

SPORTS

Local golf federation set to sign Royal & Ancient's new Charter

To be coordinated (for this country) by the Ladies Division of the Bahamas Golf Federation, a special program to boost the female movement in the sport has been established.

Dr. Pattie Symonette of the ladies Division of the Bahamas Golf Federation has informed that recently the fabled Royal and Ancient Club of St. Andrews, headquartered in Fife, Scotland, launched the Women in Golf Charter. The general idea behind the new venture is to "generate actions to contribute to women's golf growth."

The development is timely for the BGF and in keeping with a proactive approach now being taken towards opportunities for golfers of the fairer sex, by the ladies Division.

"The Ladies Division is working aggressively to bring more focus, access, and participation of women to the sport, particularly Bahamian women who seem to have limited access especially in terms of affordability and play, not to mention membership as many of our golf courses are in private gated communities," pointed out Symonette.

Through the Women in Golf Charter, the R&A hopes to bring about an environment, internationally, with a big

concentration on the Caribbean, that is more encouraging for female golfers, young and older, and on all levels of competition.

Shortly after the launch of the charter

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DR. PATTIE SYMONETTE

on May 29, the R & A communicated with Caribbean affiliates.

Following is the communication in part:

"We are delighted to inform that the R & A has officially launched the Women in Golf Charter. We are reaching out to you to request your collaboration with the initiative of the R & A to generate

actions to contribute to women's golf and its growth.

"The attached letter, Women In Golf Charter, is centered around a global

call to action in seeking collaboration from national federations and all those involved in the wider golf industry to work together to create a more balanced and inclusive culture for golf. The Charter reflects the R & A's aim and commitment to increasing the number of women participating and working in golf. Organizations that want to become a signatory of the Charter will not only advocate and promote the value of diversity but, crucially, will pledge and commit to accelerating internal change through individual actions and strategies. The principles of the Charter will provide a core reference point for signatories to build on existing initiatives. They are simple and intended to unite the sport with a common purpose and shared focus."

Obviously, the R & A is quite serious. Symonette, her associates in the Ladies Division and indeed, BGF Executive Board members, are thus challenged to network diligently with the R & A to the benefit of expanding the national golfing movement through a greater participation of female golfers.

Congratulation is due the R & A for the decision to lead the outreach to cause women's golf to flourish. No doubt, the Ladies Division in The Ba-



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hamas, through the federation will become one of the early signatories to the Charter.

Best wishes!

(To respond to this column, kindly contact Fred Sturrup at sturrup1504@gmail.com or on WhatsApp at 727-6363).

Real Madrid Men squeak by with a tie in last 48 seconds

CLOSE CALL— Real Madrid Men and Barcelona men played to a 1-1 tie last week Monday, May 28 at the YMCA in Grand Bahama Champions Soccer League action. John Chan of Real Madrid, (left) and Ashlyn Noralus of Barcelona, right are pictured in a race for the ball.

(PHOTO: GRAND BAHAMA CHAMPIONS SOCCER LEAGUE)



Grand Bahama Champions Soccer League

The Grand Bahama Champions Soccer League (GBCSL) had two thrilling games just before the holiday weekend last week.

Barcelona Men (Subway) gave the Champion League leaders Real Madrid (FOCOL) a run for their money Monday, May, 28 at the YMCA field. Barcelona's Ashlyn Noralus scored from a flick-on header from Alejandro Cabassa in the 62nd minute giving Barcelona the lead 1-0. Barcelona's defense was solid as time and time again the big guns, Judah Brown, Jay Phillippe and Elcott Jr. Johnson from Real Madrid were shut down by the Barcelona wall.

Uri Williams, Rakeem Forbes and Omega Reid were relentless on the Real Madrid forwards and anytime they got a shot on goal, Barcelona's goalkeeper, 14-yr-old Samora Saunders from Jack Hayward Junior High was there to stop the attempts.

Real Madrid Men, coached by Elcott Johnson Sr., now has a record of 7 wins, 2 ties and 0 losses. Players of the game were Real Madrid's Judah Brown and Ricardo Senat. Brown showed great leadership by constantly leading the press to goal. With the clock winding down, Brown beat three players and placed a picture perfect pass to Senat who placed the ball perfectly in the back of Barcelona's net with only 48 seconds left in stoppage time.

Two of the reasons Madrid has done so well this season is the big time defender from Tabernacle, Kianno Miller and goalkeeper sensation Timothy Quant, a 14-year-old Bishop Michael Eldon School student who Real Madrid was lucky to pick up in the second draft. Previously, Miller had to play goalkeeper so a goalkeeper was the missing ingredient in Madrid's repertoire before Quant was drafted. Quant made the dream team complete.

Other players who made a difference in the game were Johnson Jr. who tried everything in his power to get loose from

Barcelona's defense. Barcelona double teamed Johnson Jr. and was successful in containing him but because he had to be double teamed, it left players like Senat open to score the lone goal which resulted in a tie.

Vindero Lightfoot and John Chan both played their best games of the season and deserve to be mentioned as game changers. Coach Elcott Johnson and Real Madrid men sent a strong message out to the other mens teams in the league and that's never count them out, even in stoppage time.

The coaches of Barcelona Men's team (3-2-4) – Coach Theo Hutson and Coach Symone Stubbs should be very proud of what their team accomplished. They gave Real Madrid the scare of the season. They almost made history by handing Real Madrid their first loss of the season. Hopefully the Barcelona players learned that you cannot take the gas off the pedal for a second or you will pay for your lapse, especially when you play the undefeated Real Madrid team.

Another heated game will be

played at the YMCA field on Tuesday, June 5 at 5:30 p.m. when Second place Chelsea play First place Real Madrid. If you enjoy watching soccer, you won't want to miss this game.

On Tuesday night, the women hit the field where the undefeated Borussia Dortmund (Sanitation Services) beat Barcelona Ladies (Subway) in a very entertaining match. The final score was 4-2. Meaghan Smith, Rhysse Davies, Joevaughnia Dean and Gabrielle Simms scored for Dortmund (9-0-0) while upcoming rookie sensation Lillian Saunders and former National player and Division-One scholarship College player, BMES teacher Kathrina Ellis- Gibson scored for Barcelona (1-2-6).

Rayann Morley was also a game changer for Barcelona in this game. The real star of the game was another former national player and former soccer scholarship college standout, coach/player Symone Stubbs who was sensational as Barcelona's goalkeeper. Although Stubbs prefers to coach rather than play, she is the back-up

goalkeeper when Barcelona's keeper Faith Bain is absent. Although Symone is a central midfielder all her life, she is able to perform like a seasoned goalkeeper because of her good hands from years of playing basketball and her knowledge of the game.

When you see a short player like Symone Stubbs (5'3") making incredible saves from a seasoned team like Borussia Dortmund who has a number of national team players, fans and coaches who have followed soccer on the world scene for years, are reminded of the famous Mexican goalkeeper, Jorge Campos, who at 5'6", was considered as one of the best goalkeepers of his generation. Like Campos, Symone is able to make up for her lack of height by capitalizing on her main strengths which are her leaping ability, athleticism, ability to read the game and her competitiveness.

Coach Symone Stubbs, is not only a decent goalkeeper, but more importantly, she is a young Bahamian who made a choice to come back home and

make a difference. The Champions League, YMCA Soccer League and the Grand Bahama Girls Soccer League would like to publicly thank Coach Symone Stubbs for the unselfish, tireless hours she has spent coaching and mentoring young soccer players both on and off the field since she has settled back in Grand Bahama. Vice President of Grand Bahama Soccer Club, Donnie Knowles, stated in an interview, "Symone has definitely made a huge impact on the youth and on soccer development on the island and we hope her action incites other former players to give back to the sport they love."

Symone Stubbs, a young Bahamian professional, realizes it is not about "having time" to volunteer with the youth, it's about "making time."

No games were played on Saturday due to players attending the funeral of Lee Wilson, mother of Chelsea player Phoebe Wilson and Real Madrid's Libby Wilson. The Champion League family wish to convey their heartfelt sympathy to the Wilson and Davies families.