



COURTS ALL SECTORS NETBALL LEAGUE

REVIEW OF THE SEASON – YEAR 2015 (*Celebrating 25 years in 2015*)

This is a Report of the activities of the COURTS All Sectors Netball League for the year 2015. This year is special because we celebrated twenty-five (25) years as a successfully functioning Netball League.

The League completed its twenty-fifth season this year, and notwithstanding that some of the proposals envisaged at the Annual General Meeting for the celebration were not realized, the season was very successful. For example, there was hope that a brochure featuring some of the League's activities over the years would have been produced but this did not materialize. More detail is provided later in the Report.

Regarding the structure of the League, the three distinct Divisions were maintained: the Premiership, the Championship and the Alternative. Cash prizes were awarded in the Premiership Division, as occurred for the past three years. The Retro Division continued as a separate Unit.

Again, there was no change to the Management Committee when the Election was held at the Annual General Meeting in November of 2014. Neither was there any change to the Council. The President of the Council is Ms. Sharon Wilson of the Bermudez team and the Secretary is Ms. Lilia Mathurin Cameron of the Jabloteh team. The Management Committee comprises Ms. Carol Demming Gittens; Ms. Rosemary Mathurin, Ms. Josette Lord, Ms. Giselle Darlington, Dr. Patricia Butcher, Mr. Kenneth Butcher, and Ms. Brenda Prince.

The League is extremely grateful for the continued support of our main sponsor Unicomer (Trinidad) Limited (COURTS), the Herbarium Limited (Cher Mere), and our many other stakeholders. The membership maintains its commitment to the sustained development of the sport and more specifically of the League.

TEAMS

The League began the Season with nineteen (19) teams, four (4) in the Premiership, five (5) in the Championship Division, six (6) in the Alternative, and four (4) in the Retro, the same number as last Season.

The **Alternative Division** comprised of Police, Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT), University of the Southern Caribbean (USC), the

University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), Prisons, and Fideas, who returned after a couple of years. We especially welcome back Fideas.

In the **Championship Division** were Bermudez, Jabloteh, Police X, Police Y and Fire. There was no change from last Season.

The **Premiership Division** comprised Fire, Police, newcomers Tobago House of Assembly (THA), whom we were very pleased to welcome, and UTT. Game Changers of last season, gave way to UTT, the brand to which we are accustomed. Unfortunately, UWI did not participate, but it was noted that some of this team's players secured membership in other teams. The **Retro Division** consisted of Les Enfants, Harlem, TSTT and Bermudez, a new team to this Division.

VENUE

The League commenced at The Eastern Regional Indoor Sports Arena (ERISA) and as usual, all of the games were played at this venue.

Again, we thank the Management of ERISA for the use of the Official Changing Room for the storage of our equipment, and for the preparation for our Opening and Closing Ceremonies. In addition, we were extremely pleased that the floor surface of the gymnasium was upgraded. This offered the players an improved playing surface, which in turn led to enhanced performances. We trust that the furniture also would be upgraded soon, to offer us even better accommodation.

We appreciate that the office staff, especially Ms. Jenny Voisin, maintenance, security, and cafeteria staff were all helpful and courteous, and we look forward to working with them in the future.

OPENING CEREMONY

The Opening Ceremony took place on Saturday 10 January 2015 at 3.00pm at ERISA. The Fire Service band once again, provided the musical accompaniment for the March Past. On the saluting base for the March Past were Ms. Laura Pierre, Advisor in the Ministry of Sport; Ms. Paula Daniel Linton, Corporate Communications Manager of COURTS; Dr. Patricia Butcher President of the Trinidad and Tobago Netball Association and Member of the Management Committee of the League and Ms. Martha Archer, Vice President of the Americas Federation of Netball Associations (AFNA). Ms Daniel Linton brought greetings from our main Sponsor, COURTS and Ms. Martha Archer brought greetings from AFNA. Dr. Butcher delivered the feature address to the players, while Ms Pierre also gave a brief address and declared the 2015 Season open.

The judges for the parade were Mr. Anthony Tannis, Ms. Vanessa Forde and Ms. Rhona Mohon. The League thanks them most sincerely and thanks all those persons who assisted in making the Opening Ceremony a huge success.

The University of Trinidad and Tobago won this year's parade. Second was Fire and third Police.

In the Opening Day Knock Out competition, UTT won from THA in the Premiership Division; Fire won from Jabloteh in the Championship Division; while in the Alternative Division, TSTT won from UTT.

COMPETITIONS

There was no change to the arrangement of the competitions. The Fast 5 was played as a straight Knock Out and the competitions for the Jean Pierre and Steve Sarjeant Challenge trophies were played as straight Knock Outs, mainly in the interest of time.

As is customary, League games, with the exception of those in the Retro, were of one hour's duration. Teams in all the Divisions played each other twice in order to determine the overall placing for the League trophies. The other competitions were the Knock-Outs for Steve Sarjeant and Jean Pierre Challenge trophies, in the Premiership and Championship Divisions respectively. There were also the Divisional Knock-Outs, which were played in two halves of twenty minutes in the two (2) top Divisions, and fifteen minutes each in the Alternative Division and the COURTS Open Knock-Out. Also featured were the Opening Day Knock-Outs at the beginning of the Season and the Mixed Team Knock-Out at Closing Ceremony. The Mixed Team Knock Out was played in the Fast 5 format of the game. The FAST 5 competitions for the Justin Bowen trophies were played in all the Divisions.

The Retro Division also had two (2) rounds of competition, two (2) Knock Outs, one of which was a double elimination, and the FAST 5 competition.

As usual, the competitions were extremely keen in all the Divisions. All the games were hard fought especially in the two (2) top Divisions.

The results of all of the competitions are in the Appendix.

CHALLENGES

Fortunately, there were no major challenges this year. There were no withdrawals and there was no need to reschedule games. There were just two defaults, one in the Alternative Division and one in the Retro. Both were in

respect of Knock Out competitions. The shortage of umpires continues to plague us, but we managed by having umpires double up on many occasions. Indeed, there was no major disruption to the games or to the scheduling.

TRAINING

The League did not schedule any formal training sessions this year. Its priority was for celebrating 25 years in 2015 and seeking ways to involve all its stakeholders.

THE CELEBRATIONS

The main suggestions for celebrating 25 years in 2015 included a thanksgiving service, the provision of new shirts, a brochure, a new banner at the venue, official and team flags, mementos for distribution, team-building exercises among participants, a colors tournament, and special awards for long service. The League was hopeful that additional funding would be acquired. However, at the AGM held in November 2014, the meeting agreed that these proposals should be scaled down in the absence of any additional funding.

Notwithstanding, the League is pleased to report that a number of these proposals, among others, came to fruition viz. the special awards, the mementos for distribution, two hanging banners at the venue, the colors tournament.

In lieu of the other suggestions, the League designated the Saturday after Carnival, February 21, Celebration Saturday, and combined the thanksgiving, the colors tournament and the memento distribution of Bistro Mugs. The League also distributed mementos of mini can-openers to all spectators who attended the Opening Ceremony.

Regarding Celebration Saturday, players, team and match officials were individually invited to lunch that was economically catered. This was held at our games venue. Sister Debbie de Rosia of the Eternal Light Community was also invited to deliver an inspiring message to the players, offer thanks and bless the meal. Many agreed that she was excellent in her delivery. Later in the afternoon the mixed team colors tournament was played. Those in attendance also received Bistro Mugs embossed with the League's logo, as a memento of the occasion. There was about 60% attendance of the players. Those who attended expressed their appreciation.

The Special awards were presented at the Closing ceremony of the League. The list of those who received special awards is attached at the end of this report.

DONATIONS from the Herbarium (Cher Mere)

Cher Mere continued its support for the League this Season with the donation of Door prizes at the Opening and the Closing ceremonies and on some Saturdays.

At the Awards Ceremony, both the All Star Team and the Most Valuable Players of each team were given individual gift vouchers. The Technical Officials received individual tokens from the company. These are truly appreciated.

The League looks forward to a continued successful association with Cher Mere.

SPONSORSHIP from COURTS

Unicomer (Trinidad) Limited, (COURTS) considered the League favourably again with the signing of a contract with us for yet another year. The League remains extremely grateful and will continue to do its best to ensure that it gets value for money while giving the company the mileage that it so deserves.

The League thanks, particularly, Mrs. Paula Daniel Linton, Ms Shivan Ojah-Maharaj, Ms Trudy Blackman Moore and the other staff in Communications for active participation in our events and for their encouragement.

MEDIA COVERAGE

The media coverage this year was excellent, especially the Print Media. We thank the Express, the Trinidad Guardian, the Newsday, Web providers and radio hosts for the keen interest shown. We thank too the Television Stations for their contribution and look forward to their continuing support of the League.

CONCLUSION

The participants of the COURTS All Sectors Netball League offer their sincerest appreciation to Unicomer (Trinidad) Limited (COURTS), and the Herbarium Limited (Cher Mere), for the League's success. Special thanks to the Fire Service Band and to Ms. Paula Darceuil for their services on the Opening Day. The League also wishes to thank "Twinkle" and her crew, who manage the cafeteria. Thanks too, to all officials, supporters, well-wishers and others who contributed to making the Season the success that it was in 2015.

April 2015

