

## ATTC visit to Barbados' s schools of TT for the Disabled September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005

During my stay in Barbados for the ITTF Coaching Course level 1, where I been on behalf of IPTTC Coaching Committee, Marguerita Felix, the Secretary of Barbados Table Tennis Association, kindly invited me to visit some schools for intellectual disability, where the children can also play Table Tennis. I have been there on behalf of the Americas Table Tennis Committee for the disabled (ATTC) the regional committee of IPTTC.

We visited first **“Challenor Creative Arts & Training Centre”**.

Here the children stay Monday to Friday doing different kinds of activities. One of these activities is to play Table Tennis. They don't have a table tennis table but instead they use benches as a game table.

The children can choose among the different activities, and around 8 children are now playing table tennis with a coach who is a player from Barbados.

I couldn't see them practicing table tennis because they do it once a week.

Here I talked with the Manager who showed me all the school and the activities, and she was very interested in doing something more with the table tennis.



Marguerita Felix,  
Secretary of Barbados TT Association,  
with boys of Challenor School



Girls of Challenor School doing needlework

Then I visited **“Children's Development Centre”**.



Here the children play regularly table tennis with their school teacher. They have equipment for practice: a table and some rackets. The teacher kindly showed me how the children play and I also played with them and showed them basics techniques. He was very interested in learn about table tennis for the disable and to do some kind of competitions.

**Playing at the Children's Development Centre**



**Conclusion:**

In both schools they were very interested in improve table tennis as sport and as a regular activity. They don't know how to do it.

There are around eight schools for intellectual disability in Barbados with the same characteristics. Now they usually play different sports in Special Olympics, but they don't play table tennis.

I encourage Marguerita Felix to contact all the schools and to begin to do: first some kind of exchange between two schools like a day of training and a recreative competition together; and second to try to do a competition between all the schools.

In the future we can plan to do a seminar for teachers of schools for intellectual disability.

A contact was already established among Barbados Table Tennis Association, myself and Leandro Olveh, chairman of the Americas Table Tennis Committee for the disabled (ATTC)

Alejandra Gabaglio  
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