



PRESS RELEASE

NEW SPORTING & CULTURAL EXCHANGE INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

London - June 01, 2019 – The High Commission of Antigua and Barbuda, London and Keyworth Cricket Club (Nottingham, England) are delighted to announce in this World Cup Cricket year, a new initiative that will give school aged children from both Antigua & Barbuda, and Nottingham in the United Kingdom the opportunity to both play cricket and experience each other's cultures through a two-way residential exchange programme.

The first wave of the programme will see two Antiguan boys, Essan Warner aged 16, and Timmo Thomas aged 18, fly to Nottingham this summer for 10 weeks. They will join in with a local school, live with a family and play for one of the Nottinghamshire cricket clubs, becoming an integrated part of the community.

Around 30 young people from the island took part in the selection process, which started off the back of a donation of some cricket equipment from Keyworth CC and the cricketing charity, the Lord's Taverners to a local secondary school in Antigua. Keith Williams, Junior Director of Cricket and a Lord's Taverner, thought that the donation of the cricket equipment was good start, but that it could blossom into so much more.

This is the first exchange for Keyworth Cricket Club's "Exchange Programme", an initiative looking at giving junior players from across the world and those living in Keyworth a sporting chance to experience life abroad and interact with different cultures and people through sport.

The High Commission of Antigua & Barbuda, Ms Karen Mae Hill, has provided two return air tickets and transfers for the young Antiguan to Nottingham, whilst local businesses in Nottingham and cricket clubs in both Antigua and the UK have provided funds, equipment and doing fundraising.



The Programme has received the endorsement of many established bodies and cricketers past and present who are delighted to see grass roots cricket creating life changing experiences.

Keith Williams said: "There is a lot of talk of 'elite sport' and 'money in sport'. While that is great for those involved, we want to try and engage with kids whilst they are still learning the game and about life, but they want to broaden both of those horizons. Sport, and cricket in particular, is an incredible way to achieve that. We have already had lots of clubs ask us how they too can get involved, and if we can make a good start, then we are sure we can create life changing experiences for many more young people over the coming years".



Karen-Mae Hill said “We are thrilled to create the opportunity to help give young islanders the chance to learn and grow both as cricketers and as young people, while positively promoting the island internationally. But then to know then we can be the catalyst to what we hope will lead to lifelong friendships and bonds between young people through sport and cultural exchange across the seas is a legacy that every Antiguan will support and enjoy”.

Sir Viv Richards “It is a great opportunity for you guys, and in particular with this Exchange Programme to go to Nottingham in England and to play cricket. That is the first step- there are so many people will see you so give it your best shot”.

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Further information

For further information, questions, and further press requests or enquiries related to this programme please contact Keith Williams c/o Keyworth Cricket Club, or Her Excellency, Ms Karen-Mae Hill c/o Antigua dn Barbuda High Commission London.

To contact Keyworth Cricket Club, please email keyworthcc@yahoo.co.uk

About Antigua & Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda. Two islands. One paradise. A wealth of incredible experiences! A favourite tourist destination accessible via direct flights from the UK, USA, and Canada. Antigua's shoreline is washed almost exclusively by the Caribbean Sea, and is hugged by 95 miles of superb coastline. Her sister Barbuda, is surrounded by protective reefs, and features a large lagoon and Frigate Bird sanctuary. The islands are best-known for their friendly and welcoming people, pink and white-sandy beaches, crystal clear waters and the most satisfying and enjoyable climate in the world.

Online References to the KCC Exchange Programme

Web: www.keyworthcc.net

YouTube Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNiJza80_AU&feature=youtu.be

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1522274244766768/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/keyworthcricket>