

## Dan Whittaker Goes To World Squash Summit

By Judy Myrden

SMUfit squash player **Dan Whittaker** joined leaders in squash from around the world in **Birmingham, England** in early June for a two-day squash summit.

The event covered three themes: squash being tabbed to finally become an Olympic sport in 2028 at the Los Angeles Games; grass roots squash programs; and disrupting the model and innovation on how to grow the sport.

Whittaker was joined on the trip by his brother, **Doug Whittaker** of Toronto, former two time Canadian Squash Champion and Team Canada Member to three World Championships.

“The experience was very interesting,” Whittaker told **In The Nick** in an email.

Delegates attending the **World Squash Federation (WSF) Squash Summit** June 3 to 4 were from national and international squash associations, club managers, heads of grass roots organizations, top executives of the Professional Squash Association (PSA), U.S. Squash and eight-time world champion **Nicol David**, he said.

It was fortuitous that Whittaker ended up attending this event on the future of squash.

One day in his inbox of emails was a bulk email from the PSA advertising the Squash Summit event in conjunction with the **British Open Squash Championships** in Birmingham.

“I was heading further east in Europe around that time, so thought it might be possible to attend,” said Whittaker.

The brothers attended as **Squash Canada** delegates after they learned no one was going from neither **Squash Nova Scotia** nor Squash Canada.

He said the “highlight” of the summit was the introduction of the volunteers present from around the world who run grass roots squash programs.

“They gave a short summary of how many players they run through their programs and a little about how they run it. Very inspiring. South Africa, India, New York, Colombia, etc.”

Another take away was the successful Olympic bid and the opportunities it presents for the sport.



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[InTheNick@nssquash.ca](mailto:InTheNick@nssquash.ca)



Dan Whittaker, right, with his brother Doug.

“I’d say that it was stated the Olympics want three things; youth engagement, community engagement, and the sport leaving a legacy - that playing squash means more than just playing, it develops individuals and strengthens communities,” said Whittaker.

While it was a hectic two days of business, Whittaker did watch a few high-level matches, including **Diego Elias vs. Victor Crouin** and **Ali Farag vs. Mohamed Abouelghar**.

This was the first time he attended the annual event and is hopefully not his last, he added.

## Support4Sport Annual Banquet held by Sport Nova Scotia

By Craig Potts

On June 1st, over 200 athletes, coaches, volunteers, and corporate sponsors from around the province were recognized at Sport Nova Scotia’s annual Support4Sport Awards Banquet at the Halifax Metro Center.

Squash Nova Scotia award recipients this year were as follows:

<b>Phil Jourdeuil</b>	Volunteer of the Year
<b>James Wiseman</b>	Coach of the Year
<b>Garreth Beckles</b>	Junior Male Athlete of the Year
<b>Adele Workman</b>	Junior Female Athlete of the Year
<b>Lee Kirby</b>	Official of the Year
<b>Emma MacGillivray</b>	Senior Female Athlete of the Year
<b>Ryan Breetzke</b>	Senior Male Athlete of the Year
<b>Paul &amp; Kylah MacNutt</b>	Corporate Sponsor of the Year
<b>Ed Beazley</b>	Team of the Year



“Support4Sport helps develop community and provincial sport programs, through the sale of designated lottery products. The program raises funds for training and development opportunities for athletes, coaches and officials throughout Nova Scotia... The program was introduced by Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation (NSGC) in 2006 and has helped raise over \$55.3 million for amateur sport,” according to Sport Nova Scotia’s website.

## 902SquashEd Tournament Raises \$2,000 For Grads

By Heather MacElwee

The 902SquashEd program hosted its third annual Tournament for Education at the King's County Squash Club (KCSC) at the end of May.

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

The May tournament raised \$2,000 for two graduating players of 902SquashEd, **Sierra Cox**, 17, of Kentville, and **Victor Onyebuchi**, 17, of Lagos State, Nigeria.

Both players are Grade 12 students at Horton High School and are moving to Halifax in the fall to attend Saint Mary's University.

Cox will be studying criminology and Onyebuchi will be studying computer science. Both hope to continue playing squash on the four glass-back squash courts at SMUfit.

Last November, the 902SquashEd program held a tournament at the Kentville private squash club. Cox and **Dorian Palmer** were recipients of \$1,500 raised during the event, as reported by **In The Nick**.

“We believe that squash is an excellent way to promote physical fitness, mental agility, and personal growth,” squash instructor and teacher **James Wiseman** told **In The Nick** via email.

“Our program offers a unique blend of squash training, academic support, and mentorship, empowering students to develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed in all areas of life.”

Over the last three years, the non-profit has raised \$7,500 to aid in financial support for post secondary support for students in the program, said Wiseman.

Forty players from Prince Edward Island, Moncton, N.B., and Halifax, N.S., travelled to the Annapolis Valley to compete in the May tournament. In almost every division there were many exciting five game matches. Full tournament sponsors and results can be found on [Club Locker](#).



*902SquashEd participants received awards at the Horton High School Athletic Awards night on Monday June 10th. From left: Julia Akao, Sierra Cox, Christabelle Onyebuchi, Anne Escudero, James Wiseman, Victor Onyebuchi, Zahra Ali, Janet MacLeod, and Dorian Palmer.*

# Squash N.S. Board Revitalized With New Members

By Judy Myrden

**Squash Nova Scotia**, a non-profit which promotes a squash community for all players, has a new board of directors, including six new members.

There were rapid fire nominations during the association’s annual general meeting in Halifax in May.

“Often we are begging people to join but instead we had numerous people stepping forward,” Squash N.S. President **Leah Boody** told **In The Nick** in an email.

Boody, who has just completed her first year of her two-year term as President, hopes to carry this momentum into the 2024-2025 squash season.

She said there was a lot of “energy” around voting new members to the board at the AGM.

Meet the new 2024 Squash N.S. Board:

**Cordale Hann** - Member-at-Large

**Dan Hasselman** - Member-at-Large

**Chantel Petitpas** - Member-at-Large (CB)

**Ryan Ingham** - Member-at-Large

**Heather MacElwee** - Director of Coaching & Officiating

**Veronica Todd** (Sport N.S.) - Secretary

Returning Board Members:

**Leah Boody** - President

**Craig Potts** - Vice President & Director of Junior Development

**Ryan Breetzke** - Treasurer

**Cameron Reid** - Director of Competitive Programming

**Emily Burke** - Director of Communications & Advocacy

**Josh Rudolph** - Member-at-Large



*Leah Boody calls for new board members at the annual general meeting. Photo by John Arnold.*

## Ask The Ref?

**Editor’s Note:** Our monthly column is on summer hiatus and will return in September.

Editor in Chief: Judy Myrden      Contributor: Craig Potts

Director: Emily Burke              Logo: Fei Gao

Layout: John Arnold              Sport NS: Veronica Todd

Communication Manager:  
Heather MacElwee



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