

President's Address

Annual General Meeting of the Barbados Football Association

My Dear Colleagues

On behalf of the Executive Council, I welcome you to this 118th Annual General Meeting.

The game of football in our country, is much more than championships and on the field exploits; it provides dreams of opportunity in education and careers for some, and for others, a safe haven and positive alternative to social problems that are sometimes prevalent in our respective communities.

I therefore commend the many Club officials and volunteers for their yeoman service to the sport, especially in the areas of our grassroots (Future Tridents) and women's development programmes.

Our aim is to expose young talent to the game of football, beyond the borders of Barbados. This was recently made possible with the assistance of the Embassy of Argentina and its Ambassador, His Excellency Gustavo Pandiani. Our National Under-17 team was afforded the opportunity to visit Argentina as guests of the globally recognized Boca Juniors Football Club, and were exposed to their high quality of technical expertise and training.

The highlight of the tour however, was a match against the Argentina National Under-17 team. We were also graciously received by the President and members of the Argentina Football Association and were able to negotiate a memorandum of understanding between both parties.

The Association continues to provide opportunities for its members in the areas of scholarships, attachments and 'tryouts' to professional Clubs. We anticipate that these stints will redound to our efforts to qualify for the FIFA World Cup 2026.

The issue of semi-pro or professional football locally is high on the agenda. It remains a challenge that we must make all efforts to overcome. This has become even more glaring with the introduction of CONCACAF's Nations League, where we are drawn against the best professional teams in our confederation.

We however will be staging a Super Cup tournament from August to October 2019, to expose our players and teams to a higher level of competition in an effort to begin the process of professionalizing the sport.

We look forward to your continued support and wish you success in your competitive endeavours.

Randy Harris
President