

Negril Chamber honours 'Cuddy'

By Mark Thompson
Staff reporter

He gave his all on the cricket field for the West Indies, and even after hanging up his maroon hat and fast bowler's spikes, Courtney Andrew Walsh continues to contribute to the sport that he loves, while placing vital focus on the youth in the process.

His role as an Ambassador-at-large for Jamaica and other commitments consume a large portion of his time, especially outside of the island. However, the man who has earned the titles 'Honourable' and 'Dr.', but who is still affectionately called 'Cuddy', has managed to incept a series of

cricket clinics for youngsters across the island. This initiative landed him out west last weekend at the Allan Rae Oval.

Such service to the nation from a spirit that selflessly keeps on giving moved the Negril Chamber of Commerce to seize the opportunity to honour the West Indian legend at a function held last Saturday at the Negril Escape Resort and Spa.

It was an occasion that was deemed most timely and appropriate, as the NCC's president Grace Lee bestowed honorary membership on the sporting stalwart who has exuded a strong sense of social responsibility.

"This is a case of being in the right place at the right time. You have been showered

with accolades and appreciation for what you have done for the country, and now the Negril Chamber of Commerce sees it fitting to honour you for the important work that you are doing with children," she stated.

Western affair

In his response, Ambassador Walsh humbly accepted the honour and highlighted the assistance of his colleagues in reaching out to the youth. Among those who participated in the Supreme Ventures-sponsored programme were former Jamaica captain and West Indies batsman Robert Samuels and national cricket coach

Junior Bennett.

"It's always been a goal of mine to put something back into cricket. The persons who are working with me have been doing an excellent job of coaching and guiding the kids. If I could encourage one or two children to succeed in sports or life, that would be a dream come true," stated Walsh.

Against the backdrop of a running multimedia presentation on the podium that encapsulated the highlights of Walsh's 20-year career, distinguished members of the business community paid tribute to the "big man".

Carey Robinson, owner of the enchanting Negril Escape Resort and a director at

the NCC, Wayne Cummings, first vice president of the NCC and president of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association (JHTA) and Sharon Paris-Chambers, third vice president of the NCC all heaped praises on Walsh.

The occasion became a truly western affair when Pauline Reid, president of the Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Theo Chambers, president of the Hanover Chamber of Commerce, joined the list of individuals saluting the work of 'Cuddy'.

Formalities aside, mingling over drinks ensued, as the sound of the waves against the rugged West End coastline created a soothing aura. *

B/N WALSH COURTNEY

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Legendary West Indian fast bowler Ambassador Courtney "Cuddy" Walsh receives his honorary membership to the Negril Chamber of Commerce from president Grace Lee at a function held in his honour in Negril on July 15. Walsh was toasted for his career achievements and acknowledged for his work with children in cricket clinics across the island.

M THOMPSON PHOTOS

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