

Crime Stoppers fundraiser helps get message out

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George Town (CNS): Hitting home the message that it is a completely anonymous service is the main aim of the Cayman branch of Crime stoppers. With marketing a crucial tool in that goal, the anti-crime organisation held its first major fundraiser yesterday at the North Sound Club to raise the money for the marketing campaign. Around 150 golfers joined in the tournament and tried to get a coveted shot at the million-dollar hole. The inaugural 'Cayman National Cayman Crime Stoppers Million Dollar Shootout' raised around \$20,000 but the million dollar prize remained unclaimed.

"The Crimestoppers 800 Tips line is answered at a call centre in Miami Dade County in Florida, which answers the Crime stoppers line for all of that state and seven Caribbean countries," explained Stuart Bostock, Chairman of the local Crime stoppers branch. "We don't have to pay for the service, not least because they all recognise the difficulties that small jurisdictions like ours have when it comes to the anonymity needed to protect those who are willing to give information about a crime."

Bostock explained that, out of hours the line is answered in a call centre in Toronto, which is part of the Canadian Crime stoppers network. "The reason why the people ask where you are calling from is because they have no idea where you are or who you are," he added.

The role of the telephonists in Dade or Toronto is to take as much info about the crime the caller is phoning about and pass that on to the relevant authorities. No one needs to give a name or any personal details about themselves and, as is well known, if the information leads to a conviction callers who check back can receive an award. However, the rewards are rarely claimed as most people just want to help in the fight against crime in their communities.

Speaking at the tournament, Acting Commissioner of Police David George said Crime stoppers played a vital role in the fight against crime. "The Police are only ever as good as the information they receive from the community and the partnerships they have with them, but in a small community such as ours people can be intimidated by those that they know are involved in crime and are therefore fearful of engaging with the police – which is where Crime stoppers comes in. The organisations plays a significant role all over the world in the fight against crime and we the RCIPS are grateful for their help," he said.

The important role that the anti-crime organisation plays was also noted by Stuart Dack, President of Cayman National, who said that was why his company had no hesitation jumping on board immediately as the Platinum Sponsor for the inaugural event. "This was a straight forward decision for us to make," said Dack.

“The control of Crime is vital to all of us, not just personally but for our businesses as well. We all have a part to play and we can do that by raising money and helping to raise the profile of Crime stoppers. Cayman National looks forward to supporting this event into the future.”

With no golfer making the hole-in-one shoot-out, the million dollars went unclaimed, but Century 21 took the overall tournament title and many of the other teams won great prizes donated by numerous sponsors for various golfing feats and in the prize raffle.