

SPORTS

# YMCA re-focusing on boxing

Press conference scheduled for 5:30 p.m. today



**KARON JOHNSON**  
YMCA Executive Director

of Grand Bahama to see the success stories. Many of our business owners, executives, doctors, lawyers, engineers, and Members of Parliament are products of the YMCA. Indeed, the YMCA has been a significant factor in the development of the people who are building The Bahamas today."

That prelude appropriately identifies the YMCA. I view the YMCA as the most comprehensive sports facilitator in the entire country. The YMCA affords a profound connection to baseball, basketball, boxing, fitness, soccer, swimming and tennis.

The YMCA oversees for the most part, vibrant sports programs at a maximum level. Admittedly however, there have been, through the years, periods when one sport or the other, has been dormant. This has been the case for the boxing program recently.

As of today though, Davis will begin to list those who will be in his prep classes for newcomers, and participants with different levels of experience for actual training sessions.

"We support's Davis' out-

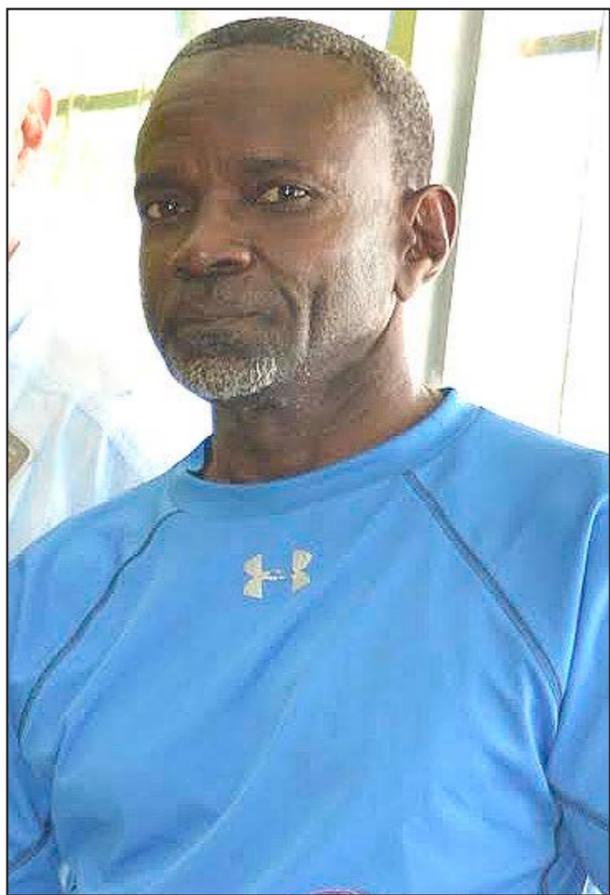
look. To get the program started properly, the word needs to go out that there is a re-focus on boxing. So, we planned the press conference," informed Johnson.

Davis and the YMCA will be gearing initially for the upcoming Commonwealth Boxing Salute that is scheduled for July 11-13 during Independence Week, at the St. George's Gymnasium in Freeport. The boxers, young males and females will be vying for spots on the dinner boxing show program that is to take place on the evening of Thursday, July 12.

Previously, the YMCA had the finest female boxing program in the country. Davis believes the fairer sex will be prominently represented once again.

"We had some very good female boxers. There was one in particular who was exceptional. I expect that once they know that we are re-focusing on boxing, females and males will come out," said Davis recently.

The YMCA is to be applauded and certainly all within the country's boxing fraternity should appreciate the significance of



**NATHAN DAVIS**  
...YMCA Boxing Coordinator

this renewed concentration on the sport.

Davis is a former outstanding amateur boxer. He was one of the boxers who were developed by the Amateur Boxing Association of The Bahamas, the pioneer amateur boxing body in the country.

The press conference is slated to begin at 5:30 p.m. today at the YMCA Headquarters on Settler's Way in Freeport.

*(To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturupp at sturupp1504@gmail.com) or on WhatsApp at 727-6363.*

## SPORTS SCOPE

By Fred Sturupp



Today, the YMCA in Grand Bahama will launch a program that re-focuses on boxing. Executive Director Karon Johnson has informed that the YMCA's boxing guru Nathan Davis will begin registration of former members of the YMCA's boxing unit and

all others interested.

The home page of the Grand Bahama's YMCA proclaims the magnitude of the role it has played these many years in the island and wider Bahamas.

"The success of the YMCA is indisputable. One only need look around the communities



**AIMING FOR SUCCESS** — The Bahamas Archery Federation was present this past Saturday at the YMCA and assisted with the YMCA's weekly archery program, held every Saturday. Pictured, BAF president David Jerome Rahming, left, stands behind a young archer as she points and aims at her target. (PHOTO: SHAYNE STUBBS)

# Archery Federation president pleased with Y's efforts

**SHAYNE STUBBS**  
FN Sports Reporter  
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The Bahamas Archery Federation (BAF) is one of the youngest sports bodies to be formed in the country.

With an existence of five years and counting, the archery parent body is encouraging more participation.

Locally, the YMCA has adopted the fast-growing sport into their slate of programs offered. Conducted every Saturday and open to all ages, the archery program has seen increased interest, so far mostly from the youth.

BAF president and national team coach David Jerome Rahming recently paid a visit to get a firsthand observation of the budding archery program here in Grand Bahama. He said he was in an overall sense, satisfied with the development and the Y's efforts to elevate the interests of more

persons.

"The Y has been growing the programs here and we're very happy about that. The federation needs to reach the Family Islands and Family Island Communities and we're very happy about what's going on here."

"I'm here to support them and help grow the program."

Prior to Rahming's trip to the Second City, he and the country's national team competed at an archery tournament held in the Dominican Republic. With a roster of five archers the team was successful and came away with two gold and two bronze. Rahming noted that the team's recent success speaks to the possibilities that come with the point, aim and fire sport.

"Archery is an Olympic sport and it's a sport that Bahamians can do very well and we can grow it here."

"This summer we hope to have a camp here and expose the Northern Bahamas to the sport of Archery a little

more deeply," he informed.

With it's link to the older generation's youth and it's current draw of young persons, Rahming noted that the sport in itself is fun. He said that adults, also, can become professional archers.

"Archery is the type of sport that could be engaged in by anyone, including the disabled and it could be competed in as long as you wish."

"It's also one of the safest sports. And intuitively if you think about it, it makes sense. There's no contact with other athletes, no running, no jumping. All it requires is good discipline and I invite parents to come out here to the Y, check with the program directors here or reach out to me at the BAF and I'll come back to Freeport and help with coaching and help you in starting your program," he promised.

Rahming said he is hopeful that Corporate Bahamas would pay attention to the growth of archery and the recent success the federation attained.

Rahming first introduced the sport last year to YMCA Program Director Shakeitha Henfield. In addition the president also donated some used equipment as a jump start. Now that the program is out of it's trial phase and is now a paid for program, archery has caught on and boasts a membership of youth and adults since January.

Since then the Grand Bahama Port Authority and the Conchman Triathlon Committee made donations which assisted in the purchasing of even more equipment.

"Those donations were good because you have young archers who use different equipment. You have left handed, right handed and different levels of bows and you want to teach them the proper technique when you're introducing a new sport," Henfield stated.

"I would love to see a full-on archery range take shape at the Y in the future and see more ladies come on board and

take on an executive role. Archery is versatile, as it can be both a recreational and competitive sport.

"I would like to see some of the youth exposed to the point of being able to represent The Bahamas at the Youth Olympics and even at the (senior) Olympic level."

"I'm also interested in getting more involved on the executive level so we have more female representation because right now they're traveling with kids. They're boys but you have to have a female as a chaperone for the girls that will go and we don't want them to feel left out."

"The sports is also becoming popular with different movies and shows. So, it's really a fun sport. You get to socialize and get to improve on concentration and it doesn't leave anyone out."

Henfield informed that although the Y's program takes place on Saturdays primarily, she trains by appointment on week days.