



Premier of Bermuda

ANNUAL CUP MATCH RECEPTION

Remarks

The Hon. E. David Burt, JP, MP

Premier & Minister of Finance

July 31, 2023

Good Evening Governor, Her Excellency Rena Lalgie, US Consul General Karen Grisette, members of the Cabinet, members of the legislature; Speaker of the House & Madam President of the Senate, President Richard Scott of Somerset Cricket Club; President Neil Paynter of St. George's Cricket Club; Captain Jordan DeSilva of SCC; Captain Onias Bascome of St. George's Cricket Club; club officials, cup match legends, family and friends, welcome and thank you for joining me this evening...

It's great to have you all here at Camden as we kick off what everyone knows is my favourite time of year, Cup Match in Bermuda!

Over the next few days, we will come together as a community to celebrate a unique part of our culture and commemorate our history. This holiday we celebrate the abolition of slavery on our island and pay tribute to the resilient spirit and historical contributions of Mary Prince, whose story helped galvanise the abolition movement in the British territories.

And as St. George's and Somerset take to the field, they will continue a proud tradition that was started by black lodges from the east and west so many years ago and has become an irreplaceable event for all Bermudians.

The Government is proud to do its part in preserving and supporting the Annual Cup Match Classic, as we have done since we returned to office in 2017.

Last week, I visited this year's host, St. George's Cricket, at the Wellington Oval and presented them with a cheque for \$50,000 set aside in the Government's budget to help offset costs that come with putting on Bermuda's premier sporting event.

And the Government will work alongside St. George's Cricket Club in safety checks of the grounds to ensure that players and visitors have a safe and enjoyable time at the field.

Now, having put all of the official duties and niceties aside, I am sure that everyone can see I am proudly wearing my red and blue for Somerset. And I will be at Wellington Oval cheering on my team as loudly as any other Bermudian.

St George's, I will say to you again, as I said last year, since I have been Premier, Somerset has held the cup, and I know that Captain Jordan DeSilva and his team fully intend to keep that run going! So the question is, can you break that streak?

But all jokes aside, I wish all players, coaches and staff the best of luck. I know both teams are focused on preparing for the big match. Still, I hope tonight allows you a brief moment to relax and unwind before you go out onto that field at Wellington Oval and put on another incredible Cup Match for all of us to enjoy.

Special congratulations to this year's colts, Brian Hall and Azendae Furbert for St. George's and Macquille Walker for Somerset, who all represent the exciting future of Bermudian cricket.

And a welcome home and welcome back to Cup Match to Delray Rawlins, who returns to the field for the first time since 2014 after proudly representing Bermuda in the UK for many years.

While I don't like the colours you're wearing, it is always a pleasure to see our athletes return home and take part in our sporting traditions. As I close, I thank the Cabinet Office team for putting together this fantastic event; thank you to the officials and players from Somerset Cricket Club and St. George's Cricket Club who have taken the time to join us tonight, and thank you all for being here to celebrate with us.

I hope that you all have a **safe** and enjoyable holiday. Happy Emancipation Day, Happy Mary Prince Day and Happy Cup Match to all!

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