

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CHESS ASSOCIATION

FINAL REPORT

DEVELOPMENT FUND

Period: January –December 2020

Background

2020 was a year that provided unique challenges and opportunities for the TTCA. The final report has been presented on TTCA activities for 2020.

NATIONAL YOUTH AND JUNIOR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020



The National Youth Chess Championships 2020 attracted 126 participants and was held at Naparima College, San Fernando, from **January 2-5, 2020**. Of this number, 32 players were female. The event was quite successful without any incidents. The National Junior Championships took place over the period **February 8, 9, 15, 16 2020** and attracted 43 players.

The National Prize-giving was held on **March 8, 2020** and the TTCA was happy to have the newly appointed, Deputy PS of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA), Mrs. Claire Davidson-Williams as Feature Speaker. Ms. Davidson-Williams congratulated the TTCA on its efforts which resulted in many successes for the TTCA and reconfirmed the MSYA's commitment to the TTCA and other sporting bodies. She also was pleased to see the level of performance by young girls in the sport of chess and said that this was in keeping with the Ministry's 'Pink Reign Campaign' which focuses on increasing female participation in sport. Photos can be found on the TTCA's Facebook Page or at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/kb4iWmqCX1FSeHYQ7>

FIRST CITIZENS SPORTS FOUNDATION AWARDS

The Trinidad and Tobago Chess Association won the Jeffrey Stollmeyer Award for Top Sporting Organisation **(Large)** at the First Citizens Sports Foundation Awards, for 2019. The award ceremony was a virtual event that was aired in April 2020. This achievement follows previous awards for 2015, 2016, 2018 for the Small Category. The other NSO's shortlisted were Hockey and Athletics.

This was also published in FIDE news: <https://www.fide.com/news/487>.

The virtual ceremony is at: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=1920810868217457&ref=watch_permalink

NATIONAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER

One National Championship qualifier was held in February 2020. The results were:

1. FM Marcus Joseph 2. FM Mario Merritt and 3. FM Ryan Harper 4. CM Cecil Lee (tied for 3rd, 4th on tie break)

No other rated over-the-board events have been hosted due to the Pandemic.

NATIONAL SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP

The event which was initially scheduled for the end of 2019 was shifted to January 2020. This was held in San Fernando during 11, 12, 18, 19 January 2020 at San Fernando Girls' Anglican Primary School.

Results: Tied for 1st place: FM Isaiah Mc Intosh and FM Mario Merritt, 3. FM Ryan Harper

PROMOTION OF TTCA PRESIDENT

The TTCA President was officially promoted to Chair of the FIDE Planning and development Commission in May 2020 after serving as Secretary since June 2019. She is one of 3 women who serve as Chair of Commissions. The other Commissions being Women in Chess and Fairplay.

TTCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The TTCA's AGM was scheduled to be held on June 27, 2020. However due to the continued restrictions, the meeting had to be deferred until the TTCA has received expressed instructions from the Ministry of Health to host the meeting. A request was sent to the membership soliciting feedback on the possibility of a remote meeting and there was no appetite based on the responses. Eventually, the AGM was held on December 29, 2020.

REGIONAL ONLINE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020



Live commentary of one of the online chess matches.

The TTCA hosted the 1st Regional Online Chess Championship over the period June 13-17, 2020. This was a blitz event for Under 18 youth with an ELO less than 1800. Each game was 3 minutes with 2 sec increment after the first move.

There seemed to be vast excitement surrounding this event as 173 players from 14 countries in the Caribbean Region played in the qualifying round on June 13, 2020. The tournament consisted of an Arena where players were paired continuously for an hour and a half. The top 14 players then joined the National Under 18 Champions of Trinidad and Tobago, CM Sean Yearwood from St. Mary's College and WCM Shemilah James from St. Francois Girls' College, in the Round of 16.

The feature that invoked great interest was the commentary that was provided throughout the event by FM Adrian Atwell, FM Ryan Harper and FM Joshua Johnson. Many parents were very happy with the platform given to showcase their children's performances online. They were joined on the final day by International Master, IM, Jomo Pitterson from Jamaica, who also serves as the Treasurer for the Jamaica Chess Federation, JCF. It also presented an opportunity for youth players to learn from their more experienced counterparts.

This event was supported by FIDE America with remarks being provided by Deputy President, GM Darcy Lima. GM Lima.

At the end team Jamaica emerged victorious capturing the top spots as follows:

1. Darren Mc Kennis
2. Jaden Shaw
3. John Stephenson

The best performing female was WCM Raehanna Brown and the top Under 12 youth was Rohit Mahtani.

FIDE ONLINE CHESS OLYMPIAD

Trinidad and Tobago was one of 162 federations that participated in the Online Chess Olympiad. We were in Division 4, Pool E. Trinidad and Tobago just barely missed advancing to the round of 3 by 0.5 pints. The federations that advances were Honduras, Nicaragua and Jamaica.

CAC ONLINE BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIPS-CARIBBEAN

The Confederation of Chess for the Americas, CCA, held online Blitz Championships- Absolute and Youth events in August 2020 for Caribbean countries.

Trinidad and Tobago had a few participants in each event. For the Absolute event, one of the participants, FM Joshua Johnson, placed 2nd with a score of 5 out of 7.

NATIONAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020

These were not held in 2020 due to the impact of COVID 19 and the inability to host qualifiers.

CHESS IN PRISONS

The TTCA obtained approval from the Prison Administration to embark upon a chess programme within the nation's prisons. This however was put on hold due to the effects of the pandemic locally. A meeting was also held with officials from the Golden grove Prison and the Women's Prison.

Strategy for a Sustainable TTCA

Think Tank 2020



The TTCA set up a 'Think Tank' of younger adults (20s and 30s) to participate in a Think tank to provide ideas for the operations of the TTCA given the new normal. The team was also supported by 3 professionals from the Medical, legal and business fields. The final presentation was completed and shared on 27th December 2020.

CAPACITY BUILDING

The TTCA has used this period to engage in a few capacity building activities for its officials. These include:

- International Organiser Seminar- Attended by Sandy Razark, Secretary and Sadiqah Razark, 3rd Vice President. Both officials obtained an International Organiser (IO) norm for their participation and successful completion of exam.
- TTOC Sport Administrator Course for NGB Officials- 2nd VP, Daryl Davis completed the course and submitted the final course work required.
- Arbiters' Seminar: The Barbados Chess Federations hosted an Arbiters' seminar and allowed some participation by neighbouring federations. Two participants, Roderick Noel (Ratings Officer) and Sean Nedd (Tobago Chess Society, Secretary) attended and were successful.
- Various officials participated in the training provided by the Tornado team on the use of the online platform which will be used from several FIDE events going forward due to its enhanced fair-play features and functionality.

JUDIT POLGAR CHESS FESTIVAL

5 members from Trinidad and Tobago were selected to participate on the Continental Team for the Judit Polgar Intercontinental Youth Chess Championship on October 10, 2020. The players were:

- IM Alan-Safar Ramoutar
- CM Sean Yearwood
- WCM Shemilah James
- Zara La Fleur (WCM pending)
- Aradhana Ramnarine Singh

The American continent placed third, with 1st place going to Asia and 2nd Place to Europe. We thank these players for their contribution and acceptance to participate in this inaugural event.

FIDE AMERICA/CCA ONLINE TRAINING CAMP

The following Junior were nominated to participate in an online training camp hosted by CCA which began in October 2020.

- WCM Shemilah James
- Jennika Lynch
- FM Isaiah Mc Intosh
- IM Alan-Safar Ramoutar

FIDE WORLD YOUTH & CADETS ONLINE RAPID 2020

11 players participated in the event from Trinidad and Tobago during the period December 1-3, 2020:

Category	Open	Girls
U10	Taydan Balliram	Shasmeen Mohammed
U12	Joshua Medina	Aradhana Ramnarine-Singh
U14	Brad Munroe-Brown	Zara La Fleur (WCM pending)
U16	Amir Mahadeo	Keira Samuel-Bisnath
U18	CM Sean Yearwood	WCM Shemilah James
U10	Kyan Muradali	

The TTCA hosted two test events to assist the players in their preparation for this qualifying event.

COLLABORATION WITH THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE



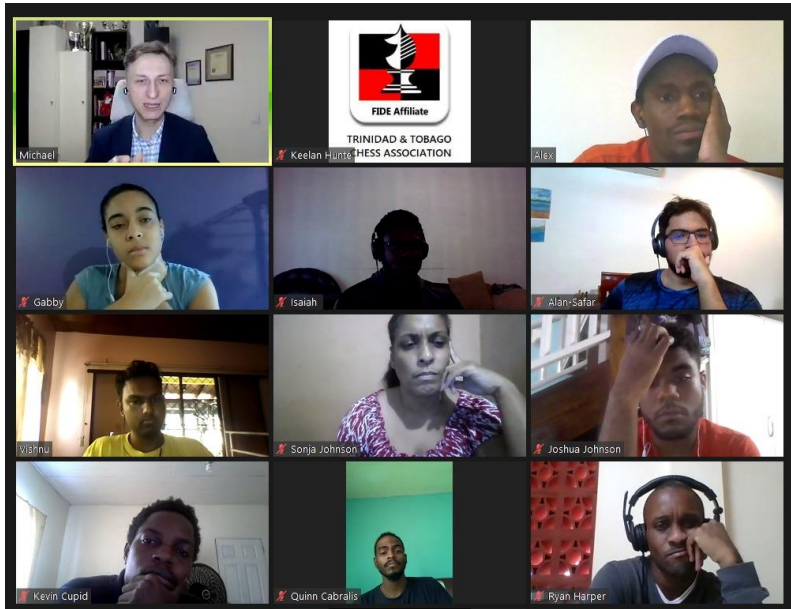
The TTCA is engaged in a collaboration with the TTPS for promoting chess through the various Youth clubs across Trinidad and Tobago. The TTCA facilitated a few training sessions were conducted with officers and some of the members of the clubs.

A small tournament was held on December 16, 2020 at the offices of the North Western Division with participation from 5 Youth clubs including El Dorado and Princes Town. There were 3 Police Officers who also participated in the tournament.

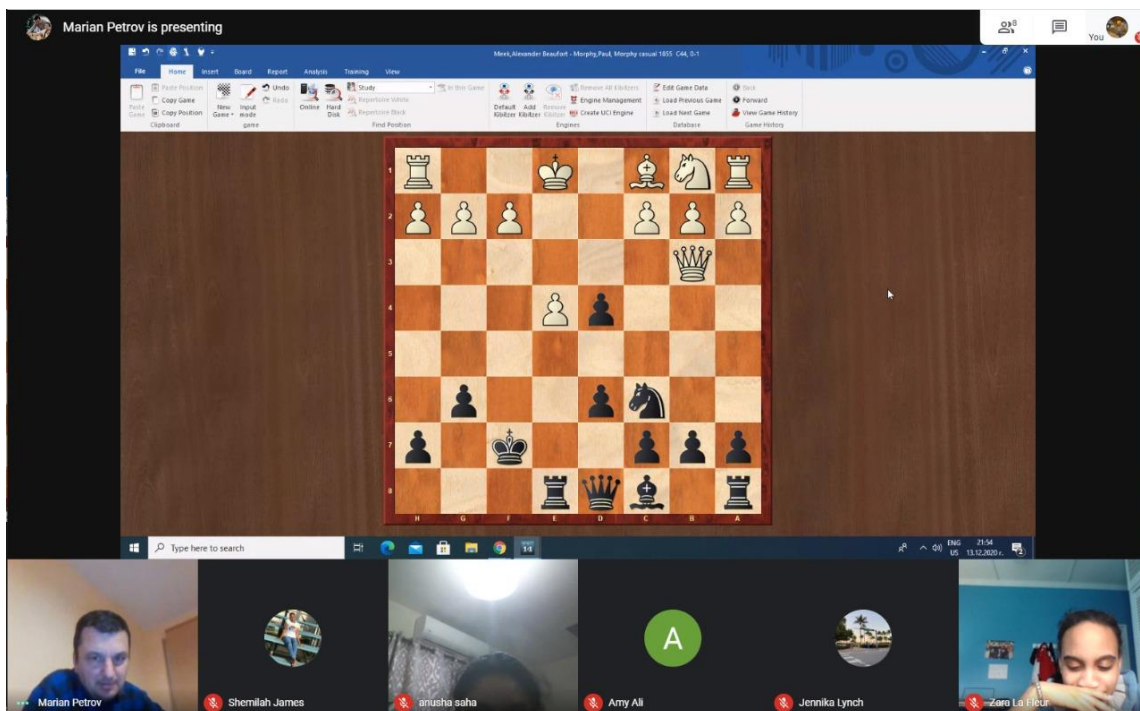
The TTCA will continue to work with the TTPS to develop a sustainable model for what can prove to be a very meaningful programme.

TRAINING OF TOP PLAYERS

The TTCA engaged the services of two coaches to provide training to top male and female players. These are:



- Absolute: GM Mykhaylo Oleksiyenko (Ukraine). There are 8 players in this programme.



- Females: GM Marian Petrov (Bulgaria). There are 5 players in this programme.

The training began in mid-December 2020 and is initially scheduled for a period of 3 months.

USAGE OF FUNDS

The funding received from FIDE has been allocated as follows:

Item	US\$
Payment of Trainers	3200.00
Training Platform: Chesslang.com	1500.00
Zoom Subscription	142.90
TOTAL	4842.90

The small difference will be allocated for the remainder period of the training programme.

LESSONS LEARNED

- One of the main challenges experienced was the ability to host online events in a way that the integrity was preserved. The underlying cause of this issue is that online events needed arbiters to have a certain skillset which included managing online conference platforms e.g. zoom while also understanding the technical aspects of the game, e.g. pairing of players. This proved to be difficult due to the current cadre of arbiters. The TTCA shall be working in 2021 to encourage other arbiters, with a focus on younger talent, who may be more open to such media, to participate in training of online/hybrid events to ensure that the integrity of events is preserved.
- It is also important to reach out to other persons or federations when experiencing challenges as it provides some comfort that you may not be alone and it also provides an opportunity to put your heads together to find a solution to a common problem or issue.
- During a crisis, such as what was presented due to COVID-19, it is even more important to communicate with your community. At times, this was done well and at other times, it could have been improved.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Despite the challenges, the TTCA is comfortable with its response to the current situation to date and will continue to improve its operations as it strives towards increased relevance and sustainability.



Sonja Johnson
President, TTCA



APPENDIX C - KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

NATIONAL CHESS FEDERATION (NCF): TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CONTINENT: AMERICA

DEVELOPMENT LEVEL: 3

PERIOD: 2020

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)¹ are the critical (key) indicators of progress toward an intended result.

The NCF is required to measure the effectiveness of its programmes using the KPIs listed below. The NCF is expected to complete both the **Baseline** and **End of Period-target** values. It is possible that a Federation may not be able to report on a particular KPI and this will be taken into consideration at the end of the reporting period. NCFs can also make use of the '**Comments**' field as required. The NCF is also allowed to include any additional KPIs that it considers to be relevant for reporting purposes.

When the NCF is preparing its final report for the end of the reporting period, the actual values of the KPIs need to be completed for each KPI identified.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Baseline-2020 ²	End of Period Target	End of Period Actual	Comments
FIDE-rated players	220	225	235	
Players on FIDE List	729	740	782	Limited activity due to Covid-19
Female Chess Players on FIDE List	129	133	142	
Certified Arbiters	17	20	17	2 engaged in ARB seminar
Certified Trainers	17	17	21	
Average rating of top 10 players	2174	2174	2178	Very limited over the board activity due to Covid-19
Average Rating of top 10 female players	1437	1437	1442	Very limited over the board activity due to Covid-19

¹ <https://kpi.org/KPI-Basics>

² NCF to populate these fields with the current values of each KPI as at the beginning of the programme/project period.



APPENDIX C - KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Participants in international chess tournaments	30	0	0	Travel restrictions due to Covid-19
Affiliated clubs	15	15	15	
School Chess Teachers	5	8	N/A	Schools closed for 10 months in 2020
Schools with chess programmes	31	N/A	N/A	Covid-19 impact
Students in chess in school programmes	600	N/A	N/A	Covid-19 impact
Positive or neutral articles & media coverage incl. social media	10	15	12	
Chess sponsors	6	3	3	Decreased chess activity. Atlantic, NGC, Naparima College,
Strategic Partners e.g. NOC	4	4	4	
OTHER- Online chess tournaments	0	2	3	TTCA organised-3 TTCA Participation-3

On behalf of FEDERATION

President

Trinidad and Tobago Chess Association

Date: January 28, 2021



APPENDIX D – REPORT ON FUNDING

NATIONAL CHESS FEDERATION (NCF): Trinidad and Tobago

CONTINENT: AMERICA

DEVELOPMENT LEVEL:3

Please complete ALL requested fields in this report.

1. Programme/Project Name:

See enclosed report.

2. Programme/Project Dates:

See enclosed report.

3. Summary of Project Outcomes:

See enclosed report.

4. Breakdown of Funding Usage (Please provide supporting documents as far as possible):

See enclosed report.

5. Any funds not yet used? Yes _____ No _____

If No, please provide reasons and details on how and when the funds will be utilised:

See enclosed report.

6. Lessons Learned/Future Improvements:

See enclosed report.

On behalf of FEDERATION

President
Trinidad and Tobago Chess Association

Date: January 28, 2021