



AfrAsia Barcelona Club – successful trials with over 400 young footballers at Bambous.

Wednesday, 4th June 2014

The second trial for AfrAsia Barcelona Club was held last Sunday 1st June, at the Germain Comarmond Stadium, Bambous. Children were once again many to participate and experience what could be their once in a lifetime opportunity: a week at Barcelona for professional football training. A number of applications are still lined up for the two remaining trials schedule on Sunday 8 June at Harry Latour Stadium in Mahebourg and Sunday 15 June at Anjalay Stadium Belle Vue.

“The West of Mauritius is well known for its love of football and our regional trials in Bambous did not disappoint. With over 400 participants in attendance, a packed stadium revealed some very talented individuals trying to secure a trip of a lifetime to FC Barcelona! We were again absolutely delighted with the 100% effort and commitment shown by all participants and look forward to our next trials at the Harry Latour Stadium in Mahebourg on Sunday 8th June. We were also very pleased by the support shown by local schools in the area who, just like their counterparts in Flacq, helped their students become aware of the project and encouraged their participation. In turn, we urge all remaining schools to get involved and let your students know about this fantastic opportunity. Participation is free and it could be one of your very own students who will be selected for this journey of their dreams!” says Jonathan Knapp, Football First Director.

Suneeta Motala, Head of Marketing and Public Relations at AfrAsia Bank, also present to ensure the smooth running of the day: “AfrAsia Bank has always support activities related to children education and development. We believe the Barcelona experience will encourage talented footballers to show up and live their passion.”

Football First and the sponsors are expecting the same fervour from the young footballers for the two remaining weeks, and look forward to fuelling this passion for the game while building an emotional connection with the players.

Football fans willing to take part for the last remaining Sunday 15th June are recommended to complete and send back the form 5 days before the trial. It will be on a first-come, first served basis and only the registered will be able to participate.

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About the National Trials:

All participants within the 10-12 year old category must be under 13 years of age as at 22nd June, 2014.
All participants within the 13-14 year old category must be under 15 years of age as at 22nd June, 2014.
Each participant may only attend one regional trial.

From the four regional trials the best 48 players will then be invited to take part in the final trial on Sunday 22nd June at the New George V Stadium, Forest Side whereupon the final, elite 24 participants will be selected.

Application forms will be available for collection from all McDonald's restaurants on the island and can also be downloaded from our website www.afrasiabarcelonaclub.com.

The 24 successful finalists will be accompanied by seven adults from Football First as well as a member of the Ministry of Youth & Sports. The group will fly from Mauritius on Friday 25th July and begin their twice daily training sessions with FC Barcelona coaches on Monday 28th July. Training will continue until Friday 1st August. In addition to their football coaching sessions the players will go ice-skating, visit the FC Barcelona museum and participate in the Nou Camp tour. The group will return to Mauritius on the 3rd August.



About AfrAsia Bank

A REGIONAL BANKING FORCE WITH GLOBAL REACH

Strategically based in Mauritius and with representation in key markets, AfrAsia Bank Limited serves the Africa-Asia trade corridor, combining its strengths and expertise in three core divisions:

- ✔ Private Banking and Wealth Management
- ✔ Corporate and Investment Banking
- ✔ Global Business

Since inception, the Bank has expanded through a combination of substantial organic growth and a series of strategic acquisitions. AfrAsia Bank's core activities are in Mauritius, South Africa and Zimbabwe with marketing capabilities in Singapore, London, France and Switzerland.

AfrAsia Bank Limited's core banking and transactional capabilities are in Mauritius along with bank representative offices in Cape Town and Johannesburg, its asset management arm, AfrAsia Capital Management Limited and its investment banking arm, AfrAsia Corporate Finance (Pty) Ltd as well as its banking company, AfrAsia Bank (Zimbabwe) Limited.

About Football First

Football First is a non-profit organisation established in 2014 with the sole aim of moving Mauritius football forward. The three founding members are David Callow, an FA-qualified coach, Wilson Li, a successful business owner, and Jonathan Knapp, a financial executive. Collectively they represent the Board of Directors and are assisted by David Jenkins, Principal at Le Bocage International School, Mauritius.

About McDonalds Mauritius

McDonald's is the leading global foodservice retailer with more than 40,000 local restaurants serving nearly 70 million people in more than 120 countries each day.

The first McDonald's Mauritius was inaugurated on the 4th of July 2001 at le Harbour Front building in Port Louis. As a franchisee, the company will continue its expansion throughout the island. McDonald's is now present at Phoenix, Grand Bay and Riche Terre.

Our Mission

McDonald's mission is to become our Customers' favorite place and way to eat and drink. To delight each customer, we are committed to deliver QSC&V, **Quality, Service, Cleanliness, and Value**

Our Ambition

We want our customers to know we're passionate about serving good food through good people, and being a good neighbour.



About FC Barcelona

FC Barcelona is a professional football club, based in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain.

Founded on 29th November 1899 by a group of Swiss, English and Catalan footballers led by Joan Gamper, the club has become a symbol of Catalan culture and Catalanism, hence the motto "*Més que un club*" (More than a club). Unlike many other football clubs, the supporters own and operate Barcelona. It is the world's second-richest football club in terms of revenue, with an annual turnover of \$613 million, and the third most valuable sports team on the globe, worth \$2.6 billion.

Barcelona is the most successful club in Spain, in terms of overall official titles won (81). Barcelona was ranked first in the 'All-Time Club World Ranking' by IFFHS, on 31 December 2009,^[5] and was placed on top of the 2013/14 UEFA club rankings. It is the current Spanish football champion and has won 22 La Liga, 26 Copa del Rey, 11 Supercopa de España, 3 Copa Eva Duarte and 2 Copa de la Liga trophies, as well as being the record holder for the latter four competitions. In international club football, Barcelona has won four UEFA Champions League, a record four UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, four UEFA Super Cup, a record three Inter-Cities Fairs Cup and a record two FIFA Club World Cup trophies.

Barcelona is one of the most supported teams in the world, and has the largest fan base among all sports teams on all major social networks. Barcelona's players have won a record number of Ballon d'Or awards (10), as well as a record number of FIFA World Player of the Year awards (7). In 2010, the club created history when three players who came through its youth academy (Messi, Iniesta & Xavi) were chosen as the three best players in the world, having bagged the top spots at the FIFA Ballon d'Or, an unprecedented feat for players from the same football school.

FCB Escola is the school model of FC Barcelona, exported internationally, with the idea of extending both the Barça brand and also to transmit the working philosophy and values of FC Barcelona to the world.

For more information, please contact:

Football First

info@football-first.org

You can also visit the official website for more information: www.afrasiabarcelona.com