



## ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT (2018)

### INTRODUCTION

This past year saw the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) on the road to recovery, from the Hurricanes of the previous years, with the resumption of our Grassroots, Youth and Senior Football Programmes. The TCIFA also saw the return of The Masters League, which was welcomed by massive support at the weekly games and, the return of International Football to our National Academy. Most significantly, the TCIFA successfully hosted the Nations League and 2 International Games at our National Academy. Focus has also been renewed in the continued growth of our Female Program, with the appointment of Yunelsis Rodriguez Baez as the Director of Women's Football.

Our primary objective of growing and developing the sport of football in the Turks and Caicos Islands is being achieved in significant increments, but we still have some way to go. We remain optimistic, however, that with the help of our diligent staff on and off the field, our committed parents, enthusiastic players and our generous and conscientious stakeholders, we will get there.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee continues to work tirelessly throughout the year. Following the 2018 AGM, The Executive Committee consisted of:

- President - Sonia Fulford
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Paul Slattery
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Candace Hanchell
- Finance Director - Ryan Blain
- Executive Director 1 - Steve Kendrew
- Executive Director 2 - Paula Garland
- Executive Director 3 - Patrice Senior
- Member - Indrani Saunders
- Member - Tamara Hall
- Member - Benneth Williams

The Secretariat consists of Oliver Smith as General Secretary and Candia Ewing as Marketing and Communications Coordinator, with shared responsibility in Public Relations and Media. To assist in areas of daily finance, the TCIFA utilizes the services of WB Financial. The beginning of 2019 saw the addition of Zekeya Hall as the Executive Assistant to the Office of the President and General Secretary.

President Fulford continues to serve as a Council Member of FIFA and the Female Member on the Concacaf Council. Additionally, President Fulford sits on the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Football Union, the Concacaf Football Committee and the FIFA Member Associations Committee.

Oliver Smith continues to serve on the Concacaf Appeals Committee, the FIFA Appeals Committee and the CFU Legal Committee.



### FUNDRAISING/SPONSORSHIPS/EVENTS

One of the Turks & Caicos Islands Football Association's (TCIFA) most anticipated community-based fund-raising events, Walk-Run-Ride, was successfully held at the TCIFA National Academy on Saturday, April 21st, 2018. With a new route via Venetian Road to Turtle Tail. A 5K and 10K walk/run and a 32K cycle distances introduced in 2018, this event kicked off our fundraising activities for the year, as it does each year, with the funds gleaned utilized in our Youth Development Football Programs. In 2018, the Walk-Run-Ride Event attracted in excess of 250 participants.

The TCIFA had its first Corporate Football Tournament. This was a Co-ed event hosted at our National Academy on the morning of Saturday September 15th, 2018 under a theme "Kick For A Cause". Again, this event was aimed at sourcing funds for our Youth Programmes. This inaugural event was won by a team from the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force.

The TCIFA Golf Scramble returned to Provo Golf Club in Providenciales on Sunday, November 4th, 2018. Over 92 participants and 23 teams attended the event, raising over \$15,000.00. Through this platform, we are able to support youth tournaments such as the inter-island youth competitions, school tournaments, showcases, identification camps, and also provide some access to scholarship funding for dedicated players.

### MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Over the past year, the TCIFA has experienced a strong growth in participation and active visits and hits to our various social media platforms. We have developed the digital capability to ensure effective connection with our community, utilizing technology to support this growth and innovation. The TCIFA continues to disseminate good-quality information to the wider community through all available media platforms.

There has been an increase in traffic on the TCIFA social media handles, i.e. 21% on Facebook, 41% on Instagram, and 81% on Twitter since June 2018. The TCIFA official website has encountered over 19K views in 2018.

Partnerships are important to us, helping us to expand our reach, and carry out our mission of developing football across the country. We intend to continue to strengthen relationships with the corporate sector, and explore new ways to offer our partners more opportunities to participate in additional initiatives. It gives us great pleasure, to join Fortis TCI in launching the 3<sup>rd</sup> season of the youth league in Providenciales and the 2<sup>nd</sup> season for our sister island programmes during April 2019.

We have sustained our relationships with all long standing partners, including Digicel, T&C Refreshments, and F Chambers. We were also able to to forge new partnerships, such as our new alliance with D&B Auto who acted as the headline sponsor for our inaugural Corporate Football Tournament.

### NATIONAL ACADEMY

This past year saw the TCIFA continuing on its path to improve and update the facilities at our National Academy. With the assistance of FIFA, via the FIFA Forward Program, and Hurricane Assistance Initiative we were able to:



- Install Bleacher Seating with the capacity to host approximately 650 spectators
- Install Flood Lighting on the Grass Turf
- Installed a hard standing surface around the perimeter of our Grass Field

Additionally, through a joint initiative with Concacaf, UEFA, and the Swedish Football Association, we were able to install spectator seating at our Beach Soccer Pitch.

Plans are afoot to further improve the Facility with installation of signage, an electronic scoreboard, futsal pitch, replacement of the existing turf and grass surface. It is anticipated that these projects will be funded through the FIFA Forward Program and the hope is to have them completed in 2019.

Given the improvements to the Facility and the accompanying need for consistent maintenance, a decision was taken to hire a Facility Supervisor. Mr. Davis Seymour was engaged and he commenced duties in January of 2019.

#### COACHING AND COACHING EDUCATION

With the new FIFA Forward Program, FIFA has shifted the onus to Member Associations to conduct their own courses with FIFA providing some assistance in that regard. As such, this resulted in a decrease in the amount of FIFA facilitated courses this past year. Nonetheless, the TCIFA, were able to host and conduct the following courses and initiatives:

- FIFA Advanced Beach Soccer Course in March of 2018: The course was conducted by Angelo Schirinzi. Mr. Schirinzi, who coaches the Switzerland National Beach Soccer Team, has made over 19 appearances in the history of FIFA Beach Soccer Tournaments. He has also participated as a Coach at the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup 2013 in Tahiti. Sixteen (16) candidates participated in this course which included a mixture of established coaches, players and new comers. They all successfully completed the course.
- Women's Advanced Coaching Course in April of 2018: Andrea Rodebaugh, Manager of Club Tijuana in the Liga MX Femenil, returned to the Turks and Caicos Islands to conduct the Advanced Women's Coaching Course on Providenciales. Participants were exposed to key aspects pertinent to coaching players in the Girls and Women's programme. The intense four-day course involved both theory and technical sessions, with a guarantee high quality coaching education.
- As part of its continuing Guest Coaches Program, the TCIFA, in April of 2018, invited Katherine Stackel from New York, USA to conduct clinics with the TCIFA Women's Program. Coach Stackel conducted sessions with the Girls U11, U13, U15 and Women's National Team Programmes. Coach Stackel is a very experienced coach having coached football at a High School level in New York for over 29 years. She led her team to the State's Class D championship in 2015, the programme's third title and first since 1993. Stackel was awarded one of twenty-two National Coaches of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations Coaches Association in 2017 for the period 2015-2016. The females in our program greatly benefited from these 4 days of Coaching
- Coming out of the Train the Trainer's Course, and pursuant to the directives of Concacaf, the TCIFA was mandated to conduct our own Concacaf D License Course. This was done during the period October 4-7, 2018 and consisted of 10 Candidates. All the Candidates were successful in achieving a pass mark for the course.



- Concacaf “C” License Course held in Florida: The TCIFA sent 3 Candidates: Dane Ritchie, Damien Grant and Marlon Turner. Coaches Grant and Turner were successful in completing the course and was awarded the C License. Coach Ritchie needs to complete an additional unit in order to be awarded the License and is in the process of addressing this, with the expectation that he will receive the license later this year.
- Guest Coach Rohan Narine from Mississippi Valley State University visited from November 25 to December 2, 2018 and conducted training sessions with the women's group.

This year saw the move towards a re-organization of the Technical Department. The TCIFA recognized a need for more qualified and experienced coaches and a crucial necessity to address the Women’s Program. A decision was made not to renew the contract of the incumbent Technical Director, but to conduct a search for a new Technical Director, to hire a minimum of 3 Certified and Experienced Coaches, and to hire an individual charged with the responsibility of guiding our Women’s Football Program. Certain individuals were identified, which saw the TCIFA engaging a new Technical Director (Andrew Edwards) and 2 new coaches (Omar Edwards and Aaron Lawrence). These individuals commenced their duties in February 2019. Additionally, the TCIFA appointed Yunelsis Baez Rodrigues as the Director of Women’s Football. She commenced her duties in December of 2018.

#### REFEREES DEPARTMENT

2018 was again another year where our Referees were active in all the various football leagues, tournaments and games in the Turks and Caicos Islands. They officiated the following:

- Fortis Youth League
- Provo Premier League
- Caicos United Soccer League
- Masters League
- Fortis Youth Leagues
- Inter-Island Tournaments

In a continued effort to upgrade the level of the referees and further as part of the recruiting and continuing education program, the following occurred:

- Beginner/Intermediate Referee Course held on December 7<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The Instructor was former FIFA Referee Dianne Ferreira-James and we had participants from Providenciales and North Caicos.
- Consistent fitness twice weekly fitness sessions (Mondays and Wednesdays)
- Weekly Technical Sessions
- Recording of matches which are then utilized for review and training of the Referees
- Equipping the match officials with beep flags and headsets
- The recruiting and development of Youth Referees. This continues to gain momentum as more youths become interested in refereeing. The Referee Department utilizes these young Referees to officiate in the various age group tournaments and of note is that we now have Youth referees from North Caicos and recently from the Long Bay High School in Providenciales.



- The pursuit and resurrection of an active Referees Committee. Currently this Committee consists of Patrice Senior, Dane Ritchie and Gianni Ascani. These members act as Referees Assessors and provide verbal guidance to the younger Referees at games and otherwise.

Of note this year was the appointment of Dane Ritchie to officiate as an Assistant Referee in the Concacaf Nations League game on September 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 between St. Kitts vs Puerto Rico.

Unfortunately, the start of 2019 saw the Turks and Caicos Islands without a Referee or Assistant Referee on the FIFA list for the first time in 4 years.

On behalf of the Referees Department, the TCIFA would like to acknowledge the proprietors of Caribbean Cruising for their continued sponsorship, in the form of ferry tickets to and from North Caicos, that helps to facilitate the involvement of Referees from North Caicos Officials to officiate in matches on the island of Providenciales.

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

2018 was again another active year in the various Youth Programmes. Amongst the highlights were:

- Participation in the Weston Cup in February of 2018: The TCIFA entered 4 Teams in this prestigious Youth Tournament in Florida; Girls U11 and Boys U10, U12 and U13. All the teams had at least one player from the outer-islands making it more representative as a Turks and Caicos Islands National Team. The Boys U 10 and U12 teams finished second in their respective division.
- February 24<sup>th</sup> 2018: TCI was chosen through the efforts of Mark as a destination for the DHL - Manchester United Travelling Match Ball Tour. The football made various stops around the globe and TCI was the last stop. A series of scrimmages were played and it provided a great photo-opportunity for the young players involved.
- KPMG Tournament March 1-4, 2018: 2 Youth Teams travelled to the Bahamas to participate in this tournament. The teams were U14 Girls (with 9 players coached by Olivia Gravely, Assistant Coach Gillian Vernice and Team Manager Darnell Hanchel). Additionally there the TCIFA entered a Boys U14 coached by Dane Ritchie, Team Manager Benneth Williams and Noel Smith Chaperone. This was another opportunity that the TCIFA created for our young players to play competitive games given the minimal opportunities on the Island. The Boys U14 team placed second.
- Football For Friendship (F4F), implemented by Gazprom, is the international children's social programme supported by FIFA and the 2018 FIFA World Cup. The programme commenced in February, with an Open Draw for the F4F World Championship. A number of educational and social celebrations were held throughout the world leading up to the key events being hosted in Moscow Russia from June 8-15. The 8-day stretch will unfold 3 days of an International Friendship Camp where 14-16 year old coaches, supervised by famous football players, will guide the young players (ambassadors); followed by the F4F World Championship. Irene Molina from South Caicos represented the TCI as a player and Thais Burgess as the Youth Journalist. This was a wonderful experience for both young ladies.
- Our Annual Summer camps had 2 one week sessions; August 20 to 25 & August 27 to 31. They were well attended and involved a mixture of technical sessions, free play and fun games.
- Caribbean Football Union Tournament U14 August 4 to 10<sup>th</sup> 2018, Dominican Republic. 18 players were selected for the CFU Tournament in the DR. All of the players had the opportunity to



play in most games to help with their development. The players demonstrated that they can compete at this level, however, their efforts on the field and results were not consistent. The team lost 3 games and drew one.

- U17 Boys Select vs. Acton Ealing Whistlers in TCI August 2018: The TCIGA once again hosted the Acton Ealing Whistlers from London England. This visit gave our local Boys U17 the first opportunity to play competitive games. 3 games were played with the TCIFA squad winning one and losing two.
- Live Your Goals” Girls Festival & Health Fair September 29 2018. This is summarized under the Women’s Football rubric.
- Fortis League: Once again we were fortunate to have Fortis as Brand and Headline Sponsor for our Youth Leagues. This year the league expanded to include not only Providenciales but the islands of Grand Turk, South Caicos, North and Middle Caicos. The League encompassed a wide age range of our Youth players from U9 to U13 both boys and girls. The games were very competitive and we once again like to thank Fortis for facilitating this league which created another opportunity for our young players to display their talents and to grow and develop in the sport of football.
- Inter Primary and Secondary competitions. These competitions were held in November 2018 and was well supported by the various schools. The plan going forward is to have an expanded version of these tournaments and including the schools on the sister islands. This comes as a recognition of the need to build our football infrastructure with the schools and school programs being an integral part of that.

### MEN’S FOOTBALL

The Provo Premier League: The Provo Premier League continued in 2018. However, the League was somewhat hampered by the absence of lights. A decision was subsequently made to play one game per week and to postpone the Knock-Out Competition.

After a very entertaining and competitive league, the Academy Jaguars FC were crowned Champions. With thanks to Patrice Senior and the rest of the Referees’ team for all their hard work, training and report writing, without which the PPL would struggle to maintain their records. They are again looking professional in their approach to the games and it’s great to see a fourth official and use of electronic communications between referee and assistants.

Master’s League: The Master’s League competition took place in late 2018 with four teams involved. This was well organized by Dane Ritchie. The league was quite a success, as it was entertaining to watch and attracted quite a few spectators. In the end, the winners were the SWA Sharks with the Teachers as runners up, Realist in third and Cheshire Hall in fourth.

Club Licensing: Both FIFA and Concacaf mandates that all Football Clubs under the auspices of the TCIFA satisfy certain requirements in order to be issued with a Club License. 2018 saw us moving towards regularizing the Clubs. This work is currently ongoing for the PPL and WFL with the expectation that it should be completed by the end of April 2019.

Men’s National Team: A huge development for the MNT has been the creation of the Concacaf Nations League where all 41 nations have been drawn to play in a three division format with promotion and relegation. The one-off qualifying commenced in September 2018. Turks and Caicos MNT lost to Cuba and





Guyana but were able to defeat St. Vincent at home and a 2-2 draw against BVI away (in Anguilla). The results placed us in League C with group competition commencing in September 2019.

Prior to the first qualifier, TCIFA appointed a new national team coach, Matt Barnes from Texas and his assistant Lance Thompson from Arizona who did very well to develop the squad and bring a more professional ethos to their work and personal development generally. Mr. Barnes subsequently resigned and was replaced by Omar Edwards.

The MNT is now currently ranked 24<sup>th</sup> out of 41 teams in Concacaf and no longer has the lowest ranking in FIFA.

### WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

Live Your Goals: The Live Your Goals fourth and final campaign was held on September 29, 2018. In attendance were approximately 60 participants from the sister academies North/Middle Caicos, South Caicos, Grand Turk and Providenciales, giving a total participation of Sixty (60) registered participants. We were fortunate to have Dr. Mera from InterHealth Canada as our guest speaker. She highlighted the need for healthy eating, healthy lifestyle and the modern view on protective gear. Both InterHealth Canada and Paradise Smiles provided free health and dental screenings.

Women's Football League: The Women's Football League kicked off with only two registered teams, playing 11 a-side games. The League never gained true momentum and the plan going forward is to have a league with a small-sided games format. This would allow for the participation of multiple teams and hopefully raise the interest of players and spectators alike.

Speed Soccer: The TCIFA continued this initiative aimed at getting first time participants in playing the sport. Unfortunately, after kicking off in November 2018 with participants mainly from the U15 and the WNT, there was an ebb in both participation and interest.

Women's National Team: The TCIFA recognizes that there is a need to revitalize the female program. As there has been a decline in numbers. In this regard, we have decided to place an emphasis on the female side of the youth program paying particular attention to small-sided games and the creation of playing opportunities. We have largely achieved these objectives through the various inter-schools programs, the Fortis Leagues, the Inter-Island Tournaments and the girls participation in the Weston Cup. Also as previously indicated, we hired a Director of Women's Football who was tasked with drafting and implementing a strategic plan aimed at developing the female side of football in the TCI. Since her arrival in the latter part of 2018, our new Director Yunelsis Rodriguez Baez, has hit the ground running and we are already seeing not only an increase in numbers, but a marked improvement in the ability and quality of our female players.

Women's Awards: Women's Football held its award and social evening on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at Caribbean Elements. Presentation of awards and medals were made together with a presentation of 19 sports smart watches donated by Mr. Llewelyn Basden, CEO of Checkmate Inc.

### BEACH SOCCER



Beach soccer has been quiet since the Qualifiers in February 2017 and have proceeded to be so to date. In an attempt to generate interest while simultaneously preparing our National Teams for competitions, we commenced weekly Friday training sessions in September of 2018. The attendance was very good amongst younger players ranging ages 13-15 with average attendance between 11-18 players.

As of November - December of 2018 the MNT commenced practicing on Friday mornings. With the Concacaf Beach Soccer upcoming we are in the process of increasing the amount of training sessions and seeking to organize friendly games.

*Sonia Fulford*

*President*

*April 2019*