

[JUNIOR VALLEY THAW](#) | [DALHOUSIE OPEN](#) | [MILL RIVER OPEN](#) | [VINCENT LEUNG](#)

N.S. Squash Masters Team Goes To National Championships

By Judy Myrden

The Nova Scotia team held their own at the Canadian Masters Squash Championships in Winnipeg January 26-28, coming in 4th place.

The co-ed team included: Team Captain **Ed Beazley**, **Matt Bishop**, **Josh Rudolph**, **Ryan Breetzke**, **Leah Boody**, **Janet MacLeod** and **Darlene Acton**.

“Overall we were pleased with our results and final standing. We were seeded 4th going into the event and that is ultimately where we landed after the dust settled,” said Beazley, who played in the 55+ slot for Team N.S. and has twice before played in the tournament.

Last year N.S. placed 4th against seven teams, and this year nine teams were participating, including a Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) team made up of players from across the country. The host province entered two teams.



Nova Scotia was the only Atlantic Canadian province competing in the tournament this year.

Beazley told **In The Nick** that in his view, this is the best team ever sent to the event by Nova Scotia.

The annual event consists of seven players per team (four men and three women) in the age divisions of Men’s 40+, 45+, 50+ and 55+ and Women’s 40+, 45+ and 50+. In total 63 athletes competed from across the country.

Teams battled it out on the first day in the pool stage to determine the teams for the championship and consolation rounds, and culminated on the final day with Team Ontario defending its 2023 title and coming out on top.

Nova Scotia’s first round against the Manitoba (A) team ended in a loss of 4-3.

Upcoming Events

Feb 8-11: [Ray Souchereau Memorial Classic](#)

Feb 23-25: [NB Open](#)

Mar 8-10: PEI Open

Mar 20-24: NL Provincials

Mar 21-24: [NS Open](#)

Apr 4-7: Atlantics (PEI)

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



Team N.S. shows off their Netty Award. From left: Matt Bishop, Josh Rudolph, Janet MacLeod, Ed Beazley, Ryan Breetzke, Leah Boody, Darlene Acton.

Beazley said the team was “very close” to beating Manitoba in its first match, and if N.S. had won “we would have placed no worse than third.”

The team went on to win its next three matches, defeating CAF Team 7-0, Quebec 5-2, and British Columbia 4-3.

Breetzke, who plays out of Halifax’s SMUfit, won all four of his matches in the men’s 50+ category.

The championship held their annual banquet on Saturday night, the social highlight of the weekend, which included “off court” competitions between teams.

Team N.S. is bringing home the hardware for both the Team Trivia Challenge and the Netty Award for the team who performs the [best skit](#) of the evening.

Kings County Hosts Junior Valley Thaw

The Kings County Squash (KCSC) Club kicked off the New Year with the Junior Valley Thaw on January 5-6. This tournament was the first Junior event KCSC has hosted. A total of 30 juniors participated, competing in five different divisions. It was great to watch the Juniors socialize, with fun had by all. A special thanks goes out to **James Wiseman** and **Janet MacLeod** for their help and to all the sponsors for making this event a success. The following Juniors were presented with medals for topping their divisions:

Jr Div 1: 1st Dorian Palmer, 2nd Luke Boody, 3rd Nathan Woo

Jr Div 2: 1st Cohen Riley-Zwicker, 2nd Kayin Burrell, 3rd Cooper Cox

Jr Div 3: 1st Sierra Cox, 2nd Alemnesh Portocarrero, 3rd Hudson Kinney

Jr Div 4: 1st Lucas Taylor, 2nd Marin Woo, 3rd Sophia Myers

Jr Div under 9: All winners!

More photos of the event can be [viewed online](#).

Sponsors: Family Valley Optometry, Black Knight, Nova Scotia Realty Group, Subway, Dr Carrie Terry Dentistry, & Sport Chek.



Dal Tournament Kicks Off Winter Squash Season

By Emily Burke

High level competition marked the Dalhousie 2024 Open Squash Tournament on January 11-14.

The best in squash was evident throughout the week, especially shown in the thrilling Division 1 finals match between **Mahmoud Abouelleil** and **Evan McNicol**, in which Abouelleil pulled out a win in the fifth game after going down two games to one.

The tournament consisted of a Women's Division, Junior Boys, and 4 Mixed Divisions with a total of 67 players. The notoriously hot courts did not slow anyone down with 129 high paced matches played over the four-day event.

Players pushed themselves to the limit, including **Chantel Petitpas** who played 7 matches in 27 hours and won the Women's Division.

Andrew Klein and **David Pappas** showed junior players should never be counted out of the competition by participating in two divisions and placing in both. Klein placed 1st in the Junior Boys Division and 3rd in Mixed Division 3, while Pappas placed 2nd in the Mixed Division 4 and 3rd in the Junior Boys Division.

Cordale Hann, who took up squash last year and seeded 6th in the Mixed Division 4, rose to the challenge and took home 1st place in his division.

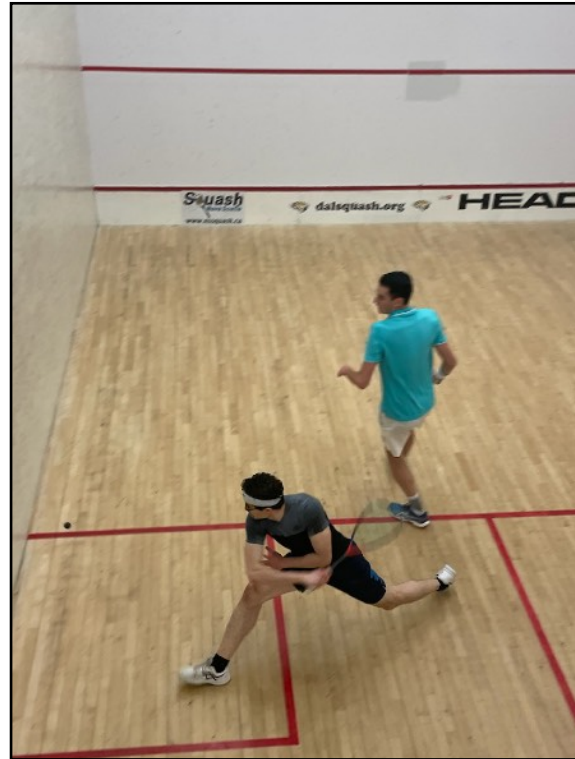
Fellow Dalhousie Squash Drop-in regulars faced off in an intense Mixed Division 3 finals match between **Angelos Yiannou** and tournament organizer **Emily Burke**, in which Burke took home the 1st place prize.

Maegan Burke and **Emily Byron**, more skilled Dalhousie Drop-In players, exhibited tremendous growth as "two of the most improved players elevating their game in a great, fun-spirited match," said **David Westwood**, who placed 1st in the Mixed Division 2.

The Dalhousie Squash community has seen a major increase in membership over the last three years due to the efforts of the Dalhousie Squash Executive team. With membership numbers continuing to grow, "next year will be even better as we continue to develop our skills for the game and passion for the squash community," said Emily Burke.

The tournament organizers recognize Black Knight for continuing to support the Dalhousie Squash Club, providing restringing services by **David Wesley**, and for donating all of the prizes given out for the division winners.

The Dalhousie Squash Executive team and tournament organizers also gave a special thank you to the Dalhousie Squash members who donated their time to help run the tournament, while also participating in the matches themselves.



Abouelleil and McNicol compete in the Div. 1 finals. Photo by Heather MacElwee.

Nova Scotians Dig In At Mill River Open

By Heather MacElwee

25 Nova Scotians travelled to the quaint town of O’Leary in the western side of Prince Edward Island to play in the annual Mill River Open squash tournament last month.

There were 80 athletes who took part in the tournament playing in five divisions, and over 100 matches were played during the tournament from January 18-21.

Bill MacGillivray from Island View, Cape Breton, placed second in Division 3, with **Dorian Palmer** from New Minas winning the 1st Consolation finals for Division 4.

Brenton Bernard, a member of Kings County Squash Club (KCSC), Kentville, placed second in Division 5.

A special shout-out to **Georgia Williams** from the KCSC for playing in her first tournament and winning her first match!

Thank you to Squash PEI, Mill River Resort, and to the tournament organizers for running such a fun weekend!



The Dal tournament social at Freeman’s Little New York was enjoyed by all.

Premier League Fall Results

The Fall 2023 session of the Halifax Premier League is in the books. 28 players competed across 4 divisions. The winners of divisions 2-4 move up one division for the Winter 2024 session, now underway. Division winners:

Div 1: Matt Bishop

Div 2: Jacob Melnyk

Div 3: Kristian Lethbridge-Hall

Div 4: Farley MacLeod



Janet McLeod faces Bill MacGillivray in the Division 3 semi-final at Mill River. Photo by Heather MacElwee.



Chantel Petitpas and Louis Webster playing an early match at Mill River. Photo by John Arnold.

Valley Squash Player Vincent Leung Remembered

By Judy Myrden

The Annapolis Valley squash community is mourning the loss of **Vincent Leung**, long-time squash player, mentor, and ambassador to the game. He was 87.

Leung died Jan. 15, 2024, at the Valley Regional Hospital, Kentville, after a long-term illness, according to **John Bedard**, Past President of the King's County Squash Club (KCSC).

"When I joined the club in 2007 he was one of the first members to welcome me to the club and gave me lessons to get me up to speed," recalled Bedard in a recent email to KCSC members.



In fact, Leung, of North Grand Pre, was giving squash lessons to a younger player just eight days before his death, he added.

"When I think of Vincent the words ambassador, commitment and integrity come to mind," said Bedard.

KCSC recently awarded Leung a "Lifetime Membership" of the club, only the second member in the club to receive this appointment.

Leung was one of the original members of the club in 2006 and has served as a director on the board for six years.

Bedard said Leung's technical skill was incredible, with the ability to place the ball exactly where he chose.

Although in recent years he had slowed somewhat, he still enjoyed spending time at the courts with junior members and continued to play with various groups within the club, Bedard said.

Born in Hong Kong in 1937, Leung later graduated from Acadia University in 1964. He was a professor of mathematics at Acadia University for 36 years and received the Award for Excellence in University Science in 1997, according to the family's obituary.

He also served as the president of the Acadia University Alumni Association in his retirement

Besides squash, he voluntarily taught hundreds of people to canoe, the obituary stated.

He is survived by his wife, **Jean (Moore) Leung**; three daughters, **Janesse**, North Grand Pre, **Jennifer**, Ottawa, **Susan (Glenn Uy)**, Toronto; and four grandsons.

A celebration of life, followed by a reception, will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday Feb. 3, 2024 in the Wolfville Baptist Church.

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