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Dr. Chris Petropolis Checks Off Squash Bucket List Item in NYC

By Judy Myrden

It was a trip Halifax squash enthusiast and dentist **Dr. Chris Petropolis** always wanted to make and thanks to the thoughtfulness of his wife, **Ann**, it happened this year.

Petropolis and his family were on hand for the **J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions**, previously known as the **U.S. Professional Championships**, held at **Vanderbilt Hall** in New York City's **Grand Central Terminal** from January 23 to January 30.

"I have wanted to go for a long time but it just never happened, for no good reason. My wife, Ann, knew this so she gifted me the tickets and trip for Christmas this year. Our kids knew about the gift in advance and two of them decided they wanted to join us," Petropolis told **In The Nick** in an email.

Petropolis's two children, son, **Theo Petropolis** and his partner, **Lucia Surraco**, flew in from Denver and daughter, **Arielle Petropolis**, came from Halifax to watch the world's best professional squash athletes compete. They attended the quarter finals, semifinals and finals giving them the opportunity to see all the top players in the draw.



Avid squash player Chris Petropolis is joined in NYC for the J.P.Morgan Tournament of Champions by left to right: Lucia Surraco, Theo Petropolis, Ann Petropolis, Chris Petropolis, Paul Hopkins and Arielle Petropolis.

Upcoming Events

Mar 14-16: [2025 PEI Open](#)

Mar 21-22: [KCSC Valley Junior Bloom Tournament](#)

Mar 27-30: [Nova Scotia Open](#)

Apr 11-13: [Atlantics Regional Championship](#)

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

"For me the match of the tournament was the semifinal between **Mohamed El Shorbagy** (playing for England) and **Ali Farag** (Egypt)," the 65-year-old Petropolis said. "It went five games and Farag was behind for a bit but eventually he pulled it out to go on to the championship game and to win the tournament. There were some amazing shots."

The annual tournament is an amazing event for athletes, and offers equal prize money for men and women with total purse of US \$438,000.

Petropolis started playing squash in high school. He then went on to play in many tournaments, as well the weekly Black Knight League and Premier League.

He also coached the **Nova Scotia Canada Winter Games Squash Team** in 2010 with three of his four children on the team.

“I played a lot of squash for a long time but I recently took an extended break,” he added. Recently he’s returned to **SMUfit** squash courts on a weekly basis to play with his son, Alex. “Squash has meant a lot to me over the years. It kept me fit for a long time and its was a lot of fun to play.”

Petropolis and his wife were joined on the trip by their friend and Halifax squash player **Paul Hopkins** who has attended the event 13 times. (See In The Nick - March 2024).

They spent some down time time sight seeing in New York City going to MacSorley’s Irish Pub for lunch, **Metropolitan Museum of Art** and the Broadway play Wicked. “We all had a great time and I look forward to going again,” said Petropolis

Nova Scotians Make A Splash at Mill River Open

By Heather MacElwee

The **Mill River Open** continues to be a highlight on the Atlantic squash calendar.

The 34th annual 2025 Mill River Open took place from January 31 to February 2 in O’Leary, Prince Edward Island drawing a record number of 88 competitors across 11 divisions.

When registration opened at the beginning of December the tournament sold out in a record-breaking 40 minutes, and 29 were from Nova Scotia, highlighting the growing enthusiasm for squash in the region. Players from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P.E.I showcased their skills throughout the weekend.

In Division 2, Nova Scotia’s **SMUfit** player **Tim Mannette** emerged victorious, defeating **Emma Jinks** in the semifinals before overcoming her father **Lester Jinks**, in a hard-fought final on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Division 2 first consolation final saw an intense five-game battle, with **Greg Myers** of Kings County Squash Club prevailing over **Benoit Sampson** (Charlottetown, P.E.I.) 15-13 in a nail-biting finish.

In Division 9, it was an all-**Kings County Squash Club** final, where **Cohen Riley-Zwicker** claimed the title over club mate **Julia Akao**.

Over in Division 10, SMUfit player **Sierra Cox** secured her first consolation final win in a competitive four-game match against **Christina MacLean** (Stratford, P.E.I.).

The Division 6 final featured a standout performance from **Dalhousie Squash Club Wasi Alavi**, who triumphed over **Max Williams** (Riverview, N.B.) to claim his first tournament victory in seven years.

The tournament is organized by **Squash PEI**, in partnership **Mill River Resort**, which has two squash courts located in the resort’s aquaplex, on the western side of the island.



Wasi Alavi and Max Williams playing in the Div 6 finals

More Than 100 Play In Ray Souchereau Memorial

By Craig Potts

Over 100 players competed in this year's **Ray Souchereau Memorial** at the 5th edition of the annual event which continues to attract big numbers.

The tournament was held at SMUfit's squash courts in Halifax on February 13 to 16 in memory of a long-time squash enthusiast in the close-knit squash community.

Anchored by winter weather related facility closures at SMUfit on the first day of the tournament and early on the fourth day, tournament organizers - **Craig Potts** and **Heather MacElwee** - scrambled continuously to ensure all 175 matches were played.

Last year there were 110 squash players - which was it's largest turnout, - and the previous two years, 87 players participated, and the first year were 66. (Tournaments were not held in 2021 and 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions.)

The tournament is named in memory of **Ray Souchereau**, who passed away from pancreatic cancer in 2018. He was 57.

Tournament organizers also handed out the **Ray Souchereau Spirit Award** recognizing a person in the squash community who embodies Ray's commitment and dedication to the sport.

High level women's squash player and current President of Squash Nova Scotia **Leah Boody** was named this year's recipient of the "**Souch Spirit Award**".



Leah Boody (foreground) lines up a drive versus Niamh Campbell in the 2024 Women's Division 1 Final in the Ray Souchereau Classic. (Photo by John Arnold)

Niamh Campbell, the first recipient of the Award at the inaugural address, presented the award to Boody, her long time friend and regular squash hitting partner.

"I haven't been playing a lot of squash lately," Boody remarked at the closing ceremonies, "...but when I arrived here on Friday night and saw Ray's picture on the Welcome sign, I knew I was here playing for him!"

For full tournament results please click here: <https://clublocker.com/tournaments/16911/info>

Nova Scotia Turns Out For Inaugural Junior Gold Tournament

By Judy Myrden

Although strongly promoted for 10 weeks the inaugural **Squash Canada 2025 Lighthouse Junior Gold Open** had a “disappointing” turnout of players, said **Josh Rudolph**, co-tournament director.

Organizers were hoping junior players from across Atlantic Canada, and across the country would play in the new national circuit event on February 8 at the **SMUfit** courts in Halifax, but the numbers never materialized.

Consequently, it went from a potential maximum number of 100 players over three days, into a one-day tournament with 25 players, all from Nova Scotia over four divisions.

“Unfortunately, we didn’t get the numbers,” Rudolph told **In The Nick**.

“It’s a big deal for kids who want to play nationally to get these points playing in a junior gold tournament.”

He said the purpose of the event hosted by Squash Nova Scotia is for junior players on the East Coast “to get an opportunity to get national ranking points more easily” and not have to travel to Ontario.

“In order to play in national events, like Team Battle-of-the-Border, Team Canada, Pan American Games you have to play a certain number of junior gold events every year, and ranking points come from the points you earn from these events, not your Club Locker ranking,” he said.

Rudolph said a lot of work was put into trying to explain the importance of the event especially to players and coaches in the Maritime provinces. “It’s disappointing we are not more supported by neighbouring provinces,” said Rudolph.

“Not sure they grasped the significance of what it is. I tried my best to explain it to them and what we were doing and its purpose. Maybe they don’t have the players that are interested in competing nationally and people didn’t seem to realize the significance of the tournament,” he said.

Since the tournament didn’t attract Maritimers in big numbers it makes it difficult to draw players from **Ontario** and **Quebec**, said Rudolph, who was recently named Nova Scotia Provincial Junior Squash Head Coach (see January 2025 ITN).

“They look at the draw and there’s only one or two matches for them. It doesn’t make sense for them to travel. So, if we don’t get the local people to sign up early and play the matches then we don’t get the away people to come.”

Rudolph said **New Brunswick** or **Prince Edward Island** will be hosting the event next year and says Nova Scotia will be showing its support for the tournament.



Lilly Bishop hits with Zaki Hussein during the 2025 Lighthouse Junior Gold Open held at SMUfit. (Photo by Judy Myrden).

Rudolph thanked his co-director **Dan Hassleman**, SNS board member, along with **Ryan Ingham**, also a SNS board member, and SMUfit squash player **Brooklyn Boudreau** for volunteering. Sponsors included Dunlop, **H&M Bishop Wealth Management** and **David Wesley**, Black Knight representative.

The winners were:

Boys Under 11/13: 1st **Zaki Hussein**, 2nd **Henry Quach**, and 3rd **Henry Myers**.

Boys Under 17/19: 1st **Jack Comeau**, 2nd **David Pappas**, 3rd **Cohen Riley-Zwicker**.

Girls Under 11: 1st **Sophia Myers**, 2nd **Victoria Bishop**, 3rd **Ava Wiseman**.

Girls Under 17/19: 1st **Lilly Bishop**, 2nd **Alemnesh Sanche-Spencer**, 3rd **Adele Workman**.



The inaugural 2025 Lighthouse Junior Gold Open was held in early February. Playing the tournament were from left to right: Victoria Bishop, Ava Wiseman, Henry Myers, and Sophia Myers. (Photo by Judy Myrden)

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

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