

# REPORT ON THE SOJ FLOORBALL PROGRAMME INTERFACE WITH THE VISITING EUROPEAN RESOURCES



Europeans at regular weekend training



Prepared by Victor L. Brown, Floorball Coordinator, March 2015

It is with great thanks to the Jamaica Floorball Association (JFA) for arranging for the European resources to come to Jamaica (for six months) on a bilingual exchange programme which included coaching Floorball in schools and to the existing clubs. We were not shy at all to take advantage of having these resources readily available and ensured that very opportunity to work with them was taken by extending an open invitation to our twice weekly Unified training sessions and naturally on Saturdays when the junior special athletes and their partners joined us. *“These interactions are in-keeping with the SO thrust for Inclusion in Sports and through the Maroons we also meet the Unified Sports thrust. The availability of these external resources will help us with the planned expansion of the SOJ Floorball programme.”*

The availability of this level of resources could not have come at a more strategic time for us as we are preparing for our second Canada Cup in Toronto in May and developing the skills of athletes towards the SO Europe-Eurasia 2016 Pre- Winter Games in January. At the 2014 Canada Cup Oshain Daley (our goalkeeper) had a good showing for his time as the number one net-minder. Upon learning of the types of skills that our friends could offer I singled him out for one-on-one attention. Gregoire Schneider, Janko Skorup, Julien Jeanrenaud, Milos Alempijevip and Hena Määtta instantly agreed to provide some observations and instruction to improve his goalkeeping skills and techniques, Gregoire immediately observed that *“Oshain has a good basic positioning and we’ll be working on helping him to keep it when he is moving in front of on-coming players. I would also say that Oshain has good reflexes”*. Over the period of interaction we could clearly see an upward movement in Oshain’s ability and his confidence growing. All of this is vital for when we enter the May tournament. The challenge still remained, however to put an improved defence in front of him so as to reduce the number of shots on goal and thereby increase his percentage saves. In addition, last year’s Canada Cup performance highlighted our lack of finishing in front of the net notwithstanding our aggressive play in open court. Our new friends were also very helpful in addressing these two weaknesses.

The drills and tactics provided at each training session have started to find root as the athletes are now displaying that they have “absorbed” them and do display them in match play. *“As coaches we are very pleased with the improvement we see in all of the athletes resulting from the training with the resources. The manual that they have produced will be circulated to all so that they can familiarise themselves with and memorize each tactic (this will enable us to refer to plays from courtside and the players can react accordingly). The material will also be utilized for the lower level skilled athletes so that they too can learn match like situations to eventually play scrimmage games as part of their own development. Our friends have touched all of our athletes in some way”*

During the period, the JFA hosted two tournaments at which the Maroons UFC had the opportunity to play not only the visitors but other local teams. In addition on February 7, 2015 SOJ held a Unified Sports Day where our Maroons Floorball programme was given the opportunity to show onlookers what the Sport is all about at a high skill level. Again the European players joined us to provide a very entertaining match.

A “parting gift” was received on March 18<sup>th</sup> at the last full training session when we were presented two sets of new court uniforms donated by Die Mobiliar.

*“It is very difficult to express in words the level of gratitude that we (as representatives of SOJ) have to all the European participants of the JFA project. What they have shared with us in terms of Floorball skills is only “the tip of the iceberg” and we are sure that all will be implanted in each athlete as they develop. What they have given us in terms of comradery and acceptance of our athletes is immeasurable and will live in our hearts.”*

Thanks Janko, Phillippe, David, Pascal, Gregoire, Samuel, Marika, Dario, Damian, Christian, Nico, Jacqueline, Julien, Henna. We say “Walk Good – Your Always a Winner”



Juniors training



Regular adult training action



Action from SOJ Unified Sports Day



SOJ Unified Sports Day 150207



Instructions for Oshain 1



Instructions for Oshain 2



JFA tournament action 1



JFA tournament action 2



JFA tournament action 3



Presentation of new court uniforms  
Form Swiss based Die Mobiliar