

# Squash NS 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes

June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at 7pm

## In-person at Sport Nova Scotia and online via Google Meet

**Present:** Craig Potts, Leah Boody, John Arnold, Ryan Breetzke, Phil Jourdeuil, Dave Thomson, Dan Whittaker, Christopher Lien, Bikramjit Singh, Vishesh Bhat, Cameron Reid, Nathan Crouse, Emily Burke, Josh Rudolph, Adam Morris

**Regrets:** Janet MacLeod, James Wiseman

### 1. Call to Order

*Dave calls meeting to order at 7:09pm*

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

*Craig motions to approve the agenda as presented. Leah seconds. Motion passes unopposed.*

### 3. Approval of the 2022 AGM Minutes

*Phil motions to approve the 2022 AGM as distributed. Leah seconds. Motion passes unopposed.*

### 4. President's Report – Dave

Squash Nova Scotia (SNS) had a great year, with significant advancements in coaching, officiating, and club development. We are pleased to see that our annual funding from the sport system has doubled and will stay at the increased amount for the next four years.

### 5. Treasurer's Report – Phil

Our quadrennial assessment by the sport system (the Sport Development Tool) went very well, resulting in doubled funding for the next four years. The 2022-23 fiscal year ended with a deficit of \$11k, with most of the additional expenses being from the Canada Winter Games. Since 2019, our membership has grown significantly due to increased club programming and the use of ClubLocker. Phil's recommendation is that membership fees remain unchanged for the upcoming year. Other recommendations and the complete report can be found in the [AGM package](#).

Concern raised whether membership fees are too low. Phil responds that in 2018, fees were \$40, then raised to \$50. The rationale behind the fee reduction to \$30 / year around 2021 was to bring additional members to the organization. Diversifying our revenue lowers the barrier for individuals to join as paid members and existing members are more likely to renew their membership. This strategy has seemed to work, our total membership (paid and unpaid) has

grown significantly since 2019. Adam and Leah mention that our increased membership was a major reason why our Participation funding more than doubled for the next four years.

*Craig motions that membership, accreditation, and associate fees remain unchanged for the 2023-24 season. John seconds. Motion passes.*

Question raised if SNS has ever completed a tax return. Phil responds that SNS had issues with CRA around 2018 around a GST account. That has all been reconciled and SNS no longer has any accounts with CRA. Every year, we file a financial report with Joint Stocks. As long as our operating revenue is below \$30k per year (not including grant funding from the province and Support4Sport), we are not required to file anything with CRA.

## **6. Canada Games Report – Josh**

No report submitted.

## **7. Competition Report – Craig**

For the complete competition report, please view the [AGM package](#).

Question raised about when the tournament calendar for upcoming year will be prepared. Craig mentions they are trying to get the calendar finalized as early as possible. Phil mentions the difficulty of clubs reaching out early enough with their intent to host a tournament. In his experience, clubs typically communicate 6-8 weeks before the date they want to host their tournament.

## **8. Coaching Report – Janet**

To view the coaching report submitted, please see the [AGM package](#). Members suggest to add a target for the upcoming year to deliver a community coaching course in HRM, since the only one offered in HRM in 2022-23 was targeted for women and girls.

## **9. Recognition of Outstanding Members**

Dave and Phil recognized for their long service and commitment to squash. Craig recognized for his excellent work with competitions. Josh and Leah are recognized for their work developing the junior athletes. Judy recognized for her commitment and success with ladies nights at SMU. Janet recognized for her commitment to developing coaches and community involvement. John recognized for website and social media management.

## **10. Election of Directors**

### **a. Returning Board Members**

Dave will not be renewing his term as President, but agrees to remain on the board as ex-officio Past President.

Craig Potts to remain on the board as Director of Competitive Programming.

Cameron Reid, Josh Rudolph, and Nathan Crouse to remain on the board as Members at Large.

### **b. Outgoing Board Members**

Many thanks to our Treasurer and Past President, Phil Jourdeuil, who will not be renewing his term. Phil has agreed to continue organizing HSL and to help with the transition of the financial management to the new treasurer.

Thanks also to James Wiseman for completing his term as Member at Large and representing King's County Squash Club (KCSC).

### **c. Incoming Board Members**

*Leah Boody appointed President by acclimation.*

*Ryan Breetzke, Chris Lien, Vishesh Bhat, Emily Burke, and Bikramjit Singh appointed Members at Large by acclimation. Ryan, Chris, Vishesh, Emily, and Bikram to review the descriptions of the vacant director positions before the next board meeting. Dan Whittaker also agrees to review descriptions and consider joining the board.*

4 of 5 SNS clubs represented on the 2023-24 board of directors. There is mention of recruiting a member from KCSC to join the board.

Vacant positions on the board of directors are: Vice President, Corporate Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Developmental Programming, Director of Communications and Advocacy, Director of Membership and Volunteer Development, and Director of Nova Scotia Performance Pathway Initiative (NSPPI). Adam agrees to cover the responsibilities of Corporate Secretary and SNS currently does not qualify for the NSPPI program, so there is no identified need to fill the Director of NSPPI.

Leah mentions that running the organization requires a great team of committed volunteers. Her hope for SNS is to develop a couple key goals to execute very well in the upcoming season. She is encouraged to see our financial position thanks to the work of the previous boards and Phil's excellent financial tracking – SNS is in a good position as an organization.

## **11. New Business**

### **a. Club Access for Drop-in Nights**

Bikram asks if SNS members could attend drop-ins at Dal and SMU without being a member at both facilities, similar to the agreement for league nights. Maybe SNS could introduce some sort of rotating club card for an extra fee. Those present agree that there may be significant administrative challenges, but it is a good idea to explore.

### **b. Squash Canada AGM**

Craig shares key points from the Squash Canada (SC) AGM. Membership dues to SC are increasing by 3-4%. Other PTSOs are struggling with the rising cost of insurance premiums,

although SNS insurance premiums seem to be rising at a manageable rate. SC has appointed a new CEO, Jamie Nicholls. Josh was acknowledged with a certificate of achievement.

## **12. Adjournment of AGM**

*AGM adjourned at 8:06pm.*