



Banks Holdings Limited

August 22nd, 2013

PRESS RELEASE

Banks Hockey Festival back with a bang!

WITH ONLY A handful of days left before the start of the 2013 Banks International Hockey Festival, preparations are in full swing for what has become one of the biggest and most cosmopolitan field hockey tournaments in the Western Hemisphere.

The six-day festival, which officially gets underway on Sunday at the Cricket Legends of Barbados, will be contested over 100 games at various venues across the island, including the Astroturf at the Sir Garfield Sobers Sports Complex - the home of local hockey.

“The Beer of Barbados’ is always proud to sponsor this tournament as it combines the best of sporting and social camaraderie,” said Charles Walcott, category manager for Banks Holdings Limited.

“Since its inception more than two decades ago, a key element of the Festival has always been the advancement of cultural expression and international cooperation among participating nations. This year will be no different, and while we will be cheering for our local teams, we welcome all of the visiting teams to our shores and wish them the very best of luck.”

In the past, the tournament has attracted international teams from the United States, Europe, Britain, South America and the Caribbean, with a team representing Abu Dhabi making the 24-hour jaunt to the Caribbean last year.

“Everyone comes to compete on a high level and to enjoy the added bonus of holidaying in Barbados,” said David Rouse, president of the Barbados Hockey Federation (BHF), who noted that several international teams, including teams from (could you mention at least two countries?), had already confirmed their participation.

As in previous years, the BHF has arranged several exciting social events for the competitors to enjoy, including karaoke nights, talent shows and island tours.

In keeping with tradition, the tournament will be divided into four divisions: Men’s, Women’s, Veterans’ and Mixed.

Germany's Aixen are the defending men's champs, while ABC of Barbados took both the women's and veterans' titles in 2012. Local outfit UWI HC claimed the mixed-team crown.

The 28th Banks International Hockey Festival, which was first launched in 1986 by noted cricket commentator Tony Cozier, Mike Owen and Winsmore Humphrey, is expected to give both the sport and tourism sectors of Barbados a much needed boost as the summer season draws to a close.

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For further information, please contact Group PR Manager Sophia Cambridge, 227-6705; 233-6627; scambridge@thebhlgrou.com