

# TCIFA/school teachers partner to spread football

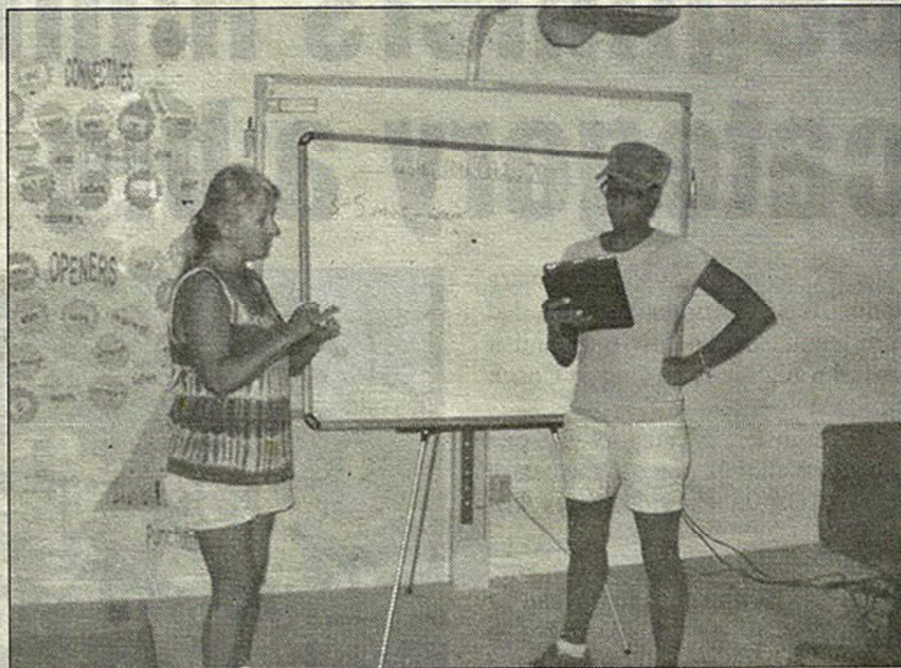
IN AN effort to improve the quality of football being played throughout the country the TCIFA has started a new initiative where it aims to support school teachers by assisting with their PE lessons and after school programmes. The TCIFA aims to conduct workshops for all schools so they can ensure their students are exposed to football in a manner that will guarantee fun and improvement for all concerned.

For several years the Technical Director, Matthew Green, has visited schools and done sessions with many youngsters. "I have enjoyed conducting sessions at schools, but ultimately the TCIFA needs to ensure that schools can develop the sport with our technical support rather than our direct involvement." With an additional staff member, Youth Development Officer Sarah Cenary, the TCIFA hopes to be able to assist more schools with their football programmes. "Having Sarah on board has been a big help as it allows me more time to implement new programmes, conduct more courses and focus on other areas of development, but we are still very willing to take training sessions at schools".

Green added that: "Several schools use our fields for their PE football lessons and this is open to all schools on the island".

## MAIN FOCUS

The TCIFA's main focus is on youth football and schools have been given questionnaires to fill out which will highlight areas where the TCIFA can assist. Provo Primary responded first with a request for Green to conduct a workshop on how best to coach football to young people. Green hopes to conduct similar sessions at



**The TCIFA has focused heavily on youth development for sometime now. The association feels technical support to local teachers is extremely important in helping to spread the game at the junior level.**

all schools over the coming months and has already made arrangements to visit the Enid Capron and Ashcroft Primary schools.

After conducting the session at Provo Primary, Green was very pleased with the levels of participation. "The school is keen to be very active at football and the teachers Cara Buddle, Nicole Greatrex, Mani Nyczka and Shara Bowen were very enthusiastic and had some great ideas. The children at the school are in safe hands as their teachers clearly understand the importance of sport and how it can help the overall development of children". Green went on to say that: "It was a pleasure to work with teachers that genuinely care about their children both inside and

outside the classroom". He added: "Hopefully now other schools will follow their lead and further improve the levels at which football is being taught at their schools." The TCIFA has around five hundred children active in its programmes, but Green would like to see a further increase. "The more kids we have playing, the more competitive our leagues will become. This means that our better players can be tested as they prepare for long term goals such as international competition and college scholarships". "Our association is keen to work with any school that wants to improve the levels at which they coach or teach football to their students, the closer we can work together the better it is for all concerned."