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**PRESS RELEASE**

June 25, 2003 – George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, B.W.I.

**KPMG ASSISTS JUNIOR SWIM TEAM**

Eight Cayman swimmers are traveling to Mexico City to compete in CCCAN, the Central American and Caribbean Amateur Swimming Confederation Championships, being held Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. CCCAN, the ‘big brother of CARIFTA’ will feature teams from 29 countries within the region. The competition also includes Diving, Water Polo and Synchronized Swimming. Many of the countries attending CCCAN recognize this meet as the premier aquatics competition within the region and even more significant than the CAC Games.

In years past, the Junior Swim Team has focused solely on the CARIFTA Championships, and with much success. For many of the swimmers, CARIFTA is the highlight event of the year and qualifies the older Junior Team athletes (15 years+) to the elite Senior Team. This year’s Senior Team, consisting of Kaitlyn Elphinstone, Shaune Fraser, Andrew Mackay and Heather Roffey, are currently in Europe for competitions in France and Guernsey (Island Games). With the rise of significant new Cayman swimming talent at younger ages (12 years+), it has become equally important to challenge these budding new stars. As a result, CCCAN is a critical new addition to the Junior Swim Team calendar.

To ensure that CCCAN would have a contingent from Cayman, KPMG has generously provided the Cayman Islands Amateur Swimming Association (CIASA) with US\$5,000 to help offset the travel costs of the athletes.

Commenting on behalf of KPMG, Senior Partner Theo Bullmore states, “KPMG endorses achieving of excellence through hard work and for this reason we are pleased to sponsor these swimmers at this event. Their accomplishments to-date and the dedication, hard work and commitment consistently demonstrated are consistent with our firm’s values and the expectations of KPMG people worldwide. Further, in the spirit of continuous learning and the development that our firm advocates, these swimmers demonstrate a commitment of constantly striving to improve their own performance and are proactive in seeking out and taking advantage of training and development opportunities.”

Ms. Laurice Fraser, President of CIASA, added, “KPMG has opened the doors for a whole new level of competition for our younger athletes. Their generosity is helping to prepare the next wave of Cayman swimmers for Olympic participation.”

The swimmers representing Cayman in Mexico City are: Jodie Foster, Brett Fraser, Gilfredo Gomez Cruz Jr., Cueme Parker, Joel Rombough, Lisa Rombough, Taejsa Solomon and Meg Fisher-Wells, all 12-14 yrs old. Andrea Balderamos, Jennifer Powell, and Laura Stafford were also invited but are unable to attend.


The athletes will not only have to overcome their swim competitors, but the altitude and air quality as well. Mexico City sits in an elevated basin some 7,400 feet above sea level, and would require an elite athlete 7 –8 days for proper altitude adjustment. Cayman’s young swimmers will get two days. Add to that severe smog and air pollution, and Mexico City represents quite a challenge.

Coach Dominic Ross adds, “This will be a good test for our younger swimmers. They recognize that the other swimmers and the elements will be formidable, but as always, we’re asking each of them to work hard to beat the clock and establish new personal bests.” Coach Ross will travel as Head Coach/Team Manager, and Enid Longworth will accompany the team both as chaperone and on-deck official for this prestigious event. The CCCAN Swimming Championships will serve as a tune-up for Ms. Longworth’s participation as an official for the Pan Am Games.

CCCAN also represents an opportunity for CIASA to further enhance its stature within FINA, the world swimming body. CCCAN is allocated two executive positions on the FINA Board, and the swim association presidents from Puerto Rico and Cuba currently hold those positions. Very recently, FINA and CCCAN have begun to recognize the emergence of Cayman Swimming as a significant new force within the region. As a result, Laurice Fraser has been invited to address the CCCAN Congress on Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Fraser will deliver her remarks in both English and Spanish.

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The mission of CIASA is to promote, develop and oversee the sport of swimming in the Cayman Islands. Swimming is the largest organized sport in Cayman, with over 1,000 children per week enrolled in various swim programs. This represents a three-fold growth since 1995. Children in Cayman progress from Learn-To-Swim to the locally organized Stingray Swim Club (SSC), and when qualified, to the Cayman Islands Junior and Senior Swim Teams. CIASA also is responsible for organizing and sanctioning the international open water sea swims held at Seven Mile Beach.

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