



REMARKS

By:

Sen. the Hon. Owen Darrell, JP
Minister of Youth, Culture and Sports

Premier's Annual Cup Match Reception 2023

Good evening, Premier, Ministerial Colleagues, invited guests.

I'd like to extend a very special welcome to past and present Cup Match players and to our two Club Presidents – Mr. Neil Paynter of St. George's and Mr. Richard Scott of Somerset.

Happy Cup Match to you all!

As the Minister responsible for both Culture and Sport, I'm pleased to be here to recognize this important time of year.

Cup Match is the greatest sporting event in Bermuda.

As cricket fans, each year, St. George's and Somerset provide us with two memorable days of exciting action and competition which serves as an amazing display for our residents and visitors.

The atmosphere, the sights, the sounds, the food, the Crown & Anchor.... Cup Match is by far a unique experience and it's unlike anything else in our culture.

But while this day symbolizes the great rivalry between east and west – Somerset and St. George's – it also holds historical significance.

This is a time for use to reflect of our Emancipation legacy.

As we know, the origins of Cup Match date back to 1902, making it one of the oldest annual cricket events in the Western Hemisphere.

The match was initially established to commemorate the emancipation of slaves in Bermuda in 1834. As a result, Cup Match and Emancipation Day are connected with the island's history and heritage.

This event chronicles the struggles and triumphs of our past and these historical links should never be taken for granted or diminished.

This year, we are also reminded that the second day of Cup Match – Mary Prince Day – is a day of commemoration.

On this day, we recognize the life and legacy of Mary Prince, reflecting on the struggles she faced and the impact she made in the fight for freedom.

So, as we begin this week of revelry and celebration, let's take some time to also remember the legacy of our culture and traditions.

Ultimately, this Thursday and Friday we will be focused on the two teams - Somerset and St. George's.

As an avid and die-hard St. George's fan, there's no doubt where my heart lies.

Clearly its Blue & Blue all the way.

But as the Minister responsible for Sport, I am well aware that I must maintain my neutrality.

So, to both the Club Presidents, Captains and Players – I extend my best wishes to each of you.

Continue to strive for excellence and continue to set the bar high in the spirit of sportsmanship.

I for one cannot wait to see what you have in store for us this year.

May the best team win!

Thank you all and I wish everyone a safe and happy Cup Match.

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