



BFA Senior League Season Ends On A High

Football in the Bahamas drew to a close on Sunday, May 16, 2010, and ended on a high. The BFA Knock-Out Cup was conducted as the final match of the season followed by the presentation of awards for the year.

Prior to this Cup match, however, the Bahamas Boys U-16 National Team in training played an exhibition match against COB to test their level in advance of their competition in July. The Boys lost this match 2-1 but put up a fine showing against their older opponents. The Cup Final saw Insurance Management Bears FC take on Lyford Cay FC. Having swept all awards to date, IM Bears were looking to take the full complement on offer with a win. The match was competitive enough, with Lyford Cay having the better of chances in the first half, and seeing two "sitters" sail over the crossbar. The longer the match ensued, the less likely their chances seemed, and true to form, Bears FC hit full stride on about the 65th minute. The first goal seemed to settle the match as a contest, but Bears continued their onslaught and added three more before time expired to run out 4-0 winners.

Lyford Cay were also the only competitors for the League Title, trailing Bears closely for much of the season. A falter in their penultimate match against Cavalier put paid to any chances they had and handed Bears the title before the two met in the final match of the league play. Over the course of the season, some 352 goals were scored yielding an average of 4.88 per match. Insurance Management Bears FC amassed almost one third of the total goals scored (with an incredible haul of 108. They were also the stingiest team, conceding only 12 goals on the year.

Discipline was less of an issue this season, as only 17 red cards were issued in the 72 matches played. Cautions were still a very high 157 indicating the teams desire for Fair Play, but perhaps needing a greater understanding of the practical application of the Laws of the Game. The immersion of youth players in the Senior League has had significantly greater effect this past season as a majority of the clubs employed this to great success. No better example of this than Baha Juniors who managed to not only get in U-17 players but also introduced U-14 players to great success. Indeed, one of these U-14 players, Richard Munroe, was voted the Youth Player of the Year for the Senior League. Bears Cavalier, Dynamos, United and FC Nassau also utilized this system to great success and the experience that these youth players received will be valuable to their development in the game.

More assistance was provided to the teams this past season in terms of seminars, as information on the Laws of the Game and Club Administration were presented. The BFA Coaching and Education Scheme was reintroduced under BFA Development Officer Paul James through a series of seminars conducted twice a month. More is scheduled for the future with a continuation of the Coaching Courses and Laws of the Game Seminar, but an increase in the Club Administration and Football Medicine programmes will come on stream, and all clubs will be encouraged to take advantage of the offerings.

Immediately following the Knock Out Cup match, presentation of awards were conducted, with BFA Vice President Sam Haven acting as MC and Executive Vice President Fred Lunn and General Secretary Lionel Haven presenting the awards. The following is a list of the awardees for the 2009-2010 BFA Senior League Season:

Charity Shield:	Winners	Insurance Management Bears FC
	Runners Up	Cavalier FC
Presidents Cup	Winners	Insurance Management Bears FC
	Runners Up	College of the Bahamas
League Championship	Winners	Insurance Management Bears FC
	Runners Up	Lyford Cay FC
Knock Out Cup	Winners	Insurance Management Bears FC
	Runners Up	Lyford Cay FC
Leading Goal Scorer	Leslie St. Fleur, Insurance Management Bears FC	
Most Valuable Player	Leslie St. Fleur, Insurance Management Bears FC	
Youth Player of the Year	Richard Munroe, Baha Juniors FC	
Coach Of The Year	Dion Peterson, Dynamos FC	

