



Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation

NEWSLETTER

THE COMPETITIVE EDGE ~ APRIL 2022



ABOVE: The men's hurdle event at the USATF Games

U20 4x400m Bronze Medalists: Caitlyn Bobb, Ketura Bulford-Trott, Sanna Rae Morris and Za'Kayza Parsons

Bermuda National Athletics Association

USATF Bermuda Games

Bermuda National Athletic Association (BNA) in partnership with the Bermuda Tourism Authority (BTA) and the United States of America Track & Field (USATF), successfully produced the USATF Bermuda Games on April 9th, 2022.

This event featured over 140 professional athletes from all around the world. BNA is proud that every official on the track was

a Bermudian except the one international starter.

BNA and BTA were keen to have community involvement in this event and were appreciative of Athene's support for the *Fastest Kid on de Rock Race*; an event that featured sprint races for children from the ages of 5 to 17. Additionally, BNA and USATF hosted a free run, jump and throw clinic that was sponsored by the Butterfield Bank. A great weekend event for all involved.



U17 4x400m Silver Medalists: J'Naz Richards, Elise Dickinson, Madisy Bobb and Zenji Parsons



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation

Why can't we compete with Jamaica?

Despite Bermuda having a lot to celebrate after the 49th Carifta Games held in Kingston, Jamaica. One of the 1st questions, I was asked upon my return, is "Why can't we compete with Jamaica?" After the Covid cancellation of Carifta for the last two years, the Bermuda National Athletic Association (BNAA) and Bermuda athletes, like all athletes in the region had to deal with the absence of competition as the new normal. In resurrecting the program, BNAA was able to select a small, young team with a few veteran athletes in the under 20 age group to form the Bermuda 2022 Carifta team.

The leadership of the U20s was needed immediately. As one can easily imagine the U17s were awed if not star-struck as they made their way past the statues of Merlene Ottey, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, Don Quarry, and the legendary Usain Bolt. With eyes wide, mouths dry, and their hearts beating loudly in their chest, the U17s were the first to take the track at the National Stadium in Kingston.

There was also an intimidation factor, as most of the team had watched Jamaican Champs (ISSA High School Track & Field Meet) shown live on a regional sports television channel, which also took place at the National Stadium, one week prior to Carifta in front of 20,000 spectators.

Caitlyn Bobb returned for the U20 400m and battled her way onto the podium for Bermuda's 1st medal of the 49th Carifta Games, in a time of 53:95.

In the U20 males 800m, Nairobi Smith-Mills the 2019 U17 gold medalist, took to the track in the preliminaries and won his heat, in a time of 1.55.11, while his teammate, Sancho Smith produced a personal best of 1.56.22 to accompany Nairobi into the finals. In an incredibly fast final for this age level, Nairobi got boxed in by his Jamaican competitors but fought around it to produce a 4th place finish in a time of 1.52.20; while Sancho finished 6th, improving his personal best to 1.55.36.

Relays were a source of heartbreak and redemption for Bermuda's women. The 4 x 100m relay teams were agonizingly close to earning medals. In the U17 division of 4 x 100m relay, Madisyn Bobb, Elise Dickinson, J'Naz Richards, and Zenji Washington raced valiantly, placing 4th in a time of 49.50. The U20 women's team, Caitlyn Bobb, Ketura Bulford-Trott, Sanaa Rae Morris, and Za'Kayza Parson placed 4th, while setting a new National Junior Record in a time 46.13, missing the podium by 1/100th of a second!

Redemption came in the 4 x 400 relays. The U20 women's team of Sanaa Rae Morris, Ketura Bulford-Trott, Shayla Cann, and Caitlyn Bobb powered their way onto the podium with a 3rd place finish. The U17s took to the track with a medal clearly on their collective agendas. Madisyn Bobb led off holding her own with the strong field keeping the team in medal contention, she handed off to S'Nya Cumbermatch who moved the team in 3rd position during her leg and handed off to Jaeda Grant a middle-distance runner who had not raced in the 400m this year. Jaeda not only maintained the team's 3rd place in the race, but she dropped a new gear as she sprinted down the 100m meter stretch to hand off to Elise Dickinson who was not satisfied with bronze and powered the team into 2nd place and the silver medal in a time 4:03.23.

It is obvious that Bermuda athletes not only competed with the Jamaicans, but they also competed outstandingly well!



Dr. Freddie Evans

But the question remains, “Why can’t we compete with the Jamaicans” is a reoccurring question from a wide circle of people. My initial reaction would be to bristle at the questioner with a retort such as “we have 60,000 people and Jamaica has nearly 3 million, we punch way above our weight class and we do it successfully”. I know that answer is factual; but it does not help to answer the follow-up statement, “well we use to!”

Until this trip, I probably would have withdrawn from answering that question because I did have a response that would speak to the reasons why Jamaica has become a world power in athletics specifically and competitive on the international stage in other sports.

During the 49th edition of Carifta, I was introduced to the Hon. Olivia Grange, CD, MP, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment & Sport. In meeting Minister Grange, I thanked her for her country stepping in to host Carifta, and ensuring that the region could return to competition at the Carifta Games. I also congratulated the Honorable Minister on her country’s success in athletics.

Minister Grange stopped me in mid-sentence, explaining that we (Jamaica) are reaping the dividends of our investments. “We believe that investing in sports, entertainment, and youth benefits our goals of improving national health, strengthens our patriotism and love of country, improves our young people’s academic performance, and helps to decrease anti-social behaviors”. She went on to say, “of course this investment is not a panacea, but the benefits are undeniable”.

The Minister’s conversation was extremely poignant and powerful as we were in the National Stadium, at the foot of the Blue Mountains, where thousands of green, gold, and black flags were waving, the heart-beat rhythms of reggae music were blaring and Jamaican athletes were collecting medals in an abundance.

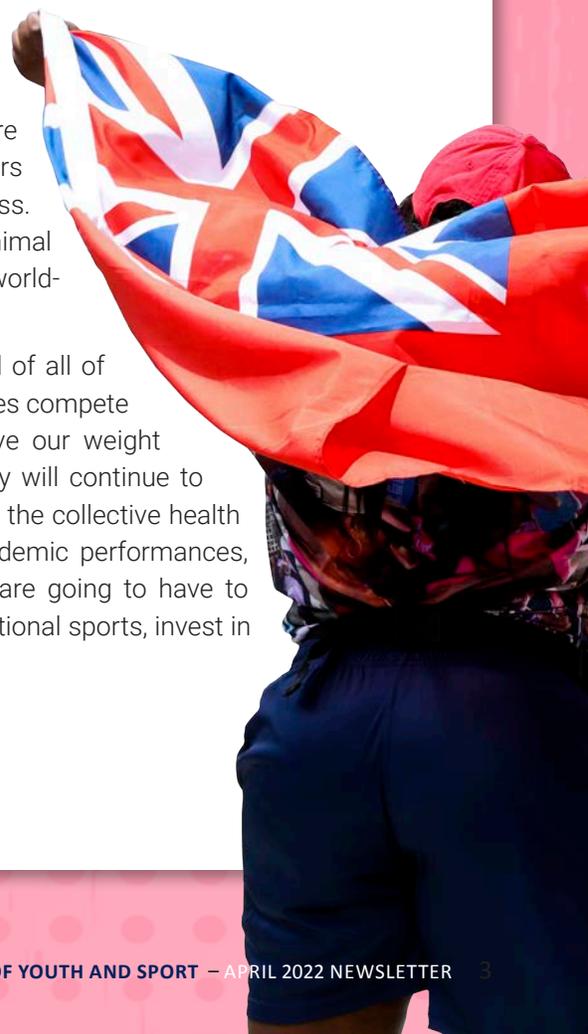
All of this, the environment, the national pride, the camaraderie, and the athletic success were dividends of Jamaicans’ investment in youth, culture, entertainment, and sport. Investors put financial plans, and property, in place and nurture their investments with patience to achieve profits or in this case success.

Conversely, our youth, culture, entertainment, and sports investment are analogous to playing the lottery; lottery players drop a couple of dollars and hope for a win. Lottery playing is not a strategy for long-term success. Bermuda has celebrated world-class success in arenas, despite the minimal investment, sort of like hitting the lottery. But like lottery winners that world-class success is not sustainable.

I am extremely proud of our Carifta athletes’ success, I am also proud of all of the local sports governing bodies that continue to help Bermudian athletes compete regionally and internationally. Bermuda continues to punch way above our weight class, we compete intensely with everyone; however, playing the lottery will continue to lead to moderate and episodic success. If we are ever going to improve the collective health of the country, minimize anti-social and violent behavior, improve academic performances, establish and improve national pride and compete with Jamaica we are going to have to follow the Jamaican formula...invest, invest in school sports, invest in national sports, invest in entertainment and culture and invest in our youth.

Dr. Freddie Evans

President of the Bermuda National Athletic Association



Bermuda Boxing Federation

Bermuda Boxing Federation seeks Designs for National Team Uniform

The Bermuda Boxing Federation (BBF) launches competition for new competition uniform design.

Following a rule change by the International Boxing Association (IBA), which is the international governing body for the sport of boxing, the Bermuda Boxing Federation seeks designers to create its team uniform which athletes of our national boxing team will wear during competition. Design packs with instructions and pantones are available for interested designers. Interested

participants are invited to contact the federation via email at bermudaboxingfed@gmail.com. The winning design will be selected after a public consultation period and will receive monetary compensation for their work. The Bermuda Boxing Federation requests designs for its national uniform to be submitted via email starting May 1st until June 30th at 5pm.



TOP: Bermuda Basketball team League Champions “The Reapers” the first championship game since 2019.
INSET: Gershon Kurt the Bermuda Basketball league “Best Rebounder” and Jorel Smith the Bermuda Basketball League “Best Passer” and the championship game “MVP”

Bermuda Basketball Association

On April 2nd, 2022, the Bermuda Basketball League (BBL) finals were held at Cedarbridge Academy. After an exciting playoff where there were two big upsets, the ‘Franchise’ defeating the ‘Answer’ in the first round and the ‘Black Mambas’ defeated playoff favorites the ‘Young Goats’ in the semifinals. This set up the Finals between the Reapers and the Black Mambas. It was an exciting game with the Reapers coming out on top by a score of 59-43 and there were a few awards handed out the night. The league MVP was Yusef Tejour Riley. The league’s top scorer was Jahzion Lugo averaging 19 pts per game. The Top rebounder was Gershon Kurt averaging 17 rebounds per game. The Finals MVP was Jorel Smith with 15 points 2 assists and 1 steal.

For anyone interested in playing basketball or volunteering, please feel free to email bermudabasketball@gmail.com or visit our website www.bermudabasketball.net.

Bermuda Cricket Board

March was a busy month for the Bermuda Cricket Board as we prepare for another exciting cricket season both domestically and internationally.

Starting with our new Women’s Indoor Cricket Programme, facilitated by BCB Development Chair, Ms. Kellie Smith. The programme has seen just over 50 players, some new and some experienced — all eager to advance in the sport. Sessions have been skills and drills focused, supported by the ICC’s Criioo cricket initiative and have concluded with soft-ball T10 matches. To register for women’s cricket, players can sign up using the following link:

Registration for the 2022 Youth Cricket Leagues launched, with the first matches being hosted in April until June for U8, U11, U13 and U16. Players can sign up here: <https://cricketbermuda.com/2022-youth-leagues-player-registration-form/>

The BCB also hosted our annual Easter Action Cricket Camp during spring break at Whitney Institute School. A great time was had by all! Many thanks to our coaches and staff and Chubb Bermuda for sponsoring this programme and for being a long-term supporter of our youth programmes.

Bermuda Football Association

The Bermuda Football Association is proud to announce the travelling squad for the Concacaf W U17 Championship (CWU17) held in Dominican Republic. Bermuda was drawn into Group F of the CWU17 Championship in November 2021, with Jamaica, Dominican Republic and Canada.

The travelling Bermuda U17 Women's squad is as follows:

Goalkeepers: Samantha Davies, Daniell Simons, Dominique Brown

Defenders: Samara Darrell, Jahni Simmons, Sarai Richardson, Zorena Anderson, Keidel Astwood, Christia Lugo-Elibox

Midfielders and Forwards: Sanaa Simmons, Katelyn Medeiros, Ramiah Brangman, Robin-Valana Pearman, K,Xiyae Gibbons, Ashley DaSilva, Brittany Pacheco, Jahde Simmons, Camryn Lines, Azari Easton

Bermuda Football Association Makes History

The Bermuda Football Association is proud to announce that for the first time ever, three FIFA Females officiated a Cup Final in Bermuda.

Crystal Sobers from Trinidad and Tobago was in the middle, while Stephanie Yee Sing from Jamaica and Bermuda's Natasha Trott were the Referee Assistants. They officiated the Friendship Trophy Final between Dandy Town Hornets and Devonshire Cougars on Wednesday, April 20, at the Flora Duffy South Field Stadium.

Appleby Youth Finals

Four finals were played starting with the U13 B Division final between Somerset Cricket Club (SCC) and FC Bascome Gold. FC Bascome Gold secured the U13B Final victory with two goals over SCC. The two goals were scored by Rajee Knights-Rowling, and Tom Hyland. Patrick Dill was named the MVP for SCC and Jack Fisher was MVP for FC Bascome Gold.

The U13A final kicked-off at 2pm with Warwick Archers and Dandy Town Hornets. Archers took the lead in the 23rd minute with a goal from Syhon Goater. Dandy Town equalized 10 minutes with a goal from Azende Trott. Amari Smith scored a second for Archers just before the half with a free kick. Kennahz Fray equalized in



TOP: Bermuda's FIFA Female Referees: Crystal Sobers, Stephanie Yee Sing and Natasha Trott
BOTTOM: Dandy Town U13A Appleby Champions



the 53th minute of the match sending the match to a penalty shootout after full time. Dandy Town would go on to win 5-4 on penalties. Keori Binns Leverock was named MVP for Archers and Curtis Jackson Jr. was named MVP for the U13A Champions, Dandy Town.

The U15 final would see Warwick Archers take on FC Bascome. After a back-and-forth match, the game ended 1-1 with goals from Nyan Grant, with a long-range effort to put Archers in the lead, and an equalizer from Jutore Burgess. The match

was sent to a penalty shootout that ended 5-4 to Archers. Jutore Burgess was named MVP for FC Bascome and Malachi Henry was the MVP for Warwick Archers.

The final match of the day was Warwick Archers vs Somerset Cricket Club (SCC) for the U17 final. Warwick Archers would go on to win the match 7-0 with a hat trick from Daniel Cook, and goals from Tajai Goater, Niyan Outerbridge, Ande Simons, and Andre Mussenden. SCC MVP of the match was Kymani McNeil. Daniel Cook was named the MVP for Warwick Archers.

Bermuda Sanshou Association Wushu Taolu athletes looking to shine at regional championships

Wushu Taolu athletes Errin Cann and Kaelin Cox will be looking to make a strong showing for Bermuda at the 13th Pan American Wushu Championships being held in Brasilia, Brazil from July 21st – 25th. Taolu is the set routine (form) portion of Taolu. Bermuda Sanshou Association (BSA) is known for competing in san da (Chinese Kickboxing), however over the last 18 months, as part of the Wushu Development Program, BSA has been making strides to be competitive at an international level in Taolu as well. With Wushu being featured in the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal, Bermuda is making a real push to qualify for the Games.

Errin Cann, who is just turning 10, currently appears to have Bermuda's strongest chance at qualification. The recent Government Sports Awards Junior Achievement Award winner is spending many hours per week training online with California based coaches Stephanie Lim and Nathan Andrus-Hughes. Errin has also traveled twice to Elite Kungfu in Fremont for intensive training during her most recent summer and Easter school breaks. During the winter school break, Errin competed alongside Wushu coach and competitor Kaelin Cox at the Phoenix Wushu Nationals where she won the Jianshu (straight sword) and claimed silver in the Changquan (Longfist) division. She also placed fourth and ninth in the US Wushu Mock Trials against US national Wushu team members. It was Errin's first time competing internationally and showed that she is very much on track to qualify for the Games in 2026.

Kaelin Cox claimed gold at the same event in Nanquan (southern fist). Veteran competitor Cox is looking to compete for the first time regionally in modern Wushu, with his past showing being in traditional kung fu. Cox is training regularly with Wushu coach Adriano Lourenco da Silva from Brazil who spent three months in Bermuda as part of the Wushu Development Program back in 2020. Lourenco da Silva is a southern fist specialist and is a key element to helping Cox reach the podium. Cox intends to compete in Nan Quan as well as Nan Gun (southern staff) at the Pan American Championships in July.



Errinn Cann receives the Junior Achievement Award at the Government Sports Awards event.

Cox has joined forces with Jecoa Burrows to head up the Youth Wushu Program at Aries Sports Center. The Wushu program was kick started during Coach Adriano's visit and has steadily grown. Four of the youth Wushu program athletes took part in the 2022 Bodhidharma Zenji-ryu Shiai back in March and did extremely well competing for the first time. Coach Burrows has been key to Cann's development and in addition to leading the youth Wushu, has been spending hours overseeing her online sessions.

National Archery Association of Bermuda

Archery is now in its outdoor season where event distances would start at 30m, 50m, 60m and 70m. Archers participate in a weekly competition organized in Belgium and is open to archers around the world. Our juniors have done well during the month of April 2022 in these weekend competitions. Jaydon Roberts has competed in the men's 70m recurve division and for the past three weeks held 1st place position. Robin Selley has competed in the women's recurve division and for the past three weeks has two 2nd place position and one 3rd place position.

In May 2022, World Archery Americas is sending a coach to Bermuda to further develop our coaches and archers for one week. This coaching and training will be very beneficial preparing our team for the upcoming Hyundai World Cup Qualifier in July 2022 and the numerous other competitions for 2022. Mr. Phil Graves is a USA Archery Level 4 NTS Coach, Coach Trainer and Level 3 National Judge. Within World Archery Americas he is the Chairman for the Development Committee and the Head Coach for Geneva Archery. We are excited for this opportunity.



TOP: BTA Good Friday Home Event

RIGHT: Kent Richardson at the Xterra World Championships.

Bermuda Triathlon Association

The first event of the BTA Season – Good Friday Home Event – The BTA would like to congratulate all the athletes who came out to start the season off with the traditional Good Friday Home Event Triathlon. It was great to see so many old and equally so many new faces. The overall winner was Alex Waldauer, and first female was Nicole Mitchel. This year saw the event go back to John Smiths Bay, and conditions were beautiful. The bike and run course were a little different due to the ongoing road works everywhere, but this created a 4 loop circuit meaning athletes had support throughout the bike course. The BTA would also like to thank the volunteers who helped keep us safe, kept time and cheered loudly.

Kent Richardson Advances to Xterra World Championship

Kent competed in the Xterra Malta in the Male 60 – 64 Age Group Division. Richardson clocked a winning time of 3:38.16. Richardson had a time of 29:49 on the Swim, 1:57.38 on the Bike, and then clocked a 1:07.58 on the Run Course. This result secured him a spot in the World Championships!



Bermuda Volley Ball Association



Rhode Island Rumble - U15



Rhode Island Rumble - U16



Rhode Island Rumble - U13

Bermuda Volley Ball Association cont'd

April was a busy month for the Bermuda Volleyball Association, as we finally saw the return of numerous pre-COVID events! The BDA Spirits Spring League kicked off on Monday, April 4th. This year's league consists of 18 recreational teams and 12 competitive teams who play every Monday night at NVCC for 8 weeks, with the finals night scheduled to take place on May 23rd. This is the first year we have been able to host this league since spring 2019 and are very happy to be back on the field.

Also making its return after 3 years was the Annual Corporate Tournament, which took place at NVCC on Saturday, April 23rd. A total of 12 teams were divided into two rungs, where they battled it out in a round-robin format before reaching the single-elimination playoffs. Road Runner Trucking's team, "RR Nuts" took home first place after defeating Conyers in the finals, with Chubb winning the third-place game over Saltus. All winning

teams took home prizes generously donated from sponsors BDA Spirits, Docksidiers and Barritt's.

Turning to international competition, the junior girl's national teams made history by bringing home several medals from Rhode Island. The BVA sent a total of five teams – U13, U14, U16, U17 and U18 – to the Rhode Island Rumble, which took place in Providence, RI over two weekends in April.

During Weekend #1, the Girls U17 team ended the tournament by placing 1st in the Bronze Bracket while the Girls U18 team placed 3rd overall, earning them the overall Bronze Medal for the entire division! This is the first time that a Bermuda Volleyball team has made it to the gold medal round at a USA Volleyball sanctioned event and earned a medal for their efforts. During Weekend #2, the Girls U13 team took 1st place in the Silver Bracket and came 5th overall. We are so incredibly proud of the performances of all teams!



Corporate Tournament 1st place - RR Nuts



Corporate Tournament 2nd place - Conyers

Gymnastics Federation of Bermuda Gymnastics Federation of Bermuda Highlights

Guest Coach and Clinician from Canada, Rick McCharles, returned to Bermuda to assist in a number of important events.

March 18-19, Bermuda International Challenge Competition

Bermuda Gymnastics Association (BGA) hosted their annual BIGC competition which had all BGA gymnasts compete for the 1st time since the beginning of the pandemic.

April 2-3, Bermuda Invitational Competition

The Gymnastics Federation held their 1st Annual Gymnastics Meet at the Flora Duffy National Stadium which had all our gymnasts on the island from USAG Level 2 to Level 8 compete. Unfortunately the weather did not agree with us and we had to relocate at the last minute to the BGA facility for the Saturday, but were able to compete under the tent on the Sunday and it was a spectacular event for all involved.

Quality Gymnastics left the following weekend to participate in the Princess Classic 2022 Meet in New York. This was the 1st meet for many of their aspiring gymnasts. The girls did great and fun was had by all!



April 10, Coaching Clinic at Bermuda Gymnastics Association

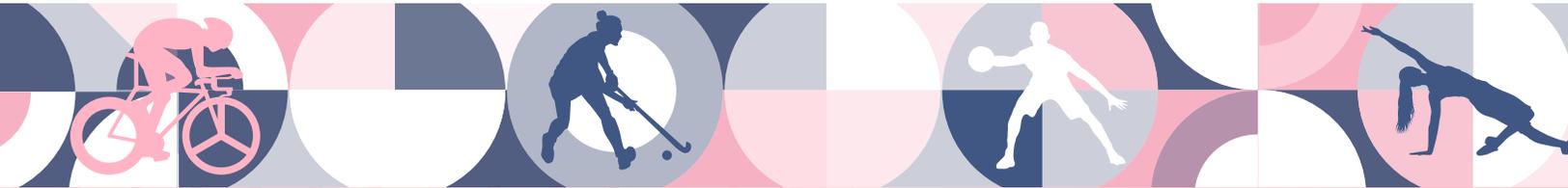
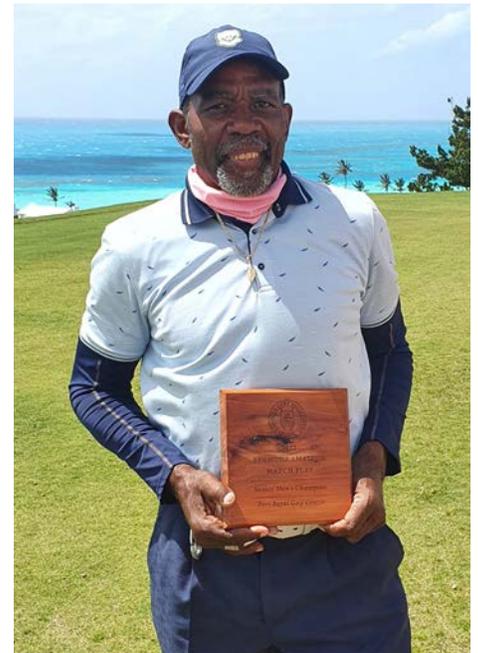
Coach Rick and Anna Belada led an Advanced Recreational and Competitive Basic coaching clinic along with introducing trampoline to a few select gymnasts. All of these events were live and in person. It's wonderful to see athletes back into the swing of the *new normal* post-pandemic.

Bermuda Golf Association

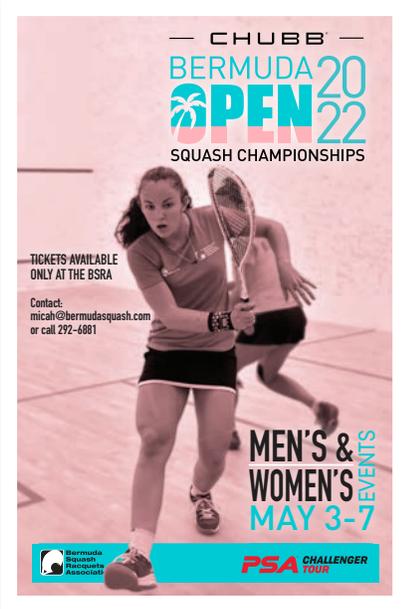
The Bermuda Match Play Championships were played at Port Royal Golf Course on Friday, 8th – Sunday, 10th April. There were three days of tough conditions, particularly during the final round when the winds were SW in the region of 25-35knots. The Men’s Champion was Jarryd Dillas after defeating Jevon Roberts (4 & 2) in a closely contested match.

In the Senior Men’s Division, Calvin Hendrickson was victorious after beating Chris Philllips (6 & 4).

RIGHT: Congratulations to Jarryd Dillas on becoming the 2022 Men’s Champion and Calvin Hendrickson on winning the Senior Men’s Championship Division.



2022 UPCOMING EVENTS



Bermuda Squash Racquets Association

CHUBB Bermuda Open 2022 Squash Championships May 3-7:
 Tickets available at BSRA micah@bermudasquash.com or call 441-292-6881



Bermuda Netball Association



Bermuda Triathlon Association

Clarien Kids Triathlon – Clarien Bank announced that the 32nd Annual Clarien Iron Kids Triathlon is scheduled to return on Saturday, June 18th, 2022. Bermuda Triathlon Association President Sharon Hammond said, “Our goal is to continue to inspire the junior triathlon spirit in our community, and we encourage children of every ability and experience level to participate. Our team is excited

that the event has returned, and we are committed to providing a safe environment for kids to compete, have fun and gain first-hand, junior triathlon experience.”

Children ages 3 to 15 are invited to compete for a chance to win up to a \$1,000 Clarien Iron Kids Bank account. Event registration will open on May 31st and you can sign up here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Info/BM/StDavids/ClarienBankIronKidsTriathlon>



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