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An Emerging Family Dynasty - Three Bishop Sisters Make The Atlantics Finals

By Judy Myrden



Sisters Victoria, (left) and Marnie (centre) and Lilly Bishop all made the finals in the Atlantics. (Photo by Judy Myrden)

Halifax's three Bishop sisters all made the finals at the **ReCar Halifax-2025 Atlantic Regional Championships**.

A feat made even more impressive by the fact that 16-year-old **Marnie** and her 13-year-old sister, **Lilly**, played each other for the Women's Division 2 title. Lilly won in three games.

"I feel pretty good and it was fun to play my sister," Lilly told **In The Nick** after the match.

The youngest sister, 10-year-old **Victoria**, seeded 6th in a field of eight players in the All Mixed Junior Division 2 made it to the finals. First upsetting 2nd Seed **Louis Beck** of **P.E.I.**, then 3rd seed **Sophia Myers** of **Kentville**, beating them both in 3.

In the finals she lost to top seed **Owen Bradley** of P.E.I. who never dropped a game all tournament.

Marnie hasn't played squash in awhile instead focusing on competitive swimming and recently decided she wanted to play in a squash tournament. Meanwhile, Lilly has been competing and training seriously since January.

Upcoming Events

May 1-4: [Connor, Clark, & Lunn Private Capital 2025 Canadian Junior Championships, Toronto, ON](#)

May 8-11: [Connor, Clark, & Lunn Private Capital 2025 Canadian Senior Championships, Toronto, ON](#)

May 23-25: [KCSC Tournament for Education, Kentville, NS](#)

May 30: Squash Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting & Social - The Duke's Public House, 2057 Gottingen Street, Halifax @ 7:00PM

The three sisters are the daughters of Nova Scotia's top ranked men's player **Matt Bishop** and Squash Coach **Melissa Shakespeare** of Halifax.

Kentville Squash Club player and Coach **Janet MacLeod** won the Women's Division 1, advancing to the finals without dropping a game. In the finals defeating **Gabby Morin** in a hard fought match which could have swung either way, with two games going to extra points, MacLeod winning 12-10, 12,-10 and 11- 7.

SMUfit player **Sara Stout-Grandy** won her first tournament taking the title of Women's Division 3 Champion.

Liam Jinks won the All Mixed Division 1 title defeating **James Wiseman** 3-0.

All Mixed 2 title was captured by **J.F. Vincent Rocan** defeating **Orlando Ramirez** in four games.

The juniors competed in three divisions, with **Zaki Hussein** winning Junior Mixed 1, Owen Bradley winning Junior Mixed 2, and **Henry Quach** winning Junior Mixed 3.

The annual tournament was held at the SMUfit courts in Halifax on April 10-13 with 126 players competing in eleven divisions from across all four



Melissa Shakespeare and husband, Matt Bishop, closely watch their daughters match at the Atlantic finals. (Photo by Judy Myrden)



Halifax Premier League player and ReCar's Halifax Branch Manager, Lucas MacQuarrie, stands by the tournament welcome sign at the Atlantic showing his support for the event. (Photo by Emily Burke)

Atlantic provinces. Over 200 matches got played with all players getting 3 matches minimum, and many getting 4 or 5.

Tournament host **Squash Nova Scotia** partnered with Title Sponsor **ReCar Halifax** in delivering SNS's largest sanctioned tournament in the 2024-2025 calendar season.

Halifax Premier League player and ReCar's Halifax Branch Manager, **Lucas MacQuarrie**, was responsible for introducing ReCar to squash in their first-ever squash event sponsor position.

A 50/50 draw took place during the last day of the event to raise money for the **Nova Scotia Junior Squash Program**. The draw raised \$1,110 and Matt Bishop and family was the winner of \$565 and a Black Knight squash racquet. The family graciously gave back both to put towards Junior Programming in Nova Scotia.

Dal Squash Club On A Mission To Success

By Emily Burke

The Dalhousie Squash Club (DSC) capped off a successful season by holding its first-ever Annual General Meeting and Social.

About 35 members of the club attended the AGM at the **Grawood** restaurant in the **Dalhousie Student Union Building** in early April.

“This year has been the biggest yet for the Dalhousie Squash Club in terms of programming, events, and player growth,” said **DSC President Emily Burke**. “From the hugely successful Dal Open to our volunteer-led mentorship clinics and our first-ever AGM social, we’re incredibly proud of how the season unfolded.”

The AGM highlighted key accomplishments from the past year, including two free in-house tournaments with over 30 participants each, and weekly volunteer run mentor clinics for beginners, intermediate, and advanced players.

The club held weekly drop-ins and the **Dalhousie 2025 Open Squash Tournament** in January attracted 105 squash players, up from 67 players the previous year. Over the four-day tournament there were 175 matches played at the **Dalplex** in **Halifax**.

“I believe this growth was possible because we focused on two key things. First, we worked to maintain the welcoming and positive atmosphere that the club’s members had already established,” said Burke.

“Second, we introduced more free programs like our mentorship clinics, that provide opportunities for players to learn new skills beyond just casual game play.”

The club provided a financial update with the club recording a profit of \$1,517 that went towards hosting the AGM, along with prizes, food and drinks. The club has set aside \$631 for programs next year including, the Dalhousie Squash Team.

Burke, along with Vice-President **Rawan Aboulela** acknowledged the volunteerism of members **David Westwood**, **Abdelrahman Abdallah** and **Tim Hatcher**.

The evening featured a squash trivia competition, where DSC players **Wasi Alavi** and **Emily Byron** won Black Knight racquets.

The club has ambitious plans for 2025-2026 season. These include continuing to offer free programming, asking Dalhousie University to improve court safety by upgrading to glass doors that open from both sides, and pursuing Tier 1 Sports Club status at Dalhousie.

This transition would allow DSC to form a competitive varsity-style team to represent Dalhousie in inter-university squash competitions in and out of Nova Scotia, as well as unlock additional funding for travel and equipment.



DSC AGM presentation given by DSC President Emily Burke

Acadia University Hosts Inaugural Squash Tournament

By McKalia Smith-Poirier

Acadia University hosted its first-ever university squash tournament on April 5 in **Kentville**.

The one-day tournament was held at the **King's County Squash Club** in Kentville, organized by club president **McKalia Smith-Poirier**, along with the support of **Janet MacLeod** and **James Wiseman**.

The event attracted 18 students and squash players from university clubs including Acadia, **Dalhousie University**, and **Saint Mary's University** for a day of friendly competition and community building.

Competition was fierce in all three divisions.

In Division 1, **Alexander Chin** of Dalhousie University secured first place after a thrilling five-game battle against team mate **Evan Smith** to close out the day.

Division 2 saw Dalhousie Squash Club member **Wasi Alavi** take first place, with **Sukhpreet Singh Aujla** also a Dal Squash Club member in second.

Acadia University players **Audrey Serravalle** claimed first in Division 3, followed by **Daniel Simmons** in second place.

A big thank you to all participants, volunteers, and supporters for making the day such a success.

A special thanks to **Audrey Serravalle** and **Camden Pulsifer** from Acadia University (the next co-presidents of Acadia's Squash club).



Ladies Monday Night Squash at **SMUfit** wrapped up the season with a Calcutta tournament on April 28 in **Halifax** with 15 players competing, along with other players supporting the event. The program will resume in September.



SAVE THE DATE !



SQUASH NOVA SCOTIA **AGM & SOCIAL** **MAY 30**

DJ STEVE NURSE | DJ JEFF STEPHENSON

AGM AND AWARDS 7 PM
SOCIAL TO FOLLOW 8 PM

THE DUKE'S PUBLIC HOUSE

2057 GOTTINGEN ST, HALIFAX

Minors until 9 pm

SNS members & guests welcome
Finger food will be served

Calling All Squash Players To Kentville

By McKalia Smith Poirer

The **902Squash Ed program** is hosting its fourth annual **Tournament for Education** at the privately-owned **King's County Squash Club** on May 23-25.

The non-profit aims to empower students of African descent through the sport of squash.

This unique event not only promises a weekend full of fun and competition but also serves a powerful purpose—raising funds to support graduating student-athletes as they pursue post-secondary education.

All proceeds from the event go directly toward scholarships for graduating players and help sustain the year-round programming that is changing lives.

Last year 40 players from three Maritime provinces travelled to the **Annapolis Valley** to compete in the tournament. And organizers are hoping to build on this success.

The program was launched in conjunction with **Horton High School**, providing accessible squash programming blended with academic support and mentorship.

The upcoming tournament is a celebration of this work, showcasing the growth of players and the strength of the community behind them.

Whether you're playing, spectating, or supporting from afar, the Tournament for Education is a chance to engage with a program that uses sport as a pathway to success.

Organizers have also arranged for a reduced rate for the tournament weekend at the **Old Orchard Inn**. Details are available on **Club Locker**.

Here's the link: <https://clublocker.com/tournaments/16915/info>

(**McKalia Smith-Poirier** is an Acadia University student volunteering for the 902SquashEd program as part of her study program.)

Contributions to **In The Nick** are welcome! Send in your letters, stories, or feedback to us here:
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