First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Adelle King

H.B.M

Administrator

Inducted in 2000

The survival and growth of any sport relies upon the work of individuals who dedicate themselves to the administration, officiating and legwork required to ensure success. It is extra special when that dedication is done out of pure passion, for love of the sport at an amateur level. Adelle King was – fortunately for hockey – one of those individuals.

For close to 30 years, she was involved in all aspects of local hockey, from school level to national tours, from schoolgirls to the men's league. King was indeed the queen who looked after the sport from the 1950s to the 1980s, helping it to grow and encompass new concepts, such an indoor hockey.

She started in the sport at the Maroons Club in the early 1940s, when there were a scant four teams playing in the women's league. When the Maroons folded, King joined the Wrens Club.



When she began to work within hockey in an administrative capacity in 1955, she made her home – which was located close to the St. James Police Barracks where the sport is still played to this day – the headquarters of the Trinidad & Tobago Women's Hockey Association (the sport would later merge the men's and women's administrations into one governing body).

From there, King would arrange meetings, plan fundraisers and even entertain visiting teams from abroad. It was her skill as Treasurer that stood out. In fact, she was able to raise enough funds privately to enable a Trinidad and Tobago women's team to attend a two-week competition in Baltimore for the International Federation of Women's Hockey Association (IFWHA) tournament. King was part of the 17-person delegation that made up Trinidad and Tobago's first participation in an international women's hockey tournament, something that helped set the trajectory for the gold medal won by the women's team at the 1986 CAC Games.

She utilized the time at the conference to make contacts with other nations, wasting no time as international teams began to visit Trinidad and Tobago that very year, 1963, including the Netherlands, Wales and Argentina. King also expanded her role to encompass the wider Caribbean, helping Jamaica, Barbados and Guyana with the hosting of tournaments, which Trinidad and Tobago attended. Eventually she would become President of the Caribbean Women's Hockey Association and would attend further IFWHA conferences in 1975 and 1979.

King recognized that the future of the sport required attention and focused on the establishment of a schoolgirls' league. She arranged

camps – held in St. Anns and Chaguaramas – to coach both players and officials, and then umpired many games within the new school league. She liaised closely with the Hockey Board of Control, serving on several committees to further develop the sport. It led to the establishment of indoor hockey in Trinidad in 1979.

Her contribution and value to the sport is reflected in the numerous accolades bestowed upon her, including Honorary Life Membership in the Men's Federation in 1982, Honorary Life Membership in the Women's Hockey Association in 1984, and Honorary Life Membership in the Secondary Schoolgirls Hockey Association in 1984. Adelle King was also awarded the Hummingbird Silver Medal in 1989, before being inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 2000.

Before that, she was selected to take part in a Queen's Jubilee match against England at Wembley Stadium, with Trinidad and Tobago winning and Thomas-Luces named Most Outstanding Player. Two years later, in 1978, Trinidad and Tobago toured Australia and, with their goalkeeper keeping the Aussies scoring opportunities to a minimum, they took the series 3-1.

When the 1979 World Championships began in Trinidad the team was at their tactical best. The 'Calypso Girls' defeated Australia and England, lost to New Zealand – their only loss – and became World Champions. Thomas-Luces, in her fourth and final World Championship, had finally banished all the 4th places and achieved the unthinkable.

Thomas-Luces retired from competitive play, becoming a coach for the Ministry of Sport, to pass on the lessons of combining discipline, sacrifice,

teamwork and natural talent – all of which she possessed in abundance. The World Championship winning team was awarded the Chaconia Gold Medal in 1979, and was inducted as a team into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 2004, echoing Althea Thomas-Luces induction as an individual player in 1995.

Netball World Championships: 1979 1st