



2024 Annual General Meeting  
May 10, 7:00 PM

In person: The Duke's Public House  
2057 Gottingen St, Halifax, NS

Register here before 4pm on May 10th for Microsoft Teams link to join online:  
[AGM online link](#)

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## **Agenda**

- 7:00pm Call to order & Land Acknowledgement - Leah**
- 7:03pm Approval of Agenda and 2023 AGM Minutes - Leah**
- 7:05pm Financial Report - Ryan**
- 7:15pm President's Report & Strategic update - Leah**
- 7:20pm Competitive Programming - Craig**
- 7:25pm Coaching & Officiating - Craig**
- 7:30pm Junior Development - Cameron**
- 7:35pm Communications - Emily**
- 7:40pm Awards & Recognition - Leah**
- 7:50pm Election of 2024 / 2025 Board of Directors - Leah**
- 7:58pm Adjournment**

# **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 – Ryan**

CSAI: We received 45K in funding, and spent 11K on training and courses, and 24 K on Wheelchair equipment. We have 10K left in Funding

Membership Fees: Earned 6k in the financial year, in line with previous years.

Membership dues are unchanged

Athlete Support: We provided strong support to our athletes to tournaments, as well as to our Master Team. Total spend was 9K. The committee has adjusted the policy going forward, with a stronger emphasis on juniors.

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.*





## President's Report & Strategic Update - Leah Boody

As the 2023 / 2024 season wraps up, I'm feeling grateful for the incredible group of volunteers that give their time to Squash in Nova Scotia. Our volunteers are key to making squash in NS what it is today - a welcoming, fun, competitive community that spans the province.

As we pause for the summer, please make a point to thank a volunteer for all they did this past squash season. Not sure who to thank? If you answer yes to any of the questions below you'll be led to someone to thank.

Did you play in a league this year?

Did you attend drop-in at your local club?

Did you receive coaching / instruction from a volunteer coach?

Did you play in a tournament?

Was your league or tournament match officiated?

Did you have your racquet strung by David Wesley at a tournament?

Did you appreciate the increase in communication through In The Nick?

The 12 member Board of Directors met 9 times during the 2023 / 2024 season. Board meetings were productive and engaging. I'm proud to share all that we accomplished as a team.

We kicked off with a mandate to clearly identify a manageable # of goals for the year and stay focused on achieving these goals:

1. Financials into a cloud based accounting system - DONE
2. Tournaments into Club Locker by September 1st - DONE
3. Communicate to membership once / month - DONE
4. Create and publish a 3 year Strategic Plan - DONE

We also made it clear that we could not lose sight of the incredible accomplishments of our previous board. We maintained a **healthy cash balance**, our **paid members increased** from 187 to 257 (we have circa 700 total members including associate members) and our **tournament entrants increased** from 491 to 628.

In addition to the above goals, we were also successful in receiving \$45,000 in grant funds from Squash Canada to implement the **Canadian Sport for All Initiative (CSAI)**.. This grant serves to remove barriers and increase sport participation rates for underrepresented populations. Squash NS and a group of passionate volunteers are

currently running programs for newcomers to Canada and para athletes. At no cost to the participants, we are introducing squash to dozens of participants who would have otherwise not had this opportunity.

Our **Women's Leagues** in the province continue to grow thanks to Judy Myrden and Janet MacLeod. 26 Ladies Night sessions were held at SMUfit with dozens of participants throughout the year. The season finished with a calcutta style tournament with 24 participants, a 66% increase over last year.

The King's County Squash Club (KCSC) Women's Squad kicked off this year and currently has 6 - 8 women playing on a weekly basis.

The success of the Women's Leagues is evident. Women's tournament entrants increased from 152 last year to 189 this year.

Despite losing a court in Sydney, the **Cape Breton Squash** community continues to thrive with junior programming and a core group that continues to travel to tournaments around the province and beyond.

The **Dal Squash Club** continues to thrive leaving some SMUfit members wondering what they are missing! Drop-in that requires registration to control numbers and volunteers who are sharing their passion for the game to others, namely Dave Westwood and Tim Hatcher. Perhaps in response to Dal's success, the **SMUfit Friday Night Drop-in** is coming back to life thanks largely to passionate members Kate Swanson, Greg Jones, and Julia Pelton, now with a waiting list to play on one of the 4 courts every Friday night!

A big shout out to the **sponsors** who help make our tournaments and leagues some of the best in the country. Participants are well fed during events and SMUfit now has a courtside screen allowing us to live stream scoring and manage court allocation during tournaments.

As mentioned above, the Board collaborated with Sport Nova Scotia to develop and publish a **3 year Strategic Plan**. The plan is heavily tied to the Nova Scotia Sport Development Tool (SDT), which is a quadrennial assessment of our Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) conducted by Sport NS, the Canadian Sport Institute Atlantic, and the Province of Nova Scotia. All of the priorities listed in the strategic plan are tied to (relatively) easily addressed and highly impactful weaknesses in our last SDT assessment. Our scores on the SDT determine our funding for the next 4 years - SDT 3.0 will take place in 2026. Our intention is that the successful completion of the plan

will not only increase our funding, but contribute to the positive and sustainable growth of squash in NS.

As you will notice in the plan, some areas are not highlighted as a focus until 2027; however, this does not mean these areas are ignored until that time. As an example, increasing the **participation of women and girls** is an ongoing priority as is the need to encourage and **train additional officials**. We look forward to making an impact in those areas next year and the years that follow.

Some **key priorities** for the 2024 / 2025 season include:

- Developing a 2 year budget and monthly variance reporting
- Website rebuild
- EDI initiatives
- Safe Sport implementation
- Junior Provincial Team selection
- Junior programming

The effectiveness of our 2023 / 2024 Board of Directors would not have been possible without the tireless support of our **PSO Coordinator, Adam Morris**. Adam is an invaluable resource to our community. His knowledge of the sport system, professional work ethic, organizational skills, photography skills and genuine care for our success is unrivaled. Thank you Adam!!

In closing, I'd like to acknowledge and pay respect to 3 very active long time Squash Nova Scotia members who we said goodbye to this year. Whether they were friends, family, opponents or teammates, many in our squash community are feeling the loss of Chris Wilcox, Tom Calder and Vincent Leung.

## Financial Update - Ryan Breetzke

The 2023 / 2024 season was one of the busiest in terms of financial transactions, due in large part to the implementation of the Community Sport for All Initiative (CSAI). Squash NS received \$45,000 from the Squash Canada \$750,000 grant to implement this program. To date, Squash NS has spent \$11,000 on training and programming, and \$24,000 on Wheelchair equipment. There is \$10,000 remaining to continue to implement the programs. As seen in excerpts of the SNS financial statements below, the wheelchairs have been capitalized for accounting purposes so this program is showing a net profit in fiscal 2024.

Squash NS generated approximately \$6,000 in membership fees. Although this is showing a small decrease over prior year, our membership numbers have increased. We have noticed that due to the reporting from ClubLocker, some of our membership fee revenue is included in Event Registration revenue. We will look to improve the accuracy of this reporting in the upcoming year.

We received \$25,000 in funding from Sport NS and expect to receive the same amount for the next 2 years. The largest use of cash in 2024 was Athlete / Coach Support at approximately \$9,000. This includes funding for our NS Masters Team who competed at The Canadian Masters Team Championships in Winnipeg; junior travel to camps and tournaments outside NS; and a handful of adult players who traveled to events outside NS. The Board of Directors has recently revised the Athlete / Coach Support Policy to implement further control over this area. The emphasis and intention of the Athlete / Coach Support Policy is to assist with Junior Development and Provincial Team members, which better aligns with funding and policy guidelines provincially and federally in this domain.

In addition to Athlete / Coach Support, the next largest use of cash is to pay for our PSO Coordinator which is \$8,000 annually.

Prior to this year, Squash NS financials were being completed using Excel. At the beginning of this year, we invested in cloud based accounting software, Xero. As a result, we have account classification issues with our comparative statements this year; however, next year will be excellent with two years of data in Xero. Our goal for 2024 / 2025 is to create a 2 year budget and do monthly variance analysis to ensure that we are investing in areas that align with our strategic plan.

## Profit and Loss

Squash Nova Scotia Association  
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Account	2024	2023
<b>Trading Income</b>		
Grant - Core Funding (Sport Nova Scotia)	10,000	
Grant - Participation (Sport Nova Scotia)	12,000	
Grant - Sport Excellence (Sport Nova Scotia)	3,000	
CSIA Grant - Squash Canada	46,977	
Membership fees	6,259	7,930
Registration fees	29,395	
Operating Revenue		11,385
Grant Revenue		13,118
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>107,630</b>	<b>32,433</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>107,630</b>	<b>32,433</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Athlete support	8,248	
Coaching support	3,260	2,968
Depreciation	4,724	
Events	32,668	
Facility rental - courts	1,925	
Insurance	2,438	2,637
National dues (Squash Canada)	2,072	
Provincial dues (Sport Nova Scotia)	259	
PSO Administration support	8,000	5,000
Social event	921	
Stripe Fees	1,933	
Expense tablets from previous years	3,283	
Telephone & Postage	584	
Travel	2,980	
Uniforms	1,199	
Other		33,399
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>74,493</b>	<b>44,004</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>33,138</b>	<b>(11,571)</b>

# Balance Sheet

Squash Nova Scotia Association

As at 31 March 2024

<b>Account</b>	<b>31 Mar 2024</b>
<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Bank</b>	
BMO Account	32,886.94
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>32,886.94</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Accounts receivable	1,440.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,440.00</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Equipment purchases - Squash Cannon	6,804.06
Equipment purchases - Wheelchair	23,620.00
Accumulated Depreciation - Wheelchair	(4,724.00)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>25,700.06</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>60,027.00</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts payable	1,400.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>58,627.00</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Current Year Earnings	33,137.50
Retained earnings	25,489.50
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>58,627.00</b>

## Competitive Programming - Craig Potts

Both League and Tournament participation in squash across the province continued on their upward arcs in the 2023/2024 Season.

The Board hosted “Clublocker Training” at the outset of the season, adding to the list of those who can do event draws, and manage tournaments.

The Board recognizes the great work this past year developing junior programming at SMUfit, as well as the growing junior programming at KSCS and in Sydney. These efforts supported 3 well attended junior tournaments this season, 2 at KCSC and the NS Jr Open at SMUfit, up from a single Junior event in 2022/23.

### TOURNAMENTS

<b>2023 / 2024</b>	<b>2022 / 2023</b>
11 Tournaments	9 Tournaments
7 Adult / Junior 537 Entrants	7 Adult / Junior 459 Entrants
3 Junior 102 Entrants	1 Junior 23 Entrants
1 SMUfit Ladies Night 25 Entrants	1 SMUfit Ladies Night 9 Entrants

## Competitive Programming (cont'd)

### TOURNAMENT Summary 2022/23 Versus 2023/24

		On the Draws		Total Juniors		Total Women (all ages)	
		2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024
<b>KCSC Open</b>	Sept	51	41	23	16	18	6
<b>SMUfit Jr Open</b>	Oct	23		23		7	
<b>SMUfit Open</b>		97	102	37	25	32	29
<b>KCSC for Education</b>	Nov		40		28		11
<b>NS Junior Open</b>			36		36		17
<b>SMUfit Ladies Night</b>	Dec	9	25	0	0	9	25
<b>Junior Valley Thaw</b>	Jan		30		30		7
<b>Dalhousie Open</b>		59	67	9	10	12	13
<b>Ray Souchereau Memorial</b>	Feb	87	125	13	30	32	35
<b>Nova Scotia Open</b>	Mar	101	126	24	39	28	37
<b>Junior Valley Bloom</b>	Apr		36		36		9
<b>CB Open</b>	May	28		5		5	
<b>KCSC for Education</b>		36	TBD	21	TBD	9	TBD



## Competitive Programming (cont'd)

### LEAGUES

**Halifax Squash League (HSL)** - Ran from mid-September to the end of April, including 4 weeks of Playoffs.

14 teams of 5 players, with an additional 12+ players on the sub list. There were 28 matches played every Wednesday night across Dal, SMU, and Cole Harbour Place for the full season.

14 HSL teams in 2023/24 up from 10 HSL teams in 2022/23

**Halifax PREMIER League (PL)** - ran 3 sessions this year

- Fall 2023 PL Session, 4 divisions, 28 Players
- Winter 2024 PL Session, 4 divisions, 28 Players
- Spring 2024 PL Session, 2 divisions, 12 Players

### PROVINCIAL TEAMS

Nova Scotia was represented at the **2024 Canadian Masters Teams Championship** in January in Winnipeg. Seeded 4th of 9 teams going in, with a mixture of rookie and veteran team members, Team NS finished in 4th in tournament play.

Team NS made the Board and Membership truly proud by also capturing 1st place at the event's Saturday evening social by securing first place in the Variety Show, bringing home the nationally coveted Neddy Trophy, thanks in no small part to Team Member Breetzke's songwriting skills and velvety vocals!

#### Team Members

- Darlene Acton
- Janet MacLeod
- Leah Boody
  
- Ed Beazley (Captain)
- Josh Rudolph
- Matt Bishop
- Ryan Breetzke

## Coaching & Officiating Update

### COACHING

Two 1-Day Community Squash Instructor Courses were held in 2023/24, welcoming (16) new Community Instructors, including 4 juniors.

Nov 2023 - KCSC

- André Aquino
- Dorian Palmer (Jr)
- Orlando Ramirez
- James Wiseman
- Georgia Williams (Jr)
- Julia Akao (Jr)

April 2024 - Cole Harbour Place

- Ashley Cullis
- David Hansen
- Julia Dugandzic
- Garreth Beckles (Jr)
- Emily Byron
- Fernando Beckles
- Jeff Cullis
- Cindy Wheeler
- David Westwood
- Julia Pelton

Also at the Nov 2023 Course at KCSC, two Coaches became qualified as Learning Facilitators to deliver Community Squash Instructor Courses

- Chris Lien
- Josh Rudolph

In June of 2024, Janet MacLeod will become a Master Coach Developer (MCD) for the 3rd of 4 eligible Coaching Courses. MCD's are accredited to develop other coaches to teach coaching courses, as well as evaluating coaches for certification. Currently Janet is MCD for:

- Community Instructor Course
- The Beginner (Intro to Squash) Course,

and by end of June 2024 Janet will be MCD for:

- The Intermediate (Intro to Competition) Course

Janet is one of only 6 MCDs in Canada.

Additionally, Janet has been engaged by Squash Canada to co-lead the CANSquash Program. Through CANSquash, Janet is playing a key role in establishing a database of instructional and coaching tools for new instructors, teachers, parents, and coaches to help players of all ages, levels, and diverse abilities.

Janet continues to sit on the Squash Canada Coaching Committee, as well as the Junior Pathway Athlete Committee (JPAC). JPAC looks at national junior athletes and gives advice / makes policy on all Canadian Junior Team criteria and selections.

## **OFFICIATING**

Black Shirt Referee Lee Kirby, supported by Elvira Mikatra, Thomas Hori, and Abdelrahman (Abdo) Abdallah, hosted an Introduction to Officiating and Rules Clinic in March, on court at SMUfit.

The session was attended by 15 players of all skill levels.

The course was framed in such a way to support attendees to take the on-line Squash Canada Club Level Referee Course.

## **Junior Development**

### **Halifax Squash Academy - Josh Rudolph**

It's been an exciting season for junior squash, following on from last season's run up to the 2023 Canada Winter Games. With the induction of Halifax Squash Academy running fall, winter and spring sessions, we had a large number of new juniors joining each session. We also added a Fundamentals group at the start of the winter session for younger players to begin developing their movement and hand eye skills.. We had close to 50 juniors participating at different times throughout the season. We had new juniors joining as recently as two weeks ago. Halifax Squash Academy was run by a few volunteer coaches and the number of coaches also increased throughout the season and we are poised to grow even more next season.

There was some fun travel for a few juniors. Two juniors spent some time at Cornell University discovering what life might be like playing and going to school in a top US program, before heading to Toronto to play in a junior gold tournament. A few NS juniors joined by one PEI junior attended the Canadian Junior Open where they had the opportunity to compete against other top juniors from around the globe. One junior recently attended the Ontario Junior Open and one Junior just returned from Junior Nationals in Calgary.

We also ran a couple Canada Games 2027 show of interest days, with some fitness and skill testing as well as match play. We had a pretty good turn out with approximately 25 attendees.

### **Kings County Squash Club (KCSC)**

KCSC Junior Academy - Janet MacLeod runs a junior program 3-4 days a week, with 23 juniors participating, ranging in ages from 6-15.

Little Racquets - Greg Myers and James Wiseman run a weekly U11 junior program with 8 - 12 players.

902SquashEd - A very active core group of 11 juniors (high school students) playing at least twice a week, often with more juniors in attendance than that.

KCSC's over 40 juniors actively participated in tournaments throughout the Maritimes this year.

## **Communications - Emily Burke**

For those of you who don't know me my name is Emily, and I am the Director of Communications and Advocacy. I work to achieve the goals under the Organizational Effectiveness pillar within the Strategic Plan that relate to improving communication between squash clubs, the Board of Directors and the members of Squash Nova Scotia.

In the upcoming 2024/25 season one of our biggest goals is to redesign the SNS website to include more updated information including club contact information, Events (Leagues & Tournaments), programming, SNS policies, information about the sport, and ways to get involved or participate in the community.

In the past 2023/24 season we made significant steps in achieving better communication through the reignition of a Nova Scotia wide squash monthly newsletter, now called "In The Nick".

The volunteer committee behind In The Nick has been able to make a big improvement in advertising for upcoming events, spreading important information from the Board to its members, and most of all, advocating for the sport by featuring great stories and achievements within the squash community.

Our success would not have been possible without the volunteers of this committee. Judy Myrden, our Editor in Chief, is the backbone of this group. Judy donates so much of her time to making sure we have interesting stories to share and making this newsletter something we can all be proud of.

Although listed as a "Contributor" to In the Nick, Craig Potts was instrumental in making sure the issues we were putting out made a positive impact in the community. Craig's hard work and care for a quality product has been so valuable.

John Arnold formats the newsletter layouts which has made it possible for us to put ideas and visions into the tangible easy to access issues that are sent to members every month.

As Communications Manager, Heather MacElwee is a valuable all around great team member who is always offering to help write stories and collect photos.

And finally, our newest member Taryn Hanrahan, who has just joined but has already been a great addition to the team.

I would also like to give a shout out to Adam Morris from Sport Nova Scotia who has helped the committee get the newsletter up and running and who continues to lend a hand in anything we have wanted to achieve.

Further, a thank you to the Black Shirt Refs who have been contributing to issues with the “Ask The Ref” Column: Zal Davar, Thomas Hori, Elvira Mikatra, Abdo Abdallah, & Lee Kirby.

And finally, to everyone in the community who has shown their support for In The Nick by reaching out to us with feedback and stories for us to share.

## **Regional Updates**

### **CAPE BRETON**

Cape Breton has been navigating squash with the transition down to a single court being available. Despite this, CB Squash is still introducing and supporting youth through a weekly Learn to Play Squash that is overbooked/waitlisted due to court availability. With grant funding acquired early 2023, we have been able to provide quality equipment available for use to participants. We have also seen continued participation of competitive players across Atlantic Canada traveling to represent CB at most tournaments that occurred throughout the year.

Players have utilized the Squash Cannon purchased by SquashNS last year to improve their game.

A local non-profit organization, Tomorrow's Legends, has received \$2.1 million to retrofit an old hockey rink with the purpose to extend sporting opportunities for youth in Cape Breton. Cape Breton Squash is hopeful to be able to join this facility that is open to bringing squash in. However, supporting fundraising efforts for the initial capital investment to \$300,000 would be the main holdback from seeing this through to fruition.

Here's to taking squash further in 2024/25, see you on the courts!

All the best,  
Nathan

### **KINGS COUNTY SQUASH CLUB (KCSC)**

KCSC finished a beautiful upgrade to their facilities in the fall. Many thanks to the Contractors and Membership who worked so hard to finish the job!

KCSC hosted FIVE very well supported tournaments this year:

- 1 Rust Remover (Sept)
- 2 Tournaments for Education tournaments in support of 902SquashEd
- 2 Junior Tournaments: Valley Thaw and Valley Bloom

## Recognition & Awards

### Support 4 Sport Awards

Hosted by Sport Nova Scotia, the Support4Sport Awards is the largest sport recognition event in the province. On Saturday, June 1st, 2024 at the Halifax Convention Centre, Sport Nova Scotia will recognize over 200 athletes, coaches, officials, sponsors, volunteers, and community sport associations. Squash Nova Scotia reached out to our membership through email and social media in late March 2024 to request nominations for the various award categories. Winners will be announced at the June 1st event. Tickets can be purchased through Sport Nova Scotia until May 24th. Tickets are \$65 each. Award recipients will receive a ticket to the event compliments of Squash Nova Scotia.

### Squash Nova Scotia Annual Awards

The Squash Nova Scotia board has decided to implement 3 annual recurring awards to recognize junior players and volunteers. Each year, the board will request nominations for the awards from the membership and winners will be selected. The awards will be presented at the AGM each year. The recurring awards are as follows:

**U15 Most Improved Junior** - Recognizes the player under 15 years old who has shown the most significant improvement in their game over the course of the year.

**U19 Most Improved Junior** - Recognizes the player under 19 years old who has shown the most significant improvement in their game over the course of the year.

**Service to Squash** - Recognizes the individual / player who has made outstanding commitments and contributions to the sport of squash and the community. Through activities such as volunteering, coaching, and/or organizing events.



## **2024 / 2025 Board of Directors**

Many of our current board members are keen to return to the board again for the 2024 / 2025 season. Noted below are the individuals who have agreed to serve the second year of their 2 year term in an executive or director position. Others have expressed interest in taking a new role and those will be nominated during the AGM.

President - Leah Boody (year 2 of 2)

Vice President - vacant

Treasurer - Ryan Breetzke (year 2 of 2)

Secretary - vacant (PSO coordinator, Adam Morris, handles the tasks of the Secretary so it is not imperative that this position be filled)

Director of Developmental Programming / Junior Development - vacant

Director of Communications & Advocacy - Emily Burke (year 2 of 2)

Director of Competitive Programming - vacant

Director of Coaching & Officiating - vacant

Member at Large -

Member at Large -

Member at Large -

Member at Large -