



## **THE REPUBLIC BANK CARIBBEAN JUNIOR OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018**

Hosted at: ST ANDREWS GOLF CLUB, MOKA, MARAVAL

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Republic Bank Caribbean Junior Open will be taking place at the St Andrews Golf Course from April 4-6, 2018. This year promises to be the biggest and best ever thanks to our major sponsor The Republic Bank of Trinidad & Tobago. Prior to the Caribbean Junior Open, The Republic Bank of Trinidad & Tobago sponsored the Trinidad and Tobago Junior Golf Open for 8 years. Their continued contribution towards the enhancement and development of the sport is extraordinary.

Twenty nine (29) foreign juniors have entered this major event. They will be coming from Antigua (2) the Bahamas (7), Barbados (6), Guadeloupe (7), St Lucia (7). They add to the 30 Trinidad & Tobago juniors who have also entered.

With Sam Avey last years 18 and under champion not available to defend and Ryan Peters also unavailable the battle should be between last years' runner up from Guadeloupe Jonathan Jean-Noel and Barbadians Iz Hustler and Xzavier Wiggins. Trinidadian Brandon Matabadal is the main hope for the locals.

In the under 19 girls Serena Mackenzie will be looking to defend the title she has won for the last 2 years but can expect stiff competition from the likes of Karina Matabadal and Sarah Ramphal.

The boys under 16 age group, the competition is wide open with 14 boys from Antigua, Barbados, Guadeloupe and St Lucia expected, the local junior golfers who hail from Tobago, North, East and South Trinidad are all hoping to break through. In the girls under 16 age group the defending champion is Yeji Lee and she is definitely the favorite on her current good form. Emily Odwin from Barbados is expected to be her major competition, but both can expect some

competition from Varissa Singh and the 5 girls travelling over from St Lucia competing for the first time and whose ability is unknown as are the girls from Guadeloupe and the Bahamas.

The under 14 boy's age group so far looks as if it will be a straight battle between defending champion Zico Correia and Chris Richards Jnr, they will receive competition from the likes of Dario Sargeant of Barbados and Theo Jean-Noel of Guadeloupe,

In the girls under 14 division the Barbadian Eryn Blakely starts as the favorite with Caylynn Hosein and Faatimah Emamilie of Trinidad & Tobago and Bahamian Kyndal Campbell expected to challenge strongly.

There will also be competition on Wednesday for those juniors playing 3 holes, Thursday for those playing 6 holes and Friday the 9 hole category. These latter competitions are for those juniors who are relative newcomers to the game

Submitted by:

**Chris Harries**

**Director of Golf**

**Trinidad & Tobago Golf Association**



Zico Correia and Chris Richards Jnr practising