

# Squash exchange works for benefit of all

Georgetown was one of the stops on a tour by the Jamaican National Junior Squash team, as they took to the courts for a series of exhibition matches against local juniors, last Wednesday.

Georgetown Racquet Club hosted the event, which was staged through Squash Ontario.

Phil Clarke is the coach of the Jamaican team, which is making stops in Ottawa, Brockville, Orillia, Ajax, Woodbridge, Oakville, Etobicoke, and Toronto, as well as Georgetown, during the two-week tour.

The Jamaican-born Clarke splits his year between living on the island, and in Toronto.

With a population of two million, it's somewhat surprising to learn that there are only about 500 squash players on the island.

However, given the fact that Jamaica is a predominantly poor country, and that there is only one club for the entire island, it comes as less of a surprise.

"It's a major thing for them," Clarke says. "Here, the parents drive their kids to a tournament somewhere two hours down the road. When we want to go to a tournament, it's a matter of flying 1,200 miles.

Clarke has focused his attentions on promoting the sport of squash with young people on the island.

This is the second year a tour of this kind has been held, and Clarke says it gives the young Jamaican players something to shoot for.

"We're trying to develop as many junior players in Jamaica as we possibly can. This tour is an incentive for the kids to work for. The ones who show the most potential, get to travel."

The cost of the team's transportation is covered by Air Jamaica.

The Jamaican squash association has been active for 10 years.

however Clarke says the junior program has been neglected for some time. This is something he hopes to help change.

"I'd like to see the kids who can't afford it, be able to play. There's a plan to build new courts at the university in Jamaica, which I would like to see go through. It would put more people in touch with the game."

On the courts, the five Jamaican team members emerged victorious throughout over the local players, although many of the match-ups were very close.

Foul Duval, squash director for the Georgetown Racquet Club, said there was far more to be learned through the exhibition matches, though, than just squash.

"There's an element of social exposure to kids from another country, as well," he says. "I think this is very positive, so I was anxious to promote it."

Duval says the Georgetown club's junior program is virtually in the infancy stages, so the Jamaicans perhaps had a slight advantage, having played in more tournaments.

One element of the game, in particular, stood out to Duval in the matches he viewed.

"They seem to be a little more disciplined. Our players seemed to go for the winning shot too soon. They were a little too anxious."

In the feature match of the night Clarke and Gene Dujval, a seasoned player from Brampton, took to the courts in a best-of-three match that went the limit.

The two maintained a competitive but good-natured pace, exchanging excellent squash shots, that drew applause from the sizeable gallery.

In the end, it was Duval who came out on top by scores of 9-6, 7-9 and 9-7.

Members of the Jamaican team who played in the exhibition series



An exhibition squash match between Phil Clarke, coach of the Jamaican national juniors, and Gene Dujval of Brampton, was the highlight of a series of matches last Wednesday between the Jamaicans and local

squash players. Here, Clarke on the right, fires a backhand, while Duval prepares for a return. (Herald photo)

included Joey Levy (ranked third for Jamaican juniors under 16); Karen Anderson (ranked first, under 19); Robert Reynolds (ranked first, under 14); Marcos Chen (ranked second, under 14); and Samantha Templer (ranked first, under 12).

The Georgetown team members included Owen Jones, Bobby Sun, Greg Sinclair, Keith Smith, Jeff

Paterson, Andrea Newman, Karen Smith, Melanie Jans, Jim Dieroff, and Alexander Oldaker. Their coaches are Christine Kogan and Murray Jans.



A number of local squash enthusiasts have put together a junior team, which played a series of exhibition matches last Wednesday against a group of Jamaican players. Front row, from left, Owen Jones, Bobby Sun, Greg Sinclair, Keith Smith, and Jeff Paterson. Back row, Christine Kogan (Coach), Andrea Newman, Karen Smith, Melanie Jans, Jim Dieroff, and Alexander Oldaker. Absent when the photo was taken was coach Murray Jans. (Herald photo)



A group of Jamaican squash players were in Georgetown last Wednesday to take on junior members from the local club in a series of exhibition matches. Seen here kneeling from left, are Karen Anderson and Joey Levy. Standing are Marcos Chen, Phil Clarke (Coach), Samantha Templer, and Robert Reynolds. (Herald photo)