



Bahamas Football Association

Executive

Anton Sealey, President
Lionel Haven, Gen Secretary
Fred Lunn, Exec Vice President
Richard Wilson, Vice President
Stanley Darville, Vice President
Samuel Haven, Vice President
Pierre Lafleur, Vice President

Contact

P.O. Box N-8434
Plaza on the Way
West Bay Street
Nassau, Bahamas
Tel: (242) 322-5897
Fax: (242) 322-5898

Email: lehaven@bahamas.net.bs
Web: bahamasfootballassoc.com

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59TH FIFA CONGRESS CONCLUDES SUCCESSFULLY IN BAHAMAS



The 59th FIFA Congress concluded on Wednesday, June 3, 2009 on a high, with all of the delegates and staff of FIFA ending the affair at the Royal Deck of the Atlantis Hotel on Paradise Island. The music of Visage resonated in the evening air and drew many of the delegates to “shaking a leg” after a series of meetings of Confederations and the FIFA Congress. The Opening Ceremony on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 was highlighted by addresses from the FIFA President Joseph Blatter, BFA President Anton Sealey

and the Bahamian Prime Minister the Right Honorable Hubert Ingraham. The Royal Bahamas Police Force Band gave a stunning rendition of the FIFA anthem which saw 208 young children from the Bahamas display soccer balls with the participating countries flags on them. The entertainment for the evening featured a variety of performances from renowned Broadway shows such as Hair, Cabaret, Dreamgirls, Chicago and others, and ended with a rousing performance by the Valley Boys Junkanoo group which got many of the delegates to their feet dancing.

An elaborate dinner followed this event and saw more Bahamian culture and performances on display. Veteran singer Pat Rolle set the mood with a variety of songs made famous by Nat King Cole and others, and was followed by the National Youth Choir.

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Many of the delegates however did find time to visit other places, and many could be seen down Bay Street shopping, easily identified by their Congress badges. The event was a resounding success and all of the comments heard by delegates afterwards were positive and complementary. FIFA President Joseph Blatter, in a final meeting with BFA President Anton Sealey and General Secretary Lionel Haven thanked them for the collaboration with FIFA on the event, and remarked that the event was one of the most successful congresses in recent memory. This comment said a lot for the work put in to make the event a success, and was a complement to the many agencies and government offices that supported the BFA and the Atlantis in the hosting of this event. In his remarks to the delegates Bahamian Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham remarked that an old saying in the Bahamas, "once is not enough", is something that he hoped many of the delegates would take to heart and return to our shores.

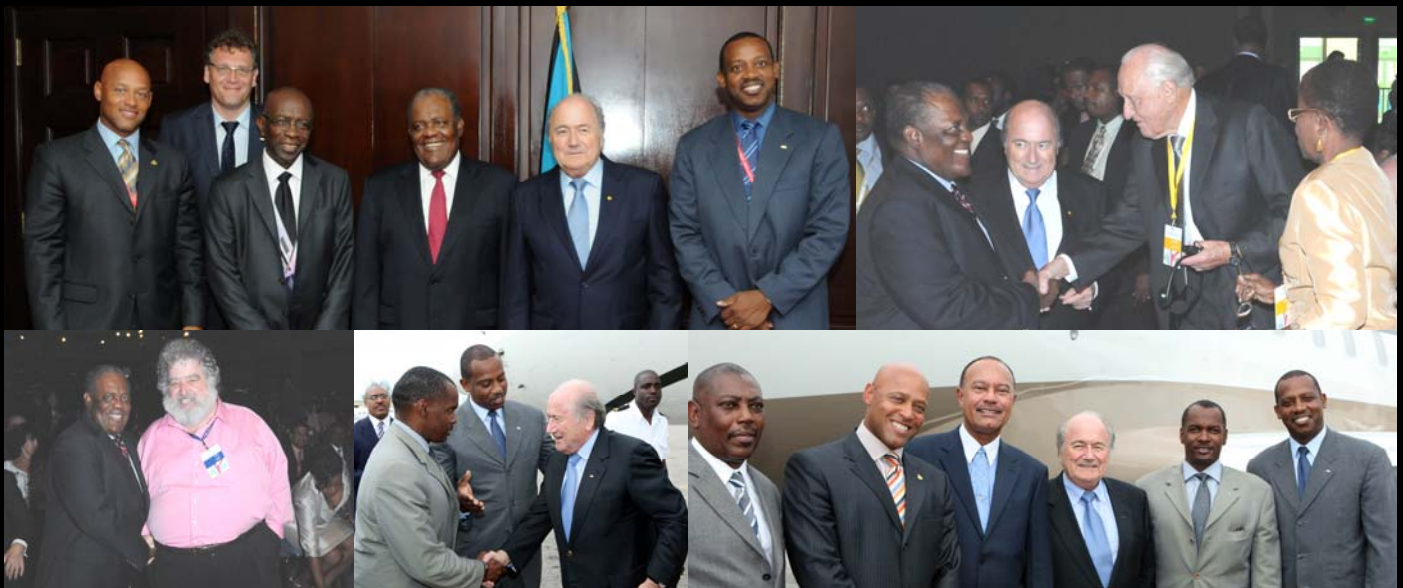
FIFA PRESIDENT CALLS ON BAHAMIAN PRIME MINISTER

FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter paid a courtesy call on Bahamian Prime Minister the Right Honorable Hubert A. Ingraham on Friday May, 29, 2009, after arriving in the Bahamas for the occasion of the 59th FIFA Congress scheduled for June 2-3, 2009. Mr. Blatter was accompanied by FIFA General Secretary Jerome Valcke, FIFA Vice President and CONCACAF President Jack Warner, Bahamas FA President Anton Sealey and General Secretary Lionel Haven. The visit to the Prime Minister's office kicked off the activities for the 59th FIFA Congress and allowed the FIFA President the opportunity to thank the Bahamas for their efforts in paving the way for the important event to be conducted in Caribbean paradise. The Prime Minister confirmed the support of his government and thanked the FIFA President for taking the decision to conduct the event in one of the smallest countries to ever host the FIFA Congress. He

assured Mr. Blatter that all of the work done to prepare was designed to ensure that the Congress would be one of the most successful congresses ever by FIFA.

After the brief visit the FIFA President presented the Bahamian Prime Minister with a pennant to commemorate the visit to the Bahamas, and expressed his pleasure at the preparations to date. The FIFA Congress kicks off with the meeting of the Executive Committee on May 30 and 31, followed by the arrival of the participants to the Congress on May 31, 2009. The six confederations of FIFA will conduct their meetings on Monday, June 1, 2009 followed by a welcome party for all delegates. The Opening Ceremonies are scheduled to be conducted on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 with the 59th FIFA Congress to take place a day later, on Wednesday, June 3. A farewell party will be conducted on the evening of

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**NO RESPECT
NO REFEREES
NO GAME**

The future of football in the Bahamas is full of promise!
Be a part of it!



May 31 - June 4, 2009
59th FIFA Congress

BAHAMAS INCLUDED IN FIFA WIN IN CONCACAF WITH CONCACAF PROGRAMME

The Bahamas has been confirmed as one of the participating countries in FIFA's new development programme, Win In CONCACAF With CONCACAF (WICIC). Following the success of the Win In Africa programme launched last year, FIFA has extended the programme to the Confederation of North America, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF), including three areas earmarked for development in the region, National League Program, Youth Development Program and Sports Executive Education.

"The Win In CONCACAF Programme gives the Bahamas another wonderful avenue through which we can develop our game," said BFA General Secretary Lionel Haven. "The area that the Bahamas has been selected is Youth Development, and while we did not have a choice in this, this does tie in nicely with our goals and objectives." To confirm the Bahamas' participation, FIFA representative Dick Howard from Canada visited the Bahamas and held a series of meetings with BFA Executives, youth coaches and administrators to present the programme and to garner information on how best the programme can service the country. Howard's presentation gave an overview of the structure of the Win In CONCACAF programme, confirming the three areas of development and expounding on the areas that FIFA will offer assistance to the Bahamas. Designed to be tailor-made for the participating Member Association, the Youth Development Programme offers assistance and information on youth national structure, assistance for the organization of competitions and tournaments, coaching courses and additionally sports equipment. With a flourishing Youth League in New Providence, a similarly successful YMCA Programme in Grand Bahama, and a developing programme in Andros, BFA officials are hoping that the programme will assist in the further development of the game in these two islands while also helping to export to other islands in the country. Already Eleuthera and Abaco are earmarked as being next on the tables for programmes and assistance and once completed, the goal of seeing football in many of the islands in the Bahamas can be reached.

BFA officials are currently in communication with FIFA about the direction that the programme will go in the Bahamas and look to see this fully in stride by the time the next school year, and soccer season commences in the country. With programmes already in place for youth and additionally plans to resume the BFA Coaching and Education Scheme in August 2009, with an area of concentration being youth, club and school coaches, FIFA's Win In CONCACAF With CONCACAF will be a welcome addition and needed boost to the continued development of football in the Bahamas.



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Wednesday, June 2, followed by the departure of the delegates on Thursday, June 4, 2009. The event will see Presidents and General Secretaries from all of FIFA's 208 Member Associations visit the Bahamas, giving the country the opportunity to conduct the most important event in football. Decisions on various subjects such as the "6 + 5 Principal" host cities for the 2014 FIFA World Cup to be conducted in Brazil and regulations regarding the transfer of players are all on the agenda for this Congress.

BAHAMAS COMPETES IN CONCACAF BEACH SOCCER QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT



The Bahamas took part in their first ever international competition for Beach Soccer in Puerto Vallarta June 17-21, 2009, and despite losing all three matches, the team certainly showed the promise to come.

Opening the competition on June 17, 2009 against heavy tournament favorites the United States, the Bahamas stunned the crowd by scoring in the first 6 seconds of the match. Lesly St. Fleur struck a volley from the half line immediately after the kick-off that flew into the nets, before many of the players had taken their first step of action..The US team regrouped and replied with 2 goals in the opening period, three in the second and one more in the third, The Bahamas had one further reply, in the second period to end the match 6-2, but showed that they could compete with the powerhouses. The second match, one day later saw the Bahamas face Costa Rica, and once again the team showed its mettle in competition. Once again, however, the team succumbed in the end, two second period goals and one in the third gave Costa Rica the 3-0 victory. The final match of the competition saw the Bahamas face Canada in the 5th and 6th place match. Two

teams seemingly equal saw Canada steal the victory 4-3, but the Bahamas team had more than their fair share of chances and could have easily won this match.

With this marking the Bahamas' first foray into Beach Soccer internationally, the results give good hope towards the future. BFA President Anton Sealey, who also serves as CONCACAF's Chairman for the Beach Soccer Committee, was in Mexico in time to see the team's final match, and was pleased with the performance. Sealey was upbeat that the team did more than enough to justify the participation in the tournament, and feels that with some slight changes to the preparation, could have qualified for the FIFA Finals later this year. With these results in the bag and the experience gained from the tournament, Sealey feels that the Bahamas has more than enough to go on and develop to become even stronger in this arena. Plans are already underway to conduct a coaching course in the near future and also a camp for young players is also being prepared.

The Bahamas team returns home on Sunday, June 21, 2009



MY GAME IS FAIR PLAY