



BERMUDA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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February 13th, 2010

PRESS CONFERENCE

BFA / West Ham United Initiative

Good day all and thank you for attending this very special Press Conference.

You are aware that the BFA is currently hosting the 4th Annual Clyde Best Invitation Tournament featuring St. Etienne's Youth Academy and the Football Academy of West Ham United. It is particularly special for West Ham to be participating this year since we are all aware of the exploits of Clyde Best during his West Ham playing days.

Today, away from the pitch, the Bermuda Football Association (BFA) and West Ham United Football Academy USA Inc. are excited to announce that we have engaged in a mutually beneficial relationship to support the development of football in Bermuda via the BFA's National Academy Program. Essentially, we have agreed to pursue a number of programs/initiatives including:

- Establishing a partnership whereby the best players from the BFA's National Academy will be invited to the West Ham United International Academy National Camp.
- West Ham United Academy teams and partner clubs participation in the annual Clyde Best Invitational Tournament.
- Establish links for boys and girls to join West Ham United partner clubs.
- Provide links to US schools and colleges for male and female student / football players.
- Provide opportunities for BFA teams to visit England and West Ham United.
- Provide opportunities for BFA to create educational opportunities for our coaches to visit West Ham United, develop online learning opportunities for our coaches and explore opportunities to develop online remote scouting programs such as Prozone stats.
- Establish an annual player ID camp and summer skills camp in Bermuda.
- Explore possibility of establishing West Ham United International Academy Development Centre for 5-8 year olds or 8-12 year olds in Bermuda.



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For its part, the Bermuda Football Association will provide direct support to the achievement of these initiatives by:

- Utilizing all available resources including financially, technically and administratively.
- Promote West Ham United International Academy as a partner in the BFA's National Academy Program.
- Utilize West Ham United International Academy technical and promotional material whenever possible.
- Provide the BFA Technical Centre as the primary venue for all BFA and West Ham United International Academy programs.

As part of its Strategic Plan, the BFA is committed to partnering with internationally recognized footballing programs and this relationship with one of football's most respected academy programs provides a great opportunity toward achieving our goals of developing our players and coaches. We proudly acknowledge the fact that Clyde Best as a West Ham great has paved the way for all aspiring players to benefit from this relationship. We are delighted that West Ham United Football Academy USA Inc. has welcomed the BFA into its network of development programs and we look forward to achieving the initiatives stated.