



2022 President's Report

I first wish to thank my committee for its total support over the last year due to my overseas travel on several occasions, along with the many volunteers who assisted us to ensure the smooth operations of this Association.

We took responsibility for the Association during very tough economic times when none of our tournaments had sponsorship and Covid-19 was still with us. We were however very pleased with the support from our membership with their full participation in all the events on our calendar, we are exceedingly thankful.

We decided then to concentrate on getting our tournament schedule organized and immediately set the dates for three tournaments, namely the BGA Challenge in March, the Open in September, and the BGA Classic in November. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, we were unable to stage the President's Putter at Royal Westmoreland or the New Year Hamper at Rockley. We are looking forward to having these two events on our 2023 calendar.

Support Structures

Support from the management of the Barbados Golf Club (BGC) has been invaluable for our tournaments, national trials, and Junior program in partnership with the David Marshall Academy. We also appreciate the support from Royal Westmoreland (RWM) in providing scholarships to deserving BGA Junior golfers, Sandy Lane in giving full access to the Old-9 for our national trials and Rockley in providing a number of membership opportunities.

The Barbados Olympic Association (BOA) continues to be of major financial support, assisting elite golfers with travel to international championships, development of our Junior programs and the administration of the Association. We are hoping to have more involvement from the National Sports Council this year and in the future to assist with the BGA's Summer Golf Camp which we have conducted over the last 10 years as part of their Youth Development program.

Junior Golf Development

An area has been identified at the Barbados Golf Club, to the west of the driving range, which we will continue to develop to assist with our Junior program. Further work is required to net-off the area for the safety of the players, shape a chipping and putting area and revive the existing bunker. This area will be maintained in partnership with BGC. We have received some funding for this project; however, it is not adequate to complete the project. To this end we are appealing to you our members, corporate Barbados and friends of golf to assist us in realizing this goal. Funding is still required to erect a covered area to shelter the players from the elements, a water cooler and poles to secure the netting.

As part of our Junior golf development program, we hosted the NSC's summer camp again this year with 20 players, over a six-week period which was conducted by the David Mashall Academy and ably assisted by a number of coaches. The summer camp concluded with an exciting drive, chip, and putt competition which was enjoyed by all.

Based on past experience and the success derived in producing a cadre of elite golfers, the BGA strongly believes that there is a need to reintroduce a part-time professional coach to our Junior development program. We see this as key to golf development at all levels if we are to send competitive teams to Caribbean and international championships and return with creditable performances. We commend our existing coaches for the work they have done over the years; however, it is evident that we need to undertake further enhancement and retooling at the development stage. We will continue to engage our partners as we seek to realize this goal.

Administration

During the year under review, we undertook some initiatives aimed at improving the administration of the Association and enhancing our service to you, our members.

The website was revamped to provide more direct access for viewer interaction, timely information, and a ready interface with social media platforms for the dissemination of BGA activities. Tournament-registration was moved online which allows the event coordinators to have access to real time information which enhances the management process.

We upgraded our accounting system from spreadsheets to QuickBooks, this task was completed expeditiously by our Honorary Treasurer Patricia Brathwaite Marshall and Vice-president David Phillips who worked tirelessly and in time to produce the 2022 financial statements. The benefits are significant as financial transactions can be easily entered, processed, tracked, reconciled and reports generated.

We enhanced the processing of our online membership renewals and GHIN administration to add efficiencies, reduce processing time and do so more securely as renewals can be viewed in real time. This also gives the Association access to current data and to minimize the inconvenience to members whose membership card may be in transit but want to play at a course that is offering a BGA discount. The pro-shop now has the option of viewing a member's list on our website to validate a member status.

The introduction of the Golf Genius Tournament Management computer program for our Open and Classic championships provided an online platform where players had access to timely information related to ongoing tournament activity such as notices, rules, tee times and results. Scores were entered in a live environment with the leaderboard displayed on a large screen and results available on the BGA's website and championship portal for world-wide viewing.

International Championships

We were able to send partial teams to the championships hosted by the Caribbean Golf Association. Although the overall results were not spectacular, we had some notable individual performances. The Junior Championships in Puerto Rico saw Emily Odwin being declared Joint Champion in the Girls 18 and under division. Another notable performance was Mariella Young who finished 4th in the Under 13 girls' division in her maiden championship.

Turks & Caicos hosted the Caribbean Golf Association Amateurs Championships. Emily was 5 shots down going into the final day, played remarkably to finish second in a battle which saw the pendulum swing between The Cayman Islands and Barbados. William Jacobsen was our best performing male in the championships.

Our team to the Latin America Amateur Championship in Puerto Rico turned in creditable performances with Simon Proverbs making the cut, the first Barbadian player to do so in the 7-year history of the event. We will continue to provide coaching, competition, and other support opportunities to further develop players to go way beyond making the cut requirement.

Emily Odwin was invited to participate in the Women's Amateur Latin America Championship in Argentina, her very creditable performance earned her a final position in the top 10, a remarkable achievement for a very competitive field. She has been accepted to a college in Texas and from all reports has transitioned well to the new environment. The BGA and its members join me in wishing her every success in her future endeavors.

Ashton O'Kola, a 6-year-old player continues to excel on the international amateur circuit. For their hard work and successes Emily and Ashton were awarded Junior Sports Persons of the year by the National Sports Council.

Future Plans

One of our major goals this year is to solicit greater participation from our membership in the administration of the BGA. The current committee comprises 7 members and it can be a challenge to effectively manage the affairs of the Association with limited resources some of whom have fulltime professions. We intend to setup sub-committees within the current structure to assist in the areas of Sponsorship, Tournament management, Junior Golf development and Marketing. We will be seeking your assistance in these areas during the year.

Any sporting activity will require proper management and execution if it is to be a success. With the limited resources mentioned above, we are looking to build a cadre of volunteers especially in the areas of player registration, starting, score entry, on course management and web portal administration. We will also spearhead a campaign to achieve this objective early in the new year.

Although some work has started on the area for Junior golf as mentioned above, we intend to continue to develop the area and complete that project in time for the Summer Camp in July 2023.

Because of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on sport in general, we anticipate its abatement in 2023, for this reason we will look to add more tournaments to our 2023 calendar to enhance the competitive spirit of our members and to give our elite golfers more opportunities to achieve World Ranking points. Entry to most international championships is now based on a player's ranking, this initiative will be pursued at both the Junior and Senior levels.

Over the years and the intervening impact of Covid-19, we have gradually lost the relationships that were solidly built with our partners in the business community, local clubs and our membership. The Association sees this infrastructure as critical to the continued work of the BGA in developing golf at all levels across the island. We need to achieve higher levels of

sponsorship, more participation in our efforts from local clubs and of course greater involvement of our members not only in tournaments but in the affairs of the Association.

Thank You/Acknowledgement

The Executive Committee: Vice President-David Phillips, Honorary Treasurer-Patricia Brathwaite-Marshall, Honorary Secretary-Gail Fields, Honorary Secretary/Treasurer-Zerina Belgrave, Ordinary members-Ivan Codrington, Trenton Weekes and Immediate Past President-Trevor Tasker.

Honorary Auditor: Gordon Walker

Our Partners

Barbados Olympic Association, Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc., Barbados Beach Club, Butterfly Beach Resort, Soco, SOL, National Sports Council, the R&A, Barbados Golf Club, Royal Westmoreland, Sandy Lane, Rockley, Apes Hill, Massy Distribution, 1966 Bajan Rum, Hi-Tech Welding & Fabrication Services, Leacock's Equipment Rentals, Axe Solutions Inc. Sirrom SLD Productions, Barbados Jazz Excursion & Golf Weekend, Mount Gay, Sagicor, Mimosa, The St. Lawrence Tabu, Island Medical Supplies.