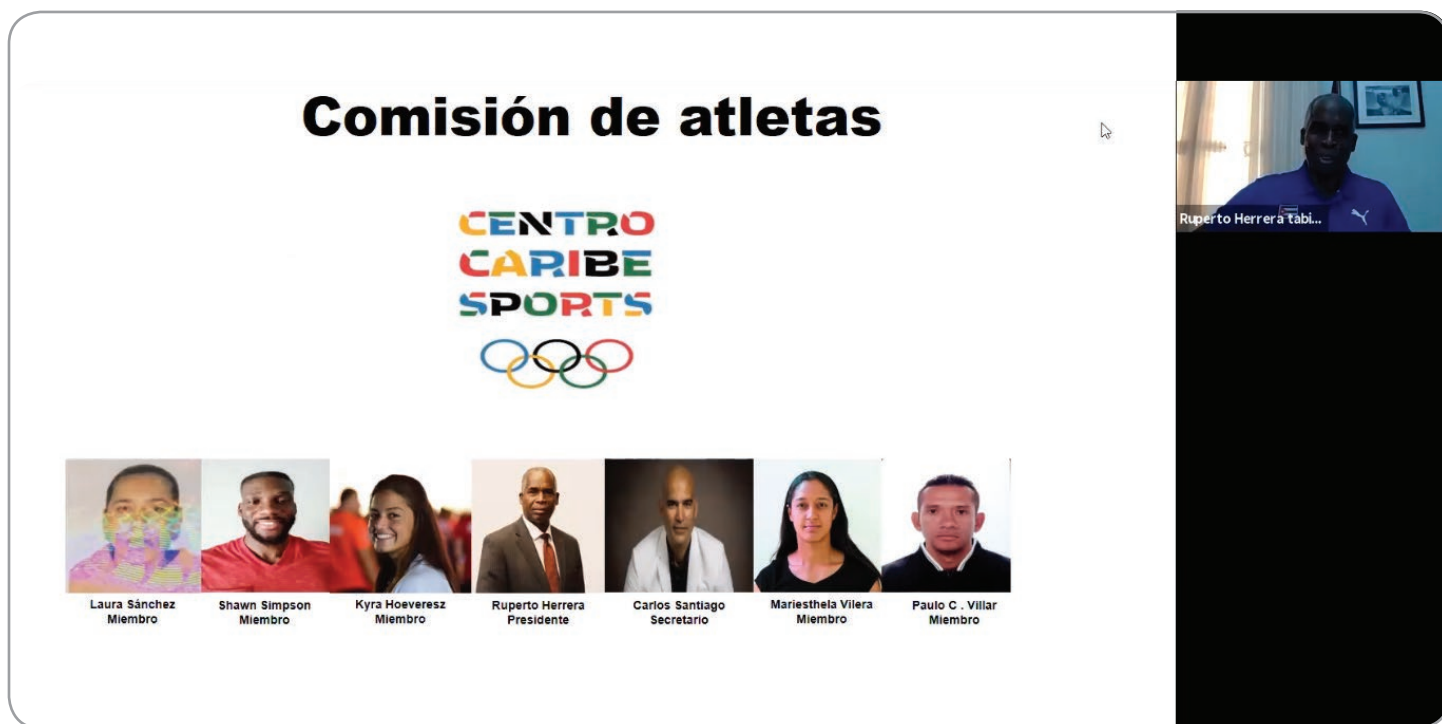
"It is a privilege having volunteered with a number of national federations to be able to contribute at this macro level and experience sports administration from a different perspective. It is not about the position, but the ability to help in any way that I can and the ability to do what is necessary regardless of



the title," Griffith stated.

President of the BOA, Sandra Osborne said, that from the outset Griffith has made her presence felt on the Board in a very positive way "I welcome Shelley to the post of Assistant Secretary General. Although she is one of the newest members of the board, she has demonstrated a depth of knowledge and creative insight that belie her quiet outward appearance. She is level-headed and hardworking, and I am confident that she will do justice to the role as the first female to take on this position." ■

Centro Caribe Sports Athletes Commission Holds First Meeting – Shawn Simpson



Captain of the Barbados National Squash and Volleyball teams, Shawn Simpson, has been appointed to the Athletes' Commission of Centro Caribe Sports, the recently rebranded Central American and Caribbean Sport Organisation, which has oversight for the Central American and Caribbean Games.

Simpson, a 2006 Central American and Caribbean Games medallist, is one of seven members of the Commission who are all active or retired athletes. He also has the distinction of being the only member of the Commission from an English Speaking country. The remaining members are Kyra Hoevertsz (Swimming) from Aruba; Laura Sánchez (Swimming) from Mexico; Mariesthela Vilera (Cycling) from Venezuela; Paulo César Villar (Athletics) from Columbia; Carlos Santiago (Judo) from Puerto Rico and Ruperto Herrera Tabio (Basketball) from Cuba, who is also chairman of the Commission.

Together, this Commission's mandate is to encourage all National Olympic Committees, under the ambit of Centro Caribe Sports, to establish Athletes' Commissions to support athletes as well as to discern the needs of the athletes in the region. That work has already started as the Commission held its first meeting on November 26, 2020 and is set to meet again in February 2021. Meetings of the Commission are expected to be held quarterly.

Speaking on his appointment, Simpson said he is honoured to be part of the Athletes' Commission, which he noted is the first for the Central American and Caribbean region.



Barbadian Shawn Simpson, member on the Athletes' Commission of Centro Caribe Sports.

"It is quite a good achievement to be a part of that and to hopefully serve the wellbeing of athletes around the region. I am an athlete and I sometimes feel that the direction of sport is really driven by administrators who might not have been athletes themselves, and sometimes the direction does not align with the actual needs of the athletes. The Commission is now where the athletes' voice can be heard and there is weight behind it. There is now a legitimate avenue to air our grievances and have them addressed in a better way."

Simpson, who also sits on the Barbados Athletes' Commission, is in favour of the establishment of athletes' commissions around the world, noting that they would facilitate more athletes having a say in the management of sports and he said, "Administrators will develop greater respect for the athletes' voice."

Reflecting on the fact that he is the sole member of the Commission from an English Speaking country, Simpson revealed that in the first meeting he expressed his desire to be the liaison between the Commission and those countries, so as to ensure that they are well represented.

Barbados has a long history of participating in the CAC Games. From 1962 to the last instalment of the multi-sport event held in 2018, the country has amassed a total of 75 medals – 14 Gold, 15 Silver and 46 Bronze. Simpson said he was pleased to have represented Barbados at the Games and is now thrilled to take that representation to another level. ■



Shawn Simpson competes against Neville Sorrentino of the British Virgin Islands during the Squash Mens Singles of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Simmons Elected to the Board of Panam Sports



The Annual General Assembly of Panam Sports, the Olympic Body responsible for the Pan American continent, was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, December 15 and Wednesday December 16.

Mr. Simmons, the Secretary General of The Barbados Olympic Association Inc. was elected to serve on the Board for the first time. He is one of Barbados' leading sports administrators. He became involved in soccer as a teenager, playing for various teams and was eventually elected to the Executive Board of the Barbados Football Association as Assistant Secretary in 1984. In 1986, he was elected an Executive Director of The Barbados Olympic Association Inc.

It has been nearly 30 years since a Barbadian served on this Board. Mr. Simmons' uncle, Michael Simmons, who with the late Louis Lynch, founded The Barbados Olympic Association Inc., was the first black man from the English-speaking Caribbean to be elected to the Panam Sports Board as Treasurer in 1975. He encouraged Erskine to become interested in the Olympic Movement which eventually led to his election to the Executive Board and eventually Secretary General of the BOA, a post which he holds to this day. Michael Simmons resigned from the Panam Sports Board in 1993.

Mr. Erskine Simmons also serves on the Panam Sports Technical Commission and is a member of the Ethics Commission of Centro Caribe Sports, formerly CACSO. ■

Ryan Brathwaite Joins CGF as Regional Development Manager for the Caribbean & Americas

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) is delighted to announce Ryan Brathwaite as the new Regional Development Manager for the Caribbean and Americas regions.

Ryan, who is joining the CGF via a part time secondment supported by Commonwealth Games Barbados, will play a key role in providing operational and strategic support across all areas of the development programme.

Commonwealth Games Barbados President Sandra Osborne QC said: "I have no doubt that Ryan will prove a real asset to the CGF and we are proud to support him in taking up this new role. It is very important that the Caribbean and Americas regions continue to be an influential voice throughout the Commonwealth, and Ryan will play a big part in helping to enable this."

Ryan Brathwaite said: "I am extremely elated and humbled to be joining the CGF family. It is a tremendous opportunity to work with such diverse sporting professionals who are committed to advancing the Commonwealth Sport Movement."

Ryan also holds the position of Senior Operations Officer of The Barbados Olympic Association Inc. ■



Going For Gold Winner



The special scratch card game designed to help support athletes in their preparation for the Olympic Games jackpot was won by Leon Harewood. Harewood purchased two \$3 scratch tickets that were randomly chosen by a cashier at Jan's Minimart in Westbury, St. Michael.

Shelly Ann Hee Chung, Site Manager at The Barbados Lottery, said that she was delighted for Harewood. "We at The Barbados Lottery warmly congratulate him on his win, not only because he has won the \$20,000 prize, but also that with his purchase he has contributed directly to the Barbados Olympic team, as the proceeds of the Going for Gold instant scratch ticket game go directly towards the support and funding of each Barbadian athlete that will participate in the Tokyo Olympic Games."

President, Sandra Osborne, joined in the congratulations noting that proceeds raised from the sale of the various Barbados Lottery games are central to the BOA's ability to fulfil its mandate as a national sporting organisation including encouraging the development of high-performance sport, and sport for all in Barbados. "We are therefore very grateful to The Barbados Lottery and all Barbadians who contribute to sport by playing these games," she said. ■



New Billboard Featuring Surfer Chelsea Tuach Unveiled

A billboard featuring Chelsea Tuach Barbados' top female surfer was erected along the perimeter of the Aquatic Centre. This is the second billboard erected in keeping with the BOA's plan to promote the achievements of our athletes and serves as a reminder of one of our strategic pillars - "Inspiring Excellence, Fueling Passion."

The other billboard features hurdler Shane Brathwaite. ■



Young Paddlers Participate in the International Canoe Federation (ICF) Paddle Challenge

The International Canoe Federation (ICF) paddle challenge was taken up by some young paddlers and their mentors at Bathsheba. This initiative was a partnership between the International Canoe Federation and Sport and Peace, which falls under the Sport For All Commission. It saw young paddlers going for 2k to successfully complete the challenge.

The challenge was aimed at performance and getting people mobilized for solidarity as the competition was merged with Sport & Peace.

Some of the other finishers were; Lance Bourne, Joshua Burke, Trent Corbin, Daniel Banfield, Ocean Gittens, Rafe Gooding, Warren Povey and Christian Stoute. ■



Andre Gittens (Secretary of Barbados Surfing Association), Anquan Christian (12), Erskine Simmons (Secretary General, BOA), Jesse Barrow (12), Sky Christian (14), Jaquan Christian (9) and Kevin Nicholls.

BOA Celebrate Caribbean Wellness Day

The Barbados Olympic Association Inc. (BOA) joined The Ministry of Health and Wellness and the National Task force on Wellness last Sunday to celebrate Caribbean Wellness Day 2020 at the Sheraton Mall.

Secretary General Erskine Simmons was on hand to speak to patrons about Sports for all. The BOA booth provided patrons with information on a number of topics including anti-doping.

There were also giveaway bags with novelty items. Minister of Health, Jeffrey Bostic was among the visitors to the BOA's booth. ■



BOA Secretary General Erskine Simmons conversing with Minister of Health, Jeffrey Bostic at the BOA's booth.

TAFISA World Walking Day: 24 hours around the globe



Young members of the Barbados Sailing Association pass the baton for World Walkign Day.

The Barbados Olympic Association Inc. (BOA) was proud to join in the Tafisa global event and to encourage local national federations to participate. Several organizations passed the baton across all time zones from east to west to celebrate the power of sport and physical activity in unifying the world during the COVID-19 crisis.

The global pandemic brought by COVID-19 has stunned our societies, grassroots sports and health systems, governments and citizens worldwide.

Defeating this pandemic is only possible if we stay connected and present a united front. This year, the TAFISA World Walking Day – 24 hours across the globe, invited persons to stand together against the global crisis which impacts us all. The new event took place everywhere on Sunday October 4 from 10am local time, connecting people by creating a wave across the world from east to west and covering all 24 time zones.

Secretary General of the BOA, Erskine Simmons said that the BOA welcomes this initiative by TAFISA. "Sport is not only about competition. Sport contributes to so many aspects of a person's well-being that we welcome every opportunity to demonstrate that sport is for all persons. We at the BOA are behind our athletes 100 percent, but we also want the public to know that sport is for all, young and old, and is one of the important strategic pillars which the BOA promotes."

Following the tradition of the TAFISA World Walking Day, the event aimed to be the most accessible and inclusive 24-hour relay around the globe. ■

Countdown to the Olympic Games



Barbados during the 2016 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony in Rio, Brasil.

The Barbados Olympic Association Inc. (BOA) joins the rest of the world in the count down to the Tokyo 2021 Olympics. For Barbados, the year 1968 would go down in history as being an important one for its sporting fraternity. It was the year that the country would make its debut at the Summer Olympics and coming just short of two years after attaining independence, it was an especially proud occasion for the island nation.

Prior to that, James Wedderburn had been the only Barbadian who had competed at the Olympics. A young Wedderburn was part of the West Indies Federation team that competed in the 4×400 meters relay in Rome and secured bronze. Eight years later Barbados, in its own right, carried nine athletes, all men, who represented the island with pride in the five sports for which they qualified – athletics, cycling, shooting, swimming, and weightlifting.

Since that appearance on the sporting world stage, Barbados has been represented at every Summer Olympic Games, except the 1980 Games. On September 23, 2000 Obadele Thompson would make history, winning the first medal for the country – a bronze. He was the only one of Barbados' 18-member team to advance to the final of not one, but two events. Oba would win the bronze medal in the men's 100 meters and place fourth in the men's 200 meters, being edged out by Trinidad and Tobago's, Ato Boldon for the third spot. This year marks the 20th anniversary of that win. For his efforts, he was conferred with the title of Ambassador and Special Envoy for Youth but the late Prime Minister, Owen Arthur. The BOA salutes Ambassador Thompson on his achievements. President of the BOA Sandra Osborne said that this achievement by Oba will be celebrated for years to come and will always be held up as a standard-bearer for athletes. She is however confident that the BOA's new strategic plan for athletes and coaches and increase corporate support for sport would help the country reap more success at this level.

Barbados is set to send a contingent to the upcoming Games. The Games were postponed this year due to the novel coronavirus pandemic and are now slated to run from July 23 to August 8, 2021, in Tokyo. ■

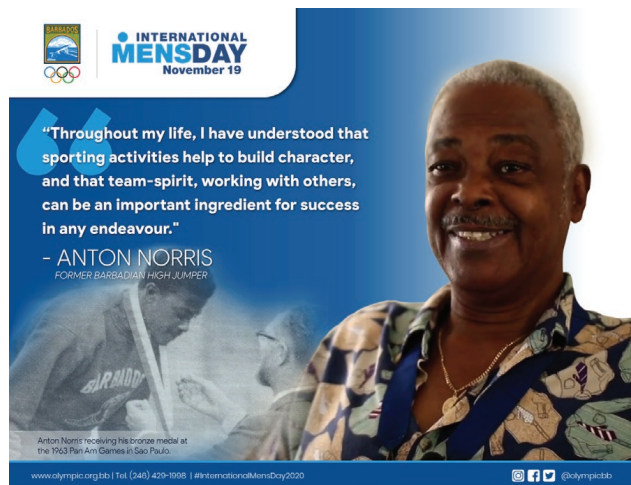
Celebrating International Men's Day



The Barbados Olympic Association Inc. (BOA) joined organisations around the world on Thursday, November 19, to celebrate International Men's Day.

Since 1999, International Men's Day (IMD) has been celebrated on November 19 every year and is recognised in approximately 80 countries globally. The day is an opportunity to pause and celebrate the diversity of men and boys and the positive contributions they make to society. It is also an occasion to highlight some of the key social issues that men and boys face worldwide.

Secretary General and Chairman of the Sport for All Commission Erskine Simmons said that in keeping with this year's theme, 'Better Health for Men and Boys', the BOA will be hosting activities to showcase the vital link between sport and one's optimum wellbeing and health. "Men and boys are considered the natural leaders of our society; however, it is not often that their total human and social development is spotlighted in a forum intended to raise the bar for what we can and should expect from them. Our activities are intended to do this and to highlight and celebrate some of the positive stride of our men and boys," Simmons said. ■



BOA Breaks Ground for the Construction of the Barbados Hockey Federation Pavilion at Wildey



The groundbreaking was done by President Osborne and witnessed by Jacqueline Gill of the TDC, Mark St. Hill, PS Howard, Craig Archer, Chairman of the BOA's Capital Works Committee and Sir Austin Sealy.

The Barbados Olympic Association Inc. (BOA) in partnership with the Barbados Hockey Federation and the Barbados Tourism Department Corporation, officially broke ground to signal the start of Phase 2 of the development of the Barbados Hockey Centre at Wildey. Over the next six months, a multi-purpose pavilion to accommodate various activities will be built on the eastern end of the Centre.

President of the BOA, Sandra Osborne in her welcome address made note that the full range of the BOA's work is unknown by many, so she welcomed every opportunity to demonstrate some of the many facets of the BOA. "Some see us as just funding athletes and fielding teams to multi-sport competitions every couple of years. Although these are important functions, we also play a vital role in funding national federations in a country which lacks serious private sector support for most of our sports. Our mandate to promote Sport in Barbados is multi-faceted, requiring us, among other avenues, to finance the growth, sustainability and proliferation of Sport on the island by leveraging relationships through our international affiliations to access funding that is available for infrastructural development," she said.

Osborne thanked her predecessor Steve Stoute who negotiated with Pan Am sports the phase one funding. This organization is again on board as she explained that 66 percent of the total cost of the Centre across the two phases was contributed by Panam Sports and the BOA combined which amounted to about three quarters of a million dollars.

Other contributors include The National Sports Council (13% towards of the total cost of the Centre through a contribution to phase one), The International Hockey Federation (12% towards the total cost of the Centre for phase one; and The Tourism Development Corporation (TDC) which contributed to both phases, making a total contribution of 9% of the total cost to date. This represents a total investment of \$1.124 million in field hockey in Barbados. ■



A 3D render of the new Hockey Pavilion to be constructed.

Thirty Graduate Level 1 Coaching Certificate



Participants and instructors (on screen) of the Level 1 NCCP course.

The Barbados Olympic Association Inc. (BOA) continued to achieve the goals set out in its strategic plan with the recent training of thirty coaches in Level 1 of the Canada-based National Coaching Certification Programme (NCCP).

The training was conducted over two weekends October 16 and 17 and October 25 and 26, 2020 at the Wildey Gymnasium, under the leadership of Instructor Wayne Parro of the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC). This is the latest training to be carried out through the collaborative efforts of the BOA and CAC, as the BOA seeks to take sports in Barbados to higher heights. ■