

**Applications now available for the Bank of Bermuda Pro Soccer Clinic and College Prospect Programme 2006**

**(Hamilton, Bermuda, 9 May 2006)** The 2006 Bank of Bermuda Pro Soccer Clinic and Bank of Bermuda College Prospect Programme is again available for Bermuda's developing soccer players. The programmes for 2006 offer a combined total of 405 spots for youth players at various levels of development and this year there are even more opportunities for youth players to capitalize on their talents.

Introduced in 2003, the Bank of Bermuda College Prospect Programme provides players aged 15-20 with a host of opportunities. Players participating in the 2006 College Prospect Programme will not only have the opportunity to showcase their talents in front of college and professional athletic recruiters but this year there will also be representatives from the Williams Futbol Consultants (WFC), who have been successfully representing players in MLS, USISL 1<sup>st</sup> Division and the MISL since 1997.

Additionally, four players selected from the College Prospect Programme will be offered incredible exposure to train in the US with professional players from a major indoor soccer league team, allowing them to experience the professional soccer environment first hand. Pro-Soccer Clinic and College Prospect Programme Founder and President, David Bascome encouraged all players aged 15-20 years to participate in the College Prospect Programme, "Even if the player is not considering attending college, the programme will help to take their skills and playing ability to the next level."

The Bank of Bermuda Pro Soccer Clinic open to players ages 6-10 years (Basic Group) and 10-14 (Advanced Group), provides young players with the opportunity to build on their soccer skills, learn the importance of positive discipline and encourages them to become team players both on and off the field. Participants will be taught by qualified

coaches and experienced players. While the Kiddy Kickers programme for 4 and 5 year olds is a starter clinic for the youngest of players to learn the fundamentals of soccer and take part in fun drills with parent participation.

The School of Excellence, introduced eight years ago, will again be offered to ten participants from the Pro-Soccer Clinic, aged between 12 and 14, who show good team leadership skills and positive discipline. The School of Excellence combines soccer training, education and work experience and runs for two weeks in July. Participants are selected by the clinic coaches and announced at the Advanced Group presentation on 7 July. The programme which runs from 10-14 July and 17- 21 July involves class work from 9:00am-10:30am, work experience from 12:30pm-2:30pm and soccer training from 5:00pm-6:30pm. It provides advanced players with an incentive to participate in our Bank of Bermuda Pro Soccer Clinic, and encourages them to be role models for our younger players.

Application forms for all of the programmes are now available at all Bank of Bermuda branches and participants can register either by placing a completed application form into the drop box at the Bank's Head Office on Front Street, mail their application to Katrina Simons at Bank of Bermuda or attend the pre-registration which will be held in the lobby of Bank of Bermuda Head Office, Front Street, Hamilton on Friday 16 June between 12noon-2pm.

Bank of Bermuda, Chief Executive Officer, Philip Butterfield commented, "We recognize sport as a vital element in the all-round development of Bermuda's young people and we are pleased once again to support these programmes. The Pro Soccer Clinic and College Prospect Programme offer our youth more than just the opportunity to upgrade their soccer skills but equally encourages them to become reliable, responsible team players on and off the field."

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**Notes to Editors:**

- Founded in 1889, Bank of Bermuda is the leading provider of fund administration, trust, custody, asset management and banking services in Bermuda. Since 2004 it has been a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.
- Further information on Bank of Bermuda can be found at [www.bankofbermuda.bm](http://www.bankofbermuda.bm)
- Further information on HSBC can be found at [www.hsbc.com](http://www.hsbc.com)
- Attachments: Application forms for the Bank of Bermuda Pro Soccer Clinic and the Bank of Bermuda College Prospects Programme.

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